

Things Past

Newsletter 81

November 2014

Mount Evelyn History Group Inc

PO Box 289 Mt Evelyn VIC 3796 A0051327F



Dates for your diary

Remembrance Day Tuesday 11 November, 10.45am for an 11am start, RSL War Memorial Park, followed by morning tea and unveiling ceremony, RSL Hall (Hardy House).

History Group Meeting Monday 17 November, 7:30pm Hardy House, 49 Birmingham Road. Heather McTaggart will launch Paula Herlihy's book *Morrison House Changed a Community*, Sunday 7 December, 1.30pm Hardy House.

Tour of the Lilydale Athenaeum led by Anthony McAleer, 13 December (to be confirmed).

The Sunday Drive

The Herald Motor Touring Club used to publish booklets suggesting drives that could easily be done in a day from Melbourne. Some of these booklets surfaced recently, courtesy Mrs Eleanor Phillips. The oldest one appeared to be from the 1950s and was priced at 2/-.

At right is the map from the 'Drive to the Dandenongs' tour. The suggested route runs through the Dandenongs to Silvan, Wandin and Seville, returning to Melbourne via Mt Evelyn and Montrose.

Sylvan (sic) Reservoir with its sweeping lawns and well equipped picnic areas is an idyllic setting for a picnic lunch or afternoon tea.

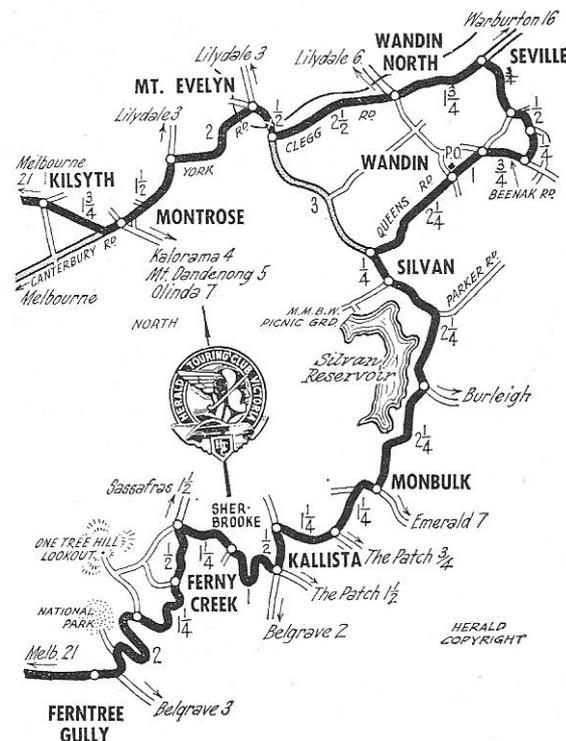
Millions of colorful tulips at tulip farms on the roadside between Monbulk and Silvan turn that area into a 'Little Holland' toward the end of September.

Many farms are open for inspection and you can wander along row upon row of magnificent tulips. Hyacinths, daffodils and crocus bloom early in September, just ahead of the tulips.

Pink and white blossom in the orchards, rolling hills and rich chocolate soil make the drive along Queens Road from Silvan to Seville a colorful drive in September.

Club President Douglas H. Day

DRIVE TO THE DANDENONGS



Above, map of 'Drive to the Dandenongs' route, *Herald Motor Touring Guide*, 1963. Distances are in miles.

Mt Evelyn appears on other maps in the series but not as part of the touring routes. The tour map 'Head Towards Healesville' shows the Warburton and Healesville railway lines still in place. The text warns drivers (perhaps expected to be 'Sunday drivers') about the gravel surface and hairpin bends between Healesville and Launching Place (Don Road).

The Wandering Warriors

Some of you may remember that one of our Mt Evelyn RSL Vice Presidents, Iain Townsley, has been with a group of fellow SAS veterans called the 'Wandering Warriors'. They have been walking from Brisbane to Canberra to raise funds for their charity, which supports wounded servicemen and their families.

The good news is they have arrived at the end of their journey, the Australian War Memorial in Canberra, and were led in by Iain playing the bagpipes. Well done Iain and the Wandering Warriors.

See Mt Evelyn RSL on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MtEvelynRsl> & <http://www.smh.com.au/national/wandering-warriors-sas-raise-funds-for-wounded-soldiers-20141016-116rto.html>

From Anthony McAleer

ANZAC commemoration grant

MEHG is pleased to announce that our application, in partnership with the Mt Evelyn RSL, to recreate the Avenue of Honour has been funded by the ANZAC Centenary Local Grants Program, under the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Member Anthony McAleer, who is also the secretary of Mt Evelyn RSL, encouraged us to apply and assisted us with the application. It was first selected by a local committee headed by Federal MP Tony Smith.

The exact form of the re-creation is yet to be finalised. Suggestions include using existing trees at the Memorial Gardens, or planting new trees, not necessarily indigenous, such as

apple or olive trees. Another suggestion has been to create a 'Walk of Remembrance' across the road in the narrow strip of land between the Lilydale to Warburton Rail Trail and Alice Street, where the Ken McIntosh memorial seats and path are located.

Snippets

Paula and Tim Herlihy, Helen and Jim Johnson and K & K Phillips ran the History Group stall at Mont de Lancey on Heritage Open Day, Sunday 17 October. Weather beautiful but gusty. Tim retrieved some heritage rocks from a nearby drainage channel to weigh down the merchandise (he put them back afterwards).

*

History Group member Bev Watkins writes from Maryborough that she has joined the local Garden Club, Ladies Probus, Hospital Auxiliary, Former Nurses Association and ALP local branch. It is very dry up there – not boding well for the garden for summer.

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Janice Newton has received a grant to publish her book on King Billy of Ballarat.

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Joan Vanderhorn has resigned from the MEHG committee, due to other commitments.

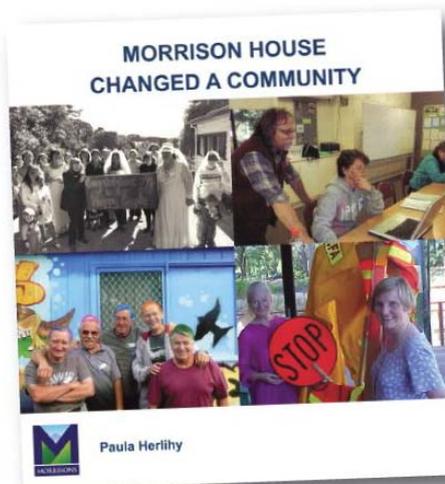
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Congratulations to Lilydale and District Historical Society for their 2014 Victorian Community History Award for the best presentation of history in non-print media. Their winning entry was 'Gun Alley: The Forgotten Story of Lilydale's Back Streets 1880 to today'. Discover Gun Alley at:

<http://www.lilydalehistorical.com.au/gunalley/>

You are invited

to the launch of
Morrison House Changed a Community
– an account of the creation of
Morrison House up to 2008



Mt Evelyn Church of Christ

At last, a photo and some history of the Mt Evelyn Church of Christ! The Freeman family lived directly opposite the church in Hereford Road in the 1950s (TP#75). Julie Stewart, nee Freeman, remembers.

The original Pastor of the Church was Pastor Pratt. He lived in Glenview Road, the street behind the church. He had a big garden and enjoyed growing vegetables and fruit. We, as children, were given some of his lovely produce from time to time.

When the church was being built, I remember Pastor Pratt coming in to see my father, who happened to be a plumber (but not with Australian qualifications), to ask if he would consider putting through the plumbing for the church, including plumbing for the Baptismal area. The church had baptisms by immersion.



Above, Mt Evelyn Church of Christ camp at East Warbruton, 10/10/1964. Photo courtesy Julia Atkinson. Julia (nee Holmes) is in the back row, second from left. The man in the centre of the middle row is Jim Dow, the Minister at the time.

Members of the Church of Christ at Mt. Evelyn have completed the erection of their new church building by voluntary labor. A special service of dedication will be held this afternoon at 2.30.

Dad agreed to do that for them. Considering my father was an atheist, now looking back I am quite surprised that he agreed. However, the church was happy that he helped out When the church building was first opened I think it was either white or just off white, light cream weatherboard.

When the services were taking place, I remember going up to the front of our block



Above, the church across the road, 1954. Mrs Freeman arrives home and is greeted by the family pets. The Church of Christ can be seen in the background. Photo courtesy Julie Stewart. Announcement of the church opening, *The Argus*, 19/7/1953.

and listening to the singing. Later on I was invited to attend the 'Christian Endeavour' group that had started up, under the leadership of someone called McPherson. I enjoyed getting to know new friends and learning something new. I later attended the evening church services held on a Sunday.

I cannot remember much more, except that the congregation must have been small, because the car parking was actually on the same block. I guess back in the 1950s not everyone had a car.

Julie Stewart

The last point was confirmed by Julia Atkinson. *My family used to live in Mountain Crescent, which is off Inverness Road, and I can remember thinking nothing of walking up that long winding road to Mt Evelyn to go to church I attended the Church of Christ services in Mt Evelyn during some of my high school years with several school friends who lived locally.*

Julia Atkinson

Pastor Arthur Herbert Pratt died less than two years after the church was completed. His funeral notice appeared in *The Argus* on 20 May 1955.

The Church of Christ burnt down in the 1980s – thought to be from youngsters lighting a fire that got out of hand. The organisation built the mud brick church on Monbulk Road, which was called 'Care Force' and now 'Discovery Church'. There is now a house on the Hereford Road site.

George Newman, builder, son of a Mt Evelyn bullock driver

(b. 26 December 1922)

George Newman was born in 1922 to Frederick William Newman (b. 1889) and his mother Madge (nee Bowman). The final family complement was five daughters (one a twin of George) and two sons. Frederick had moved from his birthplace in Balaclava to Silvan during the First World War sometime, when he was unable to enter the army, so George began his life on Stoneyford Road where the dam is now. After the dam works began the family moved to Mt Evelyn, opposite the school and Leggett's store (McKillop).

In Mt Evelyn they had a bush block, just an acre, and here they kept horses. George's father worked moving timber with his bullock team and clearing land for farmers.

I think they did a lot of clearing for Chapmans out at Silvan, they didn't have bulldozers in those days. They used to pull the trees down with a rope, with the horses. He worked around the bush everywhere, snigging logs into the saw mill. There were mills all around the bush everywhere. There was one up where the National Fitness Camp is, above the football ground. There was a mill up in there. My father worked on that one. He used to bring all the logs through the bush ... from nearly up to Kalorama.

At that time David Mitchell operated a little tram track for the mill so he could transport firewood to the kilns, for burning the lime. It went from near the old jam factory and cascades, then a truck would pick the wood up from the end of the track at the bottom of York Road. They had to follow the creek all the way down to get a relatively level grade. (Later on, in about 1937, Frederick was contracted to remove the tram track, pull the rails out and so on. 'In the Depression days you did whatever you could.')

Bert Begbie, who lived in Olinda Crescent behind the Channel, near the Falkinghams, built their family home and many other houses in the district. Young George completed his primary schooling at Mt Evelyn and then did his Intermediate at Swinburne (Hawthorn), the closest Technical School.

There was lots of native life around Mt Evelyn: wallabies, wombats, echidnas. As a child George knew where all the birds and possum nests were and went rabbiting. There were 30 foot high cypresses next to Grantully Guest-



Above, the Mt Evelyn Brass Band, ANZAC Day 1937, Avenue of Honour. Photo courtesy Lorraine Fairweather.

house and the children climbed right along them without touching ground.

George remembered the boom years of holiday making in Mt Evelyn: the main street 'wall to wall with people' when the train came in and deserted five minutes later as they all rushed to their little holiday homes; dances up to three or four nights a week at the Hall; and 'on a Sunday you might get twenty or so to walk to a dance at Silvan that started at midnight'. On a Sunday there were also busloads at the Recreation Reserve. They used to walk up that track to the Cascades or to Silvan and back. There was football, tennis and after 1934, cricket ... and yabbing competitions in the dam in the main street.

When he left school George went 'jobbing around for a bit'. He worked in a factory for a while in the workshops at Newport, the Commonwealth Aircraft Factory, and then in 1941 he joined the army.

My brother joined up with me (aged 19) and he was 16. Actually we ran a bit of a swifty. They used to have a band here, Mt Evelyn and Lilydale. I think it was Harold Falkingham was the bandmaster. The Polkinghorns were in it. About three or four of the Falkinghams were in the band. I started with the tenor horn but finished up with the bass horn. Well, we were in the band and then when we came along to the army we thought we'd go into the army band as Militia (Mum had given permission to go into that), but as soon as we got there we transferred immediately to the AIF! In the war I served in the Middle East and New Guinea. In the band they were put into the 39th battalion and they met the Japs on the Kokoda Trail.

Continued p.6

Diggers from Coranderrk

No one knows exactly how many Aboriginal men fought in World War I; most estimates are between 500 and 1000. Military records of the time generally did not specify an Indigenous background. The enlistment papers did record a recruit's hair, eye and skin colouring but a 'dark' complexion did not necessarily signify aboriginality.

The Shire's booklet *Pride, Integrity and Honour* is the main source of information on servicemen from Coranderrk Aboriginal Station. Comparing the booklet, Massola's *Coranderrk, a History of the Aboriginal Station*, the Badger Creek School Honour Board and



Above, Badger Creek School World War I Honour Board. At least five of those listed were Aboriginal men from Coranderrk. Photo courtesy Marna Business Services.

the National Archives, it was possible to round out the records and add more names.

Henry Patterson, George Terrick and James Wandin were known Aboriginal names from Coranderrk listed on the Honour Board. Alfred Davis can be added to the list.

John Rowan, who was Coranderrk-born, was among 42 men listed at: 'Gallipoli: Aboriginal men who were there': <http://indigenoushistories.com/2014/03/29/> The website also led to David Mullett, who served in Egypt. No young hothead, Mullett was 43 years and 8 months old when he enlisted.

Another who was keen to go was James Harris. He tried to enlist, was rejected (supposedly because of his teeth), tried again and was accepted (defects nil, no mention of bad teeth). Harris was killed in action in France.

Daniel Russell was traced through a newspaper report.

Two half castes last week volunteered for active service. They were Daniel Russell, 26 years of age, who was recently at Coranderrk, and John Hood, 21 years old, from Lake Tyers. Russell had been maize picking at Lindenow, in Gippsland, and having finished work there, decided to walk back to Coranderrk. He met Hood on the road, and the two decided to volunteer. They both presented themselves at the Town Hall Recruiting Depot but only Russell was accepted. The successful recruit was born at Coranderrk, and went to school at the Badger, and is thus well known in this district. (Healesville & Yarra Glen Guardian 11/8/1917; see also H&YGG 7/6/1919 and Healesville Guardian 22/7/1944).

Russell enlisted, giving his address as 'Evelyn Vic', but does not seem to have served overseas.

Continued p.6

World War I Aboriginal servicemen linked to Coranderrk

Davis, Alfred	Served 20/4/1918 to 16/9/1919, England.
Franklin, Albert	Served 16/11/1914 to 1/5/1919, India.
Franklin, Walter Lance	Served 17/7/1916 to 7/8/1919, France.
Harris, James Gordon	Enlisted 14/11/1916. Killed in action 4/7/1918, France. Listed on Australian War Memorial, Villers-Bretonneux.
Mullett, David	Served 6/11/1915 to 7/7/1919, Egypt.
Nevin, Claude	Served 15/9/1914 to 30/6/1916, Egypt.
Patterson, Henry Albert	Served 4/1/1916 to 12/6/1919, France & Belgium.
Rowan, John	Served 24/10/1914 to 18/4/1919, Gallipoli & France.
Russell, Daniel	Enlisted August 1917. No further details.
Terrick, George Alexander	Served 3/1/1916 to 24/6/1919, France.
Wandin, James Henry (Snr)	Served 14/3/1917 to 28/7/1919, England & France.

How old are your gum trees?



How old is the sapling at the right of the first photo (marked by red dot)? Two or three years? More like 50, perhaps older. The sprightly looking sapling is springing up from the roots of the dried-out hollow Manna Gum in the second photo.

A tree may be reduced to a dry stump without a leaf or a shred of bark. If there's a spark of life left in it and conditions are right, it may still sprout again. It can throw another coat of bark round the dead trunk and, in time, swallow it

completely. Historian Bill Gammage argues in *The Biggest Estate on Earth* that some individual eucalypts are much older than they look. You could say, as Tennyson (almost) said, that gums may rise on stepping stones of their dead selves to higher things.

Above right, the Manna Gum leaf is the symbol of the Valley People in Glenn Romanis' wood sculptures 'Healesville Leaves' (2011). Photos Kevin Phillips, Queens Park Healesville, October 2014.

From p.4

After the war 'anyone could get work. I'd done a bit of carpentry, working around a bit. Then after the war I got into one of those rehab classes: carpentry. Twenty-eight years I was building (after that).' He had 'any amount of work and at one stage I employed seven carpenters'. George and his wife had three daughters, Kerry, Denise and Lyn. They lived in, and/or built, houses in Park Road (Hordern Road), Bailey Road, Fernhill Road and Lilydale.

Interviewed by Janice Newton on 29 September 1995, Bailey Road, Mt Evelyn

From p.5

Most of the Aboriginal families had been at Coranderrk from its beginnings in the 1860s. The Davis family had come originally from the Loddon, Mulletts from Lake Condah, Rowans and Terricks from northern Victoria, Franklins from near Daylesford. The Wandins were from the Wurundjeri clan of the Yarra Valley.

The Allan, Broderick, Condon, Harrison, Martin, McCrohan, Ockwell, Ozanne, Phillips, Potts, Pye, Sargeant, Sloss, Smith, Tissear and Whittenbury families were settlers on land excised from Coranderrk in 1893. Both Aboriginal and settler children attended the Coranderrk School and then the Badger Creek

School, which replaced it in 1899 (*Healesville Guardian* 14/8/1943). **Karen Phillips**

From Kev's rain gauge

Rainfall for October 2014 for Mt Evelyn, McKillop, Melbourne and Melbourne average.*

Mt Ev	McK	Melb	Melb Av
60.4mm	68.1mm	52.2mm	66.3mm

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

Kevin Phillips

Contact us

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