

NUNAWADING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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Pres. Mrs. J. Webster	Sec. Mr. C. Tilson	Tres. Mr. I. Barker,
674 Canterbury Rd.	8 Pearcedale Gve.	14 Tortice Ave.
VERMONT. 3133.	NUNAWADING. 3131.	NUNAWADING. 3131

CITY OF BOX HILL JUBILEE

Box Hill arranged a special programme for April 24, fiftieth anniversary of the proclamation of the City of Box Hill, and we joined them for the meeting. One of their members, Mrs. M. Morgan, has done a lot of research into who lived in the Shire of Nunawading 100 years ago, and their conditions of life, using rate books and other contemporary material as her main sources. From this research she was able to describe conditions in our area. Among other exhibits she had the Minute Book of the Shire, opened at the date 24 April 1875 and rate books of the 1870's period.

NATIONAL TRUSTS' EXPANDING ACTIVITIES

The National Trust is widening its activities from preservation of notable buildings to landscapes and other items of national history, as well as such projects as the restoration of the "Polly Woodside". Mr. Keith Mitchell, chairman of the photographic sub-committee, told our May Meeting how its interests are broadening and showed many slides illustrating its activities. Beginning with the purchase of "Como" it now has property worth \$30,000,000, with a corresponding annual cost of upkeep. It is able to maintain its enterprises because of help from State and Federal governments.

GOLDFIELDS OF VICTORIA

Mr. Alan Wilson will be the speaker at the meeting on June 11, at the Nunawading Methodist Church. His subject will be the Goldfields of Victoria, and it will be illustrated by films and slides.

MAYOR'S NIGHT

The July meeting, on the 9th, will be our annual Mayor's night. Cr. Peter James is arranging a function similar to that of Cr. Webster last year, and it will be in the Willis Room at the Library.

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COAL CREEK, KORUMBURRA

The newest historical museum in Victoria is Coal Creek, Korumburra, which we visited on May 3. We were fortunate that two members of the Korumburra Historical Society, Mr. Brown, who had worked in the mine, and Mr. Stevens, who has farmed all his life in the district, showed us over the area, which is the site of the first payable coal mine in Victoria, opened in 1891 when the South Gippsland railway line was built. The display centres around the mine, simulated tunnels and railway siding. There are also a working sawmill, blacksmith's shop and printery. Other buildings moved to the centre from various places in the district include shops, court house, Church and school. Although it has a smaller area than many similar exhibitions and is not yet complete it is already interesting enough to be worth a visit. Future plans include a re-constructed butter factory and street of shops. The surrounding land will be restored as far as possible to its original condition.

PHOTOGRAPHIC ALBUMS

Nunawading covers a large area in which there have been many changes. Those who remember what it was like 40 or 50 years ago are getting fewer every year, and within perhaps another 50 years there will possibly be few living here who can remember what it is like now. As an Historical Society we have to be as interested in recording these changes as in talking about the past, and it is proposed to prepare photographic albums of different sections of the city. We can easily take photographs of buildings and landscapes, but we would like to obtain old photographs to show what it was like in the past, and so make a complete record of our history.

FAMILY MEMORIES

It is proposed also to make a new effort to record the memories and stories of the older residents in the district. This is something in which we have had little success up to now. Forms were once prepared on which representatives of old families could answer questions about the early days. Some information was obtained but the result was generally disappointing. We hope that by means of a new effort we will have a better response.

NAME FOR GOLF COURSE

The City Council has asked us to suggest a name for a golf course it is preparing in Morack Road, Vermont. As Morack Road was the ring road around the proposed town of Norwich in 1861, perhaps Norwich would be appropriate, or perhaps Mayne, after Alexander Mayne, one of the first

apple-growers in the district, who had land nearby, or else one of the other earliest settlers. What do you think?

FARM EQUIPMENT FOR MUSEUM

We have been given a plough and other farm equipment for our proposed museum. At present they have to be stored, but we hope it will not be long before we can have them on display.

MINER'S COTTAGE

Earlier this year we were offered and refused an old miner's cottage from Ringwood. Several service organisations in Ringwood are now combining to dismantle and re-erect it in the Ringwood Lake Reserve, which will preserve it in a more natural setting. The cottage at present is on the north side of Whitehorse Road a short distance beyond the junction with Mt. Dandenong Road.

SHIRE OF NUNAWADING 1875

From the Municipal Directory of 1875 - Shire of Nunawading.

Proclaimed District 7 August 1857. Proclaimed Shire 4 May 1872.

Area 24 square miles. Net Annual Value £10,600

Revenue £2,450 Rate 1/- in £ Tolls - Three

Revenue from tolls £937.

Ratepayers on Rate Book 360. Ratepayers on Roll 310.

Licences Issued 7 Publicans. Total paid £175.

President - William Witt, J.P.

Councillors - North Ward - George King, elected June 1872, William Lawford, August 1873, John McGlone, August 1874.

Central Ward - John Wakefield, August 1873, John Keogh, August 1872, Samuel Collier, August 1874.

South Ward - Alexander Mayne, August 1873, William Bennett, August 1872, William Witt, August 1874.

Officers - Secretary, Treasurer and Engineer - Henry N. Bride, Power Street, Hawthorn.

Collector - F. Clarke

Valuers - H.N. Bride & J. Grant.

The Council met at Delaney's Royal Hotel twice a month and the Secretary was in attendance at Delaney's Hotel on Tuesdays.

Magistrates were :- William Witt and William Ellingworth, J.P's.

Court Sessions were at Hawthorn and post offices at Box Hill,

Ballyshannassy (now Burwood) and Delaney's Road (now Surrey Hills.)

The three shire ridings ran from east to west along Whitehorse

Delaney's (now Canterbury) and Ballyshannassy (now Burwood) Roads.
The three toll gates were on the three main roads.

RATEPAYERS OF NUNAWADING

The Shire of Nunawading rate books gave the following occupations of the ratepayers:- Farmers, 247; Gentlemen, 10; Hotel-Keepers, 7; Blacksmiths, 5; Dairymen, 2; School Teachers, 2; Bootmakers, 2; Bakers, 2; and one each Butcher, Nurseryman, Pianist, Shopkeeper, Carrier, Postmaster, Minister, Carter, Brewer, Auctioneer, Land Agent, Doctor, Accountant, House and Land Agent, Wheelwright.

AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY USED

In spite of the 247 farmers in the shire, there was very little agricultural machinery in use. Statistics of Victoria in 1873 listed 155 ploughs, 128 harrows, 113 chaff-cutters, 49 rollers, 4 wine presses and one each mower, threshing machine, winnower and wool press. It is notable that there were scarcely any reapers or harvesters. Cutting of crops would have been done by hand, using scythes or sickles.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE

Crops reaped that year were :- Wheat, 35 bushells; Oats, 71 bushells; Rye and Bere, 45 bushells; Pease, Beans, Millet and Sorghum, 636 bushells; Potatoes, 212 tons; Turnips, 20 tons; Mangelwurzels, 105 tons; Beet, Carrots, Parsnips and Cabbage, 125 tons; Onions, 12 tons; Hay, 577 tons. In addition there were 54,230 vines, producing 87 cwt of table grapes and 228 of wine grapes. Wine produced was 1,450 gallons.

EARLY NUNAWADING RESIDENTS BURIED IN BOX HILL CEMETERY

<u>Name</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>Date</u>
JOBSON	(Took up land in Donvale area about 1868)				
Richard	Woodcarter		Nunawading	Independent	31/3/75
KENDALL	(Land owners in Springfield Road area)				
Letitia			Ringwood	C. of E.	11/1/92
Alice			Blackburn	C. of E.	13/8/92
Minnie			Blackburn	C. of E.	24/10/94
Albert			Tunstall	C. of E.	3/7/96
Percy Leonard			Tunstall	C. of E.	9/12/96
Thomas		75	Tunstall	C. of E.	19/11/1904
Charlotte		75	Tunstall	C. of E.	9/9/1905

K. A. Patterson,
Editor.