

# shire of eltham historical society

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

newsletter no.25

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## NEXT MEETING

8PM. WEDNESDAY 14TH. JULY, 1982

WAR MEMORIAL HALL

905 MAIN ROAD, ELTHAM

EXAMINATION AND COLLATION OF HISTORICAL PHOTOGRAPHS

The Shire of Eltham's extensive collection of historical photographs has been regularly available for society use since it was first assembled over 10 years ago. Uses have included exhibitions, research and historical newspaper articles. On only one occasion has the whole collection been available for inspection by the Society. The existence of the collection is not widely known and access to it is rather haphazard. There is a proposal that it be placed in the Eltham Library and this would greatly improve accessibility.

The maintenance of the collection in recent years has not been of as a high standard as is desirable. A few photos are missing and the majority of the collection needs sorting into correct order.

It is proposed at this meeting to collate the photos into their indexed order and at the same time to check condition, check for photos and negatives missing and note any other problems with the collection. The working part of this evening should not be too onerous and there should be ample opportunity to examine the photos.

Other items from the Council's extensive and largely uncatalogued collection will also be available for perusal.

### FORMER FALKNER COTTAGE

The situation with regard to the old cottage in Ely Street, Eltham was the subject of a report in the last newsletter. It was a rather pessimistic report which raised little hope for the preservation of the cottage. However, the Council was advised that whilst the Society recognized the difficulties it continued to support the restoration and preservation of the cottage. The Council has deferred a recommendation to demolish the cottage. Society Vice President Cr. Alan Baker is seeking support within the community for the restoration of the building. The Society is not in a position to accept responsibility for this task but has advised Cr. Baker of its support and willingness to assist if other community interest is shown.

The matter will be further considered by the Council following further reports by Council staff and Cr. Baker.

### OTHER COUNCIL MATTERS.

There are several matters concerning the Eltham Shire Council which warrant reports.

#### Former Lands Department Building

The Society has been concerned that this building on the corner of Brougham Street and Main Road, originally the Police Residence, should be preserved. There has been some interest in its use as a museum. The Council has considered a report which indicates that the building is likely to be made available for Council use. It is proposed to use it as the headquarters of the Community Youth Support Scheme, a government funded, Council operated service.

The Society is to be invited to use the buildings for meetings and its suitability for this purpose will be investigated.

#### Development of Council Pound Site.

The Council has under consideration a proposal to develop its pound site in Gastons Road, Eltham, known as Mummery's. The development includes a football oval and a suggestion that the existing house be used as a football pavilion.

Little is known of the history of the house but it may date from the 1890's and is in quite good condition. It is proposed to investigate the desirability of preserving the building in its present state and in the meantime request the Council to defer any binding decision on its future.

#### Maroondah Aqueduct

The old aqueduct has been mentioned in several newsletters including some details of its history in issue No. 17 (March 1981). The disused sections of the aqueduct in the Research area have now been placed under the control of the Council. No decisions have been made on the future development of the aqueduct reserve. The Society should keep this matter under review to ensure that the aqueduct is preserved.

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