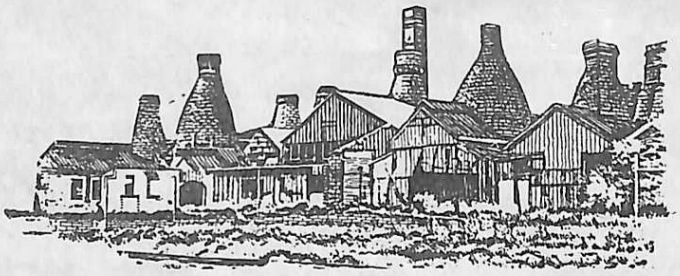
NUNAWADING
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER DECEMBER'82 - JAN '83

Dear Members,

Our A.G.M. in Oct. brought a change of Office Bearers, Warwick & Jan Shortland resigned from President & Secretary respectively. A vote of thanks for their work over the past 12 months was supported by all present. The new Office Bearers are Pres. Keith Patterson, V.Pres. & Editor Shirley Jones, Sec. Doris Mattingly, Treas. Shirley Barker; the Committee:- Warwick Shortland (Past Pres.) Phyl Johnson, Betty Muckleston, Chris Otterbach, Joan Roczniak, Teddy Poole.
Prospective new member Andrew Hillier was welcomed to the meeting.

Our speaker was Cr. Bill Coyne who talked about silver and brought along some beautiful pieces of 18th & 19th Cent. silver cutlery & table pieces etc.. The name STERLING came from the name given to silver craftsmen who came to England from eastern Europe centuries ago, the Easterlings. Bill explained the evolution of silver markings & content through the ages, he showed us a facinating long handled silver stuffing spoon (used for large poultry etc.), a beautifully designed basting spoon made by the famous John Kelly of Dublin, mid 18th cent. He explained the process of Sheffield Plate silver which was very popular for trays and large pieces, sterling silver was beaten out till very thin then used to cover a copper base, it was decorated with fine tooling work. We saw a berry spoon with a silver handle & a parcel gilt bowl - gold was used for the bowl because of the action acidic berries has on silver.

Bill suggested a visit to the Australiana silver collection at the National Gallery Melbourne, where pieces by Livini & other famous Aust. silversmiths are on show.

Recommended books - "Silver Marks" by Judith Bannister, "Bradbury on Silver", both available from the Gallery Bookshop; also ask your own local library for suitable books.

Keith Patterson thanked Bill for his most interesting talk on behalf of all those present.

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The train trip to "Ballarat & its delights" in Oct. was enjoyed by the 15 who went along; the Toy Museum was delightful, the Gold Museum fabulous & the new Hist. Museum beautifully set up, the long bus tour around Ballarat & lake ended outside the Ballarat Art Gallery which is well worth a ½ day visit instead of the ½ hr. we had - the new train which went to B'rat via Geelong & returned via Bacchus Marsh is great, so fast & comfortable. On the return journey Harold & Phyllis Bakes were presented with gifts from the Nunawading Hist. Scty. in appreciation of their work for the Scty. in past years & especially to Harold who was (& still is) responsible for so much of the display at the Museum.

**********

100 years of Railways in the eastern suburbs. As you all know from Keith Patterson's excellent articles in recent local papers the rail line from Hawthorn to Lilydale celebrated its 100th Birthday recently & our Nunawading stations Blackburn & Emery's Hill now Mitcham opened 25th December 1882 & Tunstall now Nunawading opened in 1888.

The Rly. Hist. Scty. ran a special train on Sat. 27th Nov. with stops along the line to pick up goodwill messages from local Mayors to the Shire President of Lilydale; it stopped at Blackburn & slowed to a walking pace through Mitcham, to the joy of young & old - & photographers. A joyful sight was our Mayor resplendant in red robes & chain of Office standing by an open door waving happily to the crowd as the train passed

through Mitcham - like all the other happy passengers.

The Nunawading Hist. Scty. has small displays in the Central and Blackburn Libraries to commemorate the event, thanks to those who assisted especially Clyde Tilson who printed up photographs.

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FINAL MEETING for 1982 will be held in the Willis Room Nunawading Civic Centre on WED. 8th DEC. at 8pm. After a short business meeting we will all enjoy "MEMBERS GEMS", members are invited to bring along, or speak about, something from the past or tell fellow members of interesting historical projects etc. etc. Look out your "gem" be it memory or object. Please bring a small plate of Christmas Fare for the supper table..... ALSO it was agreed at the recent Committee Meeting to have a small Trading Table at this Meeting - so bring alone something to sell for Society funds.

**********

MEETING DATES for 1st half of 1983, please record these in your diary.

| | |
|---|---|
| Wed. 9th Feb. 6.30pm | Open air summer Meeting at Museum please bring along a basket tea, rugs or chairs. |
| Wed. 9th Mar. 7.45pm | Informal Meeting at Doris & Grant Mattingly's home 2 Leons Court Blackburn. |
| Wed. 13th Ap. 7.45pm | Meeting at Coffee Shop Civic Centre Nunawading. Speaker Mr Jack McLean on early days of our local railways. |
| Wed. 11th May 7.45pm | Informal Meeting at Chris Otterbach's home 15 Heather Grv. Nunawading. |
| Wed. 8th June 7.45pm | Meeting at Coffee Shop Civic Centre Nunawading. Speaker to be arranged. |
| Wed. 13th July 7.45pm | Informal Meeting at Phyllis & Ken Johnson's home 309 Mitcham Rd. Mitcham. |

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Who remembers their old Seventh Grade Reader (1930 vintage)? there was a great piece on a bush fire & a facinating account of Christmas in the bush. From Christmas in the Bush by E.S. Sorenson we are told of how verandah posts of homes no matter how humble were decorated with green boughs lashed so that the verandah was almost hidden by the cool looking greenery, a welcome sight to hot & weary homecoming families who often made the long trek home for Christmas on foot.

Miners tents often sported some soft greenery at Christmas & the generous miner host often popped gold nuggets into the plum-duff to the delight of his guests, there was never anything left on the plate with such incentive to "eat it all up"!

Today our Christmas decorations are more sophisticated & our plum pudding dos'nt even hide 3d or 6d pieces, let alone a gold nugget! but families & friends still get together to celebrate Christmas with the same warmth & love as in days gone by.

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GET WELL wishes to Teddy & Allan Poole, may 1983 be a really good year for them both.

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President: Keith Patterson 8783162 Secretary: Doris Mattingley 8784630
Editor: Shirley Jones 2 Delhi St. Mitcham 3132 8747073 The Nunawading Historical Scty. Newsletter is published every 2nd month, Edited by Shirley Jones, prepared for posting by Val Fitcher. Printed by CopyCat Printing Mitcham. Registered Publication VBH 1468

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MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL MEMBERS.....

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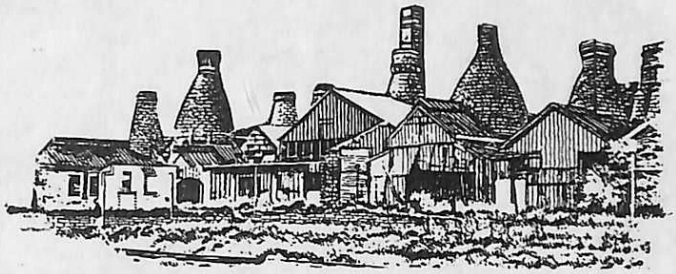

NEWSLETTER MARCH - APRIL 1983
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Dear Members,

The sad outcome of the drought is all too evident, the devastating bushfires, the re-emergence of almost forgotten duststorms bringing the valuable topsoil from withered farms & the end result, dwindling fresh food supplies & increased costs of meat, wheat products & most food items.

Any promised changes in Australia's political lifestyle on 5th March are puny indeed compared with the dreadful changes wrought by drought & fire to the ecological face of our beautiful country, however, nature has a way of healing most scars & the regeneration of the bush will come in time.

Let us hope that lessons will be learned, especially regarding bushfires. Only one of the horrifying experiences of the Dandenong fires on Ash Wednesday'83 was the loss of electricity &/or telephone contact, which completely isolated those people threatened by the on-coming fires - one woman said "I had only a tiny battery transistor & all that came out of it was inane music or commercials, while not 30 miles from those radio stations our world was being consumed by fire, I have never felt so alone or deserted."

Those who lost family or were rendered homeless by the fires will need continuing support for some years yet 'Lest we forget'.

**********

Our February Meeting at the Schwerkolt Cottage Museum was very well attended, we brought our basket teas along & then had a short meeting before dark. Those members who had'nt seen the newly completed childrens corner were impressed with the showcase & the growing collection of children's toys etc.. New items included a fine old iron hoop & ring handle, a set of prints of Margaret Tarrent & Ida Rentoul illustrations (beautifully framed by Grant Mattingley) & a set of stone building blocks of probably German origin c 1880.

**********

Planned HISTORY OF AUSTRALIAN TESSELATED TILE COMPANY. Mr Geoffrey Walker, grandson of E.R. Walker of A.T.T., is collecting any information about this Company to add to the present collection of original Company minute & letter books. Mr Walker plans to publish a centenary history from the commencement of the Company in 1885. Please contact Geoffrey Walker, Walker Ceramics, 7294755 or at home on 7296611, if you can help with any material or information.

**********

MARIBYRNONG RIVER CRUISE At our Feb. Meeting we decided upon Sunday April 24th as a possible date for a cruise aboard the river launch "Blackbird". After making further inquiries, it is not possible to make a group booking for a Sunday, so we will need to discuss the subject further at our March Meeting. The proposed cruise leaves at 1.30pm from the river bank near the New Anglers Hotel, Maribyrnong & takes approx. 3 hours; travelling upstream to Avondale, then downstream past Flemington Race Course, taking in West Gate Bridge & the Port of Melbourne. Travel by train & tram or by private car, further details from Phyl Johnson (874 4745) Cost of cruise, Adults $9 child $4.

**********

FILM PROJECTIONIST COURSE available to anyone interested. 6 weeks, commences 3rd Mar. '83 Thurs. evenings 5.30 to 8.30 pm. Cost $45 Venue Eley Park Comm. Centre 87 Eley Rd. Blackburn. Contact Kate McCrae 8742211 for further details.

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| DATES TO REMEMBER | Please write them into your diary now. |
|---|---|
| Wed. 9th Mar. 7.45pm | Informal Meeting at Doris & Grant Mattingley's home 2 Leons Crt. Blackburn. Bring along a note book & pen to join in "History is Fun". |
| Wed. 13th April 7.45pm | Nuna. Hist. Scty Meeting Coffee Shop Nunawading Civic Centre. Speaker: Mr Jack McLean on early days of our local railways. Bring along goods for the TRADING TABLE to assist Society funds. |
| Sun. 24th April afternoon | Maribyrnong River Cruise, details Phyl Johnson 874 4745. |

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## SNIPPETS OF SOCIAL HISTORY

In the years after the Land Act of 1869 & well into the 20th Cent. were times when farmers seldom handled much actual money. The hard-working wife reared poultry & daily separated the inevitable milk (cows milked twice daily of course); the cream was made into butter & eggs & butter were exchanged for groceries & other necessities at the general store in the town.

In the droughts of 1904 & 1914, after the cyclone of 1905 (in the Wimmera) when wheat & oat crops were completely destroyed, farmers just had to battle on. No calling on the Government for aid then! At times, the farmer's wife considered herself lucky to have one new dress a year, a summer one alternating with a winter one in the scheme.

When cars first began to appear, if a farmer happened to live near a main road there would be bogged motorists appearing at any time, day or night, asking, or sometimes demanding help in being pulled out. This meant getting the horses & harnessing them & going with ropes to the scene, & afterwards taking the horses home again, & at times, returning to bed(if this happened during the night). People aiming to catch the Adelaide express at the nearest Wimmera railway town accounted for numbers of these incidents; and often there was a very perfunctory thanks muttered & off the people went!

Thank you to Doris Mattingley for providing the above accounts which were passed on to her by people who experienced them.

**********

HAVE YOU VISITED THE MUSEUM at the old YARRA JUNCTION RAILWAY STATION?

On the Main Road to Warburton, left hand side going towards Warburton. Tremendous collection, including local history, farming implements, machinery, pumps etc., all under cover. The Museum is open Saturday, Sunday afternoons & Public holidays 1.30 to 5pm. Run by the Upper Yarra Valley Historical Society. There is a large scenic picnic area nearby.

**********

The Nunawading Historical Scty. Newsletter is published every 2nd month, Edited by Shirley Jones 2 Delhi St. Mitcham ph. 8747073. Prepared for posting by Val Fitcher. Printed by CopyCat Printing White's Centre Mitcham. Articles & paragraphs are always appreciated for inclusion in the Newsletter, your contribution would be welcome.

President Mr. Keith Patterson 878 3162 Secretary Mrs Doris Mattingley 878 4630 Treasurer Mrs Shirley Barker 14 Tortice St. Nunawading 3131

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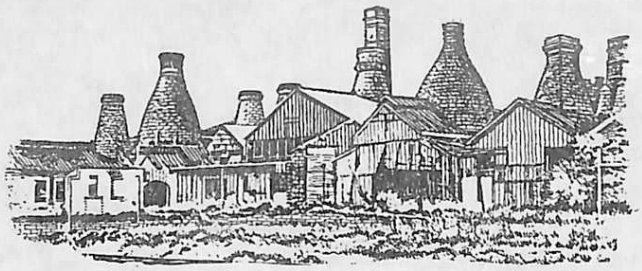
NUNAWADING

HISTORICAL SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER MAY - JUNE 1983

Dear Members,

Our third meeting of 1983 but our first for the year at the Civic Centre & a return after several years to the cosy atmosphere of the Coffee Shop was well attended.

Our speaker Mr. Jack McLean gave a great talk on the history of the Melb.-Hawthorn-Box Hill-Ringwood & beyond railway. Jack's knowledge of the signal track systems of railways gave us an insight into the development of the eastern railway from a single line with almost no safety devices to the 3 track automatic signal line of the present day. The increase in traffic on the line over the past 100 years from a few trains per day to the busy commuter service, the needs of the goods traffic & the building & re-building of stations, sidings & crossings were well illustrated by Jack's collection of time-tables, plans & photographs.

.....

Mr. Keith Rooney, a new N.H.S. member is researching the history of Blackburn North with the intention of eventual publication & has collected considerable material already, which he has loaned to the Society for the perusal of our archivist Keith Patterson. Mr Rooney would be interested to hear from anyone who has photographs or other material, either family or business on the Blackburn Nth. area, he can be contacted at his home 18 Sussex St. Blackburn Nth. ph.878 2771 .

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The Nunawading Council has set up several plaques at Schwerkolt Cottage, one giving the history of the Cottage & area, the other to honour Mrs Jean Field & the late Mrs Pat Faggetter for their untiring efforts & dedication regarding the restoration & maintenance of the Cottage & gardens. The Cottage Committee of Management has been asked by the Council to take part in the organization of the Dedication on SUN. 15th May & to arrange a guest list & afternoon tea for the invited guests. The Nunawading Historical Society has been invited as a group to attend & also to provide some of the food for afternoon tea. Could all members intending to come along please bring a plate. A Girl Guide group will prepare & serve the teas.

As part of the Dedication the Council's 'Free Entertainment in the Parks' programe will present a small Musical Recital at the completion of the unveiling. Unveiling Ceremony begins at 1.30pm, the Music Recital at 2pm. Afternoon tea will be served immediately after the unveiling.

**********

DATES TO REMEMBER — Please write them into your diary now.

| | |
|---|---|
| Wed. 11th May 7.45pm. | Nunawading Hist. Scty. Meeting at the home of Miss Chris Otterbach 15 Heather Grv. Nunawading. |
| Sun. 15th May 1.30pm. | Dedication of Plaque at Schwerkolt Cottage inc. F.E.I.P. Music Recital. Please bring a plate. |
| Wed. 8th. June 7.45pm. | Nunawading Hist. Scty. Meeting at the Coffee Shop Civic Centre Nunawading. Speakers will be Mrs Wendy Harrison A painting trip to China, and Mrs Barbara Rogalski A painting trip to Burra S.A. |

July — Old roads — K. Rooney — Sussex St, Blackburn

HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF. by Val Fitcher.

Recently I was going through some old momentos & came across the very last issue of the "Argus" newspaper (Sat.19th Jan. 1957); I was interested to see the way history has just repeated itself. There was a news item which read "Last night gangs of rural firefighters assisted by volunteers were still fighting a fire that had burned large patches of scrub & grazing land along the old Narrewarren & Beaconsfield Rds. for a distance of more than four miles. The women-folk of Emerald worked overtime preparing sandwiches & tea for the weary men. It was suspected that the fires had been deliberately lit."

A little bit of trivia from the same issue..... you could rent a 2 - 3 bedroom house in the eastern suburbs for between £11.0.0. & £12.12.0. per week. A senior male clerk's position was advertized at a salary of £20.0.0 per week; a clerk-typist £14.10.0.!

**********

TATTSLOTTO, BINGO etc. ARE NOTHING NEW! by Jean Webster.

Jean came across this early reference to Lotteries whilst looking through old newspapers on a recent visit to England. "The Origin of Lotteries in England.

The first lottery we meet with was drawn AD 1569. It consisted of 40.000 lots of 10 shillings each lot, the prizes were plate, & the profits were to go to repairing the 'havens of the kingdom. It was drawn at the west door of St. Pauls' Cathedral. The drawing began on the 11th Jan 1569 & continued incessantly drawing day & night till 6th May following. There were then only 3 lottery offices in London."

Copied from : "English Courier" Friday 9th Jan. 1795.

(Imagine how I felt sitting in the library in Cheltenham, Gloucestshire, England & being able to handle papers even earlier than this.)

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MY SCHOOLDAYS by Joan Raczniok.

Memories of my first school in Streatham (S.W. London) are few - I cannot recall learning anything there. As my mother had been a teacher. I suspect I learned to read "naturally" before I went to school. I cannot remember learning to write & I was drilled in spelling at intervals by my father with such efforts of dictation as:"It is difficult to witness the unparalleled embarrassment of a harassed pedlar gauging the symmetry of a peeled pear". It was fun to surprise him by getting them right!

The local council school was large, black & forbidding - 55 years later it had not changed! The middle of the second floor was an assembly hall, presided over by the headmistress whose huge desk was on a dais on the window side. Pupils summoned to her presence had to cross what seemed like a football field to front up to "Madam". (I heard later that she insisted on this title because, poor lady, her husband's name was "Silley"). We sat in double desks with the usual sunken ink wells, but my pet hate was having to draw on greyish paper with black charcoal. Presumably I did not like getting my hands grubby - I was also a target for some of the tougher boys of the area because they could smell my scented soap!

When I was 8 or 9 my father lost his job (a telegram came while we were on holiday) & after 6 months we moved to Rugby, where he was to manage a printing works. It was several weeks before my mother found a school which she (and I) liked. In the meantime, she drilled me in arithmetic, geography & Palgrave's Golden Treasure. ("I come from haunts of coot & hern"- Tennyson - rubbed off). My next school was the junior section of, I believe, a C.of E. school. It was in a big, old house, surrounded by trees, shrubs & flower beds; there was a huge lawn on which we once presented an enactment of "The King's Breakfast" ("I do like a little bit of butter on my bread").

The senior section of the school was in a tall house nearby, but

before I "went up" a new school was being built, with 2 quadrangles & an assembly hall/gymnasium in between. It was the Arnold High School for Girls (remember - this was Rugby). I regretted that when it was later taken over by the Local Education Authority it became the "Rugby High School". Open air corridors were an innovation on the upper floor. They were shielded by tarpaulins in wet, windy weather.

I was quickly introduced to French & Latin, to continue for 6 years, with an experimental class in German in Form V1. A highlight was an annual visit of a French lady who told us fairy stories in French with the aid of slides! The problems of Mathematics & Science were only partially unravelled for me, but the wonders of languages, history & English literature were given a basis for lifelong enjoyment.

Both academic & sporting prowess were recognised in the rivalry between the 4 school houses - Atholl, Nightingale, Bronte & Cavell. The 4 noticeboards, flanked by the coverted cups & shields, were on the walls of the assembly hall. Each Monday, the headmistress read a list of merits & demerits scored by houses for good or bad marks awarded to pupils, to our honour or shame! Doubtless the trauma of shame would be frowned upon today, but acknowledgement of success in study as well as in sport still seems to me to be reasonable.

On Speech Days we all wore white dresses & gloves; we were suitably impressed by the array of governors on the platform. We noticed that when starting to read her report was the only time the headmistress ever seemed a little nervous. A great event was when a founder governor, the Dutchess of Atholl, came to open the new school officially.

The headmistress, Miss Glenday, was a clergyman's daughter; she conducted daily morning prayers & has always been my ideal of dignity & quiet voiced authority. She left us to go to Clifton High School, Bristol & was a President of the Association of Headmistresses. I recently found in Nunawading library a book about the history of this association; it was called "Reluctant Revolutionaries" & Miss Glenday was joint author of this story of their fight for a good general education for girls. I now suspect that I was one of the more fortunate girls receiving secondary education in the late 1920's & early 1930's.

**********

TELLING OUR STORY

Joan Raczniok's account of her school days is most interesting especially in view of the current course being conducted at the Avenue Neighborhood House corner Blackburn Rd. & The Avenue, Blackburn every Tuesday between 1pm & 3pm. Called "Telling Our Story" this open ended course of oral history is being conducted by historian Majorie Theobald who invites anyone interested in recounting & talking about their school days to come along. Contact 878 8056 for details.

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PRESIDENT Mr. Keith Patterson 878 3162

SECRETARY Mrs Doris Mattingley 878 4630

TREASURER Mrs Shirley Barker 14 Tortice Av. Nunawading V. 3131

"STRATHDON" by Marjory Matheson Miller.

(Since the article by Flora Forbes on the founding of Strathdon Community Hostel & Unit Accommodation & Nursing Home appeared in the N.H.S. Aug.-Sept. '82 Newsletter several people asked for more information on Captain Matheson & the "Strathdon". His daughter Marjory Matheson Miller has written this account which will be of interest to N.H.S. members & will also add to the historical archives of Nunawading; thank you to Mrs Marjory Matheson Miller.)

Captain Charles Matheson, an Englishman with a Scottish name. chose an Australian bride, left the sea, and, in 1914, settled on an orchard in Tunstall, now known as Nunawading. His great love of the ship in which he served his apprenticeship reflects itself in the name "Strathdon" he chose for his property.

The "Strathdon", when launched in Sept. 1885, then called "Queen's Island", was the largest three masted barque in the world. Her builders, Messrs. Harland & Wolff of Belfast, experimented with a new rig. Vessels are known by their rig. Technically a ship is a vessel with three masts all supporting square rigged sails. A three mast barque carried square sails on the fore & main masts, & fore & aft sails, like a yacht, on the mizen mast. Surprisingly, this move to reduce canvas & save manpower often worked quite well. The vessel became easier to handle.

"Strathdon" registered 2038 net tons, measured 282 feet 8 ins. in length, 40 feet 6 ins. in breadth, with a depth of 23 feet 6 ins. Overall her carrying capacity equalled 3250 tons. Aft, her 58 feet long poop raised above the main deck housed the officers & served as the ship's nerve centre. Forward, a top gallant fo'c'sle of 32 feet gave the crew ample room to operate & store the anchor, & work the ship. A contemporary writer called her a "very handsome vessel". Steel built & truly "ship shape", every detail displayed beautiful finish. Her great length meant a noticeable drift between her masts when viewed broadside. With less canvas than some of her contempories, speed was not her greatest attribute, but she boasted other qualities.

In 1890, after 5 years afloat, Messrs. George Thompson & Co. (the famous Aberdeen White Star Line), owners of the renowned clipper "Thermopylae", bought the barque, renamed her "Strathdon", & put her into the Sydney trade. Sydney-siders admired her majestic bearing & good looks. She served Australia regularly with much needed general cargoes on the outward passage & returned with wool to England, a cargo which was stowed incredibly tightly in her capacious hold loaded through hatches.

One claim to fame is her encounter, after rounding the Horn, with a tremendous ice field drifting in the Southern Atlantic Ocean in May 1892. The tip of the ice reached 1000 feet, & the frail barque dodged icebergs for three days. This experience, so much dreaded by all seafarers who approached Cape "Stiff", gives "Strathdon" a place in nautical history.

The young Matheson, son & namesake of Captain Charles of the record breaking "Thermopylae", joined "Strathdon" as an apprentice in Sept. 1896, the year of her first visit to Melbourne. She then sailed to Newcastle to load wool & complete her voyage, and incidentlly give the young apprentice his baptism of Cape Horn breakers. Under her well respected Captain W. Phillip, Matheson was fortunate to receive training in navigation & community living, which made "Strathdon's" apprentices & crew privileged people in seafaring circles.

The year 1905 marked the sale of "Strathdon" to the French, who named her "Gers". She was recorded as one of a small band of sailing ships still afloat during the war. In Feb. 1924, her sale to Holland marked the end of a valiant career for herself & the men who sailed her.

The Community of "Strathdon", Forest Hill, named in her honour, carries on the traditions she stood for which so impressed a sailor lad of 14½ years. The Uniting Church has chosen to include a ship in its badge to stress its ongoing mission into the future. A beautiful barque gives its benediction.

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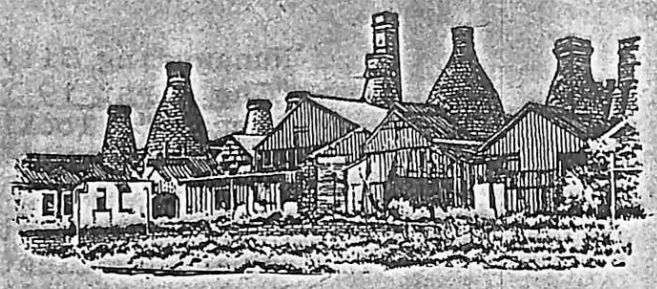

Reg. Publication VBH 1468

NEWSLETTER JULY - AUGUST 1983

Dear Members,

Our May & June meetings were well attended; thank you to Miss Chris Otterbach for her hospitality for the May meeting venue. Chris gave an interesting talk on the "Flower Farms in East Burwood & surrounding districts", recalling her memories of the area when it was a vast garden of flower farms & orchards.

The June meeting at the Coffee Shop enjoyed Mrs Barbara Rogalski's account of "Painting in Burra S.A.", her vivid description assisted by her fine paintings of Burra had members keen to visit or return there. Barbara has generously given the Society an interesting old mourning ribbon of white silk printed in black with the words - "We Mourn Our Queen - 1837 - 1901" below a portrait of Queen Victoria.

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The Working Bee on Mon. 20th June was very successful, 10 members came along & with the help & advice of Mrs Betty Jones & Miss Elizabeth Jones removed everything from the storage area, cleared & sprayed the cupboards, inspected & repacked reserve items; Elizabeth advised protection of paper ephemera with Melinex film & terrylene storage bags for the clothing & fabric articles; we will be purchasing these materials & have several more working bees in the near future. Many thanks to Betty & Elizabeth for their help & advice & for the many ways in which they assist the Society & Museum, thanks also to N.H.S. members for giving up their time to come to the working bees.

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TWO NEW HISTORICAL VENTURES associated with mining have begun in the eastern suburbs area, they are well worth visiting, we wish them every success.

The Miner's Cottage at Ringwood Lake Park (open 1.30 - 4 pm Sun. & public hols.) part of a planned mining group. Ringwood Hist. Research Group are looking for a simple cottage type mirror, c 1886 - 1900, to hang on the bedroom wall over a plain dressing table. ph. 8704394.

Museum & Blacksmith Shop set up by Warrandyte Historical Scty. in the main street of Warrandyte; the working Blacksmith Shop is a facinating blend of past & present - the age old craft with forge & anvil etc. etc. is being put to practical use, a great drawcard for the many visitors who throng Warrandyte each weekend; it's possible to buy or have made many household articles, fire dogs, pokers etc. etc. the Smithy also has facilities for horses to be shod & is a great boon to local horse owners.

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DATES TO REMEMBER

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|---|---|
| Wed. 13th July 7.45pm | Nunawading Historical Scty. Meeting at the home of Mr.& Mrs Keith Rooney 18 Sussex St. Blackburn Nth. After a short meeting we will listen to a selection of Old 78 Records played on a 1930's vintage gramaphone. Andrew Hillier has arranged the programe. Members are asked to bring along a small plate of supper. |
| Wed. 10th Aug. 7.45pm | Nunawading Historical Scty. Meeting Coffee Shop Civic Centre. Speaker Miss Constance Pavey, |

Nunawading City Librarian, her subject will be - "The First 19 Years; the life & times of Nunawading Library", looking at the library against the social climate then & now & of the new attention to Aust. history both past & present.

Wed. 14th Sept. 7.45pm — Nunawading Hist. Scty. Meeting at the home of Mr.& Mrs Rupert Muckleston 31 Churinga Ave. Mitcham. After the Meeting it will be a Members Night; members please dust off those memories & tell us about some happening or object from the past, just 5 or 10 minutes, we would like a 100% participation. There is plenty of time to prepare!

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## TRANSPORTATION TO ENGLAND!

It was a wet cold afternoon, the kind of day one needs a good book to read. Off to Nunawading Library with no decision made whether to select a novel, autobiography or a travel book; the choice was all three in one and what a bonus it proved to be.

Imagine my suprise and delight at seeing and recognising pictures of my home town on the front cover of a book called "Speak for England" An Essay on England 1900 - 1975 based on interviews with inhabitants of Wigton Cumberland.

My stay in the Library that afternoon was magic, the names on each page became real people; some were school friends, others familiar to me because of their trade - John Black the Bootmaker, Saunderson from the Hardware store, Donald Penrice the Draper. I had by now become quite oblivious to present surroundings and had been transported back 40 years into Grandma's "front" room listening to the Salvation Army Band play their rousing tunes at the street corner, holding out the shilling to put in the collection box. Then the next moment, standing in the inevitable queue while Walter Wilson the Grocer carefully weighed out the 2oz. of butter and cheese and those precious eggs, counter-checked and placed one by one into a brown paper bag with the caution "Now easy when you carry that bag of gold", they must have been like gold nuggets during those war years.

What a grand afternoon of reliving. Several friends have left Wigton to live in Australia, we have all enjoyed the warmth and companionship through reading our human history.

To members of the Society recording their own local history - please continue - it is such an interesting and worthwhile project.

Betty Muckleston.

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## FIRST GOVERNMENT HOUSE

Sydney: 137 years after its demolition, the original site is still vacant in the heart of Sydney of Governor Phillip's first Government House, where he thankfully moved from his somewhat tattered canvas house in 1789. This building, with alterations & additions, stood & housed Governors for more than 50 years. It has been suggested that a replica of this should be prepared as a Bi-centennial project, on its original site, now a parking area.

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## TRIP TO PHILLIP ISLAND, FRENCH ISLAND & CHURCHILL ISLAND

The Committee of Eastern Historical Societies has planned an interesting weekend trip to these facinating Westernport islands & other places of historical interest around the bay & on the islands. There are still a few seats left. Dates Sat. 1st Oct.- Sun. 2nd Oct. Cost $71 shared room, $81 single. Party will be entertained by local Historical Scty. Dep.$31 to Miss C.E. Gray 30 Mont Vue St. Lilydale V. 3140 phone first to make initial booking ph 735 5103.

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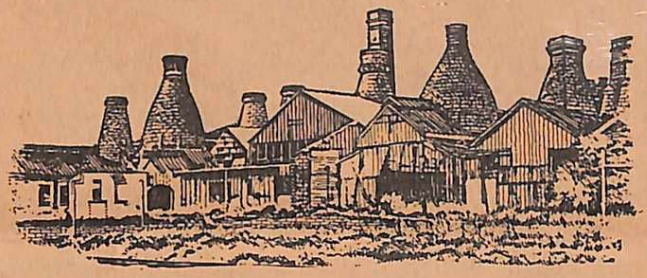
N.H.S. Pres. K. Patterson 878 3162 Sec. D. Mattingley 878 4630

**NUNAWADING**
**HISTORICAL SOCIETY**



Reg. Publication VBH 1468

NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 1983

Dear Members,

Our July & August meetings were well attended, thank you for coming along on such cold & wet nights. Thank you to Betty & Keith Rooney for their hospitality for the July meeting & thank you to Andrew Hillier for his interesting talk on the background of the old records he played for us on the 1930's phonograph, we all loved those old tunes & the old vocalists, it was great.

The August meeting at the Coffee Shop was followed by a most informative talk by Miss Constance Pavey, Nunawading City Librarian. Miss Pavey told some facinating anecdotes of the library's earlier days; she also spoke on books and libraries of the future giving us an almost unbelievable account of the anticipated changes to come. Miss Pavey would appreciate any old sheet music to add to the library's music section, please contact her if you can help.

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OP. SHOP FUND RAISING EFFORT. Start saving your unwanted items for our next Lion's Den (Blackburn)Op. Shop fortnight, 8th to 19th May 1984. A roster will be worked out before next May so please keep a couple of days free. Last time we raised over $800 which was a great help with completing Museum displays etc.

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NOTE Dr. Stanley Cochrane Memorial Kindergarten is celebrating 25 years since the official opening of the kinder. on Sat. 9th Oct. '83 with a Craft Fair.

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DATES TO REMEMBER

| | |
|---|---|
| Wed. 14th Sept.'83 7.45 pm | Nunawading Historical Scty. Meeting at the home of Rupert & Betty Muckleston 31 Churinga Ave. Mitcham. After the meeting we are to have a Members' Night, everyone is asked to tell us about some article or happening from the past. Such nights have been very popular in the past so please take part. Please bring a small plate. |
| Wed. 12th Oct. '83 7.45 pm | Annual General Meeting of Nunawading Hist. Scty. Coffee Shop Nunawading Civic Centre. All members are urged to come along for this most important meeting. Send nominations to Secretary. |
| Wed. 9th Nov. '83 7.45 pm | Nunawading Historical Scty. Meeting at the home of Allan & Teddy Poole 6 Lernes St. Forest Hill. Please bring a small plate of supper. |

**********

Nunawading Hist. Scty. Newsletter is published every 2nd month, Edited by Shirley Jones 2 Delhi St. Mitcham V. 3132. Prepared for posting by Val Fitcher. President Mr. Keith Patterson phone 878 3162.
Secretary Mrs Doris Mattingley 2 Leons Crt. Blackburn V. 3130 8784630
Treasurer Mrs Shirley Barker 14 Tortice St. Nunawading V. 3131

"A THREE WEEKS SENTENCE TO PORT ARTHUR"

or How a Librarian left her books behind for three weeks!

In October 1981 an advertisement appeared in the National papers for "Voluntary Historians" to work at Port Arthur between January 10th & February 18th 1982. I had not used any of my history skills gained during a double history major in an Arts degree at ANU, & had thoroughly enjoyed my previous short look at Port Arthur so decided to apply.

I was fortunate that my second qualification as a librarian made me most acceptable. Due to work commitments I could only give three weeks of my time so arrived in Hobart on Tues. 1st. February with some trepidition as to what lay ahead but enthusiasm to enjoy it.

We arrived at Port Arthur after a hot trip from Hobart. The "volunteers" were sleeping & eating in the Commandant's House, which is usually occupied by one of the resident archaelogists. There were about 30 volunteers in the group that was there for the 3 next weeks, 3 historians & 27 archaelogists; we represented all of the eastern states of Australia & our ages ranged from 18 to 55. About 6 people chose to sleeps in tents in the gardens of the Commandant's House while the rest of us chose our stretchers & went exploring.

I shared a room with 4 others & we were all fascinated by the archaelogical "dig" that was taking place in the verandah outside our room. We later noticed that the 3 rooms at the back of the house were also part of the dig & were to learn later that the various holes outside the house were part of an investigation of the drainage system of the house.

The historians were "clean" people who spent most of their day working in the parsonage. Our main task was to index a number of Colonial Secretary Office files relevant to the administration of Pt. Arthur to provide greater access to their contents. My library skills were used in compiling a subject index to these files. Each member of the group was also given a research project. One worked on the life-styles of the officers, one on the wharf area & my task was to gather information on the Separate or 'Model' Prison.

During the three weeks we learnt a lot about the administr-ative changes that occured during the penal settlement & gained a glimmer of understanding about the life that was led there 150 years ago. Our research only showed us just how much information still has to be gleaned on the many intricate topics that fit together to pro-vide an overall understanding of the historic site. While working & living on the site it was easy to consider that area as one's total world, television & radio were rarely available & a newspaper was usually only scanned; it did not seem to be a necessary part of our life there.

The volunteer project runs for six weeks each year & I would heartily recommend it to anyone who wishes to find out more about one of Australia's unique historical areas.

Carolyne Cohn
(nee Webster).

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The Coastal Safety Services Br. of Dept. of Transport & Construction maintains approx. 350 navigation lights inc. lighthouses around the Aust. coast. They are conducting a nation wide survey to locate any relevant material pertaining to the history of lighthouses in Aust. Any pictorial or photographic material, cuttings, personal notes etc. would be welcomed. Contact: Anne Robertson P.O. Box 111 Dickson A.C.T. 2602.

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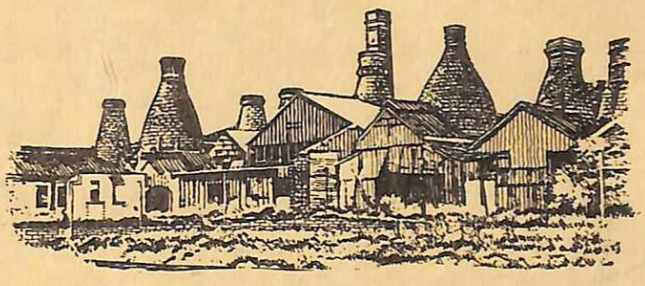
NUNAWADING
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Reg Publication VBH 1468

# NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 1983

## Office-Bearers for 1983-4

Office-bearers for 1983-4, elected at the annual general meeting on 12 October were :-

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| President | - | Joan Roczniok |
| Vice-President | - | Shirley Jones |
| Secretary | - | Andrew Hillier |
| Treasurer | - | Shirley Barker |
| Past-President | - | Keith Patterson (ex officio) |
| Committee | - | Phyllis Johnston |
| | | Teddy Poole |

## AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION

At the October meeting the constitution was amended to reduce the size of the committee from nine to seven, with power to co-opt.

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## THE POST BOX

Both the Post Office and Metropolitan Transit Authority (formerly Vic Rail) have approved installing the G.P.O. post box at Mitcham railway station next year to commemorate the centenary of postal services in Mitcham, as well as a memorial of the 150th anniversary of permanent settlement in Victoria. We have now only to co-ordinate arrangements for the installation and arrange for a suitably worded plaque.

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## ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual subscriptions are now due. At the annual meeting they were fixed for 1983-4 at :-

Single $3.50 Family $5 Newsletter Only $2.

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## NEXT MEETING

November 9 - At Allan and Teddy Poole's, 6 Lernes street, Forest Hill. Keith Patterson will speak on early coach routes and hotels. Please bring a small plate for supper.

December 14 - Christmas meeting - Coffee Shop, Civic Centre. After a short business meeting members will be invited to speak on any article they care to bring along or tell the story of something from the past. Please bring a small plate for supper.

+ Christmas play reading.

OBJECTIVE FOR NEXT YEAR

It is hoped that during the coming year there will be more research into many aspects of local history, rather than formal meetings, so that we will be able to set up documentary evidence of the development of Nunawading.

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ANNUAL REPORT 1982-3

Main points of the annual report for 1982-3 were:-

The experiment of having alternative meetings in the homes of members had encouraged personal research and exchange of information about local history and interesting items in our museum. Home meetings attracted smaller attendances tha n those at the Civic Centre, but more participation by members.

Research is continuing on the history of North Blackburn, the Antonio family, early hotels and coach routes and Dr Drake's Sanitarium.

Our Short History of Nunawading is being revised and when published will include illustrations which should make it even more popular.

There have been more inquiries than usual from students seeking original material in connection with studies and practice in researching local history.

Anniversaries We contributed articles to local newspapers as part of the celebrations of the centenary of the Hawthorn-Lilydale railway.
We are also arranging the installation of the post box at Mitcham railway station, as mentioned in an earlier paragraph.
To celebrate Australia's Bi-Centenary in 1988 we are beginning discussions with Nunawading Arts Council about a pageant or play at that time.

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OP SHOP FORTNIGHT

A reminder. Our next Lions Den Op Shop fortnight is 8 to 19 May, 1984. Please start saving any unwanted items for sa le during that period.

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Nunawading Historical Society Newsletter is published every 2nd month. Edited by Shirley Jones, 2 Delhi street, Mitcham, 3132
Prepared for posting by Val Fitcher.
President - Mrs. Joan Roczniok, 15 Walwa st., Mitcham, Phone 874-7289
Secretary - Mr Andrew Hillier, 15 Compton st., Mitcham, Phone 874-3954
Treasurer - Mrs Shirley Barker, 14 Tortice st., Nunawading, 3131