

# NUNAWADING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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ANNUAL MEETING The Annual Meeting will be held at the Civic Centre on Wednesday October 10. As usual there will be no guest speaker, but members are asked to bring along half a dozen slides which are likely to be of general interest, and photographs of themselves as children. The photographs are to be the basis for a guessing competition, with perhaps a prize for the best guesses.

NOVEMBER MEETING The last meeting for the year will be on Wednesday, November 14. Our speaker will be Mr. R. Holloway, of Tintindyer homestead, Swan Hill. Besides owning this property, which is classified by the National Trust, and open for public inspection, Mr. Holloway took the leading part in establishing the Pioneer Village at Swan Hill.

WORLD WAR 1 Dr. Ian Turner of Monash University described World War 1 at our annual Higher Schools Certificate night at Wesley Hall in August when we had the usual good attendance from secondary schools. Dr. Turner described the changing techniques of war which led to stalemate in which large forces fought over an area about twice the size of Melbourne, with heavy losses and little territorial gain. The war began with high spirits and hopes that it would last long enough for Australians to enjoy an adventure, but as fighting became bogged down into apparently futile destruction many became appalled and horrified. On the other hand there was a strong feeling of comradeship among most of the soldiers. Among its more important effects in Australia was the bitterness arising from the conscription issue and the splitting of the Labour party, and the great gap of understanding between fathers who had fought in the war and their sons who had not. Each approached new political and international problems from widely different premises.

INALA VILLAGE Something of the life of old people was described by Col. G. Palmer at the September meeting. The Salvation Army, which had a Men's Eventide Home at Pakenham bought a property of 22 acres in Middleborough Road in 1910 and moved men and buildings to it for greater convenience in administration. Those buildings were still in use in 1945, although they were becoming out of repair and no longer adequate for good accommodation. However they could not obtain a permit to demolish them until they were deliberately let become uninhabitable. In their place a complete set of new buildings for old men and a

village of small units for couples or single women were built. Residents can attend to their own meals, etc, or arrange to eat in a communal dining room, and are free to come and go as they please. Nearly 400 people live there, in what is called "Inala" and nearly 100 old men in the other part of the property. This does not meet the full needs for accommodation for old people, as the Homes have a waiting list of 1,000 people wishing to come in.

EXCURSION TO NEPEAN AND SORRENTO A very enjoyable excursion, in glorious weather, attracted 37 people to the Mornington Peninsula on Sunday, September 16. The party met Mr. Ronaldson, of the Nepean Historical Society, at the Collins Memorial at Sorrento, and he acted as guide. Among the places visited were Sullivan's Bay site of the first settlement, platform of the old railway at the pier, the terminus on the ocean beach, the Quarantine Station and cemetery, and the museum at Sorrento, a model for our own proposed museum. A feature of the tour was the opportunity to visit the end of Point Nepean, a place not usually open to the public and beyond the end of the road.

SPEAKERS FOR NEXT YEAR The programme for next year is now being prepared, and most meetings have been filled, but there are still no speakers arranged for some. Any suggestions for possible speakers would be welcomed.

GAOL PADLOCKS At our last meeting the society was shown two padlocks presented to us by Mr. J. Harris. They had been given to his father, who repaired locks at some of the gaols, and came from Pentridge. If any members know of, or can locate historical relics of any kind we would be glad to receive them, as we hope to have our building shortly to place such things on display.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MAYORESS Our secretary, Mrs. J. Webster, is now Mayoress, as her husband has been elected Mayor. We congratulate her, and hope she will have a happy and not too strenuous year of office. Unfortunately this means we will have to find a new secretary, who should be elected at the annual meeting.

CENTENARY OF BOX HILL CEMETERY This is the centenary year of Box Hill Cemetery. Before the cemetery was established most funerals had to go to other districts, except for a few in the grounds of the little new churches. The new cemetery was to serve all denominations and trustees were elected to represent the different denominations at a meeting on 22 March 1872. However the first meeting of the trustees was not until 10 June 1873, when they had to decide urgently to approve a tender for fencing. A government grant of 10 was available, but had to be claimed by 30 June. There must have been earlier informal meetings, as land



had been set aside for burials and the western half of the present cemetery had been reserved. The first burial was of Jessie Smith, a three-year old girl from Nunawading, buried in the Independent section. The service was conducted by Mr. Pentland.

The first trustees were W. Ellingworth, G. King, J. Aspinall, Robert Sutton, Charles Bedford, Stewart Sargeant and G.P. Gatter. Sargeant lived on the south-east corner of Whitehorse and Middleborough Roads. There is a Sargeant Street in the area now, and streets in Box Hill are named after Ellingworth, Aspinall and Bedford. William Clisby, who bought land near Williams and Whitehorse Roads, Blackburn, was appointed secretary in 1875. A number of our pioneers' graves are in the cemetery.

To mark the occasion, new gates have been installed at the Middleborough Road entrance.

CAMPBELLFIELD MANOR HOUSE Several of our members were intrigued by an advertisement in August offering for sale the Manor House, Campbellfield. This house is classified by the National Trust and has been open for public inspection for some time, but it has not attracted much attention. The house was built by an early settler about 1854 and has been added to extensively. It was bought by Mr. J. Johnson, a scrap metal dealer, who paid \$135,000 for it and spent \$65,000 on restorations and antique furniture. He added tea rooms and barbecue areas, and was trying to develop another part as a reception room, but found that the returns were insufficient for him to continue. As the house stands in five acres of land in Camp Road, only a quarter of a mile from the Hume Highway, the property seems to be very valuable and to have some potential for motel, guest house or similar use. The core of the property is a solid bluestone building with formal front porch and charming attic rooms, which make a real gem of a building. Additions have not been so happy. What is described as a ball-room has been added to one end, also in bluestone, and similar in style to the original building but with incongruous floor to ceiling windows. Other additions have been made in weatherboard, contrasting badly with the bluestone, and the tea rooms, in very modern style, beside an equally modern swimming pool destroy the atmosphere of last century. The house and two acres of land were offered at auction at the end of August, and were passed in at a little more than \$100,000. Mr. Johnson said that he was prepared to wait for an offer nearer the real value of the property.

LIVERMORE'S PROPERTY SOLD The apple orchard in Morack road owned by Mr. Livermore has now been sold and will be sub-divided into residential allotments. We regret this, as it is the last substantial orchard in our district, but it is inevitable. We tried to have a small portion retained as a sample of the fruit-growing that was the mainstay of Nunawading for nearly 100 years, but it was not possible.

To make a record of the fruit growing industry the Council has allotted \$100 to prepare a photographic record of the property, and has asked the Blackburn and Mitcham Film Society to do the photography. We have been asked to assist and Mr. Tilson will confer with the Film Society.

SIX AND A HALF INCHES OF DESTINY A railway centenary is being recorded by a book published by the Australian Railways Historical Society, "Six and a Half Inches of Destiny". The title refers to the difference between the railway gauges of Victoria and New South Wales, and the publication has been inspired by the centenary of the railway from Melbourne to Wodonga, completed in 1873.

DISPLAY AT FLOWER SHOW We have been asked to make a display at the Vermont Flower Show, which will be at the Vermont Scout Hall on Saturday October 20. Pictures, maps and documents will probably be used and some members of the society may be called on for assistance.

MATTHEW FLINDERS BI-CENTENARY The two-hundredth anniversary of the birth of Matthew Flinders will be recognised next March by a series of events organised by the South Eastern Regional Committee. They will include displays, memorials, a re-enactment of events of his visit to Port Phillip and a ferry cruise following his course around the bay. The dates are March 16 and 17.

REGIONAL MEETING Box Hill, as host for the 10th. regional conference, has arranged to have the combined meeting on Saturday March 30 in the new Box Hill-Doncaster Regional Library. The main feature of displays will be photographs and films.

STORY OF A CEDAR CHEST Mrs. Mattingley tells the story of a cedar chest belonging to a Blackburn family. A Shepparton family, going on the land after 1869, built a house of local logs which is still in use today, but covered with weatherboard. It is much cooler in summer than weatherboard additions. In adding to their home they bought a cedar mantelpiece which some Melbourne relatives were discarding, and it remained in use until a few years ago, when with the addition of a few scraps of cedar, it was made into the chest. So the pest lives on, even if in some new form.

VALUATION OF SCHWABKOLT COTTAGE In 1927 the house and land of Schwabkolt Cottage were under the control of the Public Trustee as Empty Property, and Mr. G. Morton was asked to make a valuation of the property, then occupied by Mr. A. L. Burns. His answer, a copy of which is in a letter book owned by Mrs. Wainwright, described it as nicely situated, practically all cleared except for shelter trees with an old iron-roofed four-roomed stone cottage in bad repair. He valued it at 430.