EXCURSION CONDUCTED ON 18th MAY, 1958:

The Society’s excursion to old farmhouses in the Dapto area on 18th May, 1958, was generally agreed to be an unqualified success, and the Council is most gratified at the interest shown.

Leaving the Town Hall at 9.30 a.m. the bus travelled along the Prince’s Highway and members noted the excellent job of tree surgery done on the famous tree at Figtree. Thence we proceeded via the Wongawilli road to Horsley, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Lindsay. There the Society was welcomed and Mr. Lindsay handed us notes tracing the history of the property from the original Brooks grant, through the partition of the property amongst members of the Brooks and Thompson families until the Lindsay family purchased the Horsley area in 1876, since which date they have occupied it and worked it. Great interest was shown in the old flagged kitchen with various items of historical interest assembled by Mr. and Mrs. Lindsay. The house itself was inspected, and all present were charmed by the garden, where a very pleasant surprise awaited members of the excursion in the form of morning tea generously served by our kind hostess and Miss Lindsay.
Travelling thence by Prince's Highway along Avondale Road, we called at Avondale, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Percy Webb, who cordially welcomed us, and allowed us to inspect their home, which was built probably in the 60's as the home of Henry Hill Osborne, the son of Henry Osborne of Marshall Mount. After his death this property apparently had several owners until the Webb family acquired it in 1917. Members were especially interested in the spacious rooms, fine cedar woodwork, and the two mounting blocks on the front steps looking like bollards.

Thence the party moved to the old Avondale School where lunch was taken, hot water being provided in the Junior Farmers' Hall through the kind offices of Mr. Eric Armstrong and Mr. A. C. Martin.

After lunch we travelled along Cleveland Road back into Dapto and thence along the highway to Penrose, where we were met by Mr. and Mrs. Lindsay Evans. There, in their attractive old-world garden, Mr. Evans gave a long and most interesting talk, tracing the ownership of the property for upwards of 100 years from the time when it was built by Evan Evans, through the ownership of Evan Roberts Evans and Evan Eustace Evans, to the present fourth generation, Evan Lindsay Thompson Evans. Our host also covered aspects of farming practices over the years and produced many articles and documents and pictures to add further interest to his talk, following which part of the house was inspected.

Finally, we travelled back along the highway to Newton, the home of Dr. and Mrs. John Maude, as to which we hope to publish full notes in a future bulletin. Here again members were charmed at the gracious manner in which the house had been preserved and restored, and here also another pleasant surprise awaited us in the form of afternoon tea, served in delightful surroundings in the garden.

The combination of a mild sunny day and the generosity of our hosts and hostesses made the day a memorable one which has whetted the appetites of members for further excursions.

—E.B.