

SIX ITEMS OF COASTAL HERITAGE UNDER ATTACK AT ONCE

If anyone was under the delusion that things were getting better on the heritage front in Wollongong, then surely the present situation should cause some to think again. At the moment the following buildings/sites are under grave threat.

1) The Steam Packet Inn, Shellharbour. A Coaching Inn dating from about 1857. Shellharbour Council has resolved to demolish it despite the advice of Council Officers (they don't appear to have a Heritage Officer anymore). A certain Councillor Hockey convinced his colleagues that it should be demolished because he spoke to a few long-term residents and they said the building in question wasn't the Steam-Packet Inn. My they have long memories!

2) Lake Illawarra. The Lake Illawarra Authority (a body charged with care of the Lake) wants to turn part of it into a sand mine in order to raise funds to fix up the rest of the waterway and then restore the section damaged by sand-mining.

3) PORT KEMBLA POOL & PAVILIONS. This lovely 1937 complex is threatened with a \$2 million dollar redevelopment. I will include a full-scale article on this complex with photos of the beauty of this site in the next Bulletin.

4) Brighton Lawn. A new Kiosk is proposed for this site - the birthplace of Wollongong appears to be in need of a new Kiosk so that a residential development across the road doesn't have the chimney of the present Kiosk spewing fumes on to the balconies of potential residents of the multi-storey development.

5) North Beach Pavilion. This wondrous beachside structure, designed by a local only needs the addition of some new shower nozzles and the addition of a few toilets to make it as useful to future generations as it has been to those of the past. I would be horrified to see it 'renovated' in any other way at all.

6) Headlands Hotel, Austinmer. A fine example of low-impact beachside development is in danger of being turned over to multi-storey residential use.