

NEWSLETTER

June 1978

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Number 72

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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 Nunawading 3131

Pictures of Australia - About 200 slides, all photographically excellent, of interesting places and scenes in Australia, were shown by Mr A Wilson at our May meeting. They were mostly of lesser known places which are noted for their history, pictorial beauty, geographic or other interest. It was an excellent exhibition and as Mr Wilson said, showed that Australia had scenery as individual and beautiful as any other country.

Coming Meetings-

June 14 - In Coffee Shop - Mr. Darroch of the National Trust, will tell us the history of the ship "Polly Woodside", which is now being restored and is on exhibition in the old Duke and Orr dry dock on the Yarra.

July 12 - Schools Night - Willis Room - Mr Don Gibb, from Rusden State College, will speak on the subject, "Attitude to Non-European Migration - Forming of White Australia Policy". This is a subject in the H.S.C. history syllabus and Mr Gibb is one of those who set the examination questions. We expect secondary schools of the district to take a great interest in this meeting. Several schools have already replied to our invitation, so there should be a large attendance.

Mornington Excursion - Mornington were excellent hosts to us when we visited them on 20 May. The bus took us and some Box Hill representatives to Mornington, where an excellent morning tea was ready. Mr Corkhill, the secretary, went with us on a tour of places of interest in the district. The McCrae Homestead now under the control of the National Trust, is all open for inspection and a Trust man showed us over it. Another interesting house, not open to the public, is "Meronswood", formerly owned by Mr Justice Higgins. The ranger welcomed us to the Sea Winds National Park at the top of Arthurs Seat. This is a property formerly owned by Sir Thomas Travers and it includes a large area of beautiful garden. The tour continued through Red Hill to the Devil's Bend Reservoir which supplies water to the Mornington Peninsula, then back to Mornington for afternoon tea. Our tour ended with an inspection of the Church of St James the Less at St Eliza. The vicar, who had just conducted a wedding ceremony, showed us over the building, which is notable for its stained glass windows and picture of St Catherine. This church is used by the Uniting Church, which has no building of its own, as well as the Church of England. This was a very interesting and enjoyable outing and we must thank the Mornington Society for its hospitality.

Wine Table - The wine table was won by Miss Joyce Larter, of Camberwell, one of the Maroondah Singers. More than \$100 was raised towards the cost of the museum.

Visit by Sandringham Society - We expect to be visited by the Sandringham Historical Society on 17 June. We will be showing them over our museum and perhaps take them for a walk to Warren Dheeran.

Working Bee - In preparation for the visit by the Sandringham Society we have a working bee at 11 a.m. on the morning of 17 June.

tidying and re-arranging of exhibits in preparation for the Sandringham visit.

Duplication of Newsletter - Owing to rising costs of production the newsletters, are now published in duplicated form instead of printed. We must apologise for deficiencies in recent issues. They were caused by lack of familiarity with the machine. The quality should improve with experience. We trust that as savings enable us to publish each month instead of bi-monthly we will be publishing newsletters of sufficient interest to offset deficiencies of production.

Excursion to Colac - We have planned an excursion by bus to Colac on Sunday 9 July, when the Colac Historical Society will be our hosts. A feature of the visit will be an inspection of their museum. The cost will be \$9 and reservations can be made with Mrs Poole.

News Items from the Past - Reports of events in the district give us an indication of what life was like in our district early this century. These two, from the Box Hill "Reporter" show the close fellowship of a scattered population and the very open nature of the country at that time.

21 December 1900 (Nearly two columns)

The quietude that usually pervades Blackburn was disturbed on Monday evening when a most enthusiastic demonstration was made in the local hall to mark the return of Private Walter Foote from the war in South Africa.

The chairman in proposing the toast of "Our Guest" remarked that about twelve months ago they met at a similar gathering to give Private Foote a send-off. On the present occasion their feelings were of pleasure and gratitude because Private Foote had returned uninjured and with the reward of success following him. Private Foote spoke in high terms of the leader of his contingent, Colonel Tom Price, who would never send his men where he would not go himself.

Mr Knowles, proposing the toast of "The Army and Navy", said that Blackburn had had its representatives in both branches. Mr W. Fone representing them in the navy in the war in China and Private Foote and Rich in the army in South Africa.

28 December 1900

The intense heat that prevailed on Wednesday afternoon was responsible for a rather serious outbreak of fire at Blackburn. The firebell at Box Hill pealed out an alarm, but the few members of the brigade who happened to be at home thought it was useless to take out the appliances as there was no water laid on anywhere near the scene. The fire broke out in Cr Morton's paddock on the Blackburn road and rapidly extended through the properties of Messrs Jennings, Workings, Loftus and Hone, right out to the Canterbury road. The strong wind that was blowing rendered the task of arresting the progress of the fire one of great difficulty, especially as there were but few fire fighters available, the total number of people at work being ten.

Visit to Keilor-Sunbury - A bus trip to the Keilor-Sunbury area on 12 August will include morning and afternoon tea at the Overnewton Gatehouse, guided tours of Keilor, the Organ Pipes National Park, Sunbury and Jackson's Creek areas and lunch at the M.M.B.W. Brimbank Park. The tour will begin from Lilydale at 8.15 a.m. with several pick-up points on the way. The cost will be \$6 and only 44 seats are available. Early reservation advised. Use this form.

EARLY RESERVATION FORM

Return with money to Miss C.E. Gray, 30 Mont Vue st., Lilydale

Please reserve _____ seats for me on the Keilor-Sunbury Bus Trip

Name _____

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