



NEWSLETTER MARCH-APRIL 1985

GREETINGS From Joan to all members on the occasion of the first Newsletter of 1985. Doris Mattingley has assumed one of the many mantles of Shirley Jones, that of Editor of the Newsletter. Shirley is a hard act to follow. We thank Doris and wish her well.

This year's priorities are:

1. Participation by members in meetings, archives, Museum, re-housing of photographs and publicity work.
2. Indexing of archives - we hope the Council is successful in securing help for us. If not - well - we shall carry on, simply more slowly. In the meantime, stocktaking proceeds.
3. Exploration of the means to provide good protection for the Museum's central exhibit.
4. Provision for our 'Honor Board'. The Society's good Friend, Harold Bakes, is interested in these last two projects.

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MUSEUM OF THE YEAR AWARD. Our entry is wider than we intended! Documentation received for our entry indicated that the 'authorities' included the whole of the Schwerkolt Cottage complex. Our Friends on the Cottage Committee are willing however to co-operate and Mr. Brandenburg, the Council officer for Parks and Gardens, will help with the answers to the questionnaire to be handed to the judges. He has approved, after slight amendment, the official publicity handout for the press and the posters for banks, libraries, museums, etc.

WORKING BEES will be needed [and perhaps to help with the Cottage]. Would those able to help please consider the mornings of  
Saturday 16th March and/or Saturday 23rd March.  
According to the date of the visit of the judges, we may be able to have another.

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NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, 13th March, 7.45 p.m. Christ Church, Mitcham, School Hall.

Betty Muckleston and Shirley and Ian Barker will tell us about their recent visit to Schramm's Cottage in Doncaster.

Please remember to support the OPPORTUNITY TABLE, to help with our finances. Also, 20 cents per member at supper-time - thank you; the exception is at the Annual and the Christmas meetings, when all contribute the food.

Suggested voluntary contributions for work amongst Alzheimer patients at Matheson Hall at 'Strathdon'.

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Other meetings: [Christ Church, Mitcham] except December [Coffee Shop].

10th April: We hope to have Mr. Bob Karnaghan, grandson of Mr. Slater of herb farm fame, to address us].

8th May: Teddy and Alan Poole will tell us about their visit to Heidelberg Museum.

12th June. 14th August 11th September

9th October: ANNUAL MEETING. 13th November

11th December. Programs yet to be confirmed.

At our December meeting, we had as special guests, our Foundation member, Keith Patterson and Mrs. Patterson. Each of the other original members spoke a few words, acknowledging Keith's support and interest throughout the life of the Society, then the President presented him with a painting of Schwerkolt Cottage. We all wish the Pattersons a happy and peaceful life in their new home.

In February, we had our annual informal gathering at the Museum for tea, followed by business. Everyone enjoyed meeting up again.

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#### SUPPER ROSTER:

March: Chris Otterbach and Doris Mattingley  
 April: Nancy Leach and Joyce Barton  
 May: Shirley Jones and Phyllis Johnstone  
 June: Shirley Barker and Flora Forbes  
 July: No meeting  
 August: Betty Muckleston and Phyllis Johnstone  
 September: Margaret Davidson and Val Fitcher  
 October: ANNUAL - everyone a plate  
 November: Teddy Poole and Dora Barkla  
 December: End of year meeting - everyone a plate

If unable to attend, please telephone Chris Otterbach on 878-2178 in good time.

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#### LETTERS AND POST-BOXES:

We are not alone in wishing to preserve an old post-box in a situation where everyone will be able to appreciate it. The 'Australian' of 29/30 September, 1984, reported that when Australia Post decided to move a post-box (circa 1868) to a museum from its position in the Perth suburb of Claremont, they failed to realise the implications. Former Governor-General, Sir Paul Hasluck, whose father was a postie during the W.A. gold-rush, was a member of the historical society that had tracked down the antique and arranged to have it erected on the site of a huge eucalypt known as the Half-Way Tree - an important meeting place for colonial posties.

In 1978, when A.P. planned to move the box, Sir Paul launched his fight to retain it where it was already. Finally, A.P. agreed to do so, and in September last year, an official ceremony was held for the post-box in its permanent place. Sir Paul was invited.

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It is pleasing to report that some local newsagencies are selling our 'Short History of Nunawading'. Have you told your friends and neighbors about it? VERY good value for \$1.

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#### HOW RINGWOOD HAS CHANGED!

The New Ringwood Market & Target Square  
 Ringwood cover a huge area of the Ringwood township proper and have doubled the shopping area, a far cry from the small rural township of days gone by.

Target Square stands on land where thousands of fruit cases were manufactured to accommodate the huge fruit crops grown in the area prior to the Second World War. The land was purchased from the Pratt family in 1907 by Mr. P. Bamford who operated a sawmill and timber yard, the Cooper Case Co. made the fruit cases from the mill timber. Fire destroyed the business in 1941.

In 1944 Ringwood Timber & Trading Co. began operating and supplied hardware and timber until the mid 1970's. The building was used by various businesses until it was demolished in 1980.

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