

THE FIRST SHOW SOCIETY

Referring to the item, "When Did Wollongong Show Society Start?" in the July Bulletin, Mr. Michael Organ has produced a transcript, from the original in the Mitchell Library, of the minute book 1844-56 of the Illawarra Agricultural and Horticultural Society.

It appears that the inaugural meeting took place at the New School House, Wollongong, on 13th. February 1844, "to take into consideration whether it would not be advantageous for the general interests of the District to establish an Agricultural and Horticultural Society . . . It was unanimously agreed that such a Society should be forthwith formed".

"The District" is not defined, but the first Committee included Henry Osborne (President) of Marshall Mount, Captain Westmacott (Austinmer), Michael Hindmarsh (Gerringong) and Robert Menzies (Jamberoo), which suggests that it was in reality, as well as in name, an Illawarra rather than a Wollongong Society.

The first show day was "unanimously appointed to be held at Wollongong the third Thursday in January 1845"; but the Ploughing Match was to take place "in Mr. Brown's field at Dapto", and no provision was made for the location of subsequent shows.

Incidentally, there were six classes for bullock teams, and only one for horse teams.