

Shire of Eltham
Historical Society
Incorporated

P O Box 137, Eltham, Victoria 3095

NEWSLETTER
No.99 NOVEMBER, 1994

NEXT MEETING

8 P.M. WEDNESDAY, 9 NOVEMBER, 1994

ELTHAM SENIOR CITIZENS' CENTRE

MAIN ROAD, ELTHAM

(ENTER FROM SHIRE OFFICE DRIVEWAY)

SUBJECT: ELTHAM SHIRE COUNCIL
- HISTORY, MEMORABILIA, ETC.

KANGAROO GROUND BOOK LAUNCH
SUNDAY, 20 NOVEMBER, 1994

CHRISTMAS FUNCTION
WEDNESDAY, 14 DECEMBER, 1994
ELTHAM SENIOR CITIZENS' CENTRE
BUFFET DINNER 6.30 P.M.



NOVEMBER MEETING

We have taken the opportunity provided by the current municipal restructuring programme to change the agenda item. The Local Government Board has released its interim report recommending (among other changes) the incorporation of the Shire of Eltham into a new Shire of Montsalvat. More about the future later. This meeting will concentrate on the past. The Shire of Eltham came into existence in 1871 and before that the area was administered by the Eltham Road Board. We intend to examine the history of the Council and its predecessor, look at some Council memorabilia, photos, maps, etc.

Discussion will be led by Russell Yeoman but anyone who wants to make a contribution is most welcome.

CHRISTMAS FUNCTION

As usual, our December break-up will start with a buffet dinner. The main course will comprise several different varieties of pasta from La Zanya's restaurant in Eltham. Sweets and coffee will come later. The cost will be \$10 per person payable on the night. However, we need know who is coming for catering purposes. Please ring Gwen on 439-8642 if you are coming.

Following dinner we are going to have a family history discussion.

Members are asked to come along with some family history matter to discuss. It could be a story about your favourite ancestor (not necessarily from our area). Convict ancestors are especially encouraged. Other ideas might include a family heirloom for discussion, your family tree or some anecdote from researching your family history.

ELTHAM ART IN PUBLIC PLACES

The Eltham Art in Public Places Award alternates with the Eltham Art Award on a bi-annual basis.

Artists around Australia are invited to compete for a commission to create a site specific art work for \$14,000.

Judges of professional standing in the arts community make the selection.

Edward Ginger was awarded the first commission in 1990, followed by Barry Mills and Simon Barley in 1992. This commission included a shelter as part of the brief and was given an additional \$10,000

THE BREEZE, 1990 by Edward Ginger

Welded steel, enamel

3.25 x 2.34 x 1.27 m

Main Road, Research

Melway reference 22 H1

"The sculpture conveys the juxtaposition of the suburban and rural surroundings" E.G.



KANGAROO GROUND BOOK LAUNCH

Mick Woiwod's new book, "Kangaroo Ground - The Highland Taken" will be launched at a special day at Kangaroo Ground on Sunday 20 November. As well as the launching function there will be a special service at the Kangaroo Ground Presbyterian Church and the Andrew Ross Museum will be open. Full details of the launching and church service are provided in flyers produced by the organizers which are enclosed with this Newsletter.

We have also included an advertising flyer and order form for the book itself. Instructions for picking up ordered books are given on the form. Please indicate on the form if you are a Society member. Our Society will receive \$5 from each book ordered by members.

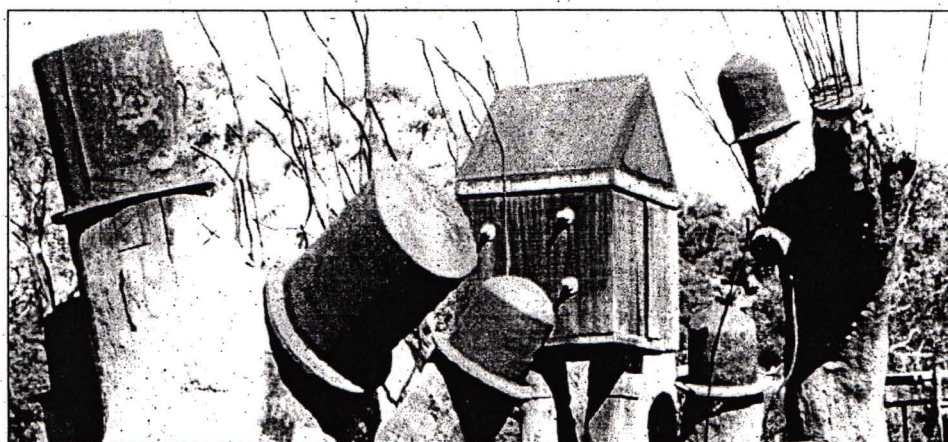
Best wishes to Mick and his team for their big day and for the success of the book.

ANDREW ROSS SCHOOLHOUSE MUSEUM

The Board of Management of the Museum has undergone some self initiated changes and is working towards regular opening of the Museum in the near future. The Museum will be open for the Kangaroo Ground book launching which is separately mentioned.

Gary Patterson has been unable to continue as Board convenor but will carry on arranging the displays. The Board has been restructured and has co-opted the services of Bruce Nixon who has agreed to fill the convenor position. Diana Bassett-Smith has been appointed as secretary. A new representative from the Kangaroo Ground School Council is to be appointed.

The Board has now adopted a policy for acquisition of items for the Museum.



EDENDALE GATEWAY (Detail), 1990/94 by Tony Trembath. Wood, metal.
Approx 5 x 25 x 3.5m. Edendale Community Farm, off Gastons Road, Eltham.
Melway reference 22 A2.

Edendale Gateway 'explores the iconography of the rural countryside, from the isolated farmhouse, the post and rail fencing to the regrowth of lopped trees.' T.T.

This Community Arts Project was jointly funded by the Shire and the Ministry for the Arts.

MUNICIPAL RESTRUCTURING

The interim report of the Local Government Board for Melbourne's outer area was released on 21 October. It is officially open for comment until 7 November. However, Eltham Shire Council has organized a public meeting on the issue for that date and the Board has agreed to accept submissions sent straight away after the meeting.

The Board has previously released its final report for north-eastern Victoria. That report recommends a new Shire of Murrindindi (combining Yea and Alexandra) which includes all of the Kinglake area now in the Shire of Eltham. It is almost certain that the restructuring will occur making the northern boundary of the Kinglake National park the Shire boundary.

In its outer Melbourne report the Board has recommended a new Shire of Montsalvat. This comprises the current Shire of Eltham with the exception of most of the West Riding and addition of areas from the Shire of Diamond Valley and the City of Whittlesea. The proposal is similar to that recommended by the Eltham Shire Council. It coincides with a proposal supported by rural groups in the North Riding of the Shire.

A map showing the new shire is included in the Newsletter. Areas deleted are Montmorency, Lower Plenty and Briar Hill which are recommended for inclusion in the new City of Banyule (Heidelberg and most of Diamond Valley). Areas to be included from other municipalities include Diamond Creek, parts of Hurtsbridge and Arthurs Creek, Plenty, Yarrambat and Dorren. Rather surprisingly, the Eltham North area of Diamond Valley has not been included.

The population of the new shire is expected to be about 47,000 as compared with about 43,000 for Eltham. This makes it one of the smallest proposed in outer Melbourne and has led some people to question its financial viability.

Contentious issues likely to be covered in submissions include the various exclusions and inclusions. The name itself is also likely to be contentious. Whilst Montsalvat reflects the artistic traditions of Eltham, it has little relevance to the rural parts of the proposed shire.

A number of other names are currently being discussed including a number of variations on "Diamond" which reflects the fact that it occupies most of the Diamond Creek catchment. "Nillumbik" has also received support.

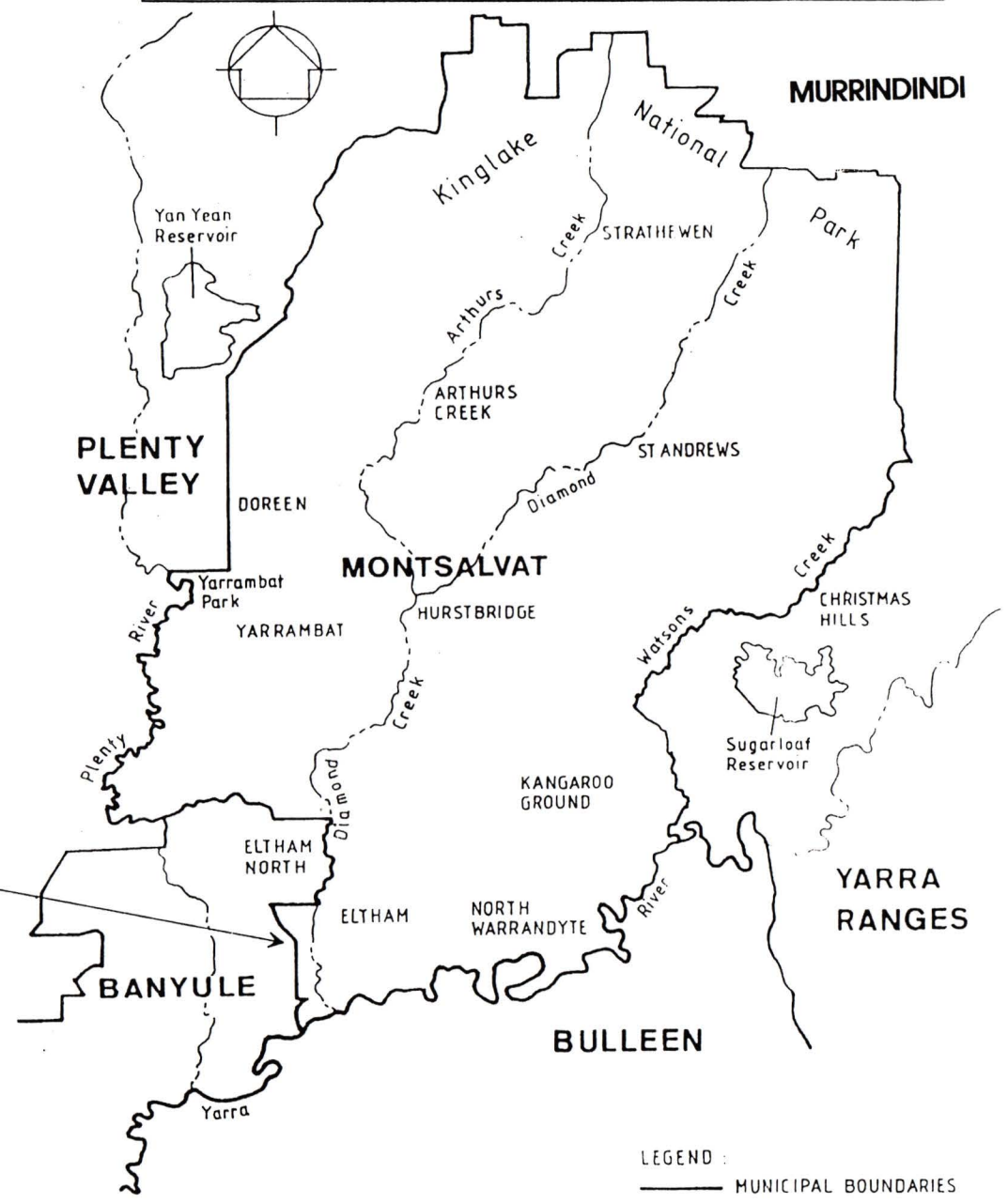
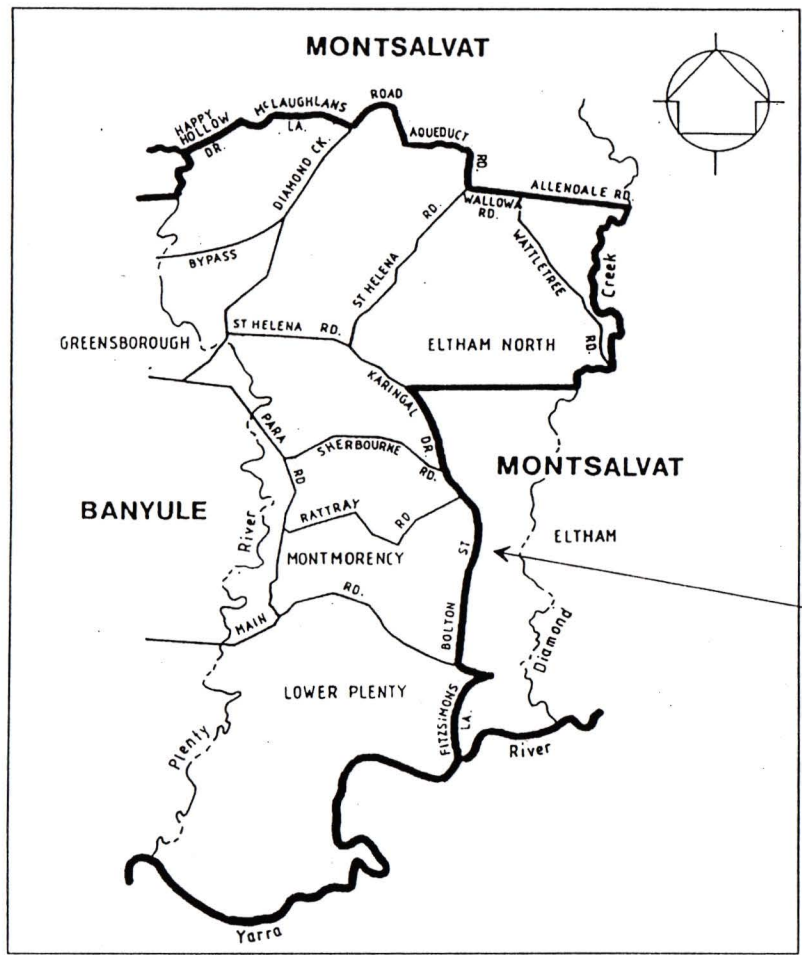
The Society generally supported the Eltham Council's proposal. We have not formally considered the interim report and it is unlikely we will make a submission as a Society. Members should make submissions to the Board on any matters on which they have a strong view.

We need now to think about the future of our Society. Do we change our name to that of the new municipality? Do we become an "Eltham and District" Society? Or do we have discussions with other societies regarding amalgamation or delineation of "territory".

These are matters for consideration initially by the Committee and by members before any major decisions are made.

Map Showing the Local Government Board's Proposed Shire of Montsalvat

Enlarged section of proposed south western boundary



LEGEND :
 ——— MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES
 - - - - RIVERS AND CREEKS

OTHER NEWS

As foreshadowed in our last Newsletter, the Society will not take an active role in the Eltham Community Festival.

The Eltham Library will be organizing events with historical themes. There will be displays for local history collection and talks by some interesting local characters. Contact the Library for details.

We have already started work on our programme for next year. President Harry Gilham has been researching the history of Eltham Primary School and has agreed to talk about it at our February Meeting.

The past two months have included two successful Society events. The September meeting continued our arts panel series. Nerida Kirov, George Barker, Cal Martin and Sigmund Jorgensen are all involved in different aspects of the performing arts and each provided a valuable contribution.

Nerida provided an interesting twist by organizing members in community singing of African folk songs. Caroline Shaw demonstrated her excellent knowledge of the local arts scene in her introductions for the panel.

Our Spring excursion attracted a large number of members and friends. Most joined Russell in a walk around the main features of the old goldfield and township at Whroo, including 100 plus steps down into the Balaclava Mine. The layout of Whroo enabled those who couldn't walk to visit most locations by bus. At Chateau Tahbilk we were shown around the historic cellars by John Purbrick, Chairman of Directors.

President Harry is our acknowledged wine expert but we noted that other members were very willing to help him judge the local product after the tour.

With the Shire of Eltham about to succumb to the restructuring process, the Council has allocated funds for the production of a Shire History.

This project will extend over at least eighteen months and will require the goodwill of the new Commissioners for its completion.

It is proposed to advertise for a professional historian prior to the Council being disbanded. It is expected that there will be a significant role for the Society and many individual members.

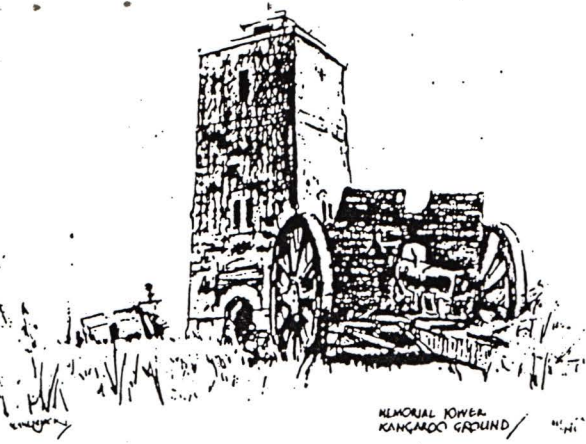
Russell Yeoman is to manage the project on behalf of the Council.

Harry Gilham
President
439 1175

Russell Yeoman
Secretary
439 9717

Gwen Orford
Treasurer
439 8642

AN INVITATION TO:



MEMORIAL TOWER
KANGAROO GROUND

Sunday 20th Nov 1994
Kangaroo Ground Launch Day

FOR AN EXCITING NEW BOOK BY MICK WOIWOD
'Kangaroo Ground - The Highland Taken'

1994 marks the 150th Anniversary of Kangaroo Ground Presbyterian Church with Heidelberg Scots Church from 1844 (under Rev. Peter Gunn) and 125th Anniversary of Kangaroo Ground Church's joining with Yarra Glen Presbyterian Church. Heidelberg and Yarra Glen are now Uniting Church but, after union, Heidelberg Presbyterian Church was continued close by.

A book, KANGAROO GROUND - The Highland Taken has been written to celebrate these anniversaries and it is planned to launch this rich volume of KG's settlement, people and events on SUNDAY NOVEMBER 20th 1994. A Church Service at 10am (Rev Grant Lawry from Heidelberg - Preacher) will precede the official celebration on the School oval, commencing at 12 Noon.

A Scottish event is envisaged from 12 to 1pm, Luncheon and Book Launch to 2-15pm and Afternoon Tea and close by 3-15pm. A small committee from all the Kangaroo Ground Groups will assist the Church and Sir Rupert Hamer will speak and launch the Book. Hopefully, the volume will sell at \$29.95 and all proceeds and profits go to the ANDREW ROSS MUSEUM - Kangaroo Ground and related history projects.

Apologies for some photos still at publishers - returned soon.

Further information - please phone us.

Bruce Nixon

SUN NOV 20 1994 Noon-3pm
KANGAROO GROUND
Scottish Events & 'Back-To'
BOOK LAUNCH

by Sir Rupert Hamer

"KANGAROO GROUND
- THE HIGHLAND TAKEN"
[Mick Woiod]

Reunion 1839 'DAVID CLARK'

Also: Armstrong Barr Bell
Cameron Charlton Dawson
Ellis Harkness Harris
Herbert Hobson Jardine
Johnston Kirk McPherson
Ness Nicholas Rogerson
Sadler Scarce Stevenson
Thomson Weller White &
Wippell and other families.

WENDY BRADLEY 7120396

SUN NOV 20 1994 Noon-3pm
KANGAROO GROUND
Scottish Events & 'Back-To'
BOOK LAUNCH

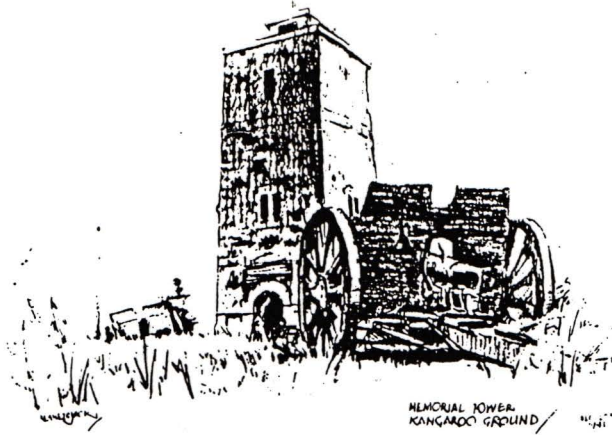
by Sir Rupert Hamer

"KANGAROO GROUND
- THE HIGHLAND TAKEN"
[Mick Woiod]

Reunion 1839 'DAVID CLARK'
& EARLY FAMILIES

The above notices have been placed in THE AGE, HERALD-SUN, NATIONAL TRUST NEWS, CHURCH OCT NOV MONTHLIES, WEEKLY TIMES and LOCAL PAPERS etc.

Wendy Bradley 7120396
Jenny Anderson 4371802
Bruce Nixon 7301649
Joy & B.Ness 7120227
Mick Woiod 7120563



Sunday 20th Nov 1994
Kangaroo Ground Launch Day

FOR AN EXCITING NEW BOOK BY MICK WOIWOD
'Kangaroo Ground - The Highland Taken'

On Sunday 20 November this year, Sir Rupert Hamer will join us to launch Mick Woiwod's new book Kangaroo Ground - The Highland Taken.

Since last year Mick Woiwod of Kangaroo Ground has compiled a substantial history of settlement, events and people of Kangaroo Ground, with the help of many interested contributors from its past and present. In 1993 Mick completed his work on the history of Christmas Hills **Once Around the Sugarloaf**.

Kangaroo Ground - The Highland Taken is the result of many months of intensive work and is not for commercial profit. The cost of the book will be about \$30 and any surplus funds will go to Andrew Ross School House Museum, Kangaroo Ground or other historical projects in the area.

On Sunday 20th November we would like to see all the people of Kangaroo Ground and surrounding districts - past and present, gather together to celebrate this event. Join with many past pioneering families and old residents of the district. Sir Rupert Hamer, who was instrumental in acquiring Yarra Glen's historic **Gul Station**, will introduce and launch this valuable volume at 2.00pm.

We are planning a day with a Scottish flavour, with pipers and dancers, since the original Kangaroo Ground settlers were mainly Scots who here from 1839.

A Back to Kangaroo Ground for your organisation or group would further help all of us at Kangaroo Ground make November 20th a great re-union day.

12 noon - 1.00pm. Pipers, dancers, re-enactments, Andrew Ross School House Museum open, display of photographs from the book, author signing sessions

1.00 - 2.00pm. Lunch catered for by local groups.

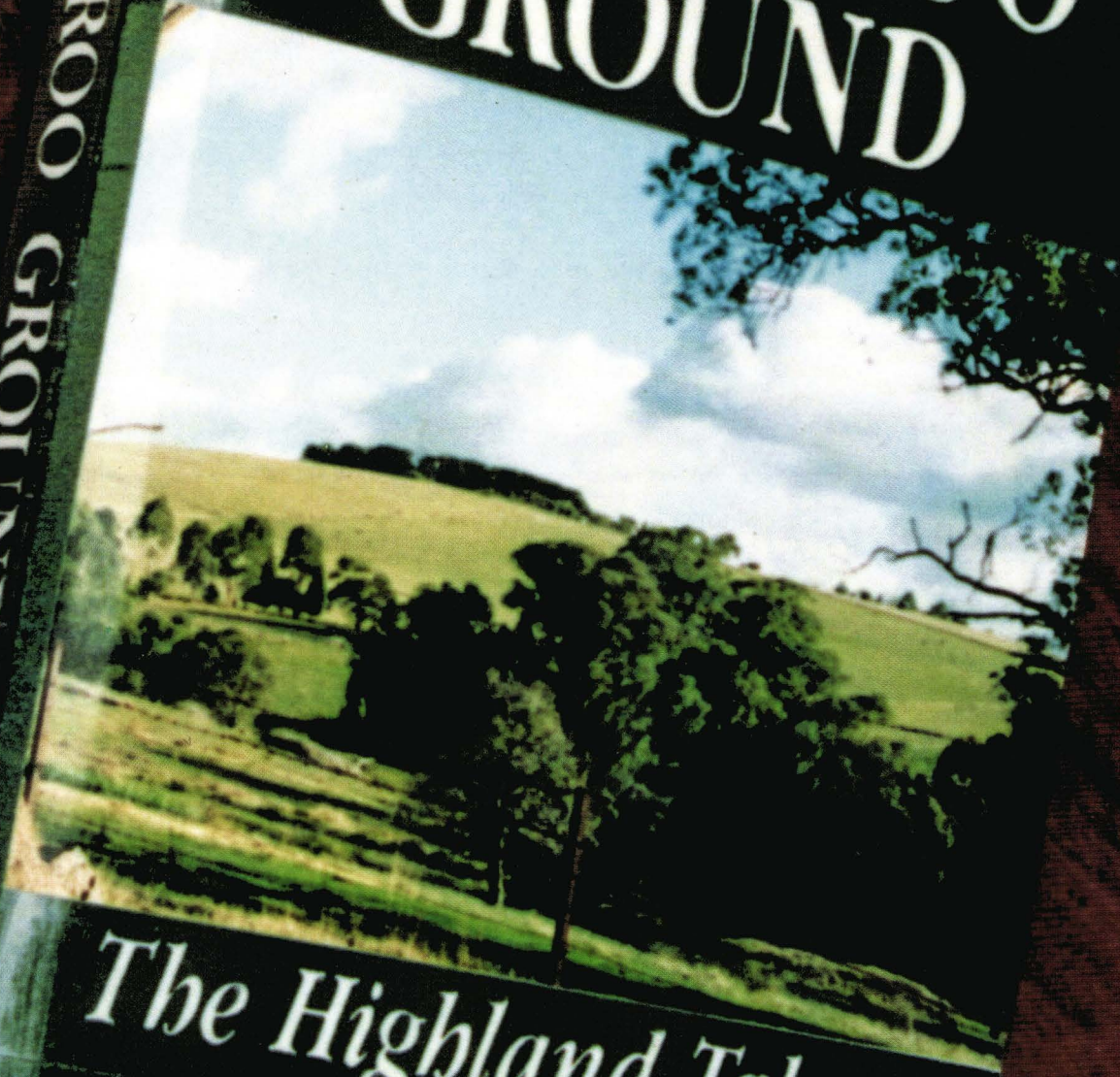
2.00 - 3.00. Official launch of **Kangaroo Ground - The Highland Taken**

3.00 - 3.30 Afternoon tea catered for by local groups.

Please be part of this historical occasion. Let us know how we can help you participate in this. Telephone Wendy Bradley (03) 712 03 96 or Bruce Nixon (03) 730 1649.

Bruce Nixon 7301649
Joy & B Ness 7120227
Wendy Bradley 7120396
Mick Woiwod 7120563

KANGAROO GROUND



The Highland Taken

MICK WOIWOD

KANGAROO
GROUND

WOIWOD

Kangaroo Ground Launch Day

Sunday 20 November

new book by
Mick Woiwod

Kangaroo Ground *The Highland Taken*

launched by Sir Rupert Hamer
at
Kangaroo Ground 12noon - 3.30pm

a Scottish Day
Pipers, dancers, Andrew Ross Museum open, display of photographs from the book,
author signing sessions

Opportunity for back-to-Kangaroo Ground - for all and family reunions

Lunch and Afternoon Tea catered for by local community groups

Wendy Bradley (03) 712 0396

Bruce Nixon (03) 730 1649

Kangaroo Ground - The Highland Taken

by Mick Woiwod

More than 300 pages, 200 photographs, hard cover.

\$29.95 Special Price

Limited number of copies

Your signed copy available at the Launch Day 20 November

All profits will benefit Andrew Ross School House Museum and participating community groups

ORDER FORM

I wish to order _____ copies of **Kangaroo Ground - The Highland Taken** at **\$29.95** copy

I will arrange pick up of my book/s at the Launch 20 November

Some one will pick up my book on my behalf at the Launch

I require my book to be posted to me (add \$5.50 Melbourne, \$6.00 Victorian country, \$7.50 interstate)

Total enclosed:

NAME: (print clearly)

ADDRESS:

..... Postcode Phone

Cheques to Kangaroo Ground Launch Day and post to
Kangaroo Ground Launch Day, (Wendy Bradley) Post Office, Box 164, Kangaroo Ground, 3097
Wendy Bradley (08) 712 0396
Bruce Nixon (08) 730 1649