Things Past

Newsletter 66   August 2013

Mount Evelyn History Group Inc

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Dates for your diary

History Group AGM followed by general meeting, Thursday 22 August, 7:30pm Hardy House, Birmingham Road, Mt Evelyn.

Anthony McAleer of Mt Evelyn RSL will describe projects planned for the centenaries of WWI and ANZAC Day (2014-2015) and how MEHG can be involved. Saturday 28 September, 1:30pm Mt Evelyn RSL Hall.

The Buffaloes' picnic, Mt Evelyn

The research on Brother Bill's camp in *Things Past* 65 was prompted by a message from Mary Golds.

I have some pictures that I got developed out of Glenn's Auntie Jean's sister's album and guess what? We have identified them as being in Mt Evelyn in the 1940s, one is of a Buffaloes' picnic and the others are on a log over the creek. Glenn's dad is in his army uniform. They came there before my parents bought land there in the very early fifties ….

I asked Auntie Jean if she knew where in Mt Evelyn the photos were [taken] but she said she didn't know. Evidently the Buffs (Boozy Buffs as she called them) was the Buffalo Lodge and that was their picnic. They are similar to the Freemasons. Her memory is so fantastic, she's a walking history book, pretty good for nearly 89 & her sister Ethel is 90, the two of them together are amazing,

Above, the Buffaloes' picnic. Back row, Rosie, Ethel, Jean; front, Patricia Allsop, Colin, Irene . A curved fence, seen through the bus window, is probably the fence round the oval at Mt Evelyn Reserve.

Above, Artie Golds, Jean, Rosie and Irene in front of St Mark's Holiday camp. The building with two chimneys, probably the kitchen/ dining hall, has been extended since the Rose Postcard was taken. This photo must be later. The fenced-off swimming pool is filled but the camp looks deserted.

The people in the photos are Glenn's father, Arthur 'Artie' Golds, Artie's mother Lilias, sister Irene, young brother Colin, cousins Ethel and Jean Bonnet, their friend Rosie and small friend Patricia. The connection with the Buffalo Lodge was that Artie's father was a member.

Artie tried to enlist while he was under age but the Sergeant, who happened to be his father, sent him home. Artie joined the Citizen Military Forces 6 July 1942 (at age 18) and transferred to the Australian Imperial Forces 2 May 1943 (aged 19). His regiment, the 19th Australian Line Section Signals, was involved in the line laying to Darwin and under sea cabling from Far North Queensland to Papua New Guinea.

The fact that Artie is in uniform, plus the age of his brother Colin (b. January 1939) in the photos, dates them to late 1943 or early 1944.

Communications – Euie's way

History Group members and friends enjoyed Euie Pullen's talk on Saturday 27 July.

Euie, who was an member of the Corps of Signals, described his training exercise of re-doing the communication lines along the Puffing Billy Railway from Belgrave to Lakeside. The men were not allowed to cut down trees; installing and tensioning the lines above 40 foot trees was quite a challenge.

Euie had many stories about his Army years: getting around orders, 'acquiring' materials and
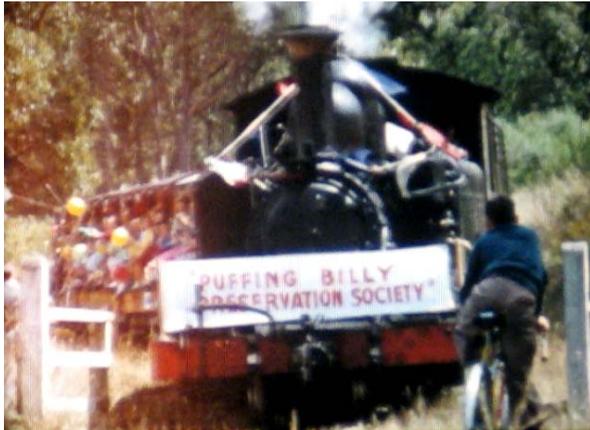
Puffing Billy approaches Belgrave on his last run from UFG. Movie still P.W. Leadbeater.

doing things his way. His commanding officers were warned to 'watch' him.

Kevin Phillips screened a film segment taken by Karen's father on the last day that Puffing Billy ran from Upper Ferntree Gully to Belgrave (23 February 1958). Kevin had digitised the original 8mm film.

Pop-up Museum

A steady stream of visitors attended the Yarra Ranges Regional Museum's Pop-up Museum at Mt Evelyn Station House on 1 August. The display dealt with the Main Street and how shops and businesses have changed over time. We have information sheets available on the Main Street, the first store, Millard's timber yard and Low's store/ Bishop's garage.

Thanks to Megan Sheehy, Ruth McLean and Tilla Buden from Yarra Ranges Regional Museum for organizing this event. Tilla was full of praise for Mt Evelyn:

In the afternoon I popped over to Mt Evelyn and delivered posters and flyers along the main street. Such a lovely town! Everyone was so friendly, interested and helpful. I ran out of flyers and posters by the time I got to the end of the street!

The Buffaloes

'Buffalo Lodge' (p.1) was part of the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes (ROAB), a fraternal and charitable society founded in London in 1822.

There are two branches of the RAOB in Australia: the Grand Australasian Banner (GAB) and Grand Lodge of England (GLE).

The Buffaloes' motto is NEMO MORTALIUM OMNIBUS HORIS SAPIT ('No man is wise at all times' – Pliny the Elder, *Historia Naturalis*). The certificate also has the motto: 'In things essential UNITY In things doubtful LIBERTY and in all things CHARITY.' http://www.raob.org.uk/

Left, membership certificate of the GLE Kyabram Buffalo Lodge; right, Buffalo membership badge, City of Preston. Thanks to Liz Egan for the photos. The certificate and badge belonged to Liz's father, Roy Richards.

Clarification on Coldstream

Sue Thompson from LDHS has sent some corrections to 'Properties for sale' in *Things Past* 65, p.5. To clarify a few points:

1. The reference to 'TOUT'S PADDOCK' – the family name should be 'Towt'.

2. The town of Coldstream was originally known as 'The Lodge'. The railway station was referred to, in the 1888 sale notice and elsewhere, as 'THE LODGE STATION'. It never operated under that name. When the Healesville line opened on 1 March 1889, the station was called Coldstream.

3. Paul de Castella's land included St Huberts, the site of Coombe Cottage and the site of Coldstream (all sides of the Killara Road/ Maroondah Highway intersection). De Castella sold the southwest corner of his property, on which Coombe Cottage was later built, to James Broad on 9 July 1888.

4. I did not intend to suggest that Coombe Cottage was located on Towt's paddock, nor that 'The Lodge' and Coombe Cottage were the same house.

LDHS members have come up with a date of 1891 when the Lodge (or a Lodge) at St Huberts was under construction.

Anyone driving from Lilydale to Yarra Glen along the main road could not help noticing the picturesque building being erected in the corner of St Huberts. It is intended to be a Lodge for Mr Andrew Rowan, the proprietor of St Huberts and is of Swiss design. At present it is only partly constructed but we believe that when completed it will be a perfect picture. It is expected that some time will elapse before it is fit for habitation, a quantity of fancy work having yet to be done.[1]

As Sue points out, this house still stands and is visible today at the end of McMeikans Road, several kilometres north of Coombe Cottage. Plainly these two properties were not on the same title. There may however have been an earlier 'Lodge' that gave its name to the town.

J.A. Panton's 1865 sketch map of the Upper Yarra[2] is hard to follow because most modern roads did not exist at that date. My Technical
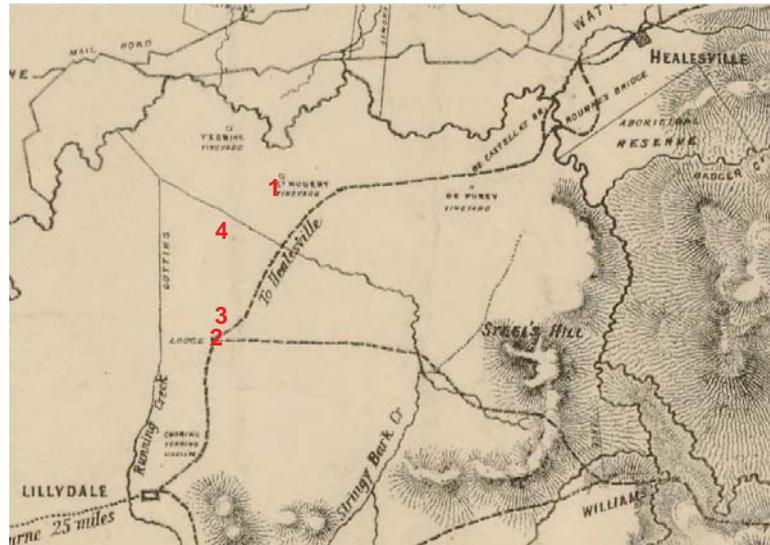
Above, part of J.A. Panton's 1865 sketch map of the Upper Yarra showing 1 ST HUBERTS; 2 LODGE; 3 approximate site of Coombe Cottage; 4 approximate site of 1891 Lodge. The Melba Highway is not shown.

Consultant projected the old map onto a modern one, adjusting to match the scale.

When the two maps were aligned as closely as possible along the Yarra River, 'LODGE' (not 'The Lodge') could be seen at the intersection of Maroondah Highway and what appeared to be Killara Road, though not its current alignment. That would put 'LODGE' on the site of Coldstream, about 500 metres SSW of the Coombe Cottage estate. Aligned to Lilydale, Healesville and Maroondah Highway, 'LODGE' fell exactly on the Melba Highway corner – the site of Coombe Cottage.[3]

The impression I get from Panton's map is that this 'LODGE' was a building, not a place name. While that is not certain, it seems unlikely that a town or locality would come to be called 'The Lodge' unless there was once an actual lodge at the site. 'Lodge' can mean different things but the most likely, given the time and place, was a gatehouse to an estate.

This is the Lodge I was referring to in our previous issue. It was certainly on Paul de Castella's land. Whether it was part of the St Huberts property, and located on the same site as Coombe Cottage, would depend on the accuracy of Panton's map. ***Karen Phillips***

[1] *Lilydale Express,* 25 April 1891.

[2] J.A. Panton, sketch map of Upper Yarra 1865, Victoria Department of Lands and Survey 1872, State Library of Victoria (online). See also Yering Parish Plan, 1881.

[3] Composite maps available on request. They will be published in next month's issue.

Cave Hill in art

Cave Hill has been an inspiration to artists for well over a century. Much of its history could be illustrated with works of art.

Chris Booth's sculpture *Bukker Tillibul* 2002 at the former Swinburne Campus refers to the original cave shaft at Cave Hill. In Woiwurrung legend, Bukker Tillibul was a bottomless shaft formed by a shooting star. A slab of Cave Hill limestone represents Bunjil the Eaglehawk.

A painting by James Alfred Turner (1850-1908), *A Victorian Dale* c.1889, looks east over Lilydale from the north-east corner of Maroondah Highway and Victoria Road.[1] Cave Hill appears as a low rocky outcrop on the right of the painting. Quarrying had then been going on for about a decade.

The most famous Cave Hill painting is Arthur Streeton's *The Lime Kiln, Lilydale*, also known as *Mitchell's Lime Quarry* 1935). The painting is number 53 on the Heidelberg School Artists Trail.[2] The picture board is beside the Maroondah Highway footpath overlooking Cave Hill but the painting has been obliterated by weather and graffiti. The original is in the Yarra Ranges Regional Museum.

View of Cave Hill by James Peter Quinn (1869-1951) probably dates from the late 1930s. Associated with the Australian Tonalists, Quinn was best known as a war artist and for his society portraits. He was living in Europe from 1894 to 1937.[3]

Ernest Buckmaster (1897-1968) painted *The Quarry, Lilydale* (undated). The painting shows a road between rock faces leading to open country with mountains in the distance.[4]

A pair of ink drawings by Ivy Burton Fox (1899-1987), *Lime Quarry (David Mitchell Estate) Lilydale* 1940s-50s, and a watercolour, *Lilydale Lime Quarry* late 1950s, are in the State Library of Victoria collection. The watercolour can be viewed online.

Fred Williams (1927-1982) and two fellow artists, Harry Rosengrave and Ian Armstrong, owned a block of land at Lilydale in the 1940s and spent their weekends painting *en plein air.* I have not located any Cave Hill paintings from that period. Fred Williams' known Cave Hill works date from the 1970s.

In Williams' intense *Lilydale landscape with Blue Train* 1974, the quarry dwarfs the train passing at its foot. His *Lilydale Triptych I* 1974 shows the ruins of Cashin's flour mill in the foreground of the central panel, with Cave Hill and its mullock heaps in the background. It is unusual in showing Cave Hill from the east side. *Lilydale Triptych II: Cave Hill* 1974 is a panorama of the quarry and lime works from the west.

A nearer view of the Butter, Cheese and Bacon Factory appears on the cover of *A Child of Cave Hill* by Helen Macpherson-Smith. The artist and date are not stated.

There is a portrait of David Mitchell in the Yarra Ranges Regional Museum and another, by Hugh Ramsay, in the Castlemaine Art Gallery. Pamela Lady Vestey's *David Mitchell, A Forfar Man* has a 1901 drawing of Mitchell by S. Percival Anderson on the cover.

The History Group would be interested to hear of other art works depicting Cave Hill. Thanks to Jean Edwards for directing me to the Fred Williams paintings.   ***Karen Phillips***

[1] Shirley Jones 2009, *A Quiet Painter, James Alfred Turner*, The Author, p.21. The picture was probably painted from the Bible College site.

[2] http://www.artiststrail.com.au/ The artist was not 'Sir Arthur' at that stage. He was knighted in 1937.

[3] Marian Aveling 1984, *Lillydale, the Billanook country*, pp.114-115. Aveling dates the painting to the late 1920s. A comparison of signatures confirms that the J. Quinn who painted *View of Cave Hill* was James Peter Quinn. http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/quinn-james-peter-8143; http://www.awm.gov.au/people/artist_profiles/quinn.asp; https://www.facebook.com/pages/James-Quinn-RP-ROI-Painter/144255415662763

[4] http://www.artrecord.com/index.cfm/artist/3581-buckmaster-ernest-william/medium/1-paintings/?page=12 (site not definitely identifyable as Cave Hill).

[5] http://www.isiiad.com.au/index.php/arts/exhibitions/239-boundary-line.

[6] Patrick McCaughey 1980, *Fred Williams*, Bay Books, pp.258-262.

Above, Chris Booth's sculpture *Bukker Tillibul*. The Cave Hill boulder at right represents Bunjil. Photo Kevin Phillips.

The photos show Artie and his relatives at both Mt Evelyn Reserve and St Mark's Holiday Camp at a time when an Army camp was thought to be operating from St Mark's. We have never found official information about this military camp, not even confirmation that it existed. We know about it only because some locals remembered it. The camp was variously said to be for medical training, general training and/or R&R. Both Australian and American soldiers were stationed at the camp.

Our most detailed information comes from Reg Polkinghorne. Reg recalled that the military 'commandeered' Brother Bill's camp and that both the camp and the reserve were off limits to locals. His recollection was that the Americans were there continuously from 1942 until at least 1944, perhaps later.

If Reg was correct about the timing, then the Americans were almost certainly connected with the 4th General Hospital, which took command of the Royal Melbourne Hospital. Anthony McAleer informed us that it was the only American unit stationed in Melbourne all that time. Most others were sent north in 1943.

As mentioned last month, the CEBS probably held a holiday camp at St Marks' at Easter 1943 and certainly had camps there in Summer and Easter 1944. The presence of the Golds family

Above, the girls on a log at Mt Evelyn. The location is probably the Olinda Creek gully below St Mark's.

confirms that the camp and reserve were accessible to civilians during the war and leads us to reassess our ideas about the Army camp. One possibility is that St Mark's was not in fact 'commandeered' but leased short-term by various units as required. That doesn't sound like the military way of doing things, especially in wartime. The more likely alternative is that the Army camp lasted for less time than we thought.

The Americans may have been here only a year or so. Other units besides the 4th General Hospital could have been involved. A shorter time frame would make the rumours of wartime tunnels or bunkers under the camp even less believable. See *Things Past* 8, 10, 13-17, 19 & 65.

Thanks to Ethel Reade, Jean Williams, Glenn and Mary Golds for sharing their family history.

The wooden structure
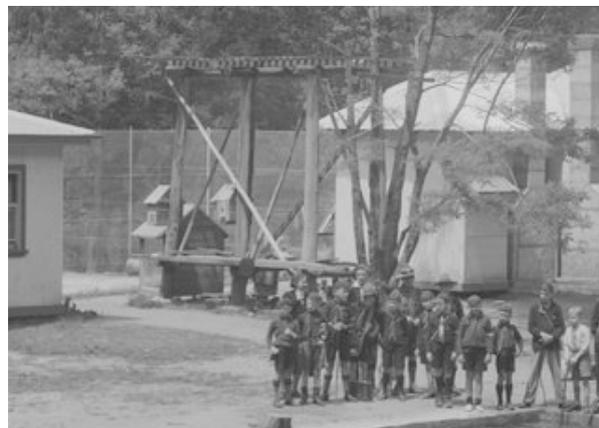
In vain have we pored over the image above, a detail of the Rose Postcard of St Mark's Holiday Camp from last month's issue. So far no one has identified that strange structure between the buildings.

It appears to be a frame of stout wooden poles with diagonal bracing on all sides. The top is above roof level, so it must be about 5 metres high. The structure can be seen in the centre of the camp photo on page 1.

A loading platform? The base of a tower? A section of bridge? An exercise frame? End of a flying fox? Equipment left over from the Army camp? No explanation seems quite right.

Above, Artie and family at the Buffaloes' picnic. The building is thought to be the kiosk at Mt Evelyn Reserve. 'Mt Evelyn Rovers' is written on the hatch cover. The Rovers (Football Club) did not play between 1940 and 1946 because of the war.

The Stone of Sanur, Bali

Tim and I were very pleased to locate Bali's oldest dated artifact, the Stone of Sanur (*Prasati Blanjong*).

The inscription, in Sanskrit and Old Balinese, tells of a Javanese king who visited Bali in 913 AD and installed what was probably Bali's first formal government. The inscription recounts military victories of the 10th century and is evidence of Hindu influence at least 300 years before the arrival of the Majapahit court in Bali.

Majapahit was a vast sea-linked empire, based on the island of Java, from 1293 to around 1500. The extent of its influence is still subject to study. According to a eulogy written in 1365, Majapahit was an empire of 98 coastal tributaries ranged across southern Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Brunei, Timor and the Phillipines.

The stone pillar can be accessed directly from Jl Danau Poso (the street) by following a narrow lane, although it is located in the grounds of *Pura Blanjong* (Blanjong Temple), to the south of Sanur.

During our brief visit, several ladies visited and left offerings. We felt privileged to be onlookers in 2013 on ceremonies which were linked back through the centuries.

As is common in Bali, the stone was 'wearing' a sarong, which covered the inscriptions. Combined with the fact that the stone

Above, the Stone of Sanur, with offerings of food. Below, Paula at the Blanjong Temple. A Balinese woman makes an offering.

pillar is enclosed in a wood and glass house for protection, this made it hard to get a good view. Nevertheless, it made an impression, rising up from the depths, presumably because ground level had been lower in the past.

The ladies were pleased we were valuing the stone, and we were pleased that they were protecting it!   *Paula Herlihy*

Legal Deposit eye-opener

Most works published in Victoria must be deposited with [the State Library] under section 49 of the Libraries Act 1988 (Vic) and with the National Library of Australia under the Copyright Act 1968 (Cth). Even if your work isn't commercially published you still need to deposit it. A work can be written or printed, or in another format such as audio, video or microfilm.

This means that most work – including books, brochures, DVDs, CD-ROMS, magazines, maps and microfiche – produced for companies, organisations, community groups, private individuals or the public must be deposited by the publisher.

Electronic/ online versions of works can be archived through PANDORA.

State Library, http://www.slv.vic.gov.au/about-us/plans-policies/legal-deposit-victorian-publications

It never occurred to us, but community group newsletters are subject to Legal Deposit! *Things Past* numbers 1-65 are now safely deposited with the State and National Libraries.

From Kev's rain gauge

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

Mt Ev	McK	Melb	Melb Av
60.1mm	63mm	60.8mm	47.6mm

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

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Opinions expressed in *Things Past* are those of the writers, not necessarily those of Mount Evelyn History Group.