

NUNAWADING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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NEXT MEETING      Wednesday October 11th, in the Coffee Room, Civic Centre, Whitehorse Road, Nunawading, at 8.p.m.

Program - ANNUAL MEETING - Election of office bearers for 1973

Note - No nominations have yet been received for Secretary or Assistant-Secretary. If any member would like to take on either of these positions please let the committee know.

A display of historical items belonging to the Society which are currently being cared for by various members. Remember, if you are holding any material belonging to the Society, please bring it on Wednesday night for other members to see.

NOVEMBER MEETING - Mrs. Marjorie Tipping B.A., F.R.H.S.V. President of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, will speak on "Convicts at Sorrento in 1803".

Mrs. Tipping's interest in the Mornington Peninsula and this subject in particular goes back a long time so we can look forward to a very interesting talk. Invitations have been extended to members of other Regional Societies for this occasion and we hope our own members will take the opportunity to bring friends with them. DON'T MISS IT.

It is one of Victoria's boasts that it was never a convict settlement. This is technically correct, but there were two near misses, when convict settlements failed. The first was at Sorrento in 1803, when Lieut. Col. Collins landed about 300 people just inside the entrance to Port Phillip Bay, to defend the newly discovered Bass Strait, from possible French invasion. After a combination of ineptitude and bad luck, Collins obtained permission to move to what is now Hobart, leaving behind a few graves in an odd corner, just off the Nepean Highway, a street named Melbourne, and the ingredients of a legend of a Wild White Man, an escapee Buckley, who had lived with the blacks for more than thirty years, when he walked into Batman's camp near Geelong. It was an interesting episode, all the more remarkable because so little information was passed on for later settlers.

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SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT - OCTOBER 1972

1972 has been the centenary year for Nunawading, being the celebration of the formation of the Shire of Nunawading on 4th May 1872. The Society has been actively engaged on a Centenary Research Programme, and was successful in finding, firstly, our longest residing citizen Mrs. Louisa Smith, who is 93 years of age and was born in this City. Secondly, the oldest house still occupied, believed to be 95 years old, 113 Springvale Road, Nunawading. Thirdly, the oldest Business still operating, Vitclay Pipes Pty. Ltd. (formerly Commonwealth Potteries) Springfield Road, North Blackburn, established in 1873.

The research programme has unearthed a wealth of material, which will take some time to fully process. On the 6th May, the Society participated in a Bus Tour of Nunawading with Cr. Willis as driver and City Engineer Mr. B. Sewart as our Guide. We visited many locations within our City, which were of historical interest and the tour demonstrated to members the development within the boundaries of Nunawading.

Members of the Society joined in the celebrations at the Wild Colonial Ball in the new Library in August.

Excursions: 19 of our members joined the Eastern Suburbs Regional Societies' tour to Bendigo, visiting a restored Gold Mine, Joss House Chinese Cemetery and the Museum at Eaglehawk.

Displays and Speakers: The Society has provided material for Display at the Australia Day Celebrations in January, the Centenary Ball in August and Window displays at the Blackburn Newsagency. Speakers from the Society have given lectures at schools within the City, we have been fortunate to have the services of Mr. O. Green for some of these occasions.

Research: In addition to the research for the Centenary Year, 2 of our members have researched the Histories of the Catholic Churches of Nunawading and these have been published in our Newsletters. We welcome the publication of "The History of Nunawading" by Niall Brennan and congratulate the Author upon the excellent record he has written.

Local Activities: The Eastern Regional Conference this year was hosted by the Lilydale Society in February. Our members were guests at the function which marked the commencement of the Lilydale Shire Centenary Celebrations.

The VCAHS Winter Seminar was held at Camberwell in June, the topic was "Local History and the School", representatives from Nunawading were able to attend.

Acquisitions: Ceramic Tiles have always been a keen interest to

Members, therefore when it was discovered that 19 Queen Street, Melbourne was to be demolished, arrangements were made to photograph and procure a sample of the distinctive tiles in the foyer. 2 early sewing machines were donated and a large padlock and tools found during the excavation of the Wine Cellar at Schwerkolt Cottage. Our researchers have unearthed a number of old photographs, these have been copied for our records.

Monthly Meetings: Meetings have been held on the second Wednesday of each month, the following Guest Speakers were welcomed; Cr.D.Gawler, Mayor of Nunawading, Mr. Walker of Walker Ceramics, Mr.I.Jones, and our own Members, Mr. D.Livermore, Mrs. J. Field and Mrs. Sharpe. Our meeting in July was open to Sixth Form students. Professor G. Blainey spoke to an audience of 230 on "A Facet of Australian History - Australia's Mining Rushes" a question time followed the thought provoking address.

The City of Nunawading Council has greatly assisted the work of the Society by making available, once again, an annual grant. This is very encouraging and ensures that our functions of Research and Preservation can continue to expand. The Society deeply appreciates the assistance given by the Council Staff over the past year, whilst we have been engaged on our Centenary Year Programme.

The Society welcomes to its numbers 8 new members, who have joined us in the past year. We look forward to their full participation and hope that increased membership will be achieved in 1973.

The President and the Secretary wish to express their thanks and appreciation to members, who have given of their time and abilities during the past year's busy programme, the success of these efforts has been largely due to the contribution made by each member. We ask for your continued support as we enter another year in the life of the Nunawading Historical Society.

M. Chatwin - President

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CHURCHES OF NUNAWADING (PAST AND PRESENT) Series 9

The Catholics (Part 5)

St.Philip's Nth.Blackburn & St. Luke's Sth.Blackburn.

These two parishes were created from the parish of St Thomas, the Apostle, Blackburn, to meet the needs of the Catholics in North and South Blackburn, as these areas grew from orchards to residential. Land for St.Philip's was bought in 1962, being 4 acres in Junction Rd. For St.Luke's the land was purchased in 1958 in Orchard Gve.

On completion of a church-school at St.Luke's in 1962, the school was opened with two classes, the building being used as a school during the week and a church on Sundays. In 1963 Blackburn South became a separate parish, with Fr.F.Larsen as its first Parish Priest. He remained in the parish for the next 6½ years. Within 12 months the first real classrooms were built and the original building was able to be set up as a church permanently, and remains as such today. St.Philip's parish progressed on similar lines, with the first building being a church-school, built in 1964, and school commenced in February 1965. As with St. Luke's the building was used as classrooms on weekdays, and as a church on Sundays, until more classrooms were built, and the original building was used exclusively as a church. St. Philip's was made a parish in 1966 with Fr.Heriot as first Parish Priest.

Both these schools were staffed from St.Thomas's Blackburn, at the beginning and that is the case at present, with St.Philip's, the teachers being Loreto Nuns and lay teachers. A year after commencement of St.Luke's school, a Dutch order of Nuns took charge and are still there, together with lay teachers.

Each of these parish schools have grown from one building and two classes, to complete classes for primary education. After primary level the girls are able to proceed to the Loreto secondary school at St.Thomas's Blackburn and the boys to St.Thomas More College Springvale Road.

As the population of North and South Blackburn grows, both St.Luke's Parish Priest, Father Kennelly and St.Philip's Father Crudden, will look forward to the day they will build new churches, knowing they have ample land for that purpose, thanks to the administrators back in 1958 and 1963.

Researched and compiled by Anis Poussard

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Narre Warrer Tour - We have been invited to join the Ringwood Research Group on this excursion on Nov. 25th. More details will be available at our meeting but at the moment we do know that it will cost about \$1.50 plus cost of notes. Anyone wishing to go will need to book with your secretary.

1973 Regional Conference - March 17th is the date set by the host Society Knox. The probable programme will be a Tour of the City of Knox, tea, Conference followed by films.

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