NUNAWADING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

February - March 1975 Price 5 cents Number 53

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Pres. Mrs. J. Webster
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Sec. Mr. C. Tilson
8 Pearcedale Gve.
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Tres. Mr. I. Barker,
14 Tortice Ave.
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OFFICERS FOR 1975

The following office-bearers were elected at the annual meeting last October:-

President - Mrs. J. Webster, 674 Canterbury Rd., Vermont.
Vice-President - Mr. M. Chatwin, 44 McCulloch St., Nunawading.
Secretary - Mr. C. Tilson, 8 Pearcedale Gve., Nunawading.
Treasurer - Mr. I. Barker, 14 Tortice Ave., Nunawading.

Committee - Mesdames J. Field, W. Leach, H. Dewhurst.
- Misses N. McGaw, M. Gibbs, Mr. K. Patterson.

PROGRAMME FOR 1975.

Several organisations which we have asked to provide speakers have not yet replied. Definite arrangements have been made for the following meetings:-

February 12. Mr. Peter Williams of the Maritime Trust will speak of the Cerberus and other notable ships.

March 12. Mr. Brownlea, president of the Genealogical Society, will tell us what material is available for those who wish to prepare a family tree and research their family history.

July 9. Mayor's Night.

October 8. Annual Meeting. Mr. Alan West of the National Museum.

November 12. Mrs. J. Field.

OCTOBER MEETING

Mrs. Pullin, of Ringwood, who has just taken over as Director of the

OCTOBER MEETING contd..
Royal Historical Society described the activities of the Society at our annual meeting, particularly about the regional and biennial conferences and cataloguing of its library. A local society, she said, does not have to have a large membership to do a worthwhile job. Provided it has a keen core it will be an effective organisation.

NOVEMBER MEETING.
Several visitors from the La Trobe Library and Public Records Office helped to make the meeting interesting. Mr. Patterson showed pictures from a tour of Japan, which gave us a good general impression of the country and the life of Japanese.

DECEMBER MEETING.
This was the first occasion on which we have met in December. The programme was largely informal with Mrs. Field and Mr. Patterson describing their family histories. These were nicely contrasting. Mrs. Field concentrated on her mother's family, which can trace its descent back some hundreds of years. They were occupied with pastoral pioneering in Western Australia, mostly in the northern part of the state. Mr. Patterson's ancestors were agricultural labourers, and the family, since coming to Australia, had been mostly engaged in land selection in different parts of Victoria.

EXHIBITIONS.
Two exhibitions have been presented during November and December. When the South Vermont shopping centre was opened the Commercial Bank asked us to present an exhibition there. Mrs. Webster prepared a good selection of material, partly of maps, photographs and documents in our collection, and partly of similar material from some of the old residents in the Vermont area. We expect that copies of some of that material will be added to our collection.
The other exhibition was mainly of clothes dating from about 1900, including a wedding dress, shawl, part of a trousseau of underwear. They were supplied by Mrs. Field and Mrs. Uhl, with some items from Schwerkolt Cottage, and were on display at the Library. A single-furrow plough, made at Foster about 1880, which is part of the agricultural implement display at the Cottage, was included, with pictures showing how such ploughs were used, for the information of those who have never seen them.

MUSEUM BUILDING.

After a discussion with the city engineer about the proposed museum building we are hopeful that it will soon be built. Plans have been prepared and we are at the stage of discussing such details as flooring, cupboards and the arrangement of display space.

THESIS ON TILES.

A copy of a thesis on Ceramic Tiles, by Miss Jennifer Bennetts, has been prepared for the Society. In a general review of the foundation and development of tile manufacture in Melbourne, Miss Bennetts has a long chapter devoted to the Australian Tesselated Tile Works, of Mitcham, and the work of Mr. E.E. Walker. The main impression gained from a reading of the thesis is that the Mitcham works were the main tile works of Australia, and of even greater importance than we have realised.

A QUARRY IN BORONIA ROAD.

What do people near the junction of Morack and Boronia Roads think of their land?

When land in that area was selected during the late 1860's an allotment of about 30 acres was left. The Nunawading District Roads Board asked in March 1869 that land be reserved for a quarry. A note was made on the Lands Department's file, "Mr. Bage's assistant laid out four 80-acre blocks under 42nd section, leaving an allotment of 30 acres in the middle, which is not likely to be taken up by anyone on account of its stony nature. He was informed it would not be any use to anyone unless it was taken up for quarrying purposes. I suggest the Board have it pointed out to them as the one that can be temporarily set aside for quarrying purposes." Two or three years later this allotment was selected by John Brown, the first head teacher of Vermont State School, who tried to combine teaching and farming. After three years he had to make a declaration of what he had done with it. He said he had cultivated only one or two acres because the soil was very light and needed trenching and manuring before anything could be done with it.

INTEREST IN SCHWERKOLT COTTAGE.

Schwerkolt Cottage is having many more visitors now than previously. Some effective publicity seems to have stimulated interest and it is mentioned in a new book of tours produced by the Herald Touring Club.

"PUT THE RABBITS IN".

Extract from a letter received by the Lands Department in 1867 from a man applying for a renewal of a licence to occupy some land at Baringhup,

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"PUT THE RABBITS IN" contd..

"I shall have it all fenced with a stone wall five feet high and I have made a dam on it, value £25 and then I shall be able to put the rabbits in."

PIONEERS BURIED IN BOX HILL CEMETERY.

Name	Section	Date of Burial
JOYNER	One of the first owners of the land on the north-west corner of Canterbury and Springvale Roads. He was an elder among the Fisherites.	
	James 82 years Blackburn Methodist	10/10/1904
JOBBINS	Took up land at the south-east corner of Canterbury and Terrara Roads, Vermont, about 1868. He was described as a gentleman from Prahran. A member of the Fisherites.	
	Thomas 88 years Wesleyan	1/9/1901
KEENAN	Took up land in what is now Vermont Shopping Centre, about 1868.	
	Margaret Ringwood	29/6/84
	John Owen 67 years Catholic	28/5/1903
WILLIAMS	Land along Middleborough Road, on both sides of Whitehorse Road, was bought by Williams at the first land sale 1855. As there were several families of Williams these may not be related.	
	Alfred Isaac Nunawading Wesleyan	6/3/75
	Bertha Child Mitcham Public	28/3/89
	Samuel Mitcham C. of E.	6/12/91
	Bessie Emily Mitcham Public	2/1/1903
ANTONIO	The family after which Antonio Park is named. Bought land in Whitehorse Road about the same time as Schwerkolt.	
	F.W. Mitcham C. of E.	2/8/97
McCLELLAND	John McClelland took up land in Whitehorse Road, Mitcham about 1867.	
	John 9½ years Nunawading C. of E.	14/3/77

K. A. PATTERSON,
Editor.

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MUNICIPAL JUBILEE.

This year is the 50th anniversary of the formation of the Shire of Blackburn and Mitcham, which is now the City of Nunawading. Important dates in the development of local government in this area are:-

1857 Formation of the Nunawading & District Roads Board.
1872 Roads Board becomes Shire of Nunawading, with greater powers and responsibilities, together with authority to borrow for municipal works, such as road construction.
1925 Shire of Nunawading divided into the Borough (now City) of Box Hill and Shire of Blackburn and Mitcham.
1945 Shire of Blackburn and Mitcham becomes City of Nunawading.

To celebrate this anniversary we will be combining with the Box Hill Historical Society at its meeting on 24th April, instead of holding our usual monthly meeting. The speaker will be Mrs. Morgan, a member of the Box Hill Society, whose subject will be The Shire of Nunawading 100 years ago. They meet at the Box Hill Library, Whitehorse Road.

FEBRUARY MEETING - The Cerberus.

Mr. Peter Williams of the Maritime Trust spoke of the "Cerberus", which the Trust is trying to preserve. This ship, launched in 1870, is one of the most notable ships ever built, because it was the first warship to be built entirely of iron, the first to rely entirely on steam and the first successful turret gun ship, mounting four 10-inch rifled guns in two turrets. It was designed for the defence of Port Phillip and was flagship of the Victorian naval squadron, the first colonial naval force independent of the Admiralty. It remained in service until World War 1 and when sold for scrap in 1923 it was found so difficult to cut away the

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armour plate that after removing everything they could the buyers sold it for a breakwater. It is still in good condition and they think it can be refloated quite easily.

MARCH MEETING - Family Geneology.

Mr. Brownlee, president of the Geneological Society, gave us an outline of how to go about establishing a family tree. He advised obtaining death certificates, which give considerable personal and family details, and working from them through other records available. The most complete particulars can be obtained if there were ever heraldic arms granted to the family, because each grant gives a full pedigree of the grantee.

MAY MEETING

There will be a speaker from the National Trust at the meeting on May 14th. Please note that the meeting place for all regular meetings this year will be at the Nunawading Methodist Church, near the corner of Springvale and Whitehorse Roads.

SCHOOLS NIGHT

Professor Shaw of Monash University will be the speaker at our Schools Night in August. His subject will be "Convicts".

EXCURSION IN MAY

Our first excursion for the year will be to the new Kryal Castle, near Ballarat, on Saturday May 3rd. Plans are for members to go in their own cars, meeting at the Civic Centre at 9.15 a.m., and leaving at 9.30 a.m. Anyone who is unable to go by car, it is suggested, may find a seat in one that is going, on making a donation of 50 cents, which will go towards equipping the proposed Museum. Admission to the Castle is $1.50, children $1. Bring your own lunch.

STORAGE OF DOCUMENTS

We have now been given a four-drawer filing cabinet by the Council, and a place to keep it in the Council's own Archives area. All the documents we have are now stored in it, Mr. Patterson has a key. Documents may be borrowed for exhibitions to illustrate talks, or for other purposes, and a Loan Register is kept with them as a safeguard against loss. There are possibly a number of documents still in cupboards and drawers of members' homes which should be in the cabinet. If you have any, please bring them in. They can be sorted and filed in order, and clear some space in your own place.

REGIONAL MEETING

Doncaster & Templestowe Society were hosts at the Regional meeting on

March 22nd, as part of Doncaster's centenary year celebration. After a tour of the district and dinner two descendants of the pioneers described the machinery used in orcharding and how they took produce to market and the president Mrs. Green spoke about conditions in the district and what it had been originally. Doncaster & Templestowe won the prize for the best Newsletter and the society has been given a model of the old Doncaster tower. There will be a number of other events during the centenary celebrations which may be of interest to us.
It is likely that there will be a Regional business meeting later in the year.

"EXPERIMENTAL BOTANICAL PURPOSES"

Although it is on the wrong side of the border there is something interesting for us in a Lands Department file of 1867. The land is now known as the R.H.L. Sparks Reserve, cnr. Canterbury and Middleborough Roads. The creek runs from near Laburnum State School and is underground until it crosses Canterbury Road.
Letter from Nunawading District Roads Board, 15th Jan. 1867:-
"They request you would be good enough to obtain the consent of the Board of Lands and Survey to reserve the creek ..... as a water reserve for a distance of two chains in width on each side of the creek, there being no other permanent water more than twenty miles to the place. - Henry McBride, Clerk of the Board".
Note on the file:- "The portion of land immediately south of 23B through which the said creek flows has been set apart as a Water Reserve, which meets the requirements of the district. The portion south of the road to which this application applies is set apart for experimental botanical purposes. - F. Harding, District Surveyor".
The botanical reserve is on the south of Canterbury Road, between Middleborough Road and the soccer ground.

BLACKBURN ROAD'S KINKS

Blackburn Road was omitted in the original survey of Nunawading, but in the neighbouring parish of Mulgrave a north-south road was marked out between Stephensons and Springvale Roads. It stopped at South Boundary Road, now Highbury Road, and as this was inconvenient a petition signed by 44 landowners was sent in 1870, reading, "We the undersigned farmers and inhabitants in the parishes of Nunawading and Mulgrave beg most respectfully to memorialize your honourable Board that a road may be reserved .....which is a continuation of a main government road from the Dandenong Road to the Boundary Road.....to the Ferntree Gully Road (now Burwood Highway), which would be of great public use and benefit".

Among the signatories were James Tainton, Thomas Morgan, Thomas Blood, W. Bennett, Alexander Mayne, John Mullens and George Bennett.
The road was immediately marked out. Mrs. Mattingley has prepared notes of what happened after that. As allotments were sub-divided and sold some short sections, roughly in the same line, were marked as roads. The main one, from Canterbury to Hawthorn Road, was known as Baker's Road. When the railway was built and Blackburn station established it was desirable that a road should lead directly to it from the south, so the council had to buy properties to link up the disconnected roads. At the corner of Canterbury and Blackburn Roads a triangular piece of land was left after the road had been made, and instead of selling it for building the Council decided to make it a reserve. It has since been planted by the Tree Preservation Society.

TRYING TO KEEP A WATER FRONTAGE

The stretch of country east of Springvale Road, between Highbury Road and the Burwood Highway was one of the few unsold areas after the first land sales. An application for part of it by selection in 1866 caused the Nunawading District Roads Board to write:- "I have the honour by direction of the Board to inform you that they object to the application of Mr. Francis Collier for four contiguous twenty acre blocks of land situated on the Dandenong Creek.....on the ground of its being the only available water frontage on that side of the Nunawading Road District and to request that you will be good enough to take the matter into consideration with a view to reserving the frontage". Note on the letter:- "Would you kindly do me the honour to have Mr. Mayne of Nunawading, the bearer of this letter, informed respecting the application of Mr. Collier". The objection was apparently successful, but in May 1867 there was another letter, "We have the honour to bring under your notice that the land..... offered for public sale on the 28th May 1867 is the only permanent Water Frontage available for the land owners and inhabitants in that part of the District.....We have now to request that you will refuse to dispose of the land by withdrawing it and permanently reserving it for the use of the inhabitants as a Water Reserve.

John Keogh, Chairman, Nunawading District Road Board
Edward Smith, Member " " " "
John Garde, Manager of Farmers Commons
Ronald Donaldson, Alexander Mayne, Robert Cumming,
Jeremiah Grant, Frederick Mihan.

K.A. PATTERSON
Editor.

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CITY OF BOX HILL JUBILEE

Box Hill arranged a special programme for April 24, fiftieth anniversary of the proclamation of the City of Box Hill, and we joined them for the meeting. One of their members, Mrs. M. Morgan, has done a lot of research into who lived in the Shire of Nunawading 100 years ago, and their conditions of life, using rate books and other contemporary material as her main sources. From this research she was able to describe conditions in our area. Among other exhibits she had the Minute Book of the Shire, opened at the date 24 April 1875 and rate books of the 1870's period.

NATIONAL TRUSTS' EXPANDING ACTIVITIES

The National Trust is widening its activities from preservation of notable buildings to landscapes and other items of national history, as well as such projects as the restoration of the "Polly Woodside". Mr. Keith Mitchell, chairman of the photographic sub-committee, told our May Meeting how its interests are broadening and showed many slides illustrating its activities. Beginning with the purchase of "Como" it now has property worth $30,000,000, with a corresponding annual cost of upkeep. It is able to maintain its enterprises because of help from State and Federal governments.

GOLDFIELDS OF VICTORIA

Mr. Alan Wilson will be the speaker at the meeting on June 11, at the Nunawading Methodist Church. His subject will be the Goldfields of Victoria, and it will be illustrated by films and slides.

MAYOR'S NIGHT

The July meeting, on the 9th, will be our annual Mayor's night. Cr. Peter James is arranging a function similar to that of Cr. Webster last year, and it will be in the Willis Room at the Library.

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COAL CREEK, KORUMBURRA

The newest historical museum in Victoria is Coal Creek, Korumburra, which we visited on May 3. We were fortunate that two members of the Korumburra Historical Society, Mr. Brown, who had worked in the mine, and Mr. Stevens, who has farmed all his life in the district, showed us over the area, which is the site of the first payable coal mine in Victoria, opened in 1891 when the South Gippsland railway line was built. The display centres around the mine, simulated tunnels and railway siding. There are also a working sawmill, blacksmith's shop and printery. Other buildings moved to the centre from various places in the district include shops, court house, Church and school. Although it has a smaller area than many similar exhibitions and is not yet complete it is already interesting enough to be worth a visit. Future plans include a re-constructed butter factory and street of shops. The surrounding land will be restored as far as possible to its original condition.

PHOTOGRAPHIC ALBUMS

Nunawading covers a large area in which there have been many changes. Those who remember what it was like 40 or 50 years ago are getting fewer every year, and within perhaps another 50 years there will possibly be few living here who can remember what it is like now. As an Historical Society we have to be as interested in recording these changes as in talking about the past, and it is proposed to prepare photographic albums of different sections of the city. We can easily take photographs of buildings and landscapes, but we would like to obtain old photographs to show what it was like in the past, and so make a complete record of our history.

FAMILY MEMORIES

It is proposed also to make a new effort to record the memories and stories of the older residents in the district. This is something in which we have had little success up to now. Forms were once prepared on which representatives of old families could answer questions about the early days. Some information was obtained but the result was generally disappointing. We hope that by means of a new effort we will have a better response.

NAME FOR GOLF COURSE

The City Council has asked us to suggest a name for a golf course it is preparing in Morack Road, Vermont. As Morack Road was the ring road around the proposed town of Norwich in 1861, perhaps Norwich would be appropriate, or perhaps Mayne, after Alexander Mayne, one of the first

apple-growers in the district, who had land nearby, or else one of the other earliest settlers. What do you think?

FARM EQUIPMENT FOR MUSEUM

We have been given a plough and other farm equipment for our proposed museum. At present they have to be stored, but we hope it will not be long before we can have them on display.

MINER'S COTTAGE

Earlier this year we were offered and refused an old miner's cottage from Ringwood. Several service organisations in Ringwood are now combining to dismantle and re-erect it in the Ringwood Lake Reserve, which will preserve it in a more natural setting. The cottage at present is on the north side of Whitehorse Road a short distance beyond the junction with Mt. Dandenong Road.

SHIRE OF NUNAWADING 1875

From the Municipal Directory of 1875 - Shire of Nunawading.
Proclaimed District 7 August 1857. Proclaimed Shire 4 May 1872.
Area 24 square miles. Net Annual Value £10,600
Revenue £2,450 Rate 1/- in £ Tolls - Three
Revenue from tolls £937.
Ratepayers on Rate Book 360. Ratepayers on Roll 310.
Licences Issued 7 Publicans. Total paid £175.

President - William Witt, J.P.

Councillors - North Ward - George King, elected June 1872, William Lawford, August 1873, John McGlone, August 1874.
Central Ward - John Wakefield, August 1873, John Keogh, August 1872, Samuel Collier, August 1874.
South Ward - Alexander Mayne, August 1873, William Bennett, August 1872, William Witt, August 1874.

Officers - Secretary, Treasurer and Engineer - Henry N. Bride, Power Street, Hawthorn.
Collector - F. Clarke
Valuers - H.N. Bride & J. Grant.

The Council met at Delaney's Royal Hotel twice a month and the Secretary was in attendance at Delaney's Hotel on Tuesdays.
Magistrates were :- William Witt and William Ellingworth, J.P's.
Court Sessions were at Hawthorn and post offices at Box Hill, Ballyshannassy (now Burwood) and Delaney's Road (now Surrey Hills.)
The three shire ridings ran from east to west along Whitehorse

Delaney's (now Canterbury) and Ballyshannassy (now Burwood) Roads. The three toll gates were on the three main roads.

RATEPAYERS OF NUNAWADING

The Shire of Nunawading rate books gave the following occupations of the ratepayers:- Farmers, 247; Gentlemen, 10; Hotel-Keepers, 7; Blacksmiths, 5; Dairymen, 2; School Teachers, 2; Bootmakers, 2; Bakers, 2; and one each Butcher, Nurseryman, Pianist, Shopkeeper, Carrier Postmaster, Minister, Carter, Brewer, Auctioneer, Land Agent, Doctor, Accountant, House and Land Agent, Wheelwright.

AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY USED

In spite of the 247 farmers in the shire, there was very little agricultural machinery in use. Statistics of Victoria in 1873 listed 155 ploughs, 128 harrows, 113 chaff-cutters, 49 rollers, 4 wine presses and one each mower, threshing machine, winnower and wool press. It is notable that there were scarcely any reapers or harvesters. Cutting of crops would have been done by hand, using scythes or sickles.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE

Crops reaped that year were :- Wheat, 35 bushells; Oats, 71 bushells; Rye and Bere, 45 bushells; Pease, Beans, Millet and Sorghum, 636 bushells; Potatoes, 212 tons; Turnips, 20 tons; Mangelwurzels, 105 tons; Beet, Carrots, Parsnips and Cabbage, 125 tons; Onions, 12 tons; Hay, 577 tons. In addition there were 54,230 vines, producing 87 cwt of table grapes and 228 of wine grapes. Wine produced was 1,450 gallons.

EARLY NUNAWADING RESIDENTS BURIED IN BOX HILL CEMETERY

Name	Occupation	Age	Address	Section	Date
JOBSON	(Took up land in Donvale area about 1868)				
Richard	Woodcarter		Nunawading	Independent	31/3/75
KENDALL	(Land owners in Springfield Road area)				
Letitia			Ringwood	C. of E.	11/1/92
Alice			Blackburn	C. of E.	13/8/92
Minnie			Blackburn	C. of E.	24/10/94
Albert			Tunstall	C. of E.	3/7/96
Percy Leonard			Tunstall	C. of E.	9/12/96
Thomas		75	Tunstall	C. of E.	19/11/1904
Charlotte		75	Tunstall	C. of E.	9/9/1905

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GOLDFIELDS OF VICTORIA

Excellent slides, taken by himself, were the main feature of Mr. Alan Wilson's talk at the June meeting. All were of Goldfields in Victoria, mainly in the Woods Point area and others in the Clunes and Creswick district. They were all of surviving buildings, sites of mines and forgotten towns and scenic views of surrounding country.

MAYOR'S NIGHT

At the invitation of the Mayor, Cr. P. James, and the Nunawading Historical Society, a social evening was held on Wednesday, 9 June, at the Civic Centre, Nunawading. Historical Societies from surrounding areas were invited and representatives from Waverley, Croydon, Box Hill, Doncaster-Templestowe, Ringwood, Hawthorn and Upper Yarra Historical Societies were present as well as representatives from the Management Committees of Schwerkolt Cottage, Yarren Darren and Blackburn Lake. Mr. Bruce Scott delighted us with an 1½ hour programme of what he called "Home Movies" of the Outback and Melbourne. Mr. Alan Barclay, of the newly-formed Hawthorn Society opened a short discussion period. Each society spoke of some aspect of their work and activities. An invitation was issued to visit the Upper Yarra Society to inspect work on an old railway station. Mr. G. Harding, of Yarren Darren, told us what has been done in their unique natural area and future plans.

SCHOOLS NIGHT

Professsor A.G.L. Shaw, of Monash University, will be the speaker at the annual Schools Night in the Willis Room, Civic Centre, on August 13. His subject will be "Convicts".

SEPTEMBER MEETING

"Show and Tell" at Nunawading Methodist Church. September 10. A number of

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pictures and slides will be shown and members invited to tell what they know about the places shown. We hope this will help us gather information which might otherwise be lost.

FUTURE OUTINGS

The following outings have been arranged:-
September 27 - Visit to Upper Yarra Society, Yarra Junction. Meet at Civic Centre 10.30 a.m. and go in own cars.
October 25 - Visit to Museum. Meet in the foyer, Swanston Street, 1.45 p.m. Please let Mr. Tilson know if you will be going so that he can make arrangements for guides.

OLD PHOTOGRAPHS

We are still seeking old photographs of the district. If you have any, please let us know. In any case, ask among your friends. We can get any copied for our archives.

RESEARCH AT BOX HILL

We have made arrangements for research into the early Shire of Nunawading, using records held by the Box Hill Society at Box Hill Library. It is possible, if we have early notice, to examine their collection on Saturday morning, and Mrs. Morgan would be willing to make her card index available for copying during the afternoon. This is a good guide to information available in early Rate Books. Saturday, October 11 is suggested as a possible date for anyone willing to undertake this work.

MORACK GOLF COURSE

The Council has adopted the name "Morack" for the new golf course in Morack Road, Vermont. The name was suggested by Mrs. McGivern and is an aboriginal word for "a place of hills".

SHIRE REVENUES

Some unfamiliar items are shown on the Statement of Receipts and Expenditure of the Shire of Nunawading for the year ended 18 October 1874. Rates amounted to only £455/14/9, but three toll gates at Whitehorse Road, Delany's Road, (now Canterbury Road), and Ballyshannessy Road, (now Burwood Road), brought in £877/10/-. This was supplemented by government grants of £821/9/9 for road work. Publicans' licences brought in £175. At that time hotel licences were issued by the shires. £1828/15/6 was spent on road construction and maintenance, including £4/10/- for grubbing and clearing, then making six chains of Barnes Road, which was later Surrey Road, then Blackburn Road North.

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AGRICULTURE IN NUNAWADING

Agricultural statistics show how farming in Nunawading changed during the last part of last century.

Year	Farms No.	Area Cultivated In Acres	Crops Wheat	Oats	Potatoes	Gardens	Orchards
1864	175	913	13	4	82	309	-
1869	233	1165	8	32	62	235	233
1874	378	3683	21	65	240	125	675
1879	211	1698	2	3	38	91	483
1884	205	1802	-	-	33	43	921
1889	185	4766	-	2	6	1175	
1894	161	1665	-	-	51	1085	

In 1894 there were only 10 acres of vines, producing 75 cwt of grapes and 200 gallons of wine. The main crops were:- Hay 284 tons; Potatoes 145 tons; Fruit produced was:- Apples (19723 cases), Cherries (8345), Plums (7231), Pears (2805), Quinces (1030), Peaches (764), Oranges (150), Loquats (123), Tomatoes (550), Strawberries (248 cwt), Gooseberries (139 cwt), Raspberries (18 cwt).

THE RELIGIOUS BUS

Shortly after the war Box Hill Baptist Church began to form a new church at North Blackburn. Mr. Charles Hemming, because there were no local halls and no building permits available, organised Sunday Schools meeting on street corners, and had three separate meetings in the area, beginning at 9.30 a.m., which he followed up with similar meetings in other areas during Sunday afternoon. The church bought a second-hand bus to act as a moveable meeting place and the officers wondered at the strange happenings with that bus. It regularly did its Sunday School work without mishap, but if used for anything else, such as a picnic or outing, regularly broke down and had to limp or be towed back home. During discussion one officer said, "We bought and dedicated that bus for Sunday School work, and it does it without trouble, but as soon as it is used for anything else it is stuck up. We must therefore restrict it to Sunday School work only". The others could not understand how metaphysics could affect the running of a mechanical engine, but the fact was indisputable. Some time later they discovered Mr. Hemming had forgotten it needed oil and had been running it with an empty sump. After travelling more than three or four miles the engine overheated and seized. The bus was used for Sunday

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evening services also until the first hall was built for the new church. It was then moved to the backyard of a house near Nunawading Station, as a meeting place for what has developed into the present Mitcham Baptist Church.

MUSEUM BUILDING

A model of the proposed museum building will soon be on exhibition at the Civic Centre.

MISS RONALDSON MARRIED

Miss E. Ronaldson, who prepared the first Short History of Nunawading was married to Mr. C. McCoy at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Box Hill in May.

MR. & MRS. PULLIN HONOURED

Ringwood Historical Society has elected Mr. & Mrs. E.V. Pullin as their first life members for their services to the society during its first ten years. Mrs. Pullin has been very active in many other fields of historical interest and is now Director of the Royal Historical Society.

NEW SOCIETY AT HAWTHORN

A new Society has been formed at Hawthorn. Its secretary is Mr. Alan Barclay of the Hawthorn City Library, and there are already 150 members who have been formed into a number of working sub-committees. This activity and membership is most encouraging and gives some older societies something to think about.

OLD HOUSE FOR WAVERLEY

It seems the fashion to offer Historical Societies available old houses. Waverley has been offered one in the Dandenong Creek Reserve and will be seeking assistance in preserving it.

EARLY NUNAWADING RESIDENTS BURIED IN BOX HILL CEMETERY.

Name	Occupation	Age	Address	Section	Date
BEDFORD					
Mary		58	Nunawading	C of E	28/1/76
AINGER (Took up land at Mitcham 1868)					
Sarah Elizabeth		15½	Nunawading	Indep.	9/4/76
ELEY					
Rebecca		58	Nunawading	C of E	10/6/76

K. A. PATTERSON
Editor.

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CONVICTS IN AUSTRALIA

Schools supported the August Schools Night strongly. Prof. A.G.L. Shaw spoke of convicts in Australia. He said the British government's aim was to get rid of them. The hulks on which they were housed were becoming crowded and America, after it became independent, refused to accept them, even as cheap labour. The decision to send them to Australia was one of expediency. They were not meant to secure the territory against other claimants because the military force with them was too small for defence and lacked weapons for major fighting. Apparently they were not expected even to raise food for trading or even to feed themselves because they had no equipment for farming and agreements with the East India Company forbade trading with other countries. There was so little interest in the transportees that they were sent from England without records. Some in fact had completed their sentences before arriving in Australia. They could not be released until confirmation was received from England. On the other hand, conditions on the transports, although crowded, were as good as they could be. They were under naval command and the Navy was very efficient. Health was generally good and death rates were much lower than on many emigrant ships.

SHOW AND TELL

Members had a chance at our September meeting to see the photographs we hold and discuss changes which have occurred in the district. Several people brought interesting books and other items for inspection and discussion.

ANNUAL MEETING

Mr. Alan West, of the National Museum, will be the speaker at the October meeting, Wednesday, 8th October, at Nunawading Methodist Church.

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He will describe his experiences with aboriginals in Central Australia.

There will be annual election of officers. All positions are vacant and nominations are invited for President, Vice-President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer and 6 committee members. Nomination forms are enclosed.

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER MEETINGS

The speaker at the November 12th meeting is expected to be either Mrs. P. Faggetter or Mrs. J. Field. The speaker at the December meeting will be announced later.

VISIT TO MUSEUM

Arrangements are being made by Mr. Tilson for us to visit the Museum on Saturday, October 25th. As it will be a conducted tour we expect it will include parts which are not normally open to the public. Members who intend to go should let Mr. Tilson know and meet in the Foyer, Swanston Street, at 1.45 p.m.

VISIT TO YARRA JUNCTION

Upper Yarra Historical Society is well on the way to developing a first-class local museum in the old railway station. A number of our members were impressed by the range of exhibits and the way they were presented. Some of their methods may be useful for us. The station itself is the only one left between Lilydale and Warburton. Since the line was dismantled all the others have been either demolished or destroyed by bushfires. It was the original Lilydale station, built in 1882 when the railway was built, and shifted to Yarra Junction when the line was extended in 1902. There are the usual exhibits of household goods and clothes, an excellent presentation of a Victorian drawing-room, photographs of houses and scenes in the district, panels of illustrations of the timber industry and associated tramways, as well as a representation of a mining shaft. They have a number of farming implements, most of which need restoration, and several engines and tractors, including one which pulled timber trains from Powelltown. We were shown over the museum and served with tea by members of the society. The museum is open on Sunday and holiday afternoons. They have also invited us to an evening on Saturday, November 22nd, when a film of the timber industry in their district will be shown.

TRAM TOUR OF MELBOURNE

Some of our members accompanied the Box Hill society on a tram tour of Melbourne. The tour visited several parts of Melbourne, where

local residents pointed out interesting features.

INDEX OF RATE PAYERS

Mrs. Morgan of the Box Hill society has prepared an index of all rate-payers of the Shire of Nunawading during its early years. This gives a complete record of all property owners. She has offered us the opportunity of making a copy of it. All interested in helping should meet at Box Hill library at 11 a.m. on Saturday, October 11th, to see the records they hold, then go to Mrs. Morgan's home, 18 Jan Street, Box Hill. Bring lunch and be prepared to write out index cards.

SMOKE-HOUSE AT SCHWERKOLT COTTAGE

It is hoped that a re-constructed smoke-house at Schwerkolt Cottage will be ready for the 10th anniversary of the opening of the cottage. There was one on the site and the new building, made of rough stone, similar to the cottage, has been designed from a photograph of the original.

PROPOSED NEW SUBSCRIPTION

A proposal will be placed before the annual meeting that the annual subscription be raised to $2.50. for individuals and $3.50. for families. The present subscription was fixed ten years ago, and the reason for the increase is rising costs, particularly in printing and posting the Newsletter.

CHRISTMAS AND GREETING CARDS

Knox Historical Society has prepared Christmas and Greeting Cards for sale at 15 cents each. There are 30 different designs, including such items of historical interest as the Cardman Cottage, Olinda. They can be obtained from Mr. G. Hansen, P.O. Box 230, Ferntree Gully. Phone: 758-6985. The society will make a profit of 5 cents on each card.

PETTIGROVES LEAVE BLACKBURN

Pettigrove Breeding Farms Pty. Ltd., Fulton Road, Blackburn, is moving to Somerville. This ends an era of poultry farming in South Blackburn, which had been set aside as a poultry-keeping area by the Shire of Blackburn and Mitcham. At one time there were more than a dozen farms, two large hatcheries raising thousands of birds and some smaller ones. Pettigroves was established there in 1941 and Mr. Pettigrove recalled that Sutherlands had a large farm on one side of him and on the other was another which ceased operations five or six years ago. Further along the road were Caves and in Holland Road one farm of 2,000 to 3,000 birds had a gun club at its rear. Opposite was another which combined pigs and

poultry. In Blackburn Road Barnes had a large hatchery and Reid and May smaller ones. Several poultry-keepers between Blackburn and Middleborough Roads included Fulton, Reid, May and Bird. In other parts of Blackburn Sjorgrens had a farm off Wellington Avenue, which they sold to Musgroves, who have now moved to Wonga Park. Gedyes had a large farm and hatchery in Whitehorse Road. When they sold the property to Cottees they were for some time in Orchard Grove. There were others along Surrey Road. Johnstons had a large hatchery there until about 1950 and Taylor had a smaller one until more recent times. Poultry keeping and hatching is no longer practicable. Land is becoming too expensive and vandalism is a problem. Mr. Pettigrove said that after a week-end he is likely to find $400 or $500 of damage done to the property.

POTTERIES AND BRICK WORKS

Brick, tile and pottery works began in earnest in Nunawading after the railway was built in 1882. Development was very rapid and in 1889 there were five works, employing 267 men. Four of the works were driven by steam engines and one by horse-power. The engines had a total of 332 horse-power. Twelve machines were used for preparing clay and 18 to make bricks and pottery. Thirty million, out of a total for all Victoria of 276 million, were manufactured that year. The buildings had cost £25,950 and machinery £38,700.

PRIVATE SCHOOLS, 1889

Although State Schools were established in 1873 a few private schools were able to start and survived. In the Shire of Nunawading in 1889 Miss Brown had 2 boys and 4 girls in Blackburn Road, Miss Conway 6 boys and 19 girls at Air Hill, Mitcham. Some idea of the population of other parts of the shire can be gained from attendances at Mrs. James' school, Surrey Hills, 7 boys and 37 girls; Mrs. Gresham's, Windsor Cres. Surrey Hills, 4 boys, 6 girls and Mrs. Newton's, Ashted Road, Box Hill, 1 boy, 12 girls. Mitcham Catholic School had 20 boys and 24 girls and Surrey Hills 24 boys, 23 girls.

K. A. PATTERSON
Editor.