

**NUNAWADING
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**



NEWSLETTER OCTOBER - NOVEMBER '82
=====

Dear Members,

The Annual General Meeting & Election of Office Bearers of the Nunawading Historical Society is the most important function on the horizon at present. Nominations for all offices are required; this year there are several members interested in standing for office which is more promising than past years. It is important that we have a good attendance, please come along your support is needed. The date of AGM Wednesday 13th October 8pm Willis Room Nunawading Civic Centre.

.....
Annual Subscriptions are due at the A.G.M. Family \$3.50
Single \$2.50. Please pay the Treasurer at the Meeting.
.....

DATES TO REMEMBER

Wed. 13th October
8pm

Please bring a small plate of supper for A.G.M.
Annual General Meeting & Election of Office Bearers.
Willis Room, Nunawading Civic Centre Whitehorse Rd.

Sat. 23rd October
Train leaves
Mitcham 7.17am
for 8.35am Spencer
St. to Ballarat.

Proposed Day Trip by Train to Ballarat We have pro-
mises for 14 people to date which will allow us to
take advantage of a special low price group booking,
fares of \$7.80 adult & \$3.50 children return. Please
bring your train fare along to AGM on 13th Oct.
Final details at meeting on 13th October.

Wed. 10th November
8pm

Historical Society Meeting Willis Room Civic Centre.
Cr. Bill Coyne will speak on 18th & 19th Cent. Silver.
Special Train to celebrate opening of railway from
Camberwell to Lilydale 1st Dec. 1882. Watch N'letter
for further details.

Sat. 27th November

Wed. 8th December
8pm

Historical Society Meeting Willis Room Civic Centre
Christmas Break-up - Bring a plate of Xmas fare.

WORKING BEE DATES

Sat. 2nd Oct. 9.30am
Sat. 4th Dec. 9.30am

Please come along to the Museum if available, there
is always dusting to be done in showcases also we
have to rearrange several exhibits & the children's
corner. Just an hour of your time would be a help.
.....

BON VOYAGE to Jean & Noel Webster who left last week for a tour of the
U.K. & Europe. Jean is looking forward to completing some family history
research whilst in Ireland.

GET WELL wishes to Mrs Nancy Leach who is recovering from a leg operation,
also to Morrie Chatwin who has been off work with virus pneumonia. Glad
to hear that Flora Forbes has her ankle out of plaster.
.....

THAT OLD POSTBOX!

That old postbox is in the news again! P10 "Nunawading
Gazette" 22nd Sept. '82 carries an article on the post box & has a photo
showing the box lying forlornly amongst other seemingly rejected objects
at the Council depot. Nunawading Council, to whom the Hist. Scty. gave
the post box, made application to Aust. Post for the box to be erected &
re-opened as an operative letter receiver outside the Nunawading Civic
Centre. Unfortunately Aust. Post has rejected the request & according
to the "Gazette" the Nuna. Council has decided to ask the Hist. Scty. to

suggest a suitable location with a council park or Schwerkolt Cottage Reserve as possible sites!! The saga of the post box seems to be back to square one!

.....

STRATHDON

STRATHDON COMMUNITY - Caring for Aged. Social Services Dept. of Uniting Church Hostel & Unit Accommodation & Nursing Home, Jolimont Rd. Forest Hill. Strathdon Settlement - Mrs Matheson's gift of land:

Initiative was first taken by Mrs Marjory Matheson Miller, who, in Jan. 1958, wrote to the Presbyterian Director of Soc. Services, Rev. A.G.Harrison, suggesting that he approach her mother, Mrs Mary Matheson, for land belonging to the Capt. Charles Matheson Estate at Forest Hill.

Negotiations proceeded between the Board of Soc. Services & Mrs Matheson, but the Board had insufficient finance to purchase the 10 acres they sought, & the Matheson Estate land was subject to Board of Works "green belt" regulations, preventing the erection of suitable units for elderly people. At one stage, the Rev. W.J. Johnston of the Methodist Soc. Services joined the discussions, but, at that time, the churches lacked the legal authority to administer the property jointly.

To make a commencement of the project possible, Mrs Matheson offered 2 acres of her own land to the Presbyterians. At a gathering arranged by Mrs Marjory Miller at the orchard home "Strathdon", in the presence of the law agent, Mr. J.P. Adam, & her sister Mrs Marjory Holmes, Mrs Matheson completed the necessary legal documents.

Units and Hostel -

A building committee, appointed by the Presbyterian Church, with Mr. Ken Duncan as convener & Mr James Earle as architect, proceeded to plan the first units & hostel, calling the project "Strathdon", the name Capt. Matheson gave his property in memory of the barque on which he served his apprenticeship.

On 3rd March 1968, the first section of the Strathdon Community was officially opened by Rt. Rev. Rhys Miller, Moderator of the Presbyterian Church, & the memorial plaque unveiled by Mrs Marjory Miller in the presence of Mrs Matheson & a large company. The Matheson Hall was erected on land bought by the committee.

In 1977, Strathdon became part of The Uniting Church in Aust. Additional hostel rooms were erected, & in 1978 the Nursing Home completed the complex for nearly 200 people.

Sunday School-

A Sunday School was held in Matheson Hall for some time, but, with families moving from the area, this was gradually closed down.

The Nursing Home-

With its dedicated Matron, Sisters, Administrator & Office Staff, the Nursing Home has filled a needed place in the work of Strathdon. Built in 1978 & opened in Sept. of that year, many residents have moved from Units or Hostel to the Nursing Home, with the addition of Physio & Occupational Therapy, they have been given treatment there.

There is also a Day Care Centre, where people from the surrounding district are brought in & given loving care & taught to use limbs & hands again, or even to cook in safety once more.

A Kiosk is also well stocked & open two hours five days a week. A trolley is also taken around the Home twice a week, & to the Hostel once a fortnight, by Auxiliary helpers & other friends. This supplies extras when Residents are unable to shop for themselves.

to be continued.....

Thank you to Flora Forbes who has compiled this history of Strathdon for the Nunawading Historical Society records & Newsletter. The Editor would appreciate any other histories of past or present organizations of the district.

.....

The Nunawading Historical Society Newsletter is published every 2nd month. Edited by Shirley Jones 2 Delhi St. Mitcham V. 3132 ph 8747073. Prep. for posting by Val Fitcher. Registered Publication VBH 1468