



NEWSLETTER

NO.83 MARCH 1992

Shire of Eltham Historical Society

INCORPORATED

P.O. BOX 137 ELTHAM VICTORIA 3095

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

8 P.M. WEDNESDAY, 11 MARCH, 1992

ELTHAM SENIOR CITIZENS' CENTRE

MAIN ROAD, ELTHAM

(ENTER FROM SHIRE OFFICE DRIVEWAY)

GUEST SPEAKER - GORDON FORD

"MY ELTHAM"

VICTORIAN HERITAGE FESTIVAL

"HIDDEN HERITAGE"

4 - 16 APRIL

DETAILS OF LOCAL EVENTS BELOW

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

The January Newsletter contained the formal notice and agenda of the Annual General Meeting. It is not necessary to repeat it here. However, it is appropriate to remind members of the importance of this meeting. The election of office bearers and committee members really establishes the direction of the Society for the next year. Members are asked to consider whether they are prepared to stand for one of the available positions. The election of retiring members unopposed could be seen by some as a good sign but it could also be an indication of apathy. No written nominations have been received at the time of writing this Newsletter but remember written nominations take precedence over nominations at the meeting

We are continuing our Annual General Meeting series "My Eltham" and this year well known landscaper Gordon Ford will give us his version of that theme. Gordon bought his land at Pitt Street Eltham after he was discharged from the Army at the end of World War 2. Here he built his mud-brick house and established his magnificent native garden from a former orchard.

During the period 1952-1954 Gordon worked with the pioneer Australian landscape designer Ellis (Rocky) Stones. This led to Gordon establishing his own landscaping business which he continues to operate. His style of landscaping is in the Stones' tradition with distinctive rock work and use of Australian plants, particularly to soften the boundaries of the garden. His work includes many of the better known native gardens of Eltham and extends well beyond the local area. His associates and friends over the years have included many of the local artistic and environmental building community such as Alistair Knox and Peter Glass.

For an extensive account of Gordon Ford's landscaping work see Landscape Australia No. 1/1992.

VICTORIAN HERITAGE FESTIVAL:

The National Trust has changed the name of "Heritage Week" and extended the period so that it now runs from 4th to 16th April. The theme is "Hidden Heritage" which provides scope for a wide variety of events. We have chosen the Shire Heritage Study as our subject. In their on-going work, consultant David Bick and his team are investigating a number of buildings and places which could be considered to have been "hidden". Some are hidden by the trees and hills of the Shire which make many houses hard to see. Others are "hidden" by the fact that they are not so obviously part of our cultural heritage.

The Heritage Study will form the basis of a display called "Heritage Hidden in the Hills" which will feature many of the photos taken for the study. The display will be at the school residence at Kangaroo Ground and the times are 10.00 am to 6.00 pm on Sunday 5th, Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th April. We hope to have notes available for a short self-guided tour of heritage sites around Kangaroo Ground.

Help from members will be required for minding the display. Please let Russell Yeoman know if you can help.

On Tuesday 14th April at 10:30 am David Bick is to give a talk in the Eltham Library entitled "Seeking out Eltham's Heritage". Morning tea will be provided. Contact the Library on 439-8436 for more information.

Russell Yeoman will lead a walk to look at heritage sites in Eltham on Saturday 11th April. Contact the Eltham Living and Learning Centre for bookings for the walk.

SOCIETY'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY:

Later this year our Society turns 25. Whether the actual date is 6th June (when there was a public meeting to set up a Society) or 24th October (when the first general meeting was held) is arguable. We have selected the date of our July meeting as an appropriate time for our main anniversary celebration. Brief details of this meeting and the rest of the year's activities are included in the programme accompanying this Newsletter. We may have other celebration activities as well. Details will of course be provided in later Newsletters.

COMMITTEE OF EASTERN HISTORICAL SOCIETIES:

This Committee has arranged two events which may be of interest to members. The Annual Conference will be held on Saturday 2nd May at St Stephens Church Mount Waverley. It will include a talk by Majory Morgan about "The Box Hill Artists Camp".

On Sunday 5th July there will be a regional luncheon at Alfred's Homestead Warrandyte at a cost of \$19.00.

Contact Russell Yeoman if you would like to go to one of these.

ELTHAM CAMPERS:

Barbara Seidel of Eltham has provided a copy of a photo of a group known as the "Eltham Campers" which included some of her relatives. Jock Read and Garnie Burges remember this group from the 1920's. They used to camp on the old pound site at Eltham Lower Park. They met in North Fitzroy and every A.N.A. weekend they came to Eltham to camp. They had big tents and set up a stage on backs of their wagons or lorries. A concert was held on the Sunday night for local people to attend. They had very good artists including a pianist, violinist, flautist and banjo player. Anyone with further information should contact Gwen Orford on 439-8642.



MORE BRIEF ITEMS:

By now members should be thinking of subjects for our 1992 Photo Project. Some themes lend themselves well to a series of photos throughout the year. For example a series on local wildflowers would be of interest. Another theme someone might like to work on could be local weekend markets at Eltham and St Andrews. As a variation on the photo idea a suggestion has been made that someone could produce a scrapbook of interesting newspaper cuttings over the year. However, we don't need a lot of scrapbooks of identical cuttings so perhaps it would be best to check with Russell Yeoman before starting this.

We are making some slow progress towards setting ourselves up in the School residence at Kangaroo Ground. A small working party of members is being formed to investigate possible themes and other details of establishing a museum. In the meantime we have arranged the Victorian Heritage Festival display there. As a preliminary to that display we are having a clean up day on Saturday 28th March at 2.00 pm. Please come along to the school prepared to do a small amount of work to get the place into suitable order for setting up the display the next week.

We are still working on publication of Andrew Ross' reminiscences of Kangaroo Ground. It should be ready for sale at the Victorian Heritage Festival display.

Nillumbik Historical Society is co-ordinating a series of local history programmes on Plenty Valley FM radio. Some assistance is being provided by other local societies and the programmes are on Tuesdays at 7.00 pm. The programme on 17th March will feature Peter Bassett-Smith of our Society.

NOTHING EVER CHANGES:

There have been recent reports in the Diamond Valley News of suggestions by some Eltham Councillors that the West Riding should secede to Diamond Valley or Heidelberg. Brian Mainland of Eltham has discovered a report in a 1936 edition of the Sun News Pictorial on a similar subject which we include here without further comment.

Russell Yeoman	Sue Law
Secretary	President
439-9717	439-9520

Gwen Orford	Joan Ackland
Treasurer	Membership Sec.
439-8642	439-9750

A LONG-AWAITED REVELATION

Heide

PARK AND ART GALLERY

7 Templestowe Road, Bulleen 3165
Telephone (03) 854 1500

OPENING ON 3 MARCH
COMPLETING THE PICTURE: WOMEN ARTISTS
AND THE HEIDELBERG ERA

Touring exhibition featuring intriguing variety of work by female artists of the period c.1885-1910.
The principle sponsor is QUIT with funds provided by the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation.
Hours: Tues-Fri. 10.00-5.00 Sat. & Sun. 12.00-5.00.
Devonshire teas available on Sunday in the Garden Pavilion.

LOAN OF £1000 FOR ELTHAM

Municipal Offices To Be Built

ELTHAM, Monday. — At today's meeting, Eltham Shire Council decided to borrow £1000 and build municipal offices at Eltham. Councillors will inspect several sites in the town.

After the former shire offices at Kangaroo Ground were burned in 1932, the offices were housed for some time at the home of the secretary (Mr. P. J. McMahon), and latterly in a dwelling at Eltham.

Since last meeting, when it was announced that new offices would be erected, the council has received offers of land and finance from several ratepayers, including one from Wattle Glen, where Mr. T. Clarke offered a free block.

Severance Feared

COUNCILLORS speaking against the construction of offices at Eltham today said that the move in the Greensborough ward for severance from the City of Heidelberg, if successful, would require the formation of a new shire, with Eltham as part of it.

Those who voted for the offices at Eltham were Crs. A. Braid, E. Andrew, A. Price, A. Bell, T. Irvine; and those against, Crs. H. Hewitt, W. Dawson, J. Ryan and J. Smedley.

Visitors are most welcome at
General Meetings.

Unless otherwise advised,
General Meetings are held
at the Senior Citizens'
Clubrooms.

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

General Enquiries : Russell Yeoman
: Phone : 439-9717

Membership Enquiries : Joan Ackland
: Phone : 439-9750



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INCORPORATED

P.O. BOX 137 ELTHAM VICTORIA 3095

25 TH ANNIVERSARY

1992

Programme

1992

MARCH

Wednesday 11th
8:00 pm - Annual General Meeting
Election of Office Bearers
and Committee Members

Guest Speaker

Gordon Ford - "My Eltham"

APRIL

4th - 16th
VICTORIAN HERITAGE FESTIVAL

Display - Kangaroo Ground

"HERITAGE HIDDEN IN THE HILLS"
(April 5th, 11th, 12th)

Tuesday 14th

Talk - Eltham Library
David Bick "Seeking out Eltham's
Heritage"

Wednesday 8th
8:00 pm - Committee Meeting

MAY

Wednesday 13th
8:00 pm - General Meeting

Guest Speaker

Carlotta Kellaway
"Researching Eltham's Heritage"

Sunday 24th

Local Excursion
SHIRE HERITAGE STUDY
with
David Bick

JUNE

Wednesday 10th
8:00 pm - Committee Meeting

JULY

Wednesday 8th
6:30 pm - General Meeting

25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Buffet Dinner
and
Panel of Speakers

"IMAGES OF ELTHAM"

AUGUST

Wednesday 12th
8:00 pm - Committee Meeting

SEPTEMBER

Wednesday 9th
8:00 pm - General Meeting

Guest Speaker

Isabel Ellender

"Local Aboriginal Heritage"

Sunday 27th

Spring Excursion

GOLDFIELDS HERITAGE
MARYBOROUGH DISTRICT

OCTOBER

Wednesday 14th
8:00 pm - Committee Meeting

NOVEMBER

1992

Wednesday 11th
8:00 pm - General Meeting

Family History Project

Saturday 14th

Eltham Festival Parade

DECEMBER

Wednesday 9th - End of Year
Function

1992 PHOTO PROJECT
DISPLAY

1993

FEBRUARY

Wednesday 10th
8:00 pm - General Meeting

*Meal
Dinner
at
La Sangre
6-30*