



ELTHAM DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Incorporated

No. A0016285F

728 MAIN ROAD (PO BOX 137) ELTHAM 3095

NEWSLETTER NO. 165 NOVEMBER 2005

NEXT MEETING

8-00 PM WEDNESDAY 9th NOVEMBER

- 1. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING**
- 2. PANEL PRESENTATION
COUNCILLORS MAKING HISTORY**

**ELTHAM SENIOR CITIZENS' CENTRE
LIBRARY PLACE ELTHAM
(FORMERLY OLD SHIRE OFFICE DRIVEWAY)**



**ARMISTICE DAY CELEBRATION
10.30 AM FRIDAY 11TH NOVEMBER
KANGAROO GROUND TOWER**



**SOCIETY CHRISTMAS FUNCTION
6.30 PM WEDNESDAY 14TH DECEMBER
ELTHAM LOCAL HISTORY CENTRE**



NOVEMBER MEETING

For this meeting we have adopted the title of "Councillors Making History" to link the functions of Councillors of Nillumbik Shire with those of our Society. We have arranged a panel of councillors to each give a short talk on their role as a councillor or on some other aspect of the Council. We have not been specific in regard to the subject matter and so there may be some surprises arise from this format. Our only stipulation is that there be no "political speeches". We have invited the four Eltham based Councillors to be part of the panel. Three of the four are at the end of their first year in this role. The Councillors that we have invited are:-

Cr. Greg Johnson, Mayor, Wingrove Ward
Cr. Helen Coleman, Lenister Ward
Cr. Michael Young, Edendale Ward
Cr. Bronnie Hattam, Coleman Ward

We welcome the Councillors to our meeting and thank them for fitting the Society into their busy schedules.

This is a special meeting that deserves a special supper at the end of the talking and this will be organised by the Committee.

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

In accordance with the formal notice given in the September Newsletter we will be holding a brief Special General Meeting at the commencement of the November meeting. The purpose of the formal meeting is to consider and vote on a proposal to form an incorporated association comprising the Combined Historical Societies of Nillumbik. This proposal has been formulated by representatives of the combined societies and considered by our Committee. A number of the societies are strongly supporting the proposal. While there are some who question the necessity for this move, our Committee recommends that we agree to the establishment of the incorporated body for the protection of each society and individual members.

CHRISTMAS FUNCTION

As usual on the second Wednesday in December we have organised a "break-up" function utilising our Local History Centre and the former Eltham Court House. This will take the form of a dinner at the Court House commencing at 6.30pm with plenty of time available for chatting with friends. There will be no formal agenda item but Jim Connor has arranged continuous screening of computer images featuring historic Eltham photos and other photos from Jim's collection.

The Society will supply meat and cheese platters and desert. Members are asked to bring a salad to share and any other items such as nibblies that they would like to contribute. As usual at these functions President Harry will provide a selection of his home made wines and coffee and tea will be available. Bring along any other types of drinks that you think you will need.

The landscaping works currently under way on the site may not be completed and so parking and access may be an issue. As it will still be daylight you will be able to judge the situation when you arrive and deal with it accordingly.

INVITATION

Yarra Plenty Regional Library has invited members to afternoon tea on Thursday 10 November, 1.30pm to 3.00pm at the Rosanna Library, Turnham Street, Rosanna. The format of this function will be as a local history tour featuring photos from the Heidelberg Historical Society collection and other local history displays. RSVP's are required by 8th November to the Local History Librarian, Liz Pidgeon, 9401 0765 or lpidgeon@ypri.vic.gov.au.

This will be an excellent opportunity to meet with members of other societies and senior groups.

ARMISTICE DAY COMMEMORATION SERVICE KANGAROO GROUND

As mentioned at recent Combined Historical Societies meetings, the intention has been to hold a major commemorative event on Armistice Day 2005 at the Tower of Remembrance in Kangaroo Ground. Over recent months a deal of forward planning has been accomplished to that end by the reserve's advisory committee; the Gallipoli Poppies have been planted and successfully raised; also preliminary arrangements set in place for the formal planting of a Gallipoli Pine grown from seed collected from the Lone Pine Battlefield.

Recent discussions with the Shire, however, have revealed that, unfortunately, no funds had been allocated by the Shire for this event.

For public liability and other reasons, therefore, a decision has had to be made to postpone the big commemoration in favour of Anzac Day 2006 with, in its place, a smaller event for this year's Armistice Day.

To that end, all members of the Combined Historical Societies of Nillumbik and their friends are invited to attend at the Kangaroo Ground Tower of Remembrance at 10.30am on Friday November 11th for a foreshortened service centred on the raising of the National Flag, an appropriate speech, and two minutes silence in memory of those who have paid the supreme sacrifice.

All are invited to bring along their families and a few friends and refreshments for a lunch and good conversation after the event at the recently installed picnic tables during which members of the reserve's advisory committee will outline plans for a major interpretive structure in the form of a viewing platform designed by Dennis Ward on an adjacent site and also any issues pertaining to upcoming events being organized by the Combined Historical Societies of Nillumbik.

Mick Woiod
For the Kangaroo Ground War Memorial Park and Tower of Remembrance Advisory Committee

COMBINED HISTORICAL SOCIETIES PROJECTS

In addition to the incorporation issue and the Armistice Day commemoration (both mentioned above) the Combined Historical Societies of Nillumbik group has been quite busy. Currently a small sub-group is working on a three year program for the group. This work is being facilitated by Council Arts Officer Katrina Rank.

The "Tales of Old Nillumbik" course at the Eltham Living and Learning Centre is now well under way with four of the Tuesday sessions having now been held. Bookings can still be made for any or all of the remaining six sessions to be held from 1 pm to 2.30 pm. The cost is \$5 per session. The

remaining areas of Nillumbik to be covered include Diamond Creek (Nillumbik Historical Society), Plenty, Yarrambat, Warrandyte, Hurstbridge and St Andrews,

Last week Harry Gilham conducted our Society's segment of the program. Harry based his talk on the Heritage Overlay map of Eltham in the Nillumbik Planning Scheme which identifies heritage places protected by planning controls. He then went on to deal with a number of the places identified on the map. Planning Scheme map number 13HO used by Harry covers central Eltham and identifies some 46 heritage places and is reproduced in part on the opposite page.

The 1981 photo below shows the timber trestle railway bridge over the Diamond Creek at Eltham. The bridge is item HO145 on the heritage overlay map. The statement of significance prepared by David Bick for the Eltham Heritage Study is as follows:

The construction of the railway to Eltham in 1902 (extended to Hurstbridge in 1912) had one of the greatest impacts of any social change on Eltham township, as well as on Hurstbridge and country areas of the shire. Eltham's isolation was greatly lessened and the railway brought tourists, artists and suburban commuters, particularly after the Second World War. As the most substantial structure of this railway line in the Shire, (the former Shire of Eltham) this timber trestle bridge exemplifies the line's historic and social significance. Timber trestle bridges are very rare around Melbourne and the Eltham example also has engineering significance on account of its size.



HERITAGE PLACES IN THE NEWS

Nillumbik Council has received a planning permit application for development of the Wingrove Cottage site at 672 Main Road, Eltham. The proposal includes restoration of the cottage and construction of a café adjacent to it. The large vacant area at the rear would be developed as a small office and shop complex and a larger multi unit residential complex.

The rear part of the cottage was demolished without the necessary permits and the remaining older part of the cottage was left in a very poor condition. Urgent restoration work is under way and further work in accordance with a detailed conservation plan is proposed. The application is at an early stage and will be subject to advertising and possible objections. The Society will be carefully monitoring the progress of this significant proposal involving one of Eltham's most important early buildings.

The Society objected to an application by Nillumbik Council to demolish the old farm house at the corner of Bridge and Susan Streets, Eltham. Despite a delay of many months, the Council has not decided on this application. In the meantime, the disused house has been heavily vandalized, mainly since the opening of the adjoining skateboard facility. The failure of Council to adequately protect this building until a decision is made is likely to lead to its ultimate demolition irrespective of any proper assessment of its historic value.

GOOD NEWS AND BAD NEWS

First the good news. Audrey Cahn, formerly of Warrandyte and now of Yass in New South Wales has been a member of our Society for many years and maintains an interest despite having moved from the area. Audrey celebrated her 100th birthday on 17th October. We have sent congratulations and best wishes on behalf of the Society.

An application to Nillumbik Council for a grant to produce a further edition of our Chronology of Known Local Events has been unsuccessful. The future of the fourth edition of this work by Harry Gilham now needs to be re-assessed. The funds are required for basic materials such as paper, covers and bindings because most copies are to be distributed free of charge to schools, libraries and so forth.

Apart from the events listed above there remain a number of other Society activities to complete the year. The last in our series of heritage walks for the year is scheduled for 2 pm next Saturday 5 November. Book with Russell on 9439 9717 if you would like to come on this walk. The last records workshop for the year will be at 9.30 am on Monday 21 November at the Local History Centre. No need to book for this. The Committee would be very happy to see additional helpers. In the normal scheme of things there would be a records workshop on Tuesday 6 December but that has been replaced by a Committee meeting starting at 6.30 pm. The main business of this meeting will be to discuss next year's program.

Harry Gilham
President

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