

AUCTION OF OLD PUBLIC SCHOOL SITE, 1889

Recently, while searching through microfilm of the Illawarra Mercury, I came across this advertisement in the issue dated 18th July, 1889, advertising these "central building lots in the town of Wollongong."

As the old microfilm does not print as clearly as one would like, I will repeat parts of the advertisement:

"TERMS: 25 per cent. cash deposit, 25 per cent. at six months, 25 per cent. at 12 months, and 25 per cent. at 18 months, respectively, with 6 per cent. interest added."

"Lots 8 to 13 having frontages of 20 feet each to Crown street.

Lots 14 to 17 each having frontages of 33 feet to Kembla street.

Lot 18 — Corner Lot, 67 feet to Kembla Street, by 49ft. 6 in. to Barrella street.

Lot 19 — 49ft. 6in. to Barrella-street.

Lots 20 to 23 — each 33 feet to Barrella-street, with road at rear 20 feet

Lot 24 — 29 feet frontage to Barrella-street.

CENTRAL BUILDING LOTS!
TOWN OF WOLLONGONG!

OLD PUBLIC SCHOOL SITE!

WEDNESDAY, 31st JULY, at 3 o'clock sharp.

TITLE—Parliamentary Title, under the Act 52 Vic. No. 25.

TERMS—25 per cent. cash deposit, 25 per cent. at six months, 25 per cent. at 12 months, and 25 per cent. at 18 months, respectively, with 6 per cent. interest added.

Minister for Public Instruction, in sell by public auction, on the ground, near the Town Hall, the remainder of the Old Public School Site, in Crown-street, Wollongong, subdivided into 17 BUILDING ALLOTMENTS, as follows—

Barrella-street.										
Eastern Property.	19	18								
	33		33		33		33		33	
	17		16		16		16		14	
	14		14		14		14		14	
	14		14		14		14		14	
	14		14		14		14		14	
Road 20 feet wide.										
TOWN HALL.										
13 12 11 10 9 8 1 to 7										
Crown-street.										

Mercury Office.

"The Auctioneer reminds purchasers that the above Building Lots, in the centre and most improving parts of the town, are admirably suited for erection of first-class stores or Business Premises, Dwellings or Sites for Factories or Workshops. There are no better positions for commercial pursuits in any parts of Wollongong, while the liberal terms of

sale favor (sic) the acquisition of these splendid allotments by people of humble means.

“N.B. — On payment of the deposit, purchasers are at liberty to go into possession, and immediately commence building.”

Readers will no doubt notice that lots 14 to 24 now house the Art Gallery and a large portion of the area known as the Civic Plaza. In response to one of the Councillors calling the Civic Plaza a glorified car-park, the Wollongong City Council is working on an application for funding from the Australia Council's Cultural Development Fund, such funds to be used to re-design the Plaza. It was in this context that the advertisement caught my eye.

Frank Osborne