

PORT FAIRY POST

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PORT FAIRY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Letter from the President

Dear Members,

There is a feeling of optimism in the air, the sun is shining, the prevailing spring winds are with us and people are emerging again. And although Covid-19 restrictions have kept our museum closed, small working parties continue where possible, research queries are still being received and answered by our researchers and our scrap books are being filled by Alison Northeast with snippets from the *Moyne Gazette* and the *Warrnambool Standard*. Thank you Alison.

Our book sales have escalated under the coordination of Debbie Phelan and a team of hardworking volunteers from our committee. There has certainly been keen interest and a number of orders taken from local stockists. If you would like to view our available stock please email Debbie Phelan phelan@phelangroup.com.au for our current brochure. I would also like to acknowledge the work in the past by Angela Syme who managed this role on her own for many years and now, as the team takes on this task, we have come to appreciate the amount of work that goes into promoting, supplying and managing the book sales. Thank you Angela and Debbie.

October is History Month and across Victoria historical societies, heritage groups, local councils, schools and libraries will bring history alive. So why not take this time to explore Glen Foster's games and puzzles that are freely available on our website. Glen has kindly shared his love of history with the society and what a great opportunity to share this history with others including your children and grandchildren, especially those who enjoyed the "learning at home" experiences of the previous months! "Fun with History" created by Glen Foster. Five historical games using role play and cards with crossword puzzles from Upper Primary school to adults. See [Port Fairy Historical Society - Fun With History](#)

In Richard's latest newsletter there are some miraculous escapes and tall tales from the sea which makes for absorbing reading if not a little terrifying for us that enjoy an ocean swim. We meet Jeremiah Kearney of Killarney and marvel at his escapades in the past and are

reminded of how fortunate our lives are today. There is an interesting read about the surprisingly named flat-bottomed vessel named Eumeralla with the Aboriginal meaning "valley of plenty". And next time you stand in the bread queue at the community market you may like to reflect on "The Staff of Life" and the cost of bread in Port Fairy.

In this edition of our newsletter we also welcome the contribution of Teresa Murphy. Teresa, a journalist, who has recently moved to Port Fairy, has kindly shared with us her research work on the 'enigmatic Mrs Dunlop'. Along with current research, Teresa's investigations explore the mystery of Mrs Dunlop, a local legend for over 170 years. Teresa's insights into this remarkable woman, her life and achievements make for fascinating and intriguing reading. Thank you Teresa.

I would like to also acknowledge another recent donation by Ian Grenfell, "A History of Glaxo in Port Fairy." Donations to our Research Library are most welcome and further information regarding our newest collection is detailed in this newsletter. Thank you Ian

And finally congratulations to the winners of our successful Facebook Photograph Competitions Andrea Vallance, Sue Hoogenboom and Anne Betts. Thank you to all who generously shared photos and Carol Heard for coordinating these events and providing the opportunity for us to enjoy the fascinating photos that were posted.

Cheers Andrea

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History in the Making

Our Newest Collection - The Port Fairy Historical Society Research Library

While we have had the museum's doors closed there has been an opportunity for individuals and small working parties to work on existing and new projects. One such exciting project has been directed by a sub-committee which was formed early in the year to establish the Port Fairy Historical Society Research Library.

Our research library will aim to house publications, reference materials and documents pertaining to the history of Port Fairy and District including its known Indigenous and European history to the present day. The collection will include printed books, book bindings and other items as deemed worthy of adding to the collection and will include information on pioneering families and houses, early industry and businesses.

This newest collection, of approximately 800 items, will contribute to our role here at the Port Fairy Historical Society in preserving and recording the history of Port Fairy and District while also ensuring we are preserving and recording print materials. The research library, as items are catalogued, will also be available as an online catalogue on Victorian Collections to enable collection discovery and access, and to facilitate inventory management.

The library will be open once a week during opening times at the Museum. We are considering a Wednesday afternoon and may also open on request. When the Library is open we aim to have an appropriate person on hand to assist members and the general public with conducting personal research. Photocopying facilities will also be available (fees will apply). Members of the Port Fairy Historical Society may borrow available books marked for loan and browse books in the reference section. Visitors and members of the Public may browse books for research purposes during opening hours of the library but not borrow.

Our most recent donation has come from Mr James [Bim] Affleck who has generously offered four of his publications that are relevant to our collection. "Stories Untold & Faces Forgotten: Great War Enlistments from Port Fairy, Koroit, Macarthur, Peshurst & surrounding Hamlets", "Soldiering On: Caramut & the Soldier Settlement Movement" & "Tarrone Estate: Soldier Settlement". We look forward to his latest work which we believe will be available before the end of the year on Soldier settlers around Hawkesdale, Macarthur and Peshurst. Thank you Bim for your very worthwhile additions to our library collection.



Early Days - A work in progress. The Port Fairy Historical Society Research Library

Donations and new acquisitions are welcomed and are guided by the Collection Policy of the Museum and Archives. Please feel free to contact us if you would like to arrange a visit or make a donation to the collection once Covid restrictions allow.

And finally a very big thank you to the dedicated volunteers involved in initiating, organising and managing the library collection; without such commitment we would never have had the project off to such a great start.

Andrea Coney

Our next edition will be available on 21 November and will contain a wide variety of articles but nothing whatsoever about the Port Fairy gas works!

The Lighthouse Keepers 5

Richard Joye Baker

On 7 January 1908, in recording that J. J. T. Cooper, the assistant lighthouse keeper, was being transferred to Cape Nelson, *The Gazette* remarked that, 'Mr. Richard Baker, who was lighthouse keeper and pilot at Port Fairy, is now stationed at Cape Everard. Pilot Baker was very popular here'.

This is about the only reference to be found relating to Baker's time at Port Fairy in 1904 - 1905. Prior to this he had been posted to Queenscliff (1890); Cliffy Island (1891 - 1892); Cape Otway (1893 - 1895); Split Point (1896 - 1900); and, for a second occasion, Queenscliff (1903).

Richard's family was a complex one. His father, Benjamin Baker, a ship's quartermaster and native of Nova Scotia, was originally married to a woman name Ellen and the couple had a son, John. Ellen died of cholera in 1862 and Benjamin married Ann Joye in the following year. Richard Joye Baker was born on 5 October 1863 in Philadelphia. Ann died in 1866 and Benjamin married his third wife, Anna née Barry. They had a daughter, Catherine, who was born in August 1867.

Unhappily, three months before Catherine's birth, Benjamin died. It was said that he was engaged in putting a crew on the brig *Ortolan* when he fell into the Delaware River and drowned.

Anna then married an English baker, Joseph Shead. They had two children, Thomas and Joseph. The family went to live in England but, in 1879, emigrated to New Zealand on the S.S. *Stad Haarlem*, although John Baker - like Richard, now living with two step-parents - returned to Philadelphia. Joseph Shead opened a baker's shop in High Street, Christchurch, but, shortly after doing so, was named in the newspapers, with others, for selling under-weight 4lb. loaves, and was fined for having 'unstamped' weights in his possession that were 'light'. In 1882 he filed for bankruptcy.

In the same year, Thomas Baker died in Christchurch at the age of 11. Meanwhile, Catherine Baker had become a school teacher. Richard Baker sailed to Sydney in 1883 and, although the remainder of the family were still in New Zealand in 1885, they eventually followed him.

Richard married Honora 'Norah' Curtis in Victoria in 1884 and the couple had eight children, four boys and four girls, born in some of the most remote places in Victoria. One daughter was born on Cliffy Island in 1892, and immediately after Richard's short time in Port Fairy, it has been suggested that Norah gave birth to another daughter at the South Channel Pile Lighthouse, although this seems unlikely.

After Port Fairy, Richard was posted to Cape Everard (1907 - 1910), Cape Schanck (1910 - 1912) and, for the second occasion, Cliffy Island (1912 - 1915).

During the Great War, Richard was at the Split Point

Lighthouse, Aireys Inlet, later used in the TV series *Round the Twist*. We are told that the couple were 'extremely popular with the residents and visitors to the district'. From this period comes a memorable anecdote told in Gordon Reid's book *From Dusk Till Dawn: A History of Australian Lighthouses*:

The keeper at Split Point at Aireys Inlet in Victoria did not exactly sleep on the job but he did not see why he should be deprived of his social life at night. He scratched a small hole in the black paint on the back of the lantern, which prevents the light shining inland and annoying residents. This keeper, Richard Joy [sic] Baker, scratched the hole to line up with the Aireys Inlet Hotel. Each time the lenses rotated, the light winked through the hole, assuring the keeper (who had retired to the hotel) that all was well'.

While the family was based at Split Point, in December 1915, Annie Joyce, Richard and Norah's eldest daughter, was married to George Harris Griffiths of Dromana at her parents' home. A few months later we read that, on 23 March 1916, Richard gave a demonstration of life-saving at the Split Point Lighthouse, although those gathered there were probably keener on seeing the quarterly rocket practice.

When Richard and Norah came to leave Split Point in October 1919, they were given a memorable send-off, as the *Geelong Advertiser* recorded:

'On the 31st of last month a very pleasant social evening was held at the Inlet Hotel, where many friends gathered together to bid au revoir to Mr. and Mrs. Baker on the eve of their departure from Airey's Inlet. For the past five years Mr. Baker has been head keeper at the Split Point Lighthouse, where recently an automatic light has been installed, making a keeper unnecessary. Friends motored from as far distant as Mt. Duneed, Freshwater Creek and Geelong to be present at the gathering. ... At 11 o'clock the following presentations were made: a handsome silver shaving set to Mr. Baker, a beautiful leather travelling case to Mrs. Baker, and a gold boomerang brooch to Miss Beryl Baker'.

After Split Point, Richard was again posted to Cape Schanck although Norah went to live in Melbourne because, it was thought, her health was too delicate to risk in that remote spot. Indeed she died on 29 October 1921, the *Geelong Advertiser* stating that she 'was a highly cultured lady and took a very keen interest in social affairs. No local entertainment seemed complete without her presence'.

In 1923, Richard Baker married Clara Lear of Portland. He survived for another 26 years, dying on 2 December 1949 at the Royal Melbourne Hospital, at the age of 87. He is buried in Fawkner Cemetery. ❀❀

The Mysterious Mrs Dunlop of Griffiths Island

By Teresa Murphy (teresafmurphy@bigpond.com)

Local historian Jack Powling named her the 'enigmatic Mrs Dunlop' and current research deepens the mystery.

Mrs Dunlop and her brief tenure on Griffiths Island, running an Aboriginal mission of sorts, has been a local legend for 170 years. Several sources identified her as Flora Rachel Wallace Dunlop, a Scottish-born widow with a canny nose for real estate, as we shall see.



Flora Rachel Wallace Dunlop was widowed at 45, leaving her with five young children

Powling identifies her only as 'Mrs Dunlop' in *Port Fairy: The First Fifty Years* (1980), writing that, until 1853, she occupied the substantial house on the island erected for whaler John Griffiths and his family in 1837. (Prefabricated in Launceston, it was colloquially known as 'Government House', according to J. R. Carroll in 'Harpoons to Harvest' (1989), which features a painting of the house and map of its exact location. The painting, once owned by the late Jack Powling, is held at the Port Fairy Museum.)

Powling writes: '[Mrs Dunlop] maintained some kind of mission on the island, trying, with inconspicuous success, to educate the blacks. This adventurous lady had a whaleboat, rowed by six red-shirted, white-trousered Aborigines, in which she frequently made trips to Portland'.

Powling revels in the popular story about local solicitor J. Thompson, who was swimming in the South-West Passage one summer evening when he was 'queried' by a large shark.

'... being of modest disposition and also having

omitted to put on a bathing costume, he remained there freezing all night among the rushes rather than display himself to Mrs Dunlop. But that lady, astir as usual by daybreak, observed the forlorn figure from her balcony and dispatched her whaleboat crew to row him to the mainland.'

A 1906 article in the *Port Fairy Gazette*, titled 'A Legend of Griffiths Island', describes the location of the two-storey house, surrounded by a garden and paddock, near the foot of the hill, on the north or landward side, and facing the outlet of the river.

'This house, in 1853, had been made habitable for a family ... and was occupied by Mrs Dunlop and her daughter, and their servants. This lady, who was the widow of an upcountry settler, had great sympathy with the Aborigines and adopted a practical means towards their civilisation. She had a number of black boys and girls who were employed about the garden and homestead, while they had daily schooling in reading and writing and the girls were taught domestic work.



Her husband Alexander Wallace Dunlop, who died only three years after arriving in Victoria

'Two or three times a week the whaleboat was to be seen manned by a black crew, and with a couple of black girls in the stern, leaving the island and proceeding up the river to Rutledge's wharf on their way to the Post Office and to the stores to make the necessary purchases for the family and dependants.

'It is greatly to be regretted that the noble work of these ladies was doomed ... and they had no successors. The building, after remaining unoccupied for some years, was pulled down and the materials sold by auction with all the improvements, and now not a vestige remains.



This painting shows John Griffiths' two-storey 'Government House', later owned by Mrs Dunlop, on Griffiths Island. (Port Fairy Historical Society)

'The black pupils were ... received into one of the Government stations for the Aborigines after the death of Mrs Dunlop.'

Just to confuse matters, as history sources tend to do, Margaret Emily Brown, reminiscing about her life in Port Fairy in 1849-1860, in *A Port Fairy Childhood*, describe a 'lady named Dunlop and her two sons, they lived on Griffiths Island. They had a pretty house and garden in a hollow between two hills and were served entirely by Aboriginal servants, men and women whom Mrs Dunlop had trained.

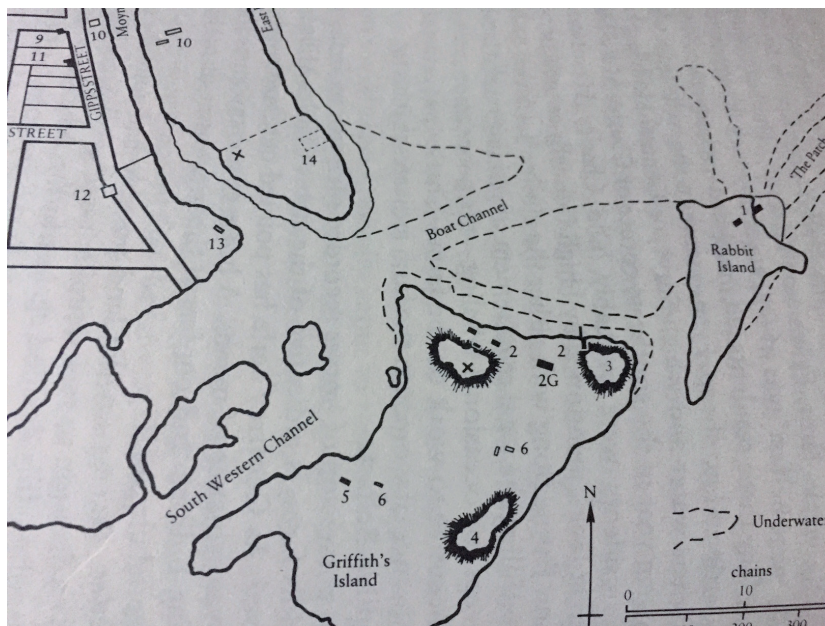
'It was a sight worth remembering to see them file into [Dr Braim's original] church and fill the pews behind their mistress, the women in pretty print frocks, white collars and straw bonnets, the men in decent clothes and white shirts, all brushed and polished to the extreme of nicety.

'The Dunlop family were English gentlepeople; why they lived there and how they lived I never heard, but by and by they came to church no more and the house and garden fell into ruins.'

Marten Syme, in *Port Fairy: The Town That Kept Its Character* (2018), wrote that Mrs Flora Rachel Wallace

Dunlop, a widow, had briefly settled on Griffiths Island and established a school for Aborigines. Syme doubts Powling's report that her charges would have rowed her in a whaleboat from Port Fairy all the way to Portland. A more likely explanation, he suggests, is that they rowed from the island to Port Fairy township.

But Syme also mentions whaler



A map showing the exact location of 'Government House' on the island at 2G. (PFHS)

James Staines' undated description of Mrs Dunlop who 'kept a large body guard of black women who used to man a big life boat and row her to and from the mainland as well as along leagues and leagues of the coast. This black crew were a curio of the settlement.'

A curio indeed. What did happen to these Aboriginal people when Mrs Dunlop left, and who actually was Mrs Dunlop?

State and local heritage reports identify her as Flora Wallace Dunlop, widow of Victorian politician Alexander Dunlop, noting she was on the island until 1854 and from as early as 1850, according to some sources.

Flora and Alexander Fairlie Wallace Dunlop, Esquire, a merchant, were first cousins, both born in Scotland (Flora in 1807 and Alexander in 1809) and descended from many noble houses of Scotland, including royalty. They married in London and settled in Liverpool. On June 12, 1849, they sailed from Liverpool with five children (two had died in infancy), arriving in Melbourne on September 20.

Alexander quickly established himself in the soon-to-be independent colony, buying the *Parasia* run at Hexham, near Mortlake, in February 1850, renaming it Hexham Park. In 1851, he was appointed a magistrate and a nominee member (unelected) of Victoria's first Legislative Council. He was a deeply religious man, a member of the Free Presbyterian Church, and moved to have Council sittings opened with a prayer, hotly debated at the time. But he was never to see this come to fruition: at just 43, Alexander died suddenly on June 21, 1852 in Melbourne. After taking the steamer from Geelong to attend the Council, he felt chilly and feverish, and died two days later at the Free Church manse in Swanston Street, the *Argus* reported. According to Mortlake Historical Society, Alexander had fallen from his horse while riding in the rain and subsequently succumbed to pneumonia. His large

funeral was attended by the colony's elite, among them John Pascoe Fawcner, the Lieutenant-Governor and the Mayor. The burial took place at the old Melbourne Cemetery, where thousands of remains still lie beneath the Queen Victoria Market carpark. (Alexander's remains were moved to the Melbourne General Cemetery at a later stage.)

Flora was a widow at 45, with five children aged 4 - 10 (four daughters and a son, the youngest).

In July 1852, her sister Jemima Vans Robertson, also widowed, arrived in Victoria from England and settled near Hexham Park, at Kona Warren (later Connewarren), where she was to live for the next 30 years.

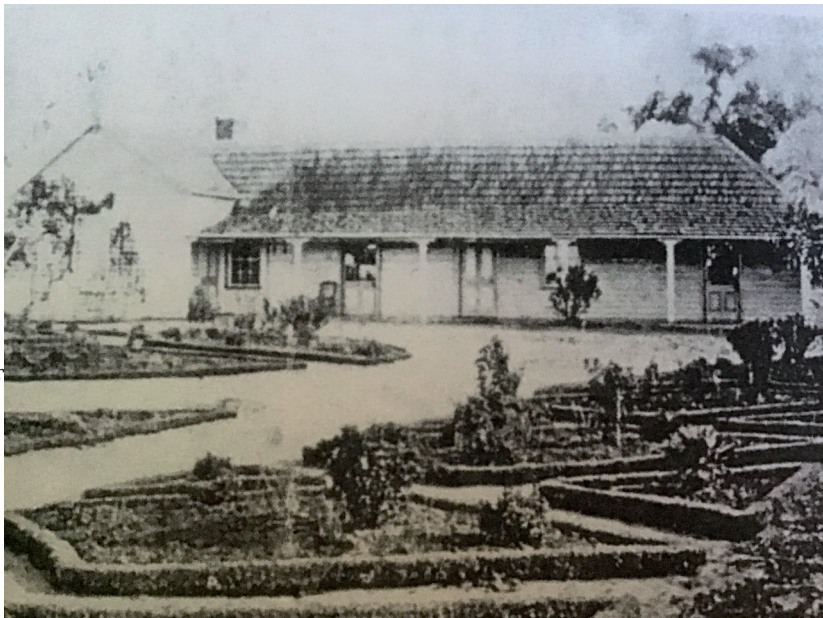
Both sisters feature in the excellent book by Mortlake Historical Society, *Women of the Mount*, which suggests that, for a few years at least, the sisters supported each other in their early widowhood.

The book makes no mention of Flora's time in Port Fairy, and remains unclear on Flora's actual whereabouts in the early to mid-1850s.

Current research, although somewhat curtailed by a certain virus, may have solved part of the riddle, though it still can't be confirmed that Flora is the famous Mrs Dunlop of Griffiths Island. Some deep dives into that wonderful resource Trove, and help from Warrnambool Historical Society, have revealed a few nuggets of new information about Flora after the death of Alexander.

The *Belfast Gazette* reported in August 1853 that Flora had sold Hexham Park Station - with 22,000 head of sheep, 700 head of cattle [and a seven or nine-roomed homestead] - for 23,000 pounds, 'a figure considered reasonable'.

(The buyer was Adolphus Scales, who had bought



The original Hexham Park homestead as it may have looked when Flora Wallace Dunlop briefly lived there in the early 1850s

neighbouring property Merrang in 1852. He died in November 1854 and was buried in Port Fairy cemetery, with an infant daughter. Hexham Park was sold again in 1856.)

After selling Hexham Park station, or even before, did Flora move to Port Fairy? Why would she leave the comfort of her Hexham homestead and the company of her sister for the ruggedness of Griffiths Island, a former whaling station? Did she bring her children? If she did, what motivated her? Did her neighbours at Merrang, who had great sympathy for, and employed, displaced Indigenous people influence her? So many questions!

A 'Mrs Dunlop' is mentioned again in local papers in July 1854, advertising the sale and realisation of her house, furniture and livestock on Griffiths Island, following the closure of her school. (Carpenter Thomas Southcombe, newly arrived in Port Fairy, bought the estate and later dismantled the house.) By the list of furniture advertised, Mrs Dunlop certainly didn't 'rough it' on the island - mahogany tables, a pianoforte, hair mattress, etc, all fetched a good price, as did the ladies' saddle horses, draught horse and cart, poultry, cows, calves and a splendid bull.

Shipping records show that 'Mrs Wallace Dunlop and family (5)' left Port Fairy on July 9, 1854, sailing to Sydney.

Flora Dunlop may have stayed in New South Wales for a few years, as she appears to have bought property there and her will states she lived in both Victoria and NSW. A Mrs Dunlop, five children and servant were sailing again, this time from Sydney to Melbourne, in August 1856.

Flora Dunlop then settled in East Brighton, living in grandeur at Whitmuir Hall (subsumed by today's Bentleigh Club) and buying and selling property in Brighton - and in Port Fairy, briefly owning Tatra (Douglas House) in Gipps Street and Braim House (Dr Braim's former school).



Alexandrina Frances Wallace Dunlop, one of Flora's five surviving children

Lighting the Way

It appears Flora made at least one voyage 'home' when she was aged about 60. She returned from Britain in early 1867 with daughter Harriet, 21, and son John, 20. Three daughters married in Melbourne and John in Warrnambool (the fate of a fourth daughter, not mentioned in Flora's will, is unknown). John was among the pioneers of Poowong in Gippsland, where Flora also moved to in 1880, building a homestead she named Glen Wallace. (Believed to be the oldest dwelling in the shire, the 'chock and lock' cabin is noted for its relatively sophisticated log construction of the time.) Flora died at Glen Wallace on August 29, 1891, aged 84, and was buried with her husband in the Melbourne General Cemetery. There are many descendants, including Tim McCartney-Snape, the first Australian to summit Mount Everest.

So, is Flora Rachel Wallace Dunlop and the 'Legend of Griffiths Island' one and the same?

It would appear so, though another recent discovery in the 'Dunlop' files at the Port Fairy Museum has this surprising and, today, highly offensive statement: 'Annie Dunlop was born at Port Fairy in 1852 and, it is believed, was nursed mostly by the black gins.'

Could Annie have been raised on Griffiths Island, and was it in fact her mother, Mary Dunlop, who ran the school for Aboriginal children? Mary and William Dunlop, a miller, arrived in Victoria in November 1850. A son was born in Port Fairy in 1851, dying within a day, then Annie was born some time in 1852. But in November that year, a Mr and Mrs Dunlop and child sailed from Port Fairy to Melbourne. Presumably it is the same family and they may have been just visiting, but by 1854, Mary and William were permanently in Melbourne, with 12 children born in total, six dying young.

So it looks like the money is on Flora Rachel Wallace Dunlop, after all. Or could there be another candidate out there?

Curioser and curioser.

Can the riddle finally be solved? Further information on the 'Mrs Dunlop of Griffiths Island' would be most welcome.

Photos courtesy Mortlake Historical Society and Barbara Taylor, of Melbourne, a great-granddaughter of both Flora Wallace Dunlop and her sister Jemima.



We thank Teresa for this very interesting contribution and hope that it will be the first of a number of articles that she will be writing over coming months.

'Oh, not more about those wretched gas works? Is there no end to this?' Well, just one last time, perhaps.

Prior to the advent of gas in Port Fairy, the streets were lit at night by lamp-posts topped by glass containers enclosing kerosene lamps. A lamp-lighter was employed to clean the lamps and top up the kerosene, using a short ladder which he carried on his shoulder from lamp to lamp, together with a can of 'kero'. In the evening he had to go round lighting the lamps and then, at first light, make the circuit once more putting them out.

The idea of building a gas works had been discussed by the Borough of Belfast Council as early as the mid-1870s. A firm decision to manufacture gas was made in January 1882. Originally it was intended to use petroleum but the Council was persuaded that a coal gas plant would be cheaper.

On 29 February 1884, a meeting of the Belfast Council formally considered a letter from Thomas Bowman, a gas engineer, offering to superintend the entire construction of the Belfast Gas Works, up to the time when the gas supply was turned on, for a fee of £250, to be paid at £20 per month. The Council accepted this offer without demur although, in truth, Bowman had been working on the Belfast project since mid-1882. The works were erected in 1884 to Bowman's design and cost around £3,500. The building and gasometer house were constructed from bricks made by J. Wilshire, who was said to be from Kirkstall but was, in reality, a refugee from Portland. The gas holder arrived in Belfast by the *Casino* in mid-November 1884.

Bowman was no tyro, having performed the same lucrative function for Ballarat, Horsham, Hamilton, Sale, Portland and Warrnambool.

When the gas-producing process was tested, there was obviously some leakage which alarmed residents living close by. Bowman, however, dismissed the leaks as 'trifling and inconsequential—nothing more than he expected' and said they arose 'solely from the porous quality of some of the bricks with which it is constructed. The absorption will soon stop.'

Some of the town's gas lamps were first lit on 14 January 1885, Mrs. William Earle performing the ceremony, after which there was a celebration at the Union Hotel. The Council was so delighted with Bowman's efforts that it presented him with a bonus of 20 guineas of ratepayers' money.

Belfast's lamp posts had been converted to use gas and now the lamp lighter went round each evening, pulling down a chain on one side of the gas lamp, by means of a hook on the end of a long torch, to release the gas. The gas was then lit with a wick on the business end of the torch. In the morning the lamp was easily turned off by pulling down the chain on the opposite side of the lamp. When stocks of coal were running low, as in September 1890, the lamps were turned only half on and cast a baleful light. ❀

The One That Got Away

In the July 1976 edition of *Australian Fisheries* there appeared an article questioning the 'widely held belief that a 36½ ft white pointer shark (*Carcharodon Carcharias*) taken off Port Fairy in Victoria during the 1880s is the largest of its kind ever caught'. The questioning was being done by an American biologist, Dr. John E. Randall, whose suspicions were aroused by the fact that the second largest specimen, caught off Havana, Cuba, was just 21 feet in length. Moreover, the article went on, while the Cuban specimen was accurately measured, the length of the Port Fairy shark was 'a scientific "best guess" based on a study of its jaws, held in the British Museum'. Randall had examined those jaws and declared that, while they were 'impressive', they were not as large as one might have expected. He compared the size of the jaws with those taken from sharks of known length and, after detailed calculation, concluded that the Port Fairy shark was likely to have been just 17 feet 4 inches long. He conceded that some sharks might exceed 21 feet in length – bite marks on whales suggest a maximum length of 25 to 26 feet – but the Port Fairy shark was clearly a case of overestimation.

There are a number of problems with this story, not the least of which is the fact that the jaws are held in the Natural History Museum rather than the British Museum. In addition, although *Australian Fisheries* quoted the 1880s as the period when the shark was 'taken', the date was elsewhere said to have been 1870. Then again, a rather fanciful film about the shark on YouTube states that it was caught in 1860, while the Natural History Museum itself says that the jaws come 'from a great white found stranded on a beach in Port Fairy, Australia. From at least as far back as 1831'.

The picture below shows those jaws being held by Ollie Crimmen, a scientist with the Natural History Museum. Given the date when they are alleged to have been found,



© Natural History Museum

it is not entirely surprising that references to the event are elusive. But pace out 36½ feet and imagine that whole length as an angry, thrashing, killing machine weighing several tons. Would not the discovery of the corpse of this leviathan, about twice the size of any other white pointer, have been the subject of widespread comment? The kindest conclusion is that there was a typographical error when the shark was reported and that 16½ had become 36½ feet.

It is also worth noting that the length of the Cuban shark, caught in 1945, was later said to have also been exaggerated – it had not been 'accurately measured' at all - and was probably around 16 feet. Currently, the largest white pointer that has been caught and measured is a 19.5 feet (6.0m) example caught at Ledge Point, Western Australia in 1987 although, as always, there are unsubstantiated reports of larger specimens.

If 16 or 17 feet is the upper limit for all but the very largest sharks, Port Fairy has had several examples. For instance, in December 1867 a man named Thomas Johnson (can this be the Thomas Johnstone drowned in 1881?), who was fishing for flathead 'opposite Port Fairy East', had just brought a fish to the surface when it was taken by a monstrous shark claimed to be 'at least twenty feet in length'. Alarmed at the prospect of the white pointer upsetting his boat, Johnson pulled for the jetty, in cartoon-like fashion throwing the odd fish overboard as he went, to distract the pursuing shark. When the shark got close to the jetty, John Griffiths is said to have jumped into Johnson's boat with a harpoon and several lances. He stuck the harpoon into the back of the shark, which then took off at a great rate, dragging the boat behind it. This skirmish went on for some time and ended with the shark attacking the boat, leaving some of its teeth stuck in its wooden keel, before finally disappearing.

On 27 January 1877, *The Australasian* reported that, 'The Belfast correspondent of the *Warrnambool Examiner* writes "A narrow escape from being bitten by a shark occurred at Boarding-school Bay a few days ago. It appears that a number of ladies were enjoying a quiet dip, when all of a sudden a monster shark put in an appearance, but fortunately, its dorsal fin was observed above the water by one of the bathers. As soon as the monster was seen, the lady screamed out, and warned her companions of their dangerous position. Of course a rush was made for the shore, but one of them, who happened to be at a greater distance than the rest, was attacked by the shark, and received an ugly wound near the ankle. She was attended to as soon as proper assistance could be obtained. The wound is not of a dangerous nature. The length of the shark was about 6ft."'

A monster it was not, although *The Police News* was so taken with the story that it placed the scene on the

front cover of its 27 January 1877 edition (*below*). One wonders if the girl was happy with the way in which she had been depicted, and if the seagulls do not look more threatening than the shark!

In May 1900 a bottle-nose shark, 15 feet in length and 8 feet in girth, was caught by four fishermen just outside the Moyne River. Its weight was estimated as 30 cwt.

Then, on 19 January 1901 a sixteen-foot shark was said to have been active in the Moyne, close to the junction of the South-West Passage. Two visitors were thinking about bathing in the river when a dog swimming close by was suddenly bitten in half by the shark. Later, Senior-Constable Harris applied to the Customs authorities for permission to net the fish, although how successful he was is not recorded.



State Library of Victoria

On 27 January 1920, Jeremiah Kearney is said to have landed a 17-foot shark on Killarney beach, while on 12 February 1973, three Port Fairy fishermen, Paul Armstrong, Frank Hiscox and Graham Wolff, caught a 17-foot white pointer shark off Lady Julia Percy Island. It was said that the shark had caused \$900 worth of damage to shark nets before it had been landed. When the shark was cut open its stomach contained 'thirty feet of fishing net, six gummy sharks, about ten other fish and two half-grown fur seals weighing about 80lb each which had been swallowed whole'.

In April 1987, it was reported that local fisherman Russell Williams had caught four white pointer sharks in five days off Lady Julia Percy Island, the largest of which was a 15-foot female. *The Gazette* commented that

'The general public never ceases to be amazed when big sharks are brought in and last week was no different with big crowds flocking to the wharf to witness the catch'.

An account of this kind has to include a reference to 'Big Ben' the monstrous shark that has not been seen since the 1960s. This scarred and barnacled fish was seen on numerous occasions, also in the vicinity of Lady Julia Percy Island, but outwitted all attempts to capture it. Its alleged size increases with the passing of the years. ❧❧

An Act of Cruelty

A hospital would not refuse to admit a sick patient, would it? Port Fairy Hospital did on at least four occasions, and two of those cases did the institution little credit.

In July 1868, Edward O'Brien, was refused admission to the hospital and died on a doorstep in Cox Street. According to the *Banner of Belfast*, O'Brien was 'in the very last stage of consumption, and pronounced by Dr. Jermyn to be also suffering from colonial fever', later diagnosed as being one and the same as typhoid. The report said that he had been 'sent about from house to house' and that, as a last resort, was being taken by the police to the gaol when he died.

The inquest was held at the Steam Packet Hotel. Poor O'Brien was said to come from Tower Hill and had been employed as a labourer at Kirkstall during the previous harvest but had 'seemed feeble and was not able to do a man's full work'. The idea of being left to die on a doorstep in the middle of winter, with a hospital just a few streets away, is an appalling one.

In May 1880, an 89-year-old man, Walter Maxwell, was refused admission as a benevolent patient, having already been turned away by the Portland and Hamilton hospitals. He was referred to his own district authority, having recently lived at Harrow. However, Maxwell claimed to have lived in Port Fairy 30 years previously, being then engaged in whaling. He was said to have amused the townspeople by recounting his experiences since he had landed in Australia in 1832, at Port Jackson, in a whaling ship. He declared that he would try at the Warrnambool Hospital next.

Eight years later, on the morning of 26 March 1888, the Port Fairy Hospital Committee met in the Town Hall to consider a request from Councillor Duffus, the Mayor of Koroit, to accept six members of the Hennessy family, aged between six and twenty, all of whom were suffering from typhoid fever. The Hospital's surgeon stated that he would be able to isolate and treat the patients, but it was pointed out that the Committee was able to refuse the admission of patients suffering from contagious diseases. This the Committee decided to do and hence the six individuals were left lying together in what was described as a 'small confined hovel'.

On the following day it was revealed that Warrnambool Hospital had also rejected them, not least because that institution was said to be crowded, with many benevolent patients, and all under a single roof. In such circumstances, to accept typhoid patients was said to be 'an act of cruelty' as far as the other inmates were concerned.

By mid-April, two of the male members of the Hennessy

family had died, with the four survivors still hanging on to life in their 'hovel'.

On 10 April 1888, the Port Fairy correspondent of the *Hamilton Spectator* wrote that,

'The refusal of our hospital committee to take in six typhoid cases from Koroit has created quite a feeling in "Spudopolis" and threats of withdrawals of subscriptions are made with much emphasis. But, fortunately for the continuance of the hospital, the amount received from that quarter is not very great whereas the assistance and accommodation extended to patients from the Koroit neighborhood by the hospital committee is very considerable; in fact half of the hospital cases come from there. So that, instead of exhibiting any opposition, the residents are in their own interests bound to subscribe if they expect to obtain a continuance of the overbalancing help they have hitherto received'.

On 21 April 1888, the same newspaper recorded that,

'The refusal of the Belfast Shire Council to co-operate in the cost of the erection of a proposed fever hospital, for the accommodation of contagious diseases, was received with much surprise; but it was agreed that the Shire of Minhamite and the Borough of Koroit should be asked to join in the movement. The necessity for some such provision has been recently demonstrated in several cases of typhoid fever in the shire and Koroit, which have been compelled to be refused admission to the local hospital in consequence of no accommodation being provided for such cases there'.

In June 1888, a third member of the Hennessy family, a fourteen-year-old girl, died. It was also revealed that, contrary to earlier reports, not even a nurse was available for the three remaining family members, while neighbours were too afraid to approach the house, although someone must have been supplying them with food.

On 12 July the matter came to the notice of Parliament, Mr. Gillies stating that he 'would request the Chief Secretary to see what measures of relief should be taken in connection with an outbreak of typhoid fever in the Hennessy family at Koroit'.

In October, a Dr. Shields 'inspected the neighbourhood' of the house and noted the filthy state of the drain outside it. However, he does not seem to have visited what remained of the family.

The £1000 bequest left by the Rev. Maurice Stack to the Port Fairy Hospital was subsequently used to build the 'Stack Fever Ward'.

Our fourth case dates from May 1919 when it was reported that,

'a man named Jeremiah Kearney, from Killarney was brought into the Hospital in a raving condition, and was supposed to be suffering from Influenza. He was placed in the influenza ward. About 5 o'clock on Thursday morning, while the night nurse was

attending to two critical cases, one of which ended fatally, Kearney escaped from bed, clothed only in a shirt and, after overpowering a male patient from the Benevolent Ward, who had been called in to assist, climbed the wall and got clear away. Search parties were organised during the day, but no tidings of the missing man could be obtained, and little hope of finding him alive was entertained, as the weather was very wet and cold. However, at 4 o'clock a telephone message was received that the missing man was found the other side of Yambuk, a distance of 18 miles. He was brought in by motor, and, after being examined by a doctor, was sent to his home apparently little the worse for his dreadful exposure. The hospital authorities refused to again admit him'.

This must be the same Jeremiah Kearney who caught the 17-foot shark eight months later and continues to wander, now within our pages! ❀❀

On Porpoise

Consider the following views on that intelligent mammal, the playful porpoise, as expressed by local fishermen.

In February 1908, the *Geelong Advertiser* reported that a proposal by the Fisheries authorities to kill 1000 seals on Lady Julia Percy Island had been received with disfavour in Port Fairy. It was considered that the damage done by seals was greatly exaggerated and that a far more serious threat to fisheries was posed by porpoises which occasionally visited the area in enormous shoals.

Over twenty years later, a Port Fairy fisherman was quoted in *The Gazette*, on 27 January 1930, as saying that shoals of porpoises were daily harassing the barracouta in the bay. A few years before it had been unusual to see any porpoises, but now they had become quite common. They did not eat the barracouta, merely chasing them away. The barracouta, meanwhile, had developed the tactic of going to the bottom of the sea whenever the porpoises appeared and staying there until they had gone. Then, in the *Fisheries Newsletter* for October 1949, the following appeared:

'Port Fairy fishermen are seeking the assistance of the Victorian Government and the Commonwealth Ministers for the Air and the Army in dealing with porpoises. The fishermen say that porpoises, which have greatly increased in number, are driving barracouta from the grounds, and the problem has reached such proportions that it was discussed at a public meeting in Port Fairy last month. Mr. A. Turnbull, Chairman of the Port Fairy Fishermen's Co-operative ... suggested that the porpoises should be bombed or machine-gunned by the RAAF, and that the Army should be asked to supply rifles for fishermen. It was decided to approach the Ministers concerned and also seek the aid of the Victorian Chief Secretary, Mr. Leggatt'.

Happily, there is no evidence that this bizarre idea was ever taken seriously. ❀

An Alternative View

On 18 August 1910, *The Argus* carried this short paragraph:

'At the borough council meeting, Councillor Bailey drew attention to the suitability of Port Fairy harbor as a naval base; and, on his motion, it was resolved that the Defence Department should be asked to urge Admiral Henderson¹ to inspect the locality'.

Commenting that it 'looks as if somebody had that family journal by the limb' [*presumably, pulling their leg*], 'Effelle' of *The Bulletin* wrote,

'It was my ill-fortune to spend nearly five years in the vicinity of Port Fairy, so I cannot be accused of speaking out of my turn. Quite apart from the fact that the position of Port Fairy on the map reduces its value to about 4½d., the existence of a harbor was quite unsuspected by me until the publication of the above paragraph. The town, which is in an advanced state of decay, is half a mile up the river Moyne, and owing to the scarcity of water in this stream the small coastal steamer *Casino* was forced to abandon it as a port of call some three or four years ago². A steamer of particularly shallow draught was then built in Scotland for the especial benefit of Port Fairy. In this flat-bottomed vessel (the *Eumeralla*) I twice visited Port Fairy. On the first occasion the skipper sailed before more than half the cargo had been discharged, as he was afraid of being left high and dry when the tide fell. Even then, the grating of the keel on the bottom was distinctly felt half a dozen times on the way out. On the second trip she stuck in the mud several times, but was got off by reversing engines and hauling on a line made fast ashore. A few weeks later she stuck fast, and remained so for some days³. At the time of these two visits the dredge *Pioneer* was engaged dredging a channel for the *Eumeralla*, fully a quarter of a mile out at sea from the mouth of the river.

'The Australian squadron called at Port Fairy during my residence in the district, and I have vivid recollections of endeavoring to board one of the warships, and, with many others, being refused a passage out by the local boats on the ground that the weather was too rough. Many excursionists went out to the anchorage earlier in the day. Some reached the warships. Others didn't. The latter were lucky, as those who got aboard were forced to remain there until evening, and when finally landed their extreme dampness spoke eloquently of the unsheltered state

of the anchorage.

'The writer lays no claim to being a naval expert, but he cheerfully presents the Defence Department with his lay opinion, which is that almost any stretch of open beach has advantages equal to Port Fairy's, and could be transferred into a naval base at the same cost.'

The name 'Effelle' suggests someone with the initials 'F. L.' Only one other contribution to *The Bulletin* by 'Effelle' can be found, from 1912, and this also has a local theme:

"Leo Lear," in his remarks (B. 23/5/12) on the evidences of volcanic activity in the south-west corner of Victoria, omits to mention Tower Hill, the largest crater in that State, and probably in Australia. This ancient funnel of the infernal regions is fully seven miles in circumference, and a third of its bed is taken up by a lake of the usual unfathomable variety. Anyhow, its great depth is vouched for by the icy chill of its water even in the warmest summers. The rest of the bed is just plain swamp, except where, in the centre, an island 700 acres in extent rears its hilltops to the level of the surrounding banks. The belief was once held that Tower Hill, Mount Eccles and Mount Gambier were connected by a subterranean passage. The couple of thousand acres of swamp contain an immense depth of decayed vegetable matter, unequalled as fertiliser. The soil for miles around is amazingly fertile, and produces all the far-famed Warrnambool potatoes. The Koroit water-supply is drawn from a spring half-way down the lake bank. "Leo Lear's" statement that the Mount Eccles crater is full of water is hardly correct. Its precipitous banks rise in places 300 ft. above the water, which is said to rise and fall with the tides of the sea 30 odd miles distant in a horizontal line. The lake is the exact shape of a foot, and as the locality seems to have been Beelzebub's headquarters at one time, no doubt it is one of his footprints. He took a large size in boots, did Beelzebub'.

All of this suggests that 'Effelle' had lived in this area in the fairly recent past, but who 'he' was is unknown. We have examined the careers of all the writers known to have worked for *The Bulletin* around this period but can find none that spent time in south-west Victoria. Of course one of the two co-founders of *The Bulletin* was J. F. Archibald who was born in Geelong, later lived in Warrnambool and is known to have submitted stories about Warrnambool to the *Hamilton Spectator* and the *Belfast Gazette*; but that had been in the 1870s. Archibald spent most of the period between 1906 and 1910 at Callan Park Asylum and so could not have witnessed the events in the first article. Thus the author remains a mystery, but he was not in love with Port Fairy. ❀❀❀

1 Admiral Sir Reginald Henderson who, in 1911, was invited to make recommendations on Australia's naval forces.

2 The *Casino* was laid up for a period before 1910 but largely because of a lack of cargo.

3 In 1909 the *Eumeralla* became wedged across the Moyne for two days, preventing fishermen from getting their boats out.

The Staff of Life

A cartel is an association of manufacturers or suppliers whose purpose is to maintain prices at an inflated level, so restricting competition and ensuring that the customer pays the highest price possible. In towns such as Belfast / Port Fairy, it was not unusual for cartels to operate among butchers, bakers and hotelkeepers. These arrangements held up so long as all the participants stuck by the rules and sold their goods at the agreed price. However, they fell apart as soon as one of their number broke ranks and offered a cheaper product, or until a newcomer started a business and ignored the prices that everyone else was demanding.

An example of the latter occurred in June 1861, when James L. Lamb established a baker's shop in Sackville Street, selling bread, biscuits and pastries. In his advertising he claimed to have 'reduced the price of Bread in Belfast', charging 4d for a two-pound loaf and 8d for a four-pound loaf. Hitherto, a four-pound loaf¹ had sold locally for 10d.

Lamb was effectively launching a price war, putting pressure on those bakers in town who were selling their bread at the higher price. Only nine years before, in December 1852, it was reported that bread in Belfast had reduced from 1s. 9d to 1s. 7d per four-pound loaf. Suffice to say that, by the end of 1861, the going rate for a four-pound loaf in Belfast was 8d.

The put-upon consumer did not only have to consider the price of bread. One Victorian newspaper suggested at the time that 'short weight is suspected to be the rule, and not the exception of the trade'. Thus customers could be hit by both inflated prices and under-sized loaves, even though the law stated that loaves had to be weighed in the presence of the customer - something that was often ignored in the morning rush. An added complication was the fact that a four-pound loaf was known to lose as much as 3 ounces in the 24 hours after it came out of the oven, due to evaporation.

The debate about the price of bread was an ongoing one. On 10 August 1878, the Belfast correspondent of the *Hamilton Spectator* reported that,

'Householders in Belfast have for a long time complained of the high charges made by the local butchers and bakers. When cattle and flour rise in value, a very rapid increase takes place in the price of these two commodities, but a corresponding readiness on the part of tradesmen to reduce does not accompany a fall in these markets, consequently some people have obtained their supplies elsewhere. At Koroit bread can be bought for 6d, while in Belfast 7d is the rate demanded; and a Warrnambool butcher's cart visits Belfast, retailing meat at 3d per lb, whilst our butchers have been selling at 5d and

6d. This week, however, one firm have (to suit the times?) reduced to 3d and 4d for beef, and 2½d to 3½d for mutton. It is certainly a matter for remark that Belfast prices for the two articles named are always higher than those ruling in any of the other towns in the Western District'.

Two years later, on 5 November 1880, *The Gazette* printed this letter from 'Pater':

'Sir, - Can you tell me why it is we have to pay one penny per 4lb. loaf more for our bread than other towns? I am sure it is not because we are better off. For my own part it is my intention to send out of the town for my bread, if the price does not come down'.

As often happened, the bakers were not to be lured into a public debate, kept quiet and stuck to their guns.

On 25 June 1914, *The Gazette* carried the news that the determinations of the Bakers' Wages Board 'would apply to country bakeries'. Already, it said, a Warrnambool baker had sold out, in preference to losing money, while a Colac baker had been forced to get rid of his assistants and enlist members of his family to carry out the work. In its next edition, *The Gazette* detailed the 'sweeping alterations' to the Bakers' Award. It also carried this small item:

'Householders will be interested in the intimation in our advertising columns to the effect that owing to the increase in wages the master bakers of Port Fairy have decided to raise the price of bread to 7d for the 4lb loaf, 3½d for the 2lb loaf and 2d for 1lb loaf. The increase will take place from 1st July'.

A 'Public Notice' on page 3 stated that the three bakers, H. Swann, B. Poole and E. C. Emms would indeed be charging 7d in future.

On 2 July 1914, P. McMahon of the PLC (Political Labor Council) of Port Fairy, wrote to *The Gazette*:

'Sir, -The announcement appearing in the last issue of your paper, intimating that the local bakers had, owing to the increase in wages, decided upon an increase of 1d per 4-lb loaf, has caused great surprise and indignation amongst a great many of the local people. Can the bakers justify the rise? I think not. 'Are the people going to sit and calmly pay out this increase? According to your paper, there are 429 dwellings within the borough. Now, assuming that each dwelling takes 1½ loaves of bread per day (and when you consider the number of hotels, boardinghouses, and large families, you will admit I am calculating on a moderate scale), the increase of one penny per loaf amounts to £18 15s 4½d per week. This is saying nothing about the great number of loaves sold by the local bakers outside the borough. Of the three bakers who have sprung this increase on the people, on the grounds of high wages, one does not employ labor, and another employs a lad.

¹ The four pound loaf was available everywhere and, being equivalent to just over 1.8 kilograms, was much larger than a shop-bought loaf today which weighs around 700 grams.

Assuming that there has been an increase given in wages lately (which I doubt), I venture to say that altogether it would not amount to £1 10s per week'. McMahon's letter went on to say that, if the bakers persisted in selling at the new price, the PLC would call a public meeting to discuss the establishment of a co-operative bakery in the town, with 'the profits going into the pockets of the consumers'.

As far as one of the bakers was concerned, this was too much. In the next issue B. Poole replied as follows:

'The correspondent, T. McMahon, must have a bee in his bonnet when he makes such wild, stupid and silly statements as he did in you last issue. In the first place, the bakers of Port Fairy did not increase the price of bread because of the increase of wages, which he says he doubts, but this doubt he can dispel if he will read your issue of the 25th June. Bakers raised the price of bread on account of the general increase of living expenses, freight, flour, etc. Recently our local butchers increased the price of meat 2d per lb, and nothing was said. We have increased the price of bread ¼d per lb, which is the cheapest food you buy, and immediately there is a howl from ignorant people. In the second place, taking his figures of 429 dwellings, the empty houses don't buy bread, and the people who bake their own don't buy bread. The average consumption is not 6lb of bread per day, nor yet 3lbs of bread per day. In spite of the large number of hotels and boarding houses, which are practically empty (or nearly so) seven months out of the twelve, and only full for three; and in the next place there are not several places with suitable ovens, but only one, and that one would give the average baker a fit if you asked him to bake a batch of bread in it'.

Poole went on to say that he would lease or sell his premises as a co-operative bakery if he could be appointed the baker at the Award rate of four guineas a week 'which I have not earned since I have been in Port Fairy'.

In the next issue, P. McMahon wrote once more:

'So there is only one reply to my letter re the above, and that from a man who does not employ a baker. B. Poole admits - after my challenge to the local bakers - that the rise of one penny a loaf was not on account of the increase in wages. He does not even assert that the bakers have given an increase in wages. The announcement in the "Gazette" of the 29th ultimo, that "owing to the increase in wages" is therefore on B. Poole's admission, incorrect. Had I not challenged the local bakers on the question, would that admission have been forthcoming? I think not. These days the workers are blamed for every rise, and I feel sure that if the reasons were sifted - as in this case - not one of the employers could justify such increased prices to higher wages. Had the bakers acknowledged when making the rise - as B. Poole has acknowledged - that the rise in bread was not owing to higher wages being

paid, but to the high cost of living, I would not have encroached upon your space. I admit that owing to the operations of trusts and combines, such as the flour ring and meat trust, that prices have gone up, but still I assert that an increase of one penny per loaf of bread is unwarranted and unjustified'.

There was more of the same, McMahon challenging 'any baker in Port Fairy to prove that he pays a baker anything like four guineas per week, as B. Poole would like to convey to your readers'.

In the next issue of *The Gazette* there were three letters on the subject, one from P. R. Irwin who stated that he worked for Mr. H. Swann and, under the new agreement, now received four pounds, three shillings per week. A second letter, from 'Exorcist', accused McMahon of having raised 'the old Labor bogey - trusts and combines' and quoted some Labor sources which suggested that combinations were good for the working man. The third letter was from B. Poole who claimed that he would remain in comparative poverty despite the additional penny per loaf and that 'I believe I made a mistake when I said that he [McMahon] had a bee in his bonnet. It's a rat, evidently'.

Like a troublesome bush fire, this issue never entirely went away and two years later, on 6 April 1916, 'Mother' wrote to *The Gazette* saying:

'Is it possible that the house-holders of Port Fairy are going to submit placidly to a continuance of present prices? The cash price of the 4-lb. loaf in Melbourne is now 6½d - in Port Fairy 9d! I think the time has arrived when there should be a vigorous outcry against such extortion, and I venture to say, if one of the bakers of the district had enterprise enough to visit Port Fairy daily and sell at a fair price, the local trade would vanish in a twinkling. It seems as if only some drastic measure of that nature would remedy things locally'.

As previously suggested, both the butchers and hotelkeepers were clearly involved in similar behaviour. For instance, on 3 December 1919 *The Age* reported that, 'The six hotelkeepers in the borough have, from 1st December, increased the price of colonial ale from 3d to 6d. per glass. The former price had obtained here for the last 30 years. The hotelkeepers have entered into a bond agreeing to forfeit £20 to the hospital should it be proved that they have sold drinks under 6d. A beer strike has, in consequence, taken place in the borough, and a meeting of protest has been publicly convened for Wednesday night'.

Mineral waters also doubled in price and there were claims that the hotelkeepers (C. Presnell, A. Page, A. Roberts, J. Maloney, A. Manuell and J. A. Gauley) were making a 230% profit. The strike fizzled out before Christmas, when a good time was had by all. Of course this was a hundred years ago and such practices would not be tolerated today. Would they? ❀❀

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