

NUNAWADING & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY .

OCTOBER ... 1967

NEWSLETTER NO. 6

Editor - N. Leach.

*** NEXT MEETING ***

WEDNESDAY, 11th October. An address by Mr. H.S. Mc Comb. 8 p.m.

SUBJECT: " THE PLACE NAMES COMMITTEE".

Mr. Mc Comb is Government Nominee on the Surveyor's Board, and a member of the Dandenong Valley Authority.

Place: Methodist Hall, Whitehorse Road, Nunawading.

REPORTS: At the last meeting of the Society, Mr. F. Pinchen one of our members, gave a most interesting illustrated address about the past and present Flora and Fauna in the Nunawading area. He mentioned how in the early days - less than 100 years ago, emus and kangaroos roamed the district and our swamp lands were alive with water-fowl. Even today some of these birds can be seen nesting in the reeds beside some of the local water-holes. The cutting of scrub, closer settlement and bush fires have caused the loss of very many of our smaller birds, especially the wrens and finches, although Mr. Pinchen had a wonderful collection of these birds and their eggs which he had by much time and patience been able to photograph. Magpies and kookaburras are also fast disappearing but there are still a few nesting-places left to them. It was not until we saw slides of the wildflowers that some of us realised just how many of our favourite ones have disappeared entirely and others which were very plentiful have nearly gone. Recently taken slides proved that if we keep our eyes open there are still many wildflowers to be found in the few open spaces left in Nunawading. To encourage our birds back Mr. Pinchen advised planting some quick growing native trees and shrubs in our gardens. This address was enjoyed by twenty-six members who shall be looking forward to more in the future.

H.B.

VICTORIAN HISTORICAL CONFERENCE: Your secretary was the Society's delegate at the recent Biennial Conference. Other members present included Mrs. J. Uhl, Miss E. Ronaldson, Mrs. D. Graham and Mr. K. Patterson. A report will follow at a later date.

"EARLY MELBOURNE SUBURBS" An exhibition held in the Latrobe Library.
29th September - 29th December 1967. Hours 2 p.m. - 10 p.m. Mondays,
10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Tuesdays - Fridays.

DON'T FORGET

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HISTORICAL EXHIBITION

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To be held in conjunction with The Blackburn Preservation Society. The Society will exhibit a collection of early maps, letters, photography, samples of pottery and a display of herbs.

PLACE: Mitcham High School, Mitcham Road, Mitcham.

TIME: Saturday, 7th October, 2 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Sunday, 8th October 2p.m. - 6 p.m.

WELCOME BACK to our "Tourist" member Mrs J. Rocznick and her two young daughters who have been visiting relatives in England. We trust they enjoyed a wonderful holiday and thank Joan for her greetings from Ludlow.

HISTORY : The Whitehorse Hotel, a two-storey brick building of eighteen rooms, was built in 1853 on the north-east corner of Elgar and Whitehorse Roads (the latter was then known as the Great Three Chain Road to Gippsland). A toll-gate was on the road here, one of many in the district for the purpose of raising money to build and maintain roads. There was stabling at the hotel for thirty horses, and a race-course was laid out behind the buildings. This was a simple matter to plan as the block of land was sixty acres in extent. Race meetings were held there and crowds of people would have an enjoyable day out. The sign for the hotel was painted tin, showing a horse carrying a jockey in a blue coat. In 1883, a Mr Graham bought the hotel and he commissioned an artist to carve a whitehorse as a sign. This was executed by the late Mr. David Clarke. In 1898, the hotel was burnt down, but it was re-built as a single-storey building very soon afterwards.

In the early years, this hotel marked the completion of the first stage in the coach journey from Melbourne to Lilydale. The coach would start from the Albion Hotel in Bourke Street (about mid-way between Elizabeth and Swanston Streets, on the north side). The horses were stabled at the Whitehorse Hotel after their nine-mile dash, mostly up-hill, until late afternoon , when they replaced the team which brought the coach from Lilydale on the return journey.

With the coming of the railway in 1862, the coaches ceased to operate. But the hotel was still very popular as the terminus of an equestrian pleasure jaunt from Melbourne. Railways might have encroached on the stage-coach runs, but the horse was still unchallenged on the roads. Subdivision of land and increased population kept business here as well, but with the coming of the motor-car, custom diminished. Further east, the "Travellers Rest" of early days still exists as the Blackburn Hotel.

(La Trobe Library) D.M.

ELECTIONS for the year 1967/68 will take place at the 2nd Annual Meeting of the Society, which will be held on Wednesday, November 8th. Formal notification of this meeting will be circulated in due course. All members are reminded that they are entitled to nominate candidates for election as Office Bearers or Committee Members and a nomination form for this purpose is attached. All positions become automatically vacant at this meeting.

Our President, Mr. L.R. Gray, Vice-President, Mr. M. Chatwin and Secretary Mrs. N. Leach do not seek re-election as Office Bearers.

N. Leach.
Hon. Secretary.

NOMINATION FORM.

I wish to nominate

For the position of

Signature of Nominator

I agree to accept nomination and will serve in the above capacity if elected.

Signature of Nominee

Date