PLANNED EXCURSION: SUNDAY, 6th MAY 1973 — JOADJA

The society’s council through its excursion sub-committee is endeavouring to arrange an excursion to the ever-popular Joadja Valley, scene of the once-famous kerosene shale mines up to 1900 and now an enchanting historic ruin with its thousands of bricks scattered over the valley floor.

If the day is wet the excursion will be switched to Berrima and places nearby as the narrow, winding gravel road may not be in a fit state for traffic, nor might be the ford on the floor of the valley.

Joadja in autumn is a must. Full details will be announced at the April meeting, the May Bulletin and the May meeting, which occurs on the Thursday prior to the excursion date.

NEW PUBLICATION BY SOCIETY:

From the pen of Mr. W. G. McDonald comes a new booklet published by the society under the heading of “In Re a Gentleman, One”, with the sub-title, more understandable to the less legal mind, “The Rise and Fall of Francis Woodward, sometime M.L.A. for Illawarra”. The attractive and interesting booklet, illustrated by appropriate pictures sells for 80c at the society’s museum plus 15c post, etc., if ordered by mail.

PROJECTED SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS:

At the last meeting of the society’s council the Publications Editor advised that Mr. Owen Jacobsen, who has had a booklet on the Illawarra Mountain Railway in preparation for some time, has completed the photographs for inclusion and only awaits some details of the railway deviation near Burrawang to complete the manuscript.

“The Children’s Illawarra” for primary level children and “The Students’ Illawarra” for secondary level students is under preparation by Mr. W. A. Bayley in the style of his 64-page publications. It is hoped to have the publications ready for the opening of the 1974 school year.

IN MEMORIAM:


Older members were saddened to learn of the passing of Mrs. Hay in her 70th year.

A widow, she joined in 1946, and with her only child (Yvonne, Mrs. A. D. Wallace) in their own quiet ways played an active part in all our undertakings.
One of the earliest women Councillors she served 1958-63 when her residence at Oak Flats and ill health forced her to relinquish office. Her loyalty, practical commonsense and willingness to assist were sadly missed. As well as working, her purse was always open for all society’s appeals, often in an unobtrusive manner, as treasurers over the period will testify.

Sympathy has been expressed to Yvonne and her grand children in addition to this inadequate tribute.

ESSIE MACKRETH COMMEMORATIVE:

On Sunday, 25th February a quiet “private” ceremony (“private” in that only her immediate family and members of the society were invited) for the unveiling of a simple memorial plaque in honour of Mrs. Mackreth at the museum. The date was the first anniversary of her death.

Although this restriction was placed on the attendance approximately 75 were present when the President welcomed the guests and read a long list of apologies.

Mr. Maynes then called on Mr. Edgar Beale (Past President and outgoing Curator) to speak on the life and work of Mrs. Mackreth, with whom Mr. Beale had been associated for many years in other areas of community service as well as that of the foundation of the Museum.

Following Mr. Beale the present Curator, Mrs. M. M. Evans, also a friend of many years, unveiled the plaque.

Mr. Ian Mackreth (eldest son) replied on behalf of the family and then afternoon tea was served.

Mounted on the southern wall of the entrance room the plaque reads:

IN MEMORIAM
ESSIE JENNINGS MACKRETH
Deceased 25-2-1972
A founder of
and devoted worker
for this Museum.

FROM THE FOUR CORNERS:

Last month’s Bulletin gave greeting from Rev. Bro. O’Malley. Since then we have received renewals from “furrin parts” from Messrs. D. B. Ellson (Vic.), G. A. Faehrmann (Qld.), K. M. Marshall (W.A.), R. P. Seidemann (New Guinea). Dave, Ken and Reg were Councillors.

We have also heard that former secretary Miss Doris Slinn was in town recently and wished to be remembered to all friends.