

NEWSLETTER
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CITY OF MOORABBIN
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A SUCCESSFUL AUSTRALIA DAY

The Australia Day holiday this year brought about 70,000 people to Frankston to watch the re-enactment of Captain Phillip's party first landing at Sydney Cove. Perhaps this will indicate to those who still cling steadfast to the idea that Australia Day should be celebrated with town hall step gatherings for a flag-raising ceremony, that the average Australian has other thoughts on the matter. The Australian was never one to be told by a handful of people: "This is your day, and we expect you to honour it this way". He has his own views and nothing will shift them. He likes to see the flag flying, but does not see much point in standing around while it is being raised.

What could stir the pride in anyone more than to feel the sand, wet beneath his feet, as he cools off in the mid-summer heat that is Australia's usual lot for its national day? If ever there was a personal contact with country, and one that is as typically Australian as it is possible to get, then this is it. Stage a re-enactment of the famous landing on the fine sands of an Australian beach--where the original took place, anyhow--and the Australian will come away talking about it, even if he won't admit to having gone to the beach for the purpose of seeing this display; but that, incidentally, is the Australian again, shy almost to a point that might be mistaken for disloyalty, when it comes to boasting of heritage. A good example of this might be Professor Geoffrey Serle's comment when speaking with regard to Virginians (U.S.A.) dressing up in period costume. Said the professor: "I can't see Australians coming at this, anyway". (North Eastern Historical Society Newsletter, Jan., 1964.) No, neither can we.

January "Newsletter" corrections: Bottom line, page 1, "exactly a quarter of a century" should read "exactly 15 years". Page 4, line 5, "he was not satisfied" should read "he was now satisfied."

PROGRESS WITH "THE NEWS". Ever since the Moorabbin "News" first left the press in 1900 it has played its part in local development. "The News", in turn, has been an advocate for water reticulation, gas supply, electric lighting, improved transport facilities and everything that has gone to make living easier during the past 64 years. Let "The News" keep you up to date on local progress.