Aborigine named Barrack listed frequently in the blanket returns recently indexed by Peter Doyle and published in Michael Organ’s documentary collection *Illawarra, and South Coast Aborigines*.

If any readers think they can identify any more local howlers when it comes to place names, we’d be only too happy to publish them. We may even run a competition to find who can come up with the most ridiculous explanation for a particular local place-name. I’ll start the ball rolling with a serious piece on the origins of the place-name ‘Thirroul’ early in the new year.

*Joseph Davis*

**BLACK DIAMOND DISTRICT HERITAGE CENTRE**

**(Bulli Railway Station)**

On Saturday, 16 November, I attended the official opening of the Black Diamond District Heritage Centre, located in the old 1887 Bulli Railway Station. The occasion was marked by a colonial ball, with the SRA Brass Band in attendance along with assorted dignitaries.

The Centre is the result of the concerted efforts of a small committee of Bulli residents over the last 2 years - led by Ray Brown, Michael Roberts, Fay Haines and Eric Blain. Their aim was to preserve the buildings on the eastern side of the railway line from threatened destruction and restore them to their original condition. The results are exceptional, and without doubt this is the finest period railway station in Illawarra.

Externally, a traditional mustard and port wine colour scheme has been adopted, with large blue signage circa 1887 and landscaping of the surrounds by Ray Brown of Bulli (an Australian expert on grevilleas). Internally, the building has been stripped back to its original structure - involving the removal of much masonite and built-up coal dust and paint. Once again, a traditional paint scheme similar to the exterior has been applied.

On display within the Heritage Centre are photographs and postcards of the Bulli district, historical paintings by Alan Upton, plus two large exhibition cases (on loan from our own Museum) containing items such as samples of coal, digging tools, and original photographs of the Bulli mine disaster.

A visit to the Centre can be thoroughly recommended. For information contact Michael Roberts on 67 3675.

*Michael Organ*

**THE VARIOUS REMINISCENCES OF ILLAWARRA**

Illawarra is lucky that over the years the local press have published various so called “reminiscences”. The name “Reminiscences” suggests that these are memories of the events recorded. This name truly fits Alexander Stewart’s *Reminiscences of Illawarra* (1) first published in the *Illawarra Mercury* in 24 parts between 17 April and 18 August 1894 and republished by the Mercury in the 1930’s. He arrived in Australia as a convict in 1828 coming almost immediately to Wollongong where he lived, except for a very brief period, till his death in 1895.

However, the same cannot be said of *Old Pioneer’s Reminiscences of Illawarra* published by the same newspaper in the 1920’s. “Old Pioneer” was one Frank Young about whom, until recently, we knew very little. However, now thanks
to the following clue given by Mrs. Dorothea Stuart writing in September 1991:
I have been able to make some progress.

I am sure that the old Pioneer was Frank Young who lived at Gwynneville or Keiraville and he had a brother who drove him past our street every day in a high sulky and draught horse. I think they were both bachelors. The book says he worked at the South Coast Times but what I remember is that he had an office or room at the old School of Arts, perhaps it was when he was writing the old reminiscences. I am not sure but I certainly remember him driving in each day”.

Following this up I checked the 1922 Electoral Roll and found that a Frank Young, agent, and a Matthew Higgins Young, farmer, were both living in Keiraville at that time. Further investigation showed that Frank and Matthew first appeared on the local roll in 1908 when Frank was shown as a miner. By 1913 he was calling himself an agent. Both these descriptions may have been Frank’s method of covering up his true occupation - Sergeant of Police(2). Frank, of 28 Williams Street, Keiraville died 30 June 1941 aged 86. He had been born at Queanbeyan circa 1856 to James Young and Margaret McMahon.

One can only assume therefore that Old Pioneer’s so called “reminiscences”. except for from 1908 on, are not reminiscences at all but merely a collection and recounting of what Frank Young believed to be facts together with material gleaned from his correspondence with William Piper and from Piper’s letters to the Illawarra Mercury. William Piper was born at Tongarra in 1843 and lived in the district till his death in 1927.

*Old Pioneer’s Reminiscenses of Illawarra* are undoubtedly a delightful read containing many clues as to what might have happened and very worth while reading for that reason. None the less extreme care is called for in using this book as source material; dates are wrong, names are spelt wrongly or are just wrong and so on.

Other reminiscences are scattered throughout the *Mercury* over the years such as William Croft’s *Reminiscences of Port Kembla* published 13 February 1897 and articles by “Shamrock” entitled *50 YEARS AGO* appear in the issues of 8 March 1902 and 23 April the same year. I would be delighted if someone could tell me who “Shamrock” was. In one article he gives a very good discription of people suffering in the stocks in the early days but unfortunately lards his writing with a very distressing attempt at sounding Irish.

I have often thought of the hardened and cruel officials there used to be here in olden toimes from the P.M. down to “Davy the flogger”. About 60 years ago the fixtures known as “stocks” as a mode of punishment for small offences were situated in the Market square, one on each side of the pathway about 30 feet from the turnstyle near the convict. The prisoner’s seat was a plain hard-wood plank on blocks with their legs and hands locked into holes in planks set on edge. Their legs were at right angles with the body, and no rail to support the back.

*A.P. Doyle*

2. Death certificate.
THE VARIOUS REMINISCENCES OF ILLAWARRA

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A.P. Doyle

(1) Reminiscences of Illawarra Illawarra Historical Publications, Box 1395, Wollongong. 1987, M. Organ [Ed].

(2) Death certificate.

THE ANDREWS FAMILY OF WOLLONGONG AND TROOPER FRANK ANDREWS - A BOER WAR CASUALTY

(continued from February Bulletin)

Trooper Frank Andrews

Frank Andrews was born in Wollongong on 1 April 1880 and baptised at St. Michael’s Church of England with his sister Clara on 5 August following. According to his niece Mrs Everard he was well liked by the local residents and a competent horseman, honing his equestrian skills in the open paddocks around North Wollongong, and possibly at the racecourse then operated by Theodore Bode, the original proprietor of the North Wollongong Hotel from 1878.

At one stage Frank worked for the Mayor of Wollongong, William McKenzie. A. P. Fleming in his book The Wollongong Rest Park gives a brief biography of Frank and account of his death, along with details of the subsequent public campaign which resulted in the erection of a memorial water fountain and plaque in his honour. The following is a brief summary of Fleming’s account plus additional information gleaned from Mrs Everard’s reminiscences and other sources. Hopefully a more detailed account of Trooper Andrews’ Boer War experiences will appear in the near future.

Sometime around December 1899 - when Olive was just four months old - Frank Andrews volunteered for the Imperial Bushmen Regiment, a local collection of hardy bushmen who could “ride, shoot, and find their way about” (Murray, p85), and were to be pitted against the Boers of South Africa. Judging from later accounts and letters published in local newspapers Frank was accompanied to South Africa by a number of Illawarra volunteers. Over 16,000 Australians eventually fought in the conflict.

War had broken out on 11 October 1899 and shortly thereafter the New South Wales Citizens’ Bushmen was got up by public subscription and embarked for South Africa at the end of February 1900. By December the British War Office was calling on Australia to provide more mounted troops and hardy bushmen. This resulted in the formation of a second Bushmen Regiment, namely the Imperial Bushmen Regiment, to which Frank Andrews was attracted.