

NUNAWADING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

April-May 1976

Price 5 cents

Number 59

Registered for transmission by post as a periodical Category B

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HISTORY OF HEIDELBERG

Mr. Peter Williams illustrated his talk on the history of Heidelberg with a number of slides of notable buildings, some 100 years old, which they have been able to preserve. Some of the earliest land sales in Melbourne were in the Heidelberg area, and prices for some land were up to £20 an acre, although the reserve price at auction was only £1. A number of noted early settlers had country homes in the area, and developed good farms to supplement their business activities in the city. By various means a number of their houses had been preserved and restored. We have to particularly thank Mr. Williams for this talk because he came at short notice in spite of illness, to take the place of a speaker who had been unable to fulfill her engagement.

MAYOR'S NIGHT

Historical Societies from every municipality on the boundaries of Nunawading were represented at the Mayor's Night in March. Among the most interesting reports of their activities were that Knox is making useful contacts through the talks at schools and providing guides for excursions. Hawthorn is exploring the possibilities of forming a Junior Society and Doncaster has not opened Shramm's Cottage on its new site, where they also have a museum, both open on Saturdays and Sundays, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Box Hill and Waverley councils have appointed people to prepare histories of their areas.

CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Mr. Alan Grant spoke of children's books at the Mayor's Night. He believes he is the only person with a large number, as well as catalogues, to illustrate his talk. There were no children's books as such until the middle of the 18th century. Earlier ones were mostly instructions about polite and moral behaviour, but there were a number, now rare, of small "chap-books" sold for a penny by hawkers.

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Towards the beginning of the 19th century English publishers began to produce large numbers of books for children, but Australia was slow to follow them, and with the exception of a few rare and valuable specimens, our children's literature belongs to the present century.

APRIL MEETING - Early days in Nunawading.

Mr. Armstrong will be speaking at the April 14 meeting. He was a member of the first council of the City of Nunawading, and took a leading part in the formative years of our city. This will be a unique opportunity to learn first-hand how we began to develop.

MAY MEETING - Using Historical Records.

Just three years ago the Victorian Parliament passed an Archives Act, setting up a Public Records Office in place of the Library Archives Section. This office, which is now moving into premises of its own in Laverton, holds and preserves all the non-current records of Victorian Government Departments, and they are, with few exceptions, open to anyone who cares to examine them. They form a very detailed, carefully indexed and readily accessible documentation of all the more important events in our history, down to even trivial daily transactions of ordinary people with the government. Dr. Sandra Bardwell, a member of the staff of the Public Records Office, will describe for us at our meeting on May 12 what kinds of material they have, how it can be used and what people have to do to consult it.

PERSONAL

We were all very sorry to hear that Miss Gibb, of McCulloch Street, died at the end of January. Miss Gibb had been a member for some years and had been a great help with supper at meetings.

Mr. & Mrs. Neve have gone to live in the Strathalan Baptist Old People's Home at Macleod. Mr. Neve is a foundation member, and our only life member.

Mr. M. Chatwin has been in bad health, having collapsed at work during February.

Mr. and Mrs. Leach have just celebrated their golden anniversary.

PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

Many of the buildings and landmarks of present-day Nunawading will disappear within a few years, so we need to make a record of them while we can. It is suggested that anyone with a roll of film to finish should take photographs of places and scenes in their area for permanent record. We hope to have a grand exhibition of such photographs

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at the annual meeting next October.

SYLLABUS

There is still trouble filling the syllabus. A few more months have been filled. They are:-

June - Old Residents' Tales, by Mr. Monty Gray, who had a hardware store in Mitcham, Mr. Frank Bowden, a former station-master and Mr. Jack McLean, son of a former station-master.

July - High Schools Night - Dr. Robson, of Melbourne University.

August - "Tartans".

September - History of Embroidery.

OUTINGS

Churchill Island is off for the time being, but there are strong prospects of visits to the Queenscliff Fort, Government House and Castlemaine.

Please let us know if you are interested in any of these and when you would like to go.

MORE ABOUT BLACKBURN LAKE - Extracts from the Minutes of the Adult Deaf Society of Victoria. (Continued from last Newsletter).

12 August 1910 - The following recommendations were adopted:-

The Superintendent to proceed with the raising of £750 for erection of women's wing.

12 September 1910 - The following recommendations were received from the Farm Committee:-

6. Rustic bridge on creek bed - No recommendation

7. Boat shed to be pulled down - Approved

8. Fence dangerous part of lake - Price to be obtained

14 October 1910 - Recommendations sanctioned:-

5. Five chairs to be placed along the edge of the lake at £5/12/6.

16 January 1911 - A letter was received from the secretary Shire of Nunawading intimating that the whole of Lake Farm was now rated.

Superintendent reported sales since last meeting of produce, wood and cane work and takings for picnics as £70/11/3.

13 March 1911 - A letter was received from Mr. Abraham reporting that the recent rains had damaged the dam.

11 September 1911 - The following recommendations of the Farm Committee were adopted:- £40 to be expended on the erection of a suitable building at the Farm for the sale of refreshments under the direction of the Farm Committee. The Farm Committee was requested to consider the question of providing life-saving apparatus at the lake.

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16 October 1911 - The following recommendations were adopted:-

3. The apron of the by-wash to be repaired upon receiving Mr. Holland's estimate.....Notices to be erected that the dam is not a public road, a fence to be erected on the downside of the dam road.

22 January 1912 - The Farm and Finance Committee reported that the Government had promised a grant of £500 as per Under Treasurer's letter of 13th inst.....Committee recommended that the erection be proceeded with.

20 May 1912 - Mr. Mercy moved and Mr. Dickins seconded that the architect be instructed to call for tenders for the front portion of the women's wing and that an intimation be given the architect of the possibility of erecting the balance before the front portion is completed. - Carried.

17 June 1912 - The secretary produced rate notices regarding the Blackburn property that had been received from the Shire. Resolved to ask Mr. Derham (subject to his approval) to send a letter to the shire council informing them that we do not intend to pay the rates and asking them either to desist in sending notices or to contest the matter.

11 November 1912 - Reported that the Governor-General had signified his willingness to open the Women's Wing on Saturday 23 Nov 1912.

16 June 1913 - The secretary reported that he had seen Mr. Derham in reference to the rates, who had suggested that some of the Shire Councillors might be seen in reference to the matter. Mr. Abraham and Mr. Munro were deputed to undertake this.

15 June 1914 - Mr. Mercy moved and Mr. Pratt seconded that this committee sanctions an appeal to the public for £3,000 for the completion of the Women's Wing, also that the committee comes to no decision as to whether any sum should be spent in the development of picnic facilities. - Carried. (The Governor's wife agreed to sponsor the appeal).

17 August 1914 - Mr. Mercy moved, Mr. Martin seconded, that Lady Stanley be written to that the committee deem it inexpedient in the present state of affairs to postpone collecting and they would like her concurrence.

17 May 1915 - The secretary submitted notice of rates received from the Shire of Nunawading amounting to £151/17/9. The secretary was instructed to refer the matter to Messrs. Derham and Derham. A letter was received from the Shire of Nunawading re. making of Central Road.

Continued in next Newsletter.....

K. A. PATTERSON

Editor.