NUNAWADING HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER

February-March 1978 Price 5 cents Number 68
Registered for transmission by post as a periodical - Category B

Pres - Mr.W. Shortland, 96 Loughnan road, Ringwood 3134
Secretary-Mrs.A.Poole, 6 Lernes st., Forest Hill 3131
Treas.-Mrs.S.Barker, 14 Tortice Ave, Nunawading 3131

Museum Opening

We achieved our ambition to have our own museum when the building was officially opened on 20 November by the Mayor (Cr. Brown) The building was designed by Mr. L Armstrong and built by the Nunawading Council Most of the stone work was done by Mr Williamson, of the council staff, who died soon after it was completed. His widow was given a testimonial in appreciation of his skilful craftsmanship in building the museum and smoke-house.
Members of the council, its staff and representatives of neighbouring societies and others present complimented us on the building and exhibits. It is different from similar institutions and set out differently, which gives it an individuality of its own. This is very desirable because a succession of nearly identical displays would become very boring.

Interest in Exhibits

Everyone going through the museum has some special interest and stops to look closely at something. Australian Tesselated Tile exhibit attracts most interest, and after that articles of everyda y use and the wedding dress. One interesting comment was that the museum was large and varied enough to provide a comprehensive view of our district, but not so large as to be over-whelming and cause people to overlook items.

Agricultural Implements

Some of the agricultural implements on display could not be identified positively In some cases the maker, date of manufacture or method of use was uncertain and Mr Hallett of the Science Museum, who catalogued them for us, could give only approximate information. On the day of the opening an orchardist who had used some of them supplied a lot of additional information, and the catalogue is being revised to include it.

Articles on Sale

We have on sale at the museum post cards of birds and aboriginal paintings, reproductions of National Bank prints and butter dishes. These are all selling well.

Museum and Cottage Admission

Since the opening of the museum the admission charge for Schwerkolt Cottage has been increased from 20 to 50 cents. The new charge will include admission to the museum as well as the Cottage.

Articles for Museum

Among additional articles received for the museum are:- Centennial (1888) glass, baby frock and cape, certificate of exemption from compulsory school attendance and receipt for nurse's fee from the Hospital for Sick Children, from Mrs Heads, Wolseley crescent Bla ckburn; hair-curling tongs, embossed silver mirror, button hook, a 1920 portable gramophone and two books on orchard tests, published by the Agricultural Department in 1890.

Walk to Yarran Derran

A path from the Schwerkolt Cottage area to Yarran Derran has now been completed and it will link two areas of interest. The path runs a longside the Mullum Mullum creek, and being within the creek valley, it is out of sight of streets and houses. This can be recommended as a very pleasant walk through an area still in its natural state with picnic and other facilities at either end.

Early Mitcham

Mrs. Leach read an account of early Mitcham, prepared by Mrs. Boxshall shortly before her death, at our meeting in December. As a girl she had lived at Westgarth, but her parents wished to move to the country. They moved to Nunawading by horse and buggy and rented a house for 12/6 a week. Finding the place to their liking they bought land just before the 1914-8 war. The journey to and from Melbourne by road was a very tiring one, and the country was very open as far as Elgar road. Few trains came to Mitcham, and they usually had to change trains at Box Hill. Steam trains found the gradients difficult and took one hour from Melbourne to Mitcha m, but ma de the return journey in three-quarters of an hour. Mitcha m township had farriers and butchers, a store, bakehouse and boot repairer, with a post office in the front room of a house. A block of shops was destroyed by fire in the 1920's. The school was of two rooms, with slate roof. The headmaster, Mr. webster, came from Surrey Hills by horse and buggy each day. Rooks road was then known as Victoria street, all telephones were on party lines and the water supply was from iron or underground tanks

Van Diemen's Land Co - Miss Mc Gaw will speak on the Van Diemen's Land Co at our first meeting this year, on Wednesday 8 February, in the Coffee Shop. This company, which received its charter in 1825, was the first to attempt settlement on the Tasmanian north-west coast. It did a great deal to open up that part of the country, and it still exists, in a much smaller way.

Australian Navy - We have quite an interesting naval history which is little known, so the March meeting, when Mr. Ricketts will be the speaker, should be particularly interesting.

Statistics -	Shire Blackburn & Mitcham 1925	City of Nunawading 1945
Population	5,650	About 9,000
Buildings	1.472	2,471
Annual Valuation	£96,412	£130,791
Gross Revenue	£21,000	£40,000

MULAWADING HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

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Pres -Mr.W.Shortland Sec -Mrs.A.Poole Treas.-Mrs.S.Barker
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Va n Diemen's Land Company

Major la nd development by the Van Diemen's Land Company in north-west Tasmania was described by Miss McGaw at our February meeting. Miss McGaw's father was manager of the compa ny for many years during this century. The company still operates and is the second oldest in Australia. It was formed in England under Royal Charter in 1824 with a capital of £1,000,000, intendi ing to raise sheep in Tasmania. When it applied for 250,000 a cres Governor Arthur divertee it to the north-west to be away from other settlement. Surveyors, agricultural experts, directed by Edward Curr, the first manager, explored the country from Port Sorell. They thought the country wretchedly poor but found good grazing land at Circular Head, so the first settlement was formed there Other good land was found in thickly-forested areas and the Company obtained 350,000 acres in several lots It formed a base at Emu Bay, which is now the site of Burnie and cut roads to its various properties. These were very wet all the yea r, mud was everywhere, so it was poor country for sheep. These natural conditions caused a number of failures until 1851, when conditions became more favourable.

Natives lived mostly along the coast where they had many middens for cooking shellfish. There were troubles between natives and settlers, some were killed on both sides, as wellas horses and sheep. Many natives dies because they could not adapt to civilisa tion, dying of tuberculosis.

In 1871, when tinm was discovered at Mt. Bischof, allngside one of its properties, the company built a railway to the mount. This was later sold to the Emu Bay Railway Co.

Some emigrants, arriving in Tasmania, rented and bought small farms, others were sold to farmers on mortga ges and large a reas to the A.P.P.M. for paper manufacture. During the 1960's the company sold off town and other lands, retaining only the Woolnorth Sheep Station.

Although it is an English company and would probably need a n Act of the British Parliament to dissolve it, most of the directors are now Australian.

Mayor's Night - Our annual Mayor's Night will be on Thursday (not Wednesday) April 13. We meet in the Mayor's reception room at 7.30 p.m. to receive visitors from neighbouring kindred societies, then go to the Willis Room, where Mr. Laurie :Dunn will show films of famour Melbourne buildings and bullock teams.

Australian Navy - At our March meeting Mr Ricketts, who served in the Australian Navy from 1913 until after 1945, with the exception of 18 years between wars, told us about his experiences and the various ships flying the Australian flag. There will be a fuller report in the next News Letter.

Theater Night - We a re planning a theatre night on 28 April, when the Mitcham Repertery Society will be presenting a comedy, "How's The World Treating You?" Tickets a re $2 each

Excursion to Mornington - Arrangements are being made for an excursion to Mornington, with help from the local historica l society, which will probably advise us what to see, where to go and provide guides.

Coffee Table - Mr Harold Bakes has given us a mahogany coffee table to be disposed of for the museum funds. Tickets are 20 cents each, or three for 50 cents This will be drawn on May 10

Centenary of "loch Ard" Wreck - On 1 June 1878 the "Loch Ard" was wrecked near Port Campbell. There were only two survivors. This was the most famous of more than thirty major wrecks in the Cape Otway area. A number of events will mark the centenary this year, including an oration by Professor J.J.Auchmith, "Settlers Under Sail" in the Great Hall of the National Gallery on Wednesday, 15 March We will be represented by six of our members

Exhibition of Photographs -AAs part of the Moomba celebrations the Royal Historical Society is presenting an exhibition of some of its oldest and most interesting photographs, contra sting with modern ones. The exhibition opened on Tuesday 7 March, and is on the 14th level, 495 Collins street. Times of opening a re 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. This exhibition will be in conjunction with the publication of Mrs. Tipping's photographic history, "Melbourne on the Yarra."

William Witt, First Shire President - William Witt was born at Salisbury, England, in 1833. He studied chemistry and when he ma married in 1857 he came to Australia on the recommendation of his brother, who was at Beechworth. He opened a chemist's shop there and followed succeeding gold rushes through the north-east of Victoria and the Easte n Riverina, opening branches on every new field This often involved travelling through road-less country and corssing unbridged rivers, sometimes in dangerous circumstances He was soon involved in public life and became Mayor of Beechworth in 1867 He began an agitation for a railway line to Albury and when the government agreed to build it he was elected to Parliament for the Murray district He held this seat for three Parliaments, but had to leave Beechworth because he could not attend to his Parliamentary duties without being in Melbourne For a time he had also to give up his business He bought a property at Burwood, and was immediately elected to the new Shire Council. He was President for some years. Later, on retiring from Parliament and the council he resumed business at Prahran, then in Flinders street, Melbourne, while living in South Melbourne.
He died in 1910, at the age of 77 years.

News-Letter - We ha ve arrnaged to publish our News'Letter monthly instead of two-monthly. This issue has been delayed owing to difficulties in arranging duplication. These are now a pparently overcome and we expect that each issue will appear about a week before each monthly meeting.

KUNAWADILG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

April 1978 Price - 5 cents Number 70

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Mayor's Night

Our April meeting will be the Mayor's Night, when we will have visitors from a number of neighbouring kindred societies.
We will meet in the Mayor's reception room at the Civic Centre at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday 13 April

Please note the change of meeting night

About 8 p.m. we will go to the Willis room, where Mr Laurie Dunn will show two of his prize-winning films. One is on famous Melbourne buildings, the other is a documentary on the work of bullock teams. These films have won awards in film competitions around the world.

We saw them last year, but they are so good they are worth seeing again.

Members, please bring supper.

Australian Navy

Our early small, but useful, navy was described by Mr. Ricketts at our March meeting

Sydney had been the base for the British Pacific squadron and Victoria established a squadron of the "Cerberus", 2 gun-boats "Victoria" and "Albert", and four torpedo boats. Queensland had two very heavily armed gun-boats and South Australia built a cruiser, the "Protector", which was the only early Australian ship to see active service. It went to China during the Boxer Rebellion, flying the South Australian flag, which no British naval officer had ever seen, or recognised

After Federa tion two destroyers, "Yarra" and "Parramatta", were ordered in 1909. When George V established the Royal Australian Navy the "Warrego" was sent out itn pieces to be assembled here and an old clipper was commissioned at the training ship "Tingara". Other ships were received from Britain, the cruiser "Brisbane" and three more destroyers were built here.

Mr Ricketts joined the navy in 1912 and trained on the Tingarca. During World War 1 he was on the "Encounter" and "Psyche", two ships given us by Britain, which carried out routine patrols in the Indian Ocean. These were quite un-eventful, but it has been found since that their presence pre-vented attacks by German raiders

After the war he intended to sit for examinations for promotion to officer rank, but was advised against it because many officers had come from the Royal Navy and were often very wealthy They set a standard of living beyond the means of those on navy pay only.

He rejoined the navy at the beginning of World War 11 and after a period of training recruits was sent to sea in a corvett engaged ma inly in mine-sweeping, to be a steadying influence on a young and inexperienced crew. Later, after transferring to our first frigate, "Gascoigne" he saw active service in support of landings on Pacific islands His most vivid memory was of the accuracy of the naval bombardment supporting the landing at Tarakan

His talk was illustrated by many slides of notable ships which have flown the Australian flag.

RUNNYMEADING HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

May 1978 Price 5 cents Number 71

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Mayor's Night - As usual, the Mayor's Night was a very successful event. A number of other Historical Societies were represented, as well as local societies with similar interests. Mr Laurie Dunn s films were greatly appreciated, particularly that of working bullock teams. One visitor commented tha t it was a film which deserved to be used for wider viewing as a documentary showing the work of bullocks during the early days. It seems Mr Dunn will have a number of additional bookings among historical societies.

Coming Meetings - Both at the Coffee Shop

May 10 - Mr. A.Wilson will show some of his pictures under the title, "Here and There" - Australian Beauty Spots with a Touch of History. A few years ago Mr Wilson showed us pictures of Victorian gold fields, including some areas in which there are few relics of past activity. They were very good photographically and all of considerable interest, so we expect a very interesting evening.

June 14 - The ship "Polly Woodside" has been well in the news and is now on view as its restoration is progressing Mr Darrock, of the National Trust, will tell us its history.

Museum Exhibits - During the last month Mr Mifsud, an antique dealer, of Montrose, has made a valuation of articles on display in the museum. The total is more than $4,000. This is the commercial value of only those articles which are saleable as antiques. Many others, such as samp es of tiles and other things for which there is no market, could not be valued. The most valuable a rticles are:- An Edison phonograph, $250; an organ, $200; a small doll, washing machine and two mangles, $150 each; a lustre vase, $135; amber beads, rocking chair and bracket clock, $120 each; three other dolls and embroidered shawl, $100 each

Theatre Night - We had quite a surprise at our Theatre Night. The advertised play could not be presented because of insufficient rehearsal, so we had Box Hill Repertery Society instead of Mitcham It was, at least, produced by Mr Max Grant, which kept the Mitcham connection The play was The Irregular Verb To Love," a witty and often humerous exposition of relationships between members of a family of highly individual, if not eccentric, characters Our party was 39 strong and all had an enjoyable evening

Mornington Excursion - Our visit to Mornington will be on 20 May, and we need to know very soon how many will be going A bus has been booked, we will take our own lunch, but Mornington will provide morning and afternoon tea There will be admission charged to some placesve will visit About 11 members of the Box Hill Society will accompany us

Wine Table Draw - The draw for the wine table will be made at our May meeting. Please bring all books of tickets so that the draw can be made

Magic Lantern Show - It is very short notice, but if you would like to see a Magic Lantern Show (not Slide Night), there will be one at Mornington on 3 May at 8 p.m. The place is the corner of the Esplanade and Main street, in the old Post Office Lt-Col H. Lee Archer, a R.H S.V. councillor, will show slides of old Melbourne. If you would like to go, let Warwick Shortland know. He will have room for a few people in his car.

Sheep Feeding in Hunawading - During 1902 Victoria had one of the worst droughts known and sheep owners had to use every means they could to keep their flocks alive. One way was to send them around the countryside, feeding on grass by the roads, or on areas reserved forcamping by men with travelling flocks and herds. Hunawading, although it was so close to Melbourne, had its share of travelling sheep, which tended, in defiance of rules that they must travelat least a certain distance each day, to stay anywhere with grass The Council became involved on 3 April 1903 when Mr. C Norman and others wrote to it about many sheep feedin on open land for months and asking the Council to have the nu sance abated.
Cr Collier said the complaint was quite justified as the sheep were a perfect nuisance and were continually trespassing on private property, and besides it was unfair that they should be allowed to consume the grass that was owned by the ratepayers. He moved tha t a committee be appointeed to find out what power the council had in the matter and see it was enforced
24 April - The committee reported and recommended that the council's solicitor be asked for his vie opinion.
1 May - The council received legal advice a d the inspecotr was instructed to report cases where mobs of sheep did not travel the distance per day required by the Act.

Our Special City - The area we now know as the City of Hunawading was establishee as the Shire of Blackburn and Mitcham in 1925. When it became the City of Hunawading in 1945 it required a special Act of Parliament, because the area was 15½ square miles The Local Government Act laid down a maximun area of 9 square miles for a city. Fortunately for Hunavading there were precedents for having cities of larger area. The City of Heidelberg had 42 square miles and the City of Moorabbin 23 square miles.

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NEWSLETTER

June 1978 Price 5 cents Number 72

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Pres. -Mr W.Shortland 96 Loughnan rd., Ringwood 3134

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Pictures of Australia- About 200 slides, all photographically excellent, of interesting places and scenes in Australia, were shown by Mr A Wilson at out May meeting. They were mostly of lesser known places which are noted for their history, pictorial beauty, geographic or other interest It was an excellent exhibition and as Mr Wilson said, showed that Australia had scenery as individual and beautiful as any other country.

Coming Meetings-

June 14 - In Coffee Shop - Mr. Darroch of the National Trust, will tell us the history of the ship "Polly Woodside", which is now being restored and is on exhibition in the old Duke and Orr dry dock on the Yarra.

July 12 - Schools Night - Willis Room - Mr Don Gibb, from Rusden State College, will speak on the subject, "Attitude to Non-European Migration - Forming of White Australia Policy " This is a subject in the H.S.C history syllabus and Mr Gibb is one of those who set the examination questions. We expect secondary schools of the district to take a great interest in this meeting. Several schools have already replied to our invitation, so there should be a large attendance.

Mornington Excursion - Mornington were excellent hosts to us when we visited them on 20 May. The bus took us and some Box Hill representatives to Mornington, where an excellent morning tea was ready. Mr Corkhill, the secretary, went with us on a tour of places of interest in the district. The McCrae Homestead now under the control of the National Trust, is all open for inspection and a Trust man showed us over it. Another interesting house, not open to the public, is "Heronswood", formerly owned by Mr Justice Higgons The ranger welcomed us to the Sea Winds National Park at the top of Arthurs Seat. This is a property formerly owned by Sir Thomas Travers and it includes a large area of beautiful garden The tour continued through Red Hill to the Devil's Bend Reservoir which supplies water to the Mornington Peninsula, then back to Mornington for afternoon tea. Our tour ended with an insepction of the Church of St James the Less at Mt Eliza The vicar, who had just conducted a wedding ceremony, showed us over the building, which is notable for its stained glass windows and picture of St Catherine. This church is used by the Uniting Church, which has no building of its own, as well as the Church of England This was a very interesting and enjoyable outing and we must thank the Mornington Society for its hospitality

Wine Table - The wine table was won by Miss Joyce Larter, of Camberwell, one of the Maroondah Singers More than $100 was raised towards the cost of the museum.

Visit by Sandringham Society - We expect to be visited by the Sandringham Historical Society on 17 June. We will be showing them over our museum and perhaps take them for a walk to Warren Dharran

Working Bee - In preparation for the visit by the Sandringham Society we will have a working bee at 11 a.m. on the morning of 17 June The main work will be a general dusting, cleaning

tidying and re-arranging of exhibits in preparation for the Sandringham visit.

Duplication of Newsletter - Owing to rising costs of production the newsletters, are now lublished in duplica ted form instead of printed. We must apologise for deficiencies in recent issues. They were caused by lack of familiarity with the machine The quality should improve with experience We trust that as savings enable us to publish each month instead of bi-monthly we will be publishing newsletters of sufficient interest to offset deficiencies of production

Excursion to Colac - We have planned an excursion by bus to Colac on Sunday 9 July, when the Colac Historical Society will be our hosts A feature of the visit will be an inspection of their museum .The cost will be $9 and reservations can be made with Mrs Poole

News Items from the Past - Reports of events in the district give us an indica tion of what life was like in our district early this century These two, from the Box Hill "Reporter" show the close fellowship of a scattered population and the very open nature of t the country at that time

21 December 1900 (Nearly two columns)
The quietude that usually pervades Blackburn was disturbed on Monday evening when a most enthusiastic demonstration was made in the local hall to mark the return of Private Walter Foote from the war in South Africa ----------
The chairman in proposing the toast of "Our Guest" remarked that about twelve months ago they met at a similar gathering to give Private Foote a send-off. ------ On the present occasion their feelings were of pleasure and gratitude because Private Foote ha d returned uninjured and with the reward of success following him. Private Foote spoke in high terms of the leader of his contingent, Colonel Tom Price, who would never send his men where he would not go himself. ----
Mr Knowles, proposing the toast of "The Army and Navy", said that Blackburn had had its presentatives in both branches. Mr W. Pope representing them in the navy in the war in China and Privates Foote and Rich in the army in South Africa.

28 December 1900
The intense heat that prevailed on Wednesday afternoon was responsible for a rather serious outbreak of fire at Blackburn The firebell at Box Hill pealed out an alarm, but the few members of t the brigade who happened to be at home thought it was useless to take out the appliances as there was no water laid on anywhere near the scene --- The fire broke out in Cr Morton's paddock on the Blackburn road and rapidly extended through the properties of Messrs Jennings; Workings, Loftus and Hone, right out to the Canterbury road --- The strong wind that was blowing rendered the task of arresting the progressof the fire one of great difficulty, especially as there were but few fire fighters available, the tota' number of people at work being ten

Visit to Keilor-Sunbury - A bus trip to the Keilor-Sunbury area on 12 August will include morning and afternoon tea at the Overnevton Gatehouse, guided tours of Keilor, the Organ Pipes National Park, Sunbury and Jackson's Creek areas and lunch at the M.M.B.W. Brimbank Park. The tour will bgin from Lilydale at 8.15 a.m., with several pick-up points on t e way. The cost will be $6 and o only 44 seats are available. Early reservation advised. Use this form

EARLY RESERVATIOI FORM
Return with money to Miss C.E.Gray, 30 Mont Vue st., Lilydale

Please reserve _____ seats for me on the Keillr-Sunbury Bus Trip

Name

878-2880.

RUNAWADING HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

August 1978 Price 5 cents Number 73

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Pres.-Mr W.Shortland Sec.-Mrs A Poole Treas.-Mrs S.Barker
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"Polly Woodside" - The ship "Polly Woodside", now being restored in Melbourne, was a priceless technical example, said Mr Darroch of the National Trust, at our June meeting. Its restoration had revived old crafts, such as rigging and rope-splicing, which were in danger of being forgotten Possibly they may be revived if a shortage of oil forces a return to some form of sail
The ship was of outstanding beauty, built of iron in Belfast in 1885 when building of such ships was at its peak. The British merchant fleet was the world leader because of its well-built ships and highly-trained crews.
Mrs. Marianne Woodside (known as "Polly") launched the ship, which was designed for the River Plate trade, being small enough to sail up the river. Until 1904 it remained in British ownership, and rounded Cape Horn 16 times It was then sold to New Zealand, and re-named the Rona It usually traded between New Zealand and Australia, sometimes also to the U.S.A., where it lost its figurehead in a collision.
In 1925 it was towed to Melbourne as a dismasted hulk. After some years coaling and bunkering ships in Melbourne it was sent to New Guinea in 1943 as an oil bunker
After another 22 years in Melbourne as a hulk it was given to the National Trust in 1968.
When the Trust began to restore the ship it found all plans, papers and logs had disappeared and all previous captains were dead, so it had only very sketchy information to work with.
Virtually the whole ship had to be re-built and re-designed A lot of the work had to be experimental as they worked out how decks and fittings were joined together. Men with normally conflicting interests worked together, notably big companies and seamen, as they adapted modern techniques and methods to the shape and size of the hull, or recalling half-forgotten skill and knowledge about fitting and rigging sailing ships. Voluntary work on the ship was estimated to be worth $2,000,000.
Conditions for crews on such ships were very hard. The trade was highly competitive, and ships were designed to carry crews as small as possible in conditions of accommodation and victualling which were the minimum allowed by law.

"White Australia" - The H.S.C. night in July was different from any other we have had. Mr. Don Gibb, of Rusden State College, speaking about the development of the White Australia policy, illustrated his talk with slides of cartoons in the "Bulletin" and "Boomerang", showing how Australians thought about Chinese who came to the gold fields. He emphasised that although both were radical journals representing a working men's point of view, they were expressing ideas which were to be found in the community as a whole.

August Meeting - On our syllabus Mr Clive Manly was to speak on "Australiana". He is unable to come, so Mr Fred Payne, a member of a family long connected with this district, will speak on his memories of Burwood, Forest Hill and Vermont

September Meeting - There is a lot of interesting history in the development of the Post Office in Australia, and we will be told about it by Mr D Baker at our meeting in September. Mr. Baker is employed by the Post Office as its historian, keeping its records in order and answering questions from the general public

Visit to Colac - Colac's museum was a revelation to us when we saw it during our visit to the district They were able to get a grant of $50,000 and a great deal of other help, including show cases from a large store which was being re-modelled. The area is twice the size of our's and they have plenty of storage space. Many of the articles on display came from the old court house and shire office.
The Colac Historical Society provided us with a soup and casserole lunch, then conducted us around the district, including a visit to the home of the first doctor, which is being restored, and to Provan's museum of old cars and steam engines. We thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated the hospitality they provided, and perhaps best of all, found ourselves so well off financially we were able to refund $1 to everyone on the excursion.

New Life Member - At the June meeting we decided to give a life membership to Mrs Jean Field, one of the first and most active of our membership. Mrs Field has now gone to live in Sorrento

Sailing on the Maribyrnong - The Eastern Historical Societies are arranging a river trip up the Maribyrnong river on 11 November. The cost will be $2, provided enough people are interested. They would like to know who expect to go

Interesting Items in Box Hill History

The history of Box Hill by Andrew Lemon has now been published and as we were so closely connected with it during the early years, some of the facts he has discovered are just as interesting to us. Among them :-

Old Names of Roads Middleborough road was known as Britnell's road, south of White Horse road and Boardman's road in the north. Canterbury road was known as Delaney's road. Both were re-named in 1883.
Burwood was known as Ballyshannessy or Bennett's road.
Highbury road was known as South Boundary or Harkaway road.

W.H.Slater a Council Candidate - William Slater, better-known as a herb grower, was a Council candidate twice. In 1883 he lost to William Ellingworth, an outstanding personality of Box Hill. Three years later he opposed, with Ellingworth's support, another outstanding personality, Alfred Rawlings The vote was tied, and Ellingworth, as returning officer, tossed a coin, which was won by Rawlings.

Slater in Box Hill - William Slater was, in 1863, renting land from the Toogoods, west of Middleborough road

Another Eucalyptus Distiller - Pierce Boardman distilled eucalyptus, carraway, melaleuca and peppermint oils in 1863, on land east of Middleborough road, on Koonung Creek

Both Slater and Boardman won prizes in the Dublin Exhibition of 1865.

July Newsletter - We apologise for our failure to send out the Newsletter for July The duplicating machine was out of order and it was impossible to produce it

Crazy Whist - Mrs Webster has made her home available for a Crazy Whist Night on 14 October. Cost $1 a head, plus a small plate of supper

Case For Clothes - Clothes on display in the museum are in danger of deterioration because they have no protection against dust. We intend to have a glass case made to protect them. The cost is likely to be at least $500 and plans are being prepared.

Trading Table - A reminder We have a trading table at each meeting Cakes, pot-plants, etc are the items we would like to have each month

Sorrento Celebrations - It is just 175 years since the first attempted settlement in Victoria and Sorrento is celebrating in style on Saturday and Sunday 14 and 15 October. Proceedings wil begin at 8.30 a.m. on Saturday, when a Colonial Market will open in the Town Centre This will be followed by a Commemoration Ceremony at noon After that, there will be time for refreshments, meeting old friends and reminiscing before a return of direct descendants of the first settlers to the Collins Memorial at 3.30 p.m. After that, prepare for the First Settlers Ball, from 8.30 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Sunday will be a quieter day because the only event on the official programme is a Thanksgiving Service at Collins Memorial at 2 p.m.

Trip Up The Maribyrnong - The cost of the river trip on 11 November has been revised. It will now be $5.50. The voyage will start in the city at 9 a.m. and is expected to return about 1 p.m

It Was a Stick-Up - Regrettably, because of our lack of romantic tales, we have no bushrangers in Lunawading, but Ringwood has discovered some sort of imitation of one It has a copy of the "Herald" 7 March 1867, containing an account of an armed hold-up The previous Monday morning a young man, William Parsons, 18 years described as "of rather foolish appearance", held up a dray near the Ringwood Arms and robbed the driver of 1. He got nothing from another dray man, only 50 yards away and a third showed fight. In a scuffle Parsons shot himself in the chin, then was chased and caught. Mounted :Constable Purcell, of Lunawading placed him under arrest Parsons had said he intended to hold up every dray from Ringwood to Woods Point.
It seems Parsons was not enough of a professional to be a good bushranger. Constable Purcell was the first constable in Lunawading, and had his headquarters where the Box Hill High School and Cemetery are now. Ringwood to Box Hill is a long way to go for a policeman, so Parsons should have been reasonably safe He must have been a bungling amateur. Pity, but the drivers o the drays were probably relieved that his career was so short.

Tax Dodging - Another report in the same Herald reads:- "Several parties were summoned by the Lunawading Road Board for evading the the toll on Ballyshanassy road. The first case was dismissed for want of sufficient evidence. In the second case a conviction was obtained, but as the affair appeared to be merely a dispute between the local body and certain of the ratepayers, a nominal fine of 5/ was imposed The remaining charges were withdrawn "

NUNAWADING HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

September 1978 Price 5 cents Number 74

Registered for transmission by post as a periodical Category B

Pres - Mr.W.Shortland Sec.-Mrs.M.Poole Treas.-Mrs S.Barker
96 Loughnan rd, 6 Lernes st , 14" Notice Ave
Ringwood 3134 Forest Hill 3131 Nunawading 3131

Early Days in East Burwood - Mr. Fred Payne, a life-long resident of the district and descendant of one of our pioneer families, spoke to the August meeting about his memories of East Burwood. That part of Nunawading he said was settled before Blackburn and Mitcham. The first families were Fankhausers, Taintons, Lorens and Brooks. They grew mostly fruit and some vegetables, which were taken to market in covered wagons. These wagons were also used for family transport. His father was the first farm manager of the Tallyho Boys' Home, when it was conducted by Rev. Col The second superintendent, Mr Williams, formed a first-class brass band among the boys The instruments were later lost, but years later when an old building was demolished they were found beneath its floor The East Burwood Methodist Church was originally on a different corner of the Burwood Highway. The first building was an old church which was shifted to the site. When it was out-grown another old church was bought and also removed to the site, where the two were joined together Mr Payne's talk was illustrated with many photographs of early residents and scenes

September Meeting - Our speaker at the September meeting will be Mr. D. Baker, who is employed by the Post Office as its historian and has charge of all its old records There is much interesting and romantic history in the development and growth of postal services, so Mr Baker's talk should be worth hearing.

Annual Meeting - The Society's annual meeting and election of officers will be in October. Nominations for offices must be in hand before the meeting. The subject for the meeting will be members' treasures, when everyone will have a chance to show and describe their relics and xxx mementoes.

Signs for Museum - Mr. Harold Bakes has been able to get us timber very cheaply to make signs describing the agricultural implements in the museum We appreciate this as it will increase the interest of those exhibits

First-Aid Kit - Mr. Michael Shatin has obtained materials to make up a first-aid kit for the museum Various items have been given by J.C.Embury, 295a Springfield road, Nunawading; Lamb and White, 405 Springvale road, Forest Hill and Maroondah Apothecary, 511 White Horse road, Mitcham We thank them all for these gifts

Maribyrnong Outing - The Eastern Suburban Group of Historical Societies is arranging a launch trip up the Maribyrnong River on Saturday, November 11 The cost will be $2. Bookings have to be made early because they must be assured of a full launch. At present 20 people have said they will be interested in the outing

Robin Da Costa's Book - Mrs. Da Costa's pictorial history of Blackburn is being bought by the Society. The notes from which the book was written, which were the result of four years of work, will be given to us by Mrs Da Costa, and will be kept at the museum

Photographs Received - Mr Chetwin, when he attended a meeting of the Eastern Suburban Group of Historical Societies recently was given a number of photographs of our area, including some of Deep Creek road and the bridge over the Mullum Mullum creek before the present bridge was built

House Photo - We expect to take copies of a photograph of a house which still stands at 18 Gordon cresecent , Blackburn. It has been shown to us and is dated 1907. At the time there were no houses between the crescent and the railway line. It was then the home of the Game family, after whom Game street was named.

Chairs for Museum - For some time we have felt a need for chairs for visitors to the museum. Mrs Jones has now got some, so visitors can be more comfortable and have some place to rest is they tire while touring the Cottage and museum.

Money For Museum - More money will be needed to improve our museum exhibition The most urgent is a good show case to display clothing in a way that will protect it Some of the articles on display also need repair and renovation, so we are looking for means of raising money Among them are:-

Trading Table - There will be a trading table at all our meetings Anything will be welcomed, jams, cakes, old china, etc
Stereo Night - Do you fancy looking at old stereo pictures in life-like, three-dimensional splendour? Mrs Shirley Jones invites all interested to a stereographic night on Saturday, September 30 Admission $1, and a small plate of supper Children free
Crazy Whist - Mrs Webster has offered her house for a crazy whist night on October 14.
Museum Cards - We will add to our range of cards on sale at the museum a series of Captain Cook's residences and country in England. This should be an interesting and uncommon addition to our range.

Adventures of David Boyle - We know David Boyle as the correspondent (secretary) of the committee which established the school now known as Vermont Primary School. He was a land selector and nurseryman with land near the corner of Canterbury and Mt Pleasant roads He had been associated with the Common School which met in the Church of England property in Canterbury road Box Hill Schools at that time were set up and controlled by local committes assisted with grants from the government In 1868, soon after Boyle came to the district the school committee dismissed the teacher. Parents objected and called a protest meeting, with David Boyle as chairman Several members of the committee spoke against the teacher, but the meeting was so strongly in his favour that he was re-instated, but not for long A few months later he was again dismissee and the parents virtually went on strike. Only children of committee members came to school and Boyle immediately began an agitation for a new school at Mt Pleasant Methodist Church On the insistence and reports of its inspector, the Board of Education refused to consider having a school there, and built the new school at the corner of Canterbury and Kitchen roads

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

N.E. SECTION

October 1978 Price 5 cents Number 75

Registered for transmission by post as a periodical Category B

Pres - Mr. J. Shortland Sec - Mrs. Poole Treas - Mrs. S. Barker
96 Loughnan road 6 Lernes st. 14 Portico Ave
Ringwood 3134 Forest Hill 3131 Lunawading 3131

Early Post Offices - Improvised post offices of the early days were described by Mr J. Baker, the Australia Post historian, at our September meeting. Early settlers had to make their own arrangements. The only real exchange of letters was between Melbourne and Launceston and Batman was the first local postmaster. When Lonsdale arrived he was instructed to appoint a post-master. The Customs officer, Mr Webb, acted for five weeks until an Edward Foster, who had been sent as clerk of courts, had to organise an office at the corner of Collins and William streets. He resigned after five months and a Captain Baxter was appointed. His wife did the work in a house in Flinders street, where she made up bags to go overland to Sydney and direct to England. Steane Craig then acted for a time until David Welch was appointed in 1839. In 1841 a post office was built and he was given an assistant. Street letter boxes, which seem to have been the first in the world, were set up in 1844 and the first stamps were issued in 1850. At that time a half-ounce letter travelling less than 15 miles cost 4d (3 cents)

Pioneers in Lunawading were very isolated. A punt over the Yarra at Heidelberg connected with Melbourne until a wooden bridge was built in 1852. The first post office was at Box Hill in 1861. The second, at Ballyshannessy (now Burwood) in 1863.

Other offices and post masters were:-

Forest Hill - 1874 - Mr Peacock who had the mail contract for the whole district

Blackburn Creek - 1976 - Mr. George King, who was also a hotel keeper. The name was changed to Blackburn in 1883.

L L Vale - 1881 - Mr D. Bowan. This office became Vernont in 1885

Kitcham - 1884 - At the railway station

Tunstall - 1889 - At the railway station. Mr Travers. In 1890 Mr John Barnes was station and post master. In 1923 the office was transferred to a shop. Name changed to Lunawading 1945

Annual Meeting - Wednesday, 10 October, will be our annual meeting. Nominations are required for all office-bearers - President, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and committee. The more entertaining part of the meeting will be in the form of members showing and describing their treasures.

November Meeting - At our meeting on 8 November there will be a general discussion of our activities and how they can be improved

Excursion to Mornington - We have arranged an excursion by bus to Mornington on Saturday, 20 May. The Mornington Historical Society has arranged an itinerary for us to see as much as possible of places of interest within the time and will provide morning and afternoon tea We will have to take our own lunch and there will be admission charges to some places such as the Arthur Rylah Homestead The bus will leave the Civic Centre at 9 o'clock and return at 6 o'clock Fares will be:- Adults $4.50 Children $2.50

Theatre night - Tickets are now available for a Theatre night on Friday 23 April. The programme will be a comedy "Don't The Old Spectre Tour" by Kitchen Sweatermen Group. Tickets are $3 each Ring Ken Poole for bookings.

Our Meeting - At our May meeting in the Coffee Shop Mr. J. Olsen will be showing a coming of older illustrations Australian Gaiety Lands with a Torch of History. We have very happy memories of a similar talk by Mr Olsen a few years ago, when he dealt in similar fashion with Victorian gold fields.

Port Phillip Northwestern Area - The Western Historical Societies Committee is presently in the Northwestern Area, which is an interesting but neglected part of Melbourne. It will be in the South, and fares are expected to be $2 Thirty passengers will be needed to make it feasible

Museums etc in Western Suburbs - The Western Historical Societies has issued a list of museums and places of interest in our area Besides our own, there are museums at Doncaster, Lilydale, Fern Tree Gully and Yarra Junction. Other places have the remains of the Coranderrk Aboriginal Station, graves of notable people, buildings and sites of interest, both architecturally and historically

Oh! Those Roads - Extract from a report of Lunenburg Shire Council proceedings in 1903 -

Letter received from C Miller, of Vermont, saying no attempt has been made to repair Canterbury road. The excuse is "No rates " Why not take some of the rates paid by those who use the road, namely, the wood carters of Box Hill and ~~Burwood~~ Blackburn. If the road was made properly instead of a man being sent every now and then to "cut in a day" thus only wasting money, she for one would cease to be an "annual grumbler". As the remark by Cr. Walker when she last wrote that she had nothing to complain of, she had come to the conclusion that his eyesight was very defective, for no-one with unimpaired vision could truthfully make such a statement

Letter received from ... Parnilo, Vermont, calling attention to the bad state of Canterbury and Lenthendale roads, which were becoming quite unsafe ...e invited councillors to take a trip down the roads after a heavy rain, to see if there was not justification for something being done before winter - Decided that members for the riding and the engineer inspect and report to the next meeting.

NUNAWADING HISTORICAL NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER, 1978.

Price 5c.

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SECRETARY'S REPORT.

The Annual General Meeting of the Nunawading Historical Society was held on Wednesday, 11th October in the Coffee Shop at the Civic Centre, Nunawading. The following members were duly elected as the Office Bearers and Committee for the ensuing year:-

PRESIDENT:	(Mrs)	Jean Webster	874-4210
VICE-PRESIDENT:	(Mrs)	S. Jones	
SECRETARY:	(Mrs)	E. Poole	878-2880
TREASURER:	(Mrs)	S. Barker	

COMMITTEE: Mrs. N. Leach, Mrs. P. Johnson, Mr. K. Patterson, Mr. M. Chatwin, Mr. W. Spooner

ARCHIVIST: Mr. Keith Patterson
NEWS LETTER EDITOR: Mrs. Jean Webster
REPRESENTATIVE TO EASTERN HISTORICAL SOCIETIES: Mr. M. Chatwin
MUSEUM COMMITTEE: Mrs. D. Mattingley, Mr. M. Chatwin, Mr. K. Patterson

Mr. Maurie Chatwin chaired the meeting for the election of the above and at the same time proposed a vote of thanks to all outgoing office bearers. Special reference was made to the work of the outgoing President, Mr. Warwick Shortland, who had ably led the Society for the past 2 years, particularly as he carried out these duties for quite some time without the assistance of a Secretary. The vote of thanks to Warwick was carried with acclamation.

We were all sorry to hear of the argument Harold Bates had with a saw, and hope he will soon be fully recovered.

Your Secretary would like to wish all members a Happy and Healthy Christmas.

Talking of Christmas brings to mind presents. Things to buy, things to sell and that brings me in mind of our TRADING TABLE. It operates at every meeting and any donation of saleable items is greatly appreciated.

Dear Members,

In undertaking the preparation of your Newsletter I am so fully aware that I lack the background knowledge of our previous editor. Mr. Keith Patterson is a hard act to follow and so I ask you to bear with me while the new newsletter takes shape. At the same time I seek your assistance.

Have you recently visited a place of Historical interest?

Have you read a book, article, etc. about some character from History? Would you like to share your enjoyment with fellow members?

Perhaps you have a pet historic interest and would be prepared to do some research, and then write an article for one of our future issues.

This is your newsletter and the greatest number of contributors the greater the interest for us all.

Sincerely,

Jean Webster.

T H E A. N. A.

Turn on your T.V. or radio and likely as not you'll hear a commercial for A.N.A., no doubt most of you know that these initials stand for the Australian Natives Association, but what of its history?

In 1880 no matter how rich, how powerful, or famous a man may be, unless he was a "native born" Australian, he was not eligible for membership of the Australian Natives Association. This rigid rule was upsetting to many colonists, especially those who had arrived in the colony as very young children, but the many attempts made to modify this rule were defeated. The Association was devoted to the cultivation of an Australian way of life, and, therefor, they must awake a national consciousness in those who knew no other mother land.

The high birthrate in the 1860's made possible the massive recruitment that took place 20 years later. Membership and the number of branches increased from 654 members in 14 branches in 1882 to 4,414 members in the 586 branches in 1886. Its greatest membership was in Victoria, particularly in the old gold mining areas, such as Ballarat. The "generation gap", as we would call it today, was so noticeable that it was perhaps natural for the "natives" to join together in an association. It differed from English Friendly Societies in that it had no regalia, no secret signs or password and all its meetings were open to the public.

The Association's first article was that "it was an Association for moral, social, and intellectual improvement", and at its meetings ambitious young men were encouraged to read and speak in public. The topics were rarely different from those debated in other English and Australian improvement societies and no doubt included the great events of the period. Federation, and the development of colonial and Commonwealth immigration restriction policies in the period 1885 to 1901 I'm sure would have been two topics very much to the fore.

The A.N.A. became a political training ground with many of its members moving into local government. A number stood for parliament;among these was the Chief President of the Association in 1883, R. H. Hart. Although the Board of Directors continually denied that the Association was a political organ, it could not be denied that its members were politically minded, and through the Association they gained the confidence and developed the necessary skills to ensure that they were not only heard but listened to. Men with strong associations with the "Natives" spoke and wrote on issues of the day. In 1882 George Mendall wrote an article "Australia for the Australians" and this became the slogan adopted by the "Bulletin" in 1886.

During 1887 there was a strong surge of public feeling, a pride in Australia and in the people who were identifying themselves as Australians. There was also a growing criticism of the country's relationship with Britain. The young men of the Association were looking for ways of expressing their Australian distinctiveness. More stories and poems with Australian themes were read and published. For instance, Henry Lawson's 'Faces in the Street', which exposed the social injustices of the late 1880's. Branch socials of the Association featured all Australian programmes, ballrooms were decorated with gum tips, Australian flags, wild flowers and Aboriginal relics. An Australian anthem was being discussed and January 26th was promoted as the national holiday.

Overall the Association respected the British Empire and were proud of being Australians of "solid British stock". However, the British heritage was the glorious past, the Australian nationality the glorious future. By 1890 this concept was beginning to be accepted throughout the whole of our continent.

F A M I L Y H I S T O R Y.

Many of our members are preparing their family histories. Are you? Perhaps you are not really interested and so have tended to overlook the recording of your family history as you know it. You may not be interested now, but what of later? What of your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews. Most of us have a budding historian lurking in the background. Why not sit down and write out the details of your family, your parents and even grandparents. Do the same for your husband/wife's side of the family. Start with yourself.

Full name .....
Place and Date of Birth.....
Any brothers or sisters (names, etc.) .....
Your Parents Name .....
Place and Date of Birth .....
Place and Date of Marriage .....

(Make a special note if it is a second marriage, especially if there are children by this marriage. Personally I found this most confusing when I discovered three lots of grandparents had been married twice!)

If deceased, Place, Date of Death & place of Burial.

File the information with your other personal papers for further reference. Who knows! In preparing this information you may become involved in what can prove to be an absorbing hobby. For those already involved I found a card system, with a card for each family member of great value.

L O O K A T M E L B O U R N E.

The site of Melbourne was first seen by white men when a survey party led by Grimes in 1803 mapped the shore of Port Phillip Bay. One member of the party noted that it was a good site for a town.

In 1835 John Batman rowed by the Maribyrnong River, thinking it was the main stream. He explored the Yarra up to the bar of rock which formed a small waterfall at the foot of what is now Queen Street. Boats and small ships could ascend the river to that point, and as the falls stopped the tide, fresh water was readily available.

Owing to the geography of the area early developments were all in the present western part of the city. The central and eastern parts did not develop until the building of Prince's Bridge in the early 1850's. Its site was determined partly by the character of the grounds south of the river, where large areas were swampy, and partly by the importance of the direct route to the important settlement of Brighton.

ELIZABETH STREET was known to the colonists of the 1830's as River Townsend. For here a creek flowed along the path of the present roadway on its way to the Yarra in the vicinity of the present Flinders Street intersection. Flooding was a constant problem and many people and cattle were drowned. Even today, basements of some of our city buildings are sometimes flooded after torrential rain. The water in the Yarra above the falls was the only fresh water available but especially high tides would at times make this salt water. So, in 1840, Melbourne Waterworks sank wells at the end of Elizabeth Street and some private wells were put there also. Water sellers became a common sight. By 1849, Jas. Blackburn established pumps and filter beds near Elizabeth Street intersection which produced bulk quantities of purer water. In 1857, his Yan Yean scheme began to operate and the opening was celebrated by a procession of temperance societies, plumbers and fireman.

SAMUEL BUTLER, 1833 - 1902, said:-

God cannot alter the past:
That is why he is obliged to connive
at the existence of historians.
