

**NUNAWADING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER**  
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NEWSLETTER - JULY - AUGUST 1988

NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY 10th AUGUST, 1988 at 7.45 p.m. at our new venue, ARCHIVAL ANNEXE of the MUSEUM.  
[Members note: Melway 49 D 7 - enter Edgerton Road, Wattle Valley Road, Irene Cres.]

SPEAKER: will be Mr. Wal Ashton, who will discuss SILVER.  
[Perhaps you have a silver piece you would like identified].

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On 8th June, Andrew Hillier spoke to us and described Ephemera, and showed some of his fascinating collection.

Ephemera - this term is used to denote minor documents of everyday life, produced specifically for short term use and generally for disposal. This very broad definition admits a vast range of transient oddments such as tickets, leaflets, packaging and informal hand-written items, such as shopping lists, begging letters and craftsmen's invoices.

The EPHEMERA SOCIETY of Australia came about as a direct result of the overwhelming response to the Museum of Victoria's Great Exhibition of Victoria in late 1984-5. The Museum itself has a large amount of Ephemera in its collection, the Australian Society is affiliated with similar societies in England [formed 1975], USA [1979] and Canada [1987].

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NOTE: 10th - 11th September are Open days with Mitcham Arts Society:  
PEOPLE AND PLACES IN PAINTING & PHOTOGRAPHS.

Since incorporation the new financial year begins on 1st July, 1988 and subscriptions are now due. Form on last page.

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On 15th June, several members were present with other guests at the Mitcham Branch of WESTPAC. Our contribution to the Travelling Museum of local photographs and land sales, etc. was of great interest to people there.

After delicious refreshments, Mr. Hando, Westpac Regional Manager spoke of the bank's origin, the Bank of N.S.W. opening in 1817 in Macquarie Place, the beginning of a long illustrious success story leading to WESTPAC of today. Mr. M. Coghlan, Mitcham Manager, then presented our President, Mr. Bill Gray, with an ENORMOUS cheque for \$1000 [the actual cheque for our bank account being handed to our Treasurer later]. Nunawading 'Gazette' wrote this up and 'WEG' contributed his bit.

We are most appreciative of this generous gift, and our President conveyed our thanks most ably. We plan to use this money in our new Archival Annexe in the near future.

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GREAT DAYS IN OUR HISTORY

One great day for us was 20th November 1977 when the then Mayor, Cr. Brown officially opened the Museum. Our City Council demonstrated its faith in our Society's capabilities with this generous gift. Mr. John Armstrong was the Honorary Architect and many other people assisted in the team effort to prepare the place for its future role, one who deserves special mention being the late Keith Patterson, archivist.

A special part of the museum has always been the exhibition of agricultural implements connected with our early history of fruit-growing. Former orchardists donated these pieces and the Council arranged for their re-furbishing, ready for display.

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Sunday, 24th July, 1988 was another truly great day with the opening of our extra space, the Archival Annexe, a further example of our Council's trust.

President, Bill Gray welcomed the visitors and mentioned many people, some of these of course being present; our local Members of Parliament, Mr. L. Fell, Council staff for much assistance, Mr. Weatherly, Mr. P. O'Connor, former Councillor and Mayor, Noel Webster, whose enthusiasm started off the museum idea originally, Former Councillor George Cox who has supported the Historical Society and Cottage from their beginnings, Mr. John Armstrong, Architect, who designed the Museum to fit in with the Cottage complex, Architect and former Councillor David Gawler who has fittingly designed the present valuable addition, Mr. Dick, builder, former Councillor and Mayor, Ken Barelli, who has been a hard-working liaison officer with the Council and our Society, Dr. Dianne Sydenham, our local Historian, Joan Roczniok, our Archives director, Council staff who have assisted her and lastly the local Christ Church, Church of England for loan of chairs on this big day, also the Hillier family for loan of table.

The President then introduced our Mayor, Valda Arrowsmith, who spoke of the ongoing interest in local history like our Cottage and Museum complex, and referring to the fact that the Museum builder had been a Council employee (the late Mr. Williamson). It was former Councillor and Mayor, Ken Barelli, who drew attention to the need for an archival centre and this opening seems opportune in our Bi-Centennial Year. Another special point of interest was that this local project had not had any financial support from elsewhere. In time there may be similar buildings to preserve and work on. The Mayor then expressed best wishes to our Society for now and in the future, and officially opened the Annexe, unveiling a plaque. This stated -

This Archival Annexe was officially opened by  
the Mayor of the City of Nunawading, Valda Arrowsmith, J.P.  
on 24th July 1988

Following this, everyone enjoyed a delicious afternoon tea, provided by members.

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The 'BALLARAT COURIER', the City's daily newspaper was first printed on 10/6/1867, one hundred and twenty-one years ago.

The gold rush there began in 1851, with several newspapers operating from 1853, but none so lasting as the 'Courier'. Attitudes towards rival papers were clearly expressed in those days, one publication in the eighteen seventies referring to another as 'the reptile contemporary along the street'.

The first licensed hotel - as distinct from the former 'shanties'- was opened in 1853. This was Batt's Hotel, today on the same site the Majestic Hotel known as CRAIG'S, the Royal Hotel having been yet another name in earlier times.

In 1856 the first Council asked the Surveyor-General for a library site in Sturt Street. A Mechanics Institute existed from 1855, but it was 1869 before the Free Library opened in the East, and 1878 one in the West.

In 1867, the Philharmonic Society was formed, lasting only 5 years, but others soon followed, with large audiences constantly attending performances by operatic groups. Among the diggers there were many fine singers and musicians, and in 1855, the first Welsh Eisteddfod was held, the only one of its kind then in Victoria.

In 1855 the first race meeting took place on the site of the present Dowling Forest Racecourse. Australian Rules Football was little more than a year old when the Ballarat Football Club was formed in 1861.

In 1867, the 477 hotels stayed open till 1.30 a.m. as a matter of course!!

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DAILY NEWSPAPERS - Something we take for granted today.

The first edition of a new morning newspaper, 'THE AGE', was published on Tuesday 17 October, 1854, in Melbourne. It was dedicated to: 'THE RECORD OF GREAT MOVEMENTS, the ADVOCACY OF INSTITUTIONS, THE DIFFUSION OF TRUTH AND THE ADVANCEMENT OF MAN.'

The Melbourne EXHIBITION of 1854 opened on the day of publication of this paper, and it was hoped this would be as noble an achievement as the London Exhibition of 1851.

Among the advertisements were many for Freehold Land Societies. One stated: The object of this society is to enable the industrial classes of the Colony to become proprietors, in their own right of freehold land; and it is proposed to accomplish this by the simple principle of consideration, by means of which land may be purchased in large quantities at a wholesale price, and afterwards distributed in retail allotments, at the same cost to its members. [Further details follow.]

[One advertisement] - Land on Sale; 30 acres.

Parish of Nunawading. Only 8 miles from Town and possessing abundance of fine timber will be sold in lots to suit buyers. Title a grant from the Crown to the present vendor. [This Parish area was of course larger and so nearer to Melbourne than our present city.]

Shipping timetables were prominent, offering passages not only to England, but to ports as Geelong, Adelaide, Portland, Warrnambool, Hobart Town and Launceston.

Among the numerous 'Miscellaneous' advertisements was an intriguing one - alas, we will never know its background:

'Mr. McClure, Ballarat - No further charge of your son will be taken; please remove him.'

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OTWAY LIGHT SHINING ON -

An article by reporter Peter Hanlon in the Colac Herald on 15th June, 1988, told an interesting story of achievement by a dedicated group of people. For almost ten years the 'Otway Light Newspaper' has served the residents of the Otways.

Since its humble beginnings on 21st September, 1979, when it was printed as a small newsletter by the cleaners of the Lavers Hill Consolidated School, the paper has grown into a weekly publication of some 24 pages with everything from news and coming events to handy hints for house and garden.

There is a range of correspondence around the district and a number of people assist with the various steps of the publication, including the school children who collate the issues. The paper is officially printed by the Otway Light Board, made up of school staff, Council and members of the community. Many former residents still have the paper posted to them, last year copies being mailed as far away as Singapore and England.

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A Centenary will be celebrated this year at The Avenue Uniting Church, Blackburn. Mitcham Primary School in Mitcham Road will also be 100 years old. Halliday Park, Mitcham was established 50 years ago.

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Editor: Mrs. Doris Mattingley Tel. 878-4630

Prepared for posting by Beryl Gray and Val Riches

President: Mr. Bill Gray Tel. 874-2731

Secretary: Mrs. Judith Fry Tel. 874-4220

Treasurer: Mrs. Shirley Barker Tel. 878-3987

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

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NAME .....	SINGLE MEMBERSHIP	\$5
ADDRESS.....	FAMILY MEMBERSHIP	\$8
.....	NEWSLETTER	\$2

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