A HUNDRED YEARS AGO

RAILWAY PLATFORM AT FAIRY MEADOW

(Illawarra Mercury 25.9.1885)

The I.M. of that date carried a lengthy report of a public meeting held in the Council Chambers at Cabbage Tree, chaired by the Mayor, Mr. K.W. Bate. The following resolution was carried unanimously:

'That this meeting is of opinion that it is desirable for the convenienced of the residence (sic) of the thickly populated localities of Mount Pleasant, Fairy Meadow, Balgownie and surrounding neighbour­hood that a platform should be placed on the Illawarra railway line at a point convenient to all the said localities, and would recommend as a suitable position the site immediately adjoining the municipal road known as Elliott’s Lane, at 46 miles 50 chains, as shown on the railway plans.'

Alternative sites being pressed at the time were Towrodgi Lane (Yes, two o’s) and Bode’s (North Wollongong). Reference was also made to Corrimal: ‘A platform had already been granted for Corrimal, where there were no houses and no people, whilst there was a large number of residents in and around Fairy Meadow’.

OLD PUBLIC SCHOOL SITE

The Illawarra Mercury of 29th September 1885, carried a lengthy report of a public meeting held in the Wollongong Council Chamber on 25th September. The Mayor, W. J. Wiseman, presiding, outlined the purpose of the meeting, which concerned the former site of the Public School at the S. E. corner of Crown and Kembla Streets:

‘So far as he could learn, Government had no claim upon the land in question. It had been dedicated many years ago as a public cemetery, and the Council’s solicitor, who had means of ascertaining the truth, informed him that the land had never been revoked, so that as a matter of course it still belonged to the people of the town and district. The site not being used as a cemetery, Government, when about establishing a National school in Wollongong, took possession of the land, and held it from that day to this, and now intended to sell it in building blocks.’

‘The meeting was to protest against the people being robbed of their rights, as it were, and he hoped they would be able to bring sufficient influence to bear upon Government as to cause them to alter their intention about selling the old school site.’

Alderman Parsons moved ‘that the townspeople of Wollongong, in public meeting assembled, disapprove of the intention of the