

## Report on July Meeting.

**Speaker:** Mrs Carol Herben

**Topic:** Update on Andrew Lysaght Park.

Mrs Herben gratefully stepped in after the booked speaker became unavailable at short notice. Though more of a current topic than a historical one the society nevertheless found it necessary to keep its members informed with present development applications creating a lot of interest amongst the public. Carol explained the early beginnings of the 'Sandhills Cemeteries' which were used from 1833 until 1914 by the Church of England and Roman Catholic Churches. After the last burial in 1914 of Johanna Lysaght the Showground Trust became very interested in the Roman Catholic section which adjoined their land on the corner of Harbour and Crown Streets. From 1916 until 1963 an order was placed on the cemetery for the Preservation of Graves. From 1933 onwards the Wollongong Municipality and later the Council approached the Minister for Land to take over control of the disused cemetery. After 36 years, with a lot of opposition from the Catholic Church, an Act was passed in 1969 which gave the Council control as a trustee of about 2/3rds of the land in question with the explicit order to maintain it as a restpark. Thus Andrew Lysaght Park was created. Everything ran smoothly until the Wollongong Entertainment Centre was to be built in 1995. The problem arose of the unearthing of human remains. A motion was carried at the time to exhume only the ones in the way of the new building. Due to a lack of funds work stopped and was resumed in 1997 on a smaller scale. The present controversies regarding some or all the human remains, and the proposed establishment of a brewery may be settled in Parliament.