

The Traralgon and District Historical Society.Bi- Monthly Bulletin.

Price 5 cents.

Editor. Mrs. K. Huffer. 7, Albert Street, Traralgon. 3844.
 Membership \$1 per annum, due at the Annual General Meeting.

Coming Activities.

- July 28th Monthly Meeting in the City Reception Room at 8 p.m.
 Speaker. Mr. Terry O'Callaghan, subject, The National Trust of Australia.
- August 9th Excursion to Morwell. Cars leave Traralgon P.O. 1.30p.m
- August 17th Monthly Meeting - Note on a Monday - at City Reception Room, 8 p.m. Speaker, Mr. Ivan Maddern, Subject. Early Morwell.
- Sept. 11th Annual Dinner of Gippsland Historical Societies held at Golden Hill, Morwell.

Details.

At our July Meeting we will have as our guest speaker, Mr. T. O'Callaghan President of the Gippsland Branch of the National Trust, who will give an informative address on the aims and objectives of the National Trust of Australia. He will also show the film "Our Heritage" which includes early Australian Homes which have been lost, and others which have been restored. We hope as many of you as possible will be at the City Reception Room to hear this speaker.

Excursion On Sunday 9th August we will meet at the Morwell Post Office at 2 p.m. Mr. Maddern will lead the excursion to places of interest in and around Morwell. We will return to Morwell High School for our afternoon tea. There will be an address by Mr. Maddern and local speakers, also a display of early photographs. Bring your own afternoon tea.

Dinner. Last year the Combined Historical Societies' Dinner at Golden Hill was so successful that it was decided to make it an annual event. Friday September 11th is the date chosen for this year, and as Professor W.H. Frederick has promised to be our guest speaker, this should be a most enjoyable evening. Bookings (with remittance of \$ 3.50) should be made with Secretary, Mrs. V. Plant before 1st September. It would be wise to book early as seating is limited. Sherry at 6.30p.m - Dinner 7 p.m.

August Meeting. To avoid school holiday our meeting will not take place on the usual night. Monday 17th of August is the date, in the City Reception Room as usual.

President's Report on the June Meeting.

On Tuesday 23rd June, the monthly meeting was held at the City Reception Room. The guest speaker was Mr. Harry Nunn, the Chief Archivist of the State of Victoria.

Mr. Nunn proved a most informative speaker. He was able to impart to his listeners the enthusiasm he felt for the work of a State Archivist. Mr. Nunn's knowledge covers the techniques of paper manufacturing from its inception, to modern chemical process - the composition of inks and their durability - microfilm potential, and all up to date recording methods, as well as the eradication of silverfish and termites.

The archives store the records of all government departments. The main task being to select those worthy of preservation from the mass of information recorded. His estimate was that 6% of all records were vital, and 12 % retained.

As listeners, we quickly became aware of our limited knowledge of the correct procedure for storing documents, and realized that information and help was required before continuing our filing.
 Mr. Maddern, President of Morwell Society proposed a vote of thanks to our speaker who had imparted, as well as knowledge, a feeling that humour can be found in a state statistical storage. J.C.
 The society was pleased to welcome visitors from Yarran, Moe and Morwell.

Report from Secretary, Mrs. Valma Plant, on the excursion to "Cono" and Latrobe's Cottage on Sunday 28th June, in which forty two persons participated.
 Mr. Hal Williams, of R.H.S.V. met the bus at "Cono" and was the official guide for the afternoon. This beautiful old home is now owned by the National Trust, and its furnishings are exactly the same as they were left by the Armitage Sisters when they bequeathed the historic building to the people of Australia in 1959. It takes you back into the late 1880's and early 1900's when the aristocracy of Melbourne lived and moved in a very gracious and genteel manner - and this graciousness is felt the moment you enter the drawing room, morning room, and hall room.
 "Cono" was erected before 1851, and was purchased by the late Mr. Charles Armitage in 1864, and remained in the family until 1959 when it became the property of the National Trust. It is a part of Australia's Heritage and must be preserved at all costs.
 Before lunch we visited Governor Latrobe's Cottage - Victoria's first Government House - which has been removed from its original site at Jolimont and carefully re-erected in the Domain.

(Special Thanks are due to our secretary for her excellent organization and to Driver Ken Browne for his efforts to ensure that we all had a happy and comfortable day. J.C.)

Second Excursion to Gornandale. On Sunday, 24th May, in spite of cold winds and threatening skies, a number of our members journeyed to the site of the Merton Homestead, near Herriman's Creek at Willung. Here we were joined by visitors from Berwick, Yarran, Gornandale and Stradbroke, also Lakes Entrance.
 Mr. Bayliss gave us some interesting information regarding his great-grandfather - W.E. Bayliss, who took up the Merton Run in 1843.
 Mr. Joe Missen and Mr. Pat O'Conner, both descendants of district pioneers, spoke of the later owners of Merton, the early settlers, the Willung Races and the original Herriman's Creek School, better known as Mandale. They had many amusing stories to relate.
 We then proceeded to Mr. and Mrs. Denis Piera's Home, which has been in the Piera family since before 1870. Here we saw the late Mr. Walter Pieras bullock yokes, harrows and other implements that had been used in the reclaiming of the morass, and a butter churn used in the 1870's.
 Another descendant of the pioneer Piera Family present was Mrs. Fischer of Stradbroke.
 It was too wet to carry out our original plan to visit Timbs Crossing but we all enjoyed having afternoon tea in the warmth and comfort of Mr. J. Missen's machinery shed where tables had been set up for us.
 Mr. H. Huffer thanked all the speakers and Mr. and Mrs. Missen for their thoughtfulness in preparing the shed.

Moe Welhalla Narrow Gauge Railway Line. A most interesting talk on this subject was given by Ralph Durr, a seventeen years old student of the Traralgon Technical School, who was chosen by the Lion's Club of Traralgon as their "Student of the Year" candidate.
 Ralph amazed his audience with the amount of knowledge he had of the building of this difficult line, of the trains that ran on it, and of the people and districts which it served.
 A fine display of photographs had been arranged, and those present thoroughly enjoyed the evening. If you were not fortunate enough to be there, Mrs. Plant has some copies of this address for sale. You will certainly enjoy reading one.
 Later in the month, Ralph accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Maddern visited the Stratford Historical Society, where Ralph addressed a well attended meeting.

Traralgon School Centenary.

The President, Mrs. Jean Court represented our society at the ceremony which marked the Centenary of Education in Traralgon. Mr. Falla, the present headmaster at Grey Street School reports on the occasion :-

To mark the Centenary of Education in Traralgon a 'tree-planting' ceremony was conducted at the Grey Street Primary School No. 3584 on Wednesday, 20th May, 1970, at 2 p.m. Among the guests present were, Madam Mayor of the City of Traralgon, Mrs. J. Dyer; President of the Shire of Traralgon, Cr. and Mrs. Howlett; Mr. and Mrs. I.T. Maddern; former scholars; representatives from the staff and pupils of the Primary, Secondary and Registered schools in Traralgon and also from the local press and A.B.C. Television station. Apologies were received from the District Inspector, Mr. C.A. Mason because of other Departmental business, and the Principal of the Traralgon Technical School.

In spite of the inclement weather it was possible to assemble all present under shelter. The guest speaker was Mr. I. Maddern, Principal of the Morwell High School, who gave a brief resume of the early history of the schools in Traralgon as from 16th May, 1870.

The President of the Traralgon Historical Society, Mrs. Court, then presented an Australian flowering gum - a donation from the Society to mark the centennial occasion. The tree was accepted on behalf of the school and its parent associations by the present Principal after which those present moved to the front lawn where the tree was planted with due ceremony by Mr. Falla.

A brief history of the school was presented to all present.

Casserole Lunch. A casserole lunch was held in the Masonic Hall on Wednesday 3rd June. This was most successful thanks to the co-operation of so many members and friends. A profit of \$ 85 resulted and this has been donated to the National Trust. The Secretary wishes to convey her thanks to all those who so willingly helped.

McMillan Tartan. A length of tartan, hand woven in Scotland and a sterling silver plaid brooch is to be donated by our society to the portion of the Angus McMillan home which has been restored and re-erected in its original condition, at Moe, by the Gippsland Branch of the National Trust and the Moe Historical Society.

Greetings. We are pleased to see our Vice President, Dr. T. McLean back at work after his recent illness, and we hope that our Life Member Mr. J. Clark of Yarran will be back with us again after his spell in hospital.

Subscriptions. There are still some subscriptions outstanding. If you wish to continue to receive our newsletters and reports of our activities will you please pay your dollar to the Secretary, Mrs. Plant, 122, Franklin Street, Traralgon by 1st August.

Committee Meeting. Committee Members please note that our next meeting is at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Court, 1, MacKay Street, Traralgon on Thursday 16th July at 8 p.m.

River of Little Fish. The history of Traralgon written by our Vice President, Mr. W.J. Cuthill C.S.M. has now been published by the society. It is a most comprehensive and attractive volume which retails at \$ 1.50 cents. These are available from our secretary, at 122, Franklin Street, and we hope our members will purchase them direct from the society. Copies will be on sale at our July meeting.

Bereavement. We are sorry to have to report the accidental death of one of our members, Mr. Bert Coates, who died near his home in Grey Street, on Friday 3rd July. Mr. Coates was well known in Traralgon and District for his interest in the Fish and Game Society, and his interest in preserving wild life. He was eighty one years of age.