get out to sea, a couple of warps were passed from the Woniora to the Tiger, with the intention of towing her away, and they were on the point of starting, when the Corio, which was also in a dangerous position, got up steam and made for sea; a heavy roller, however, struck her, and she was for a while in danger of going ashore, but an anchor was let go, which brought her head to seaward and she steamed out. Her position, however, was such as to necessitate her passing between the Woniora and Tiger, and in doing so the warps by which they were attached gave way, as also those by which the Tiger was fastened to the buoy, and the consequence was that she immediately drifted ashore. When it was found that there was no hope of saving the vessel, a boat was launched, and five hands got into her, leaving only the captain on board, who intended to let go an anchor. The boat, however, soon capsized, and three of the five persons in her were drowned... The Tiger was a very old vessel and uninsured. She was 76 tons burden, and was the property of Mr. James Shoobert of Sydney..." ("Illawarra Mercury," 13/7/1866).


"Coal Cliff is the northern boundary of Illawarra... After many obstacles, courageously encountered and overcome, a coal mine has been lately opened there, and is proving an excellent speculation. This happens to be the nearest mine to Sydney by more than 20 miles... The distance in a straight line, from the South Head to the Promontory, is only about 34 miles — a short distance for an article of indispensable household consumption. This valuable cliff originally belonged to Sir Thomas Mitchell, and afterwards to his son, Captain Mitchell. The latter gentleman opened out the coal in several places, but having failed to persuade any others to share the responsibility of the enterprise, and fearing the great expense which would probably be incurred in providing shipping facilities, he gave up the undertaking and, eventually, disposed of his interest in the cliff. The property having subsequently come into the possession of the Hon. Alexander Stuart, who is understood to be the principal proprietor in the present company, the work was resumed in earnest, and the result justified the venture..."

THIRROUL FIRST CALLED ROBBINSVILLE OR NEWTOWN
(From "Town and Country Journal" 2/8/1879).

"... A little to the north of Bulli, a village has lately sprung up, to which the name of Robbinsville has been given, in compliment to a large proprietor, but it is also generally known as Newtown. As yet, it has not had a very prosperous career, in consequence of the failure of an attempt to open mines in the vicinity; but the place will come to the front again, when the work is resumed under better auspices, as it is certain to be before very long. A short distance south of this village is a public school, which cannot fail to attract the eye of the tourist from its strikingly romantic situation. In the rear, and at a distance of only a few chains the colossal mountain overhangs, steep and dark with its dense vegetation; while right in front of the school, and with only a too narrow highway intervening, is the interminable ocean laving the beach on one hand, and breaking in white foam against a promontory on the other. So close, indeed is the proximity that in wild weather the spray from the waves is projected to the roof of the school... The teacher, Miss Mackenzie, is to be complimented on her excellent 'situation' and she may well be happy in her 'cottage by the sea'. Nearly opposite this enchanting spot, only a little further to the south, is the famous Bulli Pass..."
Early Coalcliff (Town and Country 2/8/1879)

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Cornelius O’Brien.

Cornelius O’Brien, who became a Justice of the Peace and a Magistrate of the Illawarra territory, emigrated from Ireland as a youth, at the time when Ireland was aflame with rebellion and he brought ideas with him., which though latent, developed in later life, for he became a firebrand and as a Magistrate severe and dictatorial, especially to the lower members of the community.

The greater part of his first twenty years in the Colony were spent as a farmer and grazier at Appin and Bulli before moving to Yass Plains. Five years at Appin, where he joined his uncle, then at Bulli, where he received a grant of land and built his first house in the district known as “The Sentinel of the North”.


Puckey’s Estate Walk

As mentioned in the June meeting announcement the speaker has agreed to take a group of IHS members through Puckey’s Estate. This excursion is planned for 10am Sunday 8 June. Meeting place will be at the western end of Stuart Park carpark off George Hanley Drive. Please wear appropriate footwear. In case you have missed the talk, please come along.