

NUNAWADING & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FEBRUARY ... 1968
EDITOR ... L. CALWELL

NEWSLETTER ... NO. 8

*** NEXT MEETING ***

WEDNESDAY, 14TH FEBRUARY

8 p.m.

GUEST SPEAKER . HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR OF NUNAWADING, CR. C. R. T. McCALL
SUBJECT "EARLY MELBOURNE AS SEEN BY MYSELF".

PLACE AUDITORIUM AT THE OLD ORCHARD SHOPPING CENTRE,
CNR. SPRINGFIELD & WILLIAMS RDS., BLACKBURN.

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OBITUARY

Our Society sincerely regrets the passing in November of a member of our Society, Mr. C. W. Grant. We extend our sympathies to Mrs. Grant, also a member, and to her family.

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REPORTS

1. NEW OFFICE BEARERS FOR 1968

President Mrs. J. Rocznick, 15 Walwa St., Mitcham. 3132.
Vice President . Mr. K. Patterson, 32 Naughton Gr., Blackburn. 3130.
Secretary Mrs. L. Calwell, 12 Joyce St., Nunawading. 3131.
Treasurer Mr. I. Barker, 14 Tortice St., Nunawading. 3131.
Committee Members Mr. L. Gray, Mesdames E. Brown, J. Field,
N. Leach, D. Mattingley, and Miss E. Ronaldson.

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2. EXCURSIONS

A. SOUTH EASTERN REGIONAL EXCURSION

WHEN? 9th, 10th, 11th March, 1968

ATTENDANCE. a. as Resident, \$35 (inclusive)
b. as Non-Resident, \$23 (for all except accommodation)
c. on one or two day basis, \$7.50 per day
(cost of day's tour plus lunch and evening's entertainment)

PROGRAM. Saturday. To Arthur's Seat
Sunday. To Point Nepean
Monday. To Indented Head and back by ferry.

SPEAKERS. Mrs. Marjorie Tipping
Dr. K. Bowden
Dr. Stephen Murray-Smith

The full itinerary and application forms can be obtained from your Secretary upon request.

B. SWAN HILL CONVENTION ... SEPTEMBER 28th & 29th, 1968.

Thank you for your good response to the circular relating to this excursion. The most recent news from the Swan Hill Society is that the date has been changed ... please note ... it is now to be a week later than originally planned. Below is a brief itinerary. A more detailed program and the all inclusive fee will be available at a later date.

Saturday 28th 12.00 p.m. Registration
12.30 p.m. Light Luncheon
2 - 5 p.m. Folk Museum
6.00 p.m. Sherry
6.30 p.m. Buffet Dinner
8.00 p.m. Talk & Films

Sunday 29th 9.00 a.m. Tour of Swan Hill, proceed
by buses to Tyntynder homestead via Woorinen
10.15 a.m. Morning tea at Tyntynder
homestead. Inspection of homestead.
12.00 p.m. Leave homestead for Nyah
Recreation Reserve.
12.30 p.m. Barbecue lunch.
1.30 p.m. Return to Swan Hill via
Tyntynder Flats and Murray Downs.

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NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS TO NEWSLETTERS

All contributions for a newsletter are to be in the hands of the Secretary by the 22nd of the month preceding the month of publication. News items and articles will be most welcomed from everybody.

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HISTORY

1. THE VILLAGE OF SPRINGFIELD

In an address last year (October) Mr. McComb told us of a sub-division which established the village of Springfield, in Springfield Road. This village must have started well. In the 1861 census returns there is an item :- Parish of Nunawading, Village of Springfield, Population 81 (44 male, 37 female), 22 inhabited dwellings. The Village of Box Hill had only 30 people and 7 houses at that time, but the remainder of the Parish had about 1,600 people.

K. Patterson.

2. DR. SMITH'S MODEL FARM

Dr. L. L. Smith was one of the best known and most colourful characters of Melbourne about the period of the 1870's. He was the most fashionable doctor in the city, a member of the City Council and the Legislative Council.

On Nunawading Parish plan, he is shown as the first purchaser of allotment 132, on the south side of Canterbury Road, bounded by Heatherdale Road and Dandenong Creek, an area of 119 acres, in what is now Vermont.

In 1877 he announced he was selling off his lands in various parts of the Melbourne area as he could not give them sufficient attention and carry out his Parliamentary duties as well.

The sale bill read as follows:-

Lot 1. Farm on Dandenong Creek, 12½ miles from Melbourne of about 280 acres. It has been used as a model farm by Dr. Smith, who has spent nearly £25,000 on it. It is well fenced, waterholes made and there is a running creek through it to Dandenong Creek. The orchards have 2,000 fruit trees, including oranges, loquats, chestnuts. There is also gooseberries and raspberries. Paddocks are sown in English grass, oats, mangolds, Belgian silver beet, peas, etc. There is also a plantation of the newly-discovered food plant Prickly Comfrey in full leaf, yielding 180 tons to the acre. The homestead is a 6-roomed cottage, set in a fruit and vegetable garden of three acres, with stabling for six horses, piggeries, hay, produce and sheep sheds, which all have floors of asphalt. There is also about six acres of vineyard and vines in good order.

Lot 2. All that magnificent piece of land known as "The Hill" in Canterbury Road, just below Delaney's Hotel, commanding a view of the Heads, Schnapper Point, the Bay and the whole of Melbourne. Choicest piece of land for grandeur of view within seven miles of Melbourne.

It seems that he must have bought the neighbouring allotment at Vermont, No. 123, of 156 acres, which would give him the whole area bounded by Canterbury, Boronia and Heatherdale Roads and Dandenong Creek. Lot 2 is obviously the high ground south of Canterbury Road (Box Hill), where the water tower and reservoir now stand.

K. Patterson.