

Things Past 100 newsletter June 2016

Mount Evelyn History Group A0051327F

Dates for your diary

History Group meeting Monday 20 June, 7.30pm Hardy House, 49 Birmingham Road.

'Kitchenalia': display and talk by Fabienne Harris-Smith on collecting Willow ware and Fowlers. Saturday 9 July, 1.30pm at Hardy House.

'Lone Pine': Marion Stott will speak on the three types of Lone Pine/Anzac trees planted in Victoria. Saturday 7 August, 1.30pm at Hardy House. The anniversary of the Battle of Lone Pine is 6 August.

AGM followed by general meeting, Monday 15 August, 7.30pm at Hardy House.

From the editor

Things Past is resting its sore eyes this month, so we have only a short unformatted newsletter for our 100th edition.

No decision has been made on whether and how to continue with future issues.

All committee positions will be open at the History Group AGM in August. If you've ever harboured an ambition to edit a history newsletter, this is your chance. **Karen Phillips**

Mystery of crashed plane

John Keane added more information about aircraft crashes, this time near Reefton.

About 15 years ago, maybe more, a bloke by the name of Chris Foutit from Wesburn rang me and asked me if I knew of an aircraft wreck near Reefton.

He claimed that with a mate they were walking from Reefton to try and find Old Reefton and came across a wreck while trying to find shelter from a rain storm. After moving on they noticed the scrub was a lot shorter, indicating a possible landing ground.

Any clues? I've never been able to recontact him since then.

Reefton is located between Warburton and Woods Point. Could the wrecked aircraft be the Supermarine Seagull that crashed on a training flight 'near Warburton' in November 1939? John didn't think so.

From what he (Chris Foutit) implied, it was an all metal aircraft; the Seagull is a stick and rag job.

Moreover the damaged Seagull was converted to components (according to the 'Australia at War' website), so there probably wasn't much left of it in the bush.

It is not certain that the mysterious aircraft near Reefton dated from wartime but, if there was an airfield there, that seems a likely date for it.

Cave Hill tramway formation

John Keane, revealing expertise in railways as well as aircraft, contributed the following comment on the tramway formation beside Swansea Road (*Things Past* #99).

I wonder if that ground works from the tramway is what is called a 'Turning Triangle', reasonably common on small lightly laid narrow gauge lines. There was one at the end of the Colac/ Beech Forest line. It saved the cost and engineering involved with a turn table.

Also described as a 'Reversing Triangle', its purpose was so the train was always running with the engine up front.

'Turning Triangle' would be a good description of the three-sided formation visible on Google Earth.

Cave Hill Heritage Listing

Yarra Ranges Council sought our comments on their application for inclusion of the Cave Hill precinct on the Victorian Heritage Register. Barry Callanan attended a meeting with representatives from Council and Lilydale & District Historical Society. We then sent a message of support for the proposal. Heritage listing could have an impact on any future development of the Cave Hill site.

Yarra Valley Circuit

Yarra Ranges Council proposes to build a 60 kilometre circuit trail through the Yarra Valley.

The preferred route is:

Stage 1 via the Lilydale to Yarra Glen railway reserve with the construction of a rail trail to the recently renovated, historic Yarra Glen Railway Station.

Stage 2 via a shared-use path in the Yarra Glen to Old Healesville Road reservation and improving an existing footpath through the Healesville township.

Stage 3 via the Coranderrk Aqueduct and connecting with Yarra Bridge Reserve down Timberline Road and onto the Lilydale to Warburton Rail Trail in Woori Yallock. This option is considered the long-term option due to access not being granted by Melbourne Water until the aqueduct is decommissioned, scheduled in five to ten years.

The short-term option for Stage 3 is to construct a shared-use path in the Healesville to Koo Wee Rup Road reservation.

At Woori Yallock the proposed trail would join the existing Lilydale to Warburton Rail Trail, making Mt Evelyn part of the circuit.

Yarra Valley Trail Feasibility Study Report, <http://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/Lists/Current-consultation/Yarra-Valley-Trail-Feasibility-Study> You can comment on the Feasibility Study on Council's website till 28 June.

Vale Ivor Chalkley

Mt Evelyn resident Ivor Chalkley passed away in April, aged nearly 88.

Ivor served in the British Merchant Navy in World War II. He and his wife Mary and four children migrated to Australia in the 1980s. Three more children were born in Australia.

Ivor was involved in many community groups, including 1st Mt Evelyn Scouts, Friends of Wanderslore Sanctuary, Friends of Wyperfeld National Park and, especially, Friends of the Lilydale to Warburton Rail Trail. He was responsible for much of the work around the former Mt Evelyn Station.

Cr Maria McCarthy paid tribute to Ivor at a Council meeting on 12 April.

[Ivor] personally maintained areas of the Warburton Trail and leaves a wonderful legacy inherited by communities along the trail. He received Council's Australia Day Certificate of Recognition in 2013 for his efforts as a volunteer dedicating many hours of his time caring for the local environment.

Ivor is survived by his wife, their seven children and numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren.

***From Friends of Wanderslore Sanctuary Newsletter 119
& Yarra Ranges Council Minutes 12/4/2016***

Miss Livingstone and Cave Hill

We can add to our list of depictions of Cave Hill in art (*Things Past* #66 and #86) with a painting by 'Miss Livingstone'. A newspaper report described the entries in an Art Union exhibition in Melbourne in 1876.

Art Union of Victoria by our Melbourne correspondent

[Miss Livingstone] ... shows her powers in landscape-painting in a prettily selected bit from Cave Hill, near Lilydale, in which the hills in the background surmounted by a fleecy sky are delineated with great fidelity to nature.¹

Miss Mary H. Livingstone, or Livingston, was active as an artist c.1869-1879. She studied in Melbourne's National Gallery School and was a pupil and friend of the Swiss-born landscape painter Louis Buvelot (1814-1888).²

Miss Livingstone was Art Mistress at Presbyterian Ladies College, East Melbourne, in the 1870s and taught painting to the young Nellie Mitchell. '[Nellie] enjoyed her art lessons with Miss Livingstone and, under her tuition, executed a couple of formidable oil paintings and some water colours.'³ Miss Livingstone was then living nearby at 18 Napier Street Fitzroy.

Livingstone's portrait of the singer is in the National Library.⁴ It is titled 'Dame Nellie Melba' and dated 'c.1880' in the catalogue (title and date from the accession record). Nellie Mitchell would have been 19 in 1880 but looks to be in her late twenties in the portrait. She adopted the stage name Melba in 1887 and was made a Dame in 1918. The portrait appears to have been painted from, or over, a photograph.

What became of Miss Livingstone's painting of Cave Hill is not known. Regardless of artistic merit, it would be an interesting work to see. It is the earliest definite depiction of Cave Hill, and the only one painted before David Mitchell bought the property and commenced quarrying, that I have found mention of.

Louis Buvelot painted at least four landscapes in the Lilydale area in the 1870s. His 1874 painting 'Near Lilydale' in the National Gallery of Australia shows partly cleared, creekly, boggy ground that could be the site of Lilydale Lake, with Cave Hill (its eastern side) possibly in the distance at right.⁵ Once quarrying began, artists overwhelmingly chose to paint the dramatic north-western face of the hill with the lime works and quarry.

We have been able to add art works by Claude Ciccone, Matthew James MacNally, William Beckwith McInnes, John Perceval and others to our list. Another point of interest is that the Warrandyte artist Danila Vassilieff (1897-1958) used Cave Hill limestone for some of his sculptures. The marine fossils in the rock added further interest to the works.

Our database (available on request) currently lists over 30 artworks depicting Cave Hill or its buildings and six portraits of David Mitchell. There is a beautiful watercolour on ivory in the National Portrait Gallery, Canberra.⁶

Karen Phillips

¹ *Ballarat Star*, 11/4/1876 <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/200229478>

² Design and Art Australia online: <https://www.daaao.org.au/bio/mary-livingston/biography/>

³ Pamela Vestey 2000, *Melba a family memoir*.

⁴ <http://trove.nla.gov.au/work/13166633> View online: <http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-135222809>

⁵ <http://nga.gov.au/CollectionSearch/>

⁶ <http://www.portrait.gov.au/portraits/2012.162/david-mitchell>

Heritage trees

The National Trust's Register of Significant Trees lists over 20,000 trees across Victoria. You can now vote for your favourite heritage tree to be named Victorian Tree of the Year. Vote at: www.facebook.com/NationalTrustVictoria

Log Creek

We investigated the tributaries of the Stringybark Creek when the naming of McKillop Creek was first suggested (*Things Past* 29, 34, 35 & 50). At that time the only other named tributary we knew of was the Little Stringybark, but there's another we missed: Log Creek.

Log Creek rises in Gruyere and joins the Stringybark on the border of Gruyere and Coldstream, *Melway* 282 B5. The creek itself is not named in *Melway* but there appears to be a property of the same name at 282 G6.

See 'Stringybark Creek Catchment':

http://www.melbournewater.com.au/waterdata/waterwaydiversionstatus/Documents/Stringybark_Creek_catchment.pdf

A family history spin-off

Things Past #87 included an article on World War I memorabilia passed down from Kevin's grandfather, Edgar Phillips. What was our surprise, a year on, to receive a letter from a second cousin we didn't even know existed!

Edgar had a much younger brother, Jack, who was killed in the Battle of Crete in 1941. The family tree showed that Jack was married but not that he left a year-old daughter. Her daughter, researching family members' war service, googled 'Edgar Phillips' and found the article. She was then able to track Kevin down in Mt Evelyn.

If your history is out there online, interested people can find you!

From Kev's rain gauge

Rainfall for May 2016 for Mt Evelyn, McKillop, Melbourne and the Melbourne average for June. Year to Date figures included below.

Mt Ev	McK	Melb	Melb Av
118mm	119.6mm	57.0mm	55.7mm
Mt E YTD	McK YTD	Melb YTD	
336.5mm	325.1mm	197.8mm	

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

Kevin Phillips

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