

# The Western Port Times

## Grantville & Districts



Volume 6 Number 12

FREE

April 2024

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

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

\* \* \*

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### The Western Port Times.

PHILLIP ISLAND AND BASS VALLEY ADVERTISER.  
Circulating in Corinella, Bass, Corinella, Phillip Island, San Remo, Flinders, Hastings, Kilcunda, Mornington, Powlett, Queensbury, San Remo, San Remo, Inverloch, Wonthaggi, Jumbunna, and Loch Lang.

<p><b>RIDE DAVIES-FRANKLIN</b> BICYCLES &amp; TYRES</p> <p>Best Quality Best Value Best of All</p> <p><b>A PACEMAKER.</b></p> <p>W. F. MORGAN</p>	<p><b>BRITISH CREAM SEPARATORS.</b></p> <p>"PRINCETON" "FLORENCE WATSON" and "VICTORIA"</p> <p>HAND POWER &amp; STEAM TURBINE</p> <p>W. F. MORGAN</p>	<p><b>J. EASON'S</b> CASH PRICE LIST</p> <p>GRANTVILLE General Printing Office</p> <p>"WESTERN PORT TIMES"</p> <p>THE TIMES</p> <p>1924   1925   1926</p>
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### AN ANTI-WAR MEETING

Will be Held in the  
Wattle Theatre, Kooweerup,  
On  
Sunday Next, October 20,  
At 8 p.m.

Speakers: Mr Maurice Blackburn, M.H.R., Miss Joyce Warren and others.

Ladies and Youths Specially Invited.

Chas. Burton,  
Secretary Kooweerup Unemployed Committee.

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**Links to other historical groups**

Bass Valley Historical Society: [www.facebook.com/groups/bassvalleyhistoricalsociety](http://www.facebook.com/groups/bassvalleyhistoricalsociety)  
 Friends of Churchill Island Society: <https://focis.org.au/about-churchill-island/>  
 Hastings–Western Port Historical Society Inc.: <https://www.hwphs.org.au/>  
 Inverloch Historical Society: <http://inverlochhistory.com/>  
 Also: [cv.vic.gov.au/organisations/inverloch-historical-society/](http://cv.vic.gov.au/organisations/inverloch-historical-society/)  
 Koo-Wee-Rup Swamp Historical Society: [kooweerupswamphistory.blogspot.com.au/](http://kooweerupswamphistory.blogspot.com.au/)  
 Korumburra & District Historical Society: [www.korumburrahistory.com.au](http://www.korumburrahistory.com.au) or PO Bo 329, Korumburra 3950  
 Lang Lang & District Historical Society: [langlang.net/historical.html](http://langlang.net/historical.html)  
 Leongatha and District Historical society: [leongathahistory.org.au](http://leongathahistory.org.au)  
 Phillip Island & District Historical Society: <http://pidhs.org.au/>  
 Phillip Island Nature Parks, Churchill Island Heritage Farm Collection  
<https://victoriancollections.net.au/organisations/churchill-island-heritage-farm#collection-records>  
 South Eastern Historical Association: [seha.org.au](http://seha.org.au)  
 Wonthagi Historical Society: [wonthaggihistoricalsociety.org.au/](http://wonthaggihistoricalsociety.org.au/)  
 Wonthaggi Genealogy Inc.: [secretary@wonthaggi-genealogy.org.au](mailto:secretary@wonthaggi-genealogy.org.au)

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From the *San Remo Times and Phillip Island and Bass Valley Advertiser*, 1 April 1898, page 2.

## Local and General News

The usual monthly meeting of the Phillip Island and Woolamai Shire Council will be held to-morrow (2nd April). Several tenders are to be let.

A Local Land Board will be held at San Remo on Wednesday next, 6th April, at 2 p.m. There are several applications to be considered. Particulars will be found in an advertisement in this issue.

The water for the cattle at Cowes is very short, and the animals have to resort to a brick-hole, this being the only place where water can be obtained for miles round. For household purposes, in many places there is not enough to last for more than a week.

The visitors are all clearing out of San Remo and Cowes, but it is expected that there will be another rush of visitors next week for the Easter holidays.

The Great Victoria Colliery Company has chartered the ketch *Peternell* to carry the tram rails from San Remo to Queensferry. She took the first load on Wednesday, and will keep on going till the rails are all landed at Queensferry.

The Phillip Island residents are making arrangements for sports to be held on Easter Monday. It is probable they will have horse-racing and athletic sports combined.

The rails on the Kilcunda tram line are being rapidly removed. There only remains now about two miles to be taken up.

The Great Victoria Colliery Company's manager, Mr. Robertson, has received notice from Mr. Morey not to remove any of the Kilcunda tram rails; but the Railway Department has instructed him to pay no attention to that notice.

The old Powlett Hotel is vacant once more, and it is thought a licence will not be applied for again. Mr. Reedy let the license run out last year, and it is thought there would be a difficulty in obtaining it again without a local option poll. Mr. Reedy has left for Melbourne.

Also

From the *San Remo Times and Phillip Island and Bass Valley Advertiser*, 8 April 1898, page 2.

In our leading columns of last issue the word "good" was inadvertently printed for "broad." "It is only well with public bodies when they are composed of broad-minded men," was intended.

There has been a great change in the weather in this district during the past week.

On Saturday night rain commenced to fall, and there were frequent showers since then up to Wednesday. There is an abundant supply of water now for domestic purposes, all the tanks being nearly full, but there has not been a sufficient quantity of rain yet to benefit the waterholes for the use of cattle and sheep. The grass is already beginning to spring up, numerous green patches being visible all round.

The programme for the Bass annual Easter races and sports will be found in our advertising columns.

Attention is directed to an advertisement in this issue notifying the postponement of the Bass Hall concert and ball.

The *Peternell* has started with her second load of tram rails for Queensferry. It was reported yesterday that they were stopped again from loading the rails from the pier, but we learn on good authority that there is no foundation for the rumor.

At the Local Land Board on Wednesday, great dissatisfaction was expressed at the decision of the Board. It is very hard for any Board to satisfy everyone. However they might try to please, some of the applicants are sure to be dissatisfied.

The steamer *Genista* ran an extra trip yesterday, and the result was a large number of passengers each way. She will also run on Monday afternoon.

Several cattle and horses are dying for the want of food and water. Horses have become so weak for the want of food that they fall down on the road at their work. Mr. Hoddinott has had two die; one fell on coming down a hill and broke its neck.

Also

From the *San Remo Times and Phillip Island and Bass Valley Advertiser*, 15 April 1898, page 2.

The season for taking the young mutton birds has now arrived, as the birds are in full size. A trip is proposed to the Island, when no doubt a good number of birds will be obtained. They will be cleaned, dressed and smoked for the winter. They are splendid eating, and will come in very opportune in the winter time, when meat and other necessaries are not easily obtained.

Great praise is due to Constable Thornton of Grantville, for his efforts in endeavoring to trace the horse Fred McFee took with him

(continues on Page 4)

*Local and General News (continued from Page 3)*

from San Remo. The constable has ridden over a large extent of country, and made diligent inquiries respecting the animal in question, but up the present all to no purpose.

The weather during the past week has been as cold as was ever experienced in South Gippsland. Heavy winds and rain, accompanied by hail storms, have prevailed. The night before Good Friday was as cold as you could make it. And well may it be said that we are getting served out for the trying heat and other sad experiences that have laid bare the hearths and homes of many an industrious settler. Many people are laid up through the inclement weather, and it is fortunate that we have our much-respected medico, Dr. Corry in our midst, as with his skill and experience we shall soon be all right again.

Several sheep have been killed in and around San Remo during the last few days by the ravages of tame skilled dogs, and not by dingoes. A sharp lookout should be kept by the owners of these dogs, otherwise they will come in the direction of where some good rifles are kept for the occasion.

Potatoes are not to be had in San Remo lately unless by an odd fluke. A few arrived here the other day, and were sold at the rate of 14s. 6d. per. cwt. Cannot anyone feel disposed to send us some at a lower price, or are we to wait until the next growth makes its appearance. I here *[sic]* *[there]* is also a great scarcity of other kinds of vegetables.

The owners of the several boats that have been plying for hire for passengers who were bent on the many seasonable advantages of a trip on the "briny" have been compelled by the late boisterous weather to lay up their respective crafts for a time, seeing that there will be very few advantages held out for some few months to come of again hoisting the Union Jack as an emblem that they are again to the fore to cope with the exigencies of another prosperous season. However, there will be one or two on the alert to meet any emergencies. Commodore Graydon notifies that he is available in any weather, as he is like the "Stormy Petrel," always on the wing to perform a necessary service when occasion offers.

Dairying operations are entirely suspended at Wonthaggi. Little or no milking is being carried on, and the consequence is that all the butter factories have had to close. Mr. P. Daly has also suspended milking on his

farm. It will be very late next summer before milking comes into full swing again, as the late drought has had such a depressing influence that it will take a long time for the dairying industry to recover from the very severe losses that have been sustained.

The landowners who have not had bush fires through their property have taken advantage of the recent rains to burn off their long useless grass. On Wednesday night around Bass at a distance and towards San Remo the fires illuminated the whole of the country for miles. Several chains of fencing were destroyed on the main road to San Remo.

The late rains have brought up a few mushrooms, but as yet they are not so plentiful as last year.

On Good Friday the Genista had a full complement of passengers on the trip from Stony Point. There were over 70 for their several destinations.

The visitors to San Remo have nearly all left. The weather being boisterous and cold, they were not so numerous this Easter as they have been previously. The season altogether was not good.

Also

*From the San Remo Times and Phillip Island and Bass Valley Advertiser; 22 April 1898, page 2.*

There are no announcements of local interest in the last issue of the "Government Gazette."

The Bass Hotel advertisement appears this week on our front page.

On Monday morning a horse was found dead at the gate on the tram line between Mr Kennon's and Mr. Bergin's paddocks. The horse was owned by Mr. Atkinson, who has had three running in Mr. Kennon's paddock for some weeks. There is no water in the paddocks, and it is supposed that the horses were trying to push their way through the gate, where there is a big drain under the sleepers. One of them fell in, and was found dead, as stated. The occurrence caused quite a commotion amongst the friends of the owner in assisting to get the horse out of the drain and bury him.

A ball was held on Tuesday week last at Cowes. The proceedings during the evening were anything but respectable, there being a few free fights, so rumor says.

On Easter Monday one of the cocks of the walk at Cowes thought he would "sit on" a young man visitor, and gave him one straight out from the shoulder, but to his

*(continues on Page 5)*

*Local and General News (continued from Page 4)*

surprise it was returned with full force, the result being a stand-up fight which lasted six or seven rounds. The Cowes champion was forced to give in, and was quite satisfied that his opponent was too good for him, he not having a scratch, whilst the champion was badly bruised.

Typhoid has broken out at Korumburra, says the "Southern Mail," but is on a fair way of being rapidly eradicated. There are two more new cases. A determined effort to place the town in a good sanitary condition should be made by the Council, in view of the present warning of the scourge, which has already taken off one good townsman from amongst them.

On Friday last an inquest was held on the body of Thomas Payne, the jockey who met with his death on Easter Monday at the Loch races by being thrown from the horse Mulberry. The evidence showed that the horse he was riding fell, and another horse (Anger) kicked Payne on the head. Anger had lost his rider just previously. The jury returned a verdict of death from fracture of the skull, caused through being run over by a horse, no blame being attached to anyone.

The Kongwak butter factory is to be kept going all the winter, in a previous issue it was stated by a correspondent that it was to be closed for the winter months. Mr. Archie, the manager, is severing his connection with the company. He is to be given a send-off next Tuesday.

Also

*From the San Remo Times and Phillip Island and Bass Valley Advertiser, 29 April 1898, page 2.*

The San Remo Court of Petty Sessions will be held on Friday next, 6th May, at two o'clock p.m.

The usual monthly meeting of the Shire Council will be held on Saturday, 7th May. Particulars of several contracts will be found in another column.

Church of England service will be held at the Shire Hall, San Remo, on next Sunday morning, at 11 o'clock, and at Bass in the afternoon, at 3.

In our advertising columns the Bass Hall concert and ball is notified to take place next Friday *[sic]*.

The Genista has commenced again to use Kilcunda coal, and the difference is so noticeable that the men using it state that Newcastle coal is nothing to be compared with our local product.

The farmers are busy sowing grass seed and repairing their fences. Many of them have to erect as much as half a mile of fencing.

Captain Loch *[sic]*, when in Melbourne during the Easter holidays, had the Trucanani chartered by a number of gentlemen for a trip round Port Phillip Bay, leaving the Little Dock on Thursday evening, arriving on Friday at Queenscliff, at Sorrento on Saturday, at Portarlington on Sunday and Geelong on Monday, returning to Melbourne the same night.

It will be remembered that the Manawatu was lying at the Cowes pier on the day of the children's picnic, through stress of weather. She now lies sunk off the Williamstown pier in Hobson's Bay.

The landowners and farmers are taking advantage of the recent rains to burn off all dry debris accumulated by the bush fires, and are also burning off the long tussac *[sic]* grass.

The visitors to San Remo and Cowes have all left, with the exception of two or three at Cowes. San Remo has not had its usual number of visitors this season, but Cowes appear to have maintained its average.

On Sunday afternoon the Buninyong was noticed lying off Wollamai with her propeller broken. She did not appear to have been more than about 6 or 7 miles away. It seems a strange proceeding that the captain should have sent the boat to Flinders, a distance of about 40 miles, to notify Melbourne of the accident. Why did he not send the boat to San Remo, which he would have reached in less than two hours, and been known in the city in that time? Instead of two hours it was nearly twelve before it was known by the Company. Was it that San Remo was not known sufficiently well, or was it the captain's error of judgment?

The lifting of the Kilcunda tramway rails is almost completed, there not being more than half a mile left. The Peternell is loading again to-day, this being the fourth load, making a total of about 250 tons of rails.

\* \* \*

I cannot sing the old, sweet songs,  
Which I should sing tonight,  
I've lost my voice, and have no choice,  
Because of bronchial blight;  
But very soon I'll be in tune,  
And sing them all, be sure,  
I'll change my moans to dulcet tones,  
With **WOOD'S GREAT PEPPERMINT CURE**

From the *South Bourke and Mornington Journal*, Wednesday 3 December 1884.

## Shire of Phillip Island

Friday, 28th November 1884

Present: S. West, (President), Councillors Aldridge, Duffus, Hogan, Clark and Kennedy.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed and outward correspondence approved.

### Correspondence

From the Lands department, asking for any suggestions that the Council could give with reference to rabbit suppression, &c.—Secretary to reply that no action was at present necessary in this Shire.

From the Central Board of Health, as to the appointment of an analyst [*sic*].—Secretary to write to adjacent Shires, with a view of taking united action in the matter.

From F. Bauer, calling attention to the bad state of the road to Nobbie's [*sic*], Green Lake, Phillip Island.—Clerk of Works to report.

From Councillor George Smith, resigning his seat as Councillor for the Phillip Island Riding.—Received.—The returning officer (Councillor West) to take the necessary steps to fill the vacancy.

From H. H. Budd, Council's solicitor, relative to new roads about to be opened through the holdings of Messrs. Freeman and Harvey, in Corinella.—Order made that the work be proceeded with.

From H. H. Hayter, Government Statist, relative to the collection of agricultural statistics for the Shire.—Held over.

The Clerk of Works reported relative to Richardson's road, Phillip Island, that the necessary improvements would cost about £60.—Report adopted and the work to be proceeded with during 1885.

The Clerk of Works reported on the works necessary on the Rhyll road, Phillip Island, that about 120 chains of formation was required at a cost of about 15s. per chain. It was resolved that about 40 chains of forming be done on the worst portions of the road.

Relative to the clearing of the telegraph line in Corinella and on Phillip Island, the Clerk of Works stated the timber and stumps left by the contractor had not yet been removed from the road.—On the motion of Councillor Hogan, seconded by Councillor Duffus, the Secretary was instructed to write to the Department requesting that the final payment on the contract be withheld from the contractor, until the road has been cleared to the satisfaction

of the Council.

Payments were passed to the amount of £62 7s. 6d.

The following tenders were accepted in committee:—Cont. 324, L. R. Davies Griffith, £47; cont. 325, Samuel Davies, £13 2s.; cont. 335, W. Walton, £9 13s.; cont. 334, James Jeury, £17 10s. 6d.

The Secretary was instructed to write to the Shire Engineer, requesting him to furnish an estimate of cost of works on Cape Patterson road.

Tenders were ordered to be called for a number of works within the Shire; and the Secretary was instructed to invite applications from persons willing to revise the valuation of the Shire, and collect the agricultural statistics.

A special meeting was held for the purpose of adopting part 2 of the 13th schedule of the Local Government Act, 1874, as a bye-law.

The annual statement not having been received from the printers, the meeting was further adjourned for seven days.

The Council then adjourned.

From *The Argus*, Monday 23 June 1930, page 4.

## Kilcunda Hotel

Destroyed by Fire

Wonthaggi, Sunday.—About half past 6 o'clock on Friday evening a fire broke out at the Kilcunda Hotel, which, with its contents was destroyed. The licensee is Mr. N. J. Lalor, and the owner, Mrs. Briggs. The building contained 23 rooms, and was insured for £2,000 with the Employers' Liability Corporation Ltd., and the stock in trade and furniture with the Insurance Office of Australia for £500, and with the Real Australia Insurance Company for £700. The hotel was recently repainted at the cost of £140. The building, in the first place, was removed from Outtrim to Hicksborough, and thence to Kilcunda.

In addition to furniture and effects the licensee lost all the personal belongings of his family and £22. The cook and three boarders lost their clothes, and an Italian, a roll of notes. The fire began at the front of the hotel while Mr. Lalor and his family were at tea.

From the *Lang Lang Guardian*, 30 August 1916, page 2.

## Lang Lang Police Court

Thursday—Before Messrs Tanner, P. M., Bourke and Cogle, J's.P.

Frederick John Piggott v. F. E. Kelley, that he did feloniously steal a cheque for £1 14s 6d, the property of Geo Gueno.

Sapt [*sic*] Fowler prosecuted, and said that the case was a complicated one. He asked permission to reduce the charge to one of imposition, to which charge defendant would plead guilty.

Geo Gueno said that he was a rabbit trapper at Woodleigh. He sent rabbits to Kessell, at Caulfield. He did not endorse the cheque (produced) or authorise anyone to do so.

Alfred Kessell, rabbit buyer, said that he sent Gueno a cheque for £1 14s 6d, payable to order. The cheque was posted to Woodleigh.

Geo Thompson, rabbit trapper, said that he knew both Gueno and defendant, who sent rabbits through him to Kessell. Was at Woodleigh railway station on 21st May, and received two letters. One contained a cheque for £1 14s 6d, and the other a postal note for 18s 6d. He said to Kelley, I have a cheque for the rabbits you sent away last week. In mistake he handed him the cheque which should have gone to Gueno. He would not have given the cheque to defendant had he noticed how it was made out.

Constable Orgill, stationed at Loch, said he interviewed defendant on 12th July, and said he was trying to trace a cheque belonging to a Frenchman named Gueno. Asked him did he know anything about it, and he said, 'No, who is Gueno?' Witness said 'You do know something about it and what is more you cashed it.' Defendant denied having done so. Witness said, 'A man named Sims told me you indorsed the cheque and asked him to cash it.' They then interviewed Sims, who repeated that defendant had indorsed the cheque. Kelley even then denied the charge, claiming that in the conversation with Sims he referred to his own cheque for £5 which he handed to Sims at the same time as the one made out for Gueno. He made a statement, but later asked witness to destroy it. He refused to do this, but made some additions at defendant's request. He interviewed Kelley again in company with Detective Piggott.

The P.M. complimented Constable Orgill on the manner in which he had given his evidence.

Frederick John Piggott, detective, of Melbourne, gave evidence of interviewing defendant in

company with Constable Orgill, but he would not admit the offence. Later he met defendant in the city, and he said, 'I want to make a clean breast of that affair about Gueno's cheque. I told lies to the constable. I admit indorsing the cheque.'

Asked if he had anything to say, defendant said that he had nothing against him before, and he had a wife and family. He did not wish to defraud Gueno, and did not think he was doing any harm in signing his name.

The P.M.: You first commit the offence of larceny, and then to make that larceny [*sic*] of service to you you commit a worse offence. You knew that to make that cheque of value it had to be indorsed, and you knew that it was an offence for you to do so. You told lies to the police, and acted in a mean and despicable manner in trying to cover up the offence.

A fine of £20 was imposed, with £8 4s 3d costs. The costs were paid, and 14 days allowed in which to pay the fine.

Several vaccination and debt cases were dealt with, and the court adjourned.

From the *Great Southern Star*, 24 November 1914, page 2.

## Inverloch

Prompt action on the part of a young man of German nationality prevented a drowning fatality at Inverloch on the 14th instant. A young girl was bathing on the beach on the township side opposite Point Smyth, and got out of her depth. Two Sisters of St. Joseph from Wonthaggi saw the girl in difficulties, and went to her assistance, but were unable to reach her as she was carried into the channel by the swift current. A young German, hearing cries for assistance, immediately plunged into the water and brought the girl safely to the beach. An heroic act of this nature, especially at the present time, when the very name of Germany is like a red rag to a bull, deserves recognition, and it is hoped that the action will not be allowed to go unrewarded by the residents. It is a very dangerous spot where the mishap took place, and some posts should be erected at different portions of the beach to warn people of the danger.

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Those about to marry cannot do better than consult the manager of the Melbourne Furnishing Coy., Wonthaggi.

From the *Illustrated Australian News for Home Readers*, Tuesday 31 December 1872.

## A Day With The Mutton Birds

(Re-paragraphed for the sake of clarity)

There are but few people aware of the habits and customs of the mutton birds of Bass's Straits, more especially those which resort to Cape Woolamai. The cape so called is the eastern extremity of Phillip Island, and occupied about five miles in length by two miles across from the Eastern Passage to the sea. Its elevation gives a commanding view of Western Port Bay, the islands and the coast line from Wilson's Promontory almost to Hobson's Bay. The surrounding scenery is of the most magnificent character, but what makes the locality most remarkable is its being the home of the mutton birds no doubt for ages. A high ridge of sand hummocks stretches along the sea shore, giving shelter to beautiful grassy parklike ground, with occasional clumps of trees, where the picnic parties of Victoria have only to come once to secure their continual visits.

This is the place selected by the mutton birds to lay their eggs and rear up their young. They have taken up a frontage of about twenty five chains for five miles along the sea shore. The entire of this ground is burrowed (some-what after the manner of rabbits) with holes from two feet to five feet in, nearly horizontal, and put in as close to each other as space will permit. These holes seem to have been made from time immemorial, and to have been tenanted by generations upon generations in ages gone past. The birds come from the ocean each year on the 24th November about nightfall, and in such immense numbers as to astonish the beholders. They come in millions, forming a cloud over the place, and light down with such force, so close

together, that no opposition would prevent or frighten them.

Once on the ground a general clamor ensues until each has a hole selected, which is in due course cleaned out and a nest formed of bits of coarse grass and reeds. They lay on the 25th November one egg each, and the 26th is called egging day. On that day I accompanied a large party to witness the egging. The process is curious though simple—sometimes accompanied with hard work in the shape of digging.

On the ground are found a number of persons, each supplied with a rod or sapling about six feet long, with a wire crook tied on the end for drawing the eggs out of the holes. In most instances, however, the bird makes such a struggle to retain the egg, holding it and taking it back off the crook, that digging into the nest is necessary. The digging is capital exercise in the fine sea breeze from the Southern Ocean. The egg is then secured with the crook, the bird is either killed or let free at the option of the egger, but generally let go.

Although they lay but one egg in the season, those whose nests are robbed lay again if left free. We found an egg and a bird almost in every hole, and not withstanding the destruction of the young each year by Chinamen for the purpose of oil, we learned from one of the oldest residents that he never saw a more plentiful supply of birds and eggs than this season. We procured several baskets full, and noticed that all the parties were equally successful. Some Chinamen were there gathering and packing for Melbourne.

The eggs are whiteish, somewhat larger than a duck egg, and weigh about 3½ ounces each. The birds weigh 1¼ to 1½ lb., are dark-brown or sooty color—by some called the sooty petrel. They are web-footed and have a hooked bill with which they lacerate the egger's hand if put in for the egg. They cannot rise to fly on level ground, but get on the ground where there is a fall, and fly with great rapidity. The young are hatched out at Christmas, but remain in the burrow until about the end of April, when they fly.

The early part of April is what is called mutton bird time; then the people go to take the young ones, which are fat and fine for

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The Mutton Bird Season At Phillip Island: Mutton birds coming in at night. Wood engraving by J. Macfarlane published in *The Illustrated Australian News*, 1 January 1890.

*A Day With the Mutton Birds (continued from Page 8)*

[the] table. No spade is then required, simply a six or eight feet fishing rod, with a fishhook on the end. This is slipped into the hole and drawn back and forward a little, when the bird is hooked, drawn out and bagged.

The Chinamen do this on a wholesale scale during March and April. Heaps of bones are to be seen where the Chinamen camped last year for boiling down. Judging from the heaps the number of birds must have been immense. Fourteen Chinamen worked at that traffic last season. They come to work systematically with rods, hooks, stores, boilers, tins, tents &c. They filled 300 kerosene tins, equal to 1500 gallons of oil. The men are told off as follows:—Six with rods and hooks fetching in birds, three plucking, two taking off the skins (it is the skin that is boiled down, as it only contains the oil), two attending fires and boilers, and one soldering the tins. It would seem as if they were at the same occupation in China, as all are experts in the business.

The mutton birds seem to live on the ocean, and only reside on the land during incubation and while feeding their young. They gather their food from the waves of the sea, a gelatinous substance, with which their young are constantly well supplied. This is evident, as the young ones eject a quantity from their stomachs on being pierced and held up on the hook. It has the appearance of gelatine, but goes here by the name of oil.

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From the *Koo Wee Rup Sun*, 2 November 1955.

## **A Waving Shirt Saves Lads From Drowning**

A waving shirt saved two 10-year old boys from drowning on the rugged coast near Inverloch on 23rd ult. It was seen by a fisherman nearly half a mile away and they were rescued through crashing seas. The boys had been marooned more than five hours on a narrow cliff ledge. The boys — Terry Devine and Ken Young — had hitch-hiked 16 miles from Leongatha to explore cliff caves, and were cut off by the rising tide. Once Terry was swept up in a cauldron inside a cave, but Ken managed to grab him and hold on till the waters receded. When the tide went out Clive Newton, of Inverloch, managed to get a line to them in a lull between breakers, and, with his son, Ron, 18, got them to safety.

From the *Argus*, Saturday 2 January 1954, page 1.

## **Island May Be Hiding 4 Bandits**

Are four men, believed to be armed, and wanted for questioning on two recent armed hold-ups, hiding on Phillip Island?

Russell st. detectives think the men escaped from the island on Thursday just before a road block was established on the San Remo bridge.

But First-constable R. Greenwood, only permanent police officer on the island, is doubtful whether the men beat the block.

As a check against this possibility, police carefully scrutinised hundreds of holiday motorists who left the island yesterday.

The wanted men were recognised on Thursday in the beer garden of the Isle of Wight Hotel, Cowes, by a holiday-maker who claimed he was one of their victims in Melbourne.

### **Search Fails**

He told Constable Greenwood, who, with Constable P. Barker, searched for the men without success.

Constable Greenwood sent for help to the mainland village of Bass, and two constables set up the road block on the San Remo bridge.

Constable Greenwood said last night: "The four men may have raced across the island in a car to beat the block, but I think they are still here."

Constable Greenwood said that if the men had hidden on the island they might try to escape by boat.

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From the *Lang Lang Guardian*, 15 April 1914, page 2.

## **Sunday Train to Kilcunda Proposal Turned Down**

At Wonthaggi Council meeting on Monday evening, correspondence was read from Mr A. Downward, M.L.A., enclosing a reply from the Minister of Railways re Sunday train to Kilcunda, and also the Cabinet's reply stating that they could not see their way clear to approve of an extension of a Sunday train service. The correspondence was received. Subsequently Cr Wilson moved, Cr Easton seconded—That this Council expresses its approval and appreciation of the decision of the Cabinet in refusing to extend the Sunday train service, and that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Hon. A. Downward, and the Premier, Hon. W. Watt. The motion was carried by 5 to 4.

From the *Herald*, Saturday 17 March 1934, page 19.

## Wonthaggi As A State Asset

Coal Mine's Big Part In Industrial History

Work For 1300 Men

By Our Special Reporter

Intolerance, and an irreconcilability that should long ago have been modified by sane reasoning, threaten to rob Victoria of what should be one of its most valuable and reliable enterprises—the Wonthaggi coal mine.

No Government, however kindly disposed toward civic enterprise and the establishment of State commercial ventures, can continue to operate a concern, the continuity of which is governed by the trivial whims of the few to the detriment of the many.

It does not concern the irritant forces that at Wonthaggi the State has an asset which, so long ago as 1914, was valued by a private company at £500,000—a sum which was actually offered to the Government as a purchase price. It does not matter, in their crazy scheme of things, that here is a source of employment for 1300 men, many the fathers of large families, nor does it concern them that unrest jeopardises the livelihood of a community of 10,000 people who, directly or indirectly, have a common interest in Wonthaggi's productivity.

What does Wonthaggi mean to the State? Why is its welfare demanding the urgent attention not only of Cabinet but of the taxpayers?

**Assets Total £272,292.**

Primarily because here is an enterprise the assets of which total £272,292, of which £235,800 is in Government bonds and cash, and £24,900 in stores, and of which the surplus of assets over liabilities is £105,285—practically a liquid sum.

These figures are from an analysis of the balance-sheet of the property over the period of its life to June 30, 1933, and are proof of the mine's value and are proof of the fable that its coal is of unprofitably poor quality.

Apart from, and additional to, these figures, the value of the property, either as a going concern or on a break-up basis, must be considered.

The working property, plant and equipment at June 30, 1933, were valued at £115,684. The balance-sheet answers those critics who say that the mine has been nothing but a drain on the consolidated revenue.

**Aid At Critical Times**

The mine has played a part at crucial

moments in Victoria's industrial history—a part of which the value may not be assessed in sterling, for it exceeds monetary computation.

During the strike of seamen in 1919, for instance, the mine supplied to the public of Victoria, and to the Railways Department 100,000 tons of coal which otherwise could have been obtained only from overseas at considerably greater cost and with great difficulty; in 1920, during the marine engineers' strike, 60,000 tons was supplied in the face of similar difficulties, and in identical circumstances. Again, 50,000 tons was supplied during the marine stewards' dispute; 200,000 tons during the stoppage of the Maitland mines in 1923, and 750,000 tons between March, 1929, and June, 1930, during the stoppage of the northern New South Wales collieries.

All this coal if imported from overseas would have cost at least £1 a ton more than its local price. Can these figures—and they could be added to in a list that stretches down the years—fail to impress anybody who wishes to pass judgment on Wonthaggi and its Government enterprise?

It must be borne in mind that these benefits—benefits that the years will reproduce—are not shown in any balance-sheet. They are part of that invisible, but nevertheless, highly appreciable, value of the State coal mine, which sane workers would strive to preserve.

**Wonthaggi's 130 Shops**

An examination of the mine's liabilities is illuminating. Here it may be seen that the balance of loan liability (capital) is £62,008; that £125,625 is due to consolidated revenue in respect of losses on working; and that £50,000 has been deducted by transfer of profits to consolidated revenue in 1929-35—in all, with minor items, there is a total of liabilities of £167,007, against a total asset of £272,292. Surely such a result commends Wonthaggi to the good will of the whole community?

And what else has Wonthaggi done for the State? It has been responsible for the establishment of the Borough of Wonthaggi, with a population, including its suburban areas, of 9632. This borough and its satellites has

*(continues on Page 11)*

*Wonthaggi As A State Asset (continued from Page 10)*

1597 inhabited dwellings, the capital value of which is £703,000, with an annual value of £42,000.

In Wonthaggi, there are 130 shops with a capital value of £200,000, and an annual value of £12,500.

The mine employs 1300 men, of whom 900 are married, and who pay income tax amounting to £10,000 a year, and who, if unemployed, would cost the Government £50,000 a year in sustenance.

Here, then, in these facts of Wonthaggi, is complete justification of the dictum of the Minister for Railways (Mr R. G. Menzies): "I think that it would be quite wrong to endeavor to assess the value or service of the coal mine merely by reference to an annual report and profit and loss account."

It has been shown that the State coal mine has a wider, more generous, meaning for Victoria. It has been an invaluable assurance against a dislocation of transport and industry arising from strikes and industrial dislocation of the nature of that which cut Victoria from its usual sources of supply when the mine was established in 1909. And the value of this is incomputable.

### N.Z. Expert's Investigation

Mr R. Lee, the New Zealand mining expert whom the Government appointed to report upon, among other things, the influence of the mine on the prosperity of the State, has finished an exhaustive inquiry, and it is probable that his finding will be one of high commendation for the enterprise and a gratifying assessment of its merit. Mr Lee's report, it will be found, classes some parts of the collieries as among Australia's best—in effect, expert opinion passes the most favorable judgment on this State concern.

This, then, is the edifice which wanton disciples of unrest, extremism and direct action are seeking to raze.

Is there not a man to be found, a hand to guide and a voice to counsel that the great, sound body of the rank and file be led out of the wilderness?

And, above all, let it be remembered that Wonthaggi's welfare is not the concern of its employes merely. It is the citizens' property. It is the citizens' duty to demand an account of the stewardship of both management and worker, and it is the immediate concern of every taxpayer that the perpetual and senseless attrition of a valuable industrial structure be ended.

Wonthaggi is everybody's business.

## Corinella School Repair

From the *Koo Wee Rup Sun and Lang Lang Guardian*, 30 April 1919.

### Lighthouse and Jetty Repairs

Messrs Bennett Bros. and Radford, after spending several weeks on the jetty and lighthouse, completed their work this week in a creditable manner, and leave for Corinella to effect extensive repairs to the school at that centre that will probably absorb six weeks of their time, after which they return to Tooradin to construct the low-tide jetty, for which they successfully tendered. The latter work will take about a month to carry out, should local subscribers desire a ramp built to the high ground from the proposed new structure. The department met Tooradin very favorably in subscribing over £40 assistance towards the total cost.

From the *Koo Wee Rup Sun and Lang Lang Guardian*, 14 May 1919, page 4.

### Corinella

Messrs Bennett Bros. arrived at Corinella to repair and paint the school. It is not before time, as it is in very bad repair, and with winter approaching would not be fit for children to occupy. Up to the present there has not been any arrangements made for a building to teach in while the school is being repaired, but no doubt the hall can be hired for the purpose.

From the *Koo Wee Rup Sun and Lang Lang Guardian*, 18 June 1919.

### Corinella

(From Our Correspondent.)

Messrs Bennett have finished repairs and painting at school house, Corinella, and have gone to Lang Lang to repair the goods shed and make some alteration to jetty. Mr W. Trew has completed his contract of building a shelter shed for the children at the school, which was greatly needed. Some time ago the School committee had a sale of gifts and dance to raise funds in aid of the building and realised about £12, the department to give same amount. A meeting of parents was held to form a new committee, but the following were re-elected unopposed:—Mesdames J. Palmer and Hughes, Messrs Elliot, R. Palmer and Goodman.

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**A good resolution for 1954: Shop at McLeod's, Kooweerup. Prices are low.**

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From the *Powlett Express*, 3 November 1917.

## Found Drowned

### Coroner Inquires

Bass, Thursday.

On Tuesday, Nov. 20, Arthur Churchill, laborer, informed Constable Wishart, Bass, that the dead body of a man was lying in the seaweed on the beach at the back of "Netherwood" station, near the Bass Landing. The body, that of an elderly man about 5ft 7in in height, was fully clothed and in a very advanced stage of decomposition. An old-age pensioner's book in the name of Paul C. Wessing, Daylesford, was in one of his pockets, and a small leather purse containing two half pennies.

Constable Wishart, assisted by Messrs. Churchill and Jas. Hay, conveyed the body to the Bass Hotel.

The body had been in the water about a fortnight or three weeks.

An inquiry was held by the Coroner (Dr. Cole).

Dr. Sleeman, Wonthaggi, who made a post mortem examination regarding the state of the body, said no features were recognisable. The condition of the lungs was consistent with drowning.

Arthur Churchill, Kilcunda, gave particulars of finding the body and reporting the matter to Constable Wishart.

John Griffin, Pier Hotel, San Remo, said deceased had been at San Remo on October 26 to 28, when he left to go to the Post Office to arrange for transfer of his pension from Daylesford. He was wearing a Tasmanian bluey similar to that on the body.

Constable Wishart stated that the body was brought to the Bass Hotel. He communicated with the Daylesford police, who said a niece of deceased lived at Collingwood; his wife was at Port or South Melbourne. He had left Daylesford on October 25.

The Coroner returned a verdict of found dead, apparently drowned. There was no evidence to determine how he got into the water.

From the *Weekly Times*, 10 January 1951, page 42.

## A Visit To Phillip Is.

Dear Miranda. — I have just returned from a holiday on Phillip Island in Westernport Bay.

There are two ways of getting on to the island—across a bridge at San Remo and by ferry from Stony Point. We went via the former, as we were most interested to see the bridge. When you are on it the island looks much larger than it really is, and it is the home of the koalas. At first we had difficulty in finding any of these little animals, but once we discovered one then we found they were everywhere.

They look almost the same color as the trunks of the gum trees. We were lucky enough to see one with her baby on her back. We soon discovered that where the top leaves had been eaten from the gum trees there was nearly always a koala hidden somewhere.

Although we did not see the seals on Seal Island close up, we viewed them through a telescope from a prominent point on Phillip Island. The Island was swarming with them. Unfortunately, we did not see those intriguing little birds the penguins, but we got close enough to see muttonbirds in their holes on the side of the cliffs.

The ocean beaches are rather inaccessible, as most of them have a sheer drop to the sand and the shallow water is too rocky for swimming. However, there are some lovely spots around the island for swimming.

We visited a small fishing town on a point close to the mainland, and watched the fishermen come in with their hauls. We must have struck a bad day, as fishing hadn't been too successful. This was a very peaceful and quiet little village, ideal for retirement, I should say.

The sea was particularly calm and very blue. The town consisted of a general store and a house where you could buy afternoon tea. It is a very old town, and we discovered a monument to commemorate the landing of Surgeon George Bass—"High Standard."

**WHEELER'S**

**EUCALYPTUS**

TRADE



MARK

**EUCALYPTUS**

**OIL.**

**EUCALYPTUS LEAVES.**

**OIL.**

**DISTILLED FROM EUCALYPTUS AMYGDALINA.**

**And the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.—Rev. xxii, 2.**

# Korumburra And District

Written for the Show Supplement

First published in the *Narracoorte Herald*, Friday 30 August 1912.

(Re-paragraphed for the sake of clarity)

Twenty-five years ago Korumburra, then but a name, was proclaimed a township; that was in December, 1887.

Kangaroos, wallabies, possums and native bears roamed at will through the dense forest which has now given way before the axe of the invading pioneer, and is replaced by a prosperous and important South Gippsland town, in railway, telegraph, telephonic and postal communication with Melbourne, 70 miles away, with municipal hall, commodious halls, churches, excellent gravitation scheme of water supply pure from the uplands on the north of the township, municipal electric light supply, and the largest and most up-to-date butter factory under one roof in the State (that is excepting those which have established branches and creameries).

After the disastrous boom years, when banks and financial institutions crashed and involved thousands in ruin, Korumburra rose on a wave of prosperity following the discovery of payable coal seams, and the coal industry gave employment to hundreds, perhaps thousands, including the mines at Jumbunna and Outtrim; but coal has had to give place to the butter industry, which is the chief pursuit at the present time, though the Austral mine, economically worked by a working proprietary of four members (Mr. P. Hudson manager) without the dead weight of an expensive Melbourne office and extravagant directorate, is giving good results to all – the consumer who gets good coal, the miner who gets a good wage, and the working company which gets a satisfactory return for money invested and labor expended on their lease.

The results of the big 1903 strike which occurred just prior to Victoria's memorable strike of railway men has left its mark on the industry, and the Jumbunna mine, which has just settled (July) some minor trouble with the men, is on the road to recovery after nine years of hard work.

Outtrim mine has spent large sums in development, being hindered by the faulty nature of the country. The big strike gave a setback to the industry, but since its settlement progress has been steady and sure and solid. The unwholesome "boom" element has disappeared.

The opening of the railway line in 1891 was a red-letter day. Hundreds of thousands of acres of land equal to the famous Western District were already selected, and the clearing process has been steadily proceeding all these years. Smiling farms and snug homesteads now adorn the South Gippsland hills, and the quiet, sedate cow, with her sisters, female cousins, aunts and mother, yield a veritable golden milk.

Twelve years ago the Korumburra and District Co-operative Butter Factory Company Ltd. commenced operations. One enthusiast prophesied that the output would reach 700 tons a year. He was laughed at, and someone unkindly said that he should see a doctor as his mind appeared a bit off. In 1904 the output was 675 tons of butter, and in 1908 728 tons. The following table gives some interesting information.—

## Progress Of The Korumburra Company

The appended statement shows the output, value of the butter, and the amount paid for butter-fat each year from the inception of the company:—

Year	Output Tons.	Value But.	Pd. for But. Fat.
1901	241	£23,724	£18,994
1902	361	35,815	31,206
1903	479	45,273	39,404
1904	675	54,790	46,150
1905	669	62,938	61,838
1906	565	53,727	48,421
1907	667	72,138	59,322
1908	728	85,347	68,066
1909	734	81,920	67,009
1910	816	91,595	71,171
1911	1016	105,802	84,242
1912	981	125,441	102,073

In addition to this the company has paid away in bonuses and dividends £19,000 in 12 years. Proprietary factories at Ruby, Loch, Bena, Lang Lang and Melbourne compete for cream, and there are co-operative factories at Leongatha, Poowong, Kongwak and Archie's Creek.

South Gippsland is a country of immense possibilities, but it must be treated in a scientific manner. It has problems of its own

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*Korumburra And District (continued from Page 13)*

which cannot be solved by theories which have held good in other parts of the State. Its chief problem is transportation. Served by three lines of railway – the main Gippsland-Melbourne to Bairnsdale, the South-Eastern Melbourne to Port Albert, and the Nyora-Powlett River Wonthaggi coal line, the two main lines have cockspurs, and another is recommended from Kooweerup to the Strezlecki Hills – railway facilities are good but roads are the heart-breaking drawback.

The rugged nature of the country was unknown to the Government engineers a quarter of a century ago. They sat in their offices perhaps, and at random marked out the roads with parallel rulers and pencil, which looked nice and methodical on the plan, each square of which only required coloring, and a gigantic draught-board was revealed upon which they could spend the rest of their time in the fascinating pastime of chess or draughts.

When shire engineers and selectors came to locate these roads some went up hills with a grade of 1 in 1½; others stopped at the top of precipices with a drop to the bottom of 100 feet. Flying machines were not then a commercial proposition, and consequently shire councils have expended thousands of pounds deviating the absurd thoroughfares and paying heavily for land and works to give the selectors an outlet.

In justice and compensation for this huge departmental blunder, South Gippsland deserves well of the Government in the matter of substantial financial assistance for road-making. Korumburra is the chief town of the shire of Poowong and Jeetho, constituted in 1891 after the days of the three-pounds-to-one subsidy, and this shire has now on hand many deviations to make good grades for the farmers to get their produce to market by the least expensive method.

We read a lot about the necessity for irrigation in Northern Victoria, and all that has been said and written can be doubly emphasised in regard to the road problem of South Gippsland. If an army of engineers were turned loose and given instructions to get the best grades for all roads, at whatever cost, the final result would still pay Australia.

South Gippsland was almost consumed by the terrific bush fires of '97 and '98, and the "bush-fire year" is a land-mark in local history. But, Phoenix-like, it rose from its ashes and when the starving stock came on

from North Victoria in the dreaded drought years owners and stock received a hospitable welcome from South Gippslanders. The bush fires, though temporarily embarrassing, did untold good by clearing away much debris and timber which would have taken years to get rid of.

Blessed by an all-bountiful Providence with an assured rainfall, droughts are unknown in this the garden of Victoria. It offers every opportunity for closer settlement and intense culture. The holdings average at a rough guess 200 or 300 acres, while generally speaking prominent well-to-do and self-made farmers considered that 80 to 100 acres will give a comfortable living to an industrious settler. The rapid improvement of the various milking machines will make dairying a pleasure, and South Gippsland is now ripe for a vigorous policy of closer settlement with safeguards to prevent aggregation of estates.

Increased facilities for scientific and technical education are necessary, so that the rising generation may be well equipped to go on the land to solve the never-ending problems which present themselves. Notwithstanding indifference on the part of the authorities Gippsland's rate of progress measured by that of older countries has been marvellous.

The spirit of the old pioneers has been the guiding force, but signs are not wanting to indicate that with the passing of those sturdy empire builders across "that bourne whence no traveller returns," their moving force is passing too, and despite the bounteous rewards smiling nature offers to those who breach the store-house of her wealth, the lure of the city draws as the magnet, and unless an effort is made now in the beginning the city will exert her spell and rural progress will be retarded.

With the increase in comfort, practically all farmers are devoting their time to improvement of their herds and flocks, and already appreciable numbers of prizes from the Sydney and Melbourne shows are finding their way to what was once known as the "back blocks of Gippsland," notably so in connection with pure swine, Messrs. F. E. Kurre, T. G. Abbot, E. Jenkins and T. K. Adkins being owners of champion breeds.

In cattle, sheep and horses rapid improvement is being made. The Korumburra Agricultural Society (Mr. P. H. Watkinson secretary) give over £400 in prizes yearly for their show in

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*Korumburra And District (continued from Page 14)*

February, and exhibits from great distances are attracted.

In closing my remarks, allow me to observe that Mr. Jonathan Proud, manager of the Korumburra butter factory, is a gentleman to whom dairy-men throughout the South Gippsland district owe a deep debt of gratitude. Combining expert theoretical knowledge with thorough practical ability and keen business instinct, he has been the guiding star of the success of the Korumburra butter factory, whose prices for butter-fat and cream are watched and followed by most of the factories in the district; and the product of the factory has built up a reputation for quality and uniformity which may be equalled but not excelled by the much-vaunted Western District product. Dear reader, come and settle in beautiful Gippsland, or send your farmer friend here; he will be right royally welcome.

\* \* \*

From *The Western Port Times*, 24 April 1899, page 2.

## Blackwood Fires

On Thursday 16th inst., the fires were very destructive, and great losses were sustained by many of the farmers. Mr. C. Jackson was the principle sufferer having the whole of his grass, fencing, a woolshed, and several outhouses burnt. Mr. Towser also lost heavily, a quantity of his grass and fencing being consumed, along with two stacks of hay and sheds. The roof of the house caught fire several times, and water had to be continually thrown on to prevent the destruction of the house; he was one of those who had a fire through his property last year. The fire passed through Mr R. Ward's paddock, burnt a part of the fencing and grass, and extended as far as Mrs. Diaper's, clearing most of her grass and fencing. Mr W. Fowles had 40 acres of grass about 20 chains of fencing destroyed. Had it not been for the rain through the night, serious damage would have been done to the whole of settlers in the district, as nothing would have stopped the raging of the fire.

The road from Diaper's to the Blackwood was blocked for several days, traffic being entirely suspended by fallen timber. Two bridges were also destroyed. Mr. Fowles was put on to clear the road of the debris, and make temporary repairs to bridges etc; the road is now in a fit state for traffic. Great sympathy is felt for those who have lost through the fire.

From the *Argus*, Thursday 13 December 1956, page 1.

## A Scream Saves Diane... ...as vicious tide sweeps her away

The screams of a four-year old boy yesterday morning saved his two-year-old sister from drowning at San Remo.

The girl, Diane Todd, of Marine pde., San Remo, was caught by a vicious undertow and swirled out more than fifty yards in a fast, receding tide.

Local fisherman Ken Thompson, 36, a friend of Diane's father, heard her brother Garry screaming, ran 400 yards along the beach, then swam 100 yards to rescue her.

Diane was unconscious when he reached her. He said last night, "When I got to her she was lying facedown and I thought she was dead."

Diane's father was still out fishing last night, unaware of what had happened.

Diane had been paddling on the beach close by the bridge which links San Remo with Phillip Island.

The beach deeps rapidly and she went in too far and was caught by the fast out-going tide.

Garry saw her being swept out by the tide and called to her.

When she did not answer he ran up the beach crying out and sobbing.

Ken Thompson saw him and asked what was the matter.

Garry sobbed out his story and Ken sprinted down the beach.

He swam out into the high-running channel to rescue Diane.

Mr. Bert Johnson, a San Remo fisherman, applied artificial respiration before Diane was taken to Phillip Island and treated by a doctor.

"She's Sound Asleep Now."

Mrs. Todd, mother of Diane, Garry and another son, said last night: "It was wonderful that Ken Thompson happened to be close by.

"Diane is sleeping soundly now, thanks to Ken."

She said: "Her father is crayfishing off King Island and doesn't know anything about this.

"He and Ken Thompson and Bert Johnson are close friends."

**"GLENCOE"**

COWES.

**EXCELLENT ACCOMMODATION AND CUISINE**

HIGH POSITION. OVERLOOKING BAY.

Mr. A. J. McLARDY, Prop.

## Woolamai to Bass

When Did 'Woolamai' Become 'Bass' and the other 'Woolamai' become 'Woolamai'?

by

Geoff Guilfoyle

From Joseph White's *100 Years of History* (Shire of Bass, 1974): *In 1863 a new town was surveyed part on each side of the Bass river and following the main road that passed through the township reserve. One part of the town is in the Parish of Corinella and the other part in the Parish of Woolamai. The township was named Woolamai and bore that name until 1896 when the name was changed to Bass by a Proclamation dated 5th May 1896.*

And there you have it: 5th May 1896.

For those of you who prefer simple, direct, easy to understand answers rather than accuracy, then read no further. Joseph White is your guy and you have your answer. For those who understand that history is complicated and messy, then follow me down the rabbit-hole and read on.

### Disposing of Joseph White

First of all, Joseph White offers an actual date. Not only a date, but, by implication, a source. Those of you familiar with Joseph White will instantly be suspicious, correctly so. The date, however, is correct. The Proclamation is found in the *Victoria Government Gazette No.55*, 8 May 1896. The problem is with the content...

*Township at Woolamai in the Parishes of Corinella and Woolamai.—County of Mornington, parishes of Corinella and Woolamai: Commencing at a point on the right bank of the Bass River where the south boundary of the Upper Plains pre-emptive section (Pender's) abuts thereon; bounded thence by the said section and a line bearing west to the east boundary of allotment 68B, parish of Corinella; thence by that allotment, allotment 68A, and a line bearing south to the left bank of the Bass River aforesaid; thence...*

And so on.

So what is this about? This is a significant document which will be looked at further on. For the moment it is just important to note that it isn't a change of name; it is still called Woolamai. No Bass township.

This is further proof, if any is needed, that in putting together *100 Years of History* White was using one or more (unreliable) secondary source that he kept quiet about, for quite clearly he didn't actually view *VGG No.55*.

### Linguistic Laziness?

It is simply easier to say "Bass" than "Woolamai." Try it. See how much you need to move your lips and tongue to force out Woolamai. The same applies with writing the names.

Secondly, right from the beginning, Bass was both an area and a river. People went to 'the Bass' and not necessarily to the small township, or they were from the 'Bass River'. For example:

*A man named Patrick Shannon, from the Bass River, went to Cranbourne a few days ago... (South Bourke Standard, 6 Sept. 1867, page 3).*

And...

*Among others the township of the Bass River, Western Port, calls aloud for some sort of Government protection... (Age, 4 August 1868, page 3: The Coal Fields of Victoria).*

Over time the township, the only population centre on the river, became simply Bass.

Thirdly, with the forming of the Shire of Bass and Woolamai and the creation of a Woolamai Riding, in order to differentiate the township from these (plus Cape Woolamai on Phillip Island), the use of "Bass" accelerated. Thus although officially Woolamai to the Government, to those in the area or coming to it, the town was simply Bass.

A nice theory. How does it match up with the evidence? Overall, pretty well for the most part. By the late 1870s the papers and locals are generally calling the town Bass. The one main exception was newspapers when advertising or reporting government land sales; then the town is always Woolamai, which makes sense given that the government always called the town that and not Bass.

Didn't it?

After all, that was its official designation.

Wasn't it?

### It Was Always Both!

The government was totally schizophrenic when it came to nomenclature, and it isn't just a case of one department calling the town Woolamai and another labelling it Bass.

The *VGG No.34* (14 June 1872) lists David B. Kennedy as the Deputy Registrar of Births

(continues on Page 17)

Woolamai to Bass (continued from Page 16)

and Deaths for **the Bass District**, meaning the area around the Bass River; however, the VGG No.19 (28 March 1872) has D. Kennedy of **Bass** as the local Electoral Registrar. The VGG No.39 (20 April 1877) has Alice C. E. Ronald as the Deputy Registrar of Births and Deaths for the district of **the Bass**, but by 1880 when George McHardy assumes the position it is just **Bass** (No.131 19 November 1880). Additionally, the VGG No.15 (28 February 1873) announces that *Money Orders may now be obtained and made payable at Bass on and after the 10th proximo*. Oh, and the VGG No.54 (3 August 1876, page 1411)

lists the State School, **Bass** to be a polling-place for the Corinella Riding.

Land sales, however, are always for Woolamai, and never Bass. This is also true for cartographic material...mostly (see A 50-50 Proposition below).

Still not convinced? Try this...

*Mr. Chandler held an inquiry at Woolamai, Bass River, on the 5th September, into the circumstances under which a dwellinghouse belonging to Hugh Anderson, a squatter living at the Bass.... (Leader, 20 September 1873, page 15: Incendiarism At The Bass).*

*Fire At Bass. Fifty Pounds Reward. Whereas (continues on Page 18*

### A 50-50 Proposition

The answer may be in an unusual ‘political’ arrangement, wherein the town north of the river is in the Parish of Corinella, and thus is “Bass”, whilst that on the southern side is in the Parish of Woolamai, and thus is “Woolamai.” There is some cartographical evidence to support this. (see below).

Against. The problem these maps pose can be dismissed as a product of what they are representing, namely, the Corinella Riding (and thus half of Bass/Woolamai) and the Woolamai Riding (and thus half of Bass/Woolamai) and may not intend to show a division of names.

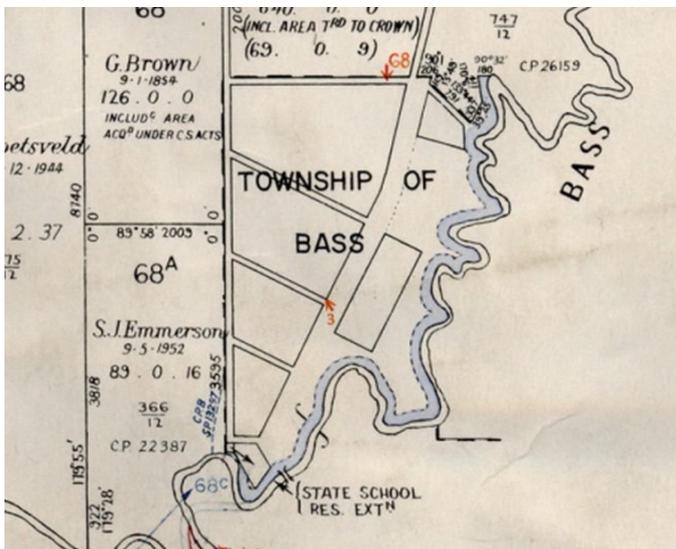
There is also this:

*I, James Stephenson, of Bass, in the parish of Woolamai, do hereby give notice that I desire to obtain, at the next licensing meeting apply for, a Grocer’s license for a house situated at Bass, adjoining the township of Woolamai, in the parish of Woolamai... (Argus, 27 August 1873, page 8: Advertising).*

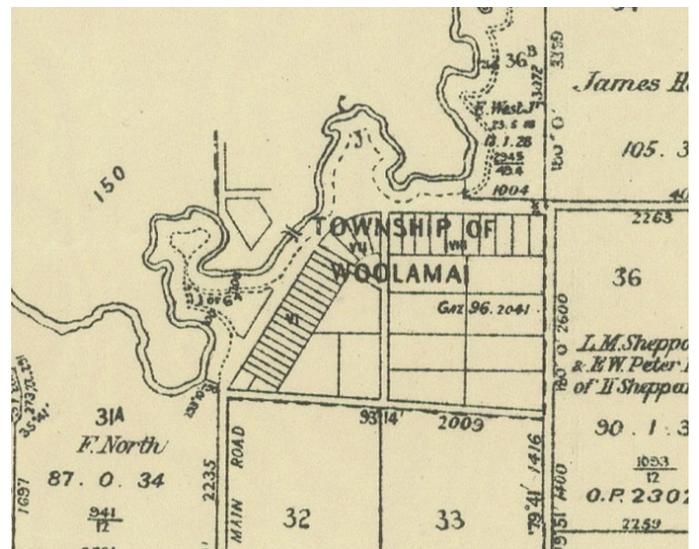
Stephenson’s store (and later hotel, the application for that having the same form) is south of the Bass River, that is, in what should be Woolamai, not Bass (though technically just outside the town limit). However, Stephenson does imply that there is both a Bass and Woolamai, even though he seems to think for some reason that he is in the Bass portion.

This is pretty much the extent of the primary source evidence, though the map on page 20 offers partial additional evidence. Everything else points at a single town that most (increasingly from the mid-1870s) called Bass and the Government usually (but often didn’t) labelled as Woolamai, and that Stephenson is incorrect in his assumptions.

Thus the 50-50 proposition looks 100% wrong (until stronger evidence emerges, that is.)



Corinella, County of Mornington, C246 (11) Corinella Sheet 1, Department of Crown Lands and Survey, Victoria, 1973



Woolamai, County of Mornington [cartographic material], Department of Crown Lands and Survey, Melbourne. H. E. Daw, Govt. Printer 1943.

*Woolamai to Bass (continued from Page 17)*

about Three o'clock in the morning of Friday the 16th of May last a Building situated at **Bass** belonging to Hugh Anderson... (Victoria Government Gazette No.68, 19 Sept. 1873).

So you have the newspaper using the "proper" form (Woolamai, *the* Bass) and the Government straightout labelling the town Bass.

Bailliere's 1879 *Victoria Gazetteer and Road Guide* has its main entry for the town under Bass (12 lines) but, interestingly, also has a *Woolamai, Waendron, or Bass* section (9 lines). Talking about hedging bets!

In short, by the 1880s it was generally Bass to everyone except government cartographers and in regard to Crown land sales.

## Back To 1896

So when did Woolamai officially become Bass?

Here's an even more relevant question: When did Woolamai become Woolamai? Was it ever officially proclaimed a township?

Again we return to the *Victoria Government Gazette* No.55, 8 May 1896. This proclamation of the township of Woolamai does not appear to be a redefinition of the limits of the town due to growth (as happened, for instance, with Grantville which shifted south over a number of years); it is defining the boundaries of the township as they were in 1863, that is, the original re-survey of the site. What need is there for this? Surely the original official declaration of Woolamai as a township would cover that; only it doesn't appear to have ever happened. Woolamai does not seem to have been proclaimed an official township until this 1896 declaration, and rather than be called Bass, the old label is retained! Talk about the Government misreading public opinion.

Bass continued to be Woolamai, at least to some in the Government, as show in the VGG No.68, 28 May 1909, page 2474...

**REGULATIONS FOR THE CARE, PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE RESERVE FOR PUBLIC RECREATION IN THE TOWNSHIP OF WOOLAMAI.**

*We, Samuel Sloss, John Joseph Nowlan, Heber Baker Williams, James Caughey, and Richard Trew, the duly appointed....*

*... Dated at **Bass** this twelfth day of March, 1909.*

Here you see the usual dichotomy, only in the same document with both Bass and Woolamai getting a run.

So when did it cease to be Woolamai and become Bass? The obvious answer is 1910 and the coming of the Nyora-Wonthaggi railway. The new station and planned settlement around it became Woolamai because the old Woolamai was now Bass.

Sorry. That would be too easy. Remember: history is messy.

OK. Here we go...

*Approval has been given by the Railway Commissioners of the following names for the stations on the Nyora-Wonthaggi line:—Hunter (6½ miles from Nyora), Mackenzie (9½), Rees (11½), Kernot (13½), Woolamai (16¾)... (Argus, 2 April 1910, page 9: The Railways).*

This brought a sharp response...

*Objection to the naming of the stations, which as yet exist in official reports only, on the new Powlett railway line, has been viced [sic] by Dalyston residents in a letter to the Minister of Railways. It is urged that the Commissioners have put aside the aboriginal names long associated with the districts, and have chosen names of politicians and railway engineers... (Age, 12 May 1910, page 8: Names Of Railway Stations).*

This led to certain name changes; however initially Woolamai (an aboriginal name) was not amongst them.

Let me introduce you to the 1910-1911  
*(continues on Page 19)*

### The 5 May 1896 Proclamation

From the *Victoria Government Gazette* No.55, 8 May 1896, page 2041-2042.

#### TOWNSHIPS.

#### PROCLAMATION

TOWNSHIP AT WOOLAMAI IN THE PARISHES OF CORINELLA AND WOOLAMAI.—County of Mornington, parishes of Corinella and Woolamai: Commencing at a point on the right bank of the Bass River where the south boundary of the Upper Plains pre-emptive section (Pender's) abuts thereon; bounded thence by the said section and a line bearing west to the east boundary of allotment 68B, parish of Corinella; thence by that allotment, allotment 68A, and a line bearing south to the left bank of the Bass River aforesaid; thence by that river downwards to the east boundary of allotment 31, parish of Woolamai; thence by that allotment bearing south to a point in line with the north boundary of allotment 32; thence by a line and allotments 32 and 33 bearing east to the north-east angle of the latter allotment; thence by a road and allotment 34 bearing north to the south-east angle of allotment 36B; thence by that allotment bearing west to the south-west angle thereof; thence by a line bearing north to the right bank of the Bass River aforesaid; and thence again by that river upwards to the point of commencement.—(95.P.38313).

*Woolamai to Bass (continued from Page 18)*

J55 Army map of southern Western Port and Woolamai. It not only labels Bass as Bass (admittedly not the only map to ever do so) but the station as Woolamai Railway Station.

The *Age* (4 November 1911, page 18: Wonthaggi Line) also calls the station by that name.

But what about the township around it. That was now Woolamai too, right?

Nope.

It was named Marrooning (not Marrooning as Joseph White labels it) and it was declared a township in the *VGG No. 136*, 19 October 1910, page 4826. So in late 1911 you have Woolamai Station in the township of Marrooning and the nearby town (5km away) of Woolamai.

Searching the *Victoria Government Gazette* issued between 1909 to 1920 doesn't turn up any notification of a change of name. Bass is mentioned a number of times, mostly in regard to the change of location of the Bass pound, ads placed by the Shire secretary. There are a few inconclusive government notifications regarding the Registrar of Births and Deaths, and nothing much else. On the other hand, there isn't anything conclusive to show that the government still regards Bass as Woolamai.

Skip forward to late 1914...

*Particulars are announced in this week's issue of the "Government Gazette" regarding five allotments of land in the parish of Woolamai, which have been thrown open for selection as second class country, up to Wednesday, October 21 next. The lots vary in area from 49 to 78 acres each. They adjoin Marrooning railway station, situated on the Wonthaggi line. (Argus, 30 September 1914, page 13: Crown Areas Available).*

So in late 1914 you have Marrooning Station in the township of Marrooning.

Next bit of evidence...



Section of chart: Western Port and Woolamai, Victoria, [J55-9]. Sheet no. 868 and 874. Prepared by Commonwealth Section, Imperial General Staff, 1910-1911.

The *Herald* (15 March 1917, page 4: Recent Sales) records an unspecified number of lots being sold at Marrooning at the upset price of £8/10/.

Marrooning is still Marrooning. But what of the station? Next...

John Stillman, back from the Great War, in March 1920 under the Discharged Soldiers Settlement Acts (the infamous Soldier Settlement scheme) applied for and was granted Lot 36 at Bass (lease no.4519/86.6). The application contains a couple of details of interest:

**Distance from nearest market town...**  
*adjoining township of Bass.*

**Distance from nearest railway station...***2½ miles Woolamai.*

Woolamai is the station again, but is the town still called Marrooning?

And the final piece of evidence please...

*Notice is hereby given that the site of the Bass pound has been removed from the premise of Benjamin MacKenzie, of Bass, to the premises of Ernest H. Humphries, of Woolamai, part allotment 52B, parish of Woolamai. The name of the pound has been altered from Bass Pound to Woolamai Pound. (Victoria Government Gazette No.203, 23 November 1921, page 4005).*

The Woolamai mentioned here thanks to that lot 52B reference is Marrooning/Woolamai not Bass/Woolamai.

Assuming the J55 Army map is correct, then Woolamai became Bass (although never officially declared such, as far as I can see), with the building of the railway in 1910. Woolamai became the name of the station for a time, until both station and nascent township received a change of name to Marrooning. Sometime between March 1917 and November 1921, both Marrooning and its station became Woolamai.

Huzzah! (Much cheers and hat waving). Finally, it is all sorted out!

Uh, no. That would be too easy, and we can't have that!

Despite everybody calling the small town of Woolamai – the one with the railway station of the same name – Woolamai...it wasn't.

Not until 1952 was the name of the township of Marrooning officially changed to Woolamai. (See next page).

So, all done, right? (heavy sigh). Nope, because making everything as complicated as possible seems to be one of the main aims of all levels of government (local, State and Federal).

*(continues on Page 20)*

Woolamai to Bass (continued from Page 19)

From the *Victoria Government Gazette* No.114, 31 August 1927, page 2648...  
**REGULATIONS FOR THE CARE, PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE RESERVE FOR PUBLIC RECREATION IN THE TOWNSHIP OF WOOLAMAI AND KNOWN AS THE "BASS RECREATION RESERVE."**

*We, John Joseph Nowlan, James Caughey, Richard Trew, William Charles Quinlivan and Harry Rosevear, the duly appointed....*

*... Dated at Bass this tenth day of August, 1927.*

Once again, two names for the price of one, only it is 1927 not, say, 1909. And wasn't there already another Woolamai by this time? Well, yes, except it was called Marrooing, only everyone knew it as Woolamai.

So when did Woolamai (the one on the Bass River) cease being so and become Bass? The obvious answer is 1928 and the division of the Shire of Phillip Island and Woolamai into the Shire of Bass and Shire of Phillip Island. Somewhere in the small print regarding who got what and what went where the State Government bowed to reality and Woolamai finally became Bass.

But don't bet your house on it.

### Final Thoughts

In a way, when did Woolamai become Bass is a pointless question. It always *was* Bass, in one form or another, with *the* as a front modifier in the 1860s. Increasingly during the 1870s it was just Bass, even to the Government and its administrative sections. The designation "Woolamai" showed up mostly in regard to Crown land sales and cartographically. However, due to some oversight, it doesn't seem to have been officially proclaimed a township called Woolamai until 1896, and as it doesn't seem to have ever received an official name change, may well be Woolamai still.



Double Bass and Woolamai east of the river. From chart of Western Port, Department of Crown Lands and Survey, Melbourne, 1937.

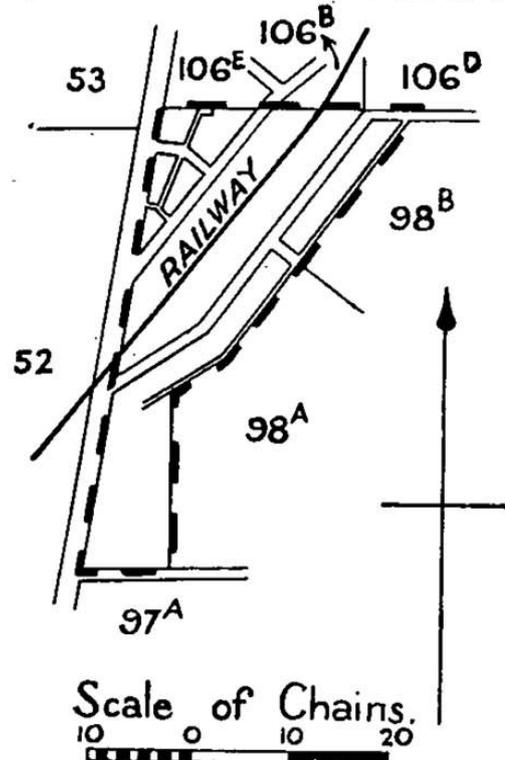
Land Act 1928.

**PROCLAMATION RESCINDED AS TO PART AND TOWNSHIP OF WOOLAMAI PROCLAIMED.**

**PROCLAMATION**

By His Excellency the Governor of the State of Victoria and its Dependencies in the Commonwealth of Australia, &c., &c., &c.

I, THE Governor of the State of Victoria, in the Commonwealth of Australia, by and with the advice of the Executive Council of the said State, and in pursuance of the provisions contained in section 25 of the *Land Act* 1928, do by this my Proclamation rescind the Proclamation dated 11th October, 1910, defining certain areas of land as Townships in so far as it refers to the Township at Marrooing in the Parish of Woolamai (see *Government Gazette* 1910, page 4826), reduced by Proclamation dated 20th October, 1914 (see *Government Gazette* 1914, page 4924), and in lieu thereof do hereby proclaim as a Township, under the designation of Woolamai, the area of land in the Parish of Woolamai, County of Mornington, within the boundaries indicated by conventional township sign on the plan hereunder.—(W.189<sup>(a)</sup>) (M.574<sup>(1)</sup>) (C.93800).



Given under my Hand and the Seal of the State of Victoria aforesaid, at Melbourne, this twelfth day of August, in the year of our Lord One thousand nine hundred and fifty-two, and in the first year of the reign of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

(L.S.)

DALLAS BROOKS.

By His Excellency's Command,

A. E. LIND,

Commissioner of Crown Lands and Survey.

**NOTICE of APPLICATION for a COLONIAL WINE LICENCE.—To the Licensing Magistrates at Cranbourne—I, SAMUEL J. LAYCOCK, storekeeper, now residing at Bass, in the county of Mornington, do hereby give notice that it is my intention to apply to the justices sitting as licensing magistrates at the court of petty sessions, to be holden at Cranbourne on the 29th day of December, 1872, for a certificate authorising the issue of a COLONIAL WINE LICENCE for a house situate at Bass.**

The 4th day of December, A D. 1872.

SAMUEL J. LAYCOCK.