

7 October 2014

RESERVE TO RECOGNISE WOLLONGONG'S FIRST FARMER

Wollongong City Council has submitted a proposal to the Geographical Names Board to name the reserve located on Spearing Parade, Gwynneville after James Spearing, the original land grantee for the estate that the proposed reserve is located.

Chair of the Geographical Names Board, Des Mooney, said the community now had the opportunity to comment on the proposal.

"Mr James Stares Spearing was a significant settler in the early phase of European occupation in the Illawarra and one of the region's most substantial early property owners," Mr Mooney said.

"He 'came free' to Australia in 1825 and received a grant of 1000 acres in the Gwynneville area from Governor Brisbane which included the area of the proposed Spearing Reserve.

"Mr Spearing was the first farmer and first major producer in the Wollongong District with his Paulsgrove Estate.

"He worked his estates on the slopes of Mount Kiera with the aid of convict labour, breeding his own livestock, producing his own grains such as wheat and operating his own water mill.

"He was also the first producer of grapes in the area and the first to produce his own wines."

"According to Wollongong City Council, the name and location of Spearing Reserve plays a significant link to the early phase of Wollongong's development.

"The community is encouraged to comment on the proposal before the Board considers adopting the proposal."

The proposed Spearing Reserve is located between Spearing Parade, Paulsgrove Street and Murphys Avenue, Gwynneville, in the Wollongong Local Government Area. Details of the proposal can be viewed and submissions lodged on the Geographical Names Board's website at www.gnb.nsw.gov.au, alternatively written submissions may be lodged with the Secretary, Geographical Names Board, 346 Panorama Ave, Bathurst, NSW, 2795.

The closing date for submissions is 3 November 2014.

Editor's note: a map of the reserve can be viewed here:

<https://www.google.com.au/maps/place/Spearing+Parade,+Gwynneville+NSW+2500/@-34.4114824,150.8803564,17z/data=!3m1!4m2!3m1!1s0x6b13197470e2ffe7:0x9beade35ec4ce560>

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