

SHIRE OF ELTHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 137 ELTHAM VICTORIA 3095

NEWSLETTER

NO 42 MAY 1985

NEXT MEETING

8 PM WEDNESDAY 7TH MAY 1985
ELTHAM SENIOR CITIZENS CENTRE

MAIN ROAD ELTHAM

(ENTER FROM SHIRE OFFICE DRIVEWAY)

TOPIC: DISCUSSION EVENING -EARLY ELTHAM BUSINESSES

The topic for this meeting has been in part inspired by the proposed memorial to contain the time capsule which is referred to later in this Newsletter. One of the purposes of the memorial is to recognize the former "business area" of Eltham which extended along Main Road (or Maria Street) generally from Brougham Street to York Street. In "later" years (after 1902) the development of shops near the railway station occurred. Over many years the shopping centre developed in its present location. Some buildings used for older business premises remain but most have now fallen victim to redevelopment or road widening. At this meeting we will discuss businesses of bygone years, concentrating on Eltham but if possible also mentioning other centres in the Shire. We have chosen a panel of members with specialized knowledge of this subject to lead the discussion. They include Garnie Burges and Frank Burgoyne. Garnie and his father before him have between them operated many and varied business enterprises in Eltham. Similarly the Burgoyne family operated a number of businesses over many years including the old post office near Bridge Street. Jock Read has never been "in business" but can recall many of those who were. Russell Yeoman will talk about information from the Society's records on very early businesses and also will show photos of some of the former business premises.

Discussion contributions from other members will be welcome, especially on the townships and shopping centres other than Eltham. Information from this meeting will be documented for the Society's records. It is proposed to display a map on which business premises can be recorded as they are mentioned in discussion.

OFFICE BEARERS 1985

At the Annual General Meeting held on 12th March, former President Kath Stephenson resigned from the position. The new President is Sue Law. Treasurer Graham Beyer has also resigned and Opal Smith now has the joint role of Treasurer and Membership Secretary. It is appropriate to record our appreciation of the work carried out by both Kath and Graham in their respective positions over a number of years. Their services will not be lost to the Society. - Kath has been elected Vice President and Graham remains on the Society's Committee.

The full list of office bearers is as follows:-

President	Sue Law
Vice Presidents	Cr. Alan Baker Kath Stephenson Russell Yeoman.
Secretary	
Treasurer/ Membership Secretary	Opal Smith
Committee	Bruce Ness, Peter Bassett-Smith, Margie Reeves, Phyllis Macdonald, Jock Read, Neil Blair, Graham Beyer

SUBSCRIPTIONS

1985 subscriptions are now due. If you have not paid yours yet, please complete the attached form and forward it with your subscription to the Society's Post Office box or pay it at the meeting. Subscriptions are as follows:-

Adult	\$5.00
Student	\$1.00
Family	\$6.00

Prompt payment would be appreciated.

150TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

Work is proceeding on two Society projects associated with Victoria's 150th. The tour of local buildings of historical interest which was postponed from March is now to proceed in a different format. It is proposed to produce a high quality brochure giving details for a self guided tour, which may be carried out at any time. The official launching of this brochure is scheduled for July and in association there will be appropriate displays organized at several locations.

It is also intended to proceed with the time capsule project initially suggested by Graham Beyer and for which he has offered to donate a suitable capsule. The favoured format is to seal the capsule in a memorial to be erected in the gardens at the Eltham Community Centre. The Council has approved the proposal in principle, but has yet to consider a report dealing with a specific location. Joh Ebeli has agreed to design a memorial which would commemorate the former "business centre" of Eltham located along this section of Main Road and the 150th Anniversary.

The capsule itself will be a 15cm (6 inch) diameter tube and items to be included therefore cannot be large. The capsule will be sealed in such a way as to guarantee preservation of the items. The items should generally be representative of the present, but a few historical items may be included. Members with items that they wish to donate or who have suggestions for items to be included should notify the Secretary in writing.

OTHER RECENT EVENTS

Cliff Green proved a popular speaker at the A.G.M. Cliff spoke in his role as a writer rather than as President of the Warrandyte Historical Society. The many films and television features which he has written or been involved with have been predominantly of historical period themes. They include such well known titles as "Picnic at Hanging Rock" "Power Without Glory" "Against The Wind" and "Rush". It was particularly interesting to note the level of detailed knowledge required regarding the period and setting of each story.

Heritage Week (and a bit longer) display in the Eltham Library has just concluded. With the Community Service Grant provided by the Council, we were able to have copies made of a number of old photos which have been donated or loaned over the years. Also some enlargements were made from photos in the existing collection. they have been appropriately mounted and will form the basis of a rotating display in the Shire Offices and library.

A contact has been established with Montmorency, France following a letter from their historical society late last year. Society member Blanche Shallard has accepted responsibility for communicating with the French Society. She has arranged with Father John Young of Montmorency who has just departed on a trip to Europe, for him to take some local items for presentation to our French counterparts. These include a copy of "Pioneers and Painters" donated by the Council.

ELTHAM ARTS COUNCIL

The Eltham Arts Council has been established as an advisory body to the Shire of Eltham on the various branches of the arts. The Arts Council has considered the need to collect written materials to do with the artistic and cultural activities of the Shire as they arise. Items suggested are newspaper clippings, awards, concert and theatre programmes, posters newsletters and leaflets.

It has been suggested that the task may appeal to this Society. If we are to co-operate it will require one or more members with particular interests in this field to accept responsibility for the project.

The information available is rather sketchy and further details will be required before any commitment is given. However, it is necessary to know whether any members could handle the project. Any member interested is requested to advise the Secretary, but this will of course imply no obligation until full details are agreed upon.

SUE LAW
President
439 9520

RUSSELL YEOMAN
Secretary
439 9717

OPAL SMITH
Membership Secretary
439 8209