NEW MEMBERS

The Society welcomes as new members Mrs. Anne Gray of Woonona, Mrs. B. Chalker of West Wollongong and Mrs. Joan Hurst of Farmborough Heights

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Members are reminded that subscriptions for 1987 were payable by the end of April. The Treasurer would love to hear from any members who have not yet paid for this year. Single membership $12.00; two members of the one household $14.00.

EXCURSIONS

Because of a lower than usual number of bookings the excursion to Sydney on 17th. May had to be cancelled, but in view of the foul weather which prevailed on that day it may have been a blessing in disguise.

In answer to popular demand, the same excursion is being offered again on Sunday 14th. June with the same arrangements as advertised in the May issue: the bus will leave the Crossroads at 8.30 a.m. and travel via Crown, Keira and Flinders streets.

This time, if numbers are low a minibus seating 21 passengers may be used; or for 30 or more we will hire the normal coach. Therefore the first 21 people to book will be assured of a seat! Bookings at June meeting or by phoning Mrs. McCarthy on 29 8225.

TWO-DAY EXCURSION

The Excursion Committee is considering the possibility of a weekend excursion to Raymond Terrace in November and would welcome feedback from members about this proposal.

THE REV. THOMAS KENDALL IN ILLAWARRA

The Rev. Thomas Kendall is important in early Illawarra history. Owning property at Ulladulla and Kiama, he performed many duties as a clergyman throughout Illawarra, and achieved a lasting distinction, in that he was the grandfather of the poet Henry Kendall, and met his death through drowning on a voyage in a small coasting vessel sailing from Ulladulla to Sydney.

It may not often be realized that a lot of most important historical information can be picked up from land title deeds. One just handled relates to property at Kiama, and the deeds (a very large parcel under Old System Title) contains a statement by Kendall’s widow, which could be a genealogist’s bonanza were it not that the details are properly known to experts. However, the details may be of interest to members. An abstract of the Affidavit dated 1st. May 1844 reads:

“Affidavit by said Jane Kendall stating that her maiden name was Jane Quickfall that she was married on or about the 21st. of November 1803 to the Revd Thomas Kendall that such marriage was duly had & solemnized at the Parish Church of Kensington in the Kingdom of England on or about the last mentioned day and that at the time of such a marriage the said Thomas Kendall was a Bachelor that she lived and cohabited with the said Thomas Kendall as his...
wife from the time of her said marriage until the time of his death which happened on or about the month of July 1833 the said Thomas Kendall having been about that time drowned on a coasting voyage from Ulladulla to Sydney that the said Thomas Kendall died intestate that Thomas Surfleet Kendall was the eldest son & heir at law of the said Thomas Kendall deceased being the eldest son of Deponent and said Thomas Kendall deceased and the said T.S. Kendall was born on or about 14th. June 1805 and was baptized on or about the year 1805 at the Episcopal Chapel known as Bentinck Chapel Parish of Paddington in England".

SMITH’S HILL FORTIFICATION

Through the activities of many interested parties, the restoration of the guns of the Smith Street Fortification on Cliff Road, Wollongong is proceeding apace, and it is hoped that gradually the Fort will be restored for its heritage and tourist value. It should never have been filled in and almost obliterated the way it was, and it is worth recalling that this Society fought tooth and nail to prevent it at the time, in the early years after WW2. It is pleasing that at long last this terrible error has been recognized by gradual restoration.

Mr. Steve Dillon, the Heritage Officer of the Environmental Heritage Committee is right at the centre of things, and is anxious to know if any member has any knowledge of any old photographs of the Fort, particularly with the gun crews present. He is, of course, well aware of photographs held in the Local Collection of the City Library, but anyone having any additional information should please contact him (ph. 28 0024) or the president (ph. 29 1188 or 29 2605).

E.B.

THE PORTUGUESE DISCOVERY OF AUSTRALIA

Following upon recent Bulletin notes, a progress report on this fascinating controversy may be helpful, even if the report must be that not a great deal of progress has been made. But the battle of words is a lively one.

There is no need for a full bibliography of articles. Suffice it to say that after one article by W.A.R. Richardson in The Globe (vol. 19, 1983), that writer followed up in 1984 with another (The Great Circle, vol. 6), his broad argument being that the famous Dieppe maps relate not to Australia but to south-eastern Asia. Later in 1984 no less an authority than Professor O.H.K. Spate came in with another article in The Great Circle (vol. 6, No. 2), tellingly entitled “Java-la-Grande: The Great Whodunnit”. And in the interim Brigadier L. Fitzgerald’s book, Java-la-Grande, has gone into a second and revised edition.

Now, in Journal of Australian Studies (No. 19, November 1986), comes another article by an earlier but still belligerent protagonist, J.F. McKiggan; and in the Journal of the R.A.H.S. for the same month there appears yet another. The author, P.L. Coleman, rather ridicules the common process of stringing bits of the maps together in various patterns to form a coastline reconcilable roughly with modern maps; he does this by showing that Port Phillip, as an example, can be twisted around to equate the Gulf of Carpentaria. He concludes with the words: "the question remains open and not proven". Significantly, however, he still