

Newsletter

No. 281 April 2025



An Innovative Way Of Communicating

Jim Connor

How we communicate information about history has changed over the years.

A recent initiative by Nillumbik Shire Council has explored an innovative method of informing people about our local history.

This has been achieved through the use of two listening posts, which are free standing, post mounted units, where a person can manually wind a handle to generate the power to then hear recorded stories.

The units are the first of their kind to be installed in Victoria and it is hoped these will also help to connect with new, younger audiences.

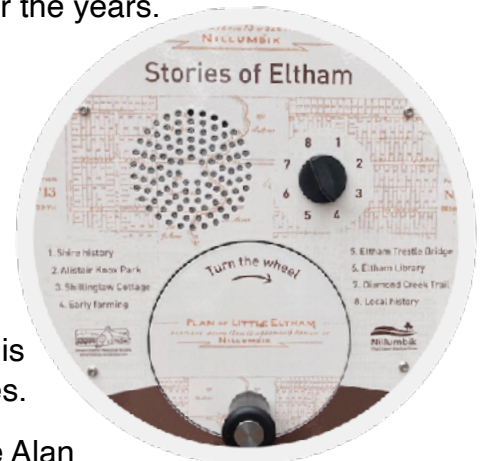
One listening post is installed outside the Eltham Library, near the Alan Marshall sculpture, and the other one is located at the Kangaroo Ground War Memorial Park.

The Eltham unit contains eight stories. These are about Shire history, Alistair Knox Park, Shillinglaw Cottage, early farming, Eltham Trestle Bridge, Eltham Library, Diamond Creek Trail and local history.

The Kangaroo Ground unit provides a selection of ANZAC Tales, stories about local Anzacs.

Our Eltham District Historical Society prepared the information used in the Eltham unit. Content for the listening post at Kangaroo Ground was assembled in association with local family members.

Narrations were recorded with the appreciated assistance of experienced volunteers at community radio station Plenty Valley FM.



Listening Post at
Kangaroo Ground
Photograph - Nillumbik
Shire Council



Listening Post at
Eltham Library
Photograph - Jim Connor

Historical societies honour community memories

Our Annual General Meeting

2.00pm Saturday 12th April 2025

Eltham Senior Citizen's Centre

Library Place, Eltham

Heritage Excursion

2.00pm Saturday 3rd May 2025

Allwood House, Hurstbridge

See further details on page 2

Next Meeting - Annual General Meeting - 2.00pm Saturday 12th April 2025

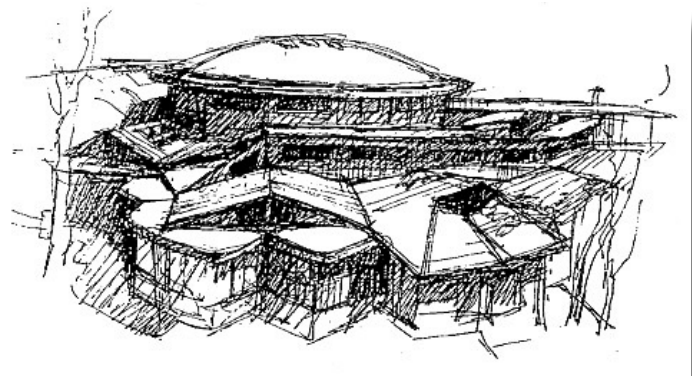
Our next meeting at **2.00pm on Saturday 12th April 2025** will be our **Annual General Meeting**, which includes the presentation of annual reports, as well as the election of office bearers for the coming year.

The official notification of the Annual General Meeting and Agenda are on page 10 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 delighted to have multi award winning architect Gregory Burgess AM as our guest speaker. Since 1972 Gregory has been the principal designer for Gregory Burgess Architects, with an emphasis on architecture as a social, healing and ecological art. His international reputation has been established through a body of work including housing, community, cultural (including indigenous), educational, health, religious, commercial, exhibition design and urban design projects.

Of special interest to our members is that Gregory was the principal architect for the design and construction of the remarkable Eltham Library, which in 1995 was awarded the Royal Australian Institute of Architects (VIC) Award of Merit for Outstanding Architecture: New Institutional.

At our meeting he will talk about how designing and constructing this unique building had been a creative challenge developing a building where the interior could change as needed and also reflect the natural environment and the artistic and creative interests of many residents, both past and present.



Eltham Library - concept sketch
EDHS collection

Excursion - Saturday 3rd May - Allwood Neighbourhood House, Hurstbridge

We have been invited to Hurstbridge for our May excursion. We will meet at the historic Allwood House, now Allwood Neighbourhood House for a tour and viewing of their film 'The Bridge' filmed during the performance of the 2024 play there depicting the story of the death of Henry Hurst by the bushranger Robert Burke in 1866.

We will have an opportunity for afternoon tea and a wander in Allwood's garden setting and Victorian old-world charm. The Nillumbik Festival of Stories and pop-up shop featuring work by local writers will also be operating on the weekend. Allwood is located at 901 Main Rd Hurstbridge, on the corner of Arthurs Creek Road. You can enter the Allwood car park from Arthurs Creek Road. Please arrive for a 2pm start. A \$3 donation to Allwood is requested.



Allwood House sketch by Hilary Jackman
EDHS collection

When looking at photographs of the construction of the railway from Heidelberg to Eltham, inevitably one sees workers with picks, shovels, and horses and carts loaded with rubble. It was hard work undertaken by gangs of labourers known as Butty Gangs.

Typically, these gangs were on a fixed price for a specific part of the job, where the proceeds were divided equally amongst the men, with a bit extra for the foreman. At the time, there was quite some debate in the press about which was more economical, Butty Gangs versus the Contract System. Butty Gangs were considered less cost effective.

Cuttings were typically made by hand, holes drilled into the rock, filled with gelignite and/or blasting powder, then blown up. The gangs would then move in with pick and shovel. Tunnels were constructed the same way, initially by making an open cutting, with sheer walls for 30- or 40-feet depth, shoring them up with timber then adding brick work. Finally, they would then be backfilled with earth up to the level of the road above.

At times there were accidents and men were badly injured or indeed lost their lives. One such incident occurred on June 20, 1901, when around 150 to 200 tons of earth and rock came away from the sides of the open cutting being constructed in Darebin Street, Heidelberg. A gang of six or eight men were lucky to escape being buried alive.

Blasting operations were also by their very nature dangerous to the men and nearby residents. One such incident involved the famous artist, Walter Withers.

On January 21, 1901, a terrific explosion occurred at the cutting under construction at Darebin and Hawdon Streets, Heidelberg, which was felt up to a mile and half away, hurling both large and small stones a significant distance. A large amount of damage was done to nearby dwellings, including that of Walter Withers whose home and studio were just 30 yards distant from the site. His studio bore the brunt of the full blast. Several artworks were also damaged. This experience ultimately proved one of the reasons Withers decided to relocate his family to Eltham when the railway opened in 1902, purchasing the property, Southernwood, at the corner of Brougham and Bolton streets, where he lived until his death in 1914.

These two incidents are examples of the many experiences and achievements of the men who worked on constructing the railway from Heidelberg to Eltham. Similar challenges were also experienced by those who constructed the Maroondah aqueduct from Healesville through Eltham, all the way to Reservoir.

Sources:

RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION. (1901, June 1). *The Age*, p. 4. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article190030440>
ELTHAM RAILWAY WORKS. (1901, June 22). *The Argus*, p. 15. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article10557262>
BLASTING OPERATIONS ON THE ELTHAM LINE. (1901, January 25). *Mercury and Weekly Courier*, p. 3. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article58578845>



Construction of the railway line to Eltham
* Photograph - EDHS collection



Group of workers constructing the railway line
* Photograph - EDHS collection

George Stebbing, a skilled bricklayer, arrived from England in 1857 and settled at Eltham after a short period at Kangaroo Ground. Several Eltham buildings of note were constructed by him: St Margaret's Church of England (1861), his house at 88 Pitt Street (early 1860s), the former Commercial Bank building (lately an op shop) in Main Road (1878), Shillinglaw Cottage (c.1878-80) and the Methodist (now Uniting) Church (1880). George's nephew George Bird lived with him for a time and worked for him as bricklayer's assistant.



St Margaret's Church
* Photograph - EDHS collection

In 1867, George was making use of a small block of land between the Eltham Hotel and his own house: he had been doing so for four years. Benjamin Wallis, proprietor of the Hotel, claimed ownership of the land and attempted to evict George. The two men got into a fight: it was reported that George came at Wallis and butted him like a bull. A charge of attempted assault was dismissed.



88 Pitt Street
Photograph - Barry Plant Real Estate

George was an Eltham Shire Councillor for a few years from 1871. In 1873 he disputed the election of John Bell as a councillor, pointing out that the election had not been advertised in the daily papers as was the customary practice. A requisition signed by 27 ratepayers called upon Bell to resign, but he refused. The returning officer explained that the election had instead been advertised in the weekly papers due to their greater circulation.

George's assets at the time of death included his Pitt Street house (on a block running through to Franklin St), vacant land in Grove Street running through to Luck Street, vacant land at Coburg and four brick houses at Northcote; one leased, the others empty and in bad repair. His wife Mary Ann outlived him by 12 years. At the time of her death she owned 91 acres of land in Eltham and three houses (described as a brick villa and two cottages) in Brunswick.

One niece, Maria Kidd, received £100 under her Will. Several other beneficiaries received much more. Maria contested the Will on the grounds that Mary Ann exhibited insanity or imbecility at the time of making the Will, or that the other beneficiaries had exerted undue influence. or that the Will had been signed in the wrong spot. Her objections were dismissed in the Supreme Court.

George and Mary Ann are buried in Nillumbik Cemetery at Diamond Creek. He was often referred to as George Stebbings and that is the name on his gravestone. But his Will refers to him as Stebbing and his signature thereon is clearly George Stebbing. Such anomalies were probably not uncommon at the time.

Main sources:

Notes by Harry Gilham, The Argus 9th August 1867 and 12th August 1873

Probate documents held by the Public Record Office Victoria

This article is from the book Nillumbik Now and Then by Marguerite Marshall published in 2008. The images in this article are not from Nillumbik Now and Then.

A narrow timber gate opens onto a garden that has had a huge impact on natural garden development in Australia since the 1950s.¹

'Fulling', the half-hectare property at Pitt St, Eltham, was the home of the landscape designer, Gordon Ford, who died in 1999. The garden 'encapsulates the major trends of Australian garden design in the second half of the 20th century...and epitomises the Eltham style of garden'.²

It in turn, was influenced by several Victorian major landscape designers of the mid 20th century – Ellis Stones, Peter Glass and Edna Walling.



Gordon Ford Portrait - SLV pictures collection

The gate opens onto a sandy gravel path, one of several, which wind around dramatic pools and what appear to be natural bush, but on close inspection are carefully integrated native, indigenous and exotic plantings. Retaining walls and steps of rock through the garden link different terrace levels. Lichen-covered boulders serve as steps across a pool, leading to the triple level mud-brick house.

Ford bought the property, which was originally part of an orchard, in 1948. As the son of a Presbyterian minister, Ford received a good education, which included learning Latin. This was advantageous when he worked in plant sales for the Forestry Commission, before the Second World War. In the late 1940s, however, Ford turned to building and landscape gardening. He worked on the Busst house, an early mud-brick building designed by Alistair Knox and at the same time, Ford was employed by Ellis Stones.

Knox described Ford as, 'one of the funniest men of the district. ...Rocky's (Ellis Stones) Depression stories and Gordon's memory and quick tongue made the jobs the most enjoyable of all those hysterical times that made Eltham the centre of the eternal laugh, between the years of 1945 and 1950'.³

Ford's house, like so many after the war, was built progressively, as more space was needed and formerly scarce materials became available. It began with an army-shed of timber-lined walls, now used as the kitchen. Ford then built what is now the lounge room, and the house grew 'like topsy and on a shoestring,' says his widow Gwen.

A lot of second-hand materials such as window frames were used, a style made famous particularly with their extensive use at Montsalvat, the Eltham Artists' Colony. The house was constructed as a joint venture with friends, including artist Clifton Pugh, who built Ford's bedroom for £10.



'Fulling' - November 2005
Photograph - Jim Connor

The polished floorboards and solomite (compressed straw) ceilings, interspersed with heavy beams, exude warmth. The result is a home of snug spaces, with soft light and garden vistas. Several other mud- brick buildings were constructed as needed, including a studio and units for bed-and-breakfast clients.

The garden, which has been part of the Open Garden Scheme since the mid 1980s, is based on a balance of mass (plants) and void (paths and pools), textures and forms.

It epitomises the Eltham style because of its relaxed informal ethos and attracts native animals. Wattlebirds, scrub wrens, pardalotes, currawongs, owls and even kangaroos, have been seen at 'Fulling'. Gwen, a former English teacher who has worked on the garden since around 1970, urged and helped Ford write his book, *The Natural Australian Garden*.⁴

Several of Ford's favourite trees are in the garden, including the native *Casuarina* or She-Oak. In spring, the garden is dusted with the purple *Orthrosanthus multiflorus* or blue native irises and rings with the calls of birds attracted to plants like the callistemons, correas and grevilleas.⁵



'Fulling' - November 2005
Photograph - Jim Connor

Sources

1. Knox, A *We are what we stand on* p100
2. Bick, D and Kellaway C *Shire of Eltham Heritage Study* 1992 p1444
3. Knox, A *op,cit*, p100
4. Ford, G *The Natural Australian Garden* Introduction
5. Ford, Gwen

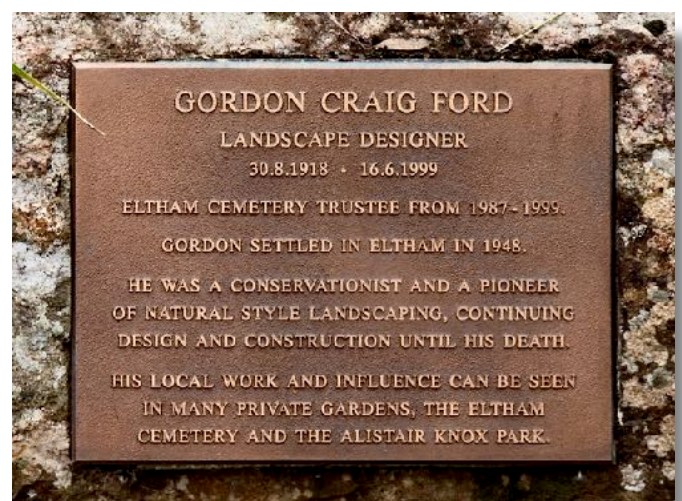
Gordon Craig Ford

Jim Connor

Gordon Ford's main focus, which became his life-long occupation, was garden landscaping. He sought to reflect the bush settings of rural Victoria where he had grown up.

Commissions included Monash University and countless industrial sites, but designing for the archetypal quarter-acre block gave him the most satisfaction. He had a huge impact on the look of gardens in Australia from the 1950s, creating seemingly natural bush environments by carefully integrating indigenous and exotic plantings. His local work and influence can be seen in many private gardens.

Gordon was a trustee of the Eltham Cemetery Trust between 1987-1999 and contributed many design ideas there. He died in 1999 from prostate cancer at his home 'Fulling' and his remains are interred beside the Ashes Walk at Eltham Cemetery, marked by a plaque. A separate plaque notes his landscaping design work within the cemetery grounds and at Alistair Knox Park.



Plaque at Eltham Cemetery
Photograph - EDHS collection

Thomas McMurtrie Orr was born July 1st 1875 in the Scottish village of Kirkoswald, Ayrshire, where his father William was farming till his death on 26th January 1876. Thomas was William's last and 13th child. William married Thomas's mother, Margaret McMurtrie, in 1854.

Following the death of her husband William, Margaret and her children moved to New Zealand on the ship Waimate, arriving on 17th December 1881 in Christchurch. On 16th June 1891, Margaret's daughter Hannah, married John P. Richardson. John Richardson was born in Sweet Air, Baltimore County, Maryland on 20th June 1857. He became manager for the Walter A. Wood Mowing and Reaping Machine Company and made sales of agricultural equipment all over New Zealand. He decided to expand sales of agricultural machinery in Melbourne by the end of 1904.

On the 10th April 1907, in Camberwell Victoria, John's daughter Ella Winifred Richardson (who was a product of John's first marriage) married Thomas McMurtrie Orr. In 1907 too, John and Thomas established the firm 'Richardson, Orr and Company', as agricultural manufacturer agents, carrying on business in Melbourne, Sydney, New Zealand. and New York. Their association with 'The Buckeye Harvester Company' saw them do extremely well as agents, selling amongst other machinery: windmills, rabbit poison-carts, spring-tooth cultivators, 10-foot rakes, mowers, Osborne binders and low-down Myers pumps. The Buckeye Harvester was a wonderful example of precision agricultural machinery of its day and may be seen in action, via a video clip at url: <https://aso.gov.au/titles/historical/wheat-harvesting/clip1>

Thomas McMurtrie Orr has proven to be quite elusive to track. He was always on the move, presumably promoting agricultural machinery. Some of his travel is captured in this log, as casual research had encountered:

Date	Ship	Departure	Arrival
17/05/1900	<u>Mararoa</u>	Sydney	Auckland
12/02/1901	Innamincka	Sydney	Melbourne
9/05/1901	Pateena	Melbourne	Launceston
10/08/1901	Cintra	Sydney	Melbourne
16/11/1901	Neckar	Perth	Melbourne
9/06/1902	Pateena	Melbourne	Launceston
18/10/1902	—	Sydney	Freemantle
22/10/1902	—	Melbourne	Freemantle
25/10/1902	Arcadia	Melbourne	Freemantle
17/03/1903	<u>Wyanura</u>	Melbourne	Brisbane
10/07/1903	<u>Wyanura</u>	Melbourne	Brisbane
12/05/1904	<u>Waikare</u>	Auckland	Sydney
15/06/1904	Britannia	Melbourne	Freemantle
17/04/1905	Moeraki	The Bluff	Melbourne
7/05/1906	Coogee	Hobart	Melbourne
4/08/1906	<u>Bingera</u>	Brisbane	Townsville
18/05/1908	Wallangarra	—	Brisbane
7/01/1909	Pericles	<u>Capetown</u>	Melbourne?
30/01/1922	Tahiti	San Francisco	Sydney
23/03/1926	Comorin	Sydney	London

Within a year or two of marriage, Thomas developed an interest with grazing stock and became a neighbour of Eltham artist Walter Withers. The issue of water supply was an important one and Thomas arranged for his property neighbour (and lifelong Eltham resident) Edmund Williams (1850-1948) to construct a 2,000,000 gallon dam.

It was reported on 9th February 1912, that Orr had engaged a Mr. C. McLennan, a water diviner from Hope Street, Brunswick, to find water on his Sunnybrook farm. The water rose from a depth of 111 feet to within 10 feet of the surface. The flow of some 320 gallons per hour was laid on for domestic, irrigation and stock purposes. The water being pumped to the various paddocks by an oil engine. No doubt, this gave Thomas the incentive to establish his pedigree herd of swine.

In 1915 the Orrs travelled to New York to share the birth of their daughter Margaret on 19th February, with Ella's relatives. They returned to Australia by year's end.

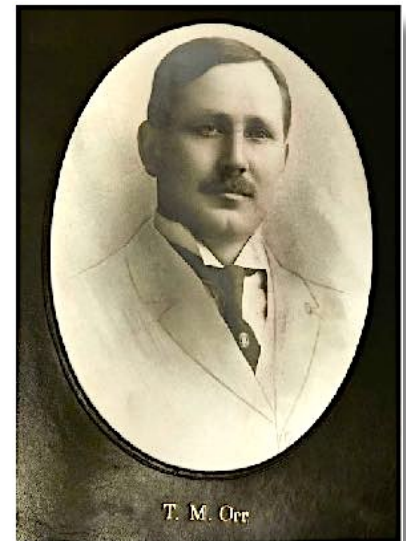
In 1916 it was reported that car registrations in Melbourne numbered 40 per week and in October, a certain T. M. Orr, of 325 Flinders Lane (ie: the office location of 'Richardson, Orr and Company') registered his car and soon engaged a reliable chauffeur, one William Miller.

In 1920 Thomas decided to sell his Sunnybrook Farm, which was advertised as holding a private golf course and would be ideal for use as a Country Club. Mr. Broughton purchased the farm. In the following year Thomas offers his 200-acre Sunnybrae Farm, holding 'Stock and Sheep Drafting Yards', for sale. Along with Sunnybrae, he offers:

1. A 'W.B. and R.C. Cottage of 4 rooms and 27 acres land; a splendid site on the main road top of the 12-mile hill.'
2. A Large Wood and Iron Barn and Farm Stable Building, 66ft x 25ft with stock and sheep drafting yards on about 21 acres situated opposite to "Sunnybrook."
3. 27 Acres, with 1,000,000 gal. dam, opposite "Sunny brook."

A beautifully wooded block, suitable for gentleman's residence or for intense culture.

The Orr Family had moved to reside at 'Cliveden Mansions' Wellington Parade, Melbourne East. His Montmorency land was still for sale around Easter time in 1924. By the end of this year Thomas and family moved to Sydney where Thomas played 'A-grade golf' at Mosman on a weekly basis, for two or three years.



Thomas McMurtrie Orr c1910
Photograph - Ancestry Record



Ella Winifred Orr c1905
Photograph - Ancestry Record



Cliveden Mansions, Melbourne East 1925-1930
Photograph - picturevictoria.vic.gov.au

Thomas always had his eyes on the latest magazines from America looking at the latest fads, fashions and inventions. In January 1926 on his family holiday, at Nambucca Heads, he was featured in the Kyogle Examiner for driving the latest Elcar, a double seater sedan:

'When camping for one or more nights all that Mr. Orr has to do is take off his movable seats from the car, spread his bed and attach to the engine and inflate.

This air bed is made in rolls and laid the length of the car, being fitted in around the gears and brake, making a perfect sleeping-place for two.

The windows of the car are made on the same principle as those of the modern railway carriage, only with a pulley, which allows of finer adjustment, and attached on the inside are mosquito nets.



1926 Elcar Model 8-81 7-Passenger Sedan

Photograph - libwww.freelibrary.org

The tent is a specially made deluxe model, made from strong canvas with double thickness ... A Scot by birth, and American by education, he has travelled much and is very modern in his ideas.'

On 16th April 1929 it was reported that 'Richardson, Orr and Co.' was listed in the bankruptcy court, with the judge acquitting both Richardson and Orr of reckless extravagance, but said they should have lived more economically, assigning the Company under responsible management.

By this time Thomas had sold his interests in Montmorency to John Quinn and Co. of Swanston Street, Melbourne. 'Richardson, Orr and Co.' kept functioning for another decade.

John Pearce Richardson died suddenly at his Heidelberg residence on 11th November 1941. About this time 'Richardson, Orr and Co.' ceased operations. Thomas Orr died on 31st March 1947 at Wahroonga, Sydney.

On 5th December 1930, it was reported that Eltham Shire Council approved plans for the establishment of the Montmorency Panorama Heights Estate, as submitted by John Quinn and Co, establishing the suburb's first roads: Bonne Vue Boulevard (later known as Grand Boulevard), Reicheldt Avenue, Buena Vista Drive, and Mitchell Avenue.

However, it was not until after the 1956 Olympic Games and the impact of Baby Boomer families that other streets began to form like Olympic Avenue and Belmont Crescent.

On the corner of Belmont Crescent you could still see, in 2024, a remnant fence post ('planted in 1912') of Thomas Orr's northern property fence line.



1912 post and rail fence post

Photograph - Peter Van Eeken

Annual General Meeting - Saturday 12th April 2025

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 2.00pm on Saturday 12th April 2025, at the Eltham Senior Citizens' Centre, Library Place, Eltham.

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

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of 2024 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

Two Vice Presidents

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. Consideration of life memberships
8. 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.

Since 1967 our members have helped to maintain and grow our Society and without their valued contributions, as well as assistance from Eltham and Nillumbik Shire Councils, we would not be where we are today.

Members are welcome to contribute to our operation by becoming an office bearer or committee member. There are usually just five daytime committee meetings each year, alternating with our Society meetings. The workload is not great, with some members providing specialist skills and assistance.

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.

We encourage you to support our valued local sponsors



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

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Printed by courtesy of the Hon. Vicki Ward MP - State Member for Eltham

Experience Eltham Cemetery

Julia Drew

A Look at Historical Obituaries and Death Notices

SAD DEATH.

A very sad death happened on Saturday last, when Miss Phyllis West, second eldest daughter of Mr George West, succumbed to double pneumonia. The deceased, who was a bright girl of 14 years, complained on Wednesday of not feeling well. She went to bed, and the next day the doctor was sent for, but his skill was defeated. A large number of people

Obituaries and death notices have long been a way for communities to share news of a passing, honour the deceased, and express collective grief. Looking through old newspapers, one thing becomes immediately clear—the language used in early obituaries was far more poetic and dramatic than the simple, factual notices we see today.

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, death notices often read like literary tributes, rich with emotion and metaphor.

The Advertiser, 25 June 1926, page 2

Phrases used painted a picture of deep sorrow, such as *"The grim reaper has again taken toll amongst us"*, *"Our village was thrown into a state of gloom"* or *"Profound regret was expressed throughout Eltham"* to name just a few. These notices were informative and sought to evoke a response, ensuring that the loss was felt not just by family, but by the entire community.

Historical obituaries also often placed great emphasis on a person's virtues and standing within the community. Even the circumstances of death were sometimes detailed in a way meant to stir sympathy or admiration, particularly if the deceased had suffered a long illness or died in a tragic accident.

Another notable feature of early obituaries was the way they referenced surviving family members, particularly when a mother/wife had passed away. Rather than focusing solely on the deceased, notices often highlighted her husband and/or children, who may have been more widely known in the community. This reflected the strong social ties of the time, where families were often recognised by their contributions and presence within the town.

In contrast, modern obituaries tend to be more reserved. Today, they typically list biographical details—date of birth, family members, funeral arrangements—generally more succinct and without the flowery prose. The rise of online memorials and social media has also changed the way we commemorate those we've lost, shifting personal, heartfelt reflections into digital spaces rather than public newspaper columns.

Despite these changes, historical obituaries offer a fascinating glimpse into the past. They remind us that mourning was once a deeply communal experience, expressed in words meant to be as moving as they were informative. Looking back at these notices, we can appreciate the artistry in their language and reflect on how attitudes toward death and remembrance have evolved over time.

Sudden Death at Eltham.

ELTHAM, WEDNESDAY.

An old man, named Joseph Burns, who has been residing in Eltham for thirty years, dropped down dead this morning. Just before he had been walking about his garden in apparently good health. The cause of death is supposed to have been disease of the heart.

Weekly Times; 10 October 1885, page 12

Death of Mrs. J. McColl

On October 20 death removed another resident from the midst of Eltham surroundings, in the person of Mrs. Mary J. McColl, relict of the late John McColl.

The Advertiser; 23 October 1931, Page 1

Former Resident Passes

With the passing of Mrs Mary Jane Knapman, another link in Eltham's early history is severed. Deceased was the widow of the late Mr George Knapman, who owned a

The Advertiser; 19 July 1935, Page 1

The grim Reaper was in evidence at the end of last week, when two residents joined the majority. The first was the wife of Mr Wm. Taylor, J.P., who, after a long four years' illness, passed away at Heidelberg on

Evelyn Observer & Bourke East Record; 24 September 1915, Page 2