

MARYSVILLE – ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY

BY CATHERINE STABB

Jeanie and I left Frankston at 3:20pm, to drive to Mountain Lodge, for weekend with Mornington Peninsula and Melbourne and District branches of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society (RSCDS). Hosts at the Lodge were Suzette and Hubert Nasse, a young German couple. Lovely old building, 50 years old, on two levels, at base of Mount Kitchener and formerly known as Mount Kitchener Lodge. Had 35 rooms, swimming pool, tennis court, croquet lawns, games room (with billiards, table tennis, quoits and juke box), large lounge with dance floor, scrabble, books and playing cards, pleasant dining room, alcove for tea and coffee making (at any time), biscuits, tea, coffee, milk and sugar, oil heaters in corridors and log fire in lounge. Total number of members for weekend was 70.

Arrived at the Lodge at 6:15pm and had picnic tea in our room (chicken, rolls, eggs and beer). Rooms very comfortable, with 2 beds, 2 easy chairs, wardrobe, dining table, hot and cold water, electric blanket and bed lamps.

First night, nice supper at 9:30pm and then all set off in convoy of cars for Steavenson Falls, which were floodlit at night, then back to the Lodge and after Committee Meeting - off to bed.

Saturday

Up early to have cuppa (6:15am) then off for early morning walk around township. After breakfast, attended 2 classes, one at Football Pavilion, one at Crossways Restaurant, then back for lunch at the Lodge at 1:30pm. After lunch, walked through the track of Tree Fern Gully, over Steavenson River and back along Falls Road, to township to visit church of 'Our Lady of the Snows', then stopped at local hotel for a drink and back to the Lodge for dinner at 6:15pm.

Then for Social at Pavilion (8:00pm – 12:00pm), watched by local residents, lovely supper provided by the ladies of Church of England. Typical welcome by all country members including council representatives of Church of England Minister. Walked back to the Lodge, very tired and off to bed.

Sunday

Up early (6:15am) made tea and sat out on verandah to watch the birds and sunrise over the mountains. After breakfast off to church at 10:00am. After church went to Church of England, to attend Harvest Festival Services with Jeanie and Nell Henderson, then morning tea at Vicarage. Short drive around township, then back for lunch at the Lodge, 1:30pm. Left Lodge at 2:45pm to drive back through Warburton, Emerald, Berwick and home.

Of Interest

Lodge opened only for long weekends, school holidays, Christmas and New Year or special occasions (like RSCDS) and must have a minimum of 25 guests. All cooking done by Suzette and all renovations done by Hubert.

Trees

In full Autumn colour were Liquid Ambers, Oaks, Claret and Golden Ash, Virginia Creeper and Japanese Maple.

Birds

Bellbirds, Magpies, Kookaburras, Currawongs, Crows, Pardalotes, Tomtits, Wagtails, Blackbirds and Parrots.

Cattle

In area – Murray Greys, Herefords, Guernsey's and Brahmans.

Extra Interest

Piper, Judith Anders, played along the corridor to call everyone to prepare for breakfast on Saturday morning, then gave a short recital at the front entrance for guests. Very talented lass and most beautiful.

Social Programme

Luckenbooth Brooch, Kendall's Hornpipe, New Scotland Strathspey, Polharrow Burn, Hollin Buss, Robertson's Rant, Bonnie Shire Glen, Janet's Delight, Fireside Reel, Eightsome Reel, Duke of Perth, Trip to Bavaria, Shepherds Crook, Mr Wilsons Hornpipe, Glasgow Highlander, Rest and be Thankful, Hooper's Jig, Bonnie Lass of Bon Accord and Ian Powrie's Farewell.

I used to get up early, make tea and take it and a plate of biscuits out on the verandah to share with the birds. After breakfast, a game of tennis before practice, then before lunch, a walk around the town. A really beautiful place Marysville.

P.S.

All Marysville destroyed by bushfire, February 2009

(Source: Notes from my Notebook dated Friday, April 1975)