August Meeting: Saturday, 3rd August, 1996 at 2.00 p.m.

Speaker: Mr Michael Organ, University Archivist, former Secretary of Illawarra Historical Society.

Subject: The Illawarra Stockade - Governor, Military and Convicts, 1816-1844

Venue: Historical Society Museum

September Speaker

Dr Henry Lee, Lecturer in Australian History, University of Wollongong, will speak on “Wollongong’s Destiny (?) - The Coal Trade: Its Makers and their Goals”. His talk will be held on Saturday, 7th September, 1996 at 2.30 p.m. and the venue will be our Historical Society Museum.

Report on July Meeting

Mr Geoff Gordon, a Telstra employee of 31 years, volunteered his services to speak on the history of telecommunications from 1854 to 1993
He was prepared to depart from his starting point by reminding us of various styles of communications in the bygone days such as “drums”, “smoke signals” and “message sticks”. He claimed that the year 1747, when current was passed along electric wires, was the beginning of coaxial cables.

It was communication by overhead wire that was allied with much of Australia’s development. Overland communication was not long in following the exploits of our early explorers. telegraph wires, Morse code and a network of stations were soon part of the Australian scene. It was in 1862 that the telegraph came from Campbelltown to Wollongong (to the site of our Museum) and that from Wollongong it was extended to Kiama.

The development of overseas communication was another landmark. Mr Gordon told us that when Alexander Graham Bell invented the “telephone” it was voices, not Morse code that was carried over the communication network.

The rest, of course, is well known and the communication network is available for the range of communication media commonplace in the world today.

Thank you Mr Gordon.

Peter Daly

Report on the Visit of Sutherland Shire Historical Society

What a great roll up came from our sister city society to visit the area on Saturday 13th July, 1996.

The bad weather did not dampen their enthusiasm. They came in a large bus (about 40 or so) and were introduced to the area by a tour and called on the services of Di Johnson from Dinky Di Tours. They were all very impressed with the museum and the variety of exhibits there.

We thank them for their donation. We also thank those members of our society who made themselves available and assisted with some refreshments. It is just as well that we do not forget these outings and the activities of the Sutherland Shire should inspire us in that regard.