rejoin us next year. All members will join the Council in the hope that Mr. Bayley's operation will be completely successful and that he will be fully restored to health.

Miss M. McDonald, B.A. (Member) has consented to act as Research Secretary for the remainder of the year. — W. G. McD.

"THE FIVE ISLANDS AND BASS AND FLINDERS":

The "Metal Manufactures Gazette" of March, 1964 (Vol. 5, No. 4) carries an extensive article on the naming of "The Five Islands", together with accounts of the lives of George Bass and Mathew Flinders. The article is well illustrated with some excellent colour photography. Our Society's work in having the islands renamed in 1953 is acknowledged.

By courtesy of the Editor, Mr. Kevin Jeffcoat, we have obtained a number of copies which will be available free at succeeding meetings. (Posted 1/6.)

"RAILWAYS OF AUSTRALIA" — BY C. C. SINGLETON AND DAVID BURKE — ANGUS & ROBERTSON — 160 Pages 6" x 9½" — £2/2/0 — Available all Booksellers:

To all interested in history and railways we commend this fascinating record of the Australian "Chuff Chuff" (alas, the steam loco. is now rarely heard to the regret of the purists). Lavishly illustrated on art paper, we endorse the claims of the publisher that 'Railways of Australia will delight everyone who likes trains — from the keenest enthusiast to those who just like hearing a whistle call on a frosty night.'

The authors are experts in their field and their comprehensive work has been written with the full co-operation of the relevant Railway authorities and members of the Australian Railway Historical Society.

"THE NAME AND DISTRICT OF ILLAWARRA":

Further to the note in last month's 'Bulletin' Mr. D. L. Dennis, of Marshall Mount, who has written widely on our early history is quoted (as under) in the "South Coast Times" of Thursday, 9/4/1964:

"For the record, the late Mr. J. A. Beatson, member of an old family, a Mayor of Wollongong, and for many years secretary of Wollongong A.H. & I. Society and the South Coast Union of Show Societies, used to define Illawarra as 'a pleasant vale'. That was about the turn of the century."

OPENING OF WILLIAM (BILL) BEACH PARK, MULLET CREEK, DAPTO — SATURDAY, 11th APRIL, 1964:

An historic ceremony took place when the site of the original Dapto Showground was opened for public recreation as a picnic ground, mainly due to the efforts of the Dapto Rotary Club as a community service project with the practical support of the Wollongong Council.
Several hundred people were present including a number of Councillors and members of the Society when the Deputy Mayor, Alderman C. R. Birch, declared the park open and unveiled a tablet to the memory of the distinguished sportsman whose deeds are now perpetuated. An historical address was given by Mr. W. C. Wentworth, M.H.R. (Member) and a number of the champion’s trophies and mementoes were on display. Mr. Harry Beach, of Woy Woy, the only surviving son of the champion, was an honoured guest and many other descendants attended.

During the afternoon exhibitions were given by the Australian Kayak team, who are in training for the Tokyo Olympics, and members of the State Demonstration team of the Royal Life Saving Association.

A roneoed brochure detailing the life and exploits of Bill Beach was presented to the audience and from this brochure the following extracts are taken:

"Bill Beach was born in Surrey on 6th September, 1850, and was brought by his parents in 1853 to this country where they settled at Lake Illawarra, near Dapto. His father was a veterinary surgeon and farrier.

"His rowing career started in earnest in 1880 on stretches of Mullet Creek and Lake Illawarra when he was 29.

"He met the World’s Champion, E. Hanlan, of Canada, on the Parramatta River on Saturday, 16th August, 1884, and retired as champion in 1887, after defending his title six times. Settling back in Dapto he became one of the town’s most beloved and respected citizens. His interests were widespread and varied, being an alderman of the Central Illawarra Council, President of the Dapto Regatta Club, Trustee of Dapto Showground and Reid Park.

"He died in 1935 at the ripe age of 85, a man whose influence and name has helped to mould and make the community in which we live today."

**BILL BEACH'S RECORD AS UNDEFEATED CHAMPION SCULLER OF THE WORLD:**

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<th>Loser</th>
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<th>Time</th>
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<td>1887</td>
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The old champion’s colours, black and gold, are now proudly worn by the Dapto Troop of Boy Scouts.

Tom Clifford, one of his challengers, was also a Dapto man, and it was truly a historic event when two citizens of an obscure country town attracted world attention when rowing was perhaps the major international sport.