



Shire of Eltham
Historical Society

Incorporated
P O Box 137, Eltham, Victoria, 3095

NEWSLETTER
No.100 JANUARY, 1995

NEXT MEETING

8 P.M. WEDNESDAY, 15 FEBRUARY, 1995

ELTHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

DALTON STREET, ELTHAM

SPEAKER : HARRY GILHAM

SUBJECT : HISTORY OF ELTHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL



*Acc
early
handing a ramp 1943*

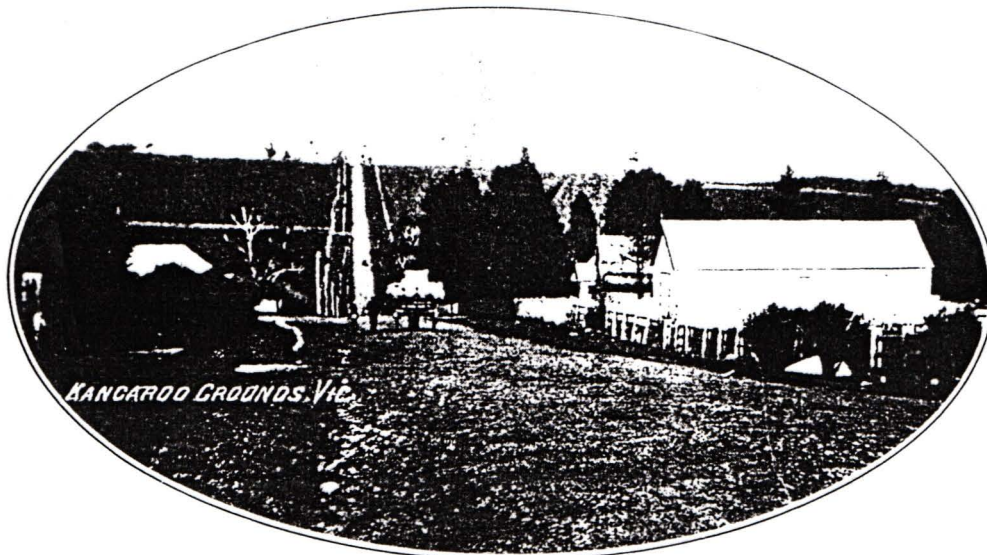
FEBRUARY MEETING:

FIRSTLY, NOTE THE CHANGE OF DATE AND VENUE FOR THIS MEETING.

The reason for the choice of venue is obvious given the subject. The location will be the old school building and entry is from Dalton Street. The date has been changed from 8th to 15th February to accommodate the needs of our President and speaker. If you need transport please contact one of the people listed at the end of the Newsletter.

Eltham Primary School No. 209 was originally a National School vested in the National Board. It opened in 1855 and was first officially recognized in 1856. In 1876 the oldest part of the present school building replaced an earlier building on the same site. The old stone building has undergone significant restoration work over the past year. In conjunction with this work Harry Gilham has been researching the story of the School in far more detail than it has ever been done before.

This meeting will hear the results of Harry's work direct from the researcher and told in the characteristic style which we have now become familiar with. If you know anyone who has been a student at the school or has had other associations with it, please invite them or bring them to the meeting.



KANGAROO GROUND LAUNCH DAY

About 1000 people attended at the Kangaroo Ground School for "the launching of Mick Woiwod's book "Kangaroo Ground The Highland Taken". This was a magnificent day with a pipe band and Scottish dancers, Aboriginal dancers, a working engine display and much more. The book was launched in fine style by Sir Rupert Hamer.

Congratulations are due to Mick for this well researched and excellently presented book. His interesting writing style, which we first noticed in his Christmas Hills history, is continued in this work. The book will be available for purchase at the next few meetings or can be obtained direct from Mick, phone 712 0563. Mick will talk to us about the book later in the year.

Congratulations are also due to Bruce Nixon who commissioned Mick to write this history. As well as the book, Bruce has also funded the setting up of a permanent collection of photographs and other pictorial material which were collected for this work. The collection is housed at the Andrew Ross Museum.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

To satisfy the requirements of the Society's rules, notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Shire of Eltham Historical Society Incorporated will be held at 8:00 pm on Wednesday 8 March 1995 in the Eltham Senior Citizens' Centre.

The Agenda of the Annual General Meeting is set out below in accordance with the rules. Further details will be given in the March Newsletter.

Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of 1994 Annual General Meeting
3. Reports:
 - a. President's Report
 - b. Secretary's Report
 - c. Treasurer's Report
 - d. Other Reports
4. Statement by the Society in accordance with Section 30(3) of the Associations Incorporation Act 1981.
5. Election of office bearers and ordinary members of committee.
Positions to be filled are as follows:
 - President
 - Senior Vice President
 - Junior Vice President
 - Treasurer/Membership Secretary
 - Secretary
 - Ordinary Committee Members
(not less than three and not more than six)
6. Fixing of entrance fee (if any) and annual subscription
7. Any other business of which at least two weeks notice has been given to members

It should be noted that under the Society's rules nominations of office bearers should be made in writing to the Secretary not less than seven days before the meeting. Nominations should be signed by two members of the Society and accompanied by the written consent of the candidate. If insufficient nominations are received further nominations shall be received at the meeting. However, it should be noted that where a valid prior nomination is received it will have priority and no nomination for that position can be accepted at the meeting.



MUNICIPAL AMALGAMATION AND THE FUTURE OF OUR SOCIETY

The Shire of Eltham as a Council and a geographic area ceased to exist in December. As a result we need to at least consider a new name for our Society and following on from the new municipal boundaries we should also consider other aspects of our future role.

Most of the former Shire of Eltham is now included in the Shire of Nillumbik together with parts of Diamond Valley, Whittlesea and Healesville. Details have been well documented in the local press and in Council publicity. Montmorency, Briar Hill and Lower Plenty areas of the Shire of Eltham are now included in the City of Banyule. Many of the residents of this area are very disappointed with the decision that separates them from Eltham (in at least the local government sense).

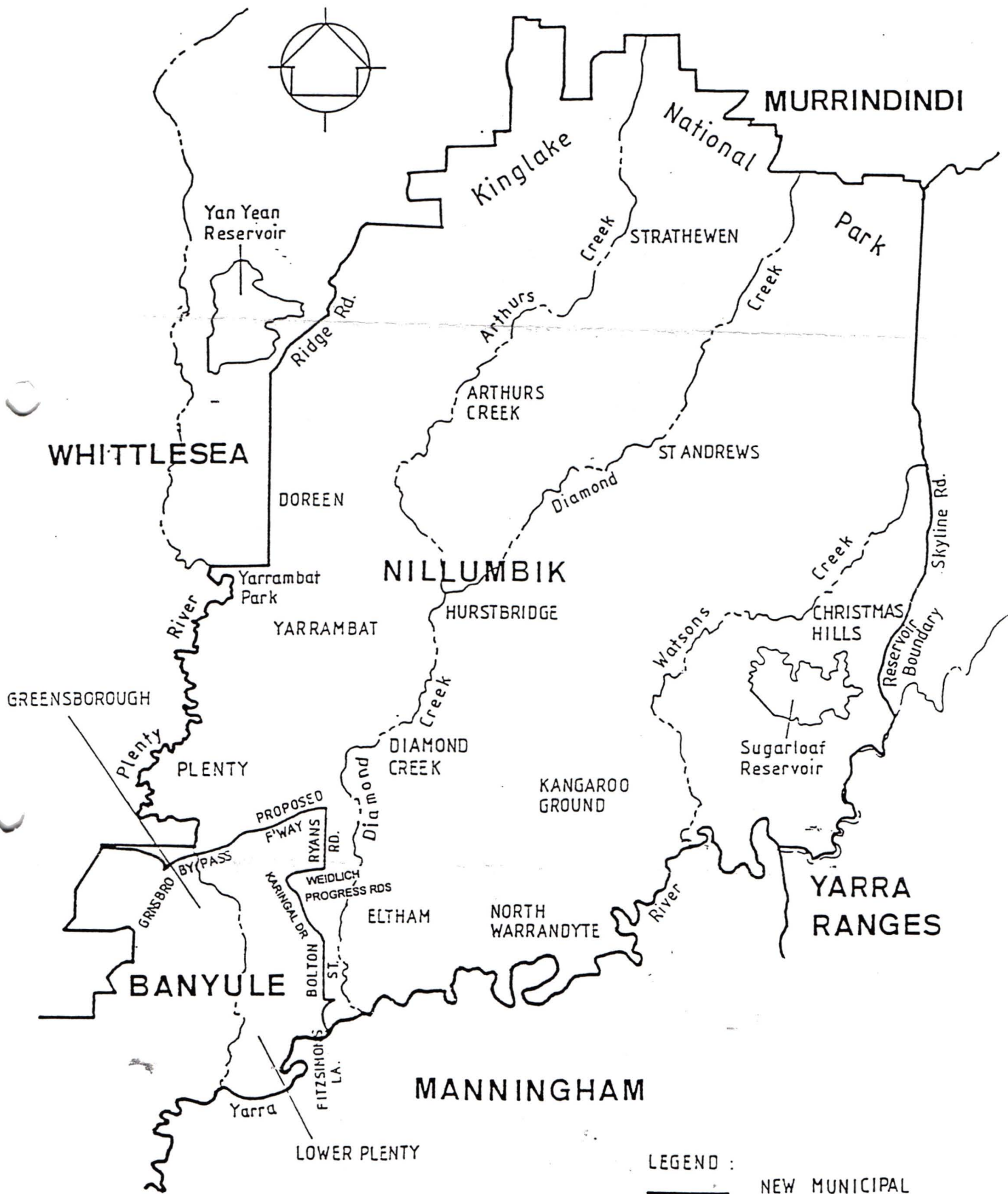
The boundaries (and the name) of Nillumbik have changed several times since the interim report referred to in our last Newsletter. We have included a map showing the boundaries as they now stand.

Three commissioners have been appointed to run the Nillumbik Shire Council and they have moved very quickly to set up a new structure for the Council. It is planned that the Council offices will be the former Diamond Valley offices at Greensborough. They are situated just within the boundary of Nillumbik. Already Nillumbik Council meetings are held there. However, Nillumbik staff remain at Eltham for the present. The Greensborough offices are occupied by former Diamond Valley staff who now work for Banyule City Council (confusing isn't it!).

There are three historical societies operating within the Shire of Nillumbik. As well as our own Society, there are Nillumbik and Yarrambat. Warrandyte Society continues to cover its area within two municipalities. Around the fringes we have societies at Heidelberg, Kinglake, Yarra Glen and Doncaster/Templestowe. Presumably the Whittlesea society maintains an interest in the Doreen and Arthurs Creek areas. This is a complicated situation which requires some resolution.

The Committee has considered the matter. At this stage the consensus is that we restrict our main area of interest and become an Eltham District society. Before making any firm recommendations we propose to discuss this with other societies. No changes will be made until members have been consulted. In the meantime our name remains the same even though there is no longer a Shire of Eltham.





LEGEND :

- NEW MUNICIPAL BOUNDARY
- RIVERS & CREEKS

SPRING EXCURSION

WHROO AND CHATEAU TAHBILK

by Bettina Woodburn

It was grey and damp, with an early Sunday morning quietness when we climbed into our Deluxe coach. Accompanied by chatter and soothing music, from our high viewpoint we escaped from suburban North Eltham, Diamond Creek and Yarrambat. Yan Yean's water was calm and silvery and over the Great Divide we hoped for more sunshine than we actually got!

But now we were on the path of Hume and Hovell and later Major Mitchell and in Nagambie's main street the Monument showed that his party had been through exactly 108 years ago. On their journey from near Mildura to Portland, then diagonally towards Albury, crossing the Goulburn River nearby, this green and pleasant land dotted with great red-gums, our Victoria, they named "Australia Felix".

On the Nagambie-Rushworth Road we visited interesting features relating to the former township and gold workings of Whroo. Spring wild-flowers and a magnificent blooming pear tree, walks around the Balaclava mine, the Cemetery of 304 graves and an aboriginal rock-well, made the Historic Reserve and ideal spot for a picnic lunch. An excellent adobe building had pictures and maps of earlier times on display. In 1845 a Census recorded pastoralists and 302 natives. By 1853 the Gold Town's population rose to over 1,000. 1890 saw the winding down of mining operations and by 1960 the last inhabitants left the town.

We drove past Reedy Lake, on flat but unsealed roads, to Chateau Tahbilk, established in 1860, to enjoy a tour of the old cellars and wine-tasting. It claims to be Victoria's oldest and most beautiful winery, set in 1,150 hectares on which thirteen classic varieties of grapes are grown.

On the way out of this glorious riverland we read on another plaque that Major Mitchell had camped there on October 8th 1836.

Our obliging driver then treated us to more changing scenes as he completed the round trip - to the Hume Highway and off it at the Kilmore exit, then straight to Epping, Childs Road and the new Greensborough by-pass back to Eltham.

President Harry Gilham spoke for us all when thanking all those who helped make the day such a success. He remarked that the behaviour of the over 80's and even the over 70's was exemplary!

SOCIETY PROGRAMME

The Committee is working on a programme for 1995 and details will be published with our next Newsletter. Any member with ideas they would like included should contact a Committee member.

This year's Victorian Heritage Festival will be held from 2nd to 16th April.

The Andrew Ross Museum will be open during this time and special displays will probably be arranged.

Harry Gilham
President
439 1175

Russell Yeoman
Secretary
439 9717

Gwen Orford
Treasurer
439 8642

Visitors are most welcome at
General Meetings.

Unless otherwise advised,
General Meetings are held
at the Senior Citizens'
Clubrooms.

Any additions or alterations
to this program will be
advised in the Newsletter.

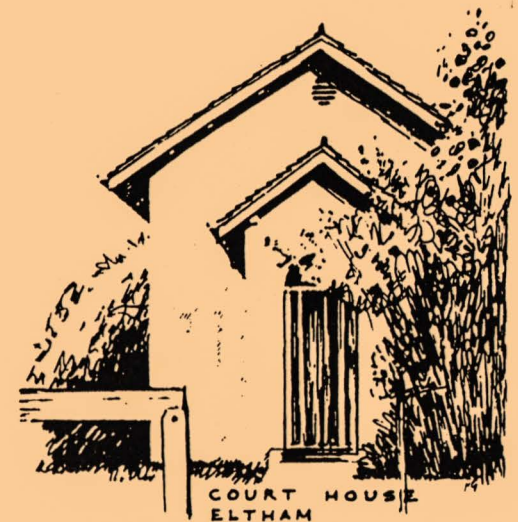
General
Enquiries

Russell Yeoman
: Phone : 439-9717



**Shire of Eltham
Historical Society**
Incorporated

P O Box 137, Eltham, Victoria, 3095



Peter Glass

Programme

1995

1995

FEBRUARY:

Wednesday 15th
8:00 pm - General Meeting

Speaker

Harry Gilham
The History of Eltham
Primary School

MARCH

Wednesday 8th
8:00 pm - Annual General
Meeting

Election of Office Bearers
and Committee Members

Guest Speaker

Dick Tooth - "My Eltham"

APRIL

Sunday 2nd Victorian Heritage
to Festival

Sunday 16th "Heritage is in
Your Hands"

Andrew Ross
Schoolhouse Museum Open

Wednesday 12th
8:00 pm - Committee Meeting

MAY

Wednesday 10th
8:00pm - General Meeting

Guest Speaker

Mick Woiwod
Kangaroo Ground

Sunday 28th

Local Excursion

Arthurs Creek-Strathewen

JUNE

Wednesday 14th
8:00 pm - Committee Meeting

JULY

Wednesday 12th
6:30 pm Buffet Dinner

8:00 pm Speaker Panel of
Local Authors

AUGUST

Wednesday 9th
8:00 pm - Committee Meeting

SEPTEMBER

Wednesday 13th
8:00 pm - General Meeting
History of Mud Brick
Building

OCTOBER

Wednesday 11th
8:00 pm - Committee Meeting

Sunday 22nd

Spring Excursion
Upper Yarra Valley

NOVEMBER

Wednesday 8th
8:00 pm - General Meeting
Kangaroo Ground Photo
Collection

DECEMBER

Wednesday 13th
Christmas Break-up
6:30pm - Buffet Tea