
PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This past year can be described as exceptionally notable, because it was the end of a century and millenium. If the advancement of technology over the last 100 years continues at an ever increasing pace, the coming century could well be a time of testing for the preservation of what still remains of our brief history.

The Illawarra Historical Society preserves local history by continually adding to our museum collection, creating exhibits of public interest and promoting local history at schools. This can only be achieved by the dedication of the Society as a whole. This past year has again seen the majority of the work accomplished by a significant few, always hoping for that little extra support to ease the workload.

Some of the highlights of the year were the launching of our Museum promotional/information video, the Wollongong City Council's release of the CD Rom called *Illawarra Images* (a collection of almost 7,000 photographs), the installation at the Museum of the Throsby Smith silver salver and a coal exhibition commemorating the sesquicentennial of Shoobert's Mt Keira Mine.

Our members, at the monthly meetings continue to experience informative and at times controversial subjects. The high quality of speakers will continue over the ensuing year and members are invited to make known any topic or speaker they would like to have added to our list.

Behind the scenes work has resulted in a more efficient collation and printing of our bi-monthly Bulletin despite some small hiccups and apologies being required. Bouquets to Carol and John Herben for the generous use of their time and computer in the preparation of the Bulletin before it is sent to the printer.

During the year there have been times when I have felt guilty that my other volunteering commitments have not allowed me to participate to my fullest in some of the Society's activities. The growth of new societies continues and without the generous support of our board members, who represent our Society on these committees, the exchange of information and bringing to the notice of our members issues of interest may be lost.

In particular I would like to acknowledge the continued and generous support I receive from Joyce McCarthy, Warren Bellamy, Frank Osborne, Kath Condell, Leo Chapman and Tim Kersopp and everyone who helped staff the Museum.

Phil Presser.