

**ELTHAM DISTRICT
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
Incorporated**

PO BOX 137 ELTHAM 3095

**NEWSLETTER
NO. 120 MAY 1998**

**NEXT MEETING
8.00 PM WEDNESDAY 13TH MAY
ELTHAM SENIOR CITIZENS'
CENTRE
MAIN ROAD ELTHAM
(ENTER FROM OLD SHIRE OFFICE
DRIVEWAY)**

**TOPIC: PERSONAL PROJECTS
BY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS**

**NILLUMBIK GAYIP
A RECONCILIATION EVENT**

**12 NOON-6.30 PM
SATURDAY 9TH MAY
ALISTAIR KNOX PARK &
WINGROVE PARK ELTHAM**

NILLUMBIK GAYIP

This historic event to be held next Saturday 9th May is jointly organized by the Wurundjeri Council and Nillumbik Shire Council. Full details are given in a separate brochure attached to this Newsletter.

Unfortunately, there are a number of other activities on this day involving a number of members of our Committee. As a consequence, we are unable to organize a display in association with the event. However, it is proposed that the Society join the Community Walk as a group. It is hoped that as many members as possible will participate to show our support for the reconciliation process and our recognition of Wurundjeri history.

Sue Law is co-ordinating the walk and members are asked to assemble near Shillinglaw Cottage from 11.45 am. Ring Sue on 9439 9520 if you have any queries.

MAY MEETING

As foreshadowed in our last Newsletter, we have made some changes to our programme for the year. The personal projects item was to have been held later but we have interchanged the date with the Chronology Project which will now be in November.

For this meeting we have arranged a panel of four people who will each give a short talk about projects they have undertaken outside the Society activities.

In three cases this involves private activity or research generally associated with the person's family. The other is a work related activity. Details of the panel are as follows:-

Jo McCormick

Jo has been involved in a project to restore the 1830's house on her family vineyard property, "Dalwood" in the Hunter Valley, NSW and this will form the basis of her talk.

Margaret Ball

Margaret is a descendant of the Shillinglaw and Bunker families, both well known local names. She has been researching family history for many years and will tell us about the adventurous life of the Shillinglaws before they came to Eltham.

Alicia Mitford

Alicia is a tour guide mainly involved with overseas visitors and the central Melbourne area. She will talk about what attracts her clients to Melbourne and introduce her own map of the city showing some of the lesser known points of interest.

Marion Yeoman

Marion will talk about her ancestor Henry Kettle who arrived in Melbourne from Tasmania in 1838 and established a business in Collins Street. He died as a young man in 1842. His life before coming to Melbourne and his place of burial remain a mystery.

LOWER PLENTY EXCURSION

A small group of members took part in the tour of heritage sites in the Lower Plenty area on 18th April.

The sites visited included the former monastery of the Blessed Sacrament Fathers, now Odyssey House, and its suspension footbridge across the Yarra River and then another Catholic institution, the Christian Brothers centre at "Amberley". Here as well as a walk around the grounds we were able to inspect the interior of the original part of the complex built in 1930 as a mansion home for O W Darch.

We stopped outside "Rosehill", the former home of pioneer Henry Stooke but it is difficult to see from the road. We looked at large River Red Gums in Stawell Road, reputed to be over three hundred years old. The tour finished at the old Lower Plenty Bridge (1866) now, unfortunately, without a deck but otherwise apparently structurally sound.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Attendance at the Annual General Meeting on 11th March was a little disappointing but those who came were entertained by a very interesting talk by Wendy Baker. She outlined the many resources available for tracing ancestors or historical figures. She concluded that it was much easier to find dead people than the living.

Annual reports for 1997 by our President and Treasurer were distributed at the meeting. Additional copiers are available so if you were unable to attend the meeting and would like copies, please ring Russell Yeoman.

In accordance with the usual practice, the Treasurer's report was presented subject to later audit. We currently do not have any arrangement with an auditor and anyone who knows someone prepared to do this in an honorary capacity is asked to contact Gwen Orford.

The election of committee and office bearers included some discussion as to whether longstanding members Opal Smith and Blanche Shallard wished to continue as committee members. At that meeting the matter was left in abeyance but the Committee has since co-opted their services for a further period, at their pleasure and while they feel that they make a contribution. The committee unanimously feel that there is a continuing role for our senior members and is looking at allocation of specific "portfolios" related to our new Society premises.

Since the AGM Jo McCormick has also volunteered her services on the Committee.

As a result of the AGM elections and subsequent appointments the office bearers and committee members are now as follows:-

President:	Harry Gilham
Senior Vice President:	Margaret Ball
Junior Vice President:	Doug Orford
Treasurer/Membership Secretary:	Gwen Orford
Secretary:	Russell Yeoman
Committee:	Sue Law
	Jock Read
	Keith Banks
	Diana Bassett-Smith
	Blanche Shallard
	Opal Smith
	Jo McCormick

SUBSCRIPTIONS

At the AGM subscriptions were set for 1998-99 as follows:-

Adults:	\$12.50
Students:	\$ 2.00
Family:	\$17.50

Subscriptions become due on 1st July each year. Gwen Orford would be happy to accept early payment at the May meeting for those wishing to tidy up their financial affairs. This is a small increase on last year's subscriptions but is the first increase we have had for some years.

728 MAIN ROAD

In our re-arrangement of our programme for the year we have selected Sunday 12th July as the date for the official opening of our headquarters. This will take the form of an afternoon function with a display of representative material from our collection.

Some material has been already arranged into informal displays by Harry Gilham including a collection of 1960's photos of Main Road, Eltham donated by Beryl Martin.

Anyone wishing to see the display or use Society records at the centre should contact Gwen or Doug Orford or Russell Yeoman.

COMING EVENTS, HAPPENINGS AND OTHER NEWS

A presentation of "Excerpts from the Diary of a Welsh Swagman" is taking place this Saturday, 9th May, at Holy Trinity Church, Doncaster at 7.30pm. This is a Missionary fund raising event and further details are available from Russell Yeoman.

On Sunday, 17th May, there will be a "140th Celebration" and Open Day at the historic St Katherines Church, St Helena. Further details are available from Bev Ward on 9439 9961.

Nillumbik Council has referred an amount of \$30,000 to the 1998-99 Estimates for the commencement of the publication of a history of the Shire of Eltham. This is in part due to approaches by Harry Gilham. We won't know until July whether or not the funds are actually allocated.

St. Andrews Primary School is celebrating its 140th anniversary with the publication of a book "St. Andrews: A Village Built On Gold". The researchers for the book have formed the St. Andrews Historical Society. For more information ring Gaye Gercovich on 9710 1798.

The Andrew Ross Museum continues to have problems obtaining volunteers for staffing of the Museum and this resulted in some curtailing of openings over the summer. Sunday openings have now resumed but volunteers from the Society would be most welcome. The Museum is also opening on the first Friday of each month, mainly for the benefit of school parents.

The Victorian Heritage Festival has come and gone but we still have a display on the theme "Our Community Heritage" in the Eltham Library. The display features local mud brick and pise buildings which are a recognized part of the character of Eltham.

Ann Thomas from Marysville Historical Society continues to maintain an interest in our Society. A recent letter from her gives details of her involvement in the launching of new wine at Tarrawarra, part of her on-going research and writing on the Yarra Track route to Woods point through Eltham and Kangaroo Ground.

Harry Gilham
President

Phone - 9439 1175

Russell Yeoman
Secretary

Phone - 9439 9717

Gwen Orford
Treasurer /
Membership Secretary
Phone 9439 8642



NILLUMBIK GAYIP

a celebration of joy and unity



'COMMUNITY WALK'

from **ALISTAIR KNOX PARK 12 NOON -**

- *Walk with the community in the spirit of reconciliation and togetherness.*
- *An historic event. easy down hill walk to the Gayip*

'GAYIP'

at **WINGROVE PARK 12.30pm**

- *Tanderum Mernda welcome ceremony*
- *Shire presentation to Wurundjeri Elders*
- *Quality entertainment including -*
 - Ian Hunter
 - Colin McKinnon and Mia Mia Gallery
 - One Fire Dancers
 - Sebastian Jorgenson and Friends
 - special guests - BLACK FIRE
- *Food stalls*
- *Cultural displays*

SATURDAY 9TH MAY 1998



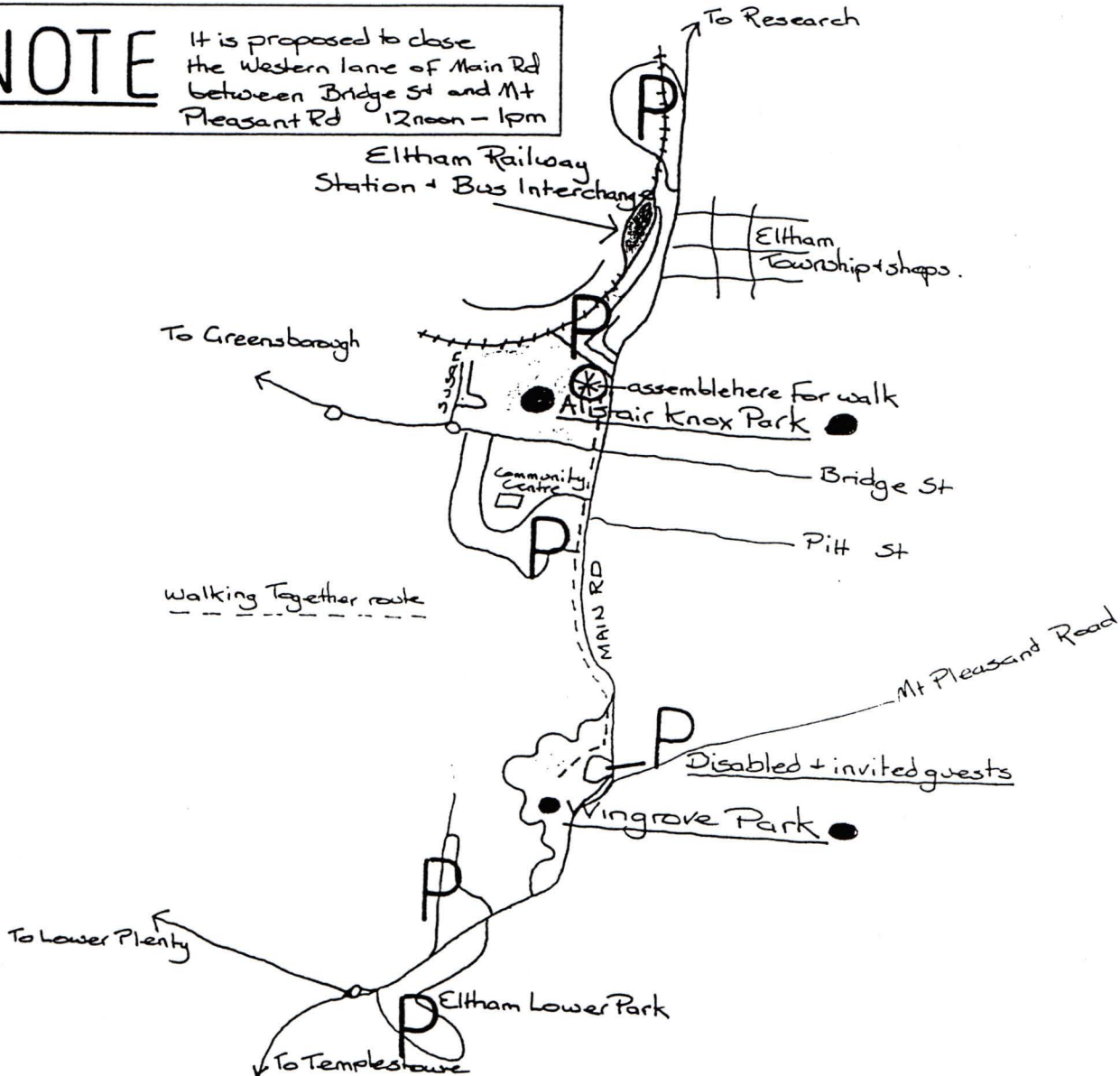


SATURDAY 9TH MAY 1998

- HOW TO GET THERE
- PARKING
- TRAINS AND BUSES

NOTE

It is proposed to close the Western lane of Main Rd between Bridge St and Mt Pleasant Rd 12noon - 1pm



COMMUNITY WALKING TOGETHER from ALISTAIR KNOX PARK 12 NOON

GAYIP
at WINGROVE PARK 12.30pm

SATURDAY 9TH MAY 1998





Eltham District Historical Society Incorporated

Membership Application / Renewal

July 1st 199⁸ to June 30th 199⁹

Name

Address

Phone: Home: Business:

Adult \$ 12.50

Student \$ 2.00

Family \$ 17.50

Other member's names (for Family Membership)

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Cheques payable to Eltham District Historical Society Incorporated.

**Please return completed membership form and payment to:
Gwen Orford, 125 Napoleon Street, ELTHAM 3095
or P.O. Box 137 Eltham, Victoria 3095**

Display and Research Centre at 728 Main Road Eltham (corner of Brougham Street)