

Speaker: Professor Ray Markey: LABOUR HISTORY IN ILLAWARRA

Professor Markey outlined the structure of the Australian Society for the Study of Labour History, of which the Illawarra Branch forms a part, numbering about 90 members who meet three or four times each year.

The Australian Society's journal "Labour History" is an important historical journal on a national basis, whereas the local branch's paper "Illawarra Unity" concerns itself more with local topics.

This year, in the long weekend in October, the sixth biennial National Labour History Conference will be held in the Wollongong town hall, October 2-4.

The general theme of the conference will be labour as part of the community. i.e. not only experiences as workers and unionists but also the part played in community activities, such as churches, friendly societies, civic affairs etc.

The conference will encourage activities in three strands:

Traditional academic

Labour Heritage display

Art and artists involved with labour.

Following the talk, a lot of the discussion revolved around ways the society members and the museum could co-operate with the cultural strand.