

NUNAWADING HISTORICAL SOCIETY - NEWSLETTER.

Price, 5c.

JANUARY - FEBRUARY, 1979.

Registered at the G.P.O. for transmission by post as a periodical.

PRESIDENT & EDITOR.

Mrs. Jean Webster
VERMONT. 874-4210

SECRETARY

Mrs. E. Poole,
FOREST HILL. 878-2880

TREASURER

Mrs. S. Barker
13 Tortice St.,
NUNAWADING.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

The Life Presentation Luncheon held at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Leach was a great success. The guests of honour were Jean and Fred Field and 22 members of the society were in attendance. After a delicious luncheon, provided by our members, Jean Webster, as President, presented Jean Field with her Life Membership, which Mr. Bawden & Shirley Jones had executed beautifully. Jean Field was very touched, and in response to the President's citation, which praised her hard work and dedication to the Nunawading Historical Society, Jean told of the help and fellowship she had received from her "friends" in the society. Altogether a delightful day. Thanks to all who helped to make it so congenial, particularly Mr. & Mrs. Leach for their hospitality.

The December meeting of the Society was attended by 20 members and 5 visitors. The Amendment to the Constitution, i.e. "That the Immediate Past President be eligible to sit on the Committee for a period of 12 months if she/he so desire." was put to the meeting and passed unanimously. At the request of the Society the Nunawading Council agreed that the Museum would be open for one extra day during the school holidays, - January, 17th.

Our speaker showed us a selection of slides from a trip overseas. Some truly delightful ones of the famous horses at the Spanish Riding School in Vienna. Their precision and grace quite won our hearts, particularly when they demonstrated the famous "Airs Above the Ground" routine. Then followed the story of the Passion Play at Oberammergau, in Germany. Mrs. Lang told us how the villagers made a solemn vow during the Plague, that if God saved their village, when all around were being wiped out, they would portray the Passion and Resurrection every 10 years for ever. Apart from gaps caused by wars, this they have done. We saw slides of the main characters, some wearing ornate, rich, beautiful robes like King Herod and the High Priests. Others were in simple homespun robes like Christus, Mary, their friends kin, and the disciples. The beautiful mountain scenery which forms a backdrop for the play, on its open stage, plus the lovely murals and flowerboxes outside the homes and shops of the village were all there for us to see. Stills of scenes from the play and many tableaux, showed what a huge undertaking it is, and what an enormous cast. Almost everyone in the village takes part, there are no outsiders at all. It was all very moving, and one was left with the impression that the people of Oberammergau truly live the play and honor their centuries old vow.

TENTATIVE DATES.

A STREET STALL AT FOREST HILL SHOPPING CENTRE

FRIDAY, 9th MARCH, 1979.

All proceeds towards cost of new showcase in Museum. PLEASE POT SOME CUTTINGS FROM YOUR GARDEN NOW! Paper-back books and good quality magazines also sell well.

SUNDAY, 18th MARCH. WILLIAMSTOWN.

This trip is open to you and your friends, but bookings for the bus must be made early and fares paid with booking please.

MEMBERS are reminded that Annual Subscriptions became due at our Annual Meeting in October. \$2.50 per person or \$5.00 per family. NEWSLETTER ONLY - Subscription \$1.00.

If you would like to receive the Newsletter regularly and are unable to attend the meetings we would be pleased to receive your \$1.00 subscription.

18th FEBRUARY. Display and Sale of Paintings by Mitcham Arts Group in the grounds of Schwerholt Cottage.

S Y L L A B U S. 1 9 7 9.

14th February:	Miss Bronwyn Jones:-	"South America - Scenery & Ruins".	Coffee Shop.
14th March:-	Mr. Maurice Chatwin:-	"Welsh Castles".	Coffee Shop.
4th April:-	Mr. J. Stansfield:-	"History of Glass".	Coffee Shop.
10th May:-	Speaker from National Trust:-	Mayor's Night.	Willis Room.
13th June:-	Mrs. Robin Da Costa:-	"Gathering Material for My Book".	Coffee Shop.
11th July:-	Schools' Night:-	Speaker supplied by Vict. Ass. Hist. Teachers.	Willis Room.
	Subject:	"How Gold Rush Affected Development of Australia".	
8th August:-	Mr. Bruce Wadeson:-	"Ports & Harbours".	Coffee Shop.
12th September:-	Mr. Arthur Tonkin:-	"Murray River Boats".	Coffee Shop.
11th October:-	Annual Meeting.		Coffee Shop.
14th November:-	Members Night.		Coffee Shop.
12th December.	Mr. Peter Young:-	Forests Commi -ion.	Coffee Shop.

PLEASE KEEP FOR FUTURE REFERENCE.THE BOX HILL CAMP, by Shirley Jones.

Between the years 1885 and 1888 the Australian Impressionists Tom Roberts, Frederick McCubbin and Louis Abrahams set up a camp at Box Hill.

The railway line had been extended from Hawthorn to Box Hill by 1882 and easy access to this small township no doubt caught the attention of Roberts. He had known this area as a boy and remembered the magnificent bush beyond the settlement. He and his friends would surely have used the train to travel to and from the Box Hill Camp, their Melbourne studios, and their summer camps at the beaches around Port Phillip Bay.

The artists roamed the Box Hill area, painting the virgin bush working in the open air and imparting a sparkle of life to their works which led to the title of the 'Australian Impressionists'. They returned to their camp near Damper Creek, on David Houston's property, each evening and had many happy hours around their camp-fire discussing painting and many other topics. Other artists joined the camp, Arthur Streeton, Charles Conder and others who have faded into history, all came to join in the new exciting school of "Impressionists".

Some of Australia's finest works were painted at the Box Hill Camp and the local people, who often visited the camp and joined in their campfire evenings, were models for many of the paintings.

The beauty of the bush is evident in McCubbins "The Lost Child", 1886 (National Gallery of Vic.,) and in Roberts "A Summer Morning's Tiff", 1887 (Ballarat Gallery - Vic.) also in other works and stands as an indication of how unspoiled and lovely the district must have been then. Conder's "Springtime", 1888 (National Gallery - Vic.) and Streeton's "Box Hill Evening", 1888 (Artarmon Gallery- N.S.W.) indicate how little settlement there was at that time.

The painters moved their "out of Melbourne" headquarters to Eaglemont and gradually with other artists, Davies, Withers and Phillip Fox, who came along in the next few years, the famed Heidelberg School was born.

Frederick McCubbin and his wife went to live at Wolseley Cres., Blackburn, in 1890. It was here in his busy backyard that he posed his family and friends for "A Bush Burial", 1890 (recently stolen from the Ballarat Art Gallery). Here too, Louis Abrahams posed for "Down on his Luck", 1889 (W. A. Art Gallery).

The vast tracks of bushland and open ground have vanished under houses, shops and factories but even today there are quiet and beautiful areas of bush, reclaimed in many instances, but gradually growing back to the beautiful bush that first captured the artists eye when the Box Hill Camp originated.

In the above article you will notice mention of Damper Creek; it was also called "No Good Damper Creek". Damper Creek crossed the Burwood Highway near the area now occupied by the Drive-in Theatre. It derived its name from an incident which happened when aborigines were plentiful in the area.

4th April:-	Mr. J. Stansfield:-	"History of Glass".	Coffee Shop.
10th May:-	Speaker from National Trust:-	Mayon's Night.	Willis Room.
13th June:-	Mrs. Robin Da Costa:-	"Gathering Material for My Book".	Coffee Shop.
11th July:-	Schools' Night:-	Speaker supplied by Vict. Ass. Hist. Teachers.	
	Subject:	"How Gold Rush Affected Development of Australia".	Willis Room.
8th August:-	Mr. Bruce Wadson:-	"Ports & Harbours".	Coffee Shop.
12th September:-	Mr. Arthur Tonkin:-	"Murray River Boats".	Coffee Shop.
11th October:-	Annual Meeting.		Coffee Shop.
14th November:-	Members Night.		Coffee Shop.
12th December.	Mr. Peter Young:-	Forests Commi -ion.	Coffee Shop.

PLEASE KEEP FOR FUTURE REFERENCE.

THE BOX HILL CAMP, by Shirley Jones.

Between the years 1885 and 1888 the Australian Impressionists Tom Roberts, Frederick McCubbin and Louis Abrahams set up a camp at Box Hill.

The railway line had been extended from Hawthorn to Box Hill by 1882 and easy access to this small township no doubt caught the attention of Roberts. He had known this area as a boy and remembered the magnificent bush beyond the settlement. He and his friends would surely have used the train to travel to and from the Box Hill Camp, their Melbourne studios, and their summer camps at the beaches around Port Phillip Bay.

The artists roamed the Box Hill area, painting the virgin bush working in the open air and imparting a sparkle of life to their works which led to the title of the 'Australian Impressionists'. They returned to their camp near Damper Creek, on David Houston's property, each evening and had many happy hours around their camp-fire discussing painting and many other topics. Other artists joined the camp, Arthur Streeton, Charles Conder and others who have faded into history, all came to join in the new exciting school of "Impressionists".

Some of Australia's finest works were painted at the Box Hill Camp and the local people, who often visited the camp and joined in their campfire evenings, were models for many of the paintings.

The beauty of the bush is evident in McCubbins "The Lost Child", 1886 (National Gallery of Vic.) and in Roberts "A Summer Morning's Tiff", 1887 (Ballarat Gallery - Vic.) also in other works and stands as an indication of how unspoiled and lovely the district must have been then. Conder's "Springtime", 1888 (National Gallery - Vic.) and Streeton's "Box Hill Evening", 1888 (Artarmon Gallery- N.S.W.) indicate how little settlement there was at that time.

The painters moved their "out of Melbourne" headquarters to Eaglemont and gradually with other artists, Davies, Withers and Phillip Fox, who came along in the next few years, the famed Heidelberg School was born.

Frederick McCubbin and his wife went to live at Wolseley Cres., Blackburn, in 1890. It was here in his busy backyard that he posed his family and friends for "A Bush Burial", 1890 (recently stolen from the Ballarat Art Gallery). Here too, Louis Abrahams posed for "Down on his Luck", 1889 (W. A. Art Gallery).

The vast tracks of bushland and open ground have vanished under houses, shops and factories but even today there are quiet and beautiful areas of bush, reclaimed in many instances, but gradually growing back to the beautiful bush that first captured the artists eye when the Box Hill Camp originated.

In the above article you will notice mention of Damper Creek; it was also called "No Good Damper Creek". Damper Creek crossed the Burwood Highway near the area now occupied by the Drive-in Theatre. It derived its name from an incident which happened when aborigines were plentiful in the area.

A teamster with his team and wagon, which contained a load of lime, camped for the night by the creek. During his absence the aborigines breached the load of lime, camped for the night by the creek, being under the impression it was flour. When they tried to make damper with it they quickly discovered the mistake.

From an account of a lecture by Cr. Collins on "Nunawading During the Last 16 Years" as reported in the "Box Hill Reporter" of 31st July, 1903.

(Thanks to our Archivist, Mr. Keith Patterson, for this item.)

4th April:-	Mr. J. Stansfield:-	"History of Glass".	Coffee Shop.
10th May:-	Speaker from National Trust:-	Mayon's Night.	Willis Room.
13th June:-	Mrs. Robin Da Costa:-	"Gathering Material for My Book".	Coffee Shop.
11th July:-	Schools' Night:-	Speaker supplied by Vict. Ass. Hist. Teachers.	
	Subject:	"How Gold Rush Affected Development of Australia".	Willis Room.
8th August:-	Mr. Bruce Wadson:-	"Ports & Harbours".	Coffee Shop.
12th September:-	Mr. Arthur Tonkin:-	"Murray River Boats".	Coffee Shop.
11th October:-	Annual Meeting.		Coffee Shop.
14th November:-	Members Night.		Coffee Shop.
12th December.	Mr. Peter Young:-	Forests Commi -ion.	Coffee Shop.

PLEASE KEEP FOR FUTURE REFERENCE.

THE BOX HILL CAMP, by Shirley Jones.

Between the years 1885 and 1888 the Australian Impressionists Tom Roberts, Frederick McCubbin and Louis Abrahams set up a camp at Box Hill.

The railway line had been extended from Hawthorn to Box Hill by 1882 and easy access to this small township no doubt caught the attention of Roberts. He had known this area as a boy and remembered the magnificent bush beyond the settlement. He and his friends would surely have used the train to travel to and from the Box Hill Camp, their Melbourne studios, and their summer camps at the beaches around Port Phillip Bay.

The artists roamed the Box Hill area, painting the virgin bush working in the open air and imparting a sparkle of life to their works which led to the title of the 'Australian Impressionists'. They returned to their camp near Damper Creek, on David Houston's property, each evening and had many happy hours around their camp-fire discussing painting and many other topics. Other artists joined the camp, Arthur Streeton, Charles Condor and others who have faded into history, all came to join in the new exciting school of "Impressionists".

Some of Australia's finest works were painted at the Box Hill Camp and the local people, who often visited the camp and joined in their campfire evenings, were models for many of the paintings.

The beauty of the bush is evident in McCubbins "The Lost Child", 1886 (National Gallery of Vic.) and in Roberts "A Summer Morning's Tiff", 1887 (Ballarat Gallery - Vic.) also in other works and stands as an indication of how unspoiled and lovely the district must have been then. Condor's "Springtime", 1888 (National Gallery - Vic.) and Streeton's "Box Hill Evening", 1888 (Artarmon Gallery- N.S.W.) indicate how little settlement there was at that time.

The painters moved their "out of Melbourne" headquarters to Eaglemont and gradually with other artists, Davies, Withers and Phillip Fox, who came along in the next few years, the famed Heidelberg School was born.

Frederick McCubbin and his wife went to live at Wolseley Cres., Blackburn, in 1890. It was here in his busy backyard that he posed his family and friends for "A Bush Burial", 1890 (recently stolen from the Ballarat Art Gallery). Here too, Louis Abrahams posed for "Down on his Luck", 1889 (W. A. Art Gallery).

The vast tracks of bushland and open ground have vanished under houses, shops and factories but even today there are quiet and beautiful areas of bush, reclaimed in many instances, but gradually growing back to the beautiful bush that first captured the artists eye when the Box Hill Camp originated.

In the above article you will notice mention of Damper Creek; it was also called "No Good Damper Creek". Damper Creek crossed the Burwood Highway near the area now occupied by the Drive-in Theatre. It derived its name from an incident which happened when aborigines were plentiful in the area.

A teamster with his team and wagon, which contained a load of lime, camped for the night by the creek. During his absence the aborigines breached the load of lime, camped for the night by the creek, being under the impression it was flour. When they tried to make damper with it they quickly discovered the mistake.

From an account of a lecture by Cr. Collins on "Nunawading During the Last 16 Years" as reported in the "Box Hill Reporter" of 31st July, 1903.

(Thanks to our Archivist, Mr. Keith Patterson, for this item.)

WHERE ARE THE DESCENDANTS OF JOHN MACMILLAN, who last century owned the cattle run on the Morwell River.

The Shire of Morwell officially celebrates its centenary next March and a recently formed public committee is anxious to have the beautiful Macmillan Homestead restored and preserved in conjunction with the centenary. The homestead is built on a hill overlooking the Morwell River valley at Hazlewood, only 4 km. from the centre of today's Morwell. It is the last substantial relic of the district's pioneering squatter days.

If you have any information of the Scot, John Macmillan, the Macmillan Homestead Committee would like to hear from you. Write to the present owner, Mr. Jack Lawless, P. O. Box 94, Morwell, 3840.

HISTORY REPEATS.

In his chamber, weak and dying
While the Norman Baron lay,
Loud without His men were crying
'Shorter hours and better pay'.

ANON.

On 23rd November, 1978 some of our members were guests at the Box Hill Historical Society's final night for 1978. It was a most interesting evening's entertainment, a modern projection marvel; the Epidyascope allowed photographs, postcards, and small documents to be projected on to a large screen. The result was fascinating. Many members had brought along their postcard treasures and the audience was most appreciative.

Box Hill Society's first meeting for 1979 will be held on Thursday, 22nd Feb. (1st floor Box Hill Library). Speaker: Prof. Weston-Bates, who has recently published a book on Ballarat. All members of the Nunawading Society are cordially invited.
(Report by Shirley Jones.)

"You have probably heard the constant rumours of the existence of some unknown beast in the rivers & lakes of Port Phillip - under the native name "Bunyep" or "Bunyip". That there is such an one, whether round or square, fat or lean - and that of tolerable size - I have long been convinced. At last, Lonsdale writes me word that they have found the head of one in some stream near the Murrumbidgee, and that it has been brought down to Melbourne. According to description it must be a long snouted animal something of this shape: a long bill-like snout, the forehead rising abruptly, the eye placed very low - strong grinders, cavity for brain very large. The end of the snout is broken off but the blacks who have seen it say it ought to have two long tusks projecting downward at the termination."

This is an extract from "Letters of La Trobe".

What do you think? Do you agree with La Trobe that such an animal did or does exist?

(This item was researched by Mrs. Poole, SO IF YOU HAVE SEEN a "Bunyip" let her know).

ORAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA. (from Royal Hist. Soc. Newsletter - Nov.1978)

The O.H.A.A. is open to all interested in gathering of historical information from oral sources. It is an interesting approach to history as it records the words of people and their differing views of events. Oral history methods and techniques are used in history, anthropology, sociology, libraries, archives, psychology, education, museums, folklore, music, literature and broadcasting. It opens up opportunities for original studies by school students, local history groups and family historians.

The Association has been formed to help and to guide users in the practice of oral history. It will do this by holding seminars, workshops, conferences and by publishing Newsletters and a Journal containing guides to current research, reviews, articles, news and bibliographies.

Annual subscription (July to July) is \$10.00. This entitles members to copies of the various publications in that year. All correspondence to be addressed to:- Organising Secretary, Oral History Association of Australia, C/- History Dept., University of Western Australia, Crawley, W. A., 6009.

The Editor wishes to thank those members who have contributed material for this Newsletter, and I look forward to some equally interesting articles from other members. Ed.

SNIPPETS OF HISTORY.

In 1881, an English girl who had migrated to Australia wrote back:-

"We were, and are now quite sure; that if people of England had any idea of it, they would want to come out here in a body. I think what struck us most on landing was the beauty and tasteful dress of the Melbourne ladies; such a contrast to those of Manchester. Melbourne is a most beautiful town, but not all English, quite American. I never in my life beheld such a wealth of flowers - roses and geraniums everywhere, the latter forming hedges, higher than the one-storied houses. Then the air, so pure and clear, one could see for thirty miles, and Melbourne is innocent of smoke."

(quoted from the RINGWOOD BOROUGH NEWS).

BLACKBURN RAILWAY PROPERTY (9/1/1931)
Improvements needed.

"The completion of the pipe drain on the south side of Blackburn Railway station opens up great possibilities for the beautification of this point of town. The situation lends itself to the formation of gardens that would convey a good first impression to the visitor by train. Doubtless the Commissioners would welcome any offer to improve what at present is rather an eyesore. It is to be hoped that some responsible body will take this matter up, and investigate its possibilities."

Presumably someone did just that. While recently Blackburn business people and residents as well as Nunawading Council spoke out loudly against the possible loss of the gardens on railway land due to proposed alterations at Blackburn Station.

KNOW MELBOURNE.

St. Paul's Cathedral stands on the corner of Flinders and Swanston Streets. This site was originally used as a corn market and the first weighbridge was constructed here. In 1850 the land was granted to the Church of England and the foundations were laid for a bluestone structure for 600 people. Lithographs show this building which was demolished in 1880. In the same year the foundations for the present building were laid but it was not completed till 1891. The interior of the Cathedral is indeed beautiful, the cedar woodwork and the stained glass is outstanding.

(Well worth a visit next time you are in the city).

FLAGSTAFF GARDENS. (King St., frontage).

At the highest point of the gardens are two memorials; one of the signalling station and Separation celebrations, the other to pioneers originally buried in the area.

This peak, half a mile from the first settlement, was the nearest high ground, and takes its name from the flagstaff erected there in 1840 to signal the arrival of ships in the bay. It was also the place where the first of a series of bonfires were lit to announce the passing of an Act at Westminster to separate Victoria from New South Wales.

Looking westwards, the Victoria Dock can be seen. This was excavated in the early 1880's, when a big bend of the Yarra to the northwards was cut off by the Coode Canal, and the rest of the river widened and deepened to improve and increase port facilities. To the north of the Dock there was in the early days a large lagoon which was a breeding place for ducks.