

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

NEWSLETTER

August 2000. Published December, March, June & September. Issue No:8.

SPECIAL MEMORIAL EDITION.

Editor, Eric Tetlow. 9730 1445.

This Newsletter is dedicated to two outstanding members of the Yarra Glen & District Historical Society who passed away recently.

OLIVE HERKES.

Olive Herkes, who died 25th July 2000 aged 90, was born 10th November 1909 in Kyneton. Olive was a foundation member of the YG&DHS when it was formed in 1973 and at the time she was on the staff at the Yarra Glen Primary School where her husband Bill was Headmaster. Bill Herkes was the first President of the Society and held the office for many years.

From my reading of the old minute books I can't find any reference to Olive holding office in the Society, however she was always a great supporter of the Society and took a keen interest in the history of the district.

At the Annual General Meeting held October 1999, Olive was appointed a Life Member of the YG&DHS.

Some of her other activities included membership of the Red Cross, Senior Citizens (20 years) a member of the congregation of the Yarra Glen Presbyterian/Uniting Church and a keen worker for the Church Ladies Guild.

Olive was interred in the Yarra Glen Cemetery 31st July after a service at the Yarra Glen Uniting Church.

She will be missed by her friends in Yarra Glen and our sympathy is extended to her family.

EVELYN ISABELLE SMITH.

Evelyn (Ev.) Smith (née McGregor) passed away at Ringwood Private Hospital on the 2nd August 2000 aged 80. Ev. was born 23rd July 1920 at Essendon and at an early age moved with her family to Mernda where she completed her schooling.

Her parents took up dairy farming at Mernda and this is where Ev. developed her love of farming and country life. She soon became a competent horsewoman and it was because of her interest in horses that she met Sam Smith who was to become her husband. Ev. and Sam married in 1941 and three sons were born, Edward (Ted), Laurie and Robin.

During 1947 Sam and Ev. moved to Steels Creek where they had purchased a farm on Pinnacle Lane. However, after a number of years of hard work for little return they sold up in 1951 and moved into Yarra Glen.

By this time Ev. was involved with the Red Cross and the CWA. Though not a foundation member of the YG&DHS she and Sam joined shortly after the Society was formed. Ev. became more and more involved with community activities such as the Cubs, Presbyterian/Uniting church, Yarra Glen Agricultural & Horticultural Society, she taught at Dixons Creek School for many years. Though not a fully qualified teacher she was highly regarded by the Headmaster. Her teaching career was curtailed after a bad motoring accident left her arm permanently damaged, though this did not seem to slow down her other activities. During the 1970s Ev. was appointed J.P and sat on the bench for many years.

At the Annual General Meeting, November 1989, Evelyn Smith was elected President of the YG&DHS, which office she continued to hold until her death. Keenly interested in the history of the district she was a fountain of knowledge and always happy to pass on information to any one requesting help. Ev. was also a member of the Healesville Historical Society and at one stage served on their committee. She represented YG&DHS at functions organised by the Committee (Association) of Eastern Historical Societies and was our representative on Yarra Ranges Heritage Network and the Yarra Ranges Heritage Study.

Though she had not enjoyed good health for the last two years, having to undergo a number of operations on her knees, she still maintained her enthusiasm and dedication.

I personally enjoyed being in her company and had many cups of coffee and home made biscuits in her kitchen with "Jock" her loveable Jack Russell.

To her family we extend our sympathy.