

## WOLLONGONG LIGHTED WITH GAS

Further to Geoff Brownrigg's instructive and entertaining talk at our annual dinner, it seemed appropriate to give some thought to the history of our own town of Wollongong. Central Wollongong was not lighted with electricity until 1912, and then only by private enterprise to those businesses on the southern side of Crown Street between Church and Keira Streets, [*Illawarra Mercury*, 6th February, 1912]. However it was lighted by gas, again by private enterprise, as early as 1883, and still depended on gas at the time of Australian Federation. The *Illawarra Mercury* of Friday, August 24, 1883, carried a lengthy description of the opening of the Wollongong Gas Works which took place on the previous Monday evening. This topic has been carried over to our next edition. Meanwhile, try this bit of gas:

### The Scrap Album

The "Scrap Album" page of the same paper (*Illawarra Mercury*, August 24, 1883, mentioned that some enterprising fellow had already found a novel use for gas:

"Juanita" writes:-- The new light has been utilised in a way little dreamed of by the Gas Company. A Wollongong clerk -- matchless in more senses than one -- was on Tuesday night seen climbing a lamp post with an agility truly marvellous, and igniting his cigar from the gas light.