The Monthly Meeting of Members will be held at the Meeting Room, Town Hall, Crown Street, Wollongong, on Thursday, 7th July, 1966, at 8 p.m.

SPEAKER: Miss Helen Baker, B.A.

SUBJECT: Hyde Park Barracks.

Miss Baker is on the staff of the State Planning Authority. Her paper, which will be illustrated by slides of early drawings and recent photographs, will cover: the building as a piece of architecture, its function when it was first built, its association with Macquarie, Macquarie’s attitude towards the convicts “as children of misfortune”, his need of convict labour to carry out his plans to turn a dilapidated shanty town into a centre of suitable administration, the condition of the convicts and their changing role as the colony grew, alterations to the building reflecting the evolution of administration in New South Wales, the splitting up of Greenway’s Palladian design and the present state of the building.

Thus in a paper dealing with a building which is of acknowledged worth architecturally and therefore well worth study for its own sake, there will be wide overtones of our early history.

JULY EXCURSION TO CALDERWOOD:

The Council has pleasure in announcing that one of the popular winter afternoon excursions will be held on Saturday, 16th July. We will be visiting the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. Voorwinden at Calderwood.

Mrs. Voorwinden is perhaps better known by her maiden name of May Barry, under which she is well known as a sculptor. She and her husband bought their property, which is in a delightful spot under the mountains at Calderwood, when it was a neglected farm, and in the fifteen years of their occupancy they have developed it considerably. Whilst maintaining the farm atmosphere, they have extended the house with a studio and other buildings all made most charmingly in natural stone. The result is a most unusual and charming set of buildings in a really delightful spot. Some of Mrs. Voorwinden’s work will be on display.

It is interesting that part of the property was originally granted to Charles Throsby Smith and an old cedar-getters’ track ran through the property.

Our host and hostess regret that they do not have facilities for providing afternoon tea for members and friends attending the excursion, but they will provide plenty of hot water so that excursionists may bring afternoon tea and enjoy it in the grounds.
The bus will leave the corner of Bourke and Flinders Streets at 1.30 p.m. and will proceed via Bourke Street, Kembla Street and Crown Street down the Prince’s Highway to the Marshall Mount turnoff and so along that road to Calderwood. We expect to be back in Wollangong well before dusk.

**JUNE MEETING:**

Our speaker at the June meeting was Mr. Eric Shand M.A. (Cantab.), who spoke on the Channel Islands. Mr. Shand’s address covered in the first instance a general review of the geological and geographical development of the islands and then the early history leading up to the present. After his general outline he illustrated it with extremely attractive slides.

Mr. Shand demonstrated how close the islands are to the coast of France, the French coast being visible on clear days from the islands, whereas England is very much further away. The main islands are Jersey, Guernsey, Alderney and Sark and there are smaller islands such as Herm, Jethou and Lihou. Notwithstanding similarities of bland climate, the islands have different characteristics and, in common with other small communities, there is sometimes a rather strong feeling between the different communities.

The government of the islands is still essentially feudal, each island having its separate government and rigidly maintaining its independence. They also maintain their British sovereignty, but give point to their independence by referring to the kings and queens of England as their dukes and duchesses, the reason for this being that the islands originally came to England through the Duchy of Normandy. Each of the islands has a sort of Parliament and a local council. The mixture of ancient and modern in their form of government works surprisingly well.

Their languages vary, the patois resembling French.

One of the slides which particularly appealed to the large audience present was of a stone church built on the edge of a cliff where annual services are held in honour of the Saint to whom the church was erected. The building is a very ancient construction and even the roof is of stone three feet thick. This is on Jersey, but the slides covered also the other islands.

The interest of members in Mr. Shand’s lecture was shown by the fact that questions were so numerous that the gag almost had to be applied.

Whilst not on a subject of Australian history, the lecture proved to be absorbing and fascinating interest and a refreshing change.

Another unusual feature was the presence of a number of visitors who have associations with the Islands, and these included some who were brought to the meeting by Mr. and Mrs. Ross Stewart, but who were strangers to Mr. Shand. By a coincidence these visitors and Mr. and Mrs. Shand had friends in common when they were residents of Jersey, and it transpired that they are practically neighbours in their present homes in our locality without knowing of this mutual tie.

Fittingly, a vote of thanks to Mr. Shand was moved by Miss de Jersey whose family (some of whom were present at the lecture) originated in Jersey.

**COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP:**

At the June meeting of the Council of the Society, the resignation of Mr. W. G. McDonald as Honorary Curator, owing to illness, was accepted.

Mr. H. Akitt and Mr. McDonald were elected to fill the existing vacancies in the ordinary membership of the Council.

**OBITUARY:**

We regret to record the deaths of two of our members: Mr. E. H. Fowler, of 30 Market St., Wollongong, on 25th May, and Mr. A. A. Armstrong, of 34 Baan Baan St., Dapto, on 17th June. The Council and the Society extend their sympathy to Mr. Fowler’s family and to Mr. Armstrong’s surviving brothers and sisters.