



NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER-DECEMBER 1989

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, 11th October 1989 at the Archival Annexe at 7.45 p.m.  
ANNUAL MEETING. Please note nomination form for Office bearers.

We welcome back Beryl and Bill Gray and hope to hear something of their travels then.

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PLEASE NOTE: OPEN DAY at the MUSEUM on Sunday 29th October in conjunction with MITCHAM ARTS ASSOCIATION.

TIME: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

We will have displays of textiles, photographs and archival material. MAA will have paintings, artists and instruction for anyone requiring it.

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DECEMBER 9th - Saturday meeting. 12.30 p.m. Lunch at the Museum - Please bring a plate of food to share. We hope to have as our guest Mr. Ron Pearce, a grandson of Mr. Slater (famous for his herb farm and activities in the early days of Blackburn and district) who will tell us about those times.

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Wednesday 14th February 1990. Our first meeting in the New Year when we enjoy being together again. 6.30 p.m. Bring a plate of food to share, then we hold our usual business meeting.

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Mr. D.J. Watts of Blackburn has presented us with some historic papers concerning the building in 1930 of the former dairy in Railway Road, Blackburn, demolished only recently. Many local residents will remember the wonderful service given by the Watts family for many years in operating the dairy. We are very grateful to Mr. Watts for this contribution to our archives.

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NOMINATIONS for election of office-bearers for the Society to be in the hands of the Secretary, Judy Fry (10A Alexander St., Mitcham) prior to meeting on 11 th October, 1989.

NOMINATION For . . . . .

PROPOSER: . . . . .

SECONDER: . . . . .

NOMINEE'S SIGNATURE . . . . .



On 9th August, Mr. JOHN FROST - a devotee of both railway and trams, and who was involved also in the recent visits of the Flying Scotsman delivered a detailed and specially interesting account of tramways history.

For anyone wondering about the origin of 4ft. 8½ ins. gauge, this is the distance between the wheel-ruts left by the Roman vehicles in Britain, before 410 A.D. This measurement was later adopted for wheeled transport operating in the mines, then in many other situations and much later, for some of our railways here.

In the 19th century, horse trams were in use in U.K. and U.S.A. and later there were some steam propelled vehicles. The very first tram ran on hardwood rails at Port Arthur prison in Tasmania, the convicts being the propelling force up the steep gradients, with gravity for the downward run. After the gold era, Victoria's transport developed fast, not only with improved roads, but such ventures as the 1854 steam railway from Flinders Street to Sandridge (Port Melbourne), and a railway service between Geelong and Ballarat.

The horse tram to the Melbourne Zoo opened in 1887, while the electric tram from Box Hill to Doncaster celebrates its centenary this year.

Both cable and electric trams make up a very long and fascinating history. Mr. Frost also showed slides of local trams, past and present, and some in overseas locations, one being the famous cable trams of San Francisco.

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FRESH AIR AND OPEN SPACES

In 1966, Councillor Keith Satchwell, a former Mayor had the Nunawading City Council engage a Town Planner to make recommendations about the amount and positioning of public open space for a projected population of 100,000 - 110,000 residents.

Following the report to the Parks and Gardens Committee, a sub-committee was set up to interpret this, chaired by Councillor George Cox (now the Honourable George Cox, MLC for Nunawading Province), in conjunction with the late Bill Sewart, then Deputy City Engineer.

The report divided the city into twelve blocks on a grid, and the sub-committee worked its way through the recommended land acquisitions, and where certain recommended land had already been approved for subdivision, an alternative equivalent amount of open land in that block was reserved for public open space.

The MMBW's idea was a minimum of 7.5 acres per thousand head of population, but fortunately for us all today, the interpretation of the report by the sub-committee brought the City's open space up to a projection of approximately 8.5 acres per thousand head of population. At that time many orchards were being developed into residential allotments and it was a critical time to preserve open space.

The well-researched report, when presented to the Council, was adopted as a blue-print for the future. The population of the City then was approximately 64,000, now it is more than 97,000. Today we can all appreciate this forward planning, with the very large amount of open space in our area.

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NOMINATION FOR  
PROPOSER:  
SET DATED:  
NOMINEE'S SIGNATURE



RADIO AUSTRALIA. 1939-1989.  
Tally-Ho Technology Park, East Burwood

50 years old, with a postage stamp later this year.

Radio Australia is Australia's international broadcaster, on-air daily in English, Indonesian, Standard Chinese, Cantonese, Tok Pisin, French, Thai, Japanese and Vietnamese.

The broadcasts are heard by millions of people, mainly in Asian regions, Pacific nations, Papua New Guinea and Africa/Indian Ocean. The English Service also reaches the Middle East, United Kingdom, Europe and North America.

The principal programs - news, current affairs, topical features and interviews - share information and ideas, and report issues and events of interest and importance to listeners. There's also music, entertainment and coverage of sport.

Radio Australia was founded on 20 December, 1939 with an English service inaugurated by Prime Minister Menzies. The station, known then as "Australia Calling", was under the direction of the Department of Information and used ABC staff and studios.

During the war years Australia Calling became a vital source of news and information for people throughout Asia and the Pacific. Its fair reporting of both sides of the conflict led to its widespread acceptance as an authoritative, respected broadcaster.

The name "Radio Australia" was adopted in 1945 as part of preparations for post-war broadcasting. Other steps were increasing on-air hours, introducing new programs and bringing new transmitters into service.

Today, Radio Australia ranks as one of the most popular and respected international broadcasters in the world. It presents almost 350 hours of programming every week and is acknowledged as having a major share of the shortwave audiences in many Asian and Pacific countries.

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DONCASTER & TEMPLESTOWE HISTORICAL SOCIETY announces in its newsletter that a COLONIAL FAIR - with the atmosphere of an old English village - will be held in the grounds of Schramms Cottage, 21st October - Noon till 5 p.m.

To celebrate the centenary of the Box Hill-Doncaster electric tram, on Saturday 14th October, three pictorial plaques are to be unveiled at the site of the Box Hill terminus (now the Post Office), the Power House and the Doncaster terminus. Also a tram exhibition is being prepared for the Box Hill Lower Town Hall from 18th to 28th October, and the cable tram on display at the rear of the State Museum in Russell Street will be moved to Box Hill and placed on the lawn outside the Town Hall for an extended period.

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BALLARAT. The large corner store in Sturt Street previously owned by Paterson Powell has been a Myer's emporium for some years. There are now plans to restore its veranda, but opinions differ on the matter. Old photographs show the original cast iron lace of the Eighteen-eighties. Ballarat people have long been in favor of retaining this type of decoration - but opponents of the idea want the 1901 version, a much more elaborate style.

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Extract from article by Mrs. Gwenda Trethewey, member of the Society, after interview with Mr. Turner of Endeavour St., Mitcham.

"How streets got their names can be a source of wonder. Some streets are named after local identities or early settlers, some after events of significance or people of importance. There is a nautical flavour to street names in an area of Mitcham. East of Mitcham Road there are four streets - Endeavour, Flinders, Moresby and Beaufort.

This particular area of land between Chippewa Avenue and Quarry Road has been owned by a Mr. Gare who had laid out a lemon orchard of 800 lemon trees.

The orchard was bought by Commander Turner, retired R.N. and his Australian born wife, Vere, in 1946.

It was difficult for the Turners to run the orchard. They had no previous experience and it was impossible to employ labour. Lemons only brought £1 a case at the Blue Moon Co-operative so they decided to sell the 25 acres for development. The land was surveyed and four roads established, not paved as in present subdivisions, but formed, and it was Commander Turner who gave them their names.

He came from a long naval tradition - his grandfather and father had been marine engineers in the Merchant Navy and his older brother had served in the Royal Navy, so it was natural that he would choose names of naval men of distinction and particularly, hydrographers. Thus, Endeavour recalls the ship in which Cook sailed and charted the east coast of Australia, or New South Wales, as he named it.

Flinders after Mathew Flinders who completed the mapping of Terra Australis, and

Moresby [after whom Port Moresby was named] &

Beaufort recall the names of distinguished admirals and hydrographers.

Mr. Turner, now 93 and a widower, still lives in the house he and his wife built, the second house in Endeavour Street, on the estate which was subdivided and sold by R. Armstrong of Drake Real Estate Agency, Mitcham in the fifties. Mr. Turner's naval career of 42 years was part of a long tradition of seamanship and skilled charting and mapmaking and this is remembered in the streets he named. "

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