



Things Past

Newsletter 121

May 2021

PO Box 289 Mt Evelyn Vic 3796

Incorporation Number A0051327F

Dates for Your Diary

Walk, Saturday 15 May, details to be advised.

General Business Meeting, Monday 21 June 7:30 – 9:30 pm at Hardy House, 49 Birmingham Road, Mt Evelyn.

Meetings are 3rd Mondays of even months, 7:30 pm at Hardy House for General Business Meetings, and speaker and activity times are on alternate months at times by arrangement - please check your email inbox.

Lest We Forget 2021

In This Issue...

Lest We Forget	1
Bill and Betty Ford: a Focus for Fun in Mt Evelyn, part 3: The Millard's Years	2
Hudsons of the Wimmera and Mt Evelyn	3
The Brodneys of Mt Evelyn	4
Stan and Nancy Deed, part 1: Stan	5
Friedl Gardner of 'Cherrygarth'	7
Letters to the Editor	11
Trailblazers: Women of the Yarra Ranges	11
From Kev's Rain Gauge	12



This year the Mt Evelyn RSL limited their Anzac Day Dawn Service to 1000 people by not advertising the service, and invited Yarra Ranges Life TV to film a service on the Saturday prior, which was available at <https://fb.watch/54kBpXF-3T/>.

Thanks to Denis Latchford, who created this memorial on York Road, and to Joy Phillips for her photograph.

cont'd p.12

Bill and Betty Ford: a Focus for Fun in Mt Evelyn, part 3:

The Millard's Years

(concluding Janice Newton's interview with Betty Ford in 1998)

Tracks to Trails (2001) pp.181-2 and *Things Past* #58 & #92 have previously covered some of the culture around Mt Evelyn's one big industry of the 1950s: Millard's.

Betty remembered many of the men who worked at Millard's: Bill Hawkey, Mick Doolan, Bill Ford, Eddie Griffiths, Stan Jeffs, Gordon Stroud, Bernie O'Brien, Lance Newton, Tommy Sellick, Roy Thompson, Laurie and Peter Millard, Teddy Matthews, Vic Fitzpatrick, Noel Phillips, Jack Wisdom, Harry Graham senior and junior. (There was a young man called Allan Taylor who also worked there and had lived with the Fords for a time. Tragically he was killed after skylarking, hanging onto the outside of a little Morris Sports car. He fell and hit his head and died of a brain haemorrhage.)

The workers at Millard's formed a band with Eddie Griffiths on the ukulele, Bill on the accordion and Stan Jeffs on the piano accordion. Betty remembered a particular variety concert when the 'boys' were last on and probably 'as full as a boot'. They all dressed up as women in long dresses and were very funny. Betty watched Bill wearing her good long blue frock and as he went in and out 'I watched the dress tear down the back'.



Opening the new Hall, December 5th, 1952. Eddy Griffiths (ukelele), Bill Ford (lady), Frankie Feltham (piano accordion). Courtesy Betty Ford.

As well as concerts in the hall they organised small concerts in people's homes. 'They used to go

around to, say, my house this month ... in a whole group, but every wife brought a plate ... not anything elaborate, and that was supper. So no-one was out of pocket. Whatever you wanted to drink you brought yourself. It was just a sort of entertainment they made once a month. They made it family oriented ... got to know each other.' There were also Christmas break ups at Millard's. 'What didn't happen at those Christmas break ups! The mothers weren't involved in the actual party. We'd probably have a day out somewhere. Someone would be Father Christmas and the kids would get their presents. Sometimes we'd go down to the Rec (Recreation Reserve).'



Millard's Christmas Party late 1950s

Includes from left: Standing (i) Charlie Kempton, Snowy Castles, Jack Wisdom, Laurie Millard, Ken Irons, Johnny Irons; (ii) Jim Sheather, Grant Richards, Jack Laphorne, Mick Doolan, Mr. Robby, Gus. (Seated) Harry Graham, Kempton, Fred McDonnagh, Roy Thompson, Les Walters, Tom Sellick, Ted Matthews, Lex Lillie. (Musicians) Lance Newton, Stan (Digger) Jeffs, Ed Griffiths. (Front) Father Christmas (Theo Millard?), Bill Ford, Peter Millard.

The Millard's crowds would also have trips down to St Kilda Beach, on the foreshore, by train. Mrs Doolan would sit with the babies and toddlers so the younger mothers could go for a swim. 'It was a chance to do something together. It was our social life.'

Bill and Betty Ford brought a lot of fun to Mt Evelyn in the fifties and sixties. Interestingly, the family's love affair with honeymoon spot Deal Island continued over the generations. First born son Wes and his wife Ethel (nee Parker) have also spent time caretaking on the island. On one holiday four generations of the Ford family were on Deal Island at the same time.

References

Interview of Betty Ford (with Deanne Webb) by Janice Newton 21 June 1998

Weekly Times Obituaries 13 May 2013

Hudsons of the Wimmera and Mt Evelyn

In the 1950s and 1960s everyone in Mt Evelyn knew Hudson's Newsagent and general store, ultimately located between Millard's yard and joinery and Station Street. It was a large, dim and cool store with a counter along the right hand side and back. The shop stocked newspapers, stationery, books and magazines as well as many other things including haberdashery, wool and clothes.

Storekeepers with vehicles were often asked to help out. When in 1956 Miss Daniel was shocked at the sudden illness of her sister, Mr Hudson arranged for her to be transported to Lilydale in order to catch a train to the Box Hill hospital.

As children, we were trusted to shop there on our own for a card and handkerchief for a family member's birthday or something similar. The Hudsons gave us a personal service in choosing our items to fit our two shillings budget. They also ordered a variety of children's and adult magazines and stocked books. For many in Mt Evelyn, Hudsons was their introduction to comics and reading in an era before television had permeated the society.

Jill Koolmees and her sister Helen Darvell remembered the family shopping in Mt Evelyn of a Saturday morning and the delight when they purchased *Humpty Dumpty's Magazine for Little Children* and *Friends* from Hudsons. *Humpty Dumpty* contained activities for children including a cut-out to put

around your face when sucking spaghetti! (Mrs Helen Koolmees obliged by cooking spaghetti for Jill and Helen.). Our family subscribed to the British *School Friend* magazine which included fascinating stories of hardy and brave British school girls from boarding schools.

The store was purchased by Robert Hudson after successful storekeeping in the Wimmera for many years.

Robert Roland Hudson was born at Ararat on 10 October 1889, the 6th child of George William

Hudson and wife Annie, nee Jones. In his early years he managed grocery and drapery stores at Rainbow, Jeparit and Murtoa. On 8 October 1921 at Horsham Church of England, he married Emma Louisa Gerlach,

daughter of Johann Carl Ludwig Gerlach and wife Ellen Ann nee McGinn.

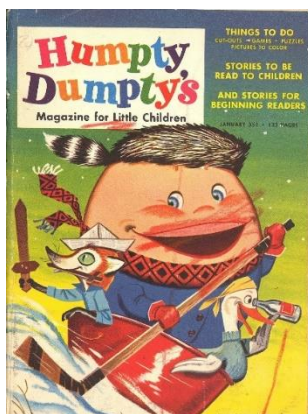
They had three sons. Roland William was born at Rainbow in 1922; Wallace James was born at Murrumbeena in 1924 (where Robert had a business in Neerim Road), and Donald was born at Rupanyup in 1927. Robert ran stores in three different main street locations here for over 25 years, also acting as the agent for H.V. McKay farm

machinery. In Rupanyup he played and coached tennis, fished, hunted rabbits, camped, led the Scouts, and ran community singing in the hall.

In the early 1950s, Robert and Emmy sold their business at Rupanyup and bought a mixed business at Mount Evelyn. They worked hard till retirement in 1956, and then went to live at Chelsea. Robert spent his last days at Lilydale in the care of his son Don and daughter-in-law Vera, and passed away on 4 November 1964. He was buried at



Hudsons General Store with a group of people outside.



Humpty Dumpty's Magazine

Lilydale cemetery on 5 November by Rev. Ron Scott, the Presbyterian Minister. Robert's wife Emma died on 11 January 1983.



**Roly and Sheila Hudson
with Carole and Julie
outside the early store
c.1956.**

Their first son, Roland William Hudson married Sheila Schulz at Murtoa in 1948. They had three children: Carole was born in 1949, Julie in 1950 and James in 1961. Roly and Sheila worked at Hudsons, taking over the management in 1956, first in the store near the Birmingham Road end of Wray

Crescent. Roly's brother Wallace married Sheila's sister June.

The family became a central part of Mt Evelyn main street, Tennis Club and Presbyterian Church life. Roly Hudson and Peter Millard (brother of Theo, the owner of the timber yard and joinery) were a dynamic duo in A Grade tennis from 1948 through to the 1950s. Later Carole, Julie, then James (in the 1980s) also excelled on the tennis court, winning a number of premierships and championships in the club.

Roly's youngest brother Donald Hudson married Vera Underwood (see *Things Past* #45 and # 109)



**Roly Hudson and Peter
Millard in a winning
team.**

at Lilydale in 1949. They had two children: Terrie Lyle, born 1950, and Barbara, born 1956, and lived in Old Hereford Road, Lilydale.

Hudson's store and the family were integral to Mt Evelyn life in the 1950s and 1960s. Like other store holders they provided a valued service, responded when people were in need and took an active part in community life.

Sources: Script provided by Carole Hudson, memories of Newton and Koolmees families, *Healesville Guardian* 27 March 1948, 25 Nov, 23 Dec 1950; Newton, Herlihy & Phillips, *Tracks to Trails*, p.98.

Janice Newton

The Brodneys of Mt Evelyn

In *Things Past* #73 we noted that Mt Evelyn didn't seem to get a mention in the 'Australian Dictionary of Biography', though about two dozen people with Mt Evelyn connections were listed. We do however rate a mention, in connection with a local couple.

Alfred Tennyson (Bob) Brodney (1896-1984) and his wife Maria May Brodney nee Francis (1894-1973) were radicals who came to Mt Evelyn in later life.

'In October 1920 Bob helped to found the Communist Party of Australia ... May was initially attracted to the socialist-feminism of Vida Goldstein and the Women's Political Association. In 1916-17 May was involved in the anti-conscription campaigns. May was a foundation member (1920) of the Melbourne branch of the C.P.A. ... Disillusioned with the party's increasingly doctrinaire stance and tactics, they resigned their membership in 1925. [Bob] became a senior partner in Maurice Blackburn's law firm and a solicitor to the Australian Council of Trade Unions. ... [May] remained an independent Marxist.'¹

The Brodneys purchased the Mt Evelyn log cabin 'Appin', probably in the mid-1950s, and lived there until May's death in 1973.

¹ 'Australian Dictionary of Biography', <https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/brodney-maria-may-9587>

Stan and Nancy Deed, part 1:

Stan

Stanley Herbert Deed was born on 22 March 1904 in Ashburton, New Zealand. After Stan's mother died of typhoid fever in New Zealand, his father, his brother Howard and sister Ethel immigrated to Australia, where Stan's father met and married Ellen Denford. This necessitated the three children being separated, each staying with various aunts and uncles.



L to R. Stan, Ethel, Howard and baby Ken

At age 11, Stan was sent to Majorca in central Victoria to stay with his grandparents. He had to walk five miles to school near Maryborough and Talbot. He then went on to Maryborough Technical School where he excelled in sign writing. As the Great Depression worsened, he had to

leave school and help his father milk the cows. He also had a job making packing cases for the apple pickers in Harcourt.

Stan left home at 19 to get work in Boronia. It was many miles from Harcourt to Boronia so he bought a horse and rode bareback, staying in a paddock near Essendon overnight. The Boronia job was milking cows and he worked nearly 80 hours a week. He separated the milk before he went on his rounds in and around Boronia and Bayswater to sell the milk. Working in the dairy in 1934 he received sixteen shillings a week (about \$80.92 in 2020)². Somehow, he managed to save sufficient to buy two blocks of land in the main street of Boronia. As the Depression worsened, his pay was reduced to only 10 shillings per week and he had to sell the two blocks, receiving less than half of what he had paid for them.

He left the dairy to work on a 90-acre property owned by the Chandlers, growing daffodils and boronia on the corner of Forest and Boronia Roads in Boronia. Although the money was better, he and Nancy could not afford to get married for nearly five years.



Stan was working in the dairy when he first met Nancy in 1935.

They married on 21 December 1940 at the Methodist Church, Lower Ferntree Gully.

For about seven months they lived in Albert Avenue Boronia, three miles from the shops. They were doing reasonably well growing flowers in partnership and selling them at the market but, when World War II broke out, their good times turned sour. The boys who used to take the flowers to market were called up for war service and so the flowers went unsold. Stan too was called up but failed the medical due to his chronic asthma. Somehow, he had managed to buy a little house in Dorset Road but the tenants didn't pay any rent for more than six months.



The 'Chandler Workers'. Stan is third from left.

A knock was heard at the door one day. It was Mr Tesselaar, a Dutchman who had recently arrived in Australia and was growing flowers. He was keen

² <https://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

to get Stan to work for him, but was offering even less money than the pittance they were currently getting. He came over several times to coax them, but resolutely they declined. 'Unless you offer us a house to go with the job, we cannot accept.' The next visit from Mr Tesselaar was to be life-



changing for Stan and Nancy. He offered the 'big house opposite the school in Burwood

Road and £3 per week'. Stan was happy to ride his push bike about half a mile to work and Nancy was glad to have electric light and mains water.

Mr Cees Tesselaar with his first delivery van.

In 1946 Stan and family moved into

the house on Mr Tesselaar's Silvan property. It was a smaller house, with electricity, but it only had tank water. A copper used for doing the washing was outside, but so was the red dust in summer and red mud in winter. It was pretty tough going for Stan cultivating the 15 acres with horse and plough, and raising two more children. His asthma was worsening.



Stan with his mother Ellen and Keith, about 1947.

In 1975 Stan started to work with his brother-in-law Bill Black cleaning windows at various places in and around Lilydale. While at the home of Mr Lindsay

Nicholas of 'Cooring Yering', he heard that he was

looking for a gardener/handyman to work around the property. There would be a house available but not for about two years. Stan thought that this would be a better environment for his health and a less strenuous position and so accepted, even though he had to travel to and from Silvan to

Lilydale each day, either by bus or in his old and not so reliable Fordson car.

The main house in which Mr and Mrs Nicholas lived had been built in the 1800s for Colonel



Joy

William Forbes Hutton, who purchased the property in 1871 after serving in the Madras Army in India from 1836. Colonel

Hutton then purchased additional land nearby, eventually owning more than 1,600 acres. The house was the show piece on this grand estate. Over the years portions of the property had been sold off but at the time that Stan came to work for Mr Nicholas it was a prestigious show/stud cattle farm on 350 acres. There were two other homes on the property, one provided to the Stud-master, Mr Martin Rowan, and the other to Mr Roy Fort, the dairy share farmer, to live in. The house that Mr Rowan was in was originally on 'Terrinallum', another property owned by Mr Nicholas at Derrinallum about 180 km west of Melbourne, and had been brought to the Lilydale property for the Stud-master's use. The Rowans returned to a property in Derrinallum after Mr Nicholas discontinued with the show cattle and introduced a dairy herd.

Stan and his family were then able to move from Silvan to Lilydale, which they did on 14 February 1957. The good news was that they were now in a big house. A room for everyone, electric hot water, carpets on the floor, verandas and plenty of land for the boys to learn to drive, a horse or two and a chook pen. The bad news was that Stan dropped the fridge on his foot as they were manoeuvring it into the kitchen and ended up on crutches for a few weeks, with his foot in plaster. They continued to stay there even after Stan gave up regular work, until they moved into a unit in Clarke Street Lilydale after the family had all married and moved out.

Richard Doig

To be continued in a future *Things Past*

Friedl Gardner of 'Cherrygarth'

Elfriede Grace 'Friedl' Rathausky was born in Fyansford, near Geelong, in 1920. Her father, Victor Rathausky, had gained a job with Australian Paper Mills as manager at Fyansford Paper Mill. This was through an introduction from Troedel and Cooper Art Paper Manufacturers, when he had first come out to Australia from Austria in 1912. His family in Austria had been very wealthy, owning a paper mill and coal mines, but a partner defrauded them and they lost a lot of money and assets. They had employed English and French governesses for the children. After Victor got into money troubles, the servants were so loyal and devoted that they offered to stay on for nothing.

Originally his first wife was going to follow her husband and young son, Kurt, out to Australia. She declined to join them however, leaving Victor to care for Kurt. When the First World War broke out, Victor would have been considered an enemy alien

and interned. However, he met and married Dorothy Steven through a friend on the ship. Dorothy Steven, Friedl's mother, was the daughter of James Steven, a Harley Street surgeon of English and Scottish origins. His family had been socialites who visited Monte Carlo and so on. Australia seemed very wild and uncultured to them. When James settled as a doctor at Bordertown, South Australia, his wife, Alice, felt depressed. In an act of despair she burnt all her ball gowns.

Before going to live at Fyansford, Victor and Dorothy rented a house from Merric Boyd, artist and potter. Merric went off to England in the latter part of the First World War. Victor and Dorothy became close friends of the Boyds, as did their children. Friedl was the same age as Arthur Boyd, who later became a painter. Friedl's younger sisters were born in Fyansford. While

Victor was working at the Australian Paper Mill he had a nervous breakdown, from overwork and worry about his family in Austria.

The children attended Canterbury State School, where there was some prejudice against them. The foreign surname of Rathausky caused bullying – they were called 'dirty Russians'. One girl threw stones at them, while Friedl's brother Victor was beaten up by boys. He even changed his name to Noel. The eldest and youngest girls were educated at Merton Hall, South Yarra. Friedl went to Intermediate level (year 10) and became a Prefect.

The family had a car, which was unusual in those days. A grand piano was sent from Austria – a wedding present from her father's family. Friedl's parents were both musical. Victor sang and Dorothy played the piano. All their children appreciated classical music.

The 1930s Depression had a big impact on Friedl and her parents. Although they had paid off three-quarters of their house, the bank took

back their home and the grand piano. A friend of Dorothy's offered Victor a position at the Brighton Gas Company. Victor was an analytical scientist and chemist, so he was given the job of looking after the quality of gas at the Highett gasometer. They lived at the site in a brick house in a large paddock with horses and a cow. Here, Victor built a sleep-out and a garden. Using second-hand bricks, he made a very artistic and beautiful garden looking across to the Dandenongs. They had little money, though the subject was rarely mentioned. Friedl's mother dyed hessian to make curtains. There were seven children to care for, including Kurt, Victor's son from his first marriage. Later the family moved to Ferncroft Avenue, East Malvern. Friedl got her first job while in East Malvern, as a maid in a guesthouse in St Kilda. She had to be up at all hours and the manager was terrible, the way he pushed the maids about.



Friedl and a visitor in her garden in 1999.

Friedl had loved living with her four sisters in the large nursery room at home. Here, however, she was allotted what could only be called a cupboard! She only lasted two days before leaving the job, but her parents welcomed her back home. They would have preferred her to further her education, but they were too poor to argue with Friedl in her efforts to be self-supporting.

Friedl obtained her next job when she was 16. She worked at 'Lucy Secor', a big shop in the Block Arcade, Melbourne, as a model and fashion writer. The fashions produced by the designers and machinists were tried on her. Friedl also wrote articles for the fashion magazines (she had been top in Art and English at school but was no good at Maths). She worked in a room with the owner, Mr Cann. Each evening the boss would walk along the rows and rows of machinists, picking one girl to seduce. Once he asked Friedl to his office and he locked the door. Coming from a good family background, Friedl announced very adamantly that if he didn't unlock the door, the press would hear about it tomorrow! Alas, that was the end of another job.

In 1937 Friedl had a wonderful year at George Bell's Art School. She studied painting with Sali Herman and Maie Casey. A kind friend of the family paid for the art course. Each child was helped by friends of the family at times. Victor Junior was offered a job by a professor at the University of Melbourne on his property in northern NSW – Victor later became a farmer. Friedl's grandmother, Alice Steven, asked if Friedl could stay with her while her unmarried daughter was away.

In 1939 Friedl became engaged to George Larsson, of Swedish and English origins. In July 1940 they married and moved to Sydney. Friedl worked as a copywriter and layout person for Farmers, where Mr Colling was the Advertising Manager. George worked as an engineer. In the Second World War George joined the army and was posted to Lae, Papua New Guinea. Tragically, he was severely burnt when an American plane crashed on their Mess, killing fellow officers. George was not expected to live, but returned home to Australia

on a hospital ship. George was in Concord Hospital (Repatriation) for a year for skin grafts and rehabilitation. Friedl visited him from their home in Lane Cove – a long trek by public transport to Western Sydney, with their first child Sandra and toddler, Greer. When George returned home at last, the trauma of his horrific experiences caused him to become paranoid and violent. He turned to drink and was unable to hold a job.

In 1958, after eighteen difficult years, and with three daughters aged fifteen, thirteen and ten, Friedl finally left the destructive relationship. She had no house and no way of making a living. A spinster aunt came to the rescue and let her and the girls stay in her home in South Yarra for seven weeks. Friedl looked for work in the same field as before and got a job as a copywriter with George Pattersons Advertising in Collins Street Melbourne. Her boss was Dick Cudlip, who had trained Mr Colling (Advertising Manager at Farmers, where Friedl had worked in Sydney).

Now, at last, Friedl could support her family, find rented accommodation and be independent. She rented a big house in Stevenson Street, Kew, with many rooms and even a grand ballroom and a main bedroom with dressing room. Friedl had only three mattresses for her daughters but her kind brother bought her a bed and dressing table. It looked so bare, but she had a refrigerator and a washing machine. The house was handy to work in the city, and to her aunt. Friedl received good pay and worked at Pattersons for twelve years, even becoming an account executive. Some of the accounts she managed were Prestige, Electric Heatbanks and Moulded Products. She developed her skills and was a gifted writer, enjoying the artistic side of the job: layout, and photography, ideas and settings.

Friedl had received only a quarter share of her former marital home in Pymble (you received less if you left the marital home). With her £2000 divorce settlement from the house, Friedl bought land in Williamsons Road, Doncaster. Friedl did win a court case for maintenance for her daughters, but the children were terrified of their father visiting. They were present in the car when

he had tried to choke and smother their mother, so she declined any financial help from him.

Friedl's sister, Rima, lived close by in Kew and worked at Melbourne University. She knew Dr Godfrey Gardner, Reader in Social Psychology, who had come from the UK in 1957. Godfrey met Friedl when he needed a place to garage his Riley car. Friedl had a vacant garage and no car, so she agreed that Godfrey could use it. She told him however that she would be buying a car soon, as she wanted to visit her widowed father at 'Poet's Cottage' in Portsea. This home had been built for her grandparents to retire in. Also it was a peaceful place for their son, Friedl's uncle Alexander Gordon Steven, to write his poetry. Alexander was a talented poet with published works of note. Sadly, he died very young, leaving a fiancée. Friedl's father, Victor, loved the big garden at Portsea, where he specialised in hybridising irises. During the time that Friedl worked, her daughters spent school holidays at Portsea.

When Godfrey first visited Friedl, she was scrubbing the front tiled porch – with her hair in curlers. He suggested that they go out for coffee and was very charming, and was also lovely to the girls. She was wary of a new relationship after the terrible time she had had in her marriage, but soon fell madly in love. They became engaged in July 1959. All her plans for building a split-level home on the land she had bought in Doncaster were changed. It was pear orchard country, but Friedl and Godfrey decided it was becoming too suburban in character and chose to move further out of Melbourne. Friedl sold the Doncaster land at a profit of £500.

A work colleague lived at Mooroolbark, and Friedl's mother had been a friend of landscape gardener Edna Walling, and of sculptor Ola Cohn. Friedl and Godfrey went to look at a stone house on the Walling estate in Mooroolbark. The windows were small and the doorways low, so that it was rather dark inside. The estate agent

then showed them a house, 'Wrenloft', in East Avenue, Mt Evelyn. Owners Mary and Norm Doeg (a security manager for ANZ, Collins Street) were retiring to Frankston.

Mr Argyle Loftus had bought five acres of land in the 1920s, from a 1913 subdivision, and built a house, 'St Annes'. Mr Loftus had a gardener and had started to establish a beautiful garden. He planted juniper, cedar, pine, birches and an orchard in terraces of apple, pear and plum trees. Loftus' son-in-law, Ziegler, was a beekeeper (traced through the Garden Historical Society). Loftus had a smaller house built next door as a holiday retreat for his son, who was an artist living in Brighton.³ It was this small fibro-cement cottage that Mary and Norm Doeg acquired, and called 'Wrenloft'. They continued to add to the garden and did some lovely stonework around the house. Friedl and Godfrey bought the cottage from them in 1959. Friedl renamed the property 'Cherrygarth'. Friedl had rosy cheeks and Godfrey called her 'Cherry', while 'garth' is an old English word for garden. There were a lot of cherry trees around the house and a plum tree was espaliered around the big windows of the living room – a glorious sight in Spring.



Above and below: Cherrygarth in the 1950s



³ The grand-daughter of Argyle Loftus, Pamela Tenge, clarified that this cottage was, in fact, built for her

grandfather's caretaker/driver. Email to MEHG 1 April 2021.

During the 1962 bushfires, the owners of St Anne's at the time, the Goodmans, kindly offered to store some of Friedl's art works at their Hollandia shoe factory in Lilydale. Even though the fires came very close, and the owners evacuated, the properties were saved.

Friedl added more stonework in the garden and built tarns (small ponds), after being inspired by the glorious Lakes District in England. The garden was extended with native and exotic shrubs. There were stone birdbaths, tables and a rock wall. Friedl inherited an historical lamp on a post and a big metal mine from the war, which was an impressive sight near the house with blue convolvulus cascading down it. There was a natural gully of tree ferns, although some had to be replaced after the 1973 drought killed a number.

Friedl had many garden open days and raised a lot of money for Amnesty International with her paintings and cards of native flowers. She did many paintings and collages inspired by her beautiful garden and held successful exhibitions.

The following was added by Janice Newton from Margot's diary and letters on file.

In 1968, Friedl's daughter Margot wrote a letter to

Cambridge, England,

describing the garden. 'Take a walk around the garden with me in your

imagination – down the stepping stones past the delicate birch trees and the pink belladonnas which have appeared all around the garden. Take a peep at mummy's new rockery – the cumquat is already in flower and the perfume of the Bouvardia is worth a short crawl on hands and knees; down the gravel steps past the laundry and then across the grassy stretch and lilac border,

right down to the round bed. There you will find the Rowanberry tree with its lovely pink polished berries looking like pearl droplets. Over the potting yard ... the jasmine climbs freely and to reach a bloom amongst the jungle of creepers, blackberries and roses is a real treat – the perfume is really beautiful. Come around past the gully, through the paddocks to the orchard. The rosy apples on the trees are quite tempting – so crisp and juicy. A stiff climb up the terraces to the path near the honeysuckle fence and the red camellia and you've come to one of my favourite spots in the garden ... There you see that grand old gum tree with ivy growing freely around its trunk, and tucked away among the shrubs is our little home.' In 1993 some large eucalypts which had germinated after a severe bushfire at the turn of the 20th century were removed from Cherrygarth after storm damage. R. T. Molyneux of Ross Trevor Tree Removals wrote a letter to the Shire of Lillydale defending Friedl's tree removal. Mrs Gardner 'has maintained them as long as possible.

She has spent [a] considerable amount of time, effort and money in maintaining these very old native trees. I can assure you that Mrs Gardner is a person who has taken the utmost care of her garden, both native and exotic ... an inspection of her garden would, I'm sure, show to you how much time and care Mrs Gardner has

taken in looking after her environment.'

Sources: Interview of Friedl Gardner at 'Cherrygarth', East Avenue, Mt Evelyn, by Janice Newton, 1 March 1997, amended by daughter Margot Beck October 2020. Copy of letters regarding tree removal, extracts of the diaries of Margot Larsson 1963-1969 (courtesy Margot Beck). See also *Things Past* #8 and *Tracks to Trails*.



MEHG-MEEPPA members on a visit to Cherrygarth. L to R: Joyce Tucker, Beryl McIntosh, Ken McIntosh, David Edwards, Unknown, Louise Hordern, Beryl Phillips, Jean Edwards, Clare Worsnop. 1999.

Letters to the Editor

Member Jim Johnson recalls being picked up walking to school by someone in a 'modern' ute, which he remembers was a 'lovely vehicle'. They weren't common and he was pretty impressed! He wonders if this was Charlie Stubbs? (See *Things Past* #120 February 2021).

Jim had been told never to accept lifts, but couldn't resist! He shared the back of the ute pressed up against some billygoats, and that night his Mum detected the scent on his jumper and wanted to know how it happened. His Mum did housework for Mrs Mitchell who lived on the corner of Hull and Edinburgh Roads, and Mrs Mitchell had given him the jumper. Jim lived four miles from Lilydale, two and a half from Montrose and three from Mt Evelyn from 1942 – 1949. We have written about Jim before in *Things Past* # 32, #44, and #91, archived at mtevelyn.net.

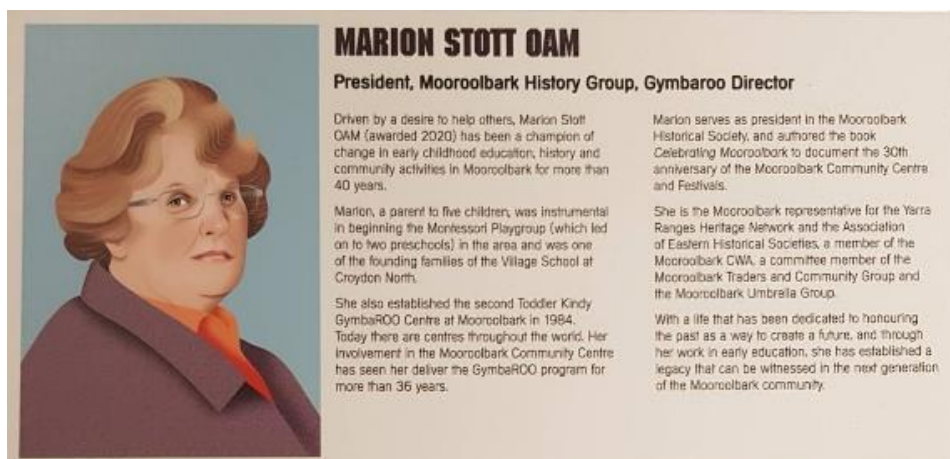
Trailblazers: Women of the Yarra Ranges

The Yarra Ranges Regional Museum is celebrating local champions and agents of change in an exhibition called *Trailblazers: Women of the Yarra Ranges*. The exhibition runs from 6 March to 25 July, and entry is free, no bookings required. The exhibition features portraits by artist Cat

MacInnes as a unifying feature for an exhibition about people active from different decades.

Joyce Evans, a Mt Evelyn Pre-school Educator, is one of the featured Trail-blazers (see TP #109).

Others with connections to Mt Evelyn include Marion Stott OAM, who lived in Mt Evelyn in the 1970s before settling in Mooroolbark. While in Mt Evelyn, Marion left her mark by contributing to the running of Nursing Mothers, Babysitting Clubs, Toy Library, and Morrison House, and established the Montessori Pre-School.

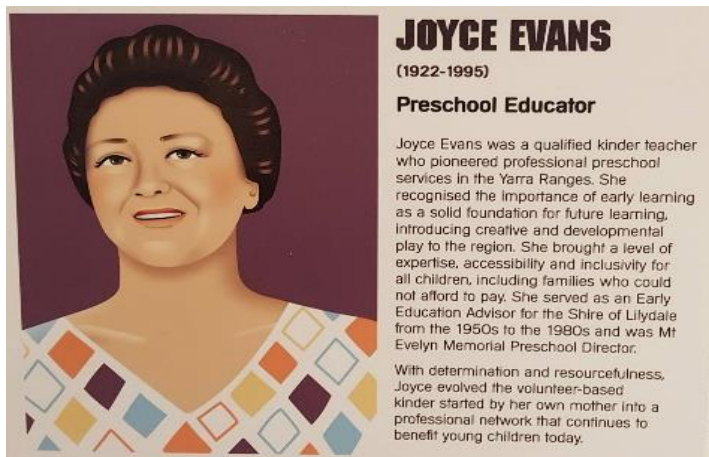


Dame Nellie, Pamela Lady Vestey and Helen Lempriere, three members of the Mitchell family, are included. The Mitchell family had deep roots in Mt Evelyn, and we are indebted to Blanche and Charles Mitchell, then living in Mt Evelyn, for donating land to the Railways for their First Aid Competitions, now the Mt Evelyn First Aid Post.

Edna Walling, just over our border into Mooroolbark, is included, as are Betty Marsden OAM (links to MEEPPA and Beryl Phillips) and Constance Coleman (Head Mistress at Lilydale High School and a friend of Bill and Gwen Hardy).

The exhibition includes an invitation to nominate a Trailblazer, by clicking [here](#) and then on the 'Nominate a local Trailblazer' button. Mt Evelyn History Group has nominated Gwen Hardy MBE, who was a noteworthy agent for positive change in Mt Evelyn over six decades. The winning entry will be determined by an online poll, and will receive a portrait of that person made by artist Cat MacInnes.

Paula Herlihy



Lest We Forget 2021

[from p.1](#)

Thanks to RSL Victoria for recognising two of our members with Service to the Community Awards this year on the recommendation of the Mt Evelyn



RSL: Paula Herlihy - Local Historian and Environmental Advocate (and Mt Evelyn History Group president) and Joy Phillips - Local Publisher at [FeralArt](#) (and

Mt Evelyn History Group voluntary webmaster). Neil Chisholm, Piper, was also recognised.

Several hundred people gathered for a brief Dawn Service, and while there was no breakfast at Hardy



House, the Mt Evelyn Cafes opened for patrons as usual after the service. Paula Herlihy laid a wreath on behalf of the Mt Evelyn History Group.

Thanks to Tim and Paula Herlihy for photographs.

From Kev's Rain Gauge

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

	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	YTD
Mt Evelyn	15.4	71.3	85.9	286.7
McKillop	14	69.9	91.7	285.6
Melbourne	92	54.6	37	188.8

McKillop readings courtesy Jean Edwards

Melbourne figures from Bureau of Meteorology: <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/data/>

[Kevin Phillips](#)

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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MtEvelynHistoryGroup2016/>

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