

MUNAWADING HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

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Pres. - Mr. W. Shortland Sec. - Mrs. A. Poole Treas. Mrs. S. Barker
96 Loughnan rd., 6 Lernes st., 14 Tortice Ave
Ringwood 3134 Forest Hill 3131 Munawading 3131

Mayor's Night - As usual, the Mayor's Night was a very successful event. A number of other Historical Societies were represented, as well as local societies with similar interests. Mr Laurie Dunn's films were greatly appreciated, particularly that of working bullock teams. One visitor commented that it was a film which deserved to be used for wider viewing as a documentary showing the work of bullocks during the early days. It seems Mr Dunn will have a number of additional bookings among historical societies.

Coming Meetings - Both at the Coffee Shop

May 10 - Mr. A. Wilson will show some of his pictures under the title, "Here and There" - Australian Beauty Spots with a Touch of History. A few years ago Mr Wilson showed us pictures of Victorian gold fields, including some areas in which there are few relics of past activity. They were very good photographically and all of considerable interest, so we expect a very interesting evening.

June 14 - The ship "Polly Woodside" has been well in the news and is now on view as its restoration is progressing. Mr Darrock, of the National Trust, will tell us its history.

Museum Exhibits - During the last month Mr Mifsud, an antique dealer, of Montrose, has made a valuation of articles on display in the museum. The total is more than \$4,000. This is the commercial value of only those articles which are saleable as antiques. Many others, such as samples of tiles and other things for which there is no market, could not be valued. The most valuable articles are:- An Edison phonograph, \$250; an organ, \$200; a small doll, washing machine and two mangles, \$150 each; a lustre vase, \$135; amber beads, rocking chair and bracket clock, \$120 each; three other dolls and embroidered shawl, \$100 each.

Theatre Night - We had quite a surprise at our Theatre Night. The advertised play could not be presented because of insufficient rehearsal, so we had Box Hill Repertory Society instead of Mitcham. It was, at least, produced by Mr. Max Grant, which kept the Mitcham connection. The play was "The Irregular Verb to Love," a witty and often humorous exposition of relationships between members of a family of highly individual, if not eccentric, characters. Our party was 39 strong and all had an enjoyable evening.

Mornington Excursion - Our visit to Mornington will be on 20 May, and we need to know very soon how many will be going. A bus has been booked, we will take our own lunch, but Mornington will provide morning and afternoon tea. There will be admission charged to some places we will visit. About 11 members of the Box Hill Society will accompany us.

THE SLEETER

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Wine Table Draw - The draw for the wine table will be made at our May meeting. Please bring all books of tickets so that the draw can be made

Magic Lantern Show - It is very short notice, but if you would like to see a Magic Lantern Show (not Slide Light), there will be one at Mornington on 3 May at 8 p.m. The place is the corner of the Esplanade and Main street, in the old Post Office. Lt-Col H. Lee Archer, a R.H.S.V. councillor, will show slides of old Melbourne. If you would like to go, let Warwick Shortland know. He will have room for a few people in his car.

Sheep Feeding in Nunawading - During 1902 Victoria had one of the worst droughts known and sheep owners had to use every means they could to keep their flocks alive. One way was to send them around the countryside, feeding on grass by the roads, or on areas reserved for camping by men with travelling flocks and herds. Nunawading, although it was so close to Melbourne, had its share of travelling sheep, which tended, in defiance of rules that they must travel at least a certain distance each day, to stay anywhere with grass. The Council became involved on 3 April 1903 when Mr. C. Lorman and others wrote to it about many sheep feeding on open land for months and asking the Council to have the nuisance abated.

Cr. Collier said the complaint was quite justified as the sheep were a perfect nuisance and were continually trespassing on private property, and besides it was unfair that they should be allowed to consume the grass that was owned by the rate-payers. He moved that a committee be appointed to find out what power the council had in the matter and see it was enforced.

24 April - The committee reported and recommended that the council's solicitor be asked for his view opinion.

1 May - The council received legal advice and the inspector was instructed to report cases where mobs of sheep did not travel the distance per day required by the Act.

Our Special City - The area we now know as the City of Nunawading was established as the Shire of Blackburn and Mitcham in 1925. When it became the City of Nunawading in 1945 it required a special Act of Parliament, because the area was 15½ square miles. The Local Government Act laid down a maximum area of 9 square miles for a city. Fortunately for Nunawading there were precedents for having cities of larger area. The City of Heidelberg had 42 square miles and the City of Moorabbin 23 square miles.