

NUNAWADING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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APRIL MEETING The speaker at the meeting on April 10 will be Mrs. B. Osborne, authoress of a recently published history of Bacchus Marsh. She will speak on Bacchus Marsh, and as it was the site of one of the earliest stations near Melbourne, with a number of interesting old buildings, she should be able to give us a good insight into the conditions and the spirit of the early settlements. The place of meeting will be the Coffee Shop at the Civic Centre.

MAY MEETING Cr. J. Willis, the oldest and longest serving member of the City Council, will be our speaker at the meeting, on May 8. Cr. Willis was the pioneer of bus services in the Vermont - Mitcham area and has been constantly in the bus business ever since. No-one has a greater knowledge of the district's history during the last fifty years, and he should be able to fill in a lot of gaps for us.

WRECK OF THE LOCH ARD Mrs. Salmon, who was the speaker at our February meeting, is a direct descendant of pioneers of the Port Campbell district, and it was to her ancestors' home that the sole surviving officer came seeking assistance. Mrs. Salmon knows the district intimately, having been a frequent visitor to her grandparents' property for holidays, and often found relics of the ship, particularly portions of the cargo, washed up on the few beaches of the area. Among them there have been china ornaments, which, in spite of having been washed over rocks, have been recovered intact.

AREAS WORTH PRESERVING Mrs. V. McNaughton, President of the Tree Preservation Society, illustrated a talk on the features of Australia which deserved preservation, with a fine set of coloured slides. Her subjects ranged from historical buildings to natural flora and fauna. Her girlhood was spent in the South Australian Barossa Valley, and she commented on the way in which her husband, who was not a native of Australia, gradually came to appreciate the natural features and environment. This was very similar to the feelings of the first

settlers, who felt they were in an alien land, and tried to establish plants, birds and animals from Europe, which were more familiar to them. Among her pictures there were some of the Burra copper field, including houses cut into the bank of a creek, interesting buildings in various parts of South Australia and Victoria, various types of vegetation and flowers in different parts, including the Little Desert, and, finally photographs of many small birds which frequent her garden in Vermont.

NEW MEMBERS We wish to welcome a number of new members and in doing so we hope that they will find the history of our district of great interest and will assist with research into the origins of various organisations, the development of building and industry and the activities of early families in Nunawading.

EXCURSIONS The committee is considering excursions for the year and at the last meeting a number of suggestions were made about places which would be worth a visit. Any others will also be considered. At present the proposed excursions, from which a selection will be made are:- Half Day - Ripponlea. Full Day - Moe Folk Museum, perhaps including the Coal Creek Museum at Leongatha. Bendigo, including the Central Deborah mine, tram, Joss House and Pottery works Trentham - Blackwood, including goldfields, a pioneer farm and unfrequented mountain country. Weekend - Beechworth and district.

ORCHARD EQUIPMENT FOR MUSEUM Mr. D. Livermore has now given some orchard equipment for our proposed museum. The main item is a two-wheeled cart which was built early this century. He will be giving us a written account of how and when it was built and the use made of it. All the items in this gift are now stored at the Council depot.

MITCHAM SCOTTISH SOCIETY We do not hear a great deal about the Mitcham Scottish Society, but it has quietly accomplished some useful work. It was formed at a meeting at the home of Mr. & Mrs. F. Bawden, 2 Delhi Street, Mitcham, on 1st April, 1955. Its aims were to promote goodwill and friendship; assist in charitable work; foster and help to preserve Scottish tradition and folk-lore and to aid and develop a Pipe Band.

BOOKS FROM A. A. HOOKE ESTATE Two books have been given to the Society from the A. A. Hooke Estate. While not connected in any way with the history of Nunawading, they are of interest for literary history. One is "Hymns in Prose for Children," by Anna Laetitia Barbould (1743 - 1825). This is notable for the way in which it paraphrased biblical passages and reduced them to a greater simplicity for children. Mrs. Barbould was a very gifted teacher of young children and produced many educational publications, all of which show the influence of the Evangelical Movement in the Church of England at the time.

"Divine and Moral Songs" by Isaac Watts, an Independent minister, who was one of the first hymn-writers in England to defy the harshness of some non-conformist creeds. He made hymn singing a regular part of church services long before it was universally acceptable, and these songs, designed for children, are very simply, easily learned and remembered.

We have also received from the estate one of the old screw-down type paper presses and two old sewing machines.

THE SHEEHAN FAMILY Sheehans road runs north from Canterbury Road, between Middleborough Road and Main Street. The area is now completely covered with houses, but it was until comparatively recently an orchard and was occupied by a family which was notable in the Australian Public Service.

It was developed as an orchard about 1894-5 by Arthur and Elizabeth Malcolm Sheehan, and was quite a landmark as it was surrounded by pine trees. They had six sons and two daughters. The two eldest sons took a leading part in the construction of the first railway across the Nullabor Plain to Western Australia. The eldest was a mechanical engineer and the second chief car designer. The second son died in U.S.A. while on a visit for the Commonwealth Railways. The third son, Harry, was for some time secretary to the Commonwealth Treasury before becoming Governor of the Commonwealth Bank. He received the C.B.E. in 1928 and was knighted in 1937. The fourth son died while abroad with the A.I.F., and the orchard was carried on by the two youngest when they returned with the A.I.F. and Australia Flying Corps respectively. The youngest served again in the Second World War with the Royal Australian Air Force, then retired to Queensland, leaving his brother George to continue with the orchard. He sub-divided the land in 1952, and died in 1961. The original family home was built in 1903, and they lived in it until 1968, when the two daughters built a new house for themselves on part of the property.

Occupiers of the first houses on the sub-division have vivid memories of George Sheehan, a big up-standing man, constantly moving among the houses which were being built, walking stick in hand and accompanied by a red setter dog. Buyers had to be personally approved by him before they could begin building and in one case he refused the owner of a transport line because "I'm not going to have you parking your big trucks in the street and disturbing the residents." Besides Sheehans road, which was for a short time known as Hall's Lane, Malcolm street commemorates Mrs. Sheehan and Harry street Sir Harry Sheehan.

FLINDERS BI-CENTENARY Celebrations of the Flinders Bi-Centenary began on March 16 and continued almost every day until March 31. Preliminary events began on March 1 when a Flinders Exhibition was opened at the La Trobe Library. This will continue until April 29. There were also broadcast programmes, mostly to schools, and a dramatic presentation of Ernestine Hill's "My Love Must Wait." Other exhibitions were opened at various places on the Mornington Peninsula and at Geelong. A number of other displays and exhibitions of an historic interest were also presented, mostly in various business houses in Melbourne.

The actual celebrations of his arrival in Port Phillip Bay began with a ceremony at the Flinders monument, St. Paul's Cathedral, on March 16, from which a "Flinders Torch" was carried to the Shrine of Remembrance and Arthurs Seat, with ceremonies at various places on the way. A re-enactment of his landing at Safety Beach, and his visit to Arthur's Seat followed.

On following days there were orations and many other events, including yacht races and sporting events, addresses, musical programmes with a background of Australian history and openings of new headquarters of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria and a new wing of the Matthew Flinders Girls' High School in Geelong.

A history, "Matthew Flinders on the Victorian Coast" by K. A. Austin has been commissioned for the Bi-Centenary by the Government of Vic.

GRAVES OF PIONEERS Many of our pioneers were buried in the Box Hill cemetery and it is easy to find their graves. Running through the burial register from the date of opening the cemetery in 1873 to 1911 the following Nunawading families were noted:-

CLISBY - William Clisby bought land on the north side of White Horse Road, near Williams Road at the first sales in 1855.

Name				Date of Burial
Allan Frederic,	4 months	Box Hill	Wesleyan	21/4/75
Frances Agnes	38 years	Box Hill	Wesleyan	31/12/77
H.S.			Wesleyan	11/6/87
William (teacher)	49 years	Box Hill	Wesleyan	26/8/80

SCHWERKOLT - August Schwerkolt bought land on Deep Creek, Mitcham in 1861 and built the Schwerkolt Cottage.

Paulina	Nunawading	C. of E.	3/1/84
Bertha Maria child	Ringwood	C. of E.	8/12/85
August		C. of E.	17/1/87
Violet	Richmond	C. of E.	5/1/98
Clara Ruby	15 years	Prahran	C. of E. 31/8/1909

KEFFORD - R. Kefford bought land in Canterbury Road, where the Forest Hill shopping centre now stands, at the earliest sales in 1856.

Bertha	6 weeks	Nunawading	C. of E.	16/3/81
W.A.	Infant	Box Hill	C. of E.	4/7/87