

The Western Port Times

Grantville & Districts



Volume 6 Number 6

FREE

October 2023

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

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

The Western Port Times.
PHILLIP ISLAND AND BASS VALLEY ADVERTISER.
Circulating in Crown, Bass, Central, French Island, San Remo, Flinders, Hastings, Alcocka, Newberry, Porton, Quensberry, Bass, River Port, Phillip, Inverloch, Warrigal, Jambunna, and Long Lang.

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Links to other historical groups

Bass Valley Historical Society: www.facebook.com/groups/bassvalleyhistoricalsociety
 Friends of Churchill Island Society: <https://focis.org.au/about-churchill-island/>
 Hastings–Western Port Historical Society Inc.: <https://www.hwphs.org.au/>
 Inverloch Historical Society: <http://inverlochhistory.com/>
 Also: cv.vic.gov.au/organisations/inverloch-historical-society/
 Koo-Wee-Rup Swamp Historical Society: kooweerupswamphistory.blogspot.com.au/
 Korumburra & District Historical Society: www.korumburrahistory.com.au or PO Bo 329, Korumburra 3950
 Lang Lang & District Historical Society: langlang.net/historical.html
 Leongatha and District Historical society: leongathahistory.org.au
 Phillip Island & District Historical Society: <http://pidhs.org.au/>
 Phillip Island Nature Parks, Churchill Island Heritage Farm Collection
<https://victoriancollections.net.au/organisations/churchill-island-heritage-farm#collection-records>
 South Eastern Historical Association: seha.org.au
 Wonthagi Historical Society: wonthaggihistoricalsociety.org.au/
 Wonthaggi Genealogy Inc.: secretary@wonthaggi-genealogy.org.au

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From the *San Remo Times and Phillip Island and Bass Valley Advertiser*, 1st October 1897, page 2.

Local and General News

The San Remo Court of Petty Sessions will be held on Friday next at the courthouse at 2 p.m.

The Phillip Island and Woolamai Shire Council will be held on Saturday, the 16th inst.

The Rev. Herbert E. Potter will conduct Church of England service at the Shire Hall, San Remo, on Sunday evening next at 7 p.m.

Messrs. Joseph Clarke and Co. will hold their next monthly market at the Bass sale yards on the 14th inst.

The s.s. *Genista* will be laid up at Hastings this year for her annual overhaul the week after next. During overhaul the mails and passengers from here will be taken across the passage by boat to Newhaven, whence they will be taken to Cowes by conveyance, Mr. Stanley Kennon having the contract. They will then be conveyed from there to Stony Point by a sailing boat. Mr. Harry Hansen has been engaged to take the butter from San Remo to Stony Point. It is expected that the *Genista* will be laid up for about a week; perhaps longer.

Mrs. Small and family took their departure by the s.s. *Genista* during the week to take up their residence in the metropolis. There was a large assemblage of friends on the jetty to see them off.

Messrs. Pretty and Sykes have been engaged by the Council during the last week repairing the Main road, which was badly needed.

Mr. G. W. Mitchell will address the Mornington electors as follows:— Frankston, Monday, 4th October, at 7.39 p.m.; Somerville Tuesday, 5th October, at 3 p.m.; Hastings, Tuesday, 5th October, at [unclear time] p.m.; Flinders, Wednesday, 6th October, at 7.30 p.m.; Cowes, Thursday 7th October, at 7.30 p.m.; San Remo, Friday, 8th October, at 2.30 p.m.; Bass, Friday, 8th October, at 7.30 p.m.; Woodleigh, Saturday, 9th October, at 12 noon; Korumburra, Saturday, 9th October, at 8 p.m.

Mr. Inspector Gilbert, of the Public Works Department, examined the books of the Shire of Phillip Island and Woolamai last Tuesday, and found all accounts correctly written up and balanced to date, also all the vouchers for receipts and payments to hand, and in perfect order, reflecting credit on Mr. Bonwick, the Shire Secretary. It may not be generally known to the ratepayers that all shire officer books are now inspected by the Government Inspector at any time, and if

the officer has not his books correctly written up to date he is liable to a fine of £20. With the small salaries now paid, and with this inspection and penalty, we should say the office is no sinecure.

An unfortunate accident befel [*sic*] Mr. Frederick McFee, of the s.s. *Genista*, on Tuesday night. After being out on a visit to some friends he was returning on board and in attempting to get on to the steamer, it being a low tide and very dark, he missed his footing and fell on the deck, with the result that he sprained his ankle. His cries for help were heard by Messrs. Edwards and Crabb, who did all in their power to alleviate his sufferings. Next morning his ankle was so much swollen as to necessitate him leaving off duty for a time. We are happy to state he is progressing fairly well under the circumstances.

A "drunk" was brought up before Mr. J. Hoddinot, J.P., on Tuesday morning at San Remo, and discharged with a caution.

Mr. Downward, M.L.A., will address the Mornington electors as follows:— Somerville, Friday, 1st October, at 7.30 p.m.; Hastings, 2nd October, at 7.30 p.m.; Flinders, Monday, 4th October, at 7.30 p.m.; Cranbourne, Wednesday, 6th October, at 7.30 p.m.; Loch, Thursday, 7th October, at 7.30 p.m.; Glen Alvie Hall, Friday, October 8th, at 3 p.m.; Bass Valley Hall, Friday, October 8th, at 7.30 p.m.; Nar Nar Goon, Saturday, October 9th, at 2.30 p.m.; Pakenham, Saturday October 9th, at 7.30 p.m.; Bena, Monday, 11th October, at 3 p.m.; Poowong, Monday, October 11th, at 7.30 p.m.; Korumburra, Tuesday, 12th October, at 7.30 p.m.; Jumbunna, Wednesday, 13th October, at 3 p.m.; Outtrim, Wednesday, 13th October, at 7.30 p.m.

As will be seen by our advertising columns the s.s. *Argyle* leaves Melbourne for San Remo on Wednesday next, October 6th, at 2 p.m. The fare are—Saloon 7s. 6d., steerage 5s., and freight 10s. a ton. Saloon passengers are supplied with bedding. Berths can be secured at the agents, Bergin and Co., San Remo, and J. B. Ellerker, 372 Flinders street, Melbourne.

The Queensferry Ministering Children's League will not hold an entertainment this month.

(continues on Page 4)

Local and General News (continued from Page 3)

Bible class and choir practice will be held at the Grantville Hall on Tuesday evening next and the Fern Hill Church on Wednesday evening.

Also

From the *San Remo Times and Phillip Island and Bass Valley Advertiser*, 8th October 1897, page 2.

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

The Phillip Island and Woolamai Shire Council will be held on Saturday, the 16th inst. Several tenders are to be let.

A Bachelors Ball was held on Wednesday night last at Grantville, and was a great success, there being about 70 couples present. Full particulars will be given in our next issue.

Tenders are invited, through our advertising columns, for cutting about 2 miles of drain at the Tarwin. Particulars with A. Munro on the ground, or Mr. J. Hoddinott, San Remo.

Mr. C. Suss, of the Pier Hotel, San Remo has disposed of his business to Mr. Healey, who will take possession to-day.

Mr. G. W. Mitchell will address the Mornington electors as follows:— San Remo, Friday, 8th October, at 2.30 p.m.; Bass, Friday, 8th October (to-night), at 7.30 p.m.; Woodleigh, Saturday, 9th October, at 12 noon; Korumburra, Saturday, 9th October, at 8 p.m.

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

Mr. Downward, M.L.A., will address the Mornington electors as under:— Glen Alvie Hall, Friday, October 8th, at 3 p.m.; Bass Valley Hall, Friday, October 8th, at 7.30 p.m.; Nar Nar Goon, Saturday, October 9th, at 2.30 p.m.; Pakenham, Saturday, October 9th, at 7.30 p.m.; Bena, Monday, 11th October, at 3 p.m.; Poowong, Monday, October 11th, at 7.30 p.m.; Korumburra, Tuesday, 12th October, at 7.30 p.m.; Jumbunna, Wednesday, 13th October, at 3 p.m.; Outtrim, Wednesday, 13th October, at 7.30 p.m.

As will be seen by our advertising columns, tenders will be received up to Wednesday next for painting the outside and inside of the Grantville Hotel, labor only.

The s.s. Argyle arrived at San Remo on Thursday morning, and after discharging cargo sailed for the Gippsland Lakes.

Also

From the *San Remo Times and Phillip Island and Bass Valley Advertiser*, 15th October 1897, page 2.

The Phillip Island and Woolamai Shire Council will be held to-morrow. Several tenders are advertised to be let.

The Rev. Herbert E. Potter will conduct Church of England service at the Shire Hall, San Remo, on Sunday morning next at 11 a.m.

It will be noticed by our advertising columns that Mr. S. M. Heeley has purchased the license of the Pier Hotel, San Remo, from Mr. Suss, who is leaving the district. The new proprietor is having the hotel renovated inside, and painted on the outside, for the coming season. As an hotel manager we feel sure Mr. Heeley will be the right man in the right place, as his experience is of long standing.

Mr. Frederick McFee, of the s.s. Genista, who had the misfortune to sprain his ankle a few weeks back, has so far recovered as to be able to resume work on Monday last.

An old resident of Phillip Island passed away during the week in the person of Mr. Robert Gaul at an advanced age. As he had been ailing for a considerable time his death was not unexpected. His remains were interred in the Cowes cemetery, a large number of mourners following the cortege.

During the stormy weather of the week before last the buoy in the Channel at San Remo shifted from its moorings from one bank of the Channel to the other, and in the position in which it now lays is most dangerous to shipping. The s.s. Queenscliff, when coming up the Channel on Sunday, went round the buoy before she noticed it had been shifted, and had it not been high water she would undoubtedly have been stuck on a mud bank. It is high time it was moved into its proper position, considering the proper authority had been notified of it after it occurred.

Opossums having become so scarce, the Government have decided to protect them from the 31st October to the 30th April, these months being close season.

The s.s. Genista went to Hastings on Monday to undergo repairs. Mr. Stanley Kennon has the contract for bringing the mails to and from Stony Point during the time she is laid up.

The mutton-birds are coming into Cape Woolamai rather early this year, as at the present time they are very numerous there, and are in a very poor condition.

(continues on Page 5)

Local and General News (continued from Page 4)

Tenders are invited through our advertising columns by the Great Victoria Colliery Company for the construction of a bridge across the Bass River; labor only and plant. Plans and specifications can be seen at the company's office, Queensferry, on and after Monday next. Tenders close on Thursday, the 28th inst.

Foxes are becoming very numerous about the Blackwood, and are playing havoc with the fowl yards. On Wednesday a lad named Grayden brought five young "cubs" down from there, which he discovered in a hollow log, to Mr. Bonwick to receive "scalp money."

Mr. Hoddinott, of San Remo, trucked a mob of bullocks at Lang Lang last week for his Bonegilla Estate.

Also

From the San Remo Times and Phillip Island and Bass Valley Advertiser, 22nd October 1897, page 2.

In the discussion at last council meeting as to which riding should pay for Edwards's road, the Corinella councillors, Crs. Ward, Grout and Bates, voted for the motion that the Woolamai Riding bear the whole cost. The Woolamai Riding moved an amendment that the cost be divided between the two ridings—Woolamai and Corinella—equally. The amendment was carried. This was for the road through Edwards's, not for all the road leading to Grantville as reported.

Tenders are invited through our advertising columns by the Great Victoria Colliery Company for the construction of a bridge across the Bass River; labor only and plant. Tenders close on Thursday, the 28th inst.

Tenders will be received by the Board of Land and Works up to noon on Wednesday, the 27th inst., for the right to graze on 6 acres of land in the parish of Corinella. Full particulars in our advertising columns.

In connection with the Melbourne Cup, return tickets on the Victorian railways, at holiday excursion fares, will be issued to Melbourne only at all stations from the 15th October till 8th November (both days inclusive), and also on the 9th October. The tickets will be available for all trains and for return by any train up till the night of the 23rd November.

In the polling for the Mornington Electorate the correct totals were as follows:— A. Downward, 1453; G. W. Mitchell, 719. Majority for A. Downward, 734.

Mr. S. Uprichard's, of Queensferry, horse Prince will stand this season at his farm,

Queensferry. Farmers who have mares will do well to send them, as it is well known that his stock has fetched the highest prices in the district, and are all first-class workers and good tempered. His pedigree is first to none in the colony.

During repairs to the s.s. Genista, the mails and passengers leave the San Remo Pier at 7 a.m.

Also

From the San Remo Times and Phillip Island and Bass Valley Advertiser, 29th October 1897, page 2.

The San Remo Court of Petty Sessions will be held on Friday next, 5th November.

The Rev. Herbert E. Potter will conduct Church of England service at the Shire Hall, San Remo, on Sunday evening next at 7.30 p.m.

By our advertising columns it will be seen that Mrs. Cracknell intimates she will commence evening classes for dancing at the Queensferry Hall on Friday next. The usual Saturday afternoon classes will also be held. As the terms are very reasonable they ought to be well appreciated.

The Pier Hotel is undergoing repairs for the coming season. The inside of the house is being newly prepared and painted, and the whole of the outside is having two coats of paint put on. The work is to be all finished in a month ready to receive visitors. It is to be hoped that Mr. Heeley will have it crowded through the coming season.

Mr. Peck will preach at Milford on Sunday morning next at 11 a.m. and Mr. Kerr at Sunnyside at 3 p.m.

In our last issue a mistake crept into our column in reference to a horse advertisement. It stated first to none. It should have been second to none. We might also state that Mr. Bates, of Base Park, has refused £25 for a yearling colt by Prince.

An unfortunate accident befel *[sic]* Dr. Jones, of San Remo, at his residence on Tuesday morning, when, by some unaccountable means, he struck his forehead against a mantelpiece, inflicting a nasty wound, which he had to get a few stitches put in. He has been suffering from a slight weakness for a few days since the occurrence, but is quite convalescent now.

Mr. Nicholson, of San Remo, has decided to try his fortune in the Golden West, and leaves for that place on Tuesday next. We wish him success.

At the Government land sale last week Mr. Lynes *[sic]* was the purchaser of the old

(continues on Page 6)

Local and General News (continued from Page 5)

Bass show ground.

Mr. J. S. Jenkins, of Collins street, Melbourne, has been appointed auditor for the Shire of Phillip Island and Woolamai.

On Tuesday, November 2nd (Cup Day) all post-offices outside the suburban radius will be carried on as usual, but no money or savings bank business will be transacted. All post-offices will close on the 9th November at 10 a.m., and open from 6 to 7 p.m.

The Rev. J. W. Grove, B.A., of Korumburra, will take Mr. James H. Heaton's appointments on Sunday next as follows:— Glen Alvie, 11 a.m.; Kilcunda, 3 p.m.; Grantville, 7.30 p.m.

A concert will be held in aid of the Grantville Mechanics' Institute on Tuesday, November 9th, when old favorites and new talent will make their appearance. A ball will follow.

A public meeting of friends and persons willing to contribute towards a monument to the memory of the late Dr. Wilson is called for 7.30 p.m. on Friday, 5th November, at the Bass Hall. It is to be hoped the meeting will be a representative one, as Dr. Wilson, while amongst us, was always ready and willing, at all hours and in all weathers, when occasion arose, to travel to any part of the shire, and the least the people of the district can do to show their lasting gratitude is to erect a monument to perpetuate his memory.

Mr. Anderson started shearing during the week, and when he is "cut out" Mr. Potter will follow with his lot.

It is expected that the repairs to the Genista will be completed within a fortnight. Her being laid up for so long a time is a great inconvenience to the travelling public, as plenty people don't like the idea of getting a good "ducking" in a sailing boat these rough days.

* * *

NOTICE.

TRESPASSERS PROSECUTED.

The **Plowright Albion Sand Company** hereby gives notice that in view of the damage done from time to time to its barges in the Koowee-rup Main Drain by persons swimming in the drain and others, the Company intends to prosecute any person found on any of its barges or otherwise damaging its property.

From the *South Bourke and Mornington Journal*, Wednesday 9 April 1884

Phillip Island Shire Council

Friday, 3rd April 1884

Present: Councillors Stewart (President), Clarke, Aldridge, Duffus, Smith and Kidd.

The minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed and outward correspondence received.

Correspondence

From the Oriental Bank, agreeing to allow the Bank account to be overdrawn to the amount of £500 temporarily.—Received.

From Dr. F. L. Hooper, of Mornington, offering his services as Health Officer to the Shire at a remuneration of £30 per annum.—Consideration deferred till next meeting.

Extension of time for one month was granted to Messrs Scott and Richardson, and John Payne for completion of their contracts in Corinella.

A petition from the residents of Corinella was read asking that a new bridge be erected over Guy's creek, and forwarding £5 contribution towards cost of same.—Referred to the members for the Corinella riding, to report at next meeting.

Tenders were ordered to be called for re-construction of culvert on Gondie's, Phillip Island, in accordance with report of Clerk of Works.

Consideration of report on Bass road culverts was postponed till next meeting. The Clerk of Works was instructed to get clearing done on the road leading to the Rev. H. Potter's at a cost of £2.

In accordance with recommendation of the Clerk of Works, permission was granted to H. F. Norton to lay down pipes between his allotment at Cowes and the sea.—The work to be done under the supervision of the Clerk of Works.

Payments were passed to the amount of £234 5s 1d.

In committee the following tenders were accepted:—Contract no. 320, J. Payne, £17; contract 332, Jas. Peattie, £9; contract 323, John McKinnon, £55 10s.

Consideration of report relative to mining leases held in the Shire was held over till next meeting.

Councillor Clarke gave notice of motion for work on the Grantville and Jumbunna road, and the Council adjourned.

From the Age, Saturday 10 June 1916, page 4.

Victoria's Coal Fields

Amazing Lack Of Enterprise Vast Riches Unexplored

(Re-paragraphed for the sake of clarity.)

A glance at this map of South Gippsland's coal fields will lead one to shrug the shoulders at Victoria's claim's to progress, self-dependence and public enterprise. There is in this great province an area of coal-bearing country approximately measuring 2100 square miles. The black patches on the map show the places where the spacious field has been explored and has been shown to bear fine black coal in seams of payable or nearly payable thickness. The proved belt runs east-north-easterly from Kilcunda to Morwell, and measures about 50 miles long by about 10 miles wide.

The different places at which boring or mining has taken place, or at which mining by the Government and private companies is proceeding, are numbered as follow:—

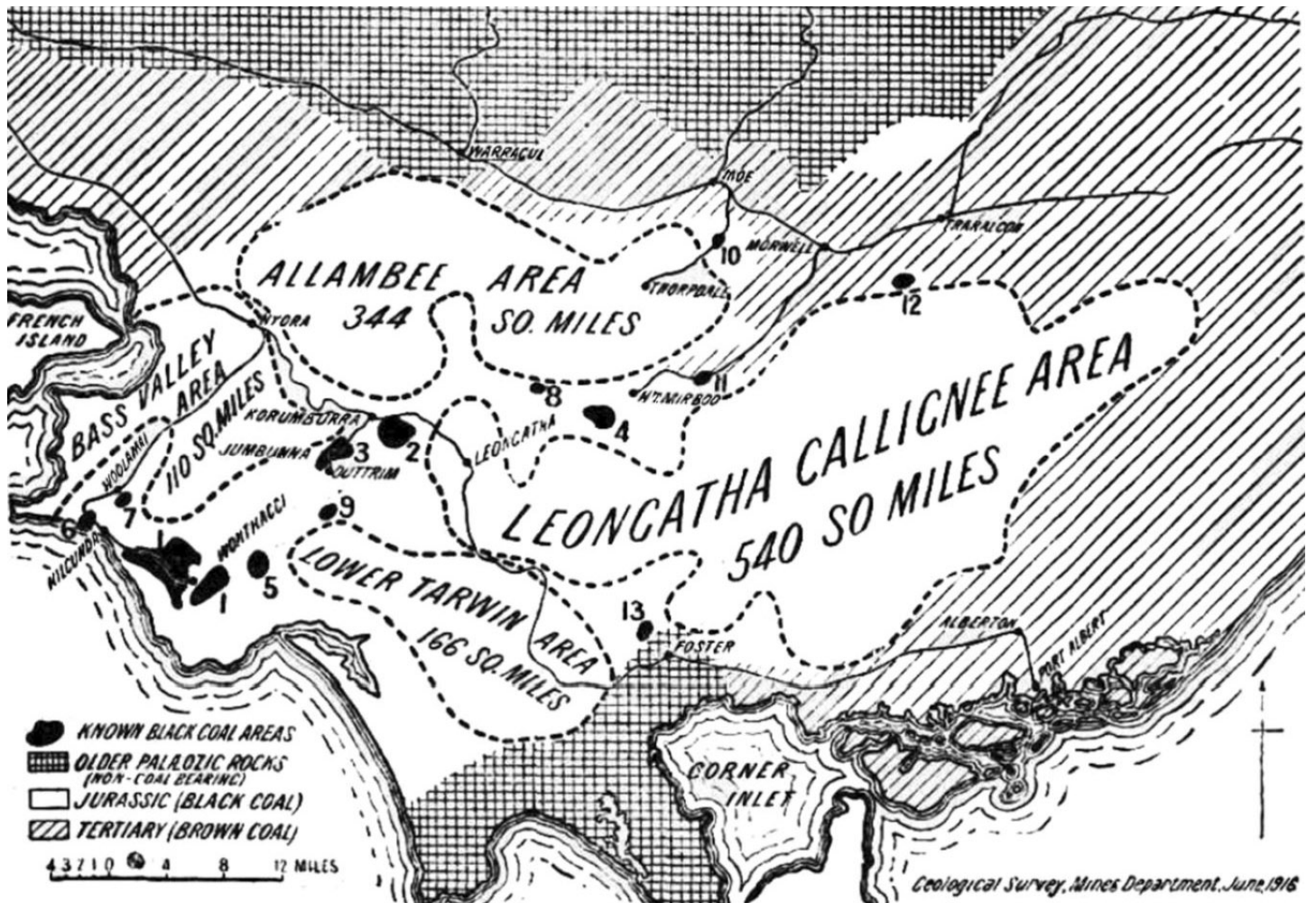
- 1, Wonthaggi; 2, Korumburra; 3, Outtrim;
- 4, Mardan; 5, Kirrak; 6, Kilcunda; 7, Woolamai;
- 8, Koorooman; 9, Outtrim Flats; 10, Coalville;
- 11, Boolarra; 12, Hazelwood; 13, Foster.

The discovery of coal in this country dates back 40 years. Suggestions to open mines and

give the public the benefit of cheaper fuel were regularly frowned into silence. New South Wales had command of the fine Victorian market, and the industry here was paralysed. From time to time strikes at Newcastle and Maitland threatened our manufactures with a coal famine, and thousands of workers with idleness – now and then there was heavy loss – yet efforts to bring into use the millions of tons of fine coal almost at Melbourne's back door were defeated. As a grim necessity of the great New South Wales coal strike of 1909-10, the State mine was opened at Wonthaggi, but not without sustained and bitter obstruction.

It has brought into existence a fine new town, it turns out 530,000 tons of coal a year, directly employs 1130 men, and gives a net profit yearly of £10,030. In all that 2100 square miles of country there is more than one Wonthaggi — more than one small spot abounding in natural riches.

(continues on Page 8)



Victoria's Coal Fields (continued from Page 7)

Reference to the map will show that no less than 1160 square miles of coal-bearing land – in the Bass Valley, Allambee, Lower Tarwin and Leongatha-Callignee areas – has not yet been even bored. This country represents a virgin field. The remaining 940 miles, where casual boring has taken place at wide and irregular intervals, cannot be said to have been prospected. Its value, apart from the small areas being worked, is practically unknown.

The State might win far more coal than it is taking from Wonthaggi, and it has the chance of opening up other mines more valuable. The Minister of Mines promises to undertake vigorous prospecting. It cannot be too vigorous nor be undertaken too soon. Coal is 'the bread of industry.' The most profitable manufactures, and all undustrices [*sic*] requiring power and light, are helped or retarded by its price. It is a basic need for the country's defence. The nature of the supply affects the cost of living to every household. This winter fuel is at specially high rates, and it may be a long time before there is a substantial reduction. This Victorian coal must be worked, it must be sold to the general public at the lowest profitable rate, and the Government that falters in the task at hand has no right to be in office.

* * *

From *The Argus*, Friday 16 January 1925, page 5.

Gippsland Roads

Inspection By Minister

The Minister for Public Works (Mr. Goudie), accompanied by Mr. Fricke (a member of the Country Roads Board) and Mr. Walter, M.L.A., will inspect the roads of West Gippsland next week. Leaving Melbourne by motor-car on Monday morning the party will travel to Lower Tarwin, via Cranbourne, Lang Lang, Grantville, Almurta, Wonthaggi, and Inverloch. The night will be spent at Lower Tarwin, and on Tuesday the party will go to Korumburra through Tarwin, Koonwarra, and Leongatha. After receiving a deputation from the Korumburra Council Mr Goudie will return to Leongatha and inspect the roads in the district. Spending Tuesday night at Mirboo, the party will reach Warragul on Wednesday, and inspect the roads in that district. A number of other centres will be visited on Thursday and Friday, and the tour will end of Friday night.

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

Meanwhile At Wonthaggi...

The first consignment of trees for planting is expected to arrive here about 8th July, and Mr. Johnstone, the officer in charge of this work, is now busy getting ready for the planting for some months. The reserve in McBride Avenue will be trenched for ornamental bedding and terraced, and the work is to be commenced at once. A plantation of both useful and ornamental trees will separate the noise from the town. Mr. Johnstone hopes to be able to plant nearly [*unclear number, possibly 5,000*] trees during the present season.

The new Church of England building was used for the first time on Sunday evening last. No seating accommodation has yet been provided. When this has been attended to, the building will seat about 125.

Business people who contemplate erecting verandahs to their shop premises should be careful to extend same to the required width, viz. 15 feet. In a number of cases it has been found necessary to compel owners to conform to this regulation. Many were unfortunate enough to have erected verandahs without any knowledge of such a regulation being in force, and were not a little "riled" when order were given to comply with it.

From the *Age*, Saturday 1 July 1865, page 5.

The News Of The Day

An inquest was held by Dr. Candler, at Mr Bennison's Hotel, Mornington, on the body of Mr Charles Reilley, who was drowned whilst crossing from Bass River to French Island, on Monday last. Mr Lee, who was in a very weak state, and suffering from contusion in the leg, was examined. It appears that he was in company with deceased when the accident occurred. The boat capsized in a sudden squall, about three quarters of a mile from the shore, and Mr Lee fortunately held on to the rigging. Deceased, who was a good swimmer, kept up for a long time, and after trying to reach the shore, turned round, and Mr Lee pushed an oar to him, with a view of saving him. His strength failing him, he sank, and Mr Lee was providentially rescued, after being five hours in the water. A verdict was returned according to the evidence.

YOUNG FOLKS

From the *Weekly Times*, 28 December 1901.

For The Cot

Glen Alvie, 16th December 1901.—Dear Aunt Connie,—I am returning my collecting card. I have not made such a good collection, after all. I have collected L1 10s 2d. We were living at Corinella when I wrote for the card, but now we have moved to Glen Alvie. There are fifty scholars going to our school. The teacher is getting up a children's concert for the breaking up for Christmas holidays. I have been to Melbourne since I last wrote to you, and I paid a visit to the Children's Hospital, which I think is a beautiful building. I have three sisters and five brothers, and there are five of us going to school. My father got his leg broken through a dray capsizing on him, and he was laid up for four months in the winter, but he is all right again. With love to Cousins Connie and Florrie, Uncle Ben and yourself. I remain your affectionate niece, Emma Cadee.

[You have made a good collection, dear.—Aunt Connie.]

From the *Weekly Times*, Saturday 18 January 1902, page 13.

The First School Concert

Glen Alvie, 31st Dec., 1901.—Dear Aunt Connie,—We are having very hot weather now. There was a ball held in the Blackwood Hall on the 29th of November, and a State school concert on the 20th December for the school prizes. They both proved a great success, and realised about L13 between them. Nearly all the scholars helped to sing and said recitations. It was the first school concert ever held there. The sea is about 12 miles from here. We went down to Kilcunda a little while ago. We got some nice shells on the beach. We saw the place where they were coal mining. I think it is very dangerous work. I am 13 years old, and have left school. We are milking 29 cows now, and we are feeding 14 calves. We have three horses and two foals. Nearly all the crops are cut. We found a nest in the hay-shed with 42 eggs in it. We have two guinea-fowls. They lay a great many eggs. Korumburra is about 16 miles from here. As it is late I will draw my letter to a close,—I remain, your loving niece, Katie Green.

Part Two of Four



From the *Weekly Times*, Saturday 12 April 1902, page 8.

Mutton Birds on Phillip Island

Cowes, Phillip Inland. 2nd April.—Dear Uncle Ben,—I am writing to you for the first time to tell you about our Sunday school picnic. Our minister, Mr Peck, took us all to San Remo

in the steamer Genista. It was a lovely day. We enjoyed it very much. About 40 went, and a number of parents. We had lunch by the pier. At five we started for home. We had some buns and lollies on the boat, and got home about six o'clock. It was the first time I had been to San Remo. We all enjoyed it very much. We have two horses, three cows, one calf, two cats, and two parrots. The parrots can whistle "Where are you working?" and "Pretty Joey." We have a dear little baby, named Phyllis. She is three months' old. I go to school, and am in the third class. Now is the time to get mutton birds. There are a great many on the island. Your affectionate nephew—George Matthews.

From the *Weekly Times*, Saturday 19 April 1902, page 8.

A Prize Winning School

Loch, March 31st, 1902.—Dear Aunt Connie,—This is my first letter to you. I take great interest in reading the letter in the "Young Folks" page. We get "The Weekly Times" every week. I go to the Jeetho school, and I am in the third class. My teacher is Mr Stellow. My brother and I ride five miles to school. I have two brothers and two sisters; their names are George, Jack, May and Anna. Our school took several prizes at the Korumburra, Lang Lang, and Grantville shows for writing and drawing. Loch is not a very large place. I will describe it in my next letter if you will accept me as one of your many nieces. We have about 20 fowls, 10 ducks, two cows milking, and a little pig. I have a dear little canary, and a little pony. I must conclude now, with fond love to Cousins Connie and Florrie, Uncle Ben, and yourself. Your fond niece,—Stella Gravenall.

[Yes, Stella, we accept you as a niece.

(continues on Page 10)

Young Folks (continued from Page 9)

Write next month and tell us all about the beautiful district in which you live. We would like some day to go and see it for ourselves.—Aunt Connie.]

From the *Weekly Times*, Saturday 26 April 1902, page 8.

The Magpies' Reminder

"Allendale," Almurta.—Dear Aunt Connie,—Since I last wrote to you I have become sixteen, and so cannot claim to be one of your many nieces any longer. I received my certificate, for which I ought to have written and thanked you. It is very pretty. I am acting as temporary pupil teacher at our school. I am very fond of teaching. My brother, who went to South Africa, has been back for some time. He brought with him several South African trifles, which we value very much. Among them was [a] pom-pom shell. We had a very nice concert in aid of our prizes, and as it was the first we have had, it was a great success. There was rather a funny mistake made at our school a few days ago. The teacher asked one of the children the feminine of "Jew." The answer was "Frost," the child thinking he meant "dew." There is to be a tea-meeting in the Wesleyan church on the 23rd inst. Our magpie died the other day. We were very sorry, as he was beginning to talk so nicely. His favorite saying was, "Hurry up. You'll be late for school." Father took several prizes at the Grantville Show this year, and my sister got first for best-dressed white shirt. With love to Cousins Connie, Florrie, and Uncle Ben.—I remain your associate-niece, Maggie Allen.

From the *Weekly Times*, Saturday 31 May 1902, page 8.

A Field Trial.

Koo Wee Rup. 17th May. 1902.—Dear Aunt Connie,—Our township consists of two general stores, a blacksmith's shop, a draper's shop, a bakery and also a butcher's shop. We have a nice Presbyterian Church and a Sunday school combined. The Roman Catholics have recently called for tenders for the erection of a chapel. A few months back some of the leading spirits of our town called a meeting, in view of building a public hall. It has been decided to do so, so we now have the prospect of another building in our small township. The local agent for the Massey-Harris machinery has arranged with my father to hold a field trial of their farm implements in one of our paddocks on Tuesday, the 20th. Everybody seems to think that it will be a fair trial, as

everything looks very favourable so far. As we live about four miles from the township, we do not see much life, so we expect to have a pleasant day the day of the trial. With love to Connie and Florrie, also yourself.—I remain, your loving niece, P. Rundle.

From the *Weekly Times*, 27 September 1902, page 8.

His Favorite Game

Koo-wee-rup, 25th August, 1902.—Dear Aunt Connie,—We have been having a very dry winter this year, but we have got the much-needed rain at last, and it is doing the crops a lot of good. I think I know the correct answer to Marion L. Henderson's puzzle. It reads thus:—"In 1793 France dividing, rebellion in every corner, religion put to one side, justice turned backwards and forwards, and law and order buried upside down," Violet Lillian Smith wished to know our favorite occupation on a wet day. Mine is reading, and I have read a good many books. One of my favorite authors is Everett Green, and I also like reading Charles Dickens' books. The boys living hereabouts have been very busy lately getting up a cricket team, and it has been a success so far, having twenty-six members. I would like to ask some of our cousins their favorite games. Mine is ping pong, and I know a good many other games. We have had a very nice ping pong set given us for a Christmas present. I shall be very glad when Louie Russell writes another of her interesting letters, as I like reading them very much. My mother's parents used to know her father and mother, as they used to live in Daylesford. The Roman Catholic Church was opened yesterday, and they had a very good attendance, considering the bad weathem [sic]. My father planted out an orchard of mixed trees not long ago, so we shall have plenty of fruit in a little while. Our fowls are all laying fairly well, and we have plenty of eggs. You must have quite a lot of nieces now, Aunt Connie, as every week there are some new names in the paper. I must now end this letter with love to Connie and Florrie, Uncle Ben and not forgetting yourself.—I am, your loving niece, Priscilla B. Rundle.

From the *Weekly Times*, Saturday 16 May 1903, page 8.

A Young Photographer

"The Grange," San Remo, May 3rd, 1903.
Dear Aunt Connie,—

I hope you are quiet [sic] well. I have a pretty little pony called Brownie, and I ride her nearly
(continues on Page 11)

Young Folks (continued from Page 10)

every day. I have a camera, and have taken about a dozen photos, and have developed some of them myself. We do not go to school, but have a governess. I have just one sister. She is seven years old, and I am eleven. Her name is Norah. With love to Cousins Connie and Florrie and yourself, I am your would-be niece,

Kathleen Anderson.

[We are glad you have you for a niece, Kathleen.—Aunt Connie.]

From the *Weekly Times*, Saturday 30 May 1903, page 8.

Where They had A Splendid Season

Dear Aunt Connie—

It is a long time since I last wrote to you. We're having splendid weather here now for winter time. The grass looks as green and fresh as ever. We had a splendid season last year. Our grass was green all the year. We are glad to hear that the railway strike is over. We only missed one day in getting our mail, and that was on the first Saturday. After that they ran one train a day as far as Korumburra for the mail and passengers, so we were not so badly off as expected. The butter from the factory went by the steamer to Melbourne. The coal-miners' strike has not been settled yet, though it has lasted a long time. We are milking thirty-two cows in the morning and four at night. They are doing very well yet. A few people around are milking their cows twice a day yet, but they have a lot of maize. There was a bioscope entertainment at the hall on the 8th May. The hall was crowded. Moving pictures of a test match between England and Australia were shown. The Coronation procession and an attack on the Chinese mission station were specially interesting. We also had songs on the gramophone *[sic]*. They were very plain. We have not got many flowers out now, as the rain has spoiled them. We have plenty of violets out. With love to all, I remain, your loving niece, Katie Green.

From the *Weekly Times*, 5 September 1903, page 8.

Be Careful At See Saw

Kooweerup, 22/8/1903.

Dear Aunt Connie.—

This is the first time I have written to you. One of my aunties and my uncle sailed for South Africa, about a fortnight ago. I shall be twelve years old on the nineteenth of next November, and I am in the fifth class at school, and I like it very much. I met with

an accident about three weeks ago while I was sitting on a see-saw I fell backwards and hurt my back, and I had to stay in bed for nearly a fortnight. As some of my cousins are telling what their favorite hymns are, I will tell you mine. They are:—"Safe in the Arms of Jesus," "Peace, Perfect Peace," and "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say." Next time I go to Melbourne, may I visit "The Weekly Times" office? With love to Cousins Connie and Florrie, Uncle Ben, and yourself,—I remain your would-be niece,

Maud J. Ellis.

[Yes, Maud].

From the *Weekly Times*, Saturday 19 September 1903, page 8.

Some Sad Losses

Koo-Wee-Rup, Aug. 22, 1903.

Dear Aunt Connie,—

It is a long time since I last wrote to you.

The crops around here are looking splendid. We have a nice lot of cabbages in, but just as soon as they begin to look nice and green the hares come and eat them off. My father is away from home just now, working, and we do miss him so much. Since I last wrote to you we have lost a little sister, and just six weeks before she died one of my aunties died in New South Wales. Mother took my little sister to the Children's Hospital, but the doctors could do nothing for her, and about three months afterwards she died. My father's mother died, too, so you see we had a very bad misfortune last year. Our flower garden looks very nice this year, especially the violets. I am sending some riddles for my cousins to answer:—1. When is a judge over head and ears in debt? 2. What is the difference between a lady and a postage stamp? Some of my cousins are saying what they would like to do when they grow up. I think I would like to always stay at home. I do not like going from home. With love,—I remain, your fond niece—Linda Ellis.

From the *Weekly Times*, Saturday 24 October 1903, page 8.

A New Home

Lang Lang, 4th Oct, 1903.

Dear Aunt Connie,—

Since I last wrote to you, we have moved from Heath Hill. We came here on the 22nd of September. Nellie and I went to the Lang Lang school the following Monday. It is 2½ miles from here. Caldermeade is about half a mile from here. Alice will be seven months old on the 10th of this month. I make her

(continues on Page 12)

Young Folks (continued from Page 11)

a rag dolly, and we hold it up and shake it, and say, "Hurrah dolly," then she gets it and shakes and laughs, and says it (in her own way). We sold all our cows except one, so we do not have to milk at all. There are not many kinds of flowers here, though there are a good many roses. Our dog, Jack, rounds up the hens all day if he is not tied up. He puts them altogether in a corner. Laddie, the other dog, eats eggs when he can get any. We can see the bay quite plainly from here, especially when the tide is in. I have read a good many books, and I like the authors. "A. J. C. Wilson" and "E. P. Roe" best, I think. I like the book called "Beulah" very much, also "Barriers Burned Away," "Madge Hilton," "The Mountain Daisy," and "Ada and Gerty." I think I know the answer to the riddle, "What makes more noise than a pig under a gate? Answer, two pigs. The answer to "What is blacker than a crow," is its feathers. With love to all my "Weekly Times" cousins, Connie and Florrie, Uncle Ben and yourself, I remain, your affectionate niece, Ethel M. Glover.

From the *Weekly Times*, Saturday 4 June 1904, page 8.

At the Saw Mill

Glen Forbes, May 16/04.

Dear Uncle Ben,—

This is the first time I have written to you. I am milking 20 cows at present, but they are not giving much. We have a set of horse works for cutting chaff. I have a dog, and I call him "George." He is a foxterrier, and can catch rats. It is a nice place up here. We have a waterfall. It is about 15 feet deep. We take "The Weekly Times." At the saw-mill they saw about 4000 feet per day. They have got a great stock of logs there at present. I am a pretty good rider. I can ride a buck-jumper, and it is good fun. I must draw to a close.—I am, yours truly, Thomas Gaylor.

From the *Weekly Times*, Saturday 9 June 1904, page 8.

A Trip To Cape Woolamai

San Remo, Dec. 8, 1903.

Dear Aunt Connie,—

We all went over to Cape Woolamai on Nov. 24, in a sailing boat called the Ripple. The sea was a bit rough, and some of our party were frightened. My cousin Nonie and I liked it, because we were splashed. When we got to Cape Woolamai we had our tea on the beach. Nonie, Norah, my sister and I climbed up a big sand-hill, and slid down it. Then we went

to the mutton-bird rookery, and tried to get some eggs before the birds arrived. Some of us had sticks with a piece of wire on the end of them to pull out the eggs with, because the birds burrow into the sand, sometimes over 6 feet. Then we stopped looking for eggs, and went to watch the birds come in. We waited a long time before they arrived. It was half-past eight when we got to the place where we landed, but the tide had gone out, and the boat could not be brought near enough to that part of the beach for us to get into, so we had to walk some distance along the beach to a reef of rocks. Then we were rowed to the Ripple in a little boat. We did not get back home till 12 o'clock at night. We went to Kilcunda on Dec. 4 for a picnic, and we had a nice bathe. We had dinner and tea at the beach. My favorite flowers are pansies, violets, roses and carnations. My favorite books are *Queechy*, *Wide, Wide World*, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, *David Copperfield* and *Seven Little Australians*. With love to cusins [*sic*] Connie and Florrie, not forgetting yourself,—I am, your little niece,

Kathleen Anderson.

P.S.—May I write again please?

From the *Weekly Times*, Saturday 23 July 1904, page 8.

A Progressive District

Dear Aunt Connie,—

It has been a cold, wet day to-day, but Nellie and I went to school. Bertha has a bad cold, and she has been home from school all the week. My sister gives her lessons at home. We have skipping at school to keep us warm these cold days. I passed in everything except mental arithmetic at our last examination. I am in the higher sixth, and Nellie is in the fourth class. We go to Lang Lang State School. I will tell you a little about Lang Lang. It is becoming quite a flourishing little centre. There are four grocers' shops, two blacksmiths', two drapers', a chemist's, a green grocer's, a saddler's, barber's, baker's, and two dressmakers'; a butcher's, a printing office and butter factory, besides many private residences. So you will see it has made great headway since the railway has been constructed. When my father came to Gippsland first, 15 years' ago, Drouin was the nearest railway station, and he says the roads were in a fearful state then. We have got good roads at Caldermeade. It will soon be twelve months since we came here to live. My little sister Alice is sixteen months old now, and she does torment us sometimes,

(continues on Page 13)

Young Folks (continued from Page 12)

when we are doing our lessons. She likes to get hold of a pen and if we don't watch her she will make a dive at the ink bottle. She races about all day like a little rabbit, and she can say a few words. We have a nice little pony to ride now. I am very fond of riding, and so are my sisters. When we lived in Lang Lang East we sometimes rode to school over the hills and small creeks, "gullies," we call them. One evening, when crossing the last gully, our pony stumbled, and tipped us over her head, splashing into the water. We were not long in scrambling up the bank, dripping wet, and the pony was quietly waiting for us. It was good of her not to clear off home and leave us. I must close now, dear Aunt Connie, with love to all. I remain, your affectionate niece,

Ethel M. Glover

P.S.—A little girl in Ultima wrote me after seeing my letter in the paper, and we write to one another regularly now. Her name is Nellie Glover. Dear Aunt Connie,—I sent some cards to the hospital some time ago. I wonder if they were received? E.G.

[Cards sent to "The Weekly Times" office for the hospital children are forwarded to the Children's Hospital; but the better plan is for our Young Folks to send any cards or gifts for the sick children direct to the matron, Pelham street, Carlton.—Aunt Connie]



SMOKERS' Stands. An ideal present. McLeod's, Kooweerup.

From the *Age*, Friday 27 June 1952, page 5.

Clung To Bridge By Their Fingers

Wonthaggi, Thursday.—Three escapees from the boys' home, Newhaven, Phillip Island, hung by their fingers over the side of the San Remo-Newhaven Bridge to avoid detection.

The boys were crossing the half-mile bridge which spans the entrance to Westernport Bay, when they saw the boys' home principal's car approaching. They swung over the side of the bridge to cling precariously above the water 30 feet below.

They slept in Anderson railway station cattle pens out of the rain.

Next morning they hiked towards Wonthaggi.

When overtaken on the Korumburra-road, six miles from Wonthaggi, they seemed glad to surrender.

"I'd rather have a belting than be a 'baldy,'" one of them told police who recaptured them.

Boys who escape have their head shaved as punishment.

One of them pointed to his head, and said: "I got away a while ago. My hair is only just starting to grow."

Mr. T. C. Aldrick, principal of the home, said the boys' hair was not clipped at the home as a punishment.

Thirty-six delinquent boys between eight and 15 were kept at the home. When they escaped their hair was clipped short for quick identification if they ran away again.

The same boys usually kept leaving the home.

The boys with clipped hair were known as "baldies" by local residents and police.

Missioner of the Mission of St. James and St. John, which controls the home (Rev. S. H. Burrigge) said in Melbourne he would not comment, but would "investigate."

Clipping was not a general practice at Church of England boys' homes, but if a boy kept escaping it might be done.

The secretary of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (Mr. S. Greig Smith) said his committee would probably discuss the matter.

The secretary of the Children's Welfare department (Mr. E. J. Pittard) said last night some boys' institutions close-cropped the heads of persistent absconders, but others had abolished the practice.

Mr. Pittard said the department did not have direct control, and had to rely on other institutions until it obtained its own establishments for handling "behavior" types.

Being Gay

Meant Only One Thing Then.

Means Only One (Very Different) Thing Today.

GAY BALL



From the *Argus*, 30 November 1953, page 9.

Wonthaggi, Sun.

Fun and fancy free had top priority at last night's fancy dress ball at Corinella. Above: Patsy Tuck (left) and Lenise Shenfeld wore blue jeans and jumpers. More than 150 people attended the ball, which was held to raise funds for the local school.

HUNT CLUB BALL WAS GAY

RED-COATED huntsmen added an unusual splash of color from the male side, towards the gay scene that was the Dandenong Drill Hall last Thurs-

From the *Dandenong Journal*, 12 Jult 1950, page 14.

THE GAY'S FREEHOLD QUARTZ MINING COMPANY
NO LIABILITY. BALLARAT.

NOTICE.—A Call (the 8th) of 3d. per share has been made on the capital of the company, due and payable to the manager, at the office of the company, on Wednesday the 8th day of September 1880.

A. CLARK, Manager.

Eldon Chambers, Ballarat, 1st Sept. 1880.

No. 4004

New Garfield Theatre

SATURDAY, JUNE 25th.

SATURDAY, JUNE 25th.

LAWRENCE TIBBETT in

"THE CUBAN LOVE SONG"

He loved one woman—another offered her life to save his—what could he do?

Also—

NORMA SHEARER with MARIE DRESSLER in—

"Let Us Be Gay!"

With the thrill of "Mrs Cheney" plus the daring of "Divorcee," you must not miss Norma Shearer's big hit.

Usual Short Subjects.

Usual Short Subjects.

From the *Koo Wee Rup Sun and Lang Lang Guardian*, 23 June 1932.

WONTHAGGI THEATRE.

New Year's Night, Wednesday, January 1, 1919.

Return of the Favourites: **Duggan and Woods' Comedy Compy.**

In the Latest Australian Farcical Comedy, entitled:

"A GAY YOUNG SQUATTER."

By Part Author of "On Our Selection," and played by members of the "ON OUR SELECTION" COMPANY, direct from the King's Theatre, Melbourne. ROARS OF LAUGHTER FROM START TO FINISH.

DON'T MISS IT,

POPULAR PRICES.—3s, 2s and 1s (plus tax). Seats may be Reserved at 4s. Box Plan at Bruckner's now open.

From the *Powlett Express and Victorian Sate Coalfields Advertiser*, 20 December 1918, page 3.

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"I don't like your heart action," the doctor said, applying the stethoscope again. "You have had some trouble with angina pectoris, haven't you?"

"You're right in a way, doctor," said the young man sheepishly, "only that isn't her name."

From the *KooWeeRup and Lang Lang Guardian*, 8 February 1934.

The McLeod Prison

Part Two: 1918-1922

From the *Lang Lang Guardian*, 4 May 1918, page 3.

Escape on a Raft From French Island

A prisoner named Joseph Smith, of German extraction, escaped from M'Leod penal settlement on French Island during Monday night. Smith, who is undergoing an indeterminate sentence, was not carrying out his allotted task in a manner to command admiration or satisfaction, and [unclear word] remonstrated with the officer in charge. Smith resolved to take what is known as "French leave." We are not quite clear as to the real origin of this phrase, or whether we are libelling our [unclear] ally by making use of it, but at any rate he resolved to quit. In secret he procured four oil drums which he lashed together with some saplings in the form of a raft. In the silent hours of the night or early morning he set his rude craft adrift in Westernport Bay, in the fervent hope that some friendly breeze or current would carry him to liberty. One of the oil drums, however, sprang a leak, so that the vessel became waterlogged, and this mariner was soon in difficulties. It was evident that the raft was better fitted for a U boat than [as] intended. He was found in a sinking condition, up to his waist in the water, by a fisherman named Palmer. The captain of the submarine had a timely rescue, as he would probably have perished from drowning or exposure. He told a tale to his deliverer which did not exactly tally with the facts, and was taken on board the s.s. *Genista*, a mammoth liner which churns the mighty deep between Stony Point and Cowes. The police at Cowes took charge of Smith, and his identity being established, he was brought to Lang Lang by Chief Officer Quirk of the penal settlement, on Tuesday, where he was given a night's lodging in the Government boarding house so ably presided over by our friend, Constable Cole, of the Police department. On Wednesday morning the commander of the U-boat was taken to Melbourne, where he will be dealt with as the law may direct.

Those about to marry cannot do better than consult the manager of the Melbourne Furnishing Coy., Wonthaggi.

From the *Bendigo Independent*, 8 May 1918, page 5.

French Island Prisoners Six Men Escape

Lang Lang, Tuesday.

Six prisoners serving indeterminate sentences escaped from French Island last night about midnight. They took Brown's boat, which was found this morning at the Lang Lang jetty, Westernport.

The names of the men are Samuel Sticken, George Wilson, George Grannan, Thomas Gray, Darcy Eccles and Edward Percy Dolby. Four of them only reached the island on Saturday.

Last week a young German endeavored to escape on a raft made of saplings and oil drums, but he was found by a fisherman when the raft was in a sinking condition, and was detained by the Cowes police.

From the *Leader*, Saturday 11 May 1918, page 38.

Escape From French Island Six Prisoners Break Gaol

Yet another escape of prisoners from the M'Leod settlement prison at French Island has been recorded. Information was received by the Criminal Investigation department on Tuesday morning that six prisoners had made good their escape. Their names are:—

Charles Wilson, alias Samuel Sticken, 33.

George Gannan, 26.

John Hain, alias Eccles, 25.

James Thompson, alias Gray, 34.

Henry Telford, alias Lawrence, 24.

George Williams, alias Wilson, 41.

The forest boat, with the oars, had been left by the prisoners in a handy place, and at the first opportunity they got away, rowing, it is supposed, towards Lang Lang, and making for the bush on reaching the mainland.

Three Prisoner Recaptured

Information reached the Criminal Investigation department on Thursday that three of the men who escaped from the M'Leod settlement prison at French Island had been recaptured that day. Two of the prisoners—George Grannan, 26, and Henry Telford, alias Lawrence, 24—were apprehended at Lang Lang by Constable Cole, assisted by the Cranbourne police. The other fugitive, James Thompson, alias Gray, 34, was taken near Dandenong by Constable Hair and other members of the force.

(continues on Page 16)

The McLeod Prison (continued from Page 15)

The preliminary reports of the capture of the men were meagre. It was stated by Constable Cole, however, that he was compelled to fire on the escaped prisoners in order to arrest them. He expected to capture others, who were known to be in the vicinity. The other man, Thompson, was discovered in the scrub near the railway line at Dandenong. He was observed by the police to walk along the line, but on seeing the constables he immediately set off in an opposite direction. After a scuffle, in which the prisoner and the police took part, he was overpowered and lodged in the Dandenong lockup.

From the Herald, Monday 13 May 1918, page 1.

Reign Of Terror Caused By Supposed Escapees

Police Making Search

Wonthaggi, Monday.

A reign of terror exists at Queensferry, a little fishing village of 60 people in Western-port Bay.

On Saturday morning the Wonthaggi police were informed that two or three of the men who escaped recently from French Island had visited a fisherman's house between 1 and 4 a.m. The policeman at Bass is on holidays, and Wonthaggi, about 25 miles away, is the nearest station.

Senior-Constable Keogh and Constable Froud immediately motored to Queensferry and made exhaustive inquiries and a search. There were traces of men having been at Mr Wheatley's dwelling. The village is isolated, and surrounded by dense bush. Abandoned huts were searched without result.

Women are alarmed, and an escort of elder brothers is sent with the children to the Grantville school, two miles away, through dense scrub tracks. The Wonthaggi police are still searching and keeping a sharp look-out lest the escapees may come this way.

From the *Powlett Express*, 17 May 1918, page 3.

French Island Escapees

Scare At Queensferry

The little fishing village of Queensferry is in a great state of perturbation owing to the scare in connection with the escape of prisoners from French Island. Word was received by the Wonthaggi police that three suspicious characters had been seen in the neighbourhood, and that a dwelling had been broken into. The nearest police station is at Bass, about 6 or 7 miles away, but Constable

Wishart is on leave. There was police protection no nearer than Wonthaggi, 24 miles distant. Senior constable Keogh, accompanied by Constable Froud, immediately set out by car for the place, and found traces of Mr. Wheatley's dwelling being entered. Tracks were found leading out of the yard into the dense bush that surrounds the village. A careful search was made, and one or two abandoned huts investigated. A well-known resident, Mrs. McKenzie, gave a graphic picture of the alarmed state of the residents, who send the children through some two miles of scrub to Grantville school. They are now escorted by elder brothers as a protection. The women folk, whose husbands are often out fishing at nights, were very uneasy. The visit of the police reassured the fisherfolk. A sharp look out is being kept by Senior-constable Keogh and his men.

Our San Remo Correspondent writes:

On the 7th inst. six more prisoners broke gaol from French Island, making the fifth episode of the kind. When the McLeod penal settlement was first established it was predicted by the "Express" that the convicts would not be able to resist the opportunities for escape presented to them.

From the *Daily Post* (Hobart), Friday 31 May 1918, page 6.

Escapees From French Island

Experiences On A Raft

The experience of four prisoners who recently escaped from McLeod penal establishment, French Island, were narrated in the City Court to-day, when Thomas Gray, Edward P. Dolby, George Grannan, and Joseph Smith were charged with escaping from custody. Constable Harrison stated that on April 20 he was on duty at Cowes Jetty, when he noticed the accused Smith among a number of passengers on a steamer which berthed there. Smith's clothing was very wet and he was wearing a prison jumper. He said he left French Island at midnight, and that he built a raft out of a box and four oil drums, and endeavored to reach Lang Lang. At a place known as Stockyard Point the tide turned, and he was carried about a mile out of his course. He then tried to reach Granville [*sic*], but the current was too strong. He could not get ashore at daylight, and the raft capsized in the bay, and he clung to it until a fisherman named Palmer picked him up and placed him aboard a steamer bound for Cowes, where he was arrested.

The four accused were committed for trial.

(continues on Page 17)

The McLeod Prison (continued from Page 16)

From the *Age*, Tuesday 18 March 1919, page 7.

Escape Of Prisoner

French Leave At French Island

Two indeterminate sentence prisoners—Walter Jones and Henry E. Meakin—escaped from the McLeod Settlement, French Island, early yesterday morning. The men, who had broken gaol on a previous occasion, seized the settlement dinghy, and their absence was not noticed until 4.15 a.m. Then two wardens pursued the fugitives in a motor boat, to which they had to swim. The rudder, they discovered, had been removed from the boat. Another one was attached, and the search commenced. Up to a late hour last night no trace of the missing prisoners had been discovered.

Jones who was sentenced to three years' imprisonment in December, 1914, for shop-breaking, is a man about 5 ft. 5½ in. height, with brown hair and eyes, and a scar on the left shoulder. On 4th August, 1915, he was sentenced to six months' imprisonment for escaping from gaol. Meakin, who is 35 years of age, is 5 ft. 10½ in. in height, with dark hair and grey eyes. He was sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment in 1916 for breaking gaol.

In the last few years there have been numerous escapes from the McLeod settlement.

From *Koo Wee Rup and Lang Lang Guardian*, 26 March 1919.

French Island Escapers

The following letter appeared in Saturday's "Age":—

Sir.—It is about time the public should know, and the Government realise, the reason for the frequency of escape from the McLeod Settlement on French Island. As a resident of Lang Lang, well acquainted with the conditions at the settlement, I am in a position to enlighten them. Having been a visitor, with many others, to the settlement, I can vouch for the comfortable way in which the prisoners are housed and fed. They are housed at least as well as 75 per cent of shearers, and as well as any farm worker in Victoria. They have been regaled with concerts and dances, in which many of the residents of Lang Lang have assisted, and in which the prisoners were

FLIES on food. Prevent this by having a Tallboy Safe. McLeod's, Kooweerup.

allowed to take part. Then what is wrong with this experiment in the way of penology? Why do not the prisoners respond to this "touch of human nature," which, according to the poet, is to bring about regeneration? Why are the convicts so unresponsive to all the efforts that are made to secure their happiness? Why, in fact, do they insist on running away from this paradise? In a few words, men of the wrong class are being sent there. The experiment has had a good trial—two years and nine months—and it is conceded by everyone in touch with it, including the wardens, that it is a rank failure. If those responsible for the system could hear the caustic remarks the prisoners indulge in at their expense it would put a cold douche on their ideas of coddling such men as these. Could any better result have been expected in the circumstances? A lot of long sentence men—incurables—are sent to a comfortable country seaside home, having only light work and any amount of liberty. They do not at all appreciate the kind treatment, and take every opportunity of escaping from their lightly enforced captivity. And all this time minor offenders, who might be reformed, are sent to prison to herd with some of the worst criminals.—Yours, etc.,

Pro Bono Publico

Lang Lang, 19th March.

From the *Daily News* (Perth), 28 November 1919, page 7.

Recaptured

After Escape From French Island Identified By Constable

Melbourne, Thursday.

After eight months' liberty, Patrick M. Lynch, who escaped from a French Island prisoners' gang on March 20 last, was re-arrested at Geelong yesterday. Lynch was working on the beach at French Island when he escaped. He said he did so because he had received a letter stating that his wife and one of the members of his family had got influenza badly, and were in a dangerous condition. He obtained employment in the Geelong Freezing Works, where he had got a fine character, and was generally looked up to. A constable who was aware of the escaped convict's description, identified Lynch in the street. Lynch was undergoing a sentence imposed on June 15, 1915, of four years' imprisonment with a whipping on a charge of having assaulted a woman and attempted a serious offence.

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The McLeod Prison (continued from Page 17)

From the *Herald*, Tuesday 26 October 1920, page 9

French Island Prisoners

Two Escape In Boat

Two young men who were prisoners at the penal settlement on French Island escaped between 1 a.m. and 5 a.m. today in a boat belonging to the forester, and pulled for the mainland, the nearest point of which is Lang Lang.

From the *Age*, Thursday 28 October 1920, page 10.

French Island Escapers

Men Still at Large

Two prisoners who were undergoing indeterminate sentences have effected an escape from French Island. They are Malcolm Oliver, 27, and Augustus Campbell, 33. Securing a boat they left the island in the darkness, dressed in their prison clothes. No trace of their whereabouts has yet been discovered. Both men are described as being 5 feet 5½ inches in height and dark hair. Oliver, however, has brown eyes and Campbell blue.

From the *New South Wales Police Gazette and Weekly Record of Crime* (Sydney, N.S.W.), 10 November 1920.

Escaped Prisoners

Victoria.—Warrants have been issued in Victoria for the arrest of Augustus Campbell and Oliver Malcolm alias Harry Jones, charged with escaping from the McLeod Settlement Reformatory Prison, French Island on the night of the 25th ultimo. Offender Campbell is 23 years of age, 5 feet 5½ inches high, 11 stone 9 lb. weight, dark hair, blue eyes; cross and anchor tattooed on lower left arm, scar first and second fingers of left hand, cross, heart, and arrow lower right arm, scar right wrist; a Victorian. (For photo, see our *Victorian Criminal Photo.-book* 38, page 113.) Offender Malcolm is 27 years of age, 5 feet 5½ inches high, dark hair, brown eyes; scar on back of hand and on upper right arm, mole between shoulders, two scars on right buttock, scar on left shin; a Victorian. Both dressed in prison clothing and military boots.

From the *Koo Wee Rup and Lang Lang Guardian*, 27 April 1922

Escape From French Island

Pursuit of Two Prisoners

Whilst the Lang Lang Court of Petty Sessions was being held on Monday, Constable Cole was informed that two prisoners had escaped from the Penal Settlement at French Inland, by

taking a motor boat from the Forestry department. It was later found that they had landed at Stockyard Point, near Lang Lang, and had cut the telephone wires connecting the reformatory with Lang Lang.

The following description is given of the wanted men:—

Thomas Brown, alias Verner.—5ft 6½in high, 10st 3lb weight, fresh complexion, brown hair, blue eyes, aged 31 years. Minus teeth top and bottom; dressed in penal jacket, military boots, moleskin trousers, and an old felt hat.

Alfred Neill.—Six feet, 11st 9lb, fresh complexion, dark hair, blue eyes, aged 20 years. Dressed similarly to Brown.

This is not the first dash for liberty made by Brown. As he was emerging from the door at the rear of the Williamstown Courthouse on September 9, 1910, when he was sentenced to three months' hard labor, he broke away from police.

Although the police scoured the locality on bicycles, they failed to recapture him. He was then at liberty for some weeks, but in the following November he was traced to a house in John Street, North Williamstown, and recaptured.

On Monday night a horse and jinker were stolen from Nyora, and the escaped prisoners were at once suspected. Later, two men were seen on the road to Lang Lang. Constables Orgill and Kennedy found the jinker in some thick scrub between Nyora and Athlone, and near it the horse tied up. It is stated that the police also saw the escaped prisoners some distance from the jinker. An early arrest is expected.

Fugitives Arrested.

Later.

Constable Cole, of Lang Lang, arrested Brown and Neill last night at McGregor's Drain bridge, KooWeeRup. Constable Cole saw the men the men [*sic*] crossing the first bridge and had the lights of the motor car he was in turned out, and when he caught up with the men he covered them with a revolver; put the handcuffs on, and afterwards took them to Lang Lang.

From the *Koo wee Rup and Lang Lang Guardian*, 27 April 1922

Prisoner Recaptured

In the Bendigo Police Court on Saturday Augustus Campbell, 33, laborer, was charged with having escaped from legal custody at the French Island Reformatory Prison on October 25, 1920, and also with the larceny of an overcoat, valued at £5, at Woorinen, in

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The McLeod Prison (continued from Page 18)

the Swan Hill district, on August 24, 1921. Campbell was remanded to appear at Swan Hill on April 28 on the larceny charge, and at Bendigo on April 29 on the charge of having escaped from custody.

Detective A. A. Webster stated that Campbell and a man named Oliver had escaped from French Island and reached the mainland in a boat which they took from its moorings. Oliver was subsequently arrested, but Campbell had evaded arrest until Friday, when he was apprehended at Long Gully.

When brought before the court on Tuesday, Campbell admitted having stolen the overcoat from his tent mate at Woorinen. Many convictions were proved against the accused by Inspector Gleeson. He was sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment.

From the *Weekly Times*, Saturday 29 April 1922, page 14.

French Island Settlement

Two Men Escape

Alfred Neill and Thomas Brown, the two indeterminate sentence prisoners who escaped from the French Island reformatory settlement on Sunday, are still being sought by the police.

Alfred Neill and Thomas Brown (alias Ernest Vernon) are both Victorians. Neill comes from the Mildura district, and Brown from Williamstown. Following are the official descriptions:—

Brown.—Aged 31, 5ft. 7in., brown hair, blue eyes, tattoo marks on lower left arm. He was serving a sentence of 12 months' imprisonment, and had been declared an habitual criminal.

Neill.—20 years of age, 6ft., black hair, blue eyes, scar on side of head and back of left hand, tattoo marks on lower left arm. He was serving a sentence of six months' imprisonment.

Until Neill and Brown made a dash for liberty the hope was beginning to get firmly rooted in the minds of the penal authorities that prisoners on French Island were becoming more contented, and that the uselessness of attempting to escape or of maintaining freedom if escape were effected was recognised. The view is held that prisoners who have got away or have made the effort have been animated as much by the spirit of adventure which is inherent in Australians as by a desire to throw

off restraint and discipline.

The French Island penal settlement, or afforestation camp, as it is variously called, was established in 1917, when Mr D. M'Leod, M.L.A was Chief Secretary. In some official publications it is described as the M'Leod Settlement. The island is in Westernport Bay, and the shape of it is, roughly, a miniature of Victoria. The nearest point to it on the mainland is the coast of the parish of Lang Lang, and is about a mile distant. Lang Lang and Nyora railway stations are a few miles from the coast.

Usually about 30 indeterminate sentence prisoners are kept on the island settlement. At the time Neill and Brown escaped the number was 34. The tree-planting season generally extends from May to September in each year, and in the course of the season up to 200,000 pine trees are planted by the prisoners under expert direction. During the other months of the year the prisoners are occupied in cutting fire breaks, clearing and preparing for the next planting season.

On Their Honor

Strenuous work is provided as a rule for the men, and it enables what it known as the "on your honor" system to be carried out. At no time are the men under lock and key, and they are given a considerable amount of freedom. They are permitted to play cricket and football, and to engage in other recreation, including angling, when off duty. They also have opportunity of earning up to 10/ a week. Portion of these earnings they can spend on food "luxuries," or extras, and the balance is saved for them. Those who fail to rise to the standard required of them are returned to Pentridge.

System Favored Officially

Despite the successful attempts made by several to escape, the experiment is regarded favorably by the Indeterminate Sentences Board. So impressed is Mr. R. M'Iver, the new Inspector-General of Prisons, with the system that in his report on penal reform, presented to the Government in December, he recommended extending the area of the settlement and the transfer of a larger number of prisoners.

Up to the time of the escape of Neill and Brown, all the prisoners who got away previously, or with one exception, have been captured. The last to be run down was Augustus Campbell, who, after enjoying 18 months' freedom, was captured at Swan Hill.

(continues on Page 20)

**For bronchial coughs, take
Woods' Great Peppermint Cure, 1/6**

The McLeod Prison (continued from Page 19)

From the *Koo Wee Rup and Lang Lang Guardian*, 4 May 1922

French Island Escapees

Sorry They Flew

When they arrived in Melbourne in the custody of Constable Cole, of Lang Lang, Alfred Neill and Thomas Brown, otherwise Vernon, did not look so spry as when they set out from the city to the reformatory settlement at French Island a few months ago. The constable lodged them in the Melbourne Gaol on remand to appear at the City Court on Friday next on a charge of having escaped from the island.

They had been a liberty for three days, but their appearance when Constable Cole arrested them clearly indicated that they had not enjoyed their freedom, for their clothes were in tatters and their feet was *[sic]* so badly blistered that they had to be attended to by a doctor.

The men had not much to say about their escapade to the policeman. They said that they slipped away at 10 o'clock on the Sunday night, and took possession of a motor boat belonging to the Forestry department. Surprised was expressed at the island that they had been able to move the boat, as the engine had been reported out of order. Neill, however, claims a knowledge of motor mechanics, and in the dark he tinkered with the engine, and soon had it in going order.

They set off from the mainbank, but were stuck on a mudbank 100 yards from the shore. Neill heaved the anchor overboard and fell into the mud at the same time. Finding that he could wade, he set out for shore. Brown followed. The mud was up to their armpits. However, they were satisfied at having reached dry land. They struck out for Melbourne, walking all night, and sleeping in the bush in the daytime. Knowing that they would have to cross the Kooweerup canal on the opposite side of the railway, Constable Cole, who had been notified of the escape and of the direction the men had taken, was waiting at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday week, and arrested them. They were glad, they said, that they had not to walk.

One of the above men recently committed a brave act by rescuing a fellow prisoner from drowning. On the recommendation of Chief Warder Squirk *[Quirk meant]* his sentence was reduced by six months, and he only had a short period to go to receive his freedom. At the time of escape he was unaware that a reduction in his sentence had been sanctioned.

From the *Koo Wee Rup and Lang Lang Guardian*, 25 May 1922.

Cure, Not Revenge

French Island Example

(To the Editor)

Sir.—I spent yesterday in a visit to French Island, where one of your State penal institutions is located. I was much impressed by what I saw at the six-year-old institution, where unique and excellent work is being done. I believe—and I have had some experience as a member of the National Committee on Prisons in the United States—that your State institution at French island, while not large (all the better for that), stands quite at the front, in its application of approved principles of penology. The men are treated like men. In charge of the sixty inmates are the superintendent, Mr Quirk, and the Assistant Superintendent, Mr Kennedy. There is not a gun or dog or padlock on the place. Everyone works in gardens or on farms, eight hours a *[misplaced line here moved to proper place futher on in text by TWPT editor]* day, with, of course, Saturday half holiday and Sunday off. The expenses *[seem to be small, for I estimate that]* all the buildings are not worth over a thousand pounds. The inmates go to their cubicles at 9 p.m.—these cubicles looking like fishermen's shacks I have seen on Puget Sound. There are no locks on the doors; escapes are comparatively few, and capture follows. The inmates thus live as natural a life as possible and be prisoners. French Island is probably not the last thing in penology, but it marks a vast stride. I doubt if in all the world, in State institutions, can be found more common sense applied to the reformation of transgressors than is being exercised in this State institution of yours. I found the Indeterminate Sentence Board—Messrs Mauger, Topp and Anderson—comprised of three men who had made a personal study of courts and prison institutions in Great Britain, Canada and the United States, and without salary, were giving days each year in this high service to your State. The clerk of the Board, I was pleased to discover, was a Mr Morris, whose songs I personally knew, were sung by literally millions among English-speaking people.—Yours, etc.,

Sydney Strong.

Australian Church, May 23.

Window Blinds for the summer, all sorts, at the Melbourne Furnishing Coy., Wonthaggi.