

Now & Then



Issue 2 May 2018

Affiliated with Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc

Meeting Dates

2018

June 2

July 7

August 4

September 1

October 6

November 3

December 1

All meetings are held on the 1st Saturday of the month (except as shown above) at 1pm at the Old Lilydale Court House 61 Castella St., Lilydale. Guest speakers start at 2pm.

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Issue 2 May 2018



Some of the 12 members of the 1st Mt Evelyn Moolcoota Scout Troop look at the society's ANZAC display in the Athenaeum Theatre on ANZAC Day.

Remembering our ANZACS

April was a very busy month for the society and May is also shaping up as another month full of different things.

As well as our meeting and Easter, the society was involved with the ANZAC Day commemoration followed by the hosting of the Royal Historical Society's History Victoria Support Committee's first full day seminar for the year, on April 28.

At the Lilydale ANZAC Day Dawn Service committee member Robin Childs laid a bunch of home

grown roses and rosemary at the foot of the cenotaph.

After the service the public went for breakfast at the RSL and then many of them visited the Athenaeum Theatre to look at the district's two honour boards. In the foyer the society erected displays

about a few of our service personnel from World War I. We had both printed and digital copies of the service and family information of 450 of our local men and women who served in that conflict.

Continued on page 2.

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website: www.lilydalehistorical.com.au

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Remembering our ANZACS

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Members were on hand from 7.30am to meet the visitors and answer any questions they may have.

More than 50 people called in. For some it was their first visit to the theatre and they were invited to look around.

The society will be looking to continue this involvement and develop up various suitably themed displays.



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Support our Sponsors

Our sponsors are local people who love their history and support us in every way. Their sponsorship contributes to our rent and court house costs. Without them we would not be able to remain in the Old Lilydale Court House. So please support those who support us.

Talks, tours and walks

Anyone looking for a speaker or a different place to go should contact Lorraine Smith as the society has several members willing to give talks about their area of special interest.

These include Melba, aspects of Lilydale township and its history, Lilydale Cemetery, the *Lilydale Express* newspaper and Lilydale's military history.

Contact Lorraine Smith on 9735 1104.

Speakers program

Lorraine Smith is presently compiling a list of people to approach as guest speakers at the society meetings or special events next year. If you have heard someone - not necessarily related to heritage - who you found interesting and entertaining, call Lorraine on 9735 1104.

Sponsor promotes the society

The society has joined forces with one of our major sponsors Stockdale & Leggo Lilydale. Max and Sharon Manning have offered us space to display some of our 5,000 plus image collection.

We will provide them with digital images for their continuous monitor display and a series of A3 prints for their front display window.

Each image will be numbered and captioned and people can call into the office and pick up details on how to order their own copy of the images.

This is a very generous offer from a generous sponsor. Look out for our images in their window later this month.

Lilydale Project

Society president Sue Thompson has been appointed as one of 12 community representatives to the Lilydale Project Reference Group.

“The group has had three meetings and I have attended the various community consultative meetings so I can gain an understanding of the work being done in the Lilydale area and learn about the future needs of Lilydale,” Sue said.

“With the community and the shire working together I know we can work towards a Lilydale of the future our founding fathers would be proud of.”

For more information go to <https://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/Community/The-Lilydale-Project>

The day Melba arrived in town

On May 19, the anniversary of Melba's 157th birthday, the society is holding a special day as its contribution to the National Trust's Australian Heritage Festival which runs from April 18 to May 20.

Melba's birthday will be celebrated with a special talk, morning tea and a guided visit to Melba's grave at Lilydale Cemetery.

After morning tea, presenter Sue Thompson will speak about *The Day Melba Arrived in Town* during her 1909 Back Blocks tour.

In three months, travelling mostly by train, her concert party gave 31 concerts in 25 different towns in New South Wales and Queensland.

Presenter and Melba historian Sue Thompson drove 11,000kms and spent six months visiting each of those towns which stretched as far north as Townsville and Charters Towers. Each town had its own story about the people, about Melba, the concert and her concert party. Sue met with over 50 different groups – historical societies, family history groups, libraries, university archives and museums.

Using images and research, in her own unique way, Sue will retell some of the stories about *The Day Melba Arrived in Town*. Afterwards, everyone will drive to the Lilydale Cemetery and share a short, guided tour to the graves of Melba and her family.

The event will start at The Old Lilydale Court House, 61 Castella St, Lilydale at 10am and finishes at Lilydale Cemetery at 12 midday. For bookings call Sue Thompson 0475 219 884.



Auctioned for the soldiers

When Melba started her concerts to raise money for firstly the Belgian and later Australian soldiers and Red Cross, she decided to raise more money by auctioning off flags of the various nations after her concerts.

The hand made French flag (left) was auctioned off in Adelaide in 1914 and signed by Melba on the night. Research shows it was Melba herself who purchased the flag.

The society was contacted by a man from Heathcote Junction wanting to donate the flag, which was in his late father's possession, to a suitable institution. As the society does not have the capacity to preserve and maintain textiles, the man was referred to the Yarra Ranges Museum which now proudly owns the flag.



The society acknowledges the wonderful financial contribution made by the Estate of the Late James Sawyer to the development and promotion of our local heritage.

&

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Welcome



Our activities

Society members chat with visitors during the ANZAC Day display at the Athenaeum Theatre.

Planning for the Future

The HVSC's seminar on April 28 was on succession planning, a topic of interest to all historical societies. People from as far away as Wangaratta, Castlemaine and Anglesea attended. In a first for the RHSV and support group, one presentation on the vital topic of Succession Planning was via Zoom as Dr Bernadette Flynn was unable to escape from Sydney.

With limited seating, we joined forces with the Lilydale Primary School and hired their enormous multipurpose room for the seminar but had the registration, morning tea and lunch in the court house. The 41 people present were able to meet and chat and discuss issues common to all societies be



Enjoying lunch and a chat during the HVSG seminar.



Keynote speaker Dr Bernadette Flynn in Sydney being introduced by RHSV president Don Garden who is also a member of History Victoria Support Group.

it cataloguing, raising money, doing walks or planning for the future. Everyone also realised how far they have already come and what they have to do in the future to protect their history.

Once again, our catering team provided a wonderful spread of local biscuits, home made quiches, sausage rolls, sandwiches, a variety of cakes and a basket of home-grown apples. Their efforts drew many comments from the visitors.

ANZACS

The society has now put up on line all the names of the local people who answered the call during World War I.

Sadly, we have ANZACS for which we have no information other than their name which was included on one of our many local honour boards. If you can help us with more information please complete our special inquiry form.

To see the ANZACS project, go to: www.lilydalehistorical.com.au and click on the *They Answered the Call* link on the home page to see the listings.

Keep up to date

If you want to find out more information about the society, our local history, its people and places or about Dame Nellie Melba go to: www.lilydalehistorical.com.au or www.nelliemelbamuseum.com.au

Guest speakers

The society's Lorraine Smith has organised some great speakers for the rest of the year. All talks will begin at 2pm after our general meeting. The cost for non members is a gold coin donation. The speakers are:

Saturday, July 7:

Secondary school history teacher Jenny Cassidy will feature two case studies for her joint project WW1 Researcher: Australia - an app for iPads.

Jenny has also extensively researched family history; including the stories of family members who fought in World War 1.

While the app was primarily developed for students who have WW1 as a compulsory part of their studies, local historians would also be interested in these case studies and the talk.

The two case studies will feature the proposed Seville War Memorial and two more are from Healesville.

Saturday, September 1:

Russ Haines from the Ringwood & District Historical Society will speak on "Fraternal groups in Lilydale". The groups include the Masonic Lodges, MUIOOF, ANA, etc.

Saturday, November 5:

Author James Nicholas will be giving a talk on his recent book *The Mystery of Fairyland, Kew*. It is a true story set mainly in Melbourne's post war suburbia.

The book has been positively reviewed by The Herald Sun, Senior, Progress Leader and 3AW's Nightline.

Old police station demolished

As reported in our February edition, the old Lilydale police station was bulldozed and now a lush green grassed playground has been developed for the children.

There were a couple of hiccups during the demolition. Firstly, between the station building and the cells, bones were uncovered. Work stopped immediately and the forensic teams moved in. Luckily, it was nothing sinister – just the bones of a large dog.

A bit more digging and the original police house well was uncovered. A few interesting pieces were discovered and carefully collected and cleaned by the school. Among the several bottles found was one from the Lilydale Cordial Factory when it was owned by the Wilcox Bros. A check in our archives revealed that the brothers operated the factory near the corner of Clarke and Chapel streets from 1894 to 1916 when it was sold to their manager of many years William Hedley Thomas.

Although the top is broken the bottle features the Lilydale fern. There would have been a glass stopper in



This large format negative was found in one of our files but has no information. Can anyone identify where it was taken? If you have any idea, please email Sue Thompson at info@lilydalehistorical.com.au

the neck but someone broke the top, probably wanting the glass marble in the top.

Our members were on hand to capture the demolition as was school principal Andrew Weaver. Both have carefully photographed each step of the demolition and donated copies of to us.

On line resources being used

It is great to see the wider community using our website for their own research. We have had emails from as diverse areas as Scotland and country Victoria contacting us and wanting to add more family information and photographs to our website, particularly in the Stories Behind the Headstones and ANZAC pages. If you have some information you would like to add, simply email us at info@lilydalehistorical.com.au and attach the information.

The Lilydale Primary School also used all our information to produce a book about their soldiers listed on their new School Honour Board.

100 years ago

As it is Melba's birthday on May 19, it is fitting we feature an article about her. Do you think she was accident prone or is that just America?

Personal

Dame Melba has raised £75,000 to date for patriotic purposes, and has entertained thousands of soldiers in American cantonments. She has had many adventures during her present visit to America. She broke her wrist in Texas, when a beam fell from the "flies" of a theatre, but she continued the performance, in which she was engaged. She has been in a motor car accident, a locomotive explosion and a runaway private car. She slightly burned herself while boiling water for tea, and saw a man killed on the spot when run over by a motor car. Her operatic tour of the States has been a great success.

(Lilydale Express May 25, 1918)

If undeliverable return to:
Lilydale & District Historical Society
P.O. Box 834, Lilydale Vic 3140

Now & Then by email

With the rising costs of paper and postage, the society is inviting members who are happy to receive their newsletter by email to contact Sue Thompson at: suethompson50@ozemail.com.au and I will email a copy to you. Back copies are also available electronically.

Lilydale & District Historical Society Inc
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Please help us

A vital source of income for the society is its membership subscriptions. If you are yet to pay your membership renewal for the 2017-2018 which was due of July 1, Please renew by using the form below or by emailing our treasurer Philip Burton who will provide you with banking details for your renewal. We value your support and your membership by offering a range of services and discounts as listed below.

Philip's email is: philip.burton@rbia.com.au

Your Membership

Members are the life blood of any organisation and that includes your society.

As a member you receive many benefits:

- Free access to our extensive archive of families, places and events in our community;
- Free access to our digital archives such as the Lillydale Express and rate books;
- Four issues each year of our newsletter

Now & Then by either mail or email

- Invitations to all our special events, talks and tours;
- Discounts on all our publications; and
- Opportunity to learn more about our local history.

Renew your membership or invite a friend to join our society today by filling out the form below.

Membership Subscription 2017-2018 now due

Membership Subscriptions 2017-2018 was due on the 1st July 2017. (If you are not sure if you are financial, please ring Lorraine on 9735 1104 to check.)

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