

The Western Port Times

Grantville & Districts



Volume 2 Number 10

FREE

February 2020

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

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

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

* * *

Phillip Island Rolls

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Communist Activity At Wonthaggi

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A Short History of the Grantville Halls

Halls, plural...but mostly the original, which stood for over a hundred years, and by the end, looked it.
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A Victorian Coal-Field Visited

A fully paid junket, ahem, I mean investigative trip, to the Western Port coal mine in 1875.
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A 'light-fingered' ex-sailor now padre who served at Wonthaggi in its early days.
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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
- Hastings–Western Port Historical Society: <https://www.hwphs.org.au/>
- Inverloch Historical Society: cv.vic.gov.au/organisations/inverloch-historical-society/ Also: <http://inverlochhistory.com/>
- Koo-Wee-Rup Swamp Historical Society: 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
- Leongatha and District Historical society: 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
- Western Port Historical Society Inc.: hwphs.org.au/
- Wonthaggi Historical Society: wonthagghihistoricalociety.org.au/



Grantville

(From Our Own Correspondent)

From the *Great Southern Advocate*, 11 October 1889, page 2

Just a few lines to let you know Grantville is still in existence. We had a few tough days here last week, the wind was terrific. The weather has now taken up, the roads are improving, and people are beginning to stir about.

The sawmill is again at work in the township. The new proprietor, Mr Peaset, is a man of good experience, and from appearances is doing very well. He intends erecting a very large plant here in a few months' time.

Mr John Payne has just completed a large contract for the supply of piles for the canal at the Koo-wee-rup Swamp.

Our cricket club is practising very hard, and will be very strong in the field this season.

Messrs. Howard and Scott held a very successful sale at the Grantville sale yards on Saturday, 28th ult, when they yarded and disposed of 400 head of cattle at most satisfactory prices. The Grantville sales are becoming very important.

The Tyro and Vision both arrived here last week with cargos from Melbourne.

The athletic club is in full swing, and our boys are getting very clever.

An Easter Sunday Suicide

(From A Correspondent)

From the *South Bourke and Mornington Journal*, Wednesday 26 April 1882: Grantville, Bass & Kilcunda

The residents of Grantville were started from their repose on Easter Sunday by the reported suicide of Mr. James Wilkie, one of the oldest settlers in the district, who was found hanging by a rope, in an out-house, quite dead, although he had not been out of the house more than half an hour, previous to be found.

He had been talking for sometime with his brother-in-law, Mr J. Ward, of Queensferry, and another friend, who was with him, but had not given them any reason to think that he intended to commit the rash act. His wife has been in Melbourne for some time, and some disagreement in the domestic circle is said to have been the cause of his despondency. He was in comfortable circumstances, he has reared a large family, some of whom are married. £15 was in his pocket when found. A magisterial inquiry was held on the following day by Mr Stewart, J.P. of Queensferry, and the above facts were elicited, and a verdict of temporary insanity returned.

From the *South Bourke and Mornington Journal*, Wednesday 6 July 1887, page 2: Advertising

A Letter To John Tulloch

Grantville, June 25, 1887.

Mr. John Tulloch.

Dear Sir—

We, the undersigned Ratepayers of the Corinella Riding of the Shire of Phillip Island, respectfully request that you will allow yourself Nominated for the office of Councillor for the Corinella Riding of the above Shire, the election for which will take place early in August.

Should you consent, we hereby pledge ourselves to use our utmost influence to insure [sic] your return.

We remain, dear Sir, &c., &c.,

Charles Henderson	H. Biggar
H. H. Bergmeir	M. Bowman, junr.
William Webb	John McKenzie
William Middlebrook	W. H. Cole
Charles Donald	R. Sims
William Cron	W. J. Craig
Moses Sloss	E. Worsley
George Chinn	J. McKinnon
Thomas Smith	Andrew McKenzie
Albert Edward Eden	Charles Leeke
William Caughey	J. H. Humphries
H. Heywood	A. Belfrage
F. A. Nowell	A. Stuart
A. Ward	Geo. Stuart
T. Lawrence	W. Stuart

Robert Eden

To Messrs. Chas. Henderson, H. H. Bergmier and the Thirty other Gentlemen signing the above requisition.

Gentlemen—I have much pleasure in acceding to your request, and if elected it shall be my earnest endeavor to perform my duties in a spirit of justice to all parts of the Riding, and by every means in my power to forward the interests of the Shire generally and the Corinella Riding in particular. I shall take an early opportunity of laying my views before you, and until then I ask those who are not pledged to refrain from so doing until then.

I am, gentlemen,

Faithfully yours,

John Tulloch.

Scotswood, July 4, 1887.

“That girl is insulting; she asked me if I danced.”

“Whatever was wrong with that?”

“I was dancing with her when she asked me.”

From KooWeeRup Sun & Lang Lang Guardian, 2 Sept. 1937

From the *Great Southern Advocate*, 15 February 1900, page 3

Presentation.

On Friday night last, after the concert held at Glen Alvie. Mr. H. Dowel was made the recipient of the sum of £50, as a token of esteem and sympathy felt by his friends and neighbours for his great loss in the destruction of his home and everything it contained by fire recently.

Mr. W. C. Watson, in making the presentation, said he would not detain them more than a few minutes. They had all heard of the great loss their friend, Mr Dowel, sustained by the destruction of his house and home by fire recently. Himself and some of his immediate neighbours thought the wisest and most practical way of showing their esteem and sympathy with him was to form a collection amongst his friends, to give him what small help we could towards building afresh. We all have had to fight hard to make our homes, and it means in this country the best part of a man's lifetime to get things comfortable, and it is a cruel thing to have it all swept away in half an hour.

It gave him very great pleasure to say that the whole district for miles round responded most generously, and showed their good hearts and kindly feelings by opening their purses so handsomely. He had much pleasure in handing the sum subscribed to Mr. H. Dowel, and only hoped if a dark day happened to come for any of us we may prove we have as many friends as he has. The following is a list of the subscribers:—

Messrs. J. F. Shepherd, £2 2s; W. Williams, W. C. Watson, £2 each; T. Halford, E. Halford, £1 each; R. N. Scott, Alf Edwards, John Edwards, J. McLaren, R. A. Tulloch, E. Sheepway, Albert Atkinson, John Baum, F. Ketels, J. McNamara, Balderson, J. Thompson, G. Mathieson, D. McDonald, J. Bowman, Howes and Sons, Mrs. Varcoe, M. Halford, H. Halford, £1 each; Jos. Bramley, 15s; Mr. Grieves, 12s; Jos. White, Thos. McLeod, 10s 6d; H. Rainbow, J. Rainbow, J. Pinkerton, E. Lewis, D. Luke, P. Cox, W. Pitts, R. Pitts, H. Pitts, A. Wiggins, R. Pratt, MacDonald, Wheatley, J. Mates, Dalton, B. Caple, J. Miles, senr., A. McKenzie, James Stewart, J. R. Stewart, W. Thompson, Bert H. Edwards, R. Hodgkiss, W. Cadd, O'Halloran, J. Payn, Green, M. Bowman, P. Daly, Arthur Atkinson, Mrs. Banks (Glen Alvie), Mrs. Grant, S. Berryman, A. Edwards, 10s each; E. A. Story, 7s 6d; C. Luke, J. Miller, junr., S. Wilson, H. Robart, A. Park, A. Biggar, B

Savage, Graham, Proctor, Loland, T. Ford, Nicholson, W. Miles, W. Ashar, A. P. Lloyd, W. J. Symonds, Ellingworth, W. Hemphill, J. J. Stender, Hales, Hewson, 5s each; D. W. Herd, clock valued £1; S. Ford, C. Tulloch, 2s 6d.

Mr. Dowel in a few words thanked them one and all for their kind assistance, and assured them it would not be forgotten by him.

Queensferry Sports Day

From our own Correspondent.

From the *South Bourke and Mornington Journal*, Wednesday 31 December 1884: Queensferry

The Queensferry annual sports took place on Boxing Day. The weather being fine drew a large attendance, which numbered about 300, to witness the various events, which consisted of foot racing and flat and hurdle racing for horses. The silver cup presented by H. F. Norton, Esq. four years ago, and to be won by the same person twice, still remains in the hands of the committee, as each year it has been won by a different person; distance, 300 yards. H. Bonwick was the winner this year. There were also a large number of other events contested, including tossing the caber, jumping in sacks, Siamese race. The committee are to be congratulated on the success of the sports.

From the *Leader*, Saturday 2 October 1915, page 50

The Best Place

by Connie Read, Queensferry.

When the surging billows glisten in the sun,
And the gulls look white and silver, every one,
Just to sit beside the sea,
While the waves dash merrily,
And dream sweet dreams
about the days to come.

When the magpies warble in the branches high,
And the blue gums, tall and
slender, wave and sigh,
When the woods and forests ring,
And the whistlers gaily sing,
Deep in the forest I would love to lie.

When the waves upon the
beach are white with foam,
And the branches to and fro are wildly blown,
When the winds like thunder sound,
And the rain comes pattering down,
The best place then is by the fire at home.

Letters to Queen Bee

Countryman was a short-lived (1925-1929) paper published in Melbourne and aimed at country readers. It's section for children was run by "Queen Bee" – likely the wife of one of the employees or one of the (almost certainly male) employees themselves.



From *Countryman*, Friday 16 August 1929, page 11

Weather Complaints

Belmont. Glen Alvie.

Dear Queen Bee,—How I wish this dirty weather would cease! It seems as if we had been having it for months. It was a beautiful this morning, almost the same as a spring morning, if it had not been for all the mud which is around. One thing in the city you don't get as much mud as we do in the country, do you, Queen Bee? I think that the people up north could have some of the rain which we have had. "Rosemary" is good at composing poetry, isn't she? I enjoy reading the poems, whether they are for the little ones or not. I am going to save up all the newspapers and sell them, and give the money in for the Cot Fund. What a lot of money we have to collect! That was a good idea of "Rosemary's" about the stamps. If all the Country Bees send in a stamp or two we ought to collect a little. Isn't it wonderful how the geraniums bloom all the year round?

Here it is nearly spring again and they have not stopped flowering at all. Do you notice the difference of time in the rising and setting of the sun in town? This morning the frost was nearly a quarter of an inch thick in some places. It was dreadfully cold, too. On the ground where there was no grass it was quite hard, and hard to break. Isn't spring near? I won't be sorry, will you, Queen Bee? This is all to-day, so I will close.

With love from your old C. Bee.

May Humphries.

P.S.—I enclose two 1½d. stamps for C. Fund.

[Poor old May! What a lot of rain you must have had before all that mud arrived on the scene. Doesn't it make a mess of everything though? I know all about the heart-breaking business coming from a farm. Yes, the town people are very lucky. Glad you enjoyed "Rosemary's" letters and poems.]

From the *Countryman*, Friday 29 November 1929, page 11

Learning To Play Tennis

Bourke Park, Woolamai.

Dear Queen Bee,—It is a long time since I wrote to you last. I am glad to know that you are better again, Queen Bee. I was very pleased to see my last letter in print. Yesterday was a nice day, but to-day was a bit cold. We are milking 27 cows now. Do you play tennis, Queen Bee? I am just learning, and like it very much. The school teacher was taken to the hospital last week with appendicitis. Dear Queen Bee, I haven't got my badge yet. Our flowers look lovely now; we have a lot of different kinds out now. We have 16 little chickens, and they are lovely little things. We had a good lot of rain on Saturday night. It is a pity that the Mallee couldn't get some, isn't it? All our fruit trees have fruit on now; it is lovely to get new season's fruit, isn't it? I have two sisters and one brother, and they all go to school. Well, Queen Bee, I must say good-bye for this time. Hoping you and your Hive every success.—Your old Bee,

Maude Thorn.

[Yes, Maude, I am feeling much better again. So you were pleased to see your letter in print. Do you help milk? I am glad you are learning to play tennis; it is a great game. Yes, I play when I get the opportunity, and you it. I hope your teacher is better.]

From *Countryman*, Friday 6 September 1929, page 13

Top Of The School

Krowera, via Loch.

Dear Queen Bee,—It is a long time since I have written to you. I am entering for this month's competition. We have been having very rough weather. It is dreadful to see in our pages where people in Northern Victoria are having droughts, and we are having too much rain. In the June exam I topped the whole of our school. We had a visit from our inspector last month, and I think we have all passed. I still have the kitten, Tango (the one you named). He is quite big now. I have taught him to jump and beg for pieces of meat. We have twenty-one cows in now, and we have twelve calves to feed. I think it was a good idea you suggested in last week's

(continues on Page 6)

Letters To Queen Bee (continued from Page 5)

“Countryman,” about getting more columns for our letters. We have got twenty-two young pigs. We had one pet one, but it died. It was a little runt. I received my badge some time ago, and I think it is very nice. I remain your Country Bee,

Isla Mckenzie.

[Congratulations on coming top of the school in the exams, Isla! I am pleased to hear that Tango is still alive. You have plenty of calves to look after!]

From *Countryman*, Friday 25 October 1929, page 13

A Bookworm

Kilcunda Road, Bena.

Dear Queen Bee,—I have not been to school since the holidays, as my leg is too sore to go. The teacher at our school gives us spelling and tables four times a week as a test. The one who wins the most number of times throughout the year gets a prize for the subject in which he wins. I was winning both of the subjects up to the day we broke up, and now I might lose if I am not able to attend. My favorite hobby at home is reading. Sometimes when I get hold of a good book it takes a redhot rod to shift me! The country around here is very poor looking, and you seem to see a sickly green every where you walk and go. We have a hedge that runs round our house in a rectangular shape. It is a good “blockader” in times of storm and rain, as we get a lot of wind and rain on account of being very high up. I must close now. With love from your new Bee.

Athol Worthy.

[I hope your leg gets better in time to allow you to return to school and compete in the tests again, Athol. You must write and tell us how you get on, as we shall all be anxious to hear. I am glad to hear that you enjoy a good book. You can't beat reading for amusement, can you? Your descriptions of the country are most depressing, Athol! I shan't come and visit you until you can give me a better report than that.]

From *Countryman*, Friday 15 February 1929, page 11

Holidaying At San Remo

Frenbrook, Loch.

Dear Queen Bee,—It is a long time since I have written to you, but I have not forgotten you or the hive. We had a Christmas Tree at our school before Christmas, and there was a big crowd there.

For Christmas I got a sunshade and a pair

of sand-shoes and two pencil cases. We went to San Remo for a fortnight's holiday. It is about 28 miles from here. We had two or three bathes every day. It was not very nice weather, as it rained three days, and then it was windy. We all enjoyed ourselves.

Mother and Lorraine and myself went to Cowes. We went about 600 yards in a little motor boat, then we went in a big bus to Cowes; it was 11 miles. We came home from San Remo last Saturday. In our garden we have pincushions, roses, hollyhocks, and sunflowers. I like pincushions and hollyhocks. We are having a new school teacher this year—his name is Mr. Swan. The last five years we have had a lady teacher. We all liked her, and we were sorry she had to go away. At our picnic we gave her a silver teapot.

My sister and I are going back to school on Tuesday. I am twelve years old, and in the eighth grade; Lorraine is ten years old, and she is in the fifth grade. My sister Jessie has left school. My school-mate and myself are the oldest in the school now. There are about 44 children going to school. When the school first started there were only 28 attending. The hills around here are looking very dry.

Well, Queen Bee, I have no more news, so I will close, wishing you and the Hive a happy and prosperous New Year.—Your old Bee.

Peggy Humphrey.

[You seem to have enjoyed your holiday, Peggy, despite the inclement weather. I hope you were bright and early on your first day back at school again! There is quite a big attendance at your school now, isn't there?]

* * *

And a bonus letter, this one to “Aunt Patsy” at *The Advocate* in 1914...

The Children's Page

Wonthaggi, September 27, 1914.

Dear Aunt Patsy,—I again take the pleasure of writing to you. I am sending back your nice story-book. How long can we keep them? I am sending you threepence for the book called “The Broken Rosary.” If you have not got it, please send me “The Old Grey Rosary.” For the last few days we have had very wet weather, and plenty of hail storms. Last week we all got examined, and everybody in the school passed. I could see in “The Advocate” that you are very busy. Dear Aunt Patsy, I think this is all the news this time. With love to the captain and first mate, not forgetting yourself,—I remain, your loving niece, Pearl Donovan.

From *The Advocate*, Saturday 10 October 1914, page 9

Lang Lang to Lang.

Have You Seen A Horse With A Rug On?

From the *Kooweerup Sun and Lang Lang Guardian*, Wednesday 17 July 1918

(Re-paragraphed for the sake of clarity)

A man went to Grantville on Saturday night, and had a rough trip in the teeth of the Westernport brand of rain and wind, and trying to find the road in the dark. It was a very elusive road, and evidently had a strong desire to escape into the blackness of the night. However, it did not escape the vigilance of this particular man, although his faculties as a "road-diviner" were strained to breaking point.

The Grantville road from Lang Lang is not a very cheerful thoroughfare under such conditions. With a kerosene lamp in one hand and the reins in the other, the editor strived to keep to the "narrow way," although it wasn't particularly straight.

The lamp (when it wasn't out) threw strange, weird and fantastic shadows, and wonderful and fearful objects appeared out of the gloom, one of which looked like a huge, bony grasshopper in the act of clambering over the fence and getting ready to spring.

It was the bleached limb of a tree, although it might have been one of those grisly monsters which lurk in dark and devious places to pounce on unprotected strangers and lure them from the right path. The Grantville road is infested with such strange, wild animals – at night time. As he drove along there were thousands of people he didn't meet.

The horse eventually led him to the journey's end, where the gladsome and shining light of Bill Lang's Hotel gleamed like a star of hope. Here was welcome for the traveller, warm food and drink and a cheery fire. But more trouble was in store.

After the meeting at the hall, the horse had vanished. For a mile each side of the pub the road was searched, lantern in hand, until one a.m. by the luckless follower of Archimedes. Talk about Diogenes and his lantern searching for an "honest man" in broad daylight, an honest man was easy compared with that horse.

At daybreak next morning (a thing he had never done before!) he arose and continued the search without the lantern. Joy! A mile down the Bass road there was a horse – yes, a bay horse with a rug on. Hooray! Well, he wasn't such a bad horse after all, to stop around handy where you could get him in the

morning quite easy. He certainly possessed a fund of horse sense quite out of proportion to the ordinary equine.

Damn! It wasn't him at all! Oh, what a rotten fool of a horse to turn away like that!

Back to the hotel, downhearted and crestfallen, wondering how to get to Lang Lang. You see he had arrived at one "Lang," but there were three of them to negotiate. So a council of war was held.

Two travellers who had come through from Almurta the previous night without a light (marvellous performance!), driving a buggy and pair, and had been taken for public-house "pimps" all along the Bass Valley, were going to Lang Lang. They kindly volunteered to keep a sharp lookout and phone through if he had arrived home at his quarters at Lawrence's Palace Hotel.

The postmaster at Grantville (Mr Parks) kindly came to the office and got the call, but Bert Sutherland's voice conveyed the sad information that the horse had not been seen. Young Parks scoured the roads on horseback, and found that the gee-gee had been seen making for Lang Lang at a Melbourne Cup gait.

There was nothing for it but to get another horse, and this was generously provided by Mr Lang. All the way home the landscape was vigorously searched for the missing one. That horse and rug would have been the most splendid spectacle the writer could behold just about that time.

"Did you see a bay horse with a rug on?" was fired at everybody along the route.

No luck. The editor began to get gloomy.

Cripes! Wonder how much Lawrence would want for him — ten or fifteen "quid," I expect! This was going to be a "blanky" expensive trip.

"Did you see a horse with a rug -----?"

"Yes," said Dave Harker, "down the lane by the old 'pub' at Lang Lang!"

Welcome words – joyful intelligence. Up went the barometer from gloom to mirth.

About 4½ miles from Lang Lang there was a strange performance going on. A man was in fighting attitude, and was pursuing an imaginary adversary across the road, while he rained a tempest of blows, right and left hooks, jabs, kidney punches, solar plexus

(continues on Page 8)

Lang Lang to Lang (continued from Page 7)

plugs, and "stoush" of all kinds.

He was giving it to some guy, who evidently hadn't a dog's chance. The champion wore a peculiarly red face, and had a strange appearance. When last seen he was shaping up to a tree.

Later information was to the effect that a tramp struck a wayside house, where a silver wedding was in progress. His request for food was met with unusual good cheer, and he left that hospitable roof with a very ruddy and shining complexion, white favors in his boots, various strange decorations, and a good skinful of "Hennessey's," though it didn't begin with an "H."

The horse turned up on Monday morning. Moral - "You'll save a lot of trouble if you tie up your horse securely." But Lang's oyster soup was worth it all.

And Now A Word From Our (retro) Sponsor...

We've all been there. We have a letter to write and when we sit at our writing desk - we've run out of ink for our pens, or there is ink but no blotting paper, and the last thing we want is blotchy illegible writing! And, oh bother, we don't have the right sized envelope and we desperately need a new writing tablet. Yes, we have all been there.

But no longer! For all you writing wants, come down to the Post Office News Agency. We stock everything you need, and if we don't stock it, we can get it in for you.

There is now no longer any reason to put off writing that letter!

We thank M. Hamilton for (retro) sponsoring this edition of *The Western Port Times*.

Don't neglect to write that letter.

Merely THINKING a letter doesn't answer it.

You will find here Boxes of Note Paper, Writing Tablets, Envelopes and all Accessories, such as Ink, Pens and Blotters that make it an easy matter to write replies NOW to your friends communications.

IF YOU BUY HERE YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT PRICE.

M. HAMILTON Phone 11
Post Office News Agency, Koo-wee-rup



From KooWeeRup Sun and Lang Lang Guardian, 10 Jan. 1929

No-No and Oh, No! Ads

If naming you eatery The Swastika Cafe today would see it burnt to the ground, the publication of these advertisements in a major newspaper or online journal would unleash a torrent of selfrighteous outrage and lead to the paper's marketing manager being sacked or forced to resign with the paper/journal issuing a grovelling apology.



The above is a fac-simile of the Registered Name and Trade Mark of

NIRVANA TEA

which is specially selected by experts from the best samples grown on the mountain estates in Ceylon, and is packed in lead for shipment to all parts of the world. To ensure Direct Distribution to the Public in the Original Packets.

The Tea is uniform and unequalled in quality, and is guaranteed to retain its original flavour, thereby deserving recognition as

THE VERY BEST

that has yet been placed in the hands of the consumer.

It is sold in 1 lb. and ½ lb. packets in three different qualities to suit purchasers, and these are distinguishable by the colours on the outside wrappers, the Trade Mark in each case being in colour.

At 1/6 per lb. the wrapper is printed in Red.
At 2/- per lb. the wrapper is printed in Bronze Blue.
At 2/6 per lb. the wrapper is printed in Green.

SOLD BY ALL GROCERS AND STOREKEEPERS.

Sole Proprietors—The Nirvana Tea Co.,
COLOMBO, LONDON, AND NEW YORK.

From the Great Southern Advocate, Thursday 18 March 1897




NATURALLY CLEAN

No help needed to clean these teeth—nature keeps them naturally clean. So it is with Atlantic Motor Oil. In its pure paraffin base nature has provided all the ingredients of a 100% lubricant, but has wisely omitted any molecules which attract engine-killing gum sludge and hard carbon. From these superior crudes Atlantic Motor Oil is carefully refined into a premium lubricant, backed by the world's oldest and largest refiners. Always use Atlantic to keep your engines naturally clean.



ATLANTIC MOTOR OIL
PURE PARAFFIN BASE

Sold in Great Britain and New Zealand at  Motor Oil

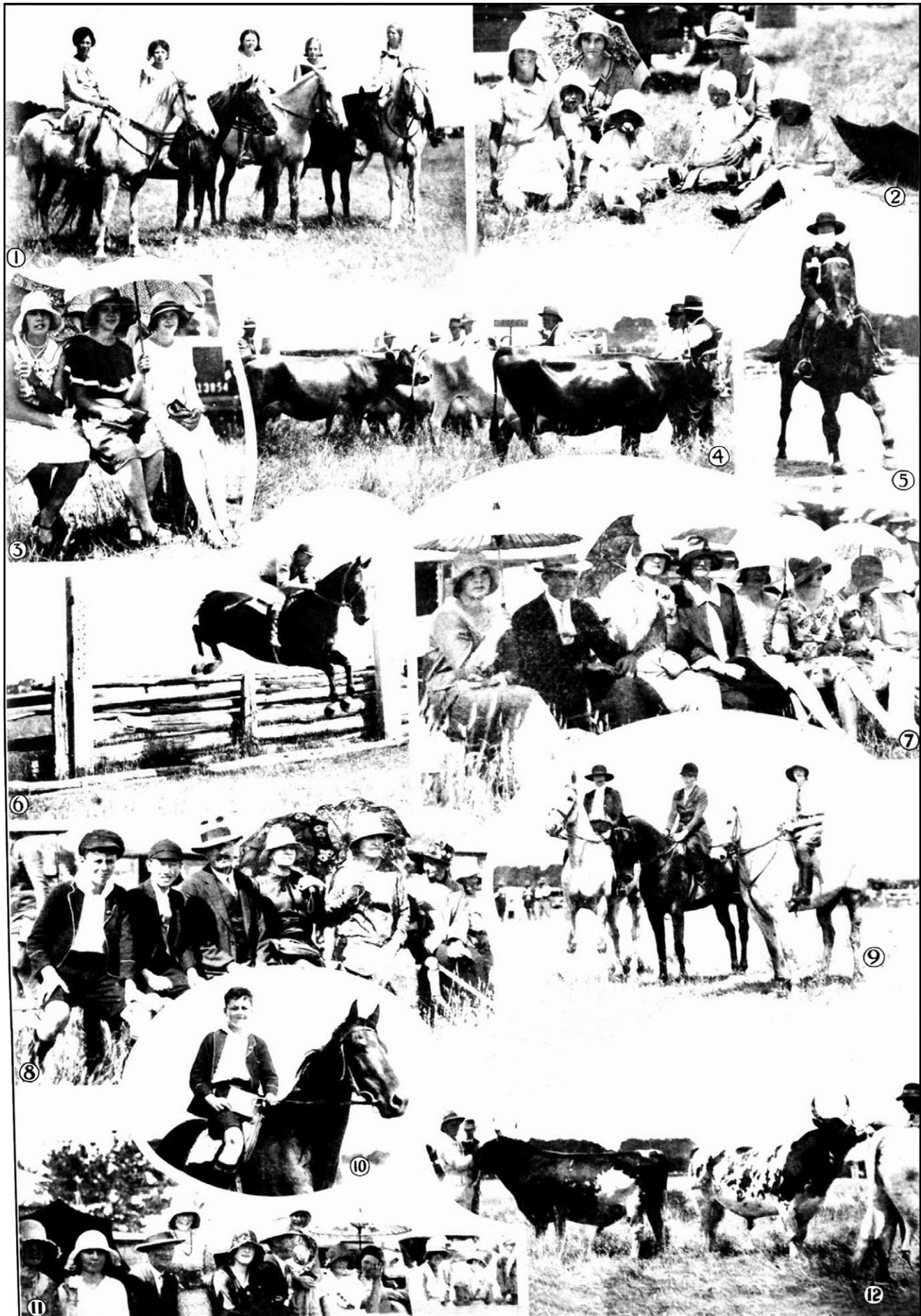
District Agent---W. G. ORGILL, Kooweerup.

From the Koo Wee Rup Sun and Lang Lang Guardian, 8 December 1948

The 1930 Dalyston Agricultural Society Show

The Powlett River District Agricultural Show held at Dalyston

From the *Weekly Times*, Saturday 15 February 1930, page 35



1. Girl riders. 2. 3. 7. 8. & 11. Show visitors. 4. Class for 4-year-old Jersey cows in milk. 5. Miss Beryl Phillips, 1st Prize Ladies' Hack. 6. Mr Sawyer's "Why Not" winning 1st Hunters'. 9. Lady riders. 10. Jack Selby, the best boy rider. 12. Three-year-old Ayrshire bulls in the ring.

Phillip Island Rolls

Documents Before Council

Cr. Sambell's Seat Declared Vacant

From *The Argus*, Tuesday 14 August 1928, page 15

(Re-paragraphed for the sake of clarity.)

Wonthaggi, Monday.—Mr. W. H. Bray (secretary), addressing the monthly meeting of the Phillip Island and Woolamai Shire Council, said that the decision of the Revision Court held on July 23 to strike 24 names off the voters' list for the Port Phillip Island Riding called for some explanation from him, since he had apparently enrolled these persons wrongly. The voters' list was compiled from the rate-book, and all of the names in question appeared in the book, either as owners or occupiers of ratable property.

In all cases in which the names were not in the rate-book before his appointment they were placed there on information, either verbally or in writing, from the person in question, and after satisfying himself to the best of his ability that they were liable to be rated. However, the field of inquiry was limited. To provide that true information should be given concerning these matters the Local Government Act 1915, section 109 (2), said:—

“If any person gives any wrong information to the clerk of any municipality, or to any valuer, collector, or special collector, or to any Revision Court, whereby the name of any person wrongfully is inserted in any voters' list of voters' roll, as owner, or as joint owner, or as occupier, or joint occupier of property...he shall be liable to like penalties as by law are incurred by persons guilty of wilful and corrupt perjury.”

He would not say, stated Mr. Bray, that all of those 24 persons had wilfully given to him or the Revision Court false information for the purpose of having their names placed on the voters' roll. In most of those cases, he believed, the persons were unaware that such a section was in the act, and also that they were not liable to be rated for the properties mentioned; but it would appear from the documents in his possession that three of those persons had wilfully given false information, as well as one other rate-payer who did so to obtain the inclusion of the other three mentioned. He had come to this conclusion after carefully examining the correspondence and documents in his possession.

Only one important piece of information

was not in the file, the reason being that it was a message given to the assistant secretary (Miss Gray) over the telephone. The following were extracts from a letter from Mr. (now Councillor) A. K. Sambell, dated June 9, 1927:—

“Please include the following names of occupiers under leases in the ratepayers' roll in respect of the properties mentioned — Allotments 10, 11, 12, 13, Parish of Phillip Island — Keaston Sambell, Cowes, three votes. The following are entitled to enrol in respect of the Nobbies allotments:—1, 1A, 2, 3, 4, 7, two votes:—Frank Q Sambell, 335 Collins street, Melbourne, two votes; Charles W. Candy, 60 Market street, Melbourne, two votes; Charles W. Candy, 60 Market street, Melbourne, two votes; Cyril V. Lansell, Ardoch Mansions, Dandenong road, East St. Kilda, two votes; William J. White, 60 Market street, Melbourne, three votes.”

To this letter, Mr. Bray stated, he replied, stating that he was not satisfied that those persons were all entitled, under section 71 of the Local Government Act 1915, to be placed on the roll, as he considered that they were not all liable to be rated. Their names would not therefore appear on the voters' list. They might, if they desired, make statutory claims to the Revision Court.

He was not informed that Keaston Sambell was not at that time aged 21 years, and was not qualified for enrolment. Mr. Sambell, who held a municipal clerk's certificate, must have been aware that he was giving false information to obtain the inclusion of his name. No application was made in that case to the Court.

However, Charles W. Candy, Cyril V. Lansell, and William J. White made claims in the prescribed forms to have their names placed on the list by virtue of their qualifications as in respect of allotments 1, 1A, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, parish of Phillip Island, claiming to be owners, the valuations being £84 and £73, and the number of votes claimed, three. These claims were in each case supported by a statutory declaration, made before T. C. W. Sambell, J.P.

(continues on Page 11)

Phillip Island Rolls (continued from Page 10)

The Revision Court allowed the claims, and the names were listed in the voters' list and duly certified by the Court.

By a letter dated June 7, 1928, from A. K. T. Sambell, further information was supplied. He again informed Mr. Sambell that claims would have to be made to the Revision Court for all names not appearing on the rate-book, and also pointed out that he could not see how Mr. Cranny's name could be inserted legally in place of Mr. White's.

Following the reply mentioned he was informed by Miss Gray, his assistant that a woman, speaking, she said, for Mr. Sambell, had informed her over the telephone that "Mr. Cranny is one of eight directors of the company."

He had now written a reply to his letter referring to the question. As councillors were aware, objections were lodged against the names of Candy, Lansell, and White being retained on the voters' list, by Mr. D. H. Robb, and these objections were upheld.

The president handed him a letter from Mr. Sambell which was evidently intended to reach the president before the sitting of the Revision Court. This letter stated:—

"Actually the position is that I am the registered proprietor of the land, and the voters are joint occupiers with me of the land, on which some thousands of pounds have been expended."

A search of the title of these properties at the Titles Office revealed that Albert Keaston Sambell was the registered owner, and there were no encumbrances or endorsements.

Councillor Steenhold said that it appealed a case of "roll-stuffing."

Councillor McCrae said that it seemed that perjury had been committed.

The president (Councillor F. J. Bird) said that it was difficult to know where councillors stood.

Councillor G. Hollins moved, and Councillor McCrae seconded, that the secretary's report be adopted, and the papers, &c., be sent on to the Crown Law department.

Councillor A. K. T. Sambell was not present, but wrote asking for one month's leave of absence.

Leave of absence was refused.

It was agreed that as Councillor Sambell had been absent for four consecutive meetings without leave his seat be declared vacant, and that Councillor Edgar be appointed returning officer for the extraordinary election.

From the *Herald*, Wednesday 27 March 1935, page 4

One Killed; Six Hurt, in Car Somersault

Crushed beneath the wreckage when a car in which a party was returning from a dance somersaulted near the corner of Korumburra and White Roads in Wonthaggi at 12.10 a.m. today, David George Pickering, 18, shop assistant, of White Road, Hicksborough, was killed instantly.

Other members of the party, which comprised four youths and three girls, had remarkable escapes with cuts, abrasions and shock.

The driver of the car was Ernest J. Nelson, aged 20, hotel employe, of Graham Street, Wonthaggi.

Tyre Blow-out

The party was returning from a dance at Kongwak, 11 miles from Wonthaggi. When turning a corner from White Road into Korumburra Road, the rear offside tyre of the car, which was an old model sedan, blew out.

The car immediately went into a violent skid. It turned completely over and skidded along on the hood for several yards before the hood was torn completely off.

Pickering was pinned underneath. He was almost decapitated by the broken windscreen. The others were hurled out of the car as it somersaulted.

The Injured were:—

Ernest J. Nelson, 20, of Wonthaggi; abrasions and shock and cut nose.

Reginald Bladin, 24, of Wonthaggi; cut face, abrasions and shock.

Daniel Riley, 26, of Wonthaggi; abrasions and shock.

Winifred Goldsmith, 22, of Wonthaggi; abrasions and shock.

Edna Goldsmith, 19, of Wonthaggi; abrasions and shock.

Hazel Brennocks, 19, of Wonthaggi; cuts, abrasions, and shock.

The injured were treated and allowed to go to their homes.

The accident made the third fatality in Wonthaggi in the past 50 hours.

On Monday night a man was hurled to death under the wheels of a train at a level crossing in Wonthaggi when he drove his truck into a railing to avoid a collision, and yesterday William Morrison, 19, of Broome Crescent, Wonthaggi, was accidentally shot dead when he fell on a sporting rifle while shooting rabbits.

From the *South Bourke and Mornington Journal*, Wednesday 18 July 1877

Phillip Island And Woolamai Shire Council

Saturday, July 14 1877

Present: Mr. Turnbull (President). Councillors West, Sunderland, Fowler, Kidd, Smith, Kennedy, Stewart and Monk.

Councillor Monk, the newly-elected member for Corinella Riding, having made the usual declaration, took his seat at the Council table.

The minutes of the last meeting were read.

Moved by Councillor Fowler, and seconded by Councillor Kennedy, that the minutes are inaccurate as regard the correspondence with Mr. Muntz as to necessary works at Cowes.—Lost.

The minutes were then confirmed.

Correspondence was read and approved.

Letter from D. S. Shaw, asking for names of holder of licenses for sale of spirits, &c., in the shire of Phillip Island and Woolamai.—Moved by Councillor Stewart and seconded by Councillor Sunderland, and carried, that the letter be received, and the secretary's answer approved of.

From Secretary of Lands, stating that one acre of land would be granted for the purpose of building a shire hall at Griffith's Point, and asking that position of the proposed site may be indicated on plans.—On the motion of Councillors Kidd and Fowler the necessary information to be given and steps taken to obtain one acre of land for Shire Hall at Griffith's Point having three chains frontage to the main road.

From Pat Quinlivan, asking for extension of time on contract.—On the motion of Councillor Stewart and Fowler three weeks allowed.

Letter read from [*unclear name*] of Corinella asking that allotment 88 be reserved for water purposes:—On the motion of Councillors Kennedy and Monk letter received, and the Government be requested to receive the same for the purposes required.

On the motion of Councillors West and Kennedy the standing orders were suspended for the purpose of allowing Councillor Kennedy to move that ten chains of land be reserved for watering purposes at the red culvert, Corinella.

On the motion of Councillors Kennedy and Smith that an area of ten acres resolved be reserved for watering purposes at the red culvert, and the Secretary be instructed to write to the Government to reserve the same.

From James Ivery, asking for extension

of time on contract.—On the motion of Councillor West and Sunderland two months allowed.

From Harding and Morrison, asking for one month's extension of time on contracts.—On the motion of Councillors Sunderland and Fowler request granted.

Accounts to the amount of £122 10s. 6d. were passed for payment on the motion of Councillors Stewart and Sunderland.

Council went into committee and tenders were opened as follows:—Contract 116; cutting sideling Turnbull's Road—Richard Walsh, £30; W. H. Hickey, £24 15s; Mission and Quinlivan, £29.—On the motion of Councillors Kennedy and Monk, tenders to be called for timber culvert and drains at Grantville.

On the motion of Councillors Kennedy and Monk tenders to be called for culvert and drains at Hurdy Gurdy Creek.

On the motion of Councillors Kennedy and Monk tenders to be called for about 25 chains of drain near Corinella Post Office.

On the motion of Councillors West and Sunderland tenders to be called for forty chains of drains on Hall's road, Ventnor.

On motion of Councillors West and Sunderland resolved that the loam be taken from side of drains on Ventnor road and spread on centre, and 25 chains of drain extra and culvert on McHaffie road in place of present open crossing.

On the motion of Councillors Sunderland and Monk the standing orders were suspended to enable Councillor Sunderland to move that some extra works be done at Rhyll.

On the motion of Councillors Sunderland and Fowler tenders to be called for clearing road from Dock's corner to the beach at Rhyll and 30 chains of drains and pipe culvert.

On the motion of Councillors Monk and Kennedy the Secretary was authorised [*to*] employ day labour to clear drains at O'Meara's, Bass, at an expense not exceeding 30s.

On the motion of Councillors Kidd and Sunderland, tenders to be called for clearing road from Buoy's bridge to coal mines, and approach to culvert at Carew's creek.

On the motion of Councillors West and Fowler, the Finance Committee to bring up

(continues on Page 13)

Phillip Island And Woolamai... (continued from Page 12)
a report of the financial condition of the Council at their next meeting.

A ballot was taken as to which member retire for the Phillip Island and Woolamai Ridings. The result of the ballot was that Councillor Fowler for Phillip Island, and Turnbull for Woolamai retire. On motion of Councillors Monk and Kennedy the ballot was confirmed.

On the motion of Councillors Sunderland and Kidd the following returning officers were appointed — Phillip Island Riding, Councillor West; Corinella Riding, Councillor Monk; Woolamai Riding, Councillor Smith.

The Revision Court was adjourned until 21 July at one o'clock p.m.

From the *Argus*, Tuesday 17 November 1953, page 9

Shells Shock Kelly

Wonthaggi, Monday.

Kelly is a black Labrador dog, mascot of Wonthaggi's "ack ack" unit.

He curled up in his accustomed place under one of the guns at the weekend, not knowing the unit was to have its first shoot with live shells.

Coinciding with the first shot was a black flash as Kelly leapt from the gun, hurdled the unit's only jeep, and took refuge in a motor-car a quarter of a mile away.

Kelly would not budge from the car, owned by Mr. Alan Abraham, who knows both Kelly and the unit's CO., Major Theo Schmedje.

After much persuasion, Kelly returned as the unit's mascot, but he has shown no further inclination to sleep under the "ack-ack" guns!



From *The Wonthaggi Sentinel and State Town Miner*, Friday, August 19, 1910

State Coal Mine News

The announcement recently made by the Minister of Mines that he was prepared to receive offers to take slack coal from Powlett at a fixed price of 6s per ton has resulted in an increased demand in Melbourne for the coal. One consumer who sent an order on Saturday said he had used the coal before, and he considered it superior to Newcastle slack. About a dozen orders were received on Saturday morning, ranging from 300 to 1000 tons. The Minister intends when depots can be established in the suburbs, to have second screening made for coal which will be suitable for domestic purposes.

The whole of the machinery on No. 5 shaft is now fixed and ready for working and will be put in operation as soon as the erection of the poppet legs is completed. The engine is a very powerful one and this shaft will equal No. 3 for haulage purposes. Coal is raised from a depth of 160ft., and is described as being of far superior quality to that obtained in any other part of the mine. It has a bright appearance and is very hard.

Operations at No. 6 shaft are still suspended owing to the water difficulty. A pumping plant to cope with the difficulty is now almost ready for use and as soon as this is completed it is intended to resume work.

From the *Chronicle* (Adelaide, S.A.), 24 May 1934, page 48

Communist Activity At Wonthaggi

Attempt To Capture Control of Union

Communist propaganda released by the militant movement continues to flood Wonthaggi (Vic). The union to which the striking miners belong is divided into two sections. Concern has been expressed by the moderate members lest the number of hands be greatly reduced when work is resumed at the mine. It is known that the members of the Militant Minority Movement will not be reinstated, but the moderates are anxious because they fear that 200 of their members may be affected.

Plans are being made by the militants to oppose the officers of the union. A meeting of militants on Thursday night will decide who will oppose the office-bearers. The militants are anxious to obtain control of the union before Parliament opens.

A Short History of the Grantville Halls

by
Geoffrey Guilfoyle

On the 8th February 1888 a public meeting was held at Grantville, most likely in the hotel, for the express purpose of electing a committee and office bearers in connection with the proposed building of a Mechanics' Institute and Free Library, for which there was increasing need given the rising population of the town. J. T. Paul was appointed president.

A site near the township was temporarily reserved by the Government as a potential location. Local legend has it that a member of this initial committee, Frederick Nowell, personally drew up the plans and specifications for the required hall. If this is true, it was to have an unforeseen consequence 100 years on.

Now all the people of Grantville needed to do was raise the funds necessary for building. This was quickly achieved through donations and subscriptions, with a loan from the Colonial Bank bringing the total to £230. Construction began and the hall was completed and opened in April 1888. Grantville now had a public hall, but the free library was still a way off and there was the maintenance of the hall and grounds to consider.

On the 8th November 1889, Mr. and Mrs. Orgle presented an evening of entertainment at the Mechanics' Institute followed by a ball and supper, raising £30 for hall purposes.

By this time a piano had been added with Mrs McNabb from nearby Queensferry soon to become the 'go to' pianist for social occasions.

The much sought after library was finally achieved, when on Tuesday 23 June 1891, it was opened by J. T. Paul. It started with 125 volumes, not including newspapers and periodicals, and grew from there. In mid-1892 the quarterly subscription fee for the library was lowered from 3s to 2s 6d.

Curiously, it wasn't until December 1892, four years after the hall's construction, that the Government changed the site's status from temporary to permanent.

From the *Great Southern Advocate's* 5th May 1892 account of the annual meeting of the Mechanics' Institute and Free Library committee:

The secretary's report and balance sheet were received and adopted, the balance sheet showing a credit balance of £15 10s 2d. The expenditure amounted to £120 4s., the principle items being improvements to building, £41 10s 6d, additions to the supply of books in the library, £39 14s 7d.; while the receipts amounted to £135 14s 2d, and as the secretary remarked in his report that considering the general depression experienced throughout the district, increased maintenance and the considerable expenditure incurred in lining the building and placing more seating accommodation therein, together with the purchase of books, the credit balance compared most favorably with that of last year, which was £31 11s 8d.

Unlike the Grantville Show, the hall fund quickly paid off all debts and moved into a surplus, albeit sometimes very modest. At

(continues on Page 15)

**GRANTVILLE CHURCH OF
ENGLAND.**

CONCERT

—AND—

COFFEE SUPPER,

WILL BE HELD IN THE
GRANTVILLE HALL,
Wednesday next, Nov. 12th

Melbourne and Local Talent
TICKETS:—Adults 1s 6d; Children 9d.
Commencing at 8 o'clock,
D. N. PARKS, Hon. Sec.

GRAND BALL

GRANTVILLE HALL.
TUESDAY, JUNE 28.
In aid of Princess Competition.
Good Orchestra. Novelties.
Excellent Supper.
Gents 4/-. ladies 3/-.
E. Kennedy, Hon. Sec.

A Short History of the... (continued from Page 14)

the same meeting Alice Monk was appointed librarian and building caretaker at a wage of £16.

In September 1889, and likely for sometime before that, the hall doubled as a gymnasium, at least during the meetings of the Grantville athletic club at which there was boxing, fencing, dumb-bells and "all kinds of gymnastics." Mr Lloyd played piano between the exercises.

Over the decades all manner of meeting and social event was held at the Mechanics' Institute, from the usual church services, political meetings, public lectures, farewells and 'welcome home' receptions, balls and parties, flower shows (the first on 7th December 1892), to the more esoteric, such as a female Christian evangelist preaching in churchless Grantville (May 1890).

In 1917, the Council of the Shire of Phillip Island and Woolamai looked about for a new location for the Council offices, feeling that San Remo would no longer suit given the changes in the Shire since the 1870s. Various town halls were considered. One wag in a letter to the *Powlett Express* [see below], offered Grantville as the place of choice. For

A SHIRE HALL.

(TO THE EDITOR POWLETT EXPRESS.)

Sir,—I see there are several halls now being offered to the Council of the Shire of Phillip Island and Woolamai at a price by the committees and secretaries of same. Whatever right they have to sell them, and they mostly have the "monkey" on them for more or less. Well, I will be pleased to have an offer for the Grantville Hall, and as it is out of debt, it is a better offer. What is more, the Island councillors can, by motor boat, land at the door, and go when the meetings are over, without minding the trains. As to the mainland men they won't be much loss if they never come to the meetings at all.—Yours, etc.,
A TRUSTEE.

From the *Powlett Express* and *State Coalfields Advertiser*,
9 November 1917

some reason the Council ignored the offer.

Bushfires threatened the hall (and much of Grantville) more than once, with the January 1939 blaze reaching several houses and the hall, which was saved with difficulty.

Almost as threatening was time and neglect, the hall becoming increasingly dilapidated as the decades passed. Cyril Dolphin, who spent much of his life in Grantville, wrote this about the hall in his memoirs...

Over the years the population of Grantville dwindled and the hall committee had their troubles; the hall was showing signs of old age, and lack of funds made it hard to do much about it. I can remember the hall reblocked about 1938, and when I returned to Grantville in 1946 after the war finding the hall being held up straight by two large poles on each side. About 1950 the Health Dept. closed the hall until necessary repairs were carried out. These were done and [the] hall was still used.

Thanks to the efforts of the Grantville Progress Association the hall was renovated, repaired and restumped in 1955.

The fortunes of the hall can be judged in the amount it was supposedly insured for at various times in the mid-20th century. The London and Lancashire Insurance Company Limited valued the building and contents at £290 on the 21st February 1938. This had risen to £500 in 1950. After the 1955 renovation

(continues on Page 16)

Off with the old!

The "dance hall" in the article (right) featured in the *Argus* (25 May 1955) is, of course, the Grantville Mechanics' Institute. At a "lighting-up" ceremony in the hall on Friday 20th, electricity officially arrived at Grantville. Previously, kerosene lanterns provided light in the building. Oddly, when first built, acetylene gas, which burnt brightly, was the illumination of choice. It isn't recorded when its use was ended or why. Cost may have been a factor.

Two dir kerosene lanterns lit the dance hall at Grantville, near Wonthaggi, on Friday night, until 80-year-old Mrs. William Kennedy cut a ribbon, which switched on the town's first electric light.

Grantville celebrated its hook-up to the S.E.C. network with a Lighting-Up Ball, which featured models of the new power pylons and transformers.

A Short History of the... (continued from Page 15)

the insurance level reached £1,500.

A septic toilet system wasn't installed until around 1965 and was attached to the main building. Previous to this, the decidedly non-septic toilet was located in the scrub behind the hall; the quintessential Australian 'dunny'.

There were calls in the 1970s for the hall to be moved to the recreation reserve. The cost of doing this killed the idea. So why not a new hall at this new location?



(Above) Two views of the century old but increasingly dilapidated and doomed Grantville Hall. The 1965 toilet block is prominent. The soon to be widened and duplicated Bass Highway is visible in the lower photograph. Photos taken on 24th April 1995 by Jan Walker.



The same building five days later, on the 29th April 1995. Photo by Jan Walker.

In the 1980s, the Grantville Hall and Recreation Reserve Committee, led by Laurie Cummings, started working towards this. In cooperation with the Grantville Progress Association \$20,000 was raised in three years; bingo nights and Grantville's variety market producing much of that amount. The Bass Shire Council was the contractor and two local firms, Donmix and Grantville Sand and Gravel provided financial assistance.

Construction of the new hall started in March 1889 and was completed three years later. Naturally, the weather affected the pace of building – there was a three week delay because of rain in August 1889, for instance – and it inevitably cost more than planned, the cost over-runs of \$10,400, fortunately, being covered by the council. It was officially opened by Russell Broadbent, Federal member for Corinella with Barrie Webster, President, Shire of Bass also attending, at 3pm on the 14th March 1992.

For a time, the two halls continued in tandem. However, the advantages of the new hall enticed more and more clubs and associations there until the original hall stood largely unused. What to do with it?

It enjoyed the considerable advantage of being one of the few remaining colonial-era buildings in Grantville. The trouble was, those years showed. The estimated cost of repair was \$50,000.

At the request of the Grantville Progress Association, who wished to turn the building into a museum (you have to wonder what they would have put in it), the National Trust and Department of Conservation was approached. It declined to give the hall heritage status describing it as “a simple unpretentious building with no particularly outstanding architectural features.” Frederick Nowell, it seems, was not an innovative designer.

In the last week of April 1993, the 105 year Grantville Mechanics' Institute and Free Library was demolished.

The old hall site is today a vacant block of land.



The new Grantville Hall on 23 March 1990.

From the *Weekly Times*, Saturday 24 April 1875, page 9

A Victorian Coal-Field Visited.

(By Our Special Reporter.)

(Re-paragraphed for the sake of clarity)

On Tuesday evening last the Sandridge Railway pier was the rendezvous of a party of gentlemen representing the various interests concerned in the successful development of a coal-mine in Victoria. It was a comprehensive gathering, for it consisted of over seventy individuals, and included many of the leading capitalists, mercantile men, and speculators of Melbourne, with a strong sprinkling of the scientific element. They were invited to take a trip in the steamer *Williams* to Point Griffith, which forms the extremity of the mainland on the eastern side of the Eastern Passage, leading into Western Port Bay, and afterwards pay a visit to the famous "Western Port" coal-mine at Kilcunda.

The circumstances which led to the affair are as follow:—In 1873 this particular mine, which was first discovered many years ago, was sold by Macarthy and Walsh, the then lessees of the property, to Messrs. Latham and Watson, a firm well known for its successful enterprise in quart-mining [*sic*] at Sandhurst, the object of the purchasers being to form a joint-stock company for the purpose of developing, working, and bringing to market the produce of the seams already discovered in that locality, and also to search for more. The company was formed, capital to the amount of £15,000 was subscribed, and the work was entered upon.

Their first step was towards making a tramway from the mine, which faced Bass's Straits a few miles this side Cape Patterson,

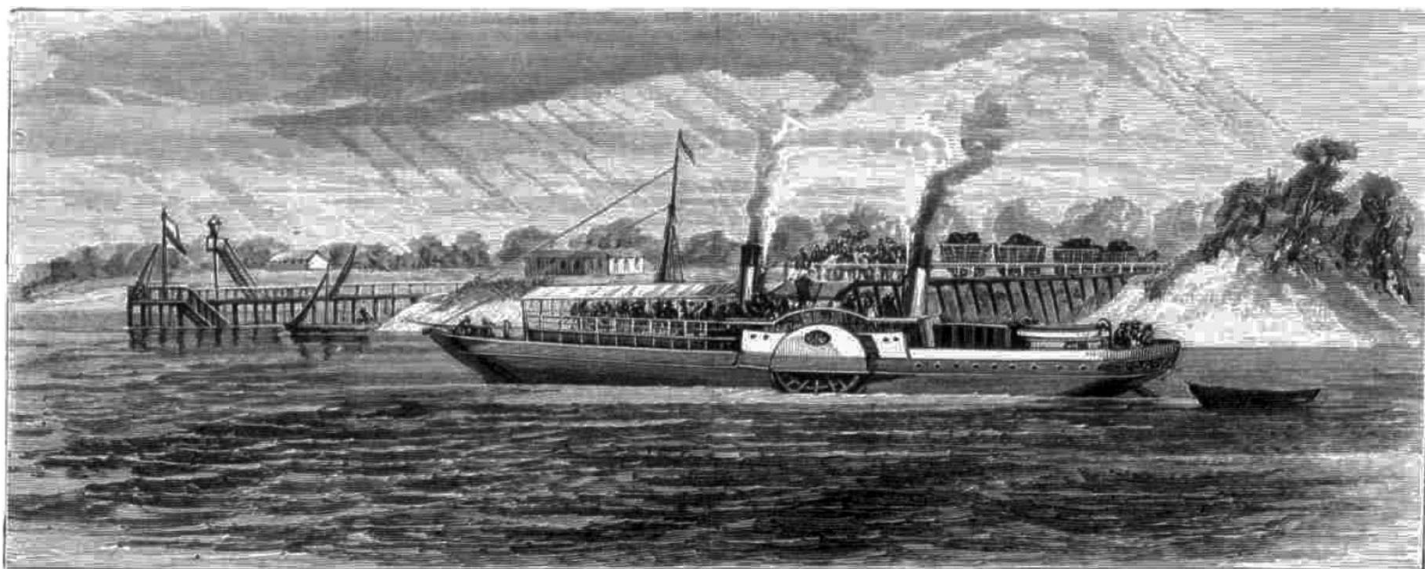
to East Head, where vessels can load securely, and easily make sail for Melbourne. That course was necessary because experience had amply proved the impossibility of loading colliers on any portion of the coast facing Bass's Straits.

Years ago Mr. Chief Harbour-Master Fergusson attempted what he had previously described as the hopeless task of laying down moorings near Cape Patterson, but they were lost in three weeks; and a wharf erected in the same neighbourhood, in order to load coal by means of steam lighters, disappeared altogether one night in a south-westerly gale.

Because of the opposition offered to the tramway by a local proprietor named Hugh Anderson, the company had to get two acts of Parliament passed in their favour, but eventually the work was substantially done, and mine and wharf are now connected by a line of strong wooden rails, eight miles long, which cost £11,000. The engineering difficulties encountered in this direction were considerable, and included expensive culverts, embankments nearly 30ft. high, and heavy cuttings through 8ft. of solid rock.

The company also erected a fine jetty for loading coal. It is 220ft. long, of sufficient height to enable the trains to discharge straight into a vessel's hold, and it cost £780. As there is at this and the Government wharf adjacent no less than 16ft. of water at low water mark, and frequently as much as 6ft.

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The steamer *Williams* at Point Griffith, also known as Griffith's Point and, later, as San Remo. Sketch from the *Illustrated Australian News for Home Readers*, Monday 17 May 1875, page 72: The Western Port Coal Mine Company.

A Victorian Coal-Field Visited (continued from Page 17)

or 7ft. more at high water, there is nothing to prevent colliers of large tonnage taking in cargoes with ease. While all these conveniences for business were being provided, the work of developing the mine was carried on, new shafts were put down, and much coal was raised.

It was found, however, that the company was working with insufficient capital. The use of horses on the tramway turned out to be most inconvenient and expensive, and it became obvious that iron rails must be laid along the line, and a locomotive set to run upon it. The company were advised that under these circumstances coal could be carried from the pit's mouth to the seaboard for 9d. per ton, and also that their line would assuredly be employed by the proprietors of the neighbouring coal mines, which await development. Furthermore, they realised the fact that they had spent £12,000 more than their subscribed capital, and hence they decided to enlarge their basis of operations by adding to the £15,000 derived from 3,000 shares of £5 each, £30,000 derived from 30,000 shares of £1 each.

The business of launching the new undertaking was placed in the hands of Mr. J. H. Knipe and Mr. J. S. Batters, who, in order to give the public some notion of the offer made to them, chartered the Williams, and invited those concerned to visit the scene of operations and judge for themselves.

Albeit the clouds rained cats and dogs on Tuesday night, scarcely ten out of the whole

body of persons invited stayed away. Once on board they had no need to care for the wet, for the accommodations of the Williams are peculiarly extensive in this direction, and in an hour or so more the passengers were in full enjoyment of the sleeping accommodation provided for them.

They were up at daybreak to find the weather immensely improved, and the vessel steaming past Phillip Island at Cape Woolamai into the Eastern Passage. After breakfast preparations were made to achieve the great object of the excursion—viz., to visit the mine. A large proportion of the passengers were mounted on horseback, but the others went by train—i.e., seated on a long trawly [*sic*], drawn along the tramway by three horses.

The journey lasted nearly three hours, but at last the mine was reached, and the visitors betook themselves, under the guidance of Mr. J. B. Jones, the company's manager, and Mr. J. Thomas, lately its engineer, but now connected with a Tasmanian coal-mining company, to inspect all that was to be seen.

Their first visit was to the main entrance of the mine. This is through an adit opening out from the cliff facing the sea. Those of our readers who have passed along the drive of a comparatively dry quartz mine will understand without further description what was traversed on the present occasion. Most of the visitors carried candles in their hands, and as soon as they reached the rising level, where the ground was dry beneath their feet, they began to eagerly take notice of the points of interest subjected to their inspection.

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Journey to the mine. Some ride, other take the 'trawly' [This is, perhaps, a misspelling of trolley or it is an early term for a dolly]. From the *Illustrated Australian News for Home Readers*, 17 May 1875, page 72: The Western Port Coal Mine Company.

A Victorian Coal-Field Visited (continued from Page 18)

Chief among these was the seam of coal itself, varying from 20in. to 24in. in thickness, and, as viewed in the candle light, compactly grained and brilliantly black, being apparently free from that suspicious gleam which is said to denote the injurious presence of sulphur. Along this adit, and through many passages turning from right to left, went the whole party, finding each moment something to admire in the convenient and substantial arrangements of the place.

They did not traverse the whole 600ft. open to them, but were, upon the whole, content, when they had nearly reached that distance, to go no farther than the place where the seam increased to 2ft. 4in. in thickness. Within a depth of 15ft. from that point – so said Mr. Thomas – the seam was found (after the occurrence of a “fault” or down-throw) to be no less than 2ft. 7in. thick.

Emerging into daylight, the visitors were taken to another part of the cliff face, where two outcrops of the aforementioned seam, 2ft. 2in. and 2ft. 4 in. thick respectively, were developed. The other portions of the works, such as the air-shafts, etc., were next looked at, and finally the party came to the “pit,” 196ft. deep, in which the seam stated to be 31in. thick, had been discovered. The shaft was a wet one, and there were no volunteers to descend, until Mr. Brown, the architect of the Theatre Royal, offered himself. He was duly lowered, and on his return, with

a huge mass of splendid-looking coal which he himself had picked out of the seam, he stated that the latter was, by his own actual measurement, 2ft. 5in. thick, and that he had no doubt the higher figures mentioned were founded on fact.

The inspection of the mine concluded, the conversation of the visitors naturally turned upon the character of the speculation thus opened to them. Whether Professor M’Coy or the Rev. W. Clarke rightly estimated the relative character of the known Victorian beds was scarcely touched upon, but on the other hand, the question, whether the coal seam under view would “pay,” as the miners say, was closely discussed. We may say a word or two on the point. In the first place, the company fairly enough calculate that the coal “on view” (i.e., ascertained to exist within the area of actual operations) amounts to over 50,000 tons. Of course this is a mere fleabite compared to what the expectations are, but it is something definite to go upon.

What do the authorities say?

The Government board appointed in 1872, consisting of Messrs. Hodgkinson, Couchman, and R. Brough Smyth, reported to Sir Gavan Duffy, after exhaustively stating how they arrived at their conclusion, in the following words:—“It appears therefore that, under favourable circumstances, and if the seam at Kilcunda should prove to give 2ft. of good clean coal, the mineral could be delivered in Hobson’s Bay for 17s. 2d. per ton.”

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A mine with a view. Entering the mine at Kilcunda, with a panoramic view of Bass Strait. Sketch from the *Illustrated Australian News for Home Readers*, Monday 17 May 1875, page 72: The Western Port Coal Mine Company.

A Victorian Coal-Field Visited (continued from Page 19)

In another part of their report they say:—"It may be inferred from the statements we have made, and from the calculations of the cost of getting coal at Kilcunda (which of all the mines appears to us to be that most favourably situated), that successful competition with the mines of New South Wales is not impossible."

On the other hand, Mr. John Mackenzie, the Government Examiner of Coalfields in New South Wales, who was invited by the Francis Ministry to inspect the coalfields of Victoria, and who the people in the locality strongly affirm actually devoted nearly ten whole minutes to his visit to the Kilcunda seam, gives the following section of the mine in question:—"Yellow sandstone; grey and blue shale (roof of mine), 10ft.; coal 20ft. to 24ft.; shale and indurated clay; shale and sandstone (floor of mine.)"

He says:—"In my opinion it will be impossible to mine it at such a price as will enable the proprietors to compete with the New South Wales or other intercolonial coal in the Melbourne market."

Against all this the company offer a calculation which, except the estimated cost of the proposed locomotive, is based on the figures in their books. It goes to show what, when the new company are at work, will be the cost to them per ton of the coal they raise, and it is as follows:—

	s.	d.
Cutting and raising	8	0
Carriage to jetty by locomotive ...	0	9
Shipping at jetty	0	1½
Freight to Melbourne	8	0
Lumperage and wharfage	1	6
	<hr/>	
	18	2½

Upon this they estimate that, if they raise the small amount of 2,400 tons per month, and sell it at the average price they have hitherto obtained, viz., 28s. 10¼ d. per ton, they must realise a profit of £1,102 10s. per month. With these prospects, to which may be added the fact that 1,920 acres of coal-bearing land is included in their lease, their expectation of finding other payable seams at lower depths, the option of purchasing neighbouring land of equal value on excellent terms, and the undertaking of the Government to pay a bonus of £5,000 for the first 5,000 tons (2,879 tons have already been sent in) delivered in Melbourne, the "Western Port Coal-mining Company (limited)" come before the public. May they succeed.

How the party returned as they came to the steamer, how the steamer was detained at her moorings all night, how delightfully that night was spent, the passengers being so charmed with the playing of one of their number who sat at the saloon piano for nearly a couple of hours, forcing even the whist-players to stop and listen; how the return voyage was successfully performed by the Williams, how the party, just before breaking up, enthusiastically drank to the healths of Messrs. Latham and Watson; and lastly how Mr. Latham, in reply, and Mr. A. K. Smith, in a subsequent speech, expressed their entire confidence in the successful result of the company's operations, is a story we have no space to tell at greater length.

From *Smith's Weekly*, Saturday 15 May 1937, page 18

Souveniring Padre

Padre Dexter, who came up from Lara, where he ministers to a congregation, to conduct the service of the Fifth battalion, A.I.F., on May 10, at the Shrine, has always been a "man's man," and "a hard case."

He was well known in the Second brigade as the Souvenir King," but always he "souvenired" for the benefit of others, as, for instance, when he "grouted" a couple of pianos from a deserted village for the help and entertainment of sick and convalescent Diggers.

The chaplain was a seafaring man for many years, before entering the Anglican Church. This scribe knew Mr Dexter well in the early and rough days of Wonthaggi (Vic.), when that coal mining town sprang into existence. It was not uncommon to see him, when a group of local lads were playing football in one of the main streets, remove his clerical coat, and place it by the sidewalk, and join in the game, usually run under Rafferty's rules, and the minister took and gave bumps and chased the ball with the best of them.

Mr. Dexter was just as popular with the miners and other citizens of early Wonthaggi, as he was in later on more active service. He has a splendid collection of photos which he took during his War years.

I used to feel an awful sinner, carrying a V.P.R. camera in my field-dressing pocket during my war service, but when I learn that those higher in rank did so too, it doesn't seem such an awful crime to have broken this regulation, forbidding camera-carrying. Anyway, it wasn't a crime, if you weren't found out. — "Maso."