As the bus must be booked and accommodation arranged well in advance, and as deposits will have to be paid, we must ask members wishing to make the trip to book with Mrs. McCarthy, 21 Stanleigh Crescent, West Wollongong, (phone 2-8225) and pay a deposit of $5 each, not later than the October meeting (Thursday, 3rd October). Unless at least sixteen firm bookings are received by then, we cannot commit the Society to the expenditure involved.

VALE:

We regret the passing on September 6 of our member Mrs. R. A. Ashcroft of 13 Evans Street, Wollongong. Mrs. Ashcroft joined the society in 1965 and until this year was a regular attendant at the meetings and excursions. To her husband and family our sincere sympathy is offered.

BALMAIN — OPEN DAY — SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1968:

The open day has been arranged by the Balmain Association. Tickets at $1.00 each may be obtained from Mr. Richard Wakefield, 18 William Street, Balmain East 2041 (82-2868) or from the Watch House on the excursion day. The proceeds will be devoted to the restoration of the Watch House.

PARRAMATTA AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY VISIT:

Details will be given at our monthly meeting of the proposed visit by the above on Saturday and Sunday, October 26 and 27 to include Bulli, Wollongong, Jamberoo and Kiama plus our museum.

THE FIRST "ILLAWARRA":

In view of the note in the September Bulletin some details on the first "Illawarra" will be of interest.

The Sydney Morning Herald of July 11, 1854 advised that the "Illawarra Steamer" had arrived and would be laid on in a few days as a permanent trader between Sydney and Wollongong. It was confidently expected that the trips would not occupy more than five hours.

The issue of August 14 gave the timetable to commence on Thursday 24:

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<th>From Sydney</th>
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<td>10.00 a.m.</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
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The same issue also announced the marriage by special licence of her commander, Captain Sullivan, to Mrs. M. Scott of Barnsley, Yorks.

The vessel was advertised as being of 84 h.p. and with tonnages (unspecified, presumably gross) of 145, 146 and 154. R. H. Parsons in "Steam Ships Registered Sydney 1834-1899" (M.L. 656.6A1) gives the following:

Illawarra — Paddle Steamer.
Built — 1853.
Registered No. 32273 August 1857.
Tonnage 166 (Gross?).

James Jervis in R.A.H.S. Journal, Vol. 28, p289 writes, "In April 1862, the steamer Illawarra was sold to interests which transferred her to China. She called at Wollongong and loaded coal."

The Illawarra Mercury of April 4, 1862 reported, "Her departure forms a new era in the shipping trade of Wollongong, she being, we believe, the first vessel that ever left the harbour bound direct for a foreign port."

In an unpublished short story of the Illawarra and South Coast Steam Navigation Co. Ltd, presented by the company to our society in 1945 (Wollongong Public Library Reference Section) it is stated that the Illawarra was sold in Shanghai. Although only eight years old at the time of sale she was declared redundant following an amalgamation of the various steam companies serving the coast.

(Perhaps our friend, Miss Grizel Gray, could be requested to ascertain if she could obtain any additional information in England).

A.P.F.

MUSEUM NOTES:

The museum committee apologizes for the lack of notes in our bulletin during the year — not because of lack of interest — but for the two main reasons that the committee was being reconstituted, taking a considerable time and thought; and the fact that the sagging middle section of the ground floor was to be repaired by the Wollongong City Council from which the trust is held and plans to re-organize and present a "new-look" museum had to be held in abeyance.

The museum is attracting more and more visitors and receiving favourable comments which attract more, including school parties.