



NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 1986

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

WEDNESDAY 10th September. Will each member bring along a 'treasure', (however small) to talk about, or a brief historical anecdote to read or relate.

WEDNESDAY 8th October. ANNUAL MEETING. Election of office-bearers, Annual Report, Treasurer's Report. etc.

Story of MALCOLM STREET, BLACKBURN SOUTH, compiled by
MR. O.S. GREEN.

In July, Miss Rachel Faggetter addressed us on Museums, and we had an enjoyable and informative evening with her.

In August, several members attended the Doncaster-Templestowe Historical Society meeting at Schramm's Cottage. Andrew Hillier gave a brief account of Schwerkolt Cottage, and then we heard the story of German pioneers in the Doncaster district. We appreciate the kindness of our host society.

Members who have known Miss Kitty McGaw during her years with our society were sad to hear of her death. However, we were so pleased that we had her with us in the afternoon of the Regional Society meeting, as we know what great pleasure it gave her. Our sympathy was conveyed to Kitty's sister, Mrs. Blackwell.

Our sympathy also to Mr. & Mrs. Leach and Mr. and Mrs. Patterson for recent bereavements in their respective families.

Following the recent opening of our versatile Arts Centre in Nunawading this extract from the 'BLACKBURN & MITCHAM REPORTER' of 5/8/1927 is specially interesting from the historical viewpoint: (Reprinted from Newsletter 31, Aug-Sept. 1970).

PROPOSED NEW SHIRE OFFICES

Lively Meeting at Mitcham

A large number of ratepayers attended the Memorial Hall on Thursday, 28 ult. to hear the views of Crs. Lawson and Halliday regarding the new Shire premises. About thirty motor-cars conveyed residents from Blackburn, who made their presence heard in the course of the evening meeting. There were also a number of ratepayers from Tunstall, many of whom it is feared, were anything but dumb...

Cr. Lawson then exhibited a plan of the proposed buildings as they will appear upon the completion of the scheme, although it was intended to now build only shire offices. The plan would allow of additions to be made without violating the original plan.....The plan set out a lawn at the front entrance to the hall, with curved driveway. Provision is suggested for cloak-rooms on either side of the main foyer; the main hall /2..

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is shown to be 96' by 52' to seat 800 people, also stage and dressing rooms, kitchen and supper room, and attached, a baby health centre building. Over the main entrance door a gallery to accommodate 200 people is provided for. On the left side of the building, the plan sets out an entrance hall of 24' by 12' to the Shire offices. On the left of this entrance are the rate collector's office, shire secretary's office, inspector's office, and to the right of the entrance, the engineer's office and waiting room, and draughting room of 20' by 10'. This portion of the building would be of two stories, to provide for a council chamber on the second storey of 40' by 30', to seat 29 persons. The approximate cost of the whole of the buildings would be £4500...Cr. Lawson proposed that swimming baths also be erected in the future, adjacent to the hall site, the water from which could be used for gardens adjoining both the baths and the Municipal hall. If the ratepayers liked to organise properly and give combined voluntary help, the baths could be built for £500.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

1986 is the year of 150th anniversary celebrations, with many events taking place in small towns as well as cities. ROBE Primary School had its centenary in April, amid great excitement.

Guichen Bay, about 350km. S.E. of Adelaide was visited by sealers, whalers and sailors long before the settlement of the State. In 1856 Governor Robe selected this site for a town and it was later proclaimed a port. Many Irish migrants and Scottish families arrived in the eighteenth-fifties, to be followed by thousands of Chinese en route to the Victorian gold-fields. Landing here meant avoidance of the Victorian 'landing tax' of £10, then a large sum equivalent of the fare to Australia for each man. Ship owners then naturally sought cargoes for their return voyages. Soon the Robe district supplied horses for the Indian Army and wool, tallow and sheepskins for Europe. After peak prosperity in 1864, the place declined into a fishing port only. However, today much of the town remains little altered, with its 19th century buildings, similar in a way to our Victorian town of MALDON.

{Reprinted from Newsletter No. 23, July 1969}
{From VICTORIA AND ITS RESOURCES. Ed. E.J. Dyer. 1893}.
Scent and Herb farming.

The Government itself established a scent farm of 20 acres in extent at Dunolly a few years ago...The largest and almost the only other scent farm in the colony is situated at Mitcham in the Shire of Nunawading, about 20 miles east of Melbourne. It was established about 25 years ago by Mr. W.H. Slater (a native of Mitcham, near London) who carried on the business of growing, distilling and otherwise preparing herbs and flowers for commercial purposes and who has found an excellent market for all he could produce. The extent of his herb garden is only 5 acres, but he is an orchardist as well.

Mr. Slater has found the business highly profitable, as for instance in the case of mint, has obtained 4 tons per acre, yielding 6 lbs. of oil to the ton or 24 lbs. per acre, value 35/- per pound, equal to £41 from an acre of land, while lavender has yielded oil to the value of £117 per acre- results which clearly show the suitability of the soil and climate for their culture.

NOMINATION FOR OFFICE BEARER / NUNAWADING HISTORICAL SOCIETY 1986.

.....nominated for the office of.....

by.....seconded by.....

signed by.....[signature of person nominated]

Please cut off at dotted line if wishing to submit a nomination at A.G.M.