



Shire of Eltham Historical Society

INCORPORATED

P.O. BOX 137 ELTHAM VICTORIA 3095

NEWSLETTER

NO 72 MAY 1990

NEXT MEETING

8 PM WEDNESDAY 9 MAY 1990

ELTHAM SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTRE

MAIN ROAD ELTHAM

(ENTER FROM SHIRE OFFICE DRIVEWAY)

GUEST SPEAKER: JACK HODSON

"DIGGING UP THE PAST"

LOCAL CEMETERY EXCURSION

SUNDAY 27 MAY 1990

LEAVES ELTHAM SHIRE OFFICE -9.30 A.M.

MAY MEETING

Jack Hodson has spent many years hunting for gold and other "buried treasures" all over Victoria and beyond. Armed with his metal detector and historical information he has searched for relics at such places as Greytown, Maryborough, Bendigo and Tibooburra. He has built up an impressive collection of coins, tools, bottles and other artefacts.

Jack is going to share some of his experiences with us and will bring along some representative items from his collection. He will demonstrate the use of a metal detector to search for historical relics.

Jack is a member of our society and widely regarded as one of our local "characters". His down-to-earth style should ensure a most interesting evening.

Supper will be served after the meeting. New members and visitors are very welcome.

CEMETERY EXCURSION

This excursion will follow a similar format to our successful geology excursion last year. That is travel will be by mini-bus and private car between a number of selected locations. The bus will be available for those not wishing to drive. The plan is to visit a number of local cemeteries and where possible have someone to talk or act as a guide. Details are still being finalized, but the list of possibilities includes Eltham, Kangaroo Ground, Queenstown (Smiths Gully), Nillumbik (Diamond Creek) St Katherines (St.Helena), Hurst family graves at Hurstbridge, and a little known early cemetery at Greensborough. Original burial registers will be available for inspection at Kangaroo Ground and Queenstown.

We propose to leave the Eltham Shire Office at 9.30 a.m. and finish by mid-afternoon. The finish will be flexible depending on members inclinations and rate of progress. Bring a picnic lunch to have probably in the St. Andrews/Smiths Gully area. Also bring something for morning tea if you wish. There is no charge for this excursion, but we would like to know the numbers intending to come. Please fill in the enclosed form and return it to the May meeting or the Society's Post Office Box.

Our local cemeteries contain the graves of many pioneers of the area and well known local identities. There is a little known detailed research on most of them and we will not be examining each one thoroughly. Rather the excursion will provide an overview of the most of the cemeteries in the area as a general interest exercise or to stimulate further more detailed examination by individuals.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

There are few changes to the office bearers and committee members following the Annual General Meeting on 14 March. The 1990 Committee comprises the following:-

President	Sue Law
Senior Vice President	Neil Blair
Junior Vice President	Doug Orford
Secretary	Russell Yeoman
Treasurer/Membership Secretary	Opal Smith
Committee Members	Jock Read, Phyllis Macdonald, Blanche Shallard, Gwen Orford, Mick Woiwood

Long serving committee member and former President, Kath Stephenson did not nominate for a position due to ill health. We thank her for her efforts in the past and wish her well for the future.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subs for 1990 are now due. If you have not already paid them please complete the attached form and forward with your payment or return both to the May meeting. Subs have not been increased for some years, but this year we have found it necessary to increase them to cover the running costs of the Society. A significant factor in the increase has been the public liability insurance policy which has been taken out by the Society .

Subscriptions are as follows:

Adult \$8.00
Family \$10.00
Student \$1.00

RECENT ACTIVITIES

At the Annual General Meeting Clem Christesen recounted some of his recollections of Eltham over the past 45 years and some history of his house "Stanhope" going back to the early 1900's. His story included details of social life in the Eltham of the 1940's and 50's and snippets about the many visitors to "Stanhope" from the world of arts and academia. He talked at some length about John and Fay Harcourt, the builders of a unique group of houses on the "Stanhope hill".

Heritage Week has just concluded and the Society was involved in staging an exhibition at the Council's Parks and Environment office in Eltham. In line with the National Trust's industrial heritage theme, the exhibition was called "Workers and Workings" of Eltham. It included mostly items from the Society's collection and photos from the Shire's collection. Some private items were loaned by Jock Read, Doug Orford and former Eltham resident Alf Anderson. The exhibition was a success in terms of its content, but not in terms of attendance which was rather disappointing. A small group of members assisted with minding the exhibits over the two weekends, and thanks are extended to those who helped.

We also thank those members who helped make a success of the conference of the regional group of historical societies. Delegates from other societies were impressed with the Kangaroo Ground Emergency Management Centre as a venue for the conference. They also found the visit to Montsalvat to be a most pleasant way to spend the afternoon.

KANGAROO GROUND CEMETERY

As a forerunner to the cemetery excursion we include here some notes on the beginning of the Kangaroo Ground Cemetery taken from the late Keith Chappel's local history research notes. The material for these notes came mainly from correspondence files of the State Health Department.

There is indication that the first internment at Kangaroo Ground was that of a child in 1851 and that the Government was then advised of it. The first official record is apparently that resulting from a duly advertised public meeting which was held on 24 August 1857 in the Kangaroo Ground schoolhouse. At that meeting the principal participants were the Rev. David Boyd of Panton Hill who acted as chairman, local schoolmaster, Andrew Ross who acted as secretary and Kangaroo Ground land owners Messrs. John Barr, John, Thomas and the senior William Bell, Alex Donaldson, Andrew Harkness, John Jardine and Alex Thomson. It was agreed "that the temporary Burying Place at the north-east side of the purchased land at the Kangaroo Grounds (already promised by Government) from its contiguity to the Caledonia Gold Field, as well as the settlement at Kangaroo Ground and Diamond Creek is most eligibly situated and well adapted for the proposed Public Cemetery" and that a memorial to the Governor and Executive Council be sent, making application for a five acre reservation. Five men were nominated to be trustees viz Alex Donaldson, Andrew Harkness, John Jardine, Joseph Stevenson and Walter Wippell.

The memorial set down also "That in the year 1851, a portion of Crown land situated at the north-east side of the purchased land at Kangaroo Ground was selected by the inhabitants for a burying place and was promised by the Government to be granted. Since then a number of internments have taken place annually in this spot."

Eighty two persons signed the petition or Memorial. Of Kangaroo Ground, twelve of them were described as land owners, William Mitton and James Johnston in addition to those previously mentioned. Alex Eason was a farmer, Joseph Scott a farmer and contractor, Henry Scarce and John Donaldson called themselves tenants, Edward Ford and Thomas Jones were storekeepers, schoolmaster Andrew Ross preferred to show his occupation as that of Deputy Registrar, Richard Brook was a carpenter, William Kidd a labourer and eight others were miners.

Forty three men of Caledonia Diggings in St. Andrews were full or part time miners, otherwise following the occupation of shoemaker or blacksmiths, or butcher or brewer. (Edmund Cuckson, part time brewer and otherwise miner, was murdered in 1862). There were several storekeepers John Corke Knell, W.B. Phillips, John Stephens, John Holland, William Hopkinson and Johann Heinrich Sabelberg.

The other signatories included settlers Thomas Symons and another (illegible) of View Hill Station, James Macpherson of Yarra Bank, Evelyn a settler, Land owners Thos M. Bull of Hitchill, Thomas Armstrong of Yarra Yarra, James Walters of Tawawarra and William Ellis of Diamond Creek, William Bell the younger of Gulph Station (sic) preferred to be known as a grazier.

The Memorial was approved and the desired area was set aside for a Cemetery. Regulations for the management of the Kangaroo Ground Burying Ground were published in 1858. Earlier the names of the First Trustees were gazetted, vis Messrs Henry Scarce, Walter Wippell, John Jardine, Andrew Harkness, Thomas Sweeney and Patrick Callaghan.

Russell Yeoman
Secretary

Sue Law
President

Opal Smith
Treasurer/Membership
Secretary

439 9717

439 9520

439 8209

SHIRE OF ELTHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

CEMETERY EXCURSION

SUNDAY-27 MAY 1990

Name: ----- - Phone No.:-----

Number Attending:-----

Return to May Meeting or send to P.O.Box 137,Eltham 3095
