

# The Western Port Times

GRANTVILLE & DISTRICTS

Volume 1 Number 2

June 2018

## WELCOME

Welcome to the second edition of The Western Port Times.

This magazine has been introduced as a rebirth of the original Western Port Times, which was published in Grantville from 1898 until 1910.

Produced by The Waterline News, for the U3A Local History Group, based in Grantville, The Western Port Times is a creative Exercise to showcase Grantville's history, via the group's website.

The monthly magazine is only available online, with all editions available on the website creating what the group believes will be a valuable historical resource.

Grantville was gazetted on 20 September 1872, almost 146 years ago and has a rich and proud history to be uncovered as more time passes.

We would like to invite all of you to contribute to the effort, with any stories, memorabilia, photos, maps etc. you may have in your collections.

## FEATURE



*Nell (Peters) & Cyril Dolphin*

This month's feature is a collection of thoughts, put to paper by Cyril Dolphin, many years ago, which were passed on by his wife, Nell, we believe, after his passing, in 2001.

We have had this work for some time, which had to be completely re-typed for publication and we have also been able to source some great old photos to go with the story, thanks to Noelene Lyons, Barbara Oates, and Martin Dolphin, a second cousin of Cyril's surviving children.

Thanks also to history group member, Trish Hart, for her assistance in bringing the photos up as well as we could get them.

Martin Dolphin told us "Glad to know that the photos are suitable and pleased to have been able to help. I have also benefited from the exercise in that I got to locate and communicate



with Cyril's children, my second cousins, which is something I had been meaning to do for a long time.

I look forward to seeing Cyril's work, and will pass on the viewing details to his children.

Two of the four children of Cyril and first wife Lorna are still living, as is the wife of the most recently deceased son. As part of my family history research I have been meaning to find and contact these second cousins for some time

(not seen since childhood), and I have now been able to do this.

When Cyril and Lorna separated in the 1960's, the three surviving children split up; two going with Lorna, one going with Cyril."

This exercise has created a lot of interest for many people, which is just one of the benefits of historical research and we have just started.

Watch this space

Editor

Check out the website and subscribe FREE - [www.grantvillehistory.com.au](http://www.grantvillehistory.com.au)

### Links to other sites

Group member, Grantville local, Clive Budd, Who is now also the webmaster for the new Bass Valley Historical Society website: [www.bassvalleyhistoricalsociety.com.au](http://www.bassvalleyhistoricalsociety.com.au) Has started a list of links you might be interested in, to other historical Associations. If you know of any we should add to the list, please do not hesitate to let us know: Email: [leader@grantvillehistory.com.au](mailto:leader@grantvillehistory.com.au)

### Historical Group links

South Eastern Historical Association  
[seha.org.au](http://seha.org.au)

Koo-Wee-Rup Swamp Historical Society  
[kooweerupswamphistory.blogspot.com.au/](http://kooweerupswamphistory.blogspot.com.au/)

Lang Lang and District Historical Society  
[langlang.net/historical.html](http://langlang.net/historical.html)

Leongatha and district Historical society  
[leongathahistory.org.au](http://leongathahistory.org.au)

Wonthagi Historical Society  
[wonthagihistoricalociety.org.au/](http://wonthagihistoricalociety.org.au/)

Western Port Historical Society Inc.  
[hwphs.org.au/](http://hwphs.org.au/)

National Library of Australia Trove  
[trove.nla.gov.au/](http://trove.nla.gov.au/)

State Library of Victoria  
[slv.vic.gov.au/](http://slv.vic.gov.au/)

Grantville History  
[grantvillehistory.com.au](http://grantvillehistory.com.au)



Photograph of the Grantville General Store on Bass Highway, 1937

### Coming Up

Coming up in the July edition of The Western Port Times, our feature will be on the history of the Grantville Hall.



The Grantville Mechanic's Hall, from the north, November 1993

In 1993, Minori Tani, an exchange student, spent a year at Newhaven College.

In that time she produced a fascinating history of the Grantville Hall, dating back to 1888, when it was reported that construction of the Grantville Mechanics Hall cost 230 pounds.

We also have some interesting coverage of the Hall's centenary in 1988, from Jan Walker's fabulous collection of Grantville memorabilia, collected over the last fifty years.



Guests arrive at the Grantville hall, welcomed by Peter Taylor and Luke Anthony -- of Phillip Island -- in military costume. Bass shire president, Cr. Bruce Campbell and his wife Sheila are pictured being greeted.

## Grantville hall: centenary night

So much to discover and get on record of the rich history of our wonderful town, Grantville.

If you are interested in joining the U3A Local History Group, there are a couple of places available.

Simply go to the website and register your interest and someone will get in touch with you. Next meeting- July.

## The Bass Valley Historical Society

The Bass Valley Historical Society has just launched its own website:

[www.bassvalleyhistoricalsociety.com.au](http://www.bassvalleyhistoricalsociety.com.au)

To celebrate the launch, we asked 30 year Secretary/Treasurer, Libby Skidmore, if she could give us a brief history on the Society.

### This what she wrote:

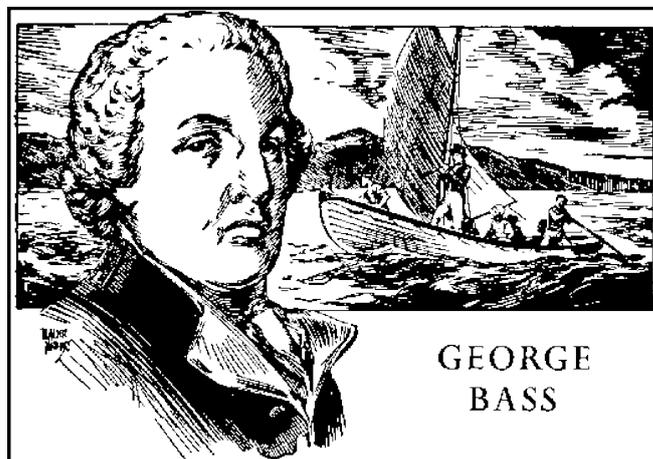
Our society began with a very generous gift. Moved Mr Touzel, seconded Dr. Morris

“ that the fund and other assets of the committee be held in trust by the four trustees and subsequently at their discretion be passed to any duly constituted historical society which may be formed to further the interest in historical matters relating to the Eastern sector of Western Port”

The committee referred to was a group of local Corinella people and historians from SEHA who had planned and organized the Sesquicentennial celebrations held in December 1976.

These celebrations were planned to commemorate the formation of a military post in Western Port which was the first ‘bricks and mortar’ settlement in Victoria. During the 1970’s the interest in local history became more noticeable and many groups began to be involved in Victoria’s past. The celebrations were no doubt prompted by Dr. Keith Bowden’s book “The Western Port Settlement And its Leading Personalities” which was published by the SEHA in 1970. The Shire was also involved and that first committee was led by Cr Bill Belfrage who realized the importance of these celebrations to this community. Activities included a re-enactment of the first landing, an open air Thanksgiving service, an exhibition of artefacts, a reunion and a Colonial Ball. The four day celebration firmly brought Corinella’s history to the fore and many members of the Sesquicentennial Committee believed that a historical society was viable.

An inaugural public meeting was held in February 1977 and the first meeting of the new society was held on March 18th 1977 in the Corinella Hall. Elections were held and Cr Belfrage, Mr H. Kemp, Mr. T Horton and Mr. G. Marsh were declared an inaugural executive. Various names for the new society were discussed and it was decided to name the society “Bass Valley Historical Society”. Other plans for the society’s future were made and the constitution which outlined the aims of the society was adopted. The society then declared to “collect, document and research this history of the area, to archive the material, to disseminate the historical knowledge to the wider community and to foster a pride in our communities past”



In December 1978, Mrs Skidmore suggested that the society start a group project and so the Anderson file was begun. For the next several years the Anderson project was agendered at every meeting and all the members were involved in research projects.

Finally the book was written, we all proof read the galleys and on November 26th 1983 “The Anderson’s of Western Port” was launched. The book sold well and still sells regularly these many years later.

The next book project was also a group effort. “The History and Beauty of the Bass district” began as an idea for a bus trip from Lang Lang to Bass. The booklet contains maps by Tom Horton and our Leadbeater Possum logo which was drawn by Ethel Pike, Tom’s sister who was a noted artists.. This booklet was launched in March 1986. Ten years later in 1996 it was decided to extend the booklet to include the Anderson Peninsula, San Remo, Kilcunda, The Powlett and Dalyston. The second edition was relaunched and has become very popular with visitors to the area. The planned bus trip that was the inspiration for the tourist booklet never took place although I do know of families who have used the booklet as a guide to the Bass Valley district. The society has also been involved in several other publications.

In 1988 Jack Smith who was closely involved with the Bass decided to photograph and list the honor boards and cenotaphs in the Shire.

He proudly presented the paper and its subsequent book to the society in 1988. In 1997 as part of the Bass Bicentennial celebrations it was decided to print as a monograph Ken Morris’ book ‘George Bass In Western Port’ Ken had presented this paper and another entitled “George Bass and the Convicts” to the society and also at the Bicentennial dinner.

It was exciting choosing the colour of the cover and I was proud to be asked to do the cover drawing. Valda Cole launched the book on October 27th 1997.

## Bass Valley Historical Society History Continued

Our most recent launch was Nell Dolphin's book "Corinella as I Remember It" This book has been so successful that copies are no longer available. It has been one of our society's proudest actions to support our members in the production of fine books about our area.

During 1997 planning was begun to celebrate the Bass Bicentennial events. Members of the society Don Stevens and Libby Skidmore joined SEHA and shire representatives to palm dinners, displays, celebrations and plaques around the shire in the places George Bass visited. Lumps of rock were placed at San Remo, Rhyll, Bass Landing and Bass. Re-enactments with soldiers, sailors and fair maidens were popular. Trees were planted, some of them still live and many many speeches were made. My lasting memory is of the plaque unveiling at Bass Landing. As Ken Morris spoke and Don Stevens filmed our attention was grabbed by a dolphin frolicking up the Bass River. What a joyous moment that was!

The Society has been involved in the erection of many of the monuments in the Shire. In 1977 a memorial to George Bass was planned for the Bass Park. After several false starts a reflective pool with a map and panel about Bass was unveiled. In 1984 the reverse side of the monument was dedicated to Samuel Anderson our first pioneer settler. In 1979 a Pioneers Memorial was placed in a cutting on the road to Loch to remind us of the hardships and trials of our early pioneers. The Strzelecki monument at Corinella has had a varied history In 1927 The Victorian Government placed a plaque on the red brick obelisk, and later Charlie Tarra's name was added, In 1996 the names of the convicts who accompanied Strzelecki were added and the Polish Historical Society came to celebrate with us.

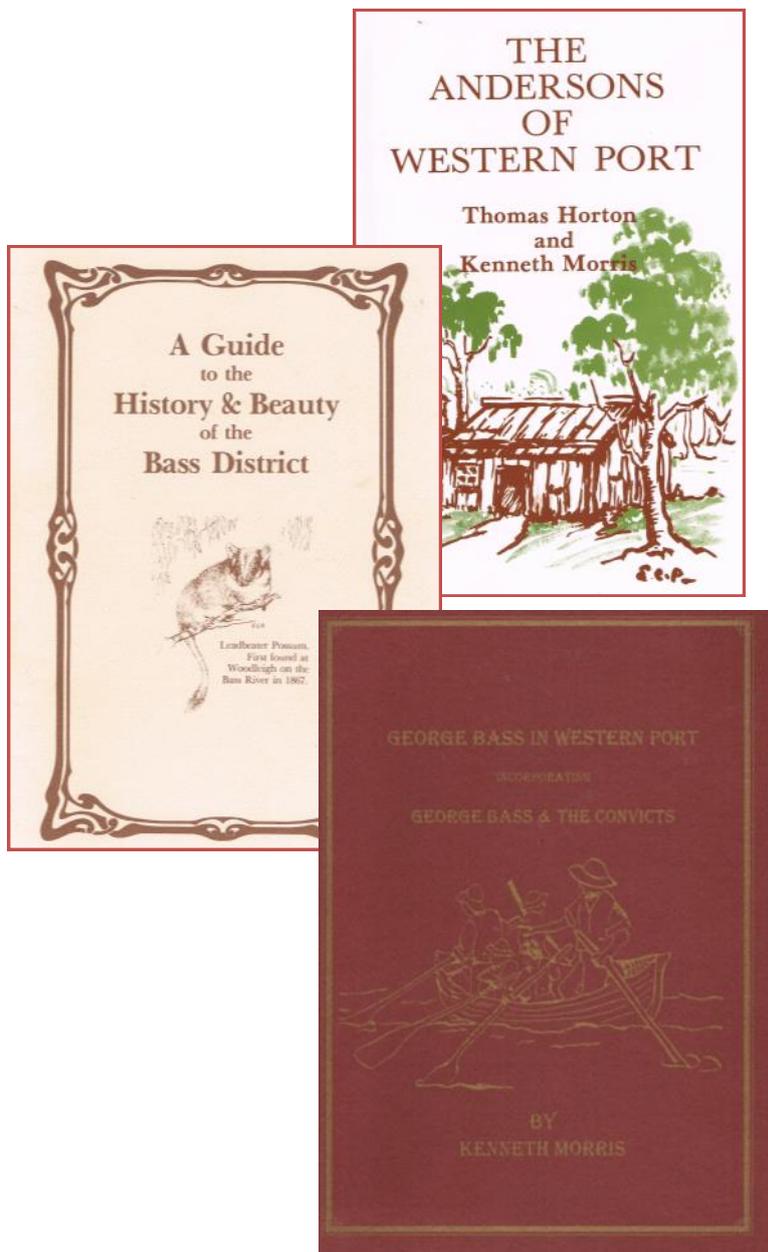
We have named roads, walks and parks. We advise on subdivisions and our research is widely used by people seeking family information. We attend both as visitors and speakers to neighbouring society's, conduct courses at the community centre and guide walks through the town and at the cemetery as a regular contribution to the community. We even sponsor a section in the local Art Show!

The work of the Bass Valley Historical Society has been recognized with four of our members being given "Awards of Merit" by the Royal Historical Society of Victoria.

We must continue to grow and share the historical research we find with the people of our community. The stories of Corinella and the other towns of the valley are important. They provide a window to the past through which we can influence the future.

Libby Skidmore

Bass Valley Historical Society publications available:



[www.bassvalleyhistoricalsociety.com.au](http://www.bassvalleyhistoricalsociety.com.au)

New members always welcome

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Send your name and email address to:  
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## The writings of Cyril Dolphin

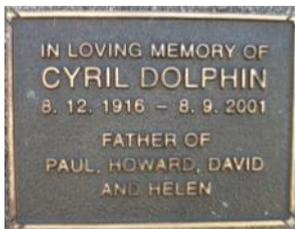


Cyril Oliver John Dolphin, was Born at Footscray on 8 December, 1916

He died at Wonthaggi on 8 September 2001

This is one of the earliest photos of Cyril.

Cyril married his first wife, Lorna May Oakes, at Newcastle, NSW, in April 1944. They had four children, Paul, Howard, David and Helen.



Cyril's ashes were interred in the niche wall at the Grantville cemetery. Along side are the Ashes of his son, David, who died in 2011.



Cyril's wife, Nell, died on 11 October, 2006, Aged 100.

Her ashes are interred in the niche wall at the Corinella cemetery and the plaque also pays tribute to Cyril.



Corinella's oldest resident, Nell Dolphin, holds a memento of the town's New Year's Eve celebration. She is shown with husband Cyril, who said it was "the best night we could've wished for."

## 'Best New Year' for Corinella's oldest

Nell Dolphin, 94, earned her prime position at Corinella's 'party in the park' celebration on New Year's Eve.

She is the town's oldest resident, and having lived in Corinella since she was six, Nell would have to be an inside tip for the longest-term resident as well.

Corinella General Store owners John and Barbara Oates, who helped organise the event, ensured that Nell and her husband Cyril had a vantage point which reflected their status as Corinella royalty.

A few days after the event Cyril said that it was "the best night we could've ever wished for."

The family-oriented party was eight months in the planning, and took place on a rise overlooking Westernport Bay.

It kicked off at 7pm with entertainment by a local DJ, as a crowd gathered with picnic rugs, glasses, and dancing shoes at the ready.

Over 200 people had arrived by the time the 20-minute fireworks display exploded over the bay at midnight.

Corinella was discovered in 1826, and as one of Victoria's original settlements, it was only fitting that the township celebrate the turn of the century in style.

Bass Coast Shire funded and organised the fireworks through project officer Helen Patalini, but the rest was up to the Corinella community.

They held two trivia nights throughout the year to raise funds, and made sure that no-one left the celebration empty-handed.

Mementoes including bumper stickers, spoons, key rings, mugs, and even bottles of red wine were arranged, featuring a 'Corinella 2000 -Party in the Park' logo and a picture of the town jetty.

Thanks to Barbara Oates, from Corinella for this newspaper clipping after the New Year's Eve event in 1999.



This photo of Cyril and second wife, Nell Dolphin, circa mid 1980's supplied by Martin Dolphin

## Cyril Dolphin's Grantville



*Grantville, Victoria.*

*Author / Creator: Albert Arnell 1902-1968, photographer.*

*Date: [between 1922 and 1929]*

When I first arrived at Grantville, I was told many stories about the town, as it was in the last century.

I have now found some of those stories to be true and others to be exaggerated.

It was the most important town in this area, in those times.

Before 1890 all the stores, for this part of Gippsland, came by sea from Melbourne through

Grantville.

It was the biggest town on Westernport and had a jetty over three hundred yards long.

There has been one thing I haven't been able to find out, this is, how it got its name.

I always thought it was named after Lieutenant Grant, of the "Lady Nelson".

Why I thought this I don't know.

Then one day, a few years ago, I was at the Latrobe Library and came across a book, "Place Names of Victoria", by Les Blake.

I looked up Grantville and found that it was probably named after, James McPherson Grant, a prominent member of parliament, from 1855 to 1885, when he died, at the age of 63 years.

It was not a definite answer, so there was still a chance that I had been right in thinking that it had been named after Lieutenant Grant. So I thought I would find out a bit more about the men.

In 1880 Lieutenant Grant sailed from England in command of the 'Lady Nelson'.

The "Lady Nelson", was coming to Australia, to Port Jackson to do survey work. It has been designed for that sort of work, by Capt. Schanck. It had a sliding keel, which consisted of

three centre beards. This would allow the ship to sail into unknown waters for exploration work. If the ship ran into a sandbar or a reef, the keels could be lifted and greater speeds obtained, by the ship sailing as a flat bottomed boat.

After a long voyage, they along the Southern Coast of Australia, to a point near, where Portland stands and named it Cape Nelson. Then on past Cape Otway and into Bass (Straight) Strait.

Bass had discovered this (Straight)

Strait, eighteen months before.

The weather was rather rough and the next land sighted was a Cape which Grant named the

Cape Schanck, after Captain Schanck the designer of the 'Lady Nelson'.

Past Cape Schanck, there was a large expanse of water going inland, the weather was still rough and Grant did not feel like going into this unknown sea, which he named Governor Kings Bay, not knowing that it had already been named, Westernport.

They then rounded Wilson's Promontory and sailed up the coast to Port Jackson, arriving there in December 1880...after having spent over nine months at sea. The men were pleased to be paid off, after having been cooped up for so long, in such a small craft of sixty tons.

Lieut. Grant was to take over the ship 'Supply', this was a promotion for him. However he found that 'Supply' had been condemned as being too old for service.

The English Government wanted some positions on the Australian Coast for settlements, as it was felt undesirable to have too great a number of convicts in one spot.

There was also a feeling that they may not be able to claim possession of such a large

continent with only a single settlement at Port Jackson.

Governor King arranged to keep

Lieut. Grant in command of the 'Lady Nelson', to go to Westernport and give a report of suitability of a settlement there. It was hard to obtain a crew, as the crew had been paid off and did not want to rejoin the 'Lady Nelson', so Grant had to be content with a crew of convicts who knew little about seamanship. Also in the crew were Lieut. Murray 1st Mate, Lieut Bowen 2nd Mate and Ensign Barrellier.

Fresh water was a problem in Westernport so they had to find a fresh water stream described by Bass. At last they found it and explored it for some distance beyond where they obtained their fresh water.

Lieut. Bowen and Ensign Barrellier sailed further north into Westernport in a small boat. There is some doubt if they sailed around the north of French Island, although they did some exploration work on the western side of Westernport. I do not believe they sailed near the shore where Grantville is now, the mud flats would keep them off the shore, and they never gave a report on the land around that part of the bay. Before returning to Port Jackson, Grant planted seeds on an island he named Churchill Island. The seeds had been given to him by a Mr. Churchill before leaving England.

Six months later when Lieut. Murray returned to Westernport he found that some of the seeds had grown and there was a good crop of wheat. So the first crop of wheat grown in Victoria was grown in Westernport.

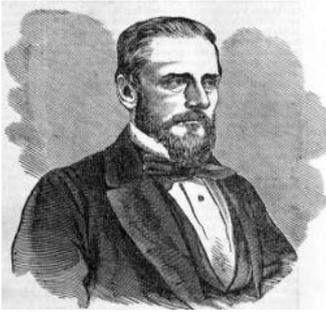
Governor King was not very pleased with the report given to him by Grant. Lieut. Grant then returned to England where he claimed, and was given ninety pounds for out of pocket expenses.

We never heard of Grant again.

...../7



## Cyril Dolphin's Grantville Continued



James Macpherson Grant had been many things before qualifying as a solicitor at Sydney in 1847. He had fought in the New Zealand war of 1850, then been to the Californian and Bendigo diggings, been legal advisor to

Co-operative Companies and was one of the seven guarantors for Ebenezer Syme when he bought the "Age" newspaper. He defended without charge Peter Lalor and the Eureka Stockade rebels and got them off, although it was said that no jury would have convicted them no matter how guilty they were proven. Before Grantville was named, Grant had proposed legislation that was brought in, to improve land selection. There had been scandals in land selection before this. Now everybody could select land up to 320 acres at up to twenty schillings an acre, paid over ten years. They would have to make improvements on the land that would be taken into consideration in payment. When Grant died Parliament voted £4000 to his widow to settle a debt of honour. There was no superannuation for politicians in those days. I, like Les Blake, now believe that Grantville was named after James Macpherson Grant. I wrote to the secretary of Place Names Committee, of the Dept. of Conservation Forests and Lands, and he was not able to give me an answer on the naming of Grantville, there must be some documentation on the naming of Grantville, but perhaps it has been filed and lost forever. I don't know who the first white man was who walked over the land, later to become Grantville. Mr. Hovell was sent by Governor Darling with Capt. Wright and his party of settlers, when they came in 1826 and formed a settlement on the side of the hill near Guy's Creek at Corinella. Hovell was to make a report on the area around the Eastern side of Westernport, previous reports were considered unsatisfactory. Mr. Hovell first went south as far as Cape Patterson where he found an outcrop of coal. He then went north where he found that the year before when he had travelled with Hamilton Hume they had not arrived at Westernport as they had thought. Westernport in the north was swampy, surrounded by mangroves, whereas the bay they had arrived at was deep and clear. It was Corio Bay. Mr. Hovell could have been the first white man to cross the land now Grantville. In 1835 Samuel Anderson arrived at the Bass River where he settled and grew wheat. This was only a year after the Henty's settled at Portland and a few months after the settlement at Melbourne. Anderson had a

friend a John Thom who sailed between Van Diemens land and Westernport regularly and sometimes stayed at the Bass farm. Pastoral licences were issued in 1838 and John Thom obtained a licence for an acre between the Bass River and Westernport. He called this the Hurdy Gurdy Run. This licence was later transferred to Cuthbert and Gardiner. Grantville is placed in this run. Fitzherbert Mundy had the Red Bluff Run to the North, and Michael Pender the Upper Plains Run to the South. A few people started to travel around the Eastern side of Westernport about this time but not many until the middle fifties.

Gold had been found in Victoria which brought many people here, some gold some did not, but all managed to make a living.

Then the gold started to run out, so they all had to make another way of life.

Homes, shops and warehouses were being built in Melbourne. In all of these buildings timber was being used. There was plenty of good timber in the hills north-east of Melbourne, but it had to be carted by wagon.

It was just as easy and cheaper to transport timber by ship from Westernport to Melbourne. In the area later to become Grantville there were plenty of straight trees, suitable for splitting slabs, palings and shingles, also for sawing timber with pit-saw. This was a way of making a living and quite a good life.

To get to this area, people would come by boat or carry their possessions on a cart and travel overland. The track followed would be above the Koo-wee-rup swamp or if the season had been dry through the swamp near the sea to Yallock along the highland between the Gurdies Flat and the Bass River then down a ridge to Deep Creek.

Later short cuts were made through the scrub of the Grudges Flat.

It was possible to travel along the short cut in dry weather. A road was surveyed near this track in 1862 and 1866 by Micheal (Michael?) Callanan, it was known as the Westernport road, later the Melbourne Road and now the Bass Highway.



**Cyril Dolphin's Grantville**  
Continued

When the road was opened selectors came to this area, not only to Grantville but to the hills behind Grantville and over the Bass River. Cob and Co ran coaches from Dandenong to Tobin Yallock then onto Grantville, other firms started to run coaches to Grantville, some dropping out after a short time. Cobb and Co kept going until the Great Southern Railway was begun in 1887. later coaching firms started running coaches from Cranbourne and from Lang Lang to Grantville.

By 1890 the coaches had finished and mail contractors took over, it was possible for passengers to travel with the mail contractor.

There must have been some very rough trips over the the flat country of the Gurdies in the winter- time. I can remember going to Lang Lang by car in the '30s and having to travel over parts of the road.

After the railway to Wonthaggi started in 1910 the mail contractor carried mail from Almurta to Grantville and then on to Corinella, but this was later changed back to Lang Lang.

About 1930 a service car started from Melbourne to Wonthaggi.

There were two proprietors running cars from Wonthaggi and both passed through Grantville. The fare from Grantville to Melbourne was ten shillings. That is one dollar.

The service cars started to have trouble after 1933 when the Transport Regulation Board came into power with idea of making people use the railways. By 1930 Vin Maloney was running the only car left carrying passengers to Wonthaggi and San Remo. For a while he was only allowed to travel from Lang Lang, but later allowed to start from Dandenong, when he started to use a bus.

Now that train has stopped running to Wonthaggi and a bus has taken its place, the people of Grantville once again have a good road service.

In 1870 Edward Colbert surveyed a township on the Melbourne Road between Colbert Creek (the creek near the Grantville Hall) and Deep Creek (the creek near the Grantville Cemetery).

He also surveyed rural lots, between Deep Creek and Hurdy Gurdy Creek. As well as town lots, areas were set aside for a show ground and a recreation area.

The show ground was later used for country shows and is where the Grantville tennis courts now stand. The other recreation area was never used and as such, this is behind the house blocks on the East side of the highway and on the North side of the Colbert Creek.

Horse races were run behind the Grantville Hotel but this was private land in the town area.

Football and cricket was also played on this land in my time.



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VICTORIA  
GOVERNMENT GAZETTE

Published by Authority.

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No. 64.] FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20. [1872.

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TOWN OF GRANTVILLE.

PROCLAMATION

By His Excellency the Right Honorable JOHN HENRY THOMAS VISCOUNT CANTERBURY, of the City of Canterbury in the County of Kent, and BARON BOTTESFORD, of Bottesford in the County of Leicester, in the Peccage of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Knight Commander of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath, Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Colony of Victoria, &c., &c., &c.

WHEREAS by *The Land Act 1869* it is amongst other things enacted, that the Governor may divide into counties the territory not already included in any county, and may also subdivide any county into parishes and towns, and may divide into parishes and towns any territory not included in any county, and by proclamation to be published in the *Government Gazette* may define the boundaries of such counties, parishes, or towns, and may distinguish each by a name; and after such proclamation the territory comprised within the boundaries of any of the said divisions shall thenceforward be recognised as a county, parish, or town by the name so given as aforesaid: The Governor may from time to time at the request of the council of any shire or borough alter by proclamation to be published in the *Government Gazette* the name of any such shire or borough, and may also from time to time by proclamation as aforesaid alter the name of any county, parish, town, township, land, area, goldfield, river, harbor, lake, bay, lagoon, swamp, mountain, glen, or other place or locality whatsoever within Victoria: Provided that it shall be lawful for the Governor by proclamation in the *Government Gazette* to diminish or extend the area of any county or to alter the boundaries or name of any county, and to add the territory taken away from one county to any other adjacent county, and to divide any county into two or more counties and to give to each a distinguishing name: Now therefore I, the Governor of Victoria, with the advice of the Executive Council, do by this my Proclamation, in exercise of the power vested in me by the said Act, define the boundaries of a Town in the county of Mornington, and do distinguish such Town by the name prefixed to the description thereof, that is to say

TOWN OF GRANTVILLE,

county of Mornington, situate on the eastern shore of Western Port Bay: Commencing at the mouth of Colbert Creek; thence by that creek to the road from Corinella to Melbourne; thence by that road bearing north-easterly to a point thereon fifteen chains north-easterly from the intersection thereof by the Hurdy-gurdy Creek; thence by a line bearing N. 70° 31' W. eleven chains, more or less, to Western Port Bay; and thence by that bay southerly to the commencing point.—(72.H.15906.)

Given under my Hand and the Seal of the Colony, at Melbourne, this sixteenth day of September, in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and seventy-two, and in the thirty-sixth year of Her Majesty's reign.

L.S.) CANTERBURY.  
By His Excellency's Command,  
J. J. CASEY,  
Commissioner of Crown Lands and Survey...  
GOD SAVE THE QUEEN!

*In the Government Gazette of Friday 20th September 1872 Grantville was proclaimed a township*

## Cyril Dolphin's Grantville Continued



Saw-millers started operating in the area this time and built a tramway down to a 300 yard jetty on the South side of the Colbert Creek. Shops and a hotel started up where the tramway crossed the Melbourne road and not where Colbert had surveyed the land for the town.

As far as I can find out there was only one general store in Grantville. One was started on Crown Allotment C.A. 93 by J. Dickens, I am not sure when he opened for business, but he opened the first Grantville Post Office in this store on the 1st July 1875. J.T. Paul, Councillor Bert Pauls' grandfather purchased this business together with the Post Office in 1887 and relocated it in a new building on the other corner of the Almurta Road. This was the store known all over the district where selectors obtained their supplies. It was sold to F. McOwen in 1906. There were other shops in Grantville at various times, a butcher's shop, a blacksmiths shop, a boot maker, Mr. Jim Smith who was still making boots in my time, a draper, a stock agent and a branch of the Colonial Bank. Mr. Dan Parks told me that he opened a barbers shop in Grantville for a short time but went back to house painting which was more profitable. His advertisement for painting is in the Westernport Times here in our archives. The Westernport Times was printed in Grantville. There were two hotels in Grantville for a few years. The first was the Grantville Hotel which obtained a licence in 1878, the other was the Price Alfred Hotel which obtained its licence a short time later. The Prince Alfred only lasted for about five years. The Grantville Hotel was burnt down in 1933 but continued to trade in a temporary bar until 1934.

### CATTLE SALE YARDS

The Grantville monthly cattle sale was the third biggest in Victoria about 1880, it remained a large selling centre until the railway to Wonthaggi was built in 1910. In most country towns the sale yards are close to a hotel, this is because deals can be finalised in the commercial room of the hotel, buyers and

sellers could stay at the hotel and of course buying and selling was thirsty work. Hotel owners quite often provided the sale yards. The Grantville sale yards were erected in 1887 on the hotel property, fronting the Melbourne Road, they were built by the hotel owner. The yards were given to the Shire Council in 1902 by the then hotel owner, Bill Lang, on condition that the Council erect new sale yards on the land. This was done and sales continued. The sale yards being controlled by the Council of the Shire of Phillip Island and Woolamai. After the First World War sales became smaller, the site was sold back to the hotel owner who was then Dr. Cole, his son being the licensee; that was in 1929 when the yards were not being used. Behind the hotel and sale yards were about ten acres of land that no doubt was used as a holding paddock for stock.

### GRANTVILLE HALL

There had been many discussions about building a hall in Grantville in the 1880's. Already there was a hall at Queensferry, having been opened in October 1884. This was the Queensferry Athenaeum, a very popular spot for the social life of the district. In 1887 a committee was formed to build a hall in Grantville with Mr. J. T. Paul the local store-keeper, its president. The Government gave land for a Mechanics Institute in 1888, half an acre where the present hall now stands. A sum of fifty pounds was raised by public subscriptions, a loan of one hundred and fifty pounds from the Colonial Bank and a start was made on a wooden building, completed in that same year at a cost of £230. The Mechanics Institute was used by all sorts of organizations around Grantville. It was used for Sunday Church services by the Church of England and Wesleyan churches, also by the Roman Catholics once a year. This may be why a church building was never erected in Grantville.

Flower shows, school concerts, church bazaars, political meetings and Manchester Unity Lodge meetings were all held in the Grantville Mechanics Institute. By 1890 the Hall debt was only £10. At this time a library was started. To borrow books it was necessary to pay a subscription of two shillings and nine pence per quarter. At the annual meeting in 1891, there was a credit balance of £31 and in the past year the hall had been lined. Mr. J.T. Paul was re-elected president, W. McDonald re-elected secretary and H. Misson treasurer, the rest of the committee being J. Orgill vice-president, with Messrs. Coghlan, Cope, Marsh and Dowell.

Over the years the population of Grantville dwindled and the hall committee had their troubles, the hall was showing signs of old age, and lack of funds made it hard to do much about it.

## Cyril Dolphin's Grantville Grantville Hall Continued

I can remember the hall re-blocked about 1938, and when I returned to Grantville in 1946 after the war finding the hall being held up straight by two large poles on each side. About 1950 the Health Dept. closed the hall until necessary repairs were carried out. These were done and hall was still used. By 1960 the population had started to improve and so did the hall. Now the hall is quite a respectable building, nicely painted with modern toilets built into the side. Underneath the paint is the same building erected in 1888 that had been threatened by fire several times, and nearly tumbled down because of decayed stumps.

### EARLY GRANTVILLE SCHOOL

Captain Larrie McLachlan of the 'Clara' J.T. Peus? obtained the tender to carry the materials for 20 pounds.

There were for tenders submitted for the erection of the school, a type of prefab, and were considered to high. A team (of) men were sent to Grantville and the school was erected and ready for occupation by August 1876.

Mr Scott being the first teacher in the school.

In March the same year a school had been started in Queensferry in a rented for room house where the pupils obtained their education until April 1881 when the school was transferred to a building on the road to Grantville beside the bay.

In 1882 the number of children attending both the Queensferry and Grantville schools has dropped, so the Dept. called for tender to take down and re-erect the Grantville State School No 1414 on a new site near Mr T.B. Kennedy's selection. This was between Grantville and Queensferry, the children from both schools to attend the Grantville School on the new site.

In March 1883 Mr Read who had been teacher of the former Queensferry School, took charge of the Grantville School on its re-opening.

Some of the trees and scrubs planted around the school can still be seen at the entrance to the Grantville rubbish tip.

Queensferry disappeared over the years in the early 1930s there was only an add odd house left on the road to Grantville along the bay from the old Queensferry jetty, these were sold for removal. By 1938 only 3 children came Queensferry to the Grantville School, all the rest came from Grantville and had to walk the mile out of the town to the school, some who lived near Deep Creek had to walk over 2miles each way. at (At?) this time the Education Department agreed to shift the school back to the Grantville township if two acres of land were purchased near the centre of the town, fenced

and transferred to the Education Dept. free of cost. The school committee called a public meeting, where it was decided to purchase two acres of land from Mrs. Thorn on the corner of the Main Road and the Jetty Road at a cost of ten pounds per acre. Five pounds were provided by the school committee and five pounds each from J. Hade, R. Bird and I. Brigadear? Scott the Bass shire engineer did the surveying free of cost, many helped with the fencing and the and the school was shifted back to Grantville, where it gave good service until a new school was built on this site in 1968. Now the children from Grantville are transported are transported by bus to the Bass Valley Consolidated School erected on the Corinella Road less than a kilometer from where the Queensferry School was started.

Cyril Dolphin

### Editor's note:

I get the feeling that this work by Cyril Dolphin was unfinished.

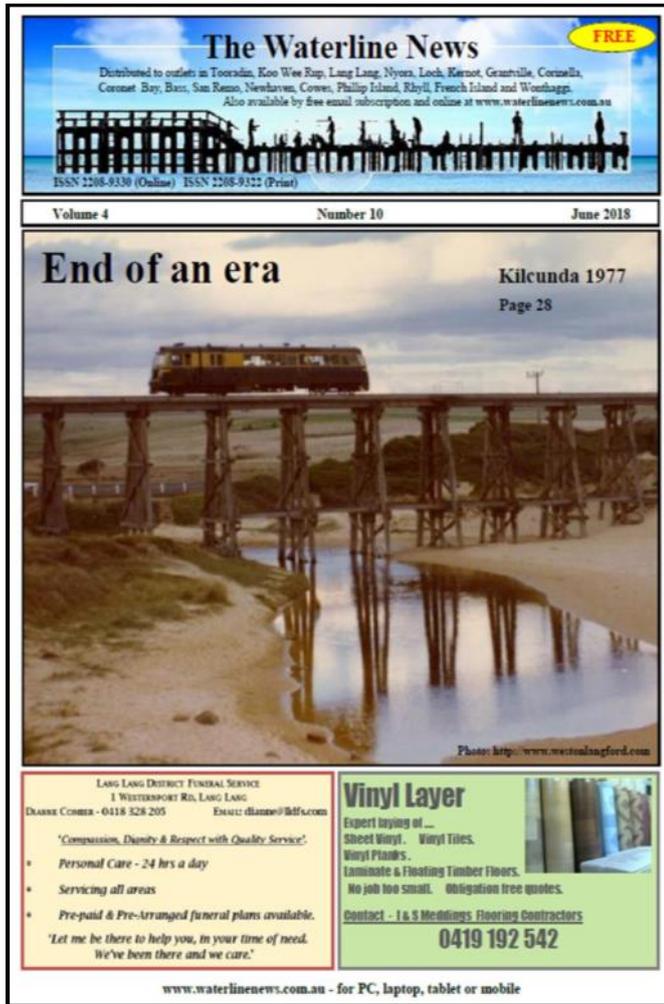
Whether all of the facts in his recollections are true and complete, we will never know, but I believe this work is one of major significance to Grantville's history and we are pleased to have been able to present it to you.

Editor



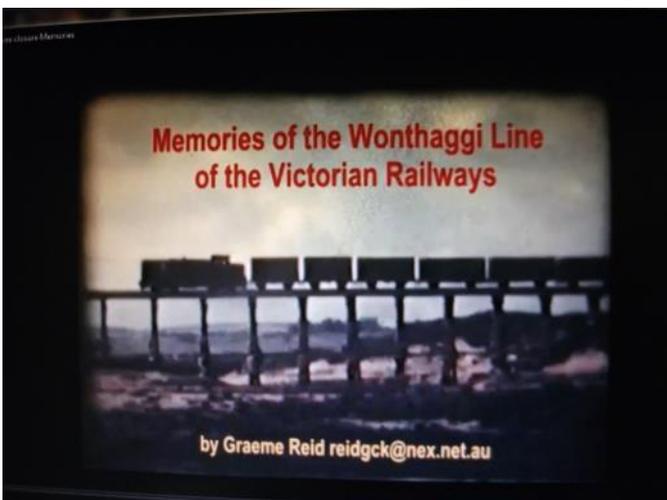
*Cyril Dolphin, from his WW11 days.  
Photo courtesy of Martin Dolphin.*

**Interested in Trains**



The June edition of The Waterline News, out today, has a great cover photo from the [www.westonlangford.com](http://www.westonlangford.com) website, of a railmotor travelling across the trestle bridge at Kilcunda, shortly before passenger services ceased on that line at the end of 1977.

There is also a follow up story on page 28 which also has some details of short videos available on YouTube, from Phillip Island resident and film producer, Graeme Reid which are well worth a look.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=POVGLCheLq4>

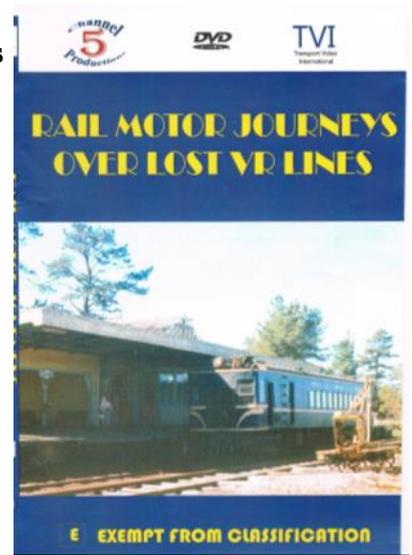
It will also bring up links to many other great train videos.

Graeme also has a number of great videos on Wonthaggi which we hope to tell you more about soon.

**DVD REVIEW**

Channel 5 productions has a great DVD in their collection, titled: **Rail Motor Journeys over closed VR Lines.**

The DVD includes good coverage of the old Wonthaggi Line, with a glimpse of all the stations between Nyora and Wonthaggi.



Fantastic Stuff, if you are seriously interested in the history of rail in the local area, get your copy now.

**\$34.50 plus postage and handling.**  
[www.channel5productions.com](http://www.channel5productions.com)

After the Second World War, the Victorian Railways was in need of a massive refurbishment. As part of this process, a number of new rail cars were purchased to replace or supplement the aging rail motor fleet.

In this DVD program, we begin a brief history of the state of the Victorian Railways after World War 2 and the redevelopment of the rail motor and rail car fleet from the late 1940's to the late 1970's.

Then utilising film from a number of sources, we travel aboard some of these rail motors and rail cars over lines now closed.

This includes film of journeys on the Nyora to Yarram line, and the Nyora to Wonthaggi line, with glimpses of all the stations between Nyora and Wonthaggi.

If you have any interest in the history of the long gone railway lines of the area, this DVD is a must for your collection.

It was recently shown with great interest at the U3A local history group's monthly meeting.

[www.channel5productions.com](http://www.channel5productions.com)

A selection of screen shots of some of the Wonthaggi line stations, taken from the Channel 5 DVD



[www.channel5productions.com](http://www.channel5productions.com)



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