THE FOUNDATION OF THE SOCIETY — TUESDAY, 5th DECEMBER, 1944:

In the latter half of 1944 Captain W. B. Nicholson (a sea captain attached to Port Kembla) suggested to a member of the Illawarra Discussion Group that consideration be given to the formation of a local historical society.

The Group approved and Mr. R. I. Taylor, being a member of the Royal Australian Historical Society, was asked to institute correspondence with the R.A.H.S. to process the idea.

Following a suggestion by the General Secretary of the R.A.H.S. (our late Member C. P. Conigrove) the Mayor of Wollongong, Ald. J. J. Kelly, called a public meeting at which over fifty citizens were present.

Mr. Conigrove addressed the meeting on the objects and workings of local historical societies and explained that the Royal's constitution did not provide for branch societies but accepted affiliations.

Accordingly, on the motion of Messrs. T. J. Donelly and A. R. Jones it was resolved that the ILLAWARRA HISTORICAL SOCIETY be formed and affiliation be applied for with the R.A.H.S.

The following were elected to draft a constitution for presentation to a general meeting in 1945:

Messrs. Donelly, J. N. Harrison (Inspector of Schools), A. G. Higgins, Jones, T. A. Maguire, Nicholson, Taylor, with A. P. Fleming as Provisional Secretary.

The Foundation Officers were:

PATRON .................................................. Dr. H. C. MALDON
PRESIDENT .......................................... J. N. HARRISON
VICE-PRESIDENTS ................................. A. G. HIGGINS
A. R. JONES
HON. SECRETARY ................................. A. P. FLEMING
HON. TREASURER ................................ C. LAW
HON. RESEARCH SECRETARY ................. R. I. TAYLOR
COUNCILLORS .................................. T. A. MAGUIRE, H. S. MILNE, W. B. NICHOLSON, W. SIMPSON, J. S. G. WORLAND.

Messrs. Donelly, Fleming, Jones, Law, Maguire, Meldon, Simpson, Taylor and Worland are still Members. Mr. Harrison is deceased.

(From the First Annual Report of Council.)

MACQUARIE REGIONAL COUNCIL OF HISTORICAL SOCIETIES:

The Macquarie Council has forwarded Seasonal Greetings, which are heartily reciprocated, with an invitation to join them at their Christmas Party at the Regentville Progress Hall (near Wollongong) on Saturday, 11th December.

“SHORT TOURS OF OLD SYDNEY”, by LORNA BLACKLOCK, for the R.A.H.S.:

A dozen copies of this booklet, covering tours of “The Rocks”, Circular Quay, Bridge Street, Macquarie Street, Hyde Park and Victoria Barracks have been purchased and are available at 5/- (50c.), or 5/9 posted.

NOVEMBER MEETING:

Our speaker was Mr. Bill McDonald, who gave a most entertaining summary of the first hundred years of settlement in the Kembla Grange/Brownsville/Dapto area. Mr. McDonald told us “many strange tales” of the people who lived and worked in the district, and that the tales were enjoyed by the audience of 34 was evident by the stimulating discussion which concluded the talk.