

# YARRA TRACK HOSTELRIES- Marysville to Woods Point

*Travelling into the bush on an unknown track for many miles it was important to know where supplies, lodgings and horse feed could be found. Hostelries along the Yarra Track were often spaced at a day's walk or horse ride. Travellers walked more often than they rode with the steep track and wet conditions.*

*The first bridle track went from Fernshaw to Paradise Plains, where there were a few shanties. These shanty owners<sup>1</sup> moved to Marysville or further along when the main Yarra Track, built 1864-1870, left Fernshaw by the Black Spur via Marysville to join the original track about Mt Grant.*


*Many of these shanties did not last long. The crowds of individual "surface" gold miners was (or had) ended. And fewer were employed in "deep" mining. As one owner remarked "I hardly make enough to pay for my (shanty) licence" George Edwards' comments in notes on the Walker Family and the Yarra Track.*

Locality	Hostelry	Occupants/owners	Miles from Melbourne <sup>2</sup>
Melbourne		By coach to New Chum.	0
New Chum	Hit & Miss Restaurant	Located before New Chum. Surveyed for Mr Clifford. Later Michael Woods.	40
Glen Watts	Tri Bhean Hotel	Ewen Cameron. (different person to Ewen Hugh Cameron, partner of Thomas Barton) <i>1866 Advertisement in Butler's Wood's Point Directory</i> CAMERON'S TRI BHEAN HOTEL, GLEN WATTS, Is now open for the public; finest scenery in Victoria; forty miles from Melbourne; sixty-five miles from Wood's Point. Daily coaches from the Globe Hotel, Swanston Street; Saddle & Pack horses ready for Wood's Point, &c; also, Guides and Ponies for Mount Juliet, Ben More &c. on arrival of Coach. Large and secure stables. Goods stored and forwarded to all parts of the Jordan district at the lowest prices and shortest notice. Also good horse feed to be had at Glen Watts hotel at the lowest prices, cash. The proof of the pudding is in the eating of it.	
Fernshaw	Jefferson's Watts Bridge Inn	Matthew Jefferson's started as a storekeeper. <i>1866 Advertisement in Butler's Wood's Point</i>	

	<p>Reefer's Hotel</p> <p>Boyle's Hotel</p>	<p><i>Directory</i> MATTHEW JEFFERSON WATTS BRIDGE INN, FERNSHAW. GOOD ACCOMMODATION FOR TRAVELLERS. STABLING, GENERAL STOREKEEPER (WHOLESALE AND RETAIL) POST OFFICE. William Henry Johnson applied for publican's license 7 Feb 1866. Weatherboard house, 1 sitting room, 4 bedrooms. Not granted. Johnson applied for a beer license on 4 Apr 1866.</p> <p>Samuel Boyle applied for a Publican's License on 18 April 1867. House at Fernshaw known as Black Spur Hotel, weatherboard, 2 sitting rooms and 2 bedrooms excl, owned by me. <i>Coles Collection GWE</i></p>	
Fisher's Creek/ Narbethong	<p>Fisher's Home Hotel.</p> <p>Black Spur Inn</p>	<p>Licence applied for 16 Sep 1864. Licensed renewed 7 Feb 1866 - 12 rooms. <i>1866 Advertisement in Butler's Wood's Point Directory</i> FISHER'S HOTEL, FISHER'S CREEK CHOICE SELECTION OF WINES AND SPIRITS AND CELEBRATED ALES. Good accommodation for travellers visiting the Wood's Point District. Hay, Corn, and Produce, a good supply always on hand. GOOD STABLING AT THE ABOVE HOTEL. FREDEERICK FISHER, Proprietor.</p> <p><i>1866 Advertisement in Butler's Wood's Point Directory</i> BLACK SPUR INN WILLIAM HODSON, PROPRIETOR ON THE WOOD'S POINT ROAD. Good accommodation for Travellers. GOOD STABLING. Hay, Corn and Produce, always on hand.</p>	52
Acheron River	Acheron Bridge Hotel	<p>John Robson <i>1866 Advertisement in Butler's Wood's Point Directory</i> ACHERON BRIDGE HOTEL JOHN ROBSON, PROPRIETOR. Good accommodation for man and horse, and every attention and comfort afforded with a desire to obtain and deserve support. Halfway</p>	

		between Melbourne and Wood's Point.	
Granton	Possibly Rural Store	Clifford & son apply rural licence for two blocks on the Acheron 28 June 1864.	57
Wilks Creek	Wilks Creek Hotel	Patrick Maloney 1866 Butler's Directory <sup>3</sup>	
Steavenson/ Marysville	Marysville Hotel Hotel Australian Hotel Junction Hotel	Information available in Early Hotels in Marysville document	62
Mount Grant	The Dutchman's Restaurant	Henry Kuyper and William Podlech 1866	67
Mount Arnold	Mount Arnold Hotel	Kohler & Charles Schultz moved from Paradise Plains. New road did not follow this track. Charles Schultz gave a mortgage on it to Theodor Kappler early in 1867. On 13 April 1867 the mortgage was transferred to James Toohey and John Gleeson. (Vol 190, Folio 37894, Titles Office Melbourne) Years later acquired by adverse possession by relative Joy Burchall & Ian Newman. Compulsory acquired by DSE as part of forest reserve.  Henry Brockman accommodation house.	71
Belle Isle <sup>4</sup> /Belle Elle/Bellell Creek rises in the dividing range north of Paradise plains, and flows south about 30 miles into the Upper Yarra near Guerin's Bridge <sup>5</sup> .	Bell's Hotel <sup>6</sup>	Henry Petty married Celia Moran on 24 Feb 1866 and they moved to Bellell where they conducted a wine shanty. Henry Petty, accommodation house 1866. 1868. Ruth, daughter of Henry & Celia nee Moran Petty born in winter 1873 when there was six feet of snow.	78
Cumberland Creek	Cumberland Creek Store & Restaurant incl accommodation became Cumberland Creek Hotel  An allotment with 2 small buildings on south side of road with creek as back boundary - Jan 1866.	Charles Edwin Hargreaves and family were on the Track from 1866. Three daughters were born - Annie, Urina and Alice, Alice, a baby, dying there in 1871. The family moved to Healesville later in 1871 and then to the Yarra Flats where his brother Josiah and other family members were farming. He died 12 May	

		<p>1879. Wife Urina, transferred to Henderson Drysdale and his wife, Trustee Company. In 1879 Henry Whelan at Cumberland Creek was in trouble for sly grog selling.</p> <p>Joy Burchall &amp; Ian Newman bought it and sold to DSE about 1988 when changes re the Yarra Ranges National Park</p>	
	Halfway House (Nelson's?)	<p>Thomas Smith, ?Jones Svendson, Gosling <i>1866 Advertisement in Butler's Wood's Point Directory</i></p> <p>HALF-WAY HOUSE Wood's Point Road, Yarra Track. Good accommodation for travellers visiting Wood's Point. Good stabling. Horse Feed, good supply always on hand. THOS SMITH, Proprietor.</p>	
Donovans Creek Chesterville 25 miles past Maysville	<p>Coach &amp; Horses Hotel Also known as Perry's Hotel Two allotments, smaller on the west has two buildings and Donovans Creek track runs on its southeast boundary.</p> <p>In 1970s still cleared land which would have been used to corral the horses overnight and possibly for a vegetable garden and a cow.</p> <p>There was a well-kept grave, believed to be the twin daughter of the Walker family who died as a result of an accident on a swing. In 1970s the grave was well-kept and surrounded by a thick growth of trees not far from the road. GWE 1970s.</p>	<p>John Perry land surveyed 1866. <i>1866 Advertisement in Butler's Wood's Point Directory</i></p> <p>PERRY'S Coach &amp; Horses Hotel - J.P. begs to inform visitors to the Wood's Point district that the above hotel is situated eighty miles from Melbourne and thirty miles from Wood's Point; these being convenient distances for the accommodation of parties visiting the Alpine district. GOOD STABLING. N.B. Horse feed, a good supply always on hand. J Bevan &amp; Co change the Mail at the above Hotel. JOHN PERRY, PROPRIETOR.</p> <p>John Perry applied for a Beer License on 4 April 1867 - built of wood, contains two sitting rooms and 5 bedrooms owned by me and at present unlicensed. John died 1867.</p> <p>Edward Courtney, assignee of the estate of John Perry.</p>	82 25 miles beyond Marysville
	<p>Scandinavian Hotel (The Swede's) Allotment with two buildings on east side of road. Then Walker's Hotel</p>	<p>Jacob Burchart applies for publican's license house 'at Marysville' 4 rooms to be Golden Fleece. Was that here or another property in Marysville?</p> <p>Burchart transfers his title to Theodore Kappler on 6 Aug 1870.</p>	

	<p><small>Artist Impression of Archie and Annie's Yarra Track Home &amp; Hotel</small></p>  <p><small>Circa - 1880's</small></p> <p><i>c1880</i></p>	<p>With the road bypassing George Koehler's Hotel at Mt Arnold and nearby Hotels struggling George moved to the Scandinavian.</p> <p>Walker Family ran this Hotel in late 1890s.</p> <p>Walkers - GWE</p> <p>David &amp; Millicent Walker living on the Yarra Track. He was mining. Here or Perry's ???</p> <p>Joy Burchall &amp; Ian Newman by adverse possession</p> <p>Elsie Jowett (via Bill Walker) gave them the title.</p>	
<p>Big River</p> <p>27 June 1866 Rush at Big River</p> <p>Mining in this area.</p> <p>Cemetery opposite 2 graves <sup>1</sup></p>	<p>Royal Mail Hotel</p> <p>Later Shaw's</p> <p>One small allotment on west side of road with two buildings.</p> <p>A track to Donovan's creek runs along the far side.</p>	<p>Slingsby Davies</p> <p><i>1866 Advertisement in Butler's Wood's Point Directory</i></p> <p>DAVIES ROYAL MAIL HOTEL. Head of Big River, Yarra Track, 24 miles from Wood's Point, 25 miles from Marysville. Wines and spirits of Superior quality. Good accommodation for Travellers, Spacious stabling, S DAVIES, Proprietor.</p> <p>Then Edwin Jones ran Royal Mail hotel. Edwin was also a coach driver. Edwin had married Elizabeth Jane Parker in 1866 in Sandridge and they had a son Archibald Charles Edwin Jones when they came to the Track.</p> <p>Charles, aged 3yrs 5 months, was accidently drowned at "Yarra Trak" 24 miles west of Matlock. He was buried 18 Dec 1872 in the "Yarra Track Cemetery", by Alexander Myers, 'undertaker' see death certificate for details.</p> <p>Frank Berwick Frederick Jones born here 1872, registered Woods Point. Frank died in Lilydale 1904 parents Ned &amp; Jennie Jones.</p> <p>Sophie Millicent Parker Jones born 1874, registered Matlock.</p>	88

		<p>– died. Mrs Jones, married Thomas Shaw. Shaw's Hotel.</p> <p>Local falls named after son Frank Jones who guided journalist to them. Frank was involved in the local gold mine.</p> <p>Part of building moved to Reefton.</p> <p>1920 Mr Baker was cleaning his gun by the fire when it exploded badly injuring one of his arms. In spite of the snow falling, his wife set off on foot along the road for help, but died on the way. Somehow he survived the injury.</p> <p>Cousin Dorothy Walker owned the property and sold to DSE 1988</p>	
	<p>Travellers Rest Hotel</p> <p>Smaller allotment with building on east side of road and larger allotment on the west side. J Fehring on both allotments.</p> <p>Route from Reefton joins Yarra Track near Fehrings.</p>	<p>Summers (1865) then John Fehrings 1866</p> <p>Also F Fehring</p> <p><i>The Leader, Mar, April &amp; May, 1871</i></p> <p>FOR SALE,— The Freehold. Property of John Fehring, known as The Travellers' Rest, 20 miles from Wood's Point, on the Melbourne road; consisting of a good built house with several rooms for accommodation, - some outbuildings, and a large stable. It also comprises 14 acres of very good land, half under cultivation, two valuable draught horses, eight head of cattle, pigs, poultry, &amp;c, two new ploughs and implements, tools of all description, &amp;c. The whole, with inventories will be offered under very favourable conditions, and will afford some good opportunity to people with small capital. The traffic along the road secures a brisk trade. Intending investors are requested to communicate with the proprietor, John Fehring, Travellers' Rest, Yarra Road. Anna Katerina Fehring<sup>7</sup> and Blumeyer's Son, John Christoph was born 14 Jan 1881 on the Yarra Track. 1901 photo of Anne Fehring and John Baker at the Traveller's Rest. <i>Evelyn Observer, 3 May 1901</i></p> <p>Anna Katrina Baker herein called Hannah Catherine Baker, who was sole devisee under the Will of John Fehring, deceased, who died 19 Feb 1919. Letters of Administration of her estate have been granted to</p>	94

		John Frederick Baker of McMahon's Creek, labourer in this date.	
Oaks	7 miles south west of Matlock 1 Feb 1866.		
	Mountain Home Hotel???	Neilson then Collins, Waters	
The Springs/ St Clair/ Sinclair's Valley A mining village rapidly growing into importance, situated in a dip in the main dividing range about 4 miles southwest of Matlock. Is exceedingly rugged and mountainous <sup>4</sup> .	St Clair Hotel	15 Jan Emma Sinclair applied for a lease, marked cancelled as land came up for sale. Jacob Burchart bought Lot1 Sec 2, Township of St Clair 13 Aug 1866. John Sinclair main owner. 1866, 10 Oct 1866 Jacob Burchart had a mortgage with Toohey & Gleeson. Others owners included Mr Cox and Jacob Burchart who sold to Toohey & Gleeson. Also a Peter Sinclair of the Springs involved in roadworks 1867.	
	"Willie, we have missed you" a popular song of the times. Became Nonpareil Hotel 5 Sep 1866.  Spring Vale Hotel	Matthews, Robert 1866  Thomas Crawford, 1866	101
Matlock			
Woods Point	Numerous		110

Location descriptions from Surveys in George Edwards' Research Notes

<sup>1</sup> At Paradise Plains were Kohler & Schulz, Theodor Kappler and John Hooper. By November 1864 when he surveyed the town George McDonald reported three deserted houses.

<sup>2</sup> A number of lists of distances were published. These are the most repeated figures.

<sup>3</sup> Butler's 1866 Gippsland & Woods Point Directory & Yearly Advertiser.

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<sup>4</sup> Belle Isle original name referenced in "Virgin Gold & How to Win It", James Holt former storekeeper, Wood's Point, 1896 and in 1938 F G Cobb article. Paraphrased Bel-el is a wide grassy expanse set in a narrow valley fringed with Native Beech trees. The popular theory for the name Bel-el is that in the early days on the Yarra Track Mr Bell had his hotel here. Bell's Hotel was known as Bell's Hell. Another explanation is that the original name was Belle Isle. The clear expanse of grassland being considered as a 'beautiful island' after the rough passage through such a sea of forest. No hotel was on the site, but a man named Bell lived there, who became renowned for his hospitality. He was a piling splitter by occupation, living in a humble shanty; but many had cause to thank Bell for his often-boiling billy and thawing warmth of a fire after a trek or bullock-wagon journey over a snow-clad road.

<sup>5</sup> Victorian Gazetteer, 1871-2, Rev George Edwards' research notes

<sup>6</sup> Last of the Yarra Track Stopping Places, Thomas Ann, self-published, 1980

<sup>7</sup> George Edwards' Research Notes 1881 (2)