

# The Western Port Times

## Grantville & Districts

Volume 4 Number 7

FREE

November 2021

### Contents:

#### Local and General News

From the *San Remo Times*, February 1896.

on Page 3

#### A Painful Accident

While working on a house in 1904.

on Page 4

#### Phillip Island and Woolamai Shire Council

An account of the 26 November 1881 Council meeting.

on Page 5

#### A Phonograph Entertainment

In 1906 this new technology was a hall-filling form of popular entertainment.

on Page 5

#### Wedding Bells

At Glen Alvie in 1918. A local girl is marrying an Irishman.

on Page 6

#### Sad Fatality at Lang Lang

A fatal lightning strike at the Lang Lang State School.

on Page 6

#### Obituary Notice

William Denis Coghlan's life was short but interesting.

on Page 7

#### Sad Accident

A short report on a 1903 riding mishap.

on Page 7

#### Coal Miners' Wages Board

Too much variation in wages for the same amount of work leads to calls for a wages board.

on Page 8

#### Road Maintenance Work

Another complaint about the state of the roads. This one from 1925.

on Page 8

#### The Mine Officials

Allegations of corruption at the State mine.

on Page 9

#### Extraordinary Feat By A Horse

If there was an animal Olympics, this horse would be on the swimming team.

on Page 10

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.

\* \* \*

#### Bass District

News, opinion and gossip about the area in 1886.

on Page 10

#### Powlett Plains Mystery

Who is James Tiernan? Where is he? The police are investigating.

on Page 11

#### Obituary: Dr. R. H. Cole

The death of the former coroner who retired to Queensferry.

on Page 12

#### The Wigan Company

The Corinella Coal Mining Company's deadly rival?

on Page 13

#### Phillip Island Bird Killers Fined

Mutton birds have long been protected, but not everyone respects the ban.

on Page 15

#### Lunatic At Large

A disturbed young man vanishes in the bush near The Gurdies.

on Page 15

#### Gigantic Earthworms

Everything you ever wanted to know about Gippsland's giant earthworms.

on Page 16

#### News From the Powlett

Namely Archie's Creek, Ryanston and future Dalyston in May 1902.

on Page 17

#### Priest's Motor Car Aids Firefighters

As transport, not as a firefighter.

on Page 20

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

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

**Links to other historical groups**

Bass Valley Historical Society: [www.facebook.com/groups/bassvalleyhistoricalsociety](http://www.facebook.com/groups/bassvalleyhistoricalsociety)

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: <http://inverlochhistory.com/>

Also: [cv.vic.gov.au/organisations/inverloch-historical-society/](http://cv.vic.gov.au/organisations/inverloch-historical-society/)

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: [wonthaggihistoricalsociety.org.au/](http://wonthaggihistoricalsociety.org.au/)

Wonthaggi Genealogy Inc.: [secretary@wonthaggienealogy.org.au](mailto:secretary@wonthaggienealogy.org.au)



From the *San Remo Times and Phillip Island and Bass Valley Advertiser*, 21 February 1896, page 2

## Local and General News

On Tuesday last the annual picnic in connection with the Grantville Sunday School was held at Corinella. The children, accompanied by teachers, parents, and friends, were driven there in vehicles of various kinds, and in spite of the extreme heat, all, old as well as young, appeared to thoroughly enjoy the day's outing.

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

The Grantville Racing Club intend holding a meet on the 24th May (Queen's Birthday), for which it is anticipated that good entries will be forthcoming. It is expected that the races will be well attended, as this is the winding-up meet of the season.

His Excellency the Governor and Lady Brassey intend visiting Korumburra shortly to view the coal mines. Could not they be induced to pay a visit to Cowes and San Remo in their yacht [*sic*] Sunbeam.

Bush fires have been raging in the surrounding districts during the past few days. A large fire broke out on French Island and others at Bass, Fernhill, Blackwood, and near Grantville. We have not heard of any serious damage being done beyond the destruction of a few hundred acres of grass.

Mr Wetzell, of Grantville, is proving himself an adept in the art of painting, his latest production is a view taken from the rear of the schoolhouse, Queensferry.

Mr Hackett, of Newhaven, has the best average crops of onions in the district. He had only a few perches of land planted when the average was taken. It amounted to 25 tons to the acre, and the average weight being 1 $\frac{3}{4}$  lbs to each onion. We have two of the onions on view at this office weighing two pounds each.

Also

From the *San Remo Times and Phillip Island and Bass Valley Advertiser*, 28 February 1896, page 2

For two or three weeks past the railways have been drawing their supplies of coal almost entirely from the Outtrim mine, which, with the completion of the railway, has been enabled to command an output of 500 tons a day. The contract with the department

stipulates for a supply of 300 tons a day; but as a matter of fact the quantity supplied has been nearer 400 tons a day during the past few weeks in consequence of the supply from another source having failed. Already the Outtrim mine has proved its capacity for supplying almost any quantity required by the railways, and in addition to carrying out the large contract with the department, it is expected that a good and cheap supply will be offered to private consumers during the coming winter. As to the quality of the coal the railway experts express themselves more than satisfied. It has been used on all classes of trains, including the express and suburban trains, and the results attained have in every way equalled the [*sic*] achieved when the Newcastle coal was being used, whist [*sic*] the saving in cost to the department has already been very appreciable.

Another dispute at the Coal Creek mine at Korumburra [*sic*], on Saturday, has resulted in the men in the shaft, numbering about 60 ceasing work. It appears that the manager Mr Hardwick, offered the men a price per ton for hewing which they declined to accept. Negotiations so far have failed to bring about a settlement, and work is consequently stopped pending further arrangements.

A farewell cricket match is to be tendered to Mr Griffith to-morrow, on the Kilcunda racecourse. Mr Griffith may be truly termed the father of local cricket and is well known as secretary and captain of the Wonthaggi Club.

The committee of the Mechanics Institute, Grantville, intend holding a concert and ball on the 19th of March (Show Day), in aid of the funds of the institute. The concert programme is long and varied, and should command a full house. First class music will be provided together with refreshments. Admission 2s 6d double tickets.

Mr. J. Hoddinott informs our readers, by an advertisement, that he will receive tenders for the erection of a woolshed, &c., at Oak Hill Park.

The Glee Club of Grantville, under the able leadership of Mr Read, of Queensferry, has lately given a great deal of pleasure to the music-loving portion of the people in the districts. It was got up to assist in making the Grantville bazaar a success, and has proved so useful that a general wish has

(continues on Page 4)

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

been expressed that it should be continued. Through its agency the moral tone of our local concerts might be raised considerably.

Our new constable at Grantville, Mr Walsh, is an enthusiast for musical bands, and thinks that Grantville and district could raise a really first-class fife-and-drum band. He is willing to teach all who are likely to join in getting up a band, and really, among all the musical young men of the district, there should be no lack of support. The cost would be a mere bagatelle, and all those social gatherings tend to make life, especially country life, pleasanter. In the country we are so apt to stagnate that all matters of this kind should receive the fullest encouragement.

The want of a Public Hall is much felt at Bass. Hitherto, all entertainments have been held in the local schoolhouse, but that building is much too small for a public gathering. Possibly, in the year 1896, steps will be taken to have one erected.

What is the average age of the horse? Possibly some of the readers of this journal can tell, also the authenticated maximum age. Mr Emmerson, of Bass, has just lost an old pensioner named Snider at the ripe age of 45. He was bred by the father of Mr Purves, Q.C., the famous barrister.

The Imperial gun-boat Karakatta has been lying at anchor off Cowes since Monday night. She is bound for Sydney from Melbourne.

On Tuesday evening a meeting of the Cowes sports was held to consider the letter received from the secretary of the San Remo Regatta and Sports, asking the Cowes committee to reconsider the day they had selected to hold their sports. In answer to the above request, the committee decided that as they had held their meeting and arranged the day of their sports before the San Remo Regatta committee had held a meeting, they could not see their way clear to postpone the holding of their sports on Easter Monday.

A meeting of the Cowes Board of Advice was held on Thursday evening for the purpose of making arrangements for the annual school picnic, to be held about the middle of March. The teachers and members of the board will carry out the arrangements, fuller particulars of which will appear in our next issue.

Mr A. Findlay, of Cowes, has bought the bakery business of Mr W. Rodda, and intends delivering bread all over the island.

We have to record the death of Mr Brown, of the Bass sawmills, on Friday last. The remains of the deceased gentleman were interred in

the Grantville Cemetery on Monday.

The close season for quail terminates on March 1st, when the knights of the trigger will have an opportunity of [*sic*] obtain a bag or two of these plump little birds.

We believe that Mr Pain's [*sic*] property on the Deep Creek has been sold to Mr George at a very satisfactory figure.

Another boat-race is to take place to-morrow at San Remo, when the following boats will compete:—Mr T. Bergin's Wanderer, lately owned by Lady Brassey; Mr J. Cleeland's Fly; Mr Kennon's Hetty; Mr Elliott's Nancy Lee; and the well-known Dart, owned by Mr Randles.

Mr Richardson has completed his contract in connection with the Cowes jetty within a week less than the specified time, and, to all appearances, the work has been executed in a highly satisfactory manner.

Lord and Lady Brassey visited Korumburra on Wednesday, and attended the show held there on that day. During his visit His Excellency performed the opening ceremony in connection with the Roman Catholic Bazaar. They also paid a visit to the Coal Creek Company's mine, from which Lord Brassey ordered a few trucks of Coal for his yacht Sunbeam.

We beg to draw the attention of our readers to an advertisement which appears in our columns [*sic*] announcing that Mr George Howell, of the Powlett River Hotel, Powlett River, intends to make application to the Licensing Court, to be held at the San Remo Court on the 13th day of March, for a Victualler's Licence.

*From The Western Port Times and Phillip Island and Bass Valley Advertiser, 20 May 1904, page 2.*

## A Painful Accident

A painful accident happened to Mr James Diaper on Friday morning last. He was working on a building at Mrs Kennedy's, Grantville, and was pairing [*sic*] off a piece of wood with a inch and a half chisel when it slipped cutting his left hand below the thumb, severing one of the arteries. The bleeding could not be stopped so he was driven to San Remo where Dr Manly, on examination, found he had to cut the wound deeper to take up the arteries, after which the cut was stitched up. He is now getting on favourably, and in a few days will be able to resume work.

---

**SMALL Cushions, nice colours, only 7/6. McLeod's, Kooweerup.**

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From the *South Bourke and Mornington Journal*, Wednesday 30 November 1881

## Shire of Phillip island And Woolamai

Saturday, 26th November, 1881.

Present: Councillors H. F. Norton (president), West, Duffus, Aldridge, Kidd, and Delaney.

The minutes of the ordinary and adjourned meetings were read and confirmed.

In reply to Councillor West, the President stated that Mr Hickey's guarantee policy had not been received.

### Correspondence

From W. Jack, forwarding renewal receipt for G. C. Crump's guarantee policy.

From Arthur Misson, stating that there was an extra of £1 on his contract. From the Exchange, Melbourne, referring to map forwarded, for which the thanks of the Council were to be tendered.

From D. C. Harris and John A. Brock, forwarding rates.

From W. Salmon, asking the Council to supplement rates to be paid in advance to be expended on a road and bridge.

From Secretary to Tariff Commission enclosing circulars.

From E. S. Symonds, on the subject of loans.

From Deaf and Dumb Institution asking for subscription. Postponed till annual vote.

From F. Bauer, asking permission to dig drains. Granted subject to the supervision of the Clerk of Works.

From Duncan McKenzie, stating that the only road to his place had been fenced across.—Referred to the Crown Lands Bailiff for report.

From Mrs. King, asking the Council to clear ti-tree in front of her property.—Referred to the members of the Riding.

Applications for works to be performed in Corinella, Bass, and Woolamai, were referred to Clerk of Works for report thereon.

Payment to E. Dwyer £1 was passed.

On the motion of Councillor Delaney plans, &c., for bridge over Upper Bass River were ordered to be submitted at the next meeting of the Council.

On the motion of Councillor West tenders were to be called for clearing near Mr Fowler's at Newhaven.

On the motion of Councillor Norton, his notice of motion with reference to baths at Cowes, was postponed. Works at Bridge Creek, Woolshed Creek.—Referred for report of Clerk of Works.

Tenders were ordered to be called for clearing on Griffith's Point road and fence

protection at Bury's bridge.

On the motion of Councillor Kidd the bridge near the Nobbies was ordered to be widened, and fencing erected at once, by private contract, at price agreed upon by Councillor West and Clerk of Works.

Notices of motion were handed in for works at Bass Bridge, clearing and gravelling at Griffiths Point.

The Secretary was instructed to notify Mr. Wood at Cowes to remove timber from drain opposite his allotment No. 6, in the Centre road and to fill up earth already removed, and that he may erect a proper crossing over the drain to the satisfaction of the Clerk of Works.

### Adjourned Meeting

Present: Councillors H. F. Norton (President), West, Duffus, Kidd and Aldridge.

Letter received from Insurance Company re Hickey's guarantee. The Secretary was instructed to forward premium and complete the contract under seal of the Council.

On the motion of Councillor West, advertisements to be inserted in the local papers that—"Applications would be received on the 24th December at the Shire Offices from persons willing to undertake a valuation of the Shire, such valuation to be laid upon the table not later than on the 23rd February next, for the remuneration of £30.

The Secretary was instructed to advertise in the local papers "That unless all outstanding rates were paid forthwith they would be sued for."

From the *South Bourke and Mornington Journal*, Wednesday 12 December 1906, page 3: Almurta

## A Phonograph Entertainment

On Friday last, a phonograph entertainment was held at Almurta in aid of the funds of the Methodist Sunday School. It had been deemed advisable on two occasions to postpone this entertainment, and it was now held at very short notice, the result being that the Methodist Church could have held a much larger audience than assembled. Mr J. Johnston manipulated the instrument, which was an excellent one, and gave great satisfaction; and he also sang two songs, which were much enjoyed.

From the *Advocate*, Saturday 5 October 1918, page 24

## Wedding Bells

O'Sullivan - Green

(Re-paragraphed for the sake of clarity.)

A very interesting and pretty wedding was celebrated on Monday, September 16, at Glen Alvie Catholic Church. The bridegroom was Mr. Michael John O'Sullivan, youngest son of John O'Sullivan, of Inchigeela, County Cork, Ireland, who came from Ireland some years ago. The bride was Miss Catherine Ellen Green, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. M. Green, "Pleasant View," Glen Alvie.

Nuptial Mass was celebrated by Rev. Fr. O'Connor, of Dalyston, the marriage ceremony being performed immediately before Mass. The bride, who was given away by her father, wore a pretty frock of ivory crepe-de-chine, trimmed with Malines lace.

The usual wreath and handsomely hand-worked veil (kindly lent by Mrs. Bailey, Tasmania) were also worn, and a bouquet of white lilies was carried. A white satin horse-shoe was placed on the bride's arm by Miss L. Greaves.

The bridesmaid was Miss Maggie Green, sister of the bride, who was prettily attired in cream. The best man was Mr. Michael Green, jun. The bridegroom's gift to the bride was a gold crescent and pearl brooch, and to the bridesmaid a handsome gold bar brooch.

The church was most artistically decorated for the occasion by Miss A. McNamara, Glen Alvie. After the ceremony the large number of guests drove to "Pleasant View," the home of the bride's parents, where a sumptuous wedding breakfast was served. At the conclusion, the chairman (Rev. Fr. O'Connor) asked the assembled guests to drink to the toast of the "Bride and Bridegroom."

Fr. O'Connor said it gave him great pleasure to preside at gatherings of that kind. He liked to see the boys and girls getting married and settling down on the land. Married life gave them a greater love for home, a deeper interest in their future lives, and would conduce in a remarkable way to their greater happiness. In speaking of the bridegroom, who was an Irishman, Fr. O'Connor said it was a coincidence that the bridegrooms at the two marriages he had in this parish already were Irishmen, and he had no doubt that the bridegroom on this occasion would prove creditable to his adopted country.

Speaking of the bride, he said it was enough to say she was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. M.

Green to know whom was to love them. He was consoled to know that the bride was not leaving the parish, but settling down amongst them. He wished the bride and bridegroom every happiness, success, and prosperity in their new home, and in achieving that they would be partaking of the blessing they had well merited.

The bridegroom suitably responded to the toast.

Cr. Walker, in proposing the toast of the "Bride's Parents," bore testimony to the goodness of Mr. and Mrs. M. Green, as good neighbours, in whose lives there was always a true and honest ring. He had known them for 27 years, and no better neighbours he would care to have. As for the bride, he had known her since she was a child, and all he could say was that Irishmen were good judges in selecting good girls.

Mr. T. Green responded. Mr. Greaves proposed the toast of "The Bridesmaid," which was responded to by Mr. M. L. Green, jun. Messrs. R. Balderson, J. Payne, and P. O'Halloran endorsed the remarks of the previous speakers, and they were responded to by Mr. J. Green and Mr. M. Green, sen. Cr. Walker proposed the toast of "The Chairman," and Fr. O'Connor suitably responded.

Later, the happy couple were motored by Cr. Walker to Almurta station, en route for Melbourne, where the honeymoon was spent. The bride travelled in a smart cream costume, with cream felt hat. Many handsome and valuable presents were received.

From *KooWeeRup and Lang Lang Guardian*, 30 January 1936

## Sad Fatality At Lang Lang

A few hours after the Lang Lang State School was re-opened on Tuesday morning, Geoffrey Ridgway, aged eight years, was killed by lightning in the school grounds. Ridgway was a son of Mr George Ridgway, of Lang Lang. He was playing with other pupils at the rear of the school building about 1.15 p.m., when a severe flash of lightning, which was accompanied by a terrific burst of thunder, struck a tree near the boys. Passing from the tree, the lightning struck Ridgway, and he collapsed. Death, apparently, was instantaneous. Resuscitation methods were applied unavailingly for more than an hour and a half. The dead boy's elder brother, Bruce, and Keith Lawrence, who were examining a bicycle in the shelter-shed five yards away, suffered shock, and Bruce Ridgway was taken to a private hospital for observation.

From *South Bourke and Mornington Journal*, 6 March 1901

## Obituary Notices.

(Re-paragraphed for the sake of clarity.)

The funeral of the late Mr. William Coghlan, of the Shamrock Hotel, took place on Sunday last, the place of interment being the Dandenong Cemetery.

The death of Mr. Coghlan came as a great shock to his large body of friends, as, after a very short illness he succumbed to that dreaded scourge typhoid fever. For a few days prior to his removal to St. Vincent de Paul's Hospital on the 18th ult. he appeared to be in fair health, but after that date alarming symptoms developed, and on the advice of his medical attendants he was hurried off to the institution named.

For a day or two afterwards he appeared to have a good chance of recovering, but on Wednesday morning last Mrs Coghlan received warning that the end was approaching and hastening away, was in time to attend him in his last moments, the end occurring at half past nine on the evening of the same day, deceased passing away calmly and peacefully as in a sleep.

Deceased had with his family but recently settled in Dandenong having been previously engaged in pastoral pursuits in the Grantville district, but the length of the funeral cortege identified to the respect he had attained and the friends he had made during his sojourn in Dandenong, and [word unclear] sympathy is extended to his widow and family.

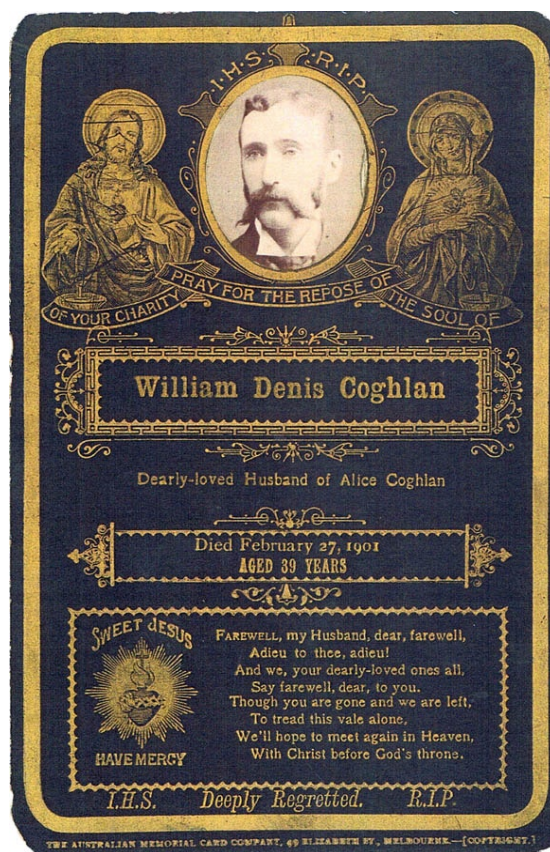
Born in the Warrnambool district, deceased, with his people, farmed the well-known "Dollarburn Estate" for a number of years with great success. Afterwards he went into the Blue Post Hotel, in Little Collins street Melbourne, where for a time he conducted that well known house in a manner such as to greatly enhance the value of its goodwill. From there he went to Glengarry, and as host of the Shamrock Hotel by his courteous and unassuming disposition, he made a host of friends.

He then settled in the Grantville district, where he married the third daughter of Mr. John Payne. For four years he conducted the Grantville Hotel, and also engaged in farming, having bought a block of 300 acres.

About six months ago he acquired the lease of the Shamrock Hotel, Dandenong and it was there that typhoid seized him, and from which the best attainable medical skill could not save him.

The funeral moved from his late residence at 2 o'clock on Friday afternoon, preceded by the Rev. Father Barry, who conducted the burial ceremony. In front of and flanking the hearse marched members of the Foresters' Lodge, of which the deceased was a member, after which came two mourning coaches containing relatives followed by a long train of vehicles and horsemen. The funeral arrangements were in the hands of Mr. Daly, who carried them out in a satisfactory manner.

Beautiful flowers covered the coffin, made up in various designs, and which were reverently laid upon the sod which covered deceased by mourning relatives. The pall-bearers were members of the lodge, and the coffin was conveyed from the hearse to the grave on the shoulders of the brethren.



From *The Western Port Times and Phillip Island and Bass Valley Advertiser*, 30 October 1903, page 2.

## Sad Accident

On Friday last an accident happened to the young daughter of Mr. A. J. Blake of Bass Park. Whilst out riding her pony she was thrown, her foot caught in the stirrup and she was dragged for about 100 yards before she was relieved from her perilous position. When picked up was found to be unconscious and remained so until Saturday evening, but we are glad to state she is progressing favourably.

From the *Wonthaggi Sentinel and State Town Miner*, Friday, September 30, 1910, page 2

## Coal Miners' Wages Board

Vide Hansard

(Re-paragraphed for the sake of clarity.)

Mr Murray—On the 10th August last the total number of men employed at the State coal mine was 862, and the average amount earned was 10s 4d. The number of males at work over twenty one years of age was 459, and their earnings on the average amounted to 8s 9d. There were thirty-seven under twenty-one years of age employed at 6s a day. The number of miners working under the hewing rate was 366 and their average was 12s 9d.

The appointment of a Board has been asked for by 404 miners on the Powlett coal-field who presented a petition to Parliament; by petition from eighteen miners formerly employed at the Strezlechi [*sic*] colliery, Korumburra; by petition from thirty-eight of the members of the Wonthaggi Traders' Association, also by petition from the Victorian Coal Miners' Association, representing 1,050 men. No protest against the appointment of the Board has been received from the employes.

The reason argued for the appointment of a Board are that at some of the mines there is no cavil and no fixed rate for shift men and surface men and that the hewing rates are said to be very low—in one case lower than any rates for similar work in any of the Australian States. In a petition presented to Parliament it is contended by the men that the hewing rate at the State coal mine is too low to admit of a fair day's wage being earned. The business people of Wonthaggi urge that the appointment of a Wages Board will get rid of the existing state of unrest which is exceedingly detrimental to them. These are briefly the reasons that have been urged in support of the motion.

The first return I got from the State coal mine was for the fortnight ended the 27th July of this year. There is a great variation in the wages earned by the different parties. The party with the lowest average earned 5s 6d a day per man and the party with the highest average earned 15s 7d per man. The average rate for the whole was 10s 1d, or nearly 10s 1½d.

In the return the rates paid to others engaged at the mine are given. For instance, there is a class of men known as deputies, four of whom receive 10s a day, and nine 11s. Roadamen

receive 10s a day, and boss wheelers 10s a day, and so on through the various grades employed. The lowest rate apparently for those engaged at the mine is about 7s 6d a day. The average is not worked out. There are forty-five axemen; one receives 9s 6d, one 8s 4d, forty-two receive 7s 6d, and one only 6s a day.

The next return is for the fortnight ended on the 10th August last. The average given in it is 12s 9d. The lowest amount earned by one party of six men averaged 9s 10d; the next was 10s 2d, and the highest was 18s 5d. There is not such a wide difference there between the lowest and highest. The lowest is nearly 10s, and the rest are over that, ranging up to nearly 18s 6d—18s 5d and a fraction. They have supplied a return for all the employees under 21, and some of the wages are low, but I suppose the employes are boys. The wage goes down to 4s.

From the *Argus*, Tuesday 2 June 1925, page 21

## Road Maintenance Work

To The Editor Of The Argus

Sir,—Given the opportunity and the funds there are hundreds of men capable of directing the latent energies of our unemployed into profitable channels. May I suggest one way? Send them out in gangs, to place the heaps of metal lying beside our roads into the holes and ruts that are becoming a nightmare to the motorist on roads outside the metropolitan area. It would be interesting if it could be ascertained how many thousands of pounds were represented by the heaps of metal and gravel heaped on our road sides. Why money is not saved by placing the metal directly upon the roads, instead of carting and putting into heaps for measurement and recarting on to the road is beyond me. To say that the metal and gravel will be needed for maintenance in the dim future, makes a practical man tired.

Take the Dandenong-Lang Lang-Grantville road as an example, there are hundreds of these so-called maintenance heaps of gravel and metal, and the road is simply atrocious. If funds were scarce, had those responsible purchased half the quantity of material and expended the money represented by the other half in putting the material directly on the roads, road-users would have much to be thankful for.—Yours, &c.,

Anti-Bump.

East Malvern, May 29.



From the *Wonthaggi Sentinel and State Town Miner*, Friday 23 September 1910

## The Mine Officials

### Alledged Wire-Pulling

No.2 Mess Will Disband To-morrow

Who Is The Wire-Puller?

(Re-paragraphed for the sake of clarity.)

Some months ago the officials at the State Mine asked the permission of the Minister of Mines to start what became known as No. 2 mess. A number of them were compelled to work irregular hours and the weighmen worked three shifts. It was inconvenient for them to get meals at the township, and it would be as much in the interests of the department as the officials if permission was granted to start a special mess.

The mess would be composed solely of the rank and file and would not inconvenience anyone. Permission was granted. About £13 was spent in crockery and utensils, accounts opened with a number of local business people, a first-class cook installed, and everything went as merrily as a marriage bell for some weeks.

The first little trouble was struck when two of the postal officials joined the happy band. Then a little wire-pulling was indulged in and the two gentlemen referred to were requested to feed elsewhere. The mess was established for mine officials only and anyone outside the pale of coal officialdom would not be admitted.

But although the postal officials were disposed of the wire-pulling was continued. And continued with good effect so far as the person behind the scene was concerned.

About 3 weeks ago an intimation was conveyed to the officials that the mess must be disbanded. Naturally all concerned desired to learn the why and wherefore, and on Mr Broome's arrival recently a deputation waited on him to ask for an explanation.

The deputation pointed out that the mess was established in the best interests of the mine. That it was comprised solely of mine officials, and was well conducted. The whole of the food supplies were purchased locally and all accounts were settled promptly.

If the officials were compelled to board in the town a walk of about a mile each way must be undertaken in order to get meals, and hardships would be imposed on the timekeepers owing to the hours they were obliged to be on duty.

Mr Broome sympathised with the deputation

and agreed to place the whole facts before the Minister of Mines at the earliest opportunity.

Nothing further was heard in the matter for some time and the officials were beginning to feel secure in their surroundings.

The blow was only deferred, however, for last week a notification was received that the mess must be disbanded not later than the 24th inst. No official reason "why" was conveyed, and the members of the mess are indignant to think they should be so treated and no official explanation given why such an order was issued.

The following "Notice of eviction" was posted in the mess room:—

*Department of Mines,  
Sept. 14th, 1910.*

*Memorandum.*

*Re Second Mess Tent.*

*Will Mr. Falloon please notify all members of the second mess tent that they will be expected to vacate not later than the 24th inst.*

*G. H. Broome,  
General Manager State Coal Mines.*

*M. G. Falloon, Esq.,  
State Coal Mine,  
Powlett.*

The general manager must be given credit for his efforts on behalf of the staff, although the above communication goes to prove how unavailing his efforts were.

From inquiries made it appears that some of the officials have as yet been unable to obtain accommodation in the town. Asked to express an opinion on the matter one of the best-known of the number said it was well known that representation had been made to Mr Broome and the Minister of Mines by a person in business in Wonthaggi that the officials should be requested to get their meals in the town.

The fact that boarding houses were established to accommodate the mine officials was impressed on both gentlemen, and the unfairness of allowing the mess to continue was enlarged on. It was common talk amongst the officials that the wire-puller never missed

*(continues on Page 10)*

*The Mine Officials (continued from Page 9)*

an opportunity of "getting the ear" of anyone in authority and it was hard to understand what mystic influence was used in order to have every wish gratified.

The cost of living at the mess was slightly higher than the charge made at most boarding houses and if the mess was broken up in order to influence anyone to patronise any particular "hash house" a grievous blunder had been made. He would not be dictated to as to where he should get his meals and preferred batching rather than patronising a person who adopted such tactics as the wire-puller in question. He could safely speak on behalf of his own friends and was delighted to hear that the whole matter would be mentioned in the State Parliament.

The "notice of eviction" is regarded as the "curtain act" by the officials concerned, although the question of the disposal of the crockery, etc., has yet to be settled. A suggestion has been made that the whole of the mess effects should be handed over to the temporary hospital, but no decision has yet been arrived at.

*From the San Remo Times and Phillip Island and Bass Valley Advertiser, 18 December 1896.*

## Extraordinary Feat By A Horse

A fisherman coming from Flinders to Stony Point Jetty in his boat on Thursday, Dec. 10, passed a horse about a mile from land and a similar distance from Sandy Point, which is a considerable distance from Stony Point. The horse was swimming strongly, and aided by the flood tide was making a course to one of the outer channels in the Bay. He reported the matter at Stony Point, and a rescue party, consisting of Messrs. R. Davis and P. Peterson, put off, and finding the animal still swimming strongly, lassoed it and towed it to land. The horse, with the exception of being somewhat short of wind, showed no signs of exhaustion. Where it came from and how it got such a long distance from land cannot be explained. It is supposed that it was one of a draft of horses sold recently by Mr. Harbison from his Phillip Island Estate, and that while endeavoring to get back again it was carried away by the flood tide, which runs very strongly at this point. The horse is a dark chestnut, about 14 hands high, and rising 5 years old.

*From South Bourke and Mornington Journal, 18 August 1886*

## Bass District

From a *[sic]* own Correspondent

The elections for the Shire Council are over and have resulted as follows:—Mr. Cleeland has been returned for Phillip Island Riding against Mr. James Duffus, the old member, by a majority of six votes—Cleeland 42, Duffus 36 In the Woolamai Riding the old member, Mr. Griffith, has been defeated by Mr. Joseph Hoddinott by a majority of forty-three votes—Griffith 31, Hoddinott 74. In the Corinella Riding the old member, Mr. Stewart, did not seek re-election. Mr. J. W. Delany (a former Councillor) and Mr. C. Worsley contested, and the result has been the return of Mr. Delany by a majority of eleven votes—Delany 89, Worsley 78. Mr. Hoddinott is to be congratulated on the substantial majority he secured, but there were two tight squeezes in the cases of Messrs. Cleeland and Delany.

Rumor says that the senior member for Phillip Island will grace the chair during the coming year, and taking into consideration the fact that he has been connected with Local Government almost continuously during the last thirty years—many times as President—no one is better suited for the post.

Down at Kilcunda the coal mining venture has again been opened up. Mr. Thos. Rankin is entrusted with the management, and has succeeded in cutting the seam and raising a quantity of coal from a comparatively shallow depth by means of a self draining drive, from the mouth of which the trucks will be hauled by the present engine to the railway terminus. It is stated to be the intention of the company to proceed steadily with the development of the mine, and to enlarge the operations by degrees. Tenders are called for the haulage of the coal on the railway to Griffiths Point at per ton.

Nearly all the land taken up under the Land Act, 1884, has been surveyed, and a portion has been fenced in, and it is a singular thing that no licenses to occupy have yet been granted by the Lands Department. The delay in issuing the licenses requires some explanation, as some of the land *[sic]* has been nearly twelve months recommended by the Land Board.

Rumor says that the great King David will lose his seat in Corinella next year, unless the ratepayers get a chance before then to give him his walking ticket.

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**QUALCAST** Lawn Mowers are the best. McLeod's, Kooweerup.

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From the *Herald*, Thursday 11 August 1910, page 8: Men Missing

## Powlett Plains Mystery

### Where is James Tiernan?

#### The Police Are Inquiring

Considerable mystery surrounds the disappearance of Mr James Tiernan the owner of a bakery business in Hicksborough, near Wonthaggi, Powlett. Mr Tiernan has not been heard of since July 20, but the seriousness of this does not appear to have been realised until yesterday, when the first practical steps were taken to solve the mystery.

Mr Tiernan, who was by trade a carpenter and cabinetmaker, commenced to interest himself in the Powlett field some few months ago. He made several trips from Melbourne to Powlett. Ultimately he bought a bakery business there, putting a man with knowledge of the trade in to manage.

About July 20 Mr Tiernan left Powlett for Melbourne, with the expressed intention of buying a "turn out" for the business. It is evident that he came to the city, for although he failed to get in touch with any of his brothers, he called on an estate agent and collected a small sum of money which was due to him from property he owned. That is the last trace of the missing man. He has not been heard of since, either in Melbourne or Powlett.

The first reports the missing man's relations got of the affair came almost simultaneously from a Mr M'Grath, from whom Mr Tiernan bought the business at Powlett, and a Mr Cain, who was installed as manager. Mr Cain, who says he had gone on wondering and wondering about the non-return of Mr Tiernan, came to the city this week to try and ascertain the reason for his absence. Mr M'Grath also paid the Tiernan family a visit, and suggested that they should report the matter to the police.

The Tiernans lost no time in getting in touch with the Criminal Investigation Branch. Superintendent Gleeson has communicated with the Powlett police, asking if detective assistance is required. There is only one man stationed at Powlett, he being Constable Cane.

#### Man Makes Inquiries

The Tiernan family is well-known and respected in Elsternwick. The missing man's mother, who is a widow, took up her residence in Villiers street, a few doors from St. George's road. Mrs Tiernan, sen., is at present in England, and the missing son might have

accompanied the mother on the trip, but that he felt drawn to the pioneering work at Powlett River.

After the mother's departure the missing man made his headquarters at the residence of his brother, Mr Norman Tiernan, which is also in Villiers street. He let his relatives understand that the bakery business which he purchased at Hicksborough was a very profitable concern. He also told them that he had purchased the business from a Mr M'Grath, who lived at the Earl of Zetland Hotel, Collingwood, and had installed Mr Cain as manager.

About a fortnight or three weeks ago Mr M'Grath called at the house and asked to see Mr James Tiernan. A maid answered the door, and informed the visitor that Mr James Tiernan was down at Powlett River.

"Oh, no; he is in town," Mr M'Grath replied, and then he went away.

The family did not report anything to the police at that time, for they had no doubt that James was at Powlett River, despite Mr M'Grath's remark. When away from home the missing man, who was unmarried, did not usually write to his relatives. His habit was simply to send a telegram on the day before he intended returning home.

Two days ago Mr M'Grath again communicated with Mr Norman Tiernan, and urged him to report the matter to the police.

A brother of the missing man said that the affair was a complete mystery to his relations. He had not seen his brother since July 13. He had been a day or two in town, and he thought he left again for the Powlett. He had heard he was down about July 20, but had not gone to the home of any of his brothers. This was unusual.

When he last saw his brother he was most enthusiastic about his new undertaking. He regarded the business as most promising.

When talking to the one brother another, younger, came in. He had only just that moment heard of the disappearance of his brother. His surprise was evident, and he remarked, "I can't account for it; my brother had plenty of money and no responsibilities."

Mr James Tiernan called at the offices

*(continues on Page 12)*

*Powlett Plains Mystery... (continued from Page 11)*

of Messrs Sydney C. Arnold and Coy., 18 Queen Street, on July 20. It was ascertained to-day that he was at the office about mid-day, and collected a small sum in cash. He then left the place, giving no hint of any intention to leave the city.

### Mr Tiernan's Descriptions

The missing man is described as being of medium built, dark complexioned, dark hair, dark moustache, shaven on *[sic]* face, 5ft. 6in. high, and when he laughs shows a slight "drag" at corners of the eyes and mouth, the effect of facial paralysis. He was dressed in a black tweed suit, black boxer hat, and black boots. His relatives and friends speak of him as abstemious, but a jovial, man, his temperament and position being such as to preclude all suspicions of suicide. The "drag" at the corners of the eyes was due to severe convulsions in childhood, but all his life Mr Tiernan has enjoyed good health, although there was an idea in the family that he was not over-strong.

Urgent inquiries are now being made for the missing man, both in the city and at Powlett River.

From the *Border Morning Mail and Riverina Times*, Saturday 13 August 1910, page 2

### Man From Powlett River

The mystery about the man James Tiernan, who had been reported as missing from Wonthaggi. (Powlett River) has been solved. He is now at the home of his brother-in-law, Mr. A. Smith, ledger-keeper at the National Bank, Ballarat. Tiernan says he knew nothing until he found himself at Ouyen, near Mildura, a little over a fortnight ago. He did not know how long he was at Ouyen before he came to his senses. Some gentlemen whom he had picked up on his way had been friendly disposed towards him. He asked these gentlemen if they had noticed anything strange or peculiar about him, and received the reply from his Ouyen friends that he had been very quiet, and as if troubled in his mind. Mr Tiernan says that he then thought it was best to make his way to his brother-in-law in Ballarat, and having very little money, and not wishing to borrow, he made his way across country to Maryborough, where he got the train for Ballarat. He states that he did not tell his relatives at Ballarat that he had lost himself, and he did not worry about his business at Powlett.

From *The Argus*, Saturday 30 December 1939, page 3

### Obituary

## DR. R. H. COLE

Dr. Robert Hodgson Cole, former city coroner, died in a Geelong private hospital yesterday at the age of 81 years.

Dr. Cole, who was both a doctor of medicine and of law, was appointed a police magistrate in 1902, and city coroner in 1913, an office from which he retired in 1923. Among the most widely known inquiries over which he presided was the Sunshine railway disaster and the Gun alley inquest.



After his retirement he lived at Queensferry, Westernport. While visiting his daughter, Mrs. C. N. Brown, at Geelong recently, he became ill, and was taken to a private hospital.

A widower, Dr. Cole is survived by two sons, Group-Captain A. T. Cole, of the R.A.A.F., and Mr. C. R. T. Cole, engineer, of Brisbane. Mrs. Brown is a former Mayoress of Geelong.

The funeral will leave the St. Kilda road chapel of A. A. Sleight Pty. Ltd. this afternoon for the Melbourne General Cemetery, Carlton.



Robert H. Cole, circa 1865, taken by Colin Parker, likey at the family home, Cloven Hills, at Camperdown, Victoria. Source: State Library of Victoria, H41500.

### WHERE IT PAYS.

It will pay you to shop at E. Cougle's Lang Lang and Kooweerup Stores. The shops are replete with goods of the best quality, and every effort is made to satisfy customers.

# The Wigan Company

## The Corinella Coal Mining Company's Deadly Rival?

by Geoffrey Guilfoyle

With additional research by Robert Glover

Note: The term "coal mining company" when applied to the Bass Valley area in the 1860s is aspirational more than actual. There were no coal mines, just test pits of various depths and quality, dug by mostly private concerns of various – mostly little – worth, to ascertain if payable coal existed.

I have written previously about the Corinella Coal Mining Company, active in 1867-1869 on both sides of the Bass River near today's Almurta, putting down exploratory pits and announcing good results.

It wasn't the only one. As reported in the 18 March 1867 edition of the *Argus* (page 5):

*We learn from a private correspondent that there are two parties of explorers now at work in the Western Port district, sinking for coal. One is the Corinella Company, whose shaft is being put down near the Bass River, some three and a half or four miles from the sea shore, among the ranges. The seams for which they are sinking are those seen to crop out on the bank of the river. The Wigan Company are sinking their shaft on the Hurdy-gurdy run, about three-quarters of a mile from the beach. Their shaft is now down to eighty-seven feet.*

Journalism both then and now having few standards, the *Gippsland Times* of 21 March 1867 (page 2) removed the first seven words from the above quote and published the same story as their own.

This shaft is clearly a major undertaking, employing a considerable number of skilled miners, engineers, and support staff – not to mention equipment. So what do we know about both the Wigan Company and this drilling on the Hurdy-Gurdy cattle run near the bay?

Don't look to the *Victorian Government Gazette* between 1 July 1866 to 1st March 1867 for answers. You'll find no announcement of the formation of a Wigan Company or reporting from any existing entity under that name.

The Corinella Coal Mining Company puts in three appearances in the *VGG* in 1867, but the Wigan Company is nowhere to be found.

Why? Because it wasn't a public company like the CCMC which was a publicly listed entity and registered as such with the government; it was a private enterprise with no public exposure, much like these...

*A deputation, consisting of representatives of the Latrobe, Corinella, Carew, Queensferry, and Bass (Blue Mountains) coal companies, waited on the hon. Minister of Mines... (Herald,*

*16 March 1869, page 2: Deputations).*

*And...*

*A deputation from the representatives of the Carew, Blue Mountains, Corinella, Queensferry, and Latrobe Coal Prospecting Companies was yesterday introduced to the Minister of Mines... (Argus, 17 March 1869, page 7: Deputations).*

At this point it is time to reintroduce a man who achieved so little in so short a time and yet this is his fourth major appearance in an edition of *The Western Port Times*. Please welcome back: William Baker Brandrick.

Brandrick, for a brief time, was manager of the Queensferry Coal Mining Company or the Queensferry Coal Prospecting Company or Queensferry Coal Company (that the exact name isn't known tells you just how important and successful it was).

The Corinella Coal Mining Co., well poised to become an actual coal mining venture if its test shafts had shown workable coal, enjoyed a capitalisation in July 1867 of £32,000.

The Queensferry Company was a private entity consisting of a few individuals. Its capitalisation is uncertain but certainly a minuscule portion of that of the CCMC, and its ability to exploit any find it made was close to zero.

*The Corinella Company are now having a bore put down to test their ground; when the last accounts were received, it had reached a depth of 130ft., and no coal had been cut. The Queensferry Company have, I understand, temporarily suspended their operations, and there is, in my opinion, very little probability of success attending them if resumed.*

So reported the government geologist, Mr. Selwyn, in an article title Geological Survey of Victoria in the *Illustrated Adelaide Post* (14 July 1868, page 7).

In the same article he added:

*On the 20th December, Mr. Brandrick wrote, stating he was about to sink a shaft on the ground, and that he was prepared to spent L50 to L100 to prove it...*

From the description in the article of the seam about to be tested, this was a shallow

*(continues on Page 14)*

*The Wigan Company (continued from Page 13)*

“five men with pickaxes” operation as the paltry amount expended when compared to the costs of the Corinella Coal Mining Company attests. This appears to be Brandrick post-Queensferry Coal Mining Company, so it is possible he is expending his own money. If so he had to wait many years to recover it.

From the *Argus* (11 June 1873, page 5) dealing with the estimates of government expenditure for 1873-1874:

*W. B. Brandrick for prospecting for coal in 1868 £32, sinking shafts and searching for coal £1500.*

These are, of course, estimates and not an account of money paid. It isn't clear if these amounts were for Brandrick or the Queensferry Coal Mining Company (though the date is after he and the company parted ways), nor does it say where these services took place, though we know he was active in the Bass region for at least the latter third of 1867 and early 1868.

This still doesn't help pin down the Wigan Company? Is the answer found in the following mineral leases?

Lease No.170, mineral, dated 6 May, 1868; W.S. Edie; 584 acres; Bass River.

Lease No.172, mineral, dated 27th August, 1868; E.W. Reay; 640 acres; Bass River.

Lease No.174, mineral, dated 11th May 1868; O.B. Clapp and others; 640 acres; junction of Western Port and Deep Creek.

Lease No.177, mineral, dated 27th August, 1868; W. Gilfillan; 640 acres; Bass River.

Lease No.181, mineral, dated 30 April 1868; W. B. Brandrick and others; 488 acres, 1r. 1p.; Hurdy-gurdy Run.

Lease No.182, mineral, dated 30 April 1868; W. Brandrick and others; 601 acres, 3r. 28p.; Hurdy-gurdy Run.

Were these just speculative or something more active? Brandrick's leases centred on the Hurdy-gurdy run; the Wigan Company dug on the Hurdy-gurdy run. Coincidence?

Yes, and demonstrably so.

The two Brandrick mineral leases were issued in August **1868** and were extinguished a year later. The Wigan Company operated in 1867 and **only** 1867.

The Wigan Company had nothing to do with, and could have had nothing to do with Lease No. 181 and Lease No. 182. Also, these leases were issued to individuals, not a company. Compare these to No.171 and No.173 which were issued in the name of the Corinella Coal Mining Company of Western Port.

Finally, there is no evidence that No. 181 and

182 were anything more than speculative, nor that Brandrick was actually still in the area when they were taken out. [See *The Western Port Times*, September 2021: An Alexander Stewart Mystery for more discussion on Brandrick's whereabouts in 1868].

The Wigan Company made one more appearance in the local papers, and this time it was with an even more impressive find.

From the *Age*, 5 June 1867, page 5:

*We are informed that “a valuable coal-field” has been discovered by a party of Wigan miners, not easily led astray, at the Hurdy-Gurdy Bight, between Cape Patterson and the claim of the Corinella Company. Our informant states that the miners have put down one shaft a hundred feet, and they have cut through “a four-foot horizontal seam,” and one of two feet two inches thick. The coal is said to be of first-rate quality, and the field more easy of access to vessels than either the Cape Patterson or the Corinella. There may be some exaggeration in this, although our correspondent is thoroughly reliable; but there is enough to show that the locality pointed out ought to be visited and reported upon by the scientific expedition about to proceed thither in the Pharos.*

The *Bendigo Advertiser* reprinted this story (with proper attribution) but added the opening phrase: *Good News, If True.*

The *Leader*, which carried the same story in its 8 June 1867 edition adds the following: *Of course, the miners who have made this valuable discovery – assuming the statement to be substantiable – must be guaranteed the reward their industry and perseverance merits.*

Is that a note of scepticism in both papers?

So the Wigan Company sunk an 87 foot shaft in the Hurdy-Gurdy run in March and were still digging. Now in June the company or some of its miners are digging at some place on or near the coast called Hurdy-Gurdy Bight, between Almurta and Cape Patterson and are down 100 feet.

Um, where exactly is Hurdy-Gurdy Bight? It can't be near the Hurdy-Gurdy Creek because the creek is north of Almurta and Corinella, not south and towards Cape Patterson. So it must be...Uh. Hmm. (Isn't it strange that such an important find has come with such vague directions).

Is it Kilcunda? Maybe near the Powlett River? How about Kirrak? Unless the Hurdy-Gurdy Bight is that portion of the bay between Corinella and San Remo?

Then again, the *Argus* in its 4 May 1867

*(continues on Page 15)*

*The Wigan Company (continued from Page 14)*

issue, on page 4, has the Corinella Coal Mining Company “at work near the mouth of the Bass River.” The company was actually digging near Almurta, which is about 15 kilometres along the Bass River from its exit point into Western Port Bay.

In the 1860s the actual geography of Victoria once past Dandenong was little appreciated by those in Melbourne, and that location names (and the spelling of) were also in flux wouldn't have helped matters. That's what made it possible.

Made what possible?

By this point it should be obvious.

After its sensational June 1867 discovery, the Wigan Company vanishes from the public record, leaving no trace other than the strong impression that the entire episode was a hoax.

And that's exactly what I'm going to declare it until actual evidence of the company's existence turns up. I suspect it is going to be a long wait.

### The Wigan Company

*Argus*, 18 March 1867, page 5: Telegraph Dispatches  
*Gippsland Times*, Thursday 21 March 1867, page 2  
*Age*, Wednesday 5 June 1867, page 5: News of the Day  
*Bendigo Advertiser*, Thursday 6 June 1867, page 2  
*Leader*, Saturday 8 June 1867, page 4: Notes and News  
*Ovens and Murray Advertiser*, 8 June 1867, page 4  
*Gippsland Guardian*, Wednesday 12 June 1867, page 2  
*Age*, Thursday 27 June 1867, page 1: Industrial Items

### The Victorian Government Gazette

No.9, 26 January 1867, page 184 (Corinella Coal Mining Co.)  
 No.53, 17 May 1867, page 904 (Corinella Coal Mining Co.)  
 No.79, 26 July 1867, page 1359 (Corinella Coal Mining Co.)  
 No.105, 28 August 1868, page 1609 (Mineral leases granted)  
 No.38, 6 August 1869, page 1202 (Leases declared void)

From the *Koo Wee Rup Sun and Lang Lang Guardian*, 20 July 1955, page 1.

## Phillip Island Bird Killers Fined

Thirteen men, including two new Australians, were fined a total of £222 at Cowes Court on Thursday for killing native birds. The new Australians, John and Guerrino Mabila, of Kilcunda, were charged with killing 22 mutton birds protected on Phillip Island by Fisheries and Game Department regulations. Mr Duggan, S.M., fined each man £12 15/–, with 11/3 costs. Earlier three Game Department inspectors had told the Court that a total of 368 mutton birds had been confiscated from the 13 men.

## Lunatic At Large

From *The Western Port Times and Phillip Island and Bass Valley Advertiser*, 23 March 1900, page 2.

### Lunatic At Large

A young man residing at Fern Hill with his parents, left his home on Wednesday afternoon, and was seen at the Gurdies at 7 o'clock the same evening. At 8 o'clock yesterday morning he was noticed at Mr Thornton's selection, walking round and round in a circle. He was seen several times during the day between that place and the Gurdies, Mr. Thornton, the local constable, was hunting the whole of the day, but did not drop across the missing man. A number of the townspeople of Grantville searched the bush between the township and the Gurdies yesterday afternoon but without avail. The wanderer is not dangerous, but should he be out in the cold and wet, and lie down in the bush, it will be likely to cause him to suffer his death by cold.

From *The Western Port Times and Phillip Island and Bass Valley Advertiser*, 30 March 1900, page 2.

### The Escaped Lunatic

The young man named Ernest Little, who was reported in our last issue to have left his home at Fern Hill, was found by Mr. Russell at the Gurdies. The man appears to have been around Mr. Russell's premises the whole of the time. On the morning of last Saturday a boy in the employ of Mr. Russell told him there was a man in the stable. He went out and saw the man who was quite naked; he persuaded him to put on an old coat that was hanging in the stable. Hearing the coach coming he told Little to wait until he came back. Mr. Russell met the coach driver, and asked his assistance in tying up the lunatic until he sent for the police. The driver said he could not leave his coach, but would drive on to Mr. Bonney's, and get him and his son to come over.

Whilst they were talking the lunatic came up to the coach with only the above mentioned coat on. Mr. Bonney and his son came over at once, and Little was detained until Mr. Thornton arrived, when he was conveyed to Grantville and put in safe keeping, until such time as he was to be removed to Melbourne.

On Saturday he was brought before Mr. J. T. Paul J.P. and remanded to appear at San Remo on 6th April. On Monday morning he was conveyed to Melbourne, where he is under treatment at the gaol hospital.

From the *Australasian*, Saturday 29 September 1877, page 24

## Gigantic Earthworms

To The Editor Of the *Australasian*

Sir,—I send you along with this note another tin for your own inspection. The tin contains one half-grown worm, and another three parts grown. You will see that the half-grown one is nearly cut through with the spade; the larger one broke in taking it out. I had hold of it with my left hand, and digging it out with my right; the worm was pulling to get into its hole. I was trying to prevent it, so the strain became too great, and the worm broke. Since I sent you the first tin I have opened about two score of eggs, the greater number of them were filled with that milky substance I referred to before. Of course, never thinking anything, I threw them away, but on Thursday last I held an egg up to the sun to look through it, and to my surprise I saw a small worm swimming about in the milk from end to end of the shell. It seemed to be greatly disturbed in being exposed to so much light. I opened the shell, poured the milk out, and, sure enough, there was the worm. It was about an inch and a half long, white like the milk, and quite perfect in form. I got two more of the same kind on Friday, but on Saturday (to-day) I got one four inches long, another three inches long, another 12 inches long, and another one half out of the shell boring its way into the ground. Along with the worms I send you three eggs. One of the eggs has a worm in that stage when it is about to leave the shell. It has bored its head through the end. The second has the end cut off with the spade, and to prevent the milk from flowing out I have twisted a bit of thread round the end of the shell. The third egg is quite sound, and you can open it yourself. It appears to me, from my examination of the eggs and the worms in their various stages, that as soon as the worm has life it lives on the milk within the shell; the milk diminishes as the worm grows till the worm fills the egg, when it bores a hole through the end and makes its escape. It is a strange affair altogether. I never heard of such a thing before.

Queensferry, Sept. 15. P.W.W.\*

*The parcel was handed intact to Professor M'Coy, of the Melbourne University, who has kindly sent us the subjoined reply:—*

“National Museum, Melbourne, Sept. 21.

“Sir,—I have received the very interesting letter from your correspondent ‘P.W.W.’ and

\* Probably P. W. Wilson, a worker at Crump & Grant’s Mill (ex-Alexander Stewart) near Glen Forbes.

the worms and so-called eggs accompanying them from Queensferry.

The specimens, and one which I received some time before, are the cocoons of the gigantic earthworm—*Megaloscolez Australis* (M'Coy)—so common in the deep soils of Brandy Creek, where they are often nearly three-quarters of an inch in diameter and about two feet long. These cocoons have never been seen before in this genus, and their discovery is of great interest, as showing an affinity with the true earthworms, the common European species of which has a similar cocoon (containing the young worms) of a tough membrane, shaped like a Florence flask with an aperture at the small end closed with a brush of stout bristles. The specimen have been added to the National Museum collections as your donation.

I have, &c.,  
“Frederick M'Coy.”



A giant earthworm, measuring 8 feet in length, found at Loch, Victoria. From *Border Watch* (Mt. Gambier, S.A.), Tuesday 9 June 1931, page 5: Gaint Worm “Shot”



## News From The Powlett May 1902

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

A public meeting was held at the Ozone Hotel on Wednesday evening, to urge upon the Government the need for telephone or telegraphic communications between San Remo and Inverloch. There was a record attendance, and the various speakers were unanimous and in hearty accord with the object. P. J. Daly J.P. was voted to the chair, and opened the meeting by reading an extract from the "Age" of April 19th. wherein a strong demand was made in the interests of shipping for the construction of the line, delineating the providential escapes from frightful disaster, during the last year or so [of] a number of vessels, one as recent as last month. The complications existing between the Postal and Customs departments, and the failure hitherto, of the Federal Government to take over control of the coastwise lights service. The question he added did not rest at the point where the Age left off. There were as important reasons on land as at sea. The medical gentlemen attending the district were stationed at the terminal points of the proposed line, one at Inverloch, the other at Bass, and there were many cases of urgent calls from Kilcunda, Powlett and the Blackwood, where loss of life might be obviated, or suffering alleviated by having means of communication. A secretary was appointed and on the motion of Messrs Bonwick, shire engineer, and Parer, of Ozone Hotel, it was unanimously agreed that a petition be drawn up to the Postmaster General urging the construction of the line, and the [unclear words]. In moving the motion, Mr Bonwick pointed out the advantage which would be derived by [unclear word] telephone communication. It would be an incalculated asset to the Council, a ready means of [next few lines too faint to read]... he was informed by the P. M. General would be [unclear amount], this amount was considered excessive. The life saving and rocket apparatus were stationed at San Remo, and that point commands a coastal view to Cape Patterson and Inverloch. The secretary was requested to write to the council and ask them to cooperate and assist in having the line constructed. Several gentlemen spoke on the above and all agreed that the line as proposed was an absolute necessity. A vote of thanks was voted to the chairman. A

petition was drawn up and two pages of signatures were filled in a few minutes.

The Jockey Cub held a meeting at the Ozone on Wednesday, to receive a report and balance sheet of the race meeting held on 19th. Mr P. Daly J.P. president in the chair. The secretary reported that there would be a surplus of about three pounds when all stakes were paid. Members tickets were fixed at 10s. 6d. each to admit all the members of the holders family. The protest of Mr Percy Boucher against the nomination of Mr R. Finley's Almurta was dismissed, it being held that a trot did not come under the rules of the V.R.C.

The R.C. Church have purchased three more acres of ground from Mr Price. It is intended to erect a brick presbytery. The church has been fortunate in obtaining such convenient and admirable sites.

Several good hauls of fish were again made in the Powlett River this week. Mr. Fox and Mr. Kinder being most successful.

The tickets for the R.C. Concert and Ball are selling rapidly and the event promises to be a very successful one.

Mr. James Price has offered the Powlett race club the use of his cleared paddock to extend their racecourse. This will be much appreciated.

I regret having to record a very serious accident to Master Harry Mapleson of Kilcunda, who was thrown from his horse when returning with mail on Saturday last. It is not known how he became unseated, but it is thought that he struck a tree. Not returning at the usual time, [a] search was made and the poor little fellow was found in an unconscious condition [sic], and his forehead bearing evidence of a nasty blow or kick. He was removed to his home and Dr McGee summoned who put 4 stitches in his forehead. The lad has remained unconscious ever since. Much sympathy is expressed all round at the sad affair.

Mrs Lyne of Tooradan [sic] met with a nasty accident when getting out of a buggy at Bass on Friday last. By some means she slipped and broke her arm just above the wrist. Dr McGee was close by, and set the injured limb at once.

Mr. Atkinson has been hard at it forming the road at Price's Corner, the entrance to Mr. Walkers also being formed.

(continues on Page 18)

*News From The Powlett (continued from Page 17)*

*From The Western Port Times and Phillip Island and Bass Valley Advertiser, 9 May 1902, page 2: Powlett.*

The Wood Chopping Contest at the Ozone Hotel, came off as advertised, on Saturday, there being a fair attendance. The first prize of £4 was won by W. Baum, and the second prize of £1 by P. McLaren. Only five competed, and the handicappers, Messrs C. Dobbin, A. Ferguson and W. Coglan, managed to bring the men so close together at finish that it appeared that any of the competitors would win.

I am glad to report Mrs W. Pickersgill is recovering from the serious operation she recently underwent in Melbourne. Much anxiety was felt by her friends, and they will all be glad to hear she is now convalescent.

Master Harry Mapleson is also getting round again after a very severe trial.

Mr and Mrs E. Walker returned from their honeymoon on Thursday afternoon, and have settled down in their home on the river.

Brickmaking is being vigorously pursued in Mr P. J. Daly's paddock, and twelve months work is in sight, which may be regarded as a sign of the times.

Mr Groom M.H.R. notified the secretary of the movement to connect San Remo with Inverloch by telephone, that he has arranged for Tuesday next 13th, as the date the Minister will receive the deputation from this part. The Councillors form a part of the deputation.

The date for the deputation which is about to wait on the P.M. General in connection with the extention [*sic*] of the telegraph line from San Remo to Inverloch, has been fixed for Tuesday 13th inst. Reliable data have been obtained and the consummation [*sic*] of the universal wish throughout the district is regarded as a certainty.

A billiard room in connection with the Ozone Hotel has been begun, the plans showing a splendid design. The dimensions of the room are [*unclear number*] x 18ft, and handsome fittings are provided for, besides a fireplace.

Mr. P. J. Daly generously offered the use of his paddocks to the Powlett Race Club for a racecourse [*sic*], and on Wednesday morning the Committee marked off a splendid course. It is intended to plough, sow with English grasses and drain it at once. The hill at the finishing post is quite equal to Flemington and the "knights of the pigskin" together with the sporting public, will be well provided for.

Several letters have been returned to

residents of this district, who have recently speculated in "Tattersall," Co. Geo. Adams, Tasmania. In order to evade the law, they were requested to address applications to their own names, No 6 Stock Exchange, Hobart, but this was of no avail, as letters were intercepted in Tasmania and returned as dead letters, stamped "Transmission and delivery prohibited."

Messrs McLean Bros. have taken Mr Hogan's property on the Powlett River over. It was lately occupied by Mr T. Quinlivan.

Dr McGee, medical officer for the shire, now pays fortnightly visits to Powlett, and he may be consulted at the Ozone Hotel next Monday and every alternate Monday hence.

*From The Western Port Times and Phillip Island and Bass Valley Advertiser, 16 May 1902, page 2: Powlett.*

A scratch football match was played on the Archies Creek ground, on Saturday last, between the Glen Alvie and Ryanston teams, resulting in a victory for the home team. The scores were, Ryanston 2 goals 3 behinds, Glen Alvie 2 goals 2 behinds. There was a good attendance.

Mr. John Meade of Glen Alvie had a narrow escape on Friday last from death by tined fish poisoning. He had partaken of a tin of Kipperred herrings and tomato sauce for his tea, and soon after was seized with violent pains in the head, his face swelling abnormally. Fortunately he was camped only about 100 yards from Mr. B. Edward's house, thither he went for assistance. An emetic of warm water and mustard was given but had not the desired effect, so a second one had to be administered. This was successful, speedy relief was afterwards obtained and soon the unfortunate man was out of danger. It was lucky that assistance of a practical kind was so near.

Whooping cough is very prevalent and the Powlett River State school has been closed for several days in consequence. Dr. McGee of Bass, medical officer of the shire, visited the school on Monday and will make a report.

Master Jack Finley, who is living with Mr. Walker, met with a painful accident on Friday. He had just mounted his pony and was making off for his cows, when the pony stumbled and fell heavily on the lad. When picked up his face was much abraded, and his left leg strained below the knee. He has been seen by Dr. McGee, and with careful nursing he is much better, and will soon be right again.

*(continues on Page 19)*

*News From The Powlett (continued from Page 18)*

Advance Powlett! Mr. P. J. Daly has given instructions for the immediate erection of a building between the new billiard room at the Ozone Hotel and the recently finished sale yards, wherein the business of a general store will be carried on by Mr Henley of Nyora and Outtrim. A baker's oven on the latest plan will be included in the building, also dwelling accommodation.

The weather has been very changeable for the past week, strong winds accompanied at intervals by capricious showers of hail and rain making it very disagreeable [*sic*]. Fires are much appreciated now.

A very strong effort is being made to defeat the movement to obtain another riding for this shire. There are only eight more signatures required to exceed to number who signed the first petition, and probably before this appears in print they [*will*] be obtained.

The Truant Inspector has been round the state schools here during the week, and parents who have been remiss in their children's attendances will not feel easy for a bit.

Dr McGee visited us on Monday, his services being required at several places, but no serious cases were presented. The health of the people in this part is good.

Mrs Harry Price of Mornington, has taken over the state school at Kilcunda, having arrived last Thursday.

The Concert and Ball on Friday night in aid of the building fund of the R.C. Church, is eagerly looked forward to, and the sale of tickets indicates success from a monetary standpoint. Mr Smith of San Remo will do the catering.

The members of the Shire Council, the shire Engineer, and a number of our leading people left for Melbourne on Monday, to place before the Ministers, certain public wants. It is refreshing to note the animation exhibited all round, and it is to be hoped that their efforts will be rewarded. It is certainly our turn to have a few favors bestowed.

Mr Stevenson, the manager of the Archie's Creek Butter Factory, who it will be remembered, met with a shocking accident several weeks ago by the bursting of a sulphuric acid bottle, the contents getting into his eyes, returned to his position on Wednesday. I am pleased to record that he has regained the use of both eyes but a further operation is necessary, when the wounds heal completely the lid of one eye having grown on to the eye-

ball in the outer corner of the eye. It is very comforting to know that he will regain the perfect use of both organs of vision.

*From The Western Port Times and Phillip Island and Bass Valley Advertiser, 23 May 1902, page 2: Powlett.*

It is stated that Mr John Scott has sold his paddock opposite the Ozone Hotel and adjoining Mr Walker's, to Mr Harry Hollins, the price being a satisfactory one.

Mr Graham of the Blackwood, has also disposed of his land to Mr W. Coghlan at a good figure. Land has much improved in value all round, and there is a big demand. Small blocks for residential [*sic*] purposes are in request.

A start has been made to clear the ground recently purchased by the R.C. Church, and the building will be proceeded with as soon as the ground is ready.

The gentlemen who visited Melbourne to wait on the Minister in connection with certain local wants have returned with favourable replies in each case. An officer will be sent to report on the question of telephone service, as there is a movement on foot to have this district requirement by another route. It is to be hoped that the lack of unanimity will not be allowed to jeopardise the universally admitted want.

Messrs Ebden, Williamson, Pickstock and Somerville of Outtrim, who came over for the concert in Bridge Creek Hall, entertained a large party of friends with a musical evening at the Ozone Hotel on Saturday. The part-singing, dancing and comicalities, not to mention the phonograph, were heartily appreciated, and a very enjoyable time was spent. It would be hard to find such finished entertainers even amongst the profession. We hope to see them again and often.

The new building near the Ozone Hotel will be opened by a Concert and Dance on Friday evening next 30th inst. Everyone is invited and refreshments will be provided gratis by the Ozone Hotel. Messrs Ebden, Williamson, Pickstock and Somerville are coming over from Outtrim, and this alone speaks volumes for what can be anticipated. [See advertisement on next page].

Mr P. J. Daly has just completed the purchase of 38 acres, right opposite the Ozone Hotel, form [*sic*] Mr J. Scott, at 10 guineas an acre. It is his intention to cut it up into town lots. Mr Daly also bought 80 acres from the same gentleman, adjoining Mr William Price at the Blackwood.

*(continues on Page 20)*

News From The Powlett (continued from Page 19)

From *The Western Port Times and Phillip Island and Bass Valley Advertiser*, 30 May 1902, page 2: Powlett.

Advance Powlett! Two more industries have started at this point, viz. those of a saddler and bootmaker. Mr Shade of Melbourne has started in the former capacity, and Mr Kennedy also of Melbourne in the latter. Thus two long felt public wants are now supplied, and we hope that these two pioneers will not have any cause to regret the step they have taken.

Mr P. J. Daly, who recently purchased 38 acre from Mr J. Scott, opposite the Ozone Hotel, has given instructions to Messrs Patterson and Sons of Melbourne, to subdivide it into ½ acre lots and offered for public auction on the ground. The date of the sale has not yet been fixed, but will be as soon after subdivision as possible. On the completion of this another public want will be supplied.

The foundations for the General Store have been laid and the building is going on rapidly. Mr Henty opens on the 1st of July.

Mr Joseph Caughey, of Bass, has disposed his property to Mr E. Hade at a satisfactory figure. Mr J. Caughey has left for New South Wales, where he intends to reside.

Mr W. Graham of the Blackwood who sold his property to Mr W. Coghlan, is taking a trip back to Quelp, his native town, in Canada, in about three weeks time. His many friends will wish him bon voyage.

A deputation waited upon the Minister on Friday, to oppose the alterations proposed

in connection with the Phillip Island and Woolamai shire. They were successful in their efforts, and the ridings will remain as they are. The decision has given much satisfaction.

The Postmaster-General has given the use of a loose bag for 3 months as a test, between San Remo and the Ozone Hotel. Any person to whom the bag would be of convenience are invited to use it. It will be necessary to write to the postmaster at San Remo, requesting him to in future enclose their (the writers) correspondence in the bag.

An ingenious way of reaching "Tattersalls" has been devised. Certain express and parcel agencies deliver parcels safely, for the sum of three pence.

The Concert and Dance tonight will be a great success. Preparations have been made to give a cordial reception to all who come. Mr Ebden of Outtrim will be pianoist [sic], and his three friends, Messrs Williamson, Sommerville and Pickstock will be the leading gentlemen in the concert. Any person [who] has once heard this quartette, will realise what a treat there is in store.

The 5 acres recently purchased by the R.C. Church have been cleared and all is ready for the erection of the buildings.

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From the *Powlett Express and Victorian State Coalfields Advertiser*, Friday 23 March 1917, page 3

## Priest's Motor Car Aids Firefighters

### Dwelling House Save From Flames

San Remo, Wednesday.

While Rev. Father Walsh, of Dalyston, who drives his own Ford car, was here on parochial duties, there came a hurry call for men to put out a fire on Mrs Potter's premises. Quickly gathering up half a-dozen men, Father Walsh cranked up and set out at top speed to the scene of the fire.

It had been noticed by Messrs. John and James Dickie and C. Dobbin, who rushed across the road. The inmates were temporarily absent and the conflagration was found to be confined to a shed close to the dwelling house. With great difficulty the fire was prevented from spreading to the house, and it was eventually got under.

The shed and its contents, with a hay stack, were completely destroyed. The damage being estimated at £50, and not covered by insurance. The fire is supposed to have been caused by some hot ashes near the shed.

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# CONCERT & DANCE.

will be given in the

**New Building near the  
OZONE HOTEL, POWLETT RIVER.**

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**on Friday next, May 30th.**

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**EVERYONE INVITED.**

**Refreshments provided.**

**Hearty Welcome to all.**

From *The Western Port Times and Phillip Island and Bass Valley Advertiser*, 23 May 1902, page 2