



NATIONAL TRUST MUSEUMS
1 October 1996

Mrs PENFOLD (Flinders): As announced by the Minister for the Ageing, today marks the start of Seniors Week. This is a good time to remember some of the trials and tribulations of the people who helped to develop this country. It is difficult for us in this modern time to remember what it was like back 100 or even 50 years ago, and it is even more difficult for our children to remember. The improvements in technology over the past 100 years are particularly hard to imagine. This is why organisations such as the National Trust are so important. It has been said that a nation that forgets its history does not have a future and I believe that we have a great future. The National Trust museums in the electorate of Flinders have benefited greatly from Government grants and work schemes funded by both State and Federal Governments and also local governments, which have supported the valuable recording and preservation of history undertaken mostly by volunteers.

Cowell's museum is housed in the former post office and postmaster's residence, which was built in about 1882. Cowell was a major shipping centre for business and industry prior to the building of railways and the formation of trafficable road systems. The parkland setting for Cowell's agriculture museum is ideal for displaying collections of static and restored machinery. Among the items is a restored 1910 Ruston Steam Traction Engine, which, despite its size (more than 2 metres in height), is not a powerful machine. The branch, organised by chairman Alan Hanson and secretary Ross Guthleben, has built a shed to protect some of these exhibits. Chairman Trevor Dreckow and secretary Alison Turnbull head the Cleve branch of the National Trust, which has its museum in the original council chambers in Third Street just off the main highway. There is a large display of early farming implements and tractors, including many Bulldog models. Numerous implements were made by local industries when settlers were isolated by distance from other areas of the State.

The northern road into Tumby Bay passes the C.L. Alexander National Trust Museum, which houses sectional exhibitions with photographs, sketches and histories of the pioneering days in the district. A particular item of interest is a copy of the first title issued under the Torrens Land Act 1957-58. The system was devised by Sir Robert Richard Torrens, who came to South Australia in 1849 and was appointed Collector of Customs with a seat in the Legislative Council. He was a member of the first ministry under the new self-governing Constitution of South Australia in 1857. The Torrens system of land titles has been copied by other Australian States as well as countries overseas and it is very appropriate that it be remembered. There are also early records of the Mortlock family, at least two of whom served in State Parliament.

Tumby Bay branch officers Ivy Freeman, Audrey Morris and Jean Brock all have pioneering family connections dating back to the last century, so they are well placed to run the branch, which also owns the Provis Memorial Park and Stokes Methodist Church, both in the Koppio hills. The Port Lincoln Mill Cottage Museum is situated in Flinders Park, which is part of the original holdings of Captain Bishop who came to Port Lincoln in 1839 aboard his ship Dorset. Mill Cottage was built in 1866 and houses many Bishop family artefacts, being looked after by resident caretakers Eric and Pearl Beinke. The committee chairperson, Bett de la Perrelle, is a descendant of some of the first settlers in the district last century.

Captain Bishop began the construction of a flour mill, but work stopped when the men rushed to the Victorian goldfields and, therefore, the building was never completed. It is now a landmark sited a short distance from Mill Cottage. A settler's cottage was built in the park grounds in 1986 as a Jubilee 150 Training Project for Youth. Along with general building skills, participants were taught the almost forgotten art of cutting and dressing stone. Koppio

Smithy Museum, on the site of Tom Brennand's restored blacksmith shop and cottage built in 1903, reflects farming activities prior to the late 1940s.

Other restored buildings are a pine log thatched roof shepherd's hut, Koppio school furnished as a school room of the 1930s era, a wheat agent's shed, a bank agency formerly situated on a farm, and a post office. The sheds around the perimeter of the grounds house one of the largest collections of restored tractors in South Australia, along with a 1915 International solid rubber-tyred truck, which makes one thankful for the invention of the pneumatic tyre. The active Koppio National Trust committee, headed by Norm Jericho and Betty Duns, has gained several grants which have been used to upgrade the museum or to add valuable items to the exhibits. Perhaps one of the reasons why people in my region look to the future with hope—

The ACTING SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member's time has expired.