NUNAWADING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

February - March 1974 Price 5 cents Number 48

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SYLLABUS FOR 1974

The Syllabus for 1974 is as follows -

February	13	Mrs. Salmon	Wreck of the Loch Ard.
March	13	Mr. V. McNaughton	Tree Preservation Society.
April	10	Mrs. B. Osborne	Story of Bacchus Marsh.
May	8	Cr. J. Willis	Early Nunawading.
June	12	Mr. Alan West	National Museum.
July	10	The Mayor (Cr. N. Webster)	
August	14	School's Night	Dr. Watersun. Monash University. Rural Industry and Regional Development.
September	11	Work Night	
October	9	Annual Meeting	Mrs. Pullen.
November	13	Mr. K. Patterson	Japan.

DISPLAYS

Displays of documents maps and pictures were set up at the Vermont Flower Show in October and in a Chemist's shop in Mitcham during the Christmas period.

EIGHT ANNUAL REPORT == OCTOBER 1973

This year concludes with the Society having been involved in a great variety of activities and interests in their endeavours to extend the knowledge of Australian History in our locality.

MEMBERSHIP: The Society has a membership of 33, comprising 14 family 19 adult and in addition we have 2 Newsletter only subscriptions. We have had an average attendance of 12 members over 8 meetings, and would like to see a greater membership involved in the life of the Society.

MEETINGS: We were privileged to have the following guest speakers at our monthly meetings, Mrs. M. Tipping, President of the Royal Historic Society of Victoria, Mr. K. McIntyre of Box Hill, Cr. F. Taylor, Mayor of Nunawading, Mr. A. West from the National Museum, Mrs. D. Goble MLA for Mitcham, Mrs. J. Field from our own Society and Col. G. Palmer of the Salvation Army.

At our August meeting Dr. Ian Turner from Monash University addressed a gathering of approx 150 HSC students on "World War 1" a topic from the Australian History Syllabus. This was well received by the students who made good use of the question time which followed.
One monthly meeting was a Work Night, when members indexed newspapers or filed and sorted the Societies' collection of cuttings. The committee met on an additional night to file and index our photographs and commenced sorting Estate Plans and Advertisements.
VISITS: On Sunday July 22nd the Wine Cellar at Schwerkolt Cottage officially opened, many members of the Society were present on this occasion.
Members and their friends made up a Party of 37, who travelled by bus to Sorrento on Sunday 16th September 1973. Mr. Ronaldson, President of the Nepean Historical Society acted as our guide to many points of interest, including the First Settlers' Graves; the Site of the old Tramway from Sorrento Pier to the Back Beach and finally the Societies Museum at the old Mechanics Institute. We were fortunate to have permission to enter the Officers' Cadet School and Quarantine area at Portsea and most took advantage of the beautiful day to walk along the track to the very tip of Point Nepean.
The Society is grateful to Mrs. J. Field, who has presented a number of programmes to local schools, to Mrs. Leach who spoke to the Vermont Red Cross Auxiliary, and to Mrs. Mattingley who was guest speaker at St. John's C of E Blackburn.
Acquistions during the year have included, 1904 Rifle from Mr. George Nethercote of Vermont, 2 padlocks from Mr. J. Harris of Blackburn. These padlocks were used at either at the Old Melbourne or Pentridge goals.
The Societies' Officers have met with Councillors to discuss storage of the Societies Archives and the proposed Display Centre in the grounds of Schwerkolt Cottage. No definite plans have yet been presented to the Society for either of these two projects. We are most appreciative of the assistance and attention received when we have approached Councillors and Council Staff with our submissions on behalf of the Society.
FINANCE: Our finances are reasonably healthy thanks to the grants received from the Nunawading Council, we have concluded the year with a deficit of $31.71 and an overall credit balance of $576.20. Thanks.
The office bearers of the Society wish to express their appreciation of the services given readily by members to make possible the many activities of the Society, without their support it would not be possible to be active in our common interest of Australian History.

AUGUST SCHWERKOLT'S WILL FOUND.

A copy of the will of August Schwerkolt has been found in the Public Record Office (formerly Archives). It was made on 10 January 1887,

just six days before his death. His full name was Johann August Schwerkolt and he appointed his second wife Maria Catharine Wilhelmina and her brother John Kruse of Richmond, a marine store proprietor as executors. At the time he had a property in Separation Street, Northcote, as well as the Nunawading farm. His wife was left the Northcote property on condition that she did not sell or mortgage it. The only exception was if she built additional houses on it she could mortgage it to pay for building. She was also left the part of Nunawading property bounded by a creek road and fence, which seems to be the present grounds of the cottage. He mentioned that there was on that land a wine cellar, new house and man's hut. This property was also not to be sold or mortgaged. On his wife's death both properties were to pass to their child or children.

Besides that she was left all the contents of the wine cellar half the cows beehives and stones which had been quarried as well as a large spring cart horse and harness and all the furniture.

All other property was left to his son Louis Schwerkolt on condition that he paid 10/- a week to Maria.

The date of death was 16 January 1889, and his estate was valued for probate at £956/14/8/

August Schwerkolt had several children by his first wife, but only four are mentioned in the will. Apparently, the others were provided for during August's lifetime. He and Maria had only one child, a daughter from whom the Council bought the cottage.

There is no sign of the new house and man's hut on the land. Possibly they were burnt in a bush fire which passed through the property in 1905.

TYNTYNDER HOMESTEAD The last meeting last year in November was particularly well attended as there were 42 present, including five from Box Hill.

Mr. Ross Holloway told the story of the Tyntynder Homestead near Swan Hill illustrated with slides. The homestead dates back to 1846 and has been in the hands only of the Beveridges, who were the original holders, and the Holloways, who took it over in 1876.

The original log cabin is still standing and in daily use but has been enclosed by a brick veneer, which was probably the first example of this type of construction in Australia. There has never been a clearing sale on the property, so all articles and implements that have ever been used are still on the property and all those on display are originals.

Tyntynder Homestead has a National Trust Classification and is regularly open for inspection.

COMING EVENTS. The Matthew Flinders Bi-Centenary is being celebrated by a series of events organised by the South Eastern Regional Committee. There will be displays memorials a re-enactment of his visit to Port Phillip Bay and a ferry cruise following his course around the bay.

The dates are March 16 and 17.

The tenth regional conference will be at the new Box Hill-Doncaster Regional Library on March 30. Box Hill will be host and the main feature

will be a display of photographs and films.

FLOODS OF 1909 Mrs. Mattingley has given us the following stories of floods in 1909. We can hope that the present floods in New South Wales will produce similar stories to be preserved for the next century. In 1909, many areas of Victoria suffered from devastating floods, and in particular, the Wimmera district. Nowadays, these floods cannot occur, because the Wimmera River has long been diverted to the water storage system for the Mallee and Wimmera. However, in August, the Adelaide-Melbourne railway line between Murtoa and Stawell was washed away, and the express bound for Melbourne was held up at Murton for three days. On board was the famous singer Peter Dawson, scheduled to fulfil engagements in Melbourne, also the J. C. Williamson Company. Peter Dawson offered £100 - about a year's wages for many - to anyone who would drive him by buggy to Stawell, about 40 miles away. No-one, however, would attempt such a hazardous journey, and Dawson perforce had to remain, marooned in this country town. Apparently, he decided to make the best of the sojourn, and he gave a concert for the towns-people the first night, and the J. C. W. Co. entertained the towns-people the next night. A marvellous treat for the locals.
Dawson missed his first scheduled concert in Melbourne, and when he did arrive and sing at another, the Melbourne 'Argus' reported that 'Mr. Peter Dawson, who escaped the floods after a wearisome detention at Murtoa, stepped at once, and deservedly, into popular favor.' No account appeared of the country concerts, obviously because all performers would have been under contract for Melbourne. The story was remembered with pleasure by local people who had the good fortune to be present at the concerts so long ago.
On board the train, as well as all the singers, were large quantities of fish. The first day, railway officials refused to dispose of these fish, expecting that the train would proceed the next day. But when the line was still impassable, officials decided to sell the fish - no refrigeration then of course. So the local people had another unexpected treat - they were able to purchase Murray Cod and other unusual dainties from the stock on the train.

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K. A. Patterson - Editor.

NUNAWADING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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APRIL MEETING The speaker at the meeting on April 10 will be Mrs. B. Osborne, authoress of a recently published history of Bacchus Marsh. She will speak on Bacchus Marsh, and as it was the site of one of the earliest stations near Melbourne, with a number of interesting old buildings, she should be able to give us a good insight into the conditions and the spirit of the early settlements. The place of meeting will be the Coffee Shop at the Civic Centre.

MAY MEETING Cr. J. Willis, the oldest and longest serving member of the City Council, will be our speaker at the meeting, on May 8. Cr. Willis was the pioneer of bus services in the Vermont - Mitcham area and has been constantly in the bus business ever since. No-one has a greater knowledge of the district's history during the last fifty years, and he should be able to fill in a lot of gaps for us.

WRECK OF THE LOCH ARD Mrs. Salmon, who was the speaker at our February meeting, is a direct descendant of pioneers of the Port Campbell district, and it was to her ancestors' home that the sole surviving officer came seeking assistance. Mrs. Salmon knows the district intimately, having been a frequent visitor to her grandparents' property for holidays, and often found relics of the ship, particularly portions of the cargo, washed up on the few beaches of the area. Among them there have been china ornaments, which, in spite of having been washed over rocks, have been recovered intact.

AREAS WORTH PRESERVING Mrs. V. McNaughton, President of the Tree Preservation Society, illustrated a talk on the features of Australia which deserved preservation, with a fine set of coloured slides. Her subjects ranged from historical buildings to natural flora and fauna. Her girlhood was spent in the South Australian Barossa Valley, and she commented on the way in which her husband, who was not a native of Australia, gradually came to appreciate the natural features and environment. This was very similar to the feelings of the first

settlers, who felt they were in an alien land, and tried to establish plants, birds and animals from Europe, which were more familiar to them. Among her pictures there were some of the Burra copper field, including houses cut into the bank of a creek, interesting buildings in various parts of South Australia and Victoria, various types of vegetation and flowers in different parts, including the Little Desert, and, finally photographs of many small birds which frequent her garden in Vermont.

NEW MEMBERS We wish to welcome a number of new members and in doing so we hope that they will find the history of our district of great interest and will assist with research into the origins of various organisations, the development of building and industry and the activities of early families in Nunawading.

EXCURSIONS The committee is considering excursions for the year and at the last meeting a number of suggestions were made about places which would be worth a visit. Any others will also be considered. At present the proposed excursions, from which a selection will be made are:- Half Day - Ripponlea. Full Day - Moe Folk Museum, perhaps including the Coal Creek Museum at Leongatha. Bendigo, including the Central Deborah mine, tram, Joss House and Pottery works Trentham - Blackwood, including goldfields, a poineer farm and unfrequented mountain country. Weekend - Beechworth and district.

ORCHARD EQUIPMENT FOR MUSEUM Mr. D. Livermore has now given some orchard equipment for our proposed museum. The main item is a two-wheeled cart which was built early this century. He will be giving us a written account of how and when it was built and the use made of it. All the items in this gift are now stored at the Council depot.

MITCHAM SCOTTISH SOCIETY We do not hear a great deal about the Mitcham Scottish Society, but it has quietly accomplished some useful work. It was formed at a meeting at the home of Mr. & Mrs. F. Bawden, 2 Delhi Street, Mitcham, on 1st April, 1955. Its aims were to promote goodwill and friendship; assist in charitable work; foster and help to preserve Scottish tradition and folk-lore and to aid and develop a Pipe Band.

BOOKS FROM A. A. HOOKE ESTATE Two books have been given to the Society from the A. A. Hooke Estate. While not connected in any way with the history of Nunawading, they are of interest for literary history. One is "Hymns in Prose for Children," by Anna Laetitia Barbould (1743 - 1825). This is notable for the way in which it paraphrased biblical passages and reduced them to a greater simplicity for children. Mrs. Barbould was a very gifted teacher of young children and produced many educational publications, all of which show the influence of the Evangelical Movement in the Church of England at the time.

"Divine and Moral Songs" by Isaac Watts, an Independent minister, who was one of the first hymn-writers in England to defy the harshness of some non-comformist creeds. He made hymn singing a regular part of church services long before it was universally acceptable, and these songs, designed for children, are very simply, easily learned and remembered.
We have also received from the estate one of the old screw-down type paper presses and two old sewing machines.

THE SHEEHAN FAMILY Sheehans road runs north from Canterbury Road, between Middleborough Road and Main Street. The area is now completely covered with houses, but it was until comparatively recently an orchard and was occupied by a family which was notable in the Australian Public Service.
It was developed as an orchard about 1894-5 by Arthur and Elizabeth Malcolm Sheehan, and was quite a landmark as it was surrounded by pine trees. They had six sons and two daughters. The two eldest sons took a leading part in the construction of the first railway across the Nullabor Plain to Western Australia. The eldest was a mechanical engineer and the second chief car designer. The second son died in U.S.A. while on a visit for the Commonwealth Railways.
The third son, Harry, was for some time secretary to the Commonwealth Treasury before becoming Governor of the Commonwealth Bank. He received the C.B.E. in 1928 and was knighted in 1937. The fourth son died while abroad with the A.I.F., and the orchard was carried on by the two youngest when they returned with the A.I.F. and Australia Flying Corps respectively. The youngest served again in the Second World War with the Royal Australian Air Rorce, then retired to Queensland, leaving his brother George to continue with the orchard. He sub-divided the land in 1952, and died in 1961. The original family home was built in 1903, and they lived in it until 1968, when the two daughters built a new house for themselves on part of the property.
Occupiers of the first houses on the sub-division have vivid memories of George Sheehan, a big up-standing man, constantly moving among the houses which were being built, walking stick in hand and accompanied by a red setter dog. Buyers had to be personally approved by him before they could begin building and in one case he refused the owner of a transport line because "I'm not going to have you parking your big trucks in the street and disturbing the residents."
Besides Sheehans road, which was for a short time known as Hall's Lane, Malcolm street commemorates Mrs. Sheehan and Harry street Sir Harry Sheehan.

FLINDERS BI-CENTENARY Celebrations of the Flinders Bi-Centenary began on March 16 and continued almost every day until March 31. Preliminary events began on March 1 when a Flinders Exhibition was opened at the La Trobe Library. This will continue until April 29. There were also broadcast programmes, mostly to schools, and a dramatic presentation of Ernestine Hill's "My Love Must Wait." Other exhibitions were opened at various places on the Mornington Peninsula and at Geelong. A number of other displays and exhibitions. of an historic interest were also presented, mostly in various business houses in Melbourne.

The actual celebrations of his arrival in Port Phillip Bay began with a ceremony at the Flinders monument, St. Paul's Cathedral, on March 16, from which a "Flinders Torch" was carried to the Shrine of Remembrance and Arthurs Seat, with ceremonies at various places on the way. A re-enactment of his landing at Safety Beach, and his visit to Arthur's Seat followed.

On following days there were orations and many other events, including yacht races and sporting events, addresses, musical programmes with a background of Australian history and openings of new headquarters of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria and a new wing of the Matthew Flinders Girls' High School in Geelong.

A history, "Matthew Flinders on the Victorian Coast" by K. A. Austin has been commissioned for the Bi-Centenary by the Government of Vic.

GRAVES OF PIONEERS Many of our pioneers were buried in the Box Hill cemetery and it is easy to find their graves. Running through the burial register from the date of opening the cemetery in 1873 to 1911 the following Nunawading families were noted:-

CLISBY - William Clisby bought land on the north side of White Horse Road, near Williams Road at the first sales in 1855.

Name				Date of Burial
Allan Frederic,	4 months	Box Hill	Wesleyan	21/4/75
Frances Agnes	38 years	Box Hill	Wesleyan	31/12/77
H.S.			Wesleyan	11/6/87
William (teacher)	49 years	Box Hill	Wesleyan	26/8/80

SCHWERKOLT - August Schwerkolt bought land on Deep Creek, Mitcham in 1861 and built the Schwerkolt Cottage.

Paulina	Nunawading	C. of E.		3/1/84
Bertha Maria child	Ringwood	C. of E.		8/12/85
August		C. of E.		17/1/87
Violet	Richmond	C. of E.		5/1/98
Clara Ruby	15 years	Prahran	C. of E.	31/8/1909

KEFFORD - R. Kefford bought land in Canterbury Road, where the Forest Hill shopping centre now stands, at the earliest sales in 1856.

Bertha	6 weeks	Nunawading	C. of E.	16/3/81
W.A.	Infant	Box Hill	C. of E.	4/7/87

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JUNE MEETING

The speaker at the June 12 meeting will be Mr. Alan West, of the National Museum. Mr. West has spent a great deal of time with the Pitjantjara tribe of aborigines in Central Australia, and will describe them and their manner of life. We meet, as usual, in the Coffee shop at the Civic Centre.

JULY MEETING

We will be guests of the mayor (Cr. N. Taylor) at our meeting on July 10. Unlike similar meetings in the past, this will take the form of a gathering of people with similar interests in this and neighbouring municipalities. It will begin with sherry at 7.30 p.m., followed by films in the Willis Room at the Library, and probably a discussion of matters of mutual interest. Historical societies from surrounding cities have also been invited.

PRESERVING BACCHUS MARSH HISTORY

Mrs. Betty Osborn, authoress of a history of Bacchus Marsh, gave us a racy account at our April meeting of how the Manor House and Captain Bacchus' grave had been saved and restored. When she first arrived in the town there was a ruined building she was told was the Manor House, which meant nothing to her. It was later bought and restored to its original condition by a couple who worked devotedly to complete the work, arousing the interest of some local people. Later a bulldozer was seen levelling graves around Holy Trinity Church, including that of Captain Bacchus. In an a atmosphere of controversy and local divisions a newly formed Historical Society managed to save something of the graveyard and now the town has the Manor House. Holy Trinity Church and Bacchus' grave preserved and restored as well as a fine pair of silver candle-sticks given to the church by a descendant of Captain Bacchus.

NUNAWADING COUNCIL'S ACTIVITIES

Cr. J. Willis, who has been a member of the local Council since the days of the Shire of Blackburn and Mitcham, told our May meeting stories of some early developments such as the Mitcham and Vermont Progress

Association, Baby Health and Pre-School Centres, how Antonia Park was acquired and a Fire Brigade was started. He said that people had always responded well to calls for community work. As schools and other activities increased councillors had become so involved that they had engagements three or four nights a week. There were some brilliant young men on the council at present, but he wondered how long they would be able to sustain the pressure of work. During its existence the council had bought properties costing $5,000,000. It would have been possible to buy more land advantageously but the council had neither the money nor the borrowing powers to finance the outlay.

EXCURSION TO STEIGLITZ AND BACCHUS MARSH

On Saturday, June 8, we intend to visit Steiglitz and Bacchus Marsh. Our plans are for members and their friends to participate in the tour in their own cars. The meeting place will be the Werribee turn-off on the Geelong road, and the time 10.00 a.m. This is about 1¼ hours travel from Nunawading. When all cars have arrived we will travel through Werribee, skirt the northern edge of the You Yangs Reserve, then westward to the ghost town of Steiglitz, where gold was found in quartz in 1855. The Court House, Built 1874/5, Church of England 1869, State School 1875, Pioneer Cemetery, quartz cairn and numerous mine shafts remain from what was a thriving town of 2,000 people.

After a picnic lunch at Steiglitz we will travel north close by the Brisbane Ranges to Bacchus Marsh, meeting at Holy Trinity Church at 2.15 p.m., where we will meet a guide from Bacchus Marsh Historical Society. Captain Bacchus settled there in 1838 and began building the Manor House in 1846. It now has a National Trust classification. After completing the tour members can return via the Western Highway. The round trip will be about 130 miles.

Further information can be obtained from Mr. M. Chatwin, phone 874-2487.

EXCURSIONS Ripponlea. Behind a high fence on a main street, close to a railway station and tramway, "Ripponlea" was a surprise for those who visited it on April 20. The former residence of Sir Frederick Sargood stands in extensive grounds, which include wide lawns, a large lake, waterfalls, landscaped gardens, groves of old trees and a large fernery under steel arches more than thirty feet high. The grounds must be extremely attractive in Spring and Autumn. The house itself is only partly open to public. It is very large, three-storied, in typical 19th century style with a

portice to shelter carriages stopping at the front door and observatory tower. It had recently been given to the National Trust and is likely to be regularly open for inspection.

INALA AND CEMETERY

Inala, the Salvation Army's Old People's Village in Middleborough road, which was visited on May 11 was another surprise. An inconspicuous entrance leads to 20 acres of land with rows of small cottages, blocks of flats, and single rooms for men. The population is 480, plus staff, and it has its own shop, telephone exchange, bank, social amenities and two hospital wards, one for minor cases, the other for more serious ones. Flats are arranged around garden courts which are roofed with fibreglass so that they are wholly weatherproof. An additional women's block will shortly be built because of the demand of accommodation. Immediately after that we were shown over Box Hill Cemetery by Mr. R. Allingham, chairman of the trustees, who spoke of its history and showed us a number of interesting headstones and graves, including those of well-known local pioneers.

WHAT IS IT?

An alert boy had told us about a mysterious piece of machinery on the north bank of Mullum Creek. It is in an excavation which provides a level base and a similar excavation a few yards away was apparently also connected with it. About fifty yards downstream there is a crude dam of stone about four feet high. The machine is similar to some kerosine engines made seventy years ago and has moulded on the side, "Blackstone, Stamford, England." Three pulley wheels of varying sizes seem designed to drive other machinery, possibly a pump, by belt drive. Although it is out of our area we are hoping to find out more about it and how it was used.

THE BATTLING SHIRE PRESIDENT

Shire presidents are usually dignified figures and successful men. Who could think of one as a battling selector finding it hard to pay for his land? Our first president, William Witt, was. He owned 146 acres on the south-west corner of Whitehorse and Heatherdale roads, and 33 acres at Ballyshanessy (Burwood). Allotment 131, of 143 acres, in the north-west angle of Heatherdale and Canterbury roads, was the last piece of crown land left when he applied for it in May 1874, as a normal selection, payable over ten years. He described himself as a grazier and gave his address as Ballyshanessy. By the terms of selection he had to make various improvements and cultivate at least one-tenth of the land. In 1876 the land was forfeited because he had not made

the annual payment. He appealed, saying he had spent £220 on the land, had cleared it of tea-tree and undergrowth, fenced it all and had 20 acres ready for the plough. It was to lie fallow that summer before being cropped in the autumn. At the time he was working mostly on his orchard, farm and grazing land. He apparently succeeded because he made the final payment in 1879 and received the freehold.

PIONEERS' GRAVES

The following additional pioneers' graves are to be found in Box Hill cemetery:-

Name		Date of Burial
Rooks - Abraham Rooks selected land in Canterbury road, at the corner of Rooks road in 1868.		
Abraham	Wesleyan	2/9/89
Luke G.	Mitcham, Wesleyan	9/10/91
Sarah	Vermont	3/1/96
Violet Elsie	Vermont, C of E	27/4/99
Boyle - David Boyle selected land near the corner of Canterbury and Mt. Pleasant roads, in 1868 and established a plant nursery. He was the first secretary of the Local Committee which established what is now Vermont State School.		
David	Wood-carter, Nunawading, Wesleyan	18/9/74
David	Wesleyan	1/9/75
Joseph	10 days, Nunawading, Wesleyan	30/9/81
Slater - William Slater arrived in Nunawading in 1868, bought land on the Koonung Creek, North Blackburn and established a herb farm and orchard from which he exported medicinal herbs to England and eucalyptus oil to America.		
Daniel	27½ years, gentleman, Nunawading, Independent	25/7/76
W.H.	Blackburn Presbyterian	4/6/97
McGlone - William John McGlone was the first policeman in Mitcham and owned the Harvest Home Hotel, just west of the present Catholic Church.		
John	63 years, Mitcham, Catholic	3/9/92
Course - William Course bought land on the south side of Canterbury road, near McClare road, about 1880.		
Sarah	Mt. Pleasant, Wesleyan	21/1/97
Herbert	Vermont, Wesleyan	25/6/97
William	81 years, Tunstall, Methodist	5/3/1909

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AUGUST MEETING

Our Annual Schools Night will be on 14 August in the Willis Room, Nunawading City Library, at the Civic Centre. Our speaker will be Dr. Watersun, of Monash University and his subject will be "Rural Industry and Regional Development." This will be a good opportunity for obtaining more serious historical information than usual and promises to open up for us some new aspects of Australian development. The meeting place will, we expect, be an improvement on our usual venue.

SEPTEMBER MEETING

On our programme the September meeting was to be a Work Night. We have now found that many members, including most office-bearers, will be absent. In the circumstances it has been decided to cancel the meeting, and the next meeting will be the Annual Meeting in October.

DECEMBER MEETING

We have usually suspended meetings during December and January, but find this is too long a break, so there will be an additional meeting on December 11. It is intended to make it a more social occasion than usual and two members have undertaken to tell their family histories. This may give others an idea of how to prepare a history of their families.

ABORIGINAL ART

Mr. Alan West, of the National Museum, showed pictures of aboriginal drawings in caves of Victoria and Central Australia, which he has been studying. He is particularly interested in the Pintjinjarra tribe and has spent some time living with them to investigate the meanings of their paintings.

MAYOR'S RECEPTION

We have to thank the Mayor (Cr. N. Webster) for the reception at our July meeting. Members of neighbouring societies were also invited and about 80 were present. After a social interval, films were shown in the Willis Room, including one of Nunawading, made by the local Film Society, and one of Swedish conservation projects. There was then an opportunity for general discussion of what various societies are doing and projects they have in hand, including museums, research and local histories. After the formal discussion talks continued over supper and developed a greater knowledge of people with similar interests in neighbouring districts, and how they work.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The annual meeting and election of officers will be October 9th. A nomination form is enclosed for all members, as it may be difficult to lodge them before October.

EXCURSION TO STEIGLITZ AND BACCHUS MARSH

Our excursion to Steiglitz and Bacchus Marsh on June 8 was a most interesting day. Twenty members were present in spite of a cold day and occasional showers. Steiglitz, in the Geelong area, was a surprise for those who had never visited it. Gold was discovered in the area in 1855, leading to sinking of deep shafts to follow quartz leads. Three or four scattered houses, a substantial but unused Court House, a barn-like structure which used to be a general store, both classified or noted by the National Trust, memorial cairn, mine shafts, mullock heaps, two cemeteries and various other scattered relics cover the site of what used to be a town of 2,000 people. Streets can still be traced through vacant land and an excellent picnic ground was a good place for lunch. After that we went to Bacchus Marsh and met Mr. Payne, secretary of Bacchus Marsh Historical Society, who explained why the town is where it is instead of the planned sites of Maddingley or Darley, then showed us over Holy Trinity Church, Captain Bacchus' grave, the restored Manor House, a tree from which all surveys were made, a chicory kiln, police lock-ups dating from gold rush days, the line of an early irrigation channel and many other interesting places in the town.

STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

We have had a request from Mrs. Ellen McCulloch, 6 Bullen Ave., Mitcham, for any information about design motifs in stained glass windows, using Australian animals. Early designs from Europe used European scenes, including birds, flowers and butterflies.

It seems that about 1920 Brooks Robinson began using Australian motifs Mrs. McCullock would be interested in any photographs, sketches or tracings, but even a brief description or reference would be helpful.

EXHIBITION OF TILES

We have had an exhibition of ornamental tiles and other ceramic goods in the Nunawading Library. The main exhibit was a collection of tiles produced by the Australian Tesselated Tile Company of Mitcham, which were rescued when the company's buildings were demolished a few years ago. They contrasted with some English tiles from a demolished building in the city. Other items were locally produced glaze pots, samples of glazes and documents referring to the companies concerned.

T.R.B. Morton's House for Sale

No. 2 Gordon Crescent, which was built by T.R.B. Morton about 1889, when there were only four houses in the area, was advertised for sale by auction on Saturday, 3 August. Its site was chosen as the best in the district because Morton was secretary of the Freehold Investment and Banking Company, one of the most active Land Boom speculators. The company had bought about thirty small farms in the district and designed the rising ground south of Blackburn railway station as a high-class residential area. Mr. Morton was elected to the Nunawading Shire Council in 1888 and remained a member until his death in 1923, except for a period of two years 1897-9, when he was trying to overcome financial difficulties after the bursting of the Boom. He was president of the Council four times. Owing to the time needed for preparing this Newsletter it has been impossible to include the result of the auction. Passed in at $69.000

VICTORIA THROUGH THE LENS

An exhibition of photographs of Victoria during the early years, and early photographic equipment, is opening at the La Trobe Library on Wednesday, July 31, and will continue until September 29. Most of the pictures have come from the Library's Historical Collection and the equipment from the Science Museum.

SELECTION OF MITCHAM LAND

In 1870, when land selection began in earnest, only a few pieces of land were still unoccupied in Nunawading. One was the triangular piece of land, about 12 acres in area, between Mitcham and East Doncaster roads, Mitcham. Charles Smith, a bootmaker, applied for it and was granted an occupation licence on 12/12/1871. On fulfilling the conditions of fencing the land, living on or near it, cultivating

at least one-tenth, making improvements to the value of $1. an acre and paying 2/- an acre a year rent within three years, he received a lease for seven years, after which he would own the freehold. His cultivation was mainly planting fruit trees, but within eighteen months of receiving the lease he sold out to John Cook.

WILLIAM WITT, M.L.A.

The first President of the Shire of Nunawading was for a time a member of the Legislative Assembly. He was elected as member for the Murray electorate on 9 April 1874 and served only one term, losing his seat at the next election on 1877.

HOW WRONG CAN YOU BE?

It was about 1879, just as the railway line from Melbourne to Sale was being completed, that two selectors vigorously disputed occupancy of land on the railway in the parish of Maryvale. While they were arguing a surveyor marked out a new town in such a way that one would be prevented from taking the land he wanted. Appeals and arguments followed until one enlisted the support of the local member of Parliament, who wrote on his behalf to the Minister for Lands. The member said that the survey of the new town had been made only to prevent his client from taking up land, adding, "If you knew the country as I know it you would smile at the thought that there will ever be a town at Maryvale." The site surveyed is now occupied by the town of Morwell.

PIONEERS' GRAVES

Here is another selection of graves of pioneers in Box Hill Cemetery.

Name				Date of Burial
Matters	John Matters came from Box Hill in 1868 to select 25 acres in White Horse road, just east of Springvale road.			
Mary	2½years	Nunawading	Independent	1/10/77
Margaret				14/4/87
William	66years	Vermont	C. of E.	9/10/1902.

K. A. PATTERSEN
Editor.

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RURAL LONGINGS OF AUSTRALIANS

Dr. Watersun, of the Monash University, spoke on Rural Industry at our August meeting, which was the annual Schools Night. He had devoted a lot of study to the development of the Country Party and the circumstances under which it gained considerable political influence. Early settlers, he thought, had come to Australia with the firm belief that possession of land was synonymous with prosperity and social standing, and they were keen to own their own land. Even today, although conditions are so different that most live in industrialised cities, Australians still have that instinctive desire for their own property and view a quarter-acre building block almost as if it were a 1000-acre farm.

ANNUAL MEETING

The meeting on October 9 will be our Annual Meeting. The Annual Report is included in this Newsletter. It will be presented with the financial statement and there will also be the election of officers. Nomination forms were included in the last Newsletter. Mrs. Pullin, Director of the Royal Historical Society, who was a founder of the Ringwood Historical Society, will be the speaker.

NOVEMBER MEETING

Slides taken on a tour of Japan will be shown by Mr. Patterson on November 13. They will include subjects such as cities, country farms, natural scenery, interesting buildings, gardens, people, houses and Japanese life.

DECEMBER MEETING

This year will end with a more social air than usual at an extra meeting on December 11. Two members will describe their families' histories,

which will probably give others pointers about how to prepare family trees.

NINTH ANNUAL REPORT

The ninth year of the Society has been an active one for the members and office bearers, some progress has been achieved with our objectives.

MEMBERSHIP

The Society has a Membership of Family 17, Adults 18 and Newsletter only 2, we are encouraged by the New Members who have joined us in the past year.

MEETINGS

We were fortunate to have the following Guest Speakers address our Meetings; Mr. Ross Holloway from Tyntynder Homestead near Swan Hill, Mrs. Salmon, whose grandfather assisted in the rescue of the survivors from the "Loch Ard"; Mrs. V. McNaughton from the Blackburn Tree Preservation Society; Mrs. B. Osborn who wrote "The Story of Bacchus Marsh"., Cr. J. Willis who spoke on Early Nunawading, Mr. Alan West from the National Museum, who told of his researches with Aborigines of Central Australia, and finally Dr. Watersun from Monash University, who lectured sixth form Students on "Rural Industry and Regional Development". At our July Meeting our Society, together with members from other Societies in our Region, were guests of our Mayor, Cr. Noel Webster, at a Reception at the Civic Centre. Three films were shown, including one of Nunawading made by the Blackburn Film Society. A discussion followed on the Aims and the progress Societies were making in their various areas; this was continued over supper. Our thanks to the Mayor for giving us the opportunity to gather informally with Societies of the Eastern Region.

VISITS

The Society arranged visits to a variety of Historical areas. The attendance was encouraging. They included the National Trust Property 'Ripon Lea', 'Inala Village' Blackburn, Box Hill Cemetery, Steiglitz, a Gold Mining Ghost Town West of the You Yangs and a guided tour around Bacchus Marsh led by the Secretary of the local Society.

FINANCE

Once again we were fortunate to receive a Grant from the City of Nunawading. We do value this assistance and express our appreciation to the Council.

Our Financial Statement is good due to this Grant. There are a number of Projects we would like to promote, but the Committee wishes to save our resources for the Proposed Display Centre to be built in the surroundings of Schwerkolt Cottage in the not too distant future. This will require all our finance to establish the Displays.

ACQUISITIONS

The Society was given custody of a Gold Watch by Miss B. Neilson, who reported for the Box Hill Reporter the proceedings of the Shire of Blackburn and Mitcham from 1927 to 1930. The Watch was presented by the Shire to Miss Neilson for her faithful reporting, when she resigned from the Local Paper to join the staff of the Melbourne Age.

A large Orchard at Vermont, owned by Mr. D. Livermore closed in the last year. The Society was presented with an Orchard Jingle, Harness and a Harvey Plough. These implements were all used in the Orchard and are now stored at the Council Depot until they can be displayed.

A copy of the Will of August Schwerkolt, dated 10 January 1887, was found in the Public Record Office. A copy of the Will is now in the Archives of the Society.

DISPLAYS

Displays were arranged by our members at the Vermont Flower Show, a Pharmacy at Mitcham and of Tiles in the Nunawading Library.

SPEAKERS

The society was asked to provide speakers at various group meetings within the City. The Committee thanks members who readily responded to these requests.

REGIONAL MEETING

The Regional Meeting for Historical Societies was hosted by the Box Hill Society last March. A well attended gathering viewed a film of Box Hill, England and an ABC film on the Artists Camp at Box Hill in 1885. This was followed by reports from other Societies and Supper. Congratulations to Box Hill Society for an excellent Regional Meeting.

ADVERTISEMENTS

The Committee has been anxious to promote the Society as widely as possible. To this end it was decided to advertise our monthly Meeting in the Nunawading Gazette. This has had an encouraging response and has resulted in new Members joining our Society.

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NEWSLETTER

The Societies Newsletter has been published bi-monthly. The material for each issue has been gathered and edited by Mr. K. Patterson. We are indebted to him and express our thanks for the high standard of the Newsletter.

Finally, we thank all who have in the past year contributed to the life of the Society. We look forward to further progress in 1975, when we hope that some of our goals will be achieved and further History of Nunawading will be recorded.

WHAT IS IT?

Earlier this year we referred to a mysterious piece of machinery on the bank of the Mullum Creek. Doncaster Historical Society has solved the mystery. It was installed by one of their members, Mr. Petty in 1936 to pump water for his orchard. The engine was 10 h.p. with one piston 6½ in. diameter and piston pad of three feet. There were two flywheels three feet in diameter. It ran on power kerosene and was started by heating a hot bowl with a blow lamp. A charge would then be drawn in by holding a valve open, it would then be closed and by standing on the spokes of the flywheel the piston would be thrown against compression, which fired the charge. A fuel tank holding eight gallons was built into the engine block and it would run all day without attention. After being in constant use until 1962 without any need for repair it was burnt during the bush fires that year. The bank of the creek is very steep, and to get the engine in place Mr. Petty disconnected the flywheels from the piston, attached the engine to a winch, laid planks down to its position and let it run down on the flywheels. Another member of the society, Mr. Beavis, is now trying to restore it to working order for his own use. If he cannot get it going, it will probably be exhibited in an orchard museum they are preparing

PIONEERS BURIED IN BOX HILL CEMETERY

Name		Section	Date of Burial
EMERY	The land around Mitcham station was owned by Emery at the time the railways was built, and Mitcham was at first called "Emery's Hill".		
Henry	Nunawading Hotel-Keeper	Catholic	23.1.1875
Margaret	Mitcham	Catholic	7.12.1884

K. A. PATTERSEN
Editor.