His death is officially recorded as 1st September, 1996 but his physical death was on the 31st August, 1996, exactly two years after the death of his sister.

The society has been enriched with having two such wonderful members.

Amelia Pezzutto

HENRY LEE ON WOLLONGONG COAL

Dr Lee gave a splendid address at our last meeting and readers can look forward to publication of much of the detail in the forthcoming History of Wollongong being put together by the Labour History and Industrial Relations Research Centre at the University. Our own summaries of Dr Lee’s richly detailed address are held over until a forthcoming Bulletin.

SOPHIE STEFANONI AT DAPTO

If you haven’t been to the Wollongong City Gallery recently then you’ve been missing two very strong exhibitions - Otto Dix and Sophie Stefanoni.

Stefanoni is the great Australian artistic find of the 1980s - a cache of fine art (paintings, embroidery and ephemera) all hidden within the wall of a house. Moreover, Stefanoni turns out to be probably the most prolific and skilled female plein air practitioner of the Heidleburg School era. She was
accepted as a student of W. Lister Lister (who did some impressive South Coast seascapes) in 1893 and went on to exhibit with the likes of McCubbin and Walter Withers. But before her career could really take off she died of tuberculosis in 1906.

The exhibition contains one oil entitled “Blackheath Springtime, 1903” which looks to me very much like an image of a farm beneath Mt Keira. More surely, however, the show contains two photographs entitled “Afternoon Tea at Dapto, 1898”. An accompanying note states that “These photographs were taken at ‘Warooka’ homestead in Dapto. ‘Warooka’ was the home of Regina Jones, the mother of Ethyl May Jones who married Lewis Steffanoni, Sophie’s brother.”

Does any reader no more of “Warooka” and its inhabitants?

‘A FIGTREE ON AMERICAN CREEK, near WOLLONGONG, NSW’

This work by Eugene Von Guerard which comes from the Victorian Western Districts family of the same patron who purchased the two great companion works now held by Wollongong City Gallery, has been recently purchased by the Art Gallery of NSW for what I estimate is around $350,000 (the report in the Sydney Morning Herald 20/9/1996 p. 16 makes it necessary to do some rough calculations to guess its price!).

It is sad our own Gallery did not get its hands on the work so that all three of Von Guerard’s major Illawarra works could finally come ‘home’.