After many years of doing up the old buses and going through hard times, in 1988 the Dions purchased two new buses and these were air-conditioned. While this was a great addition to the bus fleet, Uncle Barney would still have preferred the drivers to use the old buses up first.

Tom Dion did well in investing in property in Wollongong. At one time he asked his solicitor to investigate a property he wanted to purchase. The solicitor had to inform him that unfortunately he could not purchase it – he already owned it!

It is a well-known fact that the Dion family were sympathetic to people who were ‘hard up’ during the depression and would stop and give them a lift whether they had money or not. They were generous with their family and also with the community and this is why they have been held in high esteem and respect over the years.

A big thank you to Les Dion for a very enjoyable evening.

Jean Groves

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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.

JH

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Vale
Norman Jarvis

Norm was the auditor of the Illawarra Historical Society’s accounts for the years 2010 and 2011. He was generous with his time, doing the books for free in 2010 and charging a minimal amount in 2011. He also made himself available at the AGMs to answer any questions relating to the audit. I attended his funeral in November 2012, and the generosity of his time and expertise to other organisations was noted by several speakers. Indeed, the service was standing room only.

The Illawarra Historical Society thanks Norm for his excellent service and passes on its condolences to his wife and family.

Ken Davis – Hon. Treasurer.

NEW AUDITOR REQUIRED

The 2012 audited statements will be published in the next issue of the Bulletin. The Society had to engage an Auditing firm at short notice and because of their thoroughness the audit was not ready for publication by the deadline for this Bulletin. Statements have been prepared by our treasurer and printed in this issue. We require one of our members to come forward to take on the job of checking our financial statements at the end of the calendar year. Please contact our Treasurer.

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