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AUSTRALIAN NATIVES' ASSOCIATION

## More National Questions\* — The A.N.A.'s Viewpoint

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Brown Coal — Ownership & Development — 1983.  
Banking & Finance — (Housing Loans Insurance Corpn. and Entry of Foreign Banks) — 1983-84.  
Australian Constitutional Convention — 5th Plenary Session, Adelaide, Sth Aust. — April 1983.  
Review of Industries Assistance Commission — 1983.  
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Institute of Freshwater Studies — 1983.  
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Australian Art, Literature and Science.  
The Ombudsman (Victoria) — 1964.  
Community Radio Broadcasting.  
The A.N.A. Handicap 1984 — Australia Day Racing Carnival.

By BRYAN J. KELLEHER, B.A., B. Com., F.I.B.A.  
(Federal President, ANA)  
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# MORE NATIONAL QUESTIONS —

## The A.N.A.'s Viewpoint

By BRYAN J. KELLEHER, B.A., B. Com., F.I.B.A.  
(Federal President A.N.A.)

### 1980 A.N.A. CONFERENCE -- BENDIGO

Since World War II (1939-1945) very much of the A.N.A.'s energy has necessarily been expended in coping with massive changes in its area of interest so far as the National Health Act and Regulations are concerned. The A.N.A.'s activities as a national organisation interested in the welfare of Australia and the Australian people have been greatly overshadowed as a result of the need to remain viable as a friendly society and as an organisation registered under the National Health Regulations. A silent social revolution was under way in Australia immediately after 1945 and, not unexpectedly, this had a radical effect upon the nation's social services framework. Into that framework were being woven some of the vital principles espoused over many decades by the friendly societies and their members — though Governments were not slow in taking kudos for these as their own "discoveries".

At the Annual Conference of the Australian Natives' Association in Bendigo, Victoria in March 1980 an agenda item from the Chadstone Branch sought that "in order to advance the A.N.A.'s policies on national questions and other matters" the Board of Directors make every endeavour to present the A.N.A.'s viewpoint through direct appearances before bodies such as Parliamentary Committees, Committees of Inquiry, etc., in addition to presenting its case through properly documented submissions. Where Australia-wide matters arose the Board was to act in conjunction with the Australian Natives' Association Federal Council (See 1980 Conference Report of Proceedings, p. 36, 1981 Conference Report of Proceedings p. 56 and the 1984 Report at pps 86-88).

During the debate on this matter it was recalled that, in the past, the A.N.A. had taken this course on a number of issues such as federation, constitutional reform, soil erosion and afforestation. It was argued that the tempo of this type of involvement should be stepped up in the future, and the Conference delegates agreed.

This is the third publication by the Australian Natives' Association dealing with a series of National Questions. The first appeared in January 1982, titled "Some National Questions — The A.N.A.'s Response" (ISBN 0 9599842 8 3), and dealt with Constitutional Reform; Afforestation; Australia Day (26 January); Education; Uranium Mining; Banking and Finance; Housing; Salination and Desalination. The second, published in February of 1983 and titled "Some Further National Questions — The A.N.A.'s Approach" (ISBN 0 9599842 9 1), treated the topics of Uniform Railway Gauge; Banking and Finance — A Criticism of the Campbell Report; Aircraft Noise; Trade Agreement — Australia-New Zealand; Unemployment and Protection in Industry; Salination — Murray River Valley, etc.; Afforestation — Criticism of Senate Committee Report (1981); Rainforest Preservation Bill (1982).

### VICTORIA's 150th ANNIVERSARY (1984) and AUSTRALIA's BICENTENARY (1988)

On 17 November, 1984 Victorians began the celebrations to mark the founding of their State in 1834. 1988 will mark Australia's bi-centenary. Countless events and projects, major and minor, are being organised to mark the occasions. The issue of this publication by the A.N.A. could be added to the list. It is a contribution to the 150th Anniversary Year of the State of Victoria, i.e. 150 years since Europeans first settled permanently in Victoria at Portland Bay in November, 1834. It is also made as a contribution to Australia's Bi-Centenary of 1988, no less perhaps than the recent (1984) contribution titled "A Place in History" by Jim Burke and Ralph Townsend (ISBN 0 949484 02 4) and dealing with the history of the A.N.A. in Queensland.

### SUPPORT AUSTRALIA'S POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS

In recent years the "A.N.A. Advocate", published since 1937 by the A.N.A. in Western Australia, has given increasing coverage to the A.N.A.'s views on National Questions. My thanks and best wishes go out to my A.N.A. colleagues for their efforts to advance Australia and the A.N.A.

Public inquiries and the attitudes and viewpoints expressed before them by people and organisations like the A.N.A. are open, healthy, democratic ways of trying to reach some practical, reasoned and proper solution (even if not always the optimum solution) to some national question or national problem. It is fortunate that we, as Australians, have these avenues of peaceful persuasion open to us all. In having these avenues at their disposal Australians are, in my judgment, in an enviable position — a position which makes itself abundantly clear when one looks at the political standards which prevail, and prevail with ruthless disregard at times, in those countries wherein live the vast bulk of this earth's humanity. One simply must back Australia and its political institutions, notwithstanding some faults, against the sourness of the sceptic. There are many who question the worth of the bother and effort expended in endeavouring to persuade inquiries, committees and so on to see and adopt a particular viewpoint. It is hard going at times.

National questions have never been an easy matter for the A.N.A. — if the topics were all easy and straightforward the problems would soon be solved, and there would be no need for any inquiries. The A.N.A. has never accepted the sceptic's view that "the Government couldn't care less what people say". One hears that "Today things aren't like they used to be" and "The country is going to the dogs now" — well it has been "going to the dogs" for as long as I am able to remember; but somehow it manages to keep battling on.



Blaming "the system" is very convenient for the sceptic and the wiseacre. He invariably sees the fault as being in "the system", but really he cannot expect to "win them all". His proper place today is probably in the midst of those lost ones who are continually looking around for causes to espouse, and who are shouting constantly for instant solutions to all the problems, some real but many imagined, of the universe. It does not do to forget that part of Shakespeare's Julius Caesar (Act I Scene II) where Cassius remarks: "The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars, but in ourselves, that we are underlings". It is hard, it would seem, to change "the system", even if you are at the top. It has its own momentum, its own direction, its own conservatism, its own propensity to survive, whatever its political colour happens to be. Not everything needs to be changed, either, as some people think, simply because it has been there since the year dot. We may not all be masters of our own fate; but by stirring ourselves within organisations like the A.N.A. we can as battlers, silvertails or whatever, make our own input of ideas, attempt to change or influence "the system", participate in the process of inquiry and search as it probes for the solution to some national question or problem. It is all part of the day to day slog of trying to make Australia a better place for its citizens to live in.

## **BROWN COAL IN VICTORIA – ITS OWNERSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT**

The resources of brown coal in the Gippsland, Otway and Murray Basins in Victoria have been assessed recently at approximately 202,000 million tonnes. That's a lot of coal and a lot of potential wealth, and the question of its ownership as well as the question of the rights to develop brown coal resources loom as very important matters.

A 2,500-page Resource Development Study on brown coal was completed in late 1982. The exercise took nine months and cost about \$1 million. In the Melbourne daily press of 8 February 1983, there appeared public notices which invited comments on the Report. Submissions were to be made, before 30 June 1983, to the Manager (Development), Victorian Brown Coal Council, 7th Floor, 151 Flinders Street, Melbourne. This matter was examined and discussed when the ANA Victorian Board of Directors met on 23 February 1983. The Board asked that ANA Federal President, Bryan Kelleher, prepare a draft submission for the Australian Natives' Association as soon as possible and that this be sent to Board members and others for scrutiny and comment. On 19 November 1981, many of the Board members had visited the State Electricity Commission's brown coal projects at Hazelwood, Morwell and Loy Yang in the Latrobe Valley, Gippsland (see "Anapress" of December 1981, page 5).

By 17 March 1983, the ANA submission had been prepared and cleared and sent on to the Victorian Brown Coal Council. The text of the submission follows.

### **Text of ANA Submission**

These comments and statement of attitude by the Australian Natives' Association are made in response to the invitation extended by the Victorian Brown Coal Council through the Daily Press (vide Melbourne "Sun News Pictorial", of 8 February 1983, at page 48), for submissions to be made on the issues, findings and recommendations contained in the Study of the Strategy to achieve the best use of Victoria's brown coal resources, taking into account all appropriate factors.

This recently completed Study was undertaken by Kinhill Pty. Ltd., in association with Dr. Otto Gold, GmbH & Co., of Cologne, West Germany; W. D. Scott and Company Pty. Ltd., and Arthur D. Little Inc., of Boston, USA.

The Australian Natives' Association's submission will, where appropriate, make reference to Volume 1 of the 9 Volume Report. Volume 1 is the Executive Summary, issued in December of 1982, of the Victorian Brown Coal Resource Development Study.

### **The Australian Natives' Association**

The Australian Natives' Association is a Friendly Society and a National organisation which was formed in 1871. As a National organisation it takes an interest in National questions, and in the development of Australia and the Australian people. Its members meet on an equal footing to exchange ideas regarding the welfare and advancement of their native land. Matters affecting the use and development of Victoria's brown coal resources have been of concern to the ANA, especially since the early 1920s.

In passing, mention is made of the fact that Sir John Monash, Chairman of the State Electricity Commission of Victoria in 1920, was a member of this Association. The major part which he played in opening up the brown coal deposits at Yallourn in the very early 1920s led on to the large scale development of Victoria's power and briquette industries.

### **Brown Coal Resources – Part of Australia's National Assets**

The Australian Natives' Association has, over the years, looked upon the huge brown coal resources in Victoria, as a national asset belonging to the people of Victoria and Australia. Moreover, it has regarded this asset as latent wealth available for development for their benefit as citizens of Australia. Thus the ANA, does not perceive that this property belonging to 15 million Australians is something available for purchase or exploitation for private commercial benefit.

The ANA understands that the brown coal resources in Victoria were, in 1977, measured and indicated at some 73,000 million tonnes and to this was added an inferred amount of about 52,000 million tonnes – a total then of approximately 125,000 million tonnes. The Resource Development Study revises earlier figures and raises the total to about 197,000 million tonnes plus some 4,600 million tonnes of inferior coal in the Gippsland, Otway and Murray Basins. (See Executive Summary, Vol. 1, page 3.)



The Australian Natives' Association is interested to note the statements in paragraphs 14 and 15 that "many unions and many employers . . . prefer a federal approach" to industrial relations and, on the other side of the coin, "there are some who prefer State regulation and their attitude cannot be ignored". This matter was also raised in the course of the A.N.A.'s submissions (transcript pages 1187-1188). The A.N.A. appreciates that we in Australia live in a pluralist society and that, in so far as a number of choices can become available to people, there will always be somebody prepared to opt for even the most unlikely of those choices — for reasons ranging from self-interest and commercial greed right through to considerations of the public interest in an altruistic sense. May we again draw the attention of the Review Committee to the point that, when this very matter was put to the Australian electorate as a whole in the 1946 referendum, a majority of Australians desired that the Federal Government should be the one to have the industrial relations power. The A.N.A. submits that that too needs to be kept right up to the very forefront of the factors relevant to the recommendations to be formulated by the Review Committee for the consideration of the Australian Government."

#### Report to the Australian Government

The Committee of Review will be required, under its Terms of Reference, to examine all the relevant issues, report on them and make recommendations not later than 31 March, 1985.



*A.N.A. HOUSE, 114 Albert Road, South Melbourne, Victoria, 3205. This is the Headquarters of the Australian Natives' Association in Victoria. The Federal Office of the A.N.A. is also located here.*

## AUSTRALIAN ART, LITERATURE AND SCIENCE

The stimulation of Australian Art, Literature and Science is one of the basic objectives of the Australian Natives' Association. It constitutes a permanent commitment upon which the A.N.A. has acted ever since its establishment in 1871. In the years prior to the Federation of the Australian colonies (1 January, 1901) the A.N.A. was only too well aware of how fashionable it had become for some men of influence to belittle everything Australian. Mr W. J. Sowden (later Sir William Sowden) a newspaper editor and Chief President of the A.N.A. in South Australia in the years 1892 and 1901-1904 pointed this out in his "Australia — A Natives' Standpoint" published in 1893 (See also the 1893 volume of the Victorian A.N.A. Board of Directors' Reports at pages 303-326). There he said that some of these people, presiding at complimentary dinners and the like, boasted that there was nothing "colonial" upon their tables and that "colonial wine was sour", "colonial ale was watery", "colonial preserved fruits were pulpy" and even that "the colonial sun had a sickly glare". In this day and age one sees just how asinine were those persons and their words — though at the time it may have been considered to be the "in" thing to do, or the "with it" utterance. Now and again one hears some local saying that Australia has no culture or that it is inferior to that of other countries and so on — but no doubt other countries too have their own locals moving about in their own smart set with their would-be avant-garde posturings. They are, one supposes, simply one of the "little annoyances of life" in those countries — a pain in the neck there no less than they are here in Australia.

At the turn of the century, however, the criticism of all things "colonial" extended itself to areas such as Australian literature and art. For its part the A.N.A. strove hard to encourage greater endeavour by Australians in these fields, and to see that the endeavour was more and more appreciated. The A.N.A.'s resources for this task were only meagre.

#### A.N.A. Awards

In 1903 in Victoria A.N.A. Garden Prizes were awarded for the most improved school garden in each inspectorial district as a means of interesting children in horticulture and improving their own "working environment" and the general surroundings. Some 50 Awards are made each year involving an annual outlay of the order of \$3500 for these still popular Awards.

Vocal Scholarships were awarded in Victoria between 1904 and 1928 for elocution and music. Essay competitions were also conducted in Victoria from the early 1900's, in Western Australia from about 1937 and not long after that in Tasmania. At the 1981 A.N.A. Conference in Hamilton, Vic. the Diamond Valley branch successfully proposed the making of an A.N.A. History Award each year for an essay on a topic related to the Australian History curriculum for the year. (See 1981 Conference Report p.27).

From 1917 onwards in Victoria scholarships, titled the Wainwright Scholarships, were awarded in Senior Technical Schools primarily to encourage the study of Science.

On 10 May, 1974 the A.N.A. Board in Victoria had before it a submission from one of its Directors seeking to establish permanent Funds from which A.N.A. Literature Awards, A.N.A. Science Awards and A.N.A. Art Awards of significant value could be made each year. (See Conference Reports 1976 p.14 and 1982 p.12.)



In March, 1978 the Annual Conference at Bairnsdale, Vic., endorsed a proposal from the Ballarat District Council regarding A.N.A. Awards for Poetry. These Awards are now made each year at the Royal South Street Society's Eisteddfod in Ballarat, at the Bendigo Competitions Society, at the Maryborough (Vic) Golden Wattle Festival and at the Eaglehawk Dahlia and Arts Festival. For details of the winners, their prize-winning poems etc., see the various issues of "Anapress" since December, 1979 and also the publication titled "Australian Poetry and the Australian Natives' Association" by Bryan J. Kelleher (ISBN 0 949484 00 8) issued in June, 1983 by the A.N.A. in Melbourne. This publication also gives some detail of the history and events leading up to the A.N.A. Awards referred to here, as does an earlier 1979 publication titled "Australian Art, Literature and Science - The A.N.A.'s Interest" by the same author (ISBN 0 9599842 4 0) and "Anapress" of September, 1979 pps. 1-5. The A.N.A.'s interests in this area are attended to by a special Committee comprising Directors Bryan Kelleher and Harry Shannon, Treasurer Les Crofts and Director Joe Strudwick ably assisted, as required, by General Secretary John Munro, Assistant General Secretary Greg Grimwood and the A.N.A.'s National Organisation Officer Mrs Amanda Duncan.

The A.N.A. Literature Award, currently valued at \$600 was, in 1983, awarded to Laurie Clancy, a Senior Lecturer in English at La Trobe University in Melbourne for his novel "Perfect Love" published by Hyland House. This was presented at the National Literary Awards Dinner at the Dallas Brooks Hall, East Melbourne on 30 March, 1984 (See "Anapress" of June, 1984 p.13). 59 books were entered by 33 publishers. Entries for the 1984 A.N.A. Literature Award close on 31 December, 1984 and the results will be announced at the National Literary Awards Dinner in 1985 conducted by the Fellowship of Australian Writers.

The A.N.A. Art Awards for 1983 were made for numerous Arts and Crafts at the Royal Melbourne Show. Details of the various winners are given in "Anapress" of December, 1983 p.12. The Awards for 1984 were also made for the Arts and Crafts at the Royal Melbourne Show and details are given in "Anapress" of December, 1984.

The A.N.A. Science Awards for 1983 were given as part of the 32nd Science Talent Search conducted by the Science Teachers' Association. The winning entries were displayed as part of the Exhibition at the Robert Blackwood Hall at Monash University in Clayton, Victoria. (See "Anapress" of December, 1983 at page 7). The 33rd Science Talent Search was again the avenue used for the A.N.A. Science Awards in 1984. An extremely well organised and well attended Exhibition was again held at Robert Blackwood Hall. (See "Anapress" of December, 1984). The A.N.A. sent representatives to these Exhibitions - Director Bryan Kelleher, Director Harry Shannon and Chief President (as she then was) Shirley Wright.

As mentioned earlier the A.N.A. History Awards are of very recent origin, having arisen from the 1981 Annual Conference proceedings at the initiative of the Diamond Valley branch. The 1983 A.N.A. History Awards were presented on 13 April, 1983, during Heritage Week, at Como House in Melbourne by the Director-General of Education Dr Norman Curry. Members of the National Trust were in attendance. Some 200 entries were received. The Junior Section was won by Andrew Schep of Geelong High School and the Senior Section by Judith Bowtell of Kildara College, Malvern. (See "Anapress" of June, 1983 pps. 9-11).

Entries in the 1984 A.N.A. History Award dealt with the "150th Anniversary of Victoria"; the first permanent settlement in that State began in November, 1834. In the Junior Section 1st Prize went to Peter Horvath and 2nd Prize to Sam Kakaflikas, both from Mentone Boy's Grammar School. In the Senior Section 1st Prize went to Marion Harris and 2nd Prize to Virginia Stinear, both from Kildara College, Malvern. The presentation of these prizes took place on 14 May, 1984 in the Assembly Hall at Ormond College in the University of Melbourne. It formed part of the proceedings of the Annual Conference of the History Teachers' Association of Victoria and was undertaken by Dr Lloyd Robson, Reader in History at the University of Melbourne and Bryan Kelleher, Federal President of the A.N.A. and a graduate of the University of Melbourne. (See "Anapress" of September, 1984 p.5). Dr Marian Aveling was one of those attending the History Teachers' Conference and many will recall that in March, 1970 she wrote a thesis for the Department of History at Monash University in Melbourne titled "A History of the Australian Natives' Association - 1871-1900". A copy of her thesis is held in the A.N.A. Library at South Melbourne.

#### The A.N.A. and Henry Lawson (1867-1922)

Henry Lawson (1867-1922) is perhaps Australia's best loved poet and short story writer. It is his likeness which appears on the Australian \$10 note. Born on 18 June, 1867 at Grenfell, N.S.W. he was the first child of Neils and Louisa Larsen. His father was part-owner of a mining claim at Emu Creek. Louisa registered the child as Henry Lawson and his father later adopted the name Peter Lawson.

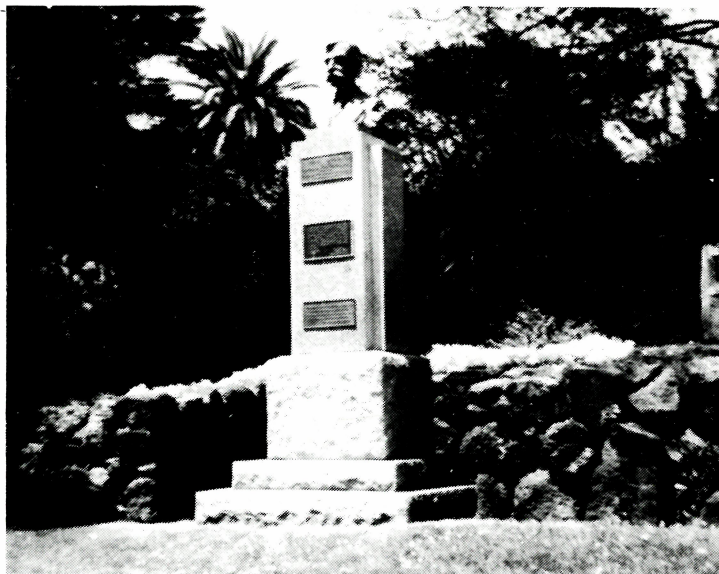
The first of the societies formed to honour the memory of Henry Lawson was the Henry Lawson Memorial and Literary Society which began in 1923 in Footscray, Victoria, just one year after Lawson's death. The Society aims to stimulate greater interest in and appreciation of Australian literature and to foster an Australian sentiment and pride in Australian achievement.

There is little doubt but that Henry Lawson, from the very outset, was able to capture and unerringly express the tempo and spirit of the Australian people. His basic theme was mateship - comradeship, unselfish helpfulness to those struggling against odds in a land where Mother Nature could be generous in one place and time yet ruthless in another (or give very grudgingly despite any amount of hard yakker). Mateship was a code of conduct stressing equality, loyalty and fellowship in a tough, character-testing environment. This environment was tough in the economic sense and in the climatic sense - but that was the reality of life then faced by the ordinary Australian and his family.

Through hard work and persistence the Henry Lawson Society grew from 1923 onwards and eventually raised enough funds to erect a memorial to Henry Lawson in the Footscray Hill Park, overlooking the Flemington Racecourse in Melbourne. A one and a half times lifesize bust was made by sculptor Stanley Hammond. The Harcourt granite pedestal was fashioned by James Taylor, a Footscray stonemason. The memorial was unveiled on 7th February, 1960. There are three plaques on the memorial. One of them takes some of the words from Lawson's poem "The Writer's Dream":

*"I was born to write of the things that are!  
And the strength was given to me;  
I was born to strike at the things that mar  
The world as the world should be!"*





*The Memorial erected by the Henry Lawson Memorial and Literary Society in Footscray Hill Park, Victoria, overlooking the Flemington Racecourse. It was unveiled on 7 February, 1960.*

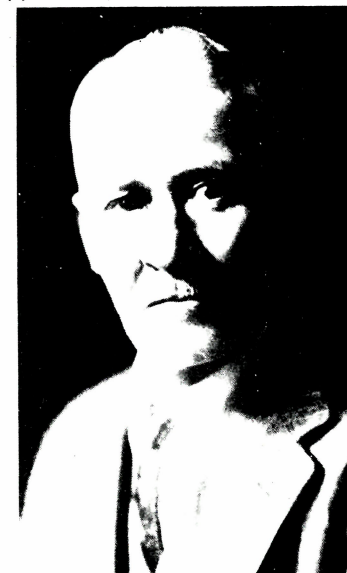
Just to the right of this memorial is part of an old sugar gum tree. This tree was earlier known as the "Lawson Tree" as the Society members used to meet there until the tree was bulldozed when Ballarat Road was being widened. A small plaque now on the remaining section of the tree indicates that the ashes of Steve Ford, J.P. (Founder of the Lawson Society) were scattered there in 1947. The full text of this information on the three plaques on the Memorial is given in "Anapress" of March 1983 at pages 5 and 6.

Back in 1904 this Steve Ford was President of the Zeehan Branch of the Australian Natives' Association in Tasmania and also Secretary of the Australian Miners' Association. He, and many of the others who started off the Henry Lawson Society in 1923 in Victoria, were connected with the A.N.A. It is not really surprising that there then were, and still are, strong links between the two organisations. Both strive hard to advance Australian literature and encourage Australian authors, poets, etc. Steve Ford was born at Buangor, near Ararat, Victoria in 1868 and died aged 77 years in 1946. (See "Advance Australia", a journal issued by the A.N.A., of 15 August, 1904 at page 233 and "The Lawsonian" of October, 1983 at pps. 4-8.)

It is of further interest therefore to add that, on October 6, 1983, ANA Federal President, Bryan Kelleher, received a 'phone call from Mrs J. Bell of West Footscray — a daughter of the late Steve Ford — saying she was delighted to read the article in "The Lawsonian" about her father and the Zeehan ANA in 1904. She was born in Zeehan in 1907 and the Ford Family stayed there until about 1911. She mentioned her father's interest in the ANA in Tasmania and also the great help he had received from ANA stalwarts in Victoria (but particularly Footscray) when he was working to establish the Henry Lawson Society in 1923 — men like Harry Conabere, George Puncheon and Bill Peart.

Mrs J. Bell spoke on another interesting point when she said that a very great contribution to the Henry Lawson Society had been made by Director Wally Smallman of the ANA who died in 1977 and had been the prince of story-tellers within the ANA itself. (There are hundreds of members of the ANA who would confirm that!) She said that her father, as Secretary of the Australian Miners' Association, used to collect the union dues of one J. T. Smallman, a miner in Waratah, Tasmania. J. T. Smallman was the father of Wally Smallman. Wally was born in Waratah, Tasmania, in December 1900.

Jack Menadue, another former Director of the ANA, was active in the Henry Lawson Society for many years; and ANA Federal President, Bryan Kelleher has been Secretary-Treasurer of the Society since 1983. (See "Anapress" of March, 1983 at pages 5-6; September, 1983 page 8; March, 1984 page 3 and September, 1984 pages 2-3 and 5-7.) Material dealing with the links between the ANA and the Henry Lawson Society may also be found in the publication "Australian Poetry and the ANA" at pps. 4-5 (ISBN 0 949484 00 8).



*STEVE FORD J.P. (1868-1946) was born at Buangor, Vic. He founded the Henry Lawson Memorial and Literary Society in 1923 at Footscray, Vic.*

#### **LAWSON Commemoration**

On 17 June, 1983 the ANA in Melbourne held a special function to celebrate the 116th Anniversary of the birth of Henry Lawson. It was appropriate too that among the many present was the Consul-General for Norway, Mr Alstergren. (Henry Lawson's father was a Norwegian.) The Lawson Address was given by Mr Harry H. Pearce, the Editor of "The Lawsonian".

At the 1984 ANA Conference an agenda item from the Chadstone Branch was adopted asking the Board of Directors of the ANA to organise similar functions in future years "on 17 June or the nearest practicable date thereto" (See 1984 Conference Report at pages 60 and 88-90).



In June, 1984 the ANA held the second commemorative function which was basically on the same lines as that of 1983. The venue was the Board Room on 14th Floor of ANA House in South Melbourne. The guests were welcomed by the ANA Federal President and Secretary-Treasurer of the Henry Lawson Society.

Mrs Catherine Mitton, President of the Henry Lawson Society, then read John Manifold's poem "Lawson's Birthday".

Chief President of the ANA in Victoria, Mr Bruce Armstrong, spoke on the ANA and Australian Literature. He traced the interest which the ANA had maintained in the stimulation of Australian literature since 1871 through to the Australian Natives' Association Literature Award, given annually for a work of sustained quality and distinction with an Australian theme and presently valued at \$600.

The Henry Lawson Address was given by Mr Ian F. McLaren, OBE, Dip. Com., FRHSV a former Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Victoria and author of a number of books on Australian literature. He said Henry Lawson belonged to Australia and New Zealand, but we should be thinking of ways of sharing Lawson with the whole world. Australians, he said, had been particularly remiss in bringing their heritage to others and even in recognizing their own literary heritage. (For the text of Mr McLaren's Address see "Anapress" of September, 1984 at page 6-8. See also the ANA's Newsletters of August, 1983 and August, 1984 and "The Australian Worker" (A.W.U. journal) 30 June, 1983, page 7.)

Items of prose and verse, appropriate for the day, were given by members of the Society Mrs Catherine Mitton, Mr Robert Davidson and Mr Jim Howard. These were all well received. Just prior to the conclusion of proceedings ANA Federal Secretary Mr John Munro asked Mrs Ruth Whyte to recite some of her poems. Ruth Whyte won the Ric Norris Award in 1981 at the Eaglehawk Dahlia and Arts Festival, the ANA Poetry Prize in 1982 and again in 1983 at the Royal South Street Eisteddfod in Ballarat and in 1984 won the ANA Poetry Prize at the Bendigo Competitions Society's Festival.

At the conclusion members of the Henry Lawson Society were able to take the opportunity to inspect the ANA Library (See "Anapress" of March, 1984, p. 15 and September, 1984, pps. 2-3 and 6-8).

It may be of interest to add here that the ANA function was mentioned during the programmes on radio 3CR Melbourne at 2.30 p.m. Sunday, June 17, and radio 3RPH at 8 p.m. that day. Federal President Bryan Kelleher spoke on radio 3CR and prepared the material read over radio 3RPH.

For details of the 1984 Henry Lawson Poetry Competition held in Longreach, Queensland see "Anapress" of September, 1984 at pages 2-3.



MR. IAN McLAREN (left) and MR. BRYAN KELLEHER, (A.N.A. Federal President) at the function held to commemorate the 117th Anniversary of the birth of Henry Lawson (1867-1922). Mr McLaren, author of a number of books on Australian literature, gave the Henry Lawson Address.

On Saturday, June 16, the Henry Lawson Society held its special "Lawson Birthday" meeting at the Austral Salon, 2nd Floor, Druid's House, 407 Swanston Street, Melbourne (just north of Museum Underground Rail Station). There was a very good attendance of members, many of whom read Lawson items. The programme included various musical items given by the Austral Singers. An interesting event was a Dutch auction conducted by Mr Harry Pearce, the Editor of "The Lawsonian". As was mentioned earlier the Henry Lawson Society used to meet under a sugar gum tree in Footscray Hill Park. This tree, then known as "The Lawson Tree", was bulldozed in 1964 when Ballarat Road was being widened. Harry Pearce cut off some pieces so he thus "guaranteed the authenticity of the items" put up for auction. The first was a section of the Lawson Tree one foot long and 2½ inches in diameter with polished sections down each side. This went to Mrs Joan Mann. Thence came three walking sticks fashioned from the Lawson Tree. These went to Mrs Allison Hedges, Mr Bryan Kelleher and Mrs Karen Brkic. Harry Pearce said that the Lawson Tree, a sugar gum, was about 80 years old when it was bulldozed in 1964. Sugar gum (*Eucalyptus cladocalyx*) is found in South Australia and north-west Victoria. It has been planted extensively along roads and in parks. The foliage is sweet and attractive to cattle. The pale, yellow-brown wood is hard, strong and durable. The bark is smooth and is shed to give irregular white, yellow and grey patches.

Members of the ANA may be interested in joining the Henry Lawson Society. Membership costs \$6 per quarter at present (1984) and this covers also the cost of receiving by post "The Lawsonian" each month, except January. This way members can keep in touch even if they cannot attend the meetings or the Annual Gathering. Meetings are at 2 p.m. on the 3rd Saturday each month at the Austral Salon, 2nd Floor, Druids House, 407 Swanston Street.



The Annual Gathering is held at the Henry Lawson Memorial in Footscray Hill Park on the first Sunday, at 2 p.m. in February. The Henry Lawson Memorial is close to where Moore Street, Footscray joins Ballarat Road. Send membership enquiries and/or subscriptions to the Honorary Secretary-Treasurer (Bryan Kelleher), Henry Lawson Society, 47 Bowen Street, Chadstone, Victoria, 3148. Phone: (03) 568 8594.

### The ANA and Adam Lindsay Gordon (1833-1870)

Friday, 19 October, 1984 marked the 151st anniversary of the birth of the poet Adam Lindsay Gordon (1833-1870). The occasion did not pass unnoticed. Adam Lindsay Gordon, who took his own life on the beach at Brighton, Victoria on 24 June, 1870, is buried in the Brighton General Cemetery. Since about 1900 the Australian Natives' Association has made arrangements for the proper care and maintenance of the monument on the grave. This arrangement was formalised by legal documentation in the 1940's.

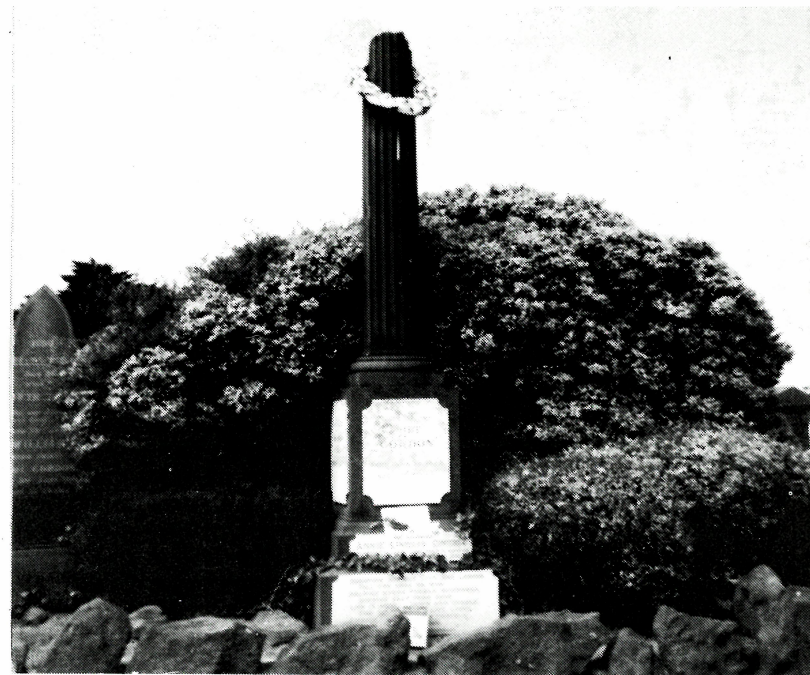
At 9.30 a.m. on 19 October, 1984 a small spray of rosemary was placed at the monument and some lines from Gordon's "The Sick Stockrider" and "Ye Wearie Wayfarer" were read. The card with the spray of rosemary read "151st Anniversary. Adam Lindsay Gordon, 19 October 1833 - 24 June, 1870. Board Directors and Members of the Australian Natives' Association (Bryan J. Kelleher, FEDERAL PRESIDENT)."

Some years ago I was looking at the monument to see what maintenance, if any, was needed and took some photographs for the ANA journal "Anapress" (December, 1982 pps. 3-4). Part of the material prepared for "Anapress" recorded my thoughts in that place at that time:

" "I thought about the light level for the camera as I prepared to take several photographs of the monument on the grave of Adam Lindsay Gordon and noticed the thick grey clouds scudding from the south-west across Port Phillip Bay. Just two miles ahead was Brighton Beach where Gordon had committed suicide. Less than 700 yards to the north-west was the old Holy Cross School in Ellington Street, South Caulfield where, as one of the junior scholars in the early 1930's, I made by first acquaintance with Adam Lindsay Gordon's works - an indirect acquaintance to be sure, but well remembered nonetheless. We could hear the senior scholars reading in unison from their 8th Grade readers:-

"Life is mostly froth and bubble,  
Two things stand like stone -  
Kindness in another's trouble,  
Courage in your own."

Indeed from here in 1982 my imagination all but picked up the lilt in the voices of those children . . . saw the sisters in their black and white dress in front of the class . . . and the words echoed yet again, words which would appear so many times in the autograph books of the years to come. I packed away the camera and walked quietly down the hill towards the North Road gate. There was not a soul in sight and light rain began to fall."



*Monument on the grave of Adam Lindsay Gordon (1833-1870) in the Brighton Cemetery, Victoria.*

The ANA's interest in Adam Lindsay Gordon was fostered very largely by Mr A. A. Peverill J.P. of South Melbourne branch of the ANA. He became Chief President of the ANA in 1909 (See "Anapress" December, 1978 p.4 and J. E. Menadue's "A Centenary History of the ANA 1871-1971" p.355). Gordon is still widely remembered in Australia for his ballads and rhymes and his love of open air life.

There is a statue of Gordon close to State Parliament House in Melbourne and his bust stands in Poet's Corner of Westminster Abbey in London - the sole representative of Australia. The ANA in South Australia also took a keen interest, as the following report from the Melbourne "Age" of 23 February 1937 indicated (See also "Anapress" of March 1979 at page 26).

### Mt. Gambier Centenary - Pilgrimage to Poet Gordon's Home

"Mt. Gambier, Monday - More than 1,000 people gathered at Dingley Dell today when a pilgrimage to the former home of Adam Lindsay Gordon was conducted as part of the Centenary celebrations. The local branch of the Australian Natives' Association again conducted the pilgrimage which was attended by many important visitors, including Mr G. R. Holland, Chief President of the Association in Victoria, Mr J. Parker, Federal Secretary of ANA and a member of the Gordon Memorial Committee, Mr L. W. Barrow, General Secretary for South Australia, Mr Paul Krummel of Queensland, an original member of the local restoration committee, Mr A. G. Cameron, MP, and Messrs, Petherick and Hunt.



"Proceedings at the cottage, where Gordon wrote so many of his poems, were broadcast over the national network of stations. Mr W. R. Hunt, President of the local branch, introduced visitors. Mr Holland, who made reference to Mt. Gambier's Centenary celebrations, said in the rich and fertile district people had every reason to feel proud of the pioneers, and to reflect with pride upon the courageous efforts of the early settlers. Among those early pioneers was Adam Lindsay Gordon, a man they had met to honour. Gordon wrote feelingly, joyously, and sometimes even sadly, of life. He loved the freedom he found in the bright and sunny land of Australia. The rugged beauty and grandeur of the new country, the overwhelming forces of nature, and the struggle which confronted the Australian pioneer — these Gordon breathed into his writings.

"A tribute to the local ANA, and the Memorial Committee for their Dingley Dell Restoration Committee efforts was paid by Mr Holland. Other speakers included Messrs. Parker and Siebert, Parliamentary members for the district, and the Mayor of Mount Gambier (Cr. L. A. deGaris).

"While Mr A. M. Thompson was reciting Gordon's "The Sick Stockrider" Messrs M. G. Kemp and M. Pudney realistically enacted the scene. Miss Lehmann also recited Kendall's 'In Memoriam of A. L. Gordon'."

#### ANA Members Informed

The ANA has, over the years, given its members quite a lot of information regarding the poet, Adam Lindsay Gordon, vide "Anapress" December 1982, pps. 3-5; March, 1983, p.7; September, 1983, p.17; December 1983, pps. 2-3 and, most recently, in June, 1984, page 5 where Mr Ian F. McLaren, Honorary Bibliographer at the University of Melbourne, has contributed an article suggesting that Australians should do much more to emphasise the literary achievements of Adam Lindsay Gordon. In 1982 and 1983 the ANA arranged for the despatch to interested persons of over 100 cuttings from the Diosma plant (Coleonema Album) adjacent to the monument on the Adam Lindsay Gordon grave (See "Anapress" March, 1983, p.7 and September, 1983, p.17). Additional information regarding the ANA's interest in Adam Lindsay Gordon is given in the 1984 Annual Conference Report of Proceedings at pps. 88-90 and in the publication "Australian Poetry and the ANA" pps. 5-6, by Bryan Kelleher and issued by the ANA in Melbourne in June, 1983 (ISBN 0 949484 00 8).

#### Adam Lindsay Gordon Oration — 1983

The Adam Lindsay Gordon Memorial Cottage Committee in Ballarat arranged a function for Sunday, 30 October 1983, to mark the occasion of the 150th Anniversary of the birth of the poet Adam Lindsay Gordon. Director Geoff Wearne is the ANA representative (from the Ballarat District Council) on that Committee. Chairman of the Committee is Mr Maurice Brown, a former Mayor of Ballarat. The Town Clerk of Ballarat, Mr Ian C. Smith, is Secretary to the Committee.

The Cottage is situated close to Lake Wendouree in the Ballarat Botanical Gardens, not far from the pavilion which houses the famous statue of "The Flight from Pompeii". In 1867, the Cottage was adjacent to Craig's Livery Stables in Ballarat, leased by the poet, Adam Lindsay Gordon. In 1934, it was moved to the Botanical Gardens and Colonel R. A. Crouch offered to pay the removal and resiting costs involved. Richard Armstrong Crouch, born in Ballarat in 1868, was a Life Member of the Australian Natives' Association, a solicitor, at one time President of the Australian Labor Party and a member of Federal Parliament between 1901 and 1910. (See "Anapress" of December 1982, p.4; March, 1963, p.19 and October 1980, pps. 8-9.)

#### Recitation Given

Sunday, 30 October, 1983 in Ballarat turned out to be a beautiful, still, sunny day. The Botanical Gardens were a picture and hundreds of people were out and about making the most of an enjoyable spring day. Soon after 2.30 p.m. people were able to hear a recital by the Ballarat Highland Ladies Pipe Band. Drum-Major Sandra Anstis had assembled the Band on the lawn in front of the Adam Lindsay Gordon Cottage.

Mr Maurice Brown, Chairman of the Cottage Committee, extended a welcome to distinguished guests and all those present. Then followed a recitation by Mr Andrew Dunne, winner of the Adam Lindsay Gordon special prize at the Royal South Street Eisteddfod in Ballarat in 1983. He chose Gordon's poem "Wolf and Hound" which the poet had written early in 1869 when he was at Yallum Park in South Australia with his friend John Riddoch and his family.

The account of the proceedings given in "Anapress" of December, 1983 at pps. 2-3 goes on:—

The Chairman then introduced Mr Bryan Kelleher, Federal President of the Australian Natives' Association, and said that the Memorial Cottage Committee had invited him to deliver the Adam Lindsay Gordon Oration on this 150th Anniversary of the birth of the poet.

Mr Kelleher said Adam Lindsay Gordon was born on 19 October, 1833 in the Azores Islands, which were actually Portuguese territory in the Atlantic Ocean. After education in England, Gordon came to Australia late in 1853. He joined the Mounted Police in South Australia very soon after his arrival in Adelaide. He was a trooper and was later stationed at Penola and at Mount Gambier. In 1855 he resigned and took up horsebreaking and steeplechase riding.

In 1862 he married Margaret Park and they lived in a cottage, Dingley Dell, on 100 acres of land near Port Macdonnell in South Australia. In 1864 Gordon published "The Feud". It was on 28 July of that year that he made the famous leap at the Blue Lake, Mount Gambier, when he jumped his horse Red Lancer over the safety fence and on to the narrow ledge with its 180 feet of straight drop down to the deep blue waters of the lake.

In 1865 he was elected to the South Australia Parliament but resigned in 1866 to go to Western Australia and start up a sheep station. A legacy of £7,000 (\$14,000) from his mother's estate had given him some financial affluence but this was being frittered away. The sheep station venture failed and by early 1867 Gordon had returned to South Australia. He wrote "Ashtaroth" and "Sea Spray and Smoke Drift". On 3 May, 1867 a daughter, Annie Lindsay Gordon, was born at Robe, South Australia. She was idolised by Gordon. Later that year the Gordon family moved to Ballarat, Victoria and leased the livery stables at Craig's Hotel in Lydiard Street.



Gordon's love of his horses (Red Lancer, Cadger and others), his generous but impractical nature, his talk about horses, dogs and boxing with numerous friends who were good at billiards and fond of their beer was all very fine; but it would have been far better for Gordon had some of those friends been able to handle accounts and figures. The livery stables enterprise muddled along then slid backwards into debt. In March of 1868 Gordon sustained injuries in the Ballarat Steeplechase. In April, 1868 the baby Annie Lindsay Gordon died aged 11 months from an infection and was buried in the Wendouree Cemetery just across the lake from where all the present company were assembled here on this sunny day of Sunday, 30 October, 1983. The death of the baby was a sad blow to Gordon and was to be a major reason for his departure from Ballarat in 1868.

Gordon went to Melbourne and followed the racing circuits in that city and in country Victoria. In 1869, during a visit to John Riddoch's Yallum Park property in South Australia Gordon wrote "The Sick Stockrider" and "From the Wreck". In March, 1870 he had a bad fall during a race at Flemington and suffered constant head pains and deepening melancholia. On 23 June, 1870 "Bush Ballads and Galloping Rhymes" was published but Gordon had been very much worried about the publishing costs of this work. At daybreak the next morning Gordon took his own life by rifle shot on the beach at Brighton.

Now, over a century later, the legend of Gordon remains alive in Australia. Words from his poem "Ye Wearie Wayfarer" are known in thousands of households throughout Australia — they are almost folklore. They were close to and expressed the day to day reality of the harsh economic and physical climate experienced by the ordinary Australian:

"Question not, but live and labour  
Till yon goal be won,  
Helping every feeble neighbour,  
Seeking help from none;  
Life is mostly froth and bubble,  
Two things stand like stone:  
KINDNESS in another's trouble.  
COURAGE in your own."

These words were graven upon the small monument in front of the cottage at Ballarat and on the monument on Gordon's grave in the Brighton General Cemetery in Melbourne. Gordon understood Australia and the Australians — he knew and loved the rugged beauty of our land, he loved its sunny climate and the freedom he found here for his wild and reckless spirit.

Mr Kelleher outlined the many long-standing links between the Australian Natives' Association and Adam Lindsay Gordon both in Victoria and in South Australia. Ballarat was Gordon country, but it was also a veritable heartland of the ANA with so many branches in the district. The ANA had, since about 1900, made arrangements for the proper care and maintenance of the grave at Brighton where, in 1919, Gordon's daughter Annie Lindsay Gordon was re-interred. Mr Kelleher said he had gone to Brighton on 19 October, 1983 and noted that the Brighton Historical Society had placed a spray of rosemary at the foot of the monument that day. At the scene it was easy to recall the very moving lines by Gordon:



*The Adam Lindsay Gordon Cottage in the Ballarat Botanical Gardens. The Cottage was moved in 1934 to the Gardens from its original location adjacent to Craig's Hotel. (Photograph taken on 30 October, 1983, the day of the commemoration of the 150th Anniversary of the birth of Adam Lindsay Gordon.)*

"Let me slumber in the hollow where the wattle blossoms wave,  
With never stone nor rail to fence by bed.  
Should the sturdy station children pull the bush flowers on my grave,  
I may chance to hear them romping overhead."

The Australian poet Henry Kendall (1839-1882) in his "Memorial Ode" to Adam Lindsay Gordon said it was "my gifted friend . . . a shining soul with syllables of fire, Who sang the first great songs these lands can claim to be their own". Here was the beginning of a great move towards national poetry within Australia — Gordon, Kendall, Paterson, Lawson, Dennis and others.

Mr Kelleher said that there was a diosma shrub with tiny white flowers (Coleonema album) beside the Gordon monument at Brighton and the Australian Natives' Association had arranged the distribution of over 100 cuttings from this to interested people.

He added that it was perhaps appropriate that he and his wife Mary had enjoyed their lunch at Craig's Royal Hotel in Lydiard Street, Ballarat prior to making their way to the Botanical Gardens for today's proceedings. He thanked the Adam Lindsay Gordon Memorial Cottage Committee for extending to him the honour of delivering the Oration to mark the 150th Anniversary of Gordon's birth. He praised the steadfast work of the Committee over almost 50 years since 1934; and he said he thought all present should be made aware of the generous gesture by the Committee in loaning valuable exhibits to the Victoria Racing Club Museum at Caulfield Racecourse in September and October for their special Adam Lindsay Gordon Exhibition. Many people had thus been given the opportunity to see these exhibits. These people included himself and Mrs Mary Kelleher when they visited the Caulfield Racecourse on 13 October and enjoyed the display.



### Vote of Thanks and Further Recitals

Mr George Netherway, a member of the Cottage Committee and Secretary of the Ballarat Historical Society, proposed a vote of thanks to Mr Kelleher. This was carried with acclamation.

Some more items were then rendered by the Ballarat Highland Ladies Pipe Band and very much enjoyed by all. The Chairman, Mr Maurice Brown, then asked Mr Andrew Dunne, winner of the 1983 Adam Lindsay Gordon Prize at the Royal South Street Eisteddfod, for a further item. Mr Dunne's recital of Gordon's "An Exile's Farewell" clearly showed his outstanding ability as an elocutionist to all who heard him on that afternoon and who gave their full measure of applause. "An Exile's Farewell" was written in September, 1853 when Gordon was on board the "Julia" (a barque of some 520 tons) and the vessel was about half-way on the voyage from England to Australia.

The Chairman then thanked all for their participation and attendance at what he hoped had been an enjoyable and a memorable day for each and every person present. The warm response left no doubts on that score. Many then went across to the restaurant by Lake Wendouree and enjoyed Devonshire tea. The Australian Natives' Association was represented by Federal President, Bryan Kelleher and his wife, Mary, Director Geoff Wearne and his wife, Del and Director Selwyn Geddes and his wife, Joyce. For further detail on the day's proceedings and background to the ANA's interest in Adam Lindsay Gordon, etc. see the "Ballarat Courier" of 19 October, 1983; 22 October, 1983, page 13; 31 October, 1983; and "Anapress" of March, 1979, page 26; December, 1982, pages 3-5; March, 1983, page 7; and September, 1983, page 17.



### THE OMBUDSMAN – VICTORIA – 1964

In March 1964, at the Annual Conference of the Australian Natives' Association in Lorne, Victoria, the Geelong West Branch proposed that "with the object of increasing the efficiency and popularity of our democratic form of government, this Conference urges the Victorian State Government to appoint a Parliamentary Commissioner for Investigations similar to New Zealand or the Scandinavian Ombudsman". (See 1964 Conference Report, p.52.) The Conference venue, Erskine House, was the place for a lively debate on this proposal.

The proponents indicated that there had been an Ombudsman in Sweden since 1809, thence Finland in 1919. In Denmark the first Ombudsman began his work in 1955. Norway and New Zealand followed in 1962. It was felt that the increasing range of activities of the State Government in Victoria, their growing complexity, an alleged insensitivity on the part of the civil servants and the reluctance or inability of Ministers to become involved in the detail of individual cases all put the ordinary citizen at a great disadvantage so far as the adequate defence of his rights and interests were concerned. New Zealand and Norway had recently gone along with the idea of having an Ombudsman and so should Victoria.

On the other hand, it was argued that the proponents had only brought forward some woolly generalisations rather than specific cases which the Conference delegates might consider on their merits and see as being illustrative of the need for an Ombudsman. By and large the Scandinavian countries had their own particular form of government and this was not generally along the lines of ministerial responsibility as we knew it on the Australian political scene. Ministers here in Australia were available and could be written to or seen. There were always people eager to complain on real or imagined matters. There were others ever ready to interfere in the normal process of government, given the slightest encouragement. There was an enormous amount of ill-informed criticism of the so-called "unfeeling tea-drinking bureaucrat" from people who had little, if any, idea of what the real situation and processes of government were all about. The moves currently being made in England for the creation of an Ombudsman did not appear to be meeting with very much enthusiasm at all.

After hearing both sides, the Conference delegates at Lorne adopted the proposal. Then the ANA Board of Directors promptly took up the matter of having a "grievance man" appointed with power to investigate complaints by citizens against the State Administration in its numerous modern forms.

### A Cool Reception

The 1964 Conference decision meant, of course, that the creation of a position of Ombudsman became the ANA's established policy. However, the representations made to the Premier of Victoria, Henry Edward Bolte, resulted in a reply which simply "noted the ANA's views". The National Questions Committee within the ANA's Board decided to seek out and work together with any other organisations which might favour the idea of an Ombudsman. It also thought it desirable to make contact with interested persons or student bodies with a view to holding a meeting in the ANA Board Room (then on the 7th Floor at 28 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne) "to promote a movement designed to bring influence to bear on the Government". The sum of £50 (\$100) was allocated towards the initial costs of this project. (See 1965 Conference Report of Proceedings, p.45.)

The ANA also took note of the article written by N. J. Caiden of the Department of Sociology, Australian National University, titled "The Ombudsman and the Rights of the Citizen" appearing at pps. 69-77 of the September, 1964 issue of "The Australian Quarterly" (Volume XXXVI No. 3). A precis of this material was published in "Anapress" of November, 1964 pps. 6-7. The Board, however, was unable to report any great progress having been made on the general question, vide 1966 Conference Report at p.89.

Although the two major political parties in Victoria had expressed their agreement "in principle" with the idea the Government itself would not come to the point of accepting that an office of Ombudsman should be brought into being to serve the community. The ANA was aware that in 1966 the Statute Law Revision Committee would be visiting New Zealand and intended to examine the work of the Ombudsman there in the light of some four years experience since 1962. From where it stood, the ANA Board felt that "there are grounds to believe that such an appointment is becoming more probable, caused by the support which has been given, including of course the ANA".