

Enquiries, membership, book sales: Paula Herlihy, herlihy@alphalink.com.au or phone 9736 2935 (leave message)

Newsletter, minutes: Karen Phillips, karen.m.l.phillips@gmail.com

Dates for your 2008 diary

Tuesday 26th February 7:30 - 9:30 pm, Morrison House Room 3, committee meeting.

Committee meetings 4th Tuesday of even-number months (but changed for school holidays): 22nd April, 24th June, 26th August, 28th October; also 25th November.

Saturday 15th March 1pm, Mt Evelyn Library Community Room. Dr Janice Newton, the main author of *Tracks to Trails*, will speak about the history of flower farming in the Dandenongs. Members of the flower growing community will be invited.

We plan to have speakers, usually on 4th Saturday of alternate months, 1pm in the Community Room: 24th May, 26th July, 13th September, 22nd November.

The Zig Zag Hill Climb

We have received a query from Neil Oldfield regarding the location of the Zig Zag. Neil wrote: 'I am a vintage car restorer and as part of my restoration of a 1928 Graham Paige, I came across a document from America promoting that 2 Graham Paige cars won a hill climb event in Melbourne Australia. Living in the Warranwood area this interested me, and also the fact the same model car we have restored was one of the winning cars.'

After obtaining the document I did some further investigation and got a copy of the pages in the RACV newsletter promoting the event and with the results of the event. The RACV archives had no more information than the fact it was held at the "zig zag" hill between Lilydale and Mt Evelyn, on 22 Sept 1928 (It was won outright by one Graham Paige and on handicap by another).'



We were able to tell Neil that the Zig Zag was located in the steepest section of Birmingham Rd, as shown in the RACV map above. Sandy Ross from the Lilydale & District Historical Society kindly checked the Express for 12 October 1928. Headed 'Climbing Contest', a brief report stated that the Zig Zag was chosen because of its many bends. The right to sell programs was extended to the Lilydale section of the Children's Hospital Auxiliary. No names of the winning cars or drivers were mentioned. We'd like to hear from anyone with information about the Hill Climb.

Street Party stall

The History Group stall at the Mt Evelyn Street Party on Saturday 24th November was a great success. We set up shop under the verandah of the Community Link. Our display, which was built around historic maps of Mt Evelyn, attracted a steady stream of visitors all day. We made over \$300 in book sales and signed up several new members. Thanks to Paula for organisation and to everyone who served on the stall or helped with setting up and packing away.

History of the Safeway site

Karen's *History of the Supermarket Site, Mt Evelyn* is now available as an A4 booklet, price \$2. Thanks to Kevin for photocopying. See price list on p.4 for History Group publications, all available from Paula.

Trail brochures

A new brochure from the Friends of Water Race & Quinn Reserve, 'Water Race Trail', was launched by Cr Tim Heenan at the Street Party. It is similar in format to the Aqueduct Walk brochure, with an easy-to-follow map. The historical information is credited to the History Group. FWR&QR hope to re-open the Borang Avenue section of the Water Race as a walking track and are clearing weeds and rubbish.

Vicki Harrison has obtained a Community Bank grant to produce a new Mt Evelyn brochure that will include the historic Rail Trail, Water Race Trail, Aqueduct Walk and Olinda Creek Track (pipeline track to Silvan). Drafts were circulated at the Mt Evelyn Township Improvement Committee (METIC) AGM.

'The Olden Days'

On Monday 19th November, Paula met with the Birmingham Primary School Grade 2s at the Link to talk about 'the olden days'. She explained the history of the station and issued replica tickets for the 'Last Train to Warburton'.

Paula reports that the talk went well – the kids were well behaved, listened, asked and answered questions, looked at pictures and LOVED the tickets, 'Please can I have another for my sister?' and so on. One youngster even knew all the former names of Mt Evelyn station! He got to be 'Guard'.

The teachers loved the photos and asked for copies to be emailed to them, which has been done. A class set of *Tracks to Trails* has been presented to the school.

Owl Land history request

Tony Sykes has requested information concerning the Owl Land, particularly Aboriginal history and also the creation of the 'totem poles' beside the Warburton Trail entrance. The poles were carved at Morrison House around 1996. Thanks to Jan Simmons for contributing the following information:

'The totem poles were created as part of a Work for the Dole project. The chap who worked with us on WftD for a couple of years and who designed and oversaw the building of the Community Link was Peter Saxby – it was he who did the chainsaw carving work for the totems. We wanted to highlight the Reserve entrance from the Rail Trail.' Any additional information about the history of the Owl Land would be welcome.

Positions to be filled

We still need a Vice President and will need a permanent Treasurer (Paula is acting Treasurer). If you couldn't make it to our first meeting, or have joined since then, please consider whether you would like to fill a position on the committee.

Speakers for 2008

We hope to book Lenore Frost to talk about dating and identifying old photos from costume. Lenore is the author of *Dating Family Photos 1850-1920* (Valiant Press, 1991). Dating from fashions is fascinating in its subtlety (such as, were the clothes borrowed? or worn when no longer fashionable?)

We will be discussing our program for 2008 at our next meeting (Tuesday 26th February). Please give us your suggestions for future speakers and activities.

Incorporation

The incorporation procedure will also be discussed at the February meeting. One requirement for incorporation is a statement of aims. What should our aims be as a History Group? Please give this some thought over the holidays. Bring your list to the meeting, or send suggestions to Paula beforehand.

Yarra Ranges Heritage Network

The Yarra Ranges Heritage Network has been in existence in various forms for over 10 years. The Network exists primarily to share information and support its members, but the Shire uses it as a point of contact with historical societies.

At times the Network has assumed other roles, such as auspicing workshops organised by the Shire's museum liaison officers. Each society sends one or two reps to the quarterly meetings. Paula Herlihy has been the Chair of the Network since November 2007.

Current issues of interest to all members:

- completion of the Shire's Heritage Study, at present only partially complete and with limited processes for additions or alterations
- Museum redevelopment and the issues currently before VCAT, namely the future of the staircase and loss of trees
- lack of provision for a home for the Lilydale and District Historical Society in the Museum redevelopment plans. L&DHS have raised funds and supported the redevelopment for years. They have always been assured of a meeting room there (unfortunately, as it turns out, not in writing)
- the need for a home for all historical societies to do their work effectively
- the Shire's Cultural Plan (though it's called 'Arts, Culture and Heritage', there has been very little emphasis on Heritage)
- Housing Strategy guidelines and how these could affect township and garden character. In particular, since this is a State initiative aimed at meeting housing needs, there are concerns that this is a 'blanket' structure, with little attention given to individual township character.

A Montrose connection

Montrose Church of Christ celebrated their 130th anniversary on 21st October 2007. The earliest services were held in private homes. The original church building, constructed in 1909 and relocated in 1985, is now the chapel at Chateau Wyuna. See www.chateauwyuna.com.au for a photo of the church in its stately progress down Swansea Road.

Australia Day weekend at Gulf Station, Yarra Glen

Australia Day weekend, 26-27th January: two days of traditional crafts and activities, farm trail, stalls and entertainment.

See www.gulfstation.com.au

Mt Evelyn History Group

P.O. Box 101, Mt Evelyn, Vic 3796

Newsletter 2

December 2007

History books make great Christmas gifts!

Tracks to Trails: A History of Mt Evelyn (2 nd Ed.)	\$25.00
History of the Supermarket Site *** NEW	\$2.00
Gwen Hardy: a Tribute	\$5.00
Aborigines in the Northern Dandenongs	\$5.00
The First Selectors of Mt Evelyn	\$4.00
Tourists, the Dam & Depression 1920s & 1930s	\$6.00
From Holiday to Home WWII & 1950s	\$6.00
A History of Native Fauna in Mt Evelyn	\$5.00
The History of Guiding in Mt Evelyn	\$3.00
The Mt Evelyn Aqueduct	\$4.00
History of the Mt Evelyn Fire Brigade	\$5.00
Naming Mt Evelyn	\$2.00
Street Names of Mt Evelyn	\$4.00
The Mt Evelyn Tennis Club	\$4.00
The Hut at Mt Evelyn Christian School	\$2.00
The Water Race	\$4.00
History of the Melba Centre 1971-1997	\$2.00

*** © Karen Leadbeater Phillips. Proceeds to the History Group.

Christmas greetings

We wish all History Group members and friends Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and relaxing summer holidays. We look forward to seeing everyone again at our February meeting, all set for lots of historical activities in 2008.