

shire of eltham historical society

p.o. box 137, eltham, victoria, 3095.

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JULY MEETING

The next meeting of the Society will be held at 8 p.m. on Wednesday 11th July, 1979, in the War Memorial Hall, 905 Main Road, Eltham. Guest speaker at the meeting will be Mr. Ben Hall, great grandson of the gentleman of the same name whose bushranging exploits are almost legendary. Mr. Hall operates a hire service specializing in colonial costumes and horse drawn vehicles and is heavily involved in the field of re-enactment of early Australian situations. A few years ago he travelled around Australia by horsedrawn coach raising money for charity. Mr. Hall's talk will be based mainly on his personal experiences. He is an experienced and entertaining speaker and will provide an entertaining evening for members and any visitors who of course are always welcome.

ELTHAM COMMUNITY FESTIVAL

This year's festival will be held from 11th to 20th August. The Society intends to participate in two ways :-

1. Float in the Festival Grand Parade on Saturday 11th August. Members in period costume will be riding on and accompanying the float, and musical assistance will be provided by members of the Victorian Folk Music Group. Any members who wish to participate should contact Mr. J. Ebell, phone #39 8525 as soon as possible.
2. Exhibition in the Eltham Library over the period of the Festival. The exhibition will be primarily of photographs and maps but any suitable articles to augment the display will be welcome. Please contact the Secretary with any offers.

PIONEERS AND PAINTERS

Alan Marshall's popular book published for the centenary of the Shire in 1971 has now been re-printed after having been out of print for some years. It is available from some bookstores but is obtainable directly from the Eltham Shire Office for \$13.50. This is over one dollar cheaper than the price we have seen in some shops. For an extra two dollars it can be mailed from the Shire Office.

MRS. I. TURVEY

Mrs. Irene Turvey President of Millumbik Historical Society and a member of our Society for some years, is leaving the area to live in Kyneton. Mrs. Turvey has been very active in historical work both locally and for the National Trust. She has also been involved in other community activities. Now is an appropriate time to extend the thanks of the Society to Mrs. Turvey for the work she has done for us although we hope to not completely lose contact. We wish her well in her new home.

THE NATIONAL ESTATE.

"The National Estate" is a term which is frequently used in the media in referring to historic places. Whilst most people interested in local history are aware of the activities of the National Trust, there does appear to be some lack of knowledge regarding other bodies administering registers of historic buildings and places.

At the State level there is the Historic Buildings Preservation Council about which there will be a future newsletter item. At the national level we have the Australian Heritage Commission which is the Government's policy advisory and administrative body responsible for the National Estate.

The Commission was established under the Australian Heritage Commission Act 1975 and this act defines the National Estate as:-

"those places being components of the natural environment of Australia or the cultural environment of Australia that have aesthetic, scientific or social significance or other special value for future generations as well as for the present community".

The National Estate is thus a wide ranging concept which covers a variety of important natural features and many items of the man-made or cultural environment including :-

- historic buildings and structures
- historic towns and precincts
- urban parks and gardens
- Aboriginal sites
- areas of archaeological interest

A major responsibility of the Australian Heritage Commission is to prepare and maintain a Register of National Estate places. Inclusion of any place in the register does not mean that the Commonwealth Government intends to interfere in any way with the ownership, management or use of that place. It is merely a recognition of the National Estate value of the place. It does however place constraints upon Commonwealth Ministers and authorities in taking any action which would adversely affect the place. A further effect of registration which is not directly administered by the Heritage Commission is that from time to time funds are made available by the Commonwealth Government for works for National Estate Purposes. These funds are directed through the state Conservation Ministries and are available for works which comprise preservation, investigation etc. of National Estate places.

Within the Shire of Eltham the following places are included in the Register of the National Estate:-

"Shillinglaw Cottage", Main Road, Eltham.

"Sweeney's", Sweeneys Lane, Eltham.

"Rosehill", Bonds Road, Lower Plenty.

"The Robins", Kangaroo Ground Road, Warrandyte.

The Heritage Commission is currently investigating applications for inclusion in the Register, of the concrete arch bridge over Diamond Creek at Hurstbridge (Monash Bridge) and the early settler's house in Ely Street, Eltham.

The Shire of Eltham has made application for funds for restoration and preservation works at both of these places under the current funding programme.

There are a number of other places within the Shire which may be acceptable for inclusion as part of the National Estate. At this time there are no other known projects for which funds are urgently required and which are likely to qualify for grants under the National Estate Programme. However advice would be appreciated of any project which may be worthy of investigation.

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