

## **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 Minamurra House. Sites visited included:

\* The Water Board Berkeley Reservoir grounds, from where Eugene von Guerard sketched Lake Illawarra in December 1859 (refer Illawarra: The Garden of NSW cat nos 64 & 68 ).

\* 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).

\* Minamurra 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