

CURRA CREEK

To the north east of Yeoval was the Gunners Dam Mine, also known as the Southern Cross or Corkers Reef, near the village of Curra Creek, south west of Wellington, half way between Wellington and Yeoval.

A well defined gold reef was found there in 1890 by Gates and party, and over the next few years gold was won from shallow alluvial workings to a depth of about 21 m. In 1898 it was reported in the *Molong Express* that a party of mining experts had visited the field and felt that payable ore should be found at a depth of about 90 m. The site was ideal for mining, being close to water and with plenty of timber on the ground.

About 100 people lived on the flats on the banks of Gundy Creek in makeshift tents and bark huts. The site of the mining was on the higher ground behind the flats. They built a dam on the creek for their own use in the early 1900s. In 1918 there was a flash flood which the miners saw coming, and they tried to break some holes in the dam wall, but were unsuccessful and the waters rose too fast, and washed the dam wall away.

In 1906 it was reported that John Mearns found another lead at the Gunners Dam site, and he, James and Clement Mearns worked the claim during the year and obtained 89 oz (2.5 kg) of gold from 41 tons. The Southern Cross Gold Mining Company took over the mine the following year. During their first year of operation they obtained 117 oz (3.3 kg) of gold, and were sinking a new shaft, and proposing to erect their own crushing plant.

From 1914 until 1916 H Mearns has the lease of the mine, and obtained 2.4 kg of gold during that time. Water then became a major problem.

A Williams worked the mine unsuccessfully in 1930 and 1931 and then in the 1960s F Corker took up the lease on the property and closed up the old



The flats beside Gundy Creek where a tent village developed during the late 1890s.

photo: Kerrin Cook



The mine at Gunter's Dam, as left by the last leasee, 1998

photo: Kerrin Cook



Another shaft on the Gunner's Dam property. The property owner's dog fell down this while chasing a rabbit, and it was only with the greatest difficulty that the animal was saved.
photo: Kerrin Cook

shaft. In 1970 Corker gave an option to a newly formed company Boomalli Ltd which did extensive renovations to the old shaft and underground workings, and used the diamond drill both on the surface and underground. Although some gold was found, it was not felt worthwhile to continue. By 1973 no work was being undertaken, and Mr Corker was having disagreements with Mr Vernon the owner of the land over restoration of the land to its original state and right of entry. This was finally resolved, and the gold leases were cancelled in 1976.

Since then other interested parties have taken out exploratory leases on the land, but at the present time there is no work being undertaken.

A little village developed at Curra Creek initially to service the local farming community, but was also useful when the population swelled due to the mining activity. A Provisional School was opened in July 1883, using a rented building which was also used as the Methodist Church. The school closed in June 1902, but re-opened in October 1911. It became a full Public School in 1958, and was permanently closed at the beginning of 1966.

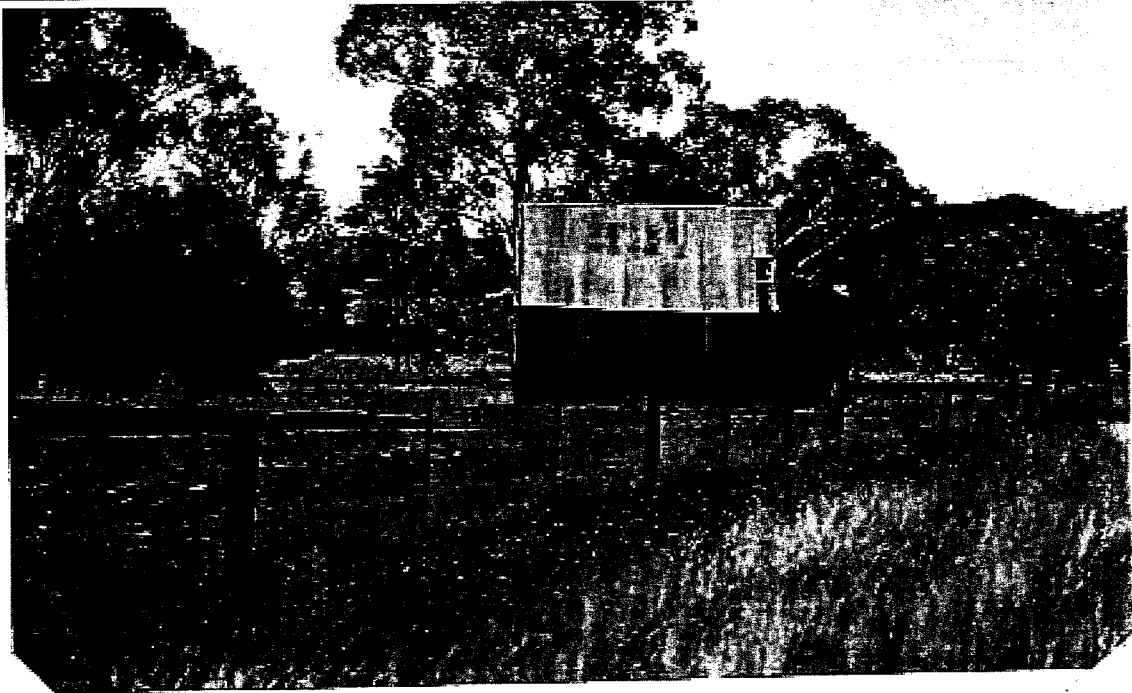
In 1898 the Methodist Church built its own building and this is still in use as a Union Church.

A request was made for a Postal Receiving Office with the schoolteacher acting as Receiving Office Keeper. However it was found that she did not live close to the school, and it was felt that security would not be good enough, so Charles Cozier was appointed, with the office being at his home. Mr Cozier died in 1901, and his wife, Lydia, took over. The Receiving Office was upgraded to Post Office in 1902, but by 1916 the authorities decided to downgrade to Receiving Office again. Mrs Cozier was not happy about the loss of income. The decision was deferred, until the local teacher took over as Postmaster in 1924. In 1929 the salary was reduced despite much protest. In 1936 the then Postmaster, Percival Cozier resigned, and as no one else would take the job on, the Post Office was closed, and mail was delivered to roadside mailboxes.

Curra Creek Hall
photo: Kerrin Cook

Curra Creek Public School
courtesy Fred Vernon and
Department of School
Education





"The Church at Finger Post. (Denomination??)

- * The only building more or less intact. + Extended.
- * The building that was the Post Office has been modified out of sight.

* Finger Post
 P.O. open 13.5.1901. to
 T.O. 24.11.1909
 T.O. Closed 31.12.1926.

* Unit 29. Sept. 1913.
 Came from
 Telegraph Office.

* "Union Church"
 See letter !!

* Post Office open
 1.1.1927. and closed
 30.5.1931.

Plan of Allotment 4 & 5

County of Gordon Parish of Veitch

1st District Molong

1st District Molong

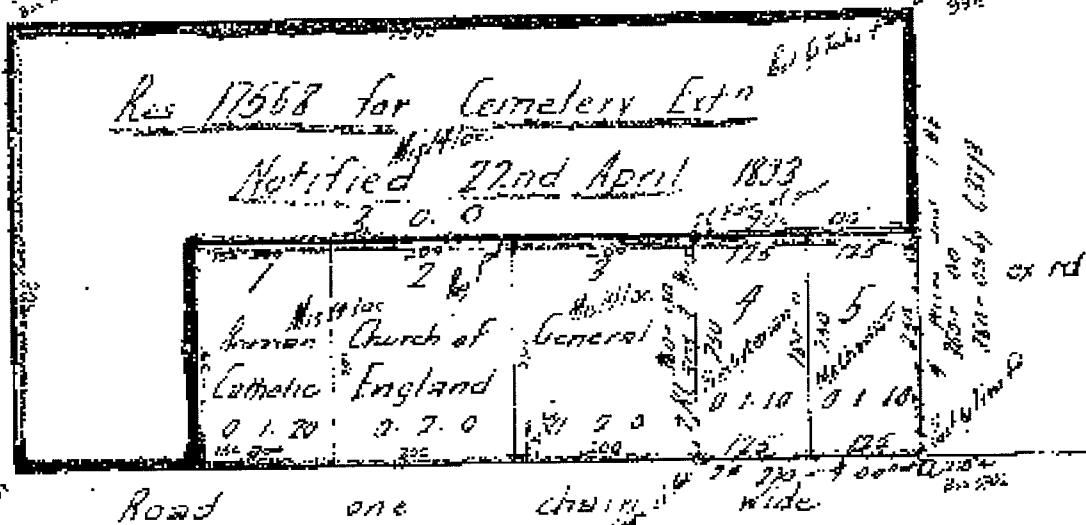
Eastern Division

Notice Res 17568 from State for Cemetery Extⁿ Notd 22nd April 1833

Allot 4. Presbyterian

" 5 Methodist

John Parkes 102 63773 1889
 22 Oct 2 No 34384



13 Goldsbrough Mort & Co Ltd

50.0.0 yard

Approved taken from old
 Field Book 1837 Vol. 71

Reference to Corners

Reference to Owners

as marked list at lot 2

marked stakes at other lot

I hereby certify that I in person made and
 on the 2nd Sep 1912 completed the survey represented in this plan
 and that the extent, location and length of the lines measured are true
 and correct and that the same has been approved in accordance with the
 regulations published for the guidance of Landward Surveyors and the practice
 of the Department of Lands.

H. K. W. Mackenzie

Surveyor to the Crown 20th Sep 1912

Books 12-11/1000 (E-2 2 0) J. N. H. H. 1912

Intention Book 17 File