

Things Past

Newsletter 65

July 2013

Mount Evelyn History Group Inc

PO Box 101 Mt Evelyn VIC 3796 A0051327F



Dates for your diary

RSL Hall Committee meeting Thursday 18 July, 7.30pm Mt Evelyn RSL Clubrooms.

Speaker: Euie Pullen will talk about re-doing the communication lines for Puffing Billy in the 1960s-1970s. Saturday 27 July, 1:30pm RSL Hall, Hardy House, Mt Evelyn.

POP-UP MUSEUM, Thursday 1 August, Mt Evelyn Station House.

History Group AGM followed by general meeting, Thursday 22 August, 7:30pm Hardy House, Birmingham Road, Mt Evelyn. All welcome to our meetings and events.

Laos – Buddhism and B52s

Paula reports on her recent holiday in South East Asia.

During the American ('Vietnam') War, the United States bombed Laos with more than the whole armament dropped by both sides combined in World War II – and Laos was not even a combatant. The purpose of the bombing was to disrupt the Viet Cong's supply route, the Ho Chi Minh Trail.

Since over 80% of the people eke out a basic farming existence, they are tempted to find and sell the scrap metal from these bombs to supplement their income. Many lives are destroyed by tripping unexploded armaments, even forty years later.

Responsible travelers are asked not to encourage this dangerous trade by purchasing objects made from old bombs, but items such as chop sticks and bangles are made from recycled aluminium to support various charities.



Above, a procession of monks in Luang Prabang, Laos. Locals wait to offer food.

One fascinating example of 'swords to ploughshares' is the common use of recovered aluminium aircraft parts such as discarded B52 petrol tanks to make light boats for fishing on the rivers. The peaceful boats at dock seem such a humane and responsible use of materials, in stark contrast to the destruction for which they were manufactured.

Laos is largely a Buddhist society and many men become monks for a year or more as a way to access some education, before returning to lay life. Boys younger than twelve are not encouraged because they find it hard to survive on the one small meal a day that the monks are allowed.

We bought and donated sticky rice to the monks in Luang Prabang. The process is to remove shoes, kneel by the side of the (muddy) road and place bits of food into the monks' cooking pots, using the right hand and, if a woman, being careful not to touch the monk.

Continued p.2



Above, aluminium fishing boats built from recycled bomber parts.

Laos

From p.1

One of our local guides had been a monk for 17 years and he explained the reason westerners are asked not to wear provocative clothing to temples. It was not exactly as I had assumed. The request is not intended to remove temptation at all – if there is no temptation to resist, there is no merit. It is more in the manner of a courtesy NOT to interfere with concentration, rather like not hammering when someone is trying to sleep. Asian people know not to do this. It is easier to ask westerners to cover up than to try to give them a lesson in Asian manners.

Housing in Laos is basic, often made from woven bamboo. Food too is basic, such as weed gathered from the river. The people are fine in build; life appears slow and hard but peaceful. A surprise was finding the tree ferns so common here in the mountainous parts of Laos.

We visited a sanctuary supporting Asian sun and moon bears rescued from the hell of captivity they experience when they are kept to be milked for their bile. **Paula Herlihy**

Letters to the Editor

Another wonderful edition of *Things Past*, thank you. Some responses:

The mysterious pastel. It looks familiar. But that's all I can say. Maybe there was a painting of it, or maybe the painting came first and Shaw did a pastel from the painting. I am sure the facts will emerge.

For some time of my former association with the Mt Evelyn Presbyterian church, Jack Hull was a fairly frequent attendee. I have a memory that during that time Jack went back on the high seas – as a volunteer on one of those old English sailing ships journeying between England and Australia. I believe it was quite a challenge for him and had a lasting effect.

Robyn Taylor

I had meant to send you an email regarding a story in the last edition on Jack Hull

What I wanted to mention was a very distant connection to that story. My ex father-in-law (Nevill Atkinson) was a marine engineer and as a volunteer, worked on the restoration of the *Diamantina* at the Queensland Maritime Museum. He had the pleasure and privilege of sailing on her to test the restoration.

It's a tenuous connection I know, but somehow it bought the story on Jack Hull and the *Diamantina* just that little bit closer to home.

Keep up the good work. **Julia Atkinson**

'Sleuthing the artist'

Robyn Taylor has been 'sleuthing the artist' of the pastel drawing featured in our last issue. So far Robyn has not come up with a 'G. Shaw' but has come across another artist of interest to our region, one William Henry Short (1875-1947). You can see his 'Evening on the Olinda Track' (not dated, unfortunately) at: <http://www.artrecord.com/index.cfm/artist/12590-short-junior-william-henry/>

Short came from a family of artists (see *Things Past* 21, p.3). His grandfather, Henry Short (1807-1865), painted Robert Hoddle's survey expedition to the Upper Yarra:

<http://www.slv.vic.gov.au/latrobejournal/issue/latrobe-75/fig-latrobe-75-050a.html> &

<http://www.slv.vic.gov.au/latrobejournal/issue/latrobe-75/t1-g-t7.html#latrobe-75-050a>

The Mooroolbark volcano

Information on the volcanic crater mentioned in the article 'Excursion to Lilydale' is hard to find (*Things Past* 64, p.2). Even the author, Mr F. Chapman, backed away slightly from the identification. He called it a 'tuffaceous crater-like depression' and 'depression or tuff-cone', rather than a 'crater', in later articles.¹ Though apparently sure in his own mind that the hill was an eruption point, Chapman admitted that other geologists had expressed doubts.

A geological map shows an area including 'The Briars', Plantes Hill, Albert Hill and nearby Melbourne Hill as an isolated section of the Older Volcanics. The main area lies further east, around Silvan.² Melbourne Hill has a similar crater (or 'crater-like depression'); Oxley College is built inside it.

According to du Cros, the 'extinct volcano' at Mooroolbark was thought to have been a meeting place for elders of local Aboriginal tribes.³ This may refer to 'The Briars' crater, which is located just within Mooroolbark.

Karen Phillips

¹ *The Victorian Naturalist* Vol.31, p.102; Vol.34, p.173.

² J. McAndrew & M.A.H. Marsden 1973, *Regional Guide to Victorian Geology*, School of Geology, University of Melbourne, p.41, http://vic.gsa.org.au/Victorian_Geology/Guides/Regionalsmall.pdf

³ H. du Cros 1987, *An Archeological Survey of the Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges*.

Brother Bill, the Recreation Camp and CEBS

The Reverend R.G.C. Nichols (1888-1960) became vicar of St Mark's Fitzroy about 1920, after he asked the bishop for the most difficult parish in the diocese.¹ He became known through his radio broadcasts as the legendary 'Brother Bill' Nichols. Sometime in the 1920s he established a holiday camp on the site of the present Recreation Camp in Mt Evelyn, where children from the slums could experience the bush.

Another of Brother Bill's projects was the Lysterfield Training Farm, established around 1937, where underprivileged boys learned farming skills. In 1942 the church requested that the Church of England Boys' Society (CEBS) take over the farm with 40 boys in residence. Running the Lysterfield farm marked a new departure for the CEBS. The Society had formed in 1913 as a junior version of the Church of England Men's Society. It was an organisation similar to Scouts but with more of a religious emphasis.

In 1943 a CEBS Easter camp was held at Mt Evelyn. The location is not specified but the 1944 Summer and Easter camps were held at St Mark's Holiday Home at Mt Evelyn (i.e. Brother Bill's). At this time, according to our information up till now, Brother Bill's was a training camp for Australian and American soldiers (more on that next month). Junior camps were held in Mt Evelyn in 1946 and 1947 and a senior camp in 1948. The camp was not available the following year.

In 1945 the government acquired the land of the training farm, as it was in the catchment of the Lysterfield Dam. The farm moved to the historic St Hubert's property at Yering. In 1947 the CEBS received 75 boys from Britain who had been affected by the war. St Hubert's was sold around 1950 and the training farm transferred to Burton Hall, Tatura.



THE ROSE SERIES P.1754 BISHOP'S PALACE, ST. MARK'S HOLIDAY HOME, MT. EVELYN VIC.

Rose Postcards. Above, 'Bishop's Palace' at St Mark's Mt Evelyn. Below left, swimming pool and camp accomodation, probably 1940s. The boys are Cub Scouts. Can anyone identify the wooden frame at centre?⁵

The CEBS history makes rather dispiriting reading, not for what it says but for what it leaves out.² An administrative history, it contains almost nothing about the boys themselves, even collectively.

We know now about the shameful history of post-war child migration. Many children were sent to Australia without their parents' knowledge or consent. Some were told, untruthfully, that their parents were dead. In some cases they were subject to exploitation and abuse.

There is nothing to suggest that the boys at the CEBS farms were abused but there is one telling comment from a newspaper advertisement placed by the Society: '... warning came from the Government migration authorities and from Church sources in London that the anticipated supply of migrant boys over school age for farm training was not materialising'.³

For an organisation responsible for the youngsters' welfare, 'supply' seems a strange word to use. The boys are made to sound like raw material for the Society, rather than the reason for its existence.⁴ **Karen Phillips**

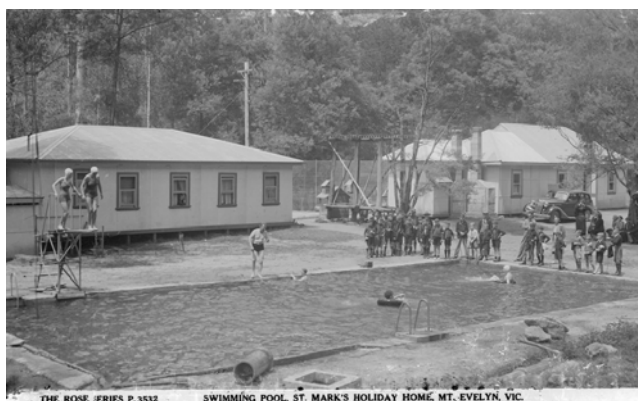
¹ 'Australian Dictionary of Biography Online': <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/nichols-reginald-gordon-clement-7843>

² *Fifty Years On, a history of CEBS in Melbourne 1939-1988*, <http://www.findandconnect.gov.au/vic/objects/pdfs/church%20of%20england%20boys%20society.pdf>

³ *The Argus*, 28 July 1950, p.7.

⁴ See 'Find and Connect Victoria', <http://www.findandconnect.gov.au/vic/biogs/E000338b.htm> for links to the cited sources.

⁵ Rose Postcards from State Library Victoria collection.



THE ROSE SERIES P.3532 SWIMMING POOL, ST. MARK'S HOLIDAY HOME, MT. EVELYN VIC.

Evelyn: the dates cast doubts

So much information has come to light since our booklet *Naming Mt Evelyn* was published that a replacement seemed a good idea. But it always turns out harder than you expect.

Evelyn railway station might, or might not, have been named after the County of Evelyn but I was sure that one point was settled. It seemed clear that the county was named after William John Evelyn. While we had no primary source for the origin of the county name, both the office of Christine Fyffe MP, and J.G. Saxby's *Victoria, Place Names and their Origin* (1907), agreed on 'William J. Evelyn, MP for Surrey West 1849-1857'.

We know that Evelyn was one of the counties proclaimed by Governor Fitz Roy in 1849 and that most were named after aristocratic British parliamentarians. The dates made a tight fit though, especially with the time communications must have taken between Britain and the Australian colonies. I assumed that the MP must have been newly elected to Parliament when the County of Evelyn was named in his honour but I couldn't resist checking.

Governor Fitz Roy proclaimed the county in the *Port Phillip Government Gazette* of January 1849.¹ The member for Surrey West died in August that year, causing a by-election. William John Evelyn was first elected to the seat in September 1849, eight months after the county was supposedly named in his honour. The county could of course have been named after him before he stood for Parliament – but why? He was then a bashful young man of twenty-six who had never held a public position. If the county was named after the Evelyn family as a whole, the family history doesn't mention it. The previous head of the family was William's cousin Sir Hugh Evelyn, the 5th and last Baronet Evelyn. Sir Hugh died in August 1848, never having held public office and having spent 18 years in prison for unpaid debts.²

There must now be some doubt as to whether the County of Evelyn was really named for William John Evelyn MP. The information as we have it is at least slightly misleading, giving the impression that the parliamentary service pre-dated the county name.

Our sister county, Mornington, was also proclaimed in 1849. The Counties of Evelyn

and Mornington were combined with the south part of the County of Bourke as a province in the Victorian Legislative Council 1851-1856. 'Evelyn and Mornington' became a seat of the Legislative Assembly 1856-1859.³ The Parish of Mooroolbark overlaps the two counties.

The naming of Mornington presents its own problems. All sources agree that the county was named for the Earl of Mornington – but which one? Some claim it was the 1st Earl (1735-1781), the father of the Duke of Wellington. That's going back a long way. The Lord Mornington of 1849 was the 4th Earl (1788-1857), who was no ornament to the name.

*A spendthrift, a profligate, and a gambler in his youth, he became débauché in his manhood Redeemed by no single virtue, adorned by no single grace, his life has gone out without even a flicker of repentance; his 'retirement' was that of one who was deservedly avoided by all men.*⁴

If it was Governor Fitz Roy himself who chose the county names of Port Phillip, you have to wonder what the man was thinking.

Karen Phillips

¹ *Port Phillip Government Gazette*, 17 January 1849: <http://gazette.slv.vic.gov.au/images/1849/P/general/3.pdf>, p.24.

² Helen Evelyn 1915, *The History of the Evelyn Family*, Everleigh Nash, London: <http://archive.org/stream/historyofevelynf00eveluoft#page/n7/mode/2up> pp.190-194.

³ Helen Coulson, 1959, *Story of the Dandenongs*, Longman Cheshire, Melbourne, pp. 394-5.

⁴ Obituary notice, *Morning Chronicle*, 4 July 1857, in 'The Peerage', <http://thepeerage.com/p10274.htm#i102733>

Evelyn, NSW

There is another Evelyn County in the far northwest of NSW.

Explorer Charles Sturt named the Evelyn Creek after his younger brother, Evelyn Pitfield Shirley Sturt (1816-1885), Commissioner of Crown Lands in NSW and later Police Magistrate in Melbourne. This was on his 1844-6 expedition to find the supposed inland sea. The former gold-mining town of Milparinka is situated on the Evelyn Creek. Evelyn, Sturt and Poole Counties were named in connection with Sturt's expeditions. I have not been able to find out when Evelyn County was named, except that it must have been in the second half of the 19th century.

Karen Phillips

Recycle your quarry

While preparing a submission on the future of Cave Hill, the History Group has been collecting examples of quarries and mines preserved or converted to other uses.

Ian James mentioned some local examples: Forest Road, Upper Ferntree Gully and the site of the old Swagman restaurant in Ferntree Gully have become housing sites. Alluvium Way off Highbury Road, Mt Waverley, has housing around a central lake on the old quarry floor. Off Stud Road, a cave with crystal formations has been preserved (does anyone know the exact location?)

The former Surrey Dive at Box Hill has mostly been filled in, except for a shallow lake, but existed for many years as a deep swimming and diving pool. Originally mined for clay for the local brickworks, the pit is said to have flooded when workmen accidentally tapped into an underground river. A former quarry at Cardinia Lakes Estate has been converted into an ornamental lake.

Continued p.6



Thanks to Alison Martin for these photos of another former limestone quarry, the Butchart Gardens on Vancouver Island, Canada. Above, terraced quarry sides. Below, the fountain.



Properties for sale

Reaburn descendant Marilyn Watson sent us this auction notice from *The Argus*, 12 July 1888, p.2.

THIS DAY At Rooms. At Twelve O'Clock
360 ACRES, YERING,
On the Healesville-road.

307 ACRES, MOOROOLBARK,
On the South Wandin-road.

C.J. and T. HAM are instructed by the
owners to SELL,
TOUT'S PADDOCK.

Land being part of Section I4, Yering,
comprising 350 acres of good agricultural
land, 1½ MILE of FRONTAGE
To HEALESVILLE ROAD,
and also extensive frontage to YARRA
FLATS ROAD, and being but HALF A MILE
from LODGE STATION on the line from
Lilydale to Yarra Flats.

MOOROOLBARK, REABURN'S PADDOCK.

Land being Allotment 31, Mooroolbark,
comprising 307 acres 2 roods 58 perches,
DIVIDED by the SOUTH WANDIN-ROAD
to which it has about 2 miles of frontage and
a three-chain Government road.

There is a dwellinghouse and usual out-
sheds on the land, from almost every portion
of which EXTENSIVE and PLEASING VIEWS
of the beautiful undulations of the
surrounding country, with the mountain
background, are obtainable. The whole
within 2 miles of Lilydale station, and
convenient to South Wandin extension of
Healesville Line.

Title Certificate.

'The Lodge', originally the gatehouse of St Hubert's vineyard, became Dame Nellie Melba's home, Coombe Cottage. 'Lodge Station' became Coldstream Station. 'Yarra Flats' was Yarra Glen, where members of the Tout family still live.

James Reaburn or Raeburn was one of Mt Evelyn's original selectors (*Things Past* 59). 'South Wandin-road' here refers to Old Hereford Road.

The ad optimistically mentions 'the South Wandin extension of the Healesville line'. It probably refers to a proposal to take the Warburton line from Croydon through Silvan to Wandin. When the line opened 13 years later, it followed a different route.

The etiquette of balls – 1875

An invitation to a ball should be given *at least* a week beforehand. A Paris card of invitation to an evening party usually implies that you are invited for the season.

Upon entering, first address the lady of the house; and after her, the nearest acquaintances you may recognize in the house. If you introduce a friend, make him acquainted with the names of the chief persons present. But first present him to the lady of the house, and to the host.

Appear in full dress. Always wear gloves.

Avoid an excess of jewellery. Do not wear rings on the outside of your gloves.

Pay respectful attention to elderly persons.

Be cordial when serving refreshments, but not importunate.

Do not select the same partner frequently. After dancing, conduct your partner to a seat. Resign her as soon as her next partner advances. If there are more dancers than the room will accommodate, do not join in every dance.

In leaving a large party it is unnecessary to bid farewell, and improper to do so before the guests.

In balls and large parties there should be a table for cards, and two packs of cards placed upon each table. Although many persons do not like to play cards except for a stake, the stakes agreed to at parties should be very trifling, so as not to create excitement or discussion. Chess and all unsociable games should be avoided.

Avoid political and religious discussions. If you have a 'hobby', keep it to yourself.

The host and hostess should look after their guests, and not confine their attentions. They should, in fact, assist those chiefly who are least known in the room.

From *Enquire Within*, MDCCCLXXV

Donation

Ian James donated a copy of *Victorian Indigenous Businesses Directory 2012*. For anyone wanting to give preference to Indigenous businesses, the book is available from the Department of State Development, Business and Innovation. Aboriginal business listings can be found online at: http://directory.business.vic.gov.au/indigenous/#.UdC_JthRKU8

Recycle your quarry

From p.5
Peak Hill, NSW and Mt Morgan, Queensland are open cut mines that have been preserved as tourist attractions.

The Friends of Mt Martha Quarry are fighting a threatened housing development. The Pioneer Quarry at Arthur's Seat has been proposed as a landfill site; locals are up in arms over possible contamination of the groundwater. Steve Kaylock has pointed out one problem at Cave Hill: the heaps of material removed from the hole have to go somewhere.

Clement Hodgkinson's book

Clement Hodgkinson's book *Australia, from Port Macquarie to Moreton Bay* (London, 1845) is now online. Hodgkinson's 1855 survey of the Running Creek was the earliest survey of any part of Mt Evelyn. His wife was involved in the naming of Lilydale in 1860. Running Creek was re-named 'Olinda Creek' after Hodgkinson's daughter. We can only regret that he never published a companion volume about his experiences in Victoria. <http://www.northern.cma.nsw.gov.au/downloads/publications/native-veg-and-biodiversity/pub-hodgkinson-facsimile.pdf>

Corrections

On p. 5 of *Things Past* 64, 'Melway 181' should be **Melway 118**. P.6 second column should begin 'It seems an odd combination'. Thanks to Robyn Taylor for noticing the typos. **Ed.**

From Kev's rain gauge

Rainfall for June 2013 for Mt Evelyn, McKillop, Melbourne and Melbourne average.*

Mt Ev	McK	Melb	Melb Av
81.7mm	89mm	94.8mm	49.1mm

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

Kevin Phillips

Contact us

Editor: Karen Phillips
karen.m.l.phillips@gmail.com

President: Paula Herlihy
herlihy@alphalink.com.au
or telephone 9736 2935 and leave message

General enquiries:
historygroup@mountevelyn.vic.au

Postal address:
Mount Evelyn History Group Inc., PO Box 101,
Mt Evelyn, VIC 3796.

Website: www.mt-evelyn.net/historygroup

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

