

The Western Port Times

Grantville & Districts



Volume 6 Number 2

FREE

June 2023

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

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

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The Western Port Times.

AND PHILLIP ISLAND AND BASS VALLEY ADVERTISER.

Published in Grantville, San Remo, Phillip Island, Korumburra, Bass Valley, Mornington, Peninsular, Geelong, and Melbourne.

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WESTERN PORT TIMES, GRANTVILLE HOTEL

Phillip Island and Bass Valley Advertiser, GRANTVILLE

THE TIMES published every Friday, Monday, and Friday

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* * *

Public Apology,

I DESIRE to publicly apologise to Mr. J. Lee, Baker, of Wonthaggi, for having stated that he had fed the scabs in the stables at Outtrim during the Big Strike, and express my regret for having made such a statement.

GEORGE BEANLAND.

Witness - W. E. Brunt,
Solicitor, Wonthaggi.

Wonthaggi, Sept. 1, 1915.

EXECUTION OF EDWARD KELLY.

THE subjoined Certificate and Declaration touching the execution of Edward Kelly at Her Majesty's Gaol at Melbourne, are published pursuant to the provisions of *The Criminal Law and Practice Statute*, 27 Victoria, number 233, section 314.

(L.S.) JOHN A. PORTER,
Prothonotary of the Supreme Court of the Colony of Victoria.

Prothonotary's Office,
Melbourne, 15th November 1880.

I, ANDREW SHIELDS, being the medical officer in attendance on the execution of Edward Kelly, at the Gaol of Melbourne, do hereby certify and declare that I have this day witnessed the execution of the said Edward Kelly at the said gaol, and I further certify and declare that the said Edward Kelly was, in pursuance of the sentence of the Central Criminal Court, hanged by the neck until his body was dead.

Given under my hand this eleventh day of November in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and eighty, at the Gaol of Melbourne.

ANDREW SHIELDS, M.D.

WE do hereby testify and declare that we have this day been present when the extreme penalty of the law was carried into execution on the body of Edward Kelly, convicted at the Central Criminal Court, held at Melbourne on the twenty-ninth day of

October, and sentenced to death, and that the said Edward Kelly was, in pursuance of the said sentence, hanged by the neck until his body was dead.

Dated this eleventh day of November A.D. 1880, at the Gaol of Melbourne.

Name.	Address.
Robt. Rede ...	... Sheriff.
J. B. Castieau ...	... Governor of Gaol.
Louis Ellis ...	... Deputy Sheriff.
Fredk. A. Winch ...	... Supt. of Police.
Edwd. Barker ...	... M.D., F.R.C.S. Eng.
Henry Glenny ...	... Justice of the Peace.
M. Browne ...	... Reporter <i>Daily Telegraph</i> .
J. Middleton ...	... Reporter <i>Herald</i> .
E. C. Martin ...	... of Age staff.
Grant Oakley ...	... Anglo Australian Press Agency.
James Williams ...	... Age.
J. D. Melom ...	... Argus.
Alfred Wilson ...	... Ballarat Courier, &c.
J. Higham Hill, M.D. ...	... Fitzroy, Melbourne.
John Leach ...	... Sydney Morning Herald staff
T. M. Quin ...	... Chief Warder.
Alexr. Nixon ...	... Senior Warder.
Hugh Munro ...	... Warder.
W. Flannagan Warder.
R. J. Miller Warder.
James B. Russell Warder.
R. W. V. McCall Clerk, Melb. Gaol.

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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 Inc.: <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: www.korumburrahistory.com.au or PO Bo 329, 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
 Wonthagi Historical Society: wonthaggihistoricalsociety.org.au/
 Wonthaggi Genealogy Inc.: secretary@wonthaggi-genealogy.org.au

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From the *San Remo Times and Phillip Island and Bass Valley Advertiser*, 4th June 1897, page 2.

Local and General News

The Phillip Island Shire Council meeting will be held on Saturday, the 12th inst. There are several tenders to be let, as will be seen by our advertising columns; also applications for poundkeeper will be received.

The Court of Petty Sessions will be held at the San Remo court-house on Friday next, 11th inst.

The heavy fogs this week was the cause of the s.s. *Genista* not leaving the Pier till 1 p.m. on Tuesday, and on Wednesday she left a few minutes after 9 o'clock, but caught the train.

Messrs. Joseph Clarke and Co. will hold their next monthly market at the Bass sale yards on Thursday next, when they will offer horses, sheep, cattle, etc.

In connection with the Wesleyan Church, Mr. Heaton will conduct services next Sunday at Sunnyside at 11 a.m., and Queensferry Hall at 7.30 p.m. Mr. Peck will preach at Kilcunda at 3 p.m.

The Ministering Children's League entertainment will be held at the Queensferry Hall on Tuesday, June 15th.

The down telegraph wire that connects the wire crossing the eastern passage broke on Saturday, and was not repaired till Wednesday evening, there being no telegraphic communication between Cowes and San Remo from Saturday till Thursday morning. Three line repairers came from Melbourne, and although a difficult job, they were not long in doing the necessary repairs.

As will be seen by advertisement, in another column, Mr. K. Kent, of Bridge Creek, invites tenders for carting the material of a six-roomed house from San Remo to Bridge Creek.

The alteration of time in the railway table notifies that the morning train for Stony Point leaves Flinders street at 8 a.m., instead of 8.10 a.m. as heretofore, and on the return journey leaves Stony Point at 11.10 a.m. instead of 11.25 a.m. The time-table in our columns will be revised next issue.

A witness in the Richmond court on Wednesday, named Benjamin Bingham, dropped dead as he was proceeding to give his evidence. He was 60 years of age, and was a very stout man. He was formerly a gatekeeper on the railway line.

Also

From the *San Remo Times and Phillip Island and Bass Valley Advertiser*, 11th June 1897, page 2.

The San Remo Court of Petty Sessions will be held to-day.

The Phillip Island Shire Council meeting will be held to-morrow.

Mr. H. W. Richardson has secured the contract for repairs to the San Remo shed and jetty, and made a start at the work on Wednesday.

One day last week a fire occurred at Cr. Ward's, Woodleigh, when some outhouses, consisting of a large shed, used for storing produce, buggy house and harness room, and cow shed and bails, were all burned. Mr Ward was away on another part of the farm when the fire broke out, but on arriving at the scene was too late to save anything but the buggy and harness. There was 40 tons of hay also burned. The fire was supposed to have originated through one of his children striking matches near the hay. Mr. Ward estimates he has lost nearly £200, their *[sic]* being no insurance.

A public meeting will be held at the Mechanics' Institute, Grantville, on Saturday, the 19th June, at 3 o'clock p.m., for the purpose of electing three trustees for the Grantville cemetery in place of Messrs. E. M. Dixon and James Clarke, resigned, and C. Williams, deceased.

In connection with the Wesleyan Church, divine services will be held by Mr. James H. Heaton at Glen Alvie at 11 a.m., Kilcunda 3 p.m., and Grantville 7.30 p.m., on Sunday next.

The Ministering Children's League will hold their usual monthly entertainment in the Queensferry Hall on Tuesday evening next (15th June).

By all trains from 19th till 26th June inclusive, tickets at holiday excursion fares will be issued to and from all stations, available for return for one calendar month.

Church of England service will be held at San Remo on Sunday evening at 7 p.m.

The Shire Secretary has been very busy all this week at his office receiving rates. The amount of rates received up to Thursday night was about £300 for the four days.

A grand jubilee ball, in aid of the Powlett Roman Catholic Chnrch *[sic]* altar fund, will

(continues on Page 4)

Undertakers, Knox and Sons, Graham-street, Wonthaggi.

Local and General News (continued from Page 3)

be held in the Bridge Creek Hall on Friday evening, 18th inst. First-class music will be provided, as will also refreshment. As it is for a good cause, it is to be hoped there will be a bumper house.

Also

From the San Remo Times and Phillip Island and Bass Valley Advertiser, 18th June 1897, page 2.

A meeting will be held to-morrow at Grantville at 3 p.m. for the purpose of electing three trustees for the local cemetery.

A ball will be held at Bridge Creek tonight in aid of the Roman Catholic Church Altar Fund, when a good attendance is expected.

The 22nd June has been proclaimed by the Council as Arbor Day throughout the Shire.

The Newhaven residents are arranging a pic-nic for Thursday next, to be held at Newhaven, it being principally for the little ones who could not go to Cowes on Tuesday. They will have a display of fireworks in the evening, also a bonfire.

The San Remo goods shed is undergoing repairs and painting, and not before it was wanted badly, as the floor of the shed had holes almost big enough to take a bag of produce through. Mr. W. H. Richardson, the contractor, expects to finish the whole of the work in about a week's time. The handrail to the Pier is also having a couple of coats of paint put on to freshen it up.

The Bass pound has been removed from the Show grounds, to Mr. Dwyer's paddock, Bass, being allotment 61, Parish of Corinella.

Mr. Mark Daly was nearly having to spend 48 hours' in the local lock-up on Friday last through not leaving his case to his solicitor. Mark, don't get so excited next time if you do not gain your case!

Mr. Heaton will conduct divine service on Sunday next as follows:—Milford 11 a.m., Kilcunda 3 p.m., and Queen Victoria Hall, Bass, 7.30 p.m.

Mr. Thomas Dwyer, of Bass, has been appointed poundkeeper of the Bass pound in place of Mr. George Howell.

Also

From the San Remo Times and Phillip Island and Bass Valley Advertiser, 25th June 1897, page 2.

A concert and ball was held at the Queen Victoria Hall, Bass, on Wednesday night. The attendance was fairly good. The refreshments were supplied by the ladies, and were done justice to. Dancing was kept

up till nearly daylight. Mr. M. Quinlivan acted as M.C., and the music was supplied by Messrs. Bates and others.

The foxes are pretty numerous about now that the lambing has commenced. Mr. Hoddinott has shot several during the last few weeks.

Last week for several days there were as many as three and four teams of bullocks carting material for a house for Mr. Kent, Bridge Creek. The township put you in mind of the olden times when you would see as many as ten or twelve teams passing through the townships of the old diggers roads, but those days are gone by never to return again.

On Jubilee night San Remo was very quiet. The two hotels were decorated with Chinese lanterns, and looked very nice indeed.

We think it only correct to endorse the remarks made by the Rev. Mr. Potter at the children's fete, Queensferry, on Tuesday, that "the San Remo people were dead to the world, and had no loyalty in them." It was the only place in the whole of the shire where there was nothing going on. It is they who reap the benefit that try to keep the place back.

An accident happened to a young man named J. Brown, of Glen Alvie, on Saturday last while proceeding to a football match. He was driving in a spring cart, and when passing a very bad part of the road nearly opposite Mr. Talbot's the cart capsized, and the result was his arm was put out and severely bruised. He was attended to by Dr. Wilson, and is now getting on favourably.

The mail bags usually left at Mr. Good's Goodhurst, has been transferred to Mr. J. Daly's, Ryanston.

Mr. Richardson has finished his contract for repairs to the goods shed and painting of the San Remo Pier.

Mr. J. Hoddinott invites tenders through our advertising columns for erecting about one and a quarter miles wire fencing, returnable Saturday, 3rd July.

The supplementary list for the electoral district of Mornington, Phillip Island division, is now printed, and copies may be inspected, free of charge, until the day appointed for revision, at the office of Mr. John West, Cowes, and at every post-office within the division.

Miss Thatcher, hon. sec. of the Queen Victoria Women's Hospital Shilling Fund states that the total amount of the contributions now received is £3,103 10s 9d.

From the *South Bourke and Mornington Journal*, Wednesday 6 February 1884

Phillip Island Shire Council

Friday, 1st February 1884

Present: Councillors Stewart (President), Aldridge, West, Turnbull and Kidd.

The minutes of previous and adjourned meeting were read and confirmed, on the motion of Councillors Turnbull and Kidd.

Correspondence

From R. Blaikie, offering to purchase old road roller at Cowes.—Tenders to be called for the purchase of the roller.

From S. R. Brown, asking extension of time on his contract on Ventnor road.—Granted.

From W. Denne, soliciting a similar *[unclear word]*.—Granted.

From James Laurence, asking *[for]* information as to when the newly surveyed road to his place would be available for traffic.—To be informed that notice will be given.

The standing orders were then suspended, and the Council went into committee. The Committee reported recommending acceptance of the following tenders:—Clarke's road, C. Richardson, £87 17s.; near Paul's, Grantville, John Payne, £34 15s.

The Secretary was instructed to write to the Central Board of Health, stating that no applications had been received in reply to advertisements for Health Officer to the Shire, and stating that no medical man legally qualified resided within 30 to 40 miles of the district.

From S. Pickersgill stating that he had been unable to procure material of the required size for the fencing of Shire allotment, and asking that the fencing as erected be passed.—To be left to the Clerk of Works.

From H. F. Norton, President of the Cowes Free Public Library, asking for a donation to the building fund of that institution.—The sum of £20 to be voted out of the funds of the Phillip Island Riding.

The Clerk of Works was instructed to have the thistles cut at Cowes recreation reserve, and approaches to the gates made where necessary.

From H. F. Norton, asking permission to lay down drain pipes at Cowes.—Referred to Clerk of Works.

From H. H. Budd, forwarding notice to be served on occupiers of lands required for new roads in Corinella.—Councillors Stewart, Clarke and West were appointed a committee to bring up a report at next meeting relative to all the works required.

The valuation for the year 1884 was presented by the valuers and adopted.

An estimate of the monies which are required during the coming year having been prepared, was adopted and confirmed.

The Secretary was instructed to give the required notices of intention to strike a rate of one shilling in the £ at next meeting.

The following dates of ordinary meetings were fixed for the half-year, viz:—Fridays, February 29th, March 28th, April 26th, May 30th, June 27th, at 11 o'clock a.m.

The notices of motion of Councillors West, Clarke and Stewart were postponed.

On the motion of Councillor Turnbull, seconded by Councillor Aldridge, tenders were ordered to be called for work on the Griffith's Point road from Walshe's corner to the brick kiln yards. An amendment by Councillor Kidd that the motion be postponed for one month was defeated.

Tenders were also ordered to be called for clearing, forming, &c., from west boundary of Turnbull's property to foot of Turnbull's hill.

Tenders were ordered to be called for the reconstruction of Bass bridge in accordance with the plans and specifications of the Engineer.

Payments were passed amounting to £207 8s. 5d.

Notices of motion were given by Councillor Turnbull for clearing and forming at Lyre Bird gully and at Woolshed creek.

Councillor Kidd gave notice of motion for work near Harris's at Powlett river, in accordance with the plans of the Shire Engineer, and also for cutting ti-tree at Bass road drains.

Councillor Clarke gave notice of motion for 30 chains clearing, forming, &c., between Harvey's corner and Clarke's corner on Clarke's road.

The Council then adjourned.

Customer (to busy waiter): "You're rather too smart, aren't you, in cleaning the table before customers leave?"

Waiter: "Orders, sir. So many people seem to look upon spoons and forks as medicine—to be taken after meals."

Koo Wee Rup Sun and Lang Lang Guardian 1 Feb. 1934

Grinding Granite The Cape Woolamai Quarry

by Geoff Guilfoyle

Cape Woolamai, the large rocky promontory in the south east of Phillip Island, is today famous as a surf beach and for its annual surf carnival, and notable for the arrival of hundreds of thousands of shearwater (aka mutton) birds during their breeding season. In 1928 a navigation lamp was placed at its highest point (112 metres above sea level) and a beacon still operates at that point today. A number of interesting rock formations dot the area, a result of geological processes which occurred 350 million years ago.

It is these geological processes that led to a short-lived industry on the promontory in the late 19th century. Cape Woolamai is basically one gigantic block of weathered and cracked pink (red) granite, a rock used extensively as a building material and for monumental works such as columns and graves. It is no coincidence that it attracted the attention of P. Finn & Company.

From the *Argus*, 2 May 1893, page 7: The Cape Woolamai Granite Works:

Through the enterprise of Messrs P. Finn & Co., at Cape Wollamai, a new industry has been established in Victoria. Cape Wollamai lies at the eastern extremity of Phillip Island – a high headland of several hundred acres rising almost perpendicular from the sea to a height of about 400ft. It has now been found to be one mass of red granite. The locality has been visited and examined by many contractors and experts in building stone during the past 20 years, amongst whom was Mr Finn, of Bendigo, who some few years since obtained a quantity of the stone for his monumental works at Bendigo.

He found the quality of the granite so

excellent and that he could obtain it so much cheaper than importing it from Dundee, that he applied for and obtained a lease of a portion of the Cape determining to submit a sample for the next contract offering. An opportunity came when the Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States called for tenders for the erection of their new building at the corner of Collins and Elizabeth streets. The various samples of granite sent in were carefully examined. The choice fell on that sent in by Mr Finn & Company, and a contract which might have gone to Scotland or Sweden was secured for Victoria. During the past 12 months it has given employment to from 80 to 100 men between the quarry and the polishing works in Melbourne and has distributed over £14,000 in wages.

The first contract was for 26,000 cubic feet in blocks weighing from 5 to 13 tons each, all of which have been delivered. The second contract called for was for stones of larger dimensions for portico pillars and columns, measuring 18ft. and 19ft. length, by 8ft. x 2ft. 9in., and weighing about 14 tons each. It was feared in the first instance that these lengths could not be obtained at Cape Wollamai, and the contractors felt the risk too great to tender, but as the quarry was opened up they found that columns could be cut of the lengths required, or even in 26ft. lengths. Their tender was accepted. These pillars and columns are now all cut, and ready for shipment at Cape Wollamai jetty, and are the largest pieces of red granite ever used in Victorian architecture.

The face of the quarry, and the immense body of stone now to be seen, leaves an assurance of

(continues on Page 7)

P FINN AND CO.
BENDIGO STEAM GRANITE
 and MARBLE POLISHING ESTD 1857
 SAWING WORKS,
 MONUMENTAL and GENERAL MASONS
 Red Granite from our own Quarries, Cape
 Woolamai, Western Port.
 Designs forwarded on application
 MITCHELL STREET, BENDIGO

Peter Finn advertisement in the 22 February 1898 edition of the *Bendigo Advertiser*.



Cut and stacked granite blocks ready for loading and transport. Some still bear the original drilling marks used in the feather-and-wedge method of splitting the granite into sizeable hunks.

Grinding Granite (continued from Page 6)

an important and permanent industry.

Tradition (and the information board at the site today) has the quarry starting in 1891, the works established on the sheltered north side of the peninsula (within view of San Remo). Tradition and the sign are likely wrong about the date, 1890 being more probable given the following item from the *Bendigo Independent*:

In addition to their ordinary business the firm has opened a red granite quarry at Cape Woolamai in Western Port Bay. A couple of consignments have already been received from this quarry, and the samples are turning out very well indeed (26 January 1891, page 3).

However, the *Victorian Government Gazette No.1* (4 January 1889) on page 33 shows Peter Finn renewing his license for 3 acres at Cape Woolamai. It is possible Finn received the license in 1888 but either took his time setting up the quarry or only did so in late 1889.

The granite was cut and shaped at the water's edge and loaded via the company-built pier onto a ship for transport to Melbourne. Quarrying went on until sometime in late 1898 or early 1899 when the site was permanently abandoned. (Oddly, Finn & Co. continued to advertise Woolamai red granite until 2 September 1899. This probably is the sale of accumulated stock).

Why did Finn & Co. end production at the quarry?

The answer has to be economic; the cost of quarrying and transport never made the venture very profitable, being propped-up by the occasional large job and otherwise languishing.

There is a hint of this in *The Western Port Times*... *The Woolamai granite quarries have commenced work again. Mr. Finn brought a few quarrymen from Melbourne on Tuesday, and will put some more men on in a few days. The stone is to be used in the building of the M'Intyre Bros.' new shop in Elizabeth-street, Melbourne. (25 March 1898, page 2: Local and General News).*

Another related reason might be the difficulty in finding suitable transport, both available and willing to handle the load, especially after the loss of the *Kermantie* in December 1892.

From *The San Remo Times*...

There are several blocks now at the quarries now waiting to be shipped to Melbourne when the schooners are prepared to take them. (12 June 1896, page 2: Local and General News).

Regardless of the reason, the quarry never reopened... Probably. If it is Cape Woolamai on Phillip Island being referred to and not

Woolamai the region on the mainland, there is from 1911 a single tantalising hint that someone had a go, unsuccessfully, at reviving it...

Navvies, 4, for Woolamai Quarrying Co; good wages for good men. Thos. M'Donnel, 311 Collins-st. (Age, 21 October 1911, page 7: Advertising).

The old quarry site might have seen a temporary revival in 1950, albeit by amateurs armed with sledge hammers and chisels...

At Newhaven, a memorial cairn is to be erected to the memory of a Phillip Island pioneer, the late Richard A. Grayden.

This will combine a cairn with a bronze inscription, a drinking, fountain and four concrete seats.

The cairn will be built of granite from Cape Woolamai and the stone will be brought to the site by a party of volunteers making the trip to the quarry by boat. (Age, Friday 3 November 1950, page 9: Boat Trip for Cairn Granite).

There may have also been a rival quarry at or near Cape Woolamai during Finn's venture, that of Chambers and Clutton, of which nothing is known beyond a few mentions in the *Victorian Government Gazette*.¹ The quarry was located on a 2 acre site somewhere on Phillip Island and operated from at least January 1889 to sometime in late 1894 or early 1895. However, it seems it quarried stone rather than marble for monumental works, and that whatever it produced was used locally rather than shipped elsewhere. Regardless, the site was declared abandoned by the Victorian Government on 1 February 1895, having lasted around 8 years.

William T. McFee also had a quarry around the same time. As with Chambers and Clutton, the license specifies Phillip Island generally and not Cape Woolamai specifically. It also probably just produced stone for local use and seems to have been a minor affair. Oddly, although listed in the VGG (3 January 1890) the Phillip Island and Woolamai rate books never mention any quarry.

Also missing from the rate books but in the VGG is a renewal of a license to D. Munro and Co., Limited for a quarry at Cape Woolamai.² The Melbourne company of David Munro & Co. had interests in machinery, timber and quarrying throughout the colony. The Woolamai venture was not, it seems, either a long-lived or successful one, the company preferring to obtain most of its marble from the Harcourt quarries at Castlemaine.

1. The most relevant of which are: *No.1, 4 January 1889, page 33 and No.13, 1 February 1895, page 487.*

2. *No.1, 1 January 1889, page 34.*

From the *South Bourke and Mornington Journal*, Wednesday 19 December 1883, page 1 & 2.

Jottings From Western Port

By a Contributor

Fortiter. Fideliter. Feliciter.

(Re-paragraphed for the sake of clarity.)

I hear that steps have been taken on the Mornington side of our route to get another alteration of mail times effected. Considering that it is on account of the daily mail to Hastings which is the cause of the inconvenience to those places south of that place, I hope their efforts will be successful.

If there was a delivery of mails right through, every alternate day as before, passengers could leave Melbourne, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays at 9 a.m., arriving at Cowes 2.30 p.m., and Griffiths' Point at 4:30 p.m., returning on the following week days in time for *[the]* 2.15 p.m. train from Frankston and arriving in Melbourne at 4 p.m. in time for the afternoon delivery.

I do not hear of any movement on the part of the Bayites, but as I have been informed that the Railway Department will not alter the present times (for this month at all events), I would suggest that the Postal Department be asked to make the 12 train from Frankston the mail up-train. It would necessitate passengers leaving Griffiths' Point about 6 a.m. (rather early), but considering that they would arrive in Melbourne at 1.41 p.m., there would be plenty of time to perform business and return the following day as a compensation for their early rising.

Now, if you have any banking business, a telegram would not arrive the same day in time for business, and business in general is obstructed. These times would only last up to the end of March, as the steamer can not go through the channels after dark without great risk. But why should not the Bayites have their daily mail as well as Hastings, in which case as well as Hastings, no table would suit so well as the previous one which has been in force since 1st November, 1882.

I suppose if I touch upon hotel accommodation at Cowes I shall touch a dangerous subject, but although I was attempted to be put down by a joint combination "for the time being," I shall not rest until I see more provision for visitors, *even if I have to provide it myself*. A healthy competition is beneficial. Sufficient has occurred all ready this season to justify the erection of a properly conducted private boarding house on a large scale. At the present moment a strong feeling is

prevalent against intoxicating drinks, and many people will not come to Cowes because they would have to stay at an hotel. Port Phillip has its large company, and as in these days of limited and co-operative companies and societies for the protection of mutual interests, why should not all those interested in the advancement of Western Port join together and unite those interests under one grand management.

I believe upon my suggestion last year that an attempt was made to form a company but it failed, and I am not going to give the reasons for its failure. I will, however, make another suggestion, which is for a company to purchase the properties of Messrs. Bauer and Wood at Cowes, Fraser at Griffiths' Point, Cleeland at Newhaven (near the Jetty) a piece of land at Hastings, another at Settlement Point, and another at Rhyll, also a steamer of newest appliances &c, and of great speed. Turn Woods's into a private hotel on the tee-total principal, in fact, make it into a sanatorium under the superindence *[sic]* of a doctor.

The district requires a health officer, and will require it more since the passing of the new act, and have the sea carried into the visitors hotel by means of pipes, so that and invalids can enjoy hot or cold sea bathing, without the disadvantage of doing so in the open.

The company could afford to write a guide to tourists, showing the advantages and beauties of the district, should advertise the place everywhere, should have a well stocked cellar of old wines, spirits, &c., and could afford to keep sailing and rowing boats, and perhaps a steam launch.

It is astonishing what people will do for money, and it is more astonishing what money can do. Money, combination, and unity alone will advance Western Port. More accommodation means more visitors and a large influx of visitors would have a tendency to lessen time of transit as *[the]* Railway Department upon proper representation would run special through mail trains between Frankston and Melbourne; it would also justify all conveyors of passengers to lessen the cost of transit. Both circumstances would still further increase

(continues on Page 9)

Jottings From Western Port (continued from Page 8)

the traffic. Besides the above an increase of visitors would justify the Shire Council in erecting bathing enclosures at the different places, or the company could do so itself. I commend the above for consideration of those interested. As the saying is "I'm on."

War between France and China means disturbance and suspicion all over the world. I have prepared ready two rifles, one shotgun, two pea rifles, one revolver and any quantity of pocket pistols and knives besides 600 round of ammunition. Keep your powder dry boys. I would like to see Western Port form a company of volunteers.

The iron horse ran through between Griffiths' Point and Kilcunda on the 13th inst., and brought down several loads of coal for shipment by the schooner Tyro for Melbourne. I believe it is the intention of the company to distribute the coal amongst some of the workshops in Melbourne, so that it can be tested and appreciated. Those who have been visiting the mine for the last 15 years will experience a new sensation when they travel to it upon iron rails and drawn by a real puffer.

On the morning of the 14th an obstruction was placed across the line near Mr. Anderson's land, by who or for what object is not at present known. It would be rather awkward for the engine to strike a log whilst running down an incline.

The Queensferry residents have advertised their usual annual sports at which a cup was given some time ago for the encouragement of sports is again to be competed for. On the same occasion another cup was handed to the committee of residents of Woolamai. One competition only has been held for that cup. If the residents of the locality cannot get up a day's sport, I think they are in justice bound to the first winner of the cup to hold a meeting so as to give him the chance of winning it permanently.

If the residents at Cowes intend to hold a regatta at that place next Easter, I think it is time they had a preliminary meeting and formed a committee.

I have not heard of the Councillors of the Shire of Phillip Island practising cricket in anticipation of receiving a challenge from the Councillors of the Cranbourne Shire for the return match. I have some very pleasing memories of the trip to Cranbourne, and I am sure the Islanders are ready and anxious to return the bountiful hospitality accorded there on the 13th March last.

From the *Barrier Miner* (Broken Hill), 12 July 1893, page 2.

The Melbourne Building Accident

[By Telegraphy]

Melbourne, Wednesday.

The unfortunate workman Masson, who was so severely injured yesterday afternoon at the Equitable Life Assurance Company's buildings when two others, Frank Pecand and Joseph Delmar, were killed instantaneously, died shortly after he was admitted to the hospital. When the winch broke Masson might have saved himself, but he attempted to rescue Pecand, and thus met his death.

Pecand and Delmar, it appears, were working at the windlass, turning the handle, and drawing material up about 160ft. They had a load on when a portion of the appliances broke, and the full weight of the load came upon the windlass. The handle flew round with tremendous force. Delmar was sent flying to the bottom, 166ft., while Pecand, after being first knocked down, also fell.

Altogether 10 men have been killed in connection with the Equitable building since it was started, including three men who were lost in the ketch *Kermandi* [*sic*] while coming from Phillip Island with granite for the building, and two who were killed three months ago by the bursting of a part of the hauling machinery.



The Equitable Building, corner of Collins and Elizabeth Street, in the 1950s. It was designed about 1890, and took 6 years to build, constructed from granite (some of it sourced from the quarry at Cape Woolamai) thick brick walls and a steel frame. It was demolished in 1959.

Case of Snake Bite

Successfully Treated

With

Calmette's Remedy

Describing Symptoms, Treatments, &c.,
With
Notes and Comments

By

Murdoch Mackenzie, LR.C.P. et L.R.C.S. Edin.

Published by Miles & Howell, General Printers. Korumburra, 1895

On the 10th December last, about 12 o'clock noon I was rapidly summoned to attend a man named Edward Dodd, a coal miner, who was reported to me to have been bitten by a snake. I saw Dodd about twenty minutes after he was bitten, and the condition he was in was one of severe shock. He had been bitten on the 2nd phalant of the 3rd finger left hand, when lifting a split flooring board, between two of which a coin had fallen. A ligature was tied tightly round the base of the finger within ten seconds after the bite, and a search was made for the snake, which could then not be found. After being on for ten minutes Dodd foolishly, when the finger became swollen and painful, removed the ligature and began to wash himself. Suddenly his head felt as if bursting and becoming very giddy he collapsed on the floor. The friends immediately re-applied the ligature at the base of the finger, but it had remained off for four minutes, when all the mischief took place. I was ignorant at the time that the ligature had been removed. I put a ligature above the elbow, scarified the punctures with a razor, washed them, sucked the wound and encouraged bleeding. The patient was suffering from shock; face dirty cream color, cold, clammy perspirations, dimness of vision, pupils dilated, pulse feeble 80, staggering gait and very giddy. I sent for some brandy, gave him ½oz, and as soon as I rallied him I made him walk to the surgery about one mile. On his way down, about half an hour after he was bitten, he began spitting bright frothy blood and continued doing so for some time after. Arriving at the surgery I started the injection of bleaching powder solution, which had been carefully prepared by Mr Price, the local chemist. The solution was 1 in 12, and was filtered after having been mixed for four days and frequently stirred. As will be seen the solution was used throughout without any dilution.

12.45 p.m.—One hour after being bitten. Injected 30 minims left leg. No pain felt; patient was very giddy and tired after his walk; pulse a few minutes after began to improve.

1.20 p.m.—Complained of great giddiness, staggered in walking; pulse 72. Injected 30 minims into right arm; felt better and wanted to have a walk outside.

1.45 p.m.—Much improved, giddiness gone, sitting and walking about in the shade.

2.45 p.m.—Felt very giddy, eyesight dim, pupils dilated, wanted to be sick, felt sleepy and drowsy. Injected 30 minims into left arm.

2.50 p.m.—Not so giddy, gait staggering, vomited dark blood.

3.15 p.m.—Pulse 64 regular, very drowsy and sleepy, pupils dilated, speech slightly thick. Injected 35 minims into left leg, and gave him ½oz. of brandy. His friends took him for a walk and gave him some lemonade.

4 p.m.—Pulse 70 regular; not so giddy, heavy nor sleepy; again vomited dark blood. Patient stating he felt much relieved by it.

5 p.m.—Pulse 64; complains of feeling like a "drunk," again vomited dark blood. Injected 30 minims into left arm.

6 p.m.—Felt better; vision dim, pupils dilated, pulse 73.

7 p.m.—No change, had cup of coffee.

9 p.m.—Pulse 56; breathing regular, wanted to sleep, resting on a bed. Injected 30 minims into left leg.

10 p.m.—Pulse 72 regular; felt much better except for seeing "double," and his sight being dim.

11 p.m.—Patient felt much better, and between this and 7 a.m. Tuesday had two hours sleep and felt refreshed by it.

Tuesday, 7 a.m.—Walked to surgery from where he was lodging, about three minutes

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Case of Snake Bite... (continued from Page 10)

walk. Gait very staggering, giddiness, pupils dilated, vision dim, diplopia, pulse 62. Injected 30 minims into right arm, 30 minims into left leg and made him rest in the surgery.

7.30 a.m.—Much better, pulse 76.

9 a.m.—Pulse 72; tongue swelled, complains of pains in back of neck, pupils dilated. Walked home about one mile, arriving there about 9.30 feeling much better after his walk.

12.25 p.m.—Pains in nape of neck, tongue swollen, pupils dilated, pulse 78 not so strong, giddiness on standing up or sitting down, drowsy. Injected $\frac{1}{8}$ gr. of Morphia Tartrate to counteract the extreme dilation of the pupils. Injected 30 minims (lime solution) into right leg.

12.45 p.m.—Pupils not so dilated; pulse improving. Gave him coffee with $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. brandy; gait improved.

2 p.m.—Complained of double vision and dimness, pupils much dilated. Injected 30 minims into left leg.

2.30 p.m.—Felt much better, wanted to sleep, slept till 4 p.m. when he awoke, and immediately vomited some food previously taken.

6 p.m.—Said he felt “fine,” hiccoughing, pupils not so dilated, vision better.

11.30 p.m.—Pulse 64; smoked a cigarette, did not feel giddy, not sleepy, apparently improving. Injected 30 minims; patient slept for a few hours.

Wednesday, 6 a.m.—Patient felt “grand.” Pulse normal, pupils normal, gait staggering, complained of sore throat; walked home about 1 mile.

11 a.m.—Felt drowsy, looked sleepy, pupils dilated, gait staggering. Injected 30 minims.

12 noon.—Pulse 72; not so strong, hiccough present.

1.15 p.m.—Tongue swollen and covered with viscid glairy secretion; sub-lingual gland painful and swollen, pains in neck, pupils much dilated. Injected 30 minims left arm; 30 minims right leg; and gave $\frac{1}{8}$ gr. Morphia Tartrate hypodermically.

7 p.m.—Felt much better, pupils normal, vision dim, double vision gone, staggered when walking especially on first rising from recumbent position, gait improved on walking; pains along gums, and tightness over chest, increased by taking a deep breath.

11 p.m.—Pulse 68; not so strong hiccoughing,

looked sleepy and drowsy. Injected 30 minims; slept for three hours.

Thursday, 4 a.m.—Pains in back of neck, throat sore, difficulty in opening his mouth, patient’s expression being that “his jaws were tied together.”

6 a.m.—Walked to surgery, gait very staggering and with difficulty getting up five steps; intolerant of light, keeping eyes shaded with a handkerchief, piosis of both eyelids, pains in the neck, angles of lower jaw very painful, difficulty in opening his mouth, barely separating the teeth, tightness over the chest, hiccough very distressing, pulse 62 regular, pupils not so dilated, looked very sleepy and drowsy, sublingual glands painful. Injected 30 minims right leg; 30 minims left leg; 30 minims right arm; hypodermically $\frac{1}{8}$ gr. Morphia Tartrate for the severe pains in the neck.

6.20 a.m.—Pulse 76; hiccough gone, pains relieved, wanted to have a sleep, which he did for three hours and on awakening could open his mouth much better and had a good breakfast.

1.30 p.m.—Pulse 72, slightly irregular, not so strong, pains in the neck. Injected 2 minims Liq. Strychniae b.p.

5 p.m.—Pulse 76 regular; intolerant of light. Injected 30 minims (lime solution.)

11 p.m.—Felt much better. Injected before going to sleep, 30 minims.

Friday.—Improvement generally visible, the only symptoms persisting being dimness of vision, intolerance of light, staggering gait; had during the day three $\frac{1}{2}$ -drachm injections; appetite good.

Saturday.—Said he could see twice as far now, intolerance of light gone, gait remained staggering. One injection given in the morning, I allowed him to go home feeling the man was cured, the only symptoms persisting being staggering gait.

Monday, December 17.—A week after being bitten.—Patient feels fine; complains of pains in his legs, facial features somewhat drawn, can see well but says his legs feel “queer.” Injected 30 minims.

During the second week the most decided, symptoms were principally those of anaemia—an anaemic look, easily tired, pains in his back and limbs, slight oedema of both ankles. On Thursday, December 20th, ten days after the bite, I met Professor Halford at Korumburra.

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Case of Snake Bite... (continued from Page 11)

He was much interested in the case, and on my enquiring how long the lime solution should be injected, he replied "as long as any symptoms persist." On seeing Dodd after my interview with Professor Halford, I found him very pale and anaemic, face drawn, pulse 94, gait staggering, pains across loins, urine scanty, very "smoky" looking, in fact nearly black, tongue coated, bowels regular. Urine sp. grav. 1026 acid, contains 16 per cent of albumen; under microscope large quantities of red blood cells and molecular looking debris. I gave patient three injections in ½-drachm doses, and put him on a mixture of:—

Tinct Ferri Mur	--	MXX.
Pot. cit.	--	gr XV.
Tinct Buchu	--	MXXX.
Tinct Hyoscy	--	MXX.
Aq. Ad	--	½ OZ.
4tis Horis	--	--

The urine gradually improved during the next four days, becoming normal in colour, quantity increased; no blood cells detected under the microscope, about 3 per cent of albumen sp. grad. 1016.

The face pale—Seventeen days after the bite he had severe pains along spine, his legs felt "dumpy," could not walk, severe pains in calves of leg and extensor muscles of thigh on standing, and on attempting to walk could not lift his feet from the ground, sensation not impaired; patellar reflexes both abolished, pupils normal, says he can see "all right," pulse 73 regular, bowels open, tongue coated, does not sleep well at night, has shooting pains in both legs on attempting to move in bed and can turn with great difficulty. I ordered him:—

Tinct Ergotae	--	MXX.
Tinct Opii	--	MX.
Tinct Nuc Vom	--	MX.
Mag Sulph	--	gr. 60.
Aq. Ad	--	½ OZ.
6tis Horis	--	--

Iron mixture discontinued for two days. Pains were soon relieved, gait improving daily, anaemia fast disappearing. During the three weeks the injections were kept up, and acting on the advise of Professor Halford, the patient is going to the sea-side for a few weeks.

January 1st, 1895.—Seems perfectly well, the only thing is that he can't walk any distance without getting tired. Still anaemic, feet swollen.

Comments On Snake Bite

Professor Halford, after seeing the patient and reading notes of the case, said it was the only case in his long experience of a patient having the lethal symptoms of snake bite that had recovered. To Professor Halford, my teacher, it was very gratifying, as he was the first in Australia to advocate Calmette's remedy and in his valuable book lately published—a book written with the genius of the Physiologist and the conciseness of the truth-seeker—he had added a translation from the French of the practical parts of Calmette's original paper. No medical man, no man of any scientific training, in fact, no man of any intelligence should be without this book. To medical men in particular as there are so many little "tips" and suggestions, which set one thinking, this book of such intrinsic worth is to be specially recommended and I trust the author will be amply repaid for his enterprise in giving the world in such a handy form so much information, and that he will be long spared to continue his physiological researches.

This patient was seen about twenty minutes after he was bitten, the ligature had been off his finger for four minutes (a fact I was ignorant of at the time I first saw him). I saw the tiger snake killed, coming from close to where he was bitten 30 minutes after, and I watched the patient day and night for four days, and, very important, the first injection took place one hour after the bite. As no text book that I can come across describes the symptoms of snake bite I will briefly summarise them:—Shock, giddiness, spitting of bright frothy blood (this happened in half-an-hour after), staggering gait, intense desire to sleep, drowsy appearance, intolerance of light, extreme dilatation of the pupils, dimness of sight, double vision, pain over eyebrows, feeling of something "dragging at the eyeballs," hiccough, vomiting of blood, sublingual glands swollen, pains in and about the spine, initiatory symptoms of Tetanus, as seen in the difficulty of opening his mouth, tongue swollen. These symptoms may be regarded as primary and the secondary symptoms may be summed up as (a) anaemia; (b) partial loss of power of the lower extremities. The sudden anaemia was due to the ravages of the snake poison on the red blood cells and the Haematuria coming on the 10th day was no doubt due to the same causes that produced the Haemoptysis

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Case of Snake Bite... (continued from Page 12)

and the Haematemesis. The anaemia was accompanied by oedema of both ankles, and the loss of power in the legs improved with the Haematuria disappearing. The most persistent symptoms were:—Dimness of vision with diplopia, intolerance of light, giddiness, and staggering gait.

Beyond a doubt Professor Halford's theory, which he promulgated years ago, has been strikingly confirmed, and as a pupil of his I am proud to feel that I have had a small share in showing by Dodd's case that the action of snake venom is primarily a blood poison. The severe shock, its suddenness, the spitting of blood, the vomiting of blood, the anaemia, the Haematuria, the detailed account of the whole case proves it. Another small point is that the ligature I put above the elbow bruised the skin and, as showing the want of "tone", in that structure, the bruise is there three weeks after without showing any sign of disappearing or altering its appearance.

Treatment

Injections of half drachm doses of Bleaching Powder solution, 1 in 12—as long as any symptoms were present—in the arms and legs as being the most convenient parts to get at. Professor Halford's book did not reach me till the day after the bite when I saw Calmette recommended diluting the 1 in 12 solution with nine times more water. I am glad I did not get the book till the day after, as it has now been proved that the 1 in 12 solution does not harm. The friends of Dodd thought the injections were causing his giddiness, &c, 48 hours after, and to convince them I injected myself with half a drachm in each leg. There is no pain except the prick of the needle and no local effects left. The syringe and needle must be scrupulously clean, best done by syringing out, several times in hot water. No different effects were observed to injecting same quantity of water. An increase of a few beats in the pulse was observed for a short time in my own case. Altogether throughout the case Dodd had 34 injections and I gave myself 25. As will be seen on two occasions I injected one-eighth of a grain of Morphia Tartrate partly for the pains in the neck, and partly to counteract the extreme dilation of the pupils. Once when the pulse showed signs of failing I injected two minims of Liq. Strychniae B.P. I kept the patient quiet, knowing that fatigue in blood poisoning increases its effect, allowed him to sleep when he felt inclined,

and every means were taken to keep the mental condition one of "well being." Brandy was regulated by the pulse and the first 72 hours the patient had 10ozs. The patient had ordinary nutritious diet and the whole time the various bodily functions were regular. Six years ago in Queensland I saw a man die in ten hours from snake bite. I wish Professor Halford's book had then been written. The case speaks for itself. The remedy is, I believe, the antidote.

* * *

From the *Age*, Friday 16 February 1951, page 7.

Fire Engine Now Town Water Cart

Wonthaggi, Thursday.—The district is suffering so much from lack of water that many dairy farmers spend all their time between milkings carting it long distances.

The Bass rural fire brigade engine is being used as a water carrier.

The Bass River is hardly moving.

On Phillip Island there is difficulty in locating people who may have an excess water supply, and quantities are being transported from the main land.

Restrictions were introduced today banning the watering of gardens except by hand-held hoses.

The shortage has caused the borough councillors to revive their claims for a duplicate 12-inch main to the Kongwak reservoir.

Councillors said the abnormal summer had proved the inadequacy of the pumping equipment and the inaccuracy of a statement by the Water Commission engineers that the auxiliary basin on Inverloch road would give the town all the water it wanted.

Cr. McKenzie said: "At the time we told them nothing short of a duplication would do us and Inverloch, but the engineers held that the £10,000 reservoir constructed about 16 years ago would do.

"The State coal mine daily uses five times more than that little basin holds," said Cr. Fincher.

The commission will be asked to improve the service.

WATER CARTED
K. HUXTABLE
KOOWEERUP 175

The Inverloch Hoard

From the *Herald*, Thursday 8 April 1954, page 12.

He's Dug 15 Years For £200m. Treasure

Inverloch, Today. — A 71-year-old hermit has been digging on a hillside in Inverloch every day for 15 years with a pick and shovel — looking for a treasure he says is worth £200 million.

But he says the search is nearly over—he expects to find the money within three months.

And he is so confident that he has ordered a £4500 Mercedes-Benz car.

The white-haired old hermit, Donald Nicholson, says his grandfather buried the treasure about 1900. Golden sovereigns, gold dust, and jewels looted from Chinese temples are packed into a sealed underground vault.

But no one in Inverloch, which is nine miles from Wonthaggi, knows whether the treasure is a figment of the mysterious old man's imagination.

Why Dig?

If he had invented the story just to be left alone, they say, why would he dig all the holes on the hill, shifting hundreds of tons of rock and earth?

And in Melbourne today it was revealed that the Army was called into the search in 1940, at the direction of the Chief of the General Staff.

Nicholson wrote to Lord Gowrie asking for help in his search. The letter was passed to Prime Minister Menzies, who referred it to the army for action.

Twelve soldiers, including two colonels and four experienced mining engineers, made the trip to Inverloch.

They surveyed and dug into the old man's hillside tunnels for a week, then prepared to blow up the face of the cliff.

Search Off

But minutes before engineers were to set off the charge an order came from Army Headquarters to call off the search. No reason was given.

A vault with an armed guard had been prepared at the Commonwealth Bank in Melbourne to take the treasure.

Nicholson lives in a tent on the banks of the Screw Creek, which winds through dense scrub to the sea.

When a *Herald* photographer and I went to see him smoke was drifting lazily from a camp-fire beside the old tent. Shovels and a pick were propped against a log.

Blue Eyes

He is short—about five feet-two. He had light blue, twinkling eyes. A shabby suit-coat hung loosely over a thick woollen sweater, and he wore a faded woollen beret. He smiled when I told him we wanted only to hear about his treasure.

“Yes, I'll tell you,” he said. “There are a lot of people around here who want to buy in on the search. I've got to do it alone.”

He took us to a big, muddy hole about 100 yards from his camp. We sat down with him on a rock and he told us the story.

“There is a vast fortune somewhere under this ground,” he said.

Fantastic

“It's such a fantastic story you mightn't believe.

“People in the town think I'm queer. I don't have much to do with I them. But I'll tell you the story.

“My grandfather, John Nicholson, was a wealthy shipper during the last part of the century.

“There was a Chinese war going on, and he and three other Australian businessmen were smuggling food to China.

“For these foodstuffs they were paid in gold. When the Chinese ran out of sovereigns they began sending jewels looted from temples.

“For some reason,” he continued, “the syndicate did not trust banks.

“And when this food-running stopped the four decided to bury their combined fortune. They appointed my grandfather as trustee.

“One by one the other three died, and left old John Nicholson in charge of the treasure.

“He told my father that the gold was locked in a steel vault buried in the hill. He gave him the full directions, showing how to reach it.

“But he told my father, ‘That money must not be touched until your son is 21. If you die before his 21st birthday, the money is his.’”

But, Nicholson said when he was 20 he quarrelled with his father, who told him, “You can search for it yourself, even if you have to dig up the whole of Savages' Hill.”

15 Years

Nicholson added, as he tossed a pebble into the hole he had dug: “That's what I've been doing now for 15 years.”

Nicholson took us on a tour of windswept Savages' Hill, which over looks Anderson's Inlet.

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He's Dug 15 Years... (continued from Page 14)

He showed us small mine shafts, wide gaping holes, and the mouth of a tunnel burrowing deep into a cliff. He said it took him four years to dig.

It was the tunnel, he said, which the army had been working on.

No Reason

Later I checked with Mr. Cecil M. Dyer, who was secretary of the Army Inventions Board in 1940. He could give no reason why the army had suddenly called off the search.

"We had the charges set, and were about to blow the face of the cliff to bits when a runner came with the stop-work order," he said.

The old hermit says "private means" have enabled him to dig without income for the past 15 years.

And when he does find he treasure, most of the £200 million will go to universities for research into medicine and physics.

From the *Herald*, Friday 10 September 1954, page 7.

The Hermit Says It's There

Hunt For Chinese Jewels: £200m.

A syndicate of three Melbourne men will begin searching this week-end for a £200 million buried treasure which a 71-year-old hermit claims is buried at Inverloch, 90 miles from Melbourne.

A miner, Mr William Burgess, leader of the syndicate, said today he had found "definite evidence" of something long and metallic buried beneath Savages' Hill on the coast.

He said that with an American radioscope he had detected what could be an underground vault which hermit Donald Nicholson says,



A cup of tea from Mrs Nicholson at the camp site after a day's digging.

was built by his grandfather about 1900.

Nicholson has been digging in the scrub near Screw Creek for the past 15 years with pick-and-shovel searching for the treasure.

Within 20ft.

"There's definitely some thing there," said Mr Burgess today. "We made exhaustive tests with the radioscope, which is like a Geiger counter.

"The needle was deflected sharply when we stood on Savages' Hill. Whatever is buried is within 20 feet of the surface."

He and two other prospectors would take handboring equipment to Inverloch on Saturday, and if they struck the vault they would bring in a boring plant.

"We have finance enough to build a road into Nicholson's camp and use bulldozers to shift the earth," Mr Burgess added.

White-haired Donald Nicholson said several months ago that £200 million worth of sovereigns gold-dust, and jewels looted from Chinese temples was buried in a sealed underground vault.

Since *The Herald* published his story in April, an 86-year-old Kew man has written to Nicholson telling him that he knew Nicholson's grandfather, and he verified that a vault at Inverloch had been sunk.

Nicholson has agreed to the syndicate's searching for the treasure on the land which he says is his under a caveat granted to his family by Queen Victoria.

The Army

It has been revealed that in 1940 the Army was called into the search by the Chief of the General Staff.

Twelve army men including two colonels and four engineers, had prepared to blow away the face of Savages' Hill—but minutes before they were to set off a charge orders were sent from headquarters to stop.

A vault with an armed guard had been prepared at the Commonwealth Bank in Melbourne to take "the treasure."



Mr Nicholson at work in his latest open cut.

From the *Leader*, Saturday 10 May 1890, page 40

With The Coal Commission Visit To Bass Valley And Korumburra

From Our Special Reporter

(Re-paragraphed for the sake of clarity.)

The Coal Commission, represented by Messrs. L. L. Smith, Groom, Mason and Forrest, M.L.A.'s, started on Thursday last on the second of the series of trips organised for the purpose of making a personal and thorough inspection of the carbonaceous areas of South Gippsland. The commissioners were accompanied by their secretary, Mr. J. Williams, Mr. Wade, official shorthand writer, and Mr. Stirling, of the Mines department. On this, as on the previous occasion, they were fortunate in having favorable weather notwithstanding the lateness of the season, and this circumstance was the more appreciable as their route lay through the bush country extending from Poowong to Korumburra, and along the route of the Great Southern railway line now in course of construction.

To persons of poetic temperament it is delightful to contemplate nature in her wildest and most lavish moods — to behold picturesque glades and precipitous ranges covered with dusky foliage and bathed in the purple tints, and all that; but to those of a practical turn of mind, engaged in the prosaic duty of investigating the coal question, the scenery of these alpine regions possesses little more than the charm of novelty. It was not at all a picnic with the commissioners. It was long and laborious travelling, with the prospect superadded of a serious accident at any moment owing to the broken character of the country.

The train conveying the party left the Princes-bridge station about 9 o'clock, their immediate destination by railway being Tooradin, which was reached after a couple of hours' run. At this point the commissioners were brought on by the contractor's train to Carrington, where a vehicle capable of carrying about eight persons was in waiting, together with some saddle horses. The services of Mr. Fields, a gentleman connected with the Mines department, had been secured beforehand as guide during the tour, a most judicious and necessary precaution, as the result proved.

The road for a mile or so after leaving Carrington is fairly good, but a tract of sandy soil is then reached, and the pleasures or whatever they may be termed of bush travelling commence. The horses being fresh

and accustomed to their work went along at a pretty brisk pace every thing considered, and the view from the coach to seaward was pleasing, especially to the south, where, beyond the intervening woodlands, lay the placid waters of Western Port Bay, with French Island like a bank of heavy cloud in the distance.

The road or track did not present any special difficulties for some miles. In parts the country had been cleared, and here and there might be observed some signs of settlement, although the soil of the district seemed poor, and scarcely able to afford subsistence to the few stray cattle seen scattered about. At a point of the road some 5 miles distant from Carrington the commissioners were met by a number of local settlers, all well mounted, and desirous of having a seam of coal found in a creek not far from the spot examined and reported upon. As, however, the suggested departure from the day's programme would involve delay, and prevent Korumburra perhaps being reached that night, it was decided to push on, and if possible visit the place indicated on the return journey.

The township of Poowong was reached about 2 o'clock. Here an excellent luncheon was provided, and while the horses were being baited it was deemed desirable to examine any witnesses who might be available. Mr. M. W. Elliott, J. P., who had met and welcomed the commissioners to the locality, informed the chairman, Mr. L. L. Smith, that he had obtained a very fine sample of coal from an outcrop in a creek in the neighborhood, and had it conveyed to Poowong to submit for inspection. The specimen was shown on the verandah of the hotel, and was carefully examined. It appeared of average quality, but had become deteriorated from the effects of exposure to the atmosphere. Some general evidence was given with regard to the reported discovery of coal in the neighborhood; and as there was no time to waste if the party were to reach the end of their journey that evening, the horses were soon put too again, and a start made for Korumburra, distant about 18 miles.

The track lay through country that to

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With The Coal Commission (continued from Page 16)

experienced bushmen might seem pleasant, but was quite the reverse to those accustomed to the conveniences of civilisation. It lay through the ranges overlooking the Jeetho Valley on the right, and seemed to have been made, not so much to facilitate travellers, especially people accustomed "to ride in chaises" or "genteels what rides on wheels," but to enable them to proceed as the crow flies, with some slight – very slight – regard for the safety of human life. At various stages groups of horsemen met the party and welcomed them, accompanying them along the route until the coach had a very respectable cavalcade as escort.

The journey, however, was slow and wearisome. The path followed lay over abrupt hills, up and down whose sides the horses toiled at a snail's pace, the passengers having frequently to alight and trust to "shank's pony." The evening was rapidly closing in as the highest point of the ranges was reached, overlooking far below the depths of Jeetho Valley, where at intervals might be seen the thin line of the cuttings made for the new line of railway.

The sun at the time was rapidly settling below the distant hills, and the whole western sky was flushed with crimson clouds, deepening in color as the line of the horizon was reached, and bathing the wide extent of woodlands in a flood of radiance in contrast to the gloom that usually pervades them at nightfall. In parts the eucalyptus [*sic*] trees which had been rung with the object of clearing the ground, stood out white and cold and cheerless against the sky, and amidst the deepening shades had a weird and almost spectral aspect. When the sun disappeared there were still some 7 miles to travel, and to relieve the horses it was thought expedient for the passengers to walk. Most fortunately there was a full though mist covered moon, which enabled the driver to discern the track, but for which fact the party would probably have had to camp in the forest all night.

Occasionally the track was lighted by the log fires of navvies and wood splitters, who expressed themselves in terms of incredulous surprise when they learned that the party were bound for Korumburra and proposed to reach it that night. Their statements at best were not encouraging. The road was described as frightful, quite impassable except for horsemen, and wagers were proposed at odds that the coach would come to grief

before it had gone half the distance. At one point these gloomy forebodings seemed likely to be realised.

The track was found greatly cut up by bullock teams, and rendered soft and swamp-like from the water draining down the slopes that rose on either side. The horses, by sheer force of pulling, with the stolid resolution of bullocks were enabled to keep moving, but what with logs lying about promiscuously, damaged culverts, rotten corduroy put down in the more dangerous places, the protruding roots of huge trees, and other obstacles, progression was slow indeed. The wheels on the off side at one time went over a rustic bridge into a cutting 3 feet in depth, when a capsizing seemed imminent, but with a tremendous effort the horses were kept upon their feet and enabled to pull the vehicle through. In some places the track was along a sloping bank, which made the trap move along at an angle of 45 degrees. Suddenly the inclination would be reversed and up went the wheels on the other side, and, like a boat in a rough sea, it was found necessary to "trim" to prevent an upset. Those on horse back had a comparatively good time of it, and capered along gaily, being all more or less accustomed to the bush.

It was after 8 o'clock when the light over the hotel where the commissioners had arranged to stay for the night came in view, and no pilgrims could feel a more grateful sense of relief than did at least some of the party at the prospect of arriving safely at their destination. The mounted contingent had arrived some time previously, and were ready to receive the belated members of the party. Mr. Radovick, the landlord, and the kindly hostess came out to meet the commissioners, and bustled round to afford them welcome and hospitality. It was a pleasant surprise indeed to discover here amidst the wilds of the Australian bush a hotel as spacious, as well appointed and as comfortable as any average hotel in Melbourne, with excellent attendance, good cooking, liquor irreproachable and a host and hostess civil and obliging.

The hotel is a large substantial weather-board structure with 40 rooms, two stories in height, with a balcony running along the front and side. The interior is airy and spacious, and everything looks the very pink of comfort, cleanliness and order. The hotel is in fact an oasis in the desert — a hospice in the wilderness. Mr. Radovick, by whom it was built, is certainly

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a believer in the future of Korumburra, and doubtless he will in time, as he deserves, be justified in his anticipations of the ultimate success of his enterprise. The Great Southern railway will run within 100 yards of his premises and a station will be built near the spot. The land in the immediate locality is excellent for grazing purposes, the coal industry is rapidly attracting capital, and visitors from all quarters must be attracted to the spot when the line is opened. The bungling of officialdom and the loose manner in which contracts are drawn have had the effect of greatly retarding the progress of the railway works, which — along the section traversed by the commission — appear to have been entirely suspended, much to the disappointment and indignation of the population of the district. Were railway communication once established with the metropolis the prosperity of the district would be assured.

The commission held a sitting in the evening at the hotel, and took evidence respecting coal seams discovered in the neighborhood.

John Henry Fields, engineer, stated that he had been employed as foreman of diamond drills at Smeaton, Powlett River and Korumburra for the last 9 years. Had experience both as regards gold and coal. Was first engaged to put down a bore on the Powlett River at Feehan's preemptive right, went down 1300 feet through sandstone, shale and coal, had passed through two seams, one about 28 inches and another 3 feet, both clean coal without clod. About 300 foot intervened between the two seams, the strata consisting of sandstone and shale. It was the true and not brown coal that was come upon. The first and smaller seam was struck 300 feet from the surface. At the depth of 1300 feet the second foreman lost the rods, and they decided to stop work. From indications presented by sinking a bore at some distance

from the spot did not think they would have struck another seam had they gone deeper. There was a distance of 70 feet between the two seams.

In the Powlett River bore subsequently recovered the rods. Had been misinformed as to the cause of the stoppage, and this caused unnecessary delay. He believed they went through a snap. Was more than a week trying to recover the rods. Rods breaking was a common event. Always brought a supplemental supply with them. Would be sometimes kept idle for perhaps a week, waiting for orders. They had not been kept very idle while he was with the men. On one occasion the men were idle six weeks, receiving half pay. Had arranged to go further down the Powlett River, but received instructions to come on to Korumburra, bringing the drill up. The drill had been put down in the site of the proposed railway station yard.

It was in July or August last that they got the plant up. Had sunk about 1300 feet and met with a few small seams only about 1 inch thick. Since December last the drill had remained unworked.

They stopped upon the instructions given to that effect by the Secretary of Mines. Since the instructions had been received had drawn the tubes and paid the men off. The men were retained when the drill was ordered up from the Powlett; they were engaged cutting tracks to get the machinery along. No doubt it would have been better to employ axemen to do the work. They were five weeks on the road from the Powlett River to Korumburra. Was acquainted with coal, and had seen it at Coal Creek. He thought that the drill of which he had charge, and that was now lying idle, might be advantageously employed at Coal Creek, distant about three quarters of a mile.

The transfer from the Powlett had been ordered by Mr. Langtree. It was quite possible for a drill to convey a wrong estimate of the thickness of the seam gone through. It is very reliable, but requires to be carefully watched by day and night. It was possible to go through the solid coal without bringing up the core. Was not in favor of the Government calling for tenders for working the diamond drills to a certain depth.

Henry Horsley, farmer, had a selection at Jumbunna, where a seam of black coal 4½ feet in thickness had been found. They had put in a cutting about 20 feet. When they



Radovick's Hotel, the bank and the post office. From the *Illustrated Australian News*, 1 May 1893: Views around Korumburra.

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commenced the cutting the seam was about 4 feet thick but it widened to 4 feet 6 inches after they had opened it out 20 feet. It was solid all through and varied from 4 feet to 5 feet. The property had been floated into a company called the Jumbunna Coal Mining Company and was floated in Melbourne in 100,000 shares, 40,000 paid up and 60,000 contributing. Did not think £30,000 would be required for working the mine. The mine was not now being worked. There were other seams. It had been proposed to run a tramway down to Corner Inlet. Seams had been discovered to the south, and had been reported favorably upon by Mr. Murray.

Murdoch M'Leod, selector, Jumbunna East, had found indications of coal upon his land. The seams appeared to be about 2 feet 6 inches; had only followed one up. Had sunk about 15 feet and found it to increase about 6 inches. It had been reported upon by experts and spoken of favorably. It dipped about 1 foot in 4. His neighbors burned it and declared it to be good coal. Had seen indications elsewhere. Had seen a seam at Gillespie's about 2 feet 6 inches.

W. J. Hoskings, residing at Jeetho Valley, about 5½ miles from the selection of the previous witness, stated that coal had been found upon three blocks of his land, namely, on allotments marked on the Government map 47, 10 and 11. The seams in the two latter were only from 6 inches to 11 inches; that in the 47 was better.

The people of the district were, as a rule, working the coal seams on their own account without waiting for the assistance of the Government. Arrangements had been made with a syndicate to work the coal upon payment of a royalty. There were seams in various parts of his neighborhood.

It was arranged that Friday should be devoted to an inspection of the Strezlecki mine, and the coal seam discovered on Mr. Horsley's land at Jumbunna East. After an early breakfast the commissioners, with a large party accompanying them, left the hotel for the Strezlecki ranges, distant about 4 or 5 miles, and only accessible on horseback or on foot. Although Mr. M'Kenzie, and other coal viewers have expressed themselves somewhat unfavorably as to the chances of obtaining payable coal in this particular district, yet Mr. Reginald Murray has reported upon the question in terms much more encouraging.

Mr. M'Kenzie in 1873 reported in reference to the coal seam struck in the Strezlecki Ranges, "In a creek in these ranges, at a height of about 660 feet above the level of the sea, a seam of good coal is to be seen exposed. The sandstones and shales lying over it are similar to those at Kilcunda and Blue Mountain, and I believe it to be the same coal as is found there. The sinking is through alluvial, 2 feet; shale, 2 feet; coal, 8 inches; underrated clay, 8 inches; coal, 1 foot 3 inches; band, 1 inch; coal, 5 inches. The coal and strata are lying nearly horizontal, having only a slight inclination or dip towards the north-west. In my opinion they will have to bore at least 1200 feet before any regular seam of coal will be met with, and that they would then intersect those identical with the Rock and Queen veins of Cape Patterson."

Some ten years later Mr. Reginald Murray wrote much more favorably, and declared that the coal found at Strezlecki was not only of excellent quality, but that the means of transit was the sole requirement of success. The surveyed line of the Great Southern railway passed within easy distance of the tunnels of some of the mines at work, and there was nothing to prevent the mines being worked at a minimum of expense, trucked from the mine into the railway freight cars, and conveyed to any part of the colony accessible by rail without further handling. When before the Coal Commission as a witness Mr. Murray expressed himself no less favorably impressed with the appearance of the Strezlecki coal seams discovered; and, following in his footsteps, Mr. Stirling, who is now engaged, or, at least, supposed to be, in making, unassisted, a geological map of South Gippsland, has reported in gratifying terms upon the opening up of a 3 feet seam of coal of splendid quality in the ranges at the point visited by the commissioners on Friday.

The weather changed somewhat during the night, and when the party, consisting of about 15, mounted on good horses, left the hotel, rain was threatening. A heavy drizzle soon set in, and the difficulties of the track were thereby to some extent aggravated. At the mine visited two miners were found at work, and were called up and examined, their evidence being as follows:—

D. Bellamy had worked in the collieries in England and other countries. Had been working at Strezlecki since before Christmas last. The mine was intersected by small seams, but at a

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depth of 101 they had struck a seam of good coal fully 3 feet in thickness. Two tunnels were being worked, but he recommended the sinking of another shaft, so as to cut the 3 feet seam in a more favorable position. Had worked payably a 2 feet seam in Derbyshire. The mine they were working could be made to pay if facilities for the transport of coal were afforded. The witness gave evidence regarding the wages, &c., of miners in England, as compared with those in Victoria, from which it seemed apparent that relatively there was no reason why our mines should not be successfully worked.

A second witness, named Williams, supported this view by describing how the Katoomba mine, in New South Wales, was worked under less favorable circumstances and at a profit.

In the afternoon the commissioners visited Horsley's seam at Jumbunna East, about six miles distant from Korumburra, where the seam in the side of the creek was cut through and exposed, showing it to be over 4 feet in thickness. Some surprise, however, was expressed that some preparations had not been made for affording the commissioners a full view of the seam, and that with such undisputable prospects more work had not been done. On returning to the hotel a sitting was held for the purpose of taking evidence.

Mr. John Strickland, railway inspector, deposed to having found outcrops of shale and coal along the cuttings made for the Great Southern railway. He had seen outcrops of coal in various places throughout the district, and particularly at Jeetho and Bena.

Joseph Rains resided 5 miles north of Korumburra, and had discovered a seam of coal upon his land, but had been unable to work it owing to want of means.

Robert Gillespie, grazier, of Jumbunna East, gave somewhat similar evidence as regarded his selection.

James Ford, who had worked in the coal mines of England, afforded some valuable information as to the manner in which the mines were worked, the wages earned and the general condition of the miners at home and those in the colonies.

Ernest Lewin Smith, selector, near Strezlecki, gave interesting information as regards the general indications of coal in the locality. He suggested the construction of a tram to the ranges, to join on to the main line of railway, and expressed the opinion that the engineering difficulties of such a work were

not so insuperable as supposed.

In the evening the commissioners' party were invited to a banquet given in Radovick's Hotel, a committee representing the residents of the district being the hosts. There were about 60 persons present, and the affair was a great success. The large room was decorated by Mrs. Radovick and her handmaidens with great taste. The good things provided were as varied and as tastefully arranged as might be seen in any metropolitan hotel, and the attendance left nothing to be desired. Mr. N. W. Elliott, J.P. of Poowong, presiding, having the commissioners in his immediate vicinity.

The general company, as representing the residents of the district, were without exception men of intelligence and means, and the proceedings throughout were marked, not only by heartiness and good humor, but by a sense of decorousness not always shown at these demonstrations. The toasts of the evening included those of the Parliament, the Coal Commission and the Pioneers of the District. The members present each replied, but carefully avoided any reference to politics.

Mr. Forrest, in the course of his remarks, took exception to the comparatively little done to develop the coal seams of the district; and Mr. Mason explained this away by referring to the lateness of the discoveries and the difficulties to be contended with. Mr. Groom was eloquent about the delay in pushing on the railway. The principal address of the evening was delivered by Mr. L. L. Smith, the acting president of the commission, and in this he went into the whole question of the proper development of the carbonaceous deposits of South Gippsland, explaining what had already been done by the commission and what they further proposed to do, the speaker's remarks being received with enthusiastic applause.

On Saturday the commissioners returned to Melbourne by way of the Jeetho Valley and the new railway track, stopping at the township of Loch to take further evidence. There were three local residents examined. They deposed to seams being discovered in various localities, and stated that an offer had been made to the Government to work the more valuable provided that a portion of the expense were paid by the departments. At a later stage a seam of coal about half a foot in thickness was inspected, at a point about four miles from Carrington. The commissioners' party arrived in Melbourne about 7.30.