

Shire of Eltham Historical Society

Incorporated

P O Box 137, Eltham, Victoria 3095

NEWSLETTER
No.102 MAY, 1995

NEXT MEETING

8 P.M. WEDNESDAY, 10 MAY, 1995

ELTHAM SENIOR CITIZENS' CENTRE

MAIN ROAD, ELTHAM

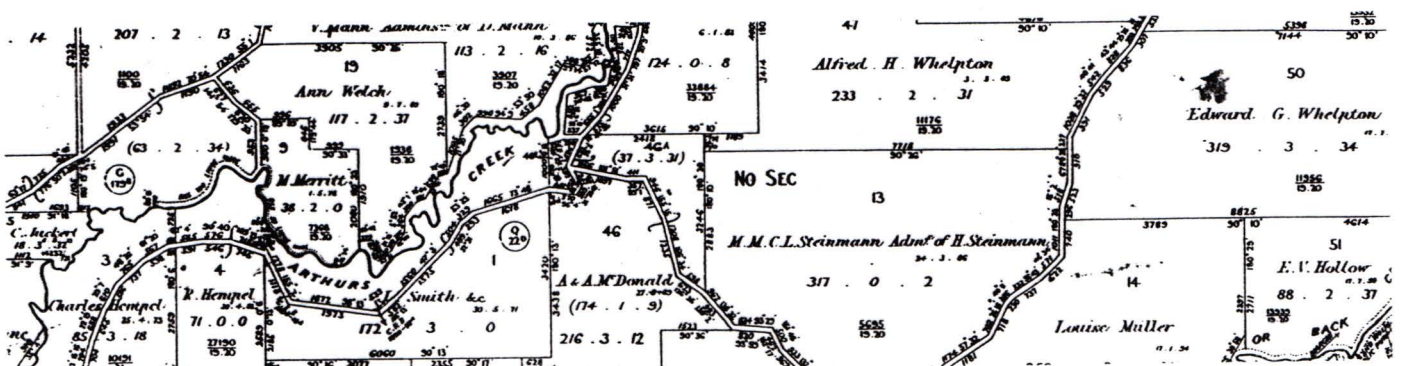
(ENTER FROM SHIRE OFFICE DRIVEWAY)

- 1. SPEAKER - MICK WOIWOD**
"KANGAROO GROUND -
THE HIGHLAND TAKEN"
- 2. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING**
SEE AGENDA BELOW

AUTUMN EXCURSION

12.30 P.M. SUNDAY, 28 MAY, 1995

MORE DETAILS BELOW



MAY MEETING:

By now most of us are aware that Mick Woiwod has spent the last couple of years researching the history of Kangaroo Ground and that the result is his impressive book "Kangaroo Ground - The Highland Taken". Many members have bought copies of the book. Quite a number attended the very successful launching at the Kangaroo Ground School in November.

At this meeting Mick is going to talk to us about the book, its subject matter, its research and writing.

The book itself will form part of Mick's presentation. To add further interest various pages will be projected or, alternatively, copies of the book will be available so that you can refer to the relevant photos, maps, etc.

This publication has attracted widespread local interest and we think that this talk by Mick will add an extra level to its enjoyment.

OFFICE BEARERS 1995:

At the Annual General Meeting in March the following people were elected as office bearers and committee members for the next year:

President	Harry Gilham
Senior Vice President	Sue Law
Junior Vice President	Doug Orford
Secretary	Russell Yeoman
Treasurer/Membership Secretary	Gwen Orford
Committee Members	Opal Smith; Blanche Shallard; Jock Read; Mick Woiwod; Bob Francis; Diana Bassett-Smith.

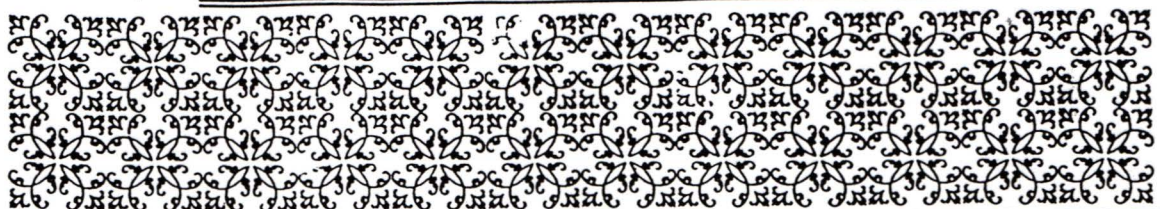
Bob and Diana are new to the Committee and we look forward to their contributions. Diana is one of our representatives on the Museum Board of Management.

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Subscriptions for the next year were fixed at the Annual General Meeting and are now payable. Many members have already paid. If you are not among them then we ask you to pay now - either at the May meeting or by mail direct to Treasurer Gwen Orford at 125 Napoleon Street Eltham 3095. Application forms are available for new memberships. Ask Russell or Gwen for a form.

Subscriptions have now remained unchanged for some years and are as follows:

Adult	\$10.00
Family	\$15.00
Students	\$ 2.00



SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING:

Notice is hereby given that the meeting on Wednesday 10 May 1995 will be a special General Meeting for consideration of the agenda items listed below:

1. Awarding of Life Membership
2. Presentation of Recognition
3. Change of name of the Society

Further information on each of these items as follows:

1. Life Membership

Notice of motion is given that the following motion be moved by Harry Gilham and seconded by Opal Smith:

“That the Shire of Eltham Historical Society Incorporation awards

Life Membership to:

Peter Bassett-Smith Past President

Russell Yeoman Secretary

Sue Law Immediate Past President; Vice President

for outstanding service to the Society.”

Supporting verbal evidence on each candidate will be presented.

Each candidate shall be voted for/against as a single item by a show of hands vote by those present.

A simple majority shall decide each candidate.

Presentations will take place at the July 12 Annual Buffet Dinner - Local Authors night.

2. Presentation of Recognition

Notice of motion is given that the following motion is to be moved by Harry Gilham and seconded by Opal Smith:

“That a presentation of recognition be made by the Society of Eltham Historical Society Incorporated to the foundation President of the Society, Charis Pelling.”

Supporting evidence for this recognition by the Society will be presented.

Members present shall decide the item by a show of hands vote.

A simple majority shall decide this item.

Presentation will take place alongside the Life-Membership item at the July 12 Annual Buffet Dinner - Local Authors Night.



3. Change of Name of the Society

As indicated in recent Newsletters municipal restructuring has resulted in the name of our Society becoming rather meaningless. The Shire of Eltham no longer exists, having been mostly absorbed into the new Shire of Nillumbik. Montmorency, Lower Plenty and Briar Hill have been incorporated into the City of Banyule. The Committee has considered various options for the future of the Society. Although our sphere of influence has covered the whole of the former Shire, most of our members have been drawn from an area extending from Montmorency/Lower Plenty to Kangaroo Ground.

A suitable description of this area would be Eltham district and so the Committee recommends that our name be changed to the Eltham District Historical Society Incorporated. Other names including any based on a different sphere of influence will be considered if raised by any member. Given the existence of the Nillumbik Historical Society the Committee considers that it is not appropriate to adopt any name based on Nillumbik.

AUTUMN EXCURSION:

We have arranged an excursion to the St. Andrews/Arthurs Creek/Strathewen area for Sunday 28 May. This is a drive-yourself excursion commencing with lunch at St. Andrews Primary School at the corner of the Kinglake Road and School Road. We intend to arrive there at about 12.30. Bring your own lunch to eat inside or outside if it is a good day. We can inspect the old school building which was transported to this site from Smiths Gully in 1882.

The main destination for the afternoon is Apted's "Glen Ard" orchards between Arthurs Creek and Strathewen. Here we will inspect the orchards and the extensive cool store complex.

We are arranging for at least one other site visit in the area. Details will be available at the May meeting.

There is no cost or need for booking for this tour. Transport will be available for those not wishing to drive themselves. Ring Russell or Gwen if you need transport.

	<p>KANGAROO GROUND GENERAL STORE.</p> <p>—D—</p> <p>J. A. Burns</p> <p>DESIRE to thank his numerous customers and friends for the liberal patronage accorded to him for the past four and a half years, and has in view the pleasure of informing them that in order to supply the wants of his increasing trade he has had it necessary to make such alterations to his premises as will enable him to meet the demands of his extended business, and he hopes by keeping a large and complete stock to ensure a continuance of their patronage in the future.</p> <p>GROCERY. All kinds of Groceries of the best quality. Kerosene, &c. Patent Medicines.</p> <p>IRONMONGERY. Saws, Hinges, Locks, Padlocks, Nails (all sizes), Hoes, Heaps, Curry-Combs, all kinds of Tinware, Bolters, Reetles, Screws, Knives and Forks, Tubs, Wash Boards, Looking Glasses, Whip-thongs and Handles, Axe Handles, Pick Handles, Waterbury Watches, Clocks, etc.</p> <p>Orders taken for all kinds of Building Material.</p> <p>DRAPERY. Large Variety of Ladies' Dress, Trimmings, Hosiery, Gloves, Fur Trimmings, Feathered Hats, Silk Handkerchiefs, Flannel, Vests, &c. Boys' and Men's Suits, White Shirts, Collars, Ties, Gilet Coats, Cotton and Fannel Shirts, White, coloured and plain Stoles, Blankets, &c., &c.</p> <p>BOOTS. Large stock of Ladies' and Gents' Heavy and Light Boots, Infants' Boots and Shoes all sizes, Men's Leggings. All at Melbourne prices.</p> <p>Flour, Rolled, Bran, Corn, Chaff, and Seed Oats and Wheat.</p> <p>BONEDUST. Orders by Post Promptly attended to.</p> <p><i>Note the Address—</i> Kangaroo Ground General Store, KANGAROO GROUND.</p>
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ANDREW ROSS SCHOOLHOUSE MUSEUM:

The museum Board of Management has made significant progress in recent months and the museum is now open regularly on Sundays between 2.00 pm and 4.00 pm. The following are the main points from the Board's most recent report to the Society's Committee.

- Bruce Nixon is funding a person to staff the museum - a most generous gesture.
- Further volunteer assistance with staffing is required. Members who can commit themselves to, say, two Sundays per year should contact Diana Bassett-Smith on 712 0668.
- Assistance is also required with cataloguing.
- Part of the museum is now carpeted by courtesy of Diamond Valley Carpets of Para Road Greensborough.

A copy of the current museum brochure is included with this Newsletter.

SHIRE HISTORY:

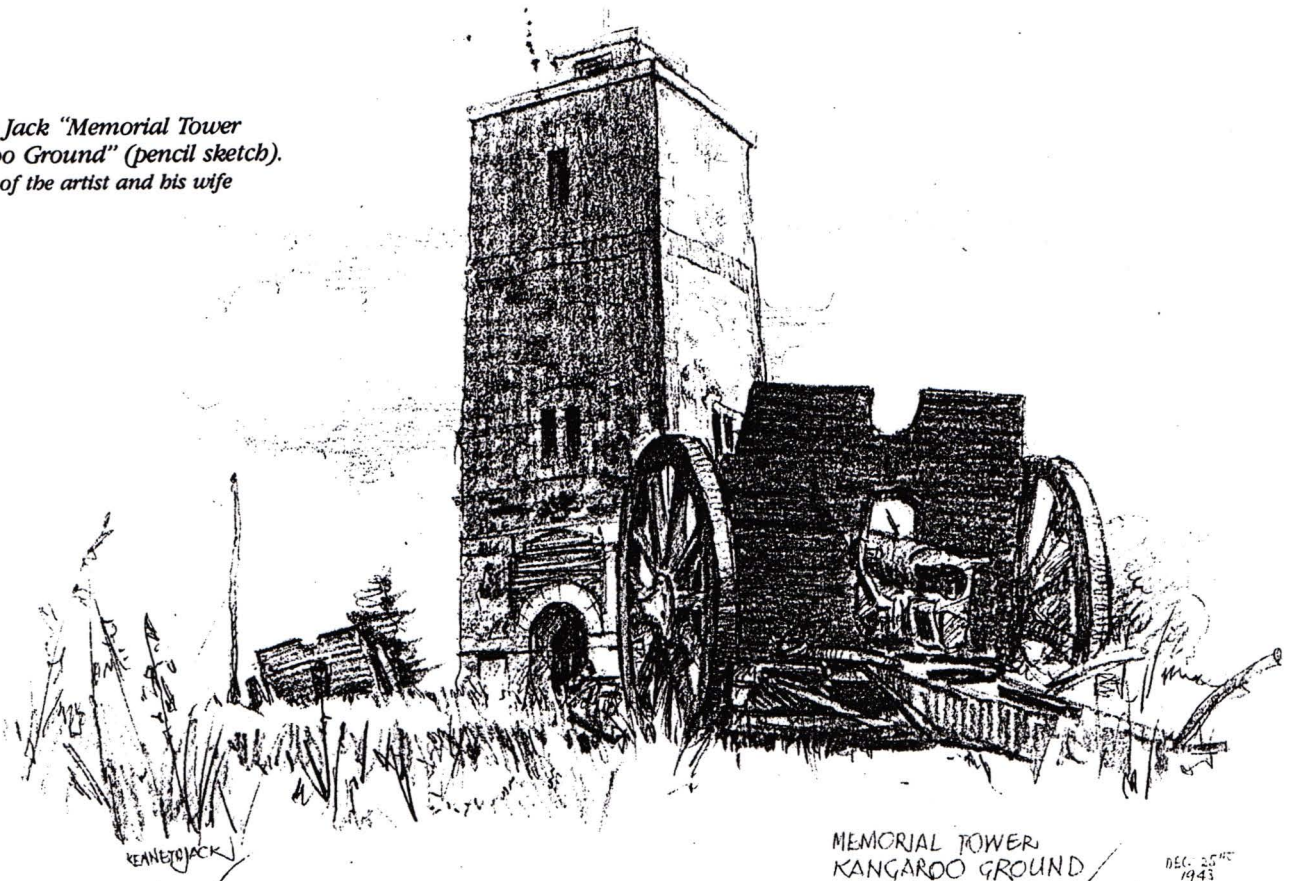
The former Shire of Eltham allocated funds to commence preparation of a history of the Shire but the project had not commenced. This matter has been reconsidered by the Nillumbik Commissioners who do not consider the project appropriate at this time. The funds have now been withdrawn.

Russell Yeoman
Secretary
439-9717

Harry Gilham
President
439-1175

Gwen Orford
Treasurer/Membership Secretary
439 8642

*Kenneth Jack "Memorial Tower
Kangaroo Ground" (pencil sketch).
Courtesy of the artist and his wife*





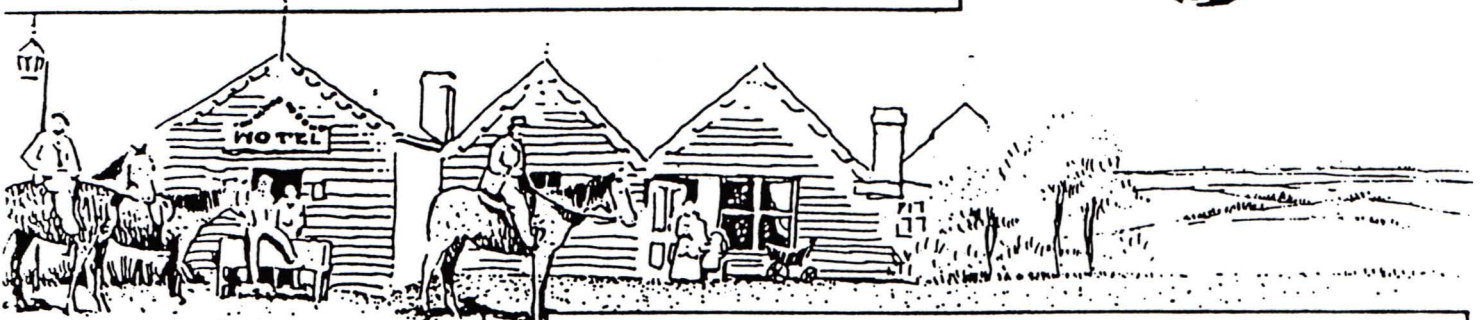
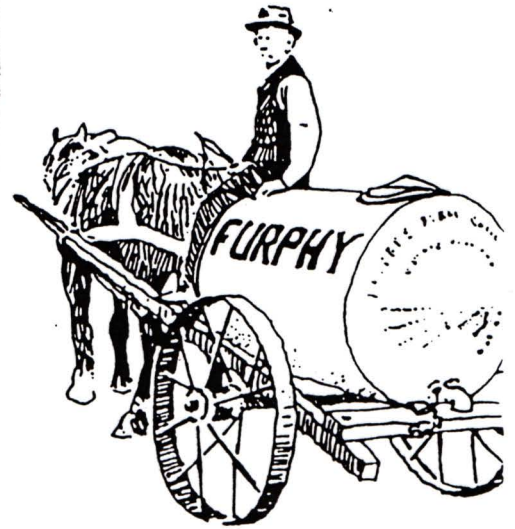
OPEN SUNDAY 2--4
 or by request:
 Phone Sec. 7120668
 Mick. 7120563

ANDREW ROSS SCHOOLHOUSE MUSEUM

The Andrew Ross Schoolhouse Museum was officially opened in March 1993 and is still in the process of being fully developed. The building itself dates from 1878. Until recent times it was the residence, in turn, of the teachers who taught in the adjoining classroom.

Until head teacher Thomas Boardman took up residence in 1886, the building housed the *Evelyn Observer*, the newspaper founded on the site in 1873 by Andrew Ross. The slab school Ross taught in from 1851 till 1876 was located just above the present Kangaroo Ground Church. Like most other settlers in the district, he was Scottish. Much of what is known of the district's early days comes from his hand - from either his *Diary*, his *Reminiscences* or his newspaper, the *Evelyn Observer*.

It is early days yet for the Museum. Why not become part of the action? For further information regarding the *Friends of the Andrew Ross Museum* ask at the desk, or write to Denise Denier c/o Kangaroo Ground Post Office - or give her a call on 712-0530.

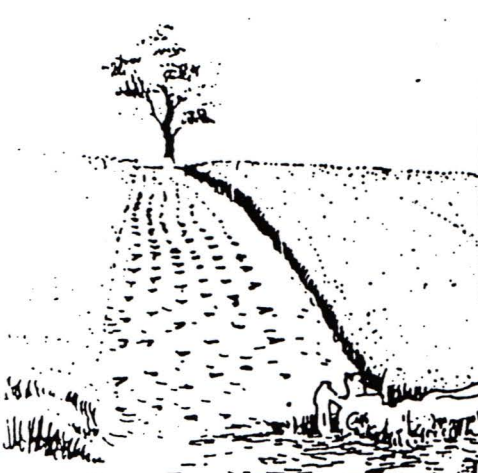


Room 1 - The Life and Times of Andrew Ross

Andrew Ross was the district's first school-master. Between April 1851 and December 1875, he taught in a slab and shingle building (doubling as a church on Sundays), located between this museum building and the present church. By 1857 Ross had expanded his establishment to incorporate what he was fond to describe as his *Evelyn Commercial, Industrial and Agricultural School*, a boarding school able to claim the distinction of being Victoria's first technical school.

The texts on the walls of Room 1 are taken from the schoolmaster's *Reminiscences* written between 1887 and 1893. These were serialized in the *Evelyn Observer*, the newspaper Ross founded in Kangaroo Ground in 1873. For two years (1884-1886) the *Evelyn Observer* was published in these rooms of the museum building. Later, the printing presses were moved into brick offices further along the Main Road where the paper continued publication until transferred to a Hurstbridge rail-head in 1917.

Located in Room 1 is a photocopy of the diary Andrew Ross kept throughout his adult life. Copies of the *Reminiscences of Andrew Ross*, published by this museum, can be purchased at the desk.



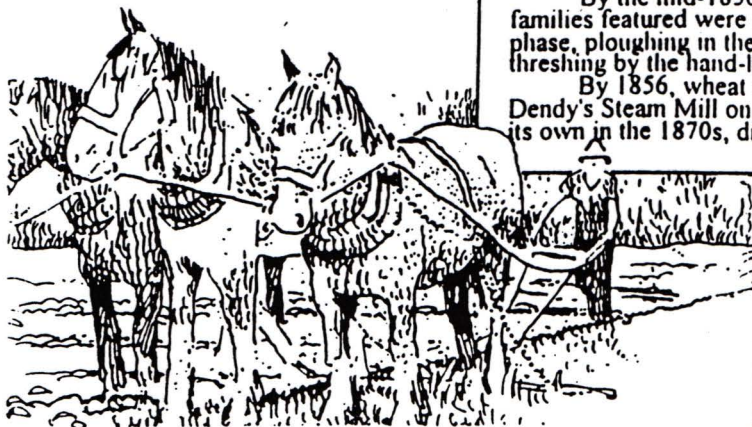
NOW OPEN...

Room 2 - Farms of the District's First Scottish Settlers

Because of its rich black volcanic soil, Kangaroo Ground was settled earlier than other parts of the Yarra Valley. The district's first permanent settlers, the Donaldsons arrived in 1841. James and Isabella Donaldson, fearful of attack from bushrangers and Aborigines, invited on to their productive *Square-Mile* of black soil other Scots who, when further land became available, eventually settled on farms of their own. These farms are featured on the walls of the museum's second room.

By the mid-1850s, with grain fetching premium Gold Rush prices, each of the families featured were cropping, on average, fifty acres of wheat. Throughout the early phase, ploughing in the district was performed by bullock, harvesting by the sickle and threshing by the hand-held flail.

By 1856, wheat from the Kangaroo Ground farms was being processed in Dendy's Steam Mill on the banks of the Diamond at Eltham. When the horse came into its own in the 1870s, district farmers concentrated mainly on fodder crops such as oats.



MAIN ROAD, KANGAROO GROUND.