good wine were consumed, and a celebratory cake was cut and shared for the occasion. The guest speaker was Associate Professor Geoffrey Sherington who spoke on the role of historical societies such as ours.

The contributions of other speakers cannot be allowed to pass without comment. Frank Osborne outlined the first 50 years and the trials and achievements of that period. Our patron, Councillor Frank Arkell, launched, with typical enthusiasm, the publication `The Garden of New South Wales'. By way of reminiscences we heard from Bob Taylor, foundation member and Research Officer; David Ellison, Secretary 1958-60; Jack Southern, foundation member; and Jack Maynes, former President. Their anecdotes had a good mixture of fun and historical detail, and were received with much interest. Railway historians present all vowed to be careful in identifying locomotives and periods of operation, following Mr Southern's warnings. The opportunity was also taken to honour Vice-President, Mr Frank Osborne, with Life Membership of the Society. Member and former Wollongong City Alderman Bill Mowbray made the formal presentation.

There was an obligatory raffle, with prizes donated by the Society and Joe and Inga Davis. It was generally agreed that it was a very successful evening. Bettina McDermott moved a vote of thanks to our guest speaker, and the efforts of Joyce McCarthy and Amelia Pezzutto in organising the dinner were thanked with generous and sincere applause from all attending. [The MC for the evening, Mr Peter Daly, was also congratulated for his spirited endeavours]. It was, as it should have been, a memorable occasion and it is hoped that the social aspect of the Society continues into the future in the same vein.

Peter Daly

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Illawarra: Garden of New South Wales Bus Tour

The Wollongong City Gallery conducted a very successful bus tour of the Illawarra region on 3 December, 1994, as part of its public program associated with the exhibition `Illawarra: Garden of New South Wales'. The touring party, number approximately 40 people (including numerous Society members), visited some of the key sites painted by artists of the nineteenth century and included in the exhibition. Run in association with the Society's fiftieth anniversary, the exhibition and bus tour provided the perfect opportunity for viewers to make comparisons between historical renderings of local scenery, and the locations as they exist today.
Following a brief introductory tour of relevant works in Gallery One, the bus departed for a six hour tour of landscapes south of Wollongong, with Ken Orchard (Co-curator - Illawarra: Garden of New South Wales) acting as exhibition and bus tour guide, and Gina Fairly (Publicity Officer- Wollongong City Gallery), organiser of the event, providing a superb gourmet lunch for all participants upon arrival at Minnamurra House. Sites visited included:


* Hill 60 (Red Point), Port Kembla, the site from where views of Lake Illawarra were made by Conrad Martens during July 1835, and John Skinner Prout in 1844 (cat nos 37 & 42).

* Minnamurra House, Jamberoo, the home of Dr. Robert and Margaret Menzies from 1839 to 1860, and sketched by Abraham Lincolne circa 1844.

* A road stop north of Albion park, the approximate place from where Eugene von Guerard made his sketch for the 1861 oil painting Mountain Scenery near Jamberoo (cat nos 67 & 71).

* A road stop at the gates of historic 'Avondale' at Dapto from where a glimpse of the now dilapidated 'Cleveland' homestead (1845) was obtained. This location was visited by George french Angas in 1845 and again in 1851; plus also by the Scott sisters in 1863 and 1865. Angas made numerous sketches and watercolours in this vicinity, with a number of fine examples included in the exhibition (cat nos 45-7, 77 & 81).

* A final stop, before returning to the Gallery for afternoon tea, was made on Stone's Road, Mount Kembla. The ridge between American and Brandy & Water Creeks is the approximate location from where von Guerard executed the detailed pencil sketch later used to render two versions of the oil painting Cabbage Forest, 1860 (cat nos 65 & 69).

The day was glorious, and participants expressed their gratitude and interest in the event in very cordial terms. Consequently, the Wollongong City Gallery will be conducting another tour of similar proportions in the Spring of 1995, at a date yet to be finalised. Many thanks to the Dettman family for permission to conduct our luncheon on the grass at Minnamurra House in their absence.

Ken Orchard