

nunawading  
historical  
society



NEWSLETTER JUNE - JULY 1982  
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Dear Members,

Our May meeting was well attended & Pres. Warwick Shortland apologized for the cancellation of the April meeting at short notice owing to an error in booking of the Willis Room & hoped that no one was inconvenienced.

A letter of resignation was received from Phyllis & Harold Bakes, they will be greatly missed from our meetings & especially from the Museum working bees. Harold made possible the dreams & plans of the Society regarding the displays at the Museum, without Harold we would not have had our two fine display window/rooms, document show cases, photographic display stands, Station Master's house items etc. etc. etc. his energy and enthusiasm will be sadly missed.

Warwick asks all members to give some thought to the future of the Society & as we have no speaker for the June meeting that any ideas & suggestions be brought along for discussion then.

Warwick displayed 3 great old photographs of the Schwerkolt family taken in the cottage area about 1917. (one is of the smoke house & looks similar to the one illustrated in the cottage brochure). These are on loan to the Society & Committee of Management & will be copied for our records.

Our speakers for the evening were Clyde Tilson & Keith Patterson:

Clyde spoke about Oral History & its importance as a living record of the past & demonstrated how he goes about the taping.

He explained how important it was to get permission on tape for interview & also that person was aware of copyright laws etc. (Clyde will give details to those interested). Things to remember: make subject at ease by speaking to them without tape for few minutes. Have recorder all set up with long tape (to avoid interruption) & begin to tape without fuss. It is important to give interviewees a list of subjects to bring back memories.

Clyde played tapes of several oral history interviews & told how to transcribe information, taking the essence from interview, editing on tape &/or typing a manuscript. He said it is essential to make a copy to eliminate accidental erasure or damage.

Keith gave members much valuable information on how & where to look for possible records of earlier residents of Vic. Education records include school rolls, School Building Files. Gov. Blue Books etc. which give details of Educ. Dept. staff.

Probate Records are card indexed & copies of will can be obtained.

Inquests are another valuable source & always well documented.

Land Dept. Sales & Land Selection Board are both worth investigating if ownership of properties is being researched.

Licencing Court Records are available at various Court Houses.

Insolvencies which were frequent often provide unknown information.

La Trobe Library staff will advise & the Church of Latter Day Saints at Fairfield has a library of micro films etc. which cover many Parish records of U.K. U.S.A. & many other countries.

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After hearing Clyde speaking on Oral History your Editor thought that some of our members, all in fact, might like to write about their younger days. Just a page would do but more if possible & these memories would be published in future Newsletters. The Editor (Shirley Jones) is going to ask a different member to contribute something for each Newsletter, so get your memories in sharp focus & start writing - it could be you next meeting!

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DATES TO REMEMBER

WED 9th June 8pm Historical Scty. Meeting Willis Room Civic Centre. Discussions on future of Society. (no speaker)

SAT 12th June Working Bee at Museum Allocation of work to be arranged at meeting on 9th June, if you can't make one Sat. perhaps you can come the next one.

SAT 19th June Working Bee at Museum  
both  
9.30 till noon

SAT 26th June 8pm. Crazy Whist Night at Jean & Noel Webster's home 1 Paranda Crt. Vermont. You'll all recall the great fun we've had at previous Crazy Whists so keep that date free.

SAT 3rd July M.R.G. play "Birds on the Wing" Phyl Johnson has arranged a group booking for Hist. Scty., please contact Phyl if you would like to attend. Phyl Johnson 874 4745.  
Note (not 10th)

WED 14th July 8pm Historical Scty. Meeting Willis Room Civic Centre. W.Cdr. Franklin-Jones speaking on "Municipal Arms & Emblems of Cities & Shires around Melbourne."

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BY HACKNEY TO WARRENDYTE

The following is taken from William Westgarth's "Victoria & the Australian Gold Mines in 1857" & describes a journey from Melbourne to Anderson's Creek (Warrendyte) on 24th Feb. 1855.

"The day was pleasant, with a gentle but cool nth. west breeze. We had a comfortable enough carriage, a hackney, which had been hired for the day for £4, exclusive of horses & driver. The distance was about 16 miles up the river Yarra.

The country was very dry, as little rain had fallen of late. The roads, therefore, were unpleasantly dusty, & the wheels threw up an occasional cloud into the midst of us, in passing over portions of road or street not yet macadamised. The main roads, however, are now for some distance from town remarkably well finished, with tolls upon each to raise a fund for keeping them in repair. We crossed the Merri Cr. by its pretty new bridge, & then the Darabin by an older & much less pretentious structure. Proceeding on to Warringal, (Heidelberg) the road was not macadamised; but cut at the sides & raised in the middle & with occasional attempts at levelling. On each side were indications of extended farming & house-building. We came upon the pretty village of Heidelberg by the road from the back descending a rather steep hill, from whose summit we had a magnificent view to the eastward. The scene appeared one dense forest, excepting in our vicinity where we saw some natural glades less thickly wooded, or farms or green paddocks cleared of timber.

We halted at the Old England Hotel, a rural looking establishment in the midst of a garden, & we enjoyed some grapes while getting a change of horses. We then crossed the Yarra in a punt, the river low & narrow here.

We passed through Templestowe, a village 3 miles eastward, where there was a public-house or hotel, a blacksmith, & a few houses & gardens, with fields in the neighbourhood. The soil was light, but apparently good for most purposes, although very dry. As we approached the gold regions the soil became less favourable, as indicated by the stringy-bark forests it had sent up. Many of these trees were severely charred by recent fires; their thick fibrous bark is very combustible; but the fire of these bush conflagrations seldom reaches the vital parts so as to destroy the tree.

3 or 4 miles from Templestowe we came upon several sinkings but no one was there, following a valley we saw the river Yarra pleasantly sparkling; we found the digging population here, they did not exceed 200 in all & were scattered over about a mile of the river's length (at Anderson's Cr.) We viewed several stores which seemed tolerably well supplied with necessaries & comforts, after this survey we proceeded, about 1 o'clock to squat upon the grass for the enjoyment of our lunch, amongst ants & other creeping things. After an hour or two's rest we returned to town; arriving safely before dark, with no other accident than a broken pole occasioned by one of the horses taking a determined fancy to lie down upon the road, a common trick amongst horses in the colony."

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