OUR BI-CENTENARY PLAQUE ON FLAGSTAFF HILL:

Linking with the fine contribution of Wollongong City Council in construction of Endeavour Drive at Flagstaff Hill near Wollongong Harbour, our society will install a plaque direction-finder to mark this event.

This ambitious project has been carried out under the inspiration and guidance of our secretary, Mrs. H. J. Shaw. For it A.I.S. donated the plinth; Kembla Ready Mix, the concrete; Comsteel, the plaque.

The historic monument will be unveiled on Sunday afternoon, April 26 linking with ceremonies at Brighton Beach and Flagstaff Hill. Details will be announced in the Press.

COLLINS ROCK — ATTEMPTED LANDING MARKER:

Bulli Rotary Club will place a tablet above the dressing sheds at Collins Rock baths at Woonona Beach where the attempted landing of Cook took place — first and nearly successful landing in Australia.

Details of this will be announced later. We commend it as a very worthy gesture to posterity.

BULLI PUBLIC SCHOOL — COOK MAP AND MARKER:

The site of Bulli's first Public School will be occupied by a concrete map of Australia on which will be marked the route of Cook's voyage. Bulli will be marked by a tablet recording Cook's first attempted landing. The tablet, deeply cut, will be set prone in the map.

This project links with the monument donated as a centenary gesture by Austinmer Lions Club and which is now almost completed on the site.

A special ceremony will be held on the afternoon of Tuesday, April 28, when Mr. Edgar Beale, Past President, has been invited to outline the position of the attempted landing which his research has proven.

FIRST ROAD DOWN TO ILLAWARRA:

At the March meeting of the Society, Mr. W. G. McDonald (Past President) spoke on "The Oldest Road" the first road into Illawarra, whose location has been much disputed, different authorities placing it at various points from as far north as Denmark Street, Coledale, to as far south as Mount Keira.

The speaker thought that the Mount Keira theory, and that which identified the first road with Westmacott's Pass (partly coinciding with the modern Bulli Pass) were demonstrably unfounded, without any real evidence to support them. The theory that the road descended the range to the line of Denmark Street had apparently a good deal in its favour, had
gained the support of eminent authorities on Illawarra history whose opinion was entitled to great respect, and at one time had appeared to hold the field. However, the speaker considered that it was untenable in the light of additional information which had become available in recent years, and that comparison and analysis of early travellers’ accounts and old maps showed a heavy weight of evidence in favour of a descent of the range at a point about three-quarters of a mile south of the head of Bulli Pass, and almost due west of Bulli Public School.

An examination of the ground after the 1968 bushfires had cleared away the scrub and undergrowth had in fact revealed unmistakable vestiges of a road descending the range at this point. This, it was thought, was the line of Throsby’s track, later traversed by Cunningham, Macquarie, John Dunmore Lang, Alexander Harris, the Woonona bushrangers, and many others of lesser fame or notoriety; and the cuttings and rough retaining walls still visible were in all probability the work of the convict gang engaged on the road in 1835.

Following Mr. McDonald’s address, Mr. J. S. G. Worland (Past President and Hon. Life Member), a surveyor by profession, explained the methods by which he had located the “bluff on the mountainous range over the Five Islands” from which James Meehan, on 27th November, 1816, made observations and recorded the bearings to several local landmarks. Mr. Worland fixed this point just north of the Panorama Hotel near the junction of Princes Highway and the Appin Road.

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Y.W.C.A. JUBILEE:

To celebrate the Silver Jubilee of the Y.W.C.A. of Wollongong, the president and members invite President and Members of The Historical Society to an Official Ceremony of Hostel Inspection at Y.W.C.A. Hostel, Thomas Street, Wollongong, on Thursday, 9th April, 1970 at 10.30 a.m.

At this ceremony the hostel will be re-named “AMER HOUSE” in memory of the late Mrs. G. Amer.

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ST. LUKE’S, DAPTO EXHIBITION:

On the 4th April, 1970 at 3 p.m. Mr. Edgar Beale will be officially opening a Display on the History of St. Luke’s Church of England Church and Early Dapto. This display will include photographs and effects, and will be held in the old hall next to St. Luke’s Church at Brownsville.

An invitation to our society and friends has been received.