

# The Western Port Times

## Grantville & Districts



Volume 3 Number 7

FREE

November 2020

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This magazine is a continuation of the original Western Port Times, which was published in Grantville from 1898 until 1908 by T. C. Monger, and from 1908 to August 1910 by 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.

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

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Editor: Geoff Guilfoyle  
 Bass Valley U3A Local History Group  
 PO Box 3 Grantville 3984  
 Phone 5997 6240  
 Email: Geoff\_Guilfoyle@aanet.com.au  
 Website: www.grantvillehistory.com.au  
 Masthead design by Trish Hart  
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**Subscribe Free:**

Send your name and email address to:  
 Geoff\_Guilfoyle@aanet.com.au

The Bass Valley U3A Local History Group is looking for photos and information on places of significance to our local history.

If you have anything you would like to share with us, we have the facilities to scan or photograph your items so they do not have to leave your possession.

**Links to other historical groups**

- Bass Valley Historical Society: <https://bassvalleyhistoricalsociety.com.au>
- Friends of Churchill Island Society: <https://focis.org.au/about-churchill-island/>
- Grantville History: [grantvillehistory.com.au](http://grantvillehistory.com.au)
- Hastings–Western Port Historical Society: <https://www.hwphs.org.au/>
- Inverloch Historical Society: [cv.vic.gov.au/organisations/inverloch-historical-society/](http://cv.vic.gov.au/organisations/inverloch-historical-society/) Also: <http://inverlochhistory.com/>
- Koo-Wee-Rup Swamp Historical Society: [kooweerupswamphistory.blogspot.com.au/](http://kooweerupswamphistory.blogspot.com.au/)
- Korumburra & District Historical Society: Janet Wilson 5657 2267 or PO Bo 293, Korumburra 3950
- Lang Lang & District Historical Society: [langlang.net/historical.html](http://langlang.net/historical.html)
- Leongatha and District Historical society: [leongathahistory.org.au](http://leongathahistory.org.au)
- Phillip Island & District Historical Society: <http://pidhs.org.au/>
- Phillip Island Nature Parks, Churchill Island Heritage Farm Collection <https://victoriancollections.net.au/organisations/churchill-island-heritage-farm#collection-records>
- South Eastern Historical Association: [seha.org.au](http://seha.org.au)
- Western Port Historical Society Inc.: [hwphs.org.au/](http://hwphs.org.au/)
- Wonthaggi Historical Society: [wonthagghistoricalicalsociety.org.au/](http://wonthagghistoricalicalsociety.org.au/)



## The 1905 Bush Fires

Three brief accounts of the bush fires which swept through the mainland areas of the Shire of Phillip Island and Woolamai in the summer of 1905, and also a message of thanks from 1951 which remains as relevant today as it did then.

From the *Age*, Tuesday 17 January 1905, page 6

### Farm Houses Destroyed

Grantville, Monday.

Bush fires have done considerable damage in this district. On Friday a fire started in Mr. J. B. O'Meara's paddock at Kilcunda and swept through the properties of Messrs. C. Steinholdt, O'Rourke and P. J. Daly, burning nearly all the grass and fencing. It then burnt on to Archie's Creek township, where the blacksmith's shop was in danger, but the wind changed and sent the flames back.

Another fire, which started on Bass River, near the township, burnt quite close to the State school and residence, but was beaten back by the residents of Bass. The fire swept through Bass Park paddocks, burning thousands of acres of grass. Everything on the farms of Messrs. G. Brown and Walkley, including the houses, were consumed, and many properties were cleared of everything except the houses, which were saved after catching alight in some instances three times.

In one place the fire swept along ten miles to within half a mile of Grantville, when the weather changed. A little rain fell on Sunday. The fires are not all out yet, and the district is covered by smoke.

From the *South Bourke and Mornington Journal*, 22 February 1905, page 2

### Bass

Bass Valley suffered severely through bush fires during the recent spell of hot weather, and in the thickly timbered portions proved most disastrous. The roads between Grantville, Almurta and Glen Forbes, were surrounded by flames, and smoke hung heavily over the Bay. Those to suffer losses were Messrs. Berryman and S. Anderson, of Glen Forbes, all their grass being burned; Messrs. Campbell and T. Stewart, of Bass Valley, the former estimating his losses at £500, including all his dairy appliances, orchard ensilage, &c.; Mr. Geo. Hutchinson, of St. Helier; Mr. Prior, of the same place; and Mr. Hardingham; Mr. Findlay's grass was all consumed, and his house was saved with difficulty; Mr. Thornton lost his house and grass. On Saturday rain fell heavily and quenched the fire.

From the *Age*, Tuesday 14 February 1905, page 5

### Fires Abound Westernport

Grantville, Monday.

The bush fires enveloped Westernport Bay in smoke on Friday and Saturday. They were more disastrous than the fires which occurred three weeks ago. On the Grantville to Almurta and Grantville to Glen Forbes roads vehicular traffic was stopped owing to burning timber having fallen across them. Mr. E. Misson lost a cart containing cream cans, which he had left on the road a few days before when his horses bolted. Messrs. A. Berryman, T. Anderson, J. T. Paul, A. W. Hardingham and Geo. Hutchinson lost nearly all their grass. Mr. A. Thornton's house and grass were burnt, and Mr. T. Stewart's large orchard, with the exception of six trees, was destroyed, besides a large quantity of grass. Mr. C. Prior's house caught fire several times. Mr. J. Campbell, of Bass Valley, lost all his dairy appliances, including cow sheds, two separators, three churns, hay, pit of ensilage, three boxes of butter and a large amount of grass. Heavy rain fell on Saturday night and extinguished the fires.

### THANKS NOTICE.

The residents of The Gurdies wish to Thank all rural fire brigades and other people who helped in the recent bush fires in the district. With special thanks to all local Post-office Exchanges.

L. G. MOTTON,  
Lieut., Gurdies Section F.B.

From *KooWeeRup Sun and Lang Lang Guardian*, 28 Feb. 1951

\* \* \*

From the *Powlett Express and State Coalfields Advertiser*, Friday 22 January 1915, page 3: San Remo

### Washed Off Rocks

Miss Isabel Hossack, daughter of Mr. John Hossack, of Coburg, and Ernst Wilkin Neville, of Willis-road, Balwyn, were washed off a rock while fishing at Cowes back beach on the 5th instant, and were drowned. Miss Paul and Gordon Paul, of Shepparton, and Mr. Neville, father of deceased, narrowly escaped being drowned in attempting a rescue.

## Beware of the Dog Log

From *South Bourke and Mornington Journal*, 4 April 1900

### Grantville

Another sufferer came into the township seeking medical aid on Monday week. Mr. P. Fitzpatrick, employed at the Woolamai Saw-mills, was in the act of lifting a heavy piece of timber when it fell on his hand and smashed a finger. He, also, was attended by Dr. Healy.

From the *Age*, Monday 27 October 1902, page 9

### A Lucky Escape

Lang Lang, Sunday.

Mr. J. Berry, of Settlement Point, when returning home from Lang Lang met with a nasty accident near the Gurdies. He was driving home, when his cart came in contact with a leaning tree, completely upsetting the turnout. Mr. T. Lyall, who was returning from a friend's the same evening found Berry with the cart on top of him, the tailboard being across his neck and his arm jammed under the seat. He released him from this uncomfortable position, and it was found that nothing serious had happened, with the exception of a few nasty cuts and bruises.

From the *Age*, Wednesday 10 December 1902, page 6

### Painful Accident

Grantville, Tuesday.

Yesterday morning a young man named Robert Enfield, in the employ of Captain Lock, on French Island, nearly severed all his toes on the right foot, owing to his axe slipping while he was pointing stakes. His mate brought him to Grantville, and he was attended by the doctor at Bass. Enfield, who was very weak from loss of blood, was this morning conveyed to Melbourne.

From the *Argus*, Friday 10 February 1905, Page 3

### Pinned By A Fallen Tree

Lang Lang, Thursday.—A painful accident happened at Glen Forbes on Saturday to a labourer named William Hunt, who was in the employ of Mr George Eden. Hunt had just felled a large tree, which rebounded, striking him on the right instep, and pinning the lower portion of his leg against a log. Being unable to free himself, the injured man remained in agony for six hours. At sunset he appears to have made up his mind to adopt the desperate expedient of amputating the foot, and he had made the first incision with his axe when help arrived. He was carried home to Queensberry [*sic*] and afterwards removed to the Alfred Hospital.

From the *Great Southern Advocate*, 27 April 1905, page 2

### Grantville

The other day the little son and heir of Mr. W. B. Lang, of the Grantville Hotel, was amusing himself chopping wood, when one end of a piece he had chopped in two flew up and struck him a severe blow in the eye. Mrs Lang dressed the injury, and the little sufferer was sent on to Lang Lang, where the local chemist dressed the optic, and it is hoped "Little Billy" will not be any the worse for the injury.

From the *Great Southern Advocate*, 8 March 1906, page 6

### Glen Forbes

A young man named McGrady, employed by Mr. M. Buckley, had the misfortune to meet with a serious accident on Thursday, Feb. 21. He was engaged in cutting ferns and while resting for a few minutes under a tree was struck by a falling limb. Fortunately the missile had been deflected in its fall, otherwise he would have been killed instantly. He was attended by Dr. Manly at San Remo.

From the *Ballarat Star*, Monday 13 September 1909, page 4

A fatal accident happened to a middle-aged man named John Rogers, who was in the employ of Captain Henderson, of the Woolamai saw mills, near Grantville. He went to Frazer's paddock in the morning to fell trees, and as he did not return at night a search was made and his dead body was found near a fallen tree, the limb of which apparently struck him on the head. Deceased was a married man, and leaves a family.

From the *Age*, Saturday 29th July 1911, page 14

### Timber Getter's Narrow Escape

Glen Forbes, Friday.

W. Corbett, about 30 years of age, had a wonderful escape from being crushed to death to-day. He was getting timber for the Kernot saw mill, when a log he had been cutting suddenly gave way, and rolled over him, crushing him about the hips. Mr. Shackelford, the mill owner, was close by at the time, and he remarked that if it had not been for a limb Corbett must have been crushed to death. As far as could be ascertained no bones were broken, and, though in a good deal of pain, he was quite conscious. He is to be taken to Nyora by the passenger train, and the doctor from Loch is to meet him their on arrival.

(continues on Page 5)

*Beware of the Dog Log (continued from Page 4)*

From the *Traralgon Record*, Friday 9 August 1912, page 2

## Fatal Accident

### At Kilmany

A man named John Williams, aged about 60 years, employed by Widdis and King, sawmillers, was accidentally killed by a falling tree at Kilmany Park settlement on Tuesday afternoon. Deceased was a married man, and his wife and family live at Grantville. He was a contractor for felling trees for Messrs. Widdis and King, and had been with them for a long time. It appears that where he and another man, A. Howard, were engaged in felling the trees, one tree got caught in the fork of another tree, which caused the tree to swing round, with the result that it fell on deceased, crushing his body in a fearful state, death being instantaneous. Howard had a most miraculous escape, as when the tree fell he was only about three feet away from Williams. Word was at once sent to the police at Sale, and Constable McCorkill brought the body to the morgue. A coronial enquiry was held on Wednesday afternoon at the Gippsland Hospital, before the deputy coroner, Mr R. J. Cherry, J.P., when a verdict of accidental death was recorded. "Times."

From the *Dandenong Journal*, 8 May 1930, page 4

## Crushed by Falling Timber

Arthur Leonard Whatmore, 23 years, who had been in the employ of Mr. G. Motton, farmer, of Lang Lang, was felling timber at the Gurdies when a sapling 30 feet long fell on him, and he was killed instantly. He had only been in the employ of Mr. Motton about three weeks. His mother, who is a widow, only came to Australia from England with him 16 months ago.

From the *Age*, Friday 22 April 1932, page 11

## Timber Cutter Killed

### Struck by Falling Tree

Wonthaggi, Thursday.—Lionel Henry Drysdale, 23 years, a timber cutter, was accidentally killed at Almurta to-day. Drysdale and a man named Grant were sawing down a tree, when a gale blew down a dry tree. Portions of the tree struck Drysdale on the head, inflicting a compound fracture of the skull and lacerations of the brain. He died ten minutes after being admitted to Wonthaggi Hospital. Drysdale's parents reside at Korumburra.

From the *Herald*, Thursday 21 October 1954, page 3

## Italians Work Own Coal Mine

Wonthaggi, Today.—

In the rich dairying district of Woolamai, 13 miles from Wonthaggi, three enterprising Italians are operating a small but flourishing coal mine.

The Mabilia brothers, of Kilcunda, started it two years ago on the 340-acre property of Mr Jack Howard.

They took out their lease and used a bulldozer to start their tunnel in the side of a hill where the coal seam was protruding.

With gelignite and pick and shovel, they forced their way into the hill along the seam which was two-feet thick and good, clean coal.

Today they have 12 miners working for them and are extracting between 100 and 150 tons of coal a week.

Ponies pull the skips out of the tunnel with the help of a cable attached to a stationary engine.

The Mabilias cart their own coal, which sells readily to the Archies' Creek Dairy Produce company.

They get the ruling price of more than £7 a ton.

The mine has an estimated reserve to maintain present output for 10 years.

From the *Argus*, Thursday 27 August 1953, page 7

## Radar On Craybeam

Wonthaggi, Wednesday.

San Remo fishermen are using radar in their fishing boats to catch crayfish.

The radar is so effective that it "takes the fish out of fishing."

Four fishing boats have been fitted with echo sounders.

The sounders detail on tape the nature of the sea bed.

This allows fishermen to find unfished rock bottoms where cray thrive.

And, as the fishermen say:

"At £6 a dozen it's nice to find an unfished rock bottom."

His haul – 100 dozen.

Mr. J. Muir, with the aid of radar, recently got a haul of about 100 dozen crays.

Two Apollo Bay and King Island craft recently had the sounder fitted.

The Flinders island rock in the main shipping lane to Tasmania and covered by only 8ft. of water was discovered by an echo sounder.



## Plunge From Cliff At San Remo

The Death of Thomas P. Gorman

From the *Herald*, Wednesday 14 April 1909, page 6

### Late Mr T. P. Gorman.

Killed At San Remo.

#### Explanation Of The Accident.

(Re-paragraphed for the sake of clarity.)

The Coroner (Dr Cole) has received the police report in connection with the death of Mr T. P. Gorman, which occurred at San Remo through a fall over a cliff.

Mounted-Constable Kelleher, in his report, states that at 4 p.m. on April 11 William Hodinott, of San Remo, informed him that a man had fallen over the cliffs near the caves, about three miles from and on the east side of the township. The constable went to the spot, where he saw Robert Butler, Junr., of Napier street, Essendon; Robert Butler, senior; Duncan Cumming, of Rose street Essendon; and Thomas Wood, of Filson street, Ascot Vale.

They informed him that they had moved deceased's body some 30 yards to dry ground on the foreshore, as the waves were washing on to it at intervals. He found that both of deceased's legs and wrists were badly broken, and there was a slight abrasion on the right eye.

The body was taken to the Pier Hotel, at San Remo, where deceased had stayed since the previous Thursday, April 8, with his three companions. He (the constable) was informed that on April 11, at about 2.15 p.m., the party drove to the caves, where none of them had ever been before.

Robert Butler, senior, and David Cumming, sat on a log at one peak of the cliffs and the others walked on a further distance of about 200 yards towards Kilcunda. Woods and Butler, Junr., proceeded down a narrow track leading to the caves, and the deceased walked some 30 yards further along to a point where the cliff is perpendicular. Butler, senior, and Cumming saw deceased from where they were seated, standing looking over the cliff, apparently seeking a way down.

They, afterwards missed him, but thinking that he had gone further along the cliff, they took no notice until some five minutes had elapsed. Then, on looking over, they saw the deceased lying on the rocks with the waves washing up on to him. They called to two men named William Hodinott and Hatrick Cotter, who were in the vicinity, and with their assistance recovered the body from the water as stated, life being then extinct.

The constable further states that he examined the spot on the cliffs where deceased was last seen alive, and he saw fresh marks where the earth had broken away from beneath the deceased's feet. There were fresh tracks leading to the spot. The distance of the fall was about 60 feet.

The Coroner has decided to hold his investigation on Saturday morning.

From the *Weekly Times*, Saturday 17 April 1909, page 21

### Late Mr T. P. Gorman

Popular Football Official.

There was a widespread feeling of regret when it became known that Mr T. P. Gorman had met his death at San Remo under circumstances as reported on another page.

"Tom" Gorman was one of the best-known and best-liked delegates on the Victorian Football Association. He had a charming personality, and had done a lot for the advancement of football and the Association, both as a player and thinker. He was for years both secretary of the Essendon (Association) Club, and did much to advance the interests of that team.

The Association last week re-elected him as hon. treasurer, and as a mark of their keen appreciation of his fulfilment of that office last season they voted him an honorarium of *[unclear words]*.

"This year," said Mr Gorman, in acknowledging the compliment of re-election and the honorarium, "I intend to do more for the Association and the game than I have done."

But fate has willed otherwise, and footballers to-day are grieving at the untimely loss of a good sport, genuine friend, and all round fine fellow.



The late T. P. Gorman, from the *Weekly Times*, 17 April 1909.

From the *Leader*, Saturday 21 May 1910, page 35

# The Future Of Westernport

(Re-paragraphed for the sake of clarity.)

If the Powlett coal field is to be developed to the full measure of its production, and private companies are to supplement the operations of the State, the output will be so large that arrangements will have to be made for the transport of coal by sea. There is no reason why consumers at Geelong, Bairnsdale, Warrnambool and Port Fairy should pay expensive haulage by rail when coal can be transmitted by sea at a cost of a few shillings per ton. Besides, if the field is to justify the promise of the bores, an export trade must be established. Powlett should become a keen competitor with Newcastle, and with such a contingency in view an outlet for the field by sea must be seriously entertained.

Fortunately nature has provided the vast coal deposits of the Bass Valley with an ideal harbor which can be readily transformed to the necessities of a coal port. Westernport Bay, within a few miles of Powlett is admirably suited for the purpose.

From the accompanying chart it will be observed that the anchorage afforded by the bay is effectively shielded from the rough seas of Bass Strait. Phillip Island, at the entrance, blocks up the greater part of the space between the outer headlands on the mainland, and forms a most effective break-water, leaving a channel several miles wide on the western side capable of floating the largest vessel ever launched.

The depth, according to Admiralty soundings, runs up to 100 feet, and as the deep-water way extends over a wide stretch of the channel there need be no question about freedom of ingress and egress for steamers of the heaviest tonnage. Inside Phillip Island, within the bay itself, the same favorable conditions prevail. It will be noticed that there is deep water all round French Island, which occupies the centre of the inlet, and that a depth up to 36 feet is maintained right up to Settlement Point, on the north of San Remo, and on the same side as the Powlett field.

Some preliminary survey work has been done, and it has been ascertained that a coal harbor might easily be established at Settlement Point, or somewhere in that vicinity. There may be trouble with shifting sands, but that is a difficulty which has been overcome at other places without involving any ruinous outlay.

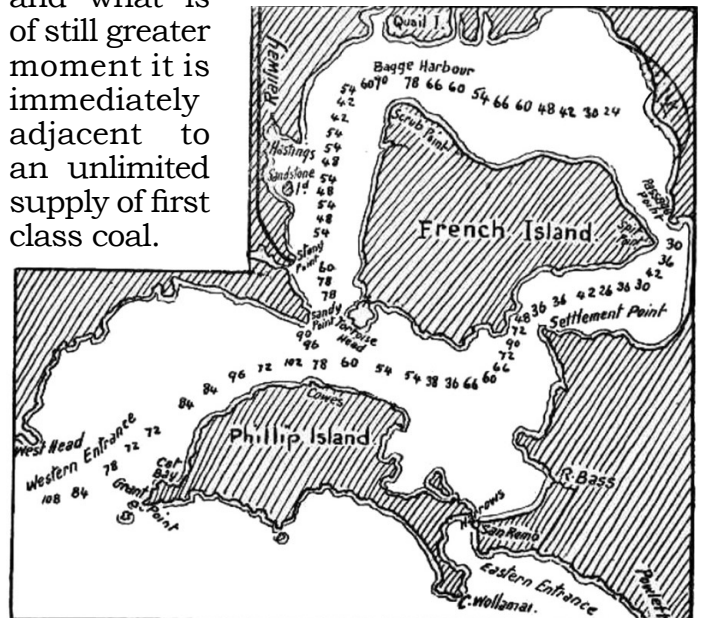
The Minister of Mines stated the other

day that Westernport might be made an Admiralty coaling station at moderate cost. If it can be adapted to serve naval needs it should be equally suitable for the purposes of an export trade.

There are no serious engineering difficulties to be overcome in constructing wharfs and piers for loading. The sea frontage is of great extent, and generally, offers a firm foundation, on which substantial works may be raised. No obstacle exists on the land side. The railway comes to within four and a half miles of San Remo, and for some little distance northward it is only a few miles from the coast.

These considerations alone are sufficiently striking and convincing to determine Westernport's destiny as a great commercial entrepot. But they are powerfully reinforced by the prospect that some day Westernport must become a great naval depot, where vessels of the Australian fleet may be built and repaired, and where they would rendezvous, victual and equip in the same manner as they do now in Sydney Harbor.

Westernport contains all the essentials of a naval base. It has natural defences that can be made impregnable at small outlay. It lies practically in the centre of Australia's sea-borne commerce, convenient to supplies of food, clothing, material and munitions of war, and in a situation where the greater portion of the land required for docks, yards, wharfs and buildings is in the hands of the State. The anchorage, as shown on the map, is spacious, secure and of abundant depth; and what is of still greater moment it is immediately adjacent to an unlimited supply of first class coal.



Western Port, showing depth of waterway in feet.

From the *Great Southern Advocate*, 17 August 1905, page 5

## Wedding Bells

Jesson and Trewin

(From A Correspondent.)

The wedding of Mr. J. H. Jesson, of Archie's Creek, and Miss Emma Trewin, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. Trewin, of Glen Alvie, took place at the residence of the bride's parents, on Wednesday, 9th inst. The Rev. Herbert Potter officiated, assisted by the Rev. Mr. Oelrich. The bride, who was given away by her father, looked very pretty in a bridal costume of cream cashmere, trimmed with lace and accordeon/*sic*-pleated chiffon, with wreath and veil. The bridesmaids were Miss Edith Jesson (sister of bridegroom) and Miss Mabel Trewin (sister of bride), and they wore dresses of blue cashmere, trimmed with cream insertion and ribbon. Mr. Thomas Powell was best man. After the ceremony, at the invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Trewin, about sixty guests sat down to a sumptuous breakfast, the Rev. H. Potter proposing the health of the happy couple. Mr. and Mrs. Jesson left immediately after for Melbourne on their honeymoon trip.

The presents were as follows:—Bride groom to bride, gold bangle; bride to bridegroom, gold sleeve-links; bridegroom to bridesmaids, gold broaches; father of bride, cheque and silver dinner cruet; mother of bride, household linen; Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Atkinson, silver teapot; Mr. D. Trewin, silver biscuit barrel; Mr. T. A. Hayes, silver cake dish; Mr. and Mrs. B. Edwards, silver breakfast cruet; Mrs. England, cheque; Mr. E. Trewin, cheque; Mr. L. Trewin, cheque; Mr. and Mrs. A. Trewin, clock; Misses L. and K. Jesson, water jug and glasses, silver serviette rings; Miss E. Jesson, teapot; Mr. and Mrs. Stephenson, manicure set; Miss D. Stephenson, silk handkerchief; Mrs Walker, senr., table centre and d'oyleys; Mr. and Mrs. Wales, silver and oak biscuit barrel; Mr. G. R. Abrahamson, silver butter knife, bread fork, and pickle fork; Mr. J. Binney, silver brush and comb; Mrs. Tozer, table centre and d'oyleys; Miss Oelrich, dressing case; Mrs. E. E. Hunt, sideboard cloth and pin cushion; Master H. Trewin, flower baskets; Mr. and Mrs. Price, flower epergne; Miss G. Palmer, ruby and silver jam dish; Mrs. Brown, lamp; Mr. C. J. Charlton, lamp; Mr. and Mrs. Albert Atkinsons, silver crumb tray; Mr. and Mrs. C. Sibly, silver butter dish; Mr. and Mrs. Evans and Miss Leach, ruby and

silver pickle jar; Mrs. Thorn, cushion; Mr. Chapman, silver butter dish; Miss Chapman, silver serviette rings; Mr. M. Muir, travelling clock; Mr. and Mrs. T. Trewin, butter knife and jam spoon; Mr. and Mrs. Finlay, egg cruet and bedroom bracket; Mrs. Williams (grandmother of bride) Dresden and Japanese tea set and tray; Mrs. Chapman, pillow cases and satchel; Mrs. Haddock (aunt of bride) silver mounted purse and prayer book; Mr. T. Powell, a beautiful chandelier lamp; Miss Mabel Trewin, lamp shade; Master W. Trewin, chatelaine bag; Miss Maud Trewin, ornaments; Master B. Trewin, frame; Mr. Willdeng (uncle of bridegroom), cheque.

From *KooWeeRup Sun and Lang Lang Guardian*, 7 Nov. 1951

## Pioneers Celebrate Golden Wedding

An enormous crowd packed the Bass Hall on the 6th ult. to celebrate Mr and Mrs W. O'Meara's golden wedding. The guests are among the oldest pioneers in the district and the celebration in their honor was a tribute to a life-long service of the district. Mr O'Meara married Miss Eliza Rosevear at San Remo 50 years ago, and were married by that well-known Anglican and pioneer clergyman, the Rev. Potter. Mr and Mrs O'Meara have a family of four children – Nola (Mrs Len Wilson, Kooweerup), Claire (Penshurst), Dorie (Mrs Handley, Mentone), and Jack (Melbourne). The chairman of the evening was Cr. Mackay, of Woolamai, who said he had known the guests of honor for over 30 years and that they were pioneers of the district. Mr O'Meara was one of a family of seven boys and five girls, and all of the boys were successful farmers. Four of them enlisted in the First World War and Len had paid the supreme sacrifice. Mrs O'Meara took a keen interest in the Red Cross and Soldiers' Auxiliary organisations. On behalf of the family Mr C. O'Meara presented his parents with a reading lamp and two-tier wedding cake. Mr Ted Yann acted as M.C., and music for the dancing was supplied by Orm Quinn's Wonthaggi Orchestra. At 11 p.m. a cheerio was put over the air by Dick Cranbourne, this being a kind thought of a friend, Mrs Harvey of Melbourne. Other speakers were Cr. Shackelford and Mr Yann. The function was one of the best experienced in Bass and was a splendid tribute for a memorable occasion.



From the *Powlett Express and Victorian State Coalfields Advertiser*, Friday 26 April 1918, page 3

## Our Soldiers Abroad.

(Re-paragraphed and punctuated for the sake of clarity)

Private Albert Williams, brother of Mrs. Schultz, Grantville, writing to his brother Norman, from Hurdcott, England, says:— "I am like old 'Johnnie Walker,' 'still going strong.'"

He gives an account of his doings and the various battles he has been in, and remarks, "You can call it the 'Memoirs of an Old Swaddie.'"

"After leaving Australia I proceeded to Egypt. Spent Xmas Day on the boat. We called at Colombo, and yours truly got ashore and had rides on the rickshaw, a small two-wheeled cart pulled by a coolie. You take your seat in the cart, and tell him to get, and he trots along like a horse.

"We went to Aden, and afterwards steamed through the Red Sea to the Suez Canal. There had been an attack by the Turks on the canal the night before, and we could see a few dead Turks lying along the banks.

"We stopped at Port Said one night, and then sailed to Alexandria, and took the train to Cairo, and marched to Abbassich. The distance from Alexandria to Cairo is about 100 miles, and the railway line runs along the valley to the Nile, one of the finest stretches of country in the world.

"We got to Mena camp, and there started the 'dinkum training.' Near the camps were the Pyramids, and in Cairo were some wonderful mosques. The Turks attacked the canal again, and had nearly all their men taken prisoners. We left Egypt about the end of March, 1915, for the Island of Lemnos, where we practised landings, etc. On April 24th we sailed for Gallipoli, and landed on April 25th, about 4 o'clock in the morning.

"After seeing a lot of action, and also knocking a few Turks over, we went to Cape Helles. One night the Turks attacked, blowing bugles and trumpets, and shouting 'Allah! Allah!' There was a full moon, and I got some line shooting at them, like 'moving possums.' I can safely say I accounted for a few.

"During the attack on Achi Baba I got wounded, and was shipped to Alexandria, and then to Malta. I saw all over the island. It is a very small place, nothing but rock. After convalescence I went back to Gallipoli.

"The 'Southland' was torpedoed when we were going over, and I saw her after she was hit. I came from Malta to Alexandria on her, and just missed going to Gallipoli in

the same boat. I stayed at Gallipoli till the evacuation.

"We had our Xmas dinner in Lemnos, and sailed to Egypt. We camped at Tel-el-Kebir, an old battle field in the Egyptian war of 30 years ago. We dug up many souvenirs in the old trenches. From there we went down the Canal, and made trenches, etc., to withstand an attack. I was transferred to the artillery.

"We left Egypt in June, 1916, and landed at Marseilles. We travelled by train via Paris to Le Havre, where we got our guns and went into action at Fleur Baix for the first time in France. The guns were on one side of the road, and we lived in a barn on the other side.

"The French people lived round the gun positions, and had crops growing nearly all the way up to the front line. It was while we were at Fleur Baix that the fifth division 'hopped over' and had all the casualties, about 9,000, a battle called Fromelles.

"In October we went down the Somme. That was the coldest winter I ever felt. There were about two feet of snow on the ground for a couple of months. The Australians had a lot of casualties on the Somme.

"Then Fritz evacuated and went back; we had to follow him. Our guns got bogged in the mud everywhere, but once we got past Baupaume we were in good country. We were in lots of scraps up there, Baumetz, Lagincourt (where Fritz came over after us, but came a 'guttzer'), Fleurs, Pozieres, Ginchy, before Fritz went back.

"We left the Somme in June, 1917, and trekked up to Belgium. We were in the first battle at Ypres in July 31, with the Scottish. Ypres was a fine town once, but was broken about with shell fire.

"The Australians came up later on and took Polygon Wood, and several different woods and villages which other troops tried time and again to take. Then the Canadians came up and went in at Passchendale Ridge, which they held.

"On October 4 there was a big stunt, and a fairly big advance was made, but the casualties in the artillery and infantry were very heavy on our side.

"I got gassed on November 3 and got to England, where I intend to stay as long as ever I can."

From the *South Bourke and Mornington Journal*, Wednesday 25 June 1879

## Meeting Of Local Bodies

# Phillip Island And Woolamai Shire Council

Saturday, June 21, 1879

Ordinary Meeting.—Present: Councillors West, T. Turnbull, Duffus, Misson, Norton, Kidd, and Monk.

Councillor West was voted to the chair.

### Correspondence

From Shire of Mount Rouse, re municipal association.—No action taken.

From Shire of Avoca, in reference to applications for roads, water reserves, etc., and submitting that the same should be notified to the Councils of Shires.—The Secretary was instructed to write to the Minister of Lands co-operating with the scheme advised.

From H. Harbison, asking for certain works on roads in Phillip Island.—Referred to Clerk of Works for report.

From Oriental Bank, asking to what extent the Council wished to anticipate their income.—The Secretary was instructed to state that the account would be in credit by September 30th, and the Council require a further overdraft of £130.

From Lands and Survey office refusing to open up the Bridge Creek reserve.—It was moved by Councillor Monk, seconded by Councillor Kidd, that the Secretary wait on the Minister of Lands and urge the matter further on his attention, and also explain matters to him.—Agreed to.

From H. Harmer, complaining of drain cut into his paddock at Corinella.—Received, and on the motion of Councillors Monk and Misson the Clerk of Works was instructed to examine and rectify any wrong done.

From H. Bergmeier, asking the Council to construct an outlet drain from Red Culvert.—It was moved by Councillor Misson, seconded by Councillor Kidd, that the Council enter into an agreement with Mr. Bergmeier to cut 10 chains of an outlet drain 6 feet wide for sum of £10, and payment made when funds are available.—Carried.

Mr. Sharp's and Mr. Duffus' request to bank up their fences by ploughing along side was granted.

It was moved by Councillor West, seconded by Councillor Misson, that the letter from Mr. R. Walsh re removal of fence at his corner be referred to members for the riding, together with the Clerk of Works for report.—Agreed to.

### Secretary's Report

The Secretary reported having conferred with Messrs. Anderson and Turnbull re exchange of road on Big Hill on Griffith's Point road, stating that Mr. Anderson was disinclined to allow so small a portion of his land to be severed, but would allow the Council to make a complete detour of the hill through his paddock.—The Secretary also stated that this offer would do away with the hill difficulty, and be the easiest and cheapest method of getting over the hill.—Adopted, and referred to the numbers of the riding for final report.

The sum of £6 was voted for pitching water channel, Cowes, and £1 10s. for repairing drain by Love's Eastern Point road.

The report of the Clerk of Works re McHaffie's road was postponed for three months.

Councillor Monk reported on road asked for at last meeting by Mr. T. Tulloch, and on the motion of Councillor Monk, seconded by Councillor Misson, the Secretary was instructed to get permission from the Lands Department to survey a road across the block formerly selected by Mr. McIlroy.

It was moved by Councillor Monk, seconded by Councillor Misson, that a letter be sent to the Commissioner of Customs showing what roads lead to old Grantville, with position of each, and the amount of traffic from them, and also suggesting that old Grantville be the proper place for the proposed jetty.—Agreed to.

Payments to the amount of £65 12s. 10d. were passed.

The tenders of S. Davies, contract 175, for £5 18s., and G. Walton, contract 176, for £5 7s., were accepted.

The following Councillors were appointed returning officers to conduct the annual elections in August next:—Phillip Island, Councillor West; Woolamai, Councillor Kidd; Corinella, Councillor Misson.

Councillor S. West gave notice of motion that he would bring on several important amendments in the Local Government Act at next meeting.

The Council then adjourned.

From the *South Bourke and Mornington Journal*, Wednesday 23 July 1879

## Phillip Island And Woolamai Shire Council

Saturday, July 19th 1879

Ordinary Meeting.—Present: The president (Mr. Mark Turnbull), Councillor West, J. Turnbull, Misson, Norton, Monk, and Kidd.

### Correspondence

From Ripon Shire Council, advocating differential Rates Bill, and placing the minimum rate of 6d. instead of 1s., as heretofore approval of, and steps taken to support the bill.

From C. Rowland, re boundary of Buln Buln Shire.—Referred to Mr. Muntz for report.

From Maffra Shire Council, re association of municipalities.—To lie on the table.

From F. A. Nowell, asking exchange of deviation road and re-survey of his business site.—Exchange to be made, and the Secretary to arrange with Mr. Murphy about the survey of the roads in question.

From Shire Councils of Dandenong and Huntly, submitting subjects for the proposed conference.

From the Unemployed Board, requesting information as to unemployed persons in the Shire.—The Secretary to forward return, stating that the development of the coal industry in this district would absorb hundreds of the unemployed.

Mr Walsh's request to cut drain along his fence was granted.

The report of the members for the Woolamai Riding on the deviation road through Mr. Anderson's property was read, stating that the money to be paid for the road with fencing and improvements would be better laid out on the present road, and they therefore decided to adhere to the old road.—Adopted.

The Secretary reported having waited on the district Surveyor in reference to the Bridge Creek reserves, and had received the reply that it would not be opened for traffic.

The Secretary was instructed to notify the Councillors of the Corinella Riding of a day of meeting to inspect the proposed road through McIlroy's, and also site for proposed bridge over Bass river.

The Clerk of Works reported on certain works on Phillip Island as requested by Mr. Harbison to be highly necessary.—Adopted; tenders to be called for the same at the end of the financial year.

The Clerk of Works reported small works necessary at Westaway, Corinella, and was

instructed to get them done. Payments to amount of £52 10s., were passed.

Mr. Norton was appointed Assistant Inspector of Fisheries for Phillip Island, and Mr. Crump for the main portion of the Shire.

The President called the attention of the returning officers to the fact that at the annual election in August next, a determination would have to be taken of the ratepayers whether the number of publicans' licenses are to be increased or not.

Mr. Caughey submitted an estimate for making drains and culvert near his property at Bass, and it was resolved that no present action be taken, but Mr. Caughey submit a fresh estimate with terms.

The Secretary presented a list of defaulting ratepayers in the Shire, and it was resolved that all defaulters be summoned forthwith.

Councillor West then brought on his motion re amendments in Local Government Act, and it was seconded by Councillor Norton that this Council take steps to submit the following amendments in the Local Government Act to the Government:—"That the Revision Court shall be held before two or more justices, in lieu of as present, before the Chairman and Councillors of the municipality, as provided in Section 80, Local Government Act 1874."—"That the words meeting days shall be substituted for the word meeting in 5th line of Section 59, Local Government Act."—"That any Councillor repeatedly using offensive or disorderly language, or otherwise conducting himself in an improper manner at any Council meeting shall be expelled by a majority of two-thirds of the Councillors present, at a special meeting called for that purpose."—Agreed to.

The Council then adjourned.

A boastful American had been admitted to heaven and was talking magnificently about Niagara Falls. A little old man near by sniggered at him.

"Perhaps, sir," exclaimed the annoyed American, "you don't think eight million cubic feet a second a lot of water? Might I ask your name?"

"Certainly," replied the other amiably; "it's Noah!"

*Koo Wee Rup Sun and Lang Lang Guardian* 8 Dec. 1927

From the *Weekly Times*, Saturday 18 May 1872, page 7

## The Coalfields of Victoria

(Re-paragraphed for the sake of clarity.)

The question whether there are payable coal beds in this colony is one which has agitated the public mind for several years past. Successive Governments have been asked to deal with the matter thoroughly and practically, so as to definitely answer the query, but with the exception of a survey party being sent out now and then to different parts of the colony where coal was supposed to exist, no real action was taken, until some time back a board, consisting of Mr. I Hodgkinson, of the Crown Lands Department, and Messrs. R. Brough Smyth and T. Couchman, of the Mines Department, were appointed to take evidence and report on the subject. The report of the board, which was presented to Parliament on Thursday evening, contains many interesting particulars.

To publish it in full would occupy more space than we have at our command, but a few facts gathered from it, and divested of its technical language, will doubtless prove interesting to our readers. Describing the areas occupied by the limestones, the upper palaeozoic rocks, and the formation in which seams of coal are found, the following figures are given:— Devonian — Bendoc and Bindi limestones, 70 square miles; upper palaeozoic, 3,519½ square miles, principally in Bindi, South Gipps Land, Mansfield, Merton, Bacchus Marsh, Ballan, Mount Macedon, Heathcote, Glenelg, and Mount Arpiles, and Mesozoic — 3,260¼ square miles, in Port Albert, Cape Patterson, French Island, Cape Otway, Wannon, and Mount Eliza.

In classing the rock formations in this manner the board have regarded convenience rather than accuracy, the age of some of the rocks being doubtful, but the arrangement sufficiently separates the coal-yielding strata from those rocks in which coal up to the present time, has not been found.

In Gipps Land only do they think rocks of undoubted Devonian age have been found, and they believe it not improbable that the Devonian limestone underlies the great area of upper palaeozoic rocks in South Gipps Land. They believe that the strata in which the coal seams occur in the districts of Cape Patterson, Bellarine, Geelong, Cape Otway, and Wannon are undoubtedly of mesozoic age, but fossils of plants, characteristic of the European coal-beds, are absent.

The board are also of opinion that the thick

and valuable seams of coal, now worked with profit in New South Wales, are of mesozoic age, and they do not think that any of the profitable seams are of palaeozoic age. Neither do they think that seams of coal, as thick and as persistent as those occurring in the lower mesozoic beds of new South Wales, will be found in many part of Victoria.

In examining the Cape Patterson coalfield, the board did not observe those thick well-bedded sandstones and homogenous shales which are characteristic of rich coal measures. The seams and the rocks associated with them are not persistent, but thicken in one place and thin out in another, so as to show that the aqueous forces which governed the distribution of the sand, silt, and mud composing the mass of the rocks were constantly changing when the strata were deposited.

“This peculiarity in the stratification,” say the board, “is noticeable in all the sections, and distinguishes these beds from those in countries where good seams occur. Nature tells the story of her work as clearly in the rocks and shales as in the seams of coal, and the geologist would never look for thick persistent seams in places where the sandstones and shales are thin, unequally bedded, and made up of materials indicating rapid changes in the currents which transported the materials composing them. We had abundant opportunities of noting these characteristics as we travelled on foot along the coast. It is true that coal seams are generally more persistent and more regularly bedded than the rocks which accompany them; but the stratification of the rocks is nevertheless an unfailing guide in determining the character of the seams.”

The most important seams of coal are those which crop out at Cape Patterson and Kilcunda. There are two at the former place, the Queen vein, 3ft. 6in. in thickness, and the Rock vein, 4ft. in thickness, and at Kilcunda the average measurement of coal is 23in., of which 15in. appear to be good, but the seam may improve as it is followed inland. These comprise all the seams of probable value on the coast.

Referring to the manner in which coal is sought for, the board say:— “As showing how

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*The Coalfields of Victoria (continued from Page 12)*

delusive are the results of boring operations, we may refer to the very thin seam at Griffith's Point, some 5in. in thickness, which, had it been struck at a great depth in some bore, would have been reported, because of its position, as of great thickness, and might have led to the useless expenditure of thousands of pounds."

In dealing with the matter of the cost of getting coal, the board present some very valuable statistics showing that very thin seams may be worked profitably under certain favourable conditions. At the Fallisole colliery, in Namur, the most of the working seams are only 2ft. thick, yet the the *[sic]* produce of coal is enormous, and in the neighbourhood of Bath, England, seams of from 12in. to 16in. are payably worked.

In New South Wales, at the mines of the Bulli Company, at Wollongong, where the depth of the seam is twenty-five fathoms, the total cost of raising the coal is 6s. per ton. The price delivered on board vessels at Newcastle is 8s. per ton, and the average price in Sydney is 12s. per ton. Besides taking evidence, the board themselves made calculations of the cost of bringing coal to Melbourne from such a seam as that at Kilcunda based on a taking out of 50,000 tons per annum, and they reckon it at 17s. 2d. per ton delivered in Hobson Bay.

The general price of coal in Melbourne now is £1 10s. per ton as far as regards householders, but the Government get it by contract for £1 3s. 10d. per ton, and the gas companies for £1 1s. per ton. Coal suitable for locomotives delivered at Sandridge is worth £1 1s. 6d. per ton. It appears that last year the quantity of coal imported to this colony exceeded 160,000 tons.

The cost of working the seams at Cape Patterson and at Kilcunda is thus mentioned by the board:—"The cost of working either the 'Queen vein' or the 'Rock vein' at Cape Patterson would be nearly the same as working a seam of good clean coal of 2ft. in thickness at Kilcunda. Timber would not be got so easily or so cheaply at Cape Patterson as at Kilcunda, and the transport of stores would, of course, be more expensive. Neither of the seams at Cape Patterson, it is to be understood, presents either 3ft. 6in. or 4ft. of clean good coal, according to the information which we have been able to collect, and therefore the cost of raising marketable coal would be enhanced by the necessity for diligent cleaning.

"Assuming, however, the coals could be

brought to grass a little cheaper than at Kilcunda, there is the difference in the price of carriage, owing to the increased distance from the shipping place. The examination made by the board of the coast in the vicinity of Cape Patterson leads them to believe that no safe or suitable site for the shipping of coal can be found there, in consequence of the coast being so open, and therefore exposed to gales and dangerous for shipping; but they believe a suitable shipping place might be found near Griffith's Point, distant about eighteen miles from Cape Patterson, and the cost of traffic between the two places they include in their estimate of 17s. 2d. for coal delivered in Hobson's Bay. They agree also that there is no engineering difficulty in the way of constructing a tramway from Cape Patterson to Griffith's Point via Kilcunda."

The board finally advise as follows:—"If a company should open a coal mine at Kilcunda, and construct a railway and a convenient shipping place, and actually produce and bring to market 50,000 tons of coal, the Government should thereafter resume the railway and shipping place, paying the company the actual cost of the same, which would probably not exceed £11,000.

"On these works being resumed, they would then be open for general traffic, including coals raised by others; but the charges imposed for carriage should be very low indeed for coals raised by the company at whose expense the railway and shipping place were originally constructed. If a branch railway should be constructed from Blue Mountain or Cape Patterson, the same conditions should be observed. The railway should be resumed after payment of the original cost of it, and every fair advantage in regard to the rates to be paid for carriage should be given to those by whose enterprise it was made."

With reference to the act authorising the Western Port Coal-mining Company to construct a tramway or railway from Kilcunda to Point Griffith in Western Port Bay, the board think that unless precautions are taken, the company will have a monopoly of the coalfields in the eastern district, and they consider that it will retard the development of the coalfields if any one company could refuse to receive coal for transit over the only practicable line in the district, or impose charges which would be prohibitory.

These are the most interesting features in the report on our coalfields. They show undoubtedly that coal exists here, and that in other parts

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*The Coalfields of Victoria (continued from Page 13)*

of the world thinner seams than we have are worked profitably; they show that even under the disadvantages of a first adventure the coal from the Cape Patterson and Kilcunda fields can be delivered in Hobson's Bay at 17s. 2d. per ton, and that the price of imported coal is considerably beyond that. The only question then that arises is, "have we sufficient enterprise amongst us to work the fields?"

From the *Age*, Tuesday 15 October 1901, page 5: The Phillip Island Crayfishers.

## Loss of the Melba

### Finding of Wreckage

San Remo, Monday.

As the crayfish boat Melba, which left Flinders on Friday with three men on board, viz., M. Cardella, A. Ingston, and a young Italian known as Frank, did not return at the usual time in the afternoon, fears were entertained for the men's safety. Messrs. Bergin and O'Shannassy left here on Sunday to search along Phillip Island beach, near the Nobbies rocks, where the boat is supposed to have been wrecked. They were joined by Messrs. Cleeland, Kenmon and Dunn, and a thorough search of the shore was made. The worst fears were confirmed, an oilskin jumper and stern sheet and rudder, evidently of the missing boat, were found. The coast is treacherous and rough, and it is unlikely that either the boat or the bodies of the unfortunate men will be washed ashore. The men hail from Flinders, and followed the occupation of crayfishing. It is supposed that during the operation of hauling up the pots a squall struck the boat and she capsized.

From the *KooWeeRup Sun and Lang Lang Guardian*, 13 September 1950.

## Train Smash At Nyora

Nobody was hurt when a rail motor, carrying 37 passengers from Leongatha to Dandenong, crashed into a goods train at Nyora on Tuesday morning. One truck of the goods train, which was heading for Wonthaggi from Nyora, was derailed and the rail motor was slightly damaged. Two later rail motor services on the line were cancelled, and rail travellers were carried by buses. A departmental inquiry will be held into the crash.

From *The Wonthaggi Sentinel and State Town Miner*, Saturday, June 25, 1910

## Meanwhile At Wonthaggi...

Messrs Guilfoyle and McRae have almost completed their large building in McBride Avenue. The building is 60ft. x 30ft., and will seat about 450 people. The walls are 11ft. high, and oregon principals have been used for the roof. The building was used for the first time last evening (a public meeting held there), and to celebrate the opening the owners intend holding a dance tonight. Dancing will be from 8 till 12p.m. Everyone invited.

Police Constable Cane has now established his quarters in Watt Street, on a site set apart for a police station. The site is an excellent one, but it is to be regretted that more comfortable quarters are not provided by the police authorities. A tent is being used as an office and sleeping quarters. As a "makeshift" in the past, a tent was, perhaps, the most convenient manner of housing the constable stationed here, but with the advent of the wet weather some better provision should have been made. The floor of the tent in question is of hardwood, and a glance inside will convince any reasonable person of its unsuitability for such a purpose. No difficulty should now be experienced in procuring a suitable building which would do duty as an office and sleeping quarters for the constable in charge.

"Don't look so downhearted, gentlemen," said the Minister for Mines when dismissing the deputation which waited on him on Friday evening last. "Wonthaggi will be one of the first cities in Victoria in twelve months time. I will be pleased to meet you at all times. Sorry I have no refreshment to offer." Members of the deputation are still wondering if their "legs were pulled."

The residents of Hicksborough and Dudley are notified that in future the "Sentinel" may be obtained from Mr. R. B. Whiter, of the Pioneer Store, to whom subscriptions may be paid.

The installation of the Capell fan at the State mine is being vigorously proceeded with, but a fortnight must yet elapse before the work is completed.

Visitors to Hicksborough should not fail to call at Broome House, where they may rely upon getting first-class meals and accommodation. The proprietress, Mrs A. A. Collins, personally superintends all arrangements.

# The Daly Murders

An account of the tragedy from two newspapers

From the *Age*, Wednesday 5 October 1910, page 9

## Appalling Tragedy

Double Murder And Suicide

The Bass Valley Sensation

Scene At The House

[From Our Special Reporter]

[Note: spelling of Charvell/Charville as per original]

The little settlement of Kernot, on the route of the newly opened Nyora-Powlett railway, was the scene of a ghastly tragedy on Saturday, the details of which were not known till yesterday, though some intelligence of the event reached Melbourne on Monday night. A family of three people — Mark Daly, his daughter Irene, and his son Blake Daly — were found dead in one room, all the circumstances going to show that the son shot his father and sister, and then turned the gun upon himself.

The scene of the dreadful affair is about a mile and a half from the railway. It is almost midway between Nyora and the new coal town, being some 14 miles from the former and 16 miles from the latter place. The nearest station is Kernot, with Woolamai three miles further on. The house where the Dalys lived lies in the Bass Valley country, half hidden by trees. A ring of low lying hills shuts it in on the left side, as one walks up from the railway station. All round are traces of bush over which fire has at one time swept. On the right and in front the house looks towards the sea. It is an isolated place, the nearest neighbors being three-quarters of a mile away. An orchard, that has fallen somewhat into disrepair, but in which apple trees are still in blossom, is part of the environments [*sic*]. The house itself is a six-roomed building, with a verandah in front and a smaller verandah at the back. There is a row of pine trees through openings in which is discernible the line of the sea, with Cape Wollamai [*sic*] in the distance.

The Dalys had lived here for close upon eight years. Mark Daly was a man of considerable property, owning between 200 and 300 acres of land, most of it of excellent quality. He had also a quantity of live stock, comprising cows, horses and pigs. He carried on the business of a dairy farmer, combining it with cereal growing. Since his wife died four or five years ago he had lived alone in the house with his

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From the *Argus*, Wednesday 5 October 1910, page 13

## Murder Of A Family

Father And Daughter Shot

Demented Son's Suicide

Woman Discovers Bodies

(By Our Special Reporter)

Nyora, Tuesday.—In the kitchen of a pleasant looking homestead a mile and a half from Kernot, on the way to Woolamai, lie the dead bodies of three persons, the author and victims of a triple tragedy. On the back door is the inscription "Police in charge" and near it a dog warns intruders not to approach. The bodies are those of Mark Blake Daly, aged about 70 years, Blake Daly, aged 20, his son; and Irene Florence Georgina Daly who would have been 17 years of age on Saturday, his daughter. In the homestead on Saturday night the son shot the father and sister with a double-barrelled breech-loading gun as the two were talking together at the ironing table, and then turning the weapon upon himself, ended his life. With three shots he had wiped out of existence all the members of that family. The time of the occurrence of the tragedy may be fixed by the statement of a neighbour, Mr. Emery, who lives a mile nearer Woolamai. At 9 o'clock on Saturday evening he heard the single report of a gun. He was astonished at its loudness. It sounded to him like the report of a small cannon, but as shots are no uncommon occurrence in the locality, he took no further notice. It may have been the sound of the shot with which Blake Daly ended his life some time after he had taken the lives of his father and sister.

It was the chance visit of an acquaintance which resulted in the discovery of the bodies. She was Mrs. B. Charville, who, with Miss Holmes, a young lady staying with her, had come to give a reason why a call on the Dalys on the previous evening had not been made. Turning the handle of the back door, she found it locked, and then, peeping through the window, she saw the dead form of the father stretched across the floor. Horrified by the discovery, she and the girl hurried to the house of a Kernot farmer, Mr. D. Watson. He, calling in the assistance of a neighbour, Mr. Thomas Caldwell, proceeded to the scene.

The eccentricities of the son were well known to these men, and not having heard

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*Appalling Tragedy (continued from Page 15)*

son and daughter, the former at the time of the tragedy being about 20 years of age, and the daughter 17. By the few neighbors who came in contact with them the father and daughter were greatly liked and respected, though the boy was looked upon as decidedly "queer." In fact, more than once during the past two years the father was asked to have his son taken care of away from home, so morose and melancholy did he seem to have become. Daly, senior, however, refused to act on the advice. As far as could be ascertained yesterday the last seen of the Dalys alive was on Friday morning. The father and daughter were passed by a police constable as they were driving into San Remo. The constable remarked that the girl wore a "nice dress," and had made herself look attractive for the outing.

The discovery of the bodies was made on Monday, about an hour before midday. Mrs. Charvell, the wife of a railway employe, living a mile and a half away, had occasion to call. She had with her a Miss Holmes of Melbourne. The two girls, Miss Holmes and Miss Daly had formed an acquaintance, and the latter had asked Miss Holmes (who was visiting at Mrs. Charvell's) to come to tea on Sunday. As it happened Miss Holmes was unable to keep the appointment. Next day, Monday, she walked over with Mrs. Charvell to explain matters. Arriving at the homestead they could see no one about. Entering at the back gate they walked up to the kitchen door, which was closed. Mrs. Charvell opened it—and immediately jumped back with a cry of horror. The young girl, who was just behind her, echoed the cry, not knowing the cause of it. "Good God," exclaimed the terrified woman, "Mark Daly's in there dead!" She saw only the body of the older man; in her terror and excitement she noticed nothing else. The two women waited for no more. They hurried back to their nearest neighbors, the Watsons. Mr. Watson, being joined by another neighbor, Mr. Caldwell, walked over to the house. The two men skirted round warily. They knew of young Daly's reputation for queerness, and they had apprehensions that if he were the author of the death in the house he might be lurking round somewhere looking for fresh victims. Finally they opened the kitchen door, and then the appalling nature of the tragedy presented itself.

The three dead bodies were lying prone on the floor. It was evident that Mark Daly had

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*Murder Of A Family (continued from Page 15)*

that his sister was dead, thought it probable that the girl was hiding from her brother. Skirting the house on the side opposite the kitchen, they went to the front, and saw that the window of her room was open. Looking in, they found some clothes upon her bed. In these she had dressed herself on the day before she was shot. Then they made their way into the kitchen, where the tragedy was revealed.

Three bodies, almost touching one another, lay in a pool of blood. The father's had fallen towards the fireplace, the girl's in a heap under the table, while the son's was immediately under the window. A gun had fallen by his side, and a butcher's knife lay between him and his father. The few articles which lay about told the story of the events which had preceded the tragedy. The girl had been preparing for some guests on the following evening, and on the table were some clothes which she had been ironing. One iron lay close at hand, another in the fireplace. Near by was the old man's pipe, while his boots were upon the floor, close to the solitary chair. Evidently he was thinking of retiring when the tragedy occurred.

When Blake Daly first appeared upon the scene nobody knows. Suddenly a shot was fired into the room, and the old man fell, struck in the back of the head. Almost immediately afterwards a second shot killed the girl. She was evidently in the act of turning to see what had been the fate of her father when she, too, received a charge in the back of the head. A window pane was broken; her brother had fired through the open space.

Entering the house, the young man removed the cartridge cases, and, placing them on the table, reloaded his gun. Then, stepping over the bodies, he took up a position near the window, and, tying a string to the trigger, took his own life. There was no doubt about his determination. An extra charge was in his pockets, but nothing more was needed to complete the terrible tragedy. The shot blew the top of his head off, and brains and blood were strewn against the window and wall in ghastly confusion. It was in this state that the gruesome discovery was made on Monday morning.

### The Discovery

The story of the discovery of the crime was told by Mrs. Charville. She said:—

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*Appalling Tragedy (continued from Page 16)*

been killed first. The full charge of shot had struck him in the back of the head, and he fell backwards, his face turned upwards to the ceiling. Lying near him, also with her face turned upwards, and with one arm thrown over her father's dead body, was the seventeen-year-old girl. From the position in which they had fallen there could be no doubt that the father received the first barrel, and that the girl who was ironing at the time, turned her head quickly to look at him, receiving the second charge herself. In all probability the shots were fired through the kitchen window, which was broken, the pieces of glass falling mostly inside. Then the murderer appears to have walked round to the kitchen door, to have entered, and closed the door after him. He deliberately reloaded his gun, and just as deliberately, having taken his stand beside the window near which lay the bodies, still warm, of his father and sister, pointed the muzzle at himself. When he was discovered the top of his head was blown off, and death must have been instantaneous [*sic*].

In no part of the house was there anything that showed traces of a struggle. Exactly when the shooting took place it is impossible to say. A neighbour, Mr. C. Emery, who lives about three-quarters of a mile distant, says he heard a shot at about 9.30 on Saturday night. It is highly probable that this was when the tragedy occurred, but it is rather singular, since three shots must have been fired, that only one was heard. A remarkable fact was that the two exploded cartridges with which Mark and Irene Daly had been killed were found lying on the table, beside the iron and the half ironed blouse, on which the luckless girl had been at work. Walking into the room where his victims were lying, young Daly took the trouble, before reloading, to place his spent cartridges on the table. The presence of the lamp close to the iron showed that the hour must have been after dark, Miss Daly, who was in the habit of attending the Bass Valley church, was ironing her blouse with a view to wearing it next morning. The tea things had been washed and put away. Nothing in the kitchen was in disorder. No tables or chairs were overturned, and no crockery was broken. There were only the bodies lying on the floor, the broken window pane, the spattered blood and the discharged shot gun to tell their own tale. One other circumstance was that the kitchen door had been carefully closed,

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*Murder Of A Family (continued from Page 16)*

“Miss Holmes, who is staying with me, and I had promised to go to Daly's to tea on Sunday evening. Miss Daly had been present at an evening at my place nearly a week before, and she desired Miss Holmes to call before she returned to Melbourne. We did not go, and the next morning we set out to explain the reason for our absence. I was surprised at the lonely appearance of the place, because I expected to see Irene come to the door and welcome us. The cows were bellowing near the house, which proved that they had not been milked, and the fuss they made caused me to wonder what was the matter. We went to the back of the house, which is the portion nearest our place, and I carried a letter, which I intended to put on the kitchen table for Irene. It was written to explain our absence, and I wrote it in case she was not home to hear our explanations. The door was locked, and I peeped through the window. Then I saw, stretched before the fireplace, old Mr. Daly, lying dead. I did not see the others, having really only peeped into the room, and did not wait to make further inquiry. I turned again, saying, “Oh! my Lord. I think that they are dead!” Miss Holmes screamed, and ran away. She never saw the bodies. We went to Mr. Watson's place to make known the tragedy. It was not the nearest, but I went there because Mr. Watson was an old friend of Mr. Daly. I said to him. ‘There is something wrong at Daly's,’ and then informed him of what I had seen. He called for his neighbour, and the two men went to the house, while Mr. Watson's son-in-law (Mr. Luke) rode off for the police. It was about 20 minutes past 10 o'clock on Monday morning when I made the discovery, and I did not know that the son and daughter were also dead until told by Mr. Watson that evening.”

### Author Of The Crime

The young man Blake Daly seems to have led a most unhappy life. Though provided with anything that he might require by a well to-do and generous father he was physically unable to appreciate happiness. As a lad he was looked upon as extremely clever. When a little boy he used to lend a hand with the plough and he soon proved himself to be possessed of considerable mechanical ability. “The self-made mechanic” was what the neighbours called him. He was sent to a boarding

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as though the murderer, bent on taking his own life after taking that of his relatives, had scrupulously shut it behind him.

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

### Mrs. Charville's Story

Mrs. Charville, who was the first to discover the bodies, told the story of her experience. Her house is on the other side of the railway line, about five minutes walk from the Kernot station. "We had promised Irene," she said, "that we would have tea with her on Sunday; but I was so busy that I could not go. On Monday I said I would walk over, and explain how it was, and get her to come back and have lunch with me. You see she was very much alone, with her father and brother out working. I had Miss Holmes with me, and we walked through the gate at the back and up to the house. I could see no one about. The cows were round the house; I could see they hadn't been milked over Sunday. I thought that was strange, and I wondered. I went up to the kitchen door and opened it. I saw Mr. Daly lying on the floor. I knew he was dead, and did not look any more. We were frightened, and hurried away as quickly as we could. I went to Mr. Watson's house and told him what I had seen. I knew Irene Daly, and liked her very much. She was a bright little thing—as bright as the brother was shy and reserved.

### The Victims

The murdered man, Mark Daly, was 69 or 70 years of age, and an old colonist. He came to Victoria from Ireland some 50 years ago, one of his oldest recollections, as he was in the habit of telling the neighbor, being the starting out of the Burke and Wills expedition in 1860. He had lived most of his life in the Bass Valley. More than 30 years ago he was following the occupation of a grazier at the scattered settlement of Bass, not more than five or six miles from where he met his death. Then he rented a grazing area on what is now the Powlett coal field. From there he removed to the Bluff,

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*Murder Of A Family (continued from Page 17)*

school in Melbourne, but was not there long before he became ill, and, at his own request, was brought home, and kept there. Though intellectually superior to many, he was more or less of a recluse, and early in life acquired a habit of solitude. After his mother died, about four years ago, he began to lead a life of almost perfect seclusion. Expert with the gun, he would set out on solitary shooting expeditions; but generally he was at home, attending to the cows and the fields. His father persisted in advising him of the value of scholastic education but he could never be persuaded to attend classes again. In order to increase his interest in material things the old man purchased a blacksmith's outfit but this was merely a momentary joy.

By degrees the look of sadness worn upon the face became more distinct, and the desire to free himself from society became the more apparent. The father and daughter would go visiting, but the son would stay at home, occasionally in complete possession for days at a time. Neighbours began to whisper that "young Blake was not quite right in his head." The father called in a medical man, and was advised to allow his son to undergo treatment, but the son refused to leave him, and was allowed to stay. About two years ago, his mental condition became worse, and he suddenly demonstrated a hatred of his father, while it is said that he had told people that his sister was trying to poison him. Like her father, the girl did much to make her brother's life more pleasant. A few months since it was his 20th birthday. His sister asked some friends to the house, but when they assembled he refused to enter the room in which they were. Despite his temperament, young Daly was given credit for doing his work thoroughly. He milked the cows, and did the hard work of the place generally, and neighbours say he did it well.

### Scene Of The Tragedy

The house which has been the scene of an appalling tragedy is a comfortable looking wooden structure, built nearly in the centre of about 220 acres of land, which comprised the property. From either the front or back it bears an inviting appearance. Immediately in front and on either side are fruit trees of different classes, some of which are in blossom, and a big cabbage-patch helps to give the place a homely atmosphere. A hawthorn hedge

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and later owned an area of 610 acres adjoining what is now the Kernot railway station. He sold this to advantage, and seven or eight years ago purchased the property of 200 or more acres on which he met his death. Since the death of his wife, who was a Miss Georgina Kidd, daughter of a Bass Valley resident, he had lived rather a secluded life. He was regarded, however, as a companionable man, and there is a consensus of opinion as to his unflinching kindness to his son and daughter. These were his only children. He leaves an unmarried sister, who resides at Brighton, and has also a brother in Melbourne.

The daughter Irene was a bright, pleasant girl, who would have been 17 years old this month. Sympathy for her is universal in the district. She was a fearless rider, and latterly was to be seen at dances and social gatherings in the neighborhood. She had been to school in Melbourne, and was for three years educated at a convent in Kyneton. The solitary life she led since her mother's death, with no girl companions in the house or within a mile of it, had not affected the natural buoyancy of her health and spirits. That she was fond of flowers the garden in front of the house testified—a garden that she tended almost unaided, the father and brother having their hands full with the work of the farm. A solitary red geranium bloomed on the front verandah during the three days that the unburied bodies lay within. It was a mute witness to the care the solitary girl had bestowed upon it and one that few people who visited the house of tragedy yesterday could look upon unmoved.

The third victim, and chief actor in the tragedy, Blake Daly, was, as already mentioned, a youth of an unhappy and apparently dwarfed disposition. Until he was about seventeen years of age he is said to have been particularly bright and intelligent. It was only during the last year or two that a marked change for the worse took place. He became morose, shy, and as several of the neighbors remarked, "queer." His father, wished some years ago to send him to school to Melbourne, but he is said to have refused to go. So strange was his demeanor latterly, that the few close friends in the district of the Daly family advised the father to have him looked after. "I have never seen anything so queer as the looks he used to give his father" was the remark made yesterday by a lady living within a mile or two of the Dalys. That

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also serves the purpose of a shelter from the wind and an adornment of the property. At the rear of the main building are a well-appointed dairy and large shed. Past the front garden two paddocks give proof of the fertility of the soil. Here are about 20 acres of healthy-looking oats. There are six rooms, three of which were used as bed-rooms. The others were a parlour, kitchen and storeroom. In the kitchen, where the tragedy occurred, a table and chair comprised the only furniture, but the main rooms were comfortably furnished. The property is prettily situated in the Bass Valley, a mile and a half from the Kernot railway station. The winding Bass River separates it from the nearest neighbour, about a quarter of a mile away, but, though other people live within a distance of a mile, the place is secluded. This seclusion offers a complete explanation of the tardy discovery of the tragedy.

### The Family's History

Mark Blake Daly was the possessor of property worth about £3,000, exclusive of horses and cattle, with which the farm was well stocked. Dairying was his chief vocation, but since the establishment of the railway he had given attention to mixed farming, with profitable results. He came to Victoria from Ireland when 21 years of age, and lived at Lang Lang before buying the Bass Valley property from Mr. J. Evans. He had been in occupation for about seven years. A brother and a maiden sister still survive him. His wife predeceased him by four years. She was Miss Georgina Kidd, daughter of the late Mr. Kidd, of Bass. One sister, Mrs. N. Ryan, of Wilcannia, New South Wales, and a brother are the only surviving members of the family.

Irene Florence Georgina Daly seems to have been a particularly interesting girl. She was educated at the Kyneton Convent, and a keen interest in it is still maintained, for a letter addressed to the Rev. Mother was found in her room. She left the convent about two years ago to perform the housekeeping for her father and brother, and, though very young, showed a remarkable aptitude for the work. She possessed the manners of a young, vivacious girl. She was light complexioned and short of stature, with a pleasant and always humorous face. Neighbours say that since she took up the duties of housekeeper the place was kept extremely clean, and she

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*Appalling Tragedy (continued from Page 19)*

the unfortunate lad would develop homicidal tendencies does not, however, seem to have been suspected by any one, nor was anything done to keep the gun, with which he was an expert shot, out of his reach.

### Bodies Await Burial

Though news of the event reached Melbourne on Monday afternoon, the formalities necessary to allow of the bodies being removed were slow of performance. The members of the unfortunate family lay where they had fallen throughout Sunday, Monday and the greater part of yesterday. A neighbor, Mr. Watson, undertook the office of watcher over the house, in the hope that when the Melbourne train arrived yesterday there would be on board either the Coroner or someone representing him. Neither one nor the other, however, appeared, and up to 1 p.m. there was no police representative on the scene. There was much indignant comment among residents of the district at the bodies being allowed to remain untended and unseparated so long.

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From the *Age*, Thursday 12 August 1909, page 5

## Post Office Business Methods

To The Editor Of The *Age*.

Sir,—On behalf of the guarantors of a telephone line to Corinella we would kindly ask you to publish the following facts to show the lax way the business of the General Post Office is carried on:—I wrote on 21st and 28th July to the Deputy Postmaster General complaining about the way the line has been constructed; also about the overcharges. On page 387 in the "Postal Guide" it says—Melbourne to Grantville, 66 miles. The charge list sent to the post mistress here says Grantville to Corinella, 6 miles, which makes 72 miles. The Postal department says it is 77½, and charge 1/4 for a conversation, which is decidedly wrong. On the list sent to the post mistress it says San Remo to Newhaven, 9½ miles; the distance is about a mile. All the distances from Corinella to Bass, San Remo, Newhaven and Cowes are wrong. Complaints to the department on the subject remain unanswered. A private business carried on the same way would soon go insolvent. I think it is scandalous, to say the least of it.—Yours, &c.,

9th August.

H. Hughes.

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took pride in keeping it so. The parlour, which had been got ready for the Sunday guests, bore the thoroughness of the girl's work. The old-fashioned furniture and articles of adornment seemed to have fallen into their proper place. She was the one member of the household who played the piano there, and a book, by Henry Harland, "My Friend Prospero," lying on the table, showed her to have some literary taste.

### The Inquest

A report from Constable M'Kay, of Grantville, embodying the circumstances of the tragedy for the information of the coroner, was received yesterday at the Morgue. The coroner (Dr. Cole) and Dr. Mollison (Government pathologist) went yesterday afternoon to the scene of the tragedy, and the inquest will probably be held this morning at Woolamai. Mr. D. Watson has been placed by the local police in charge of the house where the tragedy took place. Pending the arrival of the coroner, the bodies will not be removed.

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From the *Age*, Thursday 6 March 1919, page 5

## Epidemic At Wonthaggi

Wonthaggi.—Dr. Sleeman, health officer, and Dr. Jelbart met the hospital committee and members of the borough council on Wednesday in reference to the influenza epidemic. Both gentlemen reported that the disease is on the increase, and that they had at least 30 patients who should be in hospital if there was any accommodation for them. If all the places where there were cases were quarantined, nearly half the town would be closed. Subsequently it was decided that the mayor, Cr. Dowling, and Mr. M'Mahon, representing the hospital committee, should proceed to Melbourne on Thursday morning and request the Premier and the Minister of Health to grant the use of the State school as an additional temporary hospital, and to provide the necessary nursing staff. The isolation tents at the hospital, where the influenza patients are confined, were flooded on Tuesday night. Dr. Robertson, chief health officer, was telegraphed to by Dr. Sleeman on Wednesday, and asked if it was intended to lift the regulations in Wonthaggi. In Dr. Sleeman's opinion the regulations should not be lifted at the present time. The second death from influenza at the hospital occurred on Wednesday.