

**YARRA GLEN & DISTRICT  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY Inc.  
FOUNDED 1973**

**NEWSLETTER**

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Editor, Eric Tetlow. 9730 1445.

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Due to all sorts of other commitments we are running late with this Newsletter. However welcome to 2000. Despite the predictions of various ill informed pundits we have survived the so called Y2K bug and this computer is performing as well as ever. As most of you probably know the main concern was whether a computer, which only uses the last two numbers of a year for the date, such as 99 for 1999, could tell the difference between 1900 & 2000

Just to show that not much has changed in the last 100 years I thought the following item was appropriate

**HEALESVILLE GUARDIAN.**

**1st December 1899.**

A curious problem has been under the consideration of the postal authorities lately. It is customary on date stamps to indicate the year by the last two figures, such as, for instance, 19/11/99, but if this rule is to be observed next year, the last of the present century, the year will be indicated by "00", which will mean nothing. The question, it appears, was considered at the Washington conference, having been brought under notice by the German representatives, and it was then suggested that the countries within the Postal Union should adopt the "00" form, instead of putting in the whole four figures. The Victorian department has agreed to follow this course.

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But not all is running smoothly. This one is from "The Age" 18th January 2000.

"Thousands of England's millenium babies are 100 years old already. The Y2K bug has struck Registry Office computers which refuse to recognise the year 2000 and are printing 1900 on birth certificates. Parents are receiving hand-written birth certificates.

I wonder if this applies to death certificates? Some people could be dying before they are born.

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**Next Meeting.**

13th February 2000, Living & Living Centre, Anzac Ave., Yarra Glen, 1.30 pm.

President, Mrs Evelyn Smith.  
Secretary, Mrs Seddon,  
Treasurer, Eric Tetlow,

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The following notes are by courtesy of Eltham Historical Society.

### THE SHIRE OF ELTHAM WAR MEMORIAL, KANGAROO GROUND.

*The earliest public reference to this WW1, community supported, cultural heritage project, is to be found in the local "Advertiser" newspaper (formerly "Evelyn Observer") edition of 9th August 1918.*

*A report of the August Council meeting records the Eltham Shire President, Cr. White saying "it was proposed earlier that the Council obtain and place on an Honour Board in the Council Chambers (at Kangaroo Ground) the names of the lads who had enlisted. Just recently however, it had been suggested that a more fitting memorial would be the obtaining of a piece of land on the summit of Garden Hill, Kangaroo Ground, and the formation of a memorial park in which a monument could be erected to represent the whole Shire. (Including Yarra Glen).*

*If a couple of acres could be obtained a gentleman had promised to donate £ 50, and another would fence it, and other contributions, he was sure, could be obtained."*

*The access to the land came in January 1919 when several Councillors and the Shire Engineer surveyed the actual 2 acres, 5 chains along the road and 4 chains deep.*

*The Engineer volunteered his services free to do this task.*

*Entry from the Kangaroo Ground-Yarra Glen road was seen to be a problem and Mrs. White, who owned the land beside the park, donated a triangle of her property to allow this access.*

*Volunteers were called to clear the hill top by ploughing up the rocks and clearing the area, the fencing was put into place and in May 1921 the Council erected three gates, within an archway, at the entrance to the drive and pathway to the summit.*

*In 1922 plans were made to place a Memorial in the Park. Funds were donated by the Council of £ 250 and a challenge to the community, to match this money with contributions was met.*

*The Tower was built in 1926 at a cost of £ 1,023. The caretaker's cottage was built 1927 and the toilet block in 1965.*

### FUTURE PLANS.

An Advisory Committee has been working for the last three years planning a redevelopment of the area. Some of the plans include : A new approach and signage from the main road, new car park, landscaping with more lawn , picnic tables, better disabled access & upgraded toilets. Probably the most innovative idea is to have a viewing platform on the Melbourne side of the Tower giving about 270 degree view to the south, west & north. This will be most useful for those who do not feel like tackling the climb up the Tower.

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It should be remembered that this Memorial Tower was built to honour those from the whole of the old Eltham Shire. The names of all those from Yarra Glen, Dixons Creek, Steels Creek and Christmas Hills who made the supreme sacrifice are displayed there.

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Continuing our series on local churches.

## LILYDALE EXPRESS

14th July 1886

In response to public announcement a meeting was held at Yarra Flats Hotel on Saturday, the 10th inst., to confer upon the advisability of erecting an Episcopalian Church in that growing locality. On the motion of Mr. Lowman, Mr. Sayle was voted to the chair.

The chairman having briefly stated the object of the meeting a committee was at once formed with power to add to their number, consisting of Messrs. Woolcott, Farvis, Cummings, Lowman, Sayle, A. Scott, B. Smith and J. Smedley. After some discussion as to whether it was advisable to use brick or wood, it was unanimously resolved to build an edifice of brick, which would not only be more durable, but more in keeping with the increasing prosperity of the place.

The building is to be erected on the piece of ground given by Mr. R.R. Woolcott for that purpose. It was apparent from the remarks made at the meeting that there would not be any great difficulty in getting funds for the purpose, as several important offers of aid were made by influential men in Melbourne and elsewhere. It was also determined to canvass the district for the same purpose. Mr. J. Nicholas was appointed treasurer and secretary to the committee. The donations in the room amounted to £ 17.11s. The next meeting will be held on Saturday the 24th instant.

## LILYDALE EXPRESS

4th August 1886

### YARRA FLATS

The second meeting of the committee of the proposed new Church of England met Saturday, 24 ult., when it was ascertained that promises of subscriptions amounting all up to about £ 60. had been made. The committee then adjourned to the 7th August when it was hoped all who are interested will meet at the Yarra Flats Hotel at 3.30 pm. sharp.

## LILYDALE EXPRESS

25th August 1886.

The Rev. W. Jennings and the committee appointed to establish a church at Yarra Flats had a conference recently respecting the matter, and the necessary steps towards the vesting of the site given by Mr. Woolcott for the proposed church were decided upon.

The building is to be of brick and erected to admit of extensions to meet requirements. The matter has been taken in hand very earnestly, and the promoters are to be congratulated on the results of their efforts so far.

## EVELYN OBSERVER

25th November 1887.

The committee of the Church of England, Yarra Flats, have let the contract for the building of their new church to Messrs. Lowman and Shaw for £188 18s 3d, not including seats, fittings, etc. The time of services in connection with this church has been altered so as not to clash with the Presbyterian Church. For the future the services of the Church of England will be held one Sunday in the morning and the other Sunday in the evening, to commence at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. respectively. The service on Sunday next will commence at 11 o'clock in the morning. The Christmas Hills service will be changed from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. next Sunday.

## LILYDALE EXPRESS

28th May 1897.

### ST. PAUL'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND, YARRA GLEN.

A "Jubilee" Fair was held here on the 14th and 15th inst. to raise funds for the purpose of removing the church to its new site.

## LILYDALE EXPRESS

27th August 1897.

### YARRA GLEN.

A novel sight took place in the village last week when the Church of England was bodily removed into the centre of the township. A splendid site has been procured, which is further improved by a three room parsonage.

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## CALLING ALL HUBBARDS

The Hubbard family are holding a family reunion on Sunday 27th February 2000.

The venue will be the Memorial Hall and McKenzie Park.

This event is to celebrate the 140th anniversary of the arrival of William & Elizabeth Hubbard in Melbourne, February 1860 on board the "Prince of the Seas".

An additional aspect will be the fixing of a plaque on William & Elizabeth's grave in the Yarra Glen Cemetery in memory of Sgt. Ernest Albert (Snowy) Hubbard who died at Paschendale, Belgium on the 16th October 1917.

For further information, contact Lawrie Hubbard, (03) 9435 8631.