

# **ELTHAM DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**Incorporated**

No. A0016285F

**728 MAIN ROAD (PO BOX 137) ELTHAM 3095**

## **NEWSLETTER**

**NO. 160 JANUARY 2005**

**NEXT MEETING**

**8-00 PM WEDNESDAY 9<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY**

**DISCUSSION EVENING ON CURRENT TOPICS**

**ELTHAM SENIOR CITIZENS' CENTRE**

**LIBRARY PLACE ELTHAM**

**(FORMERLY OLD SHIRE OFFICE DRIVEWAY)**



**VISIT BY PLENTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**ELTHAM LOCAL HISTORY CENTRE**

**SUNDAY 20 FEBRUARY**



**NEARING ELTHAM STATION**

## **FEBRUARY MEETING**

At the beginning of most of our meetings we have a short discussion about current matters of interest but usually there is insufficient time to properly cover some of the items. For this meeting the discussion will be expanded to the whole of the meeting and we hope that all members will participate. If there is some subject that you would like to tell us about or about which you would like to hear some other opinions, then come along prepared to talk about it.

Russell Yeoman has a number of matters to kick off the discussion. The major topic is the Eltham Council memorabilia recently placed in our custody by Nillumbik Council. Russell will bring along a selection of items from this collection. Some of the old correspondence books for example are interesting as objects and for their contents. There is also a very large photo collection and other documents with varying levels of interest. This will be an introduction to the collection for anyone interested in a more detailed examination or research.

There is further information about some subjects that have come up in the last year and we can also preview events to come up later this year. For example, we mentioned during last year that there was some danger of demolition of the old house at 66 Susan Street, owned by the Council. We have now obtained a copy of the report by Council's heritage consultants, which provides a greater level of detail than the previous heritage study reports.

Dennis Ward intends to talk about the proposed viewing platform at the Kangaroo Ground Memorial Tower and also the latest developments regarding the proposed Little Eltham Trail. These topics will be illustrated by computer based projected images.

While there are some organized discussion topics this will be an informal meeting with the possibility of wide ranging topics. Please come along prepared to participate.

## **PRESIDENT'S NOTES**

Come July 29 2005 the celebration of thirty years service to the community at large by tutors at Eltham Living and Learning Centre will be celebrated. Memorabilia which could be displayed will be called for in the next few months.

For those who have read about the "Eltham Brewery" which, according to legend, was situated on Brewery Lane, Eltham, the recent collection of Eltham Shire Council papers turned up a document which really belongs to the Eltham Court House files.

The photocopy from the 1867 Registration of Brewers shows the fourth of yearly applications of Francis Steer who set up the brewery upstream from the tannery which was on the John Pearson property now known as the Eltham Living and Learning Centre. If you extend Pitt Street across Main Road to the Diamond Creek the site is on the upstream eastern side.

Mr R D Taylor in his "Eltham Lifetime Reminiscences" of 1932, makes mention of Mr Steers and his brewery (Mr Taylor was then in his 70's) which was afterwards taken over by Mr Merrick who also had the Fountain Hotel (later renamed the Evelyn Hotel in 1883).

# REGISTRATION OF BREWERS.

NO 4

From 31<sup>st</sup> day of January 1867.  
To 31 day of December 1867.

Name of Brewer Francis Steer

## DESCRIPTION AND SITUATION OF PREMISES AS FOLLOWS:—

Premises where business is carried on Belham

Nature of building wooden 30 x 18

Size of cellar, if any 10 x 18

Whether surrounded by a wall or fence Paling fence

If registered as brewer, whether manufacturer, bottler, or dealer all three  
none

Power of steam engine, if used Wicks horizontal

Number and capacity of wort boilers 1 Boiler 4 H & D

Manner of boiling worts, whether by direct action of fire, or by steam fire

Manner of cooling worts, whether by open cooler, or by pipes open coolers

Average number of barrels brewed per month 30

Average quantity of sugar used per month 8 cwt

Average quantity of malt used per month 35 Bushels

Average quantity of other materials used per month 60 lb. H & D

Registered by me, J. M. Drummond

(Office) C. F. Sessions

31<sup>st</sup> day of January 1867.

Mr Taylor was the Secretary of the Hope of Eltham Tent No. 195 of the Rechabite Lodge for 51 years from 1876 and his certificate of service hangs at our Local History Centre.

Harry Gilham

### **PLENTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Over the past two years there has been greatly increased contact between local historical societies, supported by staff from the arts section of Nillumbik Shire Council. One of the collaborative events was an excursion to sites on the Plenty River organized by Russell Yeoman in conjunction with Plenty Historical Society.

Now the Plenty society are paying a visit to Eltham on Sunday 20 February. They will inspect our Local Historic Centre and probably visit some nearby sites of historical interest. Members are encouraged to come along to chat to our visitors and help with afternoon tea. Come any time from 2.00pm.

### **2005 PROGRAM**

The Society's program of meetings and other activities for 2005 is included with this Newsletter. As usual we have tried to provide a varied agenda of topics of local and general historical interest. Any changes or additions to the program will be included in newsletters throughout the year. Additions are likely to include joint activities with other local historical societies that are currently being discussed.

An executive decision has been made to change Committee meetings back to Wednesday evenings. They have been on Tuesdays for the past few years to allow interested members to attend Council meetings on Wednesdays. Now that Council meetings have been changed to Tuesday it was thought appropriate to revert to the former timetable. This needs to be ratified by the Committee and so it is possible that it will change.

We have continued with our records workshop program despite the low attendance at these activities. They form an essential part of the Society's reason for existence and greater involvement of members is encouraged. Coming workshops are:-

Mondays 9.30am	21 February, 21 March
Tuesdays 7.30pm	1 March, 5 April

### **AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS**

Two local award ceremonies were held on Australia Day. In association with its naturalisation ceremony Nillumbik Council presented awards to several categories of citizen of the year and community group of the year. The Jagajaga Community Awards were presented by local federal member Jenny Macklin MP at a ceremony at Ivanhoe.

Nillumbik's community group award went to Andrew Ross Museum. The citation referred to the work of the dedicated museum board which resulted in accreditation by Museums Australia in 2003. Current projects include the proposed publication of the Diary of Andrew Ross. This document being prepared by Mick Woiwod is said to be the most comprehensive primary source material for the Yarra Valley for the period 1851-1876.

At the Jagajaga awards Russell Yeoman received a certificate in recognition of his work for the Society and the Eltham Gateway Action Group. Other recipients who may be

known to our members included John Withers, grandson of the artist Walter Withers and Frank Banham of Heidelberg Historical Society.

## LOCAL HEROES

On Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2004 the Eltham East Primary School Choir presented a marvellous concert of original songs with a unique Eltham theme. The songs were a collaborative work of the children, choir director Anne Williams and composer Stephen Leek. The main feature was five songs about past and present local identities, including our own Jock Read. As previously reported several Society members assisted the students with their research. The program included three songs representing the changing Eltham scene – 1800, 1900 and 2000.

A CD is being produced featuring all of these songs which will shortly be available for purchase from the school. We have scheduled a meeting later in the year to listen to the music and hear the stories of Eltham's heroes.

The song written by the children in honour of Jock highlights his life-long association with horses and we thought it was worth repeating the words here.

### FLAG AND BARREL RACE

Jock was born to ride, they said,  
The pony was born to race,  
Trained to turn on a sixpence  
for the flag and barrel race.

*There's a ten shilling prize, they  
say  
A ten shilling prize!*

Grab a flag and into the barrel,  
Grab a flag and ride.  
Come on pony, faster,  
Ride, Jock, ride.

*There's a ten shilling prize,  
they say,  
A ten shilling prize!*

Galloping, galloping, weaving,  
Grab a flag and ride,  
Come on pony, faster,  
Ride, Jock, ride.

*There's a ten shilling prize  
they say!  
A ten shilling prize!*

## 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 8.00 pm on Wednesday 9 March 2005 at the Eltham Senior Citizens' Centre..

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 2004 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  
Ordinary Committee Members (not less than three and not more than six)

6. Fixing of entrance fee (if any) and annual subscription
7. Any other business of which at least two weeks notice has 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.

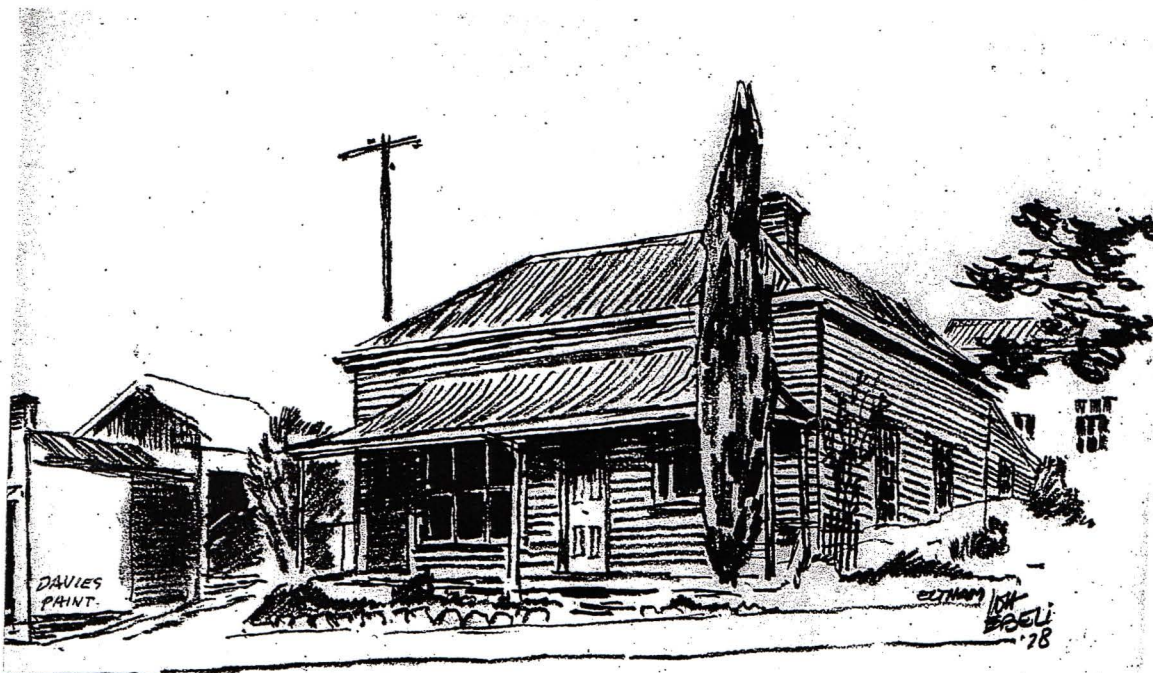
Harry Gilham  
President

Phone - 9439 1175

Russell Yeoman  
Secretary

Phone - 9439 9717

Gwen Orford  
Treasurer /  
Membership Secretary  
Phone 9439 8642



Artist Joh Ebeli has presented the Society with several sketches of the old shop at the corner of York Street and Main Road Eltham. Joh did these sketches in 1978-80 prior to demolition of the building. In this view you can just see the old bakery behind the shop. The Society also owns a painting of the bakery by Audrey Cahn.

Unless otherwise advised,  
General Meetings are held at  
the Senior Citizens'  
Clubrooms, Eltham

Any additions or alterations to this program  
will be advised in the Newsletter.

Records Workshops are held at the  
Eltham Local History Centre, 728 Main Road  
Eltham. The centre is open for research at  
these times or by appointment.

Enquiries-Workshops, membership,  
research, etc:

Russell Yeoman  
Phone- 9439 9717

Harry Gilham  
Phone - 9439 1175

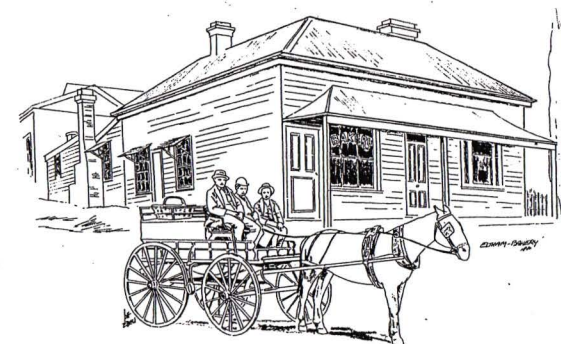
Gwen Orford  
Phone - 9439 8642

Visitors are most welcome at  
General Meetings

**Eltham District  
Historical Society**  
Incorporated  
No A0016285F  
**728 Main Road, (P O Box 137)  
Eltham, Victoria, 3095**



## *Program 2005*



## 2005

### FEBRUARY

Tuesday 1st  
7.30pm Records Workshop  
Wednesday 9th  
8:00pm General Meeting  
Discussion Evening  
- Current Matters -  
Sunday 20th  
Visit by Plenty Historical Society  
Monday 21st  
9.30am Records Workshop

### MARCH

Tuesday 1st  
7.30pm Records Workshop  
Wednesday 9th  
8:00pm Annual General Meeting  
Election of Office Bearers  
Speaker: Peter Dougherty  
Eltham Art Streams  
Monday 21st  
9.30am Records Workshop

### APRIL

Tuesday 5th  
7.30pm Records Workshop  
Wednesday 13th  
7.30pm Committee Meeting  
Monday 18th  
9.30am Records Workshop  
Date to be decided - Excursion

### MAY

Tuesday 3rd  
7.30 pm Records Workshop  
Wednesday 11th  
8:00pm General Meeting  
Speaker – Michael Aitken  
Postcards from Eltham  
Monday 16th  
9.30am Records Workshop

### JUNE

Tuesday 7th  
7.30pm Records Workshop  
Wednesday 8th  
7:30 pm Committee Meeting  
Monday 20th  
9.30am Records Workshop

### JULY

Living and Learning Centre's  
30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Tuesday 5th  
7.30pm Records Workshop  
Wednesday 13th  
8.00pm General Meeting  
Local Heroes  
Musical Evening

Monday 18th  
9.30am Records Workshop

### AUGUST

Tuesday 2nd  
7.30pm Records Workshop  
Wednesday 10th  
7.30pm Committee Meeting  
Monday 15th  
9.30am Records Workshop

### SEPTEMBER

Tuesday 6th  
7.30 pm Records Workshop  
Wednesday 14th  
8.00 pm Speaker - Heath Paynter  
- Bohemia on the Urban Fringe -  
Monday 19th  
9.30am Records Workshop

### OCTOBER

Tuesday 4th  
7.30 pm Records Workshop  
Wednesday 12th  
7:30pm Committee Meeting  
Monday 17th  
9.30am Records Workshop

### NOVEMBER

Wednesday 9th  
8:00pm General Meeting  
Speaker Panel  
Councillors' Stories  
Monday 21st  
9.30am Records Workshop

### DECEMBER

Tuesday 6th  
7.30 pm Records Workshop  
Wednesday 7th  
7.30 Committee Meeting  
Wednesday 14th  
6:30 pm Christmas Function  
Local History Centre