



**ELTHAM DISTRICT
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**
Incorporated

PO BOX 137 ELTHAM 3095

**NEWSLETTER
NO. 122 SEPTEMBER 1998**

**NEXT MEETING
8.00 PM WEDNESDAY 9TH SEPT**

**ELTHAM SENIOR CITIZENS'
CENTRE
MAIN ROAD ELTHAM
(ENTER FROM OLD SHIRE OFFICE
DRIVEWAY)**

**TOPIC: HIDDEN HERITAGE
FROM THE SHIRE OF ELTHAM HERITAGE STUDY
INTRODUCED BY RUSSELL YEOMAN**

**ELTHAM MUD BRICK
HERITAGE EXCURSION
STARTS AT
728 MAIN ROAD ELTHAM**

**SUNDAY 4TH OCTOBER
11.00 AM - 4.00 PM**

SEPTEMBER MEETING

During this year we have arranged a number of activities based on the Eltham Heritage Study. Earlier at the February meeting we had a general overview of the study and then in April a group of members looked at places in the Lower Plenty area included in the study.

The intention for this meeting is to look at individual places in the study in some detail and it is considered appropriate to concentrate on places which are not generally able to be viewed by the public - thus the title Hidden Heritage. There are many listed in the study which are in this category - mostly private houses or gardens, but there are also a number of gold mining sites which are difficult to view. There are more than thirty listed places which are more or less hidden and we cannot hope to deal with all of these in one meeting. A selection of the more interesting will be made.

Russell Yeoman will read extracts from the study and present other related material. Some other members will assist with individual places.

In preparing the study, consultant David Bick took photos of most of the places. These will be adapted for overhead projector viewing to illustrate the talk.

As usual there will be a light supper after the meeting. Friends and other visitors are most welcome.

ELTHAM MUD BRICK HERITAGE EXCURSION

Continuing with our concentration on the Shire of Eltham Heritage Study we have arranged this excursion to deal with a particular theme in the study. The consultants identified the theme as "Distinctive Eltham Building Styles". There are fifty-four buildings listed in this category in the study and the majority are mud brick, pise (rammed earth) or stone. We have already visited some on an excursion with David Bick in May 1992. We can't hope to visit a large number on this excursion so this will involve viewing some from the street and actually visiting a small selection. Although the study identifies "Eltham buildings" as far away as Kinglake we will concentrate on the area between Eltham, Kangaroo Ground and Warrandyte.

This will be a drive yourself excursion with a number of stops, sometimes involving a short walk. Transport can be arranged for those not wishing to drive. There is no charge and no need to book but if you can't arrange your own transport please notify a committee member as early as possible.

We will be starting at 728 Main Road at 11.00 am and stopping for lunch about 1.00 pm. Bring your own lunch and anything else you need to keep you going for the day. The finish will be about 4.00 pm but that is a bit flexible.

"Clay Nuneham"
Part of Eltham's
hidden heritage.



ELTHAM LOCAL HISTORY CENTRE

Former Society President, Peter Bassett-Smith, performed the official opening of our new local history centre at 728 Main Road Eltham on Sunday 12th July. The gathering of about fifty people included Councillors, representatives of other Societies, members and friends. Unfortunately our founding President, Charis Pelling, was unable to attend due to ill health. Russell Yeoman read a message of congratulations from the Eltham Society, England. President Harry arranged for opening of the adjoining Court House and that was the venue for afternoon tea.

Within the centre there was a display of representative material from our records which represents over thirty years of collecting. This was the first time we have had the opportunity to display so much of our material but, even so, it represented only a fraction of what we have available. When assembled in one place the number of books that we have is quite significant. The range of subjects is quite considerable. At this stage they have not been catalogued but when they have been we may be able to make a list available to members and they could be available for loan.

Part of the display has been taken down but a significant part remains. If you missed the opening and want to view it then you could ring Harry Gilham, Russell Yeoman or Gwen Orford who could make appropriate arrangements.

At this stage the centre is not open on any organized basis but is available for anyone wishing to inspect material by appointment. The three people mentioned above can organize that also.

ACQUISITIONS

The Society records the following acquisitions and acknowledges the donors with thanks.

A collection of invitations, photographs and Eltham Council literature from Mrs Deirdre Nedwell of Montmorency, daughter of G Fred Squires, JP, Councillor 1945-53

A collection of photographs, books and Eltham Council literature with cuttings from Peter Graham, Councillor 1970-76, 1979-94 of Montmorency

Photocopies of Eltham Post Cards early 1900's from Mrs Margaret Ball of Eltham

Projector and folding screen from Mrs Nancy Sinfield of Montmorency

Now that the Society has its own storage place we are able to take up offers of photographs and manuscripts (land titles, news clippings, Council history, etc.) for cataloguing and use in public display exhibitions.

Where people want to only lend items to the Society we will copy and then return as requested.

The collector and/or returner of your memorabilia is Harry Gilham. Call him at 9439 1175.



OTHER NEWS ITEMS

As a further note on the Eltham Heritage Study we believe that Nillumbik Council is preparing a planning scheme amendment to include at least some of the places listed within the Nillumbik Planning Scheme. This would mean that a permit would be required to demolish or alter the place. Amendments such as this must go through a rigorous exhibition and submission procedure before they are adopted.

There is a new display in our local history cabinet in the Eltham Library. This time we have used our growing collection of material on Eltham, England. It includes the painting by Lionel Backhurst presented to us on behalf of Eltham Society by Clifford Crate. The booklet on the Eltham town sign that Clifford also brought is in loose leaf format so we have been able to include the whole of that which really presents an excellent summary of the important historic buildings of Eltham. Also on display is another painting by Lionel which was presented to Russell and Marion Yeoman.

Nillumbik Council has recently called for applications for various grants to local organizations. We have made application for an Operational Grant to cover the costs of running our Local History Centre and also for a Community Development Grant to assist with the cost of conserving, documenting and displaying our records.

We have previously mentioned the Heidelberg Artists Trail which consists of a series of displays featuring the work of Heidelberg School artists in the location in which they were painted. Government funding has been made available to Nillumbik, Banyule and Manningham Councils to significantly extend the trail. It will include a number of signs in Eltham, particularly featuring works by Walter Withers. Art historian Andrew Mackenzie is currently researching the works to be used.

Harry Gilham
President

Phone - 9439 1175

Russell Yeoman
Secretary

Phone - 9439 9717

Gwen Orford
Treasurer /
Membership Secretary
Phone 9439 8642

Peter Bassett-Smith
opens the door to the
Eltham Local History
Centre.



FAMILY HISTORY RESOURCES in the RHSV COLLECTION

The Royal Historical Society of Victoria holds books, manuscripts, microfiche, photographs, maps etc which enable family historians to look at the lifestyles and times of their forebears.

The most frequently consulted resources are the Melbourne and Victorian directories (1847-1974), supplemented by the select collection of Almanacs (1849-1937). A number of specialist directories such as the Australian Pastoral Shearers and Selectors directory and various postal directories add further interest for researchers pursuing elusive information.

Municipal, church and school year books are standard fare for the family historian, but how many have examined professional and sporting indexes and registers for family records? The *Australian Cycling News* or the *Victorian Oarsman and Rowing Register* (1857-1919) contain useful references.

Published histories of businesses, associations, organisations, and clubs can assist the researcher. Did your forebear belong to a temperance association, a lodge or the A.N.A.? Was he/she a member of a trade union? Perhaps library material relating to the Old Colonists' Association will lead to new lines of research. *Victoria and Its Metropolis, the Cyclopaedia of Victoria and Records of Pioneer Women of Victoria* (1835-1869), provide information which includes date of arrival, place of residence and occupation. An extensive collection of local history monographs is a rich source of genealogical material. Ranging from school-essay competition entries to commissioned works, the titles are distinctive for subjects covered, sources of information and origins of publication. Very few districts are not represented.

Member society newsletters, magazines and journals are available for perusal. The content of these place emphasis on the different aspects of local history development - Koori life, European settlement, family histories, Burgess rolls, cemetery records, newspaper indexes, personal accounts and diary records. In addition, the Library's serials include local and interstate historical and genealogical society publications.

No family historian should overlook the *RHSV Victorian Historical Journal* formerly the *Victorian Historical Magazine*. First published in 1911, editors placed due emphasis upon reminiscences, memories and obituaries. The four volume index is available for purchase and is recommended for researchers.

The manuscript collection, which exceeds 20,000 items, holds a rich archive of documents, private papers, research articles and memorabilia donated to the Society. The publication of the catalogue, *Sources of Victoria's Heritage* and its recent supplement, has ensured the accessibility of all material. Letters from the goldfields, the log-book of the *Oliver Lang* (Liverpool to Melbourne 1854), the diary of Rev Francis Hales (1874), are examples of references which can be used.

Family historians should ask to see the index of the *Pioneer Register* - a register of persons who arrived in the Colony before 1900. Registration forms for more than 900 entries, together with supporting documentation and photographs have been lodged with the Society. Commenced in 1917, many early registrations were completed by pioneers or their children. The forms contain more than 3,000 names.



Several series of newspaper cutting books, all indexed will attract much interest. Particularly strong in shipping, local history and biographical information, the books supplement published material.

Access to the Vertical Files, a cornucopia of material, is assisted by a comprehensive subject heading file. The content includes: family histories, obituaries, suburban and country districts brochures, programs, historical sketches and much more!

The family historian must take time to enquire of the Image Collection computer catalogue. This astonishing and wonderful collection encompasses some 18,000 photographs, glass slides and postcards among its treasures. Major subject areas include portraits, architecture, street scenes and views. Early prints, drawings and paintings and the map collection with over 2,000 accessions are likewise catalogued and cross referenced.

The RHSV is pleased to offer its resources to family historians.

Non-members pay a small fee per library visit. Various membership options are available.

Library hours: 10 am-4 pm weekdays

Royal Mint, 280 William Street,
Melbourne, 3000
(opposite Flagstaff Station)

Telephone: 9670 1219

OUTLINE of the ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY of VICTORIA'S COLLECTIONS

PUBLICATIONS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Standard Works ➤ Pamphlets ➤ Biographies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ecclesiastical ➤ Educational
VERTICAL FILE:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Rare pamphlets ➤ Documents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Newspaper cuttings
IMAGE COLLECTION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Portraits ➤ Scenes ➤ Maps and parish plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Glass slides ➤ Postcards ➤ Art works
NEWSPAPERS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Bound copies (selected) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Cuttings books (indexed)
SHIPPING:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Passenger lists (limited) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Newspaper cuttings
JOURNALS and NEWSLETTERS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Historical Societies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Organisations and Schools
FAMILY HISTORIES:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Published ➤ Type script 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Card collection
DIRECTORIES:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ C 19th Published works ➤ Sands & McDougall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Municipal Directories ➤ Bradshaw's Guide
GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS (VICTORIAN):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Gazettes (selected) ➤ Statistical returns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Reports (selected)
GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS (COMMONWEALTH):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Gazettes (selected) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Reports (selected)
SURVEYS & REPORTS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Maritime ➤ Geographical ➤ Environmental 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Archaeological ➤ Architectural
HISTORICAL REGISTER:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ National Estate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Historic Buildings
RARE BOOKS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Restricted access 	
BIBLIOGRAPHIES:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Various 	
MICRO-FICHE:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Births, Deaths and Marriages ➤ Pioneer Register 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Other
BIOGRAPHICAL REGISTER:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Pioneer Records 	
MANUSCRIPTS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ See published guide 	
RHSV PUBLICATIONS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Journal</i> and four volume Index ➤ Lands Manual 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Memorials Register ➤ Directory of Affiliated Societies
RHSV RESEARCH:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Unpublished papers 	

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS:

access to the Society's text materials
 research advice
 invitations to join one-day and extended
 excursions, seminars and conferences

access to the Society's image materials
 free lunchtime and evening lectures
 monthly *Newsletter*
 bi-annual *RHSV Journal*

Membership and General Enquiries:
 Wendy Baker, Secretary [03] 9670 1219