



Shire of Eltham Historical Society

NEWSLETTER

NO. 55 JULY 1987

P.O. BOX 137 ELTHAM VICTORIA 3095

20TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER

7 PM WEDNESDAY 8 JULY 1987

ST. MARGARET'S HALL

PITT STREET, ELTHAM

GUEST SPEAKER: ANDREW MACKENZIE

SUBJECT: WALTER WITHERS IN ELTHAM

DISPLAY OF SOCIETY HISTORICAL COLLECTION

"VIEW HILL", NESS LANE, KANGAROO GROUND

2 PM SUNDAY 19 JULY, 1987

WORKSHOP MEETINGS

SOCIETY RECORDS & RESEARCH

8 PM WEDNESDAYS 22 JULY, 26 AUGUST

YEOMAN HOUSE

7 PETER STREET, ELTHAM

MORE DETAILS BELOW

ANNIVERSARY DINNER:

Bookings for the dinner were invited in the May Newsletter and have been quite good. However, a few more could be accepted if you are quick. The cost is \$18.00 per person. If you have not booked yet, phone Opal Smith first then send your money.

The meal will be an old fashioned menu with soup, choice of two main courses, three sweets and coffee. It is fully catered and we have a B.Y.O. licence.

The location is the mud brick hall adjoining the historic St. Margaret's Church. It has been especially selected for this important meeting because of its "Eltham character" and historic associations.

Commemorative wine glasses featuring the Society's logo will be available for sale at the dinner. The cost will be \$2.50 each.

After dinner members will be able to listen to Andrew Mackenzie speak about famous artist Walter Withers, one of Eltham's most notable residents. Andrew is the author of the recently published book "Walter Withers, the Forgotten Manuscripts". The book is based on previously unknown Withers family records. The talk will generally cover Withers' life and paintings but concentrate on the period 1902-1914 when he lived in Eltham. Andrew intends to illustrate the talk with a number of original Withers paintings, prints and some recently discovered photos of Eltham in Withers' time.

Copies of Andrew's book will be available at the discount price of \$20.00.

This is an important event in the Society's programme. Members who have not yet booked should consider doing so without delay.

DISPLAY OF SOCIETY ACQUISITIONS:

Over the twenty years of the Society's existence various items of historical interest have been donated, scrounged and otherwise acquired. The major objective is that the Society will establish a museum or some other form of permanent display. While there is some cause for concern that we have not achieved that objective yet, we are at least working towards it in building up a collection of items of interest.

Most of the items acquired by the Society have been stored at the home of Bruce and Joy Ness at Kangaroo Ground. As well as being voluntary custodians, they have been directly involved in the acquisition of many of the items. Some of the farming items have originated from the Ness family.

These items are to be displayed for Society members on Sunday 19th July at the Ness's house "View Hill". Head towards Panton Hill from Kangaroo Ground. There will be signs at the corner of Ness Lane (adjacent to the new Emergency Operations Centre). There is plenty of parking and the display will be under cover so weather will not be a problem. Plan to arrive there about 2.00 p.m.

Afternoon tea will be available.

This exhibition is for members and is not open to the public. However, there is no objection to members bringing friends.

SOCIETY INCORPORATION:

The Special General Meeting on May 13th resolved in favour of incorporation of the Society. Neil Blair has been appointed as Public Officer, as required by the Associations Incorporation Act. Our application to the Registrar of Incorporated Associations must be approved before the incorporation is complete.

SOCIETY BOOK COLLECTION:

The May meeting showed that there exist a significant number of books about or touching on the history of our area. Some were borrowed privately, some were from the Eltham Library and some were from the Society's growing collection of books.

A number of books were purchased for our Heritage Week display. Some have been presented to the Library and some have been retained by the Society.

The Society's books are available for loan to members. Some recent additions to the collection are "The Eye of the Beholder", a controversial history of Montsalvat by Betty Rolands and "Wiregrass, A Mythical Australian Town", a collection of cartoons of Eltham resident Percy Leason. We have also bought a number of first editions of Alan Marshall books, including "This is the Grass", "Bumping Into Friends", "Four Sunday Suits and Other Stories", "These Are My People" and "How's Andy Going?".

Contact Russell Yeoman if you want to borrow any of these books.

SOCIETY 20TH ANNIVERSARY:

We are about to start on the round of events organized to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Society. The first two events will be the Dinner (including sale of commemorative glasses) and the display of Society acquisitions.

Some other activities are scheduled for later in the year. The plaque project mentioned in the May Newsletter is well under way with the plaque now being manufactured by Charmac Industries. Completion date is now expected to be September and further details will be provided in the next Newsletter.

A committee has been formed to arrange the Afternoon Tea on October 10th. Members at present are Opal Smith, Blanche Shallard, Marjorie North, Lu Robertson and Mary Regan. Additional members and ideas are required. Contact Opal if you can help.

AUSTRALIA'S BI-CENTENARY - 1988:

The Society's Committee has been investigating appropriate avenues of involvement in the Bi-Centenary celebrations. We have several interesting projects in mind and details will be provided in forthcoming Newsletters.

There will be a public meeting at Eltham Shire Offices at 8.00 p.m. on Thursday, July 9th to discuss local celebrations. It is organized by the local Bi-Centenary Committee and members who feel they may be able to contribute are urged to attend.

OTHER BRIEF ITEMS:

Don't forget that 1987 subscriptions are now overdue. Most members have paid, but a few remain outstanding. Details and membership renewal forms were included with the last Newsletter.

The Workshop meetings held on the fourth Wednesday of each month are of great assistance in the upgrading of the Society's records. Only a few members have been attending regularly and assistance from more members would be appreciated.

Remember to consult the Society's printed programme to keep dates for the rest of the year free. The September meeting is to be held at Judge Book Memorial Village.

Sue Law,
President.
439-9520.

Russell Yeoman,
Secretary.
439-9717

Opal Smith,
Treasurer/Membership Secretary.
439-8209