



Things Past

Newsletter 140
 February 2026
 Wurundjeri Country
 PO Box 289 Mt Evelyn Vic 3796
 Incorporation Number A0051327F

Dates for Your Diary

General Business Meeting, Monday 16 February, 7.30 pm, at Hardy House, 49 Birmingham Road, Mt Evelyn.
Activity, March, tba.

General Business Meeting, Monday 20 April, 7.30 pm, at Hardy House.

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 - please check your email inbox.

Ancient River Red Gums

In This Issue...

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Ancient River Red Gums | 1 |
| The Mt Evelyn Lions Club Train Revisited | 2 |
| Flame Tree News | 2 |
| One Hundred Years Ago | 2 |
| The History Group 2025 Christmas Breakup | 4 |
| Under the Eye of the Griffin | 5 |
| Mrs Crowe (1899-1979) and Entertainment in Mt Evelyn | 7 |
| More from the Happy Hermits | 9 |
| From Kev's Rain Gauge | 10 |
| Contact Us | 10 |



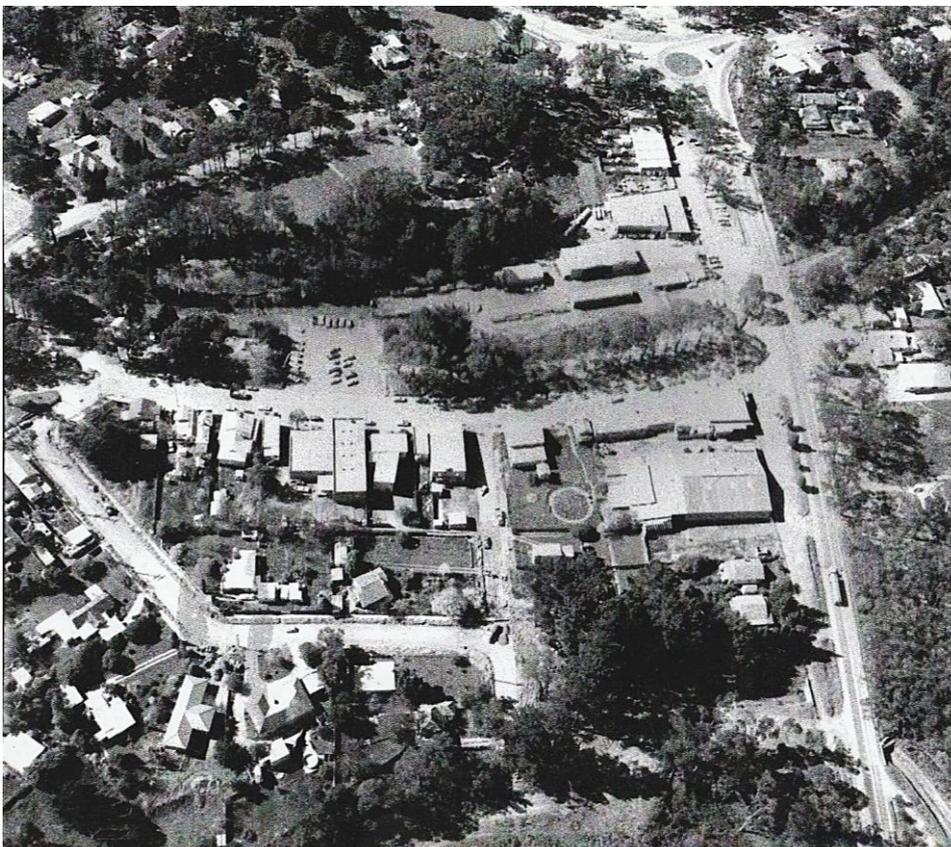
A grafted tree at Hamilton's Crossing on the Loddon River near Neereman. Photos pp. 1 & 4 courtesy Professor Barry Golding.

cont p. 3

The Mt Evelyn Lions Club Train Revisited

We have no photo of the little train which was an initiative of the Mt Evelyn Lions Club, and took children for rides at the Melba Sunday Market as a fundraiser for the Melba Centre and Rosine (See TP #135).

However Helen and Greg Luke provided an aerial view of the Mt Evelyn Shopping Centre Precinct taken c. 1970 by Bruce Dymond. The photo (below) is oriented with North at the top, with Wray Crescent running approximately horizontally across the centre of the photo, and making a T- intersection with York Road at right. Between York Road and Station Street the large Melba Sunday Market shed fronts York Road, the Melba Op-Shop fronts Wray Crescent and in the grassed area between them can be seen a circular track where the train ran. The Melba Op Shop land is now occupied by Billygoat Hill Brasserie through to the Heart and Soul Café along Wray Crescent. The Sunday Market shed (formerly Millards) and the train site are now the IGA car park.



Flame Tree News

As reported last year, there were concerns about the health of the original Flame Tree in Wray Crescent (*Things Past* #138). Leaf cover was sparse, and the tree appeared to be stressed. The tree has now put on a new leaf canopy and is looking much healthier, due probably to the unusually high rainfall in November.

The three young Flame Trees in the garden beside the roundabout bloomed in January. Their flowers are pinky-red, not the flame-red of the two oldest trees in Wray Crescent.

Karen Phillips

One Hundred Years Ago

Lilydale Express 7 Aug 1925, 2

Valinda Hills (From our correspondent)

The Progress Association held its usual monthly meeting on Tuesday night, when, despite the inclemency of the night, there was a large attendance. ... Mr. S. G. Rice (vice-president) occupied the chair. Routine business disposed of, important business re a sports ground was discussed. ... It was finally resolved that steps be

taken to secure a ground. The matter of wandering stock was also spoken of seriously and it was finally resolved that the Mt Evelyn and Silvan associations be requested to prepare petitions along with one from this association, asking that the council appoint a ranger to come out through the district at least once a week. One suggestion was that a very stiff, road grazing fee be made, and all owners of stock wandering without official tag be subject to heavy fines. Another suggestion was that all vacant land should be fenced.

Ancient River Red Gums

Following on from 'Ancient Trees – Culturally Modified or Natural?' in *Things Past* #139, we look at some historic River Red Gums (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) in South Australia and Victoria.

'On December 28, 1836 ... a group of about 200 settlers and some of the local Kurna population gathered near a uniquely arched gum tree to hear the proclamation officially establishing South Australia as a British province.

They chose the site that would mark the birthplace of South Australia due to the prominent landmark, a thick gum tree entirely arched over to form a bend back to the soil. The tree became known as the symbol of the fledgling colony, and was used as the official symbol of Glenelg, the colony's oldest European settlement. ...

The original gum tree has been long dead, but the decayed husk was encased in concrete in 1963 to preserve its shape for future South Australians.¹

The distinctive tree, known as the Proclamation Tree or the Old Gum Tree, was valued for its historical associations. There was apparently no interest in whether the tree's arched shape was natural, or modified by the Kurna; probably it was assumed to be natural.

¹ 'Places to visit: The Old Gum Tree', <https://greenhillmigration.com.au/places-to-visit-the-old-gum-tree-glenelg-north-australia/>

See also Charles Hill painting 'The Proclamation of South Australia': <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-12-28/why-is-a-concrete-filled-bent-old-gum-tree-significant-in-sa/9289356>

Another iconic South Australian Red Gum is the Herbig Family Tree at Springton in the Barossa Valley. Silesian-born Friedrich and Caroline Herbig made their home in the hollow tree in the early years of their marriage in the 1850s. Estimated to be over 400 years old, the tree has a diameter of seven metres at its base and a height of 24 metres.²

The Herbig tree had formerly been used for shelter by the Peramangk people, who very likely hollowed it out. The tree is in any case a

Culturally Modified Tree (CMT), as it has a scar where bark has been cut out to make a coolamon. The Herbig Tree is treasured for its associations with both First Nations and Settler history in the Barossa.

South Australia has a number of fire-hollowed Red Gums. Typically they have their opening on the side away from the prevailing winds, which suggests

that they were CMTs, deliberately hollowed out to provide shelter.

In his paper 'River Red Gums at Bryan Swamp and other sites in SW Victoria and in South Australia', Rod Bird from the Hamilton Field Naturalists provides some excellent photos of these majestic trees. Except for canoe and shield trees, and those cut since colonisation, Bird treats the unusual features he describes as natural. This includes arched trees (as examples of layering), reversed sap flow and 'natural grafts'.³ Estimating the age of living trees is

² 'Barossa Australia', <https://www.barossa.com/visit/things-to-do/the-herbig-family-tree/>

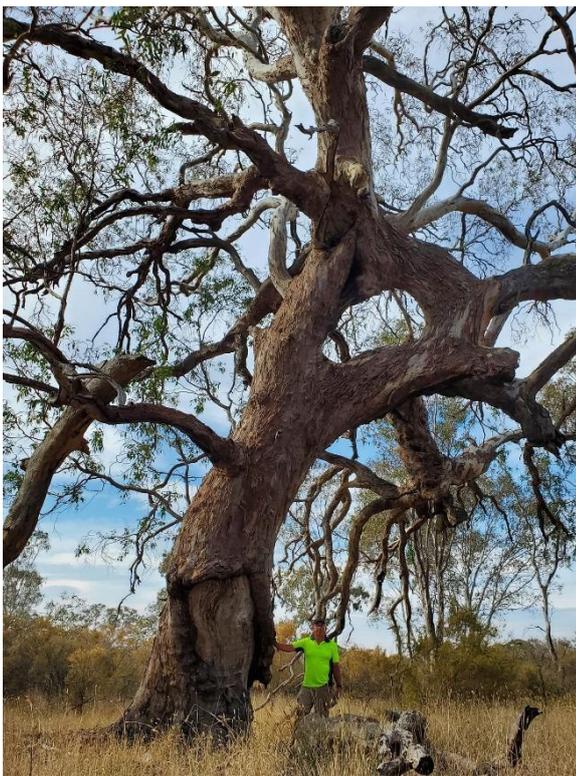
³ 'River Red Gums at Bryan Swamp and other sites in SW Victoria and in South Australia' 2022, <https://hamilton-field-naturalists-club-victoria.org.au/images/downloads/publications/environmental-articles/fauna-flora-and-natural-history/bryan->



This 1936 postage stamp celebrating SA's Centenary features the Proclamation Tree.

problematic, but Bird measured their growth rate over some years and then calculated their approximate age from their girth.

Another website with some great Red Gum photos is 'Victoria's Ancient Trees'.⁴ A tree located on the walking track to Wilpena Pound, Flinders Ranges, has what is described as a 'natural window' formed to heal fire damage to its trunk. This 'window' would then be an example of a 'natural graft', but it could equally well be a deliberate modification.



Grafted ring tree in the Merin Merin Swamp.

A grafted ring tree in the Merin Merin Swamp near Clunes on Dja dja wurrung Country has a branch that has been bent into a loop, tied in place and grafted onto the trunk, forming an almost circular ring high up in the tree. Such Ring Trees were created to indicate that there was a significant, perhaps sacred, site nearby. The tree has also had a slab of bark removed, possibly for

[swamp-and-other-ancient-river-red-gums-2022.pdf](#)
pp.20-22; photos 32, 113, 119-126.

⁴ 'Victoria's Ancient Trees',
<https://victoriasgianttrees.weebly.com/red-gums.html>

⁵ Merin Merin, Hepburn Shire Council, Youtube:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qmfhOxb2pAM> See

a one-man canoe.⁵ This tree, at least, can confidently be claimed as a CMT.

First Nations people 'worked with' Red Gums, usually modifying them in ways that the trees could modify themselves. This makes the trees even more fascinating, but hard to identify. We should avoid jumping to conclusions (in either direction) when assessing whether ancient trees with unusual features are natural or culturally modified.

Karen Phillips

The History Group 2025 Christmas Breakup

Once again Mary and Glenn Golds opened up their garden and their covered area for us at the end of 2025 on Saturday 6th December. Once again the weather was bad, but once again it was a good event. Many thanks, Mary and Glenn for all your hard work and preparation!



Avon and Marie Falkingham were guests, and Marion gave us an interesting presentation of the stories behind the booklet produced at Mooroolbark for Remembrance Day.

Paula Herlihy

also Barry Golding 'Peaks, Wetlands and Rivers Tour Notes 2020',
<https://barrygoanna.com/2020/05/27/peaks-wetlands-rivers-2020-tour-notes/>

Under the Eye of the Griffin

Yarra Hills Secondary College Mt Evelyn will celebrate two anniversaries in 2026. The school building turns 40 – the milestone coinciding with a vibrant re-paint. This year also marks 15 years since the name change to ‘Yarra Hills’.

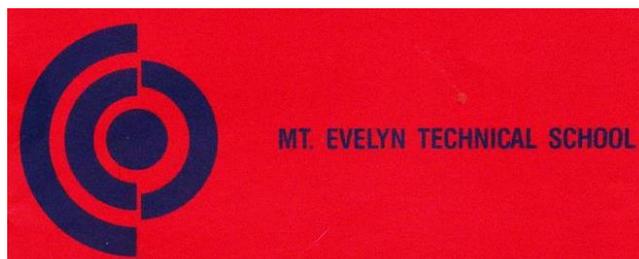
Local educators realised in the 1970s that Mt Evelyn would need a secondary school and that there would soon be no land of adequate size left in the town. The Mt Evelyn and District Education Committee (MEDEC) formed in 1975. MEDEC members were Cr Gwen Hardy (Lillydale Shire Councillor), Dr Bill Hardy (Lilydale High School Advisory Council), Joyce Evans (Memorial Pre-School), Neville Lester (Collingwood Technical School Vice-Principal), Gerry Riordan (Principal of Mt Evelyn Primary School), Lloyd Junor (a tertiary educator involved with Mt Evelyn Pre-school), and Ken Scott (Lillydale Shire Engineer).

The College land was formerly part of Morrisons’ orchard. When the last of the Morrison family died, MEDEC persuaded the Shire to buy the house and orchard lots. Part of this land was transferred to the Education Department. Gwen Hardy recalled,

*The land where the Special Developmental School now stands was earmarked for a third Mt Evelyn primary school. Council had purchased the land now occupied by Fernhill Kindergarten and the Infant Welfare Centre to fulfil Lloyd Junor’s concept of a ‘flow-on’ linked educational precinct. It was to be a unique school complex, catering to all levels from infancy to secondary education. A wonderful plan was drawn up, utilising the natural landforms. Unfortunately the money fell through, leaving us with the present arrangement.*⁶

The Committee’s plan for a ‘cradle-to-grave’ educational precinct was only partially realised, but the secondary school did eventuate. Gwen Hardy was the President of the Mt Evelyn

Technical School Advisory Council when the school was being built, and stayed on as President until much later.



The original logo, from Mt Evelyn Technical School Alumni on Facebook.

Mt Evelyn Technical School opened on 6 February 1979, with Geoff McPherson as the first Principal. ‘112 students and 14 teachers gathered for the first assembly among newly placed relocatable buildings, building materials, excavations, dirt and mess.’⁷ When the first cohort of students were preparing to leave school at the end of 1983, Geoff McPherson wrote to them individually, reminding them of the special bond they shared from having been there from day one, and wishing them well for the future.

According to the Mt Evelyn Tech Alumni Facebook page, some of the students created a time capsule that was to be opened in 2000. A search was made in 2010 but the capsule could not be located; it was thought to be buried under the gym.

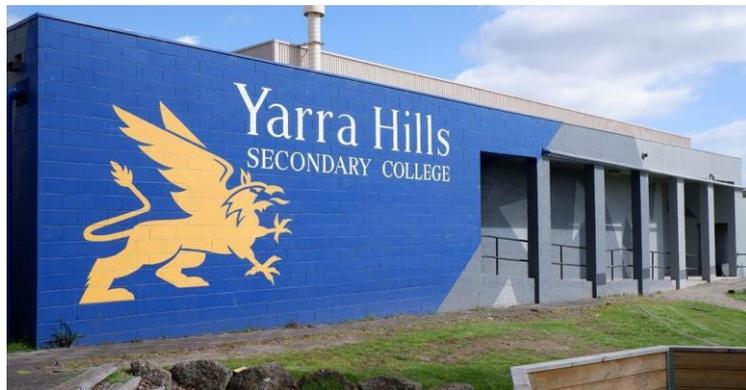
The permanent core buildings were opened in 1986. Many of the original plans of those buildings by architect John Zourkas and concept artist Victor Savickas are still on display around the school. The buildings seem to blend naturally into their place on the hillside, unfenced and ungated. This perhaps reflects the school’s origins in the ‘educational precinct’ plan. Both Geoff McPherson and Gwen Hardy expressed pride in the architecture.

Around 1990 the Education Department abolished the distinction between ‘High Schools’ and ‘Technical Schools’. All were to be called

⁶ Gwen Hardy, interview 1997, in Paula Herlihy 2015, *Bill and Gwen Hardy, Dynamos of Mt Evelyn Community Life*, MEHG, pp.27-28.

⁷ Geoff McPherson letter 12/12/1983, Mt Evelyn Technical School Alumni on Facebook.

‘Secondary Colleges’ (though a few, such as Lilydale High, held onto their names). Mt Evelyn Technical School became Mt Evelyn Secondary College.



The impressive griffin watches over the school.

In 1995 Mt Evelyn SC amalgamated with Pembroke SC (formerly Pembroke High), located on Cambridge Road Mooroolbark, and Mooroolbark SC (formerly Mooroolbark Tech) on Reay Road. Mt Evelyn became a junior campus (years 7 to 10). Phil Comport was the first Principal of Pembroke SC Mount Evelyn Campus from 1995 to 2000. During this time the campus Year 7 enrolment grew from 40 students to 120 and the campus enrolment to 420 students in Years 7-10.⁸

The combined three-campus school retained the name Pembroke Secondary College and the logo of the gold griffin on blue.⁹ The Reay Road campus has since been completely rebuilt, and the Cambridge Road site sold. Mt Evelyn Campus now goes through from Years 7 to 12. After consultation with the school community, the name was changed to ‘Yarra Hills Secondary College’ in 2013.

The exterior of the Mt Evelyn building, originally of light-coloured bricks, was painted around 2000 in a rather uninspiring sandy colour. About 2009, local artist David Monks and students created a mural of Earnest Buckmaster’s

painting ‘The Discussion’ in the school courtyard. The buildings are now being redecorated in a striking scheme of dark blue, grey and gold, featuring the griffin logo. David Monks created the design, which is being painted by past student Benny Caulfield.

The following list of past Principals at Mt Evelyn campus is not yet confirmed as correct. We suspect that it is due to some Acting positions plus the fact that Yarra Hills is now a two campus school, with Darren Tippett College Principal from c. 2011 to the present, and Campus Principals Cam Woods (Mooroolbark) and Leighton O’Donnell (Mt Evelyn).¹⁰ Our approximate list of Campus Principals at Mt Evelyn is as follows: Geoff



One of the entrances painted in the new colour scheme. The arched walkways are a feature of the school design. Photos Joy Phillips.

McPherson 1979-1994; Assistant Principal Rod Martin was Acting Principal through 1994; Phil Comport 1995-2000; Anja Davidson 2000-2003; Tom O’Meara 2003-2011; Robyn Dew Acting Principal c. 2012 - 2019; Cam Woods c. end 2021 - July 2022; Leighton O’Donnell from 2022. We would appreciate any additions or corrections, with sources.

Karen Phillips

⁸ Phil Comport, email 14/3/2013.

⁹ The griffin logo had been chosen because it was thought (incorrectly) to be the emblem of Pembroke in Wales. Yarra Hills Secondary College,

<https://www.yarrahills.vic.edu.au/our-college/our-history/>

¹⁰ <https://www.yarrahills.vic.edu.au/our-college/our-staff/>. Accessed 27/1/2026.

Mrs Crowe (1899-1979) and Entertainment in Mt Evelyn

We met Mrs Crowe reciting 'Albert and the Lion' in Jill Koolmees' memories of house parties at the home of the Marshalls, 'What we did before television,' in Issue 139 of *Things Past*. Now that the *Lilydale Express* has been digitised, we can track her career in the context of Mt Evelyn entertainment in the 1940s and early 1950s, a period in which Mt Evelyn became a thriving small community of permanent residents.

The local newspaper during the 40s and 50s included many regular reports by service clubs and sporting clubs so you are able to get a clear picture of the level of energy and commitment in the community. What is quite frustrating is that in those times women were referred to by their husband's surname *and* his initial, so it was not until 1952, after over ten years of repeated references to her in the local paper, that Mrs Crowe attained her personal name. She was referred to as Jess Crowe.

It seems likely that Mrs Crowe was Jessica Mabel Crowe, born in Ipswich England just before the 20th century. By 1941 she and her husband, Mr W Crowe, were in Mt Evelyn and beginning to

make an impact. In 1940 Mr and Mrs Crowe were acknowledged for a 5/- donation to the British Bombing Victims' Fund.¹ A year later, Mr W Crowe fabricated a wooden 'barometer' so Mt Evelyn pedestrians could see how far towards the desired goal their contributions were to the Mt Evelyn Red Cross Queen competition.² In January 1948 Mr Crowe was noted for his involvement in renovating the old Band Hall in Birmingham Road for the newly opened Kindergarten. He was one of three men supervising the works. They installed a tank, built a toilet block and a ramp to the front door, and fenced the grounds.³

These were war years and the scope and dedication of community involvement by 20 to 40 regular volunteers was quite remarkable. Mrs Crowe was very active in the Country Women's Association⁴, the Red Cross (formed in 1939)⁵, Bushfire Relief⁶, the Horticultural Society⁷, the Kindergarten⁸ and almost any other fund-raiser occurring in Mt Evelyn, as well as occasionally in Silvan⁹ and Lilydale. At most of these events she was part of the entertainment, mainly with comedy skits¹⁰ but was also part of larger theatrical productions, debates¹¹ and singing.¹²

¹ *Lilydale Express* 27 Sept 1940, 2.

² *Lilydale Express* 13 June 1941, 3.

³ SM Macdonald *Our Play Centre* cited in J Newton et al. *Tracks to Trails* 2001, 89. Mr Crowe was not listed after these reports, so may have died, although we could not find evidence of this in the Victorian Death Register.

⁴ Mrs Crowe was Vice President of the CWA in 1943. *Lilydale Express* 26 Nov 1943, 1.

⁵ *The Argus* 27 Sept 1939, 10. Mrs Crowe was on the executive of the Red Cross Emergency Company in 1943. *Lilydale Express* 6 Aug 1943, 3. In April 1945 Jess Crowe was one of six Mt Evelyn women who were rostered as aides three at a time, three days a week, to attend Kew Rockingham Convalescent Home for soldiers. Mrs Read walked the two miles to the station on her rostered days. *Weekly Times* 11 April 1945, 20.

⁶ Mrs Wray and Crowe organised a social and performed for Bushfire Relief in early 1944. *Lilydale Express* Feb 1944, 3. The 1943-4 bushfires occurred when many firefighters were absent with World War Two duties. It burned about one million hectares, killed 51 people and injured 700.

⁷ Mrs Crowe had a nasty fall when rushing for the bus with her entries for the Horticultural Show in Lilydale.

⁸ The Preschool and Baby Health Centre Memorial, a local scheme devised by women to honour the servicemen of WW2, held a fund raiser in August 1945 containing sketches and solos by Mrs Wray, Wark and Crowe. *Lilydale Express* 17 Aug 1945, 3.

⁹ Mrs Wray, Crowe, Wark and Dorrington provided sketches and songs for a Silvan musical afternoon in mid-1945. *Lilydale Express* 13 July 1945.

¹⁰ Mrs Wray and Crowe were in a Red Cross art exhibition and concert for 25 soldiers from Heidelberg Repatriation hospital in 1944. *Lilydale Express* 26 May 1944, 3. Jess Crowe sang two months later (in collaboration with a Children's Choir) at the Mechanics Hall in aid of Chinese orphans. *Lilydale Express* 7 July 1944, 3.

¹¹ Mrs Crowe joined Mrs Wark and Miss Fisher for the argument that the Ancient was a better way of living than the Modern in a debate for the Lilydale CWA. *Lilydale Express* 22 Oct 1943, 2.

¹² Eg *Lilydale Express* 24 Dec 1943, 3. Part of a 'Mixed Grill' performance at CWA birthday 1943. *Lilydale Express* 29 Oct 1943,3.

She also took on a committee role¹³, attended conferences¹⁴ and hosted afternoon teas.¹⁵ Between 1943 and 1945 the Red Cross held fortnightly dances, two balls, a Victory Fair and many other fund-raising activities for which members collected, sewed and knitted.¹⁶

Jess Crowe and, most often, her drama colleague Alice Wray were described by the press in glowing terms. 'Mesdames Wray and Crowe noted for their ability and comedy ... were responsible for a splendid performance.'¹⁷ 'Mrs Wray and Mrs Crowe put on several of their famous sketches, for the enactment of which these two ladies are known far and wide.'¹⁸ 'Mrs Crowe added to the evening's amusement with two of her inimitable sketches. Mrs Crowe also sang two songs with considerable artistry.'¹⁹ A program delivered for the CWA concert at the Athenaeum Theatre in Lilydale (after the Mt Evelyn Mechanics Hall had burned down) was described as of 'exceptional merit and versatility.'²⁰ 'Prim and sedate in dialogue and action, Jess Crowe gave a humorous and realistic impersonation of the elderly spinster ... natural talent that would have assured her a successful stage career.'²¹ A highlight of the Christmas entertainment was a non-stop variety show organised by Mrs Wray and Mrs Crowe, 'the audience of which quite overtaxed the capacity of the hall'. The audience 'voted the show first-class and quite worthy of a professional music hall'²².

¹³ CWA *Lilydale Express* 14 Nov 1940, 3; 1 Dec 1944, 3. Red Cross *Lilydale Express* 17 July 1942, 3.

¹⁴ CWA delegate for June 1945 conference. *Lilydale Express* June 1 1945, 3.

¹⁵ She was a hostess for afternoon tea and received a birthday posy at the first meeting of the CWA in 1955. *Lilydale Express* 28 Jan 1955, 7.

¹⁶ *Lilydale Express* 6 Aug 1943, 3; 3 Aug 1945, 3.

¹⁷ CWA Birthday Pantomime. *Lilydale Express* 20 Nov 1942, 3.

¹⁸ *Lilydale Express* 24 Aug 1945, 3.

¹⁹ Social evening run by the Progress Association to thank Mr Hocking for organising a gymkhana at the Mt Evelyn Recreation Reserve. *Lilydale Express* 21 Feb 1947, 1.

²⁰ *Lilydale Express* 28 July, 6.

²¹ *Lilydale Express* 24 April 1952, 1.

We know quite a lot about the various artists who have lived and worked in Mt Evelyn but less so about the musical and theatrical life of the amateur community members. For example, who was the Miss Holt who composed and played a march called 'We Australians' for a fund raiser at the Mechanics Hall in 1945?²³

To give some detail to the musical and dramatic life of 1940s-50s Mt Evelyn,²⁴ we have listed some of the skits and songs performed by Mrs Crowe and others and give one detailed extract from a newspaper report in 1950.²⁵

Mrs Hull and Mrs Crowe sang a verse of 'Silver Threads among the Gold' for the Lilydale CWA in February 1940.²⁶ Miss Hooper wrote a play called 'Ain't Love Grand' about the troubles of a newly-married couple, acted in 1941 by Miss Hooper and Mrs Crowe. 'The acting could not be faulted'.²⁷ In December of the same year Mrs Wray and Mrs Crowe treated CWA regional members to a 'laughable time with a "dumb" act entitled "Edward and Angeline's Trip Down the Bay"'.²⁸

In February 1945 Mrs Wray and Mrs Crowe performed 'Waiting for the Train'.²⁹ At the 1947 Carols by Candlelight Jess Crowe sang in Gracie Fields' style, 'The Little Bottom Drawer' and 'I never cried so much in all my life'.³⁰

In 1952 Mt Evelyn Dramatic Club performed 'The Ghost Train' (producers/stage manager Kay T Murphy and C C Murphy) at Lilydale's Athenaeum Theatre. 'The hall resounded with enthusiastic

cont p. 10

²² This show in 1948 featured the Marshall male quartet, Mrs Grigg singing numbers from 'Annie Get Your Gun' and the CWA choir in a song and dialogue piece called 'The Village Glee Club Picnic'. *Lilydale Express* 9 Jan 1948, 4.

²³ *Lilydale Express* 17 Aug 1945, 3.

²⁴ The Hall was used for a drama festival in September, 1954. *Lilydale Express* 30 April 1954, 5.

²⁵ *Lilydale Express* 28 July 1950, 6.

²⁶ *Lilydale Express* 9 Feb 1940, 1.

²⁷ *Lilydale Express* 5 Sept 1941, 3.

²⁸ *Healesville and Yarra Glen Guardian* 13 Dec 1941, 4.

²⁹ *Lilydale Express* 23 Feb 1945, 3.

³⁰ *Lilydale Express* 9 Jan 1948, 4.

More from the Happy Hermits

The Happy Hermits were a group of young men who camped at Evelyn for several summers in the early 1900s (see our publication *The Happy Hermits & Diary of a Trip to Evelyn* and *Things Past* articles).

Recently we were contacted by Catherine, a family member of one of the Hermits. Catherine confirmed that the young man named in one of the photos as 'R. Earle' has been correctly identified as Alexander Roy Hammill Earle (1890-1953), her great-great-uncle.



Roy Earle as a child with his sisters, in age order Stella Frances, Irene Kate and Millicent.

Catherine was also able to identify a girl in one of the photos as Roy Earle's youngest sister, Millicent (Catherine's great-grandmother). Her mother confirmed the identification.

Material on the Happy Hermits has come to us from a number of sources. We have photos of the Hermits' camp, and a diary written by two girls who met the Hermits while staying at Holly Lodge in 1911. Both came from the Higgs Family Collection, and were researched by Bronwyn Higgs. Then Richard Conn found some of the



'The Hermits' Friends at Dinner - Xmas 1911'. The girl seated at front right is Millicent Earle, Roy Earle's youngest sister. Photo Higgs Collection.

original glass photographic plates at a sale and restored them as digital images. We have also been contacted by descendants of the Tegart family, on whose land the Hermits camped. Now we have the input from Roy Earle's family. As Bronwyn said, the Hermits just keep on giving!

Karen Phillips



Millicent Earle, bridal photo, 1919.

Mrs Crowe (1899-1979) and Entertainment in Mt Evelyn from p. 8
 applause... a triple encore³¹ ensued. The group were booked for follow up performances in Ferntree Gully, Ringwood, Croydon and Warburton.

With Harry Neilson, in 1955 Mrs Crowe sang the old favourite, 'There's a Hole in the Bucket' at a

goodbye concert for Alec Patterson, the stationmaster for over 13 years.³²

Jess Crowe died at Box Hill in 1979, aged 81.³³ We believe she was childless. Her ashes are scattered at Springvale Cemetery. We hope her contribution to charity and cultural life of the 1940s and 1950s will be remembered.

Janice Newton

| From Kev's Rain Gauge | | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|--------|-------------|--------|
| Rainfall (in mm) for Mt Evelyn, McKillop, and Melbourne for the last 3 months. | | | | |
| | Nov-25 | Dec-25 | 2025 Totals | Jan-26 |
| Mt Evelyn | 181.7 | 61.7 | 708.3 | 2.4 |
| McKillop | 178.7 | 63.6 | 758.9 | 2.4 |
| Melbourne | 127.8 | 27.8 | 562.1 | 1.6 |

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

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Mt Evelyn History Tools Blogsite: <http://mtevelynhistorytools.blogspot.com.au/>

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

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

³¹ *Lilydale Express* 24 April 1952, 1. Other players. Honeymoon couple - James Marshall and Margaret Macfarlane; Couple - John Jermyn and Lorna Griffith; Station master - Cecil Gear; Double role, Passenger and Detective - Harry Neilson; Demented woman - Doris

Millard; Illicit Arms Traffickers - Alfred Knowles, George MacFarlane and Albert Thurrowgood.

³² *Lilydale Express* 3 June 1955, 5.

³³ Victorian BDM 5893/1979