COMING EXHIBITION

The Museum Manager and her staff are organising an exhibition for November celebrating 175 years of Wollongong’s first town plan by Surveyor-General Sir Thomas Livingstone Mitchell. Artefacts and material dating from around that time till late 1800 are being collected for display. The following are snippets dealing with Wollongong and Illawarra taken from the Sydney Gazette before the Illawarra Mercury came into existence. Any errors have not been corrected. A special type face is used to resemble the font used at that time.

WOLLONGONG-in the beginning.
Compiled by Carol Herben
The Sydney Gazette Saturday 24th March 1832.

AWFUL DEATH.
On Monday the 12th instant Lieutenant Sleeman, Commander at Illawarra, left his quarters to hold his monthly court, as resident magistrate of the district, at Kiarnia, leaving a soldier of the 39th regiment, named CROWLEY. Mr Sleeman’s private servant-in charge of the cottage during his absence. On Wednesday the 14th CROWLEY received two gallons of rum, on account of his ration, part of which he disposed of; reserving, however, unfortunately, as much as reduced him to a state of extreme intoxication.

While in that situation, on the evening of Wednesday, about an hour before the return of Lieutenant Sleeman, the unfortunate man ran direct from the cottage to a precipice overhanging the ocean, and about fifty feet above its level, forming the southern Head of Wollongong boat-harbour, from which he was seen by the grass-cutter of the establishment (who was too great a distance off to prevent him) to precipitate himself into the sea. Lieut. Sleeman caused every exertion to be made to find the body, but without effect. The deceased is said to have been a very fine young man, and of a very amiable disposition. No precise reason has yet been assigned for the rash act, although it is surmised that a hopeless attachment for the daughter of a neighbouring settler has occasioned a derangement of his mental faculties. It is a strange and most remarkable circumstance, that the servant of Lieutenant Butler, the predecessor of Lieutenant Sleeman at this station, drowned himself from the same spot, and in the same month, about three years ago!
The Sydney Gazette Saturday 2nd March 1833.

Mr Assistant Surveyor Elliott is at present employed surveying a line of the intended road through the districts of Illawarra, the want of which is very severely felt by the inhabitants of that district generally.

There were never known to be so many prisoners at large in Illawarra as the present, they consist chiefly of men from several road parties who were lent by the government to settlers at the harvest, and made their escape from the constables when they were returning, two were apprehended last week by a settler and his servant on a small farm near Wollongong; they subsist by pilfering vegetables, &c. from the settlers.

The Sydney Gazette Thursday 21st March 1833.

ILLAWARRA
On Sunday morning the 3rd instant, the Rev. Thomas Hassell performed divine service in the Barrack Room at Wollongong, to a numerous congregation of the inhabitants of Illawarra, and there would have been many more assembled on this very interesting occasion had timely notice been given to that effect; the major part of the settlers were absolutely ignorant of the fact, and as this is not the first occasion we have had to complain, we sincerely hope at any rate, that it may be the last. To obviate a recurrence of this kind we would strongly recommend to the two Reverend Gentlemen who have received instructions from the Venerable the Archdeacon to visit us occasionally, that they apprise the resident-Magistrate of their intention, at least one week previously to their arrival, and that the Magistrate would cause a placard to this end to be fixed opposite the Court room, and that the constable (who is not overburdened with business) be sent round to inform the respectable and contiguous people, of the performance of Divine Service on that day; for it is indeed lamentable that one of the few days set apart for this religious ordinance here, should be unattended for want of a knowledge of it. We sincerely hope this useful hint may have the desired effect.

On the evening of the same day, the Rev. Mr. Wilson of the Missionary Society, a nephew of Mrs Allman's commenced service, but was unable to proceed, being very asthmatic. However, he briefly expounded the 18th chapter of Ezekiel, but the weather being unfavourable, and the hour appointed (5 o'clock) late, few persons attended. But we live in hope, that the period is not far distant when we shall be delighted every
Sabbath morn by the pleasing call of the bell known sound of the Church bell, resounding from field to field. The premises formerly occupied by the proprietor, Charles Throsby Smith, Esq. have been rented by the Archdeacon for the purpose of converting the barn into a chapel, and the dwelling for the Chaplain's residence, this eligible situation is in the centre of the Township of Wollongong, and consequently well suited for the purpose. A Clergyman is daily expected from England for this station; till his arrival however, a Mr Layton, Catechist, is to officiate and to be stationed here, but we can't refrain from expressing dislike to these sort of gentlemen as a substitute.

The next point we would complain of, is the very small apartment allotted for the police business, while a large room remains unoccupied in the Military Barrack. There are only three mounted police-men occupying a commodious building, containing three rooms. We would strongly recommend Mr Commissioner Therry to hold the Court of Requests here, being far more convenient for that purpose than the room now used, viz. the clerk's abode which contains only one room.

The settlers here generally complain of the scourger, attached to this establishment, making the punishment awarded to have no effect in checking the insubordinate conduct of their men, who make a boast that "that they would rather have Davy (the scourger) on their back all the day" than they would comply with this order, or be engaged otherwise than just suits their inclination.

Under the late Act of Council the chief district constable is liable to a fine of 40s. if the corporal punishment be not properly carried into effect, but who can prosecute? Who will stand and witness it unless compelled? Then it might be asked, why do the settlers complain when they do not bear witness? The answer is obvious, because, the men return to their respective homes, and make a laughing stock of it.

An alteration has taken place since January last in the post days, which is any thing but advantageous; we know where the fault has originated, whether with the Contractor of the Post office establishment; former days were, to leave this on Thursday and return on Friday; when we used to receive the last Sydney Gazette only 2 days old, containing the latest Acts of Council, Government Orders, &c. The day now used is Wednesday, and return on Thursday; which causes the Gazette of that
day be one week old when it arrives here, which produces vexations and unnecessary delay in this respect. Moreover, any communication of the utmost importance and emergency require by the present working of the post, one fortnight to accomplish with a friend or agent in Sydney.

This might easily be remedied, and we would beg to suggest the propriety of it to Mr Raymond, who we believe is ever anxious to effect all the good he can, in the department to which he belongs. If the Mail was so managed as to arrive here on the Friday evening, and leave this on a Monday morning, it would become a blessing; under the present system 'tis very far from being perfect, saying the very least of it; and therefore causes general dissatisfaction to prevail.

We are aware of the desire of the Principal Post Master, to collect all information on this, ahead from his having written to several gentlemen here upon the subject, which, has perhaps, been the chief cause of our dwelling, on this matter and pointing out a remedy; we certainly hope too, that he may see it in the true light.

The bushrangers still continue very troublesome here; they have lately robbed several industrious individuals, and last night made an attempt to rob a house situated about 20 rod from the residence of a constable, and only a quarter of a mile from the Barrack of the Police, were the military force stationed is far too weak.

The Sydney Gazette 24th June 1834.

We are happy to find that Illawarra, so long neglected in its roads and coast, is at length destined to receive a portion of support from those sums laid aside by the government for the improvement of the country.

The harbour of Wollongong will be rendered navigable, or at least so formed by means of a breakwater, as to enable boats to come up and receive loading for the ships that can anchor at a little distance off. This is one of the numerous advantages that accrue to the colonists from the personal visits of a Governor who, like General Bourke allows no matter of pleasure or convenience to prevent him from seeing what is wanting in every part of the country.
The Sydney Gazette Thursday 20th November, 1834.

AGRICULTURAL REPORT for OCTOBER, 1834
The wheat throughout the district looks remarkably well, and if the weather continues as warm and fine a week or two longer, the reaping hook will be actively in use in a fortnight hence; slight appearance of rust is visible amongst some patches of a few fields, but nothing with their crops generally.

MAIZE-Persons who are planting largely are still busily engaged in that occupations now; that planted at the commencement of the month is up and looks healthy and vigorous; the land, from the late and frequent showers, is in the best possible state for the reception of seed.

POTATOES-This crop looks well.

VINEYARDS-The vines here have made a strong shoots this season, and present a good show of set grapes.

HORSES AND NEAT CATTLE are in good condition, and the milch cows having a plentiful supply of grass and water, furnish the dairy with large quantities of milk.

We understand that Mr George Brown of Illawarra, has the contract for building a new Court-House, lock-up and cells at Wollongong.

Major Mitchell has very much gratified the inhabitants of Illawarra, by already furnishing them with a chart of his new line of road to and through the district. Those who are in the affairs can also view a plan of the intended township of Wollongong at the Police-office there. The design is good, and the site suitable, and the plan neatly executed.

The Sydney Gazette Saturday 6th December 1834.

TOWN OF WOLLONGONG.
NOTICE is hereby given that a site has been now fixed upon for the Town of Wollongong, District of Illawarra; and that a copy of the approved plan may be seen at the Office of the Surveyor General, in Sydney, or of the Police Magistrate on the spot, agreeably to which the ground be forthwith laid out.
The Sydney Gazette Thursday 11th December 1834.

WOLLONGONG- The surveys of this township at Illawarra, having been completed under the personal inspection of the Surveyor-General. Before long, we may expect to see fertile district assuming a degree of agricultural importance, which from the facility of conveying farm produce to market, by the small trading vessels that frequent there, cannot fail of making this part of the colony of the first consideration. A church, court-house, and watch-house will be commenced forthwith, which of course will only be a forerunner of other buildings or other of equal importance. The settlers in this district owe the importance, no doubt, to the personal inspection of the Governor. We like a travelling Governor, it is decidedly the best method of arriving at the real necessities of the colonists.

The Sydney Gazette Thursday 11th January 1838.

EVENING SALE
TOWN OF WOLLONGONG, Illawarra.
Four excellent Building Allotments in the improving Town of Wollongong suitable for newly arrived Emigrants, and unencumbered by the Government Regulations.

TO BE SOLD AT AUCTION.
By Isaac Simmons and Co.,
At the Royal Hotel, THIS EVENING the 11th January, immediately after the Sale of "Waine's Grant" which will commence at 7 o'clock precisely.

The Sydney Gazette Tuesday 12th February, 1839.

Building Allotments for Sale, in the Harbour and Township of Woollongong, Illawarra.
THIRTY ONE ALLOTMENTS, averaging thirty feet frontage, by one hundred and thirty to one hundred and eighty feet back, of which eighteen have frontage to, and are bounded by the Harbour of Wollongong.

The above are well adapted to Mechanics, Boatbuilders, Speculators, and others, being situated in the Town of Wollongong, and forming one side of the basin or harbour, and where the Government is now engaged in
the erection of a Breakwater, and far advanced in the completion and excavation of the dock for the reception and security of Steamers and other vessels trading to and from Illawarra. If not sold privately, the allotments will be disposed of by Public Sale on a future day.

For particulars apply to

A. B. SPARK.

The Sydney Gazette Thursday 26th September 1839.

WOLLONGONG- His Excellency the Governor and Lady Gipps are about to pay a visit to Wollongong to visit the Breakwater at that place. They will take their departure on Saturday next in the Maitland steamer, which has been engaged for the occasion. His Excellency, will be accompanied by the Attorney General and Mrs Plunkett, Captain King, Major Barney and Captain Nicholson.

The Sydney Gazette, Saturday 10th April, 1841.

SALE BY AUCTION

WOLLONGONG.

A Commodious Verandah Cottage and Fifteen Allotments advantageously situated in this rapidly increasing and populous Town,

TO BE SOLD AT AUCTION,

BY MR. SAMUEL LYONS,

At his Mart, George-Street and Charlotte-Place, on Wednesday, 14th inst., at 11 o'Clock precisely.

Mr Lyons has been favoured with instructions from the Proprietor to dispose of his highly valuable Property in 15 Allotments which, to suit the convenience of the Public, will be put up in the following order, commencing with

LOT 1

A frontage of 66 feet to the Market-place, by a depth of 163 feet.

A HANDBSOME SUBSTANTIAL BRICK-BUILT COTTAGE,

About 50 feet in length with Front Verandah of similar extent, is erected, containing 7 rooms, about 10 feet in height finished in the best possible manner, and certainly the best in town. The whole of the front is stuccoed and fitted with French lights. The dimensions of the Drawing Room are 14 feet square-of the Dining Room 18 feet by 14 feet, with 5 Bed Rooms.
The front is enclosed by a neatly painted Sawn Batten Fence, and a pair of Park Gates leading into the Yard, as well as a small gate affording entrance to the House.

There is a detached Weather-board Kitchen 18 feet by 14 feet, loft above divided into two apartments for servants; a slabbed three-stall stable about 20 feet by 14 feet, with Racks, Mangers &c, and other conveniences. An excellent Weather-board Store Room, 14 feet by 8 feet, fitted up with shelves, &c., adjoins the Kitchen, but does not communicate therewith. All the buildings are shingled and the allotment is enclosed by a six-feet paling, and occupies a Quarter of an Acre. The purchaser of this allotment will have the opportunity of taking Two Allotments in the rear fronting Smith-Street, by which its extent will be increased.

HALF AN ACRE
and a double frontage obtained, viz, one in Smith-Street, and one to the Market-Place.
The position of Lot 1 is highly desirable, as it adjoins the POST OFFICE and the store of Mr Elliott. The House fronts to the South, and commands a beautiful view of the PACIFIC OCEAN to the South and South-East, as also of the Five Islands and Five Islands Point, and it must be seen by the above description, has peculiar claims to the notice of the public.

LOTS 2 TO 15 INCLUSIVE,
On LOT 7 there is a good substantial Slab Hut, shingled; and on Lots 6 and 7 a Tank of Fresh Water about 20 feet in diameter, by about 8 feet in depth stands equally. LOT 15 is a corner Allotment having 163 feet to Corrimal-Street, and 32 feet to Smith-Street.
The 14 Allotments occupy about one-eighth of an acre each, and command a fine view of MOUNT KEIRA to the West, and the Harbour to the N.East-from the latter of which they are a distant about three minutes walk, and to which two Steamers, besides several sailing Vessels of from 12 to 73 Tons trade.

There is a Fresh Water Lagoon within 200 yards of the Cottage, which supplies the whole of the Town, having been reserved by the Government for that purpose.
Wollongong is rapidly increasing in extent and population, which may be inferred from the circumstances of the Presbyterian Church being already completed, and the Episcopal Church and Roman Catholic Chapel being in progress.

The richest Land of Illawarra, and for beauty of scenery, and the excellence of its natural production it stands unrivalled.

Upon the climate of Illawarra generally, it is needless to make any comment, as it is so well known to exceed in the equability of its temperature every other part of the Coast. A Range of neat commodious Bathing Houses has by permission of His Excellency the Governor been erected on Gipp's Point, for the accommodation of Ladies, and the Bath which is being formed in a natural Basin, from which Surf will be quite excluded, will be completed within a month.

The distance from Sydney by water does not exceed 43 miles, and the intended Line of Road along the Coast will, it is estimated exceed 33 miles.

**TITLE UNEXCEPTIONABLE.**
Terms highly liberal-will be declared at Sale.
A Plan may be seen at the Auction Mart.

The Sydney Gazette Tuesday 21st June 1842.

**THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.**
Friday June 17, 1842.
Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney 16th June 1842.

**TITLE DEEDS-CHURCH GRANTS.**
The undermentioned Deeds of Land, granted to the United Church of England and Ireland, have been transmitted from this Office to the Registrar of the Supreme Court, to be by him forwarded through the Surveyor General to the Colonial Treasurer, by whom notification of their receipt at his Office will be made to the Grantees by letter, after which they will be delivered on application viz:-
Deeds dated 9th May 1842.

(Part 13) Ditto Ditto, 40 acres as a Glebe attached to the Church of St. Michael the Archangel, Wollongong.

The Sydney Gazette. Thursday 14th April, 1836.

MELANCHOLY SUICIDE.- It is with feelings of regret we are called upon, to record the death of Lieutenant Otway, of the 50th, (Queen's Own) Regiment, Military Superintendent of 2d class convict gang at Illawarra who shot himself on Saturday afternoon the 9th instant. Lieutenant Otway was a zealous accomplished, and highly efficient officer, and his death will be long felt and regretted by his brother officers.

The unhappy tidings reached headquarters Sydney, per this morning's post, 11th instant, in an immediate despatch to the Major of Brigade who started, soon after for Government House Parramatta.

The only assignable reason that can be arrived at for the commission of so awful a deed, was his being that day relieved by Lieutenant Sheaffe (also of the 50th), in the discharge of his duties at the station, called for (we hear), in order to an investigation into some little misunderstanding the deceased and a soldier of his detachment.

The Sydney Gazette. Saturday 11th March, 1837.

WOLLONGONG HOTEL
ALEXANDER ELLIOT,
RETURNS his sincere thanks for the very liberal support he has received since his commencement in Business in this District as Inn keeper, and begs to inform the Inhabitants of Illawarra, and the Public in general, that he has spared neither labour nor expense in fitting up his new Residence the "Wollongong Hotel" for the comfortable accommodation of these Persons who may favour him with a call.

A. E. flatters himself that to Gentlemen, Families, and Others (whom may be desirous of visiting the Fertile and Salubrious part of the Country) they will find the "Wollongong Hotel" not to be exceeded in Comfort and Accommodation by any House in the Colony.
The Sydney Gazette. Saturday 13th November 1830.

Valuable Homesteads, Grazing Lands, Timber, &c., &c.
BY MR BODENHAM,
At Sandwell’s Hotel, in Castlereagh-street, Sydney, on Thursday Evening, the 18th instant at 7 o’Clock precisely, without any reserve, the Property of Mr Tawell, leaving the Colony.

LOT 1-A very desirable arable and grazing Farm at Illawarra, containing a section (640 Acres) of excellent Land, constantly watered, and partly fenced in; a grant of Sir Thomas Brisbane’s to Captain Thompson; bounded by Mr. Spearing, Mr Smith, and a Government Reserve and from being in the vicinity of Boat Harbour, and the Government Station at Woolongong, with the advantage of water carriages, renders this spot to be far beyond the general value of Land at the present period.

The Sydney Gazette. Tuesday 15th December, 1835.

Colonial Secretary’s Office, Sydney. December 7th 1835.
FENCING.
It being intended to fence that part of the new Line of Road at Illawarra which passes through the Land of Mr. Spearing. Persons disposed to undertake this Work, are requested to transmit their Tenders to this Office by Twelve o’Clock on Saturday, the 2nd day of January next, endorsed “Tender for Fencing.”
The Fence to be three rails; the Posts to be sunk two feet in the ground, and not more than two to be pannels in the rod.
By His Excellency’s Command.
ALEXANDER McLEAY.

Sicklist
Our treasurer Leo Chapman is presently in St George Hospital undergoing tests.

Renewing of Society Heritage Subcommittee.
The Board of Management has decided to form a new Heritage Subcommittee. The Board is calling for at least 3 members to join this new committee. Members will be discussing develop applications involving heritage buildings or areas. Meetings will be called when required.