

SHIRE OF ELTHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 137 ELTHAM VICTORIA 3095

NEWSLETTER

NO 34

JANUARY 1984

NEXT MEETING

8 P.M. WEDNESDAY 8TH FEBRUARY, 1984

SENIOR CITIZENS CENTRE

MAIN ROAD, ELTHAM

(ENTER FROM SHIRE OFFICE DRIVEWAY)

SUBJECT: HISTORICAL RECORDS WORKSHOP

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

Arrangements have been made for the transfer of the Eltham Shire Council's collection of historical photos from the Shire Office to the Eltham Library. In this way the photos will be made far more accessible to the public. The photos and their titles will be mounted on a card and covered with plastic. It has been agreed that this work will be carried out by the Society. A start will be made on the job at the February meeting. It is likely that the work will have to be completed at some other time in the next few months.

It is not intended that the work be too onerous. There will be time for examination of the photos and this will provide an opportunity for newer members who have not previously inspected the collection. For those members who may have an allergy to mounting photos, another job will be available. A start has been made on arranging the Society's historical information into appropriate categories to assist in accessibility. A large amount of loose material needs to be collated and placed in binders. This material including items already categorized will be available for inspection and continuation of the work.

More work - but for the time being of the discussion type. It is necessary to make final arrangements for the visit by the Royal Historical Society of Victoria on Sunday 26th February. This matter will be discussed at the meeting. A draft itinerary will be prepared prior to the meeting. Major items of involvement for members on the day will be manning of venues for morning tea and lunch and the provision of afternoon tea. Decisions on preparation and/or purchase of items for the afternoon tea will be made at the meeting.

SOME HISTORICAL CHARACTERS

Joh Ebeli is a Committee member and the only contender for the as yet unofficial position of Official Society Artist. He has looked through his photos of members in their Eltham Festival gear and has decided that there are some subjects worthy of sketching. The results decorate this Newsletter. Those who are regular participants in festival parades will recognize the characters. For the others some identification may be necessary because of the heavy disguises. Who of you picked Joy and Bruce Ness and Garnet Burges?

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The A.G.M. will be held on Wednesday 14th March 1984. Guest Speaker will be Peter Cuffley, Author of the recent book "Cottage Gardens in Australia". His subject (naturally enough) will be Cottage Gardens.

ALAN MARSHALL

Alan Marshall, one of Australia's best known and loved authors died on 21st January after a long illness. Alan will be remembered especially by local people for his long association with the Eltham area. A number of his books were set in the area and he made an important contribution to recorded local history with "Pioneers and Painters". When it was first published in 1971, it was widely acclaimed as a refreshingly different type of local history.

Alan was noteworthy in a number of other fields in addition to his writing. His work for the handicapped deserves particular mention.

During his time in Eltham, Alan was a member of our Society and he will be fondly remembered by members who knew him personally and those who knew him through his writing.

President, Kath Stephenson represented the Society at the funeral service at Montsalvat.

"WELLERS PUB"

An application has been made to the Historic Buildings Council to have "Wellers Pub", Kangaroo Ground added to the state Register of Public Buildings. This building is now a private house, but was formerly a hotel and coach changing station. It is a prominent local landmark and certainly of local historical importance. The Society has been asked to provide information, but little primary source material has been found. The information which is available has been provided to the Historic Buildings Council. However, any additional material and any submission which the Society may wish to make could still be forwarded.

ST. ANDREWS SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY

A highly successful celebration was held at St. Andrews on the 26th November to commemorate the 125th Anniversary of the local primary school. A large crowd of present day and former residents took part in a wide variety of activities at the school. The organizing committee is to be particularly congratulated on the excellent display of historical items. Included in the collection were many old photos especially sought out for the occasion, and which had never been previously displayed.

A feature of the celebrations which will prove to be of lasting value is the collection of historical records and the use of this material for the production of a local history. Local resident Nancy Mortimer has skilfully used the records in producing a book incorporating the history of the district and school and simply titled "Queenstown/St. Andrews." It has 107 pages crammed with information, photos, sketches, maps and copies of old documents. The book is an essential part of any collection of local history and can be obtained from the school for \$6.00.

SOLD OUT

Marguerite Marshall's book "Eltham Shire-Historic Buildings People and Places" has proved to be extraordinarily good value at \$2.50., as a consequence most suppliers including the Society have disposed of all of their copies. You may find the odd copy by diligent searching. The format and low price of the book made it an ideal gift and orders of 10 or more copies at a time were not unusual. The book has been reprinted and further copies will be available, hopefully in the near future.

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