



Series 2. No.4.

NEWSLETTER - MARCH - APRIL 1991

Melbourne weather - so often termed fickle - was exactly right for our 25th Anniversary celebrations on 8th December. Former members, representatives from other societies, Councillors and friends, ^{enjoyed} moving about informally and chatting. The Museum and our extra displays were of great interest to the visitors, some of whom were not familiar with our historical centre. And the delightful 'basket' lunch, prepared by a group of members, was enjoyed by all. Some specially welcome guests were several Schwerkolt family members.

We were sorry that our long-time Treasurer, Shirley Barker, an original member, was unable to be present.

The Society has survived some anxious times and great praise is due to a number of City Councillors, who, over the years have given support to our group.

Wednesday 13th February. Our opening meeting for this year, as usual a pleasant picnic tea, followed by a business meeting.

Saturday, 13th APRIL meeting at midday at the Annexe. Members will please bring a picnic lunch to share. We will be entertaining the Blackwood people, who hosted our trip two years ago.

June meeting will be held on the 15th at 1.30 p.m.

Displays by our Society have been held at CENTRAL LIBRARY, Nunawading and at VERMONT SOUTH LIBRARY.

On Sunday, 24th February, 23 members and friends of the Society travelled to Castlemaine to visit 'BUDA' - the historic home and garden of the Leviny family. Ernest Leviny was born in Hungary and trained as a watchmaker and jeweller working in Rome, Paris and London before coming to Australia in 1853. He set up a watchmaker and jewellery business in the Market Square until 1859, after which he invested in land along the main streets. Ernest Leviny had 10 children, 4 sons and 6 daughters, by his second wife Bertha.

Buda House was built in 1861 by a Baptist Missionary from India, and purchased by Ernest Leviny in 1863. The house was added to in 1890. Only two generations of the Leviny family lived in the house and when Hilda (the youngest) died in 1981 the contents of the house were bequeathed to the Trustees of the Castlemaine Art Gallery and Historical Museum. The Trustees purchased the House and grounds in 1970 and Hilda was given life occupancy. The garden was always a family affair and all the children took part in its upkeep.

Beryl Gray

HERITAGE WEEK, also SENIOR CITIZENS' WEEK, 7-14 April, 1991.

The theme of Heritage Week is WATER AND WETLANDS. The Oration to be given by Dr. Tony Dingle on Tuesday 9 April at 7.45 p.m. at the Royal Mint, the subject being 'WATERING TWENTIETH CENTURY MELBOURNE!'

Another recent celebration was that of the 50th Anniversary of the MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS (now INC. like everyone else). Hundreds of members, past and present, gathered at Gilwell Park for an informal 'get-together', and all had great fun viewing the large collection of photographs.

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS

Have you any old toys that boys would have played with in earlier times? The attendants at Schwerkolt Cottage report that visiting groups of boys regularly comment on the lack of boys' toys there - only girls seem to be represented.

Any old hoops hanging up in the garage? Or other suitable pieces?

The Australian Nature Magazine 'WILD LIFE' was edited by the late Mr. Crosbie Morrison for many years. In the 1946 May issue, there was a comment about the disappearance of many old family records, due to the demand for waste paper during the war. However, at times a few snippets of great interest survived.

Mr. C.F. Cole of Canterbury, Victoria, copied some notes from a portion of his grandfather's diary, this gentleman having arrived from England in 1842, subsequently starting a nursery in Hawthorn. His name was perpetuated in various COLE'S PROLIFIC and COLE'S WONDER variety of vegetables, popular for many years, and for his book, 'GARDENING IN VICTORIA' in 1860. This was the first gardening book to be printed in the State.

A few extracts:

April 15th, 1863: First salmon ova introduced into Victoria per ship 'The Norfolk', Captain Tomkins.

May 5th, 1865: First young salmon in Tasmania from English ova.

September 21st, 1865: Great shoals of pilchards in the Bay.

October 5th, 1865: Great flight of cormorants constantly seen; supposed to have been driven from the interior by drought.

A photocopy of 'THE WARRNAMBOOL STANDARD' [circulating principally throughout the Western District of Victoria] for Friday, January 27, 1888, shows some interesting glimpses of everyday life at that time.

Evidently Dr. L.L. Smith of Vermont was not alone in his much-publicised treatment for all manner of ailments. Dr. T.C. Wright at the Progressive Medical Institute, 53 Flinders Street West, Melbourne, advertised:

'Progressive Science' or The successful treatment of nervous and special diseases according to the laws of Nature and the philosophy of common sense. The practice of medicine revolutionized. [Followed by a full half-column of details].

On the same page, a very small paragraph states that one may 'In all nervous diseases consult Dr. L.L. Smith, Collins Street east, Melbourne.' Consulting hours seven days a week. Fee by letter £1.

SHIPPING NOTICES advised that 'the boats 'NELSON and 'JULIA PERCY' between Warrnambool and Melbourne are the fastest and most commodious in the Western trade, and by their high power are enabled to keep time in almost any weather. The public should also bear in mind that passengers are almost invariably landed on the pier at Warrnambool'.

Timetables were published for COBB & CO.'S TELEGRAPH LINE OF ROYAL MAIL COACHES, in connection with Victorian Railways. A return ticket, by coach and rail, between Warrnambool and Melbourne, cost 40/- First class, 30/- Second class.

Some extracts from the 'BLACKBURN & MITCHAM REPORTER' of the nineteen thirties.

March 25, 1932.

Doncaster. Pear Export.

Pear exporting is in full swing, and on March 16 trucks went through Box Hill Station en route for the City of Winchester. The next shipment will be by the 'Maloja' on Monday.

MITCHAM

Naturalists' Club.

No previous meeting excelled in interest that of March 16, when Mr. T.H. Wooster read a paper on 'FLEAS' of which possibly he alone in Australia has made a special study. At first, it was believed he said, that all fleas belonged to a single species, but subsequent investigations have increased this number to about 500....On the following afternoon, an excursion for general study was held along Deep Creek Road, under the direction of Mr. F.G.A. Barnard. Owing to the earliness of the season, opportunities for study were scarce, but nevertheless a very interesting study was spent.

April 1, 1932.

Cricket Worth Seeing.

Big cricket with the champions engaged is all right in its way but lacks the personal note and keen rivalry of local cricket. For this reason, cricket lovers are invited to the finals of the Reporter District Cricket Association, which commences next Saturday.... An innovation has been made this year by making a fixed admission charge of sixpence for adults and threepence for children at the A & B grade matches.

April 15, 1932.

Morton Park, Blackburn

The patient industry and hard work of Mr. Lowe on the preparation of the upper oval has been the subject of much favorable comment. Recently it was observed that he was going over the whole of the playing areas with a scythe and later with a hand-mower. His work was mainly responsible for its very excellent condition of the ground for the cricket finals..... The raised ground at the eastern end makes a fine natural grandstand, and it is understood that accommodation for umpires, apart from the present dressing-room, will shortly be provided.

May 20, 1932.

Naturalists' Club.

Thirty four members and friends attended on May 12 when Mr. A.G. Campbell of Kilsyth lectured on the Dandenong Ranges, the address being illustrated by a very fine series of lantern views representing photographs prepared in the early days by his father, the late Mr. A.J. Campbell.Special interest was evinced in the pictures of old foresters' huts, pioneers' homes, and in the very striking 'close-up' photography of lyre birds and their nests.

On the following Saturday, nearly thirty people travelled by motor conveyances to the Cave Hill Limeworks, Lilydale, when a busy afternoon was spent in extracting fossils from the quarry under the direction of Mr. J. Greenwood.

June 17, 1932

Compiling a History.

The early arrangements now being made for the celebration of the centenary of Melbourne were mentioned by Mr. L.R. East at the meeting of the Progress Association. Mr. East said that the first important part of the arrangements was the compilation of the histories of the component parts of the city, and several suburbs had already taken action to have their histories recorded.

July 1932.

Traffic Button.

Camberwell on Monday considered a request from the Ratepayers' League for a traffic button at the intersection of Balwyn and Whitehorse Roads. The engineer reports that such a button would not be an improvement and would tend to make the turning more awkward. Traffic buttons at similar intersections in the city were being taken up....Possibly a better position would be on the south building line of Whitehorse Road.....The engineer's report was adopted.....

July 15, 1932

MITCHAM - NATURALISTS' CLUB.

Nineteen members were present on 7th when Mr. Bill Lock delivered an address on 'Australian Birds'....In illustration of Mr. Lock's descriptions, a veritable gallery (executed by Mrs. and Miss Lock) were displayed on the walls. The artistic as well as the scientific value of the drawings was highly appreciated, and materially contributed to the enjoyment of the address.

July 29, 1932.

FOREST HILL - RE-UNION OF OLD SCHOLARS.

A re-union of old students of Forest Hill State School and friends was held at the Tunstall Hall on Wednesday evening last week. This took the form of a social evening and dance, in connection with the 'Talent Show' of the Mothers' Club, to contribute towards the building of a Kindergarten Hall at the school.

Attendance was excellent, and resulted in a profit of £2/10/-.

July 29, 1932.

PROGRESS ASSOCIATION.

At the monthly meeting of the Tunstall Progress Association, a letter was received from the Railway Department stating that its request for the provision of hand-gates on the west side of Springvale Road crossing could not be acceded to, as the amount of traffic does not warrant it.

July 22nd, 1932.

MONT ALBERT - Garage near Railway Gates.

Reference was made at Box Hill Council on Tuesday by the City Engineer to an application for an extension of the commercial garage erected on railway property near Mont Albert Road Railway Gates. He said the plans showed a similar type of construction to the existing building, but the Council had no power to prevent its erection. It was decided to offer no objection but to request the lessees to erect a building in keeping with the locality.

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