

shire of eltham historical society

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

newsletter no.12

may 1980

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE SOCIETY WILL BE HELD AT

THE GREAT HALL, MONTSALVAT

HILLCREST AVE., ELTHAM

AT 8PM ON WEDNESDAY 14TH MAY, 1980.

The subject of the meeting will be the story of Montsalvat and discussion will be led by Mr. Sigmund Jorgensen.

Montsalvat was commenced in 1935 by Sigmund's father, the late Justus Jorgensen. It comprises an extensive complex of buildings of mudbrick, local mudstone and other natural materials. Since its inception it has been home to many local artists and it has come to form the focus of the local artistic community. In recent years it has become a tourist attraction and a centre for cultural events such as the well known musical evenings. Most of us know a little about Montsalvat but it will be of great interest to hear the whole of the story from someone who has been personally involved.

SOCIETY EXCURSION SUNDAY 25th MAY

On Sunday 25th May the society will visit a number of buildings and locations of historical interest in the Eltham area. Transport is to be by private cars. The tour will commence at 1.30p.m. at the old timber cottage in Ely Street at the rear of the Eltham High School. An inspection of the interior of the cottage has been arranged. Eltham pioneer Frederick Falkiner lived in this cottage which is soon to be transferred to the shire council. Details of other locations to be visited are still being finalized.

It is expected that we will be able to inspect the former homes and studios of Walter Withers (in Bolton Street) and Percy Leason (Lavender Park Road). Notes giving details of places to be visited will be available for members.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

To commence our effort to obtain additional members this year we are sending each member two copies of this newsletter. Please pass on the extra copy to someone you know who is interested in the history of the area. We hope in this way to expand knowledge of the society with the aim that some of y our friends may become members.

OFFICE BEARERS 1980 - Notice of Special Meeting

The full required number of office bearers was not elected at the Annual General Meeting which was held on Wednesday 12th March, 1980. As a consequence the meeting on 14th May will be a Special Meeting of the Society to elect the following office bearers;

President
Vice President (1)
Assistant Secretary

The first two positions were not filled at the Annual General Meeting. The third is likely to become vacant as a result of Committee recommendations. The Committee has the power to co-opt but the constitution does not give it the power to appoint office bearers. The Special Meeting is therefore called for that purpose. The Committee has however, considered the vacant positions and has recommended that the following persons be elected to those positions;

President Mrs. Kath Stephenson
Vice President Cr. Alan Baker
Assist. Secretary Mrs. Opal Smith

The full required number of office bearers was not obtained at the Annual General Meeting, largely due to the poor attendance at that meeting.

The results of the election were as follows;

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| President | Vacant |
| Vice Presidents | 1. Betty Woodburn 2. Vacant |
| Secretary | Russell Yeoman |
| Assist. Secretary | Kath Stephenson |
| Treasurer | Graham Beyer |
| Committee Members | 1. Peter Bassett-Smith 2. Cr. Alan Baker 3. Opal Smith 4. Gwen Baker 5. Joh Ebeli |

Because of the vacant positions the society's committee considered this matter at its meeting on 9th April. Members of last year's committee who were not present at the Annual General Meeting were requested to attend. As a result of the above recommendations with regard to office bearers, it became necessary to co-opt additional members to the committee. It was further felt by the committee that the society's interests would best be served by an expansion of the committee and accordingly the following members have been co-opted;

1. Bruce Ness
2. Phyllis Macdonald
3. Ron Smith
4. Jim Sidwell

As the current situation may appear quite confusing a complete list of office bearers and committee members will be published in the next newsletter (following the formalities of the Special Meeting).

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Society subscriptions for 1980 were fixed at the Annual General Meeting and are now due. Despite an operating loss last year and an increase in postage the subscriptions have not been increased. It is hoped that the society can be kept solvent by an increase in membership and a drive to obtain new members is proposed.

Subscriptions are;

| | |
|----------|--------|
| Adults | \$3.00 |
| Students | \$1.00 |
| Family | \$5.00 |

The subscriptions (perhaps) cover only the operating expenses of the society and are our only regular income. Early payment is requested.

In order to accurately establish details of current membership it is requested that the accompanying form be completed and returned with your subscriptions to the above address. This applies to both new members and those renewing their membership. Members who have already paid their subscriptions are asked to complete and return the form also.

DO IT NOW SO YOU WON'T FORGET

PETER BASSETT-SMITH

Peter has stepped down as society President after holding that position for four years. Prior to his election he was Vice-President for a number of years. Although he has retired from full-time employment Peter seems to find (or be given) more to do with his time than previously. He has found that family commitments and the running of his farming property at Kangaroo Ground do not leave sufficient time to continue as President. He remains a member of the society's committee and we hope that he will continue to provide a worthwhile contribution in this role.

It is appropriate to now record our appreciation of and thanks for Peter's work and leadership.

DIAMOND VALLEY STORY

The history of the Diamond Valley Shire written by Dianne Edwards was launched at a function at the Greensborough Library on 16th April. It is now available for purchase at a cost of \$12.00. We hope to review this book in a future newsletter.

Russell Yeoman
Secretary
439 9717