

NUNAWADING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
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NEWSLETTER - MAY - JULY, 1988

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, 8th June, 1988 at 7.45 p.m.
At the home of Mr. & Mrs. Hillier, 15 Compton Street,
Mitcham.

Andrew will speak on the topic 'WHAT IS EPHEMERA?'
The printed memorabilia of everyday life is a valuable
source of social history for the professional historian
and the amateur history lover. All will be revealed on
8th June (so Andrew assures us).

In April, Mr. Keith Dow of Blackburn shared with us his knowledge of
the artists who painted in this area, known later as the 'Heidelberg
School' (why not the Box Hill School? - a comment often made). Of
particular interest was McCubbin who lived at one time in Blackburn.
This address was a particularly interesting link of the past with our
present day historical research.

On 23rd April, ten members took part in a 'Heritage' tour of the
Royal Historical Society Rooms, now in the old Mint. We learned of the
various manuscripts, maps, photographs, etc. and how we may carry out
research there at any time. A worthwhile excursion.

On 15th May our society organised a display at the Arts Centre for
the Mayor's Bi-Centennial Official opening of the Sound Shell, with its
striking art work, carried out by members of Y E S group. As usual,
various visitors inspected our articles and asked questions.

The Box Hill City Council held a celebratory dinner on 27th May to
commemorate the partition in 1925 of the original Shire of Nunawading
(1872) into the Shire of Blackburn and Mitcham and the Borough of
Box Hill. This Shire became our present City of Nunawading in 1945.
An historical display was presented by the Box Hill City Historical
Society in the Reception Room. Some office-bearers of our Society were
guests at this event.

Work on the City Council's addition to our Museum is progressing
and we hope to be installed there in the near future with our filing
cabinets, etc.

CHRIST CHURCH ANGLICAN CHURCH IS 100 YEARS OLD

On 7th March, 1888, the Bishop of Melbourne, Field Flowers Goe, licensed Christ Church, Mitcham, and the first service was conducted by Archdeacon Stretch on land in Edward Street. The Church ministered to families working at Mitcham brick and tile works, the Australian Tesselated Tile Company and the Monarch Company being two of these.

Many former parishioners and clergy were among the 350 people attending the morning Eucharist service - Archbishop David Penman being the preacher, and the 100 at Evensong, with Rev. Ian Herring guest speaker; a member of a well-known former Mitcham family. A display of memorabilia - we assisted here - created much interest, with visitors and parishioners happily reminiscing. Among the visitors were the former Watson girls (whose father worked for Barelli's Bakery), Wellingtons (whose chemist shop was well-known in Mitcham), and the Stacy Family (who had a grocery shop in Mitcham for many years), also three generations of the Chalmers Family, whose ancestor was on the first vestry.

The celebrations ended with an old-time social evening, when a number of people dressed appropriately and enjoyed themselves. Indeed a good time was had by all!

[Judith Fry]

MITCHAM UNITING CHURCH CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

The Mitcham Uniting Church (Former Methodists and Presbyterians) celebrated its centenary on Sunday, May 1st, 1988, when the Rev. Gordon Powell was the guest speaker. The original church building of the Methodists was opened in Richards Street on Sunday, May 6th, 1888. The original church bell was relocated under the eaves of the present building and rededicated by the Rev. Dr. A.H. Wood.

Descendants of founding families of the church, including Barelli and Walker families were present in the congregation. Church Historian Jean Cornell's book 'Gathered into one' was launched, also a one-hour historical pageant was presented to a packed house. Display of photos, documents, church records and memorabilia aroused much interest.

[Beryl Gray]

Remember, the 'FIRST IMPRESSIONS Exhibition' now on at the Museum of Victoria. A very special Bi-centennial event.

ALSO NOTE: August - October, 1988
SHIPWRECK - DISCOVERIES FROM OUR EARLIEST SHIPWRECKS
1622 - 1797

October 1988 - January 1989
TERRAS AUSTRALIS - THE FURTHEST SHORE

March 19 - April 1989
THE GREAT AUSTRALIAN ART EXHIBITION 1788 - 1988

Geelong, long famous for its wool, wool sales and wool products is the venue for the NATIONAL WOOL CENTRE, a major bi-centennial project. The set-up will not be complete until later in the year, but for the Queen's visit on 29th April, numerous displays had been prepared. Spinning and weaving groups were specially assembled to show their skills, with colorful woollen fashion garments in abundance. Other activities will follow later, one being actual wool sales. The building is the historic 1872 Dennys Lascelles bluestone woolstore, specially refurbished and looking exactly right for its new role.

ANOTHER LOCAL BUSH-WALK OF THE PAST

In the November 1987 - February 1988 Newsletter, we printed directions for a walk from Ringwood to Burwood, compiled by the late R.H. Croll. Here is another, probably from the late nineteen-twenties, from BOX HILL TO TALLY HO AND MITCHAM. Nothing can illustrate better the completely changed landscape than a study of Croll's walks.

'Station Street crosses the railway line at Box Hill station - follow this southwards. It is undulating country, with greater hills on the skyline in several directions and its variety is endless. After the township you must admire the easterly prospect of, first open land, then wooded rises, backed by the blue of the Dandenongs. The first main highway to cross is Canterbury Road, which seems to pour down from the hills at Mont Albert...Keep to the road. Houses are fewer and holdings larger, with fruit and vegetable growing, and some areas still being grazed or under timber...Then here is a turn and a curve and Riversdale Road, and due west, Wattle Park, a mass of timber, and to the left, a glimpse of Burwood. Cross Burwood Road and reach Boundary Road, then climb a hill and oh! the views! The Bay sparkles in the sun, the You Yangs stand sentinel on the further shore. Slightly to the north are the main city buildings, then further round Macedon salutes the eye, and as you turn, you take in the whole system of ranges from Whittlesea to Warburton, until your gaze rests at last on the nearer Dandenongs.

Leave the hill to the east and go down through the trees to a creek - its seclusion is that of far back country. Follow to a road, then through a paddock.....an hotel, a post office and store at a cross-roads indicate that you are passing Tally Ho, where you may see the red roofs of the Central Boys' Mission Home. Turn along Springvale Road to the left and you may reach Tunstall station in three miles.

Or, alternatively, you may cross paddocks to Burwood Road. An eccentric road, all angles, makes for Vermont, and so to Mitcham, or you may follow Burwood Road past Wantirna to a junction, where you may choose a branch to Bayswater, or another to Ringwood or to Mitcham. All are attractive highways, cut through the bush, and with much of its original glamor still remaining. Skylarks, magpies, butcher birds and scarlet-breasted robins abound.

A local resident, Mrs. Eva Schubert, a German migrant after the Second World War, spends her days sculpting. She took up wood-carving in the chaos of her refugee life in Bavaria, later being united with her husband, a former POW, who was an established carver already.

In 1955, the Schuberts came to Australia and from then, they worked as a team, doing large and small commissions for various churches. Mrs. Schubert, now a widow, carries on her work, sometimes studying a piece of wood to 'see' the form within it, and then releasing this with her skill, or she brings commissioned designs to the wood.

DRYSDALE, Bellarine Peninsula, originally McLeod's Water Holes, the name later changed to honor the pioneer woman squatter, Anne Drysdale who had lived near here.

In 1891, the United Services Home Foundation stone was laid by Lord Hopetoun, Victorian Governor and later Governor-General. This War Veterans' Home was designed to cater for old Imperial and Colonial soldiers and sailors who had been resident in Victoria for five years or more and who were now infirm. Every Sunday and on National and Imperial occasions, they made a colorful sight marching to St. James' Church in full uniform, bedecked with the medals of many campaigns. In time, all were buried in the Drysdale cemetery. Each year, on the nearest Sunday to the Battle of Balaclava and the historic charge of the Light Brigade (25th Oct. 1854), the 43rd District Board of the RSL conducts a memorial service at the cemetery, and the band nostalgically always plays 'Soldiers of the Queen'.

QUEBEC, CANADA

In 1985, UNESCO awarded the city of Quebec heritage status. Quebec is the only walled city in Canada and it is the cradle of French civilisation in North America. There is great diversity of architectural styles, ranging from the 17th century monasteries to the buildings of the nineteen-eighties.

Since the late nineteen-sixties an extraordinary effort has been made to restore and renew historic places, retaining period features, but avoiding artificial historical museum results.

As in many other cities today, housing is a major problem and much has already been accomplished to assist in this. Apart from restoration of former residences, buildings such as old warehouses in neglected areas are being updated to transform these areas into thriving communities, where families live and work. Essential modern amenities today must include elevators and parking areas.

For one particular project, planners had to cope with replacing 10 feet high windows and insulating them, as well as restoring the original architectural style that had long since disappeared. In some instances, motels and annexes had been built in courtyards, but when these were finally demolished, much valuable open place was immediately available.

A most interesting city, by all accounts.

(Canadian Geographic)

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