Jacqueline Shaw as members of both organisations is a big help. Another happy event at the museum was a two-hour visit from 57 members of the University of the Third Age (U3A). This arose from an invitation issued when I addressed the U3A with the aid of the Society’s slides of early Wollongong. The appreciation of the museum expressed by these two groups of visitors gave great encouragement and satisfaction to myself and other members of the Society who attended.

Mention of the U3A talk reminds me that since March ’98 I have addressed 14 different associations on behalf of the Society, most of them on the history of early Wollongong.

One of the perquisites of office is the receipt of invitations, especially for civic events. A couple of these worth mentioning were the opening of the Wollongong Entertainment Centre and the Lord Mayor’s reception for the local Commonwealth Games athletes. One spin-off from the latter event was that by talking to Louise McPaul and her father, John, we pieced together enough information to confirm later that Louise and I are related: My gggf James McPaul (my mother’s great-grandfather) was also Louise’s gggggf. How big a generation gap is that? Looks like 2g’s! That discovery really made me feel old, which could be one of the reasons why I am not standing for re-election at the AGM. It has been a great privilege to serve as president and I thank the members for it, but for the sake of the Society it really is time for a change.

Frank Osborne

MUSEUM REPORT

The year 1998 saw significant progress at the museum. The new display cabinet was installed upstairs; the workshop shed was mounted on a brick floor by the Wollongong heights Lions Club; Warren and Tim rearranged the store-room shelving, giving easier access to our collection; and new professionally-engraved notices have been made for display rooms facing the courtyard.

During the year the museum was honoured by a visit from ABC Television to film a seg-
ment for the programme SNAPSHOT.

In October, 23 supervisors and other helpers enjoyed a luncheon held at the museum, given in appreciation of their assistance.

Plans were drawn up for a new shed to house our vehicles and application made for a grant of $106,600 under the Centenary of Federation programme, but results have not yet been released.

During the year I was invited to join a four-day Museum Management course at Sydney University, which proved very worthwhile.

Arising out of the Charles Throsby Smith reunion last March, descendants of CTS have kindly donated the silver salver presented to him by the citizens of Wollongong in 1855. A special display case for this is still to be made.

Finally, the news about our video production. Filming took place during Christmas week. I must say our postmaster, Philip Mackel, looked very distinguished, his “wife” and their two children looked the part in their period costumes, and Jack the horse played his part very well outside the blacksmith’s shop.

As always, many thanks to our diligent helpers. We look forward to seeing you again in 1999.

Joyce McCarthy

MEETING REPORTS

NOVEMBER  Mr Tony Kent: BREAKWATER BATTERY

Situated near the new launching ramp at Port Kembla Harbour, the Breakwater battery building was commenced in May, 1939, apparently in expectation of the war which com-