

CURATOR RETIRED

On 30th June Joyce McCarthy OAM will retire from Illawarra Historical Society as the Hon. Curator of the museum.

Joyce and her late husband Henry joined the Society way back in 1966 just prior to the opening of the Museum. Henry, who died some years ago, took on the treasurer's position for a number of years. Joyce, on the other hand, became involved with the museum and organised excursions, day and as well as weekend trips, for many years. From a Museum where all displays were just laid out on tables the transformation of the Museum into theme rooms is truly a credit to her hard work stemming from her skills in soft furnishings. In 1984 Joyce was appointed to the position of Hon. Curator which she held until her resignation. During the last 25 years Joyce cared for the artefacts in the museum, which included preservation, restoration and in particular cataloguing the thousands of items gifted to the Museum. One of her special jobs was organising numerous exhibitions.

Joyce has been responsible for staging many memorable exhibitions such as 'One Hundred Years of Communications in Illawarra', 'Coal Mining in Illawarra', 'Back to the '50s', 'Births of a Nation', a touring exhibition from the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney, 'Milkshakes, Sundaes and Cafe Culture', another travelling exhibition, 'Shopkeepers and Businesses of 20th Century Wollongong between 1920 and 1960' and the most recent one '200 Years of Fashion'.

Joyce has religiously attended Museums Australia Southern Highlands and Illawarra Chapter Meetings.

On Australia Day 2008 Joyce was honoured with the Order of Australia Medal for her services to the Society's Museum and various Wollongong charities.

Joyce will remain on the Board as a member and will keep a keen interest in the Museum.