

THE QUEEN'S VISIT.

It is seven o'clock on the morning of Monday, 26th February, 1954. It is the day of the Queen's visit. The people of Wannon are anxious and expectant. ^{It} ~~The day~~ is bright and warm, ^{a perfect summer's} ~~there is not a~~ ^{day} ~~cloud in the sky~~. Everywhere people are moving towards Hamilton. From Edenhope, Toolondo and Balmoral the traffic moves south; from Chetwynd, Casterton and Coleraine east; from Portland, Koroit and Warrnambool north and from Penshurst, Glenthompson and Dunkeld it travels west. The life and spirit of Wannon is going to Hamilton to give tumultuous welcome to Her Majesty, The Queen. From the distant towns and from the most remote farms the cars travel singly at first, then they meet two or three others till near their destination they join vast convoys which Hamilton slowly absorbs.

In Hamilton barracades line the Queen's route. For two days people have gathered, till now thousands stand silently expectantly waiting. Children wave flags. Banners hang across the streets and from the buildings. Then a plane is heard, a bright speck in the sky, and a great shout goes out. The plane lands and there is silence. The people in Hamilton wait, excitement and tension mount but the people are silent as they wait.

Then a welcoming cry is heard from the outskirts which is drowned by many voices as the people see the royal car and in it Her Gracious Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, sitting happily beside her ^{husband.} ~~Consort~~ the Duke of Edinburgh. The Queen smiles and royally waves to her people whose hearts go out to the small figure whom they have always loved but till now never seen. It is the first time a reigning monarch has visited Australia and realisation that this moment has come fills the people with wonder and happiness and determination that it shall happen again.

In this small figure is embodied the strength and happiness of the British peoples, who seeing the Queen know the sacrifices of two great wars have not been made for nothing. The people see in her manifestation of the British heritage, a tradition of freedom and of fairness which has been defended and enhanced from generation to generation.. They see in her manifestation of struggles against

oppression and tyrants, they see in her the victory of generosity, kindness and charity, those articles of Christianity that bring peace and happiness into every home. The people realise that this is not a small thing, it shows the pattern of a great Commonwealth of Nations, the United Kingdom, Canada, our own Australia, South Africa, India, Pakistan, New Zealand and the colonies. In each and every one of these lands men and women are part of the British heritage which makes possible life without fear and freedom from want.

The people know that it is only through eternal vigilance against dangers both within and without that makes our Queen's visit possible. In the Queen is seen an image of our great Commonwealth and a vow is made that each man and woman shall continue to work and fight for the British way that the Queen may come again.

The Queen travels through Hamilton, along Gray Street, down Lonsdale Street and round by the Oval to the Civic Reception. The Mayor greets her, the Councillors bow. The children on the Oval see their Queen who turns and speaks to the people. Her voice is soft and clear and the people listen to catch every crystal word. Too soon it is all over. Her Majesty The Queen moves along Lonsdale and back down Gray Street to the airport. She boards her plane. It takes off and the people wave to a bright speck disappearing in the East. The Queen is gone but the spirit remains. The People of Wannon are strengthened. They know that to men and women in England they matter very much, they belong to the British way and will not turn from it.

This is Malcolm X's
idea of the symbolism behind the
Queen's visit. He relates this talk
to the day of the visit and to
the times and places of the visit
to enhance its reality.

Malcolm X ever has
put into words what
will be in all our
hearts next Thursday
when the Queen visits