DECEMBER MEETING

Date & Time: Thursday 2nd December 1999 at 7.30 pm.
Venue: Itsowel Centre, 21 Stewart Street, Wollongong.
Speaker: Father P Flaherty.
Topic: St FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL

NO January 2000 Meeting.

FEBRUARY MEETING

Date & Time: Thursday 3rd February 2000 at 7.30 pm.
Venue: Itsowel Centre, 21 Stewart Street, Wollongong.
Speaker: Mr Greg Scott.
Topic: COASTAL DEFENCE AND GUN EMBLACEMENTS.

MUSEUM OF THE RIVERINA

The newsletter of the Wagga Wagga and District Historical Society for October/November 1999 outlines the great changes that have taken place in that city's museum arrangements since the beginning of the year, the main event being the opening last February of the Regional Museum of the Riverina.

The historical society opened its museum on Willans Hill in the 1960s and since then has greatly extended its scope and size.

In recent times the city council has built a new Civic Centre incorporating the existing Art Gallery and Library. Now the handsome old 1882 council chambers has been completely refurbished as a free-standing home for the Regional Museum, adjoining and part of the Civic Centre.

This change has involved a great deal of co-operation between the Council and the Historical Society. The council has leased the existing museum on Willans Hill from the Historical Society, so it has become part of the Regional Museum and the Historical Society has in effect gained a down-town complementary campus. Both museum centres are under control of a qualified museum manager employed by the Council. The rent from the Council gives the Society a steady income and admission to the museums is now free of entry charges. The Historical Society still has some measure of control through representation on the board of trustees.
Liaison with the Regional Library should present no difficulties as the Local History Librarian is a member of the Society and also a member of the board.

To quote from the president's report, the change has been very successful: "The city centre presence has been truly marvellous - since the opening, for every hundred visitors at the Willans Hill museum there have been close to a thousand at the Baylis Street exhibitions."

Somewhere in this there must be a moral for Wollongong.

Frank Osborne.

APOLOGIES

Sincere apologies to the following financial members whose names were inadvertently omitted from the list printed in the last bulletin:

  Miss Doris Downie
  Mrs Trixie Harvey
  Mr Arthur Heng
  Mrs Grace Johnston
  Mrs B G Martin
  Mrs J L N Southern.

Welcome to two more new members:

  Mrs Elizabeth Rigby of Wollongong
  Mr Bryson Bourke of Normanhurst.

Silent Film in Illawarra

Sound was introduced to the cinema in 1929, most notably with 'The Jazz Singer'. Michael Organ, Archivist at the University of Wollongong, is interested in talking to anyone who can remember seeing a silent film, either in Illawarra or elsewhere. Please contact Michael at the University on (02) 4221 3545 or at home on (02) 4284 3836, or write to Michael Organ, 26 Popes Road, Woonona 2517.

CALLING ALL MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS

You are invited to morning tea at the Museum on Saturday 20th November 1999 at 10 am. Please ring me on 4229 8225 by 13th November if you can attend.

Joyce McCarthy