

NUNAWADING & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

AUGUST . . . 1967
EDITOR N. L. REACH

NEWSLETTER NO 4

NEXT MEETING

WEDNESDAY, 9TH AUGUST

An Address by Mr. K. Patterson

8 p.m.

"MR CLEMENT HODGKINSON, SURVEYOR OF NUNAWADING (about 1855)"

Mr. Patterson, Archivist - La Trobe Library, is a member of this Society.

Place: METHODIST HALL, WHITEHORSE ROAD, NUNAWADING

SUNDAY, 13TH AUGUST

"TOUR OF NUNAWADING"

On this occasion, we shall be hosts to members of the WILLIAMSTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY.
Come along, and see your own City.

Programme

- 11.30 a.m. An Official Welcome by His Worship the Mayor, Cr. G. Walsh, outside the Municipal Offices, Nunawading.
Thence proceed along Springvale, Canterbury and Mitcham Roads to Wunderlich Tileries.
- 12.00 Noon Inspection of Wunderlich Tileries.
Then proceed along Mitcham Road and Agra Street to Reservoir.
- 12.50 p.m. Mitcham Reservoir Comments by Mr. Kermode.
Travel via Agra Street, Mitcham Road, Victoria Avenue, Edward Street to Church of England Hall.
- 1.15 p.m. Basket Lunch at C. of E. Hall (Tea and Coffee provided).
Then proceed along Whitehorse Road, Deep Creek Road to Cottage.
- 2.20 p.m. Schwerkolt Cottage - with comments from Mrs. Field. Mrs. Faggetter will give a short talk on the Cottage garden.
Return along Deep Creek Road, Whitehorse Road to Cochrane Street, under viaduct to Ferris Avenue, Glenburnie Road, Canterbury Road, Boronia Road, Morack Road to Vermont High School.
- 3.30 p.m. Short address by Mr. D. Livermore on local orchards.
Then continue along Morack Road, Burwood Road, Terrara Road, Canterbury Road, Lake Road to Blackburn Lake.
- 4.00 p.m. View Blackburn Lake - with comments on this sanctuary by Cr. Cox.
Travel along Jeffrey Street, Blackburn, Burwood and Springvale Roads to Channel O.
- 4.30 p.m. Afternoon Tea at Channel O.

BIENNIAL CONFERENCE: 29th September to 1st October, 1967

Public Lecture Theatre, University of Melbourne

Friday Afternoon: Special exhibition at the La Trobe Library "Early Melbourne Suburbs"

Friday Evening: Professor C M H Clark of the Australian National University. His subject will be "The Writing of History".

Saturday Morning: Four short talks on "How Victoria Began" by Sir John Barry, Dr. Geoffrey Serle, Mr. Ian McLaren, and Mrs. June Phillip.

Saturday Afternoon: Talks and discussion on HOW to preserve history.

Saturday Night: There will be a dinner and social function.

Sunday Morning: R H S V President, Mr. L. J. Blake, will lead an open discussion on the work and problems of affiliated societies.

Sunday Afternoon: Mr. Wilson Evans, historian to the City of Williamstown, is arranging a visit to Williamstown.

Brochures are being printed, and when details have been finalized, will be available for enrolments.

"WHAT HAPPENED TO NORWICH?" Further news has been received from Mrs. J. Uhl, and will be included in the September Newsletter.

REPORTS: JULY MEETING: A summary of Miss Patricia Reynold's address:-

Preserving local history implies not only collecting the evidence of the past, but also ensuring the collection of current material, which will make it possible to study the history of the district in the future - and in this connection particularly, co-operation between historical societies and local libraries would seem to be mutually beneficial. The La Trobe Library also is anxious to have the co-operation of local societies, and to discover and record the existence of local collections for the benefit of all interested in Victorian historical studies.

Local resources of local history include "Local Government" records (which are "public" records, and not within the province of a historical society's collection activities); local newspapers; books and pamphlets of many diverse kinds; the publications of local churches, schools, charitable organizations, clubs, and societies; maps; manuscript records of all kinds; tape recordings; pictorial material; and objects of historical interest. They include also much seemingly ephemeral material with considerable future potential, such as programmes and invitations of functions held locally, leaflets, advertisements, and brochures of estate agents and business firms; and election material.

But the collecting of local history serves no useful purpose unless its preservation for the future can be assured, and unless it can be made available for purposes of historical inquiry and research. It is, in fact, detrimental to societies not to be able to demonstrate their responsibilities in these matters.

The conflict between preservation and use is a perennial problem, common to institutions such as art galleries, museums, and libraries - and also to historical societies. To reduce this conflict to a minimum is part of the professional duties of staff attached to the former institutions, but historical societies can do much to ensure the safety and preservation of their collections:-

1. By making provision for the deposit of the collection with some continuing institution in the event of winding up of the society.
2. By housing the collection in a suitable building.
3. By diligently recording its holdings - an Acquisitions Register should be kept, which is particularly important in the event of loss or damage, and this should be supported by some simple form of catalogue, to which location symbols are added, so that relevant material can be brought together when required.
4. By establishing certain procedures for dealing with material as it is acquired, as for instance -
Manuscripts - detailed sorting of collections into related groups and listing each item in the form of an inventory; Xerox or photoprint copies of rare material, so that originals are preserved; suitable filing of the material according to its nature.
Pictures - permanent display of water colours, drawings, engravings, and photographs is inconsistent with the preservation, as they quickly fade. Oil paintings and objects are more suitable for permanent display. Mounting and covering of unframed material and use of photostats - examples shown.
Press Cuttings - to preserve bound files of newspapers and provide "ready reference" material, press cuttings can be useful; many ways of organizing according to expected use.
Maps - mounted on linen; lamination of frequently used published material; storage in Vertiplan cases, or small maps mounted and encased in transparent envelopes.
Objects - should not be exposed to dust and strong sunlight or unnecessary handling by visitors.
5. By reducing unnecessary searching for elusive facts by detailed subject indexing, preparation of accurate chronologies and bibliographies, et cetera.
6. By ensuring that rare material is not made available when other sources are adequate, and by the careful supervision of the use of the collection.

The Society was invited to visit the La Trobe Library to inspect methods of dealing with different types of material.