Fleeting dreams and idle fancies! to the gloomy after Age
Creepeth, like an angry shadow, over life’s eventful stage!
Joy is but a mocking phantom, throwing but its glitter brief—
Short-lived as the western sunbeam dying from the cedar leaf.
Here we linger, lonely-hearted, musing over visions fled,
While the sickly twilight withers from the arches overhead.
Semblance of a bliss delusive, are those dull, receding rays;
Semblance of the faint reflection left to us of other days;
Days of vernal hope and gladness, hours when the blossoms sprung
Round the feet of blithesome ramblers by the shores of Wollongong.

The word "Empire" suggests that the above paragraph, which
appeared in the "Mercury" of 19th February, 1861, was lifted from
Henry Parkes’s paper, the "Empire", though one would have thought that
praise from Parkes might have been the kiss of death to an aspiring poet:
Sir ‘Enery’s verses were hardly any better than his cheques, and some,
if he had not been his own editor, would have been rejected from the
In Memoriam column.

It cannot be denied that the poem’s connection with Wollongong
is rather tenuous, and one touch of local colour — "the cone of Keera" —
is straining poetic licence to the limit. One odd feature is the selection of
rhymes for Wollongong: among, sun, strung, young, sprung. Was Wollongong, in Kendall’s day, pronounced “Woollen-gung”?

ILLAWARRA COAL DISCOVERY MEMORIAL

A major step forward has been taken by Wollongong City Council
in the development at Clifton, within view of the Coalcliff site where coal
was first discovered, of the park with concrete paths, trees and fenced
lookout.

The park has been named MORONGA PARK. Our research officer
has been favoured with the following letter from the Town Clerk of
Wollongong, Mr. H. Tolhurst:

Dear Sir,

MORONGA PARK, CLIFTON

With reference to your recent discussion with the Deputy City
Engineer, it is advised that Council resolved that the park on the eastern
side of Lawrence Hargrave Drive opposite Clifton School Parade, on
which the memorial to the discovery of coal has been constructed, be
named "Moronga Park" and this name has been approved by the Geo-
graphical Names Board.

It was considered that this name was most suitable for the park as
"Moronga" is the Aboriginal word for coal.