

CORMISTON

Cormiston, 43 Smith Street, Wollongong, is thought to have been built by the Rev. T. C. Ewing, Church of England rector at Wollongong from 1857 to 1892. W. S. Musgrave, in his "St. Michael's, Wollongong, 1859-1959", states that prior to the building of the rectory in 1894 "the rector had lived in a house in Smith Street, now known as 'Cormiston'."

It does not appear on a map of the town of Wollongong c.1855-7, but is in Von Guerard's view of Wollongong in December 1859. A notice in the *Illawarra Mercury* 14.7.59 advertised a cottage "lately occupied by the Rev. T. C. Ewing" as "to be sold or let". This suggests that by this time he had moved to "Cormiston".

T. C. Ewing was succeeded in 1892 by the Rev. F. R. Elder, and the present rectory was built in 1894. Apparently Mr. Elder did not live in "Cormiston", because on 9 March 1892 the *Wollongong Argus* included an advertisement by Dr. S. Fielder, whose residence was "Cormiston", Smith Street, Wollongong, the late residence of the Rev. T. C. Ewing. This advertisement appeared regularly for some time, and on 16 September, 1893 was joined by one for Dr. John Kerr, who could be consulted at Dr. Fielder's residence, "Cormiston".

On 14 October 1893, a public notice was signed by Sidney Fielder authorising W. H. Rees to collect all accounts due to him, and after 21 October his regular advertisement disappeared. Dr. Kerr's advertisement continued in the same form until the end of December, but in the issue of 3 January 1894 he "may be consulted at Dr. Fielder's late residence, 'Cormiston'."

[Dr. H. Lee, in his *recollection of early medical practice in Illawarra* (read to the Illawarra Historical Society in 1949) stated that after about ten years in Wollongong Dr. Fielder sold his practice to Dr. Kerr and moved to Gosford. Dr. Kerr practiced for some years in the same house and then moved to Wye Lodge.]

The Council's assessment rolls show that Dr. Kerr occupied "Cormiston" until about 1900. The roll for 1898-9 shows him still there, and the next we have - 1901-2 - gives the occupant's name as W. S. Weeden. In the following year's roll the name has been altered from W. S. Weeden to Stephen Henry Weeden. The owner was still the T. C. Ewing Estate. From 1903-4 to 1906-7 the occupier was Harold Arthur Bloomfield, and the owner was John Australia Mayo. No later assessment rolls are available. Mayo was still the owner when the house was sold to Ashton Marshall in 1920. (Or was possibly again the owner - notices in the *Illawarra Mercury* October-December 1911 say that "Cormiston" was to be auctioned on 13 December 1911. Bloomfield had moved elsewhere by that time. A report of a meeting of the Wollongong Council [*Illawarra Mercury* 19 December 1911] refers to the rejection of an application by H. A. Bloomfield to erect stables at his residence, owing to the proximity of the proposed structure to Campbell Street.)

[John Australia Mayo, an auctioneer, was an alderman from 1917 to 1922, and Mayor 1918-19 and 1919-20.]

- M. McDonald. 1973