N U N A W A D I N G H I S T O R I C A L S O C I E T Y

N E W S L E T T E R.

FEBRUARY 1969 NO. 18.

Registered at the General Post Office, Melbourne, for transmission by post as a periodical. Price 5 cents.

Have you paid your membership fee? If not, will you please do so at the next meeting, or to the Treasurer, Mr. I. Barker, 14 Tortice Avenue, Nunawading, 3131, by post. Unfinancial members will not receive a March Newsletter.

N E X T M E E T I N G:

Wednesday, 12th February, 1969, 8.00 p.m. sharp, in the Coffee Room, Civic Centre, Whitehorse Road, Nunawading.

As usual, our first speaker for the year will be His Worship the Mayor of Nunawading; Mr. K. E. Rooney will address the society on

'HISTORICAL SOCIETIES AND THEIR VALUES'

This meeting will be rather a special one for members, as it is our first in the Civic Centre.

Enter by east parking area - Coffee Room is nearby at the rear, but the entrance faces west.

Are any members willing to take turns occasionally at studying the old files of the Box Hill 'Reporter'? Extra information about our locality is needed, and, if a roster of members can be compiled for this task, our society will greatly benefit. If so, contact President or Secretary.

SYLLABUS FOR 1969.

March:	Two members: Mrs. Field: Sydney Road and Coaching Inns. Mr. Farr: History of Flowers.
April:	Not yet finalized.
May:	Genealogical Society Speaker.
June:	Members' Work Night
July:	Mr. J. Powell: Victorian Land Settlement.
August:	Mr. W. L. Radden: Early Warrandyte History.
September:	Speaker from the Deaf and Dumb Society of Victoria, with special reference to the local Institution in Blackburn.
October:	Annual Meeting. Members asked to contribute short historical anecdotes.
November:	Mr. G. L. Blackburn: Blackburn, Family and Suburb.

It is hoped to arrange an afternoon bus tour of some of Melbourne's historic places, probably in late April.

November, 1968, Meeting:

Four members of the Folk Lore Council of Australia entertained the gathering. In conjunction with interesting slides, one member would chat about these, then one or two people sang the appropriate songs.

The Folk Lore Council was formed in 1964, its aim being to collect, preserve and disseminate the folk lore and oral traditions of Australia and to study similar material from other countries. In staging regular collecting trips, public concerts, drama nights, radio broadcasts, discussion groups, lectures and musical evenings throughout numerous centres, the Council is helping to create a broader understanding of Australian folk-lore.

If you have an interest in Australian history, folk-lore or folk-music, new members are always welcome in this group. The Hon. Secretary's telephone number is 874-6749.

HISTORY AND MYSTERY:

Perhaps you have read 'A SILVER-PLATED SPOON', by John, Duke of Bedford. An extract from his account of the family portraits says: ".. the man to whom we really owed our title . . . William, Lord Russell, 'The Martyr' who was executed for his participation in the Rye House plot in 1683 . . . and among the other portraits of his immediate family is one of his little sisters Anne, who died at the age of five. The interesting thing in this is that she is shown caressing an Australian cockatoo - a hundred and fifty years before it was discovered. It must have flown out to sea, landed on an East Indiaman and been brought back as a pet .."

The Latrobe Library comments that Australian cockatoos are found as far north as Malacca, on the west coast of Malaya. Also, there were Dutch landings on the west coast of Australis before 1630; in 1642, Tasman sailed along the west coast on his way to the discovery of Van Diemen's Land, and in 1688, William Dampier landed in the north-west part of the continent.

Another mystery we can never solve - what circumstances led to the presence of the cockatoo, whether alive or stuffed, in this portrait?

If you would like to see a photograph of this painting, you may do so at the next meeting. A member of Brighton H.S. has lent it.

The first recorded Australian bird to be taken overseas was a black swan from the western shores of New Holland. This was carried out by Vlamingh in 1697.

In 1770, Joseph Banks, in the 'Endeavour' with Cook, commented on the shyness of the birds along the east coast of New Holland. He noted that the Indians had a white cockatoo in their possession, 'which was the very bird we looked upon to be one of the waryest of them all'.

PAST AND PRESENT:

Extract from the Melbourne 'Age' (10/12/68).

'Steam cars could be the answer to the air pollution problems of the cities, the Senate select committee inquiring into air pollution was told yesterday.'

In 1877, David Shearer arrived in the town of Mannum S.A. and, with his brother John, commenced business to meet the requirements of the settlers in the mallee areas of the vicinity. The first implements were grubbing equipment, then ploughs. They were inventors of the one-piece wrought steel plough share; until then, farmers had the choice of two plough-shares - the cast iron share that broke easily or the forged share that was almost prohibitive in price.

In 1894, David Sheare designed and built a steam car capable of 15 m.p.h. with a drive differential which is consedered to be the first of its kind in the world. The story goes that one day residents and horses in Mannum were startled by the appearance of a noisy horseless carriage proceeding at the pace of a gallon along the main street.

The horseless car was then regarded as little more than a novelty by many people; among the forsighted ones who visualised a revolution in future transport was Henry Ford, but this Mannum vehicle pre-dated his efforts by ten years. It was drawn by an engine weighing 2 cwts. and developed 20 h.p. It is reported to have comfortably negotiated Mt. Lofty at 12 m.p.h. and 15 m.p.h. was no effort over flat country. This was rather a remarkable feat because at that time England's car made its first appearance and could achieve a speed on only 12 m.p.h. on level country and 3-4m.p.h. up hill.

The Shearer car was limited only by its ability to hand together

Past and Present: (cont.)

The company made its first harvesting machine - a stripper- 80 years ago. Early in the century, a stripper-harvester was developed, and in 1920, its first header-harvester was built.

In 1968, David Shearer Ltd. of Mannum won the Prince Philip award for Australian design with their self-propelled header. This will harvest wheat, barley, oats, safflower, sorgum, peas, lucerne, linseed, millet and other like crops. The other 86 entries ranged from a transistor to a pre-fabricated schoolroom.

From the Adelaide 'Chronicle.'

The CHARLES TROEDEL COLLECTION, on view last November-December at the Latrobe Library, provided a fascinating record of the past. The material ranged from posters showing theatrical productions, stage personalities, breweries, factories and land sales, to showcards, letterheads, share certificates and utilitorian labels for long-forgotten products.

Arriving in Melbourne in 1860, Troedel in 1863 set up his own business at 73 Collins Street East, in a small shop on the site of the present town hall. With the expansion of business, several moves were made to largen premises.

In his introduction to the 1961 edition of Troedel's 'Melbourne Album', Clive Turnbull wrote of him: "There were lithegraphers before Troedel but he has been claimed with justice, as the 'father' of the craft in Australia. His skills raised it to a peak of achievement not until then known, nor since excelled."

RHSV NEWS.

Mornington H.S. now has its local history and folk museum in the old post-office building open for visitors from 2-4p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays until Easter.

Knox H.S. plans an agricultural museum on a 70 acre park on Ferntree Gully Road near Scoresby Road.

LaTrobe Library has these facsimiles for sale.
Batman Deeds - Melbourne 25c (postage 5c)
Geelong 25c (postage 5c)
Melbourne Advertiser No.I. - Melbourne's first newspaper 25c (postage 5c)
Send cheque, PO or MO, not stamps.

'DISCOVERY WEEK-END' at Phillip Island, March 8-10, arranged by the South-Eastern Historical Association. For enrolment forms see secretary.

THE GOLDFIELDS' HISTORICAL AND ARTS SOCIETY (Dunolly). A re-enactment of the discovery of the 'Welcome Stranger' nugget will take place at Moliagul on Saturday, Feb. 8th at 3p.m.

BALLAM PARK, FRANKSTON. - Classified as 'c' by the National Trust- notable and worthy of preservation

The Frankston City Council has purchased this property and the local Historical Society has worked on its restoration and upkeep.

In 1854, Frederick Liardet purchased 360 acres of land which he named Bellam Park, and on which he built the present house. The Liardets were descended from John Evelyn, Diarist.

In 1907, Mr. Justice Higgins of the High Court of Australia, whilst a guest at Bellam Park, drafted part of the first conciliation and arbitration judgement. Noteworthy features are the staircase, imported from France, the large underground water-tank, and the great oak tree, more than a hundred years old.

REPORT OF CONFERENCE OF HISTORICAL SOCIETIES, BENDIGO, 7th DECEMBER, 1968.

The conference was attended by about 100 delegates and observers. Societies represented included Mildure, Swan Hill, Kaniva, Lorne, Geelong, Mornington, Wangatatta and Beechworth.

There was some early sparring because Swan Hill had been empowered by a resolution at the September conference to convene the conference, but had delegated it to the Royal. The only effect was that a motion to allow observers to vote was defeated, and proceedings followed the constitution of the Royal.

It was agreed by a large majority that the conference favoured the formation of regional associations, and invited delegates to offer the services of their societies to convene such associations. Several societies at the meeting made this offer. It appears to be a matter of mutual arrangement which association societies join.

A second resolution dealt with Societies and Associations being properly constituted bodies. One thing which emerged of interest to us is to constitutional provision for safe-keeping of documentary material in the event of a Society going out of existence.

Eight delegates were elected to meet the Affiliated Societies sub-committee of the R.H.S.V. to discuss carrying out the decisions of the conference. Delegates elected were:- Angus (North-Eastern), Brown (Geelong), Creelman (Bacchus Marsh), Menadue (Bacchus Marsh), Pullin (Ringwood), Sheehy (South-Eastern), Symons (Echuca) and Williams (Camberwell).

Resolutions of lesser importance dealt with relations with local government bodies; Regional museums, local museums; Support by the State Government; Repositories for historical documentary material, and discussions with the Ministry of Tourism.

The only resolution from the floor was moved by Mr. Alderson, seconded T. Sheehy, that a trust fund be set up, initially by government grant or private gift, to publish historical works, using profits, where made, to finance less successful important works.

K. PATTERSON.

PRESERVING THE PAST.

In November last year, Adelaide newspapers told the story of an old camel wagon 'Travelling in style' to the northern branch H.Q. of the National Trust in S.A. at Melrose - south-east of Port Augusta. More than two years earlier, the secretary noticed the camel wagon at Farina, north-east of Lake Torrens and a famous droving town at the southern end of the Birdsville Track.

After negotiation, the Highways and Local Government finally transported the wagon to the rail-head where it was loaded on to a Commonwealth Railways train for Port Pirie. From there, the S.A. Railways transferred to to Melrose.

[illegible] its final resting-place, the camel wagon is preserved for posterity.

D. MATTINGLEY.
(EDITOR)

REPORT OF CONFERENCE OF HISTORICAL SOCIETIES.

BENDIGO 7TH DECEMBER, 1968.

The conference was attended by about 100 delegates and observers. Societies represented included Mildura, Swan Hill, Kaniva, Lorne, Geelong, Mornington, Wangaratta and Beechworth.

There was some early sparring because Swan Hill had been empowered by a resolution at the September conference to convene the conference, but had delegated it to the Royal. The only effect was that a motion to allow observers to bote was defeated, and proceedings followed the constitution of the Royal.

It was agreed by a large majority that the conference favoured the formation of regional associations, and invited delegates to offer the services of their societies to convene such associations. Several societies at the meeting made this offer. It appears to be a matter of mutual arrangement which association societies join.

A second resolution dealt with Societies and Associations being properly constituted bodies. One thing which emerged of interest to us is to constitutional provision for safe-keeping of documentary material in the event of a Society going out of existence.

Eight delegates were elected to meet the Affiliated Societies sub-committee of the R.H.S.V. to discuss carrying out the decisions of the conferences. Delegates elected were:- Angus (North-Eastern), Brown (Geelong), Creelman (Bacchus Marsh), Menadue (Bacchus Marsh), Pullin (Ringwood), Sheehy (South-Eastern), Symons (Echuca) and Williams (Camberwell).

Resolutions of lesser importance dealt with relations with local government bodies; Regional museums, local museums; Support by the State Government; Repositories for historical documentary material and discussions with the Ministry of Tourism.

The only resolution from the floor was moved by Mr. Alderson, seconded by T. Sheehy, that a trust fund be set up, initially by government grant or private gift, to publish historical works, using profits, where made, to finance less successful important works.

K. PATTERSON.

PRESERV

story
H.Q. of
Agusta
wagon

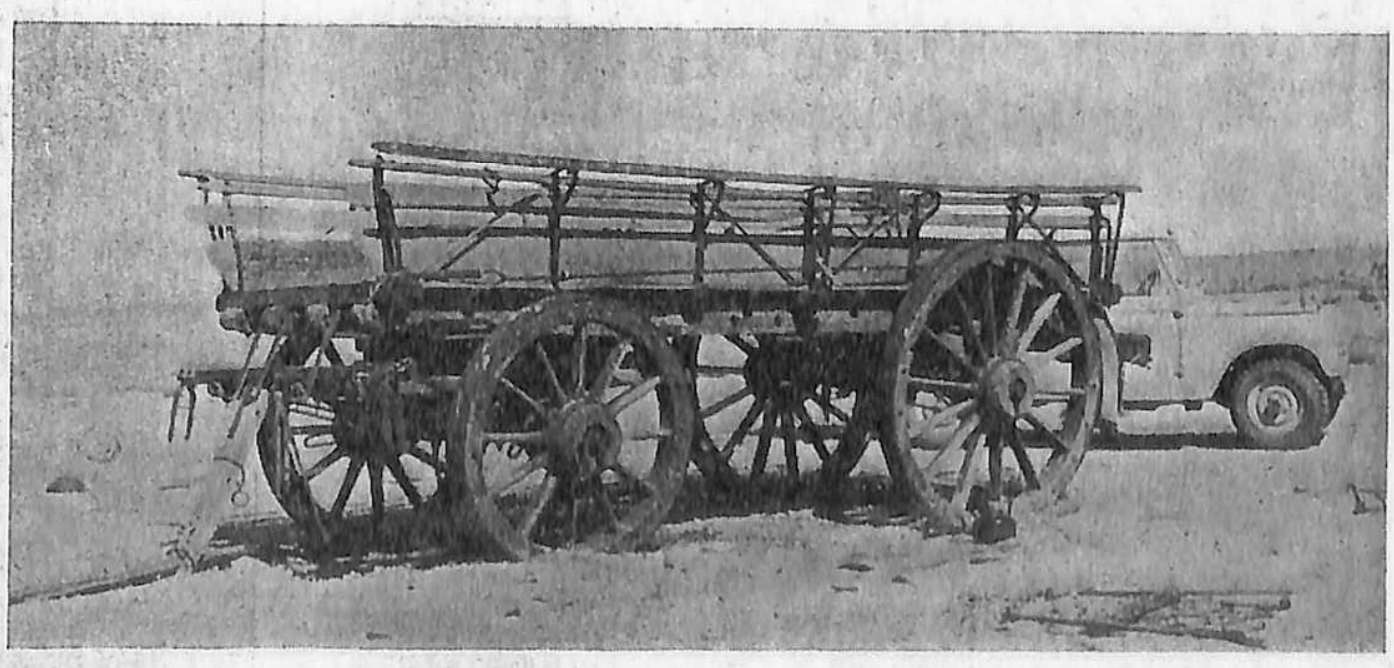
told the
rn branch
ort
camel

finall
a Comm
Railwa

overnment
ded on to
S.A.

wagon

is pre



The old camel wagon, iron-shod wheels and all perfectly preserved in the dry climate of Farina. Afghans once had a big camp on this spot and carted supplies to outlying stations in wagons such as this.

Years ago
camp at Fa
short distanc
is an old ca
good preser
wheels still intact. A blackened tea kettle, pannikins and, inexplicably, a wrought iron bedstead mark the site of

NUNAWADING HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

NEWSLETTER.

MARCH 1969. NO. 19.

Registered at the General Post Office, Melbourne, for transmission by post as a periodical. Price 5 cents.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, 12th March, 1969. 8 p.m. in the COFFEE ROOM, Civic Centre, Whitehorse Road, Nunawading.

Two of our own members will address us:

Mrs. J. Field will speak on 'EVENTS AND PLACES ON THE HUME HIGHWAY'.

Mr. K. Farr will speak on 'THE HISTORY OF FLOWERS'; this subject was recently presented to an Interflora Convention by Mr. Farr.

REGIONAL MEETING of Eastern Suburbs Group of Historical Societies at Templestowe Memorial Hall on Friday, 11th April at 8 p.m. A talk will be presented on 'PIONEER WOMEN OF THE DISTRICT' by Mrs. Green. Our members are all invited, but the number of those intending to go must be indicated at the next meeting.

LA TROBE LIBRARY EXHIBITION on 'SPORTING LIFE IN VICTORIA', to be opened at 5.30 p.m. on Monday, 3rd March. Thereafter till 24th April. Hours: Monday 2 p.m. - 10 p.m., Thursdays to Fridays 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

PROPOSED BUS TOUR by our society of places of historic interest in the City of Melbourne: Sunday afternoon, 20th April. Details later.

R.H.S.V. will celebrate its 60th anniversary in May, 1969. The third biennial conference will be held at Melbourne University 26th to 28th September, 1969. Two of the principal speakers will be Professor Russel Ward and Dr. Geoffrey Serle.
Other News: Easter Monday, 7th April. Vintage Farm Machinery and Vehicle Rally at Warracknabeal.
Ararat H.S. is organising a folk museum in a former wool store in the town.
Wonthaggi: It is hoped to obtain the General Manager's residence of the now defunct State Coal Mine as an historical museum for black coal mining in Victoria.

NATIONAL TRUST of Australia (Victoria) has up-graded the historic COURT HOUSE at PORT FAIRY to the highest classification 'A' (of national importance: to be preserved at all costs). Port Fairy is one of Victoria's most historic towns and contains a large number of historic buildings.

NATURE FAIR AT BLACKBURN LAKE SCHOOL, the home of 'Nature Notes'. Saturday, 29th March. Our society has been asked to arrange a display.

FEBRUARY MEETING: Our first meeting in the Civic Centre was addressed by His Worship the Mayor, Cr. K. Rooney on "HISTORICAL SOCIETIES AND THEIR VALUES". Cr. Rooney described his recent visit to the Swan Hill Folk Museum and told us of the possibility of an old hickory American-built coach being donated to Nunawading. Be brought along a valuable set of 1892 maps of the County of Bourke, which proved most interesting to members. Government grants to Councils were also discussed, with reference to the local lake area.

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

Our society has received several requests lately from local schools for history of the district. The following information was supplied on the HISTORY OF THE PARKMORE AREA:

In 1850, settlement to the east of Melbourne had reached Middleborough Road, while the rest of the area was densely forested. Canterbury Road was then known as Delaney's Road, after the proprietor of the Royal Hotel, which stood about the corner of Canterbury and Broughton Roads, Surrey Hills. It stopped at Middleborough Road and a track known as the "Old Track to the Mountains" wound eastwards through the bush.

The area east of Middleborough Road was surveyed, roads and allotments marked out in 1855 by Mr. N. Bickford, foreman of a survery party led by Clement Hodgkinson. Land was offered for sale of 1 pound an acre late in 1855. W. Jones bought land fronting Canterbury Road, between Springvale and Terrara Roads, and southwards to about Jolimont Road. William Morton bought all the rest bounded by Canterbury, Terrara, Burwood and Springvale Roads. Neither seems to have done any farming, but sold again soon afterwards, mostly in smaller farm areas. The Mortons remained in the district as auctioneers and estate agents and Morton Park, Blackburn, in named after them.

Among early purchasers of the smaller allotments were the Courses and McClares, whose descendants still live in the district. On the Burwood Road side Maynes and Frankhausers were among the first settlers. While they were clearing their land they raised money by selling firewood in Melbourne and most lived in huts they built for themselves from slabs split from logs, or from sheets of bark. They were usually only one or two rooms, each about nine or ten feet square. When the land was cleared they experimented with various types of farming to find what was most suitable for the district, trying our dairying, berry and fruit growing and so on. Maynes and Frankhausers were among the first to grow apples, which were the most successful. Mr. McClare did a lot of tanning and John Boulton built carts in Canterbury Road, opposite the Mt. Pleasant Methodist Church.

When the Methodists built their first church they established a school, with help from the government, Attendances were small and children came from two to three miles to it. The nearest school was what was known as Harkaway National School, which has become East Burwood State School.

Many new people came into the district about 1868, the most interesting being Abraham Rooks, who took up land in Canterbury Road, west of Rooks Road, and David Boyle, a nurseryman who had land between Rooks and the Methodist Church, and conducted all the negotiations which led to it being shifted to a new site, which is now Vermont State School. He was a self-taught botanist, who worked with Von Meuller, of the Botanic Gardens, and discovered new varieties of tree ferns.

Other interesting people in the area in the early days were the Fisherites. They were an off-shoot of the Christian Israelites, a stern, strict group, whose men all had long hair and beards and wore old-fashioned clothes. They had a number of farms in the district and a church near the intersection of Canterbury and Springvale Roads. There is a Fisher Street near there now. Their leader, James Fisher, was a member of the Shire Council and took part in many community activities. As their leader he claimed to be able to perform miracles. All the Fisherites went to Western Australia during the 1890's.

The land on which the Parkmore School stands was acquired by the Peggy family about 1912 from Frankhausers who had bought it from Courses. The Peggy family worked this orchard land until recent times, when subdivision took place.

Relevant information is also in 'A Centenary History of the Mount Pleasant Methodist Church, 1965-1965' by G.C. Fendley.

* *

GLIMPSES OF THE PAST: In the issue of the 'Ballarat Miner', 28/12/1862, this paragraph appeared: 'A sample of opium prepared from poppies grown in his Sturt Street garden has been brought to this office by Mr. Hugh Gray. Several experts have pronounced it to be of very superior quality . . . Mr. Gray and others suggest that the manufacture of opium could be profitably carried on in Ballarat, as the climate is very suitable.'

D. MATTINGLEY,
EDITOR.

NUNAWADING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

APRIL 1969 *Price 5 cents* Number 20

Registered at the General Post Office, Melbourne, for transmission by post as a periodical. Page 1

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, 9th April, 1969. 8 p.m. in the COFFEE ROOM, Civic Centre, Whitehorse Road, Nunawading.

Mr DEREK DUKE will address the society on some local history: *'THE NUNAWADING MESSIAH'*

BUS TOUR of HISTORIC PLACES IN THE CITY OF MELBOURNE, Sunday 4th MAY, 1969

Bus will leave Civic Centre at 1.30 p.m., returning by 5 p.m.
Members wishing to participate please use enclosed application form.
Late bookings may miss out.

CASTLEMAINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY is holding a FIELD DAY on Sunday, 20th April. Particulars at next meeting.

MARCH MEETING: Members enjoyed this evening very much, with its two different historical presentations.

Mrs Field has made a special study of *'EVENTS AND PLACES ON THE HUME HIGHWAY'*, and we heard interesting stories of both past and present. We went on an imaginary Cobb & Co. coach trip, and saw photographs of many places of the coaching era that no longer exist today. Some remain, as the six-span bridge at Avenel and the bluestone Presbyterian Church at Campbellfield. Much traffic also went north-east to the Beechworth goldfields, and the National Trust is now restoring the old Commercial Hotel there. The Faithfull massacre and the Kelly Gang naturally have a place in this story of a highway.

Mr Farr then spoke on *'THE HISTORY OF FLOWERS'*. Some flowers, as the crocus and the iris, were known even in early Egyptian times, and the rose has been a symbol in various ways for centuries. Shakespeare in his plays mentioned sixty flowers, apart from trees. Several century-old books on flowers may be seen in the State Public Library, one of dried, pressed flowers being specially interesting. At the present time, Interflora operates in all except three countries of the world for the easy exchange of flowers. Even Timbuctoo has three florists.

In thanking the speakers, Mrs Faggetter expressed her wish to read Mrs Field's projected book. In regard to Mr Farr's subject, she told us she had seen a 'Shakespeare' Garden in Birmingham, and she had visited the former Surrey home of Mr Slater, whose herb garden flourished in Blackburn a century ago.

It is hoped to print a revised version of the 'Short History of Nunawading' shortly. This should be of special interest to newer members who may not be aware of the research already carried out. The Slater herb garden is one of the topics.

DISCOVERY SCHOOL ON PHILLIP ISLAND, arranged by the South-Eastern Historical Societies, 8th-10th March, 1969.

Bus trips around the Island and on the nearby mainland, and a launch trip 'In the Wake of Bass' made up a weekend of fascinating history. Local historians spoke to the group, giving many unpublished stories of earlier times in this area. Another speaker was Dr Keith Bowden, who described an early military settlement near Corinella, where a fort was built, in case the dreaded French turned up to annex more territory. No trace remains of this fort today.

Dr Stephen Murray-Smith recounted some history of Bass Strait, a special study of his. In 1898, Captain Bishop accompanied Bass and Flinders on the first part of their 'Norfolk' voyage which proved Van Diemen's Land to be an island. In the 'Nautilus', he went to the Furneaux where he began collecting oil and skins. On Cape Barren Island, he laid out plans for a village, named Christmas Village, and today there is a move to preserve what remains of this place. Another story concerned Flinders Island, where Robinson gathered the remnants of the Tasmanian Aborigines. Today the original chapel still stands, in use now as a shearing shed. The owner is quite willing to hand over this building to the National Trust if a new shed is provided for him.

Oil in Western Port is much in the news today, but it is not widely known that for three years from 1932 an oil tanker was anchored off Hastings by the Pacific Oil Company as a floating petroleum storeship. Oil in drums was ferried ashore and tankers replenished the bulk supply.

In the early years of the 19th Century, sealers took great toll of the seals for their oil and skins. Muttonbirds too provided oil, and, up till 1918, Melbourne cake manufacturers collected thousands of their eggs each year. Swans were also prolific on Phillip Island and swanskins were another export.

The first authorized carrier of Her Majesty's Mails to Phillip Island was an old British sea-dog called George Cox. He began the service between the mainland and the island in 1858, his first vessel being a small rowing boat.

So much has changed since the first sailors, sealers and escaped convicts came by, but one thing remains unchanged. The sailors of the small ships of one and a half centuries ago were often glad to 'run' for shelter from Bass Strait into Western Port. One yachting member of the group mentioned his crossing from northern Tasmania to Melbourne in January 1969. He left in clear weather, but twenty-four hours later he was very thankful to take refuge in Western Port until Bass Strait was calm again.

SOME EXTRACTS from the BOX HILL 'REPORTER' of 15th February, 1929

Walker Park, Mitcham: A report on the work of the Walker Park Committee was received by Council from the Secretary, Mr A Richards. He said that the Committee was having a 300 ft. sign 'MITCHAM RECREATION RESERVE' painted on the fence in Whitehorse Road to advertise the place to passing motorists and would-be picnickers. The Committee also reported and directed Council's attention to the dilapidated appearance of the ovals in Whitehorse Road. It was hoped that the Council would agree to make the oval on the opposite side of Whitehorse Road and that a gardener would be employed to look after the other ovals.

Vermont State School: The Hon. R M Cuthberston, Assistant Minister of Education, amd Mr E W Greenwood, M.L.A. for Dandenong, visited Vermont S.S. Local bodies for a long time had been agitating for the removal of the school from its present unsuitable site to another position. The Minister decided to recommend the purchase of a new area of ground containing over four acres, and the removal of the present school buildings. The buildings themselves will be done up and general improved educational facilities provided.

For Sale: Gent's Bicycle, small size, new condition. Edie Coaster free wheel, sacrifice £4.
Good horse and covered wagon, excellent condition. £15 the lot. The Corner Shop, Tunstall.
Motor Car. D.S.Grey, latest balloon tyres, splendid order through, bargain. £45. 142 Blackburn Road, Blackburn.

J. Uhl.

"History of the Parkmore Area" in the March Newsletter was contributed by Mr Patterson.

WALHALLA: Ned Stringer and his small party discovered alluvial gold at Stringer's Creek -- later called Walhalla -- in December 1862. Stringer died in September 1863, at Toongabbie, while returning to the field from Sale, where he had gone to seek medical attention. However, most of Walhalla's gold was found in the rock, and the progress and decline of the town coincided with the prosperity of the big ore-crushing mines, such as the Long Tunnel Mine, which opened in 1865 and closed fifty years later, in 1915. Estimated population figures during this period are: 1865 - 150 people; 1879 - 1700 people; 1885-1895 - 4500 people; 1900 - 2872 people; 1915 - 150 people.
Walhalla School, No 957, started with an enrolment of 70 pupils in 1867, and this rose to approximately 600 pupils in the boom

period about 1890. Then came the decline to a one-teacher school and finally closure in 1965. But -- who knows? Perhaps one day Walhalla will have a school again.

D. Mattingley, Editor.

GLIMPSES OF PAST TIMES

Some extracts from the Day-book of Merriman's Creek Hotel (fifteen miles south of Sale on the South Gippsland Highway). This book is in the possession of the Yarram Historical Society.

Thursday 19th April 1860. Jas McFarlane. 2 men tea 4/-. Bed 4/-.
Breakfast 4/-. Horses in paddock 4/-. 16/-
Black George. 1 glass. 1/-
Monday 23rd April. Harry at Hoddinot's. 2 nips 2/-.
L McAlister. 5 nips 2/6.
Pearson's Bob - blackfellow. 1 bottle rum 6/-. Nip 6d.
John King, The Ridge. Dinner 2/6. Bed 2/6. Brkft 2/6.
Stabling 10/- 2 nips 1/-. 6 horses in paddock 12/-
Bullocks in paddock 3/-.
11th March, 1861. Mrs Buntine. Bullocks in paddock 2 nights. 5/-
Mrs Hoddinot. 2 bottles essences 4/-. Slate 6d. 1 lb. French chocolate 2/6. 3 penholders 6d. 1 box magnum bonum pens 6d. 2 lbs salt 2/-

+++++

Hugh Buntine lost his run and pre-emptive right he had taken up in 1844, and after his death his widow became a well-known teamster, carting on the roads as far as Walhalla.

+ + + + + ++ + + + + + + + +

NATIONAL TRUST. The Customs House, Melbourne, beside the Pool in the Yarra, where the earliest ships tied up, was to have been demolished some years ago. Because of the efforts of interested bodies, including the Trust, in persuading the authorities to use it in some way, the building was renovated recently to accommodate Federal Parliamentarians in Melbourne.

NUNAWADING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

MAY 1969 Price 5 cents Number 21

Registered at the General Post Office, Melbourne, for transmission by post as a periodical. 1

NEXT MEETING Wednesday, 14th May, 1969 8 p.m. in the Coffee Room, Civic Centre, Whitehorse Road, Nunawading

Mr JOHN BLAZÉ of the Genealogical Society of Victoria will speak on:
'GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH'

'THE NUNAWADING MESSIAH'

JAMES FISHER, the "Nunawading Messiah", emerged as an enigma from an address by Mr David Duke to the Nunawading Historical Society on 9th April. There are many unanswered questions and unconfirmed stories about his activities, and there seems no sure source of information.

Fisher was born in England and, with little education, ran away to sea. When his ship visited Melbourne during the gold rush he left it to hunt for gold, then settled in Nunawading just as it was being opened up to settlement.

He came in contact with some "Christian Israelites", whose movement had developed from the followers of Joanna Southcott, who in the early 19th century in England had claimed to have had a number of visions and revelations. They dressed in the style current in Joanna Southcott's time and held rigidly to a number of doctrines not generally recognized by established churches. As a particularly promising young man, Fisher rapidly assumed a position of leadership and attracted a number of followers from the Christian Israelites and apparently from another rather similar group.

They had a chapel at the north-western corner of Springvale and Canterbury roads, but their membership, numbering about 100, was widely scattered from Nunawading to Richmond and Oakleigh.

After some years of quiet development, they were thrust into notoriety when a former leading member charged Fisher with false pretences because he had failed to save the life of a sick child.

In a most bizarre trial, three former members gave evidence that Fisher had said he was the Messiah, that he could heal the sick and perform other miracles, and that he preached and practised polygamy. None of the witnesses could be classed as unbiased, and in the absence of impartial testimony it is impossible to assess the value of this evidence. The charge was dismissed, as the magistrate considered the complainants had only their own foolishness to blame.

The affair became a nine-day wonder as the accusers took a hall in Box Hill in an effort to expose Fisher, and an enterprising theatre manager secured a full house by inviting Fisher to lecture on his doctrines. There were also suspicions that the charge was an effort to discredit Fisher by the groups from which he had drawn members.

Fisher's local reputation does not seem to have suffered. He had been a member of the District Road Board, and held his seat without difficulty for several more years. Within a few months of the trial he was appointed, apparently without protest or objection, to the Committee which managed the Common School at the Mt Pleasant Methodist Church.

His followers continued to meet at Nunawading until the late 1890's, when most of them, including Fisher, moved to Wickipen, W.A., where he died in 1915.

--K.P.

-oOo-

REGIONAL MEETING

THERE WAS a particularly good attendance at the Combined Meeting of the Eastern Suburbs Groups on Friday, April 11. Hosts were the Doncaster & Templestowe Historical Society, and the meeting was at the Memorial Hall, Templestowe.

Mrs Muriel Green, the secretary, presented a paper on 'Pioneer Women of the District'. As she is a descendant of the early settlers, she had good opportunities to gather material, and she told the life-stories of twenty women among the first settlers. Her talk was illustrated by slides of their houses, portraits, scenes of early days and the present.

East Doncaster State School Junior Historical Society staged playlets of two incidents of pioneering life. One was

of the occasion when Mrs Chivers invited into her house and fed three bushrangers, mistaking them for companions of her husband, who was out searching for them. The second was a more homely scene of an educated settler reading and writing letters for his illiterate neighbors.

It was noticeable in every case that the women exercised much influence in the transformation of rough and makeshift conditions of the first settlement into the comfort and prosperity of later years.

There was also a number of good exhibitions in the hall, ranging from maps and samples of local industry to models of planned developments.

Croydon will be the host society for the next combined meeting, which will be this time next year.

--K.P.

-oOo-

SOME HISTORY OF THE DISTRICT

from local residents

ON THE SITE of the present reserve at the intersection of Canterbury and Blackburn Roads, blocks of land were surveyed and sold many years ago. When orchardists wanted a road through from Burwood Road to Blackburn, a change was made. Bakers Road, now Blackburn Road, already went from Canterbury Road to Hawthorn Road -- where the road curves. About 1937, two orchardists each gave enough land between them for this road to be continued as far as Burwood Road. At the same time, the creek was diverted in the present reserve and a new section of Blackburn Road was constructed -- this is the section immediately north of Canterbury Road now. The Council had to buy the existing blocks of land to accomplish these changes, and that is why we now have this open space. The City Council and the Blackburn & District Tree Preservation Society have planted the area with Australian native trees and shrubs.

A small quarry between Canterbury Road and the Lake, now private property, was worked to obtain metal for making Canterbury Road.

Blackburn South Primary School was held first in a hall owned by the Salvation Army in Middleborough Road, but this was burnt down about 1924. The present school site in Canterbury Road had

already been purchased. The first building was a weatherboard one of two rooms, moved there from Deepdene School. A new brick school was erected for Deepdene. This original two-roomed building still forms part of the Blackburn South School.

On the present site of Woolworths Store in Canterbury Road there was at one time a daffodil farm. Later, a plaster works operated for many years here, and in recent times Woolworths acquired the property.

Originally, a bulb farm was on the present site of the Deaf and Dumb Institution in Central Road, Blackburn. The first inmates of this place carried on the work of growing flowers and sending these to Melbourne and Sydney markets. One dry summer, a local man supplied an engine for pumping water from the Lake for the gardens. But later some other flower-growers in the district protested about a Government institution selling flowers, and so this business ceased.

On the west side of Blackburn Road, Blackburn, almost opposite Central Road, is a block of four shops. At one time there was on this site a small general store, with a newsagency added later, also refreshment rooms known as 'The Fernery'. A small hall next door could be hired for social events. Later this hall was moved to Lake Road, to become the first Scout Hall, and it is still in use there.

Early residents called the hill on the south-west corner of the present intersection of Highbury and Springvale Roads 'Old Man's Hill', because of the many 'old-man' kangaroos there. Later this was a quarry, and later still a rubbish tip. Now it forms part of the residential area of the City of Waverley.

-oOo-

D. Mattingley
(Editor)
Hon. Secretary
Tel.: 878 4630

Nunawading Historical Society
X-N 38

NUNAWADING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

JUNE 1969 *Price 5 cents* Number 22

Registered at the General Post Office, Melbourne, for transmission by post as a periodical.

****

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, 11th June, 1969. 8 p.m. in the Coffee Room, Civic Centre, Whitehorse Road, Nunawading.

This will take the form of a *WORK NIGHT*, with all members participating, under the direction of Miss Ronaldson. Many small tasks — filing, preparing newscuttings, etc. — remain to be done, and it is hoped to accomplish some of these. Please bring any of the following: scissors, pencils, red and blue ballpoints, rubbers, rulers, scribbling pads.

MAY MEETING

Mr John Blazé spoke on *'Genealogical Research'*. He pointed out how historical and genealogical research involves people all the time, and how the small, everyday incidents of their lives have made History as well as more noteworthy happenings. It is most important to record what is happening now for future reference. As well as the well-known sources of information for 'searchers', as titles offices, cemeteries, birth, death and marriage certificates, family Bibles and shipping lists, there are old regimental muster rolls and pension lists. The Genealogical Society of Victoria and its counterpart in London are available to assist people wishing to do research, and their libraries have an enormous amount of material on which to work.

VERMONT STATE SCHOOL

is to celebrate its centenary on 4th and 5th July next. As part of the publicity for this event, the School Committee is conducting an advertising poster competition — a junior one for children of the school, and a senior one for secondary school pupils of the district. A panel of three judges is to decide the winners, and our society was asked to nominate a member to serve on this panel. At the May meeting, our President, Mr Patterson, was appointed to this position. All members are invited to visit the school on the afternoon of 4th and 5th July, and to enter into the fun of the celebrations. A booklet of school history is being published.

****

One of our members, Mr Hugh Stephens, has loaned the society a file containing copies of the *'RINGWOOD BOROUGH NEWS'* from December 1930 to September 1931. This paper was printed by T. J. Higham, Pty. Ltd. at 14 Blackburn Road, Blackburn, the present location of Acacia Press. It circulated in the districts of Ringwood, Croydon and Bayswater, and was priced 1½d.

Reports were printed of Council meetings of Blackburn and Mitcham Shire, Doncaster and Templestowe Shire and the Ringwood Borough Council.

The topic most often in the news at this time was the widespread unemployment; relief work was mentioned frequently and appeals were constantly made for clothing for distressed families. Social events — concerts and card parties — raised money for helping these people. All the Councils were finding it difficult to finance even essential projects.

Blackburn, Tunstall (Nunawading) and Mitcham were very different places then from the present City of Nunawading, with more than 80,000 people. Many roads and footpaths, busy thoroughfares now, were as yet unmade, and complaints about these were frequent. The ovals and cinder tracks on Morton Park were in process of being completed, and more than once, heavy rain damaged the partly-finished work. A fence enclosed Morton Park and numerous requests were made for a path across the area or along its northern boundary.

Another interesting point is the existence then of the Blackburn and Mitcham Ratepayers' Vigilance Association, apparently similar to the Nunawading Ratepayers' Association of today.

In the reports of local organisations, the name of one voluntary worker appeared very often, that of Mr Alex. Jamieson, of Blackburn. Nunawading City Council named Mr Jamieson 'Citizen of the Year' for 1968 for his services to the community, and it is obvious what a worthy choice this was.

Various paragraphs from these papers will be published in the Newsletter in the future. One is included here:

Mitcham 8/5/1931

Talkies at Mitcham.

A grand opening night on Saturday next will mark the commencement of regular programmes of Talkies at the Mitcham Memorial Hall. Included in the programme is the thrilling drama; 'The Lion and The Lamb', and 'Around the Corner', described as a laugh riot. Micky Mouse cartoons will also be shown.

****

WHAT IS HISTORY? Just delving into the past?

Henry Ford said bluntly: 'History is bunk', and Lord Chesterfield stated that 'History is only a confused heap of facts.'

Carlyle considered that 'History is the essence of innumerable biographies.' Edmund Bentley's viewpoint follows on from this:

'Geography is about maps,
But Biography is about chaps.'

Mr L. J. Blake, President of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, in addressing the people of the Shire of Wangaratta on the occasion of their centenary (September 1967) said: 'You can look at History in many ways. In one view, it is an imperishable record of the great saga of the human spirit. In another, it is gossip raised to the nth degree, gossip raised to academic status, analysed, interpreted, recorded and expanded.'

With this definition in mind, how then can we sum up our ideas?

Perhaps it will suffice to say that we endeavor to see the past always as a continuum running into the present and the future.

****

CANBERRA AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

In a recent newsletter, the society referred to itself as being something like a small-scale National Library. However, some of its possessions are housed at Blundell's Cottage (similar to our Schwerkolt Cottage), most of their records are at the Griffin Centre, some are in the President's garage, and others are in the flat of one of the vice-presidents. The meetings are held in the precints of the National University. Members hope that they will not wait forty-two years for a permanent home, the length of time Canberra waited for its National Library to be opened!

****

AUSTRALIAN NATIVE PLANTS AND THEIR NAMES

Numerous species of beautiful Grevilleas grow in Australia. This plant was named after Hon. Charles Foulke Greville, a 19th century patrician and a patron of Botany. However, the late Charles Barrett commented that Greville, the diarist, would have been unhappy in the Australian bush and could never have been so careless of his dignity as to drink billy-tea with a bushman!

Correa — named after Correa de Serra, a Spanish botanist.
Nuytsia, or the W.A. Christmas Tree — Pieter Nuyts, a Dutch sailor.
Baeckea genus — an 18th century physician.
Bauera — two German brothers Bauer, who painted plants.
Beaufortia, a branch of the Myrtle family, with bottle-brush type of flowers, found in W.A. only — the Duchess of Beaufort, a patron of Botany.
Boronia — Francesco Borone, an 18th century botanist.
Crowea — J. Crowe, an English botanist.
Pultenea, or Bush Pea — R. Pulteney, an English botanist.
Hakea — Baron von Hake, a 20th century botanist.
Hibbertia — George Hibbert, a London patron of Botany.
Kennedya — after Lewis Kennedy, a London nursery-man

AUSTRALIAN NATIVE PLANTS AND THEIR NAMES (contd)

Kunzea – Gustave Kunze, a German botanist.
Dampiera, with a delicate blue flower – William Dampier.
The brilliant Sturt's Desert Pea – Clianthus formosus – first noted by Dampier, who took a specimen home to England after his exploration of the west coast of Australia. Later this plant received its present common name, recalling the Australian explorer, Charles Sturt.

****

BALLARAT is planning a historic park which will re-create the Ballarat scene of the 1850's. The site chosen at Sovereign Hill covers 26 acres and is regarded as the centre of the former prolific Ballarat East goldfields. The focal point is the cone-shaped mullock heap of the old North Normanby Mine.

In the first stage, planning will include a historical museum, a gold mine and village, a prepared area for outdoor exhibits and a historical restaurant. In the museum, space will also be available for lectures, exhibitions and workshop, and the landscaped courtyard entrance will be furnished with historical objects. In the village, cottages of the mining era will be constructed, together with shops such as saddler's, blacksmith, Joss house, sly grog shop, replica of Bentley's Hotel, Plank Road, Montezuma style Hall, Banks and Post Office.

The dominating feature of the village street will be the poppet heads to be re-erected over the old shaft of the mine. The plan also envisages the erection of a complete mining plant, with winding gear and stamp battery in working order. The proposed restaurant is to be an authentic re-creation of the type constructed during the mining era.

We wish the organisers well with their tremendous project.

D. Mattingley
(Editor)
(Hon. Sec.)
Telephone 878 4630

Nunawading Historical Society

NUNAWADING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

X-N 39

JULY 1969 *Price 5 cents* Number 23

Registered at the General Post Office, Melbourne, for transmission by post as a periodical

****

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, 9th July, 1969. 8 p.m. in the Coffee Room, Civic Centre, Whitehorse Road, Nunawading.

Dr J. M. POWELL, Lecturer in GEOGRAPHY at MONASH UNIVERSITY will speak on:
'THE STATE AND THE PIONEER FARMER IN THE WESTERN DISTRICT'

Dr Powell will discuss the documents available for this type of study and present some of the results of his own investigations.

JUNE MEETING

Members participated in a most successful WORK NIGHT and it is hoped to repeat this in the future.

HISTORY OF LOCAL SCHOOLS

Our Society has requested a copy of the history now being compiled for each of the thirty State Schools in the City of Nunawading, and also of the independent schools. These will be kept in the Society's Archives.

Acknowledgment is hereby made to the following schools for their histories:

Forest Hill S.S.	Eastmont S.S.	Laburnum S.S.
Mitcham S.S.	Blackburn East S.S.	Blackburn North S.S.
Blackburn Lake S.S.	Mitcham H.S.	

City of Melbourne Tour Notes — now available from Secretary Price 10 cents

****

PRIVATE SCHOOLS IN BLACKBURN — From the Council of Public Education Register.

Several attempts have been made to establish private schools in Blackburn.

Miss Mildred Jeffrey made the first attempt in September, 1908, when she registered a school of nine day-pupils at 'Chislehurst', Central Road. It was described as a primary and sub-primary school, teaching English, Arithmetic, Geography, French, Drawing, Needlework and History. Apparently it was not successful, as in April, 1909, Miss Jeffrey wrote from Nowa Nowa to notify its closing.

Blackburn College, whose proprietor was Marian Beetson, began in February, 1914. It met in Mrs Barnett's Hall, and began with an enrolment of 26. Subjects taught, up to Merit standard,

PRIVATE SCHOOLS IN BLACKBURN (contd)

were Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Algebra, French, Drawing, Singing and Drill. Another Marian Beetson, apparently a daughter or niece, was a teacher, and Estelle Beetson visited to teach some subjects. Miss Corr joined the staff in 1915. This school closed early in 1919, when an attempted sale fell through. After some months, Mrs Jessie Penfold took over the remnants that were left.

Mrs Penfold described her school as meeting in Sword's Hall, (late Murray's), Blackburn Road, and named it Blackburn Preparatory School. She had only nine day-pupils when she opened on 30th September, 1920, teaching Reading, Writing and Arithmetic. Her daughter helped by supervision at recess times.

Edith Kate Downing, formerly of Lyndhurst College, St Kilda, took over the school in September, 1923 and re-named it Lyndhurst Girls' High and Boys' Preparatory School. Although she had only eight pupils she planned to teach English, French, Arithmetic, Nature Study, Geography, Geometry, History and Algebra to Intermediate standard. Miss P. Woolsworth was teaching and Miss Gardiner visited for Physical Culture. It was still held in the same hall until March the following year, when it closed for lack of pupils.

Winnington Grammar School of Ringwood conducted a branch in Sword's Hall from April 1926 until May 1927. It was only a kindergarten, with nine pupils, who were taught by Grace Livingstone. The proprietors, Misses Irene and Ethel Hall, visited it for some classes. It was closed when the hall was no longer available.

'Newark' School seems to have been the most successful. It was opened by Miss Alice Osborn in the Masonic Hall, Clarke Street, in 1930, as a primary and kindergarten, with twenty pupils. Subjects taught were Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Grammar, Geography, History, Nature Study and Drawing, from Kindergarten to Junior Public Examination.

A report of 1937 said the school was in two divisions. Miss Hooke taught thirteen pupils under six years of age at the Presbyterian Church and nineteen older ones were at the Masonic Hall.

Miss Vera Sheeran, who had been on the staff of Ivanhoe Grammar, took over in February, 1938, when attendance was reported to be small. Mrs Mabel Bodger, formerly of Allendale School, Horsham, took over in September 1939, and the school closed at the end of 1940.

However Miss Osborne later continued the kindergarten class, which finally closed in December, 1948.

Note: Barnett's, Sword's, Murray's Hall mentioned is the one described in the May Newsletter. For a short time, this was also a billiard saloon.

One of the owners built the two-storey shop and dwelling still on the corner of South Parade and Blackburn Road. This was at first two connected shops, a newsagency and a sweet shop.

The building in South Parade now housing the Blue Door Library and the men's wear store was originally a large billiard saloon and dwelling.

Extracts from VICTORIA AND ITS RESOURCES Edited by E. Jerome Dyer 1893.

A great impetus was given to the planting of fruit and grape vines a few years ago by the offer of a bonus by the Government of the day . . . when a sum of £233,000 was granted by Parliament to promote fruit-growing and other industries . ... Another sum was made available for persons who, between 20th May 1890 and 30th June 1895, sow or plant and cultivate vegetables to be used for the manufacture of fibre, paper, oils, syrup, sugar, tannin, drugs, dyes, scents, insecticides and such other things as may at any time be approved by the Governor-in-Council . . . Very little has been undertaken in these branches of culture.

Scent and Herb Farming

The Government itself, however, established a scent farm of 20 acres in extent at Dunolly a few years ago . . .

The largest and almost the only other scent farm in the Colony is situated at Mitcham in the Shire of Nunawading, about 20 miles east of Melbourne. It was established about 25 years ago by Mr W. H. Slater, (a native of Mitcham, Near London) who carried on the business of growing, distilling and otherwise preparing herbs and flowers for commercial purposes and who has found an excellent market for all he could produce. The extent of his herb garden is only 5 acres, but he is an orchadist as well.

Mr Slater has found the business highly profitable, as for instance in the case of mint, he has obtained 4 tons per acre, yielding 6 lbs of oil to the ton or 24 lbs per acre; value 35/- per pound, equal to £41 from an acre of land; while lavender has yielded oil to the value of £117 per acre— results which clearly show the suitability of the soil and climate for their culture.

More extracts from the 'Ringwood Borough News.'

12/12/1930 Rain causes damage. Subway flooded.

The heavy continuous rains during last weekend caused considerable damage and inconvenience throughout the district. Many low-lying parts were flooded, and metalled surfaces of roadways washed away. A good deal of injury to fruit and other crops has resulted.

Railway passengers inconvenienced

Owing to the inability of the water tables in Railway Road to carry the volume of water, the overflow crossed the footpath and rushed down the subway at Blackburn railway station on Saturday. The subway was soon filled to the roof, and caused communication between the 'Up' and 'Down' platforms to be cut off. Passengers were considerably inconvenienced, those desirous of reaching the platform opposite being compelled to make the journey via the crossing at Blackburn Road. The excess water from the subway emptied into South Parade, covering the footpath and causing many cases of wet feet among adventurous passengers. It was fully two hours before the subway was cleared sufficiently to permit of traffic being resumed.

BLACKBURN CHORAL SOCIETY 26/12/1930

The Blackburn Choral Society, which gave such excellent renditions of the items programmed for them at their social last Monday evening, has only recently been formed, and under the able leadership of Mr P. C. Josephs, is making rapid strides towards competency. Membership has now reached the half-century mark, and there is the keen enthusiasm of the true music-lover amongst the members for the work they are doing. The Society is at present rehearsing an oratorio which is nearly completed, and it is hoped that in the near future the Blackburn Choral Society will rank among the foremost of Melbourne's Choral Societies.

HEALTHY RINGWOOD 9/1/1931

Remarkable Statistics.

The vital statistics for the year just ended give remarkable evidence as to the suitability of Ringwood as a residential suburb from the important standpoint of health.

For the whole year, the deaths numbered only 14, representing a percentage of less than five for every 1000 inhabitants; apart from the demise of two infants, only three persons did not reach the alloted span of 70 years, while the aggregate age of the six eldest totals 504 years,

HEALTHY RINGWOOD 9/1/1931 (contd)

or an average of 84 years at the time of death.

The number of births registered for the same period totalled 81, 44 males and 37 females.

BLACKBURN RAILWAY PROPERTY 9/1/1931

Improvements Needed.

The completion of the pipe drain on the south side of Blackburn railway station opens up great possibilities for the beautification of this portion of the town. The situation lends itself to the formation of gardens that would convey a good first impression to the visitor by train. Doubtless the Commissioners would welcome any offer to improve what at present is rather an eyesore. It is to be hoped that some responsible body will take this matter up, and investigate its possibilities.

BOX HILL POLICE COURT 30/1/1931

Thirty miles an Hour.

On a charge of having driven a loaded truck at a speed of 30 miles per hour, on Dec. 29th on the Whitehorse Road, Ringwood, William Tortice appeared before Mr. Wade on Thursday, Jan. 29th. Constable Godfrey, of the police patrol, said: "I asked him why he was travelling so fast, and he said he did not think he was doing more than 30 miles per hour." The truck was loaded with bags of flour.

Defendant, who pleaded guilty, was fined £2.

D. Mattingley
Editor
Hon. Sec.
Telephone 878 4630

NUNAWADING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 1969 . Price 5 cents Number 24

Registered at the General Post Office, Melbourne, for transmission by post as a periodical

****

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, 13th August, 1969. 8 p.m. in the Coffee Room, Civic Centre, Whitehorse Road, Nunawading.

As the speaker for this meeting is unable to attend owing to illness, another *WORK NIGHT* will be held, when members will continue the projects begun on the previous meeting of this kind. (Any card-tables available?)

THE JULY MEETING was a most successful one, when Dr Powell of Monash addressed the society on *'The State and the Pioneer Farmer in the Western District'.* Many Matriculation students from local High Schools attended. Our liason officer with the Council, Cr. Cox, thanked Dr Powell for his stimulating lecture.

Dr Powell, who has also studied the frontier in Wales and U.S.A., explained how he is interested in man, and his environment and relationships in any period. The land settlement period in Victoria was a very confused one, and a difficulty in assessment today is that relevant records and statistics are not always reliable, because of evasions practised.

The period of the eighteen-sixties was a time of leading up to placing the 'small man' on the land in Victoria. Professor Wadham has stated that small-scale peasant farming in Australia would always be disastrous. Unfortunately, this type of settlement was an agrarian ideal and became an agrarian myth, as did 'homesteading' in the U.S.A.

The Acts of 1860-9 introduced safeguarded selection; they put the small man on the land, but not too easily. The Government selected the areas and announced certain conditions to be met; historians claim that it was the result of popular request and political compromise. The Acts were not based on any proven theory or other locations.

In 1858, Gavan Duffy commissioned Skene to survey land and report on this. The land was around Wannon, the Glenelg, Portland and up towards the north-east, but not including the goldfields. The Nicholson and Duffy Acts were qualified failures; one point of the 'novel industries clause' was the idea of growing sugar-cane on the bleak Ballarat plateau.

In 1865, Grant took Section 42 in his own hands and put some small men on the land. This was really the end of the 'safeguarded' selection of the squatters. Small farmers managed to survive near Crown lands or squatters' runs, where they grazed some of the land.

The 1869 Act marked the beginning of free selection. There came the flight of hundreds to the Wimmera, and Mallee, some from the Western District and many from South Australia. Selection before survey was now allowed. These small farmers became the real pioneers in a sense that the landed squatters had never done. All were dependent on each other to survive and build up the local communities. Sometimes members of a family selected together and worked successfully. One Lutheran community developed differently because all members worked closely together.

It was soon found that both wheat and sheep were necessary to make a living on these farms. The situation was very different from that of the farmers of today, with Government concessions and easy transport. It was the survival of the fittest, and the many thriving centres of today owe their prosperity to the pioneering men and women of this era.

SCHOOL HISTORIES: So far, histories of fourteen local State Schools have been received.
Acknowledgments this month to:

Blackburn Technical School
Antonio Park S.S.
Nunawading South S,S.
Vermont S.S.
Springview S.S.
Burwood East S.S.

RHSV. Third Bi-ennial Conference will be held at Melbourne University from Friday 26th September to Sunday 28th September.
On the Conference theme of *GOLD*, speakers include Professors Russel Ward and Geoffrey Blainey and Dr A. G. Serle. Affiliated societies assisting include the Folk Lore Council of Victoria (at the dinner on Saturday) and eastern suburban Historical Societies (for the Sunday afternoon excursion to Warrandyte and other places east). A conference of affiliated societies will be held on the Sunday morning.
LaTrobe Library display will be on the subject of John Pascoe Fawkner, and the Institute of Applied Science will also display models showing methods of mining and treatment of gold ore.

WIMMERA QUARTERLY A magazine of Wimmera ways, life and people. 60 cents per copy. $2 a year. Editor: Alan Finch, 30 Alexander Avenue, Horsham 3400.

BOX HILL HISTORICAL SOCIETY is publishing in a limited edition all papers delivered by speakers since 1964. Price $3.
Orders to Mr O. S. Green, 31 Malcolm Street, Blackburn 3130.

LOCAL NEWS: Nunawading City Council has asked that our society meet with the Schwerkolt Cottage Committee of Management to discuss the possibility of the erection of a building adjacent to the Cottage in which to house items of historic interest. A Joint proposal concerning this is to be submitted to Council.
H.S. office-bearers and the Cottage Committee have met and agreed that this is a most desirable project. Plans are now in hand and these will be submitted to members for their approval. The proposal will then be forwarded to the Council for its consideration. This is a most exciting event for our society.

CASTLEMAINE: Antique and Historical Display in Castlemaine Market, August 29th - 31st. Proceeds to restoration of this notable market.

Extract from 'VICTORIA AND ITS RESOURCES' 1893
EXPORT OF FRUIT

The first organised attempt to bring Australian fruits under the notice of Europeans was a small parcel of apples, despatched to an exhibition at Vienna, in 1873, by Mr John Carson, President of the Royal Horticultural Society. Each fruit was named, wrapped in a piece of tissue paper, laid in small paper boxes, and the whole enclosed in a large case, which was placed in the cooling room of the P. and O'Co.'s steamer. When the case was opened, the fruit was, with only one ot two exceptions, found to be in excellent condition. A similar consignment was sent to Florence the following

year. In 1878, several cases of apples and pears were despatched to the Paris Exhibition, where they arrived safely, and as in the former instances were awarded a diploma and bronze medal. In 1880-81, several cases of fruit were sent to Ceylon and India, which also proved a success. The next export of importance, besides single cases taken by passengers in their cabins, was to London in 1883, consigned to the celebrated pomologist, Dr Hogg, editor of the Journal of Horticulture, who stated that he was surprised by the beautiful appearance and admirable condition of the fruit. In the same year, another consignment was successfully transmitted to the Calcutta Exhibition; and another in 1886 to the Indo-Colonial Exhibition. By that time the growers themselves had begun the business of exporting, and it has been continued annually ever since, until it is now of considerable extent . . . It will, however, be imperative that markets should be found in other places besides London . . . India, Ceylon, America . . . and other parts of the Northern Hemisphere.

Note:- Individual growers exported fruit for many years before organised co-operatives were formed to handle this trade. The July 1968 Newsletter told briefly the story of the local Blue Moon Fruit Co-Operative Co. Ltd. Its original title was 'The Southern Victoria Pear Packing Co. Ltd.'
Traditional markets for this company's fruit exports have always been the United Kingdom, Scandinavia and the Continent. However, new markets are now opening up in the near East, and this year, a shipment of pears was dispatched to America.

The following extract is from 'The Ringwood Borough News'

FRUIT EXPORT 20/2/1931

An Interesting Experiment

The second shipping of fruit this season by the Southern Victoria Pear Packing Co. Ltd, which has its headquarters in Blackburn, was loaded on s.s. Limerick, which sailed on Wednesday last. The shipment totalled 5698 cases, comprising 724 cases of plums, 1024 cases W.B.C. pears, 3880 cases Howell, and 70 cases other varieties. Considerable interest centres around this shipment, particularly in relation to the plums. Trial shipments of this fruit, exported for the first time last season, opened up very well and showed good returns. The opening up of a new and profitable market for plums would be hailed with delight by growers, this fruit showing very poor returns in the local market.

The whole shipment was consigned to Mr Garford, who recently sailed for London to act as the Company's representative there. Mr Garford will arrange the distribution of the fruit in England. The results of the arrangement, which is an entirely new departure in the export of fruit, will be watched with interest.

TO YORKSHIRE AGAIN

August 25th will be the 201st anniversary of the departure from England of Captain James Cook on his voyage which resulted in his exploration of the hitherto unknown eastern shores of New Holland.

If Cook could re-visit his old haunt of Whitby and other nearby places today, he would find many changes, but also much that is unchanged. The population of Whitby is the same, just under 12,000; but in Cook's day, all its residents followed trades connected with the sea, and now it is a peaceful holiday resort. Some places would still be recognisable to him — his lodging-place in Grape Lane, partly built from the timbers of an old sailing-ship; and the same names are used for the lanes and narrow pedestrian 'paths' of cobble-stones. But where he would remember a crowded harbor, with tall-masted ships and tiny 'cobles' — the local fishing-

boats — today he would see holiday-makers wandering about with their cameras, gazing at the memorial tablets commemorating Cook and his voyages. On the cliffs, a bronze monument overlooks the town, but in his day, a dozen cannon were strategically placed there. Those 'frog-eating Frenchies' had to be welcomed in the right way if they ventured on English soil!

Whitby has a museum, with a large section devoted to Cook and his voyages, and at Ayton village school, where he went at the age of eight, is the Cook Museum.

At Staithes, about ten miles north-west of Whitby, Cook would remember how he earned his first regular money, as assistant to the general dealer and haberdasher, William Sanderson. This man introduced him to John Walker of Whitby, ship-owner and master mariner, to whom Cook was later apprenticed for three years. Whitby at this time was growing fast. Whaling was then approaching its heyday, and another well-remembered figure today is William Scoresby, the successful whaler, who introduced many up-to-date techniques for this important industry.

Robin Hood's Bay, a few miles away, is today another tourist resort, but Cook would remember it as a place honest men avoided, for it was one of the most notorious smuggling ports in the whole country. This was the time when tea was so heavily taxed that it cost from twelve to thirty shillings per pound, while it could be bought in Holland for sevenpence a pound. Brandy, silks, tobacco, lace and other luxuries were smuggled in for the same reason. Kipling's 'Smugglers' Song' recalls this era vividly.

Many local people in these seaside towns today travel daily to work in the nearby industrial centres, returning to their homes in pleasant surroundings each evening.

With the inevitable changes of two centuries, it is pleasing to know that something of Cook's era still lingers on in a few Yorkshire places.

More extracts from the 'Ringwood Borough News'

MORTON PARK 9/1/1931

Improvements Progressing

Steady progress is being made with the improvements to the Morton Park. The laying of the concrete footpath and curbing in front of the hall is now complete, and the work on the upper oval is well advanced, and it is expected that work will commence very shortly on the lower oval. On Tuesday evening, 13th inst. the Morton Park Committee will hold its usual monthly meeting, when schemes for further improvement will probably be discussed.

BAYSWATER 6/2/1931

Request to Railway Commissioners

Some time ago, the Progress Association requested the Railway Commissioners to stop a down and up train at Glenferrie for the convenience of children attending the technical school and colleges thereabouts. After due consideration, the Commissioners have acceded to the request, and are giving it a trial.

D. Mattingley
(Editor)
Telephone 878 4630

Nunawading Historical Society

NUNAWADING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

X-N41

SEPTEMBER 1969 *Price 5 cents* Number 25

Registered at the General Post Office, Melbourne, for transmission by post as a periodical

****

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, 10th September, 1969. 8 p.m. in the Coffee Room, Civic Centre, Whitehorse Road, Nunawading.

Mr H. S. Parkinson will address the Society on the subject of *HISTORY OF THE ADULT DEAF SOCIETY*, with special reference to the Home in Blackburn.

August Meeting – Work Night. A number of members continued the cataloguing and other tasks begun previously.

CHANGE IN CONSTITUTION:- The following motion was passed:

A subscription of $3 would include husband and wife and children up to the age of sixteen, to be termed a Family Membership.

A single annual subscription would remain at $2, and Student membership 50 cents.

MEMBERSHIP of the Society is at present 42 — this includes 3 student members. More people are needed and each member is asked to introduce at least one new member or a family membership for the next financial year. The fourth Annual Meeting will be held on October 8th.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS to the following schools for their histories:

Nunawading High School
Narmara State School
Blackburn State School
Vermont High School

RHSV NEWS The sixtieth Annual General Meeting of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria will be held on Tuesday, 23rd September, at 8 p.m. in the Lecture Theatre of the Royal Society of Victoria, 9 Victoria Street, Melbourne.

The President, Mr L. J. Blake, B.A., B.Ed., M.A.C.E., will take for his Presidential Address the subject: 'Talking of Overlanders.'

ARARAT H. S. now has plans well advanced for establishing its district museum in a century-old brick and bluestone warehouse. A K class engine is to be acquired, a powder magazine is already on the site and a quantity of historical material has been collected.

NATIONAL TRUST NEWS Doncaster and Templestowe H. S. is proud that in its city the following are classified as "C" by the National Trust:

Holy Trinity Church of England, 'Glenfern', 'Friedensruh', and Schramm's Cottage.

LA TROBE LIBRARY John Pascoe Fawkner (1792-1869) CENTENNIAL EXHIBITION

4th September to 5th December

Hours: 2 to 10 p.m. Mondays

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays to Fridays.

****

LOCAL NEWS

Members will no doubt be interested to know that by the generosity of Mr Harold Bloom of North Balwyn, whose citrus orchard on Whitehorse Road has been sold, the Schwerkolt Cottage agricultural implement display is now complete. Mr Stevens of Burwood Road, Vermont, has already donated a wagon and single-furrow plough. Most of the outside implements can now be seen at Schwerkolt Cottage, but some machines must be kept out of the weather, and are being looked after by the City Council. The Historical Society hope in the not-too-distant future to be able to house all these objects and many more in the bluestone building, which the Council plans to build in the Cottage environs.

We can count ourselves extremely lucky in being able to acquire so many orchard implements in such sound condition. The blacksmith's shop is completed and is now awaiting its full set of blacksmith's tools, etc.

We are happy to find ourselves not so very far behind Swan Hill, and if the old wine-cellar is restored and the smoke-house re-built, this section of the City of Nunawading should be one of Victoria's show-places.

J. Field

AUSTRALIAN HISTORY

Midshipman William Creswell, later Admiral Sir Wm. Creswell, arrived in Sydney in 1869. In his reminiscences of this time, he wrote that 'there was hardly a house on the North Shore. All the bays, inlets and rocky promontories were fresh and green and tree-clad as Nature made them. The most impressive part of the whole harbour was Circular Quay with its forest of masts, its splendidly sparred clipper shipping.' He contrasted the 'quiet and rather old-fashioned little English country town atmosphere of Sydney with the 'go and life' of Melbourne, though the private hospitality of Sydney was more appreciated because it was 'quieter and less lavish.' However, when visitors reached Tasmania, the attractions of Hobart struck Creswell and his friends in the gun-room as even more delightful. 'It was the first place out of England where draught beer, brewed locally, was obtainable.'

Later Creswell studied Australian defence very seriously. The renewed Russian scare in the early eighteen-eighties had roused Australians, but they thought of defence only in terms of military forces. He worked for years to convince the authorities that an adequate Australian Navy was a necessity and not a luxury.

SOME ADVERTISEMENTS FROM THE 'RINGWOOD BOROUGH NEWS' 1931

MAGAZINES
Another shipment arrived.
A wonderful assortment
Love stories, thrillers, cowboys,
all high class. 6d each.
Usually sold at 1/3 and 1/9
S. L. Love & Son, Newsagents, Blackburn
If you want any kept, ring WX 1101.

(in Hairdresser's ad.)

If you are out of work, your hair will be cut for whatever you are able to pay.
Your children also.

SOME ADVERTISEMENTS FROM THE 'RINGWOOD BOROUGH NEWS (contd)

FERNS
Direct from the mountains.
Ferns of all lengths and sizes
Butts for fern-baskets and slabs
Fish-bone ferns on hand.
Any ferns obtainable at moderate prices.
Ferns guaranteed to grow if my directions are followed.
Less than city prices.
From 2 ft. @ 1/6 to 6 ft. @ 5/-
Joe Harris. Railway Parade. Blackburn.

Patronise Blackburn's oldest established butcher.
S. D. Prior
Cnr. Blackburn & Railway Roads.
Only prime quality beef, mutton and lamb.
Veal and pork kept in stock.
Sausages a specialty.
Orders will receive prompt attention.
Expeditious delivery to your door.
Quality and service is my motto.
(Prior's Butchery business is still in existence at the same address).

Everything home-made at the COTTAGE TEA-ROOMS.
Ideally situated on Whitehorse Road, between Blackburn and Tunstall. (L. Cook, Prop.)
Motorists specially catered for — open Sundays.
Hot luncheons, meat and fruit pies, delicious sandwiches, delectable cakes, scones, tea and coffee, soft drinks — cool and refreshing.
Choice confectionery.
Spacious and beautiful lawn at rear of tea-rooms.
Midget golf-course (9 holes).

BLACKBURN GOLFETTE
Nine-hole Midget Golf Course.
Lounge entrance at 55 RAILWAY ROAD.
Opposite station and subway. Membership invited.
Charges: Adults 6d. first round; 3d repeat.
Children 3d. daytime; after 6 p.m. 6d.

MORE EXTRACTS FROM THE 'RINGWOOD BOROUGH NEWS'

16/1/1931

Miniature Golf at Blackburn

Patrons of the now popular game of miniature golf will be glad to learn that facilities for the enjoyment of this pastime are being provided in a convenient position, in the Railway Road, opposite the Railway Station subway. The enterprising proprietors are laying down a 9 hole course, which will be reached through the lounge entrance of 55 Railway Road.

The opening ceremony will be performed on Sat. Jan. 24 by A. G. Furness, Esq.

This should solve the problem of 'What shall we do tonight?' for the young people and those not so young may also be tempted to try 'just one game'.

****

MORE EXTRACTS FROM THE 'RINGWOOD BOROUGH NEWS'

30/1/1931

In response to many requests for a SERIAL STORY, we have secured the publication rights of what is described as an absorbing story of Love and Mystery: "FOR LOVE OF JENNY ADAIR", by G. W. Appleton. The first instalment of this fascinating story will appear in our next issue, Friday, February 6th.

BLACKBURN PROGRESS ASSOCIATION 23/1/1931

Silent Cops.

Much discussion ensued regarding the removal of the silent cops at the intersection of Blackburn Road and Railway Road, and Station Street and Railway Road (Blackburn). The Secretary of the National Safety Council is of the opinion that a white line is a much better way of getting over the difficulty.

Special Rates for Blackburn Riding.

. . . the matter of striking a special rate for the Blackburn Riding arose out of some discussion at the last meeting regarding the allocation of the £15,000 loan money. £11,000 was spent in Mitcham, £3000 in Tunstall, and £1000 in Blackburn. For this reason, it was considered this Riding should have a considerably lower rate.

Cr. Stevens supplied the following information:

Number of buildings in Blackburn: 750
" " " " Tunstall: 323.
" " " " Mitcham: 731. — totalling 1804 buildings in the Shire.

Population: Blackburn Riding: 2,814
" Tunstall " 1,295
" Mitcham " 2,627, total for the Shire 6,736.

BLACKBURN PROGRESS ASSOCIATION 20/3/1931

Noisy Motor Cycles

A complaint was launched by several residents about the noisy motor-cycles which tear up and down the main streets of Blackburn late at night.

It was decided to send a letter to headquarters, and acquaint them with the matter, and to co-operate with the local constable before doing so.

It was suggested that the Commissioner be asked to supply Con. Costello with a motor-cycle, as he could not be expected to be all over the district without speedy transport.

CROYDON 27/3/1931

Search for Lost Plane.

Since Monday, Croydon has had more planes flying over the township than it has had for years. On Wednesday, two machines appeared to be combing the Mount Dandenong Ranges in search of the missing aeroplane.
(Evidently, this refers to the 'Southern Cloud.')

D. Mattingley
(Editor)
Telephone 878 4630

NUNAWADING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 1969 *Price 5 cents* Number 26

Registered at the General Post Office, Melbourne, for transmission by post as a periodical

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, 8th October, 1969, in the Coffee Room, Civic Centre, Whitehorse Road, Nunawading. 8 p.m. sharp.

FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING *AGENDA*

Confirmation of Minutes of Third Annual Meeting.
Presentation of Annual Report and Financial Report.
Election of Office-bearers and Committee Members.
To be followed by a *FAMILY NIGHT*. Each member is asked to bring along one or more treasures and to talk briefly of these, OR to relate a short historical anecdote, OR relate the origin of two street-names in the City of Nunawading.
NOTE: Each member to bring a plate of supper, please.

It is hoped to have a really large attendance for this important meeting, with all age groups of members' families. Business will be as brief as possible, with emphasis on the latter part of the program

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS will be due. It assists the Treasurer if these are paid promptly.
Has each member obtained one new member or a family membership?

SEPTEMBER MEETING: *'HISTORY OF THE ADULT DEAF SOCIETY IN VICTORIA'*

Mr Parkinson unfortunately had a very small audience, but those present found much of interest in his address.

From 1860, help had been given to deaf children, but in 1883, a group of fourteen men began an organisation for adults. This prospered, and, after several moves, the society purchased 75 acres of land in Blackburn, near the lake, in 1909. The present building was erected, and on eight acres which had been cleared, the people grew bulbs, and the flowers were sold in Melbourne and Sydney markets. However, in 1920, after a legal dispute concerning payment of rates, flower-growing ceased.

The aged, infirm and dependent who are deaf and unable to communicate orally with others, and of whom some are blind and deformed, are cared for in the pleasant surroundings of the Home in Blackburn. Red Cross workers achieve a high standard with the handcrafts they teach these people.

The Society still owns 33 acres, the remainder having been sold to Camberwell Grammar School and the M.M.B.W., from whom the N.C.C. has acquired a large area to preserve as open space.

The Jolimont Square, East Melbourne property was purchased by the Society in 1923. Here clubhouse, chapel, social club, hostel and interpreting service are provided for many people.

COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE. Our Society welcomes Cr G. R. Oakley as its recently-appointed representative of Nunawading City Council

BLACKBURN OPEN-AIR SCHOOL

Many local residents are unaware that Blackburn was the site of an interesting educational experiment, beginning more than fifty years ago, and continuing until recent times.

In 1912, a committee headed by Mr W. S. Keast, M.L.A. for Dandenong, began to raise money to build an 'Open-Air School'. Mr Burke, a member of the committee, and Mr K. Hart, the Secretary, had seen similar schools in England and U.S.A. and believed that great benefits could be derived from this type of school. Mrs Keast, as Treasurer, wrote about 700 letters asking for donations, and more than £300 was received.

Mr Keast then led a deputation to Sir Alexander Peacock, Minister for Education, in January, 1913, asking the Department to accept the money and run such a school. Sir Alexander pointed out that the Department was already experimenting with a similar type of school at Sandringham. Mr Frank Tait said that the children there were in normal health and that the Committee's proposal was that the new school should be for sickly children.

The Department agreed to go ahead, accepted £312/16/9 and began plans for this special school which would be attended by children selected by medical officers as markedly inferior in nutrition and general health, until they regained normal health. It was planned that these pupils would be given milk or soup and biscuit at 11 a.m., with a lunch of soup, stew, bread and butter and milk, or stew and pudding alternatively, at 12.30 p.m., and milk and biscuit at 4 p.m. It would be a 'country-type' school with 20-25 children to each teacher, in an open-sided pavilion.

The Department then searched for a healthy district and a site close to a railway station, as the railway authorities were willing to allow concession fares for pupils. The blocks 17, 18, 19, 36, 37 and 38 of Blackburn Township Estate were purchased for £120; this was the southern part of Gardenia Street, running through to Main Street, approximately one acre in size. On 1st June, 1915, State School No. 3850, Blackburn Open-Air School, was opened, with accommodation for 30.

On 5/8/1921, the western portion of the site fronting Main Street was exchanged for land fronting Gardenia Street – lots 17, 18 and 19, plus £50 were exchanged for lots 33, 34, and 35 which adjoins the northern boundary of lot 36 in the original purchase.

Apparently there was interest in the experiment overseas, as Spain enquired about it in 1919.

The greatest changes occurred in the twenty years after the Second World War. The building was improved with such additions as a glassed-in area and an extra rest-room with rubber mattresses, and playground equipment was supplied. Improved and nutritious meals were served, after a period of experimentation with various diets, including the Oslo Diet. Travel by rail was superseded by free travel in a special bus through Fitzroy, Collingwood and Richmond, to and from Blackburn. Various women's groups in Nunawading visited the school and assisted with amenities, and the City Council gave aid.

There was an enrolment of 24, and pupils usually made a stay of one year. The normal syllabus for Grades 3 and 4 was followed, with emphasis on personal hygiene, remedial physical exercises under the direction of the School Medical Service and trained

Physical Education Staff, and constant medical supervision. Encouragement was given in Nature Study, with bird-observing, walks in Furness Park, and bird-tables for food; grass was not cut until the Spring wild-flowers had finished blooming, and many additional native shrubs were planted.

In 1964, in view of the increasing number of social welfare agencies and groups, and the various Council services being developed, the Education Department decided to close this project. The building is now in use as a Psychology and Guidance Centre, whose officers visit schools and interview hundreds of pupils each year.

Future plans include provision of a specially designed building to house Psychology and Guidance and the Speech Therapy Centres for this area.

K. Patterson
Miss A. Baird

READING – NOW AND THEN

'Nunawading Gazette', August – September 1969

"Blackburn Branch Library lends 340,000 books each year. 32,000 borrowers. Planned Central Library with 86,000 books . . . and Reference Section with seating for 100."

'Ringwood Borough News 14/8/1931

A TRAVELLING LIBRARY

A novel venture has been undertaken by Mrs Vernon Williams, widow of the Australian author, who has commenced a travelling library in the Croydon district, using as its nucleus the splendid collection of books owned by her late husband. This will be kept up-to-date by continuously adding the latest works of fiction, etc. to the library, which contains many rare works difficult to obtain outside private collections.

Mrs Williams has commenced delivering to her subscribers on horseback, but later it is her intention to purchase a horse and jinker and go further afield. The novelty and convenience of having books delivered to the door have appealed to residents and good business has resulted.

More extracts from the 'Ringwood Borough News'

BLACKBURN & MITCHAM SHIRE COUNCIL 30/1/1931

Swimming Baths

The Engineer presented his report of preparation for a swimming basin, on the site of the old Shire Hall.

The cost of the work was estimated to be £ 2,500; this included construction of the basin, wire fencing, dressing sheds and conveniences, caretaker's office, laying on of water and provision of drainage easement and paving of same for a short distance from the baths. This did not include filtration or treatment of water by mechanical process or tiling of interior basin.

After discussion, one councillor moved that the Government be approached for a grant, and the seconding councillor stated there was no doubt that baths were wanted in the municipality, and the work would relieve the unemployed to a certain extent.

Another councillor predicted that baths would be a 'white elephant' in the district. Finally the motion was lost on the count.

****

More extracts from the 'Ringwood Borough News' (contd)

Note: The Council of the newly formed Shire of Blackburn and Mitcham (1925) purchased a dwelling for Municipal Offices in Whitehorse Road, slightly west of the present offices. This building was burnt down in 1927.

As no reference exists of any other Shire Hall, it is presumed that this was the suggested site.

BLACKBURN 6/3/1931

Melba's Funeral

The residents of Blackburn assembled en masse to pay their last respects to Dame Nellie Melba, the world-famous singer, on Thursday last, when the funeral passed on its way along the Whitehorse Road to Lilydale Cemetery. The children of the Blackburn School were gathered along the roadside, and as the cortege approached, the fife and drum band played 'Onward, Christian Soldiers'. Diminutive Gwen Saynor and Kathleen Gedye, kindergarten scholars, proffered a beautiful wreath, consisting of white dahlias, mauve asters and asparagus fern. A halt was made while it was accepted and placed in one of the many cars heavily laden with floral tributes.

MITCHAM 17/4/1931

Old Landmark Passes

An old building, in the shape of the old blacksmithy, opposite the Walker Park Reserve in Whitehorse Road, has been demolished. This building was one of the oldest in Mitcham, being standing upwards of 45 years. Old residents will remember Mr Ethridge, who conducted the forge some 30 years ago, followed by Messrs Thompson and Tarrant, from whom the business passed into the hands of Mr H. C. Walker, a most highly respected resident, who retired from active business some years ago. The building was in constant use until some months back, when Mr J. Vanner moved to more modern premises nearer the centre of the town.

BLACKBURN 12/6/1931

Cross Country Running

Blackburn is becoming increasingly popular with amateur athletic and harrier clubs during the winter months for cross country running. Undoubtedly the country in this locality is of a most desirable type for this sport . . . Next year one of the local associations such as the Progress Association, should endeavour to get the Victorian Amateur Athletic Association to hold some of their bigger races at Blackburn. A number of clubs that have been out here have all expressed themselves as highly delighted with the facilities for cross-country running.

D. Mattingley
(Editor)
Telephone 878 4586

Nunawading Historical Society

NUNAWADING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

X-N 43

NOVEMBER 1969 *Price 5 cents* Number 27

Registered at the General Post Office, Melbourne, for transmission by post as a periodical

****

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, 12th November, 1969, in the Coffee Room, Civic Centre, Whitehorse Road, Nunawading 8 p.m.

Mr G. L. BLACKBURN of Yarra Glen will speak on *'BLACKBURN FAMILY RESEARCH'* Mr Blackburn will describe his work on the development of his family's history of seven generations in Australia and his search for a connection with the suburb of Blackburn

ANNUAL MEETING: 8/10/69

The small attendance was most disappointing.

ELECTION OF OFFICE-BEARERS:

President:	Mr K. Patterson
Vice-President:	Mr M. Chatwin
Hon. Secretary:	Mrs D. Mattingley
Asst. Secretary:	Mrs N. Durant
Treasurer:	Mr I. Barker

Committee: Miss E. Ronaldson, Mesdames J. Field, N. Leach, E. Brown.

PROGRAM:

Members showed various treasures or contributed short stories, and one member told the origin of five street names in Mitcham, all these being called after local boys who were killed in World War II.

Owen Street after Owen Loftus
Ross Street after Ross Fenton
Ronald Street after Ronald Peake
Brian Street after Brian Cox
Alwyn Street after Alwyn Till

A short biography followed of Alwyn Till, who attended Box Hill High School before going overseas. An interesting school essay of his was read, which told some early history of the district.

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION?

$2 single, $3 family, 50 cents student membership
Treasurer: Mr I. Barker, 14 Tortice Avenue, Nunawading, 3131

ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA BI-ENNIAL CONFERENCE:

At the Business Meeting, an Amendment to the Constitution was passed, setting up the VICTORIAN COMMITTEE OF AFFILIATED SOCIETIES. This will co-ordinate the functions of Historical Societies affiliated with the RHSV, and will encourage and advance the study of

ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA BI-ENNIAL CONFERENCE: (contd)
History. It will consist of 5 members from the RHSV and 7 from affiliated societies. The representative from the Eastern suburbs Historical Societies is Mrs M. Green of Doncaster H.S.

The President, Mr L. J. Blake, announced that a deputation has approached the Premier on such matters as the renaming of Pt. Everard, the acquisition of a larger area of National Park in this vicinity with accessibility there by the public, financial aid for special RHSV publications, and the urgent need for a permanent H.Q. for the Society. The Committee of the National Trust recently met with a committee of three from the RHSV to discuss the formation of a joint policy; it is realised that each group is complementary to the other.

D.M.

There were five main speakers at the Conference and their theme was *'GOLD'*. Professor Russel Ward considered the effect of gold on the development of Australian patriotism. He suggested that the people of N.S.W. are more inclined to emphasise their loyalty to Australia, while Victorians tend to see themselves as independent Australian Britons with a basic loyalty to the throne, the Empire and all white English-speaking people. The Victorian attitude was traced to the type of people who came seeking gold.

Mr Geoffrey Blainey's topic was *'HOW THEY WON THE GOLD'*. A knowledge of how the gold was won is basic to an understanding of life on the fields. The surface gold was won by primitive washing, puddling and sluicing. For deeper mining, the system of 'hammer and tap' was used. This was replaced by the rock drill in the eighteen seventies and eighties. One type of rock drill was known as the 'widow-maker' because the men using it contracted tuberculosis. It was used extensively at Bendigo.

Mr Blake spoke about *'THE GOLD ESCORT'*, particularly the South Australian Gold Escort to Mt. Alexander (Castlemaine). He showed slides of the Little Desert and pointed out the tracks made by the escort carts.

Mr Geoffrey Serle examined the gold generation very closely and indicated the effects of the gold migrants on the composition and development of Victorian society.

Dr Noel McLachlan spoke about the visitors to the gold-fields, the hardships of their journeys and their opinions of Australia.

These were five thoroughly stimulating lectures on very different aspects of the gold-rush period.

E. Ronaldson

DISCOVERY SUMMER SCHOOL *'IN THE WAKE OF CAPTAIN JAMES COOK'*, organised by the South-Eastern Historical Association, at Queenscliff, March 7-9, 1970. For details see Secretary. Day tours also.

Recently published by the Nepean Historical Society is the History of Quarantine at Port Phillip Heads, 1852-1966: *'HELL TO HEALTH'*, by Major J. H. Welch. Excellent buying at $1.50. Particulars from Mrs Field. 878-0142.

STAWELL recently celebrated its municipal centenary.

In 1840, Robert Briggs occupied the Ledcourt run, the first established in the eastern Grampians, and in 1841, John Allen occupied the 57,000 acres of the Concongella selection which included the site of Stawell. Dr Blundell acquired Concongella in 1844. In 1853, William McLaughlan, a shepherd employed by Dr Blundell, who occupied an

outstation hut on Pleasant Creek near the site of the present Shire Hall, found gold. Gold rushes began to Pleasant Creek and Deep Lead, and reached their peak by 1857, the population being estimated at 20,000.

On 11th June, 1858, the site of the Township of Stawell was proclaimed. Prior to this time, the district was known as Pleasant Creek and the quartz reef mining area as 'The Reefs'. William Foster Stawell was Chief Law Officer of the District of Port Phillip, and Acting Governor of the Colony of Victoria from its proclamation on 30/4/1851 until LaTrobe took office. He was also Attorney-General of the first Victorian Parliament and Chief Justice of Victoria. His family, in the 12th century, took its name from the Somerset Parish of Stawell, which is mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086. Stawell is a corruption of 'stony well', a spring in the parish whose mineral waters petrified objects placed in it.

In 1861, Stawell Road District was proclaimed, in 1864, Stawell Shire, and in 1869, the Borough of Stawell. This in turn became a Town in 1957.

WATER CONSERVATION

Recently the Premier of Victoria officially opened Lake Bellfield at Hall's Gap. This reservoir is the latest link in a long history of water conservation and distribution in the dry Wimmera and Mallee area, where rainfall ranges from 12 inches to 20 inches, with no permanent streams.

The Wilson brothers are regarded as the first to initiate water conservation in the Wimmera, when, about 1856, they dammed the Wimmera River at Ashens and Longerenong to divert the water into the Ashens and Yarriambiack Creeks. These were regulated to hold supplies, and water was carried more than twenty miles from the main streams to water the squatters' back country.

Droughts in 1877 and 1881, with fairly dry years in between, brought the question of water conservation to the fore. The Shires of Dunmunkle and St Arnaud carried out some work on this, and then the Wimmera United Water-Works Trust and later the Shire of Wimmera Trust in the eighteen-eighties constructed manu miles of distributory channels.

In 1882, the first of the Wimmera-Mallee storages, Wartook, was begun. Lake Lonsdale followed, and, in 1906, the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission was formed, and further projects were undertaken.

Fyan's Lake, Taylor's Lake, Pine Lake, Toolondo, Rocklands and Bellfield are all part of the domestic and stock supply system which serves an area equal to one-eighth of the State. The annual value of agricultural and pastoral production here is $60,000,000. There are more than 6000 miles of Commission channels and 4000 miles of farmers' connecting channels, and the system is the largest of its kind in the world.

The construction of Bellfield took place between 1963 and 1966, with all the benefits of modern earth-moving equipment, a very great contrast to the 'pick and shovel' methods of earlier times. For example, during the construction of Taylor's Lake from a natural lake to a reservoir (1915 to the early nineteen-twenties), horse-drawn scoops moved 1,000,000 cubic yards of earth for a new bank, each scoop making three trips to obtain one cubic yard.

Many of the pioneer settlers after the 1869 Land Act, whose story was recounted recently by Dr Powell, would have been very interested in the early projects of water conservation and distribution. Today, dry seasons do not bring the threat of disaster for farmers in the north-west of Victoria.

Acknowledgments for latest figures to State Rivers and Water Supply Commission.

EXTRACTS FROM THE 'RINGWOOD BOROUGH NEWS'

BLACKBURN PROGRESS ASSOCIATION 1/5/1931

Increased Postal Facilities Secured

For some time the Blackburn Progress Association has been in communication with the P.M.G.'s Department in an endeavour to secure increased postal facilities for Blackburn On Wednesday last, Mr Taylor, District Inspector for Metropolitan South, visited Blackburn to investigate the requests. He was met by the President, Mr A. G. Furness, and Secretary, Mr A. Jamieson, of the Progress Association, who conducted him around Blackburn, and re-stated the wishes of the residents.

Mr Taylor was impressed by the case presented, and promised that three postal boxes would be provided, one at each of the following points: Corner of Canterbury and Blackburn Roads, Laurel Grove and The Avenue, Central Road and Parkside Street. These would be cleared by the postmen on their morning rounds, and probably again in the afternoon, in time for the evening mail.

1st BLACKBURN TROOP BOY SCOUTS 10/4/1931

Arrangements are now complete as far as the above troop is concerned for the rally on Saturday next at the M.C.C. ground, to commemorate the visit of the World Chief Scout, Lord Baden-Powell of Gilwell, and the World Chief Guide, Lady Baden-Powell.

CROYDON 17/7/1931

Walking Tours Popular

Croydon is fast becoming known in Melbourne as the starting point for those who like country walks. Some 350 members of the 3AR Broadcasting Company Hiking Club detrained at 11 a.m. at Croydon last Sunday, and their hike was from Croydon to Eltham. Special arrangements had been made with the Railway Commissioners for trains from Melbourne to Croydon and Eltham to Melbourne. The 'Fox Movietone' motor-car accompanied the party from Croydon to Eltham, taking pictures and generally recording the hike. When the party left Croydon, the sun was shining, but soon afterwards rain came down. The members of the party, however, were well equipped for the wet weather. It was interesting to note the various modes of dress, both of ladies and gentlemen; some were in ordinary town attire, while others dressed to suit the occasion, this included startling colored pullovers and caps to match. Again, some had packs on their backs, which made one think they were going away for a week; others contented themselves with a small handbag, and, of course, with the ladies, a powder puff.

Their chief refreshment while on the march appeared to be P.K.'s and Minties, but no doubt, a good meal awaited them when they arrived at their respective homes.

D. Mattingley
(Editor)
Telephone 878 4630