

EAST MELBOURNE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



June 2024

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Aims

A full Statement of Purposes appears in our Documents of Incorporation but briefly the aims of the Society are as follows:

To foster an interest in the history of East Melbourne.

To build an archive of material relevant to the history of East Melbourne.

To promote interchange of information through lectures and tours.

To promote heritage preservation.

Committee

President	Tim Holland
Vice-president	Barbara Paterson
Hon. Secretary	Sylvia Black
Hon. Treasurer	Malcolm Howell
Committee Members	Diane Clifford Sue Hodson Liz Rushen Marita McCabe Gay Sussex

Contributions and Suggestions

We invite contributions relating to the history of East Melbourne from our members. Articles of up to 1000 words will be considered for publication. Small articles and items of interest are also welcome.

We would be pleased to receive your suggestions and ideas for activities, guest speakers, excursions, or anything else you might like us to organise on your behalf.

Please contact any member of our committee.

Membership

Membership of the East Melbourne Historical Society is open to all who are interested in the history of East Melbourne.

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Annual subscription **\$ 30.00**

Guests are welcome at individual meetings, **\$ 5.00**

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**CITY OF
MELBOURNE**

Affiliated with

The Royal Historical Society of Victoria

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The Members and Committee of the East Melbourne Historical Society respectfully acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land, the Wurundjeri/Woiwurrung people of the Kulin nation, and pay respect to their elders past, present and to come.

President's Letter

There are details elsewhere in the newsletter but I would like to mention that a couple of substantial local history projects that have been underway for some time involving three of our members have been completed, and two books are about to be published.

One of the books is a history of the Yarra Park State School, written by Ian Hind, a resident of the apartments that are now in the buildings that comprised the school which closed in 1987. Ian has done a wonderful work of research on all aspects of the history of Yarra Park SS which was a significant school in Victorian education. Imposingly situated on the busy intersection of Punt Road and Bridge Road the school buildings have been familiar to generations of Melburnians since they were completed in 1874.

The other book consists of small biographies of over 200 former pupils whose names appeared on the World War 1 Roll of Honor at the school. Ian drove this project, and he and Sylvia Black and I researched the lives of these pupils. Although each entry in the book is relatively brief, the impact of reading them together gives a layered effect that gives a real sense of life in Australia in the first half of the 20th century.

We look forward to the function to launch these two books on Friday morning, 5 July at the Library at 10.30. These publications represent a contribution to recording the heritage of our area that our Historical Society can be proud of.

Tim Holland

May 2024

Welcome to our New Members

Robyn Damm Carol Hedley Barry Hedley
Sam McKenzie Lynden Wilkie

“ KINDER MUMS ” :

EXPERIENCES OF LIVING IN EAST MELBOURNE

by Marita McCabe

This article is the first in a series of interviews with some of East Melbourne’s long-term residents. The stories will involve meandering chats that will hopefully provide a sense of what it has been like to be in East Melbourne over an extended period of time and why the interviewees have stayed in this small suburb for so long. I met with five amazing women at Roccella Restaurant. They were Marga McDonald, Kay Jackson, Di Renou, Mariel Waterfield, and Pam Wilson, known as the ‘Kinder Mums’, who all moved into East Melbourne somewhere between 1957 and 1972.

Why did you come to East Melbourne?

The main reason that the participants came to East Melbourne was because of work related issues. Three husbands were medical practitioners who moved to East Melbourne so they could be closer to the hospitals or, for Marga, her husband’s medical practice in Fitzroy. Kay’s husband was an architect, and Pam’s husband was a pharmacist and the attraction of East Melbourne was that the pharmacy in East Melbourne had a residence behind; this allowed the family to live there with her husband’s mother. Many of the participants had lived overseas and were coming back to East Melbourne after a stint overseas.

What was East Melbourne like when you first moved in?

Many of the residents lived in rooming houses. They were primarily comprised of a single room with a lock on it and a shared bathroom and kitchen. Often the front verandah was closed in to provide an extra room. Marga moved into a house in Hotham Street that had 10 rooms, each with a Yale lock on the door as well as a communal kitchen and bathroom. Mariel moved into a terrace in Grey Street, one of a row of three. She said they could have bought the three terraces for not much more than the price of one. Mariel has lived in this house for over 60 years. Some of the more upmarket accommodation was comprised of a couple of rooms with perhaps a small kitchen and bathroom. William Johnston, of The Johnston Collection fame, owned five or six of these houses.

East Melbourne had experienced a period of grandeur, but had then gone into decline from the early part of the 20th century. It was starting to emerge from that decline during the early 1970s. However, it was a slow change. Both the East Melbourne Group and the childcare centre were pivotal in bringing about change in different ways.

The East Melbourne Group campaigned tirelessly to ensure that the character of the housing and streetscape of East Melbourne was preserved. It strongly resisted all forms of development that would change the nature of the built environment in East Melbourne, while the childcare centre created a real sense of community within the suburb. There were two groups and two teachers for about 25 children. Eileen Davern was one of the teachers who was at the centre for many years – she was short in stature and loved by the children and parents alike. Most of the parents were engaged in fundraising activities - they needed to do so in order to keep the centre afloat. There were progressive dinners, cake stalls and other events. Mothers were generally not working and so they could run these events. Even Stephanie Alexander's mother was involved by putting on cooking demonstrations. Children went to the three and four-year-old kinder from 9am to 12 noon five days a week. Yarra Park State School was also a hub within the East Melbourne community. It had wildly fluctuating enrolment numbers, ranging from 700 down to 200 depending upon the population.

There were quite a few people sleeping rough in the Fitzroy Gardens, but in East Melbourne there was no sense of fear or danger regarding safety. Residents were a mixed group: some were more well to do, some were just getting by and others were struggling.

There were a number of brothels throughout the suburb. There were also a number of abortion clinics in Hoddle Street, Wellington Parade and Hotham Street. They were well known and run by doctors under cover, as abortion was illegal for some time after everyone moved in. Bertram Wainer, who had a clinic in Wellington Parade, was a champion for women's rights to fertility control and abortion.

How did you settle in?

There was a mix of responses in terms of the welcome that was received when people moved in to East Melbourne. Early on there was not much of a sense of community and so it was difficult to find and mix with those with common interests. Many of the residents were renting and so were quite transient. As we moved into the 1970s, there were many more community groups and if one joined one of those groups then you were certainly welcomed and made to feel part of the community.

However, East Melbourne was not generally thought of a place that you would come to stay; it was more or less a transition place. You might come for a period of time to establish yourself but then you would move on to a more respectable suburb. There were certainly houses that could be purchased at very low prices compared to the more leafy suburbs a bit further out East – it was a cheap place to live.

What types of changes have occurred in East Melbourne?

One of the last boarding houses was in Powlett Street. The owner of this boarding house held onto it until his death in the 1990s as he wanted to ensure that his residents were well cared for. Most of the changes to the character of East Melbourne occurred in the 1980s and particularly in the 1990s, but they were starting to occur in the 1970s. There were many boarding houses until that time. For example, Queen Bess Row was a massive boarding house that let out many rooms until the 1980s. Again, the East Melbourne Group played a significant role in ensuring that the architecture of the suburb was maintained and improved and also provided opportunities for community involvement.

What do you love about East Melbourne and what is not so great about East Melbourne?

The group were unanimous in saying that they had made many good friends, that there was a real sense of community in East Melbourne and that people made you feel welcome. They agreed that there are many social groups that one can become part of, and that people in these groups are very welcoming. There are book groups, walking groups, tennis groups and many others.

Although there are few shops, this was not seen as a major disadvantage. They thought that there are enough shops on Wellington Parade and Victoria Parade to accommodate day-to-day needs and the group felt it was quite easy to go elsewhere to do more substantial shopping. There really wasn't much that the group did not like about East Melbourne.

Can you see yourself leaving East Melbourne?

All of the participants were unanimous in saying that they could not see themselves leaving East Melbourne. They may move into a smaller house compared to where they currently live. Marga did this 20 years ago when her husband died. She moved from the five bedroom house she had been in for over 30 years to an apartment. Di also moved to a smaller house 10 years ago after living in her house in Powlett Street for over 40 years. The group felt that they had many friends in East Melbourne and so this is a major reason why they would remain. The thought of having to establish themselves in a completely new community was something that they would not want to do.

What advice would you give to someone moving into East Melbourne?

The overwhelming advice from the group for someone moving into East Melbourne was that it was important to join one of the many interest groups. The library is a vital source of information about the various groups and it's a great community space for many people of East Melbourne. The kindergarten is still a hub, as is Holy Trinity Church.

PLAQUE IN THE FITZROY GARDENS

by Liz Rushen AM

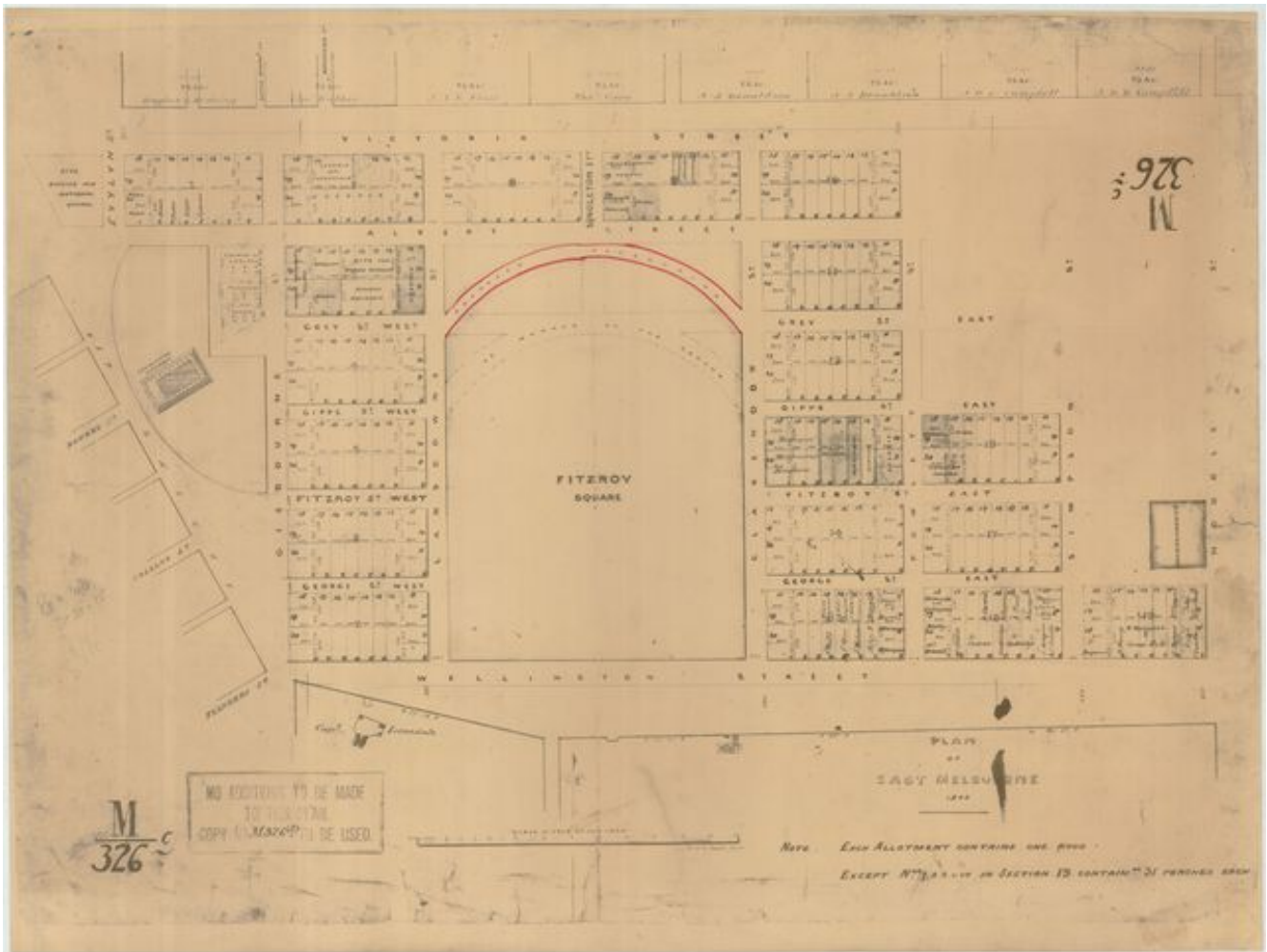
Have you noticed that the large plaque set into the main pathway of the Fitzroy Gardens has been restored? For sometime it has been barely legible and now it shines! The plaque commemorates two aspects of the Gardens: how they got their name, and the provenance of the cottage commonly called ‘Sinclair’s Cottage’.

The Gardens were initially created in 1848 as Fitz Roy Square and named for Sir Charles Augustus Fitz-Roy, governor of New South Wales from 1846 and Governor General of the colonies of New South Wales, Van Diemen’s Land, South Australia, Victoria and Western Australia from 1850 until he departed Australia in early 1855 following the heady days of Victoria’s separation from New South Wales, and the announcement of the discovery of gold in the colonies.

Robert Hoddle’s original design of Fitz Roy Square shows Grey, Gipps, Fitzroy (now Hotham) and George Streets running from Gisborne Street to Hoddle Street, the square intersecting the streets and named ‘west’ and ‘east’ respectively. Grey Street West was later named Cathedral Place, Gipps Street West became St Andrews Place, while Hotham and George Streets West were incorporated into the Treasury Gardens.



Plaque in Fitzroy Gardens, May 2024. Photo Graham Shepherd



Plan of East Melbourne, 1848. EMHS cat. no. eml0004.

In 1862, when the name Fitzroy Gardens was officially adopted, much of the area was occupied by a disused bluestone quarry, the low-lying land was swampy and there was a gully at the end of Lansdowne Street. The whole area was generally a rubbish tip.

Edward LaTrobe Bateman, nephew of Governor LaTrobe, had been commissioned to submit a design for formal gardens but Clement Hodgkinson, the Deputy Surveyor-General, discarded Bateman's ornate plan, replacing it with a softer design for the Fitzroy Gardens, more appropriate as an attractive setting for the parliamentary precinct. The rigid lines of Bateman's design were relaxed, geometric shapes were softened and the natural features of the site were highlighted, resulting in a less formal garden of glades, woodlands and fern gullies. The recently-closed Cremorne Gardens at Richmond provided classical statues and busts to adorn the pathways and leafy recesses.

Hodgkinson personally controlled every element in the development and maintenance of the Gardens, including trees, shrubs and flowers, fence construction, drainage work, statues and fountains, and hired the gardening staff. James Sinclair, a celebrated Scottish landscape gardener, was appointed head gardener. He was an experienced horticulturalist, his skill as a gardener derived from his love of nature.

At its meeting on 20 July 1949, the Parks, Gardens and Recreations Committee of the Melbourne City Council adopted the recommendation of the Historical Society of Victoria's Hattie Keight, to erect a tablet to his memory, mistakenly thinking he was responsible for the design of the Fitzroy Gardens. It is this plaque we see today in the pavement outside the cottage where he lived and worked for so many years.



Fitzroy Gardens, c.1894. SLV Accession No: H15549/4

Further reading:

Georgina Whitehead,

Civilising the City: A History of Melbourne's Public Gardens (1997)

LILIAN HELEN ALEXANDER

By Jill Fenwick OAM



Lilian Alexander, 1887

In 1869 the Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Victoria established an educational institute for young women in Albert Street, East Melbourne. Opened in 1875, Presbyterian Ladies College was one of the first independent schools for girls and the first to offer an educational curriculum modelled on that of the independent boys' schools. Throughout its history, P. L.C. produced young women who were not only gentlewomen, but academics as well.

It wasn't until 1871 that girls had been able to take Matriculation exams. In that year, the Melbourne University Council passed a resolution stating that 'In the opinion of this Council, females may be admitted to the Matriculation Examination, although such females are precluded from matriculating.'

One such young woman was Lilian Helen Alexander, a Matriculant honours year student at P.L.C. She was the daughter of Thomas Alexander, a printer, and later a public servant, and his wife Jane, (nee Furnell), who ran a small private 'ladies' college'.

In 1881, the University Act was passed, allowing women to graduate, rather than just matriculate at the University and on 19 March 1881, four women enrolled: Mary Gaunt, Julia (Bella) Guerin, Lydia Harris and Henrietta Hearn. Only Guerin and Harris sat the finals exams, but Harris failed "The History of the British Empire" making Guerin the first female graduate from Melbourne University, in fact from any Australian University.

She was followed in 1883 by Laura Moelin and Lilian Alexander. In the Matriculation Honours results for 1883, published in *The Age*, Lilian Alexander was listed as the candidate of merit, i.e., the top of the intake, in Greek and Latin, but the Exhibition

was awarded to William Ostermeyer, with Lilian Alexander second. It was explained that, as a female, 'Miss Alexander could not be awarded the Exhibition 'being ineligible under regulations Ch. XV111.' She was also the candidate of merit in English and History, but again denied the Exhibition.

In early 1883, Lilian Alexander approached the warden of Trinity College, Canon Alexander Leeper, and asked to become a member of the all-male College and in April that year the Trinity College newsletter, the Calendar, reported that Miss Lilian Helen Alexander was the first woman admitted to attend Trinity College.

However, her name is simply inserted between two male collegians, because 'women students, although attending lectures at the College, and enjoying equality with the men all its educational advantages, were not formally enrolled on the books.'

In an article for The Argus, 13 July, 1918, Canon Leeper reminisced:

It's very strange, looking back all those years, to remember the way in which her application for admission was received. I favoured it myself, but it was a matter too important to settle on my own account, so I took it to Bishop Moorhouse, and was surprised to find he strongly objected, The reason for his objections were extraordinary ... He represented that it would prejudice the squatters against the College, because they would not like to see their sons marry the penniless girls they would meet there. When a man like Bishop Moorhouse could urge such a reason. Can one wonder that the emancipation of women was so long delayed?

Lilian Alexander was admitted to Melbourne University in 1884, taking her B.A. in 1886. Friday 6th April that year, The Argus newspaper published an apology:

When publishing the class list for the Third Year Arts in the school of history, it should have been mentioned that the scholarship had been awarded to Lilian Helen Alexander (Trinity College).

And on Saturday 8 May, The Australasian newspaper reported:

There was one lady graduate, Miss Lilian Helen Alexander, of Trinity College, the university scholar in history and political economy, admitted to the degree of Bachelor of Arts.

It must have been very satisfying to be recognised as a top scholar after the earlier rejections. In 1888, she gained her M.A., but she had already decided that medicine was her vocation.

In 1887, Lilian and her colleague Helen Sexton had taken out an advertisement in the Age: 'Two ladies desirous of studying medicine in Melbourne asked others to join them in petitioning the University'. Six women responded and an approach was made to the University Council. On 23 February 1877, Alexander Morrison moved that 'council approve of the principle of ladies being admitted to degrees in medicine'. The motion was passed, ten votes for, three against, with women being admitted to all lectures, except those 'undesirable on the grounds of decency'. Lilian was the first

woman enrolled, on 4 April 1883. Eight women began the course. Two graduated M.B. in 1891, with Helen Sexton completing in 1892 and Lilian Alexander in 1893, gaining her Bachelor of Surgery (B.Ch) in 1901. She completed her residency at the Royal Women's Hospital in Carlton.

In 1895, along with other female graduates, she became involved with a new cause, a hospital led and staffed by women, for which there was a huge demand. A fund was set up to finance the venture, 'the shilling fund'. It was the year of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee and enough money was raised to build the Queen Victoria Hospital for Women and Children. Lilian Alexander was one of the original staff members and she served the hospital until 1917.

Her sister had died in 1913 and Lilian had 'adopted' her four nephews, all four serving overseas in World War 1. In 1917, she made a journey to France to visit them. After the war, she resigned from the hospital, working as a private practitioner until 1928. In 1931, she was elected President of the Victorian Medical Women's Society.

She died in South Yarra on 18 October 1934 and is buried at the Melbourne General Cemetery at Fawkner. Her name is listed on the Victorian Roll of Honour.

RAY YOULDEN - A LIFE IN SERVICE TO HIS COUNTRY

By Tim Holland

There are the "Great and the Good" who have storied lives chronicled by others and through the media, and there are those who have a moment of fame in an otherwise "normal" life. Then there are others who may be involved in momentous events but maintain an anonymous profile as minor players in these events.

An example of the latter is Ray Youlden, who had an East Melbourne connection, and whose working life as a civil servant between the two world wars was book-ended by events which are worth relating.

Born in Ballarat in 1894, Ray Moor Youlden attended Yarra Park State School, although his family was living at Maryborough at the time of his enlistment in the 1st AIF, and had done for many years. It would seem that he lived with relatives when he attended Yarra Park school, as there were Youlden relatives living in the Richmond area, and it is quite an unusual name. His father died when he was 12/13yo, and at about the same time his mother gave birth to Ray's youngest brother. The evidence from his later activities suggests that Ray was at least a pupil of better than average ability.

Ray's enlistment papers say that he was aged 20 and working as a clerk when he signed up in August 1914. One of the earliest volunteers for military service in WW1 he was also one of the earliest combatants, going ashore at Gallipoli on the first morning of that campaign. He seems to have been well regarded as he was promoted quickly to the ranks of corporal then sergeant despite his youthfulness. Apart from his military capabilities he also clearly had a talent for observation and for writing.

In the Maryborough local paper, the Maryborough and Dunolly Advertiser, there are a number of very interesting and frank articles written by Ray throughout 1915 about life on the front line of the Gallipoli Peninsula, including his feelings and observations of being in the boat in the dark on the morning of 25 April 1915 as the Australian forces approached the shore under fire from the Turkish barrage from the heights on the land. Decades later Ray's son Noel edited Ray's observations on his war experiences into a book which is available at the State Library of Victoria. The frankness and detail of the material printed in the newspapers of the time probably would not pass the scrutiny of the Censor in later times of war, such as WW2. The material does however provide very evocative accounts of the Gallipoli experience.

Ray Youlden's war ended at Gallipoli when he was diagnosed with neuritis, serious enough for him to be returned to Australia for the duration. He then married and settled in Camberwell, apparently working in the Commonwealth Public Service. There is no record of him in the Electoral Rolls after the mid-1920s, and it seems that at around that time he and his family moved to Rabaul where he worked as an administrator in what was then the Australian Mandated Territory of New Guinea.

The Japanese overran Rabaul in January 1942 and over 1,000 soldiers and civilians were taken prisoner, civilian women and children having been evacuated to Australia in December 1941 after the bombing of Pearl Harbour and the escalation of the war in the Pacific. On 22 June 1942 the Japanese put these prisoners on an unescorted ship, the Montevideo Maru, bound for the Chinese island of Hainan. As the ship passed the Philippines island of Luzon on 1 July 1942 it was sunk by the US submarine, USS Sturgeon, with the loss of 1054 of these prisoners, including Ray Youlden.

The sinking of the Montevideo Maru is considered to be Australia's worst maritime event. Down the decades there have been calls for searches for the wreck, and in April 2023 amongst much fanfare it was announced that the ship had been located at a depth of around 13,000 feet in the South China Sea.

Ray Youlden was not a publicly known person, but there were several other victims on the Montevideo Maru who had family ties to the famous: the brother of Australian Prime Minister, Sir Earle Page; the grandfather of politician and rock singer Peter Garrett (a Midnight Oil album had a song referencing the sinking), the uncle of Kym Beazley, the great-uncle of Andrew Hastie, MP, and the brother of a future Queensland governor. (The information in this paragraph courtesy of Wikipedia)

The families of the victims did not find out till late 1945 the fate of their loved ones. Poignantly, in late 1944 the engagement notice for Ray's son reads that he is the son of "Mrs Emily Youlden and Mr Ray Youlden...", not the late Mr Ray Youlden; as per the situation for so many other families at the time who had family members as prisoners of war, they didn't yet know the fate of their family member even though he had been dead for over two years.

In a final insult to her injury, Ray's widow Mrs Emily Youlden wrote to Army Headquarters in July 1950 seeking to have Ray's lost war medals from WW1 replaced. She explained that the medals had been lost as a result of his internment while in the service of the Australian Government at Rabaul and subsequent death as a prisoner of the Japanese. With a bureaucratic tin ear and great alacrity of response, the Department announced by return mail that "Departmental Regulations preclude the replacement of medals...after the death of a soldier to whom they were issued".

Sadly, Emily didn't have to fret about this for too long, as she died suddenly only weeks later at the age of 56.

BALLOONS OVER EAST MELBOURNE

By Sylvia Black

Balloons have long been a feature of East Melbourne's skies. In 1858 the first balloon ascent in Australia took place from the Cremorne Gardens, Richmond's renowned pleasure gardens just across Punt Road behind the Nylex tower. Thousands of Melbournians came to watch from any spot they could. Even the river was crammed with small boats full of excited passengers.

Hot air ballooning as we know it today was not invented until 1961 so this inaugural flight involved gas. The balloon was partially inflated at the Melbourne Gas Works at Batman's Swamp in West Melbourne and then brought by horse and cart, with the aid of thirty men, to its launching place, where further gas was pumped in from the site's own gasometer. Eventually the balloon took off with one man aboard, Mr Dean, who had been responsible for its construction. It reached an altitude of 8000 feet (2438.4m) and after forty minutes appeared to begin its descent and apparently landed somewhere past Heidelberg (Argus, 2 Feb 1858) although another report says the balloon landed in Flemington after just twenty minutes' flight (Adelaide Observer, 6 Feb 1858). Whichever, it certainly would have been visible from East Melbourne.

On the occasion of the fourth and final day of ‘the Grand Cricket Match between the all England Eleven and Eighteen of Melbourne’ on 4 January 1862 at the MCG Mr Dean and his colleague Mr Brown and his wife took flight in a balloon which followed a haphazard course to land near the Fitzroy Gardens.

In 1885 a balloon ascent with paying passengers was scheduled for take-off from the East Melbourne Cricket Ground, which was near the corner of Jolimont Road and Wellington Parade South. The idea was that the balloon would only ascend as high as its tethers allowed giving the passengers just a small taste of the experience. However, there was a stiff south-easterly blowing and the organisers thought it not prudent to go ahead, and all money was refunded.

Mr Henden, the balloon’s owner, took to the skies about two hours later. He attained a height of 7000 feet (2133.6m) where he found the winds very slow, but at around 700 feet (213.3m) he claimed he reached speeds of 45mph (72.4kph). Two hours later he landed near Moonee Ponds.

Observing the skies from the streets of East Melbourne now it seems, even decades later, that travelling by balloon is still not always plain sailing.

COMING EVENTS

All events at the East Melbourne Library, 122 George Street, East Melbourne.

Wednesday 19 June 2024 at 7:30pm

OUR YARRA RIVER : Its past, its future

Our speaker, Ian Penrose, is a former senior executive in the coal mining and gas industries, but after 27 years he switched his focus to the natural environment.

He headed the Victorian Government’s program to restore the Snowy River with increased flows and bankside rehabilitation. Later, as a state water commissioner, he helped manage environmental water releases into our depleted rivers and wetlands.

In 2006, he became the first Yarra Riverkeeper, leading the community’s campaign to improve the well-being and appreciation of Melbourne’s special waterway. This role (of nine years) earned him the City of Melbourne’s 2010 “Melbourne Award for contribution to the environment” and (as co-winner) Boroondara’s 2015 “Citizen of the Year” award.

In his presentation Ian will share with us what he has learnt of the Yarra's history, and his thoughts about its future.

Friday, 5 July at 10.30 a.m.

BOOK LAUNCH : Yarra Park State School No. 1406: A Recovered History and The Lost Roll of Honor of Yarra Park State School

Ian Hind for a number of years has been working on the history of Yarra Park State School. Ian lives in the school's old shelter shed (converted, of course), and a significant part of his working life was spent in the Victorian Education Department, so he is well placed to write such a history. The school opened in 1874 and closed in 1987 and is of considerable historical and architectural significance.

There are two monographs to be launched. The first is a history of the school itself, and the companion monograph, which tells the story of the Lost World War One Roll of Honor, gives short biographies of all the men, where identifiable, whose names appear on the school's WW1 honor roll, sadly now lost. The first book not only gives a history of an important school serving the East Melbourne and Richmond communities for over 100 years, but also provides an excellent overview of the history of state education in Victoria as a whole. Delving into the second book reveals a very human side of the war often overlooked in the retelling of its drama.

At the launch Ian will touch on key events and some of the important people associated with the school, as well as talking about his own personal journey, with the assistance of Tim Holland and Sylvia Black, uncovering the material and stories to compile this recovered history.

Tim Holland will launch the Recovered History and Major General (Retd) Michael O'Brien will launch the Lost Roll of Honor. Copies of both books will be available for sale at the launch. Morning tea and refreshments will be served following the launch.

Wednesday 21 August at 7:30pm

Hester Hornbrook and The Ragged Schools

Our speaker, Dr. Ros Otzen, is working on a biography of Hester Hornbrook, founder of nine ragged schools in inner Melbourne between 1859 and 1862. In the process she has uncovered the stories of many of the women who joined with Hester Hornbrook in bringing education to children living in poverty. Many of these women were residents of East Melbourne. The talk will highlight just how much welfare in the nineteenth century depended on private citizens, particularly women, before the State stepped in.

Cover Image : Another day, another balloon, 7 Mar 2024. Photo: Graham Shepherd