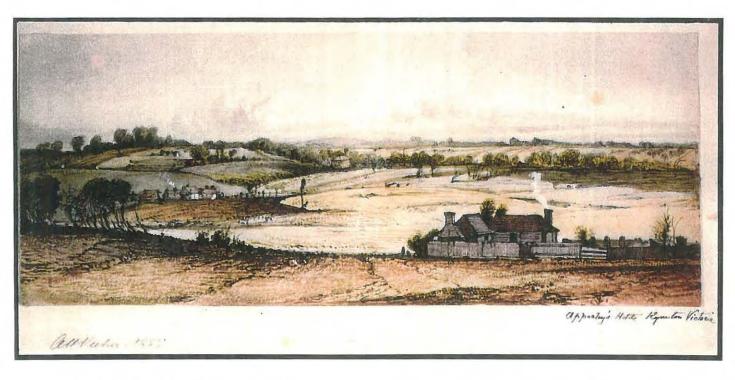
SHIRE OF KYNETON CONSERVATION (HERITAGE) STUDY

VOLUME TWO

Background History, Architecture and Architects, Bibliography



La Trobe Picture Collection State Library of Victoria Kyneton in 1853
Apparently Looking North
Towards St. Agnes
(In 1856 Apperley's
Weighbridge Hotel was in
East Kyneton on the
corner of High and Epping
Streets.)

PREPARED FOR THE
HERITAGE BRANCH, MINISTRY FOR PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT
AND THE
SHIRE OF KYNETON
BY
DAVID BICK
with
Phyllis Murphy and John Patrick
Background History by Susan Priestley

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The consultants would like particularly to acknowledge the past work and assistance of Mr. George Bremner. Mr. Bremner has been one of the most important historical researchers in Kyneton during the post Second World War period.

The Kyneton Historical Society through their hard-working President and Secretary Mrs. Geraldine Mitchell have provided much assistance. Wilma Lumsden also provided valuable assistance.

The Kyneton Museum provided information and photographs from their collection.

Finally thanks for the work of the study Steering Committee are offered to -

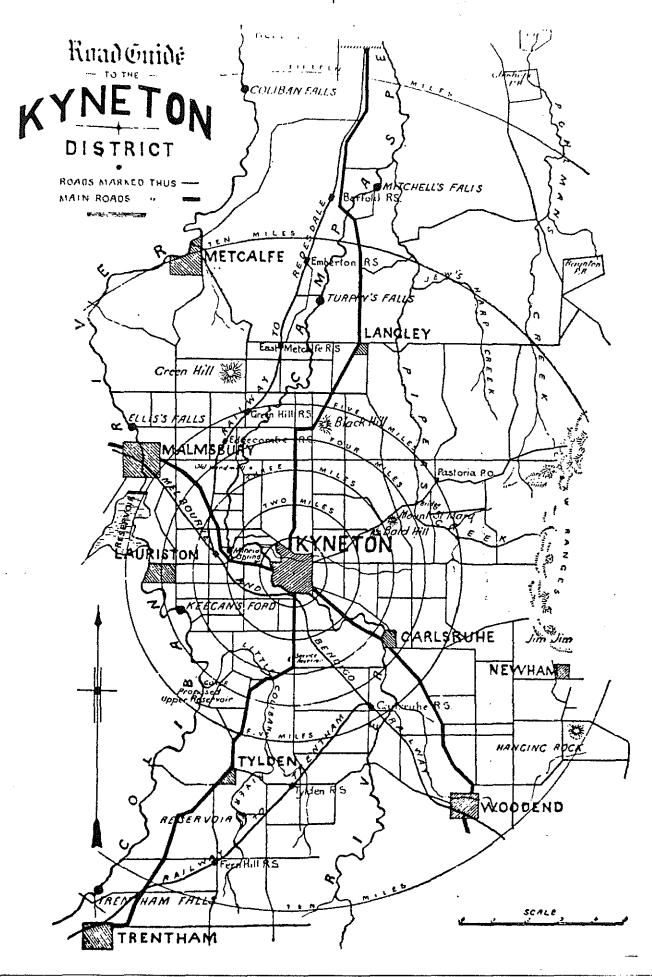
CICU		•
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Shire Chief Executive Officer
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Mr. David Francis devoted many hours assisting with the identification, research and proof reading of the final report and this major contribution to the Study is greatly appreciated.



BACKGROUND HISTORY

The Study's background history is not a history of the Shire of Kyneton, but rather an environmental history of European and non-aboriginal settlement and development. The study brief required of the background history that it addressed the -

- * Critical phases of the area's development.
- * Within those phases, the effect and importance of:
 - Natural elements; climate, topography, vegetation, geology.
 - Ethnic and economic and other social groups.
 - Accessibility, communications and transportation.
 - Surveying, sub-division and land-tenure policies.
 - Rural and urban industry trade and labour.
 - <u>Government</u> and <u>Local</u> Government composition, policies legislation and actions.
 - Influential personalities and organisations.
 - Social, institutional and civic networks.
 - Particular building materials and forms.
 - Particular garden materials and forms.
 - <u>Influential architects</u>, <u>engineers</u>, <u>builders</u>, <u>landscape</u> <u>designers</u> <u>and tradesmen</u> who worked in the area.
 - Changes in <u>public perception</u> of the environment.

SHIRE OF KYNETON CONSERVATION STUDY BACKGROUND HISTORY BY SUSAN PRIESTLEY

INTRODUCTION

The Shire of Kyneton is situated near the centre of the Victorian uplands, a region of moderately high plateaux and what are known as strike ridges. The Shire has the shape of a stretched zig-zag. Its south-western boundary generally follows the line of the Coliban River flowing north from several sources in what has been known since 1840 as the Dividing Range. It was densely forested at the time of European settlement and remnants are still State forest. The Campaspe River flows out of the same range a little to the east, and part of its course forms the southern and western boundaries of the town of Kyneton, which has always had a central place in the Shire, both geographically and economically. Along the Campaspe river valley, the soils supported lightly wooded grassland. The eastern part of the Shire is more sparsely watered by northerly flowing creeks, and the country was always less heavily timbered, even on the ranges.

The south-western end of the Shire comes within one of Victoria's high rainfall zones, receiving between 1,000 and 1,400 mm annually, while the rest of the Shire receives between 700 to 1,000 mm. This, combined with relatively high humidity levels, even in summer, minimizes any drying effect on herbage so that the Shire has claimed to be better insulated when drought affects other parts of the State. Climate and topography have combined to give the area an English character, which appealed to the earliest settlers and has been the constant factor in any self-promotion undertaken by the residents. Through the centre of the Shire runs a stretch of old lava plain, studded with the cones of extinct volcanoes near Malmsbury. The lava plain has been profitably quarried for the basalt known as bluestone. (1)

The municipality began to take shape with the proclamation of the Lauriston and Edgecombe Road District on 27 September 1856, the Borough of Kyneton on 30 October 1857, the Carlsruhe Road District on 8 February 1859 (addition from Baynton parish on 12 December 1864) and the Tylden and Trentham Road District on 19 July 1859 (addition on south-west boundary 11 January 1864). All these became the Kyneton United Road District on 28 December 1864 and finally the Shire of Kyneton on 3 January 1865 (gazetted 18 January). A section of Bacchus March Shire was annexed on 5 February 1913. Malmsbury Borough (proclaimed 20 October 1861) united with Kyneton on 1 October 1915 and a portion of Ballan Shire was annexed to Kyneton on 9 October 1921. The present area is 72,520 ha.⁽²⁾

Information on climate, water resources, topography and physiography from J.S. Duncan (ed.) <u>Atlas of Victoria</u>, Victorian Government Printing Office, Melbourne, 1982.

^{2. &}lt;u>Victorian Government Gazette</u> published proclamations at various dates.

Kyneton

SHIRE

Councii.

NAMES OF OFFICERS AND COUNCILLORS

AT PRESENT HOLDING OFFICE, OCTOBER, 1867.

President.

CHARLES YOUNG, Esq.

Greasunen.

JOHN APPERLY.

Auditors.

E. PERKINS.

A. Rosel.

Burveyor and Valuer.

JOHN MAXWELL.

Councillors.

BEN KENWORTHY

MARTIN M'KENNA

WILLIAM GRAHAM

WM. THOMSON

F. MACDONALD

GEORGE TAYLOR

J. B. THOMSON

JOHN SYMINGTON

John J. Walsh

P. A. SINCLAIR

PATRICK LYONS

JOHN- APPERIX,

Secretary.

Established January, 1865.

1867 KYNETON SHIRE COUNCIL COAT OF ARMS AND THE NAMES
OF THE OFFICERS AND COUNCILLORS
LA TROBE PICTURE COLLECTION, STATE LIBRARY OF VICTORIA
H 26739

Intensive settlement of the district followed sales of Crown land, for both town and country lots, beginning May 1850. Most of the district was freehold before Victoria's Land Acts of the 1860s, which allowed selection. Some land around Trentham and Lauriston was acquired under the provision allowing miners to select near goldfields. The factor which promoted Kyneton beyond a rural village was its position on the road to the rich alluvial goldfield of Mount Alexander (the Castlemaine District). Rushes began there from August 1851 and by the time the alluvial pickings were petering out, the deep leads of Bendigo were being mined. From 1854 gold was mined in the Shire itself along the Coliban River and that helped development. So did quarrying bluestone. But growing crops and raising stock have been the longest lasting primary resources of the Shire, augmenting and augmented by the servicing of road and rail traffic.

Kyneton town has been the Shire's remarkably stable service centre, catering to travellers as well as residents, and never holding less than about 40 per cent of the total population. In contrast to mining towns and districts, population has not fluctuated wildly. The town grew steadily but not spectacularly from 1,086 in 1857 to 3,371 in 1891, a year when the Shire's residents reached a peak level of 8,727 living in 1,834 dwellings. There followed a slow but not drastic decline, revealed more by age distribution than total numbers. Indeed, unlike many centres severely affected by "the drift to the city", the Shire's resident numbers hovered between 6,500 and 7,000 for the first half of the the twentieth century, before falling to about 6,000 at the 1954 to 1971 censuses. From 6,293 in 1976 the total rose over the next decade to about 8,000. Kyneton town has been even more stable over the last 100 years, holding a constant 3,000 to 4,000 people; in 1990 4,900 people live in the town. This has established it as one of Victoria's larger towns outside the provincial cities.

The downside of stability is an inclination towards conservatism. With residents content with what they have, progressives move out and efforts to promote development meet with a lukewarm response. It is only within the last ten or fifteen years that the town's old buildings, "saved" because of minimal population pressure and a shift in commercial emphasis from Piper to Mollison and High Streets, have allowed Kyneton's historic character to appreciate. But it is significant that new residents with "Melbourne money" have been responsible for almost all the restorations of town and rural buildings and the establishment of speciality shops and new industries.

Kyneton Shire's built heritage can be summarised as follows:-

- Before 1854, very little remains; the nucleus of the old Kyneton Church of England parsonage begun in 1850 and parts of Theaden are two examples.
- 1854 to circa 1870, quite significant remains, mostly built in bluestone, including the stone main body of Kyneton's Hospital, State School, Courthouse, four churches, the first Bank of New South Wales, various shops, Campaspie

Villa and other dwellings. In Malmsbury there are several bluestone cottages, one former terrace, old Wesleyan Methodist and the Church of England (Anglican) churches, old Police quarters, Blair's Mill, Town Hall, three former hotel buildings and some shops. The Bendigo railway line stations and structures in the Shire all date from the early 1860s. The country areas contain two bluestone mills and various residences and homesteads, such as Abbeyville, Skelsmergh Hall (originally Montpellier), Tylden Park and Woodside near Kyneton.

- During the 1870s and 1880s, Kyneton acquired some substantial public and commercial buildings, as well as a few substantial houses.
- 1890s to 1920s in town and rural areas, there were a limited number of new buildings, additions and renovations. The 1900s and 1910s saw the streets running off the east side of Mollison Street built up, mostly with weatherboard dwellings.
- During the 1920s, some houses were built on lots in the older parts of Kyneton, the High School moved to its present site and motion pictures were shown in the new Shire Hall.
- Circa 1930 to circa 1970, very limited building in either town or country. The brick Trentham Bush Nursing Hospital, opened in 1934 and fifteen Housing Commission homes in Kyneton in 1949-'50 were exceptions.
- In recent years, new housing subdivisions on the outskirts of Kyneton and new shops, but little building elsewhere. Renovations and restorations begin.

THE COMING OF EUROPEAN PASTORALISTS(3)

Brief though the stay of most of these pastoralists was, their imprint on the Shire's environment remains in names of town streets and rural districts, such as Baynton and Piper's Creek. Their animals, crops, choice of living sites and routes of travel into and out of the area all influenced later settlers and subsequent official action. The "squatters" nevertheless had no legal title to the land, but only licences to occupy, graze stock, cut timber, etc. Regulations proclaimed in March, 1848, finally allowed claims for a pre-emptive section to each existing run, permitting the runholder to buy at the upset (base) price before auction. The area of the pre-emptive right was based on the value of improvements - buildings, fences, cultivation, wells, dug-out springs, sheep washes. Such physical evidence has long since been eroded or supplanted.

^{3.} J.O. Randell, <u>Pastoral Settlement in Northern Victoria</u>, V.2, The Campaspie District, p.31-38. This and Randell's V.1, The Coliban District, are the main sources for this section.

<u>Carlsruhe</u>: Charles Hotson Ebden was at the forefront of the overland pastoral push southwards into the Port Phillip region in the late 1830s. By 1835 he had stock on two pastoral runs which straddled the Murray River and encompassed the present site of Albury. A year later he began moving further south. With Charles Bonney, he reached the infant settlement of Melbourne in the first days of 1837. The cattle they had driven overland sold readily, since the "over-straiters", stockholders from Van Diemen's Land (now Tasmania), had brought mostly sheep.

Ebden then rode back north to move down the rest of the stock and a well-equipped party. It included about nine thousand sheep, thirty horses and nine drays loaded with stores and equipment. By May 1837 he had chosen as his run for these sheep and horses a rich tract of country along the Campaspe River. It was named Carlsruhe after the European town where he had finished his education. The head station was at the southern end of the run on the east bank of the river. The present Calder Highway runs across the site as it approaches the bridge over the Campaspe at Carlsruhe.

As well as the men, some with tickets-of-leave, who were needed to manage the stock, Ebden's party included gentlemen like William Piper who had been a law clerk in Sydney. Ebden was a shrewd and enterprising businessman. For this pastoral expansion, his capital was augmented by a partnership with James Donnithorne, who had retired to Sydney after a career as merchant and judge in India.

The Carlsruhe head station quickly developed into a cluster of buildings before the end of 1839, when the Donnithorne/Ebden partnership was dissolved and the assets divided. Ebden retained the head station area of Carlsruhe, the "farm" as he called it. It was a fenced area of about 350 acres, including a 100 acre cultivation paddock, stockyards, milking yards, a large barn, about fifteen huts and storehouses (a forge among them) and a "comfortable cottage". (4) A small herd of cattle was included when Ebden sold Carlsruhe in July 1840 to William Cumming and Samuel Smyth.* The latter was newly arrived from Manchester with capital to invest and was enticed to view Carlsruhe on a shooting visit with Ebden. In November 1840 Smyth's wife Eliza wrote to Priscilla Raleigh back in Manchester describing their two-day journey up from Melbourne to their new home. They camped overnight at the Border Police Station (near

J.O. Randell mistakenly names Cumming's partner as John James Barlow Smythe.

^{4.} J.O. Randell, <u>Pastoral Settlement in Northern Victoria</u>, V.2, The Campaspie District, p.31-38. This and Randell's V.1, The Coliban District, are the main sources for this section.

Gisborne) and saw only "two desolate, cold-looking huts" on the way, so her first glimpse of Carlsruhe was a lovely surprise. She wrote:

Imagine what a treat it was, & how it made me think of dear England, to see for the <u>first time</u> a pretty white lath and plaster Cottage with <u>glass</u> windows (a luxury scarcely known in the Bush) & with 9 or 10 little wooden cottages (or huts, as they are called) around it, all painted white

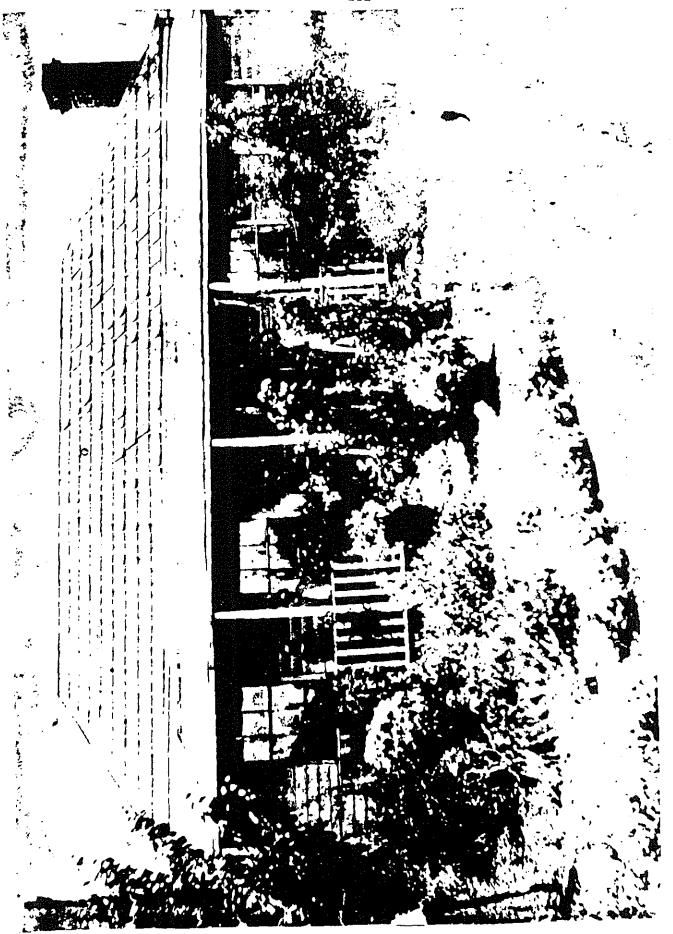
A little garden in front of the Cottage, and beyond that, fields of Barley and Oats looking so green and Wheat just appearing above the ground ... The Cottage consists of 4 rooms and 2 large halls. All the doors are glass <u>french</u> windows to our bed rooms opening into the back hall; all the rooms are on the ground floor ...

Our men live in the little wooden huts; they are some distance from the back of the house - so we are not at all overlooked by them & high paling on the further side of the flower garden keep the cottage quite distinct from the mens' dwellings ... altogether a <u>sweet</u> place - it has the appearance of a little hamlet at a distance. (5)

This was the complex sold early in 1843 to T.A. Gibbon who obtained a licence as the Carlsruhe Inn. Rural inns were commonly run as a farm, not only to have fresh food on hand, but to supply fodder or pasture for travellers' horses. The later history of Carlsruhe is included in the section on Towns.

St. Agnes: At the dissolution of his partnership with Ebden, James Donnithorne, with Stuart Donaldson, took over the leasehold right to all the run north of the Carlsruhe fence. extended for eight miles along both sides of the Campaspe. dray and bullock team, two horses, a cart and sundries and 8,926 sheep went with the run. So too did William Ward as overseer for the new run, which included all the former outhuts for shepherds. During 1840-41 Ward spent more than one thousand pounds in building a very good woolshed, house comprising sitting room, bedroom, "a room in the passage and a store and storekeeper's room". There was a kitchen hut, as well as quarters to house up to 22 station workers, some with wives and children. Fresh provisions came from an extensive, properly fenced kitchen garden. However, with wool prices at an unprofitable low in the the bad times of the early 1840s, Ward was dismissed and supervision vested in Alexander Mollison, who was running cattle on his run Colliban to the north and sheep on Pyalong to the south-east. Some boiling down of sheep to make tallow was done before wool prices began to rise.

Derek and Elizabeth Smythe (comp.) <u>Joseph Raleigh's</u> <u>Family</u>, privately published in New South Wales, p.70.



TYPE OF DWELLING THAT PASTORALISTS BUILT DURING THE 1850S - NOTE SHINGLE ROOF, WEATHERBOARD WALLS AND TWELVE PANE DOUBLE HUNG SASHES LA TROBE PICTURE COLLECTION, STATE LIBRARY OF VICTORIA

From June 1841, all the St. Agnes run east of the Campaspe and 1,548 sheep were transferred to Charles Wedge (managing partner), James Simpson and Frederick William Powlett, who named it Trio. The remainder of St. Agnes west of the river came under notice from October 1848, if not earlier, for its potential as agricultural allotments which might be put up for sale by the Crown. St. Agnes run was advertised for sale from January 1848, but a buyer was not found till the end of 1849. Buyer hesitation may be explained by C.J. LaTrobe's interest in marking out an agricultural reserve in the area. Land lots in the parish of Lauriston, together with lots in the new township of Kyneton, were known to have been officially surveyed by the time Abraham Booth and Edward Argyle, who had prospered as butchers in Melbourne from the early 1840s, bought the right to St. Agnes run at the end of 1849. The took possession early in 1850 and were able to claim pre-emptive right to the homestead section when lots in the parish were proclaimed for sale.

St. Agnes was very open country, "admitted to be one of the most grassy stations in Port Phillip", but that had its disadvantages. The sheep suffered from footrot, prompting the last overseer for Donnithorne, William Lockhart Morton, to experiment with copper sulphate. The shepherds carried the "powdered bluestone" in bags slung across their shoulders and were expected to rub it into the cloven hoofs of affected sheep during the midday camp.

<u>Trio</u>: This run was originally about 12,800 acres in extent and included the area set aside for the township of Kyneton and the parish of Carlsruhe. It was known as Wedge's station, since Charles Wedge lived there until about October 1846. It was then transferred to the Jeffreys brothers who ran it in conjunction with their Kyneton (formerly Five Mile) run south-west of the Carlsruhe paddocks, which had been cultivated since Ebden's time.

Wedge built himself a slab homestead on a river flat which later became the north-west corner of Mitchell and Jeffrey Streets, south of the racecourse. It was just over the Campaspe from the St. Agnes head station. In November 1844, when Crown Lands Commissioner Powlett paid an official visit to Trio, seven people were living there looking after 25 horses, 30 cattle and 3,366 sheep. Thirty acres were being cultivated, part for wheat which reputedly was sown on what is now the racecourse. Horse-breeding, which was to become a prominent rural industry in the Shire, was already showing promise. Wedge's flat was gazetted a teamsters' camping reserve in 1846 and Wedge's was a post station on the road to the Loddon district from 1843. The old Police Office was on this site later, to be replaced by a new police office by January 1855, north of Post Office Creek on the west side of the Ebden Street. The postboy's hut,

^{6.} Plan of "Allotments in the Village of Kyneton", 6? January 1855, Sale Plan 116, Central Plan Office, Melbourne.

sited about half a mile east of Wedge's main hut, may have first been a Carlsruhe run shepherd's hut. The Post Office of the 1850s was located on the east side of Ebden Street just north of Beauchamp Street, near the later bridge across Post Office Creek.

The licence for the diminished area of Trio was transferred on 31 March 1851 to William Campbell, who was already prominent as a pastoralist and politician. He bought a 640 acre pre-emptive block in 1854 and leased it to his brothers Archibald and John for six years. The whole of the former Trio run was freehold under many owners by 1857 and the pastoral licence was cancelled.

<u>Pastoria</u>: Before October 1839 and while C.H. Ebden was planning his withdrawal from Carlsruhe, William Piper moved five miles north-east to the creek named for him. Early in 1840 he applied for a run called Pastoria. For some years one Wildridge, another of the original Ebden party, was with him.

The run was heavily timbered, so by 1845, the stock comprised just two horses and 1,500 sheep. By 1851 however there were nine horses, four cattle and 5,640 sheep. A slab homestead and an enclosed garden were among the first improvements, for the soil near the creek was "very rich".

Piper began an official career as a Justice of the Peace and in 1849 was appointed Crown Lands Commissioner for Disputed Boundaries. He transferred Pastoria to George Govett in 1851 and in 1853 went to the Benalla district as Magistrate. George Govett had brought his large family over from Tasmania in 1847 to take up several pastoral runs in the Lancefield district. He suffered heavily in the Black Thursday bushfires of February 1851 and his first wife died in March 1853, leaving ten children. In August 1854 he remarried and brought his bride to Pastoria, where he died 34 years later. He built a one room timber homestead which was added to later. When the Pastoria pastoral lease was cancelled in January 1862, George Govett owned 2,050 acres freehold. Soon afterwards a hotel and schoolhouse were built nearby at Pipers Creek from bricks burnt on site.

Garth: Charles Peters had been in partnership with Edward Dryden on Mount Macedon Ranges run until 1844. Dryden then formed Newham run and Peters Garth. The Garth pre-emptive is at the south-east corner of the Shire. Horse breeding was combined with cattle and sheep raising. There was "a good dwelling house" on the pre-emptive by 1854 and the eldest son David Peters was in occupation of freehold by 1856, calling it Torpechin. Charles' young daughter Ann, who drowned in a well on the property, is buried there. Then in 1862 a grandson, son of James Peters, was drowned in a tub of sheep dip. James's wife Elizabeth also died in the same year. The family is said to have largely abandoned the homestead after that. It was not re-occupied until William McFeeters bought the estate in 1882. A single storey with attic bluestone dwelling or kitchen building of unknown date survives in Garth's Road.

<u>Kyneton</u>: The northern end of this run is within the present Shire boundaries. It lay west of the present Calder Highway between North Woodend and Carlsruhe. Formerly Five Mile Creek, it was named by Juliana, mother of the four Jeffreys brothers who started their pastoral career in 1840. In 1846 the brothers acquired Trio to the north as an addition and Henry Jeffreys was said to have ridden with W.H.F. Mitchell to point out to Superintendent C.J. La Trobe Wedge's flat and the surrounding area as a suitable township site. The survey of the village of Kyneton in 1849 was the result. Reputedly Juliana Jeffreys bestowed the name of her birthplace on the new village. To avoid confusion, the block later chosen as the pre-emptive from the Kyneton run was named Cheveley or Cheveley Green. From 1855, when the Jeffreys brothers began to disperse from the district, Cheveley was the home of their superintendent James Thomas Hand Bennett. He married a daughter of William Lavender, Kyneton's Police Magistrate from January 1853, who built Woodside, which still stands overlooking the racecourse.

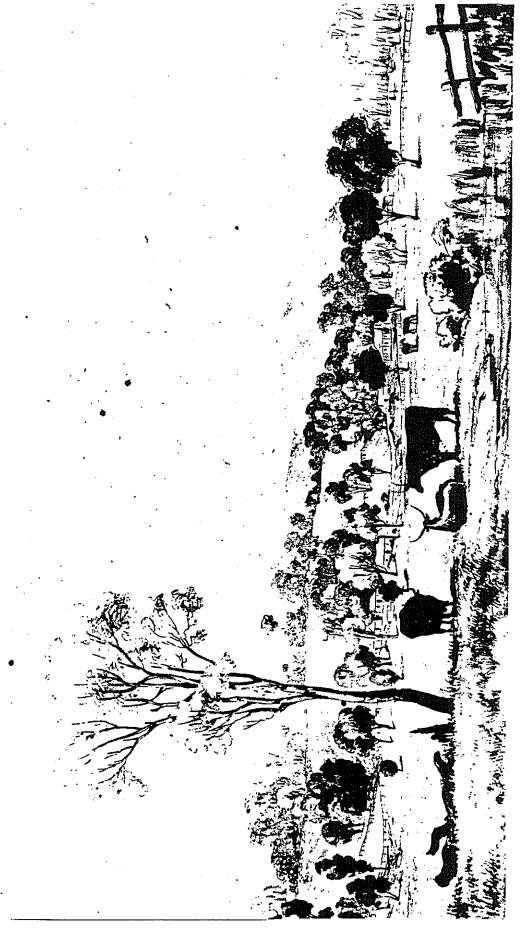
<u>Barfold</u>: William Henry Yaldwyn overlanded from the Yass district with as large a party as Ebden. His overseer John Coppock was located to the north of Ebden by the middle of 1837 and Yaldwyn arrived about November. He named his run Barfold after the dower house on Blackdown, the Yaldwyn family estate in Sussex. On Sunday 3 December he drove down in his van to call on Ebden at Carlsruhe and wrote in his journal:

The whole country between his station and mine is as beautiful as can be. It is the only part of the Colony that ever reminded me of England, the whole distance twelve miles is like a nobleman's park, beautifully timbered and watered. I should be afraid to purchase here for fear it might wean me from dear old Blackdown ... Decidedly cooler here than at Yass, more like an English climate. (7)

The appeal of the Kyneton country to European pastoralists was never more clearly enunciated. Yaldwyn left John Coppock in charge of what was originally about 45,000 acres, running both sheep and cattle. Like Ebden, Yaldwyn transferred the run before the 1840s depression. Thomas Thornloe in turn sold in 1842 to William Henry Fancourt Mitchell, who had held public office under Lieutenant Governor Franklin in Van Diemen's Land. The two-room hut where Mitchell's eldest daughter Anne was born in 1843 was replaced by the house which in a granddaughter's eyes was a

rambling old wooden [house] ... built on a slope ... [with a] long drawing room ... with the French windows opening outwards on to the verandah. In order to catch the flies those windows were fitted at their base with metal troughs filled with spirit ... There was a lot of plush ... a grand piano and ... masses of ornaments and photographs. [From] the drawingroom, an enclosed ... staircase descended to a

^{7.} Randell, op. cit., V.1, p.87.



KYNETON RUN WITH THE HOMESTEAD AND OUTBUILDINGS? IN THE DISTANCE LA TROBE PICTURE COLLECTION, STATE LIBRARY OF VICTORIA H 8861



KYNETON RUN HOMESTEAD AND OUTBUILDINGS? LA TROBE PICTURE COLLECTION, THE STATE LIBRARY OF VICTORIA H8863

cobbled courtyard where blue hydrangeas grew in tubs ... [T]he courtyard was surrounded by buildings ... [including the schoolroom and kitchen] ... [T]here were any number of outbuildings: stables, a coach house, milking sheds and fowl-houses. [8]

Barfolds' shearing shed and washpool, in which sheep were washed before shearing, were established in 1844. The house and garden were destroyed by fire in the 1930s. The coach house survived but has since been bulldozed. The Barfold pre-emptive and other freehold acquired by Mitchell by 1860-I amounted to several thousand acres. The Burke and Wills expedition reputedly camped on the outskirts of the run, now the Mia Mia district, in 1860.

In 1844, Mitchell transferred the section of his run east of Pipers Creek and 3,000 sheep to Robert Beauchamp. This became Langley Vale, named for the Beauchamp's Langley Park in Norfolk. Its area was later extended by some land west of the creek. Barfold was further reduced when Lower Coliban was licenced to James, John and Edward Orr in 1855. Mitchell held high public office and was knighted in 1875. He died at Barfold on 24 February 1884. In 1849, with one of the Jeffreys, probably Henry, and J.T.H. Bennett, Mitchell had accompanied Superintendent La Trobe on the ride when the Kyneton town site was chosen. La Trobe rode up again in 1852 to ask Mitchell to take the position of Chief Commissioner of Police, a position which he held for just over a year.

Langley Vale: Beauchamp built a good wooden cottage for himself and another for his overseer Henry Barrow, whose wife Elizabeth acted as housekeeper. Beauchamp's cultivated lifestyle astonished Robert Russell on a visit in 1846. The cottage was elegantly carpeted and furnished, with a piano, good engravings and a valuable library. The usual bush dinner of mutton was transformed into saddle of lamb with currant jelly, attended by a manservant and enlivened by wines and excellent conversation. To accommodate a large enough flock of sheep, Beauchamp also acquired Spring Plains run, eight miles away, in 1846. A thoroughbred horse stud was established on Langley Vale. That run was sold in 1849 and two years later, Beauchamp sold all his colonial interests and returned to England.

Langley became the freehold of Charles and Thomas Peevor from 1852. It was transferred in 1861 to Captain Alexander John Smith, who had been a member of the South Polar expeditions of 1839-43 and then a public official in Hobart and Victoria. He lived in the homestead built by Peevor until his death on 7 September 1872, but leased the Langley freehold for farming.

^{8.} Nancy Adams, Family Fresco, p.8.

Smith's meticulous rainfall records and those of Mr. Henderson of Malmsbury, were valuable data in determining the feasibility of the Coliban reservoir at Malmsbury.

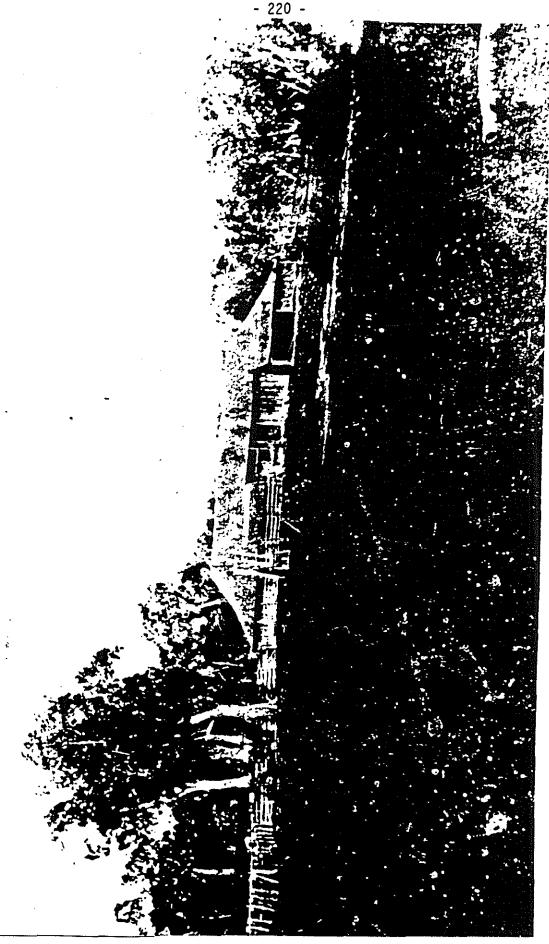
Darlington: Overlanding on the heels of Yaldwyn in 1837 was Captain Sylvester John Brown, accompanied by his wife's stepbrother Thomas Barry Alexander and Robert Shadforth as stockmen, and overseer William Cox in charge of about eighteen assigned men. Eight of them were shepherds, each responsible for a flock of about five hundred sheep. Others were in charge of the drays, one of which carried a boat for ferrying the party across rivers. The stockmen drove a herd of 400 cattle. Brown selected the country east of Yaldwyn running south towards Carlsruhe. About 60,000 acres were originally included, although Glenhope and The Den runs were soon excised from it. Brown's wife Eliza named the run Darlington. It was left in charge of Alexander and Cox. The latter had a reputation for cruelty towards employees and the local Aborigines. In 1841 Dr. Thomas Baynton acquired part of the run when Brown's financial affairs and mental health were both showing signs of collapse. T.B. Alexander formed The Den run at the same time.

Baynton built a "comfortable cottage" and the usual outbuildings and during the 1850s estimated the pastoral lease at 25,000 acres stocked with about 30 horses, up to 44 cattle and 8,000 to 10,000 sheep. By 1860 the lease was for 14,000 acres, reduced to 3,760 acres in 1869. Baynton is remembered for finding a new track to Melbourne via Lancefield, for his excellent medical care of local bushmen, and for his unflustered reception of the bushranger Melville. He retired to Melbourne and died there in April 1872. The 1,384 acres of Darlington freehold were sold to the Kyneton manufacturers of agricultural implements, Hutcheson* and Walker. The main house and a "farmstead house" were then on the property. In 1879 Mr. J. Walker built Darlington Lodge. (9)

Glenhope: The northern section of the original Darlington was acquired by Robert and Frederick Pohlman in October 1840. For a short time R.H. Budd was in partnership. The original hut near a spring on a knoll above what is now Pohlman's Creek was extended after May 1841 when Robert's wife Eliza came to live there. Fruit trees, a vegetable garden and poultry of many varieties were introduced. In a return for 1 January 1850, Glenhope carried 6 horses, 110 cattle and 10,500 sheep. One of the outstations was on the high volcanic plains; the homestead area was more sheltered.

^{*} J.O. Randell incorrectly spells this Hutchinson, as do others.

^{9.} Noted in <u>History of Kyneton</u>, comp. by Barbara Armstrong from files of <u>Kyneton Guardian</u>, v.1., p.100b. Volume 1 of this history covers period 1835-1900, volume 2 1901-1935. It is a main source for the remainder of this study, although some error and confusion needed amendment from other records, even issues of the paper itself.



TYPICAL TIMBER WOOLSHED BUILT DURING THE 1840S AND 1850S WITH SPLIT SLAB WALLS AND SHINGLE ROOF LA TROBE PICTURE COLLECTION, STATE LIBRARY OF VICTORIA

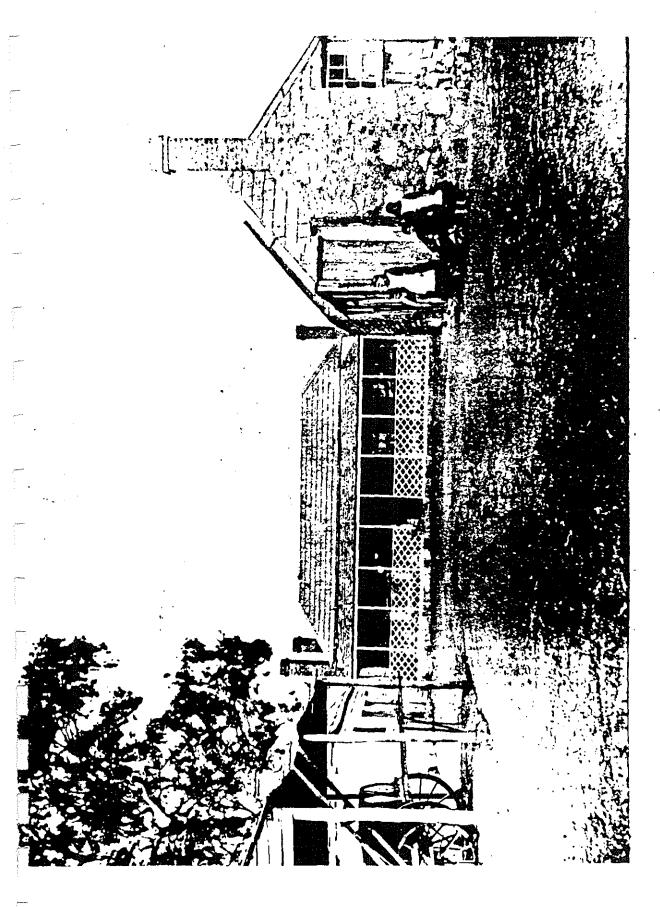
In 1851 Frederick Pohlman bought out his brother and after his marriage in 1853, began a new brick homestead further up the hillside. In 1857 Glenhope was sold to Charles Orr, son of James who had established Stratford Lodge station in 1839. Charles and then his brother James Read Orr controlled the 6,640 acres which comprised Glenhope in the 1860s. See also Pemberley.

Colliban*: Alexander Fullerton Mollison was another to overland in 1837, starting from a run on the Murrumbidgee. His too was a large party of two overseers, 49 servants, 5,000 sheep, 634 cattle, 28 bullocks and 22 horses. By December 1837 he had chosen to settle the stock west of the Coliban River, since Ebden claimed that river as his western boundary. He had ridden through the heavily timbered ranges on the upper reaches of the Coliban and noted "the strong black soil, superimposed on volcanic stone". The area of the 1830s run now includes the townships of Trentham and Tylden and parts of Malmsbury and Taradale. The area proved too wet for sheep and Mollison took out a licence for Pyalong as well. By 1847 all the sheep were established there and up to 1,200 cattle, mostly Durhams, were on Colliban. About 70 cows were milked regularly. There was a dairy for butter and cheese making and a piggery utilised the skim milk. Other improvements listed in a sale advertisement in April 1847 were a dwelling hut, small garden, 140 acre grass paddock, 40 acres of cultivation, shingled store, kitchen and men's hut, three-stall stable and loose box, blacksmith's shop and smoke house, stockman's hut, as well as three outstation huts. Furthermore he had erected a water mill on the Coliban which neighbouring settlers used for gristing grain.

James Orr of Stratford Lodge (in the Shire of Metcalfe) bought Colliban and by 1851 had spent 800 pounds on improvements, including a substantial homestead further from the river, about the site of the present house. From 1857 this became the home of his second son Henry Adair Orr until he retired to England in 1866. H.A. Orr secured 1,350 acres as freehold, which he named Pemberley, adjoining the town of Malmsbury to the north-west. Fossickers in the Coliban gold rushes, which gained impetus from 1854, gained rights to some grazing land and more was lost from 1866 in the excavations for the Malmsbury reservoir, part of the Coliban Scheme.

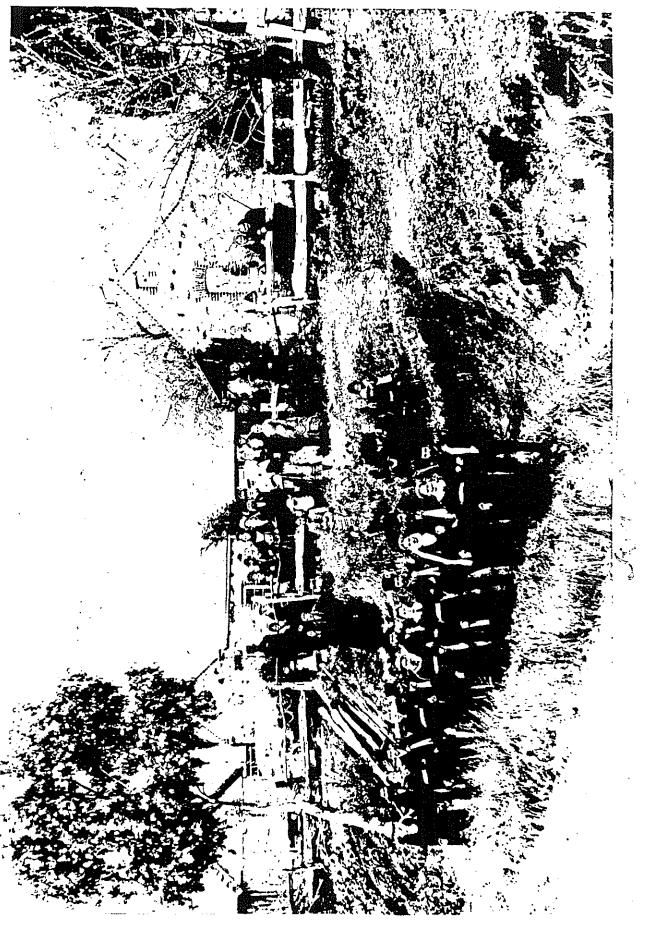
Pemberley was leased from 1866, a long-standing tenant being Charles Forbes Fraser from 1874 to 1888. He developed a racing stud and stable on Pemberley, the fame of which was offset by his unsuccessful marriage. His wife Jessie, who divorced him in 1883, became a journalist and novelist after her marriage to the Belgian Auguste Couvreur. Published under the pseudonym "Tasma", her novels are said to reflect, in part, the towns, manners and characters observed during her time in the Kyneton Shire from 1867 to 1874.

^{*} This spelling is retained for the name of the pastoral run only. For the river, district, etc. the modern spelling, Coliban, is used throughout the study.



-Coliban Estate 1860-

<u>Woodside</u>: In February 1841 the southern part of Colliban run, known as the Ten Mile Outstation, was transferred to the brothers, Thomas, Robert and Henry Clowes and a friend George Joyce. Mollison also sold them 752 ewes and 548 lambs. In April 1844, George Joyce took his share of the sheep and went with his newly-arrived brother Alfred to take up Plaistowe, near Maryborough. Thomas Clowes remained to become the sole owner of Woodside in 1854. It seems to have been named for the country where it was located. The homestead was near a spring which the Clowes brothers learned from the Aborigines had never been known to fail. Thomas Joyce purchased the pre-emptive right around the homestead in 1854 and eventually owned 750 acres freehold. The township of Tylden and purchases by other settlers reduced the Woodside pastoral licence to 12,000 acres, mostly heavily timbered so that their grazing value was reduced. In 1860 Clowes subdivided his freehold into agricultural paddocks, specializing in grain and potatoes. In December 1859, the Woodside church was opened on land he had donated, with the Baptist Minister Ingram Moody in residence. Other denominations also used it for up to seventy years until it was moved to Altona about 1922. The original homestead has gone, but a later replacement weatherboard house survives on the property. Erected apparently in the 1860s, this dwelling was moved closer to Tylden early this century.



COUNTRY WEDDING REPUTED TO BE AT KYNETON (THOUGH THIS IS DOUBTFUL)

LA TROBE PICTURE COLLECTION, STATE LIBRARY OF VICTORIA

H 13862 * SPF

TOWNS AND GOLDFIELDS

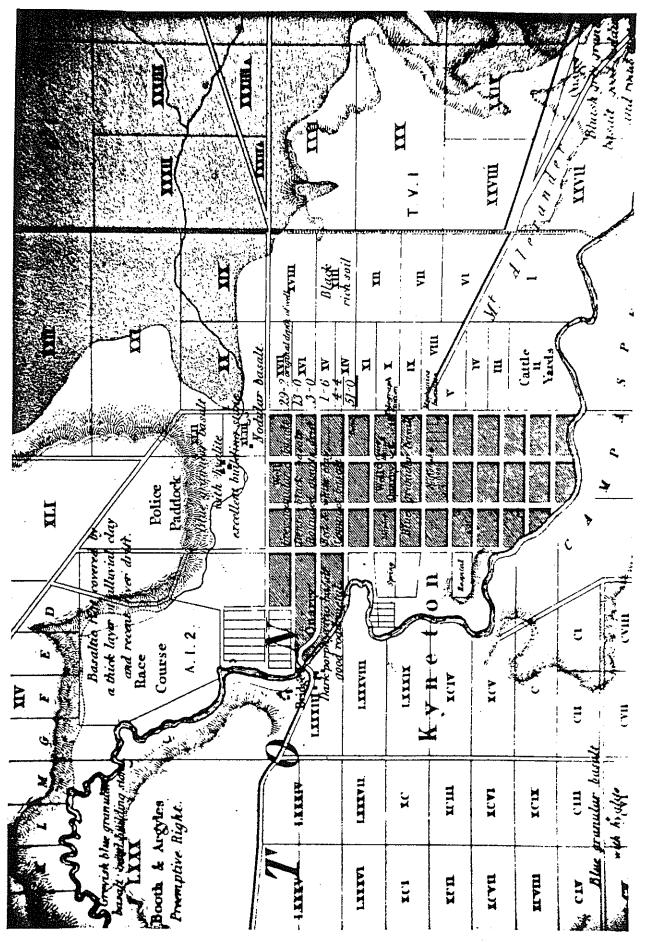
<u>Kyneton</u>: Superintendent C.J. La Trobe's choice of the township site was in accordance with a policy of establishing convenient service centres along all routes into the pastoral districts of Port Phillip. The policy had been established from as early as 1838, when Police Magistrate William Lonsdale had received instructions from Sydney to establish townships along the road from Yass into Port Phillip, particularly where the road crossed the Murray, the Ovens, Violet Creek and the Goulburn. This was in order that "Post Houses, Police Stations and Houses of Public Entertainment, as well as ferries if necessary, may be established at the various points". (10)

By 1844, pastoralists had occupied all the country south of the Murray River except for the dry north-west of what is now Victoria and the heavily forested south-east. The government therefore moved to gazette postal routes and stations for the Border and Mounted Police, and to licence a string of bush inns established along the tracks by which stores went up to the inland runs and wool, hides and tallow came down. On an 1847 map of the Port Phillip pastoral districts, about seventy "village reserves" were marked along the Sydney Road, the Upper Western Road curving north-west as far as Buninyong and then south-west to Portland, the Lower Western Road from Geelong, through Colac and other places to Warrnambool. More were in Gippsland along the overland route from the shipping port of Port Albert to Sale, then known as Flooding Creek. The road north to the Mount Macedon district, thence to the Loddon and beyond, was also partially serviced by inns like "Tulip" Wright's at Bulla, the Bush Inn at what became Gisborne and T.A. Gibbon's at Carlsruhe. Gibbon also held the Mount Macedon mail contract for a year from December 1845, ensuring that the post office was at the inn.

Official arrangements for the Mount Macedon district changed in 1847. A Border Police camp had previously been located near what is now Gap Hill but soon after Gibbon was refused a renewal of his General Publican's licence in December 1846, the Carlsruhe complex became district headquarters for the Border police, who would have made good use of the new twelve-stall stable which Gibbon had advertised in 1846. Martha Bayes who was named as postmistress in July 1847 may also have been cook for the men. Her husband was named as the mail contractor, who was required to run a weekly mail from Melbourne to Carlsruhe with a two-horse cart, although the stage from there to the Loddon and beyond was done on horseback. By 1849, the cart had to run as far as Serpentine Creek with a horseback service on to Swan Hill. Timber bridges had been erected at Five Mile Creek and over the Coliban River in 1849 to assist the mail's crossing.

^{10. &}lt;u>Historical Records of Victoria</u>, Volume 5, issued 1988 includes this letter in Chapter 12, "Surveys along the Road to Sydney".

Shire of Kyneton Conservation (Heritage) Study



1860 MAP OF KYNETON SHOWING THE CROWN ALLOTMENTS, GEOLOGY AND A FEW MAJOR PUBLIC BUILDINGS PART OF GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF VICTORIA QUARTER SHEET 9 S.E. MAP LIBRARY, STATE LIBRARY OF VICTORIA, 820 CAQ [1860 -]

The Mount Macedon Bench of Magistrates was instituted on 1 January 1847 and cases, mostly concerning licencing and impounded stock, were sometimes heard at the Bush Inn and in what had been Wedge's slab homestead. It was also in 1847 that Port Phillip pastoralists learned that they might have some claim on land within their runs when sold by the Crown. La Trobe seems to have increased his efforts to ensure that village reserves were properly located before sales commenced. Research by Kyneton resident George Bremner on La Trobe's diaries shows that he visited the Border police station and district pastoral lessees in January and September 1848, and again in October 1849.

Before the end of 1849, surveyor H.B. Foot drew up a town plan encompassing the site of the post hut on Wedge's station. The hut is marked on what became allotment 18 of section 44, east side of Ebden Street. The adjoining creek became Post Office Creek as a consequence. The proposed town site was gazetted on 4 January 1850 and confirmed on 27 March, with notices of land sales beginning soon afterwards. The district pound was moved in late January 1850 to what had been Wedge's home paddock. The original township boundaries were the Campaspe River on the west and south, Mollison Street running along the ridge to the east and Beauchamp Street on the north. An irregularly shaped extension to the north to present George Street/Metcalf Road was gazetted on 18 January 1854. (11)

Town allotments were included in Crown land sales held on 16 May and 4 and 5 September 1850, with sites for the Anglican, Roman Catholic and Methodist churches reserved in the same year. Presbyterians and Baptists chose their reserves later, but the Congregationalists on principle bought their land. By the end of August 1850, three stores were open with another in the course of erection. Keen to encourage commercial growth, Kyneton's correspondent to <u>The Argus</u> noted that "buildings progress rapidly, carpenters and masons being on the spot ready to contract for work". A fortnight later he reported that Ewen Tolmie, owner of hotels in Melbourne and along the Sydney Road, was proposing to built a brick inn "on a very extensive scale".

^{11.} Official notices concerning postal services, policing, government contracts and sometimes licensing were published in Port Phillip Government Gazette, renamed Victorian Government Gazette in 1850. J.O. Randell cites some unpublished official sources. Additional information from township map in Kyneton Historical Society collection and A.J. Hopton, "Rural Port Phillip 1834-1851", Royal Australian Historical Society Journal, V.36(vi), 1950. The History of Kyneton, compiled by Barbara Armstrong from files of the Kyneton Guardian, was published in two volumes covering the years 1835-1900 and 1901-1935. It has been used as the source for much of the rest of this study, but is not quite reliable for information prior to the paper's foundation in 1862. Some error and confusion has also crept in from later transcription or reminiscences by the Guardian.

This became the Robert Burns Hotel in Wedge Street, the venue for town meetings and gold-diggers' sprees until it was delicensed in the late 1850s. From October 1863 until 1887, it was the Collegiate School, later named Kyneton Grammar. premises were then bought by Martin McKenna, who in 1889 assigned them to the Religious Sisters of Mercy to encourage the start of a convent and school. The building was demolished after a fire early this century. (12)

From August 1851 the extent and richness of the alluvial goldfield near the base of Mt. Alexander was revealed by the picks and shovels of tens of thousands of diggers. Kyneton on the Loddon Road became Kyneton on the Mt. Alexander Road. A government enquiry into the state of the colony's roads in 1852 led to the formation of the Central Roads Board in the following The Mt. Alexander Road was a priority and the Kyneton section was under construction during 1854. Among the deviations made by the Board, one led to a river crossing at Carlsruhe, rather than following the old road, one end of which has now become Bourke Street joining High Street, East Kyneton at an acute angle. $^{(13)}$

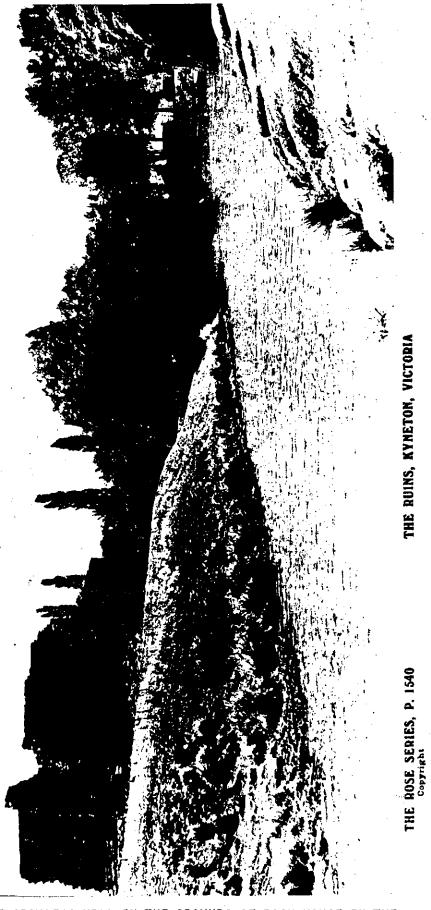
Commerce flourished in tents and bark huts, and in premises like the brick store being built in May 1851 on the south-east corner of Wedge and Piper Streets. It was "unrivalled in magnitude and solidity even in the sister colonies". (14) This was later known as Halliday's Folly, having cost J.F. Halliday one shilling for every brick. It housed the Bank of New South Wales until the stone building, now the Museum, was built in 1854. Apparently disused by October 1898, the building material was sold to recover unpaid rates. Finally it was demolished in the In the decade and a half to 1870, substantial two-storeyed buildings were built to line Piper Street between Wedge and Powlett Streets, forming the commercial core of the town: Most except those near Powlett Street have been demolished.

Rather than brick or timber, the more durable local bluestone was used for the steam-powered flour and sawmill envisaged by Dight and Coghill in 1851, but taken over by Argyle and Booth after C.H. Dight's untimely death in October 1852. (15) Quarried stone was accessible at various sites near the Campaspe. Stone residue after building blocks were cut provided the pitchers and crushed road metal needed to fulfil the large government road building contracts let during 1854. However, the intended government bridge across the Campaspe at the end of Piper Street

^{12.} HK1, augmented by J.C.E. Campbell "Notes on Ewen Tolmie, a pioneer of Port Phillip", Ancestor, Sept. 1970, p.73-75; Index to register of Births, deaths and marriages in Victoria; Argus 7, 18 Sept. 1850; 15 March, 23 May, 30 August 1851; 1 April, 9 May 18523; Payne, J.W. The <u>Plenty</u>, p.102, 172.

^{13.} Two deviations near Carlsruhe were gazetted 22 March and 16 April 1854, Government Gazette, p.827 and 949.

^{14.} Argus 23 May 1851, p.2. 15. <u>ibid.</u> and 18 May 1851, p.4; 26 August 1852, p.5; 11, 12, 14 October 1852, p.4.



RUINS OF ARGYLE'S MILL IN THE GROUNDS OF ROCK HOUSE IN THE EARLY/MID 20TH CENTURY - ROSE POSTCARD NO.1540

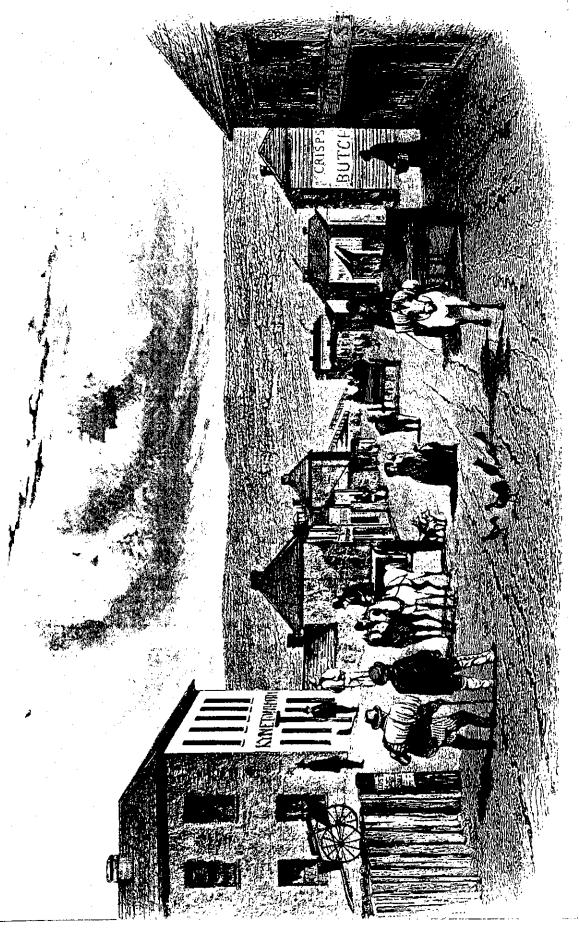
SEE ALSO PAGE 233 FOR A PHOTOGRAPH OF THE MILL WHEN IN OPERATION LA TROBE PICTURE COLLECTION, STATE LIBRARY OF VICTORIA

was not opened until 1857. Farmers, frustrated by crossing difficulties at the old ford upstream near Baynton Street, built their own temporary structure in 1855. The road contractor and builder Peter Le Page had made Kyneton his headquarters by 1856, as had ten of his permanent employees, including his road overseer. Some casual workers, including six or eight stonemasons, were also among those who stayed to swell the town's population to over 1,000 by 1857 and to 2,094 in 1861. The town's steady if not spectacular growth to 3,371 in 1891, out of a total of 8,727 for the whole Shire, contrasts with towns in similar situations such as Kilmore which if anything declined after 1871.

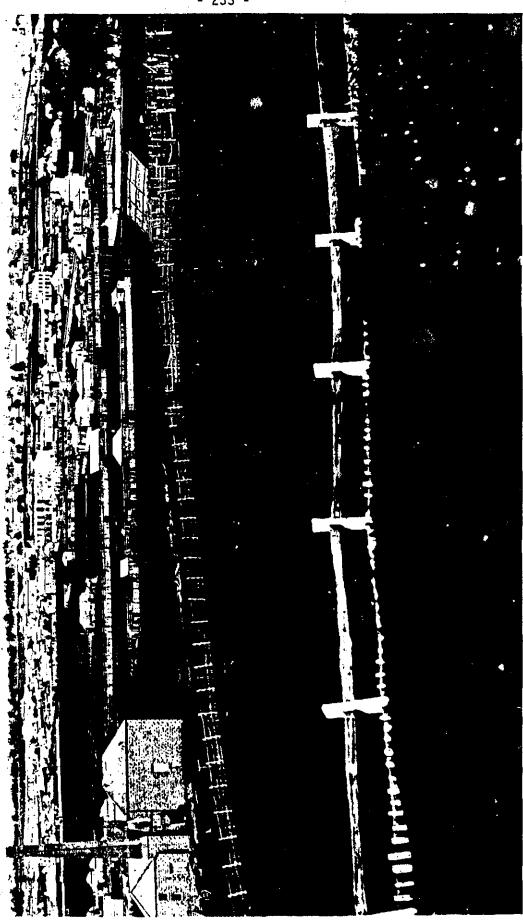
Kyneton's businesses were spaced out along several miles of the main road by 1856. Outside the town proper and west of the creek there were three hotels-cum-stores on the left side of the road up St. Agnes Hill to the tollgate at Boggy Creek. The Great Western (later the Victorian) was just across the bridge, the Harvest Home was at the toll gate and the St. Agnes between the two. A forge operated at Argyle's opposite the Great Western until about 1862. The eastern approach to the town along High Street was even more crowded with businesses to service the traveller. The Voters Roll for Kyneton published in May 1856⁽¹⁶⁾ indicates that three hotels (including the Royal Oak on the site of present Sacred Heart College), stores, butchers, carriers, a blacksmith, a farrier and an aerated waters manufacturer had set up along what is now High Street. Their freeholds were the result of subdivisions of what had been sold as "special country" or "suburban lots" adjoining the town boundary. James Bodkin and Andrew Welch were still listed as farmers on the Voters Roll, but their original holdings were already partly subdivided by Bodkin and Welch (now Welsh) Streets, where other freeholder and householder voters were living in 1856.

By 1861 Kyneton could boast the solidity of its stone buildings, among them the bank and the hospital (1854-5), the National school (1855-6), the courthouse (1856-7, enlarged 1861), the police buildings including the cell block (1861), and the original Mechanics Institute (1858). Argyle's mill on the western bank of the river was working by then, while Degraves' two mills were some miles outside the town boundaries. Some hotels such as Alexander's Temperance (later Family) in Piper Street or the Queens Head in High Street used stone, as did private homes like the buildings near the corner of Welsh and High Streets, and Misses Thompson and Haskell's boarding school (now College House) in Piper Street.

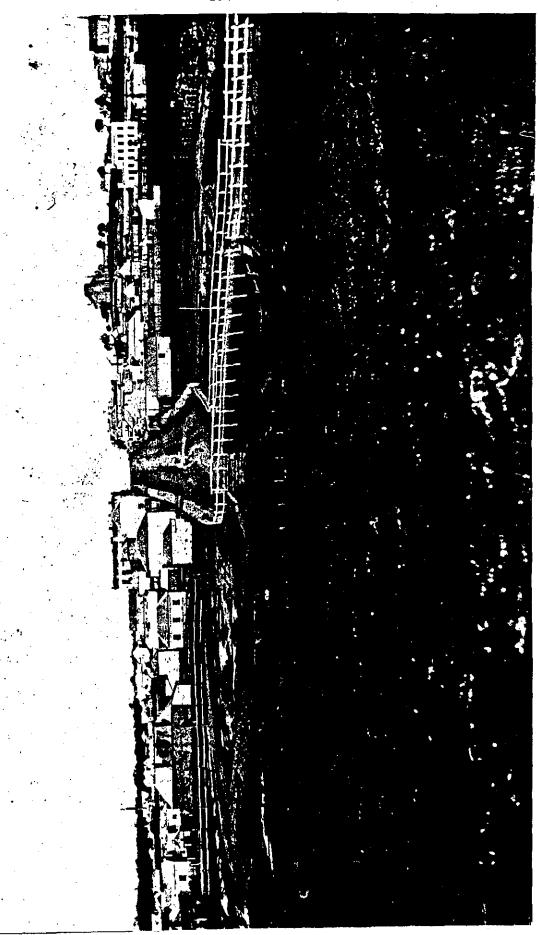
Among Kyneton's remarkable features today are its stone churches. St. Paul's Anglican church was opened in November 1856, although the top of its stone bell tower, dedicated in February 1928, was added to commemorate the church's 70th anniversary. The stone came from disused police stables. St. Andrews Presbyterian, now Uniting Church, was opened in May



PIPER STREET IN 1857 LOOKING WEST FROM EAST OF POWLETT STREET S.T. GILL, <u>VICTORIA ILLUSTRATED</u> - LA TROBE PICTURE COLLECTION STATE LIBRARY OF VICTORIA



LOOKING EAST FROM ROCK HOUSE ON THE CALDER HIGHWAY CIRCA 1861
PAST ARGYLE'S MILL, TOWARDS WEDGE STREET IN THE LEFT HALF AND
PIPER STREET IN THE RIGHT HALF
LA TROBE PICTURE COLLECTION, STATE LIBRARY OF VICTORIA - LTA 594 f.3

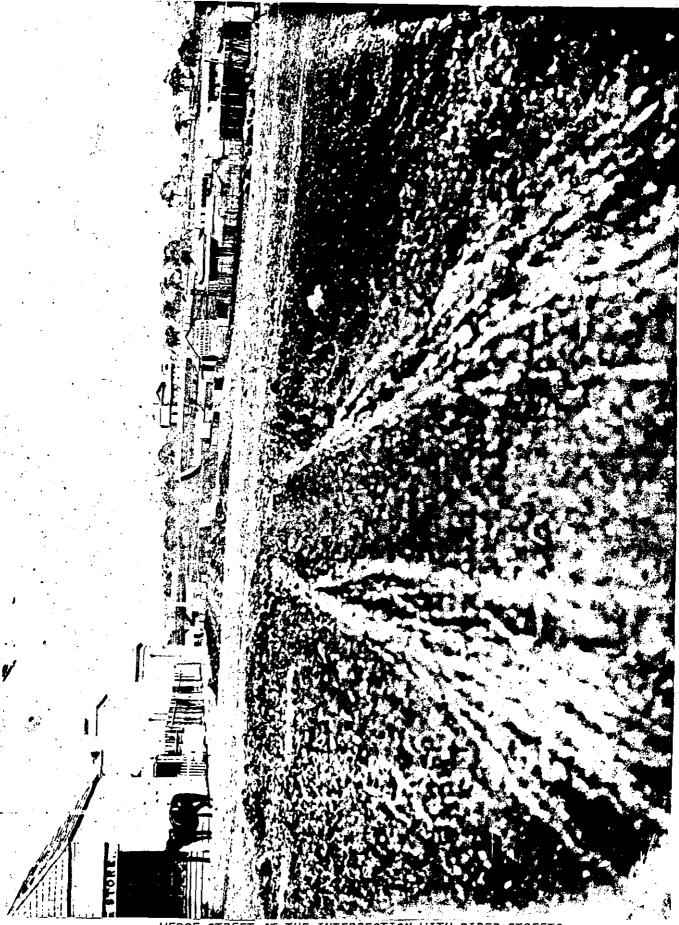


PIPER STREET CIRCA 1861 LOOKING EAST OVER THE CAMPASPE RIVER FROM ST. AGNES ON THE CALDER HIGHWAY LA TROBE PICTURE COLLECTION, STATE LIBRARY OF VICTORIA - LTA 594 F.2

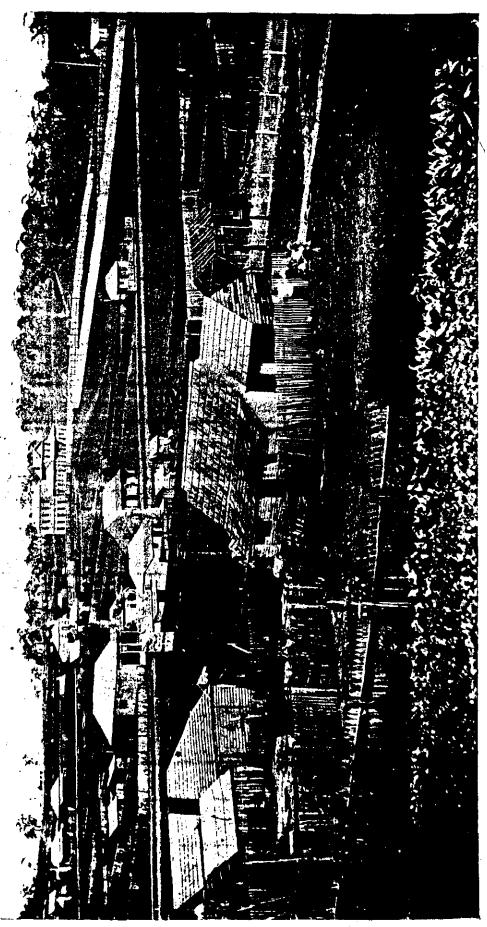




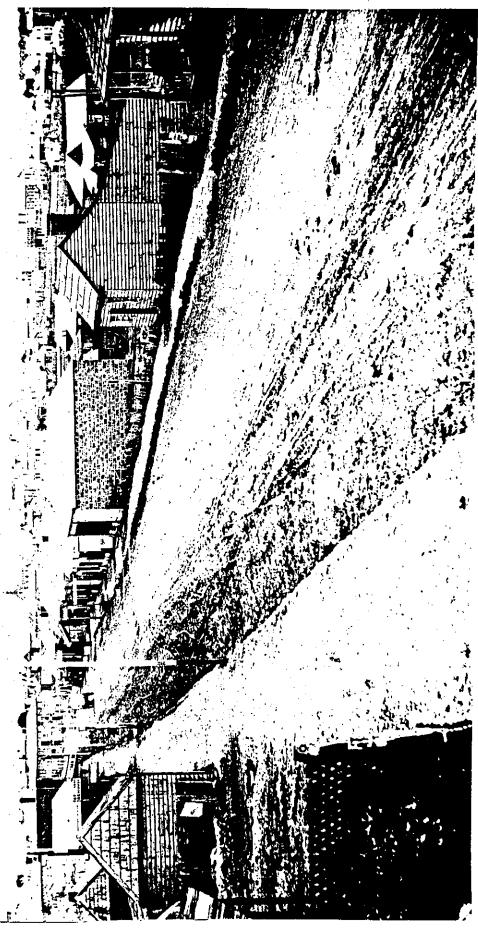
PIPER STREET LOOKING EAST FROM NEAR WEDGE STREET CIRCA 1861 THE OLD BANK OF NEW SOUTH WALES IS THE STONE BUILDING IN
THE CENTRE DISTANCE TO THE RIGHT OF THE TREE
LA TROBE PICTURE COLLECTION, STATE LIBRARY OF VICTORIA LTA 594 f.5



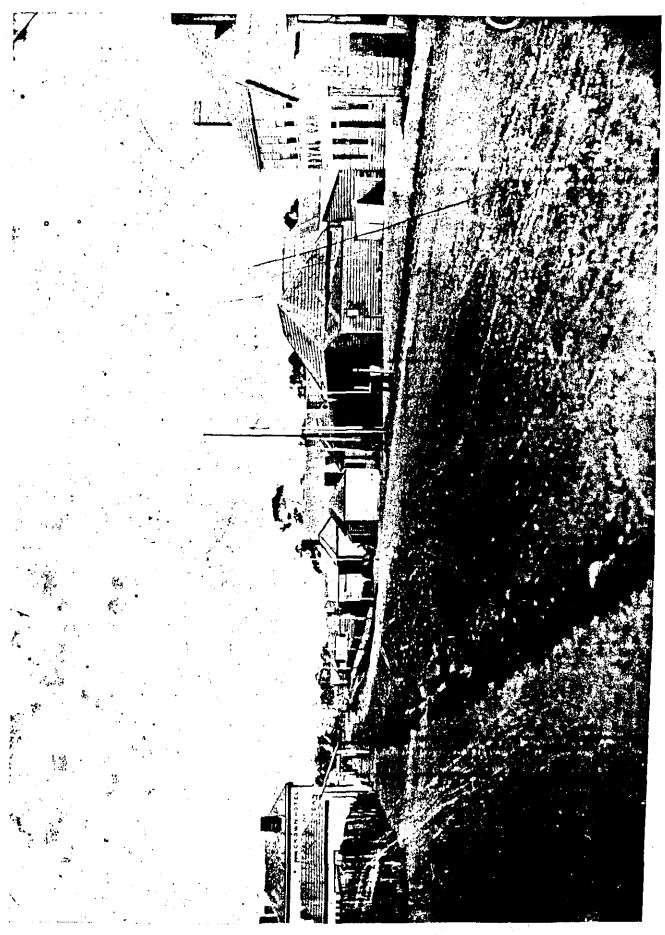
WEDGE STREET AT THE INTERSECTION WITH PIPER STREET?
NOTE THE DISTANT COTTAGE AND HOSPITAL IN SIMPSON STREET, AS WELL
AS THE DEMOLISHED ARCHED STABLES IN THE RIGHT HAND CENTRE
LA TROBE PICTURE COLLECTION, STATE LIBRARY OF VICTORIA LTA 593 f.4



LOOKING SOUTH WEST TOWARDS THE HOSPITAL CIRCA 1861, APPARENTLY FROM EAST OF POWLETT STREET BETWEEN BAYNTON AND JENNINGS STREETS LA TROBE PICTURE COLLECTION, STATE LIBRARY OF VICTORIA LTA 593 f.6



HIGH STREET CIRCA 1861 LOOKING NORTH WEST, PROBABLY FROM
THE COLONIAL BANK (PAGE 442)
LA TROBE PICTURE COLLECTION, STATE LIBRARY OF VICTORIA LTA 594 f.1



HIGH STREET LOOKING EAST? CIRCA 1861 LA TROBE PICTURE COLLECTION, STATE LIBRARY OF VICTORIA LTA 593 f.1

The Congregational Church, now an arts centre, was opened 1858. September 1860 and additions were made in 1871. The Catholic church took nearly four years to build, opening June 1861, with the west end being added later. The present Baptist Church was the second Wesleyan Methodist church built on the site; it opened in December 1870.

Less durable have been the many wooden and even some brick shops and dwellings which filled out the town's building blocks. Booth, who travelled Australia in the early 1870s, described Kyneton as "thoroughly English ... [taking] high rank among the prosperous places of Australia Felix". (17) At the turn of the century, population was diminishing, but the overall impression remained the same. Smith's Cyclopedia of Victoria concluded:

The town itself, but for the breadth of its streets and the absence of any old buildings in it, might pass for a flourishing English county-town, with its weekly market for grain, its monthly fair for horses, cattle, sheep and dairy produce and its annual agricultural exhibition. (18)

While town traders usually lived on their premises, Kyneton's professional men, magistrates, doctors and lawyers, even editors, bankers and skilled tradesmen, chose homesites in the relative seclusion of streets behind the commercial strip, where churches and schools were also located. Nineteenth century local industries were two or three breweries, cordial makers and by 1869 nineteen individuals or partnerships of blacksmiths, wheelwrights and agricultural implement makers. Both the Degraves' flour mills ceased operating about 1870, but the town mills were worked longer, if sporadically. One became the butter factory in 1891 and the other, now Willis', was revived

Mollison Street's rise to commercial dominance dates from the siting of the railway station at its southern extremity, over the Campaspe. The original line, planned to minimize expensive cuttings and bridges, would have by-passed Kyneton by about three miles. After strong local protest, a deviation was agreed to in 1858 but there was much local haggling before the southern, rather than an alternative northern deviation, was fixed. The station site meant that a vehicle bridge had to be built leading into Mollison Street. The Mt. Alexander line was opened as far as Kyneton in April 1862, reaching Castlemaine in October. Kyneton's telegraph office opened on the present post office site in 1858 and postal services were transferred there from Piper Street in 1860. Under pressure from the Borough council, two town sections east of Mollison Street were declared before 1862. One centred on Market Street, the other was south of Bodkin and Welsh Streets from Begg Street to the river. Other street subdivisions running east from Mollison Street were developments of the 1880s.

^{17.} E.C. Booth, Australia in the 1870s (facsimile of Australia, published 1873-1876), V.I, p.92.
18. J.H. Smith (ed.), Cyclopedia of Victoria, 3 Vols., 1903-5,

V.2, p.412.

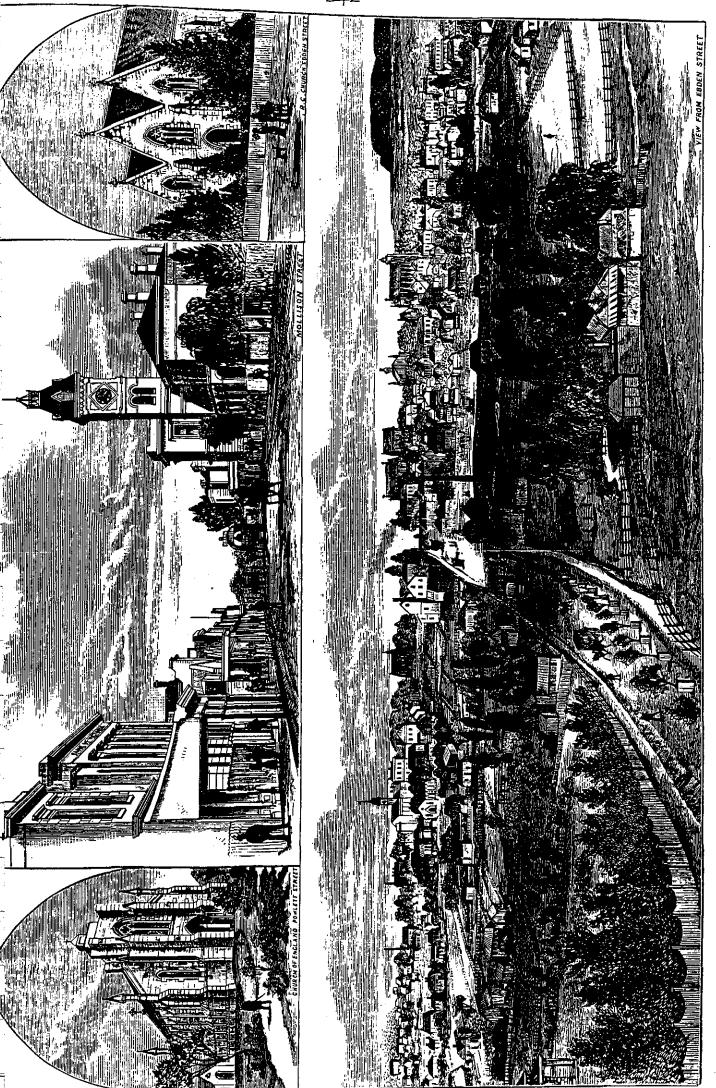
After much urging the new Mollison Street Post Office was built in 1870-1, not far from district police headquarters which had moved to the site from Carlsruhe in 1860. Completing the Post Office tower and installing the clock was not accomplished until October 1873. During the three decades to 1891, Mollison Street acquired new banking premises and hotels, the Shire offices (opened early in 1879), shops and office premises. Nevertheless there was still "an intervening space" between the old and new parts of the town when Alexander Sutherland's Victoria and its Metropolis was being compiled in 1887. (19) Rebuilding, renovation and inflow building was evident again in Mollison Street in the early twentieth century, as it was in adjoining sections of High and Piper Streets. The Shamrock Hotel was rebuilt after a fire in 1903, much added to and renovated in the 1930s, while Wedgwoods Hotel at the top of Piper Street was rebuilt in 1891 and remodelled as the Royal George in 1915.

Town services stemmed from the inauguration of the Borough of Kyneton in 1856 and from 1865 the Shire, of which Kyneton was the acknowledged centre. Apart from attempting to make roads fit for all-weather traffic, it was agreed late in 1857 that Godfrey Praagst should supply gas lighting from works built in Ebden Street near Post Office Creek. His trial plant, which produced gas from gum leaves, had been built at English's Carlsruhe Hotel in 1856 and patented in 1857. Early in 1858 Healy's Kyneton Hotel was gaslight, but full reticulation throughout Kyneton West was not available until the end of April. The works at the northern end of Ebden Street were converted to burn coal about 1863 because the supply of gum leaves was becoming too scarce. Residual tar then became available for sealing footpaths, a trial asphalt section being laid in Piper Street in 1875. Stone flagging was laid prior to that, from the 1850s. By 1887 there were two miles of made footpaths and twelve miles of macadamized roads, i.e. rolled bluestone gravel on a solid base. Tree planting in residential streets seems to have started in the 1860s. The west side of Wedge Street was planted in 1868 and in 1882 it was recommended that Ebden and Simpson Streets be planted. [In 1933 English ash were planted in Wedge Street and in 1935 many old pine and other trees were cut. Tree planting and renewal was considered a worthy project for sustenance workers.]

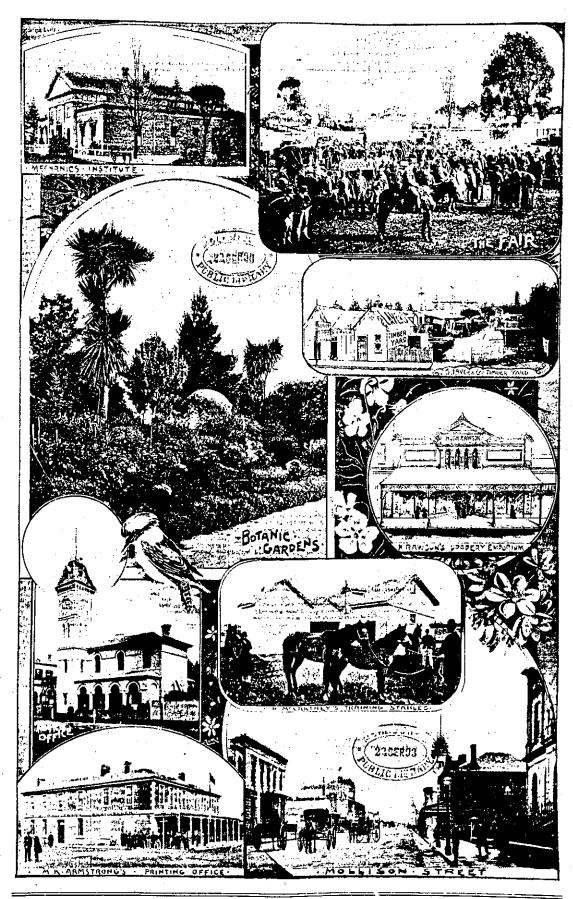
When the Melbourne journalist, The Vagabond, visited Kyneton for the St. Patrick's Day races in 1877⁽²⁰⁾, he commented on the well-kept main streets. Street lighting was upgraded in 1877 with 39 new lamps, while the railway station had its own supply made from coal on the premises. In November 1886 the gasworks were bought by the municipality and upgraded. Reticulated water was not available in the town until 1884, all the mains being laid by October. The Vagabond revisited Kyneton in 1893 for The Leader. His two long articles gave pen sketches of the inhabitants against a journalistically coloured background of history and reminiscence. (21)

^{19.} A. Sutherland, <u>Victoria and its Metropolis</u>, V.2, p.230ff. 20. A Country Race Meeting, <u>Argus</u>, 24 March 1877, p.4

^{21.} At Kyneton, The Leader, No.1 16 September 1893, p.30; No.2 23 September, p.28.



KYNETON. SKETCHER 5 JUNE 1880 P. 117 KYNETON IN 1880

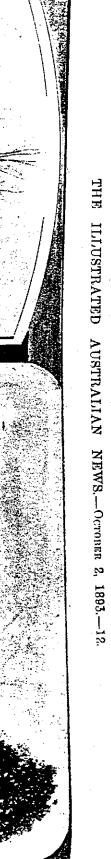


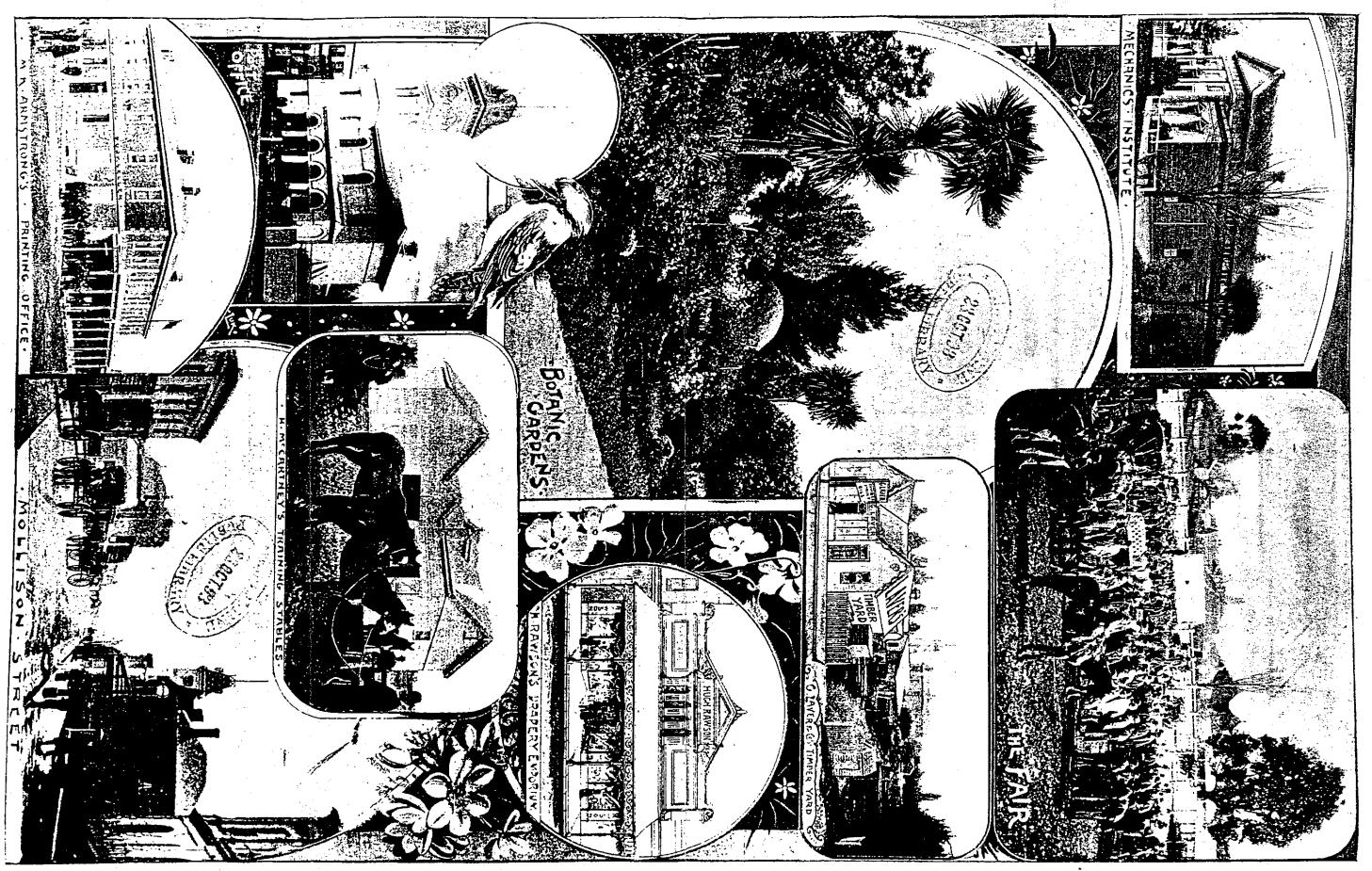
VIEWS OF KYNETON.



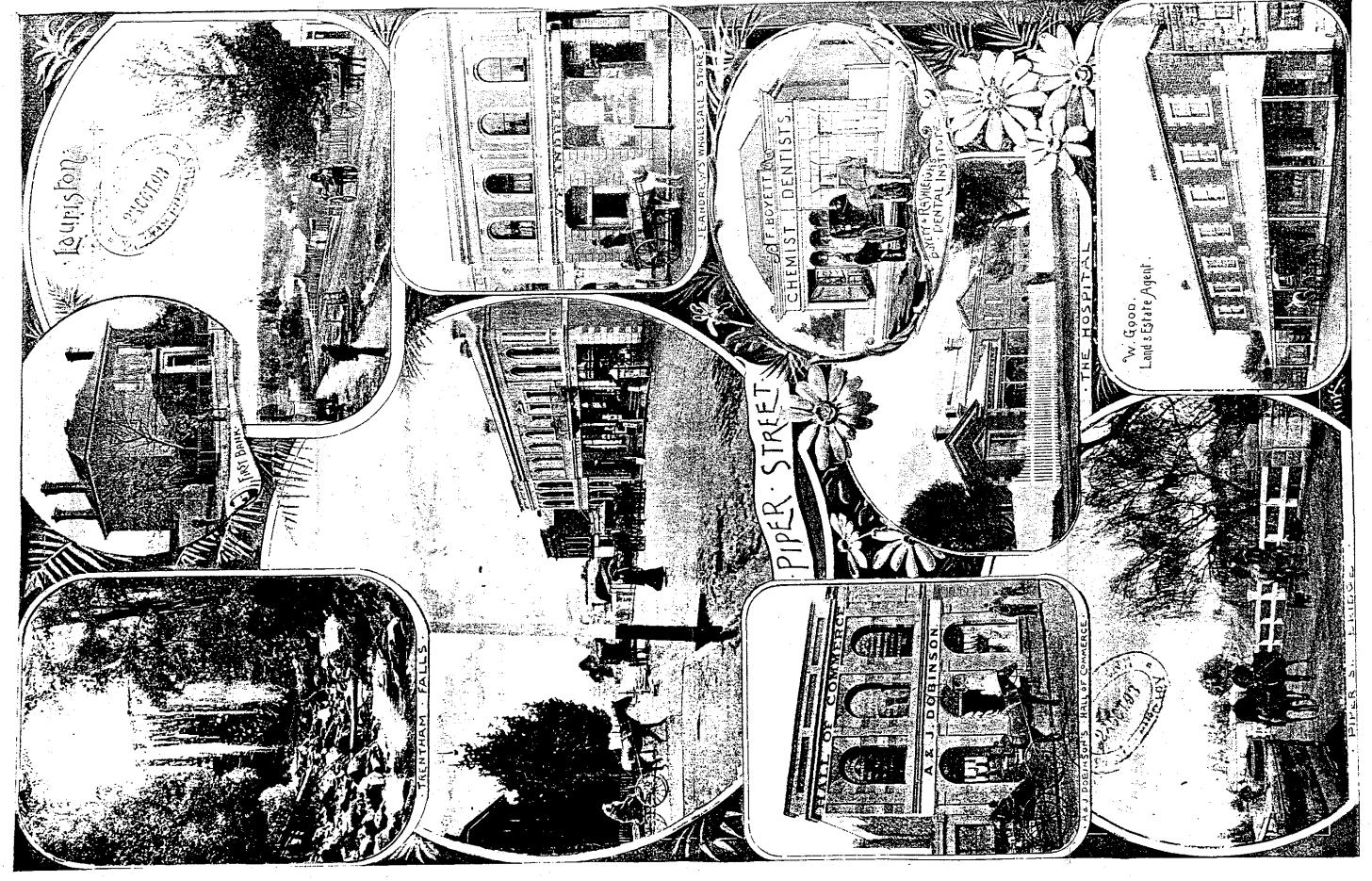
VIEWS OF KYNETON

KYNETON IN 1893 - THE ILLUSTRATED AUSTRALIAN NEWS 2 OCTOBER 1893 P. 13 STATE LIBRARY OF VICTORIA





THE ILLUSTRATED AUSTRALIAN NEWS 2 OCTOBER 1893 P. 12
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THE ILLUSTRATED AUSTRALIAN NEWS 2 OCTOBER 1893 P. 13
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The Sutherland compiler in 1887 was generally complimentary. Among the institutions mentioned were the botanic gardens, five churches, a State and several private schools, three newspapers, a weekly grain market and a monthly stock fair culminating in an important annual show. The latter had outgrown the original showground on the river below the hospital and was held at the very fine racecourse at the northern end of town. A local option poll initiated in 1888 reduced hotel numbers. The 21, which were "generally roomy and well kept" ones according to the Sutherland compiler, had to be reduced to a statutory eight and the now demolished railway refreshment rooms.

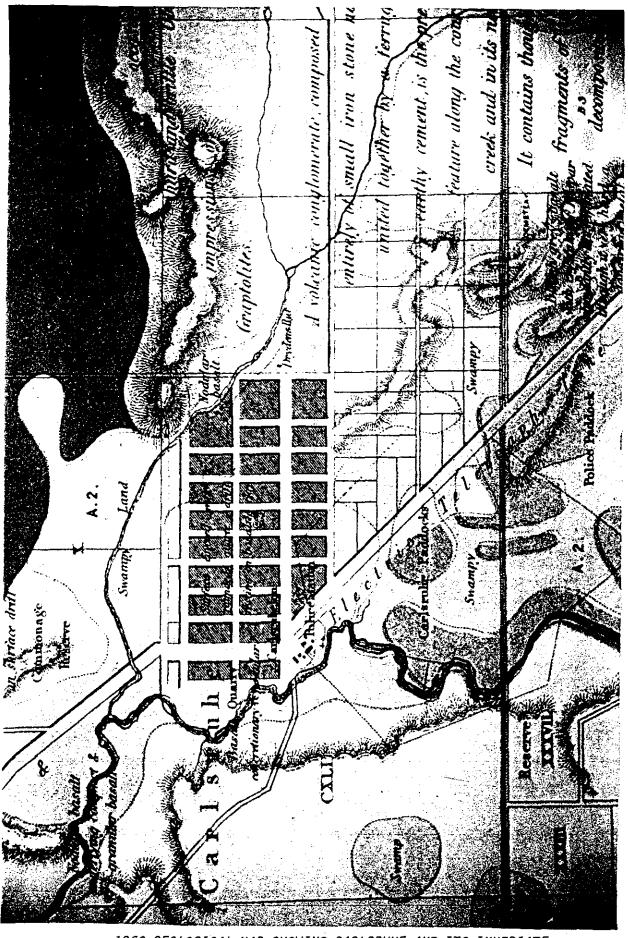
Kyneton's situation was 1,750 feet above sea level, lying "almost in a basin surrounded by gradually sloping hills of no great height". In Ludwig Bruck's <u>Guide to Health Resorts in Australia, Tasmania and New Zealand</u>, compiled in 1887, the town's claim as one of Victoria's fifty resorts was its "exceptionally healthy climate", especially for sufferers from consumption and nervous disorders. Doctors and comfortable hotels, as well as outings to local scenic places, were listed for those seeking a rest cure. In 1909, the town sought to be reinstated as a mountain resort as far as railway services and fares were concerned, but was unsuccessful. Cycling, and later motoring, tourists were courted instead. One attraction was the mineral spring reserve at Boggy Creek. The spring did not appear until June 1889 when a bore testing for gold reefs pierced an underground reservoir. A pump was installed in 1890, but moves to develop it with the rotunda, shade trees and seats date from 1910.

<u>Carlsruhe</u>: A site for the village of Carlsruhe was gazetted late in 1851 when most of the surrounding land had been bought as agricultural allotments. District police headquarters remained there until shifted in to Kyneton in 1860. Carlsruhe was the centre for its Road District, formed in 1859, until its amalgamation with Kyneton five years later. From 1854 to 1872, while the toll gate was in place at the approach to the Campaspe bridge and while intensive cropping of the parish's farmland gave economic returns, Carlsruhe did acquire something of an old-world village air, especially as the railway station (from 1862) was 1.5 miles (2.8 km) further west. All but the most substantial nineteenth century buildings have disappeared.

During the 1860s there were two hotels and from 1871 a Common School, built on the site of one of the shelter sheds for goldfields' travellers in the early 1850s (organized by Caroline Chisholm). The Presbyterian Church was rebuilt in stone in 1872-3, while the Church of England held services in a temporary building. A brick State School on a new site was opened for the 1893 school year. In $1910^{(22)}$, 91 farmers were listed in the district and there was a central creamery which separated the milk brought in by farmers who supplied cream to Kyneton and other butter factories. The Post Office was located at the Carlsruhe Hotel and another was at the Carlsruhe railway station.

^{22.} This and further references to 1910 taken from Sands & McDougall's Directory of Victoria for that year.

Shire of Kyneton Conservation (Heritage) Study



1860 GEOLOGICAL MAP SHOWING CARLSRUHE AND ITS IMMEDIATE SURROUNDINGS - NOTE THE LOCATIONS OF THE CARLSRUHE INN POLICE STATION AND DRYDENS HUT PART OF GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF VICTORIA QUARTER SHEET 9 S.E. MAP LIBRARY, STATE LIBRARY OF VICTORIA, 820 CAQ [1860 -]

Malmsbury: Originally a crossing place on the Coliban, which was spanned by a timber bridge built in 1849, Malmsbury was gazetted a township early in 1852. When William Kelly saw it about 1855 it was a

new and promising township, perched on the crown and side of a high-hill, and overlooking an illimitable expanse of superb arable country ... The river Coliban (a considerable stream) laves the foot of the hill ... and is known to contain gold in its bed ...⁽²³⁾

Twenty-seven residents were registered voters in 1856, being the butchers, bakers, storekeepers, innkeepers, carters, blacksmiths, wheelwrights and their employees usual to a travellers' stopping place. A brewer, his assistant and a schoolmaster gave some indication of permanence. As well, thirteen miners, most with rights issued elsewhere than on the Coliban field, had been in the district for at least six months.

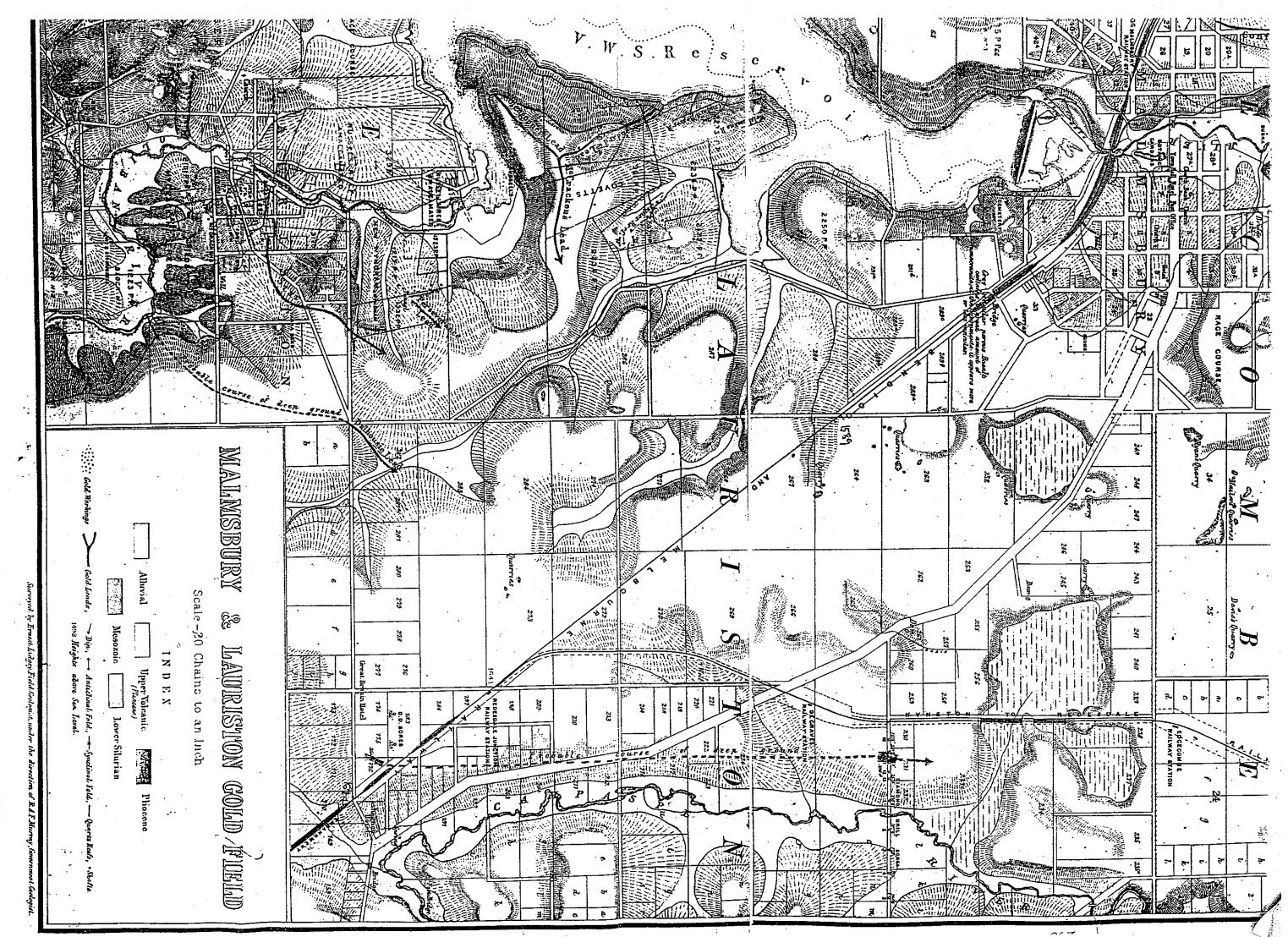
Malmsbury's existence, however, depended not so much on gold as on farming and stone quarrying, which in turn made it an important loading station on the Mt. Alexander railway from 1862. In 1887, when Malmsbury's "famed bluestone quarry" had been in production for more han 20 years, the eighty acres containing it could still be sold at the high price of 15 guineas an acre. The spectacular railway viaduct over the Coliban, begun in 1859 and completed in 1861, was acclaimed as an engineering feat. The Malmsbury reservoir is on the town's southern outskirts. As the initial basin of the Coliban scheme planned to direct water to Castlemaine, Bendigo and the drier northern plains, it achieved notoriety at first, rather than acclaim. It was begun in 1866 and because of failures and fraud was not completed for a decade.

The town had 830 residents in 1861 and 1,357 in 1871, remaining at that level for the rest of the century. By $1865^{(24)}$ there was a brewery and a steam flour mill, rebuilt after an explosion in 1862 badly damaged the original. A windmill on the Coliban, originally installed by Alexander Mollison in 1839, also operated briefly in the 1860s. However, Malmsbury also laid claim to Degraves' Riverview mill on the Mt. Alexander Road. As a long narrow borough of less than seven square miles, the town had chosen to break with the Lauriston and Edgecombe District Road Board in 1863, rather than join the Kyneton United Road District, later Shire. It finally amalgamated in 1915. Residents in 1865 were served by six hotels, a racecourse and recreation ground, and a botanic garden which included a pretty lake with an island. In 1893, six of the ten hotels were closed in a local option vote, with the licensees and owners receiving compensation. In December 1895 the mill plant and buildings were sold. Malmsbury became a small retired country town.

^{23.} W. Kelly, <u>Life in Victoria</u> (1977 reprint of 1859 volumes), V.2, p.172.

^{24. &}lt;u>Bailliere's Victorian Gazetteer and Road Guide for 1865</u>. All further 1865 references in this section have same source.

MAP COLLECTION, STATE LIBRARY OF VICTORIA 823.163 GBFD 1894



MAP COLLECTION, STATE LIBRARY OF VICTORIA
823.163 GBFD 1894

Lauriston: Among the gold fossickers of 1856 who registered to vote were James and William Russell and Donald Campbell. The partnership arrived in 1854 and discovered the rich Russell's Reef at Lauriston on the Coliban River. By 1865, there were five proven reefs east of the river and two on the west, while as many alluvial companies were also at work. Three steam-driven quartz crushers and four puddling machines had been installed. These were fuelled by timber cut on site, for the Coliban was well-wooded and watered. Its inhabitants were inclined to boast. "The district is one of the healthiest in Victoria, a medical man scarcely ever being seen there, unless an accident occurs". (25) However many people were contributors to and, as the need arose, users of the Kyneton hospital. A pitcher paved road on the eastern bank of the river is the only lasting remnant of the mining area.

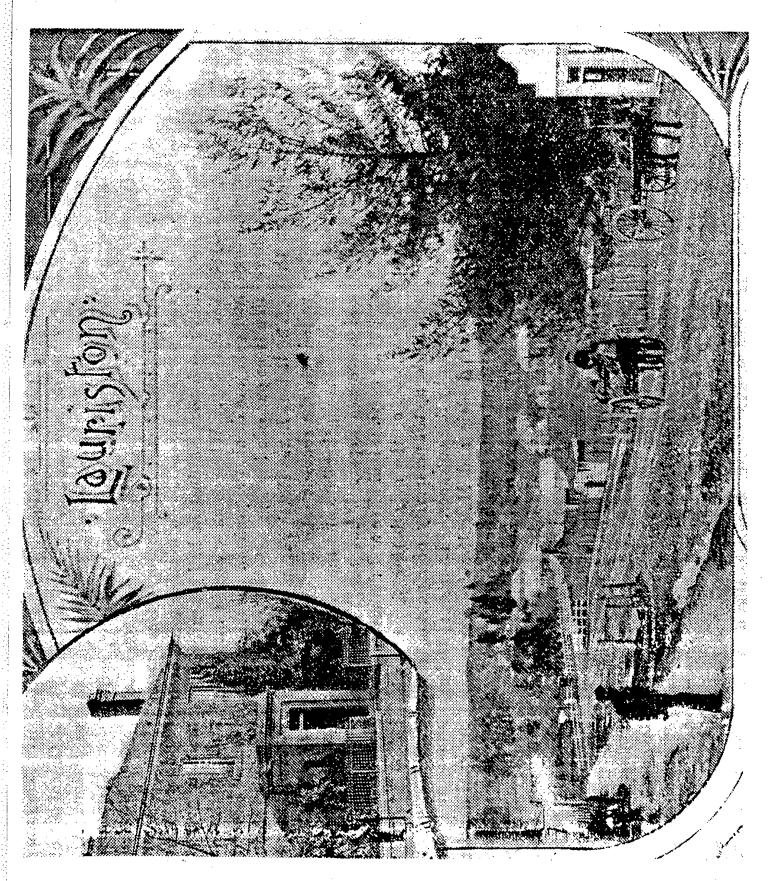
The Kent Hotel and general store was foremost of the three licensed premises in 1865. The hotel, "second to none within the same distance of the metropolis, (26) was begun in 1861 and its store was also the post office. Farming, mining and a little quarrying kept the population level stable at several hundred until about 1920. In 1910, there were three hotels, a post office, police station, store and butchery, a fellmongery, a State school, and a RC school/church, opened in 1892 to replace the original which was three kilometres out of town. The Anglican Church of All Saints, opened in June 1873, was closed by 1910 but reopened in 1931 with renovations paid for by the Misses Stringer, daughters of John Stringer who had been successful in Lauriston's mining and commerce from the 1860s. In 1932 the Misses Stringer also built and donated "Woodmount" as a community hall. But their efforts were dictated not by local need but by the terms of their mother's will and perhaps nostalgia for their youth. A more telling indication of twentieth century Lauriston was the delicensing of the Mining Exchange hotel in 1919. (27)

Spring Hill: This was six miles south of Lauriston and even more heavily forested. Its name derived from the abundant fresh water springs in the area. Some goldmining was still being done in 1865, but most residents were farmers who used a huge area of poor rangy country as a common. Six sawmills were also at work. The Spring Hill Hotel catered to about 200 people within a radius of two miles. By 1910 a post office store and bakery were the only signs of commerce, but they were still run by the Knight family, who had opened the hotel/store. A Common school had opened for a few years in the 1860s to be succeeded by a RC school/church.

^{25. &}lt;u>ibid</u>.

^{26. &}lt;u>ibid</u>.

^{27.} Kyneton Guardian reports 25 October 1919, 14 March 1932.



LAURISTON IN 1893
THE ILLUSTRATED AUSTRALIAN NEWS 2 OCTOBER 1893 P. 13
STATE LIBRARY OF VICTORIA

OLD PHOTOGRAPHS OF LAURISTON - MOST OF THE BUILDINGS
PHOTOGRAPHED HAVE BEEN DEMOLISHED OR REMOVED

TOP THE KYNETON OBSERVER 29 DECEMBER 1906
CENTRE ILLUSTRATED GUIDE & MAP TO KYNETON &
SURROUNDING DISTRICTS 1898
BOTTOM KYNETON HISTORICAL SOCIETY COLLECTION



Lauriston.



Township of Lauriston.

In the Valley of the Coliban 4 miles from Kyneton



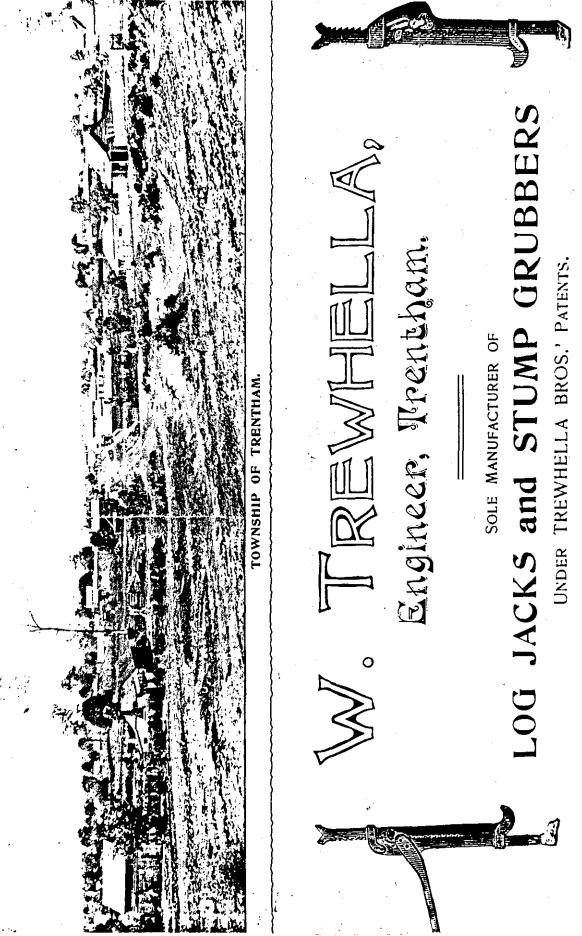
Little Hampton: A sawmilling settlement, four miles from Trentham, which grew up around Fred Thrum's mill plant. That operated for about thirty years to 1896. The school which opened in February 1873 is remarkable for its steady enrolment over 115 years up to the present. The church beside it, once Methodist, was opened in 1870. Until 1972 a tiny wooden post office adjoined the school site on the southern side.

Tylden: With the 1858 discovery of gold in "Clowes Forest", this grew as a postal township and centre for the Tylden and Trentham Road District from its formation in 1859 until its amalgamation with Kyneton Shire in 1865. Situated beside Little Coliban River, several miles from its junction with the Coliban, Tylden was prized for its "wood enshrouded" beauty until cleared by settlers and sawmillers who came in force from the late 1860s. A large brickmaking site was opened about 1863 by A. Hardie and W. Calder from Kyneton and revived again by Benjamin Beer in the late 1890s. From 1880 Tylden railway station was on the Carlsruhe to Daylesford branch line, which remained open for about ninety-eight years. The official closure was on 3 July 1978.

Tylden's population decline between the 1871 and 1881 censuses from 327 to 201 may be explained by the establishment of Trentham then deep into the forested ranges to the south-west, and more mill settlements in the forest itself. In 1910 about 68 farmers/graziers were listed in the district. There was a Presbyterian church, opened in 1869, a school, opened in 1871 (replacing the original 1862 one), two hotels, police station, post office, two carpenters, an agent and a surveyor.

Trentham: The township area was not reserved until 1868, but for the previous decade, it had been the centre of the Blue Mountain diggings. It was located between two small creeks draining into the Coliban River, 1.5 miles to the north. The eighty foot high Trentham Falls on the Coliban itself were recognized for their beauty even before the poet R.H. (Orion) Horne began his six-year spell as goldfields warden at Blue Mountain in June 1863. The diggings' northern division, along the Coliban north of the town, was 12.5 square miles in extent, containing both reefs and alluvial ground. In the 2.5 square miles of the southern division mining was often suspended for lack of water. Six steam-driven mining engines were at work on the field in 1865, while four steam sawmills harvested "some of the finest trees in the colony". Two decades later, sawmillers were critical of wasteful felling and forest clearing by settlers anxious to crop the "highly fertile soils".

Trentham became famous for potato growing, cattle raising and the Trewhella jack, a simple but effective stump lever patented by a local farming, milling and engineering family. Some of the Trewhella prosperity was exhibited in the brick house built in the town during the 1920s. From 1880, the Daylesford railway allowed wider distribution of the district's produce and a



Awarded Gold and Silver Medals and Numerous Certificates.

Engines and Machinery Made to Order,

TRENTHAM IN 1898 - <u>ILLUSTRATED GUIDE & MAP TO</u>
<u>KYNETON & SURROUNDING DISTRICTS</u> 1898

distinct settlement grew up at East Trentham. By 1910, Trentham had a wide range of shops and services, six hotels (one temperance), a brewery, a bank, two schools and four churches. East Trentham was more rural with just two hotels, a store, a blacksmith and a school, held in the Roman Catholic Church, built 1890-1.

Pipers Creek, Pastoria East, Edgecombe, Baynton, Sidonia: All rural hamlets, or postal townships, in the east and north-east of the Shire. In Bailliere's Victorian Gazetteer and Road Guide for 1865, Baynton was listed with three schools "in the vicinity", serving an agricultural and pastoral community. The "about 4,000" is probably a misprint for 400. The country was "mountainous", drained by four creeks, Pohlman's, Todd's, Jews Harp and Sandy. Edgecombe was also listed, described as flat country with a district population of about 2,000.

A number of State schools were opened in these districts on local request, but most had closed before 1910. Churches too might result where there were one or more local enthusiasts. From the 1860s and reviving again in the late 1880s, a little mining was done among these eastern ridges and creeks. This sometimes prompted the licensing of a hotel/store. Farming communities were more stable. Pipers Creek hotel and its State school-cum-church date back to 1864-6. The hotel probably closed between 1890 and 1917. Pipers Creek school was still being used in 1972. Sidonia as a name seems to date only from the turn of the century. A post office was opened there in September 1899.





FORMER PIPERS CREEK SCHOOL

RURAL INDUSTRY

The experience of early pastoralists had shown that sheep throve best on the drier basaltic country, that cattle were suited to moist areas, even where the country was quite heavily timbered, and that horses bred well on the high plains country as long as there was good access to water. The success of cultivation on open river flats, especially along the Campaspe, was also striking. Since Kyneton's climate more closely resembled that of Europe, fewer adjustments needed to be made to established agricultural practice, or so it appeared. Between 1850 and 1857, the land parishes of Carlsruhe, Tylden and Lauriston were subdivided and sold in blocks ranging from 20 to 500 acres. Farms were quickly established, especially around Kyneton, as noted by William Kelly on his travels through Victoria between 1853 and 1857. He described the "immense expanse of magnificent country ... broad meads ... glades, and parks" which opened out beyond Woodend and "through the sweet hamlet of Carlsruhe". Then approaching Kyneton it

assumed the air of an old agricultural settlement, subdivided into fields and enclosures far and wide, evincing evidences of agricultural and industry ... which, I must say, perfectly surprised me on the high road to the most prolific gold-field. I rather expected to find farming operations suspended or paralysed ... (28)

Crop yields were so prolific that farmers embarked on a four-year rotation, planting wheat, barley, wheat, and oats for hay. No root crops were included in the rotation and the ground never lay fallow until its fertility was exhausted. Then the farmer simply cultivated new paddocks on virgin ground. The original spectacular yields passed indelibly into folk lore. Kyneton's 1936 Centenary Souvenir, G.J. McKenna quoted 60 to 70 bushels per acre for oats and 3 to 4 tons per acre for hay, "without super or fallow". William Thomson of Prospect remembered his 1856 potato crop yielding 14 tons per acre, and the price of 20 pounds per ton for a load taken to the Bendigo diggings. However, that journey took him four months because of the bad roads. A portion of the crop always rotted in the pits before he could get it to market, at least until the trunk railway through Kyneton opened in 1862. The five steam flour mills in the Shire were outlets for grain, although after the railway opened, city mills made very competitive offers. gristing was also done for the farmers' own use and that is where the Shire's two or three windmills came into their own. The survivor is Joseph Hall's mill on the Metcalfe Road, now in the care of the National Trust. It was working by 1857.

When Charles Dilke visited the "new lands [of] Greater Britain" in 1866-7, he knew Kyneton as one of the richest agricultural districts in the colony.

By letting my eyes persuade me that the burnt-up herbage was a ripening crop of wheat or oats, I found a likeness to the views in the weald of Sussex, though the foliage of the gums, or eucalypti, is thinner than that of the English oaks.

Riding from Kyneton to Carlsruhe, and the foothills of the "Dividing Range", I found the agricultural community busily engaged upon the harvest, and much excited upon the great thistle question. Women and tiny children were working in the fields, while the men were at Kyneton, trying in vain to hire harvest hands from Melbourne at less than [50 or 60 shillings] a week and board. The thistle question was not less serious: the "thistle inspectors", elected under the Thistle Prevention Act", had commenced their labours; and although each man agreed with his friend that his neighbour's thistles were a nuisance, still he did not like being fined for not weeding out his own. The fault, they say, lies in the climate; it is too good, and the English weeds have thriven. Great as was the talk of thistles, the fields in the fertile district of Kyneton were as clean as a well-kept English farm, and showed the clearest signs of the small farmer's personal care. (29)

Despite this care, constant cropping (not to mention weed growth) over about two decades steadily reduced fertility. By then, however, new farming selections were being offered under the 1869 Land Act in northern Victoria. On 4 December 1873, the Kyneton Guardian reported that some Kyneton pioneer farmers were moving north. The Rochester district was mentioned as the destination of several who had previously leased their land. With them went several of the district's agricultural implement makers, including the Furphy brothers to the Shepparton district, where their wheeled water tank (and Joseph's novels) embedded their name in Australia culture. Their father, Samuel, had farmed a small freehold and leased land on St. Agnes hill since 1852, although a misprint in Butler & Brooke's 1866 Directory lists him as Turphy.

Remaining landholders could enlarge their holdings, buying from those departing. But they sought less labour intensive ways of winning a profit from their land. Generally that meant stock-raising rather than cropping. It is significant that stock numbers trebled in the Shire in the three or four years to In the rich moist mountain country in the south-west, where some Crown land formerly held under mining and timber licences became available for selection after 1865, farmers began to specialise in potatoes and in grains like barley. Along with sawmillers, then then argued strongly for a branch railway to get their produce to market. The result was the Carlsruhe to Daylesford railway, built in 1879-80. Stations within the Shire were Tylden, (south-east of the township near Caddys Lane), Fern Hill on James Lane and Trentham. Passengers, including tourists to the mountain resorts of Daylesford and Hepburn Springs, helped keep up revenue levels on that line, even when the timber trade declined in volume from the late 1890s, and after 1920 when more farm produce was sent to market by road.

^{29.} C. Dilke, Greater Britain (ed. Geoffrey Blainey), p.99.

RATE OF CROWN LAND SALES FOR NON-TOWNSHIP LAND AROUND KYNETON DURING THE 1850S AND 1860S

When and how quickly the rural land near Kyneton was first settled is illustrated by the table below, which shows the yer of sale and size of allotments sold during the 1850s and 1860s.

NUMBER OF ALLOTMENTS OF EACH ACREAGE SOLD

Year	1- 10	11- 20	21- 30	30- 50	50- 75	75- 100	100- 200	200- 300	300- 400	400-	500+
1850 1851 1852 1853 1854 1855 1856 1857 1858 1869 1861 1862 1863 1864 1865 1866 1867 1868	2	2 12 29 22 17 42 1	20 10 12	1 26 13 8 1	1 6 2	1 2 19	3 18 7 9 1	2 4 1	8	6	

Whilst the sale of land by the Crown was subject to delays while surveyors set out the allotments and demands Victoria-wide, it is reasonable to assume that the land sales took place where there was demand for it and the land would sell, giving the Colonial Government its principal source of income. Thus while land sales began in 1850 and increased steadily at first, 1855 was the year when most farm land was sold.

A second, shorter branch railway going north from near Boggy Creek to Redesdale did not open till January 1891. Its stations in the Shire were Redesdale Junction, Green Hill and Lauriston North. However, it was almost always listed among Victoria's "non-paying lines". From October 1915, the service was reduced to a railway tricycle carrying parcels and the occasional passenger on just three days a week. Rail motor services were available on some lines from the late 1920s, but the Redesdale line continued to lose patronage. It was announced that it would be closed in January 1936, but operated again in the transport stringencies of the Second World War. After going out of use in 1954, the line was dismantled.

Away from the moist mountain country, crop land tended to become pasture, although it was mostly sown pasture grasses, in addition to wheaten and oaten hay, and barley for fattening sheep. Stock numbers trebled in the Shire in the three or four years to 1877. Raising stock had the advantage of providing some natural manure in dung, although few Victorian farmers collected and spread it in the way that Welsh farmer-turned-colonial itinerant, Joseph Jenkins, thought proper. (2) Not until the late 1880s was stock pasturing accepted as part of the agricultural rotation. By then many of Kyneton Shire's most successful farmers were stock breeders, of sheep, of cattle and most importantly of horses. Some of the largest freeholds remaining from the pastoral period were privately subdivided as the value of the Shire's rural land increased. In 1886, for instance, all of *Cheveley* and 2,000 acres of *Barfold* were sold in smaller lots.

The market for horses was wide, since they were used for transport in cities and towns as well as for sports like racing, trotting and hunting, riding hacks, trotters, racing thoroughbreds and minor specialist breeds like Welsh ponies. John Glenn of *Homebush* and Andrew Rowan of *Barbower* were prosperous enough to be importing stud stock in the early 1870s. Their substantial homesteads still exist. C.B. Fisher, whose name is immortalised in Flemington's annual C.B. Fisher Plate, bought stock from both in 1874.

During the 1880s, thirty of forty stallions were paraded at Kyneton's annual horse parade each spring or were advertised in the local newspaper as available to service mares. In 1886, their owners came from Kyneton, Newham, Carlsruhe, Pastoria, Glenlyon, Gisborne, Woodend, Green Hill, Glenhope, Little Hampton, Baynton, Langley, Malmsbury, even Malvern. In January 1891 horse breeders enjoyed the vice-regal patronage of the Earl of Hopetoun, Victoria's governor, who visited with his sister. She was pronounced to be extremely knowledgable about horses. They purchased a saddle horse from Henry Thompson, then a pair of buggy ponies and a mare from Michael Brady, Tylden road. Even in 1910 horse parade seemed to pay scant attention to the coming motor revolution. There were 19 Clydesdales, 2 trotters, 3 thoroughbreds, 4 trotting ponies, a coaching stallion, a pony stallion, a blood stallion, an Arab pony and a Welsh pony. One of Kyneton's first war effort donations in 1914 was a railway truckload of horses for the Expeditionary Forces.

Hay in all its varieties was an important adjunct to horse breeding. Therefore, when motor transport superseded horses, most rapidly in the 1920s, two of the Shire's staple products diminished in value. The passing of the horse-drawn cab was emphasized in 1927 when three old cabhorses were sold in Kyneton for few shillings each. Work horses on farms were not completely superseded by tractors until after 1945, but racehorses and trotters were the main categories to survive. Rock House, the Argyle section of the old St. Agnes run, became a "modern [racing] stud farm" after R.I. Argyle retired in 1923 and it continued under later owners. Kyneton racecourse, too, survived through the "rationalisation" of the Victorian racing industry in the early 1930s.

Fine woolled Merinos were bred during the 1860s. Among owners mentioned in the quality display at Kyneton's "Grand National Show" in November 1869 were Degraves & Co. of Coliban Park and J. Rogers. Joseph Ward bought most of Degraves' northern Riverview section of the company estate in 1876, and wool was for many years the chief product, as it was for other properties on the drier uplands. W. Johnson, who settled his Gaffer Farm on the Drummond Road near Malmsbury as early as 1853, was the first to introduce Lincoln sheep into the district. His successors, McCarthy Brothers, had pedigreed Merinos and Shropshires. Some of their highly-bred animals were exported to South Africa in 1910.

The worth of Lincolns was apparent in 1873 when three well-established Kyneton landholders, Edward Argyle of St. Agnes, Henry Jarrett of Baynton and William and Andrew F. Thomson of *Prospect*, South Kyneton paid a total of 2,528 guineas for 96 Lincoln ewes and 6 rams bred in England. Argyle's share was by far the largest at 2,040 guineas. In February 1879, T.D.J. Kelly of Langley bought about 75 pure-bred Lincolns, direct descendents of William Rutledge's Port Fairy flock.

W.H. Fysh, who headed a family company with two properties on the Sidonia Road was a pioneer in another sense. In 1907 he installed ten Wolsley shearing machines on *Bringalbit*. That property and *Woodlea* were sold two years later and the Fysh enterprise moved to Queensland. After the First World War, fat lambs for the local market and as frozen carcasses for export became another sheep specialty. Dr. Arnold Caddy from Tylden combined medicine, and a spell in local government, with breeding prize-winning English Leicesters at *Chandpara*, a property he bought in 1913. Mrs. Caddy helped to found the Trentham Bush Nursing Hospital in 1936.

Barley grown as an adjunct to raising lambs also helped sustain Kyneton's malthouse as a going concern until after the Second World War. Sheep dogs were the special interest of J.L. Moore of St. Agnes. His book, <u>The Canine Philosopher</u> became a classic and in 1930 a film was made of his dogs at work.

Diary of a Welsh Swagman 1869-1894 (ed. William Evans), passim.

The Shorthorn strain in cattle improved beef and milk yields. One of Australia's premier Shorthorn breeders, R.L. Morton, bought the Degraves' mill property Montpellier in 1873 and renamed it Skelsmergh Hall. Although Morton returned to live permanently in England in 1876, the property continued its Shorthorn tradition under subsequent owners, including the Rennie family from Tylden. Robert Orr, of Moore Park at Pastoria, bought Shorthorns from Morton, but it was his "celebrated herd of Herefords" which he sold in 1878, along with the occupancy of his farm at Pastoria. Polled Angus cattle were introduced by William McFeeters when he bought the old Garth freehold in 1882. Some properties combined cattle and sheep-raising, as did E.N. James' Coliban Estate, which consistently received top prices for its stock, particularly its Herefords, in the interwar years.

Dairying was a farm sideline until the 1890s, although farmers were encouraged early in 1891 when an ice car was added to the morning goods train from Bendigo to Melbourne so that farm butter could be picked up at sidings and stations. From 1889 butter factories and the new De Laval machine separator were promoted by the Victorian Department of Agriculture and its newly-appointed dairy expert, David Wilson. Kyneton's butter factory began operations in 1891. Because the separator was at first an expensive piece of equipment, district creameries were set up to which the farmers brought milk daily. The creameries were often located close to rail stations so that "milk run" trains could distribute cream to butter and cheese factories. Before refrigeration, whole milk was only distributed locally. Once small farm separators were more widely installed in the 1920s the creameries closed. Dairy strains were of greater consequence to Kyneton from this time. J.R. Maxwell, who grew up at Tylden and practised as a surveyor there for 30 years, turned to farming in 1897 and built up a herd of pure-bred Ayrshires. There were Jersey herds as well, one of the earliest being built up at *Barfold* by W.H. Mitchell's son, Edward, who brought 17 valuable animals from a Preston breeder in 1887. Pure bred herds afforded local farmers the opportunity to seek improvements from mixed strains.

Intense agricultural and pastoral usage had changed the landscape before the first generation of farmers died. Apart from the weed problem mentioned by Dilke, trees were cut for mill logs, for railway building, for mine props, for firewood and to prepare the ground for sown crops. Even on the open parklike country which W.H. Yaldwyn had found so attractive, native trees were cut if they obstructed the plough. Around homesteads and farm buildings, natives might be augmented with European plantings. Hedges of gorse and hawthorn, "live fences", were evident by 1867, perhaps planted along a low line of stones or a post-and-rail or post-and-wire fence. They provided wind shelter for animals and crops, but also for pests. Sixty years later, Kyneton's Shire president M. McKenna had to argue persuasively at a conference of municipalities in Melbourne that "furze hedges six foot high and three foot wide were an asset and should not be eradicated". The government later agreed, at least for the area that included Kyneton.

KYNETON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER. 31, 1887.

THE MINES OF

The following Table exhibits particulars of the various Mines in this District, as collated by the "Kyneton Guardian," Word die greber 31st, 1887.

NAME OF COMPANY.	LocaLity.	Area.	DESCRIPTION.	No. of Shares.	Liability,	TOTAL ÇAPITAL	AMOUNT CALLED UP	LEGAL MATAGEL	ADDREAS.	Mediko Mahager.	Арокан.
Barfold Ranges Egyptian Extended Queen's Birthday Extended O'Connor's Extended South Queen's Golden Crowa Missing Link North Russell's No. 1 O'Connor's North O'Connor's North O'Connor's Now 1 South Queen's Birthday North Perseverance New Royal Standard New Golden Gate O'Connor's Freehold Prince of Wales Queen's Birthday Russell's Reef South Russell's Reef Standard Bearer Sel wyn Victoria	Belltopper Lauriston Mahnebury Malmabury Malmabury Taradale Lauriston Taradale	a. r. p. 24 3 6 50 0 0 15 0 0 16 0 0 27 0 0 27 0 0 12 0 0 15 1 13 88 0 0 146 0 0 96 0 0 13 3 2 13 0 0	Quartz Q. & A. Quartz Quartz Quartz Quartz Quartz Quartz Quartz Quartz	21,000 20,000 24,000 24,000 30,000 24,000	No liability 11 11 12 13 13 14 15 17 18 18 18 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19	£3,000 15,000 12,000 2,000 1,200 1,200 1,000 4,800 3,000 12,000 1,200 6,000 12,500 6,000 1,200 1,200 1,200 1,200 1,200 1,200 1,200 1,200 1,200 3,000	£3,850 10,000 1,300 5,438, 200 455 Nil. 1,300 9,000 5,300 6,100 4,770 1,250 1,700	Geo. Thomas E. D. M'Millan F. E. Adamson F. E. Adamson J. R. Treglown W. M. Johnson H. W. Ives W. M. Johnson J. Berker J. R. Treglown F. E. Adamson W. M. Johnson F. E. Adamson W. M. Johnson F. T. Lavender J. Ditchburn, jun. W. M. Johnson F. T. Lavender F. T. Lavender F. T. Lavender T. E. A. Casties W. M. Johnson Wm. Rogers J. R. Treglown	Castlemaine 22Collins-st.W., Melb. Malmabury Kyneton Malmabury Kyneton Lauriaton Kyneton 24 Queen-st., Melb. Malmabury Malmabury Malmabury Malmabury Kyneton	J. Pollard J. Mossman J. Piazzi M. Smith J. Bennie T. Davidson Vacant J. Hutcheson H. W. Ives L. Howlett W. Sleeman J. Bidwell H. Nutman J. Lalor J. Rodda	Metcalfe Drummond Taradale Drummond Lauriston Malmabury Drummond Malmabury Drummond Lauriston Lauriston

In addition to the above 23 Registered Companies there are (several co-operative parties at work within the districts of Taradale, Malmsbury, and Lauriston. The Taradale parties are as follows: -Kesell and party, Trudgien and party, Diss and party, Talbot and party, and Brown and party. Hobbs and party are at Belltopper Hill. Henson and party (Home Rule Co.) are near Malmsbury. Dale and party are at Hawkstone. Cook and Sutton are registered for an autimony claim at Hesket. The Lauriston parties are six in number :- Hall and party at Hickox's (Kangaroo), formerly Swiss Co.; F. Smith and party, on old Napier line in Young's paddock; Costello and party, tunnelling in Smithwick's paddock on Snowdon Hill; James Russell and party on Old Kangaroo; H. Ives and party, Golden Crown line, Young's paddock, north of Lloyd's; Wherrett and party, in P. Dwyer's and Ryan's land, south of Lauriston. אנות מודיתיונת

Trade Addresses. SAML, BOWLER HORSE SHOER -AND- " General Blacksmith.

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OUR LOCAL AGENT is MR. E. BALDWIN.

DON'T GET EXCITED! JUST HOLD YOU BEKATE

LRMMS

BREAKFAST.

GRATEFUL-COMFORTI

Trade Addresses

"By a thorough knowledge of the nat: which govern the operations of digestion as tion, and by a careful application of the fin tics of well-selected Cocon, Mr. hpps has pro-breakfast tables with a delicately-flavoured which may save us many heavy doctors bit by the judicious use of such articles of diconstitution may be gradual, built up unt enough to resist.every tendency to disease dreds of subtle maladies are floating around to attack wherever there is:a weak point. escape many a fatal shaft by keeping ourse fortified with pure blood and a properly: rame."-See article in the Ciril Service Ga:

Made simply with Boiling Water or Soldonly in 41b. packets, by Grocers, label

JAMES EPPS & CC HOMEOPATHIC CHEMI LONDON, ENGLAND.

A WONDERFUL MEDIC BEECHAM'S PILLS



Are admi é thonsands worth a C Box for bil nerrous' d such os w nainin the ick heads diness, ful swellings! dizziness a siness, co flushings loss of COSLITADO blotchaso: disturbe frightful .

and all nervous and tremming sensations first dose will give relief in 20 minutes. action, for they have done it in thousands Every sufferer is earnestly in vited to try these Fills, and they will be acknowled

WORTH A GUINEA A

For famales of all ages these Pills are in as a few doses of them carry off all gross open all obstructions, and bring about required. No fernales should be with There is no medicine to be found BEECHAM'S PILLS for removing an tion or irregularity of the system. according to she directions given with they will soon respons females of all age and robust health.

HARVESTING NATURAL RESOURCES

Gold: Kyneton Shire lies on the eastern edge of Victoria's rich midland gold district, which includes Ballarat and Bendigo. The Coliban watershed, including Kangaroo Creek to its west, afforded the richest pickings in alluvial gold and in longer-lasting quartz reefs. Fossickers were in the area by 1854 and there were fourteen gold-mining companies listed at Lauriston in an 1866 Directory. Some worked the alluvial ground, which was generally exhausted by about 1870. Attention was then concentrated on quartz. No workable deep lead was ever located in the area, although some hopeful test drilling carried out in the 1880s was said to have located a lead at Boggy Creek east of Lauriston.

Reefs closer to the surface at least offered surges of hope. Although a fairly new quartz area in 1870, Lauriston still produced 11,182 of the district's total of 15,000 ounces. According to the Atlas of Victoria (1982), just three reefs near Lauriston are the only ones in the Shire to have reached the benchmark of 1,000 kilograms of gold production. They are Russell & Co. (1,432 kg.), O'Connors (1,206 kg.) and Queen's Birthday (1,209 kg.). In imperial measurement, Russells yielded more than 50,000 ounces, mostly in a steady output. In 1890 Russells Reef Amalgamated's position as top producer was unchallenged with 6,400 oz. in Malmsbury mining district's total of 16,037 oz. O'Connor's Freehold yielded 1,595 oz., but Queen's Birthday was quite diminished at 610 oz. In 1892 only South Russells No.1, O'Connors and Russell Reef Amalgamated gave substantial yields and the total had fallen to 12,183 oz. After 1906 Victoria's gold production showed a steady decline until in 1919 it was lower than in any year since 1851, the year of discovery. Sporadic finds, such as "a rich reef at Lloyd's Al" in 1914 kept Lauriston afloat during that time.

The Blue Mountain diggings on the upper reaches and tributaries of the Coliban were not so heavily productive, but in the interwar years of this century, some rewarding reefs were worked by the Premier mine located quite close to the east bank of the Coliban reservoir. As in other parts of Victoria, gold mining had a sporadic resurgence during the 1930s depression.

Stone: In 1870 two quarries were worked at Malmsbury producing 1,000 tons worth 1,050 pounds. Following its use by the Mt. Alexander railway contractors for station buildings, viaducts, bridges, etc. in the district, Malmsbury bluestone came under notice from city contractors for flagging, kerbing and pitching Melbourne's footpaths, side gutters and street crossings, as well as for buildings like St. Patrick's Cathedral. Some was even sent in 1872 to Goulburn, N.S.W., for the pillars of the Catholic cathedral there. Its architect was A.G. Stombuco, who had used local stone when designing, building and supervising buildings in Kyneton. The durability of bluestone is everywhere evident, although its solidity meant costly time and effort to

work it, particularly to dress it. Many of the early masons who came to the district retired to a farming life after a few years. Steam-driven cutting equipment was installed at a Kyneton stoneworks in 1871, although its success or otherwise was not reported. Evidence of the old workings are the "numerous disused quarries" to the north, south and east of Malmsbury, marked on modern maps. Part of Breakneck Road running through the southern section is stone-pitched in the old manner, as are single streets in both Lauriston and Malmsbury.

A quarry of more easily worked freestone or sandstone was located at Lauriston by 1892. It was used for some local building, but more profitably for large projects, notably Melbourne University's new Arts building and its clock tower between 1920 and 1925. Lauriston freestone was also specified for the interior of the Shrine of Remembrance in 1929. The quarry is now under the waters of the reservoir.

The Coliban scheme, planned in the early 1860s, was a most ambitious project for the time. The Mt. Alexander and Bendigo goldfields were chronically short of water in some seasons. A consistent supply was imperative not only for mining but for domestic use in the provincial towns and cities which were growing up around the goldfields. The well-fed waters of the Coliban were therefore utilized through a series of conduits and reservoirs with a main reservoir on the Coliban at Malmsbury. The first sod in its excavation was turned in April 1865, but when engineering faults became evident, all work was stopped after two years. Work resumed on the coffer dam and the foundations of the outlet tower in 1869, but throughout 1870 the scheme was plagued by earth subsidence, leaks, faulty pipes and then a burst main syphon. Building of a newly-designed concrete retaining wall and bywash, unique to Victoria, began at the end of 1871. It was to be another five years, however, before water from the 2.8 million gallon capacity Malmsbury reservoir reached the one at Bendigo. There were ten other reservoirs and a tank at Taradale along the route. (31)

Plans for expanding the scheme were discussed during the 1880s, but it was not until 1899 that work began on the Upper Coliban reservoir near Tylden. The enlargement was the design of Stuart Murray, who had been a surveyor, architect and civil engineer in Kyneton from 1855 until appointed Chief Engineer of Victoria's new Water Supply Department in 1886. The Upper Coliban was completed in two years and filled by 1903. Instead of the cut stone wall originally specified by Murray, a less expensive solid earth wall with a concrete core, new technology for the time, was used. From 1934, water was also supplied from the upper Campaspe by what became known as the Ashbourne channel and in 1941 Lauriston reservoir was added to the scheme. Water is also pumped in from Lake Eppalock storage on the Campaspe, completed in 1963. As well as Bendigo and Castlemaine, fourteen townships as far north as Raywood and 1,800 primary producers were being supplied with water from the Coliban scheme in 1980. (32)

^{31.} Listed in <u>Victorian Year Book 1880-81</u>, p.411.

^{32.} Summary in State Rivers and Water Supply Commission The Proposed Changes to the Coliban System of Waterworks:

Separation of Urban and Rural Sectors, 1981.

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<u>Timber</u>: The south-western corner of the Shire encompasses part of the heavily timbered Dividing Range, now known as the Wombat State Forest. Near Ballarat it was known as the Bullarook forest and sawmills began work there from 1852 to provide mine timber, railway sleepers, firewood for mining and railway engines and building timber for the burgeoning Golden City. When the Government Inspector of Forests viewed Bullarook in 1870, he reported that the eastern section from Daylesford on the north to Mt. Wilson on the south was

virgin forest ... where the axe of the settler is yet unknown ... [It] consists principally of stringy bark and white gum forest, fit for mining purposes, and would furnish an immense supply if judiciously and economically conserved ... (33)

One man encouraged to begin milling in the area in 1870 was James Lyon, who earlier was in milling partnerships with Riddle and with Charles Cowle. The town of Glenlyon (once Lyonville) was created around one of his milling centres. Lyon's second mill was to the east and two miles south of Trentham on Stony Creek. In 1887 he gave evidence on behalf of sawmillers in the area to the Royal Commission into Vegetable Products. In complaining bitterly about the insecurity and costliness of milling licences and the haphazard way they were issued by the Lands Department, he indirectly drew a picture of a mill settlement. Three acres were granted for the mill site and on this

the mill-owner is expected to erect his machinery, his dam for water supply, his private house, offices, stores, stables, and buildings for his workmen, as also his log yard and his tip for sawdust. No provision is made whatsoever for paddocking for sick horses, or for giving them a run on Sundays, but they have to remain in the stables in the summertime to be worried and tormented by flies. Of course it is impossible to comply with these conditions, as if all these buildings were erected, there would not be any ingress or egress for the timber. Consequently the greater portion of our buildings are built outside, and are very nearly two hundred pounds worth in this way. (34)

Where mills were on private land, owners might be encouraged to provide homes for married men, rather than workers' barracks, and a school building for their children. Jeremiah Enders' Union Steam Saw Mills just upstream of Trentham Falls was one such. In July 1869, having received word that the Government

^{33.} A Report from Inspector of Forests for 1870, <u>Victorian Parliamentary Papers</u>, 1871, V.1, C9.

^{34.} Minutes of Evidence, Royal Commission into Vegetable Products (1885-1892), published separately 1894, V.1, p.442.

would fund a teacher if a school and residence were built, the whole settlement embarked on a working bee to clear the site. Within a year the school was opened using timber from the cleared trees. Sawmill and school were both closed in the late 1890s. Enders Bridge on the Trentham-Daylesford Road and Enders Road nearby indicate the location. For some years after 1857, one Sharp had a water-powered mill downstream of Enders on the Coliban. Fred Thrum's mill was at Little Hampton until the timber was cut out about 1896.

Most mills in Kyneton Shire, however, were on the northern slopes of the Dividing Range, where timber was harvested consistently until as recently as 1955. Lyon's Trentham mill was transferred to the Trewhella Brothers in 1887 and about 1895 they moved it into the rail yard at Trentham, so that it was central for logs being brought in from several districts. Harry McCashney was at first in partnership with Trewhella, then operated forest mills, and in the 1920s produced case timber from a mill in the Trentham railway yards. Donald McPherson was an earlier Trentham miller, starting in 1868 with mills south of the town on Trent Creek. William Christian had three mills in East Trentham-North Blackwood area from 1868 and a few years later George Laver, who bought into Burton's building and timber business at Kyneton in 1866, set up sawmills a little further west. William Southern (one of whose daughters, Clara, is now recognized as a leading Australian artist) included sawmilling near Trentham during the 1870s among other business interests.

The Wombat Forest sawmillers' equipment and transport methods, especially in getting the logs to the mill and the sawn timber to markets, are the subject of Norm Houghton's <u>Timber and Gold</u> published by the Light Railway Research Society of Australia in 1980. Some examples of equipment are in Firth Park in the Forest itself. The similarly named James Firth had mill sites in the area from 1890. Planting of European forest trees on cut-out sections of the forest was begun by the Anderson Brothers on ten acres in an area known in 1870 as the Stoney Rises. Seedlings of oak, elm, pine and other trees were supplied from the Anderson's private nursery at Dean near their original mill sites on the western side of the forest.

In 1924, suggestions were made that vacant land at Lauriston, Malmsbury and Taradale be used for timber growing. One result seems to have been a pine plantation at Malmsbury called Grand Vue Park, formally opened in June 1928 by former premier and current local member, H.S.W. Lawson.

QUIETISM

In December 1906 a reunion of old Kynetonians was held at the Vienna Cafe in Collins Street, Melbourne (later the Australia Cafe, then Hotel). Forty-two men attended and another 14 sent apologies. The list included five parliamentarians, although only one attended, an ex-MLA and at least one future one, Dr. Stanley Argyle, who was premier of Victoria in 1932-35. Eleven were high-ranking public servants, others worked in banks, in businesses and on newspapers. The list is indicative of the human resources which were no longer working in the Shire. On the other hand it was seen as a tribute to the excellent schooling enjoyed locally, at primary schools and at schools like Kyneton Grammar and Prospect House Academy. The latter was founded in 1870 by the Congregational minister, G.J. Richmond, as a school for "youths and young men". A girls' school was begun in 1878, and the two combined in 1886. When the Religious Sisters of Mercy bought the PHA premises in 1901, the Academy continued as Kyneton College in a building opposite. Kyneton Grammar had had a variety of names and locations, one of which was Campaspe Villa in Wedge Street, originally run as a first-rate girls school. Kyneton High School, begun in 1912 in the old market building which in 1888 had housed the School of Mines, Arts and Sciences.

In January 1920, the district's remarkably strong loyalties induced an "Australia-wide pilgrimage", returning an estimated 800 visitors for a week of Back to Kyneton celebrations. The 1920 notables included Federal Treasurer W.A. Watt, Henry Gregory, MHR for Dampier (W.A.), Sir Edward Mitchell, KC, Lieut. Cols. Hurry, DSO, and Stanley Argyle, RAMC, Public Service Commissioner G.C. Morrison, Under Treasurer M.A. Minogue, Water Commission Secretary M. Nally, Water Supply Engineer Stuart Murray, son of the original Chief Engineer, and Lieut. Gen. Sir C.B. White, who qualified by being "married to a Kyneton girl". Most of the visitors arrived by ordinary and special trains and were met by members of the "Back To" committee.

The mile between the railway station and the town was traversed almost continuously from early morning by some twenty cabs bearing happy passengers, who scanned the route eagerly for old land marks and familiar scenes... The streets were crowded all day present and old residents meeting, in numerous cases after the lapse of long years. Some reunions have not been wholly happy, because death has taken a heavy toll of the pioneers of the town. In recent years the war has bereaved many homes, and some elderly visitors, long absent, returned to find themselves almost strangers.

Reminiscences of ... when Piper-street was in its heyday have been freely exchanged, incidents long forgotten have been revived, and a history full of incident has been communicated ... The old buildings remain in Piper-street - empty, but unimpaired by age, and still with all their impressive bluestone solidity. Above the doors of many are painted still the names with which the history of Kyneton is linked ... scores of men and women, themselves venerable and their children now in middle age ... walked once again along Piper-street, but reminiscently and sadly. (35)

Despite the sadness, there were occasions to be enjoyed, including a gathering in the Botanical Gardens under the shade of the "collection ... of English trees, to the growth of which the Kyneton climate is particularly suitable ... [and which] is regarded by arboreal experts as the finest in the State". Modern pastimes were also welcomed; "the pictures" in the Paramount Theatre on Saturday night were crowded and local owners of motor cars put them "at the visitors' disposal for trips to the district beauty spots during the week".

The motor age had its impact on Kyneton with the disappearance of blacksmiths and implement makers. After 60 years service, Dettman's forge and blacksmith's shop "next to the Savings Bank" in Mollison Street was demolished in October 1935. However, another forge in Simpson Street continued operating until about 1980. Other businesses adapted. The service station, which still exists on the Welsh/High Street corner evolved from a motor business established by the family of implement makers, who bought out Hutcheson and Walker.

The Special Reporter for <u>The Age</u> in 1920, perhaps himself an old Kynetonian, contributed a further article later in the week on the Shire's neglected opportunities, the effect of "contented solidity", otherwise termed conservatism. (36) He recalled efforts over the previous decade or so to establish a woollen mill, a bacon factory, a freezing works to process lamb carcasses for export. All had failed because of the "caution and reserve" of local business people. There was plenty of money being made locally - in trade and on the land - but it was "locked up" in banks. The established set were even suspicious of efforts by the progress association to get a tourist trade going because its members were mostly newcomers. No one took up suggestions to invest in tourist accommodation, with the result that "while Daylesford, not far away, has thousands of tourists annually, and business flourishes accordingly, Kyneton has not now even scores".

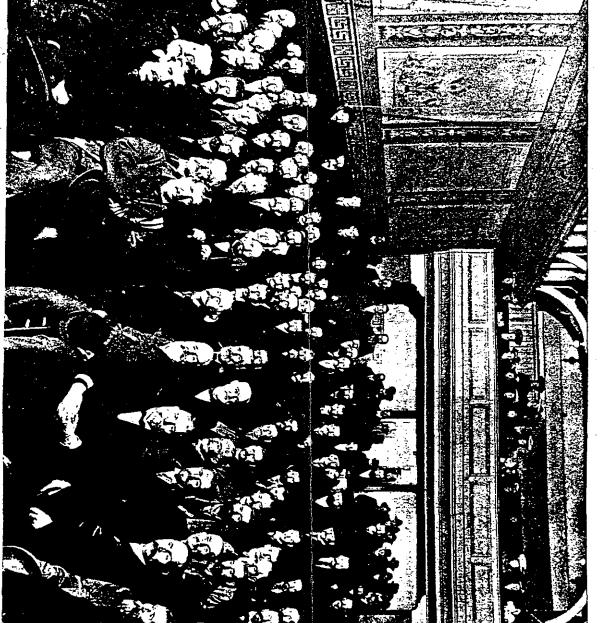
One glimmer of hope flickered on the horizon in 1920. The Shire Council had recently got ratepayer endorsement to take out a loan for an electric light and power supply. Lincoln knitting mills of Coburg had made electricity a prerequisite to their setting up a branch mill in Kyneton. At least 35 females and 25

^{35.} Back to Kyneton, Age 26 January 1920, p.7.

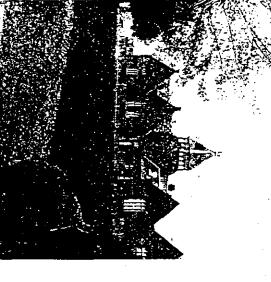
^{36.} Kyneton and Industry, Age 29 January 1920, p.7.

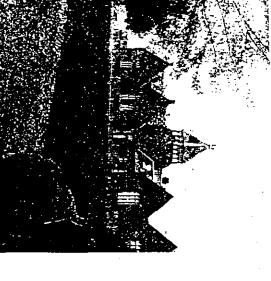
THE AUSTRALASIAN 9 JULY 1904 P. 87

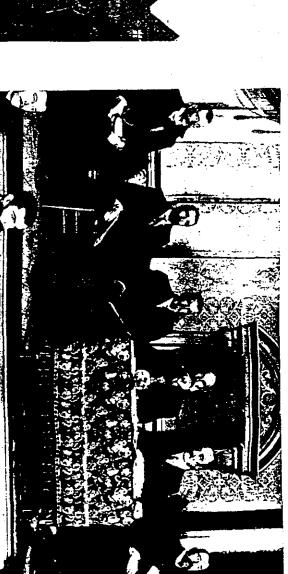










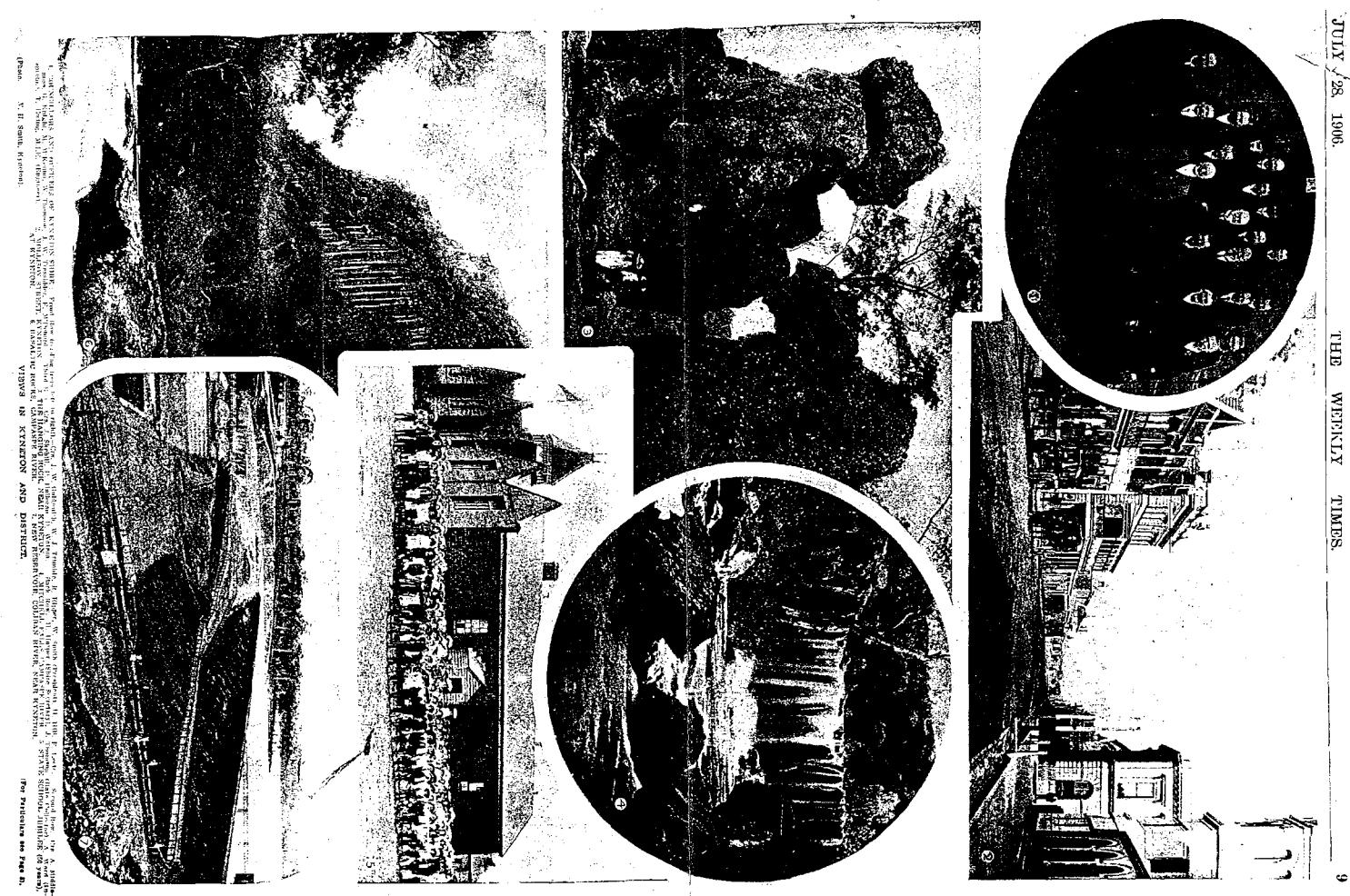




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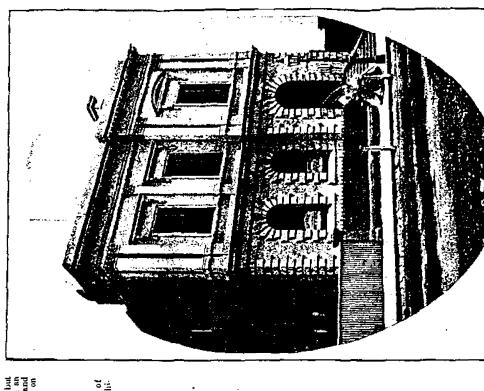




KYNETON AND DISTRICT IN 1906 - THE WEEKLY TIMES
28 JULY P. 9 STATE LIBRARY OF VICTORIA

AUSTRALASIAN.

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KYNETON IN 1906 THE AUSTRALASIAN 24 NOVEMBER P. 1237

Shire of Kyneton Conservation (Heritage) Study





LA HARVESTING SCENE NEAR KYNETON. . . VIEW IN MOLLISON STREET. . . ARCYLES OLD MILL. . . L BARALTIC COLUMNS AT BARFOLD. (For article see Page \$).

والأرائي والمرافع والمحارية والمحاجل والمحاج والمرافع والمعاري والمحاج والإنفاءة والمحاج والمح

6. UPPER RESERVOIR. COLIBAN RIVER. .. 7. MITCHELL'S FALLS, ON THE CAMPAGE RIVER, AT BARFOLD. KYNETON AND DISTRICT.

5. THE BOTANICAL GARDENS. (Photos, by W. H. Snith, Kyneter).

males would be employed locally, but some of the 1,000 employees from the city mill would be rotated from time to time, so that "metropolitan employees may enjoy the Kyneton climate". This management ideal may never have been implemented. In May 1921, Christie & Gardiner's electricity scheme was adopted by the Shire Council, but approval and some loan guarantees had to be sought from Victoria's new Electricity Commission. Power was turned on in Kyneton in May 1922, although Lincoln Mills had been able to set its hosiery knitting machines in motion in December 1921. Lincoln suffered a severe blow when its Coburg mill was completely burnt out in 1925 and took a year to rebuild. The Kyneton branch, specialising in hosiery, operated for about 30 years. A smaller enterprise was the factory opened in 1925 to turn the residue from grain crops into the packing material, straw envelopes.

Nevertheless the conservative streak in residents showed publicly in debates about Shire finances. Several years of petitioning were needed before it was agreed in November 1928 that a Baby Health Centre be opened, ridings to contribute on a population basis. It took about two years and a declaration by the town riding accepting full responsibility for the loan, before the hall extension to the Shire offices was opened in June 1929. Some repayment revenue came from picture shows. An up-to-date "talkie" plant was installed by the end of the year.

By that time, Kyneton's electricity supply was linked into the SEC system through one of its first country transmission lines to Castlemaine. The butter factory, which had had its own generator powering cool rooms and an ice works from 1912, was able to be fully electrified in 1930. In July 1932 a branch of the Newstead butter factory opened opposite on the NE corner of Wedge and Piper Streets, presumably to take similar advantage of Kyneton's centralized supplies and services. The Council had a Dairy Supervision Department by 1930, which issued an Important Notice in December that year with guidelines on dairy procedures, buildings and equipment. These were aimed at keeping cream quality high, thereby increasing the earnings of local farmers and "raising the quality of Australian Butter sent to overseas markets".

At the end of 1927 the high school was able to move out of temporary accommodation into new buildings on a site bought by the Council in 1925. Between 1922 and 1927 the town's water pressure was marginally improved, but a new main and a second feeder reservoir were not operating until 1932. The hospital had its own sewerage scheme (along with its first proper hot water service) by 1927. However, full town sewerage did not come until after 1935 when a poll of ratepayers "negatived" the first proposals of the Local Sewerage Authority. Trunk telephone services were much improved by new "aeriel wires" in 1923, while local lines were placed underground. Radio also diminished Kyneton's isolation. The opening broadcast of 3LO in Melbourne in 1924 was caught by some radio "experimenters" in Kyneton. In 1931, a Fisk Radiola was installed at the high school so that pupils could hear the daily educational programmes being broadcast by 3AR.



KYNETON IN 1936 - AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH BY <u>THE ARGUS</u> IN THE KYNETON MECHANICS INSTITUTE BUILDING

Despite improvements in town living quality brought by such measures, there was certainly little building expansion in the Shire during this time. However, old buildings were renovated or reused. The town of Kyneton kept its population steady because residents like bank managers and schoolteachers often decided to spend their retirement there. So did older farmers and/or their widows and unmarried daughters.

Paradoxically, the especially gloomy years 1930 to 1933 brought some improvement to public areas because of sustenance works. In 1933 a shelter to accommodate 18 "unemployed travellers", commonly called swagmen, was built at the racecourse. It made useful storage afterwards. In 1920 Hall's paddock in Mollison Street had been bought as the Agricultural Society's new grounds, coming into use for the April 1921 Show. In 1930, the Lewers grandstand was opened. It was named for the man who had been responsible for collecting 1,000 pounds towards its building. In 1932 the oval was laid out using 600 pounds of unemployment relief money. Council projects such as tree planting also provided local relief work. All the district schools were actively engaged in horticulture by the 1920s and a Horticultural Society was started in Kyneton itself. Some of its members achieved state-wide fame, developing new strains of sweet peas and asters.

A social study of Victorian country towns was made in 1940-41 and published in 1944. (37) Kyneton with a population of more than 2,500 was in the "largest" category. That meant that on the whole its social facilities were good. It even had an art collection displayed in the library and some pictures on loan from the National Gallery in the foyer of the Shire hall, although it was admitted that probably only a handful of residents were conscious they were there. The artistic tradition had deep grassroots in Kyneton nevertheless, especially among its women. Clara Southern, Josephine Muntz-Adams and Polly Hurry, who married another painter J.M. Farmer, achieved some prominence in the Australian art world.

^{37.} A.J. and J.J. McIntyre, <u>Country Towns of Victoria</u>. A social <u>survey</u>, <u>passim</u> and p.170.

THE LAST FORTY YEARS

The immediate postwar decades saw prosperity for rural industries, especially wool, but a greater centralization of urban services. Kyneton's secondary industries - the malthouse, the hosiery mill, the Ajax factory (started in the 1940s) and the butter factory afforded some employment, but even so did not stem a decline in the town's population from 3,831 in 1954 to 3,366 in 1961. The closing of the malthouse in 1956 may account for some of the decline, which affected building use, at least temporarily. In 1954, there were six licenced hotels in Kyneton and another six in the rest of the Shire, as well as four boarding houses in town and one elsewhere. By 1961, according to the census, there were three town hotels and no boarding houses. Outside the town there was just one hotel and one boarding house. However, local historian Mr. George Bremner, who was living in the town then, recalls six hotels operating in the town and five in the country. At the following census in 1966 five hotels were recorded in Kyneton, two in Trentham and three in the rest of the Shire. The six boarding houses registered in Kyneton town in 1966 suggests reuse of some of the larger private houses, for there were 80 more town residents than in 1961.

Fewer visitors attended its annual tennis tournaments. Even its race days were affected until country race meetings were reorganized and, after 1961, revitalized with a share in proceeds from the Totalizator Agency Board. Despite rural prosperity, the workforce required on rural properties was much less. There were fewer occupied houses outside Kyneton in 1961 than in 1954, but more in the town. With the total decline in population, however, numbers in each household were fewer.

The butter factory closed about 1970 but after a few years of inactivity, it was used to produce "Continental type" cheeses until 1986. Knitting wools are now produced there. In the later 1980s, secondary industry was being wooed to lease new premises built near Post Office Creek. People associated with the racing industry have also taken Kyneton premises, in the town and in rural areas. The growth of art and craft galleries and workshops was another noticeable trend of the 1980s.

Restructuring of roads into highways, streamlining of rail services and the use of light aircraft suitable for country airstrips have all accelerated during the last twenty years, affecting in turn the viability of rural areas and assets. Changing education services, including centralization and the switch away from boarding schools, hospital staffing changes with nurses and domestics living out, and other changes in employment structure, all combined with steadily increasing car ownership, have meant that workers are far more mobile. Local workers may well live outside the Shire and residents may commute to jobs outside. It is estimated that about 60 cars are parked each day in the Kyneton station car park. The effect on

the Shire's population was apparent at the 1976 census, having risen in the five intercensal years from 5,959 to 6,293. Growth has been more rapid during the last decade. At the 1986 census, the population was 7,657.

Following the trend which began in Melbourne in the 1960s, and has since spread to Geelong, Ballarat, Bendigo and other country towns, appreciation of Kyneton's historic environment has developed over the last twenty years, although it has been limited to stone or brick buildings rather than modest timber cottages. Catherineville in Baynton Street was publicised for sale "with National Trust classification" in 1967. In 1972 Malmsbury mill was rebuilt from a ruin to become a restaurant. In 1972 and 1976, St. Agnes homestead and Skelsmergh Hall with mill were sold as country residences to Melbourne people. Sunbury Lodge was sold with 39 acres in 1975 at what was considered an inflated price for its ruinous condition. The 1976 census confirms the changing nature of Kyneton's population. Of the 2,368 dwellings in the Shire, 232 had been built since 1971 and 398 were unoccupied. The reasons given for non-occupation were resident temporarily absent (30.2%), holiday home (24.1%), for sale or to let (10.5%), vacant for repair (8%), condemned for demolition (5%), new, awaiting occupancy (3%), other, none of given reasons, and not stated (19.1%). There is a greater tendency in country areas to leave run-down buildings empty, rather than to demolish or renew.

What has least changed is the visual quality of Kyneton's setting. It has exerted a sometimes indefinable appeal for a century and a half, prompting Kyneton to adopt such titles as Queen of the Uplands. Its scenic attractions influenced several novelists including H.J.G. Armstrong who used the pseudonym Henry Goldsmith. He wrote lyric descriptions of the district for the 1898 Progress Association booklet, sections of which made up most of Kyneton's entry for the 1903 <u>Cyclopedia of Victoria</u>. Two journalists, D.A. Macdonald of <u>The Argus</u> and D.H. Maling ("Ithuriel") claimed inspiration from periods of residence in the Shire in the later part of the nineteenth century. <u>The Age's</u> correspondent in 1920 was similarly affected. He concluded:

Its quiet pastoral beauty in the undulating oat and barley fields and grazing country; the ... ranges of the Great Divide in the blue distance, and the rugged, torn sides of Black Hill, ... the Hanging Rock and nearer hills; and the sinuous attractiveness enjoyed by few towns ... this delightful old town repays a visit. (38)

Historical values, scenic attractiveness and some specialized commerce like the flour mill, restaurants and antique shops have most recently enhanced the Shire's basic pastoral and farm assets and its tradition of pleasant rural living.

^{38. &}lt;u>op. cit.</u>, 29 January.

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ARCHITECTURE AND ARCHITECTS OF THE SHIRE OF KYNETON BY DAVID BICK

Kyneton was a large enough centre to have several Architects living there during the 1860s, '70s and '80s. They tended to receive most of the local work but Melbourne Architects also did some buildings in the the town; Smith and Johnson designed the Bank of Victoria. Crouch and Wilson designed the Wesleyan Methodist Church (now Baptist Church), along with a large number of other Wesleyan Churches in Victoria (T.J. Crouch was a Methodist). Significantly most undertook other occupations at the same time. A.G. Stombucco supervised at least the construction of St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church to the English Architect Hanson's design and designed various houses, whilst at the same time designing and constructing tombstones at the local cemetery. Gabriel Fleck designed the hospital and was also Town Surveyor at one stage. William Douglas was a surveyor, auctioneer and retailer as well as an Architect and later in the nineteenth century Tonks operated as an Undertaker and Architect. William Pritchard is one Architect who appears not to have undertaken other activities, though he moved on to Sydney and undertook a number of quite large projects. Murray and Hargreave operated as surveyors, architects and engineers during the second half of the nineteenth century. Stuart Murray designed Kyneton's first water supply system in the 1880s, before moving to be the head of the Colonial Government's Water Supply Department.

In use of materials and nature of design, Kyneton builders followed the same basic trends seen in Melbourne and most other centres. The first buildings of the early 1850s were built out of the readily available materials, timber, handmade bricks or stone rubble. In 1850 the regional magistrates suggested reserving 20 acres at Kyneton for brickmaking. These early buildings have all gone, apart from the old Rectory in Ebden Street and probably went reasonably early on the in the latter half of the nineteenth century.

The oldest buildings in Kyneton, Malmsbury or in the Shire as a whole come from the next stage, in the mid and later 1850s and into the 1860s, when the settlement was sufficiently settled to want and be able to build structures that would last. Bluestone was easy to obtain and it was only in the 1860s and '70s, when the quality of bricks improved considerably, that brick and rendered brickwork took over from stone and other materials; exactly the same trend that took place in Melbourne. When the railway and its buildings and structures were built, bluestone was chosen for its durability and availability, as it could be quarried along the route and transported along the unfinished line. Making bricks relied on finding suitable clay, working and firing it, so potentially it was more complex to obtain than the material of much better quality. A major impetus to get

brickmaking underway, apart from the cost of quarrying stone, was that bluestone was not regarded as an attractive looking material by nineteenth century Victorians; render or suitable face brick (or sandstone/freestone) was preferred.

By the 1870s Kyneton had reached a stable state and later building was infrequent and isolated to the odd site, for a shop or house. Thus there are only 3 brick Edwardian shop buildings in Kyneton and none at all in Malmsbury. The 1920s saw quite a few houses built in Kyneton, amongst older buildings, mostly built of weatherboard. Buildings built in the 1930s are very rare and the refacing of the three hotels in Kyneton are virtually the only examples of that period. Until the 1960s, little new building took place and it is only in recent decades that new shops and houses have appeared in Kyneton.

It is beyond the scope of this Study to provide detailed information about architects and artisans and their work.

Those encountered by this Study and their projects within the Shire are listed below.

Austin and Ellis 1862 Blyth Bros. Mill

W.E. Bryson C.E. 1859-1860/1861 Malmsbury Viaduct

Casselli and Figgis 1883-1884 State Bank, 142 Mollison Street

Commonwealth Department of Works 1903 Drill Hall, Market Street

Crouch and Wilson
Old Wesleyan Parsonage, 41 Ebden Street
1870 Welseyan Church, now Baptist Church, Ebden Street

William Douglas

Former Church of England Rectory, Ebden Street - brick additions.

1855-1857 St. Paul's Anglican Church

1858 Mechanics Institute, Mollison Street

1863 Old Colonial Bank, 40 High Street

1856 Old Bank of N.S.W., Piper Street

1859-1860 Old Congregational Church (Arts Centre), Hutton Street

1859 Kyneton Hospital, Simpson Street c.1860 Shop, 68 Piper Street

T. Ewing
1930 Kyneton Water Supply Reservoir No.2, Rippers Lane

Education Department Architects 1877 Kyneton State School

G.H. Edwards 1884 Mollison Street Bridge

Farquhar (Surveyor)
1866 Botanic Gardens, Mollison Street
1867 Mechanics Institute, Mollison Street

Gabriel Fleck (-1890)

1855 Campaspe Villa, Wedge Street
1856-1863 Kyneton Hospital, Simpson Street
1858 Residence, N.E. Corner Baynton and Ebden Streets

A.A. Fritsch (1866-1933)
1933 Old St. Teresa's Roman Catholic School, Jennings Street

Gawler and Drummond 1927-1928 St. Paul's Anglican Tower

Godfrey and Spowers 1904 Old Bank of N.S.W., 116 Mollison Street.

Charles Hanson 1857- St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Ebden Street

Charles Jayne 1855-1856 Kyneton National (State) School

Laver, Fick and Vance
1898 Old Congregational Church Sunday School, Yaldwyn Street

Monash and Anderson 1901- Arched Road Bridge, Kyneton Spring Hill Road

Murray and Hargreave
1880s? Residence, 31 Ebden Street?
1860s-c.1890 Morningside, 30 Edgecombe Street (Stuart Murray's own house).
1861 Botanic Gardens, Mollison Street
1868 Kyneton Hospital, Simpson Street
1868-1869 St. Andrew's Presbyterian (Uniting) Church,
Trentham Road, Tylden
1884 Shop, 109 Mollison Street

William Pritchard

1871 Kyneton Common (State) School

1872 Catherineville, 22 Baynton Street

1872-1873 Carl sruhe Presbyterian Church

1874 St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Vestry, 51 Ebden Street

1876 Old Bank of N.S.W., Piper Street

1877 Mechanics Institute, Mollison Street

1877-1878 Shire Hall, Mollison Street

Public Works Department of Victoria

1856 Court House, Hutton Street

c.1860 Old Police Residence, Barker Street, Malmsbury

1861 Cell Block, Jennings Street

1870-1871 Post Office, Mollison Street

1882-1883 Old Police Quarters, Jennings Street

1892-1893 Carlsruhe State School No.115

1873-1874 State School No.1408, Cameron Street, Malmsbury

1927-1928 Technical and High School, High Street

Purchas and Swyer

1861-1866 St. John's Anglican Church, Mollison Street, Malmsbury

Richardson and Wood

1929 Shire Hall, Mollison Street

Mr. Scope

1854 Kyneton Hospital, Simpson Street

Smith and Johnson

1875-1876 Old Bank of Victoria, 126 Mollison Street

State Rivers and Water Supply Commission

1938-1941 Lauriston Reservoir

Andrea G. Stombuco

1856 Martin Hartigan Memorial, Kyneton Cemetery, Kyneton Metcalfe Road

1857-1861 St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Ebden Street

1857 College House, 106 Piper Street

1859 Carrick, 31 Hutton Street (Stombuco's own house).

1866 Carn Brae, 18 Baynton Street

1867-1870 St. Mary's Presbytery, Ebden Street

Thomas Sutherland

1900s rear 15 Jennings Street

1880s and 1890s Residence 26 Mollison Street

W.J. Thirkettle

1887 Mechanics Institute, Mollison Street

Jas. Thomson? 1857-1858 St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Ebden Street 1860 or 1870s/1880s St. Andrew's Manse, 52 Ebden Street

W.T. Tonks 1904-1906 St. Paul's Sunday School, Powlett Street 1910 Kyneton Hospital, Simpson Street c.1898 Brennanah, off Pipers Creek Road

Victorian Railways Architects
1861/1862 Carlsruhe Station
1862 Kyneton Station, Mollison Street
1862 Malmsbury Station, Orr Street
1881 Old Trentham Station, Victoria Street

