Aborigine named Barrack listed frequently in the blanket returns recently indexed by Peter Doyle and published in Michael Organ’s documentary collection: *Illawarra, and South Coast Aborigines*.

If any readers think they can identify any more local howlers when it comes to place names, we’d be only to happy to publish them. We may even run a competition to find who can come up with the most ridiculous explanation for a particular local place-name. I’ll start the ball rolling with a serious piece on the origins of the place-name ‘Thirroul’ early in the new year.

*Joseph Davis*

**BLACK DIAMOND DISTRICT HERITAGE CENTRE**  
(Bulli Railway Station)

On Saturday, 16 November, I attended the official opening of the Black Diamond District Heritage Centre, located in the old 1887 Bulli Railway Station. The occasion was marked by a colonial ball, with the SRA Brass Band in attendance along with assorted dignitaries.

The Centre is the result of the concerted efforts of a small committee of Bulli residents over the last 2 years - led by Ray Brown, Michael Roberts, Fay Haines and Eric Blain. Their aim was to preserve the buildings on the eastern side of the railway line from threatened destruction and restore them to their original condition. The results are exceptional, and without doubt this is the finest period railway station in Illawarra.

Externally, a traditional mustard and port wine colour scheme has been adopted, with large blue signage circa 1887 and landscaping of the surrounds by Ray Brown of Bulli (an Australian expert on grevilleas). Internally, the building has been stripped back to its original structure - involving the removal of much masonite and built-up coal dust and paint. Once again, a traditional paint scheme similar to the exterior has been applied.

On display within the Heritage Centre are photographs and postcards of the Bulli district, historical paintings by Alan Upton, plus two large exhibition cases (on loan from our own Museum) containing items such as samples of coal, digging tools, and original photographs of the Bulli mine disaster.

A visit to the Centre can be thoroughly recommended. For information contact Michael Roberts on 67 3675.

*Michael Organ*

**THE VARIOUS REMINISCENCES OF ILLAWARRA**

Illawarra is lucky that over the years the local press have published various so-called “reminiscences”. The name “Reminiscences” suggests that these are memories of the events recorded. This name truly fits Alexander Stewart’s *Reminiscences of Illawarra* (1) first published in the *Illawarra Mercury* in 24 parts between 17 April and 18 August 1894 and republished by the Mercury in the 1930’s. He arrived in Australia as a convict in 1828 coming almost immediately to Wellington where he lived, except for a very brief period, till his death in 1895.

However, the same cannot be said of *Old Pioneer’s Reminiscences of Illawarra* published by the same newspaper in the 1920’s. “Old Pioneer” was one Frank Young about whom, until recently, we knew very little. However, now thanks