

NUNAWADING HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

NEWSLETTER.

Price 5c.

JANUARY - FEBRUARY, 1981.

Registered for posting as a publication. Category "B"

ACTING PRESIDENT.

January: Jean Webster.
874-4210

February: Phyllis Johnson
874-4745

VICE PRESIDENTS.

Shirley Jones
874-7073

Judy Robley
878-1492

SECRETARY.

Clyde Tilson
878-4086

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Doris Mattingly
878-4630

JOINT TREASURERS.

Ian & Shirley Barker
14 Tortice Street,
NUNAWADING.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

A SPECIAL MEETING of the Nunawading Historical Society was held on Sunday, 30th November, 1980 at the Musaum. This meeting was called by the Past President, Jean Webster, as an emergency meeting to resolve the situation where-in the Society was without Office-bearers. No nominations were received at either the Annual Meeting or at the following General Meeting in November. In such a case it could be said that an organisation does not exist.

T. Poolé moved the motion that Jean Webster and Clyde Tilson act as Chairman and Secretary respectively for this meeting. This motion was passed.

The meeting was opened at 6.15 p.m. and members were reminded that as all positions as Office-bearers had been declared vacant at the November meeting and if no-one was prepared to fill these vacancies then this Society would be unable to carry on. Our membership has increased over the past 12 months; we have attended a number of social functions and shared outings of an historic interest; had no trouble in getting help for our working bees and in all areas the society seemed to be in a strengthening position.

After much discussion a rather unusual solution was found to the problem of no nomination for President. (All other positions had been filled, as above.) It was decided that a number of members would take it in turn to act as President for one month. It is hoped that this will introduce a lot of new ideas and enthusiasm to the group and at the same time allow members to gain the necessary confidence to nominate for executive positions.

YOUR COMMITTEE FOR 1981.

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- PHYLLIS JOHNSON 874-4745
- JEAN WEBSTER 874-4210
- VEE WOOD 873-2238
- M. CHATWIN 874-2487
- C. TILSON ,,..... 878-4086
- D. MATTINGLY ⁸⁷⁸~~787~~-4630

HISTORY IN THE MAKING.

Workmen in Sydney are putting together the city's biggest jigsaw puzzle with no less than 800,000 individual pieces, and covering 4,800 square meters. The puzzle is made up of irregular shaped pieces of cobblestones, all the same colour, and weighing in all 550 tonnes. When completed it will cover Circular Quay's plaza area.

The cobblestones, imported from Italy, are being placed by hand, one at a time, into hundreds of fan-shaped patterns. And they have to be laid in a way that ensures a good walking surface with no protruding edges which could trip pedestrians.

A level bed of weak sand and cement is placed on the jigsaw floor before the cobblestones are selected and tapped into place. Workmen use a large wooden template to define the "fan" pattern, moving the template to create another similar pattern alongside as each "fan" is completed.

The cobblestones are being laid in a way that has not substantially changed since first put down at Circular Quay back in the early days of the colony. Cement grouting is used to fill the spaces between the cobblestones and to firmly fix them in position. When the cement is set, the stones are acid etched to bring out the rich russet colour of the stones.

Sydney is working hard to re-create much of the romantic atmosphere of old Sydney when Circular Quay was lined with tall-masted sailing ships. The plaza is also to contain 30 light standards; 53 flagpoles; 85 trees; 68 bench seats; 48 pre-cast litter bins.

From "The Sun", Sydney.

AND IT ALL WENT DOWN THE DRAIN.

It was a tough job for Jack Rothwell and his workmates dredging a busy stretch of the Chesterfield Canal, in Nottinghamshire, England. Now they were finding it impossible to shift a heavy chain lying on the bottom of the canal. Finally, Jack, foreman of the gang, ordered the chain to be hooked to their dredger. The driver started up and with one sharp tug, the obstruction was freed. The workmen hauled in the chain, along with a large block of wood attached to the end of it, and knocked off for a tea break.

While they were away, a passing policeman noticed an extraordinary whirlpool in the normally placid canal. He also noticed that the water level was falling. By the time he brought back the dredging gang the canal had almost disappeared. Jack and his men had pulled out the plug of the canal. One-and-a-half miles of waterway had gone down the drain. The plug, put there 200 years earlier, had remained undisturbed until Jack's gang came along in 1978. Now all that was left were grounded holiday cruisers complete with angry owners, the dredger stuck firmly on the muddy bottom... and a plug-hole.

WILL YOU BE IN THE VICINITY OF WARRNAMBOOL DURING THE HOLIDAYS ? ? ?

If so, why not visit Flagstaff Hill.

Flagstaff Hill, the port of Warrnambool, is a developing complex of ships, buildings and artifacts recalling the days of sail. It emphasises the dependence of early Australia on the moods of the weather and sea and the importance of coastal ports in the latter part of the 19th century.

The port of Warrnambool on Lady Bay has a history going back to the 1840's. The treacherous bay claimed numerous sailing vessels and in 1853 a flagstaff was erected on the hill as a navigational aid. The following year a stone column, the base of the lower lighthouse, was erected and together with a wooden lighthouse on the beach, and a bluestone one on Middle Island, assisted vessels.

In 1871 the lighthouse and associated buildings were removed and re-erected on Flagstaff Hill and a light added to the stone pillar. Alignment of the two lighthouses indicated a safe channel.

The rapid increase in sea trade necessitated the building of two jetties and later a breakwater, completed in 1890 and extended in 1914. However, the completion of the rail line to Warrnambool in 1897 and the comparative insecurity from southern

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Today, the building re-erected on Flagstaff Hill in 1871, which was classified by the National Trust, are complemented by re-created buildings such as the main entrance building which is a replica of the old Warrnambool Town Hall, circa 1854, the port medical office, Examiner Newspaper office, "Stella Maris" tea rooms, shipsmith, lifeboat shed, and areas for a boat builder, the Steamship Navigation Co.,

a ship chandler and a bond store.

Vessels on display include the ketch the "Reginal M" and the barquentine "Speculant" while the anchor from the ill fated "Loch Ard" is also on display while undergoing restoration.

Flagstaff Hill is open every day from 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. except Good Friday and Christmas Day.

TIN KETTLING EXPERIENCE.

In a locality where everyone knew everyone else it was a big event that soon after a couple got married there would be a "tin kettling". It was hard to know if it was a threat or a promise, but with much apprehension on the bride's part, the traumatic experience had to be endured. Living in dread of the visitors' arrival each night, the suspense grew and grew.

The fellows of the district arranged to gather together, kerosene tins or whatever, and a waddy, to make a terrible racket and at a given time surround the home of the newly married couple. There were many incidents of tripping over objects or falling into drains which only added to the fun and excitement. Then all together the din would start and the couple would usually be pleased to invite the fellows in to have the noise stopped for awhile.

There would not be enough chairs so they would sit on the floor, chatting, singing and playing mouth organs and often squeeze boxes. The new bride would proceed to see if there were enough cups for supper. Some would bring a plate -- sandwiches made so innocent looking with flannel fillings. One or two of the visitors would be up to even more tricks outside while the evening was in progress. A bag would be placed over the chimney to make the fire smoke or toilets (outside) would be tampered with. It all seemed to be in the game. Then all would depart leaving their "Blessings" and an array of tins, as after each wedding another lot of tins would be found.

Who knows how relieved the young couple would be when the sound of the merry-makers faded as they walked to their meeting place still enjoying the fun of "surprising" yet another pair of newly weds.

VICTORIAN VILLA GARDENS.

Many typical suburban villas of the 1870's and 1880's abound in the middle ring suburbs of Melbourne and a number of their new owners have been looking to the National Trust for information re an appropriate garden for a particular type of house.

It is curious, though not surprising, how an historically accurate garden is so appropriate to the architecture it was designed to surround. Owners wishing to research the original form of their garden in a thorough way would find the M.M.B.W. maps of Melbourne, which were prepared around the turn of the century when Melbourne was being sewered, most interesting. Copies can be seen at the map section of the Public Library in Swanston Street. These maps show considerable detail and if you are lucky will show the exact layout of the garden in which you may be interested. Carefully digging over the garden of an old home may also unearth paths, edges, drains, etc. which will also give clues to the original layout.

Photographs are also very useful and if you are lucky enough to have an early photograph this will often be your best source of information. The LaTrobe Library in LaTrobe Street has a good collection of photographs of suburban areas and often your local Municipal Library and the Historical Society also have collections.

You may have to undertake a conjectural design, if all the above sources fail. Some general observations may assist; remember these are only related to a typical suburban villa.

Picket Fences of varying designs were common. Many of these still survive and you can study them in many of the middle ring suburbs.

Gardens were often symmetrical. Lawns were usually kept to a minimum if used at all. Garden Beds were often lined with edging tiles or clipped box hedges or occasionally both. A hedge about 7 or 8 ft. high along the front fence was common. This was often

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Wine Arbours, to support climbing plants were often placed over paths.

The symmetrical design often focussed on a special feature - a fountain, urn or a special plant, such as a cordyline or a camellia.

Large trees and shrubs were usually located toward the side boundaries with lower planting in the centre of the composition.

From National Trust News.

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PROGRAMME FOR 1981.

ALL MEETINGS WILL BE HELD ON THE SECOND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH, IN THE
WILLIS ROOM, CIVIC CENTRE, NUNAWADING at 9.00 p.m.

FEBRUARY	11th.	Business Meeting. Members Brief Contributions.
MARCH	11th.	Mrs. LESLEY ENTERKIN, who has contributed material to the Archives in the State College of Education, to speak on: "TEACHER TRAINING IN THE THIRTIES"
APRIL	8th.	Mr. IAN WEICKHARDT, co-author of 'Return to Ross Town', to speak on "FOLLOWING THE HISTORY TRAIL TO ROSS TOWN" (the now defunct railway of several Melbourne suburbs).
MAY	19th. 13	Mr. ELEY, President of the Fire Brigade Historical Society to speak on: "FIRE BRIGADES OF THE PAST".
JUNE	10th.	Mr. DAVID MOSS will tell of: "THE HISTORY OF THE BLACKBURN/MITCHAM FILM SOCIETY".
JULY	8th.	EVENING MEMORIES. (The making of Socieal History)
AUGUST	12th.	Panel of Speakers from the Blackburn Baptist Interdenom- inational Stamp and Coin Club. "A STAMP THAT IS DIFFERENT" Story of this 10 year old club and a short audio-visual show depicting the early history of the Republic of Nauru through its stamps.
SEPTEMBER	9th.	To be arranged.
OCTOBER	14th.	ANNUAL MEETING.
NOVEMBER	11th.	Mr. MORRIS CHATWIN - his subject - "POSTAL HISTORY."
DECEMBER	9th	<u>CHRISTMAS MEETING.</u>

All meetings are open to the public and you are cordially invited to attend. You can be assured of a warm welcome.