PLAQUE SITE CORRECTED:

Passing years saw doubt cast upon the plaque site, finally corrected by B. T. Dowd before the Illawarra Historical Society on August 10, 1950, using the science of a surveyor and beginning the move to mark the correct site the stockman’s hut had occupied back in 1816.

Illawarra Historical Society took the lead and, with the support of Wollongong City Council and the Royal Australian Historical Society, the plaque was transferred from its stump to the sandstone base on which it still rests.

The Illawarra Mercury of December 6, 1954, told the story of the transfer and the unveiling on Saturday December 4 at the corner of Smith and Harbour Streets at Wollongong by the Mayor, J. J. Kelly. The newspaper stated that the plaque was originally on the stump at Port Kembla where it was first thought the granting took place. “However,” it continued, “intensive research by the Illawarra Historical Society has proved beyond doubt that the hut stood near where the plaque was unveiled on Saturday.”
Heavy rain caused the ceremony to be brief and to the point. Historical research and method have advanced considerably since the early days of the "Royal" which today has developed techniques to probe more deeply than in its foundation days almost three quarters of a century ago whilst the government itself has released the archives which provide the means by which matters of this nature may be proven once and for all.