

ELTHAM DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Incorporated

No. A0016285F

728 MAIN ROAD (PO BOX 137) ELTHAM 3095

NEWSLETTER

NO. 146 SEPTEMBER 2002

NEXT MEETING

8-00 PM WEDNESDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

"THE ADVENTURES OF JOCK THE BAKER"

or "A SLICE OF OLD ELTHAM"

A PRESENTATION BY JOCK READ AND FRIENDS

ELTHAM SENIOR CITIZENS' CENTRE

903 MAIN ROAD ELTHAM

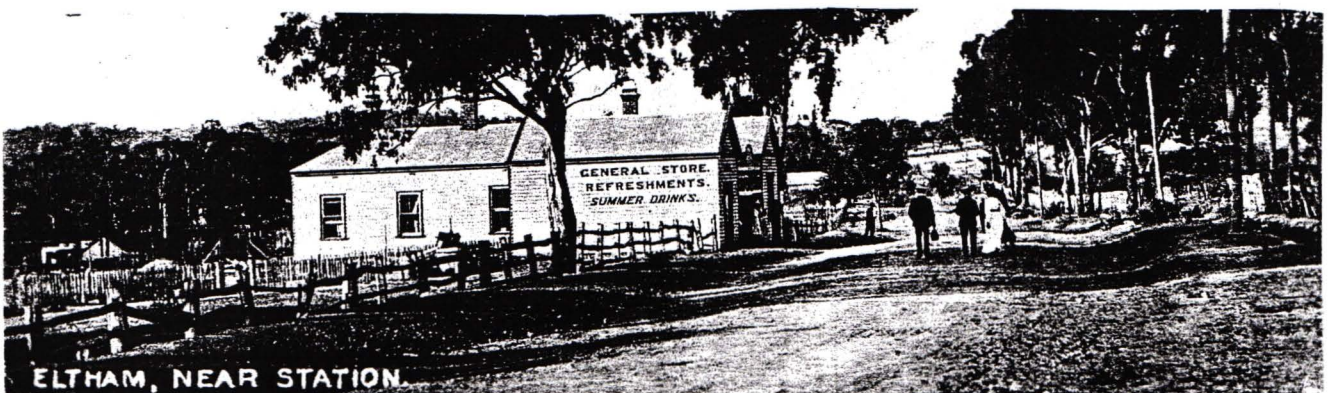
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SANDRINGHAM EXCURSION

LEAVES FROM 728 MAIN ROAD, ELTHAM

11AM SUNDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER



ELTHAM, NEAR STATION

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Over many years now Jock Read has been a major source of information for our Society on the Eltham of his long life time. Sometimes as a solo act, but more often with his friends Doug Orford and the late Garnie Burges, Jock has shared his memories with our Society, school classes, Living and Learning Centre groups and others.

Much of Jock's detailed knowledge of Eltham and its residents comes from the time in the mid 1930's when he worked as the delivery person for bakeries at Eltham and Research. His delivery lists provide a who's who of the Eltham of that time. Jock's excellent recall of that time has enabled him to verbally reconstruct the Main Road properties of the period.

Doug and Gwen Orford, together with Peter and Diana Bassett-Smith, have worked with Jock to produce a tape recording of his recollections of Eltham. This tape will form the basis of our September meeting but Jock will be there in person to add some colour to the narrative with interspersed comments. The producers of the tape were impressed by Jock's recall of properties along Main Road and their occupants. During the meeting it is proposed to transfer this information to a map to produce a visual representation of Jock's talk.

This will be an informal presentation of taped and live narrative with expected interaction by other members which should make for an interesting and lively evening.

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is given that the meeting to be held at 8.00pm on Wednesday 11th September 2002 is a Special General Meeting in accordance with the rules of the Society. The agenda item for this meeting as designated by the Committee is consideration of membership matters.

This formal meeting will be held prior to the presentation by Jock Read.

SANDRINGHAM EXCURSION

Following on from the visit to Eltham by members of the Sandringham Historical Society we have accepted an invitation from Sandringham for a visit to their area. This is to be on Sunday 29th September, leaving our Local History Centre at 11.00am. This will be a drive yourself excursion but car pooling can be arranged if required. We plan to meet at Sandringham for an early picnic lunch (at about noon) and then meet with our hosts for a guided tour of their area. The tour will commence at their society rooms. Other locations to be visited include Black Rock House, the wreck of the submarine Cerberus, the Gypsy Village original Sandringham subdivision, the Bayside Artists' Trail. We could also drive past the former homes of Alan Marshall and Guy Boyd of the famous artistic Boyd family.

There is no charge for this excursion but we need to know numbers for afternoon tea purposes. You will need to bring your own picnic lunch. Please advise Russell Yeoman if you intend to participate.

Photos from the Society's collection in this Newsletter show early views around Main Road, Eltham which features in Jock Read's recollections.



Main Road looking northerly from near Bridge Street.



Bridge Street looking westerly across Main Road.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

At the Tower of Remembrance

The Advisory Committee's action to put seats and tables in the War Memorial Park at Kangaroo Ground has reached the stage where a seat only at \$220.00 will be made up – put in place – and have a brass plate attached with your details. There are six of these required. The other four settings are seats and table sets with a charge of \$450.00 on each with the same assembly details for the single seat. It is still to be finalized that members of Eltham Rotary Club will be making up and installing this furniture. Further details from Harry Gilham 9439-1175.

Seven Eltham College students assisted in planting over two hundred trees and bushes within the Park and covering the entrances as a community assistance exercise.

Nillumbik Council and the Country Fire Authority are planning to replace the wooden cabin for the fire spotter before next summer comes. The cabin was an addition to the tower in 1974.

There is a new mesh fence along the north side of the Park built as a shared cost with the neighbour.

New water tanks, of three stories height, have been the subject of discussion for a few months at Council and officer level. From a fire spotter's view they need to be on other high ground but well away from the tower cabin.

The proposed viewing platform with universal access conditions of slopes/seating and views is slowly starting to move. The Committee has no funding this year so donations/gifts may become the only way to finance this project which will provide for those with disabilities who are unable to climb the tower's fifty-three steps.

Local History Centre and Court House

We have had twenty-four students and eight parents visit the Court House. This brings our visitors of school children to nearly three hundred along with approximately fifty adults/parents who help on these excursions.

Do we have a carpenter in our membership? The Court House is missing its Witness Stand. Harry Gilham has the details – material can be purchased locally – funds are available. See Harry for a file on this piece of furniture based on other late 1800's court houses in Victoria.

A computer program to help us check and find items in our collection of documents covering local events, people and places is being purchased thanks to a grant from Nillumbik Council. Sue Law is on a learning curve with this material and any assistance will be welcome. Call Sue on 9439 9520, perhaps grownup members of your family would assist in this task! Don't leave it to the others – that's what they're doing to you.

Railway Centenary

Our two display boards featuring the hundredth anniversary of the first train from Heidelberg to Eltham are still intact and will be available until our December barbecue function. Put it on your calendar – Wednesday December 11th at 6.30pm at 728 Main Road.

Events of the Year

Did any of your ancestors travel from England to Australia on the SS Great Britain between 1852 and 1876? More than 14,000 came to Australia, mostly to Melbourne.

It is estimated that over a quarter of a million of to-day's Australians are descended from those early migrants. The Royal Historical Society of Victoria is holding a conference on this event. The morning will concentrate on the ship itself and emphasize its contribution to conquering vast distances by sea travel. The afternoon sessions will focus on the migrants who came on this ship and the roles they played in the development of Victoria and Australia.

The registration fee is \$50.00 per head and includes lunch, morning and afternoon tea. Bookings close Friday 18th October. Call Harry Gilham for further details - 9439 1175.

Visit This Display

That was Then -- This is Now!

The exhibition is at the RHSV rooms at 239 A'Beckett Street Melbourne (near Flagstaff Railway Station) from 29th August to 18th October - entry fee \$4.00.

Harry Gilham

FROM IDEA TO REALITY

Did you know that the Andrew Ross Museum is an off-shoot of the Eltham District Historical Society?

It was during the 1970's and 80's that it became evident there was a problem with storage and keeping society records. Bruce and Joy Ness, stalwarts of the Society, held a display at their home View Hill on Sunday 19th July 1987, just twenty-five years ago. On display were farm implements, newspaper reports, photos and furniture all linked to the Shire history. Never more so as Kangaroo Ground had been the site of the original Shire Offices.

The members of Eltham Historical Society were all made aware of the growing problem.

In 1990 Bruce Ness suggested that as the Kangaroo Ground School House no longer had a resident teacher it might be arranged for it to become available for the display and storage of historic items. The school was receptive to the idea.

The Eltham Historical Society committee headed by Sue Law, Russell Yeoman and Opal Smith worked really hard on the project. In 1991 it became reality, Mick Woiwod who was writing *Once Around the Sugarloaf*, which was published in 1992, became excited about the concept. So did Wendy Bradley who has studied museum

management and at that time lived in Kangaroo Ground, now in England. They were helped along with others such as Garry Patterson an architect. So many helped so many in so many ways.

An Eltham Historical Society project, which eventually grew into what we know today, was officially opened on 27th March 1993 as the Andrew Ross Museum.

The displays at the Andrew Ross Museum are currently being up dated and a successful display of indigenous artifacts was held with the launch of Mick's new book, *Kangaroo Ground the Land and its People* - cost \$7.50.

Peter and Wenda Fleming are heading a group reorganising the display in Room 2.

The next function of the Andrew Ross Museum which is being sponsored and held at the Evelyn County Estate Vineyard, Main Road, Kangaroo Ground is "The Blessing of the Vines".

Come along and discover more about the district's history – Saturday 14th September 4.00pm-6.00pm – tickets \$15.00 include refreshments. Phone Diana on 9712 0668.

Diana Bassett-Smith

BRIEF NEWS ITEMS

A collection of photos of interesting local houses is being established for Society records. We are mainly concentrating on mud brick houses or others of architectural or historical interest. Gayle Blackwood has provided photos from her personal collection, mainly of Alistair Knox houses. Sue Law has obtained publicity photos from estate agents and this program is to be further developed. Thanks to both Gayle and Sue for initiating this collection.

Thanks to Gwen Baker for her mini plant stall at the July meeting. Funds from the sale of these plants will assist in providing our regular after meeting suppers.

Coming dates for records workshops at our Local History Centre are:

Mondays 9.30am - 16 September, 21 October.

Tuesday 7.30pm - 1 October.

Assistance is still needed for sorting, cataloguing, etc. and members are encouraged to spend a little time helping with these tasks. The centre is open for research at these times also. The next Committee meeting will be at 7.30pm on Tuesday 8 October.

Harry Gilham
President

Phone – 9439 1175

Russell Yeoman
Secretary

Phone – 9439 9717

Gwen Orford
Treasurer/
Membership Secretary
Phone – 9439 8642