

## FIRST ROAD FROM WOLLONGONG TO BULLI.

The Bulli Parish Road was laid out by Surveyor Mitchell after the visit to Wollongong of Governor Bourke in 1834, from the intersection of Keira Street and Smith Street, "where it went down to the hospital". A gang of convicts made the road as far northwards as Para Creek and after that it was only a bridle track to Bulli until 1846, when Fairy Meadow settlers held a meeting to elect trustees under the Parish Roads Act so that the road could be formed. The trustees elected were Captain Plunkett, who had a farm at Plunkett's Hill, near where MacCabe had his property at Russell Vale later, and Dr. Cox who had a farm adjoining Plunkett's on the south, and Anderson who had a farm at Fairy Meadow. Mitchell had laid out the road along the edge of the surveyed land which took it over hill and dale with some very steep pinches. There was much unsuccessful opposition including that of Westmacott, of Bulli, who wished the road to keep to the flats on the seaward side of the ridges. Plunkett and Cox succeeded in having the road made past their properties to avoid making by-roads for themselves. Northwards from Plunkett's Hill the road bent seawards around the top of each hill — Cawley's Hill and Charlesworth's Hill — for the making of which pieces of land were cut from that of Cawley, Farraher and Collaery for the passage of the road, which ended at Fry's store near where Gray Street met the main road. When the road was made it was not metalled, the dirt from the watertables being thrown into the middle of the road. Plunkett's and Cox's Hills were very steep at first and vehicles had great difficulty in getting over them until they were cut down at some expense. The first rate was struck by trustees in 1846 at 4d per acre on all land lying within three miles of the road. Alexander Stewart was rate collector. All creeks were forded and there were no bridges until the road was taken over by the North Illawarra Council later, when the tollbar was established at the municipal boundary to secure a road contribution from those living north of the rated area.

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