NUNAWADING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY–MARCH 1971 *Price 5 cents* Number 33

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

****

NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday February 10th, 1971 in the Coffee Room, Civic Centre, Whitehorse Road, Nunawading at 8 p.m.

Our Guest Speaker at this meeting will be *Mrs Muriel Green* of Doncaster and her topic "Pioneer Women of the District".

FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING took place in October and the following office-bearers were elected:

President:	Mr K. Patterson
Vice-Pres:	Mr M. Chatwin
Hon-Sec :	Mrs A. Poussard
Ass-Sec :	Mrs N. Durant
Treasurer:	Mrs E. Brown

Committee: Miss E. Ronaldson, Mrs N. Leach, Miss K. McGaw, Mrs J. Roczniok.

Retiring members were Mrs Mattingley who had been secretary for three years, Mr I. Barker who had been treasurer for the same period and Mrs J. Field who had been a committee member for the five years of the society's existence. The opportunity to show their appreciation of the work done by these people was taken by the members attending the November meeting. Also at this meeting our President Mr Keith Patterson was congratulated on receiving an honourable mention for his entry, "Launching the Land Rush", when the Captain Cook Bicentenary Literary Awards were announced.

Our guest speaker at the last meeting was Mrs N. Donkin, one of our own members and a successful author of children's books. Mrs Donkin's talk proved to be very entertaining and interesting, especially when she told us in detail of the research she did to write her books which are fiction with a historical background.

Excursion to EMU BOTTOM in November was enjoyed by all members who were able to go. Plans are completed for a visit to BALLARAT on SUNDAY, MARCH 14th, to look over SOVEREIGN HILL HISTORICAL PARK and tour the other historical and beauty spots of the city. Full details of this trip are in this issue and you will be able to book for the "Tour Bus" at the forthcoming meeting or by phoning the Secretary or Treasurer.

PROGRAM FOR 1971

Monthly Meetings will be held on the second WEDNESDAY of the month in the *Coffee Room* at the Civic Centre, Whitehorse Road, Nunawading, except the July meeting which will be in Wesley Hall, Blackburn.

FEBRUARY	10th	Guest Speaker: Mrs Muriel Green. Subject: "Pioneer Women"
MARCH	10th	Guest Speaker: Cr H. Shepherd, Mayor of Nunawading.
MARCH	14th	BALLARAT TOUR
APRIL	14th	WORK NIGHT
APRIL	30th	(Friday) EASTERN SUBURBS REGIONAL CONFERENCE Wesley Hall
MAY	12th	To be advised
JUNE	9th	Guest Speaker from The National Trust
JULY	14th	Guest Speaker: Professor Martin speaking on "Federation"
AUGUST	11th	Guest Speaker: Mr Lloyd Holyoak Title of talk: "Walhalla Heyday"
SEPTEMBER	8th	Guest Speaker: Dr K. Bowden Subject: "Early Settlers at Westernport"
OCTOBER	13th	ANNUAL MEETING
NOVEMBER	10th	Guest Speaker: Mr D. Livermore Subject: "Early Days in Nunawading"

Should any alteration be made to our 1971 Program members will be advised in future NEWSLETTERS.

NOTE: As this Society will host the EASTERN SUBURBS REGIONAL CONFERENCE on APRIL 30th we will need the assistance of as many as possible of our members on that occasion. PLEASE KEEP THAT DATE FREE.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE — Have you paid yours?
If not please send it to our new Treasurer Mrs E. Brown, 1 Plymouth Crt, NUNAWADING 3131.

$2 single, $3 family, 50c students.

BUILDINGS WORTHY OF PRESERVATION

The Nunawading City Council has invited our Society to submit details of any buildings in this municipality which in our opinion are worthy of preservation. It is with great pleasure that a sub-committee has been formed to produce the required information and your committee invites members to submit any information they have on this subject.

AUSTR ALIA DAY January 26th 1971

Although this celebration, arranged by the City Council, was whilst many of us were still on holidays, we were fortunate that our President was able to represent us on the organising committee and so arrange our display for this occasion. As many as possible of our members were urged to join in these celebrations.

LOCAL CHARITIES

An invitation has been received from the Mayoress for our members to support functions, arranged by the Mayoress Committee, as follows:

Saturday February 20th Barbecue $2.50 (Single) (all inclusive)
Ticket Secretaries: Mrs E. Pearson Tel;: 232 4080
Mrs F. Taylor 878 4295
Mrs D. Gawler 87 3207

Thursday March 11th — Luncheon Fashion Parade Donation $4.75 single
Ticket Secretaries: Mrs C. Broadbear 878 4692
Mrs C. Willis 87 1203

BALLA RAT TOUR SUNDAY MARCH 14th

We will proceed to Ballarat by private cars parking at Sovereign Hill Park overlooking "Sovereign Hill *Historical* Park. You may then view the "Diggings" etc. at your will, have a picnic lunch and be ready to board the tour bus at 2 p.m. for a 3-hour tour of Ballarat, taking in the historical and beauty spots, not forgetting the gardens where the begonias will still be in full bloom. Your secretary had the pleasure of visiting Sovereign Hill on the opening day and can assure that you will not be disappointed in what is in store for you. If you cannot be at the next meeting you may ring the Secretary 89 3383 for further details.

Bookings will need to be made for the Bus Tour and can be made at the next meeting — February 10th

Cost: Adults 50 cents Children over 5 25 cents.

MEMBERS and friends — Bring your children — They will love it.

RESEARCH FOR 1971

During this year members will embark on a program of extensive research of the history of the churches of Nunawading, as they are today and how they began. As we complete and compile the research of each denomination, we hope to bring to you facts written up by a society member and presented on the back page of subsequent NEWSLETTERS.

We realise that space will not permit us to present all the information we will acquire, hence, we will endeavour to make a brief outline of the history of each church connected with the particular denomination for the NEWSLETTER, whilst we file away in our library the detailed results of our research for anyone to refer to as they wish.

As there are between thirty and forty churches in this municipality, most of us would be familiar with at least one or two of these, but of the rest, we may not have given them a passing glance, or even seen them at all. When we have completed our history of THE CHURCHES OF NUNAWADING – PAST AND PRESENT, we hope that we will all know the background of the church where we worship, visit on occasions or just pass by sometimes, in course of our every day life.

Material which would help us in our research, would be very acceptable – maybe you have a photograph, a newspaper cutting or such relating to your particular church, be it old or new.

Much has been written about our first churches in the district, especially Mt Pleasant Methodist, but what of the new ones? This is the part of our research that we may find the most interesting because we all know that once a denomination has established its church in a district it does not need another until the population in the area rises to the stage where the congregation is too large to be accommodated. This has been experienced in many instances in recent years in Nunawading so, just as the pioneers made sacrifices to provide labour and funds to establish their place of worship, their descendants are called on to do likewise.

When we read of the early settlers to Victoria, we are told of their strong religious beliefs and their efforts to get their place of worship, usually beginning in one of their homes.

It is obvious the Methodists were the first to get religion established in Nunawading, so it is fitting that we should start our research with that denomination. In our next NEWSLETTER we will present a brief summary of THE CHURCHES OF NUNAWADING PAST AND PRESENT. No. 1 THE METHODISTS

A. H. Poussard (Editor) 89 3383

J. Rozynek

NUNAWADING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

APRIL-MAY (1971) *Price 5 cents* Number 34

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

****

THE EASTERN SUBURBS REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Wesley Hall, The Avenue, Blackburn
Friday April 30th, 1971, at 8 p.m.
Master of Ceremonies : Cr G. R. Oakley

PROGRAMME

8 p.m.	Viewing of Exhibits in West Hall.
8.20 p.m.	Assemble in Main Hall
8.30 p.m.	President Mr K. A. Patterson
8.35 p.m.	Roll Call of Visiting Societies Representatives
8.37 p.m.	The Mayor of Nunawading, Cr H. E. Shepherd
8.45 p.m.	Mrs Dorothy Goble MLA for Mitcham
8.50 p.m.	The Forest Hill Folk Singers
8.55 p.m.	"People for a Land" by the Mitcham Repertory Group (A Colonial Pageant)
9.35 p.m.	Blackburn-Mitcham Film Society present "Did August Schwerkolt dig the Blackburn Lake one Sunday Morning"
10.00 p.m.	Further Viewing of Exhibits in West Hall Supper in East Hall

THE CHURCHES OF NUNAWADING – PAST AND PRESENT

Owing to the limited space we have in our newsletter we have found it necessary to present our *METHODIST CHURCH* history in several parts and also in an abbreviated form, instead of as our researcher produced it. However, the complete history will become a valuable addition to our archives, as will that of the other churches as they come to hand. We congratulate Mr M. Chatwin, who elected to do this work, on the painstaking way he went about it and the excellent result. It is a promising start for our 1971 Research Program. We still need members to volunteer to do research of CHURCHES OF NUNAWADING – PAST AND PRESENT.

CHURCHES OF NUNAWADING – PAST AND PRESENT (Series 1)
The Methodist (Part 1)

East Burwood Methodist Church.

It was through the efforts of the families of Methodists who established their orchards, early in 1850, in the vicinity of Blackburn and Burwood Roads that the East Burwood Methodist Church owes its existence. They built a wooden church on the northern side of Burwood Road near Blackburn Road. This church became a vital part of the lives of these early settlers. It was the church where they worshipped, gathered for Band of Hope meetings, sang in the choir and on Saturdays, played cricket against other church teams of the district. The wooden building was moved to the southern side of Burwood Road, its present location, in 1900. The foundation stone of the present church, a solid ultra-modern building we see today on the corner of Blackburn Road and Burwood Highway, was laid by Rev. Howard Kettle on Nov. 6th 1960. This church with the Rev. A. E. King in charge, serves the needs of the Methodists in the area today (1971).

Mt Pleasant Wesleyan Methodist Chapel

In 1864 a public meeting was held in the cottage of Francis Rooks in the forests of Nunawading to consider the "desirability of raising a Chapel in connection with the Wesleyan Body." Joseph Aspinal, who had been instrumental in having the Woodhouse Grove Box Hill Methodist Church established, was in the chair. The result was that a Crown grant was obtained on the Crown of Scotchman's Hill in Delaney's Road. Plans were made to build a Chapel and, whilst this was in progress, services were conducted in the home of Abraham Rooks by Mr Walter Brookes of the already established Damper Creek Wesleyan Chapel near Gardiner Creek, Burwood Rosd.

On June 4th, 1865, the wooden Chapel, built by voluntary labour, was opened for worship. Mr Kinsman, a preacher from Collingwood, conducted the opening service from a pulpit made of boxes. Sixty men and women attended the opening service and sang un-accompanied by any instrument. The following Wednesday a Tea Meeting was held to celebrate the opening of the Chapel. On this occasion, by vote, the members determined that their new cause should be known as the Mount Pleasant Wesleyan Methodist Chapel.

In 1872 the Circuit, of which this church was part, acquired a "Gospel Chariot"

in the form of a four wheeled horse-drawn cart to provide transport for its "Country" preachers. Each Sunday morning, this conveyance left the Bridge Road Parsonage, leaving a preacher at other Chapels on its way to Mt. Pleasant, arriving there before noon. After dinner at some nearby home and a service at 2.30 p.m., the preacher would set off in the Gospel Chariot for the return journey to Richmond via Damper Creek, Woodhouse Grove and Hawthorn.

Immediately after the opening of the Mount Pleasant Methodist Chapel a committee was formed to set up a day school for the children of the settlers living nearby. In June 1865 a teacher, Mr John Winter, was engaged to teach 38 children. When the School Board built a school, now the Vermont School, in 1870, this arrangement was no longer required.

The Mount Pleasant Chapel continued to prosper mainly from funds raised at the Annual Tea Meeting which was held on Melbourne Cup Day holiday each year. This was a Gala Picnic Day in the grounds of the Chapel. In 1888 when a railway platform was built at Tunstall (Nunawading) Rly Stn, a buggy met the steam train to take visitors to Mt Pleasant for the day's activities. Improvements were made at the Chapel including an underground tank to provide water for future Tea Meetings.

In 1889 a new and larger stable was erected with a lamp room, a manger and space for two horses and a buggy. In 1905 a church hall was built in line with the front of the Chapel, and 20 feet to the west, where it now stands. Until 1916, when plans for a new church were prepared, the original Chapel was continually improved, repaired and painted. In January 1916 the foundation stone of the new church was laid by Mrs J. T. Tweddle and the new church, to accommodate 150 people, was opened on 29th April that same year. The old Chapel was sold for £40-0-0 and carted away to become a packing shed in a local orchard.

The church hall built in 1904, was enlarged late in 1916 to meet the growing needs of the Sunday School and Girl's Club. A kitchen, including a chimney was added to the hall in 1929, again by voluntary labour, but under the leadership of Dudley Boyle, Secretary of the Trust and a builder. A day kindergarten began to meet in the mornings, in 1955 and afternoon sessions a year later, eventually receiving a Government subsidy as part payment of a teacher's salary.

The original Crown grant of two acres had, by this time, become surrounded by houses of a thriving suburb, and the need for a house for its own minister was evident. A brick parsonage was erected on the northern boundary of the property in 1957 and became the home of Rev. Howard and Mrs Secomb and family. In order to overcome the need for more accommodation on Sundays, two services 9.30 a.m. and 11 a.m. were introduced in 1960.

Today, in 1971, the Mount Pleasant Wesleyan Methodist Church continues to flourish through its members, who apply themselves in the same dedicated and industrious manner as did the pioneers who made it all possible in 1864

Researched and compiled by M. Chatwin (Vice-President)
Abbreviated copy prepared by A. H. Poussard (Editor)

NEXT MEETING

WORK NIGHT in the Coffee Room Civic Centre Whitehorse Road, Nunawading at 8 p.m. on April 14th. This will be in preparation for the Eastern Regional Conference on April 30th in Wesley Hall.

MAY 12th MEETING

Mr F. Pinchen will give a talk and show slides on Australian Flora and Fauna.

BALLARAT TOUR

Our first excursion for the year was a trip to Ballarat on March 14th, by private cars, visiting Sovereign Hill, then a three hour tour of Ballarat by bus. This trip was thoroughly enjoyed by fifty members and friends who took part. The courtesy and efficiency with which Mr Ian Davis and his bus commentator, Mr Arnold James, conducted the bus tour, left nothing to be desired. Seeing Ballarat, in this manner and at this time of the year, can be highly recommended.

REGIONAL MEETING APRIL 30th 1971

Members who have not yet had duties allocated to them for this occasion are strongly urged to attend our meeting next Wednesday night. Remember we are the host Society and expect to have about 200 guests. Our success depends on each one of us.

Brief History of Nunawading which was so popular amongst members, and local children for school projects, has been brought up to date by Committee member, Miss E. Ronaldson. This work will soon be available at a nominal cost.

A. H. Poussard (Editor) 89 3383

J. Rozynoak

NUNAWADING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

JUNE-JULY 1971 *Price 5 cents* Number 35

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

****

NEXT MEETING – Wednesday June 9th 1971 in the Coffee Room Civic Centre, Whitehorse Road, Nunawading at 8 p.m. We expect to have as our Guest Speaker, someone from the National Trust.

JULY MEETING – This meeting will be at Wesley Hall, The Avenue, Blackburn. Professor Martin will speak on Federation. Students from all Secondary Schools in the Municipality will be invited.

REPORT ON EASTERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE held in Wesley Hall, Blackburn on April 30th 1971.

Our Society was pleased to be the host society on this occasion. Wesley Hall, The Avenue, Blackburn was chosen for this function, the three halls being used – Main Hall for the entertainment – West Hall for exhibits and the East Hall for supper.

Exhibits set up in the West Hall were: A display from Schwerkolt Cottage depicting a child's room, including a high chair, a cot, and christening gowns over 100 years old. This display was prepared by Mrs Field, Mrs Creber and their assistants.

Tiles and Pottery dating back to the first pottery kilns in this district were displayed by Mr and Mrs Field.

Herbs and Perfumes as grown and prepared for sale by the Slater family in the early days in Blackburn, were shown by Mrs Faggeter, together with photos and interesting facts about the family.

Land Surveys and Settlement in this district from its earliest days was the theme of Mr Keith Patterson's display. He prepared five display stands showing old documents, photos, plans of subdivisions, and newspaper cuttings relating to this subject together with a miscellaneous collection of facts about schools, houses and business places of the early days.

Australian Flora and Fauna slides were shown by Mr Frank Pinchen to an enthusiastic audience, especially after supper.

MAIN HALL Programme commenced at 8.30 p.m. Cr G. Oakley as Master of Ceremonies, introduced our President, Mr Keith Patterson who told the 200 invited guests the reason for this gathering of representatives of all other societies in the Eastern Region – namely, Camberwell, Kew, Box Hill, Ringwood, Croydon, Lilydale, Doncaster & Templestowe and Knox on which occasion the affairs of the region are handed over from one society to another to administer for the next twelve months. This year's host Nunawading accepts this responsibility. Next year's host society will be Knox. On this night our society welcomed the opportunity to entertain representatives of The Royal Historical Society, Regional Societies, National Trust, Members of Parliament whose interests include our

REPORT ON EASTERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE (contd)

Municipality, City Councillors, members of Council Staff and representatives of all prominent organizations in our municipality. Mr Patterson assured all present that no business would be transacted and we were all to enjoy an evening of entertainment. The Mayor of Nunawading, Cr H. Shepherd was then introduced by Cr Oakley. Cr Shepherd addressed the gathering on the importance of the Historical Society within the municipality and the importance of preserving history and recognising the value of what one has preserved. He stressed the fact that we do not always realise that much of what we do today becomes history at a later date and already too much evidence of the past has been lost.

Mrs Dorothy Goble for Mitcham was the next and final speaker. Mrs Goble spoke as a member of our society, on some interesting documents she had come across during the week. In a delightful manner she read and explained these records of a Bill that was introduced in Parliament about forty years ago, relating to money to be spent in the Shire of Blackburn & Mitcham regarding public baths, Shire Offices and re-constructing Canterbury Rd. These facts highlighted the shuffling of finances from one project to another and the importance the government placed on an amount of £40 or £50 compared with the amount of $982,588,318 which is the estimated expenditure for June 1970-June 1971.

Mr Oakley then introduced Mr Max Grant who told a little of the Colonial Pageant, "People for a Land" about to be presented to us by the Micham Rep. Group supported by the Forest Hill Folk Singers. This performance was very well received by all present and we are indebted to these artists for being such an essential part of our evening's enjoyment. This was followed by the much talked of film made by the Blackburn Mitcham Film Society. We were told that this film was their first and was made last year in view of this occasion. The Film Society members were so pleased with the result that they entered it in the Moomba International Film Festival where it was selected as one of the first ten best films. The film "Did August Schwerkolt dig The Blackburn Lake one Sunday Morning" was a joy to all, being set in our own locality and was a first class production.

This brought the entertainment to a close and Cr Oakley, after thanking those who made it possible, invited all present to supper in the East Hall and further viewing of exhibits in the West Hall – not before Mr Hal Williams of Camberwell and Royal Historical Society asked to address the audience, Mr Williams thanked us for the evening's entertainment and congratulated us on the choice of programme which included such talented groups of people such as The Mitcham Rep., The Blackburn-Mitcham Film Society and The Forest Hill Folk Singers. We in turn, thank Mr Hal Williams for his enthusiasm for our project – noting that he had not yet had supper at that stage.

Supper. This was a delightful buffet supper of sandwiches, cakes, tea and coffee, attended to by the ladies of the Mount Pleasant Methodist Church. We were very pleased with their efforts. The cakes were made by these ladies and the sandwiches supplied by our own members. Many compliments on the supper were received.

Our Society is indebted to many people for the success of this evening but most of all to last year's committee who planned such, to the finest detail – especially Mrs D.

Mattingley, last year's Secretary. As the date came nearer we then had just to put the plans into action – a little time consuming for some of us, but so rewarding. Another example of how it pays to plan well in advance. To the members who put the exhibits on, there cannot be enough praise for their work. They are certainly to be congratulated for the way they transformed the West Hall into such an attractive and interesting display area. This proved very entertaining for our visitors both before and after the programme and supper.

To the Mitcham Rep. Group, The Blackburn Mitcham Film Society and The Forest Hill Folk Singers, we cannot speak too highly of the part they played in the success of our evening. In all three cases the applause and obvious pleasure of our guests should have conveyed to them the manner in which their excellent performances were received. Many of the audience were having their first opportunity to experience the work of these groups and were thoroughly amazed that such talent could be found in our own municipality. We have since received many compliments on the fact that our choice was such for the programme. We feel these compliments rightly belong to the artists and to them say THANK YOU.

Summing up, a good night was the result and we thank all who put so much effort into the preparation, especially: Cr Oakley, our Guest Speakers, Miss Kitty McGaw for the flower arrangements, the exhibitors, Mr Chatwin and his son Keith for looking after the public address system, Miss Ronaldson for producing the "Short History of Nunawading" in time for the night, Mrs Dot Graham for ticket writing for the displays, Mr Green and Mr Jamieson, to Ian Barker who helped everyone, to our guests who came and to all our members for their support.

Keith Patterson President *Anis Poussard* Hon. Sec.

CHURCHES OF NUNAWADING (PAST AND PRESENT) – Series 2.

The Methodist (Part 2)

Mitcham Methodist Church. Following the establishment of the Methodist Church at Mount Pleasant in 1865, the next area to receive the attention of the Methodists was Mitcham, but not for some twenty years later. Late in 1887 a meeting was called of Wesleyan Methodists at Mitcham. The minister from Box Hill presided and Mr E.S. Walker was appointed Trust Secretary. Land 80' x 145' was purchased at £3 per ft on the south-east corner of Whitehorse Rd and Richards St and a weatherboard building was erected as a church. The Mitcham Wesleyan Methodist Church opened with special services on Sunday April 30th 1888. On this occasion a special train brought visitors to Mitcham. This building was used on this site until 1921 when it was moved to a site in Mitcham Rd just north of Whitehorse Rd. Here three lots had been bought in the Mitcham Township Estate so the Church was enlarged and re-opened on Oct. 23rd 1921 on this central site in the growing Mitcham.

In 1928 a married minister was appointed to the Mitcham pastorate of the Box Hill Circuit, and a Parsonage was bought in Delhi St. Additions were made to the Church in 1932, extending it westward and in 1936 a Kindergarten Room at the rear was improved to become Wesley Hall.

The cause at Mitcham grew quietly until the post war period, when the new housing developments to the north and south of the railway line changed the appearance of the landscape. In 1953 a brick Primary Hall was built to accommodate the Sunday School.

At this time the churches at Mitcham, Mount Pleasant, Nunawading and Doncaster East were separated from the Box Hill Circuit, and formed the Mitcham Circuit, with the first Superintendent Minister, Rev. H. Perkins, residing at Mitcham.

The members of the Mitcham Methodist Church became acutely aware of the growing needs of the Community of Mitcham as well as its increasing congregation with its many activities, with the result that on June 21st, 1958 a new building, called Community Hall was opened on the site of the old tennis courts. The whole property had now become U shaped -- the Church and Wesley Hall on the left, viewed from Mitcham Rd, the Community Hall on the right connected by the Primary Hall at the rear. The Trust also bought land in Creek Rd for tennis courts.

For some years the Methodist and Presbyterian Churches of Mitcham had worshipped at special services and joined in fellowship together. The young people formed a common Youth Group in 1963. Combined Church Services became more established so that it was possible to consider pooling their financial resources to build a Church. The years of 1965-6 were periods of intense activity between the two churches, endeavouring to reach a working agreement of co-operation, and to erect buildings for joint use in Mitcham. An independent opinion was obtained as to which site to develop and the report recommended using the Presbyterian site, to which the Methodists readily agreed.

Earle and Associates, Architects, were engaged to prepare a master plan for the site and drawings were prepared for the building of a church, and the removal of the Methodist Church building and Wesley Hall, to the Presbyterian site. The Methodist Trust purchased a large house in Whitehorse Rd adjacent to the site, for the use of the Sunday School, Clubs and other meetings. The remaining building on the Methodist site was the Community Hall, which was given to Kingswood College, Box Hill. It was dismantled and removed to Box Hill, and enlarged to become Brimacombe Hall, an Assembly Hall with music rooms for this Methodist Boy's College. It was opened and dedicated on March 3rd, 1968.

As the result of all these negotiations between the two churches, the Mountview Church Centre, as we know it today (1971) was dedicated on February 26th 1967. It comprises a large suite of buildings to accommodate both congregations with their relative organisations and paves the way for future Australia-wide union of these two Church bodies.

Researched and compiled by *M. Chatwin* (Vice-President)

Subscription Single $2, Family $3, Student 50c.

Have you paid yours? If not please send your cheque to Mrs E. Brown,
1 Plymouth Crt, Nunawading 3131.

Short History of Nunawading compiled by Eleanor Ronaldson now available 30c.

A. H. Poussard (Editor) 89 3383

J. Rozynek

NUNAWADING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 1971 *Price 5 cents* Number 36

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

****

NEXT MEETING – Wednesday August 11th, 1971 in the Coffee Room, Civic Centre, Whitehorse Road, Nunawading at 8 pm.
Our Guest Speaker for this meeting will be Mr Lloyd Holyoak. The title of his talk – "Walhalla Heyday".

SEPTEMBER MEETING – September 8th, 1971. Guest Speaker Dr K. Bowden speaking on "Early Settlers at Westernport".

TRIP TO MALDON. Our second outing for the year will be to Maldon on Sunday September 19th, 1971. Further information will be available at our next meeting. It is expected we will travel by private cars so if you can take a passenger, or require transport let one of the committee know. As much information as possible is being collected about this historic town, in order to ensure our visit will be an entertaining and educational outing.

THE ONE DAY SEMINAR arranged by the Victorian Committee of Affiliated Historical Societies was held at Camberwell on Saturday July 31st. As several of our members planned to attend we expect they will be anxious to put into practice, what they learned from it. One item on the program should interest our Society very much, "Seeking, Finding, Preserving". So much of it we have yet to do.

ANNUAL MEETING PROGRAM Historical slides belonging to members will be shown with comments on each, so pick out your best – no more than six each please and advise the secretary accordingly. Our special guest on this occasion will be Cr Oakley who will conduct the election of office bearers for the following year. *Remember the date Oct 13th.*

Report on our July meeting which was planned for the benefit of Higher Certificate Students of Australian History. We were fortunate to heve as Guest Speaker, Professor Martin, Professor of History, La Trobe University, speaking on "Federation", an important topic in the curriculum. Invitations were posted to all High Schools in our municipality and many Independent Secondary Schools to which students from this district attend. These schools were well represented among the audience of approximately 100 people, who listened intently to Professor Martin. He was very interesting and easy to listen to, as he told in great detail of the part played by the political leaders of the day, Henry Parkes and Alfred Deakin. Although Parkes was considered the "father" of Federation he died before it became a fact. Question time, which followed the talk, was put to good use by the students, some very intelligent questions being asked and satisfactorily answered. At the conclusion of the evening the committee and Society members entertained Professor Martin at supper.

Our Treasurer Reports Subscriptions have been received recently for new membership from the following:

Mr Goble, 21 Shady Gve, Nunawading
Mrs G. Errey, 70 Orchard Gve, Blackburn
Cr & Mrs Shepherd, 114 Koonung Rd, Nth Blackburn

We look forward to meeting these new members at future monthly meetings.

CHURCHES OF NUNAWADING (PAST AND PRESENT) Series 3

The Methodists (Part 3)

Blackburn Methodist Church. The only area in the City of Nunawading where two branches of the Methodist Church existed was in Blackburn. These were the Wesleyans and the United Free Methodist Church, whose difference was in administration and organization, not really in doctrine.

At Blackburn the United Free Methodists began their work on September 3rd, 1888, after receiving a gift of land in Chapel St. A wooden building was erected and opened for services early in 1890 by the Rev. John Barton of Box Hill.

During the same period the Wesleyan Methodists at Blackburn held a meeting, chaired by the Rev. W. E. Bromilow of Box Hill, to discuss establishing a cause in the area. This meeting was at the home of Mr McComb on Sat. December 7th, 1889. An allotment was purchased in George St and an adjoining block was donated to the Church by the Freehold Investment & Banking Co. of Aust. Ltd. who were sub-dividing the land. Plans for building the brick church were based on the Mornington Methodist Church, omitting the porch. The foundation stone was laid on February 20th, 1891 by Mr James Callagan. The opening service was on Sunday April 26th, 1891, and on the following Tuesday night a Tea and Public Meeting was held in Recreation Hall, Blackburn, this procedure being repeated annually for many years to come.

Although it has not been possible to find any record of the union of the United Free Methodist Church in Chapel St and the Wesleyan Methodist Church in George St, it can be assumed that the union was accomplished, in 1902. In a record of a Trust meeting of the Blackburn Wesleyans on August 19th, 1896, trustees present agreed to the union.

The Methodist Church in George St, Blackburn, grew very slowly at the turn of the century. The Trustees were faced with a large debt on the building and this limited their progress. However, by 1906 a vestry had been added, most of the money having been raised by the ladies of the church. In 1911, three allotments of land were purchased from the Freehold Investment Co., in Railway Rd, for £75. In 1914 the church was wired for electricity and the old kerosene lamps dispensed with. In the same year a tennis court was constructed on the Railway Rd property, which had recently been fenced

Following World War 1 there was an increase in population in Blackburn, so more accommodation for the church and Sunday School was required. For this reason a former YMCA Rest Room at Caulfield was purchased and re-erected on

the Railway Rd property at a cost of £852. The Sunday School moved into this building and, with the purchase of another adjoining block of land, more tennis courts were constructed.

In 1932, it became obvious that the church in George St was too small for the congregation and requiring a great deal of maintenance, so for these reasons, by 1939 the church had been sold and was converted to a dwelling.

For the next twenty five years the old hall in Railway Rd became the centre of the activities of the Methodists in Blackburn. During this period the Trust became aware of the need for more accommodation for the church and Sunday School so, in 1954, land at the corner of The Avenue and Main St was purchased. Plans were prepared to build a church and halls to meet the growing needs of the congregation and its various activities. On Sunday 3rd Feb. 1957, the last services were held in the Railway Hall, the property having been sold to the Blue Moon Co-operative.

On Sunday, February 10th, 1957, the new buildings in The Avenue were opened and dedicated. The tennis courts were constructed on land, given and purchased, in Rosslyn St Blackburn. The cause of Methodism at Blackburn continued to flourish and grow in the new building, and at the same time a nearby Presbyterian Church in The Avenue experienced a similar growth, and a large brick church was built to accommodate their congregation.

In 1966, the Presbyterian and Methodist Churches discussed together their growing causes, with the result that, in March 1966, both churches resolved to share a common Sanctuary, and combined services began in the Presbyterian Church, and the large Methodist Hall became Wesley Hall, as part of The Avenue Church, Methodist and Presbyterian.

Today 1971, Wesley Hall is a very important part of the community life in the City of Nunawading. With its three halls, two executive meeting rooms, well equipped kitchen and all necessary furnishings, the many local organizations and commercial groups, to whom it is available, find it admirably fills their needs.

Blackburn North and South Methodist Churches

The Box Hill Circuit became acutely aware of the need for new churches for the increasing population of North and South Blackburn. In 1955, land was bought by the Circuit, in Koonung Rd, North Blackburn, and a "folding church" was erected in July of that year. This church served an area of approximately two square miles, in which there was no church of any other denomination. Morning services were crowded into the small Church and 40 young children attended the Sunday School. This new cause thrived quickly under the care of Rev. N. Park, the Minister at the Blackburn Church, so on the completion of a new hall in 1957, the folding church was disposed of.

Late in 1963' three blocks of land were purchased by the Circuit in Fulton Rd, at the corner of Jenner St, South Blackburn. Plans were prepared for an all-purpose hall, which was opened and dedicated on Saturday May 30th, 1964. Working bees from the congregation and the neighboring churches assisted to prepare the amenities for this newest of the Methodists of Blackburn.

Researched and Compiled by M. Chatwin (Vice-President)

SWAN HILL PIONEER WEEK

Three of our Society members visited Swan Hill in April for the opening weekend of this celebration, and returned with a glowing account of the events. The organisers of Pioneer week were so pleased with the support and enthusiasm of the townspeople, that it could become an annual affair. If this is so, there could be no better time to visit Swan Hill. Remarkable progress has been made at the Folk Museum since its opening, and the new innovation , "Sound & Light" will make a night visit a unique experience.

"A Short History of Nunawading" compiled by Eleanor Ronaldson is selling well at 30 cents. Arrangements are in hand to have this booklet available at the Blackburn Newsagency, South Parade, Blackburn.

A. H. Poussard (Editor) 89 3383

NUNAWADING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 1971 *Price 5 cents* Number 37

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

****

NEXT MEETING Wednesday, October 13th 1971, in the Coffee Room, Civic Centre, Whitehorse Road, Nunawading, at 8 p.m.

ANNUAL MEETING Election of Office Bearers and Committee for next year.

Program: Historic Slides belonging to members.

NOVEMBER MEETING Wednesday, November 10th, 1971 in the Coffee Room, Civic Centre, Whitehorse Road, Nunawading.

Guest Speaker will be Mr D. Livermore speaking on "Early Days in Nunawading". Mr Livermore's family were amongst the earliest orchardists in the Vermont area.

ANNUAL MEETING Nomination forms are available from the secretary and you are reminded these must be lodged prior to the annual meeting. Remember all positions fall vacant and we must be sure they are all filled.

Special note to members Please come to your annual meeting to say thenkyou to the retiring committee, and pledge your support for the new one. I am sure you will enjoy the program and the supper too.

ANNUAL REPORT

As we approach the Annual Meeting date, we can look back with pleasure and satisfaction on the year just completed.

Eastern Regional Meeting The highlight of this year was the success of the Eastern Regional Conference, which was the culmination of a detailed plan set by the Committee of the previous year.

Monthly Meetings During the year meetings were held regularly on the second Wednesday of each month at which the following Guest Speakers were welcomed:- Mrs Muriel Green, Doncaster; Councillor H. Shepherd, Mayor of Nunawading; Miss Carolan, of the National Trust; Professor Martin, of the History Department, Latrobe University; Mr Lloyd Holyoak, ~~Warrandyte~~; Dr Keith Bowden and our own members, Mrs Nancy Donkin and Mr Frank Pinchen. Next month we look forward to hearing Mr D. Livermore speaking on "Early Days in Nunawading".

Local Activities We had many opportunities to take part in affairs in our Municipality, such as, Australia Day Celebrations and the Festival of Arts. Also, our members have addressed local schools and organisations on historical subjects.

ANNUAL REPORT (contd)

"Short History of Nunawading" compiled by committee member, Miss Eleanor Ronaldson, has been selling well, especially since the Blackburn Newsagency promoted it with a window display of historical photos of the district. Since then, copies of this little booklet have been sold to local schools and other information on the district has been provided.

Tours have been conducted to Ballarat and Maldon and representatives have attended the Geelong Convention, Camberwell Seminar and R.H.S.V. Biennial Conference.

Research continues on the Churches of Nunawading and the resulting articles appear in our bi-monthly Newsletter. The Methodist Church History has been completed and so in 1972 we pass on to the next, which is the history of the Roman Catholic Churches of Nunawading.

Nunawading City Council has again favoured us with an annual grant and encourages and assists us in every possible way to continue our work of research and preservation. It is pleasing indeed, to know that the Schwerkolt Cottage Committee has agreed to Plan No. 2 for a building nearby to house items of historical interest. The site of this building has yet to be decided. We are assured of space being provided in the proposed City Library to store irreplacable documents and to hold displays. Material has been loaned to Mr Niall Brennan who has been commissioned by Nunawading Council to write the official history of Nunawading.

Eastern Region As Host Society of the Eastern Region for 1971, we enjoy being involved in the activities of the other Regional Societies, such as, the Presidents and Secretaries Meeting, Proposed Bendigo Tour, Lilydale's 1972 Eastern Regional Conference and the R.H.S.V. Biennial Conference.

The Treasurer's Report will show that our Society is in a sound financial position and this will be so necessary when the Historical Building becomes a reality.

We can look forward to the coming year with pleasure and enthusiasm, for there is so much to be achieved. Our membership now stands at fifty with many taking advantage of the family membership of $3.00.

Finally, our thanks to those members who helped the office bearers by attending meetings, joining in outings and readily assisting whenever required to do so. We shall miss those who leave the Committee this year and welcome those who take their places.

K. Patterson, President
A. H. Poussard, Hon. Secretary

Reminder

You may renew your subscription at the November meeting.
$2 single $3 family 50c students

CHURCHES OF NUNAWADING (PAST AND PRESENT) Series 4

The Methodist (Part 4)

The Nunawading Methodist Church

This Church commenced its activities in this area with the opening of the original wooden building in November 1923. Previously the land had been purchased late in 1921 by the Box Hill Trust for $400 and the building, a world war 1 Army Hut obtained from Preston for $400 and removed to the site at a further cost of $130.

The support for the Church progressed well from the start and an enthusiastic fellowship was developed amongst the few scattered residents of various denominational backgrounds. At this time attendance at church was about 50 to 60, and the Sunday School roll numbered in the vicinity of 65 scholars. During this period the building was used by the Education Department as a school room to relieve congestion in the school at Springvale Road.

After the Shire of Blackburn and Mitcham was proclaimed on 27th May 1925, the second meeting of the Shire was held in the hall of the Methodist Church on Monday 28th September, 1925 at 7.30 p.m. The following three meetings were also held there, prior to the Shire purchasing a dwelling for use as their offices, on almost the same site as the new Municipal Offices of today.

The years 1927-28 were beset with troubles and culminated in three trustees resigning and a large proportion of the congregation leaving the Church. The young men of Box Hill and Mitcham churches were asked to assist at the services. As the Trust accounts were in debt to the extent of $960, and were increasing at a rate of $44 per year, the Box Hill Circuit gave $40 per year for many years to assist the funds, and due to lack of Trustees, Mr Allingham of Box Hill managed the Trust affairs until 1948. By 1930 both church services and Sunday School had been discontinued. Attempts were made in 1932, 1935 and 1939 to recommence the cause, but each attempt was unsuccessful.

Following the war, with new development in the area, the Church was again established, on September 19th, 1948 with an afternoon Sunday School and evening service, the Church of England having the use of the building during the morning. Only a few people attended initially, and the young people from Blackburn Church attended each week until the Church became self supporting. This arrangement of services continued until May 1953, when the morning service and Sunday School were introduced, and the Church of England changed to afternoon and evening use of the building.

The Box Hill Circuit was divided on April 1st 1953, and the Eastern section became the Mitcham Circuit, with Rev. H. L. Perkins its first minister. The cause at Nunawading was progressing well due to the housing development in the area and to the more effective leadership which the new Circuit enabled. The need for additional buildings was realised, and moves were made towards a Kindergarten, kitchen and toilet block in 1954, However it was not until November 25th 1956, that this building was opened. At the Trust meeting

CHURCHES OF NUNAWADING (contd)

of June 1958, it was agreed that a church would be the next project.

A very successful Stewardship Campaign was conducted in August 1958 when the target of $22,000 over 3 years was exceeded. Earle & Associates (Architects) were engaged on July 24th, 1958, to submit plans for the new church, together with a master plan for the site. The foundation stone was laid on November 26th, 1960 and the church was opened and dedicated on March 26th, 1961 by the President of Conference. A lead box was placed behind the foundation stone and in the box were placed coins, stamps, aerial photos of Nunawading, a History of the Church from 1923, and a copy of "A Tale of Box Hill" by Ivan Southall.

Since 1961 ministers at the Nunawading Methodist Church have been, Rev. W. L. Goldsworthy, Rev. H. W. Secomb, Rev. E. Vandermark, Rev. W. N. Wilkinson and Rev. M. Morton who is in charge at present.

Filling the spiritual needs of the local Methodist families, today (1971), this beautiful church, situated not far from the new Civic Centre and with the original wooden building beside it, is a pleasing sight to all who travel along Whitehorse Raod, Nunawading.

Researched and compiled by M. Chatwin (Vice-President)

This series completes our research of the Methodist Church in our Municipality and we will commence 1972 series with the next denomination — The Roman Catholic Church.

A. H. Poussard (Editor)

The Blackburn Mitcham Film Society are showing the silent version of "The Sentimental Bloke" as part of the Nunawading Art Festival, Mitcham Memorial Hall, Whitehorse Road, Mitcham on Saturday October 16th. Sherries will be served at 7.45 p.m. — film at 8.15, followed by supper. Tickets are $2.00 each. Available from Owen Lawrence 877 3610 or David Moss 878 0251.

Maldon Our recent trip to Maldon was a great success with all members and friends who made the outing thoroughly enjoying it. The guided bus tour took us to many places of historic interest, as well as Cairn Curran Reservoir and Mt Tarrangower Lookout.

Bendigo Tour arranged by the Eastern Region takes place Sunday November 14th. We arrive at Bendigo by private cars about 10 a.m. Join the bus at 10.30 a.m. from the Service Station in Bridge St. Lunch at Lake Weeroona about 12.30 p.m. Afternoon tea at Eaglehawk Mechanic's Institute home of the Bendigo Museum, then return to car park and end tour. Cost, including lunch is $1.50 per person. Book by October 15th with your secretary.

A. H. Poussard (Editor)