

The Western Port Times

Grantville & Districts



Volume 4 Number 10

FREE

February 2022

Contents:

Local and General News

From the *San Remo Times*, April 1896.
on Page 3

News From The Powlett

Namely Archie's Creek, Ryanston
and future Dalyston in August 1902.
on Page 7

Picnic At Woodleigh

Put on by the Scott family of Woodleigh
with about 200 people attending.
on Page 8

Phillip Island and Woolamai Shire Council

An account of the early June 1882
Council meeting.
on Page 9

Phillip Island and Woolamai Shire Council

An account of the 20 June 1882 Council
meeting.
on Page 9

Terrific Gale

A brief account of the March 1903
storm which hit Grantville.
on Page 9

1880s Cartoons

Two amusing cartoons from 1887.
on Page 10

Pilot Escapes In Live-wire Crash

The crash of a Tiger Moth at Almurta
in 1956.
on Page 10

Extraordinary Suicide

The 1907 death of Richard Pratt is ruled
a suicide. The method of death would
raise questions if it happened today and
likely a very different verdict reached.
on Page 10

The Jacqueline Wilson Murder

An update of a story from April 2000's
edition. What seemed then a quirky if
tragic story had a very dark sequel.
on Page 11

Richard Davis Finds Coal In Victoria

The story of the reputed first find of
'workable' coal. The daughter of
Richard Davis reminisces.
on Page 12

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.

* * *

Dr. Manly,

HEALTH OFFICER

OF THE SHIRE OF PHILLIP ISLAND
AND WOOLAMAI,

WILL visit GRANTVILLE every LAST SATURDAY IN THE MONTH and EVERY FORTNIGHT after, at the GRANTVILLE HOTEL.

Any urgent calls may be left with Mr Weaver, who will immediately telegraph to DR. MANLY.

Coal History

A golden wedding anniversary and a reunion of the descendants of Richard Davis in 1938.
on Page 13

Western Port Ferries

Improving the ferry service between the mainland and Cowes in 1932.
on Page 14

The Grantville Police Station

Little is known about the Grantville Police Station which served the local area for 35 years. The little that is known is revealed here.
on Page 15

Little Girl Lost

A three-year-old goes for a post-dinner unapproved stroll at St. Helier and ends up at Grantville.
on Page 20

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

GRANTVILLE
General Printing Office

WESTERN PORT TIMES,
GRANTVILLE

Phillip Island and
Bass Valley
Advertiser,
GRANTVILLE

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1910

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Proprietor

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Grantville.
J. T. PAUL,
GENERAL STOREKEEPER.

K. A. BAGE
BANKER

GRANTVILLE HOTEL

W. A. LAMB, Proprietor

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Lincoln, Stuart and Co.

THE WESTERN PORT TIMES, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1910

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PHILLIP ISLAND AND BASS VALLEY ADVERTISER.

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RANSFORDS
Dingo and Fox Decoy.

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STOREKEEPER,
LANG LANG.

GRANTVILLE
General Printing Office
"WESTERN PORT
TIMES."

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Links to other historical groups

Bass Valley Historical Society: www.facebook.com/groups/bassvalleyhistoricalsociety
 Friends of Churchill Island Society: <https://focis.org.au/about-churchill-island/>
 Hastings–Western Port Historical Society: <https://www.hwphs.org.au/>
 Inverloch Historical Society: <http://inverlochhistory.com/>
 Also: cv.vic.gov.au/organisations/inverloch-historical-society/
 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/
 Wonthagi Historical Society: wonthaggihistoricalsociety.org.au/
 Wonthaggi Genealogy Inc.: secretary@wonthaggi-genealogy.org.au



From the *San Remo Times and Phillip Island and Bass Valley Advertiser*, 3 April 1896, page 2

Local and General News

Note: phrasing as per the original. So too are any run-on sentences.

The *Genista* started at the usual hour yesterday morning the tide being lower than usual, and proceeded through the channel without any mishap till nearly reaching the outer black buoy when she suddenly came to a standstill. Capt Clarke tried all possible means to drive her over the bar but without success, and had to wait till 11 o'clock before the tide rose sufficiently to enable her to float off. The Captain stated before he started he was afraid he would not be able to get through. The Government is not doing justice to the Westernport Bay by not having the dredge here for a month or two to clear the channel and Bass River whence thousands of tons of timber are shipped every year. The river is also silting up at the Bass landing. The whole of the dredging would only cost about £1000, a mere bagatelle, as the bay has had very little money laid out on it for a number of years. A dredge is lying idle now, and would give employment for a few in working it.

The following was found at the Back Beach in a bottle corked up, on Sunday last, by a young man residing at San Remo. "God made the world and loved it. Love is the heart of all things, therefore love on, love ever, for love conquers all things." It is hoped that the young man who found it will love on and conquer all things, as it will be a benefit to him hereafter.

A military encampment will be held during the Easter holidays. Special trains have been advertised to run to Langwarrin where the camp will locate, from Friday till Monday night. The Governor, Lord Brassey, will visit the camp on Sunday by special train, trains will run during the afternoon, at special cheap rates.

On Sunday morning a fire broke out at Mr Jenson's house, Glen Alvie. A fire was left burning when the occupants of the house retired to bed. They were awakened in the early part of the morning by a cracking noise, and discovered that the place was in flames. The owner had no time to get any of his belongings out, and had only what he stood in. The premises were not insured, so the loss will be felt.

The Grantville monthly sale was held on Saturday last, and was well attended, every lot realising a good figure, the cattle in particular.

Mr. Walsh, of Grantville, lost his youngest child, aged 1 year and 10 months, on Thursday

last, with convulsions. The child took bad on Wednesday and died next day. Dr. Wilson attended the child.

The Grantville rifle club will hold a firing match at the Grantville butts on Easter Monday, for money and free ammunition. Entries will close with the hon. sec., Williams, on Saturday.

A meeting was held at Glen Alvie in reference to mail route, on Monday, Mr. Grout in the chair. Letters were received from Mr. Downward, M.L.A., the Postmaster-General and Mr. Harbison, stating that the mail tenders would be delayed until April 15, till the views of the deputation be introduced by our member to the Postmaster-General.

Also

From the *San Remo Times and Phillip Island and Bass Valley Advertiser*, 10 April 1896, page 2

The "*Genista*" was high and dry on the bank at the outer buoy on Monday night through the lights being placed on the wrong beacon. She lay on the bank till daylight, till high tide came and floated her off, arriving at the pier about 7.30 in the morning.

The regatta and sports at San Remo and Cowes have been the great events of the past week, and were looked forward to with pleasurable anticipation by residents of the surrounding districts and Phillip Island as the features of the Easter holidays. There was a good attendance of visitors at both places, and in spite of the rain which fell during the afternoon, keen enjoyment was the result of the meetings. Mr. Kennon, of Newhaven, won the San Remo Regatta Cup with the yacht "*Iverna*," and the Smuggler carried off the first prize in the Cowes Handicap horse race. Full particulars of both meetings will be found in another column.

It will be seen in our advertising columns that tenders are called for building and plastering two double chimneys and also building a brick tank, with dome, labor only, at Bass. Tenders to be sent to the office of this paper on or before Saturday, 18th April, and where specifications can be seen.

Truly the age of chivalry is past. Two of our local young ladies on paying a visit to some friends at Wonthaggi one evening this week had rather a novel experience. At 9 o'clock, p.m. they were obliged to go out into a rough

(continues on Page 4)

Local and General News... (continued from Page 3)

paddock and catch their own horses—both of the animals being newly broken-in, so not were easily caught—while three young gentlemen(?) calmly watched the performance from the verandah without offering any assistance. However, we must not be too severe on the gentlemen(?) as there was a heavy dew falling, and probably were afraid of catching cold, or was it an attempt to encourage the efforts of the “New Woman(?)”

Some good hauls of fish have been made on the rocks at Kilcunda this week. A man named Joseph Curtis caught several fine bluehead, each weighing six or seven pounds, besides numbers of mullet, silver fish, etc., of considerable size.

It is pleasing to note that the recent fine weather has had the effect of freshening up the roses. A very fine specimen was on exhibition at Inverloch, Pound Creek and Outtrim, the latter part of last week, greatly to the admiration of the inhabitants.

A number of the Powlett and Wonthaggi residents were deprived last week of the pleasure of “tin-kettling” a newly-made bride and bridegroom, as the happy pair gave no intimation of their coming, but arrived home quietly and unostentatiously in the wee small hours.

As will be seen on reference to our advertising columns, Mr. J. Pailing is open to do all kinds of work in his way in the building trade. He can be highly recommended, as he has executed some of the largest contracts in plastering about the Melbourne suburbs, where he was contracting for a number of years.

The local Court of Petty Sessions will be held at the San Remo Court House to-day, at 2 o'clock. There are about sixteen cases set down for hearing from Cowes, Grantville, and other parts.

Cowes was livelier than usual on Easter Monday evening, there being a few who had imbibed rather too freely, and were making more noise than the quiet neighbors cared about. The police were sent for, and on arriving found the best way to get over the difficulty was to summons them, and to-day the offenders will be arraigned [*sic*] before the magistrates at the local court.

The Bass Hotel has changed hands, and Mr. O'Meara has decided to reside on his farm, which is about five miles distance from Bass. Mr. Howell is the new licensee, and a right good genial host will be found in him. He has decided to take the Powlett River Hotel, but could not get the transfer for a month or two,

so had to make the above new arrangements.

There is likely to be a little trouble over a horse race at Cowes, run there on Easter Monday. A certain horse coming in first, the owner claimed the race, but a protest was entered that the owner did not own the horse three months previous to the race.

Most of the visitors left the Cowes Hotels yesterday. They were pretty full during the holidays, 15 or 16 leaving by the boat yesterday morning for the city.

Mr. Richardson's “Pioneer” passed the jetty first in the cup race on Monday, but on account of being 3 feet longer than the “Iverna” had to allow her three minutes, the rule being that for every foot or fraction of a foot, one minute to be allowed to each foot. The owner states that the boat has not had her bottom cleaned for two years, and she did better than he thought under the circumstances.

For those who want a real good farm, can obtain one at Wonthaggi, Blackwood, by tendering for it, as will be seen by advertisement. This property is one of the best in the district and fit to go on to at once and make money by dairying.

Mr. L. Henderson, of Bass Landing, has started a dwelling-house and store, consisting of eight rooms. This is another of his many enterprises that helps the district. He intends residing here when the premises are completed.

The secretary of the Grantville Racing Club advertises in our columns an extensive program consisting of seven races, viz., Maiden Hurdle Race, Pony Race, Steeplechase, Queen's Handicap, Hurdle Race, Birthday Handicap, and to finish up with a Hack Race, post entry. Day of entry will be notified shortly.

Also

From the *San Remo Times and Phillip Island and Bass Valley Advertiser*, 17 April 1896, page 2

“Regatta Thoughts,” by a visitor from Mars, and other interesting matter is unavoidably crowded out of to-day's issue, but will appear in next week's issue of the “Times.”

The charge-sheet at the local police court on Friday last was the heaviest that has been set down for hearing for some time. A powerfully built man named Henry Smith, hailing from Cowes, was presented on a number of charges, viz., drunk and disorderly, assaulting the police, and inciting a prisoner to resist. The latter charge was dismissed, but on the three former charges, after being severely reprimanded by the presiding magistrate, he was fined £5. Accused was allowed one month in

(continues on Page 5)

Local and General News... (continued from Page 4)

which to pay the fine. He was also proceeded against by Mr. T. C. Hull, of Cowes, for insulting behaviour, for which he was fined £1, with 2s. 6d. costs. Altogether, Smith's jollification cost him the neat little sum of £6 2s. 6d. A number of other cases were also heard, a full report of which appears in another column of to-day's issue.

The Great Victoria Coal Mine, Queensferry, has struck a seam of coal 3ft. 4in. thick, at a depth of 150 feet, which is of a first-class quality and a rich bright color. The prospectors have been working a caly drill for some months, which is worked by hand.

A little boy, about three years of age named Williams, step-son of Mr. William Fellios, who resides at Glen Fobe [*sic*], met with a severe accident to his right foot, the big toe being nearly severed off, the second one was completely severed, and the third was very badly cut. Dr. Wilson, who is attending him, states that he is afraid the injured members will have to be amputated. The accident happened through two children playing with an axe on Sunday afternoon.

The temporary bridge at Deep Creek is in a very bad state. A few days ago a waggon was "bogged" on the bridge for half a day, which prevented traffic coming to and fro. The coach, which was due at 12 o'clock, could not proceed any further, and a vehicle had to be obtained from Grantville to convey the passengers thither, there being about half a dozen, including one or two of the fair sex. The most awkward part was that it was raining heavily the whole of the day. Constable Walsh, who was on his way home and had to cross the bridge, found there was only room enough for his horse, therefore had to dismount, and whilst leading his beast of burden between the fence and the waggon, the animal took fright and knocked the constable down. It was by the greatest miracle that he escaped unhurt. The council ought to have had the new bridge erected before the wet weather set in, as in a few more wet days the bridge will be almost impassable.

Entries for the Grantville races, to be held on Queen's Birthday (25th May), will close not later than the 16th May.

The wind and stormy weather has made sad havoc in the gardens around the district, by breaking down valuable plants. No word has come to hand yet of any serious damage done to property. Old residents here state that it has been the most severe storm felt for years.

The building trade in and around San Remo is fast improving. Mr. Cleeland is building a new baker's shop and bakery, and Mr. Bonwick is about to commence a new dwelling house on the property where he resides. Mr. Hoddinott is making good progress with his shearing sheds and stabling; Mr. L. Henderson has also started to erect a new store and dwelling at the Bass Landing.

The Powlett River is running a banker, and the roads to Cape Patterson Mine and Inverloch are getting in a very bad state. If the weather continues wet, the roads will become almost impassable, and the lying lands will be submerged.

Next Tuesday being gazetted a Government holiday (Eight Hours' Day) the local post office will be closed at 10 a.m. No money office or savings bank business will be transacted. Mails will be received and despatched as usual.

Cowes is very quite [*sic*] this week, there being very few visitors about now that the holidays are over.

The Grantville Rifle Club held a match at the Grantville butts on Easter Monday, for the Sargood trophy and other money prizes. The following are the correct scores:—H. Higgott 78, C. Luke 74, Capt. W. Thomson 70, G. Stewart 63, O. P. Winter 63, H. Trainoa 48, C. J. White 47, C. Williams 44, H. Rowlands 27, G. Bothwell 16, J. Allan 10. There was a strong choppy wind blowing which interferred [*sic*] with the firing.

As will be seen by an advertisement in another column, the butchers have decided to raise the price of beef, owing to the rise of fat cattle, which takes effect on and after the 20th instant.

The strike at the Coal Creek mine has not improved, and from appearances there is no prospect of the men going back to work, at the reduced hewing rates, as there is little probability of the company altering their decision. There is considerable depression in consequence. No levies have been made upon the miners to assist them out on strike.

Subscribers and those who are in the habit of visiting the Cowes Public Reading rooms, will note that an alteration has been made in the time. The rooms will be opened on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturdays, from 7.30 to 8.30 p.m.

A visitor, with his wife, was stopping at one of the Phillip Island Hotels for a few week's [*sic*], and on leaving the hotel to board the

(continues on Page 6)

Local and General News... (continued from Page 5)

steamer found they had left a few of their belongings behind. The landlord, as is usual for him to do, made an inspection of the rooms, and found several things the visitors had left behind. He rushed down to the boat, arriving just as she was leaving the pier, and placed the articles in the owner's hands, who not so much as thanked him (the landlord) after nearly "bursting his boiler" to catch the boat.

The April meeting of the Council has been allowed to lapse. The next meeting will be held on May 2nd, the regular day.

George Watson, the fisherman who was reported missing in last week's issue of the "Times," has not yet been heard of. Portions of his clothing and fragments of his boat were picked up on the back beach on Sunday, and on Monday his boat was discovered beached at East Creek, near Shoreham, Westernport Bay, nearly 8 miles from the supposed scene of the accident. The rudder and other gear, found at Cowes, has been identified as belonging to his boat. Diligent, but unsuccessful search has been made along the coast for the body.

Also

From the San Remo Times and Phillip Island and Bass Valley Advertiser, 24 April 1896, page 2

An error has inadvertently been appearing in previous issues of this paper, and it is our wish that one rectify the mistake. It is stated on our forth *[sic]* page that the Court of Petty Sessions are held on the first and second Friday's in every month, but we have since been informed that the paragraph is misleading, as the sittings of that court are only held once a month. Thanks to the goodly conduct of our citizens, and the absence of the criminal class of the community from amongst us.

On Wednesday evening next a grand ball will be held in the People's Hall, Bridge Creek, Kilcunda, and as the proceeds are to be diverted to the piano fund of the hall, it is to be hoped that the committee will be rewarded by a large attendance of both sexes. Further particulars and prices of admission will be found in our advertising columns.

Netting fish in the Powlett River is becoming an every day occurrence of late, and if it is not put a stop to at once the few remaining fish that inhabit this fresh water stream will soon be found missing. Those persons who are in the habit of performing these illegal practices, will do well to bear in mind that there is a heavy fine for persons detected so offending. Should these persons insist in carrying out their

poaching operations they will, no doubt, be caught "red handed," as several of the residents have expressed their intention to become informers, and thus help to bring the offenders to justice. It is to be hoped that the police will take the matter up at once.

Cr. Grout visited the Richmond Council Chambers on Thursday last, and was given a hearty welcome. After the business was over he was invited into the Mayor's room where, his health was proposed and enthusiastically honored. Cr. Grout in thanking the Council for their kind expressions of good-will commend the council on its expenditure and business-like manner of conducting business and extended a cordial invitation to them to visit the Phillip Island Council.

As will be seen on reference to our advertising columns Mr J. B. O'Meara, of Bass, require tenders for grubbing and clearing three acres of land. Tenders close on 30th April.

Mr. Harbison is calling tenders for re-erecting a wool-shed, near Cowes, particulars of which will be found in our advertising columns.

By an advertisement in another column, it will be seen that Mr. T. M. Gibson is prepared to clean and repair watches and clocks. Those whose "time-pieces" require repairing, could not do better than send them to the above.

Mushrooms are very plentiful this season, which are of good quality and size, several that have been gathered measuring 9 inches in diameter, and as sound as a "bell." Those who are fond of catch-up, will have the opportunity of making a good supply this year.

Albert Hardingham, son of the coach proprietor, Grantville, met with an accident a few days ago. He was playing about a chaff cutter that was working and by some means his hand got entangled in the machine and had one of the fingers of the right hand severed off and the others slightly injured.

Mr J. Peters, of Corinella, is building a cutter for seal fishing, length, 36ft; beam, 11ft; draws 6ft aft, and 3ft forward. The craft is being built under the latest devices, and is of the Carver principle. The inside is lined with half-inch board, breaking the joints. When finished it will be one of the prettiest crafts in the bay.

Messrs. Lang and Shearer, of Grantville, were driving along through the bush a few days ago, and whilst proceeding over a rough part of the road, when the spring cart they were riding in capsized, throwing Mr Shearer to the ground, Mr Lang getting clear by jumping out over the horse's back. Both luckily escaped unhurt.

News From The Powlett August 1902

From *The Western Port Times and Phillip Island and Bass Valley Advertiser*, 1 August 1902, page 2: Powlett.

Following the effects of the committee who took in hand the coal question, it is very gratifying to hear that confirmation of the position has been received in a cable from London, to the effect that a proposal to float the Kilcunda mine has been placed upon the London market.

Mr Downward, M.L.A., visited us on Saturday night and gave a very interesting address on the agitation for a railway. He pointed out that it is almost a certainty that a railway will be granted here in view of the developments in connection with the coal question. On a previous occasion the railway was only lost by one vote, and the justice of the request is still most palpable. He deprecated bricking for rival routes, contending that the proper course was to leave that to the Railway's Standing Committee, who would decide the matter without fear, favor or affection. Our best course was to show the Government that a railway was necessary, and having done that the rest would be thoroughly gone into by the Standing Committee, who could be depended on to see that the best for all parties would be done. With reference to having the bore back on the Powlett, he was sure that if anything could be shown that would satisfy the officers of the Geological Department, the Government would not be slow in testing it, but it would be necessary for the officers to be satisfied that a good case had been made out, before they would advise the Government to start.

The Powlett Rifle Club intend having a club match to-morrow, shots at 400 and 500 yds. There will be three prizes.

Mr L. Durling recently had nasty accident due to his horse falling on him. He has been getting about since, although very lame. A doctor he consulted pronounced that a piece had been chipped off the small bone in the side of his leg. Mr Durling has had his leg put in bandages and will have to take care of himself.

The weather has been windy and boisterous with rain threatening.

The forthcoming election is not causing much stir, as there is thought to be only one in it.

Mr Shanklin's friends will be glad to hear that he is about again, with crutches.

The billiard tournament at the Hotel has

begun, the following is the draw:—

W. Coghlan scr v. P. J. Daly 150.

J. McDonald scr v. W. McMahon 90.

F. Daniel scr v. J. Quirk 150.

J. Parer scr v. P. Boucher 40.

J. Dixon 25 v. A. Ferguson 80.

C. Dobbin 30 v. W. Dean 80.

C. Daly 90 v. J. Daly 90.

H. Schade 130 v. J. Kenneally 145.

W. O'Brien 40 v. W. Price 145.

The prizes are 1st £1 10s; 2nd 10s; 3rd 5s or trophies.

Another tournament of £5 is being promoted by Mr E. Henderson.

There was a very good attendance on Saturday afternoon, at a glass ball breaking competition held at *[the]* Ozone Hotel. A number of sweepstakes were shot off, to which Mr Parer added £3. Shooting resulted as follows:—

Handicap—1st £2; 2nd £1; 3rd 15s; 8 balls.

E. Henderson 1, W. Lyne 2, T. Henderson 3.

Handicap—1st £1 5s; 2nd 10s; 3rd 5s; 5 balls.

T. Henderson 1, E. Henderson 2, W. Lyne 3.

Sweepstakes—1st miss out.

T. Henderson 1, Parer and H. Henderson 2.

Sweepstakes will be shot off on Saturday afternoon at the Hotel until further notice. A new glass ball trap and plenty of glass ball/s are on hand.

From *The Western Port Times and Phillip Island and Bass Valley Advertiser*, 8 August 1902, page 2: Powlett.

A little time back the place from which I write was an insignificant point on the main road from San Remo to Inverloch, known as Price's Corner—the turnoff to Archies Creek, Blackwood, etc. To-day it is transformed into an important settlement and bids fair to be the nucleus of a very important and progressive district. A very up-to-date hotel first blossomed, and since then, a general store, bootmaker, blacksmiths, saddlers and hairdressers shops have sprung into existence, to say nothing of extensive sale yards and a race course. Other buildings are proposed, the principal of which is a new Roman Catholic Church. The want of this was daily growing more manifest, the matter was taken in hand by a committee, 5 acres of land were secured, plans arranged and tenders called and accepted. Mr Deane of Port Melbourne was the successful tenderer, and once on the ground was not slow to make rapid progress

(continues on Page 8)

News From The Powlett (continued from Page 7)

on a building which, bar accidents, will do service for many a long day. The deminsions [*sic*] of the edifice are 40 x 25ft., weather-board, with galvanised iron roof, walls 15ft high and seating accommodation for 300 persons. The design is very elaborate and complete. There are large posts on each side of the wall to carry 3 pairs of principals which carry big circular iron girders. The whole of the internal faces of walls and ceilings and the under side of the roofing will be lined throughout with best T. and G.V. jointed kauri [*sic*]. Elaborate barge boards of red Californian pine are to be placed on [*the*] main building. The sanctuary 17x13ft and sacristy 13x10ft are independent of the main building and are to be finished in every particular the same as the chapel. The sacristy has a large arch leading to it. There are to be 7 circular headed windows, which will be of stained glass, to be donated by members of the congregation. Five ornamental ventilations lead from the roof, and a stained glass window in the porch and another at the back of the sanctuary will complete the lighting and ventilation. A pair of folding doors will be fixed in the main entrance and fire escape doors from the main chapel. An arch over the entrance to the chapal leads from the porch. There are three flights of steps leading from the main hall inside on the alter, and a communion rail with brass fixtures crosses the platform in front of it—the alter. A large plinth surrounds the building.

A Presbytery will be erected after the chapel is completed and tenders have been called for a paling fence to enclose the ground.

On account of the rough weather of last Saturday, the Powlett River Rifle Club postpond [*sic*] its club match till 16 inst. All those who intend taking part in the match are to be on range at noon.

On Saturday 9th August a football match will be played between Ryanston and Glen Alvie on the ground of the latter.

From The Western Port Times and Phillip Island and Bass Valley Advertiser, 15 August 1902, page 2: Powlett.

Owing to the inclemency of the weather on Saturday last, the football match between Ryanston and Glen Alvie could not be played. Tomorrow, however, they will contest on the Ryanston ground. Although the season is well advanced, these teams have not yet tested their strength; but it is to be hoped that the match of to-morrow will prove which is the better. Two matches have been played, Glen Alvie winning both; but [*the*]

Ryanston boys intend trying hard to turn the tables this time.

Great consternation was caused by folks at Bridge Creek, when hearing last week that the Education Department had decided to place the local state school on half time with the Powlett school. A deputation from those interested soon waited on the acting Minister of Education and Director of Education. These gentlemen needed no convincing that it would be folly to place Bridge Creek school on half time, since, during the past twelve months or more, the numbers of that school have been high enough as to secure its advancement in classification. It is therefore satisfactory to learn that the department have cancelled their arrangements concerning the half time, and that Bridge Creek will go on with full time as before.

From the San Remo Times and Phillip Island and Bass Valley Advertiser, 28 January 1898.

Picnic At Woodleigh

One of the most enjoyable afternoons ever spent in the District says the Korumburra Times was given by Mr., Miss and Mrs Scott, of Woodleigh, last week, when about 200 persons responded to invitations issued for a picnic and tennis party. The company present including ladies and gentlemen from Grantville, Woodleigh, Lang Lang, Nyora, Poowong, Loch, Jeetho, Korumburra and Kongwak. The scene of pleasure was beneath gigantic Blackwood trees which surround the residence of Mr. R. C. Scott. At 1.30 the company sat down to laid out tables laden with poultry, fruit, and pastry, also tea and ale, and every description of soft drink. The afternoon was devoted to cricket, rounders, and tilting at the ring and tables were placed in the shade for those who preferred the milder recreations, while a shooting gallery was one of the amusements of the day. Tennis was also indulged in, the game being kept going the whole afternoon by those fond of it, and they seemed to number about one half of the visitors. By the way, Mr Scott possesses one of the best tennis courts in the district. A good deal of credit is due to the host and hostess for the manner in which they catered for the enjoyment of their guests, no amount of expense and trouble having been spared in making the day one of real pleasure. The party broke up about seven o'clock, everyone being thoroughly satisfied with the day's outing.

From the *South Bourke and Mornington Journal*, 14 June 1882

Shire Of Phillip Island And Woolamai

Present: Councillors Henry F. Norton, (President) Stewart, West, Turnbull, Duffus and Aldridge.

Minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed, letters were received from H. Roulston, and Departments of Public Works and Trade and Customs.

Messrs Wallace and Williams complained that water used by them was damaged by pigs belonging to Duncan McKenzie. No action to be taken as there was plenty of water available elsewhere.

Elizabeth Dwyer applied for an increase in allowance for cleaning out Shire Hall. Refused.

Mr J. D. Nicholson applied for repair to pathway opposite Church at Cowes. Referred to Clerk of Works for report.

Letter from Public Works Department was received stating that vote for Bridge at Bass would lapse if the work was not finished by 30th instant.

Thos Anderson applied for permission to rent corner of land at Bass road. Not granted, as the land in question is not under the control of the Council.

Applications from Charities for subscriptions postponed to end of financial year for want of funds.

Secretary was instructed to ask the Inspectors of Slaughter Houses to continue their services until next meeting of the Council.

Arthur Misson was granted an extension of time of one month for completion of his contract.

G. Poole applied for Council to open certain closed roads.—Councillor West moved that the request be granted.—Councillor Stewart moved as an amendment, that the Council take no action in the matter. As there was a tie in the voting, it was agreed to postpone the matter to the next meeting.

Payments to amount of £116 3s 4d, were passed.

Upon report of Committee, the following tenders were accepted:—Contract 254, D. B. Kennedy, £17. Contract 249, A. Goding, £8 8s. Contract 252, A. M'Kay, £47.

The rate collector was instructed to make up his collections &c., for rates by Tuesday, 20th instant, at 12 noon.

The Council adjourned till Wednesday, 14th inst. at 12 noon, for consideration of the remainder of business.

From the *South Bourke and Mornington Journal*, 5 July 1882

Shire Of Phillip Island And Woolamai

Tuesday, 20th June 1882

Present: Councillors H. F. Norton (President), A. Stewart, J. Kidd, M. Turnbull, S. West, J. Duffus and A. Aldridge.

Adjourned Meeting

The Secretary was instructed to write to Mr Muntz asking him to visit Swan Lake, Phillip Island, with a view of drawing out a plan improving the same, and damming the water to prevent loss of fish placed in it.

The following Councillors were appointed returning officers to conduct the forthcoming elections: Councillor Stewart for Corinella Riding; Councillor West for Phillip Island Riding; and Councillor Turnbull for Woolamai Riding.

Special Meeting

The action of the President in having suspended Mr Hickey, ratecollector, &c., was approved by the Council. On motion of Councillors West and Turnbull it was resolved that he be further suspended to the 8th July, and that a special meeting be held on that date to consider his dismissal, and that in the meantime he be notified to hand over to Mr Jerome P. Bergin all monies, books, papers, &c., belonging to the Council in accordance with Sections 180, 181, Local Government Act. In the event of Mr Hickey failing to do so within the time specified, the President be authorised to take the necessary legal proceedings against him.

The Council then adjourned.

From *The Western Port Times and Phillip Island and Bass Valley Advertiser*, 6 March 1903, page 2

Terrific Gale

On Wednesday night about 11 o'clock a terrific storm and gale passed over Grantville. Ten minutes before it came the noise could be distinctly heard across the bay. The wind was so strong that on getting as far as Mr Oelrich's house it took the verandah clean up over the roof and landed some of the iron in a neighbouring paddock at the back of the house, about a quarter of a mile away. A few of the sheet/s of iron on the main roof were also lifted up and are hanging by the screws. Along the road trees are uprooted and branches blown off, making it difficult to get along in some places.

From the *South Bourke and Mornington Journal (Suppliment)*, 26 October 1887, page 1 and 3

1880s Cartoons



OBSTRUCTING TRADE

Nice little Girl—"I think there's a mistake in the change, sir—"

Grocer—"Can't help it now, if there is."

Nice Little Girl—"Oh, all right, sir; I was only afraid I guv yer a bad brown."

[Exit at a hand gallop, leaving grocer to anxiously inspect every penny in his till and find them all good, just as the nice little girl knew he would.]

From the *Argus*, Friday 27 April 1956, page 5

Pilot Escapes In Live-wire Crash

A blind-flying Tiger Moth ripped into high tension wires and nose-dived into a paddock at Almurta, Gippsland, yesterday — but the pilot climbed out almost unscathed.

The impact snapped the 30ft. high wires and ripped a wing from the plane, which spun to the ground on Mr. D. Walker's property.

Neighboring farmers who ran to the plane were amazed [*sic*] to find the pilot unhurt except for a bruised arm.

The severed wires fell across telephone wires, interfering with phone communication and blacking out the district from 10 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

The pilot said low-lying cloud and fog forced him to attempt an emergency landing on the paddock.

His name was not available last night.



A CLOSE THING.

Alberta—"Mama, me and Harry had a race to-day."

Mama—"You shouldn't say 'me and Harry;' you should always place the other person first."

Alberta (sulkily)—"But he *wasn't* first; I won just on the post, by a nose."

From *The Ballarat Star*, Friday 3 May 1907, page 5

Extraordinary Suicide.

A madman's device.

Legs tied round his neck.

Korumburra, Thursday.

An inquest was held by Mr. Bowman, J.P., yesterday afternoon concerning the death of Richard Pratt, a dairy farmer, at Glen Alvie, near Kongwak.

Deceased had for some time past appeared troubled in his mind. On Tuesday night he slept in a room by himself, and on Wednesday morning was missed by his wife. On a search being made for him his body was found in a waterhole close to the house with his legs tied round his neck with a rope. It is believed that he first tied himself with the rope, and then rolled into the waterhole.

Mr Bowman, J.P., after hearing the evidence, returned a verdict that deceased had committed suicide while of unsound mind.

The Jacqueline Wilson Murder

The tragic but quirky story (boxed, right) appeared in the April 2020 edition of *The Western Port Times*. Since then, I've discovered that there is more to this tale, that it is much darker than reported in the *Canberra Times* in March 1969.

From the *Canberra Times*, 4 July 1969, page 3

Inquest told of threats

Melbourne, Thursday. — A farmer whose wife was shot dead on March 13 had threatened to kill her several times before, a Coroner's Court at Wonthaggi was told today.

Geoffrey John Newitt, farmer, of Sorell, Tasmania; told the inquest that he had heard Malcolm David Wilson threaten to kill his wife on three or four occasions.

Newitt was giving evidence at the inquest into the death of Jacqueline Winnifred Wilson, 25, who died of a gunshot wound in the head on March 13 at a farm on the Bass highway near Grantville, South Gippsland.

Newitt said Wilson lost his temper often and on three occasions killed dogs in fits of rage because they would not work properly.

Dianne Morey, 22, a school teacher, of Sorell, Tasmania, said Wilson had told her last February that the only way he could get rid of his wife was for her to leave him. He had then added, "Unless I make it look like an accident."

Miss Morey said she was having an affair with Wilson.

Peter Locandro, a farmer, of Grantville, said that on May 11 he had lent his shotgun to Wilson to shoot rabbits.

"He told me the dog had jumped on to the gun and Jacqueline had got shot", Mr Locandro said.

The inquest will continue tomorrow.

From the *Canberra Times*, 5 July 1969, page 7

For trial on wife's death

Melbourne, Friday. — A Grantville farmer, Malcolm David Wilson, 39, was committed for trial today by the Wonthaggi coroner, Mr T. J. Mayberry, SM, on a charge of having murdered his second wife.

Mrs Jacqueline Winifred Wilson, 25, was shot dead on March 13 at a farm her husband managed on the Bass Highway, Grantville.

Police said at today's hearing that Wilson's first wife had died from a gunshot wound under circumstances somewhat similar to those of Mrs Jacqueline Wilson's death.

From *The Canberra Times*, Friday 14 March 1969

Dog Shoots Owner

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

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

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

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

A builder's labourer gave evidence of overhearing Mrs Wilson accuse her husband of wanting to kill her for her money.

Mr John Roberts, for Wilson, objected to evidence about Wilson's first wife being admitted at the inquest on the grounds that it was irrelevant.

Mr L. Flanagan, assisting the coroner, said the evidence was relevant as far as providing an idea of the state of Wilson's mind.

Mr Flanagan said. "We have a man who claimed his wife died by accident although he believes other people are thinking otherwise. This is evidence of prior happening."

From the *Canberra Times*, 14 May 1970, page 10

Leave to appeal refused

Melbourne, Wednesday. — The High Court of Australia refused a man special leave today to appeal against his conviction for the murder of his wife who died from a shotgun blast while driving a tractor.

Malcolm David Wilson, 40, who is under sentence of death, was found guilty on November 25 last year of the murder of his wife, Jacqueline Winifred Wilson, 25, on March 19, 1969.

During the trial the Crown alleged that Wilson shot his wife in cold blood as she was driving a tractor on the farm he managed at Grantville, 60 miles south-east of Melbourne.

Wilson told the court the shooting was accidental, the gun being discharged by a dog.

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

From the *Argus*, Saturday 31 March 1934, page 7

Richard Davis Finds Coal in Victoria

By Gordon Williams

We sat on a verandah at San Remo bathed in the golden glow of a sunset which turned the waters of Westernport Bay to a tremulous crimson and gave monstrous contours to the forbidding bulk of Woolamai Headland.

In the hush of the afterglow the old lady turned back, one by one, the pages of history until the air was filled with the beat of mail horses' hooves, and the sweep of Westernport was dotted with the ghostly canvas of topsail schooners, brigs, and barques, and until there came, mystically, the voices of long-dead sailor-men, whose bones whiten beneath the waters of Kilcunda.

It was not surprising that, almost within sight and sound of Wonthaggi, a country centre of 13,000 people whose very life is coal, the conversation should centre around that fuel which "has done more to change the habit and mode of life of man than all political, social, and personal influences combined."

And who more competent to talk of the history of the discovery of the black gold in that district than Mrs. Peter Dwyer, the daughter of Richard Davis. It was he who in 1852 found the "first workable coalfield in Victoria," and received the Government reward of £1,000 for doing so.

Early Discoveries

Before her lay a book enshrining the records of discovery, which Mrs. Dwyer explored as a prelude to her own story. There it was set out that the earliest known record of the finding of coal in the State was in an appendix to a report by Hume and Hovell, the explorers, who reported a find at a spot about four miles south-east of Wonthaggi in 1825-26.

Further, Dr. Anderson, of San Remo, re-discovered the seam in May, 1836, sending samples to Sydney for official examination.

In 1840, the records said Captain Cole revealed a small seam at San Remo – Hume and Hovell's find was at Cape Patterson – and took several tons to Melbourne. The effort seems to have been fruitless, for in September, 1852, the Victorian Government offered a reward of £1,000 for the discovery of a workable coalfield in Victoria.

"I remember my father, who had been a Welsh miner, reading of that reward to us out of the papers," said Mrs. Dwyer, who broke off to recall the arrival of the Davis family in the Colony in the ship *Warshipman*,

in January, 1839.

"I know nothing of that first landing," she added. "I was the youngest of us – only nine months old. But afterwards I grew to know many of those who had been our shipmates. One was a little boy, Peter Dwyer. We played together, and afterwards we were married.

"You may have heard of Peter Dwyer – in Melbourne, perhaps? He was whipper-in to the Melbourne Hounds and was for many years with the late George Watson. Then he ran the Government mail coach between San Remo and the Powlett, breaking-in horses and farming at the same time. Yes, my father was the first to find 'workable' coal. He found indications of a rich deposit at Cape Patterson, and he immediately collected a sack full of specimens, and carried them all the way to Melbourne, a long, hard trudge, only tolerable because there was the golden lure of £1,000 at the end of the journey. I remember – I think I was nearly 14 at the time – that he took his samples to Governor La Trobe, and was complimented by that gentleman upon his endurance and his skill.

"But I can remember, too, my father's disappointment when the reward was delayed. In fact, it was nearly 10 years later that he received his £1,000. That I really believe was the beginning of all this coalmining in the Powlett district. It is a far cry from those days to when the first coal was carted from the State mine by bullock teams to Inverloch – in November, 1909, I think – whence it was shipped by boat to Melbourne. I think they used in the long run about 400 bullocks and 50 horses in the work.

"You have seen Wonthaggi, with its shafts and its railway and its 1,300 miners. I like to think that it really all began with my father. It makes me so much a part of it all. And now the Centenary is so near, and they talk of pioneers and State builders and the great work they did. I feel proud of the humble part the Davises and the Dwyers have played in Victoria's history.

"My father was also the first man to smelt copper in South Australia," said Mrs. Dwyer. "Soon after his discovery of coal he worked at the Tootles Scrub copper mine, near Adelaide. I was very young at the time, but I can still recall the magic and the mystery of the molten metal running and forming

(continues on Page 13)

Richard Davis Finds Coal... (continued from Page 12)
itself into all sorts of queer shapes. Then we came back to San Remo, but it was called Griffiths' Point at that time. Later it became Davis Point, named after my father. But a new generation, fond of more high-sounding – and foreign names – called it San Remo.

Wreck of the John Essie

"The coast around here in those days was bad for seafaring men," said Mrs. Davis, launched on a tide of reminiscence. "Kilcunda was notorious. One of my memories is the wreck of the John Essie, on Baw Beach, in 1849. My father, I can recall, had come over for food for the quarrymen, and I was preparing it for him when four rough and strange-looking men suddenly stood at the door. Later I was to learn they were the captain and three of the crew of the John Essie, a schooner in the South Seas trade which had been driven on the rocks with the loss of the captain's wife, four seamen, and the cabin boy."

Other wrecks, other tragedies, crossed the screen of Mrs. Davis's memory, building up a picture of hardship, heroism, and achievement which, in little, reflects the whole history of the State. Mailmen battling with swollen streams and the terror of lawless men, evildoers defying the law, times of drought and famine, of plenty and of ease – she sketched them all.

Later as I trudged up the deserted streets of Wonthaggi, streets depopulated by the dejection of one of those recurrent industrial disputes which assail town and people with monotonous regularity, my mind returned to Richard Davis and his lonely Odyssey to Melbourne, bearing on his back a sack of coal which laid the foundation of all this industry – and all this bother. But Mrs. Davis's hopes for the Centenary were not to be realised. She died shortly after our conversation.

From the *Argus*, Saturday 10 September 1938, page 8

Coal History

Golden Wedding

A golden wedding which will be celebrated at Wonthaggi to-day has a connecting link with the discovery in 1852 of the first workable coalfield in Victoria. The discoverer was Mr. Richard Stephen Davis, of San Remo, whose oldest grandson, Mr. W. G. Davis, and Mrs. Davis, of Kilcunda, attained their golden wedding anniversary on September 6. The family reunion to celebrate the event will be held at Easton's Cafe, Wonthaggi, at 6 p.m. to-day, and will be followed by a social gathering.

A romantic story surrounds the discovery of coal by Richard Stephen Davis at Cape Paterson. He had been a Welsh miner, the family arriving in Victoria in the ship *Warshipman* in January, 1839. Mr. Davis found indications of a rich coal deposit at Cape Paterson. He filled a sack with specimens and set off on the long tramp to Melbourne, "dumping," as a descendant described yesterday, "the coal at the very feet of Governor Latrobe to claim the reward of £1,000 which the Government of Victoria offered for the discovery of a workable coalfield." The reward was not received till 10 years later.

At the family reunion at Wonthaggi to-day the following brothers and sisters of Mr. W. G. Davis will be present:—Mr. Richard Davis, of Hastings, who celebrated his golden wedding on January 7 of this year; Mr. E. F. Davis, of Dundas street, Thornbury; Mr. Frederick Davis, now a senior teacher at the Hampton State school; Mrs. Grant, of Raleigh street, Northcote; Mrs. Whitford, of East Kew; and Mrs. Bruce of Stratford.



At the golden wedding celebration of Mr and Mrs W. G. Davis (Wonthaggi). Their family includes seven children, 18 grand children, seven great-grand children. The grandfather of Mr Davis was the finder of coal at Cape Patterson, five miles from Wonthaggi in 1839. Source: *The Weekly Times*, Saturday 29 October 1938, page 36.

Nyora Speedway

**SOUTH GIPPSLAND INVITATION
HOT ROD AND SUPER MODIFIED
CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**Supported By Saloon Car Events
Prize and appearance money to \$400
SUNDAY OCTOBER 25 at 12.30 P.M.
ADMISSION: ADULTS 60c.**

From the *Koo Wee Rup Sun*, 21 February 1970

From the *Age*, Tuesday 27 December 1932, page 5: Building & Architecture

Western Port Ferries

Landing Stages Planned

When landing stages have been constructed at Stony Point, on the mainland, and at Cowes, Phillip Island, there should be a noticeable increase in the traffic between these two points in Westernport—a distance of about six miles.

The loss of the vehicular ferry Kedumba, which foundered last Wednesday near Twofold Bay on its way to enter the contemplated service, will not effect the plans already formed. Another ferry of a similar type, the Killara, has been secured in ample time to be refitted and commissioned when the proposed docks are completed. Before the Kedumba was acquired motor vehicles were being conveyed to Phillip Island by slinging them on to the decks of the *Alvina* or *Narrabeen*.

Later it was decided to dispose of the *Narrabeen* to W. Holyman and Sons Pty. Ltd., to retain the *Alvina* for passengers, and to use the *Kedumba* mainly for ferrying motor and other vehicles. It was to accommodate the *Kedumba* that the landing stages, the first of their kind to be constructed in Victoria, were planned on the lines of those in Sydney Harbor. When completed drivers of motor cars will be enabled to pass down the jetties

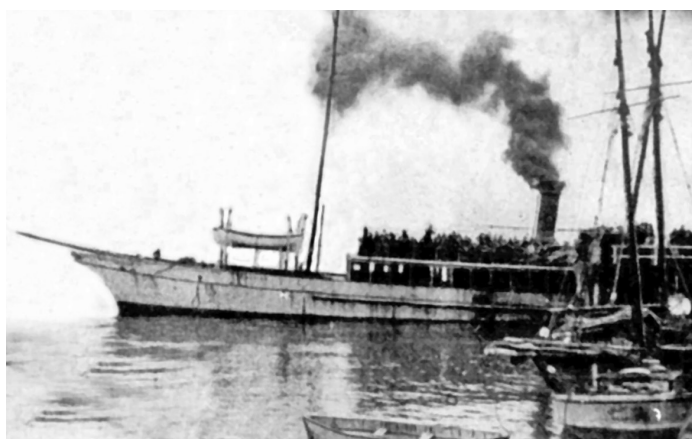
on to the ferry and up either landing stage to the roadways. Plans of the landing stages, prepared for the Westernport and Phillip Island Shipping Co Pty. Ltd., by Messrs. Sambell and Candy, engineers, include several interesting sections.

One is the provision for the rise and fall of nine feet in the tide. To ensure that the landing platforms and ferry decks will meet at the same level, movable ramps, hinged at the top of the gangway, will be constructed. The “free” end of these will be raised or lowered to deck level by lifting gear that will do the work quickly and accurately. The timber to be used as piles and decking will be messmate, with the heavy cross beams of ironbark. The whole will be of solid construction, extra strength being given to the dolphins by steel ties.

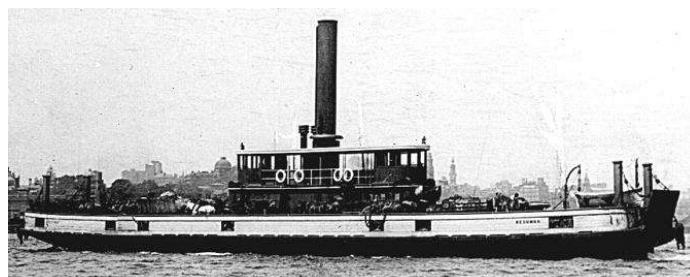
It is expected that the contracts will be put in hand within a few weeks, and that the new service will be ready for the light motor car trials on 20th March. The enterprise of the company, the objects of which have always been stoutly supported by the ratepayers of Westernport, should result in an ever-increasing stream of visitors to this picturesque and hospitable part of the State. Incidentally it has been announced that there will be a marked reduction in the ferry charges.



Narrabeen at Stony Point. Undated. Courtesy Manly Library.



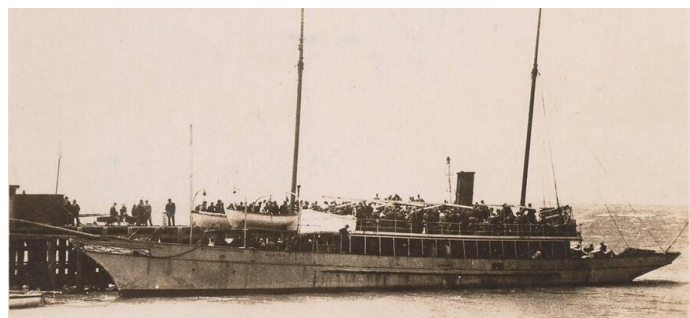
The *Alvina* leaving Cowes jetty for Stony Point. (O. L. Jones photo). Source: *Australasian* 30 January 1926, page 73.



Kedumba, undated.



Killara, c.1945-1954. Victorian Railways collection.



The *Alvina* at Cowes pier, 1928. The Rose Series P.10473

The Grantville Police Station

by

Geoffrey Guilfoyle

(As you will doubtless quickly figure out, this is very much a work in progress.)

By 1879 the population of Grantville and nearby Queensferry and the area immediately about them was such that it constituted around one sixth of the entire Shire of Phillip Island and Woolamai. So why did tiny Griffith's Point (future San Remo) have a constable and police lockup and Grantville didn't?

Because that's where the politicians met, or more precisely, the Councillors of the Shire of Phillip Island and Woolamai. Why Griffith's Point? Because it was on the border of, or close to, the three Ridings which made it a convenient central location: Cowes, Rhyll and Newhaven on one side, Kilcunda, Bass, Corinella, Queensferry and Grantville on the other.

Someone in the Victorian Government must have noticed the need for law enforcement in the Corinella Riding because the following appeared on page 16 of the *Victorian Police Gazette* on 22 January 1879:

The following land has been temporarily reserved from sale, &c., and set apart as a site for Police purposes, viz.:—Five acres, county of Mornington, parish of Corinella: Commencing at the west angle of allotment B...

So where was this land? It was opposite the State School in Section A of what was increasingly becoming "Old Grantville" as the main business centre formed south of Colbert Creek. Although land was reserved for "police purposes" as yet nothing was done with it, prompting this response in the *South Bourke and Mornington Journal*:

...I have already advocated the necessity of another constable being stationed at Grantville, as if report is true, the locality about that neighborhood is sadly in need of one. I have been informed that you can travel thence to Bass and find drinking going on on Sundays as openly as on a week day, but all the writing in a newspaper will not rectify the evil; it is for the inhabitants to move in the matter, and represent the requirement properly to the authorities. (10 December 1879, page 3).

It wasn't the "evil" at Bass in the form of Sunday drinking that forced a Government response but the drowning of Charles Cook on 15th December near Queensferry.

The necessity of a constable being stationed at Grantville has often been pointed out. It is but three miles from where this death occurred.

The captain stated at the inquiry that if there had been a policeman near at hand he would have given the deceased in charge, which no doubt would have had the effect of saving his life.¹

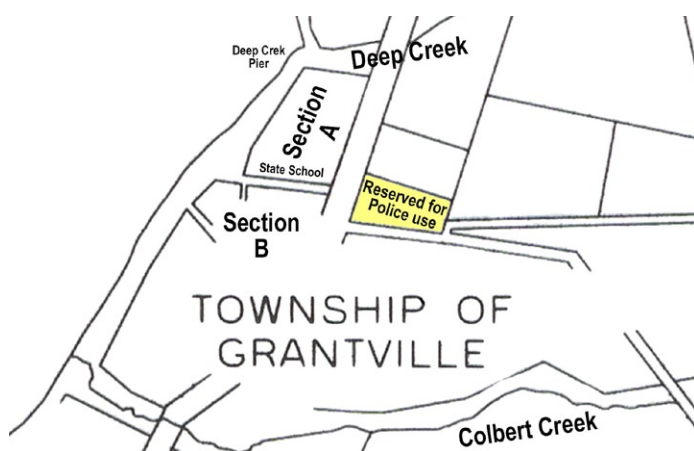
The *South Bourke and Mornington Journal* in its 25 February 1880 account of the meeting of the Shire of Phillip Island and Woolamai on the 21st, carried the following:

Moved by Councillor West, seconded by Councillor Dickins and carried, that Sen. Constable Taylor be appointed Inspector of Slaughteryards for Woolamai riding and Sen. Constable Pipe for the Corinella riding at a salary of £5 each per annum.

A police lockup was moved to Grantville and a constable stationed there sometime between the 15th December drowning and the 21 February meeting of the Council. Presumably, the officer mentioned, Senior Constable Pipe, quickly brought to an end the evil at Bass.

Pipe makes five more appearances in the public record (accepting the job of Inspector of Slaughter Yards, an application to prohibit all publicans supplying Mrs Misson with alcohol, prosecuting John Chenly for being drunk and disorderly, a slaughtering license application by George Chinn, and resigning as Inspector of Slaughter yards) before being transferred in May 1881.²

(continues on Page 16)



The five acre block reserved by the Victorian Government for police purposes in January 1879. It remained "reserved" until the *Victorian Government Gazette No. 154* announced its revocation on the 8 July 1931, 16 years after the closure of the station. Note: the Grantville shown here is the "old" town between Deep Creek and Colbert Creek. By 1879 the transition to its current location primarily south of Colbert Creek was well underway.

The Grantville Police Station (continued from Page 15)

The *South Bourke and Mornington Journal* introduced his successor in its *Jottings From Westernport* column:

The usual monthly court was held at Griffiths' Point on Saturday last. There was a good attendance of the public, which generally occurs if there is likely to be anything sensational. Constable Murphy, the newly appointed of Grantville, used his new broom, and obtained several verdicts, one party being fined in case of the lamp outside his licensed premises not having been lighted, and another for inciting the public to commit a breach of the peace. (15 June 1881)

Thomas Murphy duly took over Pipe's role as Inspector of Slaughter-houses, only for the position to be (temporarily) abolished as a measure of economy by the Shire in July 1882.³

One job police constables of the time could routinely find themselves undertaking was that of quarantine officer: *The Health Officer reported that a case of measles having occurred in the district, the necessary precaution had been taken by Constable Murphy of Corinella with satisfactory result.*⁴

Just what "necessary precaution" entailed is not stated.

Constable Murphy was appointed Wharf Manager at Queensferry on 21 March 1884, only to be promptly transferred from Grantville and his successor, Edward Magness Dixon, taking on that role on 6 June, adding the Grantville and Settlement Point piers on 24 July 1885, Inspector of Slaughterhouses for the Shire of Phillip Island on 4 September 1885, and, finally, Assistant Inspector of Fisheries on 3 October.⁵

This was in addition to his normal duties of arrest and prosecution, which amounted to mostly verbal abuse, animal cruelty, drunk and disorderly, or public disturbance cases. All very standard, and future constables will deal with much the same problems.

Typical, but more amusing than most is the following:

Police (Constable Dixon) v. Jas. Dundas; insulting behavior at Grantville Hotel on 20th March.—The evidence of Constable Dixon was to the effect that on the evening of the day named the defendant used very violent and bad language and otherwise misconducted himself. This was his second offence. The defendant pleaded hard for clemency on the grounds that he was going home to again join the army, and "have a smack at the

*Russians," and would promise not to offend again.—Fined £5, in default one month's imprisonment. The cash not being forthcoming, James will have one month to cogitate over the Russian difficulty.*⁶

Dixon vanishes from the record after June 1887, and it is unclear who replaced him. One possibility is Constable McCormick about whom nothing is known beyond a drunk and disorderly case he prosecuted against Robert Richie in May 1887. That this occurred a month before Dixon's departure, probably means that McCormick was stationed at San Remo and was perhaps transferred to Grantville. Or Dixon may not have been transferred; he may have resigned and McCormick from San Remo was filling in until a replacement arrived.⁷

Whether Dixon resigned then or later, it seems that he liked Grantville enough to settle in the area, first appearing in the Phillip Island rate books in 1894 leasing the 302 acre Lot 35 at Bass from Miss H. L. Lawson. Judging from the entries for following years (and Lot 35 at Bass being 90 acres), this is certainly an error and the location is actually Jumbunna. Three lines down (entry 971) is Charles Dixon at Woodleigh on Allotment 127 and 128.

The 1896 rate book has Lot 35 now at 318 acres, located at Jumbunna, and being leased from Trustees Executors Co. Additionally, Miss H. L. Lawson has become Mrs H. L. Dixon and is now leasing Lots 127 and 128, also from Trustees Executors Co., the two blocks previously held by Charles Dixon, who has vanished. The two remaining Dixons – H.L. and Edward M. – suffer the same fate after 1896.⁸

As a member for the Corinella Riding, Dixon served on the Phillip Island and Woolamai council from September 1890, eventually becoming President of the shire. He held this position until his shock (to the Council and voters) resignation on 24 December 1895 whilst in Perth, a place he felt offered greater business opportunity. He and Henrietta Louisa left permanently for Western Australia on 13 June the following year.⁹

The next constable is better documented. John Hunter received the usual position of manager of the wharfs at Grantville, Queensferry and Settlement Point in March 1890, and Lang Lang in September 1891.¹⁰

Among his first arrests and successful prosecutions at the San Remo Police Court, and the most high profile, was of Alexander Scott of Howard and Scott, a firm of well-known and respected auctioneers, for irregular book-

(continues on Page 17)

The Grantville Police Station (continued from Page 16)
 keeping (not recording certain sales).¹¹

After that it was back to the usual drunks, bad behaviour, leaving fires unlit, cruelty to animals and so on over his 4 year tenure.¹²

It isn't often that we are given an insight into some of the working conditions of the constables, who had a wide-area of oversight. The *Great Southern Advocate* of 7 September 1893 (page 3) provides one:

Constable Hunter has been in misfortunes way recently, sustaining the loss of the Government horse in his charge. Duty called him to Lang Lang, and thence to Cranbourne. When he reached Lang Lang, he made an examination of his horse, as the peculiar way in which it carried him the last few miles led him to believe there was something radically wrong. Not being satisfied with the animal's state he arranged for it to be looked after during his absence at Cranbourne, but before his return the animal succumbed. On a post mortem examination being made it was discovered the spine had been so seriously injured that recovery was impossible. Much sympathy is felt for Mr. Hunter who is a most deserving member of the force, and ever attentive to the different duties he has to look after.

In what to modern eyes appears a pointless and disruptive swap, in late November 1894 Hunter was transferred to Bungaree, taking up his official duties on 11 December. The serving officer there, Constable Gibson, was transferred to Grantville, presumably also starting officially on 11 December.¹³

Whether this was a sideways shuffle or a promotion for one and demotion for the other is unclear. Bungaree was on the goldfields and may have been a more important town in 1890. Today being assigned to Bungaree from Grantville would be an unmistakable sign of disfavour (sorry Bungaree). What their respective families, if they had one, thought of this move is not recorded.

We know that many constables did, indeed,

have families, though they rarely appear in the historical record. The five acres of land reserved back in January 1879 became a paddock for police horses and, one would expect, forage storage. It is unknown where the constable and dependents lived and the location of the lockup before 1887.

Wherever it was, it was likely unsatisfactory because sometime in 1887 local storekeeper, John Thomas Paul, donated a house near the store to become the police station. The Council played its part by foregoing collection of the net annual value on the property and striking it out for future rates, effectively making it rate free. Presumably J. T. Paul retained ownership of the property, nor does the police station and lockup appear to have moved again until 1915. It is only mentioned once more, in 1908 when during a storm a lightning strike hit the stable door and set the building on fire. It was extinguished before much damage was done.¹⁴

John Gibson, as was by now traditional, became the Wharf Manager for the three local piers and Lang Lang, and prosecuted transgressors in the Police Court for the usual range of minor offenses. The last date we have for Gibson before he was transferred is October 1895 in which he pursued D. C. Harding for use of indecent language.¹⁵

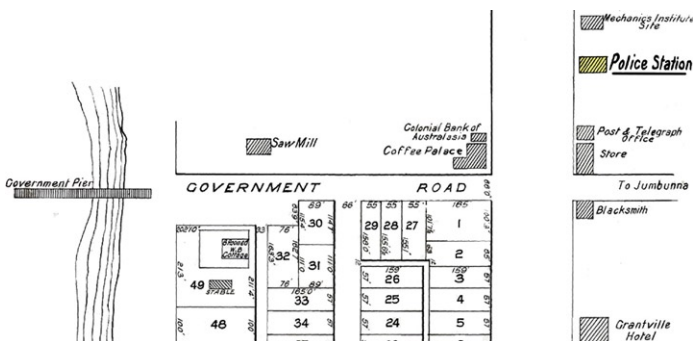
Constable Edward W. T. Walsh, took over the usual Wharf Manager position in early December (he was already, from 21 Sept. an Assistant Inspector of Fisheries), and made his first court appearance in February 1896, the highlight of which was... *Maria Allan was rather profuse in the use of her language to Constable Walsh at Grantville. It was not of the most polite kind, and shocked the sensibilities of the constable to the utmost. The bench was also shocked, and Maria got a bit of a shock when she was told to pay 40s. and 12s. 6d. costs, or take a trip in the Black Maria for a month's holiday.*¹⁶

Other than three further appearances in the papers: a charge of animal cruelty, his testimony at the inquest into the death of Charlie Wilson, and investigating...

The mysterious disappearance of eight bags of flour from the Grantville jetty on the 28th of November last is exercising the ingenuity of Constable Walsh to satisfactorily account for, but unfortunately for him the matter was not reported until the 27th of January last, which renders the task of tracing it a very difficult one.

...we know nothing about his professional

(continues on Page 18)



The police station (residence, stables, plus, presumably at the rear, the lockup).

The Grantville Police Station (continued from Page 17)

life other than he transferred to Mitcham in, probably, late March 1897. The exact official date is complicated by his returning in mid-to-late April, to fill in for his successor who went on holidays and didn't return until May.¹⁷

As for his personal life, we have this from *The San Remo Times*:

Our new constable at Grantville, Mr Walsh, is an enthusiast for musical bands, and thinks that Grantville and district could raise a really first-class fife-and-drum band. He is willing to teach all who are likely to join in getting up a band, and really, among all the musical young men of the district, there should be no lack of support. (28 February 1896, page 2: Local and General News).

Nothing seems to have come from the suggestion, for which the local residents wishing for a quiet life, bathed in sounds no harsher than that of the natural world, were doubtless grateful.

We do know he had children (and probably a still living wife) as his stated reason for leaving was, according to the *San Remo Times*, "that the school is too far away for his children." (26 March 1897, page 2). Given that the distance was under 3 miles, presumably the children were very young, which also hints as to Walsh himself being relatively youthful.

Walsh's successor, James G. Parsons, left even less trace in the record beyond picking up the usual pier duties, the prosecution of Samuel Sloss for animal cruelty, and an appearance as a witness in a minor court case involving fencing wire. His short stay at Grantville ended on 4 February 1898 when – in what to modern eyes appears yet another pointless and disruptive swap – he was moved to Burwood and Constable Alfred Thornton, who had previously served at Cowes and had been at Burwood for the past year, arrived to take his place. In addition to being granted the usual Wharf Manager job, Thornton also held the position of Assistant Inspector of Fisheries (since 21 Sept. 1896, the same date as Walsh).¹⁸

After what appears a generally quiet time (no major prosecutions or cases which stood out for their oddness) inevitably Thornton was transferred.

Constable Thornton, who has been stationed here for the past 2½ years, was presented with a purse of sovereigns by the residents of the district last Wednesday night, on the occasion of his departure for Rosedale, to which station he has been transferred...

*Constable Kennedy has been transferred from Heidelberg to Grantville, to succeed Constable Thornton, and we trust he will gain as great a measure of popularity as his predecessor.*¹⁹

If this 2½ years is correct, then there appears to be something wrong with the timeline, given that the farewell presentation took place in late November, putting it closer to three years. This discrepancy is more apparent than actual. Because of the rushed nature of his departure, the presentation took place when he briefly returned to Grantville, the date of the actual transfer being either 28th September or, more likely, 3rd October 1900 giving him a tenure of a couple of months in excess of 2½ years.²⁰

Constable Francis P. Kennedy was granted the usual pier management function in November 1900 and was gone 12 months later, transferred at his own request to Melbourne, being replaced by John Stephenson who, in addition to the piers, picked up Assistant Inspector of Fisheries in June 1903.²¹

Along with the usual misdemeanours, such as successfully prosecuting Grantville Hotel licensee, John March, for running an illegal coach service, Stephenson found himself involved in more serious matters. He recovered the body of the missing George Perry from the Bass River in 1902, witnessed and took charge in the aftermath of the first fatality at the Grantville race course on 1 March 1905, and investigated the bloody suicide of a farmhand at Isaac Emery's property in 1905.²²

*...the servant forced her way into the room and discovered the man's body lying on a bed with a blood-stained razor on the floor. The man had been reticent as to his antecedents and name, and was known as "Jim." No papers or letters were found on the body... The body was removed by Constable Stephenson to the Grantville Hotel, where an inquest will be held.*²³

Stephenson was transferred to Frankston and left in mid-1907 after serving at Grantville for over 5½ years.²⁴

As impressive as this tenure seems, his successor, Constable Richard McKay outlasted the Grantville Police Station itself. Unlike his predecessors, although made Wharf Manager in July 1907, it was for the Grantville pier only. The Queensferry jetty was by this time declared unsafe and abandoned, but it isn't clear who took charge of the Lang Lang and Corinella piers. McKay picked up the Assistant Inspector of Fisheries job in July 1908.²⁵

(continues on Page 19)

The Grantville Police Station (continued from Page 18)

The career highlight (or perhaps lowlight) of McKay's tenure in Grantville was the case which, for the wrong reason, brought the area to the notice of the rest of Australia.

...Before Messrs. Watson and Caldwell set out for the house they had despatched a message to the nearest police station, which was at Grantville, about five miles away. Constable M'Cay [sic] came as quickly as possible. He spent most of Monday afternoon inspecting the bodies and their surroundings, and drawing up a report for presentation to the Coroner. Then he went back to Grantville. No other constable or official had until the afternoon of yesterday put in an appearance. (Age, Wednesday 5 October 1910, page 9).

...A report from Constable M'Kay, of Grantville, embodying the circumstances of the tragedy for the information of the coroner, was received yesterday at the Morgue... (Argus, Wednesday 5 October 1910, page 13).

The bodies Constable McKay inspected were those of John B. Daly, his daughter Irene, and his son Blake, who were discovered dead in the kitchen of their farm house, the son having shot his father and sister then turned the gun on himself. [See *The Western Port Times*, November 2020 for two of the newspaper reports published at the time].

After 1910, with Grantville in decline and Queensferry already diminished, the pressing need for a police station of earlier times was now gone. Bass, an easy five kilometres from the railway station at Woolamai, yet close to Grantville and San Remo, made a more logical location for Government officials looking to cut

back on expenditure.²⁶

Of course, this didn't mean that the locals were going to give up their police station without a fight...

A public meeting was held in the Grantville Hall on Friday to protest against the proposed removal of the police station from Grantville. The station has been here for about 37 years, and a petition has been extensively signed by the residents of the district praying for its retention. (23 June 1915).²⁷

Constable Barden has been appointed to the charge of the San Remo police district and took up his duties on the 21st inst. It is rumored that Constable McKay, who has been stationed at Grantville for the past seven years, is to move to Bass on the 1st July, and that the Grantville lock-up has been carted to Bass. The Grantville residents, however, may have something to say in opposition. (25 June 1915).²⁸

It was a losing battle. The Government had the best arguments. After 35 years of service, the lockup at Grantville was removed to Bass and Constable McKay transferred, probably starting on 1 July 1915. He remained at Bass until mid-1917, and with his departure, the Grantville Police Station passed into history. The Bass Police Station would also be closed, but not until the 1980s.

Footnotes:

1. *Leader*, 20 December 1879, page 13: Found Drowned
2. *South Bourke and Mornington Journal*, 10 November 1880, page 2: Police Intelligence; 21 April 1880, page 3: Phillip Island And Woolamai Shire Council; 26 January 1881: Griffiths Point Police Court; 18 May 1881, page 3: Phillip Island And Woolamai Shire Council.

(continues on Page 20)

Constables Stationed at Grantville

<u>First Names/s</u>	<u>Surname</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Start</u>	<u>Finish</u>
William J.?	Pipe	1976?	Dec.1879 - Feb.1880	May 1881
Thomas	Murphy	2515	May 1881	May - June 1884
Edward Magness	Dixon	3157	May - June 1884	June 1887?
?	McCormick?	?	June 1887?	March 1890
John	Hunter	3699	March 1890	December 1894
John	Gibson	3010	December 1894	December 1895
Edward W. T.	Walsh	3447	December 1895	late March 1897?
James George	Parsons	3882	late March 1897?	4 February 1898
Alfred	Thornton	3787	4 February 1898	3 October 1900
Francis P.	Kennedy	4432	3 October 1900	November 1901
John	Stephenson	3683	November 1901	mid-1907
Richard	McKay	4933	mid-1907	1 July 1915



Sergeant Thomas Murphy on his retirement in 1912. From the *Weekly Times*, 10 February 1912, page 34.

The Grantville Police Station (continued from Page 19)

3. *Victoria Police Gazette*, September 21, 1881, page 232: Miscellaneous Information. See also the *Victorian Government Gazette No.100*, 16 September 1881, page 2624; *South Bourke and Mornington Journal*, 12 July 1882: Shire Of Phillip Island And Woolamai.

4. *South Bourke and Mornington Journal*, 4 October 1882, page 3: Shire Of Phillip Island And Woolamai.

5. *Victorian Government Gazette No.35*, 21 March 1884, page 780; *No.66*, 6 June 1884, page 1547; *No.69*, 24th July 1885, page 2046; *No.82*, 4th September 1885, page 2513; *No.118*, 3rd October 1884, page 2807. See also: *Victoria Police Gazette*, March 26, 1884, page 85; *June 11*, 1884, page 56; *July 29*, 1885, page 214; *September 9*, 1885, page 252 *October 8*, 1884, page 270.

6. *South Bourke and Mornington Journal*, 15 April 1885, page 2: Police Courts.

7. *South Bourke and Mornington Journal*, 18 May 1887, page 3: Griffiths' Point Police Court; 15 June 1887, page 4: Police Courts.

8. Phillip Island 1894 rate book, page 61, entry 968 and 971; 1896 rate book, page 52, entry 933-935; Births, Deaths and Marriages, Victoria 1899/1895.

9. *Great Southern Advocate*, 10 October 1890, page 1: Phillip Island Shire Council; 13 February 1896, page 3: Resignation of the President of the Shire of Phillip Island; *San Remo Times*, 5 June 1896, page 2: Local and General News.

10. *Victorian Government Gazette No.27*, 21 March 1890, page 1092; *No.109*, 4 September 1891, page 3771.

11. *Great Southern Advocate*, 8 August 1890, page 2: Grantville.

12. For instance see: *Great Southern Advocate*, 22 December 1892, page 3: Court of Petty Sessions; 20 April 1893, page 3: San Remo Police Court; 17 August 1893, page 3: San Remo Police Court; 18 January 1894, page 3: San Remo Police Court; 19 April 1894, page 3: San Remo Police Court.

13. *The Ballarat Star*, 3 December 1894, page 2: Bungaree Chronicles.

14. Phillip Island rate book 1887, page 47, entry 686. On the far right side of the financial information there is notion in red reading, "Struck out: not rated being police station;" *Argus*, Wednesday 9 December 1908, page 8: Building Fired By Lightning

15. *Victorian Government Gazette No.9*, 25 January 1895, page 238; *Great Southern Advocate*, 28 February 1895, page 3: San Remo Police Court; 27 June 1895, page 3: San Remo Police Court; *Mornington Standard*, 3 October 1895, page 3: Police News.

16. *Victorian Government Gazette No.137*, 6 December 1895, page 4018; *No.99*, 25 September 1896, page 3963; *Great Southern Advocate*, 13 February 1896, page 3: San Remo Courts.

17. *Great Southern Advocate*, 19 March 1896, page 3: San Remo Police Court; 20 August 1896, page 3: Magisterial Inquiry; *San Remo Times*, 21 February 1896, page 2: Local and General News; 9 April 1897, page 2: Grantville and Queensferry; 14 May 1897, page 2: Local and General News.

18. *Victorian Government Gazette No.60*, 28 May 1897, page 2028; *No.12*, 18 February 1898, page 572; *No.99*, 25 September 1896, page 3963; *Great Southern Advocate*, 24

June 1897, page 3: San Remo Court; *San Remo Times*, 15 October 1897, page 2: San Remo Court of Petty Sessions; 28 January 1898, page 2: Local and General News; 4 February 1898, page 2: Local and General News.

19. *South Bourke and Mornington Journal*, 28 November 1900, page 2; Grantville.

20. *The Western Port Times*, 28 September 1900, page 2: Local and General News; 19 October 1900, page 3: Constable Thornton; 16 November 1900, page 2: Local and General News; 23 November 1900, page 2.

21. *The Western Port Times*, 1 November 1901, page 2: Local and General News; 13 December 1901, page 2: Gazette Notices; *Victorian Government Gazette No.114*, 16 November 1900, page 4259; *No.156*, 11 December 1901, page 4575; *No.55*, 3 June 1903, page 1591.

22. *Age*, 12 June 1902, page 7: Unlicensed Coach Driving; *Herald*, 30 September 1902, page 1: Young Man's Fate; *Weekly Times*, 4 October 1902, page 18: Drowned in Bass River; *The Western Port Times*, 26 September 1902, page 2: Man Drowned; 3 October 1902, page 2: Drowned In The Bass River; Paul, J. T., J.P., Magisterial Inquiry, Proceedings of Inquiry, Crown Law Offices, 7 March 1905.

23. *Argus*, 18 April 1905, page 6: Labourer Cuts His Own Throat.

24. *Mornington Standard*, 17 August 1907, page 2.

25. *Victorian Government Gazette No.91*, 24 July 1907, page 3472; *No.77*, 1 July 1908, page 3149.

26. *Lang Lang Guardian*, 5 May 1915, page 2: Police Station At Bass; 16 June 1915, Page 2: Hotel and Stores.

27. *Lang Lang Guardian*, Wednesday 23 June 1915, page 2: Grantville Police Station.

28. *Powlett Express and Victorian Coalfields Advertiser*, Friday 25 June 1915, page 3: San Remo.

* * *

From the *South Bourke and Mornington Journal*, Wednesday 26 June 1907, page 2: Bass

Little Girl Lost

On Monday week, shortly after dinner, the three-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. Nowell, of St. Hellier, wandered away from home, which caused her parents much anxiety as it began to rain heavily and they did not know in which direction she went, so search was made along the roads and in the paddocks in the vicinity, but without success. However, at about dusk, Mr P. Kennedy, of Caldermeade, was riding along the main road, near the Grantville cemetery (about three miles from Nowell's) when he observed a little girl by herself, and, as she could not tell where she came from, he took her to Mrs. Monk's house, Deep Creek, where the little wanderer remained until she was taken home and restored to her anxious parents. She was none the worse for her long walk, except for a wetting.