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# KANGAROO GROUND CHRONICLE

Newsletter of the  
**ANDREW ROSS MUSEUM INC**  
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## Kangaroo Ground's Hawthorn Hedgerows



A section of the hedgerows trimmed in 2006 (6 years ago), looking good but now ready for a heavier one metre high trim.  
Note erosion gully on nearside verge, far deeper on both sides of the road further southward.

Some five years ago, the Andrew Ross Museum devoted considerable effort into having Kangaroo Ground's heritage hawthorn hedges restored to their former high heritage

status. It was an initiative that had led to a directive being issued on 28 March 2006 by Heritage Victoria recommending that the shire choose a trial section of hedgerow to trim. This the Shire did, the section chosen being the 200 metres on either side of the

present general store. Today, after three years of drought and two follow-up years of good rain, the section the shire arranged to have trimmed can be said to have proved itself an outstanding success.

So far so good, but where to from here? Since 2006, apart from the removal of a few boxthorns from other sections of hedgerow, nothing further has been done to restore the district's hawthorn to heritage status. These days, there isn't room enough for even a small child to safely walk the 3 km section between Bells Hill Road and the Eltham-Yarra Glen turnoff, which raises a further issue! As far as I'm aware, Kangaroo Ground doesn't have even a single metre of paved pathway anywhere within it other than its flagged pedestrian crossing between school and store. Without access to a car, it's near impossible, day or night, to move around Kangaroo Ground at all! With roadside verges for the most part either a tangle of hawthorn or an ankle-busting, deep-rutted ditch, not even physically fit cyclists can be said to be safe. Nor is there mention for the coming decade of new walking trails through Kangaroo Ground in the Shire's recently adopted Trails Strategy.

All of Kangaroo Ground's roadside hedgerows are on council land and the Shire has a commitment in its strategies to both 'health and safety' and 'all-abilities access'. It's an issue that might easily be rectified: Firstly by the shire reducing its heritage hedgerows to a width of one metre and a height of two, much the same as a similar length of privately owned hedgerows, on the Caldermeade estate on the South Gippsland Highway between Tooradin & Koo-wee-rup, have been confined to for years. Secondly, by the shire making provision for safe pedestrian movement along local roads. The Andrew Ross Museum understands the raising of the above issues as part of its mission statement to protect the district's unique heritage.

*by Mick Woiwod*

## COMMENTS MADE IN THE YEAR 1955

1. I'll tell you one thing, if things keep going the way they are, it's going to be impossible to buy a weeks groceries for \$10.00
2. Have you seen the new cars coming out next year? It won't be long before \$1,000 will only buy a used one.
3. If cigarettes keep going up in price, I'm going to quit; **20 cents**.
4. If they raise the minimum wage to \$1.00, nobody will be able to hire outside help at the store.
5. I'm afraid to send my kids to the movies any more. Ever since they let Clark Gable get by with saying 'damn' in "GONE WITH THE WIND", it seems every new movie has either 'hell' or 'damn' in it.
6. The fast food restaurant is convenient for a quick meal, but I seriously doubt they will ever catch on.
7. There is no sense going on short trips anymore for a weekend. It costs nearly \$2.00 a night to stay.

(\$ used to compare with today's prices)

William Phillip Cleaves' grave in the Kangaroo Ground Cemetery, his rose still in bloom.  
His headstone reads: William Philip Cleaves, formerly of Devonshire, died 4 May 1866, aged 46 years.

### William Cleaves



Most people who visit the Kangaroo Ground in the land of the kangaroo! Some even find contentment from being entitled to be buried in Kangaroo Ground one of these days. Even so, as far as I'm aware, only one has ever earned the distinction of living and dying in Kangaroo Ground, and being buried in Kangaroo Ground after having been killed by a kangaroo in Kangaroo Ground.

That man was William Cleaves! What's more, he was a digger who, having made his pile digging for gold, had built himself a pub on a creek-crossing with every intention of living a long life. Alas, a chance encounter with a local kangaroo on a morning stroll to the sawpits had brought his dream to a shuddering halt. Without a child of his own — yet determined to have the proud name 'Cleaves' live on — he'd left his entire estate to his three year-old nephew who'd had the good fortune of being christened William Cleaves Calwell.

The pub that William Cleaves built in 1864 stood beside the Yarra Glen Road, on the Kangaroo Ground side of its present Watsons Creek Bridge. Hosted a further thirty-odd years after his sad encounter by his widow, Jane Cleaves, the pub lived out its final years as a wine-saloon.

Upon reaching his majority, her young nephew, W.C. Calwell received his uncle's inheritance and used it to acquire a 300 acres bush farm in what is today's Bend of Islands — land that would eventually pass down the line to his own nephew, Arthur Augustus Calwell. But, unlike his uncle and grand uncle, Arthur was neither bushman nor farmer. He, instead, had risen through the ranks to become the Land of the Kangaroo's first Minister for Immigration, who in the post-war years introduced into this fair land a million or more European migrants. It's amazing just what one kangaroo can do! Moreover, the 300 acres that William's death had bought all of those years ago had been sold at a philanthropic price by Arthur Augustus to conservationists in the late 1960s to become what is today known as the 'Round the Bend Conservation Co-Operative' where kangaroos and all manner of other native species receive protection and kangaroos are allowed free rein to roam their natural habitat

*By Mick Woiwod.*

# The Evelyn Observer Friday June 18, 1897

## *The Late Mr Andrew Ross*

“Thine own friend  
And thy Father’s friend  
Forsake thee not” SOLOMON

The subject of this memoir, who passed away on 13<sup>th</sup> August last, was born on the 30<sup>th</sup> June, 1814, in Dumfrieshire Scotland, and was therefore a little over 82 years of age at the time of his death. The day prior to his decease he was walking about the ground of his sister’s residence, “Woodend” Hants. England, in his usual health. But the following day he succumbed to an attack of heart failure.

“Three score and ten years to do up  
Our days and years we see,  
Or if, by reason of more strength  
In some four score they be”

90<sup>th</sup> Psalm

His sister (who is connected by marriage with one of the leading military authorities in England of the present day) writing on the occasion of his death, says

“He was one of those spirits ever young,  
He talked very much of his Australian days  
And of his friends, in Australia, and often longed  
to be once more in their midst if but for a season.”

Mr. Ross was a nephew of Sir John Ross of Arctic fame, and received a liberal education. Amongst his formers at the Glasgow University were. –Dr. Tait, a former Archbishop of Canterbury, and one of his Australian friends, the late Rev. A.M. Ramsay. About the age of 30 he emigrated to Sydney, where he stayed some years and advocated steam communication with Australia in the forties subsequently coming to Melbourne, where he accepted a post as a teacher of the Scots Church School Collins Street Melbourne, upon the site now occupied by the Equitable Stores. Whilst there, and subsequently at Kangaroo Ground, he maintained a weather diary, originally started in Sydney. These tables he presented to the Meteorological Society in London in the month of May 1882. The writer of this notice was present at the meeting at Westminster at which he was thanked for this contribution of valuable data. These labours condensed, appeared in the printed records of that Society and are in the writer’s possession. Mr. Ross’ powers as a writer were capable of grasping many matters of beneficial interest to his fellow-men, and doubtless, had he tried a wider field for their exercise he might easily have risen to distinction. As it was, in the year 1854 he took the prize for an essay on the subject of the “*Practical Management of Industrial Schools in the Colony of Victoria*,” as awarded by the Denominational School Board, and this essay was intended to have been printed – as probably it was – by that Board. The writer received from Mr. Ross, then in London, a budget of matter intended for insertion in one of the leading journals of this Colony some years ago which bore evidences of a matured and cultivated mind with powers of express not second to the best English correspondence of our city journals. It only escaped insertion owing to the fact of the Argus having at that time on of it’s foremost writers visiting England who happened to have taken up some of the topics dealt with in Mr. Ross’ contribution. About 25 years ago Mr. Ross discussed the project of a newspaper for the district, and in due time as a result of his endeavours this journal appeared. He may therefore be safely deemed it’s founder, and credit is due to him accordingly. Mr. Ross had the pleasure when in Scotland of conveying to Lady Darling the first intimation she received of passing by our Legislator of the 20,000 pound grant to her Ladyship, a matter which our Upper

House refused to during Sir Charles Darling's lifetime. The writer of this notice is in possession of material for compiling the chronicles of Kangaroo Ground, with which Mr. Ross was so long identified, and if some young Kangarooian will apply to the Editor of this journal he can receive the requisite particulars to adapt as the fire of his genius may prompt. Let us hope that some enthusiastic son or daughter of these picturesque hill will ere long afford us the benefit of their sunny memories in response to this suggestion, adding thereto an account to Mr. Ross' valuable efforts in the way of education by which possibly they may have directly or indirectly benefited.

**This article was researched and copied by Jack Stock (ARM committee member)**

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## **PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE**

*The Andrew Ross Diary & Reminiscences of Andrew Ross* \$30.00 plus postage

*The Corranderk Data Base and The Birrarung Data Base* (as a double CD ) \$20.00 plus postage

## **ANDREW ROSS MUSEUM**

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## **SUPPORTER SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE**

We are updating postal and email addresses. In order to save on postage costs, where possible we are sending the Chronicle by email. Otherwise we will continue to post a hard copy. If an email copy is acceptable, please advise us by email ([wcleeson@primus.com.au](mailto:wcleeson@primus.com.au)) and we'll have your email address.

## **CHANGES TO SUPPORTER ARRANGEMENTS**

As of March 2012, Life Subscriptions will no longer be offered; in their place 10-year subscriptions will be offered.

Life subscriptions taken before March 2012 will continue to be for life.

Annual Fee (1 <sup>st</sup> Sep.- 31 <sup>st</sup> Aug.)	Family \$25.00	Single \$15.00
	10 Year Family \$200.00	Single \$125.00