LONG TIME WORKERS FOR THE SOCIETY:

As stated in our annual report our valuable members, Edgar Beale and W. G. McDonald were elected honorary life members at the December meeting. Both men have a record of some thirty years of membership, almost all of which have been spent as council members, holding office of one sort or another; of frequently addressing the Society giving the results of depth of researches and of frequently writing articles and books on Australian events.

Edgar Beale:

Edgar Beale joined the Society in 1946 and on joining the council in 1949 served as junior vice president; senior vice president in 1952; junior in 1956 and 57, becoming president in 1958 and 1959, after which he retired gracefully in those days before the Society adopted its two-year rule for the presidency. He remained a councillor for 1964, 65 and again served as president for 1966 and 67, after having served as museum curator and through his work the Society secured its museum which was opened at the end of 1966.

He again became curator in 1968 until 1973 during which time the museum exhibits were acquired and arranged by an active committee which he headed. His suggestion of the construction of the blacksmith shop of the late 19th-early 20th century resulted in that acquisition in 1972 and at the present time a stockman’s hut being restored marks the first building erected in Wollongong. Edgar attended working bees in the operation of the museum.

Edgar produced two notable books: "Kennedy of Cape York" and "Illawarra Sketchbook" and for services to Wollongong University and Australian History was awarded the title of Honorary Doctor by that institution.

To Mr. Beale the Society extends its congratulations and looks forward to many years of further achievements.

W. G. “Bill” McDonald, B.A., LL.B.:

Bill McDonald took up membership of the Society in 1951, becoming a councillor the same year and from 1954 has served an unbroken term as Councillor of the Society whilst occupying many offices as well.

He became senior vice president in 1960 and, after the two-year rule was introduced in 1962 became president for 1962 and 64 and again for 1968 and 69. At the close of his first presidential term he became secretary of the Society in 1965 and wrote the sesqui-centenary brochure "Earliest Illawarra," a valuable source book recently reprinted. He served as museum curator in 1966. His wide knowledge gained him many awards on the Bob Dyer show and included a world tour which he put to good use in gathering information about Lawrence Hargrave of Stanwell Park which he presented in book form as one of the many publications he has prepared for the Society.

Mr. McDonald has served as bulletin editor for the years 1966 to March 1968 and from May 1973 to February 1978, a period of seven years in all.

The Society looks forward to Mr. McDonald’s continuing work in the historical field and we express to him our congratulations on his many achievements.