



MOUNT ALEXANDER SHIRE

Mount Alexander Shire Thematic Heritage Study Thematic History (vol. 2)

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INTRODUCTION

Brief

RBA Architects + Conservation Consultants were commissioned to prepare a Thematic History of the Mount Alexander Shire. The key purpose of the Thematic History is to provide a basis for the understanding of culturally significant places, objects and events in the Shire in a broad, mostly post-contact, historical context. The Thematic History contributes to the broader 'cultural mapping' of the Shire, although this term is not widely used within heritage management circles in Victoria.

The Thematic History identifies the key themes which are crucial to understanding the development of the Shire and what distinguishes it, and as such differs from the usual chronological approach to history. It is a study of the changing landscape and focuses on aspects such as settlement patterns and land uses. It has been prepared using Victoria's Framework of Historical Themes as a guide. The principal themes that have been identified are: Living with the Environment, Inhabiting the Land, Transport & Communications, Agriculture & Utilising Natural Resources, Industry & Business, Building Townships, Governing, Community Life and Cultural Life.

The Thematic History provides the basis for understanding places that have already been included in the schedule to the heritage overlay, as well as the types of places that could be included in the future – that is, would reflect the full range of developmental themes identified in this document. Places can include buildings, structures, landscapes, gardens, archaeological sites and precincts.

Relevant Earlier Studies

The previous heritage studies undertaken in the Shire area have been:

- Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead, Jacobs, Taylor, Ballinger, Johnson and Rowe, 2004
- Shire of Metcalfe Heritage Study, Twigg and Jacobs, 1994
- City of Castlemaine, Architectural and Historical Study, Perrott Lyon Mathieson Pty Ltd, 1979
- Maldon Conservation Study, Jacobs Lewis Vines Architects, 1977

Personnel

This document has been largely prepared by Anthony Hemingway (architectural historian) and Erin Williams (heritage consultant), with the assistance of Roger Beeston (director, conservation architect) and Kim Burrell (heritage consultant).

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Study Area

The Shire of Mount Alexander is located in central Victoria. The Shire was created in 1995 through the amalgamation of the former Shires of Newstead, Maldon and Metcalfe, and the City of Castlemaine. It encompasses an area of approximately 1,529 square kilometres. The population at the last census (2011) was 17,591.¹ The largest town and administrative centre is Castlemaine² and the other principal townships include Maldon, Campbells Creek, Harcourt, Chewton, Newstead, Elphinstone, Guildford, Taradale and Baringhup.

¹ Census data (2011), Australian Bureau of Statistics website. In 2011, the population of Castlemaine was 6751.

² Approximately 50% of the Shire's total population live in Castlemaine and Campbells Creek

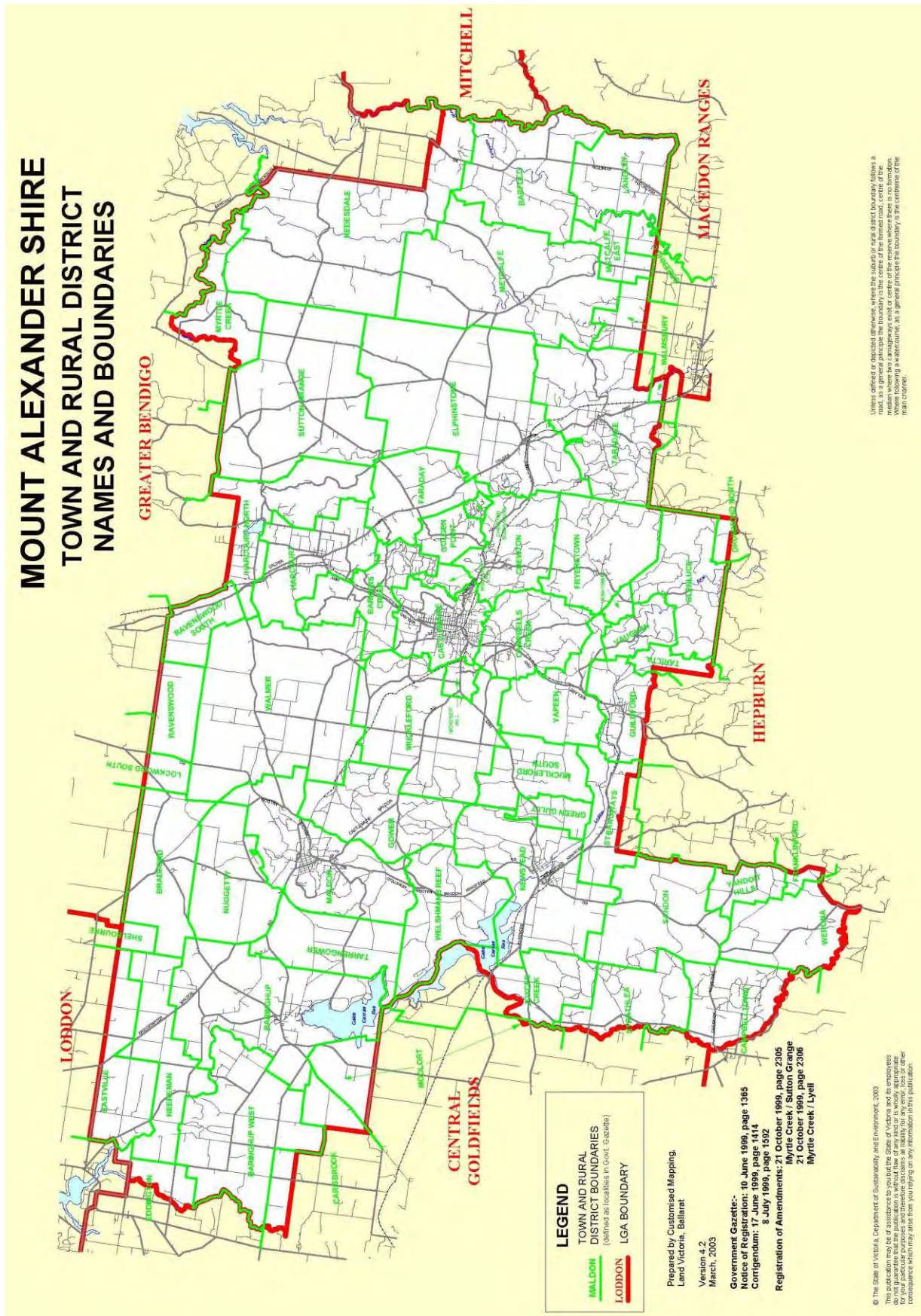


Figure 1: Mount Alexander Shire Town and Rural District Names and Boundaries
 (Source: Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure website: www.dtpli.vic.gov.au)

1 LIVING WITH THE ENVIRONMENT

Introduction

This theme provides an overview of the local environment and how its innate characteristics have affected the development of the Shire since European contact. An alternative understanding of the significance of the land (country) is held by the original inhabitants, now represented by the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation and the Taungurung Clans Aboriginal Corporation, whose cultural traditions are inextricably interwoven with the land and its creation.

The Shire is defined by four distinct geological land types which have profoundly influenced the activities and successful land uses that have occurred in each area. The discovery of gold in the predominant sedimentary land type prompted a great rush during the 1850s, while the granitic land type has been used for fruit growing and quarrying, and the basalt and alluvium land types have attracted agriculture.

The impact of gold mining processes have left an indelible stamp on the appearance of the landscape. The development of the gold industry led to extensive clearing of the Box-Ironbark forests, which are today characterised by coppiced regrowth. While the intense mining activity reduced biodiversity, it has created a fascinating cultural landscape, particularly in the central part of the Shire.

The Shire's landscape defines a sense of place and natural landmarks, such as Mount Alexander, are appreciated by the Shire's inhabitants. Like other parts of the country, the Shire periodically experiences environmental threats, with an unusual propensity for cyclonic storms. The erratic rainfall and the voracious need for water for mining and the associated population necessitated the establishment of extensive water storage and supply systems during the 19th century.

1.1 Climate and Topography

The Shire has a cool temperate climate and experiences four distinct seasons, low humidity and a high diurnal temperature range. The winters are cold and see the majority of annual rainfall, while the summers are hot and dry.¹

The elevation across the Shire generally varies between about 200 and 500m above sea level,² with the highest point being Mount Alexander at 744m. Mt Alexander, 'Lanjanuc', has importance to the Dja Dja Wurrung as a sacred ceremonial ground and high vantage point.³

1.1.1 Geology

The Shire is principally comprised of four distinct geological land types: sedimentary, granite, basalt, and alluvium. Each of these land types have associated characteristics such as particular topography and flora and fauna, and have fundamentally influenced land use and development.

¹ Australian Bureau of Statistics website, <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Lookup/4671.0main+features172012>

² Victorian resources online: <http://vro.depi.vic.gov.au>, *North Central Catchment Management Region*, elevation map

³ Parks Victoria, *Mt Alexander Regional Park*, park notes

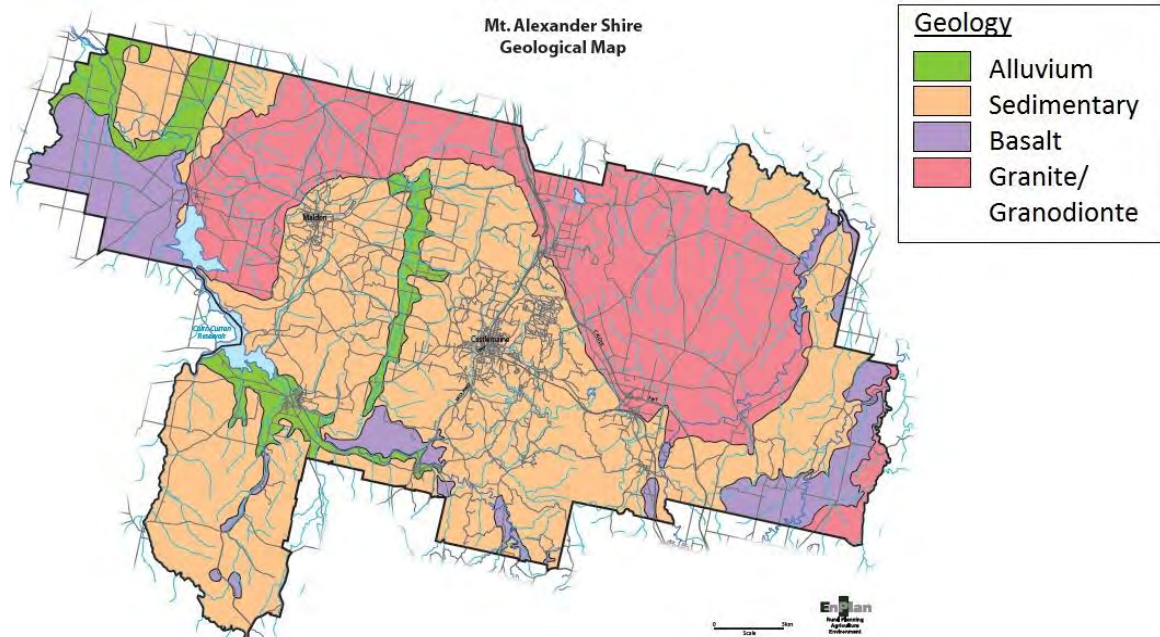


Figure 2: Geological landscapes in the Shire
(Source: EnPlan Partners, *Mount Alexander Rural Land Study*, p17)

Sedimentary

The geological foundations of the Shire began some 510 million years ago on the ocean floor, to the east of the ancient supercontinent of Gondwana. As Gondwana was worn down by erosion, layers of sand, silt and clay accumulated over a period of 40 million years, eventually creating a rock sandwich many kilometres thick. Around 445 million years ago, pressure from tectonic plate movement caused the ocean floor, with its volcanic and sedimentary layers, to dramatically buckle and uplift, creating the eastern part of Australia (including central Victoria). Also at this time, gold-laden fluid moved upwards, filling faults and fractures to form gold-rich quartz veins in some parts.⁴

The sedimentary land type is predominant in the Shire and is characterised by long prominent spurs cut by steep gullies. Gold occurs in the sedimentary land, and its discovery in the Shire in 1851 prompted a great gold rush. The rapid associated settlement led to irregular survey patterns and smaller lots.

Had it not been for gold deposited deep within quartz veins millions of years ago, ..., many towns across central Victoria would not exist or would look very different to what they do today.⁵

The upper slopes and ridges are associated with shallow soils and exposed rocks, and consequently have been less favoured for agriculture, instead often retaining the Box-Ironbark forest cover. The middle and lower slopes have deeper soils and a moderate agricultural quality, and are used for cereal cropping and sheep grazing.⁶

⁴ C Willman in G Gill (and others), *Mapping Great Change: the landscape of central Victoria*, pp6-9 and in G Wettenhall, *Goldfields Track: Walking Guide*, pp12-15

⁵ C Willman in G Gill (and others), 'The Geology of Central Victoria', *Mapping Great Change: the landscape of central Victoria*, , p6

⁶ EnPlan Partners, *Mount Alexander Rural Land Study*, p57



Figure 3: Rolling sedimentary hills near Guilford (2015)

As the sedimentary land was subject to gold mining, its associated settlement is dominated by smaller irregular lots and the survey patterns are often irregular.⁷

In Castlemaine there is an interesting land formation, an anticlinal fold, which was revealed in a road cutting during the 1870s.⁸ In the Sandon-Campbelltown area an important quarry of graptolite fossils was uncovered in sedimentary land by a local farmer from around the turn of the 20th century.⁹

Granite

The granodiorite (a type of granite) in the north and east parts of the Shire formed 368 million years ago, when hot molten rock pushed its way upwards through the older sandstone and mudstone layers to cool and solidify below the surface, prior to surface exposure from erosion of the surrounding land. During the process, the surrounding rock within a one kilometre range was baked into very hard rock called hornfels – the hornfels hills now form a ring of high peaks around the granite.¹⁰



Figure 4: Granite tors north of Harcourt (2015)

⁷ EnPlan Partners, *Mount Alexander Rural Land Study*, p17

⁸ Information plaque at site on Lyttleton Street, Castlemaine.

⁹ VHR Citation H1413: *Thomas Smiths Good Bed Fossil Quarry, Werona*. The fossils are now housed in the Museum of Victoria.

¹⁰ C Willman in= G Gill (and others), 'The Geology of Central Victoria', *Mapping Great Change: the landscape of central Victoria*, , p8

Granite land is located relatively high in the landscape, and the upper slopes and crests often feature large boulders (tors) and smaller rocks. In the Shire, granite largely occurs around Harcourt, Elphinstone, Sutton Grange, and surrounding Maldon. Mount Alexander and Mount Tarrengower are the most prominent granite landforms.

Landholdings in granite areas are generally moderate to large farming properties, with smaller lots in intensive production areas.¹¹ The granitic soils are suited to fruit growing, prompting the establishment of orchards and vineyards since the 1850s. Granite land is also used for sheep and cattle grazing. Granite quarrying has been an important industry since the 1860s.

Basalt

Basalt formed as a result of volcanic activity from 5 million years ago. Lava flows spread forming flat surfaces, and the basaltic rocks and scoria broke down to form clayey soils rich in minerals.¹²



Figure 5: Basalt plateau in background, with alluvial flat in mid-ground, near Guilford (2014)

Basalt occurs in the south, east and west of the Shire near Guildford, Barfold, and Baringhup West. The basalt land provides some of the better agricultural land in the Shire, and is largely cleared of original vegetation and generally used for grazing and cropping of cereal and fodder species on large landholdings.¹³

Alluvium

The alluvium land type is unconsolidated soil that has been deposited and built-up in valley floors and other low areas, from erosion of higher land. It is characterised by flat or gently sloping land with deep soil profiles, and occurs in the western half of the Shire. Alluvial land has a moderate agricultural capability, and along with the basalt land type, contributes to the better agricultural land available in the Shire. It is used mainly for cereal cropping and grazing, and has generally been cleared for these purposes.¹⁴

The alluvial land is generally remote from urban centres, except in the case of Newstead, and is in large farm holdings. Much of the land is susceptible to periodic flooding.¹⁵

1.1.2 Water

The Shire forms part of the North Central Catchment Management Authority, one of ten catchment regions in the state.¹⁶ Most of the Shire (around 90%) is in a declared water supply catchment. The Campaspe River catchment, the

¹¹ EnPlan Partners, *Mount Alexander Rural Land Study*, p18

¹² C Willman in G Gill (and others), 'The Geology of Central Victoria', *Mapping Great Change: the landscape of central Victoria*, p9

¹³ EnPlan Partners, *Mount Alexander Rural Land Study*, p19

¹⁴ EnPlan Partners, *Mount Alexander Rural Land Study*, p20

¹⁵ EnPlan Partners, *Mount Alexander Rural Land Study*, p20

¹⁶ Dept. of Environment and Primary Industries website, <http://www.depi.vic.gov.au/water/governing-water-resources/catchment-management-authorities>

eastern third of the Shire, supplies Lake Eppalock (outside the Shire), while the western two-thirds of the Shire is in the Loddon River catchment for the Cairn Curran Reservoir located on the Shire's western boundary. The Shire's catchments are some of the nation's most degraded with high salinity, poor soil structure, erosion and a high incidence of algal blooms.¹⁷ There are also substantial groundwater resources which are used extensively for irrigation.¹⁸

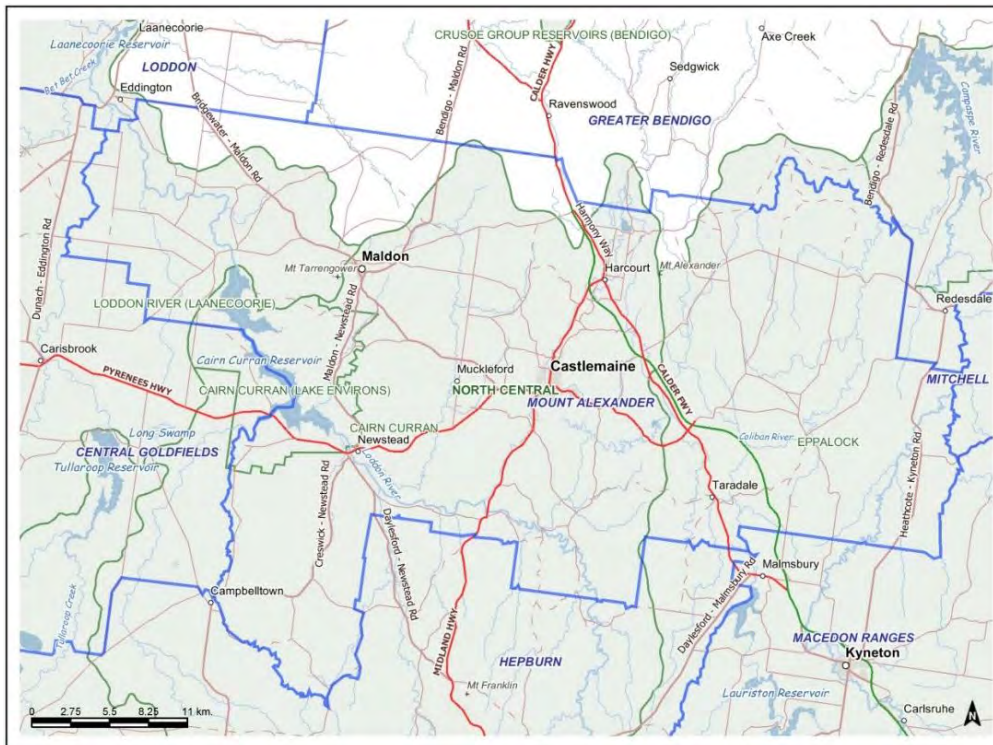


Figure 6: Map showing water courses and reservoirs in the Shire. Grey area - declared water supply catchment. (Source: Dept. of Environment and Primary Industries – biodiversity interactive map)

About 0.2% of the area of the Shire is water.¹⁹ As an indicator of the local average annual rainfall, it is 560mm in Castlemaine and 600mm in Maldon. The Shire is subject to regular drought periods and many of the waterways are seasonal. As such, the Shire's town water supply is provided by dams within the Coliban System (refer to chapter 5)

Since settlement, there has been a 40% reduction in the extent of wetlands, including freshwater meadows and shallow and deep water marshes.²⁰

Water sources have supported agriculture and gold mining in the Shire, as well as early industry which required a reliable water source for the operation of steam driven machinery until the advent of electricity, and/or part of the production itself (e.g. brewing).

1.2 Flora and Fauna

Flora

Within the Shire there are three bioregions (areas with similar ecological communities): Goldfields, Victorian Volcanic Plains and Central Victorian Uplands. The dominant bioregion is the Goldfields, with relatively small areas of the Victorian Volcanic Plains and Central Victorian Uplands in the north-west and the south-east of the Shire respectively.²¹

¹⁷ Mount Alexander Planning Scheme, Clause 21.01

¹⁸ Janyce McMurtrie, *Castlemaine: A Case Study for Sustainable Regional Development*, p7

¹⁹ Australian Bureau of Statistics website: <http://www.censusdata.abs.gov.au/>, *Mount Alexander Shire, Environment/Energy*, accessed 12/06/2014

²⁰ Mount Alexander Planning Scheme, Clause 21.01

²¹ EnPlan Partners, *Mount Alexander Rural Land Study*, pp65-67

From the time of European settlement until the late 1940s, much of the native vegetation in the Shire was cleared for mining and agricultural purposes. Of the 23 naturally occurring Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVCs) within the Goldfields bioregion, 17 are considered 'vulnerable' or 'endangered'. The predominant EVCs are heathy dry forest, Box-Ironbark forest and grassy woodland.²²

The Box-Ironbark forests, the forests most associated with the goldfields, were originally dominated by large, broad-crowned and widely-spaced trees, abundant with hollows. Today, the Box-Ironbark forests have been transformed and mostly comprise coppice regrowth, that is, new growth (sometimes of up to 20 trunks) from the rootstock of felled trees. These coppice trees form part of a cultural landscape testament to the human activity during the gold rush. The coppice forests, with their smaller canopies, have a reduced capacity to support bird and animal life.²³

The Castlemaine area generally has a native vegetation overstorey of red stringybark, long-leaved box and red box open forests. The understorey consists of tussock grasses and sparse shrubs, such as daphne heath, and a variety of herbs and forbs. The gullies however support yellow box and river red gum, with an understorey of black and golden wattles.²⁴



Figure 7: Coppice forest at Vaughan in the Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park (2014)

There are over sixty threatened flora species in the Shire.²⁵ Within the Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park (CDNHP), threatened species include several varieties of orchid, Purple Eyebright, Lanky Buttons and the Fryerstown Grevillea. Mt Alexander is the only known site for the nationally endangered plant, Southern Shepherd's Purse.²⁶ Pest plants in the CDNHP include Gorse, Blackberry, Broom and Bridal Creeper, and these hamper the regeneration of native plant species, degrade landscape value and reduce habitat for native animals.²⁷

There are numerous early descriptions of the Shire which provide valuable insights into the mid-19th century experience of the natural environment, such as the following from 1858 which describes the Sutton Grange area:

A beautiful park-like appearance. Great red gum trees were everywhere on the flats; grey box, yellow box, sheoaks, honeysuckles and wattle were abundant. Mt Alexander presented a fine spectacle. Bird life was abundant and opossums, native cats and kangaroo rats were in great numbers.²⁸

²² Mount Alexander Shire Council, State of the Environment Report, November 2010, p18

²³ D Bannear, *Coppice Regrowth in Victoria's Box-Ironbark Forests*, eGold website: <http://www.egold.net.au/biogs/EG00147b.htm>, accessed 5/08/2014.

²⁴ C Tzaros in: G Wettenhall, *Goldfields Track: Walking Guide*, p17

²⁵ Mount Alexander Shire Council, State of the Environment Report, November 2010, p21

²⁶ Environment Conservation Council, *Box-Ironbark Forests & Woodlands Investigation*, pp148, 164

²⁷ Parks Victoria, *Castlemaine Diggings National Park Management Plan*, p26

²⁸ K James & N Davis, *History of Sutton Grange*, 2006, p5

Some of the many cemeteries within the Shire retain areas of original vegetation such as at the Castlemaine (in Campbells Creek) and Muckleford cemeteries.²⁹ Kaweka Wildflower Reserve, Castlemaine, was established in 1914 and is planted with local and non-local native plants, though in more recent years the policy of the committee of management has been to plant only local species.³⁰

Fauna

The Box-Ironbark forests support wildlife such as echidnas, koalas, black wallabies, eastern grey kangaroos, brushtail and ringtail possums, sugar gliders and yellow-footed antechinus.³¹ Birdlife includes the buff-rumped thornbill, scarlet robin, crested shrike-tit, grey fantail, dusky woodswallow, spotted pardalote and white-plumed honeyeater.³²

There are over fifty threatened fauna species within the Shire.³³ The Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park supports threatened species including the swift parrot, grey-crowned babbler, brush-tailed phascogale and painted honeyeater, while the Mt Alexander Regional Park provides important habitat for the powerful owl.³⁴



Figure 8: *Phascogale penicillata* (common name: brush-tailed phascogale). Lithograph by H C Richter, 1845. (Source: National library of Australia, nla.pic-an10485373)

Introduced species have placed increased pressure on the survival of native plants and animals. From the 1840s, livestock grazing in the area has depleted native vegetation resulting in a reduction of suitable habitat and food for native animals. Introduced species such as foxes, wild dogs and feral cats threaten the survival of small native mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians.³⁵

1.3 Creation Stories and Defining Country

Spiritual Traditions

The dreaming stories of the Dja Dja Wurrung explain the creation of the land and people. It is said that in ancient times *Bunjil*, the Eaglehawk, created the land and people. *Bunjil* banished the Crow (*Waa*), prompting the Crow to set fire to the Eagle's land in revenge, causing enormous upheaval and creating the existing mountains and hills.³⁶ *Mindi*, the giant serpent, *Bunjil*'s enforcer, implements the laws and ceremonies that ensure the continuation of life.³⁷

²⁹ Information provided by the CHSI, May 2015

³⁰ Brochure: Kaweka Park Committee of Management, 'A Walk in Kaweka Wildflower Reserve, Castlemaine', Mt Alexander Shire Walks and Trails Advisory Board, 1999. The land was presented to the town by the owner for the purpose of a reserve.

³¹ Parks Victoria, *Mt Alexander Regional Park*, park notes

³² G Wettenhall, *Goldfields Track: Walking Guide*, p17

³³ Mount Alexander Shire Council, State of the Environment Report, November 2010, p20

³⁴ Environment Conservation Council, *Box-Ironbark Forests & Woodlands Investigation*, p164

³⁵ Parks Victoria, *Castlemaine Diggings National Park Management Plan*, pp4,26

³⁶ V Markham & A Leckie, *Maldon: Portrait of a Goldfields Town*, p5

³⁷ Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation, *Dhelkunya Dja: Dja Dja Wurrung Country Plan 2014-2034*, p6

The Dja Dja Wurrung understand the land and its creatures in a holistic way, interconnected with each other and with the people.³⁸ Imprinted in the country are the dreaming stories, law, totemic relationships, songs, ceremonies and ancestral spirits, which give it life and significance to the Dja Dja Wurrung. Each place is known and valued, and has a name and song. The Dja Dja Wurrung believe that all things have a spirit (*murrup*) – water, birds, plants, animals, rocks and mountains. The Dja Dja Wurrung perform ceremonies to honour each of the spirits and traditional rites, the ‘Welcome to Country’ being one example.³⁹

The spirits link us back through time in a continuing connection with our past and our traditions, and our stories instil an on-going respect for our Country. Our songs and stories tell us of how the world was and how it should be, and we feel a moral responsibility to care for our Country as it binds us to the past, present and future.⁴⁰

Defining Country

Aboriginal occupation of central Victoria has a history of between 40,000 and 60,000 years.⁴¹ The primary Aboriginal language group of the Shire is the Dja Dja Wurrung. The land of the Taungurung language group accounts for a small portion in the south-east. In Victoria there are eleven Aboriginal language groups and both the Dja Dja Wurrung and the Taungurung, along with three other language groups, share in a loose confederacy more generally called *Kulin*.⁴²

The Dja Dja Wurrung ancestors are recorded as having had sixteen or more clans.⁴³ The clan most particularly associated with the Mt Tarrengower area is the *Liarga Balug*.⁴⁴ Clans are patrilineal and include people of the one totemic division/moiety, being either *Bunjil* (eaglehawk)⁴⁵ or *Waa* (crow), with marriages occurring between people of the opposite moiety.

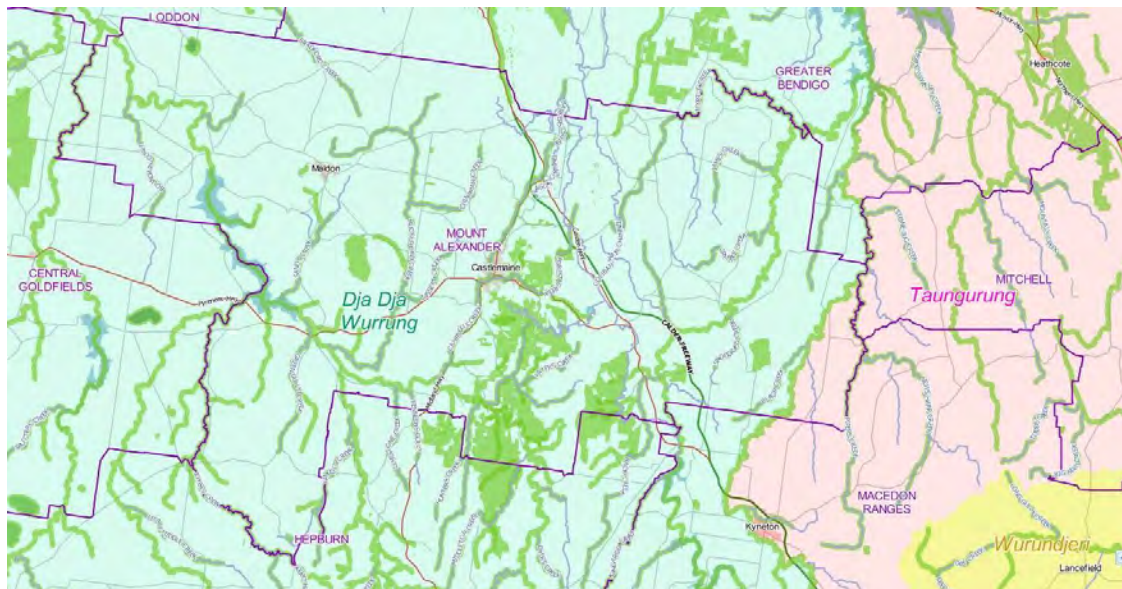


Figure 9: Map showing the Shire's boundaries in relation to those of the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation and the Taungurung Clans Aboriginal Corporation. Blue: Dja Dja Wurrung, Pink: Taungurung (Source: Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation)

The boundaries of the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation were registered in 2008 and encompass a large portion of central Victoria, an area about ten times that of the Shire. Included within the boundaries are the towns of Bendigo, Castlemaine, Woodend, Daylesford, Maryborough, St Arnaud, Wedderburn and Boort. The boundaries of the

³⁸ *Recognition and Settlement Agreement*, vol.1 of 2, p2

³⁹ Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation, *Dhelkunya Dja: Dja Dja Wurrung Country Plan 2014-2034*, p6

⁴⁰ Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation, *Dhelkunya Dja: Dja Dja Wurrung Country Plan 2014-2034*, p6

⁴¹ G Gill, *Mapping Great Change: the Landscape of Central Victoria*, p12

⁴² R Broome, *Aboriginal Victorians*, pxxi

⁴³ *Recognition and Settlement Agreement*, vol.1 of 2, p2

⁴⁴ I Clark & D Cahir, *Tanderrum 'Freedom of the Bush'*, p3. Other spellings exist for the clan name *Liarga Balug*.

⁴⁵ Note there are different English transliterations of traditional Aboriginal words however those used in I Clark & D Cahir, *Tanderrum 'Freedom of the Bush'* have been adopted for this document.

Taungurung Clans Aboriginal Corporation were registered in 2009 and encompass a similar sized area to the east, and include the towns of Kyneton, Seymour, Alexandra, Mansfield, Euroa, Marysville and Kilmore.⁴⁶

In 2013, the Dja Dja Wurrung and the Victorian Government reached a landmark native title settlement that formally recognises the Dja Dja Wurrung as the traditional owners of their Country.⁴⁷ The *Recognition and Settlement Agreement* was the first comprehensive settlement under the Victorian *Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010*.⁴⁸ The settlement also acknowledges the history of dispersement and dispossession that has affected Dja Dja Wurrung people, provides some legal rights to practice culture and access land and resources, and title of some traditional lands.⁴⁹

1.4 Living with Natural Processes

The Shire experiences a variety of environmental threats which impact both the natural and built environments, notably floods, bushfires, storms and drought. These events have resulted in the loss of buildings and infrastructure, and in some cases loss of life, and have generally prompted action aimed at reducing future risk or damage.

1.4.1 Environmental Threats

Floods

Parts of the Shire are subject to regular flooding, with some of the most devastating having occurred in 1860, 1889, 1909, 2010 and 2011.

In 1860, a huge flood in Maldon inundated many houses and shops on the east side of Main Street, leading to the building of a great drain which diverts water from outside the Post Office, under the Main Street and away from the town centre.⁵⁰

On New Year's Day 1889, heavy rainfall caused rivers and creeks (including the Loddon River as well as Forest and Barkers Creeks) in the Shire to swell dramatically, producing dangerous floodwaters that swept away many bridges, buildings and drowned a number of people. A flurry of bridge building followed to replace the lost bridges.⁵¹

In 1909, a flood affecting the south west part of the Shire caused considerable damage to land and buildings. In Newstead thirty businesses and homes were flooded up to 6 feet deep, at Joyce's Creek the new brick railway bridge was severely damaged, and at Guildford the soap factory was flooded and 20 tons of soap floated away.⁵² Following the flood, a meeting was held to discuss strategies to prevent a recurrence, although a reporter for the *Newstead and Maldon Echo* suggested that the only thing to do would be to 'shift the town [Newstead] up on the hills'.⁵³ A levee bank and a sluice gate was constructed in 1911 to protect Newstead from the floodwaters of the Loddon River.⁵⁴

More recently, flooding in 2010-11 caused widespread damage to roads, bridges and buildings in particular near Barkers Creek in Castlemaine, including the Botanic Gardens.

⁴⁶ Both the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation and the Taungurung Clans Aboriginal Corporation are Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs). Office of Aboriginal Affairs Victoria website (<http://www.dpc.vic.gov.au/index.php/aboriginal-affairs/registered-aboriginal-parties>)

⁴⁷ Government Media Release, *Historic Settlement of Dja Dja Wurrung Native Title Claim*, 28/03/2013

⁴⁸ Dja Dja Wurrung Clan Aboriginal Corporation, *Settlement of the Dja Dja Wurrung native title applications under the Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010*, fact sheet

⁴⁹ Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation, *Dhelkunya Dja: Dja Dja Wurrung Country Plan 2014-2034*, p24

⁵⁰ V Markham & A Leckie, *Maldon: Portrait of a Goldfields Town*, p15

⁵¹ G Milford, *After the Flood*, notes

⁵² *The Newstead and Maldon Echo*, 27/08/1909

⁵³ *The Newstead and Maldon Echo*, 1/09/1909

⁵⁴ Jacobs, Taylor, Johnson, Ballinger and Rowe, *Shire of Mount Alexander: Heritage Study of Newstead*, np



Figure 10: Lyons Street, Newstead, during the August 1909 flood
(Source: Newstead and District Historical Society)

Bushfires

The bushfire risk has always been relatively high in the Shire. The central and southern parts of the Shire in particular, areas generally associated with a sedimentary land type, have a high susceptibility to bushfires.⁵⁵

In 1944, a major bushfire affected the eastern part of the Shire. It resulted in loss of some significant sites associated with the squatting period, including early buildings at Sutton Grange,⁵⁶ and at Barfold estate, the woolshed, stone stables, servant's quarters, coach house and bakery were razed.⁵⁷ Fires in 1969 and 1981 were also particularly severe.⁵⁸ More recently, the Black Saturday fires in February 2009 impacted on the region with the Redesdale Fire destroying 14 houses and burning 7,086 hectares.⁵⁹

Storms

The Shire has a propensity for cyclonic storms, and has even been referred to as a 'tornado alley'. An extraordinary cyclone in 1857 destroyed brick chimney stacks and buildings in Maldon, and in 1897 an iron goods truck was lifted off the track.⁶⁰ A cyclone in 1901 destroyed many buildings at Wesley Hill,⁶¹ while another at Sandon in the mid-1970s caused loss of life.⁶² In 2015, a cyclone/storm occurred at Guildford.

Drought

The 'great drought' of 1865-6, one of Victoria's worst recorded, harshly impacted upon the goldfields regions and the scarcity of water forced the closure of some mines. During this drought, the people of Castlemaine lobbied the government to pass legislation to grant funds for the commencement of the Coliban Scheme.⁶³

Another drought which occurred in the period 1938-39 was disastrous for those on the land. Orchardists lost the fruit from their trees, and many pastoralists arranged for stock to be moved to other districts.⁶⁴

A short but severe drought associated with an El Nino occurred in 1982/83 and had a noticeable impact on native vegetation (e.g. death of many large Red Stringybark trees along the dry ridges) and was also reported to be a catalyst for the exit of many farmers from commercial agriculture.⁶⁵

⁵⁵ EnPlan Partners, *Mount Alexander Rural Land Study*, p33
⁵⁶ K James & N Davis, *A History of Metcalfe*, p41; J Randell, *Pastoral History of Northern Victoria, vol. 1: the Coliban District*, p286
⁵⁷ K James & N Davis, *A History of Barfold*, p25. The homestead had been lost in 1930.
⁵⁸ Landscape Logic, *Landscape History and Vegetation Change in the Muckleford Region of Victoria*, p3
⁵⁹ The 2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission Final Report, Volume 1, p170
⁶⁰ V Markham & A Leckie, *Maldon: Portrait of a Goldfields Town*, p14
⁶¹ Information provided by George Milford, comments on draft Thematic History provided in July 2014
⁶² Information provided by Derek Reid, comments on draft Thematic History provided in July 2014
⁶³ Coliban water website, www.coliban.com.au/site/root/about/history2.html, (Slide 56 + 57)
⁶⁴ K James & N Davis, *A History of Elphinstone*, p82
⁶⁵ Landscape Logic, *Landscape History and Vegetation Change in the Muckleford Region of Victoria*, p3

The decade long 'Millennium drought' of the 2000s, which affected much of Australia, caused financial hardship in the agricultural sector and severely depleted local water supplies, resulting in the implementation of water restrictions and an increase in the use of bore water. This drought had a large impact on the well-being of farming families, leading to a loss of employment in the agriculture sector which in turn contributed to more widespread community loss of employment.⁶⁶

1.4.2 Responding to Emergencies

Fire Brigades

From the 1850s on the Victorian goldfields, volunteers would form human chains using buckets of water to put out fires in the townships, or use wet bags and green tree branches for bushfires. As towns grew, brigades were formed and more sophisticated equipment was used. Fund raising would typically be undertaken to procure the necessary equipment.



Figure 11: Fire in Mostyn Street, Castlemaine on 15 April 1860, chalk drawing by Ismer Clarke. (Source: Castlemaine Art Gallery & Historical Museum, reproduced in G Hocking, *Castlemaine from Camp to City*, p61)

The earliest known fire brigade to be established in the Shire was the Castlemaine Voluntary Fire Brigade in late 1854. Several years later, the Council formed its own brigade. The municipal brigade and the voluntary brigade operated concurrently for some years before longstanding tensions between the two led to the demise of the latter in the mid-1860s. In 1875, Council's brigade was restructured to grant it greater autonomy; the brigade was thereafter purely voluntary, while Council provided finance for their operations. In 1887, the brigade relocated their equipment from quarters in Market Square to a new reel house in Templeton Street. In 1906, a larger station building was erected next to the earlier depot building.⁶⁷ An early fire brigade was also established in Maldon in 1873 with the original station building surviving in Fountain Street.⁶⁸

⁶⁶ SED Consulting, *Baringhup: Water for the Future, Lake Cairn Curran Impact Study*, pp9,17

⁶⁷ D Iskov, *History of the Castlemaine Fire Brigade*, np

⁶⁸ Jacobs Lewis Vines Architects, *Maldon Conservation Study*, part 2, p63



Figure 12: Castlemaine Fire Brigade Station, Templeton Street with earlier depot section on right (2014)

Government involvement commenced in 1890 with the formation of the Country Fire Brigades Board, which was also funded by insurance companies. After a number of serious bushfires, the Bush Fires Brigade was formed in 1926 consisting entirely of volunteers and administered by the State Forests Department. The brigade however had little power to initiate fire prevention. After devastating bushfires in 1939, a Royal Commission recommended a single organisation be established for rural areas. In Newstead in 1943, a fire station was built on the park reserve, housing the Urban Fire brigade with the Rural Brigade behind.⁶⁹

Following the disastrous bushfires which swept Victoria in 1944, legislation was passed allowing the CFA to be formed the following year. The CFA has developed into one of the largest fire fighting forces in the world.⁷⁰ There are several CFA stations in the Shire, testimony to the preparedness required in the fire-prone environment.

State Emergency Services

The Victoria State Emergency Service began as the Victorian Civil Defence Organisation in 1950. Today, it is the lead agency for flood, storm and earthquake responses. The Shire currently has a unit at Castlemaine which is part of the North West Region.⁷¹

1.5 Appreciating and Protecting the Natural Environment

As towns developed in the Shire during the mid-19th century, the Government stepped in to protect important resources like gold, timber, stone and water. In 1868 and 1874, a total of 4000 acres of Mount Alexander was declared a State forest.⁷²

Since the 1940s, there has been almost no net loss in the total area of tree cover. Today, about 12% of the Shire's area is defined as being conservation or natural environment,⁷³ however native vegetation actually covers about half of the Shire, including large areas designated for forestry, farming and other land uses. Restoration and regeneration of native vegetation, as part of sustainable farming and land management as well as for biodiversity outcomes, is starting to lead to a net gain in the Shire.⁷⁴ There are a number of parks and reserves including Mt Alexander Regional Park, Mount Lofty bushland reserve and Muckleford Nature Conservation Reserve. Declared in 2002, the Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park is the largest non-indigenous protected cultural landscape in Australia and the first National Heritage Park.⁷⁵

⁶⁹ 'Former Fire Station', *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead (Stage Two): Newstead*, place no. ND/38

⁷⁰ CFA website, www.cfa.vic.gov.au, *History*, accessed 10/10/2014

⁷¹ SES website, <http://www.ses.vic.gov.au/about/history>, accessed 26.08.2105

⁷² K Twigg and W Jacobs, *Shire of Metcalfe Heritage Study*, vol.1 Environmental History, p55

⁷³ Australian Bureau of Statistics, Mount Alexander Shire, Environment/Energy, accessed 12/06/2014

⁷⁴ Mount Alexander Shire Council, State of the Environment Report (Nov. 2010), p16

⁷⁵ Parks Victoria, *Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park*, Park Notes - Visitor Guide



Figure 13: Turpin's Falls on the Campaspe River (Richard Daintree, 1861)
(Source: State Library of Victoria, accession no. H36565)

Numerous sites in the Shire are appreciated for their scenic or natural values and are popular for recreational purposes, have local landmark value or have been the subject of artwork. The scenic qualities of natural bushland became increasingly popular with pleasure seekers from the 1870s, and favourite picnic locations included Mt Moorul (also known as the Rock of Ages) and a rock formation known as the Falls on the western slopes of Mt Tarrangower.⁷⁶ During the 20th century, Turpin's Falls on the Campaspe River was a popular swimming and picnic for local Barfold residents and others.⁷⁷ The 'Big Tree' at Guildford, estimated to be between 500-1000 years old, is thought to be one of the largest and oldest examples of its species (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis* or River Red Gum) in Victoria, and is a much-loved landmark in the town.⁷⁸



Figure 14: The 'Big Tree' at Guildford (2015)

There are thirty Landcare and Friends groups in the Shire, some of which were among the first Landcare groups to be established in Australia. There is a high level of engagement with restoring the natural environment and biodiversity, enhancing landscapes, forests, waterways, flora, and fauna, and exploring possibilities for ecological land management.⁷⁹

⁷⁶ V Markham & A Leckie, *Maldon: Portrait of a Goldfields*, p20

⁷⁷ K James & N Davis, *A History of Barfold*, p358

⁷⁸ Interpretation panel located beside the Big Tree at Guildford

⁷⁹ Connecting Country website, connectingcountry.org.au

2 INHABITING THE LAND

Introduction

This theme considers the many people who have inhabited the Shire over time and the innate qualities of the landscapes which have attracted and supported them. The Dja Dja Wurrung and Taungurung Aboriginal people have lived in the Shire area for many thousands of years, although the arrival of Europeans and others from the squatting period onwards greatly impacted upon their traditional relationship with the land. Exploration of the Shire in 1836 preceded the arrival of squatters who held large pastoral leases, quickly encompassing all of the land in the Shire. The gold rush of the 1850s saw extraordinary migration to the area, and although the population was initially transient, many settled permanently to develop the townships that had sprung up and establish a base for business, industry and agriculture. Later, settlement was promoted through selection under the 1860s Land Acts, subdivision and other schemes.

2.1 Living as Victoria's Original Inhabitants

Living on Country

The Box-Ironbark forests have traditionally provided the local Aboriginal people with plentiful resources; the trunks for canoes and shields (*mulka*), the limbs for boomerangs (*wonguim*), the blossoms for a sweet beverage (*yeerip korr*), the bark for bark huts (*willams*) and for ceremonial sculptures.¹

Aboriginal people carried out deliberate burning (firestick farming) to regenerate and promote the balance of species and ecosystems. The following observation was made by the explorer Major Thomas Mitchell:

Fire, grass, kangaroos and human inhabitants, seem all dependent on each other for existence in Australia; for any of these being wanting, the others could not longer continue. Fire is necessary to burn the grass, and from those open forests in which we find the large forest kangaroo: the native applies that fire to the grass at certain seasons, in order that a young green crop may subsequently spring up, and so attract and enable him to kill or take the kangaroo with nets.²

Open grasslands were maintained in areas with good soil (volcanic plains, rolling granite hills and alluvial creek flats) in order to encourage the breeding of kangaroos and the growth of edible plants.³

The traditional diet of the Dja Dja Wurrung consisted of fish, animals, birds, fruit, roots and grains.⁴ The Dja Dja Wurrung had a thriving economy based on the barter of greenstone (diorite) for axe heads, food, possum skins, wattle gums, spinifex resin, grinding stones and ochres.⁵

The Dja Dja Wurrung maintain a strong physical relationship with the country by continuing to access it, care for it and using its natural resources. Although their Country has been greatly changed since European colonisation, important tucker and medicine species can still be found and used as outlined in the following:

We use lomandra and matt rush to weave baskets. We hunt wallaby, emu and goanna. We eat the eels, mussels, crayfish and yellow belly from our streams. We gather bardi grubs and duck eggs, nardoo and yam daisies and wattle seeds for food and medicine. We use buloke and red gum timber for our tools and ceremonies.⁶

Aboriginal sites

At least twelve of the twenty-three Aboriginal site types recognised for Victoria are found on Dja Dja Wurrung lands: mound, artefact scatter, scarred tree, rock shelter, isolated artefact, quarry, burial, fish trap, grinding rock, hearth, shell midden, rock arrangement and rock well.⁷ Many Aboriginal sites were destroyed following the gold rush in the area from the 1850s.

¹ I Clark & D Cahir, *Tanderrum 'Freedom of the bush': The Dja Dja Wurrung presence on the goldfields of Central Victoria*, pp4-5

² G Gill, *Mapping Great Change: the Landscape of Central Victoria*, p15

³ G Gill, *Mapping Great Change: the Landscape of Central Victoria*, p15-17

⁴ Many species have since disappeared

⁵ V Markham & A Leckie, *Maldon: Portrait of a Goldfields Town*, p4

⁶ Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation, *Dhelkunya Dja: Dja Dja Wurrung Country Plan 2014-2034*, p18

⁷ I Clark & D Cahir, *Tanderrum 'Freedom of the bush': The Dja Dja Wurrung presence on the goldfields of Central Victoria*, p2

2.2 Exploration & Surveying

The first Europeans known to have travelled through the Shire were those in the exploration party of Major Thomas Livingstone Mitchell.⁸ This was part of Mitchell's third expedition, which left Bathurst in March 1836 to explore south of the Murray River. Mitchell famously named the rich pasture land in what is now central and western Victoria as 'Australia Felix' – Fortunate/Happy Australia. Mitchell's detailed observations are recorded in *Three Expeditions into the Interior of Eastern Australia*.

Mitchell passed through the area during September 1836. On 27 September, he came from the west and crossed the Loddon River at Newstead, though he had named it the Yarrayne River. The party camped near what is now the Rotunda Park at Newstead. The following day, they headed north-east to the Castlemaine area, camping at Moonlight Flat. Late on the 28th, Mitchell, together with one of the Aboriginal guides, Tommy Came-last, went in search of the mount to the north, which had guided his route from Mt Cole. He named it Mt Byng, but it is now known as Mt Alexander.⁹



Figure 15: Cairn near Expedition Pass, Golden Point (2014)
Commemorating Mitchell's route of 29 September 1836 (erected in 1914)

On September 29, Mitchell passed through Expedition Pass as described in the following

we descended along the hollow of a ravine after making it passable by throwing some rocks into the narrow part near its head. The ravine at length opened, as I had expected, into a grassy valley with a fine rivulet flowing through it, and from this valley we debouched into the still more open granitic country at the foot of Mount Byng [Alexander]. The pass thus auspiciously discovered and opened, over a neck apparently the very lowest of the whole range, I named Expedition-pass, confident that such a line of communication between the southern coast and Sydney must, in the course of time, become a very considerable thoroughfare.¹⁰

A cairn near Expedition Pass reservoir was erected in 1914 to commemorate Mitchell's route on the 29 September 1836, and is probably a relatively early example, as most cairns were erected at the time of the centenary of the expedition (1936).

Surveying

Until 1851 surveying in Victoria, then the Port Philip District, was directed from the Colony of New South Wales. Work initially focused on the Melbourne area before spreading out across the State. Work was however slow with inadequate equipment and insufficient staffing levels (including some convict labour).¹¹

⁸ Mitchell was knighted in 1839

⁹ *The Major Mitchell Trail – Exploring Australia Felix*, pp99-101

¹⁰ T Mitchell, *Three Expeditions into the Interior of Eastern Australia*, chapter 3.12 (ebook sourced from the Project Gutenberg)

¹¹ K L Chappel, *Surveying for Land Settlement in Victoria 1836-1960*, pp1-2, 16

Surveying activity within the Shire during the 1840s was limited, as it was across much of rural Victoria, however the surveyor William Weston Howe was employed to locate the headwaters of the Loddon River. As part of this work, a River Red Gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) was marked at the junction of Barkers and Forest Creeks in Castlemaine.¹²

2.3 Squatting

In 1836, the same year of Major Mitchell's exploration, the Government legalised the taking up of land to graze stock beyond the 'limits of location'.¹³ Overlanding parties, beginning with Joseph Hawdon's, followed the wheel tracks of Major Mitchell's route, prior to the latter's return to Sydney.¹⁴

Major Mitchell's description of the Port Phillip District was received with enthusiasm by pastoralists around Sydney who began arriving in a steady stream bringing sheep and taking up land (squatting), in part to escape drought. Squatters began to settle in the Mount Alexander area from 1838. The land was quickly divided into a number of large pastoral leases or runs (of at least 10,000 acres) with sheep for wool production initially being the primary farming activity. Subdivision occurred especially to the large leases – for example, Campaspe Plains and Charlotte Plains, both initially more than 100,000 acres.¹⁵

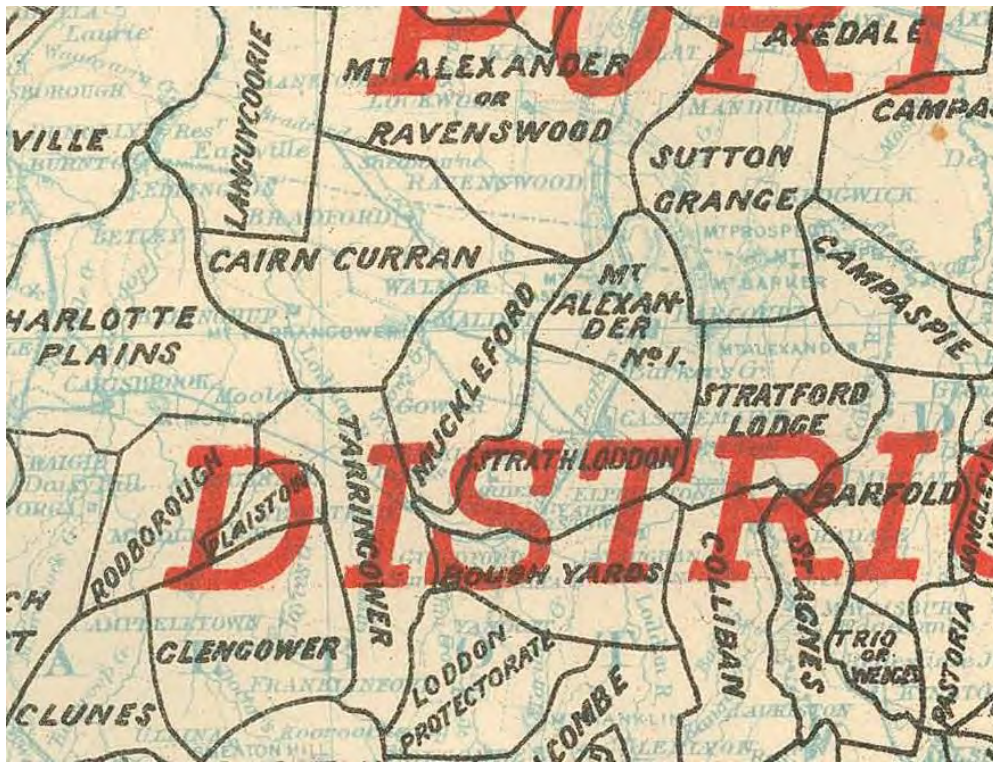


Figure 16: Map showing the Pastoral Holdings of the Port Phillip District 1835-1851 (A S Kenyon, 1932)
(Source: State Library of Victoria)

In 1847, legislation was enacted that enabled squatters to purchase the homestead block of their runs, up to a maximum of 640 acres. This was known as their pre-emptive right.¹⁶

¹² National Trust Register, T12131. The tree is thought to be 200-300 years old.

¹³ The 'limits of location' referred to the nineteen counties proclaimed in 1829 to control the extent of legal European settlement of the Australian mainland. Nineteen counties were set between the Lachlan and the Goulburn plains to the south (approximately halfway between Sydney and the Murray River); the Hunter region to the north; and Wellington Valley to the west.

¹⁴ S Roberts, *The Squatting Age in Australia 1835-1847*, pp183-84

¹⁵ A summary of the early pastoral runs that were either wholly or partly established in the Shire, from the late 1830s to the mid-1840s has been included as an appendix.

¹⁶ In 1847, an Order-in-Council provided for squatters to licence and to lease pastoral runs, and to purchase up to 640 acres on these runs (homestead areas – pre-emptive right).

Among the earliest applications for a pre-emptive right in the Shire were in 1852, when Booth & Argyle applied for 1334 acres of St Agnes but were only granted 275 acres in 1854.¹⁷ In that year, W H R Mitchell applied for two parcels of 320 acres of Barfold.¹⁸ Other pre-emptive rights granted during the 1850s, all consisting of 640 acres, were Sutton Grange,¹⁹ Doctor Barker's/the Mount Alexander run,²⁰ and M & W Bryants, later inundated to create the Cairn Curran reservoir.²¹

Two early homesteads survive in the Shire, both of which are single storey houses in a restrained Georgian mode with hip roofs and timber posts to extensive verandahs. At Stratford Lodge, near Metcalfe, there is an original late 1840s house, built from the local white granite, as well as a timber slab kitchen.²² At *Plaistow* in Joyces Creek in the south-west end of the Shire, the earliest section to survive is timber with a cellar, which may be an extension to the original and date to c.1846. The main part of the house is brick, manufactured on the site, and dates from 1850.



Figure 17: *Stratford Lodge* (J Collins, 1968)
(Source: SLV, H98.250/331)



Figure 18: *Plaistow* (J Collins, 1968)
(Source: SLV, H98.250/1187)

At *Glengower*, Campbelltown, in the south-west corner of the Shire, about seven buildings dating between c.1839 and 1867 survive, including the original stone homestead and the later homestead, cook house, barn, stables and woolshed.²³

In some instances, holdings associated with the original pre-emptive right or squatting run exist, for example, the original homestead block associated with the Barfold run survives as an entity and is known as Barfold Homestead.²⁴

At some homesteads, later 19th century fabric survives although the original may not. For instance, the extant brick house at Coliban Park dates to the later 19th century, however there is an earlier outbuilding - a large granite woolshed constructed with Chinese labour.²⁵

2.4 The Gold Rush

2.4.1 Gold Related Migration

The September 1851 publication of the discovery of gold at Specimen Gully prompted an immediate rush to the area, initially attracting those already in Victoria and other parts of Australia. The news of the rich Mount Alexander discoveries reached England in May 1852, and subsequently throughout Europe, China and America, attracting large

¹⁷ M Morgan, *Crown Lands Pre-emptive Right Applications: Victoria 1850-1854*, p9

¹⁸ Emberton Parish Plan E49(3). W H R Mitchell also acquired several other large adjacent parcels of land in 1856.

¹⁹ Sutton Grange Parish Plan S352(2). North-east of the township, acquired by H N Simson

²⁰ Harcourt Parish Plan H16(5). The run was immediately north of the Harcourt.

²¹ Baringhup Parish Plan, B2(2). The Bryants acquired several other large parcels of land in the vicinity during the 1850s and 1860s.

²² VHR Citation, H0318: *Stratford Lodge*.

²³ W Jacobs (and others), *Shire of Mount Alexander: Heritage Study of Newstead*, place no. CT/01. Several photographs taken by John Collins from 1968 to 1985 are held by the SLV.

²⁴ K James & N Davis, *A History of Barfold*, p25

²⁵ K James & N Davis, *A History of Metcalfe*, p28

numbers of hopeful immigrants. In all, approximately 584,000 persons²⁶ immigrated to Victoria during the period July 1851 to December 1861, causing the rapid expansion of Victoria's population which grew from 77,000 in 1851 to 237,000 in 1854 and 411,000 in 1857.²⁷ Most of the townships in the Shire were established during this period.

The gold-related migration that occurred during the 1850s in Victoria led to profound social and cultural change for central Victoria. The goldfields were multi-cultural places, with a diversity of language, traditions and religious faiths. Immigrants often grouped with their compatriots, living in clusters and working together. A description of the Castlemaine Market in 1862 vividly conveys the multi-cultural nature of the district:

What a mixed population you encounter as you elbow your way through the crowd! English, Scotch and Irish, of course; but then Germans, Americans, Frenchmen, Italians, and the omnipresent Chinaman, the latter a most useful bee in the world's hive.²⁸

Many migrants brought with them skills other than in mining, finding opportunities particularly as towns began to be established. Differences in experience impacted on the way migrants were able to take up economic opportunities, for instance many of the Cornish and Welsh came from a mining background whereas the Irish tended to be farmers.²⁹

Today, the legacy of migration remains apparent in many aspects of the Shire such as industry (e.g. stonemasonry), the built environment, engineering works, food manufacture, distinct sections in some cemeteries (e.g. Chinese), and many place names (e.g. Italian Hill, Welshman's Reef, Irishtown).

British Isles

The English-born were by far the largest migrant group. Among the groups well represented were those from the copper and tin mining areas, such as Devon and Cornwall, with fewer from coal mining areas. The other main places of origin were London, Lancashire and Yorkshire, where people had experienced displacement as a result of the Industrial Revolution.³⁰

Many Cornish settlers brought with them skills in quarrying and masonry. In 1862, Joseph Blight began working the area that came to be the successful business, Blight's Quarries, supplying stone for important Melbourne buildings and even exporting to Europe.³¹ Similarly Welsh migrants worked slate quarries at the Welsh Village (Golden Point) as an adjunct to their early gold mining activities.

The majority of Irish migrants came from farming rather than mining, backgrounds. Irishtown was once a flourishing settlement on the outskirts of Fryerstown with numerous hotels, including the Shamrock, and St Patrick's Church, which had capacity for 400 people; today little evidence remains of the town.³²

The Scottish were also well represented in the Shire, more so during the early phase of the gold rush, as from 1861 to 1881 about 70% of that community left the Shire (a similar number of English also moved away).³³

Chinese

The Chinese were the second largest migrant group on the Castlemaine goldfields, after those from the United Kingdom. Generally the Chinese migrated for economic reasons, intending their stay to be temporary and to return home to their families wealthier. In 1857 there were 4,668 Chinese at Castlemaine.³⁴

As the most culturally distinct group on the goldfields, the Chinese suffered discrimination and injustice to an extent not experienced by the other migrant groups. Tensions between the Chinese and Europeans were such that a protectorate system was established, which sought to confine the Chinese to specific areas on the goldfields.³⁵ At times however,

²⁶ R Broome, *Arriving*, p72. Of these, 300,000 came from the United Kingdom, 45,000 from foreign ports, 8,000 from New Zealand and the South Seas, and the remaining 229,000 (some of whom were newly arrived from overseas) came by sea from the other Australian colonies. Tens of thousands more overlanded from other parts of Australia.

²⁷ eGold website, C Elkner: Immigration and Ethnicity: Overview

²⁸ C Fahey & A Mayne, *Gold Tailings*, p123. Extract originally from *Mount Alexander Mail*, 23/05/1862.

²⁹ C Fahey & A Mayne, *Gold Tailings*, pp159-160

³⁰ H Holst, *Making a Home: A History of Castlemaine*, p31; Information provided by Peter Cuffley

³¹ C Harris, *Granite Quarrying at Mount Alexander*, pp7,11

³² C Fahey & A Mayne, *Gold Tailings*, p121

³³ H Holst, *Making a Home: A History of Castlemaine*, p39

³⁴ R Broome, *Arriving*, p81

³⁵ R Broome, *Arriving*, p83

the Europeans supported the local Chinese community for instance in 1857 when a petition was organised by the broader Castlemaine populace against the impositions on the Chinese.³⁶

The Chinese quarter at North Maldon had shops, opium dens and a joss house.³⁷ There were also large Chinese camps/quarters at Campbells Creek, Chewton, Fryerstown, Castlemaine, Guildford and Vaughan. The Chinese quarter at Guildford was called Old Canton and resembled a Chinese town with streets of Chinese shops that included barbers, letter writers, herbalists, restaurants, necromancers, opium dens, gambling houses and entertainment venues.³⁸

The original Chinese protectorate precinct of Castlemaine that was allocated in 1854 was unsuccessful because it was too far removed from the town and diggings. As a result, unofficial settlements were established in closer proximity.³⁹ The Castlemaine Hospital had a ward devoted to the Chinese.⁴⁰

While the Chinese often congregated together, it was not necessarily in the protectorates or on the margins of the European community. An example of their broader community involvement is indicated by their financial support for the Castlemaine Benevolent Asylum through collections, individual subscriptions, and fundraising events such as the 1866 performance of 'Chinese Theatricals' at the Castlemaine Theatre Royal.⁴¹



Figure 19: Former James Ah Coy house, Castlemaine (2014).

As gold mining became less viable, the Chinese predominantly turned to growing and selling vegetables – a gap in the market not well filled by Europeans.⁴² The supply of fresh vegetables made a valuable contribution to the economy and health of the area. There was an extensive garden at Vaughan, which was a communal operation.⁴³

A significant Chinese figure in the community was the interpreter James Ah Coy, who rose to affluence in the 1850s and 60s as a successful merchant and prominent property owner in Castlemaine.⁴⁴ His house remains in Bowden Street and it is one of a few extant buildings that can be directly associated with Chinese usage.⁴⁵

Continental Europeans

The Germans were the largest group of continental Europeans on the goldfields.⁴⁶ In Maldon, the German community had its own lieder group and library. There was also a Jewish settlement with a synagogue at Eaglehawk (near Maldon).⁴⁷

³⁶ Information provided by CHSI May 2015; VCMHS 1997 64 A

³⁷ V Markham & A Leckie, *Maldon: Portrait of a Goldfields Town*, p15

³⁸ J Scott, *Miners to Market Gardeners: Chinese on the Castlemaine Goldfields*, p58

³⁹ C Fahey & A Mayne, *Gold Tailings*, p183

⁴⁰ Information provided by CHSI, May 2015

⁴¹ H Holst, *Making a Home: A History of Castlemaine*, p143

⁴² J Scott, *Miners to Market Gardeners: Chinese on the Castlemaine Goldfields*, p70

⁴³ J Scott, *Miners to Market Gardeners: Chinese on the Castlemaine Goldfields*, p71

⁴⁴ J Scott, *Miners to Market Gardeners: Chinese on the Castlemaine Goldfields*, p67. He was later accused of receiving money under false pretences and gaoled.

⁴⁵ VHR, Citation H737. Built in the 1860s, it has some Regency styling with a parapet and timber valance to the front verandah.

⁴⁶ R Broome, *Arriving*, p81

In the late 1850s there were approximately 200 Scandinavian miners at Campbells Creek, who collected about the Five Flags Hotel.⁴⁸ There was also an area of Campbells Creek known as Little Copenhagen.

In 1859 more than 200 stonemasons from Hamburg were brought to the Harcourt area, creating a significant German and Danish population in the district, and many stayed. This pool of skilled labour contributed to the high quality of stone-work in the Shire's public, commercial and residential buildings of the 1860s and 1870s.⁴⁹



Figure 20: Five Flags Hotel, Campbells Creek (2014)



Figure 21: Stone house, Yandoit Hills (2015)

Swiss-Italians settled in the Yandoit Hills area from the early 1860s.⁵⁰ Buildings were constructed using a vernacular stone rubble technique characteristic of northern Italy.⁵¹ During the 1920s, Italian timber-cutters were working in the Barfold area.⁵²

2.4.2 Miner's Right

The Miner's Right, which replaced the gold licence following the Eureka rebellion, entitled the holder to take a parcel of land for residential purposes.⁵³ From 1865, the land could be transferred to another holder of a miner's right and any improvements such as a house and buildings could be sold. Holders had tenure over their parcel of land, although the land still belonged to the Crown. Later it was possible to apply to the Lands Department to convert the Miner's Right into freehold title. The system continued at least until the 1960s.⁵⁴



Figure 22: Tute's Cottage, Castlemaine
(Source: eGold website, <http://www.egold.net.au/objects/DEG000134.htm>, accessed 29/09/2014)

⁴⁷ V Markham & A Leckie, *Maldon: Portrait of a Goldfields Town*, pp14+20

⁴⁸ R Broome, *Arriving*, p82

⁴⁹ Information provided by George Milford, July 2014

⁵⁰ C Culvenor, *The Settlement of Yandoit Creek & the Gervasonis*. Note that most of this area is outside the Shire boundaries.

⁵¹ VHR Citation H808: *Former Carlo Gervasoni Homestead*. The building has not been inhabited since the 1920s.

⁵² K James & N Davis, *A History of Barfold*, p184

⁵³ Also the right to collect wood and stone from Crown land and graze animals on the goldfields common and on vacant Crown lands.

⁵⁴ H Holst, *Making a Home: A History of Castlemaine*, p44

⁵⁴ H Holst, *Making a Home: A History of Castlemaine*, p45

The right to take up land fostered a more stable community life and crucially, was a considerable incentive for people to settle permanently in the area following the gold rush. In 1896, well after mining had declined, there were 1,478 blocks of land held on a miner's right registered in the Castlemaine Mining District.⁵⁵

The Miner's Right needed to be renewed annually, although there was no requirement that the holder be engaged in mining activity. Thousands of cottages, including 'Tute's Cottage', were constructed in designated areas under this system.

2.5 Promoting Settlement

2.5.1 Surveying Townships

Few small settlements had been established in the Shire prior to the gold rush, primarily Elphinstone and Harcourt, but they were not surveyed. Prior to 1848, little survey work had been undertaken but in December of that year, several additional counties were proclaimed and William Swan Urquhart was instructed to survey the central northern part of Victoria, including the study area.⁵⁶

With the advent of the gold rush, there was a need for much more extensive surveying to be undertaken. Urquhart surveyed several townships in the Shire beginning with Elphinstone and Castlemaine in 1852. In that year, Urquhart became senior surveyor and the surveyor in charge of the Mount Alexander gold fields. He had a number of assistants and arranged for a survey office to be constructed east of Taradale on the west side of the Coliban River. The office has been demolished, though sections of a retaining wall survive, and the 150 acres set aside for it became a public park in 1858.⁵⁷



Figure 23: 'Map of Australia Felix' (Thomas Ham, 1847)
(Source: State Library of Victoria)

⁵⁵ H Holst, *Making a Home: A History of Castlemaine*, p47

⁵⁶ K James, *The Career of Surveyor William Swan Urquhart 1843-1864*, 2008, pp2-3. Urquhart was born in Scotland in 1818 and worked for the government in Victoria from about 1844 to 1864. He died in 1881

⁵⁷ K James, *The Career of Surveyor William Swan Urquhart 1843-1864*, 2008, pp9, 14, 16, 23-32. Other surveyors known to have worked in the Shire during the 1850s under Urquhart's direction include John Templeton, E W Bagshaw, Thomas Adair, John Daniell and John Turner (at Castlemaine) and Henry Morris (at Newstead and Sutton Grange).

2.5.2 Selection

The series of *Selection Acts* of the 1860s were intended to open up land and create a farming class with some social standing (yeomen). The particulars of each Act varied, but key elements were similar such that if certain conditions were met, the selector could receive the title to the allotment.

Squatters generally resented the intrusion of the selector and considered them to be usurping their land rights. They opposed the first two Acts of 1860 and 1862 so that it was not until the Acts of 1865 and 1869 that land selection became easier. Squatters nonetheless tried to exclude selectors by various means including 'peacocking', whereby they would restrict the selector's access to water, and 'dummying', whereby they would claim more freehold land than they were entitled to by using the name of relatives or friends.⁵⁸

As a result of the Land Act 1869, selection was made easier and there was a concomitant increase in applications. Most of the applications were made under sections 19 and 20 of the Act, under which a three year license for a maximum of 320 acres of Crown land could be made. Under section 20, there were conditions relating to improvements including the erection of fencing and a dwelling, cultivation of their land, and the destruction of vermin and noxious weeds. After the initial lease had expired, the selector was eligible to apply for a further seven year lease or a Crown grant to purchase the allotment. If the selector chose to take up the seven year lease, the rent was deducted from the purchase price of the land.⁵⁹

In the Shire, selection was primarily limited to the northern parts and often constituted smaller allotments. For example, in the northern part of Baringhup Parish, many of the selected lots were in the order of 100 acres or less, much smaller than the standard 320 acres.⁶⁰ This is likely due to the large influx of people into the Shire from 1851 onwards with the gold rush that more of the land had been surveyed and sold much earlier than other parts of the State (where it was possible to select the maximum acreage).

2.5.3 Later Settlement Schemes

Small Farming Subdivision

Private subdivision by landholders to create smaller farming allotments occurred in the 1890s and early 20th century, similar to the State Government's Closer Settlement Scheme, developed in response to the increased demand for farming land as Victoria recovered from the depression of the 1890s, whereby land was acquired from large privately owned properties and subdivided to create closely settled communities engaged in agriculture.⁶¹ Interestingly, in the Shire it appears that such subdivisions were initiated by private landholders, independent of the Government.

The subdivision of the Moffat Estate occurred at Harcourt in 1892 and preceded the introduction of the Government's scheme.⁶² In 1901 and 1905 lots from the subdivision of the Barfold Estate, Barfold, were sold.⁶³ The 1913 subdivision of the Koongal Estate, Harcourt, as orchard blocks, was observed to provide 'a practical demonstration of a Closer Settlement scheme far exceeding many similar schemes controlled by the Government'.⁶⁴

Since the later part of the 20th century, subdivision in the rural areas of the Shire has catered mainly for hobby farm and non-production based rural living use.⁶⁵

Soldier Settlement Scheme

The Soldier Settlement Scheme, an extension of the Closer Settlement Scheme, was an attempt by the Government to support thousands of returned World War One soldiers through the distribution of 2.8 million acres of Victorian

⁵⁸ 'Peacocking' is putting in a land selection claim for all land surrounding a water supply to prevent adjacent land being selected (due to lack of water).

⁵⁹ PROV, land selection files, section 19 and 20, 1869. Description of series

⁶⁰ Baringhup Parish Plan B2(2). The allotments associated with selection can be identified by the numbers 19.20 or 31 beneath a fraction like line on the relevant parcel of land on the parish plans.

⁶¹ PROV, description of Agency VA 2266

⁶² The Land Act (No.1602) 1898 first made provision for the acquisition of land for the purpose of closer settlement.

⁶³ K James & N Davis, *A History of Barfold*, p19. The land was sold by J S Osborne.

⁶⁴ W James, 'Extension of orchards...', *Mount Alexander Mail*, 15/07/1914, as reproduced in G Milford, *Koongal*, the focus and exemplar of *Closer Settlement* in the Harcourt Valley', dated 17/02/2014. The district referred to in the quote is Harcourt.

⁶⁵ EnPlan Partners, *Mount Alexander Rural Land Study*, p13

farmland.⁶⁶ Later however, the scheme was widely considered a failure, with more than half of all soldier settlers leaving their land by 1938. Some of the reasons for this included the small size of many of the blocks, lack of experience, lack of capital, effects of the Great Depression, and the difficulties resulting from the ongoing physical and psychological impacts of the war.

Some soldier settlement occurred in the Shire. In 1920-22, the Soldier Settlement Board acquired 10,000 acres of the Glengower estate (partly in the Strathlea district, the remainder outside the Shire boundaries). About sixteen settlers took up blocks but the difficulties they faced led to the early departure of seven.⁶⁷

Following World War Two, in 1954, a soldier settlement with eight 650 acre allotments was established at Coliban Park. They were amongst the last soldiers to be allocated land in the State and they prospered during the 1960s.⁶⁸

Other 20th Century Schemes

Following the Second World War, European migrants who came on assisted passages were sent to work on Government projects. Many were employed in the construction of the Cairn Curran Reservoir, living in a camp established at Baringhup,⁶⁹ while Baltic migrants worked for the Forest Commission cutting timber in Taradale and had a camp on Tower Road.⁷⁰

2.6 Fighting for Identity

Prior to the arrival of Europeans in the Port Phillip area, the Dja Dja Wurrung population (estimated to have been around 1400) had already been affected by smallpox that had been passed on from tribe to tribe. Direct contact with Europeans from the late 1830s led to further deaths from dietary changes (including alcohol), contagious diseases and conflict, as well as displacement from, and dispossession, of their traditional land/country.⁷¹

Squatting Period

The Dja Dja Wurrung assisted the European newcomers, guiding squatters and would be pastoral managers along traditional travelling routes to choice selections to establish their runs and leases.⁷² An instance of the Dja Dja Wurrung diplomatic rite *tanderrum*, 'freedom of the bush', being extended to Europeans was recorded by Joseph Parker (c.1839).⁷³ *Tanderrum* symbolises the landholder's hospitality and allowed temporary access to clan resources after a ritual exchange of gifts.



Figure 24: 'Stratford Lodge the station of Jas. Orr Esqr Port Phillip' (Ham Brothers lithographers, c.1850-55) (Source: State Library of Victoria, accession no. H1606)

⁶⁶ PROV website, <http://soldiersettlement.prov.vic.gov.au/>

⁶⁷ P Taylor, *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead*, section 2, Environmental History, pp71-72

⁶⁸ K Twigg & W Jacobs, *Shire of Metcalfe Heritage Study*, p49

⁶⁹ Some account of the migrant experience at Baringhup is given in the book *Romulus My Father* by R Gaita.

⁷⁰ R Maltby, *Taradale: My Home Town Valley*, p160

⁷¹ V Markham & A Leckie, *Maldon: Portrait of a Goldfields Town*, p3. Dja Dja Wurrung lands are broader than the Shire boundaries.

⁷² Correspondence from the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation, received 29/09/2014

⁷³ I Clark & D Cahir, *Tanderrum 'Freedom of the bush'*, p9. Joseph Parker was the son of Edward Parker, the assistant protector responsible for the Loddon/Northwestern district.

The European settlers who established pastoral stations in the area effectively exiled the Dja Dja Wurrung people from their lands in two main waves: in the south from late 1839 and in the north from 1845.⁷⁴ The grasslands created by the Aboriginal practice of firestick farming were prized by the Europeans as excellent sheep pastures, and here the sheep ate the foliage (the above surface evidence) of the *Murnong* (yam daisy), which was a staple of the Aboriginal diet, as well as the grasses on which game fed. Furthermore, access to water and hunting grounds was denied, and drinking water was polluted by stock.⁷⁵

For many Dja Dja Wurrung people the choice was either starvation or a move to the Aboriginal protectorate for the Loddon/North-western district, established in 1839 and run by Assistant Protector Edward Stone Parker.⁷⁶ The protectorate station was initially sited at Yerrip Hills (near present day Sunbury, outside the Shire), then briefly at Neereman between 1840-41 (in the north west of the Shire), before it was settled at Mt Franklin (just south of the Shire) in 1841.⁷⁷ At the protectorate, the Dja Dja Wurrung continued their cultural practices and a lifestyle of seasonal resource use and movements where possible.⁷⁸ From 1863, most of the remaining Dja Dja Wurrung people were moved to the Coranderrk Mission (Healesville, north-east of Melbourne).⁷⁹

There were instances of conflict between the European newcomers and the Aboriginal people. In 1837, in the eastern part of the Shire (Taungurung land), about ten Taungurung men were killed in a confrontation following the killing of a shepherd and the stealing of sheep.⁸⁰ One source documents thirteen 'killings and massacres' on Dja Dja Wurrung lands between 1838 and 1846,⁸¹ including an instance in January 1840 at the base of Mt Alexander when a group of Aboriginal people, accused of stealing sheep, were attacked by a squatter and mounted troopers, resulting in several deaths and the gaoling in Melbourne of one of the Dja Dja Wurrung clan-heads.⁸² There was also conflict occurring amongst the various clans during the early 1840s, including between the western and southern Dja Dja Wurrung clans and some Taungurung clans.⁸³

Gold Rush Period

As station hands rushed to the gold fields leaving farms without labour, some Dja Dja Wurrung took on employment in the pastoral sector, allowing them to continue to reside on, or near, their traditional Country.⁸⁴ Aboriginal workers were employed for tasks to do with livestock, crops and maintenance, such as shearing, harvesting, wood cutting, shepherding, ploughing, bullock driving, lambing, sheep washing and dipping, and dam construction.⁸⁵

⁷⁴ I Clark & D Cahir, *Tanderrum 'Freedom of the Bush'*, p7

⁷⁵ J Scott, *Miners to Market Gardeners: Chinese on the Castlemaine Goldfields*, p6

⁷⁶ PROV, VPRS 4409/P Copies Of Correspondence relating to the Establishment of the Aboriginal Protectorate, unit 1. The Port Phillip Aboriginal Protectorate, established for the 'better protection and civilisation' of Aboriginal people, commenced operations in 1839.

⁷⁷ In 1837 it was recommended that an Aboriginal Protectorate be established in the Port Phillip District, accordingly in 1838, George Augustus Robinson was appointed Chief Protector and with him four Assistant Protectors, one of whom was Edward Parker who was responsible for the 'Loddon' or 'North-western District'.

⁷⁸ *Recognition and Settlement Agreement*, vol.1 of 2, pp2-3; I Clark & D Cahir, *Tanderrum 'Freedom of the Bush'*, p11. The protectorate scheme came to an end in 1849, although Parker continued to operate the station as a pastoral run, providing an ongoing home for the Dja Dja Wurrung people.

⁷⁹ R Broome, *Aboriginal Victorians, A History since 1800*, p125. It was one of seven reserves established in Victoria as part of a system whereby Aboriginal groups were allocated land for agricultural purposes; *Recognition and Settlement Agreement*, vol.1 of 2, p3. With the dismantling of the missions and reserves by the early 1900s, Dja Dja Wurrung people moved to the Aboriginal communities that formed in and around former missions and reserves, as well as in Melbourne. Others continued to live and work on pastoral properties

⁸⁰ K James & N Davis, *A History of Barfold*, p10. The shepherd worked for William Bowman who occupied a squatting run adjacent to Barfold Station.

⁸¹ I Clark & D Cahir, *Tanderrum 'Freedom of the bush'*, p7. The source referred to is I Clark, *Scars in the Landscape: a Register of Massacre Sites in Western Victoria*, 1995

⁸² J Tully, *The Mindye Stone Arrangement at Bealiba*, p26

⁸³ I Clark & D Cahir, *Tanderrum 'Freedom of the Bush'*, p2

⁸⁴ *Recognition and Settlement Agreement*, vol.1 of 2, p3

⁸⁵ I Clark and DA Cahir, *Tanderrum 'Freedom of the bush'*, p13



Figure 25: 'Mount Alexander from Saw-Pit Gully', 1856. Note the group of Dja Dja Wurrung people on the right.
(Source: National Library of Australia, nla.pic-an9092003)

The Dja Dja Wurrung also retained a presence on the goldfields; some undertook mining themselves, while others guided miners to new deposits. Some Dja Dja Wurrung miners formed small groups or partnerships with European miners.⁸⁶ Aboriginal miners retained a sense of their right to their Country that was being dramatically altered by mining and agriculture; in 1852 when a group of Dja Dja Wurrung miners were asked by police to show their licences, they retorted that the gold and the land were theirs by right so why should they pay money to the Queen.⁸⁷

⁸⁶ F Cahir, *Black Gold, Aboriginal People on the Goldfields of Victoria*, images section

⁸⁷ I Clark and D Cahir, *Tanderrum 'Freedom of the bush'*, p13

3 TRANSPORT & COMMUNICATIONS

Introduction

This theme examines how transport and communication networks influenced, and were influenced by, patterns of settlement and the need to provide access to markets for the local agricultural and industrial output. Early settlers and visitors travelling to the Shire followed the route taken by Major Thomas Mitchell's exploratory party in 1836 (the 'Major's Line'). The gold rush and the establishment of an administrative centre at Castlemaine drove the rapid development of transportation and communication networks in the Shire. In addition, the Shire's proximity to Melbourne and regional centres, resulted in it becoming a nodal point in the State's network from the mid-19th century. However, over the course of the 20th century the decreased dependence on the State's railway system and the bypassing of townships with the new Calder Highway has reduced the Shire's prominence in the State's networks.

3.1 Establishing Pathways

The first pathways were created by Aboriginal people and it is likely that these lines of travel were also utilised by Europeans. Tracks were reinforced by travellers passing through the area by cart, on foot or by horse. Squatters also formed their own network of tracks between their homestead, outstations, shepherds huts and neighbouring homesteads.

The early, unsurfaced roads were ill-suited to the dramatic increase in traffic to, and within, the Shire during the gold rush. The roads were often impassable during flooding, making it expensive at certain times of the year for local merchants and producers to transport their products.

3.1.1 Building Roadways

After the severe floods of 1851 a parliamentary committee was rapidly formed '... to determine the lines of communication needed by the newly independent colony.' As a result, a Central Roads Board (CRB) was established in 1853 to supervise the formation of seven major roads across the State but also encouraged local communities to form district road boards. Up until 1860, the Central Road Board concentrated most of its funds on constructing a road to the gold diggings at Mount Alexander.¹ During the gold rush of the 1850s '... there was a greater movement of people and goods on the Mount Alexander road than on any other road outside Melbourne'.²

The main track from Melbourne to the Shire passed through Keilor and the Black Forest (near Woodend), and continued to Bendigo.³ It became known as the Mount Alexander Road. Initially the road was surfaced with gravel and metal (blue metal or broken stone/basalt), as indicated in an 1855 contract granted for a section of the road between Castlemaine and Harcourt.⁴ Another contract of the same year was for maintenance of a section of the road between Elphinstone and Golden Point.⁵ By the mid-1860s, the road between Castlemaine and Bendigo was described as 'a capital highway' and provided good access for the farms at Harcourt.⁶

Gold Escorts

Government run gold escorts were established to safely transport gold from the central Victorian diggings. Initially, escorts from Mount Alexander operated services to Adelaide as well as to Geelong and Melbourne. In June 1852, the private Melbourne and Mount Alexander Escort Company was formed, and guaranteed the miner against loss (something the government escort did not).⁷

¹ S Priestly, *The Victorians: Making their mark*, pp51-52; *Victoria Government Gazette*, 9 February 1853, the act was known as The Act for making and improving Roads in the Colony of Victoria, 1853

² H Carr, *The Calder Highway. Melbourne to Mildura: opening the Victorian Inland*, p108

³ P McGuire, *Inns of Australia*, p204

⁴ *Victoria Government Gazette*, 1855, p567. The contract was for £1350.

⁵ *Victoria Government Gazette*, 1855, p1142. The contract was for £3263.

⁶ S Priestly, *The Victorians: Making their mark*, p52

⁷ L Donati, 'Gold Escorts', egold website, www.egold.net.au/biogs/EG00143b.htm



Figure 26: Mount Alexander gold escort on road to Melbourne (S T Gill, 1869)
(Source: State Library of Victoria, H86.7/34)

Toll Houses

From 1853 tolls could be collected on roads throughout Victoria with the establishment of District Road Boards. These boards were responsible for the construction and maintenance of roads in their respective districts.

Funds for the construction of the Mount Alexander road was generated from a toll of 1 shilling per vehicle collected at gates installed throughout the Mount Alexander area. In Fryerstown, the toll gate at the junction of Saw Pit Gully and Forest Creek roads, raised £270 in the first year it opened.⁸ Another town which had a tollgate was Harcourt.⁹



Figure 27: Former toll house at Campbells Creek (2014)

Unusually, the Shire retains two of the standard, timber toll houses, which were relocated and put to other uses after the system was discontinued in 1877. The Maldon Road Toll Bar House, post-1858, was relocated to the Muckleford Cemetery where it serves as a lodge, with the former toll collectors' shelter attached as portico to the lodge.¹⁰ The toll house at Campbells Creek was erected in the 1860s. Subsequently it was used for meetings of the Country Roads Board and then as Newstead Council Chambers until 1915.¹¹

⁸ P Taylor, *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead*, section 2 (Environmental History), p53

⁹ H Carr, *The Calder Highway. Melbourne to Mildura: opening the Victorian Inland*, p62

¹⁰ VHR Citation H1403: *Maldon Road Toll Bar House*. The portico was the former collector's shelter which initially stood opposite the toll house (HO413).

¹¹ VHR Citation H1367: *Former Newstead Shire Chambers*. In that year, two adjacent Shires amalgamated – Newstead and United Shire of Mount Alexander (which included Campbells Creek).

3.1.2 Crossing Rivers

Fords & Punts

In the early days of settlement, punts were operated at river crossings prior to bridges being constructed. At Baringhup a ford was initially used to cross the river, while at Newstead a Government punt began operation across the Loddon River in 1855.¹² The punt remained in service until it sank in 1860, when it was replaced by a stronger, timber toll bridge.¹³

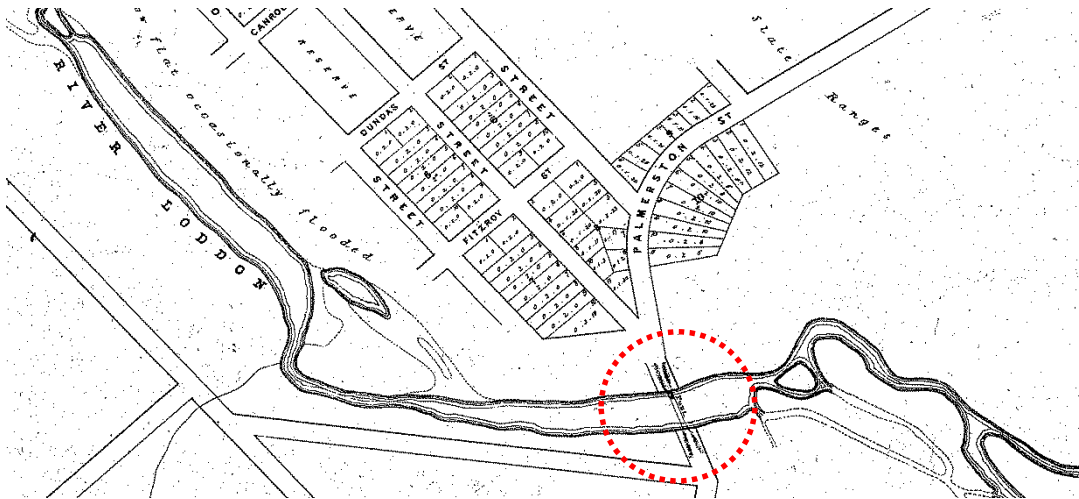


Figure 28: Sale Plan 141, the Township of Newstead on the River Loddon, 18 June 1856

Location of punt indicated

(Source: Newstead Historical Society)

Bridges

Bridges began to be constructed during the mid-1850s, and replaced earlier fords and punts, such as at Guildford and at Baringhup where a bridge was constructed in 1855.¹⁴ There are several significant early road bridges throughout the Shire that represent the common 19th century construction types - timber as well as stone, local granite and basalt, or combinations thereof.

An early Government bridge built in the Shire was Sheriff's Bridge over Campbells Creek, Castlemaine during the 1850s. Although in its original location, this timber bridge was rebuilt in 1871-72 and withstood the 1889 floods, it was probably largely reconstructed post-WWII.¹⁵ Another early timber bridge survives at Vaughan Springs, though it is in poor condition and is now closed.

The Cemetery/Alexander Bridge at Campbells Creek was constructed in 1872, replacing an earlier all timber bridge. It is a composite structure which retains large stone pylons and wrought-iron girders,¹⁶ but the deck has been recently replaced with pre-cast concrete components. The bridge with granite abutments over the Myrtle Creek at Sutton Grange opened in 1875.¹⁷

¹² *Victoria Government Gazette*, 1856, p810

¹³ P Taylor, *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead*, section 2 (Environmental History), p45

¹⁴ D Thomas, *The Early History of Baringhup*, p2

¹⁵ D Chambers, *Wooden Wonders: Victoria's Timber Bridges*, pp78-80

¹⁶ D Chambers, *Wooden Wonders: Victoria's Timber Bridges*, pp81-82

¹⁷ K James & N Davis, *History of Sutton Grange*, p268. The timber deck was replaced in 1938 and during the 1970s the road was re-aligned. It has been further altered and is now used as a pedestrian bridge.



Figure 29: Sheriffs Bridge, Gaulton St, Castlemaine (2014)



Figure 30: Zeal Bridge at Moonlight Flat (2014)

Many bridges were damaged or lost in the devastating flood of January 1889. One of the bridges rebuilt after the flood was the Zeal Bridge at Pennyweight Flat (c.1889), another composite bridge with sandstone and granite abutments, iron girders and timber superstructure. It is said to be the best example of its type in Victoria (pictured).¹⁸ Another was the Fitzgerald Bridge at Castlemaine (1891), which has similar abutments and also an iron girder frame.

In more recent years, many bridges have been rebuilt due to fire (2009) and flood (2010/11) damage, including Gibbons Bridge at Redesdale.

3.1.3 Establishing Transport Services

Coaches

Early coaching services from Melbourne to the gold fields were expensive and unreliable, with the journey along the poor roads taking up to two weeks. A regular and reliable service was established with the advent of the Cobb & Co coach service between Melbourne and Forest Creek (later Castlemaine) early in 1854.¹⁹ The Shire is notable for being the first major destination, outside of Melbourne, for the Cobb & Co coach service, which had been established in 1853 by a group of enterprising Americans.

The Cobb & Co service route soon extended to Bendigo and was divided into 11 stages of varying length (though averaging about 10 miles), depending on the terrain, and a coach departing Melbourne at 6am would typically reach Castlemaine (and Bendigo) on the same day. At each resting stage, there would be a change of horses and a chance for passengers to alight and take refreshments. Within the Shire, horses were changed at Taradale and Harcourt but there were also stops at Elphinstone and Castlemaine. During winter, the wet conditions on the road often made the route impassable, as during 1854 when services were temporarily ceased.²⁰

After train travel provided a faster transport option from the early 1860s, Cobb and Co services would leave from Castlemaine station to outlying areas in the Shire, for instance to Maldon and Newstead.²¹ While Cobb and Co. and its successors continued to operate out of Castlemaine until at least 1879, it was mostly smaller companies that maintained branch services to the smaller settlements.²²

Although Cobb & Co were the main operators, there were at least 34 coaching lines which provided services in the Castlemaine district between 1854 and 1864. As branch railway lines were constructed, the number of coaching services became fewer, however for towns without railway connections, such as Chewton and Vaughan, coaching services remained essential.²³

¹⁸ D Chambers, *Wooden Wonders: Victoria's Timber Bridges*, p82

¹⁹ H Carr, *The Calder Highway*, pp24-25

²⁰ H Carr, *The Calder Highway*, pp19-20, 25-28

²¹ An advertisement for these services is reproduced in G Hocking, *Castlemaine, from Camp to City*, p84

²² M Jean & D Moloney, *Forest Street to Forest Creek Heritage Assessment Report*, p69

²³ M Jean & D Moloney, *Forest Street to Forest Creek Heritage Assessment Report*, p69

Some of the buildings (thought to be) associated with the Cobb & Co. changing posts survive, such as a former stables in Taradale (pictured).²⁴ Others have been demolished such as the large stables at the Talbot Hotel, later the Temperance Hotel, in Harcourt. This was the second last staging post before Bendigo.²⁵



Figure 31: Taradale, Former Cobb & Co. stables (2014)

In Castlemaine, the booking office of Cobb & Co was located in the original Commercial Hotel on the corner of Urquhart and Mostyn Streets. A Cobb & Co. office also operated out of the former Castlemaine Hotel on the corner of Hargraves and Lyttleton Streets (lost to fire in 1912).²⁶

Livery Stables

In the days of horse drawn transport, livery stables kept horses and vehicles for hire, and horses might also be boarded there. Livery stables typically required large buildings to accommodate the horses, carriages and general equipment. Ray's Livery and Letting Stables on Main Street, Maldon, operated until at least the mid-1920s.²⁷

3.1.4 Accommodating & Supplying Travellers

During the squatting era, inns were established along the first roads to the pastoral stations, some in remote locations.²⁸ The first primitive wayside inns serving miners and travellers gave way to hotels aspiring to greater respectability.²⁹ Among the earliest known examples was the *Porcupine Inn*, which opened in 1846 at Mt Alexander (near Harcourt, along the track between Melbourne and Swan Hill). When the gold rush began, the well-placed *Porcupine* was reputed to have cleared £40,000 in a year.³⁰ It was one of many inns that flourished during the gold rush.

During the 1850s, inns, shanties, hotels and taverns (often with stores) were established on the tracks to the gold diggings and in some instances became the nucleus of later communities.³¹ For example, two were established at Newstead during the mid-1850s: the Newstead Hotel at Mingay's Crossing on the Loddon (1855), which included a private apartment and a substantial lock-up slab stable, and another nearby with a grog shanty, bakery and butchers shop, and later beds and stabling. Some of these places became staging posts for the coach lines.³² The stretch of the Mount Alexander Road between Elphinstone and Castlemaine was said to be lined with tents, stores and public houses, providing an indication of the commerce that early traffic supported.³³ Travellers to the goldfields could also

²⁴ R Maltby, *Taradale – A Home Town Valley*, p164; K Twigg and W Jacobs, *Shire of Metcalfe Heritage Study*, vol.4 (Faraday-Taradale), file no. T41. The Taradale stables were reputedly used by Cobb & Co.

²⁵ H Carr, *The Calder Highway*, p 62; K Twigg and W Jacobs, *Shire of Metcalfe Heritage Study*, vol.1 (Environmental History), pp19-20

²⁶ G Hocking, *Castlemaine, from Camp to City*, pp162-63, 210

²⁷ Malcolm Crick, *Maldon Memories*, p62.

²⁸ J Flett, *Old Pubs: Inns, Taverns & Grog-Houses on the Victorian Gold Diggings*, p1. By 1845 there were over fifty licensed inns and hotels outside Melbourne

²⁹ K Twigg and W Jacobs, *Shire of Metcalfe Heritage Study*, vol.1 (Environmental History), p39

³⁰ P McGuire, *Inns of Australia*, pp196, 209, p208. Another early inn is the Columbine Inn on the Coliban near Taradale.

³¹ Initially alcohol could not be sold on the goldfields.

³² P Taylor, *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead*, section 2 (Environmental History), p100

³³ P McGuire, *Inns of Australia*, p209

find food and shelter at one of the Chisholm huts (erected circa 1855).³⁴ One hut was erected in the Shire at Elphinstone, the last of the ten on the route.

With the paucity of facilities in regional Victoria until the late 1850s, it was usually necessary to sleep communally, often sharing the same mattress (known as promiscuous sleeping), though many had to sleep in the rough. More salubrious facilities gradually became available as indicated in the following quote from W Kelly regarding his stay at the Castlemaine Hotel in 1858,

I was disappointed to sleep alone [as I was] so accustomed to promiscuous sleeping ... for six previous years. I found myself in a spacious room ... capitably furnished, the beds being provided with spring mattresses – the first I had seen in the colony.³⁵

3.2 Railways

Four lines were constructed in the Shire during the 19th century, only one of which retains passenger services. The coming of the railway was closely linked to economic growth for farmers, miners and manufacturers in the Shire, by providing greater access to markets in Melbourne and overseas, via the Port of Melbourne.

During the 19th century and early 20th century, many goods were temporarily stored at stations and goods sheds along the railway for transport. The advent of cool storage allowed for greater access to markets and brought about changes to the system. For instance at Elphinstone, an ice car was added to the Melbourne-bound train in 1890 to transport local dairy goods such as butter and in 1899, a charcoal-lined cool store was erected at the station to store dairy products. Sidings were also introduced, such as that constructed near the Elphinstone Red Gum Saw Mill Company.³⁶

3.2.1 Establishing the Network

Melbourne to Echuca Line

The Melbourne to Echuca line was devised as the first trunk line to the goldfields and the second in rural Victoria, the first being the Geelong line, which opened in mid-1857. The realisation of the Echuca line began with the formation of a private railway company in mid-1852 - the Melbourne, Mount Alexander and Murray River Railway Company (later the Melbourne and River Murray Railway).³⁷ Even though the company was assisted by the colonial government with land grants, it struggled to raise enough capital.³⁸ As a result, it became the first company acquired by the Victorian Government in 1856, after the Victorian Government Railways department was inaugurated in that year, because it had '... failed in its task of building a line from Williamstown to the Murray River.'³⁹

Much public debate arose about the route, especially through the Shire, the standards of construction and associated expense. There were however inherent difficulties due to the nature of the terrain such that '... the Elphinstone tunnel, and the climb over 'the Porcupine' are present day symbols of the engineering difficulties associated with the Castlemaine deviation.'⁴⁰ The rail line was constructed eventually from the late 1850s and the section within the Shire was opened in 1862.

³⁴ Caroline Chisholm campaigned for huts to be erected to provide safe, cheap and comfortable shelters along the Mount Alexander Road. Her campaign was a result of her experience travelling on the route and determining that suitable accommodation needed to be provided especially for women and children, who otherwise may have had to stay in '... substandard and expensive hotels or shanties or sleep under the stars'. They remained in use for some 50 years, and gradually fell into disrepair. None survive.

³⁵ G O'Mahony & I Clark, *International Journal of contemporary Hospitality Management*, 'From inns to hotels; the evolution of public houses in Colonial Victoria', p180

³⁶ K James & N Davis, *A History of Elphinstone*, p129

³⁷ 'Mount Alexander and Murray River Railway Line', National Trust citation (B5323). *The Argus*, 24 March 1853, p9

³⁸ A Ward & Assoc., *Study of Historic Railway Buildings and Structures for V/Line*, vol. 1, pp10-14. Some of the principal shareholders of the company were members of the Legislative Council.

³⁹ A Ward & A Donnelly, *Victoria's Railway Stations: An Architectural Survey*, vol. 1, p11

⁴⁰ A Ward & Assoc., *Study of Historic Railway Buildings and Structures for V/Line*, vol. 1, p16

Stations

The contracts for Harcourt and Taradale stations were let in 1862 and both are examples of the Carlsruhe style. This style reflects the English railway style that had developed over the preceding two decades and was the first standard design developed by the Victorian Railways Department. These stations were constructed to high standards and typically consist of a complex that includes goods shed, lamp room, and toilet block. The station buildings have a two storey residence and a single storey public section. The Taradale station is the only stone example in the Shire.⁴¹ Harcourt was closed in 1981 and Taradale in 1976.



Figure 32: Taradale Station (2008)



Figure 33: Castlemaine Station, goods shed (2008)

Built in 1862 and 1863 respectively, Castlemaine and Elphinstone stations are examples of the Castlemaine style. This style reflects contemporary English station design with its Italianate styling of prominent quoining contrasting with the red brick walls, eaves corbelling and round head windows. They have timber verandahs and brick goods sheds survive at both stations.⁴² Passenger services continue at Castlemaine but ceased at Elphinstone in 1981 and the station building is now used for residential purposes.

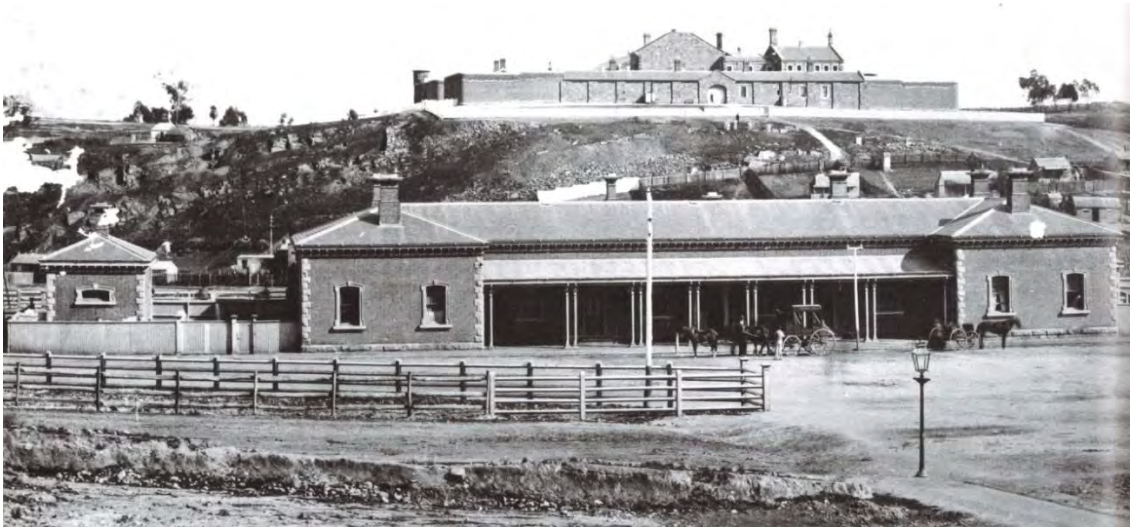


Figure 34: The newly constructed Castlemaine Railway Station. The lamp room is on the left side. On the hill behind is the gaol. (Source: Pioneers & Old Residents Association Collection in G Hocking, *Castlemaine from Camp to City*, p102)

Infrastructure

Within the Shire, there is much notable infrastructure between the stations associated with the Melbourne to Echuca line. Included are a tunnel, a viaduct (rail bridges longer than 100 metres), bridges, abutments and culverts. Though basalt was employed in the southern part (Taradale area), brick and/or the local Harcourt granite were the more common materials.

⁴¹ A Ward & A. Donnelly, *Victoria's Railway Stations: An Architectural Survey*, vol. 2, pp12-14, 41-43, 48-50. Harcourt station (VHR, H1783) and Taradale station (VHR, H1595)

⁴² A Ward & A. Donnelly, *Victoria's Railway Stations: An Architectural Survey*, vol. 2, pp55-63. The other example of the Castlemaine style is Elmore station, further north on the line.

The Taradale viaduct (pictured) over the Back Creek is probably the most impressive item of railway infrastructure in the Shire with its tall basalt piers. The steel pylons were added during 1933-34.⁴³ The railway bridge over Barkers Creek near Harcourt (pictured) is an elegant arched structure, which was constructed from the local granite by German stonemasons.⁴⁴



Figure 35: Taradale Viaduct (2014)



Figure 36: Bridge over Barkers Creek (2008)

Among the smaller railway bridges over roads are those in Castlemaine and others south of Harcourt (e.g. Specimen Gully Road). From a technical/scientific point of view, the Elphinstone Railway Tunnel was one of the largest undertakings on the line.



Figure 37: Specimen Gully Road Rail Bridge (2014)



Figure 38: Elphinstone Tunnel (2014)

Some arched stone, road-over-rail bridges were also constructed along the route in the Shire, for instance, the basalt example at Railway Road, Elphinstone which dates from 1862.⁴⁵ Another was built at Taradale in the same year.

3.2.2 Expanding the Network

Castlemaine-Maryborough Line

The line from Castlemaine to Maryborough was part of a program to link the major centres in the State. A greater economy was employed in the design at this time – often only a single track with trestle bridges (e.g. over Campbells Creek) and brick stations with cast iron verandahs, often to a standard design.⁴⁶

⁴³ R Maltby, *Taradale – My Home Town Valley*, p182

⁴⁴ Harcourt Valley Heritage & Tourist Centre Inc, *Harcourt Granite* [notes]

⁴⁵ VHR Citation H1781: *Road over rail bridge (Murray Valley Railway, Melbourne to Echuca)*; G Vines, *National Trust Study of Victoria's Concrete Road Bridges*, p104

⁴⁶ A Ward & A Donnelly, *Victoria's Railway Stations: An Architectural Survey*, vol. 1, p14; D Chambers, *Wooden Wonders: Victoria's Timber Bridges*, p86. The timber bridge at Campbells Creek is one of a few notable timber bridges on this line.

This line was one of four light lines (Act no. 415) that were considered by the Victorian Government in 1871. It was referred to as the 'blue line' and was strongly supported by Duncan Gillies, the MLA for Maryborough, who in 1872 became the Minister for Railways and Roads.⁴⁷

Within the Shire, stations were built at Campbells Creek, Guildford, Strangways, Joyce's Creek and Newstead for the 'blue line'.⁴⁸ Only the Newstead station survives but is disused. It is an example of the Dunolly style, which is said to represent '...an important phase in the development of smaller stations.' The contract was let in early 1874 and the complex retains three brick buildings – station, goods shed and lamp room (pictured).⁴⁹



Figure 39: Timber railway trestle bridge over Campbells Creek Castlemaine (2014)



Figure 40: Newstead Station, former lamp room (2014)

Castlemaine-Maldon-Shelbourne Line

Although Castlemaine was linked by rail from 1862, a branch line that connected Maldon was not constructed for another two decades. The branch line passed through the north-west part of the Shire and was initially opened in June 1884, but did not reach Shelbourne (west of Bendigo) until 1891. There were also stations at Muckleford, Maldon and Bradford/Pollard. This branch line was one of many that were constructed during the 1880s as a result of what is referred to as the Octopus Bills, which filled in gaps in the regional railway network.⁵⁰

Until the late 1920s, there were a few (2-4) daily services however with the subsequent decrease in demand, services were gradually reduced and temporarily ceased during WWII due to fuel shortages. Services were eventually terminated in December 1976, after bushfire damaged the Shelbourne extension in 1970. The local community reacted swiftly to ensure the retention of the line and gradually repaired the line as well as acquiring and refurbishing rolling stock. The Victorian Goldfields Railway continues to operate tourist services, mostly on steam locomotives, on the line.⁵¹



Figure 41: Maldon Railway Station (2014)



Figure 42: Former Barfold Station
(Source: K James & N Davis, *A History of Barfold*, p172)

⁴⁷

A Ward & Assoc., *Study of Historic Railway Buildings and Structures for V/Line*, vol. 1, p33

⁴⁸

P Taylor, *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead*, section 2 (Environmental History), p54. A branch line from Guildford to Daylesford via Yandoit was approved in 1890 but the project was cancelled with increasing government debt.

⁴⁹

A Ward & A Donnelly, *Victoria's Railway Stations: An Architectural Survey*, vol. 2, pp96, 104-106. Newstead station

⁵⁰

A Ward & Assoc., *Study of Historic Railway Buildings and Structures for V/Line*, vol. 1, p41

⁵¹

Victorian Goldfields Railway website, <http://www.vgr.com.au/history.php>, accessed 15/07/2014

The main station building that survives on this line is at Maldon (pictured), after which an eponymous train station style has been named. With its pointed Gothic arched windows and use of quatrefoil motifs, the Maldon style represented a shift away from the classical influences in station design.⁵² Constructed in 1888,⁵³ the brick building suffered a fire in 2009 and has been partly rebuilt. A standard portable building has been reinstated at Muckleford station, similar to the original type, though it was removed in 1935 and replaced with a rudimentary shed.⁵⁴

Kyneton-Redesdale Line

The branch line from Kyneton to Redesdale opened in 1891 which extended through the eastern part of the Shire with stations at East Metcalfe, Emberton and Barfold (pictured).⁵⁵ The structures erected at the stations were rudimentary – a water tank, as well as a small corrugated iron shed with a skillion roof combining a waiting area and toilet.⁵⁶

Initially, there were two daily passenger services, reduced to daily by mid-1893. By 1915, there were four services per week and by 1931, it had been reduced to one service per week.⁵⁷ Soon after, the Railway Commissioners sought to terminate the services, as between 1927 and 1935 with competition from road transport, the annual tonnage sent on the line had decreased dramatically (from 17,000 to about 2800).⁵⁸ There however was fierce local opposition and with promises of increased local patronage, the line remained open until 1954. The Railway Commissioners cited the high maintenance costs as a major factor in the line's demise. By 1958, the track and all infrastructure was dismantled.⁵⁹

Although passenger services were limited, there were more freight services, though these fluctuated considerably over the years. Sheep were the main livestock transport, with limited amounts of cattle and horses. The train line allowed other local industries to develop because of the ready access to transport – including sawn timber, firewood, crushed rock, dairy products and other farm produce. By the mid-1940s, sheep were the principal item being transported from the Shire.⁶⁰

3.2.3 Housing Railway Workers

During the 19th century and up to about the mid-20th century, it was typical for residences to be provided for some staff members – either attached (masonry) or located nearby (usually timber). Examples of attached/integrated houses survive at the Harcourt and Taradale stations, while a timber station master's residence survives Guildford.⁶¹

When detached timber residences became redundant, they were often moved or the house and land were sold as freehold. For instance, soon after the Kyneton-Redesdale Line was complete in 1891, three employees were stationed at Barfold – a stationmaster, a ganger and a platelayer/repairer. The houses were moved during the early 1930s.⁶²

Housing was also provided for gate keepers at railway crossings, an example of which survives at the Yapeen crossing.⁶³

⁵² A Ward & A. Donnelly, *Victoria's Railway Stations: An Architectural Survey*, vol. 3, p206. The other nine examples of the Maldon style are located in the northern part of Melbourne.

⁵³ A Ward & A Donnelly, *Victoria's Railway Stations: An Architectural Survey*, vol. 3, p224. The contract was let to Parker & Vickers.

⁵⁴ Victorian Goldfields Railway website, <http://www.vgr.com.au/muckleford.php>, accessed 24.02.2015

⁵⁵ K Twigg and W Jacobs, *Shire of Metcalfe Heritage Study* vol.1, Environmental History, pp21-22

⁵⁶ For photos of the Barfold station, refer to K James & N Davis, *A History of Barfold*, p172

⁵⁷ K James & N Davis, *A History of Barfold*, pp177-178

⁵⁸ *The Argus*, 16 December 1935, p3; *The Age*, 13 November 1935, p16

⁵⁹ K James & N Davis, *A History of Barfold*, pp191-192

⁶⁰ K James & N Davis, *A History of Barfold*, pp7-8, 189

⁶¹ 'Former Station Master's Residence, Guildford', *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead (Stage Two): Campbelltown to Muckleford South*, place no. GU/26

⁶² K James & N Davis, *A History of Barfold*, pp174-177

⁶³ Information provided by CHSI, May 2015

3.3 Roadways since 1900

3.3.1 Improving Roadways

Improvements in road construction in the early part of the 20th century were brought about through advancements in road making machinery, the adoption of the motor vehicle (particularly from the early 1930s), and increased government funding. Great progress was made on the Calder Highway, the main north-south connection through the Shire, after it was declared a state highway in the 1920s and consequently received Federal funding.⁶⁴ The Calder Highway originally passed through Castlemaine, however in the late 1930s, the highway was altered to run directly between Elphinstone and Harcourt along the former Faraday Road in response to an increased preference for this route.⁶⁵

Castlemaine is now at the intersection of the Midland and Pyrenees highways. The Midland Highway links the Shire to Ballarat, and within the Shire passes from Guilford in the south to Harcourt in the north. The eastern end of the Pyrenees Highway passes through Newstead, Castlemaine, Chewton and joins the Calder Freeway at Elphinstone. Further west it links the Shire to Maryborough.

The upgraded Calder Freeway, constructed between 2004 and 2009, runs from Melbourne to Ravenswood South (Bendigo), where it reverts to the Calder Highway. It incorporates sections of the old Calder Highway but Taradale, Elphinstone and Harcourt are now bypassed. Other sections of the old Calder Highway continue to be used as secondary roads such as at North Harcourt.

3.3.2 Changing Bridge Technology

During the early part of the 20th century, bridge construction changed whereby they were characterised by either concrete or a combination of concrete and steel.

Some traditional construction methods continued to be used, though with a difference, as the abutments of the bridge on High Street at Taradale (pictured) are mostly red brick but are rendered to the roadside to appear as stone. The deck is reinforced concrete and was one of two built in the Shire by the Country Roads Board in 1915, the other being over Forest Creek at Chewton.⁶⁶



Figure 43: Bridge with rendered brick abutment High Street, Taradale (2014)



Figure 44: Concrete Truss Bridge, Castlemaine (Source: Victorian Heritage Database)

Other notable 20th century bridges in the Shire include:

- Castlemaine Concrete Truss Footbridge, 1914, over Barkers Creek, which is a rare example of the use of reinforced concrete over a considerable span (pictured).⁶⁷

⁶⁴ H Carr, *The Calder Highway*, pp114-115

⁶⁵ H Carr, *The Calder Highway*, p54

⁶⁶ G Vines, *National Trust Study of Victoria's Concrete Road Bridges*, pp110-111

⁶⁷ VHR Citation H1400: *Concrete Truss Footbridge*. The only example of a concrete truss bridge in Victoria is the larger Barwon Sewer Aqueduct at Geelong (1913-15).

- The Muckleford Creek Bridge on the Pyrenees Highway with a solid, flat deck slab was built in 1936.⁶⁸
- Rogerson’s Bridge over the Campaspe at Metcalfe, 1977, is a precast reinforced concrete type with voided deck slabs. Basalt abutments also survive from an earlier bridge.⁶⁹
- The bridge over Joyce’s Creek on the Pyrenees Highway was possibly the first concrete bridge in Victoria or even Australia to have the concrete decking raised and either new pylons or the existing ones extended and the decking lowered back down.⁷⁰

3.3.3 New Infrastructure & Services

Service Stations

Service stations are a building type that developed in conjunction with the rising popularity of the motor car from the early 20th century. They are a building type that are often demolished or upgraded but the Shire retains a few mid-20th century examples of interest, among which are the former Cusack Motors, Forest Street, Castlemaine dating to the Interwar period (1938).⁷¹ Other mid-20th century examples survive at Campbelltown (pictured) and Elphinstone.

Motels

Another building type associated with the rise of the automobile is the purpose built motel. A relatively intact, circa 1960s example survives in the Shire at Castlemaine – the Castle Motel.

Bus

Bus services developed during the early 20th century, taking over from the earlier coach services, and have played an important role in the Shire’s rural life.

The earliest known bus service in the Shire was introduced by Scholes and Jupiter in 1929 between Chewton, Castlemaine and Campbells Creek, replacing the earlier horse and buggy service. In 1945 Alfred Bentley took over the business, and by 1951 operated Sunday services to Melbourne and Geelong. Buses were also available for ‘Easter Holiday Bus Trips’ (1948) and tours which included Sunday excursions for townspeople to local tourist spots such as Vaughan Springs.⁷² In 1968, Bentley sold the bus service with six buses. The business was renamed Castlemaine Bus Lines (pictured), and by 2007 operated 27 buses.⁷³ In 2014 the business was relocated from Castlemaine to Chewton.



Figure 45: Former Castlemaine bus depot, Castlemaine (2014)



Figure 46: Former service station, Campbelltown (2014)

⁶⁸ G Vines, *National Trust Study of Victoria’s Concrete Road Bridges*, p113. It was cast-in-place.

⁶⁹ G Vines, *National Trust Study of Victoria’s Concrete Road Bridges*, p111; VHR Heritage Inventory: H7723-0470: *Rogerson’s Bridge and Ford*

⁷⁰ D Reid, Newstead Historical Society, (email). It is on the border of the Mt Alexander Shire and Central Goldfields Shires. This bridge however does not appear in the aforementioned National Trust Study.

⁷¹ M Jean & D Moloney, *Forest Street to Forest Creek Heritage Assessment Report*, p71

⁷² M Jean & D Moloney, *Forest Street to Forest Creek Heritage Assessment Report*, p69

⁷³ Context, *Heritage Assessments; Castlemaine Bus Line Building*, pp2-3

Car Hire & Taxi

The first known motor car hiring and chauffeur service in the Shire was begun by 1914 as an adjunct to Duggan's Livery Stables in Templeton Street Castlemaine.⁷⁴

Many taxi services have operated in Castlemaine over the years. Harold Peeler's taxi service was one of the first radio equipped taxis (between taxi and depot) in Australia.⁷⁵

3.4 Communication Networks

3.4.1 Postal Services

During the early years of the 1850s, mail delivery to the gold diggings was hampered by the poor roads which made transport to and from Melbourne difficult. The situation improved over time, although it took some years before an effective postal service was operating in the Shire.

The first postal service in Mount Alexander Shire was established by early 1852 at Chewton, however it was unofficial.⁷⁶ A post office was established at the Camp Reserve in 1852 and was officially designated Castlemaine Post Office in 1854.⁷⁷ There were also privately operated post offices, which were often run as an adjunct to a store. An early privately run service opened at Fryers Creek in March 1852.⁷⁸ In 1859, a government post office building was constructed in the Castlemaine town precinct, one of the earliest erected in the State.⁷⁹ This single storey timber building was later replaced by the extant two storey rendered brick building some 15 years later.⁸⁰

In some townships, a post office was located at the railway station, and so the stationmaster would also act as the postmaster. In Elphinstone this was the case from 1868 to 1923.⁸¹ Towns with railway stations also acted as the pick-up point for mail contractors who were engaged to deliver mail to outlying properties – the roadside delivery service – and to remote towns. In smaller settlements, the post office was often combined with an existing building. At Guildford, the post office was accommodated in a 1901 shop building.⁸²



Figure 47: Chewton Post Office (2014)



Figure 48: Castlemaine Post Office (2014)

The Shire has examples of post offices dating from the 1860s onwards designed by the Public Works Department. Arcaded forms, either to the entry porch and/or windows, were favoured by the department for this building type in the mid to late 19th century and there are examples at Newstead (1863), Maldon (1869) and Chewton (1880s).⁸³ Similar designs were typically employed at a few locations across the State with the smaller examples tending to have face red

⁷⁴ Museum Victoria Collections, item MM7068

⁷⁵ J & K White, *Thru' the Windscreens*, p99

⁷⁶ Refer to Chewton section, chapter 7

⁷⁷ G Hocking, *Castlemaine, from Camp to City*, pp6, 75, 84

⁷⁸ eGold website: <http://www.egold.net.au/biogs/EG00276b.htm>, Rebecca Sanders, *Post Offices*, accessed 6/08/2014

⁷⁹ B Trethowan, *The Public Works Department of Victoria 1851-1900: An Architectural history*, vol. 2, appendix 3, section 4.

⁸⁰ VHR, H1347, citation for the Castlemaine Post Office

⁸¹ K James & N Davis, *A History of Elphinstone*, pp102-109

⁸² Wikipedia website, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guildford,_Victoria, accessed 25/07/2014.

⁸³ The former brick post and telegraph office at Newstead constructed in 1863 is located in Panmure Street.

brickwork.⁸⁴ The earliest surviving example in the Shire however is a more modest brick building, which was erected at Taradale in 1860, initially as only a Telegraph office.⁸⁵

The largest post office in the Shire is located at Castlemaine (pictured). This local landmark, which features a clock tower, was designed by noted Government architect J J Clarke. It opened in 1875 and occupies the ground floor of a double storey, rendered palazzo in the Renaissance Revival style.⁸⁶ A Federation period, Arts and Crafts style, timber post office survives at Newstead (pictured). Like other early examples, it is combined with a residence.

3.4.2 Telegraph & Telephone

A telegraph service was established in Melbourne in 1854 and rapidly extended across Victoria to adjoining States during the late 1850s.⁸⁷ The telegraph station at Castlemaine (pictured) was opened in 1857.⁸⁸ It was one of the first dedicated stations erected in the State and is one of a small group of early stone examples which survive.⁸⁹

Tenders were sought by the Public Works Department in March 1858 for constructing sections of telegraph line between Castlemaine and Avoca as well as Newstead and Ballarat.⁹⁰ Guildford was connected in 1858 when the line continued to Daylesford. Subsequently Newstead (1863), Elphinstone railway station and Fryerstown (1872), and Vaughan (1894) were connected.⁹¹



Figure 49: Post and Telegraph Office, Newstead
(Source: Lisa Gervasoni, victoriancollections.net.au)



Figure 50: Former Castlemaine Telegraph Office (2014)

In the late 1880s, telephone services were introduced to Victoria, primarily in Melbourne to begin with, and added to the services that were the responsibility of post offices.⁹² The Shire became connected during the early 20th century when a telephone exchange was established at the Castlemaine Post Office in 1907.⁹³ Fryerstown's first and only subscriber in 1908 was the grocer. When the new post office building opened in Newstead in 1910 it contained a telephone 'silence cabinet' for private conversations.⁹⁴ The telephone was first connected to the Harcourt area prior to WWI and in 1914 there were 25 subscribers. Those in outer areas were connected to a party line, that is multiple subscribers using the one line and a different ring was used for each.⁹⁵

⁸⁴ B Trethowan, *The Public Works Department of Victoria 1851-1900: An Architectural History*, vol. 1, pp80, 82, 84, 92-93

⁸⁵ K Twigg and W Jacobs, *Shire of Metcalfe Heritage Study*, vol.4 (Faraday-Taradale), file no. T16. The postal service was added in 1863.

⁸⁶ VHR Citation H1347: *Post Office - Castlemaine Historic Area*

⁸⁷ S Priestley, *The Victorians: Making their Mark*, p 354

⁸⁸ Perrott Lyon Mathieson, *City of Castlemaine Architectural and Historical Study*, item 60, np. Part of the building however has been demolished.

⁸⁹ Others from this time survive at Geelong, Beechworth and East Longwood

⁹⁰ *Victoria Government Gazette*, 1858, p469

⁹¹ P Taylor, *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead*, section 2 (Environmental History), p57; K James & N Davis, *A History of Elphinstone*, p108

⁹² S Priestley, *Making their Mark*, p 139

⁹³ Perrott Lyon Mathieson, *City of Castlemaine Architectural and Historical Study*, item 11, np

⁹⁴ P Taylor, *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead*, section 2 (Environmental History), p57

⁹⁵ H Carr, *Bridging the Generations, the Story of Harcourt*, p147

3.4.3 Media

Newspapers

Newspapers played an important role in the life of the goldfields and in exciting the public imagination.⁹⁶ Until 1854, the only newspapers available in the Shire were Melbourne based – *The Argus* and *The Melbourne Morning Herald*.

The initial steps to establish a local newspaper faltered quickly, as two papers each survived less than a few months: *The Castlemaine Yarn and Diggers' Gazette*, followed by *The Victoria Times and Goldfields Advertiser*. Other news sheets followed and included the *Miner's Right*, *Our Daily News*, *The Daily News*, *Representative* and *Castlemaine Leader*.⁹⁷

The Mount Alexander Mail was first issued in May 1854. It became a daily newspaper from 1 October 1862 in response to increased competition with the dailies from Melbourne, a result of the opening of the rail line. The newspaper has continued to the present day under the banner of *The Castlemaine Mail*, though now it has reverted to weekly editions.⁹⁸ The newspaper office was originally housed in a Victorian period building in Mostyn Street (pictured, east of Hargreaves Street), which was later demolished after it had moved to the Criterion Hall building in Barker Street during the 1930s.⁹⁹ Articles were often supplied by voluntary correspondents in the surrounding district.¹⁰⁰ The Tarrangower Times was established during 1858 in Maldon and is still printed weekly.¹⁰¹



Figure 51: Early image of the Mount Alexander Mail printing office, Mostyn St, Castlemaine
(Source: Castlemaine Art Gallery & Historical Museum Collection in G Hocking, *Castlemaine from Camp to City*, p193)

Radio

In the early days of radio, handmade crystal sets were employed and later valve operated radios became available. These earlier radios required headphones before loudspeakers were invented and radio stations only played for a few hours a day.¹⁰² A local station, 3BO, began broadcasting in the Shire in 1931, although it is now based in Bendigo.¹⁰³ Currently there is one community radio station broadcasting in the Shire, operating out of the Old Gaol.

⁹⁶ G Hocking, *Castlemaine, from Camp to City*, p101

⁹⁷ G Hocking, *Castlemaine, from Camp to City*, pp84-86

⁹⁸ G Hocking, *Castlemaine, from Camp to City*, pp99, 101

⁹⁹ G Hocking, *Castlemaine, from Camp to City*, p193

¹⁰⁰ K James & N Davis, *A History of Elphinstone*, p251. For example, Arthur William (Bill) Hoinville reported on economic, social and environmental happenings in the Elphinstone area from 1908. Arthur's sister Kathleen took over as correspondent after he died in 1941.

¹⁰¹ Tarrangower Times website, <http://www.tarrangowertimes.com.au/history>, accessed 13/10/2014

¹⁰² H Carr, *Bridging the Generations, the Story of Harcourt*, p147

¹⁰³ 3BO Radio website, <http://www.3bo.com.au/corporate-information>, accessed 6/08/2014

4 AGRICULTURE & UTILISING NATURAL RESOURCES

Introduction

This theme explores how agricultural uses of the land, rearing livestock and cropping, and the utilisation of its natural resources, have transformed and shaped the landscape. Gold was discovered in the Shire in 1851, prompting a great rush to the area and the gold extracted generated extraordinary wealth; a strong industry was sustained well into the 20th century, and continues on a small scale to the present day. The Box-Ironbark forests were used for fuel and construction materials for mining and the establishment of settlements, while harnessing water was a key factor to the success of both gold mining and agriculture and led to major engineering works. Beginning in the late 1850s, stone quarrying has been an enduring industry in the Shire.

Agricultural activity in the Shire has changed over time. Prior to the discovery of gold, sheep were almost exclusively raised, whilst later farmers diversified into cropping, fruit growing and other livestock, largely cattle for both meat and dairying. Currently, the Shire supports a wide range of farming activities, although the dominant agricultural use is broad acre grazing of cattle and sheep, often occurring in combination with other uses.¹ To the north at Harcourt is one of Australia's major producers and exporters of apples but also successfully supports the growing of pears and wine grapes. On the rich river flats of Newstead/Guildford in the south, dairying along with state forests are the predominant land uses. To the east of Castlemaine, large private holdings support sheep and beef cattle, whilst broad cereal cropping is the prevailing activity in the north-west/Maldon area.²

4.1 Grazing and Raising Livestock

Across the Shire, there are many historic outbuildings and other structures/items (drystone walls, fencing, etc.) associated with keeping livestock.

4.1.1 Sheep

Wool

Wool has been produced in the Shire since the earliest days of settlement, and the early squatters almost exclusively brought sheep, typically large flocks, with them. Some 16 runs were established between 1838 and 1845, that encompassed the full extent of the Shire with flocks ranging in size from 1,500 to 28,000 (refer to the appendix).



Figure 52: Sheep near Harcourt (2015)



Figure 53: Stone outbuilding, drystone wall and windbreak, East Metcalfe (2014)

¹ EnPlan Partners, *Mount Alexander Rural Land Study*, p57

² The Victorian Country Press Association webpage, <http://www.vcpa.com.au/member-newspapers/vic-members/42-castlemaine-mail.html>, *Castlemaine Mail*, profile, accessed 7/10/2014

William Campbell, who was involved at *Strathloddon* (Yapeen) for part of the 1840s and 1850s, significantly brought 150 merinos into Victoria from the famed stock of John Macarthur.³ Coliban Park stud, near Elphinstone, continues to maintain a merino flock said to have been established in 1859.⁴

Whilst the land in the eastern part of the Shire has been extensively used for wool production, in about 1880, it was said that:

Very little of the land was cleared. It was heavily laden with timber and scrub, consequently the grass was sour, and the farming qualities poor; fluke and footrot were prevalent, and vast numbers of sheep died every year from the fluke. ... The wool grown was of an inferior quality.⁵

By the early twentieth century however wool growers in the Metcalfe area had an enviable reputation for very fine, clean wool, as indicated in a 1915 article:

It is found the locally grown wool compares favourably with the best in the State, and is far ahead of some districts. The wool here is free from dirt and string. The raisers have gone in for a better class of sheep in recent years than formerly, besides keeping pace with up-to-date methods in the case of their flocks, and not overstocking. Nearly every holding has a sheep dip built, while some dip for several smaller ones.⁶

An indication of the variation in wool production over a 20 year period during the early 20th century can be gauged by the quantities transported from Elphinstone Station – 96 tonnes in 1912 increasing to 223 tonnes in 1924 though decreasing to 199 tonnes in 1930.⁷ The fluctuation in the price of wool necessitated diversification for economic survival.⁸

The broad grazing of sheep continues to occur across the Shire, wherever agriculture is practiced. Sheep are the primary livestock type, though recently there has been some decline in the industry. Grazing primarily occurs on the lower to mid slopes of the sedimentary land in the south and eastern parts of the Shire. On alluvial land and gently sloping sedimentary land in the north-west, it is an adjunct to cereal cropping.⁹

Fat Lambs

During the early part of the 20th century, the rearing of quality fat lambs was an important part of the economy in the Barfold area. For example, in 1938, fat lambs from the Summerhill Estate ‘... obtained the highest price and average for Victoria this season for shorn suckers.’¹⁰ Fat lambs were an important component of mixed farming with numbers determined by the relevant prices of wool and fat lambs in combination with the fluctuating carrying capacity of the land.¹¹

Structures Associated with the rearing of Sheep and Lambs

Structures for wool production have been erected on many properties and include shearing sheds, sheep dips, shearers’ quarters and sheep yards. The Selection Acts of the 1860s required improvements, such as buildings and fences. Early structures were often rudimentary and constructed from whatever buildings materials were close at hand or readily available. Many of these early buildings have been lost, however in the east part of the Shire, some stone (granite or basalt) outbuildings have survived.¹² Timber slabs were also often used but became less common as milled timber became more readily available. Drystone walls survive in the East Metcalfe/Green Hill, Fryerstown and Guildford areas.¹³

³ Frank Strahan, ‘Campbell, William (1810–1896)’, *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, vol. 3, Canberra 1969, accessed online 2 September 2015; P Taylor, *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead*, Section 2: Environmental History, p12. Campbell held *Strathloddon* in 1840 and from 1850 to 1857, however his brother-in-law, Donald Cameron, held the license from 1845 to 1850; M Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday*, p370. Campbell had been involved in the development of the flock at *Richlands* (Goulburn, NSW).

⁴ K Twigg & W Jacobs, *Shire of Metcalfe Heritage Study*, vol.1 (Environmental History), p4

⁵ *Mount Alexander Mail*, 20 October 1915, p1

⁶ *Mount Alexander Mail*, 6 January 1915, p2

⁷ K James & N Davis, *A History of Elphinstone*, p60

⁸ P Taylor, *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead*, Stage 2, Section 2: Environmental History, p67

⁹ EnPlan Partners, *Mount Alexander Rural Land Study*, p57

¹⁰ *The Argus*, 5 November 1938, p8

¹¹ P Taylor, *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead*, Stage 2, Section 2: Environmental History, p67

¹² K Twigg & W Jacobs, *Shire of Metcalfe Heritage Study* vol.1, Environmental History, p45

¹³ W Jacobs et al, *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead*, stage 2, vol. 2 (Campbelltown to Muckleford South) Drystone Wall (place no. GU/09).

Shearing sheds (or woolsheds) were often associated with yards and a hut for housing the shearers, several examples of which survive in the Shire. One extant example is the woolshed at Coliban Estate, Sutton Grange, which dates to the early 1870s.¹⁴ Another is the woolshed at Coliban Park, Elphinstone, which was re-built in 1944 following a large grass fire, incorporating some of the earlier granite walls.¹⁵

Sheep dips were used to protect sheep against various infestations common in sheep. The brick remains of an early sheep dip (pre-1848) survive alongside Joyce's Creek at *Plaistow*.¹⁶ In 1909, the *Sheep Dipping Act* was introduced in Victoria, and altered in 1913 and 1915.¹⁷ According to the Act, it was compulsory for all sheep to be dipped immediately after shearing and also all lambs at the same time. If this was impracticable the sheep were required to be kept in securely fenced paddocks and dipped within 60 days.¹⁸ Sheep owners were fined for breaches of the Act.¹⁹ Sheep dips were either a permanent plunge or a mobile steep type but have become redundant as externally applied backliner and jetting treatments have become standard practice for dealing with infestations. Large farms had their own dip but smaller farmers combined their resources.²⁰

An important element in the sorting of sheep was developed in the Shire during 1848 by William Lockhart Morton, the overseer at Sutton Grange, being the drafting race and gate, which remains a standard feature of sheep yards in Australia with some minor modifications. It avoided the back breaking method of catching individual animals and either throwing them over the fence or dragging them through a gate, often causing injury to some sheep.²¹

Sale yards were erected on farms but also in some townships. At Barfold, sale yards were erected next to the train station in 1890 and were expanded in 1923, when regular fat lamb sales were held next to the hall. The yards were replaced after the bushfires of 1944, and used for sales until 1960. They were again destroyed in the 2009 bushfires.²² In Newstead, a sales yard operated near the Railway Hotel from about 1898 to the mid-20th century, with a separate yard for pigs on the other side of the railway line.²³

4.1.2 Cattle

Dairying

The dairy industry was small in scale until the technological advances of the 1880s provided greater opportunity. Many people kept their own cow/cows or purchased milk from those who did.

Dairying was established early in the Castlemaine area, notably at Milkmaids Flat but also at Campbells Creek and Barkers Creek. A dairy at Clinkers Hill (south-east Castlemaine) existed into the 1960s and Fords dairy (near Campbells Creek) continues to operate.²⁴

In the eastern part of the Shire, the dairy industry benefited from the supply of water from the Coliban system which was completed in 1877.²⁵ From the late 1880s dairying was actively promoted through a combination of technological advances and government initiatives. The mechanisation of butter production and the use of refrigeration to transport products to overseas markets dramatically increased the scope for the spread of dairying.²⁶ As a result, the dairying

¹⁴ K Twigg and W Jacobs, *Shire of Metcalfe Heritage Study*, vol.1, Environmental History, p47

¹⁵ 'The History of Coliban Park', *Bridge Connection*, Community Newspaper for Mia Mia – Redesdale & District, 15.11.2009, website, <http://www.ourmiamia.com.au>, accessed 30/06/2014

¹⁶ 'Sheep Dip (Plaistow), Rodborough Road, Joyce's Creek', *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead (Stage Two): Campbelltown to Muckleford South*, place no. JC/03

¹⁷ *Sheep Dipping Acts 1909 and 1913*; *Gippsland Times*, 27 January 1916, p1; *Sheep Dipping Act 1915*, pp4286-4291

¹⁸ *Mount Alexander Mail*, 25 September 1915, p2, Within 30 days, the Chief Inspector, Department of Agriculture, Melbourne had to be notified.

¹⁹ *Mount Alexander Mail*, 7 July 1914, p2. A known instance of this include the cases heard at the Maldon Courthouse in 1914 where the Fitzpatrick Bros of Bradford and Alexander Forbes of Maldon were both fined.

²⁰ K James & N Davis, *History of Sutton Grange* p31

²¹ K James & N Davis, *History of Sutton Grange*, p30

²² K James & N Davis, *A History of Barfold*, pp28, 32, 187-189

²³ Newstead Heritage Walks, *CBD - Then & Now*, [pamphlet]

²⁴ Information provided by CHSI, May 2015

²⁵ K James & N Davis, *History of Sutton Grange*, p47

²⁶ S Priestley, *The Victorians: Making Their Mark*, p205

industry expanded across the State, including the Mt Alexander Shire. For instance, in the Newstead area, larger dairy herds of 40 to 60 became common in the 1890s.

Dairying also developed in the Metcalfe area during the early part of the 20th century – for instance in 1902, the local dairy inspector had 192 dairies to examine.²⁷ Dairying remained profitable in the Newstead area for another 30 years, but during the late 1940's beef cattle delivered higher returns and the number of cows in dairy herds steadily decreased.²⁸

The closure of the Newstead butter factory in 1975 had a profound effect on dairying in some parts of the Shire. Another factor affecting the industry at this time was the surplus production in Europe.²⁹

Structures Associated with Dairying

Early structures associated with dairying were often rudimentary, for example the timber pole and slab cow stalls which survive at Bassets Dairy Farm, South Muckleford.³⁰

Dairies had to be cool so they were typically constructed from masonry and/or partly built underground. Milk was set out in basins to allow the cream to rise. The cream was skimmed off and often churned into butter, for local use or sale at the market. An underground stone dairy, dating from the 1850s, is said to exist at the Plaistow Homestead and some early brick dairies survive at Yapeen.³¹ Stone dairies survive, one at Guildford (1860s) and another at Sutton Grange (possibly 1870s).³²



Figure 54: Concrete dairy in Parkins Reef Road, Maldon (2014)

During the first half of the 20th century, small dairies were often built with formed concrete or concrete block. An example of this type of construction survives on Parkins Reef Road, Maldon.

Beef Cattle

Although sheep farming was the mainstay in the eastern part of the Shire, large landholders would typically also keep some beef cattle, especially during the early part of the 20th century.³³ Some also maintained a stud facility and local farmers would sell their stock in Bendigo or Melbourne.³⁴ By the late 1940s, beef cattle became more profitable than dairying in the Newstead area.³⁵

²⁷ K Twigg & W Jacobs, *Shire of Metcalfe Heritage Study*, vol.1, Environmental History, p47

²⁸ P Taylor, *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead*, Stage 2, Section 2: Environmental History, p68

²⁹ Harcourt Valley Heritage and Tourist Centre, *Dairy Relics*, np

³⁰ P Taylor, *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead Stage 2*, Section 2: Environmental History, p66

³¹ National Trust Register, B1607, *Plaistow Stone Store*; P Taylor, *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead*, Stage 2, Section 2: Environmental History, p67

³² W Jacobs et al, *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead*, stage 2, vol. 2 (Campbelltown to Muckleford South) Stone Outbuilding (former dairy) (place no. GU/01). K Twigg & W Jacobs, *Shire of Metcalfe Heritage Study*, vol.1, Environmental History, p47.

³³ K James & N Davis, *A History of Elphinstone*, p62

³⁴ K James & N Davis, *History of Sutton Grange*, p33

³⁵ P Taylor, *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead*, Stage 2, Section 2: Environmental History, p68



Figure 55: Beef cattle at Metcalfe (2014)

Today cattle grazing is conducted throughout the Shire and is a viable alternative to cropping in basaltic soils where land use is restricted by surface and sub-surface rocks.³⁶

4.1.3 Other Livestock

Poultry

Initially, poultry farming was largely a side-line industry, carried out in conjunction with other types of farming. Government regulation was introduced in 1936, whereby all eggs produced in flocks with over twenty adult female fowls were the property of, and marketed by, the Victorian Egg Marketing Board. Eggs were graded locally by agents for the board.³⁷ For many years, there was a poultry section at the Castlemaine Market.

From the late 19th century, poultry developed into a substantial industry in the Elphinstone area but ceased during the 1980s.³⁸ In the 1950s, there were at least 12 poultry farms around Harcourt however changes in regulation during the 1970s meant small scale egg farming became less viable, leaving only the larger producers. Currently, there is just one commercial operation at Barkers Creek.³⁹ Large poultry farms have existed in the Castlemaine area, mainly in the northern and western (McKenzie Hill) parts.⁴⁰

Pigs

It was common for small farmers and some householders in the 19th century to keep a pig in the English cottager tradition. Traditionally pigs are kept in areas where there is dairying as they consume the leftovers, from making butter and cheese.⁴¹ The slaughtering of pigs for meat also provided dairy farmers with their own supply of meat and an additional source of income.⁴²

Some of the piglets raised in local small scale operations were sold to the Benevolent Home in Castlemaine for whom they were fattened on a farm at Muckleford. Other pigs supplied the Castlemaine Bacon Factory, which was established in 1905.⁴³

From 1913 up to at least the 1930s, a group of 20 farmers in the eastern part of the Shire directly supplied pigs to Western and Murray District Co-operative Bacon Factory at Braybrook after they became shareholders in the company.⁴⁴

Horses

Although horses have not been extensively reared in the Shire, they were widely used during the 19th century and into the early 20th century for both private and public use such as by Government agencies, coaching services, and the

³⁶ EnPlan Partners, *Mount Alexander Rural Land Study*, p50

³⁷ N Robins & G Milford, *A brief history of Harcourt's place in the Victorian egg industry* [notes]

³⁸ K James & N Davis, *A History of Elphinstone*, p77

³⁹ N Robins & G Milford, *A brief history of Harcourt's place in the Victorian egg industry* [notes]

⁴⁰ Information provided by CHSI, May 2015

⁴¹ K Twigg & W Jacobs, *Shire of Metcalfe Heritage Study*, vol.1, Environmental History, p47

⁴² L Edmonds, *Bringing home the Bacon: A History of the Harris Family's Castlemaine Bacon Company*, p4

⁴³ Information provided by G Milford, Harcourt Heritage Centre, July 2014

⁴⁴ K James & N Davis, *A History of Elphinstone*, p76

transportation of goods. On the goldfields, they were employed for powering puddling machines, which could treat several tonnes of earth each day. They were also used for farming (e.g. for ploughing) but the introduction of tractors from the 1920s gradually replaced horse power.

Some fine draught horses were produced during the 19th century in the Barfold district but as the demand decreased during the early 20th century so did the industry.⁴⁵ A few thoroughbred studs operate in the northern parts of the Shire, for example near Baringhup (established during the mid-19th century) and Sutton Grange.

Niche Operations

In recent decades, some smaller scale examples of emergent agricultural enterprises have commenced in the Shire including alpacas, deer, emu, goat and ostrich.⁴⁶

4.1.4 Commons

Legislation was provided with the Nicholson's Land Act of 1860, or the first selection Act, for the creation of commons whereby land was made available for use by the community. These provided opportunities for small scale farmers to depasture up to 50 head of cattle/horses or 100 dairy cows.⁴⁷ Early settler families typically kept a cow for milking that was often turned out on the common daily after milking.

Soon after in March 1861, a considerable amount of land in the Shire was set aside for the purpose of a common including some 7800 acres across the Parishes of Harcourt, Faraday⁴⁸ and Sutton Grange, Porcupine (Mount Alexander) and as well as about 4400 acres at Joyces Creek, 6400 acres at Baringhup East and 11,000 acres at Baringhup West.⁴⁹ As an example of how commons were employed, the receipts of the Walmer Farmers' Common of mid-1863 record that 170 head of cattle and 19 horses were being kept there.⁵⁰ About this time, a fatal disease affected horses being kept on commons at Metcalfe and Strangways.⁵¹

In 1879, the regulations for commons in the north part of the Shire – at Baringhup East and West, Bradford, Maldon, Muckleford, and Walmer - were approved by the Lands and Survey Office in Melbourne. The use of commons was restricted to cattle, that is no bulls, sheep or horses were allowed. All cattle had to be branded.⁵²

4.2 Cropping & Miscellaneous Farming

From the mid-1850s, nurseries were instrumental in developing the self-sufficiency of the new settlements, supplying fruit trees, vines and seeds for vegetables and crops.⁵³

Currently dryland agriculture accounts for nearly all of the farming, and about 62% of the Shire's area. Less than 1% of the area is irrigated. Of the agricultural production, rain fed pasture accounts for 63% and rain fed cropping about 10%. About 12% of the area relates to production deriving from relatively natural environment.⁵⁴

4.2.1 Cropping

Grains

The various Land Acts of the 1860s required that some land acquired through selection was to be improved by cultivation. Wheat, oats, barley and maize were commonly planted initially, however although good yields were produced with wheat, better milling grain was grown further north. Gradually there was a shift to oats for stock feed and

⁴⁵ K James & N Davis, *A History of Barfold*, p32

⁴⁶ EnPlan Partners, *Mount Alexander Rural Land Study*, p57

⁴⁷ K Twigg & W Jacobs, *Shire of Metcalfe Heritage Study*, vol.1, Environmental History, p44

⁴⁸ Faraday common still exists within the Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park

⁴⁹ *Victoria Government Gazette*, 1861, pp510, 512

⁵⁰ *Victoria Government Gazette*, 1864, p684

⁵¹ *The Argus*, 19 May 1866, in K James & N Davis, *History of Metcalfe*, p42

⁵² *Victoria Government Gazette*, 1879, p1052

⁵³ M Stroebel, *Gardens of the Goldfields: A Central Victorian sojourn*, p126

⁵⁴ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Mount Alexander Shire, Environment/Energy*, accessed 12/06/2014. The figures derive from the 2008 census.

hay, which flourished particularly in the north-eastern part of the Shire. On the basaltic plains, large numbers of rocks had to be cleared prior to cultivation, and thereafter as rocks continued to work their way to the surface.⁵⁵ In the east part of the Shire, hay stacks were a common feature of the landscape during the 19th and early part of the 20th century.⁵⁶



Figure 56: Hay stack at 'Bonnie Doon', Barfold, 1926
(Source: K James & N Davis, *A History of Barfold*, p51)

With the phasing out of horses and cattle over the 20th century, less hay has been required and grain has become the predominant crop as it is economical to harvest, store and distribute.⁵⁷ Extensive cereal cropping however still occurs on alluvial land and on sedimentary land in the north west of the Shire. Wheat is the main cereal crop grown, followed by oats, barley and canola.⁵⁸

Other Crops

Flax has been grown in the eastern part of the Shire. It was introduced into the Barfold area during the late 19th century and was thought by some to have great potential. During WWI, it was grown at Langley to supply linen for the war effort. It was grown in the Barfold and Langley areas during the 1930s and 1940s, with unusually long flax being produced at the latter.⁵⁹ Tobacco growing was attempted sporadically throughout the Shire's history but yields and prices proved notoriously unreliable.⁶⁰ During the Interwar years (1920s and 1930s) some tobacco growing occurred in the Elphinstone, Maldon and Sutton Grange areas. Two kilns were known to have been established.⁶¹ Potatoes were grown at Metcalfe and Taradale from the 1860s into the early 20th century.⁶²

4.2.2 Market Gardens

Between 1850 and 1890, most of the market gardens of the goldfields were cultivated by the Chinese, who formed co-operatives. By the late 1850s, Chinese market gardens were established along the Loddon River in the central southern part of the Shire, e.g. at Glenluce and Vaughan, selling their produce in Fryerstown.⁶³ In the central part of the shire, there were market gardens in the Castlemaine and Moonlight Flats areas.⁶⁴ In the Metcalfe area, three Chinese market gardeners were known to be operating along Snodgrass Creek and near the Coliban River during the latter part of the 19th century.⁶⁵

The Chinese gardeners were lauded in the local press for their fresh, daily deliveries that filled a key dietary gap in the market, as previously vegetables had been expensive and scarce. They undertook this activity with financial impediments as they had to pay expensive State Business Tax and a Market Ticket.⁶⁶

⁵⁵ K Twigg & W Jacobs, *Shire of Metcalfe Heritage Study*, vol.1, Environmental History, p46
⁵⁶ K James & N Davis, *A History of Barfold*, pp44-52
⁵⁷ P Taylor, *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead*, Stage 2, Section 2, Environmental History, p64
⁵⁸ EnPlan Partners, *Mount Alexander Rural Land Study*, pp57-58
⁵⁹ K James & N Davis, *A History of Barfold*, pp37-38
⁶⁰ K Twigg & W Jacobs, *Shire of Metcalfe Heritage Study*, vol.1, Environmental History, pp50, 52
⁶¹ K James & N Davis, *A History of Elphinstone*, pp77-78
⁶² K James & N Davis, *History of Metcalfe*, p42
⁶³ P Taylor, *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead*, Stage 2, Section 2: Environmental History, p68
⁶⁴ Information provided by the CHSI, May 2015
⁶⁵ K James & N Davis, *A History of Metcalfe*, pp283-285
⁶⁶ J Scott, *Miners to Market Gardeners – Chinese on the Castlemaine Goldfields*, p70

With the increasingly repressive immigration laws of the early 20th century, it was difficult for the market gardeners to replenish their labour force (and Europeans would not work for the Chinese) so that their operations gradually ceased. Vaughan however survived longer than most areas as a Chinese-European village.⁶⁷

Herbs + Medicinal

Around 1900, a herb farm was established at *Homelea* in North Castlemaine. Many of the original herbs grown were imported from the United States of America. The business flourished during WWI, supplying chemists with such things as opium and digitalis which were difficult to import at that time.⁶⁸

4.2.3 Other Farming

Other farming enterprises have been attempted in the Shire, with varying degrees of success.

Beekeeping

Beekeeping has been practiced at considerable scale in the Shire, and honey has been produced from the blossoms of the red gums and yellow box both by local and itinerant apiarists. A 1907 article in the *Newstead and Maldon Echo* encouraged the practice, explaining it was a good industry that required little labour. In the early 20th century bee keeping was frequently carried out as a side-line to earn extra income.⁶⁹

In the eastern part of the Shire, there were known to be several apiarists active between the 1890s and 1940s.⁷⁰ Apiarists are also known to have been active in the Newstead area at a similar time, and also during the 1970s.⁷¹

Honey production continues throughout the Shire, for example at McKenzie Hill (Castlemaine). In 2005, a total of 5,592 hives were recorded.⁷²

Silk worms

A silk worm farm was established at Mount Alexander in 1872 by the co-operative group, the Victorian Ladies Sericultural Company, which was set up to promote sericulture and to educate poorer women in rural areas. Mulberry trees were planted and a magnanery (building for breeding silk worms) was constructed, but several difficulties contributed to the closure of the farm in 1878. The manager's granite house survives in ruins on the site.⁷³



Figure 57: Ruins of manager's house – Former Mt Alexander Silk Worm Farm
(Source: VHR, H1348)

⁶⁷ J Scott, *Miners to Market Gardeners – Chinese on the Castlemaine Goldfields*, pp71-74. After Federation, the infamous dictation test was introduced as part of the Immigration Restriction Act.

⁶⁸ Castlemaine Art Gallery & Historical Museum, *Maladies, Medicos and Miracle Cures*

⁶⁹ P Taylor, *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead*, Stage 2, Section 2: Environmental History, p69

⁷⁰ K James & N Davis, *History of Metcalfe*, pp34-36

⁷¹ P Taylor, *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead Stage 2*, Section 2: Environmental History, p70

⁷² EnPlan Partners, *Mount Alexander Rural Land Study*, p59

⁷³ VHR Citation H1348: *Former Mount Alexander Silk Worm Farm*

4.3 Fruit Growing

Fruit growing in the Shire has ranged in scale from a few trees in residential yards to vineyards and large orchards. It was encouraged by the Land Act of 1862, which sought to develop 'novel industries' such as grape vines and citrus fruit. It has been undertaken across many parts of the Shire at a commercial level, though generally at a smaller scale than the existing, well-established areas.

During the 1850s, the Mount Alexander Nursery in Castlemaine stocked a wide variety of fruit trees including black and white mulberry, almond, chestnut, fig, orange, citron, lime, cherry, walnut, pear, apricot, nectarine, plum and olive. In 1858, the nursery claimed to stock 96 varieties of fruit trees.⁷⁴

Currently fruit growing occurs across the north-central part of the Shire with granitic soil, including Harcourt, where the growing is most intensive, and also the Sutton Grange and Elphinstone areas. Apples, followed by grapes, are the main fruit types produced, and others include pears as well as stone fruits such as olives, cherries, peaches and plums.⁷⁵

4.3.1 Orchards

Harcourt Area

From around 1853, early success was had with fruit trees by a settler at Harcourt who was also supplying the local burgeoning gold-mining towns with vegetables. Subsequently, the first orchards were planted in 1858-59 by migrants from an apple-growing village, Cowlinge, in Suffolk, who were soon joined by others. The first apple crops were produced in the early 1860s.⁷⁶

Initial attempts at exporting from 1887 failed, however soon after became viable when refrigerated shipping was developed during the 1890s. The fruit was transported on the Orient Line steamers fortnightly from the end of April to the end of July, with the time between picking and its arrival in England ranging between 50 and 70 days.⁷⁷ Associated industries developed such as saw mills, case factories, storage and packing. There was a hiatus during the world wars but when exports resumed after WWI, the industry was so successful that Harcourt was largely protected from the effects of the Depression. Exports were however suspended during WWII and virtually ceased in the 1960s.⁷⁸

Although sometimes harsh weather conditions and reduced trade opportunities have affected profits, apple and pear growing remains a significant part of Harcourt's livelihood, and the area produces about 40% of Victoria's apples. Harcourt is also home of some of the largest commercial cider apple orchards in Australia, growing varieties imported from England and France. Recently some growers have departed the industry, whilst others have expanded their operations.⁷⁹

⁷⁴ P Cuffley, *Historic Precinct Under Threat*, p3 [paper]

⁷⁵ EnPlan Partners, *Mount Alexander Rural Land Study*, pp58-59

⁷⁶ G Milford, *A brief survey of the Harcourt Fruit Industry 1857 to 2007*, p3; J Lang, *The Early Days: Fruitgrowing Industry, Harcourt Orchards, Troubles and Successes of the Pioneers*, p 3; Aussie Apples website, <http://www.aussieapples.com.au/growing-regions/victoria.aspx#GoulburnValley>, Harcourt, accessed 10/10/2014

⁷⁷ L Shaw, *She's Apples: A History of Fruit Tree Nurseries, Orchards & Coolstores*, p2

⁷⁸ Harcourt Valley Heritage & Tourist Centre Inc., *Harcourt History at a Glance – Apples/Export of fruit*, np

⁷⁹ G Milford, *A brief survey of the Harcourt Fruit Industry 1857 to 2007*, pp8-9, 16-17



Figure 58: Harcourt Orchards (SRWSC, mid-20th century)
(Source: SLV, RWP/7253)



Figure 59: Harcourt, former retail point (2014)

Further east in the Shire, apples and pears have also been the mainstay, but there were attempts to grow lemons at Sutton Grange,⁸⁰ and tomatoes at Elphinstone area, both during the Interwar years.⁸¹ There was limited orchard establishment in the Elphinstone area until 1910 when, with the availability of cheap water, landholders on the lower side of the channel were encouraged to take up the opportunity. In 1912, there were about 40 hectares of orchards and by 1926 that area had increased to about 105 hectares.⁸²

A current development in the industry is that extensive pressurised irrigation infrastructure is about to replace open channels.⁸³

Other Areas

Although the northern part of the Shire has long been renowned for its fruit growing, during the 19th century, there were also successful attempts in the southern parts. At Campbells Creek, fruit, including cherries, was grown from 1854 for over 50 years before severe frosts damaged many trees. Most were uprooted with the last trees surviving until 1935. From the 1860s, orchards were established in the Newstead, Sandon, and Yapeen areas.⁸⁴

In Castlemaine, a stone wall (extant) at the corner of Froomes and Burnett Roads is thought to have been built to protect trees from frost.⁸⁵

Storage and Cool Stores

The dry air and cool climate at Harcourt and surrounds meant that fruit kept well without the need for cold storage. However, when a 1915 Act of Parliament enabled Victorian growers to receive financial assistance to erect and run cold storage facilities, the Harcourt Co-operative Fruit-growers Association established a committee to investigate building their own cool store in 1917. The cool store was opened on 1 March 1918. Harcourt Co-operative Cool Stores Ltd was registered as a business on 27 October 1919 and continues to provide cool storage and packing facilities for Harcourt fruit growers.⁸⁶

Packing Sheds

Packing sheds also became a feature of the Harcourt area, with extant examples being located in Thompsons Road and Danns Road.

⁸⁰ K James & N Davis, *History of Sutton Grange*, pp45-46

⁸¹ K James & N Davis, *A History of Elphinstone*, p78

⁸² K James & N Davis, *A History of Elphinstone*, pp64-65

⁸³ EnPlan Partners, *Mount Alexander Rural Land Study*, p53

⁸⁴ R Bradfield, *Campbells Creek*, p8; P Taylor, *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead*, Stage 2, Section 2: Environmental History, p69

⁸⁵ P Cuffley, *Historic Precinct Under Threat*, p3. [paper]

⁸⁶ Harcourt Valley Heritage & Tourist Centre Inc., *Harcourt Co-operative Cool Stores Ltd*; A cool room survives at Barkers Creek.

4.3.2 Vineyards

Vineyards have primarily been established on the granitic soils in the north and eastern parts of the Shire but there have also been experiments in the south-western part of the Shire.

Vineyards are known to have been planted from the 1850s and by 1857, the Mount Alexander Nursery had a healthy stock of 12,000 vines, making it one of the first places in central Victoria to promote the growing of grapes and the making of wine. Amongst the variety of wine grapes were the white Chasselas and Riesling, as well as red hermitage (Shiraz) and Cluster.⁸⁷ Vineyards were established at Campbells Creek from 1854 and good quality wine was being produced there at least until the early 1880s.⁸⁸

Grapes were among the earliest crops planted in Castlemaine; gold often having provided the capital. The banks of Barkers Creek proved to be particularly suited for this purpose. By 1864, several vineyards had been established ranging in size from about 4,000 to 20,000 vines.⁸⁹

Growers in the region had success at the Inter-colonial Exhibition of 1866 in Melbourne with three from the Castlemaine area taking out medals. At the prestigious 1873 Exhibition at Vienna, a Riesling from Ehrenfeld Schroeder of Chinaman's Creek received an honourable mention.⁹⁰



Figure 60: Vineyard, Sutton Grange-Faraday Road, Faraday (2014)

During the 19th century, Italians who had settled in Shire were associated with the wine industry. For instance, during the mid-part of the century Italians in the Maldon area believed it would be suitable for a wine industry however after planting several thousand vines, 'dry summers and a lack of water defeated their enterprise.'⁹¹ Early immigrants from northern Italy also planted vineyards during the late 19th century in the Yandoit Hills and Guilford districts, some producing wine commercially - some of these still exist today.⁹²

Extensive vineyards continue to be grown on granite land east of Faraday, whilst smaller, boutique plantings also occur on granite land in the general area of Welshman's Reef/Cairn Curran Reservoir.⁹³

⁸⁷ P Cuffley, *Historic Precinct under Threat*, p3 [paper]

⁸⁸ P Taylor, *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead*, Stage 2, Section 2: Environmental History, p69

⁸⁹ M Stroebel, *Gardens of the Goldfields: A Central Victorian sojourn*, pp62-63; G Milford, *Barkers Creek (the waterway) from beginning to end*, p7

⁹⁰ D Dunstan, *Better than Pommard! A History of Wine in Victoria*, pp52-54

⁹¹ A Williams, *Maldon and the Tarrangower Diggings*, p58

⁹² P Taylor, *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead*, Stage 2, Section 2: Environmental History, p69

⁹³ EnPlan Partners, *Mount Alexander Rural Land Study*, p57

4.4 Gold Mining

The goldfields near Castlemaine were some of the first to be discovered in Victoria (gold is usually said to be first discovered near Clunes). Employees of Dr William Barker, holder of the Mount Alexander pastoral run, made the initial discovery in a quartz vein at Specimen Gully (north of Castlemaine) in July 1851.⁹⁴ Eight decades later, a memorial cairn was erected on the approximate site where gold was first discovered (1931).⁹⁵

On 8 September a letter published in the Melbourne *Argus* announcing the discovery by one of the employees, who did so to counter threats of police action, signalled the start of a gold rush in the area. The area was first known as the Mount Alexander diggings, then the Forest Creek diggings, and later as the Castlemaine goldfield.⁹⁶

By December 1851, the first gold from the fields arrived in Melbourne and prospectors arrived daily to work the beds of Forest, Barkers and Campbells Creeks.⁹⁷ Within a few months, by March 1852 the numbers had risen to about 25,000 with diggers from all over the country, as well as overseas, arriving at Mount Alexander hoping to find their fortune. By October 1852 the population reached its peak of 35,000, making it the most populous mining field in Australia.⁹⁸ The miners quickly explored the network of gullies that extend from the major streams of Barkers, Campbells, Forest and Fryers Creek and the Loddon River.⁹⁹



Figure 61: Mt Alexander Diggings from Adelaide Hill (1852)¹⁰⁰
(Source: G Hocking, *Castlemaine: From Camp to City 1835-1900*, p27)

The Castlemaine goldfield became famous as one of the greatest shallow alluvial gold diggings in the world. During the 1850s, the greatest period of gold production the world had ever seen, Victoria alone produced a third of the world's gold and Castlemaine became the third largest gold producer in Victoria after Bendigo and Ballarat.¹⁰¹ The amount of gold extracted during the early years can only be estimated however during the five year period from 1859 to 1864, some 132 tonnes was escorted to the Melbourne and Adelaide.¹⁰² This wealth gave Castlemaine, along with the other nearby centres, an international profile disproportionate to their size and fuelled their rapid development during the mid-19th century.

Other goldfields were discovered in the Shire soon after those near Castlemaine. During 1852, mining commenced near Guildford, Muckleford and Taradale; in 1853 at Maldon and Vaughan; in 1854 at Newstead; and in 1856 at Yapeen. Maldon was the largest of the other mining centres with most of the others being relatively modest.

⁹⁴ R Bradfield, *Castlemaine: A Golden Harvest*, p15

⁹⁵ K Twigg and W Jacobs, *Shire of Metcalf Heritage Study*, BC23A, p181

⁹⁶ H Forster, *The Central Goldfields*, p16

⁹⁷ R Bradfield, *Castlemaine: A Golden Harvest*, p15

⁹⁸ National Trust of Australia (Victoria), *Castlemaine and the Market*, p11. It is estimated that within the first ten years of operation, the Mount Alexander goldfields yielded 3.5 million ounces of gold.

⁹⁹ H Forster, *The Central Goldfields*, p18

¹⁰⁰ This watercolour by G T Angus shows that the township was fairly established by this date.

¹⁰¹ C Fahey & A Mayne, *Gold Tailings, The hidden history of Victoria's Central Goldfield Region*, p3; eGold website <http://www.egold.net.au/biogs/EG00312b.htm>, Keir Reeves, *Wealth Creation*, accessed 8/08/2014

¹⁰² C Willman, *Castlemaine Goldfield – Castlemaine-Chewton, Fryers Creek* (GSR 106), p7

The transition away from shallow alluvial mining to deep leads and quartz reef mining commenced during the late 1850s and resulted in structural change within the local mining sector. Mining the alluvial deposits was essentially egalitarian as it allowed poor migrants opportunities, with hard work and some luck, whereas deep lead and quartz mining required considerable capital for the sinking of shafts and equipment. As such, it was necessary to form companies and employ waged labour.¹⁰³ The need for specialised equipment in turn encouraged the development of a local engineering sector.

Alluvial mining was reinvigorated during the 1870s with the opening up of the Coliban System and its networks of water channels.¹⁰⁴ Large dredging machines, which used hydraulic sluicing, were introduced around the turn of the 20th century and small-scale ground sluicing persisted into the 1920s. Gold prospecting – the classic ‘poor man’s diggings’ – was revived during the 1930s when the price of gold rose and the unemployment rate was high.¹⁰⁵ The Wattle Gully Gold Mine at Chewton is a premier example of the 1930s recovery. There was a rich strike during the mid-1930s and the success of the mine in the decades following encouraged the company to implement major upgrades to the mining machinery during the early 1950s. The mine eventually closed in 1969 but has since been worked intermittently,¹⁰⁶ and has been used in recent years as a base for gold exploration at Chewton.¹⁰⁷

Gold mining was a major driving factor in the development of the strong manufacturing sector in the Shire during the 19th century. Many technical innovations occurred in the Shire due to mining, for instance, compressed air-driven rock drilling was first employed at the Mount Tarrengower Tunnelling Company. This represented a milestone in underground mining in Australia as subsequently the technology was widely adopted.¹⁰⁸ One of the most important engineering companies was Thompsons Foundry at Castlemaine which manufactured stamp batteries, pumps, rails and other mining equipment.

Mining activity has profoundly altered the landscape in the Shire as evidenced by diverted waterways, regrowth coppice forests in addition to some remnant building fabric and machinery. There are a plethora of significant, heritage listed sites relating to gold mining in the Shire, especially within the Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park.

Evidence of multiple types of mining survives at several sites. For example, at Herons Reef (Fryerstown) alluvial mining commenced in 1852, followed by quartz mining between 1869 and 1890. A range of mining relics, habitation sites and blacksmith forges testifies to the varied mining activity at Herons Reef.¹⁰⁹ Another notable site where multiple types of mining occurred (quartz and alluvial mining) is Eureka Reef located south of Chewton.¹¹⁰

Other Minerals

Along with gold, other minerals are present in the Shire, primarily in the Maldon area, but are not known to have been extracted to any significant degree. These include feldspar and magnesite and at the Nuggety Reef mine, there is bismuth, zinc, copper and tungsten. Deposits of bismuth and molybdenum exist at the Day Dawn Mine.¹¹¹

4.4.1 Central Fields

The central portion of the Shire contains the Castlemaine goldfield, which was the principal goldfield in the Shire. Whilst it takes the name of the administrative centre that was established during the early phase of the gold rush, the more actively mined areas were located to the east of the township in a band that extends from Golden Point in the north, through Chewton, to Fryerstown in the south - broadly referred to as the Castlemaine and Fryers Creek goldfield. The Castlemaine goldfield also includes the Barkers Creek, Campbells Creek, Guilford and Vaughan areas.¹¹² The Taradale area is part of the larger Malmsbury field which partly lies outside the Shire.

¹⁰³ C Fahey & A Mayne, *Gold Tailings, The hidden history of Victoria's Central Goldfield Region*, pp157-158

¹⁰⁴ C Fahey & A Mayne, *Gold Tailings, The hidden history of Victoria's Central Goldfield Region*, p4

¹⁰⁵ C Fahey & A Mayne, *Gold Tailings, The hidden history of Victoria's Central Goldfield Region*, p4

¹⁰⁶ VHR Citation, H1879: *Wattle Gully Gold Mine*

¹⁰⁷ Information provided by C Willman, geologist, May 2015

¹⁰⁸ VHR Citation, H1358: *Mount Tarrengower Tunnelling Company Gold Mine*

¹⁰⁹ VHR Citation, H1323: *Herons Reef Historic Gold Diggings*

¹¹⁰ VHR Citation, H1233. *Eureka Reef Gold Mining Precinct*

¹¹¹ K Weston & R Knott, *Minerals of Victoria 1:1 000 000 map*

¹¹² C Willman, *Castlemaine Goldfield*, p5; refer to figure 27 for the distribution of mines in the area.

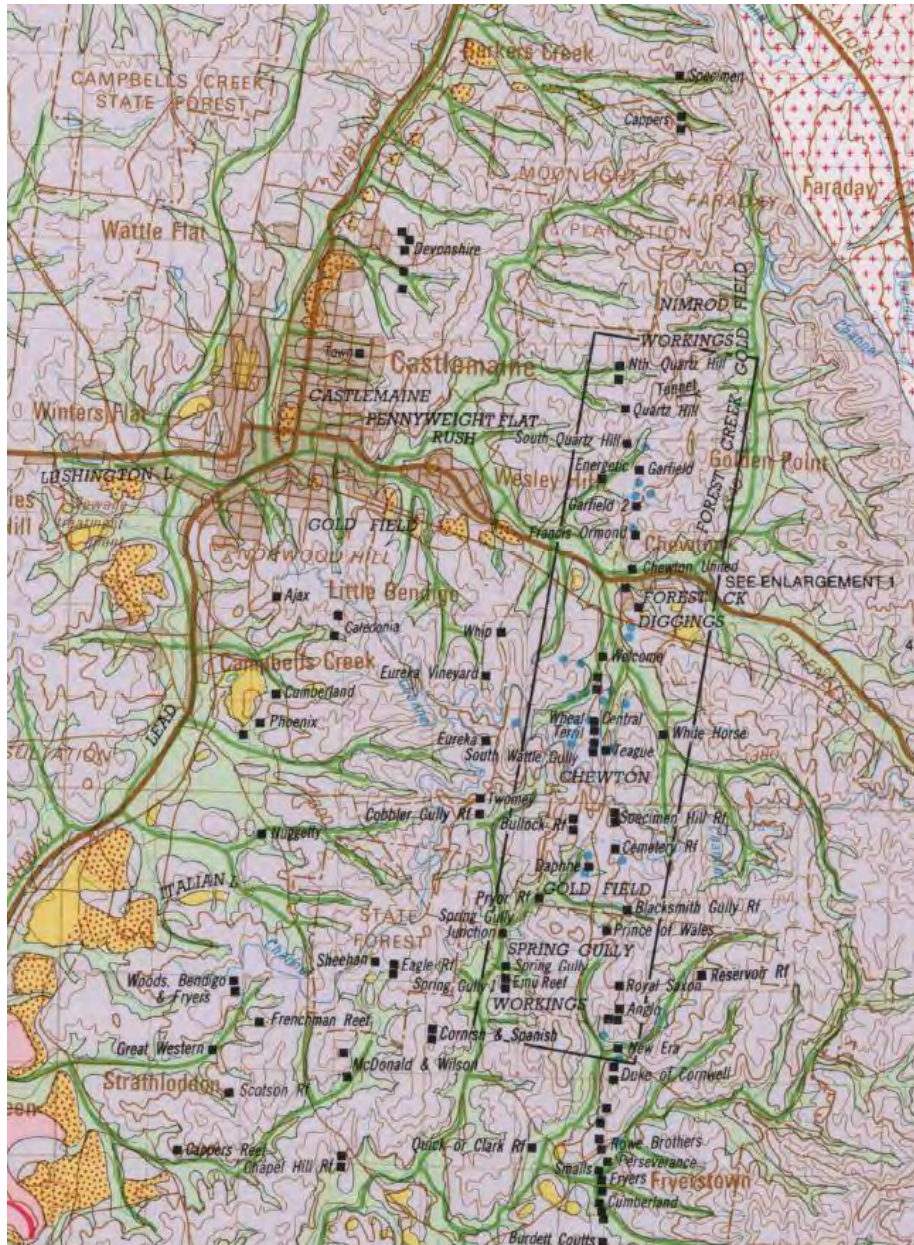


Figure 62: Castlemaine Area Gold Mines - Map showing alluvial gold areas (yellow) and deep lead mines (black squares) (Source: GSV, *Castlemaine Deep Leads* (Deep Lead Gold Deposits of Victoria, Map no. 8))

Part of the area of the Mount Alexander goldfields is protected within the Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park.¹¹³

Castlemaine Area

Initially Castlemaine was a prominent alluvial goldfield during the 1850s.¹¹⁴ The alluvial gold was found along the principal creeks in the vicinity and the gravels on some of the adjacent hills (in the vicinity of Kennedy and Saint Streets).

Later production however mainly derived from quartz mining. Within the Castlemaine area there are two major fault related zones – the Ajax-Nuggety and the Devonshire-Chapel Hill, which like the zones in the Chewton-Fryerstown area, run north-south. Within the Ajax-Nuggety zone, the Ajax reef is located south of the town and was successfully

¹¹³ Australian Government, Department of the Environment website, National Heritage List - Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park, <http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/places/national/castlemaine-diggings>

¹¹⁴ C Willman, *Castlemaine Goldfield*, p56

exploited during the second half of the 19th century. Within the Devonshire-Chapel Hill Zone are the Devonshire reef, north of the township, and the Town Reef within Castlemaine itself. The Devonshire Reef, located in the area near the Castlemaine Secondary College was worked by a number of companies from 1871 to 1876 and 1889 to 1894. The Town Reef (or the Commercial Reef) was centred in the area near Hunter and Bull Streets (in the vicinity of Urquhart Street) and was worked intermittently between 1860 and 1887.¹¹⁵

Chewton and Fryerstown Area

The earliest alluvial mining probably occurred at Golden Point, north of Chewton, during October 1851. Miners also occupied the Fryerstown area at about the same time, that is, by November 1851. Both the Chewton and the Fryerstown fields initially provided highly accessible alluvial gold lying close to or on the surface and so attracted thousands by the end of the year. Large quantities of gold were extracted, for example, in ten months during 1853, some 600,000 ounces were transported from Fryerstown and in 1855, the Heron Nugget (1023oz) was found at Golden Gully (north of Fryerstown). With finds such as this, the Fryerstown fields become quickly overcrowded though the area remained profitable for many years.¹¹⁶



Figure 63: A Cornish flue at Tubal Cain, Glenluce (2014)



Figure 64: Bedrock exposed by surface mining, Irishtown (2014)

The most productive quartz mining occurred in the Chewton-Fryerstown zone, an approximately 1 km wide band extending north–south about 14km. The main groups of quartz mines are at Barkers Creek, North Chewton, Wattle Gully, Blacksmith Gully and Fryerstown, with the most intensive mining occurring in the North Chewton and Fryerstown groups.¹¹⁷ Quartz mining developed from 1852 in the area and is strongly associated with the local Cornish miners, who had the greatest mining knowledge.¹¹⁸

Gold was discovered at Vaughan in 1853 at the confluence of Fryers Creek and the Loddon River, known as the Junction. Soon after prospectors moved into neighbouring gullies and the population quickly reached at least 13,000. Local names such as Irishtown and Italian Hill are reminders of the presence of specific groups. By 1866, quartz mining was developing, including a rare instance of Chinese operation. Gold was also discovered at Glenluce about 1853, but the rush was less concentrated there.¹¹⁹

By 1890, the main mines at Fryerstown had closed due to decreasing reserves,¹²⁰ though at the turn of the 20th century, the Spring Gully Co remained profitable.¹²¹

¹¹⁵ C Willman, *Castlemaine Goldfield*, pp56, 71, 73, 75-76

¹¹⁶ K Twigg and W Jacobs, *Shire of Metcalf Heritage Study*, vol. 1, Environmental History, p6; P Taylor, *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead*, p22

¹¹⁷ C Willman, *Castlemaine Goldfield*, pp79-99

¹¹⁸ Information provided by C Willman, May 2015

¹¹⁹ P Taylor, *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead*, pp23-25

¹²⁰ C Willman, *Castlemaine Goldfield*, p10

¹²¹ J Smith (ed.), *The Cyclopaedia of Victoria*, 1903, vol 1, p243

Taradale

In July 1852, alluvial gold was found at Back Creek (later Taradale), with a small rush occurring during 1855-56 at Yankee Point and Liberty Flat of some 3,000 people. Some mining also occurred in the Barfold area from the 1860s into the early 20th century.¹²²

4.4.2 Western Fields

The fields in the western portion of the Shire are Maldon and Muckleford.

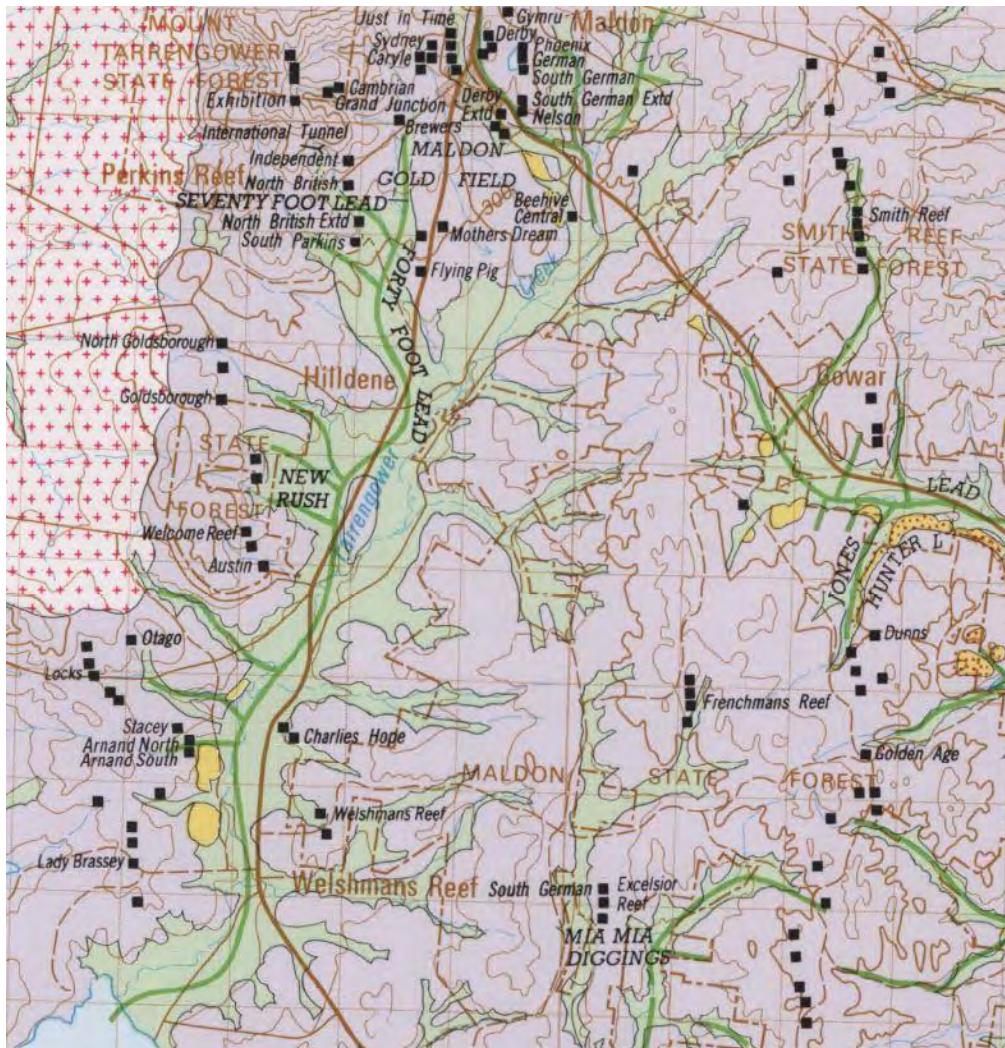


Figure 65: Maldon Area Gold Mines - Map showing alluvial gold areas (yellow) and deep lead mines (black squares) (Source: GSV, *Castlemaine Deep Leads* (Deep Lead Gold Deposits of Victoria, Map no. 8))

Gold was discovered in the vicinity of Mount Tararengower in 1853, triggering a rush to the area late in the year when the news was made known. Early in 1854, there were up to 20,000 people in the area, and the population may even have peaked at as many as 30,000.¹²³

Maldon

After alluvial gold was discovered at Maldon in 1853, shallow leads were initially worked but these deposits were quickly exhausted.¹²⁴ Maldon soon became a pioneering centre of deep quartz reef mining, and one of the richest

¹²² K Twigg & W Jacobs, *Shire of Metcalfe Heritage Study*, p7

¹²³ G Blackman & J Larkin, *Maldon: Australia's First Notable Town*, p61

¹²⁴ G Ebsworth & J Krokowski de Vickerod, *Central Maldon Goldfield* (VIMP Report 75), p67

quartz fields in the State. A number of reef discoveries were made during 1854 and by the end of the year basic quartz crushing equipment was brought to Tarrengower. By 1856, steam quartz crushing machines were operating.¹²⁵

Quartz mining boomed during the 1880s and 1890s when other gold-mining towns of Victoria were stagnating.¹²⁶ At the turn of the 20th century, some of the most profitable gold mines in the State were operating at Welshmans Reef being the Central Lady Brassey Co., the South German Co. and the Nuggety Extended Co.¹²⁷ During the early part of the 1900s, some 20 mines were operating and improved their gold recovery with chlorination and subsequently by cyanidation of the tailings.¹²⁸ By the 1920s, the areas was in decline though mine tailings were reworked from the 1930s to the 1960s and gold mining continues at the Union Hill site.



Figure 66: Dredge at Maldon (2014)



Figure 67: Foundations of the Beehive Mine at Maldon (2014)

The goldfields with their physical evidence of a variety of mining activities is now protected as part of the Maldon Historic Reserve.



Figure 68: Union Hill gold mine, Maldon (2014)

4.4.3 Alluvial Mining

Alluvial

The early discovery of gold at Mount Alexander and Taradale diggings was in gravel deposits found near the surface. This was collected by simple methods which involved washing and separating the gold from other material by means of, at first, a sifting or panning process that developed into one that was operated by two miners using a wooden cradle. These processes relied on water that flowed naturally in nearby streams, or from sources diverted to the fields.

¹²⁵ Jacobs Lewis Vines Architects, *Maldon Conservation Study*, part 2, p3

¹²⁶ C Fahey & A Mayne, *Gold Tailings, The hidden history of Victoria's Central Goldfield Region*, p50

¹²⁷ J Smith (ed.), *The Cyclopaedia of Victoria*, 1903, vol 1, p243

¹²⁸ G Ebsworth & J Krokowski de Vickerod, *Central Maldon Goldfield* (VIMP Report 75), p67

When this surface gold was exhausted, diggers sank holes or shafts through layers of gravel, sand, clay and ironstone into river or creek beds. This method was particularly lucrative on ancient alluvial gravels that form the hills bordering streams and creeks that ran through the area then known as the Forest Creek valley.¹²⁹ An example of this mining type is the Forest Creek mine located approximately 2km east of Castlemaine.¹³⁰

The Sailors Gully Gold Mining Precinct at Vaughan and Glenluce is one of many sites where alluvial, and then quartz-based gold, was worked from the 1850s.¹³¹ At New Nuggetty Gully workings, which opened during 1859 in the south-west part of the Shire at Franklindford, there are indications of the distinctive fireplaces associated with Swiss-Italians from the Ticino cantonment.¹³²

Chinese miners are strongly associated with alluvial mining as they profitably worked low grade deposits, which had been abandoned by other miners.¹³³

Puddling

Puddling machines were introduced to the goldfields in 1854 and were in use throughout the Mount Alexander area from the 1860s. The machines worked on the same principle as hand methods for retrieving alluvial gold but were powered by horses and able to wash a far larger amount of wash dirt per day than earlier methods. This technique involved scraping acres of auriferous soil from flats, river beds and gullies which were then processed or puddled. By 1859, there were 177 puddling machines on the Forest Creek Goldfields. Puddling machines and their associated dams and sludge blocked waterways and drainage systems to the extent that in 1861, attempts were made to ban their use at Forest Creek and Campbell Creek. A sludge channel was built in 1878 at Taradale to relieve obstruction of its drains.¹³⁴

Remnants of puddling machines are widespread across the Shire, including Maldon, and examples with associated water dams remain at Spring Gully, Fryerstown and at Cobblers Gully, Chewton.¹³⁵

Ground and hydraulic sluicing

Sluicing used water to strip topsoil from the ground and pass it through boxes to separate the gold. The method was used in Taradale as early as the 1860s and more commonly in the Castlemaine, Chewton and Fryerstown areas after the Coliban water scheme was established in 1874, allowing miners access to water by redirection to their diggings or the purchase of a source for a limited time.¹³⁶

An example of sluicing are the remains at Red Hill, Irishtown, where a large sluicing pit with a network of pebble dumps and tail races survives and the sides of the hill have been deeply excavated by high pressure water. During the 1870s the River Loddon and Tributaries Water Company constructed a race to supply water to the area.¹³⁷ Functional hydraulic sluicing machinery, dating to 1936, survives in Castlemaine at the Forest Creek Mine.¹³⁸

¹²⁹ Mount Alexander Diggings Committee, *Discovering the Mount Alexander Diggings*, p13

¹³⁰ VHR Citation H1322: *Forest Creek Tourist Gold Mine*

¹³¹ VHR Citation H1239: *Sailors Gully Gold Mining Precinct*

¹³² VHR Citation H1306: *New Nuggetty Gully Alluvial Gold Workings*

¹³³ C Willman, *Castlemaine Goldfield*, p7. The Chinese were rarely involved with quartz mining, an industry dominated by the European groups.

¹³⁴ K Twigg & W Jacobs, *Shire of Metcalfe Heritage Study*, p9

¹³⁵ VHR Citations H1245: *Spring Gully Gold Puddling Site*; H1249: *Cobblers Gully Gold Puddling Site*

¹³⁶ Context, *Victorian Water Supply Heritage Study*, vol. 1, Thematic Environmental History, p45

¹³⁷ VHR Citation H1230: *Red Hill Hydraulic Gold Sluicing Site*. The race was repaired in 1906 and 1937.

¹³⁸ VHR Citation H1322: *Forest Creek Tourist Gold Mine*



Figure 69: Gold mining, Chinese encampment, Guildford near Castlemaine', c.1861, Richard Daintree.
(Source: State Library of Victoria, accession no. H36574)



Figure 70: Maldon, bucket dredges (2014)

Dredging

Dredging was a new technology introduced in the 1890s and involved processing large volumes of alluvial gravels with steam-operated bucket dredges.¹³⁹ They were used to rework old gold fields across the Shire including the Campbells Creek valley, particularly near the Maldon railway line and near Diamond Hill, as well as along parts of the Forest Creek near Pennyweight and Moonlight Flats.

The Campbells Creek Dredging Company continued mining successfully from about 1902 until 1920, during which time the company was an important part of the local economy. Operations were revived by the company between 1935 and 1942 with a recovery in the gold price, with a new plant introduced at Campbells Flat.¹⁴⁰ A large dredging operation also occurred west of Guildford from the late 1930s to the early 1950s.¹⁴¹

4.4.4 Quartz Mining

The allure of the gold gleaming from the quartz outcrops in Mount Alexander diggings had naturally fascinated diggers but it was not until the advent of steam powered crushing equipment that opportunities for extracting this gold were realised. Reefs were explored underground and shafts were extended deeper and deeper, eventually reaching the water table, when they were often abandoned. This type of mining required greater investment for exploration and public companies were formed with leaseholds over large areas. Investment ebbed and flowed and during the low periods, smaller operations typically persisted as tributaries to the larger companies. For instance, the Nimrod Reef at Golden Point was worked by small co-operatives during the 1860s and 1870s until the Crown Nimrod Company was formed in 1888.¹⁴²

Quartz Mining Structures and Machinery

The most intact array of quartz mining structures and machinery in the State survives at the Wattle Gully Gold Mine at Chewton, which retains buildings and equipment dating from 1937 to the 1980s including winder house, poppet head, battery house and cyaniding plant. The rich strike at Wattle Gully was instrumental in reviving Victoria's gold mining industry during the mid-20th century after it had declined from WWI.¹⁴³

Another relatively intact site associated with quartz mining is the Maldon State Battery, which was established in 1914 to provide small mining operators with the equipment to crush their ore at an economical rate. This facility, closed in 1989, retains a five-headed stamp battery.¹⁴⁴

¹³⁹ eGold website <http://www.egold.net.au/blogs/EG00312b.htm>, David Bannear, *Beyond the 1850s Gold Rushes: Mining Technology from the 1890s to the present*, accessed 2/08/2015

¹⁴⁰ R Bradfield, *Campbells Creek: Some early history*, pp10-11

¹⁴¹ C Willman *et al*, *Geological Survey of Victoria Report 121: Castlemaine, 1:100 000 Map Area Geological Report*, p132

¹⁴² K Twigg & W Jacobs, *Shire of Metcalfe Heritage Study*, pp10-11

¹⁴³ VHR Citation H1879: *Wattle Gully Gold Mine*. Since 1970, the mine operated intermittently.

¹⁴⁴ 'State Battery for Maldon', *The Argus*, 20 July 1914, p5; Information provided by the CHSI, May 2015; VHR Citation H1264: *Maldon State Battery*

A rare instance of the substantial survival of an early building associated with quartz mining is the Duke of Cornwall Quartz mine at Fryerstown. The stone and brick engine house was constructed in 1868 to a Cornish design and stands as a prominent testament to the unpredictability of gold mining. High quality equipment was originally installed in this foreign owned mine but it became a 'monumental failure'.¹⁴⁵ Nearby stands a circular stone and powder magazine.¹⁴⁶

More commonly, battery and machinery foundations, mullock heaps, tailing ponds and water dams survive. Examples are the Spring Gully Quartz mine at Fryerstown, which operated between the mid-1850s to late 1930s.¹⁴⁷ Another operating for a similar period, the Specimen Gully Quartz Mining Association Gold Mine at Barkers Creek, has some of the earliest quartz mining relics in Victoria, dating from 1859-1861.¹⁴⁸



Figure 71: Engine house of Duke of Cornwall mine at Fryerstown (2014)



Figure 72: Chimney stack, 1861, of the Beehive Co. Mine at Maldon (2014)

The remnant stone abutments north of Chewton were built in 1887 to support the Garfield Company waterwheel, which at 70ft (21.3m) in diameter was the largest erected in Australia. It powered a 23-head quartz crushing battery and water was supplied from a nearby race of the Coliban System.¹⁴⁹

Maldon was a centre of quartz mining with evidence of different industrial processes surviving there. The North British Gold Mine retains evidence of the crushing operations as well as roasting of the quartz ore and cyaniding of the tailings.¹⁵⁰ At the South German Mine, which was one of the largest producers of gold in Victoria, the cyaniding process of extracting gold from the tailings or waste battery sand was successful and the company was able to retrieve as much gold from this process as the crushing.¹⁵¹

Other notable sites in the area include: the mines at Lises and Mantons Gullies, and the Beehive Company Mine.¹⁵² A significant example in the Chewton area is the Archibold Gold Treatment Works, which has the sole remaining gold assay works associated with chlorination to survive in the State.¹⁵³

¹⁴⁵ Castlemaine Historical Society Inc., Linton, D (compl.), *Fryerstown* [pamphlet]; Mount Alexander Diggings Committee, *Discovering the Mount Alexander Diggings*, p49. Alternately, a date of 1870s is provided for its construction.

¹⁴⁶ National Trust Register (Victoria) B2148: *Powder Magazine*

¹⁴⁷ VHR Citation H1234: *Spring Gully Quartz Gold Mines*

¹⁴⁸ VHR Citation H1235: *Specimen Gully Quartz Mining Association Gold Mine*

¹⁴⁹ VHR Citation H1356: *Garfield Waterwheel Quartz Gold Mining Site*. It operated until about 1903.

¹⁵⁰ VHR Citation H1236: *North British Gold Mine*. The mine operated from 1871 to 1928.

¹⁵¹ VHR Citation H1357: *South German Quartz Mine*

¹⁵² VHR Citations H1264: *Maldon State Battery*; H1354: *Lises and Mantons Gullies Quartz Gold Mines*; H1361: *Beehive Company Gold Mine*

¹⁵³ VHR Citation H1351: *Archibold Gold Treatment Works*. The works were erected in 1884.

Deep Lead Mines

In the southern part of the Shire, deep lead mining occurred in the Guildford area but was largely abandoned by 1876. The Eldorado tunnel completed in 1864 extended some 3,600ft below the basalt plateau. This type of mining attracted many Swiss-Italians who were noted as tunnelling specialists.¹⁵⁴ A revival of this type of mining occurred in the 1930s on the south side of the Guildford Plateau.¹⁵⁵

At Taradale, deep lead mining involved tunnelling under the basalt country south towards Malmesbury. In 1863, two leads were opened – Park Lead and Bells Lead. Although initially good results were achieved, they tapered during the 1870s though there was some revival during the early 1880s.¹⁵⁶

4.5 Timber Resources

The Shire, like much of central Victoria, is defined by Box-Ironbark forests. The three types typically found in the area are red stringybark, red box and long-leaf box.¹⁵⁷ Timber removal was established in the eastern part of the Shire during the late 1840s just prior to the gold rush. Following about 20 years of unencumbered extraction, Mount Alexander and its surrounds were said to be almost completely denuded of trees, triggering soil erosion and resulting in the reservation of a 4000 acre (1620 hectares) state forest.¹⁵⁸

From the beginning of the gold rush, and particularly by the late 1850s, there was a large demand for timber. Timber was used for firewood and for building construction as canvas tents were replaced with more permanent structures. As mining activity became more sophisticated, timber was required to shore up the shafts and drives of mines, and to power the steam engines which ran the lifting cables, pumped the underground water, and crushed the ore for chemical treatment. Demand for timber also came from the construction of the railways and from markets outside the Shire.

Forested areas were set aside to supply timber for mining, agricultural and industrial purposes. For example, in 1868, some 2000 acres (800 hectares) of land was reserved across the parishes of Castlemaine, Muckleford and Walmer.¹⁵⁹ During the 19th century, timber getting on Crown land, not protected as forest reserves, was available on payment of a wood licence.¹⁶⁰

The industry gained impetus in the eastern part of the Shire with the construction of the branch Kyneton-Redesdale railway line in 1891. It continued in the district into the 1950s, by which time, red gum was in demand for construction by the Housing Commission.¹⁶¹

Another forestry industry developed as bark of the indigenous wattlebark was stripped for tannin used for the tanning of leather. The extraction was so intensive however that the species nearly became extinct during the 19th century.¹⁶² The bark of several species of wattle are rich in tannin (e.g. golden, silver and tan).¹⁶³

Plantations

In 1870, the Inspector of Forests recommended the protection and growth of indigenous trees, or if this proved difficult, the planting of non-indigenous trees to ensure a continued supply of timber.¹⁶⁴ However few plantations were established in Victoria to replace depleted timber resources until the enactment of the Forest Act in 1907.¹⁶⁵ Notably,

¹⁵⁴ P Taylor, *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead*, p25

¹⁵⁵ *The Argus*, 1 January 1934, p4

¹⁵⁶ K Twigg & W Jacobs, *Shire of Metcalfe Heritage Study*, p12

¹⁵⁷ eGold website: <http://www.egold.net.au/biogs/EG00147b.htm>, D Bannear, *Coppice Regrowth in Victoria's Box-Ironbark Forests*, accessed 5/08/2014; Environment Conservation Council, *Box-Ironbark Forests and Woodlands Investigation*, Appendix 2, p3

¹⁵⁸ Parks Victoria, *Mt Alexander Regional Park*, park notes; Harcourt Valley Heritage and Tourist Centre, *Forestry in the Harcourt district*, np

¹⁵⁹ *Victoria Government Gazette*, 1868, p2244

¹⁶⁰ K Twigg & W Jacobs, *Shire of Metcalfe Heritage Study*, vol.1, Environmental History, p55

¹⁶¹ K James & N Davis, *A History of Barfold*, p185

¹⁶² VHD, Citation for Cunnacks Valonia Oak Plantation (VHR: H1422)

¹⁶³ Wikipedia, *Acacia* (accessed 20.08.15). These species are indigenous to the south-east part of Australia.

¹⁶⁴ Parks Victoria, *Mt Alexander Regional Park*, park notes; Harcourt Valley Heritage and Tourist Centre, *Forestry in the Harcourt district*, np

¹⁶⁵ K Twigg & W Jacobs, *Shire of Metcalfe Heritage Study*, vol.1, Environmental History, p55

Radiata Pine (or Monterey Pine) was planted at Mount Alexander in 1910 as part of a program for reforestation, and later expanded due to demand from the Harcourt fruit growers for timber packing cases. The first pines were cut during WWII, beginning the cycle of cutting and replanting that lasted until the late 20th century, since when it has been gradually revegetated with native species.¹⁶⁶

Also at Mount Alexander, the Victorian Lands Department planted 20 acres of several types of oak, amongst other genera (cedars and ash), in 1900 at Picnic Gully. Now well established, the Oak Forest is a popular picnic spot.¹⁶⁷ Other smaller plantations, of pine and other species, have been established across the Shire.

Valonia Oaks

In 1879 George Cunnack, tanner, currier and leather merchant, established an early plantation of Valonia Oaks (*Quercus macrolepis*) in a paddock adjoining his tannery in Castlemaine, a remnant grove of which partly survives in the grounds of Winters Flat Primary School.¹⁶⁸

The Valonia Oak is one of the principal sources of tannin, and the plantation was intended to supply commercial quantities for the tanning industry. The trees first produced acorns in 1893, which were then distributed to set up plantations in Victoria, South Australia and New South Wales.¹⁶⁹



Figure 73: Cunnacks Valonia Oak, Castlemaine
(Source: Victorian Heritage Database, H1422)

Timber Mills

There has been an intermittent history of sawmilling operations across the Shire, commencing prior to the gold rush. In the late 1840s, timber cutters were established on Sawpit Creek at its junction with the Melbourne Road (now Elphinstone).¹⁷⁰

Also in the eastern part of the Shire, Robert 'Redgum' Barbour set up a sawmill in the township of Sutton Grange. It operated during the 1860s and he also had a mill on the Stratford Lodge estate.¹⁷¹ By 1867, Barbour had established a sawmill near the Harcourt railway station. He obtained timber both from the bush and from settlers who wanted their land cleared to plant orchards.¹⁷² With the opening in 1891 of the Kyneton-Redesdale branch line, the local trade in

¹⁶⁶ Harcourt Valley Heritage and Tourist Centre, *Forestry in the Harcourt district*, np
¹⁶⁷ G Milford, *The Oak Forest, Picnic Gully Road, Harcourt*. It included Valonia Oaks (for tannin supplies) which did not survive due to the wet.
¹⁶⁸ Attempts to grow Valonia Oaks in Victoria had commenced from 1862 under the direction of Charles Ibbotson in Geelong and by 1875 had grown to a height of 12 to 14 feet. Jessica Hood, 'The Heights – an acorn, a tree and a storm', National Trust (Victoria), (Issue no. 2, 2015) p19; *The Mercury*, 25 May 1875, p3
¹⁶⁹ VHR Citation H1422: *Cunnacks Valonia Oak Plantation*; G Milford, *The Oak Forest, Picnic Gully Road, Harcourt*, [notes]
¹⁷⁰ K James & N Davis, *A History of Elphinstone*, p1
¹⁷¹ K James & N Davis, *History of Sutton Grange*, p170
¹⁷² Parks Victoria, *Mt Alexander Regional Park*, park notes; Harcourt Valley Heritage and Tourist Centre, *Forestry in the Harcourt district*, np

firewood timber increased and firewood mills were established at several stations.¹⁷³ The Caelli brothers, based at Redesdale, opened a mill at Barfold station in 1923 and erected a tramway to Rattrey's Hill.¹⁷⁴

During the 1920s, a large sawmilling operation was established at Elphinstone train station and a timber tramway built connecting it to the source at Coliban Park. The project failed as the red gum timber was not of sufficient quality, however some archaeological remains survive (for example, formations associated with the tramway). The saw mill was used during WWII when it supplied food packing cases to the army.¹⁷⁵ Similarly a sawmill specialising in manufacturing packing cases, the Harcourt Cooperative, developed to supply the local orchardists from 1936. It continued until the 1970s before the timber packing cases were superseded by cardboard cartons and briefly revived to provide milled softwood for the furniture and construction industries.¹⁷⁶

Various sawmills also operated in the southern part of the Shire during the 19th and into the early 20th century near Newstead, Fryerstown and Yapeen.¹⁷⁷

Charcoal

Charcoal is produced by heating wood in the absence of oxygen. Within the Shire, known documentation mainly identifies Italians working in this capacity.

Timber in the Fryerstown area was generally of poor quality but suitable for charcoal burning. Charcoal was used by blacksmiths as it produced greater heat than timber or coal. Although the demand reduced over the course of the 19th century, the Bertalli family at Strathlea continued to produce charcoal until about 1913.¹⁷⁸ Charcoal burners also operated near Taradale during the 19th century (Carlo La Franki) and at the turn of the 20th century (Antonio brothers).¹⁷⁹ During the 1920s, Italians also operated a charcoal burning operation at the Elphinstone Timber Mill.¹⁸⁰

4.6 Quarrying

There have been a number of stone quarries in the Shire, the granite quarries situated on the slopes of Mount Alexander probably being the most well-known. Slate and gravel is also quarried in the area.

The local stone has been a popular building material in the Shire, and the local stonemasons have been well-known throughout Victoria for their skills. The use of local stone is a distinctive element in the built heritage of particular areas; basalt in Baringhup, pale yellow sandstone in Castlemaine, dark brown sandstone in Yapeen and Campbells Creek, darker sandstone and some slates in Maldon, pale yellow sandstone in Barkers Creek, Fryerstown and Chewton, and Granite in Harcourt, Faraday and Sutton Grange.¹⁸¹

A number of private and commercial quarries currently operate in Yapeen, Guildford, Castlemaine, Chewton and Muckleford.

4.6.1 Granite

Granite has been quarried in the Harcourt area since 1859, initially for construction of the Melbourne to Echuca Railway, and is one of the longest continually quarried building stones in Australia. Originally Harcourt granite was only used locally, however from the 1880s it began to be used throughout regional Victoria, first for elements such as columns, and later for plinths. In Melbourne, it was used in many significant buildings and structures such as Flinders Street Station and Princes Bridge. Subsequently, its use expanded across the nation.¹⁸²

¹⁷³ K Twigg & W Jacobs, *Shire of Metcalfe Heritage Study*, vol.1, Environmental History, p56

¹⁷⁴ K James & N Davis, *A History of Barfold*, p183

¹⁷⁵ K Twigg & W Jacobs, *Shire of Metcalfe Heritage Study*, vol.1, Environmental History, p56

¹⁷⁶ Harcourt Valley Heritage and Tourist Centre, *Forestry in the Harcourt district*, np

¹⁷⁷ P Taylor, *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead*, Stage 2, Section 2, Environmental History, pp83-84

¹⁷⁸ P Taylor, *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead*, Stage 2, Section 2, Environmental History, p84

¹⁷⁹ K Twigg & W Jacobs, *Shire of Metcalfe Heritage Study*, vol.1, Environmental History, p55

¹⁸⁰ Heritage Inventory, Elphinstone timber Mill, H7723-0584

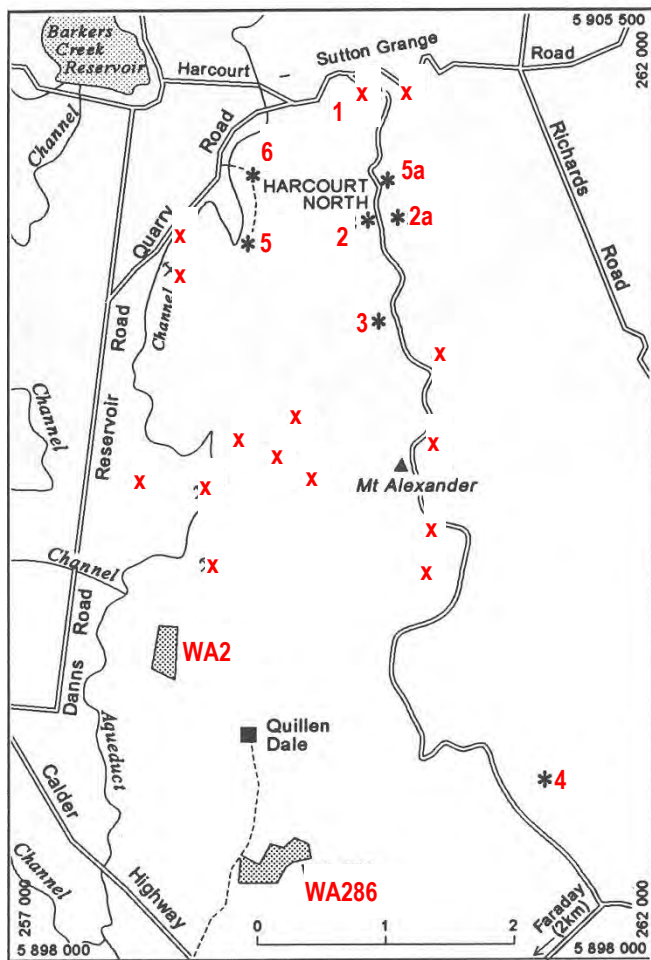
¹⁸¹ Information provided by staff at Mount Alexander Shire Council.

¹⁸² R King & K Weston, *Dimension Stone in Victoria*, pp58-60. Blight arrived from Cornwall in 1855.



Figure 74: 'Granite Quarries Mount Alexander 83 Miles N.N.W. from Melbourne' (Charles Nettleton, 1855-1902)
 (Source: State Library of Victoria, accession no. H1910)

Demand for granite continued to increase and quarrying continues to be an active industry in the region, especially for monumental work. Several commercial quarries are still operating today, including the Harcourt Granite quarry.¹⁸³ The success of the industry relates to the fact it is easily quarried and readily polished.



- 1 Hendersons Marble and Granite Pty Ltd
- 2 Giannarelli and Sons
- 2a Plant
- 3 Harcourt Granite Pty Ltd
- 4 Oliver (Mount Granite Quarries)
- 5 Layton Granite Industries Pty Ltd (Processing plant);
- 5a Disused quarry
- 6 Blights quarry (abandoned)
- X Other abandoned dimension stone quarries
- WA Extractive Industry Work Authorities for aggregate

Figure 75: Past and current granite quarries in the Harcourt area (as at 1997)
 (Source: R King and K Weston, *Dimension Stone in Victoria*, p58)

183

C Harris, *Granite quarrying at Mount Alexander*, pp7-11

Harcourt Quarries

The industry at Harcourt was developed by Joseph Blight who used his mining skills to quarry granite on the slopes of Mount Alexander, initially for the railway. By 1862 it was known as Blights Quarry.¹⁸⁴ Granite from Blight's quarry won awards in the Franco-British Exhibition and in Philadelphia during the 1900s. In 1964 the quarry closed for several reasons including the fact that it was becoming increasingly difficult to find good faces of stone at the site.¹⁸⁵

Blight's was the only large quarry in the area until the 1920s when the Harcourt Granite quarry was established. Other local quarries included Lodge Brothers (1920s), Tingay and Oliver (from the early 1940s), JAL/Veskovey (from 1951), Giannarelli, and Laytons.¹⁸⁶ The proximity to a railway line and station made commercial quarrying a cost effective industry to supply Melbourne and international markets.

Granite Buildings and Structures

There are over 30 granite houses in Faraday and Harcourt as well as the Faraday Primary School and the Harcourt Uniting Church. The buildings are distinctive and unique to the area.¹⁸⁷ Dr Barker's Homestead (now a ruin) in Harcourt was constructed c.1847, before the gold rush of the 1850s. There have also been several granite houses constructed since the 1980s.¹⁸⁸ There are also examples in Sutton Grange and Elphinstone.¹⁸⁹

Several granite structures associated with the Melbourne to Echuca railway were erected during the mid-1860s including Vicks Viaduct at Harcourt and another viaduct at Barkers Creek, as well as railway bridges at Blackjack Road and Specimen Gully Road.



Figure 76: Faraday Primary School No. 797
(Source: Victorian Heritage Database, H1704)

Other areas

Granite was also quarried at Baringhup East. The Meyers and Ferries quarry was opened in 1919. This stone was used for the foundation stone of the original Parliament House in Canberra.¹⁹⁰

4.6.2 Slate

Castlemaine slate is possibly the best known of Victoria's slates and has been quarried from the late 1850s onwards. Previously it had been widely used for flagging, lintels and writing slates (for school children) but now is mainly used for flagging and feature areas in domestic buildings (such as fireplace surrounds and walls). Quarries had been located

¹⁸⁴ VHR Citation H2127: *Blight's Quarry*. Blight had been successful on the Chewton/Campbells Creek goldfields.
¹⁸⁵ C Harris, *Granite quarrying at Mount Alexander, Harcourt* pp12,15
¹⁸⁶ C Harris, *Granite quarrying at Mount Alexander, Harcourt* pp7-15
¹⁸⁷ Harcourt Valley Heritage & Tourist Centre, *Granite Houses of Faraday & Harcourt*, np
¹⁸⁸ Harcourt Valley Heritage & Tourist Centre, *Granite Houses of Faraday & Harcourt*, np
¹⁸⁹ Information provided by George Milford, July 2014
¹⁹⁰ R King & K Weston, *Dimension Stone in Victoria*, pp48-49

between Barkers Creek and Chewton and currently there are quarries to the south and north-east of Castlemaine.¹⁹¹ Remains of extensive slate quarries survive at the Welsh village in the Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park.¹⁹² Specimen Gully Flagstone Quarry at Barkers Creek was a notable quarry and operated during the second half of the 19th century. By 1870, it was the largest producer of flagstones in the State.¹⁹³

A light grey slate had also been quarried in the Elphinstone area but few details are known of its production.¹⁹⁴

4.6.3 Gravel

There have been a few gravel quarries established across the Shire including about 2.5 acres west of Fryerstown (reserved in 1942) and 12 acres south of Vaughan (reserved in 1956).¹⁹⁵

There was once a large gravel pit in Blanket Gully Road, Campbells Creek. There are currently gravel quarries operating in Guildford and Castlemaine.¹⁹⁶

4.7 Harnessing Water

The locations of rivers, lakes and other natural water sources influenced the early settlement patterns in the Shire. The early settlers likely appropriated Aboriginal knowledge of water supplies, and in their efforts to regulate the supply of water, they built wells and tanks, and later dams and weirs.

Water was typically scarce on the goldfields during the summer months so that a pattern of feverish mining activity during winter, followed by a mass exodus in summer, was the standard until the 1870s when the Coliban System became operative.¹⁹⁷

4.7.1 Early Water Infrastructure (Pre-Coliban System)

Alluvial mining, like most gold mining methods, relied heavily on water to separate the gold from the dirt, but at many diggings the demand could not be met. Not only that, the filthy water the miners were forced to drink caused cholera, dysentery and diarrhoea. At the Mount Tarrangower (Maldon) diggings, despite the initial excitement, the severe shortage of water proved a great obstacle.¹⁹⁸ Some diggers stockpiled dirt and awaited the winter rains, while those who lacked the capital to wait had little choice but to leave.

Tarrangower in summer is totally destitute of water to drink, or to wash their auriferous dirt with. The distress was dreadful. To cart their washing-stuff to the Loddon, eight miles or more distant, was ruinous, costing, I believe, £3 per load; and water there was a shilling a bucket.¹⁹⁹

Although surface water supplies were erratic, underground water also posed problems and pumping equipment was often required to remove water from mine shafts as the deep leads were the drainage networks.²⁰⁰

Miners had to make do with a range of water-gathering methods, some rudimentary. Aqueducts provided an option, such as the Loddon Water Race which opened in 1866. It extended from the Loddon River initially to Fryerstown, then later also to Vaughan and Churches Flat.²⁰¹

By the 1860s, the deficient capacity and inconsistent supply of the waterways and wells to meet the needs of the increasing population on the Victorian goldfields was clearly apparent – both in terms of household supply and for mining activity. The Crocodile and Spring Creek reservoirs were built in 1861 to supply town water to Fryerstown and

¹⁹¹ R King & K Weston, *Dimension Stone in Victoria*, pp97-8

¹⁹² G Wettenhall, *Goldfields Track: Walking Guide*, p96

¹⁹³ VHR: Citation for H1411 (Specimen Gully Flagstone Quarry)

¹⁹⁴ R King & K Weston, *Dimension Stone in Victoria*, p56

¹⁹⁵ Fryers Parish Plan F47(13), gaz. 1942.2837 and 1956.5226

¹⁹⁶ Information provided by George Milford, July 2014

¹⁹⁷ K Twigg & W Jacobs, *Shire of Metcalfe Heritage Study*, vol.1, Environmental History, pp15-16

¹⁹⁸ C Fahey & A Mayne, (eds.) *Gold Tailings, The hidden history of Victoria's Central Goldfield Region*, p39

¹⁹⁹ M Lewis, *The Essential Maldon*, p9

²⁰⁰ P Taylor, *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead*, Stage 2, Section 2: Environmental History, p61

²⁰¹ P Taylor, *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead*, Stage 2, Section 2: Environmental History, p58

Spring Gully.²⁰² The drought of 1864-65 intensified the situation and so in 1865 the *Waterworks Act* was introduced providing money for the construction of local waterworks across the State, the Coliban System being the most ambitious of the proposed projects.²⁰³

4.7.2 Coliban System

The Coliban System, designed by the Irish engineer Joseph Brady in 1862/63, was the most extensive water supply system outside Melbourne at the time and it continues to function in the same manner as when it was inaugurated.²⁰⁴ The route of the gravity fed system involved channelling water from the Coliban River near Malmsbury (south of the Shire). The head of the Coliban River is located near Lyonville in the Great Dividing Range south of the Shire and extends across the eastern part of the Shire (east of Taradale and through Metcalfe) to meet the Campaspe River near Lake Eppalock. Water is stored at the main reservoir at Malmsbury and fed along the Main Coliban Channel, which extends northwards across the central part of the Shire en route to Bendigo. Water is distributed to settlements through gravity-fed pipes and three distribution reservoirs at Expedition Pass (1868), Harcourt (Barkers Creek Reservoir, 1868) and Bendigo (north of the Shire).²⁰⁵



Figure 77: Expedition Pass Reservoir, Golden Point (2014)



Figure 78: Barkers Creek Reservoir (2015)

During the period 1880-1920, the system was extended to supply water for irrigation, and spur races were extended into the Faraday and Harcourt area, providing a substantial boost to the fruit growing industry. Prior to this, water allocations limited the size of orchards, and consequently many early settlers also kept a small herd of dairy cows or some poultry for egg production.²⁰⁶ In 1910, following the construction of the Porcupine Extension, dry farmland north of Harcourt was subdivided into orchard blocks, creating a new closely-settled area, known as North Harcourt.²⁰⁷

Initially the Barkers Creek reservoir was poorly utilised but from 1885 was employed for irrigation purposes.²⁰⁸ The Expedition Pass reservoir is no longer used as a water supply and has been sold to the Shire to be used for recreational purposes.²⁰⁹

The Coliban system remains crucial to life in the Shire and has been further extended to include another two reservoirs (south of Malmsbury) and an extensive channel system. Some areas however remain connected by pipes, such as Maldon. Some sections of the original timber pipes remain, though most have been replaced.²¹⁰ In 2002, the Coliban

²⁰² P Taylor, *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead*, Stage 2, Section 2: Environmental History, p61

²⁰³ Context P/L, *Victorian Water Supply Heritage Study*, vol.1, p19, p48. The first government department to specifically oversee water supply was the fittingly entitled Department of Mines and Water Supply, which was not established until 1865.

²⁰⁴ Context, *Victorian Water Supply Heritage Study*, vol.1, p19; Coliban Water, *Joseph Brady's Coliban System of Water Works: An Historical Guide* [pamphlet]. In 1862, the government offered a £500 prize for the best solution. Plans were submitted in 1863 and the prize was awarded to Brady in 1864.

²⁰⁵ K Twigg & W Jacobs, *Shire of Metcalfe Heritage Study*, vol.1, Environmental History, p16

²⁰⁶ Harcourt Valley Heritage and Tourist Centre, *Dairy Relics*, [notes] np

²⁰⁷ K Twigg & W Jacobs, *Shire of Metcalfe Heritage Study*, vol.1, Environmental History, p17

²⁰⁸ K Twigg & W Jacobs, *Shire of Metcalfe Heritage Study*, vol.3 (Barfold-Elphinstone), file no. H109

²⁰⁹ Parks Victoria, Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park – Park Notes, June 2013; K McKimmie, *Chewton Then and Now*, p31

²¹⁰ Information provided by Derek Reid, Newstead Historical Society, May 2015

Scheme was an integral part in the AQUA project that combines new filtration technology with the traditional water supply system to provide a reliable, clean water supply to residents.²¹¹

There are many significant components of the Coliban Scheme within the Shire including the syphon south-east of Taradale, which was completed in 1867. The syphon, which includes a partly basalt-lined tunnel about 800 metres in length, forces the water onto higher level to improve the gravitation of the main channel.²¹²

Coliban Water and Mining

From 1874, Coliban water flowed to Castlemaine and subsequently local authorities and mining parties cut a web of channels through rock to direct water to their workings.



Figure 79: Channel cut through rock to supply water to gold workings
(Source: Coliban Water website)



Figure 80: 'Red Knob' landscape near Vaughan (2014)

The availability of Coliban water for hydraulic sluicing and dredging made it possible to work over many of the diggings again.²¹³ In 1881, an additional race was constructed to Specimen Gully and Barkers Creek in response to an increased demand for water for sluicing techniques.²¹⁴ From this time, hydraulic sluicing was undertaken on a large scale. The 'Red Knob' landscape near Vaughan provides striking evidence of sluicing activity which occurred during the 1950s.



Figure 81: Garfield Water Wheel, c.1937
(Source: State Library of Victoria, H2009.38/25)



Figure 82: Remnant stone base of Garfield Water Wheel (2014)

In 1887, a large timber water wheel was constructed by the Garfield Gold Mining Company to power their quartz crushing plant, using Coliban water. It is understood to have operated till 1903 but it is not known when it was dismantled.

²¹¹ Coliban Water, *Joseph Brady's Coliban System of Water Works: An Historical Guide* [pamphlet]

²¹² R Maltby, *Taradale – My Home Town Valley*, p83

²¹³ R Bradfield, *Campbells Creek*, p7

²¹⁴ K Twigg & W Jacobs, *Shire of Metcalfe Heritage Study*, vol.1, Environmental History, p16

4.7.3 Cairn Curran

There was great expansion of Victoria's irrigation water storages after World War II. A new reservoir was completed every two or three years up to 1971.²¹⁵ The construction of the Cairn Curran reservoir, the largest in the Shire, followed the drought of 1944-45. One of the main functions of the reservoir was to ensure water supply to irrigated properties along the Loddon River. Work on the reservoir began in August 1946, and was completed in 1956. In 1958, provision was made to erect a hydro-electric power station with a capacity of about 2000 kilowatts.²¹⁶ It covers an area of 1,950 hectares with a capacity of 147MI. The dam wall, at the northern end, is about 44m high.²¹⁷



Figure 83: 'Diversion Cut - Cairn Curran', c.1948, State Rivers and Water Supply Commission.
(Source: State Library of Victoria, accession no. RWP/8070)



Figure 84: Cairn Curran Reservoir (2014)

²¹⁵ Context, *Victorian Water Supply Heritage Study*, vol.1, p.37

²¹⁶ *Victoria Government Gazette*, 1958, p497. 2000 kilowatts equals 2 megawatts

²¹⁷ *Cairn Curran Reservoir* [pamphlet]

5 INDUSTRY & BUSINESS

Introduction

The theme examines how industry and business have developed in the Shire and the contributions they have made to the economy and the community. Retailing and manufacturing entrepreneurs saw opportunity in the gold rush and journeyed to the Shire to set up business on the goldfields or did so using the capital made from mining. By the early 1860s, ten years after the beginning of the gold rush, the local economy had begun to diversify away from its mining base. Several larger factories and workplaces were established in Castlemaine, the principal centre of industry in the Shire, during the gold-rush years of the 1850s, and then in another group during the 1870s after the introduction of the Victorian tariff on imported goods (1871) and the connection of reticulated water (1872). Other parts of the workforce were employed in seasonal work and contract labour, such as small scale mining, farming and service industries. Testifying to these activities are several buildings associated with manufacturing and processing industries. Also well represented are the banking sector, retail generally (notably market buildings), and entertainment venues (including hotels). Tourism and vehicle modification are industries that developed during the 20th century.

Today, although the proportion of the population employed in industry in the Shire has reduced, it remains an important sector and accounts for about 14% of the workforce, while retail accounts for 11.4%.¹

5.1 Processing Primary Produce

5.1.1 Dairy Products

The dairy industry throughout the Shire was encouraged by Government subsidies offered to co-operative dairies in 1888 and incentives on butter exports. By the late 1890s, the innovation of refrigeration allowed cream to be produced locally and then transported to district butter factories (like that at Newstead) or by train to butter factories in Melbourne for processing.²

Two related building types evolved – the creamery and butter factory - with the former tending to be smaller than the latter. Initially creameries were more common than butter factories, but the latter became more common during the early 20th century as cream separators became smaller and only cream would be delivered to a local/regional butter factory. At a creamery, cream is separated from the milk, and cheese and butter are often manufactured.³

Creameries

Local, small scaled creameries were formed, mostly as co-operatives, by farmers in the 1880s and 1890s to make use of separating machines. Farmers fed the remaining skim milk to their pigs. Creameries became obsolete with the invention of the hand separator which enabled cream to be separated on the farm in the 1900s. By the 1930s, manufacturers of dairy products collected cream directly from farms.⁴

Two branch creameries in the eastern part of the Shire supplied the Kyneton butter factory at the turn of the 20th century. A creamery at Barfold (1893 until 1909) operated from near the bridge over the Campaspe River and at Metcalfe (1895 to 1904) a creamery was located north of the town on the Redesdale Road.⁵ A creamery was also established at Sutton Grange at a similar time by the Melbourne based company, the Fresh Food and Frozen storage company, but operated for about 37 years, from 1892 to 1929. This small weatherboard building was subsequently moved to a nearby farm and converted to a tobacco kiln, but was later lost to fire.⁶

¹ Australian Bureau of Statistics, according to 2011 data. The greatest employment sector in the Shire is health care and social assistance, which accounts for 15% of the population. Another 9.6% are employed in education and training, 5.2% in food and accommodation and 4.5% in agriculture and forestry.

² S Priestley, *The Victorians: Making Their Mark*, p205

³ K James & N Davis, *History of Sutton Grange* p34. In 1895, there were 300 creameries in Victoria but 200 butter factories.

⁴ K Twigg & W Jacobs, *Shire of Metcalfe Heritage Study*, vol. 1, Environmental History, p 47

⁵ K James & N Davis, *History of Barfold*, pp59-67. It is known the house on the site was sold and presumed the creamery building itself was also sold; K James & N Davis, *History of Metcalfe*, pp153-163

⁶ K James & N Davis, *History of Sutton Grange*, pp172-181

Butter Factories

The Newstead Co-operative Butter and Cheese Factory began operation in 1905 and it became a lucrative business supplying high quality products to both local and overseas markets. During the 1930s, collection trucks would take the cream to the factory.⁷ From the late 1940s suppliers gradually decreased until it closed in 1975.⁸

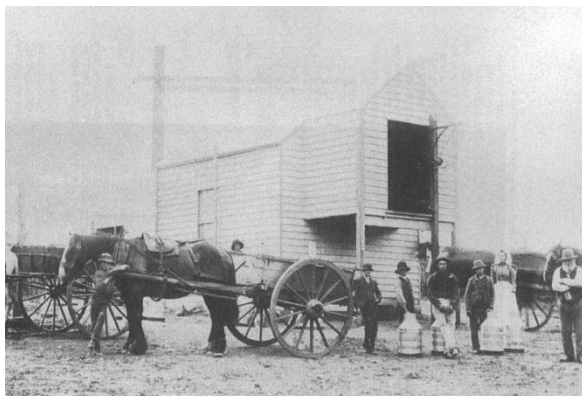


Figure 85: Guildford Butter Factory (or creamery)
(Source: R Bradfield, *Guildford*, p24)



Figure 86: Newstead Co-operative Butter Factory (2014)

A butter factory is said to have operated at Guildford during the 1890s,⁹ although the size and type of the building suggest it may have been a creamery. A butter factory was also established in Castlemaine and the building remains in Kennedy Street.¹⁰

5.1.2 Animal Processing

A range of animal processing operations have existed in the Shire at different times

Small Goods (Bacon)

There was a bacon factory operating in Castlemaine from at least the 1870s, from premises in Parker Street.¹¹ In 1905 the Castlemaine Bacon Company was established at a butter factory in Kennedy Street, and in 1913 they expanded and built a modern factory on Richards Road. Most of the pigs were from local farms, but the company also raised their own pigs.¹² Since the 1970s, the company has been Castlemaine's largest employer, and now operates as 'Don KR Castlemaine' which is part of George Weston Foods Limited and supplies products nationally.¹³

Abattoirs and Slaughter Yards

In the 1860s, Chewton supported a large butcher trade which was the largest commercial sector in the town and in 1868, included 13 butchers.¹⁴ A 19th century slaughter house remains at Halloran's Road, Chewton which was constructed from the early 1860s. The facility includes a residence, stables and a series of sheds (some made of local slate), enclosed yards and courtyards.¹⁵

Poultry

The Castlemaine Poultry Packers Processing Plant was established in 1964 but was unpopular due to the malodorous effluent. It operated for about a decade, also processing rabbit carcasses.¹⁶

⁷ K Twigg & W Jacobs, *Shire of Metcalfe Heritage Study*, vol.1, Environmental History, p47

⁸ P Taylor, *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead*, pp79, 81-82. There had previously been a two storey timber building on site.

⁹ A photograph of a weatherboard building is described as such in R Bradfield, *Guildford*, p24

¹⁰ Information obtained from CHSI May 2015

¹¹ L Edmonds, *Bringing Home the Bacon: A History of the Harris Family's Castlemaine Bacon Company 1905-2005*, p15

¹² L Edmonds, *Bringing Home the Bacon: A History of the Harris Family's Castlemaine Bacon Company 1905-2005*, p20

¹³ George Weston Foods Limited is a wholly owned subsidiary of Associated British Foods plc.

¹⁴ K Twigg and W Jacobs, *Shire of Metcalfe Heritage Study*, Volume 1, p29

¹⁵ K Twigg and W Jacobs, *Shire of Metcalfe Heritage Study*, C73B, pp235-236. There are also two other sites in the Chewton area which were associated with the slaughter yard and butchering trade.

¹⁶ K James & N Davis, *A History of Elphinstone*, p77

Rabbits

Rabbiting supplemented the incomes of many farmers in the Shire, particularly during the 1930s. Rabbit pelts were regularly sold to the Commonwealth Wool Stores in Melbourne with prices for 50 rabbit pelts bringing considerably more than the basic wage. Rabbit fur was in demand for use in felted hats, much as it remains today.¹⁷ During the early 20th century, there was demand from England and other countries for both the skins and frozen meat.¹⁸

Tallow – Candles and soap

Initially candles were costly and thus rare, as were soap and other products made from tallow (animal fat). In 1855, William Spinks and Samuel R. Suffern established a soap and candle factory in Guildford which prospered. After the partnership was dissolved in 1858, Spinks was joined by Israel Kirkpatrick, a soapmaker from Ireland. Demand was great during the 1860s, when underground mines in the area were lit by candlelight. In 1862, Beckingsales, merchants from Castlemaine bought the Guildford soap factory and successfully marketed their Guildford Soap throughout the colony. Flooding in 1909 was a major setback and after 82 years, the factory was closed in 1937.¹⁹

5.1.3 Woollen Mills

The Castlemaine Woollen Mills were established in the mid-1870s, one of the earliest woollen mills to be established in a rural setting,²⁰ and employed 75 people within a year. The mills made a wide range of woollen and worsted materials, including blankets, rugs and woollen goods of all kinds.²¹ While susceptible to fluctuations, it was a major employer in the township.²² Around the turn of the century it was noted the factory turned out nearly a quarter of a million yards (228,600m) of flannel each year.²³

The Castlemaine Woollen Mills operated in Walker Street until 1993 when it was acquired by Victoria Carpets. A fire razed the earlier building in 1996, and a new building opened in the following year (some of the original external walls remain). Victoria Carpets operated at the site until 2014, when the company centralised manufacturing at their Bendigo plant.²⁴

5.1.4 Flour Mills

At the start of the gold rush, the Mount Alexander diggings were initially dependent on flour provisions brought from Melbourne. Flour mills however began to be erected in the Shire from 1856. A mill at Newstead (now demolished) may have been the first to be erected (1856),²⁵ with others soon after at Castlemaine and Maldon.



Figure 87: Former Woollen Mills/Victoria Carpets, Castlemaine (2014)



Figure 88: Former flour mill, Barker St, Castlemaine (2014)

¹⁷ B Rowe, *Redesdale: Yesterday and Today*, p239-241

¹⁸ K James & N Davis, *A History of Elphinstone*, pp79-80

¹⁹ P Taylor, *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead*, p77

²⁰ R Bradfield, *Castlemaine: A Golden Harvest*, p45

²¹ R Bradfield, *Castlemaine: A Golden Harvest*, p46

²² H Holst, *Making a Home: A History of Castlemaine*, p66

²³ J Smith (ed.), *The Cyclopaedia of Victoria*, 1903, p404

²⁴ J Jones, 'Factory to Close', *Midland Express*, 3 June 2013, accessed 13/10/2013

²⁵ W Jacobs et al, *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead*, stage 2, vol. 3 (Newstead), Former Victoria Flour Mill (place no. ND/33). The first mill was lost to fire in 1869, and a second on the same site, in 1879.

A few flour mills were constructed in Castlemaine, however the short-lived steam flour mill which remains on Barker Street (1856-57) is probably the finest industrial building in the Shire.²⁶ A mill was erected nearby on Johnstone Street in 1857, which operated intermittently from c1890, and was razed by fire in 1899. Less successful was the mill in Forest Street, erected during the 1860s but now demolished. Two flour mills were erected in Maldon during the 1870s, one of which survives in High Street, though it was converted to shops by 1900.²⁷

A basalt mill survives at Newstead, the former Victoria Flour Mill, which was erected in 1879 and operated until 1914.²⁸ Although less common in the eastern part of the Shire, a flour mill operated in Elphinstone during the 1860s and early 1870s.²⁹

5.2 Manufacturing

A variety of manufacturing enterprises have existed at different times across the Shire, with some early examples relating to items that are no longer commonplace. It has become increasingly difficult for small scale operations to remain profitable and hence this sector is less diverse now than it has previously been.

5.2.1 Engineering Works

Once larger company mines developed in the area from the late 1850s, heavy machinery was required. Local foundries repaired and manufactured the equipment required by the mining companies, as well as other types of machinery and decorative metal work.³⁰ During the 19th century, many engineering companies were established in the Shire.

Two modest sized foundries, Vivian's and the Albion, were opened in Castlemaine during 1868.³¹ The front office of Vivian's and parts of the stone wall remain behind the Castlemaine South Primary School.³²

A larger general foundry however was opened by the Thompson Bros in 1875 next to their earlier flour mill (1864) and soon after they manufactured the gates to the local Botanical gardens. In 1879 the company expanded with the purchase of Vivian & Co., and the following year they commenced work for the Victorian railways.³³ Between 1912 and 1915 the facilities expanded again, when steam locomotives were manufactured for the Victorian Railways.³⁴ Thompson's grew to be as famous for their railway engines as for their mine machinery.³⁵ Thompson's foundry still operates though is now called Flowserve after being taken over by a US company.³⁶ Billman's Foundry, which began operation in 1980, also continues to operate from Castlemaine and specialises in decorative works and outdoor furniture.³⁷

²⁶ VHR Citation, H0395. It was designed by the architect Thomas Shepherd and was being used as a railway foundry in 1859, and later as a Cobb & Co. depot and coach-building works.

²⁷ L & P Jones, *The Flour Mills of Victoria 1840-1990: An historical record*, pp144-158; Jacob Lewis Vines, *Maldon Conservation Study*, part 2, p14

²⁸ W Jacobs et al, *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead*, stage 2, vol. 3 (Newstead), Former Victoria Flour Mill (place no. ND/33).

²⁹ K James & N Davis, *A History of Elphinstone*, pp62-63

³⁰ K Webber, *Australian Gold Rush: Growth after Gold*, p27

³¹ H Holst, *Making a Home: A History of Castlemaine*, p65

³² For an early photograph of Vivian's Foundry refer to G Hocking, *Castlemaine: From Camp to City 1835-1900*, p188

³³ G Milford, *A Historical Survey of Thompsons 1852-2007*, pp1-4 [notes]. They also manufactured the original equipment for the Spotswood Pumping Station in Melbourne (for the MMBW).

³⁴ VHR Citation H1732: *Thompsons Kelly & Lewis Engineering Works*

³⁵ S Priestley, *The Victorians: Making their Mark*, p56

³⁶ *The Age*, 6 March 2010, online article

³⁷ Billman's Foundry website, accessed 1 September 2015



Figure 89: Remnants of Vivian's Foundry, Castlemaine (2014)



Figure 90: Thompson's Foundry, Castlemaine (2014)

During the world wars, Thompson's handled a large share of defence work; during WWI manufacturing marine steam engines and munitions, and during WWII employing up to 800 people and manufacturing gun equipment and chambers for RAAF training.³⁸ Thompson's (now Flowserve) grew to be a major Victorian company and remains important to the Castlemaine economy today.³⁹ The extant complex extends over a large area in Parker Street and contains buildings from the late 19th century onwards with the 1919 chimney stack being a local landmark.⁴⁰

5.2.2 Vehicles

Manufacture and Repair

The vehicle repair industry in the Shire developed from the early gold rush years. In Castlemaine, blacksmiths, farriers and wheelwrights were focussed in Forest Street, Castlemaine's first main road, particularly at its intersection with Barker Street.⁴¹ By the late 1850s, Castlemaine also had a thriving coach building industry. During the 20th century, with the transition to motorised forms of transport, these types of premises were often converted to service stations, garages and car dealers.

Modified Vehicles

Street rodding in the Shire began in a farm shed during the late 1950s, from which a local club unofficially evolved during the early 1960s. Street rodding has continued to grow, with Castlemaine a hub for street rodding businesses and enthusiasts, so much so that Castlemaine claims the title 'Street Rod Centre of Australia'. There are currently more than 30 businesses that operate primarily in the industry, as well as an additional 15 contributory businesses.⁴²

5.2.3 Leather, Footwear & Paper

A few leather works have operated in the Shire, notably Cunnack's Tannery at Winters Flat, which was one of the largest outside Melbourne.⁴³ Another substantial business was Shield's Tannery and Fellmongery at Bonnet Flat (Chewton) which operated for around 60 years, closing during WWI, and at one stage employed around 100 workers.⁴⁴ In addition to leather, Shield's tannery was well-known for the production of high quality parchment used for legal documents and was said to be the only place such parchment could be obtained in the colonies.⁴⁵

Carter's Boot Factory was established in Fryerstown in 1853, although the extant building dates to c.1870, and operated until 1900.⁴⁶ In Maldon, a shoe/slipper factory was established towards the end of World War II as part of a

³⁸ R Bradfield, *Castlemaine: A Golden Harvest*, p45

³⁹ G Milford, *A Historical Survey of Thompsons 1852-2007*, pp8-14

⁴⁰ VHR Citation H1732: *Thompsons Kelly & Lewis Engineering Works*

⁴¹ M Jean & D Moloney, *Forest Street to Forest Creek Heritage Assessment Report*, p63

⁴² Castlemaine Hot Rod Centre, insert for the *Midland Express*, 'Castlemaine's Unique Community Project', 2014.

⁴³ H Holst, *Making a Home: A History of Castlemaine*, p64

⁴⁴ K McKimmie, *Chewton Then and Now*, p24. Remnants of the old tannery survive in Shields Street Chewton (HO730). The tannery was established as early as 1858, and purchased by Edward Shield in 1862.

⁴⁵ K McKimmie, *Chewton Then and Now*, p24. Remnants of the old tannery survive in Shields Street Chewton (HO730). The tannery was established as early as 1858, and purchased by Edward Shield in 1862.

⁴⁶ W Jacobs et al, *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead*, stage 2, vol. 2, Carter's Boot Factory (place no. FR/11).

broader decentralisation effort to stem the drift of population from country towns to Melbourne - it initially employed fifty people and produced about 50,000 pairs of slippers in the first four months.⁴⁷



Figure 91: Givoni Mills, Newstead (2014)

In 1947, the Givonis from Poland set up their leather glove-making business in the Newstead Mechanics Institute building. This proved a successful business and in the following year the extant building was erected employing twelve glove-makers from around the region, though they also manufactured other items. The business moved to Castlemaine in 1967.⁴⁸

A relatively high percentage of women were employed in the leather and wool industries in the Shire. For example, by 1956 the aforementioned Givoni Mills in Newstead employed 50 females and 3 males.⁴⁹

5.2.4 Brickworks and Potteries

Bricks were initially expensive until local businesses were established, with a few commencing operations during the latter part of the 1850s including at Campbells Creek and Fryerstown.⁵⁰

At Maldon, the first brickworks were established in 1856, with another two set up the following year along the creek. By mid-1858, the latter two operations were taken over by Carl Klose, and by 1861 they had passed to one of Klose's business partners, Edward Wagener. About this time, local bricks were used in the construction of the Maldon Court house, and were said to be superior to those manufactured in Castlemaine. Wagener's bricks were said to be generally of good quality and by 1874, he was able to supply 250,000 for the new State school.⁵¹

By 1870, there were five brickyards and potteries in the Castlemaine district, however these had closed by 1890 as the scope for small scale operations based on extractable raw materials diminished.⁵²

The earliest pottery business in the region, predating the famed Bendigo Pottery, was located just north of the Castlemaine Botanic gardens. In 1857 it offered flower pots, water coolers, pitchers, washing pans, milk pans, water pipes, chimney pots and various other items.⁵³

⁴⁷ 'Blast from the Past: The Shoe Factory', *Tarrangower Times*, 9.10.2015 (supplied by the Maldon Museum and Archives Assoc. Inc.). The slipper factory was based in the former Calder's Ironmongery building on the corner of Main and Dolphin Streets.

⁴⁸ P Taylor, *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead*, p82, *Newstead Heritage Walks, CBD- then & Now* [pamphlet], January 2008

⁴⁹ Jacobs et al, *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead*, section 3, vol. 3 (Newstead), NDI/40

⁵⁰ P Taylor, *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead*, p77

⁵¹ M Lewis, *The Essential Maldon*, pp110, 115, 120-121. For photos of the Maldon brickworks, refer to A Williams, *Maldon and the Tarrangower Diggings*, p50

⁵² H Holst, *Making a Home: A History of Castlemaine*, p65

⁵³ P Cuffley, *Historic Precinct Under Threat*, p1, [notes]

5.2.5 Beverages and Confectionery

Brewing

The proprietors of hotels were also the early brewers in the Shire. At Campbells Creek the Standard Brewery opened in 1853 and was still trading strongly in the 1870s. The Fitzgerald Brewing & Malting Company, which was established in the late 1850s in Castlemaine, was a key competitor.⁵⁴ There were also several breweries in Fryerstown, including the Nuggetty Hill Brewery. The owner of the Loddon Brewery, begun at Vaughan in 1856, encouraged local farmers to produce high standard malting barley and experimented in growing hops but without success.

By the 1890s, most breweries in the Shire had closed, likely due to competition from larger breweries in Melbourne and decreased demand.⁵⁵ One exception was a brewery at Maldon which had begun operation as early as 1854 as the Springs Brewery, and continued production under various owners until 1917.⁵⁶



Figure 92: Cellar of Nuggetty Hill Brewery, Fryerstown (2014)

Cordial and soft drink

A range of drinks were produced in the Shire, including cordial, ginger beer and aerated waters. One of the first was at Campbells Creek where Paulson and Stanton converted the Shakespeare Hotel into a factory that produced ginger beer and other aerated drinks from the 1850s until the 1920s.⁵⁷ Also in Campbells Creek, the Gray Brothers set up a cordial factory in the former Oddfellows Lodge on Main Road in 1901, and it continued to operate as such for many decades under various owners, closing sometime during the second half of the 20th century.⁵⁸ By around 1860 at Vaughan there was Rodger's Aerated Waters Factory as well as a cordial factory, and at Newstead there was a ginger beer factory run by a hotel proprietor.⁵⁹

Confectionery and Biscuits

The iconic Castlemaine Rock has been manufactured in Castlemaine by five successive generations of the Barnes family since the gold rush days of 1853. The business is an example of enterprising tradesmen who journeyed to the goldfields for the purposes of practicing their trade, rather than engaging in mining.⁶⁰ In Newstead, the Newstead Biscuit Factory, which later also produced confectionary, operated during the 1860s -70s, and an associated building survives.⁶¹

⁵⁴ This company later opened a brewery in Brisbane, from which the well-known XXXX brand of beer was produced from the 1920s.

⁵⁵ H Holst, *Making a Home: A History of Castlemaine*, p65

⁵⁶ Jacob Lewis Vines, *Maldon Conservation Study*, pp58-59

⁵⁷ R Bradfield, *Campbells Creek*, p47

⁵⁸ W Jacobs & D Rowe, *Review of the Shire of Newstead Heritage Study Precincts*, revised heritage citation CC/54

⁵⁹ P Taylor, *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead*, p76

⁶⁰ 'Candy Man Can', *Bendigo Magazine*, 6 March 2012, issue 26, www.bendigomagazine.com/?p=1049

⁶¹ W Jacobs et al, *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead*, stage 2, vol. 3 (Newstead) Former Newstead Biscuit Factory Residence (place no. ND/80).

5.3 Markets & Retailing

Markets

Several market buildings were built in the Shire during the mid-19th century: Castlemaine (three brick buildings, 1858-62), Maldon (1859) and Chewton (1864). Whilst the market at Castlemaine proved to be successful, operating as an important part of the social and economic life of the district for some 150 years,⁶² the others soon failed.



Figure 93: The three market buildings in Market Square, Castlemaine, 1861. The north market (right) is nearing completion. (Source: State Library of Victoria, accession no. H36596)



Figure 94: Former Maldon Market (2014)

The success of the market at Castlemaine was likely due to its central situation amongst the goldfields. A description of the market in 1862 paints a picture of the township expanding on its gold rush origins:

Farmers find their way, from far and near on Saturdays, to dispose of their butter and eggs, and [?] pigs and poultry, to the diggers who flock in from the various diggings in the ranges round about to dispose of their gold and make their marketings.⁶³

The market buildings at Castlemaine and Maldon survive, and have been adapted for other purposes – in the case of the former an information centre, and the latter, a museum and archives.

Retail

At each new gold rush, stores were opened to supply the diggers. Initially store buildings were rudimentary, tents were common, and stores often filled more than one role. Businesses were generally a less speculative venture than mining, and often brought greater returns in the long run. As townships became more settled, permanent structures were erected; common business types included general stores, bakeries, shoemakers and butcheries. Also, during the 19th century, it was common practice to combine a shop and residence under one roof.

Two of Victoria's most successful drapery/softgoods empires established their first (or early) branches in the Shire during the 1850s – Sargoods in Castlemaine, and Ball & Welch in Vaughan (later a shop was also opened in Castlemaine).⁶⁴

Due to the early rapid development in much of the Shire during the 19th century, there are many relatively intact examples of retail buildings across the Shire. Castlemaine (e.g. Barker, Hargraves and Mostyn Streets) and Maldon (High and Main Streets) retain a predominant 19th century character to their commercial centres. Good examples have also been preserved in some of the smaller towns, in particular Campbells Creek, Chewton, Guildford and Newstead. Many early timber-framed shopfronts survive with recessed doorways and some have remnants of early signage. More so in Castlemaine than other townships, there are a number of fine examples from the Federation and Interwar periods.

⁶² The east and west market buildings were demolished c.1916-20. The north market (extant) was closed for market purposes in 1966.

⁶³ *The Goldfields of Victoria in 1862*, p118

⁶⁴ A Brown-May & S Swain (eds), *The Encyclopedia of Melbourne*, pp54 & 639

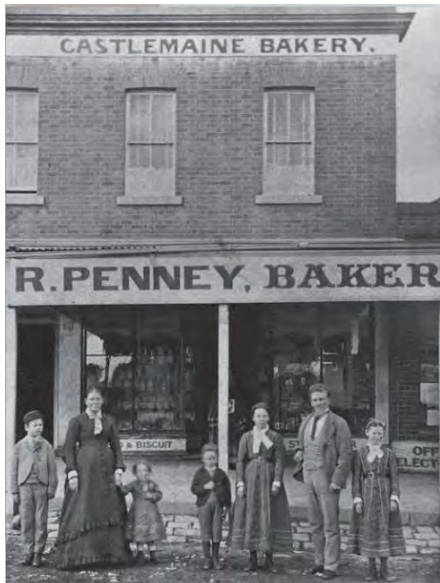


Figure 95: Bakery, Hargraves St. Castlemaine, c.1880s. The shop survives.

(Source: Mount Alexander Shire Council, *Castlemaine Historic Shopfronts - Guide to Restoration*, 2015)



Figure 96: London House, Fryers Street Guildford (2014)

Banking & Finance

In response to the wealth generated by the gold rush, banks were quick to be formed. In Castlemaine, many of the major banks established offices on Barker Street (where four survive in a row) or nearby, several whose name has changed. The desire of the major banks to have a good location is indicated by the inflated price of £2,500 paid for the site on the corner of Frederick Street in May 1854, even though the Bank of NSW had paid only £504 for their site just months earlier in February.⁶⁵ Many insurance companies were also represented.⁶⁶ Into the mid-20th century, the town retained five banks.⁶⁷

Castlemaine retains several notable banks, mostly from the 1850s and 1860s, which are some of the earliest substantial buildings in the Shire, as well as the former State Savings Bank which dates to the early 20th century (Godfrey Spowers, 1920).⁶⁸ Banks also survive elsewhere in the Shire, including the handsome former National Bank building dating to 1910 at Newstead,⁶⁹ and the small former Bank of Victoria at Vaughan.



Figure 97: Former CBC Bank, Castlemaine (2014)



Figure 98: Former National Bank of Australia, Newstead (2014)

⁶⁵ G Hocking, *Castlemaine from Camp to City*, pp57,85. Application (for Torrens title) 64546R

⁶⁶ Municipal Directory 1884

⁶⁷ Municipal Directory 1942

⁶⁸ Perrott Lyon Mathieson, *City of Castlemaine Architectural and Historical Study*, items 1-5. All were designed by architects including John Gill (ANZ, 1854-55), Alfred Price (CBC, 1856), and Leonard Terry (Bank of NSW, 1866).

⁶⁹ *Newstead Heritage Walks, CBD – Then & Now*, np, [pamphlet]

5.4 Entertaining & Socialising

Theatres and Music Halls

The first theatres and music halls were adjuncts to the public houses.⁷⁰ In the predominantly male goldfields communities the hotels and their theatres played an important role in providing opportunities for socialising and relaxation.⁷¹



Figure 99: The Music Hall of the Guildford Hotel, Guildford (2014)



Figure 100: Theatre Royal, Hargraves St, Castlemaine (2014)

Early Castlemaine venues included the French and English Concert Hall (later the Globe), and the Criterion Hall, both venues for the variety/burlesque type of show, and the Royal Albert Theatre (an adjunct to the Albert Hotel, the first licenced hotel in Castlemaine).⁷² Castlemaine's Theatre Royal, rebuilt in 1858, is a rare surviving example of a goldfields theatre and has played a longstanding role in the social and cultural life of the area. It received a Moderne style makeover in 1938 when the theatre was converted to a cinema. In more recent decades it has been used as a discothèque, theatre, live music venue and cinema.⁷³ Local halls were used intermittently for showing pictures.

Elsewhere in the Shire, Maldon's Royal Hotel⁷⁴ and Kangaroo Hotel both had theatres attached.⁷⁵ The Guildford Hotel at Guildford had an adjacent music hall.⁷⁶ At Vaughan, the Union Hotel had a hall called the Theatre Royal. At Campbells Creek, there was a theatre at the Shakespeare Hotel. Chewton's Red Hill Music Hall/Theatre at the Red Hill Hotel, was opened in December 1856 with a grand ball. An early description of the Red Hill Music Hall/Theatre reads:

This room has been built regardless of expense to suit the increasing demands in that locality for Evening Performances, which has proved a source of great profit to the present proprietor, - This room is 72 feet long by 30 feet wide, built entirely of brick, being very lofty, and having a suitable stage erected, fitted with elaborate scenery for dramatic and other performances.⁷⁷

Other settlements with hotels known to have had such facilities include Muckleford (Muckleford Hotel), Porcupine Flat (Brighton Hotel), Strangways (Talbot) and Tarilta (Derby Arms Hotel and Welcome Inn).⁷⁸

The types of performances held were varied, and included comedy, opera, plays by Shakespeare, circus, readings and music. Many performances were given by travelling performers and companies, but also some by local residents; two local societies, the Castlemaine Amateur Dramatic Society and the Forest Creek Amateur Dramatic Society, both

⁷⁰ R Bradfield, *They Trod the Boards*, np

⁷¹ R Bradfield, *Lola Montez and Castlemaine, Some Early Theatrical History*, np

⁷² R Bradfield, *They Trod the Boards*, np

⁷³ VHR Citation H2144: *Theatre Royal*

⁷⁴ The theatre at the Royal Hotel in Maldon was not only used for entertainment, but as a meeting place for the masonic movement and church groups. (VHR Citation H1391: Former Royal Hotel and Theatre)

⁷⁵ V Markham & A Leckie, *Maldon: Portrait of a Goldfields Town*, p18

⁷⁶ VHR Citation H0739: *Guildford Hotel Music Hall and Stables*

⁷⁷ R Bradfield, *They Trod the Boards*, np

⁷⁸ Information provided by CHSI from the Blume Index, May 2015

formed c.1857.⁷⁹ In 1856, the dancer Lola Montez, of notorious reputation, gave performances in Castlemaine as part of her Australian tour, the last highly successful tour of her career.⁸⁰

Hotels

During the gold rush, an inn or a hotel was often among the earliest business established in a fledgling settlement. In addition, there were often basic structures of ill-repute such as a wine shanty or beer shop but these gradually gave way to better class establishments, especially with introduction of the Licensing Act 1853.⁸¹ Many prohibited outlets however continued to operate after that time.⁸²

From 1853, there was rapid growth in hotel construction and for many miners living in rudimentary or temporary dwellings, hotels provided some home comfort and shelter from inclement weather.⁸³ Many hotels acted as a social centre of the township and had a hall or the like in which entertainments were presented such as theatrical performances, concerts, balls and dances. Meetings of various types (municipal, political, associations etc.) were often held before dedicated buildings were erected in the township. Some hotels also acted as staging posts for coach services.



Figure 101: Guildford Family Hotel (2014)



Figure 102: Old England Hotel, Barkers Creek (2014)

There are many 19th century hotels in the Shire with some of the most notable examples being the Imperial Hotel in Castlemaine, the Guildford Hotel, and the Royal Hotel at Maldon, with the latter being the first licensed premises on the Forest Creek Diggings (1854).⁸⁴ In some small settlements such as Barkers Creek and Campbelltown, an early hotel is one of the key remnant buildings.

Temperance Establishments

During the 1880s, the State licensing laws became more restrictive to curtail both criminal activity and moral weakness, in part due to the pressure of the Temperance movement. As such, coffee palaces became popular and the former one at Castlemaine, now the Midland Private Hotel, is a notable example of this building type which offered a suitable dining and accommodation alternative to hotel.⁸⁵ Under the strong influence of the Rechabites at Harcourt, during the early 1900s, four of the five pre-existing hotels closed with the other converting to a coffee palace known as the Temperance Hotel.⁸⁶

⁷⁹ R Bradfield, *They Trod the Boards*, np

⁸⁰ R Bradfield, *Lola Montez and Castlemaine*, np

⁸¹ P Taylor, *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead*, Stage 2, Section 2, Environmental History, p96

⁸² J Flett, *Old Pubs: Inns, Taverns & Grog-Houses on the Victorian Gold Diggings*, p12

⁸³ G Hocking, *Castlemaine from Camp to City*, p203

⁸⁴ K Twigg and W Jacobs, *Shire of Metcalfe Heritage Study*, vol.3 (Barfold-Elphinstone), file no. c91

⁸⁵ VHR Citation H1209: *Midland Private Hotel*. It was built in 3 stages, between 1879 to 1892, with the two storey cast iron verandah being added in the final stage.

⁸⁶ H Carr, *Bridging the Generations, the story of Harcourt*, p31

5.5 Developing Tourism

Nature-based and events-based tourism has existed in the Shire since the early part of the 20th century, and heritage-based tourism since the 1960s. Tourism is an important contributor to the Shire's economy. In 2014, around 151,000 people visited the Castlemaine and Maldon Visitor Information Centres with the actual number of visitors to the Shire estimated to be much larger.⁸⁷ In Maldon, tourism makes a major economic contribution, with 36% of retail turnover attributed to tourists and visitors in 2010.⁸⁸

Increasing car ownership from the 1920s, and more particularly from the 1950s, was a major factor in developing the tourism industry. One of the first actions taken to develop tourism in the area was to erect a lookout tower on Mt Tarrangower in 1923, which adapted the poppet legs from the Comet Mine at Bendigo.⁸⁹ From the 1950s car-touring and caravanning became popular, prompting the provision of amenities such as picnic tables, information boards and toilet facilities.⁹⁰ The Cairn Curran reservoir, completed in 1956, presented the opportunity for the development of recreational facilities for tourists. Holiday units were built at Welshman's Reef, and in 1967 work on a new caravan park began on the shore of the reservoir.⁹¹ The reservoir currently provides opportunities for recreational activities including sailing and fishing.



Figure 103: Vaughan Springs (2014)



Figure 104: 'The Tower, Mt Tarrangower, Maldon' (Rose Stereograph Co. c.1950s)
(Source: State Library of Victoria, H32492/6787)

The sites and fabric associated with the Shire's gold rush history have also attracted tourism. Wattle Gully Gold Mine (Chewton) and Carman's Tunnel (Maldon) were pioneers in the area of goldmine tourist ventures.⁹² More recently, a large number of visitors have been travelling to the Shire to trace relatives who spent time in the area during the gold rush and genealogical tours are growing in number.⁹³

Food and wine tourism is also active in the Shire and there are many regional events which include food and wine festivals in Castlemaine, Maldon, Taradale, Elphinstone and Harcourt.⁹⁴ The thriving arts community also draws visitors to the Shire such as for the Castlemaine State Festival (refer to chapter 10).⁹⁵

Walking and cycling tourism has also been boosted in recent times with the launch in 2011 of the Goldfields Track which runs through the Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park.⁹⁶ In 2015 a new mountain bike park will be constructed in the State Forest outside Harcourt to draw more adventure tourism to the Shire.⁹⁷

⁸⁷ Information obtained from the Mount Alexander Shire Council

⁸⁸ *Maldon Town Centre Retail Strategy, 2011*, p26

⁸⁹ VHR Citation H1407: *Mount Tarrangower Look-Out Tower*. The erection of the lookout tower was an outcome of a public meeting convened by the Maldon Shire in May 1923 to investigate ways to develop tourism in the district, with particular regard to attractions to cater for the increasingly popular motor car.

⁹⁰ Daniel Catrice, *Mount Franklin, Hepburn Regional Park*, [Parks Victoria pamphlet]

⁹¹ P Taylor, *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead*, p62

⁹² Information provided by George Milford (comments on 'draft' dated July 2014)

⁹³ Information obtained from the Mount Alexander Shire Council

⁹⁴ Castlemaine and Maldon Visitor Information Centre website, accessed 1/09/2015

⁹⁵ Castlemaine State Festival website, accessed 1 September 2015

Mineral Springs

Taking the waters of natural mineral springs is one of the earliest forms of tourism and recreation in Australia.⁹⁸ Several mineral springs were discovered in the southern part of the Shire through goldmining activity and became popular with visitors for recreation and the health benefits of the waters.⁹⁹ The springs at Vaughan in particular were developed as a tourist destination with a kiosk built in the 1930s, and a bandstand, running track, miniature railway and giant slide were installed in the 1940s.¹⁰⁰ The initial reservation of 1.5 hectares for public purposes by 1878 has now expanded to almost 100 hectares, making it the largest natural mineral water reserve in Victoria.¹⁰¹

Whilst the mineral springs at Taradale were protected in the early gold rush period when the area along Back Creek was set aside as a Municipal Reserve in the original survey of 1854, there is little evidence to indicate that they were regularly used.¹⁰²

⁹⁶ G Wettenhall, *GoldfieldsTrack: Walking Guide*, p v. The 210km Goldfields Track, formerly part of the Great Dividing Trail, links Mt Buninyong and Bendigo, passing through the Castlemaine Diggings National Park.

⁹⁷ Information obtained from the Mount Alexander Shire Council

⁹⁸ Parks Victoria, interpretation panel at Vaughan Springs, *Vaughan Mineral Springs: Lawson*

⁹⁹ Mineral springs discovered included Stony Creek south-east of Fryerstown, Spring Gully on the Loddon River at Vaughan, Glenluce and Newstead, at Joyces Creek and Welshmans Reef.

¹⁰⁰ Parks Victoria, interpretation panel at Vaughan Springs, *Vaughan Mineral Springs: Lawson*

¹⁰¹ G Wettenhall, *GoldfieldsTrack: Walking Guide*, p142

¹⁰² W Jacob and K Twigg, *Shire of Metcalf Conservation Study*, Vol 4, T77, p188

6 BUILDING TOWNSHIPS

Introduction

This theme focuses on the development of townships in the Shire and the characteristics that distinguish them from each other. The gold rush of the 1850s abruptly changed the pastoral nature of the area. The rapid influx of people heralded the haphazard growth of villages and townships, prompting official government surveys. Auriferous (gold bearing) ground was the property of the Crown and these areas were avoided when town allotments were being offered for sale. Over time, efforts were made to beautify townships and supply amenities. Key phases of development - 19th century/Victorian, Federation, Interwar, Post-WWII, and late 20th century - are represented in the Shire to varying degrees, depending on the prosperity of the times. The large extent of surviving 19th century fabric is testament to the principal growth phase, both in the townships that have endured and grown, and those that have waned.

6.1 Major Gold Rush Townships

The major gold rush towns of Campbells Creek, Castlemaine, Chewton, Maldon and Taradale were established during the 1850s and all have retained a considerable proportion of their early permanent building stock, though less so at Taradale. These towns all experienced the typical gold rush pattern of a rise and fall, with their population during their heyday in the 19th century being many times greater than currently in the early 21st century. Although gold mining occurred in the vicinity of Guildford and Newstead, they both commenced as crossing places.

The initial settlement patterns were haphazard, but extensive to a degree that is hard to imagine now. Order was gradually imposed however as townships were surveyed during the mid-1850s. Castlemaine was quickly established as the main town in the area (what is now the Shire of Mount Alexander) and it has retained that status uncontested.

Campbells Creek

Campbells Creek derives its name from William Campbell who had the Strathloddon run from the c.1840s and which encompassed the creek valley.



Figure 105: Former Hotel, Campbells Creek (2014)



Figure 106: Victorian period house, Campbells Creek (2014)

Within weeks of the discovery of gold at Mount Alexander, eager gold seekers began to open up the gullies and creeks lower down the valleys, and gold seekers flocked to Campbells Creek (a tributary of the Loddon River). There was a difference from the Barkers and Forest Creek diggings in that there was the one wide valley, or 'strath,' with many flats and hills to either side. The hills and flats were given names such as Diamond, Hard, Donkey, Shicer and Foot Hills, Poverty, Specimen Cemetery and Campbells Flats.¹

In 1853 there were three thousand miners and a Post Office was opened. By 1854 most of the alluvial gold had been removed, however the Chinese continued the alluvial workings during the latter years of the decade, while the Europeans turned to quartz mining.²

¹ P Taylor, *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead*, Stage 2, Section 2, Environmental History, p22

² R Bradfield, *Campbells Creek*, pp3-7, 9

A wide diversity of nationalities were represented at Campbells Creek, including Chinese, Danish, Poles, Bolivians and those from the British Isles. The Five Flags Hotel is reputed to be so called because of the five nationalities of the barmen.

Over the first fifty years, Campbells Creek became renowned for its orchards and vineyards with fruit transported on the rail after its opening in 1872. Gradually, however, the orchards were removed mainly due to frosts and Harcourt took over as the fruit producing area.³ Other industries included a tannery and brewery.⁴

Today, Campbells Creek is a growth area in the Shire due to its proximity to Castlemaine.

Castlemaine

Initially the town was clustered around the Government Camp which was established in February 1852, near the junction of Forest and Barkers Creeks, some six months after the announcement of the discovery of gold. Later that year, Castlemaine was surveyed in a grid pattern, and the first land sales of town allotments took place early in 1853.⁵ The intensity of the mining activity was reflected in the rapid development of the township. Castlemaine was proclaimed a municipal district in April 1855, and the first Council elections were held in early 1856.⁶



Figure 107: Castlemaine (inscribed 'Photo by J H Jones' c.1861)
(Source: Castlemaine Art Gallery and Historical Museum)

Castlemaine quickly emerged as the urban centre of the region, and early on it was expected to outstrip its rivals, Bendigo and Ballarat, to the extent it was referred to as the 'Great Centre' of Victoria.⁷ The wealth of the district led to the early construction of many fine buildings.⁸ By the end of the 1850s, banks, hotels, churches, a courthouse, a hospital, a foundry, a gaol and a market place had replaced the temporary tents and structures of the early years. A description of Castlemaine in 1862 observed that it was 'one of the most advanced' of the goldfields towns, second only to Ballarat and Sandhurst (Bendigo), and its prosperity was 'well-established'.⁹

The early prosperity of Castlemaine however could not be maintained when the gold eventually ran out. Nevertheless, Castlemaine's wealthy first ten years had established a manufacturing and agricultural centre capable of economically

³ R Bradfield, *Campbells Creek*, p8

⁴ P Taylor, *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead*, Stage 2, Section 2, Environmental History, pp75, 83

⁵ R Bradfield, *Castlemaine: A Golden Harvest*, p26. Castlemaine Historical Society Inc., Historic Town Walk pamphlet, 2008

⁶ R Bradfield, *Castlemaine: A Golden Harvest*, pp26-27

⁷ R Bradfield, *Castlemaine: A Golden Harvest*, p31

⁸ National Trust of Australia (Victoria), *Castlemaine and the Market*, p12

⁹ *The Goldfields of Victoria in 1862*, p118

maintaining a more modest but stable population.¹⁰ The advent of the railway in 1862 further contributed to the stability of the town.¹¹ A number of secondary industries were established in Castlemaine, notably the Castlemaine Brewery, Thompson's Foundry, and the Castlemaine Woollen Mills, which provided major sources of employment.



Figure 108: George Clark & Son Building, Barker Street (2014)



Figure 109: Imperial Hotel, Lyttleton Street, detail (2014)

The following is a 1903 description of the town:

The position of the town, the plan upon which it has been laid out, the breadth and rectangular direction of its principal streets, many of them planted with trees, with a spacious market square in the centre, together with the superior character of its public buildings and places of worship, all qualify it to assume the distinction previously claimed for or attributed to it.¹²

Today, Castlemaine is the largest urban centre in the Shire, supported by a range of services, and serves both a local and regional role. Approximately half the Shire's population lives in Castlemaine. It is a vibrant country town and is considered an important regional cultural centre, especially in the arts and heritage areas. The town is once again attracting new people to settle in the area, particularly tree-changers and those interested in the arts.

Chewton

Chewton, originally part of the locality known as Forest Creek, was a rich goldfield and by March 1852 there were thousands working in the area.¹³ As freeholds could not be sold on auriferous ground, the town developed a distinctive long and meandering way around existing mines before official surveys could be undertaken.

By January 1852, a few small settlements had sprung up at the Mount Alexander diggings and

the largest of these townships or villages and principal seat of attraction is where the Argus and the Post-office is stationed, and it is at this spot where the greatest quantity of gold had been disembowelled. The place is called Red Hill¹⁴

The *Argus* office, located about where the Red Hill Hotel is now situated, briefly doubled as an unofficial post office (until one was opened at the Government Camp at Castlemaine on 1 March 1852).¹⁵ Businesses developed quickly, all vying for places on the main road near the central square at the Argus office.¹⁶

By 1854, the zenith of mining activity in the vicinity had passed but the structure of the township had been established.¹⁷ The name changed to Chewton during 1855-56 and although the population declined it remained a busy community, especially during the 1860s, with many original canvas and slab buildings being replaced by extant timber and brick buildings between the 1860s and 1880s.¹⁸

¹⁰ T Westmore, *Castlemaine Market Conservation Analysis*, app. N, p1

¹¹ Castlemaine Historical Society Inc., *Historic Town Walk* pamphlet, 2008

¹² *The Cyclopaedia of Victoria 1903*, p402

¹³ K McKimmie, *Chewton Then and Now*, p2

¹⁴ 'Mount Alexander Diggings', *The Argus*, 14 January 1852, p2. Red Hill is to the south side of the highway in the central part of the township.

¹⁵ K McKimmie, *Chewton Then and Now*, pp98-100. The *Argus* agent had to ride to Kyneton to collect the newspapers and so for a while brought back mail for the miners at a small cost.

¹⁶ K Twigg & W Jacobs, *Shire of Metcalfe Heritage Study*, vol. 1, Environmental History, p29

¹⁷ Loder & Bayly, *Chewton Conservation Study*, p1

¹⁸ K McKimmie, *Chewton Then and Now*, pp2-3



Figure 110: Chewton looking west along Main Road, 1852
 The Argus Office is in the edge of the foreground right (about where the Red Hill Hotel is now located)
 (Source: State Library of Victoria, *Forest Creek, Mt Alexander, 1852*, S T Gill, accession no. H955)

Despite the loss of local mining activity, Shields tannery, which had commenced operations during the 1860s retained a large workforce at the turn of the 20th century (about 90). It however closed in 1914.¹⁹ The population declined further during the 20th century and resulted in the closure of businesses and the disrepair/demolition of buildings.²⁰



Figure 111: Chewton Town Hall (2014)



Figure 112: Chewton, former Penney bakery (2014)

The town retains a strong 19th century village character and consistent streetscape comprised of a variety of modest scaled residential and commercial buildings on narrow frontage lots.

Guildford

Guildford's location at a significant crossing point has influenced the population and development in the town since it was proclaimed on 30 March 1854.²¹ The town was located at the point where the main track to Castlemaine crossed the Loddon River. In May of 1854, this piece of land was bought by the proprietor of the refreshment tent that had previously stood at the crossing point and the Guildford Arms Hotel was built. In 1856, a timber bridge was built across the Loddon River, said at the time to be 'the longest of its kind in the district'²²

Guildford developed as a town to provide services for prospectors and travellers attracted by the alluvial gold to be found near the river. It had two quartz crushing mills, a cement factory, a soap factory and a candle factory,²³ producing supplies and services that were especially in demand by miners.

¹⁹ K Twigg & W Jacobs, *Shire of Metcalfe Heritage Study*, vol. 1, Environmental History, pp26, 28-29

²⁰ K McKimmie, *Chewton Then and Now*, p2

²¹ *Victoria Government Gazette*, 1854, p846

²² P Taylor, *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead*, Stage 2, Section 2, Environmental History, p43

²³ R Bradfield, *Guildford*, p4



Figure 113: Former hotel, Fryers St, Guildford (2014)



Figure 114: Guildford Public Hall (2014)

In 1861 there were approximately 150 residents. Guildford was close to the site of one of the largest camps of miners who travelled from China; many of these people stayed and established lucrative market gardens. The population of Guildford also has a significant Italian population descendent from those who arrived as miners during the gold rush and later worked in the deep lead mines.²⁴

Guildford has a rural village character and is set in distinctive landscape surrounds, notably the Guildford Plateau. It is located on the main road between Castlemaine and Daylesford, placing it on a busy traffic and tourist route.²⁵ The 2011 census recorded the population at 244.²⁶

Maldon

A tent and shanty town quickly sprang up after gold was discovered in the vicinity of Mt Tarrengower in December 1853. The following description of the Tarrengower diggings was given in the *Argus* in February 1854:

The narrow road, covered with dust literally up to a man's knees is lined on each side almost continuously with stores of every description, saloons, restaurants, eating houses, lemonade and beer shops, apothecaries' shops, and the tents of doctors, who, I am very sorry to say, drive a very lucrative trade at Tarrengower.²⁷

In February 1854, an official site for a town was selected²⁸ (north of Fountain Street), however it was rejected by the townspeople who preferred a site further south (around the junction of High and Main Streets). Finally, in 1856 the Government surveyor, Thomas Adair, relented and a new survey was undertaken incorporating the existing irregular layout of the commercial streets.²⁹

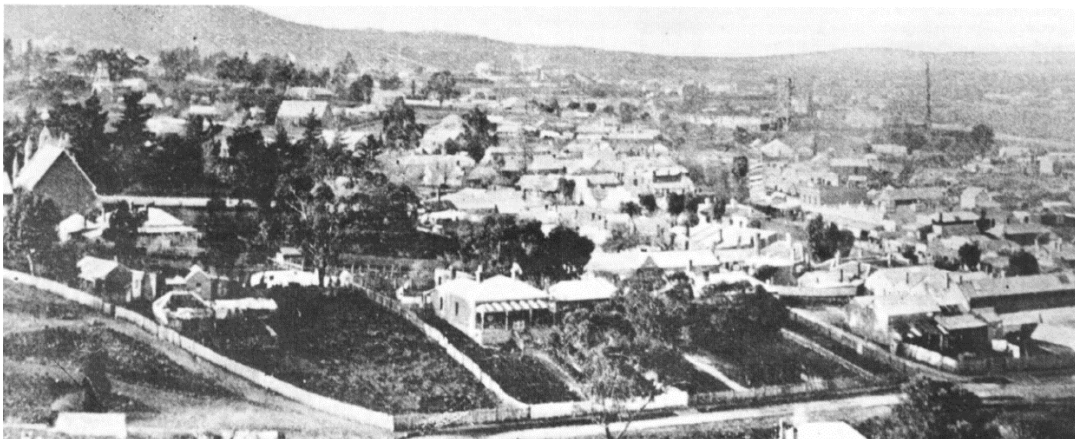


Figure 115: An early view of Maldon, taken from nearby Anzac Hill.
(Source: G. Blackman & J. Larkin, *Maldon: Australia's First Notable Town*, p16)

²⁴ P Taylor, *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead, Stage 2, Section 2, Environmental History*, p44
²⁵ Clause 22.07 (Guildford), *Mount Alexander Planning Scheme*
²⁶ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *2011 Census Quick Stats Guildford, Victoria*
²⁷ M. Lewis, *The Essential Maldon*, p9
²⁸ *Victoria Government Gazette*, 1854, p290
²⁹ G Blackman & J Larkin, *Maldon: Australia's First Notable Town*, p9

Within three years of the first gold discovery, there were wholesale retail stores trading busily along both High and Main Streets, as well as in several outlying suburbs including Eagle Hawk, Porcupine and Peg Leg Gully. The main growth was centred on Maldon and during the 1850s and 60s such public buildings as a court house, a hospital, two banking chambers, ten churches, a powder magazine, a market building and a post office were constructed.³⁰ As many as 50 hotels/licensed establishments operated at different times in the Maldon area.³¹ The population steadily declined over the latter decades of the 19th century.



Figure 116: Brooks Store (2014)



Figure 117: Maldon Hotel (2014)

Whilst mining was Maldon's main industry, others emerged including flour mills, brick kilns, soda-water factories, breweries, glue factories, and smaller businesses catering for the miners and their families.³²

Today, the town centre is recognised as being one of the most intact nineteenth century streetscapes in Australia. This quality has made it an attractive filming location for a variety of films including *Break of Day* (1976) and *Romulus My Father* (2007).

Newstead

Newstead was one of the early townships established in the Shire that was not directly related to a gold field but rather the need for a river crossing place. Initially a township was established further south, which existed for about two years from 1854 before being relocated to the current site in 1856.



Figure 118: Shop, Newstead (2014)



Figure 119: Former shop and residence, Newstead (2014)

By 1865, Newstead was described as 'a busy little Place' and the population of the township was over 200 with another 500 in the near vicinity. In the early days, there were several local industries including two flour mills, a bone mill,

³⁰ G Blackman & J Larkin, *Maldon: Australia's First Notable Town*, p10; Ethel Richardson, more well-known by her pseudonym Henry Handel Richardson, the internationally recognised author, lived at the Maldon Post Office between the ages of 10 and 16 years (1880-1887) and the town was a major influence on her autobiographically based and perhaps best-known novel, *The Getting of Wisdom*. Richardson described her time in Maldon as 'the happiest days of her childhood' (P Cuffley et al, *Henry Handel Richardson in Maldon*, p7.)

³¹ Information provided by CHSI, May 2015

³² G Blackman & J Larkin, *Maldon: Australia's First Notable Town*, p12

brickyards, a brewery, a ginger beer factory, and a biscuit and confectionery factory.³³ Lyons Street became the commercial centre and in 1888 trees were planted and a 3 acre park was reserved.³⁴

Today, Newstead has developed into a dormitory town for Castlemaine. The town's population in 2001 was estimated to be 530 persons. Recent developments have mostly been to the west of the Loddon River. The banks of the Loddon River provide scenic places for recreation and the avenues of mature elm trees contribute to the character and amenity of the township.³⁵

Taradale

Taradale, initially known as Back Creek after the creek that runs through it, was established as a gold mining settlement in 1855 and declared a town in 1860. It is the first town on the Calder Highway founded solely on its deposits of alluvial gold and it developed largely to provide services to the population that arrived or passed through after the discovery of gold.³⁶ By 1861, Taradale's population was about 1500 but has fluctuated considerably and at its maximum, there were said to be 2000 Caucasian and 3000 Chinese in the Taradale area.³⁷ During the late 19th century, the population was again about 1500.³⁸



Figure 120: 'Taradale, Victoria', c.1880, Charles Nettleton.
(Source: State Library of Victoria, accession no. H4496)

The location of settlement and buildings in Taradale are characterised by its location in a valley surrounded by rolling green hills, which, while scenic, is also prone to flooding. Taradale's location on the Mount Alexander Road, now the Calder Highway, has also influenced the pattern of development over time, as has the Bendigo rail line since it opened in 1862. After the easily-mined gold ran out, the dwindling population was boosted by workers constructing the rail line from Melbourne to Bendigo and the rail viaduct over Back Creek which employed 200 stonemasons from Germany during the early 1860s.³⁹

During the 1860s, Taradale flourished as a town serving local mining and other businesses, and was a minor administrative centre with a court house and police station. As well, it had Methodist, Catholic and Anglican churches, a school and a reserve on the banks of Back Creek comprising public parks, gardens and mineral springs.⁴⁰

The Taradale railway station was closed in 1976 and the Calder Freeway now bypasses the town. The population was reported in the last census as 464 people.⁴¹ Although it retains some fine buildings, the commercial centre/main street

³³ P Taylor, *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead*, Stage 2, Section 2, Environmental History, p45

³⁴ P Taylor, *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead*, Stage 2, Section 2, Environmental History, p48

³⁵ Clause 22.05 (Newstead), *Mount Alexander Planning Scheme*

³⁶ H Carr, *The Calder Highway. Melbourne to Mildura: Opening the Victorian Inland*, p49

³⁷ R Maltby, *Taradale - My Home Town Valley*, p8

³⁸ Victorian Municipal directories, 1884, p250 and 1893, p452. The population was listed as 1466 in both years.

³⁹ H Carr, *The Calder Highway. Melbourne to Mildura: opening the Victorian Inland*, p50

⁴⁰ H Carr, *The Calder Highway. Melbourne to Mildura: opening the Victorian Inland*, p50

⁴¹ *Australian Bureau of Statistics*, 2011 Census Community Profiles, Taradale, Vic.

is a shadow of its former self. Many early buildings, as shown in historic photographs, have been removed or demolished. There were once 16 hotels and shops all along the main street, but the Post Office is the only survivor.⁴²



Figure 121: Taradale State School (2014)



Figure 122: Post Office (right) and residence, Taradale (2014)

6.2 Minor Gold Rush Towns

This group of smaller gold rush towns typically flourished from the 1850s to 1870s, during which time they may have had a population of several thousand. Subsequently, they have diminished greatly in size, and typically now support a population of less than one hundred.

Where previously these towns boasted a range of public buildings, only a few typically survive, however they relate to the principal 19th century phase of development and are potent reminders of the township's glory days.

Fryerstown

During the initial gold rush years, Fryerstown had a population of 15,000 and was a bustling town with as many as 20 hotels, several breweries, 5 churches, two schools, a courthouse and brickworks.⁴³ Following the initial alluvial mining there was a boom in quartz mining which was sustained until the mid-1870s. The township experienced a steady population decline, and by 1975 the population was just 56.⁴⁴



Figure 123: Fryerstown Methodist Church (2014)



Figure 124: Fryerstown, Avenue of elms and plane trees (2014)

Vaughan (also known as the Junction)

The gold rush at Vaughan began in 1853. A town emerged with a bank, post office, several hotels, a cordial factory, an aerated water factory and a Wesleyan church. The township of Vaughan was surveyed and proclaimed in 1856.⁴⁵ Quartz mining boomed for a time but by mid-1875, many companies had suspended operations. The population steadily decreased until in 1891 when it was just 24.⁴⁶ Mining activity however continued in the area well into the 20th century. The 20th century development of the mineral springs and camp grounds has encouraged tourism in Vaughan.

⁴² K Twigg & W Jacobs, *Shire of Metcalfe Heritage Study*, vol. 1, Environmental History, p31

⁴³ Castlemaine Historical Society Inc., Linton, D (compl.), *Fryerstown*, [pamphlet]; Information provided by CHSI (May 2015)

⁴⁴ P Taylor, *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead vol.2*, p41

⁴⁵ eGold website, <http://www.egold.net.au/biogs/EG00254b.htm>: Anna Davine, *Vaughan*, accessed 18/08/2014

⁴⁶ P Taylor, *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead – Environmental History*, p42



Figure 125: Vaughan, Former Bank of Victoria (2014)



Figure 126: Vaughan, Ruins of the Wesleyan Methodist Church (2014)

Yapeen

Initially, Strathloddon Station, west of the creek, was the focus of settlement. Another settlement began on the east side of the creek, on the main track to Castlemaine, from the beginning of the gold rush. In 1853, there was a rush to nearby Pennyweight Flat, but it was the mid-1856 rush to Donkey Hill that had the greater impact on the small settlement.⁴⁷ The *Argus* reported that a long line of stores sprang up 'as if by magic' as well as three large concert rooms.⁴⁸

For a time, several quartz reef mines, such as the Golden Lead Mine, provided steady dividends. Chinese diggers were prominent and, after gold yields declined, some stayed on in the district to work extensive market gardens.⁴⁹ In 1861, the settlement was named Yapeen, the Aboriginal word for 'valley'. In the mid-1860s there was a population of two hundred.⁵⁰



Figure 127: Former Hotel and Store, Yapeen (2014)



Figure 128: Former Hotel, Yapeen (2014)

6.3 Agricultural Towns

Soon after Major Thomas Mitchell returned from scouting the Port Phillip District in 1836, squatters established runs fronting the fertile land near the major rivers (e.g. Campaspe, Coliban and Loddon) and creeks in the Shire. The only town that was established in the Shire prior to the discovery of gold to support the small local population was Sawpit Gully (Elphinstone).

The following group of towns developed over time to support the local agricultural communities, generally distinct from the areas of the shire associated with the gold fields. This group have generally fluctuated less dramatically in terms of population, although most have declined in size from an earlier heyday, which in some cases dates to the 20th century rather than the 19th century.

⁴⁷ P Taylor, *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead*, section 2, Environmental History, 2004, p44

⁴⁸ The *Argus*, 24 July 1856, p5

⁴⁹ eGold website, <http://www.egold.net.au/biogs/EG00274b.htm>: Anna Davine, *Yapeen, VIC*, accessed 13/08/2014

⁵⁰ P Taylor, *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead*, Stage 2, Section 2, Environmental History, p44

Baringhup

Initially Baringhup was known as Bryant's Crossing. There was a ford to cross the Loddon River before the first bridge was built in 1855.⁵¹ The agricultural settlement of Baringhup was established by the Government in the early 1850s on land reserved from the Cairn Curran pastoral run, in order to provide food for the miners on the Tarrangower goldfield (Maldon). In the 1870s, Baringhup was producing grains, flour, dairy and wool.⁵² Police, hotels in the 1860s

In 1903, it was observed that the dairying industry was being 'profitably pursued with every prospect of a steady expansion'. Also, at that time, Baringhup contained three places of worship, two State schools, a free library, and four gold mines were in the process of development.⁵³

A description of Baringhup in the 1950s is given by Raimond Gaita,⁵⁴ German-born philosopher and writer, in his memoir *Romulus My Father*:

By 1950 Baringhup was reduced to a village of approximately ten houses, a school, a Presbyterian church, and the Loddon Hotel, which was a general store and post office converted from the old Cobb & Co hotel where coach travellers rested between Maryborough and Melbourne during the gold rush. The camp swelled the numbers in the school, but there was little for the newcomers to do when they were not working. A large hall housed a market on Saturday afternoon, screened movies on Saturday evening and occasionally hosted dances.⁵⁵



Figure 129: Baringhup State School, No.1687 (2014)



Figure 130: Former Post Office at Baringhup (2014)

Barfold

Land was offered for sale from the 1856, which included sections of Barfold Station, in allotments varying in size from 100 to 500 acres and the area developed into a small farming community. Barfold was established as a postal village and in 1865 had a population of 200. The settlement had two hotels at this stage.⁵⁶

The area of Barfold has been renowned for the production of fat lambs, wool and dairy production. A creamery was established c.1893 continuing to 1909. The Redesdale branch rail line operated from 1891 to 1954 and during the early 1900s a daily train service took cream onwards and there were livestock yards, a goods shed, a timber mill and a stone crusher in the station yard. By the mid-century, services were reduced to weekly and were mainly provided for the transport of sheep. The Barfold Railway Station sign was relocated to the Hall in 2009.⁵⁷

Once a thriving centre, today the timber Barfold Hall (1897) and brick Union Church (1957) are the principal reminders.⁵⁸

⁵¹ D Thomas, *The Early History of Baringhup*, p2

⁵² C Woolman, *Provenance*, 'The State of Feeling in the District', issue no.11, 2012

⁵³ J Smith (ed.), *The Cyclopaedia of Victoria*, 1903, p391

⁵⁴ Raimond Gaita spent much of his childhood at Baringhup, where his father had been sent by the Government to work on the construction of the Cairn Curran Reservoir.

⁵⁵ R Gaita, *Romulus My Father*, p13

⁵⁶ K James & N Davis, *A History of Barfold*, p1, 26

⁵⁷ K James & N Davis, *A History of Barfold*, pp7-8, 26, 59, 67, 167

⁵⁸ K James & N Davis, *A History of Barfold*, pp217-225, 287. The extant brick church replaced an earlier timber church lost to fire in 1944.



Figure 131: Union Church, Barfold (2014)



Figure 132: Barfold Hall with the railway station sign (2014)

Elphinstone

Elphinstone, originally known as Sawpit Gully, had its beginnings prior to the discovery of gold. It began in the 1840s as a collection of huts beside Sawpit Creek, at its junction with the Melbourne Road, servicing teamsters, timber cutters and the local squatting runs.⁵⁹ Elphinstone was surveyed mid-1852.⁶⁰



Figure 133: 'Mount Alexander from Saw Pit Gully' (Samuel Charles Brees, 1856) showing the Adelphi Hotel and a Cobb & Co coach. (Source: State Library of Victoria, accession no. H17070)

During the gold rush, Sawpit Gully became an important stopover for those on their way to and from the Mount Alexander and Sandhurst (Bendigo) goldfields. The settlement was described in late 1852 as consisting of 'several coffee shops, a blacksmith, a wheelwright and a neat little weatherboard inn'.⁶¹ During the early phase of the gold rush, Elphinstone was the nearest point to the diggings '... at which liquor might be kept in bulk before licensing was advanced'.⁶² The Adelphi Hotel was the local staging post for Cobb and Co. coaches. In 1855, a Caroline Chisolm Shelter Shed was erected (now demolished).⁶³

In 1903, there were two churches, a State school and a post office.⁶⁴ In the 1920s, the Mount Alexander and Great Northern Roads which passed through the township, were renamed the Calder Highway. During the 1970s, the

⁵⁹ K James & N Davis, *A History of Elphinstone*, p1

⁶⁰ *Victoria Government Gazette*, 1852, p1238. Notice was given of the approval of the township on 26 October 1852

⁶¹ K James & N Davis, *A History of Elphinstone*, p3

⁶² P McGuire, *Inns of Australia*, p208. It was said to be the centre of an illegal smuggling trade to the surrounding area.

⁶³ K James & N Davis, *A History of Elphinstone*, p7. In 1855, the Government erected 10 such shelter sheds, each an easy day's walk apart. The Elphinstone shed has since been demolished.

⁶⁴ J Smith (ed.), *The Cyclopaedia of Victoria*, 1903, p405

highway was altered to bypass the town to the east, and 2008 saw another bypass still further to the east.⁶⁵ Its location on the railway line has seen Elphinstone develop into a commuter town.⁶⁶



Figure 134: Elphinstone Hotel (2014)



Figure 135: Former service station, Elphinstone (2014)

Faraday

The lack of gold in the granite country meant the area of Faraday was surveyed early and small blocks of land became available. As an agricultural centre, Faraday expanded quickly by supplying the gold fields with farm produce, benefitting from a good water run-off from Mt Alexander and irrigation from the Coliban Scheme. There was apparently a hotel and post office in the 1860s, a school was established in 1869 and a Bible Christian Church in 1876.⁶⁷



Figure 136: Former Methodist Church, Faraday (2014)

Harcourt

When Harcourt was surveyed in 1853 it was planned to become the principal town of the area, but the lack of gold meant that it was overlooked as a place to live during the 1850s. If not for the success of the fruit growing industry, the town may have disappeared altogether. After a modest start, by the turn of the century Harcourt was described as the 'number one fruit growing area in the State of Victoria'.⁶⁸

Another prominent local industry is granite quarrying, which reached its peak during the early years of the 20th century supplying both national and overseas markets. The Harcourt area is characterised by its distinctive use of local granite in construction; examples include the Uniting Church and numerous private homes dating from the 1860s to recent times.⁶⁹

⁶⁵ K James & N Davis, *A History of Elphinstone*, p136

⁶⁶ Clause 22.09 (Elphinstone), *Mount Alexander Planning Scheme*

⁶⁷ K Twigg & W Jacobs, *Shire of Metcalfe Heritage Study*, vol.1, Environmental History, p34

⁶⁸ H Carr, *Bridging the Generations*, p30

⁶⁹ K Twigg & W Jacobs, *Shire of Metcalfe Heritage Study*, vol.1, Environmental History, pp27-28



Figure 137: Memorial gate to park, Harcourt (2014)



Figure 138: Uniting Church, Harcourt (2014)

Harcourt is unusual in the Shire in that its greatest period of growth occurred during the mid-20th century. Few houses were built in the town before the late 1940s.⁷⁰

Harcourt remains a fruit growing district, and a number of growers sell their produce from road side stalls. The population of the town in 2001 was approximately 420.⁷¹

Metcalfe

Small blocks of land from the Stratford Lodge leasehold were sold in 1856-57 and an area set aside as a Government Reserve. The majority of the land was purchased by just two men, Degraives and Williamson, and the remainder by a small group of selectors - together they formed the foundation of the Metcalfe community.⁷²

Some gold miners worked the land in the 1860s, including a Chinese mining operation, but it wasn't until 1865 that the area became a village on the site of the reserve. The Shire of Metcalfe was also proclaimed in the same year. Shire offices were first constructed during the 1870s and were the focal point for the community which had few other facilities. The small town, or hamlet remained an administrative town for over a century from the 1870s to the 1990s.⁷³



Figure 139: Metcalfe Shire Hall (2014)

Sutton Grange

From 1854, areas of Sutton Grange Station were surveyed and sold for potential selectors and a small agricultural community grew. The town developed with a triangular plan which was dictated by available ground. The first major building erected was the school in 1865. This was followed by a church, post office and sawmill and by the 1880s a hotel, store and blacksmiths had been established. A Town Hall was constructed in 1912. The soil of the area is well suited for dairy production. A creamery was operating during the 1890s, producing cheeses from 1898 to 1921.⁷⁴

⁷⁰ H Carr, *Bridging the Generations*, p30

⁷¹ Clause 22.04 (Harcourt), *Mount Alexander Planning Scheme*

⁷² K Twigg & W Jacobs, *Shire of Metcalfe Heritage Study*, vol.1, Environmental History, p31

⁷³ K Twigg & W Jacobs, *Shire of Metcalfe Heritage Study*, vol.1, Environmental History, p31

⁷⁴ K Twigg & W Jacobs, *Shire of Metcalfe Heritage Study*, vol.1, Environmental History, pp26, 32



Figure 140: Granite bridge, Sutton Grange (2014)

There have been many bushfires in the area. On Black Thursday in 1851, the Sutton Grange pastoral run was almost totally destroyed by bushfires burning throughout Victoria; the smoke obscuring sunlight in Tasmania. In 1944, another bushfire, started by a cinder, almost decimated the town.⁷⁵

6.4 Former Settlements

There are numerous former settlements in the Shire, often relating to a particular industry, which generally remained as unsurveyed towns or villages. They were typically established during the 1850s and 60s, especially after the discovery of gold and the consequent rushes and large influx of diggers. Timber getting, stone quarrying and the servicing and supplying of food for travellers and the goldfields meant some areas remained populated for a while longer and many schools were established during the 19th century. Most are now only localities having declined since the 1920s, many disappearing without a trace as at Emberton, Green Hill and Myrtle Creek. Sometimes a public building remains to designate the earlier settlement.⁷⁶

Barkers Creek

Dr William Barker was a squatter and in 1843 occupied the area next to what is now known as Barkers Creek, between Castlemaine and Harcourt. In mid-1851, shepherds discovered gold at Specimen Gully at Barkers Creek. The discovery is regarded as the first in the Castlemaine area.⁷⁷ The locality of Barkers Creek initially included what is now considered to be the northern part of the Castlemaine township.

A number of early buildings, such as the Old England Hotel, Church of Christ and the former Rechabite Hall still remain. The longer term survival of the township which grew next to the creek, was bolstered by the extension of the water race to Specimen Gully in 1881. The development of the nearby slate quarry however was critical and was one of the most productive of such quarries of the 19th century.⁷⁸

Bradford

Bradford is located to the north-west of the Shire, north of Maldon. The town of Bradford was proclaimed in February 1861.⁷⁹ The name was altered to Pollard in May 1954, although it has since reverted to Bradford.⁸⁰ The town was located on the Shelbourne rail line between Bradford and Nuggetty, served by a passenger and goods rail service from 1891 until the station was closed after bushfires in 1969.⁸¹

⁷⁵ K James & N Davis, *History of Sutton Grange*, pp213-216

⁷⁶ K Twigg & W Jacobs, *Shire of Metcalfe Heritage Study*, vol. 1, Environmental History, p35

⁷⁷ eGold website, <http://www.egold.net.au/biogs/EG00216b.htm>: K Reeves, *William Barker, Pastoralist and Territorial Magistrate*, accessed 15/10/2014

⁷⁸ K Twigg & W Jacobs, *Shire of Metcalfe Heritage Study*, vol. 1, Environmental History, pp32-33

⁷⁹ *Victoria Government Gazette*, 1861, p402

⁸⁰ *Victoria Government Gazette*, 1954, pp3034-35

⁸¹ Wikipedia website: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bradford,_Victoria: *Bradford, Victoria* accessed 16/10/2014

Glenluce

Gold was discovered in the area in 1853 and miners established a canvas town; organised fist fights were held in Fighting Gully. Two hotels were operating in the 1860s and horse racing was held annually on a course between 1855 and 1866 when the population had reached 162.⁸²

Golden Point

Major Mitchell passed through the district in 1836 and settlement occurred with the discovery of rich alluvial gold on Forest Creek in 1851. A commissioner's camp was set up here in 1851 for the issuing of licences and to keep order but was transferred to Castlemaine in 1852.⁸³ Sales of land were restricted due to the diggings and a number of houses were built on miner's rights claims, though a few freeholds and reserves were created for commercial and public buildings.⁸⁴

The Expedition Pass Reservoir was constructed in 1867-8, covering the bed of Forest Creek.⁸⁵ A few stone remains of houses are referred to locally as the Welsh village. Some gold mining activity continued into the early 20th century.⁸⁶

Muckleford

There were a number of large alluvial rushes to this area during 1852. The town of Muckleford was built next to Muckleford Creek on the Castlemaine-Maldon Road. There were 4,000 diggers by 1855 but it was on the wane by mid-1858. Large numbers of Chinese miners however continued to work small pockets using horse-puddling machines.⁸⁷

Tarilta (Kangaroo)

The area of Kangaroo (between Guildford and Vaughan) saw a gold rush begin in 1853, developing into a sizeable town with hotels, libraries and concerts and a peak population in the thousands. Deep lead mining meant cutting through the local basalt rock. By the mid-1860s, the settlement was renamed Tarilta and proclaimed a township, though the population had decreased to around 400.⁸⁸

Other Villages and Hamlets

Today little remains to define these settlements except for their place/locality name, some farms, and possibly one or two buildings such as a church, CFA fire brigade or a ruin.

In the south-west part of the Shire, miners followed the local rivers and streams downstream in the search of gold during the 1850s and 60s. There were numerous leads with mixed success in the vicinity of Newstead on the Loddon River, Sandy, Muckleford, Jim Crow and Mia Mia Creeks. Settlements were developed at Green Gully, Sandon, Strangways (at one stage rivalling Newstead in size), Pickpocket and Hard Hills, though most have disappeared along with the gold.⁸⁹



Figure 141: House in the locality of Gower (2014)



Figure 142: Stone ruins of the former Gower School (2014)

- ⁸² P Taylor, *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead – Environmental History*, pp23-24
⁸³ eGold website, <http://www.egold.net.au/biogs/EG00288b.htm>, *Golden Point*, accessed 15/10/2014
⁸⁴ K Twigg & W Jacobs, *Shire of Metcalfe Heritage Study*, vol. 1, Environmental History, p33
⁸⁵ The *Argus*, The Expedition Pass Reservoir, 14 March 1867, p7
⁸⁶ K Twigg & W Jacobs, *Shire of Metcalfe Heritage Study*, vol. 1, Environmental History, p33
⁸⁷ eGold website, <http://www.egold.net.au/biogs/EG00258b.htm>: *Muckleford, VIC*, accessed 16/10/2014
⁸⁸ P Taylor, *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead - Environmental History*, p25; eGold website <http://www.egold.net.au/biogs/EG00283b.htm>: *Tarilta*, accessed 15/10/2014
⁸⁹ P Taylor, *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead*, Stage 2, Section 2, Environmental History, p26

During the latter 19th century, there were also several small settlements established in the north-west part of the Shire in the vicinity of Maldon, partly agricultural and pastoral with some mining, timber milling and fruit growing. Gower was to the east on the Castlemaine Road, North Muckleford/Walmer also to the east, and Welshmans Reef (originally called Sandy Creek) to the south on the road to Newstead. At the beginning of the 20th century, some of the villages appeared to have prosperous futures, for example a township was surveyed for Walmer. Schools were established in most and often outlasted the settlements.⁹⁰ Remnants of these settlements include the former school at Gower, as well as a number of residences and a nine acre caravan park near the Cairn Curran Reservoir relating to Welshmans Reef.⁹¹ At North Muckleford/Walmer the red brick school and church opposite survive but are now used as private residences. Other former settlements in the Shire included Chainman's Gully, Nuggety and Woodbrook.

6.5 Beautifying Townships

As settlements in the Shire began to become more permanent, gardens both public and private were increasingly valued as part of a civilised community. From the mid-1850s various nurseries were established to provide plants and seeds.⁹²

6.5.1 Public Gardens and Parks

Public gardens were developed as statements of civic pride, and areas were set aside for the purpose in many towns in the Shire. Even as the populations grew and placed pressure on open spaces, residents defended them against development, ensuring gardens be retained for the public.

In Maldon, a public gardens were developed by the market building from the mid-19th century. Notable amongst the extant plants are two Royal Oaks planted in 1863 to mark the marriage of the Prince and Princess of Wales. The garden beds are currently maintained in a late 19th century style.⁹³

In Harcourt, Stanley Park was established in 1914 by the Harcourt Fruitgrowers' Association reflecting the town's prosperity in the early part of the 20th century. By 1918, plantings in the park consisted of 33 roses and some 252 trees, shrubs and palms – a number of trees survive from this early period including a Bunya Bunya Pine (*Araucaria bidwillii*).⁹⁴

Castlemaine Botanic Gardens

Most major towns in the Victorian goldfields created their own Botanic Gardens in the later part of the 19th century, possibly inspired by the establishment of the Melbourne Botanic Gardens in 1846. Demand by residents for such places was so great that the Victorian Government passed legislation in 1854 that enabled municipal councils to reserve land specifically for the planting of botanic gardens.

In 1860, 25 hectares of heavily-worked diggings alongside Barkers Creek in Castlemaine were set aside for Botanic gardens, although it was some years before the grounds were properly prepared for planting. Between 1866 and 1913, the gardens were curated by Phillip Doran, and the gardens essentially retain his original design and major plantings including Australian natives and species from Europe, Asia, the Americas and New Zealand. Typical characteristics of a 19th century garden that survive include the carriage drive, the elm and oak avenues, the informal park layout, paths, the man-made lake, and formal garden beds that contrast with open lawns planted with specimen trees. From the late 1880s, the gardens have incorporated recreational facilities, including a bowling green, rotunda and tea rooms.⁹⁵

⁹⁰ J Smith (ed.), *The Cyclopaedia of Victoria*, vol. 1, p340; vol. 2, p390

⁹¹ <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-07-23/gmw-to-close-welshmans-reef-caravan-park/5616722>

⁹² Information supplied by Peter Cuffley

⁹³ Information provided by Jan Warracke

⁹⁴ Interpretation panel at Stanley Park, Harcourt

⁹⁵ M Stroebel, *Gardens of the Goldfields Region*, pp115-120



Figure 143: The Castlemaine Botanic Gardens, prior to the excavation of Lake Joanna. The Benevolent Asylum is prominent in the background.

(Source: Castlemaine Art Gallery & Historical Museum Collection reproduced in G Hocking, *Castlemaine: From Camp to City*, p153)

In the Castlemaine Mail of 1871, a long list of trees planted in the Castlemaine Botanical Gardens was published, including those from Europe, North America, Asia as well as Australia and New Zealand, which were a gift from Baron von Mueller.⁹⁶ Von Mueller also selected trees for the Campbells Creek Recreation Reserve.⁹⁷

6.5.2 Private Gardens

From the mid-1850s, families on the goldfields cultivated small gardens with vegetables, fruit and herbs to supplement their diet, as well as ornamental flowers.⁹⁸ From the 1870s demand increased for exotic ornamental plants, demonstrating the emergence of a society concerned less with gardens for survival than with gardens for pleasure.⁹⁹ Those of affluence created more formal gardens around their houses, often with pavilions and other structures.

The 1860s residence *Buda*, at Castlemaine retains elements of its 19th/early 20th century garden, with Victorian style flower beds and an early 20th century formal garden. Many exotic trees and plants introduced to the garden in the 19th century remain, as do the aviary and tennis pavilion, and a range of other structures and hard landscape elements.¹⁰⁰



Figure 144: Garden at *Buda*, Castlemaine
(Source: www.budacastlemaine.org)



Figure 145: Tennis Pavilion at *Buda* (2015)

⁹⁶ Perrott Lyon Mathieson, *City of Castlemaine, Architectural and Historical Study*, App. 1

⁹⁷ *Campbells Creek Community Plan 2014*, p13

⁹⁸ K Twigg and W Jacobs, *Shire of Metcalfe Heritage Study*, vol.1, Environmental History, pp50-51

⁹⁹ M Stroebel, *Gardens of the Goldfields: A Central Victorian sojourn*, p126

¹⁰⁰ Buda Historic Home and Garden website, www.budacastlemaine.org

Throughout the Shire, though notably in Maldon and Castlemaine, there are private gardens which retain aspects of their original/early layout, plantings or features.¹⁰¹ Many farms also retain avenues and well established specimen trees.

Pleasure Gardens

Pleasure gardens were private gardens that opened to the public. They contributed significantly to the social life of the goldfields as demand for areas of recreation increased. They were designed as retreats and represented 19th century European aesthetic ideals, typically featuring a diversity of trees, flower beds, vines, winding paths, fruit trees and picturesque structures such as arbours, summerhouses and bridges.

The Mount Alexander Nursery and Castlemaine Tea Garden on Barker's Creek was opened in 1857, and offered '... a retreat for recreation or for health so truly, that it may be considered the lungs of Castlemaine'.¹⁰² Nearby, the 'Windsor Gardens' were opened in November 1864, and featured a miniature lake upon which was floated a model frigate.¹⁰³

The Chewton Tea Gardens at the junction of the Pyrenees Highway and Golden Point Road was established in the late 1850s, in conjunction with the British and American Family Hotel.¹⁰⁴ Entertainments such as dancing on the open air dance floor were offered.¹⁰⁵ Some trees from the garden survive.

Elsewhere in the Shire, at the Italian Gardens near the Coliban River at Taradale one could 'fancy having been transported to sunny Italy'.¹⁰⁶ At Muckleford, the Orville Hotel's pleasure gardens were a popular spot on Sundays, with a coach from Maldon providing transport.¹⁰⁷

6.5.3 Street Planting

There have been several phases of street planting projects undertaken across the Shire, beginning in the 1850s. For instance, the Maldon Council of 1857 applied to Baron von Mueller for £50 of trees (approximately 250) with fifty to be planted on High Street and the remainder to be given to any citizens to plant themselves.¹⁰⁸ These may be the elm trees still in existence along High Street, although it is also thought they were planted during a beautification program in the 1870s.¹⁰⁹ There is also a small avenue of sequoia trees over 100 years of age in Grey Street, Maldon.¹¹⁰

Similar projects were also undertaken in Castlemaine from the early 1850s. Early photographs of Market Square in Castlemaine show young trees to the perimeter surrounded by protective fences.¹¹¹ Since the 1950s, many greening projects have also occurred in the township.¹¹² In Fryerstown during the 1930s local school children assisted with planting an avenue of plane and elm trees along High Street.¹¹³

Avenues of Honour were also established in several towns in the wake of WWI as both a commemorative and beautification project.

¹⁰¹ Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne, *Trees and Gardens from the Goldmining Era: A Study of the Maldon Landscape*

¹⁰² Information supplied by Peter Cuffley

¹⁰³ Information supplied by Peter Cuffley

¹⁰⁴ Over the years the gardens were also known as 'Meredith's Garden' and 'Cremorne Gardens'.

¹⁰⁵ M Stroebe, *Gardens of the Goldfields*, p83

¹⁰⁶ K Twigg and W Jacobs, *Shire of Metcalfe Heritage Study*, vol.1, Environmental History, p50

¹⁰⁷ V Markham & A Leckie, *Maldon: Portrait of a Goldfields*, p18

¹⁰⁸ M Lewis, *The Essential Maldon*, p114; von Mueller was appointed Victorian Government Botanist in 1853 and was director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne from 1857 to 1873, Wikipedia website, <http://en.wikipedia.org>, *Ferdinand von Mueller*, accessed 28/10/2015

¹⁰⁹ W Morris, *A Guide to Maldon*, p19

¹¹⁰ Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne, *Trees and Gardens from the Goldmining Era*, p86. The *Sequoiadendron giganteum* is native to California.

¹¹¹ G Hocking, *Castlemaine from camp to city*, p82

¹¹² Information provided by CHSI, May 2015

¹¹³ W Jacobs et al, *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead*, stage 2, vol. 2 (Campbelltown to Muckleford South) Fryerstown Tree Avenue (place no. FR/29).

6.6 Supplying Amenities

6.6.1 Water Supply

Wells & Springs

Wells were sunk for domestic use where surface supplies were unreliable or creeks dried up. In Castlemaine, a well was sunk by the Volunteer Fire Brigade 120 feet deep in the centre of Market Square in December 1854 for the dual purpose of supplying water for firefighting and clean water for the public.¹¹⁴ Over the years however the well suffered frequently from pollution and the failure of the pumps.¹¹⁵ The well survives and is sometimes used by the Council.

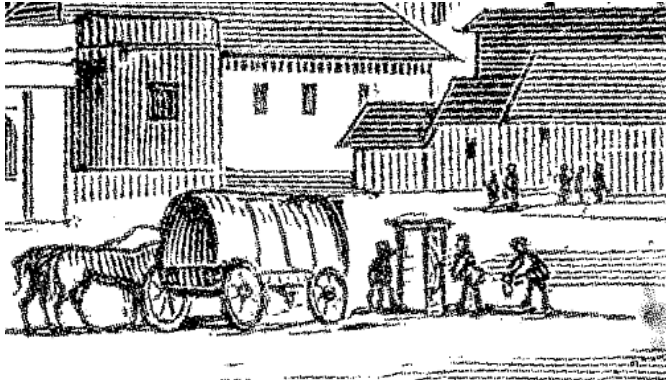


Figure 146: Pumping water from the well in Market Square, Castlemaine 1856. Detail of larger engraving (Source: Castlemaine Art Gallery & Historical Museum, reproduced in G Hocking, *Castlemaine: From Camp to City 1835-1900*, p58)

Public wells are also known to have been sunk at Chewton and Elphinstone.¹¹⁶ The six metre deep brick well at Elphinstone was fed by a natural spring and remained cold even through summer. It has been sealed over but remains full of water.¹¹⁷

Town Supply

Reservoirs were constructed to supply town water. The Crocodile and Spring Creek reservoirs were built in 1861 to supply town water to Fryerstown and Spring Gully.¹¹⁸ During the late 1860s, two distribution reservoirs were established in the Shire as part of the Coliban System to distribute to settlements through gravity-fed pipes at Expedition Pass (1868) and Harcourt (Barkers Creek Reservoir, 1868).¹¹⁹ Water is now supplied to much of the Shire from the McCay Reservoir, constructed in 1960 and located between Chewton and Elphinstone.

Sewerage

Connection to sewerage has occurred gradually in the Shire, with several towns connected in recent years, for example Chewton in 2002.¹²⁰ Development in areas that have not had sewerage connection has been restricted to properties able to effectively dispose of effluent waste on site.

Drinking Fountains and Troughs

Drinking fountains and troughs provided the public and animals with clean drinking water. In Victoria, drinking fountains were often erected for commemorative purposes, like the Patterson Memorial Fountain in Castlemaine, while others were sponsored by supporters of the temperance movement to provide an alternative to alcohol. Some drinking fountains also incorporated troughs for animals.

¹¹⁴ A water tank, later built immediately to the east of the well, became the focal point of the square and established the axes of the future north and east/west market buildings.

¹¹⁵ T Westmore, *Castlemaine Market Conservation Analysis*, app. N, p3

¹¹⁶ K Twigg & W Jacobs, *Shire of Metcalfe Heritage Study*, vol.1, Environmental History, p14

¹¹⁷ K James & N Davis, *A History of Elphinstone*, p12

¹¹⁸ P Taylor, *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead*, Stage 2, Section 2: Environmental History, p61

¹¹⁹ K Twigg & W Jacobs, *Shire of Metcalfe Heritage Study*, vol.1, Environmental History, p16

¹²⁰ Clause 22.06 (Chewton), *Mount Alexander Planning Scheme*

During the 19th century and part of the 20th century, troughs provided water for thirsty horses and cattle, and small, low troughs for dogs. A trough surviving in Newstead is one of hundreds throughout Australia donated through the estate of Annis & George Bills during the late 1920s and 1930s.



Figure 147: Horse and Dog Trough, Newstead (2014)

6.6.2 Street Works

Drainage

Sections of original stone kerbing and wide channelling survive in several townships, often extensive, notably in the central parts of Castlemaine and Maldon.

The wide channelling was required to handle the occasional flooding. For instance, in 1860 many shops and houses along the eastern side of Main Street, Maldon were inundated. A large, deep drain was subsequently constructed from the Post Office and under Main Street to divert the stormwater away from the town centre.¹²¹ A stone drain in Church Street, Chewton built during 1881 is deeper and has a protective timber fence.¹²²



Figure 148: High Street, Maldon, stone gutter and kerb (2014)



Figure 149: Urquhart Street, Castlemaine, culvert and stone drain (2014)

Paving

Some sections of early flag paving remain in High Street, Maldon, which are understood to have been quarried locally and laid circa 1866.¹²³

¹²¹ V Markham & A Leckie, *Maldon, Portrait of a Goldfields Town*, p15

¹²² K Twigg and W Jacobs, *Shire of Metcalfe Heritage Study*, vol.3 (Barfold-Elphinstone), file no. c16

¹²³ A Williams, *Maldon and the Tarrangower Diggings*, p39



Figure 150: High Street, Maldon, early flag paving (2014)



Figure 151: Avenue of elm trees, High Street, Maldon (2014)

6.6.3 Energy Supply

Gas

The Castlemaine Gas Company was formed according to an Act of Parliament in late 1858.¹²⁴ The foundation stone of the Castlemaine gasworks was laid on 27 January 1859 and less than six months later, on 22 June, gas was first supplied to the residents of Castlemaine. In 1956, the Gas and Fuel Corporation purchased the Castlemaine Gas Company and operated in the locality until 1973 when natural gas was provided by pipeline from Melbourne.¹²⁵

As early as 1859 in Maldon, a proposal was made to install kerosene street lamps. However, as there was a law that lamps were to be displayed outside hotels, the light was considered sufficient at the time.¹²⁶ A gasworks was opened in 1884 which did provide street lighting in Maldon and was used by most businesses, churches and some houses.¹²⁷ The works were situated at the south end of Maldon and fired with coal. Operations ceased around 1936 when electricity came to the town.¹²⁸

Electricity

The State Electricity Commission (SEC) was enacted in 1920 to manage Victoria's electricity supply, taking over from a series of local electricity suppliers. For instance, electric street lighting was introduced in 1915 by the then Castlemaine Borough.¹²⁹ A Castlemaine Electric Company Ltd had previously been incorporated during 1894.¹³⁰

Transmission lines were extended through the Castlemaine area during 1930.¹³¹ The headquarters of the State Electricity Commission's Midland Branch was established at Castlemaine in an extant building in Lyttleton Street, which was one of seven regional branches across Victoria. A main substation was built at Castlemaine, near the intersection of Mostyn and Barker Streets, from which three feeders distributed power through the local network.¹³²

¹²⁴ *Victoria Government Gazette*, 1858, pp1788-89
¹²⁵ Ray Proudley, *Circle of Influence: A History of the gas industry in Victoria*, pp299-300
¹²⁶ A Williams, *Maldon and the Tarrangower Diggings*, p39
¹²⁷ G Blackman & J Larkin, *Maldon, Australia's First Notable Town*, p119
¹²⁸ M Crick, *Maldon Memories*, p6
¹²⁹ 'Castlemaine - Electricity v. Gas', *The Ballarat Courier*, 27 December 1915, p6
¹³⁰ *Victoria Government Gazette*, 1894, p607
¹³¹ *The Age*, 1 March 1930, p30
¹³² *Three Decades: the story of the SEC of Victoria from its inception to December 1948*, p178; Museum Victoria Collections website, *State Electricity Commission of Victoria Collection*, MM11468. *The Age*, 1 March 1930, p30.



Figure 152: Former Midland Branch of the State Electricity Commission, Lyttleton Street Castlemaine (2014)

Electricity was made available to Harcourt in 1933 with the Harcourt Cool Stores being one of the first to change from steam to electricity for power. The SEC required that residents/users paid for the provision of electricity to their homes and businesses and many community organisations raised funds for this purpose. However, settlement in the area was relatively sparse and many residents were unable or reluctant to find the required amount, and as a result the progress of erecting the transmission lines was slow and electricity did not reach Faraday until the 1950s.¹³³ Maldon was connected in 1936,¹³⁴ and to Newstead in 1937 after the decision to dredge the Loddon River Flats at Strangways.¹³⁵ However it was some time before the less populated areas were connected, for instance, it was not until 1954 that an extension to the Metcalfe and Sutton Grange areas were laid.¹³⁶

6.7 Residential Construction

6.7.1 Prefabrication

Due to the sudden, massive influx of people onto the goldfields, there was a severe housing shortage. Many prospectors initially lived in tents but prefabricated or portable houses provided an alternative. During the first half of the 1850s, Australia was the largest importer of such buildings. Many originated in Britain but others were imported from such places as Germany, California and Singapore.¹³⁷

Prefabricated buildings are typically modest in scale and any that survive are typically significant places. Extant examples in the Shire include the Marsh House, near Guilford, which is a corrugated iron Hemming house, made in England and erected in 1854.¹³⁸ In addition, there is Powell's House at Campbells Creek of circa 1853,¹³⁹ and the timber Wesleyan Methodist Church Hall in Fryerstown which probably dates to the 1850s.¹⁴⁰

6.7.2 Vernacular Construction

Initially with the lack of readily available manufactured building materials there was an inevitable reliance upon local natural resources and/or versions of traditional construction techniques that the different migrants brought from their respective country of origin. Adaptation also occurred according to the availability of local materials, for example, timber slab construction is related to English and other traditions but developed independently because the local timber was easy to split but difficult to saw. Although examples survive from the early days of the gold rush during the 1850s,

¹³³ Harcourt Valley Heritage and Tourist Centre Inc, *Community milestone: The coming of electricity* [notes]

¹³⁴ M Crick, *Maldon Memories*, p55. *The Argus*, 22 May 1936.

¹³⁵ P Taylor, *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead Stage 2*, Section 2, Environmental History, p48

¹³⁶ 'SEC to extend', *The Argus*, 10 April 1954, p7

¹³⁷ R Irving (comp.), *The History and Design of the Australian House*, M Lewis, 'The Portable House', pp275-280

¹³⁸ R Bradfield, *Guildford – Some Early History*, p13. It was erected for William Mein.

¹³⁹ VHR Citation H0839: *Powell's Prefabricated House*. It had previously been located at Guildford.

¹⁴⁰ VHR Citation H1423: *Fryerstown Methodist Church Hall*. Type used for courthouses and gold wardens offices. The original location and use is not certain but has been on this site since about the early 1870s.

more survive from the 1860s onwards as a result of the need for selectors to make improvements on their blocks in order to retain the site or eventually gain freehold.¹⁴¹

Within the Shire, there are examples of early vernacular and traditional building techniques including wattle and daub, brick noggin, pisé-de-terre, random stone and slate, timber framing and carpentry techniques.¹⁴²



Figure 153: Stone barn at Yandoit Hills (2015)



Figure 154: Powell's Prefabricated House, Campbells Creek (2014)

Pisé

A few pisé buildings survive in the Maldon-Muckleford area including a farm building with pisé packed between wide timber posts at North Muckleford, where the pise is effectively not structural. Pisé (de terre) is manufactured by ramming mud into in situ timber formwork, typically in bands. The formwork was likely to have been temporarily nailed across the posts in this instance.¹⁴³ An example of true pisé, that is, without the timber posts, is evident in the walls of a small outbuilding at New Chum Gully, near Campbells Creek.¹⁴⁴

Stone

Local stone was used for the construction of cottages and some drystone walls. At a cottage at Herons Reef, the stones are packed with mud or the like, though in other instances, a remnant section at White Horse Gully, the stones have been laid with minimal bedding.¹⁴⁵

There are more recent examples of stone houses dating to the 1960s at the Chewton bushland settlement, which were constructed by Brian Parsons, the first manager of Geoffrey Thompson (Harcourt) P/L.¹⁴⁶

Other areas with stone houses include Barkers Creek, Campbells Creek, Faraday, Harcourt and Yandoit Hills, the latter showing vernacular traits of the Swiss-Italians migrants who lived in the area.

Timber

Log and slab is known to have been used in the Shire from at least mid-1854 and a house survives at North Muckleford constructed in a more sophisticated version known as *pièce sur pièce* as the corners are stacked on edge and halved at the corners with no projections. This technique derives from Quebec.¹⁴⁷

There are also remnants of half-timbered buildings where a timber frame is erected that takes the load of the roof and the walls are packed with mass material, fulfilling little, if any, structural role. Bush poles and saplings were typically employed, for the vertical and horizontal members respectively with the bands between the saplings filled with combinations of stone and mud. Examples survive in the Maldon area.¹⁴⁸ There are also examples of gabled roof miner's cottages throughout the parts of the Shire where gold mining has occurred.

¹⁴¹ M Lewis, *Victorian Primitive*, pp1-2. Slab construction was disseminated in the south-east part of Australia by travelling timber sawyers and splitters.

¹⁴² A Jean (cml.), *Miners' Cottages of the Goldfields of Mount Alexander*, p10

¹⁴³ M Lewis, *Victorian Primitive*, pp56-57. In some cases, the putlock holes created after the removal of the timber beams (putlocks) used during the construction are evident.

¹⁴⁴ A Jean (cml.), *Miners' Cottages of the Goldfields of Mount Alexander*, p19

¹⁴⁵ A Jean (cml.), *Miners' Cottages of the Goldfields of Mount Alexander*, pp6, 8

¹⁴⁶ G Milford, *A brief survey of the Harcourt Fruit Industry 1857 to 2007*, p12

¹⁴⁷ M Lewis, *Victorian Primitive*, p24. The façade is also dressed to resemble stonework

¹⁴⁸ M Lewis, *Victorian Primitive*, pp59-61, 64; A Jean (Cmpl.), *Miners' Cottages of the Goldfields of Mount Alexander*, p19

6.7.3 Phases of Construction

The following key phases of building construction are generally well represented in townships, as well as in the hinterlands or farming areas.

Victorian Period

The Shire retains a considerable percentage of 19th century housing stock. Many are modest scale buildings such as typical miner's cottages, though there are some mansions, such as *Buda* in Castlemaine. The walls are either brick (many face brick, now often painted, and some rendered examples) or weatherboard with either a hip or gable roof, usually clad in corrugated sheet metal, though initially may have been clad in timber shingles or the like. Windows are predominantly double-hung sashes, some which are multi-paned.



Figure 155: Miner's cottage at Fryerstown (2014)



Figure 156: Early Victorian cottage at Chewton (2014)

Some houses, especially in Maldon, also retain layouts and/or some planting typical of late 19th cottage gardens. During this period, generally there would be low-scale ornamental planting to the front, and where possible a small orchard of fruit trees and vegetable gardens would be maintained to the side or rear.¹⁴⁹ Much pride is said to have been taken in them by the miners who began to settle permanently in the gold mining towns and became 'an essential part of the overall fabric of Australian life'. This was often the first time these immigrants had had an opportunity to own a house and freehold land.¹⁵⁰

Federation Period

The Federation period is not that well represented in the Shire but there are some examples, with those surviving tending to be fairly substantial including several in the northern part of Castlemaine.



Figure 157: Federation period house at Newstead (2014)



Figure 158: Federation period house in Castlemaine (2014)

Houses of this period are often representative of the Queen Anne style with an overall informality or asymmetric design. They are characteristically red brick, in some instances with cream brick banding or an area of roughcast render (upper parts of the wall and/or gable ends). The roofs, which are steeply pitched and prominent, are typically

¹⁴⁹

Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne, *Tress and Gardens from the Goldmining Era – a study of the Maldon Landscape*, pp5-6, 13-29

¹⁵⁰

P Cuffley, *Cottage Gardens in Australia*, p38

clad in terracotta tiles or slate with terracotta crestings. Chimneys tend to be tall with corbelling caps, bands and straps to the brickwork. Verandahs usually have decorative timber detailing and windows may include casements.

Interwar Period

A variety of styles were popular during the Interwar period (1920s and 1930s) but the bungalow is the most common type. The buildings have a porch with a brick wall and squared posts or piers above. The wall materials may be brick, weatherboard or battened sheeting.



Figure 159: Bungalow at Campbells Creek (2014)



Figure 160: Moderne style, Maldon (2014)

Other styles popular during the Interwar period tend to be asymmetric except the Georgian Revival style, which is characterised by a symmetrical façade often with a verandah supported by classical columns; the English Revival style, feature steeply pitched, gabled roofs, and herringbone brickwork or half-timbering; the Spanish Mission style is identified by arched windows and/or the loggia style porch often with barley twist columns, and roofs clad in Roman tiles; and the Moderne style which is characterised by a horizontal emphasis (brick banding and glazing bars), bi-chrome brickwork, corner windows and projecting porches.

Post-War Period

During the Post-War period (late 1940s and 1950s), the influence of European Modernism became more apparent and some houses were constructed in a manner reflecting this aesthetic including elements such as low pitched or skillion roofs, an emphasis of pure geometric form, and generally restrained detailing. Walls were often vertical boards rather than traditional horizontal weatherboards. There are a few examples at the east end of Castlemaine on or near the Pyrenees Highway.



Figure 161: Pyrenees Highway, Castlemaine (2014)



Figure 162: High Street, Maldon (2014)

Many houses with a traditional appearance were also constructed. These houses, which are often substantial, tended to have an Interwar character in that they feature bi-chrome brickwork (brown and cream) and steel-framed windows. Examples are found throughout the Shire, including near the Castlemaine gaol.

In more recent years, some distinctive houses have been erected due to the discernible interest in the incorporation of environmentally sustainable design features and because several architects practice in the Shire.

7 GOVERNING

Introduction

This theme focuses on the role of governments in shaping the life of people in the Shire. Coinciding with the Mount Alexander gold rush, the Colony of Victoria separated from New South Wales in 1851 and established its own bicameral parliament. The government had a strong presence on the goldfields and this is represented by a gaol, as well as several courthouses and police buildings. The complex history of local government agencies reflects the strength of local communities to achieve representation. The strength of community activism was heralded in late 1851 with the Monster Meeting at Chewton and also demonstrated with other movements including trade unionism and heritage conservation.

7.1 Victorian Colonial Government

Within two months of the discovery of gold at Forest Creek during 1851, there was a need for a government presence for administering law and order as well regulating the gold licensing system to the rapidly increasing population. Initially a Government Camp was established at Golden Point, north of Chewton however it was soon relocated to a low rise at the junction of Barker's and Forest Creeks (Castlemaine) during February of 1852. First tents, and then timber and brick buildings were erected to accommodate the Gold Commissioner, police (foot and mounted), military (40th and 99th regiments), court, gaol, sheriff, surgeon, servants, Crown lands, postal and roads board; in all there numbered 300 persons.¹

A number of buildings dating back to the camp period still stand at Castlemaine,² including the Former Courthouse, Military Officers' Quarters and the residences of the assistant Gold Commissioner, Sheriff and Police,³ and constitute a rare collection of such buildings. Elsewhere in the Shire, other camp locations included Fryerstown and Maldon (February 1854).⁴

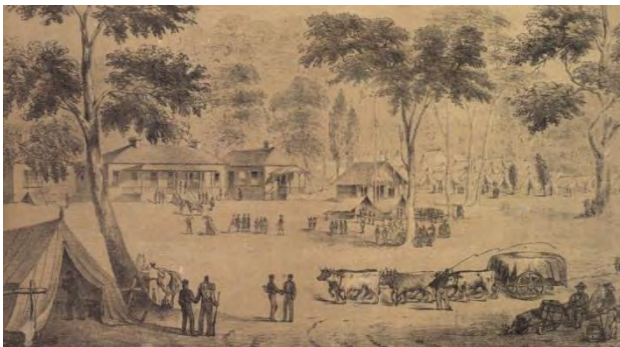


Figure 163: Commissioner's Camp, 1852
(Source: G Hocking, *Castlemaine: From Camp to City 1835-1900*, p40)⁵



Figure 164: Former Military Quarters, Camp Crescent Castlemaine (2014)

Part of the Commissioner's role was to enforce the legislation which had been passed in August 1851 proclaiming Government rights to all gold found on Crown Lands. Mining was permitted only with the purchase of a licence.⁶ There were often tensions between the administration and the general populace, which were manifested geographically and socially in the separation between the Camp and the township. In 1858, following the 1854 Eureka uprising in Ballarat

¹ G Hocking, *Castlemaine: From Camp to City 1835-1900*, p40; Castlemaine Historical Society Inc., *Castlemaine: Gold Commissioner's Camp (Sublime Porte)* [pamphlet]

² Castlemaine Historical Society Inc., *Castlemaine: Gold Commissioner's Camp (Sublime Porte)* [pamphlet]

³ Respective addresses include: Goldsmith Crescent, 5 Yandell Street, 1 Yandell Street, 4 Camp Crescent and 31 Gingell Street (originally built as a military hospital but never used as such).

⁴ Jacobs Lewis Vines Architects, *Maldon Conservation Study*, part 2, p3

⁵ This sketch by Clarke Ismir shows the Courthouse, Chief Commissioner's Residence, guard room, gold licensing tents, and the trooper's tents.

⁶ G Hocking, *Castlemaine: From Camp to City 1835-1900*, p44

and the 1855 *Act for Better Management of the Goldfields*, the military forces were withdrawn from the camp at Castlemaine.⁷

To service the administration of the 1855 and 1858 Gold Acts, wardens were appointed for each district. The extant Castlemaine gold warden's office on Hargraves Street was one of the last permanent offices to be built (of 22 across the Victorian goldfields) in 1864.⁸ Early offices were often small, prefabricated buildings and were gradually replaced, as in this case. At Fryerstown, the gold registrar's office (c.1860) survives, where miners would take out gold licences, mining rights and register their claims.⁹

7.2 Developing Local Government

There have been many phases in the development of local Government in the study area leading to the formation of the current entity - Mount Alexander Shire - which was formed in 1995 through the amalgamation of the City of Castlemaine and the Shires of Newstead, Maldon and Metcalfe. The following diagram outlines these phases.

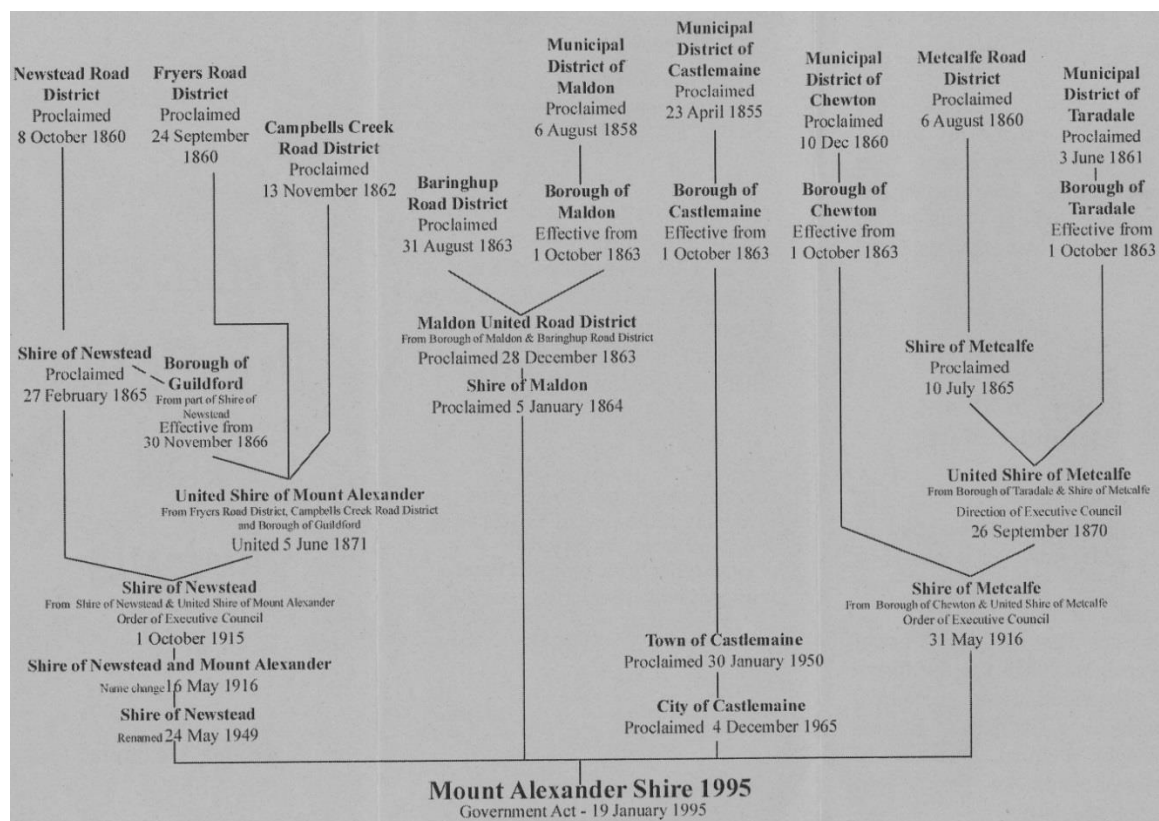


Figure 165: The formation of the Mount Alexander Shire
(Source: Castlemaine Historical Society, *Business, Bunfights and Brawls: 150 years of local Government*)

Road Districts

The initial phase of local Government in the Shire comprised a combination of road districts and municipal districts. In February 1853, the State Government passed an Act for Making and Improving Roads in the Colony of Victoria. The legislation created a Central Roads Board and provided for the election of district roads boards. The following year, the Municipal Institutions Act of 1854 allowed for any district with an area not exceeding nine square miles and having a population of at least three hundred to become a constituted municipal district.¹⁰ As such, these two acts effectively established local Government in Victoria.

⁷ VHR Citation H2162: *Castlemaine Military Quarters*

⁸ VHR Citation H1404: *Former Gold Warden's Office*

⁹ W Jacobs et al, *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead*, stage 2, vol. 2 (Campbelltown to Muckleford South) Former Amos Cottage and Gold Registrar's Office (place no. FR/31).

¹⁰ Castlemaine Historical Society, *Business, Bunfights and Brawls: 150 years Local Government 1855-2005*

Boroughs and Shires

A new Local Government Act early in 1863 provided for a road district or a combination of road districts to petition the Governor to be created a Shire. Shires had greater status and could borrow money on the security of their rate income.¹¹ By 1871, all of the early road districts and municipal districts in the study area had become shires or boroughs, some through amalgamation.

Buildings

A number of buildings remain as evidence of the former local Government authorities. Examples include the former Campbells Creek Toll House, which was erected for the local road district board (1860s, refer chapter 4) before it became the chambers for the Shire of Newstead. It was used for the Shire chambers from 1865 until 1915, though two other buildings were erected in Newstead (in 1907 and 1968) and its usage was reduced.

The Chewton Town Hall was built in 1861 for the Municipal District of Chewton (the Borough of Chewton from 1863), which operated until 1916. The failed market building at Maldon was remodelled as the Shire of Maldon offices in 1865 and was used as such until 1964. The Castlemaine Town Hall was erected in 1898 to the design of the architects and engineers, Wilkinson & Permewan, and replaced an earlier Municipal Chambers erected on the site during the early 1860s. The extant chambers at Metcalfe date to 1953. New dedicated shire offices were erected in Maldon in 1964. With the municipal amalgamations of 1995, many of these buildings have been put to other uses.



Figure 166: Castlemaine Town Hall (2015)



Figure 167: Chewton Town Hall (2014)

7.3 Struggling for Political Rights

7.3.1 Goldfields Agitation

The Victorian gold rush occurred at a time when the broader international context was characterised by a revolutionary climate, and many migrant gold seekers brought with them a variety of beliefs and principles. The diggers recognised an opportunity to form a society free from the flaws of those they had left behind, and ideas of egalitarianism flourished.

On goldfields throughout Victoria, struggles between the authorities and the general populace resulted in ongoing discontent and agitation against the colonial administration which culminated with the Eureka uprising in Ballarat in December 1854. In the Shire, the discontent manifested itself in such demonstrations as the Monster Meeting of December 1851, a large and well-organised public meeting convened at Golden Point (Chewton)¹² which attracted some 14,000-15,000 diggers, in response to the move by Governor Latrobe to double the price of gold licence to £3 a month.¹³ Another notable event occurred in May 1853, when businessmen and diggers met at Agitation Hill in Castlemaine, a favoured early protest site, to express their grievances over their treatment by the authorities and to organise a petition to the Governor.¹⁴

¹¹ P Taylor, *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead*, vol.2

¹² There is a plaque erected at the approximate location of the Monster Meeting, near Golden Point Road, Chewton.

¹³ K McKimmie, *Chewton Then and Now*, p62

¹⁴ G Hocking, *Castlemaine, from Camp to City*, p80



Figure 168: 'Great Meeting of Gold Diggers Dec 15th 1851', section of engraving by Thomas Ham, 1852. (Source: State Library of Victoria, accession no. 30328102131678/5)

The Chinese on the goldfields also engaged in protests against discrimination. In August 1857, about 1200 to 1300 Chinese gathered at Mechanics Hill in Castlemaine to protest a bill over increased taxation. It was the first mass meeting of its kind held in the Colony by the Chinese.¹⁵

7.3.2 Trade Unionism

The earliest unionists in the Shire were skilled tradesmen, and by the mid-late 1850s there were small, but growing unions in Castlemaine. The system of the eight hour day was first introduced in Castlemaine in 1856, although initially it was restricted to the benefit of mainly construction trades. Plans to erect a Trades Hall in Castlemaine were first made in 1859 however these did not eventuate and it was not until 1914 that an existing building in Mostyn Street was taken over and established as the Trades Hall.¹⁶ The hall is one of the last (if not the last) small town trades halls to survive in the State.



Figure 169: Trades Hall, Castlemaine (2014)



Figure 170: Banner of the Maldon Branch of the Amalgamated Miners' Association of Australasia, c.1900 (Source: Maldon Museum and Archives Association)

During the mid-1860s, miners were taking action towards the introduction of the eight hour day system into their industry. The Maldon Miners' Association was formed during the early 1870s, and in 1874 the association merged with those of eleven other central Victorian mining towns to form the Amalgamated Miners' Association of Victoria (AMA),

¹⁵ R Bradfield, *Campbells Creek*, p12

¹⁶ R Bradfield, *Owen Jones: Labour Pioneer on the Castlemaine Goldfield*, pp 47, 62

and soon became a presence on all Victorian mining fields.¹⁷ A decade later, in 1884, the AMA merged with interstate unions to become the Amalgamated Miners' Association of Australasia.¹⁸ The Maldon Museum and Archives Association hold the original 1888 banner for the Maldon Branch in their collection, one of only two surviving Victorian miners' banners.

7.3.3 Wartime Campaigns

During the WWI conscription campaign, anti-conscriptionists built a large 'Vote No' sign using white stones on Preeces Hill, Maldon. It was a controversial sign and was destroyed by visiting/returned soldiers and remade by local townspeople on a number of occasions.¹⁹ The current stone arrangement on the hill is a 'V' (for Victory) and dates from 1942 during WWII.²⁰



Figure 171: Preeces Hill Maldon, showing the 'Vote No' message. Each letter was about 12 feet long. (Source: State Library of Victoria, accession no. H82.289/187)

7.4 Maintaining Law and Order

7.4.1 Creating a Judicial System

Courthouses

During the 19th century, numerous small courthouses, designed by the Public Works Department (PWD), were constructed in towns throughout Victoria. The building materials for these courthouses were derived from local sources, giving each a distinctive character, such as the orange bricks on a field granite base of the Newstead Courthouse and the red bricks of the Maldon Courthouse (1861).²¹

The first courthouse in Castlemaine was a converted police office in the Commissioner's Camp, and in 1852 housed the first sitting of the Supreme Court of Victoria on the goldfields. Sittings of the County Court and the Court of Petty Sessions were held there between 1852 and 1856. The current Castlemaine Courthouse was constructed in 1878-79, in a restrained free classical style, to provide for the Supreme and County Courts.²² The courthouse (now used by the Castlemaine Historical Society) formed part of a substantial civic precinct, indicative of Castlemaine's importance as a regional centre.

¹⁷ Andrew Reeves, 'Trade Unionism' in *The Traveller's Guide to the Goldfields*, pp87-88

¹⁸ Australian Trade Union Archives website (<https://www.atua.org.au/biogs/ALE0946b.htm#related>). In 1916, the Amalgamated Miners' Association of Australasia became the Australasian Coal & Shale Employees' Federation, otherwise known as the 'Miners' Federation'.

¹⁹ *Geraldton Guardian* (WA), 3 June 1919, p2

²⁰ Trove website, Dirk HR Spennemann (2012), 'The Maldon V', <http://trove.nla.gov.au/work/166174088?q&versionId=210209168>

²¹ B Trethowan, *The Public Works Department of Victoria 1851-1900*, chapter 11. The extant courthouse at Maldon replaced an earlier timber structure built c.1857.

²² VHR Citation H1405: *Castlemaine Courthouse*



Figure 172: Former Castlemaine Courthouse, Goldsmith Crescent (2014)



Figure 173: Castlemaine Courthouse, Lyttleton Street (2014)

The Newstead Courthouse, designed in 1863 and built in 1867, is considered to be among the best of the extant smaller works by the renowned PWD architect John James Clark.²³ Several courthouses were built to the same design as that of Newstead, including at Vaughan (now demolished).²⁴

Two other extant courthouses survive at Taradale (1864) and Fryerstown (1880). In both instances, they replaced earlier buildings and like other examples in the Shire, are mostly red brick with cream brick trim on a stone plinth.²⁵



Figure 174: Former Newstead Courthouse, Canrobert Street (2014)



Figure 175: Former Maldon Courthouse, Fountain Street (2014)

Most of the 19th century courthouses in the Shire have now been adapted to new uses including residential and community purposes.

Gaol

Initially a log gaol consisting of five cramped cells was constructed at the Government Camp.²⁶ Construction of the existing gaol complex on higher ground began during the mid-1850s with a two storey stone building on the north-west boundary. However this was soon demolished (in 1859) and replaced with new cell blocks due to changing Government approaches to gaol design under the influence of the model prison at Pentonville, north of London (1842).²⁷ Most of the prison was constructed between 1857-61 from local sandstone and Harcourt granite, as well as

²³ VHR Citation H1705: Newstead Courthouse; Bruce Trethowan in his report *The Public Works Department of Victoria 1851-1900* writes that the Newstead Courthouse 'epitomises the architecture of the Public Works Department before 1880'.

²⁴ Newstead and District Historical Society, *Newstead Heritage Walks*, 'Law and Order' [pamphlet]

²⁵ M Challenger, *Historic Courthouses of Victoria*, pp90+183

²⁶ G Hocking, *Castlemaine: From Camp to City 1835-1900*, p103

²⁷ VHR Citation H0990: *Castlemaine Gaol*; RBA with Bryce Raworth, 'The Former H M Prison Castlemaine - Conservation Analysis and Management Plan', 1995

red brick. The Castlemaine Gaol was one of the largest outside of Melbourne, capable of holding 104 prisoners; in 1903 however, it was noted that there numbered just four prisoners.²⁸

The Castlemaine Gaol was closed in 1990 when the new Loddon Prison opened. The Loddon Prison was expanded in 2014 with the construction of the Middleton annexe. Tarrengower Prison, opened in 1988, is a minimum security women's prison located at Nuggetty, near Maldon.²⁹

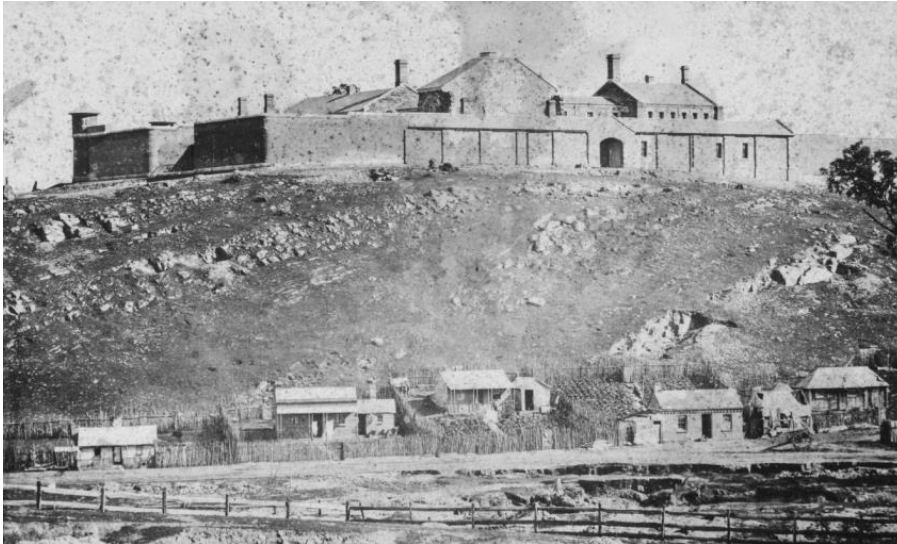


Figure 176: Early photograph showing the Castlemaine Gaol, photograph by J. Wheeler (Source: Castlemaine Art Gallery and Historical Museum)

7.4.2 Policing

Prior to 1853, seven autonomous policing bodies had jurisdiction in Victoria, including the City Police, Geelong Police, Gold Fields Police, Water Police, Rural Bench Constabulary, Mounted Police and Gold Escort; the introduction of the Police Act in 1853 effected the amalgamation of the separate police forces into the one Victoria Police Force.³⁰

With the discovery of gold in 1851, the perceived threat of social disorder prompted the concentration of Victoria's police resources on the goldfields. The early police camps/reserves on the goldfields were generally located in an elevated central position, and accommodated a variety of buildings and provided an area for grazing and exercising the police horses. The police paddock at Newstead however was located on the river flats in the north west of the town.³¹

From 1853 a network of better appointed police stations and quarters was developed; at this time the police were often moved to smaller reserves, retaining the former as a police paddock. Early complexes typically included barracks, a separate kitchen, mess and washhouse; and lock-ups were located close by for ease of prisoner surveillance.³²

In the late 1850s and early 1860s, the period of heavy policing ended and there was a shift to a more settled, civic way of life. Police accommodation became more domestic-styled, and many of the early police paddocks on the goldfields were relinquished.

Until the 1920s, much police work relied heavily on horses for transport, and as such, paddocks and stables were a necessity. The subsequent greater reliance on motorised transport meant that police paddocks became increasingly redundant; some paddocks were sold by the Government, but many survive as Crown land and are now used for public purposes such as parks.

²⁸ J Smith (ed.), *The Cyclopaedia of Victoria*, 1903, p404

²⁹ 'Corrections, Prisons and Parole' website, <http://www.corrections.vic.gov.au/home/prison/> (accessed 5.02.2016)

³⁰ R Haldane, *The People's Force, A history of the Victoria Police*, p27

³¹ Newstead and District Historical Society, *Newstead Heritage Walks, 'Law and Order'* [pamphlet]

³² H Doyle, *Dispensing Justice: An historical survey of the theme of justice in Victoria*, p30



Figure 177: 'Mounted Police, Gold Escort Guard, Mt. Alexander', 1852, by Samuel Thomas Gill.
(Source: National library of Australia, nla.pic-an7537671)



Figure 178: Former Police Lock-Up, Maldon (2014)

Among the sites in the Shire associated with policing are the first permanent district police residence 'Broadoaks' in Castlemaine,³³ and two former police stations at Newstead built in 1870 and about 1895.³⁴ Other sites include the former police station at Baringhup, a residence at Taradale, a residence and stables at Fryerstown, as well as the former police lock-ups at Chewton, Guilford and Maldon (1864). All were designed by the Public Works Department.

7.5 Defending

The organisation of citizen defence forces in Victoria began in the 1850s with volunteer defence corps and rifle associations being established.³⁵ As it was illegal to raise an army without approval of the Crown, the Volunteer Corps Act was introduced and approved by Governor Sir Charles Hotham in 1854.³⁶ By 1870 the volunteer movement was an entrenched institution in Victoria and was the primary defence in 1870 after the withdrawal of British Imperial troops. However the popularity of the movement waned from this time and by 1880 the system was considered unsatisfactory.³⁷ The volunteers disbanded in 1884 and a new militia system, with paid members, was adopted requiring more extensive and complex facilities. The Government took over the ownership and management of orderly rooms and in 1884 began an extensive programme of new building, additions, alterations and maintenance.



Figure 179: Castlemaine Rifles, Market Square, c. 1865
(Source: State Library of Victoria, accession no. H1959)



Figure 180: Former Drill Hall, Castlemaine (2014)

In 1860, the first Castlemaine Rifle Corps was formed. Land at the end of Tomkies Road was donated by Colonel Bull for use as a range (which is still used), on which an early timber cottage and a brick powder magazine dating from about 1862 survive.³⁸ In 1863, part of the Public Purposes Reserve at the corner of Lyttleton and Frederick Street in

³³ VHR Citation H0611: *Broadoaks* was originally built as a military hospital in 1854 but never used as such.

³⁴ Newstead and District Historical Society, *Newstead Heritage Walks*, 'Law and Order' [pamphlet]. The former is in Panmure Street and the latter in Lyons Street.

³⁵ S Priestley, *The Victorians, Making Their Mark*, p123

³⁶ Museum Victoria website, <http://museumvictoria.com.au>, *Victorian Volunteer Forces, 1854-1884*, accessed 10/10/2014

³⁷ VHR Citation H0683: *Castlemaine Drill Hall*

³⁸ Wayne Blakeley (Vice-President of the Castlemaine Rifle Club, '150 Year of Military and Civilian Tradition on the Range', nd [document provided by Council Officers])

central Castlemaine was gazetted for their use.³⁹ Subsequently a brick orderly room was erected in 1872 but was replaced with the larger extant timber building on the site during 1888-89; this was used by the army until 1969 when defence functions were transferred to Bendigo. The Volunteer Rifles played an important role in the ceremonial life of early Castlemaine.⁴⁰ Similarly at Maldon during the 1860s, a Rifle Corps and a Volunteer Cavalry Troop of the Prince of Wales Light Horse was formed.⁴¹

7.6 Protecting the Shire's Heritage

The Shire has strong associations with the beginnings of the modern heritage conservation movement in Victoria. The landmark battle to save the Castlemaine Market from demolition during the 1950s and 60s was a broad campaign to conserve an historic building, prior to any legislative framework being in place, and was likely to have been a galvanising factor in the creation of the National Trust of Australia [Victoria] in 1956.⁴² In the 1960s and 70s, the township of Maldon, with its unusually intact streetscapes dating from the 1860s to the 1920s, became the 'guinea pig' from which modern conservation legislation was established (also refer below).



Figure 181: Structural remediation works, Castlemaine Market, June 1969
(Source: National Trust, *Castlemaine and the Market*, p.5)



Figure 182: Main Street, Maldon in the 1970s.
(Source: G Blackman & J Larkin, *Maldon*, p27)

Other community efforts to conserve local sites have included fundraising efforts for the upkeep of the Fryerstown Mechanics Institute through an annual antiques fair (one of the largest in Australia) begun in 1975,⁴³ and the fight to save the branch line from Castlemaine to Maldon after its closure in 1976.⁴⁴

Today, the Shire is well known for its heritage buildings and places which are protected by Local, State and Federal Government heritage controls.

Maldon

In 1965, Maldon was the first place to receive the classification of 'Notable Town' by the National Trust, a newly devised classification which sought to recognise significant urban areas as a whole, rather than singling out particular buildings (usually grand buildings) which had hitherto been the approach.⁴⁵

In one sense, in Maldon there was a 'celebration of the ordinary', a recognition of the fact that the lives of ordinary people are historically very important and that we need to preserve the record of their activities and habitats just as much as we do those of the rich and famous.⁴⁶

³⁹ Victoria Government Gazette, 1863, p1823

⁴⁰ G Hocking, *Castlemaine, from Camp to City*, p186; VHR Citation H0683: *Castlemaine Drill Hall*

⁴¹ A Williams, *Maldon and the Tarrangower Diggings*, p82

⁴² Among the key objectors were Professor Brian Lewis, Dean of Architecture at the University of Melbourne and Sir Daryl Lindsay, director of the National Gallery, both founding members of the National Trust of Australia [Victoria].

⁴³ *Bendigo Advertiser*, 24/01/2005

⁴⁴ Victorian Goldfields Railway website, <http://www.vgr.com.au/history.php>, accessed 15/07/2014

⁴⁵ Dr M Crick, *Heritage and Planning in Maldon*, p2. The public announcement of the classification was made in February 1966

⁴⁶ Dr M Crick, *Heritage and Planning in Maldon*, p3

Whilst the classification by the National Trust represented a seminal change in heritage ideology and practice in the State, it generated unforeseen consequences as interest in Maldon surged, with tourists and people moving in from elsewhere. As the classification carried no statutory power, the township was vulnerable to unsympathetic change and it became apparent that planning controls were needed to protect the unique characteristics for which Maldon had been classified.

During the early 1970s, the State Government planning authority (Town and Country Planning Board) began the complex task of developing legislation to safeguard the historical ambience of Maldon.⁴⁷ In 1973, after having had an Interim Development Order in place for some three years, the *Maldon Planning Scheme* was completed; it was the first statutory attempt in Victoria to conserve the built heritage of an entire township.

⁴⁷ Dr M Crick, *Heritage and Planning in Maldon*, p4

8 COMMUNITY LIFE

Introduction

This theme relates to the ways people have built community life in a variety of forms. Some of the community facilities and institutions in the Shire are among the earliest surviving examples in the State. Initially facilities were rudimentary and often fulfilled a variety of functions, but were gradually replaced with more substantial and dedicated buildings as townships developed from gold rush camps to settled communities.

The manifold examples of religious and educational places testifies to the extent and diversity of the population over time, although not all continue to be used for their original purpose, and the fabric associated with some early migrant groups has been largely lost (especially the Chinese). The Shire has also been well-endowed with health services and community organisations/groups, reflecting the commitment to local well-being. There are a large number of cemeteries in the Shire, with many early graves evidencing the often dangerous life of the goldfields. The commemoration of events (both within and without the Shire) and notable people are represented by numerous monuments and avenues.

8.1 Maintaining Spiritual Life

With the creation of settlements during the 19th century, establishing places of Christian worship was a fundamental step in developing a sense of community. Before dedicated buildings could be constructed, services were held initially by travelling clergymen in the open air, tents, hotels, halls, school buildings or private homes.

The relatively unrestricted social environment of the gold fields caused the authorities to have great concern for the spiritual life of the inhabitants. This provided the impetus for the Church Act of 1853 when State aid to religion was dramatically increased 'to promote the erection of buildings for public worship, and the maintenance of ministers of religion'. Funds were apportioned according to the numbers in the recent census.¹

Land was typically set aside when towns were surveyed for the main Christian denominations - Church of England/Anglican, Catholic, Presbyterian and Methodist (Wesleyan and Primitive branches). Sites relating to these denominations are well-represented in the Shire but there are also several examples relating to other creeds such as the Baptists and Congregationalist/Independents. Generally, the prevalence of a particular denomination depended upon the nationality of the residents in the township or area.

As settlements grew, church congregations took residence in better premises. In some instances the extant brick church replaced an earlier timber building. The Gothic style has remained the most popular style for churches though there is considerable variety in the degree of ornamentation, with the Protestant creeds tending to be less elaborate.

As a great number of churches were erected in the Shire during the 19th century in a relatively small area, many have subsequently been decommissioned or removed as a result of the decrease in the population from the heady days of the gold rush and the declining participation in worshipping more broadly. Examples include the Anglican All Saints at Fryerstown (1861), now a house, and the removal of the Presbyterian Church opposite in 1943.²

Several notable early examples from the 1860s survive in the Shire and some churches retain significant organs and stained glass windows.

8.1.1 Church of England (Anglican)

Until the later part of the 20th century, the Church of England (or Episcopalian, now Anglican) had been the predominant Christian denomination in Victoria and the leading members of government usually adhered to it. As the leading denomination, their buildings tended to be substantial and from the mid-19th century, were typically designed in a Gothic mode.³

¹ P Taylor, *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead*, Stage 2, Section 2, Environmental History, p86

² Castlemaine Historical Society Inc., Linton, D (compl.), *Fryerstown*, [pamphlet]

³ M Lewis (ed), *Victorian Churches*, p8

The first structure employed for Anglican services in Castlemaine was a tent in the Government Reserve. The foundation for the sandstone building in Mostyn Street by Burgoyne & Poeppel was laid in 1854 but it was not completed until 1858.⁴ About this time, the Holy Trinity Church at Taradale was erected (1858-59). The latter is unusual because it is an example of the Regency Gothic style with its rendered exterior and belfry-like element with a traceried opening.⁵

In 1858, St John's Church of England was erected in Chewton. This church was one of the few brick buildings erected during the gold rush period of the 1850s, and like many churches of this denomination is designed in the Gothic mode.⁶

Several Anglican churches were constructed during the 1860s. The Holy Trinity at Maldon was designed by D R Drape in the Early English Gothic style during 1861. It has a bellcote and is notable for having been constructed from the local brown schist with Harcourt granite dressings.⁷ Also dating to 1861, St Marys at Elphinstone was erected possibly from seconds from the nearby railway tunnel. It replaced an earlier wattle and daub structure.⁸



Figure 183: Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Taradale (2014)

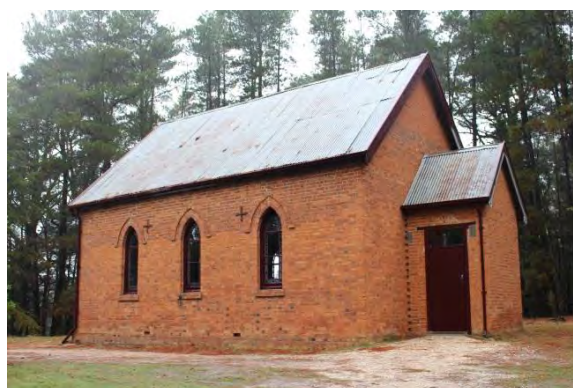


Figure 184: St Mary's, Elphinstone (2014)

All Saints at Fryerstown opened in 1861, though the foundations had been laid in 1855. In 1861, over half the township's population was said to be Anglican. Nearby the Anglican churches at Guildford and Newstead were consecrated in 1862 and 1868 respectively.⁹

8.1.2 (Roman) Catholic

The Roman Catholic denomination is strongly associated with the Irish but also Italian and German migrants, among other nationalities. This denomination's churches tend to be substantial and were typically designed in a Gothic idiom, especially up until the late 19th century.¹⁰

The Catholic churches in the Shire date to a relatively broad period of time. In Castlemaine, St Mary's, which was designed by F Poeppel, dating from 1858, replaced an earlier timber slab building.¹¹

⁴ Perrott Lyon Mathieson, *City of Castlemaine Architectural and Historical Study*, item 23; M Lewis (ed), *Victorian Churches*, p111

⁵ M Lewis (ed), *Victorian Churches*, p136.

⁶ K Twigg and W Jacobs, *Shire of Metcalfe Heritage Study*, Part 3 (Barfold-Elphinstone), C27, p197

⁷ M Lewis (ed), *Victorian Churches*, p134. It was built mostly over a 5 year period though the porch was added in 1889.

⁸ K James & N Davis, *A History of Elphinstone*, pp153-154

⁹ P Taylor, *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead*, Stage 2, Section 2, Environmental History, p90

¹⁰ M Lewis (ed), *Victorian Churches*, pp8-9

¹¹ St Marys website, <http://stmaryscastlemaine.com/stmarys.html>, accessed 14/10/2014



Figure 185: St Laurence's Church, Sandon (2014)



Figure 186: St Anne's Church, Newstead (2014)

At Irishtown, St Patrick's had been constructed in 1862 but the brick church is now demolished. Another was built at Guildford about this time.¹²

At Taradale, the Catholic Church was erected in 1870 from bricks transported from England.¹³ St Augustine's Church at Golden Point erected in 1872 was demolished during the 1950s. It was one of the few all-stone churches erected in the Shire – employing local stone and Harcourt granite for the quoining.¹⁴

St Laurence's Church at Sandon was erected in 1883, replacing an earlier timber chapel/school.¹⁵ It is a relatively substantial building for a small community.

At Maldon, St Brigid's was erected in 1891 replacing an earlier brick church dating to 1861 and which unusually was named St Saviour's.¹⁶ The extant church is distinguished by the decorative rendered dressings to the buttresses and above the entrance.

St Anne's at Newstead was opened in 1911.¹⁷ Erected during the Federation period, it is one of the latest and few timber churches in the Shire.

8.1.3 Methodist

Initially there were several branches of the Methodism in Australia with the two primary branches being the Primitive and Wesleyan. They combined to form the Methodist Church of Australia in 1902 with the Bible Christians and two other small branches. Methodist Churches tend to be relatively unadorned in keeping with the philosophy of John Wesley, who espoused that preaching houses should be 'plain and decent'.¹⁸

The Wesleyan Methodists were active in the Shire during the 19th century. In 1855 a timber church was erected at Fryerstown and the extant prefabricated timber hall/Sunday school in the following year. In 1861, the timber church was replaced with the extant brick building with sandstone dressings in 1861. At Vaughan, they erected a timber church, followed by a building in stone in 1858 (which survives), and brick in 1865. Other churches were constructed in the area at Campbells Creek (1862), Strangways (1865) Yapeen (1874).¹⁹

¹² C Fahey & A Mayne, *Gold Tailings, The hidden history of Victoria's Central Goldfield Region*, p121. The bricks from Irishtown were used in a church at Campbells Creek in 1956; P Taylor, *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead, Environmental History*, p93.

¹³ R Maltby, *Taradale – My Home Town Valley*, p53. It was sold in 1972 and converted to a residence.

¹⁴ K McKimmie, *Chewton Then and Now*, p26

¹⁵ P Taylor, *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead, Stage 2, Section 2, Environmental History*, p93; St Marys website, <http://stmaryscastlemaine.com/stlaurences.html>, accessed 14/10/2014

¹⁶ Jacobs Lewis Vines, *Maldon Conservation Study, part 2*, p57

¹⁷ Newstead and District Historical Society, *Newstead Heritage Walks, 'Sacred to Worship and Memory'* [pamphlet]

¹⁸ M Lewis (ed), *Victorian Churches*, p10. The United Methodist Free Church and Methodist New Connection

¹⁹ P Taylor, *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead, Stage 2, Section 2, Environmental History*, pp89-90; M Lewis (ed), *Victorian Churches*, p139

At Maldon, the Wesleyan chapel at the rear of the site dating to 1855 is thought to be the earliest extant church building in the township. Two Sunday School rooms were added in 1861 and the current church was designed in 1863 by Crouch & Wilson.²⁰ At Taradale, a brick building was erected in 1857 for the Wesleyans but dismantled and the material used in the current building, constructed in 1864 at a more suitable location.²¹



Figure 187: Remains of Wesleyan Church, Vaughan (2014)



Figure 188: Methodist Sunday School, Chewton (2014)

The Primitive Methodists were represented at Chewton with a church designed by Crouch & Wilson in 1860, which is distinguished by flying buttresses projecting from the façade.²² The Primitive Methodists also erected churches at Campbells Creek, Fryerstown, Newstead (1860) and Sandon (1864).²³

A brick church at Elphinstone for the Bible Christians was built during the late 1860s. It was however dismantled and re-erected at Faraday in 1876, also for the Bible Christians, where it still stands.²⁴ The Bible Christians also erected a brick church at Maldon in 1864, which was demolished in 1902, after they amalgamated with the local Wesleyan branch.²⁵

Subsequent to the union of the Methodist branches, a church was built at Newstead to the design of the Castlemaine-based architect, W Sheridan in 1907.²⁶

8.1.4 Presbyterian

Initially there were three distinct branches of Presbyterianism in Victoria but they mostly formed a union in 1859, a process which was completed in 1870. The earliest Presbyterian churches tend to be relatively plain in keeping with the Protestant traditional however with increasing wealth during the 1870s and 1880s, grander examples were erected.²⁷

A few Presbyterian churches have been erected in the Shire including St Andrews at Newstead, dating to 1860, which is said to be one of the earliest surviving brick churches in the State.²⁸ In the same year, a timber church was erected in Maldon but was replaced in 1905 with the extant brick building,²⁹ the latter being designed by the Swiss-Italian architect Louis Boldini.³⁰ The brick church at Baringhup dates to 1870 and is one of a few examples with a bellcote in the Shire.³¹

²⁰ Jacobs Lewis Vines, *Maldon Conservation Study*, part 2, p6

²¹ R Maltby, *Taradale – My Home Town Valley*, p49. It was sold in 1982 and has been converted to a house.

²² M Lewis (ed), *Victorian Churches*, p135. It represents an early use of the Gothic style by the Primitive Methodists.

²³ P Taylor, *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead*, Stage 2, Section 2, Environmental History, p90

²⁴ K James & N Davis, *A History of Elphinstone*, pp162-63

²⁵ Jacobs Lewis Vines, *Maldon Conservation Study*, part 2, p45

²⁶ W Jacobs et al, *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead*, stage 2, vol. 3 (Newstead), Newstead Uniting Church (place no. ND/56)

²⁷ M Lewis (ed), *Victorian Churches*, pp9-10

²⁸ M Lewis (ed), *Victorian Churches*, p139

²⁹ Jacobs Lewis Vines, *Maldon Conservation Study*, part 2, p54

³⁰ C Sagazio, *Italian Craftsmanship and Building in Victoria*, p14. From 1895 Boldini lived in Maldon and designed many buildings including part of the Maldon Hospital and the Maldon Hotel.

³¹ *Victoria Government Gazette*, 1870, p478. Land was set aside in 1870.

The Presbyterian Church in Lyttleton Street, Castlemaine, of 1894 by Ballarat-based architect C F Figgis, is a bold asymmetrical design with the tiling and relief work to the tympanum and trumeau being distinctive features.³² It replaced an earlier church from 1856.³³



Figure 189: Former Presbyterian Church, Baringhup (2014)



Figure 190: Union Church, Barfold (2014)

The brick Union Church at Barfold was built in 1957 to replace the 1875 timber church lost to fire in 1944. Services were held there by initially by Episcopalians and Presbyterians but later also Anglicans.³⁴

8.1.5 Voluntaryism

The Congregationalists and Baptists shared the same basic belief in the autonomy of each gathered church (Voluntaryism) and they did not accept land grants or financial support from the State government.³⁵

Congregational (or Independent)

One of the earliest churches surviving in the Shire is the former Welsh Independent/Church at Chewton, dating to 1857, now a residence. The sandstone was reputedly quarried on site.³⁶



Figure 191: Presbyterian Church (Former Congregational Church), Lyttleton St, Castlemaine (2014)



Figure 192: Former Welsh Congregational Church, Maldon (2014)

The former Congregational Church (now Presbyterian) in Lyttleton Street Castlemaine is probably the most striking church in the Shire. Designed by William Spencer in 1861-62, it is an idiosyncratic example of the Low and Mixed

³² M Lewis (ed), *Victorian Churches*, p111. A trumeau is pier supporting a tympanum.

³³ Perrott Lyon Mathieson, *City of Castlemaine Architectural and Historical Survey*, item 25. The earlier church was designed by F Poepfel.

³⁴ K James & N Davis, *A History of Barfold*, pp217-225.

³⁵ M Lewis (ed), *Victorian Churches*, p11

³⁶ K McKimmie, *Chewton Then and Now*, pp85-87

Gothic styles and is distinguished by its exaggerated pinnacles and geometric patterned glass. It is part of a complex with the original 1855 temporary brick church (later Sunday school/hall) by Clement Wilks and manse of 1857.³⁷

The former Welsh Congregational Church in Maldon dates to 1863 with the transept added in 1901. A modestly designed structure, it is one of the few Welsh Congregational churches in Victoria.³⁸

The brick Congregational Church at Sutton Grange (now the Uniting Church) was constructed in 1874 and a preacher was sent to the church every alternate Sunday with additional gatherings once a fortnight on a week night attended by the Reverend. The extant Gothic style church was the second church building erected for the congregation.³⁹

Baptist

The Baptists, although a smaller denomination, were relatively well-represented on the goldfields.⁴⁰

The Welsh Baptist Church at Maldon was built in a Georgian manner in two phases, 1865 and small addition during the 1890s.⁴¹ After a split in the Baptist congregation, the English Baptists built their own church in similarly restrained idiom during 1896.⁴² The Baptist Church in Castlemaine is a rendered building which was constructed for the Presbyterians during the late 1850s and was purchased by the Baptist Church in 1861.⁴³

8.1.6 Other Christian

Salvation Army

The Salvation Army were active in Castlemaine from 1884,⁴⁴ some four years after the first meeting in Australia took place.⁴⁵ The Castlemaine branch initially operated from their barracks in Templeton Street which was built in 1859 for Anderson, Grieg & Co. Wine & Spirit Merchants. In 1885, one year after moving into the building, they constructed the adjacent barracks building.⁴⁶ The Castlemaine Corps now operate from Kennedy Street.⁴⁷



Figure 193: Former Salvation Army Barracks, originally Anderson, Grieg & Co Wine And Spirit Merchants (left), and 1885 Barracks (right) Castlemaine (2015)



Figure 194: Former Harcourt Church of Christ, Midland Highway (2015)

³⁷ M Lewis (ed), *Victorian Churches*, p110; VHR Citation H0448: *Former Congregational Church Group – Castlemaine Historic Area*

³⁸ M Lewis (ed), *Victorian Churches*, p134

³⁹ K Twigg and W Jacobs, *Shire of Metcalfe Heritage Study*, Part 4 (Faraday-Taradale), S9, pp111-112

⁴⁰ M Lewis (ed), *Victorian Churches*, p13

⁴¹ M Lewis (ed), *Victorian Churches*, p134

⁴² Jacobs Lewis Vines, *Maldon Conservation Study*, part 2, p54

⁴³ K McArdle, *To God be the Glory: Castlemaine Baptist Church 150th Anniversary Memorial Book – A History 1861-2011*, pp19-20

⁴⁴ *Mount Alexander Mail*, 1 December 1884, p4

⁴⁵ B Bolton, *Booth's Drum: The Salvation Army in Australia 1880-1980*, p7

⁴⁶ G Hocking, *Castlemaine from Camp to City*, p234

⁴⁷ Salvation Army website, <http://www.salvationarmy.org.au/castlemaine>, accessed 27 August 2015

Chinese Christian Church

In the 1850s, Chinese missions were established on the Castlemaine goldfields under the superintendence of Rev. W. Young in an attempt to convert the Chinese to Christianity.⁴⁸ In 1860, a permanent church building for Chinese Christian worship opened in Castlemaine,⁴⁹ probably the Chinese Church which was located on the site of the current Uniting Church in Lyttleton Street.⁵⁰

Church of Christ

The Castlemaine Church of Christ had was established in 1870.⁵¹ Today, the Castlemaine Church of Christ is one of the larger congregations in the region and meets at a new building in Blakeley Road.⁵²

Services for the Barkers Creek Church of Christ were first held in 1873 in the home of Spence Greenwood at Specimen Gully. Between 1889 and 1894, the extant chapel located on the Midland Highway was constructed.⁵³ From 1908, the Church was renamed the Harcourt Church of Christ and remained in operation until 2003.⁵⁴

Lutheran Church

In 1861, Lutheran Churches were constructed at both Yandoit,⁵⁵ and Castlemaine (corner of Hargraves and Parker Street).⁵⁶ The Castlemaine Lutheran Church, currently hold services at the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Barker Street.

Uniting

In June 1977, three Christian churches - the Presbyterian, Methodist, and the Congregational Union of Australia - which had operated independently in Australia for nearly 200 years, joined to become the Uniting Church in Australia.⁵⁷ Subsequently the church facilities of the three groups have been gradually rationalised.

8.1.7 Non-Christian

Chinese Practices

The Chinese communities in the Shire built temples, known as Joss Houses in the English speaking world (relating to the practice of burning joss sticks). Apart from the remnants of a Joss House (built 1874) on a property in Vincent Street, Castlemaine, none of these buildings survive today.⁵⁸ A few other Joss Houses were erected in Castlemaine, including one in Greenhill Avenue, and others in McGrath Street and on Monument Hill (prior to the erection of the Burke and Wills monument).⁵⁹ The Chinese also had portable wooden shrines, which could be easily transported and were used prior to the construction of a more permanent Joss House.⁶⁰

⁴⁸ *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 20 October 1856, p3

⁴⁹ *The Age*, 3 May 1860, p4

⁵⁰ J Scott, *Miners to Market Gardeners: Chinese on the Castlemaine Goldfields*, p62-63

⁵¹ K Handasyde, *Victorian Churches of Christ from 1853-2008*, accessed at <http://stirling.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/ACCHS-Archive.pdf> on 27 August 2015

⁵² Castlemaine Church of Christ website, <http://www.castlemainecofc.org/>, accessed 26 August 2015

⁵³ K Twigg and W Jacobs, *Shire of Metcalfe Heritage Study*, Part 3 (Barfold-Elphinstone), BC19, pp173-174

⁵⁴ K Handasyde, *Victorian Churches of Christ from 1853-2008*, accessed at <http://stirling.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/ACCHS-Archive.pdf> on 27 August 2015

⁵⁵ *The Star* (Ballarat), 21 September 1861, p2

⁵⁶ *Mount Alexander Mail*, 19 July 1861, p1

⁵⁷ Uniting Church, Western Australia website, www.wa.uca.org.au/home/ucc/ministry-resourcing-centre, accessed 10/10/2014

⁵⁸ J Scott, *Miners to Market Gardeners: Chinese on the Castlemaine Goldfields*, p35

⁵⁹ G Hocking, *Castlemaine: From Camp to City*, p144

⁶⁰ J Scott, *Miners to Market Gardeners: Chinese on the Castlemaine Goldfields*, p35



Figure 195: Joss house, one of several which stood near Forest Creek, Castlemaine
(Source: Pioneers & Old Residents Association Collection in: G Hocking, *Castlemaine from Camp to City*, p143)

Judaism

Young Jewish men from Germany, Poland and Russia also travelled to the goldfields, most working as traders and hawkers who supplied goods to the miners.⁶¹ In the 1857 census there were 85 Jews recorded living at Castlemaine. Around this time, the Jewish community in Castlemaine asked for the loan of a Sefer Torah from the Melbourne Hebrew Congregation for Holyday services.⁶² A Jewish settlement with a synagogue was also established at Eaglehawk, in the northern part of Maldon.⁶³

8.2 Educating

There have been three distinct phases in the education system in Victoria. During the first phase, 1851-1862, two separate streams of educational administration operated across the then colony relating to National (secular) and Denominational (religious) schools.

The introduction of a single administrative system in 1862 under the Common Schools Bill, or the second phase, was meant to reduce the influence of the religious schools but the secularisation of schooling did not prevail until after the introduction of the Education Act of 1872 at the beginning of the third phase.

The first schools in the central goldfields district were housed in tents, which were crowded and uncomfortable, being hot in summer and cold and wet in winter. As the population grew, more substantial or permanent buildings were constructed often with the teacher's residence attached. In some instances, a non-dedicated building was rented before a purpose-built school was erected. Many schools were small and within walking distance though with introduction of school buses, etc, and changing demographics, many of the earlier schools have closed, especially in the outlying areas.

The Shire is notable for retaining several schools from the first two phases, that is, they were established pre-1873.

8.2.1 Primary Education

National Schools (1851 – 1862)

The Victorian National Board of Education was established in 1851 and by mid-1852 it was evident that the most urgent educational need was on the gold fields.

⁶¹ S Rutland, *The Jews in Australia*, pp22-23

⁶² L Goldman, *The Jews in Victorian in the Nineteenth Century*, pp129-165

⁶³ V Markham & A Leckie, *Maldon, Portrait of a Goldfields Town*, p14

The Board's first inspector, William Miller, ordered tents to accommodate 60 to 100 students however he absconded from his role and Benjamin Kane, the then secretary assumed the role of Acting Inspector. Kane arrived at Mount Alexander on 26 January 1853 with an 'impressive cavalcade', which included tents for two schools and two for the associated residences but also teachers, furniture and books. The tents were erected over the next few weeks: a smaller tent (30x14 feet) was assembled at Forest Creek and opened 31 January; and a larger tent (30x20 feet) at Fryerstown, opening on 12 February.⁶⁴

These tents were wholly unsuitable and by the end of 1853, the two residential tents had burnt down, and the roofs of the school tents soon became ineffective against the rain. The Fryerstown school was relocated twice – to Chapel Hill and then Golden Gully, where it was upgraded to a building with timber walls and a canvas roof. The new canvas roof lasted about a year, though it took another six months for a more effective zinc clad roof to be installed. The fate of the Forest Creek tent was similar however the local community purchased a store for the use of the school in April 1855.⁶⁵

A few other National Schools were erected in the Shire, though only one, that at Taradale (now State School no. 614) survives and continues to be used. It was opened in 1855 and enlarged in 1874.⁶⁶



Figure 196: Taradale State School (2014)

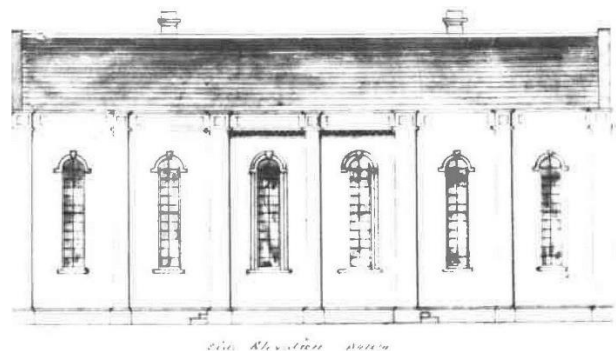


Figure 197: Castlemaine National School, 1856, elevation
(Source: L Burchell, *Victorian Schools, 1837–1900*, p59)

In 1856, the Castlemaine National School, designed by architect Frederick Poeppel, was constructed in brick with stuccoed walls, unusually in a Regency style manner on the site of the (South) Castlemaine State School (No. 119). National schools were typically plain and classicising detailing was rare. By the end of the 1880s, the Castlemaine school was however said to be in poor condition.⁶⁷ The building survived for some years after the extant building dating to 1875 was constructed. Subsequently it was used as the first Teachers Training School established in Victoria but has been demolished.⁶⁸

A surviving National School was erected near the railway station in Newstead during 1859, but was superseded by a new State School (SS452) built on the other (east) side of the Loddon River during 1877.⁶⁹

Denominational Schools (1851-1862)

During the early 1850s, there was more than four times the number of students in Denominational Schools than the National Schools in Victoria.

A denominational school survives at Maldon, one of the few intact, non-vested examples in the State. The former Anglican Denominational School, known as the Penny School (referring to the amount charged to parents) was constructed in 1856-57 of brick on a stone base. Severely damaged in a storm during 1857, it was rebuilt on the original stone base with the superstructure from the local ragstone with some brick Tudor decorative elements in 1862. It became a Common School (No. 431) in 1862. From 1873-75, it housed the Maldon State School No. 1254 until a

⁶⁴ L Burchell, *Victorian Schools*, p28. National School' was written on each side of the tents

⁶⁵ L Burchell, *Victorian Schools*, pp 28-29

⁶⁶ R Maltby, *Taradale – My Home Town Valley*, p41; L Blake (ed.), *Vision and Realisation*, vol. 2, pp665-666

⁶⁷ L Burchell, *Victorian Schools*, pp53, 64. Refer to p. 59 for drawings.

⁶⁸ L Blake (ed.), *Vision and Realisation*, vol. 2, p624; An 1884 photograph showing the relationship of the two buildings is reproduced in G Hocking, *Castlemaine: From Camp to City*, p192.

⁶⁹ L Blake (ed.), *Vision and Realisation*, vol. 2, p657

new building was constructed, after which the Penny School was utilised for religious purposes.⁷⁰ The twin porches provided separate entrances for boys and girls.⁷¹



Figure 198: Former Anglican Denominational School (Penny School), Maldon (2014)
Stone section with two porches is the original part

At Barkers Creek the first school was established by the Wesleyan authorities and operated from a small slab building (now demolished). The school was taken over by the Government in 1858 and was assigned the number 85. In 1875, the extant school building was constructed and became State School No.1606.⁷²

Common Schools (1862 – 1872)

The introduction of the Common Schools Act of 1862 created a two tiered system in terms of funding. The schools located on Government property were known as vested schools and could receive assistance for construction and maintenance as well as salaries, whereas the non-vested (denominational) could only receive assistance for teacher salaries. Although the Act was expected to '... reduce the denominational influence in education and amalgamate many of the smaller schools', the predominance of the former denominational schools (about 2.5 times more) however made this task difficult.⁷³ The extant numbering system for schools was established at this time.

Generally, Common Schools were small and relatively plain with little adornment due to local poverty and the apparent indifference to the importance of education from both the Government and the population. Local building material was typically employed, such as granite at Faraday (no. 797, 1869) and Sutton Grange (no. 798, 1870), before the railway was constructed to enable the more inexpensive freighting of materials.⁷⁴ These two schools were designed by the architect/engineer Thomas Muntz and are the only two granite school buildings in the State.⁷⁵ They are no longer used for their original purpose.

⁷⁰ VHR Citation H1382 (Former Denominational School)

⁷¹ L Burchell, *Victorian Schools*, p57

⁷² H Carr, *Barkers Creek: Birthplace of Mount Alexander Goldfields*, pp67-69. It was closed in 1992.

⁷³ L Burchell, *Victorian Schools, 1837-1900*, p68. There were also some quasi-vested schools, which were privately owned National schools.

⁷⁴ L Burchell, *Victorian Schools*, pp74-75

⁷⁵ L Blake (ed.), *Vision and Realisation*, vol. 2, pp689-690; K James & N Davis, *History of Sutton Grange*, p60.



Figure 199: Faraday School (1972)
(Source: *Herald and Weekly Times Library*, 1972)



Figure 200: Guildford Primary School, No. 264 (2014)

Two former Common Schools however continue to operate as schools. The Guildford Primary School (no. 264) was modelled on a Board of Education plan in 1868 by Castlemaine architect, J F Kibble, who added Gothic windows and a calico lined ceiling (which survives).⁷⁶ In the following year (1869), a common school was built at Elphinstone (no. 220), though it was remodelled in 1912.⁷⁷

Other schools established in the Shire during this period include that at Barfold (No. 703), a weatherboard school, now demolished, which existed from 1863-1882. Details of the materials used reveal typical approaches during the period - it had a shingle roof and a calico ceiling. The lining boards were American and internally only extended to a height of 5 feet (1.5 metres), with the upper sections of the walls being lined with canvas and paper. By 1875, it was said to be in poor condition and students were transferred to nearby, newer State schools during the early 1880s.⁷⁸

The Common school built at Chewton in 1870 (No. 1054, formerly Park School) incorporated some re-used materials from a market hall into a new brick school. It was demolished in 1917 though some parts are said to survive.⁷⁹ In 1871, the local sandstone was employed in combination with brick quoins at Muckleford South. It was one of the last common schools to be erected and is now used as a hall.⁸⁰

State Schools (1872 onwards)

Subsequent to a Royal Commission in 1867, a combined system was established under the Education Act of 1872 which made elementary education '... free, compulsory and secular ...' for children aged 6 to 15. The Government schools became known as State Schools and local control passed to the central Government.⁸¹ A few years after the Act, the number of Denominational schools had drastically reduced, though as the Catholic Church conducted their own education system, they retained the majority of their schools.⁸² The 1872 Education Act prompted a massive building program across the State and many of the schools in the Shire were built subsequent to this date.

⁷⁶ VHR Citation H1030: *Guildford Primary School No. 264*; L Blake (ed.), *Vision and Realisation*, vol. 2, pp639-40. An alternate date of 1864 is provided for its construction.

⁷⁷ K James & N Davis, *History of Elphinstone*, pp17-20; L Blake (ed.), *Vision and Realisation*, vol. 2, p635. The school was however established in 1863.

⁷⁸ K James & N Davis, *A History of Barfold*, pp72-78, 85. The school was non-vested and the funds for its construction was mostly raised by the local community.

⁷⁹ L Blake (ed.), *Vision and Realisation*, vol. 2, pp725-26; K James, *Schools of the Chewton Borough*, pp55-72; L Burchell, *Victorian Schools*, p83. It relocated in 1911 to the existing school in Hunter Street.

⁸⁰ VHR Citation, H1701 (Former Common School, no. 1124); L Burchell, *Victorian Schools*, pp74-75; L Blake (ed.), *Vision and Realisation*, vol. 2, p738

⁸¹ C Woolman, 'The State of Feeling in the District', *Provenance: The Journal of Public Record Office Victoria*, no. 11 (2012), pp1-2. A major reason for centralising the administration was to remove schools from local sectarian pressures.

⁸² L Burchell, *Victorian Schools*, pp68, 90



Figure 201: Ruin of school, Gower (2014)



Figure 202: Yapeen Primary School (2014)

Several small schools were erected in the Shire during the 1870s, which only had a single teacher and consisted of one or two rooms with an entry porch and gable roof. In 1874, the basalt school at Gower (originally North Muckleford, No. 1149) was erected but was closed in 1908.⁸³ Currently the end walls survive. Another early example is the school at Yapeen (1877), which has only recently been closed.

Two slightly larger buildings were constructed at Baringhup and Newstead during the mid-1870s, both of which continue to operate. In 1876 the Baringhup State School (No. 1687) re-opened in a new basalt building to accommodate the 95 pupils enrolled with an attached residence.⁸⁴ The original part of the extant school at Newstead (No. 452) was constructed in 1877, replacing an earlier National School located elsewhere in the town.⁸⁵

Four larger State schools were erected in the Shire during the 1870s, which continue to function as such, to the design (or under the direction) of the noted Education Department architect, Henry Robert Bastow. Although they have varying roof forms, they are all red brick buildings with cream (and brown) brick highlights (banding, arches, etc) and stone plinths. Three also retain a slate roof (excluding Campbell's Creek).

The earliest of this group was the Maldon Primary School (No. 1254), which opened 1873 on a new site with an initial attendance of 750 pupils. Designed in the Victorian Free Gothic style, it was constructed in brick from the local Wagener's Brickworks.⁸⁶

The extant building at Castlemaine State School (No.119) was constructed in 1875, on a site established in 1855. When the new building opened it accommodated 900 students, so that it was already at capacity thus requiring the construction of the Castlemaine North State School (No. 2051).⁸⁷ The latter was opened in 1878 and also designed in of Victorian Free Gothic style, it has an asymmetrically placed tower. The façade is notable also for retaining the original window pattern, altered on many schools during the early 20th century.⁸⁸

The extant school at Campbell's Creek (No. 120) was constructed in 1878 to accommodate 300 pupils on a new site in the township.⁸⁹ Like the Castlemaine North State School built in the same year, it has hipped-gable/jerkinhead roof sections.

⁸³ L Blake (ed.), *Vision and Realisation*, vol. 2, p741. Initially it had a shingle roof.

⁸⁴ C Woolman, 'The State of Feeling in the District', *Provenance: The Journal of Public Record Office Victoria*, p3. The first school at Baringhup opened in 1855 but by 1860 the building was condemned and the school moved into the local Free Library Hall, which later became a Common School.

⁸⁵ L Blake (ed.), *Vision and Realisation*, vol. 2, p657

⁸⁶ VHR Citation H1394 (Primary School No. 1254); L Blake (ed.), *Vision and Realisation*, vol. 2, pp750-51

⁸⁷ L Blake (ed.), *Vision and Realisation*, vol. 2, p624

⁸⁸ VHR Citation H1393 (Primary School No. 2051); L Blake (ed.), *Vision and Realisation*, vol. 2, p812

⁸⁹ L Blake (ed.), *Vision and Realisation*, vol. 2, pp625-26. The school commenced in 1854 as a National school in a tent on the opposite side of the highway. The tent was replaced with a timber building in 1856. R Bradfield, *Campbells Creek*, pp52-53



Figure 203: Maldon Primary School, No. 1254 (2014)



Figure 204: Campbell's Creek Primary School, No. 120 (2014)

Fewer weatherboard schools have been erected in the Shire than brick and most were established in the eastern part of the Shire, mainly in the Barfold area, during the late 19th century. For instance, two schools were opened at Emberton during 1874: the school at Emberton North (No. 1416) operated from 1874-1899 and that at Emberton (South) (No. 1450), from 1874 to 1885. The latter was subsequently used as a mechanics institute until 1906, before it was moved to Barfold to be employed as the extant hall.⁹⁰ The other timber State school to be erected in the area was the Watchbox Gully State School (no. 2375), which functioned from 1881 to 1902 (east of Barfold). It was moved in 1903 to become the Barfold State School (no. 3424), which had commenced at another site in 1902. The latter school operated until 1975 however the original building was demolished in 1971 and replaced by a portable class room, subsequently relocated to Kyneton.⁹¹ A weatherboard school, dating to 1911, survives at Chewton (No. 1054).⁹² The design is typical of schools from the Federation period.

During the latter 20th century, a new school with large banks of windows and skillion roofs was opened at Winters Flat (in Castlemaine) in 1964, and replaced an earlier National School building (1862).⁹³ It, like some other schools in the Shire, have gained substantial new facilities as part of the Federal Government's BER (Building Education Revolution) program.

In 1972, six children and a teacher were kidnapped at the Faraday school and held for a ransom of one million dollars. This event led to the closure of many single teacher schools across the State for security reasons.⁹⁴

8.2.2 Private Schools

Several private schools have existed, in particular during the early days of settlements before government schools were constructed. During the 1850s, private schools were set up in townships such as Fryerstown, Guildford and Yapeen, and during the 1860s at Newstead and Tarilta.⁹⁵ In 1903, Maldon possessed two private schools.⁹⁶

A notable private school in Castlemaine was the Castlemaine Ladies School, established in Templeton Street, Castlemaine in 1896.⁹⁷ The school moved to buildings in Doveton Street,⁹⁸ before relocating to Melbourne in 1920 as St Catherine's School, continuing to this day.

⁹⁰ K James & N Davis, *A History of Barfold*, pp93-95, 103, 111+287

⁹¹ K James & N Davis, *A History of Barfold*, pp113, 130-31, 163-64

⁹² K James, *Schools of the Chewton Borough (1853-2009)*, p61

⁹³ L Balmer, *Winters Flat Primary School (No. 652) 150th Anniversary*, pp7, 30

⁹⁴ VHR Citation, H1701 (Faraday Primary School, No. 797); Information provided by Council officers.

⁹⁵ P Taylor, *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead*, Stage 2, Section 2, Environmental History, p94

⁹⁶ J Smith (ed.), *The Cyclopaedia of Victoria, 1903*, p390

⁹⁷ St Catherine's School website <http://www.stcatherines.net.au/115-years>, accessed 10/10/2014

⁹⁸ Castlemaine Historical Society Inc., *A Drive through Sections of Historic Castlemaine*, [pamphlet]

8.2.3 Secondary Education

Until the mid-20th century, up to Grade 8 could be taught in State Schools. As more secondary schools were constructed, this was restricted to Grade 6 for primary and commencing at Form 1 (Grade 7) for secondary schools.⁹⁹

Secondary education in the Shire was first provided by a Grammar School in Hargreaves Street, Castlemaine. In 1910, the Hargreaves Street school was taken over by the Education Department and the Castlemaine High School was established at the Hargreaves Street site pending the construction of a new school. In 1914 the new school building was opened in Templeton Street. This building was only used for a few years due to continued growth in the student population with a larger, two storey red brick building (extant) constructed in 1918 for the High School in Market Square (Mostyn Street).¹⁰⁰



Figure 205: Former Castlemaine High School (2014)



Figure 206: Former School of Mines, Castlemaine (2014)

The Junior Technical School took over the earlier Templeton Street building and then in 1967, the Mostyn Street building, when the Castlemaine High School moved to a larger premises in north Castlemaine (at Milkmaids Flat).¹⁰¹

Castlemaine High School merged with the Castlemaine (Technical) College in 1994 to form the Castlemaine Secondary College, which is now a multi-campus school.

8.2.4 Tertiary Education

Formal technical education was offered by the Schools of Mines, which taught applied sciences, and were popular in the large gold mining towns of Victoria. The Castlemaine School of Mines was established in 1887, though there were more enrolments for non-mining subjects reflecting the demands of other industries in the area.¹⁰² It was renamed the Castlemaine Technical College in 1958.¹⁰³ It issued Education Department diplomas until 1971 and a new building was erected in 1976.¹⁰⁴

8.2.5 Mechanics Institutes & Libraries

During the 19th century, mechanics' institutes were established throughout Britain and its colonies as part of a movement to provide education and opportunities for self-improvement to the working classes. They were essentially the forerunners of the public library system. The movement flourished in Victoria, more so than elsewhere in the country, and by the end of the 19th century nearly every town in Victoria had a mechanics' institute. The institutes held lectures and generally offered a library, a reading room and sometimes a museum, and were also used as a venue for community functions. Generally modest single storey buildings, more substantial institutes were erected in the larger towns. Many survive and are generally still in use for community purposes.

⁹⁹ K James & N Davies, *A History of Barfold*, p70

¹⁰⁰ L Blake (ed.), *Vision and Realisation*, vol. 2, p859

¹⁰¹ R Bradfield, *Castlemaine, A Golden Harvest*, pp43-44; L Blake (ed.), *Vision and Realisation*, vol. 2, pp859, 870

¹⁰² VHR Citation H1644: *Former School of Mines*

¹⁰³ Premier of Victoria website, <http://www.premier.vic.gov.au/media-centre/media-releases/5123-minister-hall-celebrates-125-years-of-castlemaine-education.html> *Minister Hall Celebrates 125 years of Castlemaine Education*, accessed 13/10/2012

¹⁰⁴ Information provided by the CHSI, May 2015



Figure 207: Taradale Mechanics' Institute/Athenaeum (2014)



Figure 208: Fryerstown Mechanics' Institute (2014)

Most of the mechanics' institutes in the Shire were established during the 1850s and 1860s. Construction of the former Castlemaine Mechanics Institute (now the library), established in 1855 and is said to have been the first literary institute on the Mount Alexander Goldfields. Construction of the extant Renaissance Revival building commenced in 1857 as a hall and has subsequently been enlarged in several phases.¹⁰⁵

The Fryerstown Mechanics' Institute was opened in 1863 and a library was added the following year.¹⁰⁶ The reading room was open from 7.30pm until midnight. In later years, dances were held in the hall, which was extended in 1892.¹⁰⁷ In Taradale, a Mechanics' Institute was formed by 1858, although it seems the building was not constructed until some years later. In 1886, the library was comprised of 1,381 volumes, and in 1927 the building and its contents were damaged by fire.¹⁰⁸ A late example was the Mechanics Institute at Elphinstone, which was constructed in 1909 though demolished in 1979.¹⁰⁹

Figure 209: Maldon Mechanics' Institute
(Source: Maldon Athenaeum Library, www.maldonlibrary.org.au)

Figure 210: Newstead Mechanics' Institute (2014)

The first Maldon Institute was built in 1863, and became known as the Athenaeum Library. The original timber building was destroyed by fire in 1933, along with many holdings, and was replaced by the extant brick building with large stained glass windows in the following year.¹¹⁰ The Newstead Institute was designed in a classicising mode during 1868.¹¹¹

¹⁰⁵ Perrott Lyon Mathieson, *City of Castlemaine Architectural and Historical Survey*, item 17. It was designed by A Price.

¹⁰⁶ The Fryerstown Mechanics' Institute was constructed in memory of Robert O'Hara Burke using local funds raised.

¹⁰⁷ Fryerstown pamphlet (Sept. 2007)

¹⁰⁸ K James & N Davis, *A History of Eight Central Victorian Mechanics' Institutes*, pp146-168

¹⁰⁹ K James & N Davis, *A History of Eight Central Victorian Mechanics' Institutes*, p44

¹¹⁰ Jacobs Lewis Vines, *Maldon Conservation Study*, part 2, p40

¹¹¹ W Jacobs et al, *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead*, stage 2, section 3, vol. 3, Newstead Uniting Church (place no. ND/42). It was designed by Castlemaine architect, T F Kibble.

8.3 Establishing Public Halls

Most public halls were developed by a local Government authority but some were instigated by other entities. The public halls that survive in the Shire are diverse in terms of their scale and design. They are used for a wide variety of activities, with many during the 19th century hosting regular balls and a range of leisure activities, e.g. carpet bowls.

Public halls provided a place for a range of social activities that were crucial to life in townships. Although hotels often fulfilled a similar function in the early days of a township, they did not allow for the socialisation of women and children. Many were designed as community halls but some were initially employed by a specific organisation (e.g. friendly society). During the first half of the 20th century, they were typically used to hold dances and during the mid-20th century were often used for film screenings. The halls erected during this time, tended to be larger than some of the smaller 19th century examples and often had sprung timber floors. Kitchen and supper rooms were included in the design or became standard additions.



Figure 211: Baringhup Hall (2014)



Figure 212: Taradale Hall (2014)

What is now the Chewton Town Hall (1860) was built by private speculators and rented by the local Council and is reportedly the smallest town hall in the State.¹¹² The hall at Taradale was erected in 1865 as an Oddfellows Hall, and even though it was sold in 1866, it continued to be referred to as such into the 20th century.¹¹³

The largest town hall in the Shire is that at Castlemaine, designed in 1898 by the architects Wilkinson and Permewan in the Anglo-Dutch style.¹¹⁴ Another 19th century hall to survive is the brick example with a rendered façade at Taradale. The timber Barfold Hall was constructed as the Emberton Primary School (No. 1450), functioning as such from 1874 to 1886. It then was used as a Mechanics Institute until 1906, when it was moved to Barfold.¹¹⁵

Public halls were constructed during the 20th century at Harcourt (1911), Sutton Grange (1912),¹¹⁶ and Guildford (brick, c.1957). The hall at Harcourt was built by the local lodge/branch of the Australian Natives Association (ANA) to serve local members but also for general events. It was converted to the Heritage Centre in 1991.¹¹⁷ In addition, what is now the Baringhup Hall had been the workmen's quarters at Cairn Curran.¹¹⁸ The corrugated metal cladding is evocative of the period and its former use.

In recent years, some new facilities, typically known as Community Centres have been erected at Campbells Creek and Newstead.

¹¹² K Twigg & W Jacobs, *Shire of Metcalfe Heritage Study*, vol. 1, Environmental History, p40

¹¹³ Taradale Hall Committee webpage, accessed 21.08.2015; It was designed by a local Chewton architect, T L Brown (*Mount Alexander Mail*, 8 July 1865, p2)

¹¹⁴ Perrot Lyon Mathieson, *City of Castlemaine Architectural and Historical Study*, item 13

¹¹⁵ K James & N Davis, *A History of Barfold*, pp103, 111+287

¹¹⁶ K James & N Davis, *History of Sutton Grange*, pp182-186. Initially timber but replaced with the extant brick building in 1969

¹¹⁷ H Carr, *Bridging the Generations- the story of Harcourt*, p134; Harcourt Valley Community website <http://harcourt.vic.au/> accessed 25/09/14

¹¹⁸ Information provided by George Milford, 18/07/2014

8.4 Creating Community Organisations

8.4.1 Associations & Societies

Friendly Societies

From the 1850s, friendly societies, based on British mutual aid systems, were popular in the Shire. In 1872, over 60% of European males in Castlemaine belonged to friendly societies, substantially more than the 25% across the State. Friendly society members made regular contributions to a pooled fund, from which payments could be made to a member in a time of crisis such as illness or death. The societies were also a way for people to create and participate in a social network, and most chose a society according to religious or ethnic affiliations.¹¹⁹

There were a great variety of friendly societies in the Shire, such as the Hibernian Australasian Catholic Benefit Society, the Independent Order of Rechabites, the Freemasons, the Orange Lodge, the Australian Natives Association and various orders of Oddfellows.¹²⁰ Not much survives with regards to buildings although two Oddfellow's halls do, one at Campbells Creek, which was erected in 1863 soon after the branch of the society was established,¹²¹ and one at Taradale which was erected in 1865 although was short lived.



Figure 213: Former Rechabite Hall, Campbells Creek (2014)



Figure 214: Former Freemasons' Hall, Maldon (2014)

The Independent Order of Rechabites was a friendly society founded as part of the temperance movement, and members were required to abstain from alcohol. Strong centres for Rechabite activity were Campbells Creek and Harcourt. In Harcourt, the strong influence of the Rechabite organisation led to the closure of its hotels in the 1900s.¹²² A Rechabite Lodge was also opened at Barkers Creek in 1869, though in 1877 it was reported to have been deliberately burned to the ground. The Rechabite members immediately rebuilt their hall with voluntary labour using local slate and stone, completing it within five months.¹²³

Freemasons

During the late 1850s, Freemason brethren established several lodges on the goldfields. These early lodges were typically governed by one of the three prominent governing constitutions: English, Scottish and Irish which arrived in Victoria with settlers from each country. The third Freemasons Lodge formed on the goldfields (after Bendigo and Ballarat) was the Mount Alexander Lodge (English Constitution), which opened in 1856. Approximately two years later, the Castlemaine Lodge (Irish constitution) opened and was later called St. John's Lodge and Forest Creek St. John's

¹¹⁹ H Holst, *Making a Home: A History of Castlemaine*, pp73-88. Membership to friendly societies was typically available to men only. Various orders of Oddfellows included the Manchester Unity Independent Order (MUIOOF), the Independent Order (IOOF) and the Grand United Order (GUOOF).

¹²¹ W Jacobs et al, *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead*, stage 2, section 3, vol. 1, Former Oddfellows Hall (place no. CC/54). During the first half of the 20th century, the site was used as a cordial factory.

¹²² H Carr, *Bridging the Generations*, p31

¹²³ K Twigg and W Jacobs, *Shire of Metcalfe Heritage Study*, vol. 3 (Barfold-Elphinstone), BC20, pp175-176. In the 1920s and 1930s, Lodge membership declined, and the building was sold. It is now used as a private residence.

Tradesmen's Lodge. This closed in 1865 with its remaining members joining the Mount Alexander Lodge.¹²⁴ The lodge remained active for 148 years before closing in 2004.¹²⁵

Two Freemason lodges were also established at Maldon's within a twelve month period during the late 1850s: the McKenzie Lodge (English Constitution) and Southern Cross Lodge of Tarrengower (English Constitution).¹²⁶ In 1861, the members of the McKenzie Lodge combined with the Southern Cross Lodge. A year later a new McKenzie Lodge moved to Vaughn and then relocated again in 1871 to Newstead.¹²⁷ The Southern Cross Lodge used a building constructed circa 1863, and which gained its current façade in 1907.¹²⁸ The Southern Cross Lodge is now located at the Maldon Masonic Centre, a late 20th century building.

8.4.2 Other Groups

There was a diversity of other types of societies that formed in the 19th century. For example in Castlemaine, a horticultural society was formed in 1861 for those who 'find a pure and refined pleasure in the cultivation of flowers',¹²⁹ and the Castlemaine Pioneers and Old Residents Association was founded in 1880 to record the early history of the area.¹³⁰

During the 20th century, different types of community support organisations/groups emerged such as the Returned & Services League of Australia (RSL), Country Women's Association (CWA), Girl Guides, Red Cross, Scouts, Service Clubs (e.g. Apex,¹³¹ Lions and Rotary) and environmental groups (e.g. Landcare). There is a strong force of people in the Shire who regularly volunteer their time to organisations and groups.¹³²



Figure 215: RSL Hall, Castlemaine (2014)

The RSL was formed in June 1916 by troops returning from WWI, at a time when there was no formal Government welfare service for veterans. The Castlemaine RSL building was completed in 1921.

The Castlemaine Branch of the Country Women's Association was founded in 1928,¹³³ the same year that the Country Women's Association of Victoria was founded. The Castlemaine branch first gathered at the State Savings Bank. Since the 1990s the CWA have met in the Ray Bradfield Rooms near the market building.¹³⁴

¹²⁴ P Thornton, *The History of Freemasonry in Victoria*, pp21-23

¹²⁵ 'Spotlight on SEAVIC Lodge No. 8', *Freemasonry Victoria*, no. 140 (Spring 2014), p6. Freemasonry is a worldwide fraternal organisation that promotes ethics, philosophy, personal development and community service.

¹²⁶ A Williams, *Maldon and the Tarrengower Diggings*, p83

¹²⁷ P Thornton, *The History of Freemasonry in Victoria*, p23

¹²⁸ Jacobs Lewis Vines Architects, *Maldon Conservation Study*, part 2, p13

¹²⁹ H Holst, *Making a Home: A History of Castlemaine*, p72

¹³⁰ The Castlemaine Association of Pioneers and Old Residents, *Records of the Castlemaine Pioneers*

¹³¹ T Shill and M Tolland, *Castlemaine Apex Club: 1937-1982 The First 45 Years*, pp1-3. The Apex Club of Castlemaine was founded in 1937, five years after the beginning of Apex in Geelong.

¹³² Information provided by Council staff

¹³³ Country Women's Association Castlemaine Branch Facebook page

Following the formation of the Australian Branch of the British Red Cross Society after the outbreak of World War I in August 1914,¹³⁵ local branches were quickly established, including the Castlemaine Branch which was inaugurated by December 1914,¹³⁶ and the Maldon Branch which had formed by June 1915.¹³⁷ Initially, the Red Cross supplied comforts to Australian sick and wounded soldiers, and accepted various gifts which they sent on to soldiers including shirts, socks, soap, toothbrushes, linen and books.¹³⁸ Fundraising by local branches was undertaken by young and old and included musical performances and the hosting of afternoon teas.¹³⁹

From the mid-century, local historical societies began to be established, and the Mount Alexander branch of the National Trust was established in 1989.¹⁴⁰

8.5 Health & Welfare Services

Prior to the establishment of hospitals, medical treatment on the gold fields was rudimentary. The dangerous and unsanitary conditions of the goldfields meant that demand for doctors was high, although many could not afford to pay. In 1853, there were eighteen qualified doctors on the Mount Alexander goldfields and by the next year the number had increased to twenty five.¹⁴¹ There was no formal training for doctors in Australia at that time, and many of the 'doctors' who practised on the goldfields were untrained. The compulsory registration of qualified medical practitioners took effect in 1862.

8.5.1 Hospitals

As the population became increasingly permanent, the establishment of hospitals became necessary. In 1853, a small wooden hospital (30ft by 20ft) was opened in Gingell Street, Castlemaine, with a detached kitchen, surgery and men's rooms, though soon superseded. Over the course of the 19th century, the hospital was enlarged to become a substantial two-storey brick building, now also demolished.¹⁴² Similarly in Maldon, the earlier (1859) timber hospital was replaced in 1867 with the extant two storey brick building, though the flanking single storey wings had been constructed previously in 1860 and 1862 (as separate male and female wards).¹⁴³

The staff at the Castlemaine Hospital were initially all men; two wardsmen, one cook and one janitor. Female nurses were not employed until 1859, but by 1892, nurses had replaced the wardsmen. In the 1870s, formal nurse training schools were established in Australian hospitals which set the standards; in 1892 a training school was established at the Castlemaine Hospital.¹⁴⁴ In 1939, the Castlemaine Hospital was relocated to new buildings in Halford Street where it remained until 1995 (the buildings have since been used for offices). The hospital is now located at the site of the former Benevolent Asylum.

¹³⁴ Mount Alexander Shire website, accessed 28 August 2015; B Stevens-Chambers, *The Feisty Phoenix: The Real Story of the Country Women's Association of Victoria*, p124

¹³⁵ Leon Stubbings, *Look what you started Henry: A History of the Australian Red Cross 1914-1991*, p7

¹³⁶ *The Argus*, 7 December 1914, p10

¹³⁷ *Bendigo Advertiser*, 5 July 1915, p8

¹³⁸ Leon Stubbings, *Look what you started Henry: A History of the Australian Red Cross 1914-1991*, p8; *Mount Alexander Mail*, 31 May 1916, p2 and 18 July 1916, p2

¹³⁹ *The Ballarat Courier*, 3 August 1915, p1

¹⁴⁰ National Trust Mount Alexander Branch Members Update, February 2014 [Newsletter], <http://castlemaine-nationaltrust.nieir.com.au/>

¹⁴¹ Castlemaine Art Gallery & Historical Museum, *Maladies, Medicos and Miracle Cures*, np

¹⁴² Castlemaine Art Gallery and Historical Museum, *Maladies, Medicos and Miracle Cures*, np

¹⁴³ VHR Citation H1683: *Maldon District Hospital*. Different architects were responsible for the single and two storey sections – D R Drape and T F Kibble.

¹⁴⁴ Castlemaine Art Gallery and Historical Museum, *Maladies, Medicos and Miracle Cures*



Figure 216: Maldon Hospital (2014)



Figure 217: Former Castlemaine Hospital, Halford Street (2014)

There were also a number of private hospitals in the Shire, such as 'Ballara' in Castlemaine which operated from 1909 until the early 1940s, and then continued as a doctor's surgery.¹⁴⁵

8.5.2 Benevolent Asylum

The Castlemaine Benevolent Asylum was initially constructed in 1860 funded by a combination of public subscription and Government grant, one of four benevolent asylums that were established in the Victorian goldfields districts around this time. The community support for the asylum was strong and broad-based, with fundraising appeals well-supported across the social, economic, gender and racial spectrum, and 4,000 people attending the procession to lay the foundation stone. The new asylum declared its purpose as 'the relief of the aged, infirm and permanently disabled of all creeds and nations'.¹⁴⁶ In 1955, it was renamed 'Alexander' and ten years later, it was re-classified as a home and hospital for the Aged. In 1986, administration was assumed by the Castlemaine District Community Hospital.¹⁴⁷ The building has been enlarged in several phases over the years, and is now part of the main hospital for the Castlemaine area.



Figure 218: Former Benevolent Asylum, Castlemaine (2014)

8.5.3 Baby Health Centres

The Victorian Baby Health Centres Association was established in 1918, and from the 1920s a comprehensive network of centres was established throughout the State. In 1925, the infant mortality rate in Australia was 10% for babies during their first year.¹⁴⁸

¹⁴⁵ Castlemaine Art Gallery and Historical Museum, *Maladies, Medicos and Miracle Cures*. 'Ballara' is located at 11 Mostyn Street, Castlemaine.

¹⁴⁶ H Holst, *Making a Home: A History of Castlemaine*, p138

¹⁴⁷ Castlemaine Art Gallery and Historical Museum, *Maladies, Medicos and Miracle Cures*, np

¹⁴⁸ Castlemaine Art Gallery and Historical Museum, *Maladies, Medicos and Miracle Cures*



Figure 219: Infant Welfare Centre, Castlemaine (2014)

A proposal for an Infant Welfare Centre in Castlemaine was mooted in 1922, but it was not until 1927, at the initiative of a group of women, that Council proceeded to establish one. The first centre was located in a room at the front of the Town Hall, and while the facilities were basic, it was well supported and remained there for nearly 30 years. A new centre was opened in 1955 in Lyttleton Street; which remains in use today (now known as the Maternal and Child Health Centre) providing a free service for families with children aged 0-6 years.¹⁴⁹ Centres and services were also established in other towns across the Shire, but now operate out of Castlemaine and include home services.

8.6 Commemorating

8.6.1 Graves and Cemeteries

Graves and cemeteries are amongst the oldest surviving fabric that is testament to the European settlement in the Shire. Sometimes they are the only evidence of past activity or settlement in a particular location, and also serve as a reminder of the harsh conditions which claimed the lives of many people. Pre-gold rush it was customary to bury people on private land, often near homesteads, such as at *Glengower* and *Plaistow*,¹⁵⁰ or in isolated graves in the bush.



Figure 220: Grave of 'Three Unknown Pioneers' of the district, at former *Glengower*, Campbelltown (2014)

On the goldfields, death was commonplace due to the hardship and danger of mining life and initially interment was informal.¹⁵¹ The small early gold rush cemeteries, such as those extant at Pennyweight Flat (Moonlight Flat), Deadmans Gully (Golden Point) and Reef Gully (Chewton), closed around 1857.¹⁵²

¹⁴⁹ Castlemaine Art Gallery and Historical Museum, *Maladies, Medicos and Miracle Cures*

¹⁵⁰ P Taylor, *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead*, Stage 2, Section 2, Environmental History, p106. In 1892, Plaistow's Cemetery became Joyces Creek Cemetery in 1892

¹⁵¹ eGold website: <http://www.egold.net.au/biogs/EG00124b.htm>: Laura Donati, *Cemeteries*, accessed 18/08/2014

In 1852, in the face of health concerns, Castlemaine's first official public cemetery was established in present day Templeton Street near Hargraves Street.¹⁵³ Similarly the location of the cemetery in Maldon changed from near the Methodist Chapel in 1853 to the current site north of the township in 1861.¹⁵⁴

The Chinese often sent the remains of their countrymen home to China for burial.¹⁵⁵ Others were buried locally, such as at the Chinese Cemetery at Vaughan which was established in 1852. There is also a large Chinese section in the Castlemaine Cemetery (located at Campbells Creek) as well as a section in the Maldon cemetery.

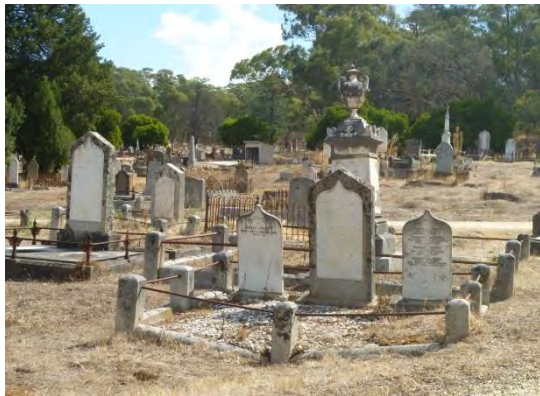


Figure 221: Castlemaine Public Cemetery (2014)



Figure 222: Vaughan Chinese Cemetery (2014)

Some cemeteries retain early plantings such as Cypress trees (e.g. Maldon, Newstead) and early buildings, such as a sexton's office/residence (Castlemaine, Maldon). Other cemeteries in the Shire include those at Chewton, Diamond Gully, Eddington, Fryerstown, Green Hill, Guildford, Harcourt, Joyces Creek, Muckleford, Newstead, Sandon, and Taradale.

8.6.2 War Related Memorials & Avenues of Honour

The patriotic response to the call for volunteers for the Boer War and the two world wars was commemorated by local communities in the form of memorials and avenues of honour.

A number of Avenues of Honour in the Shire were planted between 1916 and 1921 to commemorate WWI.¹⁵⁶ It is unclear how many remain, as some may have fallen victim to road widening and age. The majority of avenues were planted on main streets and roads such as the well preserved one at Newstead on the Pyrenees Highway.¹⁵⁷

¹⁵² VHR Citation H1412: *Cemetery Reef Gully Cemetery*; VHR H1675, Pennyweight Flat; and VHR H1410, Deadmans Gully, VHI H7723-0477: Reef Gully Cemetery

¹⁵³ The bodies from this site were exhumed when it closed in 1856 and relocated to the Campbells Creek Public Cemetery

¹⁵⁴ VHR Citation H2262: *Maldon Cemetery*. This cemetery is less defined by religious denomination than most.

¹⁵⁵ C Fahey & A Mayne, *Gold Tailings, The hidden history of Victoria's Central Goldfield Region*, p117

¹⁵⁶ Avenues of Honour 1915-2015 website, <http://www.avenuesofhonour.org>, *Map of Avenues*, accessed 27/10/2014

¹⁵⁷ M Stroebel, *Gardens of the Goldfields*, p123; Avenues of Honour 1915-2015 website, <http://www.avenuesofhonour.org>, *Map of Avenues*, accessed 27/10/2014, there may have been other avenues at Campbells Creek, Campbelltown, Chewton and Harcourt.



Figure 223: South African War Memorial, Castlemaine (2014)



Figure 224: Avenue of Honour, Newstead (2014)

The Guildford Avenue of Honour, which stretches for approximately 200 metres along the Midland Highway consisting of a mixture of plane, elm and ash trees, was planted in 1919 to commemorate the 74 local men who participated in WWI.¹⁵⁸ The avenue of elms at Chewton is also thought to have been planted in two phases relating to both world wars.¹⁵⁹ There are other avenues in the Castlemaine Cemetery, at Harcourt, and on Anzac Hill at Maldon (1916).

8.6.3 Other Memorials

There are numerous memorials throughout the Shire commemorating eminent people (e.g. politicians, explorers) and important events. The memorials themselves take various forms, including drinking fountains and troughs, trees and cairns.

The imposing obelisk to Burke and Wills Obelisk located on a hill at Castlemaine was erected in 1863 with the money being raised by broad public subscription. It was the first of many commissioned across the State.¹⁶⁰



Figure 225: Burke & Wills Memorial, Castlemaine (2014)



Figure 226: Site of 'Royal Oaks' (now removed), Taradale (2014)

In Taradale, in 1863, two English Oaks (*Quercus robur*) were planted in honour of the marriage of the Prince of Wales to Princess Alexandra. The planting of the oaks was part of a day of festivities which took place in the town following

¹⁵⁸ VHR Heritage Inventory H7723-0482: *Avenue of Honour and War Memorial*

¹⁵⁹ K Twigg & W Jacobs, *Shire of Metcalfe Heritage Study*, vol. 3 (Barfold-Elphinstone), p196, file no. C26AK

¹⁶⁰ VHR Citation H1814: Burke and Wills Memorial Obelisk

the wedding. Although the oaks themselves have been removed in recent years, two commemorative plaques remain. Plantings also took place in Castlemaine and Maldon (near the former market building) in celebration of the same event, with the two at Maldon surviving in good health.¹⁶¹

Other examples include the Patterson Memorial Drinking Fountain in Castlemaine, which was built in 1897 to commemorate Sir James Patterson, Member of Parliament for Castlemaine from 1870-1895 and Premier of Victoria from 1893-1894. The fountain is an elaborate stone structure with a drinking fountain, as well as a trough for horses and cattle and another for dogs.¹⁶²

¹⁶¹ VHR Citation H1389: *Royal Oaks*

¹⁶² VHR Citation H1388: Patterson Memorial Drinking Fountain

9 CULTURAL LIFE

Introduction

This theme explores cultural expression in its many facets, namely through arts, sport, recreation and events. During the mid-19th century, people generally worked six days a week and Sundays, which were supposed to be a day of rest and worship, were more often spent carrying out domestic chores and also engaging in leisure activities. Socially, people were broadly associated with those that frequented hotels and the like, and those who abstained and went to church or pursued other interests such as music, theatre or literary. From the late 19th century, the regulation of working hours provided more time for sporting, cultural and recreational activities, and a broad range of sporting clubs, events, and cultural opportunities were established. The Shire continues to nurture a vibrant cultural life and contributes to the broader cultural life of Victoria.

9.1 Nurturing a Vibrant Arts & Cultural Community

9.1.1 Music

On the diggings, music and song provided an opportunity for pleasure and relief from the monotony and hard work of mining life. Music was performed on portable instruments, such as flutes or violins, after a day's work. Old familiar songs were a means of connecting with people and places left behind, while newly composed songs gave expression to the gold fields' experience.¹

Bands

Bands were popular in the Shire, and they often represented companies or towns. Brass bands were particularly suitable for open-air performance and cultivation by amateurs.² The brass band movement reached its peak at the turn of the century; by then the local band was ubiquitous, playing at sporting meetings, concerts, processions, public meetings and moonlight concerts.³ Band rotundas were built in public parks to provide for public performances.

Early bands in the Shire included the Castlemaine Rifles band, the Fryers Creek Brass Band (formed 1862), and Newstead's Fife and Drum Band, whose members had 'nice uniforms made bright Red Coates & Cap and bright steel buttons down the front.'⁴ The band at Vaughan formed about 1860 and a rotunda was later built which survives in the mineral springs reserve. In Newstead, a rotunda was erected in 1905 in the 'best beauty spot our village can boast' – rebuilt in 1987, it was demolished in 2015.⁵ The Maldon Brass Band was formed in 1863 and has headed manifold processions through the township and performed at public functions.⁶ It continues to perform regularly and gained its first rotunda in 2008.⁷

The Thompsons Foundry Band, which continues to perform, was established in 1885 and were renowned not only for their music, but also for their storytelling and 'dubious' jokes.⁸ Another band which continues to make regular appearances at agricultural shows, parades and festivals throughout the district is the Castlemaine Highland Pipe Band, founded in 1953.⁹

Many smaller bands of various types played at district events, and during the late 20th century, a lively contemporary music scene has evolved in the Shire with the Theatre Royal attracting high profile artists.

¹ eGold website: <http://www.egold.net.au/biogs/EG00281b.htm>, Laura Donati, *Music and Song*, accessed 8/8/2014

² P Taylor, *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead*, Section 2, Environmental History, p105

³ P Taylor, *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead*, Section 2, Environmental History, p105

⁴ P Taylor, *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead*, Section 2, Environmental History, p105

⁵ Interpretation panel at Newstead, quote from the *Newstead Echo*

⁶ A Williams, *Maldon and the Tarrangower Diggings*, p80

⁷ Information provided by the Maldon Museum and Archives Association, May 2015

⁸ Castlemaine Festival website, <http://castlemainefestival.com.au/2011/thompsons-foundry-brass-band/>, accessed 14/10/2014

⁹ The Castlemaine Highland Pipe Band website, <http://www.chpb.org.au>, accessed 13/10/2014

9.1.2 Establishing Collections

Castlemaine Art Gallery and Historical Museum

The Castlemaine Art Gallery and Historical Museum was founded in 1913, and holds a collection of Australian art works and historical items from the area. The gallery building was constructed in 1930; an early example in rural Victoria of 'modern' design by noted architects Stephenson & Meldrum. The austere exterior is distinguished by decorative bas-reliefs.



Figure 227: Castlemaine Art Gallery (2014)



Figure 228: Detail of Art Gallery façade (2014)

Other

Other museums and collections in the Shire include the Maldon Museum, housed in the original market building, which displays artefacts associated with the Maldon district.¹⁰ The Motor Museum at Maldon has closed though the Maldon Vintage Machinery Museum remains operational.

Important collections of archival material are held by the local historical societies with the largest being at the Castlemaine Historical Society Inc. (formed in 1965) and the Maldon Museum and Archive Association Inc. (formed in 1966). Both are regularly open to the public.

There are also several small private galleries providing the opportunity for local artists to display their work.

9.1.3 Developing Alternative Lifestyles

During the 1970s and 80s, a second exodus occurred from Melbourne to the countryside, but instead of the lure of gold, an alternative 'back to nature' lifestyle was the enticement, which also attracted the artistic community. The wealth of small historic buildings and residences in the Shire offered affordable housing options in relative proximity to the larger centres of Castlemaine and Bendigo. Katherine Seppings, an artist, writer and photographer from Castlemaine, made the following comments about the movement:

Then, in the 1970s, on the fringes of a dwindling population, artisans began to move in and around Castlemaine to make their homes. Initially, some squatted in bushland and constructed houses made from earth and stone; others recycled windows and doors from the miner's ruins, resurrecting handmade bricks and old timbers carved and painted, from the tips, from abandoned hotels, houses and stores, creating energy efficient building techniques and inventing environmentally sustainable ways of life. The hippies, artists, writers, potters, musicians, mud-brickers and stone masons who began an Arts and Crafts movement and gave this Central Victorian region its artistic reputation, did so by existing in an affordable location, by making do, and by dedicating life to art.¹¹

Places such as the 'Wheel and Loom' in Maldon are indicative of the time; established in a former produce store building, the Wheel and Loom leased space to various people and co-operatives, such as the 'Jolly Jumbuck' (1970s) which sold homespun wool and handicrafts.¹²

¹⁰ Maldon Inc. website, <http://www.maldon.org.au/attractions/maldon-museum-and-archives-assoc.-inc>, accessed 14/10/2014

¹¹ K Seppings website, http://katherinesepplings.com/exhibitions/Characters_of_Castlemaine, photographic exhibition, 1986, accessed 14/10/2014

¹² Advice received from Barbara Willis, former lessee of the Wheel and Loom, January 2014



Figure 229: Wheel and Loom, Main Street, Maldon (2014)



Figure 230: Raia Baster, spinner, Maldon (Source: G Blackman & J Larkin, *Maldon*, p112)



Figure 231: Neville Wilson, potter, Maldon (Source: G Blackman & J Larkin, *Maldon*, p141)

The legacy of this movement is a wealth of cultural festivals and artistic inheritance. There are many practicing artists living and working in the Mount Alexander Shire. In 2013, the Shire Council formed an Art Registry which includes over 2000 artists, writers and musicians listed in 20 different categories.¹³

In more recent years, there has been an influx of tree changers including many retirees. This generally educated and relatively affluent demographic have an interest in heritage and cultural pursuits and have supported aspects of contemporary inner-city lifestyle to be adopted locally.

9.1.4 Events and Festivals

There are currently over 100 community events and celebrations run in the Shire annually that showcase many forms of arts practice.¹⁴ The Shire's premier arts event, the biennial Castlemaine State Festival, was the first arts festival to be organised in Victoria in 1976 and draws on the distinctive culture of the central Victorian goldfields region.¹⁵



Figures 232 -234: State Festival 1995-97, from left to right: Grunge Gallery, pottery by Ann Geroe, Fringe Festival Parade. (Source: National Library of Australia, nla.pic-an12549243-290, nla.pic-an12549243-286, nla.pic-an12549243-282)

Music festivals include the Maldon Folk Festival, established by a small group of local performers in 1974, and the more recent Guildford Banjo Jamboree, since 2004. Arts and craft shows are held in Sutton Grange, Maldon and Castlemaine and a program of various exhibitions and events at venues such as: the Castlemaine Art Gallery and Historical Museum, The Pocket Gallery in Newstead and the Castlemaine Market.¹⁶ Large numbers of community volunteers are involved in the preparation and delivery of these events.

¹³ Castlemaine Art website, <http://castlemaineart.com>, accessed 14/10/2014

¹⁴ *Mount Alexander Shire Council Arts Strategy 2011-2015*, p5

¹⁵ The Castlemaine State Festival is a ten-day event that features local, national and international artists, and the program encompasses visual arts, music, theatre, opera, and dance. Castlemaine State Festival Website, <http://castlemainefestival.com.au>, accessed 25/06/2014

¹⁶ *Mount Alexander Shire Council Arts Strategy 2011-2015*, p5



Figure 235: Guildford Banjo Jamboree, 2011
(Source: Guildford Banjo Jamboree website, banjojamboree.org)



Figure 236: Art exhibition at the Castlemaine Market (2013)

9.2 Fairs and Shows

Most fairs and shows were annual events, a tradition from the 19th century, with some continuing into the 21st century. These were generally social events and often combined sporting activities with a cultural component. A wide variety of events are held in towns across the Shire, some common to towns throughout the State such as Anzac parades, and others which are unique.

Agricultural Shows

Agricultural shows are a longstanding event held in townships throughout the Shire. The Castlemaine and District Agricultural Show, which began in 1855, features a street parade, sheep dog trials and wood chopping as well as pavilion exhibits.¹⁷ The Castlemaine and Muckleford Agricultural Association had been formed in previous year to organise the event.¹⁸ The Agricultural Show is held at Camp Reserve in Castlemaine during October and the Castlemaine and District Agricultural Society also holds regular dog and horse shows there.

In 1861, land was set aside for the Baringhup Agricultural Society,¹⁹ which combined with Maldon in 1885 to establish the Maldon & Baringhup Agricultural Show.²⁰ The annual show is also held in October at the Maldon Racecourse Reserve.

Harcourt Applefest

Harcourt produces approximately 40% of Victoria's apples,²¹ as well as pears and ciders, and the Applefest is held in March each year after the harvest season. Many activities are held as well as provision for sampling and selling the locally produced fruits, ciders and wines.²²

Maldon Easter Fair

The first Maldon Easter Fair was held on in 1878 and was said to have attracted the largest gathering in Maldon to that date.²³ The fair raises funds for the local hospital and is possibly the longest continuously running Easter fair in Victoria. The festivities include a procession on Easter Monday, traditionally led by a horse and rider, and CFA fire engines from around the district.

¹⁷ Castlemaine and District Agricultural Society Inc. website, <http://www.castlemaineshow.com.au>, accessed 14/10/2104

¹⁸ *Mount Alexander Mail*, 17 June 1854, p1

¹⁹ *Victoria Government Gazette*, 1861, p287

²⁰ In 1901, the highlight of the show was the visit by Lieutenant-Governor Maddon who arrived by train. *Bendigo Advertiser*, 31 October 1901, p3. The Maldon & Baringhup Agricultural Show celebrated 150 years in 2013, operating continuously except during the world war years.

²¹ Harcourt Valley Heritage & Tourist Centre Inc., *Apples*, np

²² Harcourt Applefest website, <http://www.harcourtapplefest.org.au>, accessed 13/10/2014

²³ Maldon Hospital website, <http://www.maldhosp.vic.gov.au/about/history>, accessed 13/10/2014

Motor Vehicle Events

There are several annual car events, including the historic Maldon Tarrengower Hill Climb, the longest running hill climb event in Australia operating for over 80 years and only open to vintage cars and motorbikes.²⁴ A newer event is the Newstead 'Chopped' dirt drag racing.²⁵ Currently the Rotary Castlemaine Truck Show held at the Campbells Creek Recreation Reserve is said to be the pre-eminent truck show in Australia.²⁶ During the early part of the 20th century, the Castlemaine Motor Cycle Club was established and held outings such as a ride from Castlemaine to Daylesford in 1917.²⁷

9.3 Sport

Sporting clubs began to be formed from the mid-1850s, although most diggers had little leisure time, apart from Sundays, to devote to sporting pastimes. As industries began to observe the eight-hour day for workers, there was increased opportunity for participation in sport. A variety of sporting activities during the mid-19th century, some now uncommon, included foot races, prize fighting, and wrestling.²⁸ Few examples of early sporting structures survive.

Athletics

Athletics have been popular in the Shire and during the 1920s, the Castlemaine Athletics Club held a large meeting on Boxing Day when the Castlemaine Gift was run over 130 yards (about 120 metres) with a large monetary prize and the Bulloch Lade Cup.²⁹ The Castlemaine Harriers participated in the Olympic Torch Relay for the Melbourne Olympics of 1956.³⁰

Australian Rules Football

Football clubs were first formed from the mid-19th century in many of towns across the Shire. As time progressed and populations reduced, clubs from different towns merged or players joined clubs from neighbouring towns. The Castlemaine Football Club was formed in 1859 and is the second oldest in Australia (after Melbourne Football Club), joining the Bendigo Football League in 1925.³¹ Football remains popular in the district, with a number of clubs still participating including those at Campbells Creek(1864),³² Chewton (Castlemaine Goldfields), Harcourt, Maldon and Newstead, most of which have joined forces with the local netball club.

Ron Barassi, former player and coach and the first player inducted into the Australian Football Hall of Fame, was born in Castlemaine and spent much of his childhood in Guildford.³³

Cricket

From the mid-1850s cricket clubs began to be formed in the Shire and cricket continues to be played regularly in the present day. Some of the earliest clubs included those at Castlemaine, Forest Creek, Campbells Creek and Barker's Creek. The people of Barker's Creek expressed their hope that those of other diggings would follow their example '... and by so doing, contribute to the good fellowship which is likely to ensue from the truly English and exhilarating game of cricket'.³⁴ This certainly happened in the surrounding district of Maldon with clubs forming at Eagle Hawk, Muckleford, Nuggetty, Sandy Creek and Welshman's Creek.³⁵

The early cricket grounds were little more than areas of relatively flat land, away from digging activity, which were cleared and mown.³⁶ In 1861 a recreation reserve was gazetted; known as Wattle Flat, it was located three kilometres from Castlemaine. At Wattle Flat in March 1862, the All-England-Eleven (the first overseas team to tour the Australian

²⁴ Castlemaine Maldon website, http://www.maldoncastlemaine.com.au/calendar_events/mt-tarrengower-historic-hill-climb, accessed 13/10/2014

²⁵ Newstead website, <http://newstead.vic.au>, accessed 13/10/2014

²⁶ *Campbells Creek Community Plan 2014*, p13

²⁷ *Castlemaine Mail*, 24 November 1917, p2

²⁸ V Markham & A Leckie, *Maldon: Portrait of a Goldfields*, p19

²⁹ *Sporting Globe*, 24 October 1928, p11. First prize was £130.

³⁰ Information provided by CHSI, May 2015

³¹ Bendigo Advertiser, *Castlemaine Football Club starts 150th celebrations*, 27/10/2009

³² W Jacobs et al, *Shire of Newstead Heritage Study*, section 3, vol. 1 (Campbells Creek), place no. CC/06

³³ Wikipedia website, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ron_Barassi, *Ron Barassi*, accessed 14/10/2014

³⁴ R Mack, *Triumph at Wattle Flat, When Castlemaine Beat the Poms*, p11

³⁵ A Williams, *Maldon and the Tarrangower Diggings*, p59

³⁶ R Mack, *Triumph at Wattle Flat, When Castlemaine Beat the Poms*, p12

colonies) were defeated by the amateur Castlemaine-Twenty-Two following a three-day match.³⁷ Inspired by the victory against the All-England-Eleven, enthusiasts in Campbells Creek soon after applied for, and were granted in May 1862, a nine acre reserve for a cricket ground (part of the current larger recreation reserve).³⁸

A notable cricketer from the Shire was William Maldon 'Bill' Woodfull of Maldon, who captained the Australian Test Team during the infamous 'Bodyline Series' in 1932-33.³⁹

Cycling

Cycling events were being organised at Castlemaine by 1881 and a club was in existence by 1885.⁴⁰ A Melbourne to Castlemaine cycling race had been established by 1931 and in 1948 was being sponsored by the Chewton Amateur Cycling Club. At this time, the race was attracting high calibre competitors such as cyclists who had participated in the Empire Games.⁴¹ The Castlemaine Cycling club is currently based at the Wesley Hill Recreation Reserve. Mountain biking is also popular in the Shire.

Netball

There was a separate netball association active in the Shire before teams combined with their local football team, for instance Castlemaine Netball entered the Bendigo Football League in 1991 with the Castlemaine Football Club.

Shooting

A rifle club was established in Castlemaine during 1885,⁴² which developed out of the earlier Castlemaine Rifle Corps formed in 1860 (refer to section 8.6).

In 1901, the new Federal Government initiated a scheme to support civilian rifle clubs around Australia, in light of the withdrawal of the British Army. All towns and cities were offered free land for rifle ranges, £100, and rifles and ammunition offered at low prices. The Victorian Rifle Association was formed and included clubs throughout the Shire, such as at Taradale and Metcalfe.⁴³ Land at the north end of Kalimna Park, Castlemaine was used under a permissive occupancy, probably from 1929.⁴⁴

The Castlemaine Pistol Club, based at Chewton since 1959, was the first pistol club to be established in regional Victoria and a pistol range was set up a few years later.⁴⁵ There is also a Castlemaine Clay Target Club based at Wesley Hill, which was formed in 1975.⁴⁶

Swimming Clubs and Pools

Early swimming spots, apart from local rivers and streams, were in dams formed as part of the gold diggings. At Eaglehawk (north Maldon), an early swimming pool was constructed in 1861 with a bricked floor and filled with water pumped from the Eaglehawk mine. A special enclosure was provided for women as well as separate dressing sheds.⁴⁷

In the late 1920s, a swimming pool was constructed at Elphinstone. A diving board was installed in 1932, and swimming classes were held. The pool was closed in 1969, when it could not meet Commonwealth Health Regulations requiring filtering plants for public swimming pools.⁴⁸

³⁷ V Markham & A Leckie, *Maldon: Portrait of a Goldfields*, p21

³⁸ W Jacobs, P Taylor, R Ballinger, V Johnson & Dr D Rowe, *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead*, Heritage Citations: Volume 1 Campbells Creek, place no: CC/06

³⁹ V Markham & A Leckie, *Maldon: Portrait of a Goldfields*, p21

Woodfull declined a knighthood for his services to cricket, maintaining his teaching career was more important. He later became headmaster at Melbourne High School, Wikipedia website, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bill_Woodfull William Maldon, accessed 13/10/2014

⁴⁰ *Bendigo Advertiser*, 26 November 1881, p1; *Mount Alexander Mail*, 19 August 1885, p2

⁴¹ *The Argus*, 13 July 1931, p6; 19 August 1948, p12; and 28 August 1954, p44

⁴² *Victoria Government Gazette*, 1885, p1999. Initially it was often referred to as the Castlemaine Gun Club (e.g. refer *Bendigo Advertiser*, 31 October 1885, p1 supplement)

⁴³ K James & N Davis, *A History of Metcalfe*, pp218-219

⁴⁴ Township Plan of Castlemaine, C99(2); Wayne Blakeley (Vice-President of the Castlemaine Rifle Club, '150 Year of Military and Civilian Tradition on the Range', nd [document provided by Council Officers])

⁴⁵ Castlemaine Pistol Club website, <http://www.castlemainepistolclub.net/styled/>, accessed 31.08.15

⁴⁶ <http://heyevent.com/event/b4dyk42wvim4ma/castlemaine-clay-target-clubs-40th-anniversary-shoot>, accessed 21.09.15

⁴⁷ A Williams, *Maldon and the Tarrangower Diggings*, p62

In the 1950s, public pools were established at Castlemaine, Maldon, Harcourt, Newstead and Chewton, and these continue to be used.⁴⁹ Swimming clubs have included the well-established Castlemaine Swimming Club, Norwood Hill (located at a private dam) and North Castlemaine.⁵⁰

Notable local swimmer Faith Leech from Sutton Grange was a member of the winning 4x100 metres freestyle relay 1956 Olympics in Melbourne and also won bronze in the individual 100m race. In 1999, Australia Post launched a set of stamps on which she was featured.⁵¹

Tennis

As with cricket and football, tennis clubs were formed in most towns in the district, though not always continuously, depending on population sizes. The Sutton Grange Lawn Tennis Club was functioning by the end of the 19th century with courts located in the school grounds.⁵² The Elphinstone Tennis Club was formed in 1909, with a pavilion erected in 1924. After disbanding in earlier years, the club was reactivated in the early 1980s, competing in the Castlemaine Tennis Association competition but had declined again by 2005.⁵³ A timber tennis club room associated with the Lawn Tennis Courts, constructed during early 20th century, survives in Wheeler Street, Castlemaine.⁵⁴

Other

Other local clubs and/or sports played in the Shire include archery, boxing, soccer, squash and table tennis. The Castlemaine Table Tennis Club currently uses a large mid-20th century building in the Camp Reserve.



Figure 237: Castlemaine Table Tennis Centre (2014)

⁴⁸ K James & N Davis, *A History of Elphinstone*, pp189-190

⁴⁹ The pools at Castlemaine, Maldon, Harcourt and Newstead are Council owned, while the pool at Chewton is now managed by a community group.

⁵⁰ Information provided by the CHSI, May 2015

⁵¹ K James & N Davis, *A History of Sutton Grange* p210

⁵² K James & N Davis, *History of Sutton Grange*, pp200

⁵³ K James & N Davis, *A History of Elphinstone*, pp191-193

⁵⁴ *Castlemaine Mail*, 28 November 2014, p2

9.4 Recreation & Leisure

A variety of recreational activities undertaken during the mid-19th century are now uncommon and included pigeon shooting, gamecock fights, quoits, and kangaroo hunting on the Baringhup Plains.⁵⁵ Others pursuits include badminton, billiards, bagatelle, skittles, petanque (initially associated with Italian immigrants), pony club and quoiting.⁵⁶

Boating

There are three public boat ramps at Cairn Curran Reservoir. Between October and April, the Cairn Curran Sailing Club holds regular events. During the 'Millennium Drought' which began in 2001 and lasted through to 2010, Cairn Curran was virtually dry and sailing suspended.⁵⁷

Bowling & Croquet

The Castlemaine Bowling Club was established in 1886, and moved to its current Berkeley Street location in 1924. The timber pavilion built in 1892 survives at the Castlemaine Bowling Club.



Figure 238: Patterson Pavilion at the Castlemaine Bowling Club (2014)



Figure 239: Campbells Creek Bowling Club (2014)

The Harcourt lawn bowling club was formed in 1955. The first club rooms were in a building which had been relocated from Blights Quarry, and brick rooms were constructed at a later date.⁵⁸ The land on which Campbells Bowling Club is located was purchased in 1960 and is leased by the club that was subsequently formed.⁵⁹



Figure 240: Maldon Croquet Club (2014)

⁵⁵ V Markham & A Leckie, *Maldon: Portrait of a Goldfields*, p19

⁵⁶ R A Bradfield, *Guildford: Some Early History*, pp31-32 An extract from the constitution of the Guildford Quoiting Club highlights 19th century attitudes to recreation and sport - 'As the club is formed solely for encouraging the ancient and manly game of Quoiting, and for assisting the development of muscular science ... to set an example of good nature and forbearance in all matches.'

⁵⁷ Cairn Curran Sailing Club Inc. website, <http://www.ccsc.org.au>, accessed 14/10/2014

⁵⁸ H Carr, *Bridging the Generations, the Story of Harcourt*, p134

⁵⁹ *Campbells Creek Community Plan 2014*, p15

An early timber pavilion survives at the Maldon Croquet Club, which was established during the 1890s. It had initially been used for the local bowling club, also established in the same year.⁶⁰ A croquet club with a small timber building has also existed at Newstead since the 1930s.⁶¹

Fishing

Fishing was popular in the district, with several rivers running through the Shire, including the Coliban, Campaspe and Loddon Rivers. The numerous reservoirs in the district also provided opportunities for fishing. In addition, a fish hatchery was built in 1965 by the Castlemaine Angling Club in the Botanic Gardens.⁶²

In 1900, the Castlemaine Progress Association brought a quantity of brown and Lock Level yearling trout from Ballarat, releasing 100 into the Coliban River between Taradale and Metcalfe. An anglers club at Elphinstone ran from 1908 to 1934.⁶³

Golf

Golf was generally a social game enjoyed by the upper classes, with high fees and special uniforms. Played only sporadically in Australia from the 1840s, clubs were forming by the 1880s and the Castlemaine Golf Club was established in 1899. Land was selected at Milkmaid's Flat for a nine hole course. The course was gradually extended and by 1928 there were 18 holes and as membership increased, the first clubhouse was built. In the early 1930s, the club divided and the Mount Alexander Golf Club was formed only a few kilometres away where the clubhouse was relocated. Matches were also played amongst other clubs in the region. ⁶⁴ A third golf course in the Shire, located at Maldon, was founded in 1908.

Horse Racing

Racing in the Shire dates back to as early as c.1856 when it appears that a race meeting was held at Guildford amongst the gold diggings. The three-day meet began on New Year's Day and was well attended, a grandstand of sorts had been erected for the ladies and at least one brawl broke out.⁶⁵

At Porcupine Flat near Maldon, a racecourse with a hotel and grandstand was established during the 1850s.⁶⁶ The grounds are now used for the annual agricultural show and Maldon and District Campdraft competitions.⁶⁷

The former Newstead Racecourse (in the parish of Strangways) was permanently reserved in 1888,⁶⁸ though the land had been temporarily reserved in 1864 and racing was reported to have commenced by 1860. A grandstand was erected in 1874 but replaced in 1901 as it had been partly blown down (now demolished). The license was cancelled in 1969, though some fabric survives.⁶⁹ Also during the 19th century, races took place at Barfold,⁷⁰ Elphinstone,⁷¹ Sutton Grange,⁷² and Muckleford.

A trotting club was established at Campbells Creek over a century ago, initially with a mile track which was reduced to a half-mile track. Racing events used to be held but now it is registered as a training track.⁷³ Other related events have included a rodeo at Maldon.

⁶⁰ Information provided by the Maldon Museum and Archive Association, May 2015; A Williams, *Maldon and the Tarrangower Diggings*, p60

⁶¹ Jacobs et al, *Shire of Newstead Heritage Study*, vol 3, Newstead Croquet Club (place no. ND/27)

⁶² M Stroebel, *Gardens of the Goldfields Region*, p118

⁶³ K James & N Davis, *A History of Metcalfe*, p208

⁶⁴ J Wyldbore, *A Century of Golf on the Goldfields*, p13-15, 59

⁶⁵ R Bradfield, *Guildford, Some Early History*, pp18-19

⁶⁶ A Williams, *Maldon and the Tarrangower Diggings*, p61

⁶⁷ Australian Campdraft Association website, <http://www.campdraft.com.au>, accessed 14/10/2014. Campdrafting is an Australian horse sport thought to have originated in outback Queensland by stockmen, encouraging 'horsemanship skills and good stewardship towards horses and cattle.'

⁶⁸ *Victoria Government Gazette*, 88.2364 - Strangways S335(7). 73 acres were granted by the Government in 1888 for use as a racecourse. Grant issued c.20/7/1888

⁶⁹ W Jacobs et al, *Heritage Study of the Shire of Newstead*, stage 2, section 3, vol. 3, Newstead Racecourse (place no. ND/32)

⁷⁰ K James & N Davis, *A History of Barfold*, p258

⁷¹ K James & N Davis, *A History of Elphinstone*, p172

⁷² K James & N Davis, *A History of Sutton Grange*, p207

⁷³ *Campbells Creek Community Plan 2014*, p18

Picnicking & Sports Days

Dunstan's Flat and Expedition Pass was a popular recreation area from the 1870s. Picnics for children from Faraday and Castlemaine schools are known to have been held there regularly during the early 20th century near the falls at Dunstan's Flat.⁷⁴



Figure 241: Oak Forest at Mount Alexander (2015)

Other popular picnic places include the mineral springs (e.g. Glenluce, Vaughan Springs), reservoirs (e.g. Cairn Curran Reservoir), Kalimna Park (Castlemaine), Mount Alexander Koala Park, Rock of Ages (Maldon), the Oak Forest (Mount Alexander) and Taradale Park.

The Caledonian Games, a celebration of Scottish highland culture, were a popular New Year's Day event at Wattle Flat, near Castlemaine during the mid-19th century. The games comprised of athletic events such as putting the stone, foot races and high leap, as well as dancing to the music of the bagpipes.⁷⁵ Games or other sporting events were also held for many years on Boxing Day as well as New Year's Day across the Shire.⁷⁶



Figure 242: 'The Caledonian Games, Wattle Flat, Castlemaine', 1861, Cuthbert Charles Clarke. (Source: State Library of Victoria, accession no. H27542)

⁷⁴ K McKimmie, *Chewton Then and Now*, p119

⁷⁵ R Mack, *Triumph at Wattle Flat*, p13

⁷⁶ Information provided by CHSI, May 2015

10 SIGNIFICANCE

10.1 Introduction

This chapter provides a Statement of Significance for the Mount Alexander Shire which is a distillation of the research and analysis that has been undertaken as part of preparing this thematic environmental history.

The *Burra Charter* (or *The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance*) provides guidelines for the assessment of cultural significance and is the principal document in regards to post-contact cultural heritage in Australia.¹ According to the *Burra Charter*, cultural significance defines as 'aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value for past, present or future generations' based on the notion of place. Cultural significance is a broad concept and may relate to either physical or intangible elements or may relate to an array of components over a broad area (such as a cultural landscape). Places that are likely to be of cultural significance are those that contribute to an understanding of the past or which enrich the present. It should also be noted that cultural significance is not a static concept but typically evolves as information comes to light and/or as understanding and interpretation changes.

10.2 What is Significant?

Mount Alexander Shire is a prominent regional municipality of central Victoria. Castlemaine is the largest town and administrative centre in the Shire; other principal townships include Maldon, Campbells Creek, Harcourt, Chewton, Newstead, Elphinstone, Guildford, Taradale and Baringhup. The Dja Dja Wurrung and Taungurung Aboriginal people occupied the land prior to the arrival of European pastoralists in the late 1830s and they have retained an ongoing connection to their country. There are four distinct geological zones (sedimentary, granite, basalt and alluvium) which have profoundly influenced the land uses (agriculture and the utilisation of natural resources) and are integral to understanding the Shire's development. The discovery of gold in the Shire in the early 1850s heralded an extraordinary period of activity and impacted broadly upon all facets of life in the Shire; this is reflected in the richly layered cultural landscape of today, a combination of the altered natural environment and the accumulated built environment.

10.3 How and why is it Significant?

The Mount Alexander Shire is historically, socially and scientifically significant for the following reasons:

- Retention of the custodianship of country by the Dja Dja Wurrung and Taungurung Aboriginal people through disruptive circumstances. Early European settlers benefited from their land management practices (e.g. fire stick farming) and their knowledge of the land.
- Its association with the early explorer Major Mitchell who passed through the study area in September 1836 respectively. Soon after, overlanders started making their way into the area along the Major's Line, as well as squatters in search of the good pasture land described by Mitchell. Part of the holdings and the names of a few original squatting runs (Barfold, Sutton Grange) remain as well as two early homesteads (Plaiستow and Stratford Lodge).
- Its role in the development of key road networks in the State, which provided the basis for the establishment of early coach services and related infrastructure such as hotels/inns. In addition, some early bridges survive, especially composite examples (part stone and timber), constructed because of the many waterways.
- Its associations with rail networks that have developed across the State, primarily with the Melbourne to Echuca railway line, which was extended through the Shire during the early 1860s and was an impetus for further development, especially agricultural. Many fine station buildings survive as well as other infrastructure (Taradale viaduct, Elphinstone Tunnel, and several rail bridges) associated with the line. Three smaller lines were introduced during the subsequent decades.
- Its role in the development of major communications networks in the State, that is, early telegraph and postal systems. Part of an early stone telegraph station survives at Castlemaine and some good examples of late 19th century post offices exist across the Shire.

¹ It also outlines the practical standards for the conservation and management of heritage places.

- Its contribution to the State's agricultural economy, which is primarily related to fine wool production and the fruit growing industry, especially apples and pears, but also to other livestock and cropping activities. Some buildings survive to attest to the significance and longevity of these industries.
- Its place in the central Victorian gold rush. The Mount Alexander goldfields rapidly became one of the largest and most profitable in the State and the world, attracting prospectors from across the country and internationally. Several technical innovations, which were subsequently widely adopted, were developed in the Shire. The many changes to the environment as a result of the mining activity have created a cultural landscape rich with archaeological sites such as remnant structures, water races and channels, and mullock heaps. A wide variety of migrants were attracted to the fields with many sites/building fabric remaining related to these groups.
- Its natural resources are significant especially its quarrying, primarily granite, which has been used in notable buildings and structures within the Shire and throughout the State, though also the smaller slate industry. Its water resources are integral to the State's water storage and supply systems, the Coliban System, which was an engineering feat, and the Cairn Curran Reservoir.
- Its role in the development of the industrial economy of the State, which was propelled by the needs of subterranean gold mining. During the 19th century, a variety of processing and manufacturing industries to support the expanding local population were developed, and several notable buildings reflect these activities.
- The rapid development of several townships during the 1850s with the dramatic increase in the population. This has resulted in a relative proximity of townships, which retain a strong Victorian period character, as compared to much of the State. Castlemaine is the most prominent, but other notable townships include Maldon, Campbells Creek, Chewton, Guildford, Newstead and Taradale. They retain early street layouts, which are mostly grid style, but others are less structured relating to early tracks/routes and/or the location of auriferous deposits.
- Reminders of the many, short-lived gold mining settlements, primarily located in the southern and western parts of the Shire. In addition, there are indications of the settlements that developed under the impetus of selection, mainly in the eastern part. These small settlements have contracted, typically with few physical remnants to identify them, such as a hall or a former school.
- The retention of some of the earliest sites in the State associated with governing. A Commissioner's camp was established in Castlemaine to provide some necessary degree of government control over the large gold rush population. Subsequently, courthouses were established and as government acts allowed, local government authorities.
- The strength of local activism reflected in the agitation for political and civil rights. A particularly notable and early example being the 1851 Monster Meeting at Chewton. From the mid-20th century, this spirit was manifested when the Shire was at the forefront of the urban heritage conservation movement in Victoria.
- The strong sense of community life reflected in the relatively high number of churches, schools, halls and healthcare facilities, many of them early examples. Some of these buildings have become redundant and have been adapted for other purposes. In addition, the depth of community spirit is reflected in the longevity of many community groups and organisations.
- There are many commemorative sites and cemeteries, some of which have early Chinese sections attesting to the prominent presence of this immigrant group in the Shire during the mid-19th century.
- The variety of recreational and leisure sites and events. The artistic life in the Shire initially related more to entertainment sites but from the later part of the 20th century, there has been increasing artistic production emanating from the Shire as it has attracted people seeking alternative or 'tree change' lifestyles.

The Mount Alexander Shire is aesthetically significant for:

- The range and types of natural landscape including Box-Ironbark forests, undulating hills with some prominent features (Mt Alexander), river valleys, granite outcrops, plains, which are juxtaposed with farmland (for grazing and cropping) and built fabric (urban areas and infrastructure).
- The retention of a broad 19th century character and extensive historic streetscapes, both commercial (some with original timber-framed shopfronts) and residential, reflecting key phases of development (Victorian, Federation and Interwar). This has provided a strong base for tourism.

- The relative preponderance of early Victorian period buildings dating to the 1850s and 1860s.
- Vernacular buildings, including outbuildings, displaying traditional building techniques.
- Survival of a few prefabricated buildings from the 1850s, when large numbers were imported into Victoria, but of which few survive, to compensate for the severe building shortage brought on by the gold rush.
- Its retention of 19th/early 20th century beautification works of townships, including public and private gardens and street plantings.
- The survival of early street infrastructure, stone gutters and kerbing,
- Some of the more substantial 19th century commercial and public buildings, which are fine examples and reflect the wealth generated on the nearby goldfields. In some instances, they are relatively rare examples of their type. These include:
 - Banks – especially several examples in Castlemaine,
 - Churches,
 - Commercial buildings, both brick and timber,
 - Courthouses,
 - Maldon Hospital,
 - Hotels,
 - Industrial – especially the flour mill (Barker Street) and Thompsons Foundry at Castlemaine,
 - Markets - at Castlemaine and Maldon,
 - Schools,
 - Town Halls.

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APPENDIX – Early Pastoral Runs

The following table provides a summary of the 16 early pastoral runs that were either wholly or partly established in the Mount Alexander Shire, from the late 1830s to the mid-1840s.¹

Pastoral Run	Initial Licensee	Acreage & Stock	Other details/ Licensee's
Barfold (or Lower Coliban) No. 128	March 1838 - W H Yaldwyn	45,000 acres 400 cattle 15,000 sheep	April 1841 - W H Fancourt Mitchell Oct. 1852 - subdivided into: Barfold & Lower Coliban 1865 - both cancelled
Bough Yards No. 115	May 1840 – William Campbell & C H MacKnight	22,00 acres 5,000 sheep	May 1841 – Cay and Kaye 1844 Mrs Anne Greene April 1845 – Alex Kennedy March 1856 – McGregor and McKinnon 1860- cancelled
Cairn Carren (Manton's Old Station) No. 136	1840 - Fred Manton	100,090 acres 300 cattle 20,000 sheep	June 1840 – Don Campbell Simson June 1841 - Hector Norman Simson Nov. 1841 – D W Langdon & G W Cole 1845 – R P Cunningham June 1847 – John McClaren & J Cunningham Sept. 1848 – W Fletcher April 1854 – M & W Bryant June 1879 - cancelled
Campaspie No. 35	1845 – G Sinclair & R Brodie	20,000 acres 8000 sheep	April 1853 – J Crawford & Co. August 1868 – Goldsborough & Co. June 1880 - cancelled
Campaspie Plains (or Moorabbee) No.114	1838 – C Hutton	144,900 acres 20,000 sheep	Sept. 1852 - subdivided into: Deerinal – cancelled June 1880 Moorabbee – subdivided March 1853 Langwornier – abandoned December 1875
Charlotte Plains No. 170	1840 – Don Campbell Simpson & executors	180,405 acres 900 cattle 28,000 sheep	1851 – subdivided into: Charlotte Plains – cancelled May 1870 Jane Vale – cancelled April 1870 Languycoorie – cancelled 1867
Coliban No. 137	Jan 1838 - Alex. Fullerton Mollison	25,000 acres 1500 sheep	May 1848 – J Orr 1857 - cancelled
Mount Alexander No.1 (WP) No. 21	July 1845 – W Barker	30,000 acres 7000 sheep	Feb 1868 - cancelled
Mount Alexander No. 2/Ravenswood or	1840 – C Sherratt	118,990 acres 15,000 sheep	Aug 1853 - subdivided into: Ravenswood – July 1874 cancelled

¹ Compiled from R V Billis and A S Kenyon, *Pastoral Pioneers of Port Phillip*, part II

Pastoral Run	Initial Licensee	Acreage & Stock	Other details/ Licensee's
Lockwood No. 102			Loddon Plains - June 1868 cancelled
Muckleford	1840 – G W Cole & F W Langdon	70,000 acres	April 1856 – John Menzies April 1856 – M & W Bryant Jan 1875 - cancelled
Plaistow No. 109	1841 – Colin McKinnon	10,000 acres 4000 sheep	1844 - George Joyce Oct. 1846 – G & Alfred Joyce Sept. 1854 – G Joyce June 1866 - cancelled
St Agnes No. 71	1838 – Richard Wedge	19,200 acres 15,000 sheep	April 1840 – James Donnithorne Jan. 1850 – Abraham Booth and Edward Argyle May 1853 – Edward Argyle
Stratford Lodge No. 146	Nov. 1839 – J Orr	22,500 acres 10,000 sheep	Jan. 1855 – John & Edward Orr May 1862 – Hugh Glass Jan. 1867 - cancelled
Strathloddon No. 70	May 1840 – Campbell & Mcknight	25,000 acres 5000 sheep	May 1841 – Cay & Kaye 1845 – Donald Cameron 1850 - William Campbell April 1857 – Fred. Taylor
Sutton Grange No. 161	1840 – Cobb Bros.	46,200 acres 10,000 sheep	1844 – James Raleigh Jan. 1850 – H N Simson Jan. 1856 – D J Coghill + A E Brodribb July 1862 – James Bryden Feb. 1864 – Ambrose Kyte Feb. 1868 - cancelled
Tarringower No. 94	1842 – W Morrison Hunter	61,209 acres 200 cattle 12,000 sheep	none