



NEWSLETTER DECEMBER - JANUARY 84/85

Dear Members,

Best Wishes to everyone for a very happy Christmas and New Year, I hope that 1985 is a very successful year for our Society. I was very encouraged and delighted by the response members made to the requests for offers of help in the forthcoming activities; with such willingness to share the load we should make good headway in the tasks to be tackled in 1985,

Season's Greetings,
Joan Roczniock. Pres.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS are now due, please pay to Mrs Shirley Barker, Treasurer, 14 Tortice Ave. Nunawading V. 3131. Single \$3.50 Family \$5.00 Newsletter only \$2.00.

CHRISTMAS MEETING
Wed. 12th December
7.45pm
Coffee Shop Civic
Centre Nunawading

Members, please find some interesting old item to tell us about, we ask for only 2 or 3 minutes talk, so I'm sure you can all take part. Also please bring along some Christmas snacks for the supper table.

PICNIC TEA AT SCHWERKOLT COTTAGE
Wed. 13th February 1985
6.30 pm (please note early start)

Bring along a picnic tea & chair or rug. Picnic first then our meeting, please join in this enjoyable outdoor meeting.

MEETING DATES FOR 1985 will appear in next Newsletter, most meetings for 1985 will be held in members homes with no meetings January & July.

LOCAL HISTORIC PLACES OF INTEREST: It is suggested that next year small groups of members might undertake to visit a particular place & make a contribution at the next meeting by telling everyone about it. Look for memorials & plaques along the way to record for 150th Anniversary Record of Significant Memorials & Plaques. A list of suggested places will be available so that members can choose a spot to visit.

"CLIPPERS FOR THE RECORD" At our Nov. Meeting we were pleased to welcome Rev. & Mrs Rhys Miller, Mrs Miller author Marny Matheson presented the N.H.S. with a copy of her recent book "Clippers for the Record" the story of clipper "Thermopylae" S.S. "Aberdeen" & Capt. Charles Matheson. This well illustrated book provides a graphic look at the lives of ships & sailors in the great days of sail. Available at larger book shops & the R.H.S. for \$11.95, it can also be obtained from the author at a concession, write to Mrs M. Matheson Miller 30 Jolimont Rd. Forest Hill 3131 for details.

N.H.S. Pres. Mrs Joan Roczniock 15 Walwa St. Mitcham 3132 ph. 8747289
Sec. Mr Andrew Hillier 15 Compton St. Mitcham 3132 8743954

MOVING The new year will see a change of domicile for your Editor Shirley Jones who is moving to Croydon; also our Past President & Life Member Keith Patterson & Mrs Patterson are leaving Blackburn after many years to live at Bayswater. Keith recalls his schooling in the following article which is part of our series of "Members Memories of School Days".

My School Memories

I began school in 1913 in a small three roomed, three teacher Mallee school at Beulah. My mother's father had been one of the district pioneers & my father, also of pioneer stock, had, as a young man, come to manage the boot department of the local general store.

Each school room had two or three grades & there were about 120 pupils, equally divided between town and farm children. One teacher coped more or less with each room & we progressed steadily from one class to another.

In 1917 we came to Box Hill where my father had bought a small business; my new school at Box Hill was on the site now occupied by the Whitehorse College, it was a big change from the smaller country school, being rather shy I found it difficult to adapt at first.

In 1919 a very solemn man (probably the Dist. Inspector) talked to those of us in the 6th grade saying the Government was concerned about the number of men lost in WW1 and to make up for their loss intended choosing a number of us for higher education; those chosen would attend a new Higher Elementary School as a stepping stone to a better education. At that time High Schools were very rare and anyone wishing for secondary education usually had to attend one of the big public schools.

I have no idea whether I was regarded as a good prospect or nominated by someone, but I was one of the first at Mont Albert Higher Elementary School, which drew pupils from several miles around. In sport I was hopeless, but in every examination I was well up in the top half of the class & the following year I was nominated for a Public School scholarship, however almost a year of ill health kept me away from school most of the time.

In 1923 the Baptist Church opened Carey Baptist Grammer School & as we were a strongly Baptist family I was one of the first enrolled. Looking at the 67 foundation pupils on the first day I realised I was one of the biggest & oldest; I thought "I am going to be something in this school"; I became one of the first prefects and second school captain, member of most sports teams, mostly because I was an honest trier, but I did have some moments of glory. Academically progress was satisfactory, I passed in succession Intermediate, Leaving, then Leaving Honours (equal to Uni. matriculation).

After completing my education at Carey I began working, however after 5 years I was retrenched so decided I would be better qualified with a few years at University. I studied Economics and History and found History much to my liking; I completed my B.A. degree which opened the door to a wider choice of positions in the work force.

Keith Patterson.

1788 - 1988 BICENTENNIAL HERITAGE PROGRAMME

Historic Sites This programme will identify, research or preserve sites of significance, buildings, industrial sites & structures & historic landscapes. The project will provide plaques or cairns to mark sites or relate their history, as well as funding conservation & information projects to assist in their preservation.

Historic Tracks Programme to encourage groups to develop tracks that follow routes taken by Aboriginal Australians, explorers, early settlers & stockmen. Walks through townships that identify buildings, statues, fountains & sites of hist. interest will be developed along with regional historic tracks that link Bicentennial 'Historic Sites' around a number of towns. Assistance will be given for research, identification, signposts etc. etc.
