requirement over the past year. The report is accepted, there is no quarrel from
the floor. 'Now', says the president, 'it is time for the election.' Stepping aside
from the chair, he initiates an elaborate ritual of nominations, seconders, balloting
and counting. There are six places on the executive and, of course, six people
present. At the end of a long session they all get elected to the same positions
as before. The president, gratified, reclaims the chair. He then gives a speech of
thanks which initiates a small round of speeches. Time has passed. Everyone
seems to have forgotten why they are there, concerned less with research than with
management of their few selves.

Well, they are not necessarily typical historical societies, but they are ones that
really exist, and they illustrate some of the problems and possibilities of the
institution.

Alan Roberts
from Grass Roots History
ed. Alan Roberts, Canberra 1991

ANTARCTICS HUSKIES AND ILLAWARRA

Some readers may be aware that the Illawarra's Mr. George Dovers served with
Sir Douglas Mawson's famous Antarctic Expedition as a surveyor. The society is
fortunate to possess some artifacts from the Expedition — some skis, ice-picks and
the like.

Fewer readers may be aware that George's son, Robert Dovers, was also an
Antarctic expeditioner. From 1947 - 1949 he was surveyor and second in
command on Heard Island. In 1950, he spent six months on the Australian Station
at Macquarie Island. In 1951 - 52 he was an Australian Observer in Adelie Land
with the Third French Antarctic Expedition. In 1953 - 55 he was Surveyor and
leader of the wintering party that established the new base at Mawson in
MacRobertson Land in Australia.

Importantly now that the famous Husky Dogs are being removed from
Antarctica on environmental grounds, Robert Dovers is also the author of Huskies
(London, G. Bell & Sons Ltd, 1957). It is a study of the behaviour and psychology
of the sledge dogs.

As Sir Douglas Mawson writes in his 'Foreword' to Dover's book, it is a
"valuable record of the habits and temperament of these animals".

When not in Antarctica, Robert Dovers lived at Port Kembla for most of his
life, practising as a surveyor for much of that time.

It is a pity he is not with us today to advise the Australian Government on how
best to repatriate the noble Huskies from the continent which has now been their
home for so long.

Joseph Davis