

Nunawading Historical Society
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NUNAWADING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, 11th June, 1969. 8 p.m. in the Coffee Room, Civic Centre, Whitehorse Road, Nunawading.

This will take the form of a *WORK NIGHT*, with all members participating, under the direction of Miss Ronaldson. Many small tasks — filing, preparing newscuttings, etc. — remain to be done, and it is hoped to accomplish some of these. Please bring any of the following: scissors, pencils, red and blue ballpoints, rubbers, rulers, scribbling pads.

MAY MEETING

Mr John Blazé spoke on '*Genealogical Research*'. He pointed out how historical and genealogical research involves people all the time, and how the small, everyday incidents of their lives have made History as well as more noteworthy happenings. It is most important to record what is happening now for future reference. As well as the well-known sources of information for 'searchers', as titles offices, cemeteries, birth, death and marriage certificates, family Bibles and shipping lists, there are old regimental muster rolls and pension lists. The Genealogical Society of Victoria and its counterpart in London are available to assist people wishing to do research, and their libraries have an enormous amount of material on which to work.

VERMONT STATE SCHOOL

is to celebrate its centenary on 4th and 5th July next. As part of the publicity for this event, the School Committee is conducting an advertising poster competition — a junior one for children of the school, and a senior one for secondary school pupils of the district. A panel of three judges is to decide the winners, and our society was asked to nominate a member to serve on this panel. At the May meeting, our President, Mr Patterson, was appointed to this position. All members are invited to visit the school on the afternoon of 4th and 5th July, and to enter into the fun of the celebrations. A booklet of school history is being published.

One of our members, Mr Hugh Stephens, has loaned the society a file containing copies of the 'RINGWOOD BOROUGH NEWS' from December 1930 to September 1931. This paper was printed by T. J. Higham, Pty. Ltd. at 14 Blackburn Road, Blackburn, the present location of Acacia Press. It circulated in the districts of Ringwood, Croydon and Bayswater, and was priced 1½d.

Reports were printed of Council meetings of Blackburn and Mitcham Shire, Doncaster and Templestowe Shire and the Ringwood Borough Council.

The topic most often in the news at this time was the widespread unemployment; relief work was mentioned frequently and appeals were constantly made for clothing for distressed families. Social events – concerts and card parties – raised money for helping these people. All the Councils were finding it difficult to finance even essential projects.

Blackburn, Tunstall (Nunawading) and Mitcham were very different places then from the present City of Nunawading, with more than 80,000 people. Many roads and footpaths, busy thoroughfares now, were as yet unmade, and complaints about these were frequent. The ovals and cinder tracks on Morton Park were in process of being completed, and more than once, heavy rain damaged the partly-finished work. A fence enclosed Morton Park and numerous requests were made for a path across the area or along its northern boundary.

Another interesting point is the existence then of the Blackburn and Mitcham Ratepayers' Vigilance Association, apparently similar to the Nunawading Ratepayers' Association of today.

In the reports of local organisations, the name of one voluntary worker appeared very often, that of Mr Alex. Jamieson, of Blackburn. Nunawading City Council named Mr Jamieson 'Citizen of the Year' for 1968 for his services to the community, and it is obvious what a worthy choice this was.

Various paragraphs from these papers will be published in the Newsletter in the future. One is included here:

Mitcham 8/5/1931

Talkies at Mitcham.

A grand opening night on Saturday next will mark the commencement of regular programmes of Talkies at the Mitcham Memorial Hall. Included in the programme is the thrilling drama; 'The Lion and The Lamb', and 'Around the Corner', described as a laugh riot. Micky Mouse cartoons will also be shown.

WHAT IS HISTORY? Just delving into the past?

Henry Ford said bluntly: 'History is bunk', and Lord Chesterfield stated that 'History is only a confused heap of facts.'

Carlyle considered that 'History is the essence of innumerable biographies.' Edmund Bentley's viewpoint follows on from this:

'Geography is about maps,
But Biography is about chaps.'

Mr L. J. Blake, President of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, in addressing the people of the Shire of Wangaratta on the occasion of their centenary (September 1967) said: 'You can look at History in many ways. In one view, it is an imperishable record of the great saga of the human spirit. In another, it is gossip raised to the nth degree, gossip raised to academic status, analysed, interpreted, recorded and expanded.'

With this definition in mind, how then can we sum up our ideas?

Perhaps it will suffice to say that we endeavor to see the past always as a continuum running into the present and the future.

CANBERRA AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

In a recent newsletter, the society referred to itself as being something like a small-scale National Library. However, some of its possessions are housed at Blundell's Cottage (similar to our Schwerkolt Cottage), most of their records are at the Griffin Centre, some are in the President's garage, and others are in the flat of one of the vice-presidents. The meetings are held in the precincts of the National University. Members hope that they will not wait forty-two years for a permanent home, the length of time Canberra waited for its National Library to be opened!

AUSTRALIAN NATIVE PLANTS AND THEIR NAMES

Numerous species of beautiful Grevilleas grow in Australia. This plant was named after Hon. Charles Foulke Greville, a 19th century patrician and a patron of Botany. However, the late Charles Barrett commented that Greville, the diarist, would have been unhappy in the Australian bush and could never have been so careless of his dignity as to drink billy-tea with a bushman!

Correa — named after Correa de Serra, a Spanish botanist.

Nuytsia, or the W.A. Christmas Tree — Pieter Nuyts, a Dutch sailor.

Baeckea genus — an 18th century physician.

Bauera — two German brothers Bauer, who painted plants.

Beaufortia, a branch of the Myrtle family, with bottle-brush type of flowers, found in

W.A. only — the Duchess of Beaufort, a patron of Botany.

Boronia — Francesco Borone, an 18th century botanist.

Crowea — J. Crowe, an English botanist.

Pultenea, or Bush Pea — R. Pulteney, an English botanist.

Hakea — Baron von Hake, a 20th century botanist.

Hibbertia — George Hibbert, a London patron of Botany.

Kennedyia — after Lewis Kennedy, a London nursery-man

AUSTRALIAN NATIVE PLANTS AND THEIR NAMES (contd)

Kunzea – Gustave Kunze, a German botanist.

Dampiera, with a delicate blue flower – William Dampier.

The brilliant Sturt's Desert Pea – *Clianthus formosus* – first noted by Dampier, who took a specimen home to England after his exploration of the west coast of Australia. Later this plant received its present common name, recalling the Australian explorer, Charles Sturt.

BALLARAT is planning a historic park which will re-create the Ballarat scene of the 1850's. The site chosen at Sovereign Hill covers 26 acres and is regarded as the centre of the former prolific Ballarat East goldfields. The focal point is the cone-shaped mullock heap of the old North Normanby Mine.

In the first stage, planning will include a historical museum, a gold mine and village, a prepared area for outdoor exhibits and a historical restaurant. In the museum, space will also be available for lectures, exhibitions and workshop, and the landscaped courtyard entrance will be furnished with historical objects. In the village, cottages of the mining era will be constructed, together with shops such as saddler's, blacksmith, Joss house, sly grog shop, replica of Bentley's Hotel, Plank Road, Montezuma style Hall, Banks and Post Office.

The dominating feature of the village street will be the poppet heads to be re-erected over the old shaft of the mine. The plan also envisages the erection of a complete mining plant, with winding gear and stamp battery in working order. The proposed restaurant is to be an authentic re-creation of the type constructed during the mining era.

We wish the organisers well with their tremendous project.

D. Mattingley
(Editor)
(Hon. Sec.)
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