LIFE WRITING CORRESPONDENCE COURSE

Apropos the recent Bulletin note encouraging the recording of oral history, we have learned of a most impressive innovation, consisting of a course of writing, for elderly and housebound people. It is a service offered by Community Outreach, which is a part of the Wollongong City Church of Christ. The Church is to be congratulated on its originality.

The emphasis of the writing will be on the individual’s unique life experience. Writings will be read by an encourager/tutor who will be available as advisor and confidential correspondent. The aims of Life Writing are to provide people with an opportunity to continue learning, to develop unused skills and knowledge, to create something which is uniquely their own, to explore their inner worlds, to communicate their knowledge and experience to others, and to reminisce and review their lives.

It will not be every person who can manage an undertaking such as this, but we all have our favourite “oldies” with bright intelligence and a wealth of experience. They should be encouraged to record those experiences, not only for their families, but for posterity. Who knows? — another Albert Facey may be in our midst to produce another such book as the outstanding “A Fortunate Life” — a best seller. At the least these people could orally record their life stories by tape recorder.

They should be referred to:

Life Writing Correspondence Course, C/– Community Outreach,
P.O. Box 1577, Wollongong East 2500.

TUSITALA IN ILLAWARRA

Have you been watching the A.B.C. television series “Tusitala”, on Robert Louis Stevenson’s life in Samoa? If so, you may be interested to know (if you did not know already) that on one of his visits to Sydney, Stevenson came down this way, and saw the then newly-opened Illawarra railway when it was undergoing a severe test during the great rains of 1889-90.

He incorporated what he saw in Chapter 22 of “The Wrecker”, describing the experiences of his character Norris Carthew while working on the not-very-permanent way near Clifton.

(The passage is too long to quote here, but if you can’t get hold of a copy of “The Wrecker”, you will find it in Appendix 5 of C.C. Singleton’s “Railway History in Illawarra”).

PUCKEY’S SALT WORKS

Mr. Ian Kerr would appreciate any information regarding the salt works operated by Mr. Puckey, a Wollongong pharmacist, between 1895 and 1944. He has seen the notes at the City Library compiled by Mr. Puckey’s daughter; but thinks older residents may be able to add their personal reminiscences.

Would anyone able to do so please contact Mr. Kerr (84 1560).