

## NUNAWADING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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### SYLLABUS FOR 1974

The Syllabus for 1974 is as follows -

February	13	Mrs. Salmon	Wreck of the Loch Ard.
March	13	Mr. V. McNaughton	Tree Preservation Society.
April	10	Mrs. B. Osborne	Story of Bacchus Marsh.
May	8	Cr. J. Willis	Early Nunawading.
June	12	Mr. Alan West	National Museum.
July	10	The Mayor (Cr. N. Webster)	
August	14	School's Night	Dr. Watersun. Monash University.
			Rural Industry and Regional Development.
September	11	Work Night	
October	9	Annual Meeting	Mrs. Pullen.
November	13	Mr. K. Patterson	Japan.

### DISPLAYS

Displays of documents maps and pictures were set up at the Vermont Flower Show in October and in a Chemist's shop in Mitcham during the Christmas period.

### EIGHT ANNUAL REPORT == OCTOBER 1973

This year concludes with the Society having been involved in a great variety of activities and interests in their endeavours to extend the knowledge of Australian History in our locality.

**MEMBERSHIP:** The Society has a membership of 33, comprising 14 family 19 adult and in addition we have 2 Newsletter only subscriptions. We have had an average attendance of 12 members over 8 meetings, and would like to see a greater membership involved in the life of the Society.

**MEETINGS:** We were privileged to have the following guest speakers at our monthly meetings, Mrs. M. Tipping, President of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, Mr. K. McIntyre of Box Hill, Cr. F. Taylor, Mayor of Nunawading, Mr. A. West from the National Museum, Mrs. D. Goble MLA for Mitcham, Mrs. J. Field from our own Society and Col. G. Palmer of the Salvation Army.

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At our August meeting Dr. Ian Turner from Monash University addressed a gathering of approx 150 HSC students on "World War 1" a topic from the Australian History Syllabus. This was well received by the students who made good use of the question time which followed. One monthly meeting was a Work Night, when members indexed newspapers or filed and sorted the Societies' collection of cuttings. The committee met on an additional night to file and index our photographs and commenced sorting Estate Plans and Advertisements.

VISITS: On Sunday July 22nd the Wine Cellar at Schwerkolt Cottage officially opened, many members of the Society were present on this occasion.

Members and their friends made up a Party of 37, who travelled by bus to Sorrento on Sunday 16th September 1973. Mr. Ronaldson, President of the Nepean Historical Society acted as our guide to many points of interest, including the First Settlers' Graves; the Site of the old Tramway from Sorrento Pier to the Back Beach and finally the Societies Museum at the old Mechanics Institute. We were fortunate to have permission to enter the Officers' Cadet School and Quarantine area at Portsea and most took advantage of the beautiful day to walk along the track to the very tip of Point Nepean.

The Society is grateful to Mrs. J. Field, who has presented a number of programmes to local schools, to Mrs. Leach who spoke to the Vermont Red Cross Auxiliary, and to Mrs. Mattingley who was guest speaker at St. John's C of E Blackburn.

Acquisitions during the year have included, 1904 Rifle from Mr. George Nethercote of Vermont, 2 padlocks from Mr. J. Harris of Blackburn. These padlocks were used at either at the Old Melbourne or Pentridge goals.

The Societies' Officers have met with Councillors to discuss storage of the Societies Archives and the proposed Display Centre in the grounds of Schwerkolt Cottage. No definite plans have yet been presented to the Society for either of these two projects. We are most appreciative of the assistance and attention received when we have approached Councillors and Council Staff with our submissions on behalf of the Society.

FINANCE: Our finances are reasonably healthy thanks to the grants received from the Nunawading Council, we have concluded the year with a deficit of \$31.71 and an overall credit balance of \$576.20. Thanks. The office bearers of the Society wish to express their appreciation of the services given readily by members to make possible the many activities of the Society, without their support it would not be possible to be active in our common interest of Australian History.

#### AUGUST SCHWERKOLT'S WILL FOUND.

A copy of the will of August Schwerkolt has been found in the Public Record Office (formerly Archives). It was made on 10 January 1887,



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just six days before his death. His full name was Johann August Schwerkolt and he appointed his second wife Maria Catharine Wilhelmina and her brother John Kruse of Richmond, a marine store proprietor as executors. At the time he had a property in Separation Street, Northcote, as well as the Nunawading farm. His wife was left the Northcote property on condition that she did not sell or mortgage it. The only exception was if she built additional houses on it she could mortgage it to pay for building. She was also left the part of Nunawading property bounded by a creek road and fence, which seems to be the present grounds of the cottage. He mentioned that there was on that land a wine cellar, new house and man's hut. This property was also not to be sold or mortgaged. On his wife's death both properties were to pass to their child or children. Besides that she was left all the contents of the wine cellar half the cows beehives and stones which had been quarried as well as a large spring cart horse and harness and all the furniture. All other property was left to his son Louis Schwerkolt on condition that he paid 10/- a week to Maria.

The date of death was 16 January 1889, and his estate was valued for probate at £956/14/8/

August Schwerkolt had several children by his first wife, but only four are mentioned in the will. Apparently, the others were provided for during August's lifetime. He and Maria had only one child, a daughter from whom the Council bought the cottage.

There is no sign of the new house and man's hut on the land. Possibly they were burnt in a bush fire which passed through the property in 1905.

TYNTYNDER HOMESTEAD The last meeting last year in November was particularly well attended as there were 42 present, including five from Box Hill.

Mr. Ross Holloway told the story of the Tyntynder Homestead near Swan Hill illustrated with slides. The homestead dates back to 1846 and has been in the hands only of the Beveridges, who were the original holders, and the Holloways, who took it over in 1876.

The original log cabin is still standing and in daily use but has been enclosed by a brick veneer, which was probably the first example of this type of construction in Australia. There has never been a clearing sale on the property, so all articles and implements that have ever been used are still on the property and all those on display are originals.

Tyntynder Homestead has a National Trust Classification and is regularly open for inspection.

COMING EVENTS. The Matthew Flinders Bi-Centenary is being celebrated by a series of events organised by the South Eastern Regional Committee. There will be displays memorials a re-enactment of his visit to Port Phillip Bay and a ferry cruise following his course around the bay.

The dates are March 16 and 17.

The tenth regional conference will be at the new Box Hill-Doncaster Regional Library on March 30. Box Hill will be host and the main feature

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will be a display of photographs and films.

FLOODS OF 1909 Mrs. Mattingley has given us the following stories of floods in 1909. We can hope that the present floods in New South Wales will produce similar stories to be preserved for the next century. In 1909, many areas of Victoria suffered from devastating floods, and in particular, the Wimmera district. Nowadays, these floods cannot occur, because the Wimmera River has long been diverted to the water storage system for the Mallee and Wimmera. However, in August, the Adelaide-Melbourne railway line between Murtoa and Stawell was washed away, and the express bound for Melbourne was held up at Murton for three days. On board was the famous singer Peter Dawson, scheduled to fulfil engagements in Melbourne, also the J. C. Williamson Company. Peter Dawson offered £100 - about a year's wages for many - to anyone who would drive him by buggy to Stawell, about 40 miles away. No-one, however, would attempt such a hazardous journey, and Dawson perforce had to remain, marooned in this country town. Apparently, he decided to make the best of the sojourn, and he gave a concert for the townspeople the first night, and the J. C. W. Co. entertained the townspeople the next night. A marvellous treat for the locals. Dawson missed his first scheduled concert in Melbourne, and when he did arrive and sing at another, the Melbourne 'Argus' reported that 'Mr. Peter Dawson, who escaped the floods after a wearisome detention at Murtoa, stepped at once, and deservedly, into popular favor.' No account appeared of the country concerts, obviously because all performers would have been under contract for Melbourne. The story was remembered with pleasure by local people who had the good fortune to be present at the concerts so long ago. On board the train, as well as all the singers, were large quantities of fish. The first day, railway officials refused to dispose of these fish, expecting that the train would proceed the next day. But when the line was still impassable, officials decided to sell the fish - no refrigeration then of course. So the local people had another unexpected treat - they were able to purchase Murray Cod and other unusual dainties from the stock on the train.

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K. A. Patterson - Editor.