

NUNAWADING HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

AUGUST 1968.

NEWSLETTER No. 14.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, 14th August, 1968.

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

MRS. HOBAN of Kilmore will deliver an address on
'CAROLINE CHISHOLM'

It is hoped there will be a reasonably large number of people present, in deference to this fine speaker who is travelling some distance to our meeting.

ABOUT MEMBERS: At the July meeting, the President stated that the Committee had recommended the conferring of two Honorary Life Memberships, on account of much valuable help 'behind the scenes' given to the society in its early days. The two people concerned are MR. L.E. GRAY and MR. G.H. NEVE. The General Meeting agreed unanimously to this proposal. Mr. Gray was our first President and Mr. Neve was also a foundation member.
CONGRATULATIONS to these two gentlemen.

As this society will not be arranging a similar display to that of last October, the Committee has decided to place small displays of historic material in several banks in our city during the Arts Festival of Nunawading. (more details later)

SWAN HILL CONVENTION OF HISTORICAL SOCIETIES:

28-29th September, 1968.

The necessary registration forms are now available from the Secretary.

LATROBE LIBRARY VISIT: Alteration in date of visit.

We regret that arrangements at the Latrobe Library make it necessary to change the date of our visit. It will now take place on Monday, 19th August, instead of Wednesday, 21st August. Members will assemble at the Latrobe Library in Latrobe Street, Melbourne. The tour will probably take place between 7.45 p.m. and 9.45 p.m., but this will be confirmed at the next meeting. Names of intending participants must be handed in at meeting or telephoned before this to Secretary at 878 4630.

CORRECTION: In the final item of the July Newsletter about Wagga, the correct name of the machine should in each case be 'traction engine' instead of 'steam-roller'

Acknowledgment for this interesting paragraph to BALM Paints.

THE GOLDFIELDS' HISTORICAL & ARTS SOCIETY is striking a golden medallion to celebrate the centenary of the finding of the world's largest nugget on 5/2/1869. Price is £2. Reservation should be made at once. Mark envelope 'Medallion Order' and enclose payment to:

The Hon. Secretary,
Goldfields' Historical & Arts Society,
The Museum, Broadway,
DUNOOLLY, 3472.

The Museum at the above address is open every Sunday 1.30 to 5.00 p.m. and holidays, otherwise by appointment with the Curator.

Records from the Mines Department show that Dunolly and district has produced a greater number of gold nuggets than any other field in Australia.

In 1896, the Mines Department marked the site of the discovery of the 'Welcome Stranger' with a granite obelisk.

JULY MEETING: Mr. Massola, on the subject of 'Victorian Aborigines', firstly gave a general account of aborigines in the Melbourne district where two tribes roamed when Batman arrived to settle. In our own locality, the local tribe was extinct by about 1860, consequently, no photographs exist of its members. Mr. Massola then showed some slides of aborigines, and explained their physical characteristics and various tribal customs. With the aid of recent slides, he explained how to look for traces of aboriginal life today - wells, middens, ceremonial stones, canoe trees, etc. The evening was interesting and illuminating for all those present.

RHSV NEWS: 'History of Croydon - A Second Volume', by Mrs. McGivern, now available. \$4-95.

STAWELL H.S. is doing detailed research into old properties, pastoral runs and old buildings, and has also formed a photographic section of the society.

BAIRNSDALE Shire plans to celebrate the centenary of the municipality this year.

WARRAGUL H.S. has been successful in securing a State Government grant on a two for one basis of \$6000 to restore the old Shire Hall as a museum to hold their valuable collection of relics.

INTERSTATE NEWS: Murmuring voices and ghostly laughter - ironic laughter - are mingling with the winds around Sydney Harbour today. Who can it be? . . . Yes, ghosts of the long-dead convicts; once the despised and rejected, the oppressed - for them a new status has arisen, almost two centuries after their arrival in New Holland. No longer need their descendants conceal convict ancestry; the glorious fact can now be proclaimed and these people can stand proudly side by side with the descendants of the free.

Mr. Levett, of Sydney, who inaugurated the 'FELLOWSHIP OF FIRST FLEETERS', was told by his father that their ancestor in the First Fleet was a soldier, but "half an hour in the Mitchell Library disposed of that". His convict great-great-grandfather was pardoned and later gave Australia her first beer and bread, by supplying the first yeast. Mr. Levett feels proud of this, and wants greater awareness of pioneers in Australia today.

And now, a contribution from a member:

On 27th March, 1968, a meeting was held in Sydney to inaugurate the 'FELLOWSHIP OF FIRST FLEETERS', membership is open to all descendants of free men and convicts who landed with the First Fleet on 26th January, 1788. Objects of the Fellowship include loyalty to Australia, and that our traditions and way of life be maintained and pioneers honoured.

An affiliated society has been formed for descendants of settlers and convicts who arrived between 1788 and 1829, to be called the '1788-1820 Association'.

Mrs. Graham, a fifth generation descendant of a First Fleeter, has now been accepted as a foundation member of the Fellowship of First Fleeters, and would be pleased to supply further information to interested persons.

Our congratulations to Mrs. Graham.

BRIEF LOCAL HISTORY: As early as 1841, a few settlers were in this area. In these times, the main occupation was timber-cutting. With the land cleared in small patches, the settlers became farmers, and grew berries, grapes, fruit-trees, barley, and they had small dairy herds; butter and cheese would be made at home.

On 4/5/1872, the district became the Shire of Nunawading. On 27/5/1925, this was divided into the Shire of Blackburn and Mitcham, and the Borough of Box Hill. This new shire had been the Blackburn and Mitcham Ridings of the former shire, and there were about 6,000 residents.

In 1945, the City of Nunawading was proclaimed, with 8,000 people. Today the number exceeds 80,000.

The railway came to Blackburn and Mitcham in 1882; Tunstall station was established in 1882, and this became Nunawading in 1945. With the coming of the railway, there was great expansion in industry; potteries and brick-works began operating, and more land was opened up for sale.

The railway was electrified in 1923. One of our members, Mr. Neve, was working as a student in 1922 at the General Electric Company at Schenectady, about 120 miles from New York, and he handled the contract for the supply of automatic equipment for the Mitcham (Vic.) sub-station. At that time, this was one of the most advanced sub-stations in the world, because it was fully automatic. Previously, such installations required someone in attendance at all times.

Originally, Canterbury Road was called the Old Road to the Mountains, while Whitehorse Road was the Three-Chain Road to Gippsland. Settlement and roads in parts of Gippsland were delayed for years because of the many swamps, which in later years were drained. There is still an old road from Lilydale through Noojee to Moe, leading the traveller to Gippsland.

One of our members relates that his grandparents lived in Hawthorn and grew grapes on their property, which was situated in the area bounded by Lisson Grove, Power Street, Riversdale Road and Glenferrie Road. The trip there from Melbourne meant travelling by horse-drawn tram to the river at Burnley, where the crossing was accomplished in a ferry. The remainder of the journey was done on foot. Era was the late 1879's and 1880's.

An old resident of this district used to tell how he cut timber and carted it by dray to brickworks in this area. This was in the late 1890's and early 1900's.

D. MATTINGLEY.
(Editor.)