

Places to Go

GRANTVILLE MEMORIAL PARK



Interesting the number of locals you talk to who have not taken a stroll through the Grantville and District Memorial Park. The Park is situated adjacent to the Transaction Centre on the corner of the Bass Highway and Pier Road.

The park features well maintained BBQ facilities, regularly cleaned public toilets and an amazing history walk.

The Park was officially opened on October 2009 by Johan Scheffer MP, after a massive amount of work had been done by a lot



of people in the community working with the Bass Coast Shire Council, Bass Valley Community and the Victorian Government Community Support Fund.

One of the most interesting features of the park is the history walk which features a series of story boards on a number of topics, including some outstanding photos.

On the walk you will read about George Bass, The Explorers, Grantville Racing Club, Western Port Coal Mining Co., The Railway, Woodleigh School Calf Club 1935, Grantville Show, Grantville Primary School 1941, Western Port Cobb & Co, Stewarts Saw Mill 1880, The Timber Cutters, Grantville Stores and Hotels, and Kel Wilson's great poem 'How could my father tell me' written in 2008 which we will be featuring in our April Anzac Day edition.



The Western Port Coal Mining Company Steamer "Williams" entering Western Port

GRANTVILLE STATE SCHOOL No. 1414

One of the story boards tells of the history of the Grantville State School, No. 1414



Grantville Primary School Students 1941

The story reads:

By 1872 there was a need for a primary school in Grantville.

A slab walled, shingle roofed, dirt floored room was built.

Deep Creek Non Vested Rural School No. 120 was opened in February 1873.

By April the building was deemed unsatisfactory and closed, leaving 27 children with no school to go to.

The school reopened the next year and was renamed Grantville No. 1414.

After several rebuilds, two site moves and an amalgamation with Queensferry, the school was established on this site (Memorial Park) where it served the community for many years.

It closed in 1976 and became part of the Bass Valley Primary School.

THE WESTERN PORT COBB CO.



Cobb's Coach leaving Bourke Street 1881

Another story board recounts the history of the Western Port Cobb & Co.

Agitation for a good road to Dandenong began in the 1850's.

Little was done and the history of the road features many stories of coaches getting bogged and with the road unpassable a lot of the time.

Grantville blacksmith Charlie Williams was often busy repairing coaches so that the time

tables could be maintained.

Cobb & Co ran a coach service on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from Dandenong to Grantville and returned on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at the cost of 5/-.

In 1913 the Country Roads Board was formed and the road was repaired and renamed the Bass Highway.

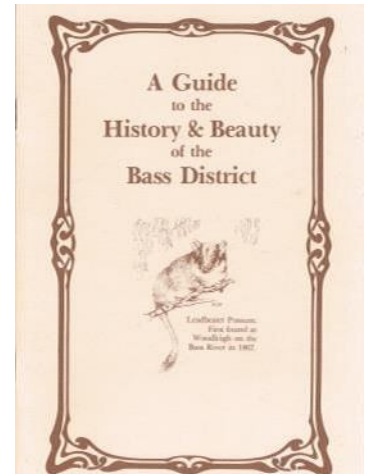
Why not pack a BBQ or picnic lunch one day and head down to the Grantville and District Memorial Park, I am sure you will find it rewarding,

After lunch you can take a stroll down to the pier and the foreshore with it's great views across to French Island.

For those not able to get to the park we will bring some more of the stories in coming months.

Next month in Places to Go we will be taking a look at the Bass Coast Rail Trail.

BOOK REVIEW



If we've managed to stimulate your interest in local history, the Bass Valley Historical Society has a lovely little booklet still available titled **A Guide to the History and Beauty of the Bass District**.

Revised and re published in 1996 the book's cover features the Leadbeater Possum which was first found at Woodleigh on the Bass River in 1867.

The book features sections on the Physiography of Western Port, Marine and Coastal Vegetation, Wildlife, The Aborigines, some interesting sketch maps of Jam Jerrup, The Gurdies, The Scenic route to Grantville, Grantville, Queensferry, the town which vanished, Tenby Point, The Military Post Settlement at Corinella, Coronet Bay, Bass Landing, San Remo, Kilcumda and the Powlett.

We will be bringing you excerpts from the booklet including some of the great sketch maps in coming months.

Enquiries regarding obtaining a copy, which will only cost you \$5.00 (plus postage if required) should be directed to Libby Skidmore :

eskidmore@desi.net.au

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