MUSEUM INSPECTIONS:

The museum for the winter months will be open as usual on Saturday and Sunday afternoons for inspection by members and their friends; tourists and visitors. The usual nominal fees will apply. Publications will be on sale and those seeking only to purchase may do so at the door of the museum without admission charge.

Where special arrangements are sought (e.g. by parties such as social clubs and groups) our president should be contacted either by mail or phone (see front page).

BULLETINS WANTED:

For permanent binding at the City Library Archives Section the following Bulletin issues are sought: December 1964 and October 1966.

Anyone locating copies of these might pass them on to Miss M. McDonald or hand them in at the desk in the reference library in Crown Street. They will be much appreciated and permit the binding to proceed.

COOK PUBLICATION MAGNIFICENT LITTLE BOOK:

"Australia Discovered" is the title of a splendid 48 page booklet in colour and black and white issued to mark the occasion by the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney Limited and C.B.C. Savings Bank Limited. It is a great credit to the institution which produced it.

COOK'S HILL "LIKE A HATT":

At the risk of opening old wounds amongst members of our Society, one might advert, in this bi-centenary year, to the controversy as to which is Cook's Hatt Hill: Mount Kembla, or Mount Keira.

It is an anomaly, but he did not so name it, though it has since been assumed that he did. After referring to Red Point, he wrote in his journal these words: "a little way inland to the NW of this point is a round hill the top of which look'd like the Crown of a hatt." Mount Kembla came to be known, later, as Hat Hill, until confusion arose: Kembla is not NW of Red Point; it is WNW. And Keira is not NW either; it is NNW. To settle the question, therefore, the further question arose: which mountain is like the crown of a hat? Further questions then proliferated: what sort of hat? A sailor's hat, square like Keira? An officer's hat, round, like Kembla? A woman's hat,—what you will, and (at your peril) you name it! Beautiful friendships became endangered, as wigs were thrown upon the green, until the memorable occasion arose in a talk given many years ago by our worthy member, Mr. Bill Wentworth, M.P., in which, holding forth polemically on the visibility of the geographical feature from the position where the "Endeavour" was at the time of observation, he hotly postulated that from there you couldn't see the bloody thing. This was a reference to the mountain against which he was arguing, not Red Point, which is not red anyway.
Latterly, peace has reigned, and it is likely to continue, because there is a further piece of evidence now to hand. It has been strangely overlooked that on 10th May, 1770 Cook, saw another hill to which he refers as follows: "In the Latitude of 33° 2'S a little way inland is a remarkable hill that is shaped like the Crown of a hatt which we past about 9 o’Clock in the forenoon". The descriptions are remarkably similar, inclusive of Cook’s usual bad spelling.

There can be no doubt; the other Hat Hill is to the west of La Macquarie; it is Warrowolong, a well-known navigation guide. And its shape? — its top is not square, but round, just like Mount Kembla.

The evidence to resolve the ambiguity is purely circumstantial, but one feels that in future, when the time-honoured question is asked - which hill in Illawarra did Cook describe like the Crown of a hatt? - the answer may confidently be given: the cap fits Kembla.

“HEAD-GEAR” BEALE.

MORE DIARIES WRITTEN ON THE ENDEAVOUR:

JOURNAL OF RICHARD PICKERSGILL

28th April, 1770 — Moderate breeze and pleasant weather. At 2 p.m. being within 2 miles of the shore tacked and hoisted out the yawl; the captain, Mr. Banks, &c., went towards the shore; as we stood in we had regular soundings from 14 to 9 fathoms; standing off and on shore under an easy sail; the bay is covered well to southward by a low patch of red earth, which looked like islands, and runs a great way into the sea. At 5 p.m. the boat returned, having been close to the shore, but could not land for the surf; they saw two people who came down to the beach but soon after retired to the woods, where they saw them no more; the shore appeared very pleasant, with tall trees, having little or no under wood, and some fine plains in the woods; they saw some trees like cabbage trees, a hut, and two small boats, ill made. At 6 p.m. hoisted in the boat and made sail out to sea; in the night saw several fires along shore. At 6 a.m. saw a fine bay near the place where we were the night before; hauled up for it and made all sails. At 9 a.m. abreast of the mouth of the bay, distance two miles; sent the master in the pinace to sound. At noon working to windward into ye bay; depth of water 29 fathoms; off points 1½ miles.

PARKINSON — Journal of a voyage to the South Seas. pp. 133-34. On the 27th . . . At noon, being about 1 mile from land, some of our men were sent on shore in a boat . . . not being able to land for the surf . . . The country looked very pleasant and fertile, and the trees, quite free from underwood, appeared like plantations in a gentleman’s park.

LIGHTHOUSE POINT DIRECTION FINDER INSCRIPTION: