HELENSBURGH: Linking old and new
edited by Pam Thomas & Sue Edmonds
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P.O. Box 80
Helensburgh NSW 2508
(Price $7.00 + $1.20 postage)

This is another new and enterprising oral history recorded under the auspices of the Wollongong TAFE Outreach programme.

Beginning with a series of short reminiscences from various old-timers, the booklet then moves its focus to the wider ‘community’ by including verse, reflections on the study of history and short comments on life today in Helensburgh by local primary schoolchildren, before recording further recollections of some of the town’s older identities.

The booklet has a fresh and appealing appearance, thanks largely to the layout and calligraphy by Pam Thomas. There is also a generous selection of photographs (many from the Illawarra Historical Society Collection) of old Helensburgh and it is a credit to both the editorial team and printers that they have been so well reproduced.

Like most oral history, this is a valuable addition to the historical record of the Illawarra. The book is a testament to the efforts of those who seek to record aspects of an Australian rural/coastal mining village life which has now largely passed and remains only in the memories of a handful of elderly residents of the northern Illawarra.

Joseph Davis

WHEN THE IHS WAS HEADLINE NEWS

I was checking the Illawarra Mercury files for April 1951 the other day, and was shocked to see a report of an ordinary IHS meeting appearing on page 2! And right next to the editorial as well! The text of the article was as follows:

GOVERNOR’S TOUR OF ILLAWARRA
129 Years Ago

At the monthly meeting of the Illawarra Historical Society the guest speaker was Mr. B. T. Dowd, F.R.A.H.S.

He spoke on Governor Macquarie’s journey through Illawarra in 1822, 129 years ago.

Mr. Dowd described the Governor’s trip through Appin over bad tracks to Bulli Lookout, with its superlative panorama.

He told how the Governor and his party descended Bulli Pass - 1½ miles in 1½ hours - and moved southwards down the coast - walking along the sand, so thick was the vegetation covering the countryside.

The first stopping place after wading across the Tom Thumb Lagoon was at Mr. Allen’s farm, at Redpoint, Port Kembla. (This holding later passed to the Wentworth family.)

There His Excellency met an assembly of aborigines who had come from as