

SHIRE OF ELTHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 137 ELTHAM VICTORIA 3095

NEWSLETTER

№ 35

MARCH 1984

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
8 PM. WEDNESDAY 14TH MARCH, 1984
ELTHAM SENIOR CITIZENS CENTRE
MAIN ROAD, ELTHAM
(CENTER FROM SHIRE OFFICE DRIVEWAY)
GUEST SPEAKER: PETER CUFFLEY
SUBJECT: COTTAGE GARDENS

QUEENSCLIFF FORT & PORTARLINGTON MILL
BUS TRIP SUNDAY 8TH APRIL 1984
LEAVES ELTHAM SHIRE OFFICE 8.45 A.M.
COST ADULTS: \$6.00 CHILDREN: \$3.00

OPENING OF HISTORICAL PHOTO COLLECTION
ELTHAM LIBRARY
8 P.M. THURSDAY 12TH APRIL, 1984

MORE DETAILS BELOW:

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

1. Apologies.
2. Minutes of 1983 Annual General Meeting.
3. Annual Reports
 - (a) President's Report.
 - (b) Secretary's Report.
 - (c) Treasurer's Report.
 - (d) Other Reports.

Election of Office Bearers 1984.

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.
 - a) Proposal to change the position of Assistant Secretary to that of Membership Secretary.
(Details of any other business should be supplied in writing to the Secretary prior to the meeting).

PETER CUFFLEY

Long standing members will remember Peter as a foundation member of our Society and a descendant of Eltham pioneer, Thomas Sweeney. Peter's interest in old world and cottage gardens was fostered by the gardens at "Sweeneys" and the home of the late Jack Carrucan in Bible Street.

Peter left his work as a teacher to pursue his interests in the historical field as a curator of folk museums. He has worked at Sovereign Hill & in setting up the Wedderburn Store Museum, and now operates as a freelance designer and consultant from his home at Sedgwick near Bendigo.

Peter's talk will be based on his recent book "Cottage Gardens in Australia". He has also written books on such subjects as kerosene lamps, cottage chairs and horsedrawn vehicles.

As usual new members and visitors are most welcome. Coffee and biscuits will be served at the conclusion of the meeting.

SOCIETY EXCURSION

Bus trips in March or April have proved popular over the past few years. The main destination of this year's trip will be the Queenscliff Fort which is occupied by the Australian Staff College. In addition it is proposed to visit the old mill at Portarlington, which is owned by the National Trust.

The Queenscliff Fort was established in the 1880's as a major component of Victoria's defence system. However, some of the buildings including the Black Lighthouse date from the 1850's. The Society owns a booklet on the history of the fort which is available on loan to interested members.

The 8.45 start is necessary so that we can inspect the mill before lunch and be ready for the 1.30 tour of the fort. Please be at the Shire Offices by 8.30 a.m.

Seats on the bus can only be confirmed by completion of the attached form and payment of the appropriate amount. Seats will be allocated in order of receipt of booking. Bookings are not restricted to Society members, so send your form in early.

The cost does not include entry to the mill or fort. Entry to each is \$1.00 for Adults and 50c for Pensioners and Children.

Once again we are indebted to Bruce Ness for enthusiastically offering his services as driver.

HISTORICAL PHOTO COLLECTION

As mentioned in the last Newsletter, the historical photo collection of the Shire of Eltham is to be transferred to the Eltham Library. This will make the photos far more accessible to the public and is likely to lead to better maintenance of the collection.

It is proposed that the opening of the collection will coincide with Heritage Week (8th - 15th April). The establishment of the collection in the library and an exhibition at the library during April will be the Society's Heritage Week effort. The official opening will be at 8 pm on Thursday 12th April. Society members are invited and supper will be available afterwards.

At the February meeting it was intended to work on the photo collection to make it ready for use in the library. Due to the large amount of business to be dealt with this was not done. Since then there has been one working evening and some members have worked on mounting the photos at home. Further work remains to be done prior to April. Any member able to assist is asked to contact the Secretary as soon as possible.

R.H.S.V. VISIT

Forty seven members of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria and affiliated societies visited Eltham on the 26th February. Our Society was responsible for organizing the itinerary and provision of morning and afternoon tea. By any standard of judgement the tour must be considered a success.

Arrangements were very much a co-operative effort with willing help being given by Society members and others asked to assist. The venue for lunch and afternoon tea was the Eltham Community Centre which was provided free of charge by the Council. Shire President Cr. Alan Baker welcomed the visitors at lunch time. Society members coped excellently with the catering arrangements. These were co-ordinated by Opal Smith and Eileen Gibbons.

The tour visited four main locations in Eltham and Kangaroo Ground. In Travelling between the locations commentary was provided by Russell Yeoman and Peter Bassett-Smith, Tour notes were prepared and copies are available to interested members on request.

The four locations visited were as follows:-

- Montsalvat, An excellent commentary on the history of the complex was provided by Saskia Killingback.
- Old brick houses and native gardens of Gordon Ford and Peter and Cecile Glass. Peter spoke on the development of this part of Eltham and on the local art scene.
- Pigeon Bank, Kangaroo Ground - Owners Ian and Marion Bishop provided comprehensive printed notes on this historic house.
- Kangaroo Ground Memorial Tower. Charis Pelling who has personal and family connections with the tower spoke on its history.

The Society's thanks are extended to those who helped make this day so successful.

BOOK NEWS

A copy of the book "The Last of the Yarra Track Stopping Places" has been donated to the Society by its Author: Ann Thomas. It covers the history of the Yarra Track route to Woods Point, largely concentrating on Marysville. It also covers other places on the route between Yarra Glen and Woods Point.

This book along with others in the Society's collection is available for loan to members.

Further stocks have been obtained of Marguerite Marshall's book "Eltham Shire, Historic Buildings, People and Places" and will be available at the Annual General Meeting or from the Secretary.

At \$2.50 this book represents excellent value. This has been borne out by the rapid sale of the first printing.

VICTORIA'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

The Shire Council has formed a committee to arrange local celebrations for the 150th Anniversary later this year. Anyone interested in assisting, either as a representative of the Society or in some other capacity, should contact the Secretary or Mr. J. Higgins at the Eltham Shire Offices.