

Mount Evelyn History Group Inc.



Things Past

Newsletter 119

November 2020

PO Box 289 Mt Evelyn Vic 3796

Incorporation Number A0051327F

Dates for Your Diary

Annual General Meeting, Monday 30 November, at 7.30 pm, via Zoom.

Unfortunately, due to the measures being taken to protect everyone at risk from COVID-19, all other History Group activities are cancelled until further notice.

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Aqueduct Pipeline

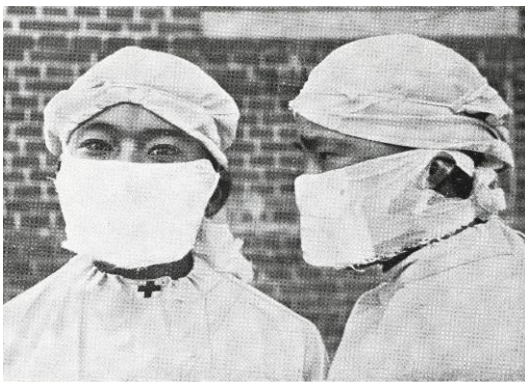


cont p 8

The History of Masks

We have had some interesting responses to identical Facebook posts on Mount Evelyn History Group and Paula Herlihy's personal page on the history of masks at the Wellcome Collection.¹

In the Wellcome Collection ten picture history, one picture introduces Dr Wu Lien-Teh, with 'During the early years of the 20th century, Wu Lien-Teh, a public-health specialist from Malaya, was investigating a pneumonic plague that had broken out in northern China. He developed a mask from layers of gauze enveloped in cotton, with ties so that it could be hung on the ears. This was the prototype from which the masks currently used in medicine today evolved.'



A photo shows how to wear a gauze mask during the plague outbreak. Photo: Wellcome Collection

I mused on the wearing of face coverings in general and in Islamic countries in particular, and Jill Koolmees (from Mt Evelyn/Silvan, and author of *My Desert Kingdom: finding a life in Saudi-Arabia*), posted, 'The wearing of veils by women in the Middle East predates Islam - early Christians (Nestorians I think) followed the practice. The prophet Mohammad asked his wives to wear the veil to protect them from the gaze of those who were bothering them to get access through them to the prophet.'

Francis Ramirez commented, 'The *Tagelmust* is also worn by Amazigh men (known by Westerners as "Tuareg Berbers") in the desert, covering their faces.'² and he goes on to quote, 'Among the Tuareg, men who wear the *tagelmust* are called *Kel Tagelmust*, or 'People of the Veil'.

¹https://wellcomecollection.org/articles/XwMmcBQAAGwR9GY8?fbclid=IwAR3QmbF25TFQeO4AULq3g1MCPfzghHDLwNXMAL7GLhuP0P6pxu48R481c_A.

² <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tagelmust>

The *tagelmust* is worn only by adult males, and only taken off in the presence of close family. Tuareg men often find shame in showing their mouth or nose to strangers or people of a higher standing than themselves, and have been known to hide their features using their hands if a *tagelmust* is unavailable.'

Lesley Chan (from Penang in Malaysia) commented, 'Yay! Dr Wu Lien-Teh from Penang!!'. One very welcome thank you was from Dr Yvonne Ho, who is a radiologist and nuclear medicine specialist, and board director of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists, Melbourne, Australia. Dr Wu was Ho's second-great-uncle.

She posted, 'Thank you for remembering Dr Wu, the Malayan-born, English-educated Queen's Scholar and Cambridge University's first Chinese-heritage graduate medical doctor who stamped out the 1910-11 plague in China.

He is renowned internationally for his lifetime's work in public health, and is the inventor of the Wu mask (the precursor of today's N95 mask).

He was nominated for the Nobel Prize in 1935.

There is more information at wulienteh.com/

An article was recently published in the South China Morning Post in which Dr Wu Lien Teh's medical descendants in four different continents remember and honour his lifetime work in Public Health.'³

Always a pleasure to have an historical post strike chords!

A Little Housekeeping...

Do you know that if you are reading *Things Past* on your screen you can tap or Ctrl-Click on a title in the Table of Contents and you will be taken directly to that article? A tap or click on 'cont p...' and 'from p...' will take you to the continuation of that article or back to the first part, and if you tap or click on URLs in the text or footnotes you will be taken to those websites (if you are connected to the internet).

³ https://www.scmp.com/magazines/post-magazine/long-reads/article/3093376/he-fought-plague-china-and-inspired-six?fbclid=IwAR3Fok5zJ6aDXIJSH0KfcVuvLMpMmzKRHBuJlZ7_iaQn36136E3xID18drs

Bill and Betty Ford: a Focus for Fun in Mt Evelyn

As a youngster I was fortunate enough to experience a children's birthday party at the Fords' home. It was 1950s style, with trestle tables loaded with sandwiches, cakes, lamingtons, cocktail sausages etc., and if you wanted to eat you had to be quick! Bill and Betty had five sons and no-one stood on ceremony. Bill and Betty Ford were the focus of much laughter in 1950s Mt Evelyn and beyond.



Bill and Betty Ford

Origins

Betty (10/12/1928–8/5/2013) was born in South Melbourne and attended school at Middle Park until the Merit Certificate (year 8). Then, in 1942 she worked for her father's brother in a Preston cake shop until a disagreement prompted her to 'grab her things and go home'. Her mother was quite concerned and said, 'What are you going to do now?' but Betty said with determination, 'I'll get a job', and immediately walked around the neighbourhood shops, picking up a job vacancy in a Leroy's cake shop nearby. So when her father came home from work full of worries about the argument and job defection, Betty was able to say she already had another job. She stayed with Leroy's cakes until she married, by which time she had moved to the head office in Elizabeth Street, Melbourne.

Bill's family were lighthouse keepers and stayed for some time at Deal Island, an isolated rocky outcrop half way between Wilson's Promontory and Flinders Island, Tasmania.



Light from the top of the world

However, Bill (15/5/1925-26/7/1994) was living in East Melbourne before meeting Betty.

Bill and Betty met in early 1946 when Betty was boarding with a girlfriend and her family in Burnley. The story runs like a 1940s film script. She and her friend Merle decided to have a meal in the city. Merle changed her mind when her sailor friend turned up, and as Betty was 'starving' she did something her mother had always warned her against: 'Never go into a café alone!'

Betty went to a café called *A Taste of Sweden*, downstairs in Flinders Lane. There were two men sitting in the café and Betty felt their eyes upon her as she attempted to read a letter from a boyfriend at Flinders (naval depot Westernport Bay). One of the men came up to her and said, 'That gentleman over there was wondering if you would come over and talk to him'. Betty thought, 'Here come my mother's words back to me very fast', but, throwing caution to the wind, she asserted that 'If that man wants to talk to me, he can come over here!' There was a short stand-off, then the waitress repeated the gentleman's request and Betty repeated her position. 'If he wants to join me, he can join me over here.'

With that Bill Ford came to join her and they talked about all sorts of things for a while, then he asked if she would like to see the movie *Perfect Strangers* on the Tuesday night. Betty agreed and had taken a change of clothes with her to work and sorted things at home but by 4pm she had lost her nerve. Thinking there was no such film, she balked and went home.

The next Friday Merle said if Betty would join her for tea, this time she would not abscond. Merle suggested a nice café nearby which turned out to

be *A Little Taste of Sweden* again. To Betty's shock there was Bill sitting at a table again. 'Aaaaw! There he is *again*! With another girl!' Merle led Betty to another table but Bill gestured for her to join him and introduced his sister. They talked for a while then he asked,

'What happened to you on Tuesday night?' and Betty said, 'I came down with the 'flu', at the same time as she tried to kick her friend Merle under the table so she would not reveal the truth. (Years later Bill informed Betty that it was, in fact, him who had been kicked!) Bill said, 'What about tonight, then?' so the three of them went to the movies.



'There was a picture called *Perfect Strangers* (1945) and we went to see it. We giggled the whole way through. Then we went home and that was it. We got engaged about six months later and then married. (Dreadfully quick for those days.)'



Wedding Day 1947

When they were married Bill and Betty went for their honeymoon to Deal Island, Bass Strait, where Bill's parents were lighthouse-keeping. When she first saw the sheer cliffs Betty thought, 'My God, what have I got myself into!' but eventually she grew to appreciate this wild and isolated spot.

After a while the other lighthouse keeper wanted some leave so Bill filled in for a month, then the Department of Labour wanted a worker for a month so Bill took this on as well. 'We loved it up

there. It's out from Port Welshpool or Port Albert in a fishing ketch ... nine hours sailing.'

When Bill and Betty eventually returned from their prolonged honeymoon, Betty found she was pregnant with her first born, Wes. Their rented accommodation in East Melbourne was no longer suitable so they moved to Mt Evelyn.

Pathway to Mt Evelyn

Bill's family had a long association with Mt Evelyn. His grandfather, with the famous name of Henry Ford, lived in Mt Evelyn during the construction of the Silvan Dam (1927-32) and built and operated a hay and corn store on the Silvan/ Hereford Roads corner. Bill's father's brother, Bernie Ford, ran the first taxi service in Mt Evelyn during this time (before Val Shillito took it over). Although Grandfather and Uncle Ford moved to Tasmania to open a hotel in Derby, Bernie kept a house in Hereford Road Mt Evelyn near the Church of Christ. Bill's parents were living in the small house after WWII, early 1947, when Betty was introduced to Mt Evelyn on weekend visits. Bill and Betty stayed in the old tram quarters at *The Outlook* Guesthouse run by the Knowles family. Previously Betty was definitely a city girl who had only memories of a Sunday School picnic as far out of Melbourne as Mooroolbark.

As explained, after they married in 1947 and finished their Deal Lighthouse position, Bill and Betty moved to Mt Evelyn to live at Uncle Bernie Ford's house. They had to apply to have the power put on, and coped with a bath under the house on one side of the block, and the copper for warming the water on the other side of the block. After the Lighthouse experience, Betty had no inclination to return to city life, so the bushy outskirts of Mt Evelyn were not too difficult for her to embrace. She loved the trees and the quietness and the fresh air you could feel once you got as far from Melbourne as Croydon and Mooroolbark. The couple lived in Hereford Road for 18 months, then in View Street for 12 years, before building a house in Snowball Avenue.

Janice Newton

This article will be continued in a future issue of *Things Past*

Ted Matthews (1905-1995): a Man of Many Parts

See also *Things Past*, #82, #86.

Mr Ted Matthews was born in 1905 in Millom in the Lakes District of England. In 1915 his step-father, who was an insurance agent, migrated with his Presbyterian family, in search of greater opportunities. The step-father gained employment as a sales representative for International Harvester. Young Teddy went to school in Toorak, then South Yarra, before the family bought a home in Caulfield, where the step-father had new employment in real estate. With the ending of the first World War in 1918 employment prospects 'were pretty grim' so Teddy persuaded his parents to let him accept a position as a house boy on a Riverina property (Balldale, 15 kilometres NE of Corowa). He was aged 13 and one year short of completing his Merit Certificate (Year 8).

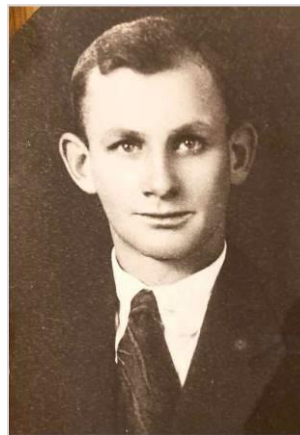
Ted worked for two years on the property but then his mother decided he should return home to learn a trade and improve his prospects. For about a year he got work delivering meat from a butcher's cart in Caulfield but he yearned for the land, so he set off to take several more jobs on farms. At Yalla-Y-Poora, a 60,000 acre property at Tatyoon near Ararat he learned boundary riding and sheep butchering.⁴

His parents persuaded him once more to come home and attempt an apprenticeship. Ted thought he might like carpentry so he answered an advertisement for a lad to learn a trade in building. The trade was 'tuck-pointing', a specialised trade in decorative brickwork, a trade held by only about 25 others. Ted had a natural aptitude for this work and began to take full responsibility for jobs on the Caulfield side of town. His boss doubled his wage to keep him, so Ted by 19 became aware of the value of his work. He asked for a raise to £5 a week and the boss laughed, so he gave his notice. The boss then agreed to pay it but Ted went out on his own and averaged £7 a week.

(Ironically, sometime later Ted's previous boss applied to work for him on a big Church job at

Romsey. After a big win at the races the boss had become a bookmaker and had gone bankrupt!)

At the age of 19 another incident of great significance occurred. He was travelling home from the pictures on a tram when two girls in Church of England Guild uniforms got on the tram. Ted was struck by the lovely smile of one of the girls and reasoned that they might have a regular activity with the Guild, so he caught the same tram a week later. He alighted at their stop and asked if he might take the girl, Edna Bowring, out. 'She was a bit doubtful but agreed when he said he would come to her home in Box Hill then take her to see the play "The Lady of the Rose" on Cup Day 1924.'



Poppa

Edna was 17. She was born in 1907 at Essendon but the Presbyterian family had moved to Lilydale when she was seven or eight. Edna achieved her Merit at school before gaining work as a cashier in Chapel Street, Prahran. Her boss there encouraged "his girls" to join the Church of England Guild of his

own church. After their first outing Ted and Edna went out for four years, then became engaged when Edna turned 21, marrying in 1928.

After they married they rented in Caulfield and, as was customary, Edna ceased paid work. Unfortunately the Depression was beginning and the building trade going under, so the couple had a change of direction.

The Path to Mt Evelyn Bakery

Edna's father Ted Bowring ran a grocery store in Lilydale. With the beginning of the Silvan Dam project he decided to open a bakery in Mt Evelyn (T P #86). Edna and Ted visited Mt Evelyn every fortnight to help out. There was no electric light or reticulated water and there was one train every day at 7.30am. The Flying Fox was operating to bring materials from Mt Evelyn station to the Dam site.

In 1929 on the King's Birthday weekend Mr Bowring was in difficulty, as his driver had been poached by a rival bakery in Croydon, and did not

⁴ See Eugene von Guerard's 1864 painting 'Yalla-Y-Poora', National Gallery of Victoria:

<https://www.ngv.vic.gov.au/explore/collection/work/75826/>

turn up for work. Mr Bowring asked Ted to help his son Max to do the delivery round to help out. As little was happening in the building trade Ted stayed a week, then his father in law suggested he move permanently. Hence, from 1929 till 1940, when Mr Bowring died, Ted worked for the bakery at the top of the town where York Road meets Wray Crescent.



Ted Mathews in 1935

When they first moved to Mt Evelyn Ted and Edna Matthews rented a house owned by Mr Bains, the station master, near the bakery. Then they bought a block of land for about £50 on Clancy's Hill, the corner of Grantully and Silvan Roads. In spite of the Depression it 'was everybody's ambition to own a home'. Ted's brother came to build them a home on their block. The Matthews had three children in three years: Don (1930), Lauris (1931-2020), and Allan (1932). (Lauris and Allan featured in awards at Mt Evelyn Primary School in a 1941 report by a local newspaper.)

Ted was initially the driver and in a time of poor roads and home deliveries 'it was quite normal to be bogged once or twice a day.' The delivering tradespeople, baker, butcher and milkman installed a rope attached to a tree at the bottom of Hunter and McKillop Roads where there was a road depression that filled with water. They were often around that corner at a similar time so they could help to pull each other out. At the end of their run at Parker's Corner near Monbulk (the terminus of Parker's bus run from the station) there was a lady called Alma Roberts who always had a kettle boiling for them, so they joined her for a cup of tea and chat. The drivers included her in their shared Tatts tickets and occasionally gave her little presents.

During this era of late 1920s and 1930s Mt Evelyn grew into a township and Ted remembered some of the notable residents. George Joy lived behind the Bakery and worked for the Board of Works. George's mother was Nurse Joy, the midwife (T P #99), who had lived where there was a cluster of three houses down York Road, possibly opposite Curries. George built a billiard venue next to the Bakery to cater for the workers at Silvan Dam. (The corner shop also contained a billiard table at this time. It was owned by Stricklands, then Harold Edwards, then Percy Matthews before Theo Millard developed it). When the Silvan Dam

was complete and the billiard place was losing business, 'one night it went up in flames and the bakery nearly went with it.' The Lilydale bakery came to the Bowrings' rescue and allowed them to bake bread on their premises and helped them rebuild.

After his wife's death in 1937 Mr Bowring lost interest in everything. His son Max had his own business by then and daughter Sara was married. To Ted's surprise the whole Mt Evelyn bakery business was left to him.

Sportsman

The Bowrings were regular dancers and when single Edna and her sister attended many Mt Evelyn dances but Ted was passionate about football, cricket, golf and bowls. In fact he played football for 17 years, cricket for 30 years, golf for 25 years and bowls for 37 years.



Mt Evelyn Cricket Team 1930. Ted Mathews (Captain) is in front row, second from left

Early on, before building their own court on the farm, they all played tennis at the one court (Mt Evelyn Tennis Club site) managed by Hughie Wray. The rental fee of two shillings was not trivial so most people attempted to sneak in without paying. The Mt Evelyn cricket club formed in 1930 and the Football club in 1931.



Mt Evelyn Football Club in 1935. Ted Matthews is in middle row, third from right.

Magpie History Revealed by DNA Analysis

Having purchased the second edition of *Australian Magpie* from Kurunga Nursery, I found new things about the magpie which are difficult to find on 'the Internet' and absent from Wikipedia!⁵

Magpies can display cultural behaviours in the way they delineate and protect their territories, and sanction magpie 'wrongdoers'. They are not only not aggressive, they form groups and friendships with other species (including people), make permanent pair bonds ('marriages'), in Victoria can live for 30 years, and remember who has treated them well or badly in the past. During the 4-6 weeks of breeding, the guardian males do not swoop 'friends', but will swoop children dressed in the school uniform of a child who has previously attacked them, even years before. It is in a friend's interest not to disguise themselves with hats so the bird can recognise their face. Attacking birds with sticks or umbrellas is filed away by the bird as non-friendly behaviour which might put their offspring at risk. The early swoops are warnings, and only a desperate bird will attempt to strike someone they have decided is a risk, because they can easily hurt or kill themselves. Some belligerent guardians can be 'persuaded into a truce' by peace offerings of mincemeat!

Another fascinating area of the book is the analysis of magpie songs and their mimicry skills. Kaplan links Magpie biology and social rules to their song production and vocal development. We humans use the larynx to produce sound. Birds possess a larynx, but mainly use the syrinx, 'a collection of specialised muscles and vibrating membranes ... hidden deep in the body ... a bird has two airstreams impinging on its vocal organ rather

than one as in humans and each can be activated together or separately. Thus a magpie can and does mimic duets.⁶ Some magpie songs are created with a closed beak. Both males and females sing, but juveniles may not sing without permission, even if they show they know the songs when the adults are absent.

All songbirds (including the magpie) originated in Australia

For me the most amazing part of an interesting book is the first chapter on origins. The land mass which existed 200 million years ago (mya) is known as Gondwana. It is currently thought that this mass broke initially into two, and Kaplan says, 'Africa, India and parts of the now Middle East separated first, while the link between South America, Antarctica and Australia endured much longer'. We see this link in mundane daily experiences such as the South African proteas being unerringly (and incorrectly) sold by florists as 'native flowers'. A South African hybrid 'pigface' was unintentionally sold as Australian at a local nursery (though was detected and is no longer on sale).

Analysis from oil companies indicates that 154 mya these masses commenced to move apart and by about 100 mya the gaps between the masses was sufficient to be regarded as 'an ocean', and there was a significant (but not impassable) distance between what is now Africa and Australia (East Gondwana).

The ages of the earth are generally named as

Era	Period (epochs)	Age (mya)	Comments
Mesozoic	Jurassic – (late, middle and early)	206 – 159 mya	Gondwana
	Cretaceous (late and early)	144 – 99 mya	The oldest evidence of birds in Australia is 105 million year old fossilised footprints and feather deposits from Dinosaur Cove in southern Victoria.
Cenozoic	Tertiary (paleocene)	65 mya	A major mass extinction – earth lost 75% of flora and fauna
	Tertiary (other)	55 – 5 mya	Birds that survived were from East Gondwana – ie Australia. Diversification of birds (species) commenced. Regional spread of birds commenced.
	Quaternary (Pleistocene)	1.8 mya	
	Quaternary (Holocene)	0.01 mya	ie 10,000 years
	Quaternary (Anthropocene)	present	'age of extinction'

⁵ Kaplan, Gisela. *Australian Magpie: Biology and Behaviour of an Unusual Songbird*, CSIRO, 2019.

⁶ Kaplan, p160.

Analysis using mitochondrial and nuclear DNA of songbirds has resulted in an upheaval of bird classifications which is still in process. Several models are being proposed to re-classify and rename species, and this has affected the magpie's nomenclature. Since it has been confirmed in the last decade that songbirds originated in Australia following the mass extinction which saw 75% of the earth's flora and fauna destroyed, notably the dinosaurs, (see table), it is now postulated that songbirds went from Australia to Africa, not vice versa as was previously thought.



The Herlihy magpie family – Fatso, 'no name', Boss and Squawky, and their butcher bird associate (circled in bottom picture).

I find the book difficult to read, and without a consistent writing style, so that some parts are colloquial and chatty, and other parts use biological and specialist terminology that is not introduced in a sequential manner. Still the content is fascinating, and I recommend the book if you have an interest in the Australian Magpie.

On a personal note, our neighbour Liz named our common magpies Boss, Fatso and Squawky, and purchases minced steak specially for them, which she freezes in day sized balls. When she travelled we took over the feeding, and now she is home we share days so they are not overfed! Our days are Monday, Wednesday and Friday. As the book describes, our magpies form liaisons with native miners, butcher birds and other species. They are

tolerant of kookaburras and most parrots except the sulphur crested cockatoos. By mobbing cockatoos and hawks they act as militia to provide a safer territory for other species. They recognise our cars and hasten to the feeding site when we return from shopping in case we have a snack.

In summer Boss has figured out that if he can get my attention I will oblige by cleaning out the bird baths. He hurries to the carport when I drive in, greets me, and points to the bird baths, visible from the carport, with his head. Kaplan says this gesturing or pointing is very unusual in animals without arms and magpies gesture and point to predators like snakes or grounded hawks by stiffening their bodies so that other magpies can align their bodies in the same pose to locate the source of danger.

They have a specific call alerting other magpies to look up when a predator is in the air. Kaplan has recorded the call and replayed it at many different times and locations in Australia. All magpies tested look up on hearing the call, not just those from the areas where the call was recorded.

Much of the book examines the bird's interesting habits, and I recommend visiting the websites <https://www.facebook.com/themagpiewhisperer/> and <http://www.magpieaholic.com/> for entertaining videos which are referenced in the book.

Paula Herlihy

Aqueduct pipeline



Robyn Speering sent us photos of a section of pipeline that can be seen from a local property adjacent to the Aqueduct trail. 'I am reasonably sure it is part of the Aqueduct pipeline just off Monbulk Road', wrote Robyn.

The top of the pipe looks weathered, but otherwise the pipe and concrete supports look in surprisingly good condition.

Hawai'i: Polynesian Way-finding

(continuing Paula and Tim's travels last year)

It is now almost certain that the Polynesian people moved deliberately across the Pacific Ocean from southern Asia to the Hawai'ian Islands and Rapa Nui (Easter Island), not least because of language commonalities. Some legends say they came the other way, from South America, and this is yet to be reconciled. The Disney children's movie *Moana* is prized in Hawaii and elsewhere as close attention was paid to the cultures of the Polynesians in creating the movie. It is worth watching to see how navigation is being promoted in the twenty first century. Many navigators were women, as is the heroine *Moana*.

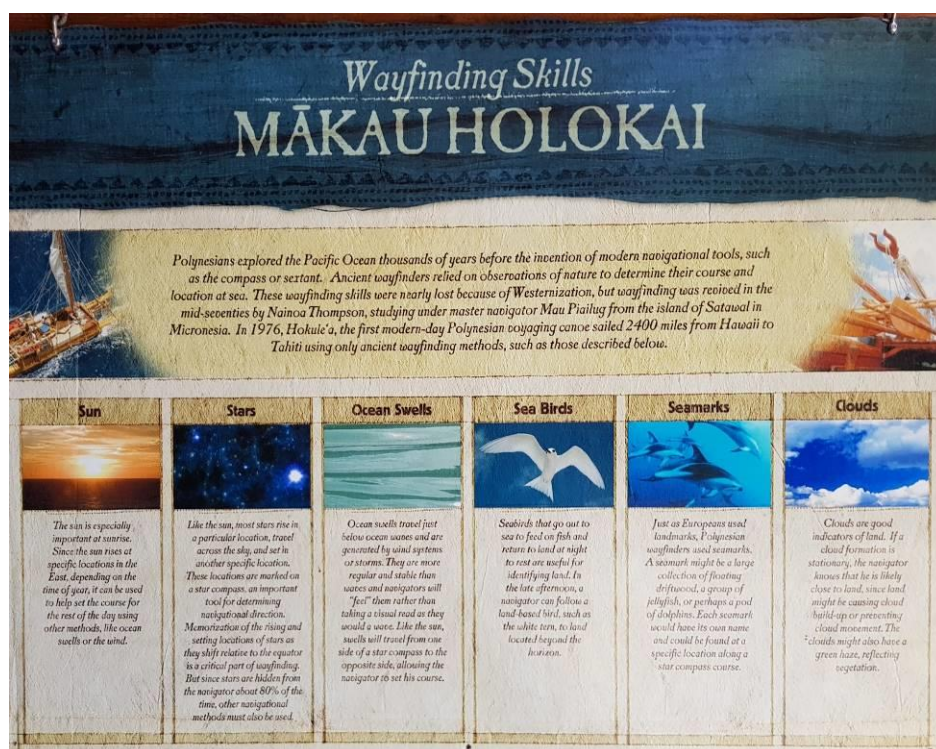
This navigation knowledge was almost lost, but some years back it was realised there were a bare handful of navigators across Polynesia still alive and those had no apprentices. There were none in Hawaii. Now the art is being researched and taught in Hawai'i and elsewhere, and the number of navigators is slowly increasing. Such navigation without charts is taught at the Brigham Young University on Oahu (a private university owned and operated by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints), and we attended an excellent talk given by a graduate of that course, in which he outlined the principal tenets of using Sun, Stars, Swells, Sea Birds, Seamarks and Clouds. His final test was to live for 14 days at sea on a traditional craft without using modern navigation.

In addition to understanding the basic ocean currents, navigators read the ocean swells, which are the waves in the top part of the ocean, below the surface waves, but additional to the currents, which are deeper again. Several stories have navigators teaching their successors by dragging them behind ships in the swells. A navigator reads the swells by sight and dragging his hand in the water, and the swells follow the patterns the stars

follow, so are invaluable in daylight and when clouds cover the stars.

From a distance they could tell from the type of cloud formation whether the clouds were forming over land or water, and as they approached land they knew almost exactly how far away they were by the types of fish and the types of birds coming out from land to feed on those fish

I had always struggled to understand how people could easily navigate 'by the stars', but in Hawai'i I finally came to understand it. Here in Mt Evelyn we only easily see the stars overhead and it is difficult to see what they are doing. In Yarra Glen, where I grew up, there is more sky and we had a telescope, so I was familiar with the sky there, and familiar with the idea of the sun, moon and planets moving against a backdrop of fixed stars broken into constellations, or pictures, to aid memory. In the islands, you can be on a boat and see the horizon for the full 360 degrees. The sun and moon are easy to locate, and with practice, constellations and certain stars become possible to locate. For a navigator this is easier again, because they already know where to look for constellations and the order in which they will rise from the horizon and set on the other side. A quick glance at the sky and the location of the constellations tells them how many hours they are into the night.



The advantage the seafaring navigators had was that they could see the horizon at all cloud free times. They could look around the horizon and, knowing the order in which the constellations always travel around the earth each 24 hours, they could see which constellation was currently rising, and they always rise above the horizon in the east and set below the horizon in the west. The navigators also understood that the constellations rise almost 4 minutes earlier each day than the day before, and repeat after a year. These movements are due to the motion of the earth on its axis (a day) and the revolution around the sun (a year), but the reasons were unnecessary – the movements alone were sufficient to navigate. They used further refinements, such as the annual north-south movement of the sun between the Tropics, and personal conceptual frameworks which allowed them to indicate the direction of invisible islands instantly and accurately.

E.H. Bryan, Jr. (and additions A. Crowe and T. Slater) *Stars Over Hawai'i*

David Lewis, *We, the Navigators: The Ancient Art of Landfinding in the Pacific, 2nd Ed.*

You Know You're Part of History When...

You are the only person around who knows why your grandmother and aunt kept the tops of powder tins and napkin rings in a box in the kitchen, and you use them yourself!



Yes, you guessed it. My family was well known for their excellent shortbread at Christmas, made from butter, cornflour, plain flour and icing sugar, in interesting shapes! These are the Family Biscuit Cutters. I still use the long finger cutter (flat napkin ring) when I make the shortbread.

Ruth's Shortbread

Tucker Family Shortbread

Make on a cool day for best results, and work on a marble slab if possible

INGREDIENTS

½ lb (<250 g) ordinary butter (not margarine)
 ½ cup or 4 oz icing sugar (soft is OK, original recipe used pure)
 ½ cup corn flour
 1 ½ cups plain flour
 Pinch salt

METHOD

If using pure icing sugar, roll until lump free and push through fine sieve.

Sift dry ingredients together.

Cut hard butter into ½ walnut-sized pieces and drop into dry ingredients, coating with flour as it drops. Rub in butter with **tips of fingers** until mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs. (Find a lump, break in two and drop into flour – repeat)

Then squeeze together with fingers (**never** palms of hands for more than a few seconds) until mixture looks like firm butter, and bowl and hands are free of mixture.

Drop mixture onto marble slab or table several times to make sure there are no cracks or holes in it (as with wedging pottery clay)

Roll to required thickness – Ruth used about 1 cm - check that the rolling pin is smooth – no dints or bits of dough - and cut to desired shapes. Ruth used the top of powder tins and family silver napkin holders to get finger shapes. Finger shapes are placed close beside each other on the tray (approx 1 mm apart) so they touch after cooking and must be snapped apart (or cut when warm). They can be placed further apart if desired for special occasions.

Bake in slow to moderate oven until a pale golden shade – about 180°C (350°F) oven. Check after 10 mins. Cooked when either pale golden or if paler is desired, when looks dry.

Allow to cool on the tray (stops warping). If this results in an oily base, cool on fine cloth on wooden tray instead. Remove carefully with egg slice.

Store in an air-tight tin. Can be dusted with sieved icing sugar to serve if liked.

Ted Matthews (1905-1995): a Man of Many Parts

from p 6

About six young men had played for Lilydale but with the aid of a former Fitzroy player, Mr Liardet ('Lee Hardy') and A. Henderson as coaches, they formed the nucleus of the Mt Evelyn team. Ted, an A grade amateur in Melbourne, had an opportunity to be paid for playing for a Croydon team but was committed to Mt Evelyn, in the second grade level competition. He and Ted Nolan formed a good Rover and Ruck combination. Ted kicked the first goal for Mt Evelyn Football Club (uphill) and in 1933 won best and fairest. The cartoon below represents significant players and club members, listing Ted as Captain.



Close-up of Ted

To be continued in a future issue of *Things Past*

Hidden Histories of Mount Evelyn – Thank You Yarra Ranges Shire Council

In the past we have held exhibitions in October to coincide with History Week promoted by the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, with which we are affiliated. We booked the Exhibition Space attached to the Library every October, and when the Street Party was held, we also had a small version behind our stall. Since the closure of Morrison House and the demise of the Exhibition

Space in 2014, we have held small exhibitions whenever appropriate.

This year, we were inspired by other historical societies running online exhibitions because of the Covid-19 shutdown. We engaged Joy Phillips to handle our IT requirements. Joy is an honorary member of the History Group because she hosts our website, and Joy had in the past suggested the idea of a book where the pages turned, as a way to attractively display material online.

We have many stories about Mount Evelyn which are tantalisingly brief. 'This boy reckons he's found a tunnel'. 'The friend of a mate of a friend said ... ' 'I heard something in the bush which might have been a Panther'. But a History Group's role is to investigate the story and find facts to prove or disprove it. One of our stories is a collection of reports of Mount Evelyn ghosts. While we can't prove or disprove anything yet, a first step is to collect data.

Joy is setting up our 'book' so that while we might start with a dozen or so such stories, we can continue to add chapters as the mood takes us. We invite you, our audience, to contribute information you might have to support or contradict the stories, and we hope some questions might be finally answered. We invite you to share your stories and provide new chapters.

And now the icing on the cake! We knew that doing the design work to lay out the information we provided attractively would take hours of specialist work, so we applied to the Yarra Ranges Small Grants for \$1000 and we have been granted that amount! So thank you Yarra Ranges Shire Council, and thanks so far to writers and members Karen Phillips, Janice Newton, Paula Herlihy and Anthony McAleer for providing our first stories. A special thanks to Kevin Phillips who has taken photographs to illustrate some of the stories. And thanks to the many people who have shared their stories and their photographs.

We hope the exhibition will be launched by a small (possibly online) ceremony before Christmas, but we will let you know when the exhibition is up and running by email and announce on our Facebook page (Mount Evelyn History Group).

Paula Herlihy

Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2020

We usually hold our AGM in August. All groups have been granted a three month extension without fee because of the Covid-19 shutdown period, but it is possible to meet the AGM requirements fairly painlessly.

As President, it is my task to ensure we follow regulatory requirements. After discussion with other committee members I set out the following 'road map' to our AGM (apologies Premier Dan for stealing your term).

1. Email members to see if a Zoom meeting is welcomed. Done. Response was small – no. Another hindrance here is we don't have access to a commercial Zoom account.
2. Contact current committee to see who is willing to stay in their current position till August 2021.
3. Email members (with nomination form attached) to see if anyone not currently on Committee is willing to nominate for positions.
4. After assessing data from steps 2 and 3 above, create Agenda and call a Zoom meeting (free Zoom allows for a 40 minute session) for Monday 30th November, 2020 at 7:30pm. President's, Secretary's and Treasurer's reports and financial statement will be distributed beforehand by email.

From Kev's Rain Gauge

Rainfall (in mm) for Mt Evelyn, McKillop, and Melbourne for the last three months.

	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	YTD
Mt Evelyn	121.4	66.6	114.9	1001.5
McKillop	138.7	76.9	115.2	1082.2
Melbourne	60.6	32.0	74.2	691.8

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.