

**Eltham District
Historical Society
Incorporated**
PO Box 137, Eltham, Victoria 3095

**NEWSLETTER
No. 107 MARCH 1996**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

8.00 PM WEDNESDAY 13TH MARCH 1996

ELTHAM SENIOR CITIZENS' CENTRE

MAIN ROAD ELTHAM

(ENTER FROM OLD SHIRE OFFICE DRIVEWAY)

SPEAKER: JOCK READ

“MY ELTHAM “

JOCK READ

It is now a well established feature of our Annual General Meetings that we have a speaker on the subject of “My Eltham”. Under this heading we have been treated to a wide variety of reminiscences of Eltham and the former Shire of Eltham. The speakers have been long time residents or former residents of the area, generally from outside the ranks of the Society.

This year we have arranged an “in house” speaker, our own Jock Read. Jock was born in Brunswick 80 years ago but came to Eltham at an early age. He is now one of our most senior residents with a wealth of knowledge regarding local happenings. In recent times he has become well known in the community as the leader (with horse) of parades through Eltham for festivals and Anzac Day. He was known to many school children as the friendly crossing supervisor in Main Road at Dalton Street until his recent retirement.

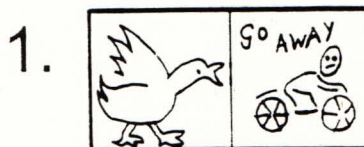
From time to time Jock has provided a lively contribution to discussions on Eltham’s history. This is the first time we will get the full story of the life and times of this colourful local character.

MONTMORENCY FOOTPATH MOSAICS

As part of the Art in Public Places programme of the former Shire of Eltham several public meetings were held with Montmorency residents. From these came a number of anecdotes of former times in Montmorency and it was decided that these should be permanently recorded in an artistic format. Drawings depicting the events in the anecdotes were done by children from Montmorency Primary School. From these drawings artists Felix Borsari and Christine Perks created mosaic tiles which were set in various locations in the footpath in Were Street. The project was completed by Banyule City Council following municipal restructuring.

A plaque in the Were Street Park gives the location of the mosaics, a brief version of the anecdote and a simplified sketch of the illustrations. We have used copies of the anecdotes and sketches to illustrate this Newsletter. Of special interest is the reference to Blanche Shallard's dahlias.

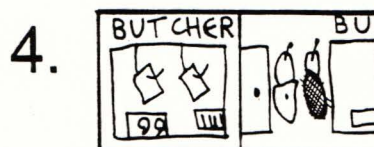
A FRIENDLY GOOSE WHO WOULD WALK SEVERAL KMS. TO THE STATION WITH ITS' OWNER AND RETURN HOME ALONE WOULD CHASE AND ATTACK MOTORBIKE RIDERS.



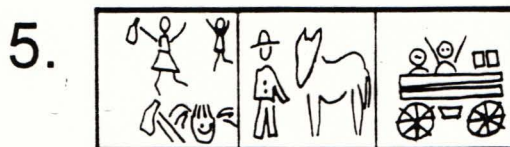
PEOPLE BOUGHT FRUIT AND VEGETABLES FROM THE BACK OF MR. PARKER'S OLD CHEVY TRUCK. HE ALWAYS WORE A RED BERET. (1960'S)



THE EARLIEST BUTCHERS SHOP WAS OPPOSITE THE STATION. MESSAGES WERE LEFT IN THE WINDOWS AND MEAT ORDERS FOR TRAIN TRAVELLERS HUNG OUTSIDE AFTER CLOSING. (1940'S)



CHILDREN LOVED TO HELP DELIVER MILK AND RIDE THE HORSE DRAWN CART OF THE BINNS STREET DAIRY MILKMAN. (1960'S)

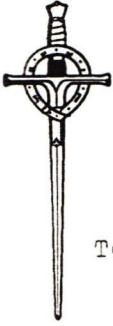


ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The official notice and agenda of the Annual General Meeting were included in the last Newsletter. The Annual General Meeting is generally quite a brief formal meeting but is an important part of our year's activities. It provides an opportunity to review the previous year's activities and set directions for the year ahead.

The Committee has been quite stable over the years with only a few changes of personnel. That is not to say that we don't welcome new blood to the Committee, in fact, we actively encourage it. Members are asked to seriously consider whether they can contribute to the operation of the Society in some official capacity and to nominate accordingly.

The meeting will deal with the notice of motion by Gwen Orford to change the timing of payment of subscriptions. Details were given in the last Newsletter.



The Eltham Society

*Preserving the past
Conserving the present
Protecting the future*

To:- The Eltham District
Historical Society Inc.
P.O. Box 137,
Eltham.
Victoria 3095,
Melbourne. Australia.

From:- Clifford Crate,
31 Southend Close,
Eltham.
London. SE9 2SF.
England.
14th February 1996.

For the attention of Mr. Harry Gilham, President.

Dear Harry,

I have just received in the post a copy of your Newsletter No. 106 January 1996, and together with other members of our Eltham Society, would like to convey our great pleasure in reading that tonight you are to show the audio-visual presentation we sent to you in celebration of your bi-centennial in 1988.

Time marches on and during the past seven years there has been a few changes to our Eltham. The Yorkshire Gray public house shown on one of the slides has recently and to our regret, become a McDonald's restaurant. The farm behind Eltham Palace is there no longer. Eltham Palace vacated some years ago by the Army Education Corps has recently been taken over by English Heritage, an organisation which looks after and maintains historical buildings. We are pleased that Eltham Palace will now not be neglected. The Tudor Barn has now become a public house, because the local Council could no longer afford to maintain it.

The Eltham Society has paid for a specially designed Eltham town sign which was erected in Passey Place, an open space almost opposite Marks & Spencers in the High Street, picture enclosed. The Parish Church and crossroads remain as ever untouched. About four years ago the IRA detonated a bomb in the grounds of Eltham Palace. Fortunately there were no deaths or structural damage to the ancient fabric.

We hope that you are still using the Gavell and Stand that were sent with the audio-visual presentation.

It is good to know that, like you, we are still thriving. Our membership remains at around 500, which is quite something. We sincerely hope that the Eltham District Historical Society will continue to thrive, and that you will have found renewed interest and pleasure in the screening of our audio-visual on the 14th February.

Marion Kennett our present Chairman and the Council of our Society send you all their very best wishes.

Kindest regards,
Yours,

Clifford Crate
Clifford Crate.

Phyllis Macdonald sent a copy of our last Newsletter to Clifford Crate of the Eltham Society in England. Here is his reply.



9.

OH THE JOYS OF RURAL LIVING! COWS USED TO WANDER AND EAT THE GARDEN DISPLAYS, ESPECIALLY MRS. SHALLARD'S DAHLIAS. (1940'S)

ALAN MARSHALL FESTIVAL

We have received advice of a festival to celebrate the life and work of the famous Australian writer Alan Marshall (1902-1984). It is organized by the Corangamite Arts Council and to be held on Sunday 5th May 1996 at Noorat, Alan's birthplace.

Alan lived for many years at Kangaroo Ground, Research and Eltham at various stages of his life. Many local people have fond memories of him from the time he lived at Park Road Eltham until the 1970's.

The festival will include walking tours, displays, film screenings, equestrian activities, story telling competitions and many other activities. Russell Yeoman has further details.

The organizers are seeking Alan Marshall memorabilia for their display. Contact Russell if you can help or if you want to co-ordinate a visit to the festival in conjunction with other members.

HIGH SCHOOL BIRTHDAY

The Eltham High School in Withers Way (formerly Dalton Street to our members) is about to have its 70th birthday celebrations on Saturday, May 25th, at the school in the afternoon and a dinner at the Eltham Community Centre that same night.

Harry Gilham has been co-opted to assist the 1926 to 1939 memorabilia and 'students'. With our Geoffrey Braithwaite as a 1926 starter and Jock Read, Doug Orford and others that followed in those early years, we can plan a roster over the four hours of the afternoon session.

Please call Harry on 9439 1175 if you can assist or call the school on 9439 5111 and talk to Phyl Mill about display material needs.



10.

AN EMPTY OLD HOUSE IN LONG'S Paddock CAPTURED LOCAL CHILDREN'S IMAGINATION. THEY REFERRED TO IT AS THE HAUNTED HOUSE. (1950'S)

SOCIETY PROGRAMME

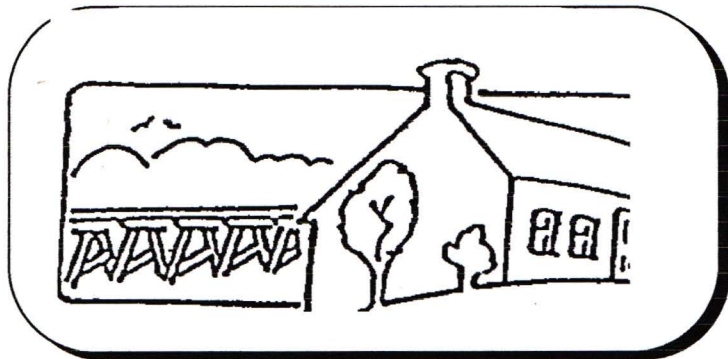
The Committee has prepared a programme of activities for 1996 and a copy is included with this Newsletter. Some of the meetings later in the year are not yet fully organized. If there are any changes details will be given in the Newsletter.

The Victorian Heritage Festival is listed in the programme although we do not have an organized Society event. The theme of the festival is "Heritage is Here and Now". The Royal Historical Society has proposed a series of local exhibitions on the theme "Main Streets: Interpreting Our Urban Culture" and we expect to take part in that. We also plan to be involved in displays of Council memorabilia being organized by Nillumbik and Banyule Councils together with local historical societies. These displays will probably be in the various libraries in Nillumbik and Banyule.

Harry Gilham
President
Phone 9439 1175

Russell Yeoman
Secretary
9439 9717

Gwen Orford
Treasurer/Membership Secretary
9439 8642



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19th April 1996

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

There are two matters which members should know about before the next Newsletter.

FURPHY FESTIVAL

This event has grown in its scope and the date has been changed from when we originally mentioned it in our Newsletter. It will be held on Sunday 19th May at the Andrew Ross Museum. The organizers would like to know by 1st May how many of our members will be attending. Please advise Harry Gilham (9439 1175) or Gwen Orford (9439 8642) if you will be attending.

The attached flier gives details of the festival.

VICTORIAN HERITAGE FESTIVAL

This festival runs from 14th to 28th April with events all over Victoria.

We have arranged two small displays in the Eltham Library. One includes memorabilia from the former Eltham Council and has been arranged in conjunction with the Nillumbik and Banyule Councils. The other is part of a series of displays suggested by the R.H.S.V. on the theme "Main Streets". This one is, of course, based on Main Road Eltham.

Other displays of memorabilia from Eltham, Diamond Valley and Heidelberg Councils are located at Rosanna, Ivanhoe, Watsonia and Diamond Valley Libraries and the Nillumbik Shire Office at Greensborough.

Russell Yeoman - Secretary
9439 9717