



NEWSLETTER - MAY - JUNE 1986

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

Wednesday, 14th May: Mrs. Christine Fensham, Nunawading City Councillor will speak on her experiences in China.

Wednesday, 11th June: Mr. Len Elliott will speak. He is an antique restorer and conservator, and was formerly curator of a museum in New Zealand.

CONFERENCE 1986

Saturday, 19th April was the twentieth anniversary of the formation of the Committee of Eastern Historical Societies, and the second oldest such registered group in Victoria, the first being the Western District Committee, based at Warrnambool.

Nunawading was the host society, and, while attendance was less than anticipated, ten societies were represented and all appeared to find the experience both rewarding and enjoyable. The venue of Nunawading Council's Horticultural Centre was an ideal choice. Visitors were able to enjoy the surroundings from both inside and outside, including the viewing of one of the hothouses.

President, Mr. Bill Gray welcomed those present and then Miss Gray presided over the meeting. On incorporation - a much-discussed topic today - it was reported that some societies have completed this step, while others are in the process of so doing. The RHSV had suggested an 'umbrella' type policy, but this has yet to be discussed further.

Because of information on the present brochure of Eastern Historical places becoming outdated, suggestions were sought as to the best solution for this. To re-issue an updated version would be very expensive; perhaps a body such as the RACV would undertake some publicity; or perhaps all societies could contribute towards some regular advertisement in the 'Age' Weekender (or similar paper) - but much investigation will be needed first.

On the constant requests from schools for INSTANT information, a suggestion for a reference brochure was made, participants perhaps to include Eastern Regional Societies, Education Department and local schools. This will need further discussion, however, we all hope that some feasible solution may be worked out.

The visiting delegates presented their reports from their societies, and Miss Gray gave a reminder of the Maryborough excursion 24-26 October.

After a delicious lunch, the visitors came to see the Schwerkolt Cottage complex and of course, our Museum. The fine weather meant that the afternoon tea could be served out of doors. We were delighted to have with us again Mrs. Nancy Leach and Miss Kitty McGaw and Mr. Harold Bakes. Later Andrew Hillier led a group of walkers to Yarran Dheran.

Many thanks to all those members who assisted in catering for the meals during the day.

If 'Meeting Place' is the meaning of 'Nunawading', the day's events were a happy contribution.

[Thanks to Andrew Hillier for this report - he has detailed notes on the meeting if any members wish to study these].

SPEED - A Problem now and also in former years.

One problem for all councils today is the excessive speed of many vehicles in residential streets. Roundabouts and raised pavement slow points have been installed in some places in Nunawading in an attempt to counteract this.

More than fifty years ago, there was also trouble in regard to speed - as it was defined then.

In the 'Ringwood Borough News' of 30/1/1931, the Box Hill Police Court news was :

Thirty miles an hour.

On a charge of having driven a loaded truck at a speed of 30 miles per hour, on Dec. 29th on the Whitehorse Road, Ringwood, William Tortice appeared before Mr. Wade on Thursday, January 29th. Constable Godfrey of the Police Patrol, said: "I asked him why he was travelling so fast," and he said 'he did not think he was doing more than 30 miles per hour.' The truck was loaded with bags of flour.

Defendant, who pleaded guilty, was fined £2.

In the 'Blackburn & Mitcham Reporter' of 3/2/1928: Motor Cycle Nuisance.

The motor cycle nuisance in Central Road was the subject of a complaint by a resident of Central Road, Tunstall, to the Blackburn-Mitcham Shire Council at its meeting on Monday evening. It is stated that almost every evening, from about 7 p.m. until midnight, Central Road becomes a race track for youths on motor cycles, who go backwards and forwards at top speed, with exhausts open, and sometimes without lights.... It was decided to refer the matter to Blackburn and Mitcham police, and to provide a stop-watch to the Blackburn police for the purpose of checking speeds.

CENTENARY

DOOKIE Agricultural College in north-eastern Victoria opened in 1886, the second such college in Australia, the first being Roseworthy in S.A. It began with 21 students but today 195 follow full-time courses with 150 part-time. Over the years, the college has produced almost 3000 diplomates, some of whom have later held significant positions in private industry, small business and the public service.

Now titled the Dookie Campus of the Victorian College of Agriculture and Horticulture, this institution celebrated its centenary on April 12-13, with many former students and staff gathering for the exciting event.

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