

The Western Port Times

Grantville & Districts



Volume 6 Number 1

FREE

May 2023

Contents:

Local and General News

From the *San Remo Times*, May 1897.
on Page 3

Phillip Island Shire Council

An account of the 30 November 1883 Council meeting.
on Page 5

Shire of Phillip Island

The annual statement of revenue and expenditure for the year ended 30 September 1883.
on Page 6

Cricket: Married v Single

A Christmas Day, 1903, social match at Grantville.
on Page 6

Jottings From Western Port

Commentary from a Phillip Islander on events in the Shire in November 1883.
on Page 7

Victoria's First Shipment

Or the second, depending on how you view these things. Wattle bark. In 1835.
on Page 8

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

An advertorial for the (retro) sponsor of this edition of *The Western Port Times*.
on Page 9

San Remo Court of Petty Sessions

Craig vs. Fellnehauer was the only case at the 8 October 1897 Court.
on Page 9

Monumental Mistakes

Inscription mistakes on headstones are hard to hide. All you can do is hope no one notices. Oh, but they do.
on Page 10

The Bass District: January 1877

News, gossip and opinion from the district in January 1877.
on Page 11

Wonthaggi's Water Woes 1910-1936

Next time you are tempted to criticise the quality of water in the Wonthaggi and Inverloch area, think back to how much worse it was 100 years ago.
on Page 14

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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ALSO
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 Also: cv.vic.gov.au/organisations/inverloch-historical-society/
 Koo-Wee-Rup Swamp Historical Society: kooweerupswamphistory.blogspot.com.au/
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 Leongatha and District Historical society: leongathahistory.org.au
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<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*, 7th May 1897, page 2.

Local and General News

The San Remo Court of Petty Sessions will be held at the court-house to-day at 2 p.m.

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

The Rate Collector will attend at the Shire Office, San Remo, for the purpose of receiving rates, from the 2nd to the 10th of June inclusive (Sunday excepted), from the hours of 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. He will also attend at the Grantville sale on 29th May, and at Cowes on Tuesday, the 1st June.

The Vision arrived at Grantville on Tuesday with a full cargo of building material and sundry stores.

Two young men who ought to have known better were out shooting hares last Sunday. The amount of game they brought home, however, was small. It is not the amount of game objected to, but the bad example set to others, besides breaking the law.

As a special appeal made by the women of Victoria to celebrate the 60th anniversary of Her Majesty's reign, a Queen's Shilling Fund has been started, to which every woman in Victoria is asked to contribute One Shilling for to found, as a memorial, a hospital called the Queen Victoria Hospital for the benefit of women and children, and where they will receive medical and surgical treatment entirely from their own sex. Miss Kent, of Bridge Creek, has been appointed to collect for Bridge Creek and Kilcunda, and Miss A. St. Clair for Rhyll, Phillip Island, when they will be only too glad to receive a shilling from every woman in their district.

A public meeting will be held at the Bass Mechanics' Institute at 2 o'clock p.m. on the 15th inst. for the purpose of electing a trustee for the Corinella Cemetery in place of George Chinn, Esq., resigned.

As will be seen by advertisement in another column, the undermentioned allotments are available for selection on or before Friday, 14th May, 1897:—County of Mornington.—Parish of Woolamai, allotment 42A, 63 acres, Andrew Cotter's forfeited allotment; parish of Kirrak, allotment 25, 987 acres, John F. Joyce's forfeited allotment.

Also

From the *San Remo Times and Phillip Island and Bass Valley Advertiser*, 14th May 1897, page 2.

On account of there being very little business to transact this month, the Phillip Island shire council meeting will not take place tomorrow. It will be adjourned till Saturday, the 12th of June.

Church of England service will be conducted by the Rev. Herbert E. Potter at the Shire Hall on Sunday evening next at 7 p.m., not 7.30 p.m. as heretofore.

There has been a good many of the young ladies and gentlemen of Cowes and Rhyll joined the Lawn Tennis Club lately formed at Cowes, and they are practising nearly every afternoon, having arranged to play a scratch match on Saturday afternoon. They are desirous of trying conclusions with any other club near about.

Messrs. Joseph Clarke and Co., of Dandenong, held their usual monthly market at the Bass sale yards on Thursday last. The entries were not very large, but the prices were satisfactory. All those in attendance seemed to be buyers.

Numbers of the farmers are digging potatoes now, and the majority of the crops are fairly good.

As it appears to the Board of Public Health that the Shire of Phillip Island is affected by the dangerous infectious or contagious disease scarlet fever and scarlatina, the said board therefore requires all medical practitioners, deputy registrars, school teachers and members of the police force residing in the municipality, and the occupier and person in charge of any house in which any case of either of such diseases may occur, to report such occurrence immediately. Any person heretofore designed neglecting to do so is liable (unless he can prove he was aware such case had already been reported) to a fine of twenty pounds.

By all trains on the 21st, 22nd, and 24th May, tickets at holiday excursion fares will be issued to and from all stations, available for return till 27th May inclusive. Trains will only stop as per time-table.

As the football season is about commencing, it would be advisable for a few of the townships to form a combined club, as there is hardly enough players to make a good team in any one place.

FIRE! Buy a Spark Screen and avoid risks. McLeod's, Kooweerup.

(continues on Page 4)

Local and General News (continued from Page 3)

Also

From the *San Remo Times and Phillip Island and Bass Valley Advertiser*, 21st May 1897, page 2.

Those who have not taken out electors' rights should do so at once, as the 1st of June is the last day of issue.

The drought has evidently broken up. During the last few days rain has been general throughout Victoria and parts of New South Wales.

On Monday, a severe gale was raging all day, and the s.s. *Genista* could not land her passengers at Cowes, they having to be taken on to Rhyll and landed there. The sea was washing over the Cowes Pier. The tide was higher than it had been for years, the water being within a foot of the top of the pier at San Remo.

We regret to have to record the death of Mrs. E. T. Adamson, which occurred at the residence of her son-in-law, William Dixon, "Fernside," Cowes, Phillip Island, on Friday last, at the ripe old age of 84 years.

Separate tenders will be received at the Harbor Office, Melbourne, until noon on Wednesday, the 2nd day of June next, from persons willing to contract for the combined duties of maintenance of light and cleaning shed, jetty, etc., at Cowes, Grantville, Hastings, San Remo, Flinders, and Queensferry.

On Tuesday the first County Court was held at Korumburra. There were only two cases on the list.

Also

From the *San Remo Times and Phillip Island and Bass Valley Advertiser*, 28th May 1897, page 2.

We are compelled to hold over an article by "Buchjumper," which will appear in our next issue.

Mass will be celebrated at the Roman Catholic Church, Powlett, on Sunday morning next at 11 a.m.

Church of England service will be conducted by the Rev. Herbert E. Potter at the Shire Hall on Sunday morning next at 11 a.m.

The s.s. *Maitland* arrived at San Remo this morning, and after discharging cargo sailed again for the Gippsland Lakes.

Mr. William Cane, who has been engaged on board the s.s. *Genista* for the last three months, has resigned his position on that boat, to "seek fresh fields and pastures new." Mr. Cane, although a short time amongst us, has, by his jovial and courteous manner, made many friends, who will be sorry to hear of his departure. We wish him every success in

his new sphere of life. Mr. James Crabb has been engaged to fill his post on the boat.

The Boards of Advice of Woolamai and Corinella have stated their intentions of holding a monster pic-nic of the whole of the schools and parents, to meet at a place to be agreed on by them at a meeting to be held shortly. It has been suggested that Bourne Creek would be the most suitable place.

Great anxiety has been caused by the parents of Edith Kennon, 8 years of age, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Kennon, of Newhaven. The child has been suffering from disease of the kidneys for the last few weeks, and has been on the point of death off and on for the last week, but we are glad to state that she is now on the mend, and is very much better. She has been attended by Dr. Wilson, who has been unremitting in his attention.

The Rate Collector will attend the Grantville sale to-morrow for the purpose of receiving rates, and at Cowes on Tuesday, the 1st of June.

At a meeting of the Executive Council held on Tuesday, several Orders in Council effecting country municipalities were passed. Amongst those who were given permission to subdivide were the Poowong and Jeetho shire in four ridings, namely the Poowong, Korumburra, Jeetho, and Jumbunna ridings.

The residents and surroundings of Flinders held a meeting on Saturday evening to discuss the celebration of the Queen's record reign. Several plans were suggested, and it was finally decided to improve the appearance of the township by planting elm trees in the main street. It was also decided to present each of the school children with a jubilee medal. Nearly £7 was collected at the meeting.

* * *

T. L. HARVEY

WISHES to notify the public of
Wonthaggi that he has opened a
BLACKSMITH & WHEELWRIGHT
BUSINESS

At **NORTH WONTHAGGI**,
and has for sale two New Jinkers
and one Second-hand.

Tom. L. Harvey,
BLACKSMITH.

From the *South Bourke and Mornington Journal*, Wednesday 5 December 1883.

Phillip Island Shire Council

30th November 1883

Present: Councillors Stewart (President), Clarke, Hayes, Turnbull, Duffus, West, Aldridge, Kidd, and Smith. The minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed.

Correspondence

From Lewis Stewart, calling attention to necessity of clearing road leading to his selection in Corinella.—To be referred to Lands Department, as no surveyed road leads to his land.

From J. Cleeland, agreeing to deviation of road through his property at Lambert's Hill, Rhyll, Phillip Island, on condition that Council fence both sides of new road and hand over old road to Mr. Cleeland.—Received, and thanks of the Council to be conveyed to Mr. Cleeland for his liberal offer.

From Rev. H. E. Potter, asking permission to use Shire Hall on 27th and 28th December for bazaar and concert in aid of Church of England, Bass.—Granted.

From Shire of Buln Buln, stating that they cannot at present agree to pay half cost of work on boundary road, &c.—Received.

From manager of the Western Port Coal Mining Company, asking permission to let the rails laid down at approach to Griffiths' Point jetty remain until company's jetty is completed.—Granted.

From Lands Department, asking if the Council had any objection to alienation of road between allotment 10, 11 and 13, Phillip Island.—Secretary to reply that Council has no objection to give up all claim to the road in question.

From Exhibition Trustees asking that samples of grain produced in the district be sent to form basis of permanent Industrial and Technological Collection.—Received

From S. Pickersgill, asking one month's extension of time on his contract for fencing at Shire Hall.—Granted.

From F. Baner, applying for slaughtering license.—Referred to Inspector for report.

From James Clarke, applying for slaughtering license.—Referred to Inspector for report.

From H. F. Norton, relative to bathing regulations in force at Cowes, and suggesting that separate places (instead of separate hours) should be set apart for ladies and gentlemen, viz., the west rocks for ladies and the east rocks for gentlemen.—Received, and the recommendation of Mr. Norton to be acted upon; the Secretary to have notices posted to that effect.

Reports

The Clerk of Works reported as to the necessity of cutting thistles on the Cemetery road, Phillip Island, at a cost of about £1 10.—Report adopted and work ordered to be done.

The Clerk of Works reported, recommending removal of old fence at tide-gauge [*sic*], Cowes, and about two chains of new fence at Mussel rocks to prevent cattle from trespassing on the reserve now being fenced in there. The report was adopted, and the work ordered to be done as extras on R. Gall's contract.

Loaming in hollows at W. Dennes' contract at a cost of about £6 was agreed to.

Payments were passed amounting to £146 1s. 8d.

In committee the following tenders were accepted:—Contract 308, M. Dobbin, £12; 309, L. R. Brown, £18 17s 6d; 310, H. Jenner, £22; 311, L. R. Brown, £14 10s.

It was decided to recall tender 306 at Ward's, Corinella.

Relative to deviations through Harvey and Freeman's allotments, Corinella, to which the parties interested would not consent, it was decided to refer the matter to Council's solicitor with instructions to take the necessary steps to obtain possession of the required land.

The Clerk of Works was instructed to have notice board at Nobbies erected, directing strangers to pathway up the cliffs.

Tenders were ordered to be called for the following works:—On the motion of Councillor West, for clearing at Fowler's parade, Newhaven, and for 100 chains of clearing and part forming from the five cross roads to W. Denne's corner.—On the motion of Councillor Stewart, for 10 chains of grubbing and forming on Corinella road at Poole's corner; for a culvert and three chains drains at Queensferry, and for 40 chains clearing, &c., between Kennedy's and Sloss's. Also that tenders be re-called for contract 291 clearing, &c, near Kennedy's.

Notices of motion were given by Councillors Hayes, Clarke, and Stewart for various works in Corinella, and by Councillor West for naming the roads in Newhaven township.

It was resolved to have the road at Harrap and Jenner's contract rolled at a cost not exceeding £1.

It was resolved that applications be called for [*the*] next meeting from persons willing to make a revised valuation of the rateable property in the Shire, and collect the agricultural statistics at a remuneration of £30.

From the *South Bourke and Mornington Journal*, Wednesday 12 December 1883, page 2: Advertising.

Shire Of Phillip Island

Annual Statement of Revenue and Expenditure for the year ended 30th September, 1883.

Receipts

To Balance in Secretary's hands, 30th September, 1882...	£7	6	0
Annual endowment	811	12	11
Balance sheet sold...	0	0	6
Contractors' deposits	36	11	3
Dog fees	34	10	0
Fines and forfeitures ...	4	12	6
General Rates—			
Phillip Island	£211	0	6
Woolamai	145	10	6
Corinella	321	2	3
	<hr/>		
	677	13	3

General Licenses—

Phillip Island	£20	0	0
Woolamai ...	52	0	0
Corinella ...	35	0	0
	<hr/>		
	107	0	0

Rent of Shire roller ...	7	0	0
Rent of Shire Hall ...	52	10	0
Slaughtering licenses ...	13	0	0
Half cost of contract 251 on Boundry road, subscribed by Buln Buln Shire ...	13	10	0
Amount voted by Government to assist in erection of bridges over Bass river	150	0	0
Exchange on cheque paid	0	1	6
Dishonored cheque repaid	14	0	0
Overpay by treasurer ...	0	0	6
	<hr/>		
	£1923	15	5

Expenditure

By Oriental Bank overdraft, 1882, repaid	£6	12	0
Contractors' deposits ...	41	0	3
Charities	18	18	0
General expenses ...	171	10	9
Office expenses ...	67	18	4
Oriental Bank, interest	15	9	2
" " collection	0	7	6
" " stamped cheques	2	1	8

Public Works—

Phillip Island	£370	12	8
Woolamai	245	13	9
Corinella	307	19	4
	<hr/>		
	824	5	0

Percentage on fines paid to Government	0	1	1
Percentage on licenses paid paid to Government ...	4	0	0
New and billiard licenses paid to Government ...	25	0	0
Salaries	222	8	3
Repaid to Treasurer of over-pay, 30th September, 1883	5	1	1
Dishonored cheque	14	0	0
Balance in Secretary's hands	13	6	0
" " Collectors' " "		16	0
Balance in Oriental Bank	528	13	15
Less cheques unrepresented	37	13	0
	<hr/>		
	491	0	5
	<hr/>		
	£1923	15	5

We have much pleasure in certifying to the above abstract of Receipts and Expenditure for the year ending 30th Sept., 1883, and find it correct in every particular.

J. Hedrick, Government Auditor.

D. B. Kennedy, Local Auditor.

Jerome F. Bergin, Secretary.

26/10/83.

* * *

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

Cricket: Married v Single

The above match was played on the Grantville ground on Christmas day. The game caused a deal of interest and the few barrackers present made up for those who were away. The toss was won by the single men and they elected to bat. The only one to make anything like a score was a new Grantville player named Baxter, who put 55 together out of the 99 scored by the whole team. He went to the wickets first and was bowled by Bates just as the last man went in. The married opened with Keys and Weaver, but the wickets fell quickly, to the effective bowling of Allen, Baxter, and Kennedy. White had to retire just as he was getting set, owing to getting a smack on the side of the knee from a fast one. Keys was highest scorer, with 17. The innings closed for 54, the single thos [*sic*] winning by 45 runs. The married chaps only batted 10 men and some discussion arose on account of the captain of the singles (W. Kennedy) not allowing another bat in place of the 11th man, who had gone home.

From the *South Bourke and Mornington Journal*, Wednesday 21 November 1883.

Jottings From Western Port

By a Contributor

Fortiter. Fideliter. Feliciter.

(Re-paragraphed for the sake of clarity.)

Absence makes the heart grow fonder in some cases. It has in mine. Seven weeks deprivation of the beauties and salubrity of Phillip Island, has made me love it more than ever. Upon return to the old spot I found a few changes.

At Cowes, Mr. Wood has erected a large building to be used as a bar and billiard room, but I think he hesitates over the billiard table. Mr. Bauer is putting up additions for stabling; Mr. John West is building largely in the way of extra rooms, and has also purchased a buggy, but the chicory kiln remains as unsightly as ever; Mr. Richardson has hanelled his new chicory kiln without a spread; the fence on the Esplanade to protect the shrubs and trees to be placed for beautifying the place is nearly finished in spite of the agitation to the contrary; the "Pirate" cutter is being done up for a voyage to Tasmania, as it is said, but by style of renovation I should say for the use of visitors in the coming season; old Ike has left the locality for the "cold fields"; and last but not the least, the Free Library committee have purchased a piece of land in the township, and are determined if possible to build a suitable room so that at next Easter, our next annual concert can be held in it. The committee has £20 cash in hand, £18 promised, and will appreciate voluntary subscriptions for so worthy an object.

It is always a pleasure at all times to testify anything in the way of courage and skill. The Kilcunda Coal Mining Co. have imported a locomotive and several trucks for use on their railway between the mine and Griffith's Point. They had some difficulty in getting a suitable craft to carry it from Melbourne to Western Port bay, and a suitable Captain who would undertake the responsibility of transit and delivery.

Captain Henderson, or as he is usually called, Larry, of the schooner Tyro, (which by the way was built at Queensferry, in Western Port), undertook the task, and although he had to contend with the late gales, having left Melbourne on the 8th, succeeded on the 15th in landing the engine on the Griffith's Point Government Jetty safe and sound. It was no mean task to undertake, as all preparations had to be made so that at the

top of high water the engine could be hauled from the deck of the vessel on to the Jetty. Any hitch or failure of judgment at the time when it was partly on the deck of the vessel would have meant the loss of the engine and perhaps damage to the vessel.

Rails were laid and a team of bullocks belonging to Mr. Turnbull hauled it to the Company's *[unclear words]*. As is usual in such cases, after being landed, the engine was properly "wetted", in other words, the owner of the craft, Mr A. Stewart, "shouted for all hands."

Cricket has commenced; the Phillip Island Club has had a good thrashing by Flinders, and will shortly have a friendly bout with Dandenong. The Woolamai club intend to commence shortly, Messrs Field and Fraser both having offered bats.

It has been suggested to me, and I quite coincide the with the movement, that some *[unclear words]* should initiate a series of games of Cricket by children of the local school. I shall be happy to give a prize if the children's school masters will start the movement, which might be extended to neighboring schools.

It is not too soon for the Secretaries of local Cricket clubs to arrange matches for the coming season. I would ask them to call meetings of the members to consider further opinion. Nothing like system and co-operation.

Extra

From the *South Bourke and Mornington Journal*, 5 Dec. 1883

I forgot to mention that the weight of the locomotive conveyed by the schooner "Tyro" to Griffith's Point was 15 tons. Fancy 15 tons being placed on the deck of the s.s. "Eclipse."

<p>WANTED TO SELL Lang Lang — 10 acres, fenced, well watered, w.b. house, 18 mths; S.E.C.; telephones, e.h.- w.s.; w. to w. carpets; verandahs. Phone Lang Lang 243.</p>

From the *Argus*, Saturday 28 December 1918, page 5

Victoria's First Shipment Bark For London

By T. Dunbabin

(Re-paragraphed for the sake of clarity.)

Eighty-four years ago, in December, 1834, there landed on the eastern shore of Westernport the pioneers of the oldest rural industry in Victoria. As the result of their toil the first cargo exported overseas from any place within the limit of what is now Victoria was shipped from Westernport in the earlier part of 1835, before the first settlers from Tasmania had set foot on the shores of Port Phillip.

One day in December, 1834 (the exact date is not recorded), the schooner *Elisabeth*, built and owned by John Griffiths, of Launceston, and commanded by John Hart, landed 20 bark-strippers, a team of bullocks, and a dray at Red Point, near the site of the settlement formed in 1826 by a party from Sydney under Captain Wright, and abandoned a few months later.

The country abounded in magnificent wattle trees, which Hart describes as the largest that he had ever seen, and so great was the quantity of bark obtained by the strippers, who remained at Westernport till April, 1835, that it was found worth while to charter a vessel to load for London.

This long-forgotten Westernport venture is closely connected with the earliest history of Portland. The shore whaling-station at Portland was established in 1832, and during the winter of 1834 Griffiths, who had a finger in much of the whaling and sealing along the southern coast of Australia, had a strong party there.

In October, 1834, the *Elisabeth*, at the end of the bay whaling season, brought these men back to Launceston. It was considered desirable to find them employment during the summer in order that they might not be tempted to join opposition whaling parties for the next season. Accordingly Griffiths decided to send 20 of them on this bark stripping expedition. Westernport was already well known to some of the sealers who "worked" out of Launceston.

When Captain Wetherall, of H.M.A.S. *Fly*, visited the port in 1826, for instance, he found a party of sealers from Port Dalrymple (Launceston) settled on Phillip Island. They had built themselves huts and had two acres under wheat, in addition to which they

were growing maize, and other grain. Theirs was the first crop worth speaking of grown in Victoria.

When the *Elisabeth* arrived both the sealers' huts on Phillip Island and "Sydney Barracks," the official settlement near Red Point, were in ruins. There was one other evidence of former human occupation in the shape of wild cattle. Hart, the master of the *Elisabeth*, tells us that there were numbers of cattle, in fine condition, and that he shot one large white bull. Hart and his crew turned bark-strippers, too, until enough had been collected to load the *Elisabeth*. Then they left the whaler-barkers to continue the work while they took their cargo to Sydney.

In Sydney Hart chartered the 300 ton ship *Andromeda* to load bark at Westernport for London. With Thom, the mate of the *Elisabeth*, on board as pilot, and supercargo, the *Andromeda* arrived in Westernport in April, 1835, and took on board a cargo of bark, which was afterwards sold in London for £13 a ton, a figure calculated to make the mouths of present-day owners of wattlebark lands water.

With the exception of the whale oil sent to Launceston from Portland during the three preceding years, and the seal skins, seal oil, and, according to some accounts, kangaroo and wallaby skins, picked up along the coast by the schooners from Sydney or Launceston, this bark was Victoria's first export—unless, indeed, we reckon the 600 pieces of timber for the British navy yards which H.M.S. *Calcutta* collected at Port Phillip in 1803. With that exception it was absolutely the first export to go overseas direct.

How completely Victoria was a no-man's land at that time is shown by the fact that after taking in her cargo, the *Andromeda* went to Launceston to get her Customs clearance. There was quite a "sporting chance" at that time of Victoria becoming temporarily a dependency of Tasmania, and Launceston had practically a monopoly of the earliest trade of Portland, Westernport, and Port Phillip.

There is good reason to suppose that Governor Arthur was working to bring about the control from Tasmania of the region being

(continues on Page 7)

Victoria's First Shipment (continued from Page 6) opened up on the northern side of Bass Straits. However, the Sydney authorities bestirred themselves when the pastoral "rush" from Tasmania to Port Phillip set in, and Tasmania's political ambitions in this direction, if she had any, came to nought.

According to Hart the Westernport expedition was not without influence on the settlement of Port Phillip. He says that when he returned to Launceston he sang the praises of the new country, not only to his owner, Griffiths, and to Connolly, who acted as agent for the sale of the bark, but to a company in the billard-room of the Cornwall Hotel, which included Fawkner, George and John Evans, and, he believed, John Batman, all very early settlers in Victoria. Hart spoke in the highest terms of the land and the grass, "instancing the sign of the mimosa trees as a proof of the one and the condition of the wild cattle as a result of the other."

When the Andromeda arrived a little later she brought back the bark-strippers, and these, Hart says, spread the fame of the new country far and wide. "Many of these," he says, "were farming men, born in Van Diemen's Land, and they at once saw the advantages of this new land beyond their own country." John Batman, who had tried in vain some years before to secure the right to occupy land at Westernport, sailed from Launceston in May, 1835, but he went to Port Phillip, not to Westernport.

* * * * *

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

We've all been there... We need a new sulkie but don't know whether we want it with a straight or bent shaft.

And do we want a spring cart or one without a spring? Or a dray that tips or one that doesn't? Hard decisions.

Whatever your transport needs - from the simple buggy to the bullock-powered heavy wagon, why not come down to Kooweerup and discuss it with J. A. Morrison, expert blacksmith and coachbuilder.

We thank J. A. Morrison for (retro) sponsoring this edition of *The Western Port Times*.

From the *San Remo Times and Phillip Island and Bass Valley Advertiser*, 15 October 1897.

San Remo Court Of Petty Sessions

Friday, October 8.

[Before Messrs. Smallman, P.M., and J. Cleeland, J.P.]

Debts.

Craig v. Fellnehauer: Claim for 17s. 6d. for rent due for paddock and house. Order for amount with costs.

Same v. Same: For illegal detention of 20s. worth of fencing wire.

J. Craig, sworn, stated that the defendant rented property from him in April, and removed wire out of a fence valued at 20s.

G. Craig, sworn, stated: Am a son of plaintiff. On 4th July saw the wire in the fence, and on the 11th September it was not in the fence.

To the defendant: Saw them in the fence.

Constable Parsons, sworn, stated that on the 12th last month Craig made a complaint that defendant had removed the wire from his property. The defendant admitted taking the wire.

The defendant stated that he put the wire in the fence, and the wire was his property. He thought he had a right to it. Craig gave him authority to take the wire out.

Order to return the wire in four days or pay 20s., with £2 10s costs in both cases.

Mr. Edwards, of Ballarat, appeared for the plaintiff in both cases.

* * * * *

*Bent or Straight Shaft Sulkies
Built to Estimate*

Whatever your fancy in a turnout,



I can supply it in first-class style.

**BUGGIES, SPRING CARTS,
TIP DRAYS, LORRIES and
WAGGONS Built to Order.**

See me about it first.

J. A. Morrison KOOWEERUP
BLACKSMITH & COACHBUILDER

Koo Wee Rup Sun and Lang Lang Guardian, 12 May 1921

Tom: "They say people with opposite characteristics make the happiest marriages."
Tim: "Yes; that's why I'm looking for a girl with money."

From the *Koo Wee Rup Sun and Lang Lang Guardian*, 23 August 1923

Monumental Mistakes

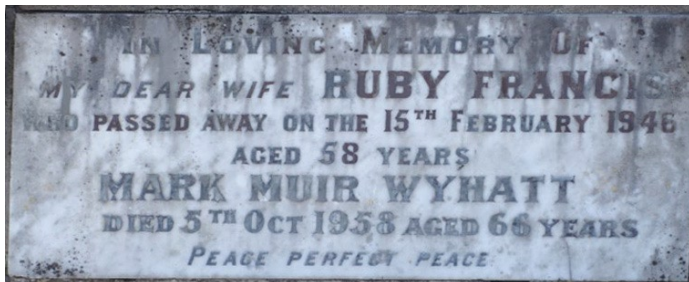
by

Geoff Guilfoyle

One indication of how prosperous a family or individual was in the 19th and 20th centuries can be found in monumental masonry, as expensive then as it is today. This, however, is not the full story. Family size and mortality played a part; it was also a more religious age with, arguably, a higher sense of familial duty. Thus even poorer families might have felt they needed to fully commemorate the life of family members. But it was not an expense borne lightly and inscription mistakes could not easily be corrected. Put the two together (expense and mistakes) and sometimes it was best to “just ignore it and hope no one notices.” Oh, but they do. From the Grantville cemetery...



“Gender-bending” is not a new development unless, that is, Francis Annie was a Catholic nun taking her name from Francis of Assisi, founder of the Franciscan order of friars. So hats off to Francis Annie, a cross-gender pioneer ahead of her time. Or it is an inscription error, the carver not realising that it is Francis (masculine) and Frances (feminine).



Two for the price of one! Another Francis/Frances “gender-bender.” Well done Ruby Francis. It probably came as a shock to the Whyatt family that not only did they have a Francis Ruby, but someone surnamed **Wyhatt** found his way into a Whyatt family grave.



While it is possible to argue that this is a Celtic or other variation of Basil; both his birth and death certificates list him as Basil. So almost certainly an inscription error, though one more plausibly explained away than others.



Roses are red and violets are... Wait! What? What’s a violet? And whatever it is, is it violet? Of course, this could be a little known variant of the name of the colour and flower that lent itself to the name. That, presumably, is what the Oakleys told everybody.



Herbert and Sarah Combridge AT PEST. The hole under the loop of the ‘P’ and outline of a flange indicates that this mistake was initially ‘fixed’ by the attaching of a dark colored piece of metal to turn the ‘P’ into an ‘R’. This addition has since fallen off, so once again the Combridges are a PEST.

* * *

Tomlison's Pictures
LANG LANG MEMORIAL HALL,
SATURDAY NEXT
“TUMBLEWEEDS”
'BACKBONE'
Wednesday, March 9th
Mary Pickford in Little Annie Rooney

The Bass District: January 1877

From the *South Bourke and Mornington Journal*, 10 Jan. 1877

Bass District

(From a Correspondent.)

We have run the gauntlet once more; 1876 is a thing of the past, and may 1877 bring with it blessings many and frowns few.

The weather lately has been anything but suited to the sport-seeing public, nor yet quite a success for the promoters and managers of sports; but better luck next time. The Bass races were held on the 1st, and were very poorly attended. The ball in the evening amused the young and old, who skipped, jumped, and swung around in that bewildering enjoyment called dancing to the violin playing of Mr. Matthews.

A very nice enjoyable day was spent on board the Eclipse steamer, where about fifty ladies and gentlemen went picnicing [*sic*] to Cowes, and returned in the evening to Settlement Point, where about twenty enjoyed the hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Harmer. There is talk of another such being given to the school children by the Local Board of Advice at an early date.

Visitors are pouring in, all bent on Screw Creek or the Tarwin river, Anderson's Inlet, &c., &c., commonly called the paradise for sportsmen. If any of those croakers who are in the habit of lamenting and bemoaning the want of stamina in our Victorian youths had only seen two young gentlemen, whose united ages would only amount to thirty-five years, who came into the Bass township loaded with guns, ammunition, blankets, tents, &c., to the weight of about sixty pounds each, it would have tended to disabuse their minds.

An accident which might have been attended with fatal consequences, occurred to Master William Stewart, son of Mr. A. Stewart, of Queensferry, while going to the Bass river saw mills. The horse got frightened, and dragged him over a log embankment. The fright and bruises the poor boy sustained are very serious in his present state of health.

Not as much success attended the Messrs. McCloud and party, who went sealing to the Glennies last October, and who returned a few days before Christmas, as in former years. The seals were scare and shy. It's a very old saying that "The race is not always to the swift, nor the battle to the strong," for if any persons deserved success for real downright energy, it is the Messrs. McCloud. These same parties have laid down a fine craft, which I shall shortly have a look at and report.

The local and Melbourne parties who lately visited French Island in search of game have had very indifferent success. Not so Mr. Wrigley and party, who have returned from Screw Creek and Anderson's Inlet; they report duck and geese very plentiful, but snipe was never so abundant as now.

The coal mines are not doing much as present, as the men have not returned from their holidays. No doubt they went to keep up that good old custom of taking their Christmas dinner at home.

A very large and respectably signed memorial has been forwarded to the Hons. Dr. Dobson and Buchanan for presentation to the Postmaster-General, from the inhabitants of the main land subsidising the Eclipse steamer with conveyance of all the mails. If a return of all the letters via Cowes, and a return of all via Cranbourne were produced, Cowes would not be entitled to so many mails.

About last July Mr. James Stephenson wrote to Mr. Purves, our member, asking him if he would as a supporter of the Government, urge upon them the necessity of having the restrictions taken off the lands in the parishes of Corinella and Woolamai. The petition was duly forwarded, but not only has no answer been received from the Government, but Mr. Purves never had the courtesy to acknowledge the receipt of the same. So much for Temple Court representation and justice for Mornington.

Very few here but are glad to hear of Mr. John Keys announcing that he will be a candidate for South Bourke, if only to oust that nonentity Crews. No doubt he will head the poll, and should do so, as from his experience of the Local Government Act he would be an acquisition. There is no constituency in the colony [*that*] feels the want of such a man so much as Mornington; for if they had selected him when he contested it against Everard and Purves they would not now have to lament their unrepresentation; for the curse of the colony is in not having local men that know their wants and to represent them; and in having members of the legal fraternity making laws, which in nine cases out of ten tends to create more litigation, as if they received £300 per year to get a living for their no so successful brothers in the law.

I see that tenders are called and accepted for a jetty at Rhyll.—No doubt the master stroke of policy, which is to suit Captain

(continues on Page 12)

The Bass District... (continued from Page 11)

Lock and his crafts, is due to parliamentary influence, gained by being partners in that affair at Corner Inlet, nee the Oyster Co. How is it that Rhyll and Newhaven can have jetty accommodation and Queensferry laughed at when the latter place shipping is coming in or going out always, whilst at Rhyll very few, if any, will use it but Capt. Lock. There is no traffic to that jetty but from the property of one semi-squatter.

The saw mills are in full swing again, and really the timber (blue gum) looks magnificent, and tends to show that Western Port forest *[sic]* is unsurpassed by anything in the Australian colonies.

A very strange and rare occurrence took place last licensing day. As you know it fell on Saturday, the 30th December, 1876, but no treasurer of the Shire Council put in an appearance to receive the license fees; the next day being Sunday, of course, the treasurer would not receive the money, and to leave on Monday morning to pay the money in would have caused the publicans to shut up their public houses or run the risk of being brought up for sly grog selling; but Mr. Stephenson put the question to Mr. Templeton, who stated that under the circumstances no doubt the Shire Council would be lenient.

There is likely to be something done soon on the roads and creeks by the Shire Council. For the new contracts I see Mr. Kidd is getting his timber ready, and the other contractors are doing their best; and no doubt before winter comes *[sic]* again really bad roads will be a thing of the past.

I hear that the Revision Court takes place on the 18th inst. at Griffith's Point, but as yet the Registrar informs me that he has received no official intimation.

Persons living in other parts of this colony would think it strange to be told that some parties down here make a good income from shooting wallaby, &c., and many would be astonished to see the cheques sent by their agents to them for the skins sent to town. A rumour is going about of some cattle shooting, and the skins or hides are being sought after.

From the *South Bourke and Mornington Journal*, 17 Jan. 1877

Bass District

(From a Correspondent.)

(Note: Re-paragraphed and slightly re-punctuated.)

No doubt you will have heard of the great meeting held at Tooradin, to take into consideration the position of the Yallock Riding in regard to the Cranbourne Shire.

No doubt, there will be the same amount of gas, as usual, lost. Now, looking at this question broadly, there can be no gainsaying the fact that the Shire of Cranbourne was large enough before the greed of some parties had the boundaries altered.

Is it not a fact that the prime movers in the annexation had another object in view, viz.—the severance of the Yallock Riding from the Cranbourne Shire, and, along with the newly-annexed territory constituted into a shire — I do not know the name — but we will say Barber's Corner.

More praise to the "Obstructionists," as they are called, for the action they took in having that mad motion rescinded; for, no one can doubt but that the territory should belong to the Phillip Island and Woolamai, united. But isn't it funny to hear of the model Shire Councillors wrangling about the welfare of the Shire, and each one of the nine saying his views are the correct thing.

A few Melbourne merchants, interested in the timber trade, is *[sic]* expected this week, to look out for saw mill sites. More power to them! Plenty of room, and plenty of timber they will find when they come.

We, up here, waited patiently to hear an account of the sports got under way by W. McMillan, Esq, of Caldermead *[sic]* (Yallock); but as your paper stated nothing about it, we were disappointed.

I believe (I speak from the report) that Mr. McMillan deserves the thanks of the public, who are always welcome at his station, for the kind manner in which he treated all who came—and that was not a few. Horse-racing, foot ditto, and other sports was only put a stop to by darkness, and all enjoyed themselves heartily, and the above mentioned gentleman has promised to make it a yearly gathering; the public will anxiously await the next event.

The coaches still continue to be well supported, and no doubt that Mr. Usher will, within a short time, run through to Bass; indeed there is nothing at present to stop him. What a civiliser a coach is!—nearly as good as a church—indeed, I think it (the coach) is much better patronised.

Now, as the Minister of Mines is about sending out prospecting parties in search of gold, some more powerful pen than mine should urge on him the advisability of sending a prospecting party through that unknown territory by Mount Fatigue and the head of

(continues on Page 13)

The Bass District... (continued from Page 12)

the Tarwin—it is about as good a field for mining operation as any in the Colony. I know of no other—without [unclear word] is the Yarra Ranges, but it must be a better class of prospectors and miners than the ones who went before.

Next Saturday will be a busy day at Griffith Point: the Shire Council Meeting, Petty Sessions, and Revision Court, etc., is held on that day. The weather is fine just now; what little harvesting that has to be done will have a good chance of being done in safety; sheep-shearing is over, and, I believe, Mr. Watson wants more coal miners; the mill is busy; Messrs. Brazier and Co. have just received a large order from the contractor for the Gippsland Railway, and is executing it as fast as the machinery will allow them.

From the *South Bourke and Mornington Journal*, 24 Jan. 1877

Bass District

(From a Correspondent.)

It is rumored that Mr. John Cleland and S. Amess have offered to contribute one hundred pounds each towards the erection of a jetty at Settlement Point, on condition that the Western Port Steam Packet Company have the carriage of the mails to Bass, Corinella, Queensferry, and Grantville.

The inhabitants who availed themselves of the invitation of the owner of the Tyro vessel, enjoyed quite a treat on last Friday, on board the above-mentioned craft on her maiden trial. About 4 p.m., a start was made up the Bay, the vessel being under the command of Captain James Sanders, of the Dundee, one of the oldest and most experienced captains trading in Australian waters. The trip was a enjoyable one, and the vessel quite came up to expectations.

There seems to be some ill-feeling towards the Government in their dealing with the Mutton-bird question. No doubt the Government has adopted the views expressed by that body of old women – the Cruelty to Animals Association. Now, allow me to assure that body that there is no cruelty in the manner in which the oil is got from the birds. On or about March the young birds are fit to be operated on, and it is done in the following manner: They are killed; plucked of feathers, skinned, and the fat boiled down; when the flesh is dried it is used not only by the Chinese but by Europeans (why in Tasmania it realizes ten shillings per cwt.); the land is not injured, as the birds make the holes in which they deposit

their eggs, and, as they are migratory in their habits, what harm can be done by taking them in the above manner. A petition has been sent down to Government, but no action has been taken. This matter looks small to parties not knowing any thing about the matter; but I think it is of great importance to the whole of the Colony. Let the authorities [*sic*] send down an unprejudiced officer to report fully on the matter.

The Salt Works on French Island are not making any progress as the owner, Mr. Cheetham, told me the other day he should not do anything until such time as the tariff was settled either on the basis of Free-trade or Protection. It is a pity such a fine property should be lying idle.—The steamer has had an accident to one of her boats, and if it had not been for the swiftness of some of the horses at Hastings, the mails would have been left behind; as it was, they only overtook the coach at Mordialloc.

The petition which emanated from the Main-landers about their mails has ended satisfactorily, as they are assured by the Government that they fully recognise the importance of the overland route, and will do all in their power to further the mail business in that direction. Why is it that the *three* mails per week granted on the first day of December is not carried yet? Why should the inhabitants have to wait the convenience of anybody in a matter of this kind? I say let them be carried, no matter by whom.

The election for a member of the Shire Council was to have been held on next Saturday, but some mistake has occurred, and the election will not take place till the 6th day of February. The nominations that were put in before were those of D. B. Kennedy and A. Selman. I do not hear of any new aspirants for the honor.

The Shire Council held a meeting on Saturday, and the meeting was a very protracted one, owing to Councillor Fowler raising objections to Mr. Norton dictating to the Council about the Bathing ground at Cowes. Councillor Fowler took a stand in this matter that all well-wishers of the Council must agree with; however, he was overruled, but if I understood Councillor Fowler, his objections did not go against the motion as proposed by Councillor West, but on the principle that the Council is well able to transact any business brought before them without being dictated to by the above-mentioned person. I hear that a finance meeting is called for next Saturday.

Wonthaggi's Water Woes 1910-1936

Wonthaggi Water Supply

Water was first obtained from springs near the mine, but as the demand increased, springs about half-a-mile to the south of the official camp were opened up and a supply pumped from there to the old camp. When Wonthaggi township sprang into existence this was insufficient, and water had to be pumped from a large permanent swamp close to the coast. Pumping is kept going continuously from that source and from the old station at the springs, but more water is demanded than the pipes will carry, so the supply remains to some extent unsatisfactory both in quality and quantity, awaiting the completion of the permanent scheme now being laid down.

The water scheme for Wonthaggi consists of a reservoir of 400 million gallons on Lance Creek; 9 miles of 12in. diameter pipe main to a service basin, pump, elevated iron tank and reticulation pipes for the supply of the township, State coal mine, and the railways. The estimated cost is £60,000. The storage will be formed by an earthen dam about 40ft. high. The service basin at Wonthaggi will hold $1\frac{1}{3}$ million gallons, and will serve the low ground, inclusive of the business portion of the town; the elevated tank of 100,000 gallons will command the high levels. The water will be of good quality, adequate in quantity and pressure, and of great advantage in the development of the district.

A large reservoir is being constructed on Lance Creek, near Kongwak, from which the water will be carried in pipes to Wonthaggi. The pipe line between the Powlett River and Wonthaggi is now being laid, so that water can be pumped from the Powlett River to give a temporary supply till the big scheme is completed.

From *Powlett Coal Fields and Coal History of Victoria 1825-1910*. Published by Rae Bros., The Strand Publishing House, 1910.



From the *Argus*, Wednesday 4 May 1910, page 8.

Site For Reservoir

Kongwak, Monday.—The Government are negotiating with several local land-holders in reference to the purchase of a site for a reservoir for the Powlett State mine. The site is two miles west of Kongwak, and about eight mile north of Wonthaggi, on Lance Creek. The bed of the creek has been tested to a depth of 30ft. below the surface.

From the *Argus*, Monday 16 May 1910, page 5.

Site For Reservoir

Kongwak, Friday.—Negotiations between the Government and landholders for the purchase of a site for the Powlett reservoir are at a standstill. The Government valuer visited the site yesterday.

From the *Age*, Thursday 28 July 1910, page 9.

Powlett Coal Field

Official Blundering

Workmen's Wages Not Paid

Powlett. Wednesday.

The men employed by the water supply commission in constructing the reservoir at Kongwak, also those on the temporary supply work from the Powlett River to Wonthaggi, and the storage basin, to the number of nearly 100 were surprised to-day at not receiving their wages. The officials employed at the State mine have previously paid the money to the men, but the Water Supply department was

(continues on Page 15)



Top: Panaramic view of the site. The weir to be on the left 15ft above ground; the concrete centre to be up to 35ft underground to foundation. Below: Centre of reservoir area; 35ft tree ferns and 200ft gums. From the *Leader*, Saturday 20 August 1910, page 27: Wonthaggi Water Supply. Photos by Vallan Studio, Mansfield.

Wonthaggi's Water Woes... (continued from Page 14)

notified that it would have to disburse the money in future, as the mine clerical staff had enough to do to look after their own affairs. Evidently, no heed was paid to the intimation, as the pay cheque, amounting to over £500, came to hand at the mine office on Tuesday. It was returned to Melbourne, with a letter to the effect that the water supply authorities would have to provide their own pay master. A number of the men have been placed in an awkward position by the nonreceipt of their wages.

From the *Age*, Friday 29 July 1910, page 8.

Powlett Coal Field

Water Supply Scheme

Powlett. Thursday.

The temporary water supply scheme which is being installed in order to supply the township of Wonthaggi until the reservoir at Kongwak is completed is being pushed on vigorously, and there is now no doubt about it being finished before the summer arrives. The water is to be pumped from the Powlett River to the storage basin on the top of the hill overlooking the town, a distance of about three miles. Owing to the dry winter the work of carting and laying the 12-inch mains has



Grubbing a dead giant. Source: the *Leader*, Saturday 20 August 1910, page 27: Wonthaggi Water Supply. Photo by Vallan Studio, Mansfield.

not been retarded to any extent. Two miles of pipes have been laid over the worst part of the ground. The excavation and banks of the storage basin have been completed, and a start has been made to concrete the work, which is necessary owing to the porous nature of the ground. The officer in charge expects to have the balance of the pipes laid and all other work finished inside three months. The reticulation pipes in the town will not take long to lay, as several streets already have service pipes which are at present being supplied from springs.

An official from the Water Supply department arrived today in order to pay the employes on the works their wages due earlier in the week, which the mine officials refused to distribute.

From the *Age*, Wednesday 23 November 1910, page 12.

Construction Of Water Works

Opening For Workmen

The Water Supply Commissioner, Mr. Cattanaach, stated yesterday that the construction of the storage reservoir on Lance Creek, near Kongwak, for the supply of water to the township of Wonthaggi, is now in full swing, and that during the next six months, as the local supply of labor is small, there will be employment for a large number of men with and without horses and carts.

From the *Ballarat Star*, Thursday 15 December 1910, page 6.

Wonthaggi Water Works

Permanent Scheme In Progress

Melbourne, Tuesday. The pumping scheme for the temporary supply of water to the township of Wonthaggi is now in full operation, and the permanent scheme is being proceeded with as fast as possible. Reporting to Mr Dickson, the Secretary for Mines and Water Supply on the matter, Mr Coane, the engineer in charge, said that the service basin was finished, and full of water, and the reticulation pipes were laid on to the houses. The large service reservoir at Lance Creek, near Kongwak, is under construction, and during the next four or five months there would, Mr Coane added, be plenty of work for a considerable number of men, horses, and drays, at good rates of pay, while the climatic conditions could be pleasant. On being asked to whom navvies and men with horses and drays should apply, Mr Coane replied that Mr M'Guigan, clerk of works at Kongwak, should be seen personally, or be written to.

(continues on Page 16)

Wonthaggi's Water Woes... (continued from Page 15)

From the *Age*, Monday 13 March 1911, page 8.

Wonthaggi

The local water supply officials have announced that the water being supplied from the temporary works at Kongwak is not suitable for drinking purposes, as it is contaminated, and may lead to fevers. The water, they say, is only being supplied for domestic purposes to conserve the householders' supply in tanks. The information has caused a good deal of comment, as the residents are of the opinion that, if the water is likely to produce fevers, it should never have been allowed to enter the reticulation pipes, which have been laid in all the streets in readiness for supplying the town from the reservoir at Kongwak when completed.

From the *Argus*, Tuesday 13 June 1911, page 7.

Breach In Reservoir Bank

Kongwak. Monday. Heavy rain has flooded the low-lying country along the Powlett River. At the junction of the Powlett and Foster, flood waters have made the road impassable, the water lying on the road for about 10 chains, and in places 3ft. to 4ft. deep. At the Government works on the Kongwak reservoir the rush of water was too great for the outlets, and a portion of the earthen bank and concrete wall was swept away, damaging the works to the extent of about £100.

From the *Ballarat Star*, Thursday 9 November 1911, page 6.

Work At A Reservoir

Increased Wages Sought

Melbourne. Wednesday.

Mr T. P. Mottram, organiser for the United Laborers' Union, on Saturday paid a visit to Kongwak, about 11 miles from Wonthaggi, where a reservoir is in course of construction. A retaining wall about 50 feet or 60 feet high is being built, and about 100 men are engaged on the work. He enrolled 78 new members, and the whole of the employees are now associated with the union. This morning Mr Mottram stated that the men were in receipt of 8s a day but that, owing to broken time through bad weather, they had not earned more than an average of [amount unclear in text] a week. It was proposed to approach the contractor, Mr Quiggan, with the object of having the days wage increased to 9s.

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

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

Wonthaggi

The finishing touches are now being put on the Kongwak reservoir. The work will be out of the hands of the department in another fortnight. It is estimated that the reservoir contains 50,000,000 gallons of water at the present time. The total capacity of the reservoir is 500,000,000 gallons.

The farmers, who thought the reservoir would be detrimental to their interests, now find it advantageous, as they are able to obtain unlimited supplies in the dry season.

From the *Great Southern Star*, 14 January 1915, page 3.

General Notes

Complaints against the purity of the Wonthaggi water supply have been of frequent occurrence, and the opinion has been expressed that the water is contaminated in the catchment area at Kongwak by dead cattle. At a meeting of the borough council on Monday night a letter was read from Mr. W. E. Brunt, solicitor, stating that not only had the water an offensive smell, but on two occasions vermin had come through the tap. So far the Korumburra reservoir is not that bad.

From the *Powlett Express and Victorian State Coalfields Advertiser*, Friday 15 January 1915, page 2.

Wonthaggi Water Supply

Serious Allegations By Ratepayer

Foul And Offensive Waters

At the Wonthaggi Borough Council meeting on Monday Mr W E Brunt complained of the most objectionable state of the water supply. At his residence in Broome Crescent, the water comes direct from the Lance Creek Reservoir,

(continues on Page 17)



The first load of outlet pipes in trouble. Source: the *Leader*, Saturday 20 August 1910, page 27: Wonthaggi Water Supply. Photo by Vallan Studio, Mansfield.

Wonthaggi's Water Woes... (continued from Page 16)

Kongwak. On two or three occasions the water has had a foul and offensive smell, and several maggots came through the tap, a sample of the water with "live stock" had been supplied to the town clerk.

Mr Brunt, in his letter, said that the indications were that carcasses of animals were in the reservoir. Since the water had been run off at the plug near his house an improvement had taken place, but the water still smells offensively.

Cr Crombie: We will be getting a bullock through next.

The Mayor, Cr McMahon, said that attention of the superintendent had been called to the matter. For some days owing to mains having to be tapped the water had not been run off at the sluice valves.

Cr Easton said the complaint should be sent to the Water Supply department.

Crs Wilson and Easton said that water at their houses was very black and dirty.

Cr Easton said at the shop the water was good.

The town clerk, Mr Strickland, said that the business and lower portions of the town were supplied from the storage reservoir in McKenzie street and the higher parts from the Kongwak reservoir.

Cr Wishart said it was not satisfactory for householders to get maggots through the taps.

After further discussion the council decided to take certain action to endeavor to remedy the trouble.

From the Powlett Express and Victorian State Coalfields Advertiser, 29 January 1915, page 2.

Wonthaggi Water Supply

Scandalous State Of Affairs

Cattle Graze At Waters Edge

Boxes And Remains Of Carcasses

The complaint made by Mr W. E. Brunt, regarding the state of water and maggots coming through the pipes was investigated by the Mayor, Councillors and Town Clerk, who visited the Kongwak reservoir on Tuesday, January 19.

They found signs of cattle being allowed to water at the reservoir, evidently in large numbers. The fence was broken down, and temporary repairs were effected. There are a number of gates leading to adjoining paddocks, and two were open.

Bones were found lying about 2 yards from the water's edge, evidently the carcass of some animal.

There was 36 feet of water in the reservoir which embraces an area of 60 or 70 acres, and councillors and others want to know why all the fuss is made in regard to putting in meters, where there is such an ample of water which would be greatly benefited by being allowed to run.

The whole matter wants thoroughly *[sic]* investigating, and instructions given so that only wholesome water will be supplied.

From the Argus, Tuesday 7 February 1922, page 8.

Wonthaggi Without Water

Wonthaggi, Monday.—Owing to an air-valve of the water supply line having been deliberately broken between the service reservoir at Kongwak and Wonthaggi, no water can reach Wonthaggi until repairs are effected. The storage reservoir is almost empty, and the State mine power-house will close down to-night. Work at the mine was to be resumed on Tuesday morning, but a start cannot be made until Tuesday afternoon.

From the Age, Thursday 22 January 1925, page 7.

Wonthaggi Water Supply

Serious Allegations

Health Department Criticised

Wonthaggi.—For some time the water supply of the town has been most unsatisfactory, not from quantity, but quality. The tank is extraordinarily weedy, and the smell most obnoxious. To use the water for tea making is almost impossible. Complaint has been made, but no action has been taken to remedy the evil, beyond brushing the mains. Last year the local reservoir was cleaned out, but during the rainy season, so that any alteration was not noticeable then. It is in the dry period that the trouble exists. Fears have been entertained that this water would result in an epidemic, and a report was made at the council meeting on Tuesday night of one case of typhoid fever. The council decided upon an inspection of the Kongwak Basin, and this errand eventuated on Wednesday.

The mayor remarked that the position was very serious. The water was not fit for human consumption, let alone for washing purposes. The smell was like decomposed grass or weeds.

Cr. Mahony stated that the department told him the water was all right from a health point of view.

Cr. Dowling said the council must force the position, for if it continued the town

(continues on Page 18)

Wonthaggi's Water Woes... (continued from Page 17)

would be faced with an epidemic. The Health department was about the most "dead" in the Government.

Cr. Easton stated that visitors to the town, visiting his shop, insulted him with the afternoon tea supplied, which for smell and taste was not fit to drink. He was told that cattle got into the Kongwak Basin, and that pigs were even wallowing in it.

Upon inspection on Wednesday samples of the water were taken both from the intake and delivery. At every place taste and smell are distinctly noticeable, there being plenty of sediment. At the intakes, small creeks at the foot of the hills, reeds for 20 yards block the course and behind these there are yards of green scum lining the water. At the delivery pipe the gauge shows 37 feet of water. Around the reservoir bracken fern grows luxuriantly, and rabbits in [the] thousands are hemmed in by a rabbit-proof fence. At the delivery end acres upon acres of ragwort are in full bloom. To the north cattle are grazing on the reserve. There does not appear to be any cause for weed contamination, but there may be something in the contention that dry periods lead to stagnation. If it were possible to let the reservoir off, or a big volume of its water, so as to refill with fresh water, there might be some redress. The allegation of pigs wallowing in the basin is far from correct.

From the *Age*, Thursday 29 January 1925, page 7.

Wonthaggi

Dr. Merrilees, Government health inspector, accompanied by Mr. M'Kie, engineer of the State Rivers and Waters Supply department, visited Kongwak reservoir, the source of Wonthaggi's water supply, on Wednesday. Complaints have been made regarding the unpalatable taste and smell of the water, samples of which were taken. Dr. Merrilees said the quality "appeared" to be all right.

From the *Argus*, 7 February 1925, page 20.

Other Districts

Wonthaggi.—Dr. Merrilees, of the Health department, was present at the borough council meeting on Tuesday, when the town water supply was referred to. Dr. Merrilees said that he had no hesitation in saying that the water from Kongwak reservoir was not fit for domestic purposes, and it had to be improved, which might take some time. The water was not injurious to health, but it would make some people feel sick. The taste was like that of crushed strawberry,

and in food would not be so objectionable. The contamination was from a water weed known as annabeena.

From the *Age*, Friday 20 February 1925, page 11.

Water Pollution

Complaints At Wonthaggi

Wonthaggi.—The state of the water supply was the subject of a short discussion at the council meeting on Tuesday evening. Cr. Wishart reported having inspected Kongwak reservoir on the previous day, and found that cattle were still grazing inside the fences. He had counted 12 head of cattle, a horse, and a calf. The mayor remarked that he was informed that it was a fact that pigs were to be seen in and around the reservoir. Cr. McKenzie stated that the water was being treated with sulphate of copper, in order to counteract the growth of the weed which was polluting the water. Cr. Asquith asked whether it was a fact that dead rabbits were lying about the water's edge, but no reply was forthcoming.

The water had not improved in taste or smell, but it seems to have become worse. Men have been engaged cutting out ragwort. It is contended that the bracken fern should also be cut and the rabbits eradicated.

From the *Age*, Wednesday 25 February 1925, page 14.

Wonthaggi

Mr. H. W. M'Lay, engineer to the Water Commission, reports that exhaustive investigations have been made into the cause of the odors and taste in the water from Kongwak reservoir, which supplies Wonthaggi. He says that these are apparently due to a microscopic weed growth, known technically as algae, on the surface of the water. This growth can be killed by the application of copper sulphate, and a preliminary treatment has been given, pending confirmation by a complete examination. In the course of the next few days a complete treatment will be given to the water in the reservoir. As a result of the treatment more pronounced odors and tastes will temporarily result, after which, it is anticipated, there will be very considerable improvement. The standard method of treatment is to tow a bag of sulphate backwards and forwards across the reservoir, using a boat. The examinations made show that the water is not in any way dangerous, and the amount of copper sulphate necessary to destroy the algae is not sufficient to be detected in the water, being only 3 or 4 lb. in a million gallons.

(continues on Page 19)

Wonthaggi's Water Woes... (continued from Page 18)

From the *Age*, Tuesday 17 November 1925, page 11.

Water Shortage At Wonthaggi

Wonthaggi.—Extremely hot weather was experienced on Monday. Rain is badly needed for general purposes, and the position in regard to supply had reached a serious stage. Garden watering depleted the pressure, and on Monday the taps only gave a trickle. The State mine is short of water, more particularly in the power house, and it has been found necessary to resort to pumping water from No.10 pit. There is no water in the Dudley area for the men's baths or washing of horses. The growth of the town and increased workings of the State mine put too heavy a drain on the local basin, and it is felt that the mine should be given a direct pipe from the Kongwak reservoir. A report has been made to head quarters, and a visit of the State rivers engineers is likely. Local measures may give a little relief, but if the weather continues dry it can only be very temporary.

From the *Age*, Tuesday 9 November 1926, page 12.

Wonthaggi

A microscopic weed known as "Algaea," which grows on the surface of the water and throws off a greenish scum which has an offensive odor, has again made its appearance at Kongwak Reservoir. For the past two years the water supply to Wonthaggi has been affected by this weed. At a special meeting of the council the town clerk was instructed to write to the Water Commissioners complaining of the trouble, and asking for the weed to be treated, as was the case on previous occasions.

From the *Age*, Wednesday 1 December 1926, page 16.

Wonthaggi

At a meeting of the council word was received from the Water Commissioner that the weed growing on the water at Kongwak reservoir was to be treated. Although operations are in progress, the water supply to Wonthaggi is unfit for domestic purposes. The water is of a greenish color, and throws off an offensive odor.



Panorama of Wonthaggi. Source: Weekly Times, 7 September 1929, page 44: Wonthaggi and Dalyston — a Progressive Dairy Farming District.

Mrs. Jones got all her furnishings for her tent at the Melbourne Furnishing Co., Graham St., Wonthaggi.

From the *Age*, Saturday 8 March 1930, page 19.

Wonthaggi

The bad state of the water at Wonthaggi during the past two months has upset many residents with a serious form of diarrhoea. In many cases it has been necessary to secure the services of a doctor so acute has been the trouble, which has been attributed to the condition of the water. Last week the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission had the reservoir at Kongwak treated with bluestone to kill the weed, which causes an offensive odor. Instead of getting better the water has been becoming more discolored daily. The water supplied to the lower levels of the town on Friday could not be used for any household purposes. The townspeople are very indignant at the continued filthy state of the water supply, and are petitioning the local members to have the matter brought under the notice of the health authorities.

From the *Age*, Saturday 5 April 1930, page 26.

Dissatisfaction At Wonthaggi Filter Bed at Reservoir Requested

Wonthaggi, Friday.—General dissatisfaction has been expressed at the unsatisfactory state of the Wonthaggi water supply. Mr. Matthews, of the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission, made an inspection of the Kongwak reservoir, and acknowledged that the condition of the water was bad enough to cause complaints. Mr. Matthews said that the trouble would be removed as soon as possible.

Owing to the continued bad state of the water supply townspeople residing in the lower levels of the town are agitating for a filter bed to be installed at the Kongwak reservoir.

From the *Age*, Tuesday 19 April 1932, page 10.

Wonthaggi

The Minister of Water Supply has notified the borough council that the matter of duplicating the main water pipes between the reservoir at Kongwak and the supply basin at Wonthaggi will be placed before the proper authority for consideration. Members of the council are anxious for this work to be carried out before next summer to prevent the town from having its water supply cut off, as it was last summer.

(continues on Page 20)

Wonthaggi's Water Woes... (continued from Page 19)

From the *Age*, Wednesday 25 October 1933, page 14.

Wonthaggi

The dirty state of [the] Wonthaggi water supply has caused numerous complaints during the week. The reserve basin in Watt-street is being cleaned out, and in the meantime the water is being supplied direct from the big reservoir at Kongwak. Councillors stated that the water was unfit for domestic purposes, and appointed a deputation, consisting of the mayor and town clerk, to approach the man in charge of the works to have it improved.

From the *Argus*, Monday 11 May 1936, page 7.

Pure Water at Wonthaggi

Algae growths in the Kongwak storage reservoir were discovered following complaints by residents of Wonthaggi concerning impurities in the town's water supply.

Immediately the complaints were received an investigation was made by engineers of the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission, it was stated on Saturday, and the standard treatment of purification by copper sulphate was applied.



Lance Creek Reservoir, 1963. Source: State Rivers and Water Supply Commission. Rural Water Corporation collection. Record ID: 9939668522507636



Wonthaggi: As seen from the air. Source: *Weekly Times*, Saturday 21 March 1931, page 31.

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