

CITY OF MOORABBIN HISTORICAL
SOCIETY.

MAV 01204

(AFFILIATED WITH THE ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA) .

NEWSLETTER NO. 4

NOVEMBER, 1961

A CENTENARY WE SHOULD NOT FORGET - HIGINBOTHAM.

While the people of the City of Moorabbin are so eagerly awaiting the coming year, in which they will celebrate their Centenary, they should not let this year slip away without paying some tribute to the man after whom their Federal electorate is named. The man, of course, is George Higinbotham, whom the people elected to represent them in the State seat of Brighton for the first time on May 16th, 1861.

Higinbotham was born in Dublin, Ireland in 1826. He was educated at Trinity College, Dublin, and went to study law in London in 1847. After being called to the Bar on 6th June in 1853 he began to combine his knowledge of law with journalism. He migrated to Victoria in 1854 with romantic notions about gold-diggings. Then, upon arrival in this State he concerned himself with the unfortunate lot of the unsuccessful diggers. He championed this cause as a part-time writer for "the Herald" and later for "the Argus". Later still he became editor or "the Argus". Then came his political career which was followed by the Attorney Generalship for Victoria. Whilst holding this post he supported the workers in a maritime strike which held up all Australian ports by financially assisting the strikers. Politically he was an independent Liberal.

DOES HISTORY REPEAT? In 1861 the Brighton seat was won by George Higinbotham, an independent Liberal of his day. In 1961, the Moorabbin seat was won by Mr. R.G. Suggett, an independent Liberal of his day.

SOME DATES TO REMEMBER.

Next Saturday; Arts and Crafts display competition at the East Bentleigh State School from 9.30 am to 6 pm.

Thursday 16th November; monthly meeting. This will be a very special meeting, during which a special tribute will be paid to two of our most respected and worthy members. Other business will be to elect two delegates to represent our society at the invitation of the Beaumaris Historical Trust at an inspection of Aboriginal soaks and wells along the nearby foreshore.

Wednesday 20th December; a special get together night has been planned for our 1961 wind-up. The venue is the Presbyterian Hall, Park Road, Cheltenham. A popular revue company has promised to provide the entertainment, and everyone, members, supporters and the friends of each are invited. There will be no admission charge, but a plate will be provided for those wishing to contribute to the cost of the hall, and ladies are asked to provide a plate.

WE ASK THAT YOU GIVE SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THE ABOVE DATES.