

ELTHAM DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Incorporated

No. A0016285F

728 MAIN ROAD (PO BOX 137) ELTHAM 3095

NEWSLETTER

NO. 144 MAY 2002

NEXT MEETING

8-00 PM WEDNESDAY 8TH MAY

"EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE CENTENARY OF THE ELTHAM RAILWAY" A TALK BY HARRY GILHAM AND FRIENDS

ELTHAM SENIOR CITIZENS' CENTRE

903 MAIN ROAD ELTHAM

(ENTER FROM OLD SHIRE OFFICE DRIVEWAY)

ALAN MARSHALL CENTENARY

"TALL TALES AND SHORT STORIES"

4TH & 5TH MAY, ELTHAM LIBRARY

CENTENARY TOUR

2 PM SUNDAY 11TH MAY

ELTHAM RAILWAY CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

WEDNESDAY 5TH JUNE

ELTHAM RAILWAY STATION

OPENING OF THE ELTHAM RAILWAY.
CEREMONY PERFORMED BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.
GREAT LOCAL JOICINGS.

OPENING OF THE ELTHAM RAILWAY.
THE TOAST-LIST.

THE HEIDELBERG TO ELTHAM RAILWAY.
THE GREENSBOROUGH DEVIATION.

The Eltham Observer
Published Every Friday Morning
FRIDAY, JULY 27, 1900.
The Board of Land and Works has intimated its opinion that the Heidelberg to Eltham railway should be constructed along the permanent survey through Greensborough in preference.

MAY MEETING

Hear Ye, Hear Ye - the Next Meeting of this Illustrious Society will be taken up by a Variety of People and a Variety of Newspaper Clippings from 1890 onwards, together with Photographs from 1902 onwards relating to our Railway Service.

Come to hear about the Early Political Moves to build Railway Lines all over Victoria. Learn about the Local Efforts of Community Groups who, through their Local Representative in Parliament, eventually won the Proposed Line from Heidelberg to Hurstbridge in two bursts of activity. The first was to Eltham on June 5 1902 from the Township of Heidelberg. Learn also about 'The Deviation' proposal which could have had Greensborough Railway Station a mere 'three quarters of a mile' from its then 'town centre'.

Hear about the Passenger Platform that was called for at the site of Eltham's Silver Street Rail Bridge.

Discover that the Eltham Railway Yards needed to be built above the 1892 Flood Level of the Diamond Creek.

Also the second of the Deviations proposed, this one on Diamond Street.

Harry, together with other 'Railway Buffs', will fill the Night Air with Railway Language, items of 'Ups and Downs' and 'Who was What' in the Service in its Early Days.

Remember, this coming June 5 is the 100th Anniversary of the Opening of the Line from Heidelberg through Heidelberg North, Macleod and Greensborough to Eltham.



Eltham Railway Bridge prior to electrification in 1923

CELEBRATING THE RAILWAY CENTENARY

Unfortunately, we have been unable to arrange the steam train from Heidelberg to Eltham mentioned in earlier newsletters. Instead we will be arranging a lower key celebration at Eltham Station on Wednesday 5 June. The proposal is to have a small display in the station foyer and hand outs for train passengers explaining the significance of the occasion.

Help will be needed from members for this commemoration starting from early morning. Anyone willing to be rostered on for an hour or two should contact Harry Gilham.

ALAN MARSHALL CENTENARY

Thursday 2 May marks the centenary of the birth of Alan Marshall, one of Australia's most loved writers and remembered for his long association with Eltham and nearby areas at Diamond Creek and Kangaroo Ground. We started off the year with tapes of Alan Marshall talking at our February meeting and a short biography in the January Newsletter. Now that we have reached the date of this centenary a number of other commemorative events are happening as this Newsletter is being prepared.

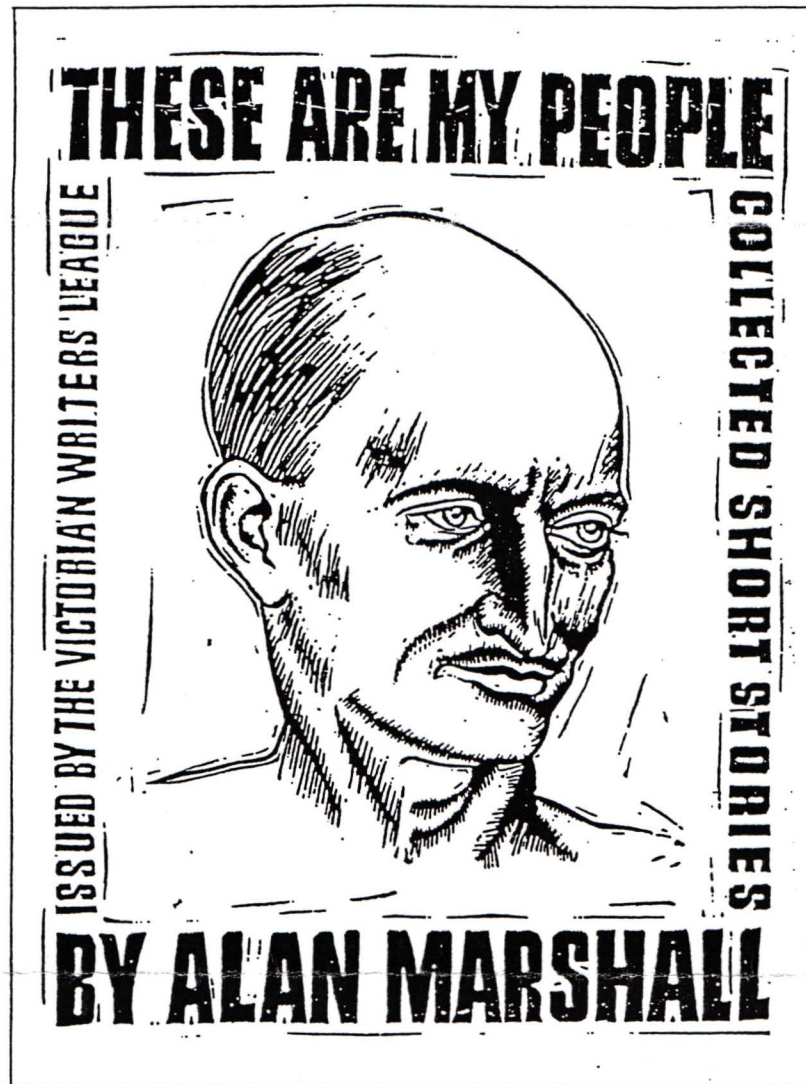
Our exhibition "Jumping Puddles— Alan Marshall, The Man and His Work" commenced in the Eltham Library Community Gallery on 24 April. This is the largest exhibition we have arranged in some time. It includes material from the Nillumbik Council and library collections, items owned by the Society and other items from a number of private collections – either loaned or copied. Original art works include paintings by Margot Knox and a sculpture by Joh Ebeli. A display panel in the exhibition invites visitors to view the Alan Martin portrait of the author in the library and the Marcus Skipper sculpture of Alan outside the front of the library. We extend our thanks to all contributors to the exhibition and recommend a visit by all members. The exhibition runs until 14 May.

Nillumbik Council has arranged a Literary Weekend at the Eltham Library on 4 and 5 May. Its title is "Tall Tales and Short Stories" and it includes the Alan Marshall Short Story Award. By now most members would have a copy of the event brochure. A number of the segments are workshops for writers.

The segments which will probably be of most interest to our members are the panel discussion "Remembering Alan" hosted by Gwen Ford, a video presentation of "Hammers Over the Anvil" both on Saturday and on Sunday the Short Story Award announcement and presentation. Bookings for events should be made with Katrina Rank at the Council, phone 9433 3126.

On Saturday 11 May we have arranged an excursion for members and others who may be interested to visit local sites associated with Alan Marshall. They include his home at Eltham, site of the Shire Offices at Kangaroo Ground where he first worked and, at Diamond Creek, his grave and the site of the family home. Appropriate extracts from Alan's books will be read at each location. We will start by viewing the art works at the Eltham Library. We plan to start at 2pm at the sculpture outside the library in Panther Place. If you have not seen the exhibition come a little earlier and view that first. This is a self drive tour but if you don't wish to drive then transport can be arranged.

The Friends of Black Rock House are also presenting a tribute to Alan Marshall on Sunday 5 May, 2pm to 4pm. It will include a memorabilia display and a talk by Shirley Joy. Black Rock House is at 34 Ebdon Avenue Black Rock. Further details are available from Russell Yeoman.



The cover of Alan Marshall's first book 1940.

OFFICE BEARERS, 2002

At the Annual General Meeting in March most members of last year's committee were re-appointed for a further year. Frank Martin has resigned from the Committee for health reasons. Jim Connor and Jan Macauley have been elected to fill vacant positions on the Committee. Office bearers and committee members are:-

President	-	-	Harry Gilham
Senior Vice President	-	-	Doug Orford
Junior Vice President	-	-	Jim Connor
Secretary	-	-	Russell Yeoman
Treasurer/Membership Secretary	-	-	Gwen Orford
Committee	-	-	Diana Bassett-Smith, Sue Law Jan Macauley, Jo McCormick Jock Read, Mary Regan

Contact numbers for principal office bearers are given at the end of the Newsletter.

SUBSCRIPTIONS 2002/2003

Subscriptions are set at the Annual General Meeting and are payable on 1 July. They may be paid in advance of that date and Gwen would be happy to accept them at the May meeting. They may be sent to our post office box or direct to Gwen Orford, 125 Napoleon Street Eltham 3095. We have found it necessary to increase the subscriptions for the first time in many years mainly due to increased insurance costs.

Subscriptions are as follows:-

Adults	-	\$15.00
Students	-	\$ 2.00
Family	-	\$20.00

HAPPENINGS

The Andrew Ross Museum at Kangaroo Ground is currently reorganizing their displays. They expect to launch the new displays on World Environment Day, Sunday 9 June when the museum will be open from 2pm. They also plan to launch a new booklet on that day.



An informal local history group has been set up in Montmorency. So far they have had one meeting and aim to record oral history from local residents. Contact Jacky Clark on 9439 1747 if you are interested.



Eltham Cemetery Trust has completed a project involving recording its burial records from 1858 to 1970 on to a database. A copy of these records has been provided for our Society.



Nillumbik Now and Then – Eltham and Beyond is the title of Marguerite Marshall's small book dealing with some twenty-two local places of historical significance. It is a revision of the former Leader publication *Eltham Shire – Historic Buildings People and Places* and has been self published by Marguerite. It fills a significant need for a local publication of this type which has been clearly evident since the former publication went out of print some years ago. *Nillumbik Now and Then* is available from the Eltham Bookshop for \$15.00.



The Association of Eastern Historical Societies has produced a small book called *Favourite Escapes to the Outer-East*. It contains thirty-five articles from local historical societies dealing with one hundred years of holidays, camps, picnics, excursions, sporting carnivals and the like in the outer eastern region of Melbourne. Two of the articles come from our Society. We have a limited number of copies of this book available for \$10.00.



On Saturday 27 April a group from the Sandingham Historical Society visited Eltham and were given a guided tour of the Eltham Library, including the Alan Marshall exhibition, nearby art works and artists' trail signs and our Local History Centre. They have presented us with copies of their local history publications. We have been invited on a return visit and we may take up the offer later in the year. A warm thank you to our members who assisted with the visit including the afternoon tea.



At the AGM members were treated to a double act performance by George and Esme Barker who presented a humorous and sometimes dramatic history of the Eltham Little Theatre. At one stage (no pun intended) they called themselves the Research Players. This name was changed after they received an invitation to join the Panton Hill Football League.



Nillumbik Council has decided that it is to have its meetings on Wednesdays instead of Tuesdays as in the past. Some of our Committee members often attend Council meetings. To facilitate this we have decided to change Committee meetings to the second Tuesday of the relevant months on a trial basis. General Society meetings remain unchanged. The next Committee meeting is to be at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 11 June at the Local History Centre. We are continuing with the records workshops and encourage members to come along to these as a way of learning about our records and assisting the Society. Coming dates for workshops are:

Mondays 9.30 am - 20 May, 17 June.

Tuesdays 7.30 pm - 7 May, 4 June, 2 July



A further stage of the renovations to the War Memorial Park at Kangaroo Ground have been completed with the installation of information signs. One sign establishes a connection with the First World War by way of the painting "The Ghosts of Menin Gate" by Will Longstaff. A second deals with farming history on Garden Hill on which the Memorial is situated. The third features a painting by local artist Ona Henderson of the view from the hill as a geographic depiction "through other eyes".

Harry Gilham
President

Phone - 9439 1175

Russell Yeoman
Secretary

Phone - 9439 9717

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Treasurer/
Membership Secretary
Phone - 9439 8642