

- * Our meeting on 5th September was once again well attended but on this occasion members showed much greater enthusiasm to get down to work and try to achieve at least some of the aims of the Society. Bert Hestelow gave a well-documented address and proved how thorough he and Wilf Fitzpatrick have been in their research into our mining history.
- * We have several copies of the Bergsteiner McInnes & Rigby Pty. Ltd. study of Central Maitland's historic buildings and townscape, commissioned by Maitland City Council, and have been asked to comment on the recommendations made. Copies have been handed to several members for comment and return to the secretary within a week, after which they will be passed on to other members for their comments, and so on until close to the date by which the Council requires their return with our remarks. It will be realised that it will not be possible for every member to have access to a copy within the three weeks from the date of first public exhibition of the study, but we will do our best to cover as many as possible, and others are asked to avail themselves of the public exhibition.
- * The presence of survey pegs in the old Glebe Cemetery was drawn to the Society's attention at the last meeting. After many telephone calls, I have discovered that the cemetery is still owned by the Church of England and is still consecrated; the Town Planner tells me that Council has received no development application nor has it had any preliminary enquiries regarding development in that area; if a subdivision had been approved before 1919, no fresh application to Council would be required UNLESS a road is involved; our local surveyors have no knowledge of a survey; Denis Rowe has the East Maitland burial register for 1829-1854 but thinks Council may have the cemetery records which would show who is buried where; the possibility exists that the Hunter District Water Board is active in the area. I have not yet had time to follow up the last two trails but letters have been written to the Hunter Regional Committee of the National Trust (in time for its annual meeting on 12th September) requesting support for preservation, and to Maitland City Council (with copies to Aldermen Unicomb and Stewart) requesting that Council use its powers under s.448 of the Local Government Act to ensure the preservation and restoration of the cemetery. The Planning Director for the Hunter Region and the Divisional Engineer for the Department of Main Roads have been contacted. Well-informed publicity will follow.
- * From Kathleen Macmillan, a potted history of Bolwarra Public School, with a reminder that the festivities begin on Saturday, 17th September:-

The school was opened in 1852 with an initial enrolment of 61, children of the workers on the Bolwarra Estate. An inspector reported in 1861 that the children were "bashful, think slowly and show little self-reliance". After closure in 1872 due to a decline in enrolment (as access to West Maitland had been improved with the bridging of the Hunter River), an application was made in September 1889 to reopen the school. In 1890, the Minister wrote, "the school is to be conducted as a primary school as well as a farm school. It will be the first of its kind in the Colony". A teacher with a practical knowledge of agriculture was appointed and by 1900 the school had a model farm and was winning prizes with its exhibits in district shows. In 1908, enrolment having increased to 86 due to work on the North Coast railway, a second assistant was appointed; in 1913 his salary was £60 per year. Enrolment declined due to the opening of a private kindergarten in the area and the opening of "Nillo" school in Lorn in 1921. The enrolment in 1955 was 79. A third assistant was appointed in 1957, and in 1959 the old building and residence were demolished and replaced with wooden rooms. With the opening of the Bolwarra Heights housing development, the school con-

September 1977

* Thanks to the work of Lyn Bellamy and her father, Harry Cavanagh, we now have a telephone pyramid, which will ensure that all members can be contacted quickly and cheaply. With this bulletin, most members will find a card with one name on one side and three on the other. If your name is the solitary one, the three on the other side are the members you have been deputed to ring in an emergency. If you find no card, it means either that you are presently on the end of the line, or that your membership is recent and you have not yet been added to the pyramid - not to worry, you will be looked after.

* Notice is hereby given that Aub Barr will move at our next meeting that clause 6(g) of the CONSTITUTION be amended by deleting the words "who shall be a qualified accountant but", so that the clause shall read:-

6(g) An auditor (who shall not be a member of the Committee) shall be elected annually.

* Our next meeting will be on 10th October, not on 3rd, as this is the Monday of the long weekend. It will be held in East Maitland Public School, at the corner of Newcastle Road and William Street, at 8 p.m. Parking space is abundant in William Street, and the room in which we meet is on the ground floor.

Audrey Tonkin has a copy of the diary kept by her ancestor, Charles Boydell, which is now in the Mitchell Library, and will read excerpts to us at the October meeting.

I shall read some recollections of Mr. Wally Graham (aged 81) of Largs, who spent all his working life at McGovern & Ribee, tailors and mercers, in High Street, Maitland. I spent two hours with him today (13th Sept.) and took down in a combination of shorthand and longhand his memories of his first job, cleaning the windows and polishing the brass strips surrounding the windows and the name of the firm in brass underneath them; of the 20 girls who made the vests and trousers and the 12 coat hands who "made on the knee"; of late shopping nights on Fridays, when thousands thronged High Street and the gas lamps were lit; of Sam Turner (after whom Turner Park was named), whose wife was a lovely woman (Sam was quite a character!); of the shops and their owners on the south side of High Street between Church and Elgin Streets, and the dashing Dr. King with his rubber-tyred sulky, varnished yellow; and much more.

It didn't take long, it was neither difficult nor painful, AND IT'S NOW WRITTEN DOWN. Let's see how much more we can get down on paper or on tape.

June Vile

Bulletin Editor