

# Things Past

Newsletter 138

August 2025

Wurundjeri Country

PO Box 289 Mt Evelyn Vic 3796

Incorporation Number A0051327F

## Dates for Your Diary

**AGM and General Business Meeting**, Monday 18 August, 2025 at 7:30 pm, at Hardy House, 49 Birmingham Road, Mt Evelyn.

**Event:** Unveiling of Station Site Sign, Saturday 4 October 2025 at 2pm. Meet at the sign on the Warburton Trail in front of the Old Link building, then Community Room at the Mt Evelyn Community House.

**Mt Evelyn Street Party**, 26 October 2025. We have booked a stall and will sell our publications, and if you are able to offer to serve on the stall please email Paula at [pherlihy3@gmail.com](mailto:pherlihy3@gmail.com).

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

## Concern for the Flame Tree

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*The Flame Tree. Photo Gwenda Donaldson.*

## Concern for the Flame Tree



***The Mt Evelyn Today mural showing the shops in 1991 by Mt Evelyn Secondary College (now Yarra Hills) students Brendan Fraser and Anthony Renco. Photographed by Paula Herlihy (1999) where it lined a storeroom in the Mt Evelyn Public Hall.***

Several people have recently expressed concern about the health of the original Flame Tree in Wray Crescent. The tree hardly flowered at all last summer. It has been looking stressed in the dry autumn weather, and showing signs of die-back. The enclosed seat around the bole reduced the flow of water to the roots.

Cr Tim Heenan requested an arborist's report on the health of the tree. To general surprise, it emerged that the tree was on private property. Council has no say in its management, and nearby businesses denied all knowledge.

Cr Heenan has however contacted the Body Corporate and made them aware of the strength of community affection for the tree.

## One Hundred Years Ago

*Lilydale Express* 16 Jan 1925, 3 'Mt Evelyn' (From our correspondent)

The holiday season has come and gone and the record crowd which made this resort its rendezvous has returned and are awaiting Easter. Certainly more building is going on and the place is getting better known.

The ladies of the Mechanics Hall have been especially busy, and their efforts to raise funds for the lining of the hall were successful to the extent of £43 – a very good result for which thanks are due to the very willing workers.

The fruit season too has been a busy one, and there seems to have been no failures in the crops. In spite (of) the quantity of fruit grown, the organisation of the market, though still divided ensured that none of it went to waste through the gluts which occurred in the past. Better prices and bigger markets have done wonders for the berry grower.

*Lilydale Express* 23 Jan 1925, 3 'Mt Evelyn'

The children's picnic at the residence of Mrs. Edwards, along the Olinda Creek was very enjoyable about 50 being present. Following their dip in the creek, the party was thoroughly drenched on their way home.

## Dr Bill Hardy is Still Making Legends!

In his later years, Dr Bill Hardy was attached to William Matthews Funerals in Lilydale as a medical examiner.

Recently Bill Matthews recalled how Bill Hardy was cremated in his possum skin hat, which was a story we knew.<sup>1</sup> What we didn't know was that Dr Bill asked for his ashes to be sprinkled over the entrance to Hardy House in Mt Evelyn, the RSL Hall in Birmingham Road. Bill Matthews said that Bill said he wanted it 'to crunch when people walked over him and remind them of him'.

I checked with the Hardys' elder son John, who confirmed the story. At the posthumous ceremony honouring Bill with the Yarra Ranges Lifetime Achievement Award, son Peter carried his father's ashes in a bag. Later John and his family carried out his father's wishes by sprinkling the ashes over the gravel drive and path to the front door. John said his father told

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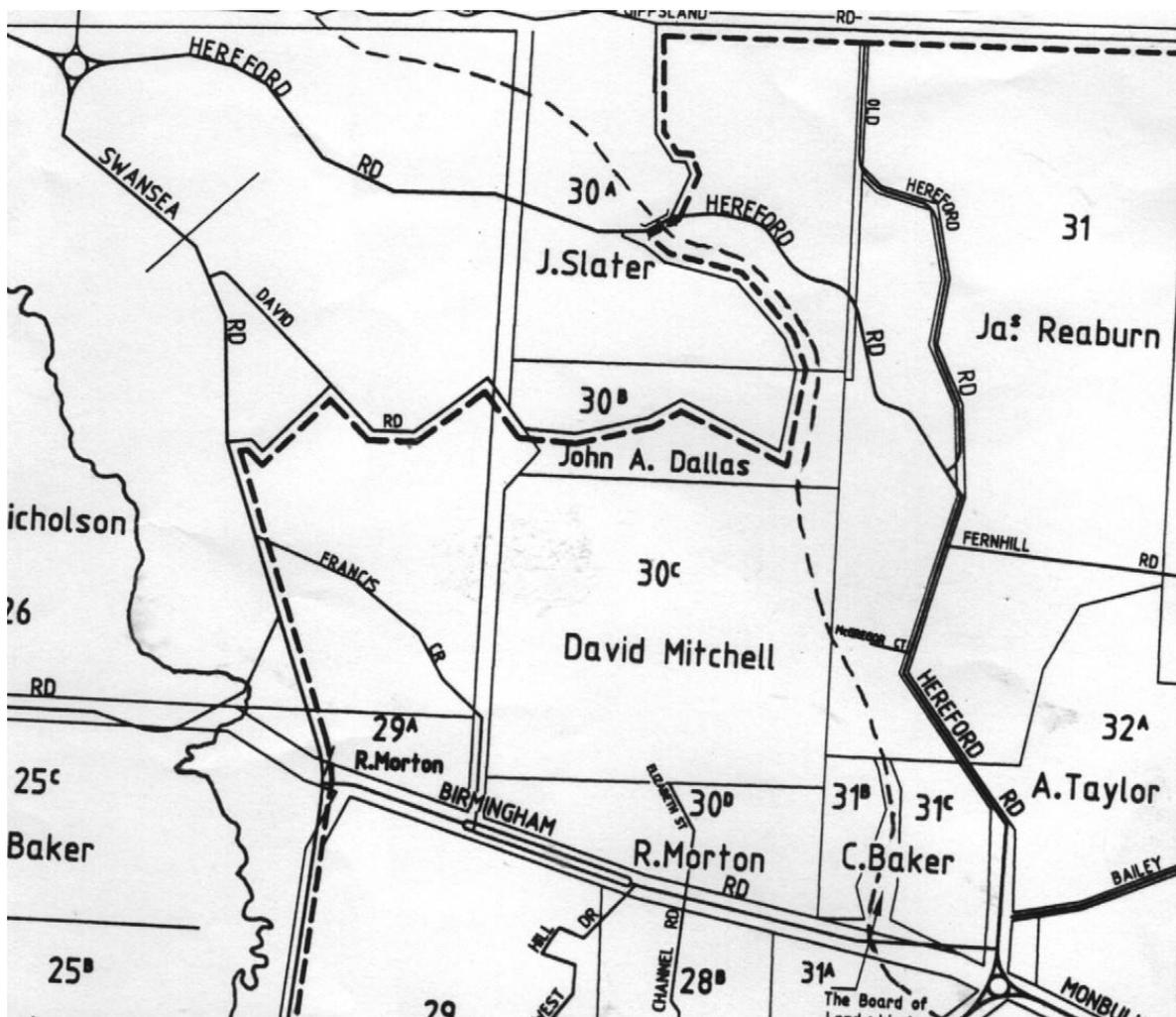
<sup>1</sup> 18 December 2024.

## A Murder Outside Slater's Wineshop 1875

Although selection acts were passed in Victoria in the 1860s in order to break up the large pastoral leases and provide work for small farmers, it was not until the 1870s that most selectors applied for and took up their allocated lots in what was to be Mt Evelyn. A murder outside the home of James Slater in 1875 sheds light on the leisure activities and itinerant labour force in the vicinity at the time.

gums. He claimed that a bushfire in 1874 had removed 40 chains of log fencing and that there were 70 chains of post and rail and stub and picket fencing remaining, and 4 acres of vines. Slater lived one mile along Hereford Road, where he had built a wine shop and some type of boarding accommodation.<sup>1</sup>

On February 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> a young man called John Nicholson was shot by Slater's son-in-law, Phillip Dobell, a shoemaker. Witnesses present at the inquest included two other Mt Evelyn selectors: Charles Baker, a sawyer from Lots 31 B and C



*Extract of First Selector Map drawn by T Atalifo.*

James Slater applied for Lot 30A in 1870 and the lot, on the border of Lilydale and Mt Evelyn, dissected by Hereford and David Roads, was surveyed by 1871. By 1875 Slater had failed to make the required improvements to his fair pastoral land of messmate and peppermint

(between Birmingham Road, Alice Street and Hereford Road), and Mary Anne Dallas from Lot 30B immediately south of Slater. Mary Anne woke from her bed after hearing the report of a gun and watched the injured man being dragged to a culvert.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Janice Newton, *The First Selectors of Mt Evelyn*, MEEPPA, 12, 1996, 37.

<sup>2</sup> *The Weekly Times* 20 February 1875, 15.

Charles Baker had been present at the Slater shop playing cards with Nicholson and Dobell and others when the 'dice was shaken for drinks' and an argument ensued about whether they had been shaken fairly. Baker went outside and Nicholson wanted to fight him but the former refused and left the place. Soon after he heard the gun.

Storekeeper James Slater ejected all the people in his place and saw his son-in-law Dobell 'in a right of way' going in the direction of the street with a gun in his hand. After the report of the gun, Slater heard Nicholson cry out that he had been shot.

George Grant, a carpenter who was in bed, was called up by Dobell, who told him he had shot a man, and Grant entreated him to give himself up to the police. Grant may have been boarding at the Slaters for, during the 1880s, there were several court cases involving debts and domestic arguments with boarders there.

Constable O'Shaughnessy found bloodied clothes at the home of Dobell and carried the deceased from the culvert to the house of Dr Elms. On arresting Dobell, his young wife, Slater's daughter Mary, called out, 'My God, I'm left a young widow with two young children' and her husband replied. 'Hold your nonsense, don't be a fool.' In his defence Dobell said to the Constable he did not know the gun was loaded and had merely intended to frighten Nicholson, but Dobell was charged with wilful murder.

The trial outcome at the Criminal Court caused a small outcry in *The Argus* because, when the jury took no heed of the judge's ruling that they should find Dobell guilty of murder or acquit him and instead found him guilty of manslaughter, the judge decreed that Dobell be given a 24-hour sentence, already served and Dobell was freed.<sup>3</sup>

**Janice Newton**

## **Mt Evelyn History Group Visit to Wanderslore**

On Sunday 23 March several members of the Mt Evelyn History Group (MEHG) were welcomed at Wanderslore Sanctuary in Launching Place by the Friends of Wanderslore on their Friends Work Day. Constance (Connie) Coleman created and gifted Wanderslore to Trust For Nature. The Friends ensured that information about Connie and examples of her work were back on display in the Studio following their safe storage off site during the bushfire season. Steve Fernee, (Committee of Management (COM) President organised a barbecue, to which members of MEHG contributed. In lovely weather, many MEHG members enjoyed a walk along the tracks at Wanderslore.

A welcome surprise for members Jean Edwards and Paula Herlihy, was the presence of Geoff Durham OAM. Jean and Paula have had long associations with Geoff, and enjoyed catching up with him and his nephew. Geoff has been instrumental in administering Wanderslore as a friend and lawyer to Connie, a conservationist, and COM and Friends member.

As well as its conservation and environmental importance, Wanderslore is of interest historically because of its connection to Connie Coleman as a woman of significance in Yarra Ranges. She is remembered as a teacher (Lilydale Higher Elementary and High Schools), conservationist, artist, and poet. Connie purchased a prefabricated Victorian Railways Fettler's hut from the 1800s which had been used as the Launching Place Railway Station office, and had it moved up the hill to be her painting and writing studio. The Studio is heritage listed by the Shire of Yarra Ranges. Its restoration by Trust For Nature in accordance with plans prepared on an honorary basis by architect Mark Burns was possible through a grant from the John T Reid Charitable Trusts and donations from Friends.

Wanderslore holds an Open Day once a year in late October when it is open to the public.

**Paula Herlihy**

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<sup>3</sup> *The Argus* 24 March 1875, 1.

## Marguerita Stephens Speaking on William Thomas

On May 17 Marguerita Stephens, supported by Aunt Fay Stewart-Muir, spoke to a highly engaged audience of about 35 on their book *Banbu-deen: The Years of Terror*.<sup>1</sup> The book was based on Marguerita's more than six years research on the diary entries and letters of William Thomas (1793-1867), and was shortlisted for an award in the recent Royal Historical Society and Public Records Office of Victoria Local History Awards.



**William Thomas (1793-1867), by Davies & Co. La Trobe Picture Collection, State Library of Victoria, H2002.87.**

William Thomas was appointed an Assistant Protector and guardian of Aboriginal people, following the 'humanitarian recommendations of the 1837 select committee on Aboriginals resulted in ... [the] decision to appoint a chief protector and four assistants for the Aboriginals of the Port Phillip District.'<sup>2</sup> Born in England, and

holding Wesleyan beliefs, Thomas had opened a school in London for teaching potential civil servants.

Thomas was a dedicated protector and guardian under difficult conditions, living in a tent and travelling with Aboriginal groups, though aged 44 at the time of his appointment. He came into conflict with Lieutenant Governor La Trobe, who wanted Aboriginal people kept out of Melbourne and would withhold provisions from them as a means of control.

'With no gifts of leadership or strong personality, ... [and his anthropological knowledge gained through experience, so that his understanding of tribal complexity and spiritual bonds was limited] ... he was more successful than any other first generation settler in attempting to comprehend and sustain Aboriginal society. His charges knew him as Marminata (Good Father), and he always administered indirectly through influence on their leaders. He had striking success in settling intertribal disputes and preventing racial strife. His bravery and moral conviction were undoubted, but his advocacy of Aboriginal causes made him unpopular in colonial society. Richard Howitt, who befriended him in 1842, commented upon the "almost childlike simplicity of manners and ... his goodness of heart".'<sup>3</sup>

Marguerita tailored her talk to some of Thomas's regular journeys with the Kulin clans into the part of their Country now covered by modern-day Yarra Ranges. The Shire covers sites of particular significance in their clan meetings, and between Kulin and newcomers/invasers. The northern ranges formed a boundary between the southern and northern Kulin clans. Thank you to everyone who contributed to making the event a success.

**Paula Herlihy**

<sup>1</sup> Marguerita Stephens with Fay Stewart-Muir 2023, *Banbu-deen: The Years of Terror*, Australian Scholarly Publishing Pty Ltd, North Melbourne.

<sup>2</sup> <https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/thomas-william-2727>.

<sup>3</sup> <https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/thomas-william-2727>.

## The Pettys of Mt Evelyn/Silvan

The early story of the Pettys<sup>1</sup> belongs in Yarra Glen, where Petty residency spanned 105 years.

Here John Hicks

Petty II bought

56 acres of land

in 1856. In 1861

John was

appointed

postmaster of

Yarra Glen, the

slab hut office

situated on his

land. After his

first wife died

in 1864, John

married Irish

Maria Byrne.

They went on to

have thirteen

children.



John and his wife  
and children  
became

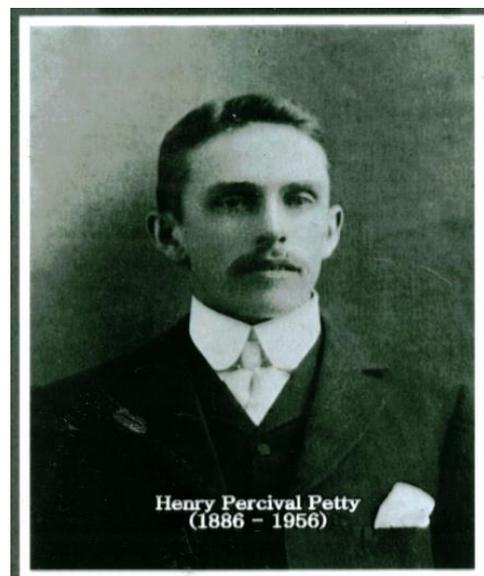
*Victorian Collections YGHS: John Hicks Petty and Maria with baby at Post Office home, 1866.*

recognised early settlers of Yarra Glen.<sup>2</sup> Their oldest daughter Maria (May) followed her father's footsteps in her roles as a custodian of the Catholic Church and manager of the Yarra Glen Post Office until 1950.<sup>3</sup>

### Henry Petty and Mt Evelyn

Seventh and last-born son Henry Percival Petty (1886-1956) played local cricket and football and competed in running competitions.<sup>4</sup> He began the Mt Evelyn chapter for the Pettys.

Between 1908 and 1912 Henry established a dairy farm and orchard on the border of Mt Evelyn and Silvan on Monbulk Road near the intersection with Hunter Road. He married Catherine Skinner and they had three sons (Percival, Norman and Ronald) and a daughter,



Kathleen May. The rate book from 1924-5 describes him as an orchardist on over 20 acres

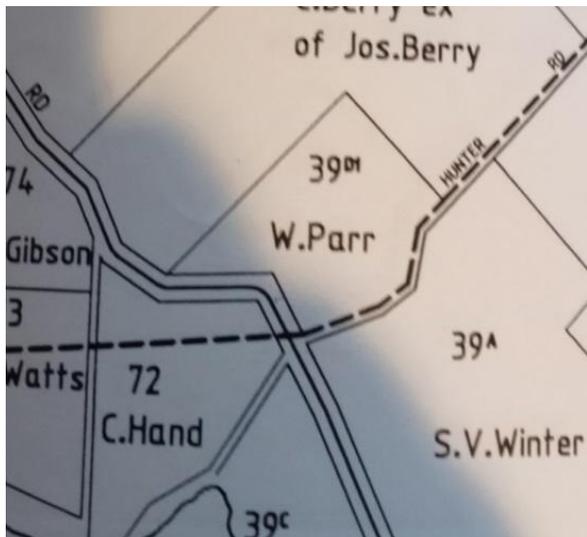
<sup>1</sup> Research prepared by descendants of John Hicks Petty II: Lindsay Petty, Terry Waters and Kathleen Rees for family reunion 1985.

<sup>2</sup> *Lilydale Express* 21 Dec 1900, 3; 4 Jan 1901, 2; 7 June 1901, 2.

<sup>3</sup> *Lilydale Express* 22 Sept 1950, 2.

<sup>4</sup> He came second and third in Sheffield and Footballers handicap at Coldstream sport day in 1903 *Lilydale Express* 24 July 1903, 4.

at Lot 39D (1), formerly owned by William Parr.<sup>5</sup> Petty's herd was between 15 and 30 Jersey cows and the family usually kept at least two horses as well.<sup>6</sup>



In the early days Henry transported cream on a horse and cart to Mt Evelyn to be sent by rail to Melbourne. Milkman and dairyman Jimmy Spiers collected their milk. During the 1940s the family also grew gladioli for sale at a roadside stall and anything else they could grow to provide for the family.



**Dairy cow and Catherine's niece**



**Orchard on farm**

By the late 1920s and into the 1930s Henry's children were being noticed in Mt Evelyn for unblemished school attendance records, achieving the Merit Certificate and excelling at cricket, football and running.<sup>7</sup> At the School Concert in 1933 Ronald (Bill) Petty was awarded a prize for 6 years' attendance at school without missing a day.<sup>8</sup>



**Catherine Petty selling gladioli**

<sup>5</sup> Shire of Lillydale Rate books, South Eastern 1924-5 Number 1837.

<sup>6</sup> Henry's war-injured older brother, Joseph, grazed cattle on McKillop Road land which was ultimately bought by Ralph Proctor after the Second World War. Kathleen Rees personal correspondence (pc) 2025, See TP # 71, Jan 2014.

<sup>7</sup> *Lilydale Express* 24 May 1929, 5; 24 Dec 1931, 2; 17 Aug 1934, 3; 20 Dec 1935, 3; 14 April 1936, 3; 29 May 1936, 3; 3 July 1936, 3; 29 April 1938, 3; 16 Dec 1938, 4; 14 April, 1939, 3. Under a team called 'Fernhill' members of the Low, Varty and Petty families played cricket in 1938-9, winning a premiership in the former year. *Lilydale Express* 9 Dec 1938, 4; 27 Jan 1939, 4.

<sup>8</sup> *Lilydale Express* 22 Dec 1933, 3.



**Miss Foster with Mt Evelyn Primary School students between c 1925. Kath Petty back right hand side.**

One year when it seemed that the Yarra Glen Flats would flood, Norman, aged between 14 and 18, drove cattle from family land in Yarra Glen to Mt Evelyn. When Norman, Bill and Kath were young, each rode a horse to church on Sundays.

Bill Petty received a trophy at a presentation night for Mt Evelyn football team as the most improved player in 1936 and won the Sheffield



**Young Norman on 'Robin' 1930**

Handicap at the Easter Football Club Sports day. At this same competition Norman Petty rode the winning draught horse (owned by P Ghiradello) in a walk, trot and gallop event.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>9</sup> *Lilydale Express* 6 Nov 1936; 29 March 1940, 3. In April 1940 Bill was out competing again at the Silvan local fire brigade championship, winning the team event with L Houghton. *Lilydale Express* 12 April 1940, 2.

<sup>10</sup> *Lilydale Express* 5 May 1939, 4.

<sup>11</sup> *Lilydale Express* 28 June 1940, 3; 9 Aug 1940, 3; 11 Aug 1944, 3; 8 Sept 1944, 2; 16 June 1950, 7; 23 June 1950, 7.

<sup>12</sup> *Lilydale Express* 1 Dec 1933, 3.

In May 1939 Moschetti and Petty excited the crowd with an 'opening burst' in a football match that saw Evelyn-Silvan vanquish Healesville.<sup>10</sup> During the war years, when young men were in short supply, Norm Petty played for Lilydale. He had also played for Silvan and by 1950 he was playing with Mt Evelyn again.<sup>11</sup>



**Norman, Ronald (Bill) and Kath Petty at Mt Evelyn**

In 1933 Miss Petty, Miss Sebire and Rev Tolhurst gave a musical and elocution item at the social of the Wandin-Seville Australian Women's National League (a conservative political lobby group).<sup>12</sup> After leaving school, Henry's daughter Kathleen (Kath) used to board in Yarra Glen where she worked as a telephonist, and return to her home in Mt Evelyn.

Norm (Catholic) married Kathleen Wardell (Methodist) at the Melbourne Registry Office in 1942. Kathleen was from a well-known Lilydale family.<sup>13</sup> The newly married couple lived with Norm's parents until they leased some land in Wellington Road, Wandin Yallock. Here they tried to grow potatoes but frosts destroyed the crop. In 1950 they moved to a house (Burnbrae) and land on the original Holly Lodge site in the

<sup>13</sup> Her parents, Margaret and Ernest Wardell (a builder) were from George Street, Lilydale and stalwarts of the Methodist Church. Ernest's mother (Kathleen's grandmother) was from the Burton family with Lilydale businesses in carriage-making, undertaking and building. pc Kath Petty 2025; *Lilydale Express* 31 July 1914, 4; 16 Oct 1914, 4; 8 Dec 1933, 2.

southern 'V' of Ridgeway Road. Norm continued to help his father on the dairy farm but also obtained work at the Melbourne Metropolitan Board of Works, ultimately becoming an inspector.<sup>14</sup>

Norman Petty and his wife welcomed their son Alan in 1942 but were saddened in July 1944 by the sudden death of their infant daughter.<sup>15</sup> Judith was born in 1946, Kathleen in 1950, Marion in 1952, Ronda 1955 and Norma 1956.

Before going to Lilydale High School, all of the children attended Mt Evelyn Kindergarten and Mt Evelyn Primary School as their father, uncle and aunt had done. The children caught a bus to Mt Evelyn Primary School and walked home. By 1951 only son Alan, at age 9, was playing football for Evelyn Reds under 16.<sup>16</sup>

Norman Petty, while driving in Montrose in 1954, hit and injured two cows which had been herded by children from Warburton on their way to Bayswater. One cow died and another was put down, and Petty's car was damaged at the front.<sup>17</sup> After this misadventure and another accident in a car the Pettys had no car for at least a decade. Norman rode his bicycle between properties and relied on MMBW transport for much of his working life.

In 1955 Norman's father Henry died and the growing family all moved to his Silvan Road dairy farm, to prepare it for sale and facilitate splitting the inheritance.<sup>18</sup>

As the children grew older, they participated in badminton in Silvan and the Girls Friendly Society in Mt Evelyn. The Pettys were great

friends with the neighbouring Kennys and also the Hunters of Wandin. All of the Petty children married locally, their partners from Lilydale, Seville, Mooroolbark and environs. Norma lived on one of the Holly Lodge blocks for decades. Judith lived in Silvan and Marion in Croydon.

Although the following generation did not attend Mt Evelyn Primary, Marion's great-granddaughter now also attends the school. Henry Petty's establishment of a dairy farm in the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century created deep attachments to place for his descendants over three generations.



***Kathleen Petty c 1957 on Silvan Road with Holly Lodge pine on right.***



***Young adult children of Norman and Kathleen Petty: from left Judith, Ronda, Kathleen, Alan, Norma, Marion. c 1970s. Photo Courtesy Kathleen Rees.***

### ***Janice Newton***

<sup>14</sup> Kathleen Rees pc 2026.

<sup>15</sup> *Lilydale Express* 21 July 1944, 2.

<sup>16</sup> *Lilydale Express* 27 July 1951, 8.

<sup>17</sup> *Lilydale Express* 4 June 1954, 7.

<sup>18</sup> Kathleen Rees pc 2025.

## Vale Gwyn Platt, 23<sup>rd</sup> August 1928 - 10<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Gwyn Platt was born in Bradley, Wrexham, North Wales on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 1928 and passed away on 10<sup>th</sup> January this year, at the age of 96. His wife, Olwen, had pre-deceased him in 2013. Gwyn's death ended their long association of 60 years with Mount Evelyn.



Gwyn was born in the family home, the second eldest of seven children. His father worked in the local mine, the Gresford Colliery, and his mother was a lady's maid for Lady Palmer. His mother came from Penmachno, near

Betws-y-Coed, and was a fluent Welsh speaker. Gwyn grew up speaking English, as there was a concerted effort from England to try and eliminate the Welsh language, which Gwyn was always annoyed about. In his later years, with varying degrees of success, he learnt Welsh from the Internet.

Gwyn has left his family a written history of his life in a series of computer files. He talks about the Depression years in the late 1920s and how difficult they were for everyone. Many men were placed on the dole, his father being one of them. Gwyn writes about how many men would gather to play cards and gamble, but not his father, who kept himself busy. His father became a self-taught watch and shoe-repairer and also learnt how to cut men's hair.

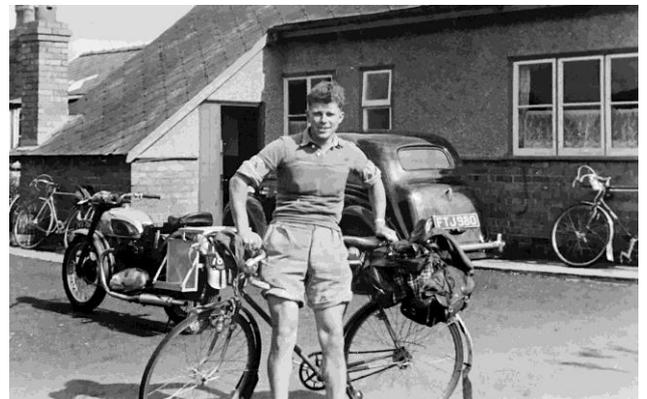
Gwyn writes with great feeling about the second largest mining disaster in the history of Wales. Then a 6-year-old, Gwyn describes how, on the morning of 22<sup>nd</sup> September 1934, his mother had got up claiming that she heard and felt the explosion. Going out in the village, Gwyn said it was deathly quiet. Barely a home in the village

was unaffected: 262 miners and 4 rescuers lost their lives. It made 166 local women widows and 241 children fatherless. Last year being the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the disaster, the *Wrexham Leader* produced a commemorative edition of this event. Organised and co-ordinated by his son, Alan, Gwyn was thrilled to be interviewed and featured in that edition of the paper.

Gwyn paints a picture of growing up in a very kind and caring village. People did not have much, but what they had they shared, and they looked after each other. He describes how his friend's mother always cut him a buttie (sandwich), despite the family being one of the poorest families in the village. He describes the many characters who provided goods and services: the onion men, the umbrella man, the coal man, the post lady, the Aunt Sally Man (who delivered soap), the gypsies, the lamplighter, and the window cleaner.

As a child, Gwyn speaks of tobogganing in the snow on an old pram body modified by his dad, mushrooming, picking blackberries and blueberries, and swimming and fishing with a jam jar in the nearby river Alyn.

At five years of age Gwyn started at Gwersyllt Council School. Gwyn took a while to settle in to school, but loved learning and had a natural aptitude for reading, numbers, history, and woodwork. Books were highly valued and locked away in a glass case, only handed out for reading on rare occasions. Gwyn developed a passion for books which continued throughout his life.



Gwyn remembers, at 11 years of age, sitting with his family around the radio and hearing war being declared by Mr Chamberlain, the British Prime Minister. He tells us about food rationing,

the introduction of wholemeal flour, Spam, fish paste and powdered eggs. The introduction of gas masks to be carried at all times, even for babies, and the Morrison Shelter tables which everyone bashed their shins on!<sup>19</sup> He recalled being woken by people dancing and singing on the street on 7<sup>th</sup> May 1945, VE Day, the end of the war.

At sixteen years of age, and with a large family to feed, Gwyn was taken by his mother to begin an apprenticeship with John Hughes Building Contractor, initially as a carpenter, but shortly as a bricklayer. As an apprentice, one of Gwyn's first jobs was at the RAF airfield at Borrass. Gwyn's fascination with aircraft was ignited here and continued throughout his whole life. John Hughes expected a high standard of construction from his tradesmen. Gwyn thrived in this environment, becoming a master bricklayer, who capably repaired complex brickwork on historic buildings and took great pride in his new brickwork.

Gwyn was a keen cyclist and joined the Wrexham Roads (Cycling) Club, where he met Olwen Davies, his future wife. They competed in many road races and cycled great distances covering Wales, England, and Scotland. They married on 11<sup>th</sup> of August 1951, at St Alban's Church Tanyfron. As they left the church, club members held bike wheels over their heads. Between 1954 and 1961, four children were born: Janet, Susan, Alan, and Carol.

Looking for a life with better opportunities for their children, and a kinder climate to work in, Gwyn and Olwen migrated to Australia in September 1964. Gwyn's first employment was with a builder in Warrandyte. Through a work colleague, he was informed about a property for sale in Mount Evelyn, which he purchased. Gwyn and Olwen fell in love with Mount Evelyn and never left. They lived in North Avenue, their home adjacent to the Aqueduct Trail, which became an integral part of their family life. The

trail provided safe and easy access to Mount Evelyn and a recreation place for walking, dog walking, bike riding, and picnics. Gwyn used the trail to ride his bike on, linking to the Rail Trail for longer rides right up until his mid-eighties. Then he finally, very reluctantly, relinquished his bike riding.

Gwyn was referred to a local builder, Ray Oliver, as being an excellent bricklayer and he worked with Ray until 1987, building many homes in the local area. They remained the closest of friends until Ray's passing in July 2024.

In 1987 Gwyn had the opportunity to apply for the job of school cleaner at Birmingham Primary School. After much consideration he decided to apply and was successful. He was a much-loved member of the school community and is fondly remembered by past staff and students.

Gwyn and Olwen were very community-minded and gave back to their community: Olwen as a Guide leader and Gwyn as a CFA member. They worked together on the planning and building of the Guide Hall in Mount Evelyn and as members of the Friends of the Mt Evelyn Aqueduct.

Fiercely independent, Gwyn remained in the family home in North Avenue until the end of his life, when he made a short stay at Wantirna Health. He is fondly remembered by his family and many friends for his smile, sense of humour, vast general knowledge, and capacity to break out unexpectedly in song in Welsh anywhere at any time!

***Janet Taylor***

**Dr Bill Hardy is still making legends!**

from p 2

them he wanted people to say on a crisp winter's evening that 'The old Doc is crisp tonight!'

The Hall was named for Dr Bill and his wife Cr Gwen Hardy, as a thank you for their input into years of fundraising to build the Hall for the Senior Citizens Club.

***Paula Herlihy***

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<sup>19</sup> Indoor bomb shelters that could be used as tables, <https://www.notechmagazine.com/2019/06/the-morrison-shelter.html>

## The Warburton Railway Line in the Sixties

Tim Smith posted information on our Facebook page about a super 8 movie showing a collection of home movies on the Lilydale to Warburton Railway, which



starts with the train coming up the hill to Mt Evelyn (possibly 1963), and includes a minute or so of the train at Mt Evelyn.

The Lilydale to Warburton railway line closed on July 29, 1965, although the 'Last Train to

Warburton' event organised by the Australian Railway Historical Society ran on August 1, 1965 from Flinders Street to Warburton and Return. An actual later 'last' train ran collecting railway materials from along the line.

The film ends after the railway has closed, with various people using a trolley car on the rails. I hadn't seen it before, and enjoyed it!

Click [here](#) to see 'Fred's

Films: Warburton Line 1963'.

***Paula Herlihy***

<b>From Kev's Rain Gauge</b>				
Rainfall (in mm) for Mt Evelyn, McKillop, and Melbourne for the last 3 months.				
	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	YTD
Mt Evelyn	23.5	64.8	80.9	303.5
McKillop	30.0	71.3	90.2	335.7
Melbourne	21.0	56.0	37.2	275.4

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

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