Royal Tour - Australian Diary (2108) 16th March 54

Victoria:

At Yallourn - an open-cast coal-mining centre - yet another Royal Tour surprise awaited the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh. It was brown coal - being scooped out of a vast canyon - over a square mile in area.
The annual output is seven-and-a-half million tons - enough to generate nearly half of Victoria's electricity.

At Government House, Melbourne - an occasion dear to the Duke's heart... As Patron of the "Cutty Sark Preservation Society" he receives a cheque for over 12,000 Australian pounds - subscribed by the people of Victoria.
Then came a "whistle-stop tour" of Northern Victoria. ~~for the Royal Couple.~~
At Rochester - the town turned out in force to greet the visitors.
Once the Duke had cheery words for a youngster who looked ready to reinforce the ~~band of~~ musical welcome.

On through towns and hamlets sped the Royal Train - passing en route ~~[illegible]~~ large + small groups of welcomers - each group adding their loyal acclamation to a Commonwealth chain that will encircle the globe.
Returning to Melbourne - by way of the Royal Australian Air Force Station at Port Cook, the Queen and the Duke met members of the two Canberra crews, who flew in the great London-to-New Zealand Air Race.
A busy week - followed by a few hours of ~~relaxation~~ rest at the O'Shannassy Chalet at Warburton. Here, the Royal visitors got to know more Australian inhabitants - the Koala bears. Once in grave danger of ~~extinction~~ becoming extinct, these cuddly teddy bears now thrive in a State Sanctuary. [redacted] feeding on eucalyptus leaves. AND MOTHER AND BABY MAKE A DELIGHTFUL PICTURE

~~The Tour [illegible] Queensland [illegible] the exhibition grounds of the State Capital, [illegible]~~
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