

NUNAWADING
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Reg. Publication VBH 1468

NEWSLETTER JULY - AUGUST 1983
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Dear Members,

Our May & June meetings were well attended; thank you to Miss Chris Otterbach for her hospitality for the May meeting venue. Chris gave an interesting talk on the "Flower Farms in East Burwood & surrounding districts", recalling her memories of the area when it was a vast garden of flower farms & orchards.

The June meeting at the Coffee Shop enjoyed Mrs Barbara Rogalski's account of "Painting in Burra S.A.", her vivid description assisted by her fine paintings of Burra had members keen to visit or return there. Barbara has generously given the Society an interesting old mourning ribbon of white silk printed in black with the words - "We Mourn Our Queen - 1837 - 1901" below a portrait of Queen Victoria.

The Working Bee on Mon. 20th June was very successful, 10 members came along & with the help & advice of Mrs Betty Jones & Miss Elizabeth Jones removed everything from the storage area, cleared & sprayed the cupboards, inspected & repacked reserve items; Elizabeth advised protection of paper ephemera with Melinex film & terrylene storage bags for the clothing & fabric articles; we will be purchasing these materials & have several more working bees in the near future. Many thanks to Betty & Elizabeth for their help & advice & for the many ways in which they assist the Society & Museum, thanks also to N.H.S. members for giving up their time to come to the working bees.

TWO NEW HISTORICAL VENTURES associated with mining have begun in the eastern suburbs area, they are well worth visiting, we wish them every success.

The Miner's Cottage at Ringwood Lake Park (open 1.30-4 pm Sun. & public hols.) part of a planned mining group. Ringwood Hist. Research Group are looking for a simple cottage type mirror, c 1886 - 1900, to hang on the bedroom wall over a plain dressing table, ph.8704394.

Museum & Blacksmith Shop set up by Warrandyte Historical Scty. in the main street of Warrandyte; the working Blacksmith Shop is a fascinating blend of past & present - the age old craft with forge & anvil etc. etc. is being put to practical use, a great drawcard for the many visitors who throng Warrandyte each weekend; it's possible to buy or have made many household articles, fire dogs, pokers etc. etc. the Smithy also has facilities for horses to be shod & is a great boon to local horse owners.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Wed. 13th July
7.45pm

Nunawading Historical Scty. Meeting at the home of Mr. & Mrs Keith Rooney 18 Sussex St. Blackburn Nth. After a short meeting we will listen to a selection of Old 78 Records played on a 1930's vintage gramophone. Andrew Hillier has arranged the programme. Members are asked to bring along a small plate of supper.

Wed. 10th Aug.
7.45pm

Nunawading Historical Scty. Meeting Coffee Shop Civic Centre. Speaker Miss Constance Pavey,

Nunawading City Librarian, her subject will be -
"The First 19 Years; the life & times of Nunawading Library", looking at the library against the social climate then & now & of the new attention to Aust. history both past & present.

Wed. 14th Sept. 7.45pm Nunawading Hist. Scty. Meeting at the home of Mr. & Mrs Rupert Muckleston 31 Churinga Ave. Mitcham. After the Meeting it will be a Members Night; members please dust off those memories & tell us about some happening or object from the past, just 5 or 10 minutes, we would like a 100% participation. There is plenty of time to prepare!

TRANSPORTATION TO ENGLAND!

It was a wet cold afternoon, the kind of day one needs a good book to read. Off to Nunawading Library with no decision made whether to select a novel, autobiography or a travel book; the choice was all three in one and what a bonus it proved to be.

Imagine my surprise and delight at seeing and recognising pictures of my home town on the front cover of a book called "Speak for England" An Essay on England 1900 - 1975 based on interviews with inhabitants of Wigton Cumberland.

My stay in the Library that afternoon was magic, the names on each page became real people; some were school friends, others familiar to me because of their trade - John Black the Bootmaker, Saunderson from the Hardware store, Donald Penrice the Draper. I had by now become quite oblivious to present surroundings and had been transported back 40 years into Grandma's "front" room listening to the Salvation Army Band play their rousing tunes at the street corner, holding out the shilling to put in the collection box. Then the next moment, standing in the inevitable queue while Walter Wilson the Grocer carefully weighed out the 2oz. of butter and cheese and those precious eggs, counter-checked and placed one by one into a brown paper bag with the caution "Now easy when you carry that bag of gold", they must have been like gold nuggets during those war years.

What a grand afternoon of reliving. Several friends have left Wigton to live in Australia, we have all enjoyed the warmth and companionship through reading our human history.

To members of the Society recording their own local history - please continue - it is such an interesting and worthwhile project.

Betty Muckleston.

FIRST GOVERNMENT HOUSE

Sydney: 137 years after its demolition, the original site is still vacant in the heart of Sydney of Governor Phillip's first Government House, where he thankfully moved from his somewhat tattered canvas house in 1789. This building, with alterations & additions, stood & housed Governors for more than 50 years. It has been suggested that a replica of this should be prepared as a Bi-centennial project, on its original site, now a parking area.

TRIP TO PHILLIP ISLAND, FRENCH ISLAND & CHURCHILL ISLAND

The Committee of Eastern Historical Societies has planned an interesting weekend trip to these fascinating Westernport islands & other places of historical interest around the bay & on the islands. There are still a few seats left. Dates Sat. 1st Oct. - Sun. 2nd Oct. Cost \$71 shared room, \$81 single. Party will be entertained by local Historical Scty. Dep. \$31 to Miss C.E. Gray 30 Mont Vue St. Lilydale V. 3140 phone first to make initial booking ph 735 5103.

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