



Series 2. No. 5.

NEWSLETTER - MAY - JULY 1991

On Saturday, 13th April, our meeting was held in the afternoon at the Archival Annexe. That day we had a return visit by members of the Blackwood Historical Society, and they were very interested in our Museum; also their visit to the Information Centre, Yarran Dheran Reserve. All present had a very pleasant afternoon.

NEXT MEETING: Saturday, 15th June at the Archival Annexe

1.30 p.m. - Jan Miller of Warrandyte will speak on the records of the Catholic Cemetery (St. John's), Air Hill, and her family history.

NOTE

other dates:

Saturday, 10th August - 1.30 p.m.
Wednesday, 9th October - ANNUAL MEETING - 7.45 p.m.
Sunday, 20th October - OPEN DAY
Saturday, 14th December - Final meeting for the year.

"WINDOWS ON NUNAWADING" by Dr. Diane Sydenham.
\$29.95. Obtainable at the Museum or the Civic Centre.

On Saturday, 20th April, four representatives from our Society attended the Eastern Historical Societies AGM. This year's hosts were Hawthorn H.S. It was an excellent well attended meeting with members from 15 groups giving their reports, the general plea being - "Please - would all members come along to functions and help in anyway they can".

After reports a speaker from the Heritage Studies Group showed the ways the environment has been altered by mankind. After an enjoyable lunch we were taken to an Aboriginal Food Garden which the Hawthorn Society are developing.

We then boarded "The Blackbird" and another enthusiastic Hawthorn member pointed out places of interest along the banks of the Yarra.

A day to remember - spent with people eager to preserve our heritage when possible.

Betty Muckleston

THE AUSTRALIAN STOCKMAN'S HALL OF FAME, OUTBACK HERITAGE CENTRE AT LONGREACH, Queensland.

This project salutes the contribution made to the nation by the outback pioneers. After twelve years of voluntary work, cost \$12 million, it was opened by the Queen on 29th April 1988. Since then, 284,000 people have been to visit.

An appeal for further funds towards a \$5 million extension wing as a tribute to Australia's pioneer women is now in operation.

More extracts from the 'BLACKBURN & MITCHAM REPORTER' in the nineteen-thirties.

13/1/1932.

Electric Light Bowling.

The Camberwell Bowling Club is to be congratulated on the splendid success of its recent electric light competition. An entry of seventy rinks, including some of the finest rinks and individual players in Melbourne made the tournament very keen and interesting.

20/1/1932.

Quick Road Work.

Road users have reason to congratulate the Country Roads Board staff and the Blackburn & Mitcham Shire Engineer (Mr. N.G. Roeszler) who supervised the work, on the speed with which the work of re-sealing White Horse Road was carried out.

A minimum of inconvenience was caused to road users as the job was commenced on the last Friday week and the whole length of 4 1/2 miles within the shire completed within the week. The spreading of screenings on the road new bitumen gave employment to a large number of local men and has resulted in a great improvement to the road.

20/1/1932 Reporter Editorial

...1932 - all are hoping, will inaugurate a period of sure if slow recovery in our material conditions.....

17/1/1932

Mornington or Blackburn.

Progress Association.

Mr. Craig drew attention to the lack of signs on White Horse Road indicating to travellers that they were entering or leaving Blackburn, Tunstall and Mitcham. Some time ago he was astonished to see a large sign at the intersection of White Horse Road and Middleborough Road bearing the words: 'See Mornington first', but no word about Blackburn. Mr. Jamieson said signs were erected by the Progress Association, but this association was not in a financial position to erect more, and it would be useless to approach the Shire Council.

11/3/1932.

Shire Council Builds a Home.

The new residence erected by the Blackburn & Mitcham Shire Council at its depot in White Horse Road, Tunstall, has been completed and is now occupied by Mr. & Mrs. L. Sharpe. The cost of the dwelling which is of four rooms, kitchenette/bathroom/pantry etc. with tiled roof and equipped with septic tank, was erected at a cost of approximately £530. The whole of the material and labour was supplied by ratepayers and the work was carried out under the supervision of the Shire Engineer.

The completed structure is a credit to all concerned. It has been let to Mr. Sharpe at a rental of 15/- per week, which represents a return of 8 per cent on the capital expenditure to the Council.

Mr. Sharpe is an officer of the Council and has taken the responsibility of supervising the depot without extra remuneration.

[Ad. from 'Blackburn & Mitcham Reporter' in 1932 [See Newsletter March/
 TEL. WX 2504 May 1990]

Cream supplied. Milk served at Dairy during the day.

F.E. WATTS
 [late Clairmont Dairy Brighton]
 THE HYGIENIC DAIRY, ALBERT STREET, BLACKBURN.

Farm on corner Canterbury & Middleborough Roads.

Milk promptly delivered to any part of Blackburn & district. All
 milk brine-cooled on premises.

Agent for LADY TALBOT MILK.

Milk registered under the Central Bureau of Health.

SOME PLANS OF BLACKBURN [From our Archives]

'Subdivision of 1910. Most desirable villa sites on lovely sylvan
 hill-tops and slopes.'

'BLACKBURN, Melbourne's Premier Rural Suburb stands unrivalled for its
 happy combination of picturesqueness, and solid progress, salubrity and
 easy accessibility.'

Moreton Park Recreation Hall and Moreton Park were marked on this
 map, also a Refreshment Room in Blackburn Road, opposite the hall. The
 Post Office was in Blackburn Road, just north of the railway line, where
 a bicycle shop is now, and a butcher's on the corner of Blackburn Road
 and Railway Road, now the LIONS DEN Opportunity Shop. Shop sites were
 approximately 33 feet wide along South Parade, west of Main Street.
 Another earlier, undated map showed some along Vine Street and
 Station Street, also in Railway Road.

In 1914, the subdivision of FRANCOM'S PADDOCK took place. This
 comprised some blocks backing on to the railway line in Laburnum Street,
 all the blocks on the west side of Myrtle Grove, all blocks east of it
 south to Linum Street, and as far as half-way to Laurel Grove. At this
 time, the west portion of Linum Street was called View Street.

The brochure showed a bunch of wild-flowers which grew profusely
 in this area. The blocks on the south side of Laburnum Street were marked
 as 'lovely rising ground'; between Fuschia and View Streets, the
 description was 'High tableland commanding lovely views'.

Price was £3 deposit, £3 per quarter, interest 5 per cent.

'Blackburn, nestling among the gum-clad eastern hills, is now so
 famous for its numerous beauty spots, picturesque scenery, bracing and
 genial atmosphere, that the claim to the title of 'MELBOURNE'S PREMIER
 SUBURB' requires no defence.

Its growth of settlement has of late been highly satisfactory, but
 it is only a forecast of a coming much greater development, which will
 be hastened by the Municipal Electric Light System just installed,
 the Water Supply from the O'Shannasse River Main now being arranged,
 and the Railway Electrification shortly will be provided'.

Some extracts from the sale notice issued in 1922 by T.R.B. Morton & Son, Auctioneers of Melbourne and Box Hill. Mr. Morton's residence at this time was at the corner of Blackburn Road and Gordon Crescent, Blackburn.

'SYLVAN GLADES PADDOCK. A central beauty spot of BEAUTECUS BLACKBURN, (Blocks for sale were on the west side of Blackburn Road, from the Avenue south to Heath Street). The main approach from Canterbury Road to the Station is an attractive highway avenue.

While almost every lot is prettily timbered, those fronting Heath Street and on both sides of the natural water-course carry a dense growth of gums of various kinds, maiden-hair fern and other flora.

Blackburn, aptly termed in past years 'Melbourne's Premier Rural Suburb', still in its retention of rare natural charm and health conducting climatic conditions, fully merits this distinctive name, but now advantages and conveniences long hoped for having at last come, or being in actual construction, we can, in addition, fairly claim for it a very marked recent development, and, with unhesitating confidence, assured continued progress in the upward path of sound prosperity and substantial growth.

The installation of Electric Light by the Council a few years ago and recently, by the Melbourne & Metropolitan Board, of a high-pressure water-supply from the O'Shannessy River Main, and the imminent electrification of the trains have been, and are, important and permanently acting causes of this gratifying movement.'

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