

3/7/73.

To the President.
Historical Society.
Benalla.

Dear Sir

As the disclosure of the Ned Kelly
cummerbund has created so much interest I
thought perhaps your society would be interested
in having more accurate details of the "rescue
incident" at Avoniel. As you probably know in three
of Frank Clune's books he refers to Mr Shelton
as a young man, and so does H. G. Martindale
in his book New Crossing Place when putting Clune
although he amends this in his Appendix.

X
Here with briefly are the facts as
known by the surviving sons and daughters of Mr
Shelton. Their father was born in March 1860,
and according to Clune, Ned Kelly in 1855. The
Rallies were last heard of in Avoniel about
May 1867, thus it is taken that the two
were approximately almost 7 and twelve. Mr
Shelton was playing in the creek near a

2.

X
waterhole and got out of his depth and was most decidedly helped out by Ned Kelly. However we do feel that perhaps the account as recalled by Mr Shelton's sister Agnes is probably the clearest.

She used to say that her mother was playing by the creek on a hot summer's day wearing a large "sailor hat"; which he left on the bank. Apparently Ned Kelly saw the hat, thought something was wrong, looked & found the boy in difficulties and got him out of the waterhole. Miss Shelton would be almost 90 and was always in complete command of her faculties, so we do feel that what she recalled was the complete picture of the incident. X

Naturally the cumberbund has aroused our curiosity, and to my knowledge I haven't heard it mentioned at any time. However as my husband and I visit Banalla every 4th weekend, perhaps we could contact someone in your society who could give us (P.T.O) some details. Wish your society even more success in the future. Very truly yours
Vivian Shelton