GOVERNOR-GENERAL TO VISIT MUSEUM:

The Governor-General of Australia, Sir Paul Hasluck, and Lady Hasluck will visit the Illawarra Historical Society Museum during their forthcoming visit to Wollongong on Tuesday, June 15. The visitors are timed to arrive at 12.5 p.m. and to depart at 12.25 p.m.

The councillors of the society are invited to arrive inside the museum some time before the appointed visit, whilst members and the general public are invited to assemble outside the museum to welcome the distinguished visitors.

The museum will be closed to the public that day until the visit has been concluded.

EXCURSION: SATURDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 3:

Kiama will be visited on this excursion. Two or three historic buildings will be visited and afternoon tea taken at one of Kiama’s historic spots.

Arrangements are still being made and bus route and fares will be published with final plans in our next issue.

As the July general meeting will be on July 1 only three days prior to the excursion intending patrons are advised to either seek further details at our June general meeting or telephone Mrs. Henry McCarthy at 29-8225.

ILLAWARRA, TASMANIA:

Considerable interest has been expressed to the editor about the item on the above subject in our previous issue. Several had visited local Tasmania but were unable to locate Illawarra; others who intend visiting the island expressed the hope that they may visit Illawarra now that details have been published.

PICTON, TASMANIA:

When our research officer wrote the booklet “Wollondilly Shire” for the Wollondilly Shire Council based on Picton, New South Wales, he mentioned in his final line that there is a Mount Picton in Tasmania.

The booklet is available from the Shire Clerk, Wollondilly Shire, Picton, N.S.W. 2571 at 30c plus 11c pack/post.

Recent investigation by our research secretary has revealed that a century ago there was a village of Picton in Tasmania also. It was situated nowhere near Mount Picton or Picton River.

Mount Picton is situated almost due west of Geeveston in the centre of southern Tasmania. It is 4353 feet high, in undeveloped country and is really hikers' country. Picton River rises just north of South Cape and flows northward past the western boundary of the Hartz Mountains National Park, meeting the Huon River not far north-west of Mount Picton. The only road access to the Picton River is from Geeveston to its junction with the Huon River. According to recent information the road is through wild country and far from easy to travel.

Picton, the former village, stood on the present Midland Highway some 30 miles north of Hobart.
John West's "History of Tasmania" 1852, Volume 2 page 376 lists Picton "a township in the parish of Dysart and County of Monmouth". Picton is marked on the map of Tasmania in the "Picturesque Atlas of Australasia" published in 1888 between Kempton and Melton Mowbray on the main road leading from Hobart to Launceston.

We are fortunate in having the following on-the-spot description of Picton, Tasmania, today.

State School,
Kempton,
Tasmania, Australia.
April 30th 1971.

Dear Mr. Bayley,

Knowing my interest in local history, my husband passed your letter on to me, and I hope the information that I have found is helpful.

At the moment, all that remains of Picton is part of one of the old cottages, which now forms the kitchen area of a house on the main road about two and a half miles out of Kempton. The house stands on Cross Marsh and near it are the entrances to the properties 'Stockman and 'Mount Vernon'.

In the old days, Picton consisted of a few cottages and a prison station which provided a road gang working between 1847 and 1870. (Mention of this gang is made in the book 'Highway in Van Dieman's Land' by G. Hawley Stancombe, Halstead Press, p. 91, Abridged Edition). One local resident can remember the old prison 'about sixty years ago', but there is apparently no sign of it now.

This information is only very brief. However, should you require further details do not hesitate to write and I shall try to help.

Yours sincerely,
(Sgd.) M. A. Cowling.

MAPS OF TASMANIA AVAILABLE:

Members visiting Tasmania are often uncertain of which maps of Tasmania may be available, some wishing to secure them much in advance of travel.

An excellent Tourist Map of Tasmania is published by the Royal Automobile Club of Tasmania and is available free on reciprocal NRMA service. It can be obtained from local branches of the NRMA such as Wollongong and Thirroul, or by post from RACT at Hobart, Tasmania by quoting your NRMA Reference Number.

All the oil companies have maps of Tasmania but, unfortunately they are not available at garages on the mainland (except, perhaps, at the head offices in the capital cities).

The maps vary in their treatment: some are in smaller print giving more place names and finer detail; others are bolder and, perhaps, more vivid in colour. All are valuable in their own sphere. Some have historical notes.
Maps are available at 15c plus 6c postage from the following companies by sending a letter C/- Head Office, Sydney: Caltex, Golden Fleet, Ampol, Mobiloil, BP and Shell. They may also be purchased at most petrol stations in Tasmania when touring there, and could be bought at Hobart, Launceston, Devonport or Burnie on landing.

The information given above is also applicable to all the mainland states.

PLANS FOR JULY MEETING:

The council of the society is considering having the July meeting set aside for a description of one or two of the rare books in the collection of the society, illustrated with slides of pictures from them. Being considered are Lycett’s Views in New South Wales and Westmacott’s Sketches in Australia.

MUSEUM REPORT:

The working bee held on a recent occasion was attended by a small number of workers but a great amount of work was done. The site for the blacksmith shop was cleared and the yard area tidied ready for future development.

UNPAID SUBSCRIPTIONS: PLEASE FORWARD:

The Annual Subscriptions, due on 1st January last, is $3.00 plus $1.00 (without Bulletin) for each additional member of the same household.

Life Membership $30.00 (Equivalent to 10 years).

Benefactorship $63.00 (Equivalent to 21 years).

Members who have attained the age of 70 and had ten (10) years membership will be rebated the annual subscription on application to the Hon. Treasurer.

Kindly forward your subscriptions to the Treasurer, Illawarra Historical Society, P.O. Box 1030, Wollongong, N.S.W.

Receipts will be written and left in the receipt book. Members desiring to secure a receipt for their subscriptions may do so by asking the Treasurer for same at any monthly meeting during the currency of the receipt book. They will not be posted.

PORT HACKING RIVER OR HACKING RIVER?

Mr. A. J. Beeney of 16 Oak Street, Normanhurst N.S.W. 2076 wrote, “I have recently purchased a copy of “Railway History in Illawarra” published by your society and in reading this, I have noticed a number of references to the “Port Hacking River”.

“This recalled to me a map of the Sydney area that I purchased from the Department of Lands some years ago on which this particular River was denoted as simple the “Hacking River”.

“Just to satisfy myself as to which title was correct I rang the Lands Department here in Sydney and was advised that the correct name of the river is the “Hacking River”.

“This seems to be a common error as the street directory of Sydney that I possess contains the name “Port Hacking River”.

Yours etc.,
A. J. BEENEY.