

Of Passing Interest

Ex-church moved for new role

Historic features in our landscape observed by the director of Puke Ariki, Kelvin Day.

The home of the Eltham Savage Club is in Railway St. The building is the former Eltham Methodist Church, which was originally situated in King Edward St and was built in 1904 at a cost of £388.

The Eltham Savage Club was formed in 1945 and its first meetings were held in the Eltham Pipe Band Hall. In 1969, the Eltham Town Hall became the venue for the Savage Club. An opportunity for the club to secure its own hall arose in 1979 when the former Methodist Church became available.

By this time the building was owned by the New Zealand Rennet Company,



which had previously purchased the disused church as part of its expansion plan.

The church was purchased by the Savage Club for \$1800 and the Railway St section, on which it was to be relocated, was obtained for \$2000.

The following year, after a successful fundraising campaign, the church

building was cut into two and shifted by contractor Sandy Southcombe to its new location. The building's interior was then remodelled to meet the needs of the club.

One of the features of the Savage Club hall is a rise and fall stage which was designed and built by Don Drabble, along with Maurice Sheehy and Selwyn How.