

**FEBRUARY** Mr Jon Breen: THE TANK STREAM AND BEYOND

Mr Breen gave us an excellent coverage of the history of Sydney's water supply, beginning with the Tank Stream, the first source of water for the infant colony. Problems of supply and pollution soon made it necessary to look elsewhere, so one of the first solutions was Busby's Bore to tap the Lachlan swamps of which only the ponds at Centennial Park remain. This was a remarkable engineering feat, considering the equipment available, making its length of 12,000 feet possibly the longest tunnel in the southern hemisphere when completed in 1837.

Next came the Botany swamps scheme, begun by private enterprise, and a failed attempt to obtain suitable water from Cooks River at Tempe. This was followed by pumping from streams to the west and south of Sydney. By the turn of the century, dams were necessary. One of these, Cordeaux No.1, supplied water to Wollongong about 1902. Major dams followed: Cataract completed 1907, Cordeaux 1926, Avon 1927, Nepean 1935, Woronora 1941 and finally Warragamba.