

NEWSLETTER

NO.84 MAY 1992

Shire of Eltham Historical Society

INCORPORATED

P.O. BOX 137 ELTHAM VICTORIA 3095

NEXT MEETING

8 P.M. WEDNESDAY, 13 MAY, 1992

ELTHAM SENIOR CITIZENS' CENTRE

MAIN ROAD, ELTHAM

(ENTER FROM SHIRE OFFICE DRIVEWAY)

GUEST SPEAKER CARLOTTA KELLAWAY

"RESEARCHING ELTHAM'S HERITAGE"

ELTHAM HERITAGE TOUR

SUNDAY, 24 MAY, 1992

10 A.M. - 4.30 P.M.

STARTS AT ELTHAM SHIRE OFFICE

MAY MEETING

Dr Carlotta Kellaway is a consultant historian who is currently a member of the team working on the Shire of Eltham's heritage study. She has wide experience in the field of historical research including a period with the Historic Buildings Council. As the title implies, Carlotta's talk will be largely based on her recent experience carrying out research for the heritage study. It will include many examples of particular buildings and locations in Eltham and other parts of the Shire. By way of illustration she intends to show some of the maps, plans and other documents which have been unearthed as part of the process. A few of these documents have been used to illustrate this Newsletter.

Carlotta will also speak about more general aspects of historical research - how to track down the history of an important building or even your own street or house. The various sources of information, including Council records, title search and Government archives will be discussed.

Carlotta's wide practical experience will make this a most informative meeting. The local aspects of her research will be of great interest to many members. As usual we welcome new members and visitors to our meeting.

ELTHAM HERITAGE TOUR

Our excursion on 24th May has been arranged by David Bick, leader of the team carrying out the Shire's heritage study. David has selected a number of sites or buildings identified in the study, some of them lesser known components of the Shire's heritage. The tour will commence at the Eltham Shire Office at 10.00 am. Travel will be by private car with stops at about twelve locations for commentary by David.

It will include a short walk in Hurstbridge and lunch at Kinglake. Bring your own lunch and something for afternoon tea. We have a minibus available for those who do not wish to drive but seats are limited. Advise Russell Yeoman as soon as possible if you want a seat on the bus.

David has prepared a somewhat cryptic list of highlights of the tour which we reproduce here to stimulate your interest.

10.00 am	Leave from Shire Offices
	3 Important Trees
	A Physical Link to Eltham's First Settlers
	Toorak Mansion Gates
	A Surviving Farm House
	An Intact Circa 1900 Main Street
	First Settlers - Gold Miners, and Timber-getters
	An Early Hotel
	A Pioneering Homestead
	Changing Eltham Shire - 20th Century
4.00 pm	Afternoon Tea and Finish Tour

This will be a rather full day so we must commence promptly at 10.00 am.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

At the Annual General Meeting on 11th March the following office bearers and committee members were elected:

President	Sue Law
Senior Vice President	Opal Smith
Junior Vice President	Doug Orford
Secretary	Russell Yeoman
Treasurer	Gwen Orford
Membership Secretary	Joan Ackland
Committee Members	Jock Read, Blanche Shallard Phyllis Macdonald, Mick Woiwod, Dorothy Markby, Harry Gilham

These members will look after the business aspects of the Society over the next twelve months leaving our regular meetings generally free for the scheduled item. However, from time to time matters of importance will come up and, as in the past, these will be put to members for their decision, advice or information as appropriate. Contact any of the above members if you want an item raised at a Committee Meeting.

SCHOOL RESIDENCE, KANGAROO GROUND

There has been an important development in our proposal to establish a museum at Kangaroo Ground. Wendy Bradley, a museum student at Deakin University, has agreed to provide us with significant assistance as part of the practical requirement of her studies. Wendy, a resident of Kangaroo Ground, is a trained librarian and has already had some practical experience of museum and gallery operation.

A sub-committee has been formed to work with Wendy and is being convened by Mick Woiwod. Other Society members, Doug Orford and Diana Bassett-Smith, are also on the sub-committee, together with Kangaroo Ground architect Gary Patterson.

Wendy's work is so far at an early stage but, importantly, a major theme for the museum has been identified.

Andrew Ross was a pioneer teacher of Kangaroo Ground and was a leader in many other community activities. His connection with education and this site present an ideal starting point for our theme. The proposal has been enthusiastically supported by the supervisors of Wendy's course and Kangaroo Ground School authorities.

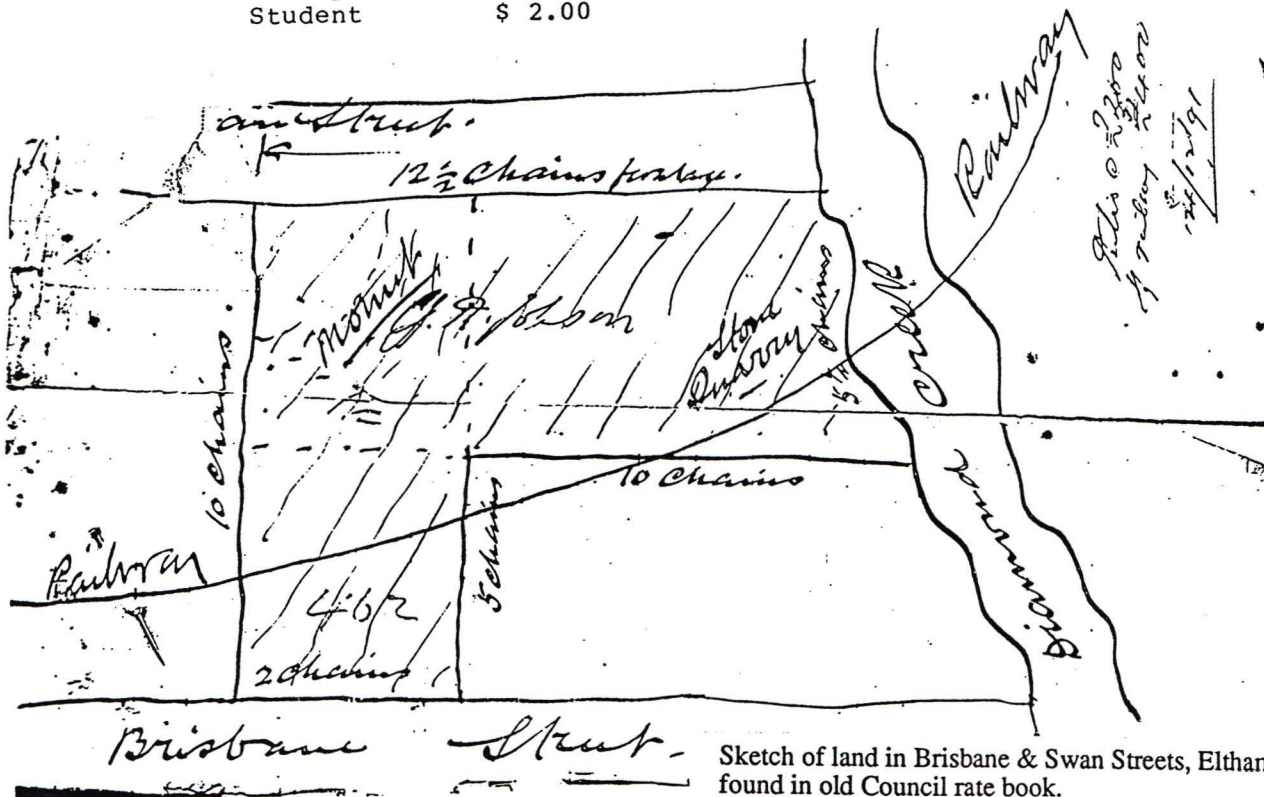
It is anticipated that Wendy's work will result in a detailed instruction manual for setting up the museum and submissions to various authorities which may be able to assist with funding. Concept plans of the museum layout are to be produced in conjunction with Gary Patterson.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

At the Annual General Meeting subscriptions for this year were fixed at the same level as for last year. Subscriptions are now due and if not paid at the Annual General Meeting should now be sent to Treasurer Gwen Orford.

The attached form should be completed and sent with the appropriate amount as follows:

Adult	\$10.00
Family	\$15.00
Student	\$ 2.00



Sketch of land in Brisbane & Swan Streets, Eltham found in old Council rate book.

OTHER SOCIETY NEWS

Plans are now being made for our 25th Anniversary meeting on 8th July. On present indications we will have a buffet dinner at 6.30 followed by the meeting. The dinner is to be prepared by a small group of members and there will be a small charge to cover costs. Details will be sent in advance of the July Newsletter and an RSVP will be required to determine numbers.

Our theme for the meeting will be "Images of Eltham". The idea is that we have a panel of speakers, mainly artists with each to speak on a local painting or some other "image" of Eltham.

At the Annual General Meeting we heard another most interesting talk in our "My Eltham" series. Gordon Ford spoke of the people he had been involved with and the work that he had done in his fifty-five years in Eltham. He talked at some length on the earlier years and the establishment of his property in Pitt Street. It was fascinating to hear of the origins of his house as a fibro shack and the later mud brick "rendering" of it. In the early 1950's Gordon became involved in landscaping work with Ellis Stones and went on to become one of the leading figures in creation of Australian bush gardens. At 74 he is still working in this field.

Heritage consultant David Bick played a major role in our efforts for this year's Heritage Festival. He helped arrange the display at Kangaroo Ground and was the speaker at a function arranged by the Eltham Library. The display was transported to the Library to use as a basis for his talk. The display included old photos from the Council's and Society's collections and new photos of heritage sites taken by David. It created a significant amount of interest, including a visit by Grade 6 from Eltham East Primary School.

Russell Yeoman - 439-9717 Secretary	Gwen Orford - 439-8642 Treasurer
Joan Ackland - 439-9750 Membership Secretary	Sue Law - 439-9520 President

A. R. Weston Esq

Sir

*In substituting stone for brick
on the building of State School Eltham
I beg to be permitted to build the gables
and arches of doors and windows with
dark brick facings. As the stone in the
district is not well suited for the purpose
having numerous cross veins etc. places
which render it very difficult to work.
While if permitted to use brick I can
make good substantial work and I
believe more pleasing in appearance.*

I have the honor to be

Sir

*Yours Obedient Servant
Edith Davies
Builder
State School Eltham*

Correspondence from builder
of Eltham Primary School C.1876