

NUNAWADING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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Category B.

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VERMONT. 3133 RINGWOOD. 3134. NUNAWADING. 3131.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Officers elected at the annual meeting last October were:-

President	Mrs. J. Webster
Vice-President	Mr. M. Chatwin
Secretary	Mrs. J. Shortland
Treasurer	Mr. I. Barker
Research Officer	Mr. K. Patterson
Committee	Mr. C. Tilson, Mesdames J. Field, Leach, S. Jones and P. Johnson.

ABILITY OF ABORIGINES

Technical ability of aborigines and their use of natural resources were very high Mr. John West told us at the October meeting. He illustrated his talk with slides taken in Central Australia showing how they made straight spears from crooked stems of tecomia and extracted a powerful adhesive from spinifex. This is used for fixing spear points and rests for spear shafts and spear-throwers. Throwers were used for a variety of purposes, such as lighting fires by friction and carriers for small articles. Huts were made by placing bent tree branches around a central pole and covering them with smaller branches and spinifex. These appeared fragile, but they were very durable and far more comfortable than the iron and concrete houses usually provided by government authorities.

BROKEN HILL'S MUSEUM

Mrs. Field's main impression of Broken Hill was the excellent museum maintained by the local historical society. The area has such a full and colourful history that they can show an excellent variety of material, and they have a particularly good collection of maps and photographs.

LIFE IN CHINA

The people of China were sure that life was better for them since the

success of the Communists, Mrs. Faggetter told us at our December meeting. During her visit of five weeks she found they were very pleased to have opportunities of education which were previously denied them and women had full freedom. In all the industries and agricultural communes there was full co-operation with people happy to be working together on terms of equality. All people in administrative positions were required to work with peasants for part of each year so that they would not lose touch with problems of ordinary people. Even her daughter, although a University lecturer and a foreigner, was not exempt.

VISIT TO MUSEUM

After looking at models of goldfields, an array of motor-cars, ships, aeroplanes, weapons and sundry other things, we concluded our visit to the Museum by descending into the mysterious depths, where we found a well-equipped photographic studio and dark room, in which Clive Tilson does most of his work. It is usually straightforward photography, but he also had a number of cameras which he is restoring. It was a good excursion, particularly as there was heavy rain all day and outside activities would have been impossible.

SYLLABUS FOR THIS YEAR

Owing to difficulties in making arrangements, the complete syllabus is not yet available. Speakers engaged are:-

February 11 -

March 10 - Mayoral Night, Mr. A. Grant, "Children's Books"

April 14 - Mr. Armstrong, "Early Days in Nunawading".

May 12 - Dr. Sandra Bardwell, of the Public Record Office, "Using Historical Records."

June 9 - Older Residents' Tales by a group of long-term residents.

July 14 - High Schools Night.

All meetings will be at the Coffee Shop, Civic Centre, except the Mayoral and High School nights.

A speaker planned for the February meeting has cancelled the appointment. We are obtaining a substitute. There have been difficulties in finding speakers for meetings later in the year and we would appreciate suggestions.

PROPOSED EXCURSIONS

A week-end visit to Bendigo is planned for April 3-4, when we hope to take a complete motel. Please let the secretary know if you are interested so that accommodation can be booked.

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15th June 1908 - The secretary reported ----- that the owners would only sell the whole available area, about 70 acres, but will accept £21 per acre.

24 August 1908 - The Superintendent reported ----- that the deaf mutes were engaged in planting the garden. The Superintendent was instructed to see the Liquidator of the Freehold Investment Co. as to getting their surveyor to peg out the land. (Freehold Investment and Banking Co. was one of the most notorious of the Land Boom companies. It bought 28 small farms in our area and sub-divided them into building blocks in 1890. Sales were very poor. It is credited with having made Blackburn Lake. When the Boom collapsed T.R.B. Morton, its secretary, had the task of selling off the land it had bought.)

6 October 1908 - The Superintendent reported the Blackburn Shire Engineer had prepared all specifications for fencing and for ploughing 10 acres and clearing another 15.

10 December 1908 - It was decided to fee Messrs Wade and Carlton to prepare plans of the farm buildings.

11 March 1909 - The architect's amended plans with the estimates were considered and the following items agreed to:- Residential and men's quarters, dining room, kitchen, etc. in brick £2,600; bay to parlour, £25; sheds and outhouses £68.

20 April 1909 - It was decided to accept Mr. R. L. Phillips' tender for £2,980.

20 September 1909 - The following recommendation was adopted:- To expend £50 on two boats, landing stage and ? for picnic parties.

1 November 1909 - Details of the opening ceremony were approved and a committee appointed as to the programme.

10 June 1910 - Mr. Abraham read the report of the Farm committee, from which it appeared that £13/12/6 had been received during May from the sale of flowers.

27 July 1910 - The secretary reported that the Nunawading Shire had sought a legal opinion regarding the Society's liability for rates on the farm and after communicating with the vice-president he had obtained a similar opinion from Messrs Derham and Derham. It was resolved to await a summons.

14 October 1910 - The Superintendent reported that the sale of flowers for some time had averaged £5/6/6 per week.

Continued in our next Newsletter.....

K. A. PATTERSON
Editor.