

NUNAWADING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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NEWSLETTER - MARCH - MAY 1992

Our first meeting for 1992 was the usual pleasant re-union over tea, followed by the business meeting. Everyone approved of the sample chair, and soon we will have extra seating which will be much more comfortable than previously.

The City Council Australia Day Festival on 26th January was reported as the usual success, with visitors showing interest in our displays and making enquiries about local history and our activities.

DATES TO NOTE:-

29th March. Bus trip to Blackwood, with shared lunch, approximate cost \$5. Those attending should meet at the Nunawading Arts Centre Car park at 8.45 a.m. Blackwood H.S. members plan to conduct the visitors to an old mine site and an old school at Newbury. Enquiries to Judy Fry.

Wednesday 1st April. Working Bee at Museum at 9.30 a.m.

The following happenings will take place during the VICTORIAN HERITAGE FESTIVAL 1992 -

Sunday 5th April and Wednesday 8th April - OPEN DAY AT THE MUSEUM AND COTTAGE. Free admission. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Display in the Archival Annexe. We plan to have our usual stall - cottage herbs, cakes etc. together with the re-printed booklet 'Short History of Nunawading' and the Council sponsored book, 'Windows on Nunawading' (Cost \$19.50).

Saturday, 11th April in the Archival Annexe, 1.30 p.m. when we will hear Mr. John Sharwood speak on 'PHARMACY IN MITCHAM - 1924 to 1991'. Mr. Sharwood, recently retired, obviously has much to recount which will be of interest to all local people. Members please bring a plate for afternoon tea.

During the month of April, the Society will have a display at the Nunawading Central Library depicting early development of the City.

Members who can help on the 5th and 8th April, please contact Beryl Gray, 874 2731.

Blackburn Library celebrated its 25th anniversary very happily. A large number of people took part in the conducted walk around Blackburn and the lake, and several said later that they had no idea of some aspects of local history until then, such as the artist McCubbin having resided here for some years. Later in the library, Mr. Roger de Stoop spoke of his early years in Blackburn soon after the Second World War, describing the area in the north, where he built his factory. There were no houses there and it was some time later before subdivisions took place and suburban housing went ahead.

Later, Mrs. Nance Donkin described living in Forest Hill in the early years after the war, with the happy country-town atmosphere in the district. This was the time of orchard subdivisions and the coming of many hundreds of new people into the area, with the need for extra schools and other amenities.

The library had displays of photos and newspaper cuttings of the establishment of the library, and there was much interest generated because of this celebration.

Recently our society received a copy of 'The Australasian' of 25th January 1936. For many years this weekly paper (for town and country readers) was published by the 'Argus'. The highlight of this particular issue was the reporting on the death of King George V. One article :-

A Beloved King.

Beloved by his subjects in every quarter of the globe, honoured by the rulers and peoples of every civilised nation, King George has passed to his rest.

It is a melancholy coincidence that the closing hours of the last three British Sovereigns should have been darkened by strife. When Queen Victoria died, the Boer War was still dragging on, and many felt that Britain's prestige had been impaired by the protracted nature of that struggle. King Edward VII died suddenly at the height of the fierce contest between the Lords and Commons, which eventually culminated in the passing of the Parliament Act. King George's last months were saddened by the Italian adventure in Abyssinia, which was a serious setback to Great Britain's persistent efforts to promote world peace....

The new King Edward VIII ascends the throne immediately. He is aged 41 years and is a bachelor. Known as the Empire's Royal Ambassador, he is the world's most travelled monarch, having visited every corner of the Empire and nearly every country in the world.....

For the first time in the history of the British Empire, the whole of the people were able to join in the spirit of the proclamation of a monarch's access yesterday, when the proclamation of King Edward VIII was broadcast throughout the world....

In the Science notes, there was an article on the drifting continent Gondwanaland. Bush Notes by the well-known Alec Chisholm described the demand for wattle seed, after a recent illustration of an Acacia pravissima (Ovens Wattle) at Ararat. Requests came from as far apart as Tasmania and North Queensland. In the Bird news, an article discussed the mateship with birds achieved by some gardeners. Also a Young Folks' Page was a regular feature.

Some things remain the same as today:-

Cyclonic Storm. Sweeping across the Darling Downs and South-east Queensland a cyclonic storm left a trail of destruction and damage in its wake.....

Australian Recipes. These were Jellied Bouillon, Neapolitan Fondant, Cherry Almond cake, Delicious Lamb Sandwiches, Raspberry Mousse.

Reference by the Forestry Commission of Victoria referred to the carelessness of many people, leading to bushfires.

Raffle: 1/- per ticket, in aid of the Mildura Base Hospital
 1st Prize: Chrysler Plymouth de luxe Saloon.
 2nd Prize: Morris 12-4 Sports Tourer.
 3rd Prize: Morris 8-40 Sports Roadster.

More extracts from 'Blackburn & Mitcham Reporter.

25/11/1932

Blackburn Streets

Residents urged to tidy up.

A matter that was ventilated at the meeting of the Progress Society was the untidy appearance of the principal streets of the town, and a motion was carried urging residents to clean them up. It is a remarkable fact that many householders displayed great enthusiasm in cultivation of beautiful gardens at the fronts of their homes on their own property, but beyond their fence lines the footpaths are in the majority of cases overgrown with weeds and rank growth of all descriptions.....

2/12/1932

A New Pipe Line

The engineer informed the Council that, in consultations with the chief engineer of the M & M.B.W. they had fixed the location of a new pipe line which the Board proposed laying next year. The proposal was the laying of a 46 inch water main connected with the O'Shannassy scheme, which would traverse Whitehorse Road for the full length of this shire, and proceed as far as Elgar Road.

7/12/1934

Flood Refugees

An urgent appeal for clean, left-off clothing....Several homeless families from the flood devastated areas of Gippsland have taken refuge in this city, and are greatly in need of immediate assistance.

25/1/1935

Sewering of Mitcham

A deputation from Blackburn & Mitcham Shire Council waited on the Board of Works Sewerage Committee on Monday, requesting that the sewerage of Mitcham receive early attention....It would be placed on the estimates for next year and would then receive very earnest consideration.

1/11/1935

Baker's Road Extension (now Blackburn Road)

At the meeting of Blackburn & Mitcham Shire Council on 21st October, the engineer (Mr. N.G. Roeszler) reported on the proposal that Baker's Road be extended from Highbury Road through to Burwood Road....The total length would be approximately 41 chains and would involve an area of about 4 acres....by the acquisition of 33 feet on each side of the present allotment boundary, which was practically in line with the continuation of Baker's Road....The Council has power to acquire the land compulsorily after fulfilling the necessary conditions. As an alternative he suggested that the Council might ask the property owners concerned if they would make a gift of the land conditionally on the municipality meeting the cost of fencing, title, legal and other incidental expenses.

Cr. Paice said he knew that many people in Blackburn Road were very desirous that this road should be made. In stressing the necessity for this lateral road, he instanced Auburn Road, which he said had fallen off as a business centre as a result of the lack of a through road to connect up with the main highways. They wanted the equivalent of Mitcham Road. In the old days, most attention was paid to east-west roads; a thoroughfare such as that proposed would offer a direct outlet to the seaside.

.....Cr. Mock said that the matter had been discussed long ago by the Council - Holland Road has been suggested, but the engineer pointed out that on account of the contour of the ground, Holland Road would necessitate much more earthwork and thus was more expensive....Matter to be brought before the C R B and other shires benefiting and the relevant property owners.

8/11/1935

NEW RAILWAY CROSSING

The circulation of disquieting rumours in Blackburn regarding the making of a new railway crossing was responsible for Cr. Paice bringing the matter before the Shire Council on Monday night. He said that the presence on South Parade of Railways Department surveyors had given rise to considerable uneasiness. It was freely reported (he said) that there was a danger of the present crossing in Blackburn Road being closed, and another made opposite the end of Gardenia Street. If this was a fact it would he said be highly detrimental to the business places in South Parade in addition to making of necessity an awkward detour. If in the event of this proving to be the case, he wished to know what action the Council would take....As yet no replies received from the relevant authorities.

31/1/1936

The Council's Mower

Following the recent acquisition of a horse-drawn mower by the Blackburn & Mitcham Shire Council, repeated requests have been received from various bodies for the use of the machine....Grass on public parks and similar council properties to be cut free of charge twice a year. Other bodies £1 per day.

14/2/1936

Delays at Crossings

Strong exception was taken by Blackburn & Mitcham Shire Councillors on Monday night to the early closing to road traffic of the railway gates at Tunstall. Mention was made of the increasing volume of traffic on Springvale Road and the number of complaints which had already been made by road users.

It was contended that Tunstall should at least receive the same treatment as Blackburn, where the gates were in operation until midnight. Even after that hour, a gatekeeper was on duty and could be summoned to open the gate. The Council decided to request the Railway Commissioners to provide an all-night service for Tunstall, and if this was not granted that a deputation should wait on the Commissioners to present the case.

7/3/1936

Extensive Fire

Last Sunday afternoon a fire which started near the Blackburn Lake travelled rapidly over about five acres of trees and scrub, destroying fencing in its path and its near approach caused much alarm to residents in the Forest Hill district. Several homes in Lake Road, the Rest Home and the Forest Hill Kindergarten were in imminent danger of being burnt down. Aided by residents and the inmates of the Adult Deaf Mutes Home, the Blackburn and Surrey Hills brigades eventually got the fire under control. The position at one time was so serious that passing motorists were stopped in readiness to remove to safety the children from the Rest and Kindergarten Homes.

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