

NUNAWADING HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

NEWSLETTER.

Price 5c.

MARCH - APRIL, 1981.

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VICE-PRESIDENTS.

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March: M. Chatwin.  
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874-7073

Jean Webster  
874-4210

April: K. Patterson.  
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Judy Robley.  
878-1492

May: I. Barker.

SECRETARY.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY.

JOINT TREASURERS.

Clyde Tilson.  
874-4086

Doris Mattingly.  
878-4630

Ian & Shirley Barker.  
14 Tortice Street,  
Nunawading.

CORRECTION TO JANUARY-FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER.

Please note that the May meeting will be held on the 13th, and not the 19th.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

At our February meeting the history teacher from Burwood Heights High School sought the assistance of this Society for a number of his Higher School Certificate students who are studying Australian History this year. These students will be given the option of preparing papers on local history for the period 1914-1945, and intend using the City of Nunawading for this project.

They will have a sheet of prepared questions and would like to talk to members of the community who have lived in this city for a long period between 1914-1945. As their papers will represent one third of their possible exam result, in this subject, you can appreciate that our support is of the utmost importance.

If you feel that you can be of assistance, will you please add your name to the list to be submitted to the school.  
\*RING Clyde Tilson (878-4086) or any other office bearer as shown above.

MARCH 29TH.

'BACK TO BLACKBURN'

10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

As part of the 'Back to Blackburn' celebrations the Nunawading Historical Society will hold an exhibition of Photographs and items of general interest in the pavilion at Morton Park between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Sunday, March 29th. The exhibits have to be prepared, and Clyde or Maurie Chatwin would be pleased to hear when you would be available to assist. Volunteers are also required on the day.

8.30 to 10 a.m. - To set up exhibits.

10.00 to 5 p.m. - The area is a large one and it is felt that at least three members would be needed on duty throughout this period. If we have lots of names then the work can be evenly shared and others will have the opportunity of enjoying the other attractions.

5 p.m. to 6 p.m. - To dismantle and pack away exhibits.

WHAT TIME WILL YOU BE THERE?????



May: I. Barker.

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WHAT TIME WILL YOU BE THERE?????

This is to be a real family day. Games - Stalls - Afternoon Tea.

.....A Steam Train running from Camberwell to Blackburn and taking people from Blackburn further up the line for a ride to revive many memories.

..... Cobb & Co. Coach running between Morton Park and Blackburn Lake.



DATES TO REMEMBER.

MARCH 11th - Nunawading Historical Society - General Meeting - 8p.m.  
Mrs. Lesley Enterkin to speak on "Teacher Training in the Thirties".

APRIL 8th - Nunawading Historical Society - General Meeting - 8p.m.  
Mr. Ian Weickhardt - "Following the History Trail to Ross Town".

SATURDAY, APRIL 11th, 1981.

THEATRE PARTY MITCHAM REP. PRODUCTION OF 'SHOCK', A MYSTERY THRILLER.

NUNAWADING HIGH SCHOOL THEATRE - \$3.50 per ticket, available from Phyllis Johnson (874-4745). Please book and pay for your tickets as early as possible.

LIONS DEN OP SHOP, BLACKBURN - MONDAY 8th TO SATURDAY 20th JUNE.

Please keep your discarded items till then as we need stock to take when we start our two weeks. Also need volunteers to man the shop, so keep date free please.

MEMORIES OF VERMONT.

Sidney and Shirley came to Vermont in 1936 from Brighton. They left a well settled suburban home to build in the quiet rural area of Vermont. Their new home was situated one block from View Road on Canterbury Road and made the fourth house between there and the Mitcham Road intersection. There were only two or three more houses in that stretch to Heatherdale Road. While on the opposite side of Canterbury Road St. Luke's Church of England stood on the corner; then the old wooden ex-mechanics hall that was used as a Scout's Hall, the Bakery owned by the Wallis family and two or three houses, with the remaining area to Heatherdale Road being apple and pear orchards. Laurie and Zerbie were two names that came to mind as orchardists in this area. Canterbury Road was a two lane road in a cutting between two steep-sided banks. The unmade tracks on these banks were used as service roads to the houses set back amidst the gums, brooms and native wattles, till progress caught up with it about 1967. To those who lived along this stretch of the road it was destruction of the first order as first one authority and then another came through and cut down those magnificent gums. It was like a circus. One authority would leave a patch of trees and vegetation and work around it, clean up and move on. Within days another authority would be there digging up a completely different track of land. By the time they'd all finished the only vegetation left was that on private property. It is hard to believe that for many years after 1936 the local boys rode their bikes and billycarts down Canterbury Road and became quite offended when a car ventured onto "their road".

Charlie Pannam's store stood on the corner of Canterbury Road (site of the present Shell garage) and his name has been given to that group of shops that now stand immediately opposite, "Pannam's Corner". Charlie, as he was affectionately known, sold all the groceries, hay and corn, firewood, briquettes, chook food and a host of other items. Here the local people gathered to collect their mail, buy newspapers, and to just catch up on the local happenings. Many locals, who had come over the rough and muddy roads, left their gumboots and old shoes at Charlie's store, leaving on the bus with no sign of their slipping and sliding journey up the hill.

A Milk Bar, Fruit Shop and Butcher completed Vermont's Shopping Centre, while at Rangeview (called Half-Way) there was the grocer run by the Clarke family and a butcher. Shirley remembers well receiving visits from the two grocers and butchers seeking her custom. Orders were called for and the goods delivered, at no charge. This was still the system when I came to Vermont in 1949, continuing into the early 1950's. How many remember those small bags (or in your case was it a twist of white paper?) filled with boiled lollies that came with



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A Steam Train running from the station at Rangeview to the lake. People from Brighton further up the line for a ride to revive many memories. Cobb & Co. Coach running between Norton Park and Disbourn Lake.



The children attended Vermont State School to 8th grade and those hoping to go on to further education had to sit for an entrance exam either to Box Hill Boy's School or Camberwell Girl's School. It was quite an achievement to get a place at one of these schools and not something that one could take as a normal progression at the end of State School.

Entertainment in the district centred around the home and the church. Afternoon tea parties were popular with the ladies and visiting or entertaining on Sunday evenings, when family and friends would sit around the open fire and talk or join together around the piano for a sing-song. Pictures were shown on Saturday evenings in the Memorial Hall at Mitcham and on Saturday nights a special bus ran from Vermont corner at 7.40. It was always full to overflowing. There were church concerts and socials and the Annual Fetes held by church and school involved a great number of community members. The Parish Ball was a must and the ladies of the parish excelled themselves with magnificent suppers that are still remembered by those who attended.

The small wooden Church of St. Luke's was dedicated on Tuesday 3rd September 1907 by Archbishop Clarke in the presence of a large gathering of residents of the parish and surrounding districts. The Church was designed by the Rev. A. B. Rowed, B.C.E. and had seating accommodation for 120 persons. In 1920 the Rev. Thomas McKeon was inducted Vicar of St. Luke's and under his leadership the Church went from strength to strength. The Church building having been found inadequate, an extension was added to the southern side in 1922, and the two additional gables that were added to the Church transformed its appearance. This Church is now situated to the rear of the brick Church built approximately 1960, and is in use for Sunday School and other Church activities. Following the death of Rev. McKeon the people of St. Luke's, ably led by Rev. A. Craig, built a parish hall named the McKeon Hall, at a cost of £782. The existing vicarage was built on the corner of Grove Street in 1940 and the foundation of the Kindergarten was laid in 1956. A government grant of £2,250 assisted with the finance, the remainder of the cost of £5,500 being found in equal shares by the Church and enthusiastic committee and members of St. Luke's Free Kindergarten; the Church provided the land for the project. The building was substantially erected by volunteer labour.

There was no doctor in Vermont till early 1960's when Dr. Corbett came to the area. Prior to this the district was served by either Dr. Carter or Dr. Cochrane, both of whom had practices in Mitcham. Each doctor worked on his own with a locum taking over when they took that all too rare break. They served the area of Mitcham, Vermont and beyond 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Dr. Carter was particularly remembered. He was a family doctor in every sense of the word. He always wore a smart white coat in his surgery and always saw his patients to the front door and on the way back welcomed his next patient. He had no receptionist, so if you rang the doctor, then you spoke to him. It was a great loss to the community when this man died at work. Of course, going to the doctor was a rare occurrence and only for real emergencies or continuing illness. The local chemist was consulted and offered advice for the common illnesses and made up simple medicines. Patent medicines were few. Then there were the tried and trusted home remedies passed on from mother to daughter. Things like the hot bread poultice used to draw out a deep set splinter or the like. Salt heated in an old woollen sock and held to the face to ease the pain of toothache. Carb-soda and lemon used for any type of indigestion. How many such remedies are still in use in your family?

Over the period 1950-1960 the character of Vermont gradually changed as many orcharists sold their properties for sub-division into housing blocks and homes began to spring up like mushrooms. Even sub-divisions were different, for then there were no regulations relating to the making of roads and footpaths. Roads were formed, drainage from



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residence the character of Vermont changed. No longer was it a small village where everyone knew everyone else. Progress had caught up with it and Vermont became just another suburb - well almost.

To those who had lived here for many years it will always be a place apart. Perhaps that sign that once stood near the crossroad of Canterbury and Mitcham Roads should be replaced. It read -

THIS IS VERMONT. NOW YOU HAVE SEEN IT TELL YOUR FRIENDS.

This is a piece of Social History. It must be remembered that a Social History is about events as seen by one person, or group of people. An Historian on the other hand will research a story from all available sources and put together the facts from his findings.

It would give me great pleasure, and I'm sure other readers would be interested in hearing similar stories from other sections of this city. Why not write some memories to be included in the next Newsletter.

FOR THOSE WHO ARE TRACING THEIR FAMILY TREE OR THOSE WHO WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHERE TO START.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION.  
REGISTRAR Queen Street, Melbourne (for Victorians)  
Certificates of Births, Deaths and Marriages.

LATROBE LIBRARY

- Postal Directories
- Some Electoral Rolls
- Lists of Teachers in Parliamentary Papers
- Lists of Civil Service in Blue Books (usually in Parliamentary Papers)
- Reference in local histories, unpublished manuscripts, etc.
- Government Gazettes

PUBLIC RECORDS OFFICE, Cherry Lane, North Laverton, or its reading room, 1 Little Collins Street, Melbourne.

- Ship's Passenger Lists
- Probate Registers and Copies of Wills
- Lands Dept. - Plans, reports of land sales, selectors files, Lease and Licence Registers.
- Education Dept. - Lists of prospective pupils for new schools in school building files.
- Crown Law - Inquests and Criminal Cases, also civil legal actions, insolvencies.
- Blue Books - List of Civil Servants
- Departmental Correspondence
- Admissions to the Bar.

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, 98 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne  
Has copies of material listed above, plus private records.