



Roundabout

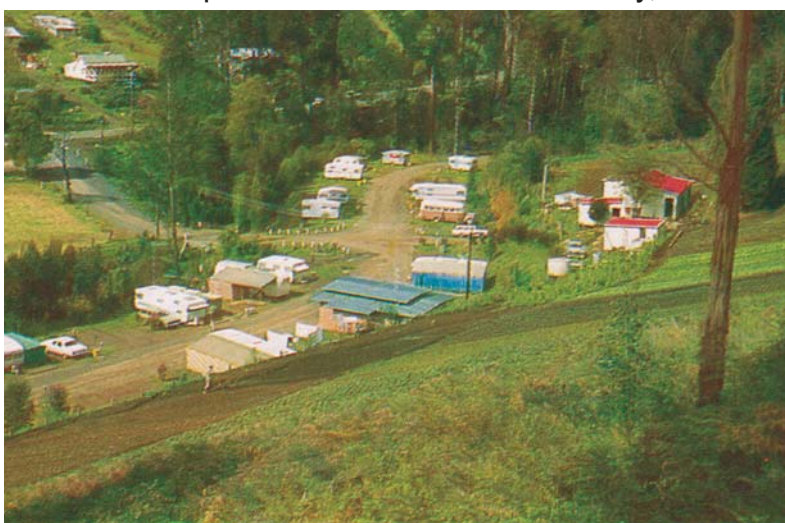
Newsletter No. 7

Winter 2016

Baynes Park

For many years Baynes Park, on the Sassafras Creek in Monbulk, has been thought of as a very pleasant picnic area, cricket ground and home of the Monbulk Swimming Pool. In past years it was also a camping ground and caravan park. It is a pleasant spot for visitors and locals to hold family reunions and even vintage car rallies but the origin of its name can be traced back to Jack (John) Baynes and his wife Catherine. They settled on this piece of land after the 1890s depression had

forced the closure of the Baynes' brick kilns in Lilydale prompting their decision to try a new way of life on the land. The family, Jack, Catherine and their three daughters arrived on their selection in September 1893. The land was cleared and planted



Looking down on Baynes Park Caravan Park from Monbulk Road. c1970s

with fruit trees and berries. Unfortunately John Baynes died in the early 1900s leaving his widow Catherine to raise her family of five daughters alone.

After heavy winter rains the Baynes' house (near where the present small sewerage treatment plant sits) was flooded several times so the house was rebuilt on higher ground (on the top side of Baynes Park Road) overlooking the Baynes' land. Baynes Park Road then separated the house from the picnic area.

Family tragedies were not yet over for Catherine Baynes, diphtheria took the lives of two of her married daughters within two weeks, leaving her the task of raising five grandchildren. Daughter Kitty (Kathleen) had married Harold Mathisen leaving three daughters and Polly (Mary) had married Les Mathisen leaving a son and daughter. As well as rearing her five grandchildren, Mrs Baynes believed strongly in working for her local community, and with Mrs McAlister and

Mrs Mitchell, worked to raise funds for the building of the Catholic Church in Monbulk. After the donation of a block of land by Thomas Lee, the church was built in 1906 on a site near the present Woolworths supermarket.

The church was later burnt down and rebuilt on its present

site up Moores Road, Monbulk.

Mrs Baynes died in her 96th year after an accident while trying to lift a heavy cast iron kettle down from its hook over the fireplace. She had worked hard all her life but had earned the love, pride and respect of her family.

After the death of Mrs Catherine Baynes, the Shire made arrangements with the family to acquire her land and turn it into a reserve bearing the name 'Baynes Park'.

INTERESTED IN LOCAL HISTORY?

Monbulk Historical Society meets every Wednesday morning 9.30 - 12.00 except school holidays. Please join us in collecting, documenting and preserving our local history. Become a member of Monbulk Historical Society for just \$20.00 per year or \$30.00 a family.

Welcome to our latest member to join MHS 'Cheryl Ivey'

Monbulk Historial Society has published **2 new books!**

They are available direct from Monbulk Historical Society and the Yarra Ranges Council at the Monbulk Hub.

Monbulk Historical Society & Monbulk RSL present...

Monbulk's World War I Diggers

A collection of service histories of the men and women from Monbulk and District who served in Word War I 1914 - 1918

Do you see a familiar name? Allen A'Vard Barclay Barratt Bonham Bowman Box Brewitt Browne Burrows Camm Coleman Cowey Cremer Crerar Cutten Dennison Emberson Fountain Fraser Gill Gilmour Halliday Halifax Hamilton Harbord Harris Hartney Hayden Henderson Hogg Hughes James Kay Laland Lane Leake Lee Lilley Martin May McAllister McCarthy McGill McLeod Murray Nation O'Connor O'Donohue Orange Parker Paul Petersen Rankin Reid Roberts Robertson Royle Russell Shaw Simpson Skepper Smith Tandy Taylor Turner Watson Winberg

This 124 page book is a collection of profiles of the Monbulk and District Diggers who fought in WWI. Profiles were first compiled for the 100th anniversary of the landing at Gallipoli 2015 and displayed in the Monbulk RSL. Each profile includes information of their military records, family histories and photos where possible.

Researching these men revealed the horrific conditions, illness and injuries the men went through while being away from their loved ones for far longer than anyone expected at the time. It brought home the relationships of this small community and how brothers, fathers, sons, cousins and brothers-in-law all left their families who had to 'keep things going' at home until their return.

Bitter and Sweet

The fight for survival by those with everything to lose.

Peter Hayne & Monbulk Historical Society

In 2014 the May family of Monbulk donated the Monbulk Progress and Fruit Growers Association minute books which had been left in their father's hands for 'safe keeping' in 1962.

This 42 page book focuses on the first of the donated books, the minutes of the Monbulk Progress & Fruit Growers Association covering the activities of the group from 16th October 1918 until 27th May 1922.

The book gives insights into the circumstances of those times and the issues faced by members of the Association and the wider Monbulk community. It explores the background of the more significant issues and events reflected in the minutes of the Association. Some of the topics discussed in the meetings were shared by the wider Australian public, but others were of particular relevance to those living in Monbulk and at times, specifically the fruit growers.

Monbulk Historical Society's new book **'Bitter and Sweet - The fight for survival by those with everything to loose'** is central to the

Yarra Ranges Regional Museum's Exhibition

'No Jam Without Sugar'

The exhibition runs from

Wednesday 26th May – Sunday 17th July 2016

The Chambers, Level 1, Yarra Ranges Regional Museum

35-37 Castella St, Lilydale

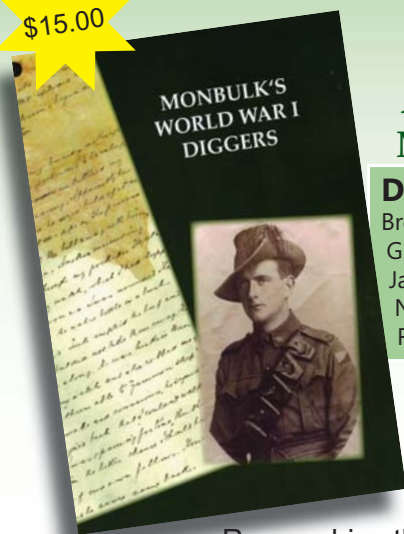
The museum is open daily 10am – 4pm (closed on public holidays).

For more information go to www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/museum or call 9294 6313.

Books are available for sale at the Yarra Ranges Regional Museum, MHS & at the Monbulk Hub

Please note: 'The Chambers' is a multi-purpose space used by schools and tour groups. At certain times access to the gallery may be restricted. Please contact the Museum on the day of your visit to confirm accessibility.

\$15.00



\$15.00



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