The smaller stones fit for use were present in vast numbers, and consisted for the most part of waterworn pebbles, more or less egg-shaped. They are very variable in size and also in composition; a large number of them had already been tested as to suitability for cores or from which instruments had been manufactured. The rest of the ground was covered with innumerable chips, flakes, cores, together with a fair sprinkling of carefully-worked weapons, as well as others upon which much labour had evidently been expended, and yet through a flaw in the stone, or want of care or skill on the part of the operator, proved to be "wasters."

There is ample evidence that many of the sand dunes were at one time much higher than they are now, and also that in some parts they had been covered with vegetation interspersed with native camping grounds, upon which vast quantities of shells were deposited; in course of time the vegetation was covered by sand drifts, other shell heaps formed at the summit, and the whole again buried. The periods of time required for these various changes must have been very great, and it has required a still greater lapse of time to produce the present condition. The shells, probably owing to the rainfall, have in many instances been dissolved and the constituent lime deposited around the roots and stems of the plants which lived on the surface. Many instances proving the correctness of the views as above related may be seen on the coast at Maroubra and Bondi, but more especially at Cronulla and Bellambi. In other spots the beds of shells are still visible, but in various stages of decay, either having been accumulated more recently or protected by thick layers of black soil and covered with vegetation. The edges of some of the sand cliffs at Cronulla, Maroubra and Bellambi afford many sections illustrative of the above remarks. These cliffs are gradually being denuded by the action of the wind, and constant falls are taking place, leaving the shells and stones either at the foot of a cliff or around the base of some large mound on which vegetation, soil and other shells and stones are still in situ. The sand and soil are then rapidly blown away, leaving the shells and stones scattered about the surface; a gale from one quarter will cover the area, and windy squalls from another will lay it bare.

The above article was submitted by Mr. John Ruffels of Bondi, as a reminder to members of the significance of the area near Bellambi now being developed by Wollongong City Council as The Pioneer Beach Housing Estate.

With the recent discovery of an ancient lake in this area, along with the discovery of one of the last remaining finds of the famous 'Bulli Soil' used on the Sydney cricket ground, as well as the extensive aboriginal midden which graced the sight, it may have been a major blunder that further archaeological research was not undertaken before Council permitted development of the site. It is yet another lost opportunity for the cause of history and heritage in the Gong.

Future generations may not look kindly upon the fake Federation facades now being erected on the site.

Joseph Davis

PETROV IN THIRROUL

Readers of this Bulletin should be well aware by now that anything that ever happened to anyone anywhere has at least some connection with the town of Thirroul. And the Petrov Conspiracy is no exception.
Dr. Michael Bialoguski - Russian born Pole, violinist, conductor manque and part-time ASIO agent - practised medicine for a brief period during the late 1940s in Thirroul. Along with Dr. Francis Crosse he joins the ranks of Thirroul's celebrity medicos.

After Bialoguski moved to Sydney, he became more actively involved with ASIO and was attached to Petrov. He soon came to the view that Petrov, who had a taste for lots of food, strong drink and loose women, might be a subject who could be persuaded to defect.

Bialoguski strung along Petrov and his bacchanalian predilections, in spite of ASIO's niggardliness with expenses, and the rest as they say in the classics is history.

PHILIP DURHAM LORIMER: 'THE ILLAWARRA POET'

Philip D. Lorimer whose verses and songs appeared in a great many provincial newspapers of NSW during the 80s and 90s of last century - and particularly in the papers of the Illawarra and Southern Highlands districts - wrote bloody awful poetry. Despite this, he managed to earn the epithet of 'Bush Poet' and to become a sufficiently pitiable figure for at least two people to make efforts to publish collections of his verse.

The eldest son of Alexander Lorimer, M.D. (garrison assistant surgeon) of the East India Company, he was born at Madras on June 3rd, 1843. He had a sister, two years his elder, called Charlotte and a younger brother named Peter. Philip was educated at the Edinburgh Academy (1854-59) and the editor of his papers, E.A. Petherick, claims he also attended the University of Edinburgh. Mysteriously, the university records (according to Cecil Hadgraft) do not mention him.

Intended for the Army, Philip sailed for Australia in his eighteenth year. He arrived early in 1861. He went first to the New England District, then to Queensland as an overlander taking cattle to the gulf country. There he caught 'Gulf Fever' early in 1866, and soon abandoned all hope of prospering and returned to NSW.

Out of his Queensland stay came the only really memorable couplet he ever penned:

Queensland: thou art a land of pest:
From flies and fleas we ne'er can rest.

In Sydney, Lorimer wrote poems to real or imagined loves, wrote verse for the meetings of the 'Excelsior Loyal Orange Lodge' and managed to lose all the money he's been remitted from England in some "unfortunate" business dealings.

So in the 1880s he set out on his travels in NSW, up down the coast, across the ranges, to diggings, stations, homesteads and townships. He appears to have become especially friendly with the editors of country newspapers for whom he whipped up execrable verse. Most of these editors humoured Lorimer with publication. The Southern Mail at Mittagong, the Advocate at Robertson, the Windsor Gazette, the Liberal at Cootamundra (who dubbed him 'the Illawarra Poet' - presumably not wishing to own him themselves), the Free Press at Bowral and the Illawarra Mercury thus regularly inflicted Lorimer's verse on their readers.

Lorimer appears to have been slightly besotted by what he felt were the musical place names of the Illawarra, but even though he wrote a poem called 'The Bell Bird'