

shire of eltham historical society

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

newsletter no.18

may 1981

NEXT MEETING 8PM WEDNESDAY 13TH MAY, 1981

WAR MEMORIAL HALL

905 MAIN ROAD, ELTHAM

FILM NIGHT - FILMS OF LOCAL INTEREST FEATURING BILL WADESON'S

"ALLWOOD"

VISITORS AND NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

Bill Wadson, President of Nillumbik Historical Society has produced a number of films of local historical interest. His latest effort "Allwood" tells the story of the shooting of Henry Hurst by the bushranger Burke, in 1866. "Allwood" was the name of the Hurst property within the area that was later to be named Hurstbridge. Henry died of his wounds and was buried on the property. His grave together with other members of the family is now within an enclosure in the grounds of the Hurstbridge Pre-School Centre. Burke and his accomplices were captured and hanged for their crime.

The cast of the film includes members of Nillumbik Historical Society.

Come along to this meeting and bring your family and friends.

Office Bearers 1981

At the Annual General Meeting on 11th March, 1981, the following office bearers were elected :-

President:	Mrs. Kath Stephenson
Vice President:	Cr. Alan Baker
	Mr. Chris Spriggs
Secretary:	Mr. Russell Yeoman
Assistant Secretary:	Mrs. Opal Smith
Treasurer:	Mr. Graham Beyer
Committee Members:	Mrs. Phyllis Macdonald
	Messrs. Bruce Ness,
	Joh Ebeli,
	Ron Smith.

The Committee has now met and has co-opted Messrs. Peter Bassett-Smith and Jim Sidwell as additional members.

The Committee as elected is at full strength as provided for in the Society's constitution. However, the constitution does provide the opportunity for co-opting additional members and recent experience has indicated that additional members are a decided advantage. The possibility of co-opting further members will be examined and we would be pleased to hear of any member considered to be capable of a significant contribution in this area.

Subscriptions

Unlike most other aspects of modern living, membership of this society has now remained un-affected by inflation for some years. We have maintained subscriptions at the same level for this year.

The Society's funds for the past two years have been boosted by awards won at the Eltham Community Festival and last year by an increase in membership.

Whilst at the present level of society activity we do not need a high level of funds we do need to be assured of covering operating expenses each year. Members subscriptions are our only assured source of income and should be paid as soon as possible. Unless you have paid at the Annual General Meeting or since, your subscription is now due.

Please complete the attached form and send with your subscription to the above address. The form should be completed by new members and those renewing their membership this year. If you have already paid please complete the form for society records.

Subscriptions are as follows:-

Adult	\$3.00
Student	\$1.00
Family	\$5.00

Proposed Williamstown Visit

Contacts between President Kath Stephenson and former members of Williamstown Historical Society now living in Eltham have prompted the idea of a society visit to Williamstown. The area is rich in historical associations and many of its many early buildings have been preserved.

This proposal will be considered at the next Committee meeting. It is the type of trip which does not depend heavily on good weather and July or August would be a suitable time. Please let a committee member know if you are interested.

A Noteworthy Death

As a general rule we have not commented in this newsletter of the deaths of local identities. The reasons are numerous and include the obvious problem of selection of appropriate criteria for mention. From time to time we hear of the death of someone which prompts a reaction of obvious noteworthiness in terms of local historical interest.

Grace Evelyn Smith died recently and was buried in the Smiths Gully Cemetary alongside her husband Tom. Special arrangements were required for the burial in the now rarely used Cemetary. It may be that this sad event prompts a new interest in the maintainence of the cemetary which has been somewhat neglected in recent years.

Grace was born in 1884, the daughter of goldminer William Joyce of Smiths Gully. Her grandmother was Grace Hopkinson who operated the store at Smiths Gully during the original gold rush in the area. The several brandhes of the family have strong historical links in the area. Included is the Smith family into which she married and which had earlier provided the name of the local area.

Grace and Tom were married in 1907 at St.Andrews and for some time operated butcher's shops at St.Andrews and Panton Hill. In the 1930's they had a butcher's shop in Kew which is still operated by their son. In recent years Grace has lived at Drouin. It is known that many of Grace's memories of her former home have been passed on to family members. Some of these were recorded by the Society about 2 years ago during an excursion to Smiths Gully attended by members and descendants of the Joyce and Smith families.

It is hoped that the family can record the known information before it fades from memory.

Recent Events

The Society's Annual General Meeting was well attended and those present included a number of new members. The formal business of the meeting included the annual reports of the President, Secretary and Treasurer. Generally these reports indicated a year of achievements and varied activity but of less than desirable interest in terms of attendance at society functions.

Following the formal part of the meeting members joined in a discussion of Eltham memories with Mrs.H.Bird, Mr.F.Burgoyne, Mr.G.Burgess and Mr.J.Read.

All of these people are residents of long standing and were able to provide many interesting anecdotes which were taped for the Society's records.

The walk along the old Maroodah Aqueduct on 22nd March, 1981 was poorly attended. Those members who did come spent an enjoyable afternoon exploring unfamiliar areas of Research and Kangaroo Ground as well as inspecting this important item of more than just local significance.

Kath Stephenson
President

439 9588

Russell Yeoman
Secretary

439 9717

SHIRE OF ELTHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY.
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION.

NEW MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE HOME _____ BUSINESS _____

ADULT \$3-00 STUDENT \$1-00 FAMILY \$5-00

OTHER MEMBERS (For family membership)

OCCUPATION _____

OTHER INTERESTS/SKILLS _____

HISTORICAL SOCIETY INTERESTS:

- HISTORY GENERALLY LOCAL INTEREST HISTORICAL RESEARCH
- PEOPLE/SOCIAL HISTORY PLACES/PHYSICAL HISTORY
- HISTORICAL OBJECTS/ANTIQUES SOCIAL/MEETING PEOPLE
- OLD DOCUMENTS PRESERVATION, BUILDINGS ETC. MUSEUMS ETC.
- NATURAL ENVIRONMENT INTER-SOCIETY ACTIVITIES EDUCATION
- TOURS, OTHER AREAS WRITING SPEAKING

OTHER (Please specify) _____

Please tick appropriate squares.
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