



# Shire of Eltham Historical Society

INCORPORATED

P.O. BOX 137 ELTHAM VICTORIA 3095

## NEWSLETTER

NO. 63 NOVEMBER 1988

### NEXT MEETING

8 PM WEDNESDAY 9 NOVEMBER, 1988

ELTHAM SENIOR CITIZENS' CENTRE

MAIN ROAD, ELTHAM

(ENTER FROM SHIRE OFFICE DRIVEWAY)

GUEST SPEAKER : KHAYE BROWN

"GETTING STARTED ON YOUR FAMILY TREE"

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ELTHAM COMMUNITY FESTIVAL PARADE

YOUTH ROAD, ELTHAM

SATURDAY, 12 NOVEMBER, 1988

JUDGING 11 AM

PARADE 12 NOON

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CHRISTMAS BREAK-UP

ELTHAM SENIOR CITIZENS' CENTRE

6.30 P.M. WEDNESDAY, 14 DECEMBER, 1988

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MORE DETAILS BELOW

### NOVEMBER MEETING

Historical Society records are part of the complex web of information available to people researching their family history or family tree. There are many other sources of this information, some rather obvious and others quite obscure. Collecting and interpreting the information is often like putting together a complicated jigsaw puzzle.

Apart from school projects, the majority of enquiries received by the Society relate to family research. Family history is always popular and the trend seems to be increasing. A number of members have compiled or are compiling family histories.

The Genealogical Society of Victoria is the major organization in this state concerned with researching family history. Khaye Brown from that Society will speak to us on what is needed to get started in this interesting field of historical research.

As usual, new members and visitors are more than welcome at our meeting.

### ELTHAM COMMUNITY FESTIVAL

The theme for our float in the Festival Parade this year is an old time hospital. A hospital bed and other items are being loaned by the Judge Book Village and these will be set up on Bruce Ness's truck. We need doctors, nurses and patients to complete the scene. We are arranging some costumes for nurses and other hospital staff. Ring Sue Law or Opal Smith for details of these or ask at the Society Meeting. Patients should wear appropriate period costume with bandages, slings, crutches, etc.

Note that the assembly point has changed from previous years. It is now in Youth Road behind the Eltham Station. Be there by 11.00 ready for the start of the parade at 12.00

### CHRISTMAS FUNCTION

This year's Christmas break-up will generally follow the formula used successfully for the past few years. It will comprise a buffet dinner with music by members of the Victorian Folk Music Club. A variation this year will be a demonstration of bush dancing and members will have the opportunity of joining in the dancing. As usual, committee member, Phyllis Macdonald, is organizing the entertainment and we are grateful to Phyllis and her folk music friends.

Members are asked to bring along a plate of food to share and anything they need to drink (other than tea or coffee which will be provided).

### WALTER WITHERS PLAQUE

Whilst this project is now well under way, we have been unable to confirm all arrangements yet and no unveiling date has been set. Invitations will be sent to members once a decision has been made.

The plaque is to be mounted on a large rock feature in the Walter Withers Reserve at the corner of Bible and Arthur Streets, Eltham. It has been designed by Society member, Joh Ebeli. Once again we are grateful to Charmac Industries for donating the manufacture of the plaque.

### BICENTENNIAL POEM

Society member, Gwen Baker, has sent us a poem she has written for the Bicentenary. We thought it was worth passing on.

Being!  
or Life in Bi Centenary

Sleepily, silently my pen moves  
wandering, wondering of tomorrows;  
Placidly, peacefully of pleasantries,  
contentedly contained in the past.

Whom are we, how we live,  
Culture, conditions, country  
are whom we are, pleased to be;  
ourselves not others.

So I grasp today  
which is nearly gone,  
In retrospect has its own important place,  
leaving us content; we have done it,  
'Been there'! we can enjoy today.

We were, we are until we rest,  
Bi centenary is now!  
Blending with cultures now and past,

lest we forget our unity of Australia.

### RECENT ACTIVITIES

The film night held at Judge Book Village in September was well attended. Of particular interest was the charming film of the Alan Marshall story "The Singer and the Dancer".

More recently the Spring Gardens trip attracted a full bus load and a waiting list. Those who went thoroughly enjoyed the historic garden and mansion at "Buda" and two other excellent gardens at "Badger's Keep" and "The Springs". The popularity of this trip warrants a repeat performance. There are a number of other gardens of historic and general interest which are worth a visit in the future.

OTHER BRIEF ITEMS

A site has been selected to place our "pothole" sculpture and it is expected to be installed in the next few weeks. The location is beside the bicycle path in the Wingrove Park area. For the time being we won't announce the exact location. Go for a walk along the path and see if you can find it.

We have received a letter from The Eltham Society in England advising that after some delays our promised Bicentennial present is on the way. It consists of slides and an audio tape of the English Eltham and also a hammer and gavel made from trees blown down in a fierce storm earlier this year. We are looking forward with interest to receiving this present.

The Committee will soon be considering the Society's programme for 1989. Any suggestions for meeting items, excursions or other activities would be most welcome. Contact a Committee member if you have any ideas.

The Eltham Shire Council is currently considering a range of heritage and conservation matters. They include protection under the Planning Scheme for buildings of architectural or historical significance and for significant trees. If these proposals are approved, nominations will be sought for appropriate buildings and trees to be included in the Scheme. On the issue of conservation and the natural environment there is to be a public meeting at 8.00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 23rd in the Eltham Community Centre.

Russell Yeoman,  
Secretary.  
439-9717

Sue Law,  
President.  
439-9520

Opal Smith,  
Treasurer/Membership Secretary.  
439-8209

- Stand with yourself  
- Land Dept in Records Office.  
for ERSKINE Land.  
- 2<sup>nd</sup> floor La Trobe Bldg.  
for newspaper.