



Shire of Eltham Historical Society

INCORPORATED

NEWSLETTER

P.O. BOX 137 ELTHAM VICTORIA 3095

NO. 81 NOVEMBER, 1991

NEXT MEETING

8PM WEDNESDAY, 13 NOVEMBER, 1991

ELTHAM SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTRE

MAIN ROAD ELTHAM

(ENTER FROM SHIRE OFFICE DRIVEWAY)

GUEST SPEAKER: VICTORIAN ARCHEOLOGICAL
SURVEY

CHRISTMAS BREAK-UP

8 PM WEDNESDAY 11 DECEMBER 1991
ELTHAM SENIOR CITIZENS' CENTRE
WINE AND CHEESE EVENING

More Details Below:

NOVEMBER MEETING

The Victoria Archaeological Survey was established in 1973 to administer the state's Archaeological and Aboriginal Relics Preservation Act. A major function of its work is the survey and protection of Aboriginal archaeological sites. V.A.S. also administers legislation which protects shipwrecks. It has located and recorded nearly 650 shipwrecks in Victorian waters. The third function of V.A.S. is historical archaeology, that is the archaeology of sites relating to the period since European settlement. Recently V.A.S. has been carrying out survey work in the local areas of the Yarra and Plenty Valleys.

The work of V.A.S. is quite topical because the Eltham Council has recently decided to carry out an Aboriginal Heritage Study using funds from the National Estate. The Council has recently advertised for expressions of interest for this study.

We have arranged for a speaker from V.A.S. to talk to us about the work of this organization. This talk will increase our knowledge of archaeology generally and local Aboriginal heritage in particular.

CHRISTMAS BREAK-UP

Over the past few years we have tried to introduce some variety into our informal meeting in December. We are again trying something different this year. There will be two main parts to this evening as follows:-

- : Wine and Cheese Evening
- : Display of photos taken for the 1991 photo project

Members are asked to bring along some wine and/or cheese to share. If you prefer you could bring something else to eat or drink such as juice, nuts, dried or fresh fruit, etc. It would be nice to concentrate on local (Yarra Valley) wines but if these are too expensive or difficult to obtain don't worry, something else will do. It would be interesting if members could find out something about the winery or wine itself to discuss with others.

Throughout the year we have been providing reminders about the photo project. We hope that by now you have taken your photos of important events of 1991 or of local everyday life. If not then you still have a month left. We would like the photos mounted with captions for display on the evening. We can arrange mounting if we have them in advance. You may bring your photos to the November meeting or leave them at Eltham Shire Office for Russell Yeoman. Alternatively, you may bring them on the night but if so they should be mounted on a board or album pages suitable for display.

The break-up will be at the Eltham Senior Citizen's Centre at 8.00 pm on Wednesday 11th December.

ELTHAM FESTIVAL PARADE

Despite the very best of intentions we have decided not to enter a float in the Eltham Festival Parade on 9th November. Sorry to disappoint those members who were waiting anxiously for details. Each year we have some difficulty in waiting for the announcement of the Parade theme and then trying to devise a float to fit the theme. This year we feel that we have had insufficient time to do that.

We are not permanently abandoning our long standing practice of having a float in the Parade. We hope to be back next year with bright new ideas.

SCHOOL RESIDENCE KANGAROO GROUND

As previously reported the Society has accepted an offer by the Kangaroo Ground School Council for use of the former teacher's residence at the school. The proposal is to store items from the Society's collection in this building and, when appropriate, to establish a museum. We have now taken up occupancy and have transferred most of the collection from its former storage place at the home of Bruce and Joy Ness.

Our collection comprises a wide range of items donated to the Society but it lacks an overall theme. To date we have gratefully accepted all relevant items which have been donated. We have not searched out any items to fill obvious gaps in the collection. We do not have sufficient material to establish a museum comprising anything other than a largely unrelated collection of objects.

The Committee has discussed this matter at some length and it has been generally agreed that we need to:-

- : form a sub-committee or working group for the purpose of establishing the museum
- : seek expert advice
- : agree on a theme and format for the museum

At this stage we have a few members who have expressed some interest in working on a museum sub-committee. However, we do not have a convenor. We need a member with the enthusiasm and time to organize this important Society project. Some level of expertise would be a bonus but expert advice from outside sources is available in the absence of this factor. Any member who is willing to serve on the sub-committee and in particular anyone prepared to convene the group is invited to contact Russell Yeoman.

As to obtaining advice, our first step will be to have a meeting between a small group of members (the sub-committee?) and the Museum Unit of the Ministry for the Arts. This will be a week-day meeting at the Ministry Office to be held in the next few weeks. Again anyone interested should advise Russell.

Some suggestions regarding a theme have been made. However, that is considered a step to be considered by the sub-committee with the help of the advice we hope to receive.

Members are asked to give this matter their earnest consideration because without an enthusiastic response the project may be in jeopardy.

ANDREW ROSS REMINISCENCES

Andrew Ross started the first school in Kangaroo Ground in 1850. He continued to be involved as a teacher and in other aspects of community affairs until 1876. He then returned to England but in the late 1880's produced a series of articles on his years at Kangaroo Ground which were published by the Evelyn Observer. A total of forty-three articles entitled "Reminiscences County Evelyn by A.R." were published over the period 1887 to 1893.

Bruce Bence of Warrandyte Historical Society has been researching local history at the Latrobe Library and has assembled copies of the reminiscences and has suggested we may be interested in publishing these interesting eye-witness accounts of local history.

Mick Woiwod has agreed to convene a sub-committee to investigate the proposed publication. Any member able to assist is asked to ring Mick on 712 0563.

Russell Yeoman
Secretary
439 9717

Gwen Orford
Treasurer
439 8642

Sue Law
President
439 9520

Joan Ackland
Membership Secretary
439 9750



Detail from "Corroboree Drawing" by William Barak. Photo courtesy, La Trobe Collection, State Library of Victoria.