

Newsletter

No. 245 April 2019



The Carrucan Dairy

Russell Yeoman

Photographer and former Eltham resident George Coop has donated to our Society a copy of a photograph he took in about 1970 showing the Carrucan dairy in Dalton Street, Eltham. The Carrucan farm included land within the area bounded by Dalton Street, Metery Road and Mount Pleasant Road, as well as other land in various locations around Eltham.

A number of members of the Carrucan family left their homes in West Clare, Ireland in the 1850s to settle in various parts of the world including Australia. The book "Dirt Poor Spirit Rich" produced in 2011 by The Carrucan Family Fellowship tells the story of the history of this extensive family.

Newly married Patrick and Mary Carrucan travelled to Melbourne in 1856 and settled in Eltham. They purchased a small farm property at the corner of Bible Street and Dalton Street and lived there for the rest of their lives. By the time Patrick died in 1896 they had substantial land holdings around Eltham.

The farm passed to their son Michael (Mick) and later to his son John (Jack). The book says that Jack built a modern dairy in the 1940s and so that would be the dairy shown in this photograph. The house in the photograph is not the family home at the corner of Bible Street and that could be the subject for further research. Over the years and particularly in the 1970s various parts of the farm were sold for residential subdivision including the dairy site. Jack died in 1976 leaving no family. The family house was demolished and the last part of the property was subdivided.

Another family closely connected with the Carrucan family is that descended from Thomas Sweeney, honoured as the pioneer settler in early Eltham.

We appreciate the donation of the Carrucan dairy photograph from George Coop, who is also the photographer of the well known image of the 'red rattler' train on the Eltham Trestle Bridge, taken in 1981. This also shows in the background the former Eltham Shire Offices, demolished in 1996, built on the original site of the Shillinglaw Cottage.



Carrucan Dairy - photograph - George Coop



Eltham Trestle Bridge - photograph - George Coop

Annual General Meeting

8.00pm Wednesday 10th April 2019

Eltham Senior Citizen's Centre.

Library Place, Eltham

Heritage Excursion

2.00pm Saturday 4th May 2019

John Street Eltham Mud Brick Precinct

See further details on page 2

Our Annual General Meeting

Our next meeting on Wednesday 10th April 2018 at 8.00pm will be our Annual General Meeting, which includes the presentation of annual reports, as well as the election of office bearers for the coming year.

The official notification of the Annual General Meeting and Agenda are on page 9 in this Newsletter.

It will be held at our usual meeting venue, the Eltham Senior Citizens' Centre in Library Place Eltham. Members and guests are welcome to attend.

At this meeting we are pleased to have as our guest speaker a representative from the Eltham Cemetery Trust, who will talk about their connections to our local history and how current practices and projects continue to support the artistic connections in the Eltham region.

We look forward to seeing you then.



Eltham Cemetery Gates - photograph - Jim Connor

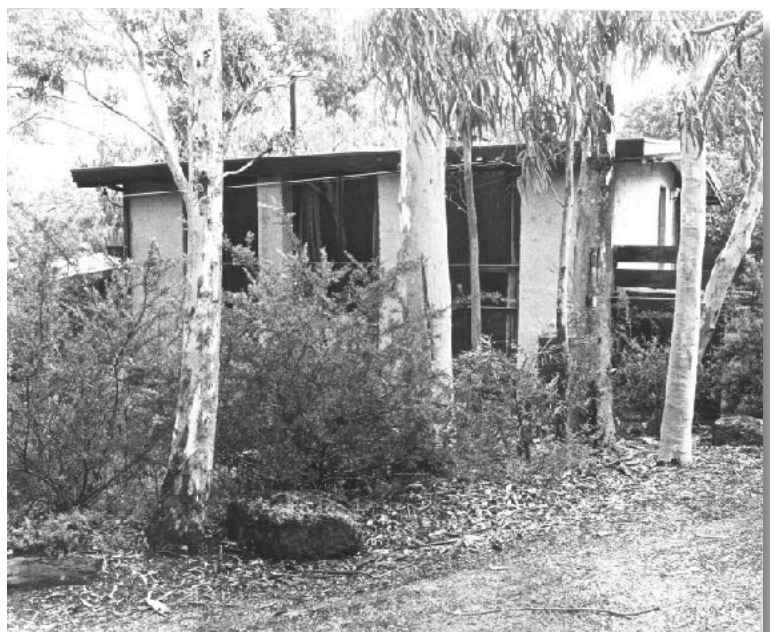
May Excursion - John Street Mud Brick Precinct

This excursion is planned to be a walk through the precinct covering John Street, Eltham and nearby streets where there is a concentration of mud brick houses dating from the 1940s through to quite recent times. This free guided walk passes houses built by Alistair Knox, Gordon Ford, Peter Glass and others who made significant contributions to the Eltham tradition of earth building.

The walk will start at the corner of Bible and Bridge Streets, Eltham (Melway Ref. 21 K6) at 2.00pm on Saturday 4th May. Street parking is available. The distance is about three kilometres and will take two to two and a half hours.

Most of the route traverses streets of Josiah Holloway's 1851 Little Eltham subdivision. We will discuss this subdivision and the origin of some of the street names. On the way to and from John Street we will view some other places of historical or heritage interest.

The walk is open to Society members and the general public. Please note that this walk does not include internal inspection of any houses. Dogs are not permitted on Society excursions. The phone number for contact on the day is 0409 021 063.



Glass House - photograph - Alistair Knox

* EDHS Collection

Empire Day was celebrated in Australia on May 24th Queen Victoria's birthday, from 1903 to 1958. As a child I loved Empire Day weekend because the Saturday night was Bonfire Night, and the next day was Empire Youth Sunday when there was a march.

Where we lived in Taylor Street there were only four houses in the street so there was lots of scrub to make a bonfire. We would begin weeks before, making a pyramid of branches about six feet high and filling in with brush, scrub, and also some logs surreptitiously removed from the winter supply in the store in our cellar, without the knowledge of our mother!

Several boys from a nearby street would hail us and say, "Hey! youse kids. Is that your Bonny? Can we come?" and I would reply, "Only if you bring your own crackers (fireworks) and my mum will be there so you can't throw Jumping Jacks or Penny Bungers at my brother and me." I was very bossy, and made sure I laid down the ground rules early while I could; as normally those same boys threw stones at us if they saw us and tried to bash up my brother, who was very vulnerable as he wore glasses. They treated me with slightly more respect because firstly I was a girl, and secondly wasn't I the girl who tried to kick Murray Raines?!

We diligently saved our pocket money for weeks to buy crackers. Penny Bungers and Jumping Jacks were affordable, Catherine Wheels were almost out of our range as were rockets, so my dear kind mother helped out, and by Bonfire Night we had a wonderful store of crackers. My mother also made sure that there was a cleared space around the bonfire, so we didn't inadvertently set Taylor Street alight in our enthusiasm.

And then the night arrived! Just after dusk we would all gather, and my brother struck the first match to the bonfire, and up it flared. One of our neighbours always brought an empty beer bottle and rockets were put into it, lit, and they then sped up into the dark sky scattering flares behind them. Catherine Wheels were nailed to a nearby tree and revolved around gaining speed, full of colour and sparks. Penny Bungers were surreptitiously thrown at each other..... and then; the bonfire died down, nobody had any crackers left, and Bonfire Night was over for another year.

The next day was the Empire Youth Sunday march. It commenced from York Street, near the Davis's house and went onto the Shire Hall in Arthur Street. First went the band; in 1952 there were three or four trumpets, one tuba and a drum, but to me as a brownie it seemed huge! Then came three guides as standard bearers from 1st. Montmorency guides, followed by the 1st. Montmorency brownies, the guides, three scouts as standard bearers, the 1st. Eltham wolf cubs and lastly the 1st. Eltham scouts.



The band on Main Road opposite Henry Street (Photographs - Ann Constable) Ann Constable is the last Brownie

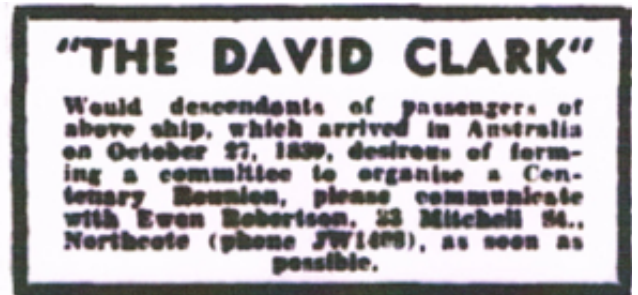
For a little girl it was quite a march, having to keep in step all the time but I loved it, and I knew that in between Henry Street and Dudley Street my mother would be there with her camera to photograph the march and most importantly ME.

Little did I know that sixty-seven years later, these photos from 1952 and 1953 would be attached to an article for the EDHS, showing a long forgotten event, but luckily recorded for posterity!

A reunion of numerous families is planned for Sunday 27th October this year at Gulf Station in Yarra Glen. The event is to mark the 180th anniversary of the arrival in Hobson's Bay, Port Phillip District, on 27th October 1839, of the David Clark, the first ship to arrive with assisted immigrants direct to Melbourne. All descendants are invited.

The ship brought 229 individuals, some single people, some families - the largest being the McMillans, comprising two brothers, each with wife and children, a group of 23 in total (including the husband of one daughter). All passengers were from Scotland, the men mainly agricultural workers or tradesmen, the women mainly domestic workers.

This isn't the first reunion of descendants of David Clark passengers. For the 100th anniversary, Ewen Robertson (descended from another Ewen Robertson, a Whittlesea settler, who'd married fellow passenger Janet McNabb) planned a reunion of his and his wife's relations; then thought he could extend it to include descendants of other passengers. On 2nd October 1939, Robertson published a notice seeking descendants in order to form a committee to organise a Centenary Reunion.



The Argus Monday 2 Oct 1939 page 16

A planning group met on 10 October and the event took place on Saturday and Sunday 28-29th October 1939. On Saturday, 330 people attended a dinner at the Federal Hotel, Collins Street. On Sunday,

a service was held at Scots Church during which a baby was christened (a sixth-generation descendant of Isabella and James Campbell); the baptism involved a sacred vessel that had been used for the christening of the only baby born during the voyage (to Jean and James McNay) and that baby's christening robe, made during the voyage, was used again 100 years later.

It was resolved to hold annual reunions and the first was held in 1940, but there seem to have been no more (presumably the effects of war). However, a committee of descendants organised a weekend of celebrations for the 150th anniversary in 1989: Friday a dinner at Prahran Town Hall, Saturday a family picnic at Gulf Station, Sunday a service at Scots Church and afternoon tea.

Gulf Station staged a small event for the 175th anniversary (small, because organised at the last moment) but, with a longer lead time, plans are forming for an event to mark the 180th anniversary on 27th October 2019.

Anyone descended from a "David Clark" passenger should email davidclark1839@gmail.com to be sent details as these are finalised.

Eltham Scouts

Friday 4th February 1916 - Evelyn Observer and Bourke East Record - Victoria - 1902 - 1917

The Rev. J.H. Sapsford has undertaken the revival of a scout troop, and to this end a meeting was held on 1st February, attended by about 30, nearly all of whom enlisted. The movement was initiated with much success by Private Geoffrey Treacher Grant, who was killed in action at the Dardanelles on 7th August last, and it is felt his memory will be an incentive to the success of the present movement.

Private Geoffrey Treacher Grant enlisted on 23rd December 1914 and was a trooper in the 8th Light Horse Regiment - Embarked Private, 8th LHR. He left Melbourne on 7th May 1915 and was 19 years old when he died on 7th August 1915, at Walker's Ridge, Gallipoli and he is buried at the Lone Pine Memorial, in Gallipoli.



Private Geoffrey Treacher Grant
Photograph - Australian War Memorial

In 1964-65, my neighbour Rita Scanbury started a book discussion group. We were both young mothers of young children living in an isolated spot in Eltham, in the bush to the east. Following the formal discussion, conversation almost invariably centred on the wish for any sort of break from the full-time demands of young children. Whether for a hobby, a decent rest, or to return to part-time work; became the refrain. As the only mother in this group with local, and very supportive parents, I came in for much envy.

In the jargon, I “took this on board” and thought I would do something about it. This took a while – quite a few years! (I was quite a busy mother of three, and with an even busier husband, helping set up a new University - La Trobe). However, I did work as a “locum” Social Worker a few times at a nearby psychiatric hospital, Larundel.

1967 I wrote a letter to the Eltham Shire Council about the possibility they could be interested in establishing a Child Care Centre.

26th November 1969 The Eltham Ladies Benevolent Society (LBS) held a public meeting on the subject of a possible Day Nursery in Eltham. They would be prepared to build it, with Council help, if the perceived need in fact existed for such a service. The meeting was well attended, especially by young mothers, including myself.

Outcome of the meeting: A Day Nursery Establishment sub-committee was set up. This included three office-bearers of the LBS, Mr. George Newton, Mr Cairns, and Secretary Mrs Mavis Gill. I was then co-opted, to examine the subject of child care for Eltham.

9th April 1970 Inaugural meeting held of the Eltham and District Day Nursery Establishment Committee. About a year was spent gathering information and visiting Child Care services throughout Melbourne. Also a survey was undertaken on the child care needs of Eltham parents.

Outcome: Shire of Eltham decided to build a Day Nursery. As Secretary of this group, contact with other Social Workers in child care was very helpful. With the growing acceptance for working mothers, together with a shortage of labour, there was a need for this service to enable mothers to return to work. The Brotherhood of St. Laurence set up a pilot Family Day Care Service in 1971 for working mothers; meetings were held sponsored by the Union movement and articles were written by young feminists who advocated a number of services to meet the need.

The “Children at Risk Association,” (CARA) was set up by Mrs Jann Gray and a group of young mothers, (including myself). Jann had heard discussion by Dr. Peter Eisen (psychiatrist), a neighbour, on the subject of child abuse and maltreatment. I think he was then at the Royal Children’s Hospital. At that time this subject was rarely discussed outside medical, social work and allied professions. Jann and her group aimed to learn more and to discover some positive solutions to the problem. A more formal talk was later given to the group, with many listeners from Eltham, together with interested people from the health and welfare field.

27th October 1971 CARA held a meeting at our house to gauge interest in establishing social supports for families in Eltham. People who may be concerned were invited, including two Shire Councillors, Alan Horsely and Graham Bride, a student Welfare Officer from Montmorency High School and Olive Zacharov, Cheryl Stevenson, Social Worker, Austin Hospital and representatives of service clubs, Churches and the Benevolent Society. At least sixty people came and determined that there should be a broadly representative committee elected and considered this should be done by holding a public meeting.

26th November 1971 An Advisory Committee was established to co-ordinate the above mentioned groups and a Steering Committee was also established, now with the support of Eltham Shire Council. Cr Alan Horsely was the Council representative. There were now also a wide range on interested people and members of other welfare groups; such as Mrs Grant from the Red Cross, and Elizabeth Marshall, experienced Social Worker, living in the north of the Shire.

Also, another Social Worker, Marie Coleman gave advice and moral support, before taking up a post in Canberra.

2nd May 1972 A Public Meeting was held at the Eltham High School Hall to set up the Eltham District Welfare Committee (EDWC). Office bearers were myself as Chair, Rosemary Aitken as Secretary, and other members who were mostly from the earlier advisory group. (These notes are from Rosemary Aitken's records from a talk given to the Eltham District Historical Society).

January 1973 The first report was prepared by the EDWC and later that year a Social Worker was appointed to the Diamond Valley Shire Council.

March 1974 A submission prepared for funding for an Eltham Community Health Centre was put to both State and Federal Health Departments.

1974 A Family Day Care Service was established in the health department section at the Eltham Shire Council, with Mrs Mary Robertson appointed as co-ordinator, however the Day Nursery project was found to be too costly.

Many, in fact, including myself, thought Family Day Care was a more child-friendly service, especially having read the reassuring report by Barbara Spalding, on the pilot project at the Brotherhood of St Laurence. Having careful supervision and choice of carers was a central feature, with continuing support for them.

1975 Discussions commenced about the Shires of Diamond Valley and Eltham having a joint Health and Welfare Centre. A Recreation Officer was appointed at the Eltham Shire Council. During this year the Federal Government sought applications for Community Health Centres. The EDWC was already well prepared with relevant information for a submission and funds were granted that year. Later a Social Worker was appointed to the Eltham Shire Council. (This had, earlier, been another of our aims.)

1976 The Eltham Community Health Centre was established, initially at St. Margaret's Church in Pitt Street, then it moved to an old house at 7 Dudley Street, Eltham. The Family Day Care Service later also moved here.

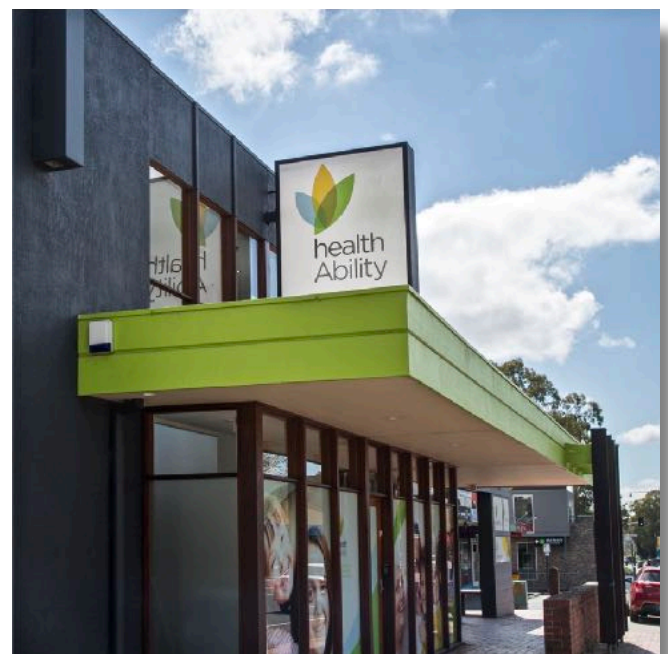
1986 After ten years the services transferred to a large new building, designed for their purposes at 917 Main Road, Eltham. After local government restructure the name was changed to the Nillumbik Health Centre and then later to "HealthAbility".

Political attitudes to the provision of such services have changed over time, but thankfully not to the extent of those expressed by Margaret Thatcher, then Prime Minister of England who stated:

"There is no such thing as community, we are all individuals".



7 Dudley Street Eltham - Illustration - Jock Macneish



917 Main Road Eltham - Photograph - HealthAbility

Alan Marshall talks about.....Eltham in the early days

I wonder why the English woman, aged 42, who gave her occupation as labouring and was arrested at Eltham on April 10, 1859, had in her possession two aprons, three pieces of calico and two shawls.

She got seven days for drunkenness and was the first person placed in the then new lock-up at Eltham. Today I saw a record of her arrest in an old book at the Police station, where First Constable Draper sat back in his chair and told me something of the early history of this lovely suburb. Judging by some of the entries in the faded charge book, this town must have been a much more exciting place in the 1850s, than it is today.

Nineteen Chinese were arrested there for gambling, about this time. Five of them had nuggets in their possession. They were all miners.

I noticed that a 40 year old man, arrested on December 18, 1859, for assault was recorded as having been convicted for the same assault in England 28 years earlier. He was deported to Tasmania for this crime. I wonder what was the nature of this assault that made the authorities transport a boy of 12. The Eltham records show he could not read or write.

A toll gate operated at Lower Plenty in 1862 at the spot where the Lower Plenty Hotel now stands. A man who gave his religion as a Jacobite, assaulted the gate keeper here in February of that year. Under the heading 'remarks' the Eltham constable had recorded after the prisoner's name 'no magistrate could be found to attend, consequently the parties settled the case out of court'.

I looked down the list of property found on prisoners, and in every case a pocket knife was one of the items mentioned. Today not many men carry pocket knives. But not many men carry nuggets around with them either. In what part of Eltham did those Chinese find their nuggets, I wonder !

Article from The Argus, Wednesday 14 September 1955, page 12 - National Library of Australia

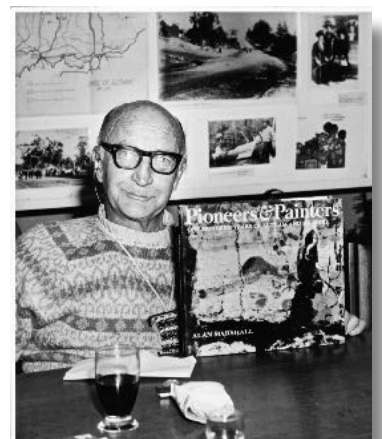
Alan Marshall

Alan Marshall was born in 1902 in Noorat, Victoria, where at six years old he contracted polio, which left him with a physical disability that grew worse as he grew older. In 1920 the family moved to Diamond Creek and he was later employed by the Shire of Eltham at Kangaroo Ground.

Alan wrote numerous short stories, many set in the bush. He also wrote newspaper columns and magazine articles. He travelled widely in Australia and overseas. He also collected and published Indigenous Australian stories and legends. His weekly advice column, 'Alan Marshall's Casebook', ran in the *Argus* newspaper from 1952 until the paper's cessation in 1957 and was distinguished by its common-sense approach to lonely men and women.

Living at Eltham from 1955, he became a keen defender of the shire's natural and cultural heritage, in publications including *Pioneers and Painters* (1971). In 1985 the Eltham Shire Council established the annual Alan Marshall Short Story Competition for emergent writers and this award is continued by Nillumbik Shire Council.

Alan Marshall died in 1984 and his remains are interred at the Nillumbik (Diamond Creek) Cemetery.



Alan Marshall
Photograph - EDHS *

These stories are part of a series about the lives of people buried at the Eltham Cemetery.

William MacMahon Ball

William MacMahon Ball ("Mac" Ball) was Professor of Political Science at Melbourne University from 1949 to 1968, having lectured there since 1923. He became known as an ABC commentator on international affairs from the early 1930s to the early 1960s. Between 1940 and 1944 he was Controller of Overseas Broadcasting (which later became Radio Australia). In 1945, he was political consultant to the Australian Delegation at the conference leading to the establishment of the United Nations, and in 1946 was the British Commonwealth Representative on the Allied Council during the post-war occupation of Japan.



William McMahon Ball

Photograph - Australian War Memorial

Mac and his wife Katrine (plus daughter Jenny) came to Eltham in 1942, and in 1945 moved into an old timber cottage at the eastern end of York Street. With help from Alistair Knox, Sonia Skipper, Gordon Ford and John Harcourt, the house was totally renovated to become an early example of Eltham mud-brick.

Mac died in 1986 and is buried in Eltham Cemetery with Katrine. Part of their land backing onto Bridge Street was donated to Eltham Shire Council and is now a reserve called MacMahon Ball Paddock.

Main source: "Nillumbik Now and Then" by Marguerite Marshall. Mac Ball's daughter is Jenny Ellis, see page 5 article.

George Bird

George Bird was born in England in 1845 and arrived in Australia in 1856 as a child of assisted migrants. Soon afterwards he came out to Eltham to live with his uncle George Stebbing, working for him as bricklayer's assistant in building, amongst others, Shillinglaw Cottage and the Anglican and Methodist Churches in Eltham. He later purchased 72 acres at the eastern end of Pitt Street (bounded by Eucalyptus Road, Mount Pleasant Road and present-day Rockliffe Street) and established the property "View Hill", which was worked as a mixed farm and orchard.

In 1878 he married Janet Kilpatrick, who had emigrated from Scotland. They had ten children, three of whom died in infancy. The wedding in 1904 of their eldest surviving daughter Sarah ("Sis") to Edward Pepper appears to have been quite a society event.

George was a staunch Methodist, a Church Steward and a Sunday School Superintendent in about 1890. Janet died in 1915 and George died in 1920 (though his gravestone says 1921). George's will stated that his property was to be divided between all his children in equal shares. This necessitated subdivision of the View Hill property, between 1922 and 1926. George, Janet and several descendants, are buried in a family plot in the cemetery.



Bird Family - Photograph - Lesley Mitchell

One son, George Hugh Bird, operated a drapery store in Main Road (near Bridge Street) in around 1915. Later, in the 1920s, he ran a greengrocer's shop (also selling confectionery) in Main Road opposite Eltham Station. It was the first shop in Eltham to have plate glass windows. At the same time, his brother Reg had a grocery store on the station side of Main Road.

Source: Private research by Bird family members (copy held by EDHS).

Annual General Meeting

To satisfy the requirements of the Society's rules, notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Eltham District Historical Society Incorporated will be held at 8.00pm on Wednesday 10th April 2019, at the Eltham Senior Citizens' Centre.

The agenda of the Annual General Meeting is set out below in accordance with the rules:

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of 2018 Annual General Meeting
3. Reports
 - a. President's Report
 - b. Financial Report
 - c. Any other reports
4. Election of office bearers and ordinary members of committee, positions to be filled as follows:
 - President
 - Senior Vice President
 - Junior Vice President
 - Society Secretary
 - Treasurer/Membership Secretary
 - Ordinary Committee Members (minimum of three members)
5. Election of Membership Sub-Committee (three members)
6. Fixing of entrance fee (if any) and annual subscription
7. Any other business of which at least two weeks notice has been given to members

It should be noted that under the Society's rules nominations for all positions are to be made at the meeting.

You are welcome to contribute to the operation of our Society by becoming an office bearer or committee member. Please give the matter some consideration and if in doubt as to whether you can assist you could discuss this with one of our office bearers. The workload is not great. There are usually just five daytime committee meetings each year, alternating with Society meetings.

We warmly welcome fresh ideas to help us to continue to run a vibrant organisation to maintain our intention of promoting, encouraging and assisting with the preservation and conservation of places and records of historical importance within the Eltham district.

Vale - Dr Malcom Harrop OAM

Sadly we report that Dr Malcolm Harrop OAM passed away on 16 March 2019, aged 83. Mal will be sadly missed by many in the Nillumbik community and beyond. He was active in many community initiatives, such as the Eltham Festival, the Apex Club and the Phoenix Club. Mal will also be fondly remembered for his passion for Jazz music and many related activities, including the Montsalvat Jazz Festival and more recently those at Nillumbik U3A. Our condolences to Val, their family members and Mal's many friends.



The Eltham District Historical Society welcomes Le Pine Funerals, Eltham as one of our valued sponsors. Le Pine Funerals has been providing funeral services to families from their funeral homes in Melbourne since 1891. Their experienced funeral directors are available at their Eltham funeral home, serving Eltham, Montmorency, Lower Plenty and surrounding suburbs.

Please support our local sponsors - they support our Society



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We appreciate the financial support provided by Nillumbik Shire Council, Eltham Rotary and the Eltham Community Craft and Produce Market Committee of Management

Printed by courtesy of Vicki Ward MP, State Member for Eltham

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