

SHIRE OF ELTHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 137 ELTHAM VICTORIA 3095

NEWSLETTER

NO 33

NOVEMBER 1983

NEXT MEETING

8 PM WEDNESDAY 9TH NOVEMBER, 1983
ELTHAM SENIOR CITIZENS CENTRE
MAIN ROAD, ELTHAM
(ENTER FROM SHIRE OFFICE DRIVEWAY)

GUEST SPEAKER: GRIFFIN BARTLETT
SUBJECT: EARLY FLOUR MILLS
VISITORS & NEW MEMBERS WELCOME.

OTHER COMING EVENTS

CHRISTMAS BARBECUE
6.30 PM WEDNESDAY 14TH DECEMBER, 1983
ELTHAM TOWN PARK

ST. ANDREWS PRIMARY SCHOOL
125TH ANNIVERSARY
SATURDAY 26TH NOVEMBER, 1983

November Meeting

Griffin Bartlett is a man of many interests. In his profession as an architect he has been responsible for restoration of historic buildings in England. Two of his other interests are his extensive map collection and the subject of flour mills. In the past, Mr. Bartlett has spoken to our Society on the first two of these subjects and has proved a most interesting speaker. The last time we saw him it was generally agreed that he should return to talk about flour mills. A few years have passed but we have now managed to fit this item into his busy schedule.

The study of old flour mills may, these days, seem a rather specialized field. Flour milling is now an industry concentrated into a few relatively large enterprises. In the times before modern methods of transport, many communities had their own local flour mill. In Eltham Henry Dendy operated a steam mill on the Diamond Creek from 1857 to 1867, when he sold to William Ford who continued to operate the mill for the benefit of local farmers.

A water powered mill was situated on the Plenty above Greensborough. The restored mill at Kyneton was of great interest to members who went on the Society excursion earlier this year. Like many other industries which have now been centralized, flour milling was a part of everyday life in small country towns.

Mr. Bartlett's talk will be illustrated with slides from his collection.

Christmas Barbecue

Over the past couple of years we have established a relatively successful formula for the Society's Christmas Breakup function. These mid-week barbecues in the Eltham Town Park have been well attended despite less than ideal weather conditions. This year we have decided that the weather will be ideal and therefore even more members will be encouraged to attend. The format is a B.Y.O. everything barbecue. The location is the electric barbecue in the Eltham Town Park near the corner of Main Road and Panther Place, but bring your own portable barbecue if you prefer. The time and date again are 6.30 pm.; Wednesday 14th December, 1983.

St. Andrews School Anniversary

The celebration of the 125th Anniversary of St. Andrews Primary School, No. 128 has been planned as a day long function involving the whole community of this small township in the northern part of our Shire. The program will include a parade, commemorative ceremony, historic displays and re-enactments, Cobb and Co. coach rides, barbecue, bush dance and "Back to" luncheon. Anyone who has a connection with the township or an interest in the history of the area is invited. The Organizing Committee has attempted to contact as many ex students of the school as possible; but this has proved a formidable task. A special request of the committee is that if you know of anyone who has connections with the school, please ask them to attend.

A history of the school and the area generally is being compiled. The donation or loan of any material for the history or for the proposed display would be welcomed. Please contact the Principal, Mr. Howard Wills, 710 1255, if you can assist.

The school was first established in 1858 in a tent on the Caledonia goldfields. It was known as the Caledonia Common School until 1867 when it was renamed Queenstown. The names Queenstown and St. Andrews appear to have been alternative names for the township since the gold rush days. In recent years, the name St. Andrews has become more widely accepted and this is now the official name of the school.

The anniversary celebrations will be held on Saturday 26th NOVEMBER, 1983

Book Release

Marguerite Marshall's book "Eltham Shire - Historic Buildings, People and Places" is expected to be available in the next few days, and therefore should be available for sale to members at the November meeting. Details for the book were provided in the last Newsletter. The book is to be published by Leader Newspapers and we expect to be able to sell it for about \$2.50.

The book will make an ideal Christmas present and adequate stocks are expected to be available after the meeting from the Secretary.

Eltham Community Festival

Despite the miserable weather, there was a good turnout of members for the Festival parade. However the wet weather kept away many of our friends from the Victorian Folk Music Club who find it impossible to play in the rain. Thanks to those few who came along.

We maintained out consistency by again collecting a prize for our float- this time for the "Best Eltham Theme". Thanks to Dennis McKay for again providing his trailer for the float, and to Paul Sidwell for towing it with his Land Rover. As usual Joh Ebeli, with some help from other members, was responsible for setting up the float.

A successful display was held in the Eltham Community Centre on the theme of "Notable Local Residents" People featured in the display included pioneer settlers, Thomas Sweeney and Henry Hurst; founder of Brighton and later notable Eltham resident, Henry Dendy; former Shire Secretary and Engineer, Charles Wingrove; artists Walter Withers and Justus Jorgensen; parliamentarian Ewen Cameron; anthropologist, Dr. Donald Thomson; writer, Alan Marshall. Thanks are extended to Sigmund Jorgensen, Dorita Thomson and Peter Bassett-Smith for the loan of material for the display.

Coolart Trip

On Sunday 23rd. October some 43 members and friends travelled by bus to "Coolart" at Somers. On the way a visit was made to an old fisherman's cottage at Tooradin which has been set up as a museum by Cranbourne Historical Society. At "Coolart" most found that the variety of activities available was too much to cram into the afternoon and many will return for a future visit. As well as inspections of the historic mansion and gardens there were bushland and beach walks and bird watching from the specially constructed hide.

Once again we must thank Bruce Ness for donating his services to drive the bus and thus keeping down the cost of the trip.

R.H.S.V. Visit to Eltham

Advance notice is given of proposed visit to Eltham by members of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria on Sunday 26th February, 1984. The assistance of members will be required in regard to a number of aspects of this visit, but in particular with the provision of afternoon tea. Members will be individually requested to assist at a later date, but in the meantime please try and keep this day free.

Kath Stephenson
President
439 9588

Russell Yeoman.
Secretary
439 9717