

CORANGAMITE HERITAGE STUDY STAGE 2

VOLUME 3 REVIEWED AND REVISED THEMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY

Prepared for Corangamite Shire Council



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INTRODUCTION

This report comprises Volume 3 of the Corangamite Heritage Study (Stage 2) 2013 (the Study).

The purpose of the Study is to complete the identification, assessment and documentation of places of post-contact cultural significance within Corangamite Shire, excluding the town of Camperdown (the study area) and to make recommendations for their future conservation.

This volume contains the Reviewed and Revised Thematic Environmental History. It should be read in conjunction with Volumes 1 & 2 of the Study, which contain the following:

- Volume 1. Overview, Methodology & Recommendations
- Volume 2. Citations for Precincts, Individual Places and Cultural Landscapes

This document was reviewed and revised by Ray Tonkin and Samantha Westbrooke in July 2013 as part of the completion of the Corangamite Heritage Study, Stage 2.

This was a task required by the brief for the Stage 2 study and was designed to ensure that the findings of the Stage 2 study were incorporated into the final version of the Thematic Environmental History.

The revision largely amounts to the addition of material to supplement certain themes and the addition of further examples of places that illustrate those themes. There has also been a significant re-formatting of the document. Most of the original version was presented in a landscape format. In order to complete the review and revision it was necessary to re-format the document into a portrait configuration and it was decided to leave it in that configuration. Also, the typeface of the document has been changed to "arial" in order to make it similar to Volumes 1 and 2 of the Stage 2 study.

The authors of the Stage 2 study acknowledge the co-operation of Dr Helen Doyle, the primary author of the Thematic Environmental Study, in reviewing the new form of the document.



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Corangamite Heritage Study Stage One

Volume 2: Thematic Environmental History October 2009



Introduction to the Thematic Environmental History

Stage One of the Corangamite Heritage Study commenced in January 2009 and involved the preparation of a Thematic Environmental History and the identification of all places of potential significance across the study area in an Indicative List. A heritage place could be a site, area, building, group of buildings, precinct, structure, tree, garden, shipwreck, geological formation, fossil site or other place of natural or cultural significance and its associated land.

A Thematic Environmental History is written for the purposes of a municipal heritage study. Its structure is based upon the *Australian Historic Themes* developed by the Australian Heritage Council and the *Victoria Framework of Historical Themes* developed for Heritage Victoria.

This document is not intended as a complete overview of the history the Shire, nor does it aim to supersede local historical publications. It represents a particular style of history, which sets out and explores key themes that have influenced the development of the study area, using examples drawn from the Indicative List to illustrate the themes.

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1 The Natural Environment

[The plains were] wind-swept with wire-like grass and tussocks ... [with] no trees ... in winter the land was soft and boggy and too poor and risky for sheep. It was possible to walk from Darlington to Geelong without stepping on grass.

Peter McArthur, Meningoort, c.1839.

1.1 Tracing climatic and topographic change

The country that now forms Corangamite Shire is an ancient and diverse land with many dramatic landforms. The area that today sustains a number of townships and small communities, as well as rich agricultural and pastoral industries, has developed from the combined effects of a changing climate, a sustained period of volcanic activity, as well as seismic activity, and the eroding forces of the wind and the ocean.

Many thousands of years ago, the ocean encroached across much of the southern section of the Shire. Some geologists believe that the saltwater Lake Corangamite is a legacy of this, as are the remnant shell deposits around Lakes Gnotuk and Bullenmerri, the ancient sand ridges, and the limestone caves and ravines that can be found along the watercourses. At Cobden, the round limestone hills are believed to have once been submerged beneath the ocean.² Around 20,000 years ago, the sea retreated and the current watercourses were formed. It is estimated that many Aboriginal archaeological sites lie on the sea bed off the south-west Victorian coast.³ Much of the study area extends across a vast basaltic plain, which is recognised by UNESCO as one of the largest in the world.4 The volcanic plains and features of western Victoria were the result of volcanic activity between 7500 years ago (as at Mt Napier) and 2.5 million years ago. The youngest volcano in Corangamite Shire is Mt Noorat, which erupted 12000-15000 years ago.5 The volcanic hills and lakes are a legacy of this period, as are the stony rises and extensive basaltic debris that are scattered across the country. Aboriginal people were living in this country during this volcanic activity. Traditional stories and oral memory recorded accounts of volcanic eruptions, and archaeological excavations have unearthed remains of human habitation lying beneath the layers of volcanic ash.6 Volcanic activity created some of the richest land in Victoria.

Whereas the coastal limestone plain of south-west Victoria is mostly relatively flat, the southern edge of Corangamite Shire is, by contrast, characterised by undulating hills. This was formed by the Otway Ranges—itself forming the western end of the Great Dividing Range. This coastal area also features dramatic steep cliffs and

¹ Harriette Lafferty, About Our Town of Camperdown, Camperdown, 1954, no page numbers.

² The Link, vol. 1, no. 2, 1921, pp. 11–12.

³ M.H. Douglas and L. O'Brien (eds), *The Natural History of Western Victoria*, Australian Institute of Agricultural Science, Horsham, 1974.

⁴ Kanawinka Geopark website: www.kanawinkageopark.com; accessed 10 June 2009.

⁵ Mary Turner Shaw, *On Mount Emu Creek: The story of a nineteenth-century Victorian sheep station*, Robertson and Mullens, Melbourne, 1969, p. 23. See also Bill Birch, *Volcanoes of Victoria*.

⁶ Lafferty, *Camperdown*, 1954, no page numbers. James Dawson noted in 1881 that a Colac Aboriginal man from Colac, on seeing large stones at the foot of Mt Leura, near Camperdown, remembered the 'stones which their forefathers had told them had been thrown out of the hill by the action of fire' (Dawson, 1881, p. 102).

jagged rocky outcrops, which have been shaped over millions of years due to weathering by the wind and ocean. Some of the landforms such as the Otways, are also the result of uplift of the earth's surface thousands of years ago. This area was densely forested.

The study area has a variable rainfall, ranging from 900mm in the south to 600mm in the north. Towards the Otways, between Simpson and Princetown, the country becomes hilly with pockets of rainforest. Along the sea coast, from Curdies River to Moonlight Head, dramatic landforms have been etched over thousands of years into the limestone cliffs by the forces of wind and water. Most commonly known among these are the tall limestone stacks known as the Twelve Apostles, which stand like rocky sentinels a short distance from the shoreline.

The region is watered by the rivers and smaller streams that flow generally southwards to the Southern Ocean. The Curdies River is an outflow stream of the freshwater Lake Purrumbete, near Camperdown, while the Mount Emu Creek rises north of Skipton; Gellibrand River has its source in the Otways. The large extent of lava flows has impeded the easy flow of water. Some streams drain into the larger salt lakes, such as Corangamite.⁷ There are numerous freshwater springs in the volcanic country and an extensive groundwater system.

1.2 Plants and animals

The vegetation that settlers met with in the 1830s was vastly different from what we find in the study area today. On the plains were native grasses that covered the ground in a patchy fashion. Squatter Peter MacArthur noted that it was possible to walk from Darlington to Geelong without touching the grass because it was such a sparse covering.8 The plains were generally lightly timbered with species like Eucalyptus viminalis (Manna Gum) and Acacia melanoxylon (Blackwood), with pockets of denser timber on the volcanic cones. The Stony Rises were more thickly vegetated on account of the richer soil. There was dense forest around Terang in the early days of settlement,9 which continued through much of the country from Terang to the Otway foothills. In the Heytesbury Forest, Acacia melanoxylon (Blackwood) and Eucalyptus obliqua (Messmate) were common. On the immediate coastal strip, the vegetation changed to shrubs and hardy coastal species, such as Ti-tree. In the 1860s James Meek reported in detail on the forests of the coastal plain in the southern part of the Shire, along the river valleys of the Gellibrand and the Curdies. He found a diverse range of timbers, but was most impressed by the towering Acacia implexa (Pencil-wood tree) and also noted Xanthorrhoea (Grass tree) growing abundantly. 10

The remains of mega fauna, including the marsupial lion, have been recorded by early settlers. 11 More recently, paleontologists have also unearthed prehistoric

⁷ David Conley and Claire Dennis (eds), *The Western Plains: A natural and social history*, Australian Institute of Agricultural Science, Papers from the Symposium October 8th and 9th 1983, Colac, 1984.

⁸ R.V. Billis and A.S. Kenyon, *Pastures New: An account of the pastoral settlement of Port Phillip*, Macmillan & Company Ltd, Melbourne, 1930, p. 122.

⁹ W. Lorck (ed.), Victoria Illustrated, Government Printer [?], Melbourne, 1909, p. 29.

¹⁰ James McKain Meek, *The Resources of the Western District*, Harrison and George Printers, Advertiser Office, Warrnambool, 1869, p. 9.

¹¹ Lafferty, *Camperdown* (1954), no page numbers; James Bonwick, *Western Victoria*, 1970 (first published 1858), p. 8.

mammals, such as marsupial lions and Diprotodons. ¹² For thousands of years and up until the time of European settlement, the region supported a wide variety of fauna, including wombats, bandicoots, bilbies, dingoes, platypuses, and Tasmanian tigers. Within a relatively short period, some native species had disappeared due to the effects of hunting and settlement. ¹³ Birdlife was also rich and varied. Flocks of emus lived on the plains, while ducks, brolgas and ibises lived near the water. In 1880, a wide range of birds were seen in the area, including parrots, ducks, brolgas, pelicans, black cockatoos and hawks. These species survive today, but in some cases in significantly reduced numbers.



Sketch of Mt Emu Creek with Mount Elephant in the background [SLV]

¹² Douglas and O'Brien, The Natural History of Western Victoria, 1974

¹³ Garnet Walch, Victoria in 1880, Melbourne, 1881, p. 73.

2 European exploration and settlement

[Aboriginal groups] moved across their territories, adjusting to seasonal changes and following food sources. We may never know how many of these original routes and tracks were later followed by explorers and early settlers.

Land Conservation Council, Historic Places: South-west Victoria, 1996, p. 50.

2.1 Exploration

In 1770, the British claimed the east coast of Australia as their rightful possession. By the 1820s, they had claimed the entire continent. Whalers and sealers, mostly based in Van Diemen's Land, made seasonal visits to south-west Victoria at least from the 1820s, but no official parties are known to have settled in the area until the late 1830s. The Henty family illegally occupied and claimed land at Portland Bay in 1834, where they sought to profit from whaling and pastoral concerns. The following year, John Batman, acting for the Port Phillip Association, took up two enormous tracts of land near Melbourne and Geelong, ostensibly through treaties with the Aborigines. News of these ventures spread and attracted others, so that by 1836 the Governor of New South Wales was forced to declare that the whole area south of the Murray, to be known as the Port Phillip District of New South Wales, was open for settlement. This opened the way for more pastoralists and other settlers. Other pastoral speculators, such as Hugh Murray and George Russell, pushed out further west of Geelong. Syndicates and partnerships were common.

By this time too, the enticing report of Scottish explorer Major Thomas Mitchell of the pastoral paradise of 'Australia Felix' was also drawing interest. Mitchell, traveling overland from the Murray River, arrived at Portland Bay in 1836, but did not reach as far as east as Corangamite. From Mt Hope, he had gazed southwards and described the rich majestic country as 'Australia Felix'. He declared that this 'land so inviting', with its 'verdant plains' and 'still without inhabitants', seemed to have been designed for the coming of flocks. In a prophetic statement, he anticipated the future wealth from pastoral capitalism, which seemed its pre-ordained purpose:

As I stood, the first European intruder in the sublime solitude of these verdant plains, as yet untouched by flocks or herds, I felt conscious of being the harbinger of mighty changes there; for our steps would soon be followed by the men and animals for which it seemed to have been prepared.¹⁴

A westwards push into the area from Geelong occurred from 1837, largely by pastoral settlers from Van Diemen's Land. overlanders from New South Wales, driving herds of sheep and cattle, also headed south of the Murray to these

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¹⁴ Thomas Livingstone Mitchell, *Three Expeditions into the Interior of Australia*, T. & W. Boone, London, 1838, vol. 2, p. 158.

promised green pastures. Daniel McKinnon and his uncle Daniel Curdie made this trip in 1840.¹⁵

2.2 Pastoral settlement

Once pastoralists had settled at Geelong and Colac in the late 1830s, interest developed in exploring the country further west where more grazing land could be acquired. The Stony Rises, which were then thickly forested, formed a natural impediment. It is possible that Europeans had already passed through this country. It is thought that the escaped convict William Buckley, who lived with the Aborigines for over thirty years from 1803, had visited Lake Corangamite and its environs. The early settlers Gellibrand and Hesse, who disappeared in western Victoria while on a punitive expedition searching for Aborigines in 1836 may also have passed through the area. It is believed that the whaler Alexander Campbell, who established a camp at Port Fairy in the 1840s, followed a whale into the inlet that later bore his name—Port Campbell.

In 1837 several parties reached Lake Corangamite by 'skirting' around the Stony Rises. One exploratory group represented the Derwent Pastoral Company. 'In 1838, David Fisher with the Mercer brothers traveled through Cressy past Mt Elephant (which he named)' and on to Mt Shadwell.¹⁹ Would-be pastoralists transported cattle and sheep by ship from Van Diemen's Land to Geelong and drove them westwards across the plains.

The Manifold brothers claimed the Purrumbete run near Camperdown in 1838. In the northern part of the study area, early arrivals were John Brown at Brown's Water Holes (Lismore), J.L. Currie of Larra and Robertson at Gala. Other early arrivals included Frederick Taylor who from 1839 was manager of Mackillop and Smith's Strathdownie run on Mt Emu Creek (then known as Taylor's Creek). In 1840 John Thomson took up Keilambete, near Terang, and Niel Black acquired the Strathdownie run, which he renamed Glenormiston.²⁰ By 1841 most the available grazing land was occupied.²¹

Only a few hardy pioneers penetrated into the rugged and isolated hilly country along the southern coastline. There were isolated station outposts here but no townships would appear for several more years. A survey of the coastline at Port Campbell was completed in 1846 by G.S. Smythe.²² Whereas settlement of the study area was made from the east and north, some early exploratory trips into the areas of Moonlight Head and Port Campbell in the 1840s were made from Warrnambool and Port Fairy in the west.

¹⁵ Forth (ed.), Biographical Dictionary of the Western District, 1998, p. 90.

¹⁶ Buckley's Cove is a reminder of this connection.

¹⁷ See claim made by Henry Allen, cited in Bonwick, Western Victoria, 1970 (first published 1858), p. 12.

¹⁸ J.M. MacKenzie, *Sealing, Sailing and Settling in South-Western Victoria*, Kilmore, 1976, pp. 14, 17; Marion Manifold, pers. com., August 2009.

¹⁹ Central Planning Authority, Corangamite Region: Resources survey, 1957, p. 19.

²⁰ Peter Pierce (ed.), *The Oxford Literary Guide to Australia*, 1993 (first published 1987), p. 394.

²¹ Central Planning Authority, Corangamite Region: Resources survey, 1957, p. 19.

²² Jack Loney, *The Great Ocean Road: Tourist and historical guide*, Neptune Press, Newtown, 1984, p. 9.



Extract from Map of Victoria, 1851 [SLV]

2.3 Migration

Margaret Kiddle has pointed out the high proportion of Scottish settlers amongst the first group of European settlers in the Western District. This group included respectable farming people with capital to invest and many more poorer folk, who came out as shepherds, domestic servants and other labourers. The poorer group of settlers made use of assisted immigrant schemes in the 1850s, whereby passage was paid on the condition they worked for an agreed period to a master to whom they had been assigned. Thousands of Scots settled in western Victoria under this arrangement. In the north of Scotland, loss of land through the Highland clearances and dire economic circumstances led to the creation of the Highland and Island Emigration Company, which brought many people to western Victoria. Several large landholders, such as Niel Black, organised for their own Scottish servants to be brought to Victoria at their expense.

Aboriginal survival after white settlement

The Protectorate [at Terang] was a failure; it was believed no support to the Whites, and secured no preservation to the Blacks. No man ventured out alone and all went armed.

James Bonwick, Western Victoria: Its geography, geology and social condition, 1858.

3.1 Traditional life at the time of European contact

The Aboriginal people who occupied the country that now comprises Corangamite Shire belonged to various language groups. The territories they traditionally occupied bore little relation with today's Shire boundaries. These earlier language boundaries, which generally followed the natural features of the landscape, determined the social, economic and spiritual life of the first occupants and traditional custodians of this land.

Historian Ian Clark identifies three main language groups connected to the country now known as the Shire of Corangamite—the Djargurd Wurrung; the Girai Wurrung; and a small section of the Shire associated with the Watha Wurrung. Each of these language groups was made up of many clans.²³ The Djargurd Wurrung people occupied the country between Mt Emu Creek and Lake Corangamite.²⁴ The Watha Wurrung people occupied the grassy plains north of this area (incorporating Skipton; Lismore is on the boundary). This group was frequently in conflict with the Djargurd Wurrung.²⁵ The Girai Wurrung language group occupied land that extended south and west of the Djargurd Wurrung territory. Their territory included Framlingham, Terang and Lake Keilambete, and extended to the Southern Ocean to include Timboon and Princetown.²⁶

3.2 Displacing Indigenous people

The Watha Wurrung people had made contact with Europeans by 1802, when Matthew Flinders and his party were exploring country in the vicinity of Station Peak (the You Yangs). It is likely that members of the Girai Wurrung language group had contact with, or knowledge of, white people from the early 1800s when whalers and sealers from Van Diemen's Land were making regular visits to the coastal areas of Port Fairy and Portland. In 1803, the convict William Buckley escaped from an abortive British settlement at Sorrento and joined a clan of the Watha Wurrung, which whom he stayed for over thirty years. In 1835, the first of many land speculators arrived. The Watha Wurrung met with John Batman and members of the Port Phillip Association in 1835.²⁷

As the number of European settlers increased in the late 1830s and early 1840s, and Aboriginal lands were appropriated by squatters with sheep and cattle, it became increasingly difficult for Aborigines to obtain food. European pastoralism was catastrophic to the finely balanced life the Aborigines had developed over many

²⁵ Clark, Scars in the Landscape, 1995, p. 103.

²³ Ian Clark, *Scars in the Landscape*, 1995, pp. 103–05, 125–27, 169–71.

²⁴ Clark, Scars in the Landscape, 1995, p. 103.

²⁶ Clark, Scars in the Landscape, 1995, p. 126; Report to the Board for the Protection of Aborigines, 1861.

²⁷ Clark, Scars in the Landscape, 1995, p. 169.

thousands of years. Their livelihood was profoundly affected through the loss of grasslands for hunting, lack of access to water and to traditional sites, and severe loss of life through disease and frontier conflict. Smallpox had arrived in south-west Victoria in the early 1800s before white settlement (it was passed on from Aborigines in NSW), and this had caused large-scale deaths in western Victoria around 1830.²⁸

3.3 Frontier conflict

Aborigines fought settlers in skirmishes and attacks, and often stole, maimed or killed sheep. In the absence of a regular or reliable police presence, settlers took matters into their own hands and took punitive measures in response to these 'outrages', sometimes with tragic circumstances. On the Mt Emu Creek, near Darlington, between 20 and 40 Aborigines were killed in early 1839.²⁹ This attack, led by Frederick Taylor, who was the overseer for Mackillop and Smith's Strathdownie run, was prompted as a reprisal for stealing sheep. It is believed that Taylor and his accomplices killed virtually an entire clan in this atrocity.³⁰ Taylor subsequently fled the district and the massacre site became known as Murdering Gully. Local settlers, appalled at this atrocity, changed the name of Taylor's Creek to Mt Emu Creek.

When Niel Black acquired the Strathdownie run the following year, which he renamed Glenormiston, he explained that he 'chose to buy an established run because he could not bring himself to follow the accepted view that, when taking up a new run, it was necessary to slaughter the Aborigines'. He freely admitted his preference for someone else to have done this instead of him. Clark explains: 'Black ensured this situation continued for a time driving off the Djargurd from his run, by pulling down any Aboriginal dwellings he found and by leaving gunpowder to show it was the work of white men.'32

Other incidents of violence between settlers and Aborigines are recounted by early commentators and in local histories. Niel Black himself recorded the alleged massacre of Aborigines that had taken place on his run prior to his arrival.³³ James Bonwick reported a massacre of Aborigines in the thick tea-tree scrub that surrounded the township of Terang. (This is possibly a reference to the Mt Emu Creek massacre, but it is not made clear.)³⁴ The Manifold brothers, who had taken up the Purrumbete run, had several skirmishes with the Aborigines. One incident involved the Manifolds at Purrumbete in the 1840s. Aborigines allegedly speared the Manifold brothers who retaliated with gunfire, injuring at least one man.³⁵

²⁸ Shaw, *On Mount Emu Creek*, 1969, p. 27. This is noted by Major Mitchell in 1836 [mentioned in West, in *The Natural History of Western Victoria*, 1971] This was also the conclusion reached by eminent historian Dianne Barwick.

²⁹ Richard Broome, *Aboriginal Victorians: A history since 1800*, Allen & Unwin, Sydney, 2005, p. 81.

³⁰ Clark, *Scars in the Landscape*, 1995, p. 9, pp. 105–18.

³¹ Quoted in Clark, Scars in the Landscape, 1995, p. 118.

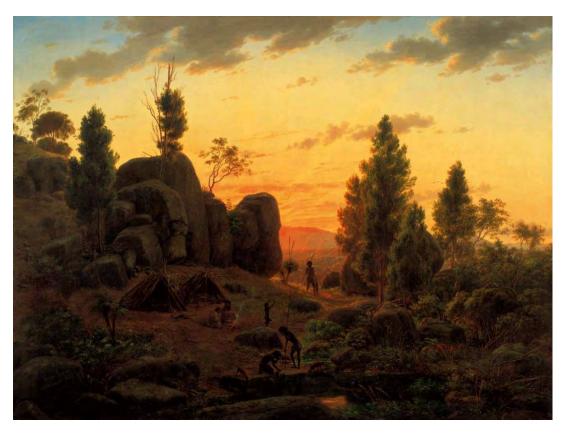
³² Clark, Scars in the Landscape, 1995, p. 118.

³³ Jan Critchett, A Distant Field of Murder, Melbourne University Press, Carlton, 1991, p. 97.

³⁴ Bonwick, *Western Victoria*, 1970, p. 42. Jan Critchett also recounts other attacks in her study of the Western District frontier; see Critchett, *A Distant Field of Murder* (1990).

³⁵ An account of this incident is told in the family-produced history: W.G. 'Bill' Manifold, *The Wished-for Land: The migration and settlement of the Manifolds of western Victoria*, Neptune Press, 1984.

The Aborigines struggled to organise themselves strategically in very difficult circumstances. They succeeded in some cases in their efforts to thwart the invader. They periodically stole or attacked sheep, took vegetables from gardens, and set fire to huts. The Stony Rises were used as a strategic point for Aborigines. Here they could take shelter and plan future attacks. Rolf Boldrewood wrote of one expedition in the early 1840s which resulted in finding sheep captured, some dead and some alive, in the Stony Rises.³⁶



Stony Rises, Lake Corangamite (1857) by Eugéne von Guérard [Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide]

3.4 Administering Aboriginal 'Protection'

British humanitarian interests, influenced by the Exeter Hall meetings of the 1830s, lobbied to appoint a Protector of Aborigines in Victoria in 1839. The appointee, George Augustus Robinson, travelled extensively through the Western District in 1841, observing and reporting on the state of living of the Aborigines, and on relations between Aborigines and settlers. He sought to ascertain the condition of the Aborigines and to record any atrocities committed by white settlers. He reported on the atrocity at Mt Emu Creek that had taken place two years earlier. Robinson also sought to move Aborigines away from their traditional country to designated 'protectorates'.

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³⁶ Rolf Boldrewood (T.A. Browne), *Old Melbourne Memories*, William Heinemann, Melbourne, 1969 (first published London, 1884).

A 'local protector', Charles Seivwright, was also appointed for the Western District. In 1839 (1840?), Seivwright established a protectorate station at Lake Keilambete, near Terang. This site was selected because it represented neutral ground for the various neighbouring Aboriginal groups. It was also an important meeting place where 'great meetings' were held, where more than 1000 people would gather.³⁷ Seivwright moved the protectorate station to Lake Terang the following year. In 1842 it was moved again to Mt Rouse (now in the Shire of Southern Grampians), but it was closed after one year.³⁸

By the late 1840s, many Aborigines who remained in the area lived on the pastoral stations, which occupied their traditional country. Some settlers developed a paternalistic relationship with the so-called 'station Aborigines'. Aborigines were employed as general hands, but wages were not usually part of the arrangement. As the towns developed, Aborigines found these to be a convenient meeting place and somewhere they could readily obtain food. Whereas Aborigines were relatively 'protected' on the stations, in the townships they were introduced them to alcohol and tobacco. Many Aborigines made their huts on the outskirts of the towns.

A Central Board for the Protection of the Aborigines (BPA) in Victoria was appointed in 1860. The following year the Select Report to the Central Board of the Aborigines identified a number of key groups, including the 'Charcourt tribe' at Purrumbete, the 'Mt Elephant tribe', and the 'Tooram' tribe, whose territory extended from the Hopkins River, east of Warrnambool, as far east as Terang.³⁹

The Girai Wurrung's lands included some important sites outside the study area: J.M. Allan's Tooram station on the Hopkins River, near Warrnambool, and Robert Burke's Mt Shadwell station at Mortlake. In the 1860s, both Allan and Burke were named as honorary correspondents in government inquiries into the condition of Victorian Aborigines.

Local committees and later, local protectors, were appointed to try to keep Aborigines out of the towns, where the availability of liquor posed a problem. At Terang in the 1840s and 1850s, local Aborigines camped on the future site of the Presbyterian church.⁴⁰ At Darlington local Aborigines lived at a camp by the Mt Emu Creek. There are other scant mentions in published works and other documents about Aborigines who lived in the study area after white settlement. In the early days of Kolora School, for example, established around 1870, the school children used to 'wade through swampy ground to avoid the Aboriginal camp'.⁴¹

Town surveyor and early settler Robert Dunbar Scott was named as a local protector of Aborigines in Camperdown by 1853.⁴² By 1861, John Manifold and William Fergusson were named, along with Scott, as local correspondents to the BPA. This Board managed the dispersal of rations, such as food and blankets, to the various depot stations, including Camperdown. Scott compiled a list of Aboriginal place names along with the description and corresponding run name for the districts of

³⁷ Dawson, Australian Aborigines, 1881, pp. 72–79.

³⁸ Caldere and Goff, *Aboriginal Reserves & Missions in Victoria*, 1991, p. 27. See also notes in Critchett, Untold Stories, 1998.

³⁹ Select Report to the Central Board of the Aborigines, 1861.

⁴⁰ McAlpine, Shire of Hampden 1863–1963, 1963, p. 66.

⁴¹ Blake, Vision and Realisation, 1973, vol. 2, p. 892.

⁴² R.D. Scott was noted as a local protector in 1884 [Cannon, *Vagabond Country*, c.1884, p. 89]; Scott resided on the bank of Lake Bullen Merri. [Bonwick, *Western Victoria*, 1858]

Hampden and Heytesbury.⁴³ Many place names in the study area, such as Terang, Chocolyn, Derrinallum, Kolora and Timboon, along with virtually all the parish names, are adapted from local Indigenous names. Many of the volcanic hills and lakes, including the name 'Corangamite', have also retained a form of their Indigenous names. In 1870, as a young woman in her twenties, Isabella Park Dawson published some of the local place names in Corangamite Shire, which she recorded as follows:

Mount Elephant – Terring Allap Hill near Camperdown – Link'oora Niel Black's Hill – K'noorat Mr Thomson's Lake – Killembeet.⁴⁴

In 1866 an Anglican mission for the Aborigines of the Western District was established at Framlingham, within the territory of the Girai Wurrung. While the site of the mission reserve lay outside of the study area, it was nevertheless important to many Aborigines who were then living in what is now the Shire of Corangamite and a number of Aborigines from the area were encouraged to settle there in the 1860s. For those who did not belong to the Girai Wurrung language group, however, Framlingham was foreign country. One man, known as 'Old Tom' of Camperdown, refused to move to Framlingham; James Dawson explained that 'he never wandered far from his own country which lay between Terrinallum and Meningoort. Darlington was about the centre of his territory'. Others preferred to remain on pastoral stations such as Purrumbete, where they could obtain food and supplies, and were able to retain some remnants of their traditional life.

The Board was supportive of the Aborigines being granted their own land to live off, but this was rarely achieved. A small reserve (of 14 acres) was set aside in Camperdown in 1854 for the use of local Aboriginal man Bullenmere (King Alick) and his son Prince Albert. This site was later developed (and probably re-gazetted) for public purposes and renamed Victoria Square and Albert Crescent in honour of the British royals. ⁴⁷

3.5 A declining population

Where there had been a large population of Aborigines at the time of first European contact in the area, by the 1850s the Aboriginal population had declined significantly. When he toured the district in 1857, James Bonwick reported that there were not many left among the 'natives of Keilambete and Terang'.⁴⁸

 $http://www1.aiats is.gov.au/exhibitions/languages/smyth_pdf/m0051579_a.pdf;\ accessed\ 20\ June\ 2009.$

⁴³ For Robert Brough Smyth, c.1879;

⁴⁴ Isabella Park Dawson, *Australasian*, 19 March 1870.

⁴⁵ An account of the Framlingham mission is given in Jan Critchett, *Our Land Till We Die*, revised edition 1992 (first published 1980).

⁴⁶ Dawson, Camperdown Chronicle, 5 October 1881, cited in Critchett, Our Land Till We Die, 1992, p. 5.

⁴⁷ Bonwick, *Western Victoria*, 1970, p. 29; AAV, Aboriginal Historic Places, place no. 7.2–1; Allan Willingham, *Camperdown Heritage Study*, vol. 2 1995, p. 484.

⁴⁸ Peter Pierce (ed.), Oxford Literary Guide to Australia, Oxford University Press, Melbourne, 1987, p. 394.

The Aboriginal population of Camperdown fell further through the 1860s and 1870s. In 1861 there were 20 Aborigines residing in Camperdown (12 men and 8 women), but by 1866, Scott advised the Committee: 'There are now but few [Aborigines] at Camperdown, and I think those are worthy of some sort of building to shelter them in the cold wet nights'. Scott's report concluded that 'No rations have been sent to Camperdown for the blacks since 1866.'⁴⁹ In the late 1870s there were only four members of the local clan remaining. One of these was Wormbeetch Puuyuun, also known as 'Camperdown George'. By 1872, Fanny Curdie, writing from her home at Tandarook (near Curdies) wrote: 'The natives here have almost disappeared from this district & there are none at the sea coast, where we go for change in summer & where they must have at one time been numerous in summer—so much have [sic.] civilisation done for them.'⁵⁰

Local Guardian of the Aborigines, James Dawson, became a vocal advocate for the rights of the Aborigines. He campaigned tirelessly for the rights and recognition of the displaced traditional owners of the country. By the 1870s Dawson was residing at Wurrong farm, near Renny Hill, the home of his daughter Isabella and son-in-law W.A. Taylor. He provided a refuge for a group of mostly elderly Aborigines who refused to move to Framlingham. On returning to Camperdown from a visit to his native Scotland in 1884, he was dismayed to learn that his friend 'Camperdown George' had died in early 1883. Camperdown George had been the last surviving the last member of his clan, still living in his country. Mostly, Dawson's urges fell on deaf ears, notably his campaign to raise money for a memorial for the Aborigines chiefly from the pockets of the squatting families who had displaced the Aborigines. The physical sites of the Aborigines' age-old occupation of this land-mia mias, stone fish traps, earthen mounds, stone arrangements, campsites, stone wells, axegrinding stones, scarred trees, and middens—were clearly visible to and recorded by the early settlers. Much of this physical evidence has since been lost, however, due to land clearing, building methods, and changing land-use patterns, but also due to the destructive ways of some of the settlers, who had intentionally destroyed or removed Aboriginal heritage. Aboriginal mounds, found near lake banks in western Victoria, have been leveled.⁵¹ Settlers frequently burnt mia mias to the ground to demonstrate their greater physical force and in an attempt to deter further huts from being built.52

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⁴⁹ Select Report to the Central Board of the Aborigines, 1866, p. 30.

⁵⁰ Fanny (Frances) Curdie to her nephew, Rev. James Russell, Tandarook, 5 October 1872, [Curdie Papers] MS 8664, Box 942/b(2) SLV.

⁵¹ Jan Critchett, *Untold Stories: Memories and lives of Victorian Kooris*, Melbourne University Press, Carlton South, 1998, p. 118.

⁵² An example of burning down of Aboriginal huts is given in Niel Black's Journal (held SLV).

4 Making a rural landscape

'We find the Forest almost completely gone, cleared by pioneers who with great fortitude and courage, transformed the land into what could now be called a picturesque paradise, with improved pastures, magnificent Cypress Pine plantations for shelter, and good homes.'

Gordon Croft, [n.d.] cited in Duruz, Death of a Forest: A story of Heytesbury Shire, 1974

4.1 Pastoral homesteads

The earliest buildings erected on the squatting runs were rough and often impermanent. The principal buildings that made up the home station included the homestead itself, the overseer's cottage, and an array of huts for the accommodation of shepherds and labourers. As stations developed there might also be a smithy, a woolshed, stables, stores, school house, etc. On his visit to Glenormiston in 1846, J.D. Lang noted that Niel Black's servants and shepherds had cottages with 'neat chimneys regularly built of stone and lime, and whitewashed'. ⁵³ In addition, there would be infrastructure of tanks or wells, sometimes with pumping and piping systems, for example at Glenormiston, Purrumbete, and Keilambete. Fencing was often roughly made using timber or brush, or using field stones piled loosely.

Once squatters had gained freehold tenure of the land they occupied, either through sales of land (in the Settled Districts) or through the loopholes in the Selection Acts of the 1860s, they invested in larger, more permanent structures and improved fencing. In the late 1860s and 1870s, squatters erected new homesteads or extended old ones, often employing the services of an architect.

The typical early homestead was a stone building, single-storey, with a verandah at the front and servants' quarters and utility areas at the rear. The first double-storey homestead was claimed to be Joseph Mack's Berry Bank, near Lismore, which was built in the early 1850s. Domestic comforts were established quickly in some cases. In 1841 at Purrumbete, for example, there was a small cottage with a 'comfortable parlour' complete with carpet and a piano.⁵⁴ A number of early homesteads boasted piped water and other conveniences.

Squatters often sited their homestead close to a lake or water course, for example, Scott in Camperdown; Robertson at Gnarpurt; Purrumbete. While the siting of the homestead was decided as a matter of taste, such as at Purrumbete, there were also strategic considerations to be made in the late 1830s and early 1840s. In 1842 the Manifolds built their new home high on the cliff banks of Lake Purrumbete on an isthmus, protected on three sides by water, as the lake was very full in those days; a cave in the cliffs below provided protection in case the Aborigines attacked.⁵⁵

⁵³ Ian F. McLaren (ed.), *John Dunmore Lang: Visit to Geelong Western District of Victoria in 1846*, University of Melbourne Library, Parkville, 1987, p. 40.

⁵⁴ William Adeney's journal, cited in McAlpine, Shire of Hampden, 1963, p. 28.

⁵⁵ Nan Chapman, *Historic Homes of Western Victoria*, Colac Herald, Colac, 1965, p. 40.



The lofty panelled entrance hall at Purrumbete with Walter Withers murals [Pastoral Homes in Australia, 1910]

The homesteads became more opulent with expense apparently no object. By the 1890s and early 1900s, successful families like the Manifolds and the Blacks had amassed considerable fortunes. This was a direct result of them having been able to hold onto vast estates and avoid pressure to subdivide for closer settlement. It wasn't until the 1890s that the dairy industry established itself in the district and even then this change in the economic profile of the district occurred at the behest of these families. For example the first Glenormiston Butter Factory was established in the Black's old woolshed at Glenormiston in the late 1880s. These pastoralists established small lease holdings on their estates and reaped the benefits of the new economy. Equally in the north of the district the subdivision for cropping came late and the old families maintained their influence well into the twentieth century.

Pastoral families sought to re-fashion their Victorian homes. Architects and furniture makers were commissioned to update a number of homesteads, including Purrumbete.⁵⁶

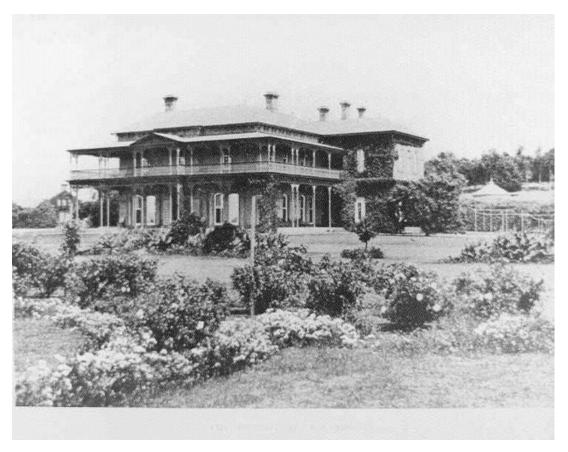
The woodcarver Prenzel produced elaborate timber carving for several homesteads. The newly adapted homesteads reflected no shortage of funds or labour, nor of

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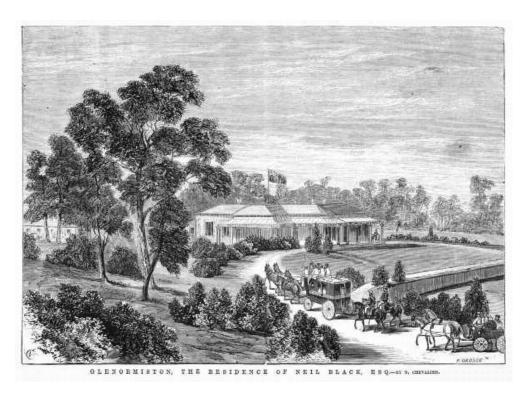
⁵⁶ See Harriet Edquist, *Pioneers of Modernism: The Arts and Crafts Movement in Australia*, The Miegunyah Press, Carlton, 2008.

good taste and refinement. Their homesteads borrowed some elements from the country homes of the British Isles, like the grand foyer or entry halls decorated with hunting or equestrian trophies. In other respects, however, they were quite different—in the materials used and the often sprawling single-storey design of the houses.

The excessive wealth and political influence of this part of Victoria in the 1920s and 1930s meant that the squatters continued to enjoy the prolonged 'long last summer' of upper-class living. The early homesteads were joined by later versions, constructed for sons and grandsons of the pioneer settlers. They followed the model of the mid to late nineteenth century structures usually designed by architects (these may have been locals like Alexander Hamilton of Colac, Michael McCabe from Camperdown or W.P. Knights from Camperdown or from further afield in Melbourne, Geelong or Ballarat. These homesteads were well designed and well built and solid-looking,. with restrained taste rather than overtly and lavishly ornamental This did not mean that they were not fashionable, with designs following current architectural idioms.



The Manifolds' elegant Talindert homestead, near Camperdown [Picture Victoria]



Niel Black's Glenormiston homestead at Noorat on the occasion of the Duke's visit in 1868 [SLV]

4.2 Homestead gardens

The study area has long been famed by the extent and quality of its gardens. In the early twentieth century the Western District proclaimed itself the 'garden of Victoria'.⁵⁷ The rich volcanic soil combined with the substantial wealth and cultivated tastes of the pastoral ascendancy, along with a strong ethos of industry and benevolence, has left an unusually rich heritage of gardens.

The extent of plant and seed exchange would have been high in the nineteenth century. Newly arrived settlers planted seeds they brought out from home, both for the kitchen garden and the flower garden, and were supplied by early nurserymen, like the Errey brothers of Camperdown. Some of the more influential settlers, including Dr Daniel Curdie and J.L. Currie and possibly others, had personal associations with Ferdinand Mueller, the government botanist.⁵⁸ It is thought that Mueller helped to design a layout for Curdie's garden at Tandarook. This property had a permanent water supply and 'its garden and orchard were much admired'.⁵⁹

Early homestead gardens typically featured a flower garden in front and a utilitarian vegetable garden and orchard at the rear. By the latter part of the nineteenth century, freehold tenure, coupled with increased pastoral wealth, meant that the homestead garden could be developed on a grand scale as part of the vast pastoral landscape. Squatting families were able to commission such eminent landscape

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⁵⁷ Lorck, Victoria Illustrated, 1909, p. 28; Western District Centenary Souvenir, Terang Express, Terang, 1934.

⁵⁸ Professor Rod Home, Mueller Correspondence Project, pers. com., May 2009.

⁵⁹ Duruz, *Curdies River*, 1972, p. 5.

architects as Edward La Trobe Bateman, who possibly designed Meningoort,60 and William Guilfoyle, who was responsible for several important homestead gardens in the study area, including Dalvui (1898); The Bend (date n.k.); the Fairburns' Banongil (1912); and Marida Yallock (1910?).61 The most important, Dalvui, has been described as 'one of Guilfoyle's finest surviving private gardens'.62 A later designer, Edna Walling, is associated with the garden design at Naringal, near Lismore. 63 Other important early gardens, or remnants thereof, include Tandarook; Glenormiston, Titanga, Langi Willi, Koort Koort Nong, Wurrong and Talindert.⁶⁴

The gardens that were designed to complement the large and elaborate new homesteads were planned on a grand scale and emulated the fashionable country gardens of Britain. Bold foliage, clumps and scatterings of forest trees, winding paths and sweeping lawns were used to their best advantage to complement the house and the setting. There were other Old World techniques, such as the 'ha ha' wall, which Niel Black constructed at Mt Noorat. This effectively enclosed the immediate garden area around the homestead but afforded an invisible break from the paddocks beyond, creating an uninterrupted view across the estate from the elevated homestead site. 65 This was in keeping with the notion of the entire estate being imagined 'as a park' in the manner of eighteenth-century British landscape design.

Homestead gardens were often developed at the same time as the homestead, but gardens also evolved and changed, like houses, under the influence of different fashions and owners. Dalvui presented an unusual change of sequence whereby the garden, planned by Guilfoyle in 1898, preceded the house. With no natural lake on the site, a lake was constructed. The Dalvui garden intentionally turned its back on the bush. Here, alongside the garden proper, Guilfoyle planned a 'wild garden', which was a contrived space of English, rather than indigenous, wilderness, with daffodils growing amidst a 'natural' woodland.66 A significant break came in the 1920s and 1930s when long established tastes changed, and some property owners and gardeners embraced native plants.⁶⁷

Examples

Dalvui. Noorat Remnant plantings, Mount Noorat, Noorat Remnant garden, Tandarook

⁶⁰ Timothy Hubbard, 'Towering Overall, the Italianate Villa in the Colonial Landscape', PhD Thesis, Deakin University, Geelong, 2004, chapter 7, p. 228; see also Heritage Victoria Landscape Advisory Committee, Volcanic Plains Forum, 2007.

⁶¹ Kate Hattam, 'A Survey of Nineteenth-Century Gardens', vol. II, [n.d.] c.1977–78, MS 10753, SLV; Aitken and Looker (eds), Oxford Companion to Australian Gardens, 2002, p. 174; Forth (ed.), Biographical Dictionary of the Western District of Victoria, 1998, p. 42. See also Christine Reid, 'Historic Banongill Station and Garden', Australian Garden History, vol. 21, no. 1, July / August / September 2009.

⁶² Aitken and Looker (eds), Oxford Companion to Australian Gardens, 2002, p. 174.

⁶³ Trust News, vol. 17, no. 4, October 1988, p. 2.

⁶⁴ Hattam, vol. 2, c.1977-78, pp. 117, 125, 132–33.

⁶⁵ Helen Doyle, 'Mount Noorat' in Aitken and Looker (eds), Oxford Companion to Australian Gardens, 2002,

⁶⁶ Hattam, vol. 2, c.1977-78.

⁶⁷ Hattam, c.1977-78.

4.3 Farm Buildings

In the construction of farm buildings, settlers borrowed the vernacular building techniques that they were familiar with, which were overwhelmingly the farm buildings of the British Isles. Somewhat incongruously, Callaway, a settler at Timboon, designed his hops kiln in a remarkably similar style to that of his home in Yorkshire.⁶⁸

Outbuildings were typically built in a simple vernacular style, using bluestone or timber, and with a hipped roof clad in timber shingles. Most large properties provided accommodation for permanent station workers. In addition, there was a woolshed, stables, a dairy, and a smithy, and perhaps a store and a machinery shed. Woolsheds were large and commodious, and were often designed by the noted architects who were working in the area. Dairies were usually later buildings and generally timber, and internally laid out in accordance with the type of milking system used.

4.4 Dry-stone walling

Across the volcanic plain there are areas of stony rises with outcrops of rock, mostly a hardy volcanic basalt. Settlers made good use of the field stones for building purposes, both for houses and farm buildings and also for stone walls. Some stone walls were built as early as the 1840s. In the 1860s stone-walling became a more common fencing technique and there were three main reasons for this. Firstly, the land selection acts stipulated that land holdings had to be securely fenced; secondly, a wall of stone, dug deep into the ground and rising to a reasonable height, was likely to deter the rabbits which had become a pest to farmers and graziers; thirdly, many of the settlers were familiar with stone-walling techniques that had been practised in their homelands of Scotland, England and Ireland. A number of settlers brought out stone-wallers from Scotland to work on their properties.

The area most affected by rabbits was in the Stony Rises, around Stonyford and Pomborneit, and it is here that can be found some of the most extensive networks of dry-stone walls in the Shire. On the Manifold's Purrumbete estate, the 'rabbit wall' was built around the perimeter in the 1880s. Where this wall crossed the highway, a man opened a gate to let the traffic pass.⁶⁹ Another unusually tall wall can be found at Kolora on the Shire boundary. Before the fires of 1944, there was a stone fence along the length of the main road in Derrinallum.⁷⁰

Stone fences were meticulously crafted using traditional techniques. These walls dramatically transformed the landscape but they were functional and economical as well as aesthetic. They imposed both a regimental order on the volcanic plains and a pleasing rusticity. But 'the Vagabond' found little attractive about the Purrumbete rabbit wall. In this district where rabbits were prolific, he considered that the sight of 'unmortared walls of loosely-piled stones ... does not add much charm to the landscape'.⁷¹

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⁶⁸ Harold Nicol and Pat Fraser, *The Callaways of Timboon*, 1988, no page numbers.

⁶⁹ Chapman, Historic Homes of Western Victoria, 1965.

⁷⁰ McGregor and Oaten, *Mount Elephant*, 1985.

⁷¹ Walch, *Victoria in 1880*, 1881, p. 71.

There has been growing recognition in the last few decades of the importance of stone walls as heritage places and the craft of dry-stone walling is being re-taught.⁷² The Shire of Corangamite has established a stone wall trail.

4.5 Making a Scottish landscape

There is a significant theme of Scottish settlement in the study area, and in the Western District generally. The publication *Cassell's Picturesque Australia* declared in 1887: 'the Scot is again omnipotent and omnipresent in the district of Camperdown'. Margaret Kiddle estimated that around two-thirds of the pioneer settlers of the Western District were Scottish, nearly all of them Lowland farmers. She claimed that the Scots regarded the Western District as 'theirs by right of discovery, confirmed by the expenditure of labour and capital they would bring to its development'. Certainly the rapturous praise and proposed use of the country for pastoral purposes made by their countryman Major Thomas Mitchell provided some premise for the Scots' claim of the land. The many Scottish place names allude to this early Scottish occupation: Curdies River, Mount Bute, Glenfyne, and Kilnoorat (the marriage of the Gaelic word for church and a variant of a local Aboriginal word). Scottish property names include Gala, Ettrick, Glenormiston, Glenample, Berry Bank, Struan, and Renny-hill.

Despite this early inclination to recreate the familiar Scottishness, by the time closer settlement had occurred and in particular the dairy industry had been established in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries the landscape took on a totally different appearance. The dry stone walls lasted, but the subdivision into smaller farms meant the incursion of many more buildings and wire fences and gates and the plantings were more likely to be conifers and pines for shelter and the all pervasive Sugar Gum plantations which not only acted as wind breaks but served as a source of firewood for the farmers

There was also a very large contingent of Scottish labourers who immigrated to Victoria, via an assisted or unassisted passage, in the 1840s and 1850s. Some were brought out by the Highland and Island Emigration Scheme.

The dominance of immigrant Scots among the early settler population contributed towards the development of the cultural landscapes and townscapes within the Corangamite Shire. This influence lay in practical terms in the large number of early Scottish settlers with capital to outlay in pastoral endeavours. The social, economic and political influence that came with pastoral wealth meant that Scottish institutions, such as the Presbyterian Church, the Caledonian Society and the Masonic Lodge, were well represented in the early townships, and that Highland Games were a popular event. The Scots were also keen supporters of the temperance movement,

⁷² This interest is demonstrated by the publication by Corangamite Arts Council, *If These Walls Could Talk: Report of the Corangamite dry stone wall conservation project*, Corangamite Arts Council, Terang, 1995.

⁷³ E.E. Morris (ed.), *Cassells Picturesque Australia*, vol. III, facsimile edition 1997 (first published 1889), p. 90. ⁷⁴ Margaret Kiddle, 'Scottish Lowland Farmers, c.1830–50'. Seminar paper, Australian National University,

Canberra, 13 May 1954, p. 2.

⁷⁵ Kiddle, Men of Yesterday, 1967, p. 13.

the influence of which was present in the many temperance halls and temperance hotels established in the early townships.

Within the study area there were particular enclaves of Scottish settlement, for example at Noorat. Here, the landed property of Argyleshire farmer Niel Black was named Glenormiston and the men he employed to work it were Highlanders brought out from Scotland. Later, when the estate was broken up for closer settlement, many of his former tenants or their families purchased blocks. Another strongly Scottish area was at Derrinallum station, where Gaelic-speaking Highlanders also worked the property. The Clyde Company of George Russell brought out Highlanders from Scotland who worked on the company's Derrinallum property. At Berry Bank, too, the men also all spoke Gaelic. 77

A large proportion of Scots in the district, and on particular pastoral estates, encouraged a re-establishing to some extent of the traditional cultural world they left behind. Shepherds on Niel Black's property spoke Gaelic and adopted familiar building techniques. John Dumore Lang visiting Glemormiston in 1846 observed the Scottish manner of building workers' cottages at Mt Noorat, including chimneys of stone and lime.⁷⁸

It is difficult and problematic to categorise a landscape as characteristic of a particular ethnic group in a New World country because of the countless other influences at play and differences to consider. However, evidence of Scottish influence in the landscape can be detected. One example is the dry-stone walling that is found in many parts of the study area, notably at Noorat, Derrinallum, Pomborneit and Kolora. It was not just the Scots who built these stone walls, however, but also Irish and English stone-wallers.

There is an overriding neatness and organisation to the landscape around Noorat, which may be linked to the influence of Scottish settlers in the area. In parts, the land is carefully divided up, with not a patch of ground unaccounted for. This perhaps relates to those characteristics popularly admired in the Scots: moral seriousness, industriousness, resourcefulness, and thrift, and an aversion to self-indulgence and excess. Other influences at work were Calvinism and the doctrine of predestination. They were keenly aware of the need for order and success in the earthly realm in order to attain Salvation. As local historian G. Claud Notman explained, they came to Australia 'to seek a far greater reward'. 79

A number of leading architects working in the study area in the nineteenth century were Scottish, including Davidson and Henderson of Geelong, Andrew Kerr of Warrnambool, and Alexander Hamilton of Colac. The designed landscapes of the area are not obviously Scottish, but there may well be links between the high standard of landscape gardening in the study area, especially in respect of a number of the pastoral homesteads, and the Scottish excellence in and enthusiasm for this pursuit.⁸⁰

⁷⁶ See P.L. Brown (ed.), *Clyde Company Papers*, vol. V, Oxford University Press, London, 1941–71, pp. various

⁷⁷ Joseph J. Mack, *Chain of Ponds*, Neptune Press, Newtown, 1983, p. 87.

⁷⁸ McLaren (ed.), John Dunmore Lang: Visit to Geelong and western Victoria in 1846, 1987.

⁷⁹ Notman, Out of the Past: The story of Skipton 1839–1939, 1939.

⁸⁰ See 'Scotland' in Aitken and Looker (eds), Oxford Companion to Australian Gardens, 2002, pp. 540–41.

On farms in the Scottish Lowlands in the 1830s, single men who worked on the property lived in what was known as a boothy. Margaret Kiddle doubted that 'there was any connection between the "boorthy" system and the men's huts of Australia', but similarities nevertheless exist, as she makes clear:

At a considerable distance from the farm yard there is a sort of barrack erected for them to live in. It is a long shed with stone walls and pantle roof, and divided into a certain number of boothies, each having a door and one little window, all the doors being on one side of the shed, and there being no back doors ... [and no privy]. The [married] man, his wife and children erected whatever berths were needed for themselves.⁸¹

Similar 'barracks' of rooms were built for shepherds and station workers on a number of pastoral properties in the study area in the 1850s and 1860s. As Kiddle concludes, 'Probably similar conditions created similar buildings'.⁸²

Examples

Stone walls, Noorat

⁸¹ Kiddle, 'Scottish Lowlanders', 1954, p. 8.

⁸² Kiddle, 'Scottish Lowlanders', 1954, p. 8.

5 Impressions of the landscape

...one of the most princely places I have ever seen.

Niel Black, Glenormiston, 1840.

5.1 Beholding the landscape: artworks and viewsheds

The landscape paintings and homestead portraits of the study area form an important part of the rich cultural heritage of Corangamite Shire. The station portraits, especially those of Eugène von Guérard of the 1850s and early 1860s, depict in remarkably intricate (and accurate) detail the homestead, the outbuildings, the garden and plantings, the indigenous vegetation and the topography, as well as the kinds of human activities that took place at pastoral stations. These paintings tell a powerful story about 'possession' of the land on a number of levels. They visually contain the pastoral landscapes from the perspective of ownership, by centering the house in a broad sweeping panorama. They visually document the material wealth and progress of the squatter. The commissioning of these paintings is evidence in itself of the squatter's level of attachment for the land they occupied and the level of importance they attached to this occupation. Finally, in representing the pastoral station as a work of art, the land is further commodified. These paintings are also important for their role as a collection. Taken together, they contribute significantly to our understanding of colonial life and art, which is evident by their inclusion in recent exhibitions.83

Examples

Von Guerard viewshed of Lake Bullen Merri Von Guerard viewshed of Meningoort from the rear Moveable heritage – examples of artworks [?]

The paintings helped to domesticate and create a softening effect in depicting country that was still largely unfenced wilderness, socially isolating, and a harsh environment. Not all the early descriptions of 'Australia Felix' were as laudatory as Major Mitchell's. For some colonial observers, the grasslands could be monotonous and depressing, the volcanic hills and lakes could be disturbing, and the vegetation mournful and melancholy. Representing this country as a pastoral landscape helped to render it beautiful as well and allowed it to be understood according to the Picturesque aesthetic.

The important pastoral paintings by von Guerard include: Larra, 1857; Lake Bullenmerri, 1858; Wooriwyrite, 1857; the view of Meningoort homestead from the rear, 1861; Marida Yallock; two views of Koort Koort Nong, 1860; and two views of Purrumbete in 1857. One of the Purrumbete paintings was used on the dust cover of Margaret Kiddle's important regional history, *Men of Yesterday*, first published in

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⁸³ See, for example, Elizabeth Johns et al., *New Worlds from Old: Nineteenth century Australian and American landscapes* National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, and Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford, Conn., 1998; and Tracy Cooper-Lavery et al., *Town and Country: Portraits of colonial homes and gardens: A Bendigo Art Gallery traveling exhibition*, Bendigo Art Gallery, Bendigo, 2005.

1961. Louis Buvelot was another distinguished artist who was commissioned to execute homestead portraits in western Victoria in the nineteenth century. His works include *Terrinallum House and Emu Creek from the Lower Garden Gate* (1871).⁸⁴

5.2 A literary heritage

The pastoral wealth of Corangamite Shire indulged and supported writers as well as artists. It was probably the comfortable standard of living at Langi Willi near Skipton that led the British writer Henry Kingsley to spend a pleasant six-month sojourn there in 1852 (although admittedly he stayed in a modest timber building on the property). Wealthy pastoral society also produced the poet John Streeter Manifold, who was reluctant to embrace his heritage. His radical ideas were deeply opposed by his conservative family, but his poetry was nevertheless strongly influenced by his pastoral background, notably in his work, 'The Land', in which he professed a love of the land and his Aboriginal friends. Well as the professed and support the land and his Aboriginal friends.

The district has produced and inspired other well known writers. Alan Marshall was born at the Beehive Store, Noorat, in 1902. His popular autobiography, *I Can Jump Puddles* (1955), tells of his childhood at the fictional town of Turalla, which for the most part is a weakly masked Noorat. There is an Alan Marshall Walking Trail through and around the town.⁸⁷ A more contemporary novel by Jim Morgan, *Loving Helen* (1994), studies the socio-political milieu of the Western District in the conservative 1950s though the prism of a soldier settlement block in the stony country around Camperdown.

⁸⁴ Lavery-Cooper et al., *Town and Country*, 2005, p. 15.

⁸⁵ Notman, But a Heartbeat in Time, 1989, chapter 9.

⁸⁶ Peter Hay (ed.), A Meeting of Sighs: The folk verse of Victoria's Western District, Warrnambool Institute Press, Press, 1981, pp. 154–55.

⁸⁷ Pierce (ed.), Oxford Literary Guide to Australia, 1993, p. 378.

6 Understanding the natural environment

The changes in Lake Gnotuk's water level between von Guerard's 1857 painting and the present day ... should sound a dire warning to us all.

Jim Bowler, Lake Gnotuk: A layered history, Geelong Art Gallery, 2005.

6.1 Geology

The study area has contributed significantly to scientific knowledge and has been used extensively for teaching of volcanic geology. The volcanic lakes near Terang and Camperdown have been the subject of extensive scientific investigation over the last hundred years. They have been used to monitor water levels and groundwater activity, to study plant life, to better understand the geological history of the area, and to study climate change. The volcanic lakes and cones have been found to have an inbuilt record-keeping system concerning geological history. Most recently, the lakes of Camperdown—Keilambete, Bullenmerri and Gnotuk—have been labelled the 'rain gauge lakes' because they 'represent a virtual archive of changing water levels and therefore of controlling climates, for more than 20,000 years'.

Examples

Lake Bullenmerri water level marker.

6.2 Climate

In this important agricultural area it was important to keep accurate and long-term rainfall records. An early 'meteorological station', which title suggests temperature was recorded as well as rainfall records, was operating at Camperdown by 1865 and into the late 1880s. Painfall stations were also operating at Darlington, from 1861–1992; at Berry Bank from 1877–1988; at Port Campbell from 1885–1992; at Cobden from 1894-1992; at Terang Post Office from 1896–1992; at Skipton Post Office 1897–1992; at Camperdown Post Office from 1897–1992; and at Derrinallum from 1898–1992. Weather stations in colonial Victoria were often operated by the local postmaster.

⁸⁸ Bill Birch, 'The Western Victorian Volcanic Province', *Cultural Landscapes of the Volcanic Plains Forum*, Heritage Victoria, 2007, p. 11.

⁸⁹ See, for example, J.R. Dodson, 'Vegetation and climatic history near Lake Keilambete, western Victoria'.

⁹⁰ Jim Bowler, 'Lake Gnotuk: art, science, place', in *Lake Gnotuk: A layered history*, Geelong Gallery, 2006, no page numbers.

⁹¹ Whitworth (ed.), *Bailliere's Victorian Gazetteer*, 1865, p. 74; Sutherland, *Victoria and Its Metropolis*, 1888, vol. 2, p. 74.

⁹² 'Global Historic Climate Network Precipitation Stations', found at: www.ngdc.noaa.gov; accessed 10 June 2009.

6.3 Botany

The study area was important for its role in botanical research in the nineteenth century. Early settler Dr Daniel Curdie, who was a keen amateur botanist, corresponded with Sir Joseph Hooker of Kew and also with the eminent Irish botanist Dr Harvey.⁹³ Daniel Curdie's wife, Frances, was a close friend and correspondent of Mueller's. She also had an extensive knowledge of botany she continued a correspondence with Mueller after her husband's death. Mueller dedicated a book to her in 1885.⁹⁴

Examples

Tandarook garden – any remnant plantings?

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⁹³ Alexander Henderson, *Pioneer Families*, 1930s.

⁹⁴ Forest Culture and Eucalyptus Trees, Cubery & Co. San Francisco, 1876.. 1st ed., inscribed by Baron Von Mueller to Mrs. Dr. Curdie "To Mrs. Dr. Curdie with regardful remembrance from Ferd. Von Mueller May 1884", from AbeBooks website, May 2009.

7 Pastoral and agricultural development

We were struck with the great extent of deep rich soil, many hundred acres being almost without a tree on them and ready to be turned over by the plough.

George Russell, Camperdown district, June 1839.

7.1 Cattle

Early settlers established cattle properties, principally Shorthorn cattle, in the 1840s and 1850s. There was only a meagre market for cattle at that time. Fresh meat could not be exported successfully at that time and large amounts of meat had to be boiled down for tallow. Cattle were successfully run on the forested country south of the study area, by Daniel Curdie at Tandarook and by the McArthurs at Glenample on the coast. The north of the study area was better suited to sheep. Few built structures relating to early cattle grazing survive in the study area.

7.2 Wool

The western plains stocked sheep from the early period of settlement. These flocks had been brought over from Van Diemen's Land or overland from Sydney. Many squatters commenced their station with Merinos and later with the Comeback breed. The first agricultural show in the district was held at Darlington in 1859 by the Western District Pastoral and Agricultural Society, but was subsequently held at Skipton. This annual show did much to promote the breed of 'pure merino' as advocated by Thomas Shaw senior, in his pamphlet, *The Australian Merino* (1849). The judging of stud rams and of fleece was the highlight of the Skipton Show. Sheep-breeding was carefully studied and highly developed by local squatters like J.L. Currie of Larra, Thomas Shaw of Wooriwyrite, and the Cumming brothers at Darlington. At Terang the Australia Felix Pastoral and Agricultural Society held shows at Terang and Mortlake every alternate year, and the Noorat Show became an important annual local fixture through the twentieth century.

The number of sheep in the district increased rapidly in the 1870s, when large fortunes were made from high wool prices. As a result, many of the squatters were able to substantially improve their estates at this time and the pastures and form of the landscape changed as a consequence. Shearing machines were introduced around 1891.

7.3 Dairy farming

Keeping milk cows was standard practice on many small farms in the mid nineteenth century. The milk obtained would be sufficient for the needs of the family and any surplus would be sold or fed to the pigs; the cream would be made into butter and cheese and these items could be sold at market. Dairies were generally small and

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⁹⁵ Notman, 1989, p. 34.

⁹⁶ Warrnambool Standard Almanac for 1875, 1875, pp. 78–79.

conventional, with no mechanised equipment. Primitive cheese-presses were made from local timber. ⁹⁷ In the Corangamite Shire the, the lack of available land for small farming delayed the large-scale development of the dairy industry. In the Report of Collectors of Agricultural Statistics for the County of Hampden in 1865, there was no mention of dairying, which would imply that it was not yet a significant industry in its own right. ⁹⁸

The sale of smaller holdings from the 1870s enabled small farmers to become established on the land. However, these holdings were too small to support vast flocks of sheep and the new settlers turned to dairying. By 1895 a meeting was held at Noorat which resulted in the establishment of the Glenormiston Butter and Cheese Factory. This was strongly supported by the Black family who made the woolshed at Glenormiston available for conversion to a butter factory.

The rich country proved well-suited to dairy farming. Prosperous dairy farmers were already established in neighbouring districts—around Colac and Garvoc. ⁹⁹ Around Terang, Camperdown, Cobden and in the hilly country towards the Otways, rich soil and a reliable rainfall made this country well suited to dairy farming. John T. Manifold established a commercial dairy at Camperdown, in partnership with his brothers, which produced and marketed the successful 'Pelikan' brand of butter. ¹⁰⁰ These factories were in turn supported by smaller Creameries which acted as milk-receiving stations

The establishment of the dairy industry had a dramatic impact on the landscape of the district, none the less being the growth of towns like Cobden, Terang and Noorat. Dairying remains an important part of the agricultural activity of the Shire and its growth through the twentieth century is perhaps best illustrated by the establishment of the Simpson factory in the mid years of that century.

Examples

Cheese factory and workers' houses, Simpson. Pomborneit butter factory [NT] Camperdown Cheese and Butter Factory [NT] South Purrumbete creamery Glenormiston Butter Factory, Noorat, c.1909

7.4 Horse-breeding

The study area has long been the centre of an important horse-breeding district. Horses were critical for early transport, and were employed as working animals on pastoral stations and in commercial life. One of the earliest surviving buildings in the study area is a stables attached to the Mount Leura Hotel, which was built in 1859. [Australian Heritage website] Some pastoralists built expansive stables for their thoroughbreds, such as J.L. Currie's impressive bluestone stables at Larra, designed by Scottish architect George Henderson in 1873. This ambitious complex

⁹⁷ 'Western District Dairying' in Western District Centenary Souvenir, 1934, no page numbers.

⁹⁸ 'Reports of Collectors of Agricultural Statistics for the Year Ended 31st March 1865', Victoria, *Votes and Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly and Papers Presented to Parliament by Command*, Government Printer, 1866, 1, First Session, Melbourne 1866, p. 94.

⁹⁹ Cheese-making was a chief industry at Garvoc on the border of the study Area in the 1870s [*Warrnambool Standard Almanac 1875*, 1875, p. 70]

 $[\]underline{\ \ }^{100}$ Norman Godbold, Victoria: Cream of the Country, 1989, p. 5.

incorporated husbandry-yards, carriage house, harness-room, forge and grooms' quarters. Horses were also used in various forms of recreation, including horse-racing and polo (see Section 'Organising Recreation'). Important stud owners included the Manifolds at Talindert, Andrew Chirnside at Newminster Park and Col Staughton at Keayang, who all bred well known race horses. 102

Examples

Titanga Horse Trough, Lismore Bluestone Larra stables, Derrinallum Stables, Talindert stables, Camperdown Newminster Park Keayang

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¹⁰¹ McGregor and Oaten, Mount Elephant: A history of the Derrinallum and Darlington district, 1985, p. 7.

¹⁰² Chapman, Historic Homes of Western Victoria, 1965, p. 54.

8 Developing primary industries

Now if all our country in the Western District, with its fertile soil now lying dormant, was occupied with farms the like of this, and managed in the same systematic style, what a people we should be!

J.M. Meek, The Resources of the Western District, 1869.

8.1 Farm forestry

Early settlers planted trees for shade and protection, and as a future timber source. Whereas the large homestead gardens tended to reject the native bushland, a number of squatters appreciated indigenous trees for their value as shelter belts and plantations, and for their use in construction and as fuel. Pastoralist Adam S. Robertson, for example, planted *Eucalyptus globulus* (Blue Gum) on his property Gnarpurt in the 1850s. ¹⁰³ In the 1870s Alexander Buchanan of Titanga, together with his neighbour J.L. Currie and his manager J.F. Drinnan, trialled direct-seeding *Eucalyptus globulus* (Blue Gum). This attracted the attention of Mueller, who suggested they also trial *Eucalyptus cladocalyx* (West Australian Sugar Gum). J.L. Currie subsequently acquired Titanga following Buchanan's unexpected death and carried on with the broadcast planting of *Eucalyptus cladocalyx* (Sugar Gum). ¹⁰⁴ From 1887 to 1905 he sowed around 200 hectares of plantation gums. ¹⁰⁵ *Populus nigra 'Italica'* (Lombardy or Black Poplars) were planted as windbreaks around hop fields and many survive as reminders of this long-gone crop.

The study of forestry had grown significantly by the late nineteenth century. Others followed Currie's lead, including the Shire of Hampden, which established a *Eucalyptus globulus* (Blue Gum) plantation in 1894. ¹⁰⁶ In the 1920s, the Forestry Commission established planted pine plantations at Sherbrooke and Waarre, both located near Port Campbell. ¹⁰⁷

Titanga continued to tend and replace its plantations. A later owner, Dr Pat Lang, was also an advocate for farm re-forestation. He planted and labelled some 200 different Eucalypts in the home paddock in the 1940s. ¹⁰⁸ At Titanga the owners also planted a 'magnificent drive bordered with 400 types of eucalypts and she-oaks' which is significant.

Examples

¹⁰³ Nan Chapman, *Historic Homes of Western Victoria*, 1965, p. 19.

¹⁰⁴ J. Ann Hone, 'Currie, John Lang (1818-1898)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, vol. 3, Melbourne University Press, carlton, 1969, pp. 510–11; McGregor and Oaten, *Mount Elephant*, 1985.

¹⁰⁵ From an excerpt of a story 'Sugar Gums – Titanga' in *Outback*; Aug/Sept, issue 60: http://www.outbackmag.com.au/stories/article-view?361

¹⁰⁶ McAlpine, *Shire of Hampden*, 1963, p. 77.

¹⁰⁷ William Campbell, 'Port Campbell', *The Link*, vol. 1, no. 1, September 1921, p. 31; Jack Loney, *Peterborough, Port Campbell, Princetown*, n.d., p. 22; Central Planning Authority, Resources Survey: Corangamite region, 1957, p. 65.

¹⁰⁸ Kate Hattam, 'A survey of some 19th century gardens of historical significance in South Western Victoria and South Australia', A National Estate Study Programme, vol. 2, p. 133, MS 10753, SLV; Oman et al., *Brown's Water Holes: History of Lismore 1840–1980*, 1980, p. 48.

Sugar Gum plantations, Titanga P.S Currie Eucalyptus collection, Home Paddock, Titanga

8.2 Fishing

Fishing was an important industry at Port Campbell. In the nineteenth century, some fish may have been taken to Melbourne via coastal steamer, but commercial fishing was constrained by access to poor markets and no effective means of keeping the fish fresh (or frozen). A jetty was built at Port Campbell in 1880, which assisted local fishermen.

Examples

Open sea jetty at Port Campbell

9 Developing secondary industries

Among the minor industries pursued ... timber-cutting holds a prominent place ... The country is densely wooded in most parts and produces magnificent timber—box, blue and red gum, ironbark, blackwood and a fine kind of lightwood extremely valuable for cabinet-making purposes, called pencil-wood.

Alexander Sutherland, Victoria and Its Metropolis, 1888.

9.1 Flour mills

In 1865 there was a steam flour mill operating at Camperdown.¹⁰⁹ There were no mills or manufactories in the Skipton district in 1865 but a flour mill was in operation by 1874 when, according to the *Government Gazette*, the proprietor was P. Sanders; it was still operating in 1879.¹¹⁰ Terang had Beasley's Flour Mill located on the eastern side of town between the Princes Highway and the railway line.¹¹¹ Flour mills were built in most of the townships on a modest scale, but cereal cropping did not develop as a major industry. The closer settlement of lands to the north of the Shire in the late nineteenth/early twentieth century led to the development of cropping in that area. However, the Hamilton–Geelong railway was constructed around 1911 and this provided a ready access to the Geelong mill and port..

9.2 Sawmills

Commercial sawmills were necessary to supply building material efficiently for houses and other buildings, as well as bridges and fences. The dense forests of the southern part of the Shire extended as far north as Terang in the 1850s and 1860s. A sawmill was operating at Camperdown in the 1860s and at Brucknell, on the edge of the Allansford Forest. Here, in 1865, the local population was employed felling and sawing timber.¹¹²

In 1869 J.M. Meek reported on the magnificent timber of the Gellibrand River valley. He especially noted the strength and beauty of the white Pencil-wood tree, which he described as a lightwood well suited to cabinet work. Actually, *Acacia implex* (Lightwood) is a long-lived, drought-tolerant wattle. Much of the dense forested region in the south of the study area remained uncleared until well into the twentieth century.

As settlers pushed southwards to Timboon in the late nineteenth century, they established sawmills in the forests. A rail link to Timboon helped to exploit the forest

¹⁰⁹ Whitworth (ed.), Bailliere's Victorian Gazetteer, 1865, p. 175.

¹¹⁰ Whitworth (ed.), *Bailliere's Victorian Gazetteer*, 1865, p. 340; Whitworth (ed.), *Bailliere's Victorian Gazetteer*, 1879, p. 102; Lewis and Peggy Jones, *The Flour Mills of Victoria*, 1990, p. 185.

¹¹¹ Lewis and Peggy Jones, The Flour Mills of Victoria, 1990, p. 188.

¹¹² Whitworth (ed.), Bailliere's Victorian Directory 1865, p. 58.

resources. At one point there were 18 timber sawmills in the Timboon area, including Morgan's Sawmill, but these gradually closed down.¹¹³

With the opening up of the Heytesbury Forest in the 1920s and again in the 1950s, timber was felled in large quantities. The Coradjil Sawmill operated near Cobden in the 1920s.¹¹⁴ The location of other sawmills around Timboon and Curdies are shown on plans of the area from the 1940s.¹¹⁵ In 1957 it was reported that there was 'ample scope' for the expansion of saw-milling in the southern part of the region.¹¹⁶

9.3 Brick-making

Brick-making was possible where suitable clay could be found. It was not uncommon for builders to open a brick pit on the properties near the construction site and for the bricks to be fired on site, In building his homestead at Lake Keilambete John Thompson used bricks that had been hand-made at Mackinnons Bridge. At Skipton, the first Presbyterian church was built c.1858 by Edward Stevens using bricks that he made himself. A brickworks was also operating at Camperdown by the 1860s.

There were two brickworks operating at Cobden in the late nineteenth century; by the 1920s only one brickworks remained. Only a handful of buildings were erected using the characteristic red bricks, including the Cobden Pioneer Butter Factory (1888), the Grand Central Hotel (1904), and a few residences. Another brickworks operated at Timboon in the early 1900s.

Examples

Old Timboon brick works, Timboon

9.4 Manufacturing

There were relatively few manufacturing enterprises within the study area in the midnineteenth century as the country was almost entirely taken up with pastoral use. A Victorian directory of 1865 noted 'no mills or manufactories'. Some exceptions were an early tannery operating at Darlington in the 1850s or 1860s.

By the 1870s and 1880s, increased population and some changes to the land-use owing to the selection acts led to more diversity of activities. A brewery was

¹¹³ V. Edsall, 'History of Timboon, Vic.', 1974, p. 2, MS 9651, SLV; MacKenzie, *Sealing, Sailing and Settling*, 1976, p. 56.

¹¹⁴ 'The Sawmill', *The Link*, vol. 1, no. 7, September 1924, p. 7.

¹¹⁵ These plans are held in the SLV Map Collection.

¹¹⁶ Central Planning Authority, Resources Survey: Corangamite region, 1957, p. 135.

¹¹⁷ McAlpine, *Shire of Hampden*, 1963, p. 39.

¹¹⁸ G. Claud Notman, *But a Heartbeat in Time: Tales of town and stations at Skipton, Australia 1839–1989*, 1989, pp. 25, 32.

¹¹⁹ Whitworth (ed.), Bailliere's Victorian Gazetteer for 1865, Melbourne, 1865, p. 175.

¹²⁰ Cobden & District Historical Society, Cobden: A Time Line, 1994; 'Cobden – Today', The Link, 1920s, p.12.

¹²¹ Whitworth (ed.), Bailliere's Victorian Gazetteer 1865.

¹²² The Link, vol. 1, no. 7, September 1924, p. 42.

established at Camperdown in the 1870s, and a cordial factory was operating in Terang in the early 1900s. 123

Some of the stores and tradespeople manufactured their own goods on a small scale. At Skipton in the 1850s, for example there was a bootmaker, Ephraim House, and a saddler named Sanders. 124 The Terang retail store, Montgomery and Bradshaw, ran a busy industrial enterprise in its back rooms. In the 1910s, the firm was operating its own quarry and a 'workroom' that manufactured clothing and other items; the number of staff at this time exceeded fifty. 125 There was a glove factory in Terang and a Pelaco shirt factory that operated until the 1960s.

In a government survey of the region in the 1950s, a large number of factories were noted in this region. Some industrial operations, including a clothing factory at Camperdown, had been established by the Decentralisation Board in the 1940s. 126

9.5 Limeburning

There are rich lime deposits in coastal Victoria. In the study area, lime was found at the banks of the Curdie's River, and at Timboon and Jancourt. Early settlers used lime for personal and commercial uses, mostly in building - for example, in the manufacture of mortar and render used in masonry. Lime was also an important component of fertilizer, and was used in the commercial production of cement and other products; and for street works. 127

Alfred Meek reported in the 1860s that limestone abounded around Port Campbell. 128 The Jancourt Lime Kilns were operating by 1870. 129 In 1883, one the factors put forward in proposing that the Geelong railway be extended to Camperdown was the 'inexhaustible supply of lime' in the district. 130 In 1892, the huge natural stores of lime and timber were chief factors in having a branch line extended to Timboon and Curdie's River. Along this former railway line, which is now a rail trail, the remains of some of the lime kilns can be seen. 131

To render the lime useable, the quarried stone was burnt to produce calcium oxide (or quick lime), which was then bagged up to transport to building sites for slaking to make mortar, render and limewash. 132 The broken-up natural limestone was burnt for several days in large wood-burning kilns. The first commercial limekiln opened at Curdie's River in 1890. 133 By the early 1900s, several limeworks were operating at the banks of the Curdie's River, including one at Boggy Creek. The traditional kilns

¹²³ Lafferty, Camperdown, 1954, no page numbers; Victorian Municipal Directory 1911, p. 456.

¹²⁴ Notman, *Out of the Past*, 1978 (first published 1939), pp. 12–13.

¹²⁵ Montgomery and Bradshaw: Jubilee Souvenir: 1863–1913.

¹²⁶ Central Planning Authority, Corangamite Region: Resources survey, Government Printer, Melbourne, 1957,

¹²⁷ See Jane Harrington, An Archaeological and Historical view of Limeburning in Victoria (Heritage Victoria, 2000), pp. 51–53; Jane Lennon, *Our Inheritance*, 1992, pp. 37–38.

¹²⁸ J.M. Meek, 1869, p. 19.

¹²⁹ Cobden & District Historical Society, *Cobden: A time line*, 1994, p. 7.

¹³⁰ Harrington, 2000, p. 52.

http://www.gatewaybbs.com.au/Cobden/Scenery.htm; accessed 17 June 2009.

¹³² A.E.T., 'Rocks of the Western District', *The Link*, 1921, p. 23.

¹³³ Harrington, 2000, p. 51.

at Curdie's River were circular, lined with bricks and shaped like an inverted funnel with a hole at the bottom. 134

The name 'Limestone Creek', near the Curdies River, recalls the limeburning industry in this vicinity. ¹³⁵ The Curdies River Lime Company commenced in 1910 at the Curdies railway siding. ¹³⁶ In the 1920s there were three commercial lime kilns in operation, and the industry provided employment to most people in the district. ¹³⁷ There was an aerial cable or flying fox installed in the 1920s to ferry material up the hill. ¹³⁸ In 1924 an increased population justified the building of a new state school. ¹³⁹ In 1936, there were two companies in operation at Curdies Siding – Bulldog and White Star. ¹⁴⁰ A large limeworks commenced at Timboon, near the Timboon railway station, around 1910. ¹⁴¹

The ruins of the railway siding at Curdies, where large lime kilns operated, are still evident. At nearby Timboon, the remnants of two kilns were extant in 1996 as well as a former limestone quarry.¹⁴²

Examples

Former lime kiln, Powers reserve, Timboon Kiln sites, former Curdies Siding, Curdies

9.6 Rabbit-preserving

Rabbits were a major destructive pest that caused untold damage to farms and grazing properties in the Western District through the 1870s and 1880s. The passage of the *Rabbit Act* of 1880 stipulated that landowners must eradicate rabbits from their own land; as a result, rabbiting became a popular occupation, both for local settlers and itinerant workers.

One of the areas worst affected by rabbits was centered around the Stony Rises where the animals were able to breed unchecked. With growing piles of rabbit carcasses going to waste and exposed to air, the enterprising Mr Farrington of the Western Meat–preserving company in Colac established rabbit-preserving factories at Colac in 1871 and at Camperdown by the early 1880s. The Camperdown factory, located in Cressy Street, was flourishing by the 1890s. A third factory was opened in competition at Pomborneit by the Stonyford Pastoral and Preserving Company on 12,000 acres in a rabbit-infested area and engaged in fruit growing, pig raising, and poultry farming as well as rabbit canning. It also established a village

Noel Learmonth, *Four Towns and a Survey*, Hawthorn Press, Melbourne, 1970, taken from Doyle and Context Pty Ltd, 'Moyne Shire Heritage Study, Stage 2', 2006.

¹³⁴ The Link, 1921, p. 15.

¹³⁶ The Link, 1920s.

¹³⁷ Mr. S. Wicking, 'Curdies Lime Kilns', *The Link*, vol. 1, no. 1, Sept 1921, p. 18.

¹³⁸ See Alf Poole, Living with Lime: A history of Curdies River, 1991.

¹³⁹ 'Opening of a New State School at Curdie's River', *The Link*, 1924, p. 8; Blake (ed.), *Vision and Realisation*, 1973, vol. 2.

¹⁴⁰ Harrington, 2000, p. 52.

¹⁴¹ Harrington, 2000, p. 51.

¹⁴² LCC, South-west Victoria, 1996, p. 61; for pictures of the limestone quarry see SLV Pictoria.

¹⁴³ Cannon (ed.), *Vagabond Country*, 1981, pp. 81–82.

¹⁴⁴ Lafferty, Camperdown, 1954; McAlpine, Shire of Hampden, 1963, p. 86.

for its people'.¹⁴⁵ The factory was set up in the woolshed of the Stony Rises Homestead. The trappers who provided the rabbit carcasses worked around 100 traps each, setting them at night with bait. They were described as 'a queer and nondescript class, mostly old men, who bear about their persons traces of much hard work and exposure'.¹⁴⁶ The preserved rabbits were tinned and exported to Britain. In c.1946-50 rabbit-buyers had various depots where large quantities of rabbits were sent to Melbourne for resale (pared and gutted).¹⁴⁷

Examples

Former rabbit-preserving factory, Pomborneit Site of rabbit factory, in Cressy Street, Camperdown

9.7 Dairy factories

The new opportunity to take up a small holding in the 1870s and 1880s, along with the subdivision of the larger properties, coincided with emerging developments in the dairy industry in Victoria—namely, increased mechanization, in particular the invention of the separator and refrigeration, plus new research into herd management and improvement, and better understandings of hygiene and bacteriology. Dairying in the district quickly became profitable with high quality milk products being produced on a domestic scale. With the availability of refrigeration, farmers were able to sell their butter and cheese to Melbourne and export goods to more distant ports. A private butter factory, named Keilamboli, was established at Terang in 1885. Only cream was prepared here, which was transported to Melbourne for conversion into butter. Nine farmers supplied 300 tonnes of milk per day.¹⁴⁸

Concerned with a desire to increase productivity, to improve the collective quality of their products, and to establish a benchmark of quality in a district, local farmers in various localities banded together to establish co-operative butter factories. Here, the latest machinery and equipment could be installed, but with a large number of milk providers involved there were significant economies-of-scale. The first such co-operative factory was the Pioneer Butter Factory, established a Cobden in 1888. This was based on a system of co-operative ownership and co-operative returns, with local farmers owning a share of the business. Creameries for the Cobden factory were set up at local collection points. The Cobden factory was quickly followed by similar co-operative factories in other centres, including Camperdown (1891), Derrinallum, Pomborneit and Tandarook.

Private factories were also established. The Manifolds established the Camperdown butter factory about the time they subdivided some blocks for tenant farmers. A private butter factory also opened at South Purrumbete in 1895.

There were significant subdivisions of several large estates in the 1890s, including Keilambete and Glenormiston. Following the subdivision of the Glenormiston estate,

¹⁴⁵ K.T.M. Farrer, A Settlement Amply Supplied, 1980, pp. 115-17.

¹⁴⁶Andrew Garran (ed.), *Australia: The first hundred years*, 1979 (facsimile of the *Picturesque Atlas of Australasia*, 1888), p. 259.

¹⁴⁷ Alma McDonald, pers com, September 2009.

¹⁴⁸ Innes Cameron, A Glenormiston Company: Pioneering a new industry in Australia, 1982, p. 1.

the Glenormiston Butter Factory opened in the property's former woolshed in 1895.¹⁴⁹

When the Timboon district was opened up from the 1890s, dairy farms were quickly established. A butter factory was opened at Timboon. The Haldane family of Timboon originally had a cheese factory there. New areas were also opened up in the Heytesbury Forest in the 1920s and developed into dairy farms. Further farms were created with the Bailey Settlement in the 1930s.

Other milk products became more popular in the 1920s, especially milk powder. ¹⁵⁰ In 1911 the Trufood company established a powdered skim milk factory at Glenormiston. ¹⁵¹

In most cases, the butter or other milk-derived products would be sent to Melbourne via the railway. In the case of Port Campbell, however, which was only accessible by poor roads, it proved easier and possibly quicker to send the cheese from the Port Campbell cheese factory by steamer to Melbourne in the 1920s. 152

Observing these thriving dairy communities in the 1930s, Alice Goldstraw wrote: 'Clover, rye-grass everywhere. The trumpeting of a dairy cow, bereft of her new calf, one of a herd of a hundred or so, quite a common-place number; the thud-thud of an engine working milking machines and a separator. And these make of the people here a thriving community.'¹⁵³

Examples

Derrinallum Butter Factory Cobden Butter Factory

¹⁴⁹ Cameron, A Glenormiston Company, 1982, p. 2.

¹⁵⁰ The Link, 1924, p. 50.

¹⁵¹ http://www.progressterang.org.au/history.htm] see *The Link* for article, 1920s.

¹⁵² The Link, 1920s.

¹⁵³ Goldstraw, The Border of the Heytesbury, 1937, p. 22.

10 Developing service industries

... it is especially gratifying to Mr Montgomery, in looking back over his fifty years' business connection with Terang, to find that the index to his firm's ledger discloses today many names which are the same as those of persons with whom he did business when he first came to the town.

Montgomery and Bradshaw Terang: Jubilee souvenir 1863-1913, 1913, p. 17.

10.1 Hotels

Travelling through the district in 1846, John Dunmore Lang stopped at a 'respectable Bush Inn' by Lake Colongulac, near present-day Camperdown. There was also a hotel at Mt Emu Bridge (Darlington) in the 1840s, where a great deal of traffic passed. Both Darlington and Skipton were crossing places with a bridge and hotel.

An unwritten law of hospitality in the early settlement period was that anyone who turned up at a homestead would be given a meal and lodging for the night. This tradition continued with the swagman or sundowners who frequented this district. Margaret Kiddle has suggested a link between these early swagmen who traipsed through the Western District in search of work and lodgings, with the Scottish gaberlunzies for whom it was customary to provide a meal and a bed. Unlike the usual handful of hotels in other country towns in the 1850s, Camperdown had only one, and this was located outside the township proper. James Bonwick, who visited in 1857, commented: I was quite surprised to find that a population of 400 people could do with only one public house'. Of course, as the towns developed many more hotels were constructed. At one stage Noorat alone sported two hotels for its small population.

10.2 Commercial and retail development

Most of the towns had modest commercial development before the arrival of the railway in the 1880s. Typical shops included a general store, saddler, bootmaker, and blacksmith. From the late 1880s, substantial commercial development occurred in the larger centres of Camperdown and Terang. Commercial activity also developed in Cobden and Skipton, and Lismore and Derrinallum had a modest number of commercial premises. Timboon developed a small shopping centre in the early 1900s. In most of the other smaller towns, including Darlington, there was insufficient population and demand for large retail centres. Most of the smaller towns had a mixed business grocer or later, a milk bar, a post office agent, and possibly a motor repair shop.

¹⁵⁴ McLaren, John Dunmore Lang: Visit to Geelong in 1846, 1987, p. 35.

¹⁵⁵ see Kiddle, 'The Friendly Wilderness', in *Men of Yesterday* (1967).

¹⁵⁶ See Garnet Walch, *Victoria in 1880*, 1881, p. 73.

¹⁵⁷ Kiddle, 'Scottish Lowland Farmers', 1954, p. 11.

¹⁵⁸ James Bonwick, Western Victoria, 1970 (1858), p. 29.

Terang enjoyed something of a heyday in the early twentieth century, when the town and region benefited as a result of the rapid growth in the dairy industry. Several important new commercial premises were built. The finest of these was the elegant Johnstone Court (1925), designed by W.P. Knights, with its distinctive diamond-pattern window mullions. Montgomery and Bradshaw of Terang (also of Mortlake and Noorat), employed over 50 people in 1913, and had a busy delivery schedule. The town experienced devastating fires in 1916 and 1917, which destroyed many of the buildings on the northern side of High Street. The consequence was the almost total reconstruction of this side of the street in architectural styles from that period. These buildings demonstrate the continued prosperity and confidence of the town and district in the first half of the twentieth century.

By the 1940s, storekeepers in Camberdown were complaining that they had lost business to the larger shopping centres at Geelong and Ballarat and even Melbourne, which were becoming more attractive to country people.¹⁶¹

10.3 Banks

Many small towns had established a government savings bank (the precursor to the State Savings Bank) by the 1860s, including Camperdown, Terang and Skipton. Commercial banking operations were also established to benefit from the profitable pastoral industry. By the latter part of the nineteenth century, banking services were well supplied in the larger towns of Camperdown and Terang. Smaller towns such as Cobden and Skipton also had branch banks from the late nineteenth century.

10.4 Professional services

Professional services such as stock and station agents, lawyers and accountants, were established in the towns of Camperdown and Terang, and later in Cobden and other places. The prosperity of the Western District in the late nineteenth century and early decades of the twentieth century benefitted these businesses. In particular, the subdivision and sale of the large properties was a source of business for them, as they acted as agents for the sale and transfer of lands. It was these professional classes along with prominent merchants who were responsible for the construction of the grander houses in the towns. For example, in Terang the Bradshaw family built a large house on top of what is still known as Bradshaw's Hill at the western end of the town

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¹⁵⁹ See 'Terang – Classified Precincts', *Trust News*, October 1988, p. 27.

¹⁶⁰ Montgomery and Bradshaw: jubilee souvenir, 1863–1913, 1913.

¹⁶¹ McIntyre and McIntyre, Country Towns, 1944, p. 88.

11 Closer settlement

A magic wand has been waved over western Heytesbury. Slowly and painfully the early settlers tolled, slowly the sunlight sweetened the sour earth, and gave reward for hard labour and long waiting.

Alice Goldstraw, The Border of the Heytesbury, 1937.

11.1 Selection Acts

The idea that the colonial lands should be used productively for the benefit of a greater number of British immigrants rather than languish under the control of a handful gained support in the 1840s. Squatter William Learmonth of Port Fairy declared 'he would willingly surrender the half of his run to promote the settlement of a numerous and industrious free immigrant population from the mother country, on these fertile plains.'162 The Presbyterian minister J.D. Lang agreed, arguing that: 'the waste lands of the colonies are the common property of the nation, and that the best interests both of the mother-country and of the colonies can only promoted by their speedy occupation and settlement by an industrious population.'163

Following the goldrushes in Victoria, the cries from liberal democrats to 'unlock the lands' came ever louder. Public opinion was divided over the rights of small farmers to the Crown leaseholds that were occupied by the pastoralists. The push for new land legislation stemmed from the growing popularity of the agrarian or yeoman ideal, which had its origins in pre-industrial Britain and which promoted the settlement of the man on the land. Some large landholders held considerable suspicion of the merits of smallholders' free 'selection' of Crown leaseholds, and this was particularly apparent in the study area where some of the largest and wealthiest pastoral holdings in Victoria were located.

The Victorian Selection Acts of the 1860s were intended to unlock the squatters' hold on the land. While large areas were thrown open to free selection elsewhere in Victoria, the first of these land bills (1860) failed to make virtually any new land available in the study area.

Through the 'dummying' loophole in the legislation the squatters managed to eyepick the best blocks for themselves and so retain (through purchasing) much of the land that they had previously only occupied through a pastoral leasehold. Squatters such as Niel Black openly employed agents to assist them in acquiring the selections and to subsequently fulfill the requirements of selection, which included occupation of the block, clearing, and weed control. Family members also selected on the squatter's behalf. In 1861, the name of Jane B. Mack appears on three blocks as the purchasee for Joseph G. Mack (probably her father or husband) of Berry Bank estate. 164

Only a relatively small part of the enormous pastoral holdings in the study area were broken up with the land selection acts of the 1860s. While the selection acts applied to large areas of Crown land in the area that was made available for sale in the early

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¹⁶² McLaren, John Dunmore Lang, 1987, p. 35.

¹⁶³ McLaren, John Dunmore Lang, 1987, p. 35.

¹⁶⁴ See, for example, the Poliah North parish plan, held SLV.

1860s, the blocks for sale were shrewdly acquired by some of the local squatters (who occupied their land through pastoral leasehold) through stealthy means, predominantly through the use of 'dummy selectors' and later, by assiduous local land agents who were skilled at evading the laws of selection.

The land selection acts were a striking failure in the Western District, so much so that they motivated many of the reforms to later land selection legislation in 1865 and 1869. In 1860 and 1862, the squatters at Camperdown, including Niel Black and others, literally signed for their own land, aided by the incompetence or complicity of the local land agent. Once dummy selectors had legal title to the land, they simply transferred it to the squatter concerned, as arranged. In this way the Western District squatters were better off by the mid 1860s than they had been the 1850s—now holding freehold title to an even larger area of land, which they had purchased relatively cheaply.

The later selection acts of 1865 (the Grant Act) and 1869 (the amended Grant Act) were drafted by land reformer James McPherson Grant, who was intent on curtailing the dishonest practices of some of the squatters. While these later bills were much more watertight—notably, they required survey before purchase and a three-year period before title could be obtained—much of the Western District was by that stage already in private hands, and largely they were the hands of the squatters.

The squatters' ability to evade the selection acts contributed to their increased wealth by the early 1870s. Many made significant capital improvements to their estates at this time, including new homesteads and other station buildings, and stone fencing. While many were successful in purchasing large parts of their leasehold land, there were some squatters who did not manage to secure their land. Daniel Curdie suffered worse than most in the buying 'spree' of 1865.¹⁶⁶

The selection acts brought significant changes to parts of the study area. Areas such as Pomborneit and Cobden were settled heavily, which brought a changed landscape and more intensive farming, especially dairy farming. At Pomborneit, land selection also meant a greater concentration of dry-stone walls than there had been previously, as one of the stipulations of the selection acts was that land was required to be fenced. Selection also meant greater numbers of children and led to the building of additional rural schools.

11.2 Closer Settlement Act 1890s

The Closer Settlement Act was passed by the Victorian parliament in 1898 to encourage the breaking up of the large pastoral estates and to develop this land for small-scale farming. Thomas Cherry, in his handbook titled *Victorian Agriculture* in 1913, used the term 'Closer Settlement Country' to describe those parts of Victoria that received 25–40 inches of rain per year. Much of that country is in Western District, and hence this is where many of the closer settlement schemes took place. Initially there was some unease amongst locals towards closer settlement, and fears that it would attract the 'wrong' kind of settler. This generally dissolved

¹⁶⁷ Chapman, *Historic Homes of Western Victoria*, 1965.

Corangamite Heritage Study Stage One Thematic Environmental History prepared by Dr Helen Doyle in conjunction with Heritage Matters Pty Ltd

¹⁶⁵ See J.M. Powell, *The Public Lands of Australia Felix*, 1970, p. 107, etc ...; Sturmfels, 'What Kiddle Forgot', thesis, 1996.

¹⁶⁶ Powell, 1970, p. 137.

¹⁶⁸ Thomas Cherry, *Victorian Agriculture*, this edition 1916, p. 73.

once the popular local parliamentarian Donald Mackinnon showed his strong public support for this scheme in 1917 and alleviated public fears. 169

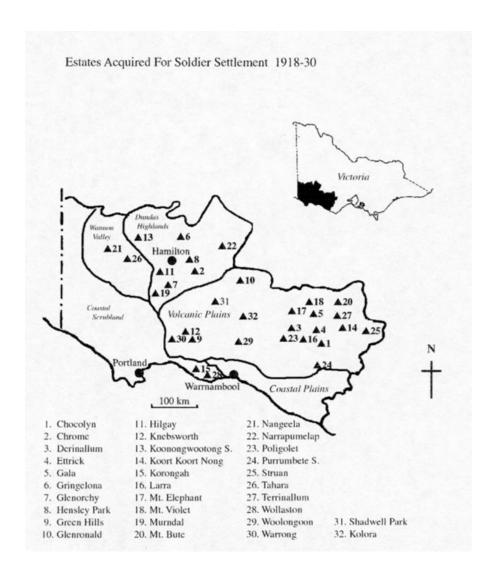
Some of the first closer settlement schemes involved the break-up of Noorat, Glenormiston, and Keilambete (1897). These opened the way for dairy farming.

11.3 Soldier settlement

In 1917, closer settlement schemes were developed for the specific purpose of settling returned soldiers on the land. While soldier settlement was generally considered to be a failure across much of Victoria, there were significant successes in the Western District where the soil was more fertile, pastures were richer, and there was a good annual rainfall. Large sections of many estates that were acquired by the Closer Settlement Board after World War I included Mt Elephant station and Ettrick near Derrinallum and Mount Bute between Skipton and Lismore.

¹⁶⁹ Hicks, 'Terang', c.1980, p. 79.

¹⁷⁰ See Monica Keneley, JAS, 1999.



Soldier settlement map [taken from Keneley, Soldier Settlement in the Western District, electronic journal]

The Closer Settlement Board (CSB) organized further soldier settlement in the study area following World War II. The large pastoral estates broken up at this time included many of the oldest and largest properties in the study area: Derrinallum, Jellalabad, Marida Yallock, Wiridjil, Gnarpurt, Gala, and West Cloven Hills.¹⁷¹ A large number of soldier settlement blocks were taken up in the area between Camperdown and Derrinallum, and a large stores depot was built at Darlington to serve the large number of applicants settling in the Darlington–Dundonnell–Derrinallum area.

The houses built by the CSB were an improvement on those built for ex-soldiers after the first war.

Examples

Closer Settlement Board House (Special Type 4), Derrinallum

¹⁷¹ Smallwood, *Hard to Go Bung*, 1992, pp. 242–47.

11.4 Forest settlements (Heytesbury I and II, Bailey settlement)

In the 1920s the Bailey Settlement commenced in the uncleared Heytesbury Forest. The scheme was proposed by the Minister for Lands, H. Bailey who wanted to be able to provide the unemployed with a means of obtaining their own farming land. The scheme was based on the selectors having to clear the dense forest and lowinterest loans were provided for the purchase of the land. The land was relatively cheap because it was considered 'worthless'. 172 Every three months, farmers would be entitled to enter 'the draw', hoping to be a successful recipient from the pool of government funding available for improvements that farmers had made. 173

A new Heytesbury Settlement was launched after World War II. In 1954 the Soldier Settlement Commission gave its authority to develop a further 70,000 acres of forest land which formed a triangle between Cobden, Princetown and the foothills of the Otways. The Rural Finance and Settlement Commission (a body formed by amalgamating the Rural Finance commission and the earlier Soldier Settlement Commission) cleared the land with modern machinery and developed it for dairy farms. It built approach roads and built houses, farm buildings, dams and fences. 174 Settlers had to work the place for six years before being able to sell. The township of Simpson, formed out of the administration centre used by the Rural Finance and Settlement Commission, was created as a result of the development. Settlement was stopped in 1970 because of over-production in the dairying industry and at that time there were 352 blocks in use.

¹⁷² Rosamund Duruz, *The Story of the Port Campbell District*, Collett & Bain, Warrnambool, 1971, p. 10.

¹⁷³ Duruz, *Port Campbell*, 1971, p. 10.

¹⁷⁴ Duruz, *Port Campbell*, 1971, p. 11.

12 Building Towns

I can hardly call it a village, but there is a word in Scotland which will, I think, exactly meet it — clachan. The clachan of Port Campbell consists, on the eastern side of the street, of the boarding house where we lodged, [and] a store.

'J.S.', A Trip to Port Campbell, Warrnambool Independent, 12 February 1884.¹⁷⁵

12.1 Survey and layout of towns

The major townships in the study area include Camperdown, surveyed in 1853 (known as Timboon until 1854); Terang, surveyed in 1855; Cobden, surveyed in 1861 (and again in 1866); and Skipton, surveyed in 1852. Smaller towns include Foxhow, Curdies, Noorat, Port Campbell, Darlington, Derrinallum, Lismore, Timboon, Simpson, and Pomborneit.

Camperdown emerged because it was the centre of an important pastoral area. It was on the main route through the Stony Rises to Warrnambool and Belfast (Port Fairy). A township had been originally laid out further north but this was abandoned because it was on low-lying land. Terang, part of the Glenormiston run, was selected as a township site because it was close to Thomson's pastoral run, Keilambete, and because of its advantageous siting on the Terang Lake. Cobden, which served the rich farming area south of Camperdown, was also settled close to a picturesque lake. Assistant Government Surveyor Thomas William Cooper undertook the first official survey of the township of Cobden in 1861 and the growing township was again surveyed in 1866, The town was originally known as 'Lovely Banks' but the name was changed to Cobden in 1865. The growth of the town was initially stimulated by the pastoral and forestry industries, and the prosperity of the dairying industry from the late 1800s ensured the town's growth well into the twentieth century.

In 1855 Terang was surveyed and the first sale of township allotments took place in the same year. The slow growth of the town is illustrated by the fact that in 1857 there were four houses in Terang and 25 years later there were still only 600 people residing in the town area. The town grew slowly until the subdivision of the large pastoral estates. Glenormiston was broken up in 1889 with Keilambete and Mt Noorat following soon after. This closer settlement was the inspiration for the rapid growth of the town.

Noorat derives its name from Mount Noorat, a dormant volcano named by explorer Major Mitchell after a local Indigenous elder, Ngoora. Europeans first settled the Noorat area in early 1839 when MacKillop and Smith established a run called Strathdownie, which was renamed Glenormiston by Niel Black, when his company

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¹⁷⁵ Quote is taken from Elizabeth O'Callaghan (ed.), *Trips and Treks*, Warrnambool and District Historical Society, 2004, p. 17.

purchased the property in 1840 The settlement history of Noorat is closely linked with the Black family and the establishment of the Glenormiston pastoral run. Noorat ostensibly grew as a service centre for the Black family estates and many of the early residents of the district either emigrated with Niel Black or worked at Glenormiston. It would appear that the first subdivision of town allotments in Noorat was undertaken by the Government in 1870. This, in part, provided a reserve for a school in 1871 and the remaining allotments ran to the north of the school. John Thomson had taken up the Keilambete run of 26,000 acres with his brother James in 1840. Thomson had died in 1890 and in 1897 a major subdivision sale of the estate occurred. As part of that sale a significant number of town blocks on the south-east corner of McKinnon's Bridge Road and the Terang-Mortlake Road were created. Further allotments were subdivided off the Dalvui estate (itself subdivided from Glenormiston) in 1913.

The township of Cobden was again surveyed in 1866, this time by contract surveyor Louis W D'Elboux of Camperdown. The town was originally known as 'Lovely Banks' but the name was changed to Cobden in 1865 in honour of politician Richard Cobden, a free-trade advocate. Later into the 1800s dairying developed as one of the more successful local industries in the district and stimulated further growth and prosperity in Cobden. In 1888 the Cobden Pioneer Cheese and Butter factory Cooperative Pty Ltd opened, the first of its type in Victoria. By the turn of the century, creameries in association with the Cobden factory had been established at Dixie, Port Campbell, Scott's Creek, South Purrumbete and Bostock's Creek, all small settlements that like many in the Shire were a direct product of this closer settlement and the growth of the dairy industry.

Louis D'Elboux surveyed an area of Derrinallum in 1866 after an application by Duncan Stewart Walker to build a rural store. The following year Mr Thornley surveyed the area of the current town bordered by Robertson Road, Wilson, Ligar and Scott Streets.and in October of 1867, the first land sale of Derrinallum town blocks was held at Camperdown. In 1867 the village of Tooliorook was proclaimed, but in 1872 the inhabitants of the township applied to have the name of the township changed. They suggested three possible new names: Derrinallum or Tarrinallum; Dunwall; and Dunstone and in 1873 the name of the township was changed to Derrinallum.

Lismore was originally known as Brown's Water Holes because it was located near watering holes on the Gala Estate originally leased by John Brown. The Aborigines called the area Bongerimennin. In 1853 the township was renamed Lismore, possibly after a town in County Waterford, Ireland. The township area and the suburban allotments were first surveyed by Robert D. Scott in 1852 and the plan of the township was laid before the Executive Council and approved on 4 March 1853. This early plan included the wide central High Street, which later included a median strip. On 28 September 1853 the first sale of town allotments was held at in Geelong. The township was slow to develop and the White Swan Hotel, situated at the foot of the hill just over the bridge, was Lismore's first and for many years its only

building. It was pulled down in 1911 when a new hotel was constructed on another site. The Lismore town centre was scattered along High Street and Gray Street. Lismore went through a growth period between the late 1890s up until about 1915 due to closer settlement and the coming of the railway in 1913, but it never developed into a major district centre or township.

Pastoral settlement in Skipton dates from 1839 when three Scotsmen, Alexander Anderson, William Wright and James Montgomery settled on land by the Emu Creek in what is now the township of Skipton, Victoria. They called their run Bamgamie, and built a hut on high ground at a place where it was possible to ford the creek. This spot is now marked with a cairn in Stewart Park. Over time Bamgamie was divided, firstly into Baangal and Langi Willi, later subdivided again into Banongill, Borriyalloak, Mt Widderin and Mooramong.

Skipton township was first surveyed in 1852 by Thomas Watson, who set out twenty half-acre lots to the section. A notice appeared in the Government Gazette on 29 July of that year: 'A site has been fixed for a village....Skipton at Wright and Montgomery's Station on the Emu Creek'. This location for a village was most likely selected due to its proximity to Emu Creek as well as the presence of an easy crossing of the Creek. It was also the location where tracks from Melbourne and Geelong met and led on to Hamilton or Portland. At this stage a practicable route to Portland south of Lake Colac and through the Stony Rises had not been found and a number of years passed before this was possible.

The first land sale resulting from the 1852 survey was held in Geelong on 14 April 1852

The earliest crossings of the Mount Emu Creek were at a stone ford a short distance to the north of the present bridge, which replaced the earlier timber trestle bridge from the 1860s. A bluestone bridge was constructed in 1877 and stood until its demolition and replacement in 2007. In 1877 the creek formed the boundary between the Shire of Ripon and the Shire of Hampden, and much of Skipton's early development was on the Ripon side of the Creek. A century later in 1977, the Shire of Hampden annexed the portion of Ripon Shire within the town boundaries.

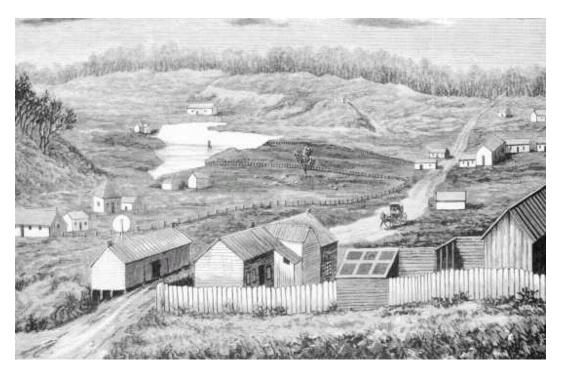
Skipton was very appropriately named after the English town of the same name - Skipton meaning sheep town. Skipton was the central point for the major sheep-stations of the district and was for at least a generation, the main centre of the pure wool industry and important in the improvement of merino sheep breeding. It was as a result of this key location within the sheep district that Skipton steadily developed as a township during the 1850s and 1860s.

Darlington, situated on the Mount Emu Creek, was an important stopping place for the large numbers of travelers between Portland / Belfast and Geelong. In 1865 it had a population of 50 people.¹⁷⁶ Likewise, Skipton was also a crossing place over the Mt Emu Creek and a stop-over between the coastal ports and the diggings.

¹⁷⁶ Whitworth (ed.), Bailliere's Victorian Gazetteer for 1865, 1865, p. 109.

Derrinallum sprang up to serve the pastoral district that surrounded it. Timboon developed to serve the interests of new settlers in the forested area south of Camperdown. Port Campbell was settled as a fishing and port town. It was relatively isolated until the roads were improved. There was a coach road along the coast from Peterborough. But access to Cape Otway was restricted on account of the topography and dense vegetation, and a road through the forest from the north was not completed until the early twentieth century. Noorat served Niel Black's vast pastoral estate, which in its heyday had employed a large number of people. Lismore, originally known as Brown's Water Holes, was selected as a township after John Brown had settled in the area in the 1840s.

Unlike Darlington and Skipton, Camperdown did not evolve as a stopping place as such but was designed as a township, as a service centre to the local pastoral estates, which surrounded the township. The town grids of Darlington and Skipton were obstructed by the meanderings of the Mount Emu Creek. The survey of Skipton, like that of Portland further west, was laid out with no regard for the odd pastoral outbuildings already standing. 177 Camperdown was laid out in a more regular grid, while Terang was laid out around the lake.



The 'clachan' of Port Campbell, 1884 [SLV]

12.2 Street trees

As early as 1849 in Geelong came the call for the planting of 'British trees in avenues and promenades'. 178 The planting of trees in public places merely for aesthetic reasons was considered to encourage cultivated tastes. But planting

¹⁷⁷ Notman, *Out of the Past*, 1978 (first published 1939), pp. 4–5.

¹⁷⁸ Australia Felix Magazine, vol, 1, June 1849, pp. 57–63.

avenues of trees in new towns was practical as well as visually desirable as a way of better marking the typically rough unmade roads and providing a leafy barrier against road dust.

One of the earliest street tree plantings in Victoria is believed to be the avenue of *Eucalyptus globulus* (Blue Gum) planted in the main road of dusty Ballarat in 1859. Other early street tree plantings in western Victoria are also recorded at Port Fairy (1868, 1871) and Warrnambool (1870s). In 1872 (1876?) school children planted an avenue of Elms in Camperdown's main street.¹⁷⁹ Thirteen years later, the trees had evidently grown sufficiently for the Vagabond to note the 'magnificent avenue of Elms'.¹⁸⁰ Other avenues were planted in Finlay Street and other roads. It has been alleged that Guilfoyle was involved in designing some of the elm avenues in Camperdown, but this is unsubstantiated.¹⁸¹ Other visitors routinely commented on the street trees of Camperdown as providing 'grand avenues'.¹⁸²

Terang followed suit in planting the median strip in High Street with oaks (an avenue that runs well out along the Warrnambool Road) and later in Thomson Street (London Planes and Cottonwoods) and Lyons Street (Ash) as the residential areas of the town developed. The High Street avenue was planted by at least 1885, when the Vagabond visited and noted the 'avenue of trees in the main street'. Other townships to plant significant roadside plantings include Derrinallum, where a tree reserve was gazetted in the median strip of the main road in the 1920s. At Port Campbell, Araucaria heterophylla (Norfolk Island Pines) were planted along the foreshore by Kitty Lord in 1911. Many other significant trees survive at in public parks and gardens and in street tree plantings.

The Country Women's Association was responsible for planting two avenues of trees in the main street of Lismore in 1937 and 1938.¹⁸⁶

12.3 Memorials

The grand avenues of the Shire were also the home of many memorials. The most impressive of these is Camperdown and the grandest memorial of all is the clock tower in Finlay Avenue. At Terang the war memorial sits outside the avenue, but is complemented by the adjacent Agnes Black Gates, which act as an entry to the avenue. Terang also boasts a memorial Bandstand originally built to commemorate bandsmen who served in World War I.

12.4 Water troughs

In the era before motor transport, watering places for horses were critical. The Annis & George Bills concrete water troughs were installed at many country towns across

¹⁷⁹ Dowdy, Camperdown, 1985.

¹⁸⁰ Argus, 7 March 1885, reprinted in Cannon (ed.), Vagabond Country, pp. 87, 92.

¹⁸¹ See, for example, Wikipedia, 'Camperdown'.

¹⁸² Lorck, Victoria Illustrated, 1909, p. 25.

¹⁸³ Argus, 7 March 1885, reprinted in Cannon (ed.), Vagabond Country, pp. 87, 92.

¹⁸⁴ Derrinallum township plan, SLV.

¹⁸⁵ See photograph of the Port Campbell foreshore dated c.1950, held in SLV collection: Accession No. H91.330/2780; Marion Manifold, pers. com., August 2009.

¹⁸⁶ Oman et al., Brown's Water Holes, 1980, p. 49.

Victoria, including a surviving examples at Terang and Cobden. There is also a surviving horse trough at Port Campbell and a remnant trough from Titanga estate at Lismore.

12.5 Botanic Gardens

The Camperdown Botanic Gardens was reserved in 1869 and planned in the 1870s. In 1878 an elegant bandstand was erected, a gardener's cottage was built in 1880, and in 1883 the park was ornamented with a prized statue of Robbie Burns (created in the 1820s). The statue's donor, W.A. Taylor (husband of local ethnographer Isabella Dawson), was a keen horticulturalist with his own impressive garden at Renny Hill, and was secretary of the Hampden and Heytesbury Horticultural Society. Society. William Guilfoyle prepared a plan for the gardens in the late 1880s.

The Camperdown Botanic Gardens were highly praised in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century for their fine views, layout, and picturesque siting at the 'Basin Banks'—between the twin lakes Bullenmerri and Gnotuk. The gardens, which boasted a miniature pinetum, were part of a larger public park that incorporated 300 acres. The gardens were described in the late 1880s as 'one of the prettiest in the colony' and 'the pride and glory of Camperdown'. The crowning glory of the gardens was the elaborate octagonal rotunda with spiral stairway and look-out tower, designed by Alexander Hamilton (1878), which provided sweeping views of the lakes and volcanic plains. The gardens were used for important civic functions and enjoyed for public recreation. By the mid-twentieth century, the gardens were suffering from neglect, and by the 1970s the site's visual amenity had been compromised by the addition of a caravan park. There was renewed interest in the 1980s for the preservation of the gardens.

A public park known as 'Jubilee Park' was created at Mt Leura in 1897, after the Hampden Shire Council acquired 50 acres of land at the summit. 193 Previously, the land had been owned by the Manifolds.

While a botanic gardens does not appear to have been developed at Terang, an early township plan shows a site designated as a 'Botanical Gardens' on the banks of Lake Terang, on either side of the National School. This reserve had been set aside by the town surveyor Ainsworth in 1855. 194 It was managed by the Terang Public Park Trust in the early 1900s, 195 and later (most likely at the time of the centenary of settlement in 1939) it acquired the name Century Park. Although the

¹⁸⁷ See Gibson, Tim. "Donated by Annis & George Bills – Australia": Their concrete horse trough legacy', *Gippsland Heritage Journal*, no. 20, September 1996, pp. 44–47: Alma McDonald, pers. com., August 2009.

pp. 44–47; Alma McDonald, pers. com., August 2009.

188 George Jones, *Growing Together: A gardening history of Geelong – extending to Colac and Camperdown*, Belmont, 1984, p. 262.

¹⁸⁹ Cannon, *Vagabond Country*, p. 88; Hattam, c.1977-78; Richard Aitken, 'Camperdown Rotunda: Proposal for Reconstruction', 1985, p. 3.

¹⁹⁰ Alexander Sutherland, *Victoria and Its Metropolis*, Melbourne, 1888, vol. 2, p. 75.

¹⁹¹ Aitken, 'Camperdown Rotunda', 1985, pp. 2–3.

¹⁹² Hattam, c.1977-78, vol. 3, p. 179.

¹⁹³ McAlpine, *Shire of Hampden*, 1963, pp. 14–15.

¹⁹⁴ J.H. Linehan, *The School by the Lake 1858–1983*, c.1983, p. 6; the town plan showing the site is reproduced in Linehan, c.1983, p. 7; Central Planning Authority, *Resources Survey: Corangamite region*, 1957, p. 22. ¹⁹⁵ Linehan, *The School by the Lake*, c.1983, p. 20.

site was never fully developed as a botanic garden, there are some notable surviving specimen trees that may date to the late nineteenth century, including a large *Araucaria heterophylla* (Norfolk Island Pine), a *Picea sitchensis* (Sitka Spruce), and two *Tilia* x *europaea* (Linden Trees). 196 Later developments in the park included a golf course, a swimming pool (1956) and a caravan park (c.1960s?). Other public spaces in Terang were planted as parks and gardens, including the memorial avenue and memorial rose gardens.

At Skipton the Stewart Park was planted in 1902 under the direction of local man Thomas Cleveland, who was assisted by P.S. Lang of Titanga. 197 Jubilee Park was probably developed in the 1890s. At Cobden the Tandarook Botanic Gardens were established in 1989 on the site of the former brick kiln, which was being used as a rubbish tip. 198

Examples

Stewart Park, Skipton Camperdown Botanic Gardens Century Park, Terang

12.6 Growth and decline

Progress was the raison d'etre for colonial settlement. British immigrants brought with them the ideology of an acquisitive capitalist society, for which advancement and prosperity was imperative. Settlers' lofty hopes for Australia Felix were not always met. From the outset townships struggled. The early township of Timboon had barely been settled when it was abandoned in the 1850s for a better alternative site, to be called Camperdown. 199 Some settlers in Old Timboon were perhaps aggrieved as they watched the new town develop at the expense of the old one.²⁰⁰ Rural settlement patterns in Victoria were shaped by the periodic waves of change that brought with them both prosperity in some localities and decline in others. External factors like new land legislation or local investment, either by government or a private interest, might bring increased population and increased wealth. But once the impetus for this often temporary prosperity had passed, places contracted once again. They left in their wake physical signs on the ground that told the story of a place's history. Places like Curdies, Foxhow and Berrybank are examples of places which—all for different reasons—lost their reason for being. Another place, Mackinnon's Bridge, never had the opportunity to become the township that was intended.²⁰¹

A common criticism made in the nineteenth century by those who wished to develop the land for small farms was that the growth of Camperdown and Terang was

¹⁹⁶ 'Tree-Mendous Terang', Trust News, vol. 16, no.1, July 1987, p. 16.

¹⁹⁷ McAlpine, The Shire of Hampden, 1963, p. 80.

¹⁹⁸ Alma McDonald, pers. com., August 2009.

¹⁹⁹ The original town of Timboon was situated just north of present-day Camperdown. Later, a new Timboon was settled in the undulating country south of Cobden.

²⁰⁰ A.D. Davies, *Making of a Town: Being a memento of the jubilee of St Paul's Church, Camperdown, 1864–1914*, Camperdown, 1914, p. 15.

²⁰¹ R.A. McAlpine, *The Shire of Hampden 1863–1963*, 1963, p. 71. See photo in Hicks, *History of Terang*;

stunted by the physical dominance of pastoralism.²⁰² With the land locked up on all sides, it was argued, these towns could not grow and progress. It was not until the early 1900s that Terang in particular was unleashed from this yoke. The town showed significant growth in the early 1900s, with the population rising dramatically from 800 in 1902 in 1800 in 1910.²⁰³ This growth arose from the subdivision of several large estates for smaller diary farms, as well as the profitable new dairy factories, and a much-needed rail link that could cheaply and efficiently transport the dairy products to market. Terang enjoyed a heyday in the 1920s and 1930s; by that time it had become a model progressive town at a time when so many other similarly sized towns in Victoria faced decline.²⁰⁴

The economic downturn of the 1890s did not hit as hard in this region as it did elsewhere. The booming dairy industry and productivity of the area due to closer settlement schemes provided a buffer. Where banking business was in decline elsewhere, at Terang in 1897 the Bank of Australasia and the Bank of Victoria opened branches.²⁰⁵

Other towns in the study area did not enjoy the same favourable conditions. In 1879, Lismore was at a standstill, with a population that was 'scattered and uncertain'. Derrinallum was surveyed in 1865, but the town 'did not progress'. In 1901 there were 'still only a mere seven dwellings in the town'. Nearby Darlington had developed as a service town for pastoral interests, but did not prosper as was expected following soldier settlement. One report claimed there were more students at the local school in 1865 than there were in the 1920s.

One of the strongest periods of growth and decline followed the Korean War boom, when wool growers were famously paid 'a pound for a pound'. The introduction of synthetics, shrinking markets and changing fashions has very seriously reduced the demand for wool for clothes and carpet. Across the study area woolsheds now operate at much less than their peak capacity. Social and transport changes mean that men's quarters are now never used for their original purpose.

Another wave of decline has affected small towns in more recent decades where the industry that provides the chief source of employment and income, typically the butter factory, has closed down. The affected towns, for example Pomborneit and Noorat, are forced to look for alternative uses for industrial buildings and other ways of sustaining a local population.

Examples

Glenormiston Butter Factory Pomborneit Butter Factory

²⁰² See, for example, the *Age*, 1876, quoted in Yvonne Schneider, 'Terang', *Trust News*, 1987, p. 27. See also J.M. Powell, *The Public Lands of Australia Felix*, 1970, p. 162.

²⁰³ *Trust News*, October 1988, p. 27.

²⁰⁴ *Trust News*, October 1988, p. 27.

²⁰⁵ Lorck, Victoria Illustrated, 1909, p. 29.

²⁰⁶ Whitworth (ed.), Bailliere's Victorian Directory, 1879, p. 289.

²⁰⁷ McGregor and Oaten, *Mount Elephant*, 1985, p. 37.

²⁰⁸ McGregor and Oaten, *Mount Elephant*, 1985, p. 103.

²⁰⁹ The Link, vol. 1, no. 7, September 1924, p. 42.

13 Governing and administration

... publicans and villagers assembled in overwhelming force ... perfectly certain that they were to take the management of the district into their own hands ... but the fates were opposed to their success. They had no leader ready to throw himself into the breach. They trusted to getting up a sort of squabble, but the squatters took up the business of moving resolutions, speech or discussion. In this way they carried everything their own way.

Niel Black, first meeting to form the Hampden and Heytesbury Road Board, April 1857.

13.1 Road Boards

The study area was administered by various small municipalities. The largest former municipal area was the former Shire of Hampden, which was created in 1863. This had grown out of a local road board first established in 1857, which stretched from Skipton to the coast.

13.2 Local government

Corangamite Shire is a large rural municipality in south-western Victoria that was formed in 1994 through the amalgamation of the Town of Camperdown, the Shire of Hampden, most of the Shire of Heytesbury, the Heytesbury Settlement district of the Shire of Otway, and small parts of the Shires of Mortlake and Warrnambool.

On the south-eastern edge of the study area was the former Shire of Heytesbury; this was formed in 1895 when it broke away from the Shire of Hampden. A further split came in the 1950s when the town of Port Campbell was established as a separate municipality.

13.3 Policing and justice

Most of the town surveys set aside a government reserve for police purposes. This site usually included space for a police horse paddock, a police station, and often a lock-up. A lock-up arrived in Cobden in 1881.²¹⁰

Court houses also usually occupied a government reserve and were typically small but often architect-designed buildings. A court house was built at Skipton in 1856–57, which is considered the only portable court house in Victoria. At Cobden, the town's first police station opened in 1878. The current Terang Court House dates to c.1910. In most towns court houses were restricted to Courts of Petty Sessions or Magistrates' Courts. A higher court, the County Court, sat at Camperdown by at least 1865. Police magistrates were usually appointed from amongst the local landowners, for example at Terang. Police magistrates.

Probably the most colourful local story related to policing tells of the hunt for illicit whiskey stills around Cobden in the 1890s. Detective-Inspector John Christie led the

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²¹⁰ Cobden & District Historical Society, *Cobden: A Time Line*, 1991, pp. 10, 11.

²¹¹ Frances O'Neill, 'The Visible State', MA thesis, Monash University, 1993, pp. 98, 17.

²¹² VGG 1870; Whitworth (ed.), Bailliere's Victorian Gazetteer, 1865, p. 74.

²¹³ Warrnambool Standard Almanac 1875, 1875, p. 78.

search for stills operated by Tom Delaney in the back country between Cobden and the coast during the 1890s. He commenced many of his investigative trips from the Cobden Police Station and frequently went in disguise.²¹⁴ Sites associated with the search are now part of a heritage trail.

The forest was also used as a means of assisting incarceration. At the Corriemungle prison camp, which operated as a forest settlement from 1940 until 1977. inmates worked at land clearing and farming.

Examples

Skipton old police paddock Cobden police station Skipton Court House Terang Court House

13.4 Defence

The survey of the southern coastline was carried out in 1802. The English navigator Matthew Flinders and his French rival Nicolas Baudin, were in a race to complete their circumnavigations of the continent at a time when England and France were at war.

Britain's involvement in distant wars fuelled fears in the colonies about anticipated attacks. This occurred during the Crimean War of the 1850s when Victoria's newfound wealth was imagined as a valid cause for invasion or, at least, a raid or incursion. Redundant guns, some even recycled from the Napoleonic wars, were sent to Portland, Port Fairy and Warrnambool in the 1860s. In preparation, the training of volunteer rifle regiments began in many coastal towns. In 1882 the very real fear of a Russian invasion was exploited by a hoax in the Melbourne Age and the Camperdown Chronicle, the latter claiming that six Russian ships had come to anchor at Port Campbell.²¹⁵ The continuing fear of a Russian invasion of Victoria in 1885 prompted new guns being installed in batteries at the coastal towns and the widespread establishment of volunteer rifle corps.216 Practice ranges were established in several towns and on private properties. Rifle ranges were established along coastal scrubland at Port Campbell and Princetown; at Mount Elephant, and several other localities. The Terang Rifle Range was established at Mount Noorat.217

From 1939 to 1945, the needs of war had repercussions in the study area. A military airfield was established near Lake Corangamite, as was a practice range. A World War II Army Hut survives at Camperdown. 218 There is a bombing range hut at Lake Corangamite and a bomb target is still visible in the middle of Lake Gnarpurt.²¹⁹

²¹⁴ See John Lahey, Damn You, John Christie! The public life of Australia's Sherlock Holmes, State Library of Victoria, Melbourne, 1993, chapter 1.

²¹⁵ Duruz, Campbell Country, 1977, pp. 16–23.

²¹⁶ See Duruz, Campbell Country, 1977.

²¹⁷ Back to Terang 1950, 1950.

²¹⁸ LCC, *Historic Places: South-west Victoria*; National Trust of Australia (Vic.).

²¹⁹ Marion Manifold, pers. com., August 2009.

Examples

WW2 Army hut, Camperdown WW2 Practice Range, Lake Corangamite Rifle range, Mount Elephant Rifle Range, Port Campbell

14 Transport and communication

Certainly the arrival and departure of nightly trains and coaches are great events. This is a junction of travel, where all sorts of people meet ...

John Stanley James ('The Vagabond'), Camperdown, 21 February 1885.

14.1 Building roads and bridges

The early roads developed from rough tracks. These were notoriously dusty in summer and muddy in winter. As the rough bush tracks widened with greater use, road boards were set up to finance and administer road and bridge building. Toll roads were used to help pay the costs of construction and maintenance. The major roads in the study area include the northern route from Geelong to Hamilton (Hamilton Hwy), and the southern route from Geelong to Warrnambool (Princes Hwy). The former route was preferred because it avoided the dreaded Stony Rises that stretched from Pirron Yallock to Pomborneit.²²⁰ This was the roughest part of the trip on the road to Camperdown, as Hugh Childers explained: 'They call it the Stony River, the road being all the way like the bed of a dry creek'.²²¹ On the occasion of Prince Alfred's visit of 1867, the road was made and improved all the way to Camperdown.²²²

The construction of crossings was a major endeavour and the crossing of the Mt Emu Creek at Skipton and Darlington proved to be important events in making the western district accessible. The site of the early ford across the river still exists at Darlington as do the abutments of the second bridge.

Although it was sparsely settled, there were rough tracks through the southern part of the study area, perhaps on account of its early role in exploration. In the late 1860s, a road had been completed from Camperdown to the Otways, in the vicinity of the Gellibrand River. There were two other roads being made at that time to the Gellibrand—one from Colac and the other from Warrnambool. Surviving early roads include the road through the Heytesbury Forest, from Simpson to Princetown, and the Old Coach Road, between Princetown and Moonlight Head. The astern part of this track is now the main access road between Wattle Hill and Moonlight Head. A characteristic feature along the roadside in the Stony Rises, and also at Noorat and Kolora are the extensive dry-stone walls that follow the contour of the road and are used to fence paddocks. Dry-stone walling was also used to construct a causeway at Stonyford that originally supported an old alignment of the Princes Highway.

²²⁰ Bill Anderson, *On Western Lands: A history of the Shire of Hampden 1964–1994*, Corangamite Shire Council, Camperdown, 1996.

²²¹ Blainey, Our Side of the Country, 1984, p. 35.

²²² 'Pomborneit State School History', 1922, original MS, copy on microfiche, held SLV.

²²³ Meek, *Resources of the Western District*, 1869, p. 6.

²²⁴ LCC, Historic Places; South west Victoria, 1996.

²²⁵ LCC, Historic Places: South west Victoria, 1996.

Important early bridges in the study area include those over the Mount Emu Creek at Skipton and at Darlington (1873). Both these towns developed from their role as a natural crossing place and stopping place for travellers. In the southern part of the study area, the Curdies River bridge was built by the Country Roads Board in 1927 to connect Curdies with Peterborough.²²⁶ The Great Ocean Road was constructed in the 1920s by unemployed returned soldiers. At Princetown a three-span timber trestle road bridge was erected to cross the Gellibrand River.

The construction of the Great Ocean Road along the southern coast in the 1920s was a highly significant project which opened up the coast to tourism and provided an alternative route (albeit not that direct) between Warrnambool and Geelong.



The road to Port Campbell, c.1920s [SLV]

Examples

CWA public conveniences, Hamilton Highway, Derrinallum A.J. Thomas Motor Garage, Camperdown Darlington Bridge abutments

14.2 Railways

A railway connecting the Camperdown and Terang districts with Geelong and Melbourne was long considered the best way of opening up the area for development and trade. The adventurer James Meek proposed a railway 'through the Western Province' in the 1860s as a way of making the place more productive. If a railroad was to be built, Meek argued, this would cause 'the permanent settlement of thousands of families, when the soil now lying dormant shall produce in abundance, sending tens of thousands of tons of her produce annually to distant lands'.²²⁷

²²⁶ Mackenzie, Sealing Sailing and Settling, 1976, p. 56.

²²⁷ Meek, The Resources of the Western District, 1869, p. 18.

In 1880 the railway from Geelong terminated at Colac. From there passengers needed to board a coach to Camperdown.²²⁸ The Camperdown railway league was formed in the 1880s which lobbied the government for this to be built.²²⁹ Construction of the railway covering 13 miles between Camperdown and Terang was commenced in 1886. The Camperdown-Terang rail link was opened in 1887, with the line extended from Terang to Mortlake and Warrnambool in 1890. In 1890 a new branch line was built to connect the small but growing settlement of Curdies and Timboon with the main line. Port Campbell residents had petitioned for a tramway (i.e. railway) to be built between Camperdown and Port Campbell in the 1880s but this never materialised. The line only went as far as Timboon.²³⁰

This rail line was considered fairly erratic in the 1890s, as one writer observed: 'the trains run on alternate days; they start at any time, and arrive at all times except the time on the time-table. The Cobden people never think of travelling to Camperdown by rail; they take the coach instead'. 231 The Victorian Railways erected a large timber bridge on the Timboon line for the railway to cross the Curdies River, within sight of the lime quarries. This bridge was an unusual construction on account of its 'great range of timber pier designs and its relatively rare stay piles' and is one of the last remaining of its kind.²³²

Other railway extensions came relatively late. The Gheringhap-Maroona railway, which crosses through Derrinallum, was constructed in the 1890s and completed in 1913. This line carried passengers and goods through Gheringhap-Murgheboluc-Inverleigh–Doroq–Wingeel–Maroona.²³³

²²⁸ Whitworth, 1880, p. 252.

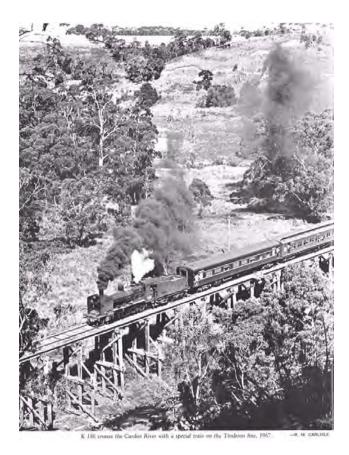
²²⁹ Forth (ed.), Biographical Dictionary of the Western Dictionary of Victoria, 1998, p. 90.

²³⁰ R.A. McAlpine, *The Shire of Hampden 1863–1963*, Terang Express, Terang, 1963, p. 12.

²³¹ Advocate, 11 November 1899, p. 17.

²³² Don Chambers, Wooden Wonders: Victoria's timber bridges, Hyland House Publishing, Flemington, 2006, pp. 46, 60–61.

²³³ D.C. McLean, *The Gheringhap to Maroona Railway: A brief history*, no date.



Curdies Bridge at Timboon, 1967 [Railway Museum North Williamstown, Australian Railway Historical Society, third edition 1985]

Examples

Former Timboon railway goods shed, Timboon Terang railway station Curdies Siding Camperdown and Terang Railway Stations

14.3 Coastal shipping

In the late nineteenth century, coastal shipping was an important method of transport for trade in and out of Port Campbell. Following the *Loch Ard* disaster of 1878, the first jetty was built in 1880.²³⁴ In 1879, shortly before the new jetty was completed, a Victorian guidebook reported on Port Campbell:

There is no regular means of communication either with Melbourne or those places [i.e. Cobden, Allansford, Princetown or Peterborough], but with the latter place the route is either via Cobden, or by occasional craft. ... The harbour has lately been surveyed, and a good report given of its capabilities. The Government are about to build a jetty. At present it is

²³⁴ LCC, Historic Places: South west Victoria, site C375.

mostly used by wood craft, but will probably form a harbour of refuge on the coast.235

The jetty's fabric has altered over the years, due to storm damage, but it retains its T-shaped form and some of the original timber.

The arrival of the railway to Timboon in 1892 reduced the coastal trade, with goods being transported by road to make use of the new rail link. Some craft continued to stop at Port Campbell, but this was unreliable and erratic. It was never a safe enough harbor for large vessels. In the 1920s farmers at Princetown took their milk to the local cheese factory; from here the processed cheese was taken to Port Campbell, where a boat took it to Melbourne. 236 The steamers continued to be used in the absence of a rail link to Port Campbell, which had been surveyed in the 1890s but never built. The steamer Hannah Thompson traded sporadically between Port Campbell and Melbourne until the 1930s.²³⁷

Examples

Port Campbell jetty and cutting from the road (jetty access road)

14.4 Postal and telegraph offices

The Camperdown post and telegraph office was the first to wire news of the Loch Ard disaster in which 54 lives had been lost. [Australian Heritage website; VHR] At Terang the post and telegraph offices and savings banks were described as 'handsome buildings'. The fine tower and four-dial turret clock were added by public subscription.'238

Examples

Derrinallum Post Office, Derrinallum Telegraph memorial stone, Lismore

15 Community Life

'The Settlement itself was one big happy family, such that if you were walking along a track and you came upon a house or camp, you just went straight inside and there you were made welcome — quite an experience, never to be forgotten and possibly never to be met with again.'

Don MacDonald's recollections of the Bailey Settlement in the 1930s, Death of a Forest,

15.1 Building churches

²³⁵ Robert P. Whitworth (ed.), Bailliere's Victorian Gazetteer 1879, p. 385.

²³⁶ The Link, vol. 1, no. 3, July 1923, p. 17.

²³⁷ Duruz, The Story of the Port Campbell District, Collett & Bain, Warrnambool, 1971, p. 8.

Ministers of religion were scarce in the early period of settlement. As the population grew and townships developed, the various Christian denominations applied to the government for a land grant. The early churches share common founding stories—of ministers riding out on horseback, of crossing rivers, and of traipsing though mud to reach isolated congregations.

A heavy concentration of Scots amongst the early settlers ensured that Presbyterian churches were usually amongst the first to appear. In 1847, a group of influential Scottish squatters met with Reverend William Hamilton at the Elephant Bridge Hotel for the purpose of forming a church. Hamilton was installed as minister of a new church, named Kilnoorat ('Kil' meaning 'church in Gaelic and 'Noorat' for the locality), which was erected on private land halfway between Terang and Darlington, and was a focal point for the pastoral population of the district.²³⁹ The Western Church, as it was known, established a church, a manse and, at some distance, a burial ground on the Mount Emu Creek, not far from Shaw's Wooriwyrite station.²⁴⁰

Other towns had also built Presbyterian churches, including Skipton in 1857, Camperdown in 1860, and Terang in 1861 (although this had been replaced by a new building as early as 1868).²⁴¹ The elegant Lismore Presbyterian Church was erected in 1864 and the Gnarpurt Chapel in 1867. Whereas many homesteads had earlier served as makeshift church meeting places, one squatter Adam Swanston Robertson took the unusual step of having a purpose-built 'chapel room' incorporated into his homestead, Gnarpurt.²⁴²

Scots Presbyterianism dominated in the study area, both numerically and in terms of monetary wealth. This is reflected in the allocation of church sites and the fine quality of the churches built. There was no site initially set aside for a Catholic church at Derrinallum, for example, nor at Darlington, although a Catholic church did operate briefly at Darlington.²⁴³ At Derrinallum, by contrast, the Presbyterian Church occupied a prominent 2-acre site on the main thoroughfare. In Camperdown (and in many of the other small towns in the study area), the Catholic population was initially much smaller than the Presbyterians.²⁴⁴ One local history remarked of Camperdown in the 1860s, 'there were not many Catholics, the majority of people being Presbyterian'.²⁴⁵ One local history claims that Camperdown's Catholic church was built considerably later than other denominations, and that unlike the Presbyterians and Anglicans, the Catholics often made do with a roving priest. The Presbyterian church was sometimes the only church represented in a township—as was the case at Princetown and Darlington.²⁴⁶ At Pomborneit there was an understanding that any

²³⁹ A manse was also erected at this site.

²⁴⁰ The ruins of the manse and a memorial tablet were still extant in the 1860s but nothing now survives above ground other than a modern memorial; McAlpine, *Shire of Hampden*, 1963, p. 38.

²⁴¹ Notman, Out of the Past, 1978, p. 58; Argus, 25 April 1868, p. 5.

²⁴² Chapman, *Historic Homes of Australia Felix*, 1965, p. 2.

²⁴³ Oaten and McGragor, *Mount Elephant*, 1985, p. 95.

²⁴⁴ Harriette Lafferty, *About Our Town of Camperdown*, Camperdown, 1954, no page numbers.

²⁴⁵ Lafferty, *Camperdown*, 1954, no page numbers.

²⁴⁶ Whitworth (ed.), *Bailliere's Victorian Gazetteer for 1879*, 1879, pp. 148, 383. The site for the Princetown Presbyterian Church looks to have been reserved in 1864. This was the only church at Princetown until the late 1890s.

Protestants would have the use of the Presbyterian Church when not occupied by the Presbyterians. This arrangement lasted until 1910 when the Church of England decided to erect their own church in the area, St James Church at Pomborneit North. The Catholics had opened a substantial bluestone church in Terang in 1869 and their presence in that town went from strength to strength as the town developed following the subdivision of the large estates and the growth of the dairy industry. By 1910 they had a large new church and presbytery on the southern banks of Lake Terang and a school and convent in Lyons Street.

Increased pastoral wealth in the 1870s motivated and enabled improvements to, and the rebuilding of, several Presbyterian churches. By this time, any ideological reservation against using the Gothic Revival style, which was so strongly associated with Catholicism, was abandoned. Some local congregations enlisted the services of well known architects, such as Davidson and Henderson of Geelong. In 1871–72 the church at Skipton was replaced with a new building designed by Davidson and Henderson. It is notable for their use of a French Gothic Revival style presumably influenced by the writings of French architect, Viollet-Le-Duc.²⁴⁷ The same firm created additions to the Lismore Presbyterian church in 1875, including a French semi-circular apse.²⁴⁸

The use of stone, predominantly bluestone, was partly a matter of convenience and economy, but also symbolised the pioneering values of strength and endurance. At Darlington, however, the bluestone church was replaced in the 1890s by a new timber church.²⁴⁹ The 1914 Presbyterian church in Derrinallum was built with pressed red bricks and used rendered details, as was fashionable at that time. It survived the 1944 bushfire but the adjacent manse (and several neighbouring houses) did not and came to be replaced. The twentieth-century Anglican church at Derrinallum is built with clinker brick which, with its small scale and its Arts and Crafts interpretation of the Gothic style, gives it a domestic quality.

Presbyterian congregations placed a high value on pioneering, public duty and philanthropy, and were keen to eulogise and commemorate the generosity and vision of their founders. On the death of well known district pioneer Niel Black, the Black family erected the Niel Black Memorial Church at Noorat in 1883. The grandest of the Presbyterian churches in the study area was built relatively late at Terang in 1894. Designed by the leading Melbourne firm of Reed, Smart and Tappin as a miniature version of their earlier Scots Church in Melbourne, it was also in a Gothic Revival style more French than English, and incorporated a semi-circular vestry at the rear. This elegant and imposing church was built as a memorial to one of the town's founding settlers, John Thomson of Keilambete. Its construction was funded by Thomson's estate, following his death before its completion in 1894. Other churches were built from funds bestowed by local pastoralists. The Currie family

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²⁴⁷ Their office is known to have used copies of his books. See Allan Willingham. 'Two Scots in Victoria', 1983.

²⁴⁸ Miles Lewis, (ed.), *Victorian Churches: Their origins, their story and their architecture*. National Trust of Australia (Vic.), Melbourne, 1991, p. 126.

²⁴⁹ 'Darlington', *The Link*, vol. 1, no. 7, September 1924, p. 42.

provided funds for the Presbyterian church at Lismore (1871–72) and the Lang family funded the church at Derrinallum (1914).²⁵⁰

The Anglicans and other Protestant denominations also secured land grants and began church-building in the 1860s. Anglican churches were established at Camperdown, Terang (All Saints Church and All Saints Vicarage), Cobden (1867),²⁵¹ Darlington, and Skipton (Christ Church) in 1924 (with a Norman-inspired square tower).²⁵² A stone Church of England was built at Princetown in 1903.²⁵³

The Methodists (or Wesleyans) were also early church-builders. Methodists at Camperdown initially used their local temperance hall for worship in the 1860s, but erected a church in 1871.²⁵⁴ Rev. J.H. Tuckfield, one of the founders of the Buntingdale Wesleyan Aboriginal Mission, served as minister at Terang and Camperdown in the 1870s.²⁵⁵ In 1869 a site for a Wesleyan Church was reserved at Derrinallum, and ten years later this remained the only church in the town.²⁵⁶ There was also a Wesleyan Church in Cobden by 1879.²⁵⁷

The Bible Christians, a break-away group from the Wesleyan Methodists, established strong congregations in the study area. This denomination, originating in Cornwall in 1815, found followers amongst the many Cornish miners who had come to Victoria during the goldrush of the 1850s.²⁵⁸ Bible Christians were recognised as a separate church in Victoria in 1860. They erected chapels at Camperdown (1862), Terang (1863), and Cobden (by 1879).²⁵⁹ At Camperdown their bluestone church was in service for forty-two years; a parsonage had also been built by 1885.²⁶⁰ The Bible Christian Church erected at Terang in 1863 ultimately became the Methodist Church.²⁶¹and after the Methodists sold it it was converted and extended to become the Masonic Temple.

For many settlers, the churches offered solace and meaning for lives that were beset with loss, hardship and isolation. At Port Campbell, perhaps the most isolated of the settlements, evangelism found eager followers. In 1874 a Baptist minister brought an evangelical Revival to Port Campbell, where some of the early settlers had first encountered Baptist worship in the Scottish islands.²⁶² Baptist churches were also

http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/ahdb/search.pl?mode=place_detail;place_id=15008

http://www.genealogy.apollobay.org.au/head01/pafg03.htm

²⁵⁰ But the foundation stone in 1914 was laid by Mrs H Alan Currie and the Langs are from Lismore.

²⁵¹ Cobden & District Historical Society, *Cobden: A time line*, 1994, p. 5.

²⁵² For the Skipton Anglican Church, see SLV Picture Collection on-line.

²⁵³ Picturesque Victoria and How To Get There, 1897, 1910; MacKenzie, Sealing, Sailing and Settling, 1976, p. 60.

²⁵⁴ Dowdy, *The Making of Our Town: Camperdown*, 1983, p. 82.

²⁵⁵ Warrnambool Standard Almanac for 1875, 1875, p. 78.

²⁵⁶ Derrinallum township plan; *Bailliere's Victorian Gazetteer* 1879, p. 155. Later, the church was redundant; Oakden and McGregor, *Mount Elephant*, 1985, p. 50.

²⁵⁷ Whitworth (ed.), Bailliere's Victorian Gazetteer, 1879, p. 123.

²⁵⁸ Citation for Bible Christian Church from the Register of the National Estate:

²⁵⁹ Dowdy, *The Making of Our Town Camperdown*, 1983; p. 83; Terang heritage brochure; *Terang Old and New*, 1907; Whitworth (ed.), *Bailliere's Victorian Gazetteer*, 1879, p. 123.

²⁶⁰ Dowdy, 1983, p. 83; Descendants of Benjamin Head website:

²⁶¹ Terang brochure; *Terang Old and New*, 1907.

²⁶² Robert Robertson, *The Port Campbell Revival 1874*, Belmont 1937, p. 6.

established at Camperdown by 1875,²⁶³ and later at Ecklin South, near Timboon. Although the shared, non-denominational Union Church was also established at Port Campbell in the 1870s and was open to all,²⁶⁴ the prayer meetings of the popular Revival church took place in private homes, while baptisms took place in 'the rivers and the open sea'.²⁶⁵ A small timber church was built on donated land in the 1890s, using funds raised through private subscription. The re-naming of the limestone stacks off the Port Campbell coastline as the 'Twelve Apostles' in the 1950s is thought to have been influenced by the strength of the evangelical Christian community in the area.²⁶⁶ The names of the nearby 'Crown of Thorns' and the 'Bay of Marytrs' at Peterborough have similar religious connotations. Perhaps this naming provided some comfort in the face of so much tragic loss of human life on this treacherous coast.

Catholic communities, who were predominantly Irish, had also established churches in the study area by the 1860s. Substantial early Catholic churches had been erected outside the study area in the larger neighbouring towns of Colac and Warrnambool by the 1850s, but in the pastoral country around Terang and Camperdown travelling priests generally celebrated Mass in makeshift premises. A Catholic parish had been formed at Mortlake by the 1860s and from here a Catholic church was established at Terang by the late 1860s. An 'English-style' church at Terang dedicated to St Thomas the Apostle was designed by Warrnambool architect Samuel Parker in 1868.²⁶⁷ In 1881 the church was described as 'small, though substantially built of bluestone'.²⁶⁸ A new Gothic-style bluestone church was erected in 1901 to a design by Ballarat architect Mr Nuttling.²⁶⁹ A Catholic convent was also established at Terang in 1910 by the Sisters of Mercy, founded from their mother convent at Warrnambool. The red brick convent, in an idiosyncratic domestic Gothic Revival style, was built on the site of Terang's first Catholic church.²⁷⁰

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²⁶³ Warrnambool Standard Almanac for 1875, 1875, p. 68.

²⁶⁴ Whitworth (ed.), Bailliere's Victorian Gazetteer, 1879, p. 385.

²⁶⁵ Robertson, *The Port Campbell Revival 1874*, 1937, p. 43.

²⁶⁶ This is mentioned in Edsall, 'History of Timboon', MS 9571. A previous name was the less inspiring 'Sow and Piglets'.

²⁶⁷ Advocate, 2 May 1868, p. 12; this church opened the following year, Advocate, 8 May 1869, p. 6.

²⁶⁸ Advocate, 2 July 1881, p. 14.

²⁶⁹ Camperdown Chronicle, 24 July 1900.

²⁷⁰ St Thomas' School & Sisters of Mercy, Centenary Committee, Terang, c.2007, p. 10.



St Joseph's Catholic Church, Noorat, designed in 1919 by Melbourne architect Bart Moriarty [SLV]

At Camperdown, a 2-acre site was reserved for the Catholic Church in 1869. Two years later, the church grounds were fenced and, presumably, a timber church had been erected.²⁷¹ The existing St Patrick's Church building was later transferred to a new site and an adjoining residence 'with beautiful grounds attached' was purchased in 1892 to serve as a presbytery.²⁷² By 1900, a new brick church was erected to a design by local architect Michael O'Connor McCabe. A Convent of Mercy, similar in design to that at Terang, was also established.

The closer settlement schemes of the 1890s increased the local Catholic population as many people of Irish descent took up small blocks. As a result, new Catholic churches were needed. At Timboon the first Mass was celebrated in 1904.²⁷³ Two 'out-churches' of the Camperdown parish were erected at Cobden (St Brendan's) and Purrumbete South (St Bridget's), the latter rebuilt in 1936.²⁷⁴ The red-brick Renaissance Revival St Joseph's Church, Noorat, was designed by Melbourne architect Bart Moriarty in 1919, in a style resembling that of the more prolific A.A. Fritsch. The red-brick Catholic Church at Lismore declared a foundation date of 1922, as did the Catholic church at Derrinallum. In the postwar forest settlement of Simpson, the St Andrew's Memorial Church was erected in the 1950s. The Catholic church at Derrinallum was extended in 1964.

²⁷¹ Advocate, 11 December 1869; 29 July 1871, p. 11. This site was later sold and a new block acquired.

²⁷² Advocate, 25 June 1892, p. 17; Advocate, 11 November 1899, p. 17; Thomas J. Carr, Some of the Fruits of Fifty Years, 1897, p. 74.

²⁷³ Edsall, 'History of Timboon', MS 9651, SLV.

²⁷⁴ Advocate, 11 November 1899, p. 17; 15 December 1900, p.12; 29 December 1900, p. 18. Real estate notice, newspaper report, *Melbourne Weekly*, June 2009.

In many places Catholic churches were slow to appear, if at all. In 1910, there were only two churches at Port Campbell: Presbyterian (Union Church) and Baptist, while at Princetown the only church was Anglican.²⁷⁵ In 1911 several small towns had only one Protestant church, including Darlington, Lismore, Noorat, and Glenormiston; at Skipton there were two churches, neither of which was Catholic.²⁷⁶ But Skipton did get a Catholic church, St John's, which is perhaps the most curious in the study area. In 1882, with the support of the local Presbyterian Minister, the local congregation purchased the former Methodist church, built in the c.1870s as a perfect example of a small non-Conformist chapel. They doubled its size in 1897 and then in 1929, when a sacristy was added, the church was stripped of its original detail and remodeled in the Spanish Mission style made fashionable by Hollywood.

The finest residence associated with any church in the study area must be the Presbyterian manse at Noorat. The architectural firm Hamilton and Co. of Colac (the founder of this firm, Alexander Hamilton had died in 1901) designed it in 1904 in a distinctively asymmetrical Federation style, using elaborate timber detailing, projecting gables and tall chimneys to create a highly picturesque roofline. The land was donated by one of the congregation's chief patrons, Niel Walter Black.²⁷⁷

The Protestant churches of the district keenly celebrated their history and their church pioneers. In Camperdown, memorial windows were installed in the Anglican church to honour the Manifold family.²⁷⁸ In Terang, the Thomson Memorial (Presbyterian) Church memorialises its benefactor, John Thomson. A memorial window at St James' Church, Derrinallum, installed in 1953, celebrates the life of the Federal Minister for Air, J.V. Fairburn.²⁷⁹

Examples

Kilnoorat manse and church site.
Presbytery, Camperdown
Thomson Memorial Church, Terang
St Thomas Church, Presbytery, School, Convent and Hall, Terang
Niel Black Memorial Church, Niel Walter Black Memorial Hall and Manse, Noorat
Former Bible Christian Church, Terang
St John's, Skipton Catholic Church
Former Purrumbete South Catholic Church
Former convent, Terang

15.2 Educating

Before the 'compulsory' ruling for children's education in 1873, and the provision of well managed 'state schools', there were a number of private and church-run schools in the study area. Many of these were run by the Presbyterian Church, for

²⁷⁵ Picturesque Victoria and How to Get There, 1910, pp. 139, 140.

²⁷⁶ Victorian Municipal Directory, 1911, p. 456.

²⁷⁷ Information from the Alan Marshall Trail sign.

²⁷⁸ A.D. Davies, *The Making of a Town: Being the story of the early days of Camperdown ...* 1914, pp. 36–38.

²⁷⁹ Oman et al., *Brown's Water Holes: History of Lismore 1840–1980*, J.R. Oman, *Lismore*, 1980 (first published 1961), p. 33.

example at Skipton, Camperdown (Timboon), Pomborneit, and Lismore. At Cobden the Misses Parrot ran a school for young ladies in the 1890s and early 1900s.²⁸⁰ On the large pastoral stations, it was typical for the station owner to provide a school for the workers' children. At Larra, where many of the workers and their families were of Scottish background, the school had a Scottish character. It should be remembered that Scotland in the nineteenth century was a world leader in modern education.

The earliest government schools in Victoria were National Schools, so-named because they were modeled, philosophically and architecturally, on the National Schools of Ireland. After 1863 the Victorian government adopted the Common Schools system. Common Schools were established at Camperdown, Skipton and Terang in 1858, and at Cobden in 1870.

Examples Former Church of England Grammar School, Camperdown Derrinallum High School [LCC]
Timboon Consolidated School (1948)
Skipton Common School
Former Jancourt state school (c.1880s)
Mount Bute State School (after 1944?)

15.3 Elementary schools

As settlements grew, the need for improved and compulsory schooling became paramount. After the passage of the *Education Act* in 1873, with its stipulation of 'free, compulsory and secular' schooling, the Education Department built many more schools in rural Victoria. Many of those built in the study area were small one-roomed timber schools, such as that which survives at Jancourt from the late nineteenth century, at Berry Bank, and at Mount Bute from the mid twentieth century, which was rebuilt after the 1944 bushfires.

In the late 1890s and first half of the twentieth century, economic fortunes and corresponding populations rose and fell in many localities, especially in the northern part of the Shire. The small rural schools were at the mercy of these forces. Many operated only briefly, while others were run part-time with another school, and most struggled to win grants for improvements.²⁸¹ With soldier settlement schemes, settlement in the many small localities around Camperdown, Cobden and Timboon grew significantly in the 1920s and 1930s. Talindert school opened in the 1920s and a new school opened at Curdies River in 1924.²⁸²

The idea of a consolidated school at Timboon was first put forward by local parents in 1943. The Timboon Consolidated School opened in 1948, built to a bold and imposing design by Modernist architect Percy Everett, who was head of the Public Works Department and particularly interested in educational architecture. Pupils were transported by buses from the surrounding areas up to a radius of 10 miles, and from the 1970s also came from Princetown and Simpson.

With further population growth in the postwar era, the government provided a number of other new state schools. A number of small single-teacher schools that

²⁸⁰ Alma McDonald, pers. com., August 2009.

²⁸¹ Oaten and McGregor, *Mount Elephant*, 1985.

²⁸² The Link, vol. 1, no. 7, September 1924, pp. 8, 9.

had been established throughout the district during the dairying industry boom from the 1890s to the 1920s were closed during the 1980s and 1990s due to low attendances. Many of these school buildings have been moved from their original locations predominantly to other school sites and a number have been converted for use as residences or other purposes.

15.4 Catholic schools

St Mary's Catholic School at Garvoc, west of Terang (outside the study area), had opened in 1885. By the early 1900s, the Catholic community of Terang needed a school of its own.²⁸³ A new school, comprising three rooms and a music room, was completed in 1907 to a design by Warrnambool architect W.T. Jackman, who had also designed the imposing Koroit Convent the previous year.²⁸⁴ In 1910 a convent was built at Terang to accommodate the Sisters of Mercy, who taught at the school.²⁸⁵ St Joseph's Catholic School at Noorat was operating from at least the early 1920s as an offshoot of the Terang school.²⁸⁶ The Camperdown Catholic Regional College opened in the 1970s.

Examples

St Joseph's Catholic School, Noorat

15.5 Secondary schools

Of the various private secondary schools established in Camperdown and Terang in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, the Camperdown Anglican Grammar School was the most substantial and longest operating. It was operating by the mid 1860s, as was a mixed school. In 1875, the Boys' Grammar School was run by F.L. Weiss and a Ladies' school was run by M.E. Hood. 288

Government high schools were not established in Victoria until the early 1900s. The Misses Baird ran the Noorat High School from 1903, but this was possibly a private enterprise. Higher Elementary classes commenced at Camperdown in 1916, and the Camperdown High School was opened in 1920. At Terang, Higher Elementary classes began in 1920 and a new Higher Elementary school opened in 1928. 290

Postwar population growth after both world wars, on account of closer and soldier settlement schemes, increased the local demand for schooling. While primary schools were adequately supplied, secondary schools were not. Those who could afford to attended private secondary schools in Ballarat, Hamilton, Geelong or

Corangamite Heritage Study Stage One Thematic Environmental History prepared by Dr Helen Doyle in conjunction with Heritage Matters Pty Ltd

²⁸³ St Thomas' School and Sisters of Mercy, c.2007, p. 8.

²⁸⁴ St Thomas' School and Sisters of Mercy, c.2007, p. 8; Helen Doyle and Context Pty Ltd, 'Moyne Shire Heritage Study, Stage 2', vol. 2 Environmental History, p. 96.

²⁸⁵ St Thomas' School and Sisters of Mercy, c.2007, p. 10.

²⁸⁶ The Link, vol. 1, no. 1, September 1921, p. 11.

²⁸⁷ For Terang, see St Thomas' School and Sisters of Mercy, c.2007, p. 8.

²⁸⁸ Victoria, *Votes and Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly and Papers Presented to Parliament*, 1866, 1, First Session, Melbourne, 1966; *Warrnambool Standard Almanac for 1875*, 1875, p. 68.

²⁸⁹ St Thomas' School and Sisters of Mercy, c.2007, p. 8.

²⁹⁰ McAlpine, *Shire of Hampden*, 1963, p. 86, 70.

Warrnambool. New government high schools opened in Timboon in 1960 and Derrinallum in 1962 that were designed as central schools to serve the wider district.²⁹¹ A campus of the Camperdown Regional Catholic College was opened on the old St Joseph's School site in Noorat in the 1970s and a technical school opened at Cobden in 1969.²⁹²

Examples

Cobden Technical School Derrinallum High School Timboon High School

15.6 Institutions of higher learning

The Glenormiston property at Noorat, previously owned by the Black family, was acquired by the Victorian State Government in 1949 for the purpose of establishing an agricultural research centre, primarily concerned with dairy research. In 1967 a decision was made to turn this into an agricultural college. It was initially part of VCAH (Victorian College of Agriculture and Horticulture), which later merged with the University of Melbourne. It is currently part of the South West TAFE network of campuses.

Examples

South West TAFE, Glenormiston campus

15.7 Informal education

Mechanics Institutes made an enormous contribution to the education of the townsfolk through the provision of lending libraries and public lectures. These were established from the 1860s in many of the towns in the study area. At Camperdown, the mechanics hall received in the early 1900s the additional educational bounty of James Dawson's collection of stuffed birds and animals. The new Mechanics Institute at Skipton was first opened in 1905, replacing an earlier building of 1880. This was patronised by the Chirnside family of Carranballac and designed by Ballarat architects Clegg and Miller. Many of these Mechanic's Institutes were relatively simple timber structures (Darlington, Derrinallum and Port Campbell), but the Terang establishment grew into a substantial complex of hall and meeting rooms.

Examples

Skipton Mechanics Institute
Terang Mechanics Institute and Free Library (now the Terang Hall)
Port Campbell Mechanics Institute

15.8 School gardens and school plantations

School gardens were very popular in the 1920s, encouraged by the Education Department, with prizes for the best gardens awarded by the Australian Natives

²⁹¹ Duruz, *Port Campbell*, 1971, p. 11; McGregor and Oaten, *Mount Elephant*, 1985, p. 31.

²⁹² Cobden & District Historical Society, *Cobden: A time line*, 1994, p. 30.

Association (ANA). Derrinallum and Lismore schools won prizes for their school gardens during this period.



Clearing out the Rocks to Prepare a Garden Pomborneit North 8.8. 3898

Making a school garden in the stony ground at Pomborneit North state school [*The Link*, September 1924, p. 11]

Throughout the study area, state school children and their teachers formed school gardens, irrigation systems and gardening clubs. At Cobden, the girls had three flower clubs while the boys had three vegetable clubs and one flower club.²⁹³ At Pomborneit North, in the Stony Rises, the school students had a difficult job clearing the rocks and levelling the ground, which was 'exceedingly rough and stony', before they could form a garden.²⁹⁴ At some schools quite sophisticated horticultural experimentation was carried out, for example at Gnotuk school which grew experimental plots of potatoes in the 1920s in the rich volcanic soil on the banks of Lake Gnotuk.²⁹⁵ Water was often a problem. The school at Darlington developed an elaborate water supply system, while elsewhere, during a period of drought in the 1920s, students at another school, reluctantly, had to 'let the garden go'.

Many State schools in the study area established forest plantations, typically *Pinus radiata* (Radiata or Monterey Pine), in the 1920s and 1930s, as part of the Education Department's forestry endowment scheme. Examples survive at Brucknell Creek, Simpson, Skipton and Newfield. Mackenzie's Lane, Heytesbury Other schools with

²⁹³ The Link, vol. 1, no. 2, 1921, p. 12.

²⁹⁴ 'Notes from Pomborneit North', The Link, 1924, p. 11.

²⁹⁵ The Link, vol. 1, no. 7, September 1924, p. 14.

endowment plantations included Derrinallum, Lismore, Mount Noorat, Naroghid and Terang state schools, and Terang High School.²⁹⁶

15.9 Cemeteries and burial sites

In the early period of European settlement, private burial grounds were usually set aside on pastoral stations, often with a separate area for Aborigines. Surviving examples of station burial grounds are at West Cloven Hills, Naringal, Strathvean, and Gala.²⁹⁷ Aborigines and settlers were often buried in separate areas, but at Gala the Aborigines and shepherds lie together.²⁹⁸ In new settlements, before public burial grounds were officially gazetted, early burials might place on a piece of unoccupied Crown land or another temporary location.²⁹⁹ In an unusual case, a private church cemetery was established at Kilnoorat in the late 1840s.

Examples

Camperdown Cemetery Reserve, Camperdown
Kilnoorat Cemetery
Private burial ground, West Cloven Hills
Private burial ground, Naringal
Old Timboon burying place and Charles Seivwright's Grave, Camperdown
Moonlight Head Cemetery
Wormbeech Puuyuun memorial stone, Camperdown Cemetery
Burial ground for the Fiji shipwreck (1891)

Once towns were surveyed and settled, the need for a public cemetery became urgent. Under new legislation of 1853, public cemeteries were reserved at Skipton (1858),³⁰⁰ Camperdown and Terang. This legislation required that local trustees be appointed who were responsible for managing and maintaining the site, and collecting the fees. For reasons of hygiene and convention, cemetery reserves were selected at a suitable distance from the settlement, away from anticipated growth areas, and on sites with adequate drainage; convention dictated that a cemetery be placed one mile from human habitation.

Public cemeteries in Victoria were typically laid out in a geometric design, with roughly equal sections or 'quadrants' allocated to the major Christian denominations: Anglican, Catholic, Methodist, and Presbyterian. In some cemeteries small areas were also marked out for Aborigines (for example at Camperdown), and for Chinese and 'paupers'. However Aborigines were often not buried in the grounds of the public cemetery, possibly because their families could not pay the necessary burial fee. In the 1870s James Dawson was aggrieved that Aborigines were buried outside of the 'White Man's Ground' at Camperdown in the area allocated to the Aborigines. He

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²⁹⁶ Central Planning Authority, Melbourne, *Resources Survey: Corangamite Region*, Government Printer, Melbourne, 1957, p. 188.

²⁹⁷ LP Planning, 'Cemeteries of Victoria: A National Estate Study', 1980, pp. 33, 35; McAlpine, *Shire of Hampden*, 1963, p. 41; *Cressy Centenary Celebrations*, 1838–1938, 1938, no page numbers. It is likely that there are many more station burial grounds in the Shire.

²⁹⁸ McAlpine, Shire of Hampden, 1963, p. 41; Oman et al., Brown's Water Holes, 1980, p. 6.

²⁹⁹ There may also have been Aboriginal burials at the Skipton police paddock, for example, as this was common in some other country police paddocks in Victoria in the 1850s and 1860s, but more research is required to confirm this.

³⁰⁰ Notman, 1989, p. 32.

reburied his Aboriginal friend, Wombeetch Puuyuun 'Camperdown George', in a prominent spot in the Camperdown Cemetery in 1884 and erected a granite obelisk as a monument to the 'passing of the Aborigines'.³⁰¹

The fashion for the garden cemetery movement in early nineteenth century Britain influenced layouts and plantings. J.C. Loudon's publication *On the Laying Out of Cemeteries* (1843) was highly influential. Camperdown Cemetery is the best example in this respect, with its network of sinewy paths. There is little by way of landscaping, however, apart from some notable exotic specimen trees and boundary plantings. The Terang Cemetery, sited on a gentle hill above the south bank of Lake Terang, was described in 1881 as being 'as beautiful a site as could be found in Australia'.³⁰² It retains some interesting plantings and landscape design, including a clipped Hawthorn hedge entry. Few built structures survive at the cemeteries in the study area. An exception is the stone entrance shelter at Moonlight Head cemetery, which was built in 1962,³⁰³ and which may reflect the North American 'National Parks' style which was adopted for the memorial structures along the nearby Great Ocean Road.



The stone entrance way to the isolated Moonlight Head Cemetery was erected in 1962 [Moonlight Lodge website]

Camperdown, Terang and Skipton cemeteries contain a number of impressive monuments to early settlers. Other cemeteries were less developed. The five-acre cemetery reserve at Derrinallum, for example, was gazetted in 1872 but little used until the 1930s with the impact of closer settlement.³⁰⁴ More recently the site has

³⁰¹ McAlpine, *Shire of Hampden*, 1963, p. 58; K.S. Inglis, *Sacred Places: War memorials in the Australian landscape*, Melbourne University Press, Carlton, 2005 (first published 1998), p. 25; Critchett, *Untold Stories*, 1998, pp. 220–37.

³⁰² *Advocate*, 2 July 1881, p. 14.

³⁰³ Loney, The Great Ocean Road, 1984, p. 17.

³⁰⁴ McGregor and Oaten, *Mount Elephant*, 1985, p. 66.

commenced a radical practice of upright burials so to be more economical with space. Most cemeteries now include a masonry wall with niches to hold the ashes of people who have been cremated, reflecting a major change in funereal culture. There are many notable individual monuments in cemeteries within the study area. At Skipton cemetery there is a large modern memorial erected for former Premier of Victoria Sir Henry Bolte and his wife, Dame Edith Bolte, both of whom were Skipton locals.

The isolated nature of early settlement meant that lone graves were not uncommon. Known examples in the study area include the graves of a young girl buried at what is now the Timboon golf course; and the local Protector of Aborigines Charles Sievwright, buried at Camperdown.³⁰⁵ The high incidence of shipwreck along the dangerous south-west coastline necessitated a ready means of disposing of the dead. Burials were carried out close to the site of the wreck, for example at Loch Ard cemetery, which was set aside on the cliffs overlooking the place where the Scottish clipper *Loch Ard* was wrecked in 1878. Other shipwreck burials were carried out near the wreck of the *Fiji* in 1892. The small Moonlight Head Cemetery, established in 1906, is also claimed as the 'lonely resting place of tragic shipwreck victims'.³⁰⁶

15.10 Mechanics Institutes, libraries and museums

Mechanics Institutes were established in the majority of towns within the study area. The earliest mechanics institutes were at Camperdown, Skipton (1880) and Terang. The decorative timber mechanics institute at Lismore is no longer extant. 307 James Dawson donated material for an ethnographic collection at Camperdown in the 1870s or 1880s. This comprised mainly fossils and taxidermy; and possibly

included some Aboriginal cultural material. This was accommodated in the upper story of the mechanics hall which was advertised as an ethnological museum.

15.11 Temperance

The various churches did much to encourage abstinence, but it was probably the Presbyterian Church that led the temperance movement in the study area in the latter part of the nineteenth century. A temperance hall was proposed for Camperdown in 1860, and was open by 1865. 308

By 1879, there were additional temperance halls in Cobden, Darlington and Terang.³⁰⁹ Another opened at Lismore in 1880.³¹⁰ Temperance hotels or coffee palaces were also popular in the 1880s and 1890s, for example at Derrinallum.³¹¹

Examples

Temperance Hall, Camperdown

³⁰⁵ Another lone grave is that of William Gellibrand, buried at Lower Gellibrand; further information is needed about this.

³⁰⁶ Moonlight Head Cemetery website: http://home.vicnet.net.au/~marr/MOONLHD.HTM; Moonlight Head Lodge website; Great Ocean Road Draft Heritage Report, 2007:

http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au/resources07/07_2111.pdf, p. 42; accessed 10 June 2009.

³⁰⁷ Baragwanath and Hodgson, 1998.

³⁰⁸ VGG, 1860, p. 1294; Whitworth, Bailliere's Victorian Gazeteer, 1865.

³⁰⁹ Bailliere's Victorian Gazetteer, 1879, pp. 102, 123, 148, 463.

³¹⁰ Oman et al., Brown's Water Holes, 1980, p. 53.

³¹¹ McGregor and Oaten, 1986, pp. 55–57.

15.12 Public health

Medical practitioners were scarce in the early period of settlement, but one notable exception was squatter Daniel Curdie of Tandarook, near Cobden. Subsequently doctors became prominent and affluent members of the local community with houses to match their status, such as Dr Donaldson of Lismore who built a fine Arts and Crafts home on the outskirts of Lismore in the 1930s. Nursing and midwifery were usually provided by settlers' wives or by female relatives who lived in close enough range to assist.

Examples

Dr Donaldson's House, 225 Hamilton Highway, Lismore

15.13 Hospitals

Local hospitals were established through individual initiative or local patronage. At Camperdown, the Manifold family presented the town with a public hospital as a Queen Victoria Jubilee Memorial gift in 1909. The hospital was extended over the years, and in 1932 it was claimed as the first community hospital in Victoria. At Lismore, a private hospital was established by midwife Jane Argent Inglis in 1911; this became the Lismore Bush Nursing Centre in 1930. At Cobden Heytesbury House, which was originally constructed as a doctor's residence, was run by a local doctor-in-residence as a private hospital

Small towns struggled to cope with epidemics like the Spanish 'Flu of 1919 and outbreaks of diphtheria and typhoid. On account of the need for a better resourced medical service in Terang, and perhaps partly out of competition with Camperdown's new hospital, Norah Cosgrave left a large bequest in 1927 for the building of a hospital in Terang. This commenced a long battle with the Victorian Health Commission to allow a public hospital to be built in the town. However, compromises prevailed and the Norah Cosgrave Community Hospital opened in 1936. ³¹⁴ Up until that time Terang and Cobden had relied on small private hospitals, usually run by nurses. Other towns established bush nursing hospitals in the early twentieth century. At Skipton the Soldiers' Memorial Bush Nursing Hospital opened in 1924. ³¹⁵ At Cobden a Bush Nursing Hospital was planned from around 1944 and opened in 1957. ³¹⁶ Many hospitals were extended or rebuilt in the postwar period to accommodate growing populations and improved technology. The Skipton and

³¹² Lafferty, *Camperdown*, 1954, p. no page numbers; Nan Chapman, *Historic Homes of Western Victoria*, 1965, pp. 51–52. Note that Colac hospital also makes this claim.

³¹³ McAlpine, *Shire of Hampden*, 1963, p. 73; Forth (ed.), *Biographical Dictionary of the Western District*, 1998, p. 72.

³¹⁴ Margaret J. Baker, *But Generations To Come: The evolution of health services in Terang and district.* Terang, 1990.

³¹⁵ http://www.bashs.org.au/AboutUs/index.aspx; accessed 10 June 2009.

³¹⁶ Alma MacDonald, 'Mildred Oates (1907–1981)', in Forth (ed), *Biographical Dictionary of the Western District*, 1998, p. 117; Cobden & District Historical Society, *Cobden: A time line*, 1994, p. 25.

District Memorial Hospital was rebuilt in 1963.³¹⁷ A new hospital was built at Timboon in the 1960s.

Examples

Lismore District Hospital (1930?) Norah Cosgrave Hospital, Terang (1936)

15.14 Infant welfare centres

The care of infants and their mothers through the government-run infant welfare service began in Victoria in the 1920s. These centres were critical in country areas where health services were scarce and isolation was a problem. Infant welfare services operated in Camperdown and Terang from around 1925. Services commenced at Lismore from 1926, but then stalled. Demand rose significantly in the postwar period due to population growth associated with the soldier settlement estates, and some makeshift centres were established. In the 1950s, for example, the Cobden Infant Welfare Centre operated from the local court house. New infant welfare centres were opened at Skipton (1958), Lismore (1958), Derrinallum (1960), and finally at Cobden (1965).

Examples

Terang Infant Welfare Centre (c.1925) Lismore Baby Health Centre (1958) Derrinallum Infant Welfare Centre (1960)

15.14 Organising recreation

In their heyday, the large pastoral estates were likened to small villages, but no provision for recreation was usually provided for the station workers. The squatters developed their own private sports facilities, such as golf courses, lawn tennis courts, and croquet lawns.

Woolsheds were also used for social events in the days before towns had built their own public halls.³²¹]

15.15 Horse-racing

Some of the first large public gatherings centred around horse-racing. The Terang racecourse, for example, was reserved in 1859.³²² It went through major redevelopments in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century and remains as a

³¹⁷ http://www.bashs.org.au/AboutUs/index.aspx; accessed 10 June 2009.

³¹⁸ McAlpine, Shire of Hampden, 1963, p. 73.

³¹⁹ Alma McDonald, pers. com., August 2009.

³²⁰ Back to Terang 1950, 1950; Notman, But a Heartbeat in Time, 1989, p. 207; Oatman and McGregor, Mount Elephant, 1985, pp. 78–79; McAlpine, Shire of Hampden, 1963, pp. 18–19, 73; Cobden & District Historical Society, Cobden: A time line, 1994, p. 30.

³²¹ Nan Chapman, 1965

³²² Terang: Old and New,1907, no page nos, [p.22]

major course that still holds race meetings. It was so popular that a separate racecourse platform was built when the railway was extended from Terang to Warrnambool in 1890. The district was well known for its role in horse breeding and training with properties like Keayang at Terang and Newminster Park proving to be successful studs. Examples of other early racecourses were at Camperdown, Skipton (on the town common), Moonlight Head, and on the sea cliffs west of Port Campbell.³²³ By 1879 there was a racecourse at Cobden.³²⁴

Examples

Polo field at Terang Camperdown Turf Club Grandstand Terang racecourse reserve Moonlight Head racecourse

15.16 Recreation reserves

Organised recreational activities were an important part of the social life of those living in country towns and small settlements in the study area. As townships developed, many localities were granted a recreation reserve within a town survey area, and a local committee was usually appointed to manage these sites. Public recreation reserves were set aside at Cobden, Camperdown, Darlington, Terang, and elsewhere. Lake Terang, for example, was permanently reserved for public purposes in the 1870s. Lismore was granted a 36-acre recreation reserve in 1877. At Darlington In 1879 there was: 'a recreation ground of about five acres, on which a substantial grandstand is erected, and an oval fenced off for athletic sports'. 326

Local sporting clubs made use of the recreation grounds. At Camperdown, an Athletics Sports Society and a Cricket Club was formed by 1875. Local recreation reserves were developed as multi-function sports grounds, usually with an oval and pavilion of some kind, used by the local football and cricket clubs, as well as tennis courts, bowling green and croquet green. Some public recreation reserves such as Terang Park were further developed in the twentieth century with the addition of a swimming pool. Cobden was well supplied with recreation reserves. There was a 10-acre recreation reserve in Cobden, reserved in 1886 and also a much larger 38-acre recreation reserve on a creek [?], which was also reserved, in part, in 1886. Recreation reserves were also as places of civic celebration and memorialising. A number of towns used their recreation reserve to erect utilitarian war memorials, such as a grandstand (e.g. Timboon) and memorial gates (e.g. Pomborneit and Lismore). Football clubs were established in many townships, which together formed the Hampden League. Cricket clubs were also formed. These clubs, along with the

³²³ Notman, 1939; Duruz, *Port Campbell*, 1971, p. 10; the Port Campbell racecourse appears on the 1940s Army Plan of the area.

³²⁴ Whitworth (ed.), Bailliere's Victorian Gazetteer for 1879, 1879.

³²⁵ Oman et al., Brown's Water Holes, 1980, p. 53.

³²⁶ Whitworth (ed.), Bailliere's Victorian Gazetteer for 1879, 1879, p. 148.

³²⁷ Warrnambool Standard Almanac 1875 (1875), p. 68.

³²⁸ See Cobden township plan; *VGG* 1886.

³²⁹ Whitworth (ed.), Bailliere's Victorian Gazetteer for 1879, 1979, p. 124.

bowls, tennis and croquet clubs were granted a playing field and club house within the public recreation reserve. Tennis courts were also commonly attached to the various churches in many towns.



Terang avenue and bandstand [SLV]

Examples

Terang Park
Pomborneit Recreation Reserve
Lismore Recreation Reserve

15.17 Golf

The large number of settlers of Scottish descent ensured that golf was popular. Golf was played on the grounds of several homestead properties in the early 1900s, for example at Gala and at Larra. Public golf courses were established at Camperdown and on the lake bank at Terang in the early 1900s, and at Cobden in 1908, and at Timboon. Terang Golf Course established an 18-hole course in 1937.

Examples

Golf course, Gala homestead Golf club, Timboon Lismore Common (former golf course)

³³⁰ Historic Trees, Gardens and Homestead Tour, Lismore [n.d.], no page numbers; McGregor and Oaten, Mount Elephant (1985).

³³¹ Cobden & District Historical Society, *Cobden Time Line*, 1994, p. 18.

³³² Back to Terang, Easter 1950, 1950, p. 13

15.18 Croquet lawns and tennis courts

Croquet was a fashionable leisure pursuit popular in Britain in the mid nineteenth century that became popular with the wealthy Western District pastoral families in the late nineteenth century. Croquet clubs were also established in the towns (for example the Cobden Ladies' Croquet Club formed in the early 1880s),³³³ and croquet lawns were formed at several public parks within the study area.

Tennis was first played in the 1880s and was also initially the preserve of fashionable society. A photograph from the 1880s for example, shows a tennis party at the Curdie's Tandarook homestead, near Cobden (see below). By the 1890s, tennis courts were established on public recreation reserves. An early lawn tennis association was established at Cobden in 1894.³³⁴



A fashionable tennis party at Tandarook, near Cobden, c.1880s [Picture Victoria]

15.19 Swimming pools

Although they were well endowed with lakes as swimming holes, the townships of the study area were keen to establish safer swimming pools in the twentieth century. To mark Queen Victoria's jubilee in 1897, the Manifold family offered the Town of Camperdown a 'jubilee gift' in the form of swimming pool to be built at the railway water reserve. However opposition from the railway meant this could not go

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³³³ Cobden & District Historical Society, *Our Cobden and District 1849–1920*, 1995, p. 14.

³³⁴ Cobden & District Historical Society, Cobden: A time line, 1994.

ahead.³³⁵ The first public swimming pool was opened at Cobden in 1930.³³⁶ By the mid twentieth century several towns managed to raise funds and built modern swimming centres, including Terang (1956), Lismore (c.1963), Skipton (1960s), and Derrinallum (1960s).³³⁷

Examples

Lismore Memorial swimming pool (c.1963) [LCC] Memorial Swimming Pool, Derrinallum Cobden swimming pool

15.20 Theatres and cinemas

Early theatres in the study area include the ambitiously named Theatre Royal in Camperdown and the former Plaza Talkies Picture Theatre, which occupied the public hall at Derrinallum. The Catholic Church at Terang built a brick hall for showing movies in the 1930s. 338 Other public halls and mechanics institutes showed 'moving pictures' and 'talkies' in the early decades of the twentieth century. Some cameramen toured the western district showing films in makeshift or semi-permanent 'theatres', such as the Cobden mechanics hall.

15.21 Social and cultural organisations

Active civic life depended on the various service organisations that operated in the townships. Co-operative efforts were first organised through fraternities like the Odd Fellows and the HACBS (Hibernian Australasian Catholic Benefit Society). Later, from the 1920s, the influence of the Returned Servicemen's League and the Country Women's Association (CWA) was important. The CWA, formed in the district in the 1920s and 1930s, was established to educate and support young country women in the areas of household economy and childcare. Agnes Black (née Curdie) of Terang was one of the founders. 339

In this staunchly Presbyterian pocket of Victoria, there was a strong Masonic presence. This was part of the cultural inheritance of the Scottish lowlands and Northern Ireland where the Masonic lodge was an organisation that encouraged fraternity amongst 'working men of Protestant persuasion', but which also harboured Old World prejudices against Catholics and Jews. The Leura Lodge at Camperdown, established in 1875, was regarded as an exemplary lodge in the state.³⁴⁰ Other Masonic lodges in the study area were established at Terang in 1902 (in the former Bible Christian Church), Skipton and Cobden (1926).³⁴¹

³³⁵ McAlpine, Shire of Hampden, 1963.

³³⁶ Cobden & District Historical Society, *Cobden: A time line*, 1994, p. 20.

³³⁷ McAlpine, 1963, p. 91.

³³⁸ Heritage Matters Pty Ltd, 'Jaffas Down the Aisles: A survey of cinemas in rural Victoria', prepared for Heritage Victoria, 2008.

³³⁹ Brenda Stevens-Chambers, *The Feisty Phoenix: The real history of the Country Women's Association of Victoria, 1928–2008*, CWA, Toorak, 2008, p. 11; Forth (ed.), *Biographical Dictionary of the Western District*, 1998, p. 19

³⁴⁰ Camperdown Masonic Hall, VHR H1414; Warrnambool Standard Almanac for 1875, 1875, p. 68.

³⁴¹ McAlpine, *Shire of Hampden*, 1963, p. 79; Cobden & District Historical Society, *Cobden: A time line*, 1994, p. 20; for Terang, see www.heritage Australia.com.au

Many towns established progress associations in the early twentieth century, which carried out practical public works, such as street-tree planting, and lobbied the appropriate government department for new developments that were needed, for example building a new water supply for Terang.³⁴² Residents of Port Campbell established a Local Improvement Organisation in 1879.³⁴³ and this organization was very active in opening up sites along the coast for tourist use.

Some of the more recently formed community associations are more concerned with conservation than development. These include Landcare, Friends of Camperdown Elms, Corangamite Arts Council, and the Port Campbell Community Group.

Examples

Camperdown Masonic Lodge Cobden Masonic Hall Skipton Masonic Hall Terang Masonic Hall (former church)

³⁴² Bailliere's Victorian Gazetteer, 1879, p. 385; Back to Terang, 1950, 1950.

³⁴³ Bailliere's Victorian Gazetteer, 1879, p. 385.

16 Working life

... good, honest Scotchmen and hard workers

J.L. Currie, Larra.344

16.1 Pastoral workers

In Scottish farming tradition, the landowner provides accommodation for his workers. Margaret Kiddle identified a connection between the Scottish style of farm labourers' accommodation in Scotland and that of the early period of white settlement in the Western District. Typically, this accommodation took the form of small stone-built, terraced houses.

16.2 South-east Asian labour

In the late 1840s, as a remedy for the labour shortage in Victoria, a settler named Johnstone arranged for the immigration of workers from the Malay Peninsula. He brought a large number of Malay (or Chinese) men into Victoria who were assigned to pastoral properties in western Victoria, including Glenormiston and Derrinallum.³⁴⁵

16.3 Aborigines

Aborigines worked on pastoral stations in the study area in a range of occupations, as shepherds, drovers, and general labourers. Niel Black is said to have employed Aborigines but not convicts.³⁴⁶ The Manifolds at Purrumbete are also known to have employed Aborigines. James Bonwick claimed that they preferred Aboriginal to white labour.³⁴⁷ Aborigines from Purnim (possibly Framlingham) and Condah reserve were also employed as pickers at the hops gardens at Timboon in the 1890s.

16.4 Women's work

Women were occupied in paid employment from the earliest period of settlement in the study area, as nursemaids, governesses, housekeepers and domestic servants. Later, many worked as shopkeepers or publicans either in a family business or in their own right. Some were trained as dressmakers and milliners. From the late nineteenth century others drew a wage by working as a nurse, school teacher, secretary, shop assistant, waitress or factory worker.

16.5 Chinese labour

There is little research carried out on Chinese settlers in western Victoria but some information can be gleaned from local histories. A large number of Chinese came to Victoria in the 1850s in search of gold. Many arrived in Robe, South Australia (to avoid the arrival tax levied in Victoria). and travelled through Skipton en route to the

³⁴⁴ Cited in J. Ann Hone, 'Currie, John Lang (1818–1898)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, vol. 3, Melbourne University Press, Carlton, 1969, p. 510.

³⁴⁵ Hugh Anderson, *The Flowers of the Field: A history of Ripon Shire*, 1969, p. 31.

³⁴⁶ Forth (ed.), *Biographical Dictionary of the Western District*, 1998.

³⁴⁷ Bonwick, Western Victoria, 1970 (1858), p. 31.

diggings. Some chose to settle in this area, working as shopkeepers, market gardeners, hawkers and in other commercial activities. The Chinese were often employed on station homesteads as gardeners. In Cobden the Chinese gardener Willy Ah Soon hawked vegetables in the 1930s and 1940s.³⁴⁸

16.6 Workers' accommodation

Other purpose-built workers' accommodation was erected for railway workers, probably in the 1880s at Terang, and for the cheese factory employees at Simpson. It is likely that other railway workers' cottages were erected within the study area, but these have not yet been identified.

Examples

Railway workers homes, Terang Butter factory employees houses, Simpson



Men's accommodation at West Cloven Hills [SLV]

³⁴⁸ Alma McDonald, pers. com., August 2009.

17 Facing an adverse environment

Its advance here is said to have been something terribly grand; its roaring was awful; on it came, a wall of flame above 100 feet in height, belching forth thick clouds of suffocating smoke, thrusting forth its long tongue of flame, making the flakes of flaring bark whirl through the air, lighting every tree, log and stump, and at last wrapping the house in a sheet of flame.

H.J. Ham, 'The Heytesbury Forest', Warrnambool Standard, 1 February 1886.349

While parts of Corangamite Shire have long been celebrated by European settlers as resembling the home they left behind (e.g. a 'Pastoral Eden' in Cannon, *Vagabond Country*), much of it was a harsh and inhospitable place, especially in the early period of settlement. The basalt plains were open and exposed to the wind; settlers faced storms, bushfires, droughts and floods, and a range of pests, particularly rabbits. They established plantations to protect themselves and their homes from the elements, and erected dry-stone walls to keep the large numbers of rabbits out of their paddocks.

17.1 Water shortage

For pastoral settlers, the availability of fresh water was a chief factor in their choice of settlement site; an evident deficiency was a reason to move elsewhere. In their narratives of settlement, squatters like John Thomson at Lake Keilambete, the Manifolds at Lake Purrumbete, and J.L. Currie at Larra all told how the search for water shaped their decision to settle. Early settlers found the district reasonably well watered, with a number of creeks and freshwater lakes, which were fed by streams or underground springs. There was also an abundance of natural springs on the volcanic plains. Waterholes were common on the grasslands, but these proved less reliable during periods of drought. Ground water on a deep limestone base was plentiful and easy to access.

As squatters gained tenure of their land in the 1860s and 1870s, and improved their properties they built more substantial dams and water tanks. Local architect Alexander Hamilton routinely provided plans for stone water tanks at homestead sites. Given Hamilton's other work for the Manifolds, it is likely that the large bluestone water tank at Talindert (c.1860s-70s) is his work also.³⁵⁰ A large bluestone water tank at Mount Elephant [Larra?] was also possibly his work.³⁵¹

³⁴⁹ Reproduced in O'Callaghan (ed.), *Trips and Treks*, 2004, pp. 23–24.

³⁵⁰ Allan Willingham, 'Alexander Hamilton in Forth (ed.), *Biographical Dictionary of the Western District*, 1998, p. 57; John Collins, 'Talindert bluestone water tank', photograph held by SLV.

³⁵¹ Oaten and McGregor, *Mount Elephant*, 1985.



Bluestone tank at Talindert, near Camperdown, probably c.1870s [SLV]

17.2 Water supply

Squatters used wells and pumps for domestic use and, in the absence of an accessible lake or creek, built larger dams or weirs for stock and sheep-washing. John Thomson imported cast iron pipes from Scotland to build a water supply system for his property that tapped into the freshwater springs on the northern bank of Lake Keilambete. Niel Black at Mount Noorat, which was an ideal site for a gravity-fed system, and the Manifolds at Lake Purrumbete also devised early reticulated water supply systems for their homesteads.

Quite often, those living on the pastoral estates had superior arrangements for essential services than did the townships. Several homesteads had an early reticulated water supply—and, by the late nineteenth century, even a heated water supply. For a number of townships, however, including Cobden, it was not until the 1930s and 1940s that piped water was readily available.³⁵⁴

By the 1850s, much of the river and creek frontages in the study area were already taken up in pastoral holdings and were not readily accessible. As the colonial government set about surveying and administering Crown lands, they set aside numerous reserves for water supply, principally for the watering of stock but also for domestic use. These reservations protected local springs and waterholes from being

 $\underline{\text{http://www.wannonwater.com.au/index.php?option=com_content\&task=view\&id=93\&Itemid=97}$

³⁵² McAlpine, Shire of Hampden, 1963, p. 39-40.

³⁵³ For Purrumbete, see Kate Hattam, 'A Survey of Nineteenth-Century Gardens', c.1977–78, vol. II, p. 136, MS 10753, SLV.

³⁵⁴ See Wannon Water website ('Water supply history'):

sold and preserved them for public use. Examples are at Lismore, Skipton, and Foxhow.

In good rainfall years the Western District was celebrated for its high fertility and rich pastures. The desire to exploit this natural abundance in the name of progress extended to ideas about improving the water supply. The immense size of Lake Corangamite inspired various ambitious ideas about its potential to irrigate much of western Victoria. In the 1860s, the prize essayist William Acheson proposed an elaborate scheme to drain the salt water from Lake Corangamite into the Barwon River, and convert it to a freshwater storage, which could then be used for water supply and irrigation across a vast area from Lake Corangamite to Geelong. There was neither the means nor the motivation to make this dream a reality.³⁵⁵



Cobden Reservoir, from a postcard of 1908 [SLV]

As towns developed, water was needed not only for domestic purposes but also for industrial use at mills and factories. At Terang, the Lake Keilambete springs were taken over by the Keilambete Water Syndicate and provided the township with water at least until the 1960s. Also, the use of water from Lake Terang ultimately led to its drying up. At Cobden a dam was completed in 1872 to serve as the town's water storage, but a reticulated town water supply was not available until much later. Two large reservoirs were built to supply the town of Skipton, which established a town water supply in 1958.

The arrival of the railway in the 1880s necessitated additional water supplies at town railway stations. Railway water tanks, dams and pumps were installed in some

Corangamite Heritage Study Stage One Thematic Environmental History prepared by Dr Helen Doyle in conjunction with Heritage Matters Pty Ltd

³⁵⁵ East, Pioneers of Irrigation (1961), p. 4a; J.M. Powell, Watering the Garden State (1989), p. 86.

³⁵⁶ Mary Turner Shaw, *On Mount Emu Creek*, 1969, p. 24; McAlpine, 1963, p. 40.

³⁵⁷ Cobden & District Historical Society, *Cobden: A time line*, 1994, p. 8.

³⁵⁸ Notman, Out of the Past, 1939, p. 17; McAlpine, 1963, p. 71.

cases, and water reserves set aside, for example the Darlington Railway Water Reserve, gazetted in 1879. At Camperdown, water was pumped from a spring at the railways water reserve. Where a railway station fronted a river, for example at Curdies, the water was presumably pumped straight from the river. When the railway line was surveyed in the late 1870s, the location of a reliable water source at each town would have determined the locations of each station and influenced the overall route.

As towns and populations grew in the early twentieth century, and large dairy factories opened, water supply was often inadequate. This was alleviated in 1935 with the completion of the Otway Main Pipeline (or North Pipeline), which was built to serve Warrnambool but would be shared by the towns of Camperdown, Terang and Cobden, which were along its path. By this time, the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission had taken over many country water authorities. The Otway water was turned on at Cobden in 1938 and at Terang in 1939, where it was stored in a storage basin at Ewen's Hill.³⁶¹ The Lismore Waterworks Trust, established in 1939, drew its supply from the Currungoweet Creek.³⁶²

The Otway water supply was augmented in 1959 by tapping the Gellibrand River and in 1964 the supply was extended to serve Noorat and Glenormiston, which both had large dairy factories that needed a secure water supply. The following year, the town of Simpson, which had developed as a result of the Heytesbury settlement, was connected to the Otway system. The Otway South Pipeline which drew water from the Lower Gellibrand, was completed in 1976 which increased the supply considerably. In 1972 the Otway system was extended to Derrinallum and Lismore. Timboon was connected to the Port Campbell water supply system in 2000.³⁶³

The Port Campbell Waterworks Trust was established in the early 1900s. This body was responsible for an artesian bore and a water tower, built in the 1960s. Timboon was connected to the Port Campbell water supply system in 2000.³⁶⁴

17.3 Bushfire

Early settlers on the western plains often observed that the ground was blackened from burning. Some of these observations were quite likely the result of Aboriginal fire-stick farming, which was regularly carried out to stimulate new pasture growth, to keep the timber thin for hunting purposes, and to maintain species diversity. These fires were checked and regulated. Unplanned wild fires, however, were an ever-present danger in the study area over the summer months. The bushfires of Black Thursday, 6 February 1851, caused widespread losses of property and stock on the western plains—for example near Darlington—and possibly some loss of life. The day after the Black Thursday fires, as his ship was nearing Cape Otway on a return voyage to Victoria, Daniel Curdie noted that the sails appeared black from the dense covering of birds taking refuge from the smoke. Eugène Von Guérard captures the

³⁵⁹ McGregor and Oaten, *Mount Elephant*, 1985, p. 44.

³⁶⁰ McAlpine, *Shire of Hampden 1863–1963*, 1963, p. 14.

³⁶¹ McAlpine, 1963, p. 71; Cobden & District Historical Society, Cobden: A time line, 1994, p. 24.

³⁶² Central Planning Authority, Resources Survey: Corangamite region, 1957, p. 156.

³⁶³ Wannon Water website: www.wannonwater.com.au; accessed 24 June 2009.

³⁶⁴ Wannon Water website: www.wannonwater.com.au; accessed 24 June 2009.

frightening enormity of the scale of a bushfire on the western plains in a painting of 1859, titled *Bushfire between Mount Elephant and Timboon, March 1857*. In 1886 a fire in the Heytesbury Forest caused extensive damage to property. A graphic description of this fire and its aftermath was published in the *Warrnambool Standard*:

Pitilessly it raged, driving the blinding smoke and scorching flame far in advance; nothing could stand before it; brave, strong men were powerless to stand in its deadly progress; women and children were forces to flee in terror for their lives. On the fire swept, regardless of all, igniting houses, barns, stables, stacks, fences, and in a very while this once green, prosperous valley was a blackened, dismal, ghastly mass of smoking ruins.³⁶⁶

It was not only the forested areas and grasslands that were threatened by fire, but also the towns. There have been a number of damaging fires in the townships of the study area, for example at Camperdown and Terang in the 1870s, and in the early 1900s. In Terang a large number of buildings in the main street of the township were lost in fires of 1916 and 1944.³⁶⁷

The worst bushfires to affect the study area occurred in January and February 1944. The fires destroyed much property, including many houses, farm buildings and commercial premises. A number of important historic buildings were lost, including the Mack's Berrybank homestead, near Lismore; and Mount Widderin homestead. A large part of the Derrinallum township was also destroyed. After this devastation, the town set about rebuilding and as a result, the town is dominated today by postwar-style buildings. 369

The Ash Wednesday bushfires in 1983 also did some damage on the fringe of the study area.

Fire prevention was aided by lookouts at prominent spots in the region. The Black family established a fire lookout at Mount Noorat in 1880. A man stationed at the summit during the summer would fly a warning flag if any fires became visible.³⁷⁰

Several townships established fire brigades in the early part of the twentieth century, including Terang in 1902, Cobden in 1936, and Lismore.³⁷¹ These were equipped with an alarm bell, transport, mobile water tanks, pumps and hoses. The severe bushfires of 1944 prompted local townships to improve their fire-fighting and fire prevention skills. Skipton established a bush fire brigade in 1947. In the more heavily

³⁶⁵ Eugène Von Guérard, *Bushfire between Mount Elephant and Timboon, March 1857* (1859), held at Ballarat Fine Art Gallery. It is likely that the artist meant Camperdown rather than Timboon, Timboon was an earlier name for Camperdown township but this was changed in 1854.

³⁶⁶ O'Callaghan (ed.), *Trips and Treks*, 2004, p. 24.

³⁶⁷ Back to Terang 1950, 1950; Trust News, October 1988, p. 27.

³⁶⁸ Gardens of Australia, 1992, p. 73.

³⁶⁹ Much detail about the extent of this fire in Derrinallum and the rebuilding process is given in McGregor and Oaten, *Mount Elephant*, 1985, pp. 67–72.

³⁷⁰ Back to Terang, 1950, p. 15; Advocate, 3 November 1900, p. 24; The Link, vol. 1, no. 3, May 1922, p. 10.

³⁷¹ Back to Terang, 1950, p. 15; Cobden & District Historical Society, Cobden: A Time Line, 1994, p. 20.

forested area to the south, where fire hazards were greater, the Forests Commission of Victoria established a radio communication station at Cobden in the c.1950s.³⁷²

Intentional burning has been carried out by government authorities and private property owners for a number of decades. In remnant grasslands, particularly on railway reserves but also on roadside reserves, intentional or accidental fire continues to play 'an important ecological role'.³⁷³

Examples

Mt Noorat fire lookout?

17.4 Shipwreck

The treacherous coastline between Warrnambool and Apollo Bay brought many ships aground in the nineteenth century. The chief precautionary measure to prevent shipwrecks was the construction of a lighthouse at Cape Otway, which was carried out in 1846. Shipwrecks continued to occuralong the coastal strip of the study area, including the *Loch Ard* (1878), the *Fiji* (1891), and the *Newfield* (1892). Many lives were lost and much valuable cargo.

A rocket crew was established at Port Campbell in 1878 following the *Loch Ard* disaster, and trained in readiness for an emergency. The 'Rocket apparatus was kept in good order and a rescue team held regular practices and went to the help of any boat in trouble.'374 The rocket was used to fire rope line to any survivors which would help to bring them safely to shore.³⁷⁵ Tragically, 12 members of the rocket crew were drowned during the rescue operation for the *Fiji* shipwreck in 1891. The timber rocket shed that survives is the second built on the same site and is currently used to display the rocket and mortar equipment.³⁷⁶

The morbid spectre of shipwreck loomed large in the minds of those who lived on this treacherous coastline. One visitor to Port Campbell in the early 1880s was affected by the recent event of the *Loch Ard* disaster, writing:

The tragic end of the *Loch Ard* is yet still fresh in the minds of all, and spectators have told me one of the saddest sights in connection with the disaster was to see the mutilated bodies dashed by the waves against the rocks, in sight of those above but hopelessly out of their reach.³⁷⁷

³⁷² Skipton Primary School website; Central Planning Authority, *Resources Survey: Corangamite region*, 1957, p. 172

³⁷³ Ian D. Lunt, *Victorian Naturalist*, vol. 103, no. 3, 1991, p. 60.

³⁷⁴ Duruz, Port Campbell, 1971, p. 8.

³⁷⁵ Port Campbell National Park:

http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au/education/resource_kit/resources/PVERKsection4d3032.pdf

³⁷⁶ LCC, Historic Places: South West Victoria, site C374.

³⁷⁷ 'Sketches on the Western Coast', *Warrnambool Independent*, 25 April 1885, reproduced in O'Callaghan (ed.), *Trips and Treks*, 2004, p. 20.



Photograph of the Fiji shipwreck survivors [SLV]

Examples Port Campbell rocket shed Anchor of the Fiji (1891) Loch Ard Gorge

18 Holidays and tourism

The cliffs were richly coloured ... the ironstone yellow and red ochre, the limestone's delicate cream tinted and broken into all sorts of fantastic shapes, bridges and towers and arches and battlements ... Some cliffs, separated by the action of the water from the land stood out among the waves.

Alice Goldstraw, The Border of the Heytesbury, 1937.

18.1 Early visitors

Early travel was generally undertaken for necessity rather than for pleasure and was limited to horseback or coach travel. Nineteenth-century visitors to the study area wrote of the district as predominantly a pastoral one, but those in search of the picturesque found scenes to excite them in the volcanic landscapes of the area. Other visitors were probably more interested in the search for sport—that is, hunting and fishing. Lodging houses and hotels were available, and rest and relaxation were offered at the local beauty spots. Favourite places included the Basin Banks at Camperdown, Lake Elingamite near Cobden, and the picturesque Lake Terang. The banks of several lakes were reserved for public purposes by the 1870s to ensure they were protected for public enjoyment, and visitors could hire pleasure boats at both Camperdown and Terang.³⁷⁸

Some early guidebooks found little of interest in the area. In his *Guide to Victoria* (1880), author and sometime tour guide, Robert P. Whitworth had little to enthuse about, except to note that 'Lake Korangamite' was worth a visit.³⁷⁹ The travel-writer 'The Vagabond' (John Stanley James), who visited the area in the mid 1880s, praised it as being of interest to the tourist. He enjoyed a visit to Lake Elingamite, which, compared to the other volcanic lakes in the area, had not been closely grazed right to its banks. Instead, a reserve had been set aside to protect the native wildlife, and here he found black swans (which still frequent the lake today).³⁸⁰

Former Sea Foam Guesthouse, Port Campbell

Viewing area, The Twelve Apostles

Gibsons Steps,

Early visitors to the area who recorded their observations have left us with a kind of latter-day travel writing. The adventurer J.M. Meek, for example, published an account in 1869 of his travels into the 'wild and uninhabited country' at the western end of the Otway Ranges. Although not a holiday-maker himself, Meek's observations are useful in understanding why other visitors were drawn to the area. Meek gazed in awe at the towering trees in the many ravines. He marvelled at the spectacle of Moonlight Head. Nearby, where he saw the 'barren peaks of treeless hills, with their covering of water worn pebbles', he imagined this to be scene as 'an old deserted city lying in ruins'. Another visitor in the 1860s, J. Walls (who was part of an exploratory party investigating the best place for a road) also found much

³⁸⁰ Add ref from Cannon (ed.), Vagabond Country, 1981.

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³⁷⁸ Andrew Garran, *The Picturesque Atlas of Australasia*, 1886.

³⁷⁹ Whitworth, Guide to Victoria, 1880, p. 252.

³⁸¹ Meek, *The Resources of the Western District*, 1869, p. 9.

interest and beauty in the scenery and, like Meek, interpreted his observations by drawing on an imagined Old World landscape, noting for example 'some remarkable detached rocks "which stand out from the shore in bold relief, as though huge castles or monasteries had been raised by a magic wand". This may be the earliest recorded observation of the Twelve Apostles.

Examples

High Clifton Guesthouse, Great Ocean Road, Clifton Beach Port Campbell Guest House Fiji Guest house, Port Campbell Sherbrooke Lodge, Port Campbell

18.2 Holiday-makers

Many others began to appreciate the special character of this coastal area. From the 1860s, the coastal area to be known as Princetown (surveyed c.1867) was becoming a favourite summer destination of local squatting families, including the Curdies, McArthurs, and Rutledges, many of whom purchased allotments there and erected holiday houses near the cliffs. A length of coastline at Princetown was reserved for public purposes in 1873 to protect the fragile cliffs from development. Nineteenth-century visitors to Port Campbell and its coastal hinterland marvelled at the area's remarkable natural beauty, especially the vertical limestone cliffs, its evident fertility, its dense forests of valuable timber, and its opportunities for fishing and shooting. Any potential large-scale development of this area was hampered by isolation and dense forests, inadequate transport, poor roads and a lack of close markets, leaving it a quiet and peaceful place for a holiday. By the mid 1880s, Port Campbell was an isolated port town with a population of 300 people.

Before the 1890s, it was possible to take a coach to Scotts Creek, then to travel by coach to Port Campbell, but this was slow and uncomfortable. In 1892 after the railway had arrived at Timboon, this meant just a short coach trip from Timboon to Port Campbell. The arrival of the railway triggered a new period of growth of Port Campbell as a tourist destination. Visitor numbers increased and new holiday accommodation was built. In 1897, Port Campbell was described as the centre of a 'magnificent tourist district' with one boarding house and a hotel for visitors; there were three boarding-houses at nearby Princetown.³⁸⁵ Guesthouses at Port Campbell included River Nook, Sherbrooke Lodge, Bute House, Sea Foam, Ocean House and the Port Campbell Hotel.³⁸⁶ Walking was a popular activity along the many tracks. There was a suspension bridge built in the early 1900s.³⁸⁷ From around 1900 until the 1920s Port Campbell enjoyed something of a heyday.

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³⁸² Taken from the diary of Camperdown wheelwright J. Walls, 1866, as quoted in Rosemary Duruz, *The Story of Glenample*, Warrnambool, 1977, p. 11.

³⁸³ See Parish Plan, Glenample, reproduced in Duruz, Glenample, 1977, p. 17.

³⁸⁴ Duruz, *Port Campbell*, 1971, p. 8.

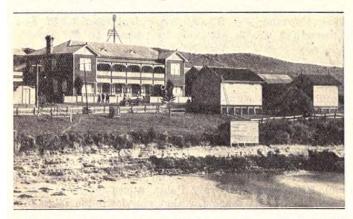
³⁸⁵ Picturesque Victoria and How To Get There, 1897, pp. 75, 76.

³⁸⁶ Duruz, *Port Campbell*, 1971, p. 9.

³⁸⁷ Duruz, Port Campbell 1971, p. 9.

"OCEAN HOUSE," Port Campbell

has up-to-date accommodation for Visitors, being a superior two-story building with large airy rooms, well-lighted with electric light, and Balcony overlooking Ocean and Bay. Half minute from Beach.



Hot Water Service. Wireless. Good Fishing and Bathing Beach unsurpassed. Shooting. Drives to all Beauty Spots and Picnics arranged. Tennis. Excellent Private Ballroom free. Golf. Motor Garage. Motor Service to Timboon.

LETTERS AND TELEGRAMS PROMPTLY ATTENDED TO

Port Campbell has most romantic Coastal Scenery. Lock Ard Gorge. Tom Pierce and Miss Carmichael Caves. Blow Hole. London Bridge. Also Strawberry Gardens, etc.

TARIFF ON APPLICATION

Telephone Port Campbell 6 LEONARD PITCHER Proprietor

Advertisement for Ocean House, Port Campbell, in the 1930s [*The Official Centenary Guide and Souvenir*, 1934, p. 170]



Sherbrooke Lodge, Port Campbell (SLV)

In the 1920s Boggy Creek became a well-known tourist and fishing resort due to its location on a wide section of Curdies River. A number of newspaper articles were written in the *Camperdown Chronicle* and *Warrnambool Standard* promoting the township's picturesque qualities and the available river activities for holiday-makers

such as boating and fishing. The Boggy Creek Hotel played a large role in cultivating these tourism activities, providing accommodation meals and boat rides.

18.3 Scenery

There was much here to excite the visitor in search of scenery. Scenery was most appreciated where it fitted within the then prevailing fashions in landscape beauty—that is, where places or views could be imagined as Romantic, 'park-like' or Picturesque. Places that were too thickly forested, too rocky, or simply too dangerous were generally not appealing. These places were considered treacherous and frightening, fitting with an eighteenth-century notion of Sublime.

In the late nineteenth century, when descriptions of Port Campbell and Princetown emphasised the 'beautiful coastal scenery', there was barely a mention of the Twelve Apostles, which is in stark contrast to today. The hefty and comprehensive compendium of the picturesque, Andrew Garran's *Picturesque Atlas of Australasia*, published in 1886, noted the 'romantic scenery' near Port Campbell, but failed to mention these limestone stacks as worthy of a visit. By contrast, the Loch Ard Gorge was mentioned much more often and presumably drew more tourists, owing to the 'melancholy interest which attaches itself to the site'. This was the shipwreck site of the Scottish clipper *Loch Ard* in 1878, which lost all of the 52 people on board except the cabin boy and one female passenger. There was a long public fascination with the survivors which led to pilgrimages to the site.

A preference for the romantic Picturesque may help to explain why there is scant mention, even in the 1890s, of the Twelve Apostles. For nineteenth-century observers of this coast, for whom fatality from shipwreck was a real possibility, the scene of rough seas pounding the rocky outcrops and steep cliffs, was disturbing and unsettling—a sure reminder of death and destruction. The rocky forms themselves were jagged and irregular, and represented what was wild and threatening about Nature.

To modern-day visitors to the Shipwreck Coast, for whom any danger has been reduced by fences and safety railings, a different viewing was possible and The Twelve Apostles could be safely incorporated as part of the Picturesque, for example in the 1891 photograph of the formation, where it is titled 'the Pinnacles'.³⁹¹ From around the 1910s there is more specific mention made of the site. The Victorian Railways tour guide of 1910 called this rock formation 'The Sisters'. Another early name was 'The Sow and Piglets'.³⁹² A tourist brochure of the 1920s, titled *Port Campbell and Its Attractions*, included a photograph of 'The Twelve Apostles', although no direct description of this site was included. One visitor to Port Campbell in 1921 described the coastline as 'probably unsurpassed in the Commonwealth'. Here there were: 'Huge columns of rock, weird island archways,

³⁸⁸ Andrew Garran, *The Picturesque Atlas of Australasia*, 1886.

³⁸⁹ Picturesque Victoria and How to Get There, 1897 and 1910 editions.

³⁹⁰ LCC, Historic Places: South-west Victoria, site A18.

³⁹¹ 'The Pinnacles', photograph, 1891, SLV Picture Collection, Accession No. H42199/33. There were apparently more than twelve stacks in the late nineteenth century; one source claims as many as 17. ³⁹² J.K. Loney, *Peterborough, Port Campbell, Princetown*, n.d., p. 10.

fantastic grottoes abounding in stalagmites and stalactites, and gorges containing blowholes and quicksands combine to make a scene that holds the spectator spell-bound.'393 By the 1940s, a tourist brochure proclaimed of Port Campbell that: 'The coastal scenery is unsurpassed in Australia, if not in the world'.394

The name of these rock formations was changed to the more picturesque 'Twelve Apostles' probably in the 1950s to make the site more appealing for tourists. There are currently only eight stacks remaining after one collapsed in 2005. The Twelve Apostles were recently named the most visited tourist site in Victoria and one of the most photographed. An image of its distinctive form was the subject of a postage stamp in 1980 and graced the cover of the popular Lonely Planet tour guide, *Victoria*, in 2002.



A photograph of 'The Pinnacles' in 1891, which would later be known as the Twelve Apostles [SLV]

Examples

The Twelve Apostles

³⁹³ William Campbell, 'Port Campbell', *The Link*, 1921, p. 31.

³⁹⁴ Port Campbell and its <u>Attractions</u>, 1948.

18.4 Motor car travel

The construction of the Great Ocean Road in the 1920s which opened through Port Campbell in 1935 and Princetown, opened the way for more tourists. The motor car also allowed visitors to explore places further afield that previously had been isolated. The advent of the motor car led to motels being established at Port Campbell, and, later, camping and caravan parks. There was a camping ground on the river bank by the 1950s. At Camperdown, camping facilities were provided at the showgrounds in the 1950s and by 1966 the first caravans were permitted to use the Camperdown Botanic Gardens. Local author Rosemary Duruz observed in 1971: 'The Motor Car has brought a new kind of Tourist Trade to Port Campbell. Old guest houses have vanished, but a camping-ground, Motel and overnight flats with modern facilities, cater for visitors'. With increased numbers visiting this fragile area of coastline, a National Park was proposed in the 1950s. In 1964 a National Park was declared at Port Campbell to prevent building on the cliffs, and to preserve the fragile ecosystem and rare plants and animals. 398

19 Appreciating the natural environment

Lake Purrumbete is a charming spot. The water is delicious, abounding with Black fish and Trout. The Ash banks are precipitous, and clothed with verdure. Huge boulders of basalt, reposing upon a lava floor, are seen on the western side.

James Bonwick, Western Victoria: Its geography, geology and social condition, 1858.

The unique landforms and landscapes of the study area have long been recognised by settlers as warranting special attention and protection. The lakes and volcanic hills, the pristine watercourses and the dramatic sections of coastline were popular local beauty spots with early settlers. Yet, while they were valued for their visual amenity, these places were degraded through grazing, erosion, quarrying and other adverse effects of European settlement. Climate change has also altered the flow of water in springs and watercourses, and the water level in many lakes. Sea levels have risen faster than expected in recent times, and in coming decades increased flooding and erosion from sea level rise and increased storm activity may worsen due to climate change.³⁹⁹

There has long been concern to protect this fragile environment. In the nineteenth century some of the lake banks, such as Lake Elingamite, were reserved for public purposes to prevent over-grazing and erosion, and so that they could be enjoyed by all. The coastal area that features the Twelve Apostles was declared as the Port Campbell National Park in 1964, which protected the fragile limestone cliffs from

³⁹⁵ See Australian Army map, 1942, and Rose postcard showing Port Campbell camping ground, both held SLV.

³⁹⁶ Central Planning Authority, *Resources Survey: Corangamite region*, 1957, p. 191; Dowdy, *Camperdown*, 1983.

³⁹⁷ Duruz, The Story of the Port Campbell District, 1971, p. 11

³⁹⁸ Duruz, The Story of the Port Campbell District, 1971, p. 11.

³⁹⁹ CSIRO, Climate Change in the Corangamite Region, DSE, 2008: see weblink at http://tinyurl.com/nltxuo

building development. The Otway National Park, which extends into the study area at Princetown and Moonlight Head, was declared in 1981 to protect the native forests and water catchments of the Otway Ranges.

The distinctive volcanic cones of the region, including Mounts Leura, Sugarloaf, Noorat, and Elephant, were all taken up as part of pastoral holdings in the mid nineteenth century before any steps could be taken to preserve them. Most were denuded of vegetation and many were disfigured through guarrying for scoria. The National Trust of Australia (Vic.) bought Mount Leura, and later Mount Sugarloaf (from the State Government), to protect the mountains from quarrying, and both are now managed by a local committee of management. Similarly, in 2000, a community group representing Derrinallum and Lismore was able to raise sufficient funds to purchase Mount Elephant from local landowners to better manage it for posterity. 400 More recently, in c.2006, the vast volcanic plain of western Victoria, incorporating the Shire of Corangamite, and stretching to South Australia, has been declared the world's 51st Geopark. The Kanawinka Geopark is recognised as one of the largest volcanic plains in the world. 401 This recognition should help to raise awareness about conserving the volcanic landscapes of the study area. On the coast, the Port Campbell Community Group is working to protect the Port Campbell headland and sea caves.

Much of the study area's indigenous grasses were lost in the nineteenth century as a result of intense pastoral development and were replanted with English pasture. As a means of preserving rare indigenous vegetation, some areas of roadside reserve have been set aside to better protect and manage the indigenous grasses that have survived here. One Significant Roadside Area is at Lismore. 402

⁴⁰⁰ Cultural Landscapes of the Volcanic Plains Forum, 30 March 2007, Heritage Council of Victoria, May

⁴⁰¹ See Kanawinka Global Geopark website: http://www.kanawinkageopark.com/

⁴⁰² See photos of Lismore Landcare Project c.1997, held SLV.



A picturesque scene at Lake Purrumbete (incorrectly labelled here as Lake Terang), from an etching of 1869 [SLV]

Examples

Leura reserve and lookout, Camperdown Port Campbell National Park Mount Elephant Otway National Park, at Princetown and Moonlight Head

20 A memorial landscape: remembering and commemorating the past

Those who have thus given of their time and interest will be the first to acknowledge the very special debt which we owe to the Messrs Manifold—both to the old generation, which has passed away, and also to the present generation, the members of which taken up the same burden of responsibility and carried on the same tradition of generosity.

Rev. A.D. Davies, Making of a Town: Being a Memento of the Jubilee of St Paul's Church, Camperdown, 1914.

20.1 A memorial landscape: remembering and commemorating

There has been a high regard, perhaps what could even be called a religious zeal, shown for remembrance, memorialisation and commemoration in Corangamite Shire, and this is clearly apparent in the physical fabric of townscapes and landscapes—in the memorial buildings, the memorial avenues and trees, the war memorials and honour boards, the statues, cairns and countless other physical ways of remembering the local past, the pioneers, and the civic leaders. This desire for memorials reflects a keen and sustained sense of local history. An appreciation of local pioneers is common to most small towns, but here it seems to pervade more than elsewhere. The memory of the not-so-distant local past is powerfully evident, reflecting a strong reverence for the local founders and pioneers. The continuing public and charitable work of the descendants of the founding families well into the middle of the twentieth century helped to imprint the memory of the pioneering story strongly onto the urban, as well as the rural, landscape.

20.2 Civic memorials: Remembering significant phases in the development of settlements and towns

The beginnings of settlement are well documented in the records left by the pioneers, and this paper record, which includes such significant sources as Niel Black's station journal, constitutes a monumental archive of settlement. But this story of pastoral settlement is also recorded in the physical landscape. At Larra, near Lismore, for instance, the site of John Lang Currie's 'first hut', built in 1844, is marked with a stone cairn inscribed: 'J.L.C. and T.A. SITE OF FIRST HUT. April 24, 1844'. The cairn was erected in 1894 to mark the jubilee of settlement at Larra, which Currie celebrated with a large bonfire on Mt Elephant. Nearby, an 8-foot high cairn was erected in 1929 at the site of John Brown's first homestead at Gala, built in 1842. At Purrumbete, the Manifolds' former home is a memorial of early settlement. Around 1839 the newly married Jane Manifold (née Synnot) planted a *Quercus robur* (English Oak) near the site of the first homestead, which represented a living monument to pioneering and endurance until it blew over in a storm in the 1980s.

⁴⁰³ Shaw, *On Mount Emu Creek* (1969), p. 38; Pamela McGregor and Lynton Oaten, *Mount Elephant: A history of the Derrinallum and Darlington district*, the authors, Derrinallum, 1985, p. 8.

⁴⁰⁴ McAlpine, Shire of Hampden, 1963, pp. 38–39.

Prominent local families of sufficient means erected impressive public memorials to loved ones. These include the Presbyterian churches erected to the memory of squatters Niel Black (Noorat) and John Thomson (Terang); the Noorat Presbyterian Sunday School (1912) erected to the memory of Niel Walter Black who was lost at sea; the Agnes Black memorial gates installed at Terang in 1935; and the elegant Gothic-style clocktower at Camperdown erected in memory of Thomas Peter Manifold (son of the pioneer John Manifold), who was killed in a hunting accident in 1895. Other memorials at Camperdown include a statue of Chester Manifold by Nelson Illingworth (1921); and a stone cross erected in memory of Daniel Curdie (c.1884?). Others include a memorial drinking fountain and stone horse trough at Port Campbell dedicated to Major Hector McIntyre who died at Ypres in 1917, and the J.H. Vagg memorial gates at Cobden swimming pool.

Churches provided further opportunity for memorialising local families. At Camperdown, memorial windows to the Manifold family adorn the Anglican Church, while at the Derrinallum Anglican Church a memorial window is dedicated to local grazier and Federal Minister for Air, J.V. Fairbairn, who was killed in the Canberra air crash of 1940. 405



Terang soldiers' memorial and bandstand [SLV]

In this landscape shaped so powerfully by agricultural and pastoral prosperity, there are few visible remains (apart from archaeological sites) of the original owners of the land. The memory of where these places were, however, was well known to some white people, at least in the early part of the twentieth century. Claude Notman, in his 1939 history of Skipton, for example, stated that 'Traces of the aborigine, and relics of his age still remain in the Skipton district' and that 'Along several bends of the creek are traces of the old burying grounds'. ⁴⁰⁶ The monument erected in 1884 by James Dawson in the Camperdown Cemetery as a tribute to Wombeetch

⁴⁰⁵ McGregor and Oaten, *Mount Elephant*, The authors, Derrinallum, 1985, p. 54.

⁴⁰⁶ Notman, Out of the Past, 1978 (first published 1939), pp. 52, 53.

Puuyuun, 'the last of his tribe', is a rare but powerful acknowledgement of the first inhabitants of this area and the destruction of Aboriginal society by pastoral settlement. Dawson's failure to gain financial support from local squatters to pay for this monument, however, highlights the sense of indifference that many settlers felt towards the plight of the Aborigines.⁴⁰⁷

20.3 Remembering the war dead

While there is scarce recognition of the frontier conflicts that claimed lives in the study area, the greatest visible extent of memorialising in Corangamite Shire is through the large number of memorials to those who died in war overseas. These include typical war memorial obelisks, as well as trees, buildings, honour boards, and other structures. The war memorials in the Shire vary from bold and imposing public monuments to smaller private tributes to loved ones. Together they contribute to the broader nationalistic story of the Anzac Legend, with its emphasis on mateship, courage and sacrifice.

The Boer War (1896–1902) was the first European war in which local settlers enlisted. While Boer War memorials are relatively rare for country Victoria, at Camperdown the local recruits were proudly honoured with a monument of a soldier.⁴⁰⁸

The next major conflict, the Great War, decimated Victoria's male population. Grieving communities erected war memorials and planted avenues of honour, adding a layer of mourning and remembrance to rural and urban landscapes. The Great Ocean Road, which passes through Port Campbell and Princetown, and terminates at Peterborough on the border of Corangamite Shire, was itself proclaimed as a war memorial in 1918.

The typical war memorial was erected in the early 1920s and comprised a simple obelisk, often of granite, inscribed with the names of the lives lost. Such obelisks were erected in Port Campbell, Cobden, Darlington, and Lismore. At Camperdown and Derrinallum (1932) the memorial took the more unusual form of a soldier statue, while at Skipton the memorial is a simple brick cairn. At Terang, a towering obelisk of grey Harcourt granite, standing 66 feet (20 metres) high, was unveiled in 1923 by Sir Harry Chauvel as a memorial not only to all district soldiers but also to the nurses. Donated by local graziers S.G. Black, W.K. MacKinnon and J. MacKinnon, it stands as the tallest war memorial in Victoria. An equally impressive memorial depicting a bronze statue of Britannia was unveiled at Camperdown by Prime Minister S.M. Bruce.

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⁴⁰⁷ A detailed account of the Dawson memorial is given in Jan Critchett, *Untold Stories: Memories and lives of Victorian Koories*, Melbourne University Press, Carlton, 1998, pp. 220–37.

⁴⁰⁸ Bradley et al., War Memorials of Victoria, 1994, p. 28.

⁴⁰⁹ Bradley et al., War Memorials of Victoria, 1994, pp. 36, 42, 44, 90, 152.

⁴¹⁰ Bradley et al., War Memorials of Victoria, 1994, p. 172.

⁴¹¹ Bradley et al., *War Memorials of Victoria*, 1994, p. 135; 'Unveiling of Memorial at Terang', *The Link*, July 1923, vol. 1, no. 5, p. 15. Likewise, Terang's honour board, unveiled by General Birdwood in 1920, was 'reputed to be the finest honour board in Australia at that time'; McAlpine, *Shire of Hampden*, 1963, p. 17.
⁴¹² Bradley et al., *War Memorials of Victoria*, 1994, p. 30; Inglis, *Sacred Places*, 2005 (first published 1998), p.

⁴¹² Bradley et al., *War Memorials of Victoria*, 1994, p. 30; Inglis, *Sacred Places*, 2005 (first published 1998), 125. The conservative Prime Minister S.M. Bruce was related by marriage to the Manifold family of Camperdown.

Montford and cast in London.⁴¹³ A more modest bandstand was built in High Street Terang as a memorial to bandsmen lost during World War I. These grand monuments provided a fitting and permanent tribute to a generation of lost young men. Historian Ken Inglis is cynical about the grandeur of some of the war memorials in Western District towns, however, and suggests that these were as much about conspicuous emulation as civic feeling.⁴¹⁴ Nevertheless, whether grand or modest structures, these war memorials are now considered highly significant sites for local communities and part of a universal cultural landscape that commemorates those who gave their lives in the service of their country.

The human loss in the Great War was also remembered through tree-planting. Individual memorial trees in the study area include the 'Lone Pine' *Pinus halepensis* (Aleppo Pine) in the grounds of the Skipton Memorial Hospital, ⁴¹⁵ and a large pine tree at Ecklin South primary school, planted in the 1880s, which was later dedicated to former pupil William Rodgers, who was killed in the Great War. ⁴¹⁶

Avenues of honour, standing as living sentinels to the dead, were at once sombre and triumphant. Trees were planted in uniform avenues of military regimentation, one tree for each soldier. Avenues of Honour in Victoria had their genesis in the State's west even before World War I. In December 1901, an avenue of trees was planted at Horsham for 'the success of the British and Australian troops' in the Boer War. Here, as in Classical times, the avenue was a symbol of victory rather than of mourning. Residents of the town of Eurack, near Colac, planted a modest avenue of honour to their departed soldiers in 1916. The following year, an ambitious avenue was planned for Ballarat. The idea caught on in many towns in the study area with avenues planted at Camperdown, Terang, Skipton and Lismore. The avenue of honour in William Street, Lismore, was originally planted with native trees in 1918. These were pollarded in 1936 and most were removed by the 1990s, but some Ironbarks remain.

At Terang, Camperdown and Derrinallum, the town war memorials are prominently and pleasingly set within an avenue of exotic trees (though not always a prescribed avenue of honour), and planted in the median strip of the main road. These median strips have become local monument precincts, where various monuments and memorials are grouped together. At Derrinallum, the monuments include a 25-pounder artillery trophy gun. Terang's memorial precinct includes a memorial rose garden and a concrete bandstand (1927)

Soldiers' memorial halls are common in other parts of Victoria, but few survive in Corangamite Shire; the Curdies River Soldiers' Memorial Hall, erected in 1923, is an

⁴¹³ Bradley et al., War Memorials of Victoria, 1994, p. 127.

⁴¹⁴ Inglis, Sacred Places, 2005 (first published 1998), p. 129.

⁴¹⁵ Bradley et al., War Memorials of Victoria, 1994, p. 172.

⁴¹⁶ The Link, vol. 1, no. 3, May 1922, p. 27.

⁴¹⁷ Bradley et al., War Memorials of Victoria, 1994, p. 221.

⁴¹⁸ VHR citation 'Eurack Avenue of Honour' (H2102). See also Michael Taffe, 'Ninetieth Anniversary of Our Avenues of Honour', *Australian Garden History*, vol. 17, No. 5, May/June 2006.

⁴¹⁹ Historic Trees, Gardens & Homestead Tour, Lismore, 2002, no page numbers. See also Oman et al., Brown's Water Holes, 1980.

exception. 420 The Skipton Memorial Bush Nursing Hospital was opened the same year. 421 More unusual war memorials include a stone horse trough (1917) and water fountain (1934) at Port Campbell dedicated to Major Hector McIntyre, 422 and the memorial grandstand at Timboon sports ground built in the 1920s. 423 There are several memorials at Pomborneit, including memorial gateposts at the state school, which list the names of district soldiers. This memorial was first proposed in 1920 by the School Committee. 424 The gateposts, cut from Harcourt granite, comprise two carved columns, each surmounted with a sphere. These gates were later moved to nearby Pomborneit North recreation reserve, where a memorial stone seat was installed after World War II. A war memorial also stands outside the Pomborneit North public hall. 425

A number of public buildings erected in the 1950s included the word 'Memorial' in their official name, which made them eligible for government funding. These include a Memorial Catholic Church at Simpson, a Memorial Swimming Pool at Lismore, a memorial hospital at Skipton, and Memorial RSL halls at Cobden (c.1955) and Timboon.

There were other tangible connections with the two world wars, such as the public construction works carried out by returned soldiers, including the Great Ocean Road, , and the hundreds of soldier settlement blocks established after both world wars; some of these have been recently marked with commemorative plaques.

Examples

Timboon Trophy Gun at War Memorial Camperdown Boer War Memorial

20.4 Church memorials

Many of the Protestant churches celebrated their jubilees with a souvenir publication. These churches had been closely associated with and heavily dependent on local pioneering families. The jubilee booklet of the Camperdown Anglican Church, for example, declared the church was 'virtually built by the Manifolds'. The Gnarpurt chapel at Lismore stands as a monument to the dedicated faith of squatter John Robertson, as does his earlier 'chapel room' in the homestead itself. The Thomson Memorial Church at Terang (1894) celebrates its benefactor, as does the Niel Black Memorial Church at Noorat (1883). Implicit in the memorialising of town leaders was the recognition of their strong sense of public duty, hard work, and moral fortitude.

21 Appreciating the Cultural Landscape

⁴²⁰ Pam Baragwanath and Janette Hodgson, 'Inventory of Mechanics Institutes in Victoria', DNRE, East Melbourne, 1998, vol. 1, pp. 283–84.

⁴²¹ http://www.bashs.org.au/AboutUs/index.aspx; accessed 10 June 2009.

⁴²² Bradley et al., War Memorials of Victoria, 1994, p. 154.

⁴²³ Rosamund Duruz, *History of Timboon: 1875–1975*, Photo-art Printers, Warrnambool, 1975, p. 36.

⁴²⁴ The Link, vol. 1, no. 7, September 1924, p. 12.

⁴²⁵ Bradley et al, War Memorials of Victoria, 1994 p. 152.

As one who experiences a feeling of peace and contentment whenever I enter those stony rises, I agree with the observation ... that, from their violent beginnings in the turmoil of a prehistoric boiled landscape, they are now a peaceful place.

Hon. Richard E. McGarvie, 'Forward' to If These Walls Could Talk, 1995.

The study area comprises a significant part of the celebrated Western District of Victoria, a region that has been important in the development of pastoralism and agriculture in Victoria. From the beginning of settlement, new arrivals marveled at its rich fertile soil and grasses; they wondered at the strange volcanic landscape of hills, craters and conical lakes; they saw the rich bird life on the lakes, and stood in awe of the sublime coastline between Moonlight Head and Curdies River. This is a region that has been assiduously documented, its early history has been collected and preserved; it has been observed, painted and photographed; it has been the subject of novelists, poets and other writers from the nineteenth century and up until today. Its history has been preserved and celebrated.

21.1 Heritage and conservation

There has been a keen interest in local history and heritage within the study area and much of the rich heritage that survives as a result of the work of property owners and community groups. Interest in local history has been encouraged by the formation of the Camperdown Historical Society in 1960 followed by similar societies in Terang, Cobden, Port Campbell, Lismore, and Skipton.

The Heytesbury Settlement Historical Park at Simpson opened in 1976 'to celebrate the development of the Heytesbury Settlement area in the 1950s, and the clearing of the Heytesbury Forest, in order to create small farms. The development represented the last Government-sponsored, wholesale clearing of extensive areas of native forest in Victoria, in order to establish an agricultural settlement. Features of the park include memorial plaques on boulders and various pieces of forest-clearing machinery.'426

A number of places in the study area have been the subject of heritage and conservation reports. The National Trust of Australia (Vic.) classified a number of buildings and trees in Terang in the mid 1980s. The Land Conservation Council's report into historic places in South West Victoria in 1996-97 included a large number of places within the study area. A number of individual reports on buildings and precincts have been carried out, for example by the National Trust on the Terang township, and the study of the stone walls undertaken by the Corangamite Arts Council, titled *If These Walls Could Speak* (1997).

Recent heritage trails in the study area include the Alan Marshall Walking Tour in Noorat and the Whiskey heritage trail that incorporates Cobden and other places in the southern part of the Shire.

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⁴²⁶ LCC, *Historic Places: South-west Victoria* - C355 Heytesbury Settlement Historical Park, Simpson (CR0083).

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