

LABOUR HISTORY WALKING TOUR

This recently released booklet, plotted by the Illawarra Branch of the Australian Society for the study of Labour History, is an interesting addition to Wollongong tourism. It is well illustrated with photographs, some in colour, to assist the tourist to appreciate the history of Wollongong.

When this proposal was first planned, a draft copy of the text was put before the Heritage Advisory Committee, at which time I volunteered to correct some of the errors in that draft. No more was heard of the proposal until the book was launched.

To my horror, the picture on the front page, which purports to be the coal staithes at Belmore Basin, bears absolutely no relationship to Wollongong. The acknowledgment says *courtesy of the Lake Macquarie Historical Society*, so maybe it has something to do with that area.

On the back page there is a map of the walk with some of the numbers somewhat carelessly placed. For instance the number for Belmore Basin is in the open harbour, despite the fact it was named correctly on the original map, and people have been known to wander around the convent in search of the Old Court House.

Inside the word *staithes* is repeatedly spelt as *straithes*, and the spindle of the steam crane which once graced the Tee Jetty has been described as *the solitary bollard*.

As it stands, this is a useful tourist directory. With careful proofing it could have been historically correct as well. I am unhappy that my name appears in the acknowledgements when I was not allowed the opportunity of checking the proofs.

Frank Osborne, June 2002