

**ELTHAM DISTRICT
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**Incorporated
PO BOX 137 ELTHAM 3095**

**NEWSLETTER
NO. 125 MARCH 1999**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
8.00 PM WEDNESDAY 10TH MARCH**

**ELTHAM SENIOR CITIZENS' CENTRE
MAIN ROAD ELTHAM
(ENTER FROM OLD SHIRE OFFICE DRIVEWAY)**

**SPEAKER: HARRY GILHAM
THE WAR MEMORIAL, KANGAROO GROUND**

**AUTUMN EXCURSION
BAYSIDE ARTISTS' TRAIL &
HENRY DENDY'S BRIGHTON**

**STARTS AT
FORMER ELTHAM SHIRE OFFICE SITE
895 MAIN ROAD ELTHAM
9.30 AM SUNDAY 11TH APRIL**

**BOOK LAUNCHING
ANDREW ROSS MUSEUM, KANGAROO GROUND
4.00 PM SUNDAY 2ND MAY**

THE WAR MEMORIAL, KANGAROO GROUND

On the highest hill at Kangaroo Ground, sometimes known as Garden Hill (after the property on its eastern slope), sits a well known landmark usually known simply as the Kangaroo Ground Tower. Its official title is the Shire of Eltham War Memorial and there are good reasons to retain this name despite the fact that the Shire of Eltham no longer exists.

For the last year or so Harry Gilham has served on a committee advising Nillumbik Council on the management, restoration and maintenance of the tower and its grounds. During this time Harry has acquired a significant store of information on the tower and its function as a memorial to servicemen from the Shire killed in the First and Second World Wars. Harry's talk will be illustrated with photographs and other documents relating to the tower including the minute book of the fund raising committee recently "discovered" amongst old Council records.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Harry's talk will follow the formal Annual General Meeting. The agenda for this meeting was included in the January Newsletter including a list of positions to be filled. All positions become vacant and retiring members are eligible to renominate. Please note that, in accordance with the Society's rules, any written nominations received prior to the meeting take precedence over nominations made at the Annual General Meeting.

Members are asked to consider nominating for one of the office bearer positions or for the committee. The greater the level of interest and even competition for these positions, the healthier we are as a Society. People with something to offer in terms of their expertise or willingness to contribute to the running of the Society are encouraged to seek one of these positions.

AUTUMN EXCURSION

Our first excursion for the year on Sunday 11 April will be to the bayside suburbs between Brighton and Beaumaris. The main focus of the trip will be the Bayside Artists' Trail which extends along the foreshore between Sandringham and Beaumaris. The trail comprises signs featuring works by the Heidelberg School artists, done during their summer bayside camps. Visiting the signs will involve a series of short walks. In some locations longer walks will be available for those who feel more energetic.

This will be a full day excursion with the artists' trail taking up the afternoon. In the morning we plan to visit sites in Brighton associated with Henry Dendy.

Dendy was the pioneer land owner in Brighton but later in 1860's was a prominent resident of early Eltham. Brighton Historical Society will assist us in identifying Dendy sites.

We propose to travel by coach and the cost will be \$22 per person. If there are insufficient bookings to cover the cost then the contingency plan is travel by private car. Payment in advance is required using the attached form.

The Local History Centre is not very suitable as a coach terminal so we will leave from the old Eltham Shire Office site. The front car park has been re-opened and is quite suitable for this purpose. Be there ready to leave at 9.30 am.

Bring a picnic lunch and any other necessary refreshments although there will probably be the opportunity to buy afternoon tea for those who want to.

The booking form does not include a space for name and phone number. Please write them on the form.

SOCIETY PROGRAMME

The Society's programme for 1999 has now been finalized and a copy is included with this Newsletter. While it is largely self-explanatory, there are some matters which warrant further explanation. There may be changes on occasions and these will be notified in the Newsletter. Of course more detail on each event will be included in the relevant Newsletter.

With the on-going transfer of our records to the Eltham Local History Centre there is some work needed to make sure that the material is properly stored and indexed. The Committee has decided that there should be regular workshop meetings to carry out these tasks. There will be two each month, an evening one on the first Tuesday of each month at 7.30 pm and a daytime one on the third Monday commencing at 9.30 am. This will run until lunchtime although there may be times when the participants feel so motivated that they stay all day.

The dates are listed in the programme. At least one Committee member will be present to lead the workshop. Members can attend on a regular or occasional basis. The principal purpose is to bring our records into a workable order but if members or others want to use these times for research involving our records then that is a secondary function of opening the centre. The records will be available at other times by appointment with one of the Society officers listed at the end of the Newsletter.

In recognition of the extension to Nillumbik of the Heidelberg School Artists' Trail, it is featured in a number of the activities we have organized this year. Signs for the trail feature works by Heidelberg School artists within the locality in which they were painted. Within the Shire of Nillumbik signs have been erected at Wingrove Park, Alistair Knox Park, the Eltham town centre, Research Park and parklands at Diamond Creek. There are also signs along the Yarra at Templestowe and Warrandyte. Although the signs have been erected the trail brochure and map is still being prepared. Nillumbik Council has tentatively set the official opening for 27th March. That date may be confirmed at our Annual General Meeting.

We have arranged an April excursion to the associated Bayside Artists' Trail and then at our May meeting we will hear from Andrew Mackenzie who has been the principal consultant in establishment of the various artists' trails. Later in the year we will have our Spring excursion covering the full trail from Heidelberg to Diamond Creek.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Help needed for local research

Harry Gilham, 9439 1175, would like to borrow any of the items listed below for a few days for copying. He can collect and return the items to you as required:

Post cards which show any features of the Eltham Shire or its townships, eg. streetscapes, buildings, bridges, etc.

Any photographs or news items of the Main Road at Eltham, Avenue of Honour.

Any photographs or news items regarding the Shire of Eltham War Memorial Tower at Kangaroo Ground.

Acquisitions

Painting by EDWARD of the Fairfield Malt House

Jo McCormick.

Multiple copies of the 1993 Shire of Eltham Cultural Heritage Map

Nillumbik Council Archives

Eltham Arts Council planning documents for the 1968 and 1969 Festivals.

Eltham Arts Council records covering the period 1958-1970

Eltham Arts Council, two minutes books of committee actions -1958/1962, 1962/1969

Eltham Arts Council, an expanding file of loose documents 1958/1970

These Arts Council papers have been donated from the Shire of Eltham items held in the Nillumbik Council archives.

Two volumes containing reports, maps and photographs of the Melbourne Study Area by the Land Conservation Council of Victoria 1973 and 1975

Eltham Library

Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works, Surveys of Waterways 1972 in the Diamond Valley

Eltham Library

BOOK LAUNCH, ANDREW ROSS MUSEUM

We have received an invitation from the Museum for our members to attend this afternoon into evening event on May 2nd. The full letter of invitation is included in the Newsletter because of the great amount of detail it provides. The Donaldson diary to be launched was inadvertently referred to in our last Newsletter as the Bell family diary.

ANDREW ROSS MUSEUM
"The Schoolhouse"
c/o Post Office 3097
Kangaroo Ground
Sec: D.Bassett-Smith
03 9712 0668
Inc. No. AOO 3262 IT
23/2/99

Eltham Historical Society
C/o PO Box 137
Eltham

Dear Russell,

The committee of the Andrew Ross Museum, Kangaroo Ground, has much pleasure in extending an open invitation to the members of your society to the **Andrew Ross Museum on Sunday May 2 at 4.00pm.** for a launch of two books published by Tarcoola Press, namely *A Diary of James Thomas Donaldson of Kangaroo Ground and Ivanhoe*, and *Furphy Poetry Award*. The latter being an anthology of the poems entered in May 1996 in The Andrew Ross Museum's very successful Furphy Poetry Festival that year.

The gathering will open with the launch by The Shire President, followed by a formal handing over to the Museum by The Eltham Society of a recently rediscovered Minute Book of 1922-1926 period detailing the moves leading up to the construction of The Memorial Tower at Kangaroo Ground.

Billy Tea and Brownie will be offered as afternoon tea.

This date also marks the centenary of the present Kangaroo Ground Supply Store located directly opposite the Andrew Ross Museum. To celebrate, the day will include a reading of the dramatic events surrounding the burning down of a previous store on the same spot on New Year's Day 1899.

A short bus and car tour will follow of The Kangaroo Ground precinct (with commentary) ending at the nearby Pioneer Cemetery for a conducted moonlight tour of the graves of the many early days of settlement, to make their mark in Kangaroo Ground and the wider region of the Yarra. Short readings from the Furphy Anthology will be a feature of the walk.

We will conclude with refreshments under the trees in the cemetery car-park—wine supplied by the local vineyards.

The museum would be most grateful if some members of your group could contribute with a plate. Invitations are also being extended to eight other historical societies in the region.

Yours Sincerely,
Diana Bassett-Smith

R.H.S.V. PROGRAMME

Our Society is affiliated with the Royal Historical Society of Victoria and our members are welcome to attend meetings and excursions of the Royal and to use the facilities at their city rooms. The programme of activities for 1999 is as follows:-

EXCURSIONS 1999

- 20 - 21 February **Saturday - Sunday**
"Chaff to Diesel" - State Biennial Conference, Horsham
- 16 March - **Tuesday**
The Royal Women's Hospital - Visit to Museum and Talk by Dr Janet McCalman
- 18 April - **Sunday**
Pilgrimage to Canterbury - Maling St and Surrounds
- 11 May - **Tuesday**
Anniversary Day - 90th Anniversary Walk and Dinner of the RHSV
- 20 June - **Sunday**
Circling the Pivot - Geelong and Queenscliff
- 20 July - **Tuesday**
"Documents of a Nation" - the Australian Archives
- 17 August - **Tuesday**
Exploring Melbourne's Lanes with Weston Bate - the South East
- 19 September - **Sunday**
Fitzroy: an Historical Walk
- 26 - 29 October **Tuesday - Friday**
Victoria's Vintage North East - Historical Treasures

OTHER DATES

Victorian Heritage Festival (Theme: The Century in Review - The Treasures We Hand On) 14 - 25 April 1999

Meetings of State Committee

- 13 March (Royal Mint) 21 August (Warrnambool)
19 June (Gippsland) 20 November (Melton)

SPEAKERS FOR 1999

EVENING MEETINGS

- 16 February - **Tuesday 5.15 pm**
Dr Andrew Brown-May: The Streets of Melbourne: Now and Then
- 16 March - **Tuesday 5.45 pm**
Dr Janet McCalman: Writing the Women's: an Anatomy of an Historical Task (This lecture meeting will take place at the Yvonne Bowden Auditorium at the Royal Women's Hospital)
- 20 April - **Tuesday 5.15 pm**
Associate Professor Jan Critchett: Researching 'The Other Side of the Frontier': Memories and Lives of Victorian Kooris (Heritage Festival Lecture)
- 25 May - **Tuesday 5.15 pm**
Professor John Rickard: H.B. Higgins: Federation as a Mere Word (Annual General Meeting and Fellows Invitation Lecture)
- 15 June - **Tuesday 5.15 pm**
Young Historians from Monash and Deakin Universities
- 20 July - **Tuesday 5.15 pm**
Dr Brenda Niall and Dr John Thompson: Writing in the First Person: An Anthology of Australian Letters - *The Oxford Book of Australian Letters*

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ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.

With which is incorporated the Victorian Branch of
the Royal Geographical Society of Australia

Royal Mint, 280 William Street
MELBOURNE 3000

Telephone: 9670-1219

Fax: 9670-1241

President: Susan Priestley

Executive Officer: Kevin Gates

Meetings

All held at the Royal Mint.

APPLICATION FORM

Application forms for membership are
available on application to the
Executive Officer



Watch History News For Details

17 August - **Tuesday 5.15 pm**
Professor Cheryl Saunders and Anne Mullins:
100 Years of Constitutional Review

21 September - **Tuesday 5.15 pm**
John Parker: Geographic Names

19 October - **Tuesday 5.15 pm**
Dr. Shurlee Swain: Confronting Cruelty:
Writing a History of the Detection and
Treatment of Child Abuse

16 November - **Tuesday 5.15 pm**
Professor Jack Gregory: State Aid to Religion
in the Australian Colonies 1788 - 1895

LUNCHTIME MEETINGS

2 March - **Tuesday 1.00 pm**
Dr Lynn Peel: Expectations and Reality - Aspects
of the History of the Victorian Department of
Agriculture

4 May - **Tuesday 1.00 pm**
Helen Ferber: Listening to the Enemy

1 June - **Tuesday 1.00 pm**
George Tibbits: Historic Precincts in the
University of Melbourne

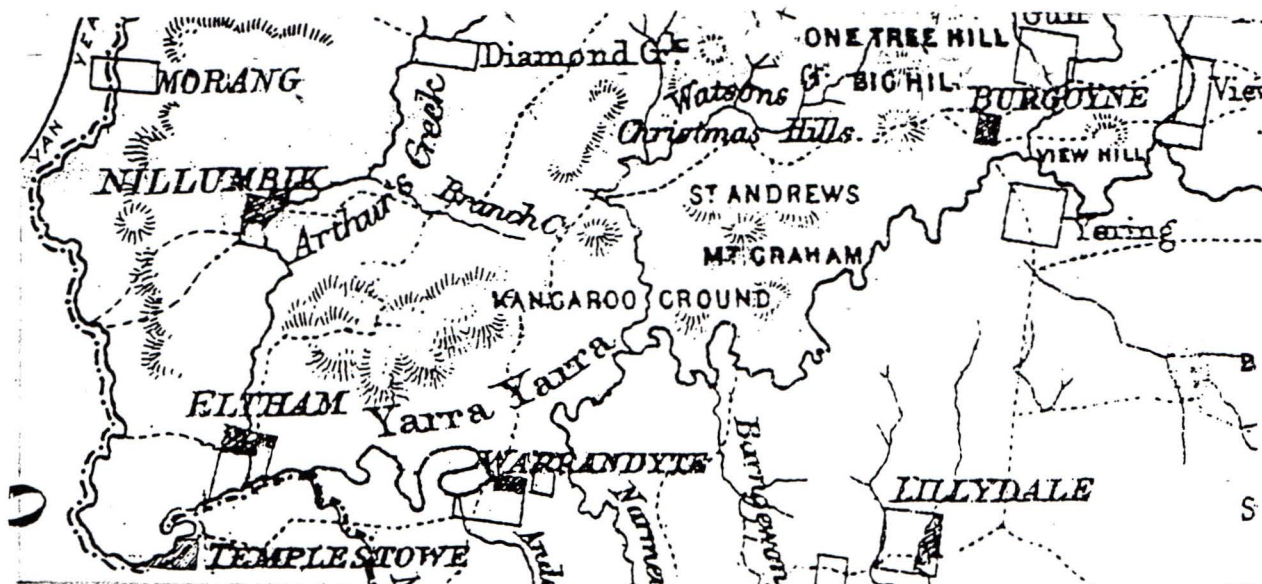
3 August - **Tuesday 1.00 pm**
Peter Lovell: History and the Suburbs:
Valuing Historic Buildings

5 October - **Tuesday 1.00 pm**
Jan Bassett: Australian Women and War

BITS AND PIECES

Dennis Ward, who spoke at our February meeting, is a person who gets things done. It was originally his idea which resulted in the Heidelberg School Artists' Trail and he has played an important role in a recent successful funding application for a heritage trail along the Plenty River at Greensborough. He put to us his idea for a fully signed Eltham Heritage Trail, largely based on the trail established by a LEAP programme in 1996. There is no indication on the ground of this trail. Dennis requested members to write a couple of pages of information on each of the historic sites along the trail to start the project off. A number of members volunteered for this project. For those wishing to seek out information on their allocated site we will have a workshop meeting on Tuesday 16th March, 7.30pm at the Local History Centre. Others interested in the project are welcome to attend.

Nillumbik Shire Council has used some funds earmarked for local memorabilia to purchase an 1870's map of the County of Evelyn. This hand coloured lithograph map is an item of historical interest rather than an important source of information. It appears to have been produced for a book rather than being an official publication. It contains a number of mistakes which probably add to rather than detract from the interest of the map. The map will be framed for hanging in the Shire Offices and a coloured copy is being arranged for our Society.



Detail from the County of Evelyn map

The Society is making a funding application for inclusion in Nillumbik Council's Capital Works Programme to relocate a portable lockup owned by the Council currently situated in Youth Road, Eltham. The lockup suits the theme of the Eltham Local History Centre as the former Eltham Police Station. There is room to locate the lockup in the rear yard of the centre.

A group called Nillumbik Recreation Trails is seeking support for a multi-use trail extending from Kinglake to Research. It is proposed to be used by walkers, mountain bike riders and horse riders. It is similar to a project initiated by the Shire of Eltham several years ago but never implemented. As a Society, this is a little outside our main sphere of interest. However, if individual members wish to support the trail they should in the first instance ring Don Johnston of Kangaroo Ground on 9712 0285.

Harry Gilham
President

Phone - 9439 1175

Russell Yeoman
Secretary

Phone - 9439 9717

Gwen Orford
Treasurer /
Membership Secretary
Phone 9439 8642

**ELTHAM DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
AUTUMN EXCURSION SUNDAY 11TH APRIL 1999**

PLEASE RESERVE THE FOLLOWING SEATS

ADULTS @ \$22-00 _____

CHILDREN/STUDENTS @ \$11-00 _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

**PLEASE RETURN TO PO BOX 137 ELTHAM 3095
OR TO SOCIETY MEETING.**