

ELTHAM DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Incorporated

No. A0016285F

728 MAIN ROAD (PO BOX 137) ELTHAM 3095

NEWSLETTER NO. 180 MAY 2008

NEXT MEETING

**ELTHAM SENIOR CITIZENS' CENTRE
LIBRARY PLACE, ELTHAM
(FORMERLY OLD SHIRE OFFICE DRIVEWAY)**

8-00 PM WEDNESDAY 14TH MAY

**1 SPEAKER DR KEN ECKERSALL
BUNJIL OF THE WURUNDJERI**

**2 INTRODUCTION TO SOCIETY WEBSITE
BY JIM CONNOR**

WALKS PROGRAM

**MUD BRICK WALK
10.30 AM SATURDAY 24 MAY**

**HERITAGE WALK
2.00 PM SATURDAY 5 JULY**

**ELTHAM LOCAL
HISTORY CENTRE
BOOKINGS 9439 9717**



MAY MEETING

Dr Ken Eckersall has written a number of books and smaller publications. They include "ELTHAM INHABITANTS – For most, the serious part" a history of the Methodist Church in Eltham and an important contribution to the social history of the area.

Ken's most recent book "Bunjil of the Wurundjeri" was launched in November 2007 and it will form the basis of his talk to this meeting. The subject matter of the book and of Ken's talk ranges from the early history of European occupation of Aboriginal lands up to recent stories of Aboriginal achievements.

Bunjil, the eagle-hawk, is the totem of the Wurundjeri people, indigenous inhabitants of the local area and that is the start of Ken's story. It will also cover interaction between the Wurundjeri and local settlers. An important figure in the story is William Barak the last Chief of the Yarra Tribe. Ken's talk will also reference modern day Aboriginal sporting figures and the achievements of Aboriginals in a number of other fields. The talk will include illustrations by way of slides produced with the assistance of Jim Connor.

Also at this meeting Jim Connor will introduce the Society's new internet web-site which he has developed using facilities provided under the My Connected Community program (mc2). The content of the website includes Society history, our 2008 program and photos from our collection.

It also includes useful links to other websites including the Eltham Society in England and the Eltham and Districts Historical Society in New Zealand.

Our website is now available for use and may be found at <http://mc2.vicnet.net.au/home/edhs/web/HomePage.html>

In conjunction with the website the Society now has its own email address: edhs@bigpond.com.

MUD BRICK WALK

We did not run our usual first Saturday heritage walk this month because of the AEHS Annual Conference at Eltham. In its place we intend to have a mud brick walk on Saturday 24 May. It will be open to public and member participation.

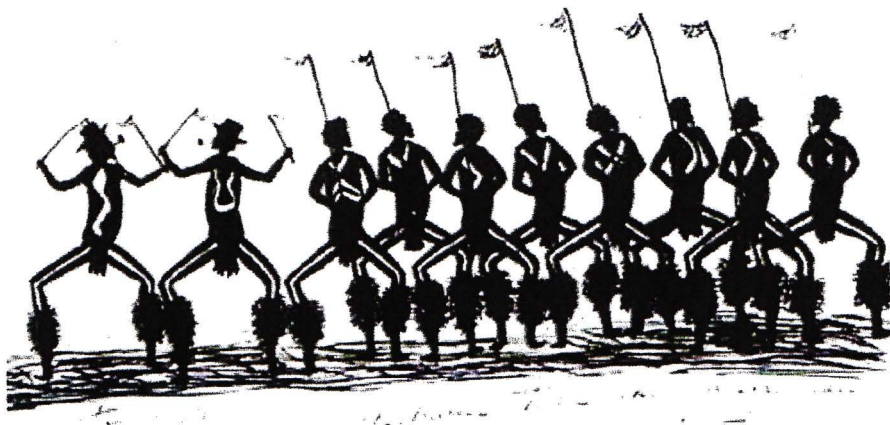
It is proposed to conduct a number of short walks in precincts of Eltham where there are groups of mud brick houses. Transport between the precincts will be by car and car pooling may be arranged. Most individual walks will be just a few hundred metres but there will be one walk of about 1.5 kilometres. A number of the houses are of heritage significance. The proposal is to walk past and discuss these houses rather than visit them.

The program will start at the Eltham Local History Centre at 10.30am and will return there for lunch. You will need to bring your own lunch or stop somewhere to buy it on the way. You do as many or as few of the individual short walks as you wish.

There is no charge for either members or others. Ring Russell Yeoman or email to edhs@bigpond.com for further details.

Our regular heritage walk program will continue on Saturday 5 July.

Bunjil of the Wurundjeri



ECKERSALL

AUDREY CAHN

Word has been received of the recent death of Audrey Cahn at the age of 104. Audrey was the sister of the late Charis Pelling, founding president of our Society. She had remained a member for many years although she had moved from her family home at Warrandyte to live with her daughter in New South Wales. Audrey had been blind for some years but maintained a local interest by having our Newsletter read to her.

We have sent our condolences to Audrey's family.

AEHS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

On Saturday 3 May our Society hosted the annual conference of the Association of Eastern Historical Societies at the old Eltham Courthouse. Reports were received from the participating societies indicating a wide range of activities, research and the never ending task of managing collections.

Joan Hunt from the History Victoria Support Group provided a most interesting presentation on the role and function of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, particularly dealing with the support that is available to affiliated societies.

After lunch Harry Gilham led a visit to the Kangaroo Ground Tower and newly opened Moor-rul Viewing Platform. Architect Dennis Ward spoke about the interpretive panels on the platform.

A group of Society members led by Sue Law provided an excellent lunch and morning and afternoon tea for the delegates.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Thursday April 17 2008 will be seen as the day that the Moor-rul viewing platform at Kangaroo Ground – next to the 1919 Shire of Eltham's War Memorial Park, was officially opened by the Mayor of Nillumbik, Cr. Warwick Leeson.

The steel framework was put in place in late 2006 and is seen to be a very small footprint on the land that it covers.

Since then the floor and entry ramp have been put into place, and also the display panels which each have about three square metres of area and are eight in number. These showed the size of the project to collect the photographs, sketches and writings to fill these panels with historical materials which came from such places as the Melbourne State Library, the Melbourne Museum, the Andrew Ross Museum at Kangaroo Ground, the collection which we hold at the Eltham Local History Centre, together with numerous items held by persons in their own private collections.

Fortunately, we on the Council's Advisory Committee found ourselves with more than enough items in certain sections of the displays. So future changes of emphasis will be possible as items of interest will be easily exchanged when deemed more educational in the themes of this first collection now on show.

The roofing requirements with the 'clear' plastic centre section took time and the safety feature of handrails and seats were put in place. The rain water run-off from the four downpipes from the roof has been piped into a 'brick pit' arrangement under the platform to allow some control of the rain water from just one source, to be implemented.

The 'apron' of a mulch type material around the platform will allow easy access for people to walk around the area. This 'apron' is also seen as being an area which will give the timber under the flooring some protection should a grass fire come into the area.

The plaque which was unveiled will be fitted to a mid-height rock base so that it will be easily read. This will be placed so that visitors 'coming or going' to the ramp entrance will be aware of those named volunteers who have given their time to this area and the adjacent park over the last ten years of refurbishment activities.

Vehicles can be parked by visitors only in the Park and not along the roadway which brings them to the site.

Harry Gilham, President and Past Convenor of the Council's Advisory Committee

OFFICE BEARERS 2008-9

At the Annual General Meeting in March office bearers and committee members from last year were re-elected for the coming year.

The full list of office bearers and committee members is as follows:

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

Jan McCauley has resigned from the Committee as she has moved from the area. We thank Jan for her contribution over recent years.

The Committee welcomes ideas for Society activities or for the better functioning of the Society. Contact one of the persons listed if you have any suggestions.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

At the Annual General Meeting subscriptions for 2008-9 were fixed as follows:

Newsletter	\$10.00
Adult	\$20.00
Student	\$ 2.00
Family	\$25.00
Business organization	\$25.00

These are the same as for the previous year.

Subscriptions are due on 1 July but earlier payment is welcomed. David would be happy to receive your money either at the May meeting or through the mail.

OTHER NEWS

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

Mondays 9.30am	19 th May and 16 th June
Tuesdays 7.30pm	3 rd June and 1 st July

The work done by Alison Delaney at recent workshops shows that newer members can make an important contribution to the operation of the Society.

Members are encouraged to become involved in this work.

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Recently Jim Connor has been putting his information technology knowledge to good use on behalf of the Society. He regularly provides digital slide presentations to accompany speakers or as a pictorial show on a particular theme. He has produced digital copies of much of our photo collection for use at meetings and as an extra dimension to our records. Most recently he has spent a significant amount of time developing the Society's web-site. For all of this we say thankyou very much to Jim.





Harry Gilham  
President

Phone – 9439 1175

Russell Yeoman  
Secretary

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