

NUNAWADING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY - MARCH 1972

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PRES.: Mr M. Chatwin 874 2487 — SEC.: Mrs A. Poussard 89 3383 — TREAS.: Mrs S. Barker
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NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, February 9th 1972, in the Coffee Room, Civic Centre, Whitehorse Road, Nunawading, at 8 p.m.

Guest Speaker: Jean Field, speaking on "An Historical Trip to the Flinders Ranges, S.A."

OFFICE BEARERS for 1972 elected at the Annual Meeting in October are:

PRESIDENT: Mr M. Chatwin; VICE-PRESIDENT: Mr K. Patterson; SECRETARY: Mrs A. Poussard; ASST. SECRETARY: Mrs N. Durant; TREASURER: Mrs S. Barker.
COMMITTEE: Miss N. McGaw, Mrs E. Brown, Mrs N. Leach, Mrs J. Field.

"EARLY DAYS IN NUNAWADING" was the subject of a talk by local orchardist Mr D.

Livmore at our November meeting. This was the final meeting of the year and was found very interesting by all who attended, including Cr. Oakley and Mr Niall Beennan, who gave us the latest on the book he is writing on Nunawading.

AUSTRALIA DAY CELEBRATIONS. Once again we were invited by our City Council to take part in this event held at Walker Park. Mr K. Patterson prepared our Display.

REGIONAL.

Lilydale has announced the date of the Eastern Regional Conference for which they are the host Society for 1972. It will be held on Saturday, February 19th 1972, and will mark the commencement of the Lilydale Shire Centenary Celebrations.

There will be a display of historical items in the afternoon, after which those attending will be invited to a buffet tea.

Members wishing to attend this Conference will be required to hand in their names to your Secretary by February 9th. The evening program on this occasion will be open to the public and there will be an admission charge. It will be a program of Folk Singing and other items.

BENDIGO TOUR. Forty-five Members and Friends of the Eastern Suburbs Regional Societies, including nineteen from Nunawading, five from Ringwood, fourteen from Knox, two from Box Hill and five from Croydon, travelled to Bendigo where we were met by the Past President, President and Secretary of the Royal Historical Society, Bendigo Branch. They took us on a very well organized guided tour to a mine being restored to working

order as a tourist attraction, barbecue lunch at Lake Weeroona, the Joss House, Chinese Cemetery, followed by more mines and finally The Museum at Eaglehawk, where we were treated to afternoon tea. Everyone who participated found this outing most enjoyable and we were very grateful for the wonderful hospitality extended to us at Bendigo. We hope this proves to be the first of many future tours arranged for the Region.

1972 is CENTENARY YEAR for NUNAWADING:

Our Research for this year will be Local History. We will endeavor to find:

The resident who has lived the greatest number of years in our Municipality.

The oldest house still being occupied.

The oldest business still operating.

As well we will record the origin of street names and localities. Anyone who can assist with information or material is invited to contact Mrs N. Leach, 874 3429

PROGRAM FOR 1972

FEBRUARY 9th Guest Speaker
Jean Field – "An Historical Trip to the Flinders Ranges, S.A."
MARCH 8th Guest Speaker
Mayor of Nunawading, Cr D. Gawler
APRIL 12th Guest Speaker
Mr Walker speaking on "Walkers Tiles"
MAY 10th Work Night
JUNE 14th Guest Speaker
Mr Ian Jones – "Ned Kelly"
JULY 12th Guest Speaker
Prof. Geoff Blainey – subject to be decided
AUGUST 9th Work Night
SEPTEMBER 13th Guest Speaker
Mrs Sharp – "Wood's Point"
OCTOBER 11th ANNUAL MEETING
NOVEMBER 8th Guest Speaker
Mr Ken McIntyre of Box Hill Historical Society –
"Cook's Portugese Predecessors"

CHURCHES OF NUNAWADING (PAST AND PRESENT) Series 5

THE CATHOLICS Part 1 The Parish of St John, MITCHAM

To follow the history of the establishment of the Catholic Church in the Municipality of

Nunawading we must first present some facts about the progress that the Catholics had already made in Melbourne, or Port Phillip as it was first known.

The first senior Priest-in-charge of Port Phillip District was Father Patrick Geoghean, who was appointed in 1839 and celebrated the first Mass on May 19th that year. The first priest to care for the district to the east of Melbourne was Father Vientius Bourgeois, one of four French priests to arrive in Sydney in 1843. In 1850 he was appointed to Melbourne and took charge of "Warringal", including Heidelberg, Booroondara and Brighton, the entire east of Melbourne. In 1853, when a Jesuit Mission was established at Richmond, the area came under the general care of Father Madden. In 1862, the priest responsible for the school and chapel in Warringal was the Rev. Father Finni. His parish stretched from Heidelberg to the foothills of the Dandenongs and he covered it on foot.

Among his responsibilities was the signing of returns for the Roman Catholic School, Nunawading (the school established at Booroondara on "Elgar's Survey", Warrigul Road, with Stephen Lanigan as first head teacher). By 1866 when the responsibility reverted to Richmond the area included Hawthorn, Kew, Camberwell and Mitcham. The Rev. Father Kranewitter, S.J., was a frequent visitor, holding services ranging from those for Germans in their own language, in Richmond, to the settlers in the new district of Ballyduffy (Ringwood).

In 1871, on August 20th, Father Kranewitter called a meeting of the parishioners of Air Hill (Mitcham) in the North East area of Nunawading. One result was that Mr John McGlone donated one acre for church purposes, an area which he later increased.

On Sunday January 7th 1872 the foundation stone of the school chapel was laid in Nunawading East. "The Rev. Father A' Kranewitter, S.J., celebrated Mass at 11 a.m. in the Snctuary, which is already roofed in, and the Very Rev. J. Dalton, S.J., addressed the congregation on the gospel of the Epiphany. After the sermon a collection was made and £12 was taken on the spot, which will, it is hoped, with the money already generously subscribed, be sufficient to complete the building. The Holy Sacrament of Baptism was then administered to three infants who will, no doubt, in after years take laudable pride in having been the 'first fruits' of this new mission," says the Advocate. The report goes on to say that the Catholics of the district have secured the assistance of an active and competent teacher "holding a first-class certificate from the Irish National Board of Education!"

More money to buy materials was raised by the sale of grave lots, at the rear of the area. A local tradition mentioned in the "Sun" says that "buying a little putty and a pound of nails at a time they completed the job — at times by candlelight — for £70." An architect, Mr Denehy, supervised the work and the chief builder was Mr John Delaney. Father Dalton, who preached at the laying of the foundation stone, recorded in his diary for Sunday

March 10th, 1872 that the "School Church at AIR HILL opened today. Fr. Kelley preached".
The building was 38 feet by 16 feet and Miss Brenoch took over the school.

(to be continued)

Researched and compiled by J. Rocznik.

REMINDER:

Subscriptions for 1972 are now due. Adults \$2 Family \$3 Students 50c

Please forward to:

Mrs S. Barker, 14 Tortice Avenue, Nunawading 3131

NEW ADDRESS FOR R.H.S.V.

On February 18th the Royal Historical Society will open in new premises at
422 Little Collins Street, Melbourne.

The move from 19 Queen Street has been taking place during the holidays.

HISTORICAL COLLECTION

Amongst items recently received for our historical collection were two old
castor oil bottles. We sincerely thank the donors of these rare articles.

A. H. Poussard (Editor)
89 3383