

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, 10th July, 1968.

8.00 p.m. at the Auditorium, Old Orchard Shopping Centre,
Cnr. Williams & Springfield Roads, Blackburn.

Mr. Aldo Massola will speak on the "VICTORIAN ABORIGINES",
with special reference to our district, and will show some
of his slides.

Mr. Massola is an anthropologist of note and he has
written "Bunjil's Cave" and "Aboriginal Place Names of
South-eastern Australis and their meanings". It is
hoped that a large number of members and their friends
will be present.

ABOUT MEMBERS: Our membership is now 42. Our two latest student
members are Miss R. Chatwin and Mr. K. Chatwin, of Nunawading.

It is hoped that members will report on any buildings or
objects of special historic interest in our district, in order
that these may be photographed if demolition is likely, or
have markers or plaques attached, stating their significance.

SPECIAL NEWS: The Nunawading City Council has presented our society
with a very generous financial grant, for which we are extremely
grateful. We can now plan to extend our work considerably on
local history and its preservation.

JUNE MEETING.

Mr. R. Jackson brought along various old prints and lithographs
that he has collected, and told how he has followed up the origin of
these and their artists. Sometimes years have passed before a chance
clue leads on to another clue and a story is revealed bit by bit.

Members were able to examine Mr. Jackson's interesting possessions,
which also included a facsimile of an address presented by the Old
Colonists to the visiting Duke of Edinburgh in 1867.

Mr. Patterson thanked the guest speaker for an interesting talk,
which showed how anyone may follow up historical research even in a
modest way, and derive much enjoyment from so doing.

WILLIAMSTOWN VISIT.

Fifty-one members of Nunawading Historical Society and their
families travelled to Williamstown on Sunday, 23rd June, by bus and
car. Our kind hosts of the local Historical Society gave us a most
interesting day. We inspected the Council Chambers and the society
museum, and later toured the city, with two guides.

Williamstown's history dates back to the earliest permanent
settlement in Victoria, and so today, there is a mixture of old and
new to be seen. The Williamstown Historical Society with the aid
of a co-operative City Council, has succeeded in saving some relics,
but of course, much has already been lost, as happens everywhere
today. Our admiration is strong for what has been done there.

REGIONAL MEETING.

Camberwell Historical Society was the host to the South-Eastern
Suburbs Historical Societies Regional Meeting on 7th June. Between
150 and 200 attended.

The program was an exhibition of pictures of notable buildings
of the Camberwell district, with a short history of each. Buildings
shown ranged from old farm-houses and rows of terraces to stately
mansions. In some cases, old pictures were compared with present-day
photographs.

One fact of interest to us was that Sir John O'Shannessy, a leading political figure in early Victoria, built in Camberwell; it has been suggested that his influence was decisive in having the railway line from Hawthorn to Lilydale built on its present route to follow Whitehorse Road and to be convenient to his residence, instead of the first route selected, along the line of Burwood Road.

Doncaster-Templestowe Historical Society has offered to be the host at the next regional meeting.

K. Patterson.

SOME PLANS OF BLACKBURN. (From our Archives.)

1910 Subdivision: "Most desirable villa sites on lovely sylvan hill-tops and slopes."

BLACKBURN, MELBOURNE'S PREMIER RURAL SUBURB, stands unrivalled for its happy combination of picturesqueness, and solid progress, salubrity and easy accessibility."

Moreton Park Recreation Hall and Moreton Park were marked on this map, also a Refreshment Room in Blackburn Road, opposite the hall, the Post Office in Blackburn Road, just north of the railway line where a bicycle shop is now, and a butcher's shop on the corner of Blackburn and Railway Roads, now a greengrocer's. Shop sites approximately 33 feet wide were marked along South Parade, west of Main Street.

Another earlier, undated map showed shop sites along Vine Street and Station Streets, and some in Railway Road.

In 1914, the subdivision of FRANCOM'S PADDOCK took place. This comprised some blocks backing on to the railway line in Laburnum Street, all blocks on the west side of Myrtle Grove, all blocks east of it south to Linum Street and as far as half-way to Laurel Grove. At this time, the west portion of Linum Street was called View Street.

The brochure showed a bunch of wildflowers which grew profusely on this area. The blocks on the south side of Laburnum Street were marked as "lovely rising ground"; between Fuschia and View Streets, the description was "high tableland commanding lovely views".

Price was £3 deposit, £3 per quarter, interest 5 per cent.

"Blackburn, nestling among the Gum-clad Eastern Hills, is now so famous for its numerous beauty spots, picturesque scenery, bracing and genial atmosphere, that the claim to the title of MELBOURNE'S PREMIER RURAL SUBURB requires no defence.

Its growth of settlement has of late been highly satisfactory, but it is only a forecast of a coming much greater development, which will be hastened by the Municipal Electric Light System just installed, the Water Supply from the O'Shannassey River Main now being arranged, and the Railway Electrification shortly to be provided."

Some extracts from the sale notice issued in 1922 by T.R.B. Morton & Son, Auctioneers of Melbourne and Box Hill; Mr. Morton's residence at this time was at the corner of Blackburn Road and Gordon Crescent, Blackburn (now the residence of Dr. Birrell).

"SYLVAN GLADES PADDOCK. A central beauty spot of BEAUTEOUS BLACKBURN. (Blocks for sale were on the westside of Blackburn Road, from the Avenue south to Heath Street.) The main approach from Canterbury to the station is an attractive highway avenue.

While almost every lot is prettily timbered, those fronting Heath Street and on both sides of the natural water-course carry a dense growth of gums of various kinds, maiden-hair fern and other flora.

Blackburn, aptly termed in past years "MELBOURNE'S PREMIER RURAL SUBURB" still in its retention of rare natural charm and health conducive climatic conditions, fully merits this distinctive name, but now advantages and conveniences long hoped for having at last come, or being in actual construction, we can in addition, fairly claim for it a very marked recent development, and, with unhesitating confidence, assured continued progress in the upward path of sound prosperity and substantial growth.

The installation of Electric Light by the Council a few years ago and recently, by the Melbourne & Metropolitan Board, of a high-pressure water-supply from the O'Shannasse River Main, and the imminent electrification of the trains have been, and are, important and permanently acting causes of this gratifying movement."

FRUITGROWING IN OUR DISTRICT.

From the early days of settlement in this district, fruitgrowing has been successfully carried on. All orchards had their own dams for irrigation, pumps and gravity being used in conjunction for this necessary chore. Horse-drawn wagons took fruit to market for many years before motor transport took over. Cup Day meant Sunday School picnics to Blackburn Lake in past years, but other picnickers also would arrive and help themselves liberally to the ripening cherries in the local orchards. Owners of these properties were always glad when this day was past.

Victoria can claim the distinction of being the first state in the Commonwealth to have cool storage of fruit, and the first to export pears overseas. The "Somerset" in 1910 took the first shipment of William pears. Victoria is still the main exporting state for pears, but ranks second to Tasmania in the amount of apples sent to other parts of the world.

The first cool-store in this district was a Government one at Doncaster; others followed later. The Blackburn cool-store was opened in 1918, the first engineer being the former operator of the Box Hill-Doncaster tram.

In 1930, owing to difficulties with space and particularly with overseas markets, local growers decided to form a company, with an overseas representative to protect their interests. Pears were exported first, later apples, plums for a time, and for a short period, cherries to New Zealand.

This company, the Blue Moon Fruit Co-operative Ltd. has prospered and now has subsidiary companies in N.E. Victoria, Tasmania and Western Australia. Fruits handled are pears, apples and citrus fruits.

The small group who began this venture could not have envisaged the world-wide contacts which developed in later years for their fine company.

Information from Mr. F. Moore, Canterbury Road,
Blackburn.

RHSV NEWS.

Seymour Historical Society is roofing its old log geol with shingles, which are being split with an old shingle splitting axe. Members are still collecting items with a view to opening a museum.

Moorabbin Historical Society is arranging to incorporate an historical item in the new Myer's Southland when it opens in September.

National Trust of Australia. (Victoria)

There will be a display of costumes of the last hundred years at "Como", for approximately three weeks, commencing 12th August.

Some new classifications for your list of places to see:

- "Object of Interest": Grave of Aboriginal Native Chief,
Dererut, Carlton Cemetery.
Darlington Bridge Abutments (bridge
demolished), near Mortlake.
Lake Bolac Milepost, Mortlake.
- "D": 479-484 Collins Street, Melbourne.
Terrace, Irving Street, Footscray.
State School, Alberton.
Old Shire Hall, Warragul.
Methodist Church, Princes Street, St.Kilda.
Bolinda Creek Bridge, Shire of Romsey.
Presbyterian Church, Berwick.
- "C": 483-485 Collins Street, Melbourne.
Hut (wattle and daub) Cnr. Bakers & Kings
Roads, Harkaway.
"North Vale Villa", 108 Burnbank Street,
Ballarat.
- "B": Former store, Western Highway, Buangor -
also former Cobb & Co. changing station.
Bluestone chimney, Old Mill, Mortlake
(formerly object of interest).
- "A": (Of national importance and to be preserved
at all costs)
Montrose Cottage, Eureka Street, Ballarat.
This is one of fewer than 60 buildings
in Victoria with this classification.
(More about it in future newsletters.)

OTHER NEWS.

In 1971, Mornington Shire will celebrate the centenary of its self-government and it plans to publish a history of the locality at this time.

In picturesque South Wagga Park, N.S.W., there is the usual section for children - swings, see-saws, climbing bars. But the most popular plaything of all is an old-fashioned steam-roller set on a thick slab of concrete. A plaque on the old-timer reads: "This steam traction engine is a gift to the children of Wagga Wagga from Mr. Keith Dunn. It has been cleaned and painted and placed on the site by members of the Rotary Club of South Wagga Wagga as a symbol of service from the early days of this city and district".

The steam-roller was built by Robey & Co., Lincoln, England, in the 19th century. Its great mass is gaily decorated in red, green, yellow and black. Mr. Dunn is the owner of the famous Book Station in the Wagga district, and the steam-rollers were used years ago to pull trains of drays loaded with chaff.

D. Mattingley,
(EDITOR).