

## **CORRIGENDA & ADDENDA TO THE GREATER WOLLONGONG HERITAGE STUDY**

I was recently researching a number of Wollongong Buildings for a new publication and decided to consult the Greater Wollongong Heritage Study, a collection of nicely bound red volumes in the Wollongong city Local Studies Library.

I have used these documents before, when they were in what was then described as a 'draft' stage. On a cursory glance I then noted a small number of errors and omissions but, being incredibly busy, I ignored them and hoped that *Michael Organ and Mick Roberts* would go to the trouble of removing the more obvious errors for the consultants. I was surprised, then, to read the entry on St Michael's Church of England in Market Street Wollongong in the current volumes.

This is hardly an obscure Wollongong Heritage Item. But under 'Inventory Number B77 - C' in the rather difficult to follow organization of the Study is found the following 'Statement' which, in part, reads: "excellent example fo (sic) John Horbury Hunt's early Australian work in more conventional Gothic Style than his later work."

Well, sad to say, the reason it's not much like Hunt's later work is that, as most readers would know, St Michael's is a rather nice Edmund Blackett design. Horbury Hunt, of course is responsible for the magnificent Osborne Memorial Church at Dapto - his only Illawarra commission.

This error worried me, so I checked our own Historical Society Museum's listing at 'Inventory Number: B88 - C'. This one is ok but I was disappointed that the dating was only "Circa 1880" and that the "Comments" suggested: "Possibly 2nd storey addition to earlier single storey Post Office building."

It only took a few minutes work at the Local Studies Library Catalogue to determine that it is *definitely* a second storey addition. The first storey was constructed in 1879 and the upper storey in 1882.

The newer post office in Crown Street - "Inventory Number B32 - C" is also poorly dated in the Study. The study suggests "c.1882" when the building was completed ten years later, in 1892.

So in order to keep me off the streets I've made a resolution that in each Bulletin (for as long as it takes) I'll present at least three corrigenda and addenda to the Heritage Study. If readers would like to assist in this process it would be most appreciated. Just ask for the Heritage Study at the Local Studies Library in Burelli Street and go for your life. It's a great way to familiarise yourself with the fabulous resources in the WCC Local Collection. I'll ask the Librarians if they can somehow record or catalogue the corrigenda and addenda so that mistakes are not perpetuated. I think it's important work but I do

think Council should have been willing to pay for a more thorough Heritage Study in the first place. If my very limited experience of the arcane world of consultants' reports is anything to go by, you seem to only get as thorough a report as you're willing to pay for and, if memory serves me correctly, the Greater Wollongong Heritage Study only eventuated because of a measly \$10,000 grant!

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