

NOTES FOR THE PRIME MINISTER,
ON THE OPENING OF LACHLAN VINTAGE VILLAGE,
FORBES, N.S.W. 17 MAY 1975

1. SOMEONE HAS GOT THE IDEA THAT I'M INTERESTED IN HISTORIC SITES AND OLD RUINS. THESE ARE THE BEST SIMULATED RUINS I'VE SEEN IN AUSTRALIA. AFTER MY LAST VISIT TO EUROPE, I OPENED OLD SYDNEY TOWN AT GOSFORD; AFTER MY VISIT TO JAMAICA I'M OPENING LACHLAN VINTAGE VILLAGE.
2. I'M SORRY THERE AREN'T MORE STATE GOVERNMENT MINISTERS AT THIS OPENING CEREMONY. AT LEAST ONE STATE MINISTER DECIDED TO BOYCOTT THE OCCASION. I SUPPOSE THE STATES ARE USED TO LIVING IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY ANYWAY. BOB HAWKE WANTED TO COME. HE THOUGHT A VINTAGE VILLAGE HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH WINE TASTING.
3. THIS IS OUR BIGGEST TOWN PLANNING PROJECT SINCE ALBURY-WODONGA. TOME UREN IS COMPLAINING THAT WE ARE BUILDING MORE OLD TOWNS THAN NEW ONES.
4. I MUST CONFESS THAT WHEN I WAS INVITED TO OPEN "AUSTRALIA'S LIVING MUSEUM" I IMMEDIATELY THOUGHT OF THE SENATE. I KNOW BEN HALL CAME FROM FORBES, BUT THERE ARE QUITE A FEW BUSHRANGERS IN MY OWN PROFESSION.

5. CERTAINLY THE PEOPLE OF FORBES - AND ALL AUSTRALIANS - CAN BE PROUD OF THIS SPLENDID AND IMAGINATIVE PROJECT. IT WILL BRING GREAT DELIGHT TO TOURISTS. THE COLONIAL HISTORY OF NEW SOUTH WALES IS RICH IN INCIDENT AND ADVENTURE. THE OLD LACHLAN DIGGINGS, THE ORIGINS OF AUSTRALIAN AGRICULTURE AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL TRANSPORT HAVE ALL BEEN PAINSTAKINGLY RECREATED IN THIS DISPLAY. THE RESULT IS A TRIBUTE TO THE SKILL OF BUILDERS, DESIGNERS, WORKMEN, CRAFTSMEN AND TECHNICIANS OF THE DISTRICT.
6. THE COMPLETED VILLAGE WILL CONSIST OF 30 TO 40 HOUSES MUSEUMS, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, SHOPS, BANKS - INSURANCE OFFICES, PERHAPS? IF COUNTRY PARTY MINISTERS WON'T ATTEND AT LEAST THE A.M.P. SHOULD BE HERE.
7. THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS CONTRIBUTED \$100,000 TO THIS PROJECT. IN ADDITION THE GOVERNMENT HAS CONTRIBUTED \$105,504 TO THE SCHEME THROUGH GRANTS UNDER THE REDS SCHEME, THEREBY PROVIDING ADDITIONAL WORK IN THE FORBES DISTRICT.
8. I WISH THIS PROJECT EVERY SUCCESS. I KNOW IT WILL ATTRACT MANY THOUSANDS OF VISITORS AND MAKE AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE ECONOMY AND PROSPERITY OF THIS DISTRICT. IT WILL ALSO PRESERVE AN AUTHENTIC FOLK TRADITION AND REMIND US OF THE ARCHITECTURE, THE TRADITIONS AND THE LIFE-STYLES OF AN EARLIER AGE.