

NUNAWADING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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Annual membership subscriptions were due in October, 1969, Would members please check if they have paid? Hon. Treasurer: Mr I. Barker, 14 Tortice Avenue, Nunawading, 3131.

In future, the Newsletter will be published at two-monthly intervals only. Please note the dates of the next *TWO* meetings:

Wednesday, 11th February, 1970. 8 p.m. in the Coffee Room, Civic Centre, Whitehorse Road, Nunawading. Our speaker will be:

His Worship the Mayor of Nunawading, Cr. Bruce Telfer, and his subject will be 'REFLECTIONS ON TOWN PLANNING'.

Wednesday, 11 March, 1970. Mr W. L. Radden of Ringwood Historical Research Group will speak on '*EARLY WARRANDYTE HISTORY*'.

The program for 1970 also includes an address by Professor Shaw, of Monash University on a selected subject of Matriculation Australian History; speakers on the Forest Hill Kindergarten Holiday Home and the Tally-Ho Boys' Village, also one on some other aspects of Australian History. There will be the Eastern Historical Societies Regional Meeting at Croydon in April and a Work Night for members later in the year.

It is hoped to conduct a *HISTORICAL TREASURE HUNT* for primary and secondary students in Nunawading in conjunction with the Forest Hills Shopping Centre in March. Details will be announced at the next meeting by the Convenor, Miss Ronaldson.

For the Captain Cook Bi-Centenary Celebrations, the Government of Victoria and the Government of N.S.W. are offering substantial awards in literary competitions. Details at the next meeting.

In addition to the Summer School at Queenscliff, 7 - 9 March, 1970, 'In Wake of Captain of Captain Cook' the South-Eastern Historical Association plans a display at Southland 'In Wake of Captain Cook', from 3rd March to 19th April. Among other groups, the Shiplovers' Association and the Royal Historical Society of Victoria will take part.

HISTORIES OF LOCAL SCHOOLS

Some of the newly-established schools in the City of Nunawading as well as some of the oldest have supplied their histories to the Society, and all contain valuable and interesting information.

Blackburn State School. In 1857, the United Free Methodist Church established a school in Sim's Road — now Station Street, Box Hill. In 1864, two acres of land were reserved for a Common School — the present site of Box Hill High School. The Sagoe Common School, Nunawading, was built in 1866. In 1887, a new Box Hill School was built, combining with Sagoe, which was closed but re-opened the following day as 2923 Blackburn. The present Blackburn School was built in

1889, on the site known today in Whitehorse Road, Blackburn. By 1969, more than 1000 pupils were enrolled.

Burwood East State School. In 1861, the settlers in this rural area wanted regular education for their children, so the Anglican Church bought two acres of land and established a non-vested school, No. 184, Harkaway, on the present school site. There were twenty pupils who each paid a fee of 6d. per week. In 1864, the name was changed to Common School No. 454 Nunawading, and not until 1902 did the school become Burwood East. The highest enrolment was in 1967 with nearly 700 pupils.

Forest Hill State School. In 1865, the first school was held in the Mount Pleasant Wesleyan Chapel. Another day school was started in a small dwelling near the present Terrara Road. These could not continue, and in 1869, aid was again sought for a non-vested school to be known as Delany's Road (Mt. Pleasant) Common School. Aid was given only on condition that the school was erected on the road junction three-quarters of a mile east – this then became the present-day *Vermont School*, which celebrated its centenary in 1869.

The Forest Hill School of today was opened in 1926 with 75 pupils. By 1961, more than 600 pupils crowded the available space, but with additional schools in the district and extra rooms, this situation has altered.

Mitcham State School. After the opening of the railway line to Mitcham, the population of the district increased rapidly. There was a small private school of twenty-seven children, but this was inadequate. In 1888, two acres of land near the corner of Whitehorse and Mitcham Roads were purchased for a school. Pupils were taught in Holy Trinity Church of England Hall until the building was completed in 1890. In 1922, a new building was acquired in Mitcham Road, half a mile north of the original school, and was occupied by senior grades. The old junior school was vacated in 1967 and a new building was supplied west of the present one. More than eight hundred pupils at times have created a shortage of accommodation.

Blackburn North State School. Five acres of orchard land on the north side of Springfield Road, ¼ mile east of Middleborough Road, was the site chosen for the establishment of this school. Work commenced on the building in 1953 and the school was opened in 1954. By 1966, enrolment was 673 and twenty class rooms were in use.

Blackburn East S.S. This school was established on a five-acre site between Vicki and Bindy Street, South Blackburn, in 1957. In 1958, enrolment began with 199 pupils. In 1969 there were more than 750 pupils and many amenities had been provided in the school.

Nunawading South S.S. was established and opened in 1959 on a site of approximately five acres, of which two square chains are a Native Plant Sanctuary. The area surrounding the school was mainly orchards and market gardens which disappeared rapidly during the nineteen-sixties. By mid-1969 there were 830 pupils.

Blackburn Lake S.S. was built on five acres of land in Florence Street. Committees of parents set out to protect valuable native plant reserves while building was proceeding and also raised money for equipment before the opening of the school in 1964. The number of pupils has increased greatly during the ensuing years. Because of the Native Plant Sanctuary and the natural bush surroundings, this school is unique in the Metropolitan area. It is also the production centre for 'Nature Notes', a magazine to encourage children to watch and care for native birds, plants and animals.

Eastmont S.S. opened with 136 pupils, in Centre Road, Vermont in 1964, By 1969, numbers had grown to 400, but with the opening of the new school at Verdale, these would decrease. This school too is on a picturesque site.

Laburnum S.S. is situated on the corner of Middleborough Road and Janet Street, Blackburn, and contains approximately 6.9 acres. The grounds are large and many well-established trees were already on the site, and adjacent parkland is available to the school for its use. The original enrolment in 1964 was 308 pupils. In 1967, the school won the A.N.A. prize for the most improved ground.

Narmara S.S., Narmara Street, Burwood East, began in 1968 in twelve rooms, with library and ancillary rooms. There were 406 pupils.

Springview S.S. was built on the site of an orchard in 1964, and 418 pupils were enrolled then, though there are now more than 700. The Junior Council is one of three in Nunawading, and there are the Gould League of Birdlovers and Social Service Leagues and a Junior St. John's Ambulance Group.

Antonio Park S.S. derives its name from the large area of adjacent parkland given to Nunawading City Council by two brothers named Antonio. The school site is approximately five acres, with a frontage to Maroondah Highway, and was opened in 1960, with 217 pupils. This school has also won the A.N.A. prize for its improved grounds. Plantations of native shrubs and the existing natural vegetation make this another attractive school.

Nunawading High School began work in Blackburn Central School and moved into its own premises in Canterbury Road, Forest Hill, in 1955. Despite the successive opening of five more High Schools in the City, this school has continued to grow and by 1969, with an enrolment of more than 1,100, it was one of the largest in the State.

Mitcham High School accepted its first pupils – 137 girls and boys – at Greythorn High School in 1959. By June 1960, the new school building on a fifteen-acre site was occupied, at the corner of Mitcham and Springfield Roads, Mitcham. In 1969, enrolment was 960 pupils.

Vermont High School began in 1962 in Parkmore S.S. and Nunawading H.S., but in December, pupils and staff moved into their own building in Morack Road, Vermont. Enrolment in 1969 was 771 pupils. Wide selection of subjects is offered to all, with some boys in a Home Economics Class and some girls taking Metalwork and Needlework, and the subject of Typing available to all – to mention just a few.

Blackburn Technical School began in 1959 in temporary accommodation, and later moved into its own building on a fifteen-acre area in Koonung Road, a former orchard. There were 166 boys when this took place later in the year. Maximum enrolment was 581 in 1964, but this declined slightly after the opening of Mitcham Technical School in 1965. Evening classes were an early concern of the School Council and in 1969 there were more than 400 student-subject enrolments.

Some Reminiscences

In a recent newsletter of Canberra and District Historical Society, some reminiscences appeared of a lady born in 1881 in a southern district of N.S.W. She described how material for clothing for the entire family was purchased from the hawker, who came regularly to all the farms. She remembered the great excitement of her sixth birthday, when her present was a necklace of blue beads from the hawker's store. A neighboring 'granny' always made straw hats for members of the district families. A 'tinker' arrived at intervals with his hand-cart and he mended tin-ware and made new buckets and milk-cans. A 'clockie' also walked on his annual visits to the farms; his gear was in a box about one foot square, and he cleaned clocks and watches, and serviced sewing-machines.

Box Hill 'Reporter'

AUCTION SALE
SATURDAY FEBRUARY 23rd, 1929.
at 3.30 p.m.

IN A SEATED MARQUEE ON THE LAND
"HILL 60 ESTATE" TUNSTALL
37 Beautiful Home Lots

Nicely timbered and handy station, school etc. made street, water, electric light and phone all up to the Estate. For absolute sale, no reserves on prices day of sale.

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