



ALEXANDRA  
BELLE VUE  
HOTTEL



**HISTORIC  
STRUCTURE  
SERIES**

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# **ALEXANDRA BELLE VUE HOTEL**

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## **CONTRIBUTORS**

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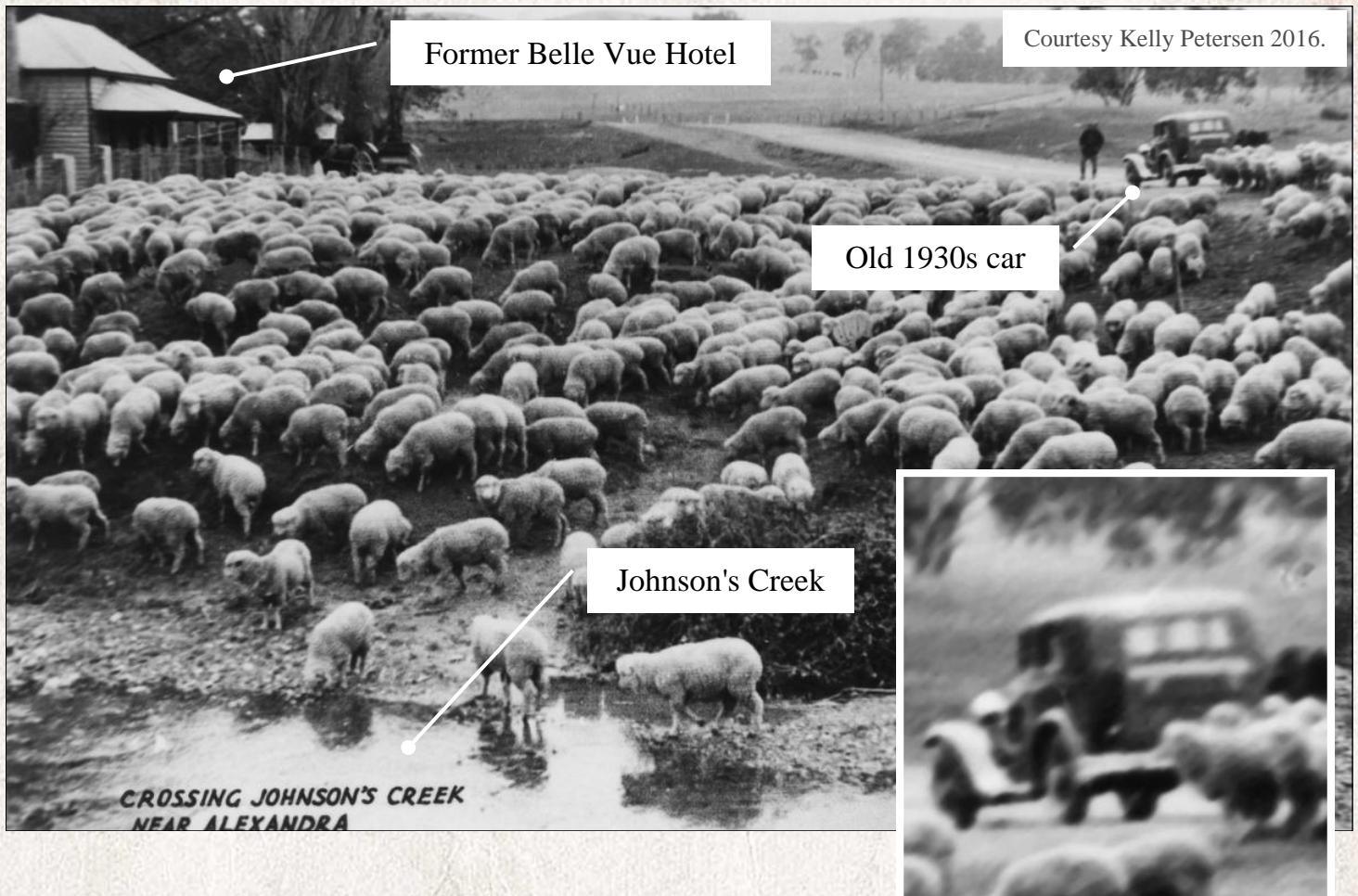
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# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## INTRODUCTION

**Name:** Belle Vue Hotel  
**Location:** Alexandra  
**Owner:** Joshua Norbury  
**Established:** 5 June 1868  
**Delicensed:** 1911

The Belle Vue Hotel was a licensed establishment run by the late Joshua Norbury located on the Eglington Creek near Alexandra that operated for a number of years in the 1870s.



Alexandra's Belle Vue Hotel was first established by Joshua Norbury. Joshua was born in 1823 at Oldham, Lancashire, England, to parents William and Elizabeth Norbury. He was christened at St Mary's Church, Oldham, England, on 27 November 1824. He migrated to Australia in 1859 (aged 36) and married Jane Peachy at St Peter's Church, Eastern Hill, Melbourne in 1862 (having six children). In 1863 they travelled to New Zealand aboard the *Aldinga* where their first child was born. They then returned to Australia circa 1864.



# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## INTRODUCTION

By 1865 they had moved into our district and Joshua had successfully applied for a 16 acre allotment of land under the 'Amending Land Act of 1865'. Between 1865 and 1867 two more of their children were born (Louisa Jane and Lavinia Jane) and by 1867 records show that they were paying four pound per annum for their land allotment.

On 2 June 1868, Joshua applied for a publican's licence to operate a three room drinking establishment from his 16 acre property. He was successful with the Licence was issued on 2 July 1868. As the advertisement on the right illustrates, Joshua was proactive in promoting his business and had a creative flare for attracting customers to his premises. Their fourth child (Walter James) was born in 1869, two years before Joshua applied to lease a further 20 acres, which was granted in June 1871. Their fifth child (Alice Christina) was born in 1871 and their sixth and final child (William Joshua) was born in 1872.

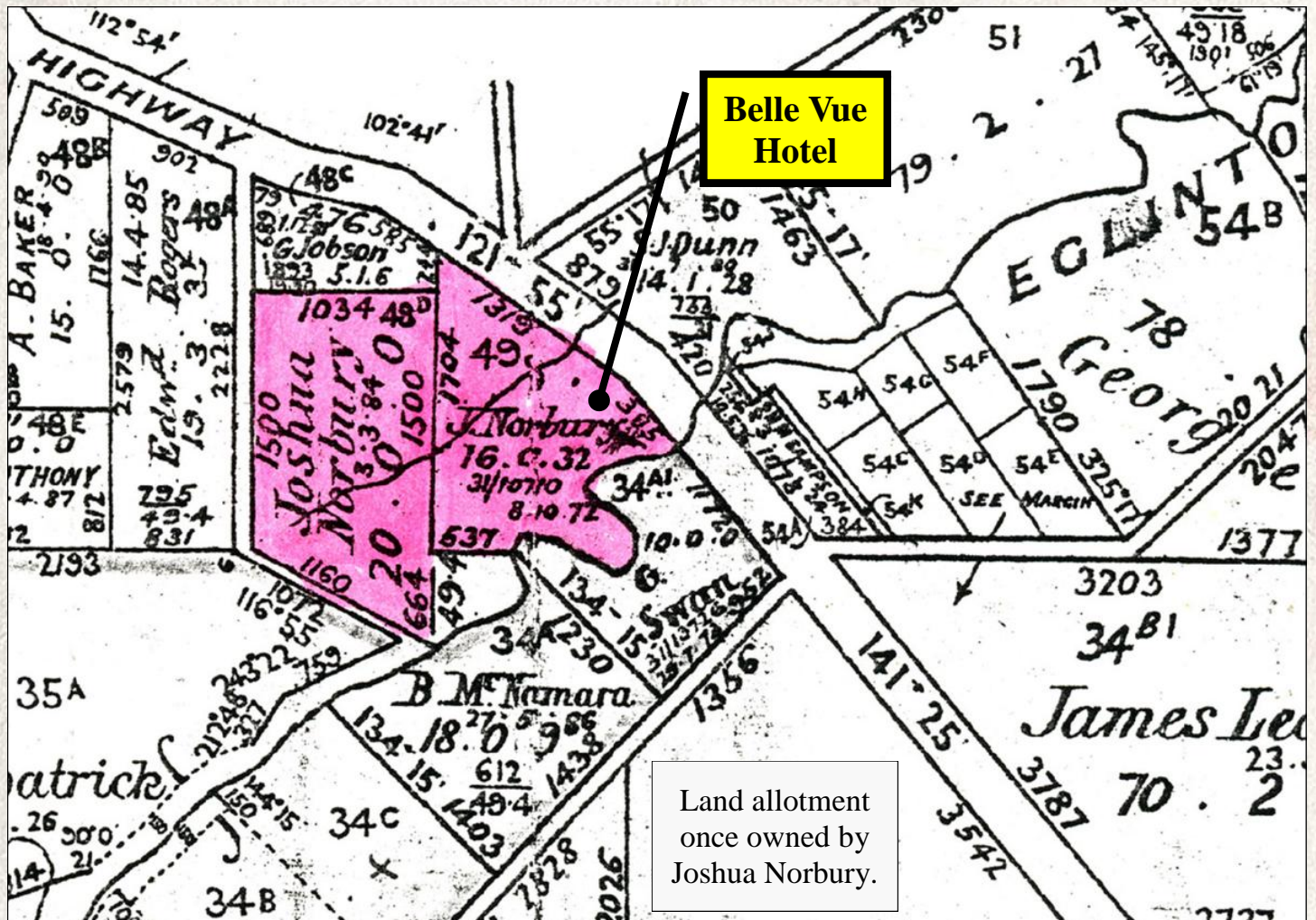
**IMPORTANT NOTICE!!!**  
**MR NORBURY**  
**B**EGS to inform the inhabitants of Alexandra,  
that he intends giving a  
**GRAND ENTERTAINMENT !**  
At his  
**BELLE VIEU GARDENS,**  
On  
**CHRISTMAS EVE, 24TH DECEMBER.**  
To consist of a splendid display of  
**FIREWORKS,**  
**IMMENSE BALLOONS,**  
**RED, BLUE, GREEN,**  
**AND VARIEGATED LIGHTS,**  
**ROCKETS, &c., &c.**  
**DANCING (on the lawn),**  
**LEAPING,**  
**RUNNING,**  
**And all the usual Xmas Sports.**

In 1872 Joshua successfully applied to the Government to purchase the adjacent 20 acres of land to the property he was already leasing. A full description of the property was published at the time and can be viewed later in this factsheet.

However things became far more difficult for Joshua's family in 1873 when his wife Jane was diagnosed with Dropsy (a condition that results in swelling of soft tissues due to the accumulation of excess water in the body). By 1875 things were intolerable and Joshua wrote a poignant honest letter to the Government soliciting sympathy in relation to his land payments. It is not clear what outcome the letter had, but it is likely he received some level of consideration from the Government.

# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## INTRODUCTION



Jane died from her condition in August 1875, leaving Joshua with the children to raise on his own. By this time his oldest child Elizabeth was only eleven years of age. After Jane died, Joshua stepped away from the hotel, though continued to farm his land. When he died in 1904 he had an eight acre crop in the ground - listed as part of his assets. The main assets were listed as:

*20 Acres of land situate in the Parish of Alexandra with weatherboard house and outbuildings erected thereon". his belongings included: four head of cattle, one horse, cart, drays, harness, harrow, horseworks and chaffcutter, plough and sacrifice, water lifter and sundries including timber and an eight acre crop.*

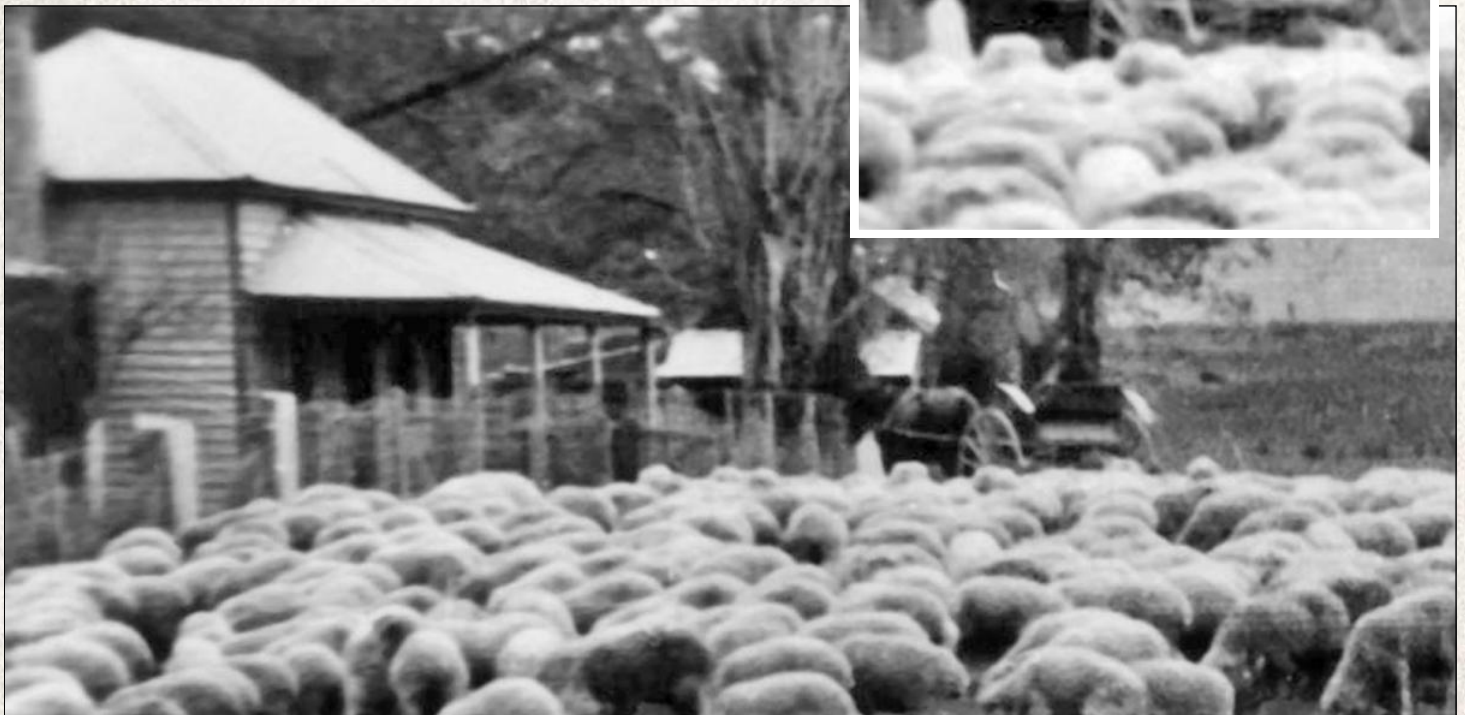
His debt was listed as being a '78 pound mortgage'.

# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## INTRODUCTION

After John sold the Belle Vue Hotel, numerous others owned or leased the hotel. This included George Jobson—who held the licence for the hotel by December 1876. Licenses were issued yearly and we such a re-issuing of the licence in subsequent years (*Alexandra Standard*, Friday 17 December 1880). Jobson had previously owned the Beehive Stores in Grant Street, and whilst operating the Hotel also opened a general store near the site of the current Shire Hall. He left the District for Albury about 1881 where he passed away three years later.

Other owners included Mr William Henry Anthony and his wife (*Alexandra Standard*, 16 November 1883), John McMinn (*Alexandra Standard*, Friday 18 May 1894) and Arthur Baker (*Alexandra Standard*, Friday 8 November 1889).



**This postcard was purchased on eBay in 2016 and is a 'Val's' Card, likely processed at Val's Studio at Alexandra and was possibly taken by Herbert Vallance himself. The image dates to the late 1930s or early 1940. Numerous families lived in this building including the Norbury, Anthony and Collis families. See our Herbert Vallance Factsheet for more on this artist.**

Courtesy Kelly Petersen and David & Debbie Hibbert.



# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## INTRODUCTION

In March 1893 the Belle Vue burnt to the ground. The property was then sold to John McMinn who rebuilt the Hotel and had re-opened it by mid 1893. John went on to operate the hotel for many years. In January 1901 John held a Clearance Sale at the Belle Vue, with items listed for sale including dairy herd, horses, pigs, double-seated buggy, and a spring cart and harnesses. (*Alexandra Standard*, Friday 3 November 1899).

John renovated the property at a considerable cost in late 1905 and subsequently leased the property to Mrs Fitt in December 1905. The property was described in the local paper as a "way-side public house". (*Alexandra Standard*, Friday 22 December 1905).

In 1911 the Government refused to re-issue a Liquor Licence for the Belle Vue (as well as the Freemason's Hotel). While the owners of the Freemason's Hotel appealed the decision and lost, the owners of the Belle Vue did not choose to appeal the decision. The relicensing of the hotel marked the end of an era for this amazing and popular early structure. After the hotel closed, the premises became a residential property, being occupied by numerous families including the well known Collis Family.

In 2013 John and Maureen Norbury raised the history of the old Belle Vue Hotel with Artworkz. John took us to the site where the hotel previously stood and told us his memories of the property. From John's recollections, a family history and local records, it is clear the Belle Vue Hotel was located on the initial 16 acre allotment of land rented by Joshua Norbury. This was confirmed as the larger 20 acre allotment was not leased until after the hotel was already established.

In mid 2015 Artworkz first commenced work on a factsheet based on research from the Norbury Family. Initial research was partially published in eSplash135, along with a subsequent advertisement published in eSplash138.

On 14 December 2015 a small fire along Eglington Creek resulted in CFA Air Support being called in. Ground personnel established fire breaks on farms on both sides of the creek. These earthworks uncovered a number of old bricks and pieces of a plate (pictured later). These artefacts were found on the opposite side of the creek to where the Belle Vue was established, but further raised the matter of the old Hotel with us. It is possible some of these relics were from a similar period to the Belle Vue Hotel and the piece of plate may have been from a plate from the Hotel.



# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## INTRODUCTION

In early 2016 the Artworkz research team started researching the Belle Vue Hotel in more detail. An updated factsheet resulted.

It is worth noting that relatives of Joshua Norbury operated the Morning Star gold mine on the hills to the west of the site of the Belle Vue Hotel in the mid 1890s. The mine was moderately successful and had its own crushing on site. (*Mining Mems*, 2 October 1896).

If you are able to help us with more detail, we would love to hear from you.



# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## TIMELINE

- 1823** Joshua Norbury born at Oldham, Lancashire, in England.
- 27 November 1824** Joshua Christened at the St Mary's Church, Oldham, England.
- Circa 1859** Joshua arrived in Australia around this time.
- 1862** Joshua married Jane Peachy at the St Peter's Church, Eastern Hill, Melbourne.
- 1863** Joshua and Jane sailed to New Zealand aboard the *Aldinga*.
- Circa 1863** First child (Elizabeth) born New Zealand.
- Circa 1864** The family sailed back to Australia.
- 1865** Joshua applied to lease 16 acres of land under the 'Amending Land Act of 1865' along Eglinton Creek, Alexandra.
- Circa 1865** Second child Louisa Jane born.
- Circa 1866** Third child Lavinia Jane born.
- 1867** By this time the property was being rented at a rate of four pound per annum.
- 2 June 1868** Joshua Norbury applied for a Publican's License to operate his premises on the Eglinton Creek near Alexandra as a hotel.
- 2 July 1868** Publican's License granted to Joshua.
- 1869** Fourth child Walter James born.
- 18 June 1869** Joshua Norbury advised he was applying for a Publican's License for his three room establishment (*Alexandra Times*, Friday 18 June, 1869).
- June 1871** Joshua was granted permission to lease the adjacent 20 acre block



# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## TIMELINE

of land.

**5 December 1871**

Joshua Norbury was gave notice in the newspaper that he intended to apply to the Licensing Bench at Alexandra for a Publican's License for the Belle Vue Hotel on Johnson's Creek. (*Alexandra Times*, Friday 8 December 1871).

**1871**

Fifth child Alice Christina born.

**1872**

Sixth child William Joshua was born.

**1872**

Joshua was involved in the laying out of the garden at the new Alexandra Hospital. This included planting the trees donated by Dr Mueller of the Melbourne Botanic Gardens. He continued to work as a gardener for the Hospital to at least 1874 when his work was again recognised by the Hospital board. (*Alexandra Times*, 21 June 1872).

**11 March 1872**

Joshua successfully applied to the Government to purchase the 16 acres of land to his property that he was leasing. A full description of the property was published (see later in this factsheet).

**12 April 1873**

An application for 200 acres of land near Eglinton Gap was refused as the land was being reserved by the Mining Department. (*Alexander Times*, 12 April 1873).

**1873**

Joshua's wife Jane was diagnosed with dropsy (*swelling of soft tissues due to the accumulation of excess water*).

**30 July 1875**

Joshua wrote a letter to the Government describing the terrible situation he found himself in with his sick wife. (See later in this factsheet for a transcript of the letter and copy of the original. He the cause of his poverty that had led him to not be able to pay his instalments. Joshua lost his 16 acres of land but continued to farm his 20 acre lot until his death - likely supplementing his income with other work.

# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## TIMELINE

- August 1875** Jane Norbury died after a long battle with illness.
- 11 December 1875** Joshua Norbury gave notice that he intended to apply for a renewal of his Publican's License. (*Alexandra Times*, Saturday 11 December 1875).
- 4 July 1876** Joshua Norbury **recommended for forfeiture** (*Alexandra Times*, Saturday 8 July 1876). Earlier on 23 June 1876 Joshua had tried to show cause against forfeiture (*Alexandra Times*, Saturday 1 July, 1876).
- 2 December 1876** George Jobson is noted as the licensee of the Belle Vue Hotel.
- Unknown** William Joshua Norbury purchased a block of farming land at the corner of Swann and Bins McCraes Road, Alexandra.
- December 1880** Jobson was still the licensee in December 1880, however at some short time afterwards, James Montgomery was notes as being the licensee.
- 1883** William Henry Anthony applied for the license.
- 23 November 1883** Mr William Henry Anthony and his wife took over the Belle Vue and held a free ball and supper for the re-opening of the Belle Vue. (*Alexandra Standard*, Friday 16 November 1883). The hotel had six rooms exclusive to those required for the use of the family (*Alexandra Standard*, Friday 7 December 1883).
- 3 March 1884** The 20 acre block of land shown on the survey map in this factsheet, was officially purchased by Joshua Norbury.
- June 1887** A daring robbery at the Anthony's Belle Vue Hotel. (*Alexandra Standard*, Friday 1 July 1887).
- 19 October 1888** William Henry Anthony purchased the entire livery stock-in trade of Mr J. Leckie and is prepared to supply coaches, buggies (single and double), saddle hacks etc at the shortest notice. (*Alexandra*

# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## TIMELINE

Standard, Friday 19 October 1888).

- 2 November 1888** The Johnson's Creek Cricket Club meeting was held at Anthony's Belle Vue Hotel (Alexandra Standard, Friday 2 November 1888).
- 25 October 1889** The Alexandra Gun Club held a shooting event at the Belle Vue Hotel. (Alexandra Standard, Friday 25 October 1889).
- 8 November 1889** Arthur Baker purchased the Belle Vue Hotel from William Henry Anthony. (Alexandra Standard, Friday 8 November 1889).
- 27 June 1890** Arthur Baker published an advertisement in the Alexandra & Yea Standard stating "Bellevue Hotel - Johnson' Café - A. Baker - Begg to announce that he has purchased the above well-known hostelrie from W. Anthony, also the Livery Stables connected therewith, and will do his best to observe the patronage of all."
- 1893** The Belle Vue was destroyed by fire.
- 31 March 1893** The land which previously had the Belle Vue on it was sold to John McMinn. The property was described as adjoining Mr Norbury's market garden. (Alexandra Standard, 31 March 1893).
- Unknown** The Belle Vue was rebuilt and reopened.
- 29 September 1893** A reminder is published in the local newspaper reminding club members that the Johnson's Creek Cricket Club meeting will be held at the Belle Vue 30 September 1893. (Alexandra Standard, Friday 29 September 1893).
- 23 March 1894** The St Patricks Day Sports held at the Belle Vue Hotel. A full report of the day was published in the local newspaper. (Alexandra Standard, Friday 23 March 1894).
- 1894** The Belle Vue was being run by proprietor John McMinn. (Alexandra Standard, Friday 18 May 1894).

# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## TIMELINE

- 25 December 1900** Boxing Day Sports held at the Belle Vue Hotel. (*Alexandra Standard*, Thursday 10 January 1901).
- 10 January 1901** A clearance Sale was held at the Belle Vue. Items listed as for sale included dairy herd, horses, pigs, double-seated buggy, spring cart and harnesses. (*Alexandra Standard*, Friday 3 November 1899).
- 10 May 1901** Belle Vue changes hands when Mr John McMinn leased the property to Mr Thomas Ryan. (*Alexandra Standard*, 10 May 1901).
- 1904** Joshua Norbury died. His Will describes his residence as: "*20 Acres of land situate in the Parish of Alexandra with weatherboard house and outbuildings erected thereon*". his belongings included: *four head of cattle, one horse, cart, drays, harness, harrow, horseworks and chaffcutter, plough and sacrifice, water lifter and sundries including timber and an eight acre crop.*" He also had a 78 pound mortgage.
- 22 December 1905** The Belle Vue Hotel is in the occupation of Mrs Fitt and was reported as being "entirely renovated" by owner John McMinn. Mr. McMinn was still reported as owning the property. It is referred to as a "way-side public house". (*Alexandra Standard*, Friday 22 December 1905).
- December 1911** The Government of the day decided not to re-issue licenses for the Belle Vue Hotel and the Freemason's Hotel. The Belle Vue became a residential homestead from this point on. The Freemason's Hotel appealed the decision but lost the appeal.
- November 1912** Mr T. H. Webb was stated as having been a licensee of the Belle Vue until recently. (*Alexandra Standard*, Thursday 14 November 1912).
- 9 May 1941** Death of Walter James Norbury, Charlie's father. Walter's father had owned the Belle Vue Hotel outside of Alexandra and his father had owned the Belle Vue Gardens and Pleasure Resort near



# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## TIMELINE

Manchester. He had strong mining interests. Funeral arrangements were carried out by A.E. Howell.

**Unknown**

A wing at the Alexandra Hospital was named after Leslie Norbury, relative of Joshua Norbury. The wing was called the Leslie Norbury Wing.

**2013**

John & Maureen Norbury made us aware of the Belle Vue Hotel run by his Great Grandfather Joshua Norbury on the Johnston Creek beside the current Maroondah Highway. John remembers being inside the property, that it was extremely old and that it had a cellar. He also remembers a person dying in the property and not being found for three weeks. The old structure was subsequently removed as the smell could not be removed.

**2014**

Artworkz Reporter Ron Cooper ran a metal detector over the site opposite the old Norbury property (south side of Eglington Creek).

**September 2015**

Artworkz commenced work on this factsheet.

**October 2015**

Artworkz published a history of the Belle Vue Hotel in eSplash135.

**18 May 2016**

The Alexandra & Yea Standard published an article on the Collis family, mentioning the Belle Vue Hotel in the Alexandra & Yea Times. Had the Standard communicated with the Norbury Family of Alexandra before going to print, they could have been given additional information.

**13 August 2016**

Kelly Petersen and David & Debbie Hibbert purchased a postcard on eBay that showed the front of the old Belle Vue Hotel. The photograph is shown in this factsheet (sheep crossing Johnson's Creek, Alexandra - by Val's Studio).

**26 April 2017**

A photo of Joshua Norbury was supplied to us by John Norbury.

# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## LIQUOR LICENSEES

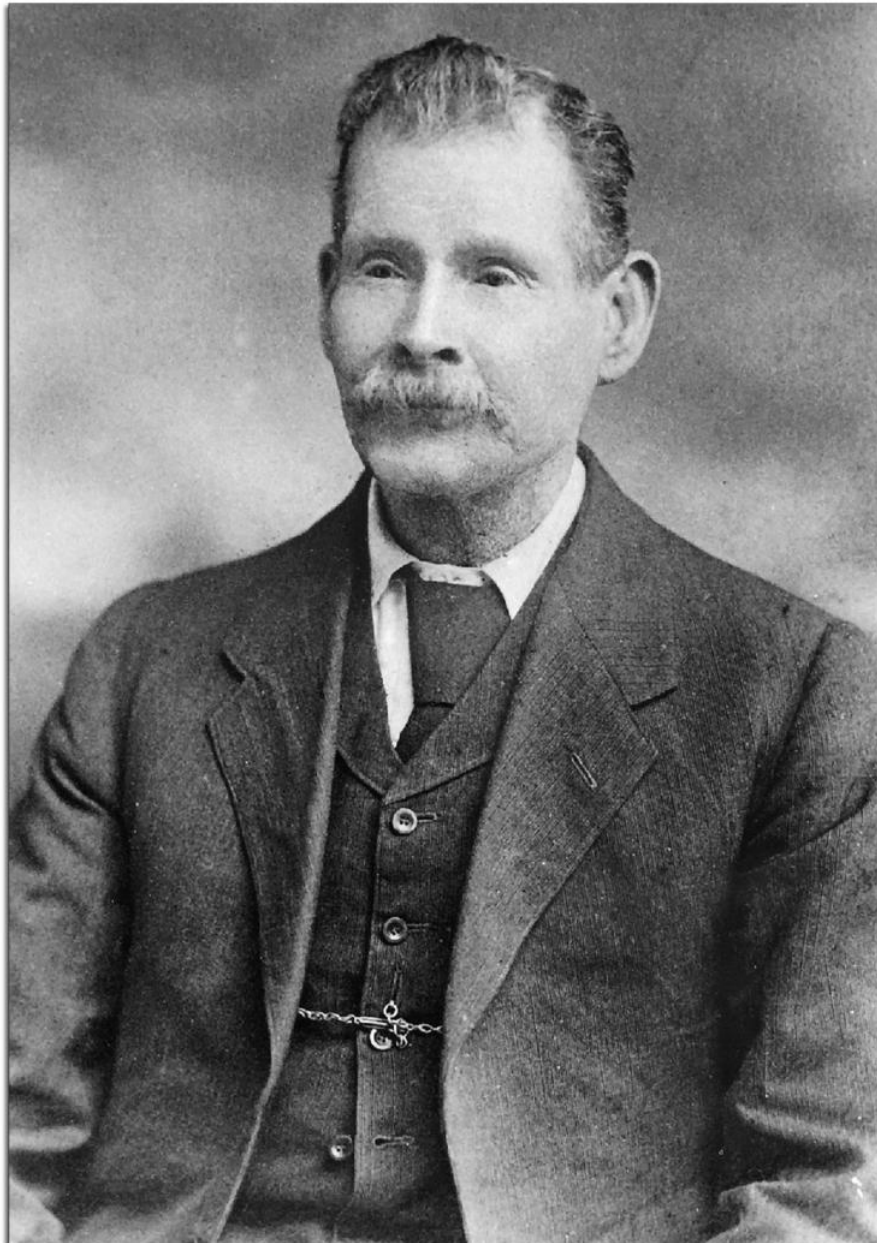
<b>G. Jobson</b>	17 December 1880
<b>Joshua Norbury</b>	2 June 1868 - 23 November 1883
<b>William Henry Anthony:</b>	23 November 1883 - 8 November 1889
<b>Arthur Baker:</b>	8 November 1889 - c1894
<b>DESTROYED BY FIRE</b>	31 March 1893 (Rebuilt and sold shortly after fire)
<b>John McMinn</b>	c1894 - May 1901
<b>Leasing -Mr Thomas Ryan:</b>	May 1901 - December 1905
<b>Leasing - Mrs Fitt:</b>	December 1905 - unknown
<b>License not renewed</b>	December 1911 - Became a residential homestead
<b>Mr T. H. Webb</b>	Unknown- delicensed in December 1911

**Note** A reference to a 'Harry Adeney' having been a licensee of the Belle Vue (Alexandra & Yea Standard, Friday 12 February 1926) was investigated and it was found that the person recalling the event inadvertently recalled 'Harry Adeney' instead of 'Henry Anthony'.

*Based on currently available information.  
Any help appreciated.*

# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## GALLERY



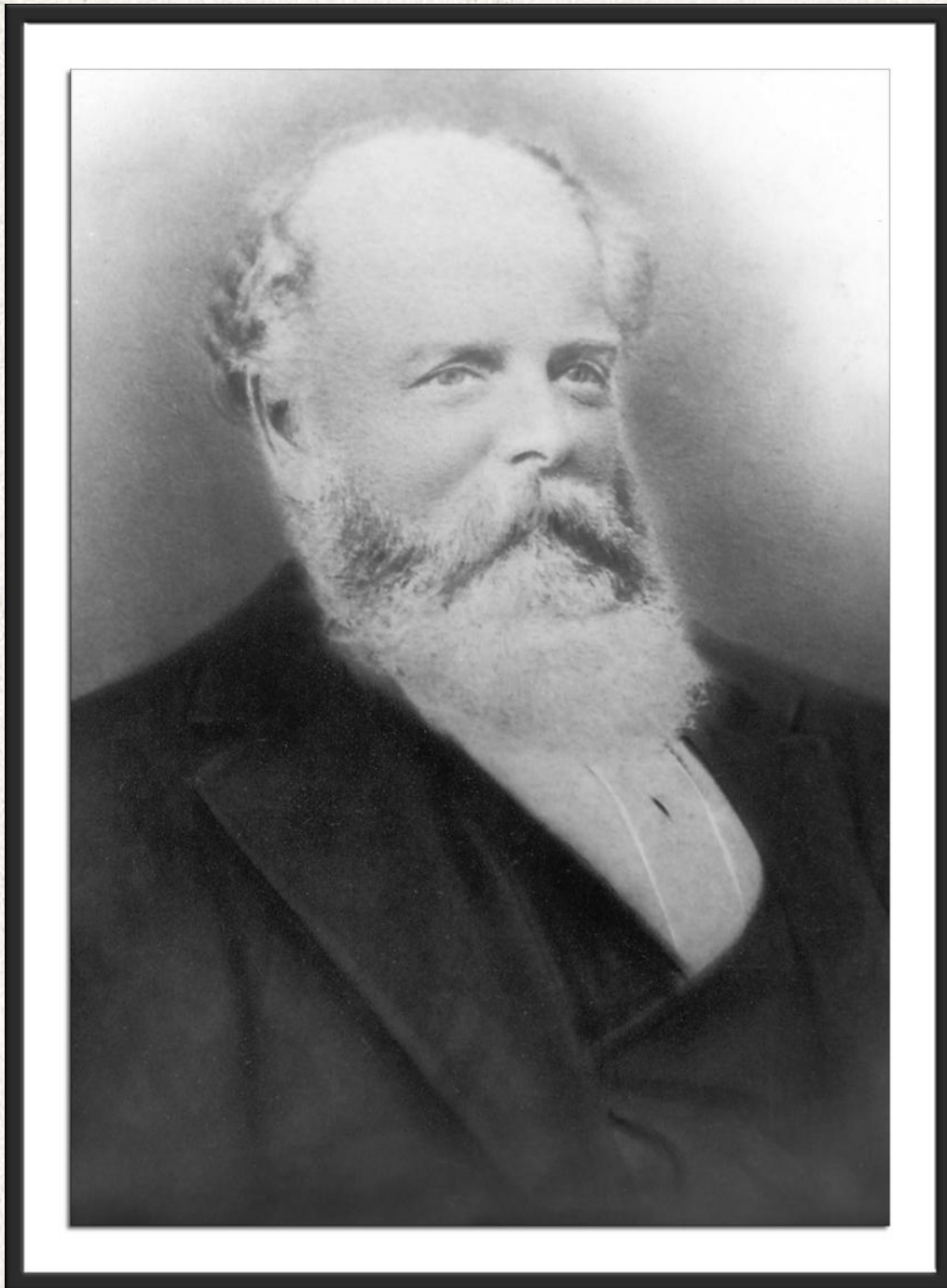
**Joshua Norbury was the inaugural proprietor and licensee of the Belle Vue Hotel.**

Courtesy John & Maureen Norbury 2017



# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## GALLERY

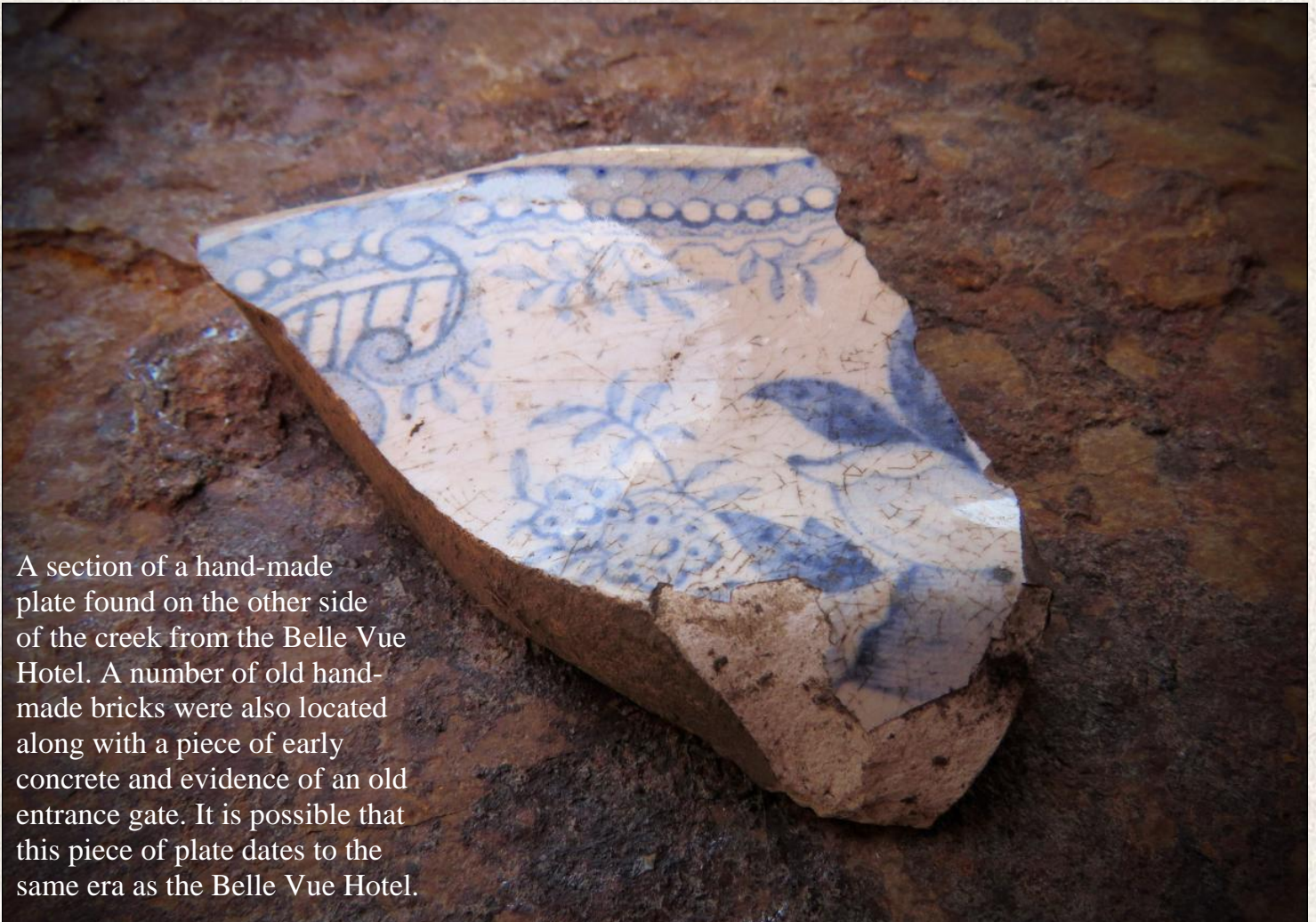
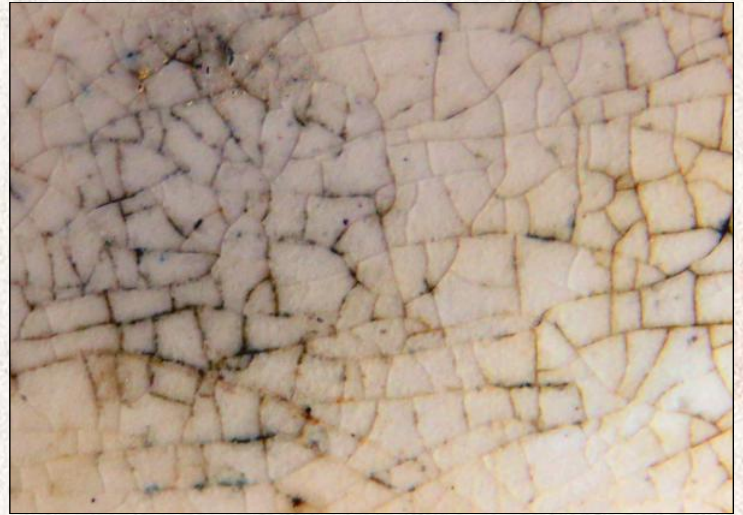
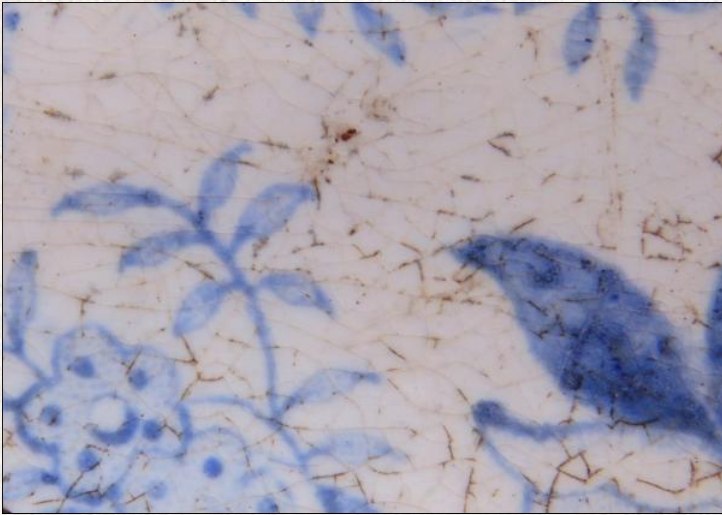


**George Jobson was the first proprietor of the Beehive Stores and the second licensee of the Belle Vue Hotel.**

Courtesy Fred Ford 2019

# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## GALLERY



A section of a hand-made plate found on the other side of the creek from the Belle Vue Hotel. A number of old hand-made bricks were also located along with a piece of early concrete and evidence of an old entrance gate. It is possible that this piece of plate dates to the same era as the Belle Vue Hotel.

# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## NEWSPAPER

**IMPORTANT NOTICE!!!**

**MR NORBURY**

**B**EGS to inform the inhabitants of Alexandra,  
that he intends giving a

**GRAND ENTERTAINMENT !**

At his

**BELLE VIEU GARDENS,**

On

**CHRISTMAS EVE, 24TH DECEMBER.**

To consist of a splendid display of

**FIREWORKS,**

**IMMENSE BALLOONS,**

**RED, BLUE, GREEN,**

**AND VARIEGATED LIGHTS,**

**ROCKETS, &c., &c.**

**DANCING (on the lawn),**

**LEAPING,**

**RUNNING,**

**And all the usual Xmas Sports.**

Alexandra Times

Tuesday 24 November 1868

Courtesy National Library Australia

# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## NEWSPAPER

### **APPLICATION FOR A BEER LICENCE.**

**To the Bench of Magistrates at Alexandra.**

**I**, **JOSHUA NORBURY**, Gardener, now residing at Eglinton Creek, parish of Alexandra, in the colony of Victoria, do hereby give notice that it is my intention to apply to the Justices sitting at the Court of Petty Sessions to be holden at Alexandra, on the 28th day of January, 1869, for a Certificate authorising the issue of a Beer Licence for the house which I now occupy known as the Belle Vue Hotel, Eglinton Creek, Alexandra.

Given under my hand this 28th day of December 1868.

**JOSHUA NORBURY.**

Alexandra Times

Thursday 31 December 1868

Courtesy National Library Australia

## NEWSPAPER

### **APPLICATION FOR A PUBLICAN'S LICENSE.**

**To the Bench of Magistrates at Alexandra.**

**I** **JOSHUA NORBURY**, now residing at Eglinton Creek, in the colony of Victoria, do hereby give notice that it is my intention to apply to the Justices, sitting at the Court of Petty Sessions to be holden at Alexandra, on the 1st day of July, 1869, for a Certificate authorising the issue of a Publican's License for a house situated at Eglinton Creek, containing three rooms.

The house is at present occupied by me under a beer license, and is to be known by the sign of the "Belle Vue Hotel."

Given under my hand this 15th day of June 1869.

**JOSHUA NORBURY.**

Alexandra Times  
Friday 18 June 1869  
Courtesy National Library Australia



HISTORIC  
FACTSHEET

NEWSPAPER

**BOXING DAY.**

PRELIMINARY NOTICE.

—o—  
**J. Norbury**

Intends holding a

**Grand Gala Day**

on the 26th December,

**BOXING DAY.**

**SPORTS,**

**SWING BOAT,**

**FIREWORKS.**

and every amusement that can be devised.

**ADMISSION FREE.**

Alexandra Times

Friday 8 December 1871

Courtesy National Library Australia

# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## NEWSPAPER

### **Local and General News.**

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**The Hospital grounds have been laid out by Mr Norbury, and a parcel of trees from Dr Mueller, of the Botanical Gardens, Melbourne, has been received. As soon as the present operations are completed, the general aspect of our institution will be greatly improved.**

Alexandra Times  
Friday 21 June 1872  
Courtesy National Library Australia

**Gardens of the original hospital were laid out by Mr Joshua Norbury of the Belle Vue Hotel, who also planted trees donated by Dr Mueller of the Botanical Gardens in Melbourne.**

Alexandra Times  
Friday 21 June 1872  
Courtesy National Library Australia



# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## NEWSPAPER

**I** HEREBY call a **PUBLIC MEETING**  
of Ratepayers to take into consideration  
the action of the Shire Council in the **PRO-  
POSED BRIDGE** over the Goulburn, at  
Payne's Punt, to be held at the **ELDORADO  
HOTEL**, on **TUESDAY NEXT**, at 8 p.m.  
**JOSHUA NORBURY.**

Alexandra Times  
Saturday 26 July 1873  
Courtesy National Library Australia



# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## NEWSPAPER

### **ALEXANDRA COTTAGE HOSPITAL.**

The monthly meeting of the committee of management of the Alexandra Cottage Hospital took place on Wednesday. Present—Messrs Bainbridge and Hames (president and vice-president), Messrs Whitelaw, T. Hall, Hinton, Wheeler, and Alston.

The Secretary reported that since last meeting two patients had come in and four had been discharged, including Mr M'Lean, who had acknowledged his sense of the benefit he had received in a letter in the *Alexandra Times* of 30th ult.

A sum of £7 7s. having been received from Mr Bunney, secretary of the Gobur amateurs, as the net proceeds of an entertainment given there in aid of the hospital, the Secretary was instructed to acknowledge same with a special vote of thanks. £1 had also been forwarded by J. Mandoit, a former patient.

The Collector reported the receipt of sundry sums, as acknowledged in our columns, and stated he was now collecting the subscriptions accruing for the year ending 30th June. A small deficiency existed at the present time, which would by the incoming due subscriptions soon be met.

Mr Norbury's services in laying out the works now being done in the hospital garden were ordered to be acknowledged.

Some routine business having been transacted, the committee then adjourned till the 8th proximo.

Alexandra Times  
Saturday 13 June 1874  
Courtesy National Library Australia

Mr Joshua Norbury of the Belle Vue Hotel is recognised for his work  
on the laying out of the garden

Alexandra Times - Saturday 13 June 1874  
Courtesy National Library Australia

## NEWSPAPER

### DARING ROBBERY AT JOHNSON'S CREEK.

On Sunday morning last a daring robbery was committed at Anthony's Belle Vue Hotel, Johnson's Creek, by a youth named Thomas M'Namara. It appears that Mrs. Anthony had occasion to visit Mrs. E. W. Sampson, who resides almost opposite the hotel, Mr. Anthony being also away at the same time, leaving the servant girl, Miss M. Hartley, and M'Namara on the premises. Upon returning, Mrs. Anthony noticed that there had been an intruder in her private room, and upon searching found that her cash box, with over £5 in it, had been stolen. Mr. Anthony was at once summoned, and a search instituted. The box not being found, he accosted M'Namara, and accused him of the theft, M'Namara denied the accusation, at the same time exhibiting his purse and showing some silver, and offered threats for being so basely accused. Not being discouraged with the threats put forth, Mr. Anthony informed M'Namara that unless he at once admitted the theft he would ride in for the police. This did not seem to shake the offender. Mr. Rowlands arrived in the meantime, and with Miss Hartley, followed up the tracks, which were unmistakably those of the thief, from the back door to a considerable distance down the garden, and there came

upon the cash box, with about 1s. 6d. in it. Rowlands returned to M'Namara, and told him that he had better confess to the crime, and he (Rowlands) would endeavour to dissuade Mr. Anthony from taking extreme measures. M'Namara thereupon admitted having gone into Mrs. Anthony's bedroom during her absence and extracting the cash box therefrom, and offered to show where he had planted the money. An adjournment was then made down the garden, M'Namara pointing to a spot some distance away, where the money was found concealed in a hole, purposely dug, and nicely covered with a tuft of grass. The boy was told to immediately leave the place, and after packing up his things left for Yea, no doubt congratulating himself on his fortunate escape. But the meshes of the law were not to be evaded, for we notice that M'Namara has been apprehended at Yea and will answer the charge before the Alexandra Court this morning. Judging from this, our acute sergeant has been on the track, and he is certainly to be commended for the prompt act, for we are informed that this youth makes a practice of this sort of thing wherever he is located.

Alexandra & Yea Standard  
Friday 1 July 1887  
Courtesy National Library Australia



# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## NEWSPAPER

### **BELLE VUE HOTEL.**

**JOHNSON'S CAFE**

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### **A. BAKER**

**B**EGS to announce that he has purchased the above well-known hostelry from **W. Anthony**, also the Livery stables connected therewith, and will do his best to deserve the patronage of all.

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Orders addressed to himself or **Mr James Lockie**, Merchant, Alexandria, will receive prompt attention.

Alexandra & Yea Standard  
Friday 27 June 1890  
Courtesy National Library Australia



# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## NEWSPAPER

### **BELLE VUE HOTEL, NEAR ALEXANDRA.**

**T**HE above newly erected and commodious hotel has now been completed and opened for business under the management

**JOHN M'MINN,**

who will be glad to see old clients, and can guarantee them and others that at the Belle Vue they will obtain

**THE BEST OF LIQUORS.**

**WINES, ALES, CIGARS.**

**AND ACCOMMODATION.**

**JOHN M'MINN, Proprietor.**

Alexandra & Yea Standard

Friday 18 May 1894

Courtesy National Library Australia

## NEWSPAPER

### Death of Mr. W. J. Norbury.

Another of the few remaining natives of Alexandra who grew up with the town passed away on Friday last in the person of Mr. Walter J. Norbury. He was 72 years of age. His father owned the property known as "Belle Vue," situated a couple of miles out of the town on the road to Yea. As a young man Mr. Walter Norbury followed the occupation of a miner for some time, and was a member of the party that successfully worked the "Morning Star" mine. Later on, he devoted his attention to gardening and dairying pursuits. He was intensely interested in cricket, and down through the years the doings of the various Australian Elevens were always foremost in his mind when sporting matters were discussed. As a citizen he was upright and honorable in his dealings. He liked to smoke a good cigar, and while the weaklings took to cigarettes, he continued to enjoy the aroma of a cigar until his final illness. His father was a man of vision, and came to Australia from Manchester (England), via America. He was a landscape gardener, and endeavored to create at the "Belle Vue" a bit of Old England (his father

owned the Belle Vue gardens and pleasure resort near Manchester), but he was ahead of his time. Of the original family only two survive—Mrs. A. Milroy, of Alexandra, and Mr. William Norbury, of Caulfield.

The funeral took place on Saturday, the remains being interred in the Alexandra cemetery. The coffin bearers were his four sons and members of the M.U.I.O.O.F. were the pallbearers—Messrs. G. Armstrong, G. A. Payne, S. Hewitt, E. Stillman, C. Richings, R. Roberts. He was one of the oldest members of the lodge.

The Rev. E. Leaver read the burial service.

Mr. A. Howell carried out the funeral arrangements.

The late Mr. Norbury's wife and family of five (four sons—Victor, Leslie, Charles, and John—and one daughter—Mrs. O. Jones) are left to mourn their sad loss.

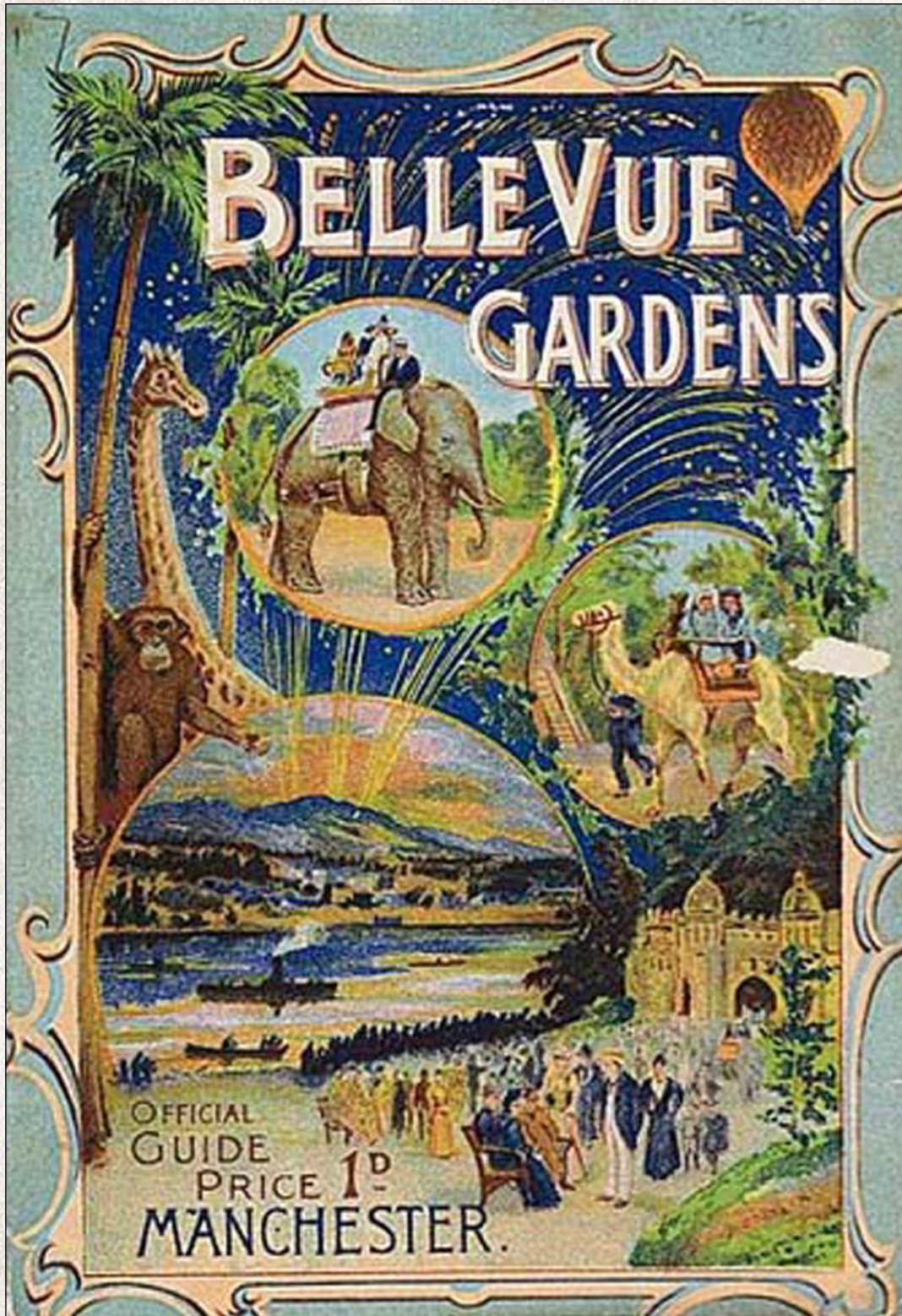
Alexandra & Yea Standard  
Friday 16 May 1941  
Courtesy National Library Australia

Death of Walter James Norbury, Charlie's father.

Alexandra & Yea Standard.  
16 May 1941. Courtesy National Library Australia.

# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## NEWSPAPER



Manchester's Belle Vue advertising circa 1836.

Joshua Norbury was reported as once owning the 'Belle Vue Gardens and Pleasure Resort' in Manchester. We can not confirm if this is the same business, though it is from the right era.

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**eSPLASH  
MEDIA  
MENTIONS**



# HISTORIC DOCUMENT

## INTRODUCTION TO JOSHUA NORBURY AND THE BELLE VUE HOTEL

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(1823-1904)

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*Published eSplash135 - 30 October 2015*

Joshua Norbury was born 1823 at Oldham., Lancashire, England, to parents William and Elizabeth Norbury. He was christened at Saint Mary's Church, Oldham 27 November 1824. It appears he arrived in Australia circa 1859.

He married Jane Peachy at Saint Peter's Church, Eastern Hill, Melbourne 1862 and in April the following year sailed to New Zealand aboard the *Aldinga* where their first child Elizabeth was born. By 1865 they were back in Australia applying to lease 16 acres under the 'Amending Land Act of 1865'. In June 1867 it was being rented at four pounds per annum. In the intervening period daughters Louisa Jane and Lavinia Jane (b 1866) were born.

The following advertisement appeared in the [Alexandra Times 5 June 1868](#);

Application for a Publican's Licence.

**"To the Bench of Magistrates at Alexandra**

**I, Joshua Norbury, now residing at Eglinton Creek near Alexandra, in the Colony of Victoria, do hereby give notice that it is my intention to apply to the Justices sitting at the Court of Petty Sessions to be holden at Alexandra, on the Second Day of July Eighteen Sixty Eight, for a Certificate authorizing the issue of a Publicans Licence for the house now occupied by me, situated at Eglinton Creek, near Alexandra in the Colony aforesaid. The house is owned and occupied by me and is to be known by the sign of the "Belle Vue Hotel".**

**Given 'under my hand this said Second day of June, Eighteen Sixty Eight.**

**Joshua Norbury"**

The Magistrate subsequently granted a Licence 2 July 1868. Walter James was born the following year (1869).

# HISTORIC DOCUMENT

In November 1870 Joshua applied to lease a further 20 acres, the land being adjacent to his present holding. This lease was granted June 1871, the same year Alice Christina was born. William Joshua was born the following year (1872), completing the first Australian born generation of the Norbury family.

On 11 March 1872 Joshua Norbury applied to the Government to purchase the land from them he was already leasing. The Crown Lands Bailiff describing the property in a report to the Government declared:

**"The dwelling house is 60 feet in length and 17 feet in breadth, partly erected in 1867 and partly in 1870. One circular rotunda 40 feet in diameter, built of sawn timber and palings. Two round houses each 12 feet in diameter built up of swan timber and palings with thatched roofs. One stable 40 feet by 15 feet built of sawn timber and palings erected in January 1872. One shed, 33 feet by 15 feet, built of saplings and bark erected in 1867. All in good repair. A total of sixteen acres has been cleared, with 10 acres cultivated and 4 acres as a garden. This garden has been laid out as a pleasure garden with swinging boats and ordinary swings. About 59 chains of fencing has been erected."**

Joshua's wife Jane was diagnosed with an enlarged liver and dropsy 1873, dying August 1875 (aged 35). Her illness caused terrible distress to the family, which is evident in a poorly written letter Joshua wrote to the Government 30 July 1875 (transcribed below and a photocopy supplied next page):

*"To the govenor in council,*

*Sir ,*

*I beg to inform you that respecting my place and myself it wass intiaer poverty I have lost a porshion of my property about 17 acars , publick house and large plasher and fruet garden to pay my liabelaties , also lost my whife and am left and am left with five young children .*

*Such being the case having to hunt for worck to support my famalery as disabled me from ethar working my land according to the act or from paying my rent when due .*

*I am your umble serernt.*

*Joshua Norbury"*

# HISTORIC DOCUMENT

29  
664  
July 30<sup>th</sup> 1844

To the Governor in  
Council Sir; beg  
to inform you that  
respecting my place  
and my self it was  
intialr poverty; have  
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Wife and am left  
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Such being the case  
having to hunt for work  
to support my famaley as  
disabled me from ether  
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according to the act  
or from paying my rent  
when due

I am your umble  
& devoted  
Joshua Norbury

# HISTORIC DOCUMENT

Joshua's land was initially occupied under an annually renewable lease, specified in section 49 of the 1869 Land Act. This allowed the occupant to reside on the property and afforded them the right to cultivate it (a provision often applied on the goldfields so that settlement could take place in a tentative fashion).

By providing only short term tenure the Government reserved the right to terminate the occupancy if new developments on the goldfields increased the value of the land for some other purpose besides agriculture. The maximum area of land allowed to be occupied under any one licence was 20 acres.

Joshua continued to farm his remaining 20 acres of land, until his death in 1904. In the probate papers, attached to his will, the following list of assets was enclosed.

## Real Estate

20 Acres of land situate in the Parish of Alexandra with weatherboard house and outbuildings erected thereon @ £8.00 per	160.00.00
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## Personal Estate

4 head of cattle (8.00) 1 horse (10.00)	18.00.00
cart (7.00) drays (5.00) harness (1.10.00)	13.10.00
harrow (2.00) horseworks and chaffcutter (8.00)	10.00.00
plough and scarifier (2.00) water lifter (10.00)	12.00.00
sundries (3.00) timber (1.00)	4.00.00
8 acres crop (1.00x8.00) cash in hand	6.16.3

14.16.3

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232.01.3

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## Liabilities

Mortgage due to Saving Bank	78.00.00
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**IMPORTANT NOTICE!!!**

**MR NORBURY**

**B**EGS to inform the inhabitants of Alexandra,  
that he intends giving a

**GRAND ENTERTAINMENT !**

At his

**BELLE VIEU GARDENS,**

On

**CHRISTMAS EVE, 24TH DECEMBER.**

To consist of a splendid display of

**FIREWORKS,**

**IMMENSE BALLOONS,**

**RED, BLUE, GREEN,**

**AND VARIEGATED LIGHTS,**

**ROCKETS, &c., &c.**

**DANCING (on the lawn),**

**LEAPING,**

**RUNNING,**

**And all the usual Xmas Sports.**

Alexandra Times  
Tuesday 24 November 1868.





*Artworkz*

*Serving the Community*

*CROSSING JOHNSON'S CREEK  
NEAR ALEXANDRIA*