(24923 outside business hours). We would be delighted to be swamped by offers.

It is expected that the largest upstairs room will soon be re-opened with some handicraft and furniture on display. Again it is emphasised that the ultimate plan for the room is an elegant mid-nineteenth-century drawing room. All we require is sufficient money to enable this to be done.

The number of visitors to the Museum during the Christmas holiday period was very gratifying, as were the many complimentary remarks written in the Visitors' Book.

— E. MACKRETH, Convener, Museum Committee.

OBITUARY:

We note with regret the deaths of two of our members: Mrs. Irene Hummerston, of 33 Bridge St., Coniston, a member for twenty years, who took a very active part in the Society's work in its earlier days; and the Venerable Archdeacon Leo Hayes, of Oakey, Queensland, a distinguished scholar and student of Australian history and literature, who had received, for his work in these fields, the rare honour of an M.A. degree honoris causa from the University of Queensland. The Society extends its sympathy to their relatives and friends and to all who mourn their passing.

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP — MR. C. W. GARDINER-GARDEN

At the February meeting of the Society's Council it was unanimously decided to invite Mr. C. W. Gardiner-Garden to accept honorary Life Membership, in recognition of his services to the Society over many years.

Jock, as he is better known to his old friends, was one of our most active members in the earlier years of the Society, having been for some years Honorary Research Secretary. He was the author of the Society's first major publication, "The Port of Wollongong," still one of our best-sellers, and of "Observations on Some of the Historical Aspects of the Prominent Geographical Features of Illawarra", a mine of valuable information on the early exploration of the district, which provided the definitive answers to some very vexed questions in early local history. Although precluded by ill-health during recent years from taking his former energetic part in the Society's activities, he made a most important and valuable contribution to the preparation of our sesquicentenary publication, "Earliest Illawarra".

We are indebted also to Mr and Mrs. Garden for innumerable valuable, and often gratuitous, services which they rendered to the Society through their stationery and copying business in Wollongong. All good wishes from the Council and the Society go with them in their retirement.

KINGSFORD SMITH MEMORIAL, GERROA

On Saturday, February 10, a memorial, in the shape of the "Southern Cross" in concrete at ground level, was unveiled on the hill at Gerroa, overlooking Seven Mile Beach, from which Sir Charles Kingsford Smith took off in the "Southern Cross" for New Zealand on January 11, 1933. The monument, constructed as a result of the efforts of the Gerringong branch of R.S.L., on land provided by the Marist Brothers, was unveiled by the Hon. J. G. Beale, M.L.A. for South Coast and Minister for Conservation.

Among those present were Mr. S. Neilson, a passenger on the flight, and Commander Eric Kingsford Smith, Sir Charles's last surviving brother. The ceremony was attended by a number of Society members, among them Mr. Ross Stewart, of Jamberoo, who was present when the "Southern Cross" took off. Mr. Stewart recalls that he was among those who helped to manoeuvre the plane into position, and that when the plane took off at 2.50 a.m., all the cars on the scene were lined up with their headlights facing east, to give the plane a back-bearing. Before the take-off Mr. Stewart secured Kingsford Smith's autograph. He says he "wouldn't have missed the experience for the world".