

**NUNAWADING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER**  
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NEWSLETTER - JULY - SEPTEMBER 1987

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, 12th August at the home of Betty & Rupert Muckleston, 31 Churinga Avenue, Mitcham. Program not yet finalised.

Wednesday, 9th September, 8.30 p.m. in the Willis Room, Civic Centre, when Margaret May, Reference Librarian will address us. For members coming at 8 p.m. there will be an opportunity to look around the library.

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Mrs. "Nance" Leach, a Foundation member and the first secretary of the Nunawading Historical Society died on 17th June. Mrs. Leach, who demonstrated a deep interest in the continuing story of this area was greatly respected and loved by all who came in contact with her. Her wise counsel will be missed by us all.

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On Wednesday, 10th June, members met at the Mattingley home, and, after a business meeting, spent a pleasant time with theatre programs and calendars.

After discussion initiated by the Treasurer re the finish of the financial year, now 30th June (subsequent to Incorporation) and rising costs, the members moved that annual subscriptions will now be:

Single	\$5
Family	\$8
Newsletter	\$2

The Treasurer requests that all members renew subscriptions as soon as possible - of course the new financial year begins now on 1st JULY.

Please fill in slip and forward subscription to Honorary Treasurer, Mrs. I. Barker, 14 Tortice Ave., NUNAWADING, 3131.

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COMMITTEE OF EASTERN HISTORICAL SOCIETIES ANNUAL CONFERENCE 1987.

On Saturday 9th May, Judith Fry, Shirley and Ian Barker and Andrew Hillier, attended the Committee of Eastern Historical Societies Annual Conference at Yarra Glen, as representatives of our society.

The Yarra Glen Historical Society was our host for the day's activities, which began with morning tea and the reading of reports from the seventeen societies present. Common problems arising from these reports include, lack of finance, official support from the Council, community interest and small or dwindling membership numbers.

Other items on the agenda at the conference included the possibility of a seminar on Oral history, which Ringwood agreed to hold when interest was expressed from delegates. The date of September 12th was tentatively set for same. The Region's 1987 tour is to be conducted to Foster and Wilson's Promontory on the weekend of 6th - 8th November. Accommodation is at Foster and Registration forms will be available in August. The Eastern Region's Treasurer, Mrs. Pullin, reports an account of \$1046 - in the black! The 1988 conference is to be held at Doncaster/Templestowe Historical Society's main attraction Schramm's Cottage at a date to be fixed.

After the conference, lunch was served and we adjourned to nearby Gulf Station. This is a National Trust property, representing the largest collection of slab construction buildings in their original condition in Australia. Gulf Station's importance lies in its representation of a vanished way of life - the way most Australians' - lived it - in the nineteenth century, not merely the elite of Werribee Park or Como. The Commonwealth bank has made the station its financial contribution to the bicentenary with a \$100,000 grant towards its continuing restoration. A guided tour of the property concluded with a delicious serving of Devonshire tea.

Andrew Hillier  
(Eastern Region Representative)

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BLACKBURN SOUTH PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Blackburn South area, bounded by Gardiner's Creek to the north, Middleborough Road to the west, Burwood Road to the south and Blackburn Road to the east, was up to the period after the 1st World War a completely rural area of barely profitable farms, growing fruit, berries, vegetables, poultry, etc. Afterwards, subdivision into smaller properties of about five acres each became necessary, and as population increased, the need for a school in the area became obvious.

Continued on page 3.....

Departmental records state that Blackburn South State School No. 4035 began in 1920 in a small wooden C. of E. hall in Middleborough Road [later burnt down], then to a Salvation Army hall nearby on land now occupied by Inala Village.

In 1923 the Education Department acquired a site in Canterbury Road and a two-roomed weatherboard building [regarded possibly as having been on a rural site] was moved from the Balwyn area to the present site of Blackburn South Primary School. Following the population boom and development of outer metropolitan areas after the Second World War, extra classrooms soon became necessary, and attendance peaked in 1962 to 999. The school is now a multi-education centre with 120 pupils.

In 1975 the Blackburn South Remedial Physical Education Centre [a State Government initiative] began here. It caters for all children who are not coping with the normal Physical Education program in Primary and Post-Primary schools [Government and Independent] in the Maroondah and Eastern region. Sixty students of various nationalities attend daily and remain on an average one year. Parent/teacher interviews and reports occur regularly.

Also on this site since 1980 is the Blackburn South Language Centre, its aim being to teach English to newly-arrived non-English - speaking students. This is funded by the Federal Government and administered by the State Ministry of Education. Pupils come from the same area as the above group, comprising 40 Primary and 55 Post-Primary students of 16 nationalities, ages ranging from 5+ to 18-. Here also parent-teacher interviews occur regularly.

Acknowledgments to Mr. O.S. Green  
and staff at the school.

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#### OTHER HISTORICAL NEWS

Ringwood: In addition to the Facsimile miner's cottage near the lake, the Ringwood Council has now built a facsimile poppet-head, which is of great interest to visitors of all ages.

BALLARAT: The MUSEUM of THE SCHOOL OF MINES AND INDUSTRIES began in the 1870s, but closed in the 1920s, with only intermittent openings since then. Plans are in hand to develop the fine mineralogical and geological collections and to add many more exhibits. A full-time curator is now in charge.

In preparation now for more than two years, a new exhibition at the GOLD MUSEUM discusses the events leading to the Eureka fight. A major feature is to be a full-color video of the Eureka story with narration by Professor Weston Bate.

Two major exhibitions designed to mark the BI-CENTENNIAL will be visiting the Museum of Victoria in 1988:

FIRST IMPACT: Priceless British impressions of Australia from 1820, being designed by the Natural History Section of the British Museum. It also aims to show the importance of the discovery of the Australian continent.

SHIPWRECK! To be organised by the Museum of Victoria. It will focus on Dutch and British ships wrecked in Australian waters prior to 1800.

SYDNEY: In April, the Governor of New South Wales, Sir James Roland, opened the new WESTPAC MUSEUM. This took place exactly 170 years after Governor Lachlan Macquarie opened Australia's first bank, the Bank of N.S.W. The museum has been endorsed as an official Bi-centennial activity, and is in the historic Rocks area. The theme follows a dateline from 1788 to the present, and shows how the development of banking has been linked to world and local developments. Two features are a Cobb & Co. coach and an audio recreation of a hold-up in the Blue Mountains in gold rush days. Various exhibits will be shown in the temporary gallery at various times.

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