



Shire of Eltham Historical Society

NEWSLETTER

P.O. BOX 137 ELTHAM VICTORIA 3095

NO. 56 SEPTEMBER, 1987

NEXT MEETING

8 PM WEDNESDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 1987
METZNER HALL
JUDGE BOOK MEMORIAL VILLAGE
DIAMOND STREET, ELTHAM

GUEST SPEAKER: BRUCE BENCE
SUBJECT: LOCAL FIRES AND FLOODS

TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY FUNCTIONS

SATURDAY 10 OCTOBER, 1987
2 PM. PLAQUE UNVEILING
CNR. MAIN ROAD & PITT STREET, ELTHAM
3 PM. AFTERNOON TEA & PHOTO DISPLAY
ELTHAM SENIOR CITIZENS CENTRE

WORKSHOP MEETINGS

SOCIETY RECORDS & RESEARCH
8 PM. WEDNESDAYS 23 SEPTEMBER, 27 OCTOBER, 1987
YEOMAN HOUSE
7 PETER STREET, ELTHAM

MORE DETAILS FOLLOW

SEPTEMBER MEETING:

Bruce Bence is a member of Warrandyte Historical Society who has lived in the area for many years. His interest in local disasters stemmed from his membership of the local fire brigade.

He has now carried out extensive research on floods and fires in Warrandyte and an extensive surrounding area. This work has uncovered many other interesting aspects of local history. This is an area of local interest which has not been brought together in this way before and should be of great interest to members.

Note that the venue is different for this meeting. Following the successful meeting at Judge Book Village last September, it was decided that a repeat was warranted for the convenience of our members at the Village. To find the hall take the main driveway off Diamond Street just over the railway crossing.

Visitors and new members are most welcome.

TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY FUNCTIONS:

Two events to celebrate the Society's twentieth anniversary will be held on Saturday, October 10th.

The afternoon tea has been planned for some time. As well as Society members, we plan to invite others such as former members, Councillors and representatives of other historical societies.

There will be a display of photos from the Society's and Shire's collection for additional interest. Separate invitations will not be sent to Society members. However, we do need to know numbers, so please advise Opal Smith if you will be attending. Opal would also like to hear from members able to provide items for the afternoon tea.

The plaque project mentioned in the July Newsletter will be completed by October 10th and it is therefore proposed to hold a short unveiling ceremony prior to the afternoon tea. The bronze plaque has been manufactured by Charmac Industries and a base for it is currently being made by Graham Beyer. The design is by Joh Ebeli and the legend explains the process of using a "tyring plate", which is the main feature of the adjacent monument. It also features the Society logo and a sketch of a blacksmith and wheelwright at work.

The monument is located at the corner of Main Road and Pitt Street in the grounds of the Eltham Community Centre.

The ceremony will start at 2.00 p.m. and will be followed by the afternoon tea at the Eltham Senior Citizens Centre at 3.00 p.m.

ELTHAM COMMUNITY FESTIVAL:

This year the festival parade will be on Saturday, November 7th. Members will be reminded of details in the next Newsletter but that will only be a few days prior to the event. You should therefore note the date now and start thinking about a suitable costume. It is proposed to have a truck and trailer float featuring larger items from the Society's collection. Members can either ride on the float or walk with it.

BRONZE SCULPTURE PROJECT:

The Eltham Shire Council has invited the Society to be one of three groups involved in a project to produce bronze sculptures of objects chosen by the groups. This is a pilot project of a proposed statewide scheme devised by artist Maggie Fooke. Sculptures are to be made of objects of everyday significance to the groups producing them. They are then to be installed in a location chosen by the group. The artist will oversee the whole project.

A decision has been made that the Society should accept the offer to participate. A meeting will be held with other groups involved within the next month.

The date and location will be announced at the September meeting. (If you are interested and can't attend that meeting, ring Russell Yeoman for details).

The extent of member involvement required is not quite clear at this stage, but will be clarified at the proposed combined meeting. Artistic skills are not required for participation. This sounds an interesting and innovative project with a tangible result.

AUSTRALIAN BICENTENARY 1988:

The Society's Committee and the local Bicentennial Community Committee have accepted a proposal for the Society to arrange a Walter Withers Exhibition as a Bicentenary event. It is proposed that the exhibition be held during April and include Heritage Week. An application for assistance with funding has been made to the State Committee.

The Society has received information on the Australian Bicentennial Authority's Historic Records Search. This is a national heritage project aimed at locating and registering (but not collecting) historically significant records in private hands throughout Australia. The project is commended to members who have family or other records which may be of significance. Further information and forms for participating in the search are available from Russell Yeoman, or direct from Diana Meads at the State Library, phone 669-9919.

RECENT ACTIVITIES:

The Society dinner on July 8th was most successful. Those present enjoyed an excellent "old fashioned" meal. Guest speaker, Andrew Mackenzie, provided a most informative talk on the famous artist Walter Withers. He was assisted by John Withers, grandson of the artist. Andrew made a presentation to the Society of copies of his books on Withers and another artist, Victor Cobb, and also a set of photographs of a Withers sketchbook.

The display of the Society's collection on July 19th was similarly successful despite the rather miserable weather. The collection comprises a surprising number of items when viewed together. Joy and Bruce Ness are to be congratulated for assembling this display and providing a most enjoyable afternoon.

OTHER BRIEF ITEMS:

Wine glasses produced for our 20th Anniversary and featuring the Society's logo are still available for purchase. The cost is \$2.50 each. They will be available at the September meeting or phone orders will be accepted by Sue Law.

Members will be sorry to hear of the recent death of Keith Chappel. Mr. Chappel was a former Deputy Surveyor-General for Victoria who has made a significant contribution to this Society's local history records. His research work mainly from State records has resulted in over 400 hand written pages of notes which are an invaluable reference source.

Don't forget the Society Workshop Nights. Attendances at the last couple have been light. These workshops provide a useful informal contact between members as well as performing required work on the Society's records.

Sue Law,
President.
439-9520

Russell Yeoman,
Secretary.
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Opal Smith,
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