



Timeline of ownership of Corrimal Cokeworks site

Corrimal Cokeworks Ownership 1911 to 2008

- 1884 – ‘Illawarra Mercury’ October 14 reported: ‘Captain Osborne, who had major interests in Mt Keira Colliery, proposed to lease the Balgownie property to a Sydney syndicate for coal mining. The mine would be located at Mount Corrimal or Brooker’s Nose, three miles northwards from Wollongong. This lease would be for fifty years’ duration and coal would be carried along the proposed NSWG railway and the Mt Keira colliery line to Wollongong Harbour for shipment.’
- ‘Light Railways’ April 1978 reported: ‘James Brooker owned a farm near the colliery site and was an Alderman on the first north Illawarra council in January 1869 and the rocky outcrop which dominates the coastal range 1,450 ft above Corrimal was known as Mount Corrimal, then Brooker’s Nose and later Brooker’s Nose. The coal bearing property of 500 acres was secured from Major Owen and D Griffin, and contained five coal seams and good timber while an additional 20 acres were purchased between Bulli Road and the surveyed NSWGR at Corrimal.’
- 1885 (July) – The Brooker’s Nose Coal Company started mining activity under the control of Thomas Bertram.
- 1888 - The ‘Illawarra Mercury’ June 21 announced details of the newly formed Southern Coal Company, established with English capital to extract coal from the southern face of Mt Kembla behind Unanderra.
- 1889 (January) Mining commenced at the Southern Coal Company. The Manager was H.A. Pringle.
- 1889 (November) Corrimal coal was being shipped from the Southern Coal Company’s Port Kembla Jetty. Company’s trains had gained a permit to travel over the NSWGR Illawarra railway between Corrimal and Unanderra.
- 1889 – South Bulli and Brooker’s Nose Companies combined and the name changed to Corrimal Colliery.
- 1890 - Corrimal Colliery purchased by Southern Coal Company. * 1.
Southern Coal Company announced the closure of its Unanderra coke works in November 1896.
- 1891 - Corrimal Colliery taken over by Corrimal-Balgownie Colliery.
- 1906 - Corrimal Colliery reached a 91ft uplift in the seam at Brooker’s Nose. To overcome the fault G. S. Yuill & Company Pty Ltd ¹: opened a new entrance one mile to the south of the top of the incline approximately 400 feet above sea level. A short railway had been built under Brooker’s Nose to a new tunnel above Balgownie. It was called Corrimal-Balgownie Colliery.
- 1911 – Construction begins on 40 ovens (C1 battery) near Corrimal Railway station by Southern Coal Company following the demise of its Unanderra Cokeworks further to the south. Corrimal-Balgownie Colliery was a ready supply of ‘slack and duff’ (small coal and dust) ideal for coke making. Coal was transported from the colliery to the cokeworks by rail wagons on a private rail line.

- 1912 (May) – Corrimal Cokeworks commissioned.
- 1912 (September) – Official opening ceremony at the invitation of G.S. Yuill and Company Ltd *¹.
 `South Coast Times' September 9 reports: `Local representation included several of the Council of North Illawarra, and the President of the Bulli Shire (Mr J.S. Kirton). The party were shown over the plant by the constructing engineer Mr George Davidson and Mr Walter Evans (the manager). The proceedings were presided by Mr Yuille Scott, a director. Mr Frank Young, the Mayor, gave the toast. The chairman said that the company were indebted to Mr J. McMeekan for his assistance in the designing of the ovens and he acknowledged the ability with which the constructing engineer, Mr Davidson had carried the design out. The most outstanding feature is the utilisation of the waste gases in producing electrical power which will operate the machinery and also supply current to the mine, which will do the same there.'
- 1925 (July) – Electricity reached the North Illawarra council area from the Corrimal power house at the Corrimal-Balgownie Coal Company. Over 400 street lamps were initially supplied.
- 1930 – C1 Battery extended to the north with the construction of an additional 10 ovens.
- 1947 – Four of the Illawarra municipal areas combined to form the city of Greater Wollongong
- 1948 – The new city council announced that it would purchase the Corrimal Coal and Coke Company's electricity franchise to the North Illawarra area for 30,000 pounds.
- 1950 – It was revealed that the powerhouse was still feeding in to the Wollongong Council lines. At that stage the Corrimal power station no longer supplied its own mine as the colliery had been transferred to main power supplied from Port Kembla.
- 1962 – C2 battery commissioned. 32 additional ovens with an individual capacity of approximately 1.5 times that of the C1 Battery ovens.
- 1964 (March) - Australian Iron & Steel (later known as BHP) purchased Corrimal Cokeworks and Corrimal Colliery as a package.
- 1965 - Corrimal Colliery coal transported underground through the Kemira tunnel, which enabled direct loading into A.I. & S. trains near Mount Kembla. Corrimal incline closed.
- 1967 (August) - Corrimal Colliery commenced hauling coal via Kemira Colliery.
- 1969 - Bellambi Coal Company purchased Corrimal Cokeworks and sourced coal from the South Bulli Mine which was also under their ownership.
- 1980 – The Bellambi Coal Company Limited taken over by Australian Coal and Coke Pty Limited.
- 1984 – Illawarra Coke Company Pty Limited, a subsidiary of Kembla Coal and Coke Pty Limited (itself a subsidiary of The Broken Hill Associated Smelters Pty Limited) purchased Corrimal Coke Company, to add to its operation at Coalcliff. Coal continued to be sourced from local mines, but all coal deliveries were by road.
- 1985 (December) Corrimal Colliery closed.
- 1996 (March) Corrimal Cokeworks purchased by ICC Holdings Pty Limited at the same time as Coalcliff Cokeworks.
- 2006 (October) Peabody Energy acquired a 50% share in ICC Holdings Pty Limited when it purchased a company owned by some of the ICC Directors

2007 (March) Illawarra Coke Company Pty Limited reverts back to being a wholly privately-owned company when Peabody Energy sells its interest in ICC

2008 – Illawarra Coke Company Pty Limited still owns and operates both Corrimal and Coalcliff Cokeworks. ICC is the only independent coke producer in Australia.

* 1. *M. Page in his book "Fitted for the Voyage" Rigby Ltd. (A History of the Adelaide Steamship Coy 1875-1975) mentioned "The directors discussed a suggestion to register the Company as a coal merchant, but for the time being, nothing was done beyond lending 1,000 pounds to the Southern Coal Company thus giving us first call on small coal."*

This undated statement possibly referred to the 1890 period when the Southern Coal Company took over the Corrimal Coal Company. Until the AIS interests took over the Corrimal undertaking in March 1964 the colliery was spoken of locally as being owned by the Adelaide Steamship Company, yet all press reference refer to it as being under the control of G.S. Yuill and Company Pty Ltd.

From 1887 George Skelton Yuill was an active representative of the Adelaide Steamship Company in NSW, this being an extension of his earlier business of General Manager of the Orient Line of Steamships in Australia. G.S. Yuill continued to be active in the Adelaide Steamship Company matters for the rest of his business life being a member of its Board of Directors from 1890 to 1902. It seems, therefore, that the Corrimal mine can be considered as being under the control of both G.S. Yuill and the Adelaide Steamship Company as the corporate interests of both seemed to be interwoven.