

The Western Port Times

GRANTVILLE & DISTRICTS

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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 the Sullivan Brothers, at which date the premise was destroyed in a fire and everything lost. Publication never resumed and the land eventually became the site of the Grantville Primary School and today is the local council's Transaction Centre.

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.

* * *

How Shires Were Named

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Grantville forms a branch of the Stock Tax and Farmers' Protection Association. It was likely an exciting story in its day.

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U3A BASS VALLEY
UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Local History Group



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The Post-Foundation Postal Blues

In 1910, the declining Grantville could still boast better mail and telegraphic facilities than Wonthaggi.

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Mine defaults; P. J. Daly grabs land.

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Wonthaggi grows = more mouths to feed = more food needed. Farmers in the Grantville district benefit.

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No-No and Oh, No! Ads

The seventh in a series of advertisements from many decades ago which, while uncontroversial in their day, would cause outrage in certain groups today.

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

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

Links to other historical groups

- Bass Valley Historical Society: <https://bassvalleyhistoricalsociety.com.au>
- Grantville History: grantvillehistory.com.au
- Hastings - Western Port Historical Society: <https://www.hwphs.org.au/>
- Inverloch Historical Society: cv.vic.gov.au/organisations/inverloch-historical-society/ Also: <http://inverlochhistory.com/>
- Koo-Wee-Rup Swamp Historical Society: 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
- 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
- Western Port Historical Society Inc.: hwphs.org.au/
- Wonthagi Historical Society: wonthaggihistoricalsociety.org.au/



The Not-So-Goods Shed?

From the *South Bourke and Mornington Journal*, Wednesday 2 November 1887, page 2: Grantville District.

At the Shire Council meeting on Friday Councillor Tulloch moved that the Minister of Customs be urged to erect a building for storage purposes at Grantville jetty. It is a gross injustice to hundreds of people that this want has not been supplied before. There are no less than seven schooners trading here regularly, delivering and taking away, on an average, 150 tons of goods per week, and on account of the limited private storage accommodation provided, valuable goods are exposed to the weather for days at a time.

The Shire Secretary brought up a statement of estimated revenue available for public works in the different Riding at the last meeting for the ensuing year, from which it appears Corinella heads the list with £616; Woolamai, £260; and Phillip Island £250. Of course it will be understood the above estimates are the rates and subsidiary to be collected next year. As a matter of fact, the Council at the present moment have not one shilling to spend for any works, but to carry out some very necessary works a loan will be obtained from the Bank.

From *The Age*, 6 September 1889, page 7: Public Tenders

The Minister of Public Works yesterday accepted the following tenders:—Fittings, new police offices, Russell-street, Melbourne, W. H. Dight, £207 10s.; fittings, public offices, Hawthorn, G. Cole, £318 10s.; wooden building for State school No. 2581, Campbell's-bridge, Dimaline and Walker, £227 13s. 10d.; erection of furnace for disinfecting purposes, with shed, gaol, Melbourne, Metters Bros., £65 10s.; wooden building for State school No. 2617, Boolara, J. H. Patton, £311; erection of a goods shed on Grantville Jetty, Western Port Bay, N. Cameron and Co., £115; wooden building for teacher's residence, State school No.39, Ballarook, T. Egginton, £245.

From *The Western Port Times*, 4 April 1902

To The Editor OF The Times.

Sir.—As you are always willing to help with a grievance, I wish to make a complaint of the way the Grantville Goods Shed is always filled up with flour and chaff lately, to the inconvenience of those who have goods arriving from Melbourne. I have been put to great inconvenience lately on account of there not being any room to put goods into the shed when they come by schooner. I do not know who to blame for it, but I knew on one

occasion I had a few things in the shed for a few days when I was informed to remove them, as the rule was, that goods were not to be left in the shed more than twenty-four hours. The shed is used by some of your townspeople as a store-room. Who is the right man to see to it?

Yours
A Sufferer.

In reference to the above, the Grantville Constable is the manager for Wharfs and Jetties and such complaints should be made to him.

Cowes Bakery Destroyed

From *The Age*, 7 February 1953

Fire destroyed the only bakery at Cowes, Phillip Island, early yesterday morning.

Until he can make other arrangements, the proprietor of the bakery, Mr. J. McKenzie, will bring bread supplies for the island from Grantville, 24 miles away.

Yesterday Mr. McKenzie visited Melbourne in his panel van, which he saved from the fire, and took back 350 loaves to Cowes.

Mr. McKenzie said that one of his men would work in Mr. Haydn Bird's bakery at Grantville, and it was hoped he would be able to bake sufficient bread to supply the island's needs.

With holiday makers there were between 2000 and 3000 people on the island.

Mr. McKenzie said he did not know when he would be able to go into production again, but he hoped it would be in the near future.

From the *South Bourke and Mornington Journal*, Wednesday 12 November 1879, page 3

Buggy Wheel Dispute

Griffiths Point Police Court

November 8, 1879.

A special Court was held here today before Messrs. Anderson and Turnbull, J's P. to hear a case against William Wright, a blacksmith of Grantville, for taking a buggy wheel off Mr. Burbank's buggy and refusing to give it up. From the evidence it appeared that Mr. Burbank had given Wright an order on Mr. Dickins (who lived next door) for £1 2s. 6d., but Wright would not take it, so stuck to the buggy wheel till Mr. Burbank gave cash. This put Mr. Burbank to great inconvenience, and Wright was consequently given in charge, but as the charge was not pressed he was liberated [*sic*], having been 24 hours in the lock-up.

The court then adjourned.

Unlucky Lukes

An end of the (19th) century divorce case.

Divorce Matters

From *The Herald*, Tuesday 9 October 1900, page 1

In a suit by Charles Caw Luke v. Edla Josephine Luke (James Murphy co-respondent), respondent applied to the court for an order directing petitioner to pay the costs of having her case investigated for alimony pendente lite. Petitioner who resides at Krowera, and is a dairyman and carpenter, was married to respondent on 1st September, 1898, at No. 427 Rathdown street, Carlton, and there is one child of the marriage. Daisy, of whom petitioner desires to be appointed guardian. Misconduct by respondent and co-respondent in the house of petitioner on 26th May, 1900, is the ground upon which the relief of the court is sought.

Mr Woolf (instructed by Mr Mellor) appeared for respondent, in support of the application; Mr Wilkie for petitioner.

After a consultation by counsel, it was announced that petitioner agreed to allow his wife three guineas towards the costs of investigating her case, and 17s 6d per week as alimony pendente lite; also to pay the costs of the application, three guineas. His Honor made an order on the basis of this agreement.

Luke v. Luke

From *The Herald*, Thursday 29 November 1900, page 4

Charles Caw Luke, of Krowera, carpenter and dairyman, petitioned for a dissolution of his marriage with Edla Josephine Luke, on the ground of misconduct with James Murphy.

Mr Coldham (instructed by Mr David Wilkie) appeared for the petitioner, and Mr Woolf (instructed by Messrs Backhouse and Mellor) for the respondent.

Mr Coldham, in opening the case for the petitioner, said that the parties were married on the 1st of September 1893, by the Rev. A. Turnbull, at Carlton. The petitioner had to leave home and remain away for days, and in consequence of what he was told by a friend, he came home unexpectedly in June last and discovered certain facts.

In August he interrogated his children, and in consequence of what they told him he taxed his wife with misconduct. She utterly denied the accusation, and petitioner then interviewed Murphy, who also denied the charge, but when he was told that his misconduct

had been witnessed, he said that it had only happened once, and that was when he was drunk. Mrs Luke, when spoken to again by her husband, said that if Murphy had owned up she would do so. She alleged, however, that Murphy had dragged her into the room. The petitioner and his children gave evidence in support of the petition.

The respondent, who was understood with some difficulty, owing to her being a Finn, alleged that the co-respondent seized hold of her and pulled her into a room, and that he desisted when she seized him by the whiskers.

His Honor said he did not doubt that the respondent had misconducted herself. It was true she denied it, but the story she told was an incredible one, and her demeanour in court was little less disgusting than her conduct. Having watched her demeanor closely, he could detect no shock and no horror at what had been stated about her conduct. She seemed to regard it as a trifling matter.

There would be a decree nisi for divorce on the ground of misconduct.

* * *

Slang Terms For Money

From the *Great Southern Advocate*, Thursday 16 July 1896

Every country, as far as heard from, possesses peculiar or slang terms in every day use for coins. For instance, a "nickel" very well defines the five cent piece of currency, and a "red cent" is equally expressive. In Scotland the man who "flies kites" is probably not worth a "boodle," which is an imaginary coin, slightly differing from the same term here. In England the same person would not be worth a "mag." A "kite" is an accommodation bill; a "mag" is the smallest copper coin of the realm. On the racecourse, one hears talk of betting a "pony" which is £25, or winning a "monkey" which is £500. This latter, however, is somewhat rare. A "quid" only has reference to tobacco when the term is used by sailors. Among landmen it means £1. Small gamblers play for "bulls" and "half-bulls;" in other words for crowns and half-crowns. Little boys occasionally toss for "joeys," or fourpenny pieces, and the handsome cab driver will expect you to tip him with a "tanner," which is what he calls a sixpence, while the common appellation of a shilling is a "bob." These terms are in common use all over England.

From *The Wonthaggi Sentinel and State Town Miner*, Saturday, June 18, 1910

Meanwhile At Wonthaggi...

What might become the final notice to quit was given to dwellers in Government tents on Tuesday last. The notice was issued by order of the manager of the mine, is dated 14th June, and reads:-“All those wishing to remain in Government tents should remove to Wonthaggi township not later than the 23rd inst. All tents remaining on the present site after that date are liable to be resumed and returned to the store. As the water supply is now being laid to the new township site, all water-carting will cease forthwith.

The new siding at Wonthaggi, to accommodate the inwards goods traffic, was opened on Tuesday last. The siding is capable of holding 50 or 60 trucks, and will be greatly appreciated by those who use the railway for the carriage of goods. No difficulty or annoyance should now be experienced in clearing the tracks and getting goods away.

A tent at the Old Camp, occupied by a man named Richie, was totally destroyed by fire about 6 o'clock on Tuesday morning last. It appears Richie left a lighted candle in the tent during his temporary absence, and the flame reached the canvas. In a few moments the tent was ablaze, but the owner's personal effects were, fortunately, saved.

The material to be used in the construction of the railway goods shed is now on the ground and building operations are to be commenced at once.

The General Superintendent of Railways visited Wonthaggi during the week and decided to grant extra assistance to the station. Between 50 and 60 loaded trucks arrive daily, and it was at once apparent to the Superintendent that the task was too Herculean an order to expect the present staff to successfully cope with the work. It often happened too, that the stationmaster was “the staff” for days at a stretch.

The construction and administration of the water supply scheduled for Wonthaggi has been taken over by the Water Commission, with the concurrence [*sic*] of the Minister for Mines, and every endeavor will be made to have the work of construction [*unclear word*] on with all possible despatch.

From the *Leader*, Saturday 20 June 1908, page 25: The Bass Valley Railway

Railway Route Dispute

The settlers of Wonthaggi North strongly disapprove of the route which the Nyora-Woolamai railway is likely to follow.

When petitioning for railway facilities they undertook to have their land loaded on the condition that the line came within a mile of the township of Almurta. In reporting on the project, the Railways Standing Committee recommended a route coming as near Almurta as possible. This condition was not embodied in the Railway Bill, which subsequently passed through Parliament.

In due course the necessary steps were taken to form a railway trust, and the settlers concerned approved of them in a meeting specially called for the purpose. On this occasion it is stated, it was assumed that the route would be that indicated by the Railways Standing Committee. Shortly afterwards the surveyors started to locate the line on the ground following for this purpose the valley of the Bass, which is the natural lay of the country.

The settlers object to this location, mainly for the reason that it entirely disregards the condition which they regard as essential, namely, that the line should come within a mile of Almurta. They also complain that the surveyed line will absorb, a huge proportion of the limited rich river flats of the valley, worth £33 per acre.



Our illustrations show the settlers in search of a new route that will both meet their requirements as to location, and avoid the utilisation for railway purposes of the of the rich soil which the plough is turning over.

A Hotel For Kilcunda?

Kilcunda Application.

Alfred Charles Morey.

From the *Powlett Express and Victorian State Coalfields Advertiser*, Friday 8 January 1915, page 7

This applicant, for whom Mr Brayshay appeared applied for a conditional license for an hotel to be built at Kilcunda, which Mr Brayshay described as the seaside resort of Wonthaggi, Leongatha, Loch and Korumburra. Kilcunda was entitled to at least one hotel.

Several petitioners objected that licenses were not required, and would be too near the public hall and the beach.

Alfred Charles Morey said he had been manager for Messrs Edeson and Utting in Wonthaggi; he had experience as a salesman in several wine and spirit merchants businesses, at Numurkah, Yarrawonga and elsewhere, having full control of buying and selling. The hotel provided for 21 rooms in addition to servants and other rooms. He proposed to put in a septic tank and light the premises with kerosene.

To Mr. Shelton: A hotel was required for the tourist traffic; there was no shelter for visitors at present; the hotel was 300 yards from the hall.

Mr. Cohen, P.M.: Who is to assist you in the management of the household?

Witness—I propose to get married in the near future.

John Robertson, manager of the bank of Victoria, Wonthaggi, for three years, said Kilcunda was visited by many people, a hotel was required for public convenience, the applicant was a suitable man to conduct the hotel.

R. Northcote, draper, Wonthaggi, gave applicant a very excellent character, a hotel was necessary at Kilcunda.

H. Bonwick, shire engineer, Shire Phillip Island and Woolamai, said he would like to see a hotel at Kilcunda, large numbers of excursionists visited there from all parts of South Gippsland; the site was next the Kilcunda “club” and about 300 yards from the hall, and was suitable for a hotel; it was 50 chains from the railway station; there was no suitable site near the railway station for the first 20 chains; the council meet in the Kilcunda hall on alternate months.

Cr. James Hector Wishart said the applicant was capable of conducting a hotel.

J. A. Blake, painter, said a hotel was necessary and desirable at Kilcunda; he could not judge whether more than one was necessary

as he had known sea-side resorts to flourish sufficiently to support 10 hotels.

Colin Campbell produced the receipt of notices. Required notice had been advertised in the “Powlett Express” of November 20.

Mr. Shelton remarked that the police agreed that one hotel was required.

Licensing Inspector Costello said there were about 100 houses in the vicinity and two coal mines which when working will employ 20 to 40 men, there was not room for more than one hotel.

Constable Kelleher, San Remo, said an hotel was required for holiday traffic from Wonthaggi. Kilcunda was a very nice place.

Mr Cohen, P.M. : It is [a] pretty place.

William Densley, retired missionary, now farmer and land owner, said he resided at Kilcunda for 20 years, and produced a petition of residents, opposing hotels. Kilcunda was a nice quite [sic] place, where they led easy lives, and did not require licenses. Dalyston and Bass hotels were near enough; an hotel would disturb the peace by calling in a foreign element; the coal mines had not been very successful.

Mr Brayshay closely cross examined the witness, and asked if he objected to a license anywhere.—Witness asked was it a fair question, and remarked, “Lead us not into temptation.”

Mr. Brayshay : I don’t know whether you are referring to me (laughter).

Witness, continuing, said he did not remember opposing the Dalyston application. (On being pressed, witness fenced the question).

Mr Cohen, P. M.: I am afraid, Mr. Brayshay, you will [not] get a straightforward answer from this witness.

Charles Ignatius Rice, architect, produced plans of building, to cost £1,600, septic tank, and aerogen light-lighting were provided for; the build could be completed by April 2nd.

Proposed Kilcunda Hotel

From the *Lang Lang Guardian*, Wednesday 23 June 1915

At the Wonthaggi Licensing Court last week the application of A. C. Morey to have his provisional certificate for an hotel at Kilcunda endorsed was refused. The grounds of objection were that the building had not been erected in accordance with the plans submitted to the Court, and that instead of a new building being put up, an old one had been pulled down, and re-erected. Application for a re-hearing is to be made at the annual meeting of the Court.

Grantville and Jeetho Show

From the *Weekly Times*, Saturday, 26 January 1907

The Grantville and Jeetho Agricultural Society held its twenty-third annual show on the 16th January. There is not much cultivation of cereal crops carried on in this district, consequently there were practically no exhibits of agricultural implements and machinery at this show. Dairying and the breeding of light horses and sheep are the chief branches of farming engaged in by the residents; dairy cattle, horses, and sheep were, therefore, the principal features of the show.

The exhibition of cattle, notably Ayrshires and dairy cows, was very creditable. The show of sheep was a large one. Real Scotty, the horse that won first prize for draughts, is by Gibson's Federation from Bell Style. He is three years old, and was bred by Mr J. Tweedle, of Waala. Some useful draught mares were exhibited. Light horses were numerous. Not many short-horn cattle were shown. Mr A. Biggar, sen., and Mr M. Bowman were the prizetakers.

Ayrshires were a strong class. Some very fine animals were exhibited by Mr M. Bunn, of Bena, and Mr A. T. N. Facey, of Cranbourne. Mr M. Bunn gained first prize for cow three years or over, with Dora of Willowvale, and also the champion prize with the same cow. Mr A. T. N. Facey won the first and champion prize for bull, with Glen Elgin's Philanthropist.

The sheep exhibits were from neighboring farms, and did not receive the usual preparation for exhibition. Shropshires, Lincolns, and Leicesters were well represented.

There was a much larger show than usual of farm and dairy produce, all the exhibits being of good quality.

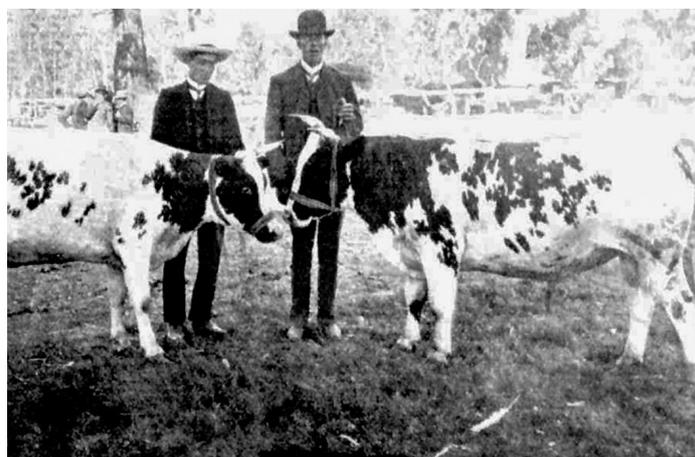
A feature of the show was the veterinary inspection of the horses exhibited for breeding purposes by Mr S. S. Cameron, M.R.C.V.S., of the department of Agriculture. This being the first show in the State where the principle

of veterinary inspection for constitutional unsoundness was applied, great interest was manifested in Mr Cameron's work. The exhibits in ten sections were examined, and three of the exhibits had to be rejected for constitutional unsoundness.

Proper arrangements for the veterinary inspection of the horses not having been made, the work did not progress rapidly, but this difficulty will be easily got over at future shows. The innovation was much appreciated by those present, and Mr Cameron explained fully to the exhibitors his reasons for condemning a horse as being unsound. Owners admitted the correctness of his judgment.



Lady riders and hacks.



A good pair of Ayrshires and their owners.



Relaxing in the grass (left); Andrew Belfrage, Secretary of the Grantville Agricultural Show (in white hat) and Theodore Lyall, Secretary of the Lang Lang show (centre), and competitors in the Pony Class. Source: *Weekly Times*, Saturday 26 January 1907, page 11. Photos by W. Stout.

No Coal? Try Iron.

With the timber almost exhausted and no payable coal deposits worth mentioning in the area, and the Nyora-Wonthaggi line commencing operation which threatened to redirect trade to the interior, Grantville needed a new industry to revive its dwindling fortunes. Iron deposits offered – momentary – hope in 1910.

From *The Age*, Tuesday 8 February 1910, page 9:

Iron and Coal Deposits

Grantville. Monday.

Considerable interest has been aroused in the district in connection with iron and coal deposits. A sample of iron ore, on being assayed, contained 83 per cent. of iron. A local syndicate has been formed for the purpose of developing the iron deposits.

Good coal can be seen cropping out of the creek banks, and several of these seams extend over a large area. It is believed that if a drill were put to work on these flats some good seams would be discovered. As yet coal is only two miles from the Nyora-Woolamai railway, and six miles from Settlement Point on Westernport Bay, it is considered that it could be economically worked.

From *The Age*, Thursday 17 February 1910, page 11:

Iron Ore Deposits.

Grantville, Wednesday.

Great interest is being taken here in the development of iron ore. A local syndicate has been formed to prospect the country. Some time ago a small quantity on being assayed was found to contain a good percentage of iron. So satisfied are the members of the syndicate that they have decided to have a fair quantity of the stone assayed, and to this end about 2 tons are now at the Grantville jetty awaiting shipment to Melbourne where it will be treated.

From *The Age*, Saturday 19 March 1910, page 14

Testing Iron Ore.

Grantville, Friday.

The iron and coal deposits of Grantville are to be developed at an early date. Mr. Dunn, Government Geologist, visited Grantville yesterday to inspect the district. He was escorted by local citizens to the various outcrops of coal and iron ore deposits, and he obtained samples of ore. He expressed satisfaction that the country was of a coal bearing nature, and promised to send a drill to bore in the vicinity of these outcrops. That good coal as well as iron exists is a well-known fact amongst the local residents. Samples of the iron ore have been assayed and have yielded a high percentage of iron, whilst the coal, which is of good black quality, can be seen outcropping at the creek banks all through the district.

From *The Age*, Thursday 24 March 1910, page 9

Westernport Iron Resources.

Grantville. Wednesday.

A meeting of the Grantville mining syndicate was held last night, when the secretary read a report from the assayer concerning two tons of ore recently treated. The report stated that the ore contained traces of gold and silver, while the iron assays yielded as high as 63.3 per cent. The sample above referred to was considered to be as low a grade as any in the district, and the members of the syndicate are highly pleased with the result of the test. Samples of ore from different outcrops have from time to time been assayed and have given returns ranging from 40 per cent to 83 per cent of iron. Mr. Dunn, the Government Geologist, while on a visit to Grantville last week, spoke in favorable terms of the ore after making an inspection of the outcrops. A fact that makes this find of ore more valuable is that outcrops of coal have been found within a quarter of a mile of the iron ore. The Government Geologist states that the country surrounding these outcrops is of a coal bearing nature. The ore is within one mile and a half of the Powlett railway line, about 12 miles from a plentiful supply of coal at Powlett River, and within a few hundred yards of Westernport with its shipping facilities, which are all points in favor of economic management.

From *The Bendigo Advertiser*, Friday 8 April 1910, page 4

Disappointing Test Of Iron Ore.

Melbourne. Thursday, 7th April.

The geological experts of the Mine department recently decided to have a test made of certain iron ore which had been discovered at Grantville, situated about ten miles from the Powlett River coalfield. It was the intention of the Minister for Mines (Mr. M'Bride), if the tests proved satisfactory, to suggest that works should be set up for the treatment of the ore by the State. The result of the test is somewhat disappointing, only 27.8 of metallic iron being obtained from the sample of ore treated. Fifty percent at least is considered necessary before the ore can be classed as payable. The department has not received any official communication relative to the reported discovery of an iron ore seam under

(continues on Page 9)

No Coal? Try Iron (continued from Page 8)

Watt-street, Wonthaggi. The officers of the department are inclined to think if such a seam exists that the quality of ore found would be insufficient to make it payable to treat on an extensive scale.

From *The Argus*, Friday 8 April 1910, page 6

The Iron Deposits.

The State director of geology (Mr. Dunn) will shortly spend two or three weeks in the Powlett coalfield district, examining the formations of the locality, and inspecting reported deposits of iron ore. The Minister for Mines (Mr. M'Bride) says that he has been told that about eight miles north of Inverloch iron ore has been found yielding 50 per cent. of metallic ore, but he has no official news of the discovery. A sample of ore from Grantville, 10 miles from Powlett, has been found when tested to yield only 27.8 per cent., which is too low to be payable. Iron ore has also been discovered 12 miles south of Colac. An official report is being obtained of some ore found at Wonthaggi, the State coalfield township.

POWLETT, Thursday.—The deposit of iron ore which has been discovered in Watt-street, so far has not the appearance of a defined lode. In order to determine whether it is of any commercial value, it would be necessary to prospect it at a greater depth and away from the street.

From *Geelong Advertiser*, Saturday 28 May 1910, page 5

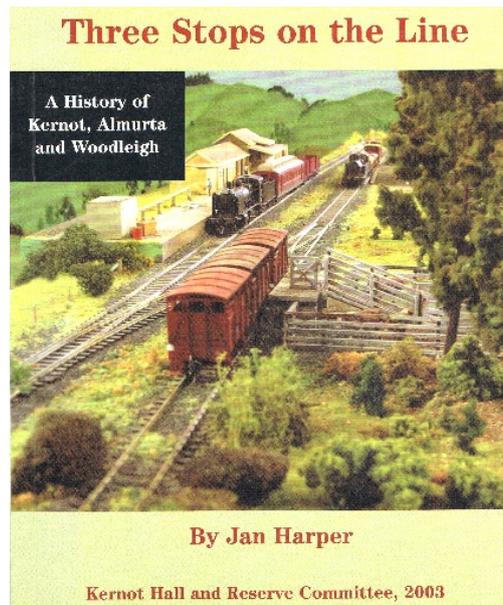
Iron Ore In San Remo Area

Quality Poor To Worse

Mr. E. J. Dunn, Director of Geological Survey, has presented to the Minister of Mines a lengthy report on the iron ore deposits of Alberton, West Inverloch, San Remo, Grantville and Sandstone Island. No large deposits were seen by him at Alberton West, but irregular masses of limonite assayed 13.7 per cent. of iron.

About seven miles north-easterly from Inverloch there is an outcrop of bog iron ore that covers several acres of ground on the west side of the creek and just at the foot of the hills. The iron ore varies in quality from 10.9 per cent. to 17.7 per cent. of iron. There is nothing to show the depth of the deposit, nor can the limits be defined without trial pits. As the quality is so poor there is no need to prospect for the present. Limonite occurs along the beach at San Remo in irregular patches, but in no cases in large quantities and the iron in it varies from 27.88 to 24.70 per cent.

Small quantities of iron ore were also found at Grantville and Sandstone Island.



Written by Jan Harper for the Kernot Hall and Reserve Committee in 2003 the book is still relevant, perhaps even more so given the recent surge in interest in local history.

Kernot, Woodleigh and Almurta came into their own during the railway era, from 1910 to 1978. Settled from 1886 onwards, life changed as milk from the dairy farms and stock raised on properties were linked with markets through the silver thread of the new railway line. Communities expanded as railway personnel, and the infrastructure they attracted, boosted the settlements.

While this history reflects that of Gippsland as a whole, it is unique to the area in drawing our personal lives and juxtaposing them with larger social and economic trends.

Copies are available from The Western Port Times. \$30.00 plus postage, or free local delivery.

Email: Geoff_Guilfoyle@aanet.com.au

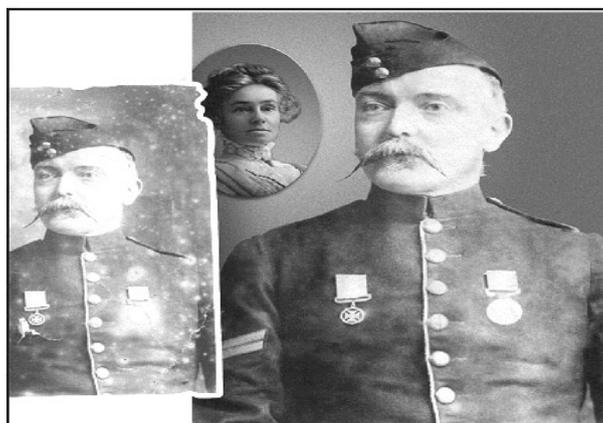


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No Coal? Try Iron. Take II.

After the disappointment of the 1910 tests of iron or and other metal and mineral deposits in the area, maybe these new finds will revive the declining fortunes of Grantville.

From the *Powlett Express and Victorian State Coalfields Advertiser*, Friday 2 June 1916, page 3

Rich Iron Ore Deposits

Traces of Gold, Silver and Manganese.
Outcrops Between Grantville and Almurta.
Surface Indications Show Necessity For
Thorough Testing.

Between Grantville and Almurta, handy to the railway line and the port of Grantville, where it could be shipped to the Naval Base, there are a number of outcrops of iron ore which apparently exists in lode formation. Three of the outcrops are about a mile apart indicating that a considerable area of ore exists. At present it is untried any more than prospected on the surface. The ore is of good quality, and known as red hematite which is used for toughening and softening other iron.

We are informed that it has been well tested on several occasions, and has gone 60 per cent and over. A well-known New South Wales corporation has made an offer for the ore delivered at their works, but want of capital has prevented anything being done.

The ore also contains gold, silver and manganese.

The area should be thoroughly tested because who can say what it may lead to in the future. At present the best material in steel is required. Time was, when the coal deposits of Victoria were decried, but in spite of all handicaps the coal industry is coming into its own. So it may be with iron, provided a sympathetic administration gains full control, and the vested interests, which for so many years retarded the development of the coal industry are sternly warned off.

Samples of the ore may be inspected at the Powlett Express office, and further information may be obtained from Mr J. Wallace, Glen Forbes, who will be glad to arrange for anyone interested to inspect the locality, provided a couple of days notice is given so that visitors may be met at the railway station and driven out to the field.

From *The Herald*, Friday 13 May 1910, page 5

Copper At Powlett.

What The Minister Says.

"I have sent a piece of the bore brought up by the drill to be analysed in the departmental laboratory," said the Minister for Mines to-day. In referring to the arrival of samples of the stone, said to contain copper ore, from the

Powlett district. The drill which brought up the stone is working in the silurian belt between Powlett and Kirrak.

"How do you regard the samples?" the Minister was asked.

Mr M'Bride replied that the bore did not show much that was very enlightening to the unscientific man; but Mr Dunn, Government Director of Geological Survey, had stated that the rock formation was similar to that in which copper had previously been found in Gippsland. Such rock had been met with at Accommodation Creek situate between Orbost and Bendoc.

The Minister went on to say that he would not be surprised at any mineral discoveries found at Powlett. Before the advent of the State coal mine there were no metalled roads, but the Mines Department discovered a quarry, and the roads in and about the new township were being metalled and put in good order. Clay pits, fit for brickmaking, had also, as was now pretty generally known, been found, and a brickmaking plant had been set down.

* * *

How Shires Were Named

by A. S. Kenyon

Secretary/Past President of the Historical Society of Victoria.

From *The Argus*, Saturday 16 April 1938, page 19

Bass.—This shire had rather a chequered nomenclatural career. It began as the Phillip Island Road district in 1871, and in 1874 became the Shire of Phillip Island and Woolamai, then spelt Wollamai. Phillip Island broke the partnership in 1928, and after a year of solitary life Woolamai was changed to Bass. The name, of course, is that of Surgeon Robert Bass, which was at first applied to the fresh-water river discovered by him, and later given to the hamlet formed on that stream.

It began as Weandron, after the run formed by David Power, in 1845, was later Woolamai, and in the early sixties became Bass.

Woolamai was applied to the granite cape at the eastern end of Phillip Island, from its resemblance to the head of a schnapper; Woolamai was the name given to that fish by the Port Jackson natives. Actually, it means "abrupt," a quite good description of the schnapper head. Phillip Island was known as Schnapper or Snapper Island, and for quite a long time as Weandron.

Hastings And French Island, Western Port Bay

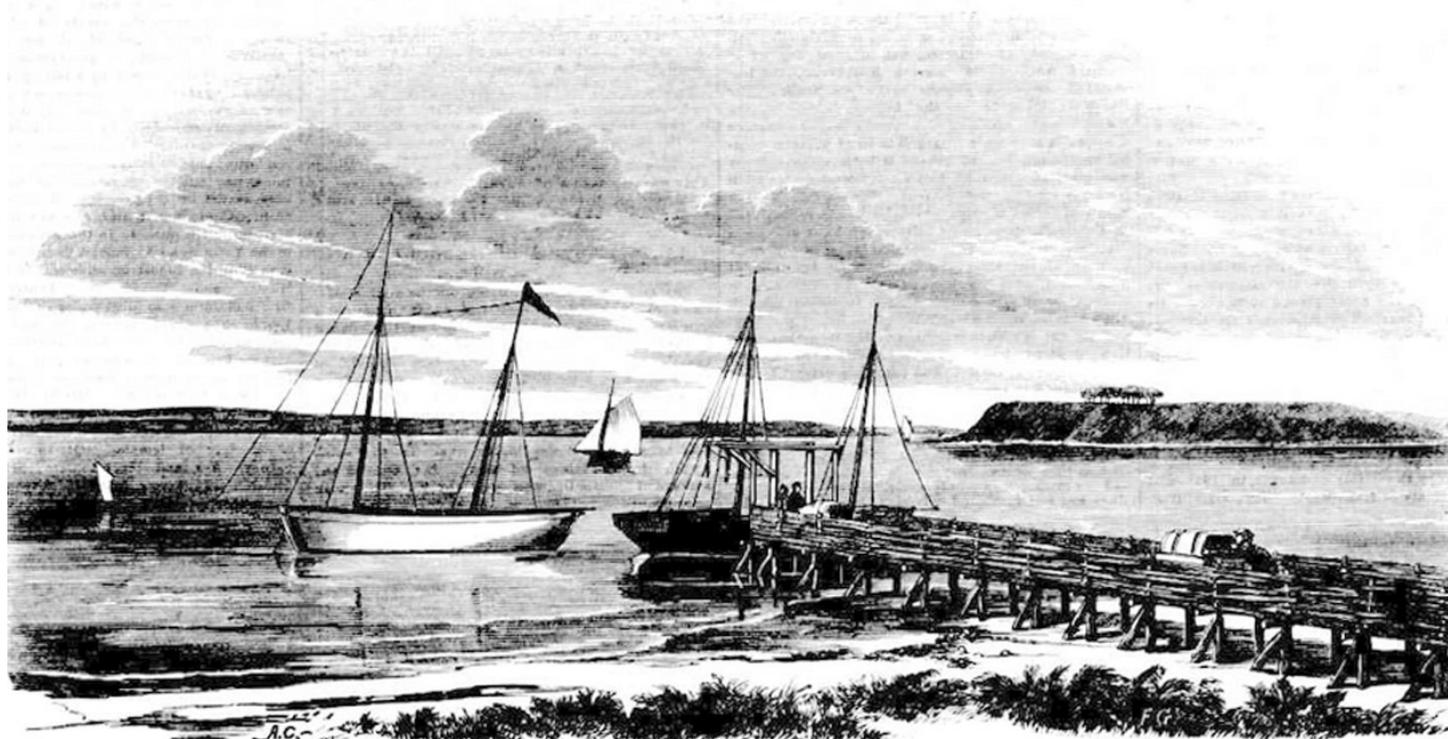
From *The Australian News for Home Readers*, Friday 23 February 1866, Page 5.

For a week's good shooting, or for a quiet retreat during the hot weather where one can indulge in dolce far niente, free from the bustle of city life, commend us to Western Port Bay. The distance from Melbourne to that part of the bay which is nearest to the city is about forty-two miles. The journey may be accomplished by coach or steamer to Snapper Point, thirty miles, and thence by special conveyance twelve miles further to that part of the bay just referred to. It is but a small fishing village, variously designated King's Creek, Tyabb, or Hastings. Strictly speaking, King's Creek is the older name, imposed upon the locality by a family who settled there at an early date; Tyabb is the name of the Government township, and Hastings the name of the private township adjoining. Here kangaroo hunting in perfection can be enjoyed if the visitor is so inclined; or should he prefer boating, he can engage a fisherman by the day or the week to take him to any of the picturesque islands in the bay.

First, there is Sandstone Island, within a couple of miles of Hastings; further on is French Island, which is of considerable extent, and where there is plenty of duck and swan shooting to be had; and still further on, Phillip's Island, famous for its wallabies, but

tabooed to the sportsman at present in the interests of acclimatisation. Along the shores of the eastern side of the bay are various bights in which black swans swarm in thousands. Western Port has other advantages besides those which commend themselves to the sportsman and tourist. It possesses a splendid harbor, well sheltered, of easy access in any state of weather, and capable of accommodating vessels of the largest size. At Sandy Point, at one period, Western Port Bay afforded considerable traffic in oysters; the bay was, in fact, a vast oyster bed, but owing to the reckless way in which the fishery was worked, and the total want of care in preserving the young brood, there is not an oyster now left. A laudable attempt was commenced somewhat more than a year ago, at Sandy Point, under the care of Mr Putwain, late inspector of fisheries, to restore the oyster to the bay, and retrieve the lost traffic by artificial breeding, but so far, the attempt has not proved very successful.

The views on page 5 are drawn by Mr J. Hall, of Western Port. The one represents the fishing village of Hastings on the mainland, with the small island of Sandstone in the distance, and the other the jetty on French Island, with Tortoise Island on the right and Sandy Point in the distance.



FRENCH ISLAND, WESTERN PORT BAY.

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The French Island sketch by J. Hall mentioned in the text. If that is the Tortoise Head on the right then the land across the bay is Phillip Island and the wooden jetty is located between Peck Point and the Tortoise Head.

From the *Powlett Express and Victorian State Coalfields Advertiser*, Friday 6 August 1915, page 3

Fencing Over a Fire

Korumburra County Court,

Tuesday, July 27.

(Before His Honor Judge Eagleson.)

Claim For Damages.

(Re-paragraphed for the sake of clarity)

John Balderston, of Glenalvie, claimed from John Sweet, Almurta, £49 damages caused by fire through alleged negligence on the part of the defendant. Mr R. G. Shegog appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr P. H. Conant for the defendant, by whom £5 had been paid into court in full satisfaction. The defence was that all defendant was required to do was done.

John Balderston, the plaintiff, said he was a farmer living at Glenalvie. Defendant occupied land adjoining his property on the north. A fire occurred on February 15.

It had been lighted by a man employed by the defendant, and went through plaintiff's property. Defendant came to see him about a week afterwards and spoke about the re-erection of the dividing fence, which was burned. He wrote to defendant subsequently stating that he should erect a picket fence in place of the one burned in part satisfaction of the damage done through the fire.

Witness told defendant, when he asked whether he would be finished when he erected the boundary fence, that there were the subdivision fences to be done and grass seed to be supplied. Defendant did not say whether he agreed to this or not. Defendant had only erected the dividing fence. On a later date defendant told him he would not put up the other fences. Twenty chains of fencing were more or less destroyed; also 40 acres of grass, which he reckoned was worth £1 2s 6d per acre for three months. He had to pay £8 for sowing down the area the fire traversed.

To Mr Conant: He and defendant were negotiating prior to the fire for the repair of the dividing fence. He (plaintiff) did not agree that if defendant put up the whole of the dividing fence it would compensate for all damage done by the fire. The subdivision fences were in good repair.

Thomas Balderston, brother of the plaintiff, residing at Glenalvie, gave evidence as to the interview between plaintiff and defendant in his presence. The fire destroyed a good 40 acres of plaintiff's grass, which was worth £1 5s acre. The subdivional [*sic*] fences were worth to repair, and he sowed four bushels of grass

seed, at £1 per bushel, on the burnt area.

To Mr Conant: The subdivisional fences were in good order before the fire.

Robert Balderston, nephew of plaintiff, corroborated the evidence of plaintiff and his brother regarding the interview with defendant.

William Sim Walker, farmer at Glenalvie and agent for F. J. Little Pty. Ltd., auctioneers, etc., said he was over plaintiff's property about ten days before the fire. There was good grass, and at that time it was worth from £1 to £1 5s per acre for three months. Plaintiff refused an offer of £15 per head for bullocks early in February, but after the fire sold at less than that figure.

This closed the case for the plaintiff, and Mr Conant opened the case for defence.

John Henry Sweet, the defendant, said he was a farmer residing at Almurta. A fire lighted on his property spread on to plaintiff's property.

He re-erected the dividing fence. A picket or two, and also perhaps a couple of posts, were burned in the subdivisional fence, but the posts were rotten, and £1 would be ample in his opinion to restore it to the state it was in before the fire.

Only in parts of the 15 acres the fire skimmed was the grass burnt out, and a patch of sword grass was destroyed. It cost him £24 to put up the dividing fence. Resowing grass seed was required only where the roots were burned, and these patches would total less than an acre.

To Mr Shegog: Only portion of the dividing fence was burned, but he put up a new fence altogether. He would swear that there were not 45 posts of the subdivisional fences burned as a result of this fire.

In the conversation he had with plaintiff after receiving the letter, witness said that he supposed his erection of the dividing fence would end the matter, and plaintiff said, "Do the fence and see how you get on."

George Ernest Painter, farmer at Glenalvie, said that the dividing and subdivisional fences were 15 years old. Very little damage was done to the latter, so far as he could see, and he thought a man could restore the fencing to the same condition as before in a couple of days.

(continues on Page 13)

Fencing Over A Fire (continued from Page 12)

From 12 to 15 acres of grass were destroyed by the fire, and in his opinion the damage was about £5.

Richard Harding, farmer, residing at Almurta, gave evidence corroborative of that of the defendant as to the damage done by the fire. William Chapman, farmer at Almurta; Robert Finlay, farmer at Glenalvie, and Albert J. Tozer all deposed that the damage done to the grass, and subdivisional fencing by fire was slight.

His Honor said he thought the claim by the plaintiff was altogether excessive. The sum claimed for damage to the subdivisional fencing was far too high according to the mass of evidence, and the claim of £36 for damage to grass was very excessive.

It was significant that no mention was made in the conversation between the parties by plaintiff as to his requiring £36 or any other sum for damage to the grass, only the fencing and seed being referred to. This item was far and away the largest item in the claim. He thought he would be allowing full and ample compensation for the damage done by giving a verdict for £10, with costs to be fixed within seven days.



TAILORING! TAILORING! TAILORING!

JAMES STUART,

(LATE OF SALE).

WISHES to announce to the Inhabitants of Traralgon and Surrounding Districts that he WILL OPEN on SATURDAY, 1st SEPTEMBER, in the late Coffee Palace, HOTHAM STREET, TRARALGON, a First-class Stock of Tweeds and Worsteds for the Spring and Summer Season, when by strict attention to Business he hopes to receive a Fair Share of public support. J. S. wishes to state that after 30 years in Sale, and always giving Satisfaction, should be sufficient guarantee for Fit and Workmanship. Gentlemen can rely upon getting a Perfect Fit. Suits, &c., made up at the Very Lowest Prices. TERMS—CASH.

NOTE ADDRESS—

JAMES STUART,
HOTHAM STREET, TRARALGON.

From the *Traralgon Record*, Tuesday 15 January 1895

From the *KooWeeRup Sun and Lang Lang Guardian*,
18 February 1926

Railway Derailment

Mishap At Kooweerup

A loud grating noise attracted the attention of a number of people in the vicinity of the Kooweerup railway station on Saturday evening at 6.23 o'clock, and immediately after the up 5.5 p.m. passenger train was seen to pull up before reaching the platform. On investigation it was found that the train, composed of engine, tender and five carriages, was lying in a zig-zag position off the line. Fortunately, only a few passengers were travelling, and several persons complained of receiving shock, but as far as is known no serious bodily injuries were inflicted.

The line was damaged for a considerable distance, and several sleepers were cut to pieces. One of the rails was lifted bodily from the track and carried some yards along and deposited on the side of the track. The sudden application of the brakes threw passengers off their seats, and one, who was standing in the doorway, was deposited on to the side of the line, but escaped being hurt.

The iron work on all the five carriages was considerably knocked about. Seeing the position of the wrecked train, it was incredible that nothing of a serious nature to passengers was reported.

No time was lost in acquainting headquarters of the mishap, and a steam wrecking train was immediately sent to the scene. As the main line was blocked arrangements had to be made to convey passengers to their destinations with as little delay as possible by running trains from Melbourne and Korumburra, Melbourne passengers were conveyed to Dandenong and then transferred to an electric suburban train for the city, which they reached shortly after 11 p.m.

The "down" passengers after waiting several hours, had to carry their belongings past the wrecked train, where they embarked and proceeded on their journey without any untowards incidences.

The steam-wrecking crew on arrival at once proceeded to put a line in order, so as to allow traffic through. They then worked to put the train back and repair the smashed lines. The employes had a most trying time on Sunday, as the heat was terrific, the thermometer registering 103 degrees in the shade.

A departmental inquiry is to be held, but it is considered the mishap was due to a defective rail.

San Remo Fishermen Want A Freezer

From *Fisheries Newsletter Vol.9., No.5, June 1950*, published by the Commonwealth Directories of Fisheries

Bass Shire Secretary has written to V.P.F.L. Secretary, Mr. Muir, seeking his assistance in a joint deputation, representing the Shire and San Remo fishermen, to the Chief Secretary for financial assistance to build a freezer at San Remo.

As a result of league efforts, six freezers are under way at other Victorian fishing ports.

The Shire Secretary wrote to Mr. Muir:

"In connection with the proposed application for a Treasury grant for the establishment of a freezing plant at San Remo, I now wish to state that, resulting from further action by some of my Councillors in conjunction with members of your League, twenty-nine fishermen at San Remo have signified their willingness to join your League.

"It is anticipated that as a result of so many of these fishermen being won over the other men will come forward and also join. Now that this majority is willing to co-operate in making the necessary application to the Treasury for a grant and loan for the erection of a freezing plant, it is considered that the time is opportune to arrange a deputation, representing the Council and San Remo fishing interests, with the Chief Secretary.

"In this matter, I am seeking your co-operation in making these arrangements, as you are more conversant with the procedure and no doubt are in closer touch with the officers of this particular Department than I am."

Of the six freezers which are being built with Government financial assistance, the plant at Lorne is completed and working. It has a capacity of 5,000-50 lb. boxes of fish. The plant at Port Fairy is under construction, but building at Port Albert has been delayed unfortunately, awaiting some portions of the equipment.

At Barwon Heads, where the fishermen established a small plant without any assistance, extensions have been commenced and should be ready soon. Plans and specifications for Queenscliff have been completed and it is hoped that a start will soon be made.

At Apollo Bay excavations for the foundations have been completed. This will be the largest plant in view of an expected increase in the fishing fleet when the projected harbour extensions and improvements are completed. Apollo Bay will be the only plant generating its own Diesel electric power. The other plants

will draw power from the State Electricity Commission grid.

All this has been accomplished by the League in less than a year.

It is understood that other ports will be approaching the League in the near future for similar assistance in securing freezers.

Stock Tax And Farmers' Protection Association

From the *South Bourke and Mornington Journal*, Wednesday 4 January 1888, page 2.

(Re-paragraphed for the sake of clarity)

A meeting was held at Grantville on the 31st December to consider the desirability or otherwise of forming a branch of Association. Mr. W. Clarke, President Phillip Island Shire Council, occupied the chair, who, after stating the object of the meeting, went on to say that nearly every interest in the colony, except farming and grazing, was represented by some organisation, and he considered that under the present depressed condition of the stock and farm produce markets it was only fair that they should try to obtain some of the benefits arising from the protective policy of the colony, and to do this it was necessary that they should unite and work as one.

He pointed out the success attending the efforts of manufacturers in having their different interests conserved through their powerful associations, and it only remained for them to follow in the same lines to obtain just the same benefits.

Several other speakers having addressed the meeting, Mr. J. Hoddinot moved "that it was desirable to form a branch of the Stock Tax and Farmers' Protection Association," which was recorded by Mr. Goding and carried unanimously.

It was resolved that the branch be known as the Bass Valley and Powlett District Association, and that the member's subscription be 5s. per annum.

The following were elected office-bearers:— President, Mr. J. Hoddinot; Vice-presidents, Messrs. F. A. Nowell and D. Munro; Treasurer, Mr. Geo. Stewart; Secretary, Mr. Jno. Tulloch; Committee, Messrs. Jas. Hayes, H. H. Bergmeier, W. J. Craig, H. Anderson, Jas. Clarke, C. F. Hogan and R. S. Peters. At the close of the meeting twenty-one members were enrolled.

From *The Wonthaggi Sentinel and State Town Miner*, Saturday, July 2 1910

The Post-Foundation Postal Blues

(Re-paragraphed for the sake of clarity.)

The necessity for a post and telegraph office at Wonthaggi becomes more and more *[unclear word]* each week. The population of the town is a large one and the volume of postal and telegraphic business transacted is probably unequalled by any country town in Victoria. The revenue derived by the Commonwealth from that source is large and daily on the income. Repeated applications have been made for better postal facilities.

Application through the Progress Association was made to the Deputy Postmaster General early last month. The absolute necessity of proper accommodation was mentioned. It was pointed out that the existing conditions were intolerable. The distance of the parcel office from Wonthaggi was, it was stated, retarding the progress of the town and district. If a temporary but suitable building in a central position was arranged for it would be in the nature of a boon to the public. But all to no purpose.

The usual stereotyped reply was received acknowledging the receipt of the communication and stating the matter would receive consideration. Last week the matter was brought under the notice of the Minister of Mines in the hope that he would be able to say whether any more had been made in the direction desired. The Minister was unsympathetic and not in any way concerned. He considered the responsibility of the Government had ceased when a site for the building had been allotted to the Commonwealth authorities.

The present office is about a mile from the town. To reach it pedestrians are compelled to plough through mud and slush inches deep. The accommodation provided is inadequate for both the officials and the public. The building is the property of the Mines department and is tenanted at a weekly rental.



Wonthaggi Post Office, February 1927. Photo by John H. Harvey. Source: State Library of Victoria.

A stop-gap arrangement – and one which is largely availed of by the residents – is a receiving box on the railway station building. A bag is also attached on the guard's van of the up train. All communications posted at either of the two mentioned places are carried direct to Melbourne. A letter directed to say Dalyston (about five miles distant) would thus travel first to Melbourne and be returned, at the earliest, next day – taking just about 20 hours to reach its destination.

A rumour was current during the week that temporary premises had been secured in Graham Street, and the building was one which was recently used in the Old Camp as a boarding house. Business would be transacted there next week.

Any arrangement which would meet public convenience would have been hailed with satisfaction by the residents. But the rumor was unfounded. Spoken to by a representative of the "Sentinel" on Wednesday last, the postmaster said he had no knowledge of the contemplated change. So far as he was aware the business was not to be transferred to Wonthaggi next week, and, until other official notification had been received, would continue to be transacted at the Old Camp.

In other words the public have still to contend with exasperating delay and inconvenience. How much longer is the present disgraceful state of affairs to continue? Echo answer, "How long?"

From *The Wonthaggi Sentinel*, Saturday, June 18, 1910

Daly Reclaims Lease

A meeting of the residents of Dalyston and the surrounding district, held under the auspices of the Dalyston Progress Association, was held during the week to discuss what action should be taken in order to have the lease recently forfeited by the Minister for Mines for non-compliance with the labor covenants re-granted to the former owner – Mr P. J. Daly. The following motions were carried unanimously:—"That action be taken to have the lease restored to the original owner, and the matter brought before Parliament by a petition signed by the residents." "That a deputation from different parts of the district wait on the Minister for Mines and ask him to reinstate Mr Daly before presenting the petition to Parliament."

From the South Bourke and Mornington Journal, Wednesday 24 January 1877

Phillip Island And Woolamai Shire Council

Saturday, January 20 1877

Present, Mr. Turnbull (President), Councillors Crump, Smith and Fowler.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

Correspondence.

From Thomas Hamilton, applying for slaughtering license.—Granted on motion of Councillors Crump and Smith.

Moved by Councillor Crump, seconded by Councillor Smith and carried, that a letter from Under Treasurer forwarding forms for statements, be received and the returns forwarded.

Moved by Councillor West, seconded by Councillor Crump, that letter from H. P. Norton calling attention to want of bathing accommodation at Cowes, and pointing out places as suitable for same and regulations acted upon.—Councillor Fowler moved as an amendment that the consideration of the letter be postponed. The amendment lapsed for want of a seconder and the original motion was carried.

Moved by Councillor West, seconded by Councillor Smith and carried, that the Secretary get the necessary posts and finger boards put up at Cowes on bathing grounds, and get the regulations printed and notice sent to police.

Moved by Councillor West, seconded by Councillor Smith and carried, that letter from Clerk of Petty Sessions, calling attention to the alterations required in office, be held over until next meeting.

Moved by Councillor West, seconded by Councillor Fowler and carried, that petition from ratepayers calling attention to necessity of forming and metalling road at Griffith's Point be held over until next meeting.

The following tenders were accepted on the motion of Councillors Crump and Smith, being the lowest amount in each case:—Culvert and forming and draining, Cowes, D. C. Harding, £8 5s. 6d.; twenty chains of clearing and draining at Grantville, Emery and Stubbs, £31; grubbing and clearing road, from Bass bridge, E. Mission, 6s. per chain; grubbing and clearing road, from Bass road, E. Mission, 5s. 6d. per chain. Fresh tender to be called for Culvert and drains, Turnbull's road, D. Quinlivan, £23 6s.

Moved by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor West and carried, that Councillor Crump be appointed Returning Officer for Corinella Riding, to carry out the election

for the extraordinary vacancy. The President appointed the 6th day of February as the day for holding the election.

Moved by Councillor Fowler, seconded by Councillor Smith and carried, that the Secretary obtain nine copies of the Local Government Manual for use of Councillors during term of office.

Accounts to the amount of £54 1s. were passed for payment on motion of Councillors Smith and West.

Moved by Councillor Fowler, seconded by Councillor Smith and carried, that one month's notice be given to Mr. Norton of the Council giving up possession of late Shire office, Cowes.

Moved by Councillor West, seconded by Councillor Smith and carried, that the Secretary revise the valuation for the present year, and the sum of £8 be awarded to him for same.

Moved by Councillor West, seconded by Councillor Fowler and carried, that tenders be called for about forty chains of clearing on McHaffie's road.

Moved by Councillor West, seconded by Councillor Fowler and carried, that tenders be called for about fifty chains of clearing on road near Rhyll.

Moved by Councillor Fowler, seconded by Councillor Smith and carried, that tenders be called for approaches to jetty at Newhaven.

From *The Ballarat Star*, Wednesday 6 April 1910, page 6

Affairs At Powlett

Question of Food Supply.

Fully 600 miners are now on the payroll at the State coal mine, and over 2000 persons are settled in the town. The population increases daily. As under Government order the whole of the camp will be shifted in the course of a few weeks, land agents are busy finding suitable allotments for those who are not content to build on the Government leasehold blocks. Buildings are going up in all directions, the timber being brought by water to Inverloch and across the country by bullock waggon. Arrangements are being made to bring future consignments by rail. There are several butchers in the town, but a meat famine threatens because the Grantville cattle market has been eaten out by the new mining population. Further supplies will have to be obtained from Melbourne.

Kilcunda's 'Big Bang' 1937

From the *Daily Telegraph and North Murchison and Pilbarra Gazette*, Friday 31 December 1937, page 3

Holidaymakers Killed

Melbourne, December 30

Ruby Finch (26) and Ian Hayman (17), on holiday at Kilcunda near Wonthaggi, were killed this morning when an explosives magazine mysteriously blew up at the Victorian Coal Mining Co. The explosion completely wrecked two houses fifty yards away and hurled the woman high in the air over the cliff and into the sea. The body has not been recovered. Stripped of every shred of clothing, Hyman's [*sic*] body was found at the end of the cliff, 90 feet from the magazine. Two shattered pea rifles found suggested that the explosion was caused by a bullet being fired into the tin shed containing gelignite. The victims were seen leaving their hotel with a pea rifle.

From the *Williamstown Chronicle*, Saturday 8 January 1938

District Youth Killed

Ian Edward Hayman, aged 17, who was one of the victims when the magazine exploded at Kilcunda on Thursday, December 30, resided at Hudsons road, Spotswood, with his parents. The unfortunate youth was recovering from a recent accident and with his father and brother was spending the holiday vacation at the Kilcunda Hotel. Mrs Hayman (his mother) remained at home, and much sympathy is extended to the family in the distressing circumstances.

According to the authorities and experts there is only one similar occurrence on record. The cause of the disaster is not ascertained accurately by experts, but it is believed a bullet from one of either the pea rifles carried by Hayman and his companion (Miss Finch the other victim) caused by a mis-directed shot exploded the magazine containing 600lb of gelignite stored on the coal mining company's property.

From *The Age*, Friday 31 December 1937, page 9

Explosion Kills Youth And Girl

Body Hurlled Over Cliff Into The Sea

Two Houses Wrecked

Bullet Fired Into Gelignite Magazine

Following the firing of a bullet into a magazine containing 600 pounds of gelignite, a youth and a girl who were spending a holiday at Kilcunda were killed instantly when the magazine exploded yesterday morning. The victims were dashed to the ground by the force of the explosion, and the body of the girl was hurled over a cliff into the surf below. The body had not been recovered at a late hour last night. The victims were:—

MISS RUBY MILDRED FINCH, 26, of Kyarra-street, Hampton.

IAN EDWARD HAYMAN, 17, of Hudson-street, Spotswood.

Miss Finch and Hayman, who were staying with other members of their families at the Kilcunda Hotel, left the hotel on a shooting excursion shortly after 9 a.m. yesterday. Other guests at the hotel stated that they went along the cliffs in the direction of San Remo and that Hayman was carrying two rifles.

About 9.45 a.m. the hotel was shaken by a terrific explosion and smoke was seen rising from near the entrance to the Kilcunda mine of the Victorian Coal Mining Company, which is situated on the cliff edge about one mile from the hotel.

Police at Bass and Wonthaggi were notified of the explosion, and Mounted Constable Robert F. Hewett immediately went to the scene and found the body of Hayman denuded of clothing and terribly mutilated, lying at the cliff edge about 80 yards from the smoking crater, which was once the site of the magazine.

Two .22 rifles, one with an expended shell in the breech, and the other, loaded but not fired, were found near the body of Hayman. The stock of the rifles had been blown off and the barrels twisted by the force of the explosion.

Body Seen in Surf

Two distinct furrows in the soil led from a point about 20 feet from the magazine. One 80 feet in length terminated at the spot where the body of Hayman was found, but the other disappeared over the cliff edge.

Peering over the 100-foot cliff police saw the body of Miss Finch floating in the surf about twenty feet from the rocks which

(continues on Page 18)

ROBB : BROS

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STATE SAVINGS BANK

From the *Frankston and Somerville Standard*, 21 March 1923

Explosion Kills Youth And Girl (continued from Page 17)

littered the base of the cliff. Throughout the afternoon they attempted to recover the body, but were prevented by the heavy surf and the slippery nature of the rocks.

Beyond several twisted pieces of metal strewn along the top of the cliff and on the rocks beneath no traces of the sheet iron magazine remained. An official of the mine stated the magazine contained twelve 50-lb. boxes of gelignite, fuse and possibly several detonators. The only traces of the explosives were several short lengths of fuse scattered around the deep crater.

House Wrecked

Two houses situated about 50 yards from the magazine were practically wrecked by the force of the explosion and the five occupants had lucky escapes from serious injury by shattered glass and splintered timbers.

All windows were shattered in the house occupied by Mrs. J. Churchill and her sister, and damage was done to interior fittings and furniture. One wall was completely demolished in the other house occupied by Mr. J. Heslop, his wife and 20-year-old son, George, who was asleep in bed when the wall of his room collapsed, and although splintered joists fell across his bed and he was showered with glass from the window, he escaped uninjured.

All live occupants of the houses suffered from shock and were deafened by the explosion.

From the *Herald*, Friday 11 March 1938, page 3

Open Finding In Powder Explosion

Bullet May Have Been The Cause

Kilcunda Magazine

The City Coroner returned an open finding today at an inquest into the deaths of a young woman and a youth, who were killed when a powder magazine exploded at Kilcunda on December 30.

The Coroner said that it was impossible to say with any certainty what had caused the explosion. It seemed probable, however, that a bullet had caused it. If the shot had not been accidentally fired by the persons approaching the magazine, it was possible that those persons had approached from a quarter where the notice was not visible.

Magazine notices should be visible from all directions. The evidence had also disclosed that some safer means should be adopted of distributing explosives and detonators to miners.

The Coroner said that a man had no right to be firing indiscriminately. He did not suggest that regulations had not been complied with.

The victims were:—

Ruby Mildred Finch, 26, of Kyarra Street, Hampton; and

Ian Edward Hayman, 17, of Hudson's Road, Spotswood.

They were killed when, on December 30, at Kilcunda, a magazine at the Victorian Coal Mining Company blew up, hurling Miss Finch over a cliff into the sea about 90 yards away.

Duncan McNair, of Kilcunda, miner, said he had seen a man and a woman pass his home in the direction of the magazine that morning. The man was carrying two guns. The magazine was about 500 yards west of his house.

About three or four minutes after they passed he heard an explosion. He guessed it was the magazine and ran toward it. There was a hole in the ground where the magazine had been.

He looked for the man and the woman. He found the man south-east of the magazine, about 54 to 60 feet away. He had no clothing left. He went to the cliff and saw the woman's body in the water below.

Walking back from the cliff he had found two pea rifles about 20 feet from the magazine.

The magazine was about seven feet by six, made of galvanised iron on a wooden frame. There was nothing on the side of the magazine to attract use as a target for a rifle shot.

There was about 600 lb. of gelignite and a box of fuses in the magazine, but no detonators.

On the door there was a "danger" notice.

Joseph Richard Churchill, of Kilcunda, miner, said he was the man in charge of the magazine. It was his duty to issue the explosives to the men. He would say the magazine was nine feet by nine, and about six feet six inches high.

Earth was mounded up round the magazine on all sides, except at the door, to a height of about two feet six inches.

He told Sergeant Gilbert (who appeared to assist the Coroner) that the only time detonator caps were in the magazine was for about 10 minutes in the mornings when he was issuing the explosives to the men. The danger notice on the door could be read for about 100 yards.

On the morning of the explosion, he was at Mr Cartwright's house. He did not hear any sound, but the blinds and curtains began to fall down.

"I said, 'What is that,' and we ran out down the paddock, and saw that the magazine had

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Open Finding In Powder... (continued from Page 18)

gone." Churchill said: "I went to my home, and found that my wife had fainted from shock."

When he went to where the magazine had been, there was only a hole in the ground. He saw two trails of blood across the grass leading south.

To Mr Kennedy (representing relatives of the victims), Churchill said that the magazine had been divided into two compartments. About 100 detonators were sometimes carried to the magazine by the secretary of the mine office. They were not stored there but were for distribution to the miners.

To the Coroner Churchill said that no danger notice would be visible to any one approaching the magazine toward the sea.

Thomas Anderson, engineer, Arnold Street, Ormond, said that he had lent a .32 repeater rifle to Hayman before Hayman went on holiday. He thought Hayman was 20 to 22 years old, and that there was no harm in giving him the rifle.

David Besford, Inspector of Mines, Wonthaggi, said that he was at the Kilcunda mine about three quarters of a mile from the Victorian mine, when the explosion occurred. He arrived at the spot within several minutes.

He had inspected the Victorian magazine, which had been "passed" by his predecessor at Wonthaggi. Gelignite and fuse were stored there, but he had never known detonators to be kept there.

The sign "explosives" had been marked on the door, but not on the other three walls. Strangers approaching the magazine might not know that it was a magazine.

Besford said that he found rifle bullets and the parts of two rifles among the wreckage of the magazine. The rifle parts were about 44ft. from the crater. The cartridge case in one rifle indicated that it had been discharged by the mechanism of the rifle. The other rifle contained an unexploded cartridge.

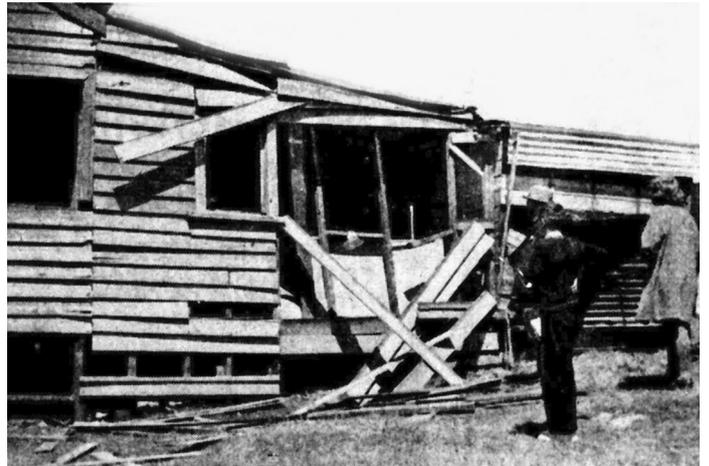
Gelignite such as that stored in the magazine could not have been exploded even with fire; it would have required a shock to explode it. In Besford's opinion, a pea rifle could have exploded the gelignite.

To Mr J. Burke, representing the mine owners, Besford said that anyone approaching the magazine might have expected, from its appearance, that it contained something dangerous.

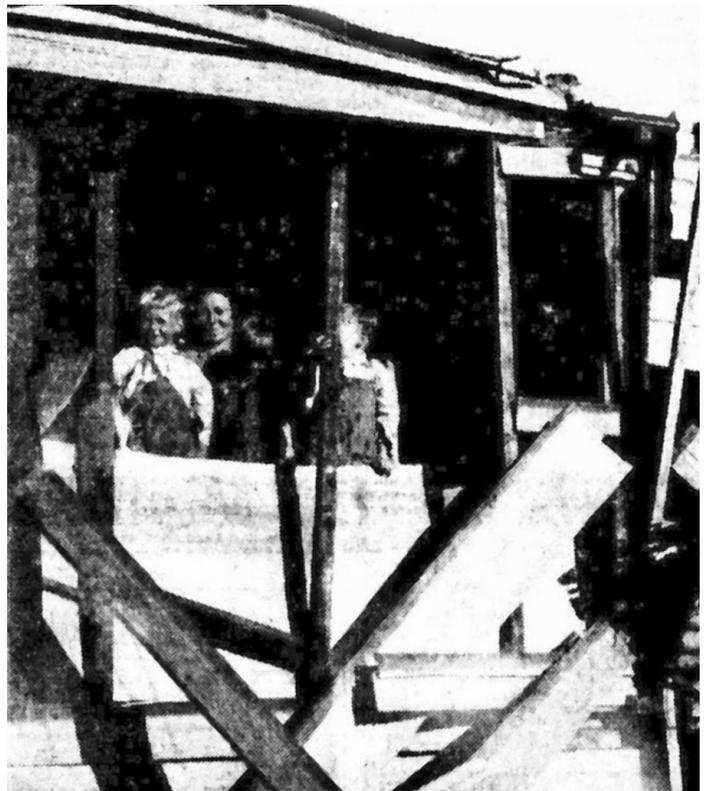
Besford said that the Act stipulated that detonators should not be kept in the same storehouse as explosives. He had advised the
(continues on Page 20)



The spot on which the magazine had been built. The force blasted a deep hole and scarred the rocks, leaving not the slightest sign of the building. From the *Sun* (Sydney paper), Friday 31 December 1937, page 5: Two Dead in Explosion.



The wrecked house of Mr. J. Hislop, which was more than 50 yards from the magazine. Timber was torn and every window blown out. From the *Sun* (Sydney paper), Friday 31 December 1937, page 5: Two Dead in Explosion.



Timber torn by the force of the explosion from the house of Mr. J. Heslop about fifty yards from the actual scene of the explosion. From the *Age*, Friday 31 December 1937, page 9.

Open Finding In Powder... (continued from Page 19)

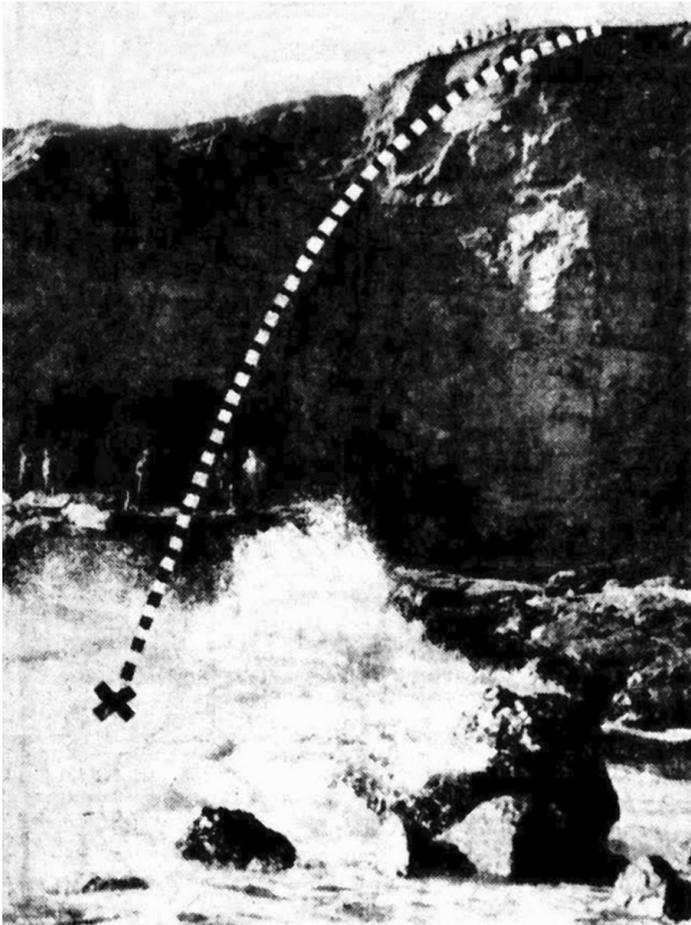
manager of the mine to build a separate detonator magazine.

Edwin Claude Todner, inspector of explosives, said that there was no evidence to show that the explosion had been caused by a lightning flash, by work going on near the magazine, by spark ignition or by spontaneous decomposition of explosives.

The explosion could have been caused by a bullet fired at short range.

Constable R. F. Hewitt, of Bass, said that from inquiries he had made at the hotel at which Hayman had been staying it was apparent that Hayman was careless with rifles. He had been reprimanded for trying to shoot off the hotel verandah, and he had brought his rifle into the hotel sitting-room.

Sergeant Gilbert appeared to assist the Coroner; Mr Levers Bourke for the Victorian Coal Mining Company; and Mr T. A. Kennedy for the relatives of Miss Finch.



Police and others on the rocks at the foot of the cliffs watching for the body of Ruby Finch, which was hurled over the top in the direction indicated by the dotted line, and fell into the heavy seas breaking on the rocks. From the Age, Friday 31 December 1937, page 9: Explosion Kills Youth And Girl.

No-No and Oh, No! Ads

In the 'good old days' if you had a tree stump you needed help removing, you'd wander down to your local mining office or agent and buy some explosives. For some reason, you can't do that anymore. I wonder why?

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From the Powlett Express and Victorian State Coalfields Advertiser, 10 March 1916

From Powlett Express and Victorian State Coalfields Advertiser, 12 March 1915

Nobel Glasgow Explosives in Agriculture.

Dalgety & Company,
LIMITED,

BEG to announce that as Agents for Messrs. Nobel's Explosive Co., Ltd., Glasgow, they will conduct a DEMONSTRATION of TREE and STUMP BLASTING on the Property of Mr. H. C. SOMERSET, of Bay View Farm, ALMURTA ROAD, NEAR GRANTVILLE, on **Thursday, March 18, At 2.30 p.m.**

By means of Nobel Glasgow Explosives, trees and stumps may be uprooted and shattered at a fraction of the cost of any other means.

All interested cordially invited to attend.



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UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE