

## JUNE MEETING:

At the June meeting Mr. K. M. Marshall (Councillor), spoke to an attendance of 39 on "The Ups and Downs of the early Roads to Wollongong," and dealt in chronological order with the period from 1815 when Dr. Charles Throsby cut the first track from Appin to Wollongong, until the coming of the Railway in 1887-1888. The following is a condensation of parts of the address which he has kindly prepared:

Surveyor-General Oxley with Surveyor Meehan came down to Illawarra in 1816 to survey the first land grants in the district.

The next road to be discovered was in 1821 when Mr. Cornelius O'Brien found a track up Mt. Nebo and across to Appin by way of Jordan's Pass on the Cataract River. Governor Macquarie used this road on his return from a visit to the Illawarra district in 1822.

In April, 1834, the Governor (Major General Sir Richard Bourke), visited the Illawarra with a view to ascertaining "how the district could be best opened by roads and its communication with the Sydney market improved". This was his explanation of the purpose of his visit, given when a Petition was presented to him asking for roads and safe harbours in the district. Surveyor General Mitchell who accompanied the Governor, set about carrying out his instructions, and as a result, the survey of the township of Wollongong was completed by Mitchell later in the year, and Mt. Keira Road marked out. The road was later formed by convict labour in 1835-1836.

The next route to be discovered was by Captain Robert Marsh Westmacott in 1844 up the Bulli Mountain. This was at first called Westmacott's Pass, and is now known as Bulli Pass.

In 1847 Ben. Rixon and Thomas McEvoy both discovered new roads and they were used for some years.

In 1843 Mitchell laid out a road from Bottle and Glass Head on the George's River to Bulli. In 1864 a new line was surveyed from Tom Ugly's Point to Stanwell Park. In 1870 it was stated that the road was progressing as fast as circumstances would permit. In 1878 a road was constructed around the cliff face from Clifton to Coalcliff and Stanwell Park. It ascended Bald Hill.

A coach road from the top of Bulli Pass through Sherbrooke was in use in the 1880's.

The talk was illustrated by a map of the roads, and slides showing the remains of the old tracks.

We are indebted to our President for slides showing the Bulli Pass from 1890 to the present time.

In response to a question asked by a member at the conclusion of the address, the following information is given by Mr. Marshall.

The first time that the name of "Wollongong" is known to have been used is in 1826. It is of aboriginal origin, and various writers give different meanings to the name.

One meaning is that the name of Wollongong — with the accent on the second syllable — refers to the sound of the surging waves on the rocks.

Another meaning is that it is said to be an expression of fear used by the natives when they first saw a ship in full sail.