

STANTHORPE SHIRE COUNCIL

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Your Reference

SWC:MC 208 (5468)

Our Reference

If telephoning or calling, please ask for:

S W Courtney

19 October 1999

Ms J King
1 Serissa Street
BELLBOWRIE QLD 4070

Dear Ms King

Jibbenbar Arsenic Mine

I refer to your letter of 30 September 1999 seeking information on the Jibbenbar Arsenic Mine.

Enclosed are copies of pages from the historical book "They Came to a Plateau" by Jean Harslett and Mervyn Royle, which is a reliable history of the Stanthorpe Shire.

This is the only printed information of which I am aware, relating to the Arsenic Mine. The Queensland Mines Department may be a further source of information.

Yours faithfully

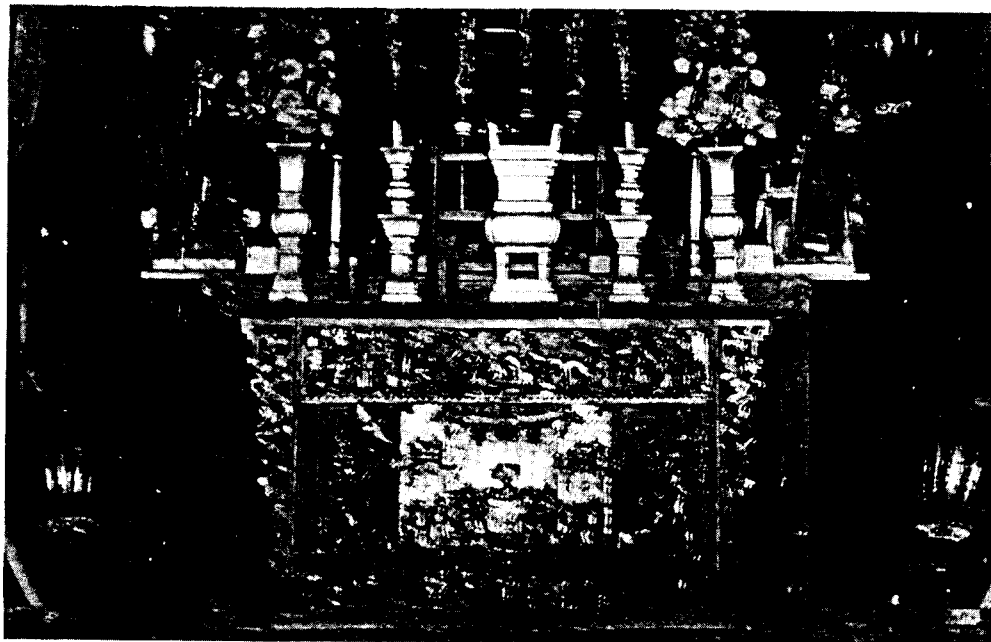
S W Courtney
Acting Chief Executive Officer

enc

mental in their introduction. Chief spokesman for the miners was Ned Shelford (later Shire Clerk). With others he suggested, they muster a full force and drive the Chinese out with pickhandles or throw them down the Quart Pot. Ransome was burnt in effigy and he arranged for police reinforcements from Brisbane. One man was accused of employing 100 Chinese miners. It is reassuring to note that the evening was a failure, the majority objecting to violence. In jest, a lane was called Ran Sum Alley, a pun on Ransome's name. Gentlemen like, Way Hop, Ah Chue, Way Key, Joe Hoe, Kwong Nar. Tais, Kia Kee and Fook Sang Lang (Paragon Store) opened business houses in Stanthorpe's main street and were respected citizens. When Sum Kum Sang died he was described by the editor of the Border Post as, "a most intelligent and respected gentleman whose loss will be widely felt."

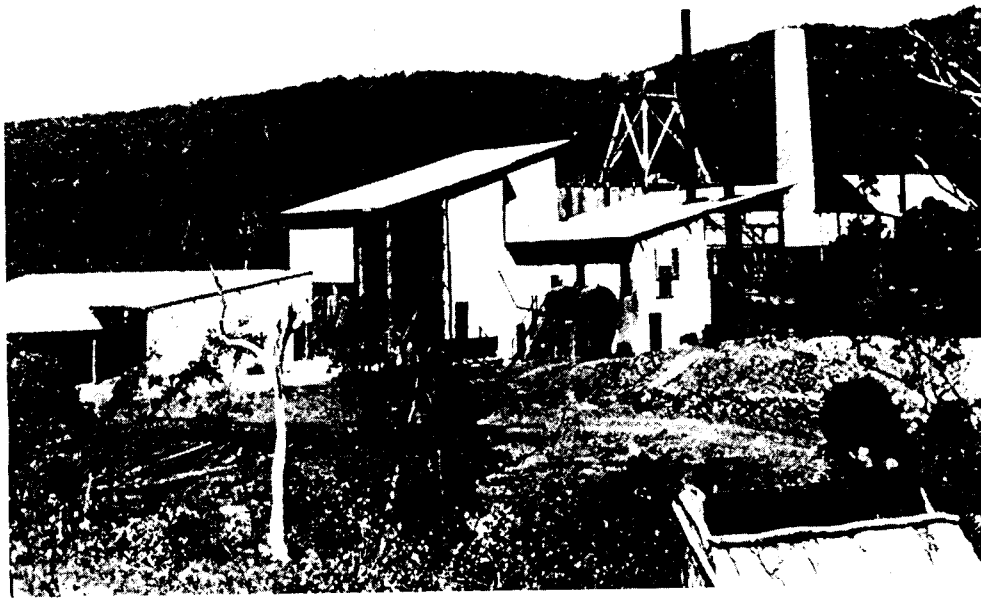
In a bold bid to assist in eradicating prickly pear, the State Government heavily subsidised the cost of arsenical poisons to graziers. In January 1918 The State Arsenic Mine at Jibbenbar, with a capital of £42,996 was established. The enterprise started when there was a world shortage of grey arsenic and it was a scarce and high priced commodity. All arsenic pentoxide, at the time, was imported. Large treatment works were erected at Wallangarra but by December 1925, trading resulted in a loss of £17,753. They were still endeavouring to sell out in 1930 with an estimated loss of £40,000.

Claims are made of the population reaching 30,000 in the mining days. This certainly did not occur at one time. A fascinating cross section of people did come and go as fortune dictated. No flight of fancy is necessary to believe that 30,000 souls were caught in the web of fancy and dreams of fortunes won, and "Black Gold" as it was often "dubbed" — played an important role in Stanthorpe's and the States history.



Interior of a local Joss House at Chinatown, Liston.

Photo loaned by Mrs. Ted Bonner.



The Jibbenbar State Arsenic Mine was established in 1918 to produce pentoxide to control prickly pear.

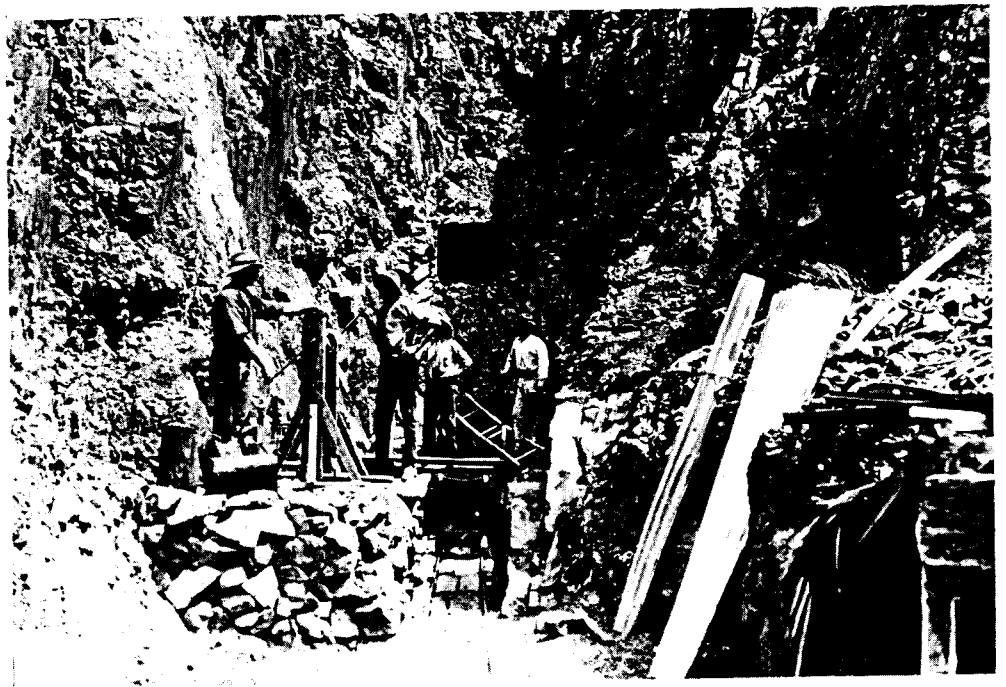
Photo courtesy of Queensland Mines Department.



Sundown Tin and Copper Mine in full swing of production.

Photo loaned by Mr. Bamberry.

*The Copper Shaft at Sundown Mine in 1910.
Photo loaned S. Lee and Co.*





GENERAL VIEW TIBBENBAR STATE ARSENIC MINE-



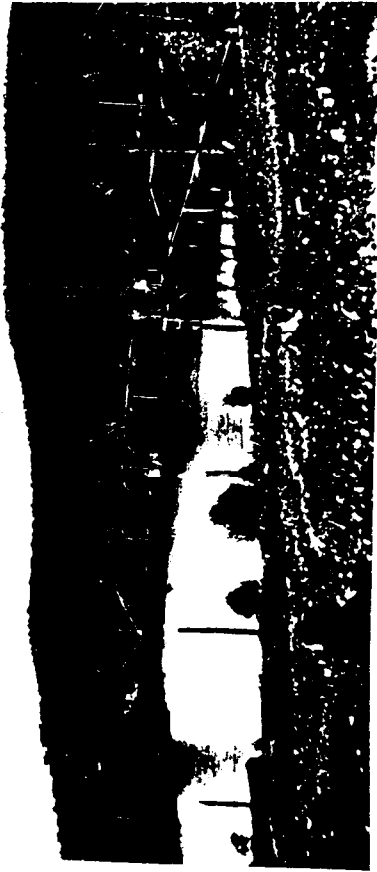
TIBBENBAR STATE ARSENIC MINE

ORIGINAL PHOTOGRAPH -
T.C. BALL, GEOLOGIST.



JIBBINBAR STATE ARSENIC MINE. AT THE PEAK OF ITS WORKING ORDER.

PHOTOGRAPH ORIGINAL. ALAN. McKillop File 151-Neg 35A.



DAM MADE FOR THE JIBBINBAR STATE ARSENIC MINE File 150-Neg 18A.

Stanthorpe and District Historical Society Inc.

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Jeanette King
1. Serissa St.
Bellbowrie 4070.
Dear Mrs. King,

To answer some of your questions, you asked was Jibbinbar on Pikedale, Glenlyon or Ballandean stations?. Jibbinbar would I think have been on Glenlyon (since greatly reduced in size by numerous sub-divisions). Its in the Parish of Jibbinbar.

However, arsenic was found on all those properties in small quantities and only sufficiently rich to mine at Jibbinbar, Sundown mine, and Beehive mines in the Ballandean area and down near the Mole River.

The Jibbinbar Arsenic Mine was totally a State organized mine. All buildings, housing etc. belonged to the Government. (note in enclosure the teacher even though appointed from a Government Dept. was not allowed to use the facilities provided).

The arsenic occurred as mispickel or arsenopyrites, silvery and metallic in appearance and of course in that form harmless. The mine was purely established by the Queensland Government as a State Mine to obtain arsenic to turn into poison in the form of Pentoxide to try and fight the terrible scourge of Prickly Pear destroying so much QLD. & N.S.W. countryside.

It was established in 1920 and closed in the mid 1920's. When Dodd introduced *Cactoblastis cactorum* a moth from South America, the caterpillar of which ate and destroyed the Prickly Pear. So successful was it that no longer was arsenic required. The insect control is still regarded as one of the world's greatest biological stories of success.

The lodes at Jibbinbar were in places up to 12 feet wide, and those of 2 foot width were considered commercial, thus they were on a good thing. The battery crushed the ore to a size which would pass through an eighth of an inch screen.

An "Edward" furnace was used at Jibbinbar ("Merton Furnace at Sundown). To produce the white powder (arsenious oxide form, then poisonous) It passed through reverberatory furnaces at temperatures up to 1,300 Fahr. where it was distilled and collected on the flues or tubes, then scraped off. There was a Robert's Processing Plant for making the Pentoxide right on the QLD - N.S.W. border at Jennings and Wallangarra.

I have enclosed 3 typed sheets, the school and some of the lifestyle, also photocopies of photographs of Jibbinbar in its height of production. The area where people lived and site of the school was a very limited flat area just before you get to the mine. There used to be an old wooden gate there, maybe burnt or rotted away now. However, it was a small area with scattered stumps where dwellings had been when I first looked at the area in detail. I would wonder where 200 to 300 people would fit. Perhaps as people came and went over the 5 odd years it may have added up to that. I would be very pleased to hear more about the population and perhaps where the quote came from- please if you can help. I'm always keen to be as correct as possible. It was established as a State Mine, closed to most except those they employed or needed. There was a little copper pyrities there, but not in commercial quantities in its own right.

Yours Sincerely

Jean Harste H

Hon. Secretary.

JIBBENBAH SCHOOL NO. 1769. By. BETH FINLAY.

This school opened to educate the children of the miners and others connected with the State run Jibbinbar Arsenic Mine. The spelling difference -Jibbenbah - is how the Education Department spelt it, and everything pertaining to the school has this spelling. The arsenic from the mine, made into pentoxide, was used in the control of prickly pear, before the introduction of the Cactoblastis Moth.

The school reserve was a little apart from the mine, on the main track to Stanthorpe. The school was opened in a neat little wooden building in June 1922, with Mr. Peter Lettice as Headteacher. The pupils on the first day of school were Cecil and Marion Clegg, Thelma, Norma and Gladys Schneider, Richard and William Trembath; Margaret and Stephen Sullivan. The teacher Mr. Lettice, must have wondered what sort of place he had come to. The mine site is rather forbidding even today, surrounded by mountains and rough scrubby country and in those days a horror stretch of road to get there. On arrival Mr. Lettice found there was no accommodation for him and no-one connected with the mine was allowed to board him due to mine regulations. He had to sleep either on the school room floor or the mine office floor. Repeated pleas to the Education Department eventually yielded a framed tent. Mr. Lettice was most unhappy with this and demanded of the Department that he be allowed to engage the mine carpenter to build a small room with solid flooring and walls. Something, he informed the Department, "to keep out the snakes, spiders and other unmentionable beasties that abound here". He did compromise and agreed to use the supplied tent as a roof for his room. Mr. Lettice was quite popular with the boys of the school and often took them fishing. There were also children attending the school from neighbouring properties, one of these being Jack Mc.Kerin, who had a bike with a small motor on it, but he had to help by pedalling as well, when riding up hills. Another family rode goats to school. Some other names on the roll during the school's history were John Baillie, Bob Hopper and Dan and Don Houlihan. I believe their father was Les Houlihan who was mine boss.

The school appears to have only been open for two years. When the mine closed down in 1924 the teacher, then Mr. Morrison wrote to the Department advising that he only had a small number of pupils left, and the numbers were dwindling daily. The State Store had closed thus there were no fresh supplies and he and another person were compelled to dine almost exclusively on rabbits, which they were able and had to trap themselves. He asked desperately of the Department, "What was he to do?". The rabbit diet apparently continued until the Dept. replied and told him to shut the school. This was on 9th. June 1924. The mine did open again for short periods, but the school does not appear to have ever re-opened.

The teachers at "Jibbenbah School" had a pretty rough time from all accounts. They did not always 'see eye to eye' with the miners especially if they had cause to discipline a miner's child, being quite often told "to come out and fight like a man". The school teacher was no match for the burly miners, a fact the teacher knew only too well.

The unmarried miner's and other associated workers stayed at a boarding house fondly called, "The Ranch", run by a Mrs. Rutledge. A State Store was run for the convenience of the community. Mr. Archer was in charge of the store, and the supplies for the store came out twice weekly from Stanthorpe. The mail was carried out by Mr. Jim Ryan who then went on to Texas. There was a tennis court near "The Ranch" and a little apart from the Settlement, the men cleared land enough to make a football field.

Mr. Hanson's job at the mine was to draw wood for the furnaces. He carted the wood with a draw pulled by three horses. His work day commenced at 4am. and finished around 9.30 at night, and for this long day he received 30/- a week and keep.

The miners were paid more money but it was hard and dangerous working in the mines, and the men who cleaned the arsenic off the walls of the flues, after it was extracted, suffered badly as arsenic has a corrosive effect on the skin, and as the arsenic is then in a powder form, it was also easily inhaled and was very damaging to the lungs.

Mr. Hanson said he always put a nose bag on the horses he used, to protect them from the arsenic powder.

Even in those days unions were part of the miners life and all who worked in the mine had to have a union ticket and it seems union trouble, and also the advent of the Cactoblastis Moth were eventually responsible for the closing down of the mine. The mine was actually closed in mid-operation - as it were - and quite a lot of arsenic was left there in large wooden casks. The shed was burnt down some years later and the casks were destroyed, but the arsenic remained and is still there to this day, just lying around. Fire actually increases the strength of arsenic and land owners in the area have lost stock which have drunk from the creeks and gullies around the mine as the arsenic has found its way into the water courses.

When the mine closed and was dismantled, Mr. Jim Mann removed the bricks and timber to Stanthorpe. A lot of the bricks went into the construction of the old Jibbinbar Freezing Works and also into Mann's Transport Depot, part of which is now Mr. Cec Mann's office block.

The ghostly remains of the Jibbinbar State Arsenic Mine are still there to remind us of an era in our history but little remains of the settlement and nothing of the school, the site having been dozed over.

The enclosed article appeared in the Stannum Miner which is the magazine of the Stanthorpe and District Historical Society and over a year later a note came from Mr. Lettice the original teacher at Jibbinbar to me as Editor of the magazine.

Here for your interest is his note, penned 63 years later and I quote,

" Dear Lady,"

" By the top here you will gather that this is a Home for aged persons. A good friend, middle aged, and a past student of mine sent me a copy of your Stannum Miner, and some word of the old mine at Jibbenbah.

I went there in June 1922, and had a fine couple of years among some fine people - even the scolding of the Government was part of the fun - and even the "ungodly", and I managed to rub along in real friendship.

It was perhaps a good thing for the mine, its management and the staff that I spent so much time there so happily. Some names I recall may prompt your queries, and give point to my replies (see back) No, I am not really young ,but lucky.

Cheerily

P. Lettice.

On the back.

Jibbenbah..... 16 wire gates to open to get there.

Dempsey (Manager)

Glegg (Clerk)

Mr. & Mrs. Bubky ("Ranch" meals)

Tim Flynn (Carpenter)

Ted Kearney (Winding-engine driver)

Jack Overgton (Miner & Shooter)

- Sullivan (Blacksmith)

Tom Rutledge (Surface Manager)

P.S. Much history is never printed, for instance when the whole camp went down with a strange disease (diarrhoea and vomiting). that we did not dare report !! but we lost none !!.

Bush fires.

Our talk of marching on Brisbane.....Fun.

At all the events, they had music, games, Christmas trees, drawing etc. and that did not stop at the children only, and also dances."

What a pleasure to receive a letter like this which tells of a successful teacher who helped the little community along. Mr. Lettice was fondly remembered by the boys of the school for taking them fishing .

The teacher who followed, did not fit in quite so well and the school closed a couple of years later as did the State subsidised Arsenic Mine. Its purpose over, which was to produce cheap pentoxide poison to control the scourge of prickly pear.

Already a wonderful biological control exercise was taking place by the introduction of *Cactoblastis cactorum* larvae which were eating their way to the plant's destruction.

Of this list Tin is, by far, the leading mineral of economic importance. During the first decade of its existence (1872-1882), the Stanthorpe tinfield yielded to its then very numerous body of alluvial miners the great total of 8,938 tons during the year 1873, showing a gradual decrease till 1882, by which time the returns had diminished to 2,451 tons. The subsequent year (1883) witnessed a remarkable falling off in the output, only 817 tons being won. The period of great stagnation in the industry was that from 1895 to 1901, inclusive, during which time the annual yield failed to reach even 100 tons. The minimum being reached in 1897 when only 53 tons was obtained.

The famous Brisbane Claim at Sugarloaf was one of the richest alluvial tin claims ever worked in the world. This enormously rich deposit has been dredged and re-dredged. Between the year 1873, when the claim started working, and 1886, when it was practically worked out, the yield from this claim (400 acres) was 6,337 tons.

The total production of tin concentrates from the Stanthorpe field till 31st December, 1957, was 54,530 tons valued at £3,728,750. It is interesting to note that the first discovery of tin in Queensland was probably made in the Ballandean district. This discovery was made on the Nundubermere Run in 1954 by a Joe Greer who was 15 years of age at the time. He picked up several highly coloured stones to throw at birds. These later proved to be Cassiterites. Some time afterwards he took out a lease on this area and called it "Kilminster" after the maiden name of his partner's wife. A year before, however, a specimen had been sent to England for examination.

The discovery of payable ore in the locality did not eventuate till 18 years afterwards, when Paddock Swamp (now Eukey) and the Four-mile Creek were opened in February, 1872.

The Sundown Area. The credit of having been the first to discover payable mineral in the Sundown area goes to Archie Marlow, an aboriginal stockman employed on Ballandean run. He found the Sundown copper mine in 1888. This was the first mine to be discovered in the area.

Lode tin was discovered in Sundown in August, 1893. The Sundown Tin Mine was originally worked by W. Pezler, Jack Clare and Party, and a reward claim of 40 acres was granted to the prospectors. They worked the loose tin shed from the lode by open cut and an estimate of 28 tons was won.

This was one of the earliest lode tin mines to be discovered in this part of the State.

Other claims were taken up and successfully worked and three 10 acre leases applied for. There was no machinery on the field and the mines could not be developed without the needed capital.

The next year, due to the falling prices of tin, lack of ore and insufficient capital, the mining declined until 1896, all the mines were closed.

No further records are available until 1904 when the Sundown Claim was worked for tin by tributors, Eli Marstella, Bob Gunn and Party. They were the first to commence sinking the shaft on the lode, the cap of which, showing above ground, was little larger than a dinner plate. They raised about 4 tons of ore realising £300 and in 1905 8½ tons was won.

1906. An open cut 70 feet long and 30 feet deep had been developed. The mine was worked by the Lawson Bros. on tribute. The production of tin to this date was 67 tons 16 cwt. 1 qr. 25 lb. Work was continued in 1907.

In May, 1908, two claims were being worked. They were the Sundown (R. C. Welsby's) with an open cut drive and shaft, and the Sundown Extended (with two shafts).

Work continued in 1909 and 1910, the Sundown R.C. being worked by tribute for part of the year. In 1911 three mineral leases aggregating 70 acres and two claims were taken up. Development work was carried out on the Sundown R.C. and much good ore extracted and stacked.

1912. The road for four miles on the Ballandean side of Sundown was completed with the £300 grant from the Department. Twenty-five tons of ore were raised and the total held at grass was 60 tons. The mine had not yet worked at a profit.

1913. Sundown Reward claim No. 4 worked by the owner, W. Welsby, with four men, raised 35 tons of 18% tin and much more developmental work was carried out.

1914. The Sundown Tin and Copper Mining Co. N.L. was registered at Sundown in September with a capital of £10,000. This company erected a 10-head battery and started to treat the large tonnage of ore on hand. Some work was done on the Copper lode.

From 1915 to 1921. Production continued with extensive development work on both the tin and copper mines and new machinery for treating the ore including a reverberatory furnace and special flues for collecting arsenic from the fumes. While engaged in working underground, two miners, Taylor and Dunn, were killed in 1916.

The difficulty of water supply was overcome in 1918 by a pipeline through which water was pumped from the Severn River.

Production of tin from the tin mine probably lapsed during the period, since in 1921 only copper was in production.

In 1921 the Sundown tin mine and copper mine and the Comet tin and copper mine were amalgamated. It appears from the records that a Company called Arsenic Ltd. took over the Sundown and Comet mines in 1922 and produced white arsenic at treatment works in New South Wales, but by 1924 went into liquidation.

1953. Dewatering of the once important Sundown tin arsenic mine after a period of 30 years' idleness was commenced when A. J. Atkinson took up M.L. 301, a lease embracing five acres. The mine was dewatered to a depth of 245 feet 6 inches by the tributors T. Hyssett, J. Sales and A. Swift, and approximately 3 tons 16 cwt. of tin was won. A battery was erected near Accommodation Creek, Ballandean, to treat the ore brought from Sundown.

Sundown Copper Mine. The earliest owners of Sundown Copper Mine were W. H. Passmore, Herman Tausk, W. Welsby and J. Gilchrist. Extracts from the Stanthorpe Mineral Commissioner's annual report for 1897 is the first reference to the Sundown Copper lode. It states: At Ballandean active work has been carried out for the past three months, and a lode is being driven three feet wide from the foot of a very steep range, and the drive or tunnel is in 50 feet, and some 50 or 60 tons of ore are at grass, some of which is very rich in copper and silver. The lode has been opened from the tunnel a distance of 200 feet by shafts and costeans.

In 1898 a syndicate was formed — Sundown Silver and Copper Mine — which did much development work and erected a reverberatory furnace. During the next year the average work force was 20 men; 570 tons of ore being smelted. A new company took over during this year; the Sundown Copper Mines Ltd., with a registered capital of £5,200.

In 1900 only 50 tons of matte were produced when work ceased, and no mention is made of the mine from 1903 till it was taken up again by the Sundown Tin and Copper Mining Coy. N.L. in 1914.

The Comet Mine. This mine is situated in the side of a steep hill to the north-east of the Sundown Tin and Copper Mines. The "Comet Tin and Copper Mine Ltd." was registered in Brisbane in 1914 with a capital of £20,000. The Company worked the Comet lode from 1914 to 1917 when the Company was reconstructed. A battery was erected. It never turned a wheel. From 1918 work continued intermittently until 1921 when it was amalgamated with the Sundown Tin and Copper Mine.

Beecroft Mine. This mine is situated at the top of a high narrow ridge to the west of the Sundown tin and copper mines. There is very little information available on this mine. It was apparently opened up and abandoned before 1897. During part of 1907 it was being worked intermittently, probably for copper. During 1917 and 1918 the mine was producing arsenic ore averaging 30% arsenic. The concentrates were shipped to Bendigo for treatment. Although there are no records, it was producing until 1922, when it was taken over by O. C. Roberts Ltd. who treated the ore at Wallangarra and produced white arsenic as prickly-pear poison. The mine operated under this company until 1928, when arsenic could be imported from Japan for £28 per ton compared with £50 per ton if produced at Sundown.

*Running in the River with John
Sunderman/Ballandean
Stacking the River with John*

RED ROCK

In Red Rock we have an example of youthful age of a stream. Red Rock Creek having carved out a precipitous gorge through the slates to a great depth into the underlying granite intrusion. The stream now enters the Gorge by way of a waterfall some 150 feet in height. Viewed from a favourable angle the Gorge is truly majestic and in a wet season presents a grand sight as the water pours over the red stained granite wall. From the view-point of the tourist this is one of the picturesque spots in Ballandean.

Henry Reilly painted a scene of Red Rock Gorge which has been on display at leading Art Galleries. The value of the painting, when sold, was £800.

The presence of tin-stone in the neighbourhood of Red Rock had been known in 1872, but due possibly to the low price of the metal and the inhospitable nature of the country little prospecting work was done until later years when Dick Carpenter and a relative were wallaby shooting there for a living. By chance, while resting on a rock, they saw black crystals which they considered might be tin.

Carpenters' Gully was thus discovered and named. 1 cwt. of tin was taken by the finders. For some years the show remained idle until 1903 when T. Curtain and J. Pettiford sunk an inclined shaft to a depth of 20 feet and obtained some rich tin ore.

The Carpenters' Gully Tin Mining Co. Ltd. with a capital of £12,000 apparently took over in 1907 and continued sinking two shafts. Returns are not available. In consequence of a report made by Geologist W. H. Rands it was decided by the shareholders to discontinue operations on the leases and the company was wound up in June, 1909. A claim was taken up and the ground worked by J. Gilchrist and Alex. Johnston. Over 20 tons of ore was raised of which 5 tons was sent to Melbourn for trial treatment but the results were not encouraging.

In 1911 T. Curtain and F. Pettiford raised 12 tons of ore and sent five tons for trial treatment with poor results.

E. Lewis and W. Morrison put down a 25ft. shaft and began driving on claim No. 165, extracting 1 1/2 tons of ore.

The Jericho Mine (M.L. 120) was in operation in 1913 and Gilchrist and Johnston were working with a Government assistance of £100.

In 1918 the Orient leases were worked for arsenic.

In 1927-28 the Carpenters' Gully leases were taken up by a syndicate who were trying to raise capital to work the leases.

In 1929 Carpenters' Creek Tin Mining Ltd. was registered to work various tin lodes on the 160 acre leasehold. A battery and much machinery was purchased and set up on the property and a concrete dam built across Carpenters' Gully. The company worked the lease until 1936 when it went into liquidation. About 21 tons of tin oxide were produced.

The Beehive. Claims were first pegged in this area in 1872 but forfeited in 1874.

It was W. Lynam who first discovered payable tin in the year 1912 and named the area The Beehive. His prospecting partner was Eli Marstella. The mine was bought by the Beehive Company which, with a capital of £32,000 carried out much work in development but no mining. A dam was built in Red Rock Creek and a modern steam pump installed. This forced the water to a dam on the workings 500 feet above the creek. There was no lode on the property, but in the sluicing operations several rich chutes were found. The Company wound up in 1917.

Stanton. A tin discovery was made here in 1912 by H. Clark. This show was bought by the Beehive Company and yielded half a ton of tin.

The Bank Block. This old 80 acre freehold block was taken up originally by F. T. Smith and subsequently passed into the hands of a banking company, hence its name. Later it was taken over by John Gordon. Various prospectors found rich chutes on the area. In Red Rock other blocks known as Clark's Block, Sheep Station Creek, Long's Block and Musson's Block were worked besides many small shows by other prospectors.

The Silver Queen Mine. Found in 1888 by Ted Lewis. First to work the mine was probably the Aspinall Brothers, 1897, and the Severn River Copper and Silver Mining Syndicate was formed in 1898.

J. Whittard, a Stanthorpe Storekeeper, while working with the syndicate, also conducted a provision store near the mine.

During 1899 about 53 tons of ore were sent to Cockle Creek for treatment, but little work was done during 1900, pending the raising of sufficient capital to continue operations.

In 1904 the mine was worked by Baker Brothers of New South Wales for about nine months. A good deal of development work was done and £600 worth of machinery was installed. Forty-eight tons of ore valued at £157 were shipped.

In 1905 the mine changed hands and Osmetti and Mooney began work on development and the erection of a new and up to date plant for treating the ore.

In 1906 the Ballandean Queen Silver Lead and Copper Mining Company N.L. was registered with a capital of £5,000 and the work continued until 1908. The lease was surrendered in 1909. After that the only work was hand dressing the ore at grass.

There are no records of this mine till 1912 when the Silver Queen Silver Lead Zinc Mining Company Ltd. was registered with a capital of £5,000. This company was struck off the register in 1919.

Since then various people have attempted to re-open the mine but without success. The shaft is said to be 160 feet in depth. Several parcels of ore were forwarded to Cockle Creek for treatment in 1906. One parcel of six tons gave a return of 50 ozs. silver, 14% zinc and 20% sulphur per ton.

Lord Nolan. Situated about 6 miles west of Ballandean adjacent to the Severn River. The Lord Nolan Tin Syndicate Ltd. was registered in August, 1909, with a capital of £4,000 to work the lease of 120 acres. No lode had been found and very little ore at grass when in 1910 the company erected a battery with a Whifley Concentrator. After a run of only a few weeks' work it was hung up. No returns were furnished but the yield was only about 0.2% tin. The battery was sold and Syndicate went into voluntary liquidation in 1911.

On this field many small chutes of tin were found by prospectors. One of the best found by W. Stevens and party yielded 2 tons 12 cwt. 3 qrs. 9 lbs. of tin worth £317 in a couple of weeks.

About 1953 a small sluicing plant operated on this area.

Mineral Hill. In 1903 the Ballandean Tin Mining Company Ltd. was registered with a capital of £2,500. This company worked a mine which has been known variously as Wall's Claim and Thomson's Folly. An Adit was driven for 100 feet in a hill.

Later at a distance of 85 feet from the entrance a "Monkey Shaft" 50 feet in depth and from the bottom of this a drive of 25 feet . . . The main vein in this mine is of a very complex nature, and contains arsenic, tin, copper, wolfram and other ores in minor quantities. The Company was struck off the register in 1906. This mine was again worked for arsenic in 1918 and was probably worked at some time between 1906 and 1918.

The Quartette Dredging Lease was taken up on a portion 91, par. Nun-dubbermere in 1925. The ground was apparently quite rich, but there are no records of production. This area was originally worked by the Pettiford family.

Chalmer's Molybdenite Leases were situated on the east bank of the Severn River near Mineral Hill. Work was carried on during 1914, but little money was made from these ventures.

Other mining activities about this area were, Rodda's Claim, Copper King, Cannon's Claim, Excelsior Sluicing Claim, Johnston's Claim and the Kilmister.

Alluvial tin has been mined along the Severn River to its point of confluence with Accommodation Creek. Most of the large waterholes of the Severn River have been pumped dry in search of tin, and landmarks bear

the names of some of the early miners such as Bolton's, Moxley's Crossing and the river immediately upstream and downstream from Marshall's Bridge was known as Faulkner's.

Other minerals include Limestone which occurs at Kilminster and at Ballandean Station. A sample analysed for T. Curtain, of Ballandean, showed a lime content as CaO of 55.50%.

The date of the first discovery of diamonds in the Stanthorpe district was 1872 at Spring Creek and at Kettle's Swamp a year later. Diamonds have been found while alluvial tin-mining in Severn River, Ballandean.

Although the purpose of this booklet is to record the historical past of Ballandean district, a brief reference to its physiography may be in order as well. Without doubt the altitude of the Granite Belt was originally many hundred feet higher than at the present time. Weathering and denudation have caused the rock masses to shed thousands of tons of tin ore from myriads of tiny veins and greisens in the granite. Erosion carried the tin bearing soil to water courses where, in course of time, natural sluicing concentrated the tin "wash," as the streams carried off hundreds of feet of surface rock and soil. The streams, following lines of least resistance, changed their courses, occasionally leaving stanniferous "wash" high and dry.

A reference here to the Old River Channel at Ballandean may be of interest. The great southerly bend of the Severn River following a loop from Marshall's Bridge to the second crossing is a new channel. From a point 1-mile downstream from Marshall's Bridge the river formerly cut across in a more direct westerly course to a point 1-mile downstream from the second crossing. The bed of the old river is marked by a sandy and gravelly ridge along which a road has now been surveyed.

RECORDED PRODUCTION — SUNDOWN TIN MINE — BALLANDEAN

Year	"Black Tin"		Dressed Ore		Value £
	Tons	Cwt.	Tons	Cwt.	
Up To					
1906	67	16½			
1907					
1908					
1909			4	18	333
1910			1	16	297
1911					
1912			1	1	110
1913			7	14	705
1914					

RECORDED PRODUCTION — SUNDOWN TIN AND COPPER MINE

Year	Ore Treated Tons	Tin Concentrates		Copper Concentrates		Arsenic and Silver
		T	C	T	C	
1915	1024	44	1	4061	310	
1916	1310	69	10	7632	26	445
1917	1360	48	6540	54	1135	
1918	1710	21	2	4278	12	10
1919	1218	13	6	1700	100	1200
1920						
1921						
1922	180	3	12	300	5	8
1923	880					130
1933						30 Tons Arsenic
1955						200 Tons Arsenic
1956						

THE STANTHORPE MINERAL FIELD WAS PROCLAIMED ON 3/1/1883.

The following prices are based on recorded annual production and value of tin concentrates from the Stanthorpe field. They represent an average price to the nearest £1 per ton of concentrates for the whole field. Some concentrates may have returned a higher price than others by virtue of higher metal content and less impurities. Local prices were lower.

Year	Price per ton	Year	Price per ton	Year	Price per ton
1883	549	1900	168	1917	£142
1884	44	1901	60	1918	216
1885	50	1902	69	1919	151
1886	58	1903	72	1920	179
1887	62	1904	78	1921	98
1888	65	1905	88	1922	98
1889	52	1906	112	1923	129
1890	52	1907	101	1924	150
1891	52	1908	81	1925	164
1892	53	1909	81	1926	186
1893	31	1910	97	1927	179
1894	35	1911	112	1928	105
1895	34	1912	129	1929	128
1896	32	1913	126	1930	97
1897	31	1914	104	1931	86
1898	40	1915	99	1932	103
1899	62	1916	112	1933	162

BALLANDEAN'S FIRST TOWNSHIP

The first resumption of land from Ballandean Station was effected in 1872 and surveyed into mining selections of approximately 40 acres each, which were mostly situated along the Severn River.

Among the early arrivals to secure land was Thos. H. Fletcher who, in 1872, took up portion 407W, about one mile north of where Ballandean now is and thereon built an hotel, which he named "Britannia House." The hotel was substantially constructed and offered all the amenities of a first class country hotel of the time.

Around the "Britannia" Hotel other forms of business quickly sprang up and formed what could be termed a "private township" since the proprietors had settled on Fletcher's property, though no one worried much over such minor matters.

Oddly enough, there was no surveyed road and no rail connection with the early township and later the rail and road survey cut portion 407W into three divisions.

The Severn River alluvial tin was now attracting great numbers of miners and in later years the railway construction commenced and consequently Ballandean became a populous centre. By 1885 there were quite a number of hotels between Glen Aplin and the Border and these hotels became a popular rendezvous where the miners and construction workers assembled to drown their thirst, exchange yarns and settle their disputes in free-for-all style.

The list of licensed hotels between Glen Aplin and Wallangarra and their distance from Stanthorpe included "The Severn River" Hotel, 9 miles, Proprietor J. Dillon; "Grandstand" Hotel, 10 miles, Prop. Leonard Dean; "Crown" Hotel, 10 miles, Prop. Jas. A. Beecroft; "Rising Sun" Hotel, 11 miles, Prop. A. Dillon; "The Gap" Hotel, 12 miles, between Deans and Fletchers, Prop. C. A. Beecroft; "Britannia" Hotel, Severn River, Prop. Thos. Henry Fletcher; "Coakley's" Hotel, on Proudfoot's Extension, Severn River, Prop. Timothy Coakley; "Accommodation Creek" Hotel, Prop. Edward Stephens; "Harp of Erin" Hotel, near Wyberba, Prop. Peter McMeniman; and "The Terminus" Hotel, Wallangarra, Prop. Elizabeth Dyer.

Besides the hotels, the township included a post office with a bi-weekly mail service, a school, stores, a butchery and an up-to-date billiard room. To cater for the sporting fraternity there was a race course situated to the west of the township. This, probably, was the earliest form of organised sport in the district. Other names associated with this early period were those of Stuckey, who selected Portion MS33 (all portion numbers quoted throughout this record refer to Parish of Broadwater unless otherwise stated), the Normingtons, Moxley, Mungall and Tom Weatheral.

6d. per lb, while cattle had to be good to average £1 per head. Prices of some of the essential commodities, ruling in Stanthorpe at the time are given below.

	1880	1958
	s d	s d
Flour, 200 lb. bag	38/6	67/9 per 250 lb. bag
Sugar lb.	3½	11
Tea lb.	2/-	6/7
Tobacco lb.	4/4	40/-
Kerosene Tin	12/-	20/10
Shovels	4/6	26/-
Axes	7/-	40/-
Shirts	2/3	17/6
Tweed Trousers	8/-	32/6
Boarding House Charges	4/6	£4/10/-
		per day per week

About 1900 there seems to have been a substantial decline in values as compared with those of 1880 with tea priced at 9d. per lb., sugar at 2½d. per lb. and flour 1d. per lb.

Sheahan and Brunchhorst butchers of Stanthorpe ran a bi-weekly meat delivery as far as Wybera, using a horse-drawn butcher's cart. The price delivered ranged from 2d. to 2½d. per lb. Price of bread 3d. per 2 lb. loaf.

Although the above living costs may seem low, money was practically non-existent at that time. Charlie Potter and his brother used to wheel their tin from Ballandean to Stanthorpe in a barrow with rope attached. One pushed while the other pulled. The local price of tin then was 2½d. per lb.

Sundown at the time provided some employment either at mining, ring-barking, fencing or shooting. The general conditions under which the pioneers found themselves and were obliged to work in, are gleaned from the fact that the Johnstons of Accommodation Creek erected a 6 wire fence on Sundown traprock country at 56 per mile.

It was not the prospect of economic security, but the chance of earning a bare existence, which urged the pioneers onward.

Angus McLeod ringbarked the lower Sundown paddocks by contract in 1890 to 1893 at the price of 10d. per acre. The less mountainous country was ringbarked at 5d. per acre.

Neither the contractor nor the men he employed were inspired by their working conditions which gave rise to a famous poster:

STRIKE OF THE SUNDOWN RINGBARKERS

CAUSED BY

**BAD MEAT, NO POTATOES, BROWNIE VERY SCARCE
AND PLUM DUFF OUT OF THE QUESTION ALTOGETHER.**

Much of the fencing in Sundown was done by the McCoskers, Bents, Johnston and Burns and mighty fencers they were. To make the best of the low priced contracts they usually stood the posts in daylight and bored holes at night.

The places into which those men took their bullock teams, which hauled the wire, are almost incredible. Deserving of mention here are the dog-fences erected during James Fletcher's time on Ballandean. They were a tremendous undertaking, the likes of which will certainly never be attempted again.

In an effort to make the property dogproof, two dog-fences were constructed. The first fence enclosed most of the improved country on the eastern side of the Sundown Range. It was a low fence consisting of posts 15 feet apart, 2 battens 12 wires laced at 12 inch intervals. The lower wires spaced 3 inches apart. The second fence, constructed some years later, commenced from a point 1 mile west of Ballandean Railway, more or less following the river to Sundown, thence over Razorback Spur, Mount Donaldson to the Border. Turning east and returning through Lyra to its starting point. This fence was much higher than the first built. Its specifications are: posts 24 feet apart, 3 battens, 14, 15, or 16 wires according to the height required

at the particular part of the line. The average would be 15 wires laced at 1 foot intervals. Bent brothers undertook lacing contracts at 1d. per lace, which turned out a financial success. They each averaged 7/- per day. After its completion at great cost, the fence was found to be useless for the purpose it was intended, as the dingoes had acquired the art of climbing over it. They destroyed practically all the sheep in Sundown, either by actual killing or by rushing them over the cliffs. Fletcher was forced to abandon sheep and he restocked Sundown with cattle instead.

In 1893 while working alone in the Lye Moon Mine which is situated in Sundown Creek, west of the Sundown mine, the lease-holder Ted Lewis was trapped by a fall of rock. When discovered and rescued he was found to be suffering from a double compound fracture of the leg.

There was no ambulance in Stanthorpe at that time, and the injured man was carried to Ballandean on an improvised stretcher. Showing great fortitude he remained in the goods shed overnight and was taken by train to Stanthorpe for treatment next day.

The handling of heavy machinery on the steep hillsides of Sundown and Red Rock and the lowering of it into working position called for the exercise of skill and ingenuity.

The massive steam boiler owned by the Beehive Company was lowered 1000 feet to its position in Red Rock Creek. The boiler was first secured to a heavy slide and a sizable tree attached by a tailrope acted as a steady agent. It was eased down the hillside with block and tackle and winches.

When mining operations ceased in 1917 the boiler and pump were brought and removed by Joe Johnson and Bill Schafer. They used a horse-team and block and tackle. The rocky and precipitous country added to the difficulties of the task.

Mount Donaldson (3381 feet) in Sundown was the first named mountain in the Shire.

It was named by Stuart Alexander Donaldson who in 1844 owned Ten-terfield and Clifton Stations and in 1854 owned Mingoola and Glen Lyon.

Glen Lyon was an outstation of Tenterfield, situated on Glen Lyon Creek, 1 mile south of Dog Trap, now called Wallangarra.

S. A. Donaldson (later Sir) afterwards became the first Premier of New South Wales.

"Rats Castle" in Sundown is a curious pinnacle of boulders, part of a granite dyke which extends as far as Mingoola. When first seen by the early shepherds the pinnacle was a real home for rock wallabies, hence the charming appellation "Rats Castle".

The road leading from Sundown battery site to the crest of the spur above is steep and rough. This ½ mile stage resulted in considerable wastage of horse-flesh and time, since only light loads could be carried by waggon.

About 1915 a carrier was installed which comprised a double ropeway a quarter of a mile long with attached cages running on pulley wheels.

At its highest point the cable was approximately 80 feet above ground. One loaded cage going down the rope-way would draw the other cage up. Later a power-driven winding gear was installed which did away with some of the drawbacks of the former arrangements.

The carrier was also called the "Flying Fox".

Occasionally, if the cage gathered too much speed in its descent it would "jump" the cable with disastrous results to the cargo. The novelty of a trip in the "Flying Fox" appealed to some of the workers but the experience was seldom repeated.

Place names commemorating events, sometimes not particularly happy ones, but historic nevertheless are recorded in Sundown. One day when Tom Curtain was travelling the Sundown Road the wheel of his trap caved in and a shaft broke off. For years the abandoned wreck lay on the roadside and the spot became known as Curtain's Downfall.

A popular identity of mining days of Sundown was Robert (Bob) Gunn, brother of Donald Gunn M.L.A.

moving to another stand. These were generally two or three man, steam-driven mills with small output, but playing their part with the developing fruit industry.

These mills were owned and operated by the following persons:—Frank and George Pettiford, at a site opposite the railway gates and later on the site of Westbury's original mill. Maurice Hayes eventually leased this mill and moved it to a site on Fletcher Creek. Mungall Bros., five miles from Ballandean, the Johanson family and C. Lynam, each on their own properties.

Jennings Geyer owned various mills, two sites to the north of Ballandean were occupied. He sold this mill to Walters, Pearce and Bent who moved the plant to the Somme area. After operating a few years the mill was again shifted to Glen Aplin by Dave Walters and is still operated by L. and K. Walters as a permanent mill. Geyer then opened another mill at Bald Mountain and in 1928 moved to Marshall's Crossing which was worked for two years before moving to Ballandean.

In 1930 J. Geyer set up a permanent steam driven mill on a site adjacent to Ballandean sportsground. The mill cut fruit cases from hoop pine tops brought from Cooyar. It also cut local timbers for building purposes.

A revised price list of October, 1938 showed prices of the various timbers. First grade hoop pine up to 4 x 3 at 43/6 per hundred; dressed pine 3 x 2 to 8 x 1 at 52/-; rough hardwood up to 5 x 5 at 34/- per hundred super feet, dressed hardwood up to 8 x 3 at 43/- per hundred super feet, and hoop pine fruit cases ½ bushel dump at 6d.; cypress pine cases in earlier years at 3d.

Today's prices, 1959, are:—Hoop pine from 160/- to 200/- per hundred super feet; hardwood from 114/- to 140/- per hundred super feet for select dressed flooring. Fruit case prices are generally around 2/- per case.

In 1938 the hoop pine stanzas began to diminish and logs were put on a quota of four rail trucks per month and by the end of the war reduced to one truck per month, but has been maintained at that rate up to the present time from the Brisbane Valley.

With the diminishing hoop pine, the log supply was supplemented by rain forest soft-woods from the Killarney scrubs by rail and road.

In 1948 the mill was purchased by Curr and Johnston and the following year by C. N. Curr who has continued to operate the mill for mainly fruit case production up to the present time. Logs are now delivered (except hoop pine) by timber truck and jinker from the rain forest areas of Killarney, this timber consisting mainly of rain forest scrub woods, while local radiata pine, hard-woods and cypress are also utilised in case production and building timbers. This mill is still steam driven with electrically powered auxiliary equipment.

BALLANDEAN SPORTS GROUND

Through the wisdom and foresight of the early citizens of Ballandean in purchasing 35 acres of land from A. M. Hodgson in 1925, Ballandean to-day possesses one of the finest and most picturesque sports grounds in the Stanthorpe district. These beautiful and well-appointed grounds possess facilities for all sporting bodies in two colas-surfaced tennis courts, a cement cricket pitch, well-grassed soccer field, cycle track, basketball and hockey field.

When the land became available in 1923, a committee in the name of the Ballandean Sports Club, was formed to negotiate its purchase and the land became the property of the Sports Club on the 9th November, 1925, for the purchase price of £490. Finance was raised by an overdraft with the Ballandean branch of the Primary Producers' Bank of Australia and the issue of twenty-one £10 Promissory Notes, negotiable in 1932. Owing to financial difficulties in the early 1930's these were not honoured until 1958 after further money came to hand from the sale of land to Iona Enterprises.

An area of 8 acres of Stock Reserve R265 was incorporated with the Ballandean Sports Ground and taken over from the Stanthorpe Shire Council in 1924. On the 27th May, 1926, John William Luke, William Thomas Alexander Dean and James Alexander McKnoulty were gazetted Trustees for the Reserve and appointed Trustees of the freehold portion of the Sports Ground purchased in 1925. McKnoulty and Luke relinquished their positions in 1939, being no

longer residents of Ballandean. The Trusteeship was then taken over by Mervyn Parkes Fletcher and Wilfred George Newman on the 13th April, 1944, and on the 25th April 1953, Arthur John Smith replaced M. P. Fletcher, who at that time was not residing in Ballandean. In 1956 W. T. A. Dean resigned and R. E. Williamson was appointed Trustee in his place. The Trustees now are W. G. Newman, A. J. Smith and R. E. Williamson.

The original chairman of the Ballandean Sports Club, J. Vaughan, who was then manager of the local branch of the Primary Producers' Bank, was responsible for the arranging of a lot of the finance for the purchase of the Sports Ground. A. E. Cowley was the secretary and J. W. Luke treasurer, and under the early guidance of the executive officers and committee men the Sports Club continued to prosper with racemeetings and other types of sports until the early 30's. Race meetings were then abandoned because of the closing down of all unregistered courses. The Club rapidly declined until such time as it became almost non-existent. A. E. Cowley, the last President and Secretary of the old Club, carried on by collecting rents and paying the liabilities of the ground until a meeting was convened by A. E. Cowley and F. E. Fielder in 1939 to re-form the Ballandean Sports Club.

At that meeting, held on 13th January, 1939, and chaired by F. E. Fielder, the Sports Club was re-formed. At the following meeting C. J. Barker was elected Chairman and Treasurer and S. Booth Secretary and an executive formed by the appointment of two delegates from each sporting body and two representing the public. The executive committee of to-day is still elected on these lines and has proved to function very well.

The Sports Club finances were put on a sound footing after the war by two sports carnivals organised by E. G. Donoghue and held on Boxing Day, 1947, and again in 1948. Working funds over the last ten years have come from sporting club fees, and rental of ground for grazing and agricultural purposes.

Present office-bearers are W. G. Newman, Chairman; C. N. Curr, Secretary and Treasurer; and the committee consists of D. R. Clark, A. Taylor, B. Ryan, G. McCosker, J. Litzow, W. Manning, A. Marshman, K. Gibb, N. Smith and J. Lynam.

Early plantings of pine trees around the western side of the ring by the Ballandean Cricket Club and further plantings of trees after the war around the remainder of the oval and adjoining the main highway enhanced the appearance and beauty of the grounds considerably.

The cycle track was graded around the sports oval in 1938 for use by the then Ballandean Shooting Star Cycle Club.

In 1946 a cricket shed was erected and a new concrete wicket put down two years later.

In 1956 three acres of unused land was planted with radiata pine trees, but owing to drought conditions just after planting only a small number of trees survived.

STOCKING OF THE SEVERN RIVER WITH FISH

It was disappointing that despite the fine waterholes and lagoons near Ballandean there was no fishing in the waters above the Severn River Falls.

In 1892, A. H. E. Barton suggested dynamiting the two rock bars forming the Falls so as to create a by-pass enabling the fish to move upstream. He launched a public appeal for funds through the Border Post to cover the cost, which, he estimated would not exceed £100. The proposal, however, met with little public interest and was abandoned.

About 1895, an attempt was made by Robert Hoggan, of Lyra, and others associated with him, to establish trout in the clear waters of Accommodation Creek, but the fish did not survive.

Many years later, in August, 1925, an angling club, of which M. Fletcher and W. Lynam were prominent members, was formed. One of its objects being to stock the upper waters of the Severn River with fish known to exist below the Falls, and the enterprise resulted in remarkable success. Records show that the venture was financed partly by public donations and by a grant of £50 made by the Stanthorpe Shire Council. Of the grant only £30 was used.