

# TUBBUT TATTLER

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**April 2018**

**Tubbut Neighbourhood House**

E-mail: [tubbutnh@inet.net.au](mailto:tubbutnh@inet.net.au)

Phone: 02 64580295

Open Wednesday, Thursday and Friday

<http://www.tubbutnh.com> Like us on Facebook

Next deadline: April 24th



Photo taken by Shoshanah Keller

Classifieds	2	Bogong Moths	10-11
Tubbut Neighbourhood House	3-4	The Weather	13-14
What's On	5	Health	15
Local History	6-7	Mount Deddick	
Farmers and Growers	8-9	Silver Lead Field	16-19
		Calendar	20

# CLASSIFIEDS

Orbost Solar and Electrical  
Happy to come to our area and comes highly  
recommended by the Tubbut Neighbourhood  
House  
Call Ben on 0434038395



## WANTED

Old crockery of any colour except white, can  
have patterns, can be broken.  
Please contact Sue Collins 64580287 or the NH,  
or leave at the Bonang Hall.

**Vic Roads Tree on Road**  
Call 131170  
**Rural Roads Victoria** (report road surface  
issues )  
Call 03515223344

## Septic getting full?

Robert Hampshire will pump out your loo. Septic tanks,  
porta-loos— no problems Truck has capacity to handle 2  
tanks/trip Phone: 0417423983  
Please keep your old glass bottles for Robert too as  
he is a passionate collector.

## Bobcat contractor for hire

Slashing, clearing, small earthworks, levelling,  
preparation for sheds, carports, water tanks and  
paving and clean ups  
Ring Steve 02 6458 0303 or email ste-  
phenscroope@bigpond.com

## FOR HIRE

The Tubbut Neighbourhood House has the follow-  
ing for Hire:

Trailer—\$5.00 per day  
Wood Splitter—\$10.00 per day

*You can also borrow many of our books & gadg-  
ets:*

Laminator, recording VHS to DVD player, Laptop,  
tablet, digital photo scanner, convert photos, slides  
or negatives to digital, record records to USB

## Bates' Fencing & Machine Hire

-Large 90hp Compact Track Loader.  
Tracks ensure minimal ground disturbance.  
- 900 mm Trencher ideal for pipe / cable laying  
- 6 ft slasher for paddock, scrub & advanced re-  
growth clearing with tree pusher, ideal for fence  
line maintenance.  
- 1600mm Road Broom / sweeper  
- 300mm post hole auger  
- Bucket, dozer blade , pallet & hay forks  
- Fan assisted sprayer for difficult terrain  
- Experienced operator  
- Fully insured & GST registered  
- Experienced in Rural fence design & construc-  
tion  
Call Mark on 02 64580225



**Police:** Bendoc 64581523  
Delegate 64599044  
Bomabala 64583444

**Hospital—** Delegate 64598000

**Health Direct and GP helpline** 1800022222

## Available for cleaning (only)

**Contact Natasha 64588162 or 0408477774**

The Tubbut Tattler is produced by the Coordinators of the Tubbut Neighbourhood House which is funded by the Victorian Government. Material herein is the responsibility of the authors and does not represent the views of the DVICG or Tubbut Neighbourhood House unless stated. We welcome material from, and of interest to, people in the border areas of East Gippsland and NSW.

**Tattler Contributions:** We welcome your ar-  
ticles, news, reports on local groups, photos from  
local events, milestones, interesting stories, po-  
ems, biographies, births, deaths, historical items,  
and more. *We also welcome any letters to the  
editors.*

# Tubbut Neighbourhood House

## Neighbourhood House Week

This year for Neighbourhood Week we will be celebrating our great little house with a community lunch and also a craft activity, we have also decided as it is in May that we will incorporate **Australia's Biggest Morning Tea**, we are asking for everyone to bring their favourite cake or slice to share so please save the date 16th May at 10am and come along and celebrate with us.



## School Update

On the 14th of March a meeting was held at Tubbut to discuss putting forward a proposal to the Education Department in regard to the removal of the Tubbut Campus buildings. 10 community members attended the meeting with input from others who were unable to come. There was a lot of discussion around the neighbourhood house having use of part of the facility for adult education, workshops ect.. Also using the new small room between the two classrooms for health services, the school has awesome internet so thinking we could set it up so as community members could possibly access medical services via this system, also it would be a great place for Birgit to see her clients with the possibility of ORH providing other services as well? On a completely different note there was a lot of talk about setting up an environmental centre providing guided tours, offering city schools the opportunity to camp and explore our magnificent wilderness, 4 wheel drive groups who have commented on lack of camping facilities in the area. We have so much to offer in our beautiful part of the world but due to lack of available facilities visitors often just pass through. We also discussed the opportunity for local employment in the catering side of things as well as running activities for the school groups, and then of course there is the cleaning and maintenance of the buildings and grounds. All in all we feel that we have put forward some great ideas and can only hope that the department sees this as not just another school closure and removal but as an opportunity to breath life back into a remote rural area.

## Silk Painting Workshop

We will be running another Silk Painting workshop at Tubbut on the 17th of April 10.00am bring along your lunch and creativity.



# Tubbut Neighbourhood House

## Service Outreach News

Our Fund Holder for Primary Health Care has asked me to provide a questionnaire to all community members. Your feedback will help the Fund Holder and the local Health Service to consider and plan future service needs for the area. The questionnaire will be distributed to all letterboxes in the very near future, there will hopefully also be an online questionnaire for people who prefer it to a paper copy. The aim is to get these out by next week and have them returned by end of April. I understand that everyone is a bit over questionnaires, but I hope you will all fill one out with as much detail as possible, so I can paint an accurate picture of what is needed. It's not just looking at GP services, but also non-medical services.

Your privacy will be assured, there is no need to put your name on the questionnaire if you don't want to, just some basic demographic info please. The finished questionnaires will come to me and the Fund Holder will only get collated data, (no raw data) this also assures your privacy.

I am planning to do the rounds in each area (Goongerah, Bonang, Tubbut, Deddick and Bendoc) in the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of April and spend some time at each hall to answer any questions people may have, or call in at homes to get maximum return of questionnaires. We need numbers to give quality feedback.

I am available at the Bonang Hall after the meeting on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April from 5pm if you are not planning to attend the Shire meeting, please call in then.

Please email me should you have questions or have the questionnaire emailed to you –

[Birgit.Schaedler@orh.com.au](mailto:Birgit.Schaedler@orh.com.au)

## Friends of Errinundra Working Bee at the Old Growth Walk Sat 13th April

Meet at the Bendoc DEWLP/Parks Vic Office for carpooling at 9.00 am or at the car park of The Old Growth Walk.

New members are welcome, you just need to become a member of the Friends of Errinundra for \$5 a year. You will be covered under the Volunteer insurance of Parks Victoria.

## Fettuccine With Spinach, Ricotta, and Grilled Eggplant

- 2 small eggplants (1½ pounds total), sliced lengthwise ½ inch thick
- 2 tablespoons olive oil, plus more for serving
- kosher salt and black pepper
- 16 to 18 ounces fresh fettuccine
- 5 ounces baby spinach (6 cups)
- 2 teaspoons red wine vinegar
- 1 cup ricotta
- crushed red pepper (optional)

Heat grill to medium. Brush the eggplant with the oil and season with ½ teaspoon salt and ¼ teaspoon black pepper. Grill until tender, 5 to 6 minutes per side. Transfer to a cutting board and cut into bite-size pieces.

Meanwhile, cook the fettuccine according to the package directions. Reserve ½ cup of the cooking water; drain the fettuccine and return it to the pot.

Add the eggplant, spinach, vinegar, ¼ cup of the reserved cooking water, ½ teaspoon salt, and ¼ teaspoon black pepper to the fettuccine and toss to combine. (Add more cooking water if the fettuccine seems dry.) Serve topped with the ricotta and, if desired, red pepper, and additional oil.



# What's On

## Movie Screening *A Star is Born*



### Join us for the screening of the latest remake of *A Star is Born*

Seasoned musician Jackson Maine falls in love with struggling artist Ally. She has almost given up on stardom but Jack coaxes her in to the spotlight.

As Ally's career blossoms, Jack struggles with his own demons.

Phone 5152 4225 or book in person at the library for this FREE event.

Monday 1 April  
Bairnsdale Library  
2.00 pm – 4.15 pm

Tuesday 9 April  
Ormeo  
Service Centre  
2.00 pm – 4.15 pm

Tuesday 9 April  
Orbost  
Service Centre  
2.00 pm – 4.15 pm

Wednesday 10 April  
Lakes Entrance  
Service Centre  
2.00 pm – 4.15 pm

Thursday 11 April  
Bairnsdale Library  
2.00 pm – 4.15 pm

Friday 12 April  
Paynesville  
Service Centre  
10.30 am – 12.45 pm  
and 2.00 pm – 4.15 pm

**EAST GIPPSLAND**  
SHIRE LIBRARIES

**FREE BOOKINGS REQUIRED**

## Tech Help Sessions by appointment



### Bring along your own device for 30 minutes of one-on-one assistance

Support is limited to the use of devices, applications and browsers but does not cover problems relating to security, repairs or purchase recommendations.

Book your appointment by phoning 5152 4225 or in person at the library for these free sessions.

The half hour appointments are available between 1.30 pm and 4.00 pm on the following dates:

Friday 5 April  
Paynesville Service Centre

Thursday 11 April  
Lakes Entrance Service Centre

Thursday 18 April  
Bairnsdale Library

**Libraries**  
Change Lives



# WOORARA WANIK WARING

MOUNTAIN PATHWAY TO THE SEA

## ABORIGINAL ART SHOW

22 MARCH - 29 APRIL 2019

**WINNERS ANNOUNCED  
AT SPECIAL OPENING EVENT  
6PM FRIDAY 22 MARCH | ALL WELCOME | FREE**

GUNAİKURNAL LAND AND WATERS ABORIGINAL CORPORATION | 27 SCRIVENERS ROAD, KALIMNA WEST

Mount Hotham Resort Management sponsored category:

The true spirit of Alpine Australia  
[www.gunaikurnal.org](http://www.gunaikurnal.org)

For opening times and more  
info call GLaWAC 03 5152 5100



## ERRINUNDRA TO SNOWY DISTRICT COMMUNITY PLAN



### Kick Start Your District Community Plan Session

The Kick Start session will focus on how the community will make the District Community Plan happen;

- Development of District Community Representative Group and Working Groups
- Understanding Community Capacity - time, resources, skills
- What we will focus on in the next 12 month Action Plan

Food and refreshment provided.

**Date:** Sunday, 7 April 2019

**Time:** 10am – 3pm

**Location:** Bonang Hall

**Tell us you're coming and let us know if you have any dietary requirements:**

Contact **Beni McIlroy** on

(03) 5153 9500 (phone) or

[StrategicP@gipps.vic.gov.au](mailto:StrategicP@gipps.vic.gov.au) (email)

# Local History

Continued from February Tattler

## Borderliners who joined the First World War campaign

### ER/2/Lance Corporal William Harold Hutchison

**Service No:** 3373

**Unit:** 56<sup>th</sup> Battalion, then Anzac Provost Corps

**Date of Enlistment:** 21<sup>st</sup> January 1916

**Place of Enlistment:** Goulburn, NSW

**Place of Birth:** Bonang, Victoria

**Next of Kin:** Mrs. William Hutchison (Mother), Murrungowar, Victoria

**Age at Enlistment:** 23 years of age (Born 19<sup>th</sup> January 1893)

#### Particulars of Service:

2/5/1916 - Embarked at Sydney per HMAT A20 "Hororata"  
9/6/1916 - Disembarked at Suez  
2/8/1916 - Embarked at Alexandria to join BEF  
22/8/1916 - To 8th Training Battalion, Larkhill, England  
11/11/1916 - Proceeded overseas to France per "Golden Eagle"  
1/12/1916 - Taken on strength 56<sup>th</sup> Battalion  
12/12/1916 - To hospital sick, Diarrhoea  
18/12/1916 - Rejoined unit  
26/12/1916 - To hospital sick, Trench Feet  
3/1/1917 - Invalided to UK  
4/1/1917 - Admitted to Military Hospital, Boscombe  
19/2/1917 - Transferred to 1<sup>st</sup> Auxiliary Hospital, Harefield  
1/3/1917 - To furlough until 16/3/1917, then to No.2 Com. Dep., Weymouth  
9/7/1917 - To No.1 Com. Dep., Perham Downs  
11/8/1917 - Marched out to temporary duty with Anzac Prov. Corps, Hurdcott  
26/8/1917 - Taken on strength Anzac Provost Corps, Tidworth  
20/6/1918 - Sick to hospital, Codford until 22/6/1918  
9/9/1918 - To King George Hospital, with Pleurisy until 18/9/1918  
20/11/1918 - Proceeded overseas to France  
10/2/1919 - Appointed ER 2/Corporal  
12/3/1919 - To London with Anzac Provost Corps  
30/8/1919 - To indefinite leave awaiting family and ship  
8/10/1919 - Embarked for return to Australia per "Benalla" with his brother Roy Cecil  
26/11/1919 - Disembarked in Melbourne  
18/1/1920 - Medically discharged from AIF

William was the 3rd of 12 children born to William and Fanny Selina (nee White) Hutchison (see above).

Whilst in the UK, William met and married Eunice Minnie Kathlee Boudrie, on 24<sup>th</sup> July 1919 at the Established Church, Dartford, Kent, England. Eunice was born on 12<sup>th</sup> August 1896 at Dartford, Kent, England, and died on 16<sup>th</sup> October 1981 in Perth, Western Australia, at the age of 85 years. At the time of their marriage, Eunice, who was 22 years of age, was working as a tailoress, and residing at 22 Barham Road, Dartford. Her father, Ernest, was a joiner. In 1922, several of Eunice's family migrated to Australia.

Harold and Eunice had four children.

After returning to Australia, Harold obtained a Soldier Settlement allotment at the base of Mt. Emu, near Trewalla.

*Harold passed away on 31<sup>st</sup> January 1974 in Melbourne, Victoria, at the age of 81 years.*

### Private John Owen Matthews

**Service No:** 2186

**Unit:** 4<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements 55<sup>th</sup> Battalion

**Date of Enlistment:** 6<sup>th</sup> January 1916

**Place of Enlistment:** Delegate, NSW

**Place of Birth:** Wallendibby, Corrowong, Delegate, NSW

**Next of Kin:** Edith Matthews (sister), Cardiff, Newcastle

**Age at Enlistment:** 38 years and 4 months (Born 16<sup>th</sup> October 1877)

# Local History

## Particulars of Service:

11/7/1917 - Discharged from AIF due to bronchitis  
4/9/1916 - Embarked at Sydney per A15 "Port Sydney"  
29/10/1916 - Disembarked Plymouth  
14/12/1916 - Sick to hospital (scabies)  
28/1/1917 - Marched in from hospital  
4/3/1917 - Marched out to Home Service Coy, Hurdcott  
8/3/1917 - Marched in from Hurdcott  
16/3/1917 - Marched out to Weymouth  
10/6/1917 - Returned to Australia per "Barracuda" for discharge due to bronchitis

Notes: He also listed, in the next of kin section, his brother, James Matthews, of Upper Delegate River, Victoria. John was the eldest of 9 children born to John and Rebecca (nee Collins) Matthews. John was born on 8th November 1846 at Goulburn, NSW, and died on 12th May 1897 in Bombala, NSW after falling from his horse while crossing the Little Plains Bridge when returning home to Bendoc from Bombala. He was buried in the Bombala Cemetery. He was aged 50 years.

Rebecca was born on 24th March 1856 at Corrowong near Delegate, and died on 22nd May 1907 at Delegate, at the age of 51 years. The couple married on 18th October 1876 at Wallendibby (near Delegate), NSW.

Two of John's brothers also served in WWI. Hugh enlisted on 22nd February 1916 at Goulburn, and served until 20th March 1918. Henry enlisted on 27th May 1915, and was accidentally killed in England, on 8th January 1918.

*John never married, and he passed away in 1949 in Orbost, Victoria, at the age of 71 years.*

*He is remembered on the Delegate War Memorial.*

## Private Hugh Matthews

**Service No:** 2192

**Unit:** 55<sup>th</sup> Battalion

**Date of Enlistment:** 22<sup>nd</sup> February 1916

**Place of Enlistment:** Goulburn, NSW

**Place of Birth:** Bendoc, Victoria

**Next of Kin:** James Matthews (Brother), Upper Delegate River, Victoria

**Age at Enlistment:** 26 years 5 months (Born 1<sup>st</sup> September 1888)

## Particulars of Service:

4/9/1916 - Embarked at Sydney per HMAT A15 "Port Sydney"  
29/10/1916 - Disembarked at Plymouth  
14/12/1916 - Proceeded overseas to France per "Princess Henrietta"  
16/12/1916 - Appointed Acting Corporal  
24/12/1916 - Taken on strength 55<sup>th</sup> Battalion and reverted to Private  
2/4/1917 - Wounded in action, gunshot wound ankle, severe  
9/4/1917 - Invalided to UK, to Eastbourne Military Hospital  
27/8/1917 - Transferred to 3<sup>rd</sup> Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford  
31/8/1917 - To furlough until 14/9/1917, and report to No.2 Com. Dep., Weymouth  
16/9/1917 - On strength No.2 Com. Dep., Weymouth  
21/12/1917 - Embarked for return to Australia per "Persic"  
14/2/1918 - Disembarked in Australia  
20/3/1918 - Medically discharged from AIF

Hugh was the 7<sup>th</sup> of 9 children born to John and Rebecca (nee Collins) Matthews. John was born on 8<sup>th</sup> November 1846 at Goulburn, NSW, and died on 12<sup>th</sup> May 1897 in Bombala, NSW after falling from his horse while crossing the Little Plains Bridge when returning home to Bendoc from Bombala. He was buried in the Bombala Cemetery. He was aged 50 years.

Rebecca was born on 24<sup>th</sup> March 1856 at Corrowong near Delegate, and died on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1907 at Delegate, at the age of 51 years. The couple married on 18<sup>th</sup> October 1876 at Wallendibby (near Delegate), NSW.

Two of Hugh's brothers also served in WWI. John Owen enlisted on 6<sup>th</sup> January 1916 at Delegate, and was a member of the Men from Snowy River Recruitment march. He served until 8<sup>th</sup> April 1917. Henry enlisted on 27<sup>th</sup> May 1915, and was sadly accidentally killed on 8<sup>th</sup> January 1918.

Hugh married Millicent Ida Rose Robinson on 24<sup>th</sup> April 1924 at Orbost, Victoria. Millicent was born on 19<sup>th</sup> June 1907 at Orbost and died in 1971 in Orbost, at the age of 63 years. The couple had 3 daughters, Myra Joan, Margaret Rose and Una, and one son, Hugh James.

*Hugh passed away on 30<sup>th</sup> August 1969 at Orbost, at the age of 80 years.*

# Farmers and Growers

## Farmers call drought 'a natural disaster' as daily dust storms, gale-force winds strip farms bare By [Isabella Pittaway](#) ABC Rural

As gale-force winds create huge dust storms in Victoria's Central Gippsland, farmers say it is time to call the drought a natural disaster as the little remaining topsoil is blown away from paddocks.

### Key points:

- Days of 100km/h winds have blown away topsoil in parts of Victoria's Gippsland
  - Dams have been contaminated and stock are no longer eating due to the dust storms
- Farmers are calling for government to declare it a natural disaster and to be provided with improved financial support

Winds of more than 100 kilometres per hour battered bare paddocks across Giffard and Seaspray yesterday, causing sandy topsoil to build up along fences and roads.

Fifth-generation farmer, Andy McNaughton, drove away from his Seaspray farm because he could not stand to watch the ongoing damage to his drought-affected paddocks.

"All our dams are contaminated, we've got all our stock in containment, so they're drinking out of troughs, even they get contaminated in this dust. The dust just keeps blowing in through sheds, blowing up against fence lines, blowing across the Seaspray Road, which sorry we can't help that."

### Dust storms putting stock at risk

Mr McNaughton said sheep have stopped eating because of the dust storms.

"The stock sulk, they don't eat, and now they're starting to get cold which is the next big problem. They just sit in the corner and sulk, they don't like having sand in their eyes either."

Mr McNaughton had hoped to try and put in some crops to grow feed but said the past few days has made that impossible."

The conditions have left farmers in the region even more concerned heading into winter.

"We've got no confidence to even touch the ground, stir it up and make it worse. That's about where we're at. No one's been through this in this area. Normally this area here, we can grow feed all the way through the winter but now that it's like this we'll start getting into frosts and it will really knock us for six."

Mr McNaughton has been battling feed bills of \$50,000 a month despite reducing his flock to a quarter.

"We've got ewes that are meant to lamb in the next four or five weeks — we don't know how that's going to go in containments. It's going to be very tough."

### Paddocks left bare

Giffard West farmer, Steve Harrison, said yesterday's gale-force winds have left nothing in his paddocks.

"It is a natural disaster down here after the wind we've had yesterday and potentially today, he said. Even if we get rain now, it's going to be two or three months before we get any growth. If this was a flood [it'd] straight away be [declared] a natural disaster."

Mr Harrison said farmers across Giffard and Seaspray were tired of being forgotten by the government and that [continued calls for rate relief have been ignored](#). "We don't want to be entertaining politicians if they're not going to bring something for us, we're a bit over that. We need recognition of this district between Yarram and Sale, obviously beyond Central Gippsland and East Gippsland, to put us on the map. Really we're the forgotten drought at the moment." Mr Harrison said the ongoing dust storms have been the last thing the region's drought-affected farmers needed.

"It certainly is the straw that's going to break the camel's back. Today is forecast gale-force winds again and there's basically not a lot we can do on the run. We've just gotta batten down today and hopefully get through today, and again look for that elusive rain."



# Farmers and Growers

## Shire offers free silage wrap disposal

East Gippsland Shire Council is offering free silage wrap disposal as part of its efforts to support drought-affected farmers.

The offer will be available at Bairnsdale Landfill ,Orbost Transfer Station and Omeo from Monday, April 1 to Sunday, June 30.

The silage wrap needs to be shaken and as clean as possible, and will be accepted in Bulka bags, wool bags or Plasback bags without net wrap or twine.

Silage wrap is made of a high quality linear low-density polyethylene plastic which is a wasted resource if sent to landfill. Burning silage wrap is illegal and it also releases harmful chemicals into the atmosphere.

Bairnsdale Landfill is located at 200 Johnsons Road, Forge Creek and Orbost Transfer Station is at 351 Bonang Road.

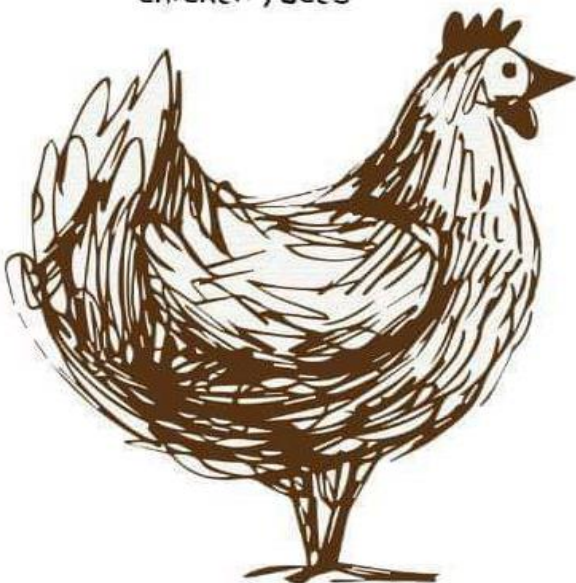
For opening times visit council's website, [eastgippsand.vic.gov.au/waste](http://eastgippsand.vic.gov.au/waste). For more information on the silage wrap program contact Kartik Venkatraman, Manager Waste and Resource Recovery on 5153 9500.

## Fun Facts about Chickens



Can recognize more than 100 human or chicken faces

Hens talk to their babies in their eggs, before hatching. Chicks peep back!



See a broader range of color than humans

Use more than 24 vocalizations to convey specific information.

Have a sense of time duration and prediction of future rewards.

# Bogong Moths

## DECLINE IN BOGONG MOTH NUMBERS COULD HAVE CATASTROPHIC EFFECTS IN THE AUSTRALIAN ALPS

Millions of bogong moths normally line the walls of caves in the Australian Alps over summer, but for the past two years there have been zero moths in some caves.

It's a trend that concerns scientists like Eric Warrant.

Every year Professor Warrant returns from Lund University in Sweden to his house — and field laboratory — in Adaminaby in New South Wales to study the moths and their [incredible migratory skills](#).

Last year he was shocked to find two caves he regularly visited had no moths at all. A third, larger cave in the Snowy Mountains had fewer than previous years, but still millions of moths, he said.

When he came back again this year, what he found was "catastrophic".

"I went again to those two caves and found the same thing — no moths. But what was really scary was the bigger cave was also completely empty," Professor Warrant said.

"We're talking about caves that normally would have tens of millions of moths in each, easily.

Each spring, Bogong moths migrate from their breeding grounds in southern Queensland, north and western New South Wales and Victoria to the Australian Alps.

The decline in moth numbers is likely to be caused by a lack of rainfall due to winter drought in these breeding areas and climate change, according to Professor Warrant.

"Normally there is at least enough rain for the vegetation to be able to grow sufficiently to feed the caterpillars, but that hasn't been the case this year or last year," he said.

However, not all the caves in the area have been depleted.

Professor Warrant and his team found another cave covered in moths, but he said, they can't tell whether the numbers in this cave are different from previous years for lack of data.

He said the differences in the cave numbers suggested moths came from different breeding grounds, where one location wasn't as badly affected by the drought as the other.

"I don't think they will disappear completely, but there's certainly a possibility that they could become locally extinct at their breeding grounds."

Food source for threatened possums

### FOOD SOURCE FOR THREATENED POSSUMS

Bogong moths are a very important source of protein in the Alps for wildlife including the threatened mountain pygmy possum and other insectivorous mammals and birds.

"Bogong moths bring a huge influx of nutrients and productivity into the Alps," said alpine biologist Kate Umbers from the University of Western Sydney.

"Losing them would affect everything," she said.

Reports of starving mountain pygmy possums with dead young in their pouches suggest it already has.

Ecologist John Morgan from La Trobe University has just returned from teaching fieldwork in the Mount Hotham region, where he said he hasn't seen bogong moths for two years.

"The mountain pygmy possums we trapped last week are pretty skinny for this time of year," Professor Morgan said.

"Many of them were about half their normal size, and there's been babies dead in the mother's pouch."



Bogong moths are a vital part of the Australian Alp ecosystem. (Supplied: Ajay Narendra)

# Bogong Moths (cont)

As males only live for around four years, another summer of failed reproduction would mean a very limited number of mates, he added.

Euan Ritchie, a wildlife ecologist at Deakin University, said a big collapse in insect populations could have a profound effect on a whole range of species.

There's also an eerie parallel to the plight of the eastern quoll, which nearly disappeared in Tasmania when their preferred food source was diminished.

"Originally it was thought the [quoll] decline was due to climate change directly," Professor Ritchie said.

"But it turned out that the quolls were really dependent on a type of beetle larvae which are affected by changes in weather."

The grubs were depleted and so were the quolls, with those left shifting their diet onto other insects and small mammals.

"So there are more knock-on effects for other species too," Professor Ritchie said.

## ALPINE INSECTS FACE PERFECT STORM OF THREATS

Long-term trends in the total numbers of bogong moths are unknown.

According to Dr Umbers there isn't much counting of anything going on in the Alps due to a lack of resources.

"The biggest tragedy is we don't have the data or support for longitudinal research to know if there's been changes in alpine insects," she said.

"Even the grasshoppers that I study, I can't tell you whether there has been a change over the past 12 years, I have no data."

While insect populations around the world are suffering from human disturbance and climate change, Dr Umbers said alpine insects, as well as other alpine wildlife, were facing their own perfect storm of threats.

"Feral animals like foxes and cats are known to eat insects, and feral horses damage the alpine habitat," she said.

"The vulnerability of the Australian Alps to climate change is the worst in the world because we've got these short little mountains so when it gets warmer, there is nowhere for these cold-adapted species to go."

Professor Ritchie said insects are right on the frontline of climate change.

"People think insects are resilient to climate change, but species in rainforests or mountains for example have a limited thermal tolerance, so even small increases in temperature can knock insects for six," he said.

"I think people are realising more that insects are actually being directly affected by changes in weather and climate, not just things like pesticides."

"If it continues down this path we're likely to see these quite diabolical extinction cascades where you lose one species after another because everything's interconnected," Professor Ritchie said.

## Insect decline a "wake-up" call



**A study has found 41 per cent on average of all insect species around the world have declined.**



# In the Garden

## National Eucalyptus Day: Five things you might not know about these flowering giants

By Thea Williams 23 March 2018

They might have lucked out in the stakes to win the tag as Australia's floral emblem, in favour of the showy wattle. But eucalypts do have their own national day—March 23. And for good reason. Eucalypts say a lot about what makes the Australian continent unique.

Here are five things you might not know about eucalypts and how they define Australia:

1 Eucalypts are the tallest flowering plant on Earth. The giant of them all is the *Eucalyptus regnans*, in Tasmania, with the current tallest individual measuring nearly 100 m and historical records suggesting [the tallest was cut down in Victoria at 114 m in 1880](#). Of the almost 900 eucalypt varieties, 894 are native to Australia. (There's a small footnote here: Australia might feel defined by them but the oldest scientifically identified fossil was found in South America – in Patagonia. In research from [Cornell University](#) published in [2011](#), fossils of leaves, flowers, fruits and buds were identified as Eucalyptus dating to 51.9 million years ago – the only conclusive identification of *naturally* occurring Eucalyptus outside of Australasia.) [Investigate different varieties by exploring our interactive key to Australian species and subspecies of eucalypts.](#)

2 Eucalypts give Australia much of its colour and smell. They are one of the highest emitters of biogenic volatile organic compounds, BVOCs. It's a genus that covers most of south-eastern Australia and because of this, the region is considered a global hotspot for BVOCs. BVOCs are also what gives the [Blue Mountains the blue haze](#) – caused by a chemical reaction in the atmosphere, driven by a compound called isoprene. Isoprene is one of scores of compounds in the atmosphere that contribute to air pollution and the creation of particles that are harmful to our health.

3 Eucalypts demonstrate what makes Australian environments efficient. Those that grow up to 20 m tall can do so on as little as 250 mm mean annual rainfall, where similar Mediterranean climates on other continents would only support shrub lands. Conversely, in the Top End of north Australia, the eucalypts rarely get that tall, despite receiving five times the rainfall. This rain all comes in the 'big wet' and followed by the dry season. Eucalypt woodlands dominate the top third of Australia, growing on the ancient, infertile sand-sheets and coping with annual drought and frequent fires. Northern eucalypts also largely reproduce via re-sprouts, with less than 1 per cent regeneration by seed.

4 Eucalypts are the great survivors. In the Murray Mallee region bordering around South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales, the eucalypt mallee trees colonised and stabilised the great sand dunes formed during the dry period of the last ice age 11,000 years ago. These short, multi-stemmed trees are adapted to low rainfall (< 240 mm per year) and they survive the bushfires that sweep the Mallee every 25 to 30 years. They survive because they form a large lignotuber (the "mallee root") just below the ground. The root is often several hundreds of years old – and can be [aged to 900 years](#). When a fire burns the top of the tree, new stems grow from the old protected root and a new mallee tree springs up within a few months.

5 Eucalypts are the greatest recyclers of CO<sub>2</sub> and key to how this continent responds to greenhouse gas emissions. [TERN](#), [Australia's land ecosystem observatory](#), has built a network of monitoring sites around Australia that continuously measures the exchanges (fluxes) of carbon dioxide, water vapour and energy between the terrestrial ecosystem and atmosphere. The [Great Western Woodlands is the world's most extensive area of temperate woodland](#), covering three times the area of Tasmania. An OzFlux Tower constructed in the woodlands at a place called Credo monitors these trees which live life on the edge. The data collected at the site allow scientists to detect the trees' responses to environmental change and understand what this means for the future.



# The Weather

**Australian summers are getting hotter.** Today marks the end of our warmest summer on record, setting new national temperature records. Worsening drought, locally significant flooding, damaging bushfires, and heatwaves capped a summer of extremes.

As we look to autumn, warmer temperatures overall and below average rainfall – especially in eastern parts of the country – are likely.

## Very hot...

The starkest feature of this summer was the record warmth. The national average temperature is expected to be about 2.1c above average, and will easily beat the previous record high set in summer 2012-13 (which was 1.28c warmer than average).

Very low rainfall accompanied the record heat of summer. At the national scale, each month was notably dry, and total summer rainfall was around 30% below average; the lowest for summer since 1982–83. The monsoon onset was delayed in Darwin until the 23rd of January (the latest since 1972–73) and typical monsoonal weather was absent for most of summer. In December 2018 Australia saw its highest mean, maximum and minimum temperatures on record (monthly averages, compared to all other Decembers). [Notable heatwaves](#) affected the north of Australia at the start of the month, spreading to the west and south during the second half of December. Temperatures peaked at 49.3c at Marble Bar in Western Australia on the 27th, with mid-to-high 40s extending over larger areas.

The heat continued into January, which set a national monthly mean temperature record at 2.91c above the 1961–1990 average. Heatwave conditions which had emerged in December persisted, with a [prolonged warm spell](#) and numerous records set. Eight of the ten hottest days for the nation occurred during the month, while a minimum temperature of 36.6c at Wanaaring (Borrana Downs) in western New South Wales on the 26th set a new national minimum temperature record.

Temperatures moderated a little in the east of the country for February, partly in response to [flooding rainfall in tropical Queensland](#). Even so, the national mean temperature will come in around 1.4c above average, making this February likely to be the fourth or fifth warmest on record.

## ...and very dry

Australia has seen dry summers before and many of these have been notably hot. The summers of 1972–73 and 1982–83 – which featured mean temperatures 0.90c and 0.92c above average, respectively – both came during the latter stages of significant droughts, and were both records at the time.

As the [State of the Climate 2018 report](#) outlines, Australia has warmed by just over 1c since 1910, with most warming occurring since 1950. This warming means global and Australian climate variability sits on top of a higher average temperature, which explains why 2018-19 was warmer again.

A major rain event affected tropical Queensland during [late January to early February](#), associated with a slow-moving monsoonal low. Some sites had a year's worth of rain in a two-week period, including Townsville Airport which had 1,257mm in ten days. Many Queenslanders affected by this monsoonal low went from drought conditions to floods in a matter of days. Flooding was severe and continues to affect rivers near the Gulf of Carpentaria, as well as some inland rivers which flow towards Kati Thanda–Lake Eyre.

# The Weather

## The outlook for autumn

Spring 2018 saw a positive Indian Ocean Dipole which faded in early summer. At the start of summer sea surface temperature anomalies in the central Pacific exceeded 0.8°C, which is the typical threshold for El Niño affecting the oceans, but these declined as summer progressed. Combined with a lack of coupling between the atmosphere and ocean, the [El Niño–Southern Oscillation](#) remained neutral, though normal rainfall patterns shifted to oceans to the north and east, leaving Australia drier as a result.

As we move into autumn, the El Niño–Southern Oscillation and Indian Ocean Dipole tend to have less influence at this time of year. The onset of new Indian Ocean Dipole or El Niño/La Niña events typically happens in late autumn or winter/spring.

Over recent years, autumn rainfall has also become less reliable, with declines in cool season rainfall in the southeast and southwest. Temperatures are also rising, in a local expression of the global warming trend.

The Bureau's outlook for autumn shows high probabilities that day and night-time temperatures will remain [above average for most of the country](#). We expect to see continued below-average rainfall in much of the east, where drought is currently widespread.

Looking to the winter, the Bureau's [ENSO Wrap-Up](#) suggests the Pacific Ocean is likely to remain warmer than average. The potential for an El Niño remains, with approximately a 50% chance of El Niño developing during the southern hemisphere autumn or winter, twice the normal likelihood.

## Full time doctor secured for Bombala

### • Jeanne Medlicott (Bombala Times)

A full-time doctor has been secured for Bombala following NSW Health's request to Snowy Monaro Regional Council that the provision of a rent-free property in Bombala be available to the doctor as part of the proposed doctors contract. The former Bombala Council secured a federal government grant in 2009 for \$200,000 to buy a property to help attract a full time doctor to Bombala.

The funding agreement was to 'make it easier for rural and remote communities to recruit and retain the services of general practitioners and allied health professionals'.

Bombala Council acquired the property 52 Sandy Crossing Road, Bombala and at the last meeting of Snowy Monaro Regional Council on Thursday, March 21 councillors agreed that the property should be made available rent free, for two years in the proposed new doctors contract.

Former Bombala Council mayor and Snowy Monaro Regional Council councillor Bob Stewart said he was pleased they had attracted another full time doctor to Bombala.

Bombala Multi Purpose Service is an 18 bed facility providing emergency, aged care and acute services for residents in the area.

With the lack of a full time doctor some of these services have been withdrawn or are only available when a visiting practitioner is in the area on a monthly or three monthly visits.

The Sandy Crossing property areas outside the house block are leased under Deed of Licence to a local resident.

This licence is due to expire on July 1, 2019 and from July 2 the leased areas can either be available for use by the proposed doctor or again be made available under a Deed of Licence for grazing.

Council has approved the use of the Sandy Creek Crossing property rent free for the full time doctor excluding utilities and immediate lawn and garden maintenance and will approve a Deed of Agreement prepared by council's solicitor expiring on June 30, 2021.

# Health



## Australian Government Department of Health

### Statement from the Chief Medical Officer

Influenza seasons and severity are unpredictable. However, what we do know is that vaccination is the most important measure we have to prevent influenza and its complications.

This year, more than 6 million doses have been secured to ensure Australians who are most at risk of getting sick during this year's flu season are able to access free influenza vaccines through the Government's National Immunisation Program.

Those eligible for a free flu shot under the National Immunisation Program include people 65 years and over, pregnant women, those who suffer chronic conditions as well as, for the first time, **all** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People from 6 months of age. Closing this gap means that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and adolescents aged 5-14 years of age will now be able to access the flu vaccine at no cost.

Annual vaccination is recommended for anyone six months of age and older, with those not eligible under the program able to purchase the vaccine on the private market.

The more people who are vaccinated, the less likely that the flu will spread in the community. Influenza is a major cause of illness in the Australian community, and in some cases can result in death.

It is important to get the flu shot each year, as the virus changes each year. In addition we know that the protection provided by the previous year's vaccine diminishes over time.

This year there is a new A strain (H3N2) and a new strain for the B Victoria lineage. Influenza virus strains included in the 2019 seasonal influenza vaccines are:

- A (H1N1): an A/Michigan/45/2015 (H1N1)pdm09 like virus
- A (H3N2): an A/Switzerland/8060/2017 (H3N2) like virus
- B: a B/Colorado/06/2017 like virus (not included in the trivalent vaccine)
- B: a B/Phuket/3073/2013 like virus

Four different quadrivalent influenza vaccine brands are being supplied under the Program in 2019 for people aged under 65. These are Afluria Quad® (Seqirus), Flu Quadri® and Flu Quadri Junior® (Sanofi) and Fluarix Tetra® (GSK).

To continue to provide the best possible protection for those 65 years and over, an enhanced trivalent vaccine, Fluad® (Seqirus), is being supplied for those aged 65 years and over.

Most people will develop immunity within two to three weeks of vaccination. Experts have advised there is recent evidence suggesting that protection following influenza vaccination may begin to wane. As influenza usually occurs from June, with the peak around August, vaccinating from mid-April 2019 will allow people to develop immunity before influenza transmission is at its peak. You can also speak with your doctor for advice on the best time to receive your vaccine, based on your individual circumstances.

For more information about the influenza vaccine, speak to your GP or other immunisation provider or visit [www.health.gov.au/immunisation](http://www.health.gov.au/immunisation)

# Mount Deddick Silver-Lead Field

‘Journal of Australasian Mining History, Vol. 5, September 2007

## Another Broken Hill’: The Mount Deddick Silver-Lead Field

By JIM ENEVER

As an editorial article in the Australian Mining Standard of 18 November 1897 reported, the recently discovered Mount Deddick silver-lead field in far East Gippsland, Victoria,...appears to contain a great number of lodes carrying lead, silver, gold, and copper of a richness fully equal to, if not surpassing, Broken Hill, and free from the objectionable zinc.<sup>1</sup> From its discovery in 1896, the Mount Deddick mineral field stimulated much excitement in an otherwise almost exclusively gold focused Victorian mining industry. Situated in the remote Snowy River area near to the New South Wales border, the discovery had been late coming due to the extreme difficulty of access (Figures 1, 2). When it came, however, the discovery coincided with a period of resurgence of mining investment in Victoria, guaranteeing that this new mining field would attract attention from promoters and investors alike. The boom in quartz mining of the 1860s and 1870s produced a culture of speculation in mining shares in Victoria. By the 1880s this culture was being focused primarily on booms occurring outside of Victoria. Most excitement on the Stock Exchange of Melbourne during the 1880s was provided by the phenomenal wealth of the Broken Hill silver mines. In the first few years of the 1890s Victoria suffered a severe depression. £50,000,000 was wiped off the value of stocks that had fueled the booms of previous years.<sup>2</sup> From 1894 the situation began to improve. The Melbourne stock market was buoyed by the spectacular success of Mount Lyell, and there was an air of optimism emerging among investors. On the home front, gold production in Victoria began to increase from 1894, reversing a downward trend that had set in from the time of the original gold rush years and providing a cushion against the disastrous loss of income that had occurred as a result of the economic downturn of the early 1890s.<sup>3</sup> This lift in gold production resulted from a combination of the enhanced activity of individual prospectors galvanised into action by the tough years of the early 1890s, as well as increased investment in mining companies. While limited availability of risk capital proved an obstacle to the development of Victorian mines in the early years of the recovery, by 1896 the problem was beginning to be overcome. Local capital was becoming available and English capital had begun to filter into Victorian mining, partly as a flow-on from the English investment in Western Australian gold mining, and partly as a result of the Victorian Government’s measures to promote Victorian mineral prospects in the UK.<sup>4</sup> The promulgation of the Mining Development Act by the Victorian Government in 1896, by which various activities undertaken by mining companies could be subsidised and critical infrastructure provided by government, was aimed at further stimulating interest in mining activities within Victoria.<sup>5</sup> By 1896 the ingredients were there for an investment boom in Victorian mining. All that was needed were the right types of properties. The relatively large extent of the Mount Deddick field (Figure 3) compared to all other new properties exploited at this time in Victoria made it the inevitable focus of mining investors and promoters.

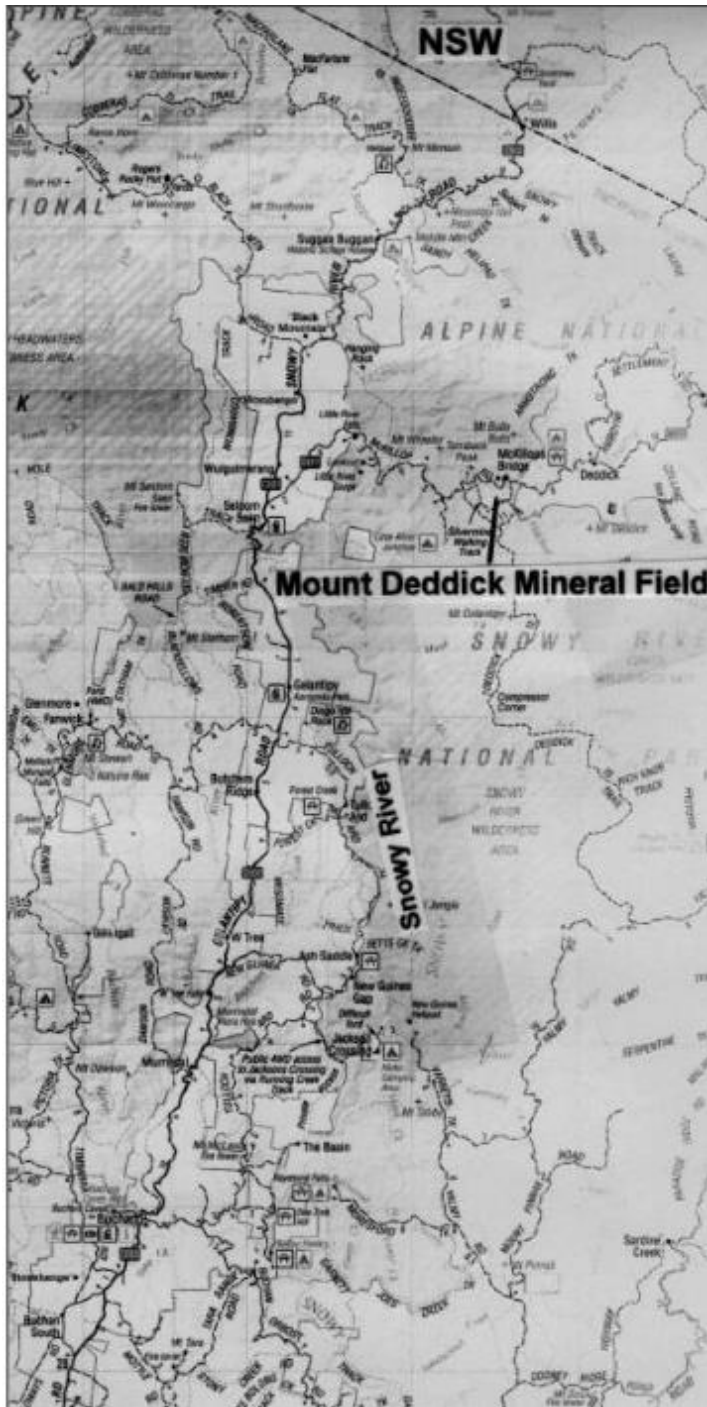


Typical topography in area.  
Source: Author's photograph



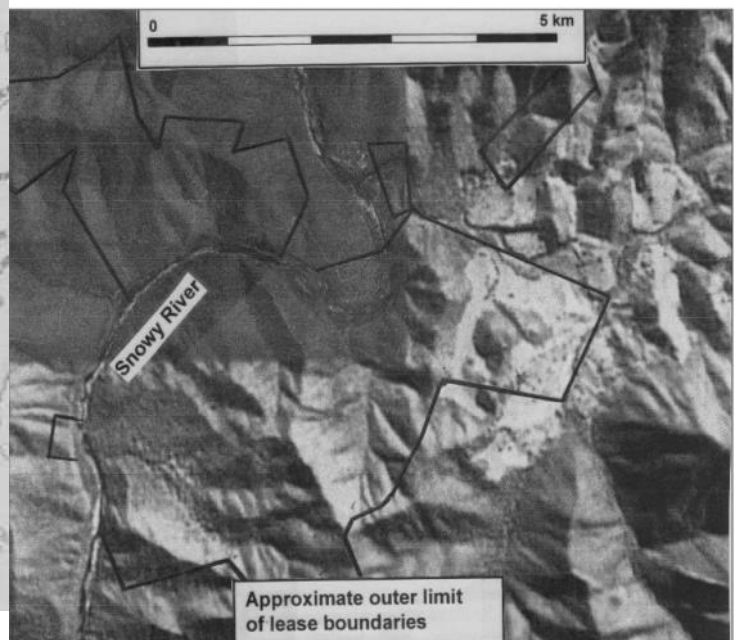
# Mount Deddick Silver-Lead Field

'Another Broken Hill': The Mount Deddick Silver-Lead Field<sup>99</sup> Of the mining companies added to the list of the Stock Exchange of Melbourne during the latter years of the 1890s, about 20 per cent to 30 per cent were formed to exploit properties outside of Victoria, notably at Mount Lyell in Tasmania and Chillagoe in Queensland. Of the remainder, around 95 per cent based their existence on gold mining within Victoria, leaving only around five per cent of new listed companies operating for other than gold in Victoria.<sup>6</sup> In this latter category, the various companies formed to operate the Mount Deddick field accounted for approximately half of the total non-gold mining companies floated to work in Victoria during this period.<sup>7</sup>



Location Map  
Source: Vicmap

Discovery and geological interpretation  
The earliest record of base metal mineralisation in the Mount Deddick area appears in an 1872 report by Alfred Howitt, a pioneering naturalist and local mine warden.<sup>8</sup> An excerpt from the guide to the Victorian Exhibition of 1872 describes a sample of silver-lead ore being provided by Howitt from a location 'near the junction of Dedduck and Snowy Rivers'. The sample was found to contain 18 ounces,<sup>9</sup> five pennyweights and 20 grains of silver per ton.<sup>10</sup> Occasional anecdotal accounts appeared in the local press from this time on, trumpeting the mineral wealth of the Snowy River region and making unsubstantiated claims about early attempts to work the silver-lead loads in the Deddick area. On 20th June 1896, the Snowy River Mail carried an application for a mining lease to be located one mile south of the Snowy River Ferry (Turnback Ferry), adjacent to the river.<sup>11</sup>



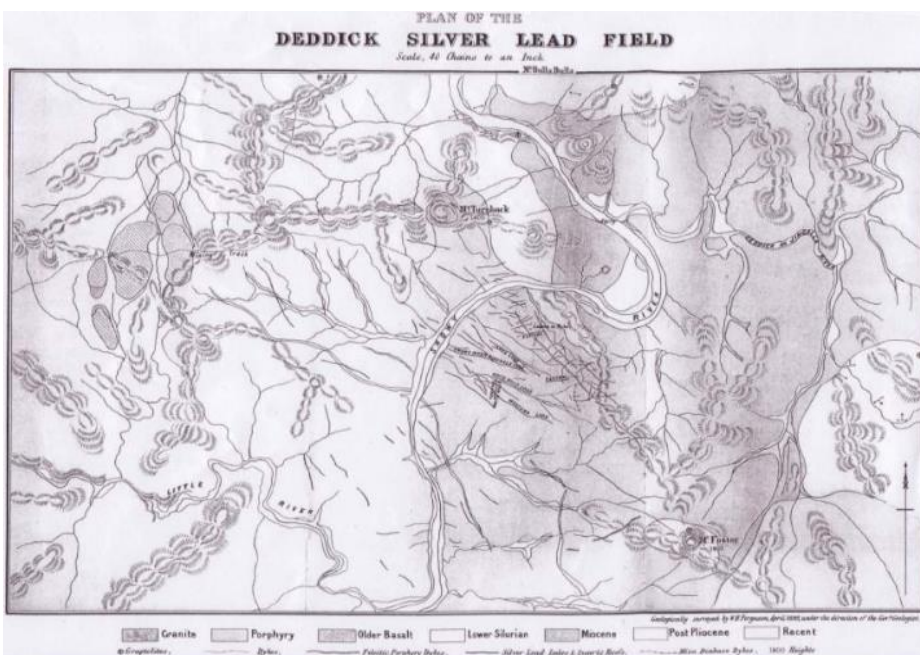
Approximate extent of area under lease at Mount Deddick, circa 1898  
Source: Victorian Mines Department lease plans. Base photo from Google Earth

# Mount Deddick Silver-Lead Field

Another Broken Hill': The Mount Deddick Silver-Lead Field<sup>10</sup> The application was lodged by Hyalmar Peterson on behalf of the Melbourne based Jingalalla Prospecting Association, and was for a term of 15 years to mine silver, copper and gold. In a retrospective account of the events leading up to this application, the Australian Mining Standard described Peterson, the syndicate's professional prospector, bringing back to Melbourne samples of ore assaying 71 per cent to 76 per cent lead, and 24 to 26 ounces of silver per ton, in addition to small quantities of gold and copper.<sup>12</sup> The value of the ore was established by tests conducted in South Australia as £11 to £12 per ton. It was these initial promising results that were to lead to the rapid development of the Mount Deddick field. Earnest Lidgey of the Victorian Geological Survey gave the first account of the geology of the Mount Deddick mineral field in November 1896. His report describes a multitude of generally thin, near vertical, metalliferous veins occurring in a granite mass, with galena being the most common mineral. At the time of Lidgey's visit a number of leases were being prospected, most notably by the Mount Deddick Silver-Lead Mining Co., covering a total area of about one square mile. The veins being explored varied from a few inches to a few feet in width, and in some cases had been traced over a considerable length. In Lidgey's view, 'The field is yet in a purely prospecting stage. The deepest hole is 8 feet, whilst the average depth is only 2 feet. Nothing yet discovered can be considered payable'.<sup>13</sup> In May 1898, the Australian Mining Standard published the text of a more comprehensive geological survey completed by government geologist, James Stirling.<sup>14</sup> In this report details of the various lodes being explored by a number of companies were given, based on an increasing number of exposures in surface excavations and tunnels. This more detailed work did not materially change the fundamental understanding arrived at by Lidgey, except to reinforce the capricious nature of the ore bodies. By this time the area of interest had increased to about 24 square miles, with indications being discovered from the level of the river up to an altitude of around 1,500 feet above the river. The likelihood of the ore bodies persisting to depth was speculated upon by Stirling. He was encouraged enough to offer the opinion that; Although the veins of galena are small, they are sufficiently numerous to lend hope to the view that further developments, now being carried on in the cross-cutting operations through the spurs which radiate from Mount Foster [Figure 4], may reveal larger masses of galena. In 1899, in a follow-up report based on a comprehensive survey conducted by his assistant, W.H. Ferguson, Stirling had this to say; Realising fully the importance of the responsibility imposed upon me in giving a definite expression of opinion as to the economic value of the field, I must confess that the work done up to the present, while it demonstrates the widespread extent of the galena lodes and impregnations, and also while the results of the survey indicate the possible downward continuity of the galena bearing lodes and impregnations etc. to greater depths, yet the commercial value of the field is, in the language of the Scotch jurists, "Not proven". That a considerable amount of utterly useless prospecting work has been done in indifferent parts of the field is clearly manifested, and a much better system of intelligent prospecting will have to be inaugurated before a final answer can be given to the question as to the ultimate probability of successful mining enterprise. There is nothing in the geological conditions to preclude the possibility of larger bodies of ore being met with at either the higher or lower levels of the area.<sup>15</sup> By 1907 the understanding of the geology was still not sufficiently advanced to offer a more definitive opinion.<sup>16</sup> The nature of the ore bodies at depth was, even then, ten years after discovery, still an unknown factor critical to the eventual prospects for establishment of a viable enterprise. The development of the Mount Deddick Silver-Lead Field Despite the at best equivocal understanding of the geological environment, development of the field surged ahead during 1896, 1897 and 1898, driven by forces other than an objective view of the true value of the ore occurrences. From the outset, the cascade of companies formed to progressively exploit the enlarging area of auriferous territory was dominated by an overlapping group of promoters from the Melbourne financial establishment, particularly the Stock Exchange. The Mount Deddick Silver-Lead Mining Company NL was the first company to be formed. Application for registration of the company was made on the 12th August 1896, shortly after Peterson had brought his samples back to Melbourne.<sup>17</sup> By the time of Lidgey's report in November 1896, the Mount Deddick Silver-Lead Mining Company's lease had been explored by seven openings, proving continuity of the main lode over the length of the lease and indications of galena elsewhere on the property.<sup>18</sup> The early promising results obtained by the Mount Deddick Company provided the catalyst for a rapid escalation of the level of activity.

# Mount Deddick Silver-Lead Field

From October 1896 a number of other companies were floated to take up leases adjacent to the Mount Deddick Company's lease. The Snowy River Mineral Company NL and the Black Hills Silver Mining Company NL were registered in October 1896, followed by North Black Hills Silver-Lead Mining Company NL in July 1897, White Hills Mount Deddick Mining Company NL in August 1897, South Mount Deddick Silver-Lead Mining Company NL in August 1897, Jingalalla Silver and Lead Mining Company NL in August 1897, Central Mount Deddick Silver Lead Company NL in September 1897, North Mount Deddick Silver-Lead Mining Company NL in October 1897 and Mount Deddick United Silver-Lead Mining Company NL in February 1898.<sup>19</sup> With the exception of South Mount Deddick and the Jingalalla Silver and Lead Mining Company, all the other companies shared common directors and managers. The local press carried accounts of progress being made by the various companies throughout 1897 and 1898, generally describing prospects as promising.<sup>20</sup> Similar sentiments are contained in a single extant annual report of the Snowy River Mineral Company presented in October 1897.<sup>21</sup> In November 1897, the Australian Mining Standard carried its article predicting that Mount Deddick would become another Broken Hill. Throughout 1898, follow-up articles in the same journal continued to play up the promising nature of the field.<sup>22</sup> In August 1898, the manager of the North Mount Deddick mine was reported as believing that with the amount of ore already exposed on the Company's lease, and with a concentrating plant installed, the Company would be in a position to treat from 500 to 600 tons of crude ore weekly and could employ 100 men. In the same article the need for a railway to the field was stressed. In the opinion of the manager, if such a railway connection were made, the field would 'pay well and employ up to 600 or 700 men'.<sup>23</sup> By 1898 the promoters of the field had begun to focus their attentions on the need for vastly improved access to the area. With the rudimentary track access available over the remote and rugged terrain during 1896 and 1897, transport of materials into and ore out from the field was costing around £11 per ton, leaving no margin based on the estimated value of the ore at £11 to £12 per ton.<sup>24</sup> From April 1898, the promoters concentrated their efforts on convincing the Victorian Government to send a delegation to the field, with a view to obtaining government support for improved road access or, preferably, a railway connection.<sup>25</sup> A ministerial visit duly took place in May 1898, with much fanfare in the press.<sup>26</sup> The delegation, consisting of the Ministers for Mines and Railways along with their staff, the local MLA, government geologist and engineer, several representatives of the various mining companies at Mount Deddick (under the banner of the Mount Deddick Progressive League) and the press, travelled over the established track via Buchan and Gelantipy (Figure 2) to spend several days on the field. An account of the visit in the Australian Mining Standard suggested that there was a common view as to the promising nature of the field, and the need for a rail connection of some sort to the port at Cunningham (now Lakes Entrance) at an estimated cost of £100,000.<sup>27</sup>



Geological understanding of the mount Deddick mineral field, circa 1898.

To be continued in the next Tattler

Source: J. Stirling, 'Further Report on Geological Survey of Mount Deddick Silver Lead Field', Victorian Mines Dept., Monthly Progress Report 1-5, Victorian Government Printer, Melbourne, 1899.

# April 2019

**Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat      Sun**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7 Kick Start Session Bonang Hall
8 <i>Vic school hols</i>	9	10	11	12	13 <i>NSW school hols</i>	14
15	16	17 <i>Silk Painting</i>	18	19 <i>Good Friday</i>	20	21
22	23 <i>Vic back to school</i>	24	25 <i>Anzac Day</i>	26	27	28
29 <i>NSW back to school</i>	30					