

You will be relieved and pleased to know that Edith Pearce, although still in hospital, is recovering well from the heart attack she suffered at our July meeting. Not only is she sitting up and taking notice, but has been working on the address she gave at the meeting so that it is now in publishable form.

RESEARCH

Mrs. Una Peasley of 20 Anglers Place, Eleebana, has asked for information on the date of installation, and the name of the maker, of the pipe organ in Scots Presbyterian Church, Free Church Street, Maitland. She would also like to know when singing, the use of a tuning fork, and the harmonium were introduced to that church. If you can help in any way, please contact Mrs. Peasley direct.

We also have an enquiry regarding S. Hyndes, Cabinet Maker, Upholsterer and Undertaker, of High Street, West Maitland. Information to our secretary, Geoff Cannon, please.

The other day a handful of members began saying, "I remember when..." and the change in lifestyle over the last 30 years was astonishing. The days of icechests, clothes props, tradesmen calling at the door, post office nibs and monitors mixing school ink, are not so far behind us, but our children gape at the mention of them. It would be an interesting exercise if each member wrote down his or her recollections of childhood, conditions of employment, early housekeeping, even the type of food eaten in other decades. This is the stuff of which history is made, and jolly good fun as well. We can never work backwards on each item till we find a change of some kind.

RECORDING

A copy of Edith Pearce's address will be our first item of recording. This was sprinkled with anecdotes and small human touches and was very well received indeed.

Those who have already written down the results of their research, or who would like to commit to paper their own recollections, are invited to lodge them with the Society.

If you would like to speak on a particular aspect at a meeting, please contact Geoff Cannon.

We have been offered the loan of a taperecorder for our meetings, until we buy one of our own.

ON GETTING TO KNOW YOU

If the day is dry, a paddock barbecue will be held for members and their immediate families on Sunday, 24 July, commencing at 12 noon, at Hillsborough. Please bring your own food, drink and barbecue if you have one - in other words, be completely self-contained. The nearest shop is 11 miles away!

The usual country hazards exist - barbed wire in the fences, the occasional rabbit burrow, dams, and wild beasts on the other side of the fence, not to mention evidence of the latter's presence. (Parents might like to leg-roped their offspring, and will certainly be responsible for their own.) There is also, however, splendid scenery, fresh air and peace, which will no doubt be rent.

From Maitland, cross Belmore Bridge between the Library and the Court house, go through Lorn to Bolwarra Heights, turn left at the Shell service station. Do not take the Tocal turn, but continue straight ahead to Rosebrook. Your destination is approximately 2 miles past Rosebrook school and the trip will take 20 to 30 minutes from Maitland, depending on whether you drive slowly to admire the view or can't wait to get there.

The paddock is up a grassy hill, quite accessible to town vehicles if the grass is dry. If in doubt about the weather, ring a committee member - Graham Dunlop on 336221, Wendy Hure on 337495, Geoff Cannon on 301553, Lynne Dolan on 334104, or Val Hamson on 301420.

As we come from such widely scattered places, this event should enable us to kill the dreaded anonymity which has so far stalked our meetings.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Don't forget that the Society has been asked to take part in the "footy frolic" to celebrate the centenary of Maitland Rugby Union Club on Saturday, 30 July in Lorn Park. One of the games will be played in accordance with 1877 rules and the players will dress in the style of the period - knickerbockers, would you believe?

Nell Pyle is the wardrobe mistress of Maitland Repertory Society, which hires out items of costume, so if you want to be really with it, contact her on 301155.

It is anticipated that another house inspection will be organised for August, details to be given at the next meeting.

NEXT MEETING

This will be held in the old Library building on Monday, 1 August, at 8 p.m. Please wear a name tag, if you have one.

We will be discussing a suggestion that we produce a booklet next year.

I intend to adjourn the meeting for a few minutes to enable members to put written suggestions in a hat. These will all be considered, so if you're brimming with ideas, questions, or whatever, just put pen to paper.

June Vile
Bulletin Editor.