



Shire of Eltham Historical Society

Incorporated

P.O. Box 137, Eltham, Victoria, 3095

NEWSLETTER

NO. 92 SEPTEMBER, 1993

NEXT MEETING

WEDNESDAY, 8 SEPTEMBER, 1993

ELTHAM SENIOR CITIZENS' CENTRE

MAIN ROAD, ELTHAM

(ENTER FROM SHIRE OFFICE DRIVEWAY)

6.30 P.M. BUFFET DINNER

8.00 P.M. SPEAKER PANEL

"ELTHAM CREATIONS"

SPRING EXCURSION

STEIGLITZ - POINT COOK

SUNDAY, 3 OCTOBER, 1993

LEAVES ELTHAM SHIRE OFFICE 9.00 A.M.

SEPTEMBER MEETING:

This meeting will follow the formula of the successful 25th Anniversary meeting held last year. Then we had a buffet dinner and a panel of speakers on the subject "Images of Eltham". All of those speakers were local painters. We are pursuing the same theme but with other art forms.

There will be a buffet dinner commencing at 6.30 pm. This will comprise casseroles and associated items prepared by a group of members. Wines and other drinks will be arranged by Harry Gilham and will include some of his own wines in an interesting variety of flavours. Sweets and coffee will be served after the meeting.

Cost of the dinner will be \$10.00 per person to be paid on the night. However, we need to know who is coming. Ring Gwen Orford - 439-8642 - by Tuesday 7th September if you are coming for dinner.

The meeting itself will commence at 8.00 pm. We have arranged a panel of speakers from several of the fields of craft and fine art other than painting. Each of these local people will bring some examples of their work to illustrate their talk. The panel will consist of:

:Leigh Carbines, proprietor of Eltham Wiregrass Gallery and member of the Eltham Arts Council who will provide an overview and introduce the other speakers;

:Michael Wilson, goldsmith and jeweller

:Peter Accadia, potter

:Julie Martin, papermaker

:Brian Cutler, furniture maker and woodworker

This meeting has the potential to be every bit as successful as "Images of Eltham". Even if you can't come for dinner try to come at eight o'clock for the speakers.

SPRING EXCURSION:

The excursion listed in the 1993 Programme (Maribyrrong River) has been abandoned due to cost. Instead, we have organized an alternative tour for Sunday 3rd October. It is in the same direction but heading further out of town. We are combining two historic locations with a Springtime visit to the well-known wildflower area of the Brisbane Ranges.

The main destination will be Steiglitz near Anakie. Steiglitz is a classical gold mining ghost town. In the 1860's it had a population of more than one thousand. Today only a few of the buildings remain. They include the Courthouse which has been set up as a museum. A brochure is available for a forty-five minute walk around the town but if you prefer to be less active than that, then you can be.

We have organized for a ranger from the Brisbane Ranges National Park to give us a guided tour through a nearby part of the park to look at the wildflowers. They should be close to their best at this time.

On our way home we will visit the historic Point Cook Homestead which is set in attractive gardens in the Point Cook Metropolitan Park. If you still feel like walking you can take a stroll along the park's little used beach.

This is not as far as some trips we have been on. It should be quite leisurely and we will have time to travel on back roads rather than highways.

The cost of this trip is \$15.00. To book your seat complete the enclosed form and bring it with your money to the September meeting or send it direct to the Treasurer, Gwen Orford, 125 Napoleon Street, Eltham. Friends are welcome as long as we have seats available.

Be at the front of the Eltham Shire Offices at 8.50 am ready for a 9.00 am start. Bring a picnic lunch and something for morning and afternoon tea if you wish. If you want to bring a folding chair there will be room for it under the bus.

CONSERVATION AND HERITAGE STRATEGY

The Conservation and Heritage Strategy for the Shire of Eltham was launched at a successful and well attended function on 25 July. Our Society arranged a display based on the Shire Heritage Study and there were displays by other environmental and heritage groups.

The strategy is a document of about 50 pages containing actions adopted by the Council for protection of our environmental and cultural heritage and for dealing with wider issues such as degradation of land, air and water. Subjects covered include:

- Protecting Our Local Flora and Fauna;
- Sustainable Land Management;
- Reducing Pollution and Wastes and Conserving Resources;
- Cultural Heritage and Landscape Protection;
- Recreation and Tourism;
- Community Education and Involvement.

The matter of most direct interest to the Society is the cultural heritage aspect which is jointly considered with landscape protection. The actions approved under this heading are as follows:

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| P1 Council will consider the advice provided in the Cultural Heritage and Aboriginal Heritage studies and, after consideration of other relevant matters, implement protection for significant sites, buildings, trees and areas of vegetation as appropriate. This would include as a minimum protection by appropriate registration in the Planning Scheme. | P3 Council will apply to external funding bodies for grants for the protection and maintenance of culturally significant buildings and sites. |
| P2 Council will establish a Heritage Advisory Sub-Committee to advise Council on cultural and aboriginal heritage matters. The sub-committee should consist of community members, a Councillor and appropriate Shire Officers, and should meet once every three months. These matters are currently dealt with by the Environment Advisory Sub-Committee, but the large number of environmental issues being dealt with by that sub-committee preclude it from adequately dealing with the Heritage area. | P4 Council will encourage the older residents of the Shire to write down or otherwise provide their memories of the Shire's past, so that knowledge of the areas history, development and variety of lifestyles is not lost. This will also assist in the identification of significant buildings and sites in the Shire. The possibility of the proposed Heritage Advisory Sub-Committee, university or VCE students or other groups carrying out interviews with older residents should be investigated. |
| | P5 Council will encourage landowners to locate buildings and other constructions so as to be compatible with the environment and landscape values. Landowners should be discouraged from building in sensitive areas such as the top of hills in the North Riding. The practicability and appropriateness of preventing building on hill tops will be investigated. |

- P6 Council will further investigate the inclusion of guidelines or Planning Scheme provisions on the location and design features of buildings that ensure compatibility with landscape values.
- P7 Council will strictly enforce the requirement of revegetating earthwork batters to serve erosion reduction, habitat and landscape protection purposes.
- P8 Council will, with the assistance of the proposed Heritage Advisory Sub-Committee and historical societies, produce a summary booklet on significant sites that illustrate the history of the Shire and which enables a self-guided tour of the various historic sites where appropriate.
- P9 Council will pursue other opportunities for the promotion of our heritage including videos, conferences, displays, seminars and the like and will seek grants for such.
- P10 Council will, in conjunction with the Eltham Historical Society and other relevant community groups, develop a Shire of Eltham Archive and Museum and seek contributions from the community.
- P11 Council will encourage local schools to incorporate some education on the cultural heritage of the Shire into their curriculum, and will produce a school project kit to assist this process.
- P12 Council will actively support the updating of the Significant Trees Register and the referral of identified trees for registration by the National Trust.

Copies of the Strategy are available from the Shire Office.

ANDREW ROSS SCHOOLHOUSE MUSEUM

Committee consideration and negotiations are continuing on the future management of the museum. Mick Woiwood who has been convenor of the museum sub-committee feels that he cannot continue much longer in that role. We are grateful to Mick for the work he has done to date and regretfully must accept his decision.

As part of the current process, it will be necessary to fund another person who is willing to take charge of the setting up and administration of the museum. The precise role that person will play will need to be considered. Suggestions or volunteers would be welcomed. Harry Gilham would be happy to discuss the matter with any interested members.

Discussions are to be held with the Kangaroo Ground School and the Shire of Eltham regarding possible roles for those bodies in the proposed board of management.

Unfortunately, there were insufficient members available to hold the volunteer training days in August. Further training times will be scheduled at a later date.

OTHER NEWS

The various generations of libraries in Eltham received very thorough treatment by the speakers at our July meeting. President Harry Gilham had done extensive research into the forerunners of the present library and has produced a record which must be kept. Linda McConnell provided a very detailed account of the resources available in the library and how they will be enhanced in the new library. Architect, Greg Burgess, spoke about his design for the new Eltham library now under construction in Panther Place. He showed plans and a model of the building and to illustrate the context of his work he showed slides of some of the interesting buildings he has designed.

A retrospective exhibition of the Shire of Eltham art collection was held in the Eltham Community Centre in June. This important collection includes representative works by many local artists from Walter Withers through to modern painters, sculptors and other artists of today. Although the exhibition has finished, many works remain on display in the Community Centre. The Society has obtained a catalogue of the complete collection.

Harry Gilham
President
439-1175

Russell Yeoman
Secretary
439-9717

Gwen Orford
Treasurer
439-8642

SHIRE OF ELTHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SPRING EXCURSION - SUNDAY 3 OCTOBER 1993

Please reserve the following seats:

* * * ADULTS at \$15.00 * * * CHILDREN at \$8.00

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$

NAME: PHONE NO:.....

RETURN TO SEPTEMBER MEETING

OR SEND TO: GWEN ORFORD
125 NAPOLEON STREET
ELTHAM 3095

Phone Enquiries: 439 8642



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