THE SUBURB OF CONISTON

The Church on the Hill in Bridge St.:

It was originally known as Mount Drummond Church. Mr. Satchell opened the church on the 7th October, 1917, and the Minister in Charge was the Rev. E. W. Duesbury.

The church was also used as a primary day-school, with Mr. Robinson in charge, until 1921.

This church is now known as the Coniston United Church.

Primary School:

This school was built at the southern end of Auburn St. in 1921, and was called the South Wollongong Primary School. The first headmaster was Mr. Robinson. The name of the school has since been changed to Coniston Primary School.

Newbolds Coniston Brickworks:

The brickyard was established in 1925 by a local company who subsequently went broke. Newbolds acquired the property and commenced making refractory bricks there in 1935.

Post Office Store, Auburn St.:

Mr. W. Thomas established this store in 1930 and it was the first grocery business at Coniston.

Coniston Railway Station:

The original railway station was known as Mount Drummond, and it was located to the south of the overhead bridge. The present station was constructed on the northern side of the bridge in 1941.
CONISTON HALL

Near Coniston Railway Station stands a public hall which was built during the early stages of the war. It was known as the N.E.S. Hall (National Emergency Services Hall). The hall was used for lectures and instruction to Air Raid Wardens and others in connection with various organisations during the war.

The hall is now known as The Coniston Hall and is used for various public functions including church services on Sundays.

CITY OF GREATER WOLLONGONG

Coniston was originally part of the Shire of Central Illawarra which extended to the Southern side of Union Street on the Western side of the railway and on the Southern side of Swan Street on the Eastern side of the railway.

In September, 1947, The Municipality of Wollongong, The Shire of Central Illawarra, The Municipality of North Illawarra and The Shire of Bulli were amalgamated and became The City of Greater Wollongong.

MEDICAL MEN

The first medical man to set up practice at Coniston was Dr. Adrian Bedkober, Physician and Surgeon. He built his surgery in lower Bridge Street, east of Coniston railway station, and commenced practice in 1950.

Recently Dr. Frank J. D. Souza, Physician and Surgeon has set up practice along with Dr. Bedkober.

Very recently another doctor has set up practice at Coniston. He is Dr. L. Nordstrom and is located in Simpson Avenue near Coniston Railway Station and a few doors north of The Hotel Coniston.

BUSINESSES

For twenty-five years there were only four shops in the vicinity of Coniston Railway Station. On the western side a newsagent and a butcher, on the eastern side a mixed business and a grocer.

In November, 1965, the inevitable happened, and a modern hotel appeared on a site opposite the western side of Coniston Station. It is the best specimen of architecture in the village. It is named Hotel Coniston, the first and only licensee to date is Mr. N. R. McKinnon, a former Lithgow sportsman.

Since the hotel was built, other businesses have been established in the vicinity, viz: fruit shop, barber, chemist, small goods and a fish shop.

SCOUT HALL

There is another hall at Coniston: It is situated at the southern end of Harold Cox Park and facing South Street. The hall was built by voluntary labour for the First Coniston Boy Scouts.

Prior to the building of The Scout Hall, the scouts used an old shed situated on the Gladstone Sports Oval.

The Coniston Scout Hall was officially opened by Mr. C. F. T. Jackson, the Area Commissioner, on the 19th November, 1955. Mr. J. Greenwood, President, and Mr. A. Jordan, Group Scout Master.

MIGRANT CAMP

The Migrant Camp at Coniston, situated near the Brickworks, is now occupied by The Metropolitan Water, Sewerage and Drainage Board.

Many of the huts which were used by the migrants are still standing on the site.

A. P. FLEMMING, President,

D. B. ELLSON, Hon. Secretary,

B 4142. 57 New Dapto Road, Wollongong.