

newsletter march 1979

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. (NOTE THE CHANGE OF LOCATION FOR THIS MEETING)

The Annual General Meeting of the society for 1979 will be held at the Eltham Shire Offices, 895 Main Road, Eltham, on Wednesday 14th March, commencing at 8 p.m. The business of the meeting is listed below. Following the formal business of the meeting Mr. Bill Wadeson of Diamond Creek will screen his film "The Diamond Valley Cup". Excellent reports have been received about this locally made feature length film.

Business.

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of 1978 Annual General Meeting
3. Annual Reports
 - (a) President's Report
 - (b) Secretary's Report
 - (c) Treasurer's Report
 - (d) Other Reports
4. Election of Office Bearers 1979.

All office bearers retire and are eligible for re-election. Nominations for all positions will be accepted at the meeting. Office Bearers required are :-

 - President
 - Vice Presidents (2)
 - Secretary
 - Assistant Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - Committee Members (4)
5. Fixing of Annual Subscriptions
6. Any other business which may be considered by the Annual General Meeting. (Details of such business should be supplied in writing to the secretary prior to the meeting).

As usual the meeting will be followed by coffee and biscuits. New members and visitors are encouraged to attend.

EARLY LAND SALE DOCUMENTS.

In 1854 Robert Gathercole, a carpenter of Richmond, purchased from J. M. Holloway, lot 9 of Holloway's subdivision called Little Eltham. The land was a residential lot extending from Cromwell to Dalton Streets and was purchased for the sum of four pounds. Original documents connected with the transfer of this land have been presented to the society by Mrs. Rogers of North Melbourne, a descendant of Robert Gathercole. The presentation was arranged by society President Peter Bassett-Smith after initial contact by society member Mrs. N. Bishop.

The main documents are on parchment and in good order. They comprise the actual transfer document and an attested copy of Holloway's 1851 Crown Grant of the 316 acres which comprised the southern half of Little Eltham (Crown Portion 12 Section 4 Parish of Nillumbik) It is intended that the documents be ultimately placed on display in a suitable location.

RECENT ACTIVITIES

Good attendances of members were recorded at the February meeting and at the Smiths Gully excursion conducted in November. The Smiths Gully excursion visited a number of historic sites in Smiths Gully and St. Andrews. Personal reminiscences and handed down family history were provided by Mrs. L. Henderson and Mrs. F. Joyce together with other members of their family which has been long established in the area.

Tape recordings were made during the excursion and these will provide useful additions to the Society's records.

At the February meeting Mr. Griffin Bartlett spoke of his work on the preservation and restoration of historic buildings. Many well known buildings in England are included amongst examples of his work and he has been more recently involved in many Australian preservation projects. Members at this meeting were provided with a fascinating glimpse of only one of Mr. Bartlett's activities and he will be invited to return to talk on his other varied interests in the historical field.

RECOGNITION OF PIONEERS AND PROMINENT LOCAL PEOPLE.

The Eltham Shire Council has not agreed to the naming of the new sporting ground near the Community Centre after Henry Dendy who was a prominent resident of Eltham in the 1850's and 60's. Instead the Council has suggested that the Society establish a register of names of persons deserving of recognition in the naming of streets, parks etc. A suitable list will be prepared by the committee but any suggestions regarding such names will be welcomed by the committee.

SOCIETY SPEAKERS

The Society often receives requests from other organizations to provide speakers on various aspects of local history. Recently the secretary spoke to Eltham Rotary Club on the history of Lower Plenty and on 7th March the President, Peter Bassett-Smith spoke to the Doncaster and Templestowe Historical Society on the subject of history of the Eltham area.

Requests for speakers or other assistance are expected to become more frequent particularly from local schools. Any member who is able to assist with any particular local history topic is requested to provide details to the secretary.

COMMITTEE MEETING.

The next committee meeting will be held on 11th April, 1979. Members are invited to submit to the secretary any matters for consideration by the committee.

Peter Bassett-Smith
President
712 0260

Russell Yeoman
Secretary
439 9717

shire of eltham historical society

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NOTICE TO MEMBERS

1. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the society will be held at 8 p.m. on Wednesday 14th February, 1979 in the War Memorial Hall, 905 Main Road, Eltham.

Guest Speaker will be Mr. Griffin Bartlett and his talk will be entitled "The Living Past". Mr. Bartlett is an architect with an expert knowledge of early Australian buildings and a great deal of his professional time is spent as a consultant to the Historic Buildings Preservation Council. His talk will cover many aspects of his experience in this field. The title has been deliberately chosen to indicate that this subject is one of vitality and broad general interest.

2. Newsletter - Annual General Meeting

The next full Newsletter of the Society will be issued prior to the Annual General Meeting which will be held on Wednesday 14th March, 1979. This meeting will include election of office bearers for the ensuing year.

Peter Bassett Smith,
President,
712 0227

Russell Yeoman,
Secretary,
439 9717.