

NUNAWADING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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RURAL LONGINGS OF AUSTRALIANS

Dr. Watersun, of the Monash University, spoke on Rural Industry at our August meeting, which was the annual Schools Night. He had devoted a lot of study to the development of the Country Party and the circumstances under which it gained considerable political influence. Early settlers, he thought, had come to Australia with the firm belief that possession of land was synonymous with prosperity and social standing, and they were keen to own their own land. Even today, although conditions are so different that most live in industrialised cities, Australians still have that instinctive desire for their own property and view a quarter-acre building block almost as if it were a 1000-acre farm.

ANNUAL MEETING

The meeting on October 9 will be our Annual Meeting. The Annual Report is included in this Newsletter. It will be presented with the financial statement and there will also be the election of officers. Nomination forms were included in the last Newsletter. Mrs. Pullin, Director of the Royal Historical Society, who was a founder of the Ringwood Historical Society, will be the speaker.

NOVEMBER MEETING

Slides taken on a tour of Japan will be shown by Mr. Patterson on November 13. They will include subjects such as cities, country farms, natural scenery, interesting buildings, gardens, people, houses and Japanese life.

DECEMBER MEETING

This year will end with a more social air than usual at an extra meeting on December 11. Two members will describe their families' histories,

which will probably give others pointers about how to prepare family trees.

NINTH ANNUAL REPORT

The ninth year of the Society has been an active one for the members and office bearers, some progress has been achieved with our objectives.

MEMBERSHIP

The Society has a Membership of Family 17, Adults 18 and Newsletter only 2. we are encouraged by the New Members who have joined us in the past year.

MEETINGS

We were fortunate to have the following Guest Speakers address our Meetings; Mr. Ross Holloway from Tyntynder Homestead near Swan Hill, Mrs. Salmon, whose grandfather assisted in the rescue of the survivors from the "Loch Ard"; Mrs. V. McNaughton from the Blackburn Tree Preservation Society; Mrs. B. Osborn who wrote "The Story of Bacchus Marsh"., Cr. J. Willis who spoke on Early Nunawading, Mr. Alan West from the National Museum, who told of his researches with Aborigines of Central Australia, and finally Dr. Watersun from Monash University, who lectured sixth form Students on "Rural Industry and Regional Development". At our July Meeting our Society, together with members from other Societies in our Region, were guests of our Mayor, Cr. Noel Webster, at a Reception at the Civic Centre. Three films were shown, including one of Nunawading made by the Blackburn Film Society. A discussion followed on the Aims and the progress Societies were making in their various areas; this was continued over supper. Our thanks to the Mayor for giving us the opportunity to gather informally with Societies of the Eastern Region.

VISITS

The Society arranged visits to a variety of Historical areas. The attendance was encouraging. They included the National Trust Property 'Ripon Lea', 'Inala Village' Blackburn, Box Hill Cemetery, Steiglitz, a Gold Mining Ghost Town West of the You Yangs and a guided tour around Bacchus Marsh led by the Secretary of the local Society.

FINANCE

Once again we were fortunate to receive a Grant from the City of Nunawading. We do value this assistance and express our appreciation to the Council.

Our Financial Statement is good due to this Grant. There are a number of Projects we would like to promote, but the Committee wishes to save our resources for the Proposed Display Centre to be built in the surroundings of Schwerkolt Cottage in the not too distant future. This will require all our finance to establish the Displays.

ACQUISITIONS

The Society was given custody of a Gold Watch by Miss B. Neilson, who reported for the Box Hill Reporter the proceedings of the Shire of Blackburn and Mitcham from 1927 to 1930. The watch was presented by the Shire to Miss Neilson for her faithful reporting, when she resigned from the Local Paper to join the staff of the Melbourne Age.

A large Orchard at Vermont, owned by Mr. D. Livermore closed in the last year. The Society was presented with an Orchard Jingle, Harness and a Harvey Plough. These implements were all used in the Orchard and are now stored at the Council Depot until they can be displayed.

A copy of the Will of August Schwerkolt, dated 10 January 1887, was found in the Public Record Office. A copy of the Will is now in the Archives of the Society.

DISPLAYS

Displays were arranged by our members at the Vermont Flower Show, a Pharmacy at Mitcham and of Tiles in the Nunawading Library.

SPEAKERS

The society was asked to provide speakers at various group meetings within the City. The Committee thanks members who readily responded to these requests.

REGIONAL MEETING

The Regional Meeting for Historical Societies was hosted by the Box Hill Society last March. A well attended gathering viewed a film of Box Hill, England and an ABC film on the Artists Camp at Box Hill in 1885. This was followed by reports from other Societies and Supper. Congratulations to Box Hill Society for an excellent Regional Meeting.

ADVERTISEMENTS

The Committee has been anxious to promote the Society as widely as possible. To this end it was decided to advertise our monthly Meeting in the Nunawading Gazette. This has had an encouraging response and has resulted in new Members joining our Society.

NEWSLETTER

The Societies Newsletter has been published bi-monthly. The material for each issue has been gathered and edited by Mr. K. Patterson. We are indebted to him and express our thanks for the high standard of the Newsletter.

Finally, we thank all who have in the past year contributed to the life of the Society. We look forward to further progress in 1975, when we hope that some of our goals will be achieved and further History of Nunawading will be recorded.

WHAT IS IT?

Earlier this year we referred to a mysterious piece of machinery on the bank of the Mullum Creek. Doncaster Historical Society has solved the mystery. It was installed by one of their members, Mr. Petty in 1936 to pump water for his orchard. The engine was 10 h.p. with one piston 6½ in. diameter and piston pad of three feet. There were two flywheels three feet in diameter. It ran on power kerosene and was started by heating a hot bowl with a blow lamp. A charge would then be drawn in by holding a valve open, it would then be closed and by standing on the spokes of the flywheel the piston would be thrown against compression, which fired the charge. A fuel tank holding eight gallons was built into the engine block and it would run all day without attention. After being in constant use until 1962 without any need for repair it was burnt during the bush fires that year. The bank of the creek is very steep, and to get the engine in place Mr. Petty disconnected the flywheels from the piston, attached the engine to a winch, laid planks down to its position and let it run down on the flywheels. Another member of the society, Mr. Beavis, is now trying to restore it to working order for his own use. If he cannot get it going, it will probably be exhibited in an orchard museum they are preparing

PIONEERS BURIED IN BOX HILL CEMETERY

<u>Name</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>Date of Burial</u>
EMERY The land around Mitcham station was owned by Emery at the time the railways was built, and Mitcham was at first called "Emery's Hill".		
Henry Nunawading Hotel-Keeper	Catholic	23.1.1875
Margaret Mitcham	Catholic	7.12.1884

K. A. PATTERSEN
Editor.