APRIL MEETING

Thursday 2nd April at 7.30pm, ITSOWEL CENTRE, 21 Stewart St., Wollongong.

Annual General Meeting, to be followed by an address.

Speaker: Mrs Carol Herben

Topic: DO YOU KNOW WHO'S DOWN THERE?

Carol has been researching early burials in Wollongong, particularly those not listed in burial records, or those who were listed but are now somewhere else. She has an amazing fund of interesting information and amusing anecdote illustrating just how unreliable were some of the early records.

MAY MEETING

Thursday 7th May at 7.30pm at the ITSOWEL CENTRE, 21 Stewart St., Wollongong.

Speaker: Mr Michael Tracey

Topic: ARCHAEOLOGY AND SHIPBUILDING: The importance of forest exploitation and wooden shipbuilding in Colonial Australia.

Michael is an archaeologist from Canberra who is planning to investigate the site where the ship Dumaresq was launched at Belmore basin.

REPORT ON DECEMBER MEETING, 1997

Alick Osborne and the Adam Lodge

At the December meeting Frank Osborne delivered his talk on the above title, based on Alick Osborne’s Journal of Occurrences Connected with Emigration, 1836-1837. This journal is located in the Dixson Library, where it is numbered MS 248 and may be accessed on microfilm CY 2294. Frank delivered an abridged version of his original article, the version which is published below. Copies of the more detailed article
have been lodged in two places: in the Local History section of Wollongong City Library and in the Kiama Family History Centre. Each copy is accompanied by other data on the Adam Lodge, such as full details of the families, lists of births and deaths, copies of historical documents, newspaper reports and a map of the route.

Where quotations have been made from the journal they are shown in "italics". Permission to publish these quotations in our Bulletin has been granted by The Dixson Library, State Library of New South Wales, Ref. No. 1889/97 JB

The list of families and the Surgeon’s Report to the Governor are located in the NSW State Archives under reference number COD 394.

REPORT ON FEBRUARY MEETING, 1998
The Dapto Smelter

At our February meeting Dr Glenn Mitchell’s dynamic address on the Old Dapto Smelting Works was very well received by our members and visitors who totalled more than 30, our highest attendance for some time.

Dr Mitchell used as his starting point the Society’s 1950 booklet by Bro O’Malley. Without questioning the facts presented in the book, Dr Mitchell posed some of the questions which arise from a study of these facts, such as “why did the harbour proposal and the smelter finally fail?”

The Illawarra Harbour and Land Corporation and its offshoot The Smelting Company of Australia Limited were intertwined, the long-term success of the smelter depending on development of the port. The Corporation, despite the backing of large sums of British capital, failed miserably in its intention to dredge a channel through Lake Illawarra to a deepwater port at Kanahooka Point, originally planned for the export of coal. As time went on, with very little work being done on constructing the port, the owners of South Coast coal mines became alarmed, not only at the procrastination by the company, but also by the prospect of being dependent on a private company controlling the export of coal. Eventually the Government began the construction of a port at Port Kembla, part of its reason being to provide an industrial area remote from Sydney, but doubtless with support from the coal owners. Dr Mitchell gave interesting insights into the political climate of the day, mentioning the presence of people later famous in politics, such as Edmund Barton who was at the same time a director of the Corporation.