

Newsletter



No. 276 June 2024

The Eltham Avenue of Honour

Jim Connor

In August 1917 an Eltham World War 1 Soldiers Welcome Home Committee was formed – ‘to make necessary arrangements for the return of our brave lads from the front.’

The president was Sir William Irvine and the Heidelberg News reported that: ‘Lady Irvine then suggested that it would be nice to plant an Avenue of Honour.’ The following month the first working bee commenced and ‘The result, it is trusted, will be a standing memorial to our brave lads and also beautify the approach to our village.’ (*Eltham and Whittlesea Shires Advertiser 28 Sept. 1917*).

The Heidelberg News reported that the planting ‘was carried out in a very cheerful and spirited manner on Saturday afternoon... Shortly after one o’clock the willing workers could be seen wending their way towards the township, with picks and shovels &c., on their shoulders’.

The reporter writes that: ‘A little after 3 o’clock Sir William and Lady Irvine and Mr W Gray and family arrived by motor. Sir William spoke at length on the ravages of this cruel war, and the good that must result therefrom in bringing all closer together.’ (*Heidelberg News and Greensborough, Eltham and Diamond Creek Chronicle, 22 Sept. 1917*)

The Evelyn and Whittlesea Shires Advertiser reported that: ‘Trees, to the number of 115, were planted – from the “Flat” to the intersection of Pitt Street. (The Flat being the area now known as Wingrove Park). It had been suggested that ‘a tree be planted in the name of every soldier lad who has gone to the front.’

Subsequently, copper name plates and tree guards were installed to protect the trees. In September 1921 Eltham Shire Council accepted custody of the Eltham Avenue of Honour. Over the years some of the trees died or were removed for road widening purposes. At times replacement trees were planted.

There is a Heritage Overlay (HO229) covering the London Plane trees planted between Dalton and Brougham streets, Eltham. In recent years Nillumbik Shire Council has planted young London Plane trees south of Dalton Street and north of Brougham Street.

In 2015 a memorial marker was installed at each end of the Eltham Avenue of Honour, one in Wingrove Park opposite Mount Pleasant Road and one on the western side of Main Road, near Pitt Street.



Avenue of Honour markers
Photographs - Jim Connor

Our Next Meeting

2.00pm Saturday 8th June 2024
Eltham Senior Citizen’s Centre
Library Place, Eltham

Heritage Excursion

2.00pm Saturday 6th July 2024
Walter Withers Walk.

See further details on page 2

Next Meeting- 2.00pm Saturday 8th June 2024

At our next meeting at 2.00pm on Saturday 8th June 2024 we will have several speakers talking about some anniversaries occurring during 2024. These anniversaries include:

Alan Marshall - On 21st January this year it was the fortieth anniversary of the death of Alan Marshall, a well known writer and humanist. We will look at his work and life.

Eltham Library - On 22nd May 2024 it will be 30 years since the Eltham Library opened, which will be celebrated with displays and activities at the library on 22nd of June. At our meeting we will look at the history and development of this wonderful library.

Montsalvat - Some 90 years ago, in 1934, land was purchased by Justus Jørgensen to establish the Montsalvat artists' colony in Eltham. It is set among gardens on five hectares (12 acres) of land, and has many buildings, including houses, halls, studios, galleries and stables. At this meeting we will look back at the history, as well as consider what is happening there now.



Montsalvat - June 2013
Photograph - Jim Connor

Shire of Eltham - Shire of Nillumbik

Due to a State government implemented municipal restructure program, the former Shire of Eltham, established in 1871, ceased to exist on 15th December 1994, thirty years ago this year. While acknowledging this anniversary we will also look at some of the activities that have occurred under the new Shire of Nillumbik.

So, all in all, this meeting will provide a variety of stories to consider. We look forward to seeing you there, at **2.00pm on Saturday 8th June 2024**. Members and visitors are most welcome.

July Excursion - Saturday 6th July - Walter Withers Walk

Our excursion on Saturday 6th July will visit the sites in Eltham on the Heidelberg School Artists' Trail. These feature paintings by Walter Withers, who lived in Eltham from 1903 until his death on 13th October 1914. In October this year it will be 110 years since his death.

Nillumbik Shire Council has recently refreshed and replaced the six signs on this trail in Eltham, being two in Wingrove Park, three in Alistair Knox Park and one in the Eltham Town Centre. Some signs have been relocated to improve viewing and accessibility. EDHS has been pleased to be able to work closely with Council officers on this project.



Wingrove Park - new signs
Photograph - Jim Connor

The excursion will start at **Wingrove Park at 2.00pm on Saturday 6th July**. It will take about two hours and finish in the Eltham Town Centre. This free excursion is open to the public as well as Society members. Dogs are not permitted on Society excursions. Phone number for contact on the day is 0409 021 063.

Preamble

On a recent heritage walk in Yallambie - Lower Plenty, I was asked how colonial surveyors actually measured the Crown Land Portions, and why Martins Lane was called 50 Links Occupation Road.

People looked unconvinced when I talked about surveyors dragging a chain, the length of a cricket pitch (22 yards), through the landscape to make the measurements, which they duly recorded and mapped and that 50 links meant the road was half a chain (11 yards) wide.

Questions followed on where surveyors started measuring from and how it came to be Crown Land in the first place. While I could provide some answers, I made a mental note to research the details.

Accordingly, this article aims to briefly explain the how and why of 1830's surveying in Port Phillip District, as well as providing information on Robert Hoddle's work and the historical context he operated in. One thing leads to another and the article concludes with the overturning of terra nullius and recognition of native title in Australia in 1992.

Anne Paul, February 2024

Surveyor Robert Hoddle

Most Victorians are familiar with Robert Hoddle as Melbourne's surveyor, Hoddle Street and the Hoddle Grid. Some will know that he also led the surveying of Crown Land in the Viewbank -Yallambie - Greensborough area, as well as other parts of Victoria and Australia. This was done under direction of the Governors of New South Wales and Port Phillip District, who were granted their power under an Act of the British Parliament of 1787.

Hoddle and other surveyors work was based on the presumption of terra nullius and ignored the native title rights of First Nations people to occupy their traditional lands.

Terra nullius - meaning land belonging to no-one - was the legal concept used by the British government to justify the settlement of Australia.

*It remained the legal principle on which British colonisation rested until 1992, when the High Court of Australia brought down its finding in the *Mabo vs Queensland (No. 2)* case, ruling that the lands of the continent of Australia were not terra nullius at the time of settlement.*

(NLA digital classroom)

Much has been written about Hoddle's life and his survey work, with research ongoing, especially as more material becomes available online through the National Library's Trove and the Public Record Office Victoria (PROV).

Robert Hoddle (1794-1881) started as a cadet-surveyor in the British army in 1809 and took part in survey work in Britain and Cape Colony (South Africa), prior to migrating to New South Wales in July 1823. He was appointed an assistant surveyor, surveying in Moreton Bay (Queensland) and country districts of New South Wales, as well as the road over the Blue Mountains.

(Hoddle-Colville, B. 2005)

Hoddle came to Port Phillip District with Governor Sir Richard Bourke in March 1837, and was appointed senior surveyor over the existing surveyor Robert Russell. After separation of the colony of Victoria in 1851, he became Victoria's first surveyor-general.

There are layers to Hoddle's life and work, including conflict with Governors, colleagues and others in authority. However, he is recognised for his foresight, resourcefulness and technical skills, including the provision of wide boulevards from the city to suburbs, as well as designing Melbourne's city grid and wide streets.

(Tipping, M. 1969)

Melbourne Town

Hoddle produced a grid plan for Melbourne, using the survey work of his predecessor Robert Russell, which he apparently didn't acknowledge. The streets were surveyed 1 ½ chains (99ft) wide, the blocks were 10 chains (660ft) square, with allotments 1 chain (66ft) wide. Little streets of ½ a chain (33ft) wide were inserted east west through the middle of the blocks, to allow for rear access.

The wide streets were named after Port Phillip identities, politicians and royalty.

The main north south road, to the east of town was named after Hoddle.

Hoddle was appointed auctioneer at the first sale of Crown Land on 1 June 1837, and he sold half-acre allotments averaging just over £35 an acre.

His commission was £57 12s. 7d., and he bought two allotments for himself costing £54.



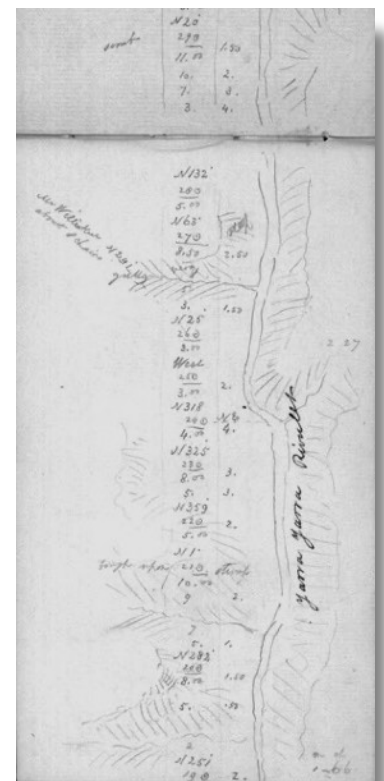
Great Collins Street Looking East from Wesleyan Chapel, Melbourne, 1856.
Image by ST Gill, engraving by James Tingle, State Library Victoria

However, with Port Phillip District's increasing settlement and importance, there was growing pressure to release more land for sale. By 1838 Hoddle, his assistants and team of convict labourers had surveyed Geelong and other areas of country Victoria, including the Parish of Keelbundora in the County of Bourke, which spans the Plenty River – Darebin Creek corridor.

Hoddle's Field Notes

Robert Hoddle made consecutive rough maps and notations, along with his measurements in his Field Notes, when surveying, including in the Viewbank - Greensborough area and beyond. These have been preserved and can be accessed online via Landata Victoria. The original documents can be viewed at the Public Records Office Victoria. They are not easy to decipher.

The first rural land sales were conducted by auction in Sydney on 12 September 1838 and included most of the Crown Land allotments of Keelbundora. They were snapped up by the wealthy and connected, often to be subdivided and resold at substantial profit. So began Victoria's ongoing boom and bust cycle of land speculation and development.



Hoddle's Field Notes August 1837 along the Plenty River at Janefield
Source: Public Record Office Victoria

Surveying in Colonial Times

Surveying in colonial Australia was primarily about land sales and settlement, the transfer of Crown Land into private ownership for European settlers and affirming terra nullius. The colonial governors and government viewed the land as belonging to the Crown, not the indigenous inhabitants or the squatters who had already occupied some areas.

The key question I want to address is how did Hoddle and other surveyors actually carry out their survey work. What was involved in creating the Crown Land Allotments that enabled the land to be sold.

Surveying 101 - The Gunter Chain

The Gunter Chain was invented by English clergyman, astronomer and mathematician Edmund Gunter (1581 – 1626). Gunter's chain was first used in 1620 and was based on the ancient measure of the breadth of a furrow or plough strip. It enabled land to be accurately surveyed, for legal and commercial purposes, well before the development of sophisticated surveying equipment.

The Gunter Chain measured 66 feet in length. It consisted of 100 links, usually marked off into groups of 10 by brass rings or tags, with the number of points on the tag denoting its position on the chain.

(Simpson, M. 2018)

It was the principle means for the linear measurement of land for almost 300 years and was used for surveys in the British Empire. The chains were also used by landowners and farmers and importantly, to measure the length of a cricket pitch.

The invention of the steel tape in 1867 provided a more convenient and accurate means of measuring large distances and by the early 1900's Gunter's Chain had generally fallen out of use.

Gunter's Chain Measurements

1 link = 7.92 inches

25 links = 1 rod (pole or perch) or 16.5 feet

100 links = 1 chain or 66 feet or 22 yards or 792 inches
= Length of cricket pitch, between the wickets.

10 chains = 1 furlong ('furrowlong') or 220 yards or 660 feet

80 chains = 1 mile or 5,280 feet or 1,760 yards

10 square chains = 1 acre or 43,560 square feet

...Anne's story to be continued in our next newsletter



S. T. Gill, Surveyors, 1864.
Source: National Library of Australia



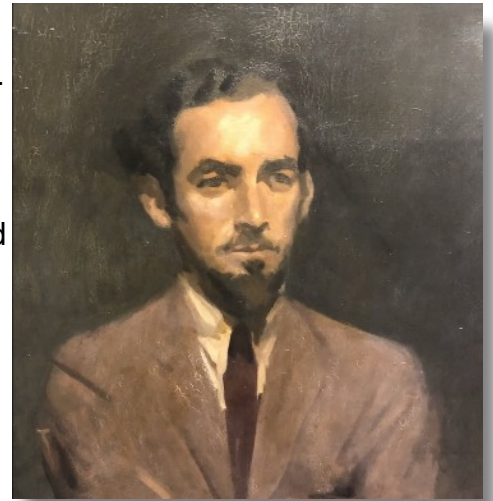
Gunter's chain reputedly used by Robert Hoddle for surveying Melbourne
Source: State Library of Victoria

(As 2024 marks the 90th anniversary year of the establishment of Montsalvat, our EDHS newsletter during this year will feature a series of articles by Richard Pinn about significant people who lived and worked at Montsalvat.)

Arthur Munday (1903-1976)

Arthur Munday graduated as a solicitor in 1932 and practised at Kyneton for a year, but found that country life did not suit him. Seeking a change, he joined Max Meldrum's coterie and enrolled in Justus Jørgensen's art classes. He fell in love with fellow student Clarice Beckett and was devastated when she died in 1935. He moved to Montsalvat, where Justus dispatched him to the State Library to research mudbrick and pisé building techniques. He finally found something of relevance in the writings of the ancient Roman historian Pliny!

Arthur was handsome and debonair and at Montsalvat began a (brief?) relationship with Sonia Skipper. They had a daughter Saskia in 1938, though Justus was concerned that there might be a scandal as Sonia was only 20. And Arthur had wanted Sonia to have an abortion, yet he remained devoted to Saskia for the rest of his life.



Arthur Munday - 1937
Portrait by Justus Jørgensen

Arthur went on to become a skilled stonemason and builder under Justus Jørgensen's guidance. He built the mudbrick house at 715 Main Road (now Victorian Artists Supplies) in 1970 for Saskia.

Main source: "Montsalvat: the intimate story of Australia's most exciting artists' colony" by Sigmund Jorgensen

Sonia Skipper (1918-2008)

Sonia Skipper came to Montsalvat in 1934. Her formal artistic education had included stone carving and sculpture, which she put to good use to help construct Montsalvat. Many of its crenellations and gargoyles are hers, albeit as part of a collaborative effort. Later she helped her brother Matcham to produce a series of fourteen sculptures for the Ivanhoe Catholic Church depicting the Stations of the Cross. The initial clay moulds were cast into plaster and then wax before a final bronze casting.

While at Montsalvat, Sonia became proficient at mud-brick building techniques. She experimented with Eltham clays for years to find the best mix for making bricks and render. Alistair Knox employed her as building foreman on several of his sites. She also found time to paint, exhibiting her works in local and Victorian galleries. And if that wasn't enough, she ran Montsalvat's dairy herd which had been established by her sister.

In the early 1950s, Sonia took on a job with the Department of Agriculture, travelling around Phillip Island and Gippsland to test dairy herds for diseases. In about 1954 she returned to Eltham and began a relationship with painter Joe Hannan, moving to Research in the 1960s. But she was asthmatic and shifted to the drier climate of Renmark in 1981, where she continued to paint and also taught.

Main sources: Wikinorthia; obituary by Sigmund Jorgensen in Sydney Morning Herald



Sonia Skipper
Making mud bricks, 1937
(photo from "Laughing Waters Road")

Arthur Eggleston Dungey, Eltham's third policeman

Irene Kearsley

Arthur Eggleston Dungey was born 6 March 1856, at Brighton, South Australia, to Thomas Boorman Dungey (a miller) and Carline Collins, their third child. Within the year, the family had moved to Victoria, first to Ballarat where Thomas had relatives; he left behind a business in chaos and insolvency (not unusual for Thomas). A child was born in Ballarat and another five in nearby Kingston, where the family settled.

Whatever schooling Dungey received; he had an educated writing style. When he joined the Victorian police force in 1877 his 'calling' is recorded as butcher and his service in the Victorian Artillery Corps is noted. His first posting was to Prahran but, early the next year, he asked to join the mounted force and was transferred to Footscray. In October 1878 he married Louisa Flowers, at the Wesleyan church in St Kilda.

The following year Dungey spent time in Beechworth, Wodonga and Chiltern and took part in the arrest of James Kelly (Ned's younger brother) and arrested one of the three men who had stolen the SS Ferret.

In December 1881, Dungey was transferred to Harrietville as the only policeman for some distance. In the winter of 1883, he helped rescue a man frozen solid on the summit of the Great Divide. The next year, he found a winter track from Cobungra to Freeburgh (in effect, linking Omeo to Bright), still known as Dungey's track.

In 1885, he volunteered for service in the Soudan although no force was eventually sent from Victoria. At the start of the year, the Harrietville area was visited by the Governor of Victoria, Sir Henry Brougham Loch and his wife; Dungey must have impressed them because, later in 1885, when the Governor requested a replacement Orderly, Dungey was appointed, taking up residence in 'comfortable quarters' with his wife.

Sir Henry was adamant that his Orderlies were dressed identically, although the men had to purchase their own (expensive) kit. They were on duty seven days a week, as escorts to the Governor and party for various occasions, even playing cricket in the Government House eleven during summer at Mount Macedon.

In June 1889 he was promoted to Senior Constable. At the end of the year, there was a change of Governor and Dungey came back to policing, being appointed to Eltham and moving into the Police House (now home of EDHS).

During his first year at Eltham, Dungey created a commotion when, as Inspector of Nuisances, he charged the Kangaroo Ground Hotel on the state of the latrines; this was repeated the next year, this time about Kangaroo Ground State School. Other 1890 cases included a 'welshing' bookie at the Eltham Races, children neglected and assaulted, cruelty to animals, a hawker without a licence, and a drunk in charge of a horse.

In 1890, the ambitious Dungey passed the examination for Sergeant and the following year, he passed the examination for Officer rank, although he had to wait until 1896 to be appointed Sergeant (promotion then being entirely on seniority).



Victorian Police Uniform 1877
Photograph - Dailytelegraph.com.au

In both 1891 and 1892, he prosecuted cases of leaving a fire in the open air. However, 1891 had major dramas. In July, during a major flood, Dungey was summoned to help an old stonebreaker named Murphy who lived in a tent by the Diamond Creek; he had moved his belongings to the nearby Souter's blacksmithy but quickly became stranded. Dungey rode into the water, got the old man up behind him but his horse objected and bucked them off. Murphy managed to wade to the bank while Dungey rescued his goods.

In September, Dungey was one of the area's troopers called in to track down a Frenchman stealing from houses and tents around Kangaroo Ground. Dungey came across the miscreant while searching in the Muddy Creek area (Yea); Dungey ordered him to stop and put on the handcuffs which Dungey threw to him, this the criminal pretended to do but then ran off.

Dungey dismounted and caught the man, both falling to the ground; there was a desperate struggle for Dungey's revolver; one shot missing Dungey but, with the gun jammed against the Frenchman's neck, it fired again, killing the miscreant. The inquest might have resulted in a charge of manslaughter, but instead Dungey was commended for bravery.

Less dramatic cases in 1891 included locking up a drunk because he wouldn't go home, and charging an elderly couple for assaulting their mentally handicapped 42-year-old daughter.

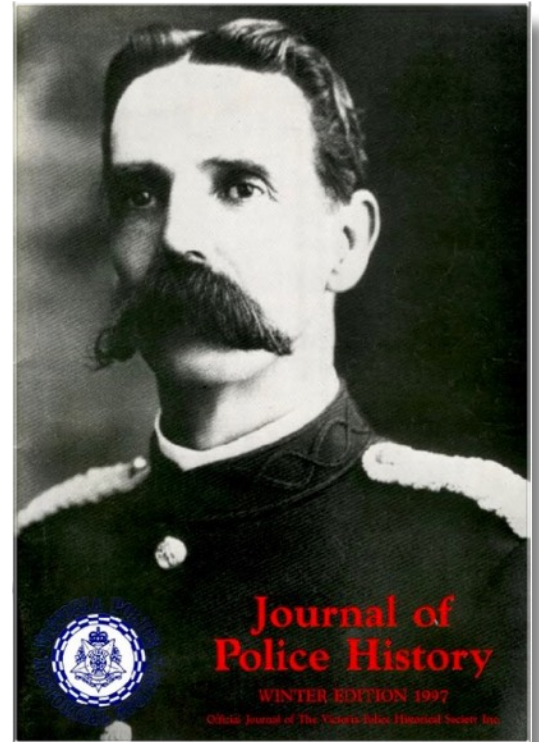
In September, Dungey passed the examination for the rank of Officer although he again had to wait for actual promotion.

In 1892, Dungey dealt with several cases committed by, or against, children. Other cases included theft of a saddle, theft of a macintosh, killing a deer, and seeking contacts for an elderly man found wandering who knew only his name. One man was charged with using a horse belonging to someone else and another with stealing a horse owned by his wife.

It wasn't all work, though. Arthur may have been musical but Louisa certainly was – she had a good singing voice and performed at numerous events around the Eltham area. For Arthur, his recreation seemed to be mainly cricket – he was secretary of the Eltham Cricket Club as well as playing.

In 1893, Dungey requested a transfer to the Detective department. The couple's departure from Eltham was marked by a large social event. As a detective, Dungey had a stella career.

The Dungeys did not have any children. Theirs was a long marriage – they died only six months apart, both aged 82: Louisa in 1937 and Arthur in 1938.



Arthur Eggleston Dungey
Photograph - Victoria Police
Historical Society

Membership Subscriptions for 2024 - 25 are due on 1st July

We appreciate those members who have already renewed their membership. Your payment would be welcome, by direct credit to EDHS Bendigo Bank BSB 633 000 Account 141820902, or to Robert Marshall at our June meeting, or by mail to EDHS 728 Main Road, Eltham.

Annual General Meeting - Saturday 13th April 2024

At the Annual General Meeting on Saturday 13th April 2024, at the Eltham Senior Citizens' Centre, office bearers and committee members were elected for the coming year. The full list of office bearers and committee members is as follows:

President	Jim Connor
Vice-President	Peter Pidgeon
Vice-President	Liz Pidgeon
Treasurer / Membership Secretary	Robert Marshall
Society Secretary	Russell Yeoman

Ordinary Committee Members:

Joan Castledine, Alison Delaney, Andrew Lemon AM, Irene Kearsey, David Taylor, Terry Beaton

Membership Sub-Committee: Rosemary Aitken, John Fecondo, Peter Thomson.

We welcome our 2024/25 committee members and thank them for their commitment to supporting the operation of our society. At the Annual General Meeting subscriptions for 2024-2025 were fixed at the same levels as last year, as follows:

Single member \$25.00 Family \$30.00 Business organisation \$30.00

Flagging Appreciation

Terry Beaton

Thankfully every voluntarily coordinated community organisation has a core of enthusiastic and dedicated people who do much of the work and keep activities going. Some even do tasks beyond the scope of their usual involvement.

This is therefore a most grateful note of appreciation to the "*Magnificent Seven*" members of EDHS, who made this year's ANZAC Flag Tribute possible at Eltham Cemetery.

Without help from Alison Delaney, Soo Nickels, Joan Castledine, Jim Connor, Sheila Beaton and Julia Drew, the majority at short notice, the flags would not have been placed, over this special commemoration period, at the graves of some 900 veterans buried there.



ANZAC Flag Tribute - Eltham Cemetery 2024
Photograph - Jim Connor

Lest We Forget

Editor's note

For a number of years Terry and Sheila Beaton have spent much time organising and undertaking Flag Tributes, for ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day, not only at the Eltham Cemetery, but also at the Nillumbik Cemetery in Diamond Creek and the Kangaroo Ground Cemetery.

Blanche Emily Shallard, nee Evarard, 1905-2002. Local historian and community volunteer

Blanche was born 18 May 1905 in Camberwell. She was the oldest of a family of five children with two brothers and two sisters.

Her father William Hugh Everard and her maternal grandfather were both State members of Parliament. She would travel with her father as a child on business around the local electorate of Evelyn (about the same area that Jagajaga covers today).

Blanche attended Stratherne Presbyterian Girls School in Hawthorn and completed her secondary schooling at Presbyterian Ladies College where she was head prefect in 1923. She studied at Melbourne University where she completed an Arts degree, majoring in history and English and a Diploma of Education – a major achievement when few women attended University at that time. She represented the University playing Basketball. It was here she met law student and Montmorency resident Jack Vincent Shallard.

She was employed as a teacher at Ivanhoe Grammar till their engagement in 1931. Jack was developing his law business and Blanche gave him secretarial assistance. The potential marriage and/or secretarial career nearly founded when Blanche typed a letter about a will addressed to “Dead Madam”. She enjoyed telling that story. They married in Kew in 1933 and moved to Rattray Road, Montmorency. They did not have a car at first and would walk everywhere.

During WW2 Jack was a member of the R.A.A.F. He served both interstate and overseas. By this time, they had two daughters, Margaret and Elizabeth, so this would have been a difficult and anxious time for Blanche with Jack at war.

Blanche became very involved in community work, including more than 25 years on the Diamond Valley Community Hospital Auxiliary, Greensborough, after it opened in 1942 (Jack was also on the Board). Blanche was also active in the St Faith’s Church in Montmorency and Montmorency State School.

She was also a keen member of the Shire of Eltham Historical Society after it was founded in 1967. Blanche was a key source of information relating to the history of Montmorency and its families. She was a member of the Committee and hosted meetings in her home over several years. Her cheese scones were well remembered. She led a major project to collect the histories of long-time families in the district which grew to be a valuable collection. Many narratives are hand written.

Jack passed away in 1991, aged 86. Blanche remained independent and died peacefully in her home of 60 years on 10 September 2002 in Montmorency. She was 97 years old. She left 2 daughters, four grandchildren and a great grandson.

Part of the eulogy at her funeral delivered by a friend reads in part:

She “loved reading and the theatre. She had a wonderful sense of humour and was a master of understatement and dry wit. She was fiercely independent but always extending herself to help others. Gifts of flowers, shortbread and Christmas cake would arrive unannounced on the doorstep or be given when visiting her. She had a wonderful capacity to relate to people of all age groups”.

Blanche was buried with Jack and her Shallard parents-in-law in Eltham Cemetery. EDHS members planted a eucalyptus tree in the rear garden of the local history centre in her memory. On the 12th April 2024 a new replacement plaque was unveiled.



Blanche Shallard.
1988 Eltham Community
Festival Parade
Photograph - EDHS

We appreciate the support our Society receives from our local sponsors and encourage you to support them



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*Any images displayed in this newsletter from the Shire of Eltham Pioneers Photograph Collection (SEPP) are held in partnership between Eltham District Historical Society and Yarra Plenty Regional Library (Eltham Library)

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

We are always interested to consider local history stories or articles for publication in our newsletter

Experience Eltham Cemetery

Julia Drew

Sacred Grounds and Community Spaces

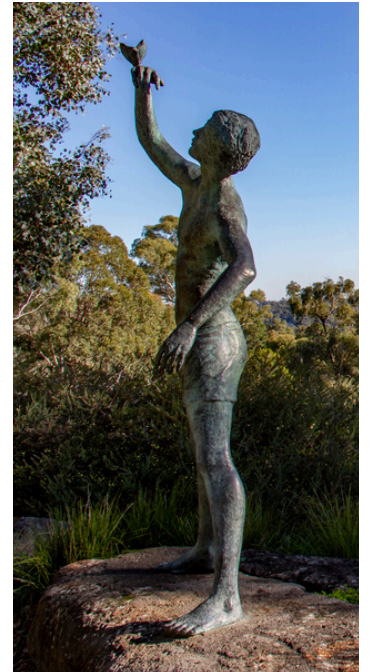
In Australia, cemeteries are undergoing a notable transition, becoming prominent community spaces that celebrate life, heritage, and community, all while maintaining their fundamental values of respect and solemnity.

For centuries, cemeteries have been adorned solely with headstones and plaques. Today, they embrace a variety of expressions, including sculptures, murals, and artistic installations, as well as amenities like playgrounds, cafes, award-winning gardens, and health and well-being spaces. Cemeteries serving as community spaces that honour the past while enriching the present.

Cemeteries are increasingly becoming venues for weddings, concerts, festivals, and historical re-enactments, reimagining them as places of life and remembrance rather than solely places of death.

A wonderful example is *History Alive!* at the Geelong Eastern and Queenscliff Cemeteries, hosted by the Geelong Cemeteries Trust. This immersive tour allows visitors to step back in time and learn about the lives of some of Geelong's influential people, presented by actors in period costume.

Many cemeteries, such as Fawcner Memorial Park have walking groups and bike paths. Springvale Botanical Cemetery offer wellness and support activities through The Centre for Care & Wellbeing.



Young Man Awakening



Mud Brick Making and Egg & Bacon
from *Our Eltham Artistic Recollections*



Wisteria Walk Central in springtime
by Robert Boyle

Our cemetery has drawn from Eltham principles of the arts and nature, with multiple artistic installations throughout the grounds:

Young Man Awakening by Matcham Skipper
A Currawong Takes Flight by Michael Wilson for Harold Mitchell AC
Our Eltham Artistic Recollections by Nerina Lascelles and Linda Detoma
The Black Prince Cicada by Michael Wilson
The Yellow-tail Black Cockatoos by Leigh Conkie

The cemetery also features landscape design works by landscape architects Gordon Ford and Robert Boyle, and extensive stonework by Leigh Wykes and ironwork by Neil Carter.

The works of all these talented local artists and designers contribute to the historical significance of the cemetery as a space for reflection and connection.

Our cemetery is used as a gathering place for family reunions, celebrating significant milestones, wedding photos where a loved one is laid to rest and as inspiration for artists. It is a place for picnics, sharing a meal or drink, school groups, photography clubs, walking tours (hosted by the wonderful teams at Eltham District Historical Society and Yarra Plenty Regional Library Service) and more.

Cemeteries continue to be integral parts of our communities, spaces that celebrate life, heritage, and community and I am proud and privileged to be one of the Eltham Cemetery's caretakers.

*Photos from the
Cemetery collection*

