

# shire of eltham historical society

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

newsletter no.29

march 1983

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

8PM WEDNESDAY 9TH MARCH, 1983

### ELTHAM SHIRE OFFICES

895 MAIN ROAD ELTHAM.

GUEST SPEAKER: NEIL DOUGLAS  
ON "SHOULD TREES HAVE STANDING?"

## KYNETON BUS TRIP

SUNDAY 20TH MARCH, 1983.

LEAVING ELTHAM SHIRE OFFICES 10 AM.

COST: ADULTS: \$4.50 CHILDREN: \$2.00.

MORE DETAILS BELOW.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

1. Apologies.
2. Minutes of 1982 Annual General Meeting.
3. Annual Reports

- (a) President's Report,
- (b) Secretary's Report,
- (c) Treasurer's Report,
- (d) Other Reports.

4. Election of Office Bearers 1983.

All office bearers retire and are eligible for re-election. Nominations for all positions may be submitted in writing to the Secretary prior to the meeting or will be accepted at the meeting. Office bearers required are:-

- President,
- Vice Presidents (2),
- Secretary,
- Assistant Secretary,
- Treasurer,
- Committee Members (4).

5. Fixing of Annual Subscriptions.

6. Any other business which may be considered by the Annual General Meeting. (Details of such business should be supplied in writing to the Secretary prior to the meeting.)

### "SHOULD TREES HAVE STANDING?"

Until June this year we are celebrating "The Year of the Tree", an international event originally suggested by the United Nations Association. Other articles in this Newsletter have also been selected with this theme in mind.

When asked to speak on a "Year of the Tree" theme, Neil Douglas immediately replied "Yes, I have an interesting subject that would suit; 'Should trees have standing?'" He then went on quickly to explain the development of legal standing of servants, women, minors and even animals. He finds the possibility of trees and other features of the environment having the right of representation in legal proceedings a subject of great fascination.

This talk promises to cover a wide range of historical, environmental and local interests. Neil intends to discuss the history and theory of legal standing (in a not too heavy manner) and develop this into an argument for the rights of the trees of this world. Local examples will be liberally used as appropriate to illustrate points or create diversions.

As most members will know, Neil Douglas is a resident of the Bend of Isles area at Kangaroo Ground and is well known beyond the local area as a prominent artist and conservationist. His talents as a conversationalist will also be known to many members.

This promises to be an unusual and perhaps controversial talk, which should entertain and stimulate members.

As usual, visitors and new members are most welcome.

### KYNETON TRIP

The Kyneton area is well endowed with tangible remnants of its history. There are many important old buildings and other places of interest including museums and antique shops. Our trip will enable members to examine these points of interest and the town generally.

Irene Turvey, former President of Nillumbik Historical Society and a member of our society, now lives in Kyneton and has arranged to provide a guide for our visit.



The bus will leave the Eltham Shire Offices at 10.00 a.m. Please be present there by 9.30 am. Once again Bruce Ness has volunteered his services as driver, and we are therefore able to keep the costs down to Adults \$4.50, Children \$2.00.

There are only 45 seats available, and they will be allocated on the order of receipt of bookings, but subject to the priorities set out below. Members and their families will be given priority in allocation of seats and may include in their priority booking, one non-member (other than family) for each member. Additional non-members will be welcome if space is available (either with members or independantly). These additional non-members will be allocated seats if the priority bookings have not filled the bus by 13th March. You may include additional non-members with your booking, but their place will not be confirmed until after that date.

Bookings will only be confirmed by completion of the attached form and payment of the appropriate amount. Forms and money may be handed to the Secretary at the Annual General Meeting, or may be sent to the Society's Post Office Box.

Time is short and it will assist with organization if you make your bookings as soon as possible.

#### HERITAGE WEEK

This year Heritage Week will be held from 10th to 17th April. This event, or more correctly group of events, is promoted by the National Trust. Some of the events are conducted by the Trust itself, but many are organized by other bodies with similar aims. This year's theme is Heritage Education, which is intended in its widest sense, not just in schools. Details of what is happening during Heritage Week may be obtained from the Trust.

The Society will be involved in a number of ways. We have been requested by the Shire of Eltham to produce a pamphlet, primarily for use by schools giving details of heritage locations within the Shire which could be visited. A display will be arranged in the Eltham Library on the same theme. Also in the Library on Tuesday 12th April former Society President Peter Bassett-Smith will talk on "The Village of Eltham." This will concentrate on the days when Eltham was a small country village and is aimed mainly at newer residents of suburban Eltham.

#### SIGNIFICANT TREES

The National Trust has advised the Shire of Eltham that it is investigating a number of trees within the shire which have been nominated for recording in the Register of Significant Trees of Victoria. Investigations by the Trust and the Shire are proceeding. Any additional information would be welcome.

The trees involved are as follows:-

1. *Eucalyptus mellicdora* (Yellow box).
  - a) An outstanding mature specimen 42 metres high in Laughing Waters Road, Eltham.
  - b) Another mature specimen in Arthurs Creek Road, Hurstbridge is reported to be the tree under which the bushranger Robert Bourke was tied after he shot and killed Henry Hurst in 1866.
2. *Quercus robur* (English Oak).
  - a) "Donaldson's Oak", Donaldsons Road, Kangaroo Ground was planted by John Donaldson from seed collected from Windsor Great Park in 1878.
  - b) "Wippells Oak". This now mis-shapen tree is located on the St. Andrews Road near the Kangaroo Ground Fire Station. Its origins may have been similar to Donaldson's Oak, and as a young tree it apparently slid from higher up the hill during wet weather. Both oaks are of local historical importance.
3. *Eucalyptus globulus* (Blue Gum).

A large mature specimen at the corner of the Kangaroo Ground-St. Andrews Road and Bakehouse Road, Panton Hill.
4. *Plantanas acerifolia* (Plane tree)

A number of trees forming the Avenue of Honour to Eltham's First World War soldiers along Main Road between Dalton and Pitt Streets, Eltham.
5. *Pinus canariensis* (Canary Island Pine)

*Pinus pinea*, (Stone pine) and *Cedrus atlantica*, (Cedar)

These trees are located at the Hurst family graves in the grounds of the Hurstbridge Pre-school Centre.

#### ELTHAM LOWER PARK

A report has been prepared for the Yarra Yarra Group of the Society for Growing Australian Plants by Botanist, Geoff Carr on the area of Eltham Lower Park known locally as Hohnes Hill. This is the bushland hillside overlooking the western side of the park.

The report examines the vegetation of the area in detail and the conclusion is reached that it represents an important remnant of the original local vegetation which should be preserved. Because of infestation by garden escapes and other weeds, careful management would be needed to restore and retain the vegetation in a desirable condition. It is recommended that a management plan be adopted and implemented by the Council and/or community groups.

From an historical point of view, the report is interesting because it examines the types of plant communities which originally existed in the Eltham area. The vegetation of Hohnes Hill occupies a transitional zone between the woodland types to the east and west. To the west along the transition between the woodland and Kangaroo Grass plains, the dominant tree species is *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* (River Red Gum). The eastern limit of this species in the area is generally Lower Plenty and Montmorency. Box and stringybark woodlands with various mixtures of species then occupy the drier ridges and hillsides to the east with *Eucalyptus rubida* (Candlebark) growing along some of the watercourses.

This reserve contains areas of the transitional box/stringybark and candlebark woodlands and is said to be the only reserve in the area with the remains of these types of natural vegetation reasonably intact.

SHIRE OF ELTHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

KYNETON TRIP      20th MARCH, 1983

PLEASE RESERVE THE FOLLOWING SEATS.

MEMBERS & FAMILY

ADULTS \_\_\_\_\_

CHILDREN \_\_\_\_\_

NON -MEMBERS

ADULTS \_\_\_\_\_

CHILDREN \_\_\_\_\_

PAYMENT ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_