



The Times They Are A Changin

Jim Connor

In the fifty years since our historical society was established in 1967 there have been significant changes in our social, technological and political worlds.

While physical variations in buildings, landscapes and urban environments can be more readily recognised, the fabric of our times has changed, in some respects dramatically, in others less so. Our history has shifted, people and communities have changed and attitudes, beliefs and practices are also different to those of fifty years ago.

From decade to decade history is the observer, the recorder, the chronicler of such changes. Without the recording of our history we would not be able to easily recognise such variations, especially when these are subtle.

Even how we record and document our history is different, now technology is to the fore, yet who can predict what our history will be, how our history will be recorded over the next ten, twenty or even fifty years.

What will be the social, technological and political implications of our future changes, our future history?

'as the present now... will later be past... for the times they are a-changin'

Bob Dylan 1963

Please join us to



Come celebrate

50th Anniversary Dinner Eltham District Historical Society

7.00pm Friday 27th October 2017

St Margaret's Hall, Pitt Street, Eltham

1960s outfit optional !

Please book your ticket before 6th October

at: www.trybooking.com/RYNU

Tickets \$40 + 30c booking fee

BYO drinks

Next Meeting

8.00pm Wednesday 11th October 2017

Eltham Senior Citizens' Centre

Library Place, Eltham (Melway Map 21 ref J5)

Heritage Excursion

A Walk Around The Shillinglaw Farm

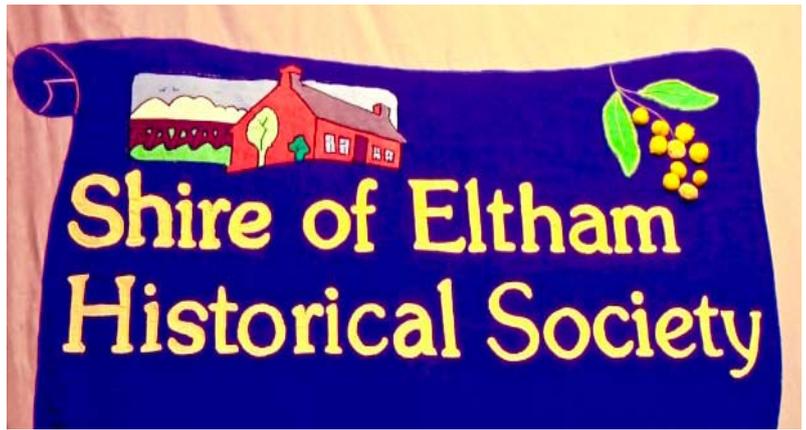
2.00pm Saturday 4th November 2017

See further details on page 2

11th October Meeting - A 50th Anniversary Panel of EDHS Members

Our meeting at 8.00pm on Wednesday 11th October 2017 is at the Eltham Senior Citizens Centre in Library Place, Eltham (Melway Map 21 ref.J5)

As this meeting is close to the 50th anniversary of the first meeting of the Shire of Eltham Historical Society, on 24th October 1967, we will appropriately look back on our own history. This will include a panel of members who will highlight some of our experiences and achievements along the way.



A section of the Society banner displayed at our Local History Centre

As a special 50th anniversary treat we will have the opportunity to view, for the first time, a video reflecting on the first 50 years of our Society. This video, produced by Gerald Ashcroft from www.storiestobetold.com.au, is based around interviews with Russell Yeoman and Doug Orford about their recollections. Gerald has generously donated his expertise and time to provide this video as a valued gift to EDHS on the occasion of our 50th Anniversary.

Heritage Excursion - Saturday 4th November - Shillinglaw Farm Walk

As has been our practice in our 50th year we have been revisiting some of our popular heritage excursions and our next one will be around the area close to the Eltham Township.

The walk will follow the original boundaries of the Shillinglaw Farm in central Eltham. This farm mainly comprised Lot 90 of Holloway's 1851 Little Eltham subdivision. It was originally thirty acres in area and situated east of the Diamond Creek and north of Henry Street.

During this short walk we will have a number of stops to look at early photographs and maps to illustrate the gradual reduction of the Shillinglaw Farm, which formed the basis of many of the community facilities we take for granted. Aspects of the early history of the adjacent railway and the Eltham Town Centre will also be included.

This excursion will start from the Eltham Library, Panther Place, Eltham, (Melway ref. 21 J5) at 2.00pm on Saturday 4th November and will take about 2 hours.

This free walk is open to the general public as well as Society members. Dogs are not permitted on Society excursions. The phone number for contact on the day is 0409 021 063.



The original Shillinglaw Cottage
Photograph - Shire of Eltham Pioneers collection



Part of the original Shillinglaw Farm - looking west across the railway line - photograph - EDHS collection

I must have been about eight years old, when my mother decided that we would keep hens again. During the war she had at various times kept hens, ducks and Belgian hares, all with limited success although very useful to supplement the small amount of food one obtained on ration books. But now in 1952 she was starting afresh at our house at 16 Taylor Street, Eltham and I was very excited as I had been too young to remember much about her previous ventures.

Our gardener Jacky Bryant, who was known as Hoppy because he was lame and old Mr Jim Cresp, the builder/joiner from the village were in charge of the construction of the hen house and run, and my brother and I watched entranced as an area above the washing green was cleared, and lengths of timber, wire netting and corrugated iron were duly transported. Any offers of help on our part were squashed immediately and they both used the time honoured threat of "I'll tell your mother," if we bothered them anymore.

My brother wandered off, but I sat at a distance under the Buddleia bush watching closely and adding several interesting words to my vocabulary. It was only after my scandalized Grandmother had washed out my mouth with a flannel covered with Wrights coal tar soap that I realized these words were evidently the prerogative of working men and not to be used in front of old ladies!

Eventually the hen house was finished and we arrived home from school one day to find half a dozen Rhode Island Red hens and a very belligerent rooster clucking and scratching in the run.

"Are we going to give them names?" I asked my mother. "All the hens look alike so it's not worth it," she answered, "but we'll call the rooster Henry after Henry VIII who was a Tudor King and had six wives."

"Goodness," said my brother who suffered somewhat from living in an all female house. "Imagine if they all talked at once, it would be an awful noise."



Henry and his six wives
Photograph provided by Ann Constable

My mother hastily explained that the wives had been one at a time; two were divorced, one died in childbirth, one outlived him and two were beheaded. "He cut off their heads!" I exclaimed in horror, and decided to hate King Henry VIII from then on.

In the next few months things went along smoothly in our henhouse. Granny who had nothing to do started an 'egg book', and each evening wrote up how many eggs my brother and I had collected. Henry lived up to his namesake's reputation, growing enormous and corpulent and we had three broody hens at different times busily sitting on clutches of eggs and eventually hatching out dear little yellow chickens.

But then things began to go wrong. Henry grew sulky and morose, and started to chivy and bully his wives and when we went to collect the eggs in the evening he started to run at us and peck us. I was terrified and while I would throw their wheat through the wire netting, I utterly refused to go into the cage. The last straw was the day Henry flew at my mother, perched on her shoulders and pecked her on the neck. She had a word to our gardener, asking him to chop off Henry's head and as Easter was fast approaching she decided that we should eat him for Easter lunch.

The Easter Rooster Lunch

(continued from page 3)

Firstly Jacky brought up the huge upright log that was used for chopping firewood and put it near the cage, next he went to sharpen the axe. Meanwhile my brother and I were firmly taken inside and told to stay there. My brother went to play in his room, but I sneaked out of the back door up to the washing green and hid under the Buddleia bush to watch the beheading.

Henry was grabbed around the neck by our gardener, thrown on to the chopping block and with one stroke of the axe his head was severed. This was more or less what I had expected, but never could I ever have imagined what happened next. Henry's headless body ran around the chopping block flapping its wings! I stared in disbelief and horror and then began to scream. By the time my mother reached me I was hysterical and our poor gardener was almost equally upset.

"She has punished herself," my mother said, and she was right. I had nightmares for a week and could hardly eat our tasty Easter lunch.

Our hen house became a single sex apartment and none of the hens appeared to miss their autocratic husband at all. "What a turn around for the history books," my mother remarked. "King Henry VIII going to the block and his six wives outliving him!"

Vale - Don Kinsey AM

Jim Connor

Don Kinsey AM and his wife Margot and family moved to Eltham South in 1981, yet he was probably much better known beyond Eltham, having had a number of successful careers, particularly in the public arena. Don was 86 years old when he passed away on 30th August 2017. He was a member of the our historical society.

Don was well known as a broadcaster and senior executive at Radio Station 3DB, alongside many popular radio personalities. He became involved in the Good Friday Appeal in 1957 and in the early days of TV he also did some news reading at HSV 7. Don generously donated his time to community activities and was involved in many and varied charitable organisations, including having a long association with the Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne.



Don Kinsey AM

In 1972 Don and Ben Hosking founded Communicators Melbourne, a part time business which conducted courses and workshops in effective speaking and business presentation. Many thousands of business and professional people (and even politicians) were able to improve their speaking and presentation skills through their experiences of the Kinsey method of effective speaking. Don was very generous in sharing his skills with others.

One of his passions was historic and vintage motor sport. When Don read the article about the Rob Roy Hill Climb Circuit, by Jim Allen in our February 2016 society newsletter, he invited EDHS members to visit there on a non-event weekday. As a result, on 12th May 2016, Don with Wayne Rushton from the MG Car Club of Victoria, generously hosted our group at Rob Roy. Don regaled all present with a detailed history of the property and the circuit, interspersed with amusing anecdotes of various historic cars and the personalities involved. He then conducted a tour around the circuit, answering any questions along the way. It was an enjoyable time in Don's company, appreciated by all who attended.

For many years, Don with his melodious voice was the commentator at many motor racing events, as well as at various other functions. With his passing Rob Roy will never sound the same again.

Our thanks to Ben Hosking for the use of his personal notes on Don Kinsey AM

During this 50th Anniversary year we are revisiting the history of our Society, including those who contributed to the establishment of the Shire of Eltham Historical Society in 1967, known since the local government restructure process in 1993/94 as the Eltham District Historical Society. In our last edition we discussed Russell Yeoman. This time we consider Peter and Diana Bassett-Smith, who have both been actively involved with our society. Like Russell Yeoman, Peter attended the initial community meeting convened to consider establishment of an historical society for the then Shire of Eltham.

Peter and Diana Bassett-Smith

Peter and Diana Bassett-Smith were founding members of our Society, with Peter being vice president between 1971 and 1976, then followed Charis Pelling to become our second president in the years 1976 to 1980. He was then a member of the committee between 1980 and 1986. Peter made a significant contribution to the establishment and early operation of our society.

Peter was an honorary life member of the Eltham District Historical Society and of the Country Fire Authority. He was also actively involved in many other local groups, including the Eltham Youth Club, the War Memorial Trust, the Andrew Ross Museum, the Eltham and Kangaroo Ground Pony Clubs, the Kangaroo Ground War Memorial Tower, the Kangaroo Ground Cemetery Trust and the North Warrandyte State Park. In recognition of his many contributions he was awarded the 2001 Nillumbik Citizen of the Year. Peter was born on 25th January 1911 and passed away on 4th August 2011; he was 100 years old.

After Peter and Diana married in 1951 they lived in Eltham then later in Kangaroo Ground, where they farmed for many years.

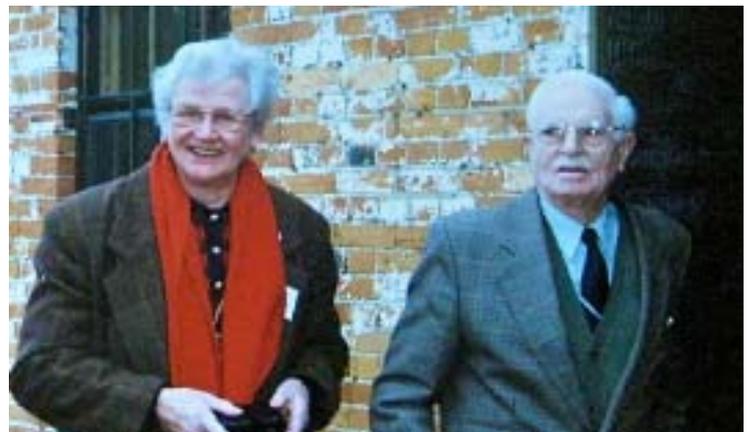
Diana has been involved in the social and cultural life of the local community for over 60 years. She has played an integral role in the development of a number of now well established charitable, community and youth organisations. Diana has been a member of our society since its inception, serving as a committee member for many years and is an honorary life member. She was a driving force

in the development of a preservation committee for Shillinglaw Cottage and was instrumental in founding the Andrew Ross Museum at Kangaroo Ground. Among her many community commitments over many years Diana was also actively involved in the establishment of the Eltham and the Kangaroo Ground Pony Clubs and was a founding member of the Eltham Rural Group.

Our historical society has been very fortunate to have benefitted from the experience, generosity, commitment, drive and determination of both Peter and Diana Bassett-Smith.



Peter Bassett-Smith in wheel barrow, with Joh Ebeli (L) and Russell Yeoman (R) at the 1979 Eltham Festival Parade



Diana and Peter Bassett-Smith at the Official Opening of our Local History Centre 1998
Photographs from the EDHS collection

The very moving and well attended Commemorative Service for the Centenary of the Battle of Ypres: Menin Road, Passchendaele, Zonnebeke held on Saturday 5th August 2017 was the third commemorative service St Margaret's has held to honour and remember the soldiers and nurses who are listed on the WW1 Eltham Honour Roll, which hangs on the back wall of the church.

This year we remembered the sacrifice and service of the soldiers and nurses from Eltham who in 1917 served in the Battles of Bullecourt and Lagnicourt in France, the 3rd Battle of Ypres: Menin Road, Broodseinde Ridge, Polygon Wood, Passchendaele and Zonnebeke, as well as those who served in the Light Horse and the Remount Units in Egypt, the Sinai, Palestine and Egypt.

The service included the participation of community leaders, members of the Montmorency-Eltham RSL, members of the First Eltham Scouts, young people who read the names from the Honour Roll and parishioners. The Reverend David Sullivan from St Matthew's Anglican Church, Panton Hill spoke from the scriptures and the connection to our lives today. There were a number of descendants and relatives of soldiers listed on the Honour Roll present.

A very informative and interesting address was given by Andrew Mackenzie OAM, Art Historian about "Australian Artists and their families in the First World War". Andrew spoke of artists from the Heidelberg School, including Walter Withers, who was a resident of Eltham and painted the Drover. William Capewell, the model for the Drover is listed on the Honour Roll and together with five others left Eltham for Egypt on the Transport Orsova 67 on 12 November 1917.

Will Longstaff who lived and taught art in Eltham was amongst this group. Longstaff is most well known for his painting 'Menin Gate at Midnight', which hangs in the Australian War Memorial (AWM). Andrew also spoke of the Reverend Thomas Henry Sapsford who was the vicar of St Margaret's during WW1 and his role in the Community.



Menin Gate at Midnight - painting by Will Longstaff

There was an art exhibition in the gallery space of the church and in the hall a memorabilia display provided by the Montmorency-Eltham RSL and a display about early Eltham provided by the Eltham District Historical Society. Afternoon tea was served in the hall, which provided an opportunity for the community to gather, view the displays and share stories.

Several members of St Margaret's parish attended events in Eltham in 2014 - 2015 where the former Premier, the Hon. Ted Baillieu, as Chair of the Victorian ANZAC Centenary Committee, spoke passionately about the First World War (WW1) and the intense spirit that drove "much too young" Australians to sign up to serve at Gallipoli and the Western Front. He invited those present to consider researching and commemorating their family and/or community's response to WW1.

This became a catalyst for these parishioners to research the Eltham Honour Roll in the church and through discussions with other parishioners and other groups within in the community, including the Eltham-Montmorency RSL, the Eltham District Historical Society and the Eltham Library it was decided to hold a commemorative service to which the community, community leaders, descendants/relatives of those listed on the Honour Roll and others would be invited.

In every week since 1894, Victorian Railways issued a weekly notice to railway staff informing them of significant operational changes beyond the scope of the timetables. The information contained therein has been painstakingly sorted into location order (as distinct from chronological order) and published in a book entitled "Weekly Notice Extracts 1894-1994" by Jungwirth and Lambert (published by Weekly Notice Productions).

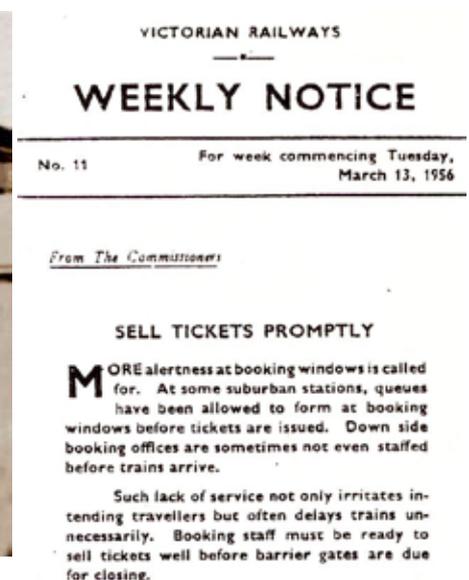
The notices themselves are sometimes in plain English (such as the 1957 entry below), but are more often in a cryptic code, such as "PROV D HS AND SL, KEY IS TS". Fortunately, the book has an appendix explaining the abbreviations.

Listed below are the Eltham entries. I've expanded them slightly in an attempt to make them more comprehensible (hopefully without altering the meaning), and I've omitted several entries not of general interest, such as signalling changes and the like.

- 5-6-1902 Line extended from Heidelberg to Eltham. Eltham open for traffic. No-one in charge.
- 16-11-1903 Caretaker in charge.
- 25-6-1912 Line extended from Eltham to Hurst's Bridge.
- 12-5-1913 Station master appointed.
- 15-4-1923 Overhead alive between Heidelberg and Eltham.
- 2-8-1926 Overhead alive between Eltham and Hurstbridge.
- 26-11-1957 Goods train service between Eltham and Hurstbridge withdrawn.
- 22-5-1960 Back platform road (former dead-end line at platform 1) extended and connected to main line at down end.
- 13-2-1964 Flashing lights provided at Glen Park Rd (Wattletree Rd) crossing.
- 18-12-1968 Flashing lights provided at Railway Rd crossing.
- 1-4-1969 Flashing lights provided at Diamond St crossing.
- 9-7-1985 Temporary crib crossing (pedestrian crossing) provided near Silver St.
- 14-1-1986 Silver St footbridge open. Temporary crossing removed.
- 16-11-1986 Boom barriers provided at Railway Rd and Wattletree Rd crossings.
- 8-2-1987 Boom barriers provided at Diamond St crossing.



First electric train to Eltham 1923 - EDHS collection - Photograph from a scrapbook belonging to Heather Jenkins who lived at 728 Main Road, Eltham as a child



Part 1 of this article was published in our previous newsletter - Edition 235 in August 2017

In 1872 Edward and Mary built Wellers Hotel. The Cole Collection of Hotel Records held at the State Library states "Application for Publican's licence – Edward Weller, house on Kangaroo Ground 18.6.72. Postponed for a month. Place not yet fit."

The building was made of homemade bricks fired from clay dug on the property. One unusual feature of the building was that all rooms, with the exception of the dining room, had an outside door. On hot days the one-foot-thick walls would have kept the building very cool. A small bar room was built at ground level on top of a large cool cellar.

As at 1879 Edward Weller had purchased a total of almost 160 acres of land in Kangaroo Ground. In 1882 Edward began to suffer the effects of a long-term illness, believed to be cancer of the stomach; however a proper diagnosis was never given as the attending doctors could not agree on the cause. After a long illness he passed away on the 25th May 1883. His death certificate stated that that he died of stomach haemorrhage, diarrhoea and exhaustion. After a large funeral procession from Wellers Hotel to the Kangaroo Ground Cemetery Edward Weller was laid to rest in row 10, Lot 23 on the 28th May 1883 by Reverend Alexander Mackie.

Edward Weller had over a long period of time become a well-respected and liked member of the community. In the Evelyn Observer newspaper, dated Friday 1st June 1883 the following genuine out pouring of grief from his peers was expressed: "Mr Weller has kept a hotel and store on Kangaroo Ground for twenty years during which time he has endeared himself to everyone with whom he came in contact, always a true and trust worthy friend, upright, civil and obliging".

With the death of Edward his wife Mary decided to continued to operate the hotel and the store. Firstly, a Publican's Licence was needed. These were considered at Annual Licensing meetings and if successful advised in the local paper, in this case the Evelyn Observer and South and East Bourke Record (Vic: 1882 – 1902). A search of the paper established that the following people were issued licences:

Mary Weller 1883

James Lindsay 1888

Henry Kruse 1895

John Jones 1897

Licence transferred from Mary Weller

Approval listed on Cole Collection Card

1909 Hotel became unlicensed

In 1910 the hotel then became Wellers Temperance Hotel operating as a Cobb and Co coachhouse and providing accommodation to travellers. On the 2nd September 1911 Mary Weller held a clearance sale including a nine roomed hotel and boarding house, furniture, farm implements, horses, cows and poultry.

Between 1912 and 1915 Gordon Cameron the coach driver son of Ewen Hugh Cameron MLA JP rented the delicensed hotel. Then from 1916 John O'Brien, a Cobb and Co driver and his wife rented the delicensed hotel until January 1919, when Mary Weller passed away and the family took back control of the establishment.



Photograph - Wellers Pub - Shire of Eltham Heritage Study 1992

(continued on page 9)

The property was then sold on 4th December 1919 by Edward Weller Junior to Mr Wilhelm Fredrick Koenig, who bought it as an investment for £225. In November 1921 William Koenig sold the two acres on which the hotel was located to William Pitman, however unfortunately Koenig died and the contract was cancelled. At the time Vernon Pitman, William Pitman's son, a WW1 Veteran was engaged to be married to Isabel (known as Isie) Jean Lucy Pitman (nee Frost). To ensure they secured the property Isabel and her sister Grace purchased it from the Equity Trustees Executors and Agency Company Limited for the sum of £240. Grace surrendered all claim to the property on the occasion of Isabel and Vernon's wedding. Isie then set about turning the pub into a home.

During 1969 Wellers Pub was one of the only two Kangaroo Ground private homes that survived the fires. Isabel Pitman out lived her husband and stayed there until her death on the 4th May 1983. By 1985 the ownership of the property had transferred to two local families, Mr Keith Tribe, his wife Sharon and Mr Rob Hendry and his wife Kathy. Although the building was in poor condition and they had opposition from a group of local residents the owners submitted plans to Eltham Shire Council to develop the building and turn it into a restaurant.

Cr. Alistair Knox of Eltham, said the building was the gateway to the mountains and suggested it be dedicated to Alan Marshall's book 'This is the Grass', the second in the trilogy of his life. After a protracted battle and submission to Council the owners won their submission to convert the old pub into a restaurant, as on page 55 of the Diamond Valley News of the 26th January 1988 it states "that Wellers Restaurant will open that weekend."

Shawn and Stephanie Wolfe discovered they had an affection with Wellers Restaurant in 1998 and after several years in London came home to purchase the business freehold from Rob and Kath Hendry in 2003 and the lease six months later. Over the next few years, Wellers became well known for its live acts attracting artists such as James Reyne, Billy Thorpe, Brian Cadd, and Daryl Braithwaite. The Wolfe's owned and operated the business until they sold the lease to Stuart and Tiana Machin in 2011.

A near disaster happened on the evening of 21st December 2013 when a motorist drove through the front wall of the restaurant. Whilst the driver of the vehicle and the passenger were taken to hospital as a precaution, the meal continued, due to the professionalism of the staff.

The site of Wellers Hotel is historically significant as during its life it has served as a store, a boarding house, a staging post for Cobb and Co Coaches going to the gold fields and a restaurant.

What is the future going to be for this old historic building? Today it has been refurbished and recently opened in the style of a modern Italian restaurant called Fondata 1872. Fondata means "established" in Italian and the new owner (a well-known Melbourne restaurateur) wants to continue to honour the landmark and the regions history.



Formerly Wellers - now called Fondata 1872
Photograph by Jim Allen

References:

Ancestry, Eltham District Historical Society, Andrew Ross Museum Kangaroo Ground, History of Wellers Restaurant notes by Sandy Cahir, Births Deaths and Marriages Victoria, Volume 2 of Victoria and its Metropolis Past and Present by Alexander Sutherland and R.L.J. Ellery, Kangaroo Ground the Highland Taken by Mick Woivod, The Evelyn Observer, Diamond Valley News, Diamond Valley Leader, Herald Sun News

The anticipated growth of both the Hurstbridge Township and the surrounding area following the extension of the railway to the district in 1912 prompted the proposal for a new bridge, replacing the existing wooden trestle bridge, across the Diamond Creek at Hurstbridge.

The project work was jointly funded by the Shires of Eltham, Heidelberg and Whittlesea with Eltham Shire's consulting engineer McCormack supervising. Tenders were called in June 1916 for a bridge of steel with concrete abutments of reinforced concrete and the contract was awarded to the Reinforced Concrete and Monier Pipe Construction Company for a reinforced concrete design, at the cost of £1850.

Work on the bridge commenced in December 1916 with many local men employed in its construction. The bridge was completed in August 1917 and tested on the 25th of September that same year. The standard test involved driving a steam roller over the bridge to test its strength, often with one or more of the contractors standing under the bridge, to show confidence in their design — the Country Roads Board stipulated that any damage to the steam roller, bridge or any injury to workmen resulting from the test were the responsibility of the contractor. The pretty reinforced concrete arch bridge with open spandrels was officially opened on the 3rd of November 1917. Over 1,000 people, many possibly enjoying a cheerful day out and a break from the worries of the WW1 war news, gathered to witness the opening by Mr. Rought M.L.A, to meet up with friends, or picnic and enjoy the entertainment provided by the Diamond Creek Brass Band.



Official opening of the Monash Bridge on 3rd November 1917



The Monash Bridge features a reinforced concrete arch

Photographs from the Shire of Eltham Pioneers Photograph collection

Why Monash Bridge? Sir John Monash the son of Jewish shopkeepers was born and educated in country Victoria. A keen student he attended Melbourne University taking degrees in Arts, Law and Engineering before becoming a partner in the Reinforced Concrete and Monier Pipe Company.

Away on active service Monash had no part in the design or construction of the bridge but was, by then General John Monash, Commander of Australian forces. Australians are perhaps more apt than most people to expect little good from high-ranking military officers, but Monash respected, understood and loved his men and was respected, admired and loved in return.

His military genius was put to use in France and Germany and he played a vital role in planning the attack that led to the final breakthrough and defeat of Germany, for which he was knighted on the battle field, but his civilian service to his country, both before and after the war, was hardly less distinguished. So Monash Bridge it quite rightly is!

This article was published in the April/May 2017 edition of the Round-about Community Newspaper

A community style get together for the 100th Birthday Celebration will be held on Saturday the 4th November 2017 at the site of the opening ceremony - formerly the Gray's cow paddock now the Gordon and Sheila Ferguson Park.

The Eltham Cemetery Trust, established in 1858, selected the existing burial site at Mount Pleasant Road on high ground overlooking the village of Eltham. The first recorded burial took place in 1861 in the Church of England section. Headstones depict the names of many early and well known local families.

In recent years the Trust has encouraged the use of creative artistic elements within the natural bushland environment in their landscaped grounds adjoining Montsalvat. Their ongoing vision has been to offer the local community a fresh and unique relationship to the Cemetery.

On Thursday 21st September 2017 their latest commissioned art project titled 'Our Eltham - Artistic Recollections' was unveiled. It is a collection of panels collaboratively created by artist Nerina Lascelles and ceramicist Linda Detoma. The project was designed and constructed by Leigh Wykes using Australian stone with ironwork by Neil Carter. All contributors to this installation, located adjacent to the car park near Metery Road, are residents of the Eltham area.

Our Eltham - Artistic Recollections is described as a celebration of life in the Shire since the opening of the Eltham Cemetery more than 150 years ago. Depicting scenes of life in and around Eltham, the collection offers deeper connections to the Eltham area through a series of visual narratives of Eltham's past, environment and community.

The project involves the artistic interpretation by Nerina Lascelles of historic and current images symbolically intermixed with locally indigenous flowers and plants. These are displayed on thirty-one ceramic panels by Linda Detoma, mounted within an iron fence by Neil Carter, upon an attractive rock wall constructed by Leigh Wykes.



Our Eltham - Artistic Recollections

The Eltham District Historical Society is pleased to have contributed to this project. Russell Yeoman and Jim Connor from our Society have collaborated with Liz Pidgeon, Local and Family History Librarian at Yarra Plenty Regional Library on a selection of photographs, many from the Shire of Eltham Pioneers Collection we hold in partnership, located at Eltham Library. We also provided information on the images chosen.

The Eltham Cemetery Trust has produced a booklet about this artwork, which can be viewed on the Cemetery website at:
<http://www.elthamcemetery.com/ouretham/#1>



The creators - Linda Detoma and Nerina Lascelles
at the unveiling of their artwork
Photographs by Jim Connor

Our Eltham - Artistic Recollections is a significant monumental installation, which will encourage visitors to come to view this outstanding combination of local creative skills, set within the attractive grounds of the Eltham Cemetery.

Eltham and District Community Bank

The Eltham District Historical Society appreciates the sponsorship of the **Eltham and District Community Bank Branch of the Bendigo Bank.**

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