The Australian Society's journal "Labour History" is an important historical journal on a national basis, whereas the local branch's paper "Illawarra Unity" concerns itself more with local topics.

This year, in the long weekend in October, the sixth biennial National Labour History Conference will be held in the Wollongong town hall, October 2-4.

The general theme of the conference will be labour as part of the community. i.e. not only experiences as workers and unionists but also the part played in community activities, such as churches, friendly societies, civic affairs etc.

**The conference will encourage activities in three strands:**
- Traditional academic
- Labour Heritage display
- Art and artists involved with labour.

Following the talk, a lot of the discussion revolved around ways the society members and the museum could co-operate with the cultural strand.

**APRIL: ANNUAL DINNER**

The Society's Annual Dinner, held on Thursday April 8, was a very successful function. Attended by about 30 members and friends, we all enjoyed the good food served by Mario and his people at Barnies on Crown, and judging by the buzz of conversation, it was a great talk fest as well.

Our speaker, Dr Win Ward, delivered in her usual clear manner a scholarly paper on Eliza Hassall, daughter of the Rev Thomas Hassall and Ann Marsden, and so a granddaughter of the Rev Samuel Marsden, known as "the flogging parson." The Rev Thomas Hassall, however, was not of the same mould as his father-in-law: Although he was known as "the galloping parson" he was highly conscientious in his clerical duties as well as a humane magistrate, regarded with great affection by all with whom he came in contact.
Dr Ward outlined the history of the Hassall family who lived at "Denbigh", Cobbity, from 1826 until after the death of Thomas in 1868. She painted a fascinating picture of colonial life in those early years of the colony, and in particular of the life of Eliza (1834-1917) who remained unmarried, devoting her life to family and to active Christian service.

As we have come to expect from Dr Ward, this address was the result of much patient research. We thank her for providing a copy of her paper, which we hope to publish in future issues.

PUBLIC MEETING AT
WESLEYAN/PRESBYTERIAN CEMETERY
Kenny Street/Fox Avenue, Wollongong

The convenors, Carol and John Herben, were pleased to see such a large attendance at the public meeting held at this cemetery on Saturday March 27. Despite threatening weather requiring brief use of umbrellas, a large cross-section of the community was represented, as listed in Carol's letter to the Illawarra Mercury of April 9:

Wollongong City Council, National Trust, Ferguson House (Presbyterian Archives), Berkeley Pioneer Cemetery Restoration Group, Ryde District Historical Society, H Parsons funeral directors, Simpson's Memorials, Illawarra Historical Society, Illawarra Family History Group, and members of the public from Illawarra, Sydney and as far away as Young.

A further meeting at Wollongong City Memorial Gardens at 10am on Saturday April 10 elected officers and formed committees.

NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome a significant number of new members: Ray Markey, John & Hazel Higman, Ken & Tanya Barlow and son Thomas, Christine Anderson, Arthung