

NUNAWADING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER

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NEXT MEETING Wednesday, October 13th 1971, in the Coffee Room, Civic Centre, Whitehorse Road, Nunawading, at 8 p.m.

ANNUAL MEETING Election of Office Bearers and Committee for next year.

Program: Historic Slides belonging to members.

NOVEMBER MEETING Wednesday, November 10th, 1971 in the Coffee Room, Civic Centre, Whitehorse Road, Nunawading.

Guest Speaker will be Mr D. Livermore speaking on "Early Days in Nunawading".

Mr Livermore's family were amongst the earliest orchardists in the Vermont area.

ANNUAL MEETING Nomination forms are available from the secretary and you are reminded these must be lodged prior to the annual meeting. Remember all positions fall vacant and we must be sure they are all filled.

Special note to members Please come to your annual meeting to say thankyou to the retiring committee, and pledge your support for the new one. I am sure you will enjoy the program and the supper too.

ANNUAL REPORT

As we approach the Annual Meeting date, we can look back with pleasure and satisfaction on the year just completed.

Eastern Regional Meeting The highlight of this year was the success of the Eastern Regional Conference, which was the culmination of a detailed plan set by the Committee of the previous year.

Monthly Meetings During the year meetings were held regularly on the second Wednesday of each month at which the following Guest Speakers were welcomed:- Mrs Muriel Green, Doncaster; Councillor H. Shepherd, Mayor of Nunawading; Miss Carolan, of the National Trust; Professor Martin, of the History Department, Latrobe University; Mr Lloyd Holyoak, Warrandyte; Dr Keith Bowden and our own members, Mrs Nancy Donkin and Mr Frank Pinchen. Next month we look forward to hearing Mr D. Livermore speaking on "Early Days in Nunawading".

Local Activities We had many opportunities to take part in affairs in our Municipality, such as, Australia Day Celebrations and the Festival of Arts. Also, our members have addressed local schools and organisations on historical subjects.

ANNUAL REPORT (contd)

"**Short History of Nunawading**" compiled by committee member, Miss Eleanor Ronaldson, has been selling well, especially since the Blackburn Newsagency promoted it with a window display of historical photos of the district. Since then, copies of this little booklet have been sold to local schools and other information on the district has been provided.

Tours have been conducted to Ballarat and Maldon and representatives have attended the Geelong Convention, Camberwell Seminar and R.H.S.V. Biennial Conference.

Research continues on the Churches of Nunawading and the resulting articles appear in our bi-monthly Newsletter. The Methodist Church History has been completed and so in 1972 we pass on to the next, which is the history of the Roman Catholic Churches of Nunawading.

Nunawading City Council has again favoured us with an annual grant and encourages and assists us in every possible way to continue our work of research and preservation. It is pleasing indeed, to know that the Schwerkolt Cottage Committee has agreed to Plan No. 2 for a building nearby to house items of historical interest. The site of this building has yet to be decided. We are assured of space being provided in the proposed City Library to store irreplaceable documents and to hold displays. Material has been loaned to Mr Niall Brennan who has been commissioned by Nunawading Council to write the official history of Nunawading.

Eastern Region As Host Society of the Eastern Region for 1971, we enjoy being involved in the activities of the other Regional Societies, such as, the Presidents and Secretaries Meeting, Proposed Bendigo Tour, Lilydale's 1972 Eastern Regional Conference and the R.H.S.V. Biennial Conference.

The Treasurer's Report will show that our Society is in a sound financial position and this will be so necessary when the Historical Building becomes a reality.

We can look forward to the coming year with pleasure and enthusiasm, for there is so much to be achieved. Our membership now stands at fifty with many taking advantage of the family membership of \$3.00.

Finally, our thanks to those members who helped the office bearers by attending meetings, joining in outings and readily assisting whenever required to do so. We shall miss those who leave the Committee this year and welcome those who take their places.

K. Patterson, President

A. H. Poussard, Hon. Secretary

Reminder

You may renew your subscription at the November meeting.

\$2 single \$3 family 50c students

CHURCHES OF NUNAWADING (PAST AND PRESENT) Series 4

The Methodist (Part 4)

The Nunawading Methodist Church

This Church commenced its activities in this area with the opening of the original wooden building in November 1923. Previously the land had been purchased late in 1921 by the Box Hill Trust for \$400 and the building, a world war 1 Army Hut obtained from Preston for \$400 and removed to the site at a further cost of \$130.

The support for the Church progressed well from the start and an enthusiastic fellowship was developed amongst the few scattered residents of various denominational backgrounds. At this time attendance at church was about 50 to 60, and the Sunday School roll numbered in the vicinity of 65 scholars. During this period the building was used by the Education Department as a school room to relieve congestion in the school at Springvale Road.

After the Shire of Blackburn and Mitcham was proclaimed on 27th May 1925, the second meeting of the Shire was held in the hall of the Methodist Church on Monday 28th September, 1925 at 7.30 p.m. The following three meetings were also held there, prior to the Shire purchasing a dwelling for use as their offices, on almost the same site as the new Municipal Offices of today.

The years 1927-28 were beset with troubles and culminated in three trustees resigning and a large proportion of the congregation leaving the Church. The young men of Box Hill and Mitcham churches were asked to assist at the services. As the Trust accounts were in debt to the extent of \$960, and were increasing at a rate of \$44 per year, the Box Hill Circuit gave \$40 per year for many years to assist the funds, and due to lack of Trustees, Mr Allingham of Box Hill managed the Trust affairs until 1948. By 1930 both church services and Sunday School had been discontinued. Attempts were made in 1932, 1935 and 1939 to recommence the cause, but each attempt was unsuccessful.

Following the war, with new development in the area, the Church was again established, on September 19th, 1948 with an afternoon Sunday School and evening service, the Church of England having the use of the building during the morning. Only a few people attended initially, and the young people from Blackburn Church attended each week until the Church became self supporting. This arrangement of services continued until May 1953, when the morning service and Sunday School were introduced, and the Church of England changed to afternoon and evening use of the building.

The Box Hill Circuit was divided on April 1st 1953, and the Eastern section became the Mitcham Circuit, with Rev. H. L. Perkins its first minister. The cause at Nunawading was progressing well due to the housing development in the area and to the more effective leadership which the new Circuit enabled. The need for additional buildings was realised, and moves were made towards a Kindergarten, kitchen and toilet block in 1954, However it was not until November 25th 1956, that this building was opened. At the Trust meeting

CHURCHES OF NUNAWADING (contd)

of June 1958, it was agreed that a church would be the next project.

A very successful Stewardship Campaign was conducted in August 1958 when the target of \$22,000 over 3 years was exceeded. Earle & Associates (Architects) were engaged on July 24th, 1958, to submit plans for the new church, together with a master plan for the site. The foundation stone was laid on November 26th, 1960 and the church was opened and dedicated on March 26th, 1961 by the President of Conference. A lead box was placed behind the foundation stone and in the box were placed coins, stamps, aerial photos of Nunawading, a History of the Church from 1923, and a copy of "A Tale of Box Hill" by Ivan Southall.

Since 1961 ministers at the Nunawading Methodist Church have been, Rev. W. L. Goldsworthy, Rev. H. W. Secomb, Rev. E. Vandermark, Rev. W. N. Wilkinson and Rev. M. Morton who is in charge at present.

Filling the spiritual needs of the local Methodist families, today (1971), this beautiful church, situated not far from the new Civic Centre and with the original wooden building beside it, is a pleasing sight to all who travel along Whitehorse Road, Nunawading.

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

This series completes our research of the Methodist Church in our Municipality and we will commence 1972 series with the next denomination – The Roman Catholic Church.

A. H. Poussard (Editor)

The Blackburn Mitcham Film Society are showing the silent version of "The Sentimental Bloke" as part of the Nunawading Art Festival, Mitcham Memorial Hall, Whitehorse Road, Mitcham on Saturday October 16th. Sherries will be served at 7.45 p.m. – film at 8.15, followed by supper. Tickets are \$2.00 each. Available from Owen Lawrence 877 3610 or David Moss 878 0251.

Maldon Our recent trip to Maldon was a great success with all members and friends who made the outing thoroughly enjoying it. The guided bus tour took us to many places of historic interest, as well as Cairn Curran Reservoir and Mt Tarrangower Lookout.

Bendigo Tour arranged by the Eastern Region takes place Sunday November 14th. We arrive at Bendigo by private cars about 10 a.m. Join the bus at 10.30 a.m. from the Service Station in Bridge St. Lunch at Lake Weeroona about 12.30 p.m. Afternoon tea at Eaglehawk Mechanic's Institute home of the Bendigo Museum, then return to car park and end tour. Cost, including lunch is \$1.50 per person. Book by October 15th with your secretary.

A. H. Poussard (Editor)