

nunawading
historical
society



NEWSLETTER AUGUST - SEPT. 1982
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Dear Members,

The following letters from members were written in response to a request for ideas on the future of N.H.S. from the President Warwick Shortland.

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"Dear Members,

Unfortunately only 11 members were present at the June Meeting, however a spirited discussion took place as to the future of the society. It was first suggested that an 'all-out' drive be made for new members to ensure continuity for the future. This was countered by a statement that such efforts have been made in past years without success, many locals, though interested, are too involved in other groups etc. etc.

One well-known fact was mentioned, that today numerous small Hist. Societies have proliferated, with subsequent diminished membership - however, we do not wish to lessen our enthusiasm because of this. The President pointed out a present-day deterrent to night-time attendances at meetings - those numerous T V serials!

An idea discussed last year was to have quarterly meetings in members' homes (some have offered) or perhaps meetings at two-monthly intervals. In this plan, several members volunteered to hold office, with the premise that those positions would be far less arduous in the proposed more informal set-up. It was noted that some other societies do not meet on a monthly basis. A suggestion at that time was to have a mixture to fit in with our small numbers, say, the usual summertime tea meeting at Museum, 2 home meetings & 1 Coffee Shop meeting (if available) with maybe a visiting speaker then.

Programs could entail some more local research - a few members still have local stories to relate - and Keith Paterson our Archivist, suggested he could provide guide lines for small research projects for any interested members. If quarterly meetings were held, some extra social get-togethers' might be arranged, & a small committee would deal with any urgent business throughout the year.

It should be noted that, despite the vote for continuing monthly meetings this year, we have achieved nothing at all in the way of extra members or supporters & are in no way better off.

Members are asked to consider all this & the responsibility of the Museum, as a decision must be made at the Annual General Meeting in Oct. for next year & the future.

Doris Mattingly. "

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"Dear Members,

I am sure that any move to limit the activities of the Nuna. Hist. Scty. will mark the beginning of the end of the Society. In order to make the Society a continually viable organisation we need to do three things:-

1. make ourselves better known in our community.
2. make our meetings more interesting.
3. ensure that prospective members are made to feel welcome and that their interests are catered for and understood.

We have always kept a very low profile in the community in the past, and the few times we have advertised in the Gazette the efforts have been rather half-hearted & not very effective; we can

do a great deal better if we have the will to do so. An effective, planned campaign over a period of a few months would be within our resources & would heighten public awareness & result in increasing membership & attendances.

We can make our meetings more interesting by keeping to matters of historical interest & by eliminating the inconsequential chatter about trifling matters that should be dealt with in Committee, instead of the interminable discussions which seem to become more & more irrelevant to the issue.

Too often, in the past, we have made a token gesture in welcoming visitors & prospective new members & have made very little effort to find out their interests & why they came. If they are interested in the history of this area the information should be made available to them; if they are interested in some particular aspect of our history or perhaps they may wish to research it, help should be offered & given where necessary. Whatever the situation may be they should not be virtually ignored as they have in the past.

In a highly literate community such as Nunawading, it is inconceivable that so few people are interested in our history; perhaps the fault lies with us in that we cannot attract and hold them.

Clyde Tilson."

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*** "Dear Members,

The future of our Society is the prime consideration at present - our Secretary Jan Shortland is not standing for re-election at the A.G.M. on 13th Oct. - this means we need nominations for this position & also for all other offices & without a nomination for Secretary there is little point in other nominations!

The achievements of the Nunawading Hist. Scty. have been considerable over the years, even though the attendance & worker membership has never been very large; so what has been done before can be done again.

We should consider a few important aims eg. membership - Museum - 1984 (Vic. 150th Anniversary), things that are within our capabilities & numbers & plan to complete or support those aims, involving every member in some way.

It is important that some sort of monthly contact be continued, not necessarily meetings each time, but it is essential to the continuity of aims & plans to have regular contact.

We must never lose sight of the importance of the Museum & the responsibility of the Nunawading Hist. Scty. to improve & maintain the exhibits. The Museum & its displays are appreciated by the ever increasing number of visitors who come to the Schwerkolt complex. It's worth a visit some weekend to see the pleasure & wonder of old & young visitors as they enjoy the many exhibits which have been set up by Society members. This is one very valid reason for continuance of the Society, in fact the most important reason at present!

If we can't find the Office Bearers to fit the Society as it is now then we must tailor the Society to fit the possible Office Bearers - at least for the present, while at the same time planning for a future Drive for New Members.

Shirley Jones.

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The preceding letters are from members concerned about the future of the Society - please make it your concern and attend the Annual General Meeting on 13th October (let's make it a lucky 13 this time?) Please put this date in your diary now, and over the next few weeks give some thought to what you would like to see for the future of the Society.

REPORT from July Meeting

After a short meeting our speaker Wng. Cdr. Franklin-Jones gave members & visitors an illustrated talk on "Municipal Arms & Emblems of Cities & Shires around Melbourne". His knowledge of the subject is vast & as he took us around Melbourne district via their Coats of Arms etc. we began to understand why each shire & city chose the decorations which adorn their Coats of Arms, such as Springvale, surmounted by red-gum tree & railway sleepers (for its forest & milling beginnings) Box Hill, white horses, wattle, roses, paint brushes (denoting the famous Box Hill School of Impressionist painters) Knox, post & rail fence, woodcutters & native police (for the rural & forest origins & the locality of the Police Paddock). Some more recent municipalities had some urban decorations like smoke stacks, mills & factories. Our President thanked the speaker both for his most interesting talk and for his kind donation to the Museum of a fine cabin trunk, 2 metal hat boxes & a sewing machine.

The Victoria Archaeological Survey has been funded by the Aust. Heritage commission to make a study of the Aboriginal Occupation of the Melbourne area & is interested to hear from anyone who knows of any Aboriginal archaeological evidence, sites etc. etc. in the metropolitan area. Phone the Secretary Vic. Arch. Survey Melb. 6905322 with any info.

The Crazy Whist Night at Jean & Noel Webster's home was a great night even though few in number fun was had by all & went well past midnight!

The M.R.G. Theatre Night to see "Birds on the Wing" was enjoyed by all, the quality of the production was up to the usual standard of M.R.G.

PROPOSED Train Trip to Ballarat & its delights.

If we can find 12 or more people, inc. children (but excluding pensioners) to book with the Society for a day trip to Ballarat the cost would be approx. \$14 adult, \$7 child, covering return Spencer St. to Ballarat in the new fast train, Explorer Bus around Ballarat, entry into Toy Museum, Gold Museum, Historical Museum & Ballarat Art Gallery. (Pensioners cheaper fares make a total cost of about \$12.) Bring morning & afternoon tea to have on the train & also lunch if not wanting to buy it at Ballarat. Leave Spencer St. 8.35am arr. B'rat 10.45. Return leave B'rat 5pm arr. Spencer St.6.55. This trip could only be on a Saturday as train time-table dos'nt leave enough time on Sundays to see everything. Suggested time of year, late September or early October. Let Shirley Jones know at next meeting if you are interested & we will try to make up the number of 12 or more.

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DATES TO REMEMBER MEETINGS come along & bring a friend please.

- WED. 11th Aug. Historical Society Meeting Willis Room Civic Centre.
8pm. Speaker: Mr Roy McNaught whose hobby is ornamental wrought iron will give a talk on the subject of "Blacksmithing - Historical, Colonial & Modern." During the talk, Hazel McNaught will create several floral arrangements of the Ikebana style using wrought iron containers.
- WED. 8th Sept. Historical Society Meeting Willis Room Civic Centre.
8pm. Speaker: Mr Hose who will give a talk on antique clocks, Mr Hose will also be bringing along some old & interesting clocks for members to see. If you have some old clocks, bring them along for identification.