

# The Western Port Times

## Grantville & Districts



Volume 2 Number 12

FREE

April 2020

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This magazine is a continuation of the original *Western Port Times*, which was published in Grantville from 1898 until 1908 by T. C. Monger, and from 1908 to August 1910 by the Sullivan Brothers, at which date the premise was destroyed in a fire and everything lost. Publication never resumed.

At its peak, the paper was distributed from Flinders and Hastings on the Mornington Peninsula, to San Remo and Phillip Island, Inverloch and the Powlett region, through to Jumbunna and Loch, and as far north as Lang Lang.

This version of *The Western Port Times* is produced for the U3A Local History Group, based in Grantville.

\* \* \*

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The Bass Valley U3A Local History Group is looking for photos and information on places of significance to our local history.

If you have anything you would like to share with us, we have the facilities to scan or photograph your items so they do not have to leave your possession.

**Links to other historical groups**

- Bass Valley Historical Society: <https://bassvalleyhistoricalsociety.com.au>
- Friends of Churchill Island Society: <https://focis.org.au/about-churchill-island/>
- Grantville History: [grantvillehistory.com.au](http://grantvillehistory.com.au)
- Hastings–Western Port Historical Society: <https://www.hwphs.org.au/>
- Inverloch Historical Society: [cv.vic.gov.au/organisations/inverloch-historical-society/](http://cv.vic.gov.au/organisations/inverloch-historical-society/) Also: <http://inverlochhistory.com/>
- Koo-Wee-Rup Swamp Historical Society: [kooweerupswamphistory.blogspot.com.au/](http://kooweerupswamphistory.blogspot.com.au/)
- Korumburra & District Historical Society: Janet Wilson 5657 2267 or PO Bo 293, Korumburra 3950
- Lang Lang & District Historical Society: [langlang.net/historical.html](http://langlang.net/historical.html)
- Leongatha and District Historical society: [leongathahistory.org.au](http://leongathahistory.org.au)
- Phillip Island & District Historical Society: <http://pidhs.org.au/>
- Phillip Island Nature Parks, Churchill Island Heritage Farm Collection <https://victoriancollections.net.au/organisations/churchill-island-heritage-farm#collection-records>
- South Eastern Historical Association: [seha.org.au](http://seha.org.au)
- Western Port Historical Society Inc.: [hwphs.org.au/](http://hwphs.org.au/)
- Wonthaggi Historical Society: [wonthagghihistoricalociety.org.au/](http://wonthagghihistoricalociety.org.au/)



## From the Original

From *The Western Port Times*, Friday 21 April 1899

### SPECIAL NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given that in accordance with the provisions of the Municipalities Loans Extension Act 1898 the Council of the Shire of Phillip Island and Woolamai hereby order that the period during which the Council is required to provide for the repayment of the principal moneys received by [unclear word] issued by the said shire, viz., £6000 for Loan No.1, be extended to the first of October, 1936, and the provision be made for the re-payment of the said loan by 75 half-yearly payments of £150 each and one for £18 0s. 3d.

A Special Meeting of the Council will be held on Saturday, 20th May, 1899, to confirm the above Special Order.

### SHIPPING.

The Swan arrived at Grantville from Melbourne on Tuesday afternoon, and left again on Wednesday evening for Corinella.

The Stephens arrived on Wednesday morning at Grantville from Melbourne, and left for Queensferry the same evening.

The steamer Glenelg arrived at San Remo from Melbourne early yesterday morning, and sailed again shortly after for the Gippsland Lakes.

The Little Angelina arrived in Westerport Bay on Saturday evening from Melbourne.

### LANG LANG

On Friday evening last a very pleasant night was given to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas, in the Mechanics' hall Lang Lang, who are leaving the district for Croydon, after residing here for about 12 years. There were over 35 couples, residents of Lang Lang and its surroundings. Throughout the evening Mr. and Mrs. Thomas were the recipients of the best wishes in their new undertaking. Dancing was indulged in till 3 o'clock, when the company dispersed after a good night's amusement.

### BASS SALE

Wm. Hamilton and Co. held their usual monthly sale at Bass on Wednesday. There was a fair attendance and the cattle sold at satisfactory prices, being higher than the last Grantville sale by 5s. to 10s. in advance. Dairy cows, a few, sold at £3 10s. to £5 10s., heifers and steers £3 to £3 15s. Nearly every line was sold, those that were not sold by auction being disposed of privately afterwards at good prices

## Paul and Clara

From Our Own Correspondent.

From the *South Bourke and Mornington Journal*, Wednesday 10 November 1886: Grantville

Mr J. T. Paul, of this township, has purchased the schooner Clara. It is Mr. Paul's intention to keep the vessel on the trade between here and Melbourne. In the face of the fact that the Great Southern Railway will likely be opened as far as Sunnyside on the Bass River in the course of another year it may not seem a judicious "spec," but it does not seem to be generally known that as far as the carriage of goods and produce is concerned the Southern line will be of little use to the residents of South-western Jeetho, the whole of Jumbunna West, Wonthaggi, Kongwak and other places, Grantville and Queensferry being the natural outlets for the goods traffic of these districts. Some idea of the extensive settlement round about here may be formed when I state that the trade of the district is more than sufficient to keep both the Tyro and Clara schooners going regularly, in addition to which the Wunthulong and Swan call in on their way round to Anderson's Inlet and River Tarwin. A branch line from the Southern railway down the Bass Valley would do an immense amount of good in the way of developing the agricultural resources of this fertile district.

From the *South Bourke and Mornington Journal*, Wednesday 10 February 1886, Page 2

### Queensferry

## Bishop of Melbourne Visit

(From our own Correspondent.)

On Friday, the 5th February, we had a visit from the Bishop of Melbourne, who delivered an able address in the Athenaeum, and was listened to with marked attention by about one hundred and thirty persons. A terrible thunder storm early in the afternoon kept many from attending, a good many of those present coming no doubt to see and hear the Bishop probably for the last time in this district, and I believe all went away perfectly satisfied that they had heard one of the most eloquent and popular men in the colonies. At the close of the address a collection was taken up on behalf of the sufferers by the late bush fires in the Otway Forest, £3 15s. being collected, which would have been doubled had it been known beforehand that object it was for.

From *The Sunday Sun*, Sunday 13 September 1903, page 5

## Among The Mormons

Settlement in Gippsland

Some Personal Reminiscences

(By Jad Jenooine, For "The Sun.")

Do you know there is a Mormon settlement in Australia? The reader will probably answer no.

But there is, and the writer spent a few months in it.

A Mormon engaged me in Melbourne to go and work for the community. Good wages; fare paid both ways. I did not at the time know my employer was a Latter Day Saint. He wore no halo, and was in appearance just the same as an ordinary sinner.

A tedious journey by rail and coach to the South of Gippsland brought me to the village of Queensferry, on the shores of the Western-port Bay.

I had previously been told en route that I was going to a settlement of Mormons, and visions of 375 wives flitted through my ecstatic mind.

The village is built on a picturesque spot, within a hundred yards of high-tide, and contains one general store, one bakery, a wooden temple, some large grain and produce sheds, and, roughly speaking, about 20 houses.

Immediately on arrival I was billeted on a long-haired saint, and promptly labelled "The Gentile."

Melbourne is about a hundred miles distant, and a small schooner, the Tyro, trades between it and the Bay bringing supplies to Queensferry, and other settlements round the shores.

The principal industry was timber-cutting, and a line of hardwood rolls (simply 4in. by 3in. pieces of blue gum, with square edges, spiked to a sleeper and laid on the ground — the track 3ft. wide) led from the sawmill, about five miles back in the bush, to the water's edge.

An ingenious saint had fixed a small marine engine in a truck and geared it on to the wheels, and this dragged after it another truck holding about five tons of timber. Of course, it was only a slow, lumbering affair, but it served to show the wonderful wear-resisting qualities of Australian hardwood.

A certain amount of farming was also carried on, and apples grew to perfection.

No intoxicating liquor was allowed to be sold, and a favourite dish was parsley cooked and served like cabbage.

The form of religion consisted of preaching,

praying, and singing in the temple, and although I was constantly, referred to as the Gentile I was free to go to service at any time. Of course this is no place to go into the pros and cons of their belief, but the Mormon may be said to go to worship the Bible in one hand and the Book of Mormon in the other.

Reference to the mystic Urim and Thummim were frequent, and they believe in immersion for baptism.

The people are inoffensive and industrious. They are Josephite Mormons — that is, they believe that the line of Mormon prophets is continued in the descendants of Joseph Smith the founder of Mormonism, and that Brigham Young and his successors are more or less usurpers.

I saw absolutely no polygamy practised — the rule being one man one wife. They have made many converts among the fishermen of the bay. Elder Butterworth (a comparatively young man by-the-way) is leader of the sect. The full title of a saint is "Josepite Latter Day Saint of the Church of Mormon."

Asked why he called himself a saint a deacon replied: "There were saints in the olden days, and there is no reason why there should not be saints in these degenerate times, and as the Book of Mormon says," &c.

How I fell in love with a Mormon maid is another story.

I left them after stay of four months and, truth to tell, I offered to fight the settlement, but they being men of peace I escaped unhurt.

From *The Canberra Times*, Friday 14 March 1969

## Dog Shoots Owner

Melbourne, Thursday.—A young mother of two children was shot dead in a freak accident on a property near Grantville, 62 miles south-east of Melbourne, this afternoon.

A sheepdog stepped on a shotgun and touched the trigger as he struggled to free a paw.

The woman, aged 25, whose name has not been announced, was struck by the blast and killed instantly. She was driving a tractor while her husband fed sheep with hay from a trailer.

The couple moved to Grantville from Tasmania eight months ago. They have two daughters, aged 9 and two months.



## No-No and Oh, No! Ads

If you are a prominent person with an opinion piece in, say, the *Melbourne Age*, denying Stalin's many crimes and extolling the virtues of the now gone U.S.S.R., the general response will be an indifferent shrug of the shoulders. But if the advertisement below was to be run today in the same newspaper...stand back and watch the outrage a single word in it would generate.

**Coronation Festivities.**

—:O:O:—

**CELEBRATIONS AT GRANTVILLE**

on

**MONDAY NEXT, 11TH INST.**

—:—:—

**A Grand Variety Concert**

Consisting of

A Circle of 10 Niggers, New songs  
(sentimental and comic), Recita-  
tions, Step Dancing and  
Musical selection.

—c—

A Ball will be held after the Concert.

—

All are invited **FREE.**

—

"God Save the King."

**D. Bonney,**  
**Hon. Sec.**

From *The Western Port Times*, 8 August 1902

## A Potential New Industry?

From the *Powlett Express and Victorian State Coalfields Advertiser*, Friday 30 March 1917, page 3: District News.

Rabbiters in the shire will be interested to learn that bunny is no longer to be regarded as a pest for poisoning, having been elevated, because of the war, to the position of a recognised source of wealth to the community. The Commonwealth Government is desirous of being able to fulfil its contract with the Imperial Government for the supply of rabbits to the British forces.

[Later.—The Victorian Lands department have not agreed to the proposals, and bunny is still a pest].

If you think the one word in the ad in the left-hand column would provoke an outcry, try reprinting this 100-year-old report in a newspaper of today.

From the *Kooweerup Sun, Lang Lang Guardian and Cranbourne Shire Record*, Wednesday 28 August 1918, page 4.

## Grantville Darkies' Night Out

(From a Correspondent.)

A very successful evening was held on 20th August by the G.R.S. Committee, in aid of the fund. Although the weather was very unsettled, the hall was crowded, as everyone was greatly interested in the "Darkies of Grantville's Night Out." In the course of the evening Miss Nolan sang "Tullip and Roses," which was much appreciated.

About 10.30 there was a great commotion at the front entrance, and bands of darkies in their war paint made their appearance. After a grand march around the hall they proceeded to the stage, where they held a huge corroboree, intermingled with rags and coon songs, etc.

A charge of sixpence was made to all those who would not forsake their "White Australia" policy. Among the darkies were:—Mesdames Parks, as Mammy (who led the procession with a martial air and tambourine); Scanlon, Aunt Trilby; Phipps, Topsy; Wheatley, Uncle Toby; G. Williams, Aunt Chloe; Misses A. Parks, Tomikins (a fine little black boy), F. Reid, Amelia Jane; D. Hade, Little Nellie; K. Hutchinson, Pajama Doll (who had the most beautiful pair of piebald eyes and the pearliest of teeth); C. Read, King Billy (noted for his bow-yangs and whiskers); E. Read, Bride of King Billy; A. Scanlon, Tolly; Mr W. M'Kenzie, as Black Girl, was the belle of the evening. Messrs E. Kennedy, J. Nolan, M. M'Grath, T. M'Grath and Higgins were also in Darktown rigout.

A lovely cushion, donated by Mrs G. Williams, and a box of chocolates were raffled. Mr J. Dixon won the lollies, the cushion being held over until another occasion.

The music was supplied by Mrs M'Nabb in her usual good style. Supper was catered for by Messers Easton, of Wonthaggi, and Mr Colgate was M.C. in his most efficient style.

A vote of thanks was moved to all those who so kindly helped during the evening.

From the *Herald*, Tuesday 29 July 1902, page 2

## Claim For Commission

Bench Will Not Adjudicate.

Mr William Brisbane, estate agent of this city, sought to recover L30, amount alleged to be due for commission, from Mr Chaston Cox, of Woodleigh, near Loch, Gippsland, in the District Court to-day. Messrs W. C. Barnett (chairman), Blaski and Hartley were the presiding honorary justices. Mr Schutt appeared for the complainant, and Mr Wasley for the defendant.

In his opening statement Mr Schutt said that the defendant placed a farm consisting of 155 acres at Woodleigh, in complainant's hand for sale. A Mrs Pauline Agnes Talbot, who resided at Lancefield, agreed to purchase the property from Mr Brisbane at L6 per acre. Mr Cox had stipulated for L7 per acre, but subsequently agreed to take the L6, and also agreed to allow L30 to Mr Brisbane for commission in effecting the sale. This was on the 17th of January last. Subsequently, in consequence of certain rumors, Mrs Talbot declined to complete the sale. Defendant instructed complainant to see a solicitor for the purpose of suing Mrs Talbot. He, however, afterwards declined to take any proceedings against her.

Mr Hartley, J.P., asked if any deposit had been paid, and Mr Wasley replied in the negative.

Mr Hartley then said there could not have been a sale.

Mr Schutt replied that the complainant had done nil that was required by selling the land at L6 per acre and was entitled to his commission. He quoted authorities in support of his contention.

Mr Wasley remarked that the complainant wanted his client to sue Mrs Talbot. There was no sale and no commission was due.

Mr Barnett, J.P., said it appeared to him that the defendant, who was the vendor, had accepted and agreed to all that the complainant had done.

Mr Schutt quoted authorities to show that a deposit was not necessary in the case of the sale of land. Mrs Talbot had agreed in writing to purchase the land, and that was all required.

Mr Wasley said the defence was, that there had been no sale, and that, therefore, no commission was due. The situation was, that his client was asked to pay L30, and then be given the option of starting a law suit

against Mrs Talbot. Let complainant take the L30 as soon as he could get the L930 – the sale at L6 per acre. As a matter of fact, his client had since sold the land, and had paid another commission.

Mr Blashki suggested that the case should be taken to another court.

Mr Schutt said that, in view of the fact that there were certain difficulties in the way, as suggested by the Bench, he would agree to the case being taken to another court.

Mr Wasley asked that the complainant should be examined, so that certain documents might be produced, which the other side had declined to show him.

Mr Schutt: You object to us standing on our legal rights.

Mr Barnett, J.P., suggested that a certain letter should be shown to Mr Wasley.

Mr Schutt promised to show Mr Wasley the letters, and both the legal gentlemen agreed to take the case to another court.

Mr Barnett, J.P., said that the decision of the Bench was, "Decline to adjudicate."

## Was The Bullock Fierce?

County Court Action

Verdict For Defendant

From *The Herald*, Thursday 21 June 1900

In the County Court to-day, before Judge Hamilton and a jury of four, the hearing of an action brought by May Hadley, of Woolamai, Bass, Westernport, widow, against William Price, of Archie's Creek, farmer, was concluded. Plaintiff claimed L200 damages, on the ground that defendant kept at his farm a bullock which was "of a fierce and mischievous nature, and accustomed to attack mankind." She alleged that on the 29th January last, whilst she was walking along the main road she was rushed by the bullock. Her arm was broken, and she sustained other injuries.

The defence was that it was not the defendant's bullock that rushed at her; that defendant was not aware that his bullock was *mischievous and accustomed to attack mankind*; and that the plaintiff was not rushed, but that a bullock, in trying to get through the gate, knocked against her.

The jury found in favor of defendant.

His Honor entered up a verdict for defendant, costs to be taxed.

Mr Skinner (instructed by Messrs Reynolds and Lamplugh) appeared for the plaintiff; and Mr Eagleson (instructed by Mr C. F. Pincott) for the defendant.

From the *South Bourke and Mornington Journal*, Wednesday 17 June 1885

# The Land Act of 1884

## Phillip Island

(From our own correspondent.)

The "Land Act of 1884" selection under which is now going on, is likely to cause a large influx of population to the Shire of Phillip Island, and more particularly to the Woolamai and Corinella Ridings of that Shire (for there are no lands open for selection in the Phillip Island Riding). The large area formerly reserved from selection for mining purposes within the Woolamai Riding, and the remaining lands within the Corinella Riding, have been divided into allotments varying in size from 80 to 1000 acres (the greater portion being in blocks of about 800 acres), and these are colored brown on the new landmaps, thus coming under the heading of "agricultural and grazing lands." With a view of showing the extent of land available for selection in the Shire the following brief statement may be of interest to your readers:—

### Wolamai [*sic*] Riding.

Parishes of		Acres
Woolamai	18 allots., containing	9095
Wonthaggi	20 "	14,580
Wonthaggi N	6 "	3030
Kirrak	14 "	10,075
Kongwak	27 "	21,825
Total	... ..	58,605

### Corinella Riding.

Parishes of		Acres
Corinella	21 allots., containing	9932
Jumbunna	4 "	1975
Jumbunna E	10 "	3035
Kongwak	6 "	3650
Total	... ..	18,592

From the above statement it will be seen that upwards of 77,000 acres, divided into 126 allotments, is available. The quality of the greatest portion of this large area is undoubtedly good. A small portion in the Parish of Corinella is certainly not of the best, but in Woolamai, Wonthaggi north, and Kongwak, the eyes (so to speak) have not been picked out of the land, on account of its having been withheld from selection as before mentioned, so that there is every reason to expect that in a very short time the whole of this splendid country, so long locked up for no purpose and to the detriment of

the whole colony, will have been selected and settled upon.

While on the subject of land selection, I cannot refrain from drawing attention to a want which has been, and will be still more severely felt in this district, that is, the want of a local landboard to be held somewhere in this Shire. Taking into consideration the fact that the amount of land now open for selection within this Shire is as great, if not greater, than the whole of the remaining lands now open for selection in the County of Mornington, it must be acceded that the Board of Land and Works would be wise to cause a land board to be held somewhere within the Shire. It is monstrous that all applicants for lands in this large district should be compelled to travel to Cranbourne to attend the land boards, within many miles of which place there is no land open for selection. Melbourne even would be a much more convenient place than Cranbourne to attend, yet the many are compelled to travel to Cranbourne, so that the few may be inconvenienced. Steps should be taken to bring this under the notice of the authorities.

From *The Argus*, Monday 17 August 1925, page 17

## Seals in Western Port

To The Editor Of the Argus.

Sir.—To-day two large seals were seen playing around the Corinella pier, which is between 20 and 30 miles from the Seal Rock. This is a common occurrence. They have been seen at Kilcunda and Queenscliff. Seals have been found to be more troublesome than sharks for biting schnapper off the line. Why is it that the seal will destroy a fleet of nets and eat the good fish when he lives on kelp, squid, and the rough fish? An old sealer says that when he was sealing 30 years ago the seals inhabited only the small rock, but now they also inhabit the large rock on which he camped, although it does not accommodate one quarter of them. Having been a fisherman in the bay for 40 years I think I should be able to determine whether the fishing industry is declining or not. The fishermen find it hard to make a living, and soon they will have to give up their employment to find a more profitable one. Tourists visit the seaside when fishing is at its climax, but they do not know the struggle the fishermen have during winter.—Yours, &c.,

Fair Play  
Corinella, Aug. 12.

*The Herald*, Wednesday 15 May 1929, page 13  
also

From the *Examiner*, Friday 24 May 1929, page 5

## Western Port Bay

Beach Land Values Rise

Popular Holiday Resorts

Westernport Bay, with all its picturesqueness and historic associations is becoming every year more popular as a tourist resort, and also attracting many home builders. Fishing villages are growing into townships on the eastern shores of the Bay. Forty years ago these humble "ports" were busily engaged, shipping timber from the nearby hills to Melbourne.

### Proposed Deep Water Port

A proposal for a deep-water port on the Bay, capable of taking overseas vessels, was discussed last year. It was stated that such a port would enable Gippsland primary producers to export their produce at a considerable reduction in freight costs, and also to receive fruit from Tasmania. This is a commercial aspect of Westernport Bay. There is the tourist and holiday aspect also to be considered.

From San Remo, a popular resort on the extreme eastern end of Western Port Bay, the distance from the jetty to the island is only some 600 yards. A ferry service capable of taking several motor cars at a time has made this route from town increasingly popular.

Proposals have been made for the construction of a bridge from San Remo to this, the Newhaven, end of Phillip Island, to obviate the dislocation of traffic when the ferry does not run in rough weather, also for a passenger service by steamer or seaplane from San Remo to Burnie.

An extension of the present (Wonthaggi) line from Lang Lang, along the coast, would tap all the resorts from Lang Lang to San Remo, including Grantville, Queensferry, and Corinella, thereby making attractive holiday resorts more accessible, and incidentally opening up agricultural country whose produce could then be readily transported to coast or city.

Balnarring, on the western shores of the Bay, has become popular as a holiday resort. Blocks on Palm Beach Estate, which sold two years ago for £100, have recently changed hands at £350; 37 villas have been erected there within two years. The adjoining land, Promenade Estate, with creek frontage

at the shore, has fetched £225 and £250 a block in the last few months.

### Development of Resorts

The development of the resorts on the eastern shores of Westernport Bay should continue when industrial conditions are more settled. One of these is Queensferry, where a large estate has been subdivided into 51 residential sites – mostly quarter-acre blocks.

The land for sale is 3 miles from Almurta railway station on the Wonthaggi line, but the usual approach is by motor along the Prince's Highway through Dandenong, and then either via Cranbourne and Tooradin, or preferably via Pakenham and Koo-wee-rup to Lang Lang, thence to Grantville.

Queensferry lies about one and a half miles west of Grantville, along the San Remo road: motorists take the fork to the right. The total run from Melbourne is about 67 miles along roads constructed by the Country Roads Board.

From the *Powlett Express and Victorian State Coalfields Advertiser*, Friday 12 March 1915, page 3: Dalyston.

## Colonial Banking

Another progressive move was made at the last meeting of the Phillip Island and Woolamai Shire council, when at the recommendation of the secretary, Mr Bonwick, it was decided on the motion of Crs Bowman and McFee to change the council's banking business from the Melbourne to the Dalyston branch of the Colonial Bank. Mr Bonwick, shire secretary, pointed out that this would be much more convenient for the officers.

When the shire accounts are dealt with locally there will be a considerable saving in exchange to ratepayers, contractors, daymen and others. The many advantages of transacting the Shire banking business locally has been referred to several times in the "Powlett Express."

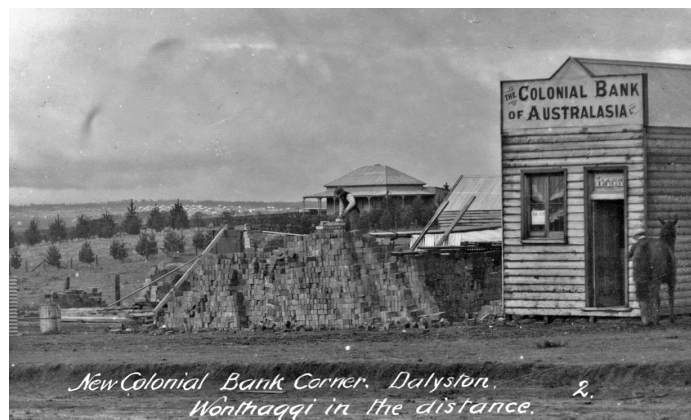


Photo caption reads: New Colonial Bank Corner Dalyston, Wonthaggi in the distance. Photo date 1916.



## The Evolution of Wonthaggi

During 1909, toward the end of the Bent Ministry's term of office, the Hon. D. McLeod determined to concentrate the Government boring machines on the Powlett. This action was largely due to the persistent representation made to him by an officer of the Mines Department, who had been connected with the coal industry in the past, and who had unlimited faith in the possibilities of the Powlett district.

Not only did Mr. McLeod, by ordering such boring work, discover the main Powlett seam, but with characteristic promptitude he at once had reserved some 15 or 16 square miles for State coal mining purposes, and insisted on certain leases then applied for being given up. Had it not been for this wise decision, there might have been no State coal mine to-day, and the foundation of the whole scheme may be said to have been laid by the Hon. D. McLeod.

The commencement of practical operations was due to the coal strike in N.S.W., on Nov. 8th.

Three days later, Messrs. Stanley Hunter (then engineer for boring) and D. C. Mackenzie (as Inspector of Mines and Machinery) reported on the possibilities of quickly obtaining a supply of coal for railway purposes. On being instructed to undertake the work they decided to sink three shafts in addition to the prospecting shaft sunk in March, 1909, and in the bottom of which His Excellency the Governor (Sir Thomas Gibson-Carmichael) examined the coal seam, when first cut.

By November 20th, all four shafts were equipped with temporary machinery, and at the end of the month the coal was cut in each shaft, and pumping and winding operations were in full swing, the Victoria boring machine being converted into a pumping and winding plant for the purpose. From a daily output of a few tons of coal, a steady increase was

maintained, and on the 19th March, 1910 – the anniversary of His Excellency's visit – the output was 400 tons of "run of the mine" coal per day.

To convey this coal to Inverloch (for shipment to Melbourne), 350 bullocks and 60 horses were employed, and such road transport arrangements necessitated several miles of road formation, also bridge building and other works, including the removal of sand hummocks at Inverloch, and the widening of the jetty there.

As the number of employes increased, it became necessary to lay out a camp or canvas town, and to arrange for water supply and sanitation. Telephone communication was established between the official camp and Inverloch, and a post office, savings bank, and State school were opened.

Meanwhile the new township, about three-quarters of a mile from the camp, was surveyed, streets formed, miners' cottages erected and business and residential sites leased by public auction. In June, 1910, the camp had grown to such unexpected proportions, that it became imperative, in view of the threatening discomforts of winter, and in the interests of public health, to order a general and speedy removal to the new town.

The beginning and gradual expansion of the camp community (which, when its maximum growth had been reached, had a population of over 2000), are portrayed and preserved in the series of photographic reproductions we publish. The stage of development to which the new town had been advanced when the camp was vacated is also well indicated by our illustrations, from photos taken towards the end of the month.

The whole of the allotment of 320 acres purchased by the Government for a town,

*(continues on Page 10)*



"Pioneer Locos" with first material for the State Coal Field.

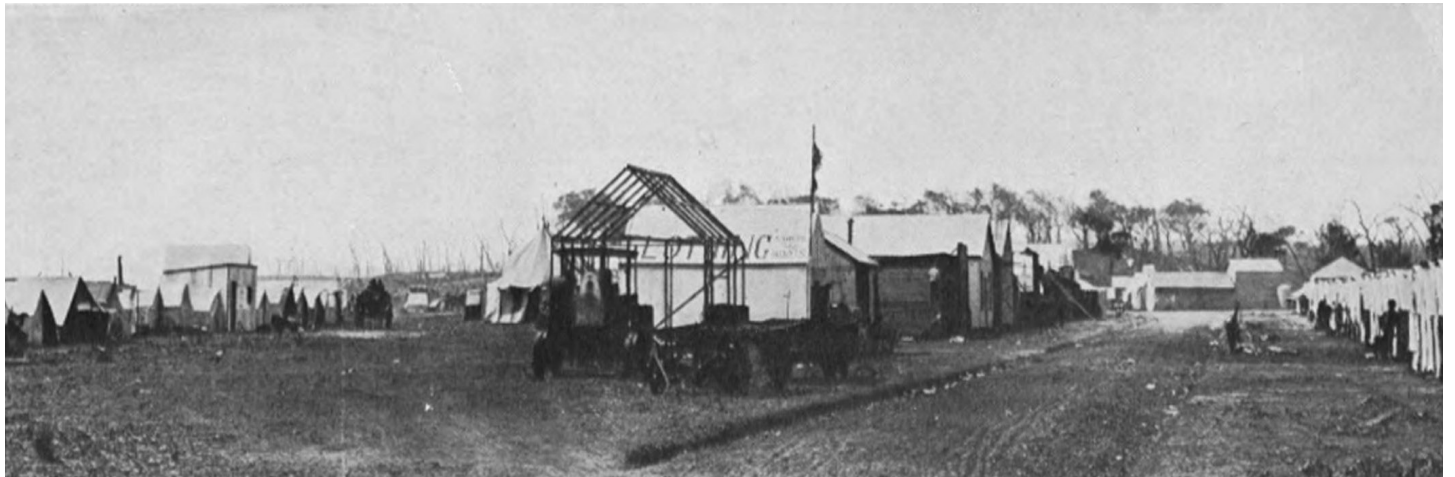
*The Evolution of Wonthaggi (continued from Page 9)*

together with the surrounding 1800 acres, had been cut up and designed into building allotments, reserves, gardens, etc. Fifty miners' cottages had been erected at a total cost of £9500, and fifty more were in course of erection by the contractor on the same terms. About £4500 had been spent on roads, and a water supply scheme, to cost from £50,000 to £60,000, had been commenced, it being anticipated that this extensive work would be completed and the town reticulated by the summer of 1911. Tree planting in all the streets and reserves was to be proceeded with immediately, and it was expected that within twelve months an electric lighting service would be provided.

To bring the coal output up to the expected amount of over 2000 tons per day by the beginning of 1911, the two main engine

shafts and air and timber shafts are being supplemented by the sinking of other shafts. The plant to handle the coal includes original mechanical appliances not hitherto used, it is said, in any Australian coal mine. By such means the surface labour in the processes of handling the coal from the pit's mouth to the engine-coal and slack-coal is reduced to a minimum. At the No. 3 shaft poppet heads 65ft. high have been erected, and a double 12in. Roby engine installed. There is a truck road from the brace, conveyors and 500 ton hopper bins, for mechanically screening and cleaning the coal, have been erected, and a fan capable of producing about 200,000 cubic feet of air per minute has been installed for the ventilation of the mine.

Source: Powlett Coal Fields and Coal History of Victoria 1825-1910. Published by Rae Bros., The Strand Publishing House, likely 1911 (no date on book).



The Camp (tent town): Collins and Flinders Streets looking east. February, 1910.



The Exodus – from the Camp to Wonthaggi. Jaboor's Universal Store on the move.

From the *South Bourke and Mornington Journal*, Wednesday 20 February 1878

## Phillip Island And Woolamai Shire Council

Saturday, February 16th 1878

Present—Councillors West (President), Sunderland, Kennedy, Stewart, and Monk.

Moved by Councillor Sunderland, seconded by Councillor Monk that the minutes of last meeting be confirmed.—Carried.

Moved by Councillor Monk, seconded by Councillor Stewart, that letter from Central Board of Health asking for returns be received and information supplied.—Carried.

Moved by Councillor Stewart, seconded by Councillor Monk that circular from under Treasurer asking for return of all licenses and fines, together with five per cent thereon be held over till next meeting.—Carried.

Councillor Stewart moved, seconded by Councillor Monk, that Mr. Peters' request to allow fence to remain for one month from 28th January be granted.—Carried.

Moved by Councillor Stewart, seconded by Councillor Monk, that the Secretary write to the Department of Lands and Survey in answer to letter from Surveyor General, informing them that no permanent water exists within one and a half and in most cases two and a half miles, and refer them to their letter of the 15th November 1877, and further urge them to reserve the acre requested.—Carried.

Moved by Councillor Kennedy, seconded by Councillor Stewart, that letter from William Beek be received, and that tenders be called for culvert across the drain by his premises as requested by him.

Moved by Councillor Monk, seconded by Councillor Stewart, that the petition from the ratepayers of Queensferry asking for road to Queensferry be received, and that the Secretary write to the Lessees of the Tramway asking them to allow one chain in width to be excised from their Tramway Lease from Williams's hotel to Queensferry for the above purpose.—Carried.

Moved by Councillor Monk, seconded by Councillor Stewart, that the applications of Constable Ardill and F. Bauer for expenses for removing E. Harrop to Melbourne be not entertained without the certificates required by Sec. 10 Lunacy Statue.—Carried.

The President reported that the deputation from the Council to the Minister of Public Works had waited on him, and had received a distinct promise that the Government would provide half the cost of making two

bridges across the Bass river; also, to erect jetty at Grantville.

The Secretary reported the removal of some stone from the jetty belonging to the Council by Mr. McLeod, and was instructed to see Mr. McLeod in reference to it.

The President declared Councillor Smith's seat as Councillor vacant, and it was moved by Councillor Monk, seconded by Councillor Sunderland, that Mr. Turnbull be appointed returning officer to conduct the election for Woolamai Riding, caused by his (Councillor Smith's) retirement.—Carried.

The Clerk of Works brought up report for works near O'Meara's, and Councillor Monk moved, seconded by Councillor Stewart, that tenders be called for the works according to the report.—Carried.

Moved by Councillor Kennedy, seconded by Councillor Stewart, that letter from Mr. S. M. Jones stand over for further consideration till next meeting.—Carried.

The Clerk of Works presented specifications of works needed on Chinn's road, and Councillor Stewart moved, seconded by Councillor Kennedy, that tenders be called accordingly.—Carried.

Payments to the amount of £236 15s. 6d. were made on motion of Councillors Sunderland and Stewart.

The President here left the room in consequence of some remarks from Councillor Kennedy, and was recalled by the Council, and Councillor Sunderland moved, seconded by Councillor Monk, that Councillor Kennedy's words be taken down, vis., "That he (Councillor Kennedy) would take his [*unclear word, possibly 'seat'*] and listen to the President's double-faced [*unclear word, possibly 'ruling'*]."—Carried. Councillor Kennedy was then asked to withdraw the expression and apologise to the Council, which was accordingly done, and the Council then adjourned for fifteen minutes.

The Secretary presented the valuation, and Councillor Stewart moved, seconded by Councillor Monk, that the valuation stand over till next meeting.

Moved by Councillor Monk, seconded by Councillor Sunderland, that a committee consisting of Councillors Sunderland, Turnbull, and Stewart meet at next meeting and draw up an estimate of revenue and expenditure

(continues on Page 12)

*Phillip Island And Woolamai... (continued from Page 11)*

for 1878.—Carried.

It was moved by Councillor Kennedy, seconded by Councillor Monk, that tenders be called for erecting a three-rail fence on each side of the Bass bridge, and removing culvert to Main road.—Carried.

The following tender was opened:—W. H. Hickling and Grant, contract 137, £89 15s., and was accepted, on the motion of Councillors Kennedy and Stewart.

From the *South Bourke And Mornington Journal*, Wednesday 27 March 1878, page 3

## Phillip Island And Woollamai Shire Council

Saturday, March 23rd 1878

Adjourned meeting.—Present: The President (Mr. West), and Councillors Monk, Kennedy, Sunderland, Turnbull, and Watson.

Councillor Watson having made the usual declaration, took his seat.

Councillor Kennedy moved that the minutes of the previous meeting be read and confirmed.—Councillor Monk moved as an amendment that the name of Councillor Monk be added to the committee appointed to draw up an estimate of revenue and expenditure, which was agreed to.

It was moved by Councillor Monk, seconded by Councillor Sunderland, that the next business be the payments.—Agreed to.

At this stage Councillor Kennedy diversified the proceedings by calling Councillor Sunderland a “lap-dog.” The President directed him to withdraw the expression, also the Secretary to take down the words used in reference to himself, viz., that “he (Councillor Kennedy) has listened to Mr. West ruling on the bench that day.”

Payments were passed to the amount of £208 1s. 6d.

The Secretary submitted the valuation, which was adopted, as also were the estimates of revenue and expenditure presented by the committee.—The Secretary was instructed to give the necessary notices of the intention of the Council to strike a rate of 1s. in the £ at their next meeting.

It was moved by Councillor Monk, seconded by Councillor Turnbull, that the Secretary write to the Postmaster general urging on him the necessity of a tri-weekly mail to Bass via Grantville.

The Council then adjourned till April 13.

From the *Great Southern Advocate*, Thursday 25 June 1914

## Municipal Sale Yards at Dalyston.

### Woolamai Council Acquire Land. Loan Of £200 Or £300 May Be Floated.

At the meeting of the Phillip Island Shire on Monday, the secretary, (Mr. H. Bonwick) submitted a plan of the proposed sale yards at Dalyston, and wished to know whether the council desired to construct them out of loan or revenue. The order for taking the land should be made at this meeting and submitted to the department of Public Works for approval.

Cr Steenholdt, after the report was read, asked that the position of the ridings should be defined. Would the Powlett riding bear the expense.

Cr Hollins said that the whole shire had to pay for the Grantville yards.

Cr Walker pointed out that yards at Dalyston would benefit the whole shire.

Cr McIlwraith remarked that in event of a loan being obtained, the whole shire was legally responsible.

The President, Cr Bowman, said that it was not a great item, if £200 was borrowed.

Cr McIlwraith: It would only mean £10 or £12 per year, that was not a great amount spread over the ridings.

Cr Hollins made a remark about being “Scotch.”

Cr Steenholdt: The Powlett riding is pretty “Scotch.” (Laughter.)

The President observed that the Bass Valley riding nearly always comes to the rescue. That riding was always helping lame dogs over the stile.

Cr Lloyd said that the Dalyston yards would be a payable proposition. The other ridings had helped Grantville. He moved that a loan be secured to build the Dalyston yards. (Hear, hear.)

The President said Cr Lloyd was out of order, the land had not been secured yet.

The Secretary said everything was ready for making the order, and it was decided on the motion of Crs McIlwraith and Lloyd that the necessary order be made.

Cr Steenholdt voted against.

When the land is acquired a loan of £200 or £300 may be floated to erect the yards. The plans are modelled on those of the Grantville yards with a number of improvements.

From the *Leader*, Saturday 25 December 1909, page 6

## Tillage And Pasture

### The Powlett River District

Success Amid Difficulties

(By Our Agricultural Reporter)

(Re-paragraphed for the sake of clarity.)

The western boundary of South Gippsland follows the eastern coast of Westernport Bay. It extends from San Remo to Settlement Point, and thence via Grantville to Tooradin. A few miles south of Grantville the country materially improves in quality, and following the coast line along to the east side of the Powlett River the soil, generally speaking, is of a fertile character. Between San Remo and Settlement Point the waters of the Bass River discharge into Westernport Bay. On the southern coast, about ten miles in an easterly direction from San Remo, the Powlett River enters the sea. The Bass Range, a series of high, rugged hills, forms the watershed between the two rivers, its spurs continuing right down to the coast line at San Remo.

#### Dairying Established

On these high, rugged hills, the dairying industry has obtained a strong footing. Perched hundreds of feet away up-above sea level, a number of farmers are prospering, despite the difficulties of their environment. The bulk of the Bass Range, extending from Outtrim to San Remo, consists of a rich soil, which, under the influence of the regular rainfall of the district, produces an abundance of rich, nutritious grass. On this the cows thrive and produce large quantities of milk throughout the year.

The dairying possibilities of these fertile ranges are so well known that, despite many disadvantages inseparable from its mountainous character, farms sell readily at high figures. The accumulation of areas, due to the ambition of the more successful farmers to obtain neighboring farms, is becoming more and more apparent, and unless checked will tend to impair the productiveness of the district.

#### The Native Timber

In their native state the slopes of the Bass Range were covered with valuable blue gum timber, growing amidst a veritable maze of hazel and musk scrub. So dense was the undergrowth that progress could only be made after a track had been hewn through it. In its partially cleared condition this mass

of inflammable material offered great scope to the periodical bush fires which spring up during the autumn months.

In the earlier days of its settlement fierce bush fires were the lot of the settlers, and many temporary hardships were thus experienced. It seems to be a general verdict, however, that the benefit from the fires in clearing the land far outweighed any temporary or individual damage caused by their occurrence. The one time heavily timbered slopes are now almost bare, and numbers of sleek cows now graze on rich grasses where before an impenetrable jungle covered the country.

An unfortunate, and to some extent an unavoidable, destruction of valuable timber has resulted from the settlement of the land. The stately blue gum, one of our most enduring and useful trees, has been destroyed in hundreds. The timber resources of the Bass Range must at one time have been something considerable. To-day it is rare to see a single sound tree of any size.

#### The Roads Problem

One of the greatest drawbacks in this country is the absence of properly-graded and constructed roads. It was originally surveyed on the chess board principle, which, however suitable for level plains, is entirely out of place in broken country.

The result has been that many of the roads which go straight up the face of a steep declivity have been found absolutely unusable. To remedy this state of affairs, the local shire council has spent large sums of money in purchasing land along which to construct roads that can be used.

The result is not always satisfactory, and at the best is only what might be looked for from a patchwork policy. Travelling through the district during the week ended 18th December, the writer crossed the Bass Range in passing from the valley of the Powlett to the valley of the Bass.

The road was along grades quite too steep for safe working, some being so severe that a pair of strong horses would have difficulty

(continues on Page 14)



*Tillage And Pasture (continued from Page 13)*

in dragging an empty dray. In one case men were found at work improving the grade, but the deviation did not promise to be a material improvement on the original road.

Had the deviation been commenced about a mile back an easy grade could have been carried right across the range from the one valley to the other. This, however, would have entailed disturbing the holdings of scores of farmers, and would have practically amounted to a resurveying of the whole district. Hence the local governing body limits its efforts at road improvement to a wasteful and ineffective system of local deviation. Some day the demand for proper road conveniences will compel a thorough remodelling of the whole road system of the district. In that day practically the whole of the deviations now being carried out at great cost will have to be abandoned.

### The Cream Collecting System

But for the central butter factory, with its well-organised cream collecting system, settlement on the badly-roaded mountains would only be a fraction of what it is to-day. And it would be a poor and impecunious body of settlers who would be trying to eke out a living on these ranges without the means of sending their produce to market.

The Wonthaggi or Archie's Creek factory, which is conducted on a co-operative basis, has three cream waggons at work amongst the almost impassable grades of the high country at the back of San Remo and the Powlett. A wide radius is covered, and during the summer the waggons call on each settler three times a week. Looking from the coast line at the steep frowning grass-covered hills, one is inclined to wonder how the settlers in such elevated altitudes can possibly make a living.

The home separator which enables the farmer to extract the butter fat from the milk is one agency which has contributed to his success in what is seemingly an impossible environment. The central factory's arrangements for picking up the raw material almost at the door, and converting it into a valuable article of commerce, is the second factor in the successful settlement of these inaccessible areas. Thus has Australian ingenuity, harnessed on the co-operative plan, overcome difficulties that at one time appeared insuperable.

### Increasing Cultivation

At the outset the settlers were content to depend upon the native grasses for the

sustenance of their cows. Then the merits of some of the best English grasses were recognised, and the hill sides soon became sown with rye grass, cocksfoot, clover and trefoil. These have thrived and spread, so that good milk making fodders now prevail over practically the whole district. Latterly some of the more progressive farmers have taken to growing fodder crops.

The results have been eminently satisfactory. In the district at the back of the Powlett no fewer than six new reapers and binders were introduced this year—a fact that bears testimony to the growing practice of using the plough. Despite the rugged nature of the country, there is on all farms a fair proportion of land not too steep for cultivation.

The hill side disc plough is generally favored for cultivation purposes, and as long as the paddocks are in small areas, and are selected for their relative easiness of slope, no difficulty appears to be experienced in turning the land up and working it into a fine tilth.

### A Representative Settler

Mr. W. Harley, whose farm is away up on the top of the ranges, some hundreds of feet above sea level, is a successful exponent of the practice of cultivating fodder for his dairy cows. Maize and Algerian oats are the main crops, although this year, a mixture of vetches and rye proved very successful.

Several experiments have been made with different kinds of oats, but Mr Harley finds that the advantage rests easily with the Algerian. Early sowing on a well prepared seed bed is found essential.

This year oats sown in April grew 6 feet high, while those not sown till June attained a height of only 6 inches. Manuring at the rate of *[unclear amount]* to the acre or an equal parts mixture of superphosphate and bone dust is found to do well. A 60-ton over-ground silo finds a place on the farm convenient to the milking shed.

The green material is chaffed and elevated by horse works. The latter, while forming a good emergency system of motive power, does not find favor with Mr Harley, who proposes introducing other improvements, which will necessitate the employment of steam power. Algerian oats, rye and vetches are made into ensilage, and found extremely useful in maintaining the cows in a good flow of milk.

Maize is also partly siloed and partly fed

*(continues on Page 15)*

*Tillage And Pasture (continued from Page 14)*

green. Though found to be a useful fodder, Mr. Harley's experience is that of others. Because of its deficiency in proteids it does not increase the milk flow of the cows, but merely keeps them in good condition.

Having experienced the benefits of reserves of fodder for hand feeding, it is now intended to provide a ration in which proteids receive due recognition. Hence the mixture of rye and vetches, which not only yield a heavy crop, but which, owing to the presence of the leguminous vetches, possesses a fair protein content.

### An Approved Rotation

In those hills two crops a year can be grown where desired. In this connection the practice of converting the crops into ensilage assists. The green stuff is rapidly taken off the field and stored in the silos, leaving the ground ready to be ploughed and otherwise prepared for maize. This fodder thrives in the hill soils, especially when sown on the check system, three feet apart and inter-tilled.

The silo again comes in useful for dealing with the maize. As much as possible is fed green, but unless the surplus over green stuff requirements were stored in the silo it would have its feeding value destroyed.

After the fields have been cropped for about three years Mr. Harley advocates their being laid down in grass, the mixture favored being cocksfoot and rye grass, with a sprinkling of Dutch and alsyke clover. The renovation of the pasture land by periodical cropping is strongly urged, the experience being that where the ground has been under grass for more than six years, its feeding value materially decreases.

### The Rich Bass Flats

Crossing over the Bass River from the coastal side, a steep descent through rugged country leads into the valley of the Bass. The river flats, which consist of a strong alluvial soil, are exceptionally fertile. Their extent is, however, limited, the average width being not more than three-quarters of a mile.

For the cultivation of potatoes, maize and cereals these deep soils answer admirably. Owing to the rich clovers and trefoil which abound on the flats, however, the local land owners do not use the plough to any material extent, notwithstanding the admitted gains of the practice.

On the east of the valley most of the hill-sides, which compose *[sic]* the slopes of the

Bass Range, are rich country of the type already described. To the west and extending along the coast, right up to the valley of the Lang Lang River, the soils are of an inferior character.

### Reducing The Tussock Land

Mr. John Campbell, of Brookville, in the Bass Valley, has experienced material benefit from an extending system of cultivation. The effective tillage of the flats presents some peculiar difficulties which have been overcome on this farm in an ingenious manner. In its cleared state the ground is covered with a mass of sword grass and tussocks. Before an ordinary plough could be used in such ground, all these growths would need to be grubbed up and burnt, an undertaking likely to be somewhat costly.

To overcome this difficulty, Mr. Campbell attaches a big team of bullocks to a heavy disc plough, and thus equipped starts to turn up the flats in the autumn months. The soil and grasses are turned up together in a heterogeneous mass, and presenting a very rough and untidy appearance, are left exposed to the weather till about November or December.

Maize is then broadcasted over the ground, and a light disc plough drawn by a team of horses is worked across it. In this way the seed is covered, and the roughness of the land reduced.

### Crude But Effective

It is not pretended that the foregoing is a perfect system of maize culture. Mr. Campbell's description of it is that it is pioneer cropping. It is the best method of eradicating the rubbish, which has taken possession of the rich soil, and crude as it is, it enables the land to produce heavy yields of maize, which is fed green to the cows and the surplus stored in the silo, which, like Mr. Harley's, is also a 60-ton overground, built adjacent to the milking sheds.

After the maize a crop of peas is found to do well, and this again leaves the soil in excellent condition for oats. By then the land is worked up into a clean tilth after the oat crop, and is ready for sowing down for a term of years in English grasses, the mixture favored being rye grass, with a small proportion of cocksfoot and cow grass, with strawberry clover. The latter does remarkably well on the flats, and is given honorable mention by Mr. Campbell as a nutritious milk making fodder.

*(continues on Page 16)*

*Tillage And Pasture (continued from Page 15)*

### Ensilage and Pasture Combined

The maize ensilage on this farm is used mainly in the early spring months when the cows come in first. Just then the pastures are not fully developed, and Mr. Campbell prefers to leave them undisturbed.

The ensilage made in April and May is therefore fed during September, October and November. While providing a good succulent fodder for the cows, however, it is remarked that the milk producing value is very slight.

By November the rich pastures, consisting of rye grass, cocksfoot and clover are well forward, and the cows are then turned on to them. An illustration of their feeding value is found in the fact that 80 milking cows were kept on 60 acres for three months, while all that time maintaining full milk flow.

### Oats And Maize

Both Algerian and Tartarian oats thrive in the Bass Valley soils. The former are sown very early, in April for preference. Good crops are always the result where the land is in good condition, and the seed early sown. Tartarian oats are sown in September, and can be generally relied upon to return a good harvest by about February. The land is then ploughed up and sown with late maize, which is cut and fed to the cows in May and June. Owing to the exceptional strength of the soil, remarkable crops of maize are grown, the crop at maturity attaining a height of 12 feet, standing thick and close together.

### Cows And Pigs

Eighty cows of a good milking type – the Ayrshire characteristics prevailing – were at the time of this visit being milked. Machine milking is established here, and the L.K.G. the machine in use. The results are described as being quite satisfactory.

Attached to the milking shed is a small factory, in which the cream raised on the place is made into butter. About six hundred-weight of a prime sample is turned out very *[sic]* week, the product finding a ready sale, at top prices.

Mr. Campbell finds that his cream dealt with in this way brings him 5/ more per can, as compared with selling the cream; while pig raising, as it ought to be, is an important adjunct of the dairying operations, the proceeds from the baconers sold last year amounting to over £200.

From *The Argus*, Friday 21 October 1898, page 6

## The Body Found At Phillip Island

Cowes, Wednesday.

The corpse found at Back Beach, Phillip Island, is that of Alexander B. Clerk, of Grattan-street, Hawthorn. The clothes, handkerchief, sleeve-links, scissors, and everything found have been fully identified by his brother-in-law, also by Dr. Embling, of Hawthorn, and another friend. He left Melbourne for Stony Point by the 8.10 a.m. train on Saturday, October 1, and arrived at Cowes about noon. After partaking of lunch at the Isle of Wright Hotel, he left to walk to the Back beach, was seen by several people on the road between 1 and 2 o'clock, but was not seen alive afterwards. It is supposed he fell over the cliff.

From the *Argus*, Thursday 20 September 1956, page 5

## A Pretty Double...

Meet two girls who are both tops. They're 18-year-olds Janne Gray, of Wonthaggi, and Sonia McKenzie, of East Ormond (right). The girls graduated from the Diane Masters model school in a special ceremony at the Delphic last night, and they were so good they couldn't be separated for top of the class.



From the *Weekly Times*, Saturday 9 April 1881, page 10 & Saturday 16 April 1881, page 10

## Along the Coast to Kilcunda

Parts Four & Five

(By Our Travelling Reporter.)

(Re-paragraphed for the sake of clarity.)

### Part Four

#### The Blackwood And Coal Reserves

In the immediate locality of the saw-mill, a great proportion of the land has been selected by members of Mr. Stewart's family, and the men employed at the mill, many of whom are evidently settled down for life.

The country for several miles around the settlement is of a wild and picturesque character, and the hills extremely steep and rugged. The scenery, as might be expected, is magnificent; and those who go into ecstasies over the already too much vaunted, but miserable-looking Fern Tree Gully, would do well to see the rich and profuse vegetation, composed of grand fern trees, beautiful creepers, musk, and hazel, with lyre birds and others of the feathered tribe flitting about the trees, which go to adorn the banks of every gully, streamlet, and creek in these mountainous regions.

There were formerly two other saw-mills in the vicinity, both of which, however, have ceased working for some time. One of these was engaged exclusively in the work of sawing blackwood, the proprietor, Mr. Lewis, having a contract from the Government for the supplying of timber for railway carriages.

After, however, carrying on for about twelve months, Mr. Lewis was obliged to abandon the industry, owing to the faulty nature of the blackwood, a log of say 500ft not having, on an average, more than one-fifth of really sound timber. I understand that, in consequence of the Railway Department refusing to accept blackwood from the Bass country, Mr. Lewis had to obtain what was required to finish his contract from Tasmania.

The principal description of timber growing about the mill is bluegum intermixed with a few blackbutts, and this so-called Blackwood reserve, which for years has been shut out from selectors, extends from within a short distance of Mr. Stewart's saw-mill for about ten miles into the back country towards the Powlett River, and in an opposite direction from Leongatha to the mouth of the Powlett which, rises near Whitelaw's track, and empties itself into Bass Straits between Kilcunda and Anderson's Inlet.

A great portion of this tract of country is now

reserved for coal as well as for blackwood, although where the latter is to be found in any quantity – to say nothing of the quality of timber – sufficient to justify the permanent reservation of such an immense stretch of country it would be extremely difficult to say.

During many miles of travelling to the east of Lewis's mill we saw only a few small clumps of blackwood; and from Kilcunda, for some ten or twelve miles back, the country is timbered with messmate, stunted box, apple-gum, she-oak, and the inevitable hazel scrub. Within the last two years a great proportion of the trees have become dead from no assignable cause, and this will assist materially in making the land more attractive to selectors, inasmuch as it will be far easier to clear by means of the all-important "burn," when the quantity of dead wood is so large.

The farther that one advances into the depths of the blackwood reserve, the more fertile the soil seems to become, fully equalling, if not exceeding, that of Brandy Creek or Narracan. The trees, logs, and stumps, however, are not nearly so heavy or thick as in those districts, and the soil being rather of a firmer nature, there are consequently fewer difficulties in the way of agricultural settlement.

The country to the north is of an undulating character, well watered by small but permanent creeks, and, excepting the large black-butts before mentioned, the timber is principally hazel scrub, dogwood, silver wattle, and blanket tree, hardly one of the blackwood species being noticeable in a day's travel. And yet nearly the whole of the locality I have described constitutes what is known as the Blackwood Reserve, whilst the remainder, or, at least, the territory adjoining, comes within the boundaries of the Coal Reserve.

It will thus be seen that thousands of acres of what could be converted into good pastoral and agricultural land is lying utterly useless, simply because the Lands Department chose to labour under the idea that an extensive blackwood forest exists somewhere in the neighbourhood, and because coal has been found at Kilcunda, several miles away.

*(continues on Page 18)*

*Along the Coast to Kilcunda (continued from Page 17)*

There ought to be no objection whatever to these reserves being thrown open for selection. Plenty of men, with a fair amount of capital at their command, are anxiously waiting to take up land in the locality, and yet not an inch of it is available.

Representations have been made at various times to the Lands Department relative to the necessity of proclaiming these reserves open for selection, on account of the non-existence of blackwood and coal, but nothing has yet been done in the matter, although I am informed on the very best authority that intending selectors, if permitted to take up the land, expressed themselves as willing to allow of coal-boring to be carried on in their selections without compensation, should such a course be deemed necessary by the department.

The subject of the abolition of the coal and blackwood reserves, which are simply good for nothing in their present state, is one which the parliamentary representatives of the district should lose no time in bringing before the Government, and I feel almost certain that if competent officers were sent to report upon the district, their opinion would be decidedly in favour of the barrier to free selection being at once removed, and this could be done with the proviso that the land could be entered upon at any moment for the purpose of testing its coal producing capabilities.

I am inclined, however, to think that very few would be willing to risk a heavy loss by prospecting for coal, except in the locality of Kilcunda, where there is undoubted evidence of the existence of an extensive and payable coalfield if it were only properly developed.

Almost in the centre of the reserve a couple of selections have been taken up by Messrs. Poynter Brothers, who must, therefore, be regarded as the pioneers of the district. It required no little pluck and energy to attempt to surmount the terrible difficulties attendant on exploring and settling in a new locality, but these qualities are undoubtedly possessed by the Messrs. Poynter.

They started with swags on their backs, and, day after day, travelled through the almost impenetrable scrub in search of a suitable place to select. Marking some trees near the corner of their present holding – in order to peg it out if no better was to be found – they then travelled towards the Tarwin, and from thence, by a circuitous route, returned to where they had started from – the Brandy Creek district. So peculiar was the nature of

the country that on taking a surveyor out, great difficulty was experienced in finding the block they had previously marked, and it was only by the merest accident that it was eventually discovered.

Owing to the reservation clause being in existence, the Messrs. Poynter were unable to obtain the lease of their selections, although they were given to understand that it would be issued in due course. Determined, however, not to abandon the ground which had cost them so much labour and expense to find, and then to clear it of scrub, they settled down, built a hut, and cultivated several acres, which have already been laid down with grass seed, and more is now in the course of being cleared and cultivated.

The soil is remarkably mellow and fertile, some 6 tons of potatoes, of excellent quality – and which, by the way, were only hoed in, on the American principle – being the average per acre, and hay ranging from 4 to 5 tons to the acre. Had the soil been properly cultivated the crops would have been much heavier. All descriptions of vegetables also grow most luxuriantly; in fact, as the Yankees would say, “Just tickle the soil, drop in the seed, and then you can travel.”

Messrs. Poynter Brothers have between them 640 acres, and of this eighty acres have been cleared, although, even yet, no proper title has been obtained for the land.

They have also erected a good log house, and in this myself and two companions camped one night a few weeks ago, when on a tour through the Bass and Tarwin country. We had been in the saddle from early morn until after dark, and the last ten or twelve miles of our journey was over rather rough hills and through partially cleared scrub, so that we did not regret when we came in view of the hut.

The Messrs. Poynter entertained us most ably, and never shall I forget the evident satisfaction with which we demolished a good square meal, washed down with a couple of pannikins of tea (having previously negotiated something stronger), or the jolly night spent in that lonely hut on the confines of the Tarwin Ranges.

## **Part Five**

But now to return to the settlement of Queensferry, from which, it will be remembered, we started in order to examine the tramway line and the Blackwood reserve.

The Queensferry racecourse, or, more properly speaking, recreation ground is

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situated close to the main Bass road, and turning to the right at this point, we passed an artesian well, which contained a plentiful supply of water, clear and pure in appearance, but with a slight mineral taste. The well was discovered by means of a boring apparatus, and as its overflow runs along a small drain for a considerable distance, it is particularly valuable to travellers.

Leaving the Bass and Kilcunda road altogether on our left, we continued following a well-beaten bash track through rather inferior country until we reached Mr. J. C. Barratt's homestead, situated almost on the coast, and within a short distance of the small hamlet of Corinella.

Mr. Barratt carries on grazing almost exclusively, having some 1,200 or 1,400 acres of well-grassed land, which, however, he rents, as he also does a tract of country in the locality of Grantville known as the Hurdy Gurdy Ranges, and on which he depastures several hundred cattle, only mustering at stated intervals in order to draft a sufficient number for fattening purposes into the paddocks at Corinella, from whence they are travelled to the Melbourne market.

A limited number of horses are also bred on the place, and in the end will doubtless prove of more value than cattle, but no cultivation or dairying is done, the nature of the soil being evidently unsuited to these industries.

Proceeding towards the Bass from Corinella, the country is everywhere well grassed, and the stock in good order, those on Blackwood Park (now in the occupation of Mr. Murphy) being remarkable for their grand condition. For a short distance our course lay along the bank of the Bass, which from here could easily be made navigable to where it flows into the sea.

Approaching the township, Mr. B. Pender's property is to be noticed on the left. This extends back from either bank of the river, and is composed of extremely rich, well-grassed, but rather scrubby flats, which require a good deal of clearing and burning before being brought into a proper state of civilisation.

The country along the Bass River, is not unlike that bordering on the Acheron and Taggerty, in the Alexandra district, and the township is approached by crossing the Bass bridge in a similar manner to the Acheron at Taggerty.

The Bass is one of the oldest settlements in the colony, although it cannot be said to have made much progress either in importance or population since it has started, the township being very limited in extent, though prettily situated, and with an air of homeliness about it.

The country is level for a good way back from the river, and then becomes enclosed by a low ridge of hills extending towards Kilcunda. Very little selection has taken place on the Bass, the farms being nearly all freehold.

The owners or occupiers of farms, whose names I recollect, besides those already mentioned, are Messrs. O'Meara, Cleeland, M'Haffie, M'Intosh, Duerdin, Bothwell, Chinn, and Emerson, and the run-holders, Messrs. Hawkins, Anderson, and Turnbull.

The township, so-called, of Bass, contains one church (the Anglican), a State school (situated, however, almost beyond the township boundaries), two stores and a post-office, two hotels (O'Meara's and Stevenson's), a boot maker, and one or two other tradespeople.

Mr. O'Meara's hotel is the first met with on crossing the Bass bridge, and is a great resort for travellers. A nice clear paddock of sixteen acres surrounds the hotel, and, judging from the number of stock on it from year's end to year's end, the soil must be of surpassing fertility.

Some idea may be formed of its grazing properties when it is known that Mr. O'Meara had on an average half a dozen horses, nine cattle, and about a score of sheep on it for the last twelve months; and after all this, the field still possesses a thick, strong sole of herbage.

Some good farms are to be noticed bounding the road which leads from the Bass to Kilcunda, and the country is level for a few miles, when a low range of hills has to be crossed, after which undulating country, partly of good and partly of inferior quality, is crossed until within view of the Kilcunda cliffs. Before reaching the latter place the tramway which formerly ran to Griffith's Point is crossed several times.

Since the stoppage of the coal mining the whole of the line has fallen into a thoroughly dilapidated state. Many of the rails are moved out of their places or taken away altogether, old tracks are lying here and there, embankments are gradually slipping away, the sleepers visibly decaying, and every

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thing betokens that the whole line is fast going to ruin. It is regarding the necessity of getting back this line, in order to put it in a state of repair, and again carry on coal mining that the controversy has lately taken place in the columns of the Melbourne Press and in Parliament.

The Western Port Coal Company, which collapsed some two or three years ago, is now anxious to again commence operations, so as to carry on the Kilcunda mine on a more economic principle, and with greater facilities for the conveyance of the coal to Griffith Point, the nearest and most convenient seaport to Kilcunda.

Griffith's Point is only a small place, built on a sort of arm, running out into the sea, and the main thoroughfare to the town faces the edge of the beach, the principal buildings being constructed on only one side of the street.

Some of the residents appear to have great faith in the coal-mining scheme, and are using every endeavour to get the tramway thrown open again, the land through which it passes having reverted, by the effluxion of time, to the original owner, a Mr. Anderson, who possesses considerable property in the district, and is now opposing the petition of the company on the grounds that coal-mining having proved a failure at Kilcunda, and the line being unused for the period specified in the agreement, it again becomes his property, and the company have no further claim to it.

The second reading, however, of the bill to legalise the Western Port Coal-mining Company, in their action to hold the ground on which the tramway is constructed, has within the last few days been agreed to by Parliament; and should the bill become law, it is to be hoped the company will for the future carry on operations in a more energetic and successful manner than in the past.

The length of the tramway, as far as I can recollect, from Griffith's Point to its terminus at Kilcunda is from eight to ten miles; and although the line is completely out of repair at present, it would not require a very large expenditure to put it again in working order.

For several miles along the road to Kilcunda the sea is visible, and the township itself occupies an elevated position almost on the edge of the cliffs, overlooking a grand expanse of ocean. The coast, for the most part, is rockbound, and the waves dash in with that terribly peculiar and monotonous

sound which tells of the existence of breakers in every direction.

Bold and precipitous the cliffs are, which rise up close to the town, but here and there on either hand small stretches of sandy beach intervene, and one is enabled to get down to the water's edge and admire the stupendous masses of rock, broken by the action of the water into all manner of fantastic shapes, or rising from the beach and towering proudly for hundreds of feet above, presenting as bold and rugged a front as it is possible to imagine, even on the Scottish coast.

Standing on the topmost pinnacle of these cliffs, and gazing on the seething caldron of waves as each in succession comes rolling in towards the shore and breaks over the rocks in irresistible fury – standing there listening to

“the noise of the water  
Beating upon the shore,  
And the wind from some bleaker quarter  
Mingling with its roar,”

one cannot but experience a sense of awe at the grandeur of the scene which stretches around him, and imagine what it would be like when, in winter time, storms rage along the coast, and the waves in unbridled fury sweep over the bulwark of rocks, and dash the spray far up the face of the cliff, and even out on the headland. Such a scene would indeed be terrible in its magnificence.

So rocky, indeed, is the coast that no vessels can approach it, and not even a jetty can be constructed for the convenience of the townspeople, the nearest seaport consequently being Griffith's Point.

At the period when the coalfields were in full swing there were many more dwellings and business places than at present in Kilcunda, and the population, both of the town and district, was considerably larger. There are now only a few private houses, a State school, and a hotel, store, and post-office all in one, kept by Mr. Carew.

The greater part of the scrub and timber has been cleared for some distance back from the coast; but little or no farming is carried on, and selection, except in twenty acre blocks, has been unknown for years, owing to the regulations before referred to, which prevent any portion of the coal reserve from being available for selection under the 19th section of the Land Act. The diamond drill is still at work in the district boring for coal, and some observations on this, and also on what has been already done in coal-mining at Kilcunda, will form the subject of my next article.