

Things Past

Newsletter 97

March 2016

Mount Evelyn History Group Inc

PO Box 289 Mt Evelyn VIC 3796 A0051327F



Dates for your diary

Launch of *The Vagabond in the Yarra Valley*, edited Anthony McAleer. Journalist Stanley Thomas 'The Vagabond' toured the Yarra Valley between 1877 and 1894. Benvenuti Festival, Sunday 13 March. Festival 10am-4.00pm (launch 1.20pm), Killara Estate Winery Seville.

History Group meeting Monday 21 March, 7.30pm at Hardy House. No meeting April/May.

History Group meeting Monday 20 June, 7.30pm at Hardy House.

Mt Evelyn 1975



Aerial view of Mt Evelyn shopping precinct 1975 (east is at the top). Photo Bruce Dymond.

Thanks to Greg and Helen Luke, who sent us this aerial photo of Mt Evelyn in August 1975.

Railway Crescent (renamed Wray Crescent the year after) runs across the centre, with the Avenue of Honour on the right, looking rather spindly.

The large building at right is the site of the Sunday Markets. At lower right is the Aqueduct, decommissioned 7 February 1972 but not yet filled in. The present Scout Hall has not yet been built; the old hall is obscured by the pine trees.

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Vietnam servicemen remembered

At 12 noon on Sunday 21 February, the Vietnam Veterans Association held an inaugural service at plaques erected at the (Old) Lilydale Cemetery in Victoria Road Lilydale to remember men who died on active service in Vietnam.

Mt Evelyn men Garry Ian Willoughby and Michael John Hannaford were among those remembered at the service.

Garry Willoughby's sister Alison Trigg and family attended, as did Bruce Dixon, Garry's closest friend from Lilydale High School, who came from NSW for the event.

President Roger Boness, Secretary Anthony McAleer, Bill Smart and Paula Herlihy attended from Mt Evelyn RSL. Paula knew the Willoughby family from the 1970s.

Vietnam veteran Stephen Shortis, now living in Yarra Glen, spoke eloquently. He thanked the 28 Lilydale High School students who answered the call to attend, and those who sent apologies regretting their inability to attend.



Above, Tony Smith MP in front of the plaques, with Vietnam veterans standing vigil.

Below, Stephen Shortis (at right, holding paper) watches as those present file past to place floral tributes or poppies on the plaques.

Photos Paula Herlihy.



Mt Evelyn lost two young men in the Vietnam War. Trooper Michael John Hannaford (above left), died 14/12/1968, aged 21.

Private Garry Ian Willoughby (above right), died 8/10/1970, aged not quite 23.

Photos from memorial service program.

Tony Smith MP spoke briefly and well, praising the men who did what their government asked of them. He apologised for the indifference or criticism some returning soldiers had faced, not least at the hands of their government. He expressed the expectation that that error would not be repeated in the future.

18 August 2016 will mark the 50th Anniversary of one of the fiercest battles of the Vietnam War, the Battle of Long Tan.

Paula Herlihy

History of the Cottinghams

History Group member Chris Elmore has written a family history, *The Cottinghams in Australasia*. One branch of the family lived in Holly Lodge, Mt Evelyn. The Cottinghams were an important early family in Mt Evelyn and the history has a lot to say about them and Holly Lodge, and life in Mt Evelyn in the early 20th century.

The 100-page illustrated booklet is priced at \$20 including postage. Chris is taking advance orders for the book so he can print the number required. If you would like to order a copy, please contact Chris at: cre@me.com

Sheep may graze elsewhere

In #94 we wondered whether the scene of the 'flock of sheep' photo was really Mt Evelyn, as labelled in the State Library catalogue. Others are trying to identify the location. See our Facebook page and 'Victoria – vintage cities & towns'.

Aerial photo, from p.1

Snowball Avenue is at bottom, so far without its street trees. And what do you make of that black speck on the grass at the top of Snowball Avenue? Could it be the Winged Lion Seat? That would be the approximate position of the seat but we can't magnify it clearly enough to be sure.

Water Race Trail Restoration Proposal

Borang Avenue to Reserves Road and Hazel Street

Friends of Water Race & Quinn Reserve Inc. (**FWRQR**) has set itself the mission to upgrade the Water Race formation between the end of Borang Avenue and Hazel Street as a walking trail designated with signage as the 'Water Race Trail' underpinned by historic, environmental and community objectives.

Our application is concerned with restoring a section of the trail which is approximately 350 metres in length. This section has improved environmentally since 2000 following the efforts of **FWRQR** and Yarra Ranges Council (**YRC**) but there is more work that needs to be done for it to be of a high environmental standard.

There is an opportunity to build on existing linkages with Mt Evelyn Aqueduct Walk and to restore a trail which provides another loop beyond the existing one covered by the 'Mt Evelyn Historic Waterways Walk'.¹

Parks Victoria is investigating the feasibility of a north to south trail through the Dandenong Ranges Nation Park (**DRNP**).²

As this portion of the DRNP is the northern most tip of the Park, it is therefore the most logical place for a north to south trail to start. Such a trail could use Borang and Aqueduct Avenues to connect with the Mt Evelyn Aqueduct Walk and the Warburton Rail Trail. This creates an 'elevated' trail with little rise & fall, which would appeal to the broad community. Borang and Aqueduct Avenues are used by the annual Oxfam Walk to connect with the Warburton Rail Trail after their walkers ascend from the Mt Evelyn Oval.

Currently walkers from the Silvan Reservoir Park can use the pipe track as a descending route down to the Mt Evelyn Oval but can also take the side track at the end of Hunter Road to access the Mt Evelyn Aqueduct Walk. Further on the use of Hazel St, the CFA fire trail formation and the



Above, pipe block and formation between Borang Road and Hazel Street.

relevant section of the Water Race provides an alternative and elevated link to the Warburton Trail and Mt Evelyn Township. The proposed trail would run along the border of the DRNP and through a section of it.

The brochure 'Mt Evelyn Historic Waterways Walk' was designed to provide a circular walk around the parts of Mt Evelyn west of York Road involving the Water Race Trail and Mt Evelyn Aqueduct Walk. This has proved quite a popular walk as the brochure embraces historical and environmental features along the way.

A short section of the Warburton Rail Trail would be used as a means of a safe crossing of York Road to incorporate a circular trail on the east side of York Road up to Hazel Street. It would also encourage Warburton Rail Trail users to explore these circular tours of Mt Evelyn Trails, starting and finishing at the Mt Evelyn Library and Town Centre.

This east side circuit would incorporate heritage features plus two picturesque sections of the Mt Evelyn Aqueduct Walk, both of which have valued areas of indigenous vegetation. A new brochure could be created to include the east side circuit.

Mt Evelyn History Group is currently canvassing for the Mt Evelyn Aqueduct and its remnants to be heritage listed with YRC. This would raise the heritage status of both these circular walks. Development of such circular tours could attract further trail users to the area and encourage some to spend time and money in Mt Evelyn and thus bring increased business to the town.

It is anticipated that the total cost for this trail section will exceed \$60,000 as erosion control, and bridge and boardwalk construction will also be required over boggy and eroded areas.



Above, the Water Race Trail, Borang Road end.

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Vale Alma Rahilly

Alma Rahilly, interviewed for *Things Past* #79, died at the age of 99 during the night of 29 January 2016.

Alma was the daughter of Mt Evelyn Station Master Jack Rahilly (served 1927-1931). Alma lived at Mt Evelyn from the age of 10 and was educated at Mercy College in Lilydale. She worked for the Australian Mutual Provident Society (AMP), at that time a non-profit mutual life insurance society.



Above, Alma Rahilly with friends.

Alma chose to move into a Croydon nursing home to stay close to friends while maintaining close contact with family in Ballarat. Mary Golds relayed the message that, although Alma just missed making 100, as a staunch republican she was not seeking a letter from the Queen.

It so happened that we had been trying to contact Alma. On 27 January we had received an enquiry from Bruce, a former colleague of hers:

'You had a story in Newsletter #79 2014 about Alma Rahilly titled "The Stationmaster's Daughter". She was my first boss at AMP and given she is coming up for her 99th birthday I would like to contact her.'

Water Race Trail, from p.3

This section of trail formation is owned by YRC and runs partly through land now part of the DRNP. Therefore trail enhancement here plus bridging and mitigating further erosion areas would also be of benefit to Parks Victoria. Also the end of Borang Avenue could be the start of the proposed North/ South trail through the DRNP (see earlier.) Borang Avenue starts a short distance from the Warburton Rail Trail.

The concept of the water Race Trail from Borang Avenue to Hazel Street still has to be tabled with YRC for discussion. We are encouraged by the

We didn't know Alma's current address (and wouldn't have passed it on without her permission). Unfortunately we found out too late to put Bruce and Alma in touch. **Paula Herlihy**

Vale Cindy Dale

Mt Evelyn mums and families were saddened to hear of the death of of Maternal Health Nurse Cindy Dale on 15 February.

It is estimated that Cindy helped more than 3,500 families over her 25 years at Mt Evelyn. She was involved in many community groups including the Toy Library, Neighbourhood House and the primary schools, and especially in campaigns to reduce domestic violence.

Donna Fairweather wrote in tribute,

'I'm very sad to learn today of the passing of Cindy Dale who was a fabulous Maternal & Child Health Nurse in Mt Evelyn for many years.

She helped me with my children in the late 1980s and was also a huge support when I was in the Community Educator role with Nursing Mothers Australia.

RIP Cindy, you were a positive influence on so many parents in Mt Evelyn.'



Lucinda Mary 'Cindy' Dale, 1952-2016. Photo Mail.

recent efforts of YRC to improve signage along linear trails in Mt Evelyn, including the recent installation of a YRC sign at the Puddle Dam Reserve on Birmingham Road. YRC are also very receptive to the installation of an interpretive sign at the Puddle Dam, describing the history of the site and the restoration efforts so far.

FWRQR will provide further news on this subject to Mt Evelyn History Group as it comes to hand.

References

¹ 'Mt Evelyn Historic Waterways Walk', Karen L Phillips and Ben E Ellis 1999, updated 2009.

² 'Melbourne Ranges Walk', Parks Victoria 2006, p.44.

**Ben Ellis, President,
Friends of Water Race and Quinn Reserve**

Meanderings of a boy in Mount Evelyn

I often day dream about those days that appeared so simple and yet so fulfilling of my young boyhood spent in what was a small country town during the late 1940s into the 1950s.

The long walk from the bottom of Fernhill Road up to the Red Robin milk bar in Hereford Road with my mother, and brother who was lucky enough to be in a pram. I recall saying to my mother that this was a long way and that my legs were tired.

Sunday mornings walking with my grandmother Hunter from Bailey Road over to the Church of England at the top of Birmingham Road, chatting about anything and everything along the way, me mainly asking questions and my grandmother saying that I was a chatter box.

Sunday lunch in Bailey Road was a very busy time with at least 30 relatives and friends around to enjoy the roast with vegetables. Children would be seated first and then the adults later. Grandmother's sweets were something to eat and we all made sure we ate our main meal, otherwise no sweets.

My grandfather Hunter asking me if I wanted to go over the street with him to go to the Bakery just near the railway line in York Road, which I knew on the way back we would call into the Shell service station on the corner of Hereford and York Roads where I would receive an ice cream.

Excitement was always about when grandfather would take me to the dam near the railway yard opposite the station where we would catch yabbies to take home for a meal.

My friends and cousins would go over to the high banks along the railway the watch the steam train with its passenger carriages and goods vans go by, loudly puffing and the whistle blowing, especially when the driver saw us in the banks.

I mostly enjoyed Monday mornings when instead of going to school grandfather would take me to the Croydon stock market where I would wander about looking at the cattle, sheep, pigs and poultry. Grandfather would take chickens, ducklings and turkeys to the market to sell and occasionally bring back some young chicken pullets. I would arrive at Mt Evelyn State School by lunchtime, where the teachers did not mind as they said that I was receiving an education in going to the market.

Other days I would walk to and from school with my cousins from Bailey Road along the dirt tracks crossing over the railway line to the school near Clegg Road McKillop.

I would help my grandfather to collect the eggs, feed the poultry and put them away each night, as there were foxes about. Grandfather would warn me never to lean over the backyard well as I might fall in and drown.

I recall going over to the Buckmaster residence where I played with the wonderful toys the children were fortunate to have, then we would go down their back paddock and pick the wild sweet blackberries to eat.

My father had his own truck and carted timber from up near Marysville to the paper mills at Fairfield and during the school holidays I would go with him. The trip into the mountains was most enjoyable. During school days I would wait up the top of Bailey Road and he would give me a lift down to grandfather's house where we lived.

I remember the next door neighbour, Mr Muller who lived on the corner of Bailey Road and Grantully Street and my great aunties lived next door in Bailey Road. They would quite often give me a sweet.

Life in those times was so simple and uncomplicated where the pace of life was much slower yet more enjoyable.

Geoff Hunter

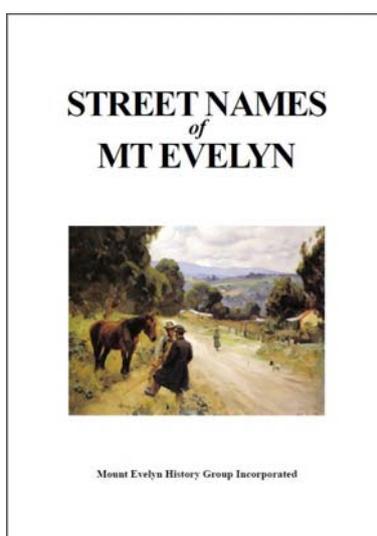
Street Names of Mt Evelyn

Our revised booklet *Street Names of Mt Evelyn* is now on sale, priced at \$8, postage \$2.

The cover features Ernest Buckmaster's painting 'The Discussion', depicting Bailey Road c.1944.

Geoff Hunter recognised the house at the right of the painting as the one belonging to his grandfather William Hunter (see article above). Geoff writes that the house is still there but is somewhat changed since the 1940s and now has a unit at the rear. 'When I lived there, there was a well in the backyard. ... The Buckmaster property went from the corner of Hereford Road to what is now called Buckmaster Drive. They used to have two cows, a goat and a horse in the back paddock.'

Geoff wondered if one of the men in the painting was his grandfather, but it seems not. Norman Buckmaster identified them as 'the night man' and 'a local builder' who was 'an avid tennis player' – probably Andy Renouf and Alf Knowles.



Early photo of Grantully

The Mt Evelyn entry on the website 'Victorian Places' has the earliest known photo of 'Gran Tully', (that is, the earliest taken after the house was moved from South Yarra to Mt Evelyn). The photo, from *The Victorian Country Hotel and Guest House Tourist Guide*, and dated 1918-1920, is the only one we know of that was definitely taken during Grantully's years as a guest house.

The text contains a number of inaccuracies, including the furphy about the mythical Evelyn Heales and the naming of Mt Evelyn. We hope for a chance to correct the record.

'Mt Evelyn', Victorian Places:
<http://www.victorianplaces.com.au/mount-evelyn>

Buckmaster catalogue

In 1950 Ernest Buckmaster attempted to catalogue his paintings. He advertised in newspapers, even in some interstate ones, for details of his earlier works.

The ad at right is from *The Sunday Herald*, Sydney, 22 October 1950.



Three pubs named 'Evelyn'

Mt Evelyn never had an 'Evelyn Hotel'. Elsewhere however there were three hotels named 'Evelyn'. The hotel established as the 'Fountain of Friendship' in Eltham in the 1850s later became the Evelyn Hotel, owned by William Morris from 1890.¹ The building burned down in 1931, long after it had ceased to operate as a hotel. A photo in the State Library is misleadingly labelled 'Evelyn Hotel, Evelyn'.

The Evelyn Hotel was often confused with the Evelyn Arms Hotel in Diamond Creek/ Greensborough.¹ Both hotels were named after the County of Evelyn, in which they were located. The Evelyn Arms was trading under that name by 1876 and was delicensed in 1910.

The Evelyn Hotel at 351 Brunswick Street Fitzroy is in the County of Bourke, not Evelyn, and the origin of its name is not known.

'Evelyn Hotel' is located on the corner of Brunswick Street and Kerr Street. It was opened in 1857 by John Hayward, and was originally called the

Calthorpe Hotel. In 1869 it became the Young Australian Hotel, and in 1872, the Evelyn.²

The Evelyn is now a live music venue.

¹ Nillumbik Historical Society: <http://nillumbikhistoricalsociety.blogspot.com.au/p/blog-page.html>

² Only Melbourne, <http://www.onlymelbourne.com.au/historic-hotels-northern-melbourne#.VsGjRMsocik>

They Say...

By "Lynx"

That: Evelyn's popular station master, Mr. H. Binns, is enjoying his annual holiday.

That: the Bay fishermen are [envious of] his schnapper catches.

That: Mr. Holland is relieving at Evelyn railway station.

That: his two sons are fighting in France and his daughter [nursing] wounded in England.

That: a honeymoon couple [bound for] "Gran Tully", Evelyn, missed the station.

That: they were carried on [to Wandin] and were disconsolate.

That: Cr. Wallace took them and piloted them to Gran Tully.

That: they reckon J. W. [the finest] man on earth. *Lilydale Express*, 26 October 1917, <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/74599216>

From Kev's rain gauge

A dry February, rainfall less than half the average. Rainfall for February 2016 for Mt Evelyn, McKillop, Melbourne and the Melbourne average.

| Mt Ev | McK | Melb | Melb Av |
|--------|--------|-------|---------|
| 23.5mm | 15.8mm | 9.0mm | 48.0mm |

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

Contact us

As a courtesy, please address any issues with the content of *Things Past* to the Editor.

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

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

Memberships & newsletter distribution:
Kevin Phillips, kev.phillips@bigpond.com

General enquiries:
mtevelynhistorygroup@gmail.com

Postal address: Mount Evelyn History Group Inc.,
PO Box 289, Mt Evelyn, VIC 3796, Australia.

Website: www.mt-evelyn.net/historygroup

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