

# The Western Port Times

## Grantville & Districts



Volume 4 Number 1

FREE

May 2021

### Contents:

#### The Palmer Page

Six articles featuring or involving members of one of Corinella's most prominent families.

on Page 3

#### The First Arbor Day

Woolamai State School children spend the day planting trees then have a concert afterwards. Beats doing school work.

on Page 4

#### Farmer's Chase After Bolting Tractor

An unusual tractor accident leaves Mr. Slade unhurt but both embarrassed and out of pocket.

on Page 4

#### Mornington Election

Aspiring M.L.A. Alfred Downward on the election trail in 1886. (Spoiler: He lost to Dr. L. L. Smith).

on Page 4

#### Station Names (and what they mean)

On the Wonthaggi and Leongatha lines with Stony Point thrown in as a bonus.

on Page 5

#### Phillip Island

It is 1888 and the good folk on Phillip Island are discussing breaking away and forming their own shire.

on Page 6

#### State Coal Mine

Shifts, staffing and shillings. The usual points of dispute between miners and management.

on Page 7

#### Phillip Island and Woolamai Shire Council

An account of the 17 April 1880 Council meeting.

on Page 8

#### Building A Mystery

What is the purpose of the enormous structure Guilfoyle & McRae are building? All will be revealed.

on Page 8

#### Phillip Island and Woolamai Shire Council

An account of the mid-July 1880 Council meeting.

on Page 9

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

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

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

\* \* \*

#### Ryanston Ball

Held at Archie's Creek on behalf on the Ryanston Football Club.

on Page 9

#### The Young Farmer's Section

Young farmers from the Bass Valley write to "Jim" with farming-related news.

on Page 10

#### McQueen Death and Memorial Church

The death of the Reverend Finlay McQueen in 1934 and the church built in his honour at Lang Lang.

on Page 12

#### A Western Port Beach

Newly retired coroner, Dr. Cole, takes a stroll along the beach from Queensferry to Tenby Point in 1924.

on Page 14

#### Corinella

An account of the area, which reads like a paid advertorial, by a visitor to Grantville and Grump & Grant's timber mill in 1877.

on Page 16

#### Boy's Band Banned

And threatened with disbandment. Just why isn't quite clear.

on Page 20

#### Planting Trees

Want to plant trees to beautify a location on the cheap. Enlist school children to do it.

on Page 20





1261

## Photographs.

---

Give pleasure to your friends by the gift of

**YOUR PHOTO.**

=====

DECIDE YOU WILL HAVE

**YOURS TAKEN BY**

**W. Harrison Lee**

Artistic Photographer,

**.WONTHAGGI.**

Editor: Geoff Guilfoyle  
 Bass Valley U3A Local History Group  
 PO Box 3 Grantville 3984  
 Phone 5997 6240  
 Email: Geoff\_Guilfoyle@aanet.com.au  
 Website: www.grantvillehistory.com.au  
 Masthead design by Trish Hart  
 ISSN 2209-3508 (Online), ISSN2207-7163 (Print)  
 ABN 97 395 483 268

**Subscribe Free:**

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

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

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

**Links to other historical groups**

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



## The Palmer Page

From the *Age*, Tuesday 1 April 1902, page 6.

### A Fisherman's Narrow Escape

Grantville, Monday.

During the storm a fisherman named Albert Albion was proceeding to Stony Point with fish, and when off Pelican Rock a squall overturned his boat. After struggling in the water for some time Albion scrambled on to the top of the upturned boat, and remained there until he attracted the attention of another fisherman named Robert Palmer, who was passing some distance from him, and who came to his rescue. The boat was found off Tenby, staved in. The loss of fish and boat is estimated at about £40.

From the *Argus*, Wednesday 14 October 1908, page 8

### Leg Muscles Severed

Lang Lang, Tuesday.—A serious accident happened to a young man named Michael Quinlivan to-day. Quinlivan was marking lambs for Messrs. Palmer and Sons on Churchill Island, off Corinella, and the knife slipped, and severed the muscles of the calf of his leg, cutting them to the bone. Messrs. Palmer, with considerable difficulty, conveyed the injured man to the boat, and pulled to Corinella jetty. The injured man was then driven in all haste to Lang Lang, and placed in the care of Dr. Harkness, who stitched the wound, and made the sufferer as comfortable as possible.

From the *Koo Wee Rup Sun*, 2 July 1919

### Corinella

Miss Palmer, who is leaving Corinella to be married, was given a kitchen tea in the Mechanics' Hall by the ladies of Corinella Red Cross on 14th June, when she received numerous gifts. She will be greatly missed here by the workers of the Red Cross and other patriotic movements, as she was always willing to give a helping hand in all entertainments, and give her services free to play at dances and socials throughout the surrounding district. The old saying, "What is one loss is another's gain," and as Corinella has lost a good worker Bridgewater will gain.

The residents of Corinella gave Miss Palmer a social evening and presentation on the eve of her departure from Corinella. The present was a silver afternoon tea service. A very enjoyable evening was spent with singing and dancing till midnight. Mr Michael Quinlivan, who made the presentation, gave a very appropriate speech, which was responded to by her father, Mr C. Palmer, when all joined hands and sang "Auld Lang Syne" and "God Be With You Till We Meet Again."

From the *Age*, *Wednesday* 3 October 1934, page 14

### Sheep Driven By Dogs Into Sea

Corinella, Tuesday.—On Sunday morning last 26 prime fat sheep belonging to Mr. J. Palmer were found drowned between Corinella jetty and the Point. It is believed that the sheep were driven during the night by stray dogs down the cliffs and into the water, and in their attempt to swim across to French Island, from whence they came, perished.

From the *Herald*, Wednesday 8 April 1936, page 33

### Model Taxpayer Is Found!

Wonthaggi, Tuesday.—A resident of Corinella (Mr. C. H. Palmer) caused a pleasant interlude at the last Bass Shire Council meeting when he wrote asking the council not to lower but to raise his rates.

His reason for his request, according to his letter, was that his present rate did not entitle him to vote, and if the council would agree to his request he would forward the additional money at once.

"Granted with pleasure," was the unanimous vote of the council.

From the *Age*, Friday 23 November 1951, page 3

### Haul Is Ended But Memory Linger On *[sic]*

Wonthaggi, Thursday. — Fisherman Bob Palmer, of Corinella, who died this week aged 84, was the oldest active fisherman on Western Port when he retired two years ago.

In the 90's and early 1900's he carried mail, fish and passengers on a bi-weekly trip to Stony Point. During those 16 years he never once missed the steamer.

The trip was made by sail in all kinds of weather in his now 66-year-old Mabel, still in good order at its Corinella moorings.

Mr. Palmer fished Westernport all his life, except for a short period when he trawled the islands in Bass Strait.

Once he ran out of provisions and traded fish for mice-infested flour, which had to be sieved through an improvised strainer before use.

Working with his brother, he made many big hauls. The largest was 1000 lb. of schnapper, which brought only 3d. a lb. in the market. The present-day schnapper price is around 4/ a lb.

In assisting many boats in distress, Mr. Palmer saved several lives. Once it was another exhausted fisherman clinging to his upturned boat in rough seas.

---

**KURES Kiddies' Kolds. Tromax Emulsion. Get it at McDougall's.**

---

From the *Powlett Express and Victorian State Coalfields Advertiser*, Friday 16 July 1915, page 3: Woolamai.

## The First Arbor Day

In the presence of a large number of parents and juniors who assisted planting trees the first Arbor Day was successfully carried out at the Woolamai State school on Friday. The school committee with wise forethought had prepared and fenced off the ground some time previously, and everything was in readiness for planting. Many of the children supplied fancy trees, which added to those forwarded by the department, gave an abundance to choose from. As well as planting along the fence, the committee are having a large piece of ground ploughed for planting with special shrubs, and in the near future will transform the school ground area into a very picturesque place. After the tree planting, refreshments prepared by the parents, were served in the school and proved most acceptable [*sic*].

A concert programme was thoroughly enjoyed, addresses were given by Cr Cr. [*sic*] Steenholdt, J.P., and Messrs McGrath and Harley. Very creditable essays on Arbor Day by the children were read by the chairman, and special mention should be made of those by Ethel Angel and Rose O'Rourke. The report of Inspector Saxton, who was at Woolamai the previous day was read and it showed that he was pleased with the progress made by the school, and the teacher, Miss Bennett, was to be congratulated on the way in which the children are responding to her careful tuition. The programme was as follows:—

Song, "Arbor Anthem," scholars; recitation, "The Cats' Tea-party," Infants; song, "The Flower Girl," Misses Laura Trew, Rose and Winnie O'Rourke; recitation, "Bell Birds," Misses Winnie O'Rourke and Laura Trew; song, "What would you take for me Papa," Mabel Robinson; recitation, "The Tree," Keith Harley, Lennie and Mabel Robinson; song, "A sweet faced little girl of eight," Lennie Robinson; recitations, "Carlo" and "Tiny Tim," Infants; song, "I'm a very little girl," Lylah Robinson; recitation, "Arbor Day," 8 children; song, "A, B, C," Infants; recitation, "Red Riding Hood," Doreen O'Rourke, Bazil and Albert Emery; song, "The Black Cat," Scholars; recitation, "Pussy and Mousey," Infants; song, "Action Songs," Children; song, "Tipperary," Albert Trew and Leo McGrath; A play, "Jack and the Bean-stalk"; song, "The Sea is Britain's glory," Doreen O'Rourke; song, "God bless the Prince of Wales," Laura Trew and Winnie O'Rourke; song, "The Stockman's Grave,"

Len. Robinson; duet, "I won't marry you," Mabel and Lylah Robinson. Special mention must be made of this last item as it was rendered in first class style, and there is no doubt that we will hear of those little ladies again.

A vote of thanks to ladies committee and others and the singing of "God Save the King" ended a very pleasant days' enjoyment.

From the *Age*, Friday 15 December 1950, page 9

## Farmer's Chase After Bolting Tractor

Wonthaggi, Thursday.—

Mr. H. Slade, of Woolamai, who stepped off his £900 tractor, to which was attached a £1100 pick-up baler, saw it seconds later rolling down a steep hill toward a gully.

He ran after it, but the gap between him and the machines grew greater.

He gave up.

But had he kept going he would have been able to jump on to the tractor and stop it.

For, on its way, the front wheels turned, and the two machines circled the side of the hill, almost stopped, then plunged on again.

The tractor, which was uninsured, was smashed in half when it reached the gully.

However, only replaceable castings were broken, and for £100 it can be made as new again.

The baler, which was insured, landed in mud, and was not badly damaged.

Repairs are being made to it in the hope it would be working again this week end.

From the *South Bourke and Mornington Journal*, Wednesday 17 February 1886, page 2: Advertising

## Mornington Election

**Alfred Downward**

(The Liberal Candidate)

Will Address The Electors

At

Narree Warren State School, Friday, 19th February, at eight o'clock p.m.

Lyndhurst, Bald Hill State School, Saturday, 20th February, at eight o'clock p.m.

Tooradin, Dunbar's Hotel, Tuesday, 23rd February, at 7.30 o'clock.

Lang Lang State School, Wednesday, 24th February, at 7.30 o'clock.

Grantville, Moore's Hotel, Thursday, 25th February, at 7.30 o'clock.

## Station Names (and what they mean)

**Almurta:** Local aboriginal for “Mistletoe.” M. E. K. Curr, vol.1, p. 26, gives “Sweet” as the equivalent of “Almurta” in the dialect of Macumba River natives, S.A.

**Anderson:** Named in compliment to the Anderson family, old residents of the locality. One member at least was resident there in 1837. He reported the discovery of a coal seam in that year.

**Bena:** Name suggested by Mr. P. Whittet, J.P., and taken from Longfellow’s poem, *Hiawatha*, canto 5, line 20. It was applied to the American pheasant.

**Caldermeade:** The property from which this station took the name was bought by Archibald McMillan, in 1856. He named it after “Caldor” in Scotland. Calder is Gaelic, and means wood by the water or stream.

**Cranbourne:** Named after Cranbourne, Berkshire, England.

**Dalyston:** Named by Mr. Daly, who owned the land upon which the township was built, 1909. It was first called Daly’s Town.

**Dandenong:** The station took its name from the town. The town was called after the creek. Writing of the creek, in 1837, Captain Lonsdale spelt the name “Dan-y-nong.” The first surveyor, in the “forties,” wrote it as “Tangenong.” It was always difficult to distinguish between “d” and “t” sounds when spoken by natives. Dandenong—high or lofty.

**Dalmore:** Named after McGregor’s Dalmore Estate, near by.

**Glen Forbes:** Called after the estate of the late Mr. D. McKenzie in that locality. The station was first called “McKenzie,” after the gentleman referred to, but it was found necessary to change the name, and then the estate name was substituted. “Forbes” is a family name of the McKenzies, one of Mr. McKenzie’s sons being named “Allan Forbes.”

**Jeetho:** Native. Depart, detach, send away. Smyth, vol.2; p.139.

**Jumbunna:** Native. Colloquy, conference, discourse. Smyth, vol.2, p.140.

**Kernot:** Named after Mr. M. E. Kernot, Chief Engineer for Railway Construction, Victoria.

**Kilcunda:** Named after the Kilcunda coal seam, in the locality. The coal seam took its name from the Kilcunda Run or Pastoral Station.

**Koo-Wee-Rup:** Native. Blackfish, swimming. Macdonald. Native—“Kowe,” water; “Werup,” blackfish. Saxton, p.39.

**Korumburra:** Native. Maggot. Smyth, vol.2, p.141. March fly. *Ib.*, p.125. Kurumburra, fly. Curr, Vol.3, p.530.

**Lang Lang:** Called after a pioneer named “Lang.” Saxton, p.41.

**Leongatha:** Native. Cheek-tooth, dental, relating to teeth. Smyth, vol.2, p.141. Curr, vol.3, p.533.

**Loch:** Named after Sir Henry Brougham Loch, Governor of Victoria, afterwards Lord Loch.

**Monomeith:** Native. “Monomeeth,” agree, amity, appreciate, approve. Smyth, vol.2, p.142. “Monomeeth,” good. Curr, vol.3, p.533.

**Nyora:** Native. The native cherry. Smyth, vol.2, p.173. There is a grove or clump of native cherry trees below the “Tinpot” on McDonald’s track. “Nyora,” was named by Mr. John Lardner, Surveyor.

**Ruby:** Named after Ruby Creek, a stream in the vicinity.

**Tooradin:** Native. The fabulous monster which was supposed to have haunted swamps and rivers. In some places called “Bunyip.” The native word was “Too-roo-dun.” Smyth, vol.1, p.436.

**Woodleigh:** An estate adjoining this railway station was named “Woodleigh,” by Isaac W. and Albert De Lany, the owners. They called it after a cattle station of that name, on the Herbert River, North Queensland, the property of Mr. Charles Garbutt. The railway station took its name from the estate of the De Lany brothers.

**Woolamai:** After Cape Wollamai, Phillip Island, which was named by Surgeon Bass, 1798, from its resemblance to the helmet headed fish—“Wolamai” or “Sea Horse,” of Port Jackson. In his journal Bass wrote:—“High cape, like Snapper’s head.” Records, vol.3, p.324.

**Wonthaggi:** Native. Borne, drag, to pull along. Smyth, vol.2, p.151. Procure, to fetch, obtain. Bunce, p.35.

**Stony Point:** Descriptive of a point on the eastern side of the Mornington Peninsula, running out into Western Port.

From *Names of Victorian Railway Stations*, compiled for The Railway Commissioners and the Historical Society of Victoria by Mr. Thos. O’Callaghan, J.P. (Ex-Commissioner of Police). Melbourne, 1918.

From the *South Bourke and Mornington Journal*, Wednesday 7 March 1888

## Phillip Island

by Numskull

(Re-paragraphed for the sake of clarity.)

Dispatch is the soul of business. On the 3rd ult. a meeting of the Phillip Island Shire Council was held, at which a letter was ordered to be written in reply to one forwarded to that Council. The letter ordered to be written was dated the 10th, and, by the post mark of the receiving office, was not received until the 16th of the same month.

Why this delay?

The 3rd of February was on a Friday, and there should not have been anything to prevent the letter being forwarded on the following Monday. This is not the only complaint of a similar nature which has been mentioned to me.

On the 23rd ult. I forwarded an application to the same Shire, and at this moment (3rd of March) I have not received an answer to it. I mention these circumstances because I noticed in a report of the proceedings of the above Shire that the treasurer had been dismissed because he had not replied to certain letters.

A tap on any frontpiece reminded me of a piece of advice given to me by an excellent farmer: "Never place a pitchfork with the prongs upwards, nor do'nt [*sic*] put a rake against a wall with the teeth on the ground." In the former case many accidents have occurred and occasionally a life lost. Accidents sometimes happen without the cause being ascertained. Ships have sailed for various places and have never been again seen or heard of.

A friend of mine lately showed me a box of Bryant and Mays [*sic*] wax vestas which, on being opened, were found with all heads completely consumed. It was one of the usual packet of a dozen. The wax portions were melted, the outside of the box and the paper wrapper being charred.

A public meeting of the ratepayers of Phillip Island was held last Saturday evening at the Cowes Free Library, to consider the desirability of severing the Island Riding from the other Ridings of the Shire, and to discuss other matters relative to the Shire Council. It was unanimously agreed that a separation of the Islanders from the main land was desirable and a committee of five ratepayers, with power to add or substitute other ratepayers, were nominated and authorised to ascertain the best manner of

carrying out the views of the meeting, and to report progress at a future public meeting to be called for the purpose; also to examine and report into any other matter which concerns the interest of the Phillip Island Riding.

Amongst other matters mentioned considerable cause of complaint was made that tenders for work had been advertised lately and specifications for same had not been exhibited at the places set apart for the purpose, and that no specifications had been forwarded to the library at Cowes. It is not anticipated that the remaining Ridings of the Shire will seriously object to a severance as, for along time past, a general feeling has been expressed that the Phillip Island Riding has been an obstruction to the progress of the main land.

For instance, on the occasion of a late deputation to the Premier to obtain an increase of the subsidy of £3 to £1, instead of the £1 to £1 as at present, the Premier stated that, as concerns Corinella and Woolamai Ridings, he thought they had shown a good claim to the increase. As a matter of fact the interest of the Islanders is not identical with that of the main land at Griffiths Point, and, in my opinion, never was. When the union was carried oat [*sic*] it was done without the [*unclear word*] of a majority of ratepayers, and so quietly that myself, living within a mile of the township of Cowes, was not aware of the fact until it had taken place and was gazetted.

The difficulty to be surmounted is the fact that under the Local Government Act, Section 19, to constitute a Shire, an annual revenue of £500 is required, to be computed by a rate not exceeding one shilling in the pound on the rateable property. As the Island valuation does not come up to near that amount and can only do so by a large increase of valuation, which would not be agreeable to large land holders; the only way I see to obtain the object, so that the Island can be constituted a Shire of itself, is by a special Act of Parliament, and as it is an Island, and therefore isolated and its circumstances special, I think that with careful piloting the present Government should treat us liberally and specially.

---

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

---

From the *Wonthaggi Sentinel and State Town Miner*, Friday 21 October 1910, page 3

## State Coal Mine

Mr. Broome's Promise

Men To Work Five Shifts  
Per Week in Future

Considerable surprise was occasioned on Saturday morning last when a number of the day shift miners were informed that they would have to lay off indefinitely. Eighteen sets would lay-off each shift until such time as other orders were received.

The lay-off has been responsible for a great deal of dissatisfaction, as many of the men have incurred heavy liabilities in order to provide and furnish homes. In many cases this was done on the time-payment system, as the prospect of continuous employment seemed assured, and the prospect of four shifts per week was viewed with alarm. Much time has been lost in the past through no fault of their own, and the continual state of uncertainty and unrest is responsible for a great deal of discontent.

A "Sentinel" representative interviewed Mr. H. D. Brown, assistant mine manager, on Saturday afternoon. Mr. Brown said that during the past couple of weeks the output had been 1500 tons per day, and a couple of days ago positive orders had been received from the railway department to reduce the output to 1300 tons per day, and on no account to exceed that amount, as owing to the demand for rolling stock during the present wool season, no extra trucks could be supplied for the carriage of coal. The only way to reduce the output was to reduce the number of men or work short time, and the management had no other option but to follow the course adopted.

Deputation To The General Manager  
One Man To Be Discharged  
No Others To Be Engaged

A deputation consisting of Messrs. M. McMahon (president), F. Murphy (organising secretary), and H. Coady (treasurer), waited on Mr. Broome, general manager, on Wednesday afternoon in reference to the laying off of men.

The deputation asked how long the men would be compelled to lay-off, and pointed out that if four shifts per week was to continue for any length of time, numbers would be forced to leave the place.

Mr. Broome said that everything possible would be done in future to ensure five shifts per week being worked.

The deputation asked what had been done concerning the case of the two men who had been employed in contravention of the understanding between the management and the miners that no new hands would be employed until such time as all who were compelled to lay-off were fully employed. The matter was brought under the notice of Mr. Mackenzie about 10 days ago, a full account of which appeared in the last issue of the "Sentinel."

Mr. Broome said the matter was left entirely in the mine manager's hand.

Mr. Mackenzie was present and said the man to whom strong exception was taken on that occasion would be dismissed. The service of the other man would be retained.

Mr. Broome said that on no consideration whatever would any men be employed in the future while others were compelled to lay-off. In the event of any miners leaving their employment, their places would not be filled. This promise is to hold good until the end of March, 1911.

The deputation asked if there was any possibility of an agreement being arrived at between the management and the men now that the wages board would not be appointed.

Mr. Broome said he could not entertain the proposal during the present cavil, as things were working smoothly and he was well satisfied.



Large blocks of coal from the State Mine. From the *Leader*, 1 January 1910, page 25: The Powlett Coal Fields.

From the *South Bourke and Mornington Journal*, Wednesday 21 April 1880

## Phillip Island And Woolamai Shire Council

Saturday April 17th 1880

Ordinary meeting.—Present: Mr. S. West (President) and Councillors Duffus, Misson, Norton, Turnbull, Aldridge, Delaney, and Dickins.

From J. Stephenson, requesting permission to cart two loads of sand from road. Granted—subject to approval of Clerk of Works.

From Senior Constable Pipe, accepting office of Inspector of Slaughter Yards for Corinella Riding. From Same, reporting on G. Chinn's application for a slaughtering license.—License granted. From J. Tulloch and C. E. Isaac, requesting that a portion of road, south of R. Davies', be corduroyed and drained.—It was moved by Councillor Dickins, seconded by Councillor Misson, that Clerk of Works report on the work, and get an estimate of the cost of the same.—Agreed to.

From Buln Buln Shire Council, requesting the Council to contribute one-half cost of improving the road south of the boundary of the two shires. It was moved by Councillor Turnbull, seconded by Councillor Duffus, that no action be taken till an answer be received from the Secretary Buln Buln Shire, defining the road specified.—Carried.

From Jas. Carew, requesting that a road be applied for to his premises from the main road.—It was moved by Councillor Turnbull that no action be taken in the matter.—Councillor Dickins moved as an amendment that application be made to the Government for the survey of a two-chain road to the beach as requested.—The amendment was carried.

The deputation that had waited on the Minister of Lands in reference to Swan Lake in Phillip Island reported that the Minister had promised to permanently reserve the lake, and informed them they might at once stock the lake with fish, &c. They had also waited on the Minister of Justice in reference to the subsidy promised to the Shire Hall, and the Attorney-General had promised to represent the matter favorably to Dr Madden (that gentleman being absent), especially as it had been promised by the late Minister. The Commissioner of Public Works also promised the cost of erecting a bridge over the Bass river in Corinella. The Commissioner of Customs also promised to place the lapsed vote of £900 for two jetties in Western Port on the estimates again.

The Clerk of Works reported having conferred

with Mr Kidd in reference to removing the fence at Walsh's corner, and he had refused to do so.—It was moved by Councillor West, seconded by Councillor Turnbull, that the Secretary give the requisite notice on owners and occupiers of the Council's intention to take the fence down.—Agreed to.

The Clerk of Works was instructed to get day work done at Esplanade, Cowes, and outlet drain dug at Woolshed Creek.

Payments to amount of £110 12s 11d were passed, and the Council adjourned.

From *The Wonthaggi Sentinel and State Town Miner*, Friday, August 12, 1910

### Building A Mystery

Much speculation was indulged in concerning Messrs Guilfoyle and McRae's large building in McBride Avenue while in course of erection. It was intended for a skating rink, a dancing saloon, a public hall, a store, and half-a-dozen other purposes, said the man in the street. But it is to be used as an auction mart by the proprietors, who have commenced business as auctioneers, land, stock and station agents, and the opening sale is announced to be held tomorrow (Saturday). Messrs Guilfoyle and McRae intend making a speciality of farmers' produce, and have the largest storage accommodation in the district. The firm claim to be the "pioneer auctioneers of the Powlett," and are prepared to conduct sales when and where required. We wish the firm every success.

Notice to Farmers and the General Public.

### GUILFOYLE & McRAE,

Have now commenced business in McBride Avenue as

**AUCTIONEERS** Land, Stock and Station Agents,

and are prepared to hold Sales as required.

SPECIAL ATTENTION GIVEN TO FARMERS' PRODUCE.

LARGEST STORAGE ACCOMMODATION IN THE DISTRICT.

AUCTION SALES HELD EVERY SATURDAY.

THE OPENING SALE WILL TAKE PLACE ON

Saturday, August 13th,

When FARMERS' PRODUCE, VEHICLES, HORSES, FURNITURE, or any other lines offering will be submitted. Entries invited. Special Terms and Facilities for Sale offered to Farmers.

The Pioneer Auctioneers of the Powlett.

From the *South Bourke and Mornington Journal*, 14 July 1880

## Phillip Island And Woolamai Shire Council

Present: Mr S. West (president), Councillors Duffus, Misson, Kidd, Aldridge, Turnbull, Delaney, and Dickins.

### Correspondence

From Lands Department, stating that the Council could be appointed a committee of management for Swan Lake if desired by them.—The Secretary to reply that such was the desire of the Council.

From A. H. Burbank, stating that he was commencing to survey the unselected country near Anderson's Inlet, and that if roads were specially required in any part of the district the Shire Engineer must point them out to him.—Referred to Clerk of Works.

From Treasury, stating that the endowment was withheld from payment pending the payment into the Treasury of £40 license fees.—The Secretary to wait on the Treasurer with a view to obtain a release from payment of the license fees.

From E. G. Fitzgibbon, re provision for maintenance of main roads instead of tolls.

Mr. Harding's request that his contract be allowed to stand over for the winter was granted.

The Councillors for Corinella reported that in reference to Mr Holmes' application for main tracks in Jeetho, as there were no funds, the application could not be entertained.

Reports re McHaffie's road to stand over for one month.

The Clerk of Works reported on sideling cutting on Turnbull's hill requested by rate payers of Woolamai, and gave an estimate of the cost.—Tenders to be called for the work.

The report re works near Brazier's mill and Clarke's road to stand over for one month.

The Clerk of Works reported on the carrying away of the water reserve embankment at Cowes during the late floods, and was instructed to obtain advice when in town about it.

The Clerk of Works reported the filthy state of the road at the back of Bauer's hotel, and recommended the forming of the road by removing the sand hill from the Coast Barometer to the Hollow.—The Clerk of Works was instructed to call for tenders.

The President appointed Tuesday, 20th inst., as the day for the Revision Court.

Payments to the amount of £90 were passed. Councillor Turnbull gave notice of motion to have works done near Lyre Bird Creek on Cape Patterson road. Councillor Dickins also gave notice for works in Corinella, and Councillor Kidd for works at Natcott's hill.

From *Wonthaggi Sentinel and State Town Miner*, July 23, 1910

## Ryanston Ball

A very pretty ball was held in the Archie's Creek Hall on Wednesday evening, July 20th, under the auspices of the Ryanston Football Club, and proved a brilliant success, both financially and otherwise.

About 30 couples took the floor, which was in perfect order. Dancing was indulged in until the wee small hours of the morning, to the excellent music supplied by Mrs. H. Evans.

Mr. A. Chisholm proved an efficient M.C.

The refreshments were provided by the lady supporters of the club, who had formed themselves into a committee for the occasion, and prominent amongst whom were Mesdames Evans, McGrath, Simcox, and Lynch.

Musical items were interspersed between the dances, and included songs by Messrs. J. Mellar, Chisholm, and J. Grayden, and a duet by the Messrs. Grayden.

Hon. secretary W. Neck proved to be the right man for the position and the success of the ball was in large measure due to his untiring efforts.

The following ladies were present:—

Miss Hodge, crystalline silk  
Miss Macloud, white silk  
Miss Munro, white muslin  
Miss Bookley, cream voile  
Miss Odgers, cream stripped [unclear word]  
Miss Proctor, muslin [unclear word]  
Miss Davies, cream silk  
Miss Norris, white muslin  
Miss Daly, brown dress  
Miss M. Daly, white muslin  
Miss Good, white muslin  
Miss Halcombe, cream voile  
Miss Leach, cream silk  
Miss P. Keating, cream silk  
Miss Sleeth, white muslin  
Miss H. Leach, cream silk  
Miss Hodgkins[?], brown [unclear word]  
Mrs. McRae, cream [unclear words]  
Mrs. Leach, black velvet  
Mrs. Chisholm, white embroidered muslin  
Mrs. Good, cream muslin  
Mrs. Lynch, black silk  
Mrs. McIlraith, white embroidered muslin  
Mrs. Keane, white muslin

First Undergraduate: "What shall we do tonight?"

Second Ditto: "Let's toss for it. If it's heads, we'll go to the pictures; if it's tails, we'll call on the girls; and if it stands on edge, we'll study."

from *KooWeeRup Sun & Lang Lang Guardian*, 1 Feb. 1934

## The Young Farmer's Section

Conducted by "Jim"

From the *Weekly Times*, Saturday 18 March 1933, page 45

### Woodleigh Members Had A Happy Gala Day

Writing from "Blinkbonny," Kernot, Hazel Belfrage has sent me a description of the Woodleigh Club's gala day. She says:—Dear Jim.—I am writing to tell you of our calf club's recent gala day. It was held on March 3. There are 15 calves belonging to members of the Woodleigh club, and all of them are pure-bred Jerseys.

About 12.30 everyone was assembled, and the seniors, or yearlings, were judged by Mr Barr. He looked them over carefully, explained their faults, and allotted points. He placed my calf first, Rod Hayes's second, and Joan Hayes's third.

Then we tied the calves up, and they juniors were judged. Two of these were bulls. Rod Hayes was placed first in this class, with S. Collins second and J. Barry third.

Mr Thomas then judged our record books, with 10 as the possible number of points. Vera Knox was awarded a special prize for her very neat book, which, as Mr Thomas said, was a credit to any club in Victoria.

Some of the members had vegetables, some cooking and jams, and others fancy work. In the fancywork section Kitty Egan was awarded first prize. W. Hall took first award for vegetables, with N. Hall second.

After luncheon, which the ladies kindly provided, Mr Thomas presented the ribbons and cards. I felt quite proud to be awarded the grand championship. Then Robert Campbell moved a vote of thanks to Mr Barr for his kindness in coming such a long way to judge the calves. This was seconded by Rod Hayes, and Mr Barr responded.

Mr Thomas congratulated the club on its successful day and the quality of the calves display. Thus our gala day came to an end. We are to get a halfpenny for every point we scored, so that even those members who fail to win a prize will feel that they have not been left out. Now I will close, wishing the Young Farmers' Section every success. Yours sincerely, Hazel E. Belfrage.

*[You have sent a newsy little report, Hazel, and it will be taken into consideration in making the awards for April. You seem to have had a good time at the gala day, and I cannot help thinking I was born 15 years too soon.]*

*There were not many prizes to be won in my schooldays, but I did manage to collect a few half-crowns for competitions conducted by the Young Folks' Page of The Weekly Times. I didn't think then that I would be judging the letters in a few years' time! Good luck to the members of the Woodleigh club with their projects.—Jim.]*

From the *Weekly Times*, Saturday 6 April 1935, page 45

### Woodleigh Club Has Big Field Day

The Woodleigh club has made great headway since its inception five years ago. This was manifest at the annual field day, held last week. The cattle showed the attention that had been bestowed on them, from the calves a few months old to the mature animals reared some years ago. Much of the credit for the good work is due to the head teacher (Mr Milligan), who has devoted much of his time to furthering the interests of the club.

Following is a list of the awards made:—Junior Calves: D. Hayes, 1; B. Campbell, 2; J. Hayes, 3. Yearling Calves: Don Hayes, 1; B. Belfrage, 2; Rod Hayes, 3. Two-year-olds: Rod Hayes, 1; Joan Hayes, 2. Three-year-olds: Don Hayes, 1; Rod Hayes, 2; B. Campbell, 3. Grade Calves: B. Downey, N. Hall, W. Hall. Kirton Cup: Rod Hayes. Ford Cup: Don Hayes. Judging Competition: M. Williams and J. Collins, equal.

Poultry.—Best Cock: Keith Hall. Best Hen: Keith Hall. Best Pullet: W. Hall, J. Collins. Best Duck: G. Slocombe. Best Drake: G. Slocombe. Best Turkey: K. Egan.

Vegetables.—Lettuce: Walter Hall, 1; Norman Hall, 2. French Beans: Bruce Brown, 1; Roy Atkin, 2. Wax Beans: Don Hall, 1; Walter Hall, 2. Onions: Jack Collins, 1; Irene Stewart, 2. Red Beet: Irene Stewart, 1; Don Hall, 2. Parsnips: Jack Collins, 1; Walker Hall, 2. Carrots: Mary Collins, 1; Jack Collins, 2. White Turnips: Irene Stewart, 1; Helen Chitty, 2. Swede Turnips: Alec Ferguson. Rhubarb: Norman Hall, 1; Walter Hall, 2. Pumpkin: Irene Stewart, 1; Alec Ferguson, 2. Marrow: Alison Luke, 1; Lilian Chitty, 2. Potatoes: Peggy Stewart, 1; Hugh Knox, 2. Green Peas: Alec Ferguson, 1; Bruce Brown, 2. Silver Beet: Esther Mahood, 1; Alison Luke, 2. Melon: B. Belfrage, 1; Don Belfrage, 2. Tomatoes: Irene Stewart, 1; Maureen Stewart, 2. Apples: Alison Luke, 1; M. Belfrage, 2.

*(continues on Page 11)*

From the *Australasian*, Saturday 11 April 1936, page 29

## Woodleigh (V.) Young Farmers' Club

Annual field day and judging for "The Argus" and "The Australasian" Shield on March 31.



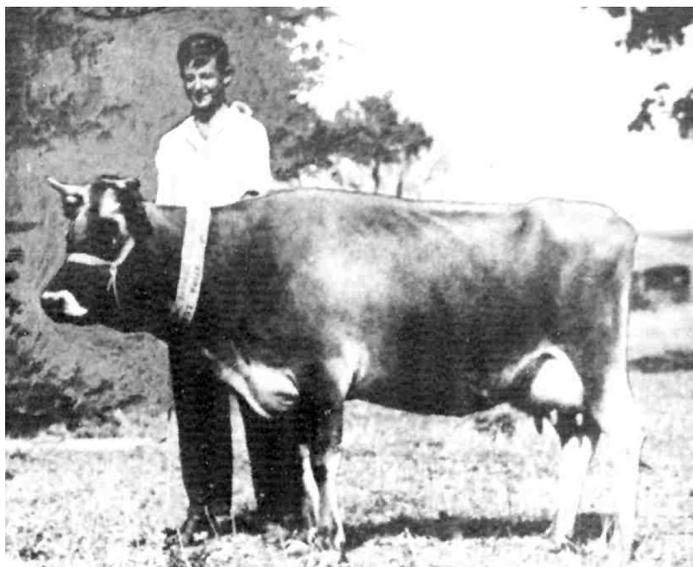
Keith Hall showing his exhibit to Messrs. G. W. Pitcher (district school inspector), E. J. Satchell, W. Sedurny (judges), and Mr. H. Gill (senior inspector of schools).



Prizewinners in the calf section: Hugh Knox (1st), Margaret Belfrage (2nd) and Hazel Belfrage (3rd place).



Club members demonstrating the points of a Jersey cow to Mr. W. J. Yuill, senior dairy supervisor.



Don Hayes with his first prize four-year-old Jersey cow, Cosmos Sunshine.

*The Young Farmer's Section (continued from Page 10)*

Quinces: H. Belfrage, 1; M. Belfrage, 2. Lemons: Esther Mahood. Cucumber: Helen Chitty, 1; Irene Stewart, 2. Collection of Grasses: M. Belfrage, 1; H. Belfrage, 2.

Fancy-work.—Plain sewing: K. Egan, 1; Alison Luke, 2. Fancy-work: K. Egan, 1; N. Egan, 2. Knitting: K. Egan, 1; Alma McGrath, 2. Plain Sewing: G. Brown, 1; J. Hayes, 2. Fancy-work: Margaret Williams, 1; M. Egan, 2. Knitting: G. Brown, 1; Hazel Belfrage, 2. Darning: J. Hayes, 1; H. Chitty, 2. Patching: Gwen Brown, 1; Esther Mahood, 2. Best Machined Article: M. Williams. Flannel: Gwen Slocombe, 1; Betty Downey, 2. Feather Stitch: Esther Mahood, 1; K. Egan, 2.



Yearling heifers lined up for judging.

Cooking.—Scones: Irene Stewart, 1; Esther Mahood, 2. Plain Cake: M. Williams. Sponge: M. Belfrage, 1; H. Belfrage, 2. Coffee Rolls: M. Collins, 1; Irene Stewart, 2. Sweets: Gwen Brown, 1; Helen Chitty, 2.

## McQueen Death and Memorial Church

The death of the Reverend Finlay McQueen in 1934  
and the church built in his honour at Lang Lang which  
was opened and dedicated in April 1936.

From the *Dandenong Journal*, 22 November 1934.

### Finlay McQueen Death

The death of the Rev. Finlay McQueen, which occurred on Sunday, November 18, at his residence, Spring road, Highett, after a long illness, was learned with deep regret by many residents of Cranbourne and Lang Lang. Over 40 years ago, in his student days, Mr. McQueen was assistant to the Rev. R. W. Rock, who was then the minister of the Presbyterian charge of Cranbourne and district. After his ordination, as a minister of the Presbyterian Church, Mr. McQueen served the church in many parishes, his last being Lang Lang, from which, owing to ill-health, he resigned from a little over twelve months ago. Mr. McQueen was very highly esteemed for his many splendid qualities, which made him an ideal pastor and friend to the people of the congregations, among whom he labored so faithfully. He bore his last weary illness with true Christian fortitude. His age at the time of his death was 77 years.

From the *Dandenong Journal*, 30 January 1936, page 8

### McQueen Memorial Foundation Stone Laid

The foundation stone of a new Presbyterian Church, at Lang Lang, to take the place of the wooden building, erected 45 year's ago, was laid no *[sic]* Thursday afternoon, January 16, by the Rev. Hugh M. Burns, an ex-Moderator, in the presence of a large and representative gathering, which included visitors from all parts of the district. The church, which will be a handsome structure of bricks, will be known as the McQueen Memorial Church, as a mark of appreciation and affection for the late Rev. Finlay McQueen, who as a student in the ministry of the Rev. R. W. Rock, held services at Lang Lang, and recently was minister of the charge, and whose ministry, both as a student and as minister of the church, was noteworthy and of wide-spread influence.

The Rev. H. M. Burns, who was a personal friend of Mr. McQueen, in a brief address referred to the fine intellectual and spiritual qualities of Mr. McQueen, and the splendid services he had rendered the church. Mr. Burns was presented with an inscribed gavel

from the contractor of the new church. The Rev. T. W. Darby (minister of the charge), Rev. W. L. Collins (Moderator of Flinders Presbytery), Rev. W. W. Ingram, of St. Andrew's Church, Geelong; Rev. D. Bruce (interim-Moderator), Rev. Cadwallader Jones (Presbytery clerk), also took part in the ceremony. Others on the temporary platform were Rev. N. M. Jaboor, of Mordialloc, and Rev. T. R. Vizard (Church of England). Several apologies for absence were read by Cr. W. C. Greaves, Jnr. Newspaper clippings, silver and copper currency coins, and an account of the church, enclosed in a leaden casket, were placed in an aperture in the wall, by Mr. David Gunson, a descendant of one of the original founders. The ceremony closed with the Benediction. Miss Lucy Greaves officiated at the organ.

Afternoon tea was dispensed by the ladies under the shade of trees in the church ground. With Cr. W. C. Greaves, Jnr., chairman, congratulatory speeches were made by the Revs. W. L. Collins, T. R. Vizard, Cr. M. Bennett, M.L.A., and Cr. L. J. Cochrane, president of the Cranbourne Shire. Complimentary mention was made to the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Greaves and family, of Monomeith, in donating three-fourths of the cost of the new church. A comprehensive brochure, containing a brief history of the Lang Lang Presbyterian Church, compiled by Mrs. David N. Gunson, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Greaves, Snr., was distributed. During the afternoon a generous sum towards the building of the new church was placed in a collection box alongside the foundation stone. Those present signed their names in the visitors' book, which will be an interesting memento of a unique and happy occasion in the history of the Lang Lang Presbyterian charge. It is expected that the church will be completed by the end of March.

The present organisation of the church is: Session, Rev. T. W. Darby, Messrs. Bell (clerk), and D. Cochrane. Board of Management: Messrs. W. C. Greaves, Snr. (1905), W. C. Greaves, Jnr., Albert Mitchell, William Young, Finlay McCrae, James Biggar, Jnr., M. Davidson, David N. Gunson, W. Onley, George Stafford, B. T. Samuel (secretary since 1909).

(continues on Page 13)

*McQueen Death and Memorial... (continued from Page 12)*

From the *KooWeeRup Sun and Lang Lang Guardian*, 9th April 1936

## **Opening and Dedication**

### **McQueen Memorial Church, Lang Lang**

Saturday, April 4, was a red letter day at Lang Lang, especially to the Presbyterian section of the community; in fact, to all members of that sect residing in the surrounding districts, the occasion being the opening and dedication of a modern and compact new brick Presbyterian Church of Gothic design in that township, erected through the generosity of its members, especially Mr W. C. Greaves, sen., of Monomeith. The day was gloriously fine, and the sun shone down on some 300 to 500 persons assembled, many from distant places and comprising many creeds. All were of the opinion that the edifice was a most worthy memorial to the late Rev. Findlay McQueen, in whose memory it stands, and a great acquisition to the town, besides being a wonderful gift dedicated to the Minister for the carrying on of His work.

State Parliament was represented by Mr M. Bennett, M.L.A. for West Gippsland; Cranbourne Shire Council, by its many members; Church of England, Rev. T. R. Vizard; and Methodist Church, Mr A. M. Perry.

The Rev. T. W. Darby, in charge of the local parish, said they had gathered to cover another milestone in the church's history, namely, the confirmation of its followers' effort to supply a long-felt want. They were greatly indebted to Mr W. C. Greaves, sen., and family in this regard, also to the Ladies' Guild, Fellowship, Board of Management, secretary, Session Board, and every member of the church. He welcomed the Rev. D. A. Cameron, members of the Presbytery, ministers and members of other denominations, and shire councillors.

Mr W. C. Greaves, jun., read an apology received for non-attendance from the Rev. Malcolm McQueen, of Launceston, and a son of the late Rev. Finlay McQueen. The writer deeply regretted his inability to attend, especially as his father had commenced his ministry at Lang Lang, and had also ended it there, and as the edifice had been erected in his memory. Apologies were also received from past ministers of the local church, and included the Revs. J. Meers, W. L. Collins, C. Collinson, A. J. Porter, F. Butchers, and Mr G. McGregor. Also apologies from Messrs Fairbairn, M.H.R., Tyner and Chandler, M.L.C.'s, A. J. Kirton,

M.L.A., and Mr Williams, architect.

The Rev. Darby then called on the Rev. D. A. Cameron to officially open the church. The latter was handed the key by the builder (Mr A. L. Ackland), and the Rev. Cameron forthwith passed it on to Mr W. C. Greaves, sen., for the purpose of him having the privilege of turning same and opening the door. On this being accomplished those assembled entered the building, singing an appropriate hymn. On as many as possible being seated, another hymn written for such-like occasions was sung, followed by the Rev. Darby offering up prayer. The Rev. Douglas Bruce (Cranbourne) was deputed to give a Scripture reading from Revelations, 21st chapter, and after the singing of another dedication hymn the Rev. Ingram offered up prayer.

The Rev. McEwan, in an address of congratulations and appreciation, said that after a great deal of labor it was pleasing to see members' efforts finalised. The edifice had been built for the glory of God and to stand for many generations to come. He congratulated workers on the completion of their labor, and trusted they would know the full riches of Jesus Christ. It was the command of Christ to follow Him, and they should think of what it is to do so. They should learn the will of God, and, when learnt, follow it out in their own lives and live in a spirit of love, being prepared to make sacrifices. The building was a silent witness to those willing to give up worldly possessions because of Christ. They should strive to live in faith, hope and love.

Miss Jessie McMichael (Melbourne) then rendered the solo, "Here, O Israel," Mr Herbert Davis (Melbourne) being accompanist. The latter also was organist for the hymns sung by the congregation.



The church commemorating the Reverend Finlay McQueen. It is today part of the Uniting Church, the coming together (since June 1977) of the Methodist, the majority of the Presbyterian, and almost all of the Congregationalist churches in Australia.

From the *Argus*, Saturday 18 October 1924, page 7

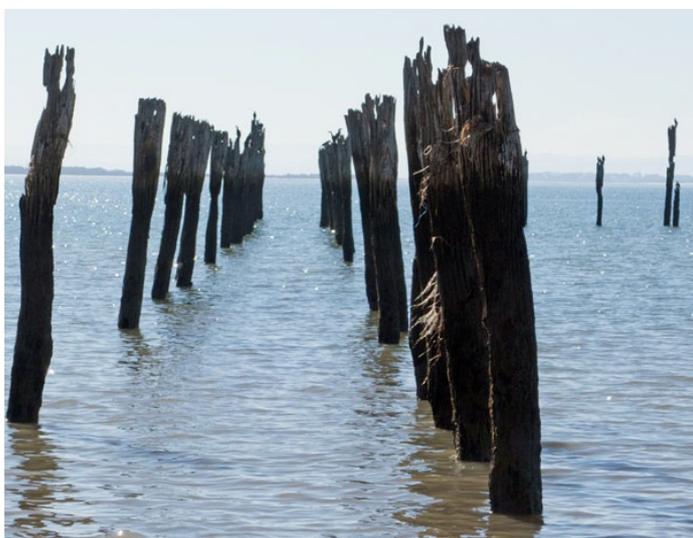
## A Western Port Beach

By Dr. Robert H. Cole

Old maps of Port Phillip district show Corinella, a township on that portion of the mainland which, after jutting out into Settlement Point and towards the south-western extremity of French Island, curves away to the south and to the east. For about three miles eastward the coastline is curving slightly and is characterised by steep descents to a beach wherein ironstone figures largely. This, however, ends at Tenby Point, so named by a Welshman to memorise a village in the principality whence he came.

At Tenby a pier sadly bereft of its planking runs from shore to deep water over the ironstone. It is said it was build in order to help the settlement of Tenby by lovers of this beauty spot. If so, it has so far failed. On the hill above the point are to be seen the veteran survivors of an orchard and garden of great size, many ornamental trees, and an avenue of *Pinus Insignis*. Here is an enormous olive tree with a massive bole, and an oak covering a space of 60ft. in diameter, and a Norfolk Island pine as stately as any in our Botanic Gardens. However beautiful Tenby is and was, and no visitor can deny its beauty, no habitation is there now, and under the trees graze sheep and cattle undisturbed, and the rabbit fondles his harmless face over his burrow in the cliff side.

Passing on from Tenby round the point and curving southward is a little bay, its half moon extending four miles to Grantville, where it turns northward. Here at Tenby begins a belt of high mangroves which once entirely lined the bay. They still survive



The pier at Tenby Point in 2019 minus more than just its planking.

along the shore for two miles below Tenby. Then begins a sandy beach. A pier marks this spot, and for a mile beyond the pier sand has displaced the mangrove and the mud. Judging from the aspect of this spot today, its remoteness from the busy haunts of men seems almost as great as on that day in 1840 when Strzlecki broke through the dense scrub of Western Gippsland and reached Port Western. Much, however, has happened to the bay since that day.

The little bay has a history, some points of which are worth noting. The trees on Tenby are relics of a homestead placed there by James Cuthbert, and they adorn a landscape whose beauty is undeniable. His run extended from Hurdy Gurdy, at the fringe of the sand hills four miles north-north-east of Grantville, to Tenby. At a later period, when the timber business from the Bass hills began to flourish and the little bay to be busy with vessels, he chose the name Queensferry for the settlement which clustered round the pier in the centre of the bay, remembering the likeness the sea and landscape bore to the village on the Firth of Forth. One of the soldier lads from the district paid a visit when in Scotland to the place, and confirmed the likeness. The blackwoods and eucalypts of the Bass Valley had attracted the notice of Alexander Stewart. He built a sawmill among them, and conveyed the sawn timber to a jetty he had placed at Queensferry, remains of which are still to be seen there near the present Government pier. The place thrived for a time. Houses dotted the beaches, and a post and telegraph office, a store, and a public hall gave some hope of a permanent settlement. But the timber trade began to slacken, although for many years a regular shipping service was maintained with Melbourne by Captain Henderson, of the schooner *Woolamai*, who succeeded Alexander Stewart in the sawmilling business. This, however, finally ceased.

Nature, however, has again taken the matter in hand in her own way. The mangrove and the mud from pier and beach have given place to sand. There is every reason to believe that the invitation of Nature to these beaches requires merely to be known to ensure its acceptance, given facilities, and the motor-car will discover Queensferry and its beauty of beach and hinterland will no longer unknown. And what of this hinterland? The soft air of Metung and the Gippsland Lakes has no equal in this State, except at Queensferry. Protected

*(continues on Page 15)*

A Western Port Beach (continued from Page 14)

by its landlocked position, by its background of hills, and open only for a few miles of sea to the north, there is neither the rigour of winter nor the fierce heat of summer. It lies deep meadowed a few feet above high-water mark, its clumps of tea-tree giving beautiful vistas of greenery, while within easy walking distance is what is locally termed the heath country, and behind this the hills of the Bass Range, with the Bass Hill standing as sentinel over all.

To the lover of the wild, to the sportsman, this part of the State is not entirely unknown. Anyone taking the hill track from Almurta railway station may walk over the intervening three or four miles to Queensferry through flowers and natural avenues of gum trees all the way. Heath, white and pink, orchids, clusters of manuka blooms, the pale blue and lavender clematis, and yellow acacia blooms are those most characteristic of this walk. Clumps of coral fern mark the springs of fresh water bordering the heath on the bay side. A never-failing stream of chalybeate water has run to the sea from an artesian bore put down within a mile of the Queensferry pier for coal, but abandoned when at 70ft. it struck the flow of water. Some day an enterprising public body may develop and guard this spring, rendering it useful and ornamental, something more than a watering place for wandering cattle.

From Glen Forbes northward over the heath to the edge of the sea flats, and over the hills towards Grantville, lies a stretch of untenanted Crown land wherein flourish native bears, opossums, wallaby, kangaroo, spring anteaters, and (incidentally) several varieties of snakes, iguana, and lizards. Here is the rabbit, of course, the fox, his hereditary foe, hares in plenty, and deer. Some say this heath will find human tenants, but it might be worth while considering whether a reserve and sanctuary for native game should not be established here, when, as now, these native animals are numerous. Lastly, one fact is worthy of mention. Like man, the fish deserted the bay, but are now returning; also the wildfowl, ducks, swans, plover, curlew, and cranes are once more flocking to the place. The fish - mullet, flathead, rock cod, schnapper [*sic*], and whiting - are coming back. From the beach at Queensferry are visible to the north-west the lights of Melbourne flaring like a dreary dawn.

That a place so long neglected should come into its own once more is but poetic

justice. The wheel turns round. It is "up to us" to see that Western Port and its beaches get the facilities of transport they undoubtedly deserve. The motor-car on a good road can cover the 60 intervening miles without trouble, and the motorist, being a man of energy and enterprise, should make it his business to urge that the road from Melbourne to Grantville be made sufficiently good to attract motorists on to this route.

The material for the purpose is in abundance on the hills above Grantville, a fine gravel which will not puncture tyres and yet sets as hard as cement: witness a piece of road near Grantville which has resisted some years' wear and the wash of a very wet season. A good macadamised road connects Grantville with Almurta railway station three and a half miles away. Let anyone test the truth of my writings by visiting this portion of Western Port. The journey and return can be made easily in one day. A property conducted guest house at Queensferry is a necessity. This would give the place the accessibility to the tourist it now lacks.

**WHAT DO YOU MEAN "Dumb" ANIMALS?**

 **THE DOG**  
saves a bone

 **THE BEE**  
collects honey

 **THE BEAR**  
stores up fat

 **THE CAMEL**  
carries water

 **THE SQUIRREL**  
builds a reserve  
of nuts

**Yes** Nature has given man and the animals the urge to provide for future needs. Safeguard YOUR future by accumulating a "store" in an account with the

**COMMONWEALTH SAVINGS BANK**  
There's a Branch or Agency in your District

From *Koo Wee Rup Sun and Lang Lang Guardian*, 14 July 1948.

From the *Age*, Saturday 17 February 1877, page 7

## Corinella

by P.M.

(Re-paragraphed for the sake of clarity.)

A few months ago attention was called by a correspondent in *The Leader* to the excellent quality of the land still unselected at Corinella, a district on the eastern shore of Western Port Bay; and to its general adaptability for grazing and agricultural purposes. Situate at a distance of over seventy miles from the metropolis, intending selectors and other visitors from Melbourne had, at that time, but small facilities afforded them for compassing the distance which divided them from this tempting Elysium. Either they must proceed to Cranbourne by Cobb's coach, and thence to Corinella—a distance of more than forty miles—by horse or on foot; or they must take the coach to Hastings, and cross the Bay to their destination in an open sailing boat.

Both those alternatives were, it need hardly be said, tedious and disagreeable. In winter the road beyond Cranbourne was nearly impassable to foot travellers, and, on the other hand, the trip across the Bay, though pleasant enough in fine, was in rough weather a very damp and damping operation. The facilities for the carriage of goods were on a still more limited scale, and, except in small bulk, they could only be transmitted by craft, at great risk of delay and damage.

Since the appearance of the letter referred to, and partly no doubt as a result of the stimulus, given to settlement in the district by the statements contained in that letter, some most important additions have been made to its means of intercommunication and transit. Not only does a tri-weekly coach now run—via Dandenong, Cranbourne, Tooradin and Tobin Yallock—from Melbourne to Grantville, performing the through journey in nine hours; but a company has been formed to run, and has run for sometime past, a tri-weekly steamer from Hastings, whence it starts immediately on the arrival of Cobb's coach from Melbourne, to Phillip Island, and Griffith's Point, which, though not actually within the Corinella district, is only three or four miles from it.

For my own part I had long wished to test by personal inspection the veracity or otherwise of the high-flown statements which my Western Port acquaintances, when they emerged from their primeval solitudes, and basked for a while in the blaze of "town," were always dinning

into my ears with regard to the sport, scenery and material attraction of their district, and especially of the Corinella and Wollomai [*sic*] portions of it. Their pardonable "blow" was, it is true, confirmed by sporting pedestrians who had made the overland journey to Screw Creek, Anderson's Inlet and the Tarwin, and who returned laden, not only with full bags, but with glowing panegyrics of the country through which they had passed. Never the less, being somewhat sceptical of the rural enthusiasm of town-bred people, I received their reports *cum grano salis*, and determined to bide my time, and see for myself. So the other day—it does not do to be too precise as to dates—I packed up my traps, paid my fare, and got up on to the box seat of the new vehicle.

The day was fine, and the roads in a favorable state of dryness, so that we bowled along past Dandenong to Cranbourne, not only pleasantly enough, but at a smart pace. After leaving Cranbourne the condition of the road changed for the worse, and a disagreeable amount of jolting had to be endured. At about five o'clock p.m., however, the Grantville terminus was reached, and I was at liberty to descend from my lofty perch.

Having had some refreshment, I inspected the one "lion" of Grantville, its jetty, along which runs an exceedingly well constructed tramway, connecting it with the saw-mills of Messrs. Brazier and Co., situate in the ranges, about three and a-half miles east of the township. Having duly admired the jetty, and still more the view of the bay from it, I returned to the hotel. There was still an hour or more of daylight, so I determined to push on at once to my precise destination, the Bass River Saw-mills.

I had pitched upon these mills at my point of departure, partly because I had had some previous acquaintance with the proprietors, Messrs. Crump and Grant, but more especially from the fact that, being situated close to the Bass River, and in the very heart of the unselected country, I expected to find in their immediate neighborhood the fairest possible sample of its alleged attractions. The bar was crowded with Christmas revellers, of one of whom I inquired the distance and the best way to the mills. The former, he informed me, was four and a-half miles, the latter he said

(continues on Page 17)

*Corinella (continued from Page 16)*

he would be happy to show me if I would accept of his company, as he was himself going to start for the mills in a few minutes, and did not care for a lonely walk. I thanked him for the information and his offer, which I of course accepted.

Unfortunately for the good intentions of my new acquaintance, first one old friend accosted him and then another—"nobbler" following "nobbler," and "shout" "shout," until it was almost dusk, and yet we had not started. Every moment he expressed himself as "just going," and yet seemed fated not to go. I at last saw that if I meant to get to the mills that night I must march alone. I therefore collected what information I could from the bystanders, who pointed out a track to which I was to keep until I found myself on one of the tramways leading to the mills. I then started off.

When I had got a little way I heard a noise, and looked back. It was my would-be guide, upbraiding me for my desertion. The road I took led me along, in a south-westerly direction, through a messmate forest, then it emerged on to a vast heath, and finally involved me in a belt of timber, which, so far as I could discern by the dim light, which soon became "black darkness," was also composed of messmates. I had already walked about three miles from Grantville, when I discovered to my disgust that I had wandered from the track, which about this point, as I was afterwards aware, becomes greatly narrowed, and diverges to the right towards the tramway, for which I was making.

For sometime I blundered on in the darkness, hoping that I might either regain the pathway, or by good luck stumble across the tramway aforesaid. All in vain, however, and, after plunging up to my knees in a morass, from which I with difficulty extricated myself, and finally precipitating myself over what I *felt*, but could not *see*, to be the trunk of a huge fallen tree, I resigned myself to the fact of being "bushed," and began to feel out, with my hands and feet, a soft dry spot for my bed.

Just at forlorn moment the crying of a child—a sound usually so irritating, now so soothing to my supperless senses—smote upon my tympanum. I made in the direction indicated, but only discerned when close up to it the dim outline of a bush dwelling, from within which issued at intervals the mingled voices of a male and female engaged in earnest conversation.

Had I been of a nervous or imaginative turn,

I might have pictured this obscure habitation as the abode of some Western Port Sullivan; this unseen pair as an abandoned couple, plotting vile schemes for the murder and pillage of belated travellers like myself—and trembled accordingly. And, indeed, the surroundings, the dark night, the dense forest, the solitary cottage, the invisible speakers, my way-worn self—would have been admirably calculated to sustain such an illusion, if once entertained. But, being of an eminently matter-of-fact disposition, I did not suffer my fancy to stray, and simply—knocked at the door!

A man's voice told me to come in. I obeyed and saw before me nothing more sensational than a highly benevolent-looking "Darby and Joan," seated at supper. Having explained to them my position, the "missis" invited me to partake with them, to which—looking to the state of the board, which, in honor of the Christmas season, was spread with unusual profusion—I was nothing loath, the husband, meantime, undertaking to see me when I had done, as far as the tramway. Thus cheered, I set to with a will, and, having satisfied myself, and made my acknowledgments to my entertainers, was soon again on my way, my host preceding me with a lantern—a necessary equipment on so dark a night, and with a track so tortuous and indistinguishable to follow.

We wound up a steep acclivity, through masses of tangled brushwood, and amongst timber which, even by the lantern's flickering glare, I could see to be of giant size and height. Our feet struck noiselessly upon the turf. The growls of native bears, and the occasional plaintive cry of the mopehawk, alone disturbed the intense stillness of the night. We seemed alone in an illimitable wilderness, and I could not help thinking how completely I should stand at the mercy of my guide, were he animated by sinister intentions against my life or purse. A glance at his jolly, rollicking countenance dispelled all such thoughts as they arose, and at this moment, to my great satisfaction, the long sought tramway was at length reached.

The mills were now only a mile distant, so, having bidden a cordial adieu to my friendly guide, I hastened on with the elastic step of one who sees before him the end of his troubles. At first I tried to walk upon one of the rails of the tramway, but my unaccustomed feet constantly slipped off. I then essayed to step from sleeper to sleeper, but often miscalculated

*(continues on Page 18)*

*Corinella (continued from Page 17)*

my distance, and stepped instead into the muddy pools, which recent rains had created between each pair, and which the rails on either side prevented from running off.

The walk was thus far from a pleasant one, so that it was with no small satisfaction that, in about half-an-hour, having meantime crossed the Bass, I discerned the mill lights gleaming an amicable welcome from the bottom of the gorge in which I was. I hurried on, and was soon seated in the hospitable—I cannot say “mansion”—but very comfortable habitation of one of the partners, who cordially recognised my claims upon his consideration.

After an hour or two allotted to a “yarn” and a “smoke”—to the communication of town news, and the reception of country items—we adjourned to an adjoining hut, which had been fitted up as an impromptu ballroom, and in which a number of the men employed about the mill, together with the females of their families, were engaged (inevitable quotation!) in “tripping it on the light fantastic toe,” to the music of a concertina. My feet were by this time encased in borrowed boots of extreme roominess, and besides I was in no mood for dancing, the walk, having left me tired; so, though pressed to join, I contented myself with the part of a philosophic “wall flower.”

Mr. Lowe would have considered the pirouetting far from scientific, but what was lost in art was gained in energy. Mutual courtesy marked the proceedings, and the conduct of those assembled was, to say the least, as decorous as that which I witnessed at the last “Governor’s Ball.” The proceedings were, need I say it, “prolonged with great spirit to a late hour.” All then retired to rest.

The hut which I was to occupy for the night was divided from the remainder of the mill buildings by a broad gully, across which, nearly opposite to the hut door, a tree had conveniently fallen, forming a natural bridge, easily traversed by day, but, from its extreme roughness and narrowness, and the absence of any side rail, somewhat dangerous by night. This bridge, which, abandoning the dignity of the perpendicular, I crossed upon hands and knees, I could not help regarding as an amazing testimony to the habitual sobriety of the previous inmate, who would otherwise have protected himself by the erection of a more finished structure from the fatal consequences of a lost equilibrium.

As I lay awake I could not avoid wishing myself permanently located in my temporary

abode, far from city cares, and enjoying a contemplative seclusion, deprived by the near whilst not intrusive presence of other human creatures of that dismal sense of utter isolation which confronts one in the remote bush. These desires were by no means dissipated when I looked by day upon what I had only dimly appreciated the previous night.

The gorge in which the mill lay was, I found, thickly timbered on both sides, principally by blue gums of great height and girth. These forest giants, which, even in the gullies of Gippsland one seldom sees surpassed, shot up perfectly straight to a height of seventy feet without a branch, the total height being in some cases over 250 feet, and averaging at least 150. In their branches birds of various kinds—paroquets, parrots of all hues (lories, blue mountains, &c.)—fluttered and chattered; at their feet flourished graceful tree ferns without number, and a vegetation tropical in its luxuriance and variety; whilst every breeze brought down the gorge an odor of musk, realising all that one has read of the “scented gales” of fabled lands.

The stroke of the “faller’s” axe, the groans of the mill engines, and the roar of escaping steam mingled, it is true, with the natural sounds, but struck one with no sense of incongruity. Labor and nature seemed in their right places, hand in hand. I thought the locality admirably suited for the site of a teetotal arcadia—there being no public houses within three or four miles—or one of those communities, half laboring, half literary, so often attempted in America. It seemed a spot where crime might shelter itself from all risk of detection, and sorrow bury itself in a real, because [*sic*] busy, oblivion!

I was conducted round the mill premises, which comprise, beside the mill buildings, stables and sheds—some five and twenty houses, occupied by the employes—in itself a complete settlement. I also inspected the machinery and appliances used by Messrs. Crump and Grant in the conduct of their business, but need only say that they are similar to those to be seen at the Grantville Mill, to which I have already alluded, and in all other saw-mills of the same class.

The timber—blue gum—obtained by Messrs. Crump and Grant from the ranges is, I was told, best adapted for what are technically termed “bending” purposes, and equals American hickory as a material for axe handles. It is also suitable for carriage building, but it has been principally utilised—and that by the Govern-

*(continues on Page 19)*

*Corinella (continued from Page 18)*

ments of Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia and New Zealand—for purposes in connection with the construction of railways, wharves and jetties. The Queen's Wharf, Melbourne, is now, it may be remarked, being repaired with timber from these mills.

Bluegum is also, next to oak and teak, one of the best woods for employment in ship building. A craft of some seventy tons has recently been constructed by Mr. Alexander Stewart, J. P., of Queensferry, the original proprietor of the Bass River Saw-mills, and the first pioneer of the district, out of timber supplied by Messrs. Crump and Grant, and is remarkable as being the second vessel—and that at an interval of twenty years—ever launched upon Western Port Bay. It is to be hoped that this little craft may prove the herald of more substantial ventures of a similar kind.

The amount of timber produced per week at the Bass River Saw-mills averages about 30,000 superficial feet. It is conveyed to the Queensferry Jetty, whence it is shipped to its destination by a tramway some four and a half miles in length.

The number of men employed at the mills in various capacities is about thirty. Most of them are married, and of course mess at home. The single men are provided for by a resident caterer, who, for 14s. a week, supplies them with three daily meals, of which tea, bread, and salt meat are the staple. They have thus a good margin out of their wages



Illustration of the Bass River Steam Saw-mills, near the Bass River, Queensferry, Western Port, belonging to Messrs. Crump & Grant, taken from a photograph by F. Kruger, of Preston. From the *Illustrated Adelaide News* (S.A.), 1 March 1877, page 3, titled *The Bass River Victoria*. Note: Until late 1875, this was Alexander Stewart's saw-mill, located at Glen Forbes with a tram line terminating at Queensferry. He sold it to Crump & Grant who went bankrupt in May 1877. Stewart promptly repurchased the lot.

(£2 to £3 a week) for clothing, sundries, and, if desired, saving.

Kangaroos, opossums, wallabies and hares—to say nothing of pigeons and snipe—are very plentiful in the Bass district, and as most of the men are owners of horses, dogs, or guns (all three of which are easily borrowed), they have every facility for the enjoyment in their leisure time of the pleasures of the chase. The Bay also affords capital swan and duck shooting. The Bass River—distant about half a mile from the mill, and easily approachable by the tramway leading from thence to Queensferry—is full of fish, the best of which is the blackfish, weighing from four to six pounds, and in appearance something between a cod and a trout. There is thus plenty of employment for the angler, as well as the sportsman.

In the evenings the men principally employ themselves in the curing and preparation of skins, in gymnastic exercise, or in gardening, and generally windup—when a musician is procurable—with a dance. Even when conversation proves the only resource, the varied experiences of the men thus thrown together makes it far from a despicable one, and it is certainly a capital school for the acquirement of “bush” lore.

The details I have given respecting Messrs. Crump and Grant's mills apply, I believe, almost equally to the other saw-mills in the district. So that, on the whole, if to live in a sylvan paradise, to be well housed, well paid, well found, and not over-worked, and in addition to have no lack of healthy sports and pastimes may claim to be ranked amongst the good things of life, the men employed on the mills referred to can hardly be considered badly off. I can only suggest that at each mill something in the nature of a newsroom should be added to the other resources of their leisure.

Later on, I walked for two or three miles up one of the tramways (of which there are ten miles in all in connection with Messrs. Crump and Grant's mills) along which the timber felled in the ranges is brought down to the mills to be sawn. The character of the scenery was very similar to that which I have described as appertaining to the mill gorge. I noticed interspersed amongst the other timber a large quantity of blackwood, very suitable for upholstery purposes, which I should have thought might be advantageously utilised, as well as the blue gum.

I afterwards went down, to the brink of the Bass, which, though only a small stream

*(continues on Page 20)*

Corinella (continued from Page 19)

some twenty miles in length boasts more than one fall of no inconsiderable beauty and magnitude. The land on its margin is certainly little, if anything, inferior in quality to that at Brandy Creek. The greater portion of it is, however, already taken up. That in the ranges is scarcely less excellent, but the uneven nature of the country, the density of the scrub, and the extreme heaviness of the timber would necessitate the expenditure of vast labor and a large amount of money before it could be rendered available for agricultural or pastoral purposes. That no additional clog may be placed upon the enterprise necessary for its reclamation, the present restrictions on selection should be removed. When this is done, the thorough and prosperous settlement of the district can only be a question of time.

Coming down to Corinella somewhat sceptical of its attractions, I left it full of admiration for its natural beauties, and of hopeful anticipations of its prosperous future. I should add that, whilst the school accommodation in the neighborhood is good, the "spiritual destitution" is extreme. The religious provision would, however, no doubt keep pace with an increase of population. It is, after all, as Bishop Moorhouse says, only a question of pounds, shillings and pence.

From the *Weekly Times*, Saturday 29 November 1930, page 7

## Boy's Band Banned

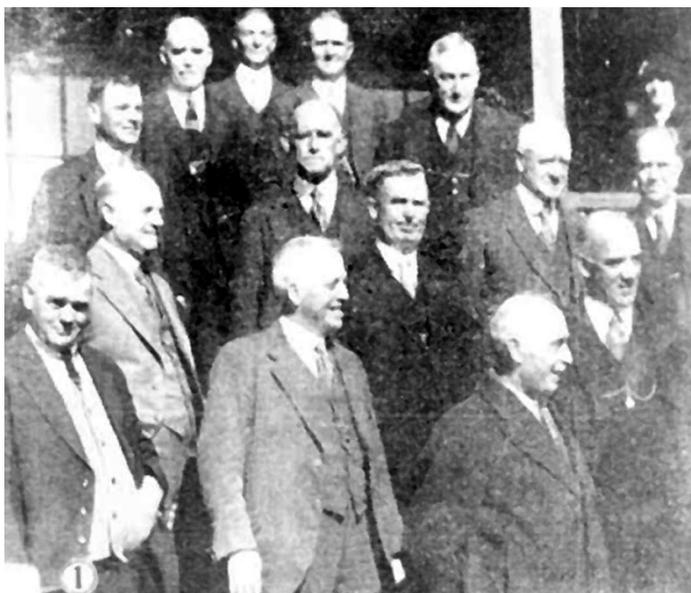
The Wonthaggi Boys' Band, winners of the recent State School championship, which is likely to be disbanded following the action of some of the boys' parents in refusing to allow them to play. The trouble arose when the miners boycotted the banquet held on November 21 to celebrate the coming-of-age of Wonthaggi.



From the *Weekly Times*, Saturday 10 August 1929, page 40

## Planting Trees

The Director of Education attends School Plantation Ceremony at Wonthaggi



(Above): Mr M. P. Hansen (Director of Education), addressing children of the Technical School; (right, top): Wonthaggi State School Children; (right, bottom): Wonthaggi Technical School children, and (insert), Mr H. R. Heath (Wonthaggi State School) planting the first tree in his section.

