The Museum’s Air Raid Shelter was the focus of interest. Up until now, visitors have not had a look-in (not even members) as the building has been used as a storage area. Years ago the shelter was inundated with water but after this problem was remedied it became a valuable storage space. We have now moved and rearranged many items so that the shelter is now half-empty and will be used as a venue for an exhibition entitled ‘On the Homefront’.

**GREETINGS FROM WOLLONGONG:**
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selected newsagents. It’s a great gift idea, not only for residents but also for people who once lived in Wollongong but have moved to less salubrious climes.

BOOK REVIEW
by Peter Daly


Mr Parkinson has made a valuable contribution to the history of public entertainment in the district.

The title takes its name from the heavy velvet drapes that opened up all to a new world.

Fortunately for Mr Parkinson, public entertainment had to be promoted. The promotion was done in newspapers, in different forms in an extravagant style. This extravagant style has been a feature of entertainment ever since. In the early 1900s, the arrival of film by train “direct from London”, was just one of the gimmicks used.

Courageous individuals, with vaudeville experience, came with their films and projectors. They hired the local halls, the School of Arts or mechanic Institute Buildings, performed and projected and moved on to the next town. It was a “one man band”. The public response was so good that larger venues had to be found and open air theatres came into their own. The weather sent the proprietors looking for tents and other roof covers. Moving pictures and boxing matches seemed to have broad appeal and the entertainment, in some instances, became a double bill affair.

Silent movies had their own vocal and musical effects. technology improved at the time. By the late 1920s sound became a feature of the moving pictures themselves.