

## 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*