



Caretaker at "Strathfieldsaye", Glenice Collins, in the "blue room" with a vanity set, just one of a myriad of heritage items contained in the fascinating homestead. A rare chance to visit occurs this Sunday. (See story). 97-07-45-F12

Strathfieldsaye to hold rare Open Day - Sunday

A rare opportunity to inspect the historic Strathfieldsaye property occurs this weekend on Sunday (July 27). The property will be open from 10am until 4pm with hourly tours through the fascinating homestead.

Sunday's open day is one of just three held each year. Visitors will also be able to inspect outbuildings such as the shearers' quarters, machinery sheds, stable and blacksmith's shop, many complete with machinery.

Admission charges (children free) aid vital restoration work. As well, light luncheons, morning and afternoon teas will be available from the Perry Bridge

ladies' stall.

In 1848, William Odell Raymond moved from his original selection at Stratford to Strathfieldsaye. He selected Strathfieldsaye six years earlier in 1842.

More than 140 years ago he began what was to become the centre of the existing Strathfieldsaye homestead on the north west shores of Lake Wellington.

Extensions to the homestead were completed in 1879 by the Disher family. Subsequent owners of Strathfieldsaye included the first Avon Shire president, Lemuel Bolden, William Boyd Cunningham and in 1869, William Disher, whose grandson Dr Clive Dish-

er bequeathed the property to the Melbourne University in 1976.

As part of the bequest the Strathfieldsaye Institute of Teaching and Research in Agriculture and Allied Sciences has been established, centered on the Clive Disher Research Laboratory.

After more than a century of occupation by the one family, the homestead is a living museum complete with furnishings, books and household items.

To reach the property, turn off the Bairnsdale/Meerlieu/Stratford Road at the signpost just east of Perry Bridge. The homestead entrance is at the end of the sealed section of Strathfieldsaye Road.

Potential new flag will fly

Glenice Crane will hoist a new proposition for Australia's flag this weekend, when she flies the new James Parbery design from the historic Strathfieldsaye homestead's flagpole.

Featuring the Southern Cross and rising sun on a rich blue background, this potential new national flag will be on display during the homestead's open day this Sunday, between 10am and 4pm.

The flag, which was designed in 1996, has been flying from Australian sailing ships, The Bounty, Our Svanen and Golden Plover, as they ply their way around Sydney Harbour and up the coast to northern Queensland.

Mrs Crane said the flag is an inspiring banner for the future.

"It recognises our history, speaks for all our people, and it's beautiful," she said.

Readers are invited to register their opinions on the new flag design or to direct questions to: A Flag For All, PO Box Q612, QVB Post Office, Sydney NSW 2000.

Otherwise, East Gippsland residents can inspect the flag at the Strathfieldsaye homestead open day this Sunday. See the story on page 3 for details.