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**NUNAWADING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER**  
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NEWSLETTER - MARCH - JUNE 1987

GREAT NEWS!

Our society is now INCORPORATED, along with so many other groups today. A vote of thanks was moved at the last meeting to our President Bill Gray, for his lengthy task in finalising all the relevant details.

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DECEMBER 1986 - We enjoyed a pleasant final meeting for the year in the Courtyard Room.

At the City's Family Day on Australia Day, we had a display of a 'SCHOOLS' theme. Thanks especially to Joan Rocznok and Andrew Hillier for organising everything - a project which does take time.

Our February meeting at the Museum was held in cooler conditions than usual, but all enjoyed being together again. However, it is hoped that attendances will be greater this year.

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PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

Saturday 14th March - 9.30 a.m. Working Bee at the Museum. Members needed for short or long periods - BYO lunch if so desired. Committee meeting also.

Friday, 3rd April - STALL at BRENTFORD SQUARE - 9 a.m.

Contributions needed, especially those ever-popular HOME-MADE CAKES.

Saturday, 16th May. We plan to visit together Shortland's DOLL GALLERY AND MUSEUM, 20 Edinburgh Road, Lilydale. Jan and Warwick now have ample space to display their wonderful collection of dolls, so it is hoped many of our members will be able to come that day. Further enquiries near this date to Secretary.

June 10th Society meeting:  
7.45 p.m. at Doris and Grant Mattingley's home, 2 Leons Court, Blackburn.

12th August meeting - venue to be announced later.

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HERITAGE WEEK:

This is co-ordinated by the National Trust and is a 'Week of Discovery' created by the citizens of Australia to promote an awareness of our heritage. CALTEX OIL supports the project also. Events in which anyone may participate:

Sunday 5th April: Annual Steam Trip to LOCH ARD GORGE, visiting also Barwon Park, with address about early migrant perils at Loch Ard.  
Enquiries: 654-4711.

HERITAGE WEEK continued

Also 5th April: Heritage WALK AGAINST WANT, following a route past areas of historic significance beginning at Royal Park. Enquiries: 419-7111.

VILLA ALBA RESTORATION TRADE FAIR, KEW

Saturday & Sunday 4-5 April. Open Day and trade fair - view this mansion and see tradesmen performing old building and decorating crafts. Enquiries: 618-0222.

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TREE-PLANTING IN NUNAWADING.

The 'Nunawading Gazette' of 14/1/87 reported the wide range of native trees and shrubs planted in local streets, roads and parks last year and also over the last five years. These of course are all supplied from Nunawading's Horticultural Centre and Nursery in Jolimont Road. It is very pleasing to read of this policy and to see evidence of it all over the city.

In the 'BLACKBURN & MITCHAM REPORTER' of 12/8/1927, this account appeared:

The Blackburn-Mitcham Shire Council on Monday evening of last week adopted the report of the sub-committee that permission be given to plant Vine Street with Phoenix Palms and Bottlebrush' (the latter certainly a native plant).

Plants and guards to be provided by the residents, and Council workmen would dig the holes and carry out the planting.

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'Nunawading Gazette' reports regularly on Athletic events in our district, showing the interest and participation of so many local people. These make interesting reading by comparison with a report in the 'Ringwood Borough News' 12/6/1931.

BLACKBURN 12/6/1931.

Cross Country Running.

Blackburn is becoming increasingly popular with amateur athletic and harrier clubs during the winter months for cross country running. Undoubtedly the country in this locality is of a most desirable type for this sport. Next year one of the local associations such as the Progress Association, should endeavour to get the Victorian Amateur Athletic Association to hold some of their bigger races at Blackburn. A number of clubs that have been out here have all expressed themselves as highly delighted with the facilities for cross-country running.

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A GREEN BELT FOR MELBOURNE?

The City of Nunawading is renowned for its parks and gardens, as is the greater metropolitan area of Melbourne. This did not occur overnight, and many plans, some hopelessly elaborate, others reasonable but extremely long-term, have been put forward by Governments or local community groups, over the years. Here is one of the latter, which in hindsight may even have been proposed a little too late yet.

[A dream for Melbourne's future - which may become fact. A green-belt which is proposed by the Municipal Association to stop the uncontrolled sprawl of Melbourne's suburbs.]...

"Once every half-hour or so a bus would lurch and splash its way along the broken edge of the bitumen, gathering small bands of pioneer children from Melbourne's spreading outposts, screaming between apple orchards and deserted farmland to the next desirable building site, where new homes were rising like a crop of mushrooms from the soil..."

"It was one of those haphazard bus services which link up the fag-ends of Melbourne's tramways and bravely blaze new trails beyond the forgotten Outer Circle-Heidelberg, Balwyn, Box Hill, Oakleigh, maybe Cheltenham too..."

"In its desperate outward rush, Melbourne had left so many unfilled gaps behind it...that there have been numerous protests and lamentations over the unending sprawl of the suburbs, the creeping fungoid growth of the city..which is driving the green country in headlong retreat from the suburban dweller, pushing up the cost of supplying essential services, and forcing us to waste millions of man-hours a day hanging to tram-straps and luggage racks. Already Melbourne has dribbled down the bayside to Frankston, converting a weekend resort into a suburb. It is feeling out through the nearer hills toward Ringwood. When will it stop? Mount Dandenong?..."

...The proposal put forward by the Municipal Association and others is to throw a green belt around Melbourne, and inviolable green belt of farmland, orchard, public parks and reserves. Public authorities such as the Board of Works, the Tramways, the C.S.I.R., the Agriculture Department, the Railways and the S.E.C. were consulted, a vast amount of information was collected and put on to a mosaic map. An immense number of factors had to be considered - What was the movement of population and of industry? What plans had been drawn for extending transport services?...What building developments had been staked out? These were important questions, because the belt is conceived not only as a farming area, but also as a source of public recreation grounds - sports fields, parks, wildlife sanctuaries, picnic grounds.

Seven regional parks varying in size from 2000 to 5000 acres, are planned to give the land-starved outer suburbs some substitute for the magnificent inner green belt which was laid down by Melbourne's founders. Two of the proposed parks would be to the west.

In the north the valleys of the Plenty, Diamond and the Yarra would provide the park, and a broken area of untouched bush between Doncaster, Ringwood and Nunawading would be the fourth park...

It is a great project, a plan to make good the errors of three generations and guarantee the future against worse ones. The men who are fathering it come from the suburban councils; they have no political axes to grind, and they approach the subject with the zeal of the real amateur. Melbourne is their hobby and they are good to listen to. Cr. Eric Webb of Nunawading, who works by day as a civil servant and plans or interviews by night and at weekends, is chairman of the committee and its driving force. When he dreams dreams he does not forget about gas pipes and ground rents.

"You have to think about it in terms of human welfare," he says, "That's the basis of town planning to give people what they want. This plan is meant to give the best conditions to the most people, and to do it without raising objections that would kill it. We aren't planning in a wilderness like Canberra, so we have to take local conditions into account. There is hardly any financial commitment in it, except for acquiring the parkland. Sydney and Brisbane have both planned their green belts, we need one too."

What of the towns like ... Ringwood, which would lie inside the green belt? Would building in these already established towns be prohibited? Cr. Webb proposes a reasonable compromise; it should be limited to a fixed radius from the centre of the town, so that they will remain communities and never break through the green belt to join up with the suburbs...

It may be a long fight to realise the plan, and its sponsors are prepared for difficulties, but if our future is to be a garden of Eden it is up to the present generation to plan ahead....

[Extract from the Argus Weekend Magazine, June 19, 1948.]

From Andrew Hillier.

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| <u>Editor:</u>   | Mrs. Doris Mattingley | - | Tel. 878-4630 |
| <u>Prepared for posting by Beryl Gray and Val Riches</u> |                       |   |               |
| <u>President:</u>  | Mr. Bill Gray         | - | Tel. 874-2731 |
| <u>Secretary:</u>  | Mrs. Judith Fry       | - | Tel. 874-4220 |
| <u>Treasurer:</u>  | Mrs. Shirley Barker   | - | Tel. 878-3987 |

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