

# SHIRE OF ELTHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 137 ELTHAM VICTORIA 3095

## NEWSLETTER

NO. 46

JANUARY 1986

NEXT MEETING  
8 PM. WEDNESDAY 12 FEBRUARY 1986  
SENIOR CITIZENS' CENTRE  
OFF MAIN ROAD, ELTHAM  
(ENTER FROM SHIRE OFFICE DRIVEWAY)  
DISCUSSION EVENING : HIDDEN HOUSES

Our first meeting for 1986 will concentrate on local houses of historical importance or interest and which are not readily visible to the public. The stimulus for this subject is a series of photographs taken last year by Doug Orford. The photos include such houses as Rosehill at Lower Plenty, Sweeneys, Stanhope, Clay Nuneham and Brocksopp's at Eltham and Garden Hill at Kangaroo Ground. Some are well known although they are not readily visible. Others are not so well known. Discussion will not be confined to the houses in this photo collection. Bring along any information you have on any houses you think might fit into this category.

As usual, visitors and new members are very welcome to attend this meeting.

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### RECENT ACTIVITIES

November and early December were by far the busiest parts of 1985 for Society activities.

Once again, our float in the Eltham Community Festival Parade won a prize. This time it was for the "Best Eltham Theme".

Thanks are due to Joh Ebeli for assistance in preparing the float. We are also indebted to Denis McKay for the loan of his trailer and members of the Victorian Folk Music Club. These musicians are now a regular feature of our procession float and their playing greatly adds to the character of the occasion.

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Our 150th Monument and Time Capsule Project has been successfully completed. All that remains is to organize the printing and distribution of Certificates which will be done in the near future.

At a ceremony on November 10th the plaque was unveiled by Shire President, Cr. Mary Grant, the capsule was lowered into position and its container sealed. A list of people and organizations who helped with this project was included in the November Newsletter. We again thank all of those who assisted, particularly Graham Beyer who was the driving force behind the project.

The financial viability of the project has been assured by a grant from the State 150th Committee.

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The November Meeting and the Christmas Function on December 11th were both well attended. Members of the Victorian Folk Music Club again provided music for the Christmas Function and assisted in making it a most enjoyable evening.

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Our bus trip to Portsea was considered by many to be one of the most enjoyable staged by the Society.

Peter Collins of the Peninsula Historical Society travelled with us as a guide. He proved most informative and entertaining, particularly with regard to the Army and Quarantine Reserve at Point Nepean. We also visited the Museum at Sorrento and the site of the 1803 First Settlement. This was a long and tiring, but very rewarding, trip.

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#### WELLERS PUB

Applications for planning permits for a restaurant have been made by the owners of the building at Kangaroo Ground known as "Wellers Pub" or "Pitmans".

This building is considered to be of at least local historical importance and in particular is valued by many residents of Kangaroo Ground.

The proposal involves substantial preservation of the exterior of the building but major internal alterations are planned. A further building is also proposed adjoining the old building.

At a meeting of the Society's Committee, held late last year, it was decided that objections to the granting of the planning permits should be lodged. The basis of the objections was generally to be the detriment which would be caused to historic value of the building.

The Shire of Eltham has now decided that permit should be granted for the proposal and appeals have been lodged with the Planning Appeals Board by local residents. No decision has yet been made on a similar application to the Ministry for Planning and Environment.

No appeal has been lodged on behalf of the Society. It is likely that the Society will seek to make a submission to the Planning Appeals Board on the historical aspects of the matter rather than actually be a party to the appeal.

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#### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Society's Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 12th 1986. Please keep this date free.

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Sue Law,  
President,  
439-9520

Russell Yeoman,  
Secretary,  
439-9717

Opal Smith,  
Membership Secretary,  
439-8209