

REPORT ON DECEMBER MEETING.

Speaker: Mr Chas Keys.

Topic: Leather and Willow in Wollongong Life: a Social History of Cricket.

At our end of year meeting, which was well attended not only by our members but also some cricket buffs. Chas Keys, an ex-emergency manager at the NSW State Emergency Headquarters in Wollongong, cricket administrator and cricket writer who now resides in Queensland, made a special trip to his beloved Wollongong to talk about his latest book he co-authored with the late Ivor Erwin. Chas illustrated his talk with many photos showing the development of the game of cricket in Wollongong and suburbs as well as the lives of many people covering some 150 years. Special mention was made of the many troubles and fights between local clubs. Eventually after many upheavals the clubs became known as the Illawarra Cricket Association and any misunderstanding and personality clashes were limited to the oval or within the association. After this competitions were more friendlier than ever before.

After having answered many questions from members and visitors all were invited to a supper provided by the Society. Many stayed behind to talk to Chas about cricket and his cricket days. All in all Chas' talk was one of the best attended.

Chas has offered to come back at a later stage to talk about some of his work during his long stay in Wollongong. It can be disclosed at this early stage that the Society has booked Chas for just such a talk about a disaster which caused a lot of heartache around Wollongong and suburbs and his involvement to prevent any more such disasters. Chas will be back here on Thursday 1st August 2013 at 10am to deliver his talk. The Society looks forward to a good roll-up again.