

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

**NEWSLETTER
No. 113 MARCH 1997**

**30TH ANNIVERSARY
1967 - 1997**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

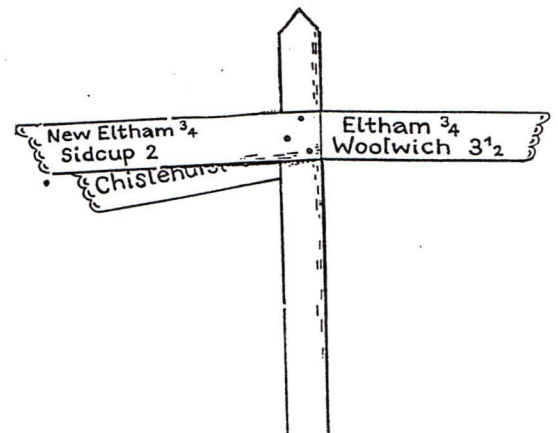
8.00 PM WEDNESDAY 12TH MARCH 1997

ELTHAM SENIOR CITIZENS' CENTRE

**MAIN ROAD ELTHAM
(ENTER FROM OLD SHIRE OFFICE DRIVEWAY)**

SPEAKER - RUSSELL YEOMAN

"THEIR ELTHAM"

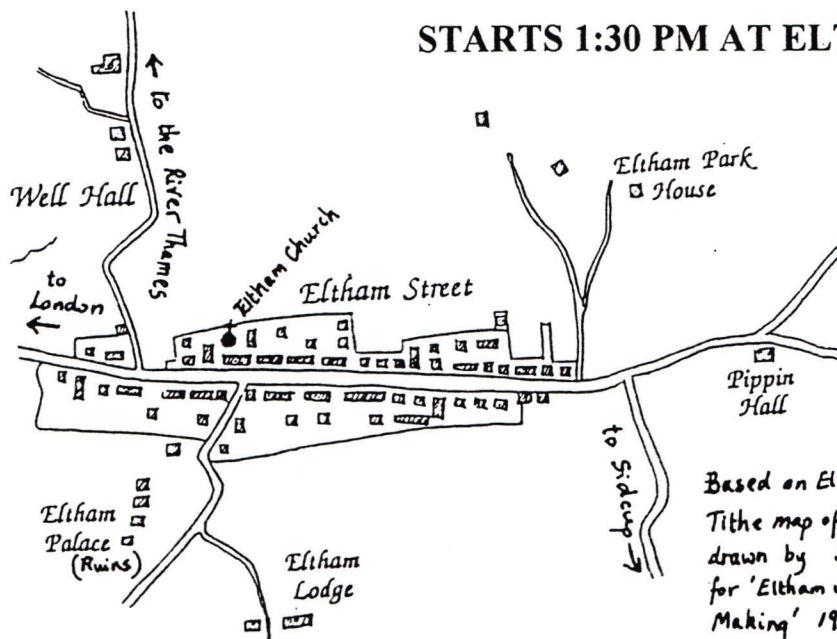


AUTUMN EXCURSION

SUNDAY 6TH APRIL

DONCASTER AND TEMPLESTOWE

STARTS 1:30 PM AT ELTHAM LIBRARY



*Based on Eltham's
Tithe map of 1839
drawn by J. Smith
for 'Eltham in the
Making' 1990*

THEIR ELTHAM

This talk by Russell Yeoman is inspired by his 1996 visit to Eltham, England (pronounced El-tam). It is not a comprehensive travelogue (the slide show produced by the Eltham Society does this better) or history (there is a large amount of reading material on this aspect). Rather it will contain some elements of both and some personal observations on Eltham, its people and their excellent organization, the Eltham Society. It will also deal briefly with some of the places around the world named after the original Eltham.

Some of the things that you could expect to hear about in this talk include Eltham's "Green Chain" of parks, the story of Yemmerawanyea who is buried in the Eltham Churchyard, Prince John of Eltham and his Palace, publications of the Eltham Society, Eltham poet Peter Middleton and so on.

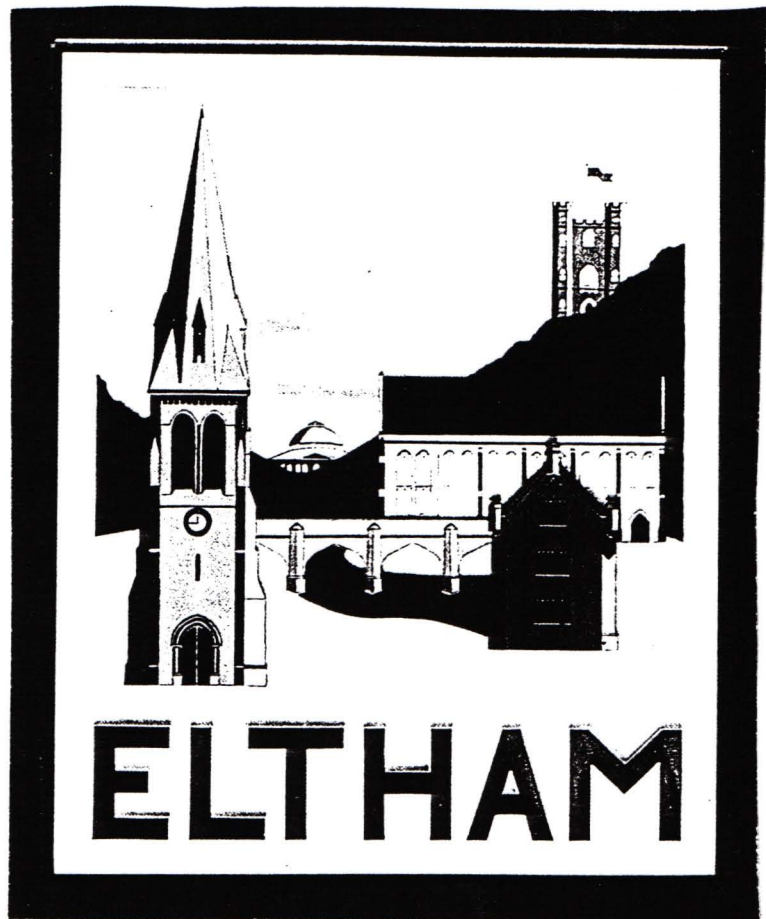
TOWN SIGN

People
Of this Most Historic Town,
Harken to me,
Hear my plea!

Take care
Of
This Sign,
Treat
It
As though
It
Were thine.

Safeguard
This Modern Invention,
Whose only intention
To focus your attention
To the Glory
Of This Place,
This Amazing Space,
Known
Lovingly
As
ELTHAM!

*Saturday
11th September 1993*



We featured the Eltham Town Sign, taken from a postcard from England in our Newsletter in 1993. The sign inspired this poem by Peter Middleton, taken from his self-published book "Eltham, Faces and Places".

SOCIETY PROGRAMME

Our 1997 programme of events is included with this Newsletter. Final arrangements have not yet been made for some of the meetings, etc. towards the end of the year. Any changes will be notified in the Newsletter.

A likely event not yet scheduled is the official opening of our proposed Society headquarters.

We have not arranged any particular event for the Victorian Heritage Festival but we will have a new display in the Eltham Library.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The formal notice and agenda of this meeting were included in the last Newsletter. This brief item is just to remind members of the importance of this meeting in reviewing the past year and setting up the framework for the next. In particular, this meeting includes the election of office bearers and committee members for 1997. We are most willing to welcome new people and ideas to the Committee. Present incumbents should not expect to go unchallenged although, of course, we are grateful to them for their work over the past year and longer. Please consider carefully if you are able to contribute to the Society in this way.

The holders of all positions retire at this meeting but are eligible for re-election.

The annual subscription is fixed at the Annual General Meeting but becomes due in July.

AUTUMN EXCURSION

This excursion to Doncaster and Templestowe will travel by private cars leaving from the Eltham Library at 1:30 pm. Irvine Green has arranged for us to visit three locations as follows:

- Petty's Orchard, historic orchard in the Yarra Valley Metropolitan Park operated by Parks Victoria.
- Pontville, the 1843 homestead of Major Charles Newman also within the Metropolitan Park.
- Schramms Cottage, headquarters and museum of the Doncaster-Templestowe Historical Society where afternoon tea will be available.

There is no charge for this excursion but please let Gwen Orford know if you are coming (at the AGM or phone 9439 8642)

Transport can be arranged for those not wishing to drive themselves.



An unusual view showing the Eltham police station and residence with the courthouse beyond.
From a collection presented to the Society by Heather Jenkins who lived here as a child when her father was the local policeman.

SOCIETY HEADQUARTERS - 728 MAIN ROAD ELTHAM

We have previously advised of our negotiations with Nillumbik Council regarding Society use of the former Eltham police quarters. Recent advice from the Council indicates we are close to achieving our long term objective of having our own premises. Renovations are currently being carried out and we hope that we can conclude the final arrangements and move in soon. We would be sharing with some other groups - at this stage the Eltham Concert Band (storage only) and some classes for the Eltham Living and Learning Centre.

We do not propose to use this building for meetings. For the foreseeable future they will continue to be held at the Senior Citizens' Centre. 728 Main Road would provide office accommodation, storage for Society records, displays at least on special occasions and probably some permanent or changing displays in the longer term.

We would hope to have an official function for members to mark the opening but we can't schedule this until arrangements are finalized. We will keep you informed.

IN BRIEF

Our display cabinet in the Eltham Library has been moved to a new, more visible location near the north eastern corner of the Library. It currently contains a display arranged by Harry Gilham featuring the contents of the "bucket time capsule" found during the demolition of the former Eltham Shire Offices. It includes items from the Shire Centenary Celebrations in 1971 and other Council memorabilia from that time.

There is still no decision by the Minister of Planning and Local Government on the future of the old Shire Office site. The Minister has referred the appeal to a technical advisory panel and we understand the panel will conduct a hearing on the matter. At this stage no date has been announced.

For those people who can't go on our Autumn Excursion to Petty's Orchard then there is an Antique Apple Festival there on March 30th and 31st (Easter). In conjunction with this the Friends of Pontville will be running walking tours between the orchard and Pontville. On 13th April Doncaster-Templestowe Historical Society will be having a Waldau Heritage Day based on the German settlement of that name at Doncaster.

Nillumbik Historical Society is running two drive yourself tours at Diamond Creek during March. On Monday 10th there will be a Cemetery Tour and on Saturday 22nd there will be a "Waterworks Tour" featuring the old Maroondah Aqueduct. Each will start at 2 pm at the Diamond Creek Community Centre. There is no need to book but information is available on 9438 3439.

Harry Gilham
President
Phone 9439 1175

Russell Yeoman
Secretary
9439 9717

Gwen Orford
Treasurer/Membership Secretary
9439 8642