

REPORT ON DECEMBER MEETING

Mrs Carol Herben: Early Cemeteries of Wollongong and more Tales.

It was kind of Mrs Herben to replace at short notice our booked speaker due to ill health. As usual her talk was very informative with slides both on the overhead and 35 mm projectors operated by her husband, John. Carol at first discussed the old cemetery down at the sandbank based on old maps and drawings. The main reason for this was to determine once and for all where Capt Waldron was first buried. Discussing the pro and cons of other sites this gentleman was buried by in many a researcher over the years, Carol pointed out on one of the maps a drawing of a vault. That vault was situated just south outside the Catholic burial ground in an area mainly used by the Church of England and other religions partly on the extension of Burelli Street. Today this part of Burelli Street is covered by WIN Stadium. Most of the listeners were amazed that Capt Waldron could have been buried there as this burial ground was mainly for common people and convicts. He only remained there for about 13 years before he was exhumed and interred in the Episcopalian burial ground in 1847, better known today as Pioneer Park.

From there Carol moved on to say a few words about Pioneer Park which she has been researching in depth. Pioneer Park also holds some surprises. Carol hopes one day to publish a book containing biographies on most of the people buried there. She reckons there are about 500 bodies on the 1 acre plot. To confirm who is buried there is a massive task. Carol has about 230 names of people known to be buried there. She needs at least another 100

names before the task of writing can begin. When this work is completed Carol hopes that a new plaque with all known burials will be manufactured to replace the existing one.

From Pioneer Park to Wollongong General Cemetery is a natural step. Since Carol spoke about the people buried there some 18 months ago she brought us up to date with her progress of indexing and establishing a register. Some of the tales we had heard before, but it was interesting just to hear them again especially this time as Carol had colour slides to show.

All in all Carol's talks are always well researched, of interest and a pleasure to listen to.

J. H.