AN EXTRAORDINARY PIECE OF EPHEMERA

This little blue entrance ticket recently surfaced in a Sydney junk shop just two weeks before the 110th anniversary of the Bulli Disaster. It's in mint condition and clearly shows how far-reaching was the impact of what was then the greatest land disaster in Australia. It is also very touching to think that the good citizens of Port Adelaide (many of whom were probably sailors in colliers shipping Bulli coal) were willing to make a significant financial contribution to the grieving families - which is a bit more than the mongrel Government and coal owners of the time were willing to do.

CIRCULAR QUAY AND WOLLONGONG’S OSBORNE ARCHITECTURE

One of the delights for me of Frank Osborne’s article in last month’s Bulletin was that it put names to particular structures in Wollongong. I had not realised that so many Osbornes were involved in the building game. One comment of Frank’s, however, I can’t let pass. After mentioning that George Osborne erected the first School of Arts building in Smith Street where the Surf Lifesaving HQ is now, Frank goes on to remark that as a builder he left one significant mark in Wollongong: he was the builder of Wesley Church, the last surviving building of note in Crown Street.

Architectural taste is subjective, of course, but I must insist that the original School of Arts building still standing in Smith Street is surely George Osborne’s greatest architectural legacy to Wollongong. It is a remarkable 1861 structure and after its recent paint job real-