

SOCIETY NEWS

Award for Past President

Congratulations are extended to our Past-President, John Shipp, now Sydney University's Librarian after having served for more than ten years as Librarian of the University of Wollongong.

In recognition of John's contribution to the University of Wollongong during those years, at a recent graduation ceremony he was admitted as a University Fellow. He has been praised for his work in rescuing the University archives from a damp dungeon inhabited by cockroaches and establishing it in the firm position it enjoys today. The present librarian, Felicity McGregor, said John was "an historian who recognised the importance of the past and a visionary who understood the importance of new technology. ... He positioned the library to take advantage of the scholarly publishing which is now one of its great strengths."

Illawarra Mercury, October 3, 1998.

Mount Keira Tramline Grant

Arising from the work of the City Council's Coordinator of Cultural Development, Ms Barbara Wheeler, a grant of \$2,000 has been received via the Royal Australian Historical Society for work in oral history of the mine and its tramway. This work has been placed in the hands of Mr Richard Raxworthy, an oral historian recommended by the RAHS who has already visited our museum, after which Geoff Mould and

Frank Osborne helped him to trace remnants of the tramway from the harbour to the mine entrance.

Another Oral History Project

Under the guidance of Professor Jim Hagan and Dr Henry Lee from the University of Wollongong, an advisory committee is working on a proposal to record an oral history of work and community in Wollongong, 1930 to 1980. Application will be made for a grant from funds marking the centenary of Federation.

Another Centenary of Federation Project

Led by our Hon. Curator, Joyce McCarthy, the Society is making application for a grant to enable the erection of a permanent home for our museum's collection of farm implements and machinery.

Lunch for Museum Supervisors

On Saturday 10th October about 25 of our museum helpers and supervisors gathered for lunch at our museum. This was our Hon Curator's way of expressing thanks to our devoted band of volunteers whose dedication enables the museum to function throughout the year.

Cocktail Party at our Museum

As a fund-raising effort, Friends of the Old Court House plan to hold a cocktail party at the Society's museum between 5pm and 7pm on Friday, November 27.

Old Court House Management Committee

Even though the Naval Cadets are still in occupation, some restoration work has already been completed. The stonework on the facade has been re-mortared, the walls treated for rising damp, and a landscaping plan prepared.

The Naval Cadets' new building, near the Illawarra Yacht Club's premises at the lake, is well advanced and should be completed mid-December. The new year should see the beginning of another era for the Old Court House.