

The return of an historical "Trowel"

Hugh Murray Senior was amongst the first settlers to migrate from Scotland to Van Dieman's Land, arriving in 1823.

He selected land at St: Leonards, but afterwards went into business in Hobart as a merchant, and played a leading part in developing the Colony.

From Hobart Hugh Murray Junior with four friends crossed to the Mainland and lived on their first property on the Barwon River.

In 1837 Hugh Murray moved to Lake Colac, followed soon afterwards by his friends. They were the only occupants of the countryside for 6 months.

Hugh Murray Junior was born in Edinburgh Scotland in 1814 and died in Colac in 1869 but his name lives on, for he was prominent in public affairs for many years.

He was the first president of Colac Shire, May 1864.

He laid the foundation stone of the first Shire Hall.

He was the first Justice of the Peace, and foundation chairman of the Colac & District Roads Board.

The main Street of Colac still bears his name.

Hugh Murray was one of the foundation members of the Presbyterian Church at Colac.

This Silver Trowel was presented by the Rev: H. Blair on the occasion of the laying of the foundation stone of the Birregurra Presbyterian Church to Mr Hugh Murray January 1865.

The Trowel is donated to the Birregurra Church by  
Miss Jillian Mary Patterson

Flat 10/95 Osborne St:

South Yarra. 3141

Miss Patterson is a direct descendant of Hugh Murray.

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