



Things Past

Newsletter 114
August 2019

PO Box 289 Mt Evelyn Vic 3796
*Incorporation Number: A0051327F

Dates for Your Diary

AGM followed by General Meeting, Monday 19 August 7:30 – 9:30 pm at Hardy House, 49 Birmingham Road, Mt Evelyn.

Meeting, Saturday 21 September 1:30 – 3:30pm at Hardy House. The speaker will be Frank Robinson, topic TBA.

Meeting cancelled, Monday 21 October.

Mt Evelyn Street Party – stall and display, Saturday 27 October, 10 am – 4 pm.

Meetings are 3rd Mondays of even months, 7:30 pm at Hardy House for General Business Meetings, and 3rd Saturdays at 1:30 pm on odd months (except January) for speaker/activity. Dates are subject to speaker availability and other factors.

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The Swimming Hole



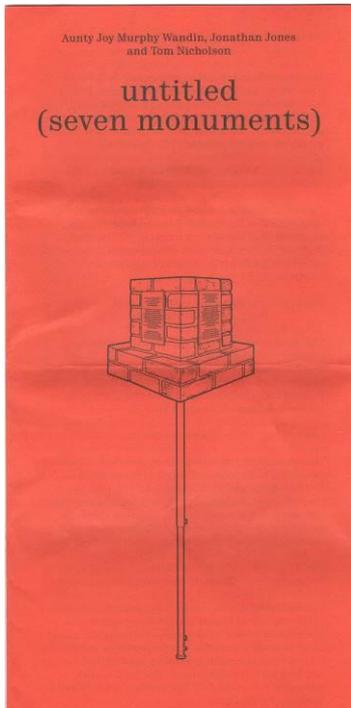
Boys at the Swimming Hole

cont'd p.2

Seven Monuments at Coranderrk

A series of monuments has been created to mark the former boundaries of Coranderrk Aboriginal Station. Established in 1863, Coranderrk was at its largest in 1866, encompassing some 4,850 acres.

The new installation *untitled (seven monuments)* consists of seven upturned flagpoles with brick footing, with a plaque on each face, surrounded by Christmas Bush (coranderrk).



Janet and Doug Wilson attended the opening ceremony in April. Janet wrote at the time:

‘A week or so ago we went to an extra-ordinary function at Coranderrk. There has been a six year compilation of seven monuments erected at various boundaries of the original farm, which was huge and went up some of the way to Mt Toolebewong.

Aunty Joy Murphy worked with two artists under the umbrella of Tarrawarra. We went to the opening – I was blown away to see that the superintendent’s house (double storey) made from bricks on the property is still there and used by the Aboriginal corporation who own Coranderrk. It was a beautiful low-key day.’

The installation is the work of Aunty Joy Murphy Wandin, Jonathan Jones and Tom Nicholson. Five of the monuments are readily accessible by the public; one is not on public display; permission from the Wandoon Estate Aboriginal Corporation wandoonestate@gmail.com is required to visit the seventh.

For more about the monuments and a map of their location, go to the website:

www.untitledsevenmonuments.com.au

An information brochure can be downloaded from the site.

The Swimming Hole

(from p 1)

Reading the article written by Janice concerning Falkingham and Polkinghorne (*Things Past* #113) reminded me of the swimming hole in the Olinda Creek.

I lived with my parents Allan and Roma firstly in Olinda Road (20 years) and then just around the corner in Clematis Road (one year), until I left to get married in 1969.

Access to the swimming hole was down a rough stony track which ran straight down the hill to Falkingham Road, off the end of Olinda Road, overhead power lines also went down this track. I would then walk along Falkingham Road towards Quinn Crescent and Marcus Street. Falkingham Road ended in a turning area cut back into the hill. There wasn’t any trafficable access at that time to Quinn or Marcus, although there was a foot track.

The very last house on the left hand side (lower side) of Falkingham Road was owned by the Falkingham family (I believe). Beside the house a track went further down the hill to the Olinda Creek flats and a path was worn through the blackberries, eventually coming out at the swimming hole. On hot summer days, the walk along the creek flats was almost suffocating. Many a hot day spent at the swimming hole and there was always somebody there!

Memories.

Reg Varty

Ridgewalk Master Plan

Information on the Ridgewalk Master Plan is available online at

<https://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/Lists/Capital-works-major-projects/RidgeWalk-Exploring-art-and-landscape-in-the-Dandenongs>

Ridgewalk is a proposed 39km walking track through the Dandenongs, celebrating the landscape, art, history and culture of the region.

Mt Evelyn will be linked to Ridgewalk via the Wols Track.

1942: Japanese Plane Over Melbourne and the Plane Crash at Kilsyth

On 20th July John Keane spoke to a large group of fascinated listeners about the plane crash at Kilsyth in 1942 and its links to the little-known Japanese presence in Australian waters at the time.

John opened by saying that 'it has not been well publicised just how heavily Bass Strait, the Southern Ocean and the east coast of Australia came under the attention of enemy naval patrols', both German and Japanese.

The German Navy was the first to arrive. Two raiders, 'Pinguin' and 'Passat', laid 100 mines in Bass Strait between the 29th and the 31st October 1940. Together they laid 230 mines in our southern and eastern coastal waters.

The first victim was the 'SS Cambridge' (7th November 1940) off Wilson's Promontory with one life lost. Twenty four hours later the American ship 'SS City of Rayville' struck a mine off Cape Otway with one life lost. In both cases crew members were safe but went back for personal belongings and were never seen again. All shipping was blocked in Bass Strait until the mines were cleared. A mine is on display at the Foster Museum.

The 'City of Rayville' has the dubious record of being the first American vessel to be attacked in WW II and the lost crewman was the first American life lost in WW II.

In January/February 1942 a **Japanese I Class submarine** entered southern waters. On the 26th February, from just off Cape Whickham on King Island, it launched a 'GLEN' Float Plane from its foredeck (Yokusaka E14Y). While the plane flew around Port Phillip Bay the submarine transmitted a 'cone' of white noise that knocked out all radio transmission from Cape Otway to Bairnsdale. John said a little girl on the beach waved to the plane and the pilot waved back!

By the end of May 1942 only two submarines (I-11 and I-174) were operating off the east coast and the only victim was the 'Iron Crown' on June 4th. By the end of the war 654 people around the Australian coast had lost their lives to enemy vessels, mainly civilian and merchant navy.

26th March 1942 Gatwick Road Kilsyth (Melway 51 C9). Despite the enemy activity described above, when four 7 squadron Hudsons left Laverton to search south of Tasmania for a submarine, one of the crew members dismissed the sighting as 'probably a whale'. The weather was foul but cleared enough on the trip back to see that Victoria was fogged in.



The right wing of the aircraft struck this tree, removing part of the top. Looking towards Colchester Road.

John described how one of those aircraft, low on fuel, decided to try to put down when visibility cleared enough for them to see an empty paddock when they 'stuck their head out of the plane'. They took the top out of a pine tree, and at 2 pm came to rest against some large pine trees after ploughing through a commercial poultry shed. Pilot Officer (PO) Barney Hancock said 'everything just went white' – they were white Orpington chooks.

Despite all this consternation and the fact that the nose of the aircraft was overhanging the back verandah of the farmhouse, Barney recalled that the farmer and his wife very quickly produced tea and cake as though it was an everyday occurrence.



From the damaged tree looking towards the tall pines in the distance where the aircraft came to a stop.

April, was in Sydney on the 11th and in Townsville on the 12th. He ended up Officer Commanding Test and Ferry Flight in Sydney, and was rated to fly 29 types of aircraft.

The remaining crew had already been posted to Townsville and with a new man PO Power, had formed a crew of four with FO Adams as pilot. On 23rd April 1942 they were sent up in a Hudson A16-190 anti submarine patrol and convoy shadow work in association with 'H.M.A.S. Swan'. At 5:30 am the crew of the Swan saw the aircraft pitch nose down into the sea. PO Power's body was the only one recovered.

A military ambulance was called to take Barney to the hospital at Laverton Base. The other three crewmen had been strapped in and were not injured, but were taken to the home/surgery of Dr William Burns on the corner of Mt Dandenong and Mount View Roads in Croydon for a checkover. Dr Burns' son Jim visited the site a few days later and recalls that it was the first time he had seen a Phillips head screw.

The crew of A16 – 139 on that day comprised
 Pilot Flight Officer A. Adams
 Sgt Bright
 Sgt Chandler
 Pilot Officer (PO) Barney Hancock.

John rounded off his story by outlining the fates of the craft and men involved. The plane was dismantled and taken to the Croydon Railway Yard where it was put under guard until it was moved.

Barney Hancock spent 8 days in Laverton Hospital with back and kidney issues and broken ribs. He spent a further 11 days at the Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital where he recalled a special night. He mentioned to the Matron that it was his 21st birthday, to which she merely replied, 'That's nice, dear', turned out the lights and left. However at 11:50 pm she returned with the doctor, two bottles of champagne and a packet of cigarettes. He recalled a lovely birthday; slept like a log. Barney was discharged to Laverton on 10th

In Main Street Mt Evelyn, 1950s

Sharyn Robertson sent this photo of her father, Raymond Hocking, in Mt Evelyn and asked if we could identify the location and the date.



The photo was taken in the main street (then called Railway Crescent, now Wray Crescent). The Bin's Milk Bar building is now the Commonwealth Bank. Note the advertisement for the Barn Theatre's production of Vernon Silvine's comedy 'As Long As They're Happy'.

Sharyn thought her father was probably in Mt Evelyn on a day trip, as he loved riding his motorcycle. He did not live in the area and was apparently no relation to the Hockings who lived in Monbulk Road. Sharyn's family settled in Mooroolbark in 1963.

Japan's Historic Post Towns

On our recent trip to Japan in May Tim and I were fortunate to be taken to several Japanese 'Post Towns' containing protected remains of the Edo period, by our friend Rumiko.



Rumiko and Tim in Magome.

I struggled to follow explanations which necessarily use Japanese terms with no English equivalents. While there was an Emperor and royal family, actual government was enacted by an Emperor-appointed shogun. Kyoto was the capital, and regional warlords (daimyos) had grown in power until Japan was in a state of civil war.

In 1598, Tokugawa Ieyasu was appointed shogun by the Emperor, resulting in the extremely powerful Tokugawa shogunate being officially established in Edo (where Tokyo now stands) on March 24, 1603, following much successful warfare. It governed the country via the 300 regional daimyo using a huge well organised bureaucracy. The shogun had central authority and the daimyos regional authority.

Public officials and goods needed to pass to and from Edo, and the Post Towns were created to support this official traffic. The lodgings were established for use by public officials who did not pay fees, but the various levels of lodgings were granted perks by the shogun such as permits and loans to allow them to function. Simpler inns for other travellers, and stores and tea houses grew up around the official lodgings.

In the area of Nagoya (where Rumiko lives) there were two main routes, one along the sea shore and the other through the mountains. We toured the mountain route called Nakasendo, which had originally about 70 stations stretching from Edo to Kyoto.

Magome is a stunningly beautiful town, a tourist attraction for Japanese and overseas tourists alike. The trail leads into the mountains and Rumiko hired bells to wear to alert bears to our presence.



Basic lunch at Magome.

Next we visited the other end of a well maintained section of the old trail, at Tsumago. At one time in disrepair, an enthusiast purchased the town and has restored the town to its original form. Artisans and artists rent the buildings. The local timber has been traditionally important to this whole mountain area, and locals were killed in the Edo period if they cut down the trees they regarded as theirs by birth. The locals were paid compensation after the fall of the Edo government. We had hoped to stay at the old official lodgings there but they were not available.

Instead we spent the night at a 'very old humble inn', a large farm house which has been used as a guest-house for generations, to 'experience old country life'. Can you sleep in a futon on a tatami floor? Yes we will try! And yes, we did.

The farmhouse was owned and run by a woman who had nursed her parents until recently and now was wondering what she would do for the future. The inn had a pit fire in the floor with the teapot and pots around, and we were served an

excellent Japanese dinner seated on benches around the fire. Later in a museum we learnt that traditionally family members sat around the fire in special places according to status. The lady's home-preserved 'soft fish' was excellent. That is a specialty of the area, where the fish is preserved so that all the fins and bones are soft and can be safely eaten, so one starts at the head (yes, eyes and mouth!) and eats through to the tail. There was the usual range of pickle, and on this trip I discovered that Japanese ladies do not make ALL their variety of pickles with their own hands. There are 'morning markets' on a street corner in towns where local ladies bring their specialist pickles and other garden produce and sell to each other. Only the best is brought for sale so it is a win win for everyone. It is 'buy local' in action.



At the farmhouse/inn/guesthouse close to Tsumago with our hostess in her apron.

Next we drove to Takayama, with historic districts dating to the Edo period and many small museums and float storage houses. We saw many of the spectacular floats which are paraded in the town at festivals. We visited poet's, writer's and artist's houses and beautiful gardens. Inuyama Castle and Castle Town – mainly walking. We were exhausted.

We greatly enjoyed Takayama Jinya, a National Historic site which is the only remaining building of its kind in Japan. It was a branch office of the Edo Bakufu (government), and housed 25 generations of head official called Daikan (later Gundai) who were sent from Edo on official business such as tax collection, finance, police work, judgement, and forest management. After the fall of the Edo Bakufu, and the return of power to the Emperor Meiji, the building was in

use until 1969 as various government offices, and the buildings include the Daikan's private quarters, the work spaces, complete with different doors for the different classes of people doing business with the officials, the rice storage rooms (taxes were paid in rice) and the torture chamber. Here I struggled to follow who held the political power when – the shogun, the emperor or the daimyo.

That night we stayed in a very comfortable hotel (with beds) with a Japanese dinner which included soft fish and steak (tiny pieces) barbecued on a small chafing dish at table. I was pleased to be able to eat my soft fish head first but it was not as good as the 'humble inn keeper's'!

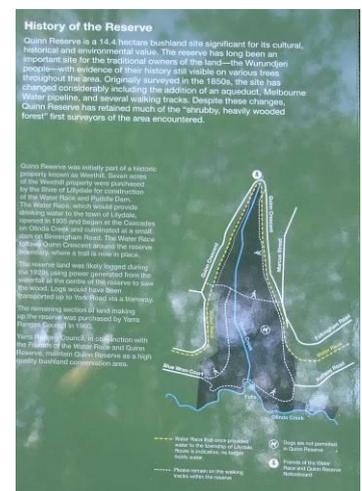
New Signs at Quinn Reserve



Yarra Ranges Council has erected historical and environmental signage at the entry points to Quinn Reserve. There are four new signs, describing the environment of the Reserve, its history, the work of the

Friends of Water Race and Quinn Reserve (FWRQR), and the platypus that are found in the creek. Thanks to FWRQR President Ben Ellis for the photos.

As reported in *Things Past* 107, there are historical signs at the Puddle Dam on Birmingham Road (the end point of the Water Race), and at the First Aid Post beside the Rail Trail. Another recent addition is the sign beside the Olinda Creek Trail along Swansea Road, with information about Aboriginal scar trees.



The Peters Family of Healesville,

(part 1)

'You can fight for your country son, but you can't come in here.' Charles Richards

So how the hell does it get to this ... this makes you really angry, it is just not right, makes my blood boil, and I don't care where you come from... .It is unjust!

What am I talking about you ask? Well, let me explain. I have known and admired many great Aboriginal men and women, names like Wandin, Swindle, Smith and Peters. These people strolled into my life, gave of themselves freely and made me a better person. I have read with great interest of the plights of Vince Peters who fought and died for our country but was banned from public places. And Jarlo Wandoon who was the father of Jim Wandin, who tried to enlist for World War I, but was rejected due to being an Aboriginal. When he attempted to enlist under his whitefella name, James Wandin, he was accepted into the army and served in France and is listed under that name on the honour roll in the Healesville RSL. On returning home, Jarlo Wandoon had to get permission from the police to visit his mother. He was escorted onto Coranderrk and was only allowed half an hour with her before he was sent off to the Lake Tyers Mission in Gippsland.

These great men went off to war to fight for this great country, putting their lives on the line and, in Vince's case, being killed in battle, but had segregation unfairly cast onto them. War is a place where your human frailties are clearly exposed as are your strengths and it is indeed a clear indication of the character of these men that they wanted to protect what was dear to them. Respect demands that recognition should be dealt out when required. If it is good enough for these men to stand alongside their mates and defend their country, then it is important that we, the benefactors of their efforts, see fit to remember and respect all that they achieved.

One look at the pedigree of the Peters family and the proud history that they and the Healesville Football Club have shared, is enough to ensure that, when talking in hushed tones about Legends of the Healesville Football Club, the name Peters gets discussed.

We kick off with Vince Peters, and it is fitting that Andrew tells his story: 'Vince was born in 1901, married in 1924, and had a highly decorated football career with Healesville as well as little stints with Yarra Glen and Lilydale with Jim Wandin Sr. He played over 200 games, winning a Best and Fairest in 1937. He also won the Most Consistent award in 1938 and was Captain in 1939. History has it that he then stood down to allow Howard Vaughan to become captain-coach. Like all players of that era and ilk, he reportedly could stab pass a goal from the centre of the ground! In 1941 Vince went off to fight in WWII at 40 years of age and, unfortunately, never came home. While on his way home after serving in the Middle East in Java, he was captured by the Japanese. He became a Prisoner of War on the Burma Railway and sadly died there in December 1943. Vince wanted to fight with his mates, even though many Aboriginal men in Australia at the time were banned from pubs, clubs, and other public areas. He was always accepted here in Healesville. Many local shop owners apparently wiped Nanna's accounts so she didn't have to pay them back after he died. Awesome town, this.'

Onto Glen Peters, widely known as 'Piccolo'. Andrew says: "My Uncle Glen was commonly known as 'Piccolo', so named after a song called 'Piccolo Pete'. Uncle Glen's career is a standout. Born in 1927, between 1945 and 1951 he played over 100 games. He won three Best and Fairest awards including 1945 and 1948 and he played in the 1945 premiership. He was tragically killed in January 1952, aged 25. I was often told when growing up that Glen was the best footballer that people up here had seen. There is a photo below of Spriggy Heritage leading Uncle Piccolo's funeral procession with the football club players following in their blazers. The photo comes courtesy of Wes, he's got this up on his office wall in Burleigh." It is interesting that Andrew mentioned the opinion of his Uncle's ability. My father also spoke glowingly of 'Piccolo'. He used to say 'Piccolo' was a great footballer and one of the best he had seen.

Then there is Harry Peters. Andrew continues on: 'My Uncle Harry played from 1948 to 1955 and he also notched up over 100 games across 8 seasons playing in premierships in 1951 and 1954. After his career finished, he would sit and watch and twitch like he was playing and running himself –

the game never left him. He would also have “footy boot cleaning day” for his boys, with brush and boot polish scrubbing those boots until they shone and Uncle Harry was satisfied. Uncle Harry also served in WWII (lying about his age and enlisting at 16), and Mum says he was never the same when he came home. Aunty Beryl also says that Uncle ‘Piccolo’ was a bit of a villain, and that when he and Uncle Harry played together they would often stab pass to each other.’ The three Peters boys achieved great things with the Bloods, playing in numerous premierships, won Best and Fairests, and notched up hundreds of games in a time when seasons were shorter and clubs played considerably less games.

Their legacy alone is impressive enough, but there is another chapter to this story... . And so it is that we have the modern day ‘Peters Family Legend’, we couldn’t have a Peters Family Legends story without mentioning one of Healesville’s favourite sons. Andrew ‘Pee Wee’ Peters himself continued the proud family tradition with the Bloods in 334 club games stretching from 1987 through to 2004. Andrew played in Reserves Premierships in 1987 and 1988, he was twice leading goal kicker (once 3rd in league goal kicking). He figured in the top three at the club eight times and was six times vice-captain. Andrew was proudly made a Life Member in 2002. He once said to me, ‘I didn’t have the accolades of most guys I played with, because here was a club loaded up with champions, but no-one loved the club more than me.’

I recently asked Andrew what the Healesville Football Club and the town meant to him. “The things that make the club and town special to me: I have been absolutely thrilled to be able to say that I played footy with guys like Gary Lofts, Charlie Richards, Graeme Muir, Terry Lalor, Mark Fisher, Greg Hay, Mark Adams, Gary Adams, Jack Christie, Colin Young ... the list goes on. And I also played with Jock’s boys Kane and Casey and Horse’s son Mitch ... awesome stuff. Getting to come up through the ranks in the late 80s with these club legends to teach us: me, Wes, Wong, Reedy, Rob Luscombe, Finchy etc. Nothing was more important in life at that time that winning games with the Bloods. Coming off the ground, drinking cans and having the last shower (a tradition I continued after retirement a couple of

times too!!) was all part of what made us such a tight knit bunch of mates. It used to drive Mongrel bonkers cos he’d always have to delay doing the awards, but there’s nothing like being naked, wet and drunk with your mates after a win!! Also knowing how proud Mum was to see me running around in the Bloods jumper like her dad and brothers ... such a super place to grow up. Nowhere else in the world will EVER be home.’ He concluded by saying, “Seeing photos of my grandfather and uncles on the wall at the club, seeing two uncles in the Team of the Century – I just love the Bloods. My heart will always be red with a white V.”

It was at this point, reading what Andrew had said, that my typing slowed and the keyboard began to look like your car windscreen during a torrential downpour. Through watery eyes I continued to type It’s bloody powerful stuff that Andrew speaks of, straight from the heart, not loaded up with rhetoric, just shot from the hip and bang on! “Love ya, Mate”... .It is what I have heard him say a thousand times, to me, to mates, to girls, to everyone ... that is how he rolls ... it is the only way he knows! Some people have that unmeasurable commodity that enables them to light up a room when they walk in. You know the type, larger than life regardless of stature, loved by all and respected all over. I can recall a few of those characters from days gone by people who you knew were destined for greatness and would make a difference. A young John Travolta springs to mind from back in the seventies. Not yet a Hollywood Superstar, he got his break playing Vinnie Barbarino in the hit TV show ‘Welcome back Kotter’. And when young Vinnie uttered the words “Mr Kotteeeerrrr” with his trademark smile, well you knew he was bound for greatness.

Andrew Peters has been the recipient of many wonderful traits from his beautiful Mother Dot, but the one trait that jumps out is his ability to make others happy just by his presence. And that, my dear friends, is priceless. It is powerful thing, *presence*, and Andrew possesses it in spades. So many people with so many positive things to say about the Peters family. Kellie Ward had this to say about Dot: “I see you are doing a piece on the Peters family when we were in primary school Dot was the one who looked after you if you were sent to the sick-bay she was so kind and nice

that I think more than a few of us faked a tummy-ache or the like just to spend time with her And I'd also like to add that she did more for reconciliation and anti-discrimination in our town long before it was trendy."

So here we are, talking all things 'Peters' and talking about a Healesville legend, loved by all he comes in touch with, with impenetrable friendships forged in the valley and who has garnered respect wherever he has gone. I am sitting here, it's late at night, and it is as quiet as a mouse. This is when I feel most vulnerable ... and most emotional. It's when I can see the seventies, eighties and nineties as if they were yesterday. I can remember the last conversation I had with the great Jock Adams and the smile he flashed at me as he drove off. It's all in my head and it needs to go on paper.

Jim Johnson

Part 2 of this article will be in the next issue of *Things Past*.

Review of the National Archives of Australia

An independent Functional and Efficiency Review of the National Archives commenced on 2 April 2019, led by Mr David Tune. The National Archives and its Advisory Council has welcomed the commencement of an independent review into its role and functions.

According to *The Canberra Times* (22 April 2019), the Director-General of the National Archives, David Fricker, has warned that nearly 200,000 hours of recordings are at risk, as well as as photographic negatives and delicate materials. Funding reductions and reduced staffing have exacerbated the problem. "These are important, unique records, that define who we are as Australia, who we are as a national identity, which are at risk of being lost if we can't preserve them."

The Tune Report is due to be finalised this month.

Memories of the 1983 Fires

David Edwards' photos in *Things Past* #113 stirred memories for Jim Humphrey.

'Your recent report on the 1983 fires in Kookaburra Lane brought back some memories for me. I was the Superintendent of the Mt Evelyn St John ambulance unit and I had advised my members that I would be setting an exercise on the following Tuesday of having a call out and having to set up a Casualty Clearing Station in the St John Hall at the junction of Wray Crescent and Birmingham Road.

On That Tuesday my wife had tried to get to Lilydale via Hereford Road but was stopped by the fire. She reversed and tried via Old Gippsland Road but again was stopped by falling branches across the road that were burning, one just missing her car by inches. So naturally she gave up the idea and returned home and told me about the fire. I then called out my members but had some trouble convincing them that this was no longer an exercise but the real thing.

We set up a Casualty Clearing Station with four beds and had everything ready for any casualty. Fortunately none arrived, but the experience was well worth the effort.

For we once again had to set up a CCS at the hall for evacuees from the bottom of Birmingham Road and Swansea Road when a propane gas truck overturned in Swansea Road. Does anyone else remember this? We had a few people turn up and we were able to provide shelter and refreshments to those who arrived. Fortunately the danger passed without any further problems.

The following day we were all called out again to deal with the Ash Wednesday fires, with most of the Mt Evelyn and Upper Yarra divisional members providing support at the Warburton Fire Station.

I can also recall trying to rescue the people trapped in a culvert at the Upper Yarra Dam, but never got through to them because we were stopped at Reefton by the fires.

During my tenure the Mt Evelyn St John Division attended many bush fires, including Seymour, Flowerdale, Upwey, Steels Creek and Little Joe, as well as attending a siege by a gunman at Yarra Junction. Members also attended fires in NSW.'

From Jim Humphrey



Eleanor with great-great-granddaughter Hailey.

Eleanor died at Overbeek Lodge, Kilsyth, on 15 July 2019, aged 93. She is survived by her four children, eight grandchildren, seventeen great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren.

Vale Archibald Campbell Carswell

29/11/1937–15/08/2018 (aged 81 years)

Archibald Campbell Carswell migrated from Scotland by boat and showed his skills dancing on board during his voyage to Australia.

He met and married Pauline and moved to Mount Evelyn where they set up house and home and raised their family.

After five years he moved his family to a new home in Chirnside Park. It was a larger home on more acreage and he installed a swimming pool for his family's enjoyment.

His interests were buying and developing land, looking for opportunities to subdivide, enabling him to build units. He bought an old wooden butcher shop, redeveloped it and opened his own butchering business. The shop and the staff that worked in it were very popular with the local community. There was many a yarn told and retold and it almost became the place to meet.

It was during his butchering years that he and Barry Howson started the Lilydale Youth Group. This initiative was to keep an eye on his children as they were developing at the same time as they

were having fun. Other parents could see the value of Archie's initiative and the Youth Group grew. Later on it included girls, as Archie's and Barrie's popularity and trust was established.

Archie retired from the butcher's business at aged forty. He bought a parcel of land at Wandin where he raised sheep and cattle. As he cleared this land he was able to sell the firewood.

Archie then bought a truck and machinery and went into business cleaning chook sheds at Wandin, Yellingbo and Strathmerton in the north of the state. He also produced hay for drought relief for the farming communities.

Archie was very community minded and was involved in the Yarra Glen races, the establishment of the Mount Evelyn Bendigo Bank and the Mount Evelyn RSL, where his father had been a foundation member.

He enjoyed holidays to the Pacific, Thailand, Canada, Paris and the United Kingdom.

Archie's wife Pauline had an inner strength and between them they raised six. As their children grew and prospered and had children of their own Archie and Pauline liked nothing more than seeing their grandchildren in the family home and swimming pool.

Archie had a good memory and retold his memories over and over.

Goodness only knows how many people Archie helped, they know who they are.

Rest in peace Archie, we are all better people for having known you and your legacy lives on.

Roger Boness, President Mt Evelyn RSL

Family History

August is Family History Month. Check out the Eastern Regional Libraries newsletter for Family History talks and workshops:

<https://www.yourlibrary.com.au/newsletter/family-local-history-newsletter-july-2019-2/>

To mark Family History month, Births Deaths and Marriages Victoria has reduced the price of downloadable uncertified historical certificates to \$20 for August 2019 only. See

<https://www.bdm.vic.gov.au/research-and-family-history/search-your-family-history>

Researching Children's Writing

The following request from PhD student Emily Gallagher was forwarded to the Yarra Ranges Heritage Network by Sue Thompson.

'I am a PhD student at The Australian National University in Canberra and my research is a study of children's art and writings in Australia in the first half of the twentieth century. Very little has been written about the history of children's creativity and imagination in Australia pre-1950 and I am hoping that my research will help provide insight into the lives and experiences of children in Australia in this period.

For my research, I am trying to track down any child-authored material from the 1900-1945 period. In my previous research at schools and museums, I have found useful material in school exercise books, poetry collections, art books, scrap books, autograph books, drawings, toys, feather and botany collections and memoirs.

I also have a very strong interest in juvenile writing clubs, school magazines and children's nature writings, so any student-authored school magazines or newspapers are of special interest (in the 1920s there was a boom in children hand writing their own class or family magazines).

I've tried to be as creative as possible with my research and I am travelling as widely as I can to visit schools, museums, archives, churches, local and state museums all over Australia. I have spent several months in Melbourne, Adelaide, Armidale, Brisbane, Perth, Darwin and Sydney. I intend to return to Melbourne later this year.'

Emily was interested to hear about the local newsletter produced by the Watkins children in the 1940s (*Things Past* #69 and #70). If you have any materials authored by children from the 1900s-1940s, Emily would love to hear from you. Email emily.gallagher@anu.edu.au or phone 0431 743 066.

From Kev's Rain Gauge				
Rainfall (in mm) for Mt Evelyn, McKillop, and Melbourne for the last three months.				
	May-19	Jun-19	Jul-19	YTD
Mt Evelyn	120.2	61.2	78.3	403.7
McKillop	149.8	65.1	96.4	474.1
Melbourne	53.4	49.8	45.2	197.4

McKillop readings courtesy Jean Edwards
Melbourne figures from Bureau of Meteorology: <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/data/>
Kevin Phillips

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Opinions expressed in *Things Past* are those of the writers, not necessarily those of Mount Evelyn History Group.