

J. Roynock

NUNAWADING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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NEXT MEETING – Wednesday June 9th 1971 in the Coffee Room Civic Centre, Whitehorse Road, Nunawading at 8 p.m. We expect to have as our Guest Speaker, someone from the National Trust.

JULY MEETING – This meeting will be at Wesley Hall, The Avenue, Blackburn. Professor Martin will speak on Federation. Students from all Secondary Schools in the Municipality will be invited.

REPORT ON EASTERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE held in Wesley Hall, Blackburn on April 30th 1971.

Our Society was pleased to be the host society on this occasion. Wesley Hall, The Avenue, Blackburn was chosen for this function, the three halls being used – Main Hall for the entertainment – West Hall for exhibits and the East Hall for supper.

Exhibits set up in the West Hall were: A display from Schwerkolt Cottage depicting a child's room, including a high chair, a cot, and christening gowns over 100 years old. This display was prepared by Mrs Field, Mrs Creber and their assistants.

Tiles and Pottery dating back to the first pottery kilns in this district were displayed by Mr and Mrs Field.

Herbs and Perfumes as grown and prepared for sale by the Slater family in the early days in Blackburn, were shown by Mrs Faggetter, together with photos and interesting facts about the family.

Land Surveys and Settlement in this district from its earliest days was the theme of Mr Keith Patterson's display. He prepared five display stands showing old documents, photos, plans of subdivisions, and newspaper cuttings relating to this subject together with a miscellaneous collection of facts about schools, houses and business places of the early days.

Australian Flora and Fauna slides were shown by Mr Frank Pinchen to an enthusiastic audience, especially after supper.

MAIN HALL Programme commenced at 8.30 p.m. Cr G. Oakley as Master of Ceremonies, introduced our President, Mr Keith Patterson who told the 200 invited guests the reason for this gathering of representatives of all other societies in the Eastern Region – namely, Camberwell, Kew, Box Hill, Ringwood, Croydon, Lilydale, Doncaster & Templestowe and Knox on which occasion the affairs of the region are handed over from one society to another to administer for the next twelve months. This year's host Nunawading accepts this responsibility. Next year's host society will be Knox. On this night our society welcomed the opportunity to entertain representatives of The Royal Historical Society, Regional Societies, National Trust, Members of Parliament whose interests include our

REPORT ON EASTERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE (contd)

Municipality, City Councillors, members of Council Staff and representatives of all prominent organizations in our municipality. Mr Patterson assured all present that no business would be transacted and we were all to enjoy an evening of entertainment. The Mayor of Nunawading, Cr H. Shepherd was then introduced by Cr Oakley. Cr Shepherd addressed the gathering on the importance of the Historical Society within the municipality and the importance of preserving history and recognising the value of what one has preserved. He stressed the fact that we do not always realise that much of what we do today becomes history at a later date and already too much evidence of the past has been lost.

Mrs Dorothy Goble for Mitcham was the next and final speaker. Mrs Goble spoke as a member of our society, on some interesting documents she had come across during the week. In a delightful manner she read and explained these records of a Bill that was introduced in Parliament about forty years ago, relating to money to be spent in the Shire of Blackburn & Mitcham regarding public baths, Shire Offices and re-constructing Canterbury Rd. These facts highlighted the shuffling of finances from one project to another and the importance the government placed on an amount of £40 or £50 compared with the amount of \$982,588,318 which is the estimated expenditure for June 1970-June 1971.

Mr Oakley then introduced Mr Max Grant who told a little of the Colonial Pageant, "People for a Land" about to be presented to us by the Mitcham Rep. Group supported by the Forest Hill Folk Singers. This performance was very well received by all present and we are indebted to these artists for being such an essential part of our evening's enjoyment. This was followed by the much talked of film made by the Blackburn Mitcham Film Society. We were told that this film was their first and was made last year in view of this occasion. The Film Society members were so pleased with the result that they entered it in the Moomba International Film Festival where it was selected as one of the first ten best films. The film "Did August Schwerkolt dig The Blackburn Lake one Sunday Morning" was a joy to all, being set in our own locality and was a first class production.

This brought the entertainment to a close and Cr Oakley, after thanking those who made it possible, invited all present to supper in the East Hall and further viewing of exhibits in the West Hall — not before Mr Hal Williams of Camberwell and Royal Historical Society asked to address the audience, Mr Williams thanked us for the evening's entertainment and congratulated us on the choice of programme which included such talented groups of people such as The Mitcham Rep., The Blackburn-Mitcham Film Society and The Forest Hill Folk Singers. We in turn, thank Mr Hal Williams for his enthusiasm for our project — noting that he had not yet had supper at that stage.

Supper. This was a delightful buffet supper of sandwiches, cakes, tea and coffee, attended to by the ladies of the Mount Pleasant Methodist Church. We were very pleased with their efforts. The cakes were made by these ladies and the sandwiches supplied by our own members. Many compliments on the supper were received.

Our Society is indebted to many people for the success of this evening but most of all to last year's committee who planned such, to the finest detail — especially Mrs D.

Mattingley, last year's Secretary. As the date came nearer we then had just to put the plans into action — a little time consuming for some of us, but so rewarding. Another example of how it pays to plan well in advance. To the members who put the exhibits on, there cannot be enough praise for their work. They are certainly to be congratulated for the way they transformed the West Hall into such an attractive and interesting display area. This proved very entertaining for our visitors both before and after the programme and supper.

To the Mitcham Rep. Group, The Blackburn Mitcham Film Society and The Forest Hill Folk Singers, we cannot speak too highly of the part they played in the success of our evening. In all three cases the applause and obvious pleasure of our guests should have conveyed to them the manner in which their excellent performances were received. Many of the audience were having their first opportunity to experience the work of these groups and were thoroughly amazed that such talent could be found in our own municipality. We have since received many compliments on the fact that our choice was such for the programme. We feel these compliments rightly belong to the artists and to them say THANK YOU.

Summing up, a good night was the result and we thank all who put so much effort into the preparation, especially: Cr Oakley, our Guest Speakers, Miss Kitty McGaw for the flower arrangements, the exhibitors, Mr Chatwin and his son Keith for looking after the public address system, Miss Ronaldson for producing the "Short History of Nunawading" in time for the night, Mrs Dot Graham for ticket writing for the displays, Mr Green and Mr Jamieson, to Ian Barker who helped everyone, to our guests who came and to all our members for their support.

Keith Patterson President

Anis Poussard Hon. Sec.

CHURCHES OF NUNAWADING (PAST AND PRESENT) — Series 2.

The Methodist (Part 2)

Mitcham Methodist Church. Following the establishment of the Methodist Church at Mount Pleasant in 1865, the next area to receive the attention of the Methodists was Mitcham, but not for some twenty years later. Late in 1887 a meeting was called of Wesleyan Methodists at Mitcham. The minister from Box Hill presided and Mr E.S. Walker was appointed Trust Secretary. Land 80' x 145' was purchased at £3 per ft on the south-east corner of Whitehorse Rd and Richards St and a weatherboard building was erected as a church. The Mitcham Wesleyan Methodist Church opened with special services on Sunday April 30th 1888. On this occasion a special train brought visitors to Mitcham. This building was used on this site until 1921 when it was moved to a site in Mitcham Rd just north of Whitehorse Rd. Here three lots had been bought in the Mitcham Township Estate so the Church was enlarged and re-opened on Oct. 23rd 1921 on this central site in the growing Mitcham.

In 1928 a married minister was appointed to the Mitcham pastorate of the Box Hill Circuit, and a Parsonage was bought in Delhi St. Additions were made to the Church in 1932, extending it westward and in 1936 a Kindergarten Room at the rear was improved to become Wesley Hall.

The cause at Mitcham grew quietly until the post war period, when the new housing developments to the north and south of the railway line changed the appearance of the landscape. In 1953 a brick Primary Hall was built to accommodate the Sunday School.

At this time the churches at Mitcham, Mount Pleasant, Nunawading and Doncaster East were separated from the Box Hill Circuit, and formed the Mitcham Circuit, with the first Superintendent Minister, Rev. H. Perkins, residing at Mitcham.

The members of the Mitcham Methodist Church became acutely aware of the growing needs of the Community of Mitcham as well as its increasing congregation with its many activities, with the result that on June 21st, 1958 a new building, called Community Hall was opened on the site of the old tennis courts. The whole property had now become U shaped -- the Church and Wesley Hall on the left, viewed from Mitcham Rd, the Community Hall on the right connected by the Primary Hall at the rear. The Trust also bought land in Creek Rd for tennis courts.

For some years the Methodist and Presbyterian Churches of Mitcham had worshipped at special services and joined in fellowship together. The young people formed a common Youth Group in 1963. Combined Church Services became more established so that it was possible to consider pooling their financial resources to build a Church. The years of 1965-6 were periods of intense activity between the two churches, endeavouring to reach a working agreement of co-operation, and to erect buildings for joint use in Mitcham. An independent opinion was obtained as to which site to develop and the report recommended using the Presbyterian site, to which the Methodists readily agreed.

Earle and Associates, Architects, were engaged to prepare a master plan for the site and drawings were prepared for the building of a church, and the removal of the Methodist Church building and Wesley Hall, to the Presbyterian site. The Methodist Trust purchased a large house in Whitehorse Rd adjacent to the site, for the use of the Sunday School, Clubs and other meetings. The remaining building on the Methodist site was the Community Hall, which was given to Kingswood College, Box Hill. It was dismantled and removed to Box Hill, and enlarged to become Brimacombe Hall, an Assembly Hall with music rooms for this Methodist Boy's College. It was opened and dedicated on March 3rd, 1968.

As the result of all these negotiations between the two churches, the Mountview Church Centre, as we know it today (1971) was dedicated on February 26th 1967. It comprises a large suite of buildings to accommodate both congregations with their relative organisations and paves the way for future Australia-wide union of these two Church bodies.

Researched and compiled by *M. Chatwin* (Vice-President)

Subscription Single \$2, Family \$3, Student 50c.

Have you paid yours? If not please send your cheque to Mrs E. Brown,
1 Plymouth Crt, Nunawading 3131.

Short History of Nunawading compiled by Eleanor Ronaldson now available 30c.

A. H. Poussard (Editor) 89 3383