

Nillumbik heritage guide



Welcome

Nillumbik Shire Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri as the traditional custodians of the land now known as the Shire of Nillumbik and values the significance of the Wurundjeri people's history as essential to the unique character of the Shire.

The Shire of Nillumbik is located less than 25 kilometres north-east of Melbourne. It has the Yarra River as its southern boundary and extends 29 kilometres to Kinglake National Park in the north. Nillumbik stretches approximately 20 kilometres from the Plenty River and Yan Yean Road in the west to Christmas Hills and the Yarra escarpment in the east.

Nillumbik is home to 64,219 people who live in communities which range from urban settings to remote bush properties.

How to use this booklet

This guide provides histories of some of the important historical sites in the Shire of Nillumbik. Each entry is marked with a symbol.



Publicly accessible site



No longer publicly accessible



Site where you can encounter more history and heritage

Each site is connected with a theme that expresses an aspect of culture and history to provide a layered narrative of the lived experience of the people of Nillumbik.

Four maps identify the location of sites in different areas. These maps can be used as the basis for self-guided journeys.

Further historical information about the rich history of Nillumbik can be found from the local historical societies – contact details on page 44.

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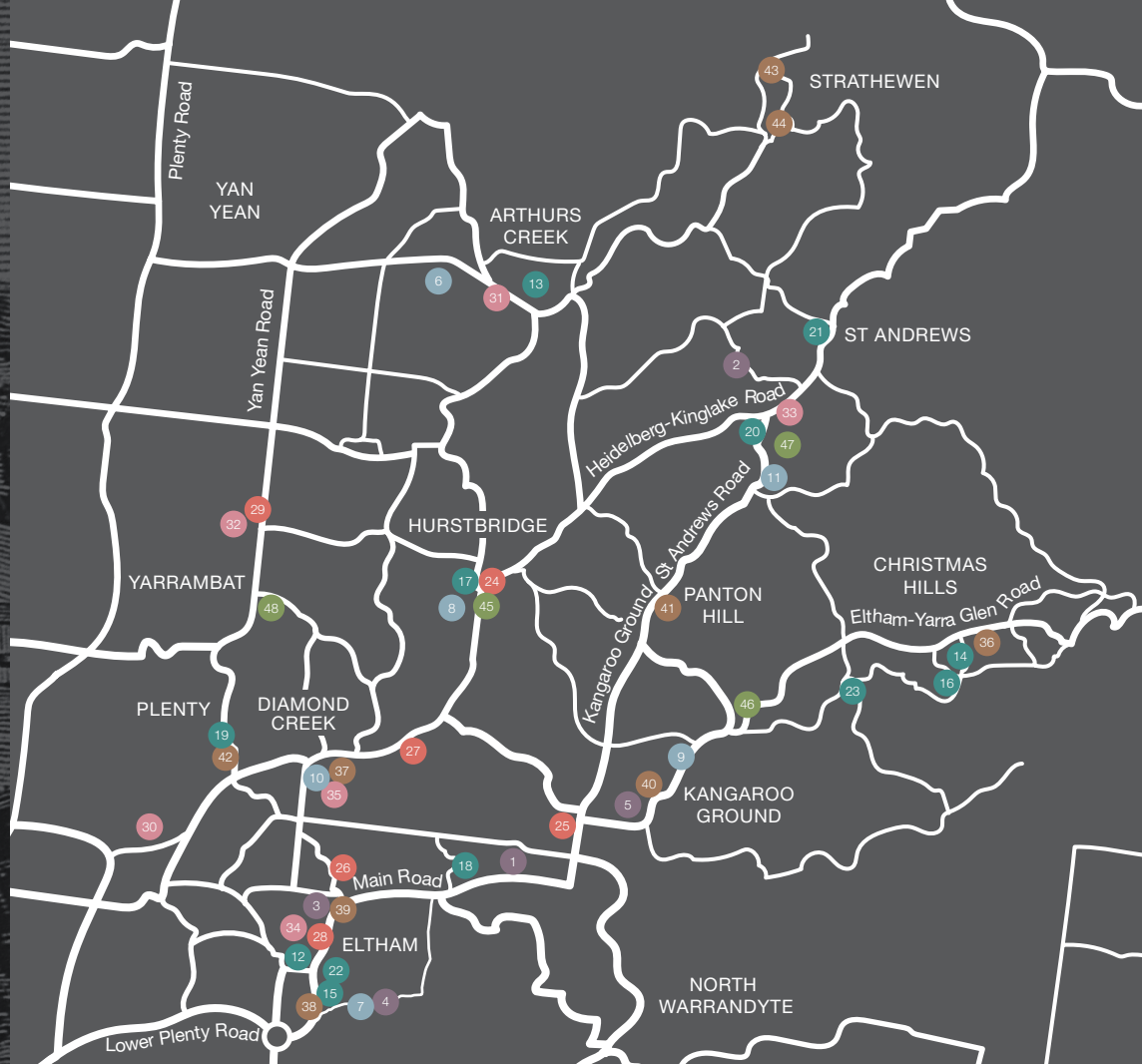
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What's in a name?



Arthurs Creek

Arthurs Creek was named after Henry Arthur, a member of John Batman's Port Phillip Association. Around 1836, Arthur built a homestead below the Nillumbik Lagoon at Diamond Creek. The local district was initially identified as Linton, from the Parish of Linton, and for many years as Hazel Glen, from the name of the Reid family's original eight square-mile pastoral run.

Christmas Hills

Christmas Hills owes its name to emancipated convict and shepherd, David Christmas. In 1842 Christmas became lost on a 640 acre grazing lease in the area. He was found alive after days of wandering at a rise which was subsequently named after him.

*Panton Hill Hotel, Panton Hill.
Circa 1910. Image Courtesy of
Albert Jones (photographer) and
State Library of Victoria.*

Diamond Creek

The area was originally called Nillumbik and the origins of the name Diamond Creek are still debated. Some of the theories behind the name include a tree with a diamond-shaped trunk and accounts of water sparkling over the creek's rocks. The most commonly accepted story is that the creek was named when bullock driver, Joseph Stevenson's, lead bullock, Diamond, was drowned while attempting to cross the creek in flood.

Eltham

Josiah Holloway was responsible for the 1851 Little Eltham sub-division that now comprises the Eltham town centre. Eltham is named after Eltham, England, now a suburb of London, but the reason for using this name is unknown. Bible Street in central Eltham is named after Holloway's wife, Susan Maria, whose maiden name was Bible.

Hurstbridge

In 1841 settler Cornelius Sharp Haley with wife Jane, took up the leasehold of a run which they named Allwood. In 1855 Haley employed Henry Hurst to manage the run. The Hurst family built a substantial log bridge over the Diamond Creek circa 1858 and the area became known as Hurst's Bridge. In 1912 when the railway line was extended from Eltham to the Upper Diamond Creek the new railway station was named Hurst's Bridge and later condensed to Hurstbridge.

Kangaroo Ground

The area's name was chosen based on early Scottish settlers' observations of high numbers of kangaroos in the area. The post office was opened in Kangaroo Ground in 1854.

Panton Hill

Originally called Kingstown, Panton Hill was named after Joseph Anderson Panton, who was the magistrate at Heidelberg and spent much of his spare time mapping the Yarra Valley.

Plenty

Plenty was named after the Plenty River, which got its name from the raging torrents that were evident prior to the damming of the river for the Yan Yean Reservoir.

Research

The area was originally called Swipers Gully. When it was re-searched for gold it became known as Research Gully abbreviated to Research in the 19th century. The Research Post Office opened on 20 October 1902.

St Andrews

St Andrews was originally called Queenstown. The area was surveyed in 1858 and a town proclaimed on 25 February 1861. The name change may be partly attributed to the area's large number of Scottish settlers.

Yarrambat

The post office opened on 1 March 1910 as Tanck's Corner, named after Fred Tanck who owned the land on the corner of Yan Yean Road and Iron Bark Road. It was renamed Yarrambat on Empire Day in May 1929. Yarrambat comes from an Aboriginal word meaning high hills or pleasant views.



Community singing evening at Yarrambat Primary School, circa 1935, led by Headmaster James Sexton.

Arts and culture



1

Blythe Bank

**Research-Warrandyte Road,
North Warrandyte**

Blythe Bank was the home of artist, Clara Southern, who was associated with the Heidelberg School, also known as Australian Impressionism. In the early 1900s she encouraged many young artists to visit her studio at Warrandyte. Several settled nearby and established studios of their own. Southern was a pioneer for women's equality in the arts and was considered the most prominent female landscape painter in Melbourne.

Did you know? Much of Clara Southern's artwork was destroyed in the 1939 bushfires. Blythe Bank was also destroyed in a later bushfire.

*Walter Withers in his studio at his home Southern, Eltham. Circa 1900s. Withers was an Australian landscape artist and a member of the Heidelberg School of Australian Impressionists. This image appears in the 1975 publication *Pioneers and Painters: one hundred years of Eltham and its Shire* by Alan Marshall.*

2

Dunmoochin

**105 Barreenong Road, Cottles Bridge
Open by appointment**

In 1951 Clifton Pugh AO and a group of artists established Dunmoochin, one of the first artistic communes in Australia. Affiliated artists include Rick Amor, Mirka Mora, John Perceval and Fred Williams. The Dunmoochin Foundation was established in 1989 as a residential retreat for artists.



3

Eltham Library 🔍

Panther Place, Eltham
Open daily

The heritage listed mudbrick library was built in 1994. It was designed by Greg Burgess and won the Royal Australian Institute of Architects' Institutional Architecture Award in 1995.

4

Montsalvat 🔍

7 Hillcrest Avenue, Eltham
Open daily from 9am to 5pm
(admission fee)

Founded in 1934 by Justus Jørgensen, Montsalvat, is Australia's oldest artists' community. Its unique grounds and buildings continue to foster a community that celebrates the arts in all its forms. Artists, intellectuals, tradespeople and artisans associated with Montsalvat include: Clifton Pugh, Gordon Ford and Joe Hannan, Betty Roland, Matcham Skipper, Sue Vanderkelen, Helen Lempriere, John Busst and Myra Skipper, Percy Leason, Leonard French and Albert Tucker.

5

Moor-rul Viewing Platform 🔍

Kangaroo Ground-Yarra Glen Road

Moor-rul was named with the consent of the Wurundjeri elders in recognition of the traditional custodians' name for the district. Interpretive panels depict the area's history, including images and descriptions of Aboriginal significance. The platform is designed, when viewed from above, to represent Bunjil, the Eaglehawk, gliding with wings outstretched.



*Matcham Skipper at Montsalvat, Eltham.
Circa 1939-45. Image courtesy of Albert Tucker
(photographer) and State Library of Victoria.*

Local cemeteries



6

Arthurs Creek

Arthurs Creek Road, Arthurs Creek

Arthurs Creek Cemetery was originally a private cemetery for the squatter Reid family. The first person buried there was Agnes Reid in 1847. For many years, the cemetery was referred to locally as the Hazel Glen Cemetery. It was gazetted in 1867 and known as Linton Cemetery until 1926 when it became Arthurs Creek Public Cemetery.

7

Eltham

Mt Pleasant Road, Eltham

The cemetery was established in 1858 by the Eltham Cemetery Trust. The working cemetery is set in natural bushland adjoining Montsalvat and is the resting place of many pioneering and well-known locals including Sir William Irvine, a former Premier and Chief Justice of Victoria.

*Winter in Queenstown
by Ern Mainka, courtesy of the
State Library of Victoria.*

8

Hurst Family

Graysharps Road, Hurstbridge

In 1886 the manager of the Allwood cattle run, Henry Hurst, died and was buried on the run. Friends and neighbours donated money to the Hurst family for his gravestone. His father, Robert Hurst, purchased the Allwood run in 1868 and Henry's burial site became the Hurst Family Cemetery. There are nine Hurst family member burials recorded; the last was that of Frederick Hurst (Henry's brother) in 1927. Since then several other family members have had their ashes scattered there.

Did you know? Henry Hurst was shot by bushranger Robert Clusky (alias Burke) on 4 October 1866. Clusky was tried at the Melbourne Supreme Court. Despite the jury's plea for clemency and a petition seeking his reprieve, which included the signature of Henry's father, the bushranger was sentenced to death and hanged on 29 November 1866.

9

Kangaroo Ground

545 Eltham-Yarra Glen Road,
Kangaroo Ground

The Kangaroo Ground Cemetery is the oldest working cemetery outside of Melbourne. The first person buried there was five year old Judith Furphy in 1851. Judith was the younger sister of John and Joseph Furphy. John was the maker of the popular Furphy water-cart, and Joseph (aka Tom Collins) wrote the novel, *Such is Life*.

10

Nillumbik

35 Main Street, Diamond Creek

Established in 1867, the Nillumbik Cemetery contains the graves of many of the area's pioneering families. Also buried in the cemetery are football legend, Gordon Coventry, and literary icon, Alan Marshall, whose grave features a large rock marker. The cemetery is still operational.



*The ornamental gateway was erected in 1896 after the death of pioneer William Ellis; in accordance with his will. The gateway features the Latin inscription **janua vitae** which, translates as gate of life.*

11

Queenstown

70 Smiths Gully Road, Smiths Gully

Queenstown Cemetery is a pioneer cemetery established during the gold rush of the 1850s. It is located at the site of the first mining village of the Caledonia Diggings. It is estimated that more than 380 people have been buried at the cemetery but no plan or map of the area has been found. The last burial took place in 1981. The cemetery includes numerous unmarked graves of Chinese miners.

Living in Nillumbik



12

Alistair Knox Park



829 Main Road, Eltham

The park is named after Alistair Knox, a key figure of the Australian modern mudbrick movement. The hills and lakes are part of a man-made landscape skilfully blended with the natural environment. The park has a National Trust landscape classification.

13

Arthurs Creek Mechanics' Institute



906 Arthurs Creek Road, Arthurs Creek

The Arthurs Creek Mechanics' Institute and Free Library opened on 2 September 1887 with a grand concert and ball. The occasion attracted 40 couples who danced to a program of 21 dances until after five the following morning. It continues to be used as a community venue for local events.

14

Christmas Hills Mechanics' Institute



787 Ridge Road, Christmas Hills

The Christmas Hills Mechanics' Institute Hall and Free Library was built in 1877, on the site of what is now the sailing club on Ridge Road. In November 1893 the hall mysteriously burnt to the ground. The community was keen to rebuild the hall but there were two differing views about where the new hall should be located. The two camps couldn't agree and one group started rebuilding the hall on the original site. The walls were up and the roof pitched, when one night the other group stole the roof. Eventually, the groups agreed to build the hall halfway between the two sites. The new hall was opened in 1895 with a ball and a concert.

*Opening of the Monash Bridge, Hurstbridge.
1917. Image courtesy of Shire of Eltham Pioneers
Photograph collection Yarra Plenty Regional
Library in partnership with Eltham District
Historical Society*

15

Eltham justice precinct

728 Main Road, Eltham
Open by appointment

Eltham Courthouse was built in 1860 and is one of only two intact examples in Victoria of a courthouse with a simple projecting entry design. The courthouse and neighbouring police residence were built in response to the need for a lawful presence, given the population of 1000, two hotels and the numbers of people passing through to the goldmines. The courthouse closed in 1984 and the buildings are used by various community groups including the Eltham District Historical Society.

16

Flying Squirrel Hotel

**South-east corner Ridge
and Muir Roads**
(within grounds of Sugarloaf Reservoir)

With the discovery of gold in the late 1850s, the bush track through Christmas Hills became one of the busiest in the colony. At one point in time there were 13 hotels between the Diamond Creek Bridge at Eltham, and the Yarra River at Yarra Glen. The Flying Squirrel Hotel was built by Robert and Martha Lorimer in 1865, and served as the area's first post office. The hotel was destroyed by a fire.

17

Monash Bridge

**Hurstbridge-Arthurs Creek Road,
Hurstbridge**

The Monash Bridge was the third bridge in the area built to cross the Diamond Creek; replacing a wooden trestle bridge built in 1895 by Jack McDonald. The bridge was designed and constructed by the Reinforced Concrete and Monier Pipe Construction Company of which Sir John Monash was a partner. It was funded by the Shires of Eltham, Heidelberg and Whittlesea. The bridge was officially opened by Jas Rouget MLA (Member of the Legislative Assembly), in November 1917.

Did you know? The blue ribbon cut to open the bridge was cut into small pieces and distributed as a memento of the occasion.

18

Research Aqueduct

Main Road, Eltham North

For nearly 100 years the aqueduct supplied water to Melbourne, firstly from the Watts River near Healesville and later the Maroondah Reservoir. Construction of the aqueduct began in August 1886. The system consisted of 25 miles of open cement and brick-lined channels. It was officially opened by the Governor of Victoria, the Earl of Hopetoun in February 1891. The system was replaced by large pipes in the 1980s.

Did you know? Today, the unused channels remain largely intact and the access track is a walking and cycling path.

19

Plenty Community Hall



Howell Road, Plenty

In the early 1920s, the Plenty Progress Association, through a series of fund raisers, collected £700 to build a community hall. Over the years it has been the venue for many dances and community meetings. It continues to be a popular community facility.

20

St Andrews Hotel



79 Burns Street, St Andrews

The hotel is a significant entity in the town and has been the venue for entertainment and important functions. The St Andrews Rural Fire Brigade recorded its first meeting at the hotel in 1916 and election polls were held in the hotel's Lodge Room in 1888.

21

St Andrews School and Wadambuk Community Centre



35 Caledonia Street, St Andrews

In 1858 the Caledonia Common School no. 128 was opened in Smiths Gully. The school and residence was built in 1875 and relocated to Queenstown in 1882.

In 1983 a new school was built and the old school building became the St Andrews Community Centre (SACC). After the 2009 bushfires SACC was established as a relief centre. With funds from the Victorian Bushfire Appeal, SACC was redesigned by architect, Greg Burgess, and reopened as Wadambuk Community Centre in 2015. The building is also the home of St Andrews Historical Society.

22

St Margaret's Anglican Church



79-81 Pitt Street, Eltham

Designed by architect, Nathaniel Billings and built by George Stebbing, St Margaret's is an early example of polychrome brick work. The church building was opened and dedicated in 1861 and consecrated in 1876.

Did you know? The crucifix behind the altar was created by Matcham Skipper.

23

Sugarloaf Reservoir



Yarra Glen Road, Christmas Hills
Open daily from 8.30am

Sugarloaf Reservoir was completed in 1981 to supplement Melbourne's domestic water supply. It is fed by the Maroondah Aqueduct and the Yarra River. The site is a popular recreational venue for the local sailing club, canoers and anglers.



Arthurs Creek Mechanics' Institute decorated for the wedding of Allan Verso and Lena Murphy by Carmella and Leo Ryder. 1925. Image courtesy of Peter Nankervis and Arthurs Creek Historical Society.

Historic houses and museums



24

Allwood House

901 Main Road, Hurstbridge

In 1894 Allwood House, a Victorian weatherboard dwelling, was moved to its present site and refurbished by local builder and orchardist, Charles Verso, for the Hurst family. In 1897 it became the home of Frances Ellen Hurst and her husband William (Bill) Gray. Bill Gray developed the extensive Allwood Nurseries and exported fruit trees playing an important role in area's fruit-growing industry. Allwood House was purchased by the Shire of Eltham in 1994 and has since been used as a neighbourhood house.

Did you know? The Allwood House gardens contain many of the original plants selected and planted by Bill Gray.

*Hurst family outside Allwood.
Circa 1890s. Image courtesy of Shire of Eltham
Pioneers Photograph collection Yarra Plenty
Regional Library in partnership with Eltham
District Historical Society.*

25

Andrew Ross Museum

**Main Road, Kangaroo Ground
(Opposite general store)
Open every Thursday morning
from 10am to noon and on Sundays
by appointment**

The Andrew Ross Museum was founded in 1993. It is located in the original heritage-listed teachers' residence of Kangaroo Ground Primary School. In 1851 the school's first headmaster, Andrew Ross, was appointed. Over twenty years Ross established the Evelyn Commercial, Agricultural and Industrial School, the Kangaroo Ground Post Office Store and Hotel, and the Evelyn Observer newspaper. The museum contains a large photographic collection and numerous document displays.

26

Edendale Farm

30 Gastons Road, Eltham
Open daily 9.30am-4.40pm except
Christmas Day

Edendale Farm was originally part of a 51 acre site purchased by Henry Stooke in 1852. Thomas Cool, manager of the Victorian Coffee Palace, purchased the site in 1896 and built the homestead in the same year. The Shire of Eltham purchased the property in 1970 and established an animal pound and nursery. In the late 1980s the site became a community farm. In 2000 it was transformed into a community environmental education centre and indigenous plant nursery.

27

Ellis Cottage

10 Nillumbik Square, Diamond Creek
(access to car park via Memory Lane
off Heidelberg-Kinglake Road)
Open first Sunday of the month,
except January

Ellis Cottage was built out of uncut local stone circa 1885 by William Ellis, who with his nephew Nathaniel Ellis, established a model farm of 150 acres on the site known as Ellis Park. In 1850 William Ellis purchased a large portion of land between Diamond Creek East and Wattle Glen. A successful farmer and businessman, Ellis also purchased land in Yarra Glen, Diamond Creek, Woodstock and Greensborough. The cottage and grounds houses the Nillumbik Historical Society's collection of historic photographs and documents of pioneering families from the area.

Did you know? Ellis Park once contained the race track for the Diamond Creek Racing Club.

28

Shillinglaw Cottage

4 Panther Place, Eltham

Shillinglaw Cottage was built in the 1870s by George Stebbing local pioneer builder. Stebbing was responsible for building a number of other important buildings in the area, including the Uniting Church and St Margaret's Church. Shillinglaw Cottage is constructed from handmade bricks using an unusual design that features burnt header bricks throughout the facade. It was originally built on the site of the former Eltham Shire offices but was relocated and rebuilt on its present site in 1964/65.

Did you know? Community members raised funds to support the relocation of the cottage by publishing a cookbook titled *Flavour of Eltham*.

29

Yarrambat Heritage Museum

Yarrambat Park, Yan Yean Road,
Yarrambat
Open by appointment

The Yarrambat Heritage Museum is located at Yarrambat Park on the site of the 150 year old Len Young Wool Shed. The museum contains wool bailing equipment, an operational historic gold-mine battery and the first classroom from Yarrambat Primary School.

Industry



Batman Tree



Access from lane way off Corowa Crescent opposite Warrool Court, turn right along Plenty River.

In 1839, the Flintoff brothers bought several apple trees from the estate of, John Batman, for £1 each. The Flintoffs then started their own orchard on their Greensborough property. The Batman tree was planted on its current site in the early 1840s. It is believed to be the last surviving apple tree from Batman's orchard.

*Apple packing, Hurstbridge.
Circa 1900s. Image courtesy of Shire
of Eltham Pioneers Photograph
Collection, Yarra Plenty Regional
Library in partnership with Eltham
District Historical Society.*

30

31

'Charnwood' Hazel Glen



Arthurs Creek

Charles Draper was a pioneer fruit grower in the district. In 1862 he was one of the first selectors to acquire land in Arthurs Creek, which he named *Charnwood* after Leicestershire, England where he grew up. In the 1880s the Arthurs Creek district became a major source of Melbourne's fruit supply. Around 1870, in conjunction with other committee members of the Horticultural Society of Victoria, Draper introduced the Jonathan variety of apple from America under the name of Marstons Red Winter.

32

Golden Mines

Yan Yean Road, Yarrambat

Mining activities in the area date back to the late 1800s when hundreds of Chinese miners searched for gold on the banks of Plenty River. One popular area was known as Smuggler's Gully, which is now part of Plenty Gorge Park. During the 1940s/50s there were four goldmines in Yarrambat: Golden Crown, Golden King, Golden Stairs and Golden Gate. The Golden King mine was the last to close in 1984.

Did you know? The tunnel known as Pioneers Tunnel in Dunnes Gully is rumoured to have been a hideout for bushrangers and later the outlaw Squizzy Taylor.

33

St Andrews Community Market

Kangaroo Ground-St Andrews Road,
St Andrews

**Open every Saturday from 8am-2pm
(except fire ban days)**

Legend has it that the market was started when local musician Wally Johnson, co-writer of the folk song Give Me A Home Among the Gum Trees, walked across the road from the St Andrews Hotel to busk outside the community hall. Since 1971, the market has offered alternative culture, crafts, art and accessories as well as organic vegetables and food. Each week the market has more than 100 stalls and up to 1000 customers.

34

Trestle bridge and railway

Panther Place, Eltham

The trestle rail bridge was built in 1901-2 and is the only railway bridge of predominantly timber construction still in use as part of Melbourne's metropolitan railway network. The train line was extended to Hurstbridge in 1912 in part due to the needs of the fruit growing industry which was rapidly expanding at the time.



Trestle bridge, Eltham. 1981. Image courtesy of Shire of Eltham Pioneers Photograph collection Yarra Plenty Regional Library in partnership with Eltham District Historical Society.

35

Union Mine and Diamond Creek Mine

Fraser Street, Diamond Creek

In 1862 gold was discovered in Diamond Creek on the top of Fraser Street on land owned by Dr Phipps. In 1868 a shaft was sunk from the top of the hill (Diamond Creek Mine) and mining also commenced at the bottom of the hill (Union Mine). Over 50-years the mines; run as separate companies and together by Diamond Creek Gold Mining Company; experienced both success and failure. At the mine's peak the shaft reached a depth of 350 metres, employed 200 men in continuous shifts and raised gold to the today's equivalent value of \$2,000,000 a year. In 1915 a fire burnt out the workings of the Diamond Creek Mine and also affected the Union mine's infrastructure.

Memorials



36

Christmas Hills War Memorial



**Cnr Ridge Road and Eltham
Yarra Glen Road, Christmas Hills**

The memorial is a concrete obelisk unveiled in 1921 and funded by donations from the local community. Ten men from Christmas Hills served in World War One: two were killed in action and most who returned suffered from their injuries for the rest of their lives. The memorial was renovated and new interpretive signage installed in 2015 with funding from the Australian Government's ANZAC Centenary Local Grants Program.

Did you know? The inscription on the obelisk says **GREATER LOVE HATH NO MAN.**

**Kangaroo Ground War Memorial
Tower, Kangaroo Ground. 1930s.
Image courtesy of Andrew Ross Museum.**

37

Diamond Creek War Memorial



**Reserve Circuit, Community Centre,
Diamond Creek**

The memorial is a polished red granite column surmounted by an urn. It was originally erected in 1921 as a World War One memorial to the fallen of Diamond Creek. The memorial was rededicated in 1996 to commemorate Australian servicemen and women who have lost their lives in all wars and conflicts.

38

Eltham Avenue of Honour

Main Road, Eltham

The avenue of honour was first instigated by Eltham's Welcome Home Committee who raised over £74 for the cost of trees, plaques and tree guards. About 115 trees were planted during 1916-17. The Committee also presented each local enlistee with a leather wallet to hold tobacco or a notepad. The memorial was renovated and new interpretive signage installed in 2015 with funding from the Victorian Government's Restoring War Memorials and Avenues of Honour Grants Program.

39

Eltham War Memorial

903 Main Road, Memorial Hall, Eltham

The grey granite obelisk on a granite base was unveiled at the corner of Main Road and Bridge Street in 1919 by Sir William Irvine, Lieutenant-Governor of Victoria. It originally commemorated those who died in World War One. The names of those who died in World War Two were added later.

Did you know? The memorial was moved from its original site to the Eltham RSL in the 1960s. When the RSL closed in 2010, it was moved again to its current location.

40

Kangaroo Ground War Memorial Tower

Eltham-Yarra Glen Road, Kangaroo Ground

In 1919, Ruby and Robert White donated land to the Shire of Eltham to create the Kangaroo Ground War Memorial Tower in memory of the soldiers killed in the Battle of Bullecourt, France, including Ruby's brother Harold. It was unveiled in 1926 by the Governor-General Lord Stonehaven. Architects Arthur Stephenson and Percy Meldrum designed the tower in the style of a Scottish watch-tower recognising Kangaroo Ground's early Scottish settlers. It was built by George Rousell from stone quarried from Dr Ethel Osborne's property in Kangaroo Ground. New interpretive signage was installed on the site in 2015 with funding from the Australian Government's Anzac Centenary Local Grants Program.

Did you know? The tower is said to be sitting in the crater of an extinct volcano.

41

Panton Hill Firefighters Memorial Park

6 Merritts Road, Panton Hill

In the 1983 Ash Wednesday bushfires, five of the Panton Hill's Fire Brigade died in Upper Beaconsfield. The memorial park in the centre of the Panton Hill Township pays tributes to those firefighters and provides a social venue to acknowledge the central role of the Brigade in bringing the community together. At the Fire Station, at right angles to the row of pegs on which the firefighters hang their helmets and jackets, there is a polished plank of wood with five empty pegs and a simple plaque for each of the firefighters who lost their lives.

42

Plenty War Memorial Gates

103-107 Yan Yean Road, Plenty

The gates of the Plenty War Memorial Park were erected in 1951 in memory of local residents who served during World War One and World War Two. Plaques commemorating service in Korea, Malaysia, Vietnam and other recent conflicts have been added. Over the years, the volume of traffic entering the park increased and the gates were damaged. The Plenty Historical Society restored the gates and they were rededicated in November 2009.

43

Strathewen Black Saturday Memorial

Peter Avola Memorial Pavilion,
160 Chadds Creek Road, Strathewen

The memorial is dedicated to the memory of the victims of the Black Saturday bushfires of 2009. It consists of four circles, each representing a theme of beauty, loss, rebuilding and rejuvenation. Designers from Urban Initiatives and Arterial Design sourced individual stories from the community to create a collective voice. The memorial won the 2013 Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA) Victoria President's Award.

44

Strathewen Blacksmiths Tree

Peter Avola Memorial Pavilion,
160 Chadds Creek Road, Strathewen

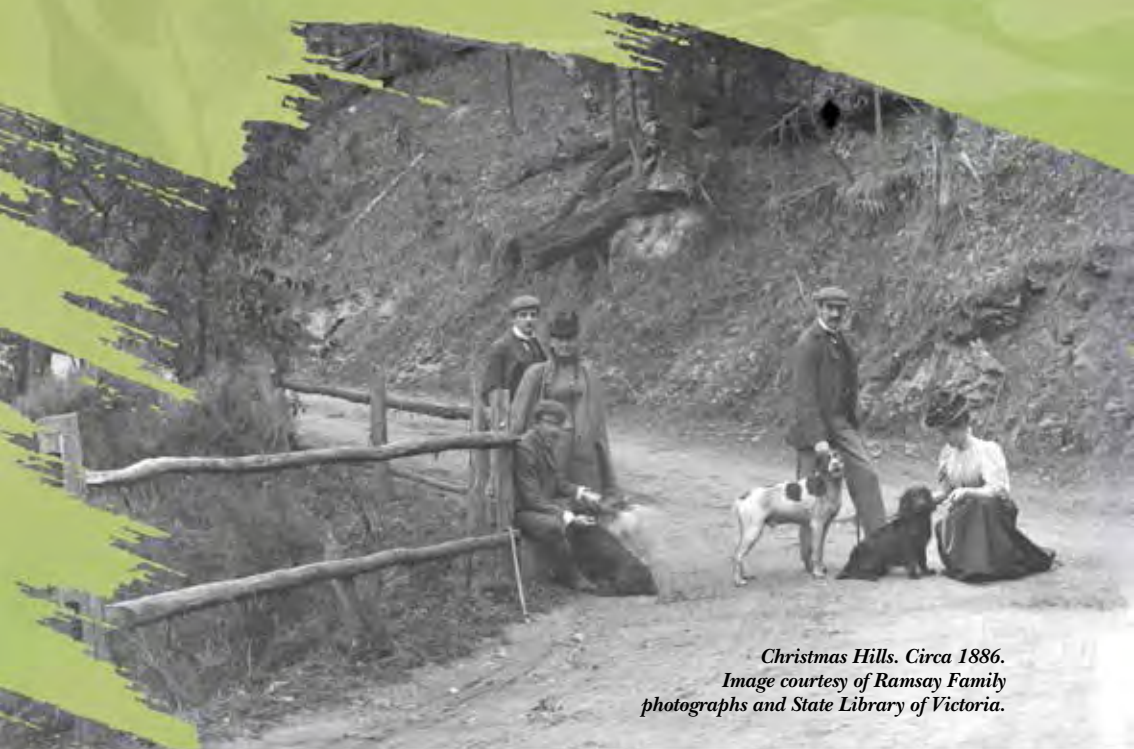
The Blacksmiths Tree remembers the victims of the Black Saturday fires of 2009 and the Country Fire Authority (CFA) people who fought the fires. The Australian Blacksmiths Association (Victoria) invited blacksmiths from across Australia and around the world to contribute to the creation of the ten metre stainless steel and copper gum tree. Blacksmiths from 20 countries contributed to the tree which was erected in February, 2014.



Above: Volunteer Motor Corp on an outing to Kangaroo Ground. Circa 1916. Image courtesy of Herbert Bishop and State Library of Victoria.

Right: Private Robert Harris of Kangaroo Ground.

Walking tours and trails



*Christmas Hills. Circa 1886.
Image courtesy of Ramsay Family
photographs and State Library of Victoria.*

45

Hurstbridge Heritage Trail



from 794 Main Road, Hurstbridge

The Hurstbridge Heritage Trail has 30 sign-posted sites of historical significance in the Hurstbridge township area including ANZAC Avenue of Honour, Dorset House site and Little Bank building.

46

Gawa Resource Trail



**from 873 Eltham-Yarra Glen Road,
Watsons Creek**

The 340 metre loop provides insight into how the Wurundjeri clan lived near the creek and used the land for food, medicine and clothes. The trail introduces visitors to the indigenous flora and fauna, including manna gums, lomandra (used to weave baskets) and wombat burrows.

47

Smiths Gully to St Andrews Nature History Trail



**from Peter Franke Reserve Car Park,
St Andrews**

The trail follows the Smiths Gully Creek through the Old Caledonia Gully alluvial gold diggings of the 19th-20th century. The return walk is three kilometres.

48

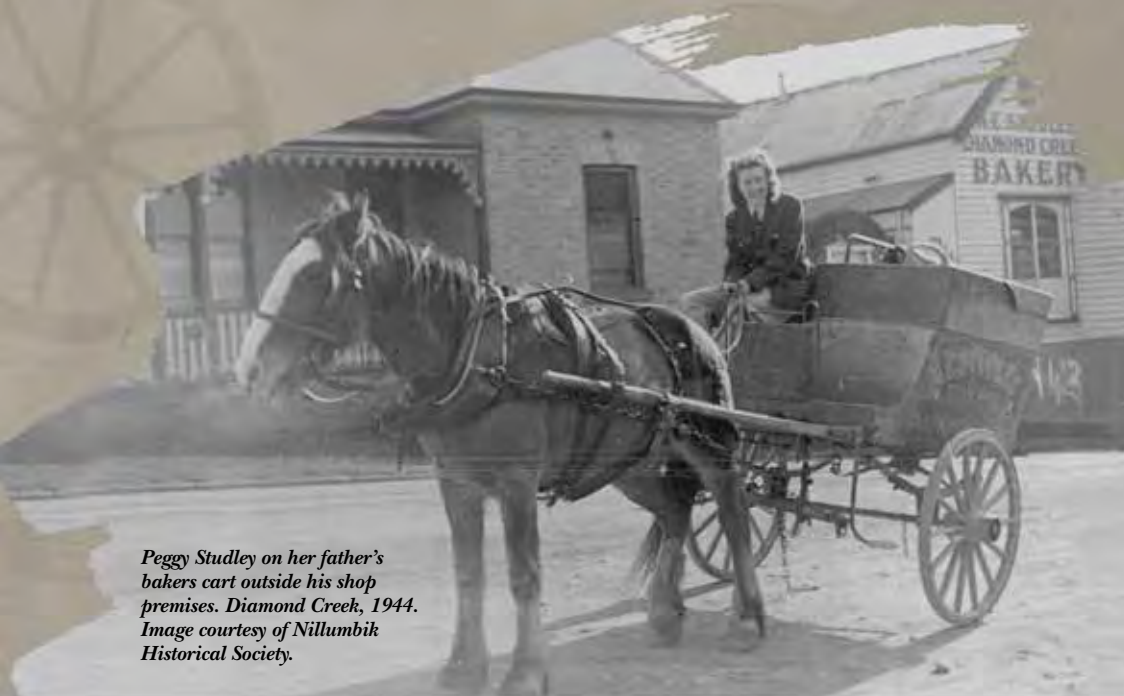
Ye Olde Yarrambat Walk



from 474 Ironbark Road, Yarrambat

The walk takes in 13 sites which link 'Olde' Yarrambat to today including the Eltham & District Woodworkers and the original school house site. A guide is available from the Old Yarrambat General Store and Yarrambat Post Office.

Self-guided driving tours



*Peggy Studley on her father's
bakers cart outside his shop
premises. Diamond Creek, 1944.
Image courtesy of Nillumbik
Historical Society.*



Tour 1 - South

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| 39 Eltham War Memorial | 12 Alistair Knox Park | 7 Eltham Cemetery |
| 3 Eltham Library | 22 St Margaret's Church | 4 Montsalvat |
| 34 Trestle bridge and railway | 15 Eltham justice precinct | |
| 28 Shillinglaw Cottage | 38 Eltham Avenue of Honour | |

** this tour can be walked*



Tour 2 - West & Central

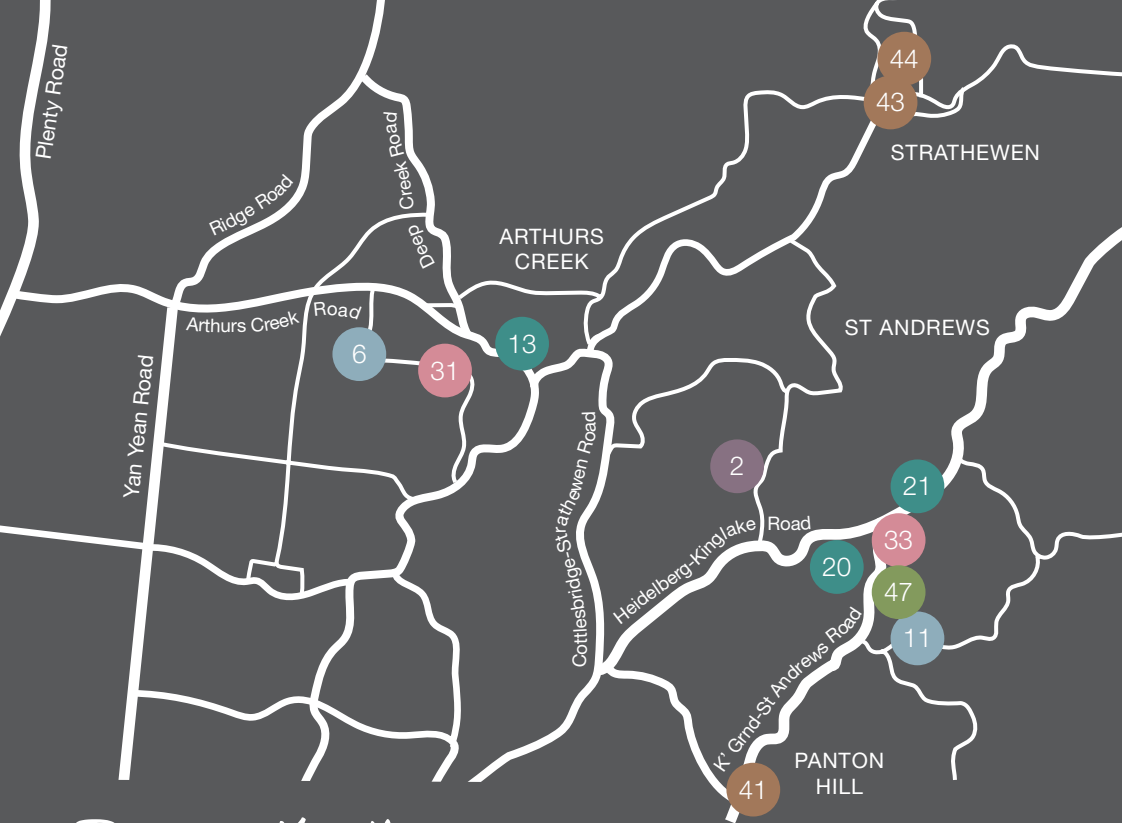
- 30 Batman Tree
- 42 Plenty War Memorial Gates
- 48 Ye Olde Yarrambat Walk
- 29 Yarrambat Heritage Museum
- 32 Golden Mines
- 17 Monash Bridge
- 24 Allwood House
- 45 Hurstbridge Heritage Trail

- 8 Hurst Family Cemetery
- 27 Ellis Cottage
- 37 Diamond Creek War Memorial
- 10 Nillumbik Cemetery
- 35 Union Mine and Diamond Creek Mine
- 26 Edendale Farm
- 18 Research Aqueduct



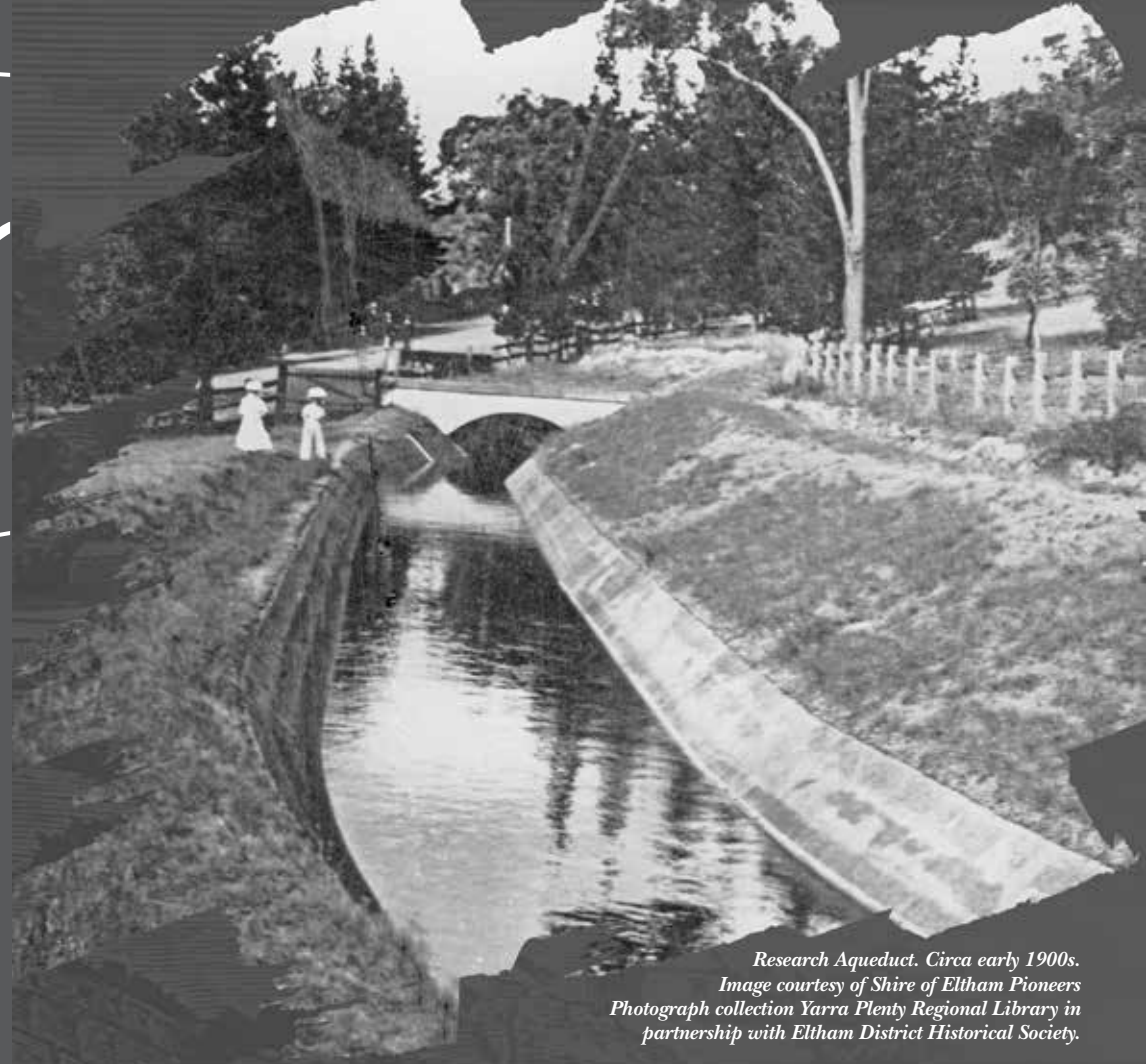
Tour 3 - East

- 1 Blythe Bank
- 18 Research Aqueduct
- 25 Andrew Ross Museum
- 5 Moor-rul Viewing Platform
- 40 Kangaroo Ground Memorial Tower
- 9 Kangaroo Ground Cemetery
- 46 Gawa Trail
- 23 Sugarloaf Reservoir
- 16 Flying Squirrel Hotel
- 14 Christmas Hills Mechanics' Institute and Hall
- 36 Christmas Hills War Memorial



Tour 4 - North

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| 6 Arthurs Creek Cemetery | 44 Strathewen Blacksmiths Tree | 20 St Andrews Hotel |
| 31 Charnwood, Hazel Glen | 2 Dunmoochin | 47 Smiths Gully Nature History Trail |
| 13 Arthurs Creek Mechanics Institute | 21 St Andrews School | 11 Queenstown Cemetery |
| 43 Strathewen Black Saturday Memorial | 33 St Andrews Community Market | 41 Panton Hill Firefighters Memorial Park |



*Research Aqueduct. Circa early 1900s.
Image courtesy of Shire of Eltham Pioneers
Photograph collection Yarra Plenty Regional Library in
partnership with Eltham District Historical Society.*



Looking for more information

Nillumbik's local historical societies are volunteer organisations that celebrate and preserve the unique individual history of townships, districts and people in the Shire.

Andrew Ross Museum

www.andrewrossmuseum.org.au

Arthurs Creek Mechanics Institute

www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/localhistorygroups

Eltham District Historical Society

www.elthamhistory.org.au

Greensborough Historical Society

www.greensboroughhistorical.org.au

Hurstbridge & District Historical Society

allwoodhouse.org.au/gallery/local-history-group

Nillumbik Historical Society

nillumbikhistoricalsociety.blogspot.com.au

Plenty Historical Society

www.plentyhistoricalsociety.org.au

St Andrews-Queenstown Historical Society

www.standrewscommunitycentre.org

Warrandyte Historical Society

home.vicnet.net.au/~whsoc/index

Yarrambat Historical Society

www.yarrambathistoricalsociety.org.au

Yarra Plenty Regional Library

www.yprl.vic.gov.au

Nillumbik Shire Council Local History

www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/localhistorygroups

WikiNorthia

www.wikinorthia.net.au



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*Cover image: St Andrews Primary School, St Andrews, circa 1890s.
Image courtesy of Shire of Eltham Pioneers Photograph Collection
Yarra Plenty Regional Library in partnership with Eltham District Historical Society*

Printed in Nillumbik, using vegetable inks on Australian-made recycled paper.