

# The Western Port Times

## Grantville & Districts



Volume 3 Number 12

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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 Harold B. and J. A. Sullivan, at which date the premise is said to have been 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: [wonthagghistoricalicalsociety.org.au/](http://wonthagghistoricalicalsociety.org.au/)



From the *Australasian*, Saturday 18 May 1878, page 8: Colonial History

## Old Settlement Point

(Re-paragraphed for the sake of clarity.)

It is not a little strange that in a colony so young as Victoria there should be found the remains of more than one settlement, the very existence of which is almost unknown, except to a few students of early colonial history, or an occasional survivor of the pioneer days.

Nearly forty years ago the writer remembers to have heard in conversation of a deserted settlement having been found on the borders of Western Port Bay. Those who were discussing the subject seemed to know very little concerning its history; a vague idea that it had been formed by the French being generally prevalent. It was, indeed, spoken of as the French settlement, and was said to have been formed before the occupation of New South Wales by our countrymen.

On this latter point, however, some differences of opinion existed amongst the company; the object with which the settlement was formed giving rise to a variety of conjectures, which a knowledge of the history of those time teaches us were as incorrect as they were unlikely.

In short, turning to the pages of *Gurner's Chronicle of Port Phillip*, we learn that the French, having visited Western Port, and a design on the their part to occupy a portion of New Holland being suspected by the British Government of the day, Sir Ralph Darling, Governor of New South Wales, was directed to take possession of certain points on the coast. Of these Western Port was one, and an expedition was despatched from Sydney in 1826 to form a settlement in that locality.

That the undertaking was conducted with no lack of form and publicity appears from the fact of three vessels, one a sloop of war, and the other two transport brigs, being employed to convey to their destination the party, which consisted of two detachments of the 3rd and 30th regiments, under the command of Captain S. Wright and Lieutenant B. H. Burchall, the former as commandant of the settlement. Mr. Hovell (of Hume and Hovell) was also attached to the expedition, with a view of exploration in the vicinity of the new settlement.

What recalled these facts to the mind of the writer were the following circumstances: Being on business with a friend in the neighbourhood of Western Port in January last, we called one evening at a neat-looking building, which, with its surroundings, brought to mind the better sort of settlers huts of five-

and-thirty years ago. It was beautifully situated on a wooded height, and had that sort of still, retired appearance so congenial to old bushmen like ourselves, especially when wearied, as we were, with a long and hot day's travel.

Our object in leaving the road and driving up to the door was to make inquiries as to the merits of the inns in the neighbourhood, at one of which we proposed to pull up for the night. In the absence of the owner a servant gave us the information we required, adding that the track we should have to follow went by Old Settlement Point.

Never having been in that portion of the Western Port district before, the very name of the place, Old Settlement Point, vividly recalled to my mind the conversation which I had heard so many years before about the supposed French settlement; so that, though I now knew the history of the place pretty well, I felt a strong desire to see for myself whatever might still remain in connection with it, and on mentioning the matter to my friend as we drove along, I found that he felt the same sort of curiosity, and was delighted with his proposal that we should camp that night amongst the ruins. Having on the buggy forage for the horses, and a small supply of provender for ourselves, and remembering, like old bushmen, that

A summer's night in green wood spent,  
Is but to-morrow's merriment,

this course was at once decided on, so we trotted briskly along our pleasant bush road, talking of old times and the relics of the past we were likely to meet with at Old Settlement Point. Two or three miles, if I remember right, having brought us, as we calculated, pretty nearly to the spot of which we were in search, we pulled up at a cottage by the wayside to ask for further information.

As a stroke of great good fortune, it turned out that the person who came to the door was the veritable "oldest inhabitant" of the neighbourhood, Mr. Guy Bothwell, who, with hearty good-will, undertook to guide us to the ruins, act as our *cicerone*, and obtain leave for us from Mr. Thomas Hamilton, who now owns the land on which the King's troops built their barracks of old, to camp on the ground.

Accompanied by Mr. Bothwell, we proceeded

(continues on Page 4)

*Old Settlement Point... (continued from Page 3)*

to the spot, having pointed out to us by the way the sites of some old brick-kilns, and two old tanks on a hill-side, one of them with 8ft of excellent water in it, the work of Captain Wright's party of pioneers. Having had a good look at these objects, and examined the trees in the neighbourhood, we drove into the paddock, and set to work to form our camp, whilst our guide went down to the owner of the land to obtain his anticipated consent to our passing the night there.

In a quarter of an hour Mr. Bothwell returned with the necessary permission, and an invitation from Mr. Hamilton to take up our quarters at his residence. But we had made up our minds to camp amongst the ruins, which Mr. Hamilton hearing, and finding that we were not particularly well provided, brought us a famous wombat-skin rug, and some other matters, which were very welcome, and added considerably to our comfort; Mr. Bothwell in the meantime directing one of his sons to bring us a supply of nice fresh bread, and some excellent beef, which, added to the whisky, coffee, and other provisions which we had in the buggy, placed our commiseration [*sic*] on quite a luxurious footing. Necessaries being provided in this way, we passed the remaining hour of daylight in diligently examining what was to be seen, and listening to our guide's description of the place as it appeared when he arrived there in 1844.

As regards the remains of the settlement at present existing, they are not very extensive, though still sufficient clearly to identify the spot, and to interest excursionists who have a turn for such matters. When Mr. Bothwell and Mr. Cuthbert (a very old resident with whom I spent an hour next day) first arrived in the neighbourhood, it appears that about a dozen brick buildings were standing, some of them with walls nine feet high and ready for roofing, and others with the scaffolds around them in various stages of progress; the ground on which they were erected having been, in great measure, cleared of scrub and timber.

These buildings, however, have all gradually been thrown down, the bricks (which I noticed were of several different sizes and patterns) having been carted away for the purpose of erecting chimneys in the neighbourhood. Of the most pretentious of the buildings, which had several massive verandah posts in front, was about 30ft. square, and was known by the settlers as Government-house, the foundation trenches are still so complete, that the builder might begin to lay his bricks in them again with but little assistance from

the spade. To mark where the other cottages stood, however, little remains but small heaps of broken bricks, quantities of sea-shell lime, and a few pieces of decayed wood, which had been either sawn or adzed, probably the latter.

In one instance, I noticed the remains of a cottage which had evidently been constructed of wattle-and-dab and coloured plaster. In addition are to be seen in several places trenches, which served, no doubt, to keep dry the floors of tents, or possibly temporary wooden or bark structures, which have long since disappeared.

Besides the remains of gardens, still visible, and the stumps of six or eight trees, which had been, or were in process of being, grubbed, probably when the settlement was broken up, I was informed that there used to be a small milking-yard, bail and paddock, and a flagstaff which had fallen to the ground. Passing on from the ruins to some cottages hard by, we found that the only portable relics of the first settlers which had been discovered were three 3lb. cannon-balls, in the possession Mr. Cuthbert; a 1lb. weight, marked with the broad arrow; and a bronze object, probably belonging to a soldier's uniform, on which is the scroll "New South Wales," and underneath the capital letters "VB" (conjoined), which Mr. Bothwell has since very kindly forwarded for my acceptance as a memorial of our visit.

Having wandered about for some hours in the morning, and dug into some of the heaps of bricks and ashes, Mr. Hamilton conducted my friend and myself to the old battery, which is distant over a mile from the settlement, and stands on a lawn-like cliff, overhanging the sea and facing French Island.

When Captain Wright and his brave men proposed to defend the coasts of New Holland from this particular point, I cannot say. At all events, the works, which are of earth, and not extensive, seem to have been well thrown up that three small cannon might, with some repairs, be covered by them to-day.

The settlement was occupied by Captain Wright's party for about a year; Hovell made some explorations in the neighbourhood, and the party discovered coal at Cape Patterson, a circumstance which was duly reported to the Sydney Government, and notified in the *Gazette*. On their recall the party left behind them two milch cows and a bull they had brought with them, which were subsequently attacked by the blacks (as they related), swam to Bass River, and became the progenitors of the Cape Patterson wild cattle, which all old residents in the district remember.

# The (Original) Western Port Times

by

Geoffrey Guilfoyle

*The Western Port Times* had its genesis on 7 February 1896 when Thomas Cox Monger released the first edition of *The San Remo Times*. It was published weekly as a four-page broadsheet at San Remo until 18 November 1898 after which time Monger moved to Grantville, to the site – and likely the actual building – of the former Prince Alfred Hotel, which he initially shared with William Sinclair, a draper. The hotel was refused a license in 1884 because of its decrepit nature and ceased operating as a hotel. What happened to it after that is unclear; but if it still existed in 1898 it could have been patched up somewhat and offered as an inexpensive rental.

On 9th December 1898 the first edition of *The Western Port Times* was released for sale, not only in Grantville but, carried by coach and mail contractors, to other towns and localities in the Shire and further afield. It was printed each Thursday and distributed the next day.

Thomas Monger was neither a journalist nor a particularly capable writer. Coverage of news was rather sparse, with more detail often available in the *South Bourke and Mornington Journal*. For instance, here's the shipping news section from *The Western Port Times*, 3 March 1899 edition:

*The Evergreen arrived at Grantville on Saturday, and left again for Lang Lang Tuesday, returning again to Grantville Wednesday, and left yesterday for Corinella, and will leave for Melbourne on Saturday. The Trucanini arrived at Queensferry on Thursday morning from Melbourne, and left again for Grantville arriving the same afternoon at 4 o'clock, and will leave this morning.*

What cargo did these vessels pick up or drop off and was it for anyone in particular? What approximate time did these vessels arrive or leave? That the Grantville pier was a two minute walk from *The Western Port Times* office/Monger's residence shows a lack of basic inquiry on Monger's part.

Further proof of this is found in the *Local and General News* section of the August 15 1902 edition:

*Mr Weaver, who is the purchaser of the Grantville Hotel, took possession yesterday.*

Mr Weaver did take possession, but as the licensee. Ownership remained with William B. Lang as Monger could have ascertained

had he undertaken the two minute walk from *The Western Port Times* office/his residence to the hotel and chattered with Mr Weaver.

Also in the same section...

*An old resident of Korumburra district was found dead on a log near Kongwak on Monday. A magisterial inquiry will be held.*

Does this 'old resident' have an age and name and a more precise domicile? I'd imagine that in 1902 there were a few 'old residents' in the rather extensive Korumburra district.

Here's an example from the 9 December 1901 edition of his often awkward phrasing:

*An effort is being made to obtain a train running from Stony Point, on Monday mornings during the holidays in time to reach Melbourne at about 10 a.m...*

And this lumbering prose (and run-on sentences) from the 3 February 1899 edition:

*On the 16th inst, tenders are to be received for the painting and repairs to the Grantville and Queensferry state school. Whilst they and [sic] doing this work, why not have the school ground enclosed with a fence and cleared of heath and scrub, so that the children could play in the school ground at lunch time without fear of meeting with snakes, as several have been killed in close vicinity to the school, another long felt want is a shelter shed for the protection from sun and rain in play time, if there is a shower of rain the children have no place to go out of the wet, as the teacher cannot have them in the schoolroom whilst correcting home lessons. The Board of Advice members should advise the Education Department to have these few little necessarys done, as they are elected by the ratepayers to see to the requirements of schools being done.*

(You would think that several children being killed close to the school might have created something of a stir in Grantville).

As of writing, *The Western Port Times* has not been digitalised; to read it requires a trip to the State Library of Victoria and a great deal of frustrating fiddling around with a microfilm reader, forever having to adjust magnification, brightness and contrast.

Not worth the effort, right?

Well, the same 15 August 1902 *Local and General News* section offers the following...

*Mr March, the late proprietor of the Grantville Hotel, is leaving to-day for Melbourne. His family*

*(continues on Page 6)*

*The Western Port Times (continued from Page 5)*

*and himself will be missed, as they were always to the fore in anything going on the way of amusements, etc. more especially his sons, as they were very musical, a thing Grantville will miss, as it is short of that particular past-time.*

It is these additional little, often trivial, details that sometimes make the paper worthwhile, offering information not available elsewhere. The March family had been in Grantville for 18 months and Monger would have gotten to know them well.

Along with his lack of journalistic inquiry, Monger also seems to have been somewhat tight with money (which might support his choosing of the former Prince Alfred as his place of residence and business, assuming this is actually the case). Here's a piece from the *Great Southern Advocate* (Thursday 17 March 1898, page 3) that you *didn't* read in *The Western Port Times* :

### **San Remo Court.**

#### **Petty Sessions.**

(Before Mr. Smallman, P.M., Stewart, and Cleland J.s'P.)

A Debt Case.

Lemon v. Monger, debt claim, £1 7s 6d.

S. H. Lemon, sworn: *Am a journalist; went to work for defendant on 17th January 1898; made no agreement; was told to go on and see if the place would suit him; the work was light; worked in printing office two or three times a week turning the machine; folded the papers each issue; during [which] times wrote for the paper; wrote 8 columns; have the papers here. (Mr. Smallman: "Oh, we don't want to read them.") Was told to do household work, and I'm not ashamed to own that I did it, cooking, washing, scrubbing out the rooms of the house, cleaning knives and forks, cutting wood, emptying night pans every week, digging holes and carrying water; have only received 2s. 6d.; could not get any more from him; became ill and had to leave.*

Monger lost the case and Lemon moved on. For many months *The Western Port Times* carried an advertisement for a "boy to learn printing trade" without a response. (This may be, perhaps, a coincidence).

The paper continued to publish into the first decade of the 20th century without much in the way of alteration or addition. There is really not much to say about it other than it was, presumably, a profitable enterprise.

Sometime after February and before the end of October 1908, Monger sold the news-

paper to Harold B. and J. A. L. Sullivan, said to be brothers, and died four years later in Balwyn. George Lumsden, Sinclair's successor as draper, seems to have quitted the building with the sale, vanishing from the Phillip Island rate books (his last appearance being in 1908-1909 Vol.20).

The Sullivans made no major change to the paper during their short tenure, for short it was. How the paper ended is a matter for debate.

Legend has it that some time after the 12 August 1910 edition was printed and dispatched, fire destroyed the building and all the equipment and stores. The problem here is that no one seems to have noticed this dramatic event. It wasn't reported in the Melbourne papers such as the *Age* and *Argus*, nor in the *Great Southern Advocate*, *South Bourke and Mornington Journal* and, most interestingly, the *Wonthaggi Sentinel and State Coalfields Advertiser*.

The very existence of the *Wonthaggi Sentinel* offers another explanation.

Between 1908 and August 1910 the Shire of Phillip Island and Woolamai underwent a massive change. Coal mining operations started on the Powlett Plain on an industrial scale and the new town of Wonthaggi was booming, linked to Melbourne by the Nyora to Wonthaggi branch line which ran through the Bass Valley via Almurta, Glen Forbes and Woolamai.

This led to a re-direction of trade inland and to the Powlett Plain, quickly destroying the bay's sea trade and one of Grantville's primary reasons for existing, accelerating the decline of the town. In short, the paper likely ceased to be profitable and other printing jobs dried up. The Sullivans, unable to find a buyer for it or another paper willing to add it to their masthead, and with no long-standing ties to the district, may simply have taken stock of their strained finances and closed it down.

So why is there no mention of its closure in the last edition of the paper? Probably because it was expected, their intention given verbally to a number of locals over the previous weeks and spread by word of mouth. The silence of the other papers on the end of *The Western Port Times* due to financial reasons (not in flames which should have elicited a response) is likely because it was both expected and accepted. Grantville and its paper had simply become irrelevant.

Whatever the reason, *The Western Port Times* was no more.

From the *Weekly Times*, Wednesday 11 November 1953, page 52 & 54

## Pioneer days recalled at CWA Birthday

by "Miranda"

The real spirit of the Country Women's Association, which flourishes at its best in the more isolated areas was much in evidence at the little Glenalvie (Vic.) branch recently, when members were "at home" to other branches of the West Gippsland Group on the third anniversary of the branch's formation.



Some present and past officials at Glen Alvie. Mesdames C. F. Hollins (group sec., Dalyston), G. Rae (past group pres., Harkaway), W. N. Scott (group pres., Kongwak), and Miss L. Greaves (past group pres., of Monomeith)..



Glen Alvie had these visitors from Woodleigh. Mesdames K. Spark (v-p), I. Marshman (treas.), E. M. Ware and T. Stewart.



Glen Alvie officials (from left): Mesdames H. Jupp (sec.), N. Stuchberry (pres.), and D. Orchard (treas.).

Tucked well back in the heart of the Gippsland hills, Glenalvie has a history that is comparatively short, but one of which local residents, mostly descendants of first settlers, are justly proud.

They are kept well up in local history, too, for little has happened since the first settlement of 1890 that cannot be recounted by Miss P. McDonald, who was one of the special guests at the birthday party.

Although she has just celebrated her 84th birthday, Miss McDonald could easily take 20 years off her age and get away with it. Tall and straight of back, she has very keen eyes, and could, by all accounts, outwalk many a woman half her age. She was born at Ballarat (V.) and was in her early girlhood when her father selected the land at Korrinne, close to Glenalvie, where they made their home and where she still lives.

A fellow guest with similar pioneer connections was Mrs W. C. Greaves, of Monomeath (V.), who had also celebrated her 84th birthday a few days earlier. When Lang Lang organised its annual agricultural show on the lines of a "Back To" a few years ago, it was a matter for much joking that nearly all the returning visitors were related to the Greaves family, whose name has been closely identified with that part of Gippsland since its earliest days.

Also present was Miss L. Greaves, who is a member of Lang Lang CWA branch and, as a former Group President, was responsible for the formation of many of the younger branches.

Two other representatives of pioneer families, Mrs C. J. Grant and Mrs J. Matthews, both wives of local farmers, could also talk of the part their "inlaws" had taken in furthering the progress of the district. Grantville was named after the former family.

During a discussion on the musical aboriginal names of the South Gippsland district such as Kongwak, Korumburra, Poowong and Jumbunna, Mrs Grant said Glenalvie had been named by Mrs Walker, an early settler, after her birthplace in Scotland. The Walker family had conducted the first post office, and a photograph of one of the sons in the little hall at Glenalvie was a memorial to them.

(continues on Page 8)

CWA Birthday (continued from Page 7)

### Today's Memorials

Present residents also have their memorials. Outside the hall there are sturdy young trees growing and more are planted on notable anniversaries as tributes to former residents. Handsome granite gates bear bronze tablets, on which are inscribed the names of local men and women who served in the two World Wars.

An interesting visitor at the party was Miss Colleen Murphy, of New Zealand, who is here on a working holiday under the auspices of the CWA Home Help scheme. She hails from Whangaimoana (meaning "Valley of Plenty") in Taranaki.

Miss Murphy has been in Australia the best part of a year and has stopped at places in the Mallee, Western District and Gippsland. Although she was reared on a farm, this has been her first experience of acting as a house-

keeper. She was a buyer in the store in which she worked in her home town.

Miss Murphy was warm in her praise of the treatment she had received at the homes where she had worked in Victoria and said she thought the Home Help plan was a splendid way for a girl to travel, and to see different districts. One was not tied down to hours in the same way as with office work and most indoor jobs.

Her parents were both born in New Zealand, but her grandparents came from Ireland — Killarney and Cork, at that! The bright green of the Gippsland hills fascinated her.

In the official, party were Mrs W. Scott, president of the West Gippsland group, and her sister-in-law, Mrs C. P. Hollins, who is group secretary. Both live at Kongwak. Guests were received at the door of the hall by Mrs R. Stuchbery, president of Glenalvie branch, and Mrs A. Jupp, honorary secretary.



Glen Alvie Branch members at their party.



Mrs W. C. Greaves of Lang Lang.

\* \* \* \*



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From the *Weekly Times*, 25 November 1953, page 63

## **Tiny Gippsland Town HAS A BRAVE PAST**

Dear Miranda.—We did enjoy your visit to Glenalvie for our CWA Birthday and our only regret was that you could not stay longer.

As you asked members to send in any bits of local history they could recollect, I am giving you a few details about the early years of Glenalvie, where my husband's people, the Grants, were early settlers.

Glenalvie was thrown open for selection in the year 1890. In that year things were very bad throughout Victoria, work being almost unobtainable. A great many rushed the land at £1 an acre, with 20 years in which to pay off.

Selectors coming on to the land were faced with many hardships. A clearing was made and every man was his own carpenter, homes being fashioned from split timber and bark, which was very plentiful.

One large selector, a butcher from Ballarat, had acquired a very large acreage of land, and it was to this selection most of the smaller landowners applied for work, to raise sufficient money to buy the family requirements.

The ruling wage was then only a few shillings a week — not an eight-hour day, but work from sunrise to sunset.

Many landowners were compelled to leave their holdings through bad times, others, by sheer hard work and long hours, were able to hold on and improve their lot.

If only very slowly, they were advancing and this gave them heart. Often the wives and children cleared their land while the husbands worked elsewhere.

In 1898 and 1899 bush fires swept through the heavily timbered country, and though this was a terrible tragedy, as most lost stock and their homes, it did help the selectors fortunate enough to still have their holdings, by clearing the land of undergrowth, and so making the clearing of timber easier where the settlers could sow, and they did get a good strike of grass.

There still stands today two huge stumps carrying the marks of springboards used by the gallant men in their efforts to save their homes from the burning trees showering sparks from a great distance — a reminder of those days.

### **Lonely**

As mentioned already, many more disheartened settlers left — among them a young woman

with three young children. She had lived in that lonely forest for three years with her children. The husband worked at Inverloch and could only get home at week-ends.

There were no roads. The provisions were brought in by pack horses from Grantville or Inverloch. The Banks family, of Powlett River, kept the Post Office on the south of Glenalvie — many having to walk long distances to get their "Weekly Times" and mail once a week.

The first school was held in a private home, where children from Lance Creek, Korrine, Blackwood Forest and Glenalvie attended.

Later on, after the completion of the Glenalvie Hall, the school was transferred to there. The only amusement was made by the people — surprise parties being the most popular.

The usual means of travelling was horse-back or walking. A little church was built on a clearing at West Creek, and it was here the folk gathered on Sunday afternoon to offer their thanks to God and to have that good old yarn to each other. The preacher was Mr Densley.

### **Brightened**

Sunday School was conducted each Sunday in this church by the late Mrs Miles. Children walked great distances to attend.

Christmas treat was provided each year, with the well-laden tree of gifts, and everyone helped in making that celebration one to remember.

Life began to brighten for the settlers and their families and dairying was commenced. This was before the separator days.

Milk set in large dishes and cream was collected by a skimming process, butter was churned and made into pats. By this time the country was opening up and roads of a fashion had been cleared, so butter was packed to the nearest town (ours being Outtrim), and the weekly provisions packed back.

There was no baker calling, so each housewife made her own bread, baked in camp ovens. Later the Colonial stove became available, and for those able to possess one the task was less arduous.

A butter factory was later opened at Kongwak through the co-operative system. Directors were selected from the people.

By this time many were progressive enough to own their own separators, and cream was collected by bullock-drawn waggon and delivered to the factory. — "Honorable of Mention."

From the *Great Southern Advocate*, Thursday 17 August 1905, page 5: Glen Alvie.

## Mates Farewelled

When it became known that the popular resident of Blackwood Mr. J. Mates had disposed of his property and intended settling in Foster, his numerous friends interested themselves in the matter of presenting him and his good wife with a suitable token of their esteem, to mark their great appreciation of Mr. and Mrs Mates as friends and neighbours. Mr. W. C. Watson was appointed chairman and Messrs Hewson and McNamara opened subscription lists. Their efforts were rewarded by one of the largest and most representative gatherings which ever assembled at the Glen Alvie hall on Monday evening last. Residents from all parts of the district were in attendance, many of them riding several miles in order to be present on this occasion. Dancing was commenced early to music supplied by Messrs O'Halloran Bros., and was kept up with vigor until about midnight, when refreshments were handed round. Full justice being done to the good things provided by the ladies of the district, Mr. W. C. Watson presented Mr. and Mrs. Mates with a handsome silver tea service. In doing so he remarked that it required no speech from him to tell them of their many good qualities. The representative gathering present was sufficient evidence of the esteem in which they held their guest. (Applause). Personally he could speak feelingly of the many kind services that Mr Mates had done for him, and he assured them he never wished to meet a better friend. He had much pleasure in presenting Mr. and Mrs. Mates with a silver tea services upon which was inscribed "Presented to Mr. and Mrs. Mates as a token of esteem by their friends in the Blackwood." He also had pleasure in presenting Mr. Mates with a pair of pipes, and he trusted that when their guests made use of the articles they would always remember their friends of the Blackwood. (Applause).

Mr. Hewson remarked that their pleasure was tinged with sorrow. They were sorry they were losing such an excellent neighbour, but they were pleased he was going to better himself. He wished Mr. and Mrs. Mates every happiness and prosperity in their new home.

The health of Mr. and Mrs. Mates which was proposed by Mr. Watson being drunk with enthusiasm by the assembled company, Mr. Mates rose to respond. He was received with great applause, and remarked that he cordially

thanked the residents for the beautiful presentation they had given Mrs Mates and himself. It was with regret that he parted from such good friends, but in future he hoped that he would have the opportunity of visiting them. He thanked them heartily for the kindly, friendly and neighbourly feeling which had been extended to Mrs. Mates and himself during their residence in the district. (Applause). A number of songs and recitations were given by local artists which were well received and greatly appreciated by the company. Dancing was resumed, and kept up till an early hour when the gathering dispersed after singing "Auld Lang Syne."

From the *Great Southern Advocate*, 26 June 1902, page 3

## Blackwood Hall

(From A Correspondent.)

A public meeting was held in the Blackwood Hall, Glen Alvie, on Saturday last, to take into consideration the advisability of forming a branch of the Citizens' Reform League. Cr. Bowman was voted to the chair. Mr. Walker proposed, and Mr. R. Pratt seconded, that a branch be formed, and all present were included as a provisional committee. Mr. J. Edwards was elected secretary and treasurer. Mr. Bowman moved, "That in the opinion of this meeting it is imperitavely [*sic*] necessary to persevere with the movement for Parliamentary reform, to promote economy in the State expenditure." The motion was seconded by Mr. Morrison and carried unanimously. Mr. Bowman said they were fortunate in having a member who was in favor of reform and a reduction of members. Mr. Downward was a country member, and a practical farmer himself, and knew the requirements of country electors. If Mr. Downward supported the movement the electors should back him up, and in the event of an appeal to the country should do their best to secure his return. The secretary was instructed to forward a copy of the resolutions to Mr. Downward, and also the Central League, and the Press.

At a special meeting of subscribers to the Blackwood Hall held on Saturday last, the rules were revised, and the following committee elected, viz., Messrs. S. Balderston, R. Pratt, J. Green, W. Shanklin and S. Berryman. Messrs. McLaren, Hodgskiss, and H. Dowel were elected trustees. It is proposed to carry out several improvements, principally of a sanitary nature.

From the *Great Southern Advocate*, 4 August 1899, page 3

## Evening Party

A trip to Glen Alvie is worth the taking at any time, but doubly so when in response to an invitation to an evening party, such as given by Mr. and Mrs. B. H. Edwards on Friday evening last, where everything that would tend to make a pleasant evening pass away, and yet linger among the recollections of past life, was on hand, freely at the disposal of some 60 or 70 persons who attended. Fortunately favored by good weather – consequently decent roads – progress thereto was not a very serious undertaking; any drawback was amply compensated on arrival and throughout the evening. Dancing formed the chief amusement, and it was not allowed to flag in any respect, as it was not until 5 a.m. next morning that a move was made away. Supper was laid out in a sumptuous manner, everything of the most choice description being on the table. Those who could not or would not dance were not neglected in the least, rooms being set apart for their enjoyment, card parties, intermixed with a discussion on federation or the cricket scores, being the principal occupation. Songs and recitations made a pleasant break for all, and as daylight approached rapidly everybody had to take leave of their genial and kind hosts. The Messrs. Wheatley provided splendid music, while Mr. J. Michie as M.C. was at his best. Three hearty cheers were given for Mr. and Mrs. Edwards at the conclusion of the dance, together with the singing of “Auld Lang Syne” and “For they are Jolly Good Fellows.” The majority of the ladies’ dresses are here given:—

Mrs. B. H. Edwards, cream silk lustre, gathered ribbon and chiffon.

Mrs. A. R. Edwards, white silk, trimmed with chiffon.

Mrs. Uren, black silk, chiffon and jet.

Mrs. Banks, black skirt, pale blue bodice, white satin trimmings.

Mrs. Walker, black, jet trimming.

Mrs. M. Bowman, green costume, black moire trimming.

Mrs. J. Bowman, green cloth, green and pink trimming.

Mrs. R. J. Wilson, black silk lustre, trimmed with gathered ribbon and jet.

Mrs. Atkinson, black velvet costume.

Mrs. King, black silk, white satin trimming.

Miss Bowman, black evening dress, trimmed with pale green silk and black lace.

Miss Horner, cream dress, trimmed with pale blue silk and cream lace.

Miss K. Scott, black satin, trimmed with cream silk and jet.

Miss Fowles, brown costume, cream silk trimming.

Miss S. Thompson, black lustre, pale blue silk and jet trimming.

Miss Thompson, black lustre, with cardinal velvet and lace.

Miss Tozer, black skirt, pink crepon blouse, lace trimming.

Miss Michie, blue costume, white satin vest.

Miss Balderson, black velvet, lace fichu.

Miss Trewin, brown velvet costume.

From the *Great Southern Advocate*, Thursday 2 April 1896

## Local Topics

Phillip Island Shire.—The meeting fixed for Saturday next has been put off to Saturday, 1st April. The time for receiving for tenders has been extended until that date.

Election Of Directors.—Messrs. T. W. Horsley and G. Anderson were re-elected directors of the Jumbunna Coal Mine at the shareholders’ meeting on Tuesday last. Messrs. Pratt and Dwyer were re-appointed auditors.

Returned From The West.—Mr. E. M. Dixon, ex-President of the Shire of Phillip Island Shire, returned from West Australia for the Easter holidays on Tuesday last. He speaks well of the future prospects of the country, and purposes returning after a short holiday.

Glen Alvie.—A public meeting was held at the State School, Glen Alvie, on Tuesday, the 24th inst. Mr. J. W. Grout occupied the chair and Mr. H. H. E. Danby was elected hon. secretary. It was decided that the mail route laid down by the Postal Department was unwarrantable, and does not suit the majority of the residents of the district and is thoroughly unjustifiable. It was pointed out that all telegraphic, shipping and Shire business arrangements would be completely upset by the acceptance of tenders for the proposed new route, and it was resolved that a letter be sent by the secretary to Mr. Downward, M.L.A., asking him to make arrangements with the Postmaster-General to receive a deputation, and to withhold from accepting any tenders until he hears the views of the deputation. It was also decided to send an officer to inspect and hear the views of residents along the old route. The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

**For Chronic Chest Complaints, Woods  
Great Peppermint Cure. 1s. 6d.**

From the *Powlett Express and Victorian State Coalfields Advertiser*, 28 April 1916, page 3

## Rifle Shooting

### Wonthaggi Club Visits Glen Alvie Home Team Wins

On Easter Saturday, members of the Wonthaggi Rifle club and their lady friends, in Member Shugg's five horse drag, and many private vehicles, made a pleasant trip to Glen Alvie where a match took place on the rifle range. Bountiful refreshments, including "apples as big as melons" were provided by the lady friends of the home team, and after lunch the shooting took place, Glen Alvie gaining a well desented [*sic*] victory by three points. The appearance of the former captains of each club, Captain Morgan, Wonthaggi, and Captain Tozer, Glen Alvie, who were home on final leave, was a very pleasant re-union. The Glen Alvie club too presented their departing officer with a cheque as a mark of esteem, the Wonthaggi riflemen joined in with them in saying that Captain Tozer is one of the finest type of rifleman to be found. Captain Painter led his team to victory in his usual dashing style and they deserve the highest praise for the able manner they handled their rifles.

Following is the score conditions 10 shots:—

	Glen Alvie.			
D. Koetsveldt	—	—	—	48
J. Biggar	—	—	—	47
J. Green	—	—	—	47
W. McLaren	—	—	—	45
A. Tozer	—	—	—	45
G. Baker	—	—	—	43
G. Painter (Capt.)	—	—	—	41
F. Tschudy	—	—	—	41
R. Finlay	—	—	—	41
B. Trewin	—	—	—	41
A. Ward	—	—	—	40
W. Walker	—	—	—	35
C. Hewson	—	—	—	34
				548

	Wonthaggi.			
W. Perry	—	—	—	46
C. Norris	—	—	—	46
W. Himbeck	—	—	—	46
N. Banks	—	—	—	46
C. Notley	—	—	—	45
W. Robertson	—	—	—	44
N. Parslow	—	—	—	42
D. Morgan	—	—	—	42
B. McWilliams	—	—	—	42
J. Pearce (Capt.)	—	—	—	41
R. Dilworth	—	—	—	37
C. Taberner	—	—	—	34
H. Card	—	—	—	34
				545

From the *Powlett Express and Victorian State Coalfields Advertiser*, Friday 15 October 1915, page 3: Glen Alvie

## Plain and Fancy Dress Ball

A very successful plain and fancy dress ball was held in the Blackwood Forest Hall on September 24, in aid of the Red Cross Fund. The night being very fine, there was a large attendance, visitors being present from Archie's Creek, Kongwak and Almurta. Several ladies were in fancy dress, but gentlemen's fancy costumes were conspicuous [*sic*] by their absence, possibly if another ball is held, there may be a better display. The catering was in the hands of the local ladies, and as is usual at this hall, there was an abundance of everything, which goes to make an enjoyable supper. Music was supplied by Mr H. Evans, Wonthaggi, in his usual masterly style, Mr A. J. Tozer being master of ceremonies. The waltzing competition took place after supper and attracted 12 couples and finally Mr W. DeVries and Mrs J. Ware were awarded first honors. The local Red Cross funds should benefit substantially from this effort.

## Andrew Keating Death

From the *Age*, Friday 17 August 1906, page 6

### Killed By Train

Lang Lang. Thursday.

A fatal accident occurred this evening, a man whose identity has not yet been established being killed while making his way from Nyora to Lang Lang along the line. He was walking a bicycle, when the passenger train from Korumburra overtook and killed him instantly. The train was stopped, and the body was placed in the van, and as there is no police station at Lang Lang it was taken on to Melbourne.

Deceased is believed to be a man named Andrew Keating, who was canvassing the district for some metropolitan publication.

From the *Argus*, Monday 20 August 1906, Page 9.

### Lang Lang Fatality

Dandenong. Saturday.—Dr. Cole, district coroner, visited Dandenong on Saturday. On the body of the man killed on the railway line, near Lang Lang, being identified as that of Andrew Keating, a canvasser for newspapers and advertisements, an order for burial was given, and an inquiry will be held later. Deceased was 43 years of age, and is supposed to have come from Brisbane, but appears to have no friends or relatives in this state. The remains were interred in the local cemetery.

From the *Powlett Express and Victorian State Coalfields Advertiser*, 23 March 1917, page 3: District News

## Blackwood Forest and Glen Alvie Sports Day

Fine weather materially assisted towards the success of the sports held on Saturday in Mr. J. Thorn's paddock, Blackwood Forest, in aid of the Queen of Blackwood in connection with the Wonthaggi Hospital X-ray Carnival and the local hall funds. There was a good attendance from all parts of the district. An army of willing workers assisted the honorary secretaries, Messrs. Trewin and A. L. Bowman, and the events were got off in excellent order and time. Dinner and afternoon tea were provided by a hard-working committee of ladies at a nominal charge, the proceeds of which went to swell the funds. The sports were most successful in every way. Although the attendance was not as large as last year, the gate takings reached the satisfactory sum of £19/13/6, and the amount taken by the ladies at lunch and tea and other booths amounted to about £18. There was a pleasurable absence of the professional element. Every competitor in each event was out to do his best, and win if possible, and there were several close finishes, notably so in the Gentlemen's Flag Race, when both had their flags down together, but Wilson missed the barrel, and Cock won. The efforts of some amateur sheaf-tossers from Wonthaggi caused considerable amusement; their "performance" would not get them a job harvesting.

Messrs. J. Bowman and G. Falloon guessed the actual weight of the sheep, but the latter was unlucky, the spin of the coin favouring Mr. Bowman. There were 103 entries for this competition and £5/5/- was netted.

Chief among the hard-working lady assistants were Mesdames W. S. Walker, M. Bowman, J. Bowman, J. S. Greaves, J. Biggar, J. Thorn, Ward, J. Walker, Allen, Wilson, Finlay, Sweet, McLaren, Chapman, and Myles, and Misses Wood, Koetsveldt, Myles, Trewin, Tschudy (2), Hewson, Chapman, and Ramage. The following committeemen, with the hon. secretaries, were noticeably active in keeping things going:—Messrs. W. S. Walker, M. Bowman, J. Biggar, J. Bowman, J. Walker, J. S. Greaves, E. R. Hammet, W. J. McLaren, G. E. Painter, A. Ward, J. Sweet, N. Wallace, J. Thorn, M. McGrath, J. Bailey, Koetsveldt, Tschudy, S. O'Halloran, J. Allen, and J. D. Daly.

Results of the events are as follow:—

Maiden Plate, 100 yds.—R. Good, 1; R. Wilson, 2; V. Bowman, 3.

Sheffield Handicap, 130 yds.—S. Sleeth (16 yds.), 1; N. Wallace (10 yds.), 2; V. Dowel (9 yds.), 3.

Maiden Underhand Chop, 36 in. log.—F. McRae, 1; R. Harding, 2; A. Bowman, 3.

Underhand Chop Handicap, 48 in. log.—W. McLaren (35 sec. bhd.), 1; B. Mayo (27 sec. bhd.), 2; E. McRae (scr.), 3.

Maiden Standing Block, 36 in.—F. McRae, 1; N. Simmonds, 2; J. Biggar, 3.

Stepping the Chain.—Ted Wallace, 1.

Sheaf Tossing Handicap.—J. D. Daly (scr.), W. DeVries (2 ft.), and E. Whitlow (4 ft.), divided. Height, 33 ft.

Throwing at Wicket.—G. E. Painter and T. Edwards divided.

Tossing the Caber.—E. Whitlow.

Boys' High Jump (under 16).—A. Sheepway, 1; T. Wilson, 2.

Kicking the Football through Goal.—N. Fitzgerald, 1; W. McLaren, 2.

Potato Race.—J. Bailey, 1; S. Sleeth, 2.

Ladies' Potato Race.—D. Sloan, 1; M. Banks, 2.

Handicap Horse High Jump.—R. Kennedy, 1.

Ladies' Bending Race.—Miss M. McKay, 1; Miss M. Stewart, 2.

Gentlemen's Bending Race.—R. Wilson, 1; R. Kennedy, 2.

Gentlemen's Flag Race (17 competitors).—E. Cock, 1; T. Wilson, 2.

Ladies' Flag Race.—Miss M. McKay, 1; Miss E. Stewart, 2.

Single Ladies' Race.—Miss Marian Fields, 1; Miss Babs Anthony, 2; Miss L. Berryman, 3.

Married Men's Race.—S. Sleeth, 1; V. Dowel, 2.

Old Buffers' Race.—W. Garnham, 1; M. McGrath, 2; A. Biggar, 3.

Guessing the Live Weight of Sheep.—J. Bowman, 1 (77 lbs., the exact weight).

# Syd. Smith

(LATE W. FAHEY), 'Phone 26.

Licensed General Carrier and  
Cartage Contractor . . . . .

GRAHAM STREET, = WONTHAGGI.

☞ Coal and Firewood Always on Hand for  
Delivery. Furniture Carefully Removed.

From the *Powlett Express and Victorian State Coalfields Advertiser*, 12 April 1918

From the *Powlett Express*, 9 February 1917, page 2

## Carnival Queen Captures Coin

£250 Raised By Red Cross Workers

Glen Alvie & Blackwood Forest  
People Show Splendid Generosity  
Chivalrous Rivalry For Queen of Queens  
Popular Verdict: Queen of Anzac,  
Mrs. W. J. McLaren

Glen Alvie, Thursday.

Last night the hall proved altogether inadequate to contain the immense attendance of local and district residents, who gathered to witness the final voting for and crowning of Queen of Queens. For months past the Red Cross workers have been working hard for their various Queens, and a fine spirit of chivalrous rivalry prevailed, and while all laboured assiduously for their respective Queens, the immediate success on voting was not allowed to overshadow the importance of the ultimate object, viz., raising funds for Red Cross purposes to give rest and comfort to our weary soldiers who are defending the sunny land of Australia amidst the snows of Flanders.

A musical programme was meritoriously performed. Cr. M. Bowman made a capable chairman, and was ably assisted by Cr. W. S. Walker, Mr. E. R. Hammett and others.

During the evening recruiting addresses were given by Sergeant Owler and Mr. Monteath, of Melbourne.

The voting for the Queens resulted in a popular win for Mrs. W. J. McLaren with 14472 votes. Four of Mrs McLaren's brothers joined the colors at the first call. One has made the supreme sacrifice, one has returned home wounded, and two (one of whom has been wounded) are still on active service.

The posting of the final returns, given hereunder, was greeted with cheers, and the announcement that £244 13s 9d was the amount received in voting was further cheered.

The result of voting was:—

Mrs. McLaren, "Anzacs" - 14472 - £60 6s.  
Miss Trewin, "Peace" - 12710 - £52 19s 2d.  
Mrs. Walker, "Defence" - 11109 - £46 5s 9d.  
Miss Hewson, "Red Cross" - 7911 - £32 19s 3d.  
Miss Greaves, "Allies" - 7393 - £30 6s 1d.  
Miss McKay, "Australia" - 5130 - £21 7s 6d.  
Total, £244 13s 9d.

In addition to the above amount raised by voting, the door money and sale of articles will, it is expected, bring the amount up to about £250 or £260.

From the *Argus*, Thursday 5 December 1907, page 8

## Axemen on Tour

Glen Alvie, Wednesday. — In a letter to Mr. W. Walker, of Glen Alvie, Mr. P. M'Laren, one of the Victorian axemen who have been giving exhibitions of wood-chopping in Great Britain for some months past, states they have signed a contract to go to Germany early next year under which they are to receive £80 per week, but they will have to provide their own wood (which will cost about £8 weekly), and pay about £17 to agents. They expect to be in Germany about three months. M'Laren mentions that they have had several contests during the tour, but have experienced no difficulty in beating their opponents. At the time of writing they were at Belfast, Ireland, where their show was not going quite so well as in England, one reason being that the logs were too dry through having been left on the pier for weeks during the strike.

From the *Argus*, Tuesday 8 September 1953, page 5

## Where To Now?

Wonthaggi, Monday

Listen stranger, if you hit this town today you wouldn't know whether you were coming or going.

You can put it down to the cyclonic winds which have been howling here for the past three days.

They've been so ferocious that many street signs have been blown "off course" and now point the wrong way.

The locals, too, are in strife—consider the plight of a Drysdale st. resident.

Winds were banging together iron rings on a maypole so hard that they were ringing like an outsize alarm clock.

Although this resident obediently got up, he had every reason to go back to bed, but he couldn't turn off the "alarm"!

In passing, neighbor: Wonthaggi is the aboriginal word for "wind and rain."



From the *South Bourke and Mornington Journal*, Wednesday 25 February 1880

## Phillip Island And Woolamai Shire Council

Saturday February 21st 1880

Present: Mr S. West (President), councillors Misson, Norton, Kidd, Aldridge, Delany and Dickins.

### Correspondence

From Education Department enquiring, whether the machinery employed in collection of rates could be employed in taking the education census, and if so at what cost.—Secretary to reply that it could be done at a cost of £20.

From J. Turner and Sons, re fence on road at Inglis's corner, stating that Mr. Kidd was responsible for the fence.—Secretary to confer with Mr Kidd thereon.

Circular from Lands Department showing the additional instructions to authorized surveyors re roads in new country.

From Secretary for Lands in answer to letter from this Council, stating that Green Lake in western portion of Phillip Island should be permanently reserved for watering purposes, but that it was believed that Swan Lake in same portion of the Island could be sold without detriment to public interest; there was also read the report of the clerk of works upon the two lakes, stating that Green Lake would be completely filled with the drift sand, at the present rate of drifting, in about nine years, the lake having been lessened by one half in the last nine years by the same cause; but that Swan Lake was by far the most suitable lake for watering and recreative purposes, there being from twelve to sixteen feet of clear water in it in the driest summer.—Moved by Councillor West, seconded by Councillor Misson; that secretary write to the Secretary for Lands, requesting that nothing be done in the matter of the sale of Swan Lake till the opinion of the residents of Phillip Island be taken thereon.—Carried.

Clerk of Works reported having inspected the road from Grantville to the Bass River, and recommended about 80 chains of clearing at a small cost.—Report adopted, and tenders to be called for the work on motion of Councillors Misson and Delaney.

The Secretary was instructed to summons the man who had felled saplings on the road from Fernhill to the Bass River, and also to proceed against any one offending for the future.

A petition from Corinella ratepayers asking that the spring at Griffiths' Point be cleaned out and otherwise improved.—The clerk of

works was instructed to get it repaired by instructions of members of the riding.

From Woolamai ratepayers praying that the Griffiths' Point esplanade might be gravelled.—Held over for report.

Payments to the amount of £93 11s were passed.

The tenders of Grant and Co., contract 197, £14 14s, H. Jenner, contract 198, £3 14s 6d, were accepted. Fresh tenders to be called for contract 199 and specifications modified. Councillor Delany moved, seconded by Councillor Dickins and carried, that tenders be called for about 100 chains of draining, forming and clearing with culvert on the road from Bass River to Dowell's corner.—Moved by Councillor West, seconded by Councillor Dickins and carried, that Sen. Constable Taylor be appointed Inspector of Slaughteryards for Woolamai riding and Sen. Constable Pipe for the Corinella riding at a salary of £5 each per annum.

Councillor West and Councillor Norton were appointed a committee to carry out arrangements for stocking Swan and Green Lakes on Phillip Island with fish.

The Clerk of Works was instructed to visit Cowes, and inspect the proposed site for baths with a view to a modification of the plans.—Councillor Kidd gave notice of motion that 15 chains formation be done on the Bass road, near Natcott's hill.

The Secretary was instructed to apply for space in the Melbourne International Exhibition for the exhibition of photographs.

The Council then adjourned.

[Editor's note: Delany/Delaney spelling as per original].

## P FINN AND CO.

BENDIGO STEAM GRANITE  
and MARBLE POLISHING and

SAWING WORKS,

MONUMENTAL and GENERAL MASONS

Red Granite from our own Quarries, Cape  
Woolamai, Western Port.

Designs forwarded on application

MITCHELL STREET. BENDIGO

From the *Bendigo Advertiser*, 22 February 1898, page 2

From the *South Bourke and Mornington Journal*, Wednesday 25 February 1880

## Phillip Island And Woolamai Shire Council

Saturday March 20th 1880

Present—Councillor West (President), Misson, Norton, Turnbull, Aldridge, and Delaney.

### Correspondence

From Councillor Duffus, asking for three months' leave of absence.—Granted.

From T. B. Hill, secretary to Melbourne International Exhibition, granting space applied for by the Council.—Referred to Exhibition Committee.

From J. Carew, asking for a road to be surveyed to his house from the Main road through the Government ground.—Referred to members of the Riding for report.

From Wm. Harbison, asking for works to be done on Phillip Island.—No action taken.

From Footscray Council, *in re* re-establishment of tolls.

Two months extension of time was granted to Monk and Harding on their separate contracts.

An application from George Chinn for a slaughtering license was referred to the Inspector for report.

### Report Of Clerk Of Works

Re works required near Lot 1 Nobbies. Postponed for 6 month till Council is in funds — Re Swan Lake, Phillip Island. The President read the whole of the correspondence with the Lands Department in connection with the Lake, as also the various petitions drawn out by the inhabitants of the Island, praying that it might not be sold, and Councillor Norton having presented a numerous signed petition in favour of its permanent reservation; it was moved by Councillor Turnbull, seconded by Councillor Misson, and carried that the seal of the Council be attached to the petition, and that a deputation consisting of Messrs. West, Norton, and Crump present the same to the Minister of Lands, and endeavour to obtain its permanent reservation.—The Clerk of Works was instructed to get formation done on Frawley's contract, and extra works on Woolshed creek, and Harding's contract at Queensferry.

The report of the Clerk of Works on expense of gravelling Esplanade at Griffiths' Point was postponed indefinitely.

The Clerk of Works reported on works petitioned for by ratepayers of Cavrinella, [*sic*] near Misson's, and submitted estimate of expense.—Adopted, the works to be done when the Council are in funds.

The Clerk of Works brought up a report of the necessary improvements to be done to Shire Hall.—It was resolved that the deputation already appointed wait on the Minister of Justice, and urge the previous proposals from this Council upon him for consideration.

It was resolved that the Secretary summons all owners of unregistered dogs without notice, and that the police be instructed to seize and destroy all unregistered dogs in the Shire.

Payments to amount of £172 18s 9d were passed.

The Secretary brought under the notice of the Council the large debit balance of each riding, stating that if the second moiety of endowment were not paid in September, any contracts now let would leave a debit balance in Bank on 30th September. The Council having taken into consideration the incoming rate and subsidy decided on letting the following tenders:—F. Lindsay and A. Gooding, contract 201, £118; J. Pain, contract 200, £19 9s. 5d.; J. Jenvy, contract 199, £12.

Councillor Kidd's notice of motion lapsed, the mover not being present, and it was decided to let no more works for the financial year.

The Council then adjourned.

From the *Age*, Saturday 24 February 1912, page 14

## Child Falls From A Train

Wonthaggi, Thursday.

The passengers on the afternoon train from Wonthaggi yesterday were startled by the sudden stoppage between Woodleigh and Nyora. All heads were thrust out of the windows to see what happened. It was ascertained that the alarm signal had been given owing to a child named Katie Pynn, about nine years of age, having fallen out of the train through one of the doors of the carriage opening. The train was backed along the line, and the little girl picked up. She was dazed owing to having received numerous wounds to the head. The ambulance was got out of the guard's van, and the injured girl placed in it. The injuries, as far as could be learned, were only superficial, the child suffering more from shock than anything else. With her mother and sister, she attended the picnic from Lang Lang to Kilcunda, and it was on the return journey that the accident happened.



From the *Argus*, Monday 7 December 1953, page 9

# Lights on at Almurta

Wonthaggi Sun.

"Let's have light!" cried everyone at the ball in Almurta last night, so 86-year-old Mrs. M. Garry stepped forward, cut the tape — and electricity came to Almurta.

The hall, lit up by bright red and green globes, echoed with a cheer.

Nine thousand pounds needed for the extension was subscribed by nine district residents.



From left: Mrs. W. Stuart, Mr. D. Harrison (manager of Traralgon S.E.C. branch), Mr. Garry, and Mrs. Garry, who has lived in Almurta for 76 years.

From the *Argus*, Tuesday 25th January 1938

# Grantville Is Threatened 1,000 Acres Burnt

WONTHAGGI, Monday.

A bush fire which started in the Fern Hill country on Sunday morning swept toward Grantville yesterday afternoon. Over a distance of five miles, it burnt 1,000 acres of grass and scrub, sweeping through the tall trees in columns of flame.

At Grantville, the fire threatened the homes of Messrs. C. Dolphin and G. George, but the wind, blowing strongly from the east, turned the fire away along a deep gully close to the homes. The blaze died out in the green grass. Leaping the road at another point, the fire spread to a grass paddock on the other side, close to the residence of Mr. A. Price, who was absent at the time. Mrs. Price became alarmed, and, with the assistance of several children, carried all the furniture out into the yard. Calls had been sent to Corinella and other places for help, and several men arrived to fight the fire. The danger, however, soon passed.

A scenic touring coach was held up by the smoke, which obscured the vision of the driver, and the passengers stood by ready to help the fire-fighters.

## BLUEY and SOL



From the *Koo Wee Rup Sun* and *Lang Lang Guardian*, 5th November 1936

## BLUEY and SOL



From the *Koo Wee Rup Sun* and *Lang Lang Guardian*, 12th November 1936

## The Big Storm of 1934

As reported by the Melbourne *Age* with pictures from the *Herald's* evening edition.

From the *Age*, Monday 3 December 1934, page 12

### Wonthaggi Railway Damaged

#### Road Travellers Warned

Wonthaggi, Sunday.—Damage to the extent of thousands of pounds has been done by the storm, which broke over Wonthaggi and the surrounding district on Thursday night and continued on Friday. Seven inches of rain were registered in twenty-four hours. Houses, sheds, fences, trees, telegraph and electric light poles were blown down by the strong wind. All communication has been cut off since Friday. The flood waters, which were three feet higher than the previous record, washed away many bridges. Thousands of sheep and other cattle have been lost.

The Bass and Glen Forbes bridges, on the main roads, have been washed away. It has been reported that most of the bridges over the Powlett River have been swept away and motorists are warned not to travel by road to Wonthaggi or any of the towns this side of Lang Lang. It will be some day before the train or motor service between Wonthaggi and Melbourne will be running. On Friday afternoon the train left Wonthaggi as usual, and after travelling to Kernot had to return. Since Friday the railway line between Wonthaggi and Dalyston has been badly damaged by flood waters, and large sections of the line have been washed away.

The station master at Wonthaggi (Mr. Boswell) engaged a large gang of unemployed, who effected repairs on the flooded Powlett River side. Metal ballast and sleepers were found to have been washed away. At great risk to themselves, a railway breakdown gang connected the railway telephone line to-day. Over 200 miners will be thrown out of work on account of damage done to a shaft at the State coal mine. The shaft is flooded, and is expected to be closed for some time. Wonthaggi was in darkness on Friday night, but repairs have restarted the town's supply.

Fears are entertained for the safety of several families at Tarwin and Lower Tarwin. Communications have been cut off from those places and news was brought by boat to Inverloch on Friday night that a number of residents were seeking shelter on the house tops. Boats, bedding and food have been sent from Inverloch to Tarwin.

It will probably be two days before a train can get through from Wonthaggi to Melbourne,

and residents are hoping that mails will be brought to them by aeroplane. The town has no news of floods in other parts of the State. Mr. J. Carew, of Powlett River, has lost 500 sheep and many horses and cattle, and Mr. K. Hallole lost 200 sheep and cattle. The floods rose too quickly for them to be saved.

From the *Age*, Wednesday 5 December 1934, page 12

### Train Service From Wonthaggi

Wonthaggi, Tuesday.—Flood waters are rapidly subsiding, and all roads are now passable, with the exception of those on which the bridges have been washed away. There is about two feet of water on the Wonthaggi-Dalyston road at the Powlett River. The Wonthaggi-Korumburra and the Wonthaggi-Loch roads have from one to two feet of water at the Powlett River. The Bass-bridge is closed against heavy traffic. The Glen Forbes-Woodleigh, Almurta and Kernot bridges have been washed away. The Sunny-side bridge is trafficable. Arrangements have been made to run the Wonthaggi-Melbourne train from Wonthaggi to 8 a.m. to-morrow. This will be the first train to leave Wonthaggi since Friday morning.

From the *Age*, Monday 3 December 1934, page 12

### Hurricane At Korumburra

#### Melbourne Residents Trapped Tree Falls And Cuts Bed In Two

Korumburra, Sunday.—The worst storm in the history of the district was experienced here. The rain, which started on Thursday afternoon, was accompanied by a strong wind, which intensified to hurricane force, and did not cease till Saturday morning. More than eleven inches of rain fell. Many bridges and portions of roads have been washed away. Several Melbourne people are here, with no prospect of being able to get through. The electric light failed, about 6.30 p.m. on Friday, and after struggling in semi-darkness for about an hour shopkeepers decided to close up for the night. The breakdown was fixed up in about three hours. There has been great loss of life among cattle. One farmer at Ruby lost 28 out of a herd of 30 cows. Another local dairyman lost 20 cows. Numerous other losses have been reported. A man who was about to go to bed on Friday night was startled by a

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*The Big Storm of 1934 (continued from Page 18)*

tree falling across his room. It cut his bed in two.

Some cars left here yesterday afternoon for Melbourne by different routes, but all returned, realising that it was hopeless to go on. Landslips have taken place all through the district. A railway ganger from Nyora, Mr. Lister, was caught near Woodleigh, and had to take refuge in a tree, where he remained all night. He was rescued next morning, a boat having been taken there from Korumburra. A big portion of Melbourne's milk supply which comes from South Gippsland has been cut off since Friday.

From the *Age*, Monday 3 December 1934, page 12

### **Kooweerup Swamped** Over 1000 Homeless Many Rescued By Boats

Kooweerup, Sunday.—Kooweerup is isolated as the outcome of the severest flood in its history. About 1000 people are homeless and have lost everything, and hundreds of refugees from Kooweerup are now being accommodated at halls and homes in Dandenong. Over 700 points of rain was recorded. The country for miles around is flooded, and in the township of Kooweerup the business houses are flooded to a depth of six feet. Large numbers of cattle and horses have been drowned. The special trains sent by the Railway department took refugees to Dandenong, where the State Relief Committee provided food. Many had sheltered for hours at the railway station. About 200 more took refuge in the Kooweerup Royal Hotel, while others sheltered on the local



A close-up from the air today of the Roman Catholic Church at Koo-wee-rup, which is surrounded by deep flood water. Almost every building in the town looks like this. Many refugees have been taken to Dandenong, but others are sheltering at the local railway station. Source: *The Herald*, Monday evening, December 3, 1934.

memorial hall stage.

Mrs Plowright and children had a remarkable experience. When the flood water invaded their home they remained in the building till it practically turned over, and they had to be rescued by boats.

Many cars can be seen stranded on the roads. At Cora Lynn most of the farmers and their families have taken refuge on the roofs of their homesteads. Dalmore post office is flooded.

Kooweerup post office officials had unpleasant ordeals. The telephonist remained at the switchboard till the flood waters reached it.

It is estimated that the damage in Kooweerup and district will be tens of thousands of pounds. Mr. Gilchrist, of the Aiawoona dairy, lost a valuable herd of Jersey cattle. Furniture and personal belongings of hundreds of families have been lost.

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Refugees sorting through donated footwear. Source: *The Herald*, Monday evening, December 3, 1934



The flooded junction of main streets at Koo-wee-rup, where heavy floods have driven the townsfolk from their homes. Food supplies have been sent to them by air and special trains. Source: *The Herald*, Monday evening, December 3, 1934

*The Big Storm of 1934 (continued from Page 19)*

From the *Age*, Monday 3 December 1934, page 12

## **Stock Drowned at Caldermeade**

### **Kooweerup Line Surveyed**

Lang Lang, Sunday.

The floods have subsided at Caldermeade, but there have been heavy losses of stock by drowning in this district. Chief sufferers were Miller Bros., who lost 200 cattle, Mr. H. Still lost 28, Mr. D. Mitchell 23, and about fifteen other farmers lost from three to seven head a-piece. The river went down seven feet in the night, and is now running its normal course. Telephone connections were restored after three aircraft had dropped insulating cables and telephone fixtures. One package fell on Lang Lang show ground, and others behind the butter factory. A ballast train left Lang Lang with an emergency crew to repair the railway line between Monomeith and Kooweerup. When they returned, at 6.30 p.m., the men said it would be three days before the line was in order, and that 500 more sacks of ballast would be needed. Threatened by rising waters, Mr. G. Abel, of Bayles, waded through three miles of flood water covering the railway track, in places three feet deep, and reached safety. Messrs. W. Orgill and W. Smith, both of Lang Lang, were forced to wade through several miles of flood waters from their inundated homes to safety.

From the *Age*, Monday 3 December 1934, page 12

## **Refugees Rescued**

### **Special Trains From Kooweerup**

#### **Hospital Patients Moved**

Help for nearly 500 refugees from Kooweerup, including four hospital cases from the local hospital, was provided during the week end by the Railway department, which ran three specials to Dandenong. Four boats for use in relief work in the district were taken down on Saturday, and in the afternoon two trains — one carrying 250 passengers and the other 140 passengers — came to the city. Yesterday another special train brought 83 passengers, including four patients from the local hospital, who were carried on stretchers in the van and were taken to Dandenong. Last night 200 local residents were reported to be sheltering at Kooweerup station.

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Pianos, organs, bicycles, cash or terms at the Melbourne Furnishing Coy., Wonthaggi.

From the *Age*, 8 January 1935, page 12: Country Section

## **Kooweerup Swamp**

### **A Highly Productive Area**

Kooweerup, Monday.—The vast area of land known as the Kooweerup Swamp comprises approximately 80,000 acres, and is but a young district, being practically not more than 25 years old. During that time an immense amount of real wealth has been given to the State by this district, and this vast expanse of hitherto practically useless swamp land has been converted into farms of the highest fertility.

Mr. Albert Woodman, a well-known local resident of 40 years' standing, who is well conversant with local land values, estimates the value of the land at present at £35 an acre, without improvements, and stated that the total value of the land on the Kooweerup Swamp would be £2,000,000, the improvements could be estimated at £500,000, and before the recent floods stock and plant, not including crops, he valued at £240,000. The Kooweerup swamp, he added, had never been a drag on the State, and the assets of the district were quite satisfactory, with substantial buildings and well-improved farms. There is not a 50-acre farm in the district that could not be cultivated immediately. There are no barren lands in the district, all the land being reproductive. The area is capable of dairying one cow to every three acres. The great majority of the land in the district is unequalled in the State for the growth of potatoes and other vegetables, and nearly 30 per cent of the potatoes grown in the State are grown in the Kooweerup Swamp.

Although only a few weeks have elapsed since the devastating flood, the initiative of local farmers is well exemplified in the fact that there are now about 3000 acres under crop in the Kooweerup Swamp area. This result has been accomplished through the generosity of the Government in supplying manure and seed free of charge to the farmer, who has made good use of it. What will be most seriously felt is the loss of stock by farmers in the recent flood, and the autumn milk production will be exceptionally low. It is estimated that before the flood 3000 acres of meadow hay would have been harvested.

The Kooweerup Swamp is certainly well worth saving to the State, and its productiveness is rapidly improving.

**For bronchial coughs, take  
Woods' Great Peppermint Cure, 1/6**