

SHIRE OF ELTHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 137 ELTHAM VICTORIA 3095

NEWSLETTER

Nº43

JULY 1985

NEXT MEETING
8 PM WEDNESDAY 10 JULY, 1985
SENIOR CITIZENS' CENTRE
MAIN ROAD, ELTHAM
(ENTER FROM SHIRE OFFICE DRIVEWAY)

FILM NIGHT FEATURING FILM
ON ALAN MARSHALL AND
OTHER SUBJECTS OF LOCAL
AND HISTORICAL INTEREST
VISITORS AND NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

Our last film night was in November 1984 and one of the most enjoyable films was called "Gurrawilla". It was one of the three in the series "Alan Marshall, Author and Man" and included his experiences with the Aboriginal people. We have obtained another film in the series entitled "On Writing". As most members know, the late Alan Marshall was for a long time a resident of Eltham but, more importantly, was one of Australia's most famous and best loved authors. In this film he talks of his writing experience and provides advice for would-be authors.

Other films will include "Valley of the Yarra" which, of course, is another local interest topic.

MONTMORENCY, FRANCE

As reported in the last Newsletter, Fr. John Young of Montmorency has recently visited France and took with him some local items to present to the Historical Society in the other Montmorency which is on the outskirts of Paris. He has returned with a number of publications dealing with the most interesting history of the French town. They are (naturally enough) written in French and, therefore, their value to members is thus limited. Cecile Glass, a well known resident of Eltham, but a native of France, has agreed to read these books and to talk to the Society about their contents. It is proposed that this will be the main item at the September Meeting.

150 ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

Both of the events being arranged by the Society are now to be held towards the end of the 150th year. The self-guided tour of historic buildings is proposed to be launched in conjunction with a photographic exhibition of buildings which are either not readily visible or are no longer with us.

Photographer Margaret Buck is assisting with the preparation of this exhibition.

Work is also proceeding on the time capsule and monument project. Joh Ebeli has produced a model of the proposed monument and the Eltham Shire Council has agreed to the design and a location in the gardens in front of the Eltham Community Centre. The monument is to incorporate a large iron "wheel" which was a blacksmith's implement and was found during landscaping of the Community Centre site. Joh calls his design "Sundial" because that is its appearance although not its function. At this stage, it is anticipated that some volunteer labour will be required to erect this monument so expect to be "volunteered".

A number of suggestions have been received for items for inclusion in the time capsule. Further suggestions would be welcomed. Peter Bassett-Smith's extensive list is attached as an example of the items already suggested and an inspiration for other suggestions.

It is intended that the monument incorporate a plaque which would explain the time capsule and also the monument's function which is to commemorate the 150th Anniversary and the former location of the "business centre" of Eltham.

SOCIETY BUS TOUR

The Committee has considered a possible bus tour in about October. A favoured suggestion is a trip to Sorrento and Portsea. This could include a visit to the site of the first Victorian settlement at Sorrento and Army Reserve at Point Nepean. This proposal will be discussed at the July Meeting to gauge the level of interest.

RECORDS AND RESEARCH

It has been acknowledged over some time that the Society's records are not organized nearly as well as they should be. Another aspect of our activities in which greater effort would be of benefit is historical research. On a trial basis it is proposed to establish a regular evening when a group of members can gather to work on these matters.

The evening selected by the Committee is the fourth Wednesday of each month and the first will be JULY 24TH. The venue has yet to be selected but will be announced at the July Meeting. Alternatively, ring Russell Yeoman to find out where it is.

It is anticipated that the project can be successful with only a small number of members although, of course, a larger number can be accommodated.

Material from the Society's records will be available for sorting, collation, indexing, etc. Also material could be made available for research on selected projects. Advise Russell if there is some particular subject you would like to work on.

BOOK REVIEW

Victoria's 150th Celebration Committee has provided funds to assist with the publication of a new book entitled simply "Local History - A Handbook for Enthusiasts". It is written by G. M. Hibbins, C. Fahey and M. R. Askew and published by George Allen and Unwin.

The book deals with with historical research in the local context. It deals with sources of information, including their assessment and use. It has sections on land, people and buildings. There are practical examples, mainly based on actual Victorian situations. The style is easy to read and the book would be of interest to Members generally as well as those seriously contemplating historical research.

OTHER BRIEF ITEMS

The discussion evening at the May Meeting proved to be of considerable interest to Members although the topic, "Early Eltham Business", turned out to be too extensive to fully examine in one meeting. Discussion was led by Garnie Burgess with assistance from Frank Burgoyne and Jock Read. We didn't fully cover old Eltham businesses, let alone other areas of the Shire. We will pursue this topic at a future meeting.

The Historic Buildings Council has advised that it has resolved not to add Wellers Pub, Kangaroo Ground, to the Historic Buildings Register. This indicates that it is not of sufficient importance from a state point of view. However, the building is still considered to be of substantial local significance.

The Hurstbridge and district monthly Newspaper, "Network", asked for an article on "Dorset House", the former boarding house and wine saloon. Readily available information on this Hurstbridge building was little. The final article, whilst not comprehensive, is an example of the types of information which can be obtained by searching and enquiring in the right places. This article will be in the July issue.

TIME CAPSULE - SUGGESTIONS FOR CONTENTS

The following lists or documents:

- Names of Councillors and Office Bearers of the Shire of Eltham under the Shire Seal.
- Names of Office Bearers and Members of the Shire of Eltham Historical Society
- Victorian Members of Parliament (from Hansard)
- Australia Post Charges
- State Electricity Commission Charges
- Sample of Award Wages
- Food Prices (say from a Super Market)
- Australian Savings (Aussie) Bond Pamphlet
- Eltham Railway Line Timetable and Fares
- Map of Eltham
- Current Local Newspaper (Consult Publishers in advance to include useful statistics)
- Pocket Australian Dictionary (Donated)
- Measures: Spoon, Liquid, Metric

Some small articles:

- Set of Current Coins; one cent to one dollar
- Set of Stamps
- Small Rule, steel or wood with Metric and Imperial Scale
- Stainless Steel Knife, Fork and Spoon
- Plastic Clothes Peg
- Some Woollen and Some Synthetic Cloth (labelled).
- Scale Model (toy) Holden or as available

ALL ITEMS SHOULD BE LABELLED, DATED AND DESCRIBED UNLESS THIS IS ALREADY INCLUDED.

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