

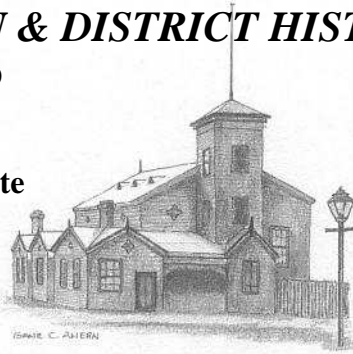
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NEWSLETTER

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FROM THE EDITOR

My family and I were driving over the river flats at Yering a couple of weeks ago when a fox was seen crossing a paddock near the Stringybark Creek. It was probably a descendant of some who were hunted (and escaped) over a hundred years ago in the same area. See the feature article below for some of the history of fox and deer hunting at Yarra Glen.

It was unfortunate that the Gulf Station Pioneer and Working Horse Festival had to be cancelled this year, but it is bushfire season. Few would envy the Property Manager Margaret Cooper and her Committee who had to make such a hard decision. History was repeating itself when the January heat combined with dry forests and summer storms to set off fires across Victoria. Our local CFA crew were busy day and night with the Kinglake fire and associated tasks. Very timely rain prevented the fire following the path of the disastrous 1939 and 1962 fires.

YARRA GLEN & LILYDALE HUNT CLUB

From the early 1870s an annual hunt was held by the 'sporting ladies and gentlemen of Yarra Flats' on the Queen's Birthday. William Newman recalled that they would meet at 9:00 o'clock at Farrell's Yarra Flats Hotel.

The ladies, sitting side-saddle, were dressed in the old-fashioned habits, with just the toe of a boot peeping out from the stirrup. The huntsmen were garbed in orthodox fashion, carrying the inevitable hunting crop, usually with a fox head embossed on an ornamental ferrule at the butt. Mr Armstrong was the master of the hounds. In the early days they coursed with greyhounds after the hares. Later Mr Batt and Mr Armstrong owned a pack of hounds... The hunt and other sporting dances were held in a spacious room attached to the south side of the hotel.

An account of the hunt was regularly reported in the local press. In May 1891 the hunt met at the



The local policeman (front) and Jimmy Hanson at the Yarra Glen & Lilydale Hunt in the early twentieth century.

Burgoyne Hotel (now the Grand Hotel) and was led by Mr Tom Armstrong over the Yering flats where the quarry was deer.

After the usual greeting (and a little drop of whisky) we trotted off over the Yarra bridge, and made our way to Mr D. Mitchell's stringy bark paddock, where we met about twenty well-mounted gentlemen from the Lilydale district who had a grand lot of dogs with them. We then tried the ti-tree scrub, and a fine deer jumped out ...

Mr Irvine, proprietor of the Yarra Flats Hotel, was the Master in 1897 and led 70 horsemen and women in the pursuit of foxes and hares over the river flats. Thirty of the company later joined Irvine at his hotel at 6pm for 'a sumptuous repast, which was presented in a style which the Yarra Flats proprietor has earned for himself such a creditable reputation.'

Sometime before the turn of the century the Yarra Glen Hunt Club was formed and by 1900 it had 58 financial members and a credit balance of £12.9s.8d. Mr L McIntyre was secretary. Members included Mr William Park (1871–1909) of Coldstream, Louis Deschamp (who rode *Weary Willie*), Len Lithgow (*Bally*) and W. J. Artis (*Andy*). Often the horses were as well known as their owner or rider. It was noted that the latter three horses were still attending the hunt in 1909 although *Andy* was by then semi-retired and pulling his owner in a jinker.

In early 1900 a hunt club was created at Lilydale which prompted the Yarra Glen Hunt Club to call for a meeting to discuss an amalgamation. A meeting was held at the Sportsman's Arms Hotel¹ in Coldstream on 27 April and the proposal accepted. Mr J. R. Henry was elected Secretary and Mr G. de Pury President. Mr C. J. Mitchell was appointed Master of Hounds; he kept the hounds at Cave Hill until new kennels were built near the Lilydale cemetery in 1907. By November 1900 the membership had increased to 100 and included farmers, vigneron, a butcher, station master, baker and a police constable. The membership was the largest in Victoria, more than double the number in other clubs.

The inaugural meet of the Yarra Glen & Lilydale Hunt Club was at the Yering Railway Station. Subsequent meets (during the cooler months of the year) began at various appointed places from Yarra Glen to Lilydale including Chateau Yering, the Lodge Gates at St Hubert's, Park's Hotel Coldstream, the Olinda Hotel in Lilydale. Once or twice a season the hunt started at Yarra Glen such as the one in June 1904:

These hounds met on the Yarra bridge, Yarra Glen, on Monday last, at 11 a.m. and a good crowd of horsemen assembled to greet the Master. A move was made in an easterly direction, and hounds quickly found a fox in the river bends in Mr Timms' property, and despite the dense undergrowth and frequent lagoons, they drove him up the river into the St Hubert's Estate. Here, in a narrow bend, hounds pressed Reynard so closely that he had to take to the river to save his brush, and the pack followed in hot pursuit and ran him down the north side of the river in Mr Macalister's, and compelled him once more to swim the river into Mr Timms'; then Reynard crossed the Yarra Glen road and ran through Mr Kerr's property and went to earth in the river bank.

On 2 June 1905 they met at Mr Irvine's paddocks. On this occasion a fox was found on Gulf Station but it 'proved a very soft one, for after running for about a mile he was run into and killed in the flat below Mrs Bell's homestead'.

On the Gulf Station flats the hounds next drew a hare which circled into Mrs Bell's

property, through Mr Watt's, Mr Hubbard's, Mrs Bell's again, then across the Steels Creek road into Mr Love's. The hounds 'scored a meritorious kill on the top of Keat's Hill, above the waterworks.

Mrs Ross invited the hunters to Kincaigra for refreshments after the hunt.

The newspaper correspondents usually included a list of the riders and their mounts, the latter being described by colour if the name of the horse was not known to the reporter. Yarra Glen identities included Mrs Macalister (*Snip*) Miss Herbert (*Ascot*) Miss Irvine (a brown) Miss Bath (a bay) D Friar (*Blythe*) and Charles Bath (*Lady Tarwin*) in 1905; Miss Herbert (*Jess*) Miss F Herbert (*Ascot*) Mr W. G. Macalister (*Hicks*) Rupert Macalister (*Surprise*) and Mr J Herbert (*Brownie*) in 1912; Charles Bath (*Locket*) in 1914; Miss Scott (*Rebel*), Jack Bath (*Nancy*) and Norm Allen (*Merry Myrtle*) in 1919. Mrs Hector Lithgow (*Tom*) Mrs Pigdon (*Blackbird*) Norm Allen (*Pinedo*), and Judith Pigdon (*Darky*) in 1922.

After the hunt of July 1921 the reporter wrote that *Special mention must be made of the splendid jumping of that wonderful horse 'Balance', ridden by Mr C. H. Bath; both horse and rider won the admiration of all who witnessed their performance over the jumps. 'Mystery' (ridden by Miss Towt) and the splendid hunter ably piloted by Syme, and 'Rebel' who carried Miss Ada Scott, were to the fore throughout the run.*

There was usually a following of spectators who rode horses or bicycles or drove in the comfort of a horse-drawn vehicle. The September 1921 hunt for example was followed by Mrs Sam Allen, Dr and Mrs Vogler, Miss Herbert and Miss Bell (from Gulf Station).

In addition to the traditional hunt the Club held an annual point-to-point steeplechase meeting. This included not only a steeplechase across various properties, but also flat races, novelty races such as bobbing for apples, and bread, butter and scone making competitions. From 1923 the meeting was conducted at the current site of the Hunt Club next to Yering State School and in 1937 the Club purchased the property. It has been the permanent home of the Club and the kennels since that date.

Sources:

W[illiam] N[ewman] *The Age*, January 5, 1935
Val Sheehan, *As It Happened*, Lilydale & District Historical Society, 2003. Vols 1 & 2.

* * *

The following verse was written by **Louis Norman Hernandez** (1864–1947). The author was inspired by an actual hunting incident in which the hounds frightened a goat. The goat proceeded to cause

¹ This hotel was burnt down in October 1933.

mayhem in the milking herd of Mr Alf Hubbard who farmed on what is now the corner of Steels Creek Rd and Hubbard Rd.

Born in England in 1864 Louis sailed from England to Victoria with his mother and three year old sister in 1870 on the 'Colonial Empire'. His mother Jane was buried in Yarra Glen cemetery in August 1920 aged 76 (cemetery records incorrectly say 68). Louis continued to live in the town for several years after his mother's death. He appears to have had independent means or a pension as he was employed on a casual basis as a painter and assisted with odd jobs. He also gave religious instruction classes at the Primary School. Louis died in Ballarat in 1947 aged 83.

Tale of the Goat

L.N.H.

Arrah Paddy, cried Mike – by the tail of me coat
I will tell you a tale, the tale of a Goat.
The tale of a Goat – who's vagarie had
Caused a deal of excitement, and Language quite bad.
The tale of a Goat, who in leaps and in bounds
Was fleeing in terror, from huntsmen and hounds.
The Hunt Club had met, one day at the Glen
In goodly array, – Horses Hounds and men,
And also some Ladies – in trim hunting suits;
Of smart Jockey caps – over britches and boots.
It had rained through the night and the clouds were a
scud,
And the country was covered with water and mud.
The scent was well laid and the Hounds got away
Close followed by Huntsmen in gallant array.
They raced over paddocks – crossed road ways and
lanes,
And took in their stride several fences and drains.
Now starts the excitement – I want you to note
That in somebody's paddock was tethered a Goat.
With a long length of line she was tied to a stump.
When the fox-hounds gave tongue the Goat gave a
jump,
And looked for the cause of those awful weird sounds.
Saw coming towards her the Huntsmen and Hounds.
One terrified leap – she had broken the line
And broken the record of Nanny Goat time.
Away went the Goat – on escaping intent:
And she followed the track – they had laid out the
scent
And speeding behind her came each hunting hound
With his tail in the air and his nose to the ground.
She raced over a paddock, passed harrows and plough,
And made for a place where, milking a cow,
A Glenite was sitting – milk pail twixt his knees
And pulling the teats with the greatest of ease.
When the cow saw the Goat making straight for the
spot
She kicked up her heels – and was off like a shot.

And a mystified man sat alone on the stool
With his bucket capsized and the milk in a pool.
Midst the baying of hounds and the shouting of men,
The Goat changed her course, and started again.
Now a large herd of milkers stood out in the mud
Alongside a milking shed, chewing their cud.
Then came a mix-up – and medley of rows,
For the Goat left the paddock and charged for the
cows.
Now five of the milkers were fast in the bails,
And two-score or more clustered close to the rails.
Straight into that cluster the frightened Goat plows
And mid shouting and bellowing off went the cows.
Now the scare of the cows had increased the Goat's
fright,
And they scattered to left and they scattered to right.
The neighbours attempted again and again
To head off the stampede – but all was in vain.
Men shouting and swearing, dogs barking like mad,
The Dairy man's prospects, looked gloomy and bad.
When the hounds and the Hunters were well out of
sight,
And most of the workers were done for the night,
And most of the runaway cows had been caught,
And the milking was over – but pintage was short,
Tho' much cream was lost in that hunting day flutter
We have in the Goat – a good – solid – butter.

Sources: Mary Mann
Eric Tetlow
International Genealogical Index

HARGREAVES FAMILY REUNION

by Elaine Palmer

On Saturday 19 November 2005 members of the Hargreaves Family held a reunion at the Yarra Glen Memorial Hall. This was to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the arrival in Australia of William and Ann Hargreaves who landed on 16 November 1855 from the ship *Star of the East*. Shortly after arrival they headed for Queenstown to try their luck at gold mining. With them were their seven children: Emma Jane, Charles Edwin (plus his wife Urina whom he had married two weeks after the ship arrived), Charlotte Ann, Frederick William, Thomas Kitching, Cyrus and Josiah Lorenzo. While living on the Caledonia Goldfield Emma Jane died in a fire in their hut. The following year her brother Cyrus also died.

While the rest of the family attempted to earn their living through goldmining, Charles Edwin is shown in 1866 as owning a hotel/accommodation house in Cumberland Creek on the Yarra Track. It serviced the needs of the miners on the way to Wood's Point. However, when land in Dixon's Creek was released for sale, Charles Edwin, together with his brothers Frederick William, Thomas Kitching and Josiah Lorenzo, purchased parcels of land situated along the

present day Melba Highway. They commenced clearing and cultivating and eventually established themselves as farmers. Over the following years, extra land was purchased by each succeeding generation and the family grew rapidly.

In 1871 William died in Melbourne at age 67 with the cause of death being given as Apoplexy – translated as paralysis due to stroke. The family could not afford the costs associated with the return of William's body so he was buried in Melbourne in a pauper's grave.

In 1879 tragedy once again struck the family with the death of Charles Edwin at 47 years of age. His death was due to hydatids of the liver. This left his widow Urina with nine young children (two already having died) facing the problem of bringing Charles' body back to Dixon's Creek. In the end the process was once again too expensive and Charles was also buried in a pauper's grave in Melbourne.

For many years the family was an integral part of life in Dixon's Creek. Four and five generations farmed or worked in the area and became very involved in the local church once that commenced. Urina's brother Henry Robinson donated land for the first church to be built – opposite Dixon's Creek Primary School's present position.

Most of the family moved away from Dixon's Creek and Yarra Glen during the Depression when life on the land became difficult to sustain. School records from Dixon's Creek, Yarra Glen, Yering, Badgers Creek and Healesville Primary Schools have all provided valuable information to the family descendants who have been searching for clues as to the families' movements. Descendants have now been located in England and the United States of America as well as in every state of Australia.

The reunion included descendants of William's brother Charles who came out to Australia first and who then encouraged William and Ann to migrate.

Family members at the reunion visited the cemetery at Yarra Glen as well as the original farm sites.

One of the surprises of the reunion was a short family history that was prepared and sent over by a 7th cousin from Yorkshire who had been located only weeks before.

The aim of the reunion, as well as getting in touch with family, was to raise money for a memorial to be placed over Ann's grave in the Kangaroo Ground Cemetery which has been unmarked up until now. The family wants to pay tribute to the courage shown by these pioneers who left the village of Tong in Yorkshire, aged in their fifties. They faced an arduous journey by sea, followed by life on the goldfields, in an attempt to give the family a chance at a better life in Australia.

Following lunch in the park, the Reverend Gordon Hargreaves (great great grandson) led the family in giving thanks for the lives of their ancestors and the heritage that has been passed on to them.

One branch of the family remains in Dixon's Creek – that of Norm Hargreaves who is descended

from the line of Josiah Lorenzo, the youngest of the Hargreaves children who migrated in 1855.

The descendants would like to give special thanks to Eric Tetlow for his assistance in providing historical photos and maps of the area as well as newspaper articles which helped the gathered descendants to have a greater insight into the lives led by their ancestors.

Yarra Glen Roads & Streets

a series about their history

Irvine Crescent

One of the shortest streets in the town it curves around (as its name suggests) from Symond Street to Bell Street to form a crossroad at the western end of Armstrong Grove. At this crossroad stood the Yarra Flats General Store (now Apple Porch Cottage). Built in 1868 it is now one of the oldest buildings in Yarra Glen. On the opposite corner was the Yarra Flats Hotel (est. 1863–4), a staging post for Cobb and Co coaches and travellers on the Yarra Track. It was demolished in 1998 and has been replaced by Melba Lodge.

From 1886 cattle sale yards occupied the southern side of Irvine Crescent. There was a round covered sale ring with adjacent yards, a small, well built shed, and holding paddocks down the slope of the hill. The horses and carts of the farmers would be tied along the fence opposite (the northern side of Irvine Crescent). In the 1920s and 30s the sales were conducted every Monday. It was a good source of business for the Yarra Flats Hotel. When Alan Brown started a market at Croydon in the 1930s he bought the Yarra Glen sale yards and closed them down in 1935. The advent of motor vehicles meant that animals could be trucked greater distances.

Irvine Crescent was named after the Irvine family. John Irvine (1853–1907) was born in Scotland. He married Emma Holding (1858–1906) of Yarra Flats in October 1885. He took over the management of the Yarra Flats Hotel about 1888 when William Farrell moved to the Burgoyne (now the Grand Hotel). He was also a member of the Yering Lodge and the Yarra Glen Hunt Club (from 1900 known as the Yarra Glen & Lilydale Hunt Club). John and Emma had five children: Thomas (1887–1952), Prudence (b.1888), John Frederick, known as Jack (1890–1917), Ruth, and Walter, known as Dick (1896–1908). Jack was killed in France during the First World War. Prudence married Eric Roberts and Ruth married Tom Cunningham.

Tom Irvine owned property on Armstrong Grove including the site of the current Racecourse. Tom was a road building contractor. He was also Secretary of the Yarra Flats Race Club which conducted races on his land. He married Lillian Bonsak who was a housemaid for the Russell-Ross family of Kincaig.