BERKELEY CEMETERY RESTORATION

For a number of years I have been looking at ways and means of restoring and getting the City Council interested in the taking over of historical Berkeley Cemetery at Unanderra. I was more interested than ever when Wollongong, Shellharbour and Kiama Councils acted jointly to set up an Environmental Heritage Committee of which I am privileged to be a member.

After several years of effort, success is finally being achieved through the actions of the Wollongong City Council. The unsatisfactory former access from Berkeley Road is being replaced by a shorter and more satisfactory access from the new Investigator Drive. The Council also has a firm of consultants looking at the possibility of upgrading the surrounding light industrial district, including the cemetery and the recently-filled former garbage dump.

The Council has decided to take over the cemetery, along with that area of ground between the cemetery and Investigator Drive (which includes the new access road) to form an historic park. Also, Council is to construct tennis courts and other sporting amenities on the waste disposal area just recently filled.

It is fitting that the Council, following the sesqui-centenary of Wollongong, should honour some of the very notable pioneer families of the district. One of the most notable of these was the Jenkins family, for Robert Jenkins was one of the first five land grantees in Illawarra in 1816. He was granted 1,000 acres which he called Berkeley. This cemetery began as the burial ground for the Jenkins family, ten members of which are buried there. The Environmental Heritage Committee is looking at ways of restoring the graves of this family.

I would like to say a word of thanks to Council officers for helping to bring about this restoration programme, particularly our Lord Mayor Frank Arkell, City Engineer Ken Reilly, Health Surveyor Jan Waples and Heritage Officer Steve Dillon.

Jack Maynes

EXCURSIONS

1. BERRY, Sunday, 15th. September
   Members are reminded that the coach will leave Bourke Street at 8.30 a.m. Full details were published in the August Bulletin.

2. MILTON/ULLADULLA, 2nd. - 3rd. November
   Detailed arrangements are available but are being held until the October Bulletin to avoid confusion with the Berry excursion.