NUNAWADING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

February-March 1976 Price 5 cents Number 58

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Category B.

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14 Tortice Ave.,
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ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Officers elected at the annual meeting last October were:-

President	Mrs. J. Webster
Vice-President	Mr. M. Chatwin
Secretary	Mrs. J. Shortland
Treasurer	Mr. I. Barker
Research Officer	Mr. K. Patterson
Committee	Mr. C. Tilson, Mesdames J.Field, Leach, S. Jones and P. Johnson.

ABILITY OF ABORIGINALS

Technical ability of aborigines and their use of natural resources were very high Mr. John West told us at the October meeting. He illustrated his talk with slides taken in Central Australia showing how they made straight spears from crooked stems of tecoma and extracted a powerful adhesive from spinifex. This is used for fixing spear points and rests for spear shafts and spear-throwers. Throwers were used for a variety of purposes, such as lighting fires by friction and carriers for small articles. Huts were made by placing bent tree branches around a central pole and covering them with smaller branches and spinifex. These appeared fragile, but they were very durable and far more comfortable than the iron and concrete houses usually provided by government authorities.

BROKEN HILL'S MUSEUM

Mrs. Field's main impression of Broken Hill was the excellent museum maintained by the local historical society. The area has such a full and colourful history that they can show an excellent variety of material, and they have a particularly good collection of maps and photographs.

LIFE IN CHINA

The people of China were sure that life was better for them since the

success of the Communists, Mrs. Faggetter told us at our December meeting. During her visit of five weeks she found they were very pleased to have opportunities of education which were previously denied them and women had full freedom. In all the industries and agricultural communes there was full co-operation with people happy to be working together on terms of equality. All people in administrative positions were required to work with peasants for part of each year so that they would not lose touch with problems of ordinary people. Even her daughter, although a University lecturer and a foreigner, was not exempt.

VISIT TO MUSEUM

After looking at models of goldfields, an array of motor-cars, ships, aeroplanes, weapons and sundry other things, we concluded our visit to the Museum by descending into the mysterious depths, where we found a well-equipped photographic studio and dark room, in which Clive Tilson does most of his work. It is usually straightforward photography, but he also had a number of cameras which he is restoring. It was a good excursion, particularly as there was heavy rain all day and outside activities would have been impossible.

SYLLABUS FOR THIS YEAR

Owing to difficulties in making arrangements, the complete syllabus is not yet available. Speakers engaged are:-

February 11 -
March 10 - Mayoral Night, Mr. A. Grant, "Children's Books"
April 14 - Mr. Armstrong, "Early Days in Nunawading".
May 12 - Dr. Sandra Bardwell, of the Public Record Office, "Using Historical Records."
June 9 - Older Residents' Tales by a group of long-term residents.
July 14 - High Schools Night.

All meetings will be at the Coffee Shop, Civic Centre, except the Mayoral and High School nights.

A speaker planned for the February meeting has cancelled the appointment. We are obtaining a substitute. There have been difficulties in finding speakers for meetings later in the year and we would appreciate suggestions.

PROPOSED EXCURSIONS

A week-end visit to Bendigo is planned for April 3-4, when we hope to take a complete motel. Please let the secretary know if you are interested so that accommodation can be booked.

We expect that some other societies will join us in this excursion. Day trips proposed are visits to Churchill Island, off Phillip Island, Castlemaine and the Queenscliff Fort. Arrangements for these will be made later in the year.

ITEMS FOR MUSEUM OR RECORDS

We have received for inclusion in our records, or museum, the following items:-

Contract for the connection of electricity to Mr. Neve's property, Wattle Valley Road, 1958; Copies of records of Catholic Churches soon after their establishment in Nunawading; Railways Historical Society Newsletter with details of an accident at Mitcham 1945 and construction of stations at Mitcham, Nunawading and Blackburn; syllabuses of Mitcham Naturalist Society 1932-42 (whole of its existence, so far as known); grindstone from Mr. Ward, of Blackburn.

CHILDREN'S BOOKS

The inclusion of Mr. Alan Grant in the syllabus has prompted the suggestion that if you have children's books and your grand children do not show interest in them, it would be better to give them to us for our museum than throw them out.

MORE ABOUT THE LAKE

The "Leader" of 9 September 1916 had an article describing the Deaf and Dumb Flower Farm at Blackburn. It said that the lake was 23 feet deep in one place, where an old clay pit was included. This seems to be something new to us

DEAF AND DUMB FLOWER FARM

The following are extracts from the minutes of the Adult Deaf Society of Victoria, formerly Adult Deaf and Dumb Mission of Victoria.

31 July 1907 - Letter received from the Chief Secretary that £2,000 had been voted by Parliament in aid of the farm.

6 May 1908 - The secretary read a report on the Blackburn Lake site from Mr. J. Cronin, Principal of the School of Horticulture, recommending it --- The secretary was instructed to arrange for the purchase of it if it could be obtained for £20 per acre.

18 May 1908 - The secretary reported that the Blackburn site would not be purchased for £20 per acre. The committee left it in his hands to negotiate.

15th June 1908 - The secretary reported ----- that the owners would only sell the whole available area, about 70 acres, but will accept £21 per acre.
24 August 1908 - The Superintendent reported ----- that the deaf mutes were engaged in planting the garden. The Superintendent was instructed to see the Liquidator of the Freehold Investment Co. as to getting their surveyor to peg out the land. (Freehold Investment and Banking Co. was one of the most notorious of the Land Boom companies. It bought 28 small farms in our area and sub-divided them into building blocks in 1890. Sales were very poor. It is credited with having made Blackburn Lake. When the Boom collapsed T.R.B. Morton, its secretary, had the task of selling off the land it had bought.)
6 October 1908 - The Superintendent reported the Blackburn Shire Engineer had prepared all specifications for fencing and for ploughing 10 acres and clearing another 15.
10 December 1908 - It was decided to fee Messrs Wade and Carlton to prepare plans of the farm buildings.
11 March 1909 - The architect's amended plans with the estimates were considered and the following items agreed to:- Residential and men's quarters, dining room, kitchen, etc. in brick £2,600; bay to parlour, £25; sheds and outhouses £68.
20 April 1909 - It was decided to accept Mr. R. L. Phillips' tender for £2,980.
20 September 1909 - The following recommendation was adopted:- To expend £50 on two boats, landing stage and ? for picnic parties.
1 November 1909 - Details of the opening ceremony were approved and a committee appointed as to the programme.
10 June 1910 - Mr. Abraham read the report of the Farm committee, from which it appeared that £13/12/6 had been received during May from the sale of flowers.
27 July 1910 - The secretary reported that the Nunawading Shire had sought a legal opinion regarding the Society's liability for rates on the farm and after communicating with the vice-president he had obtained a similar opinion from Messrs Derham and Derham. It was resolved to await a summons.
14 October 1910 - The Superintendent reported that the sale of flowers for some time had averaged £5/6/6 per week.

Continued in our next Newsletter.....

K. A. PATTERSON
Editor.

NUNAWADING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

April-May 1976 Price 5 cents Number 59

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HISTORY OF HEIDELBERG

Mr. Peter Williams illustrated his talk on the history of Heidelberg with a number of slides of notable buildings, some 100 years old, which they have been able to preserve. Some of the earliest land sales in Melbourne were in the Heidelberg area, and prices for some land were up to £20 an acre, although the reserve price at auction was only £1. A number of noted early settlers had country homes in the area, and developed good farms to supplement their business activities in the city. By various means a number of their houses had been preserved and restored. We have to particularly thank Mr. Williams for this talk because he came at short notice in spite of illness, to take the place of a speaker who had been unable to fulfill her engagement.

MAYOR'S NIGHT

Historical Societies from every municipality on the boundaries of Nunawading were represented at the Mayor's Night in March. Among the most interesting reports of their activities were that Knox is making useful contacts through the talks at schools and providing guides for excursions. Hawthorn is exploring the possibilities of forming a Junior Society and Doncaster has not opened Shramm's Cottage on its new site, where they also have a museum, both open on Saturdays and Sundays, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Box Hill and Waverley councils have appointed people to prepare histories of their areas.

CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Mr. Alan Grant spoke of children's books at the Mayor's Night. He believes he is the only person with a large number, as well as catalogues, to illustrate his talk. There were no children's books as such until the middle of the 18th century. Earlier ones were mostly instructions about polite and moral behaviour, but there were a number, now rare, of small "chap-books" sold for a penny by hawkers.

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Towards the beginning of the 19th century English publishers began to produce large numbers of books for children, but Australia was slow to follow them, and with the exception of a few rare and valuable specimens, our children's literature belongs to the present century.

APRIL MEETING - Early days in Nunawading.

Mr. Armstrong will be speaking at the April 14 meeting. He was a member of the first council of the City of Nunawading, and took a leading part in the formative years of our city. This will be a unique opportunity to learn first-hand how we began to develop.

MAY MEETING - Using Historical Records.

Just three years ago the Victorian Parliament passed an Archives Act, setting up a Public Records Office in place of the Library Archives Section. This office, which is now moving into premises of its own in Laverton, holds and preserves all the non-current records of Victorian Government Departments, and they are, with few exceptions, open to anyone who cares to examine them. They form a very detailed, carefully indexed and readily accessible documentation of all the more important events in our history, down to even trivial daily transactions of ordinary people with the government. Dr. Sandra Bardwell, a member of the staff of the Public Records Office, will describe for us at our meeting on May 12 what kinds of material they have, how it can be used and what people have to do to consult it.

PERSONAL

We were all very sorry to hear that Miss Gibb, of McCulloch Street, died at the end of January. Miss Gibb had been a member for some years and had been a great help with supper at meetings.

Mr. & Mrs. Neve have gone to live in the Strathalan Baptist Old People's Home at Macleod. Mr. Neve is a foundation member, and our only life member.

Mr. M. Chatwin has been in bad health, having collapsed at work during February.

Mr. and Mrs. Leach have just celebrated their golden anniversary.

PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

Many of the buildings and landmarks of present-day Nunawading will disappear within a few years, so we need to make a record of them while we can. It is suggested that anyone with a roll of film to finish should take photographs of places and scenes in their area for permanent record. We hope to have a grand exhibition of such photographs

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at the annual meeting next October.

SYLLABUS

There is still trouble filling the syllabus. A few more months have been filled. They are:-

June - Old Residents' Tales, by Mr. Monty Gray, who had a hardware store in Mitcham, Mr. Frank Bowden, a former station-master and Mr. Jack McLean, son of a former station-master.

July - High Schools Night - Dr. Robson, of Melbourne University.

August - "Tartans".

September - History of Embroidery.

OUTINGS

Churchill Island is off for the time being, but there are strong prospects of visits to the Queenscliff Fort, Government House and Castlemaine. Please let us know if you are interested in any of these and when you would like to go.

MORE ABOUT BLACKBURN LAKE - Extracts from the Minutes of the Adult Deaf Society of Victoria. (Continued from last Newsletter).

12 August 1910 - The following recommendations were adopted:-
The Superintendent to proceed with the raising of £750 for erection of women's wing.

12 September 1910 - The following recommendations were received from the Farm Committee:-

6. Rustic bridge on creek bed - No recommendation
7. Boat shed to be pulled down - Approved
8. Fence dangerous part of lake - Price to be obtained

14 October 1910 - Recommendations sanctioned:-

5. Five chairs to be placed along the edge of the lake at £5/12/6.

16 January 1911 - A letter was received from the secretary Shire of Nunawading intimating that the whole of Lake Farm was now rated. Superintendent reported sales since last meeting of produce, wood and cane work and takings for picnics as £70/11/3.

13 March 1911 - A letter was received from Mr. Abraham reporting that the recent rains had damaged the dam.

11 September 1911 - The following recommendations of the Farm Committee were adopted:- £40 to be expended on the erection of a suitable building at the Farm for the sale of refreshments under the direction of the Farm Committee. The Farm Committee was requested to consider the question of providing life-saving apparatus at the lake.

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16 October 1911 - The following recommendations were adopted:-
3. The apron of the by-wash to be repaired upon receiving Mr. Holland's estimate.....Notices to be erected that the dam is not a public road, a fence to be erected on the downside of the dam road.
22 January 1912 - The Farm and Finance Committee reported that the Government had promised a grant of £500 as per Under Treasurer's letter of 13th inst.....Committee recommended that the erection be proceeded with.
20 May 1912 - Mr. Mercy moved and Mr. Dickins seconded that the architect be instructed to call for tenders for the front portion of the women's wing and that an intimation be given the architect of the possibility of erecting the balance before the front portion is completed. - Carried.
17 June 1912 - The secretary produced rate notices regarding the Blackburn property that had been received from the Shire. Resolved to ask Mr. Derham (subject to his approval) to send a letter to the shire council informing them that we do not intend to pay the rates and asking them either to desist in sending notices or to contest the matter.
11 November 1912 - Reported that the Governor-General had signified his willingness to open the Women's Wing on Saturday 23 Nov 1912.
16 June 1913 - The secretary reported that he had seen Mr. Derham in reference to the rates, who had suggested that some of the Shire Councillors might be seen in reference to the matter. Mr. Abraham and Mr. Munro were deputed to undertake this.
15 June 1914 - Mr. Mercy moved and Mr. Pratt seconded that this committee sanctions an appeal to the public for £3,000 for the completion of the Women's Wing, also that the committee comes to no decision as to whether any sum should be spent in the development of picnic facilities. - Carried. (The Governor's wife agreed to sponsor the appeal).
17 August 1914 - Mr. Mercy moved, Mr. Martin seconded, that Lady Stanley be written to that the committee deem it inexpedient in the present state of affairs to postpone collecting and they would like her concurrence.
17 May 1915 - The secretary submitted notice of rates received from the Shire of Nunawading amounting to £151/17/9. The secretary was instructed to refer the matter to Messrs. Derham and Derham. A letter was received from the Shire of Nunawading re. making of Central Road.

Continued in next Newsletter.....

K. A. PATTERSON
Editor.

NUNAWADING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

June-July 1976 Price 5 Cents Number 60

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Formation of the City.

Mr. Norman Armstrong, first mayor of Nunawading, spoke at the April meeting and described how the present city came into existence. He joined Drake & Co., Mitcham estate agents, in 1924 and the same year was elected to the Nunawading Shire Council. Finding that less money was being spent in Mitcham than was received in rates, he pressed for severance. As a result Box Hill was separated from the shire area and the remainder was named Shire of Blackburn and Mitcham to indicate its geographic location. Some Blackburn residents wished to form their own borough, but their application failed because it would have had too little revenue to justify the capital expenditure required. The city was proclaimed in 1945 after councillors had threatened a mass resignation, and its name was chosen to preserve the original one. Mr. E.E. Walker had been an important figure during the early days of Mitcham. He was responsible for the shire buying electricity in bulk and supplying residents, financing the Mitcham Methodist Church and the Memorial Hall.

Tracing Family History.

Records available for tracing family history were described by Mr. G. James, of the Public Record Office, who spoke at the May meeting. He illustrated his talk with copies of ships passenger lists, records of civil servants, lists of donations to schools and similar records received by government departments and outlined ways of following up information obtained from them.

Old Residents' Tales.

Our meeting on June 9 will take an unusual form. Instead of a visiting speaker we will have a number of old residents, or members of their families, to tell us what they remember of early days in Mitcham. We expect that each one will remind the others of interesting incidents

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and open up new sources of information. Among those taking part will be Mr. M. Gray, Mr. F. Bowden and Mr. J. McLean.

Schools Night.
Dr. Robson, of Melbourne University, will be the speaker at the Schools Night on July 14, in the Willis Room. His subject will be "The White Australia Policy", which is included in the H.S.C. syllabus, but should be of general interest as well.

Visit to Bendigo.
We have to thank the Bendigo Historical Society for a most enjoyable week-end at Bendigo early in April. They entertained us on the Saturday night, then showed us around interesting features of their city on Sunday. We were particularly interested in seeing their head-quarters in a beautiful old house.

Visit to Queenscliff.
Unfortunately we had a very small attendance at the visit to Queenscliff fort. As we were joining the usual weekly inspection of the premises this was not of serious consequence. Our representatives were part of a large crowd, and it was impossible to visit all parts of the fortifi-cations. The fort is open to visitors on Sunday afternoons, but smaller parties, which could be shown much more of the works, can be shown through by appointment during the week.

Visit to Castlemaine.
Our next excursion will be a week-end one to Castlemaine at the end of October. We would like to know who intends to go so that arrangements can be made early. Please let Mrs. Shortland know if you will be going.

Theatre Night.
Money for tickets to the theatre night on June 10 should be in by Monday, June 7. There are still tickets available for any who wish to go, so ring or write to Mrs. Shortland as soon as you can. The theatre night will be at the Forest Hill theatre and the film is "Fiddler on the Roof". Tickets are $2.25 each.

Opening of Wandinong.
The new park "Wandinong" was opened on Sunday, May 9. This is land running between Canterbury Road and Ronley Street, Blackburn, given to the City by Mr. R. Hooke, who died a short time ago. It is largely in its natural state and it is intended that it should remain in its present condition. At the opening we had a display of pictures,

maps, sales reports and sub-divisional plans of the surrounding area, Mr. Hooke's bicycle, Mrs. Hooke's sewing machine and an old-fashioned dress. Mr. Hooke lived on the property for many years and had an estate agency at Hawthorn. He and Mrs. Hooke, who is still living, were keen cyclists and rode almost everywhere by bicycle. The machine on display had been ridden more than 100,000 miles.

Museum

The building for our proposed museum, in the grounds of Schwerkolt Cottage is now well on the way, and it was inspected by a number of members during May. The first impression is that it will have a very large area to be filled with display items, so we will have to begin planning how to fill it. At present building is delayed by difficulties in getting the right kind of door and window frames.

Display Items

The kind of items we will require are domestic and household goods, which will give an idea of how people lived in the past, books, pictures, maps and similar items. We have a number of agricultural implements, which will probably be sufficient to fill the space allowed for them.

Photographs.

A reminder. If you have a few spare exposures to finish a film, use them up in taking photographs of streets and buildings in your neighbourhood. These may not seem very interesting at present, but they are likely to become valuable in future years, when someone asks what Nunawading was like in the mid-1970's. We hope to have a display of such photographs later in the year.

C.J. Dennis Centenary.

This year is the centenary of the birth of C.J. Dennis. As part of the celebrations, there will be a visit to his grave in Box Hill Cemetery, Sunday 20 June, at 2.30 p.m. If you need any inducement, there will be afternoon tea.

MORE ABOUT BLACKBURN LAKE - Extracts from the minutes of the Adult Deaf Society of Victoria. (Continued from last Newsletter).

17 July 1916. A cutting from the "Leader", pasted in the book, said there was a clearing of 4 acres south of the lake, entirely planted in bulbs. The lake was 23 feet deep in one part, where an old clay pit was included.

15 January 1917. The Superintendent reported that a boy had been

accidentally drowned in Blackburn Lake.

11 June 1917. The secretary reported a notice of rates owing to the Shire of Nunawading had been received.

16 July 1917. It was resolved that a letter be sent to the Shire of Nunawading stating that after taking legal advice the committee is of the opinion that the Society is not liable and therefore consider the Shire should stop sending notices or take action against the Society for recovery of rates.

6 May 1918. The secretary reported receipt of notice of rates due to the Shire of Nunawading. He was instructed to hand it to Messrs. Derham and Derham.

17 December 1918. The secretary reported that on the suggestion of Mr. Martin, with the concurrence of the chairman, he had instructed Messrs. Derham to take counsel's opinion in this matter. The secretary's action was endorsed and Messrs. Mercy and Martin were appointed a sub-committee with power to give a retainer to Messrs. Derham Robertson and Derham under the seal of the Society.

29 September 1919. Resolved that the words "picnics, etc" be eliminated from the notice board at Blackburn railway station.

25 October 1920. A letter was read from Derham, Robertson and Derham dated 22/9/20 intimating that the Nunawading Shire Council had given notice of appeal against the decision given by Mr. Justice McArthur that the Society was not liable to pay rates. It was resolved that the Society's solicitors be instructed to oppose the appeal. (A newspaper cutting quoted 78 acres as the area of the farm and 22 acres as under cultivation). (This appeal went to the High Court of Australia, and went against the Society on the grounds that growing and selling flowers was not a charitable purpose, although carried on to finance the treatment and training of inmates. Also the Society allowed boating and picnic parties to use the land and charged for it. This also excluded the exemption.)

Continued in next Newsletter.....

K. A. PATTERSON.
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EARLY NUNAWADING

Some old residents told us at our June meeting about early days in Nunawading. Mr. M. Gray described the leading businesses, including factories, and their situations. The first sub-division of land in Mitcham shopping area was made by McLellan & Co. in 1914, and sold by T.R.B. Morton. Water was supplied to the district from a stand-pipe at the corner of Whitehorse and Mitcham Roads, and cost 4d. to 5d. a thousand gallons. Mr. J. McLean said the railway was single track when it opened in 1882. Mitcham station was there, but Blackburn did not open until Christmas Day that year and Tunstall station in 1888. At first the line was badly run and there was a head-on collision the day after it opened. Mitcham Brick had its own station and there were various sidings for brick and tile works. Mitcham station had a carriage dock to enable loading of drays and wagons. The line was duplicated to Ringwood in 1891. Mrs. Hansen said that in the early 1920's Mitcham was noted for its wild flowers. Truckloads of flowers were sent away, even to Sydney. Mr. W. Bawden said that in 1936 Mitcham was a self-contained semi-country township, where the railway staff knew everybody who travelled by train and were able to introduce young men and women. Large quantities of coal and briquettes used to come from Anderson and Morwell for brick and tile works.

WHITE AUSTRALIA.

In describing the White Australia policy at our Schools Night, Dr. Robson of Melbourne University traced the strength of feeling in favour of it to the lower middle and working class origins of most Australians, who had some fear of economic competition, had little contact with other races, belonged to a nation that had maintained its independence for centuries, and developed a strong pride of empire. This had been exaggerated by the lower class origins of Chinese who came to Australia in search of gold, which could not correct biased impressions about foreigners. The Colonial Office, which was responsible for

contd.....

administration of nations of other races, had done its best to modify that policy, but had no more influence after the Commonwealth was established. In answer to a question Dr. Robson said that in the circumstances, and with the state of popular feeling at the time, there was really no other possible policy. A number of excuses were advanced to justify it, but it was in fact just a recognition of a national state of mind.

AUGUST MEETING.

Mrs. Jean Field will describe a visit to Williamsburg, capital of Virginia at the time of the American Revolution. This town has been completely re-constructed and is operating as a town of that period, with workshops and shops in operation and all the residents dressed in the authentic costumes of 1776. It is one of the most notable examples of re-creation of life and times of 200 years ago.

SEPTEMBER MEETING.

Anyone with any interest in the Scottish Highlands should be interested in the September meeting, when Mrs. Elaine Foote will speak on "Tartans."

SOCIAL EVENT.

It is hoped that we will be able to arrange a social gathering some time in early September. Tentative arrangements are being made, but the date has not yet been decided. We will probably try to make definite arrangements at our next meeting.

VISIT TO CASTLEMAINE.

We are having difficulty in getting enough members interested in going to Castlemaine for a week-end visit about the end of October. Several who hoped to go are now unable. Mrs. Shortland would like to hear from those who would go so that she can make arrangements.

VISIT TO PARLIAMENT HOUSE.

Mr. George Cox, M.L.A. is making arrangements for us to tour Parliament House. The date is uncertain, but is likely to be at the end of September or early in October. This will be an evening visit during the week. Members will be notified when the date is decided.

VISIT TO GOVERNMENT HOUSE.

We are on the list to make a tour of the public portion of Government House, but the waiting list is so long we do not expect an appointment before early next year. This will be a day visit during the week.

VISIT TO CHURCHILL ISLAND.

Earlier this year we tried to arrange a visit to Churchill Island, but failed. The island has now been bought by the Victorian government and the Royal Historical Society has arranged a bus tour to it. There will probably be room for any of our members who would like to join them. Mrs. Shortland can give interested people particulars.

MUSEUM BUILDING.

Anyone who has visited Schwerkolt Cottage lately will have noticed that the museum building is now well on. The City Engineer says it will be finished before Christmas. This means that we will have to sort out what items we have for display, what we should get, how to display them and when we can open the museum. A target date is next March. Members who have items stored in cupboards and garages should look them out and see what needs repair or cleaning before it is placed on exhibition. Any other interesting relics that can be gathered should also be collected.

PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORDS.

Just another reminder about photographs. If you have a few exposures left to finish a film, take a few pictures of your own area. In a few years they will become very interesting as records of what Nunawading is like now. We intend to have an exhibition of these photographs at the annual meeting in October, and then place them with our collection of photographs.

THEATRE NIGHTS.

During June and July we had two theatre nights, one at the Forest Hill Theatre and the other at a performance by the Mitcham Repertory Society. The second was particularly successful as we had about 30 present and the production was very good.

NATIONAL TRUST CLASSIFICATION.

For the first time the National Trust has classified suburban streets. The area is Blackburn Lake and the road reserve and front gardens of

several streets in what is known as the "Bellbird Area". It has also recorded Furness Park and part of the Lake Reserve. We have a copy of the citation, which describes the streets as retaining a quiet, almost rural character unique in Melbourne.

MORE BLACKBURN LAKE HISTORY.

Extracts from Minutes of Adult Deaf Society of Victoria, continued from last Newsletter. The High Court had ruled that the property was rateable.

14 February 1921. - The meeting was called to consider advisability of discontinuing the Blackburn Farm flower trade and the letting of the business as a going concern at a rental.

22 June 1921 - Recommendations of 17 June 1921 - That the flower trade etc. in connection with the farm be continued as at present for the next 12 months. That plans for the very necessary alterations and additions to the Blackburn Home ... be prepared at once.

26 September 1921. - The architect's plans for proposed additions to the Farm and Home were submitted.

16 November 1921. - On the architect's advice and recommendation Mr. Peacock moved and Mr. Vial seconded that the tender of Mr. Bellamy be accepted.

27 February 1922.- Opening of additional buildings at end of March - Messrs. the Chairman, Peacock, Treasurer and Superintendent were appointed a committee to arrange this.

27 November 1922. - Lake water. Principal reported that for some time he had suspected that the water being pumped up from the Lake for hot water system used for washing up and bath purposes was not fit for such purposes. He therefore had a sample taken from below the pump and submitted it to the Public Health Dept. for analysis. This report was submitted to the meeting and in view of this it was decided to discontinue the hot water service pending other arrangements, also to have a notice posted up that the water from the lake was not to be used for drinking or washing purposes.

K. A. PATTERSON.
Editor.

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American National Monuments

Mrs. Field, at the August meeting, described some of the American historical monuments she had seen. Williamsburg, capital of Virginia at the time of the Revolution, has been preserved in its condition at that time. No motor traffic is permitted in the city, the roads are of sand, which is very suitable for horse traffic, all buildings are exactly as they were at the time, with trades and shops operating in their original manner. It was a very well designed city, with excellent buildings, particularly the Governor's palace. It is not usually realised that the American states, at the time of the Revolution, had the highest per capita income in the world, and were in a position to design and build to the best possible standards, and in excellent taste. The central part of Pittsburgh has also been preserved in its original form, and is still lit by gas-light, so that it remains an example of American cities of last century. By contrast, a small town on the Santa Fe trail, also preserved in its original form, shows how country towns in the West looked when gold-miners and settlers were flocking to California.

Tartans

Mrs. Elaine Foote, at the September meeting, showed us dozens of patterns of Scottish tartans, and many books describing the organisation of clans, relationships of their various branches, the rights of persons of different names to be regarded as members and areas in which various clans resided. She described how tartans evolved and the confusion of colours and patterns which 300 or 400 years ago became simplified into standard patterns, some of which were worn only by particular clans, and others by residents of districts. With samples of her own work she showed how much intricate work was involved in making kilts, to match stripes and squares accurately and make a permanent gathering at the

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waist which would not be affected by washing the garment.

October Meeting - October 13 at the Coffee Shop, Civic Centre. This will be the annual meeting and election of officers.

November Meeting - November 10, also at the Coffee Shop. The speaker is still uncertain, but may be announced at the previous meeting.

December Meeting - December 8, also at the Coffee Shop. Mrs. S. Jones will speak on "Cards". Mrs. Jones has a very large collection of cards of all kinds dating back to early this century, many of styles and designs that are both unusual and interesting.

Social Gathering - A new feature of our programme was a social evening and dinner at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Field early in September. It was a Saturday night function, on the basis of bringing casseroles and similar dishes, to enjoy a meal and gathering at leisure. About 24 were present and we have to thank Mr. and Mrs. Field for inviting us to visit them. Similar functions will probably be included in future programmes.

Election of Office-Bearers.

Nomination forms for office-bearers are enclosed with this Newsletter. All too often it is left to the out-going committee to arrange their successors, but this should be the responsibility of all members, so please think of who you would like in office and put in nominations. It has been our policy that executive officers should not hold office more than three years in succession. Nominations to these offices therefore will be very welcome, even to those holding them at present. It is desirable that all nominations should be in hand before the meeting begins, to avoid painful pauses while we try to persuade someone to accept some vacant position.

Photographs.

For several months we have been urging members to take any opportunity to photograph scenes in their own neighbourhood. If you have any photographs, please bring them to the annual meeting, so that we can see them and add them to our collection. They may not be exciting at present, but within a few years, as the district changes, may become of first-class importance.

Visit to Parliament House.

Mr. George Cox, M.L.A. has been unable to arrange a tour of Parliament House this year, owing to a particularly busy time, but he will be able to arrange it during the Autumn session next year. Further information

will be passed on as soon as we know something definite.

Visit to Churchchill Island.

We hope to have details of arrangements for a visit to Churchill Island available for the October meeting. This island, visited in 1803, was the site of the first farming in Victoria, and has been bought by the State Government. The Royal Historical Society is organising the visit and having trouble with transport, because the bridge from Phillip Island is not fit for more than light traffic. It may be necessary to walk across, but the tour will include interesting areas of Tooradin, Grantville, Bass River and Phillip Island. The probable date is the first week in November and it will probably be on a Saturday.

Museum.

A reminder to look out for items suitable for display in our museum. We are going to need a great quantity to fill the building, and we particularly want exhibits connected with our own district. We already have plenty of farm and orchard implements and a horse trough of the type which used to be plentiful along main roads. Recently we also obtained a letter pillar box which used to stand outside the G.P.O. in Melbourne. It is much bigger than we had expected, being of heavy iron, which was sunk some feet into the ground. The type and style is now completely discontinued. When the museum opens we expect that we will have to call on members to man it at week-ends on a roster basis, and it is possible that we will have some articles of a souvenir type on sale.

Tracing Family History.

Do you ever have to answer a grand-child's question, "Where did my people come from, and who were they?" It is often not easy, unless you have good family records. Nearly every year we have someone speaking about tracing family history, so we should have a fair knowledge of what information is available, and where to go for it. We would suggest that members who have not done so should prepare a family tree, beginning with what they know of their parents and grandparents. There will be gaps in their knowledge, and they can discuss with officers of the society where to go to fill them. Perhaps the family will not be very interested at present, but each should be given a copy to put away and consult when they find it necessary. Then in future years there will be no cause to lament, "Aunt Agatha knew all about that and I wish I had asked her before she died". Knowledge which may be wanted in later years must not be allowed to die for lack of recording.

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Concluding Blackburn Lake History.

Extracts from Minutes of Adult Deaf Society of Victoria, continued from last Newsletter.

23 June 1923 - Resolved that Mr. Peacock interview the President of the Shire of Nunawading and that subsequently a letter be sent in asking for a remission of the rates.

18 August 1924 - A reply had been received stating that the Council had agreed to make a grant of £20. Resolved that a letter of appreciation be sent to the Shire Council.

(A copy of the letter attached to the Minute Book said that the Council would assess the farm on two assessments. 1. That used exclusively for charity. 2. That portion used for trading.)

22 June 1925 - Attached to the minutes was a comparison of flower sales from 1920 to 1925. The highest monthly total was £129/4/7 in August 1921 and the lowest £30/11/6 February 1923. The highest year was 1921-2 £979/4/7 and the lowest 1922-3 £800/6/11.

19 April 1926 - Resolved that application be made to the Shire of Blackburn and Mitcham Council to place the Society on their charities list, pointing out that the Nunawading Shire Council showed us some consideration in the matter.

26 December 1926 - Picnics on the Blackburn Home - Recommended that the practice of allowing picnics at the home be discontinued - Approved.

21 February 1927 - Sheds to be built by the Swimming Club at its own expense. (Apparently the Swimming Club did not take this up).

20 May 1929 - Report - An abundance of bloom but owing to trade depression and glut of bloom generally, very little demand for it.

Minutes of the Farm Committee

June 1931 - Discussions on whether it was still worth growing flowers.

12 June 1932 - 4000 strawberry plants purchased.

10 July 1933 - Mr. Butterfield kept on at £2/10/ a week, provided income from flowers is at least £6 a week. If under £6, after allowing McLellan's wages, the amount short to be deducted from Butterfield's wages.

From that time onwards growing of flowers consistently declined, but vegetables were grown and poultry kept, mostly to supply the Home.

K. A. PATTERSON
Editor.