The Open Day coincides with the Bowral 'Tulip Time' Festival, which runs from 2nd to 10th October inclusive.

This year visitors will enjoy a mass display of over 16,000 special tulip bulbs in Corbett Gardens, Bowral, and many prize winning gardens will be open for inspection. In all, over 100,000 tulips will be in bloom.

"IRON AND STEEL" by DAVID S. MACMILLAN, M.A. (Councillor, R.A.H.S.):

This booklet is a very useful introduction to the history of the iron and steel industry, the industry on which our district is so largely dependent. Written as part of the "Australian Landmarks" series (Longmans, Green & Co. Ltd., 1964) for high school children, it comprises 56 pages, 5½" x 8½", with cover and illustrations. Priced at 6/6 (65c.) from booksellers (our copy from Angus & Robertson). 

"SHORT TOURS OF OLD SYDNEY" by LORNA BLACKLOCK for the R.A.H.S. (1965):

This admirable small book contains details of six tours of the historic area of the City of Sydney with accompanying maps and estimated times of the tours. It fits into pocket or handbag and is a most comprehensive guide. The tours covered are "The Rocks", Circular Quay, Bridge Street, Macquarie Street, Hyde Park and Victoria Barracks.

Sized 4½" x 7½", it is of 32 pages on art paper with covers, priced at 5/- (50c.) and obtainable at all booksellers and the R.A.H.S. (our copy A. & R.).

"MINERS' FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA — 50th ANNIVERSARY":

In the last week of August the Miners' Federation held a National Conference in Wollongong. As adjuncts to the conference an historical exhibition was held and a commemorative booklet published under the above title.

Unfortunately, notice of the exhibition was received too late to notify members generally but through the courtesy of Mr. W. Smart, General Vice-President of the Federation, a number of booklet copies have been made available to the Society.

Of 48 pages with cover, 7½" x 10½", and lavishly illustrated it is an important record of an aspect of national, social and industrial history.

"THE FIGTREE" AT FIGTREE:

Consequent upon the recent commercial development at Figtree it is thought the following extract from I.H.S. Bulletin September, 1953, "History of The Village of Figtree — Notes by C. W. Gardiner-Garden" might be of interest.

"The figtree is situated near where Prince's Highway bridges American Creek and is joined by O'Brien's Road. The tree belongs to the species of fig known as Ficus Rubiginosa or Port Jackson or Iliowarra Fig — also Rusty Fig from the colour of the underside of its leaves. Early this month two experienced surveyors independently established the height of this tree to be 130 feet"... The "Illustrated Sydney News" dated 16/10/1867, contains a picture of "the old figtree near Wollongong". If the tree was considered old in 1867 it might be that it is now in the vicinity of 150 years old!

As regards the height a registered surveyor some few days ago measured it as 140ft. above ground level from the Main Road side. The increase of 10 feet in 12 years is no doubt due to growth in the period and/or the site of measurement.

SEPTEMBER MEETING:

Mr. Ken Marshall again proved a most entertaining speaker with his topic of "The Early Congregational Church of Wollongong And Some of It's Personalities", and many questions were asked and comments offered at the completion of the talk by the audience of 34. The display of the 1856 Marriage Register with other relevant church documents was also appreciated.

It is hoped by the Council that Mr. Marshall's talk will be published in full.

EXCURSION TO SHELLHARBOUR:

The final outing in the current "Winter Saturday Afternoon" series attracted an attendance of 28 and, like the previous ones, enriched our knowledge of the immediate district.