the quayside, and my feelings were mixed indeed.

My homecoming was unforgettable. I can never forget crossing the Tyne Bridge - coincidentally, a small, exact replica of the Sydney Harbour Bridge - and seeing my dear father and mother waiting for me.

I will never forget the kindness and affection the people of Wollongong showed to a small child far from home at a time of war.

I enclose the letter which was sent by Queen Elizabeth (now the Queen Mother) to my guardians Mr and Mrs Straker. I have kept this letter since 1943 but I feel it belongs to Wollongong. It says clearly how we all feel, and it says it better than I could! Perhaps it could be displayed at the Museum.

Donations of other memorabilia relating to Wollongong during the War would be most welcome.

John Shipp

REMINISCENCES OF THE IHS
by
Alice Musgrave

The Early Days and those who did so much to help:

Essie Mackreth, who asked me to become a member, was a very active member - as was Margaret Evans.

And who could forget the work done by Bill Bayley and Alec Fleming with their many publications and research into the early history and the contributions made to the Bulletin by Bill McDonald and Edgar Beale.

Ken Thomas with the Blacksmith’s shop and the hard work of Fred Healy, George Boniface, Frank Osborne and John Maynes and Mary Howells always ready to help.

Joyce McCarthy and Amelia Pezzutto, both with young children in those days, have given wonderful support to the society.

Phllis de Jersey and Margaret McDonald contributed so much to the Society.

Of course, a lot of these people are still very active. I am only talking about the early days
and realize there are a lot of dedicated people whom I have not mentioned and some
whom I do not know carrying on the good work.

THE FIGHT FOR BRIGHTON LAWN

Congratulations to Michael Organ for his self-sacrificing and spirited defence of our city’s
birthplace.

His discovery that the area is a Conservation Zone of State Significance on Council’s own
heritage Study has placed the cat amongst the pigeons.

Until this discovery (and I certainly had not spotted it in the various volumes of the
Heritage Study I’d consulted at Wollongong Library) I had long felt that Council’s Heritage
Study was a completely ineffective defence for nominated Heritage Items.

I can now see, however, that it at least provides an occasional refuge from which to do bat­
tle when the going gets tough.

Michael fought long and hard to prevent the erection on the units on the site of the old
Brighton Hotel. If only the existence of this loophole had previously been known then per­
haps it would have been possible to use the State Significance Listing to argue that the
units currently under construction affect the visual amenity of the Conservation Zone by
obstructing the view of Mount Keira which could formerly be glimpsed from the lawn.
Surely the onus was on Council Officers to ensure that the visual amenity of a site of State
significance was protected?

PORT KEMBLA POOL

I recently wrote in the July Bulletin about the need to get a permanent conservation order
slapped on both Wentworth Street, Port Kembla and the need to preserve the Pool
Complex as a matter of urgency because these heritage items almost certainly constitute
the most intact ‘Between the Wars’ Streetscape anywhere in Australia. My fear was that in
the near-future the buildings lining this street would be either tarted up or completely
demolished.

Within a few days (Mercury, July 4, 1995) the news broke that Port Kembla Pool was to get
a “$2 million dollar facelift” involving “replacing the pool and ‘associated structures’ like
the surrounds, amenities block, kiosk and pool pipes.” This would appear to amount to
demolition by another name.

A more detailed description of the proposal appeared in a recent edition of the Lake Times