BULLI AND WOONONA IN 1871


“Bulli is a very cosy little place, and boasts of a fine stone Wesleyan Church, in which the Rev. Mr. Fidler officiates; a large wooden public school, a good store and post office, Mr. George Turnbull, storekeeper, postmaster, and a public house kept by a jolly landlord named John Floyd . . . There are a few nice farms at Bulli, including that of Mr. John Watson, chemist of Sydney, and Mr. Smedley’s, formerly in business in Sydney. Mr. Smedley’s farm is a most comfortable one, a short distance from the road, and the scenery is very fine from the verandah. The public school, as I before observed, is a neat wooden structure, with master’s residence attached. Mr. C. H. Spiers is the headmaster, and there were about sixty children in attendance. The children were, without exception, remarkably well dressed and clean. The proficiency exhibited by the pupils in reading, writing, drawing, arithmetic, and singing, I have no hesitation in saying, will make the school compare favourably with any other out of Sydney.

“A short distance further, and Woonona — a small postal village, is reached. It has a Wesleyan and Presbyterian Church, a good store and post office, Mr. H. Fry; a public house, Mr. Edwards; a School of Arts, which is a large wooden building; and last. though not least, a certified denominational school with an attendance of fifty-six pupils, under the charge of Mr. B. F. Levey. The children were tolerably clean, and good discipline was maintained. The proficiency on the whole was very fair, and the headmaster who has only been a few months in charge, is generally acknowledged as a most painstaking teacher. There is in Woonona a benefit society — an excellent institution in a flourishing state; Mr. H. Fry is president. A little above Woonona is another school — a branch of the Roman Catholic Association schools, conducted in a pleasing manner by a young lady (Miss Copas), who rides eight miles every day to and from her home to reach here.”