

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

NEWSLETTER
No. 118 JANUARY 1998

NEXT MEETING

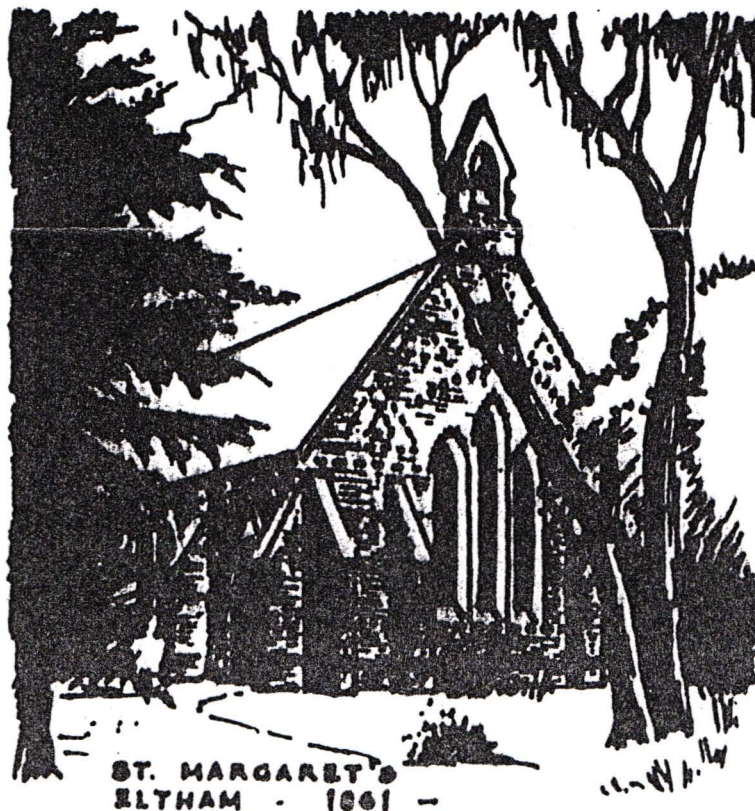
8.00 PM WEDNESDAY 11TH FEBRUARY 1998

ELTHAM SENIOR CITIZENS' CENTRE

MAIN ROAD ELTHAM
(ENTER FROM OLD SHIRE OFFICE DRIVEWAY)

THE SHIRE OF ELTHAM HERITAGE STUDY

A REVIEW BY RUSSELL YEOMAN



Sketch by Peter Glass from "Flavour of Eltham" St Margaret's Church is listed in the Eltham Heritage Study as being of State significance and is included in the Victorian Heritage Register

FEBRUARY MEETING

As you will see from our programme for 1998, we intend to devote some effort to the Shire of Eltham Heritage Study during this year. We have had various encounters with this study since it was commenced in 1991. It was not completed until 1995 which was after the restructuring of the former shire to form the Shire of Nillumbik. Whilst some individual members have had involvement with the completed study we have not examined it as a Society.

The completed study was not presented to the Council for adoption nor any of the actions recommended by the study. Nillumbik Council decided that a Nillumbik Heritage Study should be proceeded with incorporating previous work including the Eltham Study. The two stages of the Nillumbik study have been completed including a review of the Eltham study. A number of areas have been identified where further work is required and funding for that detailed work has not been available. Despite any perceived short comings the Eltham study is an important resource document for the Council and our Society.

Russell Yeoman has been involved with the Eltham study as a member of the original steering committee and was also on the committee for stage 1 of the Nillumbik study. He will provide an overview of the study so that members are aware of its contents, the types of recommendations made and its limitations. Later in the year we propose to have a meeting looking in more detail at some of the listed places and we also propose two excursions to look at some of these places.

FROM ELTHAM TO ELTHAM

The contact between our Society and the Eltham Society in England was reinforced with the recent visit of Margaret Taylor and Clifford Crate. For each it was their first visit to our Eltham and we think they have left with a favourable impression. They showed great interest in all aspects of our local area and there is very little that they missed. They also spent time viewing tourist attractions of central Melbourne and country Victoria.

Many of our members met our visitors at a barbecue organised in their honour at the Eltham Living and Learning Centre. During the evening we crossed the road to our new headquarters where Margaret and Clifford planted a shrub in the front garden. They were presented with copies of Mick Woiwod's books, "The Last Cry" and "Kangaroo Ground, The Highland Taken". They brought presents for our society in the form of a specially prepared booklet dealing with the story of their Eltham town sign and a painting of Oxleas Woods by Lionel Backhurst.

Russell and Marion Yeoman co-ordinated the visitors' activities and a number of other members assisted with the barbecue or individual activities. The Orfords treated Margaret to a picnic at Sugarloaf Reservoir so she could enjoy Christmas at Christmas Hills.

Mick Woiwod and his wife Margaret invited the visitors to dinner at their Bend Of Islands home. Alicia Mitford, who is new to the society, is a professional tour guide and provided a personalised day tour of the city area. Phyllis Macdonald has known Clifford for many years and spent time with the visitors on two days.

Margaret and Clifford have extended their thanks to members who have helped make their visit a success.

SOCIETY PROGRAMME

Our programme of activities for 1998 has been produced for the start of the year, which is a little earlier than in recent years. We have put together a varied range of activities which we hope will prove of interest to our members. As usual some of the items are yet to be confirmed and any changes will be notified in our newsletter as the year progresses.

There will be an emphasis this year on the Shire of Eltham Heritage Study, and we propose to devote two meetings and two excursions to the study. Our longer excursions seem to be losing popularity in recent years, so we have scheduled two local excursions on a trial basis. In addition to these, Russell Yeoman is willing to organise a further Hume and Hovell excursion (Stage 3) to North Eastern Victoria if there is sufficient interest. This would probably be of 2 or 3 days duration and involve a small group travelling in private cars. The date and other arrangements are flexible. Contact Russell if you are interested.

SOCIETY NEWS

It was a late night at the November meeting for those who wished to be fully informed about the lighthouses of eastern Victoria. It was not that Keith Banks' talk was over long. It was the volume of supporting material to be examined after the talk. Keith brought along books, photo albums and other material in large volume. One book that Keith has not got is "From Dusk Till Dawn" by Gordon Reid. Please tell him if you see it in a bookshop.

Our Christmas dinner was excellently catered by Emmanuel Buchanan and, assisted by Harry's wines, members seemed to enjoy the social part of the evening. So much so that the trivia quiz was shortened from its original length, leaving plenty of questions for this year.

Copies of the latest Kangaroo Ground Chronicle, produced by the Andrew Ross Museum were distributed at the Christmas breakup. Russell Yeoman has a few spare copies if anyone did not receive one and is interested.

Peter Bassett-Smith has presented the Society with a large collection of photographs, mainly of Society excursions and other activities. In due course these will be included in the Society's photo albums currently held by Sue Law but soon to be transferred to 728 Main Road.

Russell Yeoman recently attended a course at the Public Records Office on local and family history source material. The course included an extensive set of notes which are available for loan to members. Contact Russell if you are interested.

We are proceeding with the setting up of our new headquarters at 728 Main Road, Eltham. Furniture is being acquired by purchase and as freebies from various sources. Society records and other items are being relocated from various member's homes. Assistance of members at various working bees will be requested in the near future. Apart from being the Society's office and storage facility, we proposed that the premises operate as a resource centre for historical and other local information. We would therefore be happy to receive donations of photos, books or other documents which may be suitable for this purpose. An official opening and exhibition is planned for Sunday 17th May.

OTHER LOCAL NEWS

The immediate fate of the former Eltham Shire Office site has been decided but the long term future remains uncertain. For the time being the historic "Shillinglaw trees" on the site have been saved. The Minister for Planning did not make a decision on the proposed Shell/Hungry Jacks development prior to the expiry of the contract of sale of the land. The contract has now been rescinded and the developer now has no interest in the site. It is now the Council's responsibility to decide what it will do with its land but it is interesting to note that the Minister has decided that he is to be the Planning Authority for the site. We have requested that the Council ensure that the Shillinglaw trees are maintained over the summer period.

Elder statesman of the local literary scene, Clem Christesen, has produced a small book of selected verse from his work extending over many years. It is titled *Ebb-Tide* and is available from the Eltham Book Shop. A poetry reading by Clem at the bookshop just before Christmas was well attended.

Well known artist Peter Glass who died in December contributed to Eltham in a number of ways over many years. His typical landscapes of the Eltham bushland form part of many local art collections. He was one of the pioneers of the local mud brick building movement. In the 1960's with his wife, Cecile, he was one of the driving forces in the Shillinglaw Cottage Preservation Committee. Three chapters of *Pioneers and Painters* covering the local art scene were written by Peter.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

To satisfy the requirements of the Society's rules, notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Eltham District Historical Society Incorporated will be held at 8.00pm on Wednesday 11th March 1998.

The Agenda of the Annual General Meeting is set out below in accordance with the rules. Further detail will be given in the March Newsletter.

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of 1997 Annual General Meeting
3. Reports:
 - a. President's Report
 - b. Treasurer's Report
 - c. Any other Reports
4. Statement by the Society in accordance with Section (3) of the Associations Incorporation act 1981
5. Election of office bearers and ordinary members of committee positions to be filled as follows:
 - President
 - Senior Vice President
 - Junior Vice President
 - Treasurer/Membership Secretary
 - Secretary
 - Ordinary Committee Members (not less than three and no more than six)
6. Fixing of entrance fee (if any) and annual subscription
7. Any other business of which at least two weeks notice have been given to members

It should be noted that under the Society's rules nominations of office bearers should be made in writing to the Secretary not less than seven days before the meeting.

Nominations should be signed by two members of the Society and accompanied by the written consent of the candidate. If insufficient nominations are received further nominations shall be received at the meeting. However, it should be noted that where a valid prior nomination is received it will have priority and no nomination for that position can be accepted at the meeting.

Harry Gilham
President

Phone - 9439 1175

Russell Yeoman
Secretary

Phone - 9439 9717

Gwen Orford
Treasurer /
Membership Secretary
Phone 9439 8642