

shire of eltham historical society

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

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NOVEMBER MEETING

The next meeting of the society will be held at 8 p.m. on Wednesday 14th November, 1979 in the War Memorial Hall, 905 Main Road, Eltham. Guest speaker will be Mrs. Jean Uhl of Blackburn who will give members an insight into the little known subject of Historical Indexing. Mrs. Uhl has been a Council Member of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria and has been actively involved with the Dandenong, Box Hill and Nunawading Historical Societies. She is a member of the Australian Society of Indexers, whose 70 or so members comprise indexers, librarians, cataloguers and archivists.

Mrs. Uhl's major work in this field is an index of the Supreme Court records of Criminal Sessions from 1841 and this is now held in the State Archives. Her work on indexing of old inns includes references to the Forresters' Hotel, Eltham 1864, Fountain of Friendship Hotel, Little Eltham 1855 and a later (1860) reference to Fountain Hotel, Eltham.

Also at this meeting slides will be shown of the Eltham Community Festival Parade. Main feature of the slides will be the society's award winning float.

This meeting will be the final regular evening meeting for 1979. Members are assured of an entertaining and informative meeting and a good attendance is expected. Visitors and new members are encouraged to attend.

CHRISTMAS FUNCTION - BANYULE GALLERY

This year the society's usual Christmas break up function will take the form of a visit to historic Banyule Gallery at Heidelberg on Sunday 16th December. A picnic area is available and it is hoped that the majority of members will meet from 12 noon for a picnic lunch. The gallery will be inspected after lunch. The address is 60 Buckingham Drive, Heidelberg.

The two storied gallery building is a former homestead built about 1846 for the pioneer overlander Joseph Hawdon (1813-71). It is one of the earliest surviving buildings in Victoria and occupies an important place together with Hawdon in the history of the Heidelberg area. It was purchased by the State Government in 1974 and the interior was adapted and modified as an Extension Gallery of the National Gallery of Victoria.

The gallery contains two main display areas. On the first floor are temporary exhibitions of objects drawn from the collections of the departments of the National Gallery of Victoria. On the ground floor is housed the Jack Manton Collection, at present on loan to the gallery. This collection contains numerous works by the leading artists of the "Heidelberg School" including McCubbin, Roberts, Streeton, Conder, Withers and Davies. Also represented are works by artists who preceded and influenced the Heidelberg School including Louis Buvelot. This collection is representative of some major aspects of the history of Australian painting.

For those who have not yet visited Banyule and for those who would like to renew their acquaintance, this group visit is recommended.

VISIT TO KERANG.

Members of the Kerang Historical Society have invited our members to visit Kerang and have offered to arrange accomodation for a weekend excursion. Arrangements would be made to visit historic locations in the Kerang area, in particular the society's museum. Anyone interested in participating in such a trip, probably early in the new year, should contact the secretary so that some idea of numbers may be obtained. No obligation is implied by such an initial enquiry but the reaction of members should be known in order to assess the viability of the proposal and the desirable mode of transport.

HERALDRY.

The society's President, Peter Bassett-Smith has been invited to join the Australian Branch of the Heraldry Society. Peter's family connections with heraldry extend over several generations. His great grandfather was the Rev. Charles Bontell, author of Bontell's Heraldry. This work has now been revised a number of times and remains a standard reference on the subject.

EARLY ELTHAM COTTAGE, ELY STREET.

Negotiations are proceeding for acquisition by the Shire of Eltham of the former Falkiner Cottage in Ely Street, Eltham. No decisions have been made as to the use of the cottage following its acquisition nor has the society been approached in this regard. However it is considered important that a viable use be found for the building and in fact, some doubt could be cast on the advisability of its preservation unless there is some suitable use. Without prejudice to the Council's right to specify some appropriate use for the cottage it is considered that the society should seek to be actively involved in deciding its use. Specific ideas for use of the cottage are solicited and should be forwarded to the secretary as soon as possible.

RECENT EVENTS

There was a good attendance at the September meeting when members heard Mr. Griffin Bartlett speak on the subject of maps. Mr. Bartlett displayed a large number of maps, some of historical interest and many more recent maps. Both the speaker and the subject were enthusiastically received by the members present.

As usual, on Cup Day, society member Mrs. Joy Ness arranged a historical display at the Kangaroo Ground Presbyterian Church. This year the theme was period costumes.

COMMITTEE MEETING

The last meeting for 1979 of the society's committee will be held on Wednesday 12th December. Any member with any item of business for this meeting should contact the secretary.

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