

## Is Wollongong Harbour now Belmore Basin?

A misnomer appearing in many publications such as newspapers, tourist guides, etc. and regularly brought to the attention of the Society by our members and at times the public is to read or hear that Brighton Beach and/or Wollongong Harbour are referred to as **BELMORE BASIN**.

The Empire newspaper of 9<sup>th</sup> October 1868 reported on the naming of the new basin by Lady Belmore and declaring the port open by Lord Belmore, the Governor, as follows:

The Hon. James Byrne, Minister for Works said, "I have much pleasure in congratulating you upon the naming of the basin as "Belmore Basin" which has just been done by Lady Belmore, His Excellency will now declare the port open for general commerce".

The boat harbour of Wollongong underwent improvements under convict labour between 1837-1844 including excavating a small basin that is the entrance to today's large basin.

It was not until the 1860s that work commenced in carving through the rock shelf to extend the loading facilities in the harbour.

The term 'basin', in no way, refers to Brighton Beach or the whole area of the port of Wollongong.

Wollongong still has Wollongong Harbour and only the portion where the fishing trawlers are moored is known as Belmore Basin.

We are afraid that eventually the use of the name "Wollongong Harbour" will disappear altogether from all documentation when writing about our historic little port.