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NUNAWADING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
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NEWSLETTER - MARCH - APRIL 1986

Next meeting: Wednesday 12th March, 7.45 p.m.
Christ Church C. of E. Hall, Edward St., Mitcham.
Mr. Wal Ashton, F.B.H.I., F.H.G.A., Life Member Horological Guild of Australia, will speak to us on 'CLOCKS and WATCHES'.

Please note that the speaker will be first on our program and our business meeting will take place afterwards.

Wednesday, 9th April: Program not yet finalised.

We had a very good attendance at our February meeting, with several new people, at the Museum.

At the City Council's Australia Day Family Festival, many visitors inspected our photographs and commented knowledgably on some, so we felt it was a successful day for us.

Joan and Jan Rocznik and their daughters came to Australia in 1964, and have been associated with our society since 1965.

Joan and her family extend warm thanks and appreciation for the help and sympathy shown by society members in the form of a beautiful flower arrangement and by the presence of several at the Requiem Mass for Jan. Vale Jan.

Our Honor Board in the Museum now has a third plaque for our 'craftsman and friend', Harold Bakes. A well-deserved honor.

HOPPER'S CROSSING - a suburb of Werribee or a township in its own right? Why this name?

In the nineteen twenties, a family named Hopper lived near a level crossing about two miles from Werribee. As numbers of fatal accidents occurred there when cars and trains collided, the highway was eventually diverted, thus avoiding a crossing in this area.

Now, Hopper's crossing has extensive shopping facilities and its own column in the real estate advertisements in the Saturday newspapers.

From the 'BLACKBURN & MITCHAM REPORTER' of 3/2/1928.

New Water Main. The new water main through Mitcham, Waverley and Notting Hill was completed last month. The work consisted of the laying of 4 miles 18 chains of 46 inch main from the Mitcham Reservoir to provide for increased supply of O'Shannassy water to the extent of 32,000 gallons a day more than could have been delivered from Mitcham Reservoir last summer. The 30 inch branch to Notting Hill Reservoir, consisting of 2 miles 34 chains in length, is also finished and will place the supply to that reservoir in an entirely satisfactory condition.

More about Victoria's early roads, from the RCA Journal 'ROADS' by Peter Alsop.

The Central Road Board was created by an act of the Victorian Parliament (Royal assent Feb. 1853) for the purpose of making and improving roads in the Colony of Victoria. By 1869, 106 road districts had been formed, with many of these now shires. The Road Act Amendment of 1854, among other laws, formalized the British tradition of driving on the left side of the road and provided a penalty of £5 maximum for those who were convicted of ignoring the convention.

Charles Gavan Duffy was extremely active in the movement for federation and also in the land question. He saw the building of more and better roads as part of the struggle to break up the large holdings of the squatters and to settle the diggers from the gold fields on the land.

From 1856 to 1860, more than 1.4 million pounds were spent on roads and bridges. Melbourne and Geelong had most, with Ballarat, Castlemaine, Wangaratta, Western District and Beechworth all sharing. Alas, Gippsland obtained only some logged roads.

To-day, of the 160,000 km of Victorian public roads, there are RCA declared roads, state highways, freeways, main roads, tourists' roads and forest roads.

ANOTHER LINK WITH ENGLISH HISTORY

The 'ROSE HOTEL' at Bunbury, W.A., built in 1865, was nearly a 'temperance' hotel as the first application was refused, because of the two hotels already in the town. A petition to the Governor resulted in a reversal of the earlier decision.

There is beautiful cast-iron lacework on the verandas, and inside, the public rooms are still preserved in decor, furniture and ornaments reflecting the early nineteenth-hundreds era.

In the courtyard is a statue of Henry II, one of the Plantagenet Kings of England (1154-89). This same statue once stood with statues of other Kings in alcoves around the main door of the Westminster Houses of Parliament in England. During the 1941 blitz, these were dislodged by bomb blast and were eventually replaced by fibreglass replicas. All the originals were sold to a collector in Canada, except one - Henry II, and the 'ROSE HOTEL' is now its last resting place. Exactly how this happened, no-one seems to know!

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