



Shire of Eltham Historical Society

INCORPORATED

P.O. BOX 137 ELTHAM VICTORIA 3095

NEWSLETTER

NO 85 JULY, 1992

25TH ANNIVERSARY

1967 - 1992



FRANK BURGEOYNE
GEORGE HARRISON
MARY BURGEOYNE
JACK BURGEOYNE

1932

The illustrations in this Newsletter are items from the family album of Harry Burgoyne which was displayed at the 50 year residents' lunch (see Page 4).

TWENTY FIFTH ANNIVERSARY MEETING

Our meeting on Wednesday 8th July has been arranged as a special evening to commemorate the formation of our Society in 1967. The date has been selected to fit in with our usual meeting schedule. The Anniversary date itself is arguable. The most obvious date is 6th June when a public meeting was held at Eltham for the purpose of forming an Historical Society. Nearly 50 people came out on an incredibly foggy evening to support Cr. Charis Pelling who had convened the meeting. There was unanimous support for the formation of the Society and an interim committee was formed to make the arrangements. This committee was chaired by Charis Pelling and met several times over the next few months. The first general meeting of the Society was held on 24th October, 1967. A constitution was adopted and a committee was appointed with Charis Pelling as President. The Society was formed and the rest is in fact History. It is appropriate here to record that the ensuing 25 years have seen only three other Presidents, Peter Bassett-Smith, Kath Stephenson and Sue Law. An interesting project for the near future would be to write the history of our own Society.

To celebrate our Silver Anniversary we have arranged a buffet dinner followed by the special agenda item "Images of Eltham". Catering for the dinner will be arranged by Society members and Wine will be provided by committee member and local wine-maker Harry Gilham.

Invitations have been previously sent to members and by now those coming should have sent their acceptance and paid their \$10 to defray the cost of the dinner. If you intend to come and have not yet replied please ring Gwen Orford on 439 8642 right now. We may be able to cater for a few late comers.

Dinner will commence about 6.30p.m. at usual meeting place at the Eltham Senior Citizens' Centre.

"Images of Eltham" will be somewhat different to the usual after dinner speech. We have arranged a panel of five speakers, each well known in the local art scene to talk about their selected paintings of Eltham. The subjects range over a wide area of the Shire of Eltham and the speakers have a great deal of flexibility. They may concentrate on their particular painting or perhaps they will use a painting as an example of their work or of local landscapes or The panel and their "images" will be as follows:-

David Armfield well known Eltham painter who will talk about his landscape "Panton Hill" which won the 1980 Eltham Art Prize.

Piers Bateman of St. Andrews who has chosen a painting with a historical theme, "The Old Mine" which he painted at Cottles Bridge.

Wendi Henderson, Kangaroo Ground wildlife artist is the exception to the landscape theme. Her selected work is "A Special Corner: Eltham Copper and Kangaroo Grass 1".

Hilary Jackman once from Eltham and now living at Christmas Hills is well known for her local landscapes. Her painting "Brougham Street Bridge" has been chosen for this occasion.

Lesly Martin will speak about the paintings of her late husband Alan. She has selected two "old Eltham" paintings from her extensive collection of his works. They are "From John Street" and "Bremners Park" (now Wingrove Park)

ANDREW ROSS SCHOOL HOUSE MUSEUM PROJECT:

In our last Newsletter we reported on the establishment of a sub-committee for the project and the appointment of Wendy Bradley as adviser. Since then a lot of work has been done by Wendy, Mick Woiwod and other members of the sub-committee. On-site meetings have been held with the Museum Unit of the Ministry for the Arts and with Shire Councillors. Applications for funding assistance are now being prepared and submitted to a number of organizations which may be able to help. Meetings are being held with other nearby museums to develop complementary and co-operative ventures to attract visitors from outside the area.

LOTS OF OTHER NEWS:

Bruce Bence from Warrandyte Historical Society has been researching the former Kangaroo Ground newspaper, "The Evelyn Observer". He has previously provided us with a wide variety of information including the full series of Andrew Ross Reminiscences. Bruce has now presented us with a compilation of extracts from the paper entitled "Letters Home - Boer War 1900 - 1901; World War I 1916". It consists of letters from local servicemen including members of the Harris family who were the proprietors of the newspaper.

Another donation to the Society comes from Ann Thomas of Marysville. Members who went on our trip to that area in 1990 will remember that Ann was our guide and that she was most enthusiastic in showing us the "Big Culvert" on the Yarra Track in the Cumberland Reserve. Ann has kindly sent us a copy of her booklet on The Big Culvert and other features of the reserve.

Yet another donation to the Society. At the last Committee Meeting Phyllis Macdonald presented us with two delightful miniature paintings by Edward Warren. The paintings are accompanied by some old letters which tell us something about the painter who lived in Liverpool, England. In 1883 Warren was writing to his friend A G Dawes in Palermo, Sicily. However, letters dated 1884 tell Dawes that Warren has died and the paintings are sent to him. Dawes has made some notes on the back of one letter telling of his friendship with Warren and written in Melbourne in 1885.

Russell Yeoman represented the Society at a function at Brighton on 14th June to mark the 150th Anniversary of the arrival of Henry Dendy's emigrants. Dendy sponsored 38 families from England who settled on his Brighton estate. In later years Dendy was a pastoralist at Christmas Hills and a flour miller and prominent resident of Eltham. The celebrations included the unveiling of a plaque commemorating the arrival of the emigrants on the "Earl of Durham" and the "Platina" in 1842.

ELTHAM HERITAGE MURAL.

The Shire of Eltham has applied to the Ministry for the Arts for funding for a mural to be painted on the walls of the Eltham Railway Station. The theme of the mural will be local heritage ranging from Aboriginal subjects to European settlement to more recent artistic and environmental aspects. If the application is successful it is intended to employ an artist who will seek community assistance in developing themes and for ensuring accuracy of the various elements.

The project is being co-ordinated by the Shire's Manager -Community Arts Caroline Shaw with assistance from Christine Marks. If you would like to help or require information they can be contacted at the Eltham Shire Office.

50 YEAR RESIDENTS' LUNCH

On 13th June the Shire President Cr. John Cohen hosted a lunch at the Eltham Community Centre for people who have lived in the Shire of Eltham for at least 50 years. In the absence of any reliable information on who to invite, advertisements were placed in local newspapers. The result exceeded all expectations with over 200 people accepting the invitation. Many of our Society members were on the guest list. As a result of the event we have a number of new members and have located a number of interesting documents and photos.

Impromptu speeches were encouraged and they included many of well known local legends and some not so well known happenings.

Those who attended voted this to be a most enjoyable function. The Council and particularly John Cohen are congratulated for their initiative.

Friday, February 7, 1958

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J. N. BURGOYNE & SONS

Old Eltham Firm Sells Out

After having been in business for nearly half a century, J. N. Burgoyne and Sons have relinquished their hardware business in Eltham, having sold out to E. and B. Clinton, who formerly conducted the Pantan Hill store.

Mr. J. N. Burgoyne was originally in business, on the site of the old post office, where he had a grocery and bread shop. The firm later disposed of their grocery business and shifted to new premises about three years ago, where the post office was carried on until the new official post office was opened last month.

Mr. H. Burgoyne said this week that he had no immediate plans for the future except that he intended to have a complete rest. He will continue to live at Eltham.

Mr. and Mrs. Clinton, who have taken over the business, sold their Pantan Hill store and post office late last year after nearly six years there. Mr. Clinton was well known in the district, and has also been in business in Box Hill and Preston.

ELTHAM CULTURAL HERITAGE TOUR

Arranged by David Bick Architect and Russell Yeoman.

Commencing with a quick walk to see the magnificent bell at the Eltham Fire Station, we then drove along Arthur Street. Here were examples of what constitutes the building environment of Eltham. Massed among the wattles and eucalypts were golden cypress and pines; No. 50 was an exotic 'old English' manor-house; No. 93 had bluestone gateposts, from Fenton Road Toorak (as with Monsalvat, using re-cycled building material was very much the trend); past the natural Reserve dedicated to the artist Walter Withers, a plaque on a huge boulder; and on both sides houses in the various modes - timber with wrought iron decor, brick-some more recent than others, decades of 'suburbia'.

The land was unprofitable for intensive farming, but there was always water in the Diamond Creek. The railway, a technological advance, followed the valley, and was provided to transport produce. At North Eltham we were privileged to tour a surviving farmhouse of the 1860-70 era at the Shire's Edendale Farm, with the as yet unfinished Sculpture for a front fence - bulbous tree-trunks decorated with salt pots, with cross members from the old trestle bridge. As was usual these six veranda-posted houses faced South (or East, away from the sun!) with the scullery, kitchen and pantry "out the back". The veranda, which must have been very narrow, no longer exists. It probably wrapped around three sides.

The drive took us past the Dutch Windmill, only twenty years old and in the Shire of Diamond Valley, then the Diamond Creek Cemetery with impressive gateway, to a detour to see another old farmhouse, isolated on a hill off Murray Road Wattle Glen. Here was a particularly thick patch of exotic planting of pines and cypresses. Subsistence farming no longer pays.

Following the rail-line we noticed on the left near Silvan Road an Edwardian cottage and on the right near Yates Road the old school residence for this Upper Diamond Creek area.

Leaving the cars at Hurstbridge we walked the main street of the old village settlement, now a suburb. Near the station was a fine Edwardian house complete with palm and pines. Opposite was the Police Station, 1930-60 with a portable lock-up behind and the residence beside it. No. 794 was the Post Office 3099, the original shop-front window now has mail-boxes below. Close to the Railway entrance the butcher's shop remains unchanged, but across the road the linear shopping centre tries to keep the character of the olden times.

The Fire Bell once hung on a tall gum outside No. 832. Palms in front gardens indicate the age of some of the homes, about 70 years. A corrugated iron shed still stands on the front fence line next to No. 840.

Adding to the streetscape is an example of the standard timber early 20th century four veranda post suburban villa.

At the crossroads stands Alwood House with its well laid-out garden. The original owners, the Hurst family, ran a nursery; the aligned palms, the cactus clumps, the introduced trees and shrubs show the plants then in fashion. On the other corners stand an old corrugated iron Garage; a restaurant, designed and built 1980, but by using old materials it tries to retain the rustic character of its surroundings; and open space where a two-storied Wineshop/Saloon once stood. The old Bank, now in the grounds of Alwood House has been moved a few doors down the street.

On the Arthurs Creek Road is a bridge designed by Monash, which we admired before walking across the little park with a mud-brick and timber shelter, to the Hurst family graveyard. There are two marked graves, one, Henry who was shot by Burke the bushranger and a cairn has a plaque listing others buried here from 1866 onwards. Burke was captured and tied to the wheel of a dray under the eucalypt near the waterhose/standpipe.

Close by the kindergarten at this place are three trees on the National Trust Register, a Canary Island pine, a Canadian cedar and probably a spruce. Radiata pines and a thick balled peppercorn surround the little cemetery.

Continuing along Main Street we notice elm trees planted as a war memorial, then on the left a 1930 timber house, a 1910 store and residence, resplendent with wrought iron trim, a double fronted Hardware Store and cypresses on the back alignment of a new vacant block.

On the right side of the street is a less interesting attempt at an 'in character' shop. Further on are more early homes, one tucked away at the rear with two tall palms by the front steps. Another curiosity is a rounded veranda corner and there are more galvanised iron sheds or garages, before a mud-brick Dentist's Surgery. Beyond the round-a-about is St Peters Church, of mud-brick construction shared by Catholic and Anglican parishioners, overlooking the river flood plain.

Leaving Hurstbridge on the Kinglake Road, we ate our picnic lunch beside the communication tower and enjoyed views of Melbourne, Yan Yean Reservoir and the distant Dandenongs beyond the spreading suburbs.

Next we drove to the North West boundary of the Shire at Masons Falls Road towards Whittlesea. On the way to the North East Boundary we passed St Peters, a yellow wooden Church with a Tudor Archway, built in the early 1920's in the style of the 1860's.

From the Healesville - Kinglake road the rolling hills had European aspects, the hedged fields and chestnut trees. Then it was back down the Hurstbridge Road through 'Aussie' bush of towering gums, with bracken and scrubby understorey, the Kinglake National Park, before more open country with deciduous trees planted in line, and a creek lined with willows.

At St Andrews we noted the old and new schools, the Anglican Church, the Hall, the Bakery and the pub - still a popular watering and eating place. Climbing towards Pantan Hill the soil was not rich and supported only scarce growth.

Perfunctory prospecting and mining had taken place in this area, though not with the diligence applied at Research. Again we saw the ingredients of a settlement, this one organised by Government, the Hotel, the Store, the School. Down from Memorial Park the School grounds had original tree planting and the School Bell dedicated to Maud Rattray who died in 1922. There is a new Hall and opposite in the grounds of the Church and Sunday School a modest Memorial Cross of granite with inscriptions and in memory of four 'fallen comrades'. This small section of the main road retained the small village atmosphere; although the population had increased there had been little alteration.

Now we drove through stands of pines to the Kangaroo Ground Lookout Tower, a most unusual War Memorial, World War I. The tower and a shed/residence (it had a chimney) were built from local sandstone. Below to the south and east of Melbourne spread 'suburbia'. Close by the landscape seemed so contrived - English fields and hedgerows! Although only about twenty inches deep, the soil of this ancient volcano, its crater lost under subsequent weathering, was rich, deserving the name of "Garden Hill". Now native trees are taking over again.

In Kangaroo Ground itself stand the inevitable Store, School and Church - and two Norfolk pines and a monkey-puzzle tree.

On a right-angle turning of the Eltham Road is Wellers Pub, a Cobb & Co. coaching stop on the way to distant gold-fields and places north of the Yarra River. The Hotel dates from the 1870's. Daily distances for a bullock team was eight miles, horses could do double that distance.

We turned into Cassells Road and on the corner of Ingrams Road we admired an elaborate Edwardian villa, 1900 style. The Aqueduct conveying Melbourne's water supply was a communication line and a technological advance in 1891. It has been enlarged and re-faced and no longer used here but piped underground. Proclaimed a linear park it has reverted to crown land, controlled by local Council. Maroondah Dam was constructed in 1920 to replace the original weir and at that time the Aqueduct was established into the landscape - with bridges and tunnels and pine trees were used to stop rubbish polluting the water.

In some respects Eltham is a 'back-water' and it has its own distinctive flavour. On the outskirts the homes date from the 1960's, 70's and 80's with a sprinkling of 'earth homes', mud-brick or pise, rammed dirt. Crossing Main Road into Beddoe Street and Thompson Crescent a very pleasant drive past pines and old fence lines, front lawns unfenced, the occasional old farm building, we eventually looked down on a huge circular roof of a 1992 adobe home.

Other distinctive places included the Pauline Toner Butterfly Reserve, Gordon Ford's splendid garden at Fulling in Pitt Street, cypress hedges and old houses in Bridge Street and in every direction Eltham's special feature - a totally treed horizon.

We were now in the part of the Shire closest to Melbourne - Montmorency - not on the way to anywhere, with no through road going across it, developed in the 1950's and 1960's with conventional gardens, now converted to native plants. The rail looped between Greensborough and Eltham and a shopping street (Were Street) served the area, growing up the hill from the station. It was a typical outer Melbourne suburb with lawns and roses with patches of originality. The shopping precinct still has 1950 characteristics - walls which sloped back, projecting roofs, the original shop fronts are nearly all tiled below the old windows. There's an air of past times about the School, the Dairy, the Butcher's (now a milk bar) and the Castlemaine stone face of the Commonwealth Bank.

The final stop for the tour was at the mud-brick Woodburn residence, adobe of 1949 with additions. After War Service, Bill Woodburn had commenced an Architecture course at Melbourne University and after second year in the Christmas vacation, with his wife, Betti, built the two bedroom house - with amazing saving of costs. In the three and a half months they made over 3000 bricks (external walls 18" x 12" x 4", internal walls 12" x 9" x 4"), sifted top soil for mortar and laid them, on concrete foundations and slab floor, made all the structural window frames, door frames and roof members to carry 'super six' asbestos sheets, laboured for the electrician and plumber, did all the glazing and, still without electricity, moved in in March 1949. Rooms have been added, at first with glass walls, later using concrete blocks, to accommodate three daughters and a son. The house not only grew from the earth, but also with the family.

David Bick managed during the day's tour to demonstrate many aspects in the growth of Eltham - it was a most enjoyable and comprehensive survey.

Bettina Woodburn

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

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY
Eltham War Memorial Trust
HOMECRAFT EXHIBITION
SHIRE HALL, ELTHAM FRIDAY, 18th MARCH, 1955

First Prize
For *Orange Cake*
Exhibited by *Mrs. H. Burgoyne*

Acting President: Mrs. L. Atitwill Secretary: Mrs. Lynn

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY
Eltham War Memorial Trust
HOMECRAFT EXHIBITION
SHIRE HALL, ELTHAM FRIDAY, 18th MARCH, 1955

First Prize
For *Cinnamon Sponge*
Exhibited by *Mrs. H. Burgoyne*

Acting President: Mrs. L. Atitwill Secretary: Mrs. Lynn