THE WOLLONGONG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH TOKEN,
By J. CLYDE SMITH.

I must acknowledge here that Mr. R. M. Greig, of the Numismatic Society of South Australia first stirred my interest in this token by his listing of it in the A.N.J. of April, 1960, and later by correspondence.

A friend of mine then ascertained through the Rev. T. C. Knibb that the Wollongong Church held two specimens and by his permission we have at least photographs of the tokens.

Little is known of their distribution yet — today Communion Cards have taken the place of tokens.

However, it is of interest that the beginnings of the Kirk in Wollongong were almost contemporaneous with those of the town itself, the first Minister, the Rev. John Tait, being appointed in 1837. By August, 1839, the Church, said to be the first permanent church building in the Illawarra District, was erected on a half acre block of land in Crown Street. In 1843 the porch and tower were added and the church was a prominent feature of Wollongong until the erection of the present larger church in 1938. The old church was demolished in 1937 and Woolworth’s (Church Street) now stands on its site.

"TEST" CRICKET, 1868!

"The Sydney Mail" of May 2, 1868, clipped a report from "The Illawarra Express" (long since defunct) of a match played presumably at Dapto on the previous Saturday between the Dapto and Albion Park Clubs.

Dapto batted first (only 10 men) and scored 75, including 23 sundries. Crowley 5 wickets!

In reply Albion Park (batting only 9) scored 5, which included 2 sundries. There were 7 "ducks"! Brown 5 wickets. Their second effort proved more successful, although not good enough to prevent the inning’s defeat, in that they reached 50, including 12 sundries.

Brown was again on the job, taking 3 wickets. Unfortunately the detailed bowling figures were not given.

Perhaps if cows had to be milked today at the end of play by Test cricketers it would be a spur for brighter cricket.

In this regard we would draw your attention to the interesting series of reminiscent articles appearing in the "SOUTH COAST TIMES" by Councillor Bill Mintorn on the game which he has loved for a lifetime.

"HAPPY FAMILIES"

"The Sydney Mail" of November 28, 1868, also had an item from "The Kiama Pilot" (likewise defunct) to the effect that a marriage recently took place in the district between a widow and a widower — one having a family of 9, the other 8, total 17.

The editor’s comment was, "Not a bad commencement"!

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