

**NUNAWADING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER**

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**NEWSLETTER - NOVEMBER 1985 - FEBRUARY 1986.**

**PLEASE NOTE:** Next meeting: Wednesday 11th December, 7.45 p.m.  
in the COURTYARD ROOM, CIVIC CENTRE, Whitehorse Road, Nunawading.

Would each member bring a small plate of supper and any old Christmas cards or decorations to show to the group (or any other historic object).

First meeting for 1986: Please note the date as there is no other newsletter before this:

WEDNESDAY, 12th February, 1986, 6.30 p.m. at the Museum.

Bring your own picnic tea. After this, we will hold our usual meeting.

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ANNUAL MEETING on 9th October, the following office-bearers were elected:

President: Mr. Bill Gray Tel. 874 2731  
Vice-President: Mrs. Teddy Poole 878 2880  
Secretary: Mrs. Judith Fry 874 4220  
Asst. Secretary: Mr. Andrew Hillier 874 3954  
Treasurer: Mrs. Shirley Barker 878 3987  
Newsletter Editor: Mrs. Doris Mattingley 878 4630  
Committee: Mr. Alan Poole, Miss Chris Otterbach, Mrs. Beryl Gray

Thanks to all office-bearers of 1985, especially Past President Joan Rocznick for her dedication to the Archives project.

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On 13th November, members were fascinated by the collection of glassware brought along by our Mayor, Cr. W. Coyne, and his detailed descriptions of these and their historical backgrounds. Our thanks to Cr. Coyne. (A detailed account is in our minutes).

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**EXCITING NEWS:**

Mr. Peter McArthur of Eastern Community broadcasters at Ringwood recently invited our society to participate in a broadcast during the first week in December. It is four years since the last similar session. Other historical and community groups in the outer eastern suburbs are also taking part, and broadcasts of all their activities will occur each day during this particular week - sorry we do not know exact times. However, if you can listen to F.M. band 90.5 MHz, you may be fortunate enough to hear all about ourselves!

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**AUSTRALIA DAY (Formerly A.N.A. DAY)**

Each year on Australia Day, our Nunawading Council organises a special Family Festival for the city's residents at the Civic Centre. The Blackburn and Mitcham Reporter of 3/2/1928 described how the local people enjoyed themselves more than fifty years ago on the same weekend [reprinted from our Newsletter of August-September 1970].

2.  
MONSTER CARNIVAL

The holiday spirit pervaded Blackburn during the ANA weekend to an extent it has never enjoyed before, when probably one of the largest carnivals Melbourne has ever seen was held in Morton Park. That the carnival would be an outstanding success was a foregone conclusion.... Attendance on Saturday was in the region of 2500, but on Monday it had swelled to 6000.....Attractions were many and varied: Scout troops demonstrated signalling and rope spinning; St.Vincent de Paul's Orphanage rendered selections, and sideshows included ocean wave, merry-go-round, dips, orange tree, slide for life; also included were Highland dancing, a baby show, children's races, whippet racing, motor gymkhana, tennis tournament and athletic exhibitions. Novelty events included an amusing race between draught horses for the BLACKBURN CUP. The Blackburn Hall became a palais de danse on each evening and was packed with dancers, a confetti battle on Monday night ending the programme in true carnival style.

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ROADS AND TRACKS

Dictionary definition of 'ROAD': a track suitable for wheeled traffic.

The 'Nunawading Gazette' of 30/10/85 [its happy 21st birthday edition] announced the completion and official opening of the final section of Springvale Road in Nunawading, this road stretching from Edithvale to Donvale. The August-September edition of 'ROADS, Victoria', the official journal of the Road Construction Authority, announced the anticipated completion of this road in November.

In this publication, Peter Alsop contributed an outline history of Victoria's early roads. Almost immediately after the District of Port Phillip became the Colony of Victoria, gold was discovered, and the subsequent increase in population - from about 77,000 to 253,000 at the end of 1854 - put a great load on roads and bridges, especially those leading to the goldfields. Travellers told horrifying tales of quagmires and of coaches, drays and horsemen plastered over with mud. The streets of Geelong in 1853 were so bad that in the evenings men were employed to carry on their backs ladies going from their hotels to the theatre.

Local news in the 'BLACKBURN & MITCHAM REPORTER' 12/8/1927

TUNSTALL (now Nunawading)

'Walker's Road, at the side of the Tunstall store and Post Office, at present resembles a morass, and during the past fortnight two large motor vehicles have been bogged there. The first one managed to manoeuvre its way out without assistance, but the second on Monday was so imbedded it had to be dug out, and then towed by another wagon. The local Progress Association applied to the local Shire Council for several loads of broken tiles for the road, and offered to supply the labor, but this request was refused, and it seems as if such incidents will be a common occurrence while the wet weather lasts.'

The Roads and Bridges Department, the Central Road Board and the Board of Land and Works were some of the early road and bridge authorities. We remember the Country Roads Board of more recent times, now the R.C.A. This present body states that it creates and maintains the principal road system in Victoria within the overall context of the transport needs of the community.'

We may well rejoice that we live today with our many fine 'tracks suitable for wheeled traffic.'

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Editor: Mrs. Doris Mattingley.

Prepared for posting by Beryl Gray and Val Riches