

# The Western Port Times

## Grantville & Districts



Volume 5 Number 10

FREE

February 2023

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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.

\* \* \*

**For Sale.**

—:—

**431 acres near Grantville.**

—:—

**50 acres ploughed, 100 acres timber**

—:—

**SUB-DIVIDED INTO 9 PADDOCKS,**

—:—

**FOUR ROOMED HOUSE and splendid OUT-HOUSES.**

—:—

**To be sold CHEAP.**

—:—

**Or to be Let for a term of years.**

—:—

**Apply:**  
**T. C. Monger,**  
**"Times" Office,**  
**Grantville.**

#### Snake Fright

Dust and sand get into everything. Apparently snakes do too, as one of the Belfrage girls found out in 1903.

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#### The Hotel At Bass

Part Two. This time the rivals of the Bass Hotel are dealt with, namely the Royal Hotel and Woolamai Inn, plus a few other odds and ends.

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**The Western Port Times.**  
AND PHILLIP ISLAND AND BASS VALLEY ADVERTISER.

Published for the Proprietor by J. T. PAUL, General Storekeeper, Grantville.

No. 10. FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1923. Price 1/6.

GRANTVILLE

General Printing Office

WESTERN PORT TIMES.

PHILLIP ISLAND and BASS VALLEY Advertiser.

GRANTVILLE

The only Paper Published in the State.

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**Links to other historical groups**

Bass Valley Historical Society: [www.facebook.com/groups/bassvalleyhistoricalsociety](http://www.facebook.com/groups/bassvalleyhistoricalsociety)  
 Friends of Churchill Island Society: <https://focis.org.au/about-churchill-island/>  
 Hastings–Western Port Historical Society Inc.: <https://www.hwphs.org.au/>  
 Inverloch Historical Society: <http://inverlochhistory.com/>  
 Also: [cv.vic.gov.au/organisations/inverloch-historical-society/](http://cv.vic.gov.au/organisations/inverloch-historical-society/)  
 Koo-Wee-Rup Swamp Historical Society: [kooweerupswamphistory.blogspot.com.au/](http://kooweerupswamphistory.blogspot.com.au/)  
 Korumburra & District Historical Society: [www.korumburrahistory.com.au](http://www.korumburrahistory.com.au) or PO Bo 329, 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/)  
 Wonthagi Historical Society: [wonthaggihistoricalsociety.org.au/](http://wonthaggihistoricalsociety.org.au/)  
 Wonthaggi Genealogy Inc.: [secretary@wonthaggi-genealogy.org.au](mailto:secretary@wonthaggi-genealogy.org.au)

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 Send your name and email  
 address to:  
 geoffguilfoyle@dodo.com.au  
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From the *Argus*, Wednesday 19 October 1938, page 3.

## Saving The Koala

### Farms Proposal

The establishment of a series of koala stock farms on the Victorian mainland is proposed in addition to that which is in process of formation at Rhyll, Phillip Island. Sites at Healesville, the Buchan Caves, near Geelong, and at Marysville will be suggested as suitable.

State Ministers, including the Premier (Mr. Dunstan), the Minister for Lands (Mr. Lind) and the Minister for Public Works (Mr. Goudie), who are strongly sympathetic to the movement for the preservation of the koala, will visit Phillip Island on November 18 or November 19. Their projected visit at this week-end was postponed because Mr. Dunstan has to attend the meeting of the Loan Council at Canberra.

On their tour of inspection next month the Ministers will be accompanied by members of the committee of management of the koala reserve, and probably by the chairman of the Zoological Board (Mr. Olney, M.L.C.).

It will be pointed out to the Ministerial visitors that, even with a vigorous policy of plantation at Rhyll, there might, in some years, be a danger of a shortage of food on the island for koalas, and they will be urged to consider the establishment of several stock farms on the mainland.

Members of the committee of management will urge upon Mr. Dunstan the necessity of fencing the area of 286 acres at Rhyll at a cost of between £1,500 and £2,000. This work is an urgent necessity if the bears are to be prevented from straying to their own destruction, according to the committee.

From the *Argus*, Thursday 20 October 1938, page 10.

### League's Good Work

Sir.—It was with great pleasure that I read your articles relating to the preservation of the koala on Phillip Island. The Phillip Island Shire seems to be to a sort of "Cinderella" when it comes to obtaining money for works of this nature. For some considerable time we have had in mind the planting of gum trees for the preservation of the koala, and the much needed bridge between San Remo and Phillip Island.

Residents at their own expense have planted some thousands of gum trees, suitable for food for the koala. We are still waiting for something to be done about the bridge and the preservation of the koala. We

trust that the Ministers will, upon their visit, realise the urgent necessity of these works and carry them into effect immediately.—Yours &c., J.O. Edhouse.

Honorary Secretary, Phillip Island-San Remo Bridge League.

### The Bear Necessities



## The Gurdies Bore

From the *Lang Lang Guardian*, 25 March 1914, page 3.

### Bore at the Gurdies

We learn that the bore which was put down at the Gurdies by Mr G. Bonney has been re-opened, and is now giving a good supply of fresh, pure water. Testing the quantity of water flowing it was found that a hole six feet deep and five feet in diameter was filled in ten minutes, and that this is a valuable discovery has been confirmed by the apparently permanent nature of the flow.

From the *Lang Lang Guardian*, 20 May 1914, page 3.

### The Gurdies Bore

We are pleased to state that Mr Bonney's artesian bore at the Gurdies is now fully equipped, and is now throwing up water through wrought-iron pipes (40ft) at the rate, it is estimated, of over 40,000 gallons per 24 hours. Mr Bonney intends to lock the flow down for the winter, but before doing so he extends an invitation to the public to come and inspect it.

## News From Lang Lang

From the *Lang Lang Guardian*, 18 March 1914, page 2.

**SAN REMO HOUSE—Unsurpassed rest and health resort, lofty rooms and outdoor sleeping accommodation. MRS. J. T. DENHAM.**

Mrs J. T. Denham notifies that at the San Remo House superior accommodation may be obtained. This house is within easy reach of probably the most charming cliff and beach scene in the State.

Much interest was excited by the report in our last issue [sic] of an extraordinary flow of water struck in a bore put down by Mr Geo. Bonney on his property at the Gurdies. As stated the water was struck at 40ft., and flowed over the land at the rate of about 3000 gallons per hour, being perfectly pure and fresh. From additional information we learn that when the water was reached the bore dropped fully a foot as though it had fallen into an underground stream, and soon afterwards the water began to flow. Those who have had an opportunity of inspecting the bore are of opinion that it is a most valuable development for the locality and the district, especially in the way of giving land holders an encouragement to bore for water. Mr Bonney has now closed up the bore, as it is his intention to put down pipes to tap the stream, and the result will be awaited with interest, as showing whether the flow is as permanent as it is expected to be.

Mr E. R. Gregory, auctioneer, notifies that he will hold a sale of ironmongery, drapery, saddlery, etc, in a marquee near Grant's shop, Lang Lang, on Wednesday, 1st April, and Friday, 3rd April. The goods will be on view from Saturday, 28th inst.

A practice that seems to be becoming prevalent in this district is that of driving motor vehicles without lights, whereby danger to life and limb is incurred, and serious legal penalties are involved. The practice is more particularly objected to on the Kooweerup roads.

A meeting of the Lang Lang Race Club is called for Thursday evening.

A truck of pigs and calves will be sent from Lang Lang by Scott and Co. on Monday.

Scott and Co. notify that they will hold a special cattle sale at the Lang Lang yards on Wednesday, 25th inst, a list of yardings being given in advertisement.

There was a large attendance at the St. Patrick's day ball in the Kooweerup hall on Monday evening, the amount of £14 15s being

### Lang Lang Race Club

A MEETING of the above Club will be held at the Palace Hotel on Thursday evening, 19th inst, at 8 p.m.  
H. E. GARDINER,  
Secretary.

### A Truck of Pigs and calves

WILL be forwarded from Lang Lang on MONDAY next, 3 p.m, consigned to ALEX. SCOTT & Co., Auctioneers, Dandenong  
C. M'KERNAN, Agent.

taken at the door.

It will be observed that the popular and famous Stagpoole Family will give their entertainment in the Lang Lang hall on Thursday evening, 25th inst. This company is well worthy of a good house, being one of the best troupes travelling the country.

Attention is directed to the special cattle sale on Monday next at Grantville, to be conducted by Scott and Co.

On Sunday afternoon last a harvest festival service was conducted in connection with the Lang Lang Methodist Church, the Mechanics' Hall being suitably decorated for the occasion. The preacher was Mr W. Hollis, of Melbourne, who delivered his popular sermon on "How we got our Bible."

A day that is worthy of a special niche in the memory is Friday, March 27 when the various clubs in the Lang Lang district association are arranging for a picnic excursion to Kilcunda. The details in connection with the excursion train which is being provided will be found in advertisement. The council has recommended the granting of a public holiday for that day in the Tooradin and Yallock ridings, which will enable the school children to participate in the excursion. We are requested to state that tickets for the excursion are now available, and may be procured from the secretaries of the various clubs.

The Lang Lang and District Cricket Association has arranged a match with the Richmond

(continues on Page 5)

### HUGE GRASH - SMASH - CASH SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION

E. R. GREGORY, auctioneer, has been favored with instructions from Messrs Gregory Bros., of 129 and 131 Flinders lane, Melbourne, to sell by public auction at Marquee, Rupert street, near Grants' Blacksmith's shop, Lang Lang, on

**Wednesday, 1st April,**  
Commencing at three o'clock sharp, and

**Friday, 3rd April,**  
Commencing at 1 o'clock sharp, huge quantity of High-Grade

**Ironmongery, Drapery, Saddlery, Etc.**

About 8000 Lots, drawn from Surplus Indents, Imports, Etc.

The whole of the above will be on view from Saturday, 28th March.

Inspection Cordially Invited. Absolutely No Reserve.

Terms—Cash on fall of the hammer.

DON'T MISS THIS HUGE GENUINE SALE.

### SPECIAL CATTLE SALE.

GRANTVILLE.

**Monday, 23rd March.**

ALEX. SCOTT AND CO.

WILL hold a special sale of stock at the Grantville Market Yards on the above date at one o'clock sharp, when they will offer

**300 Head of Mixed Cattle**

40 springers  
35 Jersey cross heifers, 1½ years  
35 steers, 1½ years  
30 steers, 2 years  
15 Shorthorn heifers, 2½ years  
130 head mixed cattle

Entries Invited.

Alex. Scott and Co., auctioneers, Dandenong and Korumburra.

News From Lang Lang (continued from Page 4)

Club to take place on Easter Monday and Tuesday on the Show grounds. The Richmond Club will play eleven men and the Association fifteen men. The Association will shortly select its team.

A harvest festival service was conducted in the Presbyterian Church, Lang Lang, on Sunday evening, when an appropriate sermon was preached by Rev. Mr Ingram. The church was suitably decorated by flowers, fruits and grains, etc.

We regret to record the death of one of the old pioneers, and a colonist of 60 years, in the person of Mrs Harriet N. Jewell which occurred at Lang Lang on Thursday. Deceased was 80 years of age, and her demise was the outcome of ailments incidental to advanced age. She was the mother of Mrs T. Prowd, of Lang Lang, and also leaves three sons and a daughter. The funeral took place at the Lang Lang Cemetery on Sunday, the service being conducted by Mr Danne, of the Church of England.

Readers will be interested in the advertisement, published elsewhere, relating to the All Nation's Fair to be held in the Yannathan Hall in aid of the Union Church funds.

A sparrow shoot in connection with the Tobin Yallock gun club takes place next Saturday.

From the San Remo Times, 25 February 1898.

## Bush Fires At Kilcunda

The bush fires which had been raging around this locality for the past month, broke out with renewed energy on Saturday last, a few acres of scrub in Densley's and Harley's property, was started with a south westerly wind, and the column of smoke that rose from the burning scrub could be seen for miles round. The settlers adjoining this place began to make preparations to beat the fire back if occasion should arise, but as the wind kept in the same direction there was no apparent danger, and the scrub burnt itself out, leaving a great many standing dry trees burning, which presented a grand sight on the hill side.

On Sunday morning the strong north wind started the fire off again, and in a short time it had spread about half a mile wide, and had encircled Palin's property, and was burning fiercely towards Glandfield's, Dwyer's, Gibson's and Atkinson's. Efforts were made to stop its progress in Dwyer's but proved unavailing, as it proceeded on its merry course, licking up everything before it, and when it reached the rear of Atkinson's and Gibson's place, the wind blew strongly from the west, bringing the fires direct on to the houses of those people, and after extreme measures had been taken the flames were beaten off the houses and leaving them in danger of the sparks.

The fire by this time had stretched across Edgerton's and Peterson's into Pilling's and Steinholdt's property. The force of the wind resisted the efforts of the beaters, and the fire got the upper hand of them at Pilling's, and caught the long grass in the orchard on one side, and while they were battling with it there the flames reached the barn full of hay and before anything could be removed the contents, which included all his harness, pole, chaffcutter, etc, were destroyed.

The fire when it had traversed the top end of Mapleson's, burned across to the old fire in Taylor's and O'Meara's properties, and was there beaten out. Mr Palin lost his stack of hay and sheds, as did also Mr Moss. Mr Atkinson's house caught on one side, and before it was subdued he had some harness and tools burnt. Messrs Edgerton, Pilling, Palin, Moss, Glandfield, Peterson, Gibson, Atkinson and Steinholdt lost all their grass. Fences all round have been greatly damaged. Water is very scarce, and with no feed for the cattle things do not look very pleasant for the coming winter. Those who had good tanks of water had them considerably reduced by the fire fighters trying to save their houses.

<p>—LANG LANG HALL,—</p> <p><b>COMING! On COMING!</b></p> <p><b>THURS., MARCH 26.</b></p> <p><b>THE STAGPOOLE FAMILY</b></p> <p>Everything New—Everthing New</p> <p><b>ALEXANDER &amp; EDWARD</b> In Songs and Patter.</p> <p><b>MISS RUBY COX</b> In New Songs and New Costumes.</p> <p>A POTTED PANTOMIME, "The Music Teacher." "JACKO," the funny monkey; dont let the children miss this.</p> <p><b>MADGE, in her Novelties. Songs. Scenics and A Military Absurdity, to the front.</b></p> <p><b>WATCH FOR THE ALLIGATOR.</b></p> <p>Two Hours of clean fun. Prices 3/, 2/, 1/</p> <p>J. J. STAGPOOLE, Representing.</p>	<p>LANG LANG AND DISTRICT CRICKET ASSOCIATION.</p> <p><b>PICNIC TO KILCUNDA.</b></p> <p><b>FRIDAY, MARCH 27</b></p> <p><b>SPECIAL TRAIN</b></p> <p>AT EXCURSION FARES LEAVES</p> <p>Tooradin 7.40 a.m. Kooweerup 7.55 Monomeith 8.1 Caldermeade 8.5 Lang Lang 8.20 Returning 5.15 p.m.</p> <p><b>FARES.</b></p> <p>Tooradin 4s, Kooweerup 3s 6d, Monomeith 3s 3d. Lang Lang 3s Children under 14 half price.</p> <p>Tickets obtainable from Secretaries of Cricket Clubs, and must be purchased before 12 o'clock on March 26th.</p> <p><b>HOT WATER PROVIDED AT KILCUNDA.</b></p> <p>W. COLE, President. A. GLASSCOCK, Secretary.</p>
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**TOBIN YALLOCK GUN CLUB**

**The South Gippsland**

**SPARROW** ≡ ≡

**CHAMPIONSHIP**

Will be shot for on the Club's ground on

**SATURDAY, MARCH 21**

**STARLING SWEEPS TO FOLLOW**

L. WILDES,  
Hon. Sec.

From the Powlett Express and Victorian State Coalfields Advertiser, Friday 27 October 1916, page 2.

## Car Overturms At Bridge Creek Senior-Constable Tennant Killed.

On Tuesday afternoon, Oct. 24, between 4 o'clock and 4.30, Senior-Constable Tennant, of Wonthaggi, was killed in a motorcar accident, on the Kilcunda-Dalston [*sic*] road, near Mr Geo. Hollins' house at Bridge Creek.

On Tuesday morning shortly before 10 o'clock Senior-Constable Tennant left Wonthaggi in a motorcar which Mr. R. L. Allen, of the Powlett Hotel, was driving to visit Kernot for the purpose of serving a County Court summons. They were returning and travelling slowly when something went wrong with the steering gear of the car as they came down a hill at Bridge Creek. The car swerved to the right and capsized pinning the occupants underneath. Senior-Constable Tennant was held face downwards by the back of the front seat; Mr. Allen had his left arm and leg jammed by the steering wheel, the arm of the front seat was pressing on his chest, but his right arm and leg were free. The engine was racing, and, fully sensible of the possibility of fire should the petrol catch alight, Mr. Allen was successful in cutting off the magneto switch with his foot, thus stopping the engine. He spoke to Mr. Tennant, who said he would be alright if he could get the weight off, but his efforts were in vain. For about 20 minutes they lay under the car in great suspense, till the welcome sound of a horseman on the road was heard. It was Mr. S. Pickersgill who at once eased the pressure but was not able to right the car. Mr. D. G. Gunn, who had seen the accident from his home a mile away, hurried to the scene on a bicycle, and he and Mr Pickersgill extricated Mr. Allen. The three of them righted the car, and it was noticed that Mr. Tennant was dead.

Dr. Baird was called from San Remo, but on arrival could only pronounce life extinct. The body was brought into Wonthaggi and taken to the mortuary at the hospital.

Mr. Allen, who had a very narrow escape, was suffering somewhat from shock, and sustained a number of bruises, but was subsequently able to bring his car into Wonthaggi.

The news of the accident caused great concern in Wonthaggi, where both gentlemen were popular and well known. It was not until nearly 6 p.m. that the facts became available, and on all sides deep and sincere sympathy was expressed at the sudden

passing of Mr. Tennant.

At the Court on Wednesday morning feeling reference was made to the sad event by Mr. W. E. Brunt, barrister and solicitor. He said that as an officer of the court the late Senior-Constable Tennant was respected and beloved by all, and he desired to express the very deep sorrow they all felt at the lamentable death. He had lost a personal friend, whom he had known since his arrival in Wonthaggi. The town had lost an efficient police officer and a good citizen.

Mr F. J. Bird, J.P., regretted the event very much, as they had lost an officer who always gave good advice. Though severe on the evil-doers he gave persons whom he had cases against a fair hearing, and conducted his official work in a gentlemanly manner.

Mr. Colin Campbell, Clerk of Courts, in expressing his sincere sympathy, said that the late Senior was a close personal friend of his own. He had long admired his method of conducting his cases, and if any man ever gave accused persons a fair trial, it was Senior-Constable Tennant. In very many different ways he would be greatly missed in the town and his position would be very difficult to fill.

The inquiry was opened before Mr. F. J. Bird, J.P., Deputy-Coroner, on Wednesday afternoon.

Mr. Bird said that they had a sad duty to perform. It was most melancholy for him to hold an inquiry, for the late Senior-Constable Tennant had been an officer of the Coroner's Court. He was a man with a large heart who had dealt very gently and sympathetically with sufferers and bereaved when they were at the Coroner's Court.

Mr P. H. Conant, barrister and solicitor, said he regretted the sad circumstances. He had always received courtesy and kindness from his deceased friend. It was sad that he should be called away, a comparatively young man.

Constable Thomas Duane, who was assisting the Coroner in the conduct of the inquiry, said that the death of Senior Constable Tennant came as an awful blow to himself and his colleagues at the police station. He had always been a good boss and dealt straight forwardly and honestly with his men, and everyone else. He gave every possible opportunity to

*(continues on Page 7)*

*Car Overturns At Bridge... (continued from Page 6)*

a young man to get on.

At the inquiry, Constable John Walsh gave evidence of identification. He had known deceased for about 10 months, and last saw him on Monday night, Oct. 23, he was then in his usual state of health.

The Deputy-Coroner, Mr F. J. Bird J.P., gave an order for burial and adjourned the inquiry until Tuesday at 11 a.m.

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The funeral, conducted by Messrs Mesley-Richmond Pty., Ltd., took place on Thursday morning, leaving the Masonic hall where a short service was held, about 6.45 a.m. The remains were conveyed to Kyneton for burial, at the express wish of the members of the Kyneton Masonic Lodge. There was a large and representative attendance of Masonic and other friends, who paid their last respect by following the hearse to the Wonthaggi railway station. Several beautiful wreaths were laid on the coffin including one from the Wonthaggi Club and the police and personal friends of the deceased. Mr F. Collier, cousin of the late Mr Tennant who arrived from Melbourne on Wednesday night, and Messrs J. Cleary and A. B. Wilson of the Masonic Lodge made the journey to Kyneton.

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The late Senior Constable Tennant was a native of Ireland, where his mother is still living. He has no near relations in Australia. Prior to coming to Wonthaggi in 1910, he had been stationed at Kyneton for many years and there as in Wonthaggi he was well liked and esteemed. In his passing, Wonthaggi has lost a good citizen and an efficient *[sic]* police officer. The splendid police record of Wonthaggi which compares more than favorably with any other centre, mining or otherwise is an eloquent testimonial to the firm yet tactful manner in which his duties as an officer in charge of the police were administered. He was 55 years of age, and had recently passed an examination for promotion to the rank of Sergeant.

From *The Western Port Times*, 21 July 1900, page 3.

## How The World Will End

The opinions of many scientific men, and of imaginative writers, as to how the world will end are gathered together in a most readable paper by Mr. Herbert C. Fyfe, in the July number of "Pearson's Magazine."

Mr. Fyfe discusses the theories of such men as Lord Kelvin, who predicted that the world was doomed to die of suffocation; of Mr. Nikola Tesla, who thinks that we may set fire to the atmosphere with our electrical discharges; of Mr. H. G. Wells, who conceives that intense cold will end life on the world; of Sir William Crookes, who thinks that our food supply will fail; and of others who have predicted the end of the world through collision with a comet, or the supremacy of the beast creation over man. One of the most novel theories discussed is that of M. X. Stanier, the celebrated professor of geology, who puts forward the idea that man will die of thirst.

M. Stanier allows that the idea of mankind dying from thirst seems paradoxical when we consider the seemingly inexhaustible supplies man possesses in the oceans and seas, which covers three quarters of the surface of the globe. Still, there is some danger of of *[sic]* this vast quantity disappearing. In the past the terrestrial crust, says M. Stanier, has absorbed large quantities of water; this action is always going on, and is likely to assume greater proportion in the future. On account of its weight water tends to descend into deep holes; while the centre of the globe remains in a fiery condition this absorption is slow, but as the cooling of the interior goes on the surface water will penetrate more and more, and will enter into combination with the recently solidified rocks in the heart of the earth, which are specially absorptive by reason of their metallic composition.

"The oceans," prophesies M. Stainer, "will grow smaller; the rains which nourish the continents will become rarer and rarer, while the deserts will enlarge their boundaries, and gradually absorb the fertile plains."

**"GLENCOE"**

**COWES.**

**EXCELLENT ACCOMMODATION AND CUISINE**

**HIGH POSITION.**

**OVERLOOKING BAY.**

**Mr. A. J. McLARDY, Prop.**

From the *Lang Lang Guardian*, 23 September 1914, page 3.

## Afforestation Work on French Island

(Re-paragraphed for the sake of clarity.)

A visit was recently paid by our representative to French Island, when an opportunity of inspecting the afforestation operations conducted by the State Government was afforded by the courtesy of the superintendent, Mr J. Brown. After being shown over the plantation he was greatly impressed by the thoroughness and system with which the planting operations have been carried out, presenting a striking example of theory put into practice.

The territory now being worked is situated on the extreme eastern end of the island, and is separated from private holdings by a rabbit-proof fence stretching from the north to south coasts. This fence is also immune from damage by fire, being entirely constructed with iron droppers in place of posts.

Where the pines are tall enough to show above the growth of heath and short scrub (which acts as protection to the young plants), the dark green tops stretch in regular lines almost as far as the eye can see. The Government has reserved some 12,000 acres of territory, and it is quite probable that the whole will in course of time be planted, as the soil is found very suitable for the work.

The topography of the island is very similar to the country between Lang Lang and Nyora—sandy rises and moist, peaty gullies. In places there is a great deal of moisture in the soil, caused by soakage, which maintains a flow of crystal like water in tiny rivulets throughout the whole year. The total area in hand is between 3700 and 4000 acres, which when planted, will be covered by 2,500,000 trees. 1800 acres (representing about 1,260,000 plants) have already been dealt with, of which 900 acres were operated on this year, and the ground cleared for the future totals 2000 acres in extent.

There are used some 20 varieties of pine seedlings, but the greater area is devoted to the *pinus insignis*, *pinus pinester*, *pinus lericio*, and *pinus denoiflora*. A large number of cypruses [*sic*], with strangely contrasting foliage, were also trenched up, awaiting planting out. All the plants are looking very healthy, and the only places where the growth has not been absolutely satisfactory are the crests of the sandy hills, from whence the rain and moisture subside out of reach of the roots of small plants. However, it must not be supposed that the trees in these conditions

are looking weak. To the in-expert eye they appear perfect specimens. The tallest pines are, of course, those first planted, and having reached a height of about three feet, their growth in the future will be very rapid. The principal menaces to the welfare of the seedlings are a hardy growth of gum suckers and the danger of bush fires.

Rabbits appear to be exterminated, but if there were even only a few they would be capable of extensive damage, as their method of attack is to nip off the buds at the top of any plants within reach. After such treatment a very young plant, with only one bud, would stand a poor chance of surviving, and even less of becoming saleable timber.

The risk of fire has been reduced to the minimum, and the plantation is divided into blocks of 300 acres by fire-breaks two chains wide, and the whole surrounded by a break three chains across. These are kept so bare as to render the possibility of a fire spreading very remote. On one occasion, when these safeguards were being constructed, the staff of the island spent an almost sleepless week of incessant fire fighting.

### Transportation and Planting

The seedlings in the first place are reared in the State nurseries at Creswick, Macedon and Broadford, and are mostly taken up for transplanting when two years old, but sometimes three-year-olds are taken, the older plants being very much larger for the extra year's growth than one would imagine. From the time the pines leave the home soil till they are set where they are to grow, great care is taken to guard the tender roots from exposure and damage; consequently they make the journey to Lang Lang from the places mentioned securely packed in straw-lined trucks. On arrival at the local station they are carted to the jetty, where they are loaded into a specially constructed motor-boat, with a capacity of two tons, and are landed at the jetty on the island, where a dray awaits and with the utmost despatch conveys them to the various depots which are prepared for them.

These depots are constructed thus. An area of about 25 feet by 15 feet is marked out, and the top soil to a depth of a foot is taken off and placed round three sides as a breakwind. Here

(continues on Page 9)



*Afforestation Work... (continued from Page 8)*

we see an example of the neatness which characterises every branch of the operations. The earth is not torn up and thrown in heaps, but the sods are carefully cut out, and used as so many bricks, make compact walls.

Arrived at the depot the plants are trenched up very close together in rows about nine inches apart, the soft sand which is exposed by the removal of the surface soil being favorable for the work. There they remain sufficiently long to give an indication as to which plants are likely to do best. The value of trenching can be seen at a glance. Of course, the pines cannot be planted out as they arrive, and if they were the percentage of failures would be so great as to render impossible a uniform growth. When the whole consignment has been so disposed of, planting begins.

At times it is advantageous to use the two-year seedlings, and at others better results are obtained with older plants, according to conditions understood by the forester. Notching is the system adopted in putting in the average size, the much slower method of pitting only being resorted to in the case of very large plants. Our representative was shown the men at work on the former mode.

Five men were equipped with spades, and each followed a line marked out by white-tipped staffs thrust into the ground. While these men were working another gang was at the depot selecting and packing into a carrier the healthy plants. When this carrier (which resembles a carpet bag open at one end) was full with the roots sheltered at the closed end, the load was slung across the workmen's shoulders and carried to the planters, where the pines were distributed among three other men with similar receptacles.

In clear country one can feed two spades, and the conditions here were favorable. The men worked in a line, and deposited the plants with astonishing rapidity. Two notches were used, the L and the T. To take the T first.—The man with the spade makes a deep cut pointing straight ahead and then at the end nearest him the spade is again thrust in and leverage applied. The first cut opens to its full depth, the feeder places the seedling in the crevice, the pressure is released and the earth closes, pinching the roots. A little pressure with the foot to settle the soil, and the digger commences another cut. The L notch is very much similar, save that the L is formed with the second stroke,

and the tree is placed at the top of the letter, as it were. It may be mentioned here that it is not only the roots that are placed underground. Of about 10 inches of foliage only 2 or 3 inches show when the planting is completed. The whole of the pines in the plantation have been planted only 8 feet apart.

### Replacing and Thinning Out

As may be expected, there are a certain number of failures, to detect which the lines are inspected at intervals, and the trees replaced. All the 300 acre blocks before mentioned are kept "pure wood"; that is to say, each block contains only one variety of pine. Thinning out will not take place until the pines are 30 feet high, which growth is expected to be reached in from 15 to 20 years.

Not until 40 years have passed will the trees be ready for the market, but when that time comes there will be a grand and valuable forest where once there was a wilderness, and the outlay now being made will be returned a thousandfold to the coffers of the State.

Mr Brows, who is in charge, has had many years experience in afforestation work in Scotland, and was for some time employed on the estate of the present Governor-General of Australia.

\* \* \*

*From The Western Port Times and Phillip Island and Bass Valley Advertiser, 8 January 1904, page 2.*

## Grantville Rainfall

The rainfall at Grantville supplied by Mr J. T. Paul for the year 1903 is 33 inches 16 points. The average for the past 16 years is 34 inches 25 points. The maximum was in 1889, when 46 inches 57 points were registered, and the minimum in [unclear date] with 24 inches 46 points. The following is the rainfall for every month in the past year:

January	...	...	1.35
February	...	...	1.95
March	...	...	3.81
April	...	...	4.66
May	...	...	2.61
June	...	...	3.92
July	...	...	1.87
August	...	...	2.26
September	...	...	3.25
October	...	...	2.61
November	...	...	2.46
December	...	...	2.41
Total	...	...	33.16

From the *Great Southern Advocate*, Thursday 28 June 1906.

## Alleged Slander Korumburra County Court

Tuesday, June 19, 1906.

(Before His Honor Judge Molesworth).

Margaret Misson v. M. and F. McOwan, claim for L249, damages for alleged slander. This case was heard at the County Court in February last, before Judge Box. Plaintiff was non-suited, but leave to appeal was granted. The alleged slander was that Mrs. McOwan is said to have stated that she (plaintiff) "has given away my meat, not once, but two or three times a week. She" Plaintiff "has taken my sheets, pillow slips and towels." Mr. Levy appeared for plaintiff and Mr. Maxwell (instructed by Mr. Mellor), for the defendants. All witnesses were ordered out of court.

Mr. Maxwell stated for the defence that there was no publication, privileged occasion and no malice in addition to special defence of justification. He desired to withdraw the plea that the girl was a bad character which the defendant had been led to believe in the previous trial, but had since found out it was not true.

Margaret Misson, the plaintiff, said she was a single woman and residing with her sister at Grantville. On April 26, 1905 she was engaged as a housekeeper by Mr. McOwan, and on November 20 she left of her own accord. On the day she gave notice, Mrs McOwan said to her "you don't want to take any meat to-day." Witness said she did not intend taking any as she had plenty. Mrs McOwan said "you have been giving the meat away not once, but two or three times a week." Witness replied, "I have not been giving the meat away." The accusation was repeated three times. When she left on November 20, witness went to Melbourne and on her return she saw Constable Stephenson (Grantville); he spoke to her, and she went to Mrs. McOwan's shop on Saturday, December 2. She asked Mrs. McOwan if she told people that she (witness) had stolen her sheets and towels. Mrs. McOwan rushed away and said, "I won't listen to you." Up to that time she had not been accused of stealing the sheets, pillow-slips or towels. On December 6 she saw Mrs. McOwan at her house. Mrs Hutchinson, her sister, was present. Mrs McOwan said, "do you want to see me." Witness replied, "yes." Mrs McOwan said, "I don't see why you want to come bothering me." She said to Mrs.

McOwan, "did you say I stole your sheets, pillowslips and towels or is it only outside public talking." Mrs. McOwan said, "yes I have, and you know you did." Mrs McOwan also said that she (witness) had stolen their meat, not once, but two or three times a week, and that she (defendant) knew that sort of thing was going on the first week she (witness) was in the house. Witness asked Mrs. McOwan if she would keep her in the house if she knew that sort of thing was going on. Mrs. McOwan said I might get one servant, or I might get a dozen, and they would be no better. Mrs. McOwan further said that the linen was missing and she had given her every chance to replace it, and after she (witness) had gone it was not there. Up to December 6 she had never been accused of taking the sheets, pillowslips and towels. After some general conversation she left.

To Mr. Maxwell: Mrs McOwan said that basket after basket of stuff was taken out of the house. Mrs. McOwan was very busy in the shop, and had not much time for house-keeping. Witness ordered the meat from the butcher. Mrs. McOwan did not complain in regard to the meat until November 11. On a previous occasion in October, Mrs. McOwan stated that the butcher's bill was very high. The bill for October was £9 odd. There was an increased number to be fed in October. All the meat used in the house passed through her hands. She did not think any of the meat would leave the house without her knowledge. She could not say whether there was an increase in the number to be fed in the month of September. She could not explain how the bills increased, but at different times there was increased number to dinner. She could not explain why the meat bill dropped from £9 in October to £5 in November. She did not give meat to her mother who lived about four miles away. Her mother was in Mrs. McOwan's kitchen in November 10. When she left she was carrying something. Mrs. McOwan said that she did not want her to be giving meat away as she (defendant) would be in the insolvency court soon if things went on like that. Witness did not ask what she referred to. Witness' brother-in-law (Hutchinson) took away the scraps at intervals during the week for about

*(continues on Page 11)*

*Alleged Slander (continued from Page 10)*

two or three months. Part of the scraps were given to the fowls and the rest was buried. Witness generally put the scraps into the bucket. She asked Mrs. McOwan would she have any objection to her brother-in-law carting away the rubbish. The scraps had nothing to do with the butcher's bills. The increase from seven to L9 was gradual. There was one more in November than there was in October. She had charge of the linen, and was responsible for it. Sometimes Mrs. McOwan would come and take linen without the knowledge of witness. She did not report any shortage of linen to Mrs. McOwan. To her knowledge there was no shortage of linen while she was there. One week in October Mrs. McOwan said there was a small washing, and witness said that was because Almurta linen had not come in. Miss Nixon, sister of the defendant, did not draw her attention to shortage in the linen; she did not replace any linen because there was no shortage. Witness first heard of the shortage in the house linen on December 2, outside the store. She first heard of the shortage of linen from Mrs. McOwan on December 6. On Nov. 11 she told Mrs. McOwan that she had given the laundress a jam tin full of dripping. She told her sister and the hands employed that Mrs. McOwan had accused her of stealing the meat. She did not try to trap Mrs. McOwan on December 6; she wished to prevent Mrs. McOwan from talking about her. Her sister was with her as a witness. She consulted a solicitor a week or a fortnight afterwards. When she got home she wrote the statements down, and her sister went over it. Witness wrote it down in view of taking action if Mrs. McOwan continued talking about her. She did not mark any of Mrs. McOwan's linen or sheets. She could not account for the sheets being marked.

To Mr. Levy: Mrs. McOwan did not give her a list of linen when she went there. There was nothing said about sheets marked M. when at the previous trial.

Rose Hutchinson, married woman, living with her husband at Grantville, stated that she was plaintiff's sister. She accompanied her to Mrs. McOwan's place on December 3. Her evidence in regard to the conversation was in the main corroborative [*sic*] of that given by plaintiff. There was something mentioned about meat.

Julia Wallace, married woman, residing at

Grantville, stated that she had a conversation with Mrs. McOwan about Margaret Misson. Mrs. McOwan said she was not satisfied with her services. Mrs. McOwan said that some of the linen was missing, and Miss Misson could not account for it. Witness stated that if she was in Mrs. McOwan's place, she would have it seen into. Mrs. McOwan said she would not like to show Miss Misson up. Mrs. McOwan said, "Being in business, it would not do to make a fuss." She remembered being served with a subpoena. She did not have a conversation with Stevenson.

Thomas Monger, proprietor of the "Western Port Times," carrying on business at Grantville, said he had a conversation with Mrs. McOwan about the time that action was taken. The conversation took place in his office. She asked were there any solicitors in Korumburra, and he handed her a newspaper containing the advertisements. She said she had missed house linen, and had spoken to Miss Misson about it, and some time afterwards some of the things had been replaced.

Constable Stephenson, stationed at Grantville, stated that he spoke to the plaintiff on the beginning of December. Miss Misson had come by the coach.

To Mr. Maxwell: He never made any statement to Mr. or Mrs. McOwan about the plaintiff. He did not tell Mrs. Wallace that he had made statements in regard to Miss Misson.

This closed the case for the plaintiff.

Mr. Maxwell submitted that the evidence of Mrs. Wallace and Monger did not constitute publication.

His Honor stated that there was nothing in the evidence of the last two witnesses to trouble him.

Mr. Maxwell submitted that the interview between defendant and plaintiff in the presence of the latter's sister was a privileged one. There was not a scintilla of extrinsic evidence to malice.

Mr. Maxwell continued his address on Wednesday morning.

Mrs. Matilda McOwan, of Grantville, one of the defendants, said that she went to reside at the place on April of last year. Her time was fully taken up with business in connection with their store; complainant was engaged as housekeeper; the linen of the house was unmarked; witness' sister was living with her for some time; the first occasion on which Miss Misson's attention was drawn to the

*(continues on Page 12)*

*Alleged Slander (continued from Page 11)*

shortage of linen was when witness' sister spoke to plaintiff about the shortage in tea towels; that was in June of last year; Miss Misson said she only had seven when she came to work for her (witness); there were 2½ dozen when Miss Misson was engaged; had a branch store six miles from Grantville; and there were three tea towels there; about two weeks later there was a deficiency in bath towels; there should have been nine, but when spoken to complainant said she only had three; nothing more was said about them; about three weeks before Miss Misson left witness found there were only five single sheets instead of eight pairs; when spoken to about it plaintiff said there had only been a small wash that week; the following week the numbers were found to be less. Miss Misson said the washing had not been sent from Almurta and that that accounted for the shortage; witness asked one of the employees from the branch store if they had any surplus linen there and he said no; up to that date the articles mentioned were missing from the place; complainant had full control of ordering the meat; for the month of September the meat bill was £7; previous to that the most ever paid for a month's meat was £5 19s; spoke to plaintiff about the matter, who promised to be more careful; the bill for the next month was £9; there was no increase in the number to be kept during the period; Miss Misson's brother-in-law took the scraps away from the place, but witness had never given him permission to do so; did not know he was doing so till after Miss Misson had left; witness told complainant after the meat bill for October was received that she (witness) would take charge of meat, and although there was one more to keep the next month the bill only amounted to something over £5; on November 10 complainant's mother and brother-in-law drove up to the store; Mrs. Misson went round to the kitchen; witness heard Mrs. Misson talking to complainant, and one of them went to the meat safe and returned again to the kitchen; thought it was complainant; both of them then went out and Mrs. Misson was carrying a fair-sized parcel; complainant returned to the kitchen shortly after; witness looked into the meat safe and found that two pieces of cold meat that were there after dinner were missing; witness asked complainant about it, who said she had given some of it to the dog; witness then went out to the front of the

store just as Mrs. Misson and her son-in-law were driving off and saw the meat in the parcel which Mrs. Misson was carrying. Next morning she told complainant what she had seen in the parcel, and said it threw some light on the big meat bills; complainant denied having given the meat away, and said that the only thing she had ever given away was dripping; complainant gave a week's notice the same morning and witness told her that she (witness) would have to take stock of the linen before she (complainant) left. The bulk of the linen was there when Miss Misson left, but not the whole of it. When she came for her salary she stated there was a shortage of 13 towels. On December 2 Miss Misson said to witness at the store "Is it true you have been telling people that I stole your sheets, pillow slips and towels?" The store was full of her own relatives. Witness went to the office and plaintiff and her sister came to the office door, where plaintiff repeated her question. Mr. McOwan was in the office. Witness told her to come to the house if she had a grievance. On the Wednesday afternoon they came to the house and Miss Misson said "Is it true that you have been telling people that I stole your sheets, pillow slips and towels?" Witness said she looked keenly at her and said "Would there be any truth in such a statement?" Miss Misson hesitated and looked confused and said "No. All the stuff was there when I left." Witness said "No, hardly that. You admit yourself you only left 13 tea towels." Miss Misson said "What are a few paltry tea towels and things." Witness replied "Not much value certainly, not worth while wasting time over." Miss Misson said "I will have someone who can prove you said these things about me." Witness replied "If you are wise you will let well alone. You must admit we have dealt very leniently with you throughout. On every occasion when linen was missing you had opportunity of putting it back." Miss Misson said "Its [*sic*] a wonder you kept me so long if you suspected me." Witness replied "I kept you for the very best reason in the world because I could not get anyone to take your place, though I have been trying to do so for months past." Miss Misson said "You are mistaken about the meat my mother took away." Witness replied there could be no mistake about that, she had seen it. Nothing would alter her opinion. She had no further interview with Miss Misson.

*(continues on Page 13)*

*Alleged Slander (continued from Page 12)*

Cross-examined by Mr. Levy: She did not tell anyone except her husband that Miss Misson had taken the linen and replaced it.

Lilian Nixon, sister of the defendant, also gave evidence. She stated that she missed tea towels on one occasion, and plaintiff said they were at Almurta. Witness and Mrs. McOwan went to Almurta and found three. After the next washing the drawer was full.

Francis McOwan, storekeeper, of Grantville, corroborated the evidence of Mrs. McOwan. He did not know the scraps were being removed by Hutchison [*sic*]; he had fowls of his own at the store between July and November.

To Mr. Levy: He was not in the store when the cart drove up; plaintiff's mother was not in the store on November 10.

John Murdoch, in the employ of Mr. McOwan, said he was working at the Almurta store. He made out a list of the linen at the Almurta store about a fortnight before Miss Misson left; there was no surplus linen at Almurta at that time. About a week before Miss Misson left she told him that Mrs. McOwan had accused her of stealing towels and meat and she was leaving in consequence.

William Paul, in the employ of Mr. McOwan for the past 15 months, said that Mr. McOwan kept fowls. Miss Misson told him she was leaving because she had been accused of taking meat. Witness said "If that was so she ought to leave at a moment's notice." Complainant said "Oh she did not accuse me, she only hinted at it."

This closed the case for the defendant.

Mr. Levy called rebutting evidence.

Margaret Misson said she did not tell Mrs. McOwan where the tea towels were; she never took any of her linen nor gave away the meat at any time; Mr. Hutchinson did not come with her mother to the store.

To Mr. Maxwell: She denied everything that Mrs. McOwan had said.

Margaret [*sic*] Misson, mother of the complainant, said she went to Mrs. McOwan's to borrow 10s from her daughter; she paid the 10s to Mr. McOwan on 10th of November.

After counsels' address His Honor summed up and recorded a verdict for plaintiff for £5. Costs were fixed at £35 10s for the two trials.

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Fire stoves mantelpieces, coppers etc., the best in Wonthaggi at Melbourne prices. The Melbourne Furnishing Coy., Graham-street, Wonthaggi.

From the *Powlett Express and Victorian State Coalfields Advertiser*, Friday 26 March 1915, page 3.

## Boating Fatality

Death Of Mr Alex M'Leod

San Remo, Monday.

Much sorrow was expressed in San Remo on the 17th instant, when it became known that Mr. Alex. McLeod, aged 28 years, only son of Captain McLeod, of the s.s. *Genista*, had disappeared under circumstances which left no doubt that he had come to an untimely end. At 10 o'clock on the morning of the day named he left home to go to his 12ft. rowing boat and dinghy, which were moored near the back of the police station. As he had not returned by 2 o'clock grave fears were entertained that a serious accident had befallen him. A large number of local residents turned out in the afternoon to make search. The dinghy was found to be missing and the rowing boat, anchored in its accustomed place, contained the young man's boots and socks, and a log of drift wood, which projected over the stern. It is supposed that young McLeod, who could not swim, was conveying a log from the dinghy to the rowing boat, when he overbalanced and fell into the water or capsized and swamped the dinghy; or the latter may have drifted seaward with him and afterwards sank, as it was in a leaky condition. Searchers carefully examined the eastern and northern shores of the bay, but no trace has been discovered of the dinghy or of the body of the victim of this deplorable misadventure, which may have been carried a great distance by the tide.

From *The Western Port Times and Phillip Island and Bass Valley Advertiser*, 23 October 1903, page 2.

## Snake Fright

Miss Belfrage, daughter of Mr Belfrage of Bass Valley, had a very narrow escape from being bitten by a snake on Friday last. She put her hand into a bag to take some potatoes out, felt something moving and looking into the bag to see what was there found a large tiger snake, just about to spring at her, Miss Belfrage at once called her brother, who lost no time in killing the reptile, which was found to be over five ft in length. It was strange that she was not bitten as her hand had been put into the bag several times before the movement was felt. People should be very careful as there are a great number about this season.

# The Hotels At Bass

## Part Two: The Royal Hotel and Woolamai Inn

by Geoff Guilfoyle

### The Royal Hotel (Hotels?)

It was probably after Arthur Misson married Mary Underwood in 1861 that they moved to the Bass region, their first child, Mary Ann, being born in the area the following year. It is uncertain if they originally settled on Lot 5 in Section 3; however, Arthur purchased it on 4 May 1863. Self-described as a laborer, on 11 September 1867 he gave notice of application for a beer license, for a premise consisting of *three rooms, occupied by me in my own right, and situated in the township of Woolamai.*<sup>1</sup>

He appears to have been granted the sought after licence, as indicated by this item of news... *Although we have a post office, hotel, beer shop, three regular trading ships, there are no police nor magistrate within about fifty miles to go to for help. (Illustrated Australian News for Home Readers, 26 October 1867, page 10: The Floods.)*

However, and unhelpfully, the same source also names the hotel...

*The river had not abated in its overflow of waters, and after spending the day in the trial to pass, they were obliged to return here again, merely to inform their chums in waiting that they were not half so badly off as those on the other side of the Pawlett [sic] River, who were waiting to come on here as they had no house nor shed for shelter, whilst here, at the Royal Hotel, they had every comfort the bush would allow.*

Arthur Misson has a beer shop. Yet there is also a Royal Hotel. Who is running this?

The answer is...George Misson. It is the only one available thanks to an election notice for the South Province in the 3 October 1864 edition of the *Argus* (page 7). It lists the polling place for the Corinella part of the electorate as *George Misson's, Corinella*. The implication here is that this is the only public place available for voters to attend. It has to be the Royal Hotel.

There is an obvious objection to this interpretation: was there no school or store in the township in October 1864? In regard to a school, no, not quite yet. Joseph White does (wrongly as we shall see) put a general store in Bass at this time, but the more reliable *Illustrated Australian News* article quoted above, doesn't. It does, however, mention a post office. Why wasn't that the polling place?



Additionally, there is this from the *Victorian Government Gazette No. 97* (22 Sept. 1863): *The Governor in Council has been pleased to appoint WALTER KEENE, Postmaster at the Bass to be Electoral Registrar...*

Despite saying at *the Bass*, not at Bass or Woolamai, this Post Office is clearly *in* or *near* Bass and not, say, at Corinella. Of course, this is 1863. The situation may have changed by the following year. Except it probably hadn't. Keene is also recorded as being postmaster in 1869, which suggests he was also such between 1863 and 1869. Additionally, from around August 1865 he was the local newsagent for the *Age* and other papers – which fits a post office or general store – and remained so until at least March 1868.<sup>2</sup>

So why wasn't Keene and/or the post office listed as the polling place?

My guess? At that time the post office was part of the hotel, owned by Misson, with Keene as postmaster, hence the *George Misson's, Corinella*. While not a convincing explanation, it does fit the known facts, and will have to do until new information come along.

So who was George Misson? Given that both George and Arthur arrived at the Bass in the early 1860s, with George purchasing Lots 9-11 in section 4, and that they share the same surname, it is safe to assume some familial relationship. Correctly too, as George

(continues on Page 15)

*The Hotels At Bass (continued from Page 14)*

Misson was Arthur Misson's uncle.<sup>3</sup>

So in mid-1865, Arthur had his beer shop, presumably on his 3 acre block in Section 3, and Uncle George was running a hotel (another assumption), presumably one he also built and owned.

Where? Presumably on Lot 10 given his ownership of the block from May 1863. (Lots 9 and 11 were likely leasehold until bought in late 1865).

Lots of *presume* and *assume* here. This is the 1860s in rural Victoria. Sources are not abundant. This is about as certain as it gets.

This first iteration of the Royal Hotel obviously didn't last. Nor did the beer shop. Arthur turned his attention to Section 2, in general, and Lots 7-10 in particular. It was here that the second iteration of the Royal Hotel was built, potentially before 1872 if Misson was already leasing these blocks, otherwise after April 1872.

The April 1975 Phillip Island rate book (entry 443) has him as a hotel keeper with a "house & land." This could mean that his hotel is elsewhere (as per Feehan and Withers) but the N.A.V. on the right side of the ledger gives the game away: £75. That's a hotel. His previous residence (and now defunct beer shop) on Allotment 5 was leased to Edward Beck (entry 449). Additionally, though the exact date isn't known beyond sometime in 1873, Misson purchased Lot 1 in Section 7 from George Withers and opened a general store.<sup>4</sup>

In many respects the story of the general store is far more interesting than the hotel. Why? Because the Missons ran the hotel and required someone else to be the storekeeper. You know you are in for a rollercoaster ride when that person is the colourful David Barkley Kennedy. His tenure as storekeeper ended in two court cases.\*

It also ended with Arthur Misson declaring insolvency in April 1876 with debts of £412 9s. 7d. being admitted. William Ecroyd was appointed Trustee. Curiously, ten days earlier, the papers were reporting Misson's financial state as £1,124 6s. 6d. debt; £1,226, 18s. 2d. assets, leaving a surplus of £102 11s. 8d.)\*\*

\* Though they are not directly relevant to the hotels at Bass, for those interested the paperwork generated is still available from the Public Records Office: Misson vs. Kennedy (VPRS 267/P0007, 1876/219) and Kennedy vs. Misson (VPRS 267/P0007, 1876/333).

\*\* *Age*, 5 April 1876, page 3: New Insolvent; *Argus*, 5 April 1876, page 5: New Insolvents; *Advocate*, 8 April 1876, page 15: New Insolvents; *Australasian*, 8 April 1876, page 15: New Insolvents; *Leader*, 8 April 1876, page 15: New Insolvents.

*The Insolvency Statute 1871.—In the Court of Insolvency.*

In the matter of ARTHUR MISSON, of Bass, in the colony of Victoria, publican and storekeeper.

NOTICE is hereby given that, by resolution of the creditors assembled at the general meeting of creditors in the estate, held at Melbourne, on the 10th day of April 1876, I, the undersigned William Joseph Ecroyd, of 38 Elizabeth street, Melbourne, accountant and trade assignee, was appointed to fill the office of trustee of the property of the said insolvent, and such appointment has been duly confirmed. All persons having in their possession any of the effects of the said insolvent must deliver them to me; and all debts due to the insolvent must be paid to me. Creditors who have not proved their debts must forward their-proofs to me at 38 Elizabeth street, Melbourne, aforesaid.

Dated this 11th day of April 1876.

W. J. ECROYD,  
Trustee.

No. 1198

From the *Victorian Government Gazette* No.30, 13 April 1876, page 737: Insolvency Notices.

The general store was the main focus of attention (the newspaper accounts mostly refer to Misson as a storekeeper), with the stock sold on 12 May in an unreserved sale. The hotel remained untouched; it was still in operation in late April when the Trustee sold 40 head of Misson's cattle. A first dividend was paid on 15 May and a second on 9 October with Misson granted a certificate of discharge on 8 November.<sup>5</sup>

Unsurprisingly, Misson gave up being a storekeeper and concentrated on the hotel while also keeping Lot 5 in Section 3 in his possession, though no longer leasing it to Beck sometime after April 1878 (rate book entry 490, and entry 486, 1879 book). Actually, the rate books offer some ambiguous evidence in regard to the store, the 1878 book (entry 320) still listing a store on Lot 1 in Section 7, though the low N.A.V. of £10 hints that it may not be trading. The 1879 rate book (entry 321) clears up the matter. Same N.A.V.; no longer listed as a store, and by mid-January 1880, sold. The hotel, however, somewhere on Lots 7-10 in Section 2 is still trading and Misson still owns Lot 5 in Section 3.

By mid-January the following year, Misson still owns this land but the Royal Hotel is defunct (rate book entry 572 & 573). Misson is now listed as a farmer.

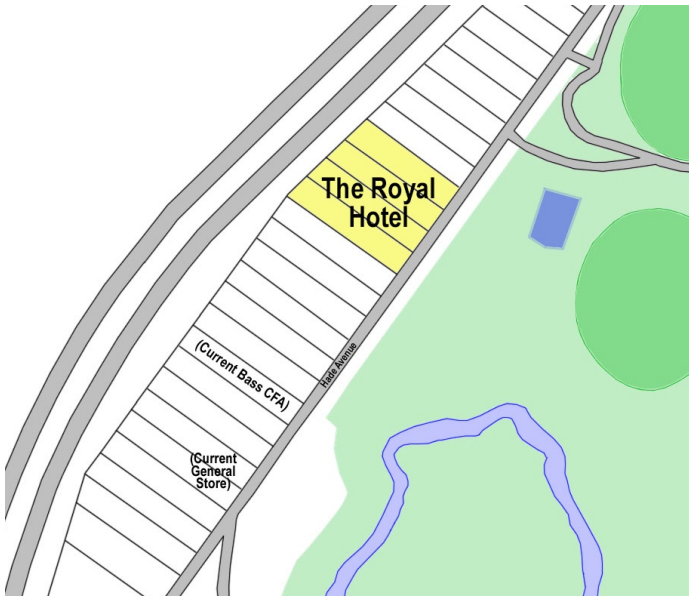
So what happened?

The net annual value of £60 placed on the hotel by the council in 1880 (rate book entry 500) indicates that it was, in the rate collector's judgement, fairly well-patronised and maintained, though with some loss of trade compared to the previous year when it was adjudged at £75 (entry 482). Perhaps it just wasn't profitable enough, and that is why the Royal Hotel was closed and not sold as a going concern.

The last mention I could discover of Misson's hotel was an advertisement in regard to the

*(continues on Page 16)*

The Hotels At Bass (continued from Page 15)



Changes to allotment designations and numbering, coupled with the incorporation as private land of the roads which originally separated the sections, make it difficult to be certain as to the exact location of the hotel in a modern context. But this is probably as close to correct as you can get.



There was clearly a large building on this block (or blocks) as it seems to spill over onto the adjoining lot) at some stage in the past. Could this be the outline of the Royal Hotel?

Mornington election in the *South Bourke and Mornington Journal* on 18 February 1880 (page 2). It announced that James Gibb would ADDRESS the Electors at Royal Hotel, Bass, Wednesday, 25th, at Seven o'clock p.m.

The Royal Hotel or Royal Hotels had lasted more-or-less 16 years (1864-1880).

### Primary Source Conflict (Part 2)

The *Victorian Government Gazette* strikes again! This time Issue 100, 20 September 1878. On page 2325 is the announcement for the sale of town allotments at Woolamai, namely Lot 3-7 in Section 2. This time the VGG gets the amount of land correct (2 roods). It even correctly has A. Craig buying two of the blocks (3 and 4) at the 22 October auction. Lots 5 and 6 it seems went unsold, picked up a decade later by W. Davis and H. B. Chalmers, respectively. Misson, however, had purchased Lot 7 back in 1872. Further-

more, the rate book for 1879 (entry 482) clearly shows him continuing to own Lots 7-10 in Section 2.<sup>6</sup>

So what is going on?

No idea; however, if Lot 7 was sold, then Arthur Misson has to have been the purchaser, so nothing really changes.

### Shannon Has A Go (Um...sort of)

This section, although liquor related, is not really part of the story of the hotels at Bass. It is, however, too fun a story to leave out.

*On Saturday Patrick Shannon applied for a beer licence for a house on Bass River. Mr. Wreford, for Mr. M'Haffie, opposed it, on the ground of its being too near the school. The police report that the premises were unfit for a licence, the only furniture being a table, a form, and a stretcher. The application was refused. (Argus, 4 September 1867, page 7: Law Report).*

Shannon had little time to recover from this setback for...

*A man named Patrick Shannon, from the Bass River, went to Cranbourne a few days ago, and made application to the bench of magistrates for a beer licence. While he was away from his home, a man named Saunders, whose wife had been living with Shannon, got an axe and chopped the studs of the house through, laying the whole fabric in ruins. He then carried away the galvanised iron which formed the roof, and the place was set on fire by one of a lot of half-drunken individuals who had assembled to see the fun. The little furniture there was in the place was broken and burnt, and the beer-cask rolled into the river. The police are investigating the case. (South Bourke Standard, 6 September 1867, page 3).*

And the outcome...

*At the Cranbourne Police Court on Saturday, before Mr. J. S. Adams, chairman, and Messrs Alexander Patterson, R. Chomley and John Wedge, J.Ps, the police prosecuted James Saunders on a charge of arson at the Bass River. Sergeant Armstrong stated that the premises of one Patrick Shannon, at the Bass, had been burnt down. He would call Shannon, and if the bench was [of the] opinion, in the absence of any direct evidence against him, that there was sufficient to remand him he would apply for a remand. He would not, however, press the case, as he found great difficulty in obtaining evidence, the residents*

(continues on Page 17)



*The Hotels At Bass (continued from Page 16)*

*at the Bass being evidently disinclined to give information, fearing to have to appear at Cranbourne, a journey of 100 miles. Patrick Shannon was then sworn, and he desposed [sic] that on 20th August last he occupied a house at the Bass River; that on that day he was at Cranbourne applying for a beer license; and that on his return two days afterwards he found that his house had been partly burnt and partly chopped down, his furniture, bedding, clothing and provisions all destroyed. He did not see any person commit the act. The bench, in the absence of any evidence to connect the prisoner with the outrage, dismissed the case. (South Bourke Standard, 4 October 1867, page 2: Notes and News.)*

Thus Patrick Shannon's dream of running his own licensed beer house went up in smoke along with most of his belongings. Shannon does not appear to have lingered at Bass. It isn't recorded if the wife of Saunders decamped with him.

A story that is amusing 150 years on, but doubtless wasn't so at the time.

### **Brown's (non) Hotel**

Joseph White apparently had never heard of Arthur Misson's Royal Hotel, an oversight which is more forgivable than overlooking completely the major sawmilling firm of Crump & Grant (ex-Alexander Stewart) at Glen Forbes.

Here is what he has to say on James Brown (or is it John Brown?), our next hotelier...

*Adjoining the township reserve on the south side Robert Mason when surveying in this area surveyed two allotments C.A.32 now owned by Lionell Mapleson and C.A.33. Crown Allotment 32 was originally purchased in 1854 by **James** Brown who established a store at the north west corner. The store was added to and became a hotel. **John** Brown died and by his will dated 22nd May 1868 left his land to his wife May Annie Shelmerdine Brown "that she shall have full power to will the property to whom she may think proper so that none of the testators relations shall interfere with her."*

*Mrs. Brown married James Thomas C. Stephenson in 1868, the store and hotel business were still carried on until 1885, when the hotel licence was not renewed. James Stephenson sold to Albert W. Smith on 20th May 1899.*

Two specific dates and the rest is left

vague. So how do you check this? Simple. Use the same resources available to Joseph White in 1974: Births, Deaths and Marriages, Victoria; the *Victorian Government Gazette*, and the Public Records Office.

Let's start with that 1854 date. According to the *Victorian Government Gazette No.4*, 13 January 1854 (page 123) and *No.5*, 17 January 1854 (page 155), there was an upcoming special sale of land in the Parish of Corinella, near Bass River, or to be more precise, near Bass. The lots were 28-31 & 51. On the same page was an ordinary sale of country blocks, same location: Lots 20-23, 50, 52-54, 81 and 33. No Lot 32.

Next...the Will. You'll notice that White gives no date of death, just the date the Will was drawn up. Brown could have potentially lived another five decades after that. The quote, however, is fun and sounds authentic. Maybe Brown knew he was dying and did so shortly after the drafting of the Will. But there is a major problem here.

The woman in question is actually named Mary Anne Brown and she married James Thomas Chant Stephenson in 1863, five years before her supposed husband died.

I get the sense that White is using a genuine Will (but not any probate documents), but one which has nothing to do with the John Brown of Allotment 32 and everything to do with a John Brown who did indeed have a wife named May Annie Shelmerdine and live elsewhere.\*

Does White have any basis for tying Lot 32 to anyone surnamed Brown? Surprisingly, he does. And even more surprisingly, depending on which source is looked at it is either a J. Brown or John Brown.

Does White have any basis for having this John Brown opening a general store on the site in, presumably the 1850s (though White doesn't explicitly say so)? None that I can find.

Does White have any basis for having John Brown convert any general store into a hotel (or simply building a hotel) in the 1850s or 1860s? None that I can find.

So what do we know?

Quite a bit if you do the sensible thing and ignore any dates Joseph White presents.

Allotment 32 was offered for sale by the government on 25 November 1853 (not 1854). It is listed in two issues of the *Victorian*

*(continues on Page 18)*

\* A John Brown of Lower Plenty did in November 1879 give notice that he intended to apply for a publican's licence for a house at Lower Plenty. (*Argus*, 23 Nov. 1871, page 3). I wonder if he had a wife named May Annie Shelmerdine?

*The Hotels At Bass (continued from Page 17)*

Government Gazette (No.59 & No.60) under Country Lots.

In those days the *Gazette* after the sale would announce when the Title Deeds to the purchased block were available for collection, with the name of the purchaser, acreage and location. Checking from October 1853 to March 1855 brings forth some familiar names (Henry Haywood and Thomas Anderson, for instance) and a slew of those unfamiliar (William Merry and James Wigg Hickling, for instance).

No John Brown. There is, however, a George Brown in No.16, 24 February 1854. This mention, however, it is for two blocks at Corinella, one 49 acres, the other 126 acres. Additionally, George Brown has the block of land (Lot 68) on the north side of the Bass River running along the west side of the township. (see map excerpt on right).<sup>7</sup>

That Allotment 32 wasn't re-advertised, hints that it was purchased at the November sale, with the Title Deed collected in person by the buyer; hence there was no need to advertise that it was ready. In fact, we know this must have happened because the name J. Brown appears on a 1961 Lands and Survey map along with the date 25.11.53. This same information is also found in a Schedule of Allotments sheet. The *John* is discovered on another map (excerpt, right) with a supposed 1880 date but probably older origins.<sup>8</sup>

Fast forward to 1863. A woman named Mary Anne Brown married James Stephenson. This woman, whether a widow or not, and if she is, presumably of John Brown, now owns Lot 32. An 1863 map (excerpt, lower right) shows *Brown* (without the initial) as the owner and also a small building in the north-west corner of the allotment no bigger than a hut. Unlike other buildings on the map, it isn't marked as such. Regardless, this is not a hotel and would struggle as a general store. It is probably exactly what it looks like: a bush hut. Unless the store or hotel was elsewhere on the block (but away from the main roads and thus not ideally placed for business) then Stephenson has to have been the builder of either a store which he later converted into a hotel or a hotel directly.<sup>9</sup>

But who was James Stephenson?

There is a potential candidate, one found in an 1863 advertisement in a Bendigo paper: *MESSRS BUCKNALL, BROWN and CO., agents for James Stephenson, Esq., request Tenders for the Erection of a new Two Story [sic] Brick Building, at the present Royal Hotel, in High-*

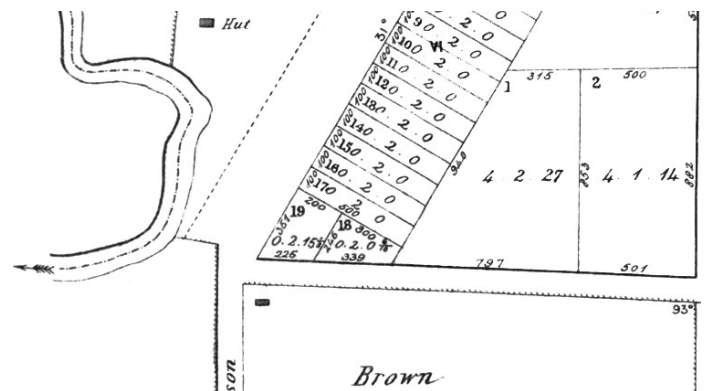
*street. (Bendigo Advertiser, 21 February 1863, page 3).*

It isn't clear if this is a hotel upgrade or an additional building, but it does indicate that Stephenson is a hotel owner. Following the example of Feehan and Withers, perhaps this Stephenson purchased land at Bass. Unlike them, sometime in the 1860s or early 1870s he built a hotel there, which he rented out while hanging on to his more valuable (and lucrative) urban property.

This theory looks good and fills many of  
*(continues on Page 19)*



Plan of the Portions Marked at Bass River in the County of Mornington, circa 1880 but probably based on an older map.



Brown's Allotment 32 in 1863 with small building in left corner about the size of a hut. Probably not a hotel. Probably not a general store. Probably a hut. The original map doesn't show the rest of the block so there could, potentially, be a large building there. (Town and Suburban lots in the Township of Woolamai, parishes of Woolamai and Corinella, Department of Lands and Survey, Melbourne, Feb. 9th 1863, T. F. Bibbs).

*The Hotels At Bass (continued from Page 18)*

the gaps...and is almost certainly wrong (though I suspect Joseph White would have jumped at it). Unless Stephenson longed for the quiet life in underdeveloped and remote Bass, these have to be two different men. Why? Because Stephenson actually moved to Bass; he was one of the initial appointees to the Local Committee for Woolamai School, Bass River, No.847 in 1866.<sup>10</sup>

Let's leave John Brown in the 1850s and 1860s, and move into the 1870s and built the Woolamai Inn.

### **The Woolamai Inn**

The *Argus* of Wednesday 27 August 1873 (page 8) records this application... *I, James Stephenson, of Bass, do hereby give notice, that I desire to obtain, and will at the next licensing meeting apply for, a GROCER'S LICENCE for a house situated at Bass, adjoining the township of Woolamai, in the parish of Woolamai, containing five rooms exclusive of those required for use of the family.*

So where was this store? It can't be the hut in the north-west corner as shown on the 1863 map. It is far too small. By 1873 this hut had to have been replaced with the structure outlined in the application.

Why in that particular corner? Why not elsewhere on Allotment 32? Because by 1973 that was the best commercial location.

Six months later...

*I, James Stephenson, of Bass, storekeeper, do hereby give notice, that I desire to obtain, and will at the next licensing meeting APPLY for, a PUBLICAN'S LICENCE for a house situate at Bass, adjoining the township of Woolamai, in the parish of Woolamai, containing five rooms exclusive of those required for use of the family. (Argus, 5 March 1874, page 8: Advertising).*

Stephenson remained a hotelier until sometime after March 1885. His publican license wasn't renewed at the December 1885 court nor was it assigned to anyone else.<sup>11</sup>

The Woolamai Inn was no more. It had lasted around 11 years.

The hotel reverted to a general store and stayed one until at least the end of February 1891 (entry 825 & 1251, 1891 rate book) after which time it was used as a grazing block. Stephenson hung onto Allotment 32 until at least February 1899 (rate book entry 764), selling it sometime after that to Albert Smith. After that he probably lived on the 320 acres Lot 25 which he had owned since at least 1878 (rate book entry 325).

### **The Woolamai Inn Extra**

In a piece on the Bass Agricultural Society, the *South Bourke and Mornington Journal* indirectly references the Woolamai Inn, and in another later article on the same topic, also indirectly *doesn't* reference it, which throws further light on its location and muddies the waters as to when it closed as a hotel.

*As we could not quite understand why the Bass Agricultural Society should so soon have divided into two, we applied to a resident well acquainted with the affairs of Westernport for some information on the subject; and, as many of our readers have their own ideas on the subject, we submit the explanation we have received which is as follows:—*

*“As far as I am aware it appears that it first arose about a site, the Secretary working with the hotel-keepers in favor of getting the yards in front of their hotels; the majority wanted them on the reserve this side of the Bass Bridge...”* (26 November 1884, page 3).

The hotelkeepers referenced can only be the Bass Hotel (J. B. O'Meara, licensee) and the Woolamai Inn (James Stephenson, licensee). The 1884 Bass Show was held on the east side of the Bass River in a (then) reserve formed by a bend in the Bass River, more-or-less just across the road from the Bass Hotel but also, just to the north of the north-west corner of Lot 32. (This reserve later became Lot 6a and was purchased by Janet Lyne in October 1897.)<sup>12</sup>

From the second article...

*There is one great drawback to the success of these shows, and that is their being held alongside of an hotel. The results of this were visible on Friday last, when drunken men were to be seen roaming about in all directions, to the annoyance of visitors.* (4 March 1885, page 3).

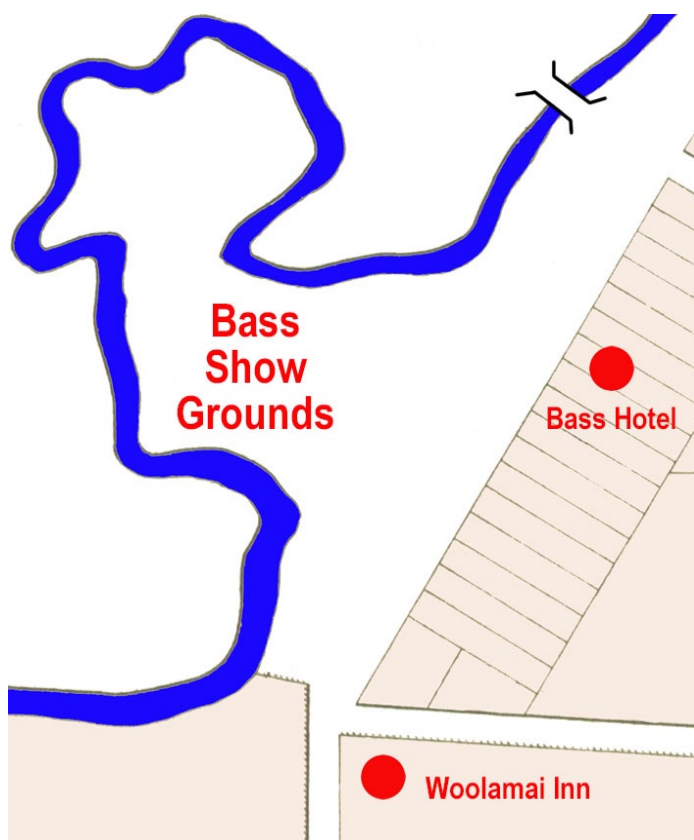
Hotel, singular. The show was held in late February 1885, but the above snippet hints that only one hotel (obviously the Bass Hotel) was trading. Yet the Phillip Island rate book for 1885 (entry 423) has the Woolamai Inn still in operation in March. Also, it makes no sense for Stephenson to have renewed his publican licence on 11 December 1884 and to have shut down just before the running of the show and all the business it would bring.

Yet this article suggests that, for some reason, this is what happened.

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And that is the story, for the moment, of the three hotels at Bass: the Royal and Bass Hotels and the Woolamai Inn. There is more to be said about Mr. Feehan, though not necessarily hotel related.

*(continues on Page 20)*

The Hotels At Bass (continued from Page 19)



You can appreciate why the hotel licensees wanted the Bass Show held in the above position on the east side of the river, and how this might led to corruption in the selection of the show site. It probably didn't help that the secretary of the Bass Agricultural and Pastoral Society was David B. Kennedy. (Hotel positions shown are approximate).

In summary, the builders of the hotels at Bass were Laycock, one or more Misson, and Stephenson. Sorry Mr. Withers and Mr. Brown (either one). There is simply no evidence to support your claims. Richard Feehan didn't have a hotel at Bass either; however, no one seems to be claiming that he did.

Footnotes:

1. Register of Births, Deaths and Marriages, Victoria, registration no. 140/1861 (marriage); 13895/1862 (birth); *Victorian Government Gazette No.105*, 16 October 1863, page 2323: Title Deeds; Township of Bass, Parishes of Woolamai and Corinella, County of Mornington [cartographic material], B5053, B800 (formerly TP5), Department of Lands and Survey, Melbourne, 1958; *Age*, 21 September 1867, page 3.

2. Report on the Post Office And Telegraph Department for the year 1869, page 33, John Ferres, Government Printer, Melbourne, 1870; *Age*, 12 August 1865, page 3: Advertising; 7 March 1868, page 3: Advertising.

3. Township of Bass, Parishes of Woolamai and Corinella, County of Mornington [cartographic material], B5053, B800 (formerly TP5), Department of Lands and Survey, Melbourne, 1958; *Victorian Government Gazette No.105*, 16 October 1863, page 2323: Title Deeds; *No.25*, 27 February 1866, page 488: Title Deeds. Arthur Misson's father, Thomas (1805-1860) was the brother of George Misson (1811-1878), their joint parents being Thomas Misson (1777-1816) and Alice Jacob (1783-1862). [Geneological information via Robert Glover, Grantville Local History Group].

4. Township of Bass, Parishes of Woolamai and Corinella, County of Mornington [cartographic material], B5053, B800 (formerly TP5), Department of Lands and Survey, Melb., 1958; *Argus*, 3 October 1876, page 7: Insolvency Court; Shire of Phillip Island and Woolamai 1975 rate book, entry 453.

5. *Victorian Government Gazette No.30*, 13 April 1876, page 737: Insolvency Notices; *No.77*, 20 October 1876, page 1961: Insolvency Notices; *Argus*, 17 April 1876, page 3: Law Report; 11 May 1876, page 2: Advertising; 12 May 1876, page 2: Advertising; 24 April 1876, page 3; 13 May 1876, page 11; 15 May 1876, page 8; 7 October 1876, page 10; *Age*, 7 October 1876, page 8; 11 November 1876, page 7: Insolvency Court.

6. Township of Bass, Parishes of Woolamai and Corinella, County of Mornington [cartographic material], B5053, B800 (formerly TP5), Dept. of Lands and Survey, Melbourne, 1958.

7. Lot 68 seems to have been split then re-combined at least twice into the 49 acre 68a and the 226 acre 68b. The first of these was in 1850. By the early 1880 it was back to one block, then split again by 1882. Additionally, another later map, shows Lot 68 again divided into two, with Lot 68a now being 89 acres and 68b 126 acres. The primary sources are all over the place, made even more complicated by Brown being the proprietor of the Weandron cattle run, which either touches upon or overlaps and may include Lot 68, for much of the 1850s. George Brown's relationship to John Brown, if any, is unknown. Here are the sources: Run 1291, Weandron, Woolamai. Public Records office: VPRS 8168/P0002. This map is unfortunately undated; Plan of the Portions Marked at Bass River in the County of Mornington, District of Port Phillip. VPRS 8168 or VPRS 15899. Sub. Item 533. Historic Plan Collection. Surveyed by Robert Mason, 1850; Plan of the Portions Marked at Bass River in the County of Mornington [cartographic material], Vale Vol. 5 30328107477365, circa 1880; Selections at the Bass & Powlett Rivers, County of Mornington [cartographic material], Dept. of Crown Lands and Survey, 1882; Corinella, Country of Mornington C246(11), Corinella Sheet 1 [Department of Crown Lands and survey] 1873,

8. Woolamai, County of Mornington [cartographic material], Department of Lands and Survey, Melbourne, 1961; Schedule of Allotments, County of Mornington, Parish of Woolamai Sheet 1, W-3878-1, Previously No.W189(7), Division of Survey and Mapping, Victoria, 1976. VPRS 16171 P0001; Plan of the Portions Marked at Bass River in the County of Mornington [cartographic material], Vale Vol. 5 30328107477365, circa 1880.

9. Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, Victoria: reg. no. 3888/1863; Town and Suburban Lots in the Township of Woolamai, Parishes of Woolamai and Corinella, County of Mornington [cartographic material], Department of Lands and Survey, Melbourne, Feb. 9th 1863, T. F. Bibbs.

10. *Victorian Government Gazette No.80*, 24 July 1866, page 1527: School Committee Proposed.

11. Shire of Phillip Island and Woolamai 1885 rate book, entry 423; *South Bourke and Mornington Journal*, 23 December 1885, page 2: Griffiths' Point Licensing Court.

12. Shire of Phillip Island and Woolamai 1899 rate book, entry 646; Town and Suburban Lots in the Township of Woolamai, County of Mornington, L1575, W189(A), 8 February 1862. (Note: map updated since 1862 but this is the only date recorded); Township of Bass, Parishes of Woolamai and Corinella, County of Mornington [cartographic material], B5053, B800 (formerly TP5), Department of Lands and Survey, Melbourne, 1958.