ROYAL FLYING DOCTOR SERVICE OF AUSTRALIA
(VICTORIAN SECTION)

PATRON: HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, GENERAL SIR R. A. DALLAS BROOKS, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., D.S.O., K.ST.J.
PATRONESS: LADY BROOKS

SECRETARY:
E. G. PHILLIPS
TELEPHONE: 67 7000
TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:
"AIRDOCTOR," MELBOURNE

REGISTERED OFFICE:
STOCK EXCHANGE BUILDING,
422 LITTLE COLLINS STREET,
MELBOURNE, C.1

Mr. Rodgers' Phone No. 41 2994

17th May, 1963.

J. G. Harrison Esq.,
c/o English, Scottish & Australian Bank Ltd.,
View Point,
BENDIGO. VIC.

Dear Mr. Harrison,

Our President, Mr. T. A. Alston, and I were in Bendigo briefly last Friday for the purpose of discussing with the Mayor and other leading citizens arrangements for the forthcoming Cobb & Co. Coach Run in aid of the Royal Flying Doctor Service. It is our hope that a representative Citizens Committee may be formed to handle arrangements for the run through Bendigo, following the public meeting called by the Mayor, Councillor Rae, for Tuesday, June 4.

As you probably know, the Coach, carrying passengers and mail, will leave Port Douglas in Northern Queensland on June 22, on its three thousand miles journey through Western Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria, arriving in Melbourne for the official opening of the Royal Agricultural Show on Friday, September 20. It is hoped that this historic Coach Run will raise some £20,000 for the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

The route fixed for Victoria is: Echuca (September 11), Elmore (September 12), Bendigo (September 13), Castlemaine (September 14), Kingston (September 15), Ballarat (September 16 and 17), Bacchus Marsh (September 18), Flemington (September 19).

The object of forming citizens' committees in each of these centres, is to have a representative group, which will take responsibility for arranging a suitable welcome for the Coach, handle bookings for intending passengers and organise one or more fund-raising functions associated with the Coach's visit. These may take various forms; in some centres, for example, old-time Barbecues are being

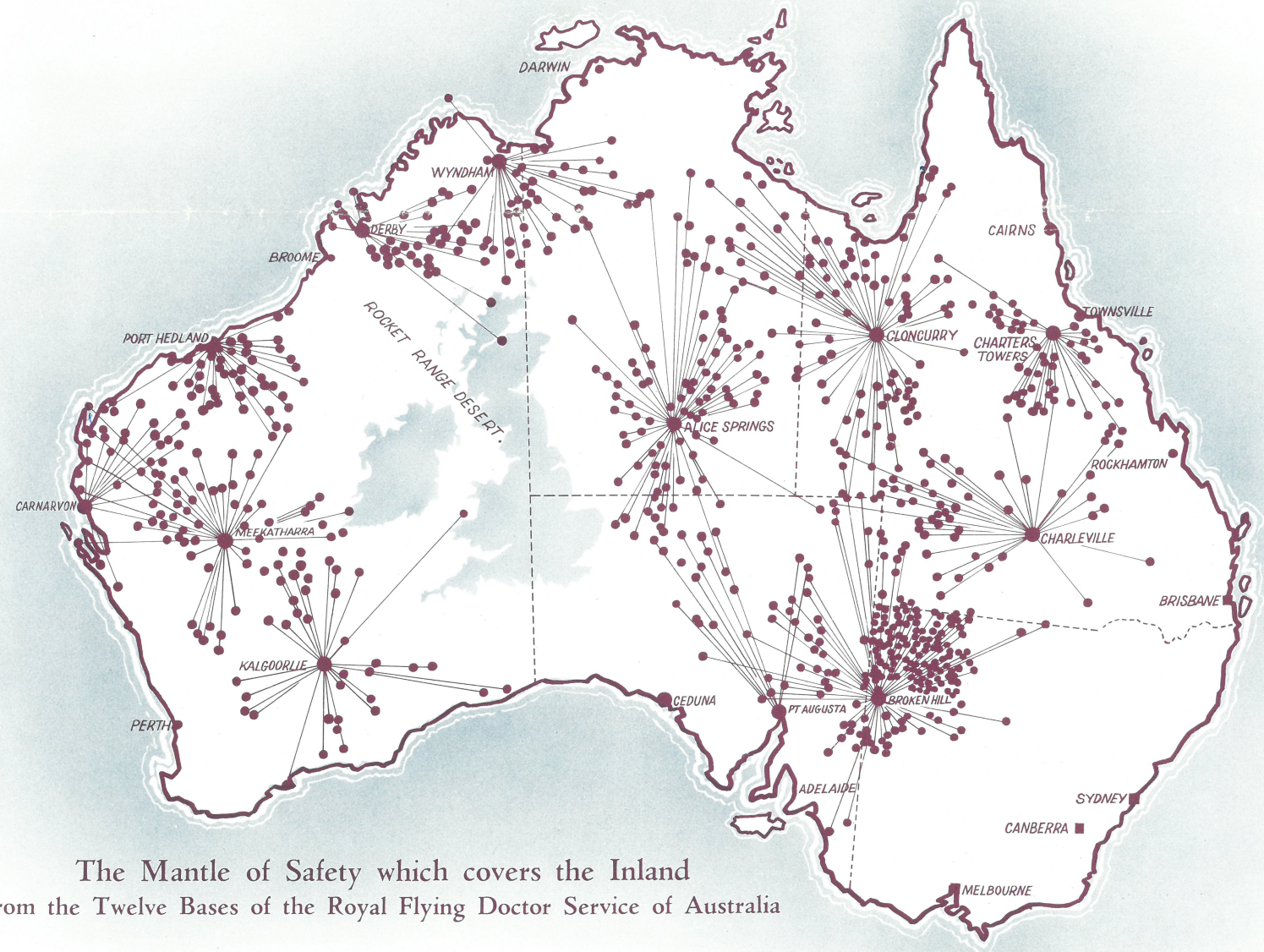
arranged, also Woolshed Dances typical of the 1870's or 90's as to style, costume and decor, the aim being to re-capture for the occasion something of the general atmosphere of the days when Cobb & Co. travelled the route; even to re-enact, where possible, colourful incidents from the history of each town and city. In other places, a number of smaller house-parties and social gatherings are being arranged to raise funds over a period.

We hope very much that you will be able to attend the meeting called by the Mayor on June 4 and give the project your support. I shall be in Bendigo briefly again next Wednesday and will endeavour to discuss the question with you personally then. In the meantime I am taking the liberty of enclosing a booklet on the history and work of this most important service.

Yours sincerely,

J. A. Rodgers,
Public Relations Officer.

JAR.jd



The Mantle of Safety which covers the Inland
from the Twelve Bases of the Royal Flying Doctor Service of Australia