

RAILWAY COTTAGE SURVEY RESULTS (10th January 2010)

In Nov 2009 the survey forms were distributed to every residence and business in the Eltham area (see Table 1). About 160 forms were distributed and 69 were voluntarily returned to Eltham Village Gallery. The survey form asked to “..indicate how would you prefer to see the Cottage used”. The following is a summary of results based on details from an Appendix on the next page.

Voting

The details of the survey are listed in Table 2 and 3. Based on these tables, the results of the survey are:

First	Archive and Museum
Second	Tourist Information Centre
Third	Community Centre
Fourth	Private Art Studio and Youth Centre
Fifth	Private Film and Photographic Studio

Suggestions

Half of the returned forms made additional suggestions. Table 4 contains the full list of transcribed suggestions. Table 5 attempts to quantify these suggestions with the aim of contributing to the overall survey results. It is significant from Table 5, that a large number of respondents suggest multiple use for the cottage. Taking this into account, the community's second place vote is Tourist Information Centre which would be a compatible use with an Archives/Museum.

Overall Result

Response to the survey was very good given that the forms were voluntarily returned to Eltham Village Gallery. So the results should represent the views of the local community. The overall result of the survey is that the community voted for the cottage to be used as an Archive/Museum, or alternatively as a combined Archive/Museum and Tourist Information Centre.

ELTHAM COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Railway Cottage Survey

Dear Resident,

As you may know, the Eltham Community Foundation (ECF) is a community-based group that was formed in order to benefit local community interests, with membership open to everyone. Some small achievements so far have been new village entrance signs and approval from Australia Post for a village post box.

However, our major project to date has been the task of saving the historic Railway Cottage. The ECF is currently working on a proposal to lease the Cottage from State Rail Authority. As part of this proposal we are surveying ideas from the local community about future uses for a restored Railway Cottage.

It would be appreciated if you could help in this regard by indicating how you would prefer to see the Cottage used. Please complete Section A. You can also suggest a use in Section B.

<p>A. Please number 1 to 6 in order of preference:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 Community Centre</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 4 Archives and Museum</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2 Private Art Studio</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Tourist Information Centre</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5 Private Photographic and Film Studio</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 6 Community Youth Centre</p> <p>B. Please suggestion a use: _____</p>

If you could return this form by 23 November 2009 it would be much appreciated.

You can leave the form at, or post to: Eltham Village Gallery, 445 Eltham Rd, Eltham. 2480.

If you have any questions please contact Wayne Cameron by e-mail wayne_c@westnet.com.au or phone 6629 1476.

Thankyou for your time,

John Maxwell.

APPENDIX

A Completed Survey Form

Total Number of Forms Distributed: 160

Total Number of Returned Forms: 69

Total number of Suggestions: 35

Tally & Report by Liz and Wayne

Table 1. Survey Area

Mayfield St	Gray's Rd	Boatharbour Rd to The Pantry	Federation Dr
Eltham Rd: Bang Rd to Pearce Rd	Pearce Rd	Alexander's Lane	Rainforest Dr
Laureldale Rd	McKenzie Rd	Johnston Rd	School & Masonic Lodge

Table 2. Votes

Preference	Community Centre	Archives & Museum	Private Art Studio	Tourist Information	Private Film Studio	Youth Centre	Total
1 st	13	27	4	21	2	6	72
2 nd	15	18	5	16	2	3	59
3 rd	14	9	8	9	2	14	56
4 th	11	6	6	9	12	12	56
5 th	5	2	15	3	24	2	51
6 th	1	3	13	4	10	17	48

Note: The totals vary because some respondents used ticks, made equal preferences or numbered limited choices.

Table 3. Votes Expressed as Percentages:

Preferences	Community Centre	Archives & Museum	Private Art Studio	Tourist Information	Private Film Studio	Youth Centre
1 st	18%	38%	6%	29%	3%	8%
2 nd	25%	31%	8%	27%	3%	5%
3 rd	25%	16%	14%	16%	5%	25%
4 th	20%	14%	11%	16%	21%	21%
5 th	10%	5%	29%	8%	47%	4%
6 th	3%	6%	27%	11%	21%	35%

Table 4. List of Suggestions:

Craftsman studio
[Private Art Studio] + pottery and/or workshop space
Bakery/commercial use
Include a “local produce” market. Of course the suggestions above are not mutually exclusive. The railway cottage could have many uses. Thanks for the survey! [First names supplied].
A library/, offering (local history) papers – booklets – maps for sale. Also historical photo prints for sale and historical newspapers and reprints.
Some sort of railway history, photos, stories from local families and booklets for sale. Stories about farming, railways, floods, droughts and local characters.
Historical or community use – preferably museum of some sort. No No No [private uses]
Boutique coffee shop (daytime) perhaps run by volunteers.
Small scale coffee and tea etc. sales - along with preferences 2 – 5 above.
1 or 2 [indicates Archives/Museum and Tourist Information Centre in Section A]
Only 1 and 2 [indicates Archives and Tourist Information Centre in Section A]
Must be some kind of historical use – not private.
Combine Museum and Tourist info, i.e. Past & Present
Office for ECF. Multi use preferred (rather than single purpose).

A combined Tourist Information and Community Centre.
Use the Hall [as a Community Centre and Community Youth Centre]
Community use
Brewery
Mini Theatre
1 and 2 [indicates Tourist Information Centre and Archives/Museum in Section A]
Fishing/water sports/ramp stairs to creek.
Museum + Visitor Centre
? Smaller venue for community use for functions? [Also writes in Section A] Community Youth Centre /Guides etc. / Brownies classes eg Art painting
Coffee shop
Museum – Eltham Library of History. [Also writes in Section A] Archives and Museum – with stuff to sell. Really – none of the other 5. Definitely not private Art or Photo Studio.
No need for the community centres as we have the Halls.
Advise discussion had with Mitch Lowe – Lismore Tourism 66260105. How would [Community Centre Archives/Museum and Youth Centre] be funded? [Archives/Museum, Private Art Studio, Level III Tourist Information Centre and Private Photographic Studio] could all be combined. Needs commercial focus to ensure a revenue stream is guaranteed in excess of expenditure on both restoration and perpetual maintenance. Thanks [name supplied and phone number supplied]
I will be happy whatever happens. I will be glad to see it used. [name supplied]
Repair first then decide use. All depends on the finished/repared/renovation and \$\$\$.
I'm with T..... on this – ramp access to creek for canoeing/kayaking, etc
A small garden/nursery/gallery centre promoting natives and gums to replace camphor – some major council involvement in this area (supply of seedlings). Hasting's Council years ago offered trees and shrubs free or at greatly reduced prices for rate payers who paid their dues early or on time. Create a major beautification of surrounding areas to offer an even greater attraction to area. [First name and phone number supplied]
Lease privately to bring in the funds required to restore the cottage. Once restored look at any or a combination of the 4 community options.
Music Studio/rehearsal space
Cafe/Community Centre
Historical Society
Name supplied

Name supplied

Table 5. Grouping of Suggestions: Suggestions were broken-up and then roughly grouped into this simple table -

Suggestion	Count	Suggestion	Count
First have private use to fund restoration, then community use	2	Mini Theatre	1
Commercial uses: coffee shop, bakery, gallery, local produce	6	Multi use	11
Renovate first then decide use	1	Utilise the Hall for Community or Youth Centres	2
Community use: Library, history shop, environmental, function	19	Facilitate river access for fishing, canoeing and kayaking	2
Music Studio	1	Activities for youth eg art classes for Brownies or Guides	1
Craftsman Studio	1	Restoration funding concerns	1