

SHIRE OF ELTHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 137 ELTHAM VICTORIA 3095

NEWSLETTER

Nº30

MAY 1983

NEXT MEETING

8PM WEDNESDAY 11TH MAY, 1983

WAR MEMORIAL HALL

905 MAIN ROAD, ELTHAM

DISCUSSION EVENING LED BY RUSSELL YEOMAN

SUBJECT: OUR LOCAL HERITAGE - PLACES TO VISIT.

1983 SUBSCRIPTIONS NOW DUE - SEE PAGE 2

This discussion evening will be based on a brochure produced for "Heritage Week" and entitled "Places to Visit in the Shire of Eltham." This brochure and an exhibition in Eltham Library listed 22 places in the Shire which contribute to our local heritage in various ways. They are grouped under a number of headings, ranging through various aspects of natural and cultural history and are spread throughout the Shire. They have been selected for their importance, interest and their ability to be inspected without trespassing on private property.

Many of the places are quite well known, but others are not so familiar.

It is intended to expand on the brief notes in the brochure and anyone with additional information about any of the items is requested to bring it along. Pictorial material including maps will be available for most of the places.

The places to be discussed are:-

The Landscape

1. Frank Thompson Reserve Kinglake
2. Kangaroo Ground Memorial Tower.
3. Eltham Town Park.

The Natural Environment

4. Kinglake National Park.
5. Yarra River.
6. Hohnes Hill, Eltham Lower Park.
7. Pioneer Settlers
Hurst Family Graves.
8. Rural Townships
Kangaroo Ground.
9. Eltham Township
Jarrold Cottage.
10. Eltham Primary School.
11. Court House & Former Police Station.
12. St. Margaret's Church.
13. Former C.B.A. Bank.

Some Important Buildings

14. Shillinglaw Cottage.
15. Wingrove Cottage.
The Gold Era
16. State Battery Site, Smiths Gully.
17. Long Gully.
18. St. Andrews Hotel.
Public Works
19. Marcondan Aqueduct.
20. Lower Plenty Bridge.
Local Artists.
21. Walter Withers' House.
22. Montsalvat.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

A good attendance of members was recorded at the Annual Meeting on the 9th March. Neil Douglas spoke on the subject "Should Trees Have Standing". His talk actually covered a wide range of local and wider environmental issues. As would be expected of a well known conservationist, Neil obviously thinks that insufficient standing is given in legal proceedings to trees and other features of our natural environment.

The Office bearers for 1983 as elected or co-opted at the Annual General Meeting are listed below. The office bearers remain largely unchanged, but Chris Spriggs, formerly one of our Vice-Presidents did not seek re-election to that position.

President: Kath Stephenson.

Vice Presidents : Cr. Alan Baker.
John Hodson.

Secretary : Russell Yeoman.

Asst. Secretary : Opal Smith.

Treasurer : Graham Beyer.

Committee : Bruce Ness, Peter Bassett-Smith
Ron Smith Jim Sidwell
Joh Ebeli Phyllis Macdonald.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions for 1983 were fixed at the Annual General Meeting at the same level as for 1982, viz:

Adults: \$4.00.
Students: \$1.00.
Family: \$5.00.

Subs are now due and if not already paid, should be sent to the Society's Post Office box or paid at the next meeting. Please complete the enclosed form and return it with your subs. Please remember that subs, whilst not a large amount, are our only regular source of income and are necessary to keep the Society operating. Many members paid at the A.G.M. but if you were not there please ensure that yours are paid as soon as possible.

FALKINER COTTAGE -ELY STREET

The Society's Committee has further considered the imminent demolition of this building. It has now been decided that it is impractical for the Society to salvage materials from the house. Enquiries are now being made as to whether any of the materials are of value to any other organization. The Council will be asked to salvage the bricks from the chimney for incorporation into an appropriate indentifying feature.

LITERARY GUIDE TO AUSTRALIA

The Association for the Study of Australian Literature is seeking assistance of historical society members in collecting information for its proposed publication of a directory of Australian places which have literary connections. The assistance required is in the provision of information on individual authors. A model entry setting out the type of information required has been forwarded with the request for assistance. Any member with literary information who is willing to help, should contact the Secretary.

KYNETON TRIP (by Bettina Woodburn)

A group from the Society (28 Adults, 3 children) visited Kyneton, a town of old world charm... bluestone buildings and English oaks and a population of almost 4,000, on Sunday March 20th.

Irene Turvey, a former resident of Greensborough and a member of our Society, now President of the Kyneton Historical Society, met us and arranged the guided tour of important buildings, places of interest, and lastly the 1982 award winning Historical Museum.

The Willis Bros. Flour Mills, Piper Street, being restored since 1977 by David Willis, provided a fascinating insight into wheat processing. Originally the many mills in the district were water, wind, or steam powered. Electricity and a huge boiler from a Cornish tin mine is now providing reliable energy. The mysteries of "stone-ground" (the best grindstones are French), "whole meal", and "white flour" with the sifted off bran, semolina, wheat germ, and pollard, were explained. Many colloquial terms "fitting the bill", "setting the Thames on fire" originated in the milling industry. We learnt the roles played by the farmer, miller and baker. The feel of the old building and the "smell" of freshly baked bread made history come alive!

Our guide Phil, with an incredible memory for dates, then recounted the town's progress as we drove around past where Major Mitchell forded the Campaspe en rout from Portland to Mt. Macedon, past Furphy's original machine shop, the 1857 third oldest country pharmacy, the 120 year old Butcher's shop, and the Post Office Creek abattoirs. We saw the Courthouse (scene of an 1870 Ned Kelly trial), the old Market (later the School of Mines, then High School), the 1858 Mechanics' Institute, the 1862 Railway Station, the Shire Hall, and Post Office, and the 1868 Botanical Gardens. Hotels, Churches, the Hospital, old stores and the homes of merchants, the premises of coach builders, and livery stables, made the old times come alive.

The setting and the magnificent collection at the Kyneton Historical Centre reinforced the enjoyment of our own memories and Australia's past.

Even the sight of fire devastation on Ash Wednesday along the Highway near Gisborne could not spoil our pleasure; that was part of the Australian Experience too.

Our thanks to all concerned in the arrangements for such a successful outing, and to our "honorary" coach captain, Bruce Ness.

Kath Stephenson
President
439 9588

Russell Yeoman
Secretary
439 9717

SHIRE OF ELTHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY.
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION.

1983

NEW MEMBERSHIP

RENEWAL

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE HOME _____

BUSINESS _____

ADULT \$4-00

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.

Send with subscription to P.O. Box 137 Eltham 3095.