PICNIC AT WEST DAPTO — FROM "THE ILLAWARRA MERCURY" OF TUESDAY, 5/1/1886:

The usual Christmas Picnic and School Feast in connection with the West Dapto School took place on Wednesday last, when between 300 and 400 people were gathered together at the invitation of the respected teacher, Mr. Alex Campbell, and the parents and friends of the children. After lunch, which was of a kind such as the ladies of Dapto only can provide, foot running was indulged in by the schoolchildren, the other young folk keeping up various games without ceasing, "bachelor in search of a wife" being very popular (as always!) and some of the young gentlemen showed themselves to be masters of the game; while "in pensive mood the seniors stood", and discussed politics, the weather, the beautiful surroundings of the school, and last but not least, the want of an enlargement to the building and the erection of a weather shed.

"The Mercury" of 20/9/1857 carried an advertisement calling for tenders to erect a weather shed and a fence.

A PRICE WAR IN SHIPPING FREIGHTS OF THE 1860's:

The Kiama Independent of 19/9/1867 carried the following advertisement.—

SHELLHARBOUR NAVIGATION COMPANY

SPECIAL NOTICE

GREAT REDUCTION IN FREIGHTS.

The inhabitants of Shellharbour and surrounding districts are hereby informed that the Company's fine and fast sailing centre-board vessel the "Shellharbour Dairymaid" will commence running between Sydney and Shellharbour at GREATLY REDUCED RATES:

- Butter, Kegs over 80 lb. gross .................. 2/0
- Butter, Kegs under 80 lb. gross .................. 1/6
- Pigs, Calves ........................................ 2/6

And all other Produce at Similar Reductions.

The vessel will make her first trip on or about WEDNESDAY, 25/7/67, and then regularly, weather permitting. If well supported a further reduction will be made.

JOSEPH DUNSTER,
Chairman.

Immediately under this advertisement was another signed William Baxter, Proprietor of the "Peterborough Lass", notifying similar prices from 20/7/67 with a note: "This vessel is too well known to need any comment."

Twelve months later (17/9/68) the "Dairymaid" advertised "Pigs, Calves 2/- each — N.B. Another proof of the benefits of co-operation."

The Illawarra Steam Navigation Company Ltd. got into the act with a notice: "Reductions to meet the times — Horses 12/6 each and sixpence each off Pigs and all Kegs of Butter respectively." The I.S.N. made a further reduction in butter of 6d. per keg (26/11/68).

PLEASE REMEMBER THE CHANGED MEETING PLACE, THE MEETING ROOM, NEW TOWN HALL, CROWN STREET, WOLLONGONG.

N. S. KING, W. G. MCDONALD, A. P. FLEMING, President: Hon. Secretary, Hon. Editor.
3 Toxteth Ave., P.O. Box 25, 2-6161 (private)
Austinner, Wollongong, 2-3134 (business)
Thr. 635.