The itinerary commenced with an inspection of the Technical College (formerly the State Hospital — 1825) by favour of the Principal, Mr. S. Potts. Lunch followed in Bigge Park, then an inspection with some details of the two historic churches (All Saints, Catholic, and St. Luke’s, Anglican).

At All Saints (1840), we were welcomed by Rev. Fr. R. J. Davey, P.P., and at St. Luke’s (1819), by the Rector, Rev. J. A. Ross (a former curate at St. Stephen’s Port Kembla, 1948/9).

We then visited the Green Valley project (another Unonderral) where we learnt with pleasure that one of the suburbs was to be named “Havard”, in recognition of their services to the district by the excursion leaders.

Then on to “Glenfield Farm”, Casula, now the home of Mr. J. F. Leacock, but built by the famous Dr. Charles Throsby in 1817, where we had afternoon tea (milk and hot water kindly provided by Mr. Leacock) prior to an inspection. The home is being restored and the L. and D.H.S. is doing its best to help preserve it.

Finally we visited the tiny Anglican church of St. Mary the Virgin, at Denham Court (1833) where we said goodbye to our hosts. It is hoped that a reciprocal visit will be arranged soon.

Our last stop was at Campbelltown Park where a magnificent Illawarra “Flame” was admired and compared with some adjacent Jacarandas also in full flower.

As a matter of interest our previous excursion to Liverpool was on Sunday, 14th March, 1948 (i.e. 14 years ago) and quite a number of the present visitors were on the previous trip. Like that day our current visit was of outstanding interest and a perfect example of detailed planning.

THE ILLAWARRA “FLAME” TREE:

We think we should record the wonderful season that these trees are having. Throughout the district where ever one goes they burst upon you, and the present writer has not known them to be so beautiful as they are today during his 27 years in the district. As you know they are the prominent feature of the Society’s badge.

“HISTORIC SYDNEY — WHERE TO GO — WHAT TO SEE!”

This attractive brochure is published by the N.S.W. Government Tourist Bureau in association with the Council of the City of Sydney and National Trust. Copies will be available at the December Meeting.

BANKSTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY:

A party from our sister Society visited the northern area of the district on Saturday, 27th October, following an itinerary prepared and led by our President, Mr. Bayley. As usual Mr. and Mrs. Bayley worked very hard to give the visitors a most enjoyable day.

MORE AUSTRINMER HISTORY: The Sub-Branch of the R.S.S. & A.I.L.A.

The Austinmer Sub-branch was formed in April, 1931, the first meeting being held in the garage on the corner of Moore Street and the Main Road. The lack of halls in the district, made it necessary to hold the meetings in the shed on the beach and in member’s homes.

The first President was T. Freeman; Secretary, H. Smith and Treasurer, E. Sturgess.

In 1934 the old School of Arts building was purchased, giving the club a meeting place and a hall to hold functions. During the first five years, servicemen from Woonona to Clifton were admitted as members. No digger in need was refused assistance and no charity has been turned away. At first, the Council refused to allow the club the use of the beach to hold carnivals to raise funds and they had to be held on vacant allotments. During World War II, the Council allowed the use of the beach and every man enlisting was given a wallet and other comforts, and, on returning, a welcome was staged.

NOTE BY MISS M. MCDONALD:

Lieut. William Breton, R.N., who visited Australia in the 1830’s, described his experiences in a work entitled “Excursions in N.S.W. and Van Diemen’s Land during the years 1830, 1831, 1832 and 1833” (Lond., 1833). The following extract from his account of the aborigines of the Moreton Bay district is of some local interest: “With the exception of the animals indigenous to their country, they
will not touch animal food, nor will they touch spirits; but they are fond of maize, sweet potatoes, sugar and water, and bread. The last they call ‘Five Island’, because three shipwrecked sailors who were driven on shore in a boat gave them some biscuit and asked them the way to the Five Islands or Illawarra’.

It is an interesting speculation that these sailors may have been Parsons, Pamphlett and Finnegan, who in March, 1823, left Sydney in an open boat to ship cedar from Illawarra. Gales drove them off their course, and when after many days the weather improved they believed they had been blown far to the south, and consequently sailed in a north-westerly direction to reach Illawarra. Eventually they were wrecked at Moreton Bay, and being still under the impression that they were south of Illawarra and Sydney, tried to make their way further north by land, but had to give up the attempt. Pamphlett and Finnegan were rescued by Oxley at the end of November, 1823, and it was information given by them that led him to investigate and name the Brisbane River. Parsons was found by Oxley on his second visit in September 1824, and brought back to Sydney.

EXTRACTS FROM “THE FREEMAN’S JOURNAL”:  
12/10/1872. Narrow Escape. — An old woman living alone in a house near Kerosene Mines, American Creek, had a narrow escape on Sunday morning last by the fall of the head or branch of a tree upon her frail domicile. It fell round the house in such a manner however, that the poor lady escaped more frightened than hurt.

10/1/1874. New Convent School. — We learn that a new Convent school has been opened at Wollongong by the Sisters of Charity.

3/10/1874. The Illawarra Teachers held one of their periodical meetings on Saturday week at the Roman Catholic School, Wollongong, the President (Mr. Inspector McIntyre) occupying the chair. Papers were read on scholastic subjects by Mr. Richardson of the Fairy Meadow Public School and Mr. Martin of the Church of England Denominational Certified School. The members of the profession were hospitably entertained at dinner by Mr. J. Buckley, Master of the school where the meeting took place.

THE CAMBELLTOWN “TRAM”:  
The unique passenger service to Camden will end on December 31st and as quite a number appear interested in travelling on it before cessation. We print the following from the Saturday/Sunday Time Table:

SATURDAY: Leave Campbelltown 11.55 a.m. Arrive Camden 12.32 p.m. 
Leave Campbelltown 2.14 p.m. Arrive Camden 2.46 p.m. 
Leave Campbelltown 4.27 p.m. Arrive Camden 4.59 p.m.

SUNDAY: Leave Campbelltown 10.52 a.m. Arrive Camden 11.24 a.m. 
Leave Campbelltown 12.27 p.m. Arrive Camden 12.59 p.m. 
Leave Campbelltown 3.27 p.m. Arrive Camden 3.59 p.m. 
Leave Campbelltown 5.27 p.m. Arrive Camden 5.59 p.m.

Trains return a few minutes after reaching Camden.

THE EMPIRE GAMES:  
We record with pride the honour brought to the district by two young people at the current Empire Games, Perth, W.A. We congratulate Alex Alexander, of Thirroul, and Miss Robyn Woodhouse, of Keiraville, who won Gold Medals in the 440 yards Medley Swim and High Jump respectively.

HISTORY OF PORT KEMBLA (Continued 2) by W. V. MINTORN (Hon. Curator/Librarian):

Mr. Mintorn here continues his interesting reminiscences of the development of ‘The Port’.

On 2/3/1907 there was public notification of the final decision to establish The Works of The Electrolitic Refining and Smelting Company Pty. Ltd. at Port Kembla. This meant much to the District.

Investigations over a period of years had satisfied the Directors of the Coy. (which had its genesis in The Mount Morgan Gold Mining Coy. in Queensland), that Port Kembla was the most suitable of the sites considered, and also because of successful negotiations with the N.S.W. Government Harbours and Rivers Dept. to build a Low Level Jetty in the Harbour.

On 29/9/07 the tender of F. J. Carson for the erection of the Jetty was accepted.