

The Adam Lindsay Gordon Memorial Cottage Committee

~~President: G. W. E. ROFF, C.D.E.
29 Gregory Street,
Ballarat 3350.~~

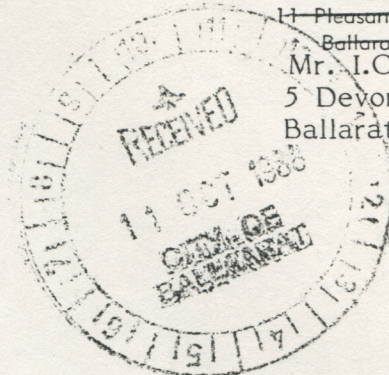
President: M. J. BROWN
3 Morton Street,
Ballarat. 3350.

Hon. Secretary: ~~PHILLIP ABSON~~
~~11 Pleasant Street Str.,~~
~~Ballarat. 3350.~~
Mr. I.C. Smith,
5 Devon Street,
Ballarat ... Vic. 3350.

6th October, 1988.

D/C

The Mayor and Councillors,
City of Ballarat,
Town Hall,
Sturt Street,
BALLARAT ... VIC. 3350.



Madam Mayor and Councillors,

The Adam Lindsay Gordon Cottage has stood in the Botanical Gardens since 1934, containing a wide range of Gordon memorabilia, including a number of original items, Over those 54 years it has attracted many thousands of visitors.

The Cottage and its collection have been managed by a voluntary Committee of interested citizens. Day to day supervision of the Cottage has been carried out by successive caretakers in an almost voluntary capacity - the only monetary payment which the Committee could afford to such persons was a percentage of the admission charges. The only source of funds generated for the Committee's use has been via the entrance charge. From those funds the Committee has maintained the building, met the cost of the Gordon Memorial Horse in Sturt Street, erected the W.E. Roff memorial beside the Cottage, and provides an annual prize to South Street.

The Committee has been concerned, for some years, about the extreme vulnerability of the building (the likelihood of fire, theft and vandalism) and the rapidly deteriorating condition of the collection due to it being housed for so long in a completely uncontrolled atmosphere. Even had it been practical to correct the atmospheric conditions, cost would have been quite beyond the capacity of the Committee. It should be added that, in recent years when a fixed admission charge for adults (50¢) was imposed, attendances fell markedly.

Having regard not only to those two matters, but the advancing age of many of the Committee members, a declining interest in Gordon, and a lack of public interest (evidenced by the fact that at a Public Meeting called to consider the future of both the Cottage and the Collection, only one member of the public attended) the Committee determined that their "trusteeship" of the Collection demanded that steps had to be taken to ensure its future preservation. Originally the concept of shifting the Cottage to Sovereign Hill was explored, but this proved to be a physical impossibility. Subsequently it was decided to hand over the entire collection to two interest groups - the Ballarat Turf Club to take those items german to their proposed Racing Museum, and the balance to the Gold Museum, Ballarat, both of which will provide the proper environment in which such a collection should be housed, and thus retaining them in Ballarat.

The Mayor and Councillors

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6th October, 1988.

The collection has now been removed from the Cottage, and the Cottage vacated by the Committee.

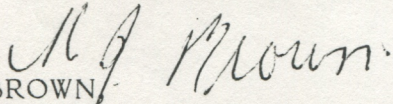
The Committee desires to offer the Cottage to the Council for possible use by the Friends of the Botanical Gardens as a Garden interpretation/information centre and gardens craft shop. If the Council is prepared to accept the Cottage for such use, or a use similar to that, the Committee would be prepared to donate to the Council the balance of its funds to be used for maintenance of the building. After meeting some current commitments, the Committee will have an amount of approximately \$5,000 available.

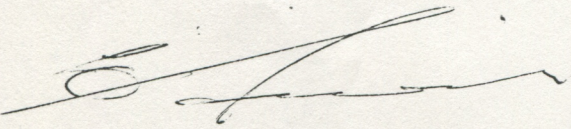
It should be noted that the building, as it has stood in the Gardens since 1934, is quite a radical altered configuration to the way it previously existed behind Craig's Hotel. There is ample documentary evidence of this drastically altered appearance.

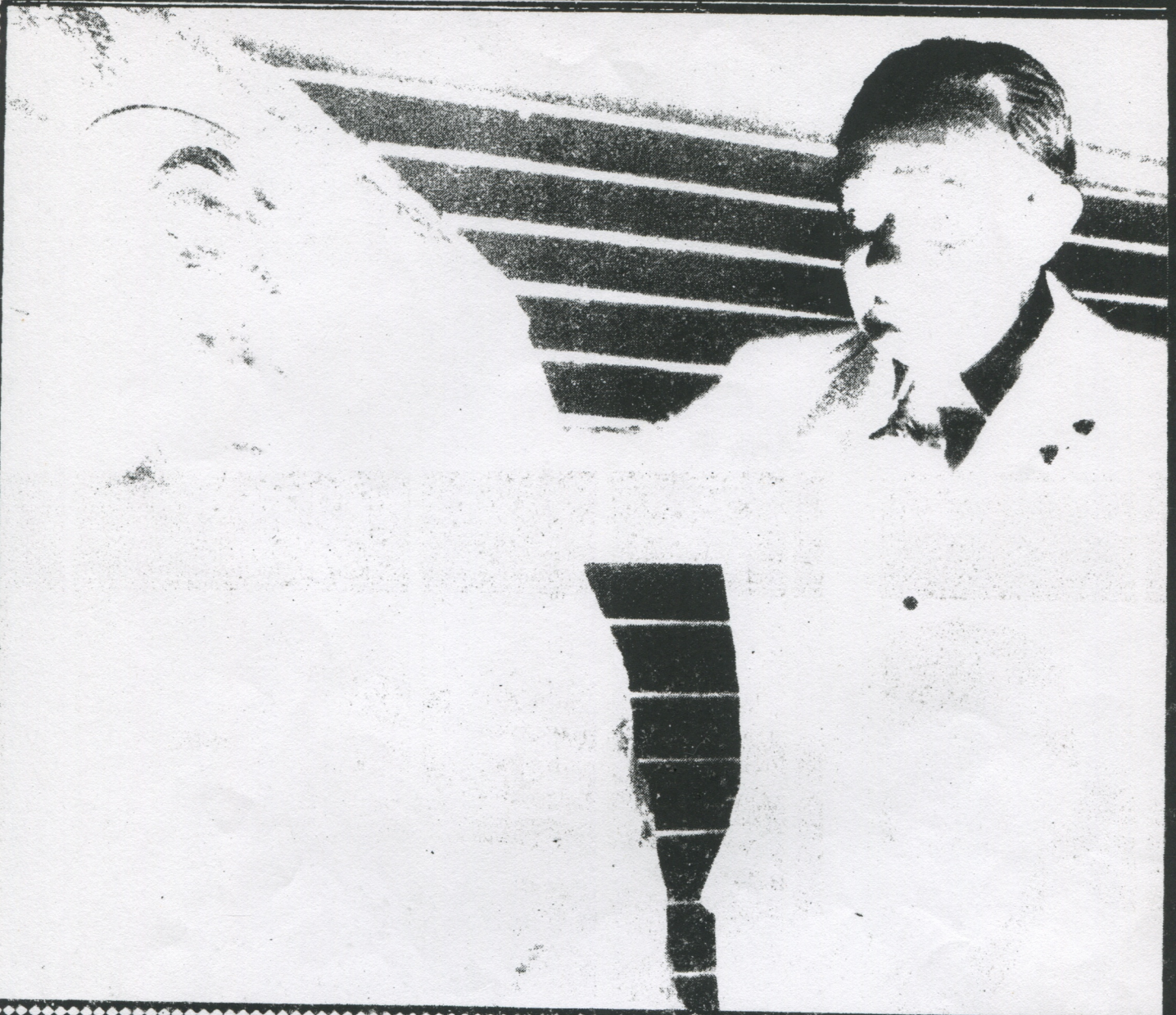
We take this opportunity to thank the Council for its assistance to the Committee over the years, particularly through its Superintendants and the present Director of the Gardens.

Regardless of the future of the Cottage, we believe that the memorial bust of Grodon, the memorial stone and plaque of W.E. Roff and the memorial seats should remain in their present locations. If the Cottage is removed, the Committee would be prepared to meet the cost of providing and installing a suitable commemorative plaque to the previous existence of the Cottage on the site.

Yours sincerely,


M.J. BROWN,
PRESIDENT.


I.C. SMITH,
SECRETARY.



BUDGET MAY BOOST FORCES

(AUP). The expected to get and more equipment Federal Budget. my recruiting to be length to about 34,000 bar, defence sources

stage of a plan to take 3,000 in two years.

cuts in spending early in the year. Spending programs for the Navy and Air Force — for equipment announced by the former Defence Minister, Mr Morrison — are also expected in the budget.

LONG SPEECH
The treasurer, Mr Lynch, spent a routine day yesterday preparing for the Budget which will be

and that a 10 per cent tax could be added to wine. In Canberra yesterday, liquor shops reported individual sales of wines of up to \$1750 as people bought to beat an increase in wine prices. Other Budget tips include an air travel tax of \$3 a head on passengers leaving Australia and a \$50 fee for divorce applications under the Family Law Act.

WHITLAM PLAN REJECTED

CANBERRA (AUP). The Federal Parliamentary Labor Party yesterday rejected a

Memorial plaque at Gordon Cottage

A plaque in memory of the late Cr William E. Roff, who died in 1970, was unveiled on Sunday in the garden of the Adam Lindsay Gordon Cottage at the Botanic Gardens.

It was unveiled by the Mayor, Cr M. J. Brown (above) as president of the Adam Lindsay Gordon Cottage Committee, which was responsible for its erection.

Cr Brown spoke of Cr Roff's work as president of the committee for many years and in his many avenues of community service in Ballarat. He was supported by Mr George Netherway, who referred in particular to Cr Roff's close association with the Ballarat Historical Society. The ceremony was attended by members of the cottage committee and relatives of the late Cr Roff and Mrs Roff.

VIEWS OVER CRESWICK