



NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 1991

On Saturday 15th June, Jan Miller of Yarra Valley Historical Society enthralled us with her account of the research carried out by this group. She emphasised the value of making written records for all information, even seemingly insignificant details.

On Saturday 10th August, unfortunately only a small number of members was present for individual presentations of historical interest, so it is suggested that this program should be repeated at some future date.

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Wednesday 9th October: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 7.45 p.m. at the Archival Annexe. Form for nomination of office-bearers at bottom of this page. Please note the nominations should be in the hands of the Secretary, Judy Fry, 10A Alexander St., Mitcham by Wednesday, 2nd October.

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The new financial year commenced on 1st July, 1991 and subscriptions are now due and payable to the Treasurer, Mrs. I. Barker, 14 Tortice St., Nunawading, 3131. Family \$8, Single \$5, Newsletter only \$2.

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**OPEN DAY:** Sunday 20th October, 1991 - 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
We will have a special display of textiles and archival material. Mitcham Arts Assoc.(Inc.) members will have pottery on display and for sale. Items are required for our usual STALL. Please come and support the Society and Mitcham Arts Assoc.(Inc.) on this day.

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The Mitcham Railway Station Staff are also holding an **OPEN DAY** on Sunday, 20th October, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and have asked the Society for a display.

Helpers will be needed at the Annexe and the Station. If you can help, please contact Judy Fry 874 4220 for the Station and Beryl Gray 874 2731 for the Annexe.

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Congratulations to Harold Bakes on his special birthday celebrated on Sunday, 8th September.

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NOMINATION for . . . . .

PROPOSER: . . . . .

SECONDER: . . . . .

NOMINEE'S SIGNATURE . . . . .

WORKING BEE: will be held on Saturday, 12th October from 9.30 a.m. to 4 p.m. in order to oil agricultural machinery. Many more hours of work are needed to complete this task. Even if you can only spare an hour or so, your assistance will be appreciated.

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SATURDAY 14th DECEMBER - Details later: Final meeting for the year.

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Some extracts from 'GUIDE TO THE GOLD-FIELDS OF VICTORIA' published by Slater, Williams & Hodgson, 94 Bourke Street East, Melbourne and Market Square, Castlemaine. 1855.

The Telegraph Line of Cobb & Co. starts 4 horse coaches in winter and 6 horse coaches during the summer season, every morning for both Ballarat and Castlemaine. The fares during the continuance of the bad roads are: To Castlemaine £5  
Bendigo £7  
Maryborough £7/10/-

Conveyances leave Melbourne at 6 o'clock in the morning and reach Castlemaine about 4 o'clock in the afternoon, travelling through Elizabeth Street by Flemington to Keilor, the first stage.

Further on, at Russell's Junction Inn, the Ballarat Road strikes off to the left, the Castlemaine one to the right. Travellers reach the 'DIGGERS REST', kept by very respectable persons, and a tolerable house. After several more small settlements, all reach the Black Forest, where numerous bushranging incidents have taken place. The road here is in a shocking state and the traveller, even in a Cobb's conveyance, may esteem himself very fortunate if he has not to tramp through a considerable portion of the road.

The township of Woodend, laid out by the Government, is fast rising into importance with inns, stores, tradesmen's shops and eating houses. A substantial wooden bridge crosses Five Mile Creek, one of the branches of the Campaspe, then we again enter the forest, and pass through five miles of dull, level country to Carlsrhue Flat, familiarly known as the 'Bay of Biscay', a fearful spot to cross.

Three miles further on, Kyneton appears, an important inland township, with at least half a dozen hotels. On through rich agricultural lands to the rising place of Malmsbury, then Back Creek (Taradale?) and here we see gold diggers at work for the first time on the main line of road. At Elphinstone, or Saw Pit Gully, the Castlemaine road strikes off to the left, that to the right to Bendigo. On to Forest Creek, one of the great old gold diggings, and soon the Government township of Castlemaine. Some good hotels here, several stores and agencies for three banks. Newstead is marked out, but not yet inhabited, and then on to Carisbrook, and only four more miles to Maryborough, the great inland digging capital. No fewer than fifty thousand diggers are supposed to be engaged within five miles of this town.

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4/11/1932 3500 Rail Visitors on Cup Day.

The natural beauty of Blackburn and the facilities it affords holiday makers is evidenced by its increasing popularity with them. Picnic parties were very numerous on Cup Day, and by rail alone about 3500 people alighted at Blackburn. The visitors were very well behaved. [Re this last statement: Many local residents complained bitterly about the intrusion of visitors into the cherry orchards, with fruit just ripening, and the flower gardens].

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1/6/1934

Paucity of Park Lands.

Shire has smallest portion.

Discussing an enquiry from the RACV as to what public camping grounds are available in the district, Cr. Sweetland said the time has arrived when the Council should consider the extension of park and reserve lands in the Shire. The report of the Town Planning Committee stated that the Shire of Blackburn & Mitcham had the smallest proportion of park lands to its area of any municipality, being only 5 per cent. In the course of forty or fifty years it was quite possible that this Shire would be just as congested as the inner suburbs, and the Council should now take action to acquire land while it is cheap to provide breathing spaces for future generations.

See NEWSLETTER October - December 1989 for a much more satisfactory report.

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9/9/32

SHIRE COUNCIL

The Athletics Club asking the Council to amend the by-law prohibiting betting on Walker Park Reserve.

Cr. Lawson moved that the Club be informed that the Council cannot accede to its request. (Seconded, carried).

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23/9/32

Destruction of trees alleged.

(Letter to Editor)

Kindly allow us space to express emphatic protest against the wanton destruction of the ornamental trees in the Shire of Blackburn & Mitcham. It is a disgrace to any Council to allow trees in their Shire to be mutilated in this manner. Surely in a time when unemployment is so prevalent a fully qualified man could be obtained to prune the trees with at least some regard to beauty instead of just simply beheading them.

'Nature Lovers'

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SURREY HILLS 30/9/1932

Old land mark gone.

With the demolition of the old TOWER HOUSE in Canterbury Road, one of the earliest landmarks in Surrey Hills has gone. This building was at one time an hotel but had been delicensed for many years. It was in this building that the first Nunawading Shire Council held its meetings.

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