

The Western Port Times

Grantville & Districts



Volume 5 Number 11

FREE

March 2023

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

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



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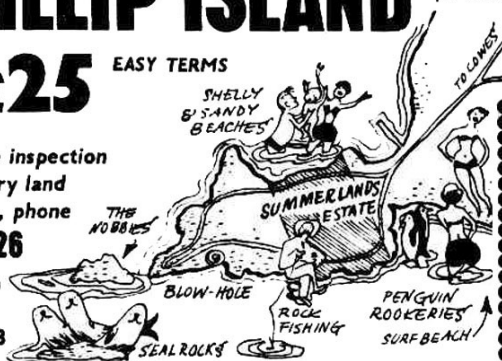
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Links to other historical groups

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*, 5 March 1897, page 2.

Local and General News

The Court of Petty Sessions will be held at the Court-house, San Remo, to-day. It is expected there will be a good muster, as there are several interesting cases to be heard.

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.

Messrs. Joseph Clarke and Co. will hold their next monthly market at the Bass sale yards on Thursday next, 11th March, when they will offer horses, sheep and cattle.

The Bass sports, advertised in our last issue to be held at Bass township on St. Patrick's Day, have been postponed till Easter Monday.

The San Remo baths are falling into a state of disrepair again, there being a couple of holes large enough to admit of a fair-sized shark.

Kangaroos are very scarce in this district of late years, having become almost extinct. A fine specimen was seen in Mr. Cleeland's paddock, Bass, on Wednesday morning. He crossed the road to enter Mr. Anderson's paddock, but could not get through the wire, so turned back to where he came from.

During the last two weeks meetings have been called at various places, but have not had a large enough attendance (through insufficient publicity) to do the required business. It was stated at one of the meetings that it looked as if they did not want any one there, but to have a hole and corner meeting.

Two brother named Poynter, hailing from the Blackwood, left by the Genista on Thursday morning, en route for New Guinea, to seek for the "precious metal" in that far off land.

A meeting of the Bass Mechanics' Institute will be held to-night to make final arrangements for holding the bazaar in aid of the building fund.

The San Remo Sunday School will hold a meeting at the Shire Hall, San Remo on Wednesday next, at 7.30 p.m. sharp, when a service of song, entitled "Dot and Her Treasure" will be given. There is no charge for admission, but a collection will be made in aid of the school and Prize Fund. [*Unclear word*] reading will be also be given by the Rev. Herbert Potter.

An unfortunate accident happened to Mr. James Crabb, employed at Bergin and Co.'s store, on Thursday evening, while driving home some cows from the paddock to be milked. It appears that after driving

them out one of them made off up the road towards Mr. Nicholson's, and in trying to head him Crabb's horse, being a young one, bolted, unseating his rider. Fortunately Mr. Jerome Bergin was quickly on the scene, and when he arrived he found the unfortunate young man, with his foot in the stirrup, being dragged along the hard ground. He is terribly bruised about the leg, but is progressing as well as can be expected.

The Baby Nicholl's Tourist Party held a variety entertainment at the Shire Hall, San Remo, on Tuesday evening, there being a fair attendance. It was nearly 9 o'clock before the performance started, and then it was a very poor one indeed, not being up to the usual standard of this company. No doubt the absence of Mr. Nicholl's [*sic*], the manager, was in a great measure accountable for this, it being a case of "When the cat is away the mice will [NOT] play." They appeared at Grantville on Saturday, Queensferry on Monday, and the Powlett on Wednesday, the attendance not being very large at either place.

Services will be held at the Goodhurst school on Sunday next, 7th inst., at 2 o'clock, when Mr. D. M'Intosh, of the Latter Day Saints, will officiate. It is anticipated service will be held monthly in future.

A young man named James Holland, of Blackwood, met with a nasty accident while picking up on the farm of Mr. W. J. Williams, of Moyarra. It appears that young Holland was cutting a sapling in two preparatory to putting it on the fire, when his axe caught in a little twig above his head, the result being that instead of striking the log Holland struck his foot, cutting his boot in two and taking off part of his big toe. The sufferer was attended to by Dr. Joyce, of Korumburra, who found it necessary to amputate a portion of the toe. The young man is now progressing favorably.

From the *San Remo Times and Phillip Island and Bass Valley Advertiser*, 12 March 1897, page 2.

To-day is gazetted as a public holiday throughout the Shire of Phillip Island on account of the Grantville and Jeetho Show being held.

The Phillip Island Shire Council will be held on Saturday, the 20th inst, when several tenders will be let for various contracts,

(continues on Page 4)

Local and General News (continued from Page 3)

particulars of which will be seen in our advertising columns.

The Grantville and Jeetho Annual Show will be held to-day at the Grantville Show Ground. The entries are fairly good, and it is anticipated there will be a good attendance of the public.

Mr. Lang, of the Grantville Hotel, obtained a license for erecting a booth on the show ground, Grantville, to-day.

The State school pic-nic will be held on Saturday, the 20th inst. The steamer Genista will carry the children from San Remo, Newhaven, and Rhyll, to Cowes free of charge, where the pic-nic takes place. The charge for adults will be 2s. 6d. return. On her return journey in the evening the steamer will leave Cowes Pier at 5 p.m.

From the San Remo Times and Phillip Island and Bass Valley Advertiser, 19 March 1897, page 2.

The Phillip Island Shire Council will hold their usual monthly meeting to-morrow. Several tenders will be let for various works.

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

The Children's Pic-nic will be held at Cowes to-morrow, when the steamer Genista will carry the children free of charge from San Remo, Newhaven, and Rhyll, and will return at 5 o'clock in the evening in time for the young ones to get home before dark. Arrangements have been made with the company to carry adults at 3s. 6d. return. Special arrangements are also made to take the Cowes children to Stony Point and back free of charge.

Great dissatisfaction is felt by the people who live in the vicinity of Bass, Powlett, Bridge Creek, Wonthaggi, Kilcunda, and San Remo, with the one sidedness of the Grantville and Jeetho Show. Opinions have been expressed that the show is for those people who live between or on about the line from Grantville to Jeetho, and the above referred places are thinking of trying to arrange to have a show held in the Old Show Yards, Bass.

It is rumored that Cr. Gunn will tender his resignation at the next council meeting (tomorrow). There are three candidates who have expressed their intention of contesting the vacant seat, viz Messrs. O'Meara, G. Hollins and Good. The reason of Mr. Gunn retiring is on account of letting his farm at Bridge Creek to manage his deceased father's

estate at Port Fairy.

During the heavy wind of Tuesday night a big she-oak tree close to the residence of Mr. Wm. Davis, Newhaven, was blown down, and strange to say a buggy, which was standing underneath it, escaped being injured, although the limbs of the tree fell all round it. Truly a miraculous escape!

The many friends of Mr. C. Suss, of the Pier Hotel, San Remo, will be sorry to learn that he has been confined to his bed with a fit of sickness during the last week. Dr. Wilson has been in constant attendance upon him, and although not yet quite convalescent, he is on the fair way to recovery.

The fifth cricket match of the season between Bass and Grantville was played on the ground of the former on Saturday last, the Bass team gaining a victory by 15 runs. Bass have now scored three wins to Grantville's two. There is talk of another match taking place, but as yet no definite arrangements have been made.

As will be seen by advertisement in another column, the Great Victoria Colliery Company, Westernport Bay, are about to call for tenders for the construction of a tramway from the pit's mouth to the water's edge. Plans and specifications are almost completed, and all particulars may be obtained from Wm. Robertson, F.F.I.A., manager, Prell's-buildings, 70 Queen-street, Melbourne. Plans and specifications will also be at Lang's Hotel, Grantville, for inspection.

From the San Remo Times and Phillip Island and Bass Valley Advertiser, 26 March 1897, page 2.

A number of items of news are held over till our next issue through pressure of space.

The San Remo Court of Petty Sessions will be held at the Court-house on Friday next (2nd April.)

As will be seen by advertisement in another column, the Great Victoria Colliery Co., Westernport Bay, are calling for tenders for the construction of sections A, B, C and D, of the company's tramway, and they will be received by the mine manager, Mr. J. Brown, at Grantville up to 1 o'clock p.m. on Saturday, 3rd April. A deposit of £5, will be required with each tender.

A grand ball will be held in the Bridge Creek Hall on Friday evening, April 9th, in aid of the fund for lining the Archie's Creek school. Good music and an efficient M.C. will be provided, as will also refreshments. As the

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Local and General News (continued from Page 4)

cause is a most laudable one, and the floor of the Bridge Creek Hall being unequalled in the district for dancing, the energetic secretary, Mr. Frank Kennedy, should be rewarded for his exertions by a bumper house.

Mr. George Hollins, through our advertising columns, begs to announce to the electors of the Woolamai riding that he is a candidate for the vacant seat, caused by the resignation of Cr. Gunn, and intends to go to the poll against all comers.

For the extraordinary election of councillor for the Woolamai riding, caused by the resignation of Cr. Gunn, an election will be held on Tuesday, the 13th April, 1897, and Wednesday, the 31st March, 1897, has been appointed as the day of nomination. All nominations of candidates must be delivered at the residence of the returning officer, Patrick J. Daly, Bridge Creek, before 4 o'clock p.m. on Tuesday, the 30th March.

Constable Thornton, who had been stationed at Cowes for about eight years, and was lately removed by his own request to a vacancy at Burwood, has since he left been presented with an exceedingly handsome testimonial and gold locket from the resident magistrates and others on the island in recognition of the straightforward manner in which he had performed his duties during the lengthened period he had been amongst them. Mr. Thornton made many friends while amongst us, was always gentlemanly in his demeanor, and discharged his duties in a most straightforward manner.

Mr. Gunn, after the council meeting on Saturday last, tendered his resignation as a councillor for the Phillip Island Shire.

Two foxes have been shot by visitors within a mile of the township during the week.

The first annual ball of the Bass M.I.A. was held on Friday night last. The attendance was large, their being about 40 couples present, and everything passed off very satisfactorily.

In Mr. W. Good's letter "Re-subdivision of Ridings," which appeared in our last issue, there was a slight error in the following sentence:—"I did not think that we had gentlemen of sufficient ability in the Woolamai Riding to look after its affairs." It should have read "I did think, and so on".

Service will be held at Goodhurst school by Mr. M'Intosh on Sunday, April 4th.

The Trucanini arrived in the bay on Tuesday, and proceeded to Grantville, and left next day.

From *The Western Port Times and Phillip Island and Bass Valley Advertiser*, 12 December 1902, page 2.

Cricket 1

Beautiful Grantville! Only one of the Grantville team turned up at Wonthaggi last Saturday, and as the home club would not play that man the match fell through.

Grantville will meet Cowes on the latter's ground on Saturday next. If full teams turn up a good game is expected. The Grantville players are requested to be ready at about 9 o'clock, as the boats will leave shortly after.

The team of the locals for the match against Cowes will be picked from:—White, Weaver, Kennedy, C. Quinlivan, Bergmeier (2), Paul (2), W. Allen, Bates, Keys, Anderson, Williams, Hunt, and Dwyer.

From *The Western Port Times and Phillip Island and Bass Valley Advertiser*, 19 December 1902, page 2.

Cricket 2

Cowes v. Grantville

Two boats left Grantville on Saturday last with a team to play Cowes. Messrs White and Rowland captained them. It was half past ten before the boats left, the wind was not good, and when the channel was reached it could be seen that the "Sunray" was dropping behind. At 2 o'clock the residents of Grantville were surprised to see Capt. Rowland returning, but as the tide appeared faster than the boat, she lay in the mud until 8 o'clock, when they floated off, and the gallant Captain sailed in with as much assurance as if he had charge of a man-of-war. The greatest trouble with the passengers was hunger, only having "soft stuff" aboard, and they could not eat that. The captain had consumed it all to lighten the boat, thinking she would then sail over the bud [*sic*] bank. They were all in a famished state with hunger when landed. Whilst this was going on the six in White's boat had reached Cowes and played them. The scores were: Cowes 127 (the Bergmeier brothers taking all the wickets), Grantville 9 (Henry Bergmeier was the highest scorer with 3). The home team allowed their opponents five subs; who went out in as many succeeding balls. Jenner, for Cowes, took 8 wickets for 3 runs. It is it [*sic*] be hoped that next time a team from this part undertake to play Islanders, they will all reach their destination.

**Be on the Safe Side by Patronising
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From the *South Bourke and Mornington Journal*, 3 Oct. 1883

Shire Of Phillip Island

28th September 1883

Present: Councillor Stewart, (President), Clarke, Turnbull, West, Aldridge, Duffus, Kidd, and Smith.

The minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed on the motion of Councillors Stewart and Aldridge.

Councillor Duffus as returning officer for the Phillip Island riding reported that Mr. George Smith had been elected unopposed by the resignation of Councillor Norton.

Correspondence Received

From W. J. Gilchrist, forwarding opinion as to the power of Shires to adopt bye-laws relative to ferries, boats, and boatmen and stating that Shires have such power.—Received.

From Public Works Department, notifying appointment of J. Hedrick, as Government Auditor, and from Mr. Hedrick relative to same.—Received.

From Municipal Association stating date of next group meeting.—On the motion of Councillors West and Aldridge, the Secretary was instructed to write and request that in future more notice be given in order to give delegates an opportunity of attending.

From Shire of Buln Buln, asking that account of revenue and expenditure for the area lately severed from the Shire, and annexed to that of Buln Buln, be prepared with a view to the adjustment of accounts.—To be complied with.

From Treasury, forwarding account for second moiety endowment, £405 0s 6d.—Received.

From Chief Commissioner of Police, agreeing to defray half the cost of erecting boundary fence between Police Reserve and Shire Hall Griffiths' Point.—Received.

From L. R. Brown, asking extension on his contract at Swan Lake, he having been unable to procure the necessary timber.—Granted.

From Emery and Caldwell, asking extension of time on contract 209 at Bass, as the water was still lying on the road.—Granted.

A petition was read from some of the rate-payers on Phillip Island, praying that the contract for fencing in recreation reserve at Cowes be cancelled, and stating that they considered the fencing would be a disfigurement to the reserve.—A letter was received from Robert Blakie on the subject,

stating that the petition would have been more numerously signed had there been more time.—Received, and no action to be taken in reference to the petition.

The Clerk of Works reported that the works applied for by residents of Phillip Island at Lambert's Hill, would cost £250. The Secretary was instructed on the motion of Councillors West and Duffus, to apply to Mr. Cleeland, asking upon what terms he would consent to a deviation being made round the base of the hill.

The Clerk of Works reported relative to D. B. Kennedy's claim for £ 5s. for extras on Deep Creek Bridge contract, that he considered Mr. Kennedy was not entitled to the amount claimed.—The report was received and adopted.

The Treasurer's report for the month was received.

It was decided to let the cutting of a pathway down the cliff at end of Centre road, Phillip Island (and for which it had previously been decided to call tenders in October) stand over for future consideration.

Payments were passed to the amount of £31 7s.

In committee the following tenders were accepted:—Fencing at Shire Hall, S. Pickersgill, £37 13s.; spreading gravel at Griffiths' Point, S. Pickersgill, £13 18s.; lengthening pipe culvert at Griffiths' Point, S. Pickersgill, £1 10s.; construction of reservoir at Kilcunda, (for the Western Port Coal Mining Co.) James Ronaldson, £200.

Extraordinary Business

A letter was read from the Water Supply Department agreeing to spend £100 upon the construction of reservoir at Kilcunda, and stating that a sufficient area of land would be reserved in connection therewith, and placed under control of the Council, also asking that plan of required land might be forwarded. On the motion of Councillors West and Turnbull, the Secretary was instructed to write, stating that a tender had been accepted, and to request Mr. Muntz, when in the district, to survey the required area of about ten acres.

The Clerk of Works was, on motion of Councillor West, seconded by Councillor Kidd, appointed to superintend the work of constructing the reservoir, and it was resolved that he be paid a bonus of 7½ p.c. on the contract price in addition to his usual salary, and be relieved as far as possible from his other duties during progress of the contract.

The Committee in reference to appointment

(continues on Page 7)

Shire of Phillip Island (continued from Page 6)

of a medical man as Health Officer to the Shire was further postponed.

On motion of Councillor West, seconded by Councillor Duffus, it was resolved that Mr. R. W. Gall, contractor for fencing reserve at Cowes, be requested to substitute a three rail fence for the two rail fence intended to have been erected.

The Clerk of Works was instructed to procure sufficient galvanized wire netting of half inch mesh, to complete weir at Swan lake.

Councillor Turnbull's notice of motion for re-construction of the Bass bridge was further postponed.

Tenders were ordered to be called for 70 chains forming, fencing two culverts &C., on Eastern Passage road, Phillip Island, on motion of Councillor Duffus, seconded by Councillor West.

Councillor West gave notices of motion for 40 chains forming &c., on Smith's road; for fencing at Nobbies, and for six chains of metal to be placed on Vetnor *[sic]* road.

Councillor Clarke gave notice of motion for works at Freeman's and Harvey's blocks in accordance with plans by the Engineer, and the Secretary was instructed to write, requesting the Lands Department to exercise the necessary land under condition of their licenses.

Councillor Stewart gave notice of motion for works at Ward's block, in accordance with the plans &c. prepared by the Engineer.

The Council then adjourned.

* * *

From *The San Remo Times*, 1 April 1898, page 2: Corinella.

Flemming To The Rescue

Mr. Mark Daly, like most of the grazers has been short of water, and was losing a great number of sheep on that account. He obtained the services of Mr. Flemming, of Queensferry, to find a spring in his paddock. The result was that he succeeded in finding water at a depth of 30 feet, and the water has risen up to within 1 foot 6 inches of the surface. Mr. Daly is having the well slabbed, and is erecting a pump at a cost of about £30. When it is finished it will advance the value of the property by several hundred pounds. The water is pure, and the cattle and sheep are thriving on it, and it is also fit for domestic purposes if desired. Mr. Flemming has been the means of finding several springs in the locality for supplying water for cattle and for other purposes.

We Are The Champions!

From the *Age*, Wednesday 14 May 1930, page 18

School Band From Wonthaggi

In connection with the Wonthaggi State school's visit to Melbourne for the Victorian State schools' band competitions at the Exhibition Building on Saturday, a train will leave Wonthaggi at 6.55 a.m., and return from Flinders-street station at 11.30 p.m. Special cheap tickets will be issued at 3/1 for children under 16 years and at 9/10 for adults, available for return until 2nd June.

From the *Argus*, Monday 19 May 1930, page 11.

School Band Contests Wonthaggi Successes.

The first State school brass band contests, which took place at the Exhibition on Saturday afternoon and evening, attracted an attendance of 1,500 people. Ten State schools competed, and the programme included national airs, marches, instrumental solos, and sacred selections. The schools competing were those at Albert Park, Ascotvale West, Armadale, Coburg East, Coburg West, Hyde street, Footscray, Helen Street, Northcote, Preston West, Princes Hill, and Wonthaggi. Mr. H. Shagg, conductor of the Malvern Tramways Band, was the judge.

Speaking at the afternoon session the Minister for Education (Mr. Lemmon) said that from £10,000 left by the late Mr. William Gillies £8,000 had been set aside as an interest-bearing amount for musical education in State schools.

All the events were won by the Wonthaggi school band—excepting the bass solo, which was won by V. Hellings (West Preston), and the euphonium solo, which was won by D. Ross (Footscray).

Cups were presented to the winning band by the director of Education (Mr. Hansen). A special medal was also presented to the bandmaster of the Wonthaggi band (Mr. W. J. Philpott).



The Wonthaggi State School Band. The little girl (front, right) is the mascot. From the *Powlett Express: Souvenir of Wonthaggi and Surrounding District, Past and Present, Easter, 1934*. Edited by T. J. Gannon.

From the *Lang Lang Guardian*, 26 April 1916, page 2.

Lang Lang Police Court

Thursday—Before Mr W. W. Harris, P.M.

Non attendance at School

A. Charman was charged under the Education Act with not sending a boy (a ward of the State) in defendant's employ, to school the required number of days. The excuse given by defendant was that the boy was required to work on the farm.

Fined 5s.

George Richardson was charged under the same section, for failing to comply with the Act in respect to his two children, aged 9 and 11 years respectively.

Defendant said that the children had 3 miles to walk to school across the paddocks, and he did not care to send them when it was wet.

The P.M. thought the excuse a reasonable one, and the case was withdrawn.

Non-Vaccination

Constable Orgill v. Duncan MacLellan, for failing to have his child vaccinated.

Defendant, a railway employe at Loch, objected to having his child vaccinated, and preferred to pay the fine.

Fined 40s.

Same v. F. R. Head (Kernot). Constable Orgill said that defendant's reason for not having the child vaccinated was that the distance to a doctor was too far, and he would sooner pay the fine.

Fined 40s.

Same v. Leslie M Waite. Defendant objected to vaccination.

Fined 40s.

Same v. Alex G. Wilson. The constable said that defendant intended to have his child vaccinated, but at present it was in bad health.

Case adjourned till 20th July.

"Bandicooting" Potatoes

Constable Orgill. v. Joseph Henry, Alfred Sanderson, John Williams, Bert Bailey, and J. Shellback, that on March last they did feloniously take and carry away 4s worth of potatoes, the property of J. Campbell, of Kernot.

Constable Orgill said that Mr Campbell had been repeatedly annoyed by persons "bandicooting" potatoes—that is, scratching out a few of the largest without pulling up the stalks. He waited and caught the defendant, Henry. Subsequently he (Constable Orgill) interviewed the other defendants, who all pleaded guilty.

John Campbell, farmer, residing at Kernot, said he had been watching his potato crop for some weeks. On May 12th, in company with an employe he caught two of the defendants coming from the potato patch. He had a gun and called out that he would shoot. Defendant Henry stopped, and witness asked him what he was doing. He replied, "Only getting a few spuds." Told his employe, Hunt, to take the potatoes. Defendant wanted to settle it, but witness refused. His losses had been considerable. The method was to put the hand underneath the stalk, and take out a couple of the largest potatoes. The rest consequently died. He did not authorise anyone to take the potatoes.

Horace Hunt, employed by Mr Campbell, gave similar evidence.

Constable Orgill said that all the defendants were employed cutting timber near the Kernot railway station. At the time he believed potatoes could not be purchased at Kernot.

The P.M.: That, of course, does not justify them stealing. He would, however, bring them under a very light section of the Act, in which case he could fine them a small sum. But they must not help themselves to other people's property.

Defendant Henry: I offered to buy a bag from Mr Campbell.

The P.M.: That was after he caught you.

The defendants were each fined 5s, with 6s costs.

From *The Western Port Times*, 4th August 1902

Obituary

An old age pensioner named J. Allen died last week at his daughter's residence, Deep Creek. The deceased has been ailing for a long time and it was thought by his relations and friends that he would not recover, as old age was greatly against him, he being 73 years of age. He has resided in Grantville for a great number of years, and was only removed to his daughter's residence the day before he died. His remains were buried in the Grantville Cemetery, Rev C. Oelrich conducting the burial service.

Another death is recorded in the person of T. Bell, who died at his daughter's (Mrs J. Diaper) residence, Glen Forbes, on Sunday. The deceased was on a visit to Glen Forbes for his health, but took worse and died in a few days. His remains were interred in the Grantville Cemetery on Wednesday.

Minor Updates To...

The Minor Sawmillers

[Volume 5, Number 3: July 2022]

The Grantville Area Sawmills

[Volume 4, Number 9: January 2022]

Milling About

[Volume 4, Number 5: September 2021]

by Geoff Guilfoyle

Note: In the 1860s and 1870s the geography of Victoria east of the small town of Dandenong was not well understood by the average denizen of Melbourne and its environs. This applies equally to the journalists working for the city papers such as the *Argus* and *Herald*. It was this fuzziness which allowed the Wigan Company hoax to briefly flourish. The writer of the *Herald* article below clearly didn't know that Deep Creek (a few months from becoming Grantville) was a rising township centred on a creek of the same name and, additionally, seems to envisage Deep Creek as a tributary of the Bass River and views "Queen's Ferry" as a continuing part of Cuthbert's by then long-relinquished cattle run. Unless, that is, "Queen's Ferry" was the name of Cuthbert's Tenby Point property. It doesn't really matter, however, as Cuthbert's holdings at Queensferry appear to be non-existent in 1872 (though he did later purchase the 20 acre Lot 87A in September 1876).

From the *Herald*, Wednesday 19 June 1872, page 2...

One by one new industries are springing up in localities somewhat remote from Melbourne, but the benefits of which will ultimately flow to that great centre of trade and commerce. We alluded a day or two since to the works in progress at French Island, in connection with the establishment of a salt factory, and we now learn that the manufacture of staves from lightwood, wherewith to fashion casks in which to export tallow, will be commenced with as little delay as possible on the Deep Creek, near to the Bass River. This work is to be undertaken by Mr. J. S Lee, timber merchant, of Hotham, who has patented a new method for turning out staves of the kind indicated. Already a steam engine has been landed on the ground, and no time will be lost in erecting the necessary buildings. The lightwood to be utilised is stated to be of a very superior quality. We believe it is contemplated to lay down a tramway from the works to the bay, for the purpose of transporting the manufactured articles to vessels. By adopting this mode of transit a great saving in the cost of carriage would accrue, as by tramway the staves could be conveyed to the bay at the rate of 5d. per 100, whereas it would cost 1s 6d per 100 to forward them by teams. Should it be decided to construct a tramway, a jetty will be required, and this would be erected near Mr. Cuthbert's holding, Queen's Ferry. On all accounts we wish Mr. Lee ever success in his enterprise.

The bane of any researcher is to produce a book, booklet, article or scholarly paper on a particular topic after weeks or months of work only to promptly have a new piece of evidence emerge soon after publication that entirely contradicts or alters the conclusion of the work. This hasn't happened in this instance; nothing is changed or challenged, just potentially clarified, and in one case a minor mystery cleared up.

So what is the new piece of evidence causing such heartburn? See the *Herald* article above and read it if you haven't already. A previously overlooked item in the 19 June 1872 issue of the paper in a long untitled section covering news and views for that day.

So, what is important about this, you may ask? We know J. S. Lee set up as a sawmiller near Glen Forbes. You covered it in detail in *The Minor Sawmillers* in July 2022.

The answer is the date of the *Herald* article: June 1872. The 1874 venture was Lees second

go. The implications of this are significant.

Q. Was Alexander Stewart actually the owner of the second sawmill in the region (after Woods & Miller and Graham)?

A. Yes, probably, but only by default.

When the owner of the mill at Almurta, Thomas Graham died, Alexander Stewart was left in charge while the drama over the Will played out. The assumption has been that at some stage he had convinced the pre-death Graham to invest in a boiler to provide steam-power to the mill rather than rely on the less-efficient water-wheel. Graham died before it could be put into operation. Alternatively, Stewart purchased his own boiler after Graham's death. Either way, he acquired ownership of the mill at Almurta, sold the water-wheel and Grantville pier to John Quiggin, then took his boiler and setup at future Glen Forbes.

(continues on Page 10)

Minor Updates To... (continued from Page 9)

The big question has always been: why did he move to Glen Forbes when the timber at Almurta was just as good? He could remain there and continue to use the water-wheel until the new more effective mill could be brought into operation. This was the initial Brazier and Co. setup, with (now) Quiggin's water-wheel being phased out in 1876.

The answer is that Stewart setup at Glen Forbes because that's where Lee's boiler and huts were. In this scenario, there was no Graham-bought boiler, rather Stewart purchased, probably cheaply, Lee's operation when Lee found himself unable to cover debts in January 1873 due to the fire which destroyed his lumber yard and associated businesses in March 1872 (as covered in *The Minor Millers*).

Thus Stewart remains the second sawmiller on the east side of Western Port Bay, but only because Lee never quite started production.

Or did he?

If the boiler ever did get up steam and sawmilling began, it would have been to cut material for any tramway and/or pier, not export, so it doesn't really matter.

The great "what if" of this time is: what if Lee wasn't under financial strain and managed to build his tramway and pier? Then it would have undoubtedly been goodbye Alexander Stewart, and hello Joseph Lee as the head of one of the two major sawmilling operations (the other being Brazier & Company). Indeed, it isn't difficult to envisage Stewart working for Lee, probably managing the day-to-day activities of the operation.

Instead Lee went broke, financially regrouped, came back for a second go, undercapitalised, with Stewart now the dominant player, and went broke again.

But it was close.

Q. Why did Stewart move further south at Glen Forbes (if he did)?

A. Because he took over Lee's site on Allotment 158 (north of the current Glen Forbes bridge). For some reason he deemed the place unsatisfactory and relocated a few miles to the south, to Allotment 162 where the mill stayed until it closed down.

Or he went straight to Lee's site at Lot 162 and Lot 158 was merely an alternative never used by him. It is uncertain.

Q. When Lee returned to the area in 1874, what were relations between he and Stewart like?

A. I wish there was a clear answer to this one. If Stewart financially gouged Lee in obtaining the boiler and related material, then I suspect quite chilly, especially as Lee was forced to use Stewart's tramline which, of course, may have been partly his own creation. Ouch! That had to rankle.

Or Stewart offered him a solid deal for the boiler, etc. in January 1873 and a fair rate on use of the tramway and pier in 1874, given that Lee had to some extent already done the preparatory work. This second option seems out of character for the ever-opportunistic Stewart, but can't be ruled out.

Q. Is it Joseph Lee or Alexander Stewart who should be considered the true founder of Queensferry?

A. It would depend on what Lee did there in the time he had available. The *Herald* article dates to June 1872. Lee went under around January 1873, with the last few months of 1872 likely increasingly being a financial struggle.

That said, while I'm certain he didn't build the first pier at Queensferry, he may have charted a path for a tramline and taken steps to make it a reality. He may have even erected a building or two at Queensferry.

This would, of course, entirely depend on what Cuthbert had there, his intentions, and whether he made good on them. From what I can tell, the answer at that time was nothing and none.

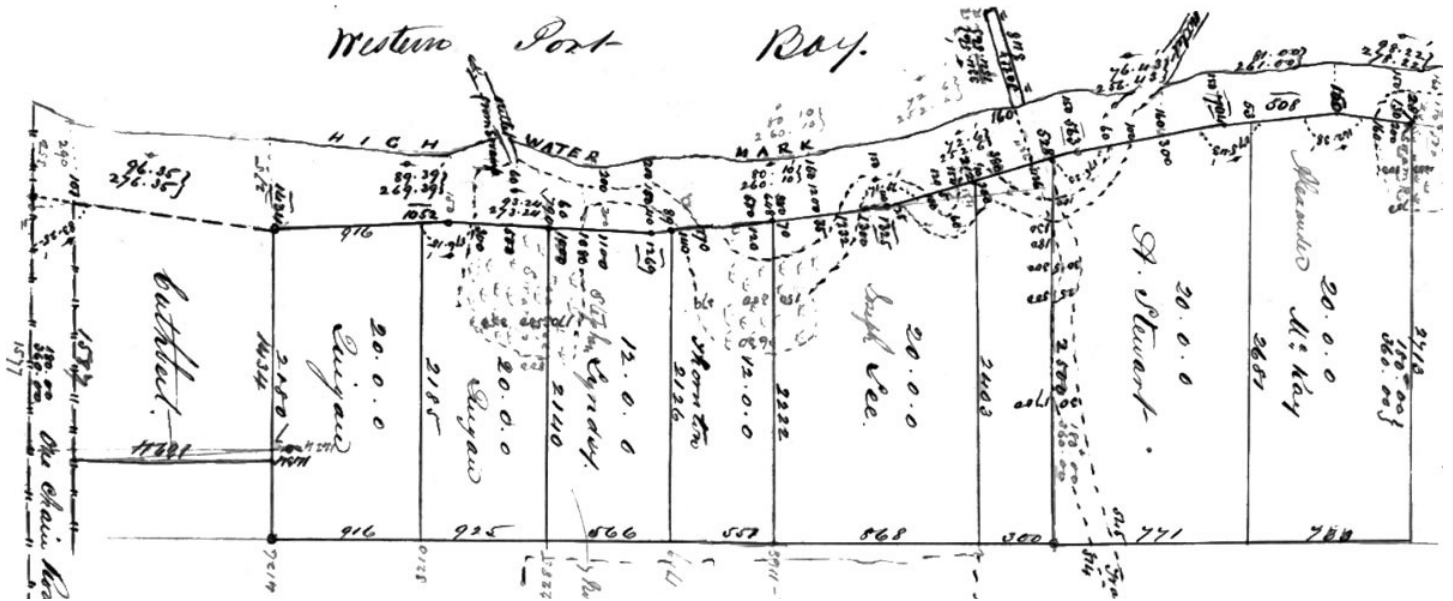
In many respects Queensferry's origins are murky. When was it surveyed and by whom, for instance?

It is hard to go past Edmund Colbert, a certainty undermined by a lack of any decisive evidence beyond his being active in the area in the early 1870s. As for the date... There is a hint in the record* that Queensferry was surveyed as a township site around mid-1871 with lots being offered for lease around that time. If this is correct – a doubtful proposition – then Alexander Stewart was probably one of

(continues on Page 11)

*This hint comes from the *Victorian Government Gazette No. 4*, 9 January 1874. In the "Notice to Licensees In Arrears" on page 530 you find Alexander Stewart's name, he not having kept up with his payments for 20 acres in Corinella, the license having been issued on 13 June 1871. This 20 acres is, perhaps, Lot 91 at Queensferry. However there is a problem with this scenario. There are a number of 20 acre lots in Grantville where he could have lived before the move to Queensferry, and we know Stewart was still living in Grantville well into 1872, making this arrears notice indicative but far from persuasive.

Minor Updates To... (continued from Page 10)



Very early Queensferry. It isn't known in which month of 1873 this sketch was done though it can be inferred from the source itself that it was early August, but with obvious later additions (the names of some of the lease holders, for instance). Source: Edmund Colbert Field Book: Red Series, Book No.433, Bundle No.9. 1873 via Landata. <https://www.landata.vic.gov.au>

the first in, though it was still some time before it became recognisable as a town.

Overall, though Lee pointed the way, it was Alexander Stewart who made it an important township in the 1870s and 1880s. Without him, it would have amounted to nothing.

Q. Did Stewart ever actually own the Woods/Miller/Graham sawmill at Almurta?

A. Almost certainly, yes. When Graham died and the Will was contested, milling operations probably ceased at Almurta, with Alexander Stewart remaining manager until the mill's future was resolved. Alternatively, milling continued with Stewart in charge while the court proceedings played out. But rather than Stewart purchasing the mill from Graham's estate, could John Quiggin have done so and kept Stewart on as manager, with Stewart, however, seeing an opportunity in Lee's financial difficulties and going out on his own, forcing Quiggin to bring in Mutlow as a replacement?

Yes, except the timeline is extremely shaky. It would require Stewart remaining at the mill until at least January 1873 when he bought out Lee, only then being replaced by Mutlow as Quiggin's chief man on the scene. It would also require Quiggin to wait at least six months, and more likely much longer, after purchasing the mill to start it up again. [See next question as to why]. It makes sense that Stewart picked up the mill and pier from the Graham estate then on-sold them to Quiggin when Lee was forced to sell and Stewart stepped in.

Q: Does this *Herald* article help date the Krause geological map of east Western Port?

A: Yes! If Stewart did indeed purchase Lee's operation and moved to Glen Forbes then the initial sketching can't have been done any earlier than January 1873. The water-wheel was either then, or soon would be, put to use again as a sawmill by Quiggin and Mutlow.

Tallow vs Tallowwood

From *The Western Port Times*, July 2022...

you touch what is called Lee's tramway, and running this down you come to Lee's mill, which belongs to Quiggin, of Mount Macedon mill owning notoriety. No work has been carried on at this mill during the last twelve months, for what reason I do not know, as the timber is of excellent quality and the proprietor had that patent for turning out [unclear word] which is used principally for tallow, [unclear word] and [unclear words]... superior workmanship [unclear words] for furniture, &C., should have entitled him to a handsome remuneration. But the old grievances of this world came to pass here. Without money brains count for nothing...

...Additionally, as already mentioned, the contract we know about was for spars for telegraph poles (a typical saw mill product), not tallow (which isn't). The sentence is unclear. It is possible that it actually says tallowwood.

You'll note that the original source (the *Alexandra Times*) was indecipherable in places, making my questioning of 'tallow' reasonable. However, it is now clear that tallow was meant, but not as the *product* of the milling, rather as the *product* to be transported in the barrels made from the *product* (lightwood) of the mill.

A minor point, but now one resolved.

The Bass Show 1884-1887

From the *Australasian*, 7 April 1883, page 26

Bass

An influential meeting of residents of the Bass district was held at the Bass Hotel on Saturday evening, for the purpose of forming a society to unite the agricultural interest. The chair was filled by Mr. E. B. Pender, and a proposition, moved by Mr. Poole, that the society be called the "Bass Agricultural and Pastoral Society," was carried unanimously. Upon discussion on the question of the advisability of erecting show yards, Mr. Pender immediately promised to have the yards erected at his own expense. The positions of secretary and treasurer will be respectively filled by Messrs. Kennedy and J. W. Delaney, J. P., and at the next meeting the general election of officebearers will take place.

From the *Australasian*, Saturday 12 April 1884, page 27

Bass Agricultural Show

(Re-paragraphed for the sake of clarity.)

The first show of the new society was held at Bass in the vicinity of the new coal-field, on the 4th inst., and was in every way a pronounced success.

Two months ago the desirableness of forming a society was mooted. Mr. D. B. Kennedy took the burden of secretaryship upon his shoulders and worked with a will, a society was formed, money collected, and the prizes apportioned in a very short time. It was considered that the show would be pretty good, but the most sanguine did not expect the extent of success reached on Friday.

The district has been known chiefly as a pastoral one, but the exhibits of garden produce &c., proved that the Bass district is also capable of producing cereal and root crops of a superior description. The parade of draught stock was almost worthy of the National Society, the horses of Messrs. Lees, Tarwin, Lowers, Le Roux, Haynes, Poole, Stewart, and others, comprising some grandly-formed animals.

Mr. Le Roux, of Lang Lang, took the stallion prize with Merry Tar, by Lecky's Duke of Edinburgh; Mr. G. Poole, second; Mr. Stewart, third. Mr. Lees took the prize for draught mare with a magnificent bay. In blood stock, Mr. Poole's General, a compact dark-bay, with a splendid head and eyes, was the premier.

The exhibits of horned stock were pretty fair, but chiefly in shorthorn and Herefords, Alderneys and Ayrshires not having good representatives. Mr. M'Nab's fine shorthorn bull took first prize in his class.

Of fat cattle there were some fine specimens, Mr. Bothwell's being first in merit, and Mr. Turnbull's second. The sheep penned were very superior, Mr. Stephenson's flock being the successful one in this instance, Mr. J. Hayes second. Messrs. G. Poole and Delaney were the prize-takers with porcine exhibits, of which there were several.

The produce and fruit shed presented quite an attractive appearance. The butter class filled well, and was of superior flavour, but there were not many exhibits of cheese, though those placed were of good quality.

The cereal class was badly represented, but with such good land as in the vicinity of Bass there is no reason why it should be so.

Of poultry there was a fair number, the leghorns of Mr. Kennedy and the geese of Mr. A. Stewart, and cochins of Mr. Delaney being worthy of notice.

The ladies made a good display of fancy work, in wool, crewel, splash, and leather, which was most creditable, but there were few prizes offered. Miss Kidd and Miss Hawkins were the successful competitors. The jumping of the ladies' palfreys created considerable interest, Miss Kidd and Miss Turnbull being adjudged equal.

After the business of the day had been finished a dinner was given at O'Meara's Hotel, under the presidency of Mr. A. Stewart. Next year, it is proposed to double the amount of prize money, in consequence of the success of the first show.

From the *South Bourke and Mornington Journal*, Wednesday 9 April 1884, page 3

To the Editor of the S. B. & M. Journal

Dear Sir,—The Bass show has been held, and considering that it is the first of the society, may be considered a success, and encouraging for the future. I'm not going to make any remarks which might be taken as criticism upon the management and arrangements, as I have no doubt that the Committee, under the able superintendence of the Hon. Secretary, will remedy any defects. But there is one thing I should

(continues on Page 13)

The Bass Show (continued from Page 12)

like to say — I hope when the next show is held that arrangements will be made so that a charge can be made on the public as gate money, so that the funds might be increased. If the general public are to profit by the experience of others, I think it ought to pay for the privilege. Some time ago I noticed in a contemporary several letters signed “Paddy Doyle”, in which he severely criticised [*sic*] sundry doings at Corinella, and Griffith’s Point. I am very anxious to see if the same party has been to this show, and to ascertain his opinion of it.

Yours, etc.
Bumpkin.

From the *South Bourke and Mornington Journal*, 26 November 1884

The Grantville Agricultural Society

As we could not quite understand why the Bass Agricultural Society should so soon have divided into two, we applied to a resident well acquainted with the affairs of Westernport for some information on the subject; and, as many of our readers have their own ideas on the subject, we submit the explanation we have received which is as follows:—

“As far as I am aware it appears that it first arose about a site, the Secretary working with the hotel-keepers in favor of getting the yards in front of their hotels; the majority wanted them on the reserve this side of the Bass Bridge. As it was expected the site would be left to the annual meeting of subscribers, nearly all the members went down for the purpose of voting one way or the other, but were disappointed, as the Secretary had it all cut and dried; he with a few others of the committee having accepted the first named site, and, as the President refused to allow a vote to be taken in the matter, the meeting broke up in disorder. The other party, which numbers fully two-thirds of the old Society, resolved to form a new society, which they have done at Grantville, with from seventy to eighty subscribers. There was a committee meeting held on the 14th inst., at which it was agreed that the show be held some time in March, but it will be for a future meeting to decide.”

If this is the real cause of the dividing of the Bass Society, and we have no reason to doubt the statement of our informant, it is not to be wondered at that the division should have taken place. Grantville and the surrounding

districts have scope enough for a good Agricultural Society, and, with a good President, Committee and Secretary, is certain to succeed. There is a good deal of work to do in keeping such a Society well together for the first few years, but all must work — not leaving it in the hands of one, or even a few, but all those we have referred to working together as one man. If this is done there is a good field, which will always enlarge, for the New Society, and we wish it success.

From the *South Bourke and Mornington Journal*, 10 December 1884.

(Re-paragraphed for the sake of clarity.)

To the Editor of the S. B. & M. Journal

Sir—I have read your paragraph headed “The Grantville Agricultural Society,” and, as one of the original subscribers to the Bass Society, am sorry to see that there has been a “split in the camp,” through, what I can judge, bad management, as it would, in my opinion, be more satisfactory to have one large, united Society, than two smaller ones in our district.

The Bass Society held their first annual meeting some time last August (I think). It is usual at an annual general meeting for a report of the committee to be laid before the subscribers, discussed, and adopted or otherwise, and I think it proper, especially in such a district as this is, where the subscribers are scattered, and it is inconvenient, on account of the distance, to attend, to publish an official report, and even to have one printed and forwarded [*sic*] to each subscriber. If this had been done by the Bass Society last August, the subscribers would have had all the facts before them, and not, as in my case, hear statements and rumors which may not have been true. For instance, I was told that the general meeting was adjourned for a short time after a new committee was formed. The new committee then brought up a report that they had elected a new president, and that they had fixed upon a certain site, thus ignoring the general body of subscribers.

If this is true the new committee was wrong, as in the first place the general meeting was adjourned, and the fixing of a site or alteration of a site already fixed is a matter which should rest with the majority of subscribers. I may be wrong in my opinion, but the fact that another Society has been formed leads me to believe that I am right; at all events the Bass Society is very much weakened, and I doubt if it will now be what is called a “success.” I

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The Bass Show (continued from Page 13)

am not a farmer, but would gladly give my mite to encourage a most deserving and hard working class, but I cannot afford to do so to two Societies, more especially if they have any antagonistic feeling.

I hope the Grantville Society will not adopt a tremendous name such as that given to the Bass Society. Thanks to the Public Library at my disposal, I have taken the opportunity to search Chambers' dictionary. I find that the word "agricultural" is derived from "ager," a field, and "cultura," cultivation, in other words "The art or practice of cultivating the field." I also find that the word "cultural" means "relating to or promoting culture," from "cultura," "to cultivate, to improve," so that a "Cultural Society" would be a Society formed for general improvement, and would comprise everything relating to farm or field work.

I believe there was a great prize list published at the first Bass Show, and in it two very important prizes were not named, viz., home-made wheat meal bread and home-brewed beer. If more of the first was eaten, there would be less disease in this world, and if more of the second was drunk (I mean malt and hops, not sugar beer), there would be less drunkenness, although I believe that a man could get intoxicated upon strong old malt ale, but then the after effects are not the same.

If the Grantville Society is a success, and I hope it will be, I am willing, Mr. Editor, to lodge in your hands the sum of £2, to be given as prizes for the above, in order to encourage farmers or selectors to live long and healthily, but I must have some proof that the Society is going to work in an harmonious and proper manner, and no "dodging" the subscribers.

I would like to give the new Society one piece of advice, which is to have their rules printed, and forward a copy to each subscriber, and issue full reports to the public.

If the Society will accept my prizes, I would ask you to act as my medium, on condition that in the matter I am only to be known as, yours very truly,

Bumpkin.

Western Port, 3rd December, 1884.

Fire stoves mantelpieces, coppers etc., the best in Wonthaggi at Melbourne prices. The Melbourne Furnishing Coy., Graham-street, Wonthaggi.

From the *South Bourke and Mornington Journal*, Wednesday 7 January 1885.

(Re-paragraphed for the sake of clarity.)

To the Editor of the S. B. & M. Journal

Sir.—In your issue of the 10th inst. appeared a sensible and well written letter signed "Bumpkin," commenting on the disagreement that has arisen in connection with fixing the site of Bass Agricultural Society show yards. I exceedingly regret with your correspondent that this unfortunate dispute has taken place, the more so as it is well known that the whole trouble has been caused by one or two individuals who seem to think that the society was started for their especial benefit.

"Bumpkin" takes a thorough common-sense view of the case when he writes that such an important question as dealing with the location of show yards should have been referred to a general meeting of the members. Had this been done, the matter would have been settled to the satisfaction of all reasonable minded men. I have much pleasure in informing "Bumpkin" that at the special meeting of the members of the Grantville and Jeetho Agricultural Society held on the 13th inst. to adopt rules for the government of the society, it was resolved that the seventh rule should be as follows:—

"The headquarters of this society shall be at Grantville, or at such place as may be determined upon by a majority of the members of the Society at a special general meeting called for the purpose."

Your correspondent will see that this rule takes all power from the committee to deal with such an important matter as fixing or altering the site for show yards. The last sentence in rule nineteen reads—"A statement of the accounts so audited shall be countersigned by the President, Treasurer and Secretary, and a copy thereof sent to each member of the Society previous to the annual meeting," which will also meet the views of your correspondent.

I may also inform "Bumpkin" that the Grantville and Jeetho "Cultural" Society, will be "run" entirely in the interests of Agriculturists. In regard to your correspondent's liberal donation, I am desired to write that the offer is accepted with thanks, and that as soon as printed, a copy of the rules of the Society will be sent to your office. I am sorry that his suggestion anent the shortening of the name of Agricultural Societies did not

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The Bass Show (continued from Page 14)

come before us sooner. I have often thought that something should be done to abbreviate the titles, and I have seen several attempts to do so.

“Bumpkin’s” plan is the most practical I’ve ever heard of, and were it more generally known, I have no doubt it would soon be adopted. On behalf of the members of the Grantville and Jeetho Society, I must express regret that “Bumpkin” desires to preserve his anonymity, as, judging by the tone of his letter, I am certain that his services and experience would be of great assistance to us.

In conclusion, I may state that the first show of the Grantville and Jeetho Society will be held on or about the 27th March, 1885, particulars of which will be advertised in due course. Thanking you Mr. Editor, in anticipation, for inserting this, Yours truly,

John Tulloch,

Hon. Sec. G. and J. Agl. Sy. “Scottiswood,”
Dec. 22nd.

[Not only do the one or two who assisted to start the society consider it was for their especial benefit, but one of them at least made it benefit him. The division of the society will prove a fortunate movement for Grantville and Jeetho.]

From the *South Bourke and Mornington Journal*, Wednesday
4 March 1885

Bass Agricultural Society’s Show

(Re-paragraphed for the sake of clarity.)

The Bass District Agricultural Society held their second annual Show on Friday last, in their yards, the weather being all that could be desired.

At an early hour the roads were alive with vehicles of all descriptions, while saddle horses were there in abundance. By one o’clock there must have been fully 350 people present, including a large number of the fair sex. It was intended by the committee to charge for admission, but as the fences were not properly finished, and plenty would avail themselves of that, it was thought advisable to let all in free, which was the best thing to do under the circumstances.

The exhibits were fairly good, especially the cattle and pigs, but the horses fell far short of expectation. Dairy produce, as was expected, was well competed for, no less than sixteen entries having been received for butter. Farm produce fell short of the mark, a large number of the items in the prize list

not being competed for at all. Garden produce or poultry were not up to last year’s standard.

The buck-jumping competition was the feature of the day and seemed to attract the most attention, and well it might, for such a display of horsemanship was never seen in the district before, the animals going through all sorts of contortions to unseat their riders. It was eventually won by A. McLellan, of Lyndhurst, and he well deserved it, as he cannot be beaten as a rough rider for miles around. The high jumping was won by Bothwell, height, 5 feet 4½ inches.

About four o’clock the clouds banked up in the south west with every appearance of a heavy downpour, causing many to start for home. There was to have been a concert and ball in the evening, but owing to the want of singers, the former fell through, but the ball was well patronised, no doubt many staying on account of the rain, which continued nearly all night. As a whole the show was a success, but it is a great pity there has been a split in the district, which was plainly seen on Friday last, when many that last year took an active part in the affairs of the Society were simply lookers on, while others stayed away altogether.

There is one great drawback to the success of these shows, and that is their being held alongside of an hotel. The results of this were visible on Friday last, when drunken men were to be seen roaming about in all directions, to the annoyance of visitors. No doubt it will keep many from going to future shows, especially ladies, who do not like to be subjected to such treatment. There are plenty of sites that could be had equally as good as the present one, and I hope the Grantville and Jeetho Society, which has not yet chosen a site, will take the hint, as I am sure things would prosper better. The following is the list of prizes awarded:—

Class A.— Horse Stock. — Sec. 1. — Best Entire, any age — First prize, Thos. Lees. Sec. 3. — Dry Mare or Gelding — First prize, LeRoux. Sec. 4. — Three-year-old entire Colt — First prize, Anderson Bros. Sec. 6. — Two-year-old Colt or Filly — First prize, Le Roux. Sec. 7. — Yearling Colt or Filly — First prize, Flookie. Sec. 8. — Best Entire in the yard — First prize, Thos. Lees.

Class B.— Light Horse Stock. — Sec. 1. — Entire Horse, likely to produce carriage horses or hunters — First prize, J. McLellan; second do., Muldoon. Sec. 2. Mare, with foal

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The Bass Show (continued from Page 15)

at foot — First prize, Muldoon. Second do., J. Henderson. Sec. 3. — Three-year-old Colt or Filly — First prize, F. Emmerson. Sec. 4. — Two-year-old Colt or Filly — First prize, J. Cleeland.

Class C.— Hackneys. — Sec. 1. — Best Hackney — First prize, A. McMillan. Sec. 2. — Lady's Hack — First prize, Anderson Bros.; second do, T. Lyall.

Class D.— Ponies. — Sec. 1. — Best Pony Entire, 14 hands or under — First prize, Fergusson; second do., T. Horner. Sec. 2. — Best Pony Mare; 14 hands or under — First prize, Fergusson; second do., T. Horner. Sec. 3. — Best Shetland Entire, 12 hands or under — First prize, E. B. Pender. Sec. 4. — Shetland Mare, 14 hands or under — First prize, E. B. Pender.

Class E.— Shorthorn Cattle. — Sec. 1. — Best Shorthorn Bull, any age — First prize, Fergusson; second do., Bothwell. Sec. 2. — Best Shorthorn Cow — First prize, Fergusson; second do., McNab. Sec. 4. — Best Shorthorn Heifer, 3 years or under — First prize, Fergusson; second do, McNab.

Class F.— Herefords. — Sec. 1. — Best Hereford Bull, any age — First prize, Muldoon; second do., G. Poole. Sec. 2. — Best Hereford Cow, any age — First prize, Anderson Bros.; second do., Misson. Sec. 4. — Hereford Bull, 3 years old or under — First prize, Anderson Bros.

Class G.— Ayrshires.—Sec. 1 — Best Ayrshire Bull, any age — First prize, G. Poole. Sec. 2. — Best Ayrshire Cow, any age — First prize, G. Poole; second do., Misson.

Class I.— Dairy Stock. — Sec. 1. — Dairy Cow, in milk or springing — First prize, Fergusson; second do, Anderson Bros.

Class J.— Fat Stock.— Sec. 1. — Fat Ox. — First prize, Bothwell. Sec. 2. Fat Cow — First prize, Anderson Bros. Sec. 3. — Fat Ox, fatness and quality combined — First prize, Bothwell.

Class K.— Sheep. — Sec. 1. — Best Long-wool Ram, shorn since 1st October — First and second prizes, A. Ward. Sec. 2. — Best Long-wool Ewe, shorn since 1st October — First and second prizes, A. Ward. Sec. 3.— Fat Sheep, a

pen of five, any breed — First prize Aldridge. Sec. 4. — Fat lambs, a pen of five, any breed — First prize, J. B. O'Meara.

Class L.— Swine. — Sec. 2. — Best Sow, any breed — First prize, J. W. Delany. Sec. 3. — Best Berkshire Boar — First prize, G. Poole. Sec. 4. — Best Berkshire Sow — First prize, J. W. Delany.

Class M.— Poultry. — Sec. 1 — Black Spanish Cock and Hen—First prize, Cole and Son.

Class N.— Dairy Produce. — Sec. 1. Fresh Butter, (not less than 31bs.) — First prize, McLellan; second do., Evans. Sec. 2. — Salt Butter, (not less than 201bs) — First prize, Caughey; second do., Laurence. Sec. 3. — Cheese, (101bs.) — First prize, Laurence.

Class O.— Farm Produce. — Sec 5. — Pens, field, (3 bushels) — Prize, McNab. Sec. 12. — Potatoes, (any sort, not less than ½ cwt.) — Prize, McNab.

Class P.— Fruit, &c. — Sec. 1. — Peaches, (not less than 12) — First prize, Bowman; second do., Cole & Son. Sec. 3. — Cooking Apples, (not less that 6) — First prize, Mrs. King; second do., Emmerson. Sec. 5. — Keeping Apples, (not less than 6) — Prize, McLellan. Sec. 7. — Quinces, (6lbs) — Prize, S. West. Sec. 9. — Collection of Pears — First prize, S. West; second do., Cole & Son. Sec. 10. — Collection of Fruits — Prize, Cole & Son.

Class Q.— Garden Produce. — Sec. 1. Carrots, (not less than 12) — Prize, Anderson Bros. Sec. 2. — Turnips, (not less than 12) — Prize, A. Aldridge. Sec. 3. Parsnips, (not less than 12) — Prize, McNab. Sec. 7. — Marrows, (not less than 2) — Prize, McLellan. Sec. 8. — Pumpkins, (not less than 2) — Prize, McLellan. Sec. 9. — Onions, (not less than 14lbs) — Prize, McLellan. Sec. 10. — Tomatoes, (1 dish) — Prize, S. West. Sec. 11. — Best Collection of Garden Produce — Prize, J. West.

Class T.— Miscellaneous. — Sec 1. — Best Team of Working Bullocks, eight in team, the property of exhibitor. — Special prize, McNab. Sec. 3. — Best bag of Chaff — Special prize, McNab. Sec. 4. Best Home-made Bread, not less than 41bs. — Prize, S. MacIntosh. Sec. 8. Collection of Knitting. — Special prize, Miss Nowlan. Sec. 9. — Crotchet Work. — Special prize, Miss King. Sec. 10. Collection of Fancy Work — Special prize, Miss McKenzie. Sec. 11 — Point Lace. — Special prize, Miss Hawkins. Sec. 12. Cut Flowers. — Special prize, T. Anderson.

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

The Bass Show (continued from Page 16)

From the *Australasian*, Saturday 20 March 1886, page 14

The Bass Agricultural Show

The Bass District Agricultural Society's third annual show took place at the Bass to-day. The weather was extremely favourable, and the attendance, notably of equestriennes, good. The live stock entered for competition were numerous and good. The following is a list of the principal prize-takers:—

Special Prize Cup, value £5, the gift of messrs. Sword Bros., for the Best Draught Entire in the Yard—First, T. Lees, Tarwin Jock; second, J. Dunlop, Jack the Lad. Best Blood Stallion—First, P. H. Lee, Boundin Evelyn. Best Hackney—First, A. McMillan. Best Lady's Hack—First, Mrs. Crump. Best Three-year-old Shorthorn Bull—First, M. Bowman. Best Shorthorn Bull, any age—First, W. Ferguson. Best Ayrshire Bull—First, G. Poole. Best Alderney Bull—First, R. Davis. Best Dairy Cow—First, T. Emerson. Best Longwool Ram—First, P. W. Delaney. Best Longwool Ewe—First, G. Poole. Best Fat Sheep—First, G. Poole. High Jump—First, G. Poole's Baldy, 5ft. 7½ in.; second, McLellan's Camel, 5ft. 7in.

The exhibits of fruit and flowers were very fine. The dairy and farm produce were fair, and the exhibits in the miscellaneous class were also good.

From the *South Bourke and Mornington Journal*, Wednesday 7 April 1886

To the Editor of the S. B. & M. Journal

Sir,—I venture to address you on a subject which must have come under the notice of a great number of your readers—residents of Bass, Grantville, Jeetho, Tarwin, Phillip Island and the surrounding district. I refer to the agricultural shows recently held at Grantville, by the Grantville and Jeetho Agricultural Society, and at Bass, by the Bass Pastoral Agricultural and Horticultural Society. I may state that I am a resident of the district and a well wisher to both societies, but it has become painfully apparent to me, as to many others, that as long as both exist neither can become prosperous even in a moderate degree—in other words, either one or the other of the societies ought to “shut up shop.” I will not give an opinion at present as to which one should give way, but would suggest an amalgamation. It must be admitted that a thinly populated district such as this, cannot support two societies with shows held within one month of each

other, and whose show grounds are not five miles apart. I venture to say that if the two societies were amalgamated, a prize list better than the two present ones combined, could be got together: “Unity is strength.” Is there no member of either society with sufficient pluck to take up the cudgels on behalf of the amalgamation, and throw off the yoke which has been fastened on to them by the cross-grained and cantankerous few? Hoping some other pen than mine will take the matter in hand. I am, Sir, yours obediently,
“Unitas”

From the *South Bourke and Mornington Journal*, Wednesday 25 August 1886.

Grantville

From our own Correspondent

Contrary to expectation the election of a Councillor for the Corinella Riding resulted in a pretty close shave for Mr. Delaney. This gentleman has very foolishly allowed it to appear as though he were merely a tool in the hands of a certain bombastic individual, consequently it was only the loyalty of his neighbors at Fernhill and Jeetho that saved him from defeat. With the sole desire to see peace and goodwill reign amongst us, I will point out what in my opinion is the cause of a good deal of unpleasantness, and that is the action of Mr. D. B. Kennedy, who in all matters concerning the welfare of the district determines that he, and he only, shall rule. The result is that the more intelligent and independent section of the community find that unless they are prepared to resort to mean actions to the instincts of gentlemen their efforts to promote the welfare of the district generally are nullified by those who are less scrupulous and who use their public positions to forward their own private interests. Take our two Agricultural Societies. No sooner was Mr. Kennedy appointed Secretary of the original society than his action in regard to fixing a site caused an immediate split. The same with the auction sales at the Bass—directly he interfered [*sic*] there was trouble, consequently this sale has degenerated from a really good one to a most miserable affair. No sooner does he once more get into the Council than trouble again commences. He was the cause of Mr. Stewart's seat being declared vacant and the ratepayers saddled with the expense of an election (and which he profited by as returning officer), which was declared null

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The Bass Show (continued from Page 17)

by Mr. Webb, QC. All of this trouble and expense was generally attributed to the desire of this individual to pose as President of the Shire. At the annual election of President in 1884 this gentleman proposed that the President's annual allowance be discontinued, but in 1885 when he was a candidate for the position himself he very conveniently forgot about his action the previous year—the almighty dollar had its usual influence with him. Again this year it is generally understood that Mr. Delaney has promised to support this gasconading gentleman in his scheme to occupy the chair as part payment for his services the other day. However, I will leave to your Phillip Island contributor the duty of tipping the chairman, as he has proved himself qualified to do so.

I hear that the 25th inst. has been appointed as the date upon which a conference will take place to try and bring about a union between the two Agricultural Societies. Messrs. Hoddinott, H. Anderson, O'Meara, Clarke and W. Missen, will represent the Bass Society, and Messrs. Paul, Craig, A. Stewart, Bergmeier and McLaughlin, the Grantville Society. It is rumored that the Grantville Society are willing to meet the Bass half-way, that is at the Artesian Mill [*sic*]. It is the opinion of a good many of the Bass people that this would be a fair settlement of the question, and it is sincerely hoped by the well-wishers of both societies that an amicable settlement will be arrived at.

The agitation for a branch railway from the Great Southern line down the Bass Valley is to be re-commenced shortly. There is not the least doubt this line would pay handsomely, as well as do a vast amount of good in promoting the prosperity of hundreds of selectors and others who cannot get their produce quickly to market.

The weather lately has been very boisterous — high winds and heavy rains. Generally speaking, our winter has been fairly dry.

From the *South Bourke and Mornington Journal*, Wednesday 1 September 1886

To the Editor of the S. B. & M. Journal

(Re-paragraphed for the sake of clarity.)

Note: Delaney/Delany spelling as per original. D. B. is David B. Kennedy and the Great Alexander is Alexander Stewart. It is unclear who Red Harry is. Henry Bergmeier, probably.

Sir.—Noticing a letter in your paper last week, "Grantville, from a correspondent," with reference to the election, show, etc., I

want to show there is always two sides to a question and let the numerous readers see it.

First about the election. It was well known before it came off that Mr Delany was sure to be returned for Corinella which is a very large Riding with not over many inhabitants considering its area; but there are two classes of people in it—one against the other.

It was not because those who voted for Worsley thought he was a better man for the place, but simply because they had a spite against D. B. who was canvassing for Delaney. Poor D. B., he is blamed for everything. My opinion is had it not been for the Great Alexander and his friend Red Harry spending about three weeks canvassing and sending buggies and saddle horses to take the people to the polling booth. Worsley would not have got ten votes himself.

I am happy to say Mr. Delaney was returned for Corinella, as I'm sure he will do his best to satisfy our wants, and it is the opinion of his supporters that he is above being a tool in anybody's hand. The Great Alexander and Red Harry spread a good many reports about that gentleman—that he was going in for an eighteenpenny rate and to have five or six hundred pounds spent on a bridge at his place, which there was no truth in. The eighteenpenny rate frightened all the widows, so they got all their votes for Worsley. There is no doubt they would like to get things for their own hands. It is not long since they got up a petition to get R. S. Peters, of the Bass, made a Magistrate, Charles Worsley a Councillor, and the next thing they want is to get Mr. Henderson, of the Bass, in the Council, and that person I think would have a very small show for that position, as he has made himself rather busy in matters already.

About the split in the Bass show D. B. is blamed for that, but allow me to say it was the interference of the Great Alexander, who is a very selfish man and would like to get everything at Queensferry, or as near there as he possibly can, but D. B. would not allow it, and carried the day, and that is the reason of the split. He and some of his friends, with Red Harry, who made more noise than anybody, although he never contributed a single sixpence to the show, formed themselves into a committee at Grantville, and started another show known as the Grantville show, and have carried on for two years, and now they want to bring it to the Artesian Well, which I am sure the Bass committee will not give way to, as they have had three very successful shows, and got

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The Bass Show (continued from Page 18)

their yards and shed permanently built, which cost a good deal, and, as I understand, everything is being made permanent, so there is not much likelihood of their being shifted; and, as far as I can see, it is not likely, after the Bass spending so much money and having a good balance left in the bank after paying all debts, would incur the expense of re-building the yards, etc.; for as soon as the Great Southern line comes through there will be a show at Sunnyside, close to the railway station; so all the people of Jeetho and round that part will naturally support the nearest one.

The Bass show if shifted will have very few supporters, as they will lose all support from Kilcunda to the Tarwin. My opinion is if the Bass show is to be shifted Kilcunda would be the better place; but we will see what is to be done after the next general meeting. If not taking up too much room in your paper oblige by inserting this.

James McNabb,

Grantville, August 28, 1886.

[We do not admire the style adopted by our correspondent, but publish it with the idea that it may have good effect in some way we cannot at present clearly see.—Ed.]

From the *South Bourke and Mornington Journal*, Wednesday 8 September 1886: Bass and Grantville Agricultural Societies

To the Editor of the S. B. & M. Journal

(Re-paragraphed for the sake of clarity.)

Sir.—In your issue of the 1st inst. there appears a letter over the signature of James McNabb, but judging by the many coarse expressions and insinuations contained therein I, in common with many others who have read it, am strongly inclined to think it was dictated by the individual who it champions.

There are also two statements in Mr. McNabb's letter to which I take exception. First, Mr. Delaney did state at Grantville that he favored an eighteen-penny rate; and second, the Government have granted £250 for a bridge conditionally upon £250 of the Riding rates being added thereto, total £500. It will therefore be seen that this £500 must be spent on Delaney's bridge and road, and nowhere else. I only notice these statements so as to prevent Mr. McNabb making an exhibition of himself on any future occasion.

To come to the motive of this letter I deeply regret to observe the hostile tone regarding the amalgamation of the Bass and Grantville

Agricultural Societies. Mr. A. Stewart is accused of selfishness and trying to get everything at Queensferry. If Mr. McNabb will cast his memory back to the first annual meeting of the Bass Society he will find that Mr. Stewart wished the show yards to be erected on the ground known as the police reserve at Bass and distant about half a mile from the present site. Is this Queensferry?

The proposal to have the show at the Artesian Well emanated from the Jeetho and Jumbunna people, and Mr. Stewart distinctly refused to support the latter proposal when asked to do so by Mr. John Tulloch, giving as his reason that he thought it would only cause dissension. This was a few-minutes before the meeting. Mr Tulloch will, I am sure, bear me out in this. Everyone knows the result of the meeting and how Mr. Kennedy had, with his usual questionable cleverness and with the assistance of two others, got the present site fixed unknown to and over the heads of the subscribers. It was the underhand style in which this important matter was settled that was the sole cause of the irritation that ensued.

As James McNabb was present at the meeting referred to and knew all that transpired, his action in [*unclear words*] conduct as "selfish" will not tend to raise his character for truthfulness. At this meeting Mr. McNabb was asked to support the Artesian Well site and promised to do so, but I suppose that now being a member of the Bass committee and taken under the wing of his "Poor D. B." his memory has become affected.

At the conference of delegates held at Grantville on the 25th August last to try and arrange a basis of union between the two societies, the Bass delegates agreed that the proposal of the Grantville delegates—"That an amalgamation of the two societies take place on the following basis, viz., that a central and annual show be held at the place known as the Artesian Well"—should be placed before the general meeting of their members to be held shortly.

As one who considers that this would be a fair solution of the difficulty, and also knowing that many members of the Bass Society would accept this compromise, I would impress upon them the necessity of attending this meeting and seeing that this proposal gets fair play, as it is well known that a publican at the Bass and another individual who uses the yards for the purpose of selling a few head of cattle

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The Bass Show (continued from Page 19)

will strenuously oppose this compromise; for despite what these two loquacious gentlemen may say they each have a pecuniary interest in having the yards at their present site. I confidently appeal to the members of both sides to act independently in this matter, sink all differences and unite together, when, by so doing, they will have a Society that will be a credit to this grand district and be a source of pride to themselves. The Artesian Well site will only make a difference of about three miles to each party and seems by nature fitted for such a purpose. The Society will also be able to derive a revenue from the sale of refreshments and other stands—a revenue that will increase with the prosperity of the Society—besides being relieved from the undignified appearance of seeming to be a prop for hotels.

A few words as to the progress of each Society may assist the union. At the first Bass show £78 was paid in prizes; first Grantville show, £119; second Bass show, £120; second Grantville show, £149. The amount paid at the third Bass show I cannot discover, but as their prize list offered less money than *[the]* second Grantville show I presume they are still second to Grantville in the amount paid as prizes. From the above figures it will be at once seen the grand position that amalgamated society would occupy.

I understand that four Grantville gentlemen have offered to contribute £20 towards shifting yards, etc., if necessary. This offer is a credit to the unselfishness of the Grantville folk. In the event of no agreement being arrived at it is the firm intention of the Grantville Society to at once apply for a piece of ground and proceed to erect yards, &c., thereon, a number of the members having offered to build the yards at their own expense. This is on a par with the enthusiasm which has always characterised the conduct of the members of this healthy young Society, and I am sure that everyone having the good of the whole district at heart will unite in trying to bring about a union between the two bodies. It is impossible that singly either of the Societies will take that position which the capacity of the district requires. As for the statement that the Grantville will want to shift up to Sunnyside when the Southern line is built there is not the slightest foundation for it, as at present Grantville does not gain £10 by the connection.

I will conclude this long letter with a

prophesy (unsafe as it is to do so), viz., That we will shift to a station as soon as we get our “Bass Valley and Powlett river railway” built. Trusting, Mr. Editor that your courtesy and desire to bring about a union will induce you to insert this lengthy epistle, I am, yours, &c.,

Advance.

From the *Argus*, 18 March 1887, page 8: Agricultural Shows

Bass Show

(By Telegraph From Our Correspondents.)

Grantville, Thursday.

At the fourth show of the Bass Agricultural Society to-day, there was a large attendance. The draught stock were few, but the quality was good. Blood stock was well represented. The stallion prize was won by P. H. V. Laroux's Sir Evelyn. The hackneys were above the average. A buckjumping contest resulted in E. M'Mahon getting the prize. In cattle, the shorthorns were excellent, as also were the Herefords. A special feature were the polled Angus cattle of E. Wallace. The sheep were a credit to the district; G. Poole swept the prizes. The fruit was large, luscious, and plentiful. The dairy and farm produce was above the average. In the lady's hunter contest, Miss Poole's horse fell on her, but no serious injuries resulted.

* * *

From *The Australasian*, August 25, 1923.

An Old-Time Fishing Photo

This is a picture taken 20 years ago at Dr. Ray Tovell's camp on the Powlett River, near Wonthaggi. On the right is shown Dr. Tovell; centre, the late Mr. Cadden, and on the left “The Gillie.” Observe the remarkably clear reflection.

