Bookings may be made at the March meeting or by telephoning Mrs. McCarthy (29-8225) not later than Friday, 12th March. A deposit of $5 is required from intending excursionists, as this must be paid to the hotel in advance.

A minimum of twenty excursionists will be necessary to enable the excursion to proceed. Please make your bookings as soon as possible.

The Windsor district is one of the most historic on the mainland of Australia, and no other area is so rich in buildings and relics of the Macquarie period.

Those members who were on our previous excursion to the Hawkesbury, eleven years ago, will need no urging to come again. Those who have not yet been there should not miss the chance.

APRIL PANEL NIGHT:

The Council has decided that the April meeting will take the form of a Panel Night, but a somewhat different form from last time. Slides of early Illawarra scenes and personalities will be screened without titles and members will be invited to identify and comment on them. No prizes are offered, but we hope that some interesting and valuable information will come to light. The panel, with the benefit of having seen the slides beforehand, will be in reserve, to deal with any slides the audience cannot identify.

CHRIST CHURCH, BONG BONG, 125 YEARS OLD:

Reported in the "Southern Highland News" Thursday, December 31st 1970, by the local historian and Town Clerk, Mr. A. U. J. Parry, was an interesting article which read;

"One hundred and twenty-five years ago to-day (December 31) in 1845, the lovely little Anglican edifice, Christ Church, at Bong Bong, was consecrated.

In that year, William Grant Broughton, doughty first Bishop of Australia, travelled far and wide through the colony of N.S.W., and, in addition to his numerous other duties, consecrated 12 churches to the Glory of God.

On the last day of 1845 having during it travelled some 3,000 miles by the primitive transport available in those days, he came to the little church at Bong Bong, staunch on its eminence overlooking the smiling countryside about it, the foundation stone of which he had earlier laid on March 17 the same year."
During the service of consecration he also christened Herbert, one of the sons of Dr. Charles Throsby, L.L.D., and his wife, the former Betsy Broughton, who won fame as one of the four survivors of the massacre of the "Boyd" at Whangaroon, New Zealand, in 1809.

Throsby married Betsy Broughton in 1824, in her 17th year, and they had a family of 17 children, from whom the extensive Throsby family are descended.

The erection of Christ Church was substantially aided by Charles Throsby financially, and he also gave the land on which the Church stands, a graveyard, and a glebe of some 100 acres, whilst there were other financial contributors, and the Government gave half of what is believed to have been $1402.90.

The building was designed by the architect John Verge who, in 1837, had charged Throsby and two other trustees, William Bowman and William Hutchinson $16 for plans, elevations, sections, details, specification and estimate, also a second estimate, for Bong Bong Church — presumably, (though this is not definitively known) used when work got under way in 1845.

Near the Church, on the southern side a two-storeyed rectory was also built and to the cost of this, the Government, pursuing the fifty-fifty basis applied to the erection of the Church, up to 1851 contributed $667.36.

DEMOLISHED:

The rectory was occupied by a Clergyman until 1895, and, having been disused for some time, was demolished, it is thought, almost 50 years ago.

Christ Church is the oldest still standing between Cobbity and Canberra, apart from normal re-painting and the like, it underwent some modification and renovation in 1884, and further renovation some 25 years ago.

In the burial ground pioneers of the district and their descendants are laid to rest. Joe Wild, the early explorer, and many of the Throsby family are buried there.

PRINCE'S HIGHWAY — WHO WAS THE PRINCE?

This question was recently put to the Society, and in seeking an answer we encouraged a surprising diversity of opinions. But the following extract from the Sydney Morning Herald of 20th October, 1920 seems to establish beyond doubt that the Prince after whom the highway was named was the Prince of Wales, afterwards King Edward VIII and now Duke of Windsor, who visited Australia in that year: