

PILOD ESSAY: Hotels and Licencing in Wonthaggi and District Part 1

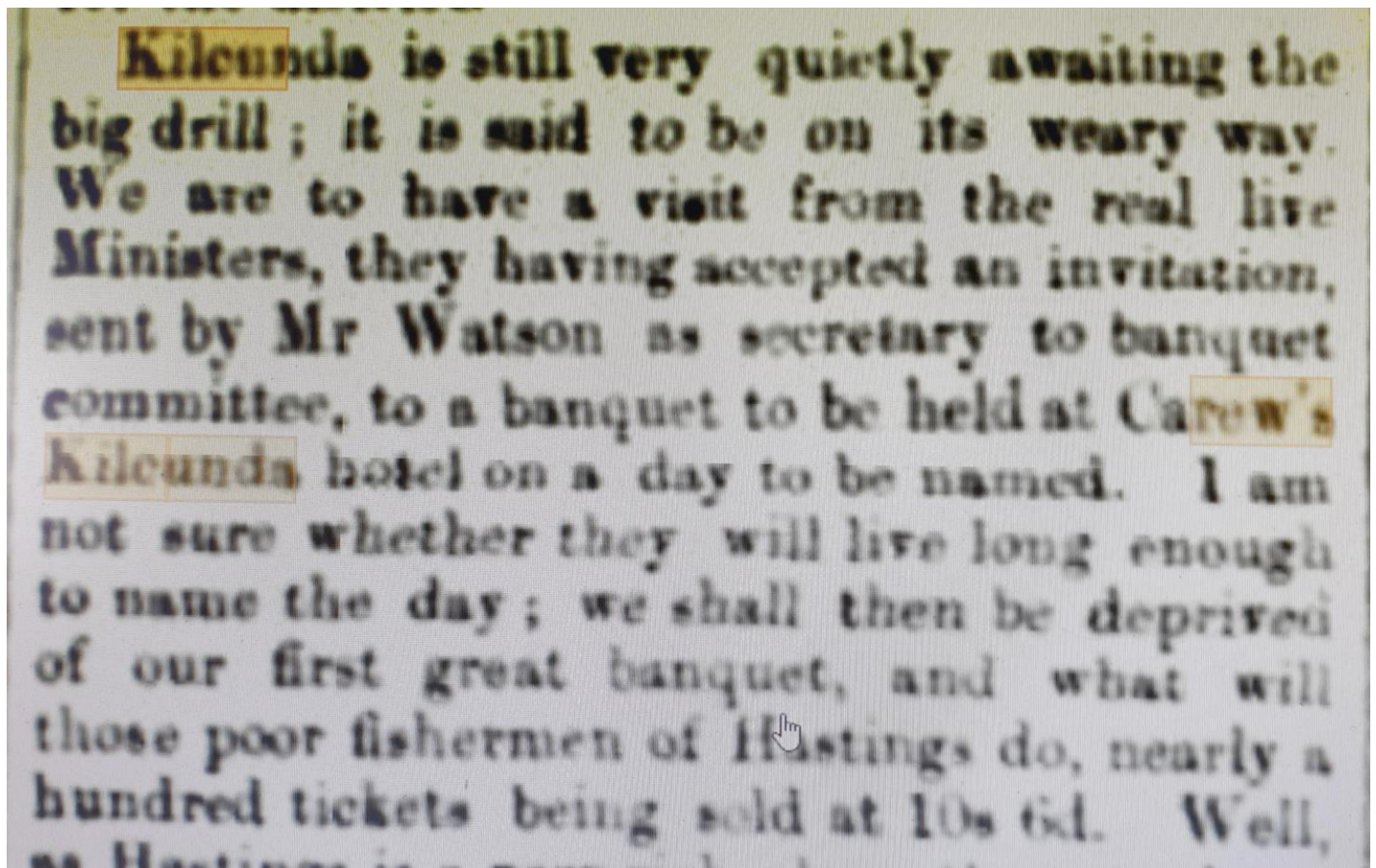
This is by no means a definitive discussion of the history of hotels in Wonthaggi, but rather a thumbnail sketch of the early licences in the area and a brief history of Wonthaggi hotels.

From the early 1870's there were hotels in Cowes, Griffith Point (San Remo), Bass and Grantville / Queensferry. In 1896 George Wrigley established the Esplanade Hotel in Inverloch. Some of the venues and names still exist, others have vanished or the names have changed.

However, I will contain this discussion to the remit of the W&DHS.

Kilcunda

At Kilcunda, Jack Carew, in 1870 opened a modest hotel on the cliffs near the workings of the Western Port Coal Company's mine. It burnt down in 1894 and was replaced with temporary facilities closer to the main road. This premises was granted a temporary licence for 12 months but was not renewed. When Carew died suddenly in 1898 the licence had still not been granted. The licence for the "Ocean View" was granted to A. Ashe in 1915. The original building burnt down in the early 1920's and was replaced by the current building. The Kicunda football ground was directly behind the hotel.





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OCEAN VIEW HOTEL, KILCUNDA, VIC.

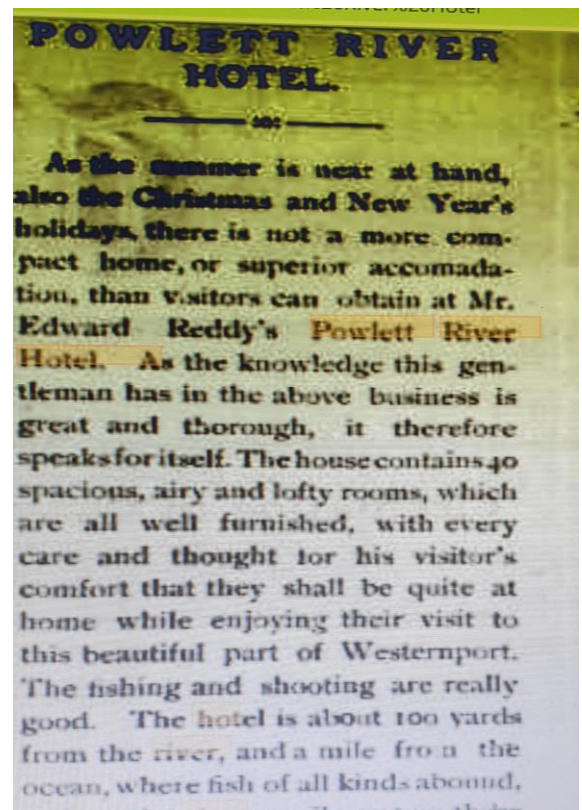
Ocean View Hotel Kilcunda



Dalyston

By 1890 John Daly, who had come to the Powlett area in about 1880, built a substantial hotel on the Wonthaggi side of the Powlett River, on a block he acquired from Mr McKay, near the old Upper Powlett (Highway) Bridge, now Kerry Buckleigh's farm. His grand plan was that it would be the major resting place between Griffiths Point and Tarwin Lower, which was the next substantial settlement. It was a substantial two-story building – bar, billiard room, accommodation and stabling. It became the social hub of the district with the Wonthaggi Cricket Club based there and various ad hoc football games were played there. However, it did not flourish as a hotel. Daly sold out most of his land on this side of the river in 1893. Various people attempted to revive it as a pub but failed. These included Charles Hogan, Amy Fink in 1895, George Howell, of the Bass Hotel, and a Mr Keating. The last licencees were James Parer and Fred Daniels.

Extract from The San Remo Times and Phillip
Island and Bass Valley Advertiser Friday 16
October 1896



In 1901 P J Daly (John's brother) built the "Ozone Hotel" at Price's Corner (Dalyston) using bricks burnt from clay on Cloverdale. Parer and his partner Daniels, the licencees of the Powlett River Hotel, moved there with the licence in 1902. Part of the building was shifted to the back of the "Ozone" as extra accommodation.



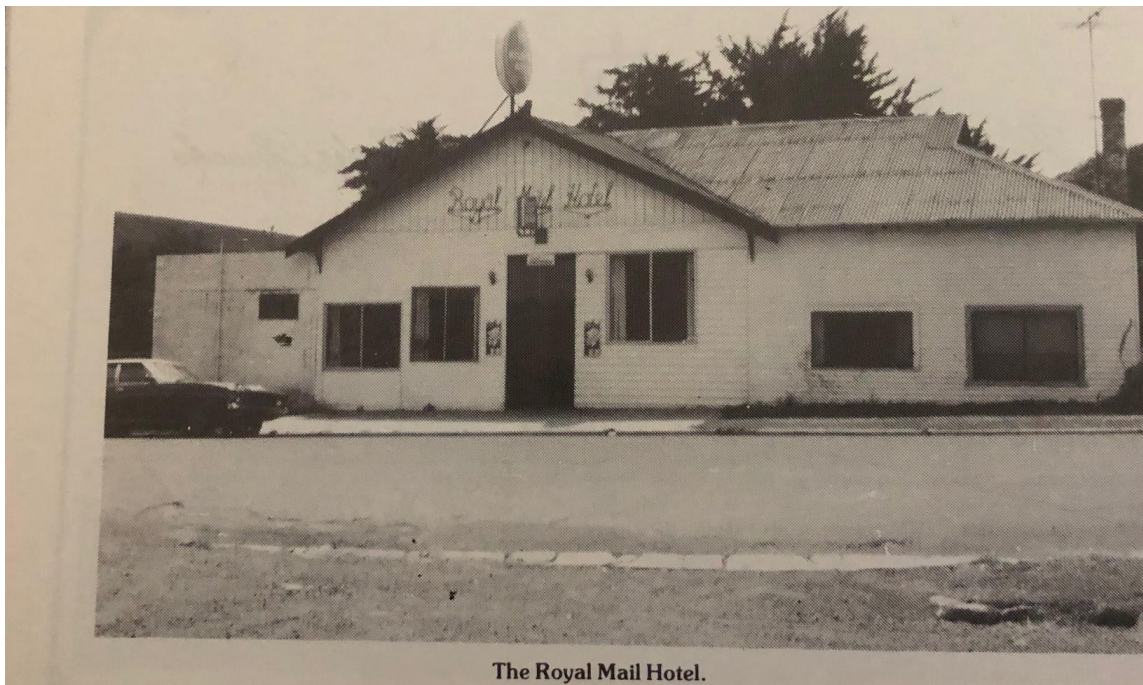
Dalyston Hotel, 1920.



Dalyston Hotel, 1973.

Archies Creek

At Archie's Creek, Mary Dixon was granted a hotel licence in 1901 and opened in 1902. Before the pub opened, the mail for the area was delivered to Mr W Good's "Goodhurst" property in Ryanston. With its opening the mail was delivered to the pub. Hence the title "Royal Mail Hotel". An official Post Office was established up the road later in 1902.



Wonthaggi

Wonthaggi exists because of the need for coal by the Victorian Railways and Melbourne's electricity. It was set up in a hurry and was from the start a Government town. Thus the usual land speculation and unrestrained and corrupt development did not occur. At the same time Model Town theories were prevalent amongst prominent politicians and bureaucrats.***to be continued***

Jim Quilford

A version of this paper was delivered at the 100-year celebrations of the Caledonian Hotel, 1915.

