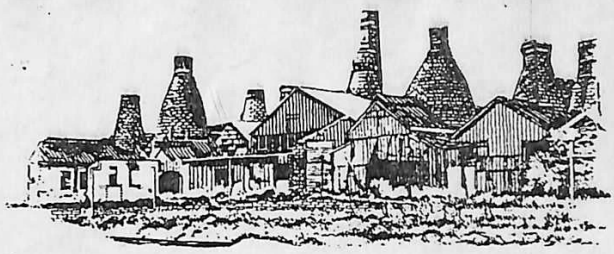
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NEWSLETTER DECEMBER '81 - FEBRUARY '82

Dear Members,

Christmas Greetings from the President, Office Bearers & Committee to all members of the Society, we all look forward to a very successful 1982 for our Society & hope to see the membership increase.

It was proposed at the recent Committee Meeting to have a speaker every 2nd Meeting & a workshop - discussion at the alternate Meetings. This proposal will be raised at the December Meeting for the members decision.

Clyde Tilson is compiling a reference of general items related to Nunawading, including businesses, organizations etc. etc., he would appreciate any papers or details on any allied subjects. He is including a copy of every Nunawading Hist. Scty. Newsletter from it's beginning, unfortunately some copies are missing, if you have spare copies of any of the following issues they will be appreciated; even a photo-copy would do. Missing: all up to July 1970, Nos. 1 - 30.All of 1971 To Sept. 1972, Nos. 33 - 41. June to Sept. 1973, Nos. 45 & 46. Oct.'74 to March '75, Nos. 52 & 53. Please check for Clyde, his reference is used to assist with requests from outside of the Society etc..

Our Treasurer Shirley Barker has not received all Membership subscriptions for 1981 - 82; if you have overlooked sending yours please send them to Shirley Barker 14 Tortice St. Nunawading Vic. 3131.

Harold Bakes hopes to begin work on the other display room at the Museum (Childrens Corner) in the next few weeks, some help will be required when the building is completed, there will be painting, cleaning & setting up the display work for all members. Also old items of childrens toys, clothing, small furniture, books etc. will be needed to complete the display.

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DATES TO REMEMBER

SAT. 28th Nov. 2pm.	Visit to AMBLESIDE PARK (Musuem & Headquarters of Knox Hist. Scty.) A well kept homestead of the 1890's, set in an old world garden of camellias & azaleas. 3 Olivebank Rd. Ferntree Gully (Melway ref. 65 D 12) Meet there at 2pm, bring afternoon tea, tea & coffee will be provided by members of the Knox Hist. Scty. Further details phone Shirley Jones 874 7073.
WED. 9th Dec. Note:Meeting starts 7.45pm	Historical Scty. CHRISTMAS MEETING Willis Room Nunawading Civic Centre. We are fortunate to have Members of the Mitcham Rep. Group coming along to present a Music Hall type of entertainment "ENTERTAINMENT OVER THE PAST 200 YEARS". We would like to make this a very well attended function & would like to ask every member to try to bring along at least one visitor to swell the audience, in fact bring as many as you can, it will be a really good night. Please bring some Christmas Fare for supper, catering for any visitors you bring. See you there.
WED. 10th Feb. 1982	The first MEETING for 1982 will be held as usual at the Schwerkolt Cottage, near Museum at 6.30pm. Bring along a Picnic Tea also chairs or rugs. Water will be available at the Museum.

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NEWSLETTER MARCH - APRIL 1982

Registered for posting as a publication; category VBH 1468

Dear Members,

Our new President & Secretary Warwick & Jan Shortland welcomed members & visitors to the first meeting of the year held at the Museum on 10th Feb. It was a beautiful evening which began with a picnic tea followed by an exceptionally interesting talk & demonstration of the agricultural items at the Museum by Mr Ollie Meyland who was an orchardist in the district (as was his family before him). Who would've thought that sturdy looking cart was known by the unlikely title of "jingle" & that a particular plough would be called a "silly plough"! Thank you to Ollie & Mrs Meyland for coming along.

Warwick moved a vote of thanks to Harold Bakes for his untiring efforts to have the new Childrens corner completed; it was viewed by all members at the meeting & was considered by all to be a great success, Warwick also thanked the ladies who helped Harold by setting up the display.

The beautiful old clock donated by Mrs Facey of Strathdon was installed in the Museum & is going well, thanks to Mr Bawden for replacing broken woodwork on the clock & Harold for the shelf.

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DATES TO REMEMBER

WED.10th March 8pm — Historical Society Meeting Willis Room Civic Centre. Speaker will be our Secretary Jan Shortland who will talk about dolls & toys - "A Broad History of Dolls". Meeting begins 8pm.

WED.14th April 8pm — Historical Society Meeting Willis Room Civic Centre. Clyde Tilson & Keith Patterson will offer assistance & advice on ways of researching history etc. Also Clyde will show methods of collecting oral history.

****

MOOMBA Moomba is a time of pleasure & fun in Melbourne but as you enjoy the holiday & perhaps watch the Moomba procession do you give a thought to the beginnings of this Labour Day Holiday?

EIGHT HOURS WORK- EIGHT HOURS RECREATION- EIGHT HOURS REST. This was the catch cry of the early campaigners. They were not asking that each day should be divided into three equal parts but rather that a man had a right to plenty of sleep and that his waking hours belonged to him as much as to his employer.

The emigrants engaged in the building industry made the first demands for an 8 hour day in Australia. They had travelled 16,000 miles to this country & it is understandable they would seek a better life for themselves. In 1855 tradesmen were paid between 15/- & 20/- a day but there was increasing unemployment in Melbourne & Sydney. By the late 1850's trade unionists were still a minority in the rural workforce but the days when unions were looked upon as 'trade Societies' mainly concerned with the dispensing of benefits to sick & unemployed members were over. In 1856 the Operatative Stonemasons' Society sought a general reduction of hours from 10 to 8 for their members, assuring employers that they were willing to accept a lower wage for this concession, from 15/- to 12/6 per day.

By 1862 members of the societies of joiners, bricklayers & plasterers had also gained the reduced hours. Artisans in these trades who did not belong to the societies worked longer hours.

Carpenters & joiners celebrated at a pic-nic each year in Sydney, & by 1868 this day had taken on the character of a general demonstration seeking the 8 hour day for all workers.

In 1865 the stonemasons of Brisbane won an 8 hour day & on 1st March that year societies of masons & plasterers arranged a march of 500 through the streets in the cause of urging others to agitate. Melbourne Trades Hall opened in 1859, 4 years after the beginning of formal co-operation between unions & on the anniversary of the demonstration in 1856 the Hall was decorated with flowers & greenery as the grand festival of Labour was celebrated. For days before banners were unfolded in the Trades Hall & new banners created for those groups of workers who had gained the 8 hour day since the last procession. The banners were very colourful & elaborate many of them cost as much as £200. From early morning the people would gather to watch the marshals assemble the various societies with their floats, banners & bands. (Not so different from todays Moomba procession, except that most floats are sponsored by charitable or business concerns.) By 10am all was ready & the anniversary committee would step off, under the red white & blue banner.....

EIGHT HOURS WORK - EIGHT HOURS RECREATION - EIGHT HOURS REST

the banner which had been carried during the original campaign. Near the Houses of Parliament the procession halted & stood to attention while the bands played God Save The Queen. The Governor was cheered & the demonstrators moved off to enjoy themselves at the fete & foot-racing, side-shows & merry-go-rounds. In 1871 a procession similar to Melbourne's began in Sydney.

The procession in Melbourne was only open to members of the associations that worked for the 8 hour day system. This was thought as an incentive for those outside the system but the fete was a public affair & so was the theatrical performance held later in the day. In 1876 to celebrate the 20th anniversary Marcus Clarke composed an anthem for the free & proud artisans of a new age.

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LILYDALE - HEALSVILLE rail line faces threat of dismantling .... a $10,000 study has been commissioned by Lilydale & H'ville councils with the hope of retaining & re-opening the scenic track. During the last 10 months of it's service, in 1980, when the line would take only the light "Spirit of Healsville" Railmotor 80,000 passengers were carried, hardly a poorly patronised service! The L'dale - H'ville Rail Pres. Committee would like to hear from anyone interested in the retention of the line & their ideas on the subject. Write to the Secretary 342 Maroondah H'way Healsville 3777.

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LAKE ELIZABETH in the Otway Ranges was formed during one of the wettest nights in Otway history in June 1952....the rumbling the locals thought was thunder or earth tremors was a huge landslide when part of a ridge between Mt. Sabine & Mt. Cowley slid into the valley of the East Barwon River forming a great lake, further floodings reduced the earth wall and eventually a small but beautiful lake was created naturally & over the 30 years of its existance it has become a serene beauty spot which now has no signs of its violent beginnings. Secluded & little known it is not on many maps, it has limited access; a Forest Comm. road goes to within ½km of the lake & runs off the Knaglang Rd. a few kilometers east of Forrest, the road is usually open during summer months only.

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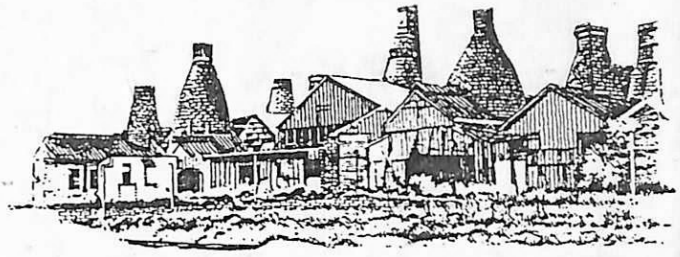
The Nunawading Historical Society Newsletter is compiled & typed by Shirley Jones & prepared for posting by Val Fitcher. Thank you to Jean Webster for providing the article on Moomba & the 8 hour day. Please assist with any local or other historical articles &/or paragraphs for future Newsletters.

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PRESIDENT: Warwick Shortland 96 Loughnan Rd. Ringwood 3134 ph 8704949
SECRETARY: Jan Shortland 96 Loughnan Rd. Ringwood 3134 ph 8704949
TREASURER: Shirley Barker 14 Tortice Av. Nunawading 3131
NEWSLETTER: Contact Shirley Jones 2 Delhi St. Mitcham 3132 ph 8747073

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NEWSLETTER JUNE - JULY 1982

Registered for posting as a publication; category VBH 1468

Dear Members,

Our May meeting was well attended & Pres. Warwick Shortland apologized for the cancellation of the April meeting at short notice owing to an error in booking of the Willis Room & hoped that no one was inconvenienced.

A letter of resignation was received from Phyllis & Harold Bakes, they will be greatly missed from our meetings & especially from the Museum working bees. Harold made possible the dreams & plans of the Society regarding the displays at the Museum, without Harold we would not have had our two fine display window/rooms, document show cases, photographic display stands, Station Master's house items etc. etc. etc. his energy and enthusiasm will be sadly missed.

Warwick asks all members to give some thought to the future of the Society & as we have no speaker for the June meeting that any ideas & suggestions be brought along for discussion then.

Warwick displayed 3 great old photographs of the Schwerkolt family taken in the cottage area about 1917. (one is of the smoke house & looks similar to the one illustrated in the cottage brochure). These are on loan to the Society & Committeeof Management & will be copied for our records.

Our speakers for the evening were Clyde Tilson & Keith Patterson:

Clyde spoke about Oral History & its importance as a living record of the past & demonstrated how he goes about the taping.

He explained how important it was to get permission on tape for interview & also that person was aware of copyright laws etc. (Clyde will give details to those interested). Things to remember: make subject at ease by speaking to them without tape for few minutes. Have recorder all set up with long tape (to avoid interruption) & begin to tape without fuss. It is important to give interviewees a list of subjects to bring back memories.

Clyde played tapes of several oral history interviews & told how to transcribe information, taking the essence from interview, editing on tape &/or typing a manuscript. He said it is essential to make a copy to eliminate accidential erasure or damage.

Keith gave members much valuable information on how & where to look for possible records of earlier residents of Vic.
Education records include school rolls, School Building Files. Gov. Blue Books etc. which give details of Educ. Dept. staff.
Probate Records are card indexed & copies of will can be obtained.
Inquests are another valuable source & always well documented.
Land Dept. Sales & Land Selection Board are both worth investigating if ownership of properties is being researched.
Licencing Court Records are available at various Court Houses.
Insolvencies which were frequent often provide unknown information.
La Trobe Library staff will advise & the Church of Latter Day Saints at Fairfield has a library of micro films etc. which cover many Parish records of U.K. U.S.A. & many other countries.

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After hearing Clyde speaking on Oral History your Editor thought that some of our members, all in fact, might like to write about their younger days. Just a page would do but more if possible & these memories would be published in future Newsletters. The Editor (Shirley Jones) is going to ask a different member to contribute something for each Newsletter, so get your memories in sharp focus & start writing - it could be you next meeting!

Editor: Mrs S. Jones 2 Delhi St. Mitcham V. 3132 ph. 8747073

DATES TO REMEMBER

WED 9th June 8pm	Historical Scty. Meeting Willis Room Civic Centre. Discussions on future of Society. (no speaker)	
SAT 12th June	Working Bee at Museum	Allocation of work to be arranged at meeting on 9th June, if you can't make one Sat. perhaps you can come the next one.
SAT 19th June both 9.30 till noon	Working Bee at Museum	
SAT 26th June 8pm.	Crazy Whist Night at Jean & Noel Webster's home 1 Paranda Crt. Vermont. You'll all recall the great fun we've had at previous Crazy Whists so keep that date free.	
SAT 3rd July Note (not 10th)	M.R.G. play "Birds on the Wing" Phyl Johnson has arranged a group booking for Hist. Scty., please contact Phyl if you would like to attend. Phyl Johnson 874 4745.	
WED 14th July 8pm	Historical Scty. Meeting Willis Room Civic Centre. W.Cdr. Franklin-Jones speaking on "Municipal Arms & Emblems of Cities & Shires around Melbourne."	

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BY HACKNEY TO WARRENDYTE The following is taken from William Westgarth's "Victoria & the Australian Gold Mines in 1857" & describes a journey from Melbourne to Anderson's Creek (Warrendyte) on 24th Feb. 1855.

"The day was pleasant, with a gentle but cool nth. west breeze. We had a comfortable enough carriage, a hackney, which had been hired for the day for £4, exclusive of horses & driver. The distance was about 16 miles up the river Yarra.

The country was very dry, as little rain had fallen of late. The roads, therefore, were unpleasantly dusty, & the wheels threw up an occasional cloud into the midst of us, in passing over portions of road or street not yet macadamised. The main roads, however, are now for some distance from town remarkably well finished, with tolls upon each to raise a fund for keeping them in repair. We crossed the Merri Cr. by its pretty new bridge, & then the Darabin by an older & much less pretentious structure. Proceeding on to Warringal, (Heidelberg) the road was not macadamised; but cut at the sides & raised in the middle & with occasional attempts at levelling. On each side were indications of extended farming & house-building. We came upon the pretty village of Heidelberg by the road from the back descending a rather steep hill, from whose summit we had a magnificent view to the eastward. The scene appeared one dense forest, excepting in our vicinity where we saw some natural glades less thickly wooded, or farms or green paddocks cleared of timber.

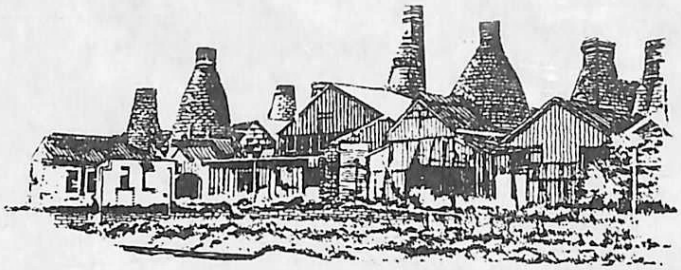
We halted at the Old England Hotel, a rural looking establishment in the midst of a garden, & we enjoyed some grapes while getting a change of horses. We then crossed the Yarra in a punt, the river low & narrow here.

We passed through Templestowe, a village 3 miles eastward, where there was a public-house or hotel, a blacksmith, & a few houses & gardens, with fields in the neighbourhood. The soil was light, but apparently good for most purposes, although very dry. As we approached the gold regions the soil became less favourable, as indicated by the stringy-bark forests it had sent up. Many of these trees were severely charred by recent fires; their thick fibrous bark is very combustible; but the fire of these bush conflagrations seldom reaches the vital parts so as to destroy the tree.

3 or 4 miles from Templestowe we came upon several sinkings but no one was there, following a valley we saw the river Yarra pleasantly sparkling; we found the digging population here, they did not exceed 200 in all & were scattered over about a mile of the river's length (at Anderson's Cr.) We viewed several stores which seemed tolerably well supplied with necessaries & comforts, after this survey we proceeded, about 1 o'clock to squat upon the grass for the enjoyment of our lunch, amongst ants & other creeping things. After an hour or two's rest we returned to town; arriving safely before dark, with no other accident than a broken pole occasioned by one of the horses taking a determined fancy to lie down upon the road, a common trick amongst horses in the colony."

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NEWSLETTER AUGUST - SEPT. 1982

Dear Members,

The following letters from members were written in response to a request for ideas on the future of N.H.S. from the President Warwick Shortland.

* "Dear Members,

Unfortunately only 11 members were present at the June Meeting, however a spirited discussion took place as to the future of the society. It was first suggested that an 'all-out' drive be made for new members to ensure continuity for the future. This was countered by a statement that such efforts have been made in past years without success, many locals, though interested, are too involved in other groups etc. etc.

One well-known fact was mentioned, that today numerous small Hist. Societies have proliferated, with subsquent diminished membership - however, we do not wish to lessen our enthusiasm because of this. The President pointed out a present-day deterrent to night-time attendances at meetings - those numerous T V serials!

An idea discussed last year was to have quarterly meetings in members' homes (some have offered) or perhaps meetings at two-monthly intervals. In this plan, several members volunteered to hold office, with the premise that those positions would be far less arduous in the proposed more informal set-up. It was noted that some other societies do not meet on a monthly basis. A suggestion at that time was to have a mixture to fit in with our small numbers, say, the usual summertime tea meeting at Museum, 2 home meetings & 1 Coffee Shop meeting (if available) with maybe a visiting speaker then.

Programs could entail some more local research - a few members still have local stories to relate - and Keith Patterson our Archivist, suggested he could provide guide lines for small research projects for any interested members. If quarterly meetings were held, some extra social get-togethers' might be arranged, & a small committee would deal with any urgent business throughout the year.

It should be noted that, despite the vote for continuing monthly meetings this year, we have achieved nothing at all in the way of extra members or supporters & are in no way better off.

Members are asked to consider all this & the responsibility of the Museum, as <u>a decision must be made at the Annual General Meeting in Oct.</u>for next year & the future.

Doris Mattingly. "

.....

** "Dear Members,

I am sure that any move to limit the activities of the Nuna. Hist. Scty. will mark the beginning of the end of the Society. In order to make the Society a continuingly viable organisation we need to do three things:-

1. make ourselves better known in our community.
2. make our meetings more interesting.
3. ensure that prospective members are made to feel welcome and that their interests are catered for and understood.

We have always kept a very low profile in the community in the past, and the few times we have advertised in the Gazette the efforts have been rather half-hearted & not very effective; we can

do a great deal better if we have the will to do so. An effective, planned campaign over a period of a few months would be within our resources & would heighten public awareness & result in increasing membership & attendances.

We can make our meetings more interesting by keeping to matters of historical interest & by eliminating the inconsequential chatter about trifling matters that should be dealt with in Committee, instead of the interminable discussions which seem to become more & more irrelevant to the issue.

Too often,in the past, we have made a token gesture in welcoming visitors & prospective new members & have made very little effort to find out their interests & why they came. If they are interested in the history of this area the information should be made available to them; if they are interested in some particular aspect of our history or perhaps they may wish to research it, help should be offered & given where necessary. Whatever the situation may be they should not be virtually ignored as they have in the past.

In a highly literate community such as Nunawading, it is inconceivable that so few people are interested in our history; perhaps the fault lies with us in that we cannot attract and hold them.

Clyde Tilson."

.....

*** "Dear Members,

The future of our Society is the prime consideration at present - our Secretary Jan Shortland is not standing for re-election at the A.G.M. on 13th Oct. - this means we need nominations for this position & also for all other offices & without a nomination for Secretary there is little point in other nominations!

The achievements of the Nunawading Hist. Scty. have been considerable over the years, even though the attendance & worker membership has never been very large; so what has been done before can be done again.

We should consider a few important aims eg. membership - Museum - 1984 (Vic. 150th Anniversary), things that are within our capabilities & numbers & plan to complete or support those aims, involving <u>every member</u> in some way.

It is important that some sort of monthly contact be continued, not necessarily meetings each time, but it is essential to the continuity of aims & plans to have regular contact.

We must <u>never lose sight</u> of the importance of the Museum & the responsibility of the Nunawading Hist. Scty. to improve & maintain the exhibits. The Museum & its displays are appreciated by the ever increasing number of visitors who come to the Schwerkolt complex. It's worth a visit some weekend to see the pleasure & wonder of old & young visitors as they enjoy the many exhibits which have been set up by Society members. This is one very valid reason for continuance of the Society, in fact the most important reason at present!

If we can't find the Office Bearers to fit the Society as it is now then we must tailor the Society to fit the possible Office Bearers - at least for the present, while at the same time planning for a future Drive for New Members.

Shirley Jones.

.....

The preceding letters are from members concerned about the future of the Society - please make it your concern and attend the Annual General Meeting on <u>13th October</u> (let's make it a lucky 13 this time?) Please put this date <u>in your diary</u> now, and over the next few weeks give some thought to what you would like to see for the future of the Society.

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REPORT from July Meeting

After a short meeting our speaker Wng. Cdr. Franklin-Jones gave members & visitors an illustrated talk on "Municipal Arms & Emblems of Cities & Shires around Melbourne". His knowledge of the subject is vast & as he took us around Melbourne district via their Coats of Arms etc. we began to understand why each shire & city chose the decorations which adorn their Coats of Arms, such as Springvale, surmounted by red-gum tree & railway sleepers (for its forest & milling beginnings) Box Hill, white horses, wattle, roses, paint brushes (denoting the famous Box Hill School of Impressionist painters) Knox, post & rail fence, woodcutters & native police (for the rural & forest origins & the locality of the Police Paddock). Some more recent municipalities had some urban decorations like smoke stacks, mills & factories. Our President thanked the speaker both for his most interesting talk and for his kind donation to the Museum of a fine cabin trunk, 2 metal hat boxes & a sewing machine.

****

The Victoria Archaeological Survey has been funded by the Aust. Heritage commission to make a study of the Aboriginal Occupation of the Melbourne area & is interested to hear from anyone who knows of any Aboriginal archaeological evidence, sites etc. etc. in the metropolitan area. Phone the Secretary Vic. Arch. Survey Melb. 6905322 with any info.

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The Crazy Whist Night at Jean & Noel Webster's home was a great night even though few in number fun was had by all & went well past midnight!

The M.R.G. Theatre Night to see "Birds on the Wing" was enjoyed by all, the quality of the production was up to the usual standard of M.R.G.

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PROPOSED Train Trip to Ballarat & its delights.

If we can find 12 or more people, inc. children (but excluding pensioners) to book with the Society for a day trip to Ballarat the cost would be approx. $14 adult, $7 child, covering return Spencer St. to Ballarat in the new fast train, Explorer Bus around Ballarat, entry into Toy Museum, Gold Museum, Historical Museum & Ballarat Art Gallery. (Pensioners cheaper fares make a total cost of about $12.) Bring morning & afternoon tea to have on the train & also lunch if not wanting to buy it at Ballarat. Leave Spencer St. 8.35am arr. B'rat 10.45. Return leave B'rat 5pm arr. Spencer St.6.55. This trip could only be on a Saturday as train time-table dos'nt leave enough time on Sundays to see everything. Suggested time of year,late September or early October. Let Shirley Jones know at next meeting if you are interested & we will try to make up the number of 12 or more.

********** 8747073

DATES TO REMEMBER MEETINGS come along & bring a friend please.

WED. 11th Aug. 8pm.	Historical Society Meeting Willis Room Civic Centre. Speaker: Mr Roy McNaught whose hobby is ornamental wrought iron will give a talk on the subject of "Blacksmithing - Historical, Colonial & Modern." During the talk, Hazel McNaught will create several floral arrangements of the Ikebana style using wrought iron containers.
WED. 8th Sept. 8pm.	Historical Society Meeting Willis Room Civic Centre. Speaker: Mr Hose who will give a talk on antique clocks, Mr Hose will also be bringing along some old & interesting clocks for members to see. If you have some old clocks, bring them along for identification.

SIGNIFICANT DATES IN HISTORY OF NUNAWADING

The Society was asked by the Nunawading Council to provide them with a brief outline on significant dates in the history of our city, these details to be part of the Councillors 'kit' on local affairs.

Our ever willing Archivist Keith Patterson came up with the requested information very promptly & it has been passed on to the Council. Keith also made a list of a dozen or so subjects for research which may interest those members who are keen to take on some local research. Listed below are significant dates from 1854 to 1870. Further dates to be included in future Newsletters.

This list refers only to the area of the present City of Nunawading, not to the Parish or Shire of Nunawading.

1854 White Horse Road surveyed as a possible route to Gippsland.

1855 October 22nd & 25th First sales of land.

1857 Nunawading Land District formed.
First school established in Blackburn.

1861 Harkaway school established after an earlier abortive attempt, (now East Burwood primary school).

1861 & 1862 Attempted residential sub-divisions of Springfield (Nunawading), Norwich (South Vermont), New Brunswick, East Kew & East Hawthorn (all at Mitcham). All failed.

1865 Mt. Pleasant Methodist Church opened & attempted to establish a school.
William Slater established a herb garden in Nth. Blackburn, (believed to be the first in Australia).

1866 Congregational Church established in Springfield Road.

1868 Big areas taken up by selectors who made an outstanding success of their land.

1869 Vermont Primary school built. First mention of the name Vermont.

1870 Trial of William Fisher leader of the Fisherites.

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A few of the Research subjects suggested by Keith Patterson.....

Soldier Settlement in Nunawading Closer Settlement Files in Public Records Off. Peter Catena Lands Dept. has Registers of Grantees.

Fruit Growing Records of Primary Producers Union in our archives. Interview old orchard families. Search Reporter Newspaper (in Nuna. Library) for Annual Shows etc. etc. See Newsletters July 1968, August 1969, September 1978.

Migrants' Hostel Although of recent years it would make the job of research so much easier as most records would be at the Hostel Eastbridge in Rooks Rd.

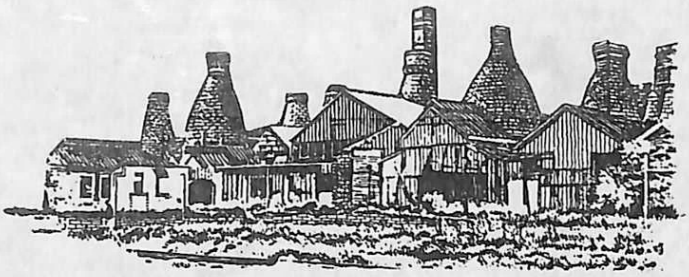
Depression Days could be researched by interviewing older residents & looking through old Newspapers of the locality.

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The Nunawading Historical Society Newsletter is published every 2nd month. Edited by Shirley Jones 2 Delhi St. Mitcham Vic. 3132 8747073 Prepared for posting by Val Fitcher. Printed by CopyCat Printing. Registered for Transmission as Publication Aust. Post. VBH 1468

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NUNAWADING
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER OCTOBER - NOVEMBER '82

Dear Members,

The Annual General Meeting & Election of Office Bearers of the Nunawading Historical Society is the most important function on the horizon at present. Nominations for all offices are required; this year there are several members interested in standing for office which is more promising than past years. It is important that we have a good attendance, please come along your support is needed. The date of AGM Wednesday 13th October 8pm Willis Room Nunawading Civic Centre.

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Annual Subscriptions are due at the A.G.M. Family $3.50 Single $2.50. Please pay the Treasurer at the Meeting.

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DATES TO REMEMBER

Please bring a small plate of supper for A.G.M.

Wed. 13th October 8pm	Annual General Meeting & Election of Office Bearers. Willis Room, Nunawading Civic Centre Whitehorse Rd.
Sat. 23rd October Train leaves Mitcham 7.17am for 8.35am Spencer St. to Ballarat.	Proposed Day Trip by Train to Ballarat We have promises for 14 people to date which will allow us to take advantage of a special low price group booking, fares of $7.80 adult & $3.50 children return. Please bring your train fare along to AGM on 13th Oct. Final details at meeting on 13th October.
Wed. 10th November 8pm	Historical Society Meeting Willis Room Civic Centre. Cr.Bill Coyne will speak on 18th & 19th Cent.Silver.
Sat. 27th November	Special Train to celebrate opening of railway from Camberwell to Lilydale 1st Dec. 1882. Watch N'letter for further details.
Wed. 8th December 8pm	Historical Society Meeting Willis Room Civic Centre Christmas Break-up - Bring a plate of Xmas fare.

WORKING BEE DATES

Sat. 2nd Oct. 9.30am
Sat. 4th Dec. 9.30am

Please come along to the Museum if available, there is always dusting to be done in showcases also we have to rearrange several exhibits & the children's corner. Just an hour of your time would be a help.

.....

BON VOYAGE to Jean & Noel Webster who left last week for a tour of the U.K. & Europe. Jean is looking forward to completing some family history research whilst in Ireland.

GET WELL wishes to Mrs Nancy Leach who is recovering from a leg operation, also to Morrie Chatwin who has been off work with virus pneumonia. Glad to hear that Flora Forbes has her ankle out of plaster.

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THAT OLD POSTBOX!

That old postbox is in the news again! P10"Nunawading Gazette"22nd Sept.'82 carries an article on the post box & has a photo showing the box lying forlornly amongst other seemingly rejected objects at the Council depot. Nunawading Council, to whom the Hist. Scty. gave the post box, made application to Aust. Post for the box to be erected & re-opened as an operative letter receiver outside the Nunawading Civic Centre. Unfortunately Aust. Post has rejected the request & according to the "Gazette" the Nuna. Council has decided to ask the Hist. Scty. to

suggest a suitable location with a council park or Schwerkolt Cottage Reserve as possible sites!! The saga of the post box seems to be back to square one!

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STRATHDON

STRATHDON COMMUNITY - Caring for Aged. Social Services Dept. of Uniting Church Hostel & Unit Accommodation & Nursing Home, Jolimont Rd.Forest Hill.

Strathdon Settlement - Mrs Matheson's gift of land:

Initiative was first taken by Mrs Marjory Matheson Miller, who, in Jan. 1958, wrote to the Presbyterian Director of Soc. Services, Rev. A.G.Harrison, suggesting that he approach her mother, Mrs Mary Matheson, for land belonging to the Capt. Charles Matheson Estate at Forest Hill.

Negotiations proceeded between the Board of Soc. Services & Mrs Matheson, but the Board had insufficient finance to purchase the 10 acres they sought, & the Matheson Estate land was subject to Board of Works "green belt" regulations, preventing the erection of suitable units for elderly people. At one stage, the Rev. W.J.Johnston of the Methodist Soc. Services joined the discussions, but, at that time, the churches lacked the legal authority to administer the property jointly.

To make a commencement of the project possible, Mrs Matheson offered 2 acres of her own land to the Presbyterians. At a gathering arranged by Mrs Marjory Miller at the orchard home "Strathdon", in the presence of the law agent, Mr. J.P.Adam, & her sister Mrs Marjory Holmes, Mrs Matheson completed the necessary legal documents.

Units and Hostel -

A building committee, appointed by the Presbyterian Church, with Mr. Ken Duncan as convener & Mr James Earle as architect, proceeded to plan the first units & hostel, calling the project "Strathdon", the name Capt. Matheson gave his property in memory of the barque on which he served his apprenticeship.

On 3rd March 1968, the first section of the Strathdon Community was officially opened by Rt. Rev. Rhys Miller, Moderator of the Presbyterian Church, & the memorial plaque unveiled by Mrs Marjory Miller in the presence of Mrs Matheson & a large company. The Matheson Hall was erected on land bought by the committee.

In 1977, Strathdon became part of The Uniting Church in Aust. Additional hostel rooms were erected, & in 1978 the Nursing Home completed the complex for nearly 200 people.

Sunday School-

A Sunday School was held in Matheson Hall for some time, but, with families moving from the area, this was gradually closed down.

The Nursing Home-

With its dedicated Matron, Sisters, Administrator & Office Staff, the Nursing Home has filled a needed place in the work of Strathdon. Built in 1978 & opened in Sept. of that year, many residents have moved from Units or Hostel to the Nursing Home, with the addition of Physio & Occupational Therapy, they have been given treatment there.

There is also a Day Care Centre, where people from the surrounding district are brought in & given loving care & taught to use limbs & hands again, or even to cook in safety once more.

A Kiosk is also well stocked & open two hours five days a week. A trolley is also taken around the Home twice a week, & to the Hostel once a fortnight, by Auxiliary helpers & other friends. This supplies extras when Residents are unable to shop for themselves.

to be continued.....

Thank you to Flora Forbes who has compiled this history of Strathdon for the Nunawading Historical Society records & Newsletter. The Editor would appreciate any other histories of past or present organizations of the district.

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The Nunawading Historical Society Newsletter is published every 2nd month. Edited by Shirley Jones 2 Delhi St. Mitcham V. 3132 ph 8747073. Prep. for posting by Val Fitcher. Registered Publication VBH 1468