

A LAST WORD ON PUCKEY'S SALT WORKS!

"I am writing to inform you that one of your members, my brother, E. A. Staff, of 62 Smith Street, Wollongong, died from cancer in October last year. For the last year of his life he was very ill and so probably not attending meetings.

Out of curiosity, I read your bulletin. I remember Mr Puckey in his chemist's shop in crown Street, near the Methodist Church (I think). He still had the large (2'?) bottles in the front of his shop. One filled with blue liquid, one filled with red. This was in the 1920's, and possibly early 1930's. I was always under the impression that the salt water plant was for the extraction of fresh water, rather than the making of salt. This was the plant on the north side of Fairy Creek.

I can remember my mother talking about swimming in the baths under Flagstaff Point - this would have been in the 1890's - she generally called them the Chain Baths. But by this time the Continental Baths were probably built, so that the baths were soon left to the nuns who lived nearby".

(Reprinted from a letter to the Society from Margaret McDonald of Port Macquarie)