

# NUNAWADING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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FEBRUARY MEETING On Wednesday 14 February, at the Coffee Shop, Civic Centre, Whitehorse Road, Nunawading, we will have as our Guest Speaker Mr Ken McIntyre, a member of the Box Hill Historical Society. His topic will be "Cook's Portuguese Predecessors", a subject which Mr McIntyre has made an extensive study of in the past and has furthered his knowledge on his recent visit to Portugal. We can look forward to a very interesting talk.

ANNUAL ELECTIONS The following office bearers were elected for 1973 at our Annual Meeting on 10 October 1972.

President: Mr M. Chatwin. Vice-Pres: Mr K. Patterson. Secretary: Mrs J. Webster. Treasurer: Mrs S. Barker. Committee Mrs Jean Field, Mr & Mrs Higginbotham, Mr G. Tilson and Mrs Anis Poussard.

## PROGRAM FOR 1973

<u>February 14</u>	Guest Speaker - Mr K. McIntyre - "Cook's Portuguese Predecessors"
<u>March 14</u>	Guest Speaker - Mayor of Nunawading Cr F.T. <del>Taylor</del> <b>Taylor</b> "Environmental Comparisons between Country & Urban Living"
<u>April 11</u>	Guest Speaker - Mr Alan West, Curator in Anthropology, National Museum - "Victorian Aboriginal Relics"
<u>May 9</u>	Guest Speaker - Jean Field - "Historical Interests from Abroad"
<u>June 13</u>	Guest Speaker - Mrs Dorothy Goble MLA "A Short History of Parliament House"
<u>July 11</u>	At Wesley Hall, The Avenue, Blackburn. Higher School Certificate Students' Night. Details to be advised.
<u>August 8</u>	W O R K N I G H T
<u>September 12</u>	Guest Speaker - Colonel G. Palmer - "The Salvation Army's Inala Village"
<u>October 10</u>	Annual Meeting
<u>November 14</u>	Guest Speaker - Mr Ross Holloway - "Tyntyndyer Homestead and it's place in Local History"

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Churches of Nunawading (Past and Present) will be continued as research material comes to hand.

HISTORY OF THE NUNAWADING HISTORICAL SOCIETY (1965-1972)

HOW IT ALL BEGAN

At a public meeting on 17 October 1965, in the Mayor's Room at the Council Chambers, it was decided to form the Nunawading and District Historical Society; (later the name was changed to Nunawading Historical Society) to encourage the study of local history and preserve Australian generally. Since the Inaugural Meeting on 22 November 1965, regular monthly meetings have been held and these now take place in the Coffee Room at the Civic Centre on the second Wednesday of each month at 8 pm. Subscriptions are: Family Membership \$3, Single \$2 Student 50 cents. Members at once commenced to gather as much information on the beginning of Nunawading as they could, by interviewing older residents and recording all they could find out about the early days of our district.

PUBLICATIONS

A year after the commencement of the Society, a two page "Brief History of Nunawading" was produced. This proved very popular with local school children for use in their studies, so last year it was updated by Miss E. Ronaldson. It now comes in the form of a booklet called "A Short History of Nunawading" and sells for 30 cents. A bi-monthly newsletter is sent to each member and has proved to be a great means of communication.

Our records were greatly appreciated by Mr Niall Brennan, who was happy to cull items from them and follow up clues they revealed for material for his book "History of Nunawading:", commissioned by Nunawading City Council and recently published.

PROGRESS

Ever since the Inaugural Meeting, Society members have continued to collect, restore and preserve items, documents, maps, sub-division plans etc., in order to obtain, as near as possible, a correct history of Nunawading. To mention a few of the collections: Mrs Pat Faggetter has photos and facts about the Slater family and their herb and perfume business. Mr Keith Patterson specialises in collecting maps and records of land sales and sub-divisions, Mr & Mrs Field have wonderful display material on the pottery industry dating back to the 1880's and before. Our President, Mr Chatwin, has done a splendid job of binding our collection of local papers and at the Secretary's home there is a miscellaneous collection of items given to the Society from time to time. Through our member, Miss Eleanor Ronaldson, we were fortunate to get possession of some orchard machinery, now stored at the council depot.

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#### AIMS

The Society has presented petitions and plans to the Council for a "Home" for the Society; a place to keep these treasures of bygone days and archives to house our records and historic books. Of two plans submitted, the Council has approved of the second one and we feel confident that, before long, this plan will be a reality and there will be a place where local citizens and visitors can browse through photos, records and items of historic interest. We know that once our Museum is established, many more treasures will be unearthed and passed on to us for preservation and display.

#### TOURS

Tours of other districts near and far, are an important part of our year's program. We have toured the City of Melbourne, this year the City of Nunawading. Other day tours have been to Ballarat, Bendigo, Maldon, Sunbury and the Mornington Peninsular, whilst some members have taken the opportunity to attend country Conventions to see Swan Hill, Geelong and this year Wangaratta. On November 25, we will join Ringwood Research Group on a tour of the Narre Warren districts.

#### EDUCATIONAL

Except on "Work Nights", there is a Guest Speaker at each meeting. Speakers are selected for a talk on a topic of historic interest. At the September meeting our own member, Mrs Sharpe, will speak on "Woods Point", whilst at our November meeting Mrs Marjorie Tipping, President of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, will tell us about the "Early Convicts at Sorrento, in 1803". Each July meeting is designed for the benefit of Higher School Certificate students of Australian History in our local and nearby schools. On this occasion, the Guest Speaker is a Professor of History from one of the Universities, and we hire Wesley Hall in order to accommodate the students who are invited. This year, we were fortunate to have Professor Geoffrey Blainey as the speaker and Wesley Hall was filled to capacity.

Throughout the year our members were asked to speak at local schools and other organisations. At present, through a generous donation from Rotary, a kit of enlarged photos is being prepared for use on these occasions.

#### CENTENARY YEAR

We close this history with our busiest year yet. We started Centenary Year with the aim to find:

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Subscriptions for 1973 are now due. Please send your cheque to the Treasurer.

- (1) The Citizen who has lived the longest length of time in Nunawading  
This is Mrs Louisa Smith, aged 93, who has lived all her life in this district and born not far from her present home in Rooks Road.
- (2) The oldest house still occupied as a dwelling  
This is in Springvale Road, formerly owned by the McClelland family and originally situated in Whitehorse Road, opposite the Civic Centre. It is now owned and occupied by Mr & Mrs G. Florio and their son Carl.
- (3) The oldest business still operating  
This is Vitclay Pipes Pty. Ltd. (formerly Commonwealth Potteries), established in 1873 by the White Bros. whose garden edging tiles can still be found in some gardens in the inner suburbs.

The above findings did not come about without a lot of research and members of our Research Committee are still far from satisfied with their work for the Centenary Year. They aim to record the names of all the pioneer families of the City of Nunawading as we know it today, and to establish the most important facts about their early days in the district. Because we have moved from farming and orchards, to residential and industry, our past history is certainly an interesting one.

The climax of the Centenary Year was the "Wild Colonial Ball" in the almost completed Central Library. Our Council is certainly to be commended for giving the citizens of Nunawading such a unique opportunity to celebrate the occasion.

#### THE FUTURE

The years to come could be busier even than this one. There is so much to do, to learn, to seek and preserve. We must also record all the important events that are taking place in our city right now. As far as the Historical Society is concerned, it is just the beginning. There is still so much we do not know about our district. Only last week we found our first photo and papers of William Witt, M.P. and first Shire President and probably, he could go down in history as our most important figure. Now we have found his grand-daughter, who lives in Ringwood and has so much material to pass on to us, we will not rest until we know all there is to record about that gentleman.

And so it goes on and on and I feel sure the years to come are going to be busy and fruitful ones.

Compiled by Anis Poussard, Hon. Secretary. 28.8.1972.

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