

NUNAWADING  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER DECEMBER '82 - JAN '83  
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Dear Members,

Our A.G.M. in Oct. brought a change of Office Bearers, Warwick & Jan Shortland resigned from President & Secretary respectively. A vote of thanks for their work over the past 12 months was supported by all present. The new Office Bearers are Pres. Keith Patterson, V.Pres. & Editor Shirley Jones, Sec. Doris Mattingly, Treas. Shirley Barker; the Committee:- Warwick Shortland (Past Pres.) Phyl Johnson, Betty Muckleston, Chris Otterbach, Joan Rocznik, Teddy Poole. Prospective new member Andrew Hillier was welcomed to the meeting.

Our speaker was Cr. Bill Coyne who talked about silver and brought along some beautiful pieces of 18th & 19th Cent. silver cutlery & table pieces etc.. The name STERLING came from the name given to silver craftsmen who came to England from eastern Europe centuries ago, the Easterlings. Bill explained the evolution of silver markings & content through the ages, he showed us a fascinating long handled silver stuffing spoon (used for large poultry etc.), a beautifully designed basting spoon made by the famous John Kelly of Dublin, mid 18th cent. He explained the process of Sheffield Plate silver which was very popular for trays and large pieces, sterling silver was beaten out till very thin then used to cover a copper base, it was decorated with fine tooling work. We saw a berry spoon with a silver handle & a parcel gilt bowl - gold was used for the bowl because of the action acidic berries has on silver.

Bill suggested a visit to the Australiana silver collection at the National Gallery Melbourne, where pieces by Livini & other famous Aust. silversmiths are on show.

Recommended books - "Silver Marks" by Judith Bannister, "Bradbury on Silver", both available from the Gallery Bookshop; also ask your own local library for suitable books.

Keith Patterson thanked Bill for his most interesting talk on behalf of all those present.

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The train trip to "Ballarat & its delights" in Oct. was enjoyed by the 15 who went along; the Toy Museum was delightful, the Gold Museum fabulous & the new Hist. Museum beautifully set up, the long bus tour around Ballarat & lake ended outside the Ballarat Art Gallery which is well worth a ½ day visit instead of the ½ hr. we had - the new train which went to B'rat via Geelong & returned via Bacchus Marsh is great, so fast & comfortable. On the return journey Harold & Phyllis Bakes were presented with gifts from the Nunawading Hist. Scty. in appreciation of their work for the Scty. in past years & especially to Harold who was (& still is) responsible for so much of the display at the Museum.

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100 years of Railways in the eastern suburbs. As you all know from Keith Patterson's excellent articles in recent local papers the rail line from Hawthorn to Lilydale celebrated its 100th Birthday recently & our Nunawading stations Blackburn & Emery's Hill now Mitcham opened 25th December 1882 & Tunstall now Nunawading opened in 1888.

The Rly. Hist. Scty. ran a special train on Sat. 27th Nov. with stops along the line to pick up goodwill messages from local Mayors to the Shire President of Lilydale; it stopped at Blackburn & slowed to a walking pace through Mitcham, to the joy of young & old - & photographers. A joyful sight was our Mayor resplendant in red robes & chain of Office standing by an open door waving happily to the crowd as the train passed



through Mitcham - like all the other happy passengers.

The Nunawading Hist. Scty. has small displays in the Central and Blackburn Libraries to commemorate the event, thanks to those who assisted especially Clyde Tilson who printed up photographs.

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FINAL MEETING for 1982 will be held in the Willis Room Nunawading Civic Centre on WED. 8th DEC. at 8pm. After a short business meeting we will all enjoy "MEMBERS GEMS", members are invited to bring along, or speak about, something from the past or tell fellow members of interesting historical projects etc. etc. Look out your "gem" be it memory or object. Please bring a small plate of Christmas Fare for the supper table..... ALSO it was agreed at the recent Committee Meeting to have a small Trading Table at this Meeting - so bring along something to sell for Society funds.

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MEETING DATES for 1st half of 1983, please record these in your diary.

Wed. 9th Feb. Open air summer Meeting at Museum please bring along a 6.30pm basket tea, rugs or chairs.

Wed. 9th Mar. Informal Meeting at Doris & Grant Mattingly's home 2 Leons 7.45pm Court Blackburn.

Wed. 13th Ap. Meeting at Coffee Shop Civic Centre Nunawading. Speaker 7.45pm Mr Jack McLean on early days of our local railways.

Wed. 11th May Informal Meeting at Chris Otterbach's home 15 Heather Grv. 7.45pm Nunawading.

Wed. 8th June Meeting at Coffee Shop Civic Centre Nunawading. Speaker 7.45pm to be arranged.

Wed. 13th July Informal Meeting at Phyllis & Ken Johnson's home 7.45pm 309 Mitcham Rd. Mitcham.

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Who remembers their old Seventh Grade Reader (1930 vintage)? there was a great piece on a bush fire & a facinating account of Christmas in the bush. From Christmas in the Bush by E.S. Sorenson we are told of how verandah posts of homes no matter how humble were decorated with green boughs lashed so that the verandah was almost hidden by the cool looking greenery, a welcome sight to hot & weary homecoming families who often made the long trek home for Christmas on foot.

Miners tents often sported some soft greenery at Christmas & the generous miner host often popped gold nuggets into the plum-duff to the delight of his guests, there was never anything left on the plate with such incentive to "eat it all up"!

Today our Christmas decorations are more sophisticated & our plum pudding dos'nt even hide 3d or 6d pieces, let alone a gold nugget! but families & friends still get together to celebrate Christmas with the same warmth & love as in days gone by.

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GET WELL wishes to Teddy & Allan Poole, may 1983 be a really good year for them both.

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MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL MEMBERS.....  
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