



NEWSLETTER AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 1985.

MEETINGS: Christ Church C. of E. Hall, Edward Street, Mitcham. 7.45 p.m.

Wed. 14th August. Mr. Howard will tell us about

'THE LIVING WATERS OF THE YARRA.'

Wed. 11th September. Cr. Coyne will speak on

'GLASS.' [Bring your glass treasures if you like]

ARCHIVES: On July 22nd, Mrs. Norma Jamieson and Mrs. Esther Wolk;
recently appointed by the City Council, began work on our archives.
This is a very exciting event for the society.

Another important news item: Shirley and Ian Barker have
now linked up with Alexander Graham Bell's scheme, and their telephone
number is: 878-3987.

The Museum report by the judges in the recent competition
gave special praise to our children's corner and the luggage collection.

Railway Road, Blackburn. Local people observe with interest the recently
constructed office blocks in this area. In our archives is a plan -
presumed to be about 1890, before the later recession - of a proposed
row of shops and dwellings, each on a frontage of 33 feet, quite usual
in those times. Obviously this scheme did not ever eventuate, and at a
later date, houses were built. Some of the older ones have now been
demolished for the new development.

To celebrate Victoria's centenary, the 'TABLE TALK CENTENARY
REVIEW' was printed in Melbourne in August 1934, price 2/6d. Its contents
were interesting then and remain so today.

There were articles on: Landmarks in Victorian History - the
Sorrento settlement, early explorers, foundation and development of
Melbourne, Separation 1850-1, discovery of gold and progress in general;
official population figures: 1860 - 528,234, and in 1934 - 1,800,000.
Also included were Aborigines, Trees, Animals, Birds, Century of Victorian
Sport, Maritime history from Cook to the Royal Navy. Prince Henry of
Gloucester was to dedicate the Shrine of Remembrance. The Manchester
Unity Building was 'recently built on the site of Melbourne's most
valuable land, purchased four years ago at £3250 per foot'.

The first banking business in Melbourne in 1838 was established
by Mr. Rucker from Van Dieman's Land, under the responsibility of the
Derwent Banking Company of Hobart Town.

In the same year, Mr. Macarthur set up the Bank of Australasia, and a branch of the Union Bank was also opened. Previous to this year, all business was conducted by orders on Sydney or Van Dieman's Land at a discount or 'rate of usance' of between 20 to 40 per cent. But the new banks established a rate of exchange of 5 per cent which continued for some years. In the advertisements, the State Savings Bank of Victoria stated that in 1841, there were 230 depositors, in 1934, 1,272,004. Also included: Centenary of a great State and a great bank - Commercial Banking Co. of Sydney [with which is amalgamated the Bank of Victoria, Ltd.].

Some of the advertisements were:

Amalgamated Wireless [A'sia Ltd] - 21 years of service.
 Dunlop, the great Australian tyre, as British as the Empire.
 Victoria and Rosella both record a century of progress, the former in industry, buildings, culture and civic pride, the latter in the production of 'Over 100 Quality Pure Foods.'
 HEENZO [for coughs, colds, 'Flu] - a Famous Heenzo Ad. repeated after 18 years in response to many requests.
 Schumann's Mineral Spring Salts - 'and to be well-groomed inside, take a daily dose of Schumann's Salts'.

The BIRD OBSERVERS' CLUB of Victoria, its headquarters in Springvale Road, Nunawading, this year celebrates its eightieth birthday. Both Blackburn Lake and Yarran Dheran are popular haunts for bird observers.

In the Museum we have a child's hoop, with a wooden handle attached to a piece of metal with a hook on the end, for bowling the hoop. A library reference book states that in Victorian times, this was called a 'skimmer', while a later book refers to this in Edwardian times as a 'skid'.

At Birkenhead Pt. Marina is the SYDNEY MARITIME MUSEUM, with one of the world's largest and most valuable collection of ships. For a nation said to be founded on the sheep's back, it is as well to remember that as late as 1840, just over half the colony of New South Wales' total earnings came from income derived from the sea : - from whaling and sealing. Sydney was the centre of the trade, embracing the southern oceans of the world, and this Maritime Museum does much to preserve the memory of that lost emipence.

WHAT IS AN ACTIVE MEMBER?

Are you an active member
 The kind that would be missed
 Or are you just content
 If your name is on the list?

Do you ever visit a member
 In distress or who is sick
 Or leave the work to just a few
 Then talk about the clique?

Do you attend the meetings
 And mingle with the Flock
 Or do you stay at home
 And criticise and knock?

Think this over, Fellow citizens
 You all know right from wrong
 Are you an active member
 Or do you just belong?

Do you take an active part
 And help the work along
 Or are you satisfied to be
 The kind that just belong?

From Warrandyte Historical Society
 Newsletter.

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