

NUNAWADING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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GOLDFIELDS OF VICTORIA

Excellent slides, taken by himself, were the main feature of Mr. Alan Wilson's talk at the June meeting. All were of Goldfields in Victoria, mainly in the Woods Point area and others in the Clunes and Creswick district. They were all of surviving buildings, sites of mines and forgotten towns and scenic views of surrounding country.

MAYOR'S NIGHT

At the invitation of the Mayor, Cr. P. James, and the Nunawading Historical Society, a social evening was held on Wednesday, 9 June, at the Civic Centre, Nunawading. Historical Societies from surrounding areas were invited and representatives from Waverley, Croydon, Box Hill, Doncaster-Templestowe, Ringwood, Hawthorn and Upper Yarra Historical Societies were present as well as representatives from the Management Committees of Schwerkolt Cottage, Yarren Darren and Blackburn Lake. Mr. Bruce Scott delighted us with an 1½ hour programme of what he called "Home Movies" of the Outback and Melbourne. Mr. Alan Barclay, of the newly-formed Hawthorn Society opened a short discussion period. Each society spoke of some aspect of their work and activities. An invitation was issued to visit the Upper Yarra Society to inspect work on an old railway station. Mr. G. Harding, of Yarren Darren, told us what has been done in their unique natural area and future plans.

SCHOOLS NIGHT

Professor A.G.L. Shaw, of Monash University, will be the speaker at the annual Schools Night in the Willis Room, Civic Centre, on August 13. His subject will be "Convicts".

SEPTEMBER MEETING

"Show and Tell" at Nunawading Methodist Church. September 10. A number of

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pictures and slides will be shown and members invited to tell what they know about the places shown. We hope this will help us gather information which might otherwise be lost.

FUTURE OUTINGS

The following outings have been arranged:-

September 27 - Visit to Upper Yarra Society, Yarra Junction. Meet at Civic Centre 10.30 a.m. and go in own cars.

October 25 - Visit to Museum. Meet in the foyer, Swanston Street, 1.45 p.m. Please let Mr. Tilson know if you will be going so that he can make arrangements for guides.

OLD PHOTOGRAPHS

We are still seeking old photographs of the district. If you have any, please let us know. In any case, ask among your friends. We can get any copied for our archives.

RESEARCH AT BOX HILL

We have made arrangements for research into the early Shire of Nunawading, using records held by the Box Hill Society at Box Hill Library. It is possible, if we have early notice, to examine their collection on Saturday morning, and Mrs. Morgan would be willing to make her card index available for copying during the afternoon. This is a good guide to information available in early Rate Books. Saturday, October 11 is suggested as a possible date for anyone willing to undertake this work.

MORACK GOLF COURSE

The Council has adopted the name "Morack" for the new golf course in Morack Road, Vermont. The name was suggested by Mrs. McGivern and is an aboriginal word for "a place of hills".

SHIRE REVENUES

Some unfamiliar items are shown on the Statement of Receipts and Expenditure of the Shire of Nunawading for the year ended 18 October 1874. Rates amounted to only £455/14/9, but three toll gates at Whitehorse Road, Delany's Road, (now Canterbury Road), and Ballyshannessy Road, (now Burwood Road), brought in £877/10/-. This was supplemented by government grants of £821/9/9 for road work. Publicans' licences brought in £175. At that time hotel licences were issued by the shires. £1828/15/6 was spent on road construction and maintenance, including £4/10/- for grubbing and clearing, then making six chains of Barnes Road, which was later Surrey Road, then Blackburn Road North.

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AGRICULTURE IN NUNAWADING

Agricultural statistics show how farming in Nunawading changed during the last part of last century.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Farms No.</u>	<u>Area Cultivated In Acres</u>	<u>Crops</u>			<u>Gardens</u>	<u>Orchards</u>
			<u>Wheat</u>	<u>Oats</u>	<u>Potatoes</u>		
1864	175	913	13	4	82	309	-
1869	233	1165	8	32	62	235	233
1874	378	3683	21	65	240	125	675
1879	211	1698	2	3	38	91	483
1884	205	1802	-	-	33	43	921
1889	185	4766	-	2	6	1175	
1894	161	1665	-	-	51	1085	

In 1894 there were only 10 acres of vines, producing 75 cwt of grapes and 200 gallons of wine. The main crops were:- Hay 284 tons; Potatoes 145 tons; Fruit produced was:- Apples (19723 cases), Cherries (8345), Plums (7231), Pears (2805), Quinces (1030), Peaches (764), Oranges (150), Loquats (123), Tomatoes (550), Strawberries (248 cwt), Gooseberries (139 cwt), Raspberries (18 cwt).

THE RELIGIOUS BUS

Shortly after the war Box Hill Baptist Church began to form a new church at North Blackburn. Mr. Charles Hemming, because there were no local halls and no building permits available, organised Sunday Schools meeting on street corners, and had three separate meetings in the area, beginning at 9.30 a.m., which he followed up with similar meetings in other areas during Sunday afternoon. The church bought a second-hand bus to act as a moveable meeting place and the officers wondered at the strange happenings with that bus. It regularly did its Sunday School work without mishap, but if used for anything else, such as a picnic or outing, regularly broke down and had to limp or be towed back home. During discussion one officer said, "We bought and dedicated that bus for Sunday School work, and it does it without trouble, but as soon as it is used for anything else it is stuck up. We must therefore restrict it to Sunday School work only". The others could not understand how metaphysics could affect the running of a mechanical engine, but the fact was indisputable. Some time later they discovered Mr. Hemming had forgotten it needed oil and had been running it with an empty sump. After travelling more than three or four miles the engine overheated and seized. The bus was used for Sunday

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evening services also until the first hall was built for the new church. It was then moved to the backyard of a house near Nunawading Station, as a meeting place for what has developed into the present Mitcham Baptist Church.

MUSEUM BUILDING

A model of the proposed museum building will soon be on exhibition at the Civic Centre.

MISS RONALDSON MARRIED

Miss E. Ronaldson, who prepared the first Short History of Nunawading was married to Mr. C. McCoy at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Box Hill in May.

MR. & MRS. PULLIN HONOURED

Ringwood Historical Society has elected Mr. & Mrs. E.V. Pullin as their first life members for their services to the society during its first ten years. Mrs. Pullin has been very active in many other fields of historical interest and is now Director of the Royal Historical Society.

NEW SOCIETY AT HAWTHORN

A new Society has been formed at Hawthorn. Its secretary is Mr. Alan Barclay of the Hawthorn City Library, and there are already 150 members who have been formed into a number of working sub-committees. This activity and membership is most encouraging and gives some older societies something to think about.

OLD HOUSE FOR WAVERLEY

It seems the fashion to offer Historical Societies available old houses. Waverley has been offered one in the Dandenong Creek Reserve and will be seeking assistance in preserving it.

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>
BEDFORD					
Mary		58	Nunawading	C of E	28/1/76
AINGER (Took up land at Mitcham 1868)					
Sarah Elizabeth		15½	Nunawading	Indep.	9/4/76
ELEY					
Rebecca		58	Nunawading	C of E	10/6/76

K. A. PATTERSON
Editor.