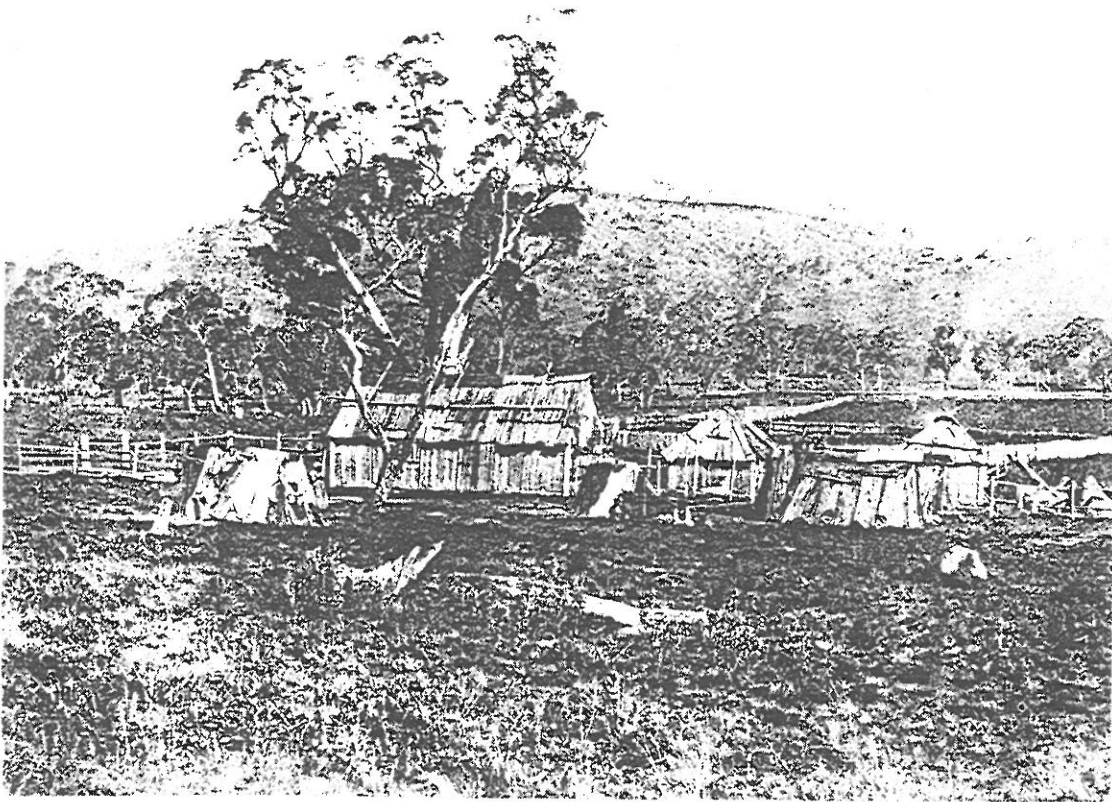


**DAYLESFORD AND GLENLYON
CONSERVATION STUDY
PART 2**

**VOLUME 1
ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY**

Mary Grant



'Aboriginals' Farm near Mount Franklin'
(Source: D.Reilly and J.Carew, *Sun Pictures of Victoria*, p.73)

**Wendy Jacobs, Architect and Heritage Planner
15 Dana Street, Ballarat**

May 1995

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PREAMBLE

The Daylesford and Glenlyon Conservation Study Part 2 was commissioned by the National Estate Committee (Victoria) and the former Shire of Daylesford and Glenlyon in 1989. The study was carried out with the assistance of funds made available by the Commonwealth of Australia under the National Estate Grants Program. The consultants reported to a steering committee comprised of representatives of the Shire, National Estate and the local community.

The Daylesford and Glenlyon Conservation Study Part 1, which covered the Towns of Daylesford and Hepburn Springs, was undertaken in by Andrew Ward and Associates. The Daylesford and Glenlyon Conservation Study Part 2 covers the remaining rural areas of the former Shire of Daylesford and Glenlyon.

STUDY TEAM

The Daylesford and Glenlyon Conservation Study Part 2 has been researched and compiled by the following consultants:

Wendy Jacobs - Architect and Planner

Mary Grant - Historian

Samantha Westbrooke - architectural research assistant

Vicki Johnson - architectural historian

VOLUMES

The Study is divided into three volumes:

Volume One - contains the Environmental History of the former Shire of Daylesford and Glenlyon. This is structured around key themes that provide an historical explanation for the present appearance of the Study area.

Volume Two - contains planning and other heritage recommendations for individual sites and areas of special significance.

Volume Three - contains documentation on individual sites which reflect themes outlined in the Environmental History. These sites are recommended for protection under the Local Planning Scheme or the provisions of the Historic Buildings Act. The sites are arranged by geographical location alphabetically and within these locations, again, alphabetically by road name.

INTRODUCTION

The Daylesford and Glenlyon Conservation Study was commissioned by the National Estate Committee (Victoria) and the Former Shire of Daylesford and Glenlyon in 1989.

The study is in three volumes. The first volume contains an environmental history. The second volume contains planning and other heritage recommendations. The third volume contains information on individual sites. This volume is organised by geographical location alphabetically and within these locations, again, alphabetically by road name.

The study is confined to the boundaries of the former Shire of Daylesford and Glenlyon as they were in 1993. It was commenced prior to local government restructure. The majority of the study area is now part of The Hepburn Shire.

The buildings and street design of townships throughout the Study area give indications of a more prosperous past and the explanation can be quickly found in the piles of earth and collapsed shafts, the shapes of mullock heaps and the banks of dredged earth that suggest the extent of mining activity in the Study area in the nineteenth century. At the same time old farm buildings, displaying a wide variety of early construction techniques, dot the landscape leaving the visitor in little doubt of the district's strong farming heritage.

These observations suggest the key role played by both miners and farmers in shaping the history and physical fabric of the study area and many of the themes explored in the following pages will relate to the influence of these two activities. Ultimately farming superseded mining as the primary economic force in the Study area in the twentieth century; yet much of the present character of the former Shire continues to have its origin in the mining and farming activities which took place in the Study area in the nineteenth century.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The consultants are extremely grateful for the assistance they have received throughout the course of the Study. First and foremost they would like to thank the members of the Steering Committee who have provided timely advice and direction and have facilitated the completion of the Study. Due to the time it has taken to complete this study, the steering committee has evolved over the years. The members of the Steering Committee were:

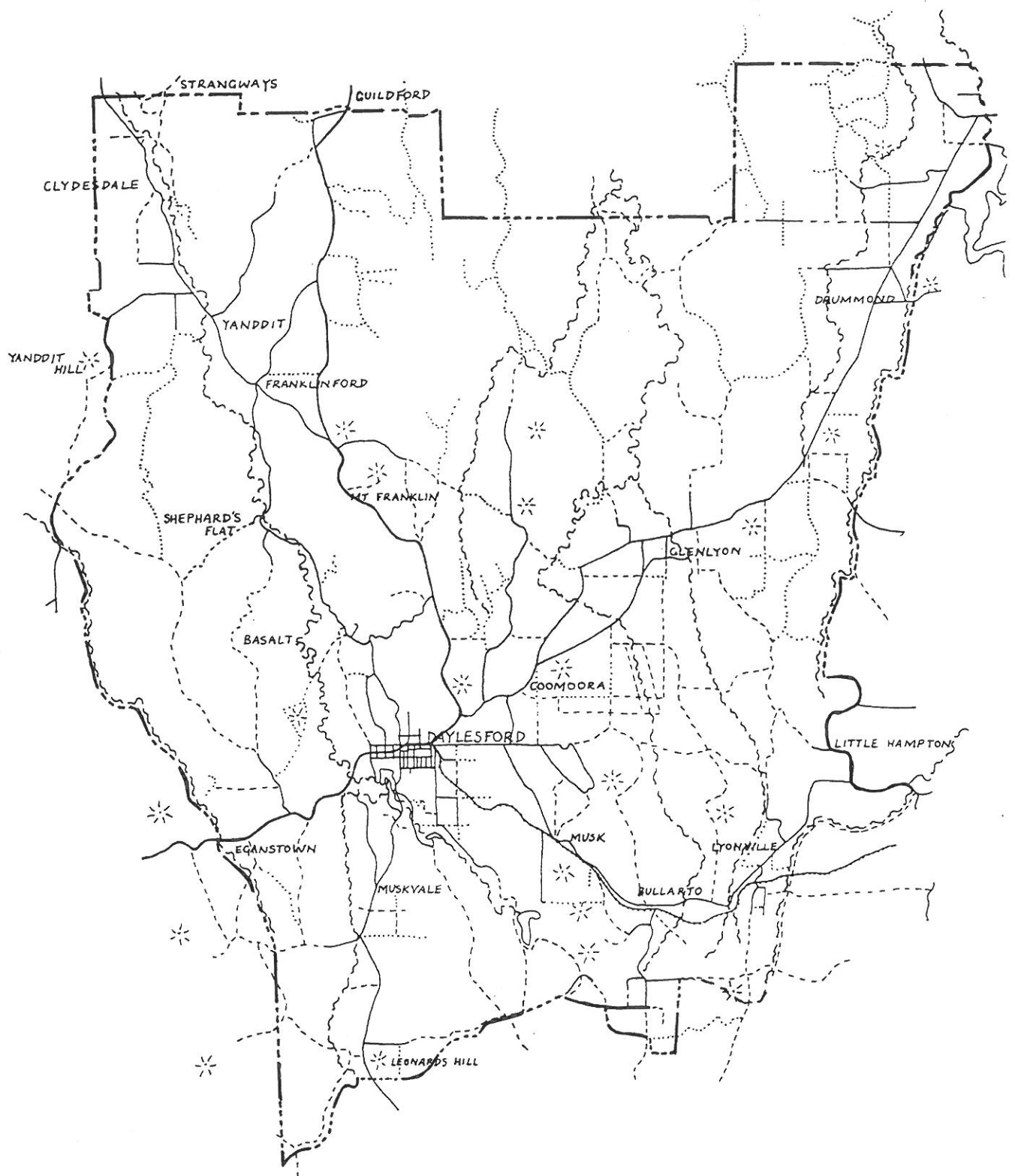
Cr Kevin Delmenico
Mr. David Endacott, Daylesford and District Historical Society
Mr. Justin Francis, Historic Buildings Council
Cr. Neil Chamberlain
Cr. Max Glenn
Cr. Meg Elliot
Commissioner Graeme Orr
Commissioner Margaret Giles
Mr. Geoff Austin, Heritage Victoria
Mr Brian Bellingham, Shire of Daylesford & Glenlyon Engineer
Mr. Ian Stewart, Shire of Daylesford & Glenlyon Engineer
Mr. Hans Tracksdorf, Shire of Daylesford & Glenlyon Town Planner
Mr. Greg Anders, Shire of Hepburn

Many people have participated in the Study and their contribution has been invaluable. In many cases they have provided insights into aspects of the Shire's heritage which might otherwise have been overlooked. The consultants would like to thank:

Tom Evans, Local resident, former Member of Parliament.
Braith Ramadge Department of Conservation and Forest
Barry Files Department of Conservation and Forests
Elinor Baldock, Daylesford Historical Society
Joan Endacott, Daylesford and District Historical Society
Mr. E and Mrs J. Sartori, Truro, Franklinford
Mr. Claude Culvenor, historian
Mrs. Fleischer, Glenlyon
Amanda Jeans, Heritage Adviser, Shire of Hepburn
Miriam Semmel, Strategic Planner, Shire of Hepburn



**Location of
the Shire of Daylesford and Glenlyon
Victoria**



Shire of Daylesford and Glenlyon

DAYLESFORD AND GLENLYON CONSERVATION STUDY PART 2 ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY

NATURAL ELEMENTS

The geological formation of the Shire is a mixture of sedimentary sandstone rock, shale and slate, and volcanic basalt, scoria and ash.¹ The terrain consists of gentle undulating to rugged hills, interspersed with basalt-capped tablelands and lava plains.² The mean annual rainfall is 550 mm in the northern part of the Shire, increasing to 1400 mm in the southern area. The vegetation is a mixture of forest and open woodland, with volcanic and alluvial plains.³ The character of the vegetation has been strongly influenced by clearing, cultivation, planting, timber harvesting and bushfires.

ABORIGINAL HABITATION

The original inhabitants, the Jajaworrung people, occupied an area watered by the Loddon, Coliban and Campaspe rivers and bounded by the Pyrenees and Macedon mountain ranges.⁴ This rich and diverse environment supported a relatively large population who were considered a formidable and important people by other aboriginal groups.⁵ Lal-gam-book, present day Mt Franklin, appeared to be a ceremonial site⁶ - in 1843 1000 aborigines participated in a Rainbow Serpent corroboree held near the mountain.⁷ Cooking mounds, hearths and stone flake scatters still mark aboriginal habitation sites within the Shire.

EUROPEAN EXPLORATION AND SETTLEMENT

In 1836 Major Thomas Mitchell, Surveyor General of New South Wales, passed near the area on the return leg of his exploratory journey which had discovered rich pasture lands south of the Murray. This discovery was fortuitous as native pastures in New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land were deteriorating under the increasing stock numbers of speculators keen to take advantage of the growing British demand for wool.⁸ The fact that the Government had placed the lands of Port Phillip out of bounds did not stop these speculators from entering the district and squatting illegally, particularly when Mitchell's glowing reports of "Australia Felix" were known. However, by the time the first pastoralist entered the Daylesford district squatting was legal on payment of an annual licence of £10.

Alexander Fullerton Mollison took up Coliban Station near the present town of Malmsbury in 1837⁹, and established two outstations, Jumcra on the Jim Crow Creek near the present site of

¹ J.S. Duncan, (ed) *Atlas of Victoria*, Melbourne, A Victorian Government Publication, 1982, p.12

² Ibid. p.20

³ Ibid. p.52

⁴ Edgar Morrison, *The Loddon Aborigines*, Yandoit, 1971. p.22

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Duncan, op. cit. p.68

⁷ Morrison, op. cit. pp 14, 15

⁸ Tony Dingles, *The Victorians: Settling*, Sydney, Fairfax, Syme and Weldon Associates, 1984. p.23

⁹ J.O. Randell, *Pastoral Settlement in Northern Victoria*, Vol 11, Melbourne, The Chandos Publishing Co. Pty.Ltd, 1982, p.211

Franklinford, and Boughyards on the Loddon river near Guildford.¹⁰ Captain John Hepburn also overlanded and took up Smeaton Hill in 1838.¹¹

Early in 1840, the Chief Protector of Aborigines, George Augustus Robinson, and the Assistant Protector of the Loddon region, Edward Stone Parker, explored the area while searching for a suitable location for a Protectorate station.¹² By 1843, large areas of Mollison's land had been either sold or taken. He retained that part of Jumcra which was east of the Loddon, and J.D. Lyon Campbell took the land west of the river. In turn Campbell was displaced when the Aboriginal Protectorate was established at Franklinford in 1841.¹³

To the south west John Egan, who had arrived in Melbourne in 1840 and worked for a time for "Big" Clarke, took up Corinella on the Deep Creek in 1845.¹⁴ Eastward, Holcombe was taken up in 1844 by Lawrence Rostrom before passing to the Clowes brothers in 1846. At the same time Richard Babington and John Carpenter annexed the south-east portion between the Loddon river and Kangaroo Creek, naming their new run Glenlyon. W.E. Stanbridge bought the western section of Holcombe in 1852 and named it Wombat Park.¹⁵

EDWARD STONE PARKER AND THE LODDON ABORIGINAL PROTECTORATE.

Parker deserves mention as a worthy man attempting the impossible in difficult times. Following a public outcry in London at reports of massacres of aborigines in the Port Phillip district, a protection scheme was set up as an experiment in 1837.¹⁶ Parker was appointed one of four Assistant Protectors of Aborigines whose duties were to watch over the rights and interests of the aborigines, to protect them from encroachments on their property and from acts of cruelty, oppression and injustice.¹⁷ In 1839 he took office for the Mt Macedon district which covered the Loddon area, thus bringing the local Jajaworrung people under his care.¹⁸ After meeting opposition from nearby squatters against the proposed siting of the station near present day Baringhup and Strangways, Parker eventually selected a site known as lar-ne-barramul, present day Franklinford, in June 1841.¹⁹ Using one of Mollison's shepherd's huts as a nucleus, a slab hut was built, quickly followed by an overseer's residence, constable's house, huts for the servants, a smithy-store, and combined school and church.²⁰ He set about enclosing 35 acres of land and planted 5 acres with wheat to provide food for the aborigines

¹⁰ Daylesford and District Historical Society Inc. Newsletter, Vol.3, No. 11, March 1989, p.11

¹¹ Lucille M. Quinlan, *Here My Home*, Melbourne, Oxford University Press, 1969, p.72

¹² G. Presland (ed.) Records of the Victoria Archaeological Survey, No. 5, July 1977, *Journals of George Augustus Robinson*, 2nd ed., Melbourne, Ministry for Conservation Publication, p.54

¹³ Daylesford and District Historical Society Inc. Newsletter, March 1989, op. cit. p.12

¹⁴ Quinlan, op. cit. p.154

¹⁵ H.T. Maddick, *100 Years of Gold Mining History, August 1851 - 1951*, Daylesford and District Historical Society, Daylesford, n.d., p.8

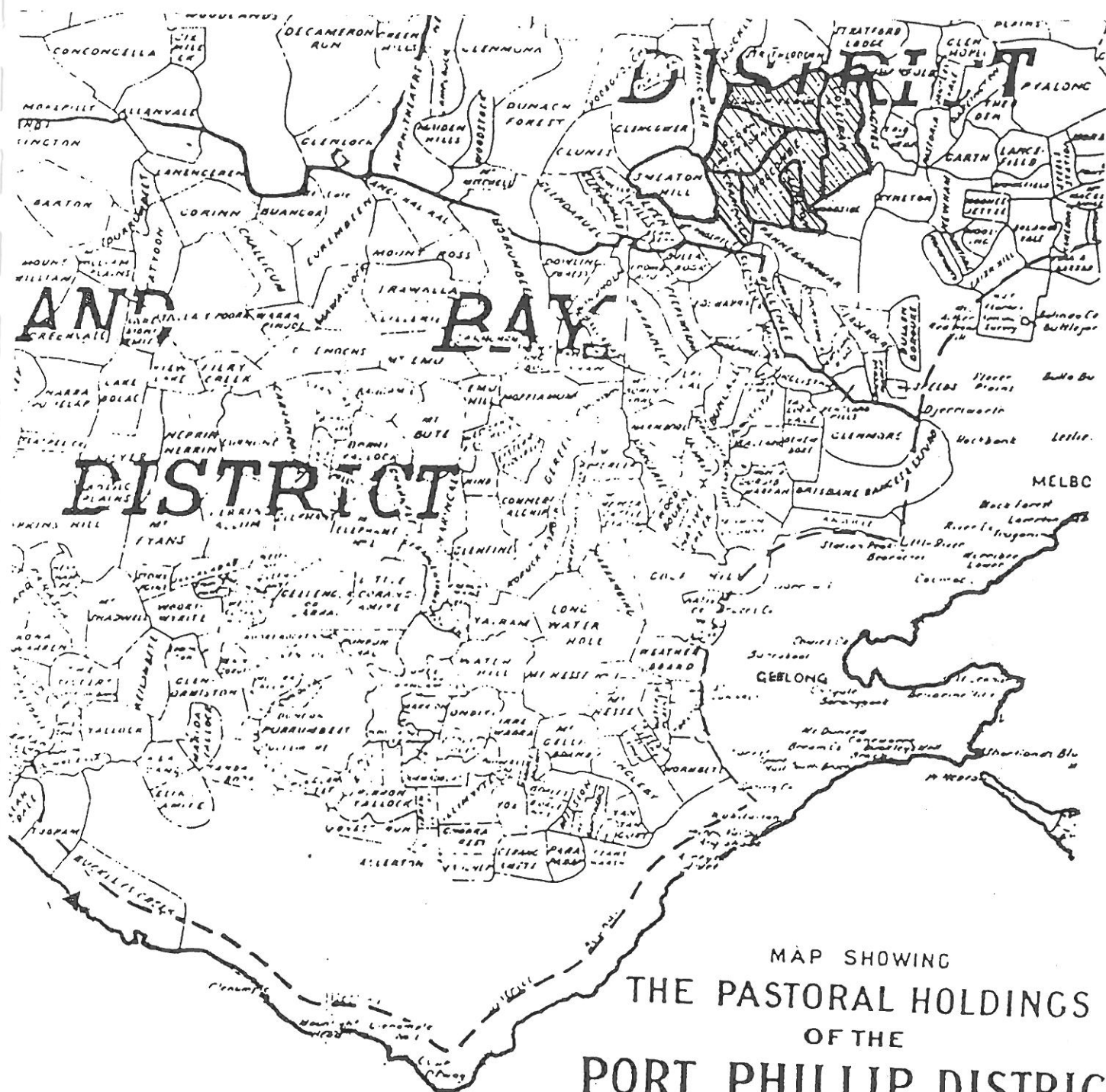
¹⁶ Michael Cannon, (ed) *Historical Records of Victoria*, Vol 2A - The Aborigines of Port Phillip 1835 - 1839, Melbourne, Public Records Office, 1982, p.4

¹⁷ Daylesford and District Historical Society Inc. Newsletter, March 1989, op.cit. p.1

¹⁸ Ibid

¹⁹ B. Golding, talk given to Daylesford and District Historical Society Inc. April, 1988

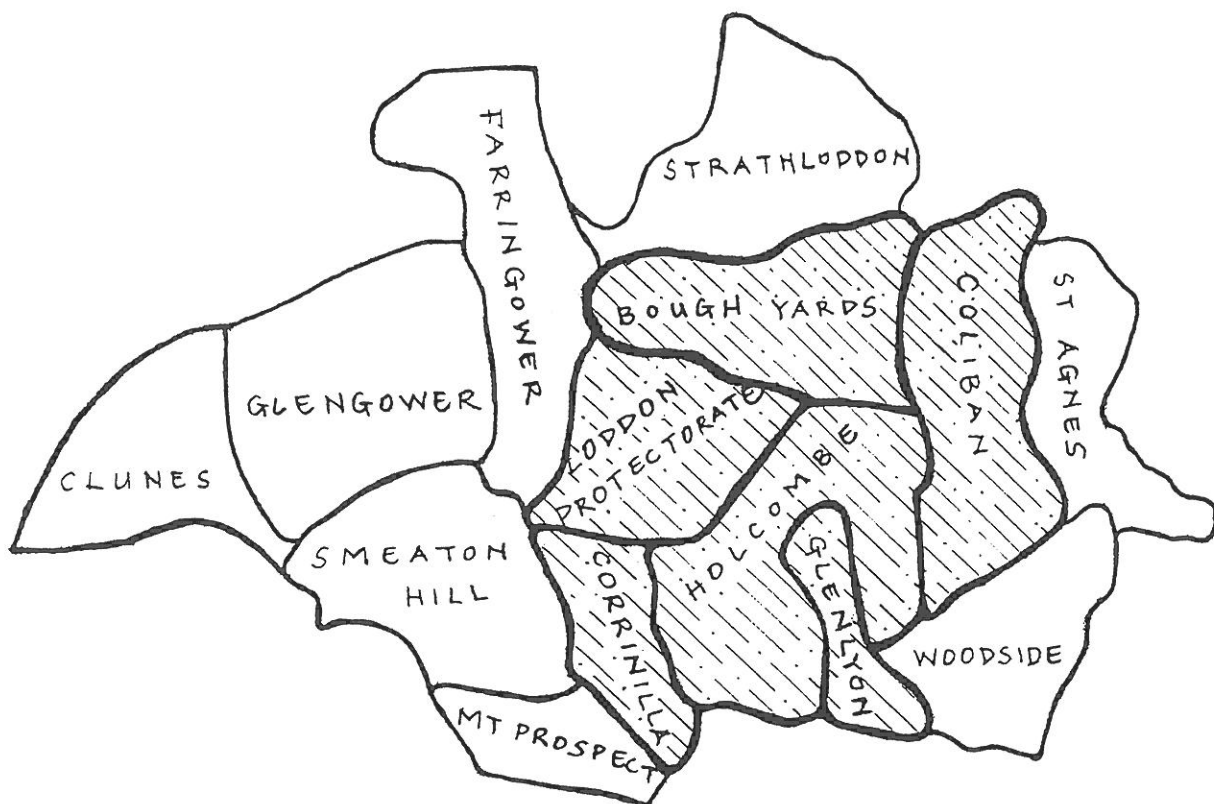
²⁰ Edgar Morrison, *Frontier Life in the Loddon Protectorate*, Yandoit, 1976, p.3



MAP SHOWING
THE PASTORAL HOLDINGS
OF THE
PORT PHILLIP DISTRICT
1835 - 51
NOW
VICTORIA

Compiled by A. S. Kenyon M.E. & Co.

(Source: R. V. Billis & A. S. Kenyon, *Pastoral Pioneers of Port Phillip*, inside front & back cover)



Detail of Pastoral Holdings

(Source: R.V. Billis & A.S. Kenyon, *Pastoral Pioneers of Port Phillip*, inside front & back cover)

collected about the station.²¹ With the help of the Jajaworrung, Parker had good harvests each year and Robinson praised his efforts in glowing terms²²

In 1850 the protectorate system was abolished and Parker was offered the reserve under a lease of £60 per annum. He accepted and moved his homestead to the lower slopes of Mt Franklin at the present Strawhorn homestead site. The aborigines left at Franklinford eventually held land conjointly under the authority of Lieutenant. Governor La Trobe. Thomas Farmer is perhaps the best known of these aboriginal farmers.²³ He and his family cleared and fenced their land and cultivated the ground. For six years he grew wheat and carted it to the flour mill at Castlemaine. He and his neighbours managed their own affairs until death by disease and misadventure had drastically reduced their numbers.²⁴ In 1864 the remaining 10 members of the Mt Franklin Jajaworrung people were removed to Corranderk, where all but one were dead by 1876.²⁵

Parker continued his good works, becoming well known as a local preacher. He was often referred to as "Colonel", or "Dr" Parker, indicating the respect in which he was held by his neighbours. In 1857 he was nominated as a member of the Legislative Council, and appointed chairman of a Parliamentary Select Committee to make recommendations on checking the "evils of intemperance".²⁶ He was appointed an Inspector for the Denominational Schools Board in 1857 and in 1863 was a member of the Board of Education.²⁷ He died in 1865 and is buried in the family grave in the Franklinford cemetery.

DISCOVERY OF GOLD

In 1842 the Melbourne land boom collapsed and the pastoral economy faltered. At this stage local properties changed hands with monotonous regularity, but the area managed to ride out the depression and by 1851, the Loddon and its tributaries were dotted with homesteads, many near the headwaters.²⁸ It was on one of these properties that gold was first found in the district. Early in August 1851 John Egan of Corinella found gold at Wombat Flat, near the head of the present Lake Daylesford. A little later gold was found along a 15 mile stretch of Sailor's Creek - called the Jim Crow after it reached the junction with Spring Creek - and then in virtually every creek and gully in the near locality.²⁹

By 1855 the Daylesford diggings spread over almost the entire area of the present Shire and was Victoria's most diversified and long-lived field as well as the largest in the area, containing 300 square miles of auriferous ground.³⁰

²¹ Edgar Morrison, *The Loddon Aborigines*, op. cit. p.46

²² Daylesford and District Historical Society Inc. op. cit. p.7

²³ Edgar Morrison, *The Loddon Aborigines*, op. cit. p.73

²⁴ Ibid p.96

²⁵ Ibid

²⁶ Edgar Morrison (ed) *Early Days in the Loddon Valley, Memories of Edward Stone Parker, 1802-1865*, Yandoit, 1965 p.78

²⁷ Ibid p.81

²⁸ J.S. Duncan, op. cit. p

²⁹ H.T. Maddick, op. cit. p.4

³⁰ Ibid p.7



Doctor's Gully, Jim Crow Daylesford
(Source: D.Reilly & J.Carew, *Sun Pictures of Victoria*, p.87)

Much of the initial and long-term small scale mining was carried out by digging down to bedrock in creeks and gullies. All the main creeks and many gullies were worked this way from 1851 up until World War I. Chinese miners particularly favoured this type of mining of alluvial gold³¹, possibly because little capital was required. Self-employed alluvial diggers of the 1850's could make up to £1 per day on average - about double what they could earn in wages - providing the rains gave them enough water. Sometimes the rewards were greater. In 1863 W.E. Stanbridge allowed two young milkmaids to work 6 feet of ground on the western boundary of Wombat Park, from which they got £300 worth of gold.³²

Parts of the Shire are riddled with tunnels dug by miners following deep leads, that is, alluvial deposits buried beneath younger sediments or basalt flows. The land all around the western side of Mt Franklin was tunnelled by miners following the leads down to the Jim Crow Creek. These tunnels passed beneath cultivated paddocks, sometimes close to the surface, and the story is told of a horse, plough and farmer disappearing into a collapsing tunnel.³³ The Shakespeare Co. sank a shaft south of Mt. Franklin and discovered one such lead at 127 feet.³⁴

A Mining Registrar's Report gives an interesting breakdown of the mining population and techniques in the Hepburn Division in 1859. Of 2,763 European miners, 950 were tunnelling, 780 alluvial sinking, 590 sluicing, 273 puddling, 21 quartz crushing and 47 quartz mining.³⁵ Alluvial mining was all important at this time as quartz mining was hampered in the early stages of its development by lack of water in summer for the quartz crushers.³⁶ Quartz reefs were first exploited in 1854 by the Mauritius Open Cut Reef Co.³⁷ The quartz was crushed by a Chilean Mill, a large rolling stone pulled by a horse around a circular track, but by 1860 water wheels began to operate quartz crushers around the hills and creeks³⁸, and later, steam batteries, fuelled by local timber, became the norm.

The water necessary for the water wheels, puddling machines and sluicing boxes was brought to the claims by water races, of which there were 240 miles by the late 1860s. The local Mining Warden's Court regulations gave water race leases which could be used for selling off water to miners. Many ran for miles and still survive today. Hunt's Race into the Dry Diggings at Mt. Franklin was 15 miles long, and Lewis' or Menadue's Race ran for 12 miles through Eganstown into Basalt.³⁹

Deep lead mining companies appeared in the 1860s, including one which exploited the Corinella lead at Eganstown.⁴⁰ The Royal Oak Company worked a huge lead which ran under W.E. Stanbridge's property out towards Coomoora, and the Exchequer Co. worked another

31 Ibid p.9
 32 Ibid p.30
 33 Ibid
 34 Ibid
 35 Ibid
 36 Ibid.
 37 Ibid p.23
 38 Ibid p.25
 39 Ibid p.30
 40 Ibid p.12

lead in the same area which had 240 shareholders and employed 47 men working in three shifts.⁴¹

SWISS-ITALIAN, CHINESE AND OTHER GROUPS ON THE GOLDFIELDS

Like every large digging, Daylesford had its share of French, German, Danish and Austrian diggers fleeing the revolutionary upheavals in Europe.⁴² Ticinese, Irish, Welsh and Cornish miners were well represented too, but the Chinese were the largest group of foreign nationals on the diggings. By 1858 the Chinese comprised 18.8% of the colony's mining population,⁴³ but on the Daylesford diggings the proportion of Chinese diggers was much higher; the 1859 mining register figures showed that one third of the total number of miners were Chinese.⁴⁴ The Chinese worked in groups of 10-12 re-sluicing bedrock along the Jim Crow, Spring and Sailors Creeks and sending most of the proceeds back to their syndicate heads in Canton.⁴⁵

After 1855, the Chinese on the Victorian goldfields were forced into a protectorate system, supposedly to reduce friction between themselves and Europeans.⁴⁶ The chief camp of the Chinese at Daylesford was at Hepburn, but it appears that they had congregated here prior to a petition to Parliament from the Jim Crow diggers dated 19 August 1857 complaining of being over-run by the "Celestial miners".⁴⁷ Certainly their camp containing Joss house, opium dealers shops, general store, hotel and gambling dens were much frequented by Europeans at weekends when a carnival atmosphere prevailed.⁴⁸ It seems that thereafter relationships between Chinese and Europeans were friendly and by the 1890's the Chinese were becoming "Australianised". Si Que was a member of the Shepherds Flat Cricket Team and his compatriots took part in the 1906 Empire Day procession.⁴⁹ In 1906 a huge bushfire burnt the Chinese camp, leaving only the Joss house. After this, the remaining Chinese left the district.⁵⁰

The other major ethnic group which collected on the Daylesford diggings was the Swiss-Italians from Ticino in Switzerland. Between 1854-55, 2000 Ticinese men came to Victoria after Swiss shipping agents advertised passages to the Victorian goldfields,⁵¹ and more than 1000 were on the Jim Crow diggings in the mid 1850's.⁵² Like the Chinese, the Ticinese were predominantly single men with the intention of returning to their families after making their fortune, but unlike the Chinese, the majority of Ticinese put down roots and stayed in the new country. After the gold began to run out the Ticinese took up firewood contracting and charcoal burning, or entered a service industry like store or hotel-keeping. Very early on, some began to realise the peasant dream of becoming landowners.⁵³

⁴¹ Ibid. p.13

⁴² Ibid. p.10

⁴³ Richard Broome, *The Victorians, Arriving*, Sydney, Fairfax, Syme and Weldon Associates, 1984. p.8

⁴⁴ H.T. Maddick, op. cit. p.19

⁴⁵ Ibid. p.39

⁴⁶ Richard Broome, op. cit. p.8

⁴⁷ H.T. Maddick, op. cit. p.39

⁴⁸ Ibid.

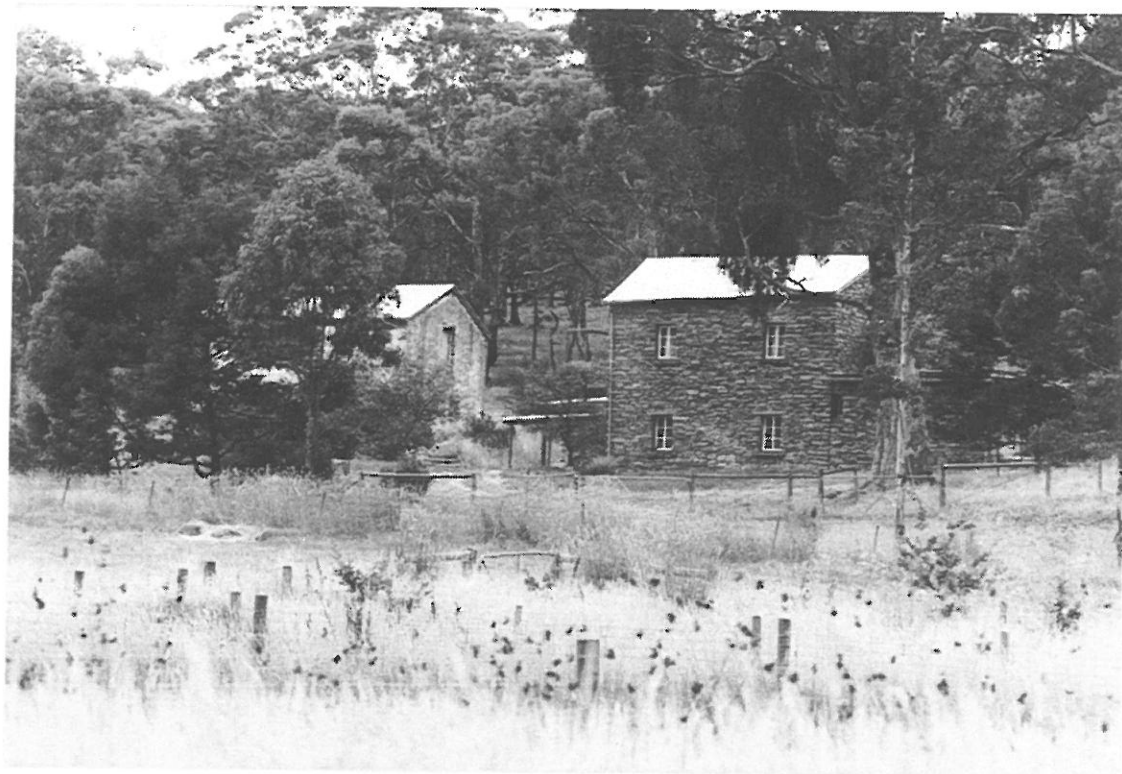
⁴⁹ Ibid.

⁵⁰ Ibid.

⁵¹ Richard Broome, op. cit. p.69

⁵² Ibid. p.82

⁵³ Robert Pascoe, *Buongiorno Australia, Our Italian Heritage*, Melbourne, Greenhouse Publications, 1987, p.105



Antonio Tognolini's barn and house
(Photograph: Heritage Victoria, January 1988)



The barn at the Righetti property, 'Elvezia'
(Photograph: Wendy Jacobs 1991)

The Lands Act (1862) allowed land selection at £1 per acre for surveyed allotments of 40-60 acres. The first naturalisation of Ticinese was predominantly brought about by this opportunity to own land. The immigrants bought small family blocks, built a house and resumed the traditional life-style they had left behind.⁵⁴

They married Catholic women, often Irish-Australian, and raised large families who kept milk cows and pigs, made butter and cheese (much for export), bullboar sausages and wine, grew wheat, vegetables, fruit trees and vines.⁵⁵ The great achievement was to build a two-storey house with wine cellar and cheese room, just as the better-off folk had back home. The typical Ticinese peasant house was made with dry stone walls and a steep gable roof. Some of these houses are still standing at Yandoit. "Locarno" at Yandoit, is two-storeyed with an enormous wine cellar still containing wooden barrels and other wine-making equipment.

SETTLING ON THE LAND

The ownership of land seemed straight forward enough to the Ticinese farmers, but the question of land tenure and use had long been a vexed one to the various administrators and governments of the new colony. A plethora of legislation, land acts and amendments was enacted from the first days of settlement, most of it promulgated in an effort to give the growing population access to the land - between 1851 and 1861 Victoria's population had risen from 77,345 to 540,322.⁵⁶

The Gold Regulations in Victoria (1854) stipulated that the Commissioner in charge of the goldfield might grant to the holder of an annual licence land not exceeding half an acre for the purpose of cultivation.⁵⁷ Possibly the many Chinese market gardens on the Daylesford diggings were occupied under such a grant.

However, even before the campaign to unlock the land began, agricultural development in the central goldfields had been rapid, particularly after the survey of the goldfields after 1853.⁵⁸ Diggers represented a huge captive market and farms multiplied around the area. With relatively cheap labour available and a lack of competition from imported produce the central goldfields became a major agricultural region. Farms were small, on average 90 acres, but there were also many small holdings of 10-20 acres.⁵⁹ In one year, 1854-1855, acreage under crop in Victoria rose from 55,000 - 115,000 acres, mainly on the goldfields.⁶⁰

The Land Act (1862) had proved advantageous to the Ticinese and other small farmers in the area, and it made further provision for the small man by declaring Farmers', Goldfields' and Town Commons on which small holders could graze their stock. The Farmers' Commons were usually quite large, some exceeding 10,000 acres near mining towns, and stock could be

⁵⁴ J. Gentilli, *The Settlement of Swiss Ticino Immigrants in Australia*, 2nd Edition, Perth, Geowest 23, Jan. 1988, p.8

⁵⁵ Ibid.

⁵⁶ J.S. Duncan, op.cit. p.79

⁵⁷ C.M.H. Clarke, (ed.) *Selected Documents in Australian History 1851-1900*, Sydney. Angus and Robertson, 1955, p.16

⁵⁸ J.M. Powell, *The Public Lands of Australia Felix*, Melbourne, Oxford University Press 1970. p.67

⁵⁹ Tony Dingle, op. cit. p.102

⁶⁰ Ibid



Kanga Park, Franklinford
(Photograph: W.Jacobs 1990)



Glenlyon Shire Hall
(Photograph: W.Jacobs 1990)

grazed on them on payment of an annual fee. Local miners, traders and "other residents" were also entitled to take out an annual licence to pasture up to 50 head of stock in the Goldfields Commons.⁶¹ This Act put many selectors on the land in the goldfields⁶², but the Amending Land Act (1865) opened up still more land on the goldfields - almost three quarters of a million acres on the western goldfields, half of which was quickly taken up.⁶³ As well, an occupation license could be issued for small allotments near the goldfields and within a year 120,393 acres had been licensed on the goldfields, mainly by small land holders whose holdings averaged 46 acres and who combined farming with mining or other work.⁶⁴ Over 5,000 were residing on their new holding, planting orchards, oats, wheat and potatoes, and grazing sheep and dairy cows.⁶⁵

The area had enjoyed a boom during the 1850's and 1860's, but the local market decreased as the diggers moved away. Transport costs were high from the goldfields to Melbourne, and cheap imports poured into the country from South Australia, Chile and California. As well, yields in some areas fell due to soil degradation and declining fertility. The Selection Acts which had proved so advantageous to the small man on the goldfields had also opened up vast new tracts of farming land to the north, creating new agricultural regions.⁶⁶ A pattern began to emerge as the settlers on the goldfields struggled to cope with changing circumstances. Many of the small holders and larger farmers combined several occupations: tradesman and beef cattle farmers; dairy farmer and part-time miner. The family of George Sartori at Franklinford combined farming with gold mining during quiet times.

While the yeoman ideal beloved of various Imperial and colonial governments was never realised via the various selection Acts, the Ticinese came closest to the dream with their intensive small-scale farming and a mode of production based on peasant skills and the labour of the family.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

When Victoria separated from New South Wales in 1851 the new colony sought an effective system of local government in rural areas. The Victorian government decided on a system of local boards and in 1853 the Legislative council passed an Act for Making and Improving Roads, setting up the Central Roads Board which gradually proclaimed "road districts", the precursors of today's Shires.⁶⁷

The growth in population after the gold rush resulted in the need for passable roads and bridges in the Daylesford area, and separate Road Boards were established for Glenlyon, Hepburn, and at Daylesford which had been proclaimed a Borough in 1859.⁶⁸ The Shire Statute of 1863 abolished road districts and in 1865 Glenlyon was proclaimed a Shire,

⁶¹ J.M. Powell, op.cit p.81

⁶² Ibid p.104

⁶³ Ibid p.125

⁶⁴ Tony Dingle, op. cit. p.63

⁶⁵ J.M. Powell, op. cit. p.127

⁶⁶ Tony Dingle, op. cit. p.103

⁶⁷ B. Barrett, *The Civic Frontier. The Origins of Local Communities and Local Government in Victoria*, Melbourne, Melbourne University Press, 1979, p.84

⁶⁸ Perrot, Lyon Matheson Pty. Ltd, in association with Andrew Ward, 'Daylesford and Hepburn Springs Conservation Study, Melbourne', 1985, p.30

followed by Mt. Franklin in 1871.⁶⁹ The two Shires were united in 1915, and a further decline in population led to an amalgamation with Daylesford in 1966, to form the new Shire of Daylesford and Glenlyon.⁷⁰

SETTLING IN TOWNS

The first inland settlements in the colonies developed along stock routes. Typically the spot was one where traffic concentrated, such as a ford over a river. Drovers would camp for a day or two, a grog shanty would spring up and perhaps a blacksmith and general store. Meanwhile government surveyors were mapping the colony, marking certain spots as "village reserves".⁷¹

The gold rush, however, altered the distribution of Victoria's country towns and from late 1851 onwards instant towns came into being wherever a rush occurred. In this shire the goldfields of Blanket Flat (Eganstown), Coomoora, Yandoit, Shepherds' Flat, Glenlyon and Sailors Falls were important enough for towns to spring up on the diggings. Lyonville, Bullarto and Musk were originally settlements which grew up around and serviced the timbers mills of the Wombat Forest.

Interestingly, Franklinford was a surveyed township before mining began and it followed the classic development pattern of pre-gold rush settlements. E.S. Parker had found a shepherd's hut of Mollison and used it when he built the Aboriginal Protectorate Station there in 1841. The site has several springs and was on the banks of the Jim Crow Creek which could be forded easily there and gave access to Hepburn at Smeaton Hill. A regional map prepared in 1847 shows a network of roads from surrounding stations converging on the Aboriginal Protectorate Station before proceeding to Kyneton and Melbourne via the Old Porcupine Ridge road. The first burial in the Franklinford cemetery took place in 1842 and both Europeans and Aborigines are buried there.

A map dated March 1859⁷² shows the surveyed "township of Franklinford at the Loddon Aboriginal Protectorate Station in the Parish of Franklin". Although the town plan is grandiose on paper, little building actually took place. In 1944 a bushfire burnt some houses and farms near the town.⁷³ The remaining few buildings such as the school and churches are the reminders of the past hopes for the town.

Eganstown sprang up in 1851 on the diggings south-east of John Egan's homestead paddocks at Corinella. It was known as Blanket Flat for many years, and after Daylesford was the most important town on the goldfields with a population of 2,000 during its busiest period. It had nine hotels, amongst them Gooley's Corinella Hotel and Pescia's National Hotel, and two guest houses, Wisteria House and Cerini's, which serviced visitors to the Deep Creek Spa. There were several stores, a blacksmith, bakery and druggist, as well as four churches and three halls. It also has two cemeteries. The town was supported by the great number of single

⁶⁹ B. Barrett, op.cit. p.292

⁷⁰ Perrot, Lyon, Matheson Pty. Ltd., op.cit.p.30

⁷¹ B. Barrett, op.cit. p.80

⁷² Held at Daylesford Museum

⁷³ Peter Gray, 'Notable Bushfires in Daylesford District Over More than a Century', text of a talk given to Daylesford and District Historical Society Inc. in 1976.



Coomoora Mill
(Photograph: W.Jacobs 1990)

and group claims around it, and by the many reef mines in the surrounding ranges. With the cessation of mining the town was becoming a ghost town by 1915.⁷⁴

John Egan's Corinella homestead, with Egan's pre-emptive right of 640 acres, remained undisturbed until 1866 when the Corinella Mining Company began operations there which lasted until 1910. It produced over 2.5 tons of gold during this time and paid the Egans handsome dividends.⁷⁵

The origin of Glenlyon as a settlement goes back to 1846 when Richard Babinton and John Carpenter established the first inn in the East Loddon region on their Glenlyon run. It was on the track midway between the Loddon and the Aboriginal Protectorate at Franklinford and their only trade then was from passing squatters or teamsters going west.⁷⁶ Holcombe Run was close by, and the area appeared to be settled to some extent by the time gold was discovered nearby.

Glenlyon was only ever a small gold field and established itself as an agricultural and trading centre early on, with miners coming in from the dry forest of the Fryers Creek goldfields to the north to take up fertile land.⁷⁷ The town had a Roads Board in 1860, reflecting its importance in the local transport and communications network, located as it was on the road to Kyneton and Melbourne. One of the Road Board's first tasks was to build a wooden bridge over the Loddon river and to construct corduroy roads. Expenses were met by collecting tolls at several toll gates put up on the Daylesford Road.⁷⁸ In 1865 it was proclaimed a Shire and Council offices were built in the town, along with 4 hotels, stores and a brewery, school and churches.⁷⁹ Holcombe Run homestead was close by. It was held first by Laurence Rostrom, and the original homestead is now a stone ruin. In January 1906 a bush fire burnt down houses in the town, which was further damaged in January 1944 when fire destroyed more houses and an old hotel.⁸⁰

Gold was first found in the Coomoora area in 1856, at Leitch's Creek and Wallaby Creek, and fresh finds were reported to the Registrar up until 1859. The diggings in the 1860s employed hundreds of men in mines. While many were small - the Pig, the Squirrel, and the Energetic - the larger mines like the Wallaby and Coomoora each employed sixty men. By 1858 the town had its first store, followed by two butchers shops, a sweet shop, a soap and candle works, two guest houses and two hotels. Further along its road was another hotel, Throssel's flour mill, blacksmith, and a vineyard whose owner sold his wine on a donkey cart around the diggings.⁸¹ In its hey day in the 1860's Coomoora was bigger and busier than Glenlyon, and was served by an hourly cab service to Daylesford.⁸² A bushfire in December 1862 burnt out

⁷⁴ H.T. Maddick, *op.cit.*, p.21

⁷⁵ *Ibid*

⁷⁶ H.T. Maddick, *op.cit.*, p.42

⁷⁷ *Ibid.*

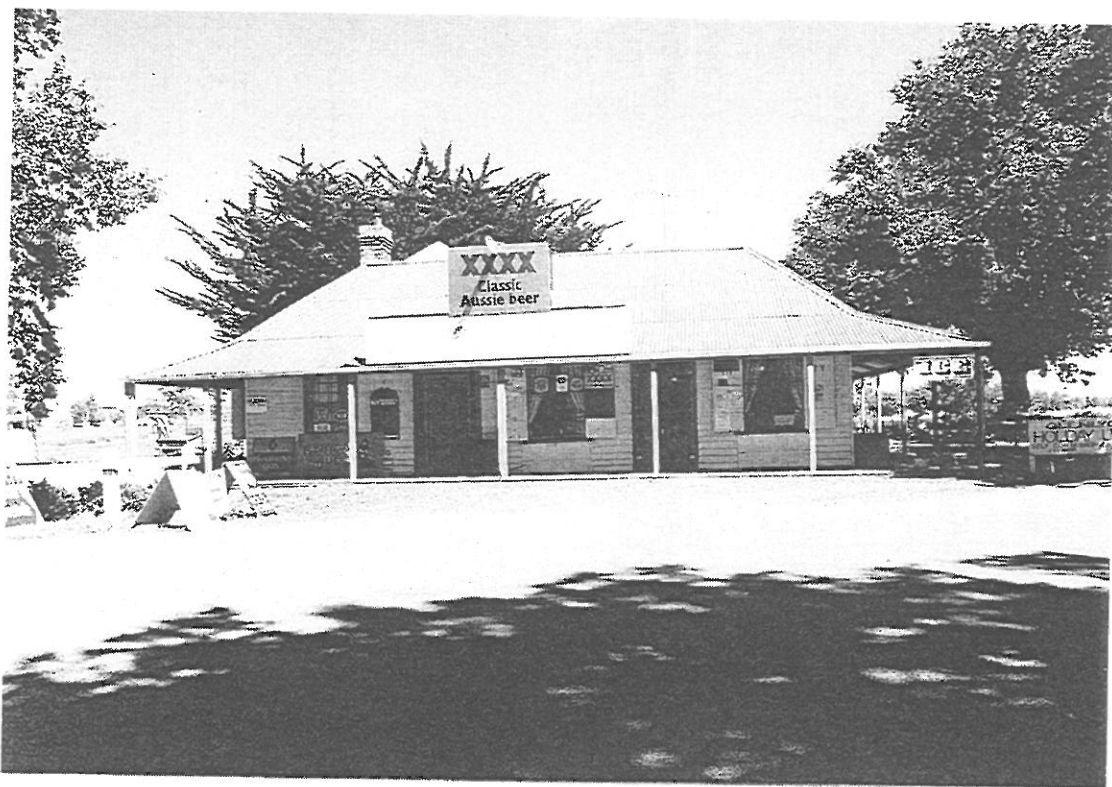
⁷⁸ *Ibid.*

⁷⁹ *Ibid.*

⁸⁰ Peter Gray, *op.cit.*, p.5

⁸¹ H.T. Maddick, *op.cit.*, p.15

⁸² *Ibid.*



Glenlyon Store
(Photograph: W.Jacobs 1990)



Eganstown Cemetery
(Photograph: W.Jacobs 1990)

several houses in the town.⁸³ Timber workers and settlers attracted by the rich soil in the area kept the town alive after the gold ran out, but by World War I it was a ghost town.⁸⁴

Yandoit also had its origin in the diggings. The first well documented rush to the area took place in 1855 when the population was 5,000. However this decreased rapidly and it was not until 1859 when deep lead mining took place, the second boom occurred. Early in 1860 there was another rush and King William's Gully "swarmed with Chinamen". Large nuggets were found there and 2,500 oz. of gold was extracted between 1859 and 1860.⁸⁵ While 1855 to the 1870s were the town's most productive years, mining continued up to World War I.⁸⁶

Many of the Ticinese miners settled here and built their typical stone houses surrounded by stone walls and vineyards. Allotments were small, with an average of 36 acres. The *Daylesford Advocate* reported in 1883 that at Yandoit "we make annually about 100,000 gallons of wine. Early sown crops are growing rapidly. The soil is rich".⁸⁷ The town had a store, lock-up and police station, hotels and stores. In 1969 a bushfire burnt the Church, Hall and State School residence.⁸⁸

Wheatsheaf was an early settlement with a hotel and store which serviced the local farmers, shingle splitters, timber getters and flour mill workers.⁸⁹ Denver and Drummond were both goldfields forming part of the Glenlyon Shire.⁹⁰ Destructive fires in 1939 burnt many houses.⁹¹ Shepherds Flat was a rich mining area with reef and tunnel mines. It had two hotels, and stores and a blacksmiths shop.⁹²

TIMBER AND TIMBER TOWNS

After the introduction of company mining around 1855, increasing amounts of hewn and split timber were required for poppet heads, shafts and drive linings, sleepers for tramways, firewood for boilers and sawn timber for mine buildings and staff accommodation. The Wombat Forest, consisting of messmate, peppermint, white gum and stringybark, was heavily utilised for these purposes by sawmillers, firewood cutters, charcoal burners and shingle splitters.⁹³ Logs were pulled from the forest by horse or bullock drawn jinkers, or by tramways.⁹⁴

The larger mill sites became small communities in the heart of the bush, with dwellings, post office, school and store.⁹⁵ Bullarto and Lyonville had their origins in this way. James

⁸³ Peter Gray, op.cit., p.3.

⁸⁴ H.T. Maddicks, op.cit., p.15

⁸⁵ B.H. Carruthers, *A History of the Yandoit State School No. 691*, Yandoit, n.d., p.5

⁸⁶ Ibid.

⁸⁷ Ibid.

⁸⁸ Peter Gray, op.cit., p.6

⁸⁹ H. T. Maddick, op.cit., p.15

⁹⁰ Ibid

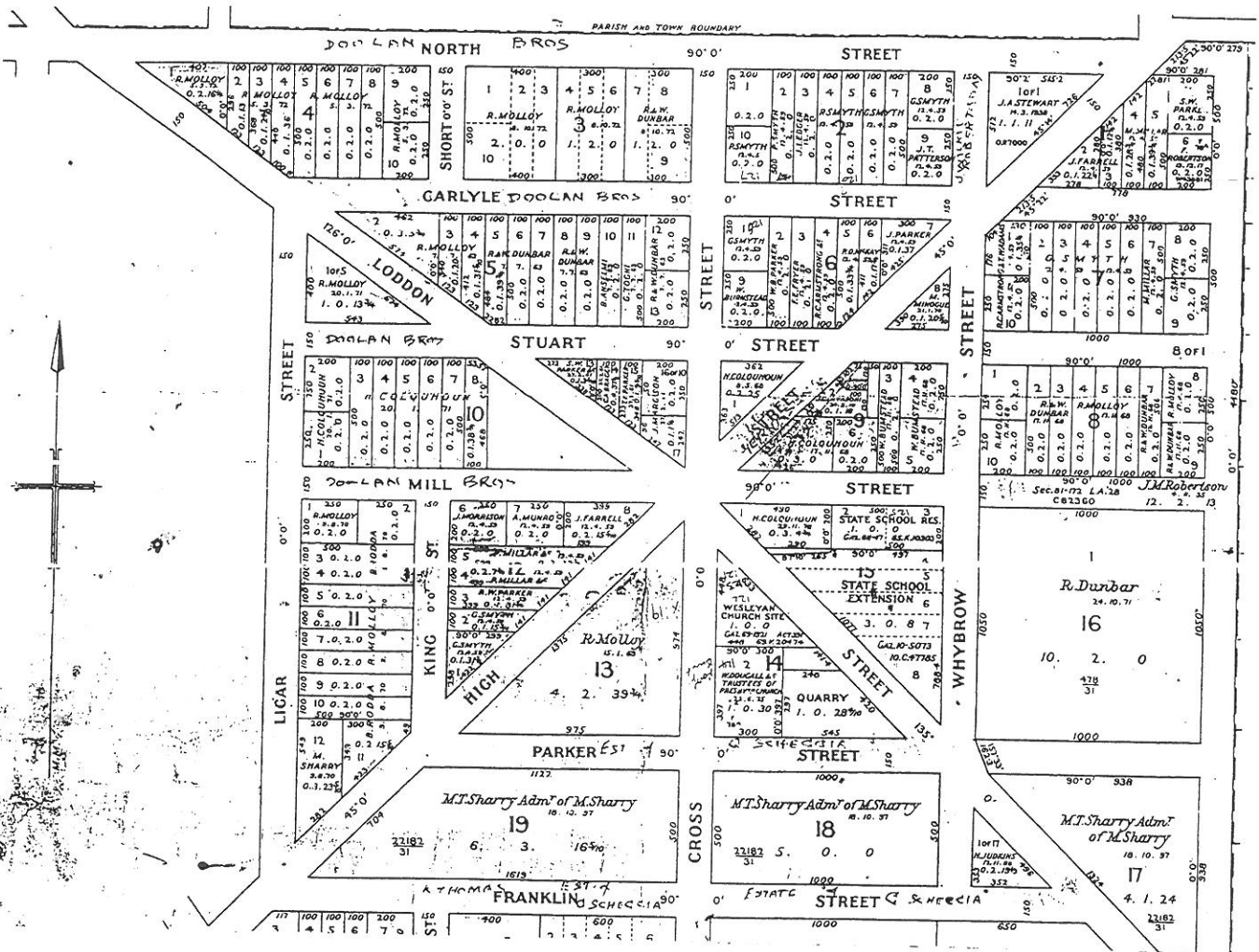
⁹¹ Peter Gray, op.cit., p.3

⁹² H.T. Maddick, op.cit., p.6

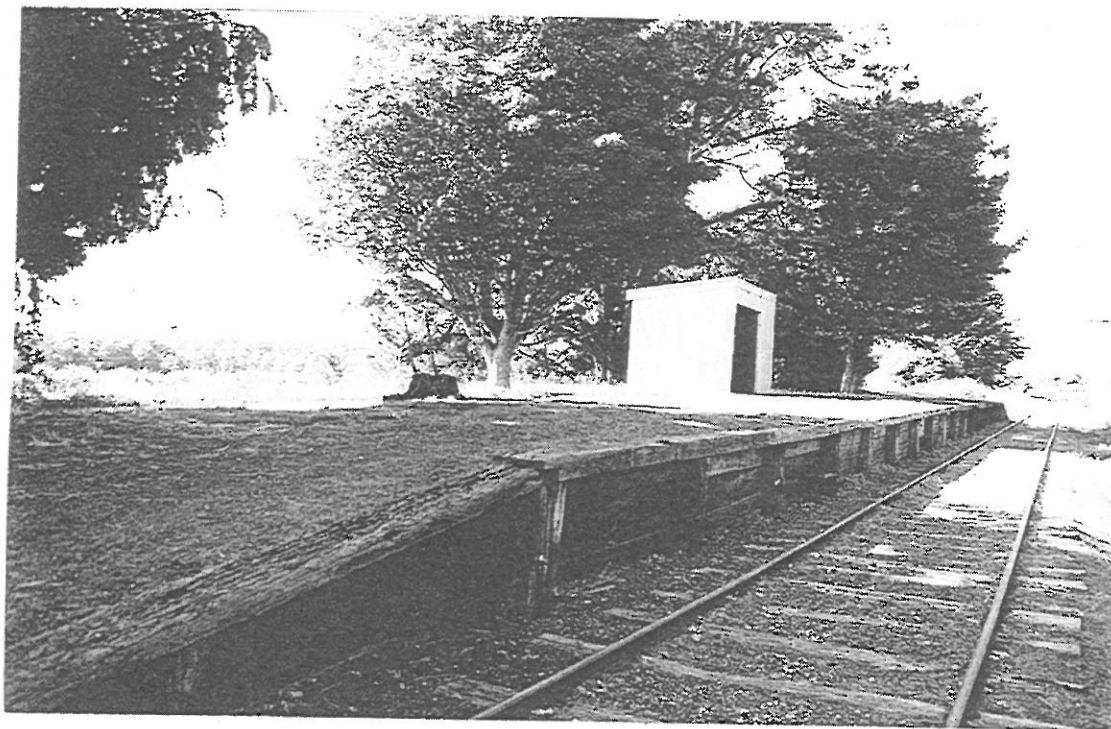
⁹³ Norm Houghton, *Timber and Gold, A History of the Saw Mills and Tramways of the Wombat Forest 1855-1940*, Melbourne, Light Railway Research Society of Australia, 1980. p.1

⁹⁴ Norm Houghton, op.cit., p.5

⁹⁵ Ibid p.6



Map of Franklinford
(Source: Government Parish Plan)



Musk Railway Station
(Photograph: W. Jacobs 1990)

Wheeler, J.P. M.P. and one-time President of Glenlyon Shire, ran a succession of small mills along Leitch's and Kangaroo Creeks and the Coliban and Loddon rivers between 1856-1898. He supplied the Daylesford and Castlemaine markets and each week his contractor's carted out over 50,000 feet of sawn timber.⁹⁶ After the 1890s depression, government labour camps were set up in Lyonville for unemployed men to cut timber. Small blocks of land, usually 20 acres in extent, were then allotted, preferentially to family groups.⁹⁷

In 1868 Charles Cowle established a mill near the Loddon river which employed 20 men. A school was provided in 1875, and reading rooms and a church arrived with the railway in 1880. The settlement became known as Lyonville, after the mill manager James Lyon. The mill closed down around 1890.⁹⁸

Thomas Orde was one of the early settlers at Glenlyon. He ran the town's general store and the Upper Loddon Hotel, and was one of the original councillors on the local Road Board. During the period 1880-1896 he ran a mill on the Loddon three miles north of Lyonville which employed 40 men. He had another mill south of Wheatsheaf which employed 20. This was abandoned in 1895.

Fred Thrum had a mill at Little Hampton from 1865-1894, which employed 13 hands.⁹⁹

RAILWAYS

Greater agricultural production brought about by the various Land Acts resulted in increased supplies of butter, cheese, hay and potatoes. These commodities together with timber from the Wombat Forest, found a ready market locally, but farmers were frustrated by lack of fast and efficient transport to Melbourne and Ballarat. The situation had been alleviated in 1862 when the line to Bendigo was opened but carriers still had to take the goods to Malmsbury by road. As well, Daylesford in the 1870s was keen to consolidate its position with that nineteenth century symbol of progress, the railway.¹⁰⁰

The line between Daylesford and Carlsruhe was completed in March 1880, with seven stations strung along it, including Lyonville, Bullarto and Musk Creek.¹⁰¹ Because the line was constructed in a pre-motor transport era to serve the local timber and farming interests, stations were close together and fed by bullock wagons, horse drags and timber tramways.¹⁰² Bullarto was a typical station along the line. Parliamentarian James Wheeler had a large mill at Bullarto South until 1892. He ran his tramway into the Bullarto goods yard, which had a goods shed, goods platform, station building and station master's residence by 1888.¹⁰³

The railway records for the year 1884/5 show that as well as firewood and timber, the line carried out 20,000 bags of bran, plus 180 tons of hides, 80 tons of hay and 60 tons of fruit.

⁹⁶ Ibid. p.46

⁹⁷ Susan Priestley, *The Victorians, Making Their Mark*, Melbourne, 1984, p.199

⁹⁸ Ibid. p.58

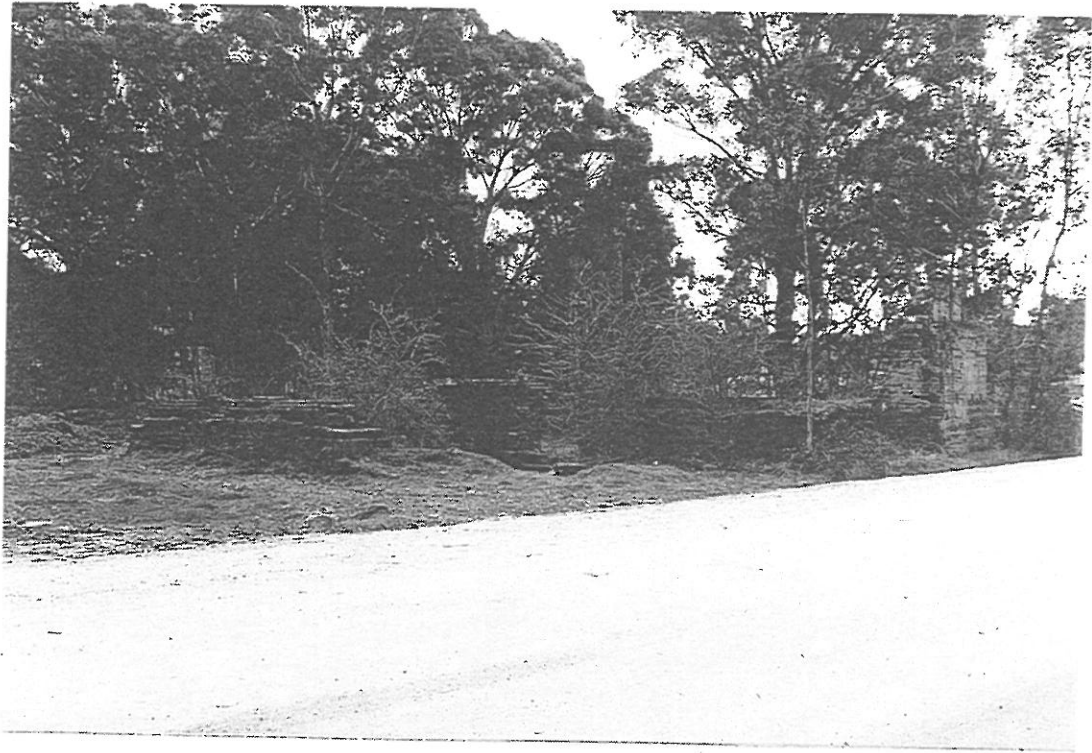
⁹⁹ Ibid. p.72

¹⁰⁰ Murrell Osborne, *A Descriptive History and Lineside Guide of the Railways in the Daylesford District, 1880-1978*, Melbourne, Australian Railway Historical Society (Victorian Division) n.d. p.3

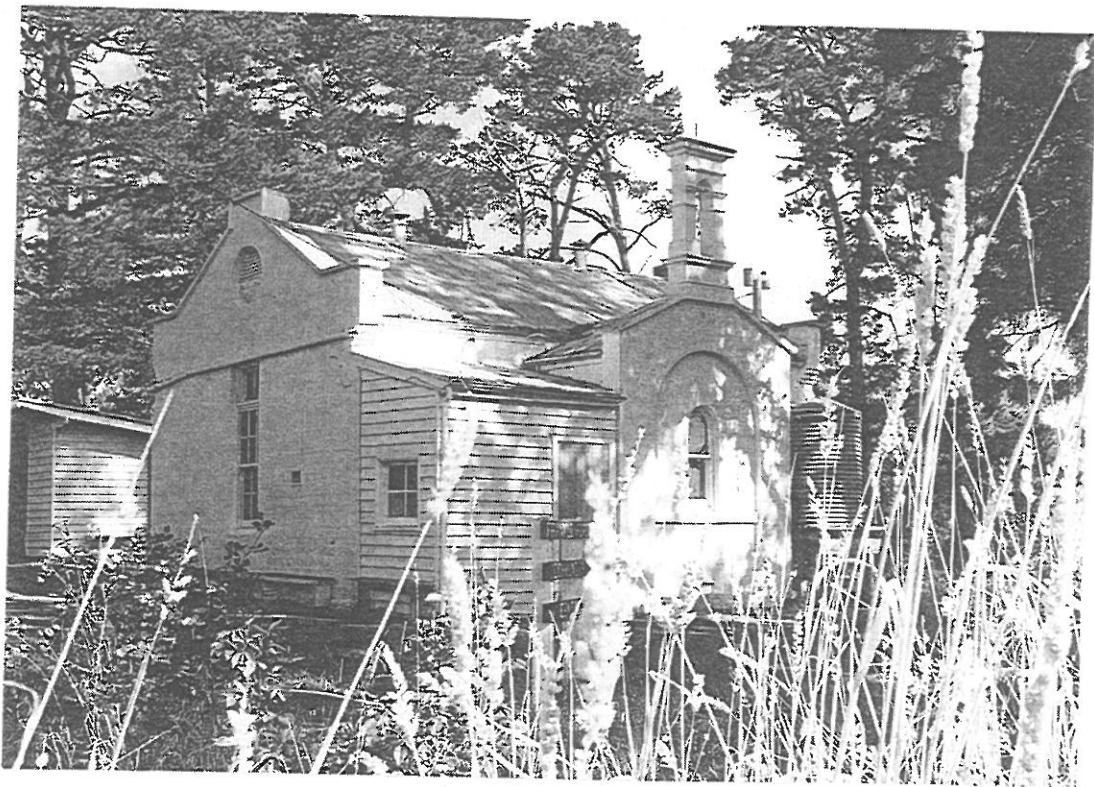
¹⁰¹ Ibid. p.15

¹⁰² Ibid. p.20

¹⁰³ Ibid. p.24



Steeles Reef Mine
(Photograph: W.Jacobs 1990)



Franklinford State School No.257
(Photograph: W.Jacobs 1990)

There were also 50,000 passenger movements.¹⁰⁴ As the main agricultural regions moved northwards, and the Wombat Forest became logged out, the number of trains was reduced, although the tourism industry boosted passenger numbers to some extent.

SUMMARY

From 1837-1851, the area's economy was based on the production of wool, tallow and hides and the European population was probably between one and two hundred. Sheep and cattle were already having an impact on the local environment and by 1848 the Loddon Valley was suffering from overgrazing.¹⁰⁵

The gold discoveries of 1851-1856 led to an enormous increase in population and mining activities such as digging, puddling, sluicing and tree felling led to erosion of the land, destruction of creeks and rivers and a decrease in the vegetation cover.

In 1866 the total Shire population was 12,450 people living in 2,500 wooden houses and 800 brick or store houses, or tents. The local agricultural boom of the gold-era and the Lands Acts of the 1860s led to increased clearing, cultivation and planting, which further changed the landscape.

Wheat, fruit, potatoes and dairy products were the agricultural mainstays of the area, but mining still played a role in the economy. The 1891 census reported that the Victorian population was heavily concentrated in the central highland region of the goldfields, and that 25% of all towns surveyed gave mining as a leading activity. Local towns provided a vigorous community life in the years 1855 to 1914. Local people built schools and churches, theatres and hotels gave entertainment and mechanics institutes and libraries provided intellectual stimulation. Shire residents were served over the period by a succession of newspapers - the *Express*, *Mercury*, *Herald* and *Advocate*. Since the World War of 1914-1919 and the changes in transport and communication these activities have become centred in the towns of Daylesford and Hepburn Springs. The twentieth century developments of tourism and the mineral water spas have also been centred on these towns bypassing the many small towns and settlements of the Shire.

Throughout its history the Shire has suffered devastating bushfires which have not only affected the natural environment but also irrevocably changed the human landscape. Many houses, churches, halls and other buildings have been lost for ever.

The Shire is now dominated by the main towns of Daylesford and Hepburn Springs and the many smaller towns which in many cases were these towns competitors for pre-eminence have become remnants of the changing mining and farming fortunes of the Shire and leave an imprint on the landscape of the shifts of population, work practices and transport patterns over the last century.

¹⁰⁴ Ibid. p.15

¹⁰⁵ Edgar Morrison, *Early Days in the Loddon Valley*, op.cit., p.67

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