



SEPTEMBER
2001

EAST
MELBOURNE
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Committee

President:

Frank Lewis

Phone: 9419 0007

Vice President:

Angela Mercer

Phone: 9415 9662

Hon. Secretary:

Liz Rushen

Phone: 9419 3811

Treasurer:

Anne Moon

Phone: 9417 5727

Committee:

Sylvia Black

Phone: 9417 2038

Elizabeth Cam

Phone: 9416 2187

Prue Forster

Phone: 9417 7369

Margaret Wood

Phone: 9415 1159



**The EMHS
acknowledges financial support
from Melbourne City Council.**

Membership

Membership of the East Melbourne Historical Society is open to all who are interested in the history of East Melbourne.

Annual subscription: \$25.00

Guests are welcome
at individual meetings \$5.00

**Affiliated with
The Royal Historical Society of Victoria**

President's Column

It's pleasing to be able to report that our membership is approaching the magic figure of one hundred.

We continue to operate from the Clarendon Street premises of the Menzies Foundation, to whom we are extremely grateful. We hope however one of these days to have a room of our own for storage of records and artefacts and to use for committee meetings together with shared ancillary facilities and consequently are taking a close interest in the possible reconstruction of the East Melbourne Library.

At the end of May, the capital works committee of the Melbourne City Council allocated towards this only some \$90,000 for this financial year - an amount insufficient to ensure any real progress - but following submissions by a number of East Melbourne groups including this Society, it allocated a total amount of \$340,000. This should be sufficient to allow progress almost to the tender stage by the time the next capital works grant is under consideration. Subject to appropriate funding next May, contracts should be able to be let almost immediately thereafter.

Since the last newsletter we have had the excellent and well attended meeting at which Professor Graeme Davison spoke about early Melbourne. We then had what I am told was an excellent lecture by Dr Richard Broome on 'Writing Local Histories' which most unfortunately I missed as I was overseas.

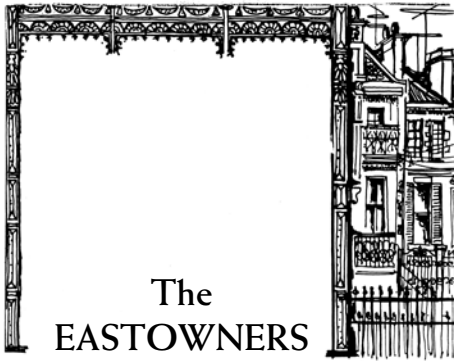
In June, on one of the wettest evenings in the year, we made a fascinating visit to the vast Public Records Office in North Melbourne and obtained some insight into their history, their recent move to the new buildings, how they preserve old documents and how the general public can obtain access to documents held by them. In particular, many of us were extremely interested to see early street plans of East Melbourne.

On 15 August, Allan Willingham, well known to most people from his radio broadcasts, compared the land boom of the 1880s with that of the 1980s with appropriate sketches and anecdotes, another fascinating meeting.

Please make a note in your diaries now for our Annual General Meeting to be held on 17 October, at which Professor Stuart Macintyre, Dean of Arts at the University of Melbourne, will speak on 'How popular was Federation?' which I am sure will be an excellent evening.

You can see from the above that the East Melbourne Historical Society has conducted an interesting and wide-ranging series of lectures over the past year. The committee would welcome new members and to that end a nomination form has been included in this newsletter. Do please consider volunteering yourself or nominating a friend.

I look forward to seeing you at the Annual General Meeting.



The EASTOWNERS

The EastTowners was formed on 10 October 1969, when a group of residents from East Melbourne met together at Dr & Mrs O'Collins' house to discuss suitable ways and means of raising funds for the Powlett Reserve Kindergarten. Those associated with the Kindergarten Mothers' Committee thought there must be a better and more effective way of raising the much-needed funds than from time to time making cakes and other produce and then slaving away for most of the day at cake stalls, white elephant stalls and the like to sell the produce. It was also realized that other East Melbourne based charities would be grateful for any monetary help they could receive.

The inaugural committee was:
President, Mr John Scarborough;
Vice President, Mr Michael Wilson;
Treasurer, Mr John Petty; Secretary,
Mrs Pam Barham; Assistant Secretary,
Mrs Valmai Murton; Committee
members, Dr & Mrs Glyn O'Collins,
Dr & Mrs Stuart Esnouf, Elizabeth
Scarborough, Pam Wilson, Dr Kevin
Barham, Peter Murton & Mrs Rowlands.
Apologies were received from the Lord
Mayor & Lady Mayoress, Cr & Mrs

Best and from Cr & Mrs Ian Beaurepaire who later joined the committee. It was agreed to request the Lord Mayor to be Patron and he readily accepted.

The new committee determined to be separate from the Kindergarten Mothers' Committee setting its objectives to raise money for charities and needy organizations in the East Melbourne area, by running functions which could be enjoyed by all concerned. It decided on the name: EastTowners (East Towners). For its first venture the EastTowners decided to organize a small dinner dance at the View Room in the Fitzroy Gardens on 20 November 1969 and donate the proceeds to the Powlett Reserve Kindergarten.

For this first function, Cr & Mrs Beaurepaire offered to donate the cost of printing the invitations, the Scarboroughs would provide the candles for the Candlelight Dinner, Michael Wilson approached perfume houses to donate samples of perfume for each lady attending, Len McBeath, who worked at Brashes' Music Store had offered to record reel-to-reel music for the function and quality wine was purchased from Agostino's in Swanston Street for 95c per flagon. The function was advertised as a Black Tie candlelight dinner dance at \$13 per double, all inclusive.

The inaugural function was a far greater success than anyone had imagined possible, thanks both to the keenness of the committee and the many gifts and other forms of help bestowed by people and firms in the

area as well as those catering for the function. The treasurer reported that 109 people attended the dinner which had raised a net profit of \$409.55. It was agreed that the EasTowners would donate \$200 to the Kindergarten and retain sufficient funds as a backing for subsequent bigger and more venturesome functions.

The second function was indeed a more ambitious black tie dinner dance held on 3 July 1970 at the Town House, 701 Swanston Street, Carlton and attended by about 300 people paying \$15 per double (\$12 expenses and \$3 profit). Again an unequivocal success was recorded and the EasTowners had much pleasure in forwarding a cheque for \$800 to the Berry Street Babies Home. Approximately \$200 was held in kitty as seed money for future functions. Cr Roy Morgan expressed the opinion that the work of the East Melbourne Group and now the addition of the EasTowners had brought East Melbourne to life – he and Mrs Morgan offered their home for the EasTowners to hold a cocktail party.

The cocktail party at the home of Cr & Mrs Roy Morgan, 166 Hotham Street, was held on 25 September 1970. It was attended by about 80 residents and friends, and largely due to our hosts, added a third feather to the cap of the EasTowners. Although this function had not been planned to provide a large surplus, but to thank the residents who had supported the group, it enabled the EasTowners to donate \$80 to the local Cub pack. The EasTowners considered a request

from the Booroondara Kindergarten, Richmond, for a donation, but it was declined because the group did not wish to change its basic objective of supporting causes within the East Melbourne area.

After three successive successes, the committee was brought to heel when there was not sufficient support for an anniversary function planned for the View Room on 20 November 1970. The committee considered a motion to disband, but decided to persevere and organized another enjoyable dinner dance at the View Room on 19 March 1971, charging \$14 a double. As Brashes were unable to supply the music, the committee decided to hire the Denis Farrington Bank. A capacity crowd of 108 supporters attended, enabling the committee to donate \$200 to the local RSPCA branch and to build up the working funds as another big function was then being planned. It was decided not to make a donation to the Powlett Reserve Kindergarten until the Melbourne City Council had clarified the future funding of the kindergarten.

The next major function was held at the Town House on 30 July 1971 and attracted more than 250 people. Although costs had risen quite appreciably and there was much speculation about inflation and recession, the economy being very tight, the supporters of the EasTowners, both donors and patrons, once again rallied to make the function an outstanding success. The cost of the tickets was set at \$20 per double all

inclusive, enabling a further \$1,200 to be donated to the Berry Street Babies Home.

In view of the economy at the time, the committee decided not to run another function in 1971, but wait until things looked brighter and then organize a small function at the View Room in 1972. Pam Barham resigned from the committee in April 1972 and Peter Murton became the new Secretary. Also, at that time, the committee received a request from the Powlett Reserve Kindergarten for funds to purchase new equipment, so it was decided to reduce its working capital to the bare minimum and donate \$200 to the Kindergarten. Only sufficient funds were kept to cover the booking fee for the View Room for the next function planned for 6 October 1972 to support the Epileptic Foundation hostel in Powlett Street. The cost was set at \$8.50 per head, 112 guests attended, a surplus of \$405.86 was achieved, and \$400 donated to the Epilepsy Foundation, leaving \$90 working capital.

At its committee meeting in May 1973, the question of continuation was raised again, and it was decided to continue, but free-wheel for the remainder of the year, merely holding a get-together for friends and supporters, budgeted on a break even basis. The function suggested was a wine and cheese tasting at the View Room with an entrée as an accompaniment. In the event, it was decided to hold a 'Smorgasbord With Wine' on 19 October 1973 at the View Room,

servicing two hot dishes, lasagne & stroganoff, salads and bread rolls with ice cream for dessert. The evening was informal, lounge suits for the men, and cost \$6 per head. Music was arranged for those who wished to dance later in the evening.

Costs were rising quickly, so the committee decided not to continue, but to leave social functions in East Melbourne to the East Melbourne Group to arrange. The final meeting of the EasTowners committee was held in May 1974. Retained funds stood at \$206, so it was determined that the committee donate \$50 to the Powlett Reserve Kindergarten and the remaining \$156 to the Berry Street Babies Home.

Thus, in just over four years, the EasTowners raised and donated funds totalling \$3,286 to charities in the East Melbourne area, \$2,156 of which went to Berry Street Babies Home, enabling them to furnish four rooms of a new building. It is fitting, when considered against the objectives of the group, that the last letter of appreciation from Berry Street dated 11 June 1974, also added " everyone from Berry Street who has had the good fortune to attend your various fund-raising functions has enjoyed the occasion and warm friendship". The EasTowners committee hopes that all its friends, colleagues and supporters have enjoyed its functions and thanks them sincerely for their support.

Peter Murton

Programme For 2001

Wednesday, 17 October – AGM

At our Annual General Meeting, Professor Stuart Macintyre, Dean of Arts, University of Melbourne and member of the Centenary of Federation Victorian Committee, will speak on the topic *How popular was Federation?*

Notice of Annual General Meetings and nomination forms are enclosed with this Newsletter.

Wednesday, 5 December

This year, our Christmas function will take the form of a Musical Soiree, highlighting the talents of East Melbourne residents.

Wednesday, 20 February 2002

Professor Alan Mayne, Professor of History, University of Melbourne, will speak on *The Other East Melbourne: 'Little Lon.', 1870-1900.*

Notices

Committee changes

Co-founder of the EMHS and inaugural Hon. Secretary, Liz Rushen has recently been appointed Executive Director of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria. Congratulations Liz!

At the forthcoming AGM, Liz will be standing down as Hon. Secretary of the Society, but will be remaining on the Committee. We welcome Sylvia Black to the Committee, and thank her for her willingness to take on the role of Hon. Secretary of the Society.

German Lutheran Trinity Church Dedication Anniversary

On Sunday 16 September, the East Melbourne German Lutheran Trinity Church will celebrate its anniversary starting at 11am with a worship service, followed by lunch and an opportunity to view the historical display. At 1.45pm Mr Martyn Finger CBE of Canberra, will speak on *The History of*

Trinity Church from 1914 to 1945. The afternoon will conclude with *Kaffe und Kuchen* in the Hall. All welcome.

Yarra-Melbourne Local History Forum

The next meeting of the Yarra-Melbourne Local History Forum will be held on Thursday 11 October at 7.30pm at the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, 239 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne. This Forum brings together local history societies in the Yarra-Melbourne region and is open to all interested in local history.

Bishopscourt Garden Working Bees

The Australian Garden History Society has undertaken to assist with the maintenance of the garden at Bishopscourt. These will be held on the third Wednesday of every second month. If you are able to assist, please contact EMHS committee member Prue Forster, on 9417 7369.

Researching East Melbourne

Over the year, we have received several requests from people researching their family, their home or East Melbourne institutions. At the present time, the Society does not hold its own collection nor does it have a permanent base. The committee is made up of interested and enthusiastic volunteers and while we would love to be able to offer assistance, in most cases it is impossible. Some of the research queries are printed in the newsletter and often bring both snippets of information and put people in touch with the enquirer.

Can You Help?

- Francesca Folk-Scolaro is looking for photos, pottery, sketches, general information and personal stories about Hoffman's Brickworks, in Dawson Street Brunswick, for inclusion in *Brunswick's Tales of Hoffman*. If you can help, please

contact Francesca on 9387 1194.

- Wendy Dwyer is writing a feature article on the garden at Bishopscourt for the Australian Garden History Society's Journal. Do you have any early records, photos, information or anecdotes that may help her research? She is particularly interested in any records of garden parties or fund raising events that may have been held in the gardens. Wendy can be contacted on 9827 4630.
- Lynne Gerbing is researching Melbourne Solicitor, James McKean (1832-1901) who resided in Albert Street, East Melbourne. Irish born, McKean was a Fitzroy councillor and an MLA for Maryborough and North Gippsland between 1866 and

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS 2002

Membership to the East Melbourne Historical Society Inc. is open to all interested in the history of East Melbourne.

Complete the details below and return with your payment of \$25 to:

Hon. Secretary, PO Box 355, East Melbourne, Victoria 3002.

Receipts will be issued only on request. All members are issued with an annual membership card.

Enclosed is my cheque/cash for the amount of \$25.

TITLE: [Mr/Mrs/Ms/Prof/Dr etc] _____

SURNAME: _____

FIRST NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NO: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

