

# The Historic Times



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INDEPENDENT & NON  
PROFIT PUBLICATION

EDITION THREE

ALEXANDRA EILDON YEA MARYSVILLE  
BONNIE DOON JAMIESON MANSFIELD

48 PAGES

Mid 1800s to mid 1900s



## HISTORY NEWSPAPER



THE OFFICIAL DISTRICT HISTORY NEWSPAPER



Photographer Lin Cumming  
Courtesy Sandra Cumming &  
the State Library of Victoria

A father enjoys a well-earned rest by reading and sharing the Country Edition of the Australasian newspaper with his children. He is seated on a Silver Star Starch Box, whilst he enjoys a pipe of tobacco, a pleasure now denied because of medical concerns. Smoking in Australia is now banned in some public places and especially around children.

Issue 3 - 2012

THE  
HISTORIC TIMES  
NEWSPAPER

Welcome to this, the third edition of our Artworkz Heritage Newspaper.

“The Historic Times” is independently published by locals, for locals. We hope that as you read it, you can reflect upon our history and the simpler times.

Our goal is to supply quality historic & educational information, for locals and visitors alike.

No area is favored over another. Representation is based solely on the level of contributions we receive from each area, and their passion to give back to the community.

Our project is unaffiliated, and unfunded. We are not reliant on benevolent charities, or societies and trusts, in order to exist. Instead, we rely heavily on our own personal giving, and the sales of each edition. Sales cover around one third of our total costs. Our loyal readers, by their purchase, are contributing a small amount towards our production costs.

We aim to supply you with unedited history, through the eyes of those who have gone before us.

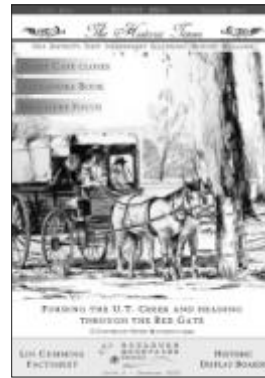
We recognize that history can never be 100 percent correct and apologise for any errors or omissions that may occur. We welcome corrections.

I would like to thank all those who have supported us in the past by purchasing our two earlier editions.

We hope that Edition Three meets with your expectations and that you will continue to gain pleasure from perusing the past. We hope this inspires you to continue to contribute.

Newspaper Editor  
Lawrence Hood  
emailartworkz@gmail.com

**Note:** We have tried to keep the spelling that is used in the transcripts of the newspaper articles as it was. This is done to keep the authentic flavour of the article.



Our free monthly electronic eSplash magazine and our printed eSplash Mini - café edition, also promote our history by using freely contributed items received from our community. In fact, most of what appears in our newspapers, has also been made freely available through our projects.

For inclusion in our free electronic eSplash magazine mailing list, please email your request to:

**emailartworkz@gmail.com.**

Artworkz welcome your contributions.

## OUR CONTRIBUTORS

We thank our contributors. We exist because you trust us to digitise and return your precious items, and then allow us to share them freely with the community.

At Artworkz, we believe that historic items should be shared with the community whenever possible. This is why we are always eager to give back everything that we can, and in a short timeframe. To this end we have now published around 6,500 images (cost free) via our free community projects.

“The Historic Times” is just one of many ways that we publish digitised items. We make no money from advertising and charge just enough to cover our most basic costs. We even factor in a profit margin for those selling the newspaper.

We would like to thank the **Alexandra, Eildon & Marysville Standard** and the **Yea Chronicle**, for printing and supporting this publication. In addition, we also thank the following:

*The Artworkz Team*  
Margaret Nicholas  
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Alexandra Timber Tramway & Museum  
Alexandra Traders & Tourism Association  
Alexandra Visitor Information Centre  
Alexandra Newsagency & Lotto  
Murrindindi Library Services  
Alexandra Friends of the Library-Bookshop  
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Alexandra Rotary Club  
Alexandra Probus Club  
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Eildon Visitor Information Centre  
Eildon Action

Eildon Caravan Park  
Eildon Newsagency  
Eildon Lions Club  
Bonnie Doon Community Centre  
Jamieson Historical Society  
Mansfield Historical Society  
Images of Yarck & District  
Marmalades Café  
Yea Visitor Information Centre  
Yea Newsagency  
Yarck General Store & Café  
Marysville Visitor Information Centre  
Books at Yarck  
The State Library of Victoria  
The National Library of Australia







## ALEXANDRA

## OUR COAT OF ARMS



## ADVANCE AUSTRALIA

The Coat of Arms represented on the front of the Alexandra Shire Hall is an early version of the Coat of Arms that was created prior to the ratification of the official Commonwealth Australian Coat of Arms in 1901.

The noticeable differences include the reversing of the Kangaroo and Emu and the rising sun replacing the star.

The older shield also presents four symbols instead of the six on the final Australian version.

The Shire Hall was built in 1882 and was completed within 7 months from the starting date. Upon completion it drew both admiration and criticism, though now is widely admired for its historic value.

Upon completion the building was used as shire offices and a meeting place for the shire as well as community groups such as the Masons.

Our Coat of Arms sits proudly high on the front façade of the Shire Hall and welcomes all who pass by. It reminds us of our simple heritage and those that went before us, including our inherent links to the Commonwealth.

# RECOLLECTIONS

## CHARLES R. LONG 25/5/1896

### In Alexandra, July 1881



When I returned to Alexandra after my course in training, I found my sister was not at home and the cottage was let. The dwelling part of the shop building was occupied by Father, Mother and Alf. A little room at the back of the kitchen was vacated by Alf, that I might be accommodated.

My father's shop, of wood, like the other buildings in the street, occupied a good position. It was on the West side of the main street - Grant - about the middle of the line of shops. (My sister Louisa was born in a room attached to this shop.) The first building he occupied on the site (he had been for a few months a few doors towards the Ultima Thule Creek after his arrival from Enoch's point towards the end of 1870) had been pulled down by the voluntary fire brigade (of which, by the way, he was apparatus officer) with the object of arresting the spread of fire which had started in the street about a dozen doors away. We were living in a cottage at that time and I remember being startled by the clanging of a bell, and in waking up, saw the glow of the fire. As it happened the fire never reached the shop.

The next morning there was revealed a higgledy-piggledy collection of what was Long's shop and contents next to Dotter's watchmakers shop, which it was expected would have been burnt down. The fire had not reached it. My father moved to another building and tried to obtain compensation from the Insurance societies. I wrote the application, which would have been strengthened had the fire been stopped through the demolition of the shop. They had, of course, incurred no loss and would pay nothing, neither would the Shire Council, nor any property owner, nor was a subscription made to compensate him for his willingness to make a sacrifice.

Father bought Dotter's shop and on this site and that of his own had a brick building erected, which was a marked improvement. Others also built with brick, what was really the second stage of the town; the

first, consisting of tents and makeshift erections, was soon forgotten.

Behind the brick shop, forming part of the building, were two rooms; one was a sitting room, in which my father did his writing. This was considerable, as he had his own books to keep. He commenced at this time a bootstore, as well as being a bootmaker and repairer, and he was secretary (honorary as a rule) of almost all the organizations of the town (the Shire Council, of which he was paid treasurer, not secretary, the hospital Committee, Cemetery Trustees, Masonic Lodge, Rechabite Yent, Orange Lodge). The Shire Council was, I think, the only one from which he received payment.

Next to the sitting room was a kitchen with a colonial oven set in the chimney and not far away, a camp oven. In the latter, at times, my mother, who was a good cook, used to make a loaf of bread.

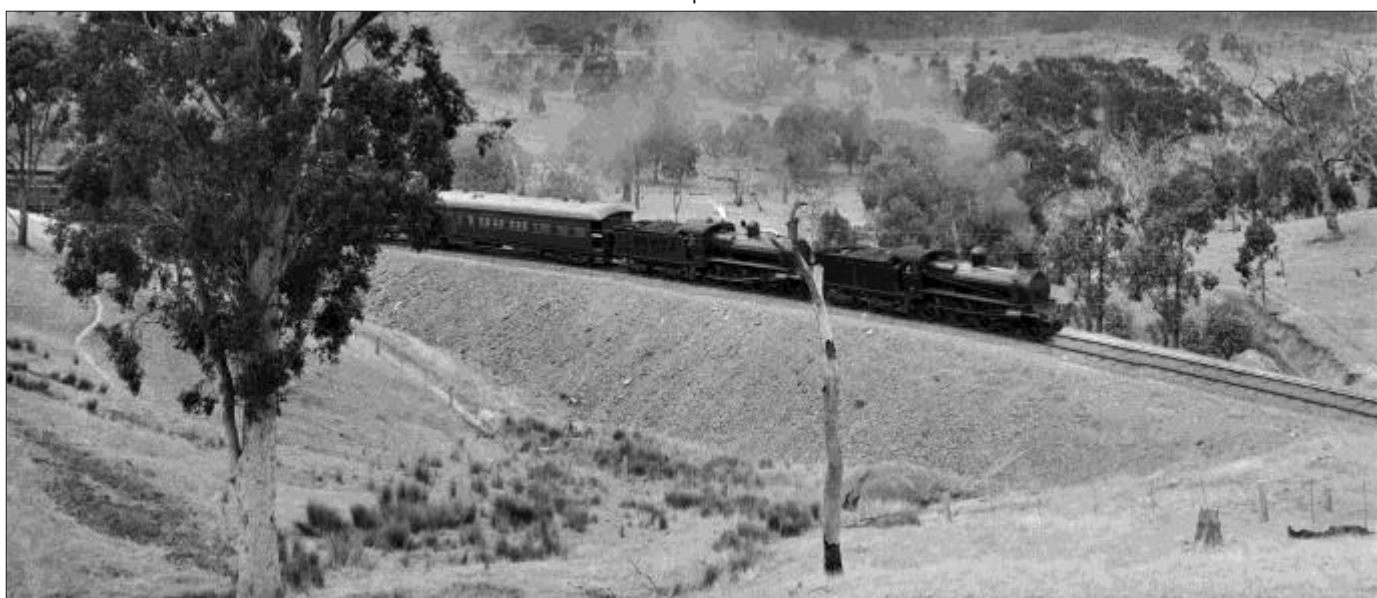
When turned out it resembled a small solid wheel, but had an attractive flavour, which I never noticed with baker's bread.

For many years, when my sister, Sarah Elizabeth, and my brother, Alfred Harry, were growing up, and I was at home, we lived in a six roomed cottage standing on nearly an acre of land across the street from the gate at the foot of the shop allotment.

In the ground there were fruit trees planted and grape vines, and in front and around the house, my mother made a garden and took much pride in it. In the beds in front were two almond trees that burst into bloom very early. For a time a pig was kept, and poultry, a dog also, for my father was fond of dogs, but was so busy with his work and the societies that he could give but little time to them.

A horizontal bar was provided near the house for me and my mates. especially the Dotters, who were our next door neighbours. Ted Dotter, who was a little younger than myself, became quite an expert. He entered the Postal service at Alexandra. I did not make much progress as a gymnast, but, no doubt, the exercise was of value, and was a preparation for the gymnasium work which I was to undertake at the Training Institute.

Charles R. Long  
Courtesy Wayne and Jo Miller

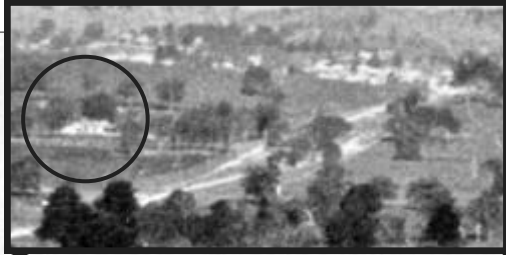


An Alexandra bound train.

Photograph courtesy Sandra Cumming & State Library Victoria      Photographer Lin Cumming



## ALEXANDRA



View of Alexandra from above the Eglinton Cutting. Circled (in the inset image) is the Leckie family homestead, which was lost to fire in the 1950s. Pattie Maie Leckie became a Dame (in her own right) in 1954. She had married Robert Menzies of Jeparit in 1920. He became Prime Minister of Australia in 1939. Robert Menzies was knighted in 1963, Dame Pattie was patron of the Dame Pattie Menzies Centre in Alexandra until her death on the 30th of August, 1995, ages 96.

Courtesy Jeannie Webb



## A GROUP OF PEOPLE AT ALEXANDRA

A PICNIC PARTY  
NEAR  
ALEXANDRA  
IN THE 1920S.

Local Alexandra identity Lin Cumming, and a number of other townsmen, would often meet the train at Alexandra Station, where they would then pick up parties of people to take on tours of the district in their private vehicles. This would often include picnics at some of our more outstanding locations, which he would photograph.

It is likely that this group of people is a picnic party, who have come to the district on such a train. The location is unknown, though is likely to be on the Goulburn River near Alexandra.

The Alexandra Railway Station opened in 1909, and finally closed in November 1978.

The parties were picked up at the train station and taken on guided tours much the same as envisaged by entrepreneurial aspirants of the current rail trail.

Courtesy Sandra Cumming  
& State Library Victoria  
Photographer Lin Cumming



## EARLY INDUSTRY



## THE FELLING OF LARGE TREES

The felling of the larger trees in the forest required skills that were developed over lifetimes of working with timber.

Rubicon hydro worker Roy Heap tells the story of how a tree of this size was fallen on a ridge above the Upper Rubicon Dam power station in the early 1900s, with unexpected consequences.

As the tree fell, it started rolling down the steep ridge and picking up speed, rolled straight towards the Upper Rubicon Falls power station, it only veering off to one side at the last moment, sparing the power station.

Timber like this was first treated at the many timber mills purpose-built in the local Ranges.

The timber was often transported along the many Timber Tramway lines, with one of these Timber Tramways running from

Rubicon, through Thornton to Alexandra. At Alexandra, the timber was often further dried, treated and cut, before being transported via train to the major centres where a housing boom was occurring.

In this picture, workers are preparing to cut a giant Mountain Ash, with the equipment available to them at the time. The chiefly used tools of that day were the cross cut saw and the axe, which were both used to great affect.

Many pints of blood, sweat and tears were shed in this massive achievement in the battle of man versus nature. In 1939, much of the timber industry in the local ranges was devastated by fire, with many lives and mills lost.

Photographer Charles Kerry  
Powerhouse museum 2011

## 1892 ALLUVIAL GOLD DIGGINGS

The word Alluvial describes a type of soil. It can be made up of sand, silt, clay, gravel, or other matter, and is deposited by flowing water, over years, decades and centuries.

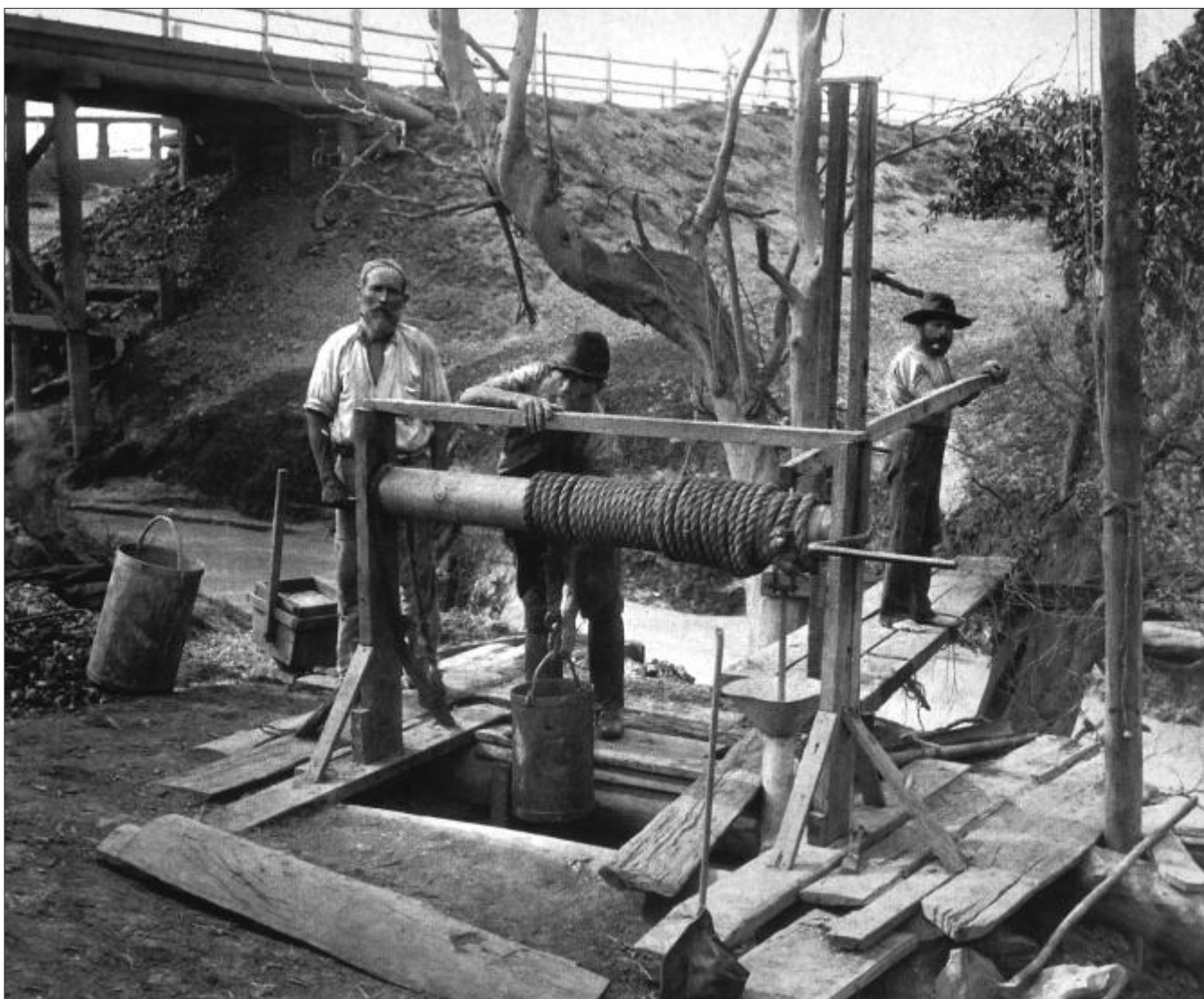
The term "Alluvial Gold" usually refers to gold dust, that is found in that type of soil. Alluvial gold, is often panned for in beds of rivers, streams and creeks.

Much of the mining in our district was alluvial in nature. The mines that stretched along the U.T. Creek, for instance, were alluvial gold mines. On the right, miners

have dug a shallow shaft into the alluvial deposits in search of alluvial gold. The hand-powered windlass enabled buckets of soil and rock to be brought to the surface, and processed.

Alluvial gold was being found in the district from around 1851. Much of it was being found in the waterways, and this brought great interest from afar. Diggers flocked to Redgate Diggings in search for alluvial gold in the UT Creek and surrounding waterways.

Photographer Fred Harvie  
Cline Library





## EARLY INDUSTRY



## PANNING FOR GOLD

Gold panning is the use of wide broad pans, to manually sort gold out from amongst other rocks, gravel, dirt and debris.

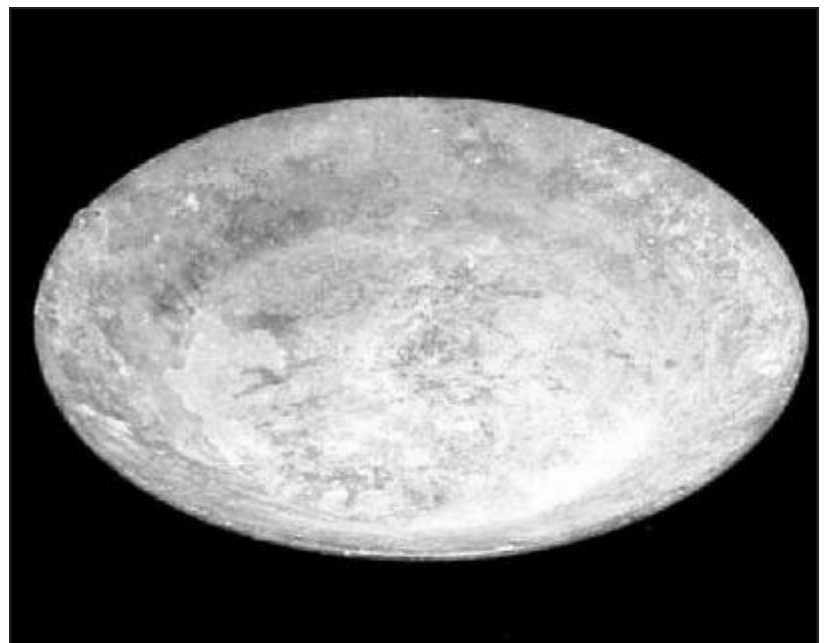
A small amount of gravel, usually from the bottom of a creek or river, is placed under water, and shaken.

As the gold is heavier than all other rocks and minerals found in and around

waterways, the gold sinks to the bottom of the pan.

Gold panning was the cheapest and easiest way to pan for gold, though was not a financially viable option for extracting larger deposits of gold.

Photographer Fred Hardie  
Courtesy Cline museum



**The Rubicon Lumber & Tramway Company Pty Ltd (Ruoak) at Alexandra in 1910.**

Courtesy Sandra Cumming & State Library Victoria. Photographer Lin Cumming.





## THE GOLD RUSH



## A "RUSH."

From *The Miner's Right*,  
by "ROLF BOLDREWOOD,"

Pen-name of  
THOMAS ALEXANDER BROWNE.



ROLF BOLDREWOOD  
(THOMAS ALEXANDER BROWNE)  
1826-1913

I had wandered listlessly home one evening from a long day's walk, when I was struck by the unwonted appearance of activity displayed by the Major. Our premises had undergone an alteration. The tent was down, various articles of furniture were assuming their well-known travelling appearance. Suddenly I became aware of an unwonted hum of earnest voices. I began to recognize the symptoms of the complaint.

It was not the first time that I had known a great gold-field infected by it. Forms were flitting about in the gathering twilight, lanterns were being lit in preparation for night work. Horses were driven up, the hobble chains and bells of which sounded their continuous chime. A few words from time to time caught my ear. in which "the Oxley," "only a hundred and odd miles," five ounces to the dish," "good sinking," were increasingly distinct. Before I stopped at the spot which had been directly before our own tent door, I was fully aware of the causes of the unwonted agitation—a "rush" was on.

You're a good fellow, Pole,"

said the Major. "in your way; but I wish you weren't given to taking such long walks. Here have we been sounding 'boot and saddle' all day, and couldn't get any tidings of you. Lend a hand with this cord. Do you want to put anything else in your box? I've packed for you."

"I'll see in the morning," I said. "Where's the rush?"

"Where's the rush? You may well ask that - the biggest thing that has happened in Australia yet."

"So good as that?" I queried languidly.

"Good!" shouted the Major. "Nothing ever heard like it, even at Ballarat or Eaglehawk. Three ounces, five ounces, ten ounces to the dish; lumps of gold, no rock, no water, all shallow sinking."

"I suppose we must start at daylight. It's a great nuisance," I said, "having this thing to do over again."

"You haven't gone mad, by any chance?" said the Major, taking a light and peering into my face. "But softening of the brain must be setting in, or you would never think of losing an hour, much less a whole night, when there's a rush like this on. No; we've bought a spring-cart and horse, and are off at once. You'll have to look sharp."

"You seem in a state of wonderful anticipation, Major," I made answer. "One would think you were totally unfamiliar with the chances of digging life. Doesn't it strike you that our ordinary luck will attend us. All the best claims will be taken up before we get there, or we shall most industriously bottom a 'duffer'? However, to please you, I'll go."

As soon as the moon rose, we set off. Nothing was placed in the spring-cart but our clothes, bedding, simple cooking utensils, and, of course, our

tools. The road lay under our feet in the clear moonlight, white and dusty, between the withered grass and the tall tree-stems. The air was fresh; the heavens brightly azure. The horse was active and powerful, and took us along at a rapid pace.

There was little trouble in following the right road, which led to the plains of the Oxley, on the head-waters of which this last-found Eldorado had arisen. Had we felt any uncertainty it would have been quickly removed, for in front, behind, on every side, were wayfarers journeying to the same goal in every sort of conveyance drawn by animals of many kinds.

Bullock drays, horse drays, American express-wagons, hand-carts drawn by men, and even wheel-barrows propelled by sturdy arms were there. Women laden with immense bundles were dragging young children by the hand, or as often, carrying infants in their arms.

Sometimes a drove of cattle, with riders shouting and cracking huge whips behind them, would come upon the hurrying crowd, though as a rule they moved parallel with, and at a considerable distance from, the disturbing concourse whose physical needs they were destined to supply.

The whole movement had the appearance of something between a pilgrimage and a fair, so mixed and incongruous did the component parts appear.

We travelled night and day, only allowing ourselves needful rest and food, and bearing hard upon the good horse that carried our chattels. On the sixth day we reached the Oxley, and had a free and uninterrupted view of the great "rush." It was a strange sight. We who had seen many gold-fields had never before seen one exactly like this.

The auriferous deposit had been so exceedingly rich in one particular point, of land or cape which ran into the river that not a spot of the surface soil was to be seen. This was the

famous "jeweller's shop," where the very earth seemed composed of gold-dust, with gold gravel for variety. Thousands and tens of thousands of pounds' worth of the precious metal had been taken out of a few square feet here, and no blanks had been drawn in the lottery of pegging claims in the immediate vicinity.

We were fortunate in meeting at the outset a friend whom we had known in Ballarat, and, as he had already taken up a claim and was employing men to work it, he very willingly proffered his services and advice to us. Following him, we skirted the great, throbbing hive of eager workers spurred on by greed and gain to such desperate efforts that an unnatural silence reigned over the scene.

We came to a halt near our friend's claim, and, pointing out a spot, he said, "You see this is a place where the green-stone and the granite meet. It is my experience that in such a conjunction there is always gold, and heavy gold, too."

After pegging out our claim, we put up our tent, and made ourselves as comfortable as circumstances permitted.

At daylight next morning we were at work. The sun was not high before we had our stage and windlass up, and were delving away as if we intended to solve the question of the earth's central fires.

We were none of us new at the work; and we were all young and in splendid condition. The consequence was that we went down at such a pace that more than one of the parties that were daily arriving stopped, all eager as they were, to wonder at the rapidity with which our beautifully straight and even shaft was boring, as if with a gigantic auger, towards the bedrock.

We bottomed one afternoon, in about a week's time; and, by nightfall, the "field" was aware that Pole and party were so "dead on the gutter" that every dish they took out was half gold.

\* \* \* \* \*

## DISTRICT NEWS

## A CHINESE CAMP AT NIGHT

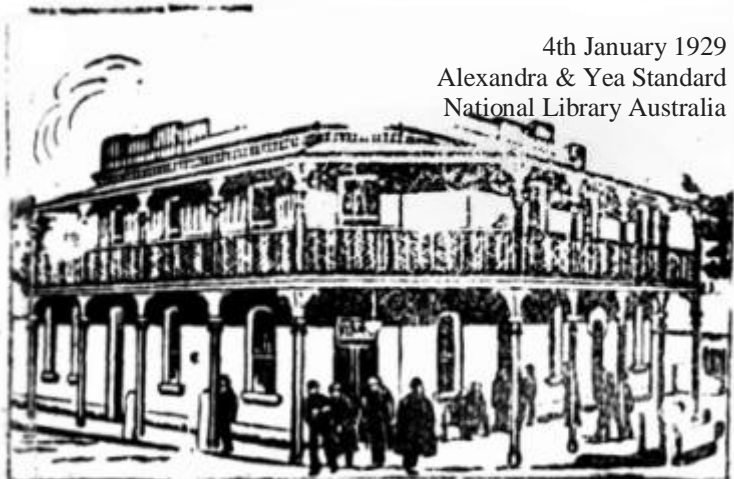
It was shortly after 10 o'clock, the narrow crooked lanes were almost deserted, and but for the lights that streamed forth from the shanties at wide intervals, and the fitful glimmer of the lamps in shops and houses, it would have been extremely difficult to pilot one's way through the tortuous winding of the camp. As it was, collisions with Celestial wayfarers were inevitable, and the "yahooings" woke the echoes more than once. Every hotel and place of entertainment was entered. Large numbers of Chinese were found in most of them, but, contrary to the expectation, comparatively few women.

In some cribs the dim lights of the lamps were enveloped in dense halos of opium smoke, the atmosphere is almost suffocating. One inveterate lay on a board at one place, oblivious to all objective realities. The features of his parchment face were drawn in and fixed, the hands half clenched and the whole appearance of the man indicated complete subjection to the opium spell. At another, place, a girl, about eighteen years old, was seen in bed sipping some tea preparatory to indulging in the pleasures of the pipe, which lay on the counter beside her. Occasionally, in the street a white object indistinctly seen in the darkness that prevailed, was described. A few paces would bring the visitor near enough to distinguish that it was a woman "out on her rounds." These unfortunates, it was observed, usually made tracks for the hotels, where they assuaged their thirst, or gratified their taste for "Chinese brandy." Only a few tan-tan shops were open, but these were crowded with mobs of gamblers. All the grades of "camp society" were to be found there, from the rag-gatherer with his two or three "sissepenies," to the sleek and well-fed storekeepers and "shantlemen" possessed of long purses. Throughout the night's peregrinations not one person was seen under the influence of drink, nor were any very young girls visible anywhere near the neighbourhood but opium smoking, gambling and dallying with women were freely indulged in. One thing, however, was remarkably striking, the perfect orderliness that prevailed. There were none of the boisterous evidences of debauchery which too frequently characterised the orgies enacted in more prestigious localities in and near Sandhurst. Altogether, the aspects of Chinese life, under lamplight, was widely different from that in the light of open day. Under the cloak of darkness the hideous spectre of immorality stalked forth, and held high carnival, and the old opinion of the social evil which is nurtured and strengthened in the Camp was more than confirmed. — Bendigo Advertiser.

Alexandra Times, 2nd October 1875  
Courtesy National Library Australia

## The Alexandra Hotel

The Popular House of Call, (Under new management).



4th January 1929  
Alexandra & Yea Standard  
National Library Australia

CORNER OF GRANT AND DOWNEY STREETS.  
Best brands only of Wines, Spirits, Ales, and Cigars. Spacious Dining Room.  
Excellent Accommodation. Cuisine a specialty. Electric Light, etc.  
Phone 14. N. J. McNAIR, Proprietor.



## THE RABBIT - FRIEND OR FOE?

The overflow of rabbits into our countryside was a curse from the outset. Though there were always those who were able to find a way to create income from the pesky little blighters! During the depression years the rabbit plague was a cruel blessing for the community, offering many families the opportunity to have red meat on a semi-regular basis.

The photograph above is of a professional trapper with a cart load of rabbits to sell.

Not only were they useful for their meat, but their furs were also sought after for such things as blankets, footwear, jackets and hats. Rabbit skin glue was another by-product of the rabbit skin which was used traditionally to create canvases for painting.

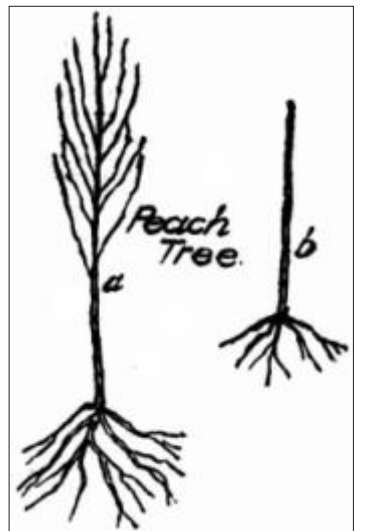
## FARM AND GARDEN TIPS

## PRUNING FRUIT TREES

A SYSTEM of pruning which has received some favour is to cut back the young growth in late spring or early part of summer. In many cases, and particularly with some varieties of fruit trees, the results seem satisfactory. The long growth is stopped and many short twigs are forced out among the limbs; with straggling growing trees the result indicates that more compact and symmetrical trees will be formed by summer pruning. Orchard trees are usually planted and pruned during the months of June, July, and August in the vicinity of Sydney and that varies somewhat in regard to the exact time because of latitude in distant parts of the colonies. A sharp fine saw, knife, or pair of small pruning shears are the only implements required. For small trees up to fifteen feet high, -such as pear and plum- pruning shears will be found the quickest method. A step-ladder should be used to work on, as the limbs are not strong enough to bear the weight of a man in the centre of the tree without the possibility of breaking the branches or peeling the bark. Set the step-ladder close to the tree at one side and begin pruning from the lower part, going up step by step and drawing towards you all branches which you can reach. Before setting the ladder, one should look the tree over carefully and decide just what branches should be removed and where they should

be cut as well as the amount of heading in. If all trees are allowed to take their natural form as near as possible and not pruned to one desired shape, much labour will be saved. Large, bearing apple trees which have been properly pruned every year

or two need to have removed only the dead branches and such branches as cross one another or in some other way interfere with other limbs of the trees. As the tree grows larger and older the spread will become greater and small branches will gradually become unfruitful and should be removed. On all such trees a sharp, fine saw is necessary, a coarse saw making too rough and ragged a wound. Make the first cut from the under side of the limb to prevent splitting or tearing of the bark, as the branch drops off then cut from above, making the cut as nearly perpendicular as possible. After sawing off, trim the edges smooth with a sharp knife and cover the wound with paint, using none which contains turpentine.



The Argus Saturday 12th October 1901  
Courtesy State Library Victoria



## TAGGERTY



**Taggerty sports day in 1913.**

Image courtesy Sandra Cumming & the State Library Victoria. Photographer Lin Cumming

### Mount Cathedral

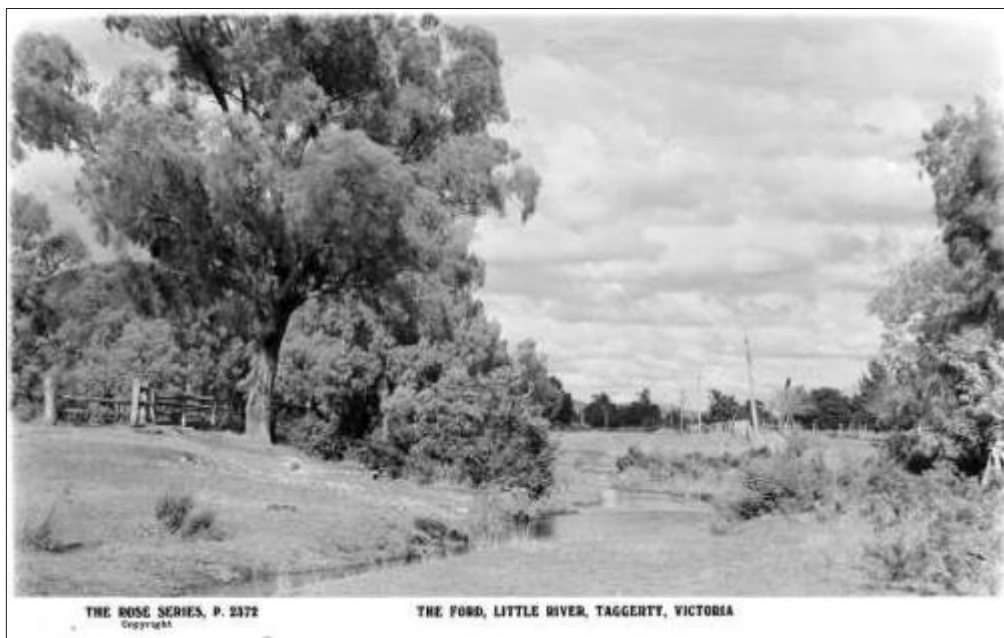
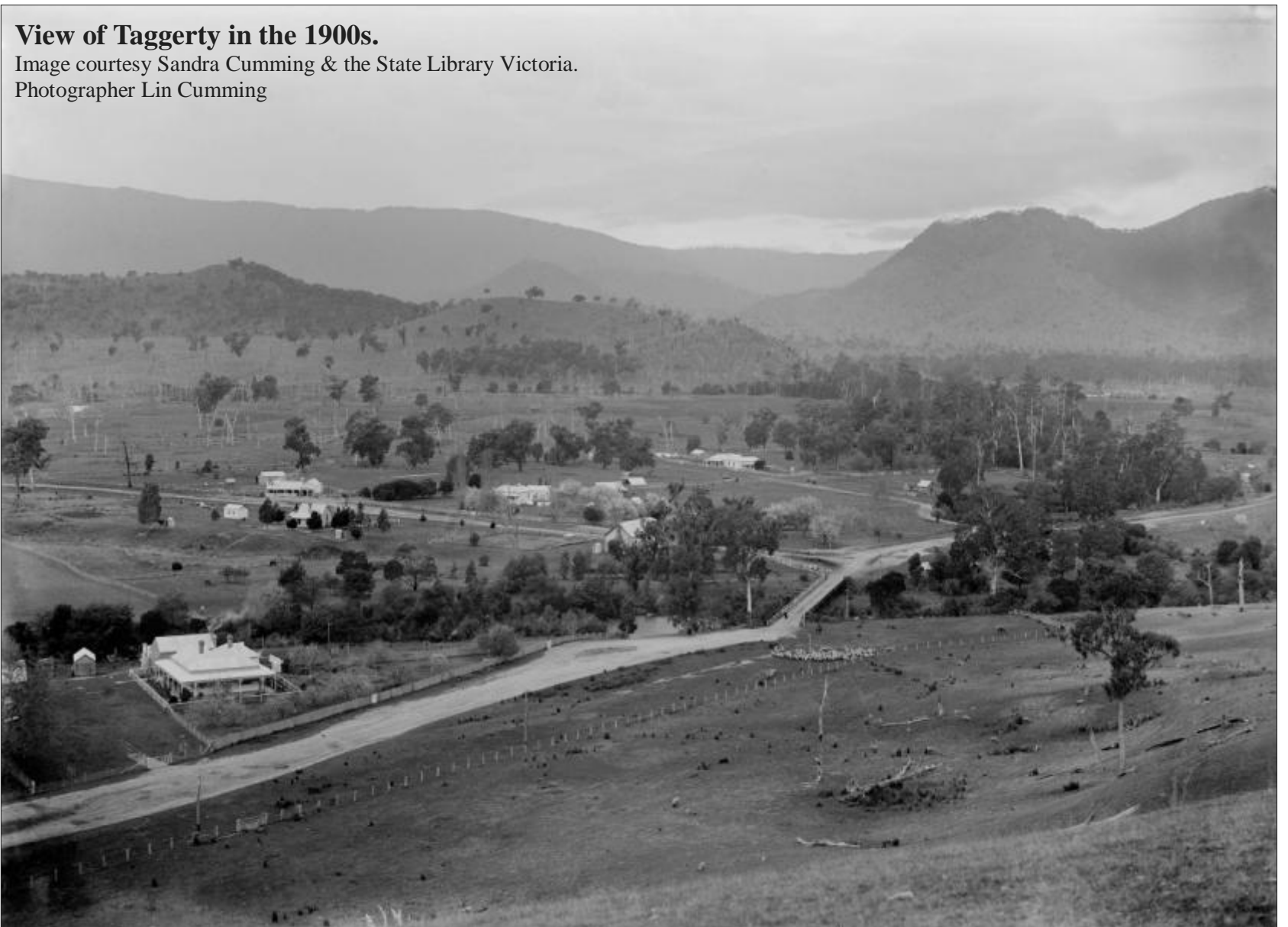
We hear that sports are to be held at the Cathedral-side Hotel on New Year's Day next, **when visitors will have an opportunity to explore the caves in the Cathedral Mount, some of which run for a distance of over 300 feet**, a description of which appeared in The Standard newspaper a few years ago, and are well worthy of a visit. Mr. W. Burchell, Junr., has kindly consented to conduct any person through these caves, which he is now fully exploring for the information of those interested.

*Alexandra & Yea Standard  
13<sup>th</sup> September 1895  
Courtesy National Library Australia*

*Any information on the existence of these caves and their whereabouts would be greatly appreciated.*

### View of Taggerty in the 1900s.

Image courtesy Sandra Cumming & the State Library Victoria.  
Photographer Lin Cumming



THE ROSE SERIES, P. 2372

THE FORD, LITTLE RIVER, TAGGERTY, VICTORIA



THE ROSE SERIES, P. 2353

THE TAGGERTY RIVER, BUXTON, VICTORIA



## HUTS



Top - **A hut in the 1800s, possibly near Marysville.**  
State Library Victoria, Photographer N. J. Caire

Middle left - **The Selector's life.**  
State Library Victoria

Middle right - **Rubicon Ranges.**  
Courtesy Lawrence Hood

Bottom left - **Lithgow miners hut in the 1800s.**  
National Library Australia

Bottom right - **Bark roof hut in Hargraves NSW in the 1800s.**  
National Library Australia





# THE WOMAN'S HOME DUTIES



Washing Day

Housekeeping was never easy in the old days. Lack of electricity and modern appliances meant everything had to be done by hand. (Left) A woman uses a cast steel iron that was first heated on a log stove or fireplace. Once hot, the iron was quickly used until the heat dissipated. (Above) A woman boils the clothes in a copper sitting over a wood fire, then rinses them in a tub of cold water. Eventually the clean clothes and linen will be hung out to dry. Note the kerosene tin water delivery system pictured on the right of the copper.

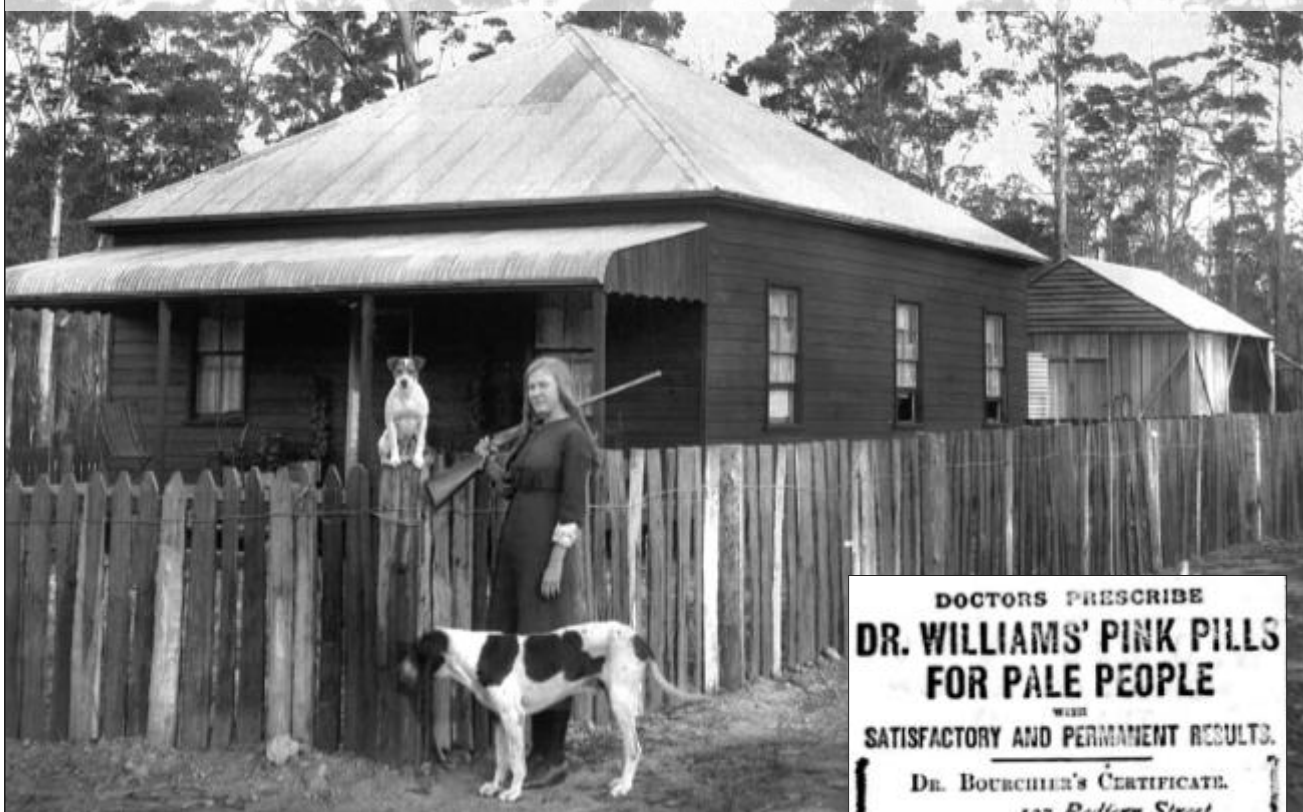
## Things women remember !



13th September 1929  
The Argus  
National Library Australia

**SOLVOL**  
FOR WORK-STAINED HANDS  
*Harmless and non-irritating  
as a fine toilet soap.*

A young lady in News South Wales, preparing the dogs for a hunting trip to find food for the family, in the early 1900s.  
Photographer Angus McNeil



**Latest Style  
Kitchen Cabinets  
£5/18/6**

THEY MAKE HOME DUTIES LIGHT.

MAPLES KITCHEN CABINETS lighten home duties. Fitted with various conveniences they come in three styles in selected or in Oak at prices varying from £4/12/6 to £10/10/. Cash or terms cheerfully arranged.

**MAPLES** All Suburbs.

**DOCTORS PRESCRIBE  
DR. WILLIAMS' PINK PILLS  
FOR PALE PEOPLE**

SATISFACTORY AND PERMANENT RESULTS.

DR. BOURCHIER'S CERTIFICATE  
127 Redfern Street,  
Sydney, N.S.W.

To the  
Dr. Williams' Medicine Co.,  
Sydney.

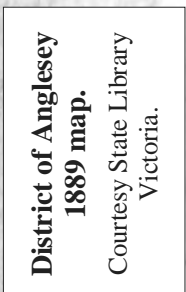
Dear Sirs,  
For some time I have been in the habit of recommending Dr. Williams' Pink Pills to my patients with excellent results. As a tonic, their effect is most satisfactory and permanent. In Anaemia, Chlorosis, and allied diseases I have found them very valuable, and in irregularities they are unequalled.

(Signed),  
**J. G. BOURCHIER, M.D.**  
F.S.Sc. (LOND.), J.P.  
Late Government Medical Officer, N.S.W.

Anemia (Bloodlessness)—Cured.

Morwell Advertiser  
Friday 4th August 1899  
Courtesy National Library Australia







ACHERON

Acheron Breakaway River Bridge, in 1932.

Two photographs mounted on board, make up this panorama.  
Photograph courtesy Dobson Family Collection  
& Murrindindi Library Services 2011.



The bridge over Goulburn breakaway near Alexandra. The five spans on left of picture were added after one winter 1932 when the river moved approx 150ft. The photo shows the present perilous state of the approach on the left where two of the upstream piles are laid bare and the approach likely to fall in at any time. The original section of the bridge on the right, which served for 12 years with only minor repairs is now shown practically on dry land. Image signed A. M. Wilson Acheron (Vic).

ACHERON REEFS.

Crichton and Johnson have had a crushing from their Transit of Venus claim on the Kangaroo side of Candlelight, which turned out favorably.  
The Kangaroo stuff went 6oz per ton.  
The Fiery's last crushing averaged 2,4oz per ton. The stone in the bottom of shaft looks as well as ever. In the last 17 tons crushed the bottom stuff went at the rate of 6oz per ton; the balance was from No. 3 shaft, south end, and went at the rate of 1oz 14dwt per ton. We wonder the owners don't put this claim into scrip, as we consider the following balance-sheet (to the correctness of which we can personally testify) eminently satisfactory.

FINNY PROSPECTING CLAIM, ACHERON.			
Dr.			
1875—Ap. 22 to Aug. 11—			
To gold (34 tons quartz, at 76s 6d)	£392	14	7½
1876—Mar. 11 to May 13—			
Do (34 tons quartz, at 76s 9d)	685	7	6¼
	£1078	2	1¼
Cr.			
1875—Ap. 22 to May 13, 1876—			
By men's wages	£607	10	0
... Carting, crushing, powder, tools, &c.	180	10	0
... Balance paid in dividends	840	2	1¼
	£1078	2	1¼

CATHEDRA.

Acheron City. May 25, 1876.

Alexandra Times  
Saturday 27th May 1876  
Courtesy National Library Australia

Wood Engravings

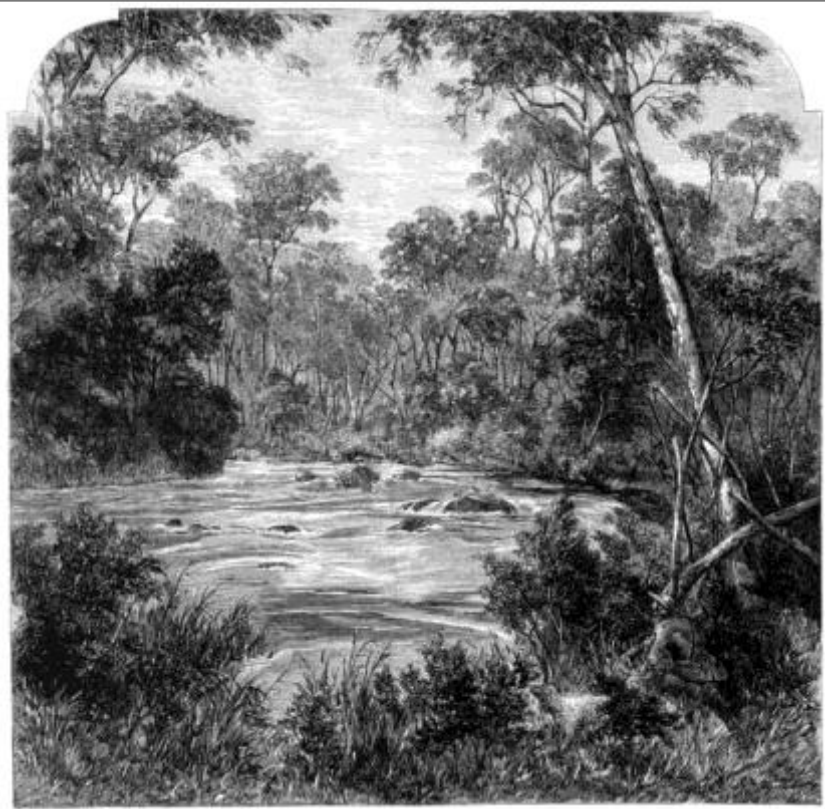
(image right)

The wood engraving by Carl. Walter of the Acheron River (right) is from 1867. It is not known if this is near the lower or upper sections of the Acheron River, though the absence of large mountains in the background may suggest it was towards the lower end of the river. The amount of water also suggests it may have been between where Taggerty and Acheron townships now stand.

In Wood Engravings, a block of wood was used to create a print of the scene that was being illustrated. In more modern times, metal plates replaced wood.

A man and his dog can be seen on the bottom right of this detailed wood engraving.

Courtesy State Library Victoria & Murrindindi Library Services



PUBLIC TENDERS.

The Public Works department accepted the following tenders yesterday:—Acheron-bridge, forming, &c., Fisher's Creek to Buxton-road, contract No. 253A—E. Nichols, Buxton, £439 17s. 6d.; drainage works to Crown lands rear of Victoria-barracks, St. Kilda road—W. Wareing, Carlton, £187 13s. 6d.; fittings, &c., Mining department, public offices, Ballarat—W. J. Parlett, Fitzroy, £80 14s. 2d.; new steps, fencing, &c., entrance to Studley-park, near Abbotsford—Wright Bros., Richmond, £45 6s.; supply of 1,340 tons of wrought-iron 30in. and 24in. pipes—Mephan Ferguson, Carlton Foundry, £17 14s. 6d. per ton; painting, colouring, and repairing state schools, Carlton—W. Perl, Footscray, £112 7s. 9d.; Bell-street—J. G. Harmsworth, Carlton, £85 16s. 6d.; Port Melbourne—G. C. Williams, Melbourne, £125 13s.; Albert-park—D. Norris, Melbourne, £123 18s. 9d.

The Argus  
17th December 1886  
Courtesy National Library Australia



Acheron Primary School (SS 1449) pictured circa 1940s.

On the 27 Feb 1873 a petition signed by Peter McColl. Thomas Connelly. John Dick. David Moir and Robert Dobson asked that Mrs. Janet McIlwraith's private school - Niagaroon - (on the Niagaroon run) be brought under State control.  
A roll of 14 boys and 15 girls was forwarded with the petition.  
Courtesy State Library Victoria & Murrindindi Library Services



## BONNIE DOON

**Bonnie Doon Collegian bucket gold dredge.**  
Courtesy Bonnie Doon Community Centre



Dredging was yet another way of extracting gold from soil and rock. The dredge would scoop up large amounts of mud, sludge, gravel and rock, and then it would be processed inside the dredge building. The Bonnie Doon dredge (pictured above) was a medium sized dredge and illustrates how dredges were set up. Dredges generally floated on the water, so that they could move around easily. This enabled them to scoop from different areas. Many old dredges are still visible in Victoria, though possibly the best preserved example of a large gold dredge, is the Eldorado Dredge near Beechworth.

### ORANGE BLOSSOMS. PROWD - MOONEY.

A charming, but quiet, wedding took place in Scots Church, Collins street, Melbourne, on March 14, when John H. D. Prowd, of "Woodlands," Maindample, eldest son of Mr. Wm. Prowd, of "Wattle Grove," Bonnie Doon, was united in the holy bonds of matrimony to Muriel Constance, only daughter of Senior-constable James Mooney, of Alexandra.

The ceremony was performed by the

Rev. Dr. Marshall. The bride was attired, in a beautiful cream satin cloth coat and skirt, trimmed with Cluny lace, cream silk braid and handsome floral appliqué. She also wore a handsome cream silk beaver picture hat, trimmed with white feathers and soft ribbon.

The bride wore the bridegroom's gift, a magnificent diamond and pearl pendant. She was attended by three bridesmaids, viz, Misses M. Meston (Albert Park), V. Prowd (Bonnie Doon, sister of bridegroom); and, M. Kidd (Alexandra). All these were

dressed alike in pretty Eton coats and skirts of pastel blue cloth, relieved with brown velvet and Oriental appliqué and brown beaver hats, trimmed with brown feathers, tipped with cream. They, too, wore the gifts of the bridegroom, gold bangles.

Mr. R. Pollock (Melbourne) acted as best man and Mr. G. Fullerton as grooms man. After the ceremony the guests re-assembled at the Winter Gardens where the reception was held and -the usual toasts honored.

A splendid string band was in

attendance and a large number of congratulatory telegrams was received.

The happy couple then took their departure for Sydney, per express, amid hearty congratulations and showers of confetti, where the honeymoon was spent.

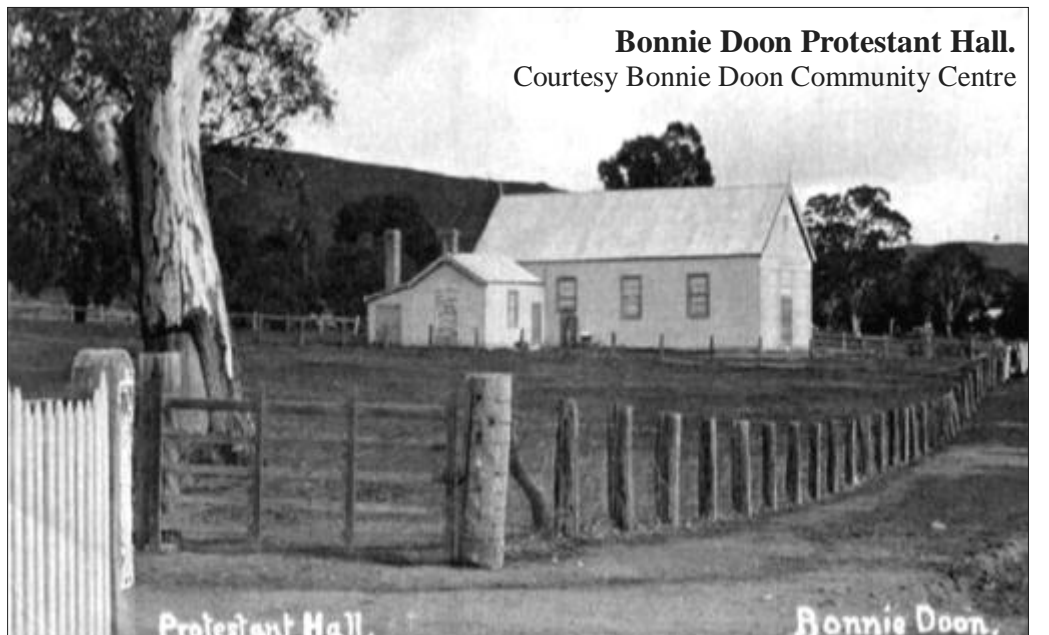
The bride's travelling dress was a cream costume, cream hat and white fur and muff.

Alexandra & Yea Standard  
Friday 19th of April 1907.  
Courtesy National Library Australia

Courtesy Bonnie Doon Community Centre



**Bonnie Doon Protestant Hall.**  
Courtesy Bonnie Doon Community Centre





## BONNIE DOON



The Junction Hotel (Heffernan's) in the late 1800's.  
Photograph courtesy Bonnie Doon Community Centre



Bonnie Doon Hall in 1939.  
Photograph courtesy Bonnie Doon Community Centre



Joseph Sartain's new Saddlery and Harness Maker business,  
and the Post Office (located on the right) in 1895.  
Courtesy Bonnie Doon Community Centre

### THE STANDARD

—Friday, January 24, 1941.—

Friday, 31st January, will be a red letter day in the history of Bonnie Doon and Maindample, for it will mark the switching on of the electric light in those towns. The great occasion will be celebrated with a monster gala ball, in the Bonnie Doon Public Hall, at which the switching on ceremony will take place at 10 p.m.

Alexandra & Yea Standard  
Friday 24th January 1941  
Courtesy National Library Australia



## JAMIESON

## JAMIESON.

(FROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT.)

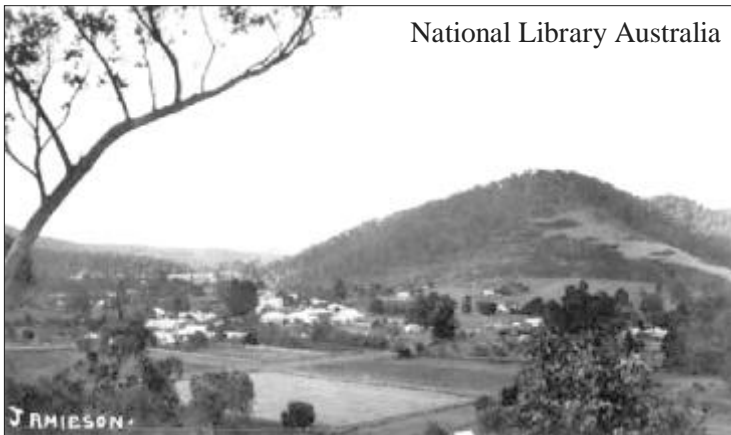
Things are looking promising at the Howqua Hills; promising for a big success, or a big failure. The samples analysed have given such good results that if the reefs when treated on the ground yield but one-half as much, the success of the Hills will be a certainty. There are now 197 acres held under lease, and 106 more have been pegged out and applied for during the last week. The contract for making the biggest iron wheel in the colony (60ft.) for the Hills, has been let. Crushing has been commenced, and though the furnaces are not yet up, they soon will be.

Our local footballers scored a victory against their Mansfield neighbours, on the latter's ground on Saturday, so I expect they will be challenging the Alexandra team next.

The latest local topic is the plain and fancy dress ball, to be held at the Shire hall, on Friday, the 17th August next. This is to be given in return to the ladies who got up the ball on the opening of the Shire hall. Mr. Gummow, the hon. sec., has made arrangements to hire fancy dresses for any lady and gentleman who needs them. The price of the tickets are extremely moderate, being only 10s. 6d. for a gentleman and lady. The following are the most noticeable dresses fixed on by Jamieson people:—Nancy Lee, Sailor, Jockey, Henry VIII, Mephisto (a lady's dress), Folly, Night, Joy, Daughter of the Regiment, Gentleman time Charles II, &c. This will be the first fancy dress ball ever held in Jamieson, and bids fair to be very successful.

Alexandra &amp; Yea Standard, Friday 27th July 1883

Courtesy National Library Australia



Woods Point mail coach in 1908.

Courtesy National Library Australia



Devil's Hill, on way to Woods Point in 1864.

Courtesy National Library Australia

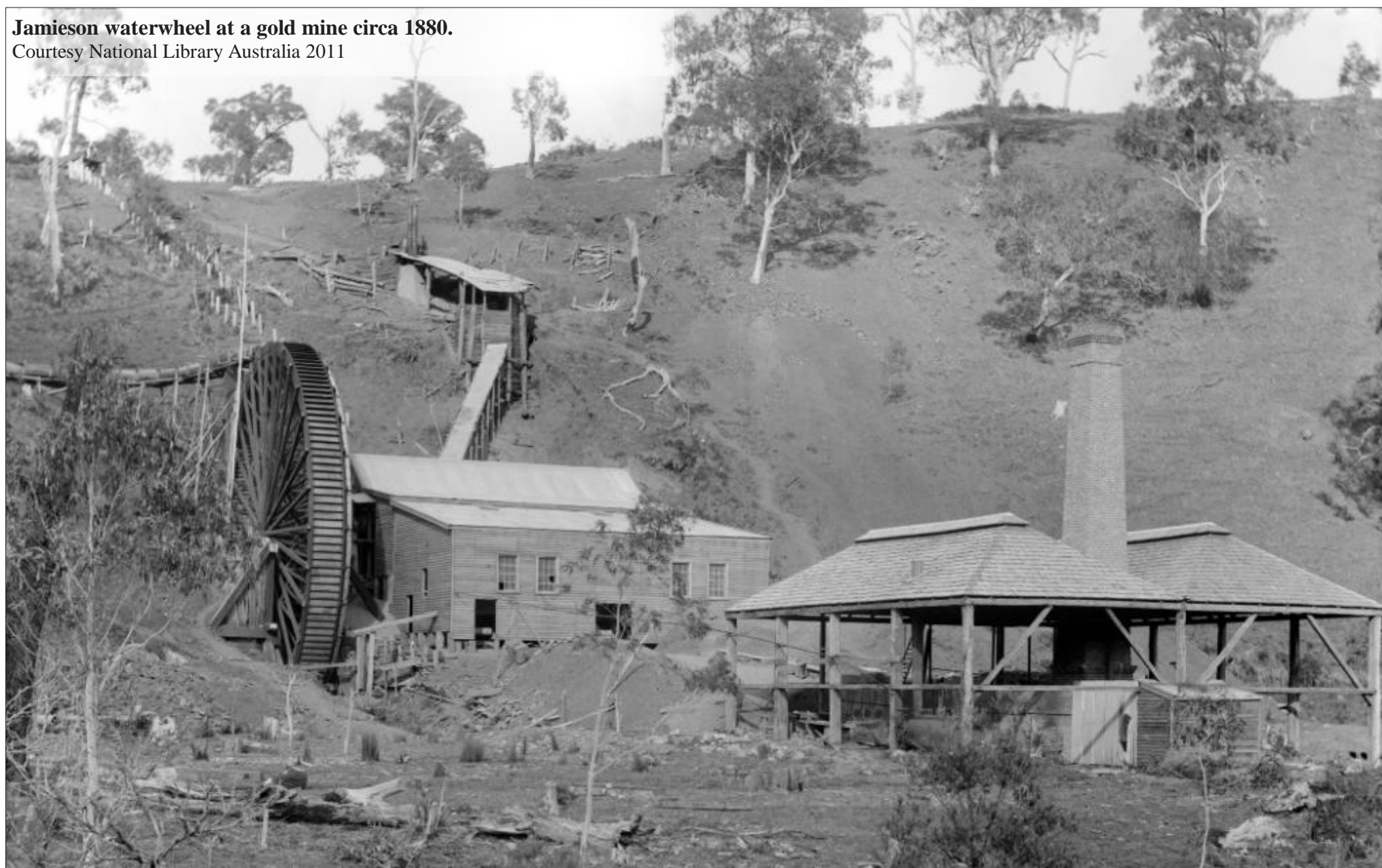




JAMIESON



Jamieson waterwheel at a gold mine circa 1880.  
Courtesy National Library Australia 2011



Jamieson waterwheel at a gold mine circa 1880.  
Courtesy National Library Australia 2011





## MARYSVILLE

**Death of Mr. James Hodson.**

Mr. James Hodson died on Thursday of last week, after a lengthy illness. He was a native of Marysville, and for the past 35 years had resided in Alexandra. Back in the days of his youth, he was engaged in road-making, in company with his brothers, in various parts of the Marysville-Narbethong district. His father was one of the pioneer residents of that locality. During his residence in Alexandra Mr. Hodson took an active part in many local affairs. He was a keen member of the M.U.I.O.O.F. Lodge, and occupied the head position in the Lodge on several occasions. As a citizen he played his part in many helpful ways, and in the sporting sphere he was an ardent supporter of cricket. He was president of No. 3 team for a couple of years, and when Test matches were on in Melbourne he never failed to have a day or two at the M.C.C. ground. We will miss him from the "Standard" office on publishing nights and his cheery "How are the boys to-night" as he came in to see how the printing operations were proceeding and, at the same time, exchange a few comments on the progress of affairs generally in the Shire. For many years he was employed by the Shire Council, and gave entire satisfaction to the many engineers that have occupied the position of municipal engineer at Alexandra. By his death a useful citizen has passed to "the undiscovered country from whose bourn no traveller returns," and many friends regret the loss they have sustained. The funeral took place on Friday last, the remains being interred in the Alexandra cemetery. The Rev. D. Blake conducted the service at the graveside. The coffin-bearers were Messrs. S. Hewitt, W. Cooper, J. Docking, E. Stillman, M. McLeod, S. Stillman (members of the M.U.I.O.O.F. Lodge), and the pall-bearers were Messrs. R. Scott, G. Molr, A. Lewis, H. Sawers, F. Walker, F. Yeates.

The late Mr. Hodson leaves a widow, three brothers (William, Charles and Thomas), and a sister (Mrs. Nash).

Alexandra & Yea Standard  
24th December 1937  
Courtesy State Library Victoria



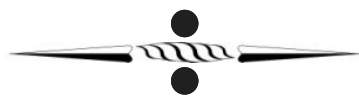
Cycling on the road to Marysville in 1904.  
Photographer Mark Daniel Courtesy State Library Victoria



The Coach from  
Healesville to  
Marysville.

State Library  
Victoria

### Marysville Cobb & Co Coach



This old coach pictured above has "Healesville & Marysville" written above the doors in large type. The image was most likely taken between the 1880s and 1910s, and shows how luxury country travel was conducted during those harder times.

The image shows ten people already loaded onto the coach,

and four seats empty. Based on that, it has a massive loaded capacity of fourteen people.

Today, we would use a small bus to move that many people around the district.

A coach loaded in such a fashion as the one above had to be very careful. These roads were rough, unsealed, often deeply rutted and at times almost unpassable. Such a top heavy coach was prone to rolling over and the driver had to be attentive at all times.

In such a situation, those on top were most at risk of being thrown off or trapped under a

rolling carriage.

The coach pictured would likely be travelling across Black's Spur (now known as the Black Spur) towards Marysville and returning then to Healesville.

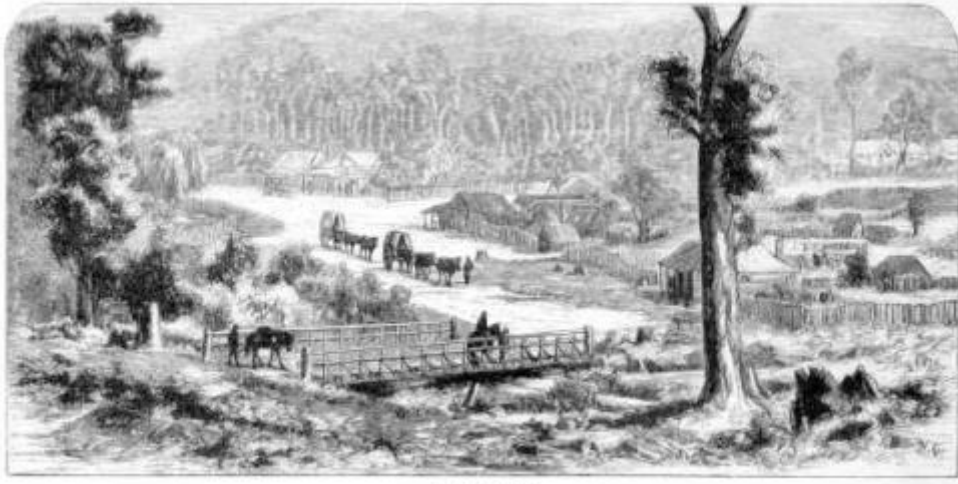
They would have been negotiating along some very steep and dangerous tracks in places. This would have included the notorious Devils Elbow, that was located on the Old Coach Road (above the current sealed road over the Black Spur).

Courtesy State Library Victoria  
& Kelly Petersen





MARYSVILLE & FERNSHAW



MARYSVILLE



MEETING OVER A DIFFICULTY.—CORRIGUT ROAD, BEYOND FERNSHAW.



ON THE ROAD TO FERNSHAW.



FERNSHAW STATE SCHOOL.



ON THE ROAD TO FERNSHAW.



STEVENSON FALLS.

Courtesy State Library Victoria. Monograms by James Waltham Curtiss engraved in January of 1881. These wood engravings were published in The Illustrated Australian news.



## YARCK & CATHKIN

**MISS MARIE DUNN,**  
(University Conservatorium)  
**R**ECEIVES and Visits PUPILS for the  
PIANOFORTE, Harmony and Counterpoint.  
Terms on application  
"The Willows," Cathkin.

Alexandra & Yea Standard  
Friday 20th May 1904  
Courtesy National Library Australia



Halligan's Garage at Yarck circa 1953.  
Courtesy Images of Yarck & District

**L**OST between Alexandra and Cathkin.  
**COACH CUSHION.** Finder please  
return to A. WATT, Coach Driver, Alex-  
andra. -au-22

Alexandra & Yea Standard  
Friday 22nd August 1890  
Courtesy National Library Australia

### PUBLIC MEETING AT YARCK.

A numerously attended meeting was held at the Yarck schoolhouse on the evening of the 18th inst., to receive report of deputation appointed to wait on the Shire Council in reference to the Yarck common. Mr John Tait was voted to the chair.

It was arranged that the herdsman be given 14 days' further trial to keep the common clear of trespassing stock, previous to any other action being taken.

Other important business was also dealt with, as follows:—

It was moved by Mr Gillies, seconded by Mr Quayle, and carried—That Messrs Gough, Frood, and Tait be empowered to draw up a memorial to the Minister of Lands relative to a new site for a cemetery.

One of the members for the riding, Councillor Baker, who attended at considerable inconvenience, explained most fully to the meeting the proposed abolition of ridings by the Shire Council, and left it to the meeting to say what steps they would approve of in the matter.

Mr Murray moved, Mr Tait seconded, and it was carried—That this meeting approves of the action taken by the Alexandra Shire Council in endeavoring to have the present ridings abolished and formed into one electoral district.

Votes of thanks were passed to Mr Baker for his attendance, and also to the Chairman and Mr Frood for his services as secretary.

Alexandra Times  
Saturday 28th August 1875  
Courtesy National Library Australia



Gordon Kipping in 1929.  
Courtesy Images of Yarck & District, and Norma Hodson

### William Kipping (standing) & Alma Kubiell in 1930.

Courtesy Images of Yarck & District, and Norma Hodson



Yarck Railway Station circa 1950s.  
Courtesy Bonnie Doon Community Centre 2011



WEDNESDAY 15TH MARCH. 1899.

## GOULBURN • VALLEY.

GREAT SUBSISTENTIAL SALE.

## THE WELL-KNOWN CATHKIN ESTATE,

5,500 Acre  
ALSO, 45 ALLOTMENTSDivided into Farms,  
THE CATHKIN TOWNSHIP.

Magnificent River Flats. The Finest Dairying  
Grand Agricultural Land.  
Splendidly Watered by the Goulburn River and numerous  
Railway Station in the Centre and at Each End of the Estate.

## WM. HAMILTON &amp; CO.

Have received instructions to Sell by Public Auction, on the ground, at the Homestead,  
a quarter of a mile from Cathkin Railway Station, on Wednesday, 15th March, at  
TWELVE O'CLOCK, on arrival of the morning train, the Celebrated

## CATHKIN ESTATE,

CONTAINING ABOUT 5,500 ACRES,  
Subdivided into Blocks from 11 to 380 acres.

EXCEPTIONAL  
TERMS OF  
PAYMENT.



**T** HIS PROPERTY is well known as being one of the best in the Goulburn Valley. The whole of it is first-class Sheep and Cattle Country, while the River Flats are famed as containing some of the finest land on the Goulburn for Agriculture, Dairying or Fattening purposes. It is Splendidly Watered by the Goulburn River, to which it has a frontage of about four miles; also by numerous Creeks and Springs. There are also over 1,000 acres of Valuable Redgum Timber on the property.

Few estates are better served as regards Railway communication—Cathkin Railway Station being in the centre of it, while Molesworth and Yarek Railway Stations are at each end; no portion of the property being more than two and a half miles from a Railway Station.

The Land has been carefully subdivided into blocks to suit all classes of buyers, and opportunity will be given to a purchaser at the Sale to secure one or more blocks at option.

No ridiculous reserves have been placed upon the Land, as the Auctioneers' instructions are to sell.

**TERMS OF PAYMENT:** One-fifth Cash, Balance extending over seven years in equal payments, bearing interest at the rate of 4½ per cent.; or, **ALL CASH**, at the option of the purchaser.

**TERMS FOR THE TOWNSHIP ALLOTMENTS:**—One quarter Cash, Balance at 1, 2, and 3 years, interest 4½ per cent.

## TITLES - FREEHOLD CERTIFICATES.

POSSESSION CAN BE HAD AT ONCE OF ANY OF THE LAND PURCHASED.

PLANS AND ALL INFORMATION FROM—

LUNCHEON PROVIDED. \*

WM. HAMILTON & CO., 87 Queen Street, Melbourne; or from  
Mr. A. DUNN, CATHKIN, who will show intending purchasers over the property.

WALKER, MAY &amp; CO. Printers, Mackillop St. Melbourne.

Courtesy Margaret Jeffery &amp; John Sharwood



## EILDON

The Argus 1907  
11th December  
Courtesy National  
Library Australia

## ELECTRICITY AND IRRIGATION

## THE TRAWOOL DAM.

## A COMPREHENSIVE SCHEME.

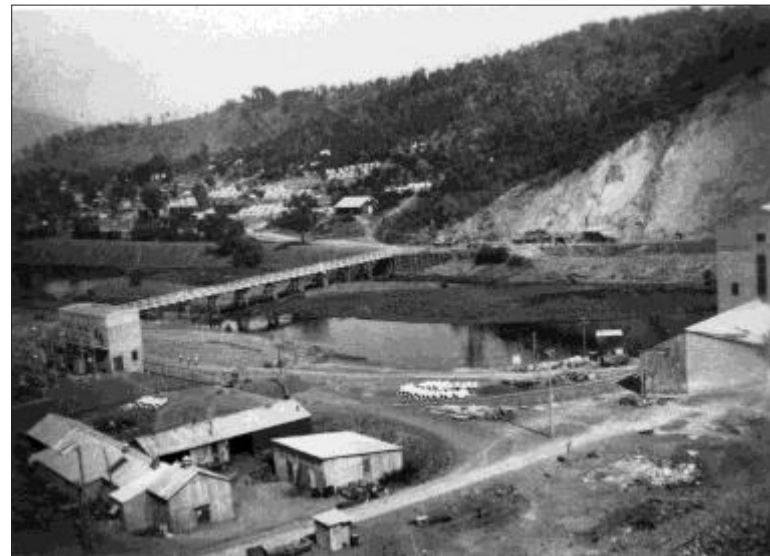
Those who deal in electricity have long cast envious glances at the almost untold possibilities, as a generator of power, of the Goulburn River, in its reaches above Seymour. They consider that with the head of water to be obtained there, Melbourne, Bendigo, and Ballarat could be supplied for many years with all the electric power required. As long ago as 1881 a scheme was suggested, and elaborate surveys and calculations made to ascertain what could be done. About two years ago the Victorian Government was approached with a suggestion, and gradually the present scheme has been evolved.

The proposal is that just below the Trawool railway station, on the Tallarook to Mansfield line, a masonry dam should be built across the Goulburn River. It would be 1,700ft. long across the valley, between two high hills, and would be 180ft. high. This would provide a depth of water there of 120ft., and the river would be dammed back a distance of 30 miles to Cathkin. The township of Yea, on the banks of the Yea River, would be submerged to a depth of about 35ft., and the rails at Cathkin railway station would be 9ft. under water. This inland lake, with an average depth of 60ft., would cover an area of 25,000 acres. Its length would be 30 miles, and in some places it would be four or five miles across the water, over the Doogalook or Killingworth flats, from the foot hills. Yea township would have to be moved, as the water would cover all the flats, and reach as far up the hill, on the east side of the line, as the butter factory. The railway line from Trawool to Cathkin would either have to be diverted or done away with altogether. The line winds in and out along the banks of the Goulburn, sometimes only a few feet above the present flood level, and nearly always far below the surface of the water, if the dam were built. The work of threading the line afresh around those hills would be tedious and expensive, especially at King Parrot Creek, and, to a certain extent, useless. As far as the expense is concerned, it is estimated that the scheme would have to be charged with £230,000 for those 30 miles of railway.

Whether the line from Cathkin to Mansfield and the short spur from Cathkin to Alexandra-road should be reconnected with Trawool will cause some discussion. The direct route from Alexandra-road to Melbourne is through Taggerty, the Acheron, Marysville, and Healesville. This line could be built, and would tap a large district, while the country between Cathkin and Trawool would be served by the 30 miles of waterway created by the erection of the dam. These are points by the way, but they enter into the calculation in this big scheme. The Alexandra railway extension is particularly affected by this scheme, and should not be advanced until some finality is reached on this dam question. The damming of the Goulburn would regulate the flow of water, and would form part of the huge irrigation scheme proposed for the northern portions of Victoria, and in this aspect it would be a national work.

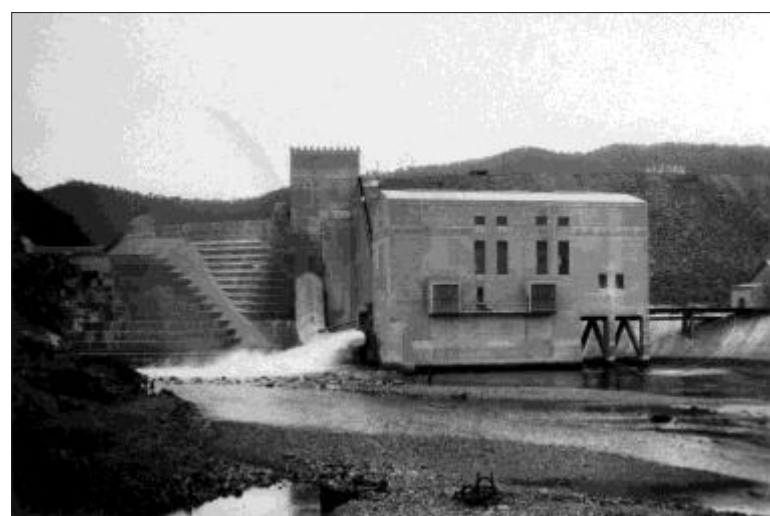
The proposal is that the Government should carry out the work. The erection of the dam, purchase of land, and compensation to the Railway department would, it is estimated, cost between £1,250,000 and £1,500,000. Should the scheme be acted on, it would take five or six years to complete. The high hills on either side of the dam are granite, while the foot hills are covered with silurian shale. The granite for the masonry would thus be close at hand.

In order to place some idea of the scheme before Mr. Merz, the expert who is to report on the electrification of the suburban railways, a visit was made to the locality yesterday. The party consisted of Mr. Swinburne, M.L.A. (Minister for Agriculture and Water Supply), Mr. Tait (chairman) and Mr. Hudson (Railway Commissioners), Mr. Merz, Mr. Elwood Mead (chairman State's Rivers and Water Commission), Messrs. C. E. Norman and Stuart Murray (engineers-in-chief of the Railways and Water Supply departments), and H. E. Coane. A special train was run to the site, and the party, having inspected the points of interest, returned to town in the afternoon.



Sugarloaf Reservoir.

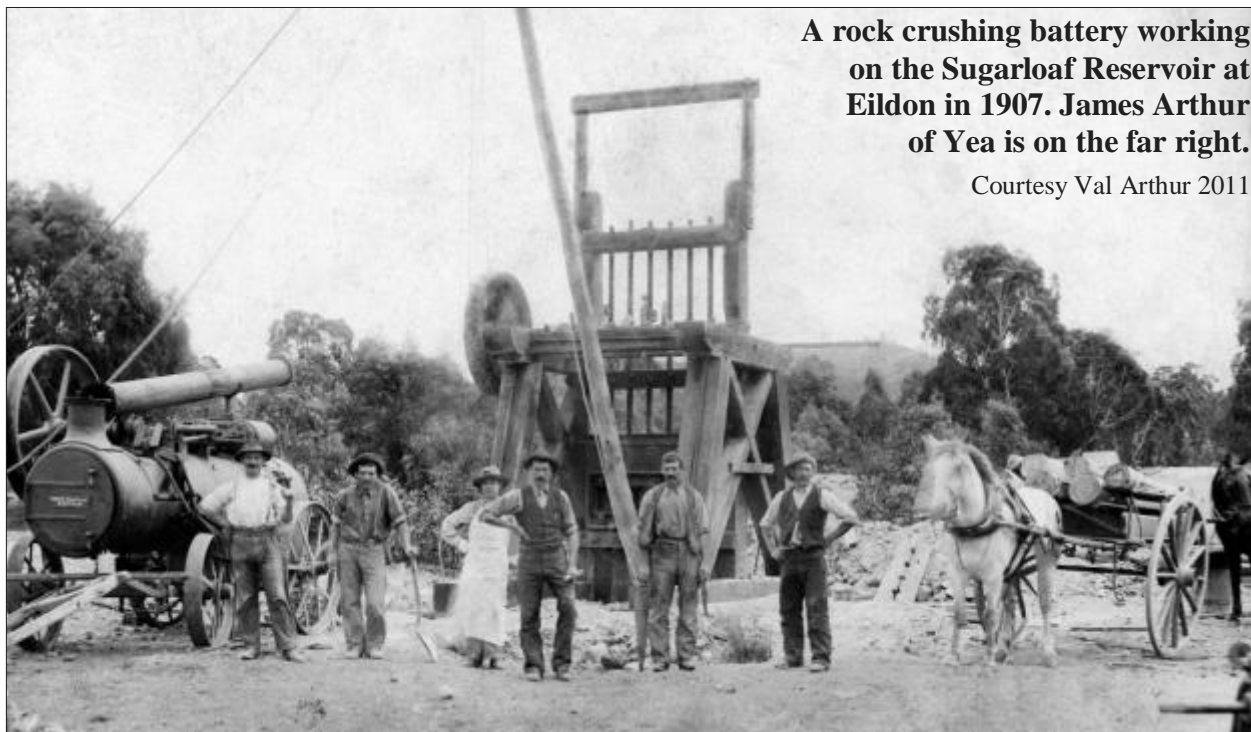
Photograph courtesy Rita Marshall 2011



Sugarloaf Reservoir.

Photograph courtesy Rita Marshall 2011

WINSOR & NEWTON'S  
Liquid Water  
Colours & Mediums  
In Sixpenny and Shilling Bottles.



A rock crushing battery working on the Sugarloaf Reservoir at Eildon in 1907. James Arthur of Yea is on the far right.

Courtesy Val Arthur 2011



Eildon Sugarloaf Reservoir Spillway in 1939.

Photographer J.P. Campbell  
Courtesy Rod Falconer



## EILDON

**EILDON WEIR.****CONSTRUCTION DESCRIBED.****HOW MISHAP OCCURRED.**

Discussions of the mishap at the Eildon Weir and the report of the board appointed by the Ministry to investigate the occurrence have contained a wealth of technical phraseology, the meaning of which is obscure to the layman. Members of the public who have not had an opportunity of seeing the weir, or any similar structure, are doubtless unable to envisage its appearance.

In order to conserve water for irrigation and other purposes it was proposed in 1912 to throw a wall across a valley near the junction of the Goulburn and Delatite Rivers, so as to dam the streams. A narrow opening between two hills—one is the Sugarloaf, a name by which the weir is frequently called—was chosen. Owing to financial difficulties it was considered impracticable to erect a barrage of solid masonry of the type generally accepted as standard for such work, and it was resolved to build a dam of the "rock fill" type. The dam consists of a concrete wall known as the "diaphragm" or "core," 11ft. 11in. wide at the top, increasing to a thickness of 5ft. to 6ft. at the bottom. Its foundations extend for 5ft. down into solid rock to make a watertight connection, and it is reinforced on both sides by a grid of half-inch steel rods placed horizontally and vertically. Against the upstream side of the wall—that is on the side touched by the water—a wall of clay about 30ft. wide at the bottom and about 20ft. wide at the top was built. In height it originally reached to within 5ft. of the top of the concrete wall. Over this were spread masses of rock. A similar supporting wall was placed against the core wall on the downstream side, so that a cross-section of the whole, when completed was practically triangular in shape.

At the Sugarloaf hill end of the dam a spillway consisting of a concrete wall, rounded at the top, was built lower than the top of the dam to allow excess water to escape in times of abnormal pressure on the capacity of the weir. The construction of the spillway allows water to pour over it to a depth of 17ft. before it can flow over the top of the dam itself. Owing to its position against the Sugarloaf hill the spillway could not be built straight, and it is curved in shape. After the recent mishap residents of the districts below the dam expressed fears that if a flood occurred the pressure on the wall would become so great that the dam would burst, and it was suggested that the spillway should be lowered in order that a greater amount of water might be allowed to escape. In a supplementary report the inquiry board agreed that the proposal would give some relief, but thought that it would not afford full protection against high floods.

In addition to the spillway there are eight gates feeding an outlet tunnel through which the water of the Goulburn rushes to the Murray. Portion of the water passes through a hydro-electric station controlled by the State Electricity Commission, and drives the machinery there. The gates are contained in a valve tower, with the machinery necessary for operating them.

In April of this year the bank of clay and its rock facing on the upstream side of the core wall began to subside, and the top of the core wall became exposed to a maximum depth of 26ft. The greatest subsidence took place beside the core wall, and the exposed face of the concrete was heavily scored by the sliding of the stones against it. The subsidence continued for some time, and was still going on in May. The pressure on the core wall caused it to be deflected from its true line, and at two points this deflection amounted to 4ft. 8in. At the same time cracks developed in the core wall. Great alarm was felt, and the Ministry appointed a special inquiry board to investigate the subsidence, the report and recommendations of which have been fully dealt with. The State Rivers and Water Supply Commission is now carrying out the remedial measures recommended by the board.

**PROTECTION OF SETTLERS.****Confidence in Ministry.**

Confidence that the Ministry was doing all possible to protect the lives and interests of settlers in the valley below the Eildon weir was expressed in the Legislative Assembly last night by Mr. Cleary (C.P.P., Benalla).

Mr. Cleary said that the unfortunate subsidence at the weir had shaken the confidence of the public in those responsible for its construction, but it should be remembered that the present members of the commission had been in no way connected with the work. A doubt had been created whether other water storages in the State were strong enough to resist the pressure of flood waters within them.

Mr. Tunnecliffe (Lab., Collingwood).—There will not be any water in the Eildon weir if they cut the spillway down about 20ft.

Mr. Cleary expressed satisfaction with the assurance of the Premier (Sir William McPherson) that everything possible was being done to repair the damage at the weir and prevent a disaster. He hoped that the Hume weir would be completed to its full capacity in spite of the recommendation of the British Economic Mission that the work should be temporarily suspended. It would be false economy to curtail work on water storages.

At the adjournment the acting leader of the Opposition (Mr. Tunnecliffe) asked if, in view of the disturbing amended report of the board of inquiry, in which it was proposed to cut down the spillway by 15 or 20 feet, the Ministry would consider the advisability of having a public inquiry into the mishap at the weir.

Sir William McPherson.—I have said that I would mention the matter to my colleagues, but I do not think that there is any hope that the Ministry will do anything that has not already been done. We have had the advice of the best experts in Australia, and we intend to follow it to the letter. No good purpose could be served by having a public inquiry.

An article on the Eildon Sugarloaf Dam Mishap, and another on the State Enquiry.

Thursday 8 August 1929, The Argus, National Library Australia.

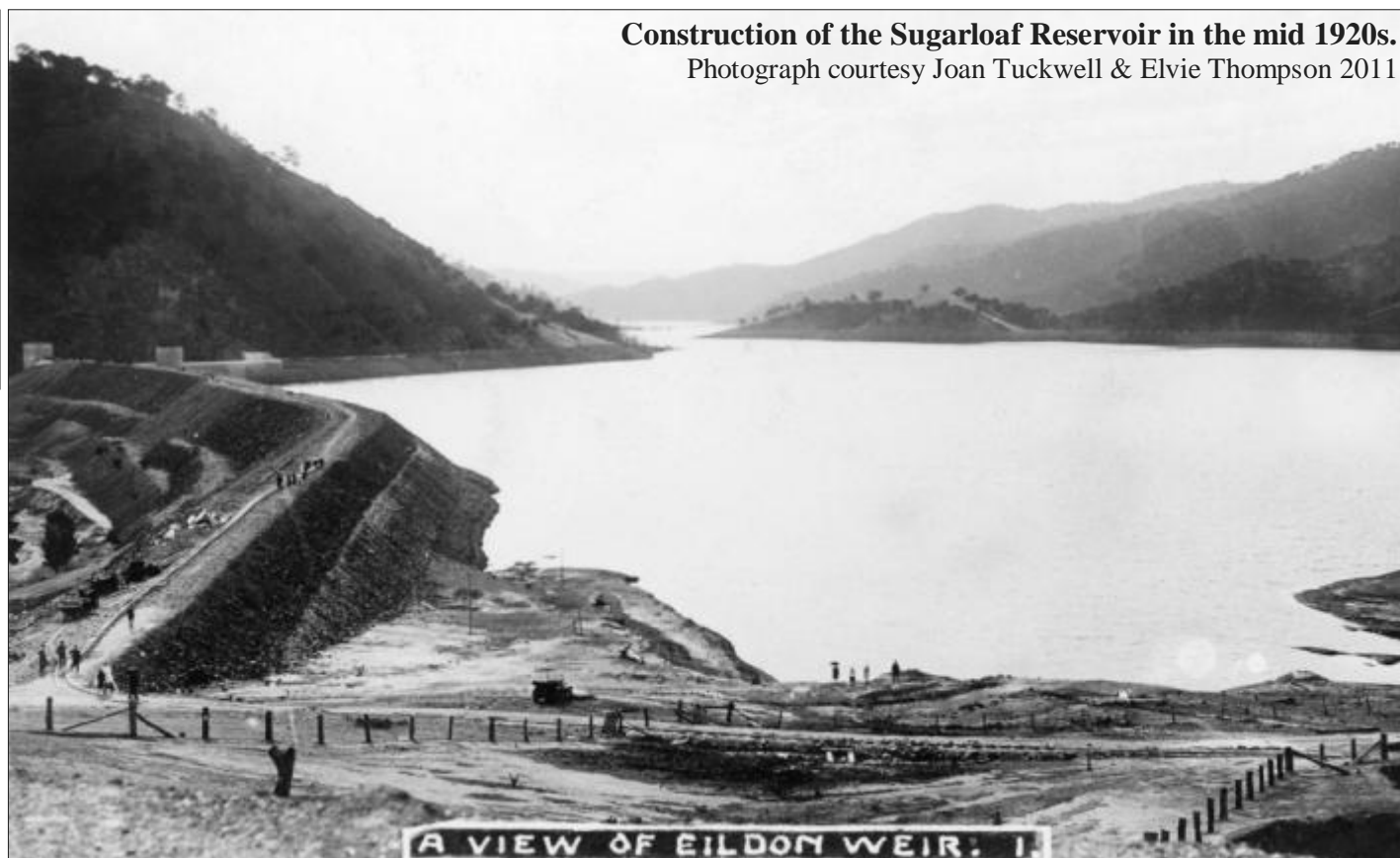


(Above) The Goulburn River in 1916 near where the Sugarloaf Reservoir was later built.

This photograph shows a bridge covered by flood waters.

Further downstream, the brand new Upper Thornton Concrete Bridge was totally destroyed by the flood. This wooden trestle bridge survived, as did the Gilmores and Rennies bridges further downstream.

Courtesy State Library Victoria 2011



Construction of the Sugarloaf Reservoir in the mid 1920s.

Photograph courtesy Joan Tuckwell & Elvie Thompson 2011



## SEPTEMBER 1912 FLOOD OF THE GOULBURN

## The Goulburn Valley Deluge

During the week the Alexandra district has witnessed one of the most appalling floods known since the memorable one in 1870. In some respect this was more serious for the population now is so much denser than it was then. More than that the country is fenced in, hindering horses, cattle and sheep, that otherwise might have drawn back from escaping. There is now much more stock on the land.

What also increased the terrors of this flood was the rapidity of the rise. So few people expected such a flood. Even those who were warned only laughed. It was not thought that such a rise could take place so rapidly. But with six and a quarter inches of rain at Woods Point, and the solid downpour in the valley of the Rubicon the phenomenal rise is easily explained. On Saturday night the Goulburn was running a banker on account of the heavy falls at Jamieson and Gaffney's Creek and the great discharge from the Delatite and Big River. Behind this came the six and a quarter inch fall at Wood's Point. By the time this water reached Thornton on Saturday night and Sunday morning the result of the cloud burst up in the Rubicon ranges, was down on the Thornton flat with no opportunity of escape. There was nothing for it but to spread out all over the country. From Christies right down for miles, the country was an immense sea. The dry anabranches became rivers, rushing like millraces. Anyone or anything out on the flat was shut in with the swollen river on one side and the anabranches on the other. There was no escape. As the water rose they were pressed back yard by yard to the higher ground, if any existed, and sometimes men and animals were cut off from the higher ground in view, by some intervening lagoon filled to the brim, or some creek which had suddenly started to run and in a few minutes was an impassable torrent, whirling, swirling in its mad flow, to attempt to cross which meant suicide.

Sheep and cattle were overtaken before their owners could get them out. Dazed with fright, stupid in their fear, they let the current do with them what it wished. The destruction of stock has been very great. Some who got early warning and from long experience of the district had some idea of what was possible, got their

stock off the flats onto the higher ground. Those who knew nothing of the 1870 flood, and had known the district only the last few years, when the floods were but moderate and rose slowly after much warning, had no idea of the possibility. They know it now.

### AN INLAND SEA.

During Sunday and Monday the valley of the Goulburn for miles was one immense sheet of water. Thornton seems to have suffered most in the modern deluge. Baker's Hotel, Thornton, was inundated with over a foot of water running through the house. The flood trouble was accentuated here by the tramway embankment blocking the water somewhat, though possibly quite as much damage would have been done if the embankment had not been there.

### HOUSES FLOODED.

Payne's store with the dwelling house on slightly higher ground than Baker's and on the other side the tramway, escaped to the extent that the water only flowed under the house without coming in. The same was the case with the store belonging to W. H. Robinson, the water only flowed under, and the dwelling house was on an island. Mrs Robinson's son, has the water in the house, that was isolated. Mr H. Robinson's house, being on a bank, escaped without inundation. Mr Tossol was cut off from all communication, though the house was above the flood.

### CUT OFF.

The difficulty in communicating with Thornton from Alexandra was owing to the breaks in the floods and the land. There was a big sheet of water at the foot of Mt Pleasant, then a stretch of land as far as Kennedy's and Gilmore's, where the flood waters again stretched out. After that the road was passable as far as Thornton except where culverts were washed out, and as the culverts, in many instances, were under water, it was risky to attempt to cross, as no one knew whether the culvert was in its place or not.

### THE SUBMERGED TRAMWAY.

The recently laid and metalled Rubicon Lumber Company Tramway from Thornton to Alexandra. has suffered very severely and is badly damaged in many places. This is very regretful as so many are now

dependant upon the welfare and prosperity of the saw mills on the Rubicon. So violent was the floods in some parts that fence and tramway were carried right across the road as though they were two bits of rope yarn. It will be some weeks before anything can be sent over the lines even if the floods subside at once and they are able to get to work immediately, on the embankments.

### A BIG BRIDGE CATASTROPHE.

The greatest and most serious catastrophe was the sweeping away of the big bridge on the Goulburn at Beaver's. This is one of the oldest bridges on the river, and though there are not so many dependant on this bridge as there was at one time, before the others were built, it is yet a great loss to those served by it. It is also a great loss because in fine winter, when the road was good, many travelled on the north side of the river, as it was a more level road and shorter than the one on the sought side, and crossed over to the main road again, by the bridge that is washed away. This collapse was on the verge of causing one of the most thrilling sensations in the whole of this wide spread tragedy. Mr Peel, State school teacher at Eildon, with his wife and Miss Nicholas were standing on the bridge, quite unmindful of danger. Mrs Nicholas, who was on the bank, saw the bridge sway. She screamed to them to come off, and just as they got to safety the bridge went. A minute more and the three watchers would have gone with it.

### RIVERSDALE BRIDGE.

The Riversdale bridge had a fairly severe test, but from all enquiries made it has stood the strain well. Sensational statements got abroad about the bridge, but apparently without foundation. Among the farmers who lost most heavily, so far as we can learn, are Messrs Baker Bros., sheep ; Hayes, sheep, cattle and pigs ; H. Gilmour, cattle and pigs ; J. Tossol, cattle;. David Scott, sheep. Communication was so cut off that it was impossible to get any news through from Thornton on Monday and Tuesday.

### A PLUCKY RIDE.

Mr R. Payne rode through at the risk of his life to get help for the men on Taylor's Flat, but could not get back, as he was unable to cross the raging torrent at Gilmour's old homestead,

now occupied by R. Christie.

### A DENOUNCED DEPARTMENT.

Throughout the district everyone is denouncing the Department for not having provided telephone communication. No end of trouble and anxiety might have been spared many had there been some means of getting messages through. It is to be hoped that after the late experience something will be done to connect Thornton up with Alexandra.

### A GREAT SENSATION.

On Sunday a great sensation was caused in Alexandra when the rumour went abroad that two lads named Nash and Ryan were surrounded by water on Folke's flat, at the foot of the Mount Pleasant range. They were out rabbiting, and the water coming down suddenly, surrounded them before they knew where they were and what had happened. This was about 10 a.m. They made for what they deemed the highest ground, and as the flood waters closed in upon them, they did not know but what the flood would entirely envelop them. They were a quarter of a mile from the range of hills, and swimming was out of the question owing to the coldness of the water and the fierceness of the torrential flow. Mr. John Hoban who saw the danger they were in, came to Alexandra for assistance. While waiting for help, they saw the water rising foot by foot till the height of twelve feet was reached, and there was nothing to assure the lads that it might not rise another twelve feet. Mr Hoban reached Alexandra about 4 p.m. and a search had to be made for a boat. Finally Mr. Ivor McDonald, of Riversdale, who did not know when he might require his boat himself, as his homestead was surrounded by water, generously lent the boat to the rescue party. The boat had to be put in one of Stillman's coaches, dragged through the flood waters at Riversdale, and carried to the foot of McKenzie's hill. Here it was launched, Harry and Laurie Johnson volunteering to row to the boys, who could be simply seen crouching on the ground, awaiting either rescue or their doom. The negotiating of this quarter of a mile of water was a task. The boat was a square nosed flat bottomed punt, leaking like a sieve, dangerous enough to navigate in calm, smooth water, but in the swirling currents, flowing in various directions,



## SEPTEMBER 1912 FLOOD OF THE GOULBURN

without great judgement and care on the part of the brothers Johnson, it was liable to capsize at any moment. Not only were the currents a danger in themselves, but logs, dead sheep and cattle came bumping into them. Then there were the hidden stumps against which they were liable to knock at any moment. When at length they were near the boys, the current swirled the boat around and their paddles were useless. Johnson stripped, and went into the freezing water, and dragged the boat with strength of a giant to land where the boys were, finally, with the boys and their rabbits, they returned to safety at 8.30. It need scarcely be added that the lads were suffering from cold, hunger, exposure and the terrors of their experience. Too great praise cannot be bestowed upon the brothers Johnson for their courageous act, as they certainly imperilled their own lives in the rescue of the lads. It is to be hoped that representations will be made to the proper quarter by those whose duty it is to bring such matters under the notice of the Royal Humane Society.

**ANOTHER SENSATION.**

Scarcely had the excitement caused by the perilous position of the lads and their rescue by the Johnson's subsided, when a report came in from Thornton that two men were marooned on Taylor's flats. At first all kinds of rumours were afloat, and no one knew who had begun the message. The police were then placed in a difficulty, as they did not know what relation to place on the river. As soon as Rheuban Payne, who had swum his horse across some hard places on the road, and avoided others by taking to the hills, arrived, he was able to give to the police a statement upon which they could act. All he knew, however, is that the men were seen on the Sunday, apparently standing on a fence, but he was doubtful if anyone had seen them on the Monday morning. The worst fears took possession of many, for the night had been very cold, and it was thought no one wet and hungry could have endured such a night on a fence or up in a tree succumbing to the cold. The cold of that night, with the pitiless rain storm, was enough to freeze any ordinary man to the marrow. As soon as the police had reliable information, with commendable energy they hustled around, secured two boats, engaged two coaches

from Stillman, organised strong rescue parties, and started. Then commenced their troubles. It was no use attempting the main road because they could not possibly get through the deep water at the foot of Mount Pleasant. The only possible way out was by U.T. creek, past Peter Kelly's, over the range to McMartin's, and down the lane to the main road. This meant negotiating some awkward gutters. Armed with picks and spades for a dig out if necessary, they started. After all kinds of experiences, they reached Gilmour's homestead, now occupied by Mr Robert Christie. Here they had to stop. The water was running like a millrace, the culvert had been washed out, and even to cross in the boats was a hazardous proceeding. Arrangements had been made for a lorry to meet them there to convoy the boats some two miles further to the nearest spot where the men were last seen. Laurie and Harry Johnson, the heroes of the previous night, with Fred Wightman were prepared for any undertaking in the way of rescue. Fortunately, at this moment a message came along from the other side to the effect that Harry Wightman, a brother of Fred's, and J. Baker had extemporized a boat out of an old pig trough, and at the risk of their own lives, had brought McMartin and Taylor across onto safety from the bank where they had been imprisoned for nearly thirty hours. It was a rescue that is likely to linger in the annals and memories of Thornton for many generations, for if Johnson's Creek can boast its two brave men in Harry and Laurie Johnson, Thornton had two brave sons in Harry Wightman and Baker.

**ARTHUR POPPLE in DANGER.**

While excitement was at its height over the peril of Mr Martin and Taylor, word came that Arthur Popple and family, with some rabbits, were hemmed in lower down the Goulburn near Cremona. The senior Constable (E.C. McCormick) despatched mounted Constable Portingale to see in what state these people were in. and to take action for their rescue. Constable Portingale, after riding over the intervening ranges, found he could not get near the place, he then rode over to Cathkin to Major Scale. The major, with Mr. Andy Dunne, at once set out in a boat, taking to the water at McNabb's, which stretched out over a mile to Popple's. While the spread out waters were bad

enough to negotiate with logs, trusssock and fences in all directions, when they came to the river itself danger presented itself in a hundred forms. Immense logs and carcasses of animals were rushing along, borne by the maddened stream, the swift current a constant menace, the gutsy squalls raising big waves, which threatened each moment to swamp the boat. After a full measure of excitement, they reached Popple's homestead. Here they were pleased to learn that Popple had two boats, and that the cattle, etc., were on high ground. The major and Dunne had then to make their return journey. as perilous, if not more, than the previous trip. It has also to be borne in mind that the major had married only some three or four weeks back, and his bride was anxiously awaiting his return: Such devotion on the part of the major and his bride in the cause of humanity in well worthy the fullest record. It should be a ground for widespread congratulation that we have such men to lead our citizen forces should they ever be called upon to face a foe in defence of health and home.

**LOSSES INCALCULABLE.**

As to the loss sustained by the farmers, there is no way at present of computing it, but the constant procession of carcasses of sheep, cows, pigs, etc., under Riversdale bridge was a sight truly heart rending, for apart from the loss, was the sad death of those poor animals.

**LESSONS of the FLOOD.**

One lesson the district has learned is the need of telephone communication, and that the people should insist upon such a convenience and necessity. A second lesson is; the need of a boat to be kept in the town in good order and condition for emergencies such as this. Valuable time was lost in getting the information, also in securing such boats as were to be found, which, it must be said, were not fit for any man to risk his life in. The flood of 1870 has been remembered and spoken of for 40 years ; the flood of 1912 is likely to be remembered till the new century dawns. It was an awful flood.

Alexandra & Yea Standard  
20th September 1912  
State Library Victoria

**Upper Thornton****From Our Correspondent**

The recent flood has proved to be the most destructive that has happened in the Goulburn since the memorable flood of 1870.

On the Saturday night the river began to rise slowly, and by Sunday morning it had reached a higher level than any previous flood for over 40 years. Immense logs and bridge timber could be seen drifting down stream.

The Upper Thornton bridge was swept away, and all communication by road or wire was completely cut off. Grave fears were entertained for the safety of the people lower down. By midnight the water began to subside, and continued till the morning, when it started to rise again, and by next morning. it had risen two feet higher than it was on the previous day. At noon it commenced to recede rapidly, and it is now well within its banks.

Several families were obliged to leave their houses. Fortunately, no lives were lost, but the damage to fencing and crops and the losses in stock, between Alexandra and Darlingford, would be hard to estimate.

All the bridges on the Big river, with the exception of the Darlingford bridge, have been swept away. The main road has been badly damaged in many places, and immense heaps of wreckage have been removed. Traffic has been restored, and the residents now await to see what our shire councillors intend doing.

Alexandra & Yea Standard  
Friday 4th October 1912  
State Library Victoria

**(Below) Upper Thornton Bridge in 1912.**

courtesy Sandra Cumming  
& State Library Victoria  
Photographer Lin Cumming





TRAWOOL

News and Notes  
Trawool Weir

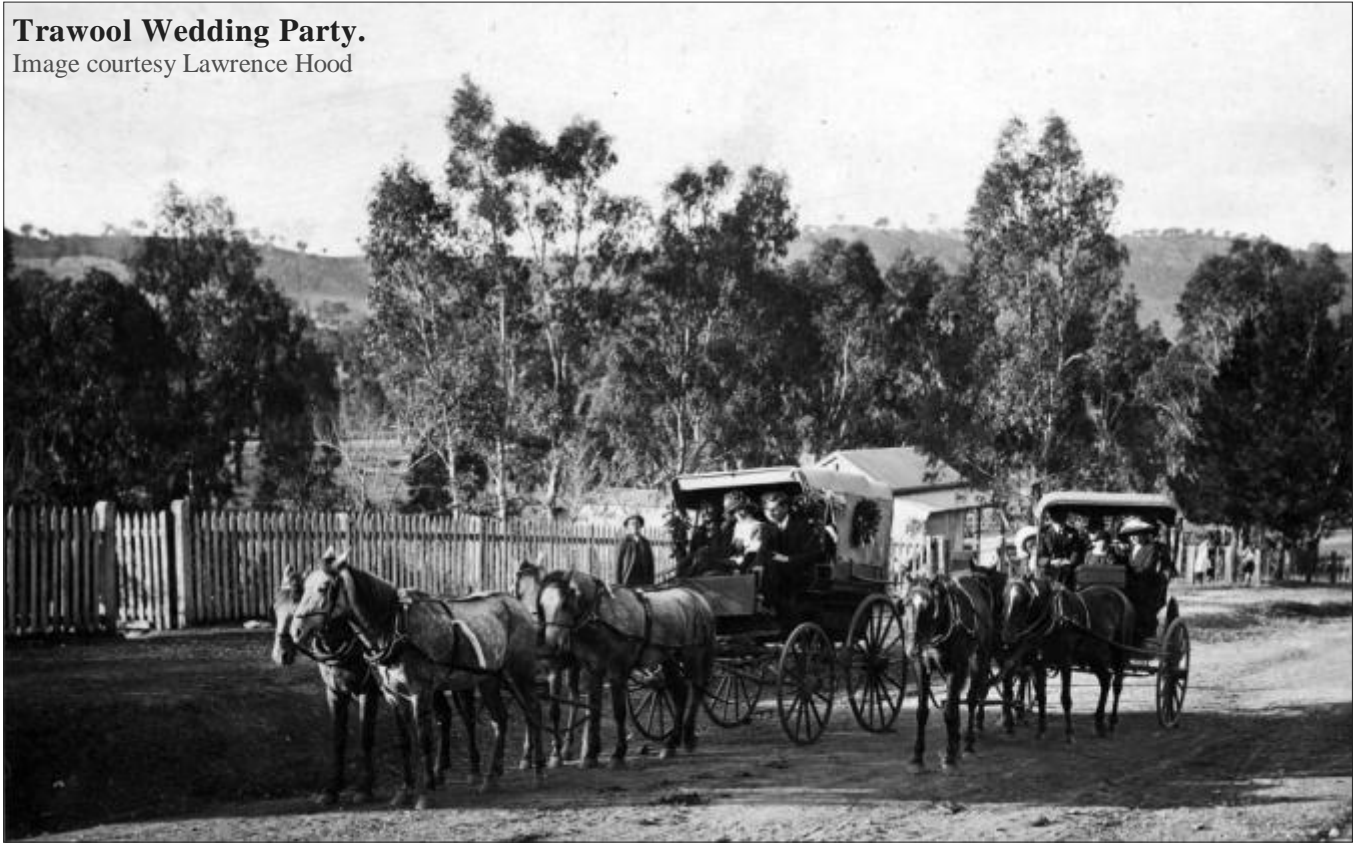
**TRAWOOL SCHEME** A meeting of the sub-committee appointed at Yea last week to go into matters in connection with the Trawool scheme, was held on Friday night last, the Shire president (Cr G. H. Evans) in the chair. There were also present :-Messrs Dunlop, McDougall, Jas. Fynn, C. Hamilton, and W. Hamilton. The following suggestions unanimously agreed to were handed to us for publication:

That the deputation, to be formed to approach the Premier, protest against the submerging of Yea by the proposed Trawool weir and point out that the residents of Yea are keenly aware that their township and district cannot be excelled as a place of residence or as a locality in which to earn a livelihood and that in many cases, people, who had left the district have only been too glad to return repurchase property and proclaim their betterment; that the climate is one of the best in the world, epidemics of disease being practically unknown; that the rainfall is of an even nature and that droughts are unknown ; that the district, through which flows the Goulburn River', is thickly interspersed with permanent springs and streams, which abound with fish, and that the scenery is magnificent; that the business turnover of Yea is greater and of a sounder character than that of any other township of its size in the State-facts which can be proved by the collection of returns which are available and that the residents, in most cases, have been born in the district and from their happy situation have looked upon the place as their own preserve, and deeply deplore the suggested disturbance, which, if carried into effect, would inevitably tend to shorten their lives.

That, in the event of the deputation being told that the Government may not proceed with the building of the weir, the Premier be asked what consideration the Government propose giving to the people for the loss incurred by them, and to the district, through the uncertainty that existed, and point out the stoppage that already has taken place to transactions in property, the prevention of outside population coming to settle in the district and consequent injury to trade generally.

That, if the weir is not to be gone on with, people want to know how they will be treated in the matter of compensation, for loss of trade, &c., between the time Mr Swinburne was interviewed at Trawool up to the present time, it being capable of proof that since that interview several projected improvements, in the shape of buildings, &c., were either abandoned, or held in abeyance till the uncertainty in regard to the building of the weir would be removed - Shire work is being held up at the Dropmore Road, for which the Government had granted £200 and towards which work the people whom the road, if constructed, would benefit, had contributed over £70, has been held over, because of the possibility of the lower portion of the road being submerged, and the Government grant has lapsed - a Fire brigade station and a Band rotunda would have been erected in the township, and, that the deputation considers that had it not been for the Trawool

**Trawool Wedding Party.**  
Image courtesy Lawrence Hood



scheme scare, there would have been little or no depression and that, consequently, those who have suffered are entitled to compensation.

That, if the weir is to be gone on with, the Premier be asked if the Government intends to reserve a site for a new township, in the vicinity of the present one, and establish railway communication therewith-this is of the first importance to the banks, professional and businessmen, employees and laborers, for, if such is the Government's intention, owing to the work to be done and the possibility of retaining a portion, at least, of their businesses and employment they could remain in the town while the weir is being built and then settle in the new town, otherwise, it would be better for them to look out now for businesses and employment elsewhere, and, the Government must consider the questions of the construction of the weir and the building of a railway, to take the place of the line to be submerged, as parts of the same scheme.

That, for the use of the deputation, statistics in regard to money spent in public buildings, increase in dwellings and businesses premises, municipal matters, Dairy Company's transactions, health of district, railway business, postal business, Savings Banks', other banks' and businesses' turnover and any other statistics relating to the progress and prosperity of the district, be collected.

That this committee be appointed a permanent executive committee, and that the committee, appointed at the public meeting held on June 20, 1908. be appointed a permanent general committee.

That the numbers to form a quorum of each committee be fixed by a public meeting, and that the executive committee has discretion to deal with all matters is - which may appear to it to be advantageous to the people and not have its deliberations limited by any words or formalities used in its appointment. That the general committee be asked to do all it can to assist the executive committee.

That the Shire council be asked to contribute towards the expenses of the executive committee. That this committee meet again on Friday, July 10, at 7 30 p.m.

From an article in last Saturday's "Argus" we extract the following facts about the alternative sites with Trawool for constructing a weir to serve the Goulburn Loddon scheme:

Turning now to the Upper Goulburn storages, the best known is Trawool. There are several other sites where large storages could be made. Preliminary investigations by the Water Supply department show that Trawool and the alternative sites, with their respective estimated capacities, to be as follows:

Site.	Capacity in Acre Feet.
Trawool .....	1,363,016
Killingworth .. ...	816,689
Cathkin...	70,753
Site near Alexandra ...	372,015

If Trawool will hold anything like the quantity of water this estimate provides, its construction would solve the whole difficulty of providing, together with the Murchison weir, the Waranga Basin, and the summer flow of the river, sufficient water to adequately ensure effective irrigation over the Goulburn-Loddon schemes. Allowing one third off for evaporation, seepage, and waste, between Trawool and the farms, would leave 908,000 acre-feet for delivery in the irrigated fields. Allowing two acre feet to each acre irrigated, this would provide for the irrigation of 450,000 acres, in addition to 170,000 acres possible under existing conditions. On the same basis, the Killingworth site higher up the river would irrigate 270,000 acres;- Cathkin, 290,000 acres; and the site near Alexandra, 62,000 acres.

*Yea Chronicle - 9th July 1908*  
*Courtesy State Library Victoria*



## THORNTON

COLLAPSE OF THE  
BRIDGE ON THORNTON ROAD

The members of the shire council are just now confronted with several important matters, it must be said, which are receiving every attention. On Saturday last, a most serious accident befell an engine and two trucks when travelling over the bridge on the main Thornton Road, a few hundred yards beyond Mr. J. Clarke's homestead. From information received it appears that the Rubicon Timber and Tramway Company's engine (61/2 tons) was pushing two heavily laden trucks of sleepers across the bridge and when near the Alexandra side one of the lengthy spans suddenly opened out and collapsed, precipitating the trucks into the opening caused by a defective truss. The engine, too, tipped into the opening, but kept its position, which enabled its release without serious damage. The driver (Mr McGowan) had a narrow escape. He was warned and jumped clear of the engine.

Word was brought to Mr. H. Wood, shire secretary, who immediately made Mr Anderson, shire engineer, aware of the facts. The man lost no time in journeying from Healesville and at once made an inspections.

Everything possible has been done to make means of travelling possible. A gang of men were put on and a trafficable ford made across the river.

Lights have been placed across the river and travellers have been notified that the ford lies to the right of the beacons. Provisions have been made for foot passengers.

Motors to Alexandra, via Healesville, will require to take the right turn at Taggerty to reach the Upper Goulburn, travellers in the same direction from Alexandra will find the Taggerty route the best.

A report of yesterday's council meeting, in another column, give full particulars of the situation.

It is hoped satisfactory arrangements will be arrived at and that the work of repairing the span will proceed at the earliest.

Alexandra & Yea Standard  
22nd December 1911  
Courtesy National Library Australia

## Local and General News.

**A magisterial inquiry was held before G. Pendlebury, Esq., and J. Peterkin Esq., J.P's, on Sunday last at Thornton station, on the body of the late Mr Tossol, squatter. According to the evidence it appeared that deceased, who was 24 years of age, had been suffering some time past from disease of the heart; that on Saturday morning last he got up in his usual health, and whilst sitting at the breakfast table with his wife and family, he suddenly expired. The magistrates found that death was the result of natural causes.**



**Bridge at main Thornton road.** Photographer Lin Cumming  
Courtesy Sandra Cumming. State Library Victoria



## ALEXANDRA AND MELBOURNE.

**A COACH will leave COBB & CO.'S OFFICE Melbourne, on**

**TUESDAYS,  
THURSDAYS, and  
SATURDAYS**

**At 5 p.m., arriving at Alexandra at 10 a.m. on the following days, and**

**Will start from Alexandra at 12 noon on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, arriving in Melbourne on the following mornings at 6 a.m., except on Sundays when arrival will be midnight.**

**N.B.—This coach proceeds to Mansfield, returning the following days.**

**BOOKING OFFICE—CORNER HOTEL.**

UPPER  
THORNTON

In your journal I often look for the name of Upper Thornton, and I suppose people a hundred miles away from it have never heard, of such a place. I therefore drop you a few lines to let your readers know how we are getting on here.

In the first place, through the exertions of our Board of Advice we have got a new State school erected - a want long felt, and for which the residents are very thankful. The attendance is remarkably good, considering the distances that some of the children have to come (from three to four miles in some instances), but to school they trudge, no matter what the weather may be, which speaks volumes for the parents, and shown that the Education Department have acted wisely in erecting schools in these out of the way places. The attendance during the winter has attained an average of 95 percent of the total number on the roll - not a very bad average, and one I think not to be topped in the entire colony. The teacher seems to make the school attractive, and not, as in a majority of instances, disagreeable; for children, as a rule, dislike going to school.

The weather has been beautifully fine for the past two or three weeks, but at the time of my writing the rain is coming down heavily. Previous to the rain coming the farmers here were looking very desponding at the settled appearance of fine weather, for having had a very wet winter it greatly retarded their ploughing operations, which threw them a long way behind in the season, and if the weather should come excessively hot for any lengthened period it would be ruinous to the producer.

Fishing has commenced here in earnest. Catches from 8 to 16 lbs. weight are reported.

The roads are almost impassable in any direction you may go here. I think the outlying districts are very much neglected, and I think a few pounds might be very judiciously expended in repairing some of the worst places, for people often have to go without the common necessities of life, through the disgraceful roads they have to traverse to obtain them.

There are very few miners in this neighborhood at present, but when the river subsides mining will be commenced again.

Alexandra Times  
2nd October 1875  
Courtesy National Library Australia



MOLESWORTH

Veritas Omnia Vincit  
(The truth conquers all)

The agricultural interests of this district - notwithstanding the disadvantages of bad roads and being far from the railway are making steady progress. The selectors long the river are getting over their struggles; their land is now nearly all paid for, their fencing and clearing completed, and their cattle, horses, and other stock go on increasing in number and value; their very personal appearance shows that they are becoming well-to-do and in easy circumstances. A gold-field has wonderful attractions, and no doubt now and again some lucky miner hits upon a rich patch; but after all, gold got in this way has not the value of those pound notes which have been the reward of slow plodding industry. The miner when he accidentally gets a good washing up almost invariably goes in for a day or two's spree, and must visit Melbourne or some have other enjoyment by which he gets rid of his cash very quickly, with very little to show for it; but the farmer sends his wife to market with eggs, butter and cheese, fowls, &co., and she returns with tea, sugar, and other necessities for the house, with a little cash to lay by for the purchase of another cow or something else equally useful. If the farmer has any wheat or oats to sell he undertakes that business himself, and if lie does take an extra nobbler on the occasion with the friends he meets, next day will find him at the plough, or pushing along at something or another. Money made in this way has a special value, and is generally well taken care of. Those who go on in this manner must in time become independent and far above being in difficulties. On the other hand, the miner may work harder than the farmer, and is exposed to more dangers. Often has he to labor on for years, and scarcely make his "tucker," and when all at once he drops into luck, then he begins to speculate and spend his money as if he were a Rothschild, and eventually ends where he began - a poor man. The farmer is slow, but sure; the miner resolves to make a spoon or spoil a horn. Having spent the last 20 years of our life on the goldfields, we have come to the conclusion that in the end farming is a better occupation for making money than mining for gold. We visited the Molesworth Bridge this week, and were much surprised with the magnitude and importance of the work. Its length is 730ft.; breadth 40ft. The arches, which have a span of 40ft., are 12ft. above the highest known water-mark of the Goulburn; The piles are driven 17 to 24ft. The entire structure contains 33,000ft. of timber and 13,000 yards of earthwork. Double beams and double girders, stays, and crown beams, all of the strongest material, form a structure that no flood can possibly injure. The total length of the work, including approaches and formation, is 40 chains. The timber used is principally red-gum and yellow box. The total cost of the work when completed will be £6,345. The contract time is up on the 9th July, before which date the entire job will be finished.

We cannot speak in too high terms of the pluck and energy displayed by the Yea Shire Council in attempting this important work, which is more of a national character than for the limited resources of a shire with such a small local revenue from rates as £2,000, besides the bridge is at the extreme end of the shire. When this bridge was first proposed it was expected that the Alexandra shire - to whom it is actually of more direct benefit than to the people of Yea - would contribute to its erection ; but that shire is in such a state of impecuniosity that they are unable to render any assistance, being themselves in debt. The building of the Molesworth Bridge under these circumstances falls heavily upon the ratepayers of Yea, and it would only be an act of justice if the Government were to contribute at least two-thirds towards the expense. Whilst other districts have had railways, main roads, and bridges constructed from the general revenue, comparatively nothing has been done for the Upper Valley of the Goulburn. Nearly all the land within two miles of the river has been taken up. A large sum of money is yearly passing into the Public Treasury from rents and other sources in the district, and why should that assistance which has been so freely lavished on other less important portions of the colony be denied to the Goulburn district? No doubt a proper representation of the case to the Minister of Roads and Bridges would receive consideration, and a subsidy at least of two thirds of the expense of building the Molesworth Bridge would readily be granted.

Our remarks about the Molesworth Bridge would be incomplete without a brief allusion to the contractor, Mr Millar. This gentleman has become celebrated for building bridges, not only on the Upper Goulburn but in other parts of Victoria, also in Tasmania, New Zealand, and New South Wales. One of his peculiarities is that he never asks for any money until the work is finished, and even then has sometimes to take it as he can get it. The Thornton Bridge, which he finished a few weeks ago, is a model of perfection, and the fact that it passed the Government Inspector without the slightest alteration or fault-finding, says much for the builder. **The Molesworth Bridge, when completed, will be the largest structure of the kind in Victoria,** and judging from its present appearance, it will be for many years a steady monument of Mr Millar's ability as a contractor.

The Molesworth Bridge also reflects the highest credit on the engineer, Mr Leo. G. Downey, by whom the plans and specifications were prepared. Mr Downey, although a young man, has given proof in this bridge and other works that he has laid out in the district that he is thoroughly master of his profession.

Mr Fraser has resigned his office as Minister of Public Works, and the Hon. R.S. Anderson has been appointed his successor. A writ has accordingly been

issued for the election of a member of the Legislative Council for the Eastern Province, Mr Anderson having to submit himself to his constituents. Mr Ramsay has declined to accept the Postmaster Generalship, and neither this office nor that of Solicitor-General will be filled for the present. Mr Kerferd has accepted the office of Attorney-General, and Mr J. W. Stephen that of a puisne judge of the Supreme Court, and writs have been issued for the election of members to fill their seats.

The request made by the disputation which waited on Mr Gillies last week for the free conveyance to Melbourne on the Government railways of members of the up-country fire brigades desirous to take part in it review of such companies to be held on the 25th and 20th May, has been granted by the Government, and a sum of money to cover the cost will accordingly be placed on the additional estimates for the year. The apparatus of the brigades will also be convoyed free of charge.

Mr Marshall, late chemist at Gobur, after wandering about the islands of the Pacific, and visiting New South Wales and Queensland, has returned to his old quarters. His description of life in Fiji is interesting. He had often met King Cakoban at the bars of the various public houses and "shouted " for him, Soda and brandy was his favorite beverage, of which he could swallow any quantity. His general demeanour did not impress one with the dignity of royalty, as he had much the appearance of an ordinary bar swiper. Commerce Mr Marshall describes as being carried on in a very unsatisfactory manner, everything being paid for by an order on a merchant, who in return would give anything in the shape of goods, or his own paper. Any person very urgent for specie could have it by an allowance of 20 per cent discount. The island he considers was in a more prosperous condition four years ago than now. Mr Marshall has, after all his travels, selected Queensland as the best place, to settle in, and intends removing his family there shortly. He has brought several cases of native productions from the countries he has visited - cloth from the mulberry tree, gems, valuable shells, seeds, roots, &c. He speaks very highly of Queensland as a prosperous place, and considers, that it will in a few years outstrip Victoria in minerals and general commerce.

We understand that Cobb and Co. intend running their coaches to Seymour, instead of Tallarook, as hitherto. The Seymour Shire Council have purchased Mr Sloan's punt, which will be placed on the river a little below James's Trawool hotel, where the coach will cross the river. The distance will not be so far as to Tallarook. Should Cobb and Co. make a reduction in their fares, in proportion to the additional charge by railway, we think few persons will object to the change. Tallarook has never been a favorite place with the people of Alexandra or Yea.

Cobb and Co's coach had a break down eight miles on the Yea side of Tallarook on Wednesday last, whilst going along a sideling one of the wheels gave way. The coach driver, Johnny, was thrown from his seat and slightly bruised. The passengers escaped any injury beyond getting a fright. The driver returned to Tallarook, obtained another coach, and delivered the mail in Alexandra at the usual time notwithstanding the mishap. It is worthy of notice that very few accidents occur with Cobb and Co's coaches, although they have some very rough country to travel over.

A meeting of the Alexandra amateurs was held on Wednesday evening last at Hamea's Corner Hotel. It was decided to hold a performance at Alexandra on Monday, the 18th inst., and at Gobur on the 20th, in aid of the funds of the Alexandra Hospital. As it was understood that a local entertainment was to take place at Yea shortly it was considered inadvisable to hold a performance at that place at present. The completion of some new scenery of an elaborate and gorgeous description was announced. Mr W. Waltho was elected a member of the club, and the meeting concluded.

The Diphtheria Committee having incurred considerable liabilities in endeavouring to prevent the spread of this fearful disease throughout the district, is desirous of having all liabilities connected therewith discharged, and will feel obliged by all parties having subscription lists forwarding same to the Hon. See., Mr Hl. W. Alston, on or before the 16th inst. The committee is still indebted over £30, and it is to be hoped that all persons who have not hitherto subscribed to this worthy object will do so at once, as any neglect or indifference in this matter will have a tendency to throw cold water upon any future undertaking to assist those who are unable to protect themselves.

There is still a sum due to Mr Greathead, and it would be a disgrace to the district if he were not paid his reasonable demand of £25. Home Creek and Merton should in this matter show their gratitude by subscribing liberally. Those who want to secure a valuable property may be reminded that Mr Raphael will sell by auction at the Shamrock Hotel, Alexandra, Mr Kirwan's cottage, and half acre allotment, at 11 o'clock, on Monday next.

Alexandra Times  
Saturday 9th May 1874.  
Courtesy State Library Victoria

P U N T   H O T E L

(Near Sloan's Punt)

*This first-class Hotel having lately passed into the hands of the present proprietor, ALEXANDER SMITH, it will in future be conducted with the same regard to the accommodation of the public by which it has been hitherto characterised.*

**ALEXANDER SMITH,**  
Proprietor.

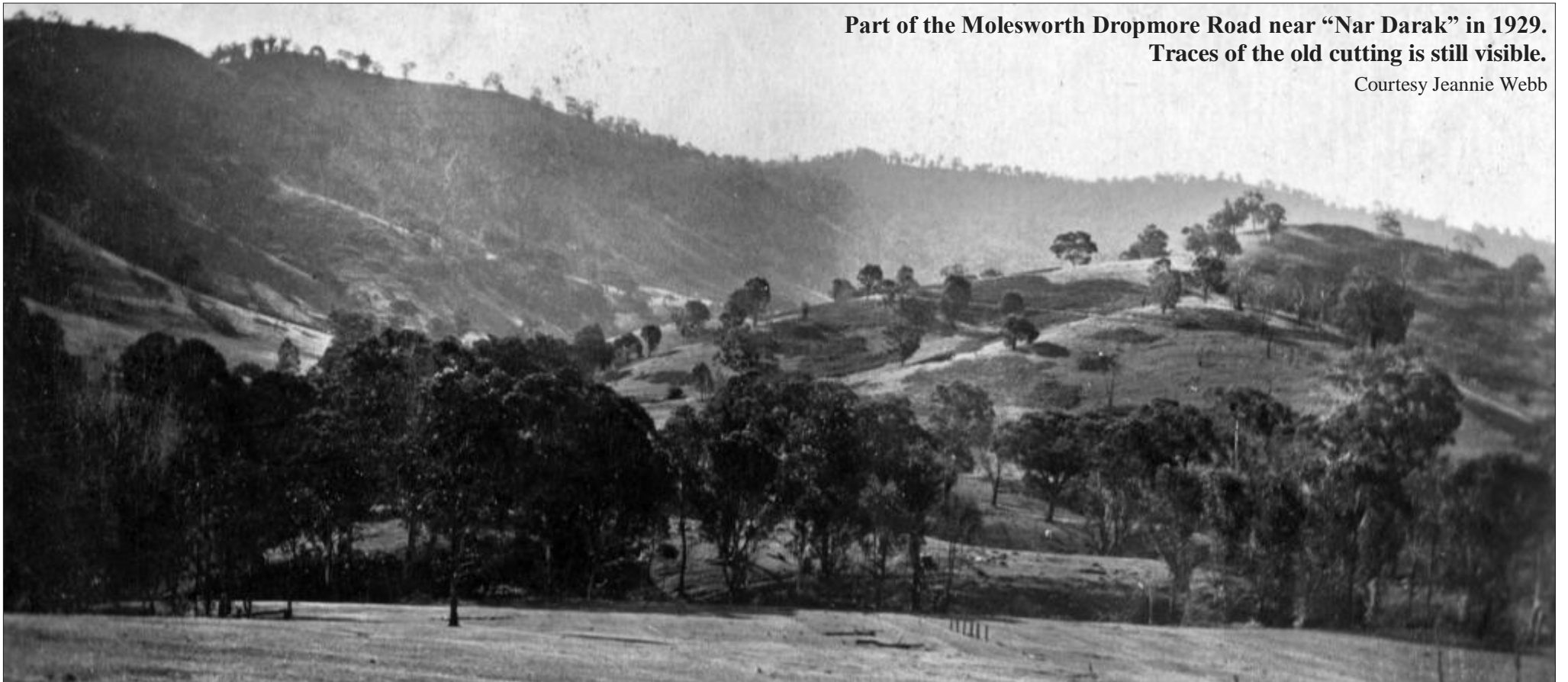


## MOLESWORTH



Molesworth locals with Nicholas James Ridd 4th from Right.

Courtesy Les &amp; Margaret Ridd



Part of the Molesworth Dropmore Road near "Nar Darak" in 1929.

Traces of the old cutting is still visible.

Courtesy Jeannie Webb

## GOULBURN RIVER FLOODS.

To the Editor of the Standard.

Sir,

Since writing you on this matter, we have had clearly demonstrated to us another very tragic example of the callous disregard shown for the valley farmers by the mental bankrupts controlling the State Rivers and Water Supply. I ask the very pertinent question : What are we going to do about it ? Are we going to sit down like a lot of craven cowards and allow these people to ruin us, or are we going to show them that we do possess a little fighting spirit and show them in a practical way that we strongly resent their acts. In my last letter I suggested that protest meetings should be called right along the valley. I now go further and suggest that a demonstration of protest be made either at

the Eildon Weir or at the offices and private houses of the State Rivers and Water Supply Commissioners. This might possibly cause a penetration to the cerebral grey matter of the useless but dangerous chair warmers who are paid their handsome salaries out of the primary production they appear so anxious to destroy.

When we think of the appalling losses of stock and crops caused by the letting out of large volumes of water from the Weir when the river is running high and then consider that the only protest made by the sufferers is a little grumbling between themselves, it makes one wonder whether, as a body, we possess any of what is termed in the vernacular "guts,"

According to a daily newspaper of Tuesday, the 4th inst. (while the flood is almost at its highest) it is the intention of

the powers that be to release another large volume of water from the Weir. This clearly demonstrates two things - Firstly, that those in control have no consideration for the cold and hungry stock that are now marooned knee deep in inaccessible places, and secondly, that they have no consideration for the farmers along the river otherwise they would have notified them of their intention by other means than a vague report in a metropolitan newspaper.

If we farmers could only arrange for a few of the dead pigs, stock and poultry drowned in this tragic flood to be deposited upon the trim front lawns of the smart suburban homes of the State Rivers and Water Supply Commissioners perhaps their presence there might bring home to these individuals some conception of their responsibility, and if this did not cause a

penetration of their skulls perhaps their protesting wives and neighbours may be capable of impressing upon them the economic waste their action causes, to say nothing of the sufferings of stock and the ruination of a most important section of society, namely, the primary producers. Again, I ask. What are we going to do about it? My individual protest cannot accomplish anything, but a determined united body of farmers properly organised could accomplish a great deal to relieve themselves of this menace.

Yours etc..

T. REYNOLDS.

Tiger Flats, Molesworth.

Alexandra & Yea Standard  
Friday 7th December 1934  
Courtesy National Library Australia



## OUT OF DISTRICT NEWS

## THE BUNYIP?

ALEX. WARDER.

SIR: The bunyip is a frequent source of conversation at bush firesides, some believing in the existence of such an animal or fish; others strenuously disbelieve it has any existence beyond the imaginations of "bush fogies." The latter parties usually fall to ridiculing the notions of the believers in the bunyip, and thus bad blood is engendered on a subject which I hope your pages will yet clear up. On this station there is a young fellow from the Logan district. He is a fairly read and intelligent man, and he as firmly believes that the bunyip exists in the lagoons of his district as that to-morrow will be Thursday. I am not acquainted with the locality myself, but it appears that extensive chains of deep waterholes exist there, and that these waterholes are inhabited by the bunyip, which, according to his impression, is something of the seal tribe. Perhaps a fresh water seal? It appears to be very shy, and an acute hearer, so that on the occurrence of the slightest noise, it plunges into the water, and that the noise of these plunges is frequently heard by parties passing along the roads near the lagoons. More than one person has got a sight of the bunyip, or its head rather, and a fearful looking object it must be as described to me, as it rises slowly and cautiously above the water. The apparition is only for an instant, as should human eye be upon it, it disappears as mysteriously as it came. Such are the descriptions given here of the bunyip, and I have hoard them repeated by men from the "Dinner Corner," near the foot of the Main Range, where great lagoons also exist; from men acquainted with the Upper Mary, Fitzroy, Condamine, Laidlay, and other rivers. There being so little variation regarding the bunyip in the accounts of these men, is it not reasonable to suppose that there is truth after all in what not a few only scoff and jeer at? The blacks to a man believe in the bunyip, and look horrified when it is mentioned. I trust that some of your readers will be able to enlighten us upon this subject. Yours,

THE QUEENSLANDER  
Saturday 12th December 1868



In "The Aborigines of Victoria", R. Brough Smyth reported that the aborigines all knew of the Bunyip, but none had precise ideas of the creature form, covering or habits. Smyth secured the only known sketch of the Bunyip by an aborigine, and reproduced it. The sketch was done in 1848 by a tribesman living on the Murray River in the presence of two witnesses, J.P. Mayne and John Clark.

(The Aborigines of Victoria", R. Brough Smyth)  
Extract from Australia's Great River, R. M. Younger



1848 artwork depicting why emigrants would leave England for the shores of Australia. These reasons are not dissimilar to the reasons that present day immigrants leave their home countries, in the hope of a better life in Australia for them and their families.



1844 artwork depicting dinner on a ship sailing to Australia from England.



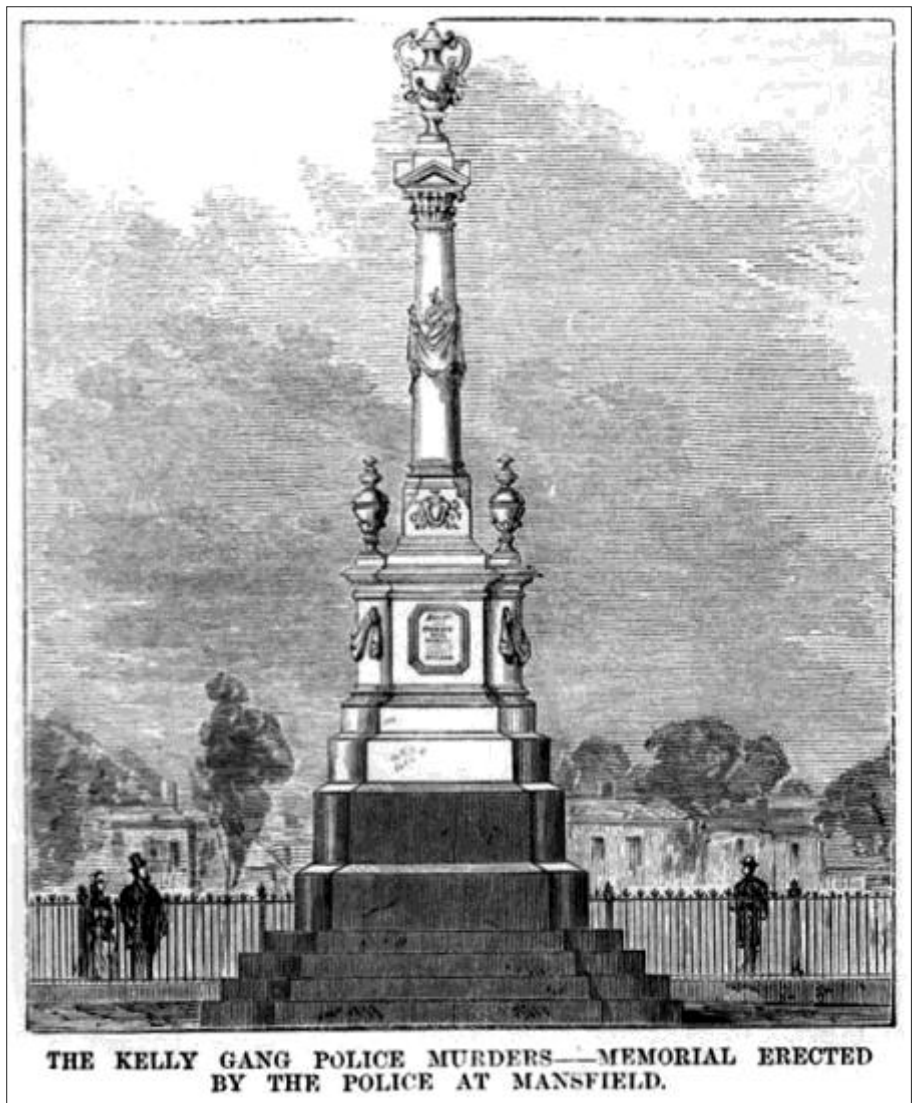
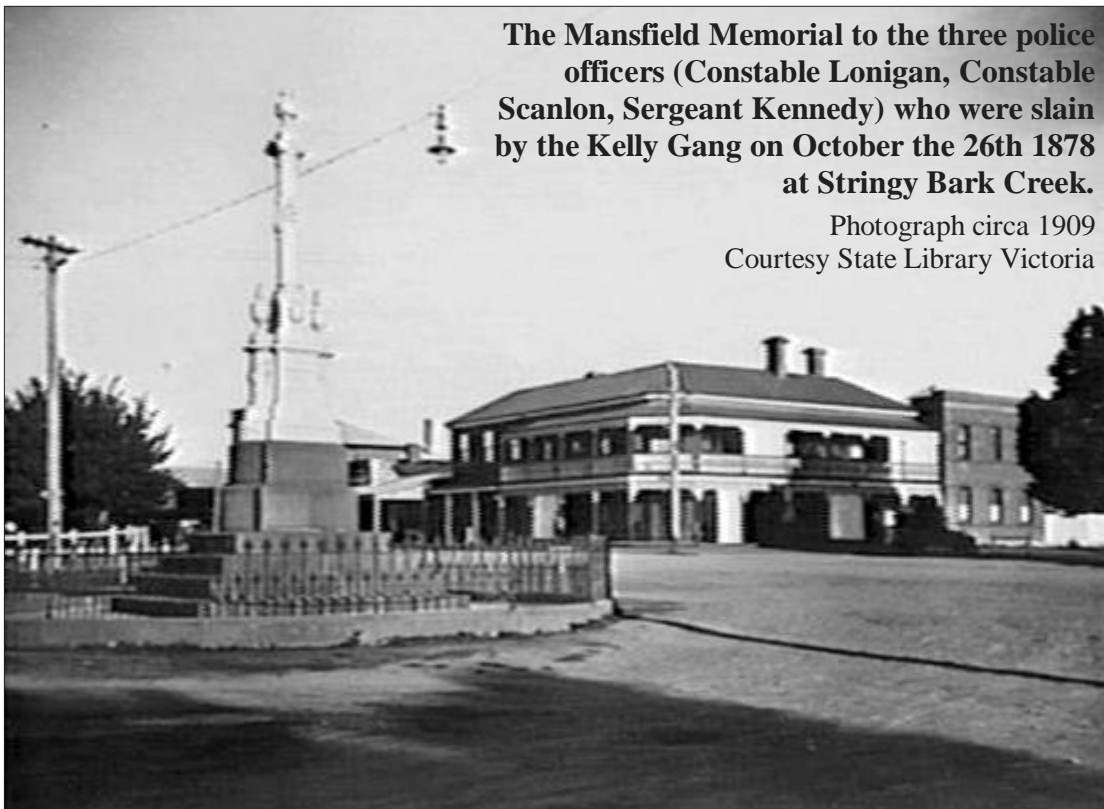
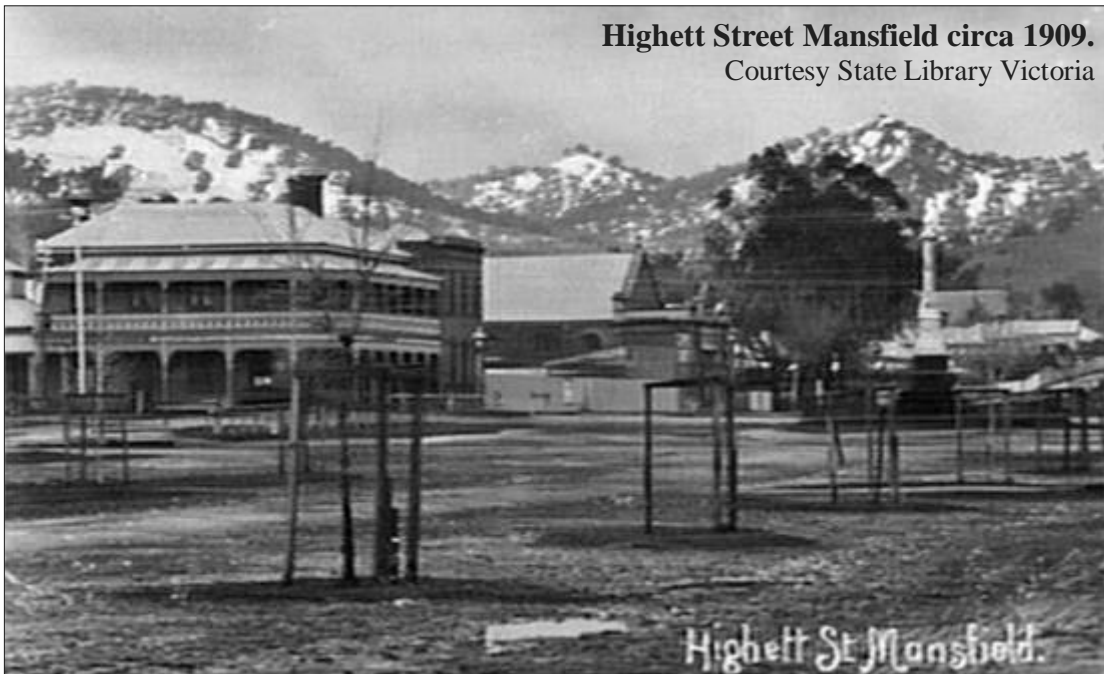
1860's style of artwork. The Bush Breakfast by O. Brierly



## MANSFIELD

Mansfield was originally known as Mount Battery, and was nothing more than the area where four sheep Runs met (Loyola Run, Banumum Run, Mount Battery Run and the Maindample Run). Mansfield was first surveyed in

1851 and named Mansfield after Mansfield in Nottinghamshire in mother England. After gold was discovered in the area, settlement quickly followed, with the Post Office opening in Mansfield in 1858.



Wood engraving from the 8th May 1880, of the memorial.

Courtesy State Library Victoria





## NARBETHONG



**Ford touring cars outside Narbethong House in the 1920s.**

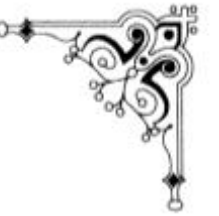
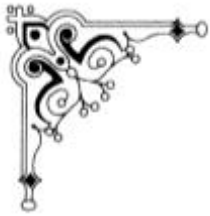
Photographer Lin Cumming. Courtesy Sandra Cumming, & State Library Victoria.



**Devil's Elbow on the old coach road, over the Black's Spur. Photographer John William Lindt. Courtesy John Pitts.**

John Lindt was a local professional photographer who produced pictures of outstanding merit. He died at the "Hermitage" on the Black's Spur in 1926, aged 81.





## FASHION, STYLE, AND ALL THINGS WOMANLY



1890s drawing of a Gibson Girl by Charles Dana Gibson.

Charles Dana Gibson.



Ladies in Gibson styles dresses. National Library Australia

### THE GIBSON GIRL



The Gibson Girl was based on the works of artist Charles Dana Gibson, who created a conceptual idea about women and how they should look and behave, through illustrated pen and ink drawings, over a 20 year period in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

The Gibson Girl was tall, beautiful, slender, yet with ample bosom, bottom and hips. She had a pronounced S curve shape to her body, thanks to the swan bill corset. She had a thin neck, and her hair was piled high on her head. She was well educated, confident in all situations, and portrayed as strongly independent. She was never portrayed as weak, or being a servant to male ideals for how women should be, and not politically active.

Many saw the Gibson Girl as the first standard for

beauty and behaviour. Gibson created a cult-like following, through his works which became very popular. His imagery was used in a broad range of female merchandising, including on fans, umbrella stands, pillow covers, table cloths, and much more.

He promoted the Gibson Girl as an equal to men, and often presented her as a fun loving and teasing female companion.

By the start of World War I, the Gibson Girl was falling out of favour, with women preferring an easier dress code that was more practical for the modern times.





The  
**DOMEN**  
*Regd.*  
**BELT CORSET.**

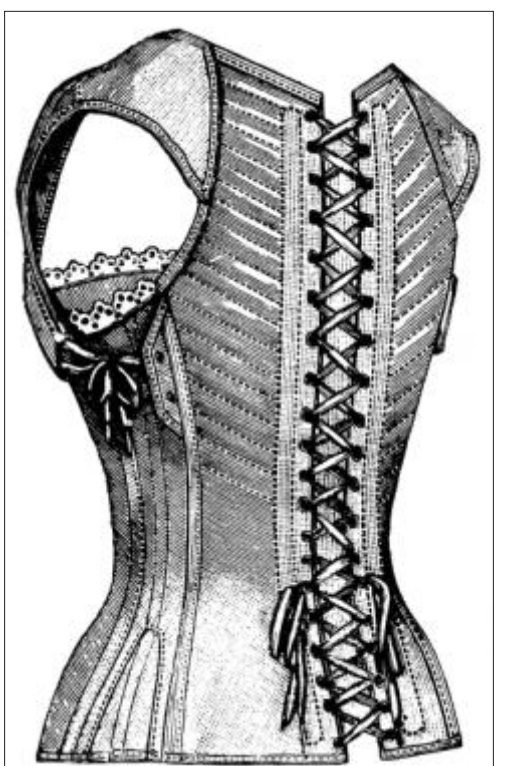
With **PATENT BELT** attached, is Unique for Restoring, Improving, and Supporting the Figure.

*Positively invaluable to those inclined to Corpulency.*

Lady Attendants.  
Private Fitting Room.

**ILLUSTRATED PRICE LISTS FREE.**

**DOMEN BELTS CO.,**  
456, Strand (first floor),  
Charing Cross, W.C., and  
30, Sloane Street, S.W.





## YEA



A group at Yea circa 1900.  
Photograph courtesy Ian Borrie

### Eureka Stockade Veteran, hospitalised in Yea

A somewhat remarkable cure has been effected in the local hospital within the past few days. An old man (82 years of age) was sent by the Yea Council apparently to die here. His sufferings were on admission something terrible, and with his advanced years added to them there did not seem a particle of hope of his recovery. And, indeed, the patient himself thought his last hours had come, and sought for and obtained the services of a minister of his church. As a trifling series of complications we would here mention that he had three ribs broken on one side, four on the other, the lobe of right ear shot away, an arm broken in two places and never joined properly, and a skull fractured from a blow from the butt of a musket.

These were reminiscences of the battle of the Eureka Stockade (in 1854), in which

Mr. Williams, we are informed, took an active part. As his name denotes, his forefathers hail from Gallant Little Wales, but he was born on the Welsh Back Bristol. The veteran has gone out cured and is, as might be expected, loud in his praises of Dr. Lethbridge. He is an old miner and intends resuming 'prospecting' at once and has, as a stimulus, an intense desire to find a good 'specimen' for the kind matron (Mrs. Newman) and her worthy husband. More power to him, we say. When we saw him, shortly after he had taken his bed in the ward, he reminded us of some of the canvassers who had played a prominent part during an electioneering campaign in America. These individuals never trouble themselves as to the opposition they have to contend with, physically, so long as they return their man.

*Alexandra & Yea Standard*  
13<sup>th</sup> September 1895  
Courtesy State Library Victoria



Yea's second bridge in the early 1900s.  
Photograph courtesy Howard & Helen Paix

### Yea Gardens in the 1920s.

Courtesy Shirley Jones &  
State Library Victoria





YEA

Yea from the West.  
Photograph courtesy Ian Borrie

PERAMBULATOR

I was at the Alexandra Show the other day and, generally speaking, I think the exhibits may be described as being equal, if not superior, to any previous efforts in that quarter. The day (Friday) was pretty hot at Alexandra, although I am told it I blew cool at Kilmore - indeed on my return here at night a cool southerly reminded me of the saying about the wise man carrying his overcoat on a fine day. I very much enjoyed my visit to Alexandra, where the people once more proved as kind, courteous and hospitable as usual. The show was well attended, and the general

well-to-do appearance of all, so far as dress was concerned, would seem to give a strong contradiction to the general complaint heard about depression. The ladies looked charming, and they were very gracefully and tastefully attired, and all seemed bent upon making high holiday. That popular host, Mr Harry Woods, ran the booth, did a good trade, and deservedly so, for he dispensed the choicest of liquors, amongst other a good things the iced claret cup, to which I must admit having paid some attention. I renewed acquaintance with many old friends, receiving many warm and friendly greetings, which I most heartily reciprocated, and I left in the afternoon with a feeling of regret and the strong hope that I would see many

more similar gatherings amongst the good folk of Alexandra, whose solid success I should ever like to hear of. Mentioning above of course, Yea should not be forgotten. I stayed here on the Thursday night, driving early next morning along the old coach road to Alexandra, my old friend, Mr Quinlan, J.P., not for the first time, accompanying me and driving his excellent team. By this pleasant drive I was enabled to see some old friends en route, notably Messrs J. McCormack, J.P., of Molesworth, also Mr O'Callaghan, of Cathkin. My old friend, Mr W. Oliver, of Yea, at one time and for many years landlord of the Commercial, now in the hands of Mr McGrath, has been granted a publican's license for the handsome brick building close to the railway

station and carried on under a wine licence since it was built. I am satisfied Mr Oliver will do a good trade under his new licence, because the house is well situated and the host and hostess are old residents and have very many friends. Some of the pious 'push,' I believe that is the word used in certain circles - the full meaning of I which I am not seized of - used all their exertions to prevent Mr Oliver getting a licence, but the licensing magistrates took the commonsense view of matters and granted the licence, which I hope Mr and Mrs Oliver may long live to enjoy.

13th December 1894  
Kilmore Free Press  
State Library Victoria

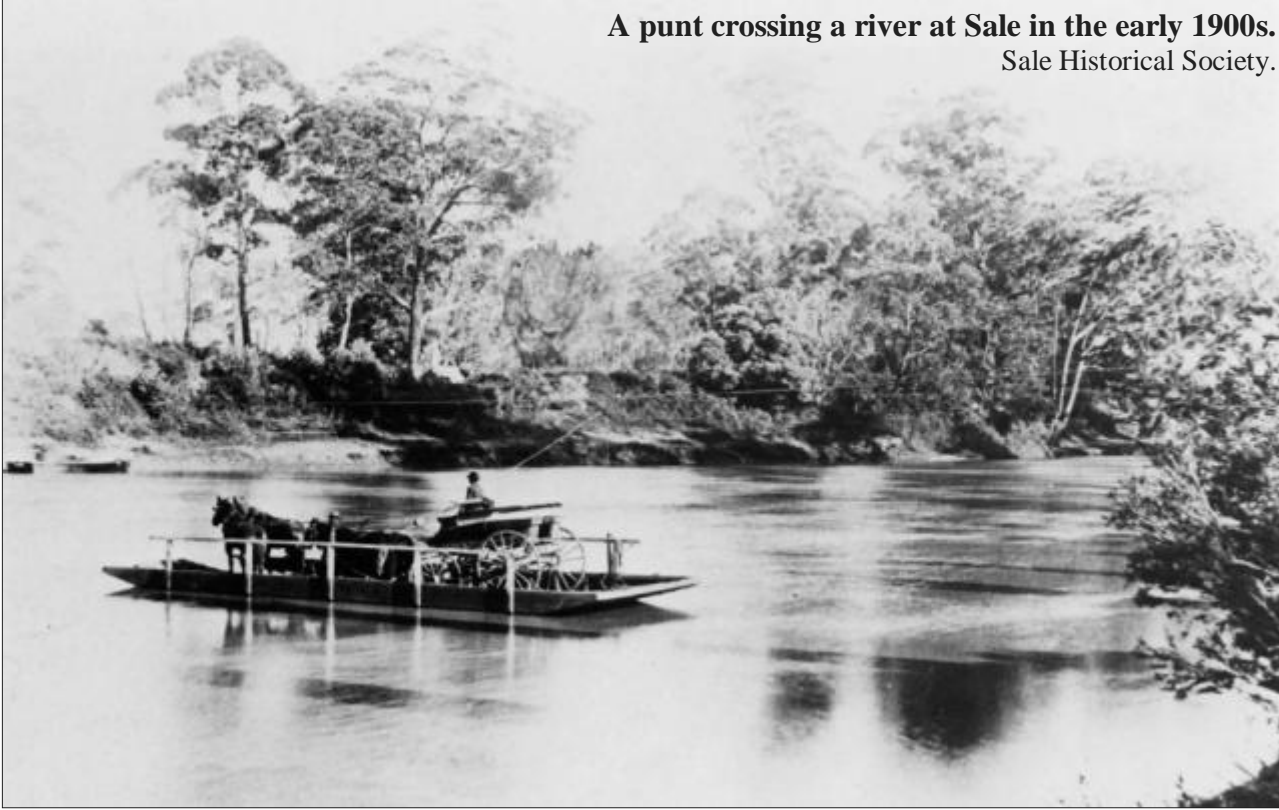
High Street Yea from the South, taken from near St Luke's Church.  
Photograph courtesy Ian Borrie





## EARLY TRANSPORT

A punt crossing a river at Sale in the early 1900s.  
Sale Historical Society.



An early cyclist returns from a trip.



Transport in the  
1930s, in New  
South Wales.  
Photographer  
Angus McNeil.

Courtesy National Library  
Australia

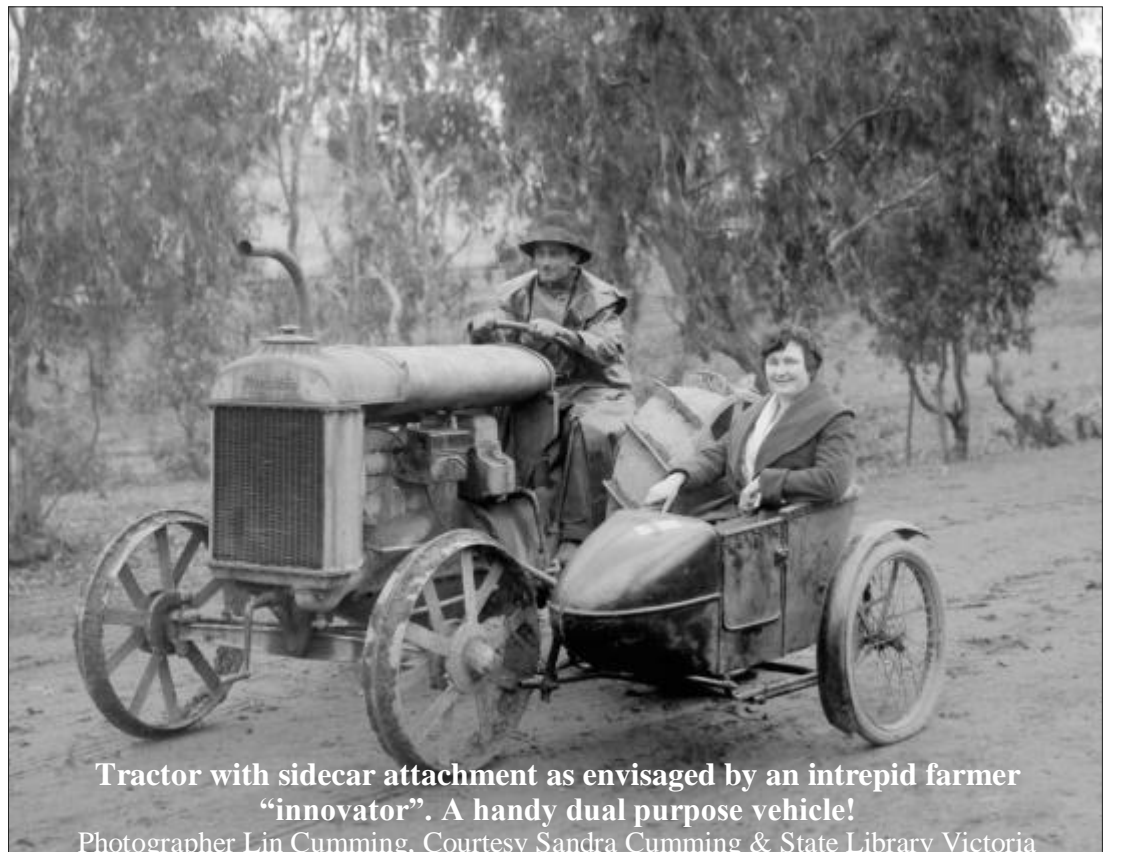
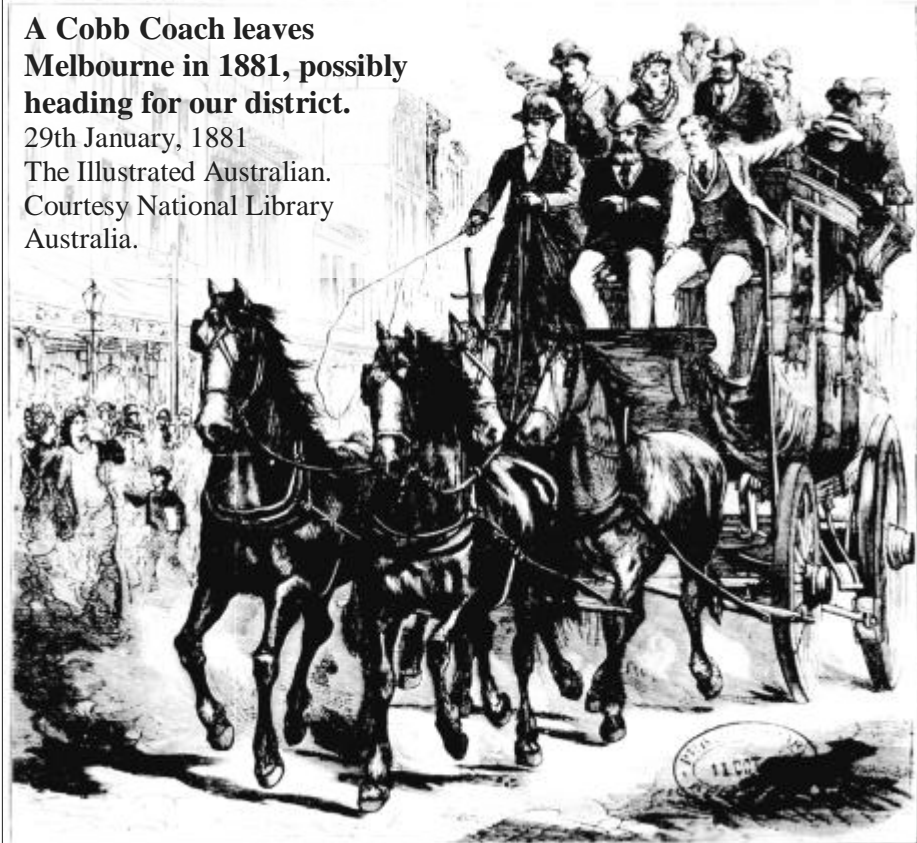
*Presenting*  
**The Great New  
ESSEX  
SUPER-SIX**

IMPROVED ALTOGETHER, AND PART BY  
PART: in body, frame and gears by  
longer, better design and handsome radiator  
and fenders; improved in chassis by Double  
Four wheel bases, new anti-friction driving  
gear and hard rubber shock absorbers; im-  
proved in equipment with petrol gauge and  
mileometer on the dash, and two tires and  
valves. Brief mention this, but indicating  
what to expect in the New Essex, see  
the new specifications on opposite the new  
features — make the road test!

**Essex**  
Standard Speedster, £270  
Standard Roadster, £270  
Two-door Coach, £340  
Four-door Coach, £345

**Hudson—Essex.**  
L. G. Cumming's Garage.

A Cobb Coach leaves  
Melbourne in 1881, possibly  
heading for our district.  
29th January, 1881  
The Illustrated Australian.  
Courtesy National Library  
Australia.



Tractor with sidecar attachment as envisaged by an intrepid farmer  
“innovator”. A handy dual purpose vehicle!  
Photographer Lin Cumming, Courtesy Sandra Cumming & State Library Victoria



SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS



**Bonnie Doon Primary School in 1914.**  
Image courtesy Bonnie Doon Community Centre



1926 - Molesworth State School  
Joyce Ridd Hilda Slape Roma Reynolds Lorna Ridd Fay Mahoney Arthur Roberts Jack Harris Lyn Ridd Barney Rankin  
Jean McAlpin Elsie Harris Alice Reynolds Beryl Harris Rosalie Jeffery Norma Monson Lorraine Rankin Elsie Ellis Lily Slape Charlotte Jeffery Collin Ridd Noel Monson Hec Ridd  
Tom Jeffery Ted Mahoney Tiny Roberts Unknown Mick McCarty Alwyn Ridd Dave Ridd Bill Ellis

Photograph courtesy Bronwyn Tossol



1955 Photograph courtesy Colin & Jenny Myers

**Rubicon No 1 Mill School in 1938.**

Courtesy Kath Chanter 2011

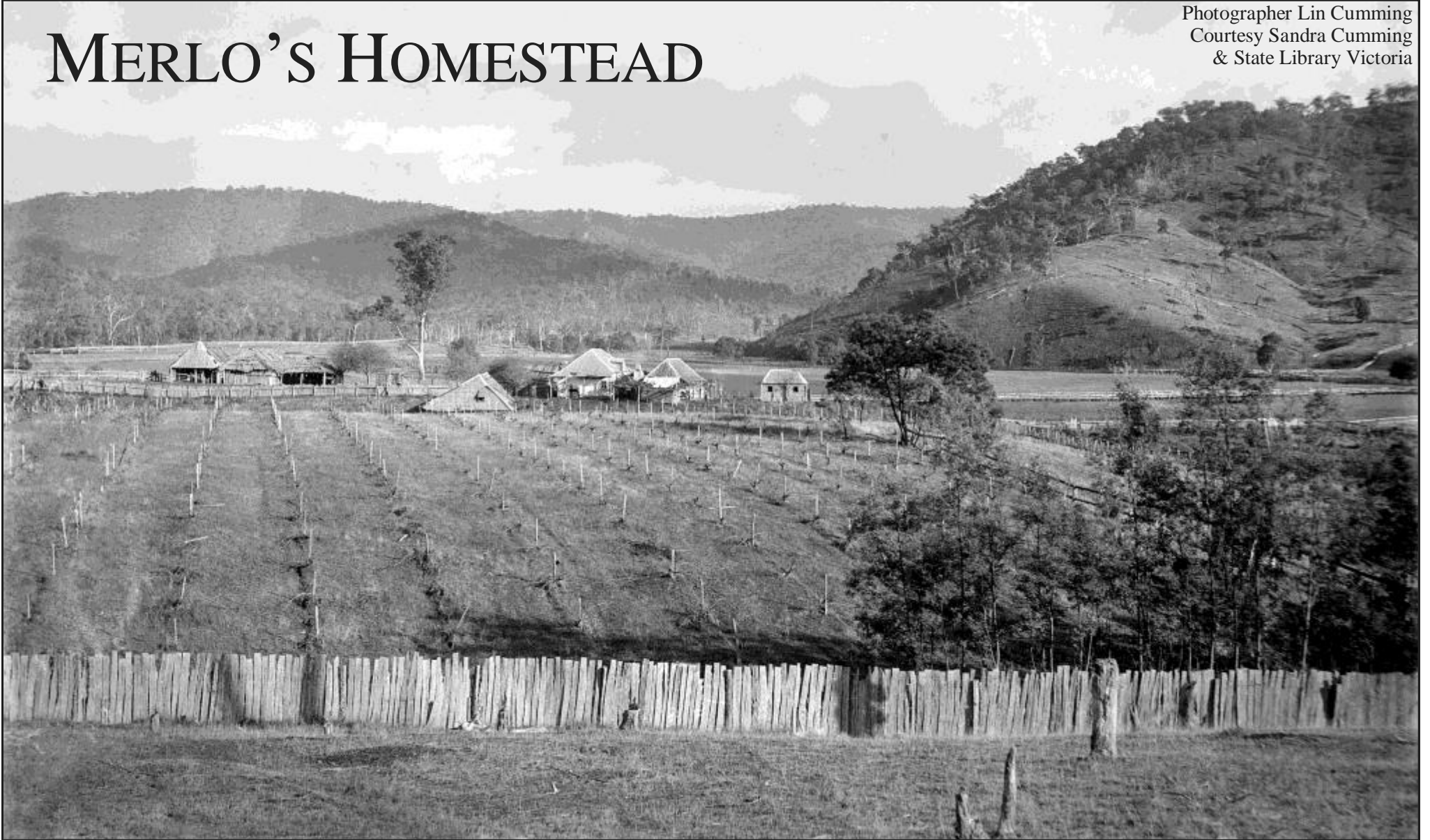




## LAKE EILDON NATIONAL PARK

## MERLO'S HOMESTEAD

Photographer Lin Cumming  
 Courtesy Sandra Cumming  
 & State Library Victoria



### Death of Mr John Merlo, Senr.

We regret having to chronicle the passing away of Mr J. Merlo, senr., a very old resident of this shire, a gentleman greatly respected by all who knew him. He was one of those men ever seeking some new world to conquer and never afraid to risk what he already had for the benefit of himself or the country in which he had made his home.

The late Mr Merlo, at the time of his demise, was one of the very few old residents left in this district. He was a native of Vila de Torano, Lombardy, Italy, and was 75 years of age, 50 years having been spent in Victoria. His parents were people in good circumstances in Italy, his father being a wine and spirit merchant. He was a young man when he first landed in this State, and resided in Ballarat for a time, where he was successful as a miner, having held shares in the All Comers' G.M. Co. The late J. F. Jackson, of Alexandra, was also a shareholder in the same claim and at the same time. Before leaving the Golden City he married Miss Mary A. Tuddenham, whose father was a well-to-do farmer in the Ballarat district. This lady is still resident in Alexandra and well and

hearty.

In 1867, he came to Alexandra and opened up the well known Italian Gully claim, at Maintongoon and the first to get gold at Growler's Gully. At about the same time he worked at the Durham Gully gold fields, which were very prosperous. He discovered and opened up the Perseverance mine, which proved exceptionally rich. Here, gold was taken out from the surface to a depth of 120ft., paying handsomely the whole way. It was in this claim that he made his money, and up to a few days of his death. Mr Merlo spoke of the wealth yet to be found in this identical claim and which he hoped to again see in full work. He next discovered and opened up the Sal Ferino mine on the summit of the Puzzle Ranges, and as much as 7 oz per week were continuously won from this claim. He spoke recently of this claim and was emphatic in stating that it would prove a fortune to any energetic person working it properly. Here it was that Mr Merlo drove a tunnel over 300ft., without any help and at his own expense, in the endeavor to get a reef. He succeeded and he was rewarded for his pluck and energy. He opened up a reef at the Galatear mine and again made money. He was by this time enabled to select land and the farm and vineyard, which is

now known as Glenhope, is the result of his hard toil.

The late Mr Merlo reared a family of eleven, all of whom greatly assisted in making Glenhope what it is to-day, a compact property. As a vigneron, he proved years ago, that grapes of a particularly fine quality could be successfully cultivated in the district and each year the demand for the luscious fruit grew to such dimensions that it was impossible to supply all orders received. Having been trained in his early youth to wine making, grape culture in particular, it was not surprising that he attained such success, and it was mainly through the inability to reach the market that the area cultivated was so limited. Had he seen fit to select nearer the town, there is no doubt his wine producing business would have assumed large proportions. He always had hundreds of hogsheads of wine of various grades casked and vaulted, but the drawback was the inaccessibility to any market owing to the distance from railway communication. Experts have, when visiting Glenhope, spoken highly of the quality of the product.

The deceased gentleman had been in failing health for some time and passed away at the residence of his daughter, Mrs Meyers.

Of the family of eleven, ten are alive and all are held in high esteem, viz., Orsula (single), Mary (Mrs Meyers), Dominica (Mrs H. Barrass), Johanna (Mrs Wheeler), Peter John (New Zealand), James S. (Melbourne), J. R. (Warburton), Paul W. (Warburton), Laurence A. (Melbourne), and Philip D. Joseph died a few years ago.

Alexandra & Yea Standard  
 6th December 1912.  
 National Library Australia

John Merlo was one - if not the very first - wine producer in our district.

*'He always had hundreds of hogsheads of wine of various grades casked and vaulted, but the drawback was the inaccessibility to any market owing to the distance from railway communication.'*

John Merlo was once reported as finding a 5oz (142g) gold nugget in the Perfect Cure Creek, at what is now known as Fraser National Park. A sign is currently located on the creek detailing his find.

At today's current prices, this would be around \$8,500 dollars.



## RUBICON

A rock Jaw Crusher operating in the Rubicon Ranges circa 1910.  
Courtesy Sandra Cumming & State Library Victoria Photographer Lin Cumming



Carting wood in the Rubicon Ranges in the early 1900s.  
Courtesy Sandra Cumming & State Library Victoria Photographer Lin Cumming



Taking time out for a cuppa in the Rubicon Ranges with the ladies circa 1930.  
Courtesy Sandra Cumming & State Library Victoria Photographer Lin Cumming

## BOY DECAPITATED AT THE TIMBER MILLS.

The terrible calamity, on Sunday last, at the site of the Rubicon Tramway and Lumber Co's mill, caused a profound sensation among the mill hands and residents. The sad event has prostrated the bereaved parents both of whom are well known, and great sympathy has been expressed for them. The victim of this awful occurrence is a son of Mr. Job Maudouit (who is in the employ of the company) named Harold—a bright and promising lad, 12 years of age. An inquiry was held before Mr. F. Wheeler, J.P., on Tuesday last, at the residence of Mr. J. Aldous. Senior-Constable M'Cormick conducted the inquiry, and the following is a summary of the evidence adduced:—

Job Maudouit, father of deceased, said he took a truck load of timber from the mill to the depot, on Sunday last, his son Harold accompanying him. Chaff and provisions were loaded for the return trip, the mill being reached shortly after 4 o'clock. The truck was pulled up opposite the stables and in view of my house. He said to his son: "Shall I leave the 'tucker' here, or take it on?" He said—We were both on the truck at the time, when the horses made a sudden move forward, and pulled the truck off the line, making in the direction of the stables. I suddenly found myself on the ground, but on my feet. It was done so quickly, I cannot say whether I jumped or slipped off the truck. I thought my son had jumped off the opposite side. Next saw my boy lying on the ground behind me. The truck was still moving; it must have passed over the boy, as I noticed his head had been severed from the body. Do not know if the boy said anything; I immediately called for help and run to meet my wife. I did not actually see the truck pass over my boy, but a glance was sufficient to know what had happened. The body was removed to Mr. Skinner's house, where I saw it afterwards.

R. M. Skinner, manager, deposed to hearing Maudouit call out and on arriving at the scene saw the mutilated body lying, the feet being in the direction of the rails, the head towards the truck. The body was taken to his house and a messenger sent to the Alexandra police.

Senior-Constable M'Cormick gave formal evidence.

Dr. J. H. Johnson, who made a post mortem examination said—I found post mortem lividity well marked—the head was only hanging to the body by a strip of skin on right side of neck; the vertebrae, muscles and blood vessels were all severed. The scalp was hanging from left side of the head and there was an abrasion on the left forearm, the bones of which were fractured; the left collar bone was also fractured. There were abrasions on the right side of the face and down the right arm, also three, about an inch long, on the back of the thorax. The internal organs were sound, but the base of left lung was lacerated by a fractured rib. The wound mentioned in the neck contained quite a number of pieces of earth and the appearances would indicate that the injury had been done while the lad's neck was on the ground. In my opinion death was caused by the terrible injuries to the neck.

A verdict of accidental death was found.

Alexandra & Yea Standard  
11th October 1912  
Courtesy National Library Australia



## HIGHLANDS

## District News

## HIGHLANDS.

(From our own Correspondent.)

The public meeting held at the Terip School last Saturday was conspicuous only for its lack of unity. It was thought by delegates from Highlands and Ruffly, that Terip Terip would fall in line, and that all the hill country would combine and ask that a main road be laid out from Yea to Euroa. However, the dream was rudely broken by the pervers and unyielding attitude of a few Teripians who had half-a-dozen wild-cat schemes of their own to propose.

It was elected, however, that Highlands and Ruffly will go in for the main road proposal, and as Terip appears to be anxious to keep up the Yack connection, that district may have to be left out, and the road taken direct through Dropmore and Ruffly. It was extremely regrettable that nothing of a concrete nature could be arrived at, as the meeting was a representative one, and largely attended. Or Chisholm occupied the chair, and it took him all his time to keep order, the Babel of voices at times creating quite a "harmony of discord."

One of the most sensible of observations came from Mr McCristal, of Dropmore, when he asked if it would not be best to invite the Board to inspect the country, and leave it to that body to finally decide where the road should be constructed. There was no doubt as to the sincerity of all present to arrive at something definite, as all appeared to be suffering in an acute form, the extreme tortures of road hunger; but the meeting was very much at sea as regards the powers of the Country Roads Board, as a motion was carried by a small majority that "outlets to the nearest railway station" be applied for.

As the total mileage of said "outlets" would about double that of the main road scheme, it can be easily imagined what the Board must think. Some refused to vote one way or another, as they considered that the Board would only consider a main road proposal, whereby one important town or district could be linked to another, and further, that as they had 30 year's experience of the "outlet" system, it should convince anyone that something better was required.

Yea Chronicle

Thursday 26th June 1913

Courtesy National Library Australia

*Enlargement of photo taken by Edward Hepburn on his selection, Hughes Creek, Dropmore, in 1890.*



The 1890 selection of Edward Hepburn at Hughes Creek Dropmore. Present are David Leckie on the left and Thos. Hepburn on the right.

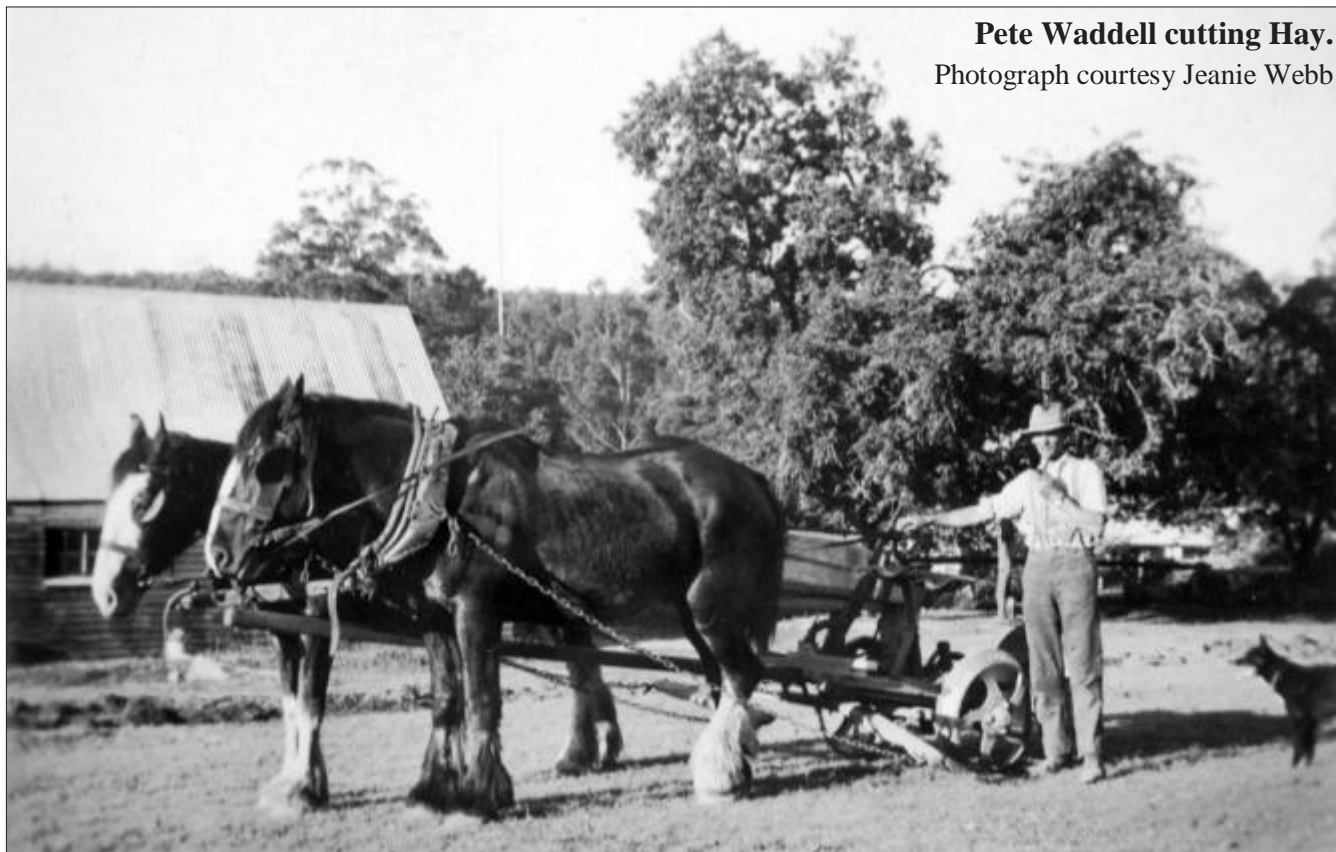
Courtesy State Library Victoria Photographer Edward Hepburn

*David Leckie (left)*

*Thos. Hepburn (right)*

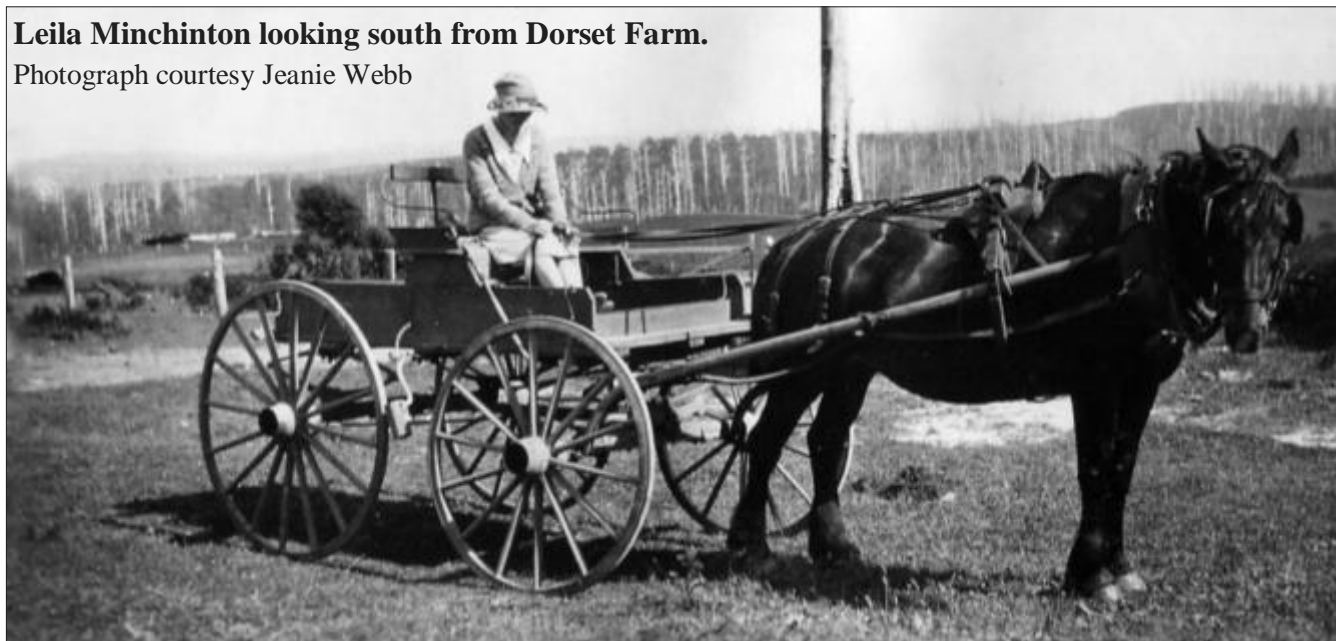
Pete Waddell cutting Hay.

Photograph courtesy Jeanie Webb



Leila Minchinton looking south from Dorset Farm.

Photograph courtesy Jeanie Webb





## BUXTON

**Terrible Accident at Buxton.**

On Tuesday last, a farm labourer named Meaney, who, with his wife, is employed at Barnescourt, Mr. Burbank's farm, between Buxton and Marysville, got caught in the cogwheels of a chaffcutter, which is driven by water power.

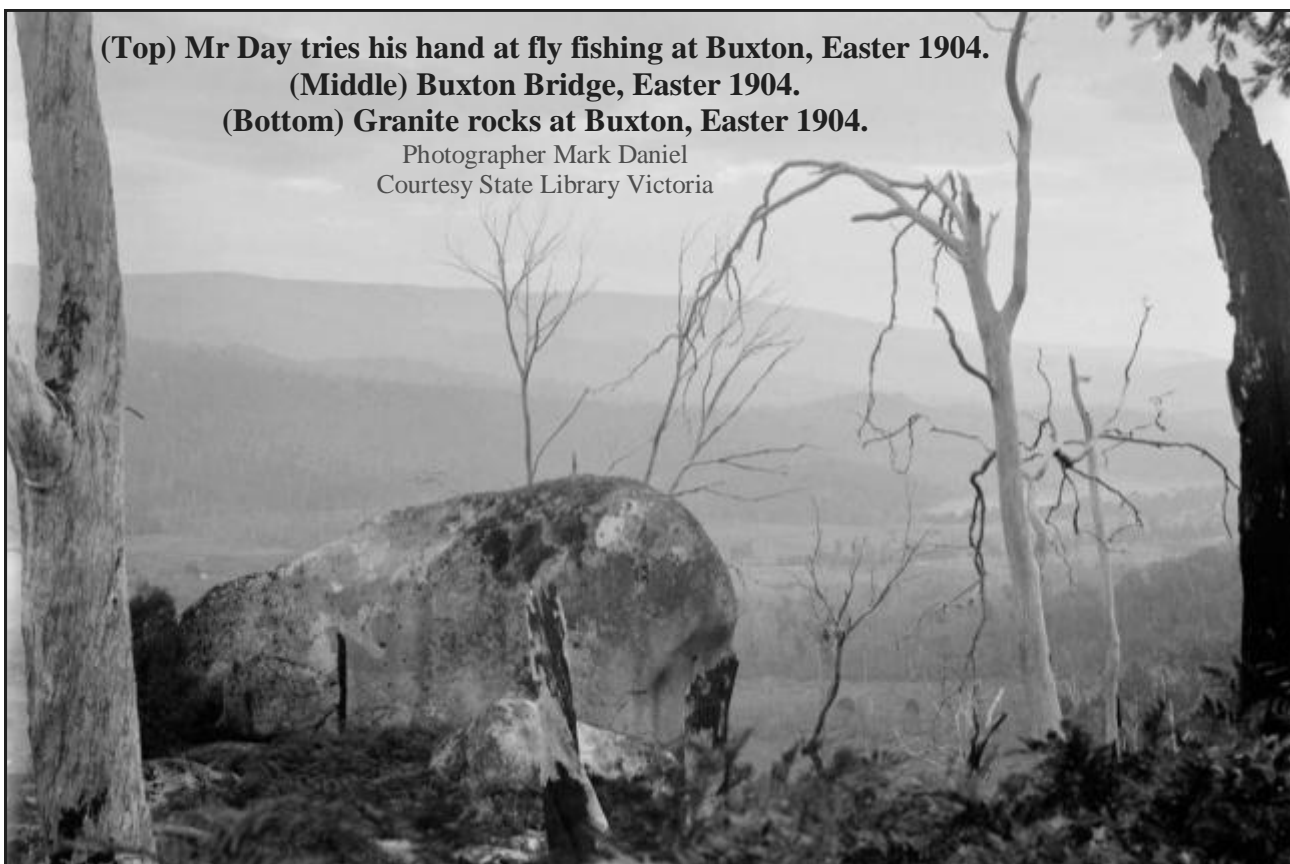
He was wearing a new shirt at the time he was caught, which was too strong to tear or give.

Slowly he was being dragged into the machine, when Mr. R. Scott, with great presence of mind, rushed and threw the belt off and ran to release the unfortunate man who was held in the iron grip of the cogs.

Meaney's right arm, on release, was found to be terribly lacerated and cut, but the prompt action of Mr. Scott saved the limb and probably the man's life.

No time was lost in reaching the hospital, and we are informed the patient is progressing as well as can be expected.

Alexandra & Yea Standard, Friday 15th May 1914  
Courtesy National Library Australia



(Top) Mr Day tries his hand at fly fishing at Buxton, Easter 1904.

(Middle) Buxton Bridge, Easter 1904.

(Bottom) Granite rocks at Buxton, Easter 1904.

Photographer Mark Daniel  
Courtesy State Library Victoria

**BUXTON.**

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17**

**CLEARING SALE**

DAIRY CATTLE, HORSES, ETC.

On the Property, "Barnescourt."

**G. A. COOKSON**

**H**AS been favored with instructions from Mr. Wm. Scott, to sell, on the property, on the above date, at 12.30 sharp, the whole of his well-known dairy herd, horses, etc., consisting of—

- 30 Cows, in full profit and springing
- 15 Springing Heifers
- 10 2-yr-old steers
- 1 Pure Shorthorn Bull
- 1 3-yr-old Draught Colt, by Clifton,
- 1 2-yr-old " Filly "
- 1 5-yr-old Brood Mare "
- 1 Sow with litter of ten
- 5 Store Pigs
- 100 gal. De Laval Separator
- Cherry Churn, Butter Worker

Luncheon Provided.

The auctioneer wishes to draw special attention to the above bona fide sale. Mr. Scott having decided to go out of dairying buyers can depend upon the stock being up for positive sale, and as the quality of Mr. Scott's cattle is well-known they will have a chance of picking up some choice dairy cows and springers.

G. A. COOKSON, Auctioneer,  
Alexandra and Mansfield.

Alexandra & Yea Standard, Friday 6th September 1907  
Courtesy National Library Australia



## ODDS AND ENDS

## PRIME OF LIFE

by Henry Lawson

OH, the strength of the toil of those twenty years, with father, and master, and men!  
And the clearer brain of the business man, who has held his own for ten:  
Oh, the glorious freedom from business fears, and the rest from domestic strife!  
The past is dead, and the future assured, and I'm in the prime of life!

She bore me old, and they kept me old, and they worked me early and late;  
I carried the loads of my selfish tribe, from seven to thirty eight:  
I slaved with dad, in the dust and heat, that my brothers might enjoy -  
But I rest to-day in the prime of life, and I'll live and die a boy!

When the last crop failed, and the stock were gone, did the old man's head go down?  
No! he started business, on what was left, in the produce line in town.  
They sent my brothers to boarding schools, when our way to the front we'd won -  
They'd borrow, and borrow, but never had aught but contempt for the eldest son.

My brothers they went to the world away, and they left the home in strife.  
They sowed wild oats in the pride of youth, and they pawned the prime of life.  
They sowed too fast, and they sowed too far; and they came back one by one -  
You couldn't tell which is the eldest son and which is the youngest son.

Oh, I longed for a love that I could not claim, and a breath of the youth denied -  
But I stuck to the store when the old man went, and the mater until she died:

With Job's own sister and Satan's aunt—good Lord! and the fiend's own wife -  
But I'm free of them now, it is no matter how, and I'm in the prime of life.

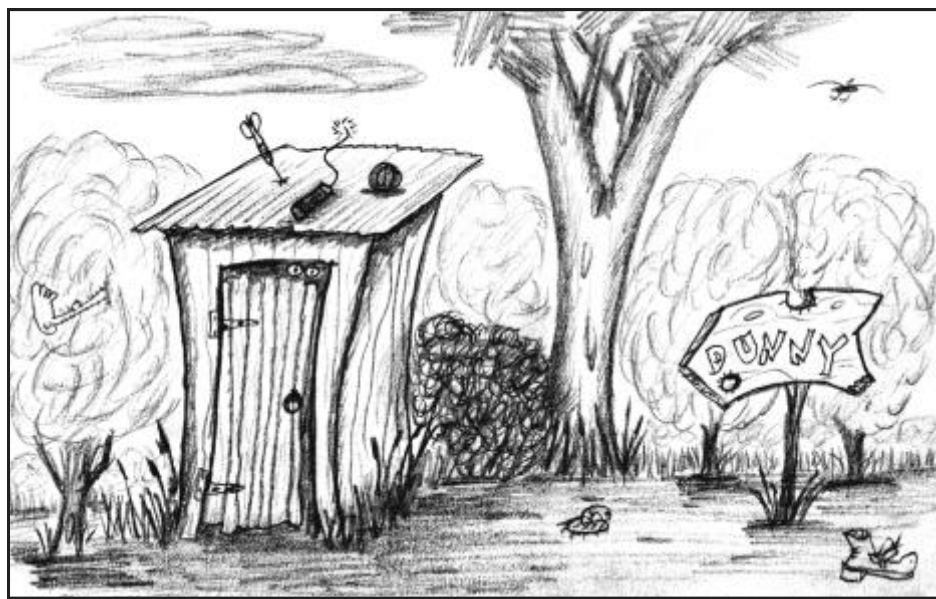
My brothers have turned respectable, and are steady as men can be:  
The youngest and worst is a leading light—and he aims at reforming me!  
But I lend and help, and I'll fix them up, for I can't but see with a sigh,  
That the youngest, who left us a handsome boy, is an older man than I.

But it's "Lord make us thankful" three times a day, before they eat their fill -  
They can thank the Lord if they like, I say, but I reckon I pay the bill.  
They feel independent, I'm glad to know, for if all I hear is true,  
My brothers agree that I do no more than I have a right to do.

They'll work in the store while I see the world, and I'll let them share the till -  
But I sail to-day, for a year away, to go wherever I will:  
I sail with the woman who waited for me—old sweetheart; and brand new wife -  
She is handsome and true, and she's thirty-two—and I'm in the prime of life.

For Capetown, and London, and Norraway, for Germany, Holland, and France,  
For Switzerland, Italy—anywhere—for Greece, and for Egypt a glance,  
For India, China, and "strange Japan", for the East with mystery rife -  
I have made enough, and I have my love - and I'm in the prime of life!

## THE GREAT AUSTRALIAN DUNNY!



They were funny looking buildings, that were once a way of life,

If you couldn't sprint the distance, then you really were in strife. They were nailed, they were wired, but were mostly falling down. There was one in every yard, in every house, in every town. They were given many names, some were even funny, but to most of us, we knew them as the outhouse or the dunny. I've seen some of them all gussied up, with painted doors and all, but it really made no difference, they were just a port of call.

Now my old man would take a bet, he'd lay an even pound, that you wouldn't make the dunny with them turkeys hangin' round. They had so many uses, these buildings out the back, you could even hide from mother, so you wouldn't get the strap. That's why we had good cricketers, never mind the bumps, we used the pathway for the wicket and the dunny door for stumps.

Now my old man would sit for hours, the smell would rot your socks, he read the daily back to front in that good old thunderbox. And if by chance that nature called sometime through the night, you

always sent the dog in first, for there was no flamin' light. And the dunny seemed to be the place where crawlies liked to hide, but never ever showed themselves until you sat inside.

There was no such thing as Sorbent, no tissues there at all, just squares of well read newspaper, a-hangin' on the wall. If you had some friendly neighbours, as neighbours sometimes are, you could sit and chat to them, if you left the door ajar.

When suddenly you got the urge, and down the track you fled, then of course the magpies were there to peck you on your head. Then the time there was a wet, the rain it never stopped, if you had an urgent call, you ran between the drops. The dunny man came once a week, to these buildings out the back, and he would leave an extra can, if you left for him a zac.

For those of you who've no idea what I mean by a zac, then you're too young to have ever had, a dunny out the back.

Zac was slang for a sixpenny coin (or sixpence as it was known) before decimal currency came into Australia in 1966 - now 5¢.

Anon



## ETIQUETTE

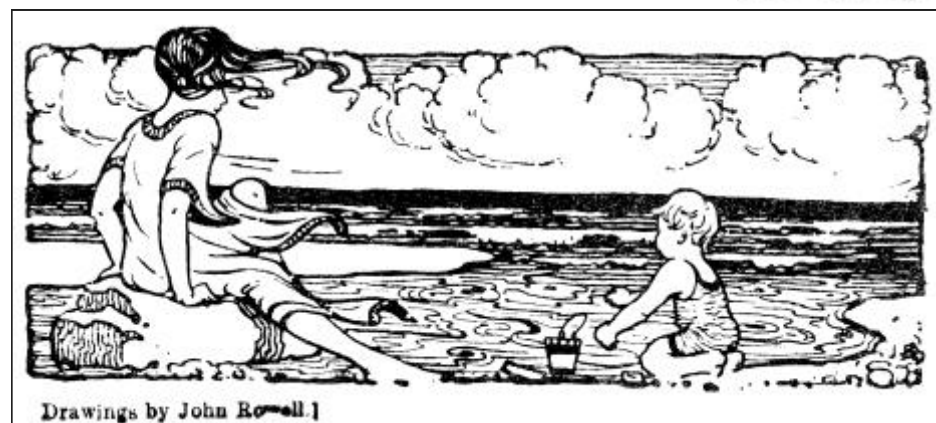
## Manners - The True Gentleman

Politeness is benevolence in small things. A true gentleman must regard the rights and feelings of others, even in matters the most trivial. He respects the individuality of others, just as he wishes others to respect his own. In society he is quiet, easy, unobtrusive, putting on no airs, nor hinting by word or manner that he deems himself better or wiser, or richer than any one about him.

He never boasts of his achievements, or fishes for compliments by affecting to underrate what he has done. He is distinguished, above all things, by his deep insight and sympathy, his quick perception of, and prompt attention to, those small and apparently insignificant things that may cause pleasure or pain to others.

In giving his opinions he does not dogmatize; he listens patiently and respectfully to other men, and, if compelled to dissent from their opinions, acknowledges his fallibility and asserts his own views in such a manner as to command the respect of all who hear him. Frankness and cordiality mark all his intercourse with his fellows, and, however high his station, the humblest man feels instantly at ease in his presence

*Extract Rules and usages of the best society in the Australasian colonies. Peoples Publishing Company, Melbourne, 1886.*



Drawings by John Russell



RELIGION & VIEWS

Little & Wise

PROVERBS XXX. 24—28.

“There be four things which are little upon the earth, but they are exceeding wise:  
“The ants are a people not strong, yet they prepare their meat in, the summer;  
“The conies are but a feeble folk, yet make they their houses in the rocks;  
“The locusts have no king, yet go they forth all of them by bands;  
“The spider taketh hold with her hands, and is in king’s palaces.”

DEAR CHILDREN,

I should like you all to be very wise. Wisdom is far better than money, or fine clothes, or grand houses, or horses or carriages. People who are not wise seldom get on well. They are seldom happy. My best wish for any dear boys and girls that I love is, that they may grow up very wise.

But how are we to be wise? some of you will ask. What are we to do in order to get this wisdom, which you tell us is such a good thing?

Dear Children, if you would be wise, you must pray God to make you so. You must ask Him to put His Holy Spirit in your hearts, and give you wisdom. This is one thing.

Besides this, you must read God’s holy book, the Bible. There you will find out what true wisdom is. There you will see what kind of things wise people do. This is another thing.

And now let me talk to you about the four verses in the Bible which I have looked at for you. They are verses which tell us about wisdom. I hope they will do you much good.

There you see that God tells you to learn a lesson of four little creatures,—the ant, the cony, the locust, and the spider. He seems to say that they are all patterns of wisdom. They are all poor little weak things. An ant is a little creeping insect, that everybody knows.

A cony is a little creature very like a rabbit. A locust is like a large grasshopper. A spider is a thing that the least child need not be afraid of. But God tells you that the ant, the cony, the locust, and the spider are very wise. Come then, dear children, and listen to me, while I tell you something about them. Some of you are but little now. But here you see it is possible to be little and yet wise.

I. First of all, what are you to learn of the ants? You must learn of the little ants to take thought about time to come.

“The ants,” says the Bible, “prepare their meat in the summer.” God has made the ants so wise and thoughtful, that they go about gathering food in the harvest time. They are not idle in the fine long days, when the sun shines. They get all the grains of corn they can find, and lay them up in their nests. And so when frost and snow come, the ants are not starved. They lie snug in their nests, and have plenty to eat.

The butterflies are much prettier to look at than the ants. They have beautiful wings, and make a much finer show. But the butterflies, poor things, are not so wise as the ants. They fly about among the flowers, and enjoy themselves all the summer. They never think of gathering food for the winter. But what happens when the winter comes? The poor butterflies all die, whilst the ants all keep alive.

And now, dear Children, I want you each to learn wisdom of the ants. I want you, like them, to think of time to come.

You have each got within you a soul that will live forever. Your body will die some time. Your soul never will. And your soul needs thought and care as much as your body. It needs to have its sins pardoned. It needs grace to make it please God. It needs power to be good. It needs to have God for its best friend, in order to be happy.

And, dear children, the best time for seeking pardon, grace, and the friendship of God, is the time of youth. Youth and childhood are your summer. Now you are strong and well. Now you have plenty of time. Now you have few cares and troubles to distract you. Now is the best time for laying up food for your souls.

Ah! my beloved children, you must remember that winter is before you. Old age is your winter. Your frost, and snow, and rain, and storms, are all yet to

come. Sorrow, pain, sickness, death, and judgment, will all come with old age. Happy are they who get ready for it before time! Happy are they who, like the ants, take thought for things to come!

They are wise boys and girls who read their Bibles, and learn many texts by heart. They are wise boys and girls who pray God every day to give them His Holy Spirit. They are wise who mind what their parents and teachers tell them, and take pains to be good. They are wise who dislike all bad ways, and bad words, and always tell the truth. Such boys and girls are like the little ants. They are laying up store against time to come.

Dear children, if you have not done so before, I hope you will begin to do so now. If you have done so I hope you will keep on doing so, and do so more and more. Do not be like the foolish butterflies. Be like the ants. Think of time to come, and be wise.

II. But let us now go on, and see what you are to learn of the conies. You must learn of the little conies to have a place of safety to flee to in time of danger.

“The conies,” says the Bible, “make their houses in the rocks.” The conies are afraid of foxes, and dogs, and cruel men, who hunt and kill them. They are poor weak things, and are not strong enough to fight, and take care of themselves. So what do they do? They make their holes among stones and rocks whenever they can. They go where men cannot dig them out. They go where dogs and foxes cannot follow them. And then when they see men, or dogs, or foxes coming, they run away into these holes, and are safe.

The hare can run much faster than the cony, for it has much longer legs. The stag is much bigger than the cony, and has got fine horns. But the hare and the stag have got no holes to run into. They lie out on the open fields. And so when men come to hunt them with dogs and guns, they are soon caught and killed. But the little cony has a hiding-place to run to, and in this way he often escapes.

Now, dear children, I want you to learn wisdom from the little conies. I want you to have a place of safety for your souls.

Your souls have many enemies. You are in danger from many things which may do them harm. You have each of you a wicked heart within you. Have you not often found how hard it is to be good? You have each a terrible enemy, seeking to ruin you for ever, and take you to hell. That enemy is the devil. You cannot see him. But he is never far off. You are each living in a world where there are many bad people, and few good. Dear children, all these things are against you.

You need the help of one who can keep you safe. You need a hiding-place for your precious souls. You need a dear friend, who is able to save you from your evil hearts, from the devil, and from the bad example of wicked people. Listen to me, and I will tell you about Him.

There is One who is able to keep your souls quite safe. His name is Jesus Christ. He is strong enough to save you, for He is God’s own Son. He is willing to save you, for He came down from heaven and died upon the cross for your sakes. And He loves all children. He liked to have them with Him when He was upon earth. He took them up in His arms and blessed them.

Dear children, those boys and girls are wise who put their trust in Jesus Christ, and ask Him to take care of their souls. Such boys and girls will be kept safe. Jesus Christ loves them. Jesus Christ will not let them come to harm. He will not allow the devil, or wicked people, to ruin their souls. Jesus is the true rock for children to flee to. Boys and girls who trust Him will be cared for while they live, and go to heaven when they die. Jesus is the true hiding-place. Boys and girls who love Him will be safe and happy.

Dear children, I hope you will all try to have your Souls kept safe. Do not put off asking the Lord Jesus Christ to take care of them. Do not say to yourselves, “Oh! we shall have plenty of time by and by.” Who knows what may happen to you before long. Perhaps you may be sick and ill. Perhaps you may lose all your kind friends, and be left alone. Oh! go and pray to Jesus now. Be like the wise little conies. Get a safe hiding-place for your soul.



III Let us now see what you are to learn of the locusts. You must learn of the locusts to love one another, to keep together, and help one another.

“The locusts,” says the Bible, “have no king, yet go they forth all of them in hands.” They have nobody over them to tell them what to do. They are poor little

weak insects by themselves. One locust alone can do very little. The least boy or girl would kill a locust, if he were to tread on it. It would be dead at once.

But the little locusts are so wise that they always keep together. They fly about in such numbers that you could not count them, you would think they were a black cloud. They do not quarrel with one another. They help each other. And in this way the locusts are able to do a very great deal. They make the farmers and gardeners quite afraid when they are seen coming. They eat up the grass and corn. They strip all the leaves off the trees. And this is because they help one another.

Dear children, I want you to learn of the little locusts always to love one another, and never to quarrel. You should try to be kind and good-natured to other boys and girls. You should make it a rule never to be selfish, - never to be spiteful, - never to get into a passion, - never to fight with one another. Boys and girls who do such things are not wise. They are more foolish than the locusts.

Dear children, quarrelling is very wicked. It pleases the devil, for he is always trying to make people wicked like himself. It does not please God, for God is love. Selfishness and quarrelling are most improper in Christian children. They should try to be like Christ. Christ was never selfish, He pleased not Himself.

Think what a great deal of good boys and girls might do, if they would be like the little locusts, and love one another. Think how useful they might be to their fathers and mothers. They might save them much trouble, and help them in many little ways. Think what a great deal of money they might collect to help the missionaries to the poor heathen. If every child in England was to collect sixpence a year, by asking people for farthings to help the missionaries, it would be a very great sum. Think, above all, what good boys and girls might do, if they agreed to pray for one another, How happy they would soon be! Such prayers would be heard.

Dear children, as long as you live, love one another. Try to be of one mind. Have nothing to do with quarrelling and fighting. Hate it, and think it a great sin. You ought to agree together far better than the little locusts. They have no king to teach them. You have a King who has promised His Spirit to teach you, and that King is Christ. Oh! be wise like the locusts, and love one another.

IV. And now, last of all, let us see what you are to learn of the spider. You must learn of the spider, not to give up trying to be good, because of a little trouble.

“The spider,” says the Bible, “taketh hold with her hands, and is in king’s palaces.” The spider is a poor little feeble thing, you all know. But the spider takes great pains in making her web. The spider creeps into grand houses, and climbs to the top of the finest rooms. And there she spins her web. There seems no keeping her out. The servants come and brush the web away. The spider sets to work at once and makes it again new. No insect is so persevering as the spider. She does her work over and over again. She will not give up.

I remember a story of a great king who got back his kingdom by taking example from a spider. Poor man! He had been driven away from his kingdom, like David, by wicked rebels. He had tried often to get his kingdom back. He had fought many battles, but had always been beaten. At last he began to think it was no use. He would give up, and fight no more. It happened at that time that he was laying awake in bed very early one summer’s morning, when he saw a spider at work. The spider was trying to make a thread from one side of the room to the other. Twelve times she tried in vain. Twelve times the thread broke, and she fell to the ground. Twelve times she got up, and tried again. But she did not give up. She persevered, and the thirteenth time she succeeded. Now when the king saw that, he said to himself, “Why should not I persevere too, in trying to get back

my kingdom? Why should not I succeed at last, though I have so often failed?” He did try again. He succeeded. and conquered his cruel enemies, and got back his kingdom? Dear children, this king’s name was Robert Bruce. He got back his kingdom, in Scotland, by copying the spider.

Now I want you to make the spider your pattern about your souls. I want you, like the spider, to persevere in sticking to what is good. I should like you to determine that you will never give up. I want you to keep on trying not to do what is evil, and trying always to do what is good, and pleasing to God.

Ah! dear children, it is a wicked world, I am sorry to say; and there are many who will try hard to make you wicked, as you grow up. The devil will try hard to make you forget God. Bad men and women will tell you there is no need for you to be so good.

I beg you not to give way. I beseech you to persevere. Keep on praying every day. Keep on reading your Bibles regularly. Keep on regularly going to church on Sunday. Alas! there are many boys and girls who give up every thing that is good, as soon as they leave school. While they are at school they use their Bibles, and hymn books, and prayer books. When they leave off going to school, they leave off using all their books, too. They often get into bad company. They often take up bad ways. They often go idling about all Sunday. They seem to forget all that has been taught them. Alas! this is not persevering. This is being more foolish than the little spider. It is wicked and unwise.

Dear children, there is a glorious house in heaven, where I hope I shall see some of you. There is a palace there, belonging to Jesus Christ, far finer than any palace on earth, in which all Jesus Christ’s people shall live and be happy forever and ever. Dear children, I hope I shall see many of you there.

But, remember, if you and I are to meet in this glorious palace, you must persevere, and take pains about your souls. You must pray heartily. You must read your Bibles regularly. You must fight against sin daily. You must say when bad people entice you to do wrong, “I will not give up my religion, I will try to please Christ.” Oh! let the little spider be your pattern all your lives. Persevere, and be wise.

And now, dear children, I will finish by asking you to think of what I have been telling you. I have told you of four little creatures, which are very wise,—the ants,—the conies,—the locusts,—and the spiders. I have shown you that the ants are a pattern of wisdom, because they think of time to come. The conies are a pattern of wisdom, because they make their houses in safe places. The locusts are a pattern of wisdom, because they help one another. The spiders are a pattern of wisdom, because they persevere. Dear children, I want you to be like them. Some of you may possibly never live to be men and women. But one thing you may be, even now. You may be wise.

Be wise, like the ants. Consider these two verses of the Bible, and learn them by heart. “Remember thy Creator in the days of thy youth.” (Eccles. xii. 1.) “Prepare to meet thy God.” (Amos iv. 12.)

Be wise, like the conies. Consider these two verses of the Bible, and learn them by heart. “Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved.” (Acts xvi. 31.) “Thou art my hiding-place thou shalt preserve me from trouble.” (Psalm xxxii. 7.)

Be wise, like the locusts. Consider these two verses of the Bible, and learn them by heart. “By this shall all men know that ye are My disciples, if ye have love one towards another.” (John xiii. 35.) “He that loveth not his brother, whom he hath seen, how can he love God, whom he hath not seen?” (1 John iv. 20.)

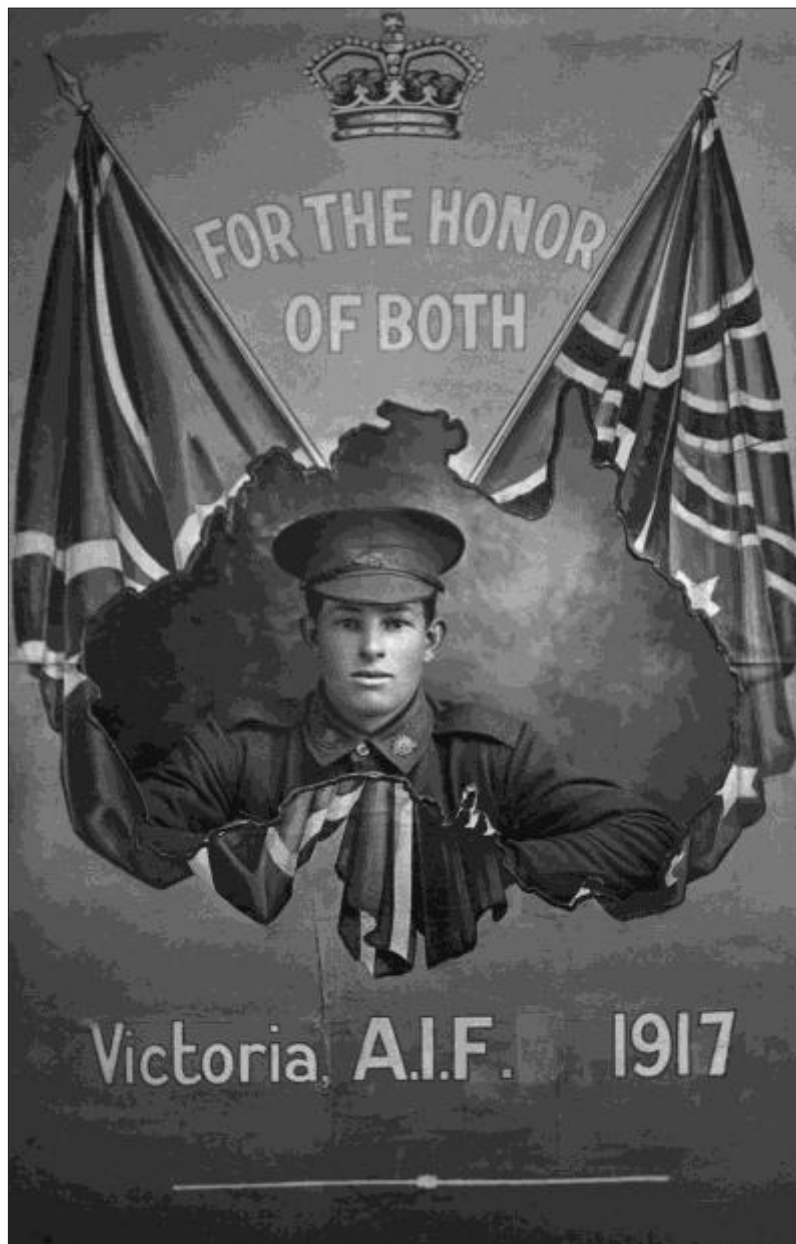
Be wise, like the spiders. Consider these words of the Bible, and learn them by heart. “Ask, and it shall be given you: seek, and ye shall find.” (Matt. vii. 7.) “Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us: and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus.” (Heb. xii. 1, 2.)

Dear children, think on these things. This is the way to be both happy and wise. Never forget what God says in the Bible: “Better is a poor and wise child, than an old and foolish king.” (Eccles. iv. 13.) “The wise shall inherit glory.” (Prev. iii. 35.)

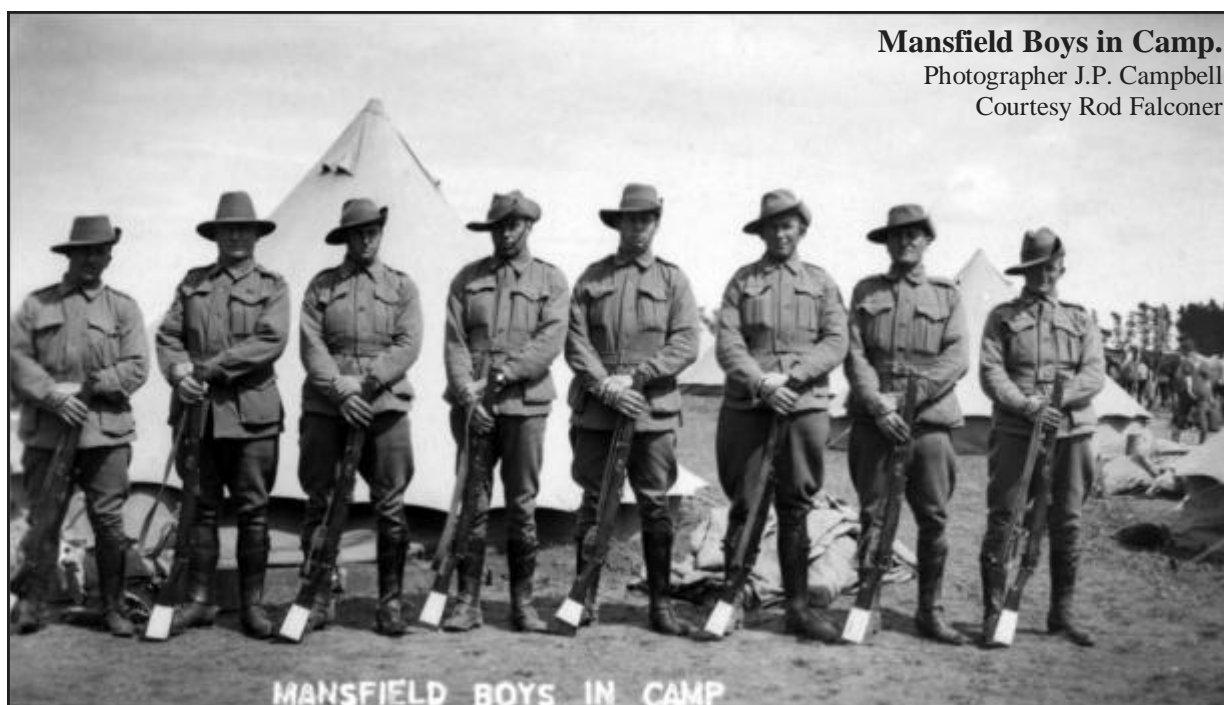
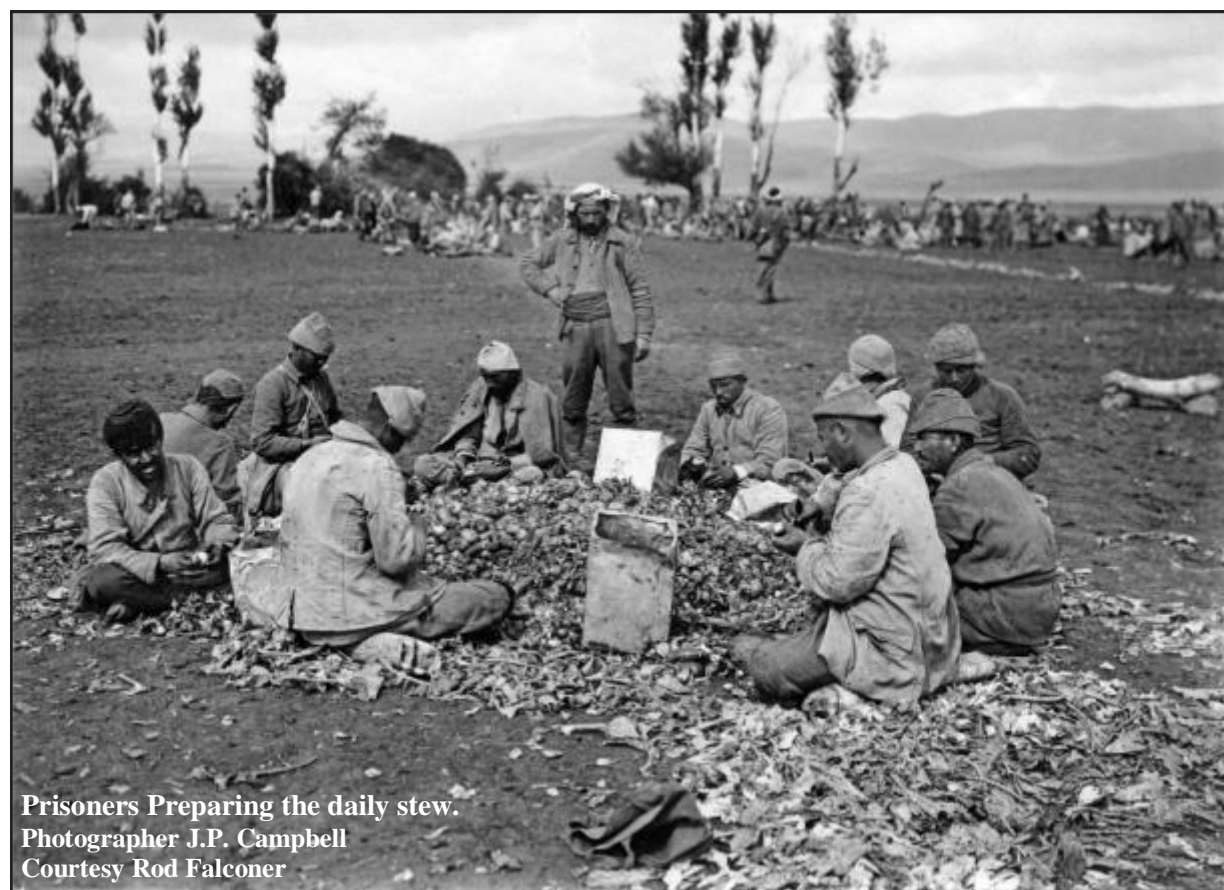
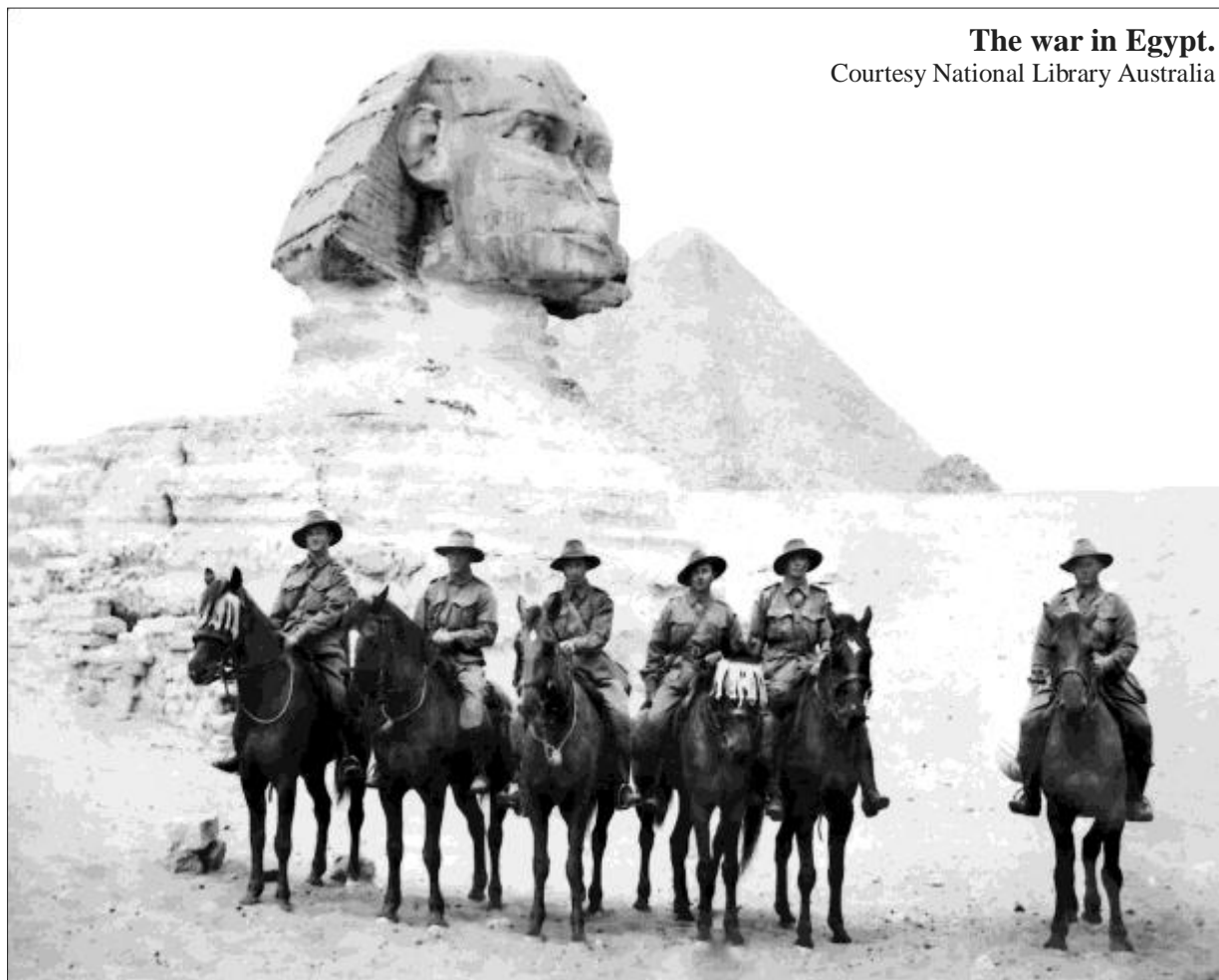
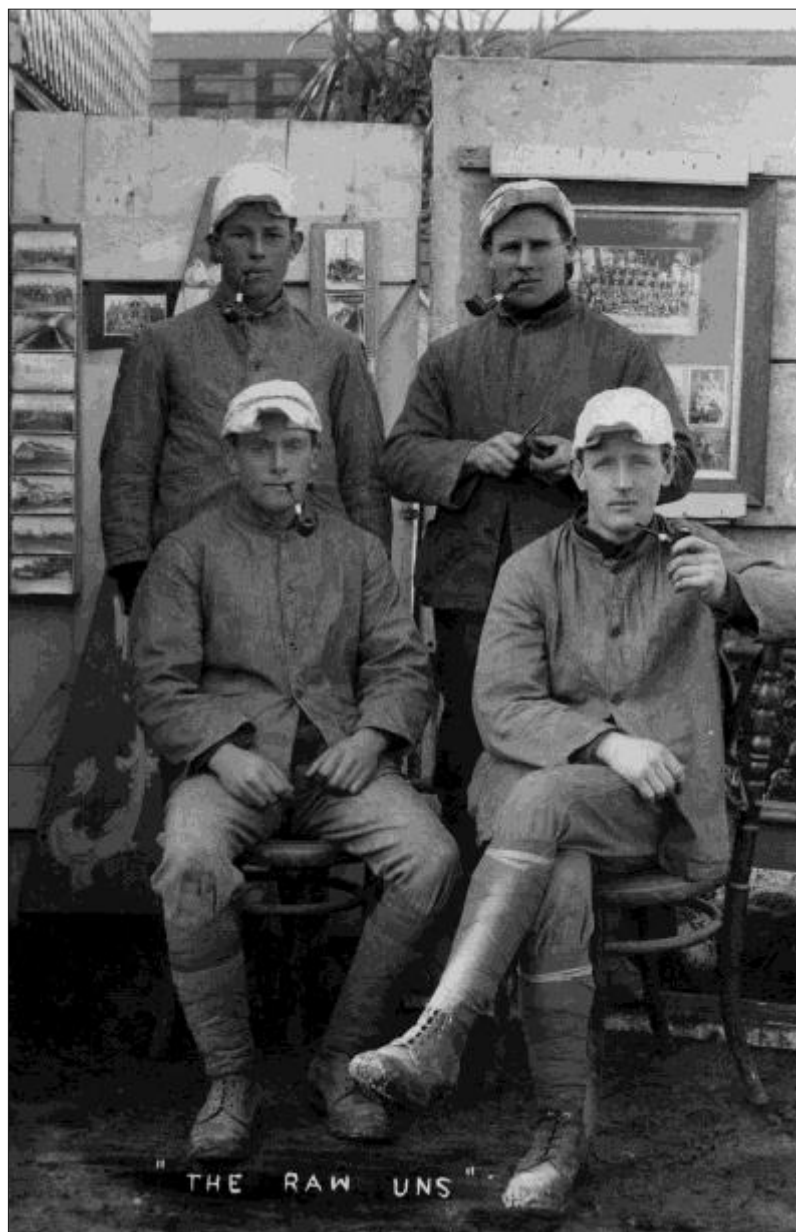
Sermon extract in the mid 1800s by the Reverend J.C. Ryle, then Rector of Helmingham, Suffolk, England and whom later became the first Bishop of Liverpool.



WARTIME

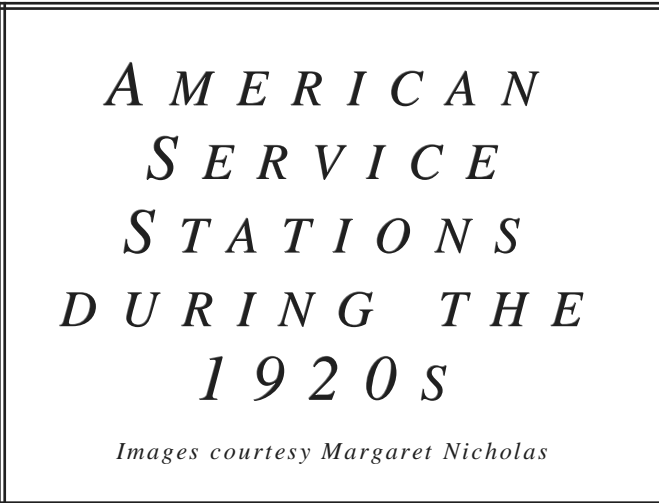
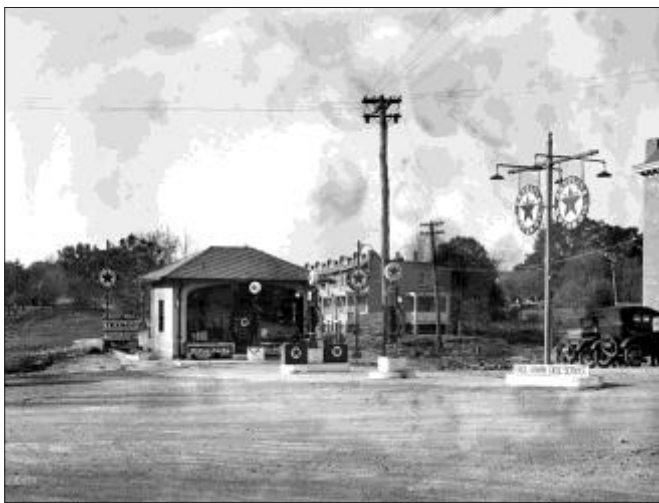


(Above) Tom Hodson of Molesworth, A.I.F. 1917.  
(Below) Tom Hodson & friends at Broadmeadows Camp.  
Photographs courtesy Ian Borrie





INTERNATIONAL



Local Alexandra Garages

Geo Courtney's Motors in Grant Street, Alexandra, showing three early petrol bowsers in use.



**THE STANDARD**

Friday, February 19, 1926.

Mr. A. E. Stillman has installed a Bowser in front of his garage, and Plume petrol can be obtained at cheaper rates than if purchased in tins.

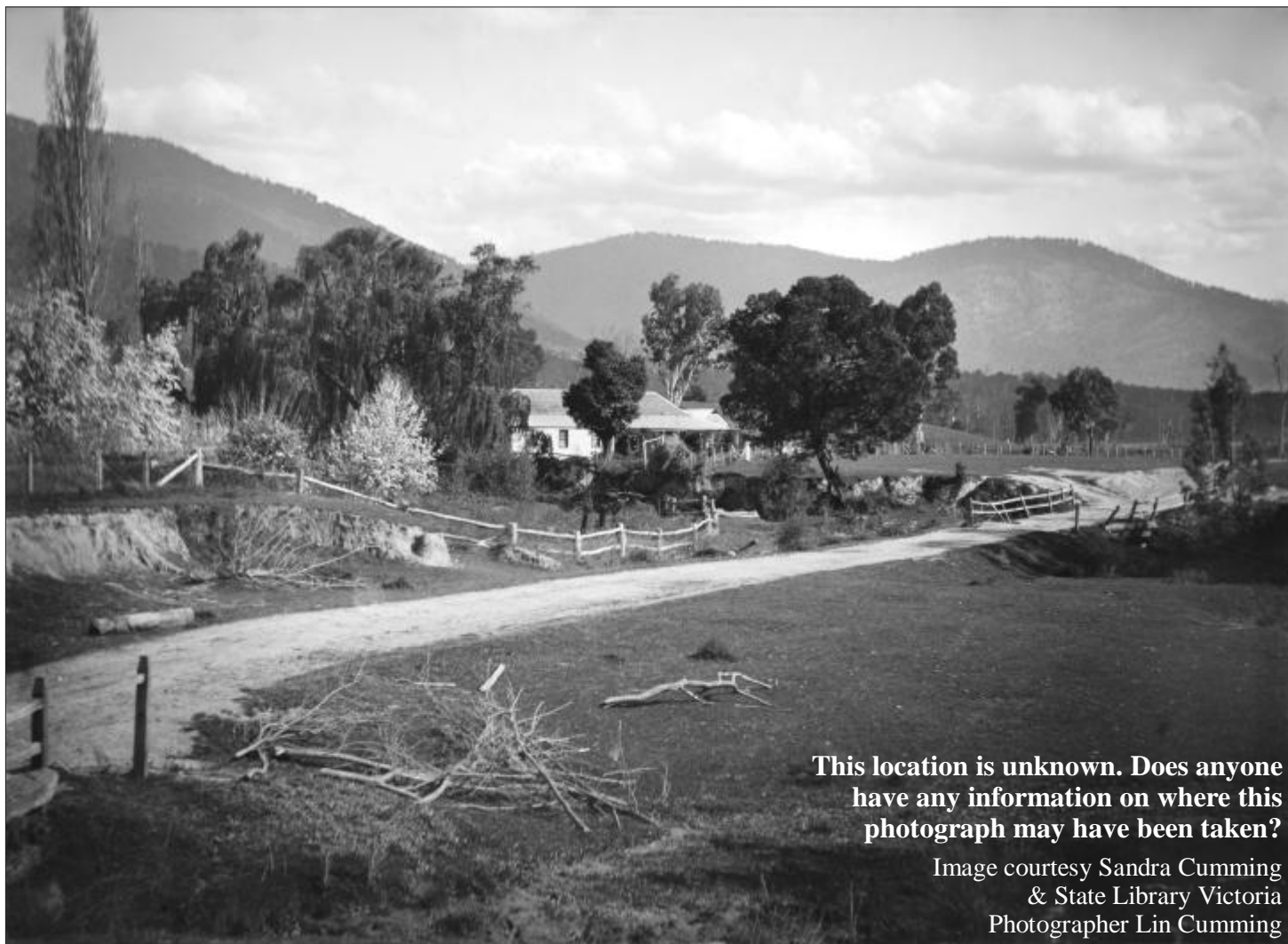
Alexandra & Yea Standard  
Friday 19th February 1929  
Courtesy National Library Australia





- WANTED -

If you are able to help us with our research on any of these items below, please contact us at: [emailartworkz@gmail.com](mailto:emailartworkz@gmail.com)



**This location is unknown. Does anyone have any information on where this photograph may have been taken?**

Image courtesy Sandra Cumming  
& State Library Victoria  
Photographer Lin Cumming



The above dog tag seems to have been used for a long period of time judging by the wear on the to hole. It is possible that it was worn around the neck of a UTAH employee, maybe for identification purposes.

Does anyone have any information on what this dog tag was used for, and who were issued with them and why?

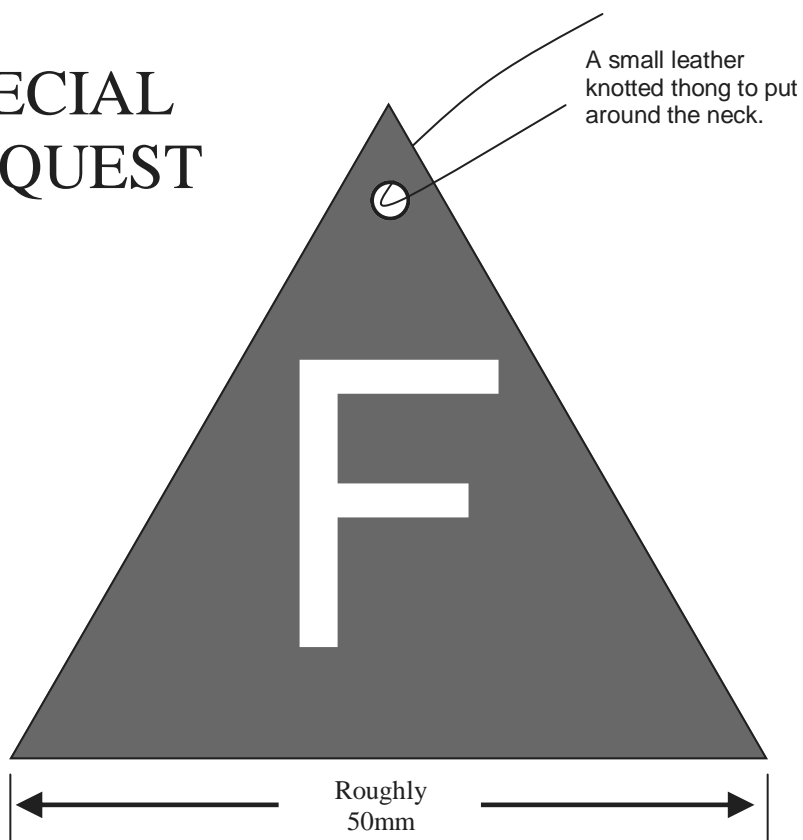
Contributor Ron Cooper

## THE FRASER AWARD

ALEXANDRA HIGH SCHOOL

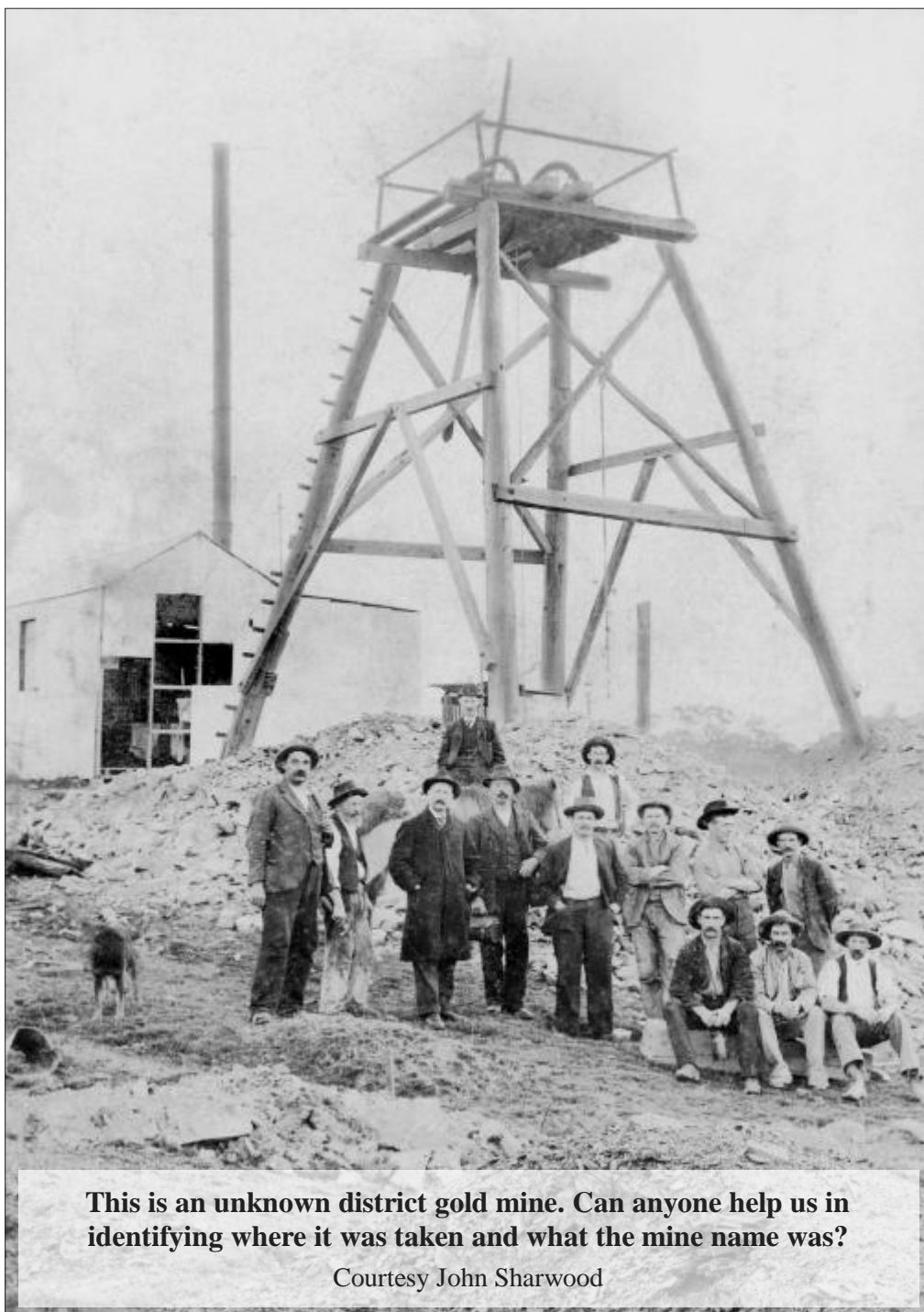
We are looking for a Fraser Award to photograph.

**SPECIAL REQUEST**



The Fraser Award was issued to students from the Alexandra High School, on their week camp. They had to do a number of things to attain an award, including lighting a fire with one match, hitting an axe on the same spot twice, demonstrate proficiency in a canoe,

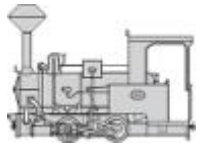
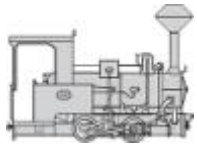
climbing a vertical rope and travelling across a horizontal rope, suspended between two trees etc. The award was made from copper by the Art Teacher (Ron Smith) and they were lightly peened with a ball point hammer, to create the peened effect.



**This is an unknown district gold mine. Can anyone help us in identifying where it was taken and what the mine name was?**

Courtesy John Sharwood





## ALEXANDRA TIMBER TRAMWAY AND MUSEUM

### Rubicon Tramway & Timber Truck.

Courtesy Sandra Cumming  
& State Library of Victoria  
Photographer Lin Cumming



### A picnic party travelling on the Rubicon Tramway

Courtesy Sandra Cumming  
& State Library of Victoria  
Photographer Lin Cumming



*One of the goals of the "Alexandra Timber Tramway" is to keep a connection to the forests, particularly the Rubicon, which has been the mainstay of our local logging history for well over 100 years. This story is very relevant as it describes not only the birth of timber tramways in this region, but also what became the "Rubicon Lumber and Tramway Co Pty Ltd".*

*The story starts with a report from the "Alexandra and Yea Standard" from early in 1909 with a concept plan being put to the Council meeting. Robert Skinner and William Oldfield put a proposal to the Shire Council that very quickly led to construction of a tramway down to Clark and Pearce's No 1 Mill. By the end of 1912, the Lumber Co had built the 2-foot gauge steel rail tramway to Alexandra.*

### RUBICON TRAMWAY

Before the council meeting adjourned on Monday last. Messrs Skinner and Oldfield, senr. (the latter representing his son), two saw millers who intend to erect a large saw-milling plant in the Rubicon forest if they are guaranteed proper means for conveying the timber from the forest to the railway, waited on the council for the purpose of ascertaining what steps were being taken in that direction.

Messrs Skinner and Oldfield spoke, the latter acting as chief spokesman. They remarked that the timber was in one place and the railway in another, and they were there to know the council's views in connection with the tramway. If a connection was not made, they could not go on with the erection of their large

plant. They were prepared to build an up-to-date tramway, and if the council would grant them permission to place the line in the centre of the road, they would lay down iron rails. If permission was not given, they would have to be content with the side of the road. There would have to be a deviation over McKenzie's Hill. If the firm was granted permission to erect the tramway, they were prepared to commence its construction in about six weeks time, and their proposal was to have a tramway capable of carrying 100,000 feet of timber per week from their own mill for the first six months, and after that time 150,000 feet per week, irrespective of the large quantities from other mills. The plant, they intended to erect would be better than any yet seen in Victoria, but if the tramway was not built the plant would not be put in. They would like to have an answer as soon as possible, or not later than a month. The

mill would be connected with Alexandra by telephone.

**Cr Leckie** : What power do you intend to use on the tram track?

**Mr Oldfield** : Well, we have not decided on that. yet, but in all probability it will be electricity.

**Cr Leckie** : I suppose you will be supplying Alexandra with electric light?

**Mr Oldfield** : More than likely. The mill will be run by electricity, and it was their intention to do likewise with the tramway, so that the lighting of Alexandra by electricity would not be a very large undertaking.

**Cr Edwards** : You are going to introduce a new industry to the colony, I believe!

**Mr Oldfield** : Yes, we intend to make dress timber. I might also state that it is the best timber in the colony, and it has no equal for flooring.

**Cr Murray** said he was favorably impressed with what Messrs Oldfield and Skinner had said, and he preferred

to allow them to put down an electric tramway.

**Cr Wylie** was of the same opinion.

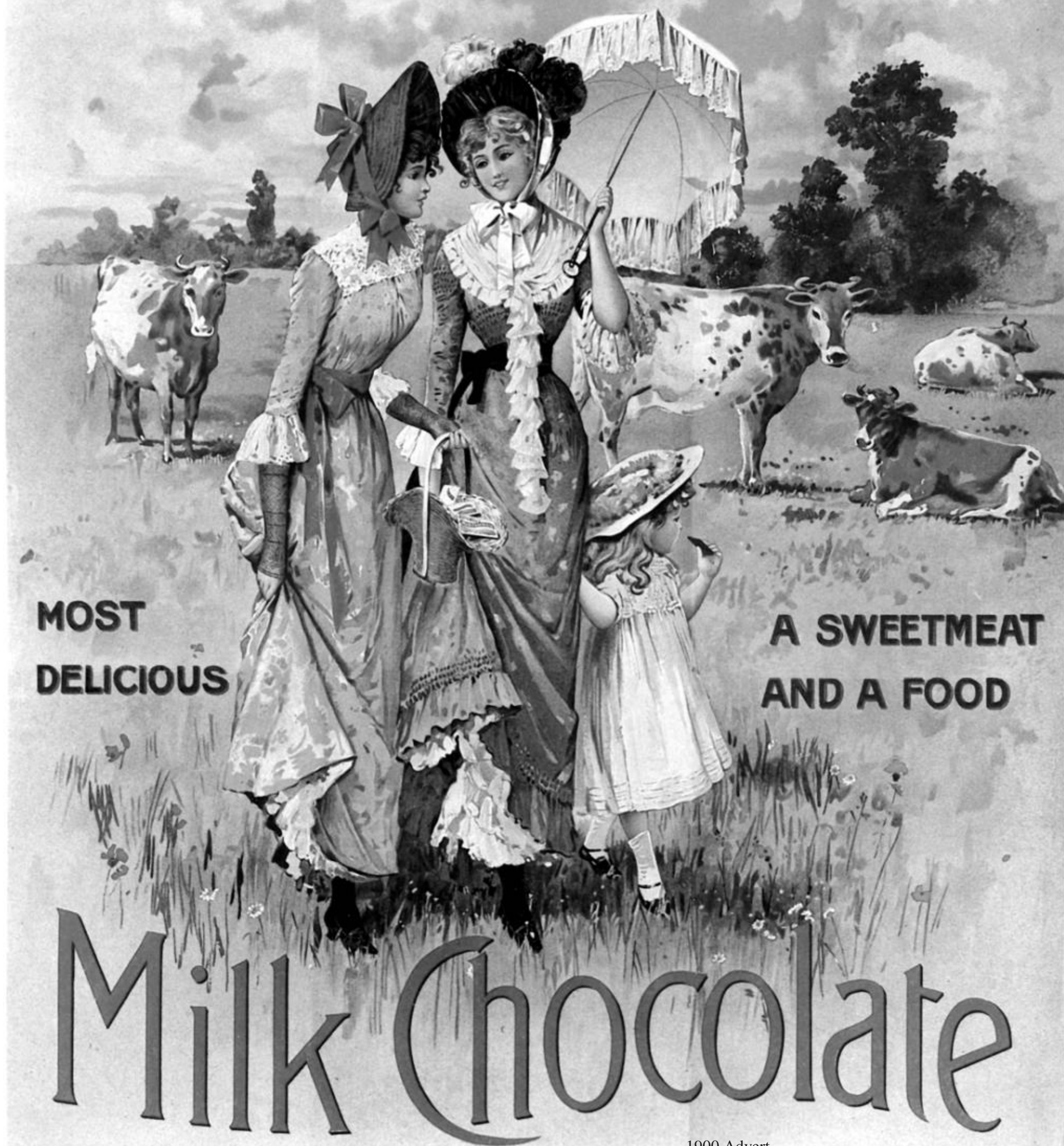
**Crs Wightman, Leckie and Findlay** favored agitating for a railway; failing that a tramway.

**Crs Murray and Findlay** moved - That the President and **Cr Leckie** be deputed to interview the Minister of Railways and urge upon him the necessity of continuing the line from Alexandra on to Thornton, and failing to obtain a satisfactory reply to endeavor to obtain a promise that a tram line driven by electricity be laid down. If possible, arrangements to be made for the deputation to interview about the 10th. inst.- Carried.

Alexandra & Yea Standard  
Friday 5th February 1909  
Courtesy National Library Australia



# ROTHWELL'S



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DELICIOUS**

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AND A FOOD**

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