

APRIL: ANNUAL DINNER

The Society's Annual Dinner, held on Thursday April 8, was a very successful function. Attended by about 30 members and friends, we all enjoyed the good food served by Mario and his people at Barnies on Crown, and judging by the buzz of conversation, it was a great talk fest as well.

Our speaker, Dr Win Ward, delivered in her usual clear manner a scholarly paper on Eliza Hassall, daughter of the Rev Thomas Hassall and Ann Marsden, and so a granddaughter of the Rev Samuel Marsden, known as "the flogging parson." The Rev Thomas Hassall, however, was not of the same mould as his father-in law: Although he was known as "the galloping parson" he was highly conscientious in his clerical duties as well as a humane magistrate, regarded with great affection by all with whom he came in contact.

Dr Ward outlined the history of the Hassall family who lived at "Denbigh", Cobbity, from 1826 until after the death of Thomas in 1868. She painted a fascinating picture of colonial life in those early years of the colony, and in particular of the life of Eliza (1834-1917) who remained unmarried, devoting her life to family and to active Christian service.

As we have come to expect from Dr Ward, this address was the result of much patient research. We thank her for providing a copy of her paper, which we hope to publish in future issues.