NUNAWADING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY—MARCH 1970 *Price 5 cents* Number 28

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

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Annual membership subscriptions were due in October, 1969, Would members please check if they have paid? Hon. Treasurer: Mr I. Barker, 14 Tortice Avenue, Nunawading, 3131.

In future, the Newsletter will be published at two-monthly intervals only. Please note the dates of the next *TWO* meetings:

Wednesday, 11th February, 1970. 8 p.m. in the Coffee Room, Civic Centre, Whitehorse Road, Nunawading. Our speaker will be:

His Worship the Mayor of Nunawading, Cr. Bruce Telfer, and his subject will be *'REFLECTIONS ON TOWN PLANNING'.*

Wednesday, 11 March, 1970. Mr W. L. Radden of Ringwood Historical Research Group will speak on *'EARLY WARRANDYTE HISTORY'.*

The program for 1970 also includes an address by Professor Shaw, of Monash University on a selected subject of Matriculation Australian History; speakers on the Forest Hill Kindergarten Holiday Home and the Tally-Ho Boys' Village, also one on some other aspects of Australian History. There will be the Eastern Historical Societies Regional Meeting at Croydon in April and a Work Night for members later in the year.

It is hoped to conduct a *HISTORICAL TREASURE HUNT* for primary and secondary students in Nunawading in conjunction with the Forest Hills Shopping Centre in March. Details will be announced at the next meeting by the Convenor, Miss Ronaldson.

For the Captain Cook Bi-Centenary Celebrations, the Government of Victoria and the Government of N.S.W. are offering substantial awards in literary competitions. Details at the next meeting.

In addition to the Summer School at Queenscliff, 7 - 9 March, 1970, 'In Wake of Captain of Captain Cook' the South-Eastern Historical Association plans a display at Southland 'In Wake of Captain Cook', from 3rd March to 19th April. Among other groups, the Shiplovers' Association and the Royal Historical Society of Victoria will take part.

HISTORIES OF LOCAL SCHOOLS

Some of the newly-established schools in the City of Nunawading as well as some of the oldest have supplied their histories to the Society, and all contain valuable and interesting information.

Blackburn State School. In 1857, the United Free Methodist Church established a school in Sim's Road — now Station Street, Box Hill. In 1864, two acres of land were reserved for a Common School — the present site of Box Hill High School. The Sagoe Common School, Nunawading, was built in 1866. In 1887, a new Box Hill School was built, combining with Sagoe, which was closed but re-opened the following day as 2923 Blackburn. The present Blackburn School was built in

1889, on the site known today in Whitehorse Road, Blackburn. By 1969, more than 1000 pupils were enrolled.

Burwood East State School. In 1861, the settlers in this rural area wanted regular education for their children, so the Anglican Church bought two acres of land and established a non-vested school, No. 184, Harkaway, on the present school site. There were twenty pupils who each paid a fee of 6d. per week. In 1864, the name was changed to Common School No. 454 Nunawading, and not until 1902 did the school become Burwood East. The highest enrolment was in 1967 with nearly 700 pupils.

Forest Hill State School. In 1865, the first school was held in the Mount Pleasant Wesleyan Chapel. Another day school was started in a small dwelling near the present Terrara Road. These could not continue, and in 1869, aid was again sought for a non-vested school to be known as Delany's Road (Mt. Pleasant) Common School. Aid was given only on condition that the school was erected on the road junction three-quarters of a mile east – this then became the present-day *Vermont School,* which celebrated its centenary in 1869.

The Forest Hill School of today was opened in 1926 with 75 pupils. By 1961, more than 600 pupils crowded the available space, but with additional schools in the district and extra rooms, this situation has altered.

Mitcham State School. After the opening of the railway line to Mitcham, the population of the district increased rapidly. There was a small private school of twenty-seven children, but this was inadequate. In 1888, two acres of land near the corner of Whitehorse and Mitcham Roads were purchased for a school. Pupils were taught in Holy Trinity Church of England Hall until the building was completed in 1890. In 1922, a new building was acquired in Mitcham Road, half a mile north of the original school, and was occupied by senior grades. The old junior school was vacated in 1967 and a new building was supplied west of the present one. More than eight hundred pupils at times have created a shortage of accommodation.

Blackburn North State School. Five acres of orchard land on the north side of Springfield Road, ¼mile east of Middleborough Road, was the site chosen for the establishment of this school. Work commenced on the building in 1953 and the school was opened in 1954. By 1966, enrolment was 673 and twenty class rooms were in use.

Blackburn East S.S. This school was established on a five-acre site between Vicki and Bindy Street, South Blackburn, in 1957. In 1958, enrolment began with 199 pupils. In 1969 there were more than 750 pupils and many amenities had been provided in the school.

Nunawading South S.S. was established and opened in 1959 on a site of approximately five acres, of which two square chains are a Native Plant Sanctuary. The area surrounding the school was mainly orchards and market gardens which disappeared rapidly during the nineteen-sixties.. By mid-1969 there were 830 pupils.

Blackburn Lake S.S. was built on five acres of land in Florence Street. Committees of parents set out to protect valuable native plant reserves while building was proceeding and also raised money for equipment before the opening of the school in 1964. The number of pupils has increased greatly during the ensuing years. Because of the Native Plant Sanctuary and the natural bush surroundings, this school is unique in the Metropolitan area. It is also the production centre for 'Nature Notes', a magazine to encourage children to watch and care for native birds, plants and animals.

Eastmont S.S. opened with 136 pupils, in Centre Road, Vermont in 1964, By 1969, numbers had grown to 400, but with the opening of the new school at Verdale, these would decrease. This school too is on a picturesque site.

Laburnum S.S. is situated on the corner of Middleborough Road and Janet Street, Blackburn, and contains approximately 6.9 acres. The grounds are large and many well-established trees were already on the site, and adjacent parkland is available to the school for its use. The original enrolment in 1964 was 308 pupils. In 1967, the school won the A.N.A. prize for the most improved ground.

Narmara S.S., Narmara Street, Burwood East, began in 1968 in twelve rooms, with library and ancillary rooms. There were 406 pupils.

Springview S.S. was built on the site of an orchard in 1964, and 418 pupils were enrolled then, though there are now more than 700. The Junior Council is one of three in Nunawading, and there are the Gould League of Birdlovers and Social Service Leagues and a Junior St. John's Ambulance Group.

Antonio Park S.S. derives its name from the large area of adjacent parkland given to Nunawading City Council by two brothers named Antonio. The school site is approximately five acres, with a frontage to Maroondah Highway, and was opened in 1960, with 217 pupils. This school has also won the A.N.A. prize for its improved grounds. Plantations of native shrubs and the existing natural vegetation make this another attractive school.

Nunawading High School began work in Blackburn Central School and moved into its own premises in Canterbury Road, Forest Hill, in 1955. Despite the successive opening of five more High Schools in the City, this school has continued to grow and by 1969, with an enrolment of more than 1,100, it was one of the largest in the State.

Mitcham High School accepted its first pupils – 137 girls and boys – at Greythorn High School in 1959. By June 1960, the new school building on a fifteen-acre site was occupied, at the corner of Mitcham and Springfield Roads, Mitcham. In 1969, enrolment was 960 pupils.

Vermont High School began in 1962 in Parkmore S.S. and Nunawading H.S., but in December, pupils and staff moved into their own building in Morack Road, Vermont. Enrolment in 1969 was 771 pupils. Wide selection of subjects is offered to all, with some boys in a Home Economics Class and some girls taking Metalwork and Needlework, and the subject of Typing available to all – to mention just a few.

Blackburn Technical School began in 1959 in temporary accommodation, and later moved into its own building on a fifteen-acre area in Koonung Road, a former orchard. There were 166 boys when this took place later in the year. Maximum enrolment was 581 in 1964, but this declined slightly after the opening of Mitcham Technical School in 1965. Evening classes were an early concern of the School Council and in 1969 there were more than 400 student-subject enrolments.

Some Reminiscences

In a recent newsletter of Canberra and District Historical Society, some reminiscences appeared of a lady born in 1881 in a southern district of N.S.W. She described how material for clothing for the entire family was purchased from the hawker, who came regularly to all the farms. She remembered the great excitement of her sixth birthday, when her present was a necklace of blue beads from the hawker's store. A neighboring 'granny' always made straw hats for members of the district families. A 'tinker' arrived at intervals with his hand-cart and he mended tin-ware and made new buckets and milk-cans. A 'clockie' also walked on his annual visits to the farms; his gear was in a box about one foot square, and he cleaned clocks and watches, and serviced sewing-machines.

Box Hill 'Reporter'

AUCTION SALE
SATURDAY FEBRUARY 23rd, 1929.
at 3.30 p.m.
IN A SEATED MARQUEE ON THE LAND
"HILL 60 ESTATE" TUNSTALL
37 Beautiful Home Lots

Nicely timbered and handy station, school etc. made street, water, electric light and phone all up to the Estate. For absolute sale, no reserves on prices day of sale.

TERMS: exceptionally easy. Only £2 per lot, deposit 20/- monthly for 5 years, interest 6 per cent; 2½ per cent discount for cash.
Get plan and particulars from the Auctioneer.

Frank Fisher & Co.
At Station, BLACKBURN. Phone Box Hill 686.

D. Mattingley
(Editor)
Telephone 878 4630

NUNAWADING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

APRIL – MAY 1970 *Price 5 cents* Number 29

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MEETINGS. As announced previously, no April meeting will be held, but the 6th Regional Meeting of the Eastern Suburbs Association of Historical Societies will be held at Croydon on Friday, 17th April.

Wednesday, 13th May, 1970. 8 p.m. Coffee Room, Civic Centre, Whitehorse Road, Nunawading. Mr. Alex Jamieson, one of our members, will speak on:

'AN INSURANCE INSPECTOR'S EXPERIENCES ON THE ROAD'

Mr Jamieson has many experiences of historic interest to relate to his fellow-members.

MARCH MEETING. A week prior to his death, Mr W. L. Radden, of Ringwood Historical Research Group, attended our meeting. Mrs Radden read his paper, the results of his intensive research on 'Early Warrandyte', and then Mr Radden was able to answer questions from members.

The first settlement in the area was in 1839 by Anderson. Gold was found in 1851 and soon 150 men were employed at the site, now known as Anderson's Creek. However, in the course of time, alluvial gold petered out and quartz mining followed. As the large Victorian gold-fields developed, most men left this smaller field and mining ceased. In 1857, land allotments were sold. There was also much interesting information from early police records to 1865, when the police-station was closed.

Historical Treasure Hunt for students: Saturday 23rd May – assembling of entries
Saturday 30th May – awarding of prizes
Saturday 6th June – collecting of entries by students

Details will be announced at the May meeting of members' responsibilities.

Nunawading City Council. For the purpose of investigating the possibility of publication of a history of the City of Nunawading, the Council has formed a committee comprising Crs Oakley, Willis and Walsh.

1972 will mark the centenary of the forming of the Shire of Nunawading and the matter of a celebration is being investigated also.

SEHA DISCOVERY SCHOOL

'In the Wake of Captain Cook' took place at Queenscliff 7th to 9th March. This was the first event in connection with the Captain Cook Bi-centenary celebrations in Victoria. There were tours, addresses, historical displays, a civic welcome and official dinner.

Dr Bowden, well-known for his studies on George Bass and the Western Port settlement, spoke on 'Aspects of Captain Cook', with special emphasis on the combating of scurvy. In addition, there were two films: the first traced Cook's voyage along the east coast of Australia showing the present-day locations, against a background of quotations from his journal; the second cleverly used sketches made on Cook's three voyages, old prints, and photographs of

SEHA DISCOVERY SCHOOL (contd)

English localities, to illustrate his explorations.

Members of the school visited many historic places on the Bellarine Peninsula and local people presented the background of these. In addition to the usual guided tour of the Queenscliff Fort, the O.I.C. recounted the early history of this establishment and its role up to the present day. At the Portarlington Mill, recently adopted by the National Trust, a local resident told its story, together with other information about the district. Probably few people are aware that Cobb & Co. coaches were travelling in this area in 1861.

Another speaker displayed some of his collection of aboriginal artifacts and then led the party to the site of a former aboriginal encampment, and here everyone was at liberty to dig for any artifacts still remaining there. Members were also admitted to the Port Lonsdale Lighthouse, where they inspected the light, and where they could watch ships passing through the Heads. Nearby is the cave where William Buckley is supposed to have sheltered at one time, after his desertion from the Sorrento settlement.

The week-end concluded with a launch trip on Port Phillip Bay, in the wake of the early explorers and settlers – Murray, Grant, Flinders, Robbins, Collins and Batman and Fawkner.

LAND-BOOMERS IN NUNAWADING

Land boomers tried to make a "killing" in Nunawading in the early 1890's. Sir Matthew Davies group of companies, one of the most notorious of the speculative groups, was behind it. First of all the Freehold Investment and Banking Co, with Sir Matthew's brother J. B. Davies at its head, together with the Freehold Bank, a Ballarat bank established by James Oddie which had merged into the Mercantile Bank, the central company of Davies' empire, bought out a number of local land-owners, including John Quinlan, Alfred Rawlings, Furzer and Watt, W. Collis (who had a brickworks on his land), John Paton, H. R. Kefford, G. A. Gardiner, J. H. Watts and G. A. Goodwin. They owned 22 properties in the Parish of Nunawading, mostly in the present city of Nunawading, and two others just across the border in Bulleen.

Among the land they bought was the area around the present Blackburn State School and between Central road and Canterbury road, including the Lake Reserve.

The company directors then formed a new company, Blackburn and Tunstall Property Co. Ltd, to buy, sub-divide and sell the land from it. Its main shareholders were John Moodie, of Melbourne, investor, who had for a time been a director of the Mercantile Bank, 14,150 shares; Royal Investment and Banking Co. Ltd., 24,395 shares; Victorian Trust and Agency Co. Ltd., 8,600 shares; Gascoigne Investment Co. Ltd., 4,000 shares; Victorian Investment and Guarantee Co. Ltd., 1.200 shares. J. B. Davies took 1,000 shares. Each share was of value of £21/10/, but only 10/- was called up. The company had a paid-up capital of £17251/9/ and unpaid £12,748/11/ . This seems an absurdly small amount of cash with which to buy a few thousand acres of land, so it seems likely that a large amount of the purchase money was left outstanding, particularly as the purchase price was £225,000. The only local shareholders were:- T.R.B. Morton, 250 shares; E. W. Parry, 200 shares; G. A. Goodwin, 50 shares; Mrs A. Goodwin, 25 shares and George Bates, 20 shares.

Besides its investment in this company, Gascoigne Investment Co. owned some forty or fifty acres itself in Nunawading.

The company was registered 13 August, 1890, with an office at 213 Collins Street, Melbourne, and Morton as accountant.

They do not seem to have sold any land, or if they did it must have been very little, and when land values fell a few years later under the pressure of over-supply, it had to be wound up, having lost everything and owing more than it could possibly raise.

Morton had the job of liquidating its Nunawading properties which he sold off gradually over a long period.

WHO STOLE THE DOORS?

This is police report, of very mild interest, received at Russell street in 1885. The main interest in it is the proof it gives that Dr L. L. Smith still owned his "Model Farm", but had given up supervising it himself in favour of letting it to tenants.

The story began when his private secretary, Edward G. Purves, wrote to the police asking them to investigate a report that someone was dismantling the farm buildings by taking the roofs off the piggeries.

Constable Balchin reported 29 June 1885 that he visited the farm with Mr Bean the manager. It had been rented to a Mr Adams for the last 12 months. He found 11 doors off the piggeries and spouting apparently broken down. The top half of the stable door was also missing. He found six of the small doors being used to make a crossing over a drain. He thought they had been taken down by various tenants, and Mr Bean thought the same as the piggeries had not been used for years. Mr Adams said the place was in the same state as when he came there, but he would see Dr Smith and explain the position.

K. Patterson

PORTLAND

Recently daily newspapers reported the gift of the Henty plough to the Portland Shire Council by Mr Pearse of Melbourne. This Scottish-made plough used by the Hentys was given in 1879 to Hugh McLennon 'in acknowledgement of the vast strides made by his firm in plow-making in Victoria.' Mr Pearse acquired it in 1935.

Historian Mr. Noel Learmonth in 'The Portland Bay Settlement' has told much of the town's early history. While there are few records, it is known that there were sealers and whalers in this area years before Portland or Melbourne were settled. The Mills brothers were in Portland Bay two years before Dutton, and James Wishart was sealing in the bay on Laurence Rocks when Dutton first landed at Whaler's Point or Single Corner (now identified as Battery Point). He built a house and lived there for some months, engaging in sealing. He went away several times and returned again to live in his house, still sealing. In 1833, he established a whaling factory in Portland Bay, erected buildings and grew vegetables. Edward Henty visited there in 1833 at the suggestion of the Master of his schooner, 'Thistle', Liddell. After two more visits, he returned in November, 1834 to settle.

The 'Thistle' left Launceston in October with Edward Henty, a friend, Henry Camfield, and four indentured servants as passengers. Owing to rough weather, the voyage took thirty-four days, the ship anchoring in Portland Bay at 8 a.m. on 19th November. On board were building materials, live-stook, a bullock dray, a plough and harrows, a whale-boat and provisions. The manifest of the 'Thistle' is in the Public Library, Melbourne; it contains

PORTLAND (contd)

items shipped by Henty & Co., Hewitt & Co., and P. W. Welsh, marked 'stores for the whaling party at Portland Bay.' ('First Years at Port Phillip' by R. D. Boys). Later Francis and Stephen Henty arrived.

In 1835, Edward Henty commenced 'tongueing'. This meant that he did not employ men to chase whales, though he did so later, but he supplied whalers with provisions and sometimes sent some of his men to assist in towing in a dead whale. Then after the blubber had been stripped off, any oil remaining in the carcase would be his property. (Learmonth).

On a recent historical tour of its district, by Heidelberg Historical Society, one of the homes inspected was 'Charterisville'. David Charteris McArthur built this home in 1840 on a property of 190 acres, spreading in a fan shape to the Yarra River on each side of the present Burke Road bridge. Charterisville, constructed of local sandstone quarried on the site, was much larger originally than it is today. Also, in the grounds were extensive outbuildings. One two-roomed cottage was built by McArthur for Edward Henty and his wife to occupy on their honeymoon. It was recorded that the old winery at 'Charterisville' was made from more than 150 whale ribs, presented by Henty as a gift, following the honeymoon visit. These were placed to form an arched way to carry the vines. Unfortunately, no evidence of them can now be found.

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NUNAWADING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

JUNE – JULY 1970 *Price 5 cents* Number 30

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MEETINGS. Wednesday, 10th June, 1970. 8 p.m. in the Coffee Room, Civic Centre, Whitehorse Road, Nunawading. **WORK NIGHT,** when members can all join in assembling and collating the society papers and photographs.

Wednesday, 8th July, 1970.

Professor A. G. L. Shaw of Monash University will deliver an address on

'CONVICT TRANSPORTATION'

All students of Matriculation Australian History in local secondary schools are specially invited to this meeting, which will be held in WESLEY HALL, THE AVENUE, BLACKBURN. All those attending are requested to be seated **before 8 p.m.**

REGIONAL MEETING OF EASTERN HISTORICAL SOCIETIES:

Sixteen members from Nunawading attended this event on 17th April. About 200 people were present, and they were able to inspect many photographs of the district together with old watches and guns, and a wonderful collection of old phonographs, supplied by Ladson's Museum.

Speakers during the evening were the President of the local society, Mr Spencer, the Shire President, Cr Frost, Hon. J. W. Manson, M.L.A., and Hon. W. A. Borthwick, M.L.A.

After guests had heard delightful music from a musical box 105 years old, owned and lent by Mr Browning, they watched slides of Croydon district sites, the early views being contrasted with present-day ones. Mr Harley Forster of the RHSV also spoke, and then all visitors were entertained to supper.

NUNAWADING members are reminded that it is their turn to be host society **next year.**

HISTORICAL TREASURE HUNT. There will be a full account of this in the next Newsletter.

MAY MEETING. One of our members. Mr Alex. Jamieson, gave an interesting talk on : 'AN INSURANCE INSPECTOR'S EXPERIENCES ON THE ROAD'. Mr Jamieson told of many incidents over a period of years, right up to the present day, when he has assisted owners of historically interesting old cottages to restore these when necessary. As Mr Jamieson's address has been taped, it is planned to have available later a typescript of this for members.

LAND SETTLEMENT IN NUNAWADING

Nunawading was the site of one of the most successful agricultural settlements of the eighteen-sixties. By the Land Act of 1865, it was possible to take out licences to occupy small to moderate-sized areas on or near a gold field for residence or cultivation. In most eligible districts, there was a great rush for licences from all sorts of people, from small

farmers and miners to teachers and policemen. Many of them were only dabblers who were glad to have a second source of income, but gave up when they found it required more time and work than they were prepared to give to it.

Because of its nearness to Warrandyte, Nunawading was open to applications and a combination of circumstances made the Nunawading settlers outstandingly successful. This was particularly gratifying, as the country between Nunawading and Lilydale was judged, on the basis of crude soil analysis, to be particularly barren.

Almost all unoccupied land was taken up between 1866 and 1869. Land around the present Vermont shopping centre, between Boronia and Terrara Roads was claimed by Isaac Moore, Thomas Jobbins, Joseph Cann, Thomas Bowen and John Keenan. Abraham Rooks, David Boyle and Francis Voigt took up the area in Canterbury Road between Mt Pleasant and Rooks Roads. Patrick Geraghty, John Matters, John McClelland and Robert Sergeant settled along Whitehorse Road between Springvale and Mitcham Roads. William Cook and Ainger settled on the north side of Whitehorse Road, east of Mitcham Road. Towards Donvale, along Mitcham Road, were John Brenock, William Logan, Patrick McKean, Rudy Larkins, George Hislop, John Wakefield, Michael Britt, James Kent, Robert Simpson, Carl Schmidt and Herman Herr. All except one made a success of his holding and their transactions went smoothly to the stage when they received the freehold of the land. This was unique, as no other district came within sight of 100% success.

The only disturbances to a completely uneventful process of selection and purchase were the cutting of roads through some allotments, the deaths of William Cook and Michael Britt and transfer of their land to their widows, and a short period when Moore was behind in his annual payments.

Factors in this excellent record were :—

1. Almost everyone was a farmer, wood carter or a laborer from a farming district, in fact, all had had experience on the land.
2. Almost everyone came from surrounding districts — Hawthorn, Camberwell, Box Hill and Doncaster, and had some local knowledge.
3. Almost everyone lived on the land and preferred mixed farming, including cultivation, fruit and vegetable growing, poultry-keeping and dairying, so that if one failed, another might succeed. The poorest result was that of Jobbins, who was described as a gentleman and his address given as Prahran. He does not seem to have lived in the district.

In contrast to other districts, where selectors usually fenced, cleared, cultivated and built a small house, the Nunawading settlers in addition frequently had stables, dairies, fowl-houses or piggeries, and one or two waterholes on each block.

Results in Warrandyte, which should have benefited most, were very different. There were about twelve selectors, but the successful ones were mostly in that part of the parish touching Ringwood shopping centre are of today, whose experience and activities were very similar to those of Nunawading. Some did take up land near the present site of Warrandyte. Apparently all abandoned the land except a printer from Richmond, who secured an area near Pound Bend.

K. Patterson

In the recently-published 'Golden Age of Australian Painting', Alan McCulloch refers to the period of 1894-5, when Frederick McCubbin lived in Blackburn

and painted there.

One hundred years — a century — has become in our society an occasion for special celebration, whether for an individual person or a group of people.

The Bi-Centenary celebrations for Cook's sighting of the east coast of Australia are still taking place, with awards to be made for Literature, Art, Scultpure and Films. At the Melbourne Royal Show, 17-26 September, an exhibition, 'Panorama of the Pacific' will be arranged with the co-operation of the Department of External Territories.

From 10-19 August, 1970, the VICTORIAN ARTISTS' SOCIETY will hold its Centenary Exhibition in its galleries at 430 Albert Street, East Melbourne. In addition to paintings by prominent members, V.A.S. archival documents and letters, there will be a collection of material on early Melbourne history. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. week-days, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. weekends.

In London, special celebrations will be held to commemorate the death of Charles Dickens on 3rd June, 1870. This year there are twenty new books about this author, centenary celebrations across the country, and a Dickens Memorial Service in Westminster Abbey attended by the Queen Mother. In addition, there will be an issue of four five-penny stamps showing Pickwick, Micawber, David Copperfield, Betsy Trotwood and Oliver Twist; also, a film version of 'David Copperfield, a new musical based on 'A Tale of Two Cities,' and a number of B.B.C. commemorative programs.

In 1972, one hundred years will have passed since the Shire of Nunawading was gazetted on 3rd May, 1872. This shire consisted of the present-day areas of the Cities of Box Hill and Nunawading.

Following is an account of another 1972 Centenary :—

CENTENARY OF DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE IN 1972

The first agriculturists' association established in Victoria was the Port Phillip Farmers' Society. It was started in 1848 and in the fifties was very active conducting competitions and shows and starting local societies in an effort to improve agriculture in Victoria.

Leading members of the society were instrumental in having formed a Board of Agriculture in 1859. The Board sponsored agricultural information and competitions through the societies, but this did not meet the needs of the growing agricultural industries of the State.

There was a need for an authroity to conduct experimental work, publish reliable information and provide staff to induce farmers to adopt new methods of agriculture.

On the June 19, 1872 the Honorable J. J. Casey was appointed the first Minister of the Department of Agriculture. However, some difficulty was experienced in staffing the new department and a Secretary was not appointed until November 15.

Advertisements were printed inviting each candidate for the position to submit, as well as his qualifications, "a paper upon what he considered the benfits that could be conferred upon the agricultural community by the establishment of a Department of Agriculture, its functions and management".

The successful candidate was Mr Alexander Robert Wallis, and by 1875, in his third Annual Report, he was able to announce the selection of a site for an agricultural college "in the immediate vicinity of the township of Dookie", the receipt of seeds of radish, turnip, bean, lettuce and sesamum from Japan and the award of prizes for

CENTENARY OF DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE IN 1972

inventions of farm machinery.

Material of these early days of the Department of Agriculture is being collected for preservation and display. (Department of Agriculture)

More about PORTLAND

In 1839, the Governor, Sir George Gipps, directed Foster Fyans to proceed to Portland Bay and report on its suitability for settlement. After a trying journey on horseback of 13 days from Geelong, Fyans made his report. "The Bay appears a very fine one and perfectly safe . . . As to the land, I cannot speak too highly of it, and the produce of corn, potatoes and vegetables, exceed anything I have ever met with — water in abundance and thousands of fine timber . . . I am also of the opinion that the land, Harbour, and property about here are far superior to Melbourne, and much more valuable . . . I candidly tell you that I consider an acre of this ground of more real value, than a dozen at Melbourne."

(Quoted from 'First Years at Port Phillip', by R. D. Boys. The original report by Fyans is in the Mitchell Library, Sydney.)

From the same book :—

Jan. 14, 1840. The 'Port Phillip Herald' announced that the Master of the Revenue cutter, 'Prince George', G. A. Moore, had stated that Portland Bay could never be a place of importance, except as an outlet for the shipping of wool. The land in the immediate vicinity of the bay, with the exception of a narrow belt of about 800 acres in extent, was exceedingly sterile and unsuited for agricultural purposes, indeed no land for such purposes was to be found within 35 miles of the bay.

However, on 22nd July, 1840, Sir George Gipps directed suburban and cultivation allotments near Portland Town, and cultivation and town allotments in Portland, County of Normanby, to be sold by public auction in Melbourne on 15th October.

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ADDENDUM

Land Settlement in Nunawading :

Add the name of John Leber to the list of settlers along Mitcham Road (see Page 2).

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NUNAWADING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

AUGUST–SEPTEMBER 1970 *Price 5 cents* Number 31

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MEETINGS: Wednesday, 12th August, 1970

Mr Neil Smith of Camberwell, will speak on:

'THE VOYAGES OF CAPTAIN COOK', with appropriate slides.

Wednesday, 9th September

Rev. D. Oakley will speak on:

'THE HISTORY OF TALLY-HO BOYS' VILLAGE'.

Both meetings: 8 p.m., Coffee Room, Civic Centre, Whitehorse Road, Nunawading

14th October: ANNUAL MEETING

JULY MEETING:

More than 200 students, members and visitors heard Professor A. G. L. Shaw deliver an address on 'Convict Transportation' in Wesley Hall, Blackburn. This meeting was considered very successful.

Two members attended the SEMINAR on 'CONSERVATION & PRESERVATION OF HISTORICAL MATERIALS', arranged by the RHSV at Camberwell on 25/7/70.

SUPPLEMENT of the Historical Treasure Hunt is enclosed. The small number of entries was disappointing, however, great interest was shown by those students who brought along historic objects. The Society extends its thanks to Mr Wright of Forest Hills Shopping Centre for his support and prize-money. Each entrant received a prize.

The 1970 Biennial Convention of Historical Societies is being arranged for the week-end 2nd to 4th October by Geelong H.S. Cost $7, exclusive of accommodation.

PRIVATE SCHOOLS IN BLACKBURN: this supplements information in July 1969 Newsletter.

Mabel Last had a Kindergarten school at the Chalet, Blackburn Road, Blackburn in 1906, with four pupils. This was transferred to the Recreation Hall, Blackburn Road, Blackburn in August, 1907. The ownership was transferred to Mildred Jeffrey 12/10/08.

The newspapers forwarded to the Nunawading Gazette by Mr Armstrong of Queensland, former Councillor and the first Mayor of Nunawading, have been presented to our society and extracts from these will be published in the Newsletter.

The following is from the *Blackburn & Mitcham Reporter*, the official organ of the City of Box Hill, Shires of Blackburn & Mitcham and Doncaster, and circulating in the City of Camberwell, City of Hawthorn, and Shires of Blackburn & Mitcham.

Friday Feb. 3, 1928:

MONSTER CARNIVAL

Attendance of 6000

Blackburn in holiday mood

"The holiday spirit pervaded Blackburn during the A.N.A. weekend to an extent it has never enjoyed before, when probably one of the biggest carnivals Melbourne has ever seen was held in Morton Park. That the carnival would be an outstanding success was a fore-gone conclusion, but even the most optimistic enthusiasts must have been surprised at the huge crowds of people who gathered from far and near in Moreton Park on both days. Attendance on Saturday was in the region of 2500, but on Monday it had swelled to nearly 6000, and the park was gay with brightly-dressed women and beflannelled men, with picturesque stalls, and festoons of flags, while over all the genial sun added its crowning touch to the success of the whole. Attractions were many and varied, and included a number which had never before been witnessed in the suburbs. The carnival was the most practical demonstration possible of the wonderful thought and work which Mr Alex. A. Jamieson, the honorary general secretary, has devoted to it for many months past . . . "

Several Scout troops gave interesting exhibitions of signalling and rope spinning, the St. Vincent de Paul's Orphanage Band rendered selections, and side-shows included ocean wave, merry-go-round, dips, orange tree, slide for life and others . . . "The Blackburn Hall became a palais de danse on each evening and was packed with dancers who could not resist the attractions of the panatrope selections. This instrument was kindly lent by Messrs Wills and Paton of Collins Street. A confetti battle on Monday night ended the programme in true carnival style."

The programme also included Highland Dancing, under the auspices of the Victorian Scottish Union, and a Baby Show with 70 entries of 'bonny babies'.

Novelty events included an amusing race between draught horses for the BLACKBURN CUP. "The horses appeared to be in very good condition, and 'know-alls' of good horse-flesh had some trouble in arriving at a fancy. The horses did their preliminary pace to the grand-stand and were lined up and started by a flag. The winner, 'Bobs', won by two lengths in 27 seconds."

Also there were children's races, whippet racing, motor gymkhana, tennis tournament and athletic exhibitions. Affiliated clubs of the V.A.A.A. competed in the one-mile medley relay handicap race for the trophy, a handsome cup valued at £14/14/-, the gift of the Blackburn Traders' Association.

From *the 'Blackburn & Mitcham Reporter',* Feb. 10, 1928.

AUSTRALIAN TESSELATED TILE CO. PTY. LTD.

E. E. Walker, Governing Director

EMPLOYEES' ANNUAL EXCURSION

will be held on

Monday, Feb. 13th, 1928

Going to Queenscliff by the P.S.Hygeia, which leaves Port Melbourne Pier at 10 a.m.

Fares: Boat ticket 3/- Adults; 1/6 Children

Hot water and milk provided for all the excursionists at the Park.
Special train will convey the patrons to Port Melbourne.
A pleasant and enjoyable outing for all who attend. Just the sort of trip you're waiting for.

Secure your tickets at once, so as not to be disappointed.

(Time table for special trains then followed.)

Return fares to Port Melbourne:-

From Ringwood – adults 1/11; children 1/-

Mitcham – adults, 1/8½; children 11d.

Tunstall 1/7½; Blackburn 1/7; Box Hill – adults 1/3; children 8d.

Surrey Hills – 1/2½; Camberwell – 1/1½

Our many friends and patrons are asked to note the advertisement in this issue of the Tesselated Tile Co. employees' excursion on Monday next. Intending excursionists are advised to reserve the date, and secure tickets at once as the supply is limited, and are now selling rapidly. Music, the committee have advised us, will be provided on board and in the park, by the world-famous 'Vagabonds Band'. Hot water and milk will be provided at the park. Races will be held for the children, Dad and Mum, with Aunty and Grandma, will be able to paddle about with cockles and muscles (sic) and jelly fish, interspersed with screams of laughter, and the old 'salts' can have some deep-sea fishing, as long as they provide the line and grub, while the lads and lassies will be able to sport with the mermaids and mermen to their hearts content, so there will be fun and amusement for all.

'Reporter' 5/8/1927

Proposed New Shire Offices

Lively Meeting at Mitcham

A large number of ratepayers attended the Memorial Hall on Thursday evening, 28th.ult. to hear the views of Crs. Lawson & Halliday regarding the new Shire premises. About thirty motor-cars conveyed residents from Blackburn, who made their presence heard during the course of the meeting. There were also a number of ratepayers from Tunstall, many of whom it is feared, were anything but dumb . . .

Cr. Lawson then exhibited a plan of the proposed buildings as they will appear upon the completion of the scheme, although it was intended to now build only shire offices. The plan would allow of additions to be made without violating the original plan . . . The plan set out a lawn at the front entrance to the hall, with curved driveway. Provision is suggested for cloak-rooms on either side of the main foyer; the main hall is shown to be 96' by 52' to seat 800 people, also stage and dressing rooms, kitchen and supper room, and, attached, a baby health centre building. Over the main entrance door a gallery to accommodate 200 people is provided for. On the left side of the building, the plan sets out an entrance hall of 24' by 12' to the shire offices. On the left of this entrance are the rate collector's office, shire secretary's office, inspector's office, and to the right of the entrance, the engineer's office and waiting room, and draughting room of 20' by 10'. This portion of the building would be of two stories, to provide for a

council chamber on the second storey, of 40' by 30', to seat 29 persons. The approximate cost of the whole of the buildings would be £4500 . . . Cr. Lawson proposed that swimming baths also be erected in the future, adjacent to the hall site, the water from which could be used for gardens adjoining both the baths and the municipal hall. If the ratepayers liked to organise properly, and give combined voluntary help, the baths could be built for £500.

Also from the *Blackburn & Mitcham Reporter* 3/2/1928

New Water Main

The new water main through Mitcham, through Waverley and Notting Hill was completed last month. The work consisted of the laying of 4 miles 18 chains of 46-inch main from the Mitcham reservoir to provide for increased supply of O'Shannassy water to the extent of 32,000 gallons a day more than could have been delivered from Mitcham reservoir last summer. The 30-inch branch to Notting Hill reservoir, consisting of 2 miles 34 chains in length, is also finished and will place the supply to that reservoir in an entirely satisfactory condition. In view of the great development of population in the south-eastern suburbs there was some difficulty in keeping up the supply in this reservoir during the extremely heavy demand of last summer. A 30-inch branch from the 46-inch main is now being laid to Mt. Waverley reservoir.

Boys' High School

Mr E. W. Greenwood, M.L.A., advised the Box Hill Council at its meeting on Thursday, that he had obtained a promise from the Minister to the effect that he would do all in his power to have the Boys' High School at Box Hill erected, and the whole position now rested on whether the necessary loan money could be made available. In that event, the boys' high school will be proceeded with within the next six months and the girls' school at Camberwell within the next eighteen months.

Motor Cycle Nuisance

The motor-cycle nuisance in Central Road was the subject of a complaint by a resident of Central Road, Tunstall, to the Blackburn-Mitcham Shire Council at its meeting on Monday evening. It is stated that almost every evening, from about 7 p.m. until midnight, Central Road becomes a racing track for youths on motor cycles, who go backwards and forwards at top speed, with exhausts open, and sometimes without lights. Residents are disturbed and kept awake until after midnight. Added to this nuisance is the wear and tear of the roads. On the resolution of Crs. Bayley and Husband, it was decided to refer the matter to the Blackburn and Mitcham police, and to provide a stop-watch to the Blackburn police for the purpose of checking speeds.

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NUNAWADING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER– NOVEMBER 1970 *Price 5 cents* Number 32

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

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MEETINGS: Wednesday, 14th October, 1970, in the Coffee Room, Civic Centre, Whitehorse Road, Nunawading. 8 p.m. sharp.

FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING.' AGENDA

Confirmation of Minutes of Fourth Annual Meeting.
Presentation of Annual Report and Financial Report
Election of Office-bearers and Committee Members

To be followed by the presentation by members of brief histories of some local organisations.

NOTE: Each member to bring a plate of supper.

Wednesday, 11th November, 1970. Time and place as above.

'STUMBLING THROUGH HISTORY' is the title for the talk to be given by writer NANCE DONKIN.

'House by the Water', Mrs. Donkin's first full-length historical book for children, was published in March this year. She has written several titles for the Oxford University Press series EARLY AUSTRALIANS: 'An Orphan', 'A Currency Lass' and 'An Emancipist', all set in Australia in the first twenty years. The Mitchell and LaTrobe Libraries have been her hunting-ground for research material, and in June, she spent a week in Richmond, N.S.W. 'digging around' for material for the book which she has just completed.

SEPTEMBER MEETING: Rev. Denis Oakley presented a most interesting 'History of TallyHo Boys' Village', together with a film showing many of the activities of the past at this place.

Thanks to Mr. Chatwin for taping some of the addresses presented to the society and to Miss Back for transferring these into typescript for the Archives.

It is very pleasing to report that the newly established 'Nunawading News' in Mitcham is prepared to print any news from this society.

SCHWERKOLT COTTAGE SMITHY. This was officially opened on Sunday, 20th September by Mrs. Goble, M.L.A. A very large crowd of interested people watched Mr. Jack Collins of Ballarat demonstrate the craft of the blacksmith throughout the afternoon. Cr. Walsh and Mrs. Walsh deputised for the Mayor and Mayoress, Cr. Shepherd and Mrs. Shepherd. Also among the special guests were Mr. Jarman, M.H.R., Mr. Blake, President RHSV, representatives of the Blackburn & District Tree Preservation Society, Nunawading Historical Society and the Folk Lore Council of Australia, local Councillors and Council staff, and all who assisted in fitting up the smithy. Mitcham Rangers very ably assisted by acting as tea hostesses.

EASTERN SUBURBS REGIONAL MEETING

In 1964, Ringwood Historical Research Group suggested regional meetings of eastern suburbs historical societies – Camberwell, Kew, Doncaster-Templestowe, Box Hill, Nunawading, Ringwood, Croydon, Knox. This area is regarded as a 'natural' region, the towns having grown up approximately along the early route towards Healesville – Woods Point gold-fields. These regional meetings have become specially significant, with the opportunity to demonstrate the liaison between small local historical societies and other larger groups with similar aims, and local Government organisations. Usually approximately 200 guests are present, including local Members of Parliament, local Councillors, and representatives from the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, National Trust, Council of Adult Education, neighboring cities and other affiliated societies in the region.

In 1971, it will be the turn of Nunawading H.S. to be host society. The meeting will take place on Friday, 30th April, in Wesley Hall, Blackburn.

The society's brick and tile collection, a herb display relating to the former Slater herb garden in Blackburn and some Schwerkolt Cottage articles will form the display for the evening. Mitcham Repertory Group and Blackburn-Mitcham Film Society have undertaken to assist this society by providing a program relevant to the historical background of the meeting.

ALL MEMBERS will be needed to assist in entertaining the guests on this evening.

HORSE TROUGHS

'Nunawading Gazette' 22/7/70 reported that Nunawading City Council had adopted the recommendation of Cr. Graham Walsh to retain the historic Bills horse trough on the reserve at the corner of Blackburn and Canterbury Roads, Blackburn. This is not the first time that Cr. Walsh has shown his interest in retaining historic objects when it is possible to do so.

The late Mr. George Bills was born at Brighton, England, in 1859 and came to Australia as a young man. He died in 1927, leaving a large sum of money to provide drinking troughs for horses, and for the purpose of preventing cruelty and for the alleviation of suffering of animals in any country. Subsequently, many hundreds of troughs were erected in Australia, and some in overseas countries. Where a trough was established, the responsibility of the local Council was to provide the foundation for the concrete trough, to keep the trough clean and to maintain a supply of water.

Troughs were supplied until the outbreak of the 2nd World War. Afterwards, with the decline of horse traffic, the same need no longer existed. In many places, troughs have been removed, especially where they have inadvertently become a traffic hazard.

A recent project financed by this estate was the RSPCA Rescue Centre at East Burwood, opened in 1964 by the Governor of Victoria, Sir Rohan Delacombe; this provides a rescue service for injured stray animals.

By his will, Mr. Bills directed that the name of his wife, Annis, who pre-deceased him, should be placed with his name on each of the troughs provided.

Two troughs remain in Ballarat, Clunes retains one and there is one at Bowenville, formerly Timor, in the Maryborough district. Doubtless others are still to be seen in various places.

Extracts from the 'Blackburn & Mitcham Reporter', 12/8/1927

Blackburn — Mitcham Shire Council

Ordinary Business: Cr. Stevens moved that, with a view to rendering the surface of Burwood Road less slippery for horses drawing heavy loads, at least two of the hills on that road be tested by placing on them material from the sides of the road. It was a serious matter for a man to have his horses injured, perhaps permanently, through slipping, and a light layer of rough material would perhaps obviate this. Cr. Bayley seconded, and the motion was carried.

Whitehorse Road Tram Terminus

Splendid progress is being made with the laying down of the double tramway in White Horse Road, from Wharton Street, Balwyn, to the junction at Union Road, Surrey Hills. A large gang of men has been employed for some weeks past, and the work is now nearing completion. This doubling of the line will obviate the necessity for the old system of loop-line shunting to allow of two trams passing, and should result in better service and added convenience.

Cyclone Damage at East Burwood

Sunday afternoon's cyclone cut a vicious track through East Burwood, with the result that the roofs of three large sheds and stables on Mr. Mullins' property were deposited, some in the tops of trees about a quarter of a mile away, and other pieces of iron miles further, nearly to Bayswater. Trees and bushes in the path were twisted and broken, and sheets of iron were also blown off roofs nearer to Burwood.

Blackburn: Tree-planting in the Streets.

The Blackburn — Mitcham Shire Council on Monday evening of last week adopted the report of the sub-committee that permission be given to plant Vine Street with Phoenix palms and Bottlebrush plants, alternately at approximately 25 feet apart, the residents to provide plants and guards; estimated cost £20 to £25. The council's engineer shall have sites for plants pegged, and holes dug and trees planted by council's workmen, so that everything may be uniform.

Tunstall

Walker's Road, at the side of the Tunstall store and post-office, at present resembles a morass, and during the past fortnight two large motor vehicles have been bogged there. The first one managed to manoeuvre its way out without assistance, but the second, on Monday was so imbedded that it had to be dug out, and then towed by another motor wagon. The local Progress Association applied to the Shire Council for several loads of broken tiles for the road, and offered to supply the labor, but this request was refused, and it seems as if such incidents will be a common occurrence while the wet weather lasts.

Improved telephone service

A direct line to the central exchange has now been installed at the public telephone office at Tunstall post-office, and irritating delays, it is anticipated, will now be a thing

of the past. Under the old system, Mitcham and Ringwood were using the same line as Tunstall and the public was greatly inconvenienced, often having to wait almost indefinitely to secure a call.

'Blackburn & Mitcham Reporter' 12/8/1927

Station Street Level Crossing

. . . . in response to the Council's agitation to bring about some scheme whereby the level crossing in Station Street could be abolished, the Railways Commissioners would visit Box Hill on Monday 15th August to confer with the Council on the matter. . . . . Cr. Murphy moved that the Council urge upon the Commissioners the necessity of re-opening the whole question of level crossings, and formulating a policy of dealing satisfactorily with the problem throughout the metropolitan area.

'Doncaster & Eastern Suburbs Mirror' 3/6/1970

Box Hill City Council is expected to discuss next meeting the announcement made last meeting that steps are to be taken to remove the Station St. railway gates and bottleneck . . . . The Minister (Transport) in his letter, said it was acknowledged that the level crossing at Station St. should be abolished. This, he said, would be achieved by putting the rail tracks under the street.

AIR POLLUTION — not a modern problem after all?

John Evelyn (1620-1706 was diarist, author, patron of the arts and a prominent churchman.

In 1661, not long after the restoration of Charles II, Evelyn on his way to Whitehall, noted some columns of smoke 'which so filled and infested the buildings in Scotland Yard that men could hardly see each other.'

He thereupon wrote a tract on smoke abatement, presenting it ot the King under the title 'Fumifugium'. His suggested remedy was firstly to move out of town all soap-makers and other obnoxious manufacturers and then to plant in every spare corner of London syringa and wild thyme and sweet-smelling willow, reminiscent of the orange groves above Genoa, the rosemary on the Spanish coast and the scent of roses near Paris.

The King asked Evelyn to draft a bill to lay before Parliament to mitigate the nuisances described in the tract. But no record remains of this in the Parliamentary annals today.

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