



Things Past

Newsletter 21, October 2009

Mount Evelyn History Group Inc

A0051327F

P.O. Box 101 Mt Evelyn Vic 3796

www.mt-evelyn.net

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

Newsletter & minutes: Karen Phillips (Secretary), karen.m.l.phillips@gmail.com

Dates for your diary

'Mt Evelyn Through Artists' Eyes', Mt Evelyn Exhibition Space during October.

'The Sticks', Marcus Schutenko's film (shot in Mt Evelyn and Croydon) will be screened on **Saturday 17th October**, 8pm Mt Evelyn Community Room.

Mt Evelyn 'Chinese Lion' Street Festival, Saturday 24th October. We will be holding a stall under the Old Link verandah. This will count as the History Group meeting for October and last meeting for the year. Please contact Paula if you can help on the stall.

History Week Sunday 25th October to Sunday 1st November, brochures distributed.

Healesville Ghost Train, Yarra Valley Railway, Halloween weekend **Friday 30th & Saturday 31st October**, tickets & enquires Patricia Culhane 0400 171 657.

Antiques & Collectables Appraisals, Saturday 31st October, 12 noon-4pm Montrose Town Centre.

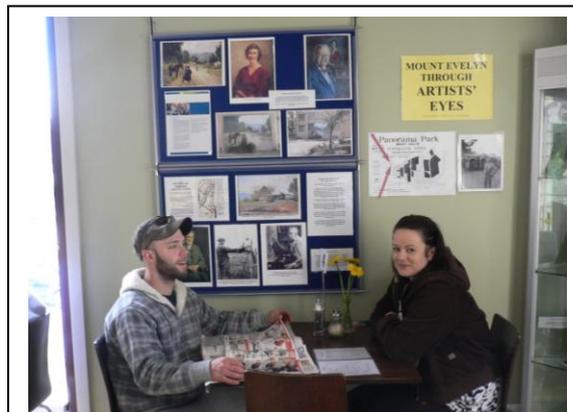
'Who do you think you are?' episode with Paula on SBS, Sunday 1st November.

'Mt Evelyn Through Artists' Eyes'

The History Group booked the Exhibition Space for its 2009 Exhibition with the rough theme of 'Through Artists' Eyes' in mind. We wanted to display new material where at all possible and soon realised that we would need to concentrate on topics we could get material for. We narrowed the display to five topics.

The original sketches for the Timeline Fence were created in two stages. Artist Russell Danby's first set of sketches included a Bushfire panel that was not used and two others that were combined for the final version. The second set included the panel on the Wurrundjeri, sponsored by the Mount Evelyn History Group.

Local artist Marg Lopez made her sketches and planning for the Bollard Walk available to us. Again, the transition from first thoughts to the



'Mt Evelyn Through Artists' Eyes' display featuring the work of Ernest Buckmaster.

finished product makes an interesting history. Mark Harris's family gave permission for us to include information on *The Cricketer* on the Station platform and why the figure was modelled on their son.

The audience is invited to pick up a guide and see the finished art works in

the fresh air. The guide includes a map of Mt Evelyn originally created by local artist Marg Newman for the pamphlet guide to the Bollard Walk. It directs the stroller to murals and mosaics around the town, as well as the Youth Art on the YES Shed (a hot topic during the months of September and October!)

A third topic group clusters around Ernest Buckmaster and three of his paintings, which link to other works. A copy of his portrait of Gwen Hardy is displayed, along with local artist David Monks' companion portrait of Dr Bill Hardy (2008). David's portrait includes the original Buckmaster portrait, and so is a painting of a painting. A copy of Buckmaster's painting *The Discussion* is displayed, depicting Andy Renouf and Alf Knowles in conversation at the top end of Bailey Road near 'Grantully', Buckmaster's home. A subdivision map shows the location and orientation of 'Grantully'. Dave Monks and students have created a *trompe d'oeil* version of *The Discussion* at Pembroke Secondary College, photos of which are displayed. A copy of Buckmaster's painting *Old Wymer* is included, along

with Edward Wymer's painting of his home in Adams Lane, *Wymer's Rest*.

The fourth topic area centres on St Mark's Anglican Church. The earliest painting of the church, painted by H. Hewitt in 1927, is on display. The 50th Anniversary History of St Mark's by Gwen Hardy had this painting as its cover picture. There is a painting of the church by Margery Hardingham (1988), a pen and ink drawing by Ivy Arney (1994) and a watercolour by Lia Williams. Recent pictures from real estate brochures, showing the former church building as a private home, complete this section of the display.

The fifth area is connected to writing and printing. Local writer Karen Phillips produced the text for both the Bollard Walk and the Timeline Fence. The town described in Felicia Cotich's novel *Valda* was inspired by Mt Evelyn (from its former name 'Valinda'). That book and others connected to art in Mt Evelyn are on display in the corner cabinet in the Café.

Included is a book on William Blamire Young, who designed the first Australian stamp with the sole nomenclature 'Australia', that is, not featuring the monarch's head. The Kangaroo and Map design was ordered by the Fisher Government, which had in its ranks a number of pro-republicans strenuously opposed to the incorporation of the monarch's profile on Australian stamps. Young's design was ridiculed (probably by Monarchists) as featuring rabbit ears poking out of a burrow and was modified to the final design. One of the first acts of the Cook Government, sworn in on 14th June 1913, was to order a series of postage stamps with the profile of George V.

Blamire Young died on 14th January 1935 at his home 'Mutamaro' in the Edinburgh Road area and was buried in Lilydale cemetery. In 1976 he was honoured with a stamp issued by Australia Post for his work in designing the first all-Australian stamp.

Text and photos Paula Herlihy



Part of the Timeline Fence display in the Café

Local art further afield

Galleries in regional cities hold some unexpected treasures, not necessarily confined to their own areas. Visiting the Bendigo Art Gallery recently, we found a Louis Buvelot landscape of Lilydale (1878) and a painting of Olinda Creek (1888) by William Short. The Olinda Creek picture could have been painted anywhere along the creek flats, though probably closer to Lilydale than to Mt Evelyn.

Karen

New committee members

Joan Vanderhorn and Tim Herlihy have accepted nomination as General Committee members.

The nominated Vice President has declined, so this position remains unfilled at present. All other Executive positions have been filled.

Mt Evelyn Joeys bounding ahead

Mt Evelyn has one of the most active Scout groups in the state. Two new Joey mobs are being formed at the moment. Joeys are for kids aged 6-8.

Anthony McAleer, (History Group member and also on the Scout Committee), asked us for suggestions of suitable names for the new mobs. They wanted localised names (notable person, place, Aboriginal name, creature etc).

We sent some suggestions, including a Woiwurrung word list, and will be interested to see what names are chosen.

Editorial: Fault lines in a divided community

Perceptive newcomers to Mt Evelyn often ask the reason for the polarised loyalties and obvious 'bad blood' between sections of the community.

Mt Evelyn has always been a divided community, though not necessarily a hostile one. The railway station, and the town that grew up around it, were on the parish border between Mooroolbark and Wandin Yallock. The railway formed an unofficial boundary, separating the rural eastern end from the more closely settled west. Sporting

rivalry between Mt Evelyn township and Billygoat Hill reflected a divide between residents and holidaymakers in the inter-war period.

In his article 'Mt Evelyn's Great Divide' ('Melbourne Postcard' series, *Herald-Sun Weekend*, 2/4/1996), journalist Ted Hopkins defined the split in terms of encroaching subdivision versus remnant bushland.

Long before, the Woiwurrung had their moieties (halves) – everyone belonged either to Waang the Crow or Bunjil the Eagle. The rift may even date back as much as 200 million years, to when we fell into the caldera of the Mt Dandenong volcano – we're right on the edge of the Evelyn Fault.

Some still see the fault lines in geographic terms but it seems to me more a clash of left-brain and right-brain personalities at the group level. Let's face it, we all prefer our hemisphere of choice. Do you pitch your tent among the Rabid Emotionalists or the Icy Rationalists? Would you rather be a Policy Wonk or a Drama Queen? No doubt the Chinese would see Yin and Yang, complementary principles in dynamic opposition.

We have two groups with differing temperaments and philosophies but an equally strong commitment to Mt Evelyn. Individuals have struggled valiantly to bridge the gap between them, only to find themselves, like the heroes in Graham Greene novels, forced into reluctantly taking sides.

The History Group has positioned itself to be independent of both. We like to think we provide common ground. Many History Group members identify with one side or the other. Few people, if any, are active on both sides of the gaping chasm.

I used to think the rift was pointless and stupid but I'm not so sure now. As long as there's division in the community and more than one power base, different voices can make themselves heard.

Better a divided community than a one-voice dictatorship.

Karen Phillips

From Kev's rain gauge

Rainfall for September 2009 compared with Melbourne's September average:

Mt Evelyn	Melbourne	Melb. Av.
135.6 ml	67.4 ml	58.2 ml

Kevin Phillips

The Mt Evelyn Primary School Centenary Committee hopes to assemble a complete set of class photos. If you can help with original photos of these classes, please contact Willie Koole on 59 643 767, or email k.wkoole@bigpond.com

1958 – All grades missing

1959 – All grades missing

1960 – Grade 2, photocopy only
Grade 4, photocopy only
Staff, missing

1961 – All grades missing

1962 – Grade 1, photocopy only
Grade 4, photocopy only
Grade 6, photocopy only
Staff, missing

1963 – All grades missing
Staff, missing

1964 – Grade 3, photocopy only
Grade 6, photocopy only
Staff, missing

1965 – Prep, missing
Grade 1A & 1B, photocopy only
Grade 2, missing
Grade 5, missing
Staff, missing

1966 – Prep, missing
Grade 1C, photocopy only
Grade 6, photocopy only
Staff, missing

1967 – Prep, missing
Grade 1B, photocopy only
Grade 1C, photocopy only
Staff, missing

1968 – Prep, missing
Grade 1A, photocopy only
Staff, missing

1969 – Prep, missing
Grade 1B, photocopy only
Grade 2, photocopy only
Staff, missing

1970 – Prep, missing
Grade 1, missing
Grade 2 & 3, photocopy only
Grade 3, photocopy only
Grade 4, missing
Grade 5, missing
Staff, missing

1971 – Prep, missing
Grade 1A, photocopy only
Grade 1B, photocopy only
Grade 1C, photocopy only
Grade 2, missing
Grade 3 & 4, photocopy only
Grade 4, missing
Grade 5 & 6, original damaged
Grade 6, missing
Staff, missing

1972 – Prep, missing
Grade 1C, photocopy only
Grade 2A, photocopy only
Grade 3, missing
Grade 4, photocopy only
Grade 5, photocopy only

1973 – Prep, missing
Grade 1A, photocopy only
Grade 1?, missing
Grade 2B, photocopy only
Grade 3, missing
Grade 3 & 4, photocopy only
Grade 5, missing
Grade 6, photocopy only

1974 – Grade 1, missing

1975 – Prep, missing
Grade 3, photocopy only
Grade 5, photocopy only

1976 – Grade 6, photocopy only

1977 – Prep, missing
Grade 1, missing
Grade 3, missing
Grade 4, missing
Grade 5, photocopy only

1978 – Grade 1, missing
Grade 3, missing
Grade 5, missing

1980 – Staff, missing

1982 – Grade 5, missing
Grade 6, missing

1998 – Prep missing (except Prep B)

1999 – Grade 2 missing

2000 – Staff, missing

2002 – Staff, missing

2003 – Staff, only have unofficial photo

2007 – Staff, missing