

NUNAWADING HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

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WEDGWOOD CHINA.

The contribution of Wedgwood to the making of fine pottery was described by Mrs. Field at the April meeting, when Box Hill combined with us. Wedgwood had experimented with many minerals mixed with clay to produce all kinds of colours and developed designs greatly superior to the heavy and crude vessels previously available. He became so expert at making delicate articles that he was able to export fine porcelain to China, where it was considered superior to the best they had made. Mrs. Field's talk was illustrated with examples of Wedgwood's work.

REMINISCENCES.

Mrs. Leach told our May meeting about the McDonnell family, who came to Heatherdale as railway gate-keepers in 1883 and had a store at the corner of Mitcham and White Horse roads. Later they bought the hotel, which was the social centre for the Mitcham Football club and featured as the "Glenrowan Hotel" in the first Kelly Gang film, made in 1906. The family were very interested in amateur theatricals and Red Cross during the 1914-18 war. Mrs. Hester McGlone, widow of the licensee of the Harvest Home Hotel, from 1896 kept the Post Office in her home and gave land for St. John's Catholic Church. Archbishop Carr, a cousin of Mrs. McGlone, conducted the first confirmation in the Church in 1904. Dr. Drake, who lived in McDowall Street, conducted a T.B. Sanitarium where the Whitefriars College now stands. Miss Cole spoke of her memories of her father's association with the Australian Tesselated Tile Co.

JUNE MEETING.

About three centuries ago Sweden launched a great warship the Vasa, which immediately sank in Stockholm Harbour. A few years ago it was found and being still in good condition, was re-floated. This was a remarkable salvage feat.

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Miss Eileen Barker will tell the story, with pictures, at our meeting on June 8.

HIGH SCHOOLS NIGHT.

Dr. Robson, of Melbourne University, will again be the speaker at the High Schools Night in the Willis Room at the Library, July 13. His address last year was well received and we look forward to this meeting.

SYLLABUS

The remainder of meetings for this year are:-

- August 10 - Mrs. Ward (Teacher at Mitcham Technical School)-Woodcuts
- Sept. 14 - Mr. Laurie Dunn - Film of Old Buildings of Melbourne.
- Oct. 12 - Annual Meeting.
- Nov. 9 - Mrs. P. Faggetter - Herbs.
- Dec. 7 - Mrs. Leach.

PICNIC AT HANGING ROCK.

Our version fortunately did not follow that of the film. There was a good attendance, meeting at the Rock, and after working up an appetite by climbing to the top, or thereabouts, everyone was ready for lunch, followed by a less strenuous tour of the Kyneton Museum, where we were accompanied by a member of the Kyneton Historical Society, who explained the exhibits, which added greatly to our understanding and enjoyment. We were particularly interested to find that Miss Forbes was born in Kyneton, and had given a number of items to the museum.

MUSEUM

A sub-committee of K.A. Patterson, C. Tilson, J. Martin and Mrs. Leach has been appointed to make arrangements for our museum and the building itself is almost ready, except for connection of lighting and alarm systems.

SECRETARY.

Mrs. Shortland has had to resign her position as Secretary owing to other commitments. Members of the committee will attend to secretarial duties until the annual meeting.

VISIT TO PARLIAMENT HOUSE.

Mr. George Cox, M.L.A., has arranged a visit by our society to Parliament House on the evening of Wednesday, October 5.

A LIFETIME OF COMMUNITY SERVICE.

Mrs. Robin Da Costa has prepared notes of the activities of Mr. Alex. A. Jamieson, who has lived in Blackburn for more than 50 years.

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- 1922 - Became interested through business and social visits to the Steel family, of Lake Road.
- 1924 - Bought land in Parkside Street.
- 1925 - Commenced correspondence with M.M.B.W. about extending water mains along Central Road. Began building.
- 1926 - Correspondence with the shire about street lights, culverts and street construction. Re-formed the defunct Boy Scout Group. Held position of Group Scout Master for 15½ years.
- 1927 - Secretary Morton Recreation Reserve committee for 18 years, during which it established a baby health centre, showing of films, re-grading and forming 2 ovals, laying 130 yards athletic track and other improvements.
- 1927-31 - Founder and Hon. Secretary Blackburn Amateur Swimming Club, arranged facilities at Blackburn Lake. Instructor for Herald Learn to Swim Drive.
- 1927-68 - Active in Federal, State and Municipal elections. Campaign secretary for 9 Councillors.
- 1928 - Member of committee, later secretary, Blackburn Progress Association. Negotiated for improved railway services. Later president
- 1928-9 - Organised two very successful carnivals on Australia Day weekends, which raised £800, divided between Boy Scouts and Morton Park improvements.
- 1930-40 - Member of committee Blackburn Horticultural Society for 10 years.
- 1931 - Assisted to establish Newark Grammar School, formation of auxiliary of the Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind. For 34 years organiser of the Annual Fair and three button-selling days a year. President Blackburn Football Club and established the club's accident and injury fund.
- 1932-38 - Member Ringwood District Football Tribunal.
- 1932-34 - Hon. Sec. and organiser Centenary of Melbourne (Blackburn) street beautification programme, which supplied and planted trees, with stakes, for 4/- each.
- War Period - Active in all local war effort appeals, including V.D.C., badge selling, etc., which raised about £17,000 for the Lord Mayor's Patriotic Fund.
- Enlisted 29/1/43 - Discharged 1/3/46 - Corporal M.I.D.
- Joined the R.S.L. - Captain table tennis team, hospital visitor, secretary Blackburn sub-branch for one year, appeals officer 22 years, area captain Churchill Memorial Scholarship Appeal; sold badges for

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Anzac Day, Poppy Day and Legacy at Blackburn station.
1954-56 - Melbourne Olympic Games - Organiser Victorian section of the Olympic Torch Relay and assisted in planning the course from Cairns to Albury.

Mr. Jamieson is still living, but is now in poor health. He seems deserving of some recognition.

GOLD RUSH?

Mrs. Da Costa has obtained from the Mines Department copies of documents dealing with a reported gold discovery in our district in 1894. Mr. Lillington of Blackburn found quartz he believed gold-bearing and asked the Department to investigate. A departmental expert looked at small veins of quartz in the railway cutting at Box Hill Cemetery and a road cutting nearby in Canterbury Road. He was not impressed and nothing came of it.

K. A. PATTERSON
Editor.