

# Shire of Eltham Historical Society

INCORPORATED

P.O. BOX 137 ELTHAM VICTORIA 3095

## NEWSLETTER

NO 71 MARCH 1990

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**8 PM WEDNESDAY 14 MARCH 1990**

**ELTHAM SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTRE**

**MAIN ROAD ELTHAM**

**(ENTER FROM SHIRE OFFICE DRIVEWAY)**

**GUEST SPEAKER: CLEM CHRISTESEN**

**"MY ELTHAM"**

---

**HERITAGE WEEK DISPLAY**

**"WORKERS & WORKINGS OF ELTHAM"**

**21/22, 28/29 APRIL**

**728 MAIN ROAD ELTHAM**

---



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Formal notice of the Annual General Meeting and the agenda were included in the last Newsletter and it is not necessary to repeat all of the details. The meeting will include election of office bearers and committee members for 1990. Members are asked to consider whether they can make a contribution to the organization of the Society by filling one of the vacant positions. Newer members in particular should not feel deterred from offering their services in this way. In the past the committee has had good representation from areas such as Kangaroo Ground and Hurstbridge. However, in recent years committee members have come almost exclusively from Eltham and other urban parts of the Shire. It is considered desirable that the rural localities be represented on the committee and an effort will be made this year to achieve this objective.

## GUEST SPEAKER

This year we are commencing what is hoped will be an annual series of speakers at the Annual General Meeting. It is proposed that well known or interesting Eltham identities talk on their memories or views of Eltham. Of course, we mean "Eltham" in its widest sense being the whole of our sphere of influence.

Dr Clem Christesen has agreed to be the first speaker in our series. Clem is a noted poet, short story writer and painter. He found the leading literary journal *Meanjin Quarterly* in 1940 and remained editor until 1975.

Since 1946 he has lived at Eltham with his wife Nina, a leading academic in the field of Russian studies.

The Christesen's house "Stanhope" has had many interesting literary and art associations. It was built in the early 1900's for the artist Will Longstaff. Other owners or occupiers have included Mr and Mrs T Handfield, Bishop Reginald Stephen, journalist John Harcourt and his wife, Fay, who built a number of interesting houses in the surrounding area. Since coming to live there the Christesens have been hosts to many distinguished Australian and foreign writers, artists and academics.

Clem's personal experience of Eltham and his research into the early history of his property provide the basis for a very informative and interesting evening. Newcomers are welcome to attend and join us for supper afterwards.

## REGIONAL CONFERENCE

On Saturday, 7 April, we will be hosting the Annual Conference of the Eastern Region of Historical Societies. This includes societies from the eastern suburbs and nearby country areas. The venue for the conference is the Emergency Operations Centre, Kangaroo Ground and after lunch a visit to Montsalvat has been arranged for the delegates.

Some assistance from members will be required on the day for such matters as morning tea (from about 9:00 am) and cleaning up after lunch. Please let Opal Smith know if you are able to help.

New Year's Day - Tuesday 1st January 1924

Mrs. THEO. HANDFIELD'S

# STANHOPE ESTATE, ELTHAM

RIGHT OPPOSITE THE ELECTRIC RAILWAY STATION

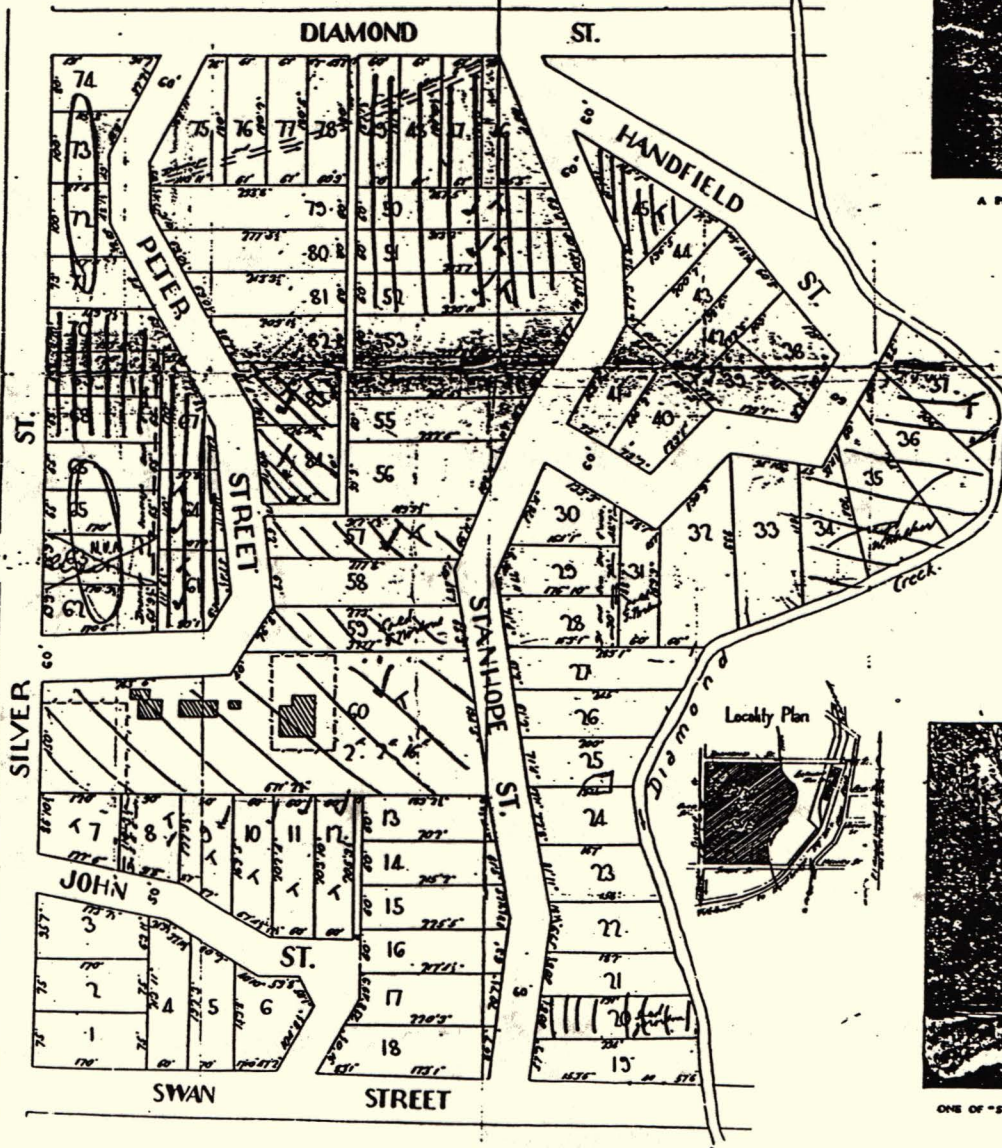
## 80 Magnificent Blocks

Including 15 Pretty Creek Frontages, "STANHOPE HOUSE," and 2½ ACRES

The stretch of Suburbs—Ivanhoe to Eltham—is undoubtedly the most picturesque Suburban territory in Australia, and Eltham deservedly claims to be the pick of the picture, and "Stanhope" is the pick of Eltham. And there is money in it for those who buy now. Eltham, like Rip Van Winkle has been asleep for years—ah! but truly a beauty sleep—and is but now awakening. All up-to-date facilities for comfort in one's home, life are at hand. Electric Train Service, Yan Yean Water Supply, Electric Light and Power from the near-by Morwell Main, and with the extension of the Electrification of the Railway from Eltham to Hurstbridge, and the projected further extension to Queenstown, the uplift in Real Estate values at Eltham will be phenomenal. Eltham is just about the distance one can do comfortably at each end of the day, providing time to comfortably read the paper while enjoying that essential rest after breakfast, and again before the evening meal. The fast Electric trains spin you into the City in 40 minutes, and you do not, as in former years, have to change trains at Heidelberg.



A PRETTY CREEK FRONTAGE



ONE OF "STANHOPE'S" BEAUTY SPOTS

Pretty Timbered Hill-sides

Shady Week-End Home Sites

Healthy Hilltops

Sunny Slopes for the Rose-Grower

Deep Rich Flats for the Intense Culturist

Homely surroundings for Real Homes

The place to rear Kids

Great Hillside Sites

The worth-while Suburb

Peaceful Picturesque Suburb

ANY LOT  
**£5**  
DEPOSIT

**20/-** Monthly  
Interest 6% per Annum  
Payable Quarterly  
Residue at end of 5 years  
Discount for Cash 5%

TITLE CERTIFICATE  
Sold by:  
Messrs. BEARDS & DUNCAN,  
321 Collins St., Melbourne  
T.A. Con. 122

Lot 60  
**"STANHOPE HOUSE"**  
(See Photo on Front Page)  
**ATTRACTIVE VILLA HOME**  
Containing 5 Rooms, 2 Bath-rooms, Large Scullery, Detached Laundry, Garage, Man's Room, Numerous buildings.  
Yan Yean Water supply.  
LAND 2½ ACRES  
TERMS  
**£500 Deposit**  
Balance half-yearly over 5 years at 4 per cent

FURTHER PARTICULARS FROM THE AUCTIONEERS:

## COGHILL & HAUGHTON

79 SWANSTON STREET, MELBOURNE. HEIDELBERG and CANTERBURY

Phones: Cent. 2793, Heid. 34, Canty. 59

or from local Agents at Eltham and Green-borough. H. H. CLARK, Estate Agent, opposite the Station Eltham, will show Buyers over the Estate

## HERITAGE WEEK

"Industrial Heritage - Making our Past Work" is the theme set by the National Trust for this year's Heritage Week. It is to be held from 22 to 29 April.

We have arranged an exhibition in search of the elusive industrial heritage of Eltham and its shire. Its title is "Workers and Workings of Eltham" and it is to be held on the two weekends 21/22 and 28/29 April. The venue is the Shire Parks and Environment Office at 728 Main Road Eltham, formerly the Eltham Police Station.

Eltham's heritage is usually thought to be with the arts rather than industry. This theme has inspired an examination of the industries of the past and, somewhat surprisingly, we have the makings of an interesting exhibition. It will feature photos and paraphernalia from the rural industries (particularly orchards), mining and public works, the building industry (had to get mud bricks in there somewhere), township businesses, etc.

We will need to roster members to look after the exhibition over its four days. Please let Opal Smith know if you can help with this.

## SOCIETY PROGRAMME

A programme of our proposed activities for the year is enclosed with this Newsletter. There may be some changes through the year and these will be notified in future Newsletters.

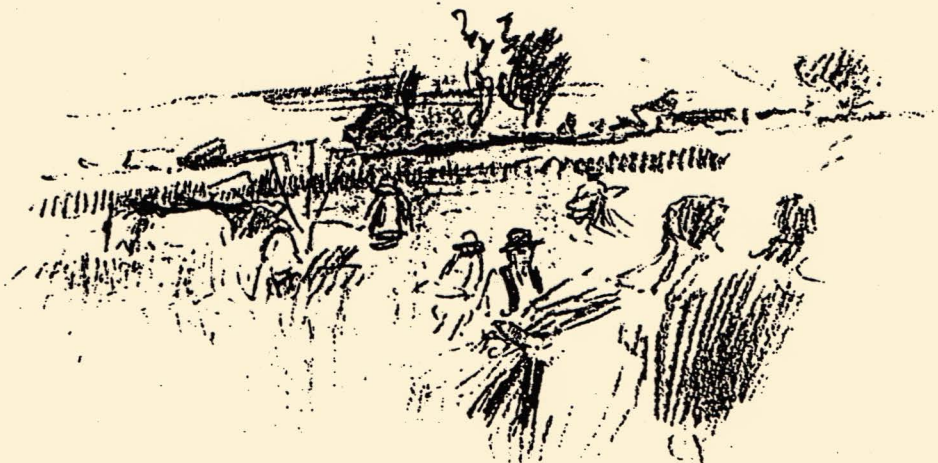
In particular we have still to set a date for the un-veiling of our Walter Withers plaque. We are still searching for a suitable boulder to mount the plaque on.

Meetings will be held at the Eltham Senior Citizens' Centre unless otherwise notified.

Russell Yeoman  
Secretary  
439-9717

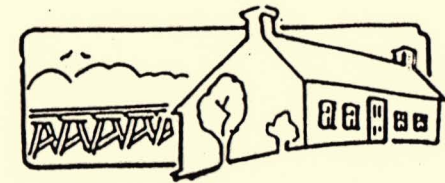
Sue Law  
President  
439-9520

Opal Smith  
Treasurer/Membership Secretary  
439-8209



Visitors are most welcome at  
General Meetings

Any additions or changes to this  
program will be advised in the  
Newsletter.



# Shire of Eltham Historical Society

P.O. BOX 137 ELTHAM VICTORIA 3095

## Programme

# 1990

General Enquiries : Russell Yeoman  
Phone : 439-9717

Membership Enquiries : Opal Smith  
Phone : 439-8209

1990

MARCH

14 Wednesday 8:00 pm - Annual General Meeting  
Election of Office Bearers and Committee for 1990  
Followed by Guest Speaker  
- Clem Christesen -  
Presenting first in a series of talks by longtime Eltham residents  
on "My Eltham"

\* \* \* \* \*

APRIL

7 Saturday All Day Conference of Eastern Region Historical Societies

11 Wednesday 8:00 pm - Committee Meeting

- HERITAGE WEEK DISPLAY  
"Workers and Workings of Eltham"

21 Saturday Parks and Environment Office  
22 Sunday 728 Main Road Eltham  
28 Saturday  
29 Sunday

\* \* \* \* \*

MAY

9 Wednesday 8:00 pm - General Meeting  
Guest Speaker  
Society Member : Jack Hodson  
"Digging up the Past"

27 Sunday All Day Excursion  
Local Cemeteries  
Mini Bus and Private Car

\* \* \* \* \*

JUNE

13 Wednesday 8:00 pm - Committee Meeting

\* \* \* \* \*

JULY

11 Wednesday 8:00 pm - General Meeting  
Guest Speaker  
Andrew Mackenzie  
Author of "The Forgotten Manuscripts"  
Speaking on his recent book "Frederick McCubbin-1855-1917 the Proff and his Art"

\* \* \* \* \*

AUGUST

8 Wednesday 8:00 pm - Committee Meeting

\* \* \* \* \*

SEPTEMBER

12 Wednesday 8:00 pm - General Meeting  
Slides  
- Shire Roads and Byways  
Then and Now -

\* \* \* \* \*

OCTOBER

10 Wednesday 8:00 pm - Committee Meeting

14 Sunday - All Day Bus Excursion -  
- Along the Yarra Track  
Marysville and Beyond -  
Guided by Ann Thomas  
Author of "The Last of the Yarra Track Stopping Places"

\* \* \* \* \*

NOVEMBER

10 Saturday ELTHAM FESTIVAL PARADE  
Theme to be Announced by Shire

14 Wednesday 8:00 pm - General Meeting

Panel Discussion  
- Diamond Valley Orchards -

\* \* \* \* \*

DECEMBER

12 Wednesday 6:30 pm - End-of-Year Function  
Venue to be announced  
\* \* \* \* \*

1991

JANUARY

26 Saturday Australia Day Bird Count

\* \* \* \* \*

FEBRUARY

13 Wednesday 8:00 pm : General Meeting

Members Discussion Evening