

HUME AND HOVELL CENTENARY.

WARRENBAYNE WEST

Opened by the children singing My Native Land, the Warrenbayne and Warrenbayne West residents celebrated the Hume and Hovell centenary at Warrenbayne West on Thursday last, when a large gathering assembled. Cr. James met the members of the Historical Society at Baddaginnie and piloted them safely to the school. The party consisted of Sir James Barrett and Mr. W. F. Gates (ex-Chief Inspector of Schools). Punctually at 11.30 proceedings opened. The visitors were welcomed by Cr. Roach, who said that they were most fortunate to have such distinguished men to perform the unveiling ceremony. He stated that this should be a great lesson, especially to the children, and should bring to their minds what the early pioneers had done to develop this great continent of ours. It was just on 100 years since the explorers had passed that very spot on their return journey. He had much pleasure in calling on Mr. Gates to address the gathering.

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Mr. Gates on rising was received with applause. He stated that he had never been at this particular spot; the school being over in another part of the district. It gave him great pleasure to be among them. No doubt he had examined many of their parents for their certificates, which would have his signature to them. He dealt with the fact of children as character-builders of a nation. An upright character and noble principle were above gold and silver and houses and land.

The children then sang another song, Sunny Victoria.

Sir James Barrett was then called upon to perform the unveiling ceremony, and on rising he thanked them for the honour of inviting him to be present. It was very gratifying to have the co-operation of the local committees, for without their aid the work could not have been accomplished. When they knew they had to be at 40 similar functions, covering an area of over 200 miles, it would be understood how powerless they would have been without the help of the local committees. Warrenbayne West was the eleventh which he had had the pleasure of taking part in. He then gave a brief account of the perils and dangers which the explorers had endured, and afterwards unveiled the tablet, which bears the following inscription:—"The explorers Hume and Hovell passed this spot December 20, 1824. Erected by residents. November 20, 1924."

The proceedings then closed with the singing of the National Anthem.

The Chairman of the School Committee (Mr. A. Welsh) passed a vote of thanks to Sir James Barrett and party, who briefly responded.

A sports programme filled in the remainder of the day.