

THE WOLLONGONG CENTENARY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT MEDALLION — **by A. P. FLEMING (Member):**

The settlement of Wollongong commenced in 1815 with the erection of a stockyard and hut by Dr. Charles Throsby, but it was not until 1826 that the name Wollongong was first officially used.

The township was laid out in 1834 and an Illawarra District Council was formed in 1843. This scheme of Local Government failed and the Council existed practically in name only.

In 1858 the Municipalities Act was passed, by which townspeople could petition for incorporation of their towns as Municipalities, possessing far greater powers than the old district Councils.

The response in Wollongong was immediate and no sooner was the Act passed than Wollongong had its first meeting, the petition was signed and lodged, notice was advertised, the incorporation effected and the first meeting of council held on March 29, 1859 (election date).

Wollongong was created a Municipality, a very close second only to Randwick, and the first outside Sydney.

The medallion commemorating the centenary was issued in 1959 to all school children in the district. 30,000 were struck, all of which, excepting 1,000, going to the children, the remainder were distributed to Clubs, Societies and other interested persons. The makers were the well-known firm of Amor Pty. Ltd., and it is understood at an approximate cost of £700.

Made of aluminium, it is 29 mm. in diameter ($1\frac{1}{8}$ "), ringed and issued with a red, white and blue ribbon; it shows on the obverse the legend "The City of Greater Wollongong" surrounding the coat of arms of the city above the motto "Urbs inter Mare Montemque".

The reverse has the inscription "Wollongong Municipality. Inc. 23rd Feb. 1859" around a central inscription in four lines, "Local Government Centenary 1959".

The Centenary was celebrated by a programme of events between February 22nd and 15th March, 1959.

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