NUNAWADING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY - MARCH 1972 *Price 5 cents* Number 38

Registered at the G.P.O. for transmission by post as a periodical

PRES.: Mr M. Chatwin 874 2487 — SEC.: Mrs A. Poussard 89 3383 — TREAS.: Mrs S. Barker

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, February 9th 1972, in the Coffee Room, Civic Centre, Whitehorse Road, Nunawading, at 8 p.m.

Guest Speaker: Jean Field, speaking on "An Historical Trip to the Flinders Ranges, S.A."

OFFICE BEARERS for 1972 elected at the Annual Meeting in October are:

PRESIDENT: Mr M. Chatwin; VICE-PRESIDENT: Mr K. Patterson; SECRETARY: Mrs A. Poussard; ASST. SECRETARY: Mrs N. Durant; TREASURER: Mrs S. Barker.
COMMITTEE: Miss N. McGaw, Mrs E. Brown, Mrs N. Leach, Mrs J. Field.

"EARLY DAYS IN NUNAWADING" was the subject of a talk by local orchardist Mr D. Livermore at our November meeting. This was the final meeting of the year and was found very interesting by all who attended, including Cr. Oakley and Mr Niall Brennan, who gave us the latest on the book he is writing on Nunawading.

AUSTRALIA DAY CELEBRATIONS. Once again we were invited by our City Council to take part in this event held at Walker Park. Mr K. Patterson prepared our Display.

REGIONAL.

Lilydale has announced the date of the Eastern Regional Conference for which they are the host Society for 1972. It will be held on Saturday, February 19th 1972, and will mark the commencement of the Lilydale Shire Centenary Celebrations.
There will be a display of historical items in the afternoon, after which those attending will be invited to a buffet tea.
Members wishing to attend this Conference will be required to hand in their names to your Secretary by February 9th. The evening program on this occasion will be open to the public and there will be an admission charge. It will be a program of Folk Singing and other items.

BENDIGO TOUR. Forty-five Members and Friends of the Eastern Suburbs Regional Societies, including nineteen from Nunawading, five from Ringwood, fourteen from Knox, two from Box Hill and five from Croydon, travelled to Bendigo where we were met by the Past President, President and Secretary of the Royal Historical Society, Bendigo Branch. They took us on a very well organized guided tour to a mine being restored to working

order as a tourist attraction, barbecue lunch at Lake Weeroona, the Joss House, Chinese Cemetery, followed by more mines and finally The Museum at Eaglehawk, where we were treated to afternoon tea. Everyone who participated found this outing most enjoyable and we were very grateful for the wonderful hospitatity extended to us at Bendigo. We hope this proves to be the first of many future tours arranged for the Region.

1972 is CENTENARY YEAR for NUNAWADING:

Our Research for this year will be Local History. We will endeavor to find:

The resident who has lived the greatest number of years in our Municipality.

The oldest house still being occupied.

The oldest business still operating.

As well we will record the origin of street names and localities. Anyone who can assist with information or material is invited to contact Mrs N. Leach, 874 3429

PROGRAM FOR 1972

FEBRUARY 9th Guest Speaker
Jean Field – "An Historical Trip to the Flinders Ranges, S.A."
MARCH 8th Guest Speaker
Mayor of Nunawading, Cr D. Gawler
APRIL 12th Guest Speaker
Mr Walker speaking on "Walkers Tiles"
MAY 10th Work Night
JUNE 14th Guest Speaker
Mr Ian Jones – "Ned Kelly"
JULY 12th Guest Speaker
Prof. Geoff Blainey – subject to be decided
AUGUST 9th Work Night
SEPTEMBER 13th Guest Speaker
Mrs Sharp – "Wood's Point"
OCTOBER 11th ANNUAL MEETING
NOVEMBER 8th Guest Speaker
Mr Ken McIntyre of Box Hill Historical Society –
"Cook's Portugese Predecessors"

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CHURCHES OF NUNAWADING (PAST AND PRESENT) Series 5

THE CATHOLICS Part 1 The Parish of St John, MITCHAM

To follow the history of the establishment of the Catholic Church in the Municipality of

Nunawading we must first present some facts about the progress that the Catholics had already made in Melbourne, or Port Phillip as it was first known.

The first senior Priest-in-charge of Port Phillip District was Father Patrick Geoghean, who was appointed in 1839 and celebrated the first Mass on May 19th that year. The first priest to care for the district to the east of Melbourne was Father Viventius Bourgeois, one of four French priests to arrive in Sydney in 1843. In 1850 he was appointed to Melbourne and took charge of "Warringal", including Heidelberg, Booroondara and Brighton, the entire east of Melbourne. In 1853, when a Jesuit Mission was established at Richmond, the area came under the general care of Father Madden. In 1862, the priest responsible for the school and chapel in Warringal was the Rev. Father Finn. His parish stretched from Heidelberg to the foothills of the Dandenongs and he covered it on foot.

Among his responsibilities was the signing of returns for the Roman Catholic School, Nunawading (the school established at Boorondara on "Elgar's Survey", Warrigul Road, with Stephen Lanigan as first head teacher). By 1866 when the responsibility reverted to Richmond the area included Hawthorn, Kew, Camberwell and Mitcham. The Rev. Father Kranewitter, S.J., was a frequent visitor, holding services ranging from those for Germans in their own language, in Richmond, to the settlers in the new district of Ballyduffy (Ringwood).

In 1871, on August 20th, Father Kranewitter called a meeting of the parishioners of Air Hill (Mitcham) in the North East area of Nunawading. One result was that Mr John McGlone donated one acre for church purposes, an area which he later increased.

On Sunday January 7th 1872 the foundation stone of the school chapel was laid in Nunawading East. "The Rev. Father A' Kranewitter, S.J., celebrated Mass at 11 a.m. in the Sanctuary, which is already roofed in, and the Very Rev. J. Dalton, S.J., addressed the congregation on the gospel of the Epiphany. After the sermon a collection was made and £12 was taken on the spot, which will, it is hoped, with the money already generously subscribed, be sufficient to complete the building. The Holy Sacrament of Baptism was then administered to three infants who will, no doubt, in after years take laudable pride in having been the 'first fruits' of this new mission," says the Advocate. The report goes on to say that the Catholics of the district have secured the assistance of an active and competent teacher "holding a first-class certificate from the Irish National Board of Education."

More money to buy materials was raised by the sale of grave lots, at the rear of the area. A local tradition mentioned in the "Sun" says that "buying a little putty and a pound of nails at a time they completed the job – at times by candlelight – for £70." An architect, Mr Denehy, supervised the work and the chief builder was Mr John Delaney. Father Dalton, who preached at the laying of the foundation stone, recorded in his diary for Sunday

March 10th, 1872 that the "School Church at AIR HILL opened today. Fr. Kelley preached". The building was 38 feet by 16 feet and Miss Brenoch took over the school.

(to be continued)

Researched and compiled by J. Roczniok.

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REMINDER:

Subscriptions for 1972 are now due. Adults $2 Family $3 Students 50c
Please forward to:
Mrs S. Barker, 14 Tortice Avenue, Nunawading 3131

NEW ADDRESS FOR R.H.S.V.

On February 18th the Royal Historical Society will open in new premises at 422 Little Collins Street, Melbourne.
The move from 19 Queen Street has been taking place during the holidays.

HISTORICAL COLLECTION

Amongst items recently received for our historical collection were two old castor oil bottles. We sincerely thank the donors of these rare articles.

A. H. Poussard (Editor)
89 3383

NUNAWADING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

APRIL - MAY 1972 Price 5 cents Number 39

Registered at the G.P.O. for transmission by post as a periodical

PRES.: Mr M. Chatwin 874 2487 – SEC.: Mrs A. Poussard 89 3383 – TREAS.: Mrs S. Barker

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, April 12th, 1972, in the Coffee Room, Civic Centre, Whitehorse Road, Nunawading, at 8 p.m.

Guest Speaker: Mr Walker whose family have been connected with our local tile and pottery works since 1885. Mr Walker, himself conducts his own business, Walker Ceramics, at Wantirna.

MAY MEETING

May 10th. Work Night.

CENTENARY YEAR RESEARCH PROGRAM is making good progress thanks to the enthusiastic committee led by Mrs Leach. Many very interesting stories of the early days in our district have come to light to date but we know there are many more just waiting to be told. Any members who can give further help to find

(1) the resident who has lived the greatest number of years in our Municipality
(2) the oldest house still being occupied
(3) the oldest business still operating

are asked to contact Mrs Leach, 39 Creek Rd., Mitcham, 874 3429.

REGIONAL

The Eastern Regional Conference, hosted by Lilydale, was well attended. The old Shire Hall in Castella St. was the focal point of the Centenary of the Shire of Lilydale celebrations on opening day. This Conference was part of the program. There was an excellent display of Photos, Maps and items of interest prepared by the Historical Society, followed by a Buffet Tea and a program by a folk singing group. Lilydale is certainly to be congratulated for the excellent way in which they conducted the Conference.

THE ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY advises dates of two events taking place later this year.

The Royal Historical Society advises dates of two events taking place later this year.

The VCAHS Winter Seminar will take place in the City of Camberwell Theatrette on Saturday June 24th, and the subject, "Local History and the School".

The 1972 Country Convention is to be held at Wangaratta Friday September 29th to Sunday October 1st.

Both these occasions are highly recommended to historians and these advance notices are for the benefit of those who may wish to attend them. Detailed information will be available at a later date.

THE TREASURER will be pleased to receive overdue subscriptions, PLEASE!

"HOW HISTORY WILL VIEW THE 70's" was the title of the talk given by the Mayor of Nunawading, Cr D. Gawler when he and the Lady Mayoress visited our Society at our last meeting. This proved to be a very interesting talk, showing, through the ages, from the stone age, when primitive people had no security and few problems, to today, when with advanced knowledge, we have the problems associated with modern living to contend with. These are mainly, population, traffic and living congestion, pollution of air and waterways, noise levels and encroachment on man's own privacy. Cr Gawler expressed his hope that the 70's will be a turning point in history, when man will face these problems, overcome them and so protect our environment, in this age of modern living, in order that we may live happily ever after. This certainly inspired each of us to think about our present way of life, in view of the fact that, with each new device there can be a threat of danger to the things we have learnt to value. In question time many interesting views were expressed, including one lady's opinion of the new computer's handling of the rate notices.

HISTORICAL ITEMS

Anyone having visited the Royal Historical Society at 19 Queen Street, their home until recently, would have noticed the highly decorative green tiles on the walls throughout the building. Thanks to the successful negotiations and perserverence of Mrs Mattingley and Mrs Field, and the manual labor of George Cox and Ian Barker, we now possess a very handsome collection of these tiles. We are grateful to these members, and to the owners and the caretaker of the building, who made their work possible, prior to demolition. These tiles were probably imported towards the end of the last century, and we hope, when Mr Walker visits us at our next meeting, he will be able to identify them. Together with the photos taken inside the building, by Mr Chatwin, we feel we have a valuable addition to our own collection of locally made tiles.

RESTORATION OF THE WINE CELLAR AT SCHWERKOLT COTTAGE is on the program of works to be done by the Council, as the result of a government grant of funds to ease unemployment. This is good news indeed, and we hope soon to follow, will be the construction of our historical building, seeing we have been advised by Council that they are stock-piling bluestone pitches for that purpose.

THE HISTORY OF NUNAWADING by Niall Brennan will be published about the middle of August this year, about the same time as the new Civic Library will be completed. It is anticipated the Council will hold a function to fit the occasion.

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CHURCHES OF NUNAWADING (PAST AND PRESENT) Series 6.

THE CATHOLICS Part 2 The Parish of St. John, MITCHAM

The opening of this school was one outcome of the efforts of the committee formed at the meeting in August of the previous year. John McGlone was the first president and John Quinlan, the secretary. James Berry and John Bronogh "were assisting members with power to aid others". John Quinlan's notebook lists 110 people who subscribed sums varying from 2/6d to £5 to the collection for the new chapel, and a list of 11 others who contributed "after he had resigned".

The notebook also records "regulations of the Berrying ground at Air Hill cemetery for the catholicks". It sets out that a man who had subscribed £2 at the collection for the church was entitled to one grave, if he subscribed less and later made it up to £2 he would be so entitled, and "the man that paid four pounds is intitled to two graves".

The names of some of those who qualified are known from the records of the graves existing in 1952, when permission to exhume and re-inter the bodies was given by the Health Commission to make way for a new church.

The names were:

May Bowen (daughter of J.A. & M. Bowen), d. 9.3.1909 aged 24 years (the last buried there).

Mary McClare (wife of John McClare), d. 21.10.1877 aged 40 years.

Wm. Grace (husband of Mary Grace) d. 18.2.1877 aged 32 years.

John Pratt (son of Margaret Pratt of Ringwood) d. 30.1.1876 aged 14 years.

John Barry . . .

Wm. Patrick Grace (son of Wm. Grace) d. 8.8.76 (or 8.8.78).

Also mentioned is Ellen Quinlan. Feb. 1875.

Early records of the school say that by 1st June 1872, 26 children were in attendance, and these were expected to increase to 40 soon, with the hope of receiving financial aid. A school roll of 1880 lists 28 children ranging from 4 years to 15 years, and is signed by a teacher, M.A. O'Leary. A roll dated 1886 lists 46 attending and is signed by T.M. Conway. Ages recorded here, starting at 2 years 8 months and 3 years 7 months and up to 15 years 1 month suggest that the teacher's responsibilities were wide indeed. As well as Air Hill, children were attending from, for example, Blackburn Creek (Mary Logan), Vermont (Patrick and Michael Keenan, Thomas and Joseph Galvin), Springfield (James O'Connor, James Hayes), Doncaster Road (Philip and John Cummins), Ringwood (Michael, Catherine, Jane and Margaret McDonnell and Ellen Millar). Records of the names of successive teachers are incomplete, but those of Miss Stapleton and Miss Hornby are known. Miss Hornby retired in 1929 when her sight was failing.

Signed Registers dated 1888

The register of 1888 records that the school was closed from the 24th March, and for the first two weeks in April during the enlarging of the church. On 20th May 1888, the additions to the

building were opened, with Rev. A. Sturgo, S.J., Rev. P. O'Connor, S.J., and Rev. R. O'Flynn, present.

In 1920 Mitcham became part of the Ringwood area on its establishment. Ringwood's first Mass, in the church near the corner of Whitehorse Road and Mount Dandenong Road, was held on 7.11.1920. In 1929, when Miss Hornby retired, the Mitcham school was closed, in the hope that children would attend Ringwood. It is briefly recorded "They did not". It is unclear what happened to local children in the interim – perhaps they went to some of the other local schools, but on 29th March 1936 a new school costing £1840, built by Mr O'Connell, was blessed by Dr Mannix. This school was on the site now occupied by the Spotless Drycleaners.

(to be continued)

Researched and compiled by J. Roczniok.

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A. H. Poussard (Editor)
89 3383

NUNAWADING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

June-July 1972 Price 5 cents Number 40

Registered at the G P O for transmission by post as a periodical.

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Sec: Mrs.A.Poussard
4 Elmhurst Rd
Blackburn 3130
Phone 89-3383

Treas: Mrs. S. Barker
14 Tortice Ave,
Nunawading 3131

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday June 14th 1972 in the Coffee Room, Civic Centre, Whitehorse Road, Nunawading at 8.00 p.m.
Guest Speaker: Mr. Ian Jones will speak on "Ned Kelly". Mr. Jones has spent many years researching the life of this Australian bushranger and is the co-author of a book on his subject.

JULY MEETING Work Night. at the Coffee Room, Civic Centre July 12th

JULY 19th (Note changed date from that set out in year's program)
At Wesley Hall, The Avenue, Blackburn, at 8.00 p.m.
This is our annual night arranged for the benefit of Higher Certificate Students of Australian History.
Guest Speaker: Professor Geoffrey Blainey, Dept. Economic History, University of Melbourne.
Subject: "A Facit of Australian History - Australia's Mining Rushes".
We can all look forward to a very interesting lecture and there will be a question time at the conclusion, when Professor Blainey will answer questions on any Australian History subject.

CENTENARY RESEARCH PROGRAM

As the result of the work of the Research Committee, we were pleased to be able to honor Mrs.Lousia Smith of Rooks Road, Mitcham, as our citizen who has resided for the greatest number of years in our minicipality. Mrs Smith, in her 93rd year, has lived all her life in Mitcham, having been born not far from her present home. On Centenary Day, May 4th, the Mayor and Mayoress of Nunawading, Cr.and Mrs. D. Gawler, accompanied by Mr.Brown, Town Clerk, and Mr.Edwards,Chief Clerk, called on Mrs. Smith presenting her with a sheath of flowers and a beautifully transcribed document to record the occasion. She will also receive a copy of Niall Brennan's "History of Nunawading" as soon as it is available. Mrs. Leach, representing our Society presented Mrs. Smith with a gift box of fruit. Photographers and reporters from our local papers were present so the occasion was fittingly recorded.

Tour of Nunawading: On Saturday May 6th, we celebrated the centenary with a tour of our own city. This was enjoyable and educational and in perfect weather, with Cr.Willis as bus driver and Mr. Sewart as our Guide. After the bus was fully booked, several people expressed their desire to join us if we planned another such outing. This may be arranged later in the year if members wish it.

June Seminar: A Seminar on the subject of "Local History and the School" will be held on Saturday 24th June 1972, from 10 am to 4.30 pm in the Theatrette, Camberwell Civic Centre, Inglesby St. Camberwell. For details apply to the secretary.

The 1972 Country Convention: This will be held at Wangaratta on the weekend of September 29, 30 and October 1. Full details and itinerary will be set out in our next newsletter and will also be available from the Secretary.

Acquisitions: We have been given two early model sewing machines and a letter press from the Hooke family home.
Many relics in the form of old tools etc. were found by council workmen when they commenced the restoration work at Schwerkolt Cottage. These have been given to the Society, the most significant being a very large padlock which we presume was used to lock the wine cellar. These are valuable items to add to our collection.

1972 Program (Forthcoming)

9th August:	Work Night
13th September:	Guest Speaker Mrs. Sharp "Wood's Point".
11th October:	Annual Meeting
8th November:	Guest Speaker Mr. Ken McIntyre of Box Hill Historical Society "Cook's Portuguese Predecessors".

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CHURCHES OF NUNAWADING (PAST AND PRESENT) Series 7

THE CATHOLICS Part 3 The Parish of St.John, MITCHAM (concluding)

The staffing of the school throws some light on the developing responsibilities of the religious orders in the area, and the size of the areas administered by both the clergy and nuns.

We know that in 1866, Bishop Gould handed over to the Fathers of the Society of Jesus the "missions of Richmond, Kew and Hawthorn, with the extensive country districts of Camberwell, Nunawading and

Mitcham". In 1889 a new mission with Lilydale as the centre was set up. Father Lynch, who had been itinerant in the area, was in 1890 promised a Presbytery by the residents of Lilydale. Within 12 months it was built and the cost of construction, £1300, paid off. In 1891 the Rev.A.Hennessey replaced Father Lynch, the church was enlarged and the Sisters of Mercy from Mansfield were invited to take charge of the schools, both Primary and Secondary.(The presbytery housed the nuns, until a convent was built.) This mission included, as well as St.Patrick's Lilydale, the mission church of St.John Mitcham, St. Aloysius, Yarra Glen, St.Joseph's Warburton, St.Mary's Ringwood, and St.Brigid's Healesville. Quite a "parish". When St.John's School re-opened in 1936, the Sisters of Mercy travelled by train daily from Lilydale to Mitcham, and staffed the school until 1954 when it was declared unsafe by the Health Commission in May 1948.

In 1952, the new parish of Mitcham was taken over by Father Coghlan, from Father O'Toole of Ringwood, who had administered it since 1934. The boundaries were, Springvale Rd, Burwood Rd,Heatherdale Rd, and Whitehorse Road, included Park Orchards and Donvale.

A new school had been started, with 200 children in three classrooms, but the church had been condemned. So Father Coghlan using the school for Mass, and by a tremendous effort to borrow money and muster willing help, a new church was opened in the same year, to last for the next twenty years. In the year 1954-5, three more class rooms built, and a house opposite the school was acquired for a convent. The Sisters of St.Joseph joined the parish and assisted by lay teachers have staffed the school ever since.

The annual fund raising fetes, run by the ladies of the parish, to rescue the church from debt, have been a central activity and a feature of the Mitcham life since 1953. The first made a profit of £2000 and in 1971 $25,000 was raised. (Up to 1970 total raised is estimated at more than $200,000)

The educational liabilities of the parish are illustrated (together with the names of the head teachers) by the growth of numbers on the rolls, extracted from Dept. of Education Inspectors' Report Book of St.John's School No. 1407 at Mitcham:

1939	81 on roll	(Sister M. Sheila)	1942	93 on Roll	
1942	93	(Sister M. Hildegarde (Fitzpatrick)			
1944	99		1950	138 on roll	
1946	95		1952	155	
1949	123				

1956	307 on roll	Sister Catherine Teresa	1958	462 on roll
1961	689	Sister Romuald	1963	744
1967	719	Sister M. Emilian	1970	728
1971		Sister Pauline		

Since 1961 the parish has contributed to the Diocesan Regional Secondary College of Aquinas in Ringwood. The range of the parallel girls' and boys' schools was completed in 1971 with the first Sixth Form in the girls' school. This achievement was marked by an open air Mass celebrated in the school quadrangle by Archbishop Knox, and attended by all the parish priests who had helped in setting up the school.

The rate of growth of the population soon began to make the church inadequate. In 1958 (the same year as St.John's Presbytery was completed) land had been bought in the area of Forest Hill, opposite Parkmore. A mass centre in the school was used by St. John's priests, until on 27th January 1968, the parish of St. Timothy's with its own Parish priest, the Rev. T. Brophy, was established.

In Park Orchards, Mass had been said for (several) years by priests from Mitcham, using the Chalet as a centre, until in 1970, the parish of St. Gerard and St. Anne was established in the care of the Rev. J. McMahon, M.S.C.

In 1956, five acres had been bought in Centre Road, Vermont. St.James' School opened on 1st February 1970 and the Mass Centre had its first Mass on 26th July 1970, celebrated by St.Johns'Parish Priest, the Rev. W.J.Durkin. The school expects an enrolment of 250 by 1974.

In 1971, the parish of Mitcham, still including Vermont, had 1471 catholic families. At this time a parish organization in zones was established, to facilitate the planning of work, to maintain "lines of communication" and to help contact between individual parishioners. The interest of the people in various problems, crystallised in the setting up of working committees in such areas as social welfare, education, the liturgy, public relations etc. and this organization has been used recently (1972) in the setting up of a program of Pastoral Renewal prefatory to the Eucharistic Congress to be held in Melbourne in 1973. It is also to be used to link parishioners with the "Action for World Development" planned by the Australian Council of Churches and Catholic Church to try to "make Christianity work today".

In 1972 the convent has been renovated and extended, the spacious parish centre completed in 1968, has its organizing committee, and with land acquired in 1971, the grounds of the completed school can be suitably extended to alleviate congestion. John McGlone, whose family name is perpetuated in the name of nearby McGlone St. would take pride in the results of the work to which he gave a helping hand, and land a hundred years ago. --- Researched and compiled by J. Roczniok.

NUNAWADING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

August - September 1972 Price 5 Cents Number 41

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4 Elmhurst Rd.,
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NUNAWADING 3131

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NEXT MEETING Wednesday August 9th, in the Coffee Room, Civic Centre, Whitehorse Road, Nunawading at 8 p.m.

PROGRAM: WORK NIGHT - We hope as many members as possible will attend as there is so much to do in the way of filing, compiling, and preserving our collection of newspapers, documents, photos, etc. For historians a work night is very interesting and rewarding, so please come along to assist those who are always there.

SEPTEMBER MEETING September 13th. Guest Speaker: Mrs Sharpe. "Woods Point." Mrs Sharpe is one of our own members who has researched her subject for many years in preparation for a book she aims to publish one day. We can look forward to a very enjoyable and enlightening talk on this gold mining town.

ANNUAL MEETING This is an advance notice that our annual meeting takes place on Oct. 11th, 1972. All offices become vacant as per the constitution, at this meeting and nominations are required for the following positions: President, Vice-Pres., Secretary, Ass. Sec., Treasurer and four committee members. It is hoped that some of our present office bearers will re-nominate but at this stage we do know we need to replace: Ass-Secretary ... already served 3 year term, maximum as set down in constitution. Secretary ... Not available for third term owing to pressure of business. All members of the Society are urged to give their support by canvassing amongst their fellow members for office-bearers, completing the form enclosed, and returning it to the secretary at the September meeting. The success of our Society is due to the contribution each member makes. We are about to complete another historic year, and yet, with each succeeding year, further research should improve our knowledge of the early days and life of Nunawading. This is your opportunity to be active by nominating yourself or another member for one of the for-going positions.

M. Chatwin President

CHURCHES OF NUNAWADING (PAST AND PRESENT) Series 8

The Catholics. The Parish of St Thomas the Apostle, BLACKBURN.

It would seem there could not be a better time than right now to research the history of this parish, for as recent as Sunday, July 16th 1972, parishioners their friends, and invited guests, including the Mayor and Mayoress of Nunawading, councillors and Mrs Goble MLA witnessed the opening and blessing of the new church, St Thomas the Apostle. Set in 4 acres surrounding the parish school and hall, which has been the place of worship for many years, this well designed, completely modern church represents 18 years of combined effort from the parishioners and their parish priest, Father Ryan. For many the story began long before 1954, in fact, it was in 1939, when Father Gleeson, the newly appointed parish priest of Box Hill, arranged the Morton Park Hall as a venue for Mass for the Catholic Community of Blackburn, that the seeds of a new parish were sown. Prior to this, until the mid 1930's, Blackburn was part of the Ringwood parish. Morton Park Hall was the local picture theatre on Saturday nights, so on Sunday morning there was an all out effort to turn the stage into an altar and where necessary, camouflage the gay posters advertising next week's show. From this point onwards a small but willing band of workers did all in their power to raise funds for the day they would need a more lasting arrangement. An advisory committee was established in 1949 in view to raising funds for a church building - where or when was not known at this stage. By May 1951 an architect had drawn up plans for a school - church on the selected site at the corner of Whitehorse Rd. and Maple St. How different this story would have read had things proceeded to plan. However this was not to be. When the builder was almost ready to start, at the point of getting materials delivered to the site, a very unusual situation came about. It came to the notice of Father Casey, who was administering the parish of Box Hill in the absence of Father Gleeson, that a magnificent site of 4 acres of land with a large brick house, tennis court and beautifully laid out gardens was for sale. The wheels moved very quickly and very quietly, and within a week, 57 Central Rd. became the new site for the school - church of the Catholic Community of Blackburn. So great were the advantages of this change of site that, even the fact that a greater amount of money was necessary to commence the new project, did not daunt the enthusiastic parishioners. New plans were drawn up by the same architect and the same builder was chosen. On Nov. 15th, 1953, the Archbishop of Melbourne Most Reverend Dr Mannix blessed and opened the new school building which was to be a church on Sundays. In January 1954, Blackburn became the parish of St Thomas the Apostle, so called by Father Gleeson in honour of St Thomas the Patron Saint of India.

Then came the appointment of Father Paul Ryan, the first parish priest and his first such appointment. On Feb. 4th 1954 the school opened under the guidance of the Nuns from Our Lady of Sion Convent, Box Hill, with Sister Frances Tereasa in charge. Classes were Preps, Grades 1 & 2, 50 pupils altogether.

From here the parish of St Thomas went on from one success to another owing to the generosity and enthusiasm of the parishioners and the foresight of Father Ryan P. P. More classrooms were added, and a hall to obviate the necessity of constantly moving desks for mass. By 1956 a house was bought for a convent and the Loreto Sisters took over the teaching duties. In 1958 the Christian Brothers began teaching in the boy's school, whilst at the same time moves were made to establish a school at East Doncaster. This became the parish of St Peter and Paul in 1960 and so becomes part of the history of Doncaster & Templestowe. A church - school building was opened in Orchard Gve, Sth. Blackburn, in 1962 and subsequently became the parish of St Luke's in 1963. North Blackburn also had their school by 1965 and by 1966 was a separate parish called St. Philip's. Histories of St Luke's and St Philip's will be recorded in their own right.

St Thomas' parishioners and Father Ryan continuing their good work, had set up three new parishes, added to school buildings, and assisted in the commencement of More College for Boys in Springvale Rd, still with their own church in view. At the opening of More College in 1968, the boys school was transferred there, leaving Blackburn Parish School with classes of boys and girls to grade 6, and girls to form 4. At last it seemed as if some action could commence to get a new church for St Thomas the Apostle. As the result of a Church Feasibility Study in December 1969, we now see at 57 Central Rd. Blackburn, a church building, nestling amongst the pines, wattles, and gums of the heavily wooded site, up to the minute in design with carpeted floor and heating, and most important of all, the result of 18 years endeavour of the parishioners and their parish priest. To these people it may seem the end to their dream, but to new and future parishioners of Blackburn, it will probably seem like the beginning because, in the hard cold words of the parish accountant, it will cost $100,000.

(Researched and compiled by A. H. Poussard.)

Anis Poussard (Editor) 89 3383

CENTENARY BALL The Council have arranged a "Wild Colonial Ball" to be held in the new library on Sat. August 19th 1972. Tickets are $14 a double, including a 3 course meal and drinks, and bookings can be made with Mrs McCarthy at the Municipal Offices or with your Secretary.

CENTENARY RESEARCH PROGRAM As a result of the work of the Research Committee we now record:
Our longest residing citizen - Mrs Lousia Smith, Rooks Rd, Nunawading 93 years old.
Our oldest house still occupied - 113 Springvale Rd, Nunawading believed to be 95 years old. owned and occupied by Mr & Mrs Florio and schoolboy son.
Our oldest business still operating - Vitclay Pipes Pty. Ltd. Established 1873. (formerly Commonwealth Potteries) Springfield Rd, Nth. Blackburn.
We all appreciate the work of this committee and extend to Mrs Leach and the other members our sincere thanks. Whilst we know the research will continue till every important aspect of Nunawading is recorded, it is gratifying indeed, to have achieved the goal we set out for in 1972. You will recall Mrs Smith was honored on Centenary Day, and now the Council have expressed their intention to make a presentation to the others concerned at the Centenary Ball on 19 August 1972.

EXHIBITION OF SOCIETIES POSSESSIONS: This will be part of the annual meeting program so, members who are holding Society material in their own homes for safe-keeping, are asked to display it at this meeting, and to give a list of items held, to the Secretary for the records. Other attractions on the agenda for the annual meeting are still being finalised.

PUBLICATIONS For those who have seen and admired the photographic cover of a locally distributed directory, whose publishers "overlooked" their verbal agreement to include acknowledgement of the source from whence these photos came, we can tell you they are the photos given to the Society recently, by Mrs A.A. Hooke and provided by us for this attractive cover scene.

"HISTORY OF NUNAWADING" If you have not yet purchased a copy of Niall Brennan's book we recommend you do so. It is a must for all who want to know more of the past years in Nunawading. It can be purchased at Blackburn Newsagency, South Pde. where much of our material has been on display, and all other newsagents in the Municipality.

PROFESSOR BLAINEY'S LECTURE Wesley Hall was filled to capacity by Higher Certificate students and other interested persons last week, to hear a very lighthearted and informative address on "Australia's Mining Rushes." All were impressed by the friendly manner in which the speaker conveyed his message and his desire to answer questions on this and other history subjects. After moving a vote of thanks to Professor Blainey, the president, Mr Chatwin presented him with an autographed copy of Niall Brennan's book, "History of Nunawading", just released.

NUNAWADING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

October - November 1972 Price 5 cents Number 42

Registered at the G.P.O. for transmission by post as a periodical

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NEXT MEETING Wednesday October 11th, in the Coffee Room, Civic Centre, Whitehorse Road, Nunawading, at 8.p.m.

Program -- ANNUAL MEETING - Election of office bearers for 1973

Note - No nominations have yet been received for Secretary or Assistant-Secretary. If any member would like to take on either of these positions please let the committee know.

A display of historical items belonging to the Society which are currently being cared for by various members. Remember, if you are holding any material belonging to the Society, please bring it on Wednesday night for other members to see.

NOVEMBER MEETING - Mrs. Marjorie Tipping B.A., F.R.H.S.V. President of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, will speak on "Convicts at Sorrento in 1803".

Mrs. Tipping's interest in the Mornington Peninsula and this subject in particular goes back a long time so we can look forward to a very interesting talk. Invitations have been extended to members of other Regional Societies for this occasion and we hope our own members will take the opportunity to bring friends with them. DON'T MISS IT.

It is one of Victoria's boasts that it was never a convict settlement. This is technically correct, but there were two near misses, when convict settlements failed. The first was at Sorrento in 1803, when Lieut.Col. Collins landed about 300 people just inside the entrance to Port Phillip Bay, to defend the newly discovered Bass Strait, from possible French invasion. After a combination of ineptitude and bad luck, Collins obtained permission to move to what is now Hobart, leaving behind a few graves in an odd corner, just off the Nepean Highway, a street named Melbourne, and the ingredients of a legend of a Wild White Man, an escapee Buckley, who had lived with the blacks for more than thirty years, when he walked into Batman's camp near Geelong. It was an interesting episode, all the more remarkable because so little information was passed on for later settlers.

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SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT - OCTOBER 1972

1972 has been the centenary year for Nunawading, being the celebration of the formation of the Shire of Nunawading on 4th May 1872. The Society has been actively engaged on a Centenary Research Programme, and was successful in finding, firstly, our longest residing citizen Mrs.Louisa Smith, who is 93 years of age and was born in this City. Secondly, the oldest house still occupied, believed to be 95 years old, 113 Springvale Road, Nunawading. Thirdly, the oldest Business still operating, Vitclay Pipes Pty.Ltd. (formerly Commonwealth Potteries) Springfield Road, North Blackburn, established in 1873.

The research programme has unearthed a wealth of material, which will take some time to fully process. On the 6th May, the Society participated in a Bus Tour of Nunawading with Cr.Willis as driver and City Engineer Mr.B.Sewart as our Guide. We visited many locations within our City, which were of historical interest and the tour demonstrated to members the development within the boundaries of Nunawading.

Members of the Society joined in the celebrations at the Wild Colonial Ball in the new Library in August.

Excursions: 19 of our members joined the Eastern Suburbs Regional Societies' tour to Bendigo, visiting a restored Gold Mine, Joss House Chinese Cemetery and the Museum at Eaglehawk.

Displays and Speakers: The Society has provided material for Display at the Australia Day Celebrations in January, the Centenary Ball in August and Window displays at the Blackburn Newsagency. Speakers from the Society have given lectures at schools within the City, we have been fortunate to have the services of Mr.O.Green for some of these occasions.

Research: In addition to the research for the Centenary Year, 2 of our members have researched the Histories of the Catholic Churches of Nunawading and these have been published in our Newsletters. We welcome the publication of "The History of Nunawading" by Niall Brennan and congratulate the Author upon the excellent record he has written.

Local Activities: The Eastern Regional Conference this year was hosted by the Lilydale Society in February. Our members were guests at the function which marked the commencement of the Lilydale Shire Centenary Celebrations.

The VCAHS Winter Seminar was held at Camberwell in June, the topic was "Local History and the School", representatives from Nunawading were able to attend.

Acquisitions: Ceramic Tiles have always been a keen interest to

Members, therefore when it was discovered that 19 Queen Street, Melbourne was to be demolished, arrangements were made to photograph and procure a sample of the distinctive tiles in the foyer. 2 early sewing machines were donated and a large padlock and tools found during the excavation of the Wine Cellar at Schwerkolt Cottage. Our researchers have unearthed a number of old photographs, these have been copied for our records.

Monthly Meetings: Meetings have been held on the second Wednesday of each month, the following Guest Speakers were welcomed; Cr.D.Gawler, Mayor of Nunawading, Mr. Walker of Walker Ceramics, Mr.I.Jones, and our own Members, Mr. D.Livermore, Mrs. J. Field and Mrs. Sharpe. Our meeting in July was open to Sixth Form students. Professor G. Blainey spoke to an audience of 230 on "A Facet of Australian History - Australia's Mining Rushes" a question time followed the thought provoking address.

The City of Nunawading Council has greatly assisted the work of the Society by making available, once again, an annual grant. This is very encouraging and ensures that our functions of Research and Preservation can continue to expand. The Society deeply appreciates the assistance given by the Council Staff over the past year, whilst we have been engaged on our Centenary Year Programme.

The Society welcomes to its numbers 8 new members, who have joined us in the past year. We look forward to their full participation and hope that increased membership will be achieved in 1973.

The President and the Secretary wish to express their thanks and appreciation to members, who have given of their time and abilities during the past year's busy programme, the success of these efforts has been largely due to the contribution made by each member. We ask for your continued support as we enter another year in the life of the Nunawading Historical Society.

M. Chatwin - President

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CHURCHES OF NUNAWADING (PAST AND PRESENT) Series 9

The Catholics (Part 5)
St.Philip's Nth.Blackburn & St. Luke's Sth.Blackburn.

These two parishes were created from the parish of St Thomas the Apostle, Blackburn, to meet the needs of the Catholics in North and South Blackburn, as these areas grew from orchards to residential. Land for St.Philip's was bought in 1962, being 4 acres in Junction Rd. For St.Luke's the land was purchased in 1958 in Orchard Gve.

On completion of a church-school at St.Luke's in 1962, the school was opened with two classes, the building being used as a school during the week and a church on Sundays. In 1963 Blackburn South became a separate parish, with Fr.F.Larsen as its first Parish Priest. He remained in the parish for the next 6½ years. Within 12 months the first real classrooms were built and the original building was able to be set up as a church permanently, and remains as such today. St.Philip's parish progressed on similar lines, with the first building being a church-school, built in 1964, and school commenced in February 1965. As with St. Luke's the building was used as classrooms on weekdays, and as a church on Sundays, until more classrooms were built, and the original building was used exclusively as a church. St. Philip's was made a parish in 1966 with Fr.Heriot as first Parish Priest.
Both these schools were staffed from St.Thomas's Blackburn, at the beginning and that is the case at present, with St.Philip's, the teachers being Loreto Nuns and lay teachers. A year after commencement of St.Luke's school, a Dutch order of Nuns took charge and are still there, together with lay teachers.

Each of these parish schools have grown from one building and two classes, to complete classes for primary education. After primary level the girls are able to proceed to the Loreto secondary school at St.Thomas's Blackburn and the boys to St.Thomas More College Springvale Road.

As the population of North and South Blackburn grows, both St.Luke's Parish Priest, Father Kennelly and St.Philip's Father Crudden, will look forward to the day they will build new churches, knowing they have ample land for that purpose, thanks to the administrators back in 1958 and 1963.

Researched and compiled by Anis Poussard

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Narre Warren Tour - We have been invited to join the Ringwood Research Group on this excursion on Nov. 25th. More details will be available at our meeting but at the moment we do know that it will cost about $1.50 plus cost of notes. Anyone wishing to go will need to book with your secretary.

1973 Regional Conference - March 17th is the date set by the host Society Knox. The probable programme will be a Tour of the City of Knox, tea, Conference followed by films.

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