

NUNAWADING HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC. NEWSLETTER

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From the President

New Years Greetings to our members and friends. I informed you in our December newsletter we had applied to Museums Australia (Victoria) for registration for accreditation and I am pleased to announce our application was successful and we now have the registration.

Now the detailed work begins to achieve our goals within the three years we are allowed before full accreditation is achieved. At the same time the archival work, acquisition, and management of the society must continue.

To achieve the above, your committee asks for your continued support and any contribution you may be able to make.

We expect our computer to be installed soon and thank Anne and Dan Jones for arranging purchase and the technical "know how" for its installation. We will then begin entering the information from the cataloguing worksheets into the computer.

I'm assured by those familiar with computers this will be easy to learn and simple to do. If, like me you are not familiar with computers this could be an easy way to learn. If you can help with this project I would be delighted to have you join me, as we learn together.

The enclosed brochure on Schwerkolt Cottage and the Museum is now available and will help to advertise these important historical facilities.

The Society has purchased wardrobes for the two bedrooms in the Cottage. There will be a display of clothes of the period in the main bedroom and storage in the children's bedroom. I hope you will find them a pleasant addition and the Society thanks the City of Whitehorse for a grant for the purchase of the robes.

As usual on Australia Day, Sunday January 26, we will have a historical display with the Box Hill Historical Society in the Banksia Room at the Nunawading Arts and Entertainment Centre. Members who can help by manning the display for any time please let me know.

The year ahead is a busy one, working together we will achieve our programs which will benefit people interested in heritage.

STOP PRESS

- ♦ *Box Hill Cemetery Records available for research.*
- ♦ *Nunawading Hist. Society Archives open from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm on Wednesdays. Ring 9873 4946 to make an appointment.*
- ♦ *Working Bee Saturday March 23 from 9 am.*

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From the Archives Blue Moon Fruit Co-operative Ltd.



The Blue Moon Fruit Co-operative was formed in 1930 and developed from the Blackburn Cool Stores Pty. Ltd.

The first directors were local orchardists Henry Hatfield, Arthur Sheehan and John Stevens along with Leonard Bayley and William Webb.

The intentions of the company were to:

To buy sell and generally deal in fruit and all other perishable produce of any kind whatever.

To carry on the trade of business of refrigerating or chilling and of Cool Stores in all their branches.

Located off Railway Road in Blackburn the company continue until such a location no longer made economic sense given the gradual disappearance of orchards from the district.

The building was demolished in 1987 and, after rezoning, the land was sold for over \$3 million in 1988.

(Information and picture from *Windows On Nunawading* by Diane Sydenham p. 96, 174-175)

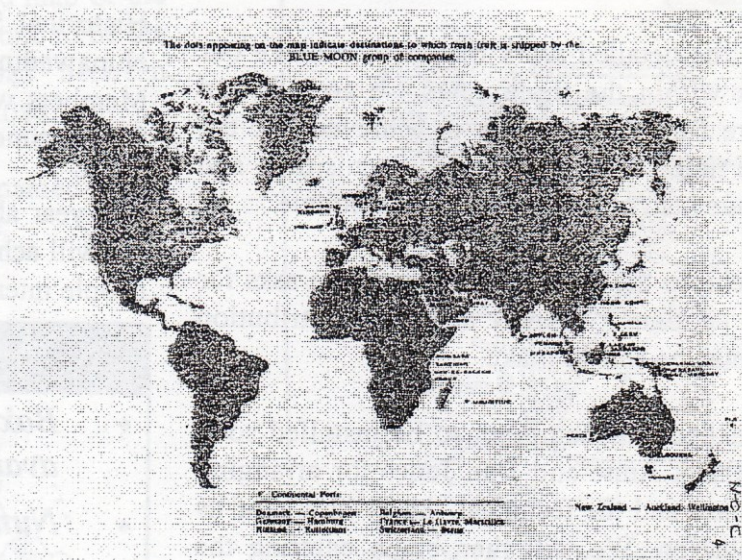
Orcharding and the Blue Moon Fruit Co-operative Ltd.

From the earliest days of settlement in this district, fruit-growing has been successfully carried on. All orchards had their own dams for irrigation, pumps and gravitation being used in conjunction for this necessary chore. Horse-drawn wagons took fruit to market for many years before motor transport took over. Cup Day meant Sunday School picnics to Blackburn Lake in past years, but also other picnickers arrived who liked to help themselves liberally to the ripening cherries in the local orchards. Owners of these properties breathed sighs of relief when this day was past.

Victoria can claim the distinction of being the first state in the Commonwealth to have cool storage for fruit and the first to export pears overseas. The 'Somerset' in 1910 took the first shipment of 'William' pears. Victoria still is the main exporting state for pears, but ranks second to Tasmania in the amount of apples sent to other parts of the world.

The first cool-store in the district was a Government one at Doncaster; others followed in due course. The Blackburn cool-store was opened in 1918, the first engineer being the former operator of the Box Hill - Doncaster tram.

In 1930, owing to difficulties with space and



particularly with overseas markets, local growers decided to form a company, having an overseas representative to protect their interests. Blue Moon pears were exported first, later apples, plums for a time, and for a period, cherries to New Zealand. This company has prospered and expanded with the years. Subsidiary companies are in N.E. Victoria, Tasmania and Western Australia. Pears, apples and citrus fruits are now the fruits handled.

The Small group who began this venture could not have envisaged the future expansion and prosperity of this company.

(Nunawading Historical Society N-O-C)

Notes From the Secretary

FEBRUARY MEETING

Our first meeting for 1997 will be held on Saturday, **February 8th** at 1.30 p.m. at the Museum Annexe, Schwerkolt Cottage, with our Guest Speaker being one of our members, **Mr. Ian Armstrong**, whose family have conducted the real estate office of Drake & Co. in Mitcham for three generations, and have been involved in the community life of the district. There have been many changes in the area since Mr. Armstrong's grandfather ran the business in the twenties.

WORKING BEE

Now we are a registered museum, the working bees are even more important and may need to be held more frequently - our first for the year is on **Saturday March 1st** from 9 a.m. We decided on an early start, hoping to beat the heat. The early birds can come at nine, but all will be welcome to come for an hour or so till one p.m. We would appreciate your assistance and can assure you of a delicious morning tea.

MARCH 23rd - VISIT TO LILYDALE

MUSEUM

We have arranged a visit to the newly renovated Museum of Lilydale, Castella Street, Lilydale on this day. We will endeavour to share transport and will meet at the Museum Annexe at 1 p.m. Admission to the museum is \$3.

APRIL MEETING

Our guest speaker at our meeting on 12th April, will be **Sarah Mirams of Heritage Victoria**.

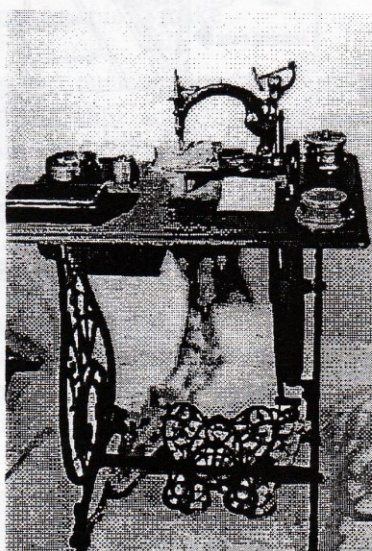
OPEN DAY FOR HERITAGE FESTIVAL AT SCHWERKOLT COTTAGE- 20TH APRIL

We will need assistance with afternoon tea on this day and hope members can spare an hour or two. Ring Barbara Gardiner on 9874 6592

DECEMBER MEETING

Our December meeting was well attended with all enjoying the lunch and the company of other members. We thank **Frances Warren** for the interesting talk on Daniel Harvey whose implements assisted orchardists and farmers all

From the Museum



One of the earliest treadle operated machines - more than 100 years old (circa 1860)

We have several types of sewing machines in our collection and this is an early treadle machine (circa 1860). It is hard to imagine life before the invention of the sewing machine - imagine having to hand sew every garment and household item from the smallest baby's bonnet to the most elaborate ball gown! We are lucky to live in the twentieth century!