Deja vu

THE FIGHT FOR THE WOLLONGONG PUBLIC SCHOOL SITE

The following article appeared in The Town and Country Journal of 3 October, 1885:

Wollongong

Old Public School Site. - An effort is being made by the leading residents to induce Government to hand over to the borough council the old public school site in Crown-street.

About 18 months ago the school business was removed to the new building in Smith-street, where Government purchased a site in a more central position. From that time to the present the borough council have been the whole of it, a portion. So far their requests have been refused, including, as they did, two offers to purchase a portion of the site, at £6 and £10 a foot respectively. Finding their efforts unavailing, the council convened a public meeting of the ratepayers to protest against the land being sold by Government. The matter was taken up warmly.

The site was originally dedicated as a cemetery about half a century ago, and many ratepayers argue that the department have no claim to the land, its dedication as a cemetery never having been revoked. The mayor (Mr. Wiseman) has placed himself in communication with Sir Alexander Stuart and several other members of Parliament, urging them to do their utmost to endeavour to have the site declared a reserve for recreation or park purposes.

The present call by Dr. Mitchell and others for the Town Hall and old Administration Centre site to remain in public ownership - and not be sold for private development - therefore has some historic precedence. If, in 1990, we were to suggest that the site be converted into a park - as the ratepayers of 1885 did - the howls from the money men in City Hall would be deafening.

REMINSCENCES OF FORTY TWO YEARS RESIDENCE
IN ILLAWARRA

by

Charles Throsby Smith

(With Notes by Michael Organ)

(Continued from June Bulletin)

In the year 1823, the County of Cumberland was again suffering from the effects of a prolonged drought, and this induced some settlers from the neighborhood of Appin to come into Illawarra. About this time Mr. Hamilton Hume, the Mungo Park of Australia, had sawyers cutting cedar on the side of the mountain between Wollongong and Bulli, and the cedar cut there was the first that was cut in the Colony (22). It was cut into boards, carried up to the top of the mountain, and carted thence to Parramatta. The sawyers of those days were truly an unruly