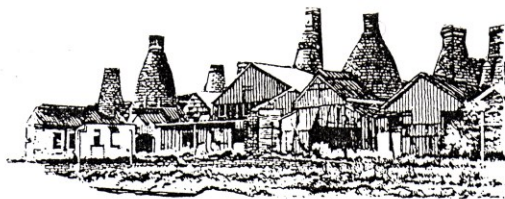


nunawading  
historical  
society



NEWSLETTER MARCH - APRIL 1982

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Dear Members,

Our new President & Secretary Warwick & Jan Shortland welcomed members & visitors to the first meeting of the year held at the Museum on 10th Feb. It was a beautiful evening which began with a picnic tea followed by an exceptionally interesting talk & demonstration of the agricultural items at the Museum by Mr Ollie Meyland who was an orchardist in the district (as was his family before him). Who would've thought that sturdy looking cart was known by the unlikely title of "jingle" & that a particular plough would be called a "silly plough"! Thank you to Ollie & Mrs Meyland for coming along.

Warwick moved a vote of thanks to Harold Bakes for his untiring efforts to have the new Childrens corner completed; it was viewed by all members at the meeting & was considered by all to be a great success. Warwick also thanked the ladies who helped Harold by setting up the display.

The beautiful old clock donated by Mrs Facey of Strathdon was installed in the Museum & is going well, thanks to Mr Bawden for replacing broken woodwork on the clock & Harold for the shelf.

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DATES TO REMEMBER

WED.10th March Historical Society Meeting Willis Room Civic Centre.  
8pm Speaker will be our Secretary Jan Shortland who will talk about dolls & toys - "A Broad History of Dolls". Meeting begins 8pm.

WED.14th April Historical Society Meeting Willis Room Civic Centre.  
8pm Clyde Tilson & Keith Patterson will offer assistance & advice on ways of researching history etc.  
Also Clyde will show methods of collecting oral history.

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MOOMBA Moomba is a time of pleasure & fun in Melbourne but as you enjoy the holiday & perhaps watch the Moomba procession do you give a thought to the beginnings of this Labour Day Holiday?

EIGHT HOURS WORK- EIGHT HOURS RECREATION- EIGHT HOURS REST. This was the catch cry of the early campaigners. They were not asking that each day should be divided into three equal parts but rather that a man had a right to plenty of sleep and that his waking hours belonged to him as much as to his employer.

The emigrants engaged in the building industry made the first demands for an 8 hour day in Australia. They had travelled 16,000 miles to this country & it is understandable they would seek a better life for themselves. In 1855 tradesmen were paid between 15/- & 20/- a day but there was increasing unemployment in Melbourne & Sydney. By the late 1850's trade unionists were still a minority in the rural workforce but the days when unions were looked upon as 'trade Societies' mainly concerned with the dispensing of benefits to sick & unemployed members were over. In 1856 the Operative Stonemasons' Society sought a general reduction of hours from 10 to 8 for their members, assuring employers that they were willing to accept a lower wage for this concession, from 15/- to 12/6 per day.

By 1862 members of the societies of joiners, bricklayers & plasterers had also gained the reduced hours. Artisans in these trades who did not belong to the societies worked longer hours.

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By 1862 members of the societies of joiners, bricklayers & plasterers had also gained the reduced hours. Artisans in these trades who did not belong to the societies worked longer hours.

Carpenters & joiners celebrated at a pic-nic each year in Sydney, & by 1868 this day had taken on the character of a general demonstration seeking the 8 hour day for all workers.

In 1865 the stonemasons of Brisbane won an 8 hour day & on 1st March that year societies of masons & plasterers arranged a march of 500 through the streets in the cause of urging others to agitate. Melbourne Trades Hall opened in 1859, 4 years after the beginning of formal co-operation between unions & on the anniversary of the demonstration in 1856 the Hall was decorated with flowers & greenery as the grand festival of Labour was celebrated. For days before banners were unfolded in the Trades Hall & new banners created for those groups of workers who had gained the 8 hour day since the last procession. The banners were very colourful & elaborate many of them cost as much as £200. From early morning the people would gather to watch the marshals assemble the various societies with their floats, banners & bands. (Not so different from todays Moomba procession, except that most floats are sponsored by charitable or business concerns.) By 10am all was ready & the anniversary committee would step off, under the red white & blue banner.....

EIGHT HOURS WORK - EIGHT HOURS RECREATION - EIGHT HOURS REST  
the banner which had been carried during the original campaign. Near the Houses of Parliament the procession halted & stood to attention while the bands played God Save The Queen. The Governor was cheered & the demonstrators moved off to enjoy themselves at the fete & foot-racing, side-shows & merry-go-rounds. In 1871 a procession similar to Melbourne's began in Sydney.

The procession in Melbourne was only open to members of the associations that worked for the 8 hour day system. This was thought as an incentive for those outside the system but the fete was a public affair & so was the theatrical performance held later in the day. In 1876 to celebrate the 20th anniversary Marcus Clarke composed an anthem for the free & proud artisans of a new age.

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LILYDALE - HEALSVILLE rail line faces threat of dismantling .... a \$10,000 study has been commissioned by Lilydale & H'ville councils with the hope of retaining & re-opening the scenic track. During the last 10 months of it's service, in 1980, when the line would take only the light "Spirit of Healsville" Railmotor 80,000 passengers were carried, hardly a poorly patronised service! The L'dale - H'ville Rail Pres. Committee would like to hear from anyone interested in the retention of the line & their ideas on the subject. Write to the Secretary 342 Maroondah H'way Healsville 3777.

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LAKE ELIZABETH in the Otway Ranges was formed during one of the wettest nights in Otway history in June 1952....the rumbling the locals thought was thunder or earth tremors was a huge landslide when part of a ridge between Mt. Sabine & Mt. Cowley slid into the valley of the East Barwon River forming a great lake, further floodings reduced the earth wall and eventually a small but beautiful lake was created naturally & over the 30 years of its existance it has become a serene beauty spot which now has no signs of its violent beginnings. Secluded & little known it is not on many maps, it has limited access; a Forest Comm. road goes to within 1/2km of the lake & runs off the Knaglang Rd, a few kilometers east of Forrest, the road is usually open during summer months only.

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The Nunawading Historical Society Newsletter is compiled & typed by Shirley Jones & prepared for posting by Val Fitcher. Thank you to Jean Webster for providing the article on Moomba & the 8 hour day. Please assist with any local or other historical articles &/or paragraphs for future Newsletters.

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