

# Shire of Eltham Historical Society

INCORPORATED

P.O. BOX 137 ELTHAM VICTORIA 3095

## **NEWSLETTER**

**NO. 90 MAY, 1993**

### **NEXT MEETING**

**8 P.M. WEDNESDAY, 12 MAY, 1993**

**ELTHAM SENIOR CITIZENS' CENTRE**

**MAIN ROAD, ELTHAM**

**(ENTER FROM SHIRE OFFICE DRIVEWAY)**

**SPEAKER MICK WOIWOD**

**"ONCE AROUND THE SUGARLOAF"**

**THE STORY OF CHRISTMAS HILLS**

### **ELTHAM HERITAGE TOUR**

**SUNDAY, 23 MAY, 1993**

**10 A.M. - 4.30 P.M.**

**STARTS AT ELTHAM SHIRE OFFICE**

### **MAY MEETING:**

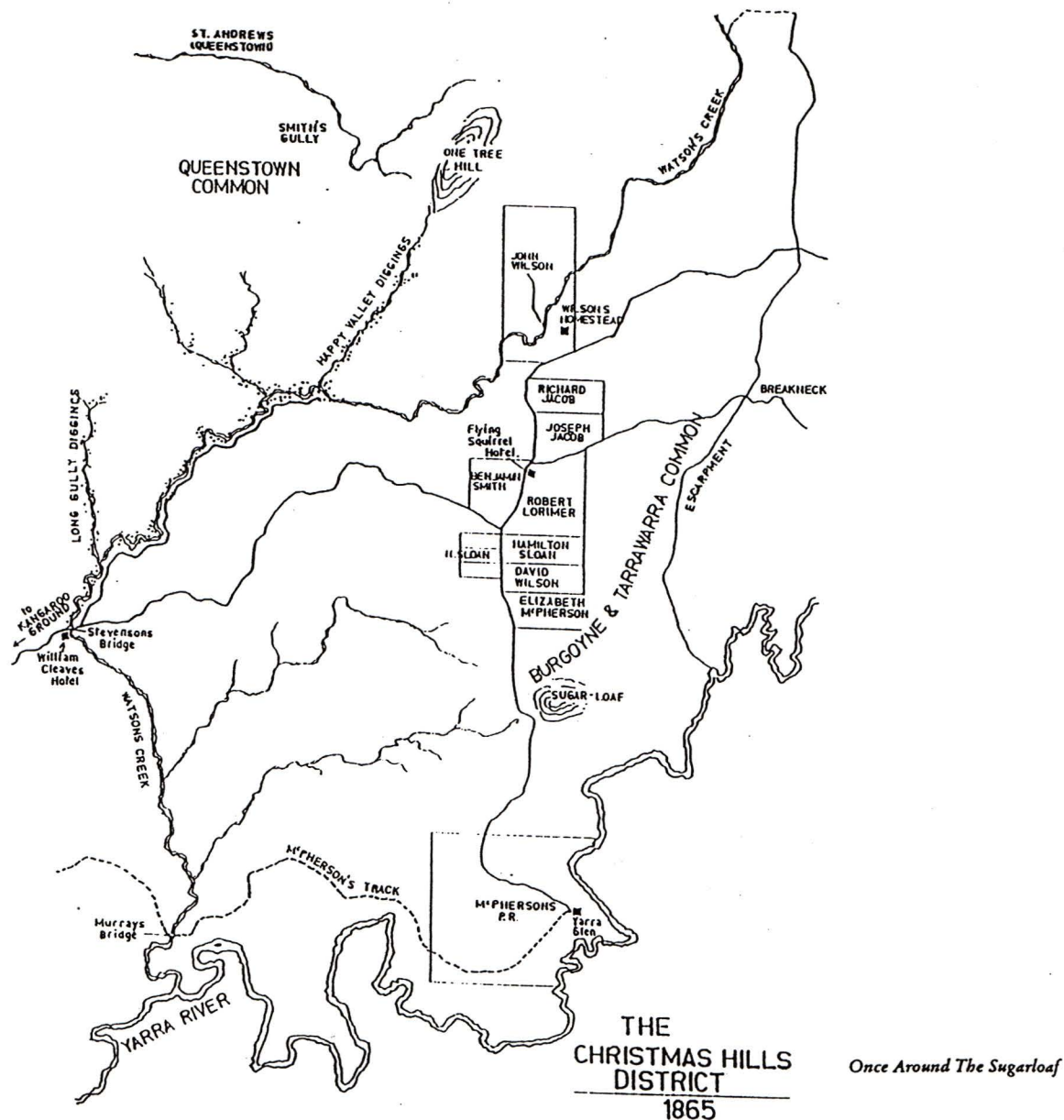
In October last year Christmas Hills celebrated 150 years of European settlement. It was in that month in 1842 that Joseph Stevenson established a licensed run of 9,600 acres at the junction of Five Mile Creek and Watsons Creek. Stevenson hired David Christmas as a shepherd but he became lost near the property on his way from Melbourne. The area where he was found became known as Christmas Hill and later gave its name to the district.

This story and the on-going history of the district is told in Mick Woiwod's book "Once Around the Sugarloaf" which was produced for the celebrations. The "Sugarloaf" is the prominent hill which rises above the Yarra escarpment to become a distinctive landscape feature.

Mick's several years of research and writing have established him as the foremost authority on the history of this area straddling the boundary between the Shire of Eltham and Healesville. At our May meeting he will talk to us about this subject that he knows so well.

Copies of Mick's book will be available for sale for members who have not yet got a copy.

As an associated feature we have included with this Newsletter a map produced by Gary Patterson for the Christmas Hills Celebrations. It shows historic locations around Christmas Hills and is intended as a self guided driving tour (or a walking tour for the very energetic). Many of the locations have on-site notices giving brief details of their history.



### ELTHAM HERITAGE TOUR:

About this time last year we held an Eltham Heritage Tour based on the Shire Heritage Study. With the study at an early stage, we had a guided tour led by heritage consultant David Bick. The study has now proceeded to a draft of the final report and this was examined by members at the February meeting. We intend to use the data sheets from the draft report to conduct our own self guided tour. Details of places to be visited have not been finalized but will be different to last year's tour. We intend to concentrate on places recommended for the Historic Buildings Register and the Register of the National Estate - that is, the highest forms of protection. Where they fit into the itinerary we will also include some places recommended for local planning protection. We hope to include interior inspections of a few buildings.

Travel for this excursion is to be by 23 seater bus. The cost will be \$8.00 per person. Because the numbers are strictly limited seats will be allocated in order of receipt of reservations with payment. Reservations will be accepted by Gwen Orford at the May meeting. Mail reservations may be sent direct to Gwen at 125 Napoleon Street Eltham 3095. If making a reservation after the meeting check with Gwen by phone before sending your cheque.

The excursion will leave the Eltham Shire Office at 10.00 am and return about 4.30 pm. Bring your own picnic lunch and any other sustenance you require on the way.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

At the Annual General Meeting on 10th March the following office bearers and committee members were elected:

President	Harry Gilham
Senior Vice President	Sue Law
Junior Vice President	Doug Orford
Secretary	Russell Yeoman
Treasurer/Membership Secretary	Gwen Orford
Committee Members	Jock Read, Blanche Shallard Mick Woiwod, Dorothy Markby Opal Smith, Joan Ackland.

Most of the personnel remain the same as for the last year but there are a few changes of position. Most notably, Sue Law has stepped down from the position of President which she has occupied for the past eight years but remains as Senior Vice President. The Society has had some notable achievements under her leadership. They include improved administrative procedures, a wide range of activities and some more permanent accomplishments, including the 150th monument, Walter Withers plaque and the Andrew Ross Museum. We are grateful to Sue for her excellent work in this position..

Phyllis Macdonald has found it necessary to resign from the Committee after many years. We thank Phyllis for her efforts over such a long period.

We congratulate Harry Gilham on his election as President and wish him a long and fruitful tenure in this important position.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS:

At the Annual General Meeting Subscriptions for this year were fixed at the same level as for last year.

Subscriptions are now due and if not paid at the Annual General Meeting should now be sent to Treasurer Gwen Orford.

The attached form should be completed and sent with the appropriate amount as follows:

Adult	\$10.00
Family	\$15.00
Student	\$ 2.00

## ANDREW ROSS SCHOOLHOUSE MUSEUM:

The opening of the Museum on 27th March was the culmination of a great deal of work by a number of people and was considered by all involved to be a huge success. The idea of the Museum has been developing now for several years. The Museum sub-committee was formed about a year ago under the leadership of Mick Woiwod and with Wendy Bradley as its honorary consultant. Since then there has been a steadily increasing amount of work carried out by the sub-committee and since early this year there has been quite an intense work load shared by a small number of people.

Grants were received from the Shire of Eltham and Arts Victoria and it was only after these were finalized that detailed planning and implementation were able to proceed. Funding from the Council was largely used for building improvements, whilst the Ministry's grant was specifically for copying and mounting of photographs. By arranging unpaid or volunteer labour the value of the grants was significantly extended. Much of the labour was arranged through the Community Correction Service and an apprenticeship training scheme. Mick organized and supervised these workers as well as doing a significant amount of the work himself. There have been other donations of goods and services and these will be listed in a later Newsletter.

Wendy Bradley has contributed far more than originally offered in overseeing the development of the Museum to this stage. As well as developing the concept and operating procedures, she has conducted widespread publicity and community consultation.

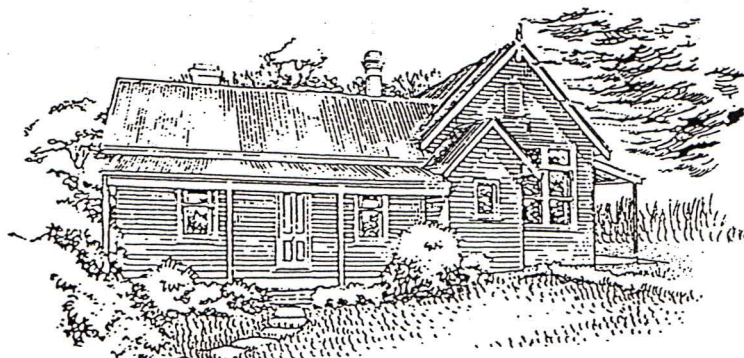
Gary Patterson has been largely responsible for setting up the displays. In particular, he has arranged a most professional display in the front room which is the first stage of the permanent museum content. This is based on Andrew Ross' reminiscences from the Evelyn Observer and features enlarged text from the articles, theme photographs and maps. An original "map" produced by Gary is a bird's eye view looking south from Kangaroo Ground across the bay and beyond to Tasmania and even Antarctica in the distance - quite some view!

In association with the Museum we have now produced our long delayed book of Reminiscences of Andrew Ross. This has been a do-it-yourself effort but has turned out to be of high quality for this type of publication. This has been largely due to some last minute efforts by David Bradley and Mick Woiwod. Printing facilities were made available by the Shire of Eltham. A number of others have assisted with this publication and they are acknowledged in the book. The Reminiscences will be on sale at the May meeting for those who don't yet have a copy.

Apart from the new book a number of local publications were available for sale at the Museum opening. When assembled together the number of books on the local area is quite impressive.

More than two hundred people visited the Museum on the open day. A large proportion of these were present for the official opening by Councillor Robert Marshall and the book launching by local author and historian Andrew Lemon. As well as being an important milestone for the Society and local residents this was an interesting social occasion. Among the visitors were representatives of other historical societies, including Warrandyte, Nillumbik, Yarra Glen and Healesville. Warrandyte assisted with the loan of a microfilm reader which was used for a microfilm of the Evelyn Observer. The Shire oral history project "Listening to the Landscape" proved popular and may be a permanent feature of the Museum.

The Museum was open for the Sunday following the open day and the next weekend as part of the Victorian Heritage Festival. The sub-committee is to meet in the near future to consider future directions for the Museum, including the possibility of regular openings.



There have been many people involved in this project particularly over the past few months. We cannot list them all here but they have been or will be appropriately thanked. We do acknowledge the excellent work carried out by the sub-committee and particularly the time and efforts of Mick Woiwod, Wendy Bradley and Gary Patterson. Without their efforts and the initial urging of Joy and Bruce Ness this project would not have come to fruition. We are grateful to all of them.

**OTHER NEWS:**

At the Annual General Meeting Grace Mitchell continued our annual series of talks on the subject of "My Eltham". Grace talked of her family's efforts to establish a home and a business in Eltham in the years immediately after World War 2. Many of her memories were shared by members at the meeting.

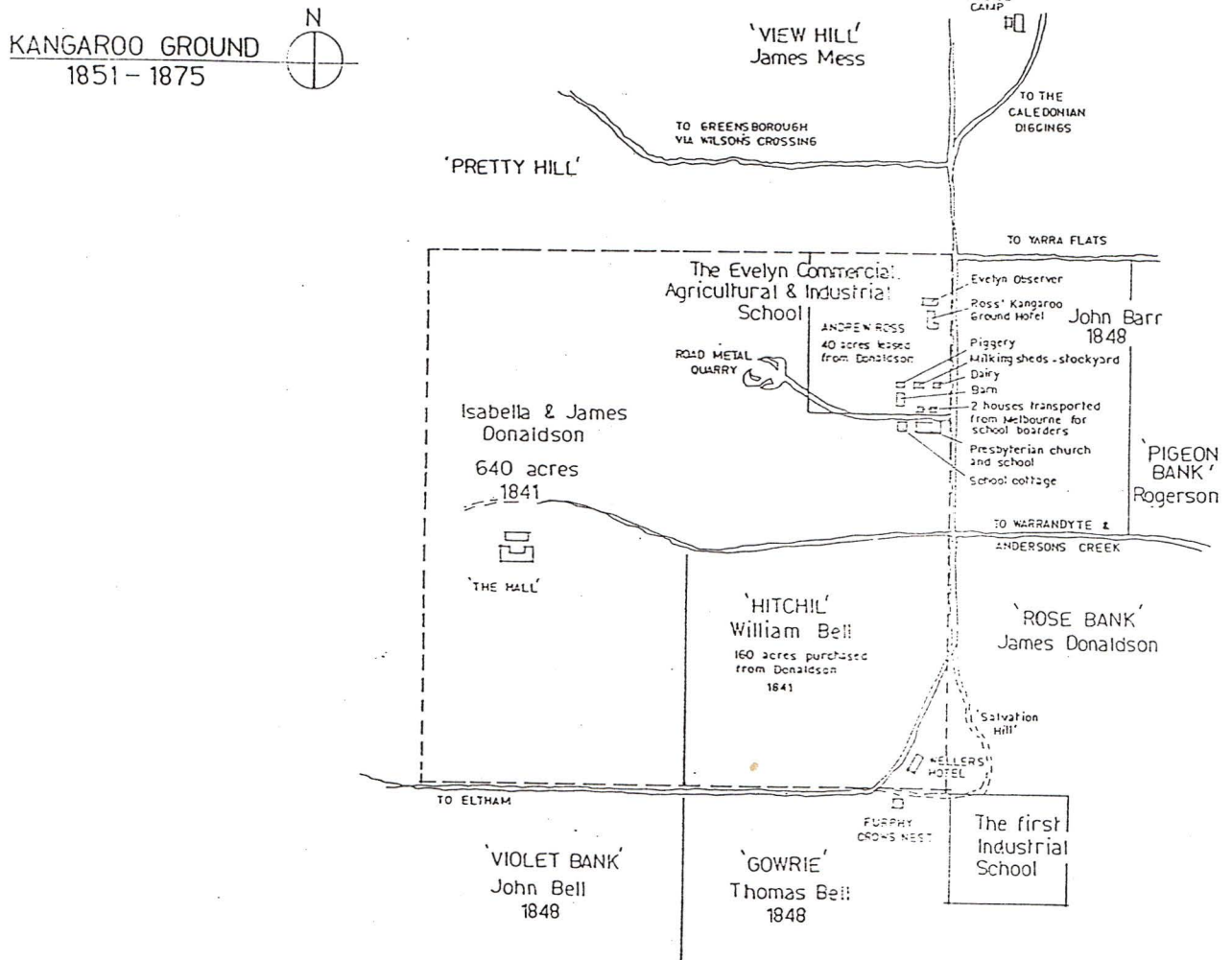
The theme of this year's Victorian Heritage Festival was the Edwardian Era in Victoria or "La Belle Epoque". Our major event was the Museum opening which, of course did not fit well with the theme. The other event was organized in conjunction with Eltham Library. this was an illustrated talk in the Library by Andrew Mackenzie on "Walter Withers and Edwardian Eltham". This was excellently arranged by librarian Linda McConnell and created a lot of interest for those who attended.

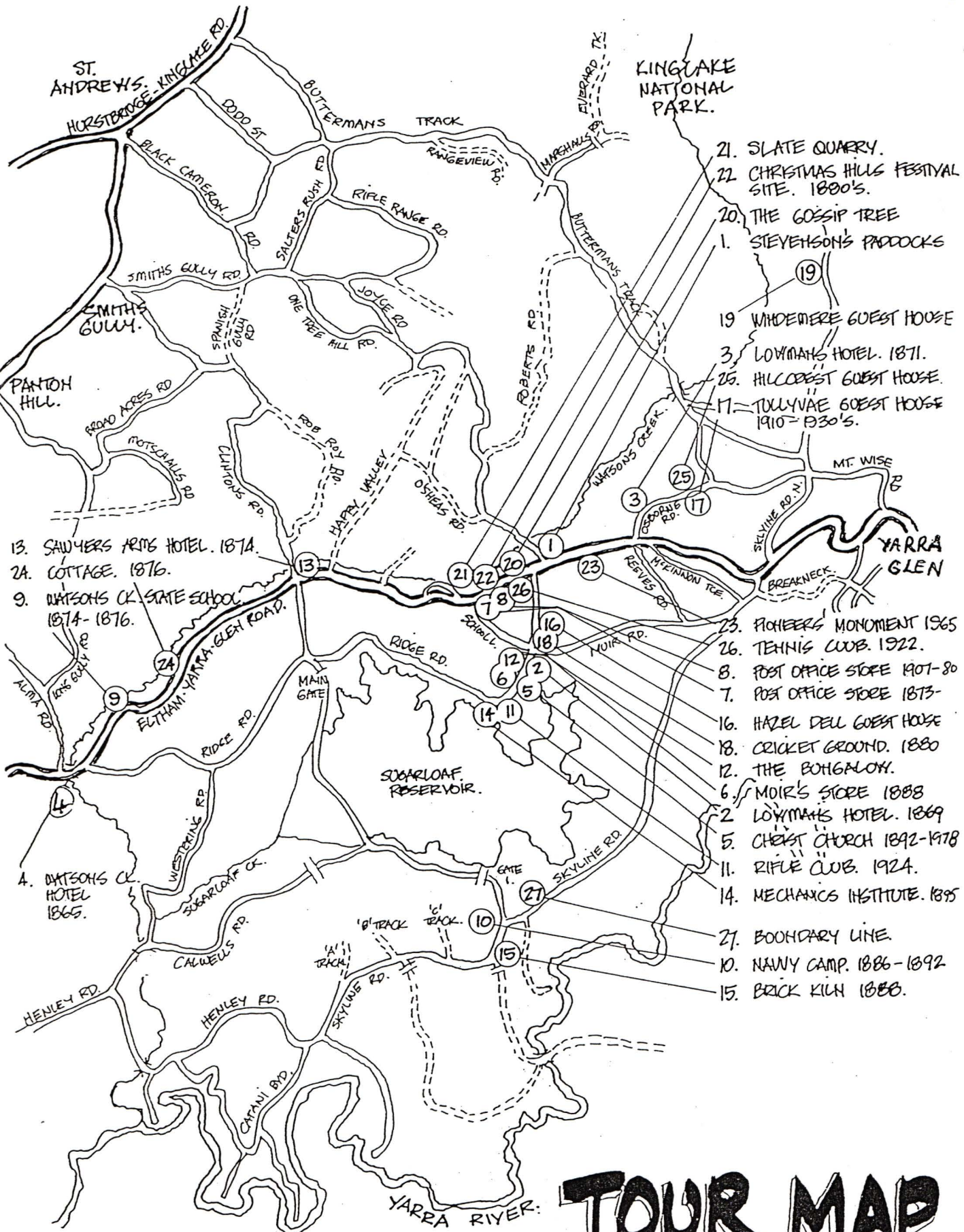
Amongst a number of interesting local books now available is "Discover Warrandyte", a new publication by the Friends of Warrandyte State Park. This excellent paperback of 176 pages is largely oriented to the natural history aspects of Warrandyte but includes chapters on history and places to visit. It costs \$14.95 and is available at the monthly Warrandyte Market is you can't find it elsewhere.

Harry Gilham  
President  
439 1175

Russell Yeoman  
Secretary  
439 9717

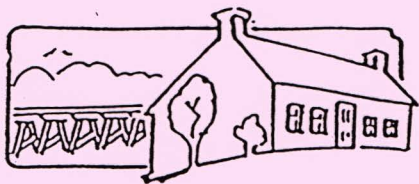
Gwen Orford  
Treasurer/Membership Secretary  
439 8642





- 21. SLATE QUARRY.
- 22. CHRISTMAS HILLS FESTIVAL SITE. 1890's.
- 20. THE GOSSIP TREE
- 1. STEVENSON'S PADDOCKS
- (19)
- 19. WHIDEMERE GUEST HOUSE
- 3. LOWMAN'S HOTEL. 1871.
- 25. HILLCREST GUEST HOUSE.
- 17. TULLYVAE GUEST HOUSE 1910-1930's.
- 23. PIONEERS' MONUMENT 1965
- 26. TENNIS CLUB. 1922.
- 8. POST OFFICE STORE 1907-80
- 7. POST OFFICE STORE 1873-
- 16. HAZEL DELL GUEST HOUSE
- 18. CRICKET GROUND. 1880
- 12. THE BOHNGALOW.
- 6. MOIR'S STORE 1888
- 2. LOWMAN'S HOTEL. 1869
- 5. CHURCH 1892-1978
- 11. RIFLE CLUB. 1924.
- 14. MECHANICS INSTITUTE. 1895
- 27. BOUNDARY LINE.
- 10. NAVY CAMP. 1886-1892
- 15. BRICK KILN 1888.

# CHRISTMAS HILLS 1992, TOUR MAP



# Shire of Eltham Historical Society

NEW MEMBERSHIP

RENEWAL

INCORPORATED

## 1993

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: HOME \_\_\_\_\_ BUSINESS \_\_\_\_\_

ADULT \$10.00  STUDENT \$2.00  FAMILY \$15.00

OTHER MEMBERS (For family membership)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

OCCUPATION: \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER INTERESTS/SKILLS \_\_\_\_\_

HISTORICAL SOCIETY INTERESTS:

HISTORY GENERALLY  LOCAL INTEREST  HISTORICAL RESEARCH

PEOPLE/SOCIAL HISTORY  PLACES/PHYSICAL HISTORY

HISTORICAL OBJECTS/ANTIQUES  SOCIAL/MEETING PEOPLE

OLD DOCUMENTS  PRESERVATION, BUILDINGS ETC.  MUSEUMS

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT  INTER-SOCIETY ACTIVITIES  EDUCATION

TOURS, OTHER AREAS  WRITING  SPEAKING

OTHER (Please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

Please tick appropriate squares.

Send with subscription to :

The Treasurer  
Eltham Historical Society  
125 Napoleon Street  
ELTHAM 3095