

NUNAWADING HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.



Series 4 No 1

February 1995 - April 1995

NEXT MEETING

Will be held on Saturday, February 11th, 1995
at the Museum Annexe at 1.30 p.m.

ANNUAL MEETING

At the Annual Meeting held in October 1994
the following office bearers were elected:

President -

Valda Arrowsmith 874 1414

Immediate Past President -

Bill Gray 874 2731

Secretary -

Judith Fry 874 4220

Assistant Secretary -

Beryl Gray 874 2731

Treasurer -

Barbara Rogalski 874 4668

Convenor, Friends of the Cottage -

Barbara Gardiner 874 6592

Committee -

Betty Jones, Betty Muckleston, Joy Kenny,
Rae Matthews, Joan Rocznio, Jean Gorsuch
and Jess Barnes.

At the Annual Meeting of the Society two long serving office bearers did not seek re-election, Bill Gray filled the position of President for 9 years. Two of many achievements were the Incorporation of the Society and the building for the Annexe to the Museum. Shirley Barker was Treasurer of the Society for over 20 years and her stewardship of the finances were much appreciated. The members showed their appreciation at the meeting with a presentation and thanks expressed on behalf of the Society by Joan Rocznio.

As 1995 begins it brings an era of change with the amalgamation of the former Cities of Nunawading and Box Hill to form the new City of Whitehorse. To prepare us for possible changes, representatives of each Society have met on two occasions to learn about their roles and responsibilities and the relationship to their former Councils. As a part of this we have written to Mr Brian Payne requesting a meeting to ascertain the intentions of the Commissioners in relation to our respective Societies. I stress that these meetings are information gathering only at this stage and I will report to you developments as we have further meetings.

We all belong to this Society because of our interest in the history of our area, the desire for this to be preserved and for the

information to be available for people seeking knowledge of the past.

Heritage week this year has the theme **Heritage is in your Hands** and that is a challenge to us as custodians of Schwerkolt Cottage, The Museum and the Archives. In the next newsletter we will list work that needs to be done to continue to preserve our local heritage and perhaps you can offer assistance.

With best wishes for 1995.

Valda Arrowsmith
President.

NATIONAL TRUST HERITAGE FESTIVAL 1995

As part of this festival the **April** meeting will be held on the 1st and we have asked Mr Geoffrey Walker, Grandson of the Founder of the Australian Tessellated Tile Company to speak.

If permission is given to waive charges by the City of Whitehorse, Schwerkolt Cottage and Museum will be open to the public free of charge on **Sunday, 9th April** from 12 noon to 5 p.m.

A display will be placed in the Nunawading Central Library for the month of March.

WORKING BEES

Working bees will be held on Saturday, 8th April, 5th August and 30th September 1995 from 10.00 am. Please bring your lunch, if you are able to help also in the afternoon.

FRIENDS OF SCHWERKOLT COTTAGE

Our Wisteria Time Garden Party was a great success with an attendance of more than a hundred fairies and elves plus their parents and grandparents. A record number of people inspected the cottage on a beautiful sunny day. It was a joy to see so many delightful children enjoying themselves.

We must thank all the helpers, especially those who served afternoon tea - they worked "above and beyond the call of duty".

We are planning a similar activity this year on October 7th - more about that later!

Following our working bee on the forge, we had a mystery object which we were unable to identify. After an appeal in the *Nunawading Gazette*, Mr Ken Turner of Cobweb Antiques volunteered to inspect the forge and was able to inform us that we were in possession of a miner's bucket hook - a remnant of gold mining days.

At our working bee in November, a small group of enthusiastic people were able to transform items in the barn using plenty of elbow grease. We also hope to improve the labelling of items, with perhaps an explanation of their use.

We look forward to 1995 with great optimism and hope to continue our work to improve and care for our lovely cottage.

Barbara Gardiner.

TRIP

An outing is proposed for Society members on **Sunday 7th May**. Further details will be given at the February meeting.

ANNUAL MEETING - Committee of Eastern Historical Societies.

This meeting will be held at Marysville on Saturday, 29th April 1995. Transport by bus will be provided as well as a light luncheon. Contact the Secretary Judy Fry by the April meeting for further details and cost.

NUNAWADING CITY COUNCIL

Four members of the Society attended the last meeting of the Council on Monday, 28th November 1994. Photographs were taken of this historic meeting for our archival records.

CONGRATULATIONS

The Mitcham Arts Association was presented with the Nunawading Community Group of the year Award at the Nunawading Arts and Entertainment Centre on Australia Day, 26th January, 1995. This award was in recognition of the Society's achievements over its 31 year history.

Mr Stan Harper, member of Forest Hill Rotary Club for 18 years, was honoured with Nunawading's Citizen of the Year Award. Mr Harper has established 7 of Nunawading's 12 Probuc Clubs besides working for Strathdon Lodge and Rotary.

WEEKEND TRIP TO STAWELL AND GRAMPIANS

This trip for members of the Eastern Historical Societies was held on November 7th to 9th and 8 members of the Society enjoyed a lovely weekend.

We set off for the Grampians and on Saturday, Reid's Lookout was visited from which extensive views of the ranges could be seen. On the way, Ida Stanton, a local guide and

historian joined the bus. The next stop was at Boroka Lookout from which different but equally spectacular views could be seen. Although the height of the wild flower season is in October, tea tree and egg and bacon were in profusion, as well as other less familiar flowers, adding to the garden-like effect as we drove along.

After morning tea, we travelled along Silverband Road, past Lake Billfield, to the Tourist Centre and Bambruk. The former covers information concerning the area and its geographical history. The latter is the aboriginal centre, housed in a building designed to blend in with the mountain surroundings in both shape and colour. An interesting hour was spent between these two centres.

We then continued through the township of Hall's Gap and on to Pines picnic area where the Hall's Gap Historical Society provided us with a delicious picnic lunch. Janet Witham, a member of the Society, joined the bus and she and Ida Stanton accompanied us on a tour of Mt Victory quarry. Here, Grampian free stone was quarried at the time when many public buildings, including Parliament House in Melbourne in 1888 were constructed. Stone blocks, some weighing many tons, were brought to Melbourne by rail. To make this possible, a crane at the quarry loaded stone on to trucks on a narrow gauge rail which led to a standard gauge track; here the stone was transferred and brought to Melbourne. All the stone was quarried without mechanical means.

At the height of its active life (1880), 100 men were employed on the site, and this success would have continued but for the land boom bust which severely reduced the demand for the stone. However, work continued on a limited scale until World War 1 finally brought it to an end. With her knowledge of its history, Janet Witham brought life to the now derelict site with its huge blocks of unused stone.

After dinner Janet spoke about an Irishman named Daniel Sullivan. He was born in County Cork in Ireland and left when he was 23 years old during the potato famine. On arrival in Victoria he worked at Riddell's Creek, Sunbury and Sandhurst, before marrying Eliza Cook, another Irish Immigrant and ten years his senior in 1865. Following his marriage he decided to become a teacher, and started Duckpole Private School. Although unable to pass the First Degree of Teacher Competina, he was successful at his job. In 1866, he taught at the Lillydale School where one of the school councillors was most unpleasant because girls were being taught subjects such as Geography.

Daniel then moved to Moyston and became headmaster of the National School. By this time he had 4 sons, but his wife helped with teaching and fund-raising and the school prospered. Moyston at that time had a population of 1500, a Post Office, Mechanics Institute, Police Station Courthouse and Churches. Daniel helped to raise money for the Church of England and was Postmaster for 18 years. Free time, of which there could have been little was spent walking in the Grampians.

In 1884, his wife died and he subsequently married Margaret Smith, ten years younger than he, and they had five daughters.

With a companion, Daniel explored most of the Grampians and discovered two unique plants on Mt. William. He sent specimens to Baron Von Mueller who identified them and named one of them *Calytrix Sullivanii*. Daniel became very knowledgeable on the Flora of the Grampians and between 1878-1880, he explored the Hopkins River, Mt Zero, The Black Range and the Pyrenees. Despite becoming gravely ill in 1888, he won a prize at the Centenary Exhibition in Melbourne for a collection of dried native plants. Finally, a collection of ten mosses was sent to Germany and Daniel was made a Fellow of the *Linnaen Society*, only the third Victorian to be

honoured in this way. He died in 1895 and great numbers of people attended his funeral.

On Sunday, our program included a tour of Stawell by bus accompanied by a member of the Stawell Historical Society. All public buildings, old historical houses, the operating gold mine and the cemetery were point out. It was interesting to see how Grampian freestone from the quarry we had visited the previous day had been used in the town.

After morning tea, we walked around the town accompanied by members of the Stawell Historical Society to see points of interest - buildings constructed of hand made bricks, original cast-iron spouting and down pipes on the police stables and wrought iron gates made at the Stawell foundry.

The SHS provided us with a lunch at their meeting place, the old court house and we were able to look at old photographs, newspapers and museum items.

Rae Matthews.

BOX HILL IN PICTURES

A book picturing Box Hill and its citizens between 1930-1960 has been released. It is co-authored by Eleanor Finlay and Marjorie Morgan and is available from the Council Chambers at Box Hill for \$12.50.

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