

## Appendix F

### Notes of Interviews with Snow Country Graziers

Between 1975 and 1978 I interviewed many then current and past high country graziers, and in this Appendix I present my notes from these interviews. I think the notes have become more valuable as time has passed and I'm thankful I had the good sense not to throw them out. They lay in a storage box for over 35 years before I finally typed them up.

These interviews were carried out after I had completed reading the Lands Department file records and old local newspapers, which enabled me to compile a list of who grazed what areas, and some notable historical events relevant to mountain grazing. The purpose of the interviews was to draw out any complementary additional information from local oral tradition.

In conducting these interviews my aim was to compile a general picture of how the snow country has been used. I was particularly interested in the type and scale of grazing activities. To this end the following themes guided the interviews:

- Length of time each snow country area was grazed
- The type and number of stock grazed,
- Business arrangements and structures that could influence stocking pressure
- Management of stock on runs, including length of grazing season & preferred areas for grazing, and use of lower elevation bush areas for winter grazing
- Entry / exit paths, and other points of concentration of stock such as huts, yards & paddocks
- Catastrophic events, particularly wildfire and droughts; also encounters with localised hazards
- Control burning to maximise carrying capacity
- Other memorable events or observations

I usually started each interview by mentioning names of graziers I had encountered in the Lands Department file records. Sometimes the conversation didn't get much further than that. But more commonly stories of 'who' initiated a natural progression to 'what', 'why', 'when' and 'where'.

#### List of Interviewees

Name		Town	Locality		
Jans	Norman	Boisdale	Baw Baw		
Rawson	Harry	Erica	Baw Baw		
Stagg	Hector	Tinamba	Baw Baw		
Blair	Ross	Germantown	Bogong HPs		
Condon	Mrs. Rod	Paynesville	Bogong HPs		
Dibbin	Arthur	Freeburgh	Bogong HPs	Hotham, etc	
Edmondson	Jack	Tawonga	Bogong HPs		
Evans	David	Myhree	Bogong HPs		
Faithful	Mrs. Geo	Omeo	Bogong HPs		
Fitzgerald	Brinny	Shannonvale	Bogong HPs		
Fitzgerald	D'arcy	Omeo	Bogong HPs		

Foster	Ernie	Omeo	Bogong HPs		
Hollonds	Stewart	Mt. Beauty	Bogong HPs		
Kelly	Andy	Bairnsdale	Bogong HPs		
Kelly	Kevin	Omeo	Bogong HPs		
Roper	Mrs Jack	Tawonga	Bogong HPs		
Ryder	Sid	Wodonga	Bogong HPs		
Ryder	Wally	Tawonga	Bogong HPs		
Scott	Colin	Omeo	Bogong HPs		
Scott	Stewart	Glen Iris	Bogong HPs		
Lewis	Reg	Myhree	Mt.Cobbler	Mt Buffalo	
Bibby	Tom	Harrietville	Dargo HPs		
Gow	Roy	Wandiligong	Dargo HPs		
Treasure	Jim	Lindenow	Dargo HPs		
Beveridge	Sid	Brookside	Hotham etc		
Howard	Bill	Harrietville	Hotham etc		
Keating	Jack	Harrietville	Hotham etc		
Lawler	Mrs.	Germantown	Hotham etc		
Weston	Percy	Porepunkah	Mt Buffalo		
Hodgkins	Bill	Eskdale	Mt.Bogong		
Maddison	Jack	Mt. Beauty	Mt.Bogong		
Chester	Norman	Heyfield	Snowy Range		
Dunsmuir	Bob	Briagolong	Snowy Range		
Estoppey	Andy	Briagolong	Snowy Range		
Higgins	Kevin	Glenmaggie	Snowy Range		
Kelly	Jack	Maffra	Snowy Range		
Miller	Rex	Mornington	Snowy Range		
Molphy	Kevin	Heyfield	Snowy Range		
Monds	Jim	Heyfield	Snowy Range		
Riggall	Horton	Tinamba	Snowy Range		
Ritchie	Bob, snr	Delatite	Snowy Range		
Shaw	Bill	Glenmaggie	Snowy Range		
Shaw	(old) Mrs.	Glenmaggie	Snowy Range		
Commins	Jim	Ensay	Tambo/Buchan	Nunniong	
Doyle	Gerald	Hawthorn	Tambo/Buchan	Nunniong	
Duke	Doug	Bairnsdale	Tambo/Buchan	Nunniong	
Grinter	Ron	Swifts Creek	Tambo/Buchan	Nunniong	
Hollonds	Bill, snr	Benambra	Tambo/Buchan	Nunniong	Up. Murray
Johnson	Mr.	Paynesville	Tambo/Buchan	Nunniong	
Jones	Reg	Swifts Creek	Tambo/Buchan	Nunniong	
Mitten	George	Bairnsdale	Tambo/Buchan	Nunniong	
Murphy	Mick	Tongio	Tambo/Buchan	Nunniong	
Rogers	Dick	Bairnsdale	Tambo/Buchan	Up. Buchan	
Rogers	K. C.	Bairnsdale	Tambo/Buchan	Up. Buchan	
Roth	Son	Ensay	Tambo/Buchan	Nunniong	
Yapp	Bert	Bairnsdale	Tambo/Buchan	Nunniong	
Yapp	Miss	Bindi	Tambo/Buchan	Nunniong	
Carmody	Jean	Nariel	Up. Murray		
Gibson	Bill	Benambra	Up. Murray		
Gibson	Jo	Thowgla	Up. Murray		
Hollonds	Bill, jnr		Up. Murray		

Pendergast	Claude	Benambra	Up. Murray		
Pendergast	Jack	Benambra	Up. Murray		
Pendergast	Lou	Benambra	Up. Murray		
Pendergast	Norman	Benambra	Up. Murray		
Simpson	Sid	Nariel	Up. Murray		
Allen	Bill	Toorak	Up.Goulburn	Snowy Range	
Dundas	Roy	Mansfield	Up.Goulburn		
Graves	Alex	Mansfield	Up.Goulburn	Up.King	
Hearn	Charlie	Mansfield	Up.Goulburn	Up.King	
Hoskin	George	Jamieson	Up.Goulburn	Mitchell's & Mt Skene	
Klingsporn	Irene	Merrijig	Up.Goulburn	Up.King	
Klingsporn	Jack	Merrijig	Up.Goulburn	Up.King	
Lovick	Frank & Aileen	Merrijig	Up.Goulburn		
Lovick	Jack	Merrijig	Up.Goulburn		
McCormick	Jack	Merrijig	Up.Goulburn	Up.King	
Ross	Fred	Mansfield	Up.Goulburn	Up.King	
Sutcliffe	Bill	Mansfield	Up.Goulburn	Mitchell's & Mt Skene	
Walker	Bert	Mansfield	Up.Goulburn		
Ware	Jack	Mansfield	Up.Goulburn		
Ware	Jim	Dandenong	Up.Goulburn		

### **Mt Bogong**

Name: W.J. Hodgkin Date of Interview: 1977

- Frank & Harry (& Athol?) Howman had 2000 head of cattle on Mt Bogong. They lived at Little Creek. The cattle were taken straight up Snowy Creek to Trappers & then to Mt. Bogong. They had a miner's hut at Mt Elmo and a half-way hut at Trappers creek made of slabs with tin chimney. They had big yards at Trappers creek; from there up Eskdale spur to Mt. Bogong. It was a 2-day trip. They only had about 80 acres of freehold / selection. The bush grazing was that good that they did their breeding in the bush. They always put bulls on Bogong with the rest of the stock. They sold store bullocks at 2 or 3 yo at Tallangatta & Wodonga.
- Howmans would put as many cattle onto Mt Bogong as they could. They mustered from the lower bush country & put them straight on the top
- Old Maddison was one of the first onto Mt Bogong, & 2 of the Howmans (Peter & Fred)
- Howmans sold out in 1916/18. Sold all the cattle at Snowy Creek; Herefords bred by them. They had stockyards at Lords Creek too. They didn't know what stock they had; when they had finished the sale there were still plenty of bullocks left in the bush; and many clean skins too. They had so many cattle that they couldn't handle them. One Howman retired to Melbourne; the other to Wodonga.
- When the Howmans sold out Thomas Maddison went in to the Mt Bogong run, then Hodgkins

- Stock numbers: Hodgkin's: 150 – 200; Pritchard's: around 300; Maddison's together around 500
- Hodgkins used to go up on 1<sup>st</sup> November with the bulls, through Lords Creek, Trappers Creek & then up Eskdale spur. In later years went from Lords creek to Granite Flat ridge to the Hollow (hut) then up Eskdale spur. Now they go from Lords creek spur to Hollow hut, across Bogong – Snowy – Malauser spur to Glen Wills ridge then onto Bogong.
- Pritchards came with us; Maddisons went up the Staircase spur
- Pritchards stopped in 1940. They used to buy cattle of all sorts & fatten them on the bogs, then sell at 3, 4 or even 6 years old. They had a freehold paddock at Spring Creek & a bush lease behind
- In later years Hodgkins grazed with Ryders
- W. Hodgkin first went up in 1937. Our winter country was good – there were no blackberries then on Trappers, or Dean's creek. But they are now getting in along Forests Commission roads.
- When he first went out there were no kangaroos in Lords creek; now it's full of them; since the introduction of mixo. When we started rabbits were going up to the foot of the snow country, and the odd one around Hollow hut.
- When we started you could run thousands of head on Mt Bogong if allowed. He's been going up for over 50 years. If not grazed the grass gets very long & dries out & rots, & then the grass will stop coming up
- They used to muster with Pritchards & Maddisons. Then Ryders replaced Pritchards. They used Maddison's Airtex hut & packed supplies out on a horse that knew the way up
- Maddisons built a log & brush holding paddock but it was burned in 1939 fires. Then we built a small one near Airtex hut. Now we use a log fenced yard on top of Maleuser spur & from there it is only one day down.
- Bill Maleuser was an old German who had a mine up the Lightening (crk?). He lived there with his family; then got another mine on the spur. He came here for the gold rush.
- Howman left his men up on Mt. Bogong in the summer; he carted up their tucker and salt; he had to do this as he had so many cattle. Howman's hut was at the head of ???, to the east of Granny's spur. We camped there when we first went up; then used tents; then Maddison's hut
- We had 2 men salting the cattle; they would put in about 2 weeks and then come home. Before mustering we would put salt down the spurs so that cattle would be handy at mustering time. At mustering we would put salt out & call.
- Since 1939 the country has become so scrubby that dogs are now needed to find most of the cattle. In the 1939 fires we lost 8 – 10 head; everyone lost some
- The woolly butt country was very good grass country, and it would be burnt in autumn. Each year we would burn in different spots, & be out for a week or two. We never burnt in spring as the weather might get dry & then the fires could burn all summer. Each patch was burned again 3 or 4 years later. If you burn at the wrong time the grass is burnt to the roots.
- Horses: Howmans had 15 or 20; Maddisons took some spare ones
- Sheep were never on Mt. Bogong; but they were on BHPs on Batty's run when W. Hodgkin was about 22 years old; Johnson also had sheep on BHPs.

- Jack O'Connell took cattle to NSW 50 or 60 years ago. Kellys did also. They had farms around Livingstone River, & a place at Albury. They had a yard on the RB and then on Mitta, then onto Albury along the road.
- There was never any subletting of runs on Mt Bogong.
- WH kept his Stockyard creek run burnt, & in 1939 it wasn't touched (by the wildfire). Wally Ryder was at Cole hut during the firers. WH & Sid Ryder were taking cattle to Maleuser Spur where the top had grass. The wildfire came through the tops of the trees before burning the ground. The 1939 fire went across Bogong in strips; went through woolly butt country and clear grass country too
- WH was caught once by bad weather, when he was with Wally Ryder. That time the Omeo people were forced to go down Big River.
- If you were caught by snow at Airtex hut, then you had to go over the top. Harry Downs & George Boon were caught in the snow for weeks; eventually they went over the top, leaving the horses behind. Harry D half dragged GB down to Eskdale spur & that saved him; Boon had given up.
- If caught in fog during autumn, you have to rely on the horse to find its way out.
- Aboriginal relics: in the bush at Lords Creek, Scrubby Creek, Williams's Creek, but not Trapyard Creek. Here there were round shafts around wombat burrows; plenty of them. And little stone axes around Mitta. But WH has never seen any evidence / relics on the tops.
- Official run boundaries didn't mean much; graziers worked things out amongst themselves. Maddison's, Pritchard's & Hodgkin's cattle were all mixed up together. Maddisons once chased our cattle off; it was not a bad year & there was no explanation
- Years ago there was cattle duffing going on; Petersens around Granite Flat to Glen Wills. But that was a long time ago
- Walshs have Mt Wills now, on agistment
- All cattle come off Bogong in healthy condition. On the lowland paddocks there are worms, etc. But the diet is more varied on the tops so the cattle are healthy
- Hodgkin family: my grandfather Thomas H was from England. He went to the gold diggings at Buckland, then to the Pioneer mine at Mitta. At Mitta he worked as a blacksmith. Grandmother was Irish. She used to break in horses. Walter Hodgkin was born at Buckland. Grandfather died at 49 yo. Walter was a Blacksmith & worked at a saw mill. He never had cattle on Bogong. I started with cattle when I was 18 yo.
- I was 1<sup>st</sup> to go out with Pritchards to Bogong, after Howmans sold out. For the first few years we followed Howman's track. Maddisons were out there with Howmans & didn't appreciate us coming in; we didn't get on too well, & there was a row over cutting
- Hodgkins family: Bill, Sam (started going to Bogong 2 or 3 years after me & is the boss now); Charlie (only occasionally goes out). Bill jnr has been going there since 14 yo
- The family have a saw mill, dairy cows & beef cattle. When I went to Stockyard Creek (600 – 700 acres) did dairying there, & ran beef cattle in the bush; never had beef cattle on the low country. Stopped milking about 20 years ago
- All our beef cattle were bush cattle; bought good bulls; sell calves. Price 4 years ago was \$155 for a 10-month old calf; this year it is \$66. Sell at Myrtleford calf sales. Up till 20 years ago they sold bullocks at Tallangatta

- Now Stockyard property also used for beef, in conjunction with the bush. About ¾ of the herd runs in the bush. 240 head total.
- We would be in a mess if we didn't have the high country as we don't have enough low country; having the high country allows the winter country to be spelled

Name: Jack Maddison 65yo Date of Interview: 25/4/1977

- When Maddisons used to run on Mt Bogong it had better seasons than other places on the tops; seemed to get more rain or something; from Timms Lookout towards Mt. Nelse the country dries out
- They mustered from Maddison's hut and yards: Maddisons, W. Ryder & B & R Hodgkin
- Cattle used to be put on Big River; years ago some used to cross to the BHPs; now they don't as the country is too dirty
- The HPs have changed: high heath has come in; years ago the heath was lower in the snow gum country; heath is a real fire hazard
- Parts of the 1939 fires went across Mt Bogong
- Their first hut on Bogong was burnt in the early days: west of Cole hut & a little creek (head of Beckwith Crk) near Granny Spur
- When Jack M started out, at 15yo, they packed from the original hut
- JM's grandfather George Maddison was the first grazier on Mt Bogong, in 1882. He cut the track
- Geo M selected The Island. He cleared the Staircase Spur track in 1882. That year the cattle were hard to muster as they were so fat – that's how good the country was then. Some died coming down the spur (because their shoulders couldn't support their weight on the down slopes)
- Sub-letting of runs was common in the early days
- In about 1914 JM's father guided NSW sheep graziers up onto Fainter. McCulloch had cattle; Fred Maddison looked after his own cattle around Pretty Valley & Wallace's; he camped out all summer to keep an eye on his own run – cattle from NSW were not used to bush and not used to the HPs
- Johnson's hut was built by sheep men; most sheep men were from Omeo
- John Scott could have had sheep
- Pat Kelly went up in the early days only with cattle; his great grand sons have cattle on Mt Nelse
- Naughtons had sheep & cattle on the lowlands, & probably put all cattle on the HPs. They had 8 – 10 stockmen
- We / Maddisons used to go out onto Bogong in October. Bulls were taken out till Xmas as often cows were not in calf. Now bulls are not allowed up there as they fight.
- Maddisons had a paddock on Bogong, but it burned in 1939.
- A timber fence was made of snow gum in 1935. It was across from below Cole hut (N-S line) down long / middle spur and down another to falls then onto T Spur and to the top. We mustered into that
- Prior to construction of the fence they mustered down into Big River
- Before 1935 they had a small paddock near Cole hut; after 1939 they built a 5 or 6-acre paddock at Maddison's hut

- In 1930 they packed up corrugated iron for the hut
- The number of stock they had on Mt Bogong: Maddison's: 400 not including calves; Tom Arter: 200; Hodgkin & Pritchard: 200 head each
- The cattle used to be in the spurs as this area was regularly burned & this was good country. Most cattle were in the head of Big river and around the saddle at Paddy's flat; this is steep but very good grazing: woolly butt and snow gum; only about 25% of the herd was on the tops
- The spur east of Bogong, & the Terrible Hollow was good woolly butt; Hodgkin's & Pritchard's cattle were there
- Maddisons put cattle into the Hollow in spring; then into Big River in November
- Sid Glew and the O'Connells mustered on Mt Wills, & we met them at the bottom
- We always did a light burn in autumn until the FCV imposed restrictions after 1939; we only did light burns, every 2 years
- Maddisons wintered stock at Trappers Creek – bulls, etc – then they were mustered in spring & put straight on top
- Jack M first went to the tops around 15yo & he worked for his father. Father started giving us a few head and gradually we built up a herd of our own; we also trapped rabbits & foxes for money
- Father had 800 acres of bush country from Bay Creek to Sandy Creek, & this was used to winter cattle. It was always burnt. The gullies used to be clear; now they're choked with blackberries over the last 15 – 20 years. Reason: the rabbits used to nip off the blackberry shoots & kept them under control. But with the introduction of mixomytosis there are no longer any rabbits – and the blackberries are thriving. However, one benefit of rabbit control is the natural white clover that is coming back. After WW2 Ted Maddison used superphosphate and this has promoted growth of clover.
- All cattle wintered in the bush were move to the tops – the lower country was saved specially for winter
- Foxes also spread black berries as they eat them
- Jack M now has freehold at Mongans Bridge and Bay Creek. 600 acres is very steep; 80 – 100 acres is clear, grassed & supered.
- Maddisons have always been breeders of cattle; keep a few heifer calves to replace breeders.
- They used to sell 2 & 3 yo bullocks to fatteners. Now they sell calves at 9 – 12 months old; today they must sell the calves as they can't carry the quantity
- Bulls now stay in the lower country; cows calve in Jan – Feb on the HPs, & they sell in the autumn; this year will sell 25 – 30 calves. We sell at Wodonga now; Myrtleford is now mainly for store dealers
- Jack M has always run cattle on his own. Before 1942 he was on the farm at home; then in the army; then from 1945 – 75 worked as a pack man for the SEC. He took cattle up on weekends and mustered during holidays. His 3 sons work for the SEC too and also have cattle.
- Jack M's father had a dairy with about 50 cows. JM helped there till 1940 on the weekends. The dairy was started 53 years ago, & was sold 7 years ago.

- The winter runs were not fenced - & plenty of people who had bush runs would turn neighbours' cattle that wandered in onto the roads. That is a problem that put many people off. Also, now that burning by graziers is not permitted the winter country has become very rough so not many have bush runs any more
- George Maddison took the Lands Dept surveyors onto Mt Bogong. He worked at Tawonga station for 18 or 19 years when the bushranger Morgan held up the station
- The Tawonga mustering mob: Ben Cooper, Ryder, Herb Maddison, Charlie Grealy, Higginson. 2 or 3 in each family went up
- Hollonds mustered on their own on Fainter
- Ropers had the Heathy Spurs run & mustered on their own, & went down to Kiewa River via Howman's Gap
- Battys & Kellys & Fitzgeralds mustered on the east end alone
- Naughtons were out Hotham way & their cattle didn't go into Pretty Valley. They had a paddock on the Omeo road near Hotham, possibly Dinner plain
- Gows were on Hotham & DHPs. Ron Gow got freehold on the DHPs; Treasures bought it from him
- Bob Roper stopped with father; run 33 relinquished. Mustered with the Omeo group & then came across to help the Tawonga mob.
- James did most of the cattle work on the HPs
- Sid Ryder, Brockley st, Wodonga, 70 +
- The Syndicate: Wally Ryder, Sid Ryder, Herb Maddison, Charlie Greilly
- Jack Maddison & his father Vic were full time on the property; Tom M worked as a stock & station agent. All had an interest in cattle.

### **Bogong High Plains**

Name: Colin Scott, Date of Interview: 1977

- Sheep to BHPs in 1914 drought; shepherds up there all the time; most sheep at Hinnomunjie went up there
- Nunniong was used in conjunction with Buchan Station; cattle
- Noorong Station – between Barham and Moolameign carried sheep & cattle; was sold to Naughton
- Colin Scott was 18yo when J.C Scott died. With his brother Robert Scott, JCS held a lot of property: Goree, Malvern Downs (qld), Buchan station, Hinnomunjie (sold it & bought it back), Geehi (with lots of leases attached); other scattered properties
- Robert Scott had a few properties: Cadow (out of Forbes) a large one, good land; Woodside station in 1914, near Yarram. He lived in Melbourne at 32 Queens Road.
- 1<sup>st</sup> people to take up land around Conlake (?) in South Gippsland. Family all pastoralists
- Harry Peck (memoirs of a stockman) mentions Scott
- Grandfather came from Scotland. All his sons started from scratch. Grandfather had a business as fodder merchant in Castlemaine District. Then went to South Gippsland and selected
- Goree was probably a partnership with Robert.
- All properties were basically self-contained

- JCS was manager of all the properties – a good manager. Had good reliable stockmen under him in charge.
- Robert was a shrewd buyer. He used to get a property & knock it into shape, then see something else
- JCS liked Hinnomunjie; sold it & bought it back again
- Sam Gilbert used to drive JCS fat stock to the rail head at Bruthen, then to Newmarket. Fattening was done at Hinnomunjie
- Hinnomunjie was originally a horse station (but not in JCS time) – E.J. Crooke. Horses were big business in those days
- JCS was one of the first to use super phosphate on the land. He cut Lucerne hay. He was one of the first to conserve fodder on account of drought
- The Hinnomunjie environment is like Riverina type: spear grass, barley grass, & trefoil (annuals); with hardy perennials on higher ground. A dry rain shadow area.
- Hinnomunjie basically a good property – sound & healthy, though Buchan was his best property
- In the drought they walked sheep to the tops as a last resort as you couldn't dispose of them. No point walking them to Bairnsdale as what would you do there?

Name: Stewart Scott, Date of interview 15/12/1977 - was JC Scott's manager on BHPs

- Stewart Scott's father was Alex Scott
- Robert Scott had a series of properties; several in Queensland. Goree Station at Forbes, NSW (about 40,000 acres)
- Family tree:
  - \* James Scott, Arrived in Australia in 1852. Married Eliz Grant.
  - \* Richard S (eldest) --→ Andrew
  - \* Robert Cuthbert Scott, married twice (Elizabeth Edwards: Emily Riggall)
  - \* John Cruickshank Scott, married twice (Ivy White; ? Dickie); 2 sons: Colin, John Dickie
- Robert and John C were both keen on grazing, and did go on the high lands
- John had Buchan station – the caves were on his property & were found when he was living there
- John had Hinnomunjie for 15 years or so
- John had Noorong station on Edward River just north of the Murray & about 40 miles west of Denniloquin; sheep & cattle
- Robert had Cadow near Forbes; Goree between Narrandera & Jerilbone; Wandook near Goree, Weari near Warbreccan, and 4 or 5 others
- Can't remember Robert and John working together. At one stage Robert and Alex bought up places, got them going, and helped with finance – very good financier.
- Robert S usually had more than one station at a time – changed about; sold places well. He usually travelled by train & knew everyone. He bought big lines of store stock in Queensland & brought them down and sold them over the telephone often in transit from Baloon River (qld & nsw) via Bourke. Walked stock from south and south-central Queensland to the rail head at Barewarren or Bourke. Then to Tokemore. The stock would only end up at their property if they were unsuccessful selling them on the way down

- They were dealers & got the best available beef types – mostly Herefords and Hereford/short horn cross; bought in the thousands
- Andrew Scott used to go all over the place; he studied the movement of insects and on the basis of this would buy more stock than he required himself; mostly sold before they had reached their destination. Andrew worked for Robert S for years
- Robert Scott was very clever. Andrew worked for him for about 30 years and learned; then he made a fortune
- Robert's home was always in Melbourne. His second wife was a cripple after her 3<sup>rd</sup> child. She needed a nurse; over the years she got worse and always lived in Queens Road St Kilda; whole family lived there; Robert went away to the stations & had managers at each one. He never had family at those places.
- Robert would go up & inspect; he made big deals with cattle & sheep all over eastern Australia. He was clever with his timing, & selection of cattle. He bought big numbers when the price was low.
- Robert was clever with sheep as well as cattle
- John C Scott was 6'2-3" – heavily built man & quiet. None of his brothers were like him. While Robert always had 2 – 3 times the number of properties as JC, they would go through his hands quickly; he was a speculator. In contrast JC held on to properties for much longer
- JC had properties close to the high plains (Robert didn't)
- JC did live at Hinnomunjie and Buchan
- The movements of Robt & JC depended on the climate & seasons. If there were good rains between the Murray river & Queensland, then one of the would go up & might stay for 4 – 5 months buying store cattle & bringing them down south selling them on the move.
- They watched the papers, worked the long distance phone calls a lot; had good contacts. They would buy good store cattle & sheep and put them on agistment in good areas, then later sell as fats or stores in markets in the south. Anywhere in the north breeding was a necessity on a big property; R & J were good judges of stock & could visualise how poor cattle would fatten / grow
- Breeding was important for JC as he was a stay-at-home type; Robert was restless & wouldn't wait.
- Noorong station was bought from Naughton brothers. Old JC used to talk of Ted Naughton
- Stewart Scott lived in the Riverina from 1919; had a stock and station agency which Alex Scott started in 1886
- All these men were well known and popular between Gippsland and south Queensland
- They were dedicated to livestock interests, were not racing men
- Old James Scott was from Scotland, & was the original selector at Poowong. He brought out his family & went to Maryborough. He was a stone mason, & built the Maryborough town hall and post office. He bought a farm there, but lost money so he decided to move to Queensferry (Bass). Stayed on Westfield station for a while in Westernport. He followed after the surveyor McDonald, & he & his son Richard selected 320 acres each – a mixed farm. Had to clear the land; a big family; plenty of labour; up to 300 head of cattle, & horses
- See Victoria and its metropolis, Past & Present, 1888, p 389
- James Scott 1831- 1896 (Perthshire, Scotland)
- Worbrecan – H.A Lindsay-field

- Robert always had plenty of capital – made on his own. He was in touch with bankers, lenders, & borrowed where necessary
- Harry Peck mentions Stewart Scott & his father. Peck used to go to Gippsland and the high country, and he knew people who were grazing the high country
- Alex Scott bought a share in an auctioneering firm in 1896; He never had a high plains connection
- Robert Scott used to know the Rogers very well.

Name: D'arcy Fitzgerald, Date of Interview 20/2/1978

- Bill Jack had this property (Shannonvale) first, then DF's grandfather Edward Darcy Fitzgerald took over sometime after 1852 (?)
- Braithwaite also owned Shannonvale; worked in the Joker Mine (this side of Middle Creek)
- DF's father took the last wagon load of supplies to the Brandy Creek mines
- Edward D Fitzgerald arrived in Omeo in 1852 for mining. Eventually had his own stock on the high plains. Fitzgeralds hut built 1902; father, uncle & grand father worked on it. Took up high plains grazing when mining went down.
- Gus & Harry Petersen had Grays paddock at Cobungra – sold it to Naughtons
- McCulloch from NSW side came to the BHPs with sheep. Warby (who may have been a drover) – Warby's Corner – lost most of his stock in a blizzard
- McCulloch got a run at the head of Middle Creek – took up 500-600 bullocks. But he didn't know where the run was so the stock were just put up on the high plains
- Darcy Fitzg and mate Jack Hallet took 2000 sheep onto the HPs in 1928, in 2 batches
- Tongio Station (Johnsons) took sheep practically every year to what is now Fitzgeralds run.
- Pat Heally had the Rocky Hills run, & he stocked only sheep
- Kieran Marum was one of the earliest there & he took cattle
- Osborne Young had horses on the HPs (not cattle). One year he had 300 foals. Most were sold either at Maffra, or in the paddock for remounts for the Indian army
- Uncle George Fitzg worked for Osborne Young, with Jack McLaren / McDam
- Young's route: Benambra to Innisvale (up Bingo Creek to Bundar)
- Descendants of Jens Petersen / Gus Petersen had stock here. JP's sons worked at the Brandy Creek mines
- (cocky) Tommy Robinson sublet his run and lost it. He had the wild horse creek run; let it to someone & was dobbed in. He once owned part of (Buchan?) and Bingo. Built a hut on it.
- Andy Sharpe was a mining inspector; later had stock on the Dargo HPs; got one grazing block off Treasures (only a few years) – had to pay Treasures for the fence on it; later Treasures got it back. Sharpe not known to have had stock on BHPs; had a block under Flourbag & a tin hut on it (we camped there in 1928). Had Racecourse and Emu plain; had 2 boys Reg & Vincent who did most of the stock work
- Sharpe also had the Cobungra hotel at one time
- Mick McNamara was born in Melbourne; his mother had a milk round there. At that time the mining at Ballarat. Thomas McNamara, Mick's brother, came to Omeo. Mrs Thom McN or Mrs Mick McN was a Gray.
- Fred Box had Cobungra Station; grazed the tops a lot. Also had the Cobungra Hotel once.
- DF had cattle on BHPs in 1923.

- Campbells yards – ref Campbells had a run there once
- Billy Hollonds had a run & yards; was there for many years; cattle & horses, but not that many
- Paddy Duane – had yards & a hut near where Roper's is now
- Old Fred Roper was the oldest man on the HPs when DF first went there. Old Bill Batty took me up
- Fitzgeralds used to camp at Marum's hut before they built their own in 1901/02 summer. For years they ran cattle but didn't rent a run at all!
- John A Hemphill had a horse stud at Shannonvale; was neighbours with Braithwaite
- P Higgins had Braithwaite's top (between Shannonvale and Bundah). Frank & Tom Mongan had the run before Higgins.

Name: Mrs George Faithful Date of Interview 19/11/1977

- Henry Faithful -> William H Faithful -> George Faithful
- Henry F was from a wealthy family in Goulburn, NSW. Had a small property including a racecourse. He was the black sheep of the family & lost money on the races. He was the father of the Omeo Faithfuls. George F came from near Wangaratta.
- William Henry Faithful was a carrier & didn't have much to do with the high plains
- The son of William Henry F was Bill Faithful, & he had a run, as did his sons.
- George F was a son of Bill F ; born 1916 & he was the first to have runs
- George had land at Bingo, & he got Bucketey Plain

Name: Kevin Kelly, Date of Interview 19/11/1977

- Thomas Kelly came from Ireland with wife & 2 children, PJK & sister. He fossicked at the goldmines & selected the old place. Started with cattle. Was killed falling off a horse. PJK then took over and took on runs
- They had the high plains runs from early 1900s / 07 / 08
- George Fitzgerald used to go with PJK.
- Kieran Marum was an old builder & he built Kelly's hut with slabs & shingles
- Cocky Robinson had a BHPs run, but only for a few years. He started a hut but never finished it
- Thomas Gray was at Hinnomunjie Bridge, & there is a paddock named after him.
- Another Gray was involved in horse dealing.

Name: David Evans, President Moyhu Historical Society, Date of Interview 20/11/1977, at Myree

- John Evans snr came from Wales in 1841, & selected land at Whitefield in 1853. In Wales he was a publican. Was keen on racing & brought out his own race horses on the ship. His wife died in childbirth. He came out with plenty of money, & his sons were the beneficiaries
- He had 4 sons: John E b 1843; Evan b 1839 (went to WA); David b 1836 (went to SA); Ben b 1834 (went to Mansfield)
- John E was born on the Campaspe river
- John E's progeny: Hubert (W.A), Elinor 1870, Whitefield; Evan 1888, Mylor; John Edwin / Jack 1872, Charles, Henry, Mark, Francis, David

- The Whitefield run was taken in 1853 by John snr, who died in 1861. The run then transferred into the names of sons David, Evan & John 10/4/1866
- John E got the Whitefield property into debt; he sold it for a good price & went to Conoble in NSW, near Hillston. He took up the Conoble run with his brother David. Lived there for about 10 years
- At Conoble he lost all his money
- John jnr had the high plains run & Evan Evans (his son)
- In 1862 /2/1 John Evans took the Whitefield run license; in mid 1880s had the NSW station with David snr. Had Conoble in 1886 & this was a sheep station. He kept the Redcamp station at Moyhu, not sure who managed it.
- Evan E had horses at Whitefield in 3/3/1886
- John E went to Conoble before he sold Whitefield; acquired Conoble in 1886. Later the same year he sold Whitefield to Hyem
- After coming back from Conoble John E was manager of Bacchus Marsh stn in 1893, but still kept an interest in Red Camp
- There was a great bushfire at Moyhu in 1901
- Correspondence 12/1/1889, G.V Smith of East Melbourne to John E jnr (Red Camp, Moyhu) "kindly ... send 12 pounds 5 shillings to Receiver and Paymaster at Omeo for Bogong High Plains 10,000 acres or to me if more convenient" 'gazetted 11/1/1889
- Corresp of 4/2/1888, G.V Smith of 52 Bourke St, East: "Your telegram warns me to send enclosed so that Mr E Evans can, when next in Wang sign lease etc. There awaiting him. About Mrs M.L Evans lot I cannot yet tell you the last word; but the Dept is in a fix, & I fear we shall have to suffer for it during the remainder of this year. In course of a week or two I expect their reply, when I shall be able I trust to explain it all to you via voice, as I presume I shall see you before the month expires ..... Yes, you can impound off the reserve"
- G.V Smith appears to be the money manager
- BHPs licence of 10,000 dated 14/1/1889
- Whitefield sold 1886, Family into the BHPs in 1888
- Faithful's station was part of the Whitefield run
- Evan Evans b 1888, d. 1953 (the older Evan Evans was a pathetic case; lost everything; was hard up for work; worked for his elder brother).
- G.V Smith was John Evans agent in Melbourne; was close to the ear of the Department, and was involved in dummymyng the 1884 Land Act.
- The sale of Whitefield station made the brothers very wealthy. All 3 put money into the NSW run, & they all lost. Evan & David came out with nothing, but John E still had Red Bank & he began buying up again
- John E bought Banksdale station & when he died his son Evan took over; it was almost bankrupt, but Evan put it back on its feet.
- 1896 John Evans of Laceby and Red Camp. Was a very good rough rider. He sold remount horses to India, & was a racing man. He 'managed' rather than worked; had people working for him & he gave directions. Was a large operator. He was frequently moving between Moyhu and Conoble
- Possible reason for John Evans taking the BHPs run: rabbits were beating them in the low country

Name: Mrs Faithful, Date of Interview 19/11/1977

- Refers to Kay Robinson's 'Myrtleford: Gateway to the Alps
- William H Faithful & wife Margaret – NSW squatters – came to Vict
- Were quite poor -had 11 children
- Their son Henry F, died 1896, born in NSW & lived in Vict for 50 years
- In 1838 Wm 32yo, Geo. 25yo
- Geo F – Port Phillip Gazette 9/2/1839 and 2/2/39
- Historical Records of Australia, series 1, vol 19 p.510, note 83
- Feb 1838 Geo F decided to move stock to the new grazing lands of Port Phillip & took cattle to Oxley Plains, & sent his sheep to Broken Creek. Massacre occurred there
- On 13 April 1838 8 men were killed between Violet Creek & the Ovens River

Name: Jack Pendergast Date of Inter view 22/11/1977

- Sheehans: Jim S had the Omeo hotel (or was it the Golden Age hotel?)
- Carl & Percy White had plenty of land on the Omeo plains
- John Condon had selections around Hinnomunjie; not too wealthy
- Fred Condon had plenty of poor country; not well off

Name: Mrs Rod Condon Date of Interview 23/11/1977

- The Condons originally came from England. Some went to WA, some to Riverina, some to Manero. Then the Manero family split up; Rod's father (William) took up Dinglee Dell.
- Enoch Condon -> John -> Fred -> Sid
  - > William -> Rod
  - > Eddison
  - > Harry
  - > Charles
- When the family split up Enoch went to Queensland: Harry to Albury; William came to Omeo & selected land at Hinnomunjie. In 1887 Wm was 23 yo
- William C came to Paynesville in about 1902; was very good with sheep; also bred horses. Died in 1942/3 at 78 yo.
- Condons were Protestants. Kept to themselves
- Jim Treasure's wife was daughter of Fred C

Name: Andy Kelly Date of Interview 23/11/1977

- Alex Whyte had selected a small tract of land at Benambra – a few hundred acres, run as a mixed farm. However, he sold out & acquired land on Yackandandah Creek, 8 miles this side of Wodonga, maybe 10 years prior to 1900.
- His descendants still at Wodonga.
- He probably didn't use the high plains. He only stayed at Benambra a short time; left in his '30s.
- Tom Sheean was probably a small land holder; and worked as a labourer. He was at Benambra most of his life

- Kellys – Thomas Kelly was a sluicing miner; he eventually selected on alluvial flats at Granite Flat. Then he came up around Omeo & selected there
- Often miners wanted to have a few stock, & the high plains offered summer relief grazing for 3 or 4 months. It was practical to use the HPs if they had a minimum of about 100 head; some did so.
- Around the 1890s, after PJK was born (1887), Thom Kelly had some cattle on Bogong; he only had 260 acres of starvation country, & made a living with cattle & labouring. He put a small number of cattle in with the Glen Wills graziers, on the edge of the Bogongs. He spent about half his time going up there salting, etc
- P.L Duane was on the HPs before Kellys. When he quit the BHPs Thom Kelly took his interest & his hut (Duane built Kelly's hut). Mick McNamara worked for TK
- Then PJK went on in a bigger way. He wintered stock into NSW, around Murrumbidgee, on agistment. Andy Kelly learned droving there.
- K Marum was from the Tawonga side
- Greys held land on Colin Scotts station

Name: Wally Ryder, 63 yo Date of interview: 1977

- Tawonga station were probably the first to graze the BHPs, at least from this end
- Wells & co from Cobungra probably did too
- Ibbotsons / Woodsides were running there before Ryders took up cattle. They had the whole plains around the time the country was surveyed
- The Tawonga group: I started with Ben Cooper, who died at 77 & had been going 56 years
- WR 1<sup>st</sup> started 54 years ago, since 9 yrs old. At that time there were Ryder Bros (Wil, Wal snr, Harry), Duanes, Higginsons, Ray Cooper, Ben Cooper
- Duanes were the biggest landholders; bred a lot, & probably in the early yrs also bought; one evening on HPs lost 40 head (probably shorthorns) in a storm; had land in Ovens & Kiewa valleys. Had Hereford – Black poll cross. Sold 3 yo bullocks; had low country around west Kiewa
- Higginsons & Coopers had lots of bush winter country
- Ryders had & still have 'leased' bush around Mitta and Trappers Creek. In these places they winter cows (mid April to August) till just before calving; then brought into the freehold
- In the past the carrying capacity of the bush runs was much higher; now only the creek valleys are useful; the spurs are now scrubbed up
- Route to BHPs: 1<sup>st</sup> to the foot of Mt Fainter; second day up Fainter to the plains
- When they ran on Mt Bogong they went up Eskdale Spur – more water there & less steep & better grazing. Took 1.5 days. Had yards at Mountain Creek
- We didn't go onto the Omeo country & vice versa. Cattle of the Tawonga group were mixed up. Ropers were in a different area. We mixed with Ovens river cattle: Blairs, Westons, Briggs
- Faithfuls, MacNamaras & Fitzgeralds were separate
- Tawonga mustering group: Hicks, Ryders, Jack Cooper. Ropers, Maddisons
- Omeo mustering group: Faithfuls, Fitzgeralds, Kelly Bros; McNamaras
- Cobungra mustering group?
- Harrierville mustering group?

- They salted: keeps cattle on their territory; makes them easier to handle at mustering; cattle seem to do better on it
- When WR started others put on the side cattle from NSW. McCullochs were dealers from Carathool, NSW. They came twice in my time (up till late 1930s)
- Sheep were taken up till the late 1930s / early '40s regularly from Omeo side; not regularly this side
- Sheep were always accompanied by drovers; Stanton was one; they lived in tents & stores were often being taken up for them
- Lindsay Rowe from Dederang had sheep. He came here in the mid-'40s; before that he was at Cobungra. He was purely into sheep
- Sheep were around Campbell's yards in 1930s – where Rocky Valley Dam now is – out from Wallace's hut
- Johnsons had sheep around Mt Nelse
- I left for a few years in 1939 for Mt Bogong. Switched to Mt Bogong because land was becoming more available. Hodgkins were going into dairy & Pritchard also going out. Also Mt Bogong abutted Ryders lowland bush country at Trappers Creek. And the BHPs were becoming overstocked. Then when the Soil Conservation Authority implemented grazing controls – excluding stock from Mt Bogong, I was back at the old block!
- Pritchards were good blokes. Lenny Pritchard at Mitta. They bought a lot of dairy cross-bred stock & grew the bullocks for sale
- The 1939 fires wrecked a lot of country. They burnt the sides of the plateau & the woollybut and then the scrub came. The alpine ash forests used to be open park country. The best grazing was at the junction of Alpine Ash & snow gum; grazing here was much better than on the tops. The 39 fires didn't burn the tops
- Basalt country is better still as it grows white clover. But at the end of the season the clover goes off & then the cattle will go down the sides & are then difficult to muster. Then it's mostly foot work; tie the horse & walk down, & then push the cattle back up. It's too steep to use horses. For this work you need good dogs
- In those years there was a chance a beast could winter on these slopes; sometimes they would get trapped by the snow above & steeper slopes below. But not now as they would die as the country is now too poor
- MacNamaras & Kellys used to do all their breeding on the HPs – so they virtually lived on the HPs all summer. Battys ran cattle for years & old Bill B also lived up there in summers – in huts. They joined cows on the HPs. In fact we all did, & we were all up & down
- MacNamaras ran a lot of horses & sold at Wodonga when I was a boy 40 years ago & longer
- George Higginson was there in Osborne Young's time & went off with 500 horses. GH was brother-in-law of John Cooper
- Soldier settlers: Greenwood & Foster used Wallace's hut. Greenwoods had country at Happy Valley & then moved to Omeo. Stewart Hollonds got a run as a returned soldier
- The 1939 fires burnt mainly the sides of the plateau – burnt everything. Crossed the tops in strips. I was there on my own at Cole hut. The fire came out of the river & burned the paddock. Maddisons & Pritchards paddock was burned. The fires burned into the ground, eg on Mt Bogong the ungrassed areas there now were caused by the fires. As soon as the wind

stopped so did the fires. A lot of cattle were killed in the lower country & sides; especially horses

- Lindsay Rowe lost hundreds of sheep on Hotham. His brother went down to Cobungra for supplies & survived by lying in the river. Another bloke died on the way to Cobungra station. And another was killed between Howman's gap & Mt Bogong
- On the Dargo HPs Harry Treasure & Carl Wraith were out there; went down the Dargo road; had a tough job to save the homestead. The main fire broke out at Buffalo River & was at Omeo that night
- Before my time there was a fear of big graziers taking our summer country. They only came in bad years & that was when the runs were really needed. Scotts, McCullochs and others were looking for relief country & brought a lot of stock. McCulloch employed men to do the work; he did the buying & selling, & he didn't know anything about the HPs. Sometimes they got caught in the snow; sometimes they were sheep men
- In 1923 Ben Cooper, Higginson, Sid Ryder, Ray Cooper / Myrtleford were caught with a big herd late in the year – around or after May. The weather broke and was bad for 6 weeks. They had to come down Ropers track; the cattle were unfamiliar with it; they lost thousands of head
- Lots of us agisted cattle in NSW for the winter: Duanes, Ropers, me. Most years we did this; took weaners. I took a couple of hundred. Doing this takes the pressure off the freehold land. I've had to do it in recent dry years
- To make it worth grazing on the HPs you'd need to have 200 - 250 head
- Generally made 4 trips to the HPs each summer – total time on tops about 2 weeks. Taking stock out, salting, patrolling, mustering
- 1<sup>st</sup> Ryders on the HPs: Ryder brothers: Dad, Harry, Will. Then the 3 sons carried on: Sid, Jack & Wally
- Sid's father sold in early '40s & then Sid stopped. He came back with Ben Cooper – mid-late '50s. Sid used to drive cattle to NSW for himself & Ben Cooper for most of his life. He had a lease and a bit of freehold at Dederang
- Bad years were: 1923 (fires & drought); 1939 (big fires); 1945 (autumn drought); around 1967 (fire to north); 1976 (winter drought)
- Winters at Tawonga are very cold
- Jack Treasure had Devon cattle; if crossed with Herefords that could be good
- St. Johns wort was bad before superphosphate was used; was very bad years ago; but not as bad in green timber areas
- Wild dogs bad around Tawonga
- Wildlife seen on HPs: emus (mainly in autumn when the country quieter), foxes, dingoes; saw 3 kangaroos on DHPs this year
- Years ago there were wild cattle at Trappers creek, belonging to Howman brothers. They mainly had bush country & at mustering time they missed many. They had Mt Bogong on their own & lowland country
- Bill Howman was a butcher at Harrierville & had a paddock at Mt Beauty
- Peter Howman had land at Mountain creek, and then he shifted to Mitta. His sons Harry & Frank, & Frank's 2 boys Athol & Frank are at Mitta. Peter H moved to Mitta when the rabbits came.

Name: Stewart Hollonds Date of Interview: 1977

- My first trip to the HPs when 14 years old; took up food & helped take off cattle
- His father was one of the earliest graziers on HPs. His father was told that Bogong Jack was the first white man to cross the HPs
- Thomas Hollonds was his father. He worked on Tawonga station when Morgan went through
- Cattle from Tawonga station were one of the first on the BHPs; had a lot of cattle under Ibbotson; went up via the Fainter track
- When I first went up there was Thomas Hollonds, Hobbs (Tawonga, with Ibbotsons cattle), Roper, Walker and John Woodside (then at Happy Valley, owned the lot till the closer settlement commission bought up the land after WW1)
- The first and only time that plurophneumonia was on the HPs was around 1900 when Wallace's cattle were infected. Then everyone had to go up & muster & inoculate
- Walker didn't take many cattle, less than 100. He lived for 15 -20 years on Ryders Lane
- Thomas H went to the HPs for 60 years. I went for 50 – missed 3 while overseas.
- Thomas H shared the Fainter block, 3000 acres with Hobbs. They put up 300 head between them
- Later, when Thom jnr & I came back we bred and ran about 500 head. We used to burn down the sides and most cattle ran there after a burn
- Woodside didn't go up every year; when he did go he took a couple of hundred; only in the dry years
- On the Omeo side there was Osborne Young. He mainly had horses, up to 600 head and a few cattle around Pretty Valley. MacNamaras had mainly cattle & some horses. Jack Mac worked for Osborne Young for many years before going solo. Put his stock anywhere on the HPs
- If you owned a block you could put up anywhere you liked, & OY let loose in Pretty Valley. Horses were valueless then
- One year Higginson helped OY off with 600 horses. They were valueless at the time as only market for them was as stock hacks. But later the market improved as there was a demand for army mounts.
- Fitzgeralds (Middle Creek) ran a lot of cattle in the early years, mainly around Mt Nelse.
- There were no clearly defined run boundaries on HPs. The Fainter block was the only one where you could confidently keep / confine cattle - & that was because there was a strip of rough bush as a buffer.
- There were a lot of boundary disputes on the Ovens side
- Kelly ran a lot of cattle – came from near Hinnomunjie
- Scott was the owner / manager of Hinnomunjie & had about 6 employees
- Not many lived on the HPs. In my school days, around 1900, Tawonga people employed a man called Paddy Moyahan to live up there all summer & look after things. He was very useful at mustering times. However, he had a bad accident: fell of a horse and broke his hip bone and for months was in the Wangaratta hospital. There after he had a bad leg & wasn't much good on HPs after that. He was carried down on a stretcher from further out than Fainter to near Mt. Beauty. 10 to 12 men were on the job working in shifts
- When cattle came from NSW to HPs someone was left there to look after things

- NSW drought sheep were accompanied by shepherds; were shepherded in the day & put in yards at night. WR has known 10,000 sheep in a mob. They had the right to run on anyone's run. This was during my school days 1900 – 1912/15. They didn't stay in one place too long; stayed mainly in tents but used huts where they could
- Wallace's hut was built by Bill & Stewart
- Soldier settlers from the Omeo side used Wallace's hut for a camp. There were 8 of them: 2\* Greenwoods; Larry Bromley, Lance Colleen, 3 \* Morgans, Ern Foster and Merv Pearson. They were there for about 6 years & between them had a few hundred head
- When Stewart Hollonds first knew the BHPs they would run 30,000 head, not including horses. It was this way for a good many years. There was no heath or rubbish on it. On the main top there were a few patches of snow gum and no heath. There were over 30 owners, but not too many had more than 1000 head by 1920s
- Later they wouldn't run so many stock & then gradually the country became grown over with heath
- Sheep grazing wouldn't affect / hurt the snow grass. There is no such thing as soil erosion on the HPs
- Johnson from Omeo side grazed sheep on the HPs. Probably moved them around the plains, & shepherds lived in tents; but they needed yards so probably the sheep were moved around & brought back to the same yards. Without yarding at night dingoes would scatter the sheep around the country. Only one shepherd required for 500 head
- C.L Rowe owned a place on Cobungra & had sheep; but SH doesn't remember them being on the HPs
- Mustering groups: Omeo mob (probably not in one hut, but close by); Ovens river mob; Kiewa valley mob
- On the first muster all were on Pretty Valley, and would then cut out again on the lowland
- 1939 fires: all Victoria was alight, but only patches of the HPs were burned. Seldom that can burn on top as the grass is greener and not much heath. In 39 fire ran up the spurs & penetrated parts of the plains. Cobungra station lost 1000 head, some on the tops, but most in timber. Cobungra had plenty of timber country. The spur from Cobungra station to the Hospice was a good cattle spur; it was burnt. SH says Mt. Bogong was not burnt; fire went only as far as the timber. The fire was much hotter over Omeo way
- When mustering cattlemen would always throw a match where they thought the bush would burn. Places that they burnt in 1938 were not touched by the 39 fires
- Prior to 1939 a fire caught up with cattle but didn't kill any. This was probably a fire we lit ourselves amongst the snow gum.
- Basalt country is best for grazing. All cattle tend to go to it and eat it out. The 2 main grasses: snow grass & another with blades which is mainly around the creeks (so not so much of it). On sandstone the grasses are the same but not such good quality
- Superphosphate kills out the poorer grasses like Kangaroo grass – ie native grasses - & can then replace with clover and rye grass
- Snow grass is not good feed but if burnt is ok & would come up; horses do well on it. They often threw a match on the snow grass but it wouldn't burn far

- Kiewa Hollonds are related to the Omeo Hollonds. Johny & Thom were brothers, & Jonny went to Omeo. Over there there is Jim & George at Tongio, and uncle Bill at Benambra (brother of SH's father)
- Hollonds family came to Gundowering first.
- Selling: In the early days they had yards at Ryder's lane (near Tawonga hotel) & Thos H sold from there. Later when Thos H died they had Allen's Flat & they sold 10 month old calves to the Adams people for years. Sold them in the paddock. Adams grew them for about 2 years & then fattened them. Most taken to Melbourne. Hollonds were the first to start selling calves; the advantage is that you don't need to keep so many cattle. If they kept cattle to 3 or 4 years of age they would lose a few in the process, especially on the HPs
- After they began selling calves Thos Hollond had very few cattle
- When Stewart & bro Thos went to war Thos H snr nearly went out of cattle & went in for sheep. Thom jnr & Stewart built up the cattle again & took more cattle out to HPs than their father
- Dungey's track: Dungey was a policeman stationed at Bright & later Omeo. He blazed the track & the Mines dept cut it. Most tracks used by cattlemen were put in by Mines dept. But before the Mines dept cattle were taken up Fainter up the main spur through the bush
- Bogong Jack never had a hut; only stayed one night at Bogong Jack's flat. He went through in my father's time; I never knew of a hut
- The first hut built at BJ's flat was by Tawonga mob. This was always our camp – out of the rough country, in timber / snow gum. Used to sleep by the open fire before the hut was built. But now Hollond's camp at Campbell's yards
- 1<sup>st</sup> Tawonga hut built around or before 1890
- Henry & Frank Howman for years had Mt Bogong on their own; carried 600 – 700 head; they also had much lease country underneath, each side of Snowy Creek. Not much freehold; just a few paddocks.
- Stewart Hollonds had Simmonds Creek for winter; about 200 dry cattle wintered there; was not good enough for calves.
- Brother Thom Hollond was always mindful of bulls- needed a pedigree bull; bought at Wodonga
- Maddisons bred their own bulls, as did Ben Cooper in the early days; but problem with this is the herd becomes in-bred

Name: Ross Blair Date of Interview 1977

- 1<sup>st</sup> to use the BHPs from the Omeo side was Osborne Young & he grazed horses, 600 or more & sold at Wodonga & Bairnsdale. A dealer called Frank Moore said OY's horses were the wildest he'd ever seen; sold for farm hacks or Indian remounts
- Duanes had more than 100 horses on the HPs & they mustered with OY
- The oldest huts on the BHPs were OY's (collapsed 30 yrs ago) & Wallace's (120-130 years old)
- Duanes were on the HPs very early. His father was a policeman at Wandiligong during the gold rush. Duane's place was up-stream from Mountain Creek road towards Mt Bogong
- Bogong Jack was shaking horses in the Riverina & taking them to the BHPs till the heat went off; then took them for sale at Gippsland. He was on the HPs possibly before cattle. BJ was

last seen at BJ's yards, then disappeared; Jack Eire from Tawonga used to help him & it is rumoured that Eire killed him

- The first HPs graziers from the Tawonga side were from Tawonga Station, & their route was up Mt Fainter. They camped up there in tents. It took 1 day to go up & 3 days to come down as by autumn, after a summer on the HPs the cattle were so fat they would hurt their shoulders if they didn't come down slowly and carefully.
- George Maddison was the first to take cattle to Mt Bogong
- Blairs first went up shortly before 1900. Ross Blair's father W.F Blair was born at Freeburgh but got property at Kiewa & shifted here in 1913. He got into cattle 1917-18 and went to the BHPs over Hotham & Mt Loch till 1922
- Dungey's track was an old mining track, but it wasn't used by cattlemen for years. WFB tried to have it re-opened & got money from the Tourism commission. A zig zag track went from our hut to the HPs
- Blair's hut was built by WFB & Tom Blair in 1923/24 – probably started in the spring of 1923. It was burnt down in 1929/30 & rebuilt in about 1931
- Dungey's track was re-opened in about 1922 & Blairs took their cattle up that way in 1922/23 drought. Dungey was a policeman at Bright & identified the route while looking for cattle thieves.
- Cattle thieving probably began in the mining days & hasn't stopped since. On bloke at Buckland would shoot a cow in order to keep its calf – that was in WFB's time & was an old man when I was a boy.
- Sloan & Peterson cut the present Dungey's track; they had a mine around Machinery Spur
- William Wye from Wandiligong wrote a poem about a local cattle thief who had some cattle near the head of the Cobungra. It was probably old John Lawler.
- When WFB started on HPs was a sublessee
- WFB took the first skiers to the HPs & they stayed in our hut; he later took tourist parties to the HPs in summer
- In 1917 Blairs bought 300 acres at German creek; close to a bush run used as winter country for 600 – 700 head cattle. In the 1930s & '40s they wintered 800 head on the run – spread from Mt. Bogong to Simmonds creek & Kancoona. The winter country was not hard to muster as around September the cattle came out of the hills as the bush was too dry & hot
- Their freeholdings were only small; had a few sheep there till wild dogs became a problem; bulls were always kept at home.
- On the tops Ben Cooper & Ryders took some bulls; but Duanes didn't & neither did Blairs
- Blairs started with Black Poll cattle in 1921 when WFB bought a black bull at Tallangatta. He chose a black bull because of the St. Johns wort. Black cattle are less susceptible to its paralysing effect when cattle wade through cold water; white cattle are most susceptible.
- Because of the wort a lot of cattle drowned going up Dungey's track, esp cattle of old man Dibbin. In the early days (Dibbin's?) lease extended to the BHPs & they went in over Hotham. But they used Dungey's when it was opened
- In earlier times Lawlers would have used the original Dungey's track. They had a hut on the west Kiewa at Snake Valley. Lawler's hut burnt in 1939 and is now out of repair; Westons might use it

- The trip up to the HPs depended on size of the mob. With a small mob you could do it in one day; but with a big mob it would take 3 days. After 7 or 8 miles you go up & get to Blair's hut and yards; then onto the HPs.
- With light cattle you couldn't leave in the heat of the day; WFB started out before sun rise & by the time the sun came up they were in timber so he could then keep them going. He took 2 days: 1<sup>st</sup> to Blair's hut; 2<sup>nd</sup> up to HPs. If the trip was very slow they stayed at Lawlers hut. Now we leave at dinner time & camp
- 1<sup>st</sup> time we used Dungey's track the cattle didn't know the route & had wort in them & shot off
- Tawonga station was around Mongans Bridge; that's Ryder's country with Coopers along side
- If you don't give the cattle salt on the HPs, they come home looking for it. If they are well trained they will come 4 or 5 miles for it. Salt was packed out to the HPs
- The last big mobs of sheep on the HPs were in around 1939: Rowe's, MacNamara's & others; they employed shepherds to guard the flocks at night
- In the early 1930s WFB sub-let his run to L Rowe who brought in sheep from Omeo during a bad season there. The fee WFB charged Rowe was enough to pay for the run for the next 6 years
- Blairs did a bit of sub-letting from time to time. When they were at Kiewa they didn't have a HPs block but sub-let from old Thom Hollonds. Everyone sub-let; sub-lessees generally didn't have many cattle, & were usually there only in poor seasons
- A Dibbin snr sub-let to Petersen who put a lot of cattle onto the lease. Petersen later tried to get his name on the lease, before he sold out to Naughton, but Dibbin wouldn't allow it.
- Living on the HPs: some of the Omeo people had men out there most of the summer looking after cattle – Kellys, MacNamaras (who took over from OY). And on the Dargo HPs Treasures were milking on the tops supplying the diggings
- Ross B's grandfather worked for Woodsides who were buying cattle for fattening when RB was a boy. Arthur Dibbin snr also worked for Woodsides
- Buchannan took in cattle from Tallangatta during droughts; also took cattle from stations in NSW. In 1901/02 a mob of 30,000 sheep came up the Kiewa; and other mobs of more than 5000 & 6000. 100,000 were taken up the Ovens & a lot died
- Horses were frequently taken up in drought years
- In the 1914 drought 2 blokes, including Bells took up young cattle from NSW. It snowed & they had to abandon the cattle on Fainter; in spring only 3 or 4 out of 300 – 400 came out. The Bell boys were killed in WW1
- Before Ben Cooper's time Duanes went up with a mob & were caught in a blizzard; they left them there & when they went back 40 were dead. Duanes had the Happy Valley hotel, & possibly 1000 acres of freehold. They were breeders & had good cattle; finished in 1939/40
- Fitzgeralds were on Mt Nelse. One year early snow caught the cattle in deep snow drifts. It took 2 – 3 days of digging followed by fine weather & a big frost before they could walk the cattle out
- Les Watts had an earmark & brand similar to Fitzgerald's & he asked them to change theirs; but Fitzg. Said no, his father brought the brand from USA (brand was US)
- Cobungra station was the biggest freehold station in Victoria – 10,000 acres

- Naughtons co-ordinated their stations during droughts; had many NSW cattle on the HPs in droughts. At one stage, for a year or two, it looked as if Naughtons would push everyone else off by putting up too many stock. In 1939/40 they had a lot of men on the HPs, including Mick MacNamara, Tommy McCoy & Jack Reed (not local). Before the 1939 fires Naughtons had nearly a house at the head of the Victoria river & there would have been someone there most of the summer.
- Kellys had land at Bungoanna, near Albury, used for fattening; around 1944 they still had it.
- George Maddison drove stock to Newmarket in the 1880s
- Jack MacNamara had horses out at a paddock (JB paddock) down the Omeo road 6 – 8 miles from Hotham. There was 4 – 5 feet of snow; they phoned through to Bairnsdale & had skis delivered so they could get the horses out. (and they couldn't ski). Bill Toland from Cobungra was with them
- On 20<sup>th</sup> April 1960 snow came & RB still had 11 horses out on the HPs. BA Blair & RB were camped at their hut. They managed to go 1.5 miles before the snow got too deep. Next day they left at 7am & it took them 6 hours to go 1.25 miles; broke out at the top at 4pm, then back to the hut. Next day the horses were found at Campbell's yards; later they broke to Pretty Valley where BAB found cattle; got out 7 of the 11 horses. They were away 8 days; one night BAB walked around with a horse every ½ hour or so & ended up camping with a dingo
- Uncle Tom B came from the Dargo diggings
- Duane helped carry out Monaghan

Name: Sid Ryder Date of Interview 29/4/1977

- Sheep were taken to the BHPs mainly in drought – e.g. 1939. But Johnsons took sheep annually & kept them around Mt Nelse. They employed guards to keep the wild dogs away
- Bren Fitzgerald (Glen Wills / Middle Creek) – his hut burnt down last year
- Sheep have an impact on the vegetation: they graze in a large mob (they have to be kept in a large mob so they can be economically managed); sheep make a mess of the grass & cattle won't stay on areas grazed by sheep.
- A lot of sheep, cattle & horses taken to the HPs in drought years, especially by big graziers & dealers trying to profiteer. These people were unfamiliar with the area & so employed one or 2 local fellows to look after their stock.
- My father & his 2 brothers had a HPs lease. All the Tawonga boys co-operated, & this started before my time & kept up till the SCA reduced the stock numbers
- Who were the earliest graziers on BHPs? SR didn't know. Woodsides might have been: they had property at Dederang, Ovens vale, & Mudgegonga. They didn't take stock up very much in fact I can't remember them having stock up there. John Woodside went up for mustering trips. Their properties at Ovens Vale & Mudgegonga were sold to the Closer Settlement commission after 1914. And their Dederang property was also sold for soldier settlement after WW2
- There were a few soldier settlers on the HPs after WW1, some didn't last; some did. Most Kiewa soldier settlers drifted over to Omeo & stayed there. Greenwood brothers stayed with the HPs the longest, and they had the most cattle. They originally got land at Happy Valley (Woodside's) but got out & went to Omeo.

- Other soldier settlers were Foster, Collins, Bromley & Pearson (who wrote the history book on Omeo). They all dubbed together & operated out of Wallace's hut; they put in a bush fence & paddock. They didn't keep going with the HPs probably because there wasn't much money in it – cattle were not worth much then; also there were always a few losses on the HPs, & it was a rough life.
- Kellys & Fitzgeralds mustered together; Battys bought in around Nelse & worked with Kellys
- MacNamaras had plenty of cattle around Young's hut site & Dibbin's spur. They were loners.
- Petersens had a lot of cattle, on the Omeo road
- Dibbins also had a lot, around Dibbin's hut
- Riggalls had a lot of land but didn't bring so many cattle onto the HPs
- Sharpes didn't have many cattle
- Naughtons bought out Sharpe, Petersen and Riggalls
- Blairs kept to themselves
- Ropers grazed around Rocky Valley & Mt Nelse. They also kept to themselves
- In the Hotham area there was Howards, Attridge, Morgan, Lawlers (who also drifted out onto the BHPs a bit), Gows & Wraiths (who used to go to Dargo HPs as well)
- Herefords were the main cattle breed on HPs – with the exception of Blair's black polls. For a long while the best Herefords were from the Omeo side
- In the Kiewa many dairy farmers sent a few head out to the HPs for summer to relieve their lowland paddocks; they used to send up a few with us (included relations of the Blairs, and some of the Coopers)
- Of the Tawonga graziers Duanes had a lot of cattle & property. They had a mixed herd because they bred and they also bought; also had horses which were taken on & off the HPs with the cattle
- There were a lot of horses on the HPs when I started. MacNamaras had them stocked on bush country on the Omeo side. They ran on Young's top. OY had a lot of cattle & horses. They mustered them in the snow to keep them down, & then they will come up in spring by themselves
- We used to go up in the first week of November with dry cattle. Everyone back then was breeding horses & would send a few up to the HPs. Horse mustering was once a big thing
- We used to chase brumbies just for fun. A few years ago a lot were shot
- Sid Ryder wintered his cattle in low hills in the Kiewa valley. I started going out 55 years ago, nearly all my career. Today you go for agistment. In the past you couldn't sell calves; had to keep them & sell as bullocks. Now calves are sold & they don't do well in the bush.
- In the past you had to run a lot more cattle; when I was young they sold at 3 or 4 years; then 2 yo; and you kept heifers for breeding purposes. Now you don't need so many cattle or lowland winter runs
- Sid R starts for the HPs in 1<sup>st</sup> week of November
  - \*1<sup>st</sup> dry cattle & horses
  - \* cows & calves not till December
- When SR first went up there was still a bit of snow on the tops, but they were putting cattle on the sides which were clear of snow

- Taking cattle up from the foot of the hill took 2 days generally. George Higginson & SR would go up the Fainter track & on hot days turned the cattle out around Tawonga hut; Bogong Jack's yards. Took 2 days to bring them home
- Oats were grown for horse feed – using 70 – 80 acres for 3 families; did the harvesting together. In those days everything was done by horses so needed to feed them well
- Dairying was done in a small way even before Sid R's time. It was done in a rough way, milking the beef cows; they went dry in autumn and were then turned out in the bush
- In October SR was getting ready to go to the HPs; would be in the bush all the time & bring all the cattle home & preparing to take the dry & young stock away
- SR's father William Ryder & his brothers Harry & Walter started going to the HPs last century some time
- The HPs are not as good as they used to be. In the days when they went up early after the snow more stock went there and the stock did better. Going early didn't hurt the HPs. In dry seasons there would be little growth & it looked a brown desolate place. But after a storm there was good new growth. Stock wintered in the bush would be pretty lean, & they would improve their condition on the HPs
- They often didn't go up to check on the condition of the HPs before taking up the stock. It didn't really make much difference as they had to get the stock off the lowlands & this was the most important thing.
- Recuperative powers of the HPs: it didn't take long for a yard to grass up after being trampled; now you would have trouble finding the old sheep yards as they have now grown over; same with the old cattle yards. The big yard at Tawonga hut would get bogged in the wet and snow, but it grew back just as quickly

Name: Jack Roper Date of Interview: 24/4/1977

- Howmans had thousands of cattle; were Eskdale / Mitta people – went up via the Eskdale spur
- Ropers cut their own track to the HPs
- The first run Jack Roper had was a bush run at the head of Running Creek; got it when he left school & it paid well for years. Others were running in the area [without licence] & his acquiring the run caused some friction – probably Maddisons; others were keeping silent on it & using it. Now that country is scrubby because of fires & prohibition on graziers burning. The autumn burn was good as didn't produce suckers; bushfires were followed by heavy growth of wattles
- The Tawonga mob (Cooper, Higginson & others) mustered in Pretty Valley. Roper's mustered in Rocky valley
- The Bogong lot / crowd always ran on Bogong; not much wandering; cattle went down the sides; never on the HPs
- Maddisons didn't have many stock – mixed: bulls, cows, steers, calves, heifers; they didn't have much land
- JR believes Pat Kelly put the most stock on the HPs – thousands. He kept 5 men on the HPs for one pound per week plus food during summer. They patrolled the run boundaries AS THEY DEFINED IT. Then Pat died & one of the 5 took a run. Bill Batty was the main man. Pat

Kelly had all of Spion Kopje and Heathy Spur. There were no fences because the wire would just break in the snow

- Carrying capacity of the HPs varied according the conditions
- Salting helped to control the location of the stock
- BHPs used to carry a lot more stock than does today. Now they only put up 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of what they did historically. The reason is the spread of scrub, & now there is less grass
- The Tawonga mob uses the mining track over Fainter. They mustered cattle into Pretty Valley & then did the cutting out
- Ropers didn't work in with anyone
- In the early years a BHPs license was virtually a permit to put cattle anywhere on the run, irrespective of the carrying capacity of the run. In the early years the Ropers ran cattle in different places to where they had to run after 1945 (SCA regulation)

Notes from Thor Holth's audio tape of Jack Roper of 18/11/1975 (heard by PC on 24/4/1977)

- Roper's Hut near Falls Creek was built around 1914; Jack R was 12 or 14 yo. There was a big paddock near the hut; I was 25 yo when it was built. In Woolly butt country
- Roper's track is now largely followed by the Falls Creek road
- Stock used to go onto HPs on Cup Day
- We didn't work with the Tawonga people
- At mustering, would see a mob maybe a mile away & call Salt to them; & they would start bellowing, & others would hear & come. Cattle don't seem to want salt as much now so they're harder to muster
- Old Pat Kelly told him that Bill Nelse was a miner
- Pat Kelly was a stockman for P.L Duane for years; he also worked with someone from the Mitta area
- Jack R first went to HPs when 10 or 12 years old. 1<sup>st</sup> went out with old Ben Cooper. He took part in running in 1918. Then he worked for Robson
- Ben Cooper took cattle up via Mt Beauty to Fainter, & then anywhere. When we first had grazing blocks they existed only on the plan. People didn't take any notice of the official boundaries. Ben Cooper's country was officially between Fitzgeralds hut & Hollonds Knob. But he never ran cattle there; he just dumped them all at Tawonga hut and Ruined Castle
- I had nothing to do with the Tawonga cattle. I went on my own, near where Batty was & we observed an informal boundary. Then there were no restrictions on numbers; you could take as many cattle as you wanted
- Roper family moved from Yackandandah to Kiewa around 1867 and went into cattle straight away. Grandfather was Fred R; father also Fred R
- At one muster from Tawonga hut there were 18 men and 46 dogs; each had their own tucker

Name: James Edmondson From Notes of J Edmondson, seen 25/4/1977 & including Notes from Mrs John Ryder as collected by J Edmondson

- In 1902 there was an estimated 100,000 sheep on the BHPs
- In 1945 there was 9000 head of cattle on BHPs

- Thomas Hollonds helped Jonny Woodside to the HPs with cattle. Some time before 1890 a mob of bullocks rushed at the Springs & TH conducted a great exhibition of bush horsemanship in rounding them up & bringing them back to the Springs. Woodside paid him 5 pounds for the trouble
- Thomas Hollonds born 1847. Stewart Hollonds born 1890
- Around 1890 Wallaces took cattle up to HPs that were infected with pluropneumonia
- Thomas Hollonds had the Fainter hut at the Springs – built in 1890s
- Campbell's yards built before the time of Harry Campbell
- The 1<sup>st</sup> Tawonga hut built in 1890s; Rabbit plague arrived in 1890s
- Fainter track cut in 1895/6
- About 80 years ago there was a yard at Bogong Jacks
- Rabbits came in 1892 & the hares disappeared. Rabbits ate out the country. My grandfather managed to save a few bullocks by chopping down wattle trees for feed
- 1<sup>st</sup> settlers at Kiewa valley: Fred Roper snr, John Ryder, W. Higginson; in or around 1880s settlement accelerated
- Sale yards were built on Ryder's property; till then the only ones were at Wodonga. Sales in autumn & cattle brought down from the mountains – BHPs & even DHPs. Around 1898 a mob of 300 bullocks was brought over by Treasure brothers – driven across the Fainter for sale at Tawonga
- In spring the Theddora-mittung Aborigines headed up the Kiewa river to BHPs for the bogong moths
- 1837 -44 – a very bad drought
- 1923 a very dry year, & most of the lower country burnt out. Some Tawonga cattlemen held their stock on the plains till late in the season. A large mob started down Roper's old track on 7<sup>th</sup> May belonging to Coopers, Robsons, Ryders, Higginsons, Raymond Cooper. Stockmen present were G Higginson, Ben Cooper, Ray Cooper, Syd Ryder, Ray Howman, & J Briggs. They started off with 1050 head, but it snowed heavily during the night. The weather was terrible & the track was new to the cattle. They came home with 450 head, & mustered 300 later; the missing 250 were never found
- The same year George Fitzgerald & Bill Batty got cattle out of a big moss bed off Baker's spur
- 1926: fires over large areas
- 1927: heavy snow fall on 1<sup>st</sup> May put cattle down the sides
- 1933: a dry year. The HPs were very dry & carried a lot of stock. The first mob off Fainter was 1500 head, mixed owners, the largest mob I ever helped off. Ryders, Duane & O'Connor followed with 1000 head
- 1939: a very dry year & most of the lower bush & HPs were burnt. Had rather a disastrous effect on the HPs
- 1945: enter the Soil Conservation Authority
- 1951: I took my cattle to Tawonga paddock. Helped the Tawonga boys muster next day. That night there was heavy snow & next day Syd Ryder & I started the mob for the Fainter while others packed the pack horses. That night the cattle rushed at Bogong Jacks yard. Many went down the sides
- 1952: I had mustered Mt Nelse area and taken them over to Tawonga paddock & next day assisted the Tawonga brigade. We were going to come off in two mobs. Charlie Greilly, Herb

Maddison & I with our cattle, the rest a day later. But the weather decided otherwise, snowing in the morning

- 1960: 1<sup>st</sup> heavy snow fall on 18<sup>th</sup> April, & it didn't thaw till spring. Many cattle & horses were not mustered
- Huts on & leading to the BHPs:
  - \* 1<sup>st</sup> Tawonga hut; 2<sup>nd</sup> built in 1923, 3<sup>rd</sup> Hicks & Ryder
  - \* Wallaces, Youngs, Kellys 1<sup>st</sup> built by Huggins of Tawonga
  - \* Fitzgeralds 1903, Dibbins, Briggs & Westons, Blairs
  - \* Johnsons near the cultivation
  - \* Edmondsons on Baker's Spur, donated to the Education Dept when I had finished with it
  - \* Bogong Jack's, built by Tawonga stockmen in 1922
  - \* Spring Hut, by Roper & Tom Hatch
  - \* Lawler's in Snake valley
  - \* Roper & Edmondson on Bogong creek

Notes from Jim Edmondson audio tape recording, heard 24/4/1977

- Hollonds were amongst the earliest settlers in the Kiewa river. At that time John Aire & Marcus Hobbs were on Tawonga station. Many of the early settlers worked at Tawonga station, inc George Maddison in 1865, Fred Roper snr, and Dan Moore
- George Maddison, Ryders, & Coopers came in the 1860s
- Peter Howman came later. When Howmans left the north east they mustered 2500 head of cattle; they didn't have much lowland selections, but were good bushmen; they left behind them a lot of wild cattle
- Memiors of a Stockman (the book): says the BHPs were 1<sup>st</sup> used by the Wells brothers in the 1840s. Cobungra was taken by Gray in 1851. 2 of the Wells brothers were stockmen & went across the BHPs & named places. Went from Cobungra to Beechworth then back over Hotham
- In 1903 Blamey put 4000 sheep in Rocky Valley. They were caught in bad weather & 1300 sheep died & were skinned
- In 1903 P. Duane had a mob on Fainter & lost 30 dead
- 1923 was very dry & most of the winter runs had been burnt out. The Tawonga people kept their cattle on HPs till late. Lost a lot going down Roper's track.
- In 1952 JE mustered in Nelse area & then took his stock to Tawonga paddock & helped the Tawonga crew muster. They planned to come off in 2 mobs but the weather broke; Sid Ryder helped on the trip down Fainter. Bogong Jack's yards were used as a holding paddock on the way down.

Name: Brinny Fitzgerald Date of Interview: August 1978

- 1<sup>st</sup> graziers onto the BHPs were Jack Wells & Jim Brown; came from the Tawonga side. In 1852 they rode across BHPs from Tawonga. Must have had land on Omeo side as there is a creek called Jim & Jack Creek.
- BF's grand father was Edward Darcy Fitzgerald. He worked in the Californian gold mines, & did sluicing with his Yankee mates at Omeo. Was born in Kentucky in 1828.

- BF's father was George Fitzgerald. He brought short horn – Hereford cross cattle from NSW & walked them home. Went through Nariel or Mitta Valley.
- In 1853 E D Fitzgerald came to Omeo from California. He came for the gold mining, then started into cattle. He had a lot of property and stock around Omeo before coming to Shannonvale. Then it was leasehold land and was thrown open for selection before 1900.
- George Fitz drove horses for Osborne Young to Sale via Dargo; and also to Wodonga. So did old McNamara.
- The first cattle to arrive at Cobungra were owned by Ned Grey from Wangaratta. Cobungra was called 'Grey's' early on. They started with 1100 head & lost 100 between Peechelba and Cobungra.
- The Cobungra property today is a combination of about 12 early settlers' properties. Similar story at Benambra. A lot of selectors came from western Victoria and took up 320 acre plots. Then the bottom fell out.
- Dingoes are too bad here at Shannonvale to keep many sheep. We keep a few for killers; up to 100 once.
- Fitzgerald's 1<sup>st</sup> came to Shannonvale before 1900; built the house in 1902. They first put cattle on the tops well before 1902, when my grandfather was alive.
- We were here a good while before my father settled here permanently. When I was 1<sup>st</sup> here there was a log hut.
- Before Fitzgeralds, Braithwaites had Shannonvale. They ran cattle in the bush & used the divide between here & Bundar. Back then the bush was much different. There were plenty of big old trees and fewer smaller trees. Grazing was good all year, but not that good as we had to send out cattle for winter agistment to Swifts Creek & Ensay. Naughtons also did this up till the last 20 years. When we started using superphosphate the productivity of the land improved so there was less need to agist.
- In the past we carried a lot of cattle as at that time there was no market for calves. What they did then was sell 4 year olds to fatteners. In these circumstances leasehold land was needed. They lost a lot of stock in those days. There were plenty of poor cattle in winter; everyone had poor cattle then.
- After a season on top the cattle were generally in good condition. But the tops were not so good – if cattle went out in poor condition they usually came back in poor condition. The high plains were better for dry cattle than cows & calves.
- BF thinks that the Fitzgeralds started on the BHPs on the back of Mt Nelse; but they had various runs at different times. There was always the possibility that someone else would place a higher tender; some people lost runs in this way
- Kelly's present run belonged previously to Mr Higginson of Kiewa
- In the early days it was competitive; in droughts sheep men picked up runs on the slopes beneath the HPs and then put their stock on the plains.
- In the 1880s Ensay station had a run on Mt Hotham – Hamilton - & had about 800 head of cattle there.
- In the past the boundaries of runs on the BHPs were not definite; people who had a run would put their stock up but there was plenty of friction as to where. Today if you do the right thing you are left alone

- Fitzgerald's track was their main route out to the BHPs. It was cut by BF's father and others around 1900. A surveyor from the Lands Dept called Simon Callanan chained it, & the track was developed from a route. Before that they used to go to the HPs via Trapyard & Buckety plain.
- Stock put on the HPs: we put up everything, bulls, cows, calves, steers, heifers. We may have done some dealing also. One year we mustered 300 bullocks for Woodside of Barwidgee who was a fattener.
- All stock leaving Omeo were stores. Big buyers were: Sam Riggall of Byron Lodge, Maffra / Glenmaggie – a fattener; and Seller Bros, butchers. Richard Riggall of Cobungra was a relative of SR. Riggalls also had Glenfalloch.
- Mick MacNamara came to Omeo with Grey. His mother had a milk round at Emerald Hill.
- Fred Box at Cobungra was a selector who started off with 640 acres & the Darbalary run. He had cattle into the early 1900s; was older than George Fitzgerald
- Morgan bros had 2 runs; were bachelors. They had been jockeys, & were brought in by Cobungra.
- Petersens had a lot of freehold & leasehold land
- Alex Whyte at Baranduda was a buyer
- Tom Sheehan – Benambra
- Condons: some at Benambra, some at Tongio vale
- John Gibson – Benambra – had land towards Kosciusko. Bill & Joe were cousins.
- Billy Hollonds from Tawonga lived at Shannonvale for a while with BF's father. Rabbits drove him off his land at Tawonga & he ended up as a Lands Department inspector.
- Andy Sharpe was at Cobungra, at Sharpe's Pinch (a flat). He was a mines inspector before he took up farming cattle.
- Much of the Sallee wood country around Cobungra to Hotham was cleared before 1939; it had the guts burnt out of it and after the fires became a jungle.
- The fires burnt part of Fitzgerald's BHPs run; a strip was taken on Mt Nelse with the top part burnt & the bottom not; this line was seen for years' after
- BF was on the plains trying to save their hut; they lost the yards a few days after.
- The hut fell into disrepair after his mother died, then was rebuilt. Used only by Fitzg's and Jim Edmondson
- The original Kelly's hut was built by Kieran Marum who was the manager for Mrs Higginson; Marum's point named after him.
- Osborne Young had a big property at Benambra; had 3 – 4 daughters. He was related to the Gibsons – possibly married one of them. He had the Bundara run & freehold & put cattle & horses on the tops. He had Herefords and a large number of horses bred for Indian remounts; also had thoroughbreds racing in Melbourne. He used the OY brand & sold at 4 years' old
- MacNamaras had some good stallions; they ran loose with the cattle
- All the horse blokes mustered together. Horses were taken to the market at Sale. 4 or 5 blokes were needed for the journey. The route: head of Livingstone creek to Wentworth River along mining tracks, & came out at Bullumwaal, then along the road to Sale. Wodonga was a big market for horses too

- The horses were only half broken in when they left Omeo. They were shipped to India & when arrived were swam from the ship to shore. By the time they got to dry land they were broken in
- BF's father had 70 musters on the BHPs; died in 1958
- Local Omeo sheep only went onto the HPs in drought years. Johnson from Tongio station was one. He didn't use his run in good years; but we did. Fitzg's now have this run.
- Smith from Omeo had the Heathy Spurs run; again, only used it in dry years; same story with Rowes (Innisvale) – their run was Mt Jim. On some occasions these run holders would allow others to use their runs if feed was short
- Pat Healy (Tongio) had sheep at Basalt Hill – Healy's yards – only for a year, in 1920s – '30s
- Scotts from Hinnomunjie station, had sheep on a run one year – Johnson's run. Bill Fitzmore was a shepherd (with 2 others) & had a couple of thousand sheep out with them all day & yarded at night in yards they specially made. They camped in tents when huts weren't available.
- George Fitzgerald built Johnson's hut
- Before my (BF's) time there were great numbers of sheep belonging to Sam Macackie, of Big Yanko station, NSW. He had a run on BHPs. He came up via Tawonga; one night (before 1903) 3000 of his sheep perished in the snow.
- Sir Thomas Blamey's father had 4000 sheep in Rocky Valley; next day 1300 were dead.
- Those who spent the most time on the BHPs: young Billy Hollonds, Ben Cooper, old Ryders, old Westons, & Blairs. Bill Batty was Kelly's stockman & stayed up on the HPs for a fair stretch of the summer. He went up with the cattle with 4 or 5 pack horses carrying salt & chaff. It was a lot of work in the old days. They often used Shannonvale as a depot, & carted from there
- There were half a dozen soldier settlers from WW1 on the HPs: Fred Ah Sam, Lance Colleen, Ernie Foster, & Greenwoods. Greenwoods had about 100 head. They went up Fitzgerald's track. Fred Ah Sam & his brother had land at Omeo, but no runs.
- Joe McCulloch was a NSW grazier; a relief grazier; had bullocks here at the head of Middle Creek. That's where his run was in the 1920s. He had local blokes looking after the cattle.
- Tom Robinson lived at Bingo Munjie & had land at Bundar & a run at Wild Horse Creek. He was more of a dealer, & also had a pub at Albury
- A lot of run holders dabbled in dealing; there were no restrictions on numbers of cattle you could put on the HPs, and probably in the early days the carrying capacity was greater
- Changes BF has seen in the HPs: the heath is now more prevalent; possibly the cattle kept it down in the past, or perhaps there is a cycle where the land changes between heathy & non-heathy states.
- The basalt areas of the plains are better grazing than the granite; the grass is better & it stands more grazing. It stretches from Mt Cope across to & down the head of the Bundara to Tawonga hut
- Mustering groups formed according to who wanted to sell at what market. If you sold with a particular firm & their sale was in April, then you had to muster off in time to get to that sale. Same thing applies now, except that the big calf sales are in March so you have got to be up on the HPs early to take off the calves, then turn out the others on the lower country runs

- Before the SCA took control of grazing numbers & season you left stock on the HPs into May. A lot of people depended on bush runs for winter and all had a lot of stock as you needed a lot then to make a living (because then the market was for older stock, not calves)
- When Pat Kelly was alive he had a fattening property on the Murray River. He took bullocks over there before the snow – he wasn't pressured to sell
- Gibsons may also have done some fattening on good country around Benambra. But mainly Omeo cattlemen sold stores. Stores were often sold at Omeo, with buyers coming to visit. But stock were also often driven to the large store markets at Bairnsdale
- Droving during winter: Geo Fitzg did it once. Tawonga people did it more often, inc W Ryder & Billy Hicks
- Burning was done in autumn. The main ridge from Bogong to Mt Wills was lit every 3 or 4 years. Hollondss burnt up the west branch of the Kiewa River. Burning was generally beneficial, but it could be bad if done at the wrong time. The last fire was 1939.

Name: Charlie MacNamara Date of Interview: 1977

- CM 1<sup>st</sup> went to the BHPs when 9 years' old
- Wells & Brown worked for Grey for many years. They brought Grey's cattle up the Mitta River via Gibbo to Hinnomunjie, to Dick's creek to Bingomunjie. They started with 1100 head from Wangaratta & arrived here with 750. They started out after Black Thursday 1851
- Wells & Brown went up to the BHPs via Fitzgeralds to Mt Cope, and then went out around Mt Nelse; and up via Innesvale to Dinner Plain hut. However, the route to Mt Hotham was too rough
- They didn't put cattle on HPs for some years. When they did they chose BHPs, preferring the open spaces.
- Possibly the first to graze around Hotham were Parslows
- Andy Sharpe had been a mining inspector & lived near Racecourse. He had a run near the DHPs for about 2 years around 1923
- Jack Condon had sheep on BHPs in drought
- Fred Box came from the Dargo mines
- Parslows came to Cobungra soon after Greys; could have had cattle around Horsehair plain
- MacNamaras were from Ireland: Denis Mac was the first, & grandfather Mick Mac was born in Melbourne in 1839. Went to Wangaratta where he worked for or knew the Greys. He came to Cobungra where he did horse breaking, cattle droving, shearing, & butchering. Sold meat at the gold diggings
- Greys, Kellys & MacNamaras worked together in the early days
- In 1923 there were fires on the BHPs that caused much erosion, especially in the basalt country
- Sheep were on the BHPs in 1919
- Cattle from Cobungra used to be taken for sale to Stratford.
- Box, King & Petersen: Dick King came to Cobungra from Grant; Box left in 1901
- Dick Riggall came to Cobungra from Glenfalloch; Billy Riggall had a place at Dargo
- Mrs M of Cobungra was a daughter of Malcolm McFarlane

Name: Ernie Foster Date of Interview: 1977

- Soldier settlement here was a failure, but at Ensay it was a success.
- At Omeo the goldfields common was cut up & EF received 1100 acres. The land was unsuitable. Six returned soldiers went onto the estate, but only 2 stayed: EF and Harry Smith (whose sons now have the property).
- The soldier settler blocks were too small, and they carried scrubby timber. I only have 230 acres there now. It's granite land. Crown land and other good land held by bigger cattle owners wasn't available as they didn't want to give it up. There was much better land in the Omeo valley which was already fenced & cleared
- The land cost us 10 shillings an acre & had to be paid off in 40 years. We got help with wire & netting & were allowed to buy sheep & cattle
- Within a year or two of the estate commencing some settlers had disappeared; I bought 2.5 blocks.
- I started off with a patch of scrub, all of which except for 200 acres was still scrubby. I lived there since 1928. Got an extra 250 acres abandoned by the Huggins estate (another soldier settler). After WW2 I bought another block, around 800 acres, giving a final total of around 2000 acres
- For the first 4 or 5 years I had to work on & off with a surveyor for extra cash.
- EF had cattle on the BHPs in summers from 1922 into the 1930s. His stock were wintered on 200 acres plus his fathers land. He also had 2 or 3 runs though these were not very good.
- His partners in the HPs venture were: Brumley (whose father owned Hinnomunjie station); Merv Pearson; Walter Greenwood; Lance Colleen; & Harry Smith. All had a small number of stock & they collectively totalled 200 head. All were soldier settlers, but not from the same estate. Smith went up on his own as he lived closer to the BHPs. They went up Fitzgerald's track to Wallace's hut.
- The reason they went to the HPs was to conserve winter feed. All their cattle were Herefords. Bred & often bought. On the HPs the cattle didn't stray too much; sometimes into Kelly's run, or amongst Tawonga cattle. But at the big muster our cattle were cut out; all had a go. They had a dead wood paddock near Wallace's hut & put their stock there while they went looking for strays. We didn't lose many. Cattle were generally back home by April. In a bad year you could get caught by the cold weather. None of us had previous experience with HPs grazing; we just copied others. We never needed advice. We took up salt; didn't take long; mothers train the young ones. We had a good relationship with the other established graziers. However, there were too many cattle on the HPs when we went up.
- Problems were: very little hay; too many rabbits; not much time available up there; at one-time black leg disease broke out on the HPs & we lost a lot of calves. 1923 was a bad year
- Also, the HPs were a long way from home, & a lot of work was involved in getting ready, mustering, etc. In the end I got out of cattle & took up sheep. That was in 1936. But lost everything in the 1939 fires. Got back on his feet with the help of public donations which financed re-fencing; new sheep were bought on bills from a broker; he changed his wool firm & they bought him more sheep. Now he has 3000 sheep and also over 200 cattle; last year he had about 170 calves and 50-60 dry cattle.
- Pearson was a shire councillor from about 1930; he had a SS block and his father had 200 acres. He went to the HPs for 4 or 5 years. He finally got a job with an auctioneer.

- Lance Colleen was not very progressive. He had good land. He stopped going to the HPs around 1925/26. He didn't work much; couldn't go wrong. For him the HPs grazing was an adventure when he started; but he got sick of it; he had family problems & was divorced. He sold out 10 years ago.
- Harry Smith was mainly into sheep. He worked hard & had insurance which covered his losses in the 1939 fires. His SS block was average. He didn't take sheep up to the HPs every year; only once & with someone else. He had sheep on runs around Cobungra.
- My block adjoined my fathers at Jim & Jack creek. Dingoes chased me out of Jim & Jack creek
- The biggest cattle graziers on BHPs were Kellys & Naughton bros (now Cobungra)
- Sheep on the HPs: the year before I went up McCullochs from NSW had sheep on the HPs; but EF didn't know of any NSW mobs going up since then. Also, Ensay station took up sheep. In the 1920s there was only one or two who did it.
- Cobungra station: Naughtons enlarged the station by buying out others. They had other stations in NSW Riverina. Cobungra branded 2000 calves per year.
- There was a small mob of horses on the HPs & they used to be shot. In the past it was good horse country. MacNamaras ran them there, as did Osborne Young before them. Brumbies were common on the fall into Bundara from Mt Cope. Brumbies went way down into Bundara for winter
- Around Limestone brumbies are caught in mobs & sold at Bairnsdale & Cooma as hack horses after being broken in. Mainly sold for pony clubs. Previously to recent times people didn't go after them; but their population is probably larger now that there are less rabbits.
- There were wild cattle around Limestone. Once EP camped in a hut on Limestone & the inside walls were covered with safety match boxes used for burning. Burning used to be very heavy & there was so much smoke you could hardly see the sun.
- There used to be hares on the BHPs; but EF never saw kangaroos.
- Mountain possums / blue possums were at the head of Middle creek, under Wallaces hut. Back in the 1920s they were hunted for their skins – for ladies coats and rugs

Name: Arthur Dibbin 75yo Date of Interview 1977

- In 1852 Fred Dibbin, an engineer on a boat deserted ship for the Beechworth goldfields. He found the first gold at Bright – Wools head reef. He made enough money to buy the Altdorf station from Walderns the freehold of which stayed in the family till AD retired.
- Altdorf was bought in 1875 & that's when FD started in cattle & went onto the plains
- 27000 acres of leasehold was attached to Altdorf. But in the end the leasehold wasn't worth having
- AD had 500 acres of freehold; a bush run of 27,500 ac, and a high plains run of 15000 ac.
- The bush run was used for wintering, & after it had been burned stock were put out & wouldn't come back till spring. In early 1900s till 12/15 could winter 2000 head on the bush run. But after 1914 it was wrecked & went sour because of burning restrictions imposed around Bright; and after the 1939 fires it became scrubby
- In 1923 there was a good fire on the plains; burnt west Kiewa; this area hasn't been burnt since
- 2000 head were put on the high plains each year up till 1939 (collectively) by Bilson, Arthur, Walter & Bill Howard's father

- In the 1923 drought they lost 1500 head – snowbound – left on the HPs till end of May to muster ..... too late
- Didn't lose anything in 1939 fires as father had sold all his cattle in 37/38 and gone into sheep. AD bought the old man out in 1939 and went back (to the HPs)
- Bill Howard always tops the market – is best farmer in the district – has the best cattle
- Dibbins had the best HPs paddocks & huts. First hut built 1875; second one in 1918. This was on Cobungra river; a fenced 60-acre paddock there. Dibbins always had the same area
- Breeding stock was kept on the freehold; on the plains they put weaned calves & steers
- Woodside brothers bought cattle for years until their land resumed for closer settlement
- After 1923 Dibbins had about 1000 head. When AD snr sold they had 700 – 800
- Paddy Duane had the Fainter & Rocky Valley run. He was a breeder and a dealer. Bought at Wodonga; had a big property at Happy Valley; Herefords & shorthorns. Shorthorns are too light in the hide & can't stand the cold.
- Old John Lawler ran a lot. He was a dealer, but not a great judge; he went broke plenty of times. He would buy in the yards (rather than at auction?) kept them according to the weather & food available in NSW during the winter
- Tom Bibby got up by individual effort
- In 1914 3000 sheep owned by Whitehead were snowed in at Xmas – run holders were compelled to take starving stock onto their runs. McCulloch also took up starving cattle
- Up till 1945 McNamaras took up sheep in dry summers only
- The Beveridges were cattle kings – built through hard work. They sold bulls at 2 years old, and in their last year with bulls in the bush they had 400 calves (clean skins). The area they had was part of the key to their success: they turned out stock at the top of the Buffalo divide, and they would come home themselves. Some wandered into Wonnangatta. Beveridges had 1000 acres at Everton where they fattened; very good country. They lost a lot in 1939 fires
- Arthur Dibbin bred & dealt. After 1939 he had 250 – 300 head only because the bush was bad. Took stock to HPs via west Kiewa. Stock would travel at night on their own to Mt Loch & Cobungra River
- There were nearly 1000 horses over the HPs. Bred for Indian remounts. McNamara brothers were the biggest; also P Duane, John Lawler, Tawonga people. The horses were wintered in the bush; were a lot of wild horses
- Dan McNamara was a sheep man, with horses; Paddy Duane, Thos / Mick & Jack McN had cattle & horses & sheep station at Wilson's Creek
- Cobungra had 4000 cattle & 4000 sheep till 5-6 – 10 years ago
- Naughtons had stock on the HPs mainly from Cobungra

### **Mt Hotham, Mt Feathertop, Mt. St Bernard & Little Plains**

Name: Jack Keating, Date of Interview 1977

- John W Keating was a miner at Harrierville; came from somewhere near Jamieson
- Old Billy and John Beveridge had cattle at Harrierville; ran them on The Gums and Sugarloaf

- J.W Keating jnr about 50 years ago bought 5 head of cattle, & bred them up to about 150; ran them on Feathertop with Vic.Lawler. Previously Charlie Howard had the run
- After the 1939 fires the country got too dirty. Once they ran cattle on the spurs, but after 1939 the scrub became too thick & then they grazed further up
- Lawler used to run at Hotham, but was forced off the little plains after control
- A fair number of head of cattle were burnt in the 1939 fires; but in 1940 the feed was good; then the scrub came.
- They used to burn every year when bringing cattle down the spur; when they were kids all the hills were on fire, all burning down slope slowly
- Keating had about 350 acres of lowland country (freehold) and a 15000-acre lease on Feathertop shared with Lawler.
- Cows and weaned calves were turned out into the bush; cattle were sold at 3 years' old
- But now they sell the calves at Myrtleford & others buy them to fatten; that's better as you can run more cows and don't have the calves on your hands
- Buyers came from NSW & if the calves were good enough they were slaughtered; otherwise they were bought for fattening
- Harrierville is too cold for fattening; can't buy calves from warmer areas & expect they will do well; but calves bred in the cold will do well elsewhere
- Keating used to camp at the old Feathertop hut on Bungalow Spur
- Jack Lawler took up sheep to Feathertop, up Bungalow spur, but only for a few years as he then lost the run
- Years ago starving sheep came through from NSW; 2 – 3 lots, & went across to the BHPs. That was before 1939. JK was still a school boy (after WW1, in 1920s)
- Whitehead was one who brought sheep through Harrierville
- Dungey's track was used by Blairs & Westons. Fletcher also used it for a while, then changed to go through Little Plain
- George Fletcher used to have good Hereford stock; Blairs were from Germantown & have black polls – they went to BHPs via Dungey's track
- Paddy Waterhouse ran on Buffalo. He had cattle for a long time. He mixed buying and breeding. He also did droving for others & took 200 – 300 head on the roads till spring for 4 months; & he took his own as well. He took cattle from the Buckland
- Jack Lawler had a butcher's shop, & used to thieve a few
- F. Wraith and E Gow used the Dargo country. Had about 1000 acres freehold and 600 on lease. J Treasure later bought their land
- Wraiths and Gows had the Blackberry paddocks, had 15 acres of hops. They wintered their cattle at Wandiligong in the bush, & Ernest Gow looked after this. They had country at Everton too for wintering; about 150 head.
- Neil Gow was their cousin; but no professional connection.
- Jack Keating worked with E Gow for about 10 years before starting on his own properly. He worked on the hops & in his spare time fenced on the plains. In winter the stock were turned out in the bush & let go. But bulls were kept at the Harrierville paddock
- All summer country was fenced. To get there they followed the Omeo road; they had a hut and yards at Freezout.
- Victor Attridge had St Bernard, Freezout and Blue Rag; Dan Morn ran with him

- Attridge had about 500 head in 1939 and lost most of them; then bred up again, but didn't have as many. He worked in the mines and did the cattle on weekends. Moran did some mining too.
- Jack Keating also cut wood for the Shamrock mine. He cut most of the year, especially in summer, and during the wet put it in the mine. Had to shoot timber down hill to the horses. This was when JK was  $\leq 20$  yo. Wood cutting stopped when the mine closed. At this time he had 30 – 40 head of cattle, & when the mine closed he built up his herd. Did cattle mostly on the weekends
- For the last 25 years JK was 100% cattle
- Bernie Lawler & his aunt were from Snowy Creek. He gave up his run after Fletcher messed around.
- Cattle got water on the side of Feathertop, near the Old Bungalow; they had to go up, out of the scrub to get it
- Jack Keating was working for Jack Lawler when there was a dispute between Beveridges and Almeida. They drove cattle over to The Twins from Harrierville; there was an argument between Lawler and Almeida & the Beveridges over who the run belonged to. JK says that Jack Almeida probably burnt down Beveridge's homestead (a 4 room job). He also suspects Almeida of burning down the Bungalow hut to force others off.
- Jack Almeida was not a good type. He would steal other people's cattle for his butcher's shop at Harrierville.
- The Beveridge brothers, Jack & Sid, started with virtually nothing. As children they collected used cigarettes and when they had a packet of tobacco they would sell it. They also used to sneak other people's cattle, even their own father's. Jk says that when their father went across to the Buckland to look for his cattle one of them would sneak around while he was away & pinch a few, & drive them round to the head of the Buckland
- Paddy Waterhouse did a bit of pinching cattle too.

Name: Bill Howard Date of Interview: 1977

- His grandparents came from England to Harrierville to work in gold mines; then later selected land
- Bromelys were also early selectors at Harrierville, & were originally there for gold
- Grandfather Howard was the first to graze Feathertop; later grazed Mt St Bernard
- Uncle Charlie H also grazed St Bernard before WW1
- Dibbins were one of the first onto BHPs; built huts
- Ross Blair from Germantown also on BHPs
- Ben Lawler's uncles also amongst first at Feathertop. Old man Lawler grazed Razorback to Hotham; up to & into 1000s of head. Dibbins also had thousands of head
- The 1939 fires started in the Jamieson – Aberfeldy area. "On Little Plain I met Bill Spargo there. He was there during the fires & was lucky. Met him at Mt Loch. The fires burnt the snow gums to points, burned the ground and the rocks red. It was said that the HPs would take 10 years to recover. I think it took longer
- Jack Gow had cattle on the HPs in 1939. When the fire came up, within minutes it jumped 4 to 5 miles from St Bernard to the Hotham road. When the fire hit Devenport (Hotham) it burst into a ball of flames. The country is on the way to this again.

- Howard had cattle on the Omeo fall to Cobungra. This run not bad; basalt country doesn't get as dirty as sandstone country.
- Before then he had 260 head grazing St Bernard & the Razorback; then later Little Plains (his father & Dibbins; about 300 head) Now only 80 head is allowed
- Since introduction and reduction of the quota, BH has bought low country & now mainly takes dry cattle (young cattle & cattle without calves) to the tops. Calves & bulls are kept at Freeburgh and Harrierville
- In the past they were taking everything up, & selling bullocks
- "I ran with N Gow & he had 500 – 600 head about 12 years ago
- BH has a good opinion of Carl Fletcher. Says he has bought into too much and mortgaged. If he had the money, he would be improving the land & running it well.
- In the past cattle were a bit wilder, but still very good
- Lawlers had very good cattle
- Vic Attridge had 200 – 300 head
- Once there was Dan Moran, Vic Attridge, Jack Keating, Bill Howard & Tom Bibby (his brother-in-law) – Bibby had a few on Razorback. Now only one left: Bill Howard
- There was a bit of illegal grazing going on, but only in small numbers, so no real worry
- He complained that the big men (property owners) were keeping the small operators out by giving high tenders & then grazing out the land
- At certain times they worked for wages, to earn money to buy land; for a month or two; Ross Blair etc & John Beveridge
- Beveridges related to Fletchers
- Beveridges never mustered unless they wanted bullocks to sell.
- Most mountain graziers had to shift their stock off the snow line – but the Beveridges' runs were [mostly] below 4000 feet, so no need to move stock. Their country was not good; it was rough and steep. Some of Beveridge's cattle were too wild to get out.
- On the Buckland there was Sid & Jack Beveridge – Jack died 14 or 15 years ago; they lived at the head of the Buckland, then later at Brookside, and then later again at Everton, Bowmans, Markwood. They had 2 or 3 properties at Brookside. All sold now. They started from Harrierville with nothing
- On the Buffalo valley there was John Beveridge, son of Billy Beveridge; had most of the Buffalo river
- Bromleys originally came for the mining
- Dibbins were from England; they mined, & then bought land at Freeburgh. They cleared that part of Dungey's track from Omeo to Tawonga Gap
- "I keep a part of Dungey's track; so do others. Dungey's was probably first a track to get people from the NE to Omeo.
- Sheep were only put on the HPs in drought. Lindsay Rowe from Omeo was one; JH helped him get the sheep across. Also McNamaras. 'there where thousands of sheep on the HPs before my time'.
- Wraith & Gow were the biggest property owners in the NE. Tom Bibby grazed with them.
- Freddy Momsen (his father was Jacob) from Sunbury owned one of Carl Fletcher's properties, at Wandiligong (?). The property was taken with Dyson. They experimented with the land & did it up well; planted trees, treated elements (?), etc

- Harry Hocking from Wangaratta, was born at Harrietville; had McCready's farm
- Much of the good grazing country is now taken over by scrub. Miners & cattlemen both burned the bush. But JH says most burning turns the bush into rubbish, & he is not in favour of burning except if it is slow patch burning in Autumn. – ie small scale burning to prevent big fires
- The Crown lands are in a bad way because of weeds.
- Rabbits were very very bad at one time & ruined the country. With the introduction of mixo carrying capacity increased over night on the low country
- Because of rabbits the number of cattle on the HPs went up
- Of the Omeo people, Harry Petersen owned vast areas of station country; Les Watts managed for Naughtons who were from NSW
- Jack McNamara's cattle were the best shorthorn-herefords. They came up from Bundar which is outstanding lowland
- Wraith & Gow had a lot of shorthorns in their stock; but shorthorns don't stand the cold. They were on the DHPs, & had land at Harrietville; also a grocery, bakery, & motor trucks; many other properties inc. at Bowmans Forest & the Grange. During the war they had just under 1000 head
- Dargo High Plains could carry 2000 – 3000 in a good season.
- Time spent on HPs: JH would go up every 10 or 14 days to salt & look about. He spends more time now: keeping a closer eye on their whereabouts
- Dan Moran used to spend the summers in a hut on Mt. St. Bernard, & did a bit of mining. He had no lowland; just grazed the bush; similarly, Vic Attridge. Moran lost a lot in the 1939 fires
- We used to take cattle up to the tops fairly early; they do better that way; best to put on early & take off early; should take them off by April otherwise cattle lose condition as the grass has no body, & it gets colder
- Waterhouse was in the Buffalo & Buckland; he had Monahan's property which Neil Gow purchased. He did droving for Wraith & Gow, driving cattle to NSW for agistment
- Neil Gow went to Malaya to manage dredging there. While he was away Charlie Gow managed for him. When he came back he resumed the management role. Dyson had improved the country with a scientific approach, including top dressing. Neil got the property at the right time.
- Those who were rouseabouts & horse breakers: Luke & Rod Cullen; Mommsen & Hocking; Donohue
- Bill Howard as a 7 or 8-year-old had a few head of cattle of his own. He worked for the CRB & saved money to buy land. John Beveridge did the same. He had Catherine station & land at Milewa
- When BH's father died he went on his own, 100% since then (before 1939)
- Bill H & his father never bought cattle; only bred; only bought bulls. They used Dibbins hut; we built one on the Twins, then used Attridge's & Moran's
- They had 4000 - 5000 acres of lowland, which was more than average; Carl Fletcher had more

- We fought the dredges as they made the land useless for anything but pine trees. Their only good attribute was that the dredged land was dry, & that made it ideal as a platform to feed cattle on; doesn't muck up
- Bill H's father put stock on Bogongs & Little Plains
- Bill 1<sup>st</sup> grazed St. Bernard, then Little Plains (where he had 390 acres); also Twins and Cobungra River. There was a 2-day autumn muster and then 2 days coming in. This was a short time as they were up there regularly
- Calves didn't come off Cobungra well; good early, but then need to get them out early.
- Sandstone country is slower coming on but holds better as grows snow grass; basalt grows clover which is the best
- The open plains were never burnt – if fires touch it, it is ruined as it burns to the ground. Snowgrass is matted & takes years to repair.

Name: Roy Gow & Ag Gow Date of Interview 23/4/1977, at Wandiligong

- Donald Gow ->Charlie Gow -> Roy Gow  
-> Ern Gow (uncle)
- Neil Gow took over the freehold of (Fred?) Momsen in 1937. Momsen was on the HPs in 1920s – didn't have many cattle; NG also bought Dibbin's property. Carl Fletcher owns NG's property now, & he has a paddock near Hotham
- Cattle on the HPs in 1937:  
\* Neil Gow – 1090; Blairs – 900; Attridge – 900; Howard -? Cobungra – about 1000
- Breeding: not many had bulls on HPs; in any case cows usually had calves before stock went up
- Sid & Jack Beveridge had Buckland; their cousin Jack had Catherine station
- Sid & Jack ran anything – were not concerned about the quality of cattle. They often didn't know how many cattle they had; they just mustered & marketed. Their cattle tended to be long – legged, so they were good at jumping logs & other bush obstacles. Graziers concerned with quality bred for shorter legs & fuller frame
- Burning: an area was burnt every 3 or 4 years; burnt in strips: burning was started at the top of ridges & allowed to trickle down slope
- They didn't burn the open plains because if they did the peaty stuff would catch fire and would burn for weeks – and was never the same thereafter (referring to the Dargo HPs)
- Mustering: everyone gathered near Mt Hotham & as they brought in stock the owners would cut theirs out & when each had about 200 head they would bring them down to the lowland property. For example, Keating went across Feathertop; Gow down to the head of Wandiligong valley; Cobungra down Paw Paw; they called "salt" and used dogs
- They all preferred recent rain or snow before mustering so they could pick up the fresh cattle tracks & find their cattle
- Naughtons had 6 or 7 stations as far away as Queensland, & Cobungra was the smallest. They used to bring sheep & cattle from interstate & put them on the HPs. They also had sheep which were always accompanied by a shepherd while on the HPs to protect against dingoes
- RG said others also had sheep but he couldn't say who.

- Roy Gow worked as a hand, & mustered cattle for others, including Treasure's and Neil Gow. He also runs a small herd of his own on the lowlands
- Gows had a small paddock on the DHPs (best land) and old Gow had a hotel up there
- Quality of stock was generally better in the past; graziers concentrated on good stock by getting good bulls
- Gows are related to Maddisons
- Gow's hut on DHPs

Name: Tom Bibby

- In the early days Wraith & Gow had 10 acres of hops, then went into cattle
- Ernie Gow had property first, then went into partnership; had 2000 acres on the Dargo High Plains, & 600 – 700 acres of lowland
- Wraiths had the Harrietville general store; didn't have cattle of their own
- Mrs Wraith was a Gow, & the Gows raised Carl Wraith. He became the head manager & in later years bought "the Grange" at Everton
- Ern Gow had cattle all his life. Bred Herefords & sold bullocks at 4 years old; put all breeders on the tops. Everything was wintered on open country at Harrietville
- Brumbies were in the Wentworth River but were wiped out in the 1939 fires
- Carl Wraith & Tom Bibby guided walkers / hikers around 1937; they packed out supplies at Feathertop & Razorback. On the steep slopes 2 packs were loaded to the horses down side, to avoid saddle pinching which caused bucking
- They had a hut on DHPs and 2 yards made from fallen snow gum dragged one on top of the other. They went out to salt 2 or 3 times a year
- Tom Bibby worked for W & G for 6 years
- Tom B born at Harrietville. His father a miner; died of miners' complaint: dust on the lungs caused by fumes from dynamite
- Beveridges (apparently Sid & Jack) started off buying one cattle here & there; then bought Buckland from Morgans – just a bush property. They used the Twins & Mt Selwyn for summer grazing, & wintered the stock on the Buckland. Over 500 / 600 head. By the 1920s they were well established
- Some of their cattle they didn't see from year to year. They lived very rough. Once a young bloke called in for food; Sid gave him some old cheese. They often stayed so far out for so long that they ran out of food. They had huts everywhere. Later bought Brookside.
- Bob Beveridge – the father – was a large cattleman. Came to the Ovens region for gold.
- B B's brother Billy B was a miner. His son young Jack / John bought Buffalo river. His wife Maude had Abbeyard & Catherine station. Wife had Everton too, & Marswood. Then Maude went out of cattle, & now lives at Bright. It's been 7 or 8 years since John died
- John B was a trick of a fellow, always joking; used to drive a baker's cart. Went into Buffalo a long while & built up a lot of cattle. Sid & Jack were his uncles.
- John lived a good life; didn't rough it; wasn't particular about the colour of his cattle. His main run was the Gums. He had 300 – 400 head when started off at Harrietville.
- John Beveridge knew how many cattle he had & they didn't venture very far away.
- Sid & Jack had cattle everywhere

- In 1939 fires Sid was caught in the bush; he made it to an area that had been burned the previous year & that saved him. After the 39 fires they were breaking in horses around Buckland near Selwyn
- Their cattle went wild in the bush. The ones they wanted to fatten they took to Everton; always sold at Melbourne
- Brookside was not a big property; the bulk of their cattle were spread from Brookside to upper Buckland
- Sid & Jack worked on their own with very little help
- Dibbins grazed the Bogong and Little Plains. Had many cattle; miles of them coming down in autumn. Howard was in with them
- Gows had a 99-year lease & hotel just below Treasure's house on DHPs road, about 1910. Dick Gow & his family lived there all year round; he had a diamond drill & did mining
- The mail man went up the Ovens, & over into Dargo, then up King Spur – on government tracks
- Treasures went from the Buckland to the DHPs; stayed on the HPs till June & then moved to Castleburn. Freda & Jim have much of Castleburn
- Tom B worked with the Treasures
- Dibbins grazed on Little Plains & on portion of Bogong; had yards near the Snowbird
- Lawlers would have been the first to graze Hotham.
- Hotham used to be dotted with horses. Lawlers left a lot out there one year – left them as long as they could; about 20 horses found dead at Blowhard. Those days, 1913 – 15 everyone had horses on Hotham
- Whiteheads from Buthewarh station in NSW brought 1000s of sheep to Hotham & Little Plains in 1914. Then black leg came in (paralyses calves). Whiteheads never came back again this way. Their sheep were dying on the way up, very hungry. For weeks afterwards blokes were riding about looking for scalps to count their losses
- Jack & Jim Treasure tried sheep once on DHPs – about 300 around 1936. They ran on the Omeo plain paddock. Jack put them out for a feed, & at night he changed his clothes in the yards to keep dingoes away.
- TB took? A few sheep were taken to the Razorback around 1936 – went up Bon Accord – for about 6 years
- After finishing with Gows TB then worked on the dredge, then bought his place at Smoko – about 720 acres; didn't have cattle on the tops for much longer

Name: Mrs Lawler Date of Interview: 1977

- Lawlers came to Harrietville over 90 years ago. Her father was a gold miner – he struck gold & invested in shares. Then he got into grazing.
- Their first 'leases' were Feathertop & Hotham. They took stock to NSW for fattening & then trucked to Sydney. They leased property around Griffith
- 1<sup>st</sup> graziers on Feathertop were old John Howard, Gold & Bromley. Bromley moved out when the dredge finished
- Lawlers first settled at Freeburgh; now also at Bright & Germantown.
- John Lawler went in for sheep in NSW in 1907-8; but drought killed them
- Horses were run on Feathertop with cattle. 80 or 90 head. Everyone had some horses

- John Lawler died in 1909; then brothers Michael (Freeburgh), William (Towong), Victor (here), Edward, & Cliff took cattle to the HPs
- Track from Snowy Creek to Feathertop along a very narrow ridge
- Dungey was a policeman; had to go to Omeo, & cleared a track for himself – only rough.
- Take the Feathertop track to put cattle on Hotham
- Once Hotham was closed to grazing Lawlers went to another run, but it was too far away so they stopped; that was about 10 – 12 years ago.
- Vic Lawler died 16 years ago

Name: Sid Beveridge, 86 yo, Everton Date of Interview: 20/11/1977

- Interview started with SB asking 'you're not going to ask me about that Wonnangatta business are you? (referring to the Wonnangatta murders). I replied 'No, I'm not interested in that stuff.' Later, as the interview progressed SB brought up the subject of the murders, assuring me that it was all about cattle rustling. He was also concerned that I understand that Jim Barklay was a man of high character, contrary to some of the theories surrounding the Wonnangatta murders.
- Sid Beveridge & his brother John got Beveridge's station in 1904, when SB was 13 yo, & JB was 17. JB bought the station from Morgan; Morgan just grazed a few around the house; was a handy man / builder & worked for others. SB was still going to school; they used to walk over the hill on Friday night from Harrierville. Their father was Robert Beveridge, a gold miner all his life, except that when he was older he got a few cattle. RB came from England; their mother was born in Wandiligong
- S & J just started on their own, breeding cattle. Gradually over time they bought up places. They were the only blokes to make a success with cattle. When they started with cattle they grazed on their dad's run at Harrierville. When they bought Beveridge's station on the Buckland SB had 5 cows & calves, & JB had about 14. SB left school at 13 yo after getting his certificate
- They didn't buy anything significant, except a few good bulls. Their business was breeding & rearing, and they focused on volume rather than quality.
- Beveridges were the first to graze the Twins. 'We had no trouble with [getting] leases; they were never taken up'. They started with one lease, & then got more. And we bought up the farms of those who couldn't keep going
- Before WW1 there was not much interest in runs because cattle were too hard to sell. But when cattle got dear people wanted runs. Some people came in & were going to raise hell; and returned soldiers came in too, but didn't last long.
- Most of our cattle went out into the Gippsland high country. The cattle use to love the high country – you just had to open the gates & they would go up; different grass, cooler, and no flies.
- In summer they put the cattle up; in autumn they brought them off, around March, to winter around the Buckland. They didn't go out to Mt St. Bernard; mainly the Twins & Mt Murray. We put what we could find on the tops; used to ride out to around Cobbler and Wonnangatta to stop their cattle wandering. Their stock ran right down Tea Tree Range to Blue Rag
- They had 2 huts, one at Mt Murray, one at Mt Selwyn

- They only bred; Herefords. They never speculated with buying & selling.
- About 50 years ago they had an informal arrangement taking out people from Melbourne for fishing
- Around 1920 Jack & Sid worked part time at the Shamrock mine
- They always sold in the paddock; stores. The agents McGregor & Gidney (Benalla) bought hundreds from us, before we got a paddock at Everton. In later times when they bought the Everton property they also sold fats
- Also ran about 70 horses in the mountains, inc a stallion.
- Around 1927, before the depression, they bought Brookside. This became their main homestead; but they had 4 other houses – at School house; at top end of the farm (the main house in the early days); and two below Brookside.
- After the depression and before WW2 they had Catherine Station; they were back & forwards between the 2 places; would go out for a few days; but most of their time was spent on the Buckland & the HC runs. On the Buffalo they only had river flats.
- Morgan & McLean – Abbey Yard – don't think they put cattle on DHPs; they had no need to.
- Early graziers on Mt Buffalo were George Weston & Bob Hughes. There were starvers put out there about 70 years ago

### Dargo High Plains

Name: Jim Treasure Date of Interview: 1977

- Discovery of the DHPs: McMillan found horse tracks when he went through, so he obviously wasn't the first
- 1<sup>st</sup> to graze DHPs – Hugh Glass had a number of runs & brought sheep from the Riverina in dry times; brought plenty of sheep & shepherds
- Alfred Jones was a religiously inclined carpenter - a protestant lay preacher. He built a house at Mayford & Dargo, & had property at Dargo; one of the first there. He milked cows & had cow & calf paddocks & yards near Treasure's homestead. Grandfather Treasure helped him build a paddock at least by 1878. Jones stayed 5 or 6 miles from Treasures & had a store & Post Office. Don't think Jones milked commercially, probably just cattle. He was a loner; did have a wife & had a large HPs house (Mayford house). When he came to Dargo he built the Catholic Church there, & possibly others, in English style; then probably went to the HPs after he sold his Dargo property to Phelan. When he went to the HPs Emmanuel Treasure helped him construct the fences, 1878. Emmanuel T worked for AJ on HPs for 30 shillings a week plus food. That was when the Treasures lived at Kings Spur, 5 miles away. Jones was well established in 1877/78. When he left the DHPs run was rented by Box, King & Petersen, & later Treasures got a share
- Gows had the old pub ½ way house further down the road – 3 miles down from Jones's
- Jones was not on the HPs long after Treasures arrived
- In the Treasures' time mining was going downhill; previously there were thousands who came for the gold rush in the Upper Dargo area.
- H.L (George ?). His father had been a railroad contractor, building tunnels through the Blue Mountains in NSW. HLT (George ?) had cows at Wandiligong & brought them with him to DHPs. They lived at King's spur, ½ way down the mountain at the winter snow line.

- Treasures were at King's spur 10 or 15 years before they started using the HPs. At Kings Spur they milked cows, grew vegies, kept a post office, & did some mining too. However, after some time this was not enough to make a living so they started running beef cattle in the bush.
- HPs were used for summer grazing & cattle wintered on the plateau sides & in the river valleys. In the early days, before rabbits, the winter feed was good, and they never had to take the cattle out of the mountains for winter. The cattle naturally / automatically moved down to the plateau sides as winter set in, & came back up to the tops on their own in summer.
- Rabbits arrived about 1900 & over a 10-year period built up their numbers. They got very thick, & then for some reason thinned out & almost disappeared for a number of years. Then they gradually dug in & multiplied. The first wave of rabbits didn't have burrows – but they were not hares.
- With the increase in rabbit numbers by 1920s the lower country became virtually useless for wintering cattle. After the rabbits ate out the grass, the scrub spread
- Rabbits were here for 50 years and then mixomytosis killed them off; now the country is coming back – is re-grassing naturally.
- At Wonnangatta station the snow country was used very little until the rabbits came. Most stock remained on what we now call the winter country because of the abundance of feed there
- Not many people alive today understand how bad the rabbit plague was. Because of rabbits the country was over stocked for 50 years; eventually they thinned themselves out after reaching saturation point – they were all over the bush country of eastern Victoria
- But the rabbits couldn't survive above 4500 feet, & there were only a few over 4000 feet elevation. They might have got up there in the dry season but when the snow came the rabbit's burrows got clogged up & they were easy prey for foxes. If it snowed at night & rabbits were out browsing, they couldn't get back to safety.
- Up until the 1880s there were native cats, tiger cats, bandicoots, kangaroo rats & marsupial rats or mice in all the country; it was fully stocked with them. But they all disappeared after rabbits ate out the country. Native grasses can't stand continual browsing to the ground. So when the winter pasture was eaten out by rabbits there was no place for the natives to shelter in winter. Wombats survived because they can eat roots; similarly, Emus. Kangaroos, possums, koalas etc died out from European diseases.
- In the past there were kangaroos on DHPs; and blackfish in the streams until trout were introduced; also eels. Kangaroos were grazing there before the rabbits
- The higher the stocking of the HPs with cattle, the greater the proliferation of wild flowers
- And Aboriginals were regular visitors for centuries; you can find old camps and quarries and grinding stones (with hollows in them the shape of an axe). They used water worn basalt and diorite from nearby river valleys. The camping spots are sheltered from the westerly and north westerly winds, are flat, & have a water supply. The Aboriginals didn't just walk through; they lived on the DHPs during the summer, attracted by the plentiful wildlife.
- There was no evidence of contact between blacks & whites on DHPs – no sign of it that HLT remembered

- At King's spur the Treasures had vegetable gardens & pigs. The young Treasures never did mining; there was nothing to do besides mining & serving miners. There were enormous numbers of people at the mines. Grant had 26 licensed grog shops, & 26 unlicensed ones; and there were 6 banks.
- Activity on the mountain goldfields started fading at the end of the 1860s but lingered on till 1913-15. Treasures moved more into beef cattle as the mining population continued to decline. They reared cattle & agisted them on the DHPs – by agreement of the run holders (some years after they arrived at King's spur). By that time Jones had gone & the run holders were Box, King, & Petersen. King had a store at Mayford at the foot of King's spur; Box had a hotel at Cobungra (Mrs Box was running it when HLT was a boy); Petersen was the father of the Petersens who held the Omeo side. As the years went on the run was split, & Petersens kept the Omeo side
- Jones's run had been 170,000 acres, & it continued to be split up over time. In the 1870s it went from Wonnangatta station to the Alpine highway near Omeo. Treasures & Gows got the run in the end and split it, the boundary being the Hotham road; Gows had the west half; Treasures had the east half. Between the times of Jones and Treasures, the run must have been used by Breen, McLean & Morgan. HLT said a lot of men had a go but it took a man reared there to make a success of it. The other people didn't live there, but the Treasures did & they could handle it.
- The original Treasure family was big: 9 boys, 2 girls. Some went to Queensland in 1910. Only one stayed back at DHPs: HLT. They had the house at King's spur, & the house on DHPs. Treasures would have started using the DHPs house when HLT was 11 years old – around 1888. Then they started shifting between the two houses according to the season.
- Gows lived at Harrierville, & had the halfway house on the DHPs. Treasures were on the HPs before the Gows, but the 2 families came into the HPs runs at the same time. Gows would have run cattle on the western fall of the DHPs in winter; there was no need to take the cattle away for winter back then. Gows gradually went out & by the time the rabbits arrived they only had some freehold, which they kept till 1950. Treasures eventually got all the runs. Can't say when Gows lost the runs, but since 1914 they didn't have them & till the 1950s they kept bringing up cattle to the fenced freehold each summer.
- In 1900 they abandoned the King's spur house & bought land at Lindenow. Old Emmanuel Treasure died about this time. They were forced out by the rabbits. They had the Castleburn property by 1914, & it was cleared and fenced. Probably got it 1908/9. From 1900 onwards the old people lived at Lindenow; it was almost a separate operation.
- After 1900 they still wintered some cattle on the fall of the HPs, but the rest were taken to Castleburn or sent away on agistment.
- From 1900 – 1908 they lived on the HPs or at Mayford. HLT married in 1902/3 & built a house at Mayford then, & lived there for a few years till it burnt down. Between 1906 – 1913 they put in a few winters at the hut at Castleburn; in 1914 they wintered at Lindenow; another year the wife & children stayed at Sandringham for the winter
- By 1916 they had purchased more land at Castleburn & built a house there (before then there was only the 2 or 3 roomed hut) - & that's where they wintered since 1917. In 1916 itself they wintered on the HPs. All stores had to be brought in before the snow. There was always work to do in the summer.

- They started a store on the HPs in 1890s (at the same time as Kings Spur) & this ran for 20 years, in the summer only. Two times a week goods were packed out from Harrietville for the store. Miners lived at the mines & came up to Treasure's stores for supplies. They offered a delivery service for the area from Humfray River in the west to the Dargo River in the east. Most years you could pack horses until June. There were mines all around, some with 20 men – especially at the large alluvial sluices. The store was active most of the winter as there were many mines on the edge of the basalt not far away. One mine carried on till 1925; close by was the Chambers reef & 'the Ridge' mine.
- After the purchased the Castleburn property Treasures often stayed on the HPs till June, & were still able to get cattle out. Till 1930 they had 2000 – 3000 head; still do. In the early days their cattle were cross-breeds; in the last 80 years they've kept Herefords
- The tops are kept clean of St.John's wort. But the black berries & wort have got hold of the rivers. Now Dargo River is impassable from Dargo to St Bernard; the blackberries are going up the gullies. Wonnangatta River has only in the last 3 – 4 years become impassable. This has been happening since the miners brought in the blackberries; they only spread slowly in the first 30 years, but now they're out of control on all runs, creeks & gullies down low; the tops are too frosty for blackberries. But wort can seed on sunny aspects up to 4500 feet.
- Today the Treasure brothers & sisters keep cattle separately. Most have moved out to Gippsland & sister out to Tawonga
- Gow & Wraith had plenty of property in the Ovens valley. Were breeders of Herefords & had 500 – 600 head on the HPs. For the last 80 years there's been no-one else grazing on the DHPs apart from Treasures & Gow & Wraith
- Now there are 22 cattle owners in the Treasure family.
- Attridge had a share in one of our Hotham runs – possibly had 150 – 200 head, around Hotham.
- In the early days we did control burning. Lit in the autumn. There were no bad bush fires until the Forests Commission stopped graziers burning. Before 1930 they put a blanket ban on all fires. The 1939 fires were able to get away because the country had not been burned for so long. Before 1939 there were good stands of woolly butt, but the fires got ¾ of them
- Fire won't burn down hill. On the DHPs we burned up hill a few hundred yards, and let it run up. The bush won't burn every year, but to be safe it should be burned at least one in every 10 years. It's generally safe for 4 years & after that you can do a light fire; if fuel builds up for 20 years if a fire starts nothing will stop it.
- 1939 fires swept the DHPs – burnt the woodland but not the plains
- Since the end of the rabbits there is a lot of scrub in the bush & burning would help to get rid of it. Grass & scrub do / don't (?) go together
- A big fire kills trees and results in thick regrowth. Gradually stands will thin out; then maybe in a 100 years it will be park – like with few trees and lots of grass
- In comparison with the BHPs which have become scrubbier, the DHPs have never altered (on the plains themselves). If you take all the stock off for long enough the snow grass will become coarse and rough and nothing will eat it, & the clover will die out. Clover is a soil builder

- Where scrub is growing generally indicates where a big fire has been; trees are killed; suckers and seedlings come up especially snow gums and wattles. Cattle don't kill scrub or trees
- However, on the DHPs timber country large fires at the wrong time have had an impact. Spring, January & February are the wrong times to burn. If fires are lit in Sept – Oct then scrub will grow. Autumn fires are natural & don't cause harm. (Natural fires are lit by storms under natural conditions)
- Cattlemen had to burn to regenerate the grass. Burn the woodland only; no advantage in burning the open plains – better to eat it off.
- There have been almost no sheep on the DHPs since 1914. Treasures took some up one year but it was too much trouble. Even before 1914 sheep were only there in droughts.
- Basalt country doesn't erode. Its soil is very rich and grows so much herbage it can't erode. During the mining era there were roads everywhere through the DHPs. Now they are overgrown & you can't find them.

Name: Roy Gow Date of Interview: 20/11/1977

- Donald Gow snr, from Scotland, a selector with a hop garden – sons:
  - \* Donald G jnr – did some mining at Wandiligong & got a lot of gold
  - \* Richard G - had a hotel & did mining all year round
  - \* Ernest G – teamed with Carl Wraith
- Donald snr & jnr both were in runs; they lived at Harrietville; Don jnr later went to Wandiligong & had a hop garden as a side line. In the early years their winter country was White Timber spur down to the Wongungarra River. Later they had a 17000 acre run at the head of Morse's creek as their winter country instead of Wongungarra. Early on they had 400 – 600 head : all types & ages; and DG snr also had 100 horses
- On the DHPs they had selected a 2000 acre paddock. There they had a hut and chock & log fencing. Ernest fenced it with wire.
- Journey out to the DHPs: 1<sup>st</sup> day to Freezeout; second day to the hut at the selection
- Later on they had Mick Culhane helping Dad breaking in horses
- When the 2 Ds went out of cattle Ernest took over. Ernest raised Carl Wraith (whose mother was a Gow). Later, around 1935/7 Carl Wraith, Frank Wraith & Ernest Gow formed the company 'Wraith & Gow' for their cattle operations. Frank Wraith had the general store at Harrietville
- Lockhart had the DHPs run before Donald Gow snr; but only for a couple of years
- In 1937 Neil Gow bought out Momsen & E.C Dyason on Feathertop. Neil Gow grazed Feathertop at the same time Wraith & Gow were on DHPs – but were separate businesses
- Neil Gow had been in Malaya on a tin dredge. Then he came back to Harrietville & bought out Momsen & Co; and he also bought out Dibbins & their cattle. But he only held Dibbin's interest for a few years & then young Arthur Dibbin came back from butchering in Melbourne & started in cattle.
- Ben Morgan was a bridge builder with the municipality who lived at Beveridge's station, & probably had cattle there

Name: Tom Bibby, Harrietville Date of Interview: 21/11/1977

- Jo Lewis didn't buy for Wraith & Gow; they bred everything. They had a property at Everton called 'the Grange' & it was used for fattening of bullocks. All steer calves from yearlings upwards were sent to the Grange to fatten. Charlie Gow owned the Grange. He disliked roan cattle
- Cattle were bred at Harrierville and the DHPs. Breeders were wintered at Harrierville. In summer the cows & calves & yearling steers & heifers & some 2 & 3 year olds were put on the HPs
- The Grange took as many cattle for fattening as they had
- Carl Wraith bought steers, & he ended up managing the company
- W & G turned a lot of cattle out into the bush, & some wandered down to Beveridge's
- The Beveridges were thorough businessmen – very tight. Their father Bob Beveridge watched every cent he had. John Beveridge was a cousin, on the Buffalo River – had Abbeyards – and had another home at Everton. Maude was his wife.
- Sid Beveridge was a great general
- In 1912 Gows had their last lot of horses; Mick Culhane & Charlie Gow looked after them
- William Wye, the poet, was a prospector on the Buffalo and Buckland rivers; he went down to Wonnangatta station
- Jack Lawler & Jack Almeida jumped Beveridge's place; Beveridges had oats on it and everything. Lawler & Almeida had some poor cattle & they put them in Beveridge's paddock.
- There was talk of a cattle row
- Ernie Gow & Mick Culhane said Bamford had a bad temper
- Carl Fletcher's base on HPs was Horsehair plain
- Neil Gow's property was 'the Poplars'
- Dyason was involved in mining in a big way & also dealt in store cattle. Freddy Momsen worked for him. They sold out to Neil Gow, & when Momsen later went back to the property for a look he was disgusted (with Fletcher)??

### Snowy Range

Name: Rex Miller Date of Interview: 13/7/1978

- There have always been horses in the bush because miners let them loose & didn't take them away when the miners left the mountains
- A chap called Frankie Gibson ran many horses on the roads on agistment. He had 20 -30 head in a mob. It was cheap all year grazing. Each land holder was allowed 10 horses on the roads at 10 shillings per year. It was cheap grazing & the roads were wide. They were mustered once a year by the municipal herdsman. This was before the 1930s & it was phased out as motor vehicles became common. However, the market for horses was in decline from 1910/12
- Mentioned the story of C.S Holme riding through the town of Grant on a horse shod with solid gold. There were 36 hotels at Grant, & a lot of money to be made by supplying cattle.
- Holmes had a paddock on Bennison plains just above Higgins paddock; they worked together. Paddy's paddock was between Higgins & Holmes; and McMichael fenced in another paddock up there

- Old Don McDonald was at Mt Wellington periodically; he may have had a few cattle, but not many; he had a small amount of land at Valencia creek
- Henry Miller was born at Maffra. His father came out from Scotland (David Miller) & was working for Foster at Boisdale. Then he selected land & had a fresh food factory at Newry & a flour mill at Maffra. David Miller was not a cattleman but bought well bred horses and shipped them to India. He didn't have high country runs but may have had bush runs.
- Henry R Miller was at Upper Maffra & was probably forced into high country grazing
- HRM probably started on a sub-tenant basis. There were a lot of wild cattle on Mt Wellington at that time. He had been going up the right hand branch of the Avon River, then followed wild cattle down onto the left hand branch of the river & accidentally discovered a new route to Mt Wellington. He used to go straight up the Avon river; took 3 or 4 days.
- The right hand branch of the Avon had been used from the beginning; don't know who discovered it; was a long time ago
- The wild cattle were brown in colour with a white star on their forehead and a stripe down the back of the neck to the wither. They were descended from short horns probably from the gold mining days.
- HRM struck out on his own & at first rented property. In the early years he would have 3 or 4 men managing a big herd on Mt Wellington. You couldn't go onto Mt Wellington with only a few head; you needed a few hundred. They sold at Maffra, & later at Heyfield.
- HRM also grew wheat for flour mills at Maffra; also did dairying – had a large herd that reached 120 cows being milked daily; this was organised on a share-farming system. But mainly HRM was in beef.
- In the early years Riggalls were on Mt. Wellington & HRM used Riggall's hut. At the other end of Mt Wellington there was McFarlane's hut. Don't know much about them; must have come from the Dargo side as there are McFarlanes over there. Riggall was there when I first went out; they gave it up about the same time Gibson did.
- When we had the whole thing (Mt Wellington area) at our peak we had 700 – 800 head up there. But we also had plenty of country on the Avon: most stock wintered in the bush runs up Avon half way to Mt Wellington. I had 150,000 acres out there.
- Estoppy brothers – Charlie & Andy – had Moroka in our time. Bill Gillio was in with them
- HRM use to go out to Mt Wellington for a fortnight, and then home for a month. There were 3 – 4 workers, sometimes 7 or 8, at muster. As they had no paddocks up there the stock were tailed in the day and yarded at night. 2 – 3 men were required to watch the stock in the day time at mustering
- Miller's hut was built in 1914. It originally had bark roof; I packed out the iron
- I went through with a walking party in 1916, when 13 yo
- Salting was done occasionally, but not enough; our track was too rough and steep. Treasure did it a lot on DHPs – he mustered with salt. We had to rely on dogs as the country was so rough.
- Wasn't necessary to muster all the the cattle from the winter runs & put them on Mt Wellington. As the snow melted stock would follow it up on their own accord. Cattle were kept to 4 and 5 years old, then sold
- We bred stock and bought them as well. About 50% of our stock were bought from wherever you could get them. One year we bought several train loads of cattle from NSW;

that was a drought year, around 1935/6. We did quite a bit of buying in NSW. We had a property across the river from Swan Hill – had a manager on it.

- Sometimes we would muster off Mt Wellington and send a train load of stock to Swan Hill to be fattened; then they would be sold at Swan Hill or Newmarket.
- But mostly we sold stores at Maffra; stores were the big thing with Mt Wellington.
- Occasionally we bought up cheap stock in drought times & put them on Mt Wellington; but it wasn't very successful.
- In the 1914 drought Upper Maffra was very dry, & Mt Wellington wasn't too bad, but it wouldn't carry all the stock we had so we had to send some to Willow Grove on agistment. Some dairy stock were sent to Wellington.
- Eyreshires & shorthorns cows were kept for dairying; and the bulls were Herefords and shorthorns
- Wattie Colleen was on Wellington with Riggall; then he moved & bought land at Boisdale
- Dan Scott from Dargo never had any runs. He & old Jack came in on agistment with me (under the lap) or he went out to Guy's. We let them put cattle on Mt Wellington for a few years; that was from before 1939 and for a few years after that. HRM died in 1939.
- Tailing out was stopped around 1910/11. Then we did some fencing & saved the fenced areas for mustering time. We would muster onto Gable End, then yard them, then lead them down country next morning. The trip down took about 3 days. Stock were shifted to the home paddock via various paddocks we had along the Avon river
- Yearlings were put out onto the tops and sometimes breeding cattle too. However, there was a bit of calf pinching that occurred so we stopped putting pregnant cows out
- Bulls were put out in the early days; but cows & calves weren't unless the season forced us to, or if the snow country happened to be very good.
- Stock did wander out to Bennison plains out Higgins way; not too many wandered into Moroka. Alex Guy & his son Jack were the first RM remembers in Moroka; they had horses there as well as cattle. Moroka country looks better, but it's actually too wet; we never used it. Mt Wellington is best
- RM doesn't recall there being any cultivation on Snowy – Bennison.
- Sheep were in Moroka before my time; there were a few skeletons there when I first went out. You would have to have lived out there with them; most of them died. Old McDonald was looking after them – he had paid shepherds; it must have been a drought year; there would have been a big problem getting sheep over logs, & through thick scrub.
- Dingoes were a problem if cows were calving up there
- There was a bounty on wombats – 5 bob. We used to get them out around Mt Wellington. Would put a cattle dog down a hole; the dog would push the wombat to the end of the tunnel not far from the surface. We would put our ear to the ground, listen & then dig it out. Occasionally we lost a dog. We'd catch 3 – 4. 12 shillings a day was pretty good. Wombats were not a problem at Mt Wellington but they were easy to get. It was not entertainment.
- Soldier settlers: Jim & Jack Kelly, and Tom Higgins – but they had been up there before the war. Kellys related to Higgins
- Cattle duffing was very common after the 1939 fires; someone pinched what wasn't burnt; he took them out via Heyfield & Munro, put them on a train truck & they were gone. Some

of these animals were traced to Nagambie. Before the 1930s pinching of calves was common.

- Jack Norton had a few cattle on tops for a few years; he was with Higgins. Higgins came from Dargo originally. I remember him for a few years, off & on.
- Golden Point is one of our properties. John Diver didn't have runs much; he made a crust out of it ; had a few sheep and some lowland; sold wool to wool brokers. After 1939 fires Diver put sheep & cattle in the bush.
- Refers to Victorian Naturalist vol 8 p.16, June 1891 – about a stockman called Snowden in 1886 / easter 1887; then a trip in 1890; had to go off Riggall's track a few hundred yards to see the lake
- Riggalls had cattle up Wellington river

Name: Jim Monds Date of Interview: 5/9/1977

- McFarlane had the Mt Wellington run; and all the land from Heyfield right back up the Macalister River. They had a brush fence at Glencairn & Duncan Ross lived there. Dingoes were pretty bad.
- Then Riggall took it. McFarlane only had sheep; Riggall had sheep & cattle.
- Riggalls let sheep & cattle go on the tops, & the snow would push them down the sides. They had Bennison and Mt Wellington. Riggalls mustered; not sure about McFarlane.
- Some Mansfield graziers had stock coming across onto Riggalls run
- Riggalls had sheep for a short time, but mostly cattle. Shorthorns in the early days, then changed later to Herefords. They bred most of them. Took bulls and breeders out on the tops, and on the lowlands
- Riggalls had about 20 workers at first: clearing land, shepherding, shooting wild horses. Someone in the early days ran horses, & they became wild. Riggalls had 10,000 sheep
- Jim Monds had 2 brothers living at Glenfalloch. When the country was first made available for selection there were only one or two selectors. But once the road was put through it was more popular. You could get 640 acres plus a 1280 acre run. The 2 brothers got JM to put in for a block; he didn't hold it for too long; the block was between the Wellington and Macalister rivers. JM put a fence on a ridge between the Wellington & Macalister. He had a hut at Breakfast creek.
- Angus Shaw was up the Wellington River. He was one of the first up the Wellington. He used to watch and herd shorthorn cattle; he was amongst them every day making sure he didn't lose any. He was a Scotsman & made a lot of money. Had no employees. It was pretty hard back then as tucker had to be packed in.
- Gilder took over from Riggalls. He was running about 600 breeders when he took over; when he took over Holme's country on the tops. Kept Herefords & black polls
- Henry Miller went up to the HPs from Newry. He was there when Riggalls were up the other way. He went up the Avon & had quite a few cattle.
- Bulgaback Jack McDonald had country up that way; had runs.
- People hunted possums all around here. Best ones were around south Gippsland – mountain possum.

- Jim Monds didn't go right into the mountains as it was too far away, & too much trouble
- George Turpin trapped all year round, including winter. May have gone up to Mt Wellington. He was from the British Isles. He made some money & went home.
- Riggalls bred horses for India, as did Gilders at Newry.
- Higgins used to bring cattle across from Myrtleford - via DHPs, Crooked River to Bennison Plains. Did this more than once. He was born at Crooked River. In the winter the stock would be put onto the lowlands. Then he would muster them & bring them down to sell

Name: Kevin Molphy Date of Interview: 25/9/1977

- Michael Molphy b. 1827 in Ireland; came to Sale in early 1850s. Had some money; built the Star Hotel & some shops. Selected at Glenmaggie in 1869. His daughter married a McFarlane; Hugh McF was my uncle. My father was Gerald Molphy
- In the 1920s & '30s we were interested in Mt Useful & Mt. Selma. Our stock were bought & bred equally. Had no winter country.
- Flynns were at Seaton before us. They had been miners at Gaffney's creek
- Angus Shaw was a shepherd for McFarlanes; he was up in the high country with McFs. He was very frugal and ended up wealthy. He eventually had good land at Newry & Glenmaggie
- Holmes brothers walked their pigs and other stock to Heyfield, across Bennison plains & down the Macalister river
- McMichael family lived at Glenmaggie & Licola. They had good land but not much of it. Had runs. Were mainly into cattle. Bill McM was the main one – in charge
- Hugh McFarlane may have had McDonald's Flat
- In 1939 we got our cattle out (of the bush?) before the fires went through. Fire came through in a wall. We held the stock in a burnt paddock till the fire went through – it went through over our heads with a frightening roar. Water in creeks and soaks boiled.
- After the 39 fires we put our stock up on Snowy. Guys said to. Flynns did also.
- The fires missed the Snowy. When the fire reached a cleared area it went out; so it really only burned the bush. There had been a drought since 1937.
- Henry Miller had a dairy & beef property at Newry
- Bob Elliot was manager of the Wonnangatta syndicate. He lived at Wonnangatta. When the syndicate sold to the Guys there were 1300 – 1400 head on the tops. They also had horses on Mt Howitt which had been left there all year & had gone wild.
- Pat Garvey had stock on Mt Wellington around the turn of the century
- Molphys and Flynns worked on their own as a unit; had a good run; after fire it could carry around 1000 head; but when the land became scrubby the number of stock dropped to 300 – 400. Sometimes they burnt in autumn; liked to keep the country open. They drop a match here & there; only small cool burns.
- Flynn's had around 100 – 150 head; the land around Seaton is not much good. In the old days they mustered straight into the sale yards selling 3 or 4 yo stores. Now the market is for young stock.
- Vealers have to have first class country; if you don't have that then you sell at 2 yo. That's what we do here. Now we buy a lot of stock from the Omeo area, hold them for 12 months & then sell as stores to fatteners. The stock are taken up the bush for summer & then sold at Heyfield in autumn

- In the past the situation was similar, except that cattle were sold at an older age. Everyone with runs would buy; if you had pretty good country you could also run cows & calves.
- McMichaels wouldn't have reared many; would have mainly bought. Riggalls had more scope for breeding
- Smaller blokes relied more on buying, generally at Bairnsdale or Manero. Then the cattle were walked here.
- Cattle on the tops were boxed together & ran anywhere

Name: Bill Shaw Place: Glenmaggie Date of Interview: 25/9/1977

- Angus Shaw had runs. He arrived in Tasmania with his parents in 1857 as a child from Scotland; arrived in Gippsland shortly afterwards. He was born in 1850 & died in 1921
- AS made money out of run country and invested it in land at Newry. Bill Shaw has the land titles going back to 1869; before then AS had been in the run country
- AS worked as a shepherd for McFarlane, at 5 shillings per week. And from there he branched out into run country. Probably he worked on McFarlane's runs
- There is not much winter country in the mountains, so AS probably brought his stock home to Glenmaggie where he had a selection.
- AS was a very good judge of stock, & did well on the runs; but he got out when he bought land – probably in runs till 1869
- McFarlane probably let AS use his runs; he was a trusted buyer for McF and got promotion quickly.
- Bill Shaw's father, William John S born 1888
- AS's route to Mt Wellington was up Coongullin west & Upper Maffra
- Apparently he grazed sheep on the tops in summer

Name: Mrs Shaw Place: Glenmaggie Date of Interview: September 1977

- Jonny Snowden was mustering with Angus Shaw when Lake Tarli Karn was found; this is what her grandmother Shaw told her.
- AS was never with Riggalls – he worked with the McFarlanes, as did his father. He was a young man when he started going out there, probably not even in his teens. He was still a boy when Malcolm McF gave him his first cow & calf. He worked for McF in the high country. AS was like Malcolm McF's left hand: and when MMcF got old he gave AS an open cheque to buy for him.
- Later on AS worked for himself
- AS found the High Plains
- Sam Riggall was a municipal councillor; in the 1930s & '40s he took people up to the mountains & re-named places
- Angus Shaw could also have done work for C.S Holme, & put his own stock up on Bennison
- AS bought stock from farms and sale yards & put them into the hills; he had a very regular route. Surplus young stuff he would keep in the hills, and he relied on them coming down from the tops on their own to the bush winter country. He sold his stock in Maffra as stores.
- In later years he had land at Glenmaggie, Newry and Tinamba Plains. He fattened cattle here & then sent them to Melbourne.

- He was very friendly with the McLeans of Maffra, but not with the Riggalls.

Name: Andy Estoppey Place: Briagolong Date of Interview: 26/9/1977

- Andy E used to take tourists into the mountains, one trip per year at Xmas time. Did it for 8 – 10 years; trips were for 10 days. Started at Briagolong, to Mt Wellington, to Razorback, then to Valencia creek or Newry. Once they went over to Bogong. The pack horses used for the tours - about 40 – were wintered in Moroka
- In 1930s BHPs carried 10,000 head of cattle
- In 1932 a fire started at Noojee & raced to Glenmaggie, then into the snow country
- Aboriginals were around Boisdale & the Quarry
- Earliest graziers at Moroka: Snowden. John Nelson surveyed the Moroka country; used to go up there
- When AE 1<sup>st</sup> went to Moroka it was infested with rabbits; and there were also a lot of wild horses. With Miller & Denny Connolly they used to catch them. In 1927 AE saw a particularly striking horse on Trapyard Hill & he ran him down into a 4 or 5 rail old yard in Moroka. But the horse got away; AE chased him for about 10 miles through open country.
- In about 1927 Tom Higgins, Gillio & George Lucas (& a policeman) started to shoot them & use their bodies, laced with poison to kill dingoes. Dingoes used to kill calves
- The fenced paddock at Moroka contained grass so long that it couldn't be kept down. But after the fires young woolly butt and scrub has lowered the carrying capacity.
- Out at Mt Wellington Miller used to let others put stock up there – inc Scotts from Dargo
- A chap called McDonald was up Freestone Creek once; a rough bloke; a breeder & buyer
- Riggalls years ago burned the coarse (grass) snow plains as there was not enough cattle to keep it down. It's better to have more cattle to keep the grass down.
- When AE was first out at Moroka , before 1927, there was wild cattle there; also was wild cattle up Freestone creek
- AE went to Moroka with Miller in 1927. The stock they took were baldys and black polls which were reared at Newry.
- Before the Moroka hut was built they camped under tarpaulins. A bark hut was constructed in about 1927 near where Moroka hut is now.
- AE packed in supplies for timber assessors
- At muster time AE, Miller, and Huggins & Chester mustered stock into their own respective paddocks & then exchanged stock (ie mustered whatever stock they found, & then gave back the stock that wasn't theirs). Mustering took 10 – 14 days; they used salt, which was put in logs.
- AE worked for Treasures for a year or two; first time when he was very young
- In AE's time Coloos were on Bennison
- There were a lot of dingoes & wild cattle on the runs when Miller started. Miller had a farm at Newry. He took his cattle from Golden Point up Purgatory spur to Mt Wellington. He mostly had black polls, and some baldys. Miller was out there the longest; Denny Connolly worked for him. He ran 300 – 400 head
- AE used to run about 300 head
- There were bad fires in 1965 and possibly 1939 – which made the bush scrubby
- The Boisdale lot ran on the Avon, on lower runs, not the tops.

Name: Jack Kelly Date of Interview: 26/9/1977

- Angus Shaw was never on Bennison, but was on Wellington – when Holmes was on Bennison. He stocked the country all year round; it was very open country. Since Shaw left burning has created scrub which has spoilt the country
- Riggalls : had Glenfalloch & ran on Wellington
- Bennison Plains was licensed to the 2 Holmes brothers; nice people who did the stock work themselves; they were real cattlemen; they had shorthorn cross & Hereford cattle; bred. They ran out towards Howitt.
- We went up in the 1920s & at that time Higgins had part of Bennison. They lived at Talbotville & had a lot of property; bought & bred. They had cattle in Moroka River. Flannagans were related to Higgins & contributed a few stock to the HPs herd, not too many
- Coloos were on Bennison; they worked with Holmes'; they were buyers & took up mixed stock including dairy cattle. They milked at Boisdale & Briagolong; bred cattle & took up heifers & steers – a few hundred
- Morgans took over Holme's property & runs for about 12 years
- Nortons were from the Dargo side. They were originally miners; bred a few cattle & also had sheep at Dargo. They were on Bennison; were sociable with the mob & used paddocks for mustering
- The 3 Culhane brothers came over with Higgins, Nortons & Coloos for mustering & drafting.
- Everyone had horses up there, but Higgins had the most
- In the 1930s & '40s there were bad fires over our runs
- Jack Kelly's brother Jim V Kelly had been a soldier, & after the war he put in for a run & got it. Jack K went in with him, then Chesters got permission to put stock on Kelly's run & they built from this.
- Kellys had a very small freehold plot on the Macalister River; they bred stock & also bought from anywhere – especially Bairnsdale. They bought yearlings & kept them for a few years; mostly Herefords – speyed heifers & steers. Breeders were not taken to the runs; they were wintered on rented paddocks around Glenfalloch. Big cattle were wintered at the head of the Macalister at Butcher Country and on Moroka
- JK put in weeks at a time on the runs in summer; packed enough supplies to last a fortnight
- JK took small tourist groups around the runs.

Name: Bob Dunsmuir Date of Interview: 25/9/1977

- McFarlane then Riggall had Glenfalloch station
- Wally Killeen worked for Riggalls. He camped on Mt Wellington in autumn. There was a holding paddock. He tailed out the stock during the day, stayed with them all day, & put them in the paddock at night. When snowy weather came he fetched them off the tops.
- Dunsmuir's hut is at a place called 'Daniel's'
- Holmes used to run horses in Moroka area & Mt Wellington – hence the wild horses in that area. Andy Estoppey and W Gillio shot a lot of horses there. Guys ran a lot of cattle in Moroka area.
- Millers used to go up the Avon – Turton divide to Mt Wellington

- Dan McDonald had cattle at Moroka & Valencia Creek. He had a fair amount of low country around Wombat. Up Freestone creek is a creek called McDonald's; and there's McDonald's Gap
- RD's first trip to HPs was in 1947. The country had scrubbed up after the 1939 fires – we gave it away. When I came here started cattle at Mt Wellington in partnership
- Harry Smith came to Moroka regularly; possibly working for Holmes; he worked with horses.
- There are old yards at Moroka & a paddock with post & rail – even now some of the rails are there
- RD understood that Moroka was surveyed for a town site
- Miller's hut is the oldest out there; also was Riggall's & McFarlane's; an old yard there; Moroka hut built at end of WW2 by W Gillio, Archi Timms & Eric Bates
- The Boisdale syndicate was mostly from Avon River. John Diver was a bit queer. He mucked about out the back of Newry on a small holding. Was a batchelor; didn't have many stock
- Bob Goldie was connected with the Holme's bros. He & Paddy Smyth were on Mt Wellington; had a fair bit of lower country. Most people in the country at that time were out of Crooked River.
- Everyone did some breeding & buying. Bill Gillio mainly bought; Andy Estoppey bred his own. Millers had 2 or 3 dairy farms run by share farmers. They reared the most. They put dairy calves on the tops. Joined cows with black poll bulls; grew the male calves to 3 or 4 years old. They burnt regularly. In autumn they did a terrible amount of burning. As a result their cattle were really fat. Regular burning saved the country in 1939
- 90% of Miller's stock were ½ dairy bred. If they had 120 calves per year & didn't sell till 3 or 4 years old
- In droughts everyone bought a few cattle & put them up on the tops.
- Tourists – 1937 was the 16<sup>th</sup> skyline tour. Bill Gillio led; riders & hikers; horses supplied by Jack Guy; 10 day trips , about 30 people per party; 15 pack horses
- In 1941-2 we ran in Moroka & Castle Hill; had bits of yards. Did tailing out at mustering time with Andy Estoppey and Bill Gillio. Had to hobble the horses at night as there were no paddocks.

Name: Norman Chester at Heyfield Date of Interview: September 1977

- Kevin Molphy's aunt married Hugh McFarlane
- Stock on Mt Wellington: McFarlanes had just shorthorns, bred at Glenfalloch. Jack and Malcolm would buy at Maffra with an open cheque for bullocks. McFarlane's hut up there
- Angus Shaw was a shepherd boy for McFarlanes; worked as a lad for them. He took over the buying for them; then began putting his own stock on the tops. He used to buy all the paddys in the district. Over time as he built his business he bought fatteninig country. Was he ever on Bennison? May have been; don't know.
- Shaw had more responsibility than Duncan Ross; Ross was just a work-about man & finished up a pensioner. Shaw became wealthy.
- Riggalls bought out McFarlane. They didn't have too much to do [presumably because all the setting up was done]. They had cattle on Bennison. Jack McF broke in horses for them; he was a wild man. Gradually they shifted from shorthorns to Herefords.

- Holmes brothers were English gentlemen. They ran a cattle station & employed men, inc the Flannagan brothers, & Mick Higgins. Holmes may have had horses. Holmes used to bat Mick Higgins on the shoulder with a walking stick; water trouble; 7 inch nail
- There was a law case between Riggalls and Flannagan, 80 years before my time. Riggall won the case & Flannagans were awarded costs
- Dumphy may have had a run; he was mixed up with sheep; used sheep yards past Jack Higgins hut, but was only there for one night
- Sweetapples had sheep on Bull Plain
- Pat Garvey bred cattle at Glenmaggie & had a paddock at Doledrook; he put a few cattle on top
- Jim & Jack Norton were from the Dargo side. John managed Glenfalloch; were with Flannagans at Grant
- Mick Coleman was in the bush with Nortons in the 1914 drought; on Snowy
- Oliver Smith at Wonnangatta used to milk 100 cows & made butter; sold to miners. His wife died during child birth at 36 yo.
- Culhanes were next to Higgins on Crooked River. Jim Culhane was very smart and a good athlete
- Norman Chester went out to the HPs with Jim Kelly. He bought a half interest with him; each had their own cattle. Jim K got the run through repatriation after WW1; Jack Kelly was in with him.
- Jim Kelly put 140 head into Butcher Country for winter; next year 100 were missing. This was just after the Wonnangatta murders; everyone was a few short. The stock were probably sold at Wodonga
- Mt McDonald was used by Fred Grimme (from here) and Hoskins; not sure when
- Dick Dale was a cripple & Archi Hoskins used to look after his cattle on the shares/skenes ??? AH use to go out to muster but got into plonk & never got there. Dick Dale bought most of his cattle judging by the type of cattle he had
- A lot of Hoskins cattle went wild. They used to muster on snow shoes; used to try to take the calves away from the cows; a few of the shorthorn type were wild. There are no wild stock out there now. They were shot & got a few clean skins; often in-bred and run out – useless.
- One chap called Smith brought sheep to Heyfield by road for market. Came over Mt Useful & the Springs to Seaton; very suspicious
- When white pigmented cattle eat St Johns wort they suffer photosensitization. They dislike heat & rush for shade. Problems arise during droving, especially across water bodies
- When cattle are brought down from the high country it takes them about 3 weeks to get used to the softer grasses. So when stock are taken from the HC for market or fattening they are put on paddocks of kangaroo grass (course) which doesn't scour their insides; so then they won't look too bad
- St Johns Wort is a last resort winter feed
- Cattle can damage the high country if it is over stocked; so the work of the Soil Conservation Authority is good in controlling cattle numbers
- To make a success of HC grazing you need to understand the areas so that the cattle can get the most out of the bush; need to know how to co-ordinate lowlands and high lands, & the requirements of each. Cattle need to be acclimatised once moved from HC to lowland.

- It takes a long time for a person to become established as a grazier; then he can successfully branch out into mountain cattle grazing; leases are an asset to established graziers who have the knowledge & experience.
- Steers are mainly taken out to the HC; calves are generally not taken. It is better to breed cattle on the low country where you have most control over breeding.
- Rabbits have been the great enemy; though now much of the rabbit-damaged land has healed over; most of the damage to the HC in past has been by rabbits
- Angus Shaw was the first on Mt Wellington. He was a shepherd boy for Malcolm McFarlane. Place names: Shaw's creek, & Shaw's Gap. His grandson Bill Shaw now runs Glen ??
- Malcolm McFarlane had 3 boys and they were no good to him; not interested. Angus Shaw was much better.
- Malcolm McF bought up poddys & took them up to Mt Wellington till 4 or 5 years old
- There were some law cases concerning Mt Wellington run. One was about some blokes duffing cattle. Another was Chester v Higgins, which was settled by consent
- Sunderman bought out McFarlanes; was a good worker, but had to sell to Shaw.
- McFarlanes had Mt Wellington before Shaw. They marked 1200 stock each year & grew them to 5 yo on the HPs. All shorthorns; then fattened them. Shorthorns went well in the cold.
- James McFarlane sold Glenfalloch station & all the runs to Riggall
- McMichaels & Monds were selectors. Had land in the middle of Glenfalloch run
- The 2 Holmes brothers at Eaglevale were bachelors. They had shorthorns and then were the first to buy Hereford bulls. They lived in separate houses and never spoke to each other. One would grow vegetables and lease a run for his brother
- In the past the tops were much better for grazing and shorthorns did well there; but now shorthorns are out of fashion.
- Michael Higgins jnr came with Holmes and Flanagans from Crooked River to Snowy range. He worked for Holmes from 15yo
- After Holmes, Harry Smith had Eaglevale; he didn't have cattle but ran horses around Mt Kent. Well bred hacks. He fought St.Johns wort by pulling it up when flowering
- Hoskins had the head of the Barkly River, Mt McDonald & the Knob. Fred Grimme from the Heyfield end had cattle up that way – Grimmes saddle.
- Sweetapples ran 13,000 wethers on Bull Plain. They were first around Glenmaggie, & then bought Glencairn station from David Fullerton. Glencairn was a ½ way house on the track from Woods Point to Grant. They had a loading ramp for pack horses & charged 5 shillings for feed for a horse. Sweetapples brought pigs to Glenmaggie from Glencairn. They fattened about 300 bacon pigs per year.
- At Bennison plains there is Dumphey's yards down the bottom of our paddock. Dumphey had a run – not in a big way; probably worked for someone. Then Michael Higgins got the freehold
- Malcolm McFarlane may have had sheep with Duncan Ross as shepherd (Pioneers grave), but dingoes beat them; probably just gave sheep one try.
- Nortons mixed with Flanagans & one Norton managed Wonnangatta station for a while.
- Henry Miller: Duke of Wellington! did a great job around Ben Cruachan on freehold land. He bred and bought a lot. As rabbits started degrading the winter country he moved more

towards buying rather than breeding. He used to take out cows and calves to Mt Wellington & join them in summer. In autumn cows were turned out below the snow line and the calves were taken home.

- In the early days Higgins & Chester snr & probably Wonnangatta wintered about 1200 head in Butcher Country. But after the arrival of rabbits that country couldn't carry anything.
- Were wild cattle in the Barkly till about 20 years ago – Hosking mixed up in Mt Skene somehow. Mt Skene is now closed to grazing as cattle of Chester & old Jack Higgins, black cattle were camping on the roads
- Fred Grimme had selections at Glencairn; was possibly the first grazier at Mt Skene & in the Barkly.
- Harry Chester & old Mick Higgins were partners on Bennison till HC died in 1916. HC had served in the Boer War.
- Paddy Higgins was a bushman; he wintered stock in Butcher country
- Old Coloe was mixed up with Nortons on the Wellington end. His son Joe Coloe went in with Paddy Higgins breeding Herefords and buying
- Higgins, H. Chester & Rumpffs all involved in dairying, & put poddy calves on the tops along with speyed heifers and store bullocks.
- The old timers were in their 30s & 40s and died early. The second generation of high country graziers had more time. Old timers did a great amount of work with primitive instruments; they often suffered stones in the kidneys
- There are plenty of graves in the bush that no-one knows about, especially miners, & especially up the Macalister.
- Charlie the wild white man walked out to Bennison – got caught in snow & got through to the Wellington River. He was mad. He hid from people because he thought they were after him. He had a cave above Wallaces Flat, & lived off rabbits he snared, and mushrooms ... and stores burgled from the cattlemens huts. That was after WW1 for a few years, around 1920

Name: Kevin Higgins Date of Interview: 5/9/77

- Holmes brothers, Constantine & James were Englishmen & had the Eaglevale cattle run. Their mother was Persian. They had a hut on Holme's plain
- Woolly Flanagan & uncle Mick Higgins worked for Holmes. Each year they bought steers from Maurice Culhane & put them on the HPs: 30 – 50, in 1930s.
- Flanagan lived at Crooked River off gold diggings. He had cattle on the HPs before Mick Higgins
- Dumphy had cattle on Bennison plains; had a yard, & he followed them in the day & yarded them at night. This was before Higgin's paddock selection; the yard was at the bottom end of Higgins paddock
- Angus Shaw had a hut there before Higgins were there; hut still there. He had his own cattle & a hut on Wellington run (or river) near Shaw's Gap
- Riggalls had cattle on Mt Wellington. They must have been the first up there; they had blacks working for them & found the lake. Colleen & Bob Goldie worked for Riggalls
- Walter Coloe, Joe & Martin had a dairy farm near Boisdale & took up red polls, cross breeds. They used to have my run (46)

- Old Mick Higgins married a Flanagan. There were 9 in the family. Had a butchers shop at Grant in 1860s – '80s & carted meat to the diggers on pack horses. He had property at Crooked River. When the gold cut out they all came to Glenmaggie. Jack got a closer settlement farm; Mick bought a place here. The old man lived with Paddy at Cowwar
- Old Mick Higgins was on Bennison with Holmes; Willy Flanagan worked with Holmes too. Old Mick got the bottom paddock
- Before WW1 sheep were brought through to Glencairn by Sweetapples; came from Myrtleford or Mansfield.
- Jim Kelly's hut was built about 1934. Jim, Jack & Ray Kelly were on the HPs; Ray went to Mansfield. They had the Holmes plain run after WW1. Higgins probably took them in: 2 Higgins married 2 Kellys
- Bob Goldie worked with Miller; and before that he worked for Riggalls
- Refers to Maffra Spectator of 1/8/1967 re rescue of one of the Kelly's.
- HPs graziers in 1920s & '30s mostly bought; kept them for 3 years & brought them out as bullocks. Dad ran a few cows and calves in the paddock. In the 1930s & '40s they began to breed & had 300 – 400 cows with calves on Bennison. They would sell at 4 years old. Were wintered in the bush & then put up for summer. They had about 200 head on the tops and 100 head in the bush
- Joe Coloe was up there; was from Dargo, but they all drifted over this way when gold cut up.
- Up till WW2 stock could be grazed on the roads for 10 shillings per year; this was mainly only for locals. Mick Higgins jnr used the roads
- When I was a kid Higgins probably had 100 horses with cattle. Were wintered in Butcher country & Moroka. Harry Smith had horses at Doledrook and Mt Kent; hence the brumbies. He would put out 50 – 60. He had cows & calves at the home place (Happy Valley)
- Before the 1920s Maffra was the main market
- Jack Kelly was brought off the HPs in a tiger moth which had landed at Holmes plain. He had an accident while mustering behind the yards & was unconscious for 33 days. There were 3 bad accidents up there

Name: Horton Riggall Place: Byron Lodge Date of Interview: 29/8/1977

- Referred to Cyclopaedia of Victoria, in which Riggalls are mentioned
- Edward S Riggall came from a farming family in Linconshire, England. Came to Australia as first mate on a sailing ship; just signed on for the outward voyage & headed for the central Victorian goldfields. There he made money by carting stores to the goldfields using bullock teams and later horses. With the money he made he bought farming land at Loddon River, near Castlemaine. In 1874 he sold his Loddon property & purchased Glenfalloch run – including 10,000 acres of freehold & plenty of leasehold land. At that time there was no road to Glenfalloch, only rough bush tracks.
- Glenfalloch was purchased from James McFarlane, the original selector. Riggall extended the property & added further runs. 320 acres was also bought at Glenmaggie to stage cattle on the way to trucking yards at Heyfield. The Byron Lodge property at Tinamba was purchased in 1884 as a retirement project, but EW didn't retire & used Byron Lodge to breed shorthorn cattle & irrigate

- Until EW died in 1913, at 84yo, his family continued to manage Glenfalloch on his behalf. Then the property was sold to Robert Gilder, the grandfather of Robt Gilder jnr who is now the owner.
- At Glenfalloch ESR originally ran sheep, but because of the dingoes he turned the property into a cattle station. And he also bred horses for the Indian remount market. He did well and was able to set up his 6 boys in business. There were also 5 daughters.
- Other Riggalls to manage Glenfalloch:
  - William – eventually set up in Dargo:
  - Richard – who went to Cobungra
  - Tom
  - Sam Haughton Riggall, who was the last Riggall to manage Glenfalloch
- Richard Riggall had only just started managing the property around 1884 when Lake Tali Karng was discovered. RR was a mighty fine horseman and bushman, & very shrewd. He and his men were out mustering cattle in very thick scrub – he employed up to 20 stockmen, including Aboriginals who were excellent horsemen & well worth being employed and paid. One of the Aboriginals helping with the muster was with RR; he came up through the scrub with a wild tale about a sheet of water. Uncle R thought they were on the whiskey, as the ridge they were on was precipitous. However, RR took time off to look, & found Tali Karng. RR contacted the Lands Department & the head man sent up A.W Howitt. He came up in a hurry & they didn't have time to take him to the lake. So they gave him directions; but he got hopelessly lost & they had to go find him & then take him to the edge of the lake. He did some plans and then returned to Melbourne. Some time later the Lands Department wrote to RR saying they were going to call the lake 'Lake Howitt'. Old RR got mad & went by train to Melbourne and protested. He put the situation bluntly regarding Howitt getting lost. The Department then decided to call it 'Lake Riggall' but RR declined as it was a discovery of the Aboriginals. In the station records the particular Aboriginal who called RR's attention to the lake was 'Snowden', so RR wrote back saying it would be apt to call the lake 'Snowden'. The reply: that name does not have sufficient Aboriginal connotation. So the Minister & Department head decided to use the Aboriginal name for 'mystic waters': Tali Karng. The Aboriginals later said that name meant 'white man gibberish'. A member of Snowden's tribe worked for Mr Horstman who had run country & he corroborated this to me
- Glenfalloch originally had some run country attached; Riggalls added to that. That included the Mt Wellington country
- ESR started a shorthorn stud at Byron Lodge. He preferred shorthorns because at the time pink eye disease was prevalent & Herefords are susceptible to it.
- Other run holders were Sweetapples at Glencairn; and Higgins
- Edward R's brother was William Riggall of the lawyers 'Bake & Riggall'
- William Riggall (son of ESR) was at Dargo – was a sheep man; had 5000 – 6000 sheep and some cattle; had some limited run country on Dargo river up from the town. He was the senior brother.
- Richard Riggall (Cobungra) bred Herefords & possibly had the largest breeding commercial herd in Victoria; may have had 1000 breeders. Mustered with course salt. RR died of throat cancer in the prime of life. RR had a large family & they all wanted a share of his estate.

Name: Robert Gilder Place: Glenfalloch Station Date of interview: 1975

- The only fenced areas on the HPs are the paddocks which are used when cattle are being mustered
- 600 – 700 cattle are kept at Wonnangatta in winter; 1000 – 2000 on HPs in summer.
- Cattle brought up from Wonnangatta are put on Howitt Plain. Those from Glenfalloch put on Bryces Plain.
- The cattle are generally cross breeds as these do better in the conditions. Because of the St Johns Wort they use Angus stock, & cross with Herefords and shorthorns; Hereford / Angus cross is the main one. White cattle are troubled by the wort & seek shade in the summer.
- Cattle are walked between Wonnangatta & Glenfalloch; but supplies and horses are trucked in to Guys Hut
- If a cold spell comes before mustering the cattle will tend to move down from the HPs to Wonnangatta; they don't go into the Howqua.
- When mustering a few men and half a dozen dogs is all that is needed. The dogs track down the cattle & then the dogs & men bring the cattle to the fenced paddocks. If any cattle are missed they usually go down to Wonnangatta themselves & are picked up next year.
- Cattle are bred by Gilder & sold for beef. About 600 head are sold each year. Sheep are also run at Glenfalloch.
- Cattle lose some condition on the drive from the HPs & are rested at Glenfalloch & allowed to fatten before being sold
- The attraction of Wonnangatta is the scenery and the lifestyle – not the money; at the moment he isn't making money from the Wonnangatta holdings.
- He can't see what damage cattle do to the HPs provided there is no overstocking. The wild flowers appear to grow best where grazing occurs; and cattle aren't attracted to bogs by choice. If the HPs soil is not adapted to carry the weight of cattle without compaction then what happens in winter when there is a lot of heavy snow resting on the soil? There is no evidence of erosion. Cattle add to the bush scenery; unsure if they effect the soil's water holding capacity.
- Wildlife on HPs – mainly emus, some wallabies & roos. Most deer have been hunted out. Once there were a lot of Koalas, but they have been wiped out by fires.
- RG is opposed to FCV control burning. Fires temporarily clear the forest floor, and then the scrub comes back more thickly as the fire promotes seed germination. After a long period without fires the scrub dies out & the forest becomes more grassy. And the fires kill Koalas & Lyrebirds. In the past cattlemen burnt to get the short term effects, being growth of new grass. But they don't do this anymore.
- Fire is naturally rare at Wonnangatta, & most lightening fires are at high altitudes and burn out quickly.
- Forestry activities are much more damaging than cattle grazing: ie poorly planned & constructed jeep tracks which are used excessively by recreational 4WDs; actual logging which disturbs the soil; vandalism as a result of improved access; and fuel reduction burning
- RG is opposed to further through-tracks being constructed, & would like most present tracks closed.
- Before there was 4WD access he could safely leave possessions in their huts; there was no danger from bushwalkers. But now 4WD access brings rubbish & people with undesirable

attitudes & behaviours. He is opposed to motorised recreation in Wonnangatta as it spoils the atmosphere; and cattle are shot, as are signs. Overall 4WD access is bad.

- Bushwalkers don't do any harm, even though they burnt down the Wonnangatta Station homestead.
- He dislikes game shooting too, especially deer shooting.
- RG says the Heyfield District Forest Office is basically controlled by loggers who have formed a company in which all have a share & they have such sway that they virtually take what they want.
- RG dislikes the visual effects of logging, but accepts there is a demand for wood. But perhaps FCV should concentrate on planting new forests rather than logging out the beautiful existing forests.
- RG would like to see the WV area closed off to 4WDs and logging; & used only for grazing & bushwalking.
- This year very few cattle were taken from Glenfalloch to the HPs – about 200 – because business is not good at present. Glenfalloch cattle usually put on Bryces plain, & Wonnangatta cattle on Howitt plain, though to prevent overstocking this may be varied.
- No cattle put out at Mt Darliing, though some may wander there; maybe they'll wander there if feed is short, though it never is on Bryce's plain. But Guys used to put stock out there.
- Steers and spade heifers put on the HPs & Wonnangatta. Breeding cattle kept at Glenfalloch, under close scrutiny, because of strict breeding requirements.
- In summer all cattle moved up to HPs from Wonnangatta, though some may drift back.
- Depending on the weather cattle on HPs will be either on the open plains or in the bush – in hot weather they seek the shade.
- The sides / steeper slopes are a last resort location – when feed is short or in snowy conditions. Otherwise cattle prefer the flat plains
- Cattle wintered at Wonnangatta: 2 months of age to 2.5 years. Stock are sent to market at 3 years old generally. Young cattle are likely to be driven direct from Glenfalloch to Wonnangatta for winter via the HPs
- RG knows how many cattle each unit will carry, with adjustments according to seasonality.
- Stock wintered at Glenfalloch: cows, calves & some HPs cattle – the remainder that Glenfalloch can't carry are wintered at Wonnangatta.
- In autumn Howitt plains are mustered first, because of the greater likelihood of inclement weather; cattle are rounded up & sorted in the paddock. Stock for market or for Glenfalloch are then taken to Bryces plain, & those to be wintered at Wonnangatta taken down the Howitt – Dry river track. On Bryces plain cattle are rounded up, sorted & those for market or Glenfalloch separated off & taken to Glenfalloch. Those to be wintered at Wonnangatta sent down Bryces Dry river track.
- At Wonnangatta cattle range along the river flats from the Humffray River to the Viking saddle jeep track. They don't go into the Terrible Hollow as the feed there is poor.
- If mustering is not interrupted by bad weather the whole process will take about 2 weeks.
- Cattle at Wonnangatta are not inspected during winter as snow blocks the high plains road, and it's too far to go via Dargo (and the rivers are likely to be too high anyway) – so you can't get the cattle out in winter.

- About 600 head are sent to market each year; but in a bad year he may hold on to the stock for longer & wait for prices to improve. However, if it becomes unprofitable to keep them they may have to be sold. This year he is selling 1000 as not worth keeping them; last year he held stock back from market hoping for price to increase – so sold only 300
- At mustering he takes the men up to the hut by 4WD – He would prefer to go up on horseback but the men like some home comforts (beer)
- Complains that the logging of mature woollybut stands reduces grazing capacity as there is good grass in a mature woollybut forest. Regrowth is very thick and takes years to thin out.

Name: Arthur Guy Location: Heyfield Date: 1975

- No cattle from Arthur Guy's property at Heyfield went to Wonnangatta; but most came from there. The property is 400 acres; till 1934 cattle sold at Heyfield; later at Maffra.
- The only real control on breeding was the number of bulls put onto the HPs
- The freehold paddock on Bryce's plain was used for sorting cattle.
- They kept all their gear at Wonnangatta station until the FCV roads were built; after that it wasn't safe to leave anything there
- They sold Wonnangatta station because it was getting too much for them.
- Wonnangatta syndicate probably ran Wonnangatta station in same way as Guy's – breeding. But the stock were taken to Mansfield for sale.
- Bryces bred horses as well as cattle – horses were an important export to India; and also there was a market for them at the gold diggings
- The Wombat spur track was already there in 1934; it was used as a bridle track for many years before
- The maximum number of cattle put by Guys on the HPs was 1300 – 1500. Stock for sale were put on Bryce's Plain; the breeders were put on Howitt Plain. Calves were wintered at Wonnangatta at least for their first year and often their second. The Heyfield property was used for fattening before market
- Salt was used for mustering. It takes a few years for the cattle to get used to it. Salt is placed out on the HPs in troughs or on bare expanses of exposed rock. Cattle like salt a lot. There is probably a deficiency in the HPs soil so when they're grazing there they are not getting it naturally.
- Guys gave the cattle plenty of salt while they were wintering in the Wonnangatta valley plenty of salt – meaning there was less need to cart so much up to the HPs . Nevertheless in one year they took up about ½ ton to Howitt Plains. All salt was brought in by packhorse. At mustering time the called out 'salt –o' & the cattle came running.
- The main watering points were Piemans crk and Long creek on Bryce's Plain; and the heads of streams below the HPs.
- The Guy family also ran cattle out to King Billy until Alex Guy (father) died.
- Cattle sometimes drowned in bogs; it was not uncommon to see them in bogs; but usually they avoided them.
- Mustering took up to 3 weeks.
- Wonnangatta syndicate bought and sold store cattle, and had many Jerseys fattening at Wonnangatta as well as Herefords. They brought some cattle up the Howqua to Wonnangatta.

- Bob Gilder doesn't use salt. He didn't accept the FCV proposal to improve the Wonnangatta valley road as he didn't want to encourage people to Wonnangatta. He wants walkers only. He has black cattle wintered at Wonnangatta and Herefords at Glenfalloch (as well as some black ones)

Name: Jack Guy Place: Riverford Date of Interview: 1975

- The Guy family: Alex (father), Jack & Arthur (brothers) took up Wonnangatta station in 1934. They took up the Tea Tree Range run at the same time. They knew the members of the Wonnangatta syndicate. The 3 men had equal 1/3<sup>d</sup> shares in the venture
- They had properties at the Dargo end: Glenlea and Riverford.
- About 500 head of cattle were taken out to Wonnangatta each year and about 300 were left in the Wonnangatta valley over winter. There was no manager employed there, although Price lived there trapping and fencing. The rabbits were very bad at that time; Price also trapped dingoes for himself
- They kept about 20 horses at Wonnangatta; sometimes a few cattle were left in the valley during summer, but Guys tried to get them all up on the HPs to take advantage of the feed.
- At first cattle were taken in over Wombat spur.
- About 1945/45 about 300 head were taken from the Heyfield property over the Tamboritha track.
- Total number of stock put on the HPs was around 900.
- From Wonnangatta valley stock were taken to the HPs up the Dry River track. Cows and calves were put on Howitt Plains, & dry cattle on Bryces plain, King Billy and Magdala
- One year about 30 head were put out on Mt Darling because feed was scarce. Terrible Hollow was sometimes grazed in winter, but it is not good grazing as is too scrubby.
- The number of stock wintered at Wonnangatta – about 350 at first because the rabbits were bad; but later after mixo they were able to increase this number to about 600.
- Heyfield was always the market except for one year when they sold at Maffra. A few mobs were brought to market via Dargo; but usually the Tamboritha track was used, with cattle being fattened at Heyfield. Up to 500 head pa were sold at Heyfield.
- Visits were made to Wonnangatta in winter to shift the stock around; floods aren't bad & usually only last a few days. Most freehold was fenced & used for holding and sorting cattle. In winter the cattle are scattered up the creeks to where the feed was good.
- When Alex Guy died (1952?) the Glenlea property was taken over by a sister & no longer contributed cattle to Wonnangatta.
- When Wonnangatta was first bought from the syndicate it carried rubbish cattle – for example Fresian cross. AG said the station manager, Hoban, was selling the syndicate his rubbish.
- Guys ran Herefords for about 4 years and then crossed them with Angus bulls; Angus & Angus-Hereford cross do best in the bush country and can tolerate the St.Johns wort.
- Guys generally bred cattle, rather than buying & selling
- Bulls were kept at the Dargo end in winter & put up to Howitt Plains in summer
- St.Johns wort was never really bad because they sprayed it with sodium chloride & that was very effective.

- To take cattle up to Tea Tree Range cattle were taken up the Wongungurra river to Blue Rag range. About 200 head were grazed in the river valleys and on the range. Cows and dry cattle. Now Tea Tree Range is only used in bad years. This year 60 – 70 head were put there. But it could be up to 200.
- Guys hut built in 1940; Howitt hut built 1918; Guys packed up the iron for Howitt Hut.
- Bryces hut was on Conglomerate creek & was used up till about 1925
- Burning used to be done in autumn, mainly on the slopes to get rid of scrub. Cattle were put on the slopes; in those days there were no controls on where you could put cattle or how many you could put.
- FCV began taking an interest in the area in 1948/50 – assessing the timber. FCV roads virtually followed the cattle pads. The FCV road between Howitt and Bryces plains made cattle movement easier as before they only had a single file track across the ridge and this was slow.
- In their last 3 years at Wonnangatta cattle were trucked both ways along the Tamboritha and Howitt roads –enabling fat cattle and cows and calves to be moved to & from Heyfield in one day. Otherwise it would have taken 6 days to move the cattle and that would have hurt the calves. By road cattle didn't lose condition on the way to market. (In later years no cattle were taken into Wonnangatta from Dargo.
- Now, since they've sold Wonnangatta, cattle are grazed on the Pinnacles and Tea Tree Range in summer. This arrangement was in place during their last few years at Wonnangatta too.
- The Heyfield property was on the Tinamba – Heyfield road.
- When the FCV came they stopped the burning by graziers. With fewer fires the bush began closing up and the carrying capacity reduced significantly. Got scrubby.
- For about 8 years, beginning before they bought Wonnangatta, they were involved in the Skyline Tours program of the Tourist Bureau. They supplied horses and packed them through. But it wasn't really profitable so they didn't bother with it after WW2

### **Baw Baw Plateau**

Name: Harry Rawson Moore Street, Erica Date of Interview: 1977

- Harry Rawson snr was on Baw Baw with the Allens, esp Ted Allen; at that time Morgans had a few stock out there too. HR jnr was out there with his father when 6 – 8 years old. HR snr had a contract to keep open the Walhalla – Whitelaw track. On his first few trips HR jnr went on the back of his fathers horse
- There used to be 14 miles of open country there; the grass was burnt in autumn
- In those days there were 2 – 3 parties a day walking the Warburton – Walhalla track; stayed in tourist huts
- Rawsons were first up on Baw Baw in the 1890s or early 1900s. His father was there first when he was very young. Used to have a hut on the side of Mustering Flat. He had cross-breed cattle, which he possibly bought. HR jnr never heard of graziers previous to HR snr
- Other graziers on Baw Baw that he remembers were Ted Allen (Mansfield) and G.V Morgan (not so often). Also when HR jnr was about 16 yo there were Bill Freeman & his son Norman; and (Fred ?) Jans & George Spark. Sparke was a relative of Jans.

- Jans & Freeman were in together with mixed cattle. When HR jnr was about 20 yo Jans, Sparke & Freeman had about 3000 sheep on Baw Baw. They took sheep for 2 or 3 years & did well till the dogs got them in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year.
- HR jnr started butchering in 1934 – went out on horseback & brought in 20 or 30 head. He butchered at Parkers Corner for the people of Erica. Our farm was at Parkers Corner; grew potatoes, & milked in the early years. In the early days his father was away working at sawmills to keep the family.
- HR snr born 1875; died 1942. Came from Grt Britain & selected land at Walhalla – HR jnr born at Walhalla. HR snr came to Gippsland with a brother; one went to Walhalla, the other to Omeo, and they probably never met again.
- HR snr was a good horseman and a natural cattle man
- Smith was on Baw Baw around Allen's time

Name: Hector Stagg Date of Interview: 1977

- Charlie Rawson was the first grazier on Baw Baw that HS knew of; but when Rawson went up there were already wild cattle there
- Refers to the book 'Memoirs of a Stockman' by Harry Peck: James Tyson had the Heyfield squatting run as well as runs in Queensland. When conditions were bad up north he would drive cattle south through Bright, over the DHPs to Dargo and through Briagolong to Heyfield. He brought 700 – 800 bullocks; stock were also taken through Corryong, Nariel, Gibbo, Omeo to Heyfield.
- Hec Stagg's uncle, Bob Clarke snr, worked for Tyson as a drover. Bob Clarke jnr (HS cousin) told him that BC snr had Ned Kelly with him & that Kelly was a good drover.
- Old Billy Stagg was a drover from the age of 14 & with others brought cattle from New England and / or Monaro to Melbourne. They would cross (swim) the Snowy River at McKillops Bridge then to Gelantipy & around the coast, ending at Broadmeadows. Stock were held at Broadmeadows till butchers had taken their pick. This was in the 1860s or '70s before Newmarket sale yards were established.
- In 1958 Staggs held their run on Baw Baw, but Norman Jans helped & he ran a few of his cattle there too.
- While Norman Jans was at war Fred Jans died and for 2 years the cattle were not looked after – not mustered. The year NJ came back he went straight up & mustered; there were plenty missing.
- Staggs: in autumn they brought the saleable stock home, & the rest were run in the Thompson valley. HS ran more than 350 head at Little Boy creek
- Huts for tourism: Clarry & Harry Rawson had the contract to build them. They packed up cement & mixed with crushed granite. One hut on Mt Erica and one at the head of Whitelaw creek (where they had a horse paddock; the chimney is still there)
- Cattle people regularly burnt the lower winter country in patches, a year ahead.
- Cattle on Baw Baw didn't go much for salt. They tried putting out block salt, but the cattle weren't interested. Jans wouldn't put it up as he said he couldn't muster with it. Reason: there is such a variety of herbage on Baw Baw that cattle don't need salt. Cattle eat the tips of scrub
- The 1939 fires killed out the native clover on Baw Baw

- The 1932 fire burnt a strip on the eastern slope of the plateau; men working for a saw mill were burnt in their huts during the night. Fred Jans was up on Baw Baw got windy & thought he'd better get out. He used to go down the Big Spur to Mill Camp. When he got there the huts were gone, the horses were dead & the men's bodies were charred
- The mill people had asked the FCV to burn a break up the ridge going west. FCV said they would but next day the men were all dead. The fire probably started by prospectors near Jordan.
- Staggs built a yard up there at the old mill site

Name: Norman Jans Date of Interview: 1977

- When cattle first put out to Baw Baw the cairn had just been built. Was built to the height of the snow gum, about 12 feet high.
- (Rawsons ??) went out in 1887; put cattle out 3 years before they actually took out a license.
- Rawsons came from Parkers Corner where they had a selection. They carted milk to Walhalla and had shorthorn cattle on the tops. Up to the 1920s there were still the odd one, huge bullocks that spent the winter down the Tanjil, & came back up to the tops in summer. Fred Jans brought out some 18yo bullocks of Rawsons
- Since the early days the HC has changed. The weather is warmer; there was more snow back then. And the 1939 fires definitely changed things
- When we were kids we brought bullocks home across Mustering Flat. 200 – 300 bullocks were all walked across the flat. It always used to freeze over & as kids we used to get jagged ice on the back of dead snow gum. Thrushes & Jays used to die in the cold; they don't now.
- Rawsons grazed BB until 1909. Only shorthorn bullocks, though they must have had the odd cow as there were wild cattle. In the winter some of the stock were brought home, but the ones they couldn't handle (because they were too wild) were shot & packed down to butchers at Walhalla. They gave up when the cattle got right out of hand
- When Swindler selected 25 acres at Thompson River in about 1886 there were wild cattle down there then. Swindlers were relatives of the Svensons, & Mrs Lewis (nee Svenson) remembers as a kid there being wild cattle there 2 years after the Royal Standard mine was found. There were bulls amongst them and the selectors were frightened; so the cattle were shot out.
- When the Christies left Jerico the Jans family bought in.
- At Matlock Alex Smith had a shearing shed and shore 5000 sheep. His sheep grazed The Springs run. He also had a few motley baldy cattle on Cairn Hill and Kellys Hill, but he never got out to Baw Baw. When our cattle got out to Mt Gregory we might have met Smiths stock.
- Jans' family originally from Denmark. Fred Jans went out to Baw Baw in 1909; had black polls & herefords. Rawsons gave up because their cattle got out of hand. They had shorthorn cross breeds which were considered dirty cattle when wild. These stock were shot out by the other run holders.
- Rawson's first hut was a chock and log hut on the side of Mustering Flat. It was burned down in 1939. Rawsons never had many stock; less than 100 head, probably 60 – 80.
- Fred Jans used the run in 1909; may have had cattle on other peoples runs. Put out cows & calves & bulls; sometimes 150 cows & calves, 3 or 4 bulls and 400 – 500 dry cattle.

- Norman Jans was always taught not to eat out the country, so some years they wouldn't put out any stock. Once he saw Hotham eaten to the ground by cattle, probably 30 years ago; the country was flogged. That sort of country won't stand being eaten out & once you get gaps in the grass you start getting erosion.
- When we were kids there were plenty of tourists. They hired horses at Warburton, & stayed overnight at specially built tourist huts at the Falls, Whitelaw and Erica. Each hut had a horse paddock. Palings for the huts were packed up as there were no trees on the tops that would split nicely for palings.
- Harry Lowe won the tender for Aberfeldy run; he only had a few cattle there, & most were pinched or shot by deer shooters. He also had the Hunters Lodge & apparently wanted to build a hotel / motel on the run. NJ suggested that Lowe won the tender for the run by bribing a senior officer [named] of the Lands Department.
- Though we always had sheep at home, sheep were only put up on Baw Baw between about 1928 and 1936. About 2,500 sheep brought from Traralgon. They were put up half way into December, & were shepherded for most of the time, but not all the time. I poisoned dingoes. I used to stay up there for up to 9 weeks when the dogs were bad. We were still putting up cattle, but kept them towards the northern end towards the Yarra track. The sheep were kept at the Erica end, out to Little Boy. In 1932 there were 2 fires, one from the Yarra track to the head of the Thompson River, & another from the junction of the Jordan & Thompson to Haymores. These fires burnt the sides of the plateau & down the valleys for weeks. We were up on the tops at the time. After these fires the dogs got worse and we were forced to give up sheep. They killed 70 sheep in one night on Erica. The dogs were very bad in 1934 & I caught 31 in 31 days in traps.
- Before 1939 the creeks had rope scrub in them; but after the fires it didn't come back to any extent.
- The value of the mountain for grazing depreciated by 50% after the 1939 fires. Mustering Flat is 84 acres & is always boggy. In 1939 the whole thing burnt to the water level. Snow gums were burnt to points about 2 feet high; the fire flattened everything. And 600 cattle were killed. Only 19 survived; they were on a patch on Mt Erica which did not burn. We didn't put stock up again for 2 or 3 years afterwards. Before the fires the snow gum woodland was grassy. After the fires it became scrubby as it is today. You used to be able to go from Tanjil Flat to Ski Village & you could see for long distances. Now the scrub is too thick.
- The stock route: Tyres to Parkers Corner, then up the tourist track over Erica.
- In early times the cattle, including most of the calves, were wintered at the head of the Yarra & Thompson Rivers. Bulls and any bullocks with good condition would come home. Would sell bullocks at 4 years of age.
- In later years the MMBW closed the Yarra catchment to grazing so they bought a place at Flyn's Creek & brought cows & calves there; the bullocks were wintered at the head of the Thompson. Christies had a run but never used it. It was transferred to N Jans in 1953/4 & then we ran cattle there all year – everything.
- When Fred Jans died, N.Jans didn't change anything. Was on his own from 1942. From 1962/5 he worked together with Hec Staggs
- Fred Jans was N Jans uncle, & NJ lived with him since 7 yo.

- Autumn burns: they always lit at the top of the ridge, but only burnt the lower country, not the tops. Would burn every 4 years in a different spot; if you burn hard enough to kill the bushes you end up killing the feed as it only leads to the scrub returning. Ash country burnt in 1926, 1932 and 1939.
- Snow grass is good feed and should never be burnt. Before 1939 the snow grass seeded each year; now it doesn't; it waits till it gets older. But it burnt badly in 1939, to the bare ground. A piece of land on Erica was not burnt & it remained good & open. Dingoes thrived on the dead cattle.

### **Mt Cobbler & Mt Buffalo**

Name: Reg Lewis Date of Interview: 20/11/1977

- His uncle Joseph Lewis used to run cattle on Mt Cobbler; was a great horseman & rode from Hotham to Mansfield in the snow; was out with cattle at Hotham but lived at Mansfield. Was born around 1868. Spent time in Bogong area, Upper King & Rose River. He did horse breaking & mustering on BHPs and around Omeo in his early days. Also had the Mt Buffalo run. But started making a living doing stock work till his father left him property at Moyhu
- John & William Lewis migrated from Thurles County, Tipperary, Ireland in 1853 & took a bullock dray from Melbourne & selected land at Moyhu. Lived at Top Plain, Moyhu. John L was Joseph's father. John L selected on Boggy Creek 4 miles from Moyhu. He grubbed trees, grew wheat, milked cows & made butter.
- William L jnr was Reg L's father & Jo L's younger brother
- When Jo L inherited the Moyhu property he stopped doing stock work for others. When he first acquired Moyhu he ran cattle with one of the Evans in the upper King – the run embraced a fairly large area including upper Rose River, Upper King & Mt Cobbler – so he was on Cobbler from some time in the 1880s. He bought & bred Herefords as they do better in that country. They were wintered on the paddocks at Moyhu & fattened there in May before sale. Then would buy more in spring & put them onto the run. Steers were wintered in the lower reaches of the run. The route to the tops was over Wild Horse Gap then a cattle track through to Cobbler. Jo L had the run for about 30 years & was with Evans for most of that time, just the 2 of them. They used to yard up wild horses out there; horses are still there
- Jo L was the first to graze Cobbler. His business was buying store cattle, growing & fattening them. The property at Moyhu was good for fattening.
- The Lewises had the whole Mt Buffalo run when old John Lewis was alive. William jnr & Jo also use to go out there. But they stopped when old John died, only a few years later. There was a small associated paddock at the foot of Mt Buffalo, on the Buffalo River. John L was out at Buffalo for 10 – 20 years; he had some connection there with the Webbs. They lived on Little Buffalo River; they had something to do with Mt Buffalo but not sure what.
- Reg Lewis knew the Beveridge bros on Buckland; one of them had polio.
- Paddy Waterhouse used to be with Jo L – did some droving for him. Reg L remembers him as a single man, quiet but rough if he had to be; he used to do rustling on the runs.
- In later years Jo L did some buying for Wraith & Gow
- Jo L died around 1940

- The route Jo L used from Moyhu to Mt Buffalo passed by Mt Emu. He was on Mt Buffalo before the 1880s & possibly there for 20 years. Had Buffalo years before Jo L had Cobbler.
- He gave up Cobbler after breaking his hip falling from a horse while chasing cattle. That left him lame. But he still kept cattle at the head of Boggy creek and around Tolmie. And when he worked with Carl Wraith & Gow they did most of the riding & moving of stock from the store markets at Benambra & Omeo to the DHPs (for summer); stock were brought down here for winter. Gow's cattle were brought to the Grange at Everton.

Name: Percy Weston Date of Interview: 20/11/1977

- Thomas Buckland settled near the junction of the Buckland & Ovens rivers in 1845/6; brought 640 head of cattle with him from Sydney. Thomas Goldie was his head stockman. TB sent TG up the Buckland River to build a cottage & yards past Devils creek, so he could monitor the cattle at that end of the run. The grazing was good during the summer on the divide between Buckland & Buffalo Rivers, south of the Horn. By 1847/8 Goldie had found the spur to the Buffalo plateau from the south. According to Buckland's obituary in the Mitchell Library in Jan. 1853 he escorted von Mueller up to the Buffalo Plateau. Apparently TG managed the Buckland / Junction run until 1890 on behalf of various owners.
- Junction run was merged with Port Punka run in 1846 with J.P Smith as manager & William Walker & Co being the license holders. Buckland, Junction & Port Punka runs were merged into the Wandiligong run in 1852
- Buckland left the district around 1847, but retained an interest in Walker Bros trading store at Bright; when gold was discovered in the Ovens district he returned to sell beef to the miners. Died in 1894. While Buckland got out of cattle & got into trading, Goldie continued to manage the runs. J.P Smith managed the Walker Bros store
- Smith / Goldie for many years ran cattle on Mt Buffalo without license as no-one else knew the way up till 1848
- Gold discovered at Spring Creek around 1852 and on the Buckland River in 1853. Percy Weston's grandfather on his mothers side, James Fitzgerald, came from the Californian goldfields for the Ovens goldfields; first worked on Woolshed Creek near Beechworth, and in 1853 panned along the Buckland River.
- When mining began along the Buckland River Goldie's job was to get the cattle away from the miners to prevent thieving of stock. Miners lived off corned beef & damper. So cattle were pushed up the Buckland / Buffalo divide south of Mt Buffalo
- T Goldie ran on Buffalo till 1890, then developed a kidney complaint & died of heart failure. 1826 - 1892; a very retiring, shy man. Goldie's obituary 8/4/1892
- When PW's grandfather became established on the Buckland he took out a run himself. Run holders in the area were Dumphy's, Ward's, Fitzgerald, & Goldie. Goldie retained the area close to Mt Buffalo & kept it till 1890. After about 1885 runs were a lot smaller.
- In 1890 Carlisles had a licensed hotel on Mt Buffalo that operated all year round. And the snow was much deeper then & was on the ground for 4 or 5 months a year. 1910 the Railways Chalet was built.
- Percy Weston's paternal grandfather A.D Weston arrived in the Ovens region in Sept 1854. Was from Elesmere, UK. He & his wife ran a travellers rest hotel at Porepunkah. But first he

tried gold mining & had a general store at Porepunkah. Bert & Alf Weston turned the hotel into a butchers shop. George W also spent his early years mining

- Albert Dunes Weston -> 6 daughters
  - > Bill (1857) -> Charlie (died in WW1) & Ernie (d. 1918,war), Billy jnr
  - > Bert
  - > Alfred
  - > George (1869) -> Eric & Percy
- Fitzgeralds, Wards, Goldies & Dumphys spurs all run back to the Buckland / Buffalo divide; was very good grazing country, & spurs named after the graziers who worked there together. The cattle run were mixed breeds, a motley lot much of which was bought from New Zealand as cattle were otherwise hard to get at the time. Buckland in particular imported a lot of cattle from NZ & sold them at a good profit.
- Goldie was on Mt Buffalo from 1846 – 1890s but never had a licence. He would have been on the south end which was the best for grazing
- Dumpeys had a butchers shop & hotel & store at Dumphy's creek
- Stock were held to 2 or 3 years of age; then regarded as killable so were sold
- Henry Morgan had the Montana run (Beveridge's station) & ran it with his 2 sons. At the top of the Buckland there was very little mining. They sold meat to the miners.
- In 1875 W.H (Bill) Weston took 5 doctors up to Mt Buffalo for a tour. They camped in tents. From then he continued to take out tour parties, but in 1878 their tents were battered in bad weather, so the next year he built the Guides Log Hut – the first building on Mt Buffalo. WH & brother George blazed the trail up the mount out to the Horn & Crystal Brook in 1886/7. Carlisle's hotel built 1890
- The Paper House was a hut built by Goldie in 1881 in preparation for the visit of Governor Loch. Loch made the trip in 1885 but stayed in WHW's hut
- George Weston 1<sup>st</sup> went up with cattle in 1888/9. Till then cattle had not been run on the north end of the plateau. He went up with ? Smith, Alf & Bert Weston, & John Brady. Grazed on the plains around the Horn and towards Cathedral Peak.
- Nankervis was on the Buffalo river side for a short while, but not on the mount.
- George W 1<sup>st</sup> visited Mt Buffalo in 1882, grazed the mount from 1888 to 1925 & had a licence from 1898 – 1925. He died 1955 – see obituary in Alpine Observer 15/8/1955
- Cattle duffing: Bill Weston had the Little River run (runs into Buffalo river) from 1910-12; worked it with his sons Charlie & Ernie, both of whom went to WW1 & died); in 1918 the run carried on by Billy Weston jnr. In 1923 all the stock was pinched from Little River & taken through to Stratford & sold. In 1918 the same gang tried to get cattle from Wonnangatta station but were caught by Barkly and Bamford. That's why B & B were killed. Beveridges know about it because they saw them: Billy Wye and the 2 Bullock brothers (Jim & Jack). E.C. Dyason was hiking during his honeymoon & encountered the gang one night. They thought he was a detective & if not for the girl he would have been killed. Sid Beveridge said the rustlers were after cleanskins that they could sell on the Mansfield side. Mansfield police suspected the Bullock Bros. But couldn't pin anything on them.
- Around the same time Frank Gormans took 3000 sheep up the Rose River in a dry year & left them there. They all disappeared without a trace.

- Billy Wye died recently in his '90s. He was the leader of the gang & he used a prospecting interest as a foil. Beveridges were frightened their cattle would disappear. They often met up with the gang; gang always carried a gun on a horse, saying it was for killing dingoes. They would shoot a difficult cleanskin to get the rest out.
- Actually the Beveridges weren't too honest themselves when they were young, & the police were on the backs of the Beveridges for a while
- Goldie operated like the Beveridges: he didn't apply for leases if there was no competition; just used the runs free of charge
- Paddy Waterhouse was a shady character. In a drought around 1926/30 he took in 300 head from J.J. Moylan of Shepparton & dumped them at the Horn. Moylan ended up 120 – 150 short. Paddy was going to leave them there & collect later. There was no supervision of the National Park then, so he could get away with it. Eric Weston went up about ½ dozen times to bring back Moylan's stock. Paddy Waterhouse didn't know much about Mt Buffalo then
- Waterhouse was a nephew of Charlie & George Monahan & inherited their property on the Buckland. He was mainly a drover & took mobs to Yarraweah and NSW in winter. For example, he would take 300 – 400 head in a bad winter. He leased land at Yarraweah & used it as a pretext to graze the roadsides. He knew every road and byeway.
- After the 1926 fires cattle were permitted back into the park to keep regrowth under control. Cramer was given permission to graze at the south end only.
- George Weston, Bill Smith & Alf Weston trialled grazing on the Buffalo plateau in 1888/9. The bridle track had already been built so it was easy to get the stock up the mount. They put a few hundred head on the front plains. Because winters up there are so bad they had to get the stock off by end of April or risk losing them.
- Jim Brady came in during 1902/3 drought. Hughes came in still later. Hughes & Brady were neighbours of Westons.
- In 1902 George Weston had 200 – 250 head of his own up there (including about 60 breeders). Brady only had 60-70 head. Brady died in 1919 when thrown from a horse.
- George Weston 1<sup>st</sup> visited the plateau in 1882, and was up there for 37 years as a cattleman, till 1925. During that time the plateau was never burnt out. They burned protective breaks in May to safeguard the buildings & the Woolly but. The Ranger McKinnon used to burn in May in frosty conditions. In May 1938 the Beveridges did a burn between Brookside and Howells Falls. The 1939 fires stopped here as there was nothing to burn.

### **Upper King & Goulburn Watershed**

Name: Jack & Irene Klingsporn, Merrijig Date of Interview: 30/7/1977

- Mick McCormack & Tom McLough worked for old man Graves & took cattle up onto the mountain tops. Graves was out there in 1898 because that year there was a fire & he lost a lot of stock. Tom McL was looking after them. Tom McL cut the track from No.3 to the King before 1900 & took cattle down, either down Charlie's rock spur or Scrub spur onto Pineapple Flat. Tom McL was the first one down there; Graves had paddocks at Buttercup.
- Jack Klingsporn b 1877, & Frank K b 1873, and Bob K – came to Merrijig from Woods Point, with cows & pigs. When they first came from Woods Point the kangaroos were that thick

you could hit them with sticks; the country was magnificent carrying clover & grass & being very open; not much scrub. Family originally arrived at Woods Point in 1860

- Jack & Frank were the first to put stock on Mt Buller. They put cattle up Buller Creek and up the mountain sides in summer. They probably didn't put stock on the tops till the 1890s. By that time they were having a lot of cattle. Dad & Frank walked out onto Buller from Buller Creek (didn't have many horses); they went exploring & got out onto Buller. The snow grass on Mt Buller was a real picture to look at. Then they had to find a track for stock up to the mount. They ended up going up Horse Hill & later opened a track up Buller Creek; they walked up with cattle & thought they would take a short cut, & found the other route. They ran sheep & cattle on Mt Buller till 1919. Had stock all the way out to Clear Hills
- After Buller Frank & Bob put sheep on Mt Koonika; only for a few years & not too many sheep. Finished with Koonika when Frank & Bob dissolved their partnership. Then Bob put sheep on a spur that ran off Buller – Boggy Creek. But the dogs got bad & then he swapped to a few cattle
- Old Jack Ware said that Ks also had sheep on the Razorback, but Jk not sure about that.
- Frank K must have had cattle with Jack Bullock on Clear Hills. Bullock lived in dug-out in France during the war, and when he came back he & Frank K put a dug-out half way down Mt Stirling. In around 1927 when I (Jack K) went out there, just after the fires, the dug-out was full of insects & uninhabitable. At that time we put cattle out on the Razorback.
- Frank Lovick & George Lovick didn't go to the war; only old Jack Lovick did.
- In 1916 conscription seemed likely. Jack Bullock, old Jack Lovick & Billy Walker decided to enlist for the war. JB said it looks as if we will have to enlist or we will be pulled into it. So they enlisted in the Light Horse to go to Europe. Jack L ended up in the artillery; BW didn't come back.
- Jim Barclay and Frank Lovick were not on good terms. Frank Lovick had to report to police weekly after Barclay's murder. Frank Lovick was also the cause of William Hynam leaving Seaforth run (Howqua Hills). Frank L kept putting cattle on Seaforth & annoying Hynam; it caused trouble. Frank L was a whinger; he didn't get on with people. He lost his mother when young & was reared in a hotel; that was the reason for his troubles. He was pushed out to Howqua Hills because of the trouble he was causing at home, fighting with his brothers.
- Irene Klingsporn had some pages of a diary of William Hynam of Seaforth station (42,000 acres). In it he refers to the Lovick boy helping him move stock (July 1888). In September 1888 he was driving cattle to the tableland (probably the Bluff); was also taking delivery of 9000 sheep, & growing potatoes. But in January 1891 he was trying to sell Seaforth & looking for a fresh start. Said ' I have had hard luck with stock, which is a worry & has made me ill. Problems with dingoes, wild bullocks, & stock theft. Boundary between Seaforth and Mitchell's run was the top of the Governors. Irene said Hynam continued on till 1903 & left broken hearted (issue re a girl) [doesn't seem consistent with his diary where he was talking about leaving Seaforth in 1891].
- After WW1 Jack Lovick got the Mt Buller run; & he wintered his cattle in the Howqua valley
- Before his Wonnangatta appointment Jim Barclay packed supplies to the Hoskins. He had a tin hut for horses at Howqua Hills.
- Refers to the Weekly Times, February 1919

- Klingsporns used to have cattle at King Billy, & at mustering time they stayed at Sweetapples, who had a run at the head of the Macalister River. Rumpffs were somewhere out there too, probably at the Knobs.
- Mitchell was the original squatter at Mitchell's Creek, & Hoskin was an overseer there right from the start. Mitchell came to the area with Hunter bros & then went out on his own, as did others.
- Refers to massacres of Aboriginals even in the Mansfield area, inc in 1840 when small family groups were attacked in reprisal for killing sheep.
- JCH Graves was first grazier into the mountains – went on this end around No.3, Razorback & Stirling before 1900. Graves was nearly wiped out by fires in 1898 – fires which burnt through to Gippsland. Used the mountains for summer grazing & wintered stock at Mt Battery. He cut a track from No.3 into the King river valley. He had Red Polls. Before 1898 he went out through Nimmo's Gap. He took out 300 – 400 head for the summer. He taught the cattle to come to the sound of a cracking whip for salt. Possibly was in the mountains from the 1870s.
- Franz Julious Klingsporn was J.K's grandfather. He had from Mt Buller to No.3. He came with his 2 eldest boys to Merrijig in 1887 & built a wattle & daub hut (when JK's father just 10 yo). They brought cattle ahead of them & shoved them into the hills. In 1892 Jack Ware started shepherding for Ks as a 10 or 11 year old. And when he was about 16 yo he went with Frank K et al onto Mt Buller
- In Jack K's memory sheep were put on No.3 after the 1926 bushfires. Naughton had sheep at Howqua Hills at the same time.
- After 1918 the Forests Department decided to introduce an agistment system, replacing the old licensed run system. All cattlemen objected & decided not to pay; & they ran cattle for about 12 months for nothing. Cattlemen had been blamed for the 1898 fires. Then the 1902 drought came & a lot of people left the area & there wasn't much demand for runs again till about 1911 onwards. There was a bitter fight between graziers & the Forests Dept for some years & during this time some took up cattle when they shouldn't have. After the 1926 fire the Lands Dept constructed a pound on the Delatite River, & JK's father ran it.
- For many years old man K had from Mt Buller to Mt Clear [or is that Clear Hills ?]. But as people got their own lowland freehold they started to move out of the hills.
- When he returned from WW1 old Jack Lovick wanted a bush block. Frank, Bob & dad (JK snr) decided to give him Mt Buller / [or] 'some people jumped the runs, for example Jack Lovick got Buller because he was a returned soldier & Klingsporns lost it because they had a German name'.
- Jack Bullock on returning from the war went in with Frank K on Clear Hills. Jack Bullock once took to Jack Lovick with a whip over a cattle issue.
- Allen Brothers: T.H Allen had a homestead at Cathcart; Ted Allen had the Mansfield Hotel; T.C Allen had the Golden Age hotel at Kevington.
- Allens were early settlers in the Thornton district; but after a flash flood at Thornton in 1860s or '70s one of the sons moved to Darlingford, which was a strategic location. They had the hotel and store at Ten Mile; hotel, butchers shop & general store, and market gardens at Darlingford – and they transported stores to the gold mines; miners had money to burn. Allen's probably had runs around Torbeck, and killed cattle for the mines.

- Wonnangatta murders: Phillips & Ritchie had to give up the Wonnangatta station after the murders; the person who did it was driven out of the district; a woman was involved.
- Gorman had the Mt Cobbler run, but not for a long time, & had someone else looking after it for him. He possibly ran sheep on the Rose River. Around 1928 Jack McLeod had the Cobbler run. He bought a mob of Queensland cattle to go on Cobbler; probably bought the mob at Wodonga; went in to Cobbler over Scrubbers Spur to the upper King River from Buttercup, going up the river. McLeod always carried a revolver (just like the early squatters were always armed). All the way up the King River he would shoot a bullock if it broke out of line; he would even shoot his dogs if they didn't behave; some of the bullocks got bogged in the Cobbler swamp, & he shot them too. The stock were only put up for the summer, & he probably collected clean skins along the way. McLeod was known to get meat by killing other peoples stock. When he brought the cattle off Cobbler he sold them at Mansfield. However, he lost heavily on this deal. McLeod always had a bottle of whiskey with him & used to get into trouble when drunk; he had a dispute with someone who threatened to kill him, & after that he always carried the pistol. McLeod did no good in the bush because he was impatient. He used Cobbler mainly for dealers, and also wintered a lot on the King River. After the 1926 fires he wintered more than 1000 head on the King River.
- At a different time Jack K & others put our stock on Clear Hills, & on the way back we ran into Harry Bullock and Bill Bullock who were up on Cobbler too. JK saw Bill Bullock on Little Cobbler & he said he was checking out Nella's cattle.
- After WW2 a whole string of wild bulls were on the ranges around the Bluff and had never been mustered; had been Wares, & he sold them to Stoney.
- Major Mitchell was the first European to see Mt Buller; & F von Mueller visited it in 1853. Jack & Irene think that shepherds were probably up there before 1853, though may not have gone up there regularly.
- In 1902 a lot of residents of Mansfield left the district because of the poor conditions.
- In the 1914 drought dad bought cattle at Wodonga & put them in the bush at King Billy. In autumn there was no sale so the stock were left on the run & they pushed into the Howqua, Macalister & Jamieson valley; some died. The following autumn bullock prices were good & these stock were mustered & sold at Mansfield. That year all blokes who had runs in the bush had to leave their stock on the runs over winter as they couldn't sell.
- It was a regular practice of the Klingsporns to buy stock & put them on the runs. Often in winter the stock were run on the local roads, & even the main street of Mansfield. Then in October / November they would be mustered off the roads. This was done up to the 1930s depression. Klingsporns, Wares & Lovicks were doing it.
- They usually stocked the King River during winter with bullocks & spayed heifers, but few cows & calves because cows become too thin if stay out there for winter.
- Frank & Bob had sheep between the Howqua & King rivers, around Koonika before 1920. They dissolved their partnership in 1920 when Frank K left & sold out. Sheep were finished on Mt Buller when the Forests Department came into it. Bob K had sheep on the Long Spur on Buller till just before 1945. But sheep were never on the very top of Buller; only cattle were there. Bob & Frank also had sheep at the head of the Howqua River. When you have sheep in the bush you have to camp with them all the time. Jack Ware shepherded for Franz J K when he left school, on the Razorback. But when JW stopped FJK gave up the sheep. Jack

Ware was also out at Koonika with sheep along with Frank & Bob. Once the sheep got snowed in. Frank & Bob & Bob White felled a mountain ash, made snow shoes from it & carried the sheep out.

- Before 1900 there was plenty of white clover on the Razorback and No.3. And it was on Howitt and King Billy in the early days. When JK first went in the bush there was lush clover in the saddles. Explanation: cattle of Graves spread the seed up the ridge from Klingsporns.
- The Mt Buller run went out to the gap between Buller & Stirling. Graves run met Klingsporns here. Graves put up a wire fence to stop K's stock getting on to his run & every winter the wires broke & had to be repaired.
- When Edley Stoney came to the district he put stock out on the Bluff to King Billy
- Dad (JWK) and Jack Ware had King Billy, & JWK also had the Razorback
- J Hearn & Seymour had the King & Koonika on my first visit to the Howqua in 1928. They had Devons, with long horns, & they were good in the bush.
- Allan Bennie had the head of the Rose River & a few stock on top before WW2. Nellas were there too. When JK was 16 yo, around 1928, they were putting a paddock in at Clear Hills, and Bennies were there then. But they left a few years after WW2 when Allan Bennie died.

Name: Jack McCormack Date of Interview: 1977

- Grandfather John McCormack came to Merrijig from Ireland. He had some cattle on Howitt at one time
- During the bad droughts run holders didn't give up their leases to starvers; JMc didn't think there was much agistment of starving stock. However, horses from the Mallee were put on Mt.Buller. During the 1914 drought the Graves' took 700 head of cattle to Gippsland for grass
- The Mt Battery and Delatite run holders were able to purchase most of the good land within their run boundaries. Genuine independent selectors had to look for land beyond the boundaries of these runs.
- Jack Graves took cattle into the bush in a limited way – used No. 3 – till he went broke in the depression years. He had red polls. Actually he had finished taking cattle into the bush before the depression. Bob Graves used the same lease. After his father died he went jackarooing. When Crosbie Graves died, Jack Graves became the manager, & Bob got out. Bob had a go at a lot of things. The Graves family lost a lot of land to the Closer Settlement Commission.
- Graves' took to the hills in summer. Tom McLough worked for him, as did the 4 Bullock brothers, Jim, Harry, Jack & Bill. They camped in a hut at No.3 and had 100 acres at Buttercup for mustering.
- Jack Bullock had cattle on Mt.Stirling after WW1. And he also had cattle on The Bluff once.
- Old Bill Bullock use to help Jack McC's father keep cockatoos off our crops when sowing. He was a labourer & lived at Barwite. In the early days a lot of crop was grown; feed for horses that packed to the Woods Point mines.
- In the past there was less stock than there is now.
- Bob Graves had his own place. He tried dairying. He had a red poll bull & had a groom look afer it. He took the bull all around the country, then got sick of it & put it in a paddock at Mt Battery till it was almost dead. Then Mitch McCormack got it for 10 pounds

- Red Polls are a dual purpose breed: are grown for beef, & can also be milked. Bob Graves had someone on shares milking the cows (but not the red polls; he didn't milk them)
- Bob Graves went into things in a big way. He had racehorses, and he also imported English Leicester sheep – but got sick of them. In later years he bred Angus cattle & did well with them. But by this time they didn't have large land holdings; Bob couldn't graze the large numbers that Crosbie Graves did.
- Crosbie Graves was a domineering person; he didn't like other people using his runs; and he had the biggest slice of leasehold land. He also didn't like other people having red polls. His bush run was from No.3 to the King River; and he set up a number of fences.
- Jack McLeod was (with Bob Graves) out on King & Cobbler. He once bought some Queensland bullocks but because of the different climate they didn't do very well.
- Jim & Bill Bullock worked for Jack McLeod. There was a court case around the 1940s about branding and re-branding of cattle. McLeod always carried a gun. In later years there was a fire on an SEC pole in one of McLeod's paddocks. Someone reported it & SEC workers came out to inspect. Jack McL saw them & got out his gun & made them walk with their hands up to the house. McLeod may have had a mental condition
- The murder of Bamford & Barclay was before McLeod's time
- Jim Barclay had worked for my mother; he was milking on the shares after 1904; not sure for how long; on the Buller road turn-off near the Glenroy road
- In the hill country rustling occurred from time to time.
- McCormacks were mainly on Mt Stirling, were more to the south, I think. They didn't winter their stock in the bush
- At one time Klingsporns ran around 5000 sheep between Stirling and Buller
- Billy White put in one winter with sheep in the bush under Stirling and Buller. But then the dogs got too bad
- McCormacks have 1800 acres of scrub at Buttercup

Name: Jack Lovick, Merrijig Date of Interview: 1977

- Cattle were wintered in the Howqua valley right up to the foot of Mt Howitt well before 1900
- Lovicks were on Mt Buller before WW1; Klingsporns had the Buller foothills not Mt Buller itself. The first grazier onto Buller would have been Graves with sheep from Mt Battery station. Also put sheep on No.3, Tomahawk, and Razorback.
- Lovicks had the Cobbler lease before 1914. George Lovick lost a lot of cattle in the 1914 drought.
- The Hunters of Delatite station grazed sheep in the Howqua valley before anyone else. Later the Wares had cattle in the Jamieson, on Mt Clear & Mt McDonald.
- Not sure who was the first on The Bluff; Wares were out to King Billy; Frank Lovick was on the Bluff before WW1
- Jack McLeod and Bob Graves were in partnership in the runs. They bought stock & put them on the runs. Only much later, in 1940s, did Bob Graves start breeding. He gave up cattle in the mountains after 1928; lost plenty
- Jack McLeod put 1400 head on Mt Cobbler during a drought; most died; were not suitable for the cold bush.

- John Edward Lovick bought the Seaforth station freehold; by the 1900s Howqua Hills was pretty derelict.

Name: Charlie Hearn Date of Interview: 1977

- Before WW1 Jack Bullock was working with Lovicks or Graves. Most of the Bullock brothers worked under Graves in the bush.
- Crosbie Graves died 1914/15 – was connected with the Ned Kelly inquiry. He had red polls in the bush
- McCormacks were out there from around 1900 to 1914/18. Others may also have gone in from this side, but not over to the King.
- Royal went out in the early days with a few of their own, around 1914/18. They had sheep on the lowlands too.
- Jack Bullock worked with Frank Klingsporn for about 4 or 5 years around Clear Hills (head of the King). After the war Jack K was on the Howqua side, but then came back
- Before 1914 Ted Lamb built the Razorback hut for Graves; chock & log. And another hut on No.3. Lewis (Bob) Graves didn't go out into the bush himself
- McLeod bought 6 – 7 year old bullocks that had been bred in Queensland; that was 1925/6; he carried a pistol & rifle. After that experience he bought cattle locally.
- In the early 1930s Gormans, large graziers from the Murray somewhere in NSW, brought sheep up the Burnt Top Spur in and around the Rose River. He mostly employed the Bullock brothers. But because of wild dogs he came out of it with a loss. Later on they turned out cattle onto Cobbler – Sam Christopher worked for them. They also had a lot of horses from NSW in the King and a lot died. They had previously been in Mallee country and got sand in them, clogging them up inside. This was probably in a dry year; they held runs as drought insurance.
- Lovicks were once on Cobbler. They bought cattle locally & put them at the head of the King. This was before WW1. Then there was a lapse around 1915/20 as people were away at the war, so then there were not many cattle there
- Lewis was the first man with cattle on Cobbler
- Samuel Daniels had Changue station & went up via Buttercup. Cattle wandered as there were no fences. Rabbits beat the country.
- In the 1890s the banks closed on a lot of selectors

Name: Bert Walker Date of Interview: 6/8/1977

- Crosbie Graves had cattle in the hills; also kept race horses & Red Polls.
- Jack & Jim Bullock worked for him, & Graves himself did go out into the bush. One time on the Razorback they had trouble getting Crosbie back as it was so steep; this was around the head of the King River.
- The Bullock brothers were at Mt. Battery station
- One time a lot of sheep were brought to behind Mt Timbertop; was a dry year; sheep brought by Frank Lovick.

- Frank & Jack Lovick snr were into cattle. George was not so keen; he was a different kind of person. Lovicks worked together, & Frank & Jack dealt together
- Jack McLeod's property adjoined Mt Battery; he bred & dealt in cattle; and had store cattle in the hills.
- The Hoskins & Dales worked together, & had a lot of cattle. They just bought stores. And they often sold to butchers between Jamieson & Woods Point. Dale's family had a general store, and his mother had the Court House Hotel for a record number of years without a conviction. A stock agent once asked Dale why he wasn't buying more cattle, & advised him to buy more. This gave him his start. His family had a few paddocks around Jamieson. Dale was the major partner with Hoskin. He did most of the buying and selling. Hoskin did most of the stock work. Dale had a good memory of who bought what cattle; he was a great judge of quality; handled most of the business side of the partnership.
- Jim Barclay worked for different people. He was an educated man; a very fine man. He managed Wonnangatta station; before he went to Wonnangatta he used to look after others cattle, droving, etc. He lived all over the place
- Phillips & Palmer had property around here, & Palmer was out with Graves a lot. Both Phillips and Palmer came from the western district
- Lewis (Bob) Graves had the Battery Park property & was a successful breeder of Poll Angus cattle. He never put stud cattle in the hills. He was only in the hills in a minor way. He was a bad boy – he became a bad manager after a while; just dribbled away his assets & ended up selling out because of ill health a few years ago. Can't imagine Bob being a partner with anyone.

Name: Frank & Aileen Lovick Date of Interview: 30/7/1977

- Jack McLeod was an opportunist who had property and runs, & ran short horns in the bush between the wars. A lot of people were windy about him because of his guns.
- George Lovick partnered with W Frank Lovick before WW1 but that partnership was broken at the end of the war, & after that George partnered with his other brother Jack. George did a lot of buying & also bred some cattle. Uncle Jack used to buy at Wodonga, but the core of the mob was bred. In the early days they wintered cattle in the head of the King & the Howqua on leased paddocks. Jack & George also had about 1000 acres of freehold between them. Their father would have left it to them. Jack was the main one on Mt Buller, but George was there too. George's main business was a mixed farm with sheep & cattle; he didn't spend a lot of time in the bush, although he may have when he was younger.
- The bush at Howqua Hills carried a lot of sheep at one time.
- WFL ran sheep and cattle. He had 3 daughters. His freehold property he originally bought with John L , but WFL finished up with it. It's now owned by Stoney. WFL relied heavily on the bush – he had the Bluff run, and wintered stock in the Jamieson and Howqua valleys. He bought stock to put in the bush. He also ran sheep at Howqua Hills, & did most of the work himself; employed people only at peak times.
- Sam Christopher, on the Rose River, may have worked for Lovicks, & possibly also Jack McLeod.
- There were lots of fights in the bush when Graves were there
- Thinks the Klingsporns may have run stock in the bush before other people knew.

Name: Bob Ritchie snr Date of Interview: 30/7/1977

- When Phillips & Ritchie had Wonnangatta station, 2 – 3 men worked with Jim Barclay there. They ran stock down the Snowy Range pretty well to Mt Wellington. Wonnangatta was mostly stocked with steers grown in the hills.
- Barclay possibly came from Dargo; he was reared in the hills & had been working at Wonnangatta with the Bryces. He had cattle of his own, & possibly had a share at Wonnangatta.
- In the 1914 drought they bought a lot of cattle, very cheap. At muster time there was an early break of snow & a lot of cattle died on Howitt spur coming down to the Howqua. However, cattle prices had gone up since they bought these cattle, so they didn't lose.
- No cattle from Delatite station were taken out to Wonnangatta. We had bullocks here but we got rid of them. Wonnangatta was only incidental to Delatite station; was a sideline
- A lot of Mansfield people put cattle out around Buttercup, King River & Cobbler. Graves was out at Buttercup & King River for a while before 1914. He used to go out himself, & had men working for him too, including Jebbs and Bullocks; he had nothing to do with Wonnangatta. Bill Bullock went out with Arthur Phillips to look for Barclay & was there when the body was found in the creek. Bill Bullock worked with Phillips & brought cattle in & out of Wonnangatta.
- Naughton brothers from NSW Riverina / upper murray brought sheep on agistment one drought year to the King river, near Mt Cobbler. Bullock brothers looked after them. They lost a lot of sheep there to dogs, theft & the cold conditions. A lot of store cattle also went in. This was Naughton's 1<sup>st</sup> experience in the area.
- Allen brothers had a variety of business interests. They ran a coach up to Jamieson, had hotels at Thornton & Gaffney's Creek, and farming property along the Goulburn River in pockets on the river flats, especially around Darlingford. Their brand was WS (Wonnangatta syndicate). Before they got Wonnangatta they bred cattle in the district & ran them in the hills around Alexandra. Hills were no problem for them. Their main selling market was Mansfield – they sold stores, fairly well grown at 3 – 4 years old, which were bought by fatteners. Allens would buy cattle & keep them for a short time; they only had a limited amount of winter country so they couldn't keep too many over winter. They bought at any time & got most of their cattle from the north, at Wodonga. They would turn them out in the mountains at the earliest in spring, around October, so would buy in late winter & early spring. Then they would bring them in from the bush in early April or even May. Eventually the cattle market went against the Allens. But the country didn't let you down.
- There use to be a lot of cattle grazing the roadsides. They spread St.Johns wort. Delatite Station never used the roads; it was mainly people with small properties and hill runs. Because they has so little lowland, if they couldn't sell their cattle before winter they would graze them on the roads; mainly in autumn & winter. In the summer any stock grazing the roads were not hill cattle.
- Crosbie Graves fed his men onions & corned beef at muster time. He was out in the hills around the early 1900s. He was using the hills when we came here, when I was 3 yo, around 1906/7. He had a good few cattle there, on the King.
- Lewis Graves was not a permanent hill man. He would buy up some stock & put them out if the price was right. He ran in the hills for a speculative profit, when it suited him.

- When the Forests Dept took control anyone could put cattle in the hills if they paid per head; beasts had to be tagged. This system was accepted as ok.

Name: Roy Dundas Date of Interview: 1977

- RD was the municipal road ranger after WW1
- Some shires banned cattle grazing on the roads, but at Mansfield graziers were allowed to put 20 head each on the roads and ½ the fees paid went to the ranger who had to manage them. It was very cheap grass. Then noxious weeds were a council responsibility (later taken over by the Rabbit Inspector) and the man looking after the cattle on the roads was also responsible for finding weeds. The worst weed was St Johns wort; there was a lot of it in this district. It was first brought to the district by a chinaman from Bright, for its medicinal value. He came to Delatite to work around the 1880s & planted it, & it spread from there. Horses and cattle brought from Bright also contributed to its spread. Land owners were supplied with salt to kill the wort, but it wasn't very successful as the roots spread laterally & the plant wouldn't die. Up the Howqua some of the cockies used the salt to salt cattle rather than treat the wort. Saffron thistle was another weed that was bad because of its fibrous stem. It didn't seem to burn & was spread in sheeps wool & cattle dung.
- There were 500 – 600 head of cattle on the shire roads in winter; all sorts, bullocks, cows & calves & mostly younger store cattle. There was a law against keeping scrubber bulls, and any mongrel bulls had to be shot or slaughtered if found by the inspector. This improved the quality of stock in the region. Cattle would sometimes wander for 20 miles; how long they were kept on the roads depended on the owner's circumstances, & the available feed. In spring a lot of the road cattle were put back in the paddocks. Some stock were left out all winter, for 3 months.
- The people who used the roads for grazing were mainly the small operators, and especially the mountain graziers (not usually the station owners). Lovicks, Bullocks, Rosss, Hoskins, Dales – they all used the roads. In latter days also the Stoneyes.
- I was the ranger for 2 or 3 years; started straight after WW1, before I got a soldier settlement block. Once I got the SS block I had to fence & put in all improvements – didn't stay on the road ranging job long after that. Sam McKenzie took over then.
- Sheep used to be driven along the roads from NSW. They were supposed to have a destination & travel at least 6 miles a day, not diverting more than ½ mile from the most direct route. But it was pretty hard to enforce those rules; they were more honoured in the breach than in the observance. One racket was to put cows in calf on the road; then when they calved they couldn't travel the minimum stipulated distance.
- Town people grazed their milking cows on the town roads at night.
- When Crosbie Graves died his elder son took over management of Mt Battery station. The son never sold cattle, sheep or horses at Mansfield. This was because he didn't want to sell to locals because if they ran the stock on the roads they would have a good opportunity to steal any of his stock that wandered onto the roads. 2900 acres of Crosbie Graves estate was taken for soldier settlement.
- Graves used to run 1 sheep to the acre and 100 head of cattle on only 1100 acres – all red polls. Cattle were mated on Mt Battery station & taken to the hills around late December and were left there till the snow came. He may have had 1000 head out there. In those days

there were 5 or 6 men employed at Mt Battery, and 2 rabbiters. At mustering time they got a few extra men who knew the hills. They lived out there on damper, spuds and corned beef. Those involved were the Bullock brothers, Jim Dundas, Tom McLough and the 3 Graves boys (Jack, Harvey, Lewis (bob)). Lewis Graves lived below the old station; had black polls. He didn't run cattle in the hills after Crosbie died.

- Motor cars started to become common around 1930, before the depression, and a year or two later road grazing was stopped. Cattle camped on the roads & were considered a danger at night, so council revoked the road agistment law & prohibited road grazing. Now any cattle on the roads have to be supervised, kept off the roadways, & yarded at night. Some latitude was given to cattle coming out of the hills.

Name: Alex Graves Date of Interview: 24/7/1977

- John Crosbie Graves was the first exhibitor of Red Poll cattle to win a prize at the Royal Melbourne Agricultural Show. Lived on the Mt Battery station. His father was James Howlen Graves who was a MLA representing the Delatite electorate. He lived in Melbourne but owned land at Mansfield & managed many pastoral stations through the London & Australian Agency Corp. Crosbie Graves's son Lewis continued breeding stud cattle at Balbury Park, part of the original Mt Battery station where the present herd of Angus cattle was founded in 1944.
- In 1889 Crosbie Graves bought over 30,000 acres, including hill country. When Crosbie G died his estate was split up amongst his descendants and after WW1 a lot of the estate was taken for soldier settlement. Crosbie died at age 50 – 53, a gentleman larrikin. Lewis G was 15 yo when Crosbie died. Lewis used to go out into the hills with Crosbie in the summer from the age of 8 or 9 yo.
- Refers to “ The Origin and End of the Pastoral Firm of Watson & Hunter” by E Robertson, 29/4/1964. Watson & Hunter were squatters who had most of the land in the Mansfield district. They sold out in 1846 after having accumulated the Wappan, Preston, Mt Battery, Loyola, Dueran & Maindample runs.

Name: Fred Ross Date of Interview: 24/7/1977

- Crosbie Graves spent 15 years in the bush & first went out during a drought, so a rabbit inspector told FR. He had a Red Poll stud. The first time he went out he went through Tolmie and around Evans creek & from there there is a spur up to Tomahawk and also a spur to the top of No.3 and horse shoe bend. In 1902 he had 500 – 600 head in the bush. Bill Bullock went out with him. Possibly that year or a few years later he had horses & cattle burnt out there. Later he bought a paddock at Buttercup called Young's (after Albert Young) and ran from there for years. Stock were put out from Mt Battery station.
- After having first used the tops Graves put in the Zig Zag track from Buttercup to No.3, and also put a hut and horse paddock at the top of ZZ. The hut was built in about 1906. Once CG got out there he realised its value and did plenty of work there. He cut tracks through thick snow gum to clearer country, and put in a trough at a spring (still a bit left there)
- Crosbie G died about 1918 & after that his estate ran stock in the hills for a few years. CG was a nice bloke & liked children, but he had a bad temper & liked a drop of liquor. He always carried whiskey with him.

- 4 – 5 men lived at Buttercup. Jim Bullock was one of the main ones, & also there was Sam Christopher, Tom McLough & sometimes Jim Dundas – all good men & good bushmen. Bill Bullock pioneered the job; he had been in the locality his whole life & had previously worked for Dr Rowe at Mt Battery. Later Jim, Alf & Fred Ross went out to help
- Hugh Ross's father was from Kilmore & originally selected at Howe's creek. There were 3 Ross brothers: Hugh, John & Neil. They were all reared at Howes Creek & packed supplies to the Woods Point mines using a draught horse team.
- Hugh came to the district before Crosbie Graves. He bought at Dr Rowe's Mt Battery land auction in around 1878 [or was that 1888?]. Crosbie Graves bought in a few years later, around 1880.
- Access to bush runs was hard from Mansfield; & the district was more drought resistant.
- Hugh Ross (Jim R's father) ran cattle in the bush in conjunction with Crosbie Graves. He may have gone in with CG before 1902, but after Rosss bought the 'Overby' property at Merrijig the cattle went out to the hills themselves as the paddocks weren't well fenced, & HR followed them out & from then on put them out. In the early days there wasn't a dingo problem & for a few years Rosss ran sheep; one year they put out 2000 sheep.
- Delatite station put sheep on Tomahawk in a drought year
- Frank Lovick took over from Naughton [?] at Seaforth
- Sam Christopher later ran stock on the right hand branch of the King River. He had a place under Powers Lookout. He was very good in the bush with cattle.
- Jim Bullock never had runs of his own. Young Bill Bullock ran cattle on the King and on Cobbler; he had a selection around Whitfield and also a place on the side of Tolmie Hill.
- Bryces came out to Howitt and Mt Clear. Their stock would wander out.
- In the early days no-one had the Bluff. Barclay had a camp at Lovicks Hut. He was always a mountain man & may have been in with the Bryces for a while. He knew all about Wonnangatta. He lived at Mansfield & was dairying on the fattening paddock on the Buller road. After that he was mixed up with the Klingsporns. He rented land or was a share farmer (FR can't remember this but heard of it). The yards are still there. Started in Howqua.
- Jack Bullock and Fred Ross went into partnership on Razorback, Clear Hills and Mt Stirling. Jack B used to get funny ideas about horses and got more difficult as time went on; perhaps the war affected him. So FR dissolved the partnership in about 1924. He was very anxious to burn & often lit too early & burnt out the run.
- We used to patch burn around March, & run the fire into an area burnt the year before, so it wouldn't go out of control. Jack B burnt too early & sometimes killed cattle. One time we had a job to get out
- Jack B had a soldier settler's block on the Jamieson road. He used to buy stock rather than breed. He made a bit of money from Barclay and bought some extra land from Bob Greenway – that's how he survived. Bullock & Barclay used to buy up local cattle; steers.
- Irene & Jack Klingsporn started putting cows & calves into the snow country. Till then there was a belief that you needed to have a big property behind you to do that. FR looked at JK's limited experience & built on it. There was more profit in cows and calves than buying because a cow bred there would come home on her own if she was missed at mustering time. When prices were higher you could raise cows & calves in the bush; now the cost is too high to do it.

- Gorman from Berrigan in NSW came in a drought year with stock, & then every late spring for a few years. But he didn't make much money doing it. Sam Christopher managed the stock for him. When Gorman got too old he stopped coming & FR bought the stock from him. One year they brought out a large mob of sheep, about 8000, & put them on lower country around Whitfield. But they lost a lot due to dogs, fires, & theft. In the end they were about 5000 short. This was in 1936 drought.
- Frank Lovick was in the Howqua, the Bluff & Seaforth station (it wasn't much of a station). He turned all his stock out onto the roads in winter; all mountain men did this. Until motor cars became common cattle were always run on the roads. The shire had a road ranger, & Roy Dundas had that job for years; he was a very reliable person.
- The Cobbler run was not good for cows & calves
- Weston had 50 head on agistment but actually put up 300 – 400
- Under the agistment system there is no incentive to build conveniences as these will be used by others. Under the run scheme there was incentive & they built 2 huts in the upper King valley.
- The Ross's first went to the tops in a dry year when they bought cheap cattle and put them on the run. That was in 1918/19 drought. Later Fred Ross started running cows and calves on the Razorback, No.3, and Clear Hills. They put the cows out to calve in around November. But when agistment came in all sorts of cattle were put up and things started going downhill from then. Less cattle were put out before agistment as there were less people were involved. Runs vary between the years & you could shift stock around according to the carrying capacity. But with agistment you can't move the stock around, & no-one takes the same interest in the country. We stopped salting as if they did they would be salting other peoples stock. The only ?? of the agistment system was if you ran on your own & were isolated.
- Before 1918/19 Graves had the No.3 and Razorback run, but only stocked it spasmodically. He was one of the first to use the run. He went there in the 1914 drought and could have been there earlier, possibly 1902. Fred Ross went out with him to tops in 1914. FR's father had the adjacent Evans Creek run in 1902 – but not big numbers. FR's 2 brothers (killed in WW1) ran the Evans creek country building up the stock numbers till WW1. Had 100 – 150 head
- In 1902 Graves has about 400 head out on the tops; red polls, Herefords & cross breeds; up to 6 & 7 years old. Then stock were usually sold as follows: bullocks 3 – 4 yo, & heifers 2.5 – 3 yo. Now they are sold even younger, heifers at 2 yo & bullocks 3 yo. Not many calves were sold here until recently.
- On the runs we were putting cows & calves out & not wanting to put out bullocks. Cows & calves eat more than bullocks, so you can run more bullocks; but cows give a quicker return. If you are running cows & calves you're breeding; if you're running bullocks you're buying. You wouldn't run so many bullocks if you were breeding them.
- In the early days you'd buy cattle at around 2 yo, & especially in drought years. FR's seen bullocks 7 & 8 years old coming off bush country. In the early years not many cattle went out unless it was a drought year.
- Jim Barclay & Jack Bullock worked together before WW1. Barclay's hut on the Bluff was renovated by Lovicks. Barclay ran all sorts of cattle, esp shorthorn cross and later Herefords.

When he first went out to Wonnangatta he ran a few of his own there, & kept the Bluff run for his own cattle; he wintered them at Wonnangatta. Before Wonnangatta he wintered on leased paddocks. He was a real mountain man.

- Klingsporns leases lowland paddocks for wintering stock, in addition to their own freehold.
- At one period sheep were run all through this country; but not for a long period – inc the Bluff, Razorback & No.3. Then the dogs got bad. The first man with sheep in the mountains was Bert Royal – on Tomahawk & Evans creek, & they used to go out to No.3. Then a dispute broke out with Graves & Graves had a man riding the boundary continually. Royal only went out for one year, then went to war & sold out to Phillips.
- Naughton put sheep on the Bluff for one year, & lost a lot. Then Lovick carried on after him on that run. Before WW1
- FR's father ran sheep on Evans creek, Bakers creek – put a lot out in 1914, and lost a lot. At the start there were dingoes, but later they crossed with cattle dogs & sheep dogs. Dingoes are more cunning; cross breed dogs are more easily captured as they will come into clearer country. Now all the wild dogs are cross breeds; haven't seen a pure dingo in the last 15 years. But most still resemble dingoes: good heads, & don't carry their tails as high as a feral dog. Dogs would kill calves if they were born out in the bush. But that was rare. Only the occasional cow would calve in the bush. Calving here is usually July – August.
- There was no rustling in this country; were only a few small court cases.
- There weren't really more people using the runs after 1920. After the war Jack Bullock ran cattle on the Razorback and Clear Hills for about 4 years. He bought up bullocks for the run. Then he got a soldier settlement block
- Fred Ross ran cattle on the upper Jamieson around Mt Skene and Mt Sunday till about 5 years ago; it was a bit too far away. Norm Chester had the run & let Ross use it. Had a few cattle out there, on the north & south branches of the Jamieson, around Frog Hollow. Didn't bother to get them out.
- Before the 1920s there were lots of scrubbers in the bush. There were plenty at the head of the Catherine River & there still are. And there are still some in the Howqua.
- When FR first went out to the mountains the Forests Dept were not interested. After complaints by conservationists they put dams in below moss beds & cattle never went in to the moss beds after that.
- Burning: we used to patch burn at mustering time. At the start the Forests Dept were against it. Now they want the cattlemen to burn, but they won't as the country is now too dirty & any fire would get away. When we first went out we would patch burn anywhere the country got dirty. Would only burn every 3 years; and when burning they would always run the fire into an area burnt last year – so the fire would burn out. Now nothing is done. Now there are many areas I don't go to as they have become jungle. In the early years the country was park – like. Now it's hardly worth running. It's too hard to muster, & the dams the Forests Dept put in are neglected & not cleared out. So in certain places the cattle are short of water & have to go down the sides into the scrub country. Now the woollybutt regeneration is too thick & will never develop. The trees should be 15 – 20 yards apart.
- Fred Ross is not going back to the bush runs. The cattlemen have been priced out & not given any conveniences or help to stay in the country. Only the odd grazier will be putting

out illegally & running in a haphazard way. In the last 15 – 20 years bush grazing has only been done in a haphazard way.

Name : Mrs Poole Date of Interview : 1977

- Bill Faithful from Omeo worked as a stockman for Allen's at Wonnangatta. He used to stay at Howquadale.
- Allens used to put cattle on Mt Skene. But by 1933 they had gone out of cattle. They used to have packhorses & stables at 10 Mile.
- CP bought out Allen's at 10 mile. He bred most of his stock & sold at Newmarket. 2 -3 truck loads were sent to Melbourne every year.
- When conditions were very dry in NSW the Pooles took a lot of cattle. Clarry Poole looked after the stock. There was a cattle disease up there & good stock were shifted down here till the disease was under control. They arrived here at the beginning of spring & were put on Poole's run. CP had paddocks for growing millet etc for feed. He also had 22 milking cows at 10 Mile. Most of the milk was railed to Melbourne.
- Rosses used to be buyers of stock.

Name: Bill Allen (son of Sid Allen) Date of Interview: 29/6/1977

- Thomas Allen was a coal miner in Nottingham, England. He came to Australia for the gold rush in 1860. He was planning to go to Ballarat & Bendigo but there were floods that prevented him from leaving Melbourne for a while, and then he heard of gold being found along the Yarra track. So he bought mining tools – shovels, wheelbarrow, etc & went fossicking up the Yarra without much success, and on to Woods Point. He struck gold at 10 Mile (then called Loyola, & being 10 miles above Jamieson. He had excellent crushings & news of this precipitated a rush – thousands of people, from Ballarat, Bendigo, Beechworth, etc, & including many Chinese diggers. After the rush had began TA stopped mining & established hotels, and this is how he made his money. He joined up with Chris Gleeson, a very well educated man, who arranged his marriage to Mary Ballay from Ennis in Ireland; that was in the late 1860s. He had never seen her till she arrived for the wedding. The pub at 10 Mile was his first business venture, and then with marriage he seemed to stabilise. TA also had an interest in Gleeson's hotel at Jamieson, and other hotels at Knockwood, Darlingford & Thornton. His first hotels were in mining areas, & then spread out to other areas. He also established general stores, butchers shops, a packhorse business carting quartz to the crushers. He packed the piano to Wonnangatta station; and a wagon with 8 horses which operated from the rail head at Mansfield. He also ran market gardens on pockets of land he bought on river flats. One was at 10 Mile, just below the hotel. He employed Chinese gardeners & supplied vegetables, strawberries, etc, to the mining populations. Then he went into land, buying everywhere from Woods Point to Alexandra, mainly on the Goulburn, Howqua and Big rivers. After that he moved into cattle runs – he had probably all of Howquadale station, part of Delatite station, and later Wonnangatta station. His wife was even sharper than TA & she ruled the roost and brought grace and dignity to the show.
- Gold ->Pubs->Supplies -> transport -> land -> cattle

- TA & Mary had 6 sons (Tom, Ern, George, Bill, Ted & Sid –my father) and 3 girls. One of the girls married a Rennie. All the children were given an excellent education, with all boys boarding at Xavier College; Sid went to McCrystal College, Mentone, later called St.Bedes. But most of the brothers were wasters, not focused on business, & they put managers into the properties rather than taking a serious interest themselves. And they were mad punters. Slowly the whole thing fell apart. Old Tom’s ventures were pursued by the sons under the name of Allen brothers. They had cattle runs at The Springs, and possibly also the Razorback. We used to go mustering near Gaffney’s creek on the Goulburn side, & used to get clean skins. But the Allen Brothers firm lost a fortune. Sid got out early & bought property at the second Darlingford. And he went into cattle on his own.
- Tom Allen got into cattle in the 1880s / ‘90s. The river flats were used all year round, & he killed cattle here & supplied to the miners. His cattle were mainly bred along the Goulburn, Howqua & Big river flats which was reasonably well cleared & freehold; but he also did buy from Gippsland. Dad used to drive cattle across from Licola; other times they bought at Mansfield. The runs were only used from November to Easter – mustering was at Easter; mainly Herefords, but some short horns too. The summer country was sometimes 30 – 40 miles away. One run was The Springs at Gaffneys Creek (but it wasn’t the main one). From April to October stock were wintered on the river flats.
- Clarry Poole used to work for Allens; and the Keppels were great friends of dad.
- Allen Brothers employed hundreds of people, but little book work was done and that contributed to their financial demise. They were in financial decline by the time of WW1, & this is when Sid got out. Also at this time the gold mining was in clear decline. Much property was sold off to pay debts.
- Ted Allen was the cattle king. He was a loner who spent months in the bush; he was the main working force on the cattle side. He worked properties, bought & sold cattle ... and died almost in poverty. The other brothers were comfortable with their money; but it was the managers under them that got rich.
- Wonnangatta station was taken by the brothers on their own initiative. They had a knack of buying uneconomical ventures, & Wonnangatta was one of these. It was too far away from the markets, so too costly to get cattle to market. Wonnangatta was a disaster. Wonnangatta was probably used for keeping cattle at the store stage; not for breeding. Cattle taken out of Wonnangatta went to the Goulburn river flats for fattening
- In the 1890s – 1910s thousands of head were mustered in spring & put on the runs
- Fred Fry worked for us as a farm labourer; he was a mountain man but not a landholder. He had a small property now under Lake Eildon at Darlington (Fry’s bridge); he was reliable & knowledgeable about cattle, but had no commercial motivation.
- Allens were helped in getting runs by the Minister of Lands of the time who was a friend.
- Reg Barnwell had a hotel at Thornton after WW2; he was a relative as his wife was Bill Allen’s aunty. The Rennies were also relatives.
- Grandmother Mary Gallery brought out relations from Ireland and Hoban was probably one.
- Mansfield was the home of free, educated, Scottish, settlers with money. In the ranges the culture was completely different and there was little mixing between the two. The ranges culture was more deprived, faced more adversity, had a tougher environment, fewer facilities; a mining culture of great raconteurs

- Jack Allen got the 10 Mile pub later on. It has 10 -12 bedrooms & a large dining room. He employed gardeners; did a lot of slaughtering at the butcher shop; before there was refrigeration slaughtering happened at the markets; Jamieson, 10 Mile, Gaffneys Creek, Matlock, Woods Point, etc. Butchering was done by the manager!
- The headquarters of Allen Brothers was Thornton, which became their focus after the first Darlingford was flooded. There they had a hotel, bakery, butchers shop & abattoir, and property which spread out from Thornton all the way to Wonnangatta. The property at Thornton was used for fattening; cattle were brought down there from Enoch's Point. They also supplied the Melbourne market in the 1920s. At this time the hills were dying. Uncle Tom's base was Thornton; Ted was at Darlingford; Jack was at Ten Mile and went broke as the mines declined, & died in penury near Alexandra. Ernest lived at his wife's Mansfield Hotel & moved to Darlingford when Ted died. George & William died young
- Ted loved the bush & went to Wonnangatta a lot; he was the key Wonnangatta man, & Fred Fry helped him.
- When mustering you had to tire out the cattle; run them down with the aid of dogs. Cattle bred in the bush were exceedingly wild & very very hard to get. We always mustered other peoples stock and sorted them out; we never touched anyone else's brand, but we got cleanskins where we could.

Name: Jim Ware Date of Interview: 1977

- Edwin Stoney was a dealer
- St.Johns wort came to the Howqua valley from Wonnangatta when Phillips & Ritchie had it. They used Wonnangatta as an out station where they carried mixed stock: Herefords and shorthorns. They did some breeding at their home stations.
- Tutson was a garden flower at the old Seaforth station. That station carried sheep, & was taken by the Lovicks.
- Naughtons brought sheep to the lower end of the Howqua valley when conditions were dry in NSW. The country was more open then; before the rabbits; and the wild dogs weren't too bad.
- Bob & Frank Klingsporn put sheep on the top of Mt Buller. They would have been the first ones there, probably mid-1880s; definitely in the 1890s
- Jack Bullock had been to Wonnangatta with cattle before WW1; he worked for Phillips & Ritchie. He and his 3 brothers went to the war. He was a light horseman. He knew who killed Barclay. He knew Barclay well before the war. He used to go down to Bob Klingsporn's.
- Jim Bullock worked Naughton's sheep; there were some big mobs; probably for a year only in the summer. May have got up to Eagles Peaks.
- Frank Lovick was on the Bluff. He bought cattle & grew them, then sold them. He first lived at Merrijig; later had a place near Mansfield & lived in the town. He wintered cattle there & drifted them out in summer. Mt Lovick used to be called 'The Cairn'.
- Jim Ware started on the tops around 1918 and finished in 1934. You had to be young to succeed out there. He mainly had his own stock, & also managed stock for his father. He bought and bred. One year he had around 500 head, but usually it was less. He bought stock at 18 months to 2 years of age; they fared better if they were bred in the bush rather than coming from good country. He bought in Benalla, & even Violet Town, in late spring & before

Xmas. He bought through agents who required a minimum stock purchase of 100 head. Old cattle did well in the bush; they fattened well, especially in a warmer year; in a cool summer they didn't do so well. Breeding was not as important for him as buying. It was too hard in winter for breeding: you get cold and short of feed. He wintered his stock in the bush at the head of the Jamieson river. It was open then.

- John Ware was his father. He was attracted to the area by gold, & originally came to the area from Jamieson, around end of 1880s. When he married he selected land. When the gold went bung he stayed, & lived down the river until 1921 then he shifted to Stoney's. He grew wheat, oats, milked about 20 cows & made butter which he sold to Mansfield. It was packed in 56 pound boxes and sent by train to Melbourne. When his children got older he went into beef cattle. But even after 1907 he kept about 100 sheep; they wore bells to alert him when dingoes were troubling them. When he shifted up stream to Stoney's he kept a few sheep which he sold at Merrijig. They were shorn by the family with a blade, & the wool was sent to Melbourne by Dalgety. He generally didn't sell sheep, & kept them for slaughter at home. But in the end he had to give them up because of the dingoes. He shifted to Stoney's in 1921 and 6 years later to Merrijig & at that time Jack Ware took over management of the Howqua property.
- Refers to the Herald newspaper, 5/3/1934
- They packed out the iron for Ware's hut on Mt Clear in the 1920s. The cattle track was up 8 Mile spur to Bluff saddle, then around into the Jamieson river valley. Jim Ware's cattle were wintered in the left hand branch of the Jamieson river.
- Hoskins used to pay social visits, and sometimes they brought pigs to old Wares. They wintered their cattle in the Barkly around Sunday spur and below.
- Wonnangatta syndicate put stock out to King Billy. Ted Allen went out there, with Jack Rennie. They used to come past old Ware's up the Howqua. Bob Elliot was the manager of Wonnangatta, & Bill Hearn before him.
- We used to burn in late autumn, after mustering. The 1939 bush fires were weeks coming in. They came from Woods Point & burnt the Howqua; ended up on the Timbertop side of Merrijig. There was not much feed around Timbertop so there wasn't much there to burn.
- They burnt the lower areas whenever they could.
- Frank Lovick used to graze the top end of the Howqua valley in winter. He used to call it Bindaree, & referred to it as his outstation.
- Fred Ross and Jack Bullock put some cattle up around Buller, in the forest, in the early 1920s. Not sure where. George Lovick and a few other people impounded them. The Lovicks were always feuding with someone.
- The yard at Jamieson hut (higher up than the present one) burnt in the 1939 fires.
- We didn't salt much, and didn't muster with salt – no-one mustered with salt. We used dogs.

Name : Mrs Kelly (daughter of John Klingsporn snr) Date of interview: 1977

- My father John Klingsporn drove cattle for Phillips & Ritchie at Wonnangatta; he mustered for them. Ritchie had Delatite station; Phillips had Glenroy station; these were largely sheep stations. However, cattle from Wonnangatta were wintered at Mansfield & sold at the autumn sales. Cattle bred at Mansfield were put on the tops.

- John Klingsporn was dealing in cattle in 1915. He bought anywhere, even Holebrook and Denniliquin. Sometimes he bought in autumn & ran the stock on the roads for winter till the snowy tops had cleared. But usually he bought around September; mostly steers if he could get them; shorthorns, devons, red polls were the main types then. They acclimatised on the tops after a while; most were only on the tops for one year, then sold. They were bought at 2 years old; seldom anything smaller.
- The roads around Mansfield were always grazed. The council had a chain with tag arrangement that the cattle wore; you had to apply to council to agist on the roads & then you were issued with chains & tags. In the horse & buggy days people didn't worry about cattle camping on the roads. No-one kept an eye on them; they were mustered in spring & each man got his own stock out of the mustered group. Four or five graziers at Merrijig used the long paddock, & did so when feed was short. Motor cars heralded the end of road grazing.
- Bush runs were seldom used to winter stock; not many hill people bred then; they were mainly buyers: Lovick bros, Jack Ware, John Klingsporn, Frank Klingsporn
- In 1918 Phillips & Ritchie sold Wonnangatta to Allen bros. They had Howquadale station & other cattle properties at 10 Mile, & Darlingford. They had bush runs. The original Allens had selections at Thornton on land now flooded by lake Eildon.
- The Bullocks were a wild family. Bill B.snr hunted scrub cattle and wild horses around the King River. Scrubbers were right through to Mt Buffalo.
- Old Bullock & his 4 sons lived at Barwite on the Broken river, but worked anywhere. They didn't have their own runs, except for Jack Bullock after the war. Jim Bullock worked at Tolmie for Jack McLeod from after WW1 to 1930s. McLeod had the run from No.3 out to Mt Cobbler. He was a dealer & he ran anything. His father was an early settler at Barwite, but didn't have runs. Jack McLeod inherited his father's farm at Barwite, & the bush run was a side line. He didn't have much of an idea; he bought some Queensland stock, big stuff, but didn't do much good; he lost a large % of them; this was around 1926, the year of the fires. The runs were a sideline for most graziers who had them, but Jack Klingsporn was primarily a bush man.
- Jack Klingsporn (dad) was born at Woods Point; his father came from Germany & after farming at Woods Point selected at Merrijig (Happy Valley; Purcells now have it). Jack Snr had the run from Mt Stirling to No.3. Grandfather ran horses & sheep & cattle in the bush – Buller & Buttercup – no-one else was interested in the bush runs in those days. Grandfather cut a track onto Mt Buller and another on to Mt Stirling. He ran sheep on the top of Buller in the early days. The sons minded the sheep. The sheep were also turned out and not minded from time to time as there wasn't a dingo problem then. Klingsporns used to run sheep on King Billy too.
- In the 1926 fires Bob Klingsporn had sheep on Round Hill and Little Buller, & lost them all.
- In 1922 when I first went out there were a few sheep on King Billy; Frank Klingsporn never got them in & they had gone wild. He stopped putting them out there after 1919.
- Wares bred a few head, but mainly bought. But in the 1930s after the depression cattle prices improved & it became expensive to buy stock, so then people did more breeding. Of course the large stations were always breeding.

- In the 1920s runs were a living for quite a lot of people. Before then anybody could put out cattle without taking a license, but by the 1920s the government exercised more control & not everyone could get a license.
- Jack K snr, Jim Barclay & Jim Fry worked for Phillips & Ritchie. After P & R sold Wonnangatta Jack K snr went into bush runs on his own: 1/around King Billy & onto Mt Howitt & Mt Clear down to the Macalister; 2/Stirling run, through to Mt Howitt; 3/ Razorback run through into the King river.
- Jim Barclay was the manager at Wonnangatta. He lived there. He visited Mansfield often & had a hut at Howqua Hills when he came over this side, 3 – 4 times a year. The hut was built before my time. He could have been working for Bryces.
- Jim Fry lived at Howqua Hills. Worked anywhere; was a bushman, did a bit of mining, bit of everything; worked for the Allens too, was an old man then.
- Mitchell's creek: In the early days Hoskins had it, & had cattle in the bush from Woods Point to Mt Clear, and around Kevington & Mt Skene. In the early days there was a store at Mitchells Creek to supply the local miners; goods brought by packhorse from Woods Point and Gippsland. Hoskins had the store and a selection where they grew a lot of food.
- Wagons from the railway to Woods Point were common into the 1920s
- The Haflinger Club had pictures of the old Homestead & were going to rebuild it.
- Bennie had the Cobbler run; and we had the Razorback
- Richard Dale, from Barwite, had cattle on Mt Skene & ran with the Hoskins
- Arthur Dale was a forest officer, & was the agistment manager. No relation to RD.

Name: Jack Ware Dates of Interview: 15/5/1977 and 23/7/1977

- Concerning the Forests Dept forest agistment system: it allowed others with large lowland properties to come in & push out the pioneering settlers. Bush graziers lose a good many head during winters due to feed shortages and inaccessibility. The tops should be left for local people living in the area.
- My parents ran a few head & were the first graziers on the Bluff – King Billy. Together with my uncles / Klingsporns we were the first to put a track out onto the Bluff.
- Jack Ware worked for Klingsporns for years, on Mt Buller minding sheep. He started when he was about 16 years old. He used to stay up on Mt Buller with sheep all summer and was paid 10 shillings per week. This was around 1906. If sheep weren't minded they would wander away & get split up & vulnerable to attack by dingoes. His duties were to keep the flock together, & know where they were. Eventually the dogs got so bad that Ks gave up grazing sheep on the tops. After WW1 Jack Lovick got the license for Mt Buller because he was a returned soldier; it was taken off Klingsporns.
- When Jack Ware was shepherding for Klingsporns (uncles) the sheep were all over Buller. Their cabin was near where the public toilets now are. Sheep were on the top of the range right out to Stirling. His uncles also had cattle out around Mt Stirling. JW helped them muster cattle in autumn; came down the Round Hill. Klingsporns took their cattle into the Howqua valley for winter
- On the Razorback there were only cattle; Graves had from Stirling to the Razorback. He had half breeds, partly Hereford or shorthorn cross; he bred and bought

- Barclay went into the Jamieson river via the 8 Mile track, & out to Mt. Clear; this end of the Bluff was used by Frank Lovick
- Lovicks had cattle on Mt Cobbler, and cabin & yards in the King River
- Jack Ware squared the timber for Bluff hut.
- Stoneys came from Darlingford
- Aboriginies came to 16 Mile for flint during the summer; they mined flint on our property
- Jack Ware snr was the first to live at Howqua Hills; he cleared the property. He was hemmed in all winter
- JW jnr took tourists into the bush; packed their things.
- Fred Fry worked for the Forests Dept and Weeds Board; the area was once very thick with rabbits; and St.Johns Wort was salted. Fred Fry originally came from Mitchells
- Mitchells is deserted now. When Hoskins lived there it was a beautiful place with fruit trees. Stores were packed in from Jamieson. JW doesn't know how it got to be named 'Mitchells'
- Hoskins ran cattle on Mt Skene in summer. They shared Mitchells with Jim Skene and his wife & 2 – 3 children. It wasn't freehold; in those days people just settled anywhere suitable. After Hoskins & Skenes left Mitchells wasn't used for a while; then later was used for summer grazing.
- Chester used to come out to Mt Clear from Heyfield. A very very honest man.
- Myles Higgins was supposed to be mixed up in the Wonnangatta murders. Barclay was supposed to be involved with his wife. But Jack Ware thinks the main reason for the murders was likely to be over cattle duffing. Barclay was a heavy whiskey drinker
- Barclay lived at the old mining manager's hut at Fry's Flat, before he was employed at Wonnangatta. Before WW1 he was partners with Jack Bullock
- Jack Bullock married my aunt. He had about 50 cattle & ran according to what the country would carry
- In 1918 Jack Ware went to Woods Point and worked in the mines for a few years. He also cut railway and tramway sleepers in Gippsland, at 5 – 6 shillings per sleeper. He came back to Howqua Hills in 1930 & went onto the Bluff with cattle; about 80 – 90 head. Some of the Guys cattle wandered out to the Bluff. Guys also let their stock wander out to Mt Clear, as did Chester
- Jack Ware ran 60 – 70 head; & he used to lose lots. Cattle were often stolen; you couldn't trust the Lovicks. In this country you need to be able to trust one another. Wares cattle were wintered on the low country around the Howqua home, but used to wander down the Howqua and duffers would pick them up by truck on the road near Jamieson & move them off to Melbourne. Jack Ware worked on his own & had trouble handling all the stock, & Lovicks & Davon made things more difficult for him when they used to pinch them.
- Wares also wintered stock in the Jamieson valley, & in the early days Jack Bullock & Jim Barclay did also. When we were on our own we wintered in the Howqua valley only.
- The Jamieson country was not good for cattle in later years & then no-one used it.
- Jack Ware and others cut the track up 8 Mile to the Bluff. Jack Bullock & I put in a track to Mt Clear up the ridge between the 2 branches of the Jamieson River & out on the main ridge, & came back onto King Billy. We ran cattle back onto King Billy; parents had a hut on King Billy. We had a camp at Mt Clear, which Bryces used once.

- In 1924 Jack Ware was cutting timber for the mines; in the 1930s when he was married he came back to Howqua
- Wares were originally from Jamieson & Woods Point. Mining was the centre of their activities, and transporting stores up the river to the various settlements.
- The Lovicks, especially Frank and Jack jnr have not got a good name. When the Forests Dept introduced the grazing restrictions they used to cheat by wandering a few head out to the tops before the official count. And they were involved in rustling; bit by bit a head or two would disappear, now and again.
- Hynam had a lease of the whole Howqua Hills area last century. They ran sheep, & the homestead is now owned by Lovicks. When the mines were operating at Howqua Hills the Lovicks had a hotel & bakery & butchers shop. John Ware snr, after he finished crushing ore, worked for Hynam, looking after his sheep.
- Naughtons came for a few years; obtained a lease. They brought sheep to HH in a drought period.

Name: Graeme Stoney Date of Interview: 1977

- Edwin Stoney first grazed the Bluff in 1943/4; was with Jack Ware. Frank Lovick was there in the 1930s. They ran out to King Billy & Mt Clear. They would camp at Guy's yard at King Billy at mustering time. They also used to camp at the Bluff hut site. Mustering took 10 – 14 days
- In the 1950s graziers on the Bluff were E Stoney (350 – 390 head), Ray Kelly, Archi Cameron & Jack Davon. The other 3 didn't have many cattle. They all dropped out & Jack Ware finished in 1956/8
- The Guys didn't stock Mt Howitt or King Billy after the early 1950s.
- In 1958/9 Jack Lovick lost the Buller run & was given King Billy to Mt Clear end. Built his hut around 1960
- By 1961 only the Stoneys were left on the Bluff. In 1960 there was heavy early snow & they lost about 60 head. That's when Davon & the others dropped out.
- Stoneys have been constantly dropping the number of head they run; now down to 290; 250 – 290 seems right for good management. When they ran out to Mt Clear they had 390
- Jack Ware also had Eagles Peaks & The Governors, up Lickhole Creek, & this used to be good grazing. Wares used to bring cattle up over Lickhole Gap to the Jamieson hut (track up the Governors, Rocky Ridge to 8 Mile). According to Jack Ware the Jamieson country used to be more open
- Jack Ware snr was the first pioneer settler at Howqua Hills. He came up with the miners & had a selection at Tobacco flat – he experimented with growing tobacco here, & also had a small flock of sheep & a few cattle. As it was impossible to get into the valley in winter he grew his own vegetables. He had shacks on Mt Clear & the Bluff
- Klingsporns cleared the track to the Bluff. Lovicks & Klingsporns didn't get on; Klingsporns, Hearnnes & Wares were friendly
- The Stoneys came from Mirboo North, and Edwin S bought Mather's family property at Mansfield in 1942. They also had the Gilmore family property at Darlingford, but after it was flooded by lake Eildon they bought 'Minto' in 1950

**Mitchells Creek & Mt Skene**

Name: George W Hoskin Date of Interview: 20/6/1977

- Millers creek had gold & it runs into Mitchells creek
- W.H Hoskin was GWH's grandfather. He had a butchers shop at Benalla & the last property up the Jamieson River at Jamieson. He took up a selection at Mitchell's Creek & then cleared the land. His brothers & sisters were there, & they had men working for them. At one time there were about 6 men employed clearing land, & that was around 1912/13. WHH didn't do mining; he kept the Jamieson property when he moved to Mitchell's creek. His son George H sold it before the depression.
- The original track to Mitchell's creek went up the Howqua – Jamieson divide. Later the government mining track was constructed along the Jamieson River & it became the main access route.
- Improvements at Mitchell's: trees rung & cleared, chock & log fences, 6 – 7 paddocks, hay shed, stable, cow shed, saddlehouse, fowl house, pig styces & a 2 storey storage building with apples at the top & almonds, etc below. The 3 Hoskin children were taught at the house by an employed teacher.
- WHH raised a lot of pigs & drove them over Howqua Hills for sale at Mansfield. Once they drove out 90 pigs. They killed about 5 or 6 each year for home consumption. They also milked cows for their own consumption, and bred some cattle – Hereford bulls & Shorthorn cross cows. The cattle were kept till 4 years old then driven over the hills & down the Howqua River to Mansfield. In later years they drove the cattle to Jamieson.
- Cows & horses were kept at Mitchell's, & in winter a few other cattle were kept there. In summer a few hundred head were put up on Mt Skene and Sunday Spur. Stock that was missed at muster would go down the sides into the Barkly River, and some went under Mt Clear & Mt McDonald, but would come up to the tops again next summer. Each year they would sell about 80 – 90 head. In summer they had contact with Arthur and Joe Rumpff who ran cattle onto Mt Skene from the Gippsland side; they had a lot of cattle. Most of Hoskins' herd was wintered in the Jamieson River at Wren's Flat. There were always a couple of workers – inc Fred & Ralph Fry who were there nearly all year round looking after the cattle, salting & fencing.
- When the Hoskins family moved out of Mitchell's creek, about 1913, they shifted to buying stock (rather than breeding) because otherwise the cattle would have become too wild. They bought cheap stock, especially in droughts, at Benalla & Violet Town. At this stage Richard Dale came in with GH's father as the buying expert. They bought stock at 18 months to 2 yo, & sold at 4 yo; mixed sexes, Herefords, Shorthorn crosses and a few black polls. They would buy 200 head at a time, & generally carried a lot more cattle; at times they could have up to 400 head together – depending on cattle prices and the seasons. Cattle were still put onto the tops in summer, & wintered in the lower bush, but didn't go out there as much. They always had 12 – 14 head at Mitchells as the grass there was good.
- In the early days they only had about 100 acres at Jamieson, but after they moved there after 1913 they milked cows, fattened some beef cattle which were supplied to a butchers shop at Gaffney's creek. In some years they would also fatten in the bush.
- Sheep were kept at Mitchell's while the family lived there, & were driven to Jamieson for shearing. They had around 300 sheep which were kept for wool & domestic consumption.

The wool was sold at Mansfield or sent to Melbourne. So their main sources of income were pigs, wool & cattle. Other crops grown for home consumption.

- Rabbits ate the bark of trees & killed our orchards after we left. But before we left there weren't many rabbits. However, before the rabbits came there were hares all through the bush, & even on Mt Skene; they disappeared after the rabbits came.
- GH moved out of Mitchell's in 1910 & lived at the Jamieson property. Uncle Steve stayed at Mitchell's with Grandfather till 1913, and then he left for Queensland, on the Darling Downs where he ran a farm & a butchers shop. When dad moved to Jamieson he started to do other jobs, & worked for the CRB from time to time. He also did most of his schooling at Jamieson.
- The Frys lived at the Mitchell's house when working for us. Fred Fry got his house at Howqua after he left Mitchells. That was before 1920. He had a wagon of his own and 8 horses. There were many wagons on the roads in those times supplying Woods Point. Rosses had 3, Cuthberts 2, Trenfields 3, and Allens had about 2.
- Jack Allen at 10 Mile had the hotel there until Clary Poole bought it. Allens had cattle at The Springs, & sold at Mansfield and Alexandra. Ted Allen did most of the cattle work.
- Jim Barclay used to come across to Mitchells for social visits; he was friends with my father. That was before he managed Wonnangatta, when he ran cattle on the Bluff. Hoskin's cattle were wintered on the Jamieson River below the junction of the left & right branches. Barclay's cattle often came down the left hand branch of the Jamieson. He may have also wintered stock in the Barkly River, as we did. From Sunday Spur to the Barkly River there were wild oats.
- We used to burn in summer time, whenever we could; we would do a bit each year; and each site probably burnt every 3 years. We would burn wherever it would burn, on tops, in gullies, anywhere. We burnt the snow grass in the hills to keep it sweet.
- Mustering took 2 or 3 weeks; we had yards at Sunday Spur, Mt Skene, and at Mitchells Creek. Cutting out was done at Mitchells. At mustering time we would meet other graziers: Grimmes from the Barkly; Carmichael, who was later bought out by Rumpffs. Lovicks were on the Bluff & had quite a lot of cattle; they wintered on the Howqua; bred Herefords mainly. And Jim Ware used to go out to Mt Clear & winter in the Howqua. He brought cattle over under Eagles Peaks into the Jamieson valley then up to Mt Clear via a spur in the right hand branch
- Richard Dale, George Cameron & GH snr were in together for a while; Dale started with us just after we left Mitchells. Dale's mother had the Court House hotel. Years ago dad & Dick Dale tried sheep (wethers) on the tops, but the snow came early & they got caught. This was a dry year; they went out pretty frequently to watch them; the dingoes were not a problem at that time.
- In 1914 other people had stock on the tops on agistment. Over 100 head, probably from Mansfield, and a lot of horses (about 40). The mountains were good in the drought.
- Everything was burnt in February 1939 and we had to bring all the cattle in. All around Sunday Spur and the upper Jamieson was burnt, even Mt Skene. All the tops were burnt out; only little patches were untouched. Rumpffs lost a lot. After the 1939 fires the country got too scrubby and this reduced the carrying capacity.

- We went out of cattle in 1953/6 when father (Geo) died. Between 1930s and 1950s we didn't run many in the hills. We stopped going out to Mt Skene in 1950, and after that we kept just 60 head at Mitchells. When Hoskins finished with the tops no-one took the Mt Skene run.

Name: Bill Sutcliffe Date of Interview: 1977

- There used to be a school at Mitchells and 40 or 50 students; before the 1880s. There was a large mining community there then. And there were houses at Wren's Flat
- There were 4 – 5 Hoskin families – George H had 8 or 9 children; relied on family labour

### **Tambo / Buchan Watershed**

#### **Nunniong Plateau**

Name: (Bill?) Johnson, of Paynesville Date of Interview: 24/11/1977

- John Mitten was working as a stockman on a station near Beechworth. He was a great horseman. Richard Bentley had a similar background. They both stuck together till Mitten (BJ's grandfather) married. Leaving Beechworth they rode to Omeo station looking for work. The station manager challenged them to ride a very spirited horse – if they could ride it he would give them a job. They worked at Omeo station for quite a while, & then moved to Timbarra. Omeo station owned Timbarra & had the runs, & Mitten & Bentley went there. The hut they lived in was there for a long time. When Mitten married he moved to Bairnsdale, then later shifted to Buchan. Buchan station used to have 20 or 30 men doing stock work, fencing, possuming, etc. Later on at Buchan Mitten worked as a bullock driver.
- It was rumoured that Mitten & Bentley left Kiewa because they were mixed up in some shonky stock business. In the old days if you wanted a horse you would just steal it. And cattle duffing was rife in the old days. Bill Johnson remembers that in one dry year, around 1914/21, Jim Duke put a lot of cattle out on Nunniong, but between then and mustering time he died. His nephew took over and at muster only the poor stock was left; the good ones had been duffed. Drought years were a duffers harvest.
- Jim Duke used to drove bullocks to Omeo & Glen Wills for quite a few years, well before WW1. After or during WW1 he carted machinery there. He gave up bullock driving in 1922-7
- Dukes had land at Gelantipy, Bruthen, Ensay & Omeo. Old Billy Duke selected land at Buchan caves. The government bought the caves reserve land from him. The caves were known before Frank Moon explored them. The holes were open & you could walk into them. Just that no-one bothered going into them till Frank Moon did. He really explored them thoroughly. Cattle associated with Dukes run were from Gelantipy
- Mitten was very fond of the Aboriginals. They were around where he worked; Buchan and other districts were full of blacks in those days.
- The O'Rourkes had Gelantipy station & Suggan Buggan. They also had land in the Omeo district. Michael O'Rourke owned Gelantipy in the early days. BJ remembers him as a large man with part of his nose bitten off by a dog.

- Davidsons had land around Nunnett – the open grounds – in the early days. They owned land at Buchan
  - J. O'Rourke – from Ireland; 3 sons:
    - \* David
    - \* Christie, Black Mountain, died a young man
      - \* John, Wulgulmerang
    - \* James, Wulgulmerang -> Port Albert
      - \* James jnr
      - \* Mitch
      - \* Edward, 1<sup>st</sup> permanent settler at Suggan Buggan, then to Omeo station
        - \* Edward J jnr – sold Omeo station to the Pendergasts
- Edward branded 600 calves one year at Suggan Buggan

Name: Mr & Mrs George Mitten Date of Interview: 24/11/1977

- John Mitten was born at Bargo Brush, NSW in 3/10/1834 – he was GM's grandfather. He had a lot to do with the Aboriginals; helped them. Married at Omeo 5/11/1866. Was at Omeo till 1871 or later, then to Bairnsdale, and in 1881 moved to Buchan. He selected a little piece of land at Buchan; built a home on the banks of the Buchan River. Married an Irish girl called Skene.
- Richard Bentley settled at Timbarra & made cheese which he sold at the Omeo gold diggings; went to Omeo via Ensay North.

Name: Mick Murphy Date of Interview: 18/11/1977

- Nunnett was the only place on Nunniong plateau that was ploughed. Grew wheat. The plough is still there, right from the cattle yards on the plain. It was ploughed at least once.
- There was a dairy back to the right of the plough, on a timbered ridge. There was a hut too, with a bark roof, & yards. They milked about 60 cows. Destroyed in fires. The remains of McCoy's hut are still there. McCoys was the main camping area.
- Cattle are not attracted to salt on Nunniong, perhaps because of the basalt soil
- Jim Holstens from Reedy Flat trapped Nunnett for years, in the 1920s. He used to get 100 rabbits a night for years. It was a living. He camped there all winter & scraped the snow away to set the traps.
- The Lowe Plain hut was built in 1940
- The ruins of the Quinns plain hut are near the cattle yards. It was there in 1928, but later burnt down
- Paddy Wilson reared a family on Nunnett. Tom Wilson was born there. He worked for McCoys cattle – oldest in the district. He had his own cattle, & drove a bullock team on the roads in his spare time. He also had the Albion Hotel at Swifts Creek, and the hotel at Doctors flat. Paddy Wilson also lived at a roadside camp at Saw Pit creek. When he was at Nunnett a mob of blacks came out, & he had to keep firing muzzel loads out of the window to keep them away.
- Richard Bentley thieved cattle. No-one knew of Bentley's plain at the time, & that's where he first took his stolen stock. He would steal from Ensay & Swifts Creek and sell on the Buchan side

Name: Bert Yapp Date of Interview: 23/11/1977

- He remembers Paddy Wilson as an old man in the 1890s; he then lived at Timbarra
- The Doyle family from Bindi milked cows at Nunnett & sleged the milk to the Swifts Creek butter factory. They camped out at Nunnett, milking for about 2 years; Tom Doyle & his family. They needed feed, & there wasn't any on the low country. No-one really lived up on Nunniong / Nunnett: only camped in huts at Lowe, Quinn, & Bentley plains
- Charlie Francis was one of the best bushmen. He worked for McCoys. He fenced the Nunnett paddock – a log fence cut from the local timber. He camped at Lowe Plain in a shack that is now burnt down
- F.C Lowe was on Nugong working for McCoys
- I was there in 1909 – 1914; it was clear country. I mustered in the snow & had 300 head. Other graziers out there were McCoy, Commins & Murphy. I brought cattle from Gillingal; it is only a 2 day trip
- F.C Lowe had something to do with Quinns plain. He had a bit of land at Bindi; not much. He worked for McCoys.
- In March 1922 the Crown Lands Investigation Committee visited Nunniong. Members were George Simms, F Mott (surveyor) and Mclvor (Closer Settlement). The Doyle property at Bindi had been cut up for soldier settlement & the committee went up to look at the plains for relief grazing for the closer settlement estate. It didn't eventuate. Mott & co got lost one night. Mott & George Simms had a row over which way to go. They split up & Mott walked out to Bindi. Bert Yapp went out & found the others in the head of Back River. Mott was a decent fellow; he came out 3 miles from where he should have. Bill Murphy rode all night looking for them, but couldn't find them.
- Yapps had 19000 acres at the head of Junction creek, Parish of Ensay, & they put cattle at the head of Back River, Mt Nugong & Bentley's flat. We had 80 – 90 head.
- The seasons are much warmer now.
- Jim Duke had a fair few cattle, mainly bred, at Ensay
- Everyone used to get their own cattle; they mustered together at times (early 1920s – 1930s): Peter McCoy, Tommy Hamilton, Jim Cummins snr, & Bert Yapp. We camped out there once with snow everywhere; we ran Mt Nugong & Bentley's flat. We all worked together. Murphy at that time had his own cattle. In 1922/3 he brought cattle from Buchan river run. But no-one lived up there full time to Bert Yapp's knowledge; just camped in huts at Bentley's plain & Nunnett. The huts were small log structures.
- The hut at Lowe Plain was McCoy's. McCoys took cattle in via Bindi; they took a lot of stock, hundreds, some bought, most bred. Herefords mostly. Brought most out in winter, but did leave a few out there. The cattle would generally keep below the snow line.
- Bill Murphy worked for McCoys and ended up with a lot of stock of his own
- A Yapp (Arthur Y the father or Bert the son ?) had cattle there one year; & also set traps for possums.
- 1939 fires: the wind was from Mt Hotham. We had cattle on top then, & had fenced across a steep gorge to stop cattle coming home. We lost 80 cows, burnt or suffocated. The soot was so bad that the chooks went to bed.

Name: Miss Yapp Date of Interview: 27/8/1977

- The Doyles comprised 3 families with a total of 9 – 10 children, residing in 3 houses on the same property; had their own selections but ran them collectively. They started with sheep, but when the butter factory opened at Swifts Creek they went into dairying 100%
- Their property at Avonmore was 6000 acres, & they had 5000 sheep, & cattle on Nunniong according to a letter from Miss Annie Jones (who would be 81 yo now) Gerald Doyle is the son of Tom Doyle
- They were dairying on Nunnett only for one year; for a very short period; sold out soon after. She doesn't think they had beef cattle. Tom Doyle's wife was the one who had the cows up at Nunnett. They had a camp there. They had to go up because the water would dry up at Bindi. They lived up there for one summer; in a hut. The posts of the old milking yard are still there. They hand milked over a dozen cows. Jim Doyle milked down at Bindi
- Doyles sold out because they were making no money, and to educate their families. One child became a solicitor; another was a teacher. They sold out to Hyem & the property later passed to the closer settlement commission
- Albert Boucher was a soldier settler; he had the idea to use Nunniong but didn't. Had intentions of putting up sheep in a bad year.
- Quinns used to own Nunnet; were the first owners. They later owned the Doctors Flat hotel, and land and a store. Mrs Quinn was previously a Mrs Lowe; Lowes & Quinns are step brothers & sisters.
- Charlie Francis & his brother looked after Yapp's cattle before WW1. They used to muster cattle up on Nunniong; great bushmen. They could sleep outside; knew the bush, birds, etc
- Mr Yapp came from Herefordshire, England, in 1869 & selected here in 1877. Our cattle would stray from Bindi to Nunniong, & Charlie Francis would know where
- In the old days in summer the grass in the lowlands would die off quickly

Name: Doug Duke Date of Interview: 29/8/1977

- 1931 (9?) fires – Cummins & Duke had 3900 sheep out on Nunniong. We were up there for 6 weeks; kept the stock alive, but there wasn't much feed there. Nunniong was a cattle run. When we had it Grandfather had Gelantipy, then Buchan, then after WW1 moved to Ensay. McCoy's had Nunnett. There were no roads in 1939. For the six weeks we stayed in tents; there were 4 of us: Jim Cummins (16), me (20), Tom Duggan, & Bill Ah Chow. Bill Ah Chow was our cook; an entertaining old bloke; he spent his life on the runs with packhorses & trapping dingoes. Sheep would be yarded at night & daily we would take them out looking for food. The fire followed the Bindi track, hell of a roar; but we didn't know what happened till next Tuesday. Hodges had the run adjoining & they told us what happened. The fire burnt right past our camp, which was in a scrubby patch of timber which hadn't been burnt. Tommy went for supplies; he saw something coming that looked like a Mallee dust storm. We had to watch the sheep closely otherwise they would dart into the bush. We just go the sheep together (about 4 o'clock) when this thing hit us (6pm). Was dust and ash. I went ahead bleating like a sheep & Jim Cummins behind, & we couldn't see; we only had to go ½ mile to the yards, but the sheep didn't like going into a head wind. The fire came through about 6 o'clock but only lightly as the area had been burnt earlier. But the wind was so strong; just this awful wind. The fire burnt the Ensay side of the plain, burnt around the plain as there wasn't enough grass on the plain. Next morning, Sunday, we went towards the

wheat fields; Monday – Tuesday rain. The wheatfields are only little plains, a few acres in size; 1700 sheep would cover it. I don't know the hell why we went out there. We were there for 6 weeks; Cummins stayed longer. Sheep were being affected by the needle bush.

- Dad and others put in some very tough times up there in the snow. Got TB & other complaints – the cold got to him. In the early days everyone had huts; Cummins built their hut nearby later on.

Name: Gerald Doyle Date of Interview: 6/9/1977

- Doyles had a license for the Nunnett run in the early 1900s. In 1905/6 the rabbits were so bad that we moved the dairy herd up there: father, mother, children & a jackaroo named Harold Hurley, and 20 – 35 cows. There were no rabbits up there and the feed was very good. We sent cream to the Swifts Creek butter factory; milk to pigs & poddy calves on the tops. There was no wheeled transport to Nunnett. We were up there for 4 years. We had tents & bush furniture & a communal kitchen / dining room. To transport the cream we had a sled which had the capacity to carry 10 – 12 cream cans. We had a pair of wheels on an axle; on the way up we had part of the sled on wheels. But on the way down the tail was dragged. Two horses were required for the job. Cream was taken down off Nunnett three times per week. In those days everyone had dairy cows. Going to Nunnett was a desperate throw; there was just no feed at Bindi. But the inaccessibility & the difficulty carrying out the cream meant it wasn't really a proposition.
- GD doesn't remember any fencing on Nunnett; the boundary of the plain was pretty thick bush & the cows stayed with the feed on the plain; doesn't remember any cultivation
- Prior to this the Nunnett run was used purely for grazing. Bullocks used to be turned out there in late spring – summer. The beef cattle were wintered at Bindi in a dry gully paddock, & droved to Bairnsdale for sale.
- But we were mainly in sheep, & the wool clip was taken by bullock to Mossiface and shipped to Melbourne. Very heavy fleece was produced at Bindi. But when we had the dairy on Nunnett the rabbit impact meant that Bindi could no longer sustain sheep
- After we sold Nunnett McCoys used to come down from Nunniong past us; that was when I was 7 or 8 years old.
- We had our own bullock team. Most supplies in those days were shipped from Melbourne to Mossiface, then collected by bullock teams.
- Phil Murphy worked for Doyles at Bindi. And Bill Murphy worked for Doyles on Nunnett, keeping an eye on the stock (before dairying time). Once he noticed some of Doyle's stock was missing. They had been put up early because the snow had gone, & Frank Moon (who opened the Buchan Caves, duffed them to Wodonga.
- Charlie Francis the dog trapper, spent all summer on Nunniong; lived up there alone. He brought a Chilwell mirror to Bindi from Bairnsdale to trick the dingoes. He lived in a tent; was a professional dingo trapper; would sell the hides & got a bounty on the scalps.
- Fred Lowe had land on Bindi creek. The Murphy family moved up there after he left.
- Hugh McMillan lived at Swifts Creek.
- Doyles had a stock agency office at Omeo, & owned a shop there that they rented to a solicitor. The stock agency did well until the crash came; then clients failed to pay & that was the beginning of difficult times.

- Bindi station bred horses for India. There was a strong demand for Limestone bred horses as they had stronger bones & were good for the army.
- Doyles left Bindi in 1911. The rabbits destroyed the grass roots. In one rabbit drive at Bindi 930 rAfterwards, John Armit, a pioneer of contour ploughing moved onto the Avonmore estate. He had 6000 acres, mostly broken country, & he spent large amounts of money on wire netting fences.
- GD had a bachelor uncle & 3 aunts who went to Bairnsdale; Jim Doyle took property at Cassilis with his son. We went to Tatong (near Benalla) but the 1914 drought put an end to our dairying, & we moved to Melbourne

Extract from a letter to Ron Grinter from Gerald Doyle, dated 1/3/73, & viewed 28/8/1977

- The Doyle & Harrington families originally came from Tipperary County, Ireland, and they selected at Gordon, Mt Egerton; probably attracted by the gold rush. Doyles had a gold mine named Lola Montez; value unknown
- Grandfather Harrington was a carrier; operated a bullock team between Ballarat & Melbourne
- Abe & Mick Harrington, & the 3 Doyle brothers (Denis, Tom & Jim) with their wives & 3 single Doyle sisters, left to take up land already selected in the Tambo valley. The 10 Doyles left Melbourne for Bindi the day Ned Kelly was hanged.
- Evidently the Doyles had a fair amount of capital for they prospered, assisted by some excellent pasture land and generous rainfall.
- The set up was : Avonmore 6000 acres, Bindi Station, Yapp property (about 1500 acres) and land of some other small settlers, inc Mullie McAdam, Fred Lowe & the Gibsons
- Omeo at the time was on the crest of prosperity: Glen Wills, Sunnyside, & Cassilis mines were in full production. But the prosperity was fading when I was young. The Doyles had decided as a sideline to open a stock & station auctionerring business in the town & prior to the bursting of the land boom did very well. But this last disaster broke most of their clients and bad debts wiped out the business.
- The Doyles were in local government; Denis was president of the Omeo Agricultural society; Tom stood for state parliament as a Labor candidate & failed, and was also chairman of the local court of petty sessions.
- George Francis was a dingo trapper & had a gait not unlike that of a dingo stalking a young lamb. He once invested in a Che val mirror in Bairnsdale & transported it by packhorse onto the top of Nunniong to follow up a theory that a dingo would come up to inspect the strange dog in the mirror (trap beneath)
- About the notorious cattle duffer Harry Moon: his brother Frank opened up & exploited the famous Buchan caves. Harry Moon often visited Bindi. He was a first class bushman and once worked on an ingenious stunt. Snow lifted early from Nunniong one spring & Doyles had sent their cattle up to the grazing lease there. Harry realised the Snowy River would not flood from Kosciusko for a week or two, mustered 100 head of these cattle, & set out across country to the Wodonga sale yards. Immediately he got across the Snowy river the river came down a bunker & Harry Moon continued his droving to Wodonga. But unfortunately for him Bill Murphy & another man missed the cattle, tracked them to the banks of the river,

swam the roaring torrent, & picked up the tracks on the other side, & overtook Harry, eventually getting him another (gaol) stretch.

- Bill Ah Chow, a half caste Chinese, worked alternatively for Margetts (Bindi station) & Doyles. With the outbreak of WW1 BAC travelled 75 miles on horseback to Bairnsdale to enlist. He was rejected on the grounds of defective teeth.
- Doyles had bullock teams carting between Bairnsdale and Omeo – loads of wool, etc
- Doyles at the turn of the century were a fairly happy clan. Three households within a half mile of each other: Jim, Denis, Tom.
- Rabbits multiplied enormously when they arrived, and reduced the carrying capacity of the land enormously. An endeavour to control the pests with rabbit proof fencing and destruction of warrens by burrow digging and fumigation had little effect in that type of country, and the cost, financed by a mortgage on the property was prodigious.
- Jim Doyle, the eldest, was killed in an accident, & the indirect cause was a rabbit – his pony shied at a rabbit crossing its path, the girth broke & Jim fractured his skull & died. The older Doyles, getting older, worked hard to stave off crisis. Tom moved a dairy herd to Nunniong, where there was good cattle feed, but the time consumed in transporting cream from Nunnett to Bindi by sled (9 miles) and a further 16 miles to Swifts Creek butter factory, and cartage of supplies to Nunnett foredoomed this effort to failure.
- In 1909 there was a serious drought & an unusual phenomenon ended Doyles' occupation of Bindi. The property was sold as a going concern to Hyem Bros. Denis & his sisters moved to near Bairnsdale; Jim took a property at Cassilis, and Tom leased a dairy farm at Tatong. Most of the family went to Tatong, but the 1914 drought put them out.

Name: Michael Murphy Date of Interview: 28/8/1977

- Doyles had a dairy on Nunnett & carried the milk /cream to Bindi by sled. They tried packing it on horses but it turned to butter. About 60 cows were milked, & there was a big 3 roomed hut with shingle roof, made of local woolly butt; and a dairy shed on the plain.
- At the same time, & before, Doyles had beef cattle which they bred. Herefords. The milkers were Jerseys.
- There is an old plough at Nunnett which was used to plough the paddock for hay & oats. Only in summer.
- Doyle's property at Bindi had orchards. The family comprised 4 boys & 2 girls, & not all were married. The 2 girls & 1 or 2 of the boys used to go to Nunnett – cultivating & taking out the cream by sled. They were out there from Xmas to the end of March.
- Then they lost the runs, being beaten by McCoys at a competitive tender. Old Jim Doyle rode out from Bindi to Nunnett and burnt the paddock fencing, the hut & all – he wasn't going to let the incoming tenant have the improvements. The Doyles were milking there in 1914 on their freehold, & the burning down happened around that year. After that they didn't get on with the McCoys.
- Lowes had Nunnett before the Doyles; would have been there 20 years – Fred & Race Lowe, the Quinns & the lot. Fred Lowe had a property at Bindi – Avonmore. He also lost his run to McCoys. Race Lowe was in partnership with his brother at Bindi. When they sold out he went to Cassilis & bought a store.

- William Murphy came in about 1920 – he rented Lake Hill from the Forests Department. He used to shepherd for the Doyles, on Nunnett. When they did dairying there they didn't have sheep, but did have in drought, including in 1914. They had cattle in the bush at the same time. In the past cattle were usually left up there for winter. In a normal winter there is only about 18 inches of snow, and it often melts. There used to be plenty of wild dogs there.
- Charlie Francis was a possum hunter who camped up there for most of the winter, at Charlies Farm. He would shoot all night in winter; and he worked for the Doyles in summer with cattle. He used the cattlemen's hut at Quinns Plain and at Nunnett. When possum hunting in winter he would stay in a tent & roam around with his dog
- W & M Murphy lived there most of the summer; came home at weekends & for provisions. They built a hut there in 1946 when the road was put in via Bentley's Plain. They carted in the iron with horse & dray. Before 1946 they camped in tents where the hut is now.
- Lui Pender & a man trapped from August to the end of October for rabbits; rabbits were thick, & fetched 9 shillings per pound
- With rabbits, Murphy ran about 500 head; Commins had about the same number. Now if you run 1200 the place is eaten out.
- Hugh McMillan camped for the summer at Quinns Plain hut. He ran cattle owned by the Dalgety's stock agency after WW1 – around 1920; he was subletting from the McCoys.
- William Murphy looked after McCoy's cattle before 1920. After that he got his own cattle (around 1920) and camped up there with them. All stock generally bred; would join the cows & bulls on the low land & then take the cows up.

Name: Jim Commins Dates of Interview: 13/6/1977 & 28/8/1977

- Lowes had a paddock on Little River, near JC's
- JC's mothers father had Bindi station (Margetts). JC's grandmother was a Hunter – descendant of James Hunter
- T H Hamilton was the last of the squatters. He came here in the 1880's & had Ensay, Tongio, Brookville stations & BHPs run. He lost a lot of cattle from the BHPs which disappeared to the north east.
- T Hamilton & JC's father went up to Nunniong together; they used J J Duke's run
- McCoys were early settlers here. Bon Roth is related to them. Jim McCoy was the settler, & his son Peter, & Tom Hamilton & JC's father took out cattle together. Jim McCoy had a fair spread of lowland selections, mainly at Jacob's Meadow (originally), & later also Ram Rod Flats
- Cattle were grazed on Nunniong, and sometimes in a bad summer sheep were put there for about 6 weeks.
- Sheep were put on the BHPs in 1938/9, but again only for about 6 weeks, in the worst of the summer. T.M Hamilton offered agistment for 15000 sheep on the BHPs, probably in the 1880s. But he was mainly a breeder.
- The pattern of cattle management was different back then. Now the emphasis is on young cattle, & the bush is not place for them. In the old days cattle were turned out into the bush at 1 year old, & stayed there till 4 yo, & survived quite well. The cattle were not forced off Nunniong by the snow. They would just move down into the gullies, some on the Little River fall, some into the Timbarra, Reedy Creek & Melick. When cattle grow to a bigger weight

they need the bush. On the tops grass grows between the trees; it's best on the basalt country, which is better than the lowlands.

- McCoy's track was up the left hand branch of the Little River, up to Nunniong. Another track we used was up the right hand branch. McCoys were not dealers in a big way; mainly breeders. Old McCoy loved cattle but he also kept some sheep on the lowlands to pay the interest. McCoys put breeders up on Nunniong as well as dry cattle; possibly put up all their cattle, depending on the season.
- T.M Hamilton liked short horns (1880s). He co-operated with selectors ! He used their land and paid for agistment; and they worked on his station; & he helped them clear land. It was a good arrangement.
- Murphy ran on Nunniong for 20 years without paying for it.
- The impact of rabbits on Nunniong was great & it became only of marginal value. The sons of old Jim McCoy gave it up, and Dukes were reluctant to use it as they were frightened of Murphy; he ran over the whole of Nunniong & put it over the others.
- The rabbits were very very bad on the lowlands; they were swarming in good years. 1914 was a bad year & you could run them down. This knocked people back – sent them broke, especially the larger landholders. They were also bad on Nunniong. On Lowe's Plain & Quinn's Plain they would eat the ground bare 150 yards in from the timber. Beyond that some grass would grow as the rabbits were frightened to go too far out into the plain because of foxes. Also, much of the land towards the middle of the plains was too wet for burrows. Around the edge of Nunnett plain the burrows were really bad. We bulldozed the burrows in 1965; there were huge warrens. On Lowe Plain the rabbits probably got all of it. I used to run down rabbits on horseback.
- Kangaroos were not too much of a problem in the past, but they have bred up on the lower country especially as there are now fewer dingoes. Their populations in the foothills have increased to pest proportions. In winter they come onto the paddocks; in summer they're back in the bush
- Run holders put out horses which they were breeding for the Indian remount market. Today's brumbies are the descendants of them; now need thinning. Duke & McCoy probably ran some horses out there; we have lost some horses there too. Brumbies are smaller in size, because they have to struggle through winter; they are a tough, hardy, smaller kind of horse
- Sheep put on the tops in dry summers were always shepherded. JC did it in 1939 for us & Dukes. That was about 2000 sheep, around Lake Hill to Timbarra flats, to the wheatfields & back. There were yards at Quinns plain, & also at the wheatfields. We mainly worked from these yards, & we were there for about 6 weeks. In January – February 1939 JC was out there with Tom Duggan (in charge), Doug Duke (Bairnsdale) & Bill Ah Chow. JC's father worked on Ensay station in his younger days & also worked for McCoy
- Dukes had land at Gelantipy & Buchan. They were mainly breeders. J.J. Duke was the first, & his grandson Doug had the Nunniong block in his name. Duke's route was from Gelantipy up the Buchan river & up Diggers Holes or Mundies to the Wheatfields or Quinns. Harry Duke often got lost in an area now called Harry's paddock. Duke's areas were Quinn's Plain (on 14 & 15) and also on the Buchan River. Once Harry Duke & Wm Murphy had a row at the Bairnsdale sale yards. All salted.

- Nunniong has improved since the introduction of mixomytosis; the open areas used to be full of rabbits
- In 1939 the stock put out on Nunniong belonged to Bill Murphy and James Lilburn Commins. Dukes didn't take any
- The Avonmore estate soldier settlers didn't go on with Nunniong. They were to get a lease but didn't want to be bound by the requirements of the Fences Act – so didn't go on with it. Boucher did most of the spade work for the subdivision proposal, & the block he was going to get was one of the most productive. He knew most about the country. The others got cold feet, especially about the issue of running stock there without fences.
- Nunnett paddock: Jack McCoy tried to sell it to my father; it was then in the middle of Murphy's run. Eventually Boucher bought it, but it wasn't used much – only cattle in summer. Many years ago Doyles had Nunnett & dairied there & carted cream to Bindi; it was a pretty inaccessible place then. They took the cows there for summer & it gave them an extended milking season. They gave up Nunnett before 1908. Doyle's low land property at Bindi creek is as close as you can get to Nunniong.
- On Quinns plain there is an old stone floor, remnants of an old hut where old Paddy Wilson lived. He possibly worked for Lowes. He had about 5 children. He was a very early identity of the district
- Charlie Francis was part time at Bindi, part time at Quinns Plain shooting possums & minding stock. Charlie's Farm was probably a clearing; Francis' camp a little clearing. He worked for different people inc Dukes & Bindi station. He camped at Quinns plain where there was a hut. There have been several huts on Nunniong. Now that there is good road access there's no need for the huts.
- Old Bill Murphy didn't worry about huts; he camped; lived rough. He had Hereford cattle & put them all on the tops, probably for the whole year. He had very little lowland, & cattle were his main business. He worked for McCoys in the early days, then elbowed his way in to Nunniong & got established there. People were scared of him.
- Cattle duffing happened from time to time. When working for McCoys, Murphy was instrumental in catching Harry Moon with McCoy's cattle on Snowy River. Moon got 6 months in jail.
- Bentley must have been there in the early days. He didn't have a good reputation. He was supposed to have used Bentley's Plain as a quiet hideaway for duffed cattle.
- Nunnett: Doyles sent cream from there to Bindi by sled; a long distance to cart cream. Hurley operated the sled for them. Willy Margetts (Bindi station) had the run & built a log fence along Lowe Plain
- The Chillington case: This run was held by Mason & Buckley, but there was a dispute over boundaries, & the adjacent Ensay station people said Mason & Buckley were trespassing. They took M & B's cattle to the Sale pound; Mason brought them back. Ensay people again rounded up M & B's cattle & started back towards Sale. Mason caught up with them & said if they moved the cattle out he would shoot. McDougall let down the fence railing & Mason shot him. Mason served 12 years for manslaughter. Chillington may have included part of Nunniong as there is Mason's creek is near Quinn's plain. This was in the 1850s or '60s.

- Jim Simpson had a paddock at Little River, adjoining JC's land. He applied to register the Nunniong run but was unsuccessful because the boundaries were tied up with the Chillington affair. There is Mt Simpson at Bindi behind the homestead.
- Boucher used the tops very little; after he died the family took some cattle up
- The Commins family started grazing on Nunniong after WW1. JC's father James Lilbrun Commins, was a lawyer & practiced in Bairnsdale. After the war he took a subdivision of Ensay station & made an arrangement with Dukes to put cattle on Nunniong. Nunniong was then not used by many people. As they were not frightened of Murphy they went up. Between 1920 and 1940 wool prices were low & they struggled, so Nunniong would have been very helpful. JLC went onto Nunniong in about 1938
- McCoys wintered a lot of stock at the head of Little River on 8600 acres let by the Forests Commission.
- We had about 200 head & the cows were brought out around June or July to calve. Then the yearlings were put out till 4 yo, then mustered and sold as bullocks. Heifers were mustered at 2 yo & joined. Stock for market were mustered around February / March. Cows brought off in March & put in the bush closer to home – around Little River. TF 8600 is Little River.
- For a long time the Forests Commission didn't see any value in grazing. Judge Stretton's findings leave much to be desired.
- There was a very bad fire at the back of Nunniong which made a mess of the run. It started at Mt Tambo & went through to Gelantipy & Reedy gorge. It kept off the top of Nunniong
- The 1939 fires didn't go across the plains because there was not much fuel there because of the rabbits & sheep. But it burnt good patches, & it burnt more than it didn't. Dukes had their sheep out there first, with JC & Bill Ah Chow shepherding at the Wheatfields (not burnt) for about 3 weeks after the fires, till it rained. We lost plenty. We built a temporary bush yard. Because of the wild dogs you couldn't let the sheep loose; they had to be put away at night. You needed to have more open country for sheep; whereas the cattle could get back into the more difficult country
- Quinn's Plain & Lowe Plain are grazed the heaviest because they have basalt soils & the cattle find the feed sweeter. So they eat here first. There really needs to be a fence to push them to the northern end where there is plenty of feed, but the cattle prefer the basalt areas. The northern end is good, but not as good, & it's difficult to keep the cattle there. Also, there are brumbies on the northern end and push the cattle off the small northern clearings - & they will take the salt & worry the cattle.
- Today stock are usually taken off Nunniong at the end of May. But some dry cattle will stay there all winter. In spring cattle are put out around November till Xmas; about 200 cows and yearlings.
- Harding mostly around Nunnett; Murphy around Lowe.
- The Forests Commission frowned upon management burns till the early 1940s. In the past cattlemen burnt it whenever it would burn. In the older days the lower bush was regularly used and burnt (though it is not much used today because it's of limited value for breeding cows). When the lower bush was regularly burnt it was safe to burn the tops as there would be no danger of the fires spreading to the lower country. The frequency of burning depended on the type of country. For example, the fires are more intense in candlebark

country where there is plenty of bark. No grazier wants a very hot fire as that only creates thick undergrowth.

- The manufacturing type of beef cattle are bigger – so if there was a trend towards larger cattle (ie for mature bullocks) in the future cheap bush country would be in demand

Name: Charlie Langtree Date of Interview: 28/8/1977

- Regarding the Chillington affair: McLeod of Ensay station was going to impound the stock of Mason & Buckley who had the Chillington run. McLeod or his men got as far as Tambo Crossing. Mason caught up with them & said if they took the cattle any further he would shoot them – and he did.

Name: Son Roth Date of Interview: 27/8/1977

- Reg Quinn was from Ouyen. He worked at the Cassilis store & then had a job as rabbit inspector. He & his brother Billy had cattle on Nunniong before WW1 on their own. They bred Herefords, but not too many as didn't have much winter country. Stock often wintered on Nunnett.
- Fred Lowe was at Swifts Creek for a time. He fought in WW1; was one of the first to enlist; he served at Galipoli; saw acres of dead men. He came back to Tambo Crossing and afterwards got a soldier settlers block at Doctors Flat. He was OK; a big lump of a chap; I never heard anything against him. He was never married.
- Lowes (there were a few of them) had a bit of rough unimproved low land, & had cattle on the tops. They also knocked about at different jobs.
- Hugh McMillan was a leading man at Ensay; highly respected.
- Doyles: doesn't know much about them. But in those times people with cattle had to go to the bush as most selections were too small to make a living from.
- Roths had cattle on the Timbarra
- Charlie Francis was on the tops with cattle; he lived up there with them on his own with his dogs, & seemed to like it. He was a stockman for McCoys on the runs. He was a good bloke, a real old timer. Nunniong was his home & the only way in was a bridle track. He used to come down with packhorses to Ensay store & Swifts Creek, & for a drop of grog. He lived hard & worked hard.
- Bill Ah Chow spent the summer on the tops & the winter at Buchan. Before WW1 he worked for Jim McCoy snr, & lived with them. After WW1 he spent the summer doing fire watch (at Mt Nugong ?) & also had some land at Swan Reach for a short time, before returning to work for the Forests Commission.

Name: Reg Jones, Swifts Creek, Date of Interview: 27/8/1977

- RJ used to work for Jim McCoy (the father) & P McCoy (the son) with cattle & sheep. Started with them during WW1 when I was about 19 years old
- We did shepherding for McCoys at Nunniong & Nunnett runs during droughts. Old Jim McCoy had a selection at Nunnett with an iron roofed hut & a fenced paddock. The first time I went up was more than 60 years ago in drought. Was with Arthur Newcommsi, Jack Hill & Roy King who were all employed by McCoys. Another time I was with Fred Harding &

Brumby from Bindi. We made dampers & they brought up supplies, but we killed our own mutton. There were 1900 sheep one year; 2300 another. Another time we took a mob of sheep up through Little River. Camped in tents when we had the 2300, & it rained for seven days and nights. The sheep were yarded at night because of the dingoes. We heard them howling at night. Each day 2 or 3 shepherds took the flock about 3 miles away. We used to let the sheep out onto Nunnett in the morning

- There used to be a lot of rabbit trappers up there
- There were yards at Nunnett and at Lowe Plain; and an old hut at Lowe Plain made of palings.
- Peter McCoy had a brush fence at one end of Lowe Plain, & enclosed about 1500 acres, with the Timbarra river being a natural fence line.
- I left McCoys in 1923.
- McCoy's cattle were Herefords mainly, with some shorthorn cross. Jim McCoy had only Herefords; P McCoy had Herefords and some shorthorn cross. The Dukes had Herefords & they worked in with the McCoys; a partnership arrangement on the runs. Peter McCoy bought & turned out quite a lot of cattle; he bought around the district. The Dukes and Jim McCoy were breeders. McCoys had bulls up there. They would get away into the jungles. They would leave the 2 yo steers out there & bring home the fat cattle. They used to shake in the shoulders coming down the hill
- Murphy leased 7000 acres from the Forests Commission. Before he mixed in with others he put the wind up them .... But the wind was put up him. He used to look after Jim McCoy's cattle, & on one occasion Moon shook about 12 -15 bullocks & took them to Glenmore; but the river was too high & he couldn't cross. Murphy helped track him down; when Moon came out of prison Murphy was scared. Murphy wintered about 100 head in the bush just below the snow line; lost a lot. He also brought a couple of hundred head home
- Quinns had the Doctors Flat Hotel. And had about 600 acres of land at Doctors Flat with sheep & cattle. The cattle were grazed on the Nunniong run; all colours; they were breeders. Quinns & Lowes were related & worked together. Fred Lowe had a property at Bindi. Sir Edward Mitchell bought it & sold it to the closer settlement board. Fred Lowe (jnr ?) went to WW1 & when he came back he got a soldier settler block & went into dairying.
- Bill Ah Chow worked for McCoys with cattle before WW1. After the war he got the fire lookout job. He was friends with Jim Commins & had a hut on Little River.
- Hughey McMillan was a butcher & had a lot of flats; had cattle on the Livingstone; was a dealer
- Charlie Francis fenced the Nunnett paddock for McCoys. He was the hardest man I ever saw. He slept under the stars with no blanket. He looked after McCoys cattle & trapped dingoes. He lived in an old hut on Lowe Plain & Nunnett & built brush fences by collecting fallen timber & stacking it to make it cattle proof. His provisions were packed up for him via Bindi or up Little River. He also trapped mountain possums.
- McCoys, Dukes & others grazed Bentley's plain; they do well there. RJ was there when the log hut was built; snigged logs with packhorses & with paling & shingle roof. That was around 1921. Years after Bill Ah Chow lived in it
- Dukes: - Jim (2 sons) – Bruthen  
- Harry (3 sons) – Gelantipy

- McCoys – Jim (father) – Alex, Peter, Jack, Bill
- Doyles owned land at Bindi, 3 brothers Denny, Tom & Jim. They dairied at Nunnett; packed the cream to Bindi, then to Swifts Creek butter factory. There were a couple of men working for Doyles, on top & below. They probably dairied on the tops in a few months after Xmas – summer relief. Doyles had sheep at Bindi. They eventually left because of old age: Jim to Cassilis, Tom to Melbourne
- There used to be a good few wild cattle – they would get away in the jungles & go wild. Plenty of people used to go out after the clean skins, including the Hodges & Murphys. Gelantipy people didn't always get on – Hodges
- There may have been some ploughing in Quinn's day, on a bit of ground up river from the hut. There was a big yard at Quinn's - & brush and post & rail fence.
- The year we were shepherding on Nunniong we had to leave the sheep & fight fires around Timbarra River; it came in from Bindi to the tops. We tried to block it along the river banks. That was in 1933 when we had 1900 sheep up there. The 1<sup>st</sup> year R.J went was up there with sheep he was 17 yo; the mob was owned by McCoys. Only ever went 3 times with sheep. On another occasion he had 1300 sheep, 200 of which were his.
- Horses: Tongio station had horses on Nunniong – Tom Johnston. McCoys and Murphys had about 15 each. We used to yard them for sport. Brumbies were further out on Black Range. Rogers shot 200 in about 1917. In the old days horses were cheap & so people didn't go after brumbies much.
- Clearys had sheep on Nunniong during one bad year; they were trespassing. McCoys didn't do anything about it.
- Old Alby Boucher took cattle up to Nunniong after my time. He accidentally poisoned himself – drank sheep dip mix & died.

Name: Bill Hollonds, 91 yo Date of Interview: 1977

- My father John Edward Hollond was from Orange, NSW. He went to Kiewa where he had family. He wanted to be a vet, & his Uncle Tom Gates was teaching him. He was almost ready to graduate when pluro-phneumonia broke out at Wilson & Docherty's stations at Tongio and Bindi. W & D wrote to Gates to come and inoculate, so Gates came & brought JEH with him. They turned all stock away from Tongio & Bindi to Mt Nunnett and Nunniong, with men minding them. Stock that were too sick were shot, & the virus from two cattle was extracted from the lungs & pushed into the tails of the remaining stock – this cleared up the pluro. That was in 1870. While at Tongio JEH met Mary Giles who worked at the Tongio Hotel, & they ended up marrying 5/4/1871. JEH then started butchering in partnership with Christi Rogers; had a shop near Day's Creek next to John Ah Sam. There were about 800 Chinese miners at Livingstone creek, & they wanted 1 month's terms – but some started to cheat & JEH went broke. Two years later the head manager of Tongio station asked JEH to step in for him & he stayed for 2 years. Then he managed Omeo station for Wilson & Docherty for 9 years till most of the good land was selected by immigrants. He himself selected land on the north-east boundary of Omeo station, & built a 5 room house. He finished up as manager of Omeo station on 28/8/1885. On 8/9/1885 Bill Hollond was born.
- JEH changed the cattle on Omeo station from shorthorns to Herefords, as the climate was too cold for shorthorns. At this time Wilson & Docherty had the Nunniong run

- Fred Lowe from Doctors Flat had some land at Bindi. A Quinn married a Miss Lowe & kept a hotel. Doyles lived close by & had Nunnett paddock. They had very good country at Bindi, most of which was bought by Edward Mitchell; now owned by John Armit who married Mitchell's daughter. Doyles had cattle & sheep at Bindi, but only put their shorthorn cattle in the high country; around same time as Lowe.
- McMillan was the stockman who looked after Doyle's cattle on Nunniong; about 500 head on the tops. He lived up there most of the summer. The cattle were left on Nunniong in the snow, & they went down the sides below the snow line. They were mustered in spring & brought in for calves to be branded & cows to be joined with the bulls. Bulls were always kept at Bindi. Cows were sent back to the tops after they had been with the bulls for about 12 months. Yearlings and 2 year olds were left up there. After 2 yo heifers were joined with the bulls. In the autumn muster fat cattle were brought down for sale at Bairnsdale ... so there were 2 musters each year.
- McMillan would be up in the high country all the time to control stock movement; used salt. He lived up there in a log hut, & Bill Ah Chow lived there in summer later at Nunnett.
- McCoys had selections at Swifts Creek – Jim, Sandy & Jack. They built a store at Omeo & were related to a Mrs Frighorn who had the Tongio hotel. McCoys had sheep & cattle.
- Dukes were from Bruthen, & they had only runs. Their stock would wander out to our Garron's Point run; nearly all Herefords. Jim Duke would come to the Benambra stock auctions & buy bullocks for Nunniong. He kept them on Nunniong all winter. He had cattle all through from Bruthen to Nunniong; steers & speyed heifers. Fattened stock at Bruthen & sold at Bairnsdale.
- W. Murphy was reared at Bindi. His father was Mick Murphy. WM helped the Doyles looking after stock & then took over portion of the Nunnett run, and ran cattle there till 5 or 6 years ago. He came into Nunnett after McMillan retired. WM's daughter is married to H.L Pendergast of Delvine Park, Benambra. He always wintered his stock in the steep country around Hell's Hole. He didn't have much freehold; would shift a clean skin where possible.
- W Hollond's uncle was a rabbit inspector at Omeo.
- John Scott from NSW had Black Mountain station, but sold it & bought Hinnomunjie station, which was then in poor condition being eaten out by rabbits, so he got it cheap. He lived at Hinnomunjie; Hinnomunjie now owned by his son Colin Scott. His cattle used to join ours; we sent him word & he would take them back to Black Mountain. Colin Scott owned Buchan station a few years ago.
- William Hollonds' run was Garron Point. It got a fair amount of snow. Had a summer carrying capacity of about 400 head. In most winters the cattle would move down the hill sides into the Tambo. Would bring home about 150 cows; bulls always kept at home. We let the run go as we were going into sheep & hares ate out the place. WH put up a stock yard at Garron Point, but never had a hut. From here to Tambo paddocks was a 3 hour ride; and from Tambo Paddocks to where I lived about 1 hour ride.
- Hares came from Monaro in their thousands. The family used to milk 60 cows but the grass was eaten out. Jack Kelly from Monaro said why not have a drive, as they did in Monaro. So we did one, beginning at Penders Court with 40 beaters, & 40 shooters at the foot of the Brothers. We drove up cooing & whipping, and then went further down the Morass. That day 1100 hares and one fox were shot. Shooters stood 80 yards apart; land holders provided

the cartridges. Next year we started near the racecourse near the Sisters Hill & moved to Mt Tambo. That day 2000 hares and 6 foxes were killed. And the following month from Mt Tambo to here: 500 hares shot. This cleaned up the hares & the foxes and eagles did the rest. Hares don't have burrows. There are only a few hares around here now.

- About the same time, around 1901 rabbits came down from Kiewa & up the Mitta & that stopped people milking. People then went in for netting fences & sheep. The rabbits got to be very bad – but they weren't too bad on the runs.
- Horses: there were once some good wild horses. Ken Connolly had a permit to trap them, and caught \$3000 worth between Limestone and the Cobberas. To trap horses you needed a yard and a self-shutting gate. The yard was logged up to 6 feet in height. The horses would come into the yard looking for salt, & would trip a string attached to the gate. The string was tied in a figure 4 which released when bumped. In around 1950 Eric McC trapped more than 50 head in one year. Two were sold to the stock inspector & two won prizes in jumps at the Omeo show after being broken in. Before 1950 no-one bothered trapping horses as the prices were so low, & they were shot when numbers got too high. J.C Rogers shot hundreds to clear runs for cattle. Otherwise horses would eat out the clover flats. Before trapping was used horses were run down. In the 1950s my cousin Harry Jarvis caught more than 40 horses one year, broke them in & brought them to the paddock at Omeo PS; later drove them to Wodonga & sold for \$10 -12 per head for a 5 or 6 yo horse. He ran them down at Mt Murphy. That was only in the year that he was out there trapping rabbits. The origin of the brumbies was packhorses that escaped from the gold mines. More horses are now around the Nunniong area, probably because it's better country: better feed, cleaner country, better snow grass
- Many years ago horses were bred on the Omeo plains for Indian army remounts. My father was the only vet surgeon to doctor the colts. When they got to 3 yo they were broken in & Indian remount buyers came from Melbourne to buy them. Cold climate horses stood up better to the conditions than Queensland bred horses. My father would be a month here castrating horses; then they were walked to Melbourne. Horses were generally not put on the runs as they take too much looking after. However, Osborne Young, who lived on the Omeo plains, had that many horses, some at Cobungra. MacNamaras looked after them & they took them to the HPs for grass; they were wintered near Cobungra in paddocks.
- The 1939 Fires: rain stopped the fires on the night of the 14<sup>th</sup> – they never reached Nunniong or the Cobberas. They came through Cobungra & Glen Wills to the Omeo Plains & got as far as Mt Leinster before the rain came.
- We all burnt the country – a plot each 3 years, to encourage the growth of fodder. Fires are bad in the long term as they result in too much scrub and thick tree growth. We mostly burnt around February, ensuring that cattle there could get out of the way. Everyone did it. But not in spring time. We used to ride along with a box of matches & drop them as we went along.
- When O'Rourke's bought Omeo station they came through from Black Mountain with an Aboriginal called Jambi. He lived at Black Mountain & is buried next to old Ned O'Rourke.
- When WH's father was at Omeo station a tribe used to come to Omeo for the summer & would meet another tribe on the BHPs for moths. They spent winter back around Bruthen.

- In 1902 sheep from Urana were here – about 4000 – went to the Native Dog run at the head of the Buchan River. There was a thunder storm just before Xmas and 300 sheep died in the cold. There were 5 shepherds, & they were out there about 3 months.
- Possums: when the Commercial & Colonial Bank went broke we lost money; around 1880. My father & brothers used to shoot possums – 5-6 dozen – you got 12 shillings per dozen. Silver greys were the most valuable. We needed to shoot the possums to live. WH has seen 3 albino possum skins, taken by Holsten above Cobungra. The mountain possums were that thick. Some skins were tanned & taken to Norway by Holston. Possums were so thick, bred in the trees; were sold to Melbourne buyers who came up. Later on MacNamaras snared them.
- Koalas used to migrate to the Tambo for winter. In very very bad / cold season after heavy snow koalas could be found dead under blue gum trees. In summer they walked up towards Omeo & past Lake Omeo. Wombats are now too thick as are dingoes.

### Upper Buchan

Name: Keith C Rogers Date of Interview: 29/8/1977

- I first went out to the Cobberas area with my father John C Rogers about 70 years ago
- In 1902 JCR bought Black Mountain station & the family joined him in Feb 1903. Came from West Gippsland, Buln Buln, Brandy Creek. He bought Black Mountain from Kerr who had got it from the O'Rourkes only a short time before. The O'Rourkes were the first family to have Black Mountain. They bred cattle.
- JCR was a very experienced stock man. He bought a lot of cattle in the 1902 drought & put them in the bush. Later sold them at Maffra which was the stock centre. From then on they bred up their own herd of Herefords, & have been breeders ever since. JCR also bought Wulgulmerang station around 1909 from John O'Rourke
- We had various grazing blocks. The Cobberas run was the most important for summer. Actually the Cobberas were the extreme outward point, & the centre of our country was Rocky Plains; the Playground, on Buchan River, was also very good. Generally, though it depended on the run, breeders were turned out in the high country.
- CHV Pendergast was my father's opposite on the Omeo side, & his son was Claude. At mustering time we would hold their cattle, & they held ours, & we exchanged at Rocky Plain. In unfenced country it is very important to have good neighbours. The dividing range was the division between the Rogers and Pendergasts.
- JCR used to buy stock during droughts & turn them out into the high country, and sell later. He would buy anywhere at all; NSW, according to what areas were dry. It's not necessarily drought in the mountains when there's drought in the low country.
- We had a summer hut on Nunniong Plain
- Jim Duke had cattle runs; had Gelantipy station which is very good basalt country & one of the best properties in the district. Later Henry Hodge bought it. Charlie Duke later went to Ensay.
- The high country is noted for its Hereford cattle, & the quality of breed & the way they grow. There were some shorthorns in the early days; JCR had some, but gradually they went out.
- There is no St.Johns Wort here, but there is some at Benambra.

- There were some sheep here at drought times; but before my time, around 1900. At James Camp there are salt troughs for sheep, salt being used for mustering purposes. The most important value of the salt is in controlling the distribution of the stock.
- At the present time we don't use the high country for breeders for long; we put out in autumn and late winter before calving. High and low bush is used for dry cattle throughout the year.
- Time spent in HC: we are always moving cattle about; spend several months out there, in tents mainly; only in later years did we have a hut at Rocky Plain
- Ingeegoodbee is primarily settled country, 3500 feet asl. Christie O'Rourke lived there

Name: L.C (Dick) Rogers Date of Interview: 1977

- John O'Rourke had Wulgulmerang station before J.C Rogers
- In 1901 J.C Rogers moved to Black Mountain station from near Warragul or Clyde. His father settled at Buln Buln in the very early days. JCR bought Black Mountain from McKenzie. At this time Black Mountain was at the end of the road, & from there they had a blazed track to Omeo and one to Ingebyra. A lot of cattle and sheep came from Ingebyra on the way to Bairnsdale & camped at our place. JCR was an adventurous spirit & took his family inc 3 boys to the station. Originally they bought 960 acres plus runs. They ended up with 2500 – 3000 acres of freehold and runs ½ way to Omeo and the NSW border. In the end they branded 300 calves per year. Then in 1908-10 they bought Wulgulmerang station. They mainly bred Herefords, but in later years they also did speculative buying. They would buy cattle and sheep in Monaro & swim them across the Snowy River at McKillops Bridge. Alternatively they would go through Ingebyra. The stock would be put in paddocks; they would also be put into the high country for the summer and then wintered in the lower country of Suggan Buggan. Their first main market was Maffra, where they sold real bullocks, 5, 6, or even 7 years old. They would return on average around one pound per year. Later they sold for many years to Peter Algery at Nerrim – an annual draft which we delivered to him. We also sold to John Woodside on Kiewa – Gunya Park. He sent over Cocky Robertson who came over & bought on Woodside's behalf. They would buy 4 year old stock that would have run in the bush for their whole lives. They were taken to Kiewa for fattening.
- Our high country runs: we ran out to the Cobberas and beyond to the Pilot. We used to join them on the head of the Buchan River. We ran out to Forlorn Hope, out to the top of Nunniong Mountain, and Reedy River; Wombargo, Rocky Plain, Cobberas, Native Dog, Cowombat – ie spread everywhere, & mixed up. We used to meet the Pendergasts at Limestone. The breeders were out there each summer. We put the calves around Deddick in winter. Cows were joined, calves weaned & then out they would go.
- Our routine: - muster in spring from the warmer country; - then join the breeders in the paddocks; - keep anything that they were going to sell; - put the rest into the bush till autumn (if a bad season leave them in the bush for as long as possible)
- JCR bred about 300 calves per year, and joined the young females at 2 yo
- Rogers' lived in the bush with the cattle. They would go out on Monday & come back on Saturday night. They camped in tents and packed out tucker for a week. We had a hut at Limestone and one at Ingeegoodbee – we went out to the border.

- The O'Rourke family: settled at Wulgulmerang. There are O'Rourkes in the Black Mountain graveyard. Ned O'Rourke was schooled at Suggan Buggan. John O'Rourke never put his cattle out in the high country; he had sheep. He moved to Lucknow in around 1908.
- When LCR was a kid Freebodys had Ingeegoodbee run
- McKenzie stocked the high country from Black Mountain.
- No-one had Suggan Buggan run when Rogers' arrived. We had all the runs.
- McFarlane's Flat: Claude Pendergast's people were there and in a lot of other bush country; they adjoined Freebody; they came from Benambra but virtually lived there; had log fences. Their cattle were very wild. They had a dulap
- The Freebodys were from NSW & had the Ingeegoodbee run, & they went out to the Pilot. They ran to the border on the other side. They were there when JCR first went out, & LCR remembers them still being there when he first went out. Freebodys could have managed for O'Rourkes before 1901. Freebodys were very protective about their run boundaries as they were doing shady things – including taking Pendergast's & O'Rourke's cows till they calved, and then branding the calves as their own. Hunter took a selection not far from Ingeegoodbee. But they didn't want him there so they forced him out; and they pinched our cattle. We would join the bulls & cows in the paddock, then put the cows out onto the runs. Freebodys would drive some of our cows away onto their runs & kept them there till they calved; then they would drive the cows back. They wouldn't let others on to their runs.
- Freebodys had a hut at Cowombat Flat which was actually Lou & Charlie Pendergast's run.
- Don & Mack McKay: were from 'Riverview' at Delegate. They did speculative buying of cattle during droughts & employed the Freebodys. They had cattle around Suggan Buggan.
- Freebodys were breeders. When JCR started they had very few cattle, but they ended up with a good herd
- When I was at Wulgulmerang (from 1921) Paddy & Jack Freebody used to come through with cattle. Then Jack F bought a place at Buchan & they stayed there. They didn't bring stock into Victoria for market till 1920s or '30s. Their paddock at Buchan was got around 1920s and was used to fatten stock for market.
- In the 1902 drought JCR brought many cattle from the north & put them on the runs. The winter turned out to be very mild and there was no snow; they did very well. After that JCR immediately got into breeding Herefords.
- Brown was a soldier settler. He was linked with Don McKay – LCR suspects McKay got the Suggan Buggan run in Browns name; doesn't know how. It lasted a short while & JCR never saw Brown there. He thinks McKays had it for 3 or 4 years. Their first stocking was a lot of steers of mixed breeds. McKays & Freebodys got on ok.
- LCR says starving stock were never put out on their runs – but when things were bad elsewhere we would buy cheaply & put stock on the runs.
- Sheep: LCR had 3000 sheep in the bush around Suggan Buggan and Pine Creek. They had a brush fence along the border. In the 1930s LCR bought sheep at Bourke or Orange, just before the depression, but ended up selling them at a loss. They never crossed Ingeegoodbee.
- McFarlane's Flat: When I was a child there was a big muster at Suggan Buggan. Pendergast's cattle ran in the bush all the time; were very wild. There were Limestone Pendergasts and McFarlane's Flat Pendergasts ; they were cousins, but they never hit it off together

- In 1919 I bought a lot of cattle at Wodonga & kept them in the bush for 12 months, then drove 600 head to Corryong for sale at public auction. The short horn – Hereford cross stock were from Queensland. Paid 70 s for the 3 yo bullocks; 10 guineas for the 4 yo bullocks; and 17s 6d for heifers. Money was scarce in those days.

### **Upper Murray (Limestone, Cobberas, Davies Plain, Gibbo-Pinnibar)**

Name: Bill Hollonds Date of Interview: 16/11/1977

- Uncle Bill H was the rabbit inspector; he was from Kiewa & ran horses on the high plains. After he was dismissed as rabbit inspector in about 1901/2 he started grazing cattle at Garron's Point. He bought 3 paddocks at the head of the Tambo river from the bank, and used to live there and at Benambra. He bred cattle & our cattle ran with his. We let bulls run with the cows all the time, & heifers had calves to their fathers; were very nice with down horns. Robertson from Albury bought them.
- O'Rourkes were from Suggan Buggan to Black Mountain. For some years Mrs O'Rourke and her brother Mr O'Brien from Canberra had Omeo station. They bought it from Dougharty & Wilson. They retained Black Mountain & Mr O'Rourke went back & forwards, & lived at Black Mountain mostly. A blackfellow called Jemby helped him shifting cattle between the two places. The O'Rourkes used the high country. They eventually sold out, with Pendergasts buying Omeo station (& they still own it)
- Lowe's cattle used to come onto the Tambo end from Nunniong. McMillan used to muster them & take them back to Nunniong. Garron's Point creek flows into Nunniong creek which then junctions with the Tambo River. J.C Roger's cattle used to come onto our run from Black Mountain & from Native Dog River. Some of Colin Hume's cattle from Wulgulmerang also wandered out.
- Pendergasts ran out to the Cobberas & our cattle got close, to the head of Native Dog (Buchan R)
- Murphy had Buenba, and then the Pendergasts got it & ran it in conjunction with Merringo & Beloka creek, & down Limestone River. Limestone junctioned Garron's Point at the mining track. Lou & Creamy Pendergast own it
- Connollys had Buckwong - & have 3 paddocks at Beloka; a lot of cattle.
- WH knew John Murphy well. He was a cattleman from Monaro. WH stayed at their place. Mrs Murphy used to take whiskey out to JM. They reared a family at Buemba. John M liked the grog & Mrs Murphy started a shanty at Benambra in 1901. The son, Jn M jnr worked at Tongio station for Wm Johnson. WJ didn't allow work on Saturdays; on that day he drank at the hotel. Murphys were on their own at Buemba, & had cattle in the scrub. Had cross-breed bulls. Their stock were sent to Maffra for sale along with Pendergasts; 30 shillings for 3 yo bullocks. Murphys moved to Benambra from Buemba before WH was born. Then WJC Pendergast took on the Buemba run & joined it onto the Tom Groggin run. Tom Groggin passed to George Worcester, then T Nankervis, then a Brisbane syndicate.
- Jo Gibson was raised at Beloka. His father Jo snr kept the place & brought cattle back & forward from Mt Pinnibar
- Road reserves were always grazed in winter; fencing was bad

- One year the O'Rourkes bought cattle in Monaro & took to Omeo station via Black Mountain – infected with pleuropneumonia; generally O'Rourkes didn't buy much.

Name: Jack Pendergast Date of Interview: 16/11/1977

- His father James P got the PR paddock. Had cattle all through in the 1870s. They had stock in Limestone creek all year round; turned out as calves in autumn. They mustered 2 yo heifers and 3 yo bullocks. The Cobberas was part of the lease & used in summer; lower country for winter. The cattle weren't mustered off the higher ground: they came down themselves as weather got colder, down this side (Limestone) or the other side (Freebody's run). They would muster in spring & take them up to the Cobberas & leave them there. The snow was not bad enough to catch them; Cobberas was good summer country. They had 400 – 500 head in Limestone. A lot of Gibsons cattle would come down to Limestone; Rogers also
- We also used Blue Hill, Rams Horn, Native Dog – Claude Pendergast leased this country & we all ran together
- Bramby Hill, on the Buchan-Tambo fall: in our time Fred Soutter had it & Jack Hollond; before them Fred Jarvis & old Bill Hollond. Fred Jarvis would buy stock at Wodonga & drive them across via Mitta & Mt Wills; he would buy 200 – 300 head.
- Old George Worcester was around Mt Misery to Long Plain
- Gibson's were from Mystery to Groggin, & came into Limestone
- Neddy O'Rourke had Suggan Buggan, and Rogers had all the country from Native Dog creek & Rocky Plain back to Black Mountain. Freebody had country above this & had Ingeegoodbee run; ran mainly in NSW
- We used to go out to Forest Hill. Freebody was not out to Cobberas much. Rogers were nearly out to Native Dog (they came onto Big Hill). Claude Pendergast had the Native Dog run for a long time.
- In the early days cattle were droved to Maffra for sale as stores – auction.
- WJC Pendergast had Beumba
- Most stock in the bush died in 1914, and also in 1923 because of drought – no water. Only at Limestone creek and Barramah river had water then. The Cobberas dry out in summer.
- James Pendergast, WJC's father, ran out to Mt Gibbo; Omeo creek head to Mt Hope, Dinner creek. Made tracks out to Mt Hope. Bred Herefords; no-one else was there with him. He did all the work from Buemba hut; no huts on the tops
- Pendergasts had Groggin once; Worcesters had it before them. Most of the Groggin runs were out to Kosciusko
- Would winter stock at Buemba and then muster in spring, taking cows and bullocks for sale. We branded 400 – 500 calves; may have had up to 2000 cattle. Sold at 3 or 4 yo
- Routine: muster in August, then in & out till Xmas; in autumn turning out cattle 6 – 7 months old to one year

Name: Claude Pendergast Date of Interview: 17/11/1977

- It was a bit hot out there with the Freebodys around the turn of the century. We originally go on well with them, they are distantly related to us by marriage, but there was a falling out with them. You needed a good neighbour in the bush

- Claude had a 35000 acre lease covering Native Dog to Cowombat flat. CHV had a run out there too
- We bought the property at Benambra because of the rabbits, & put a good property together; got it before 1896 when CP was born. We bred & grew stock, selling at 5 yo ... which was too slow.
- In 1914 9000 rabbits were taken out of one paddock.

Name: Bill Gibson, Date of Interview: 16/11/1977

- BG's grandfather & grandmother were from Scotland. First lived at Melbourne, on 40 acres at Ascot Vale growing horse feed; also had land at Brighton. They selected at Benambra / Beloka in 1875 after having worked on the Yan Yean reservoir carting with a horse & dray. They were one of the first selectors in the locality. He grew wheat & sheep, supplying the nearby gold mines, then went into cattle. A bit later he went out to Buckwong. I don't think anyone had the run before him. The run included Davies Plain down to Pierce's selection at Groggin. Buckwong adjoined Buemba, but was run on its own. WJC Pendergast selected at Buemba
- We always had Herefords; bred our own stock. Young cattle were wintered along the Buckwong creek, with cows & calves kept at the freehold paddocks here. Bullocks were grown to 3 yo then sent to our Riverina paddocks for fattening before being sold at Newmarket.
- We mustered off the tops as the young cattle were there. We had yards on the tops. Used to take bullocks out via Khancobin to Riverina property. Or if we had too many to take there then we would sell (the balance?) to Sam Riggall at Byron Lodge, Heyfield.
- John Gibson at Corryong, & James Gibson at Benambra were partners
- Buckwong hut was built in 1918 from iron from mining huts
- We never grazed the roads, but we had cattle on agistment at Benambra. Waverley was Gibson's
- Osborne Young was my uncle. He bred horses for many years; good, well-bred army re-mounts. He sold them at Wodonga. He grew the horses on the runs & sold at 3 yo. They were broken in in India. When the horse market dried up he went into sheep. After he died his daughter carried on the property. Jack MacNamara worked for OY, & took the horses up to the HPs. OY looked after the studs; others did the bush work
- Gibsons also had a lot of horses just on the property here, including race horses
- In the early days Gibsons kept here about 2000 breeding cows & turned out onto the runs 500 yearlings each year. Sold at 3 or 4 years old.
- See Harry Peck's book, p 328 for section on the Gibsons.
- WJC Pendergast had Buemba run – had well bred, quality Hereford cattle. He lived in the bush there & also had 1000 acres at Mt Leinster. His cattle used to stray onto our country at Buckwong. He operated in a similar way to us. WJC P also had Wheelers Gibb to the Gibbo road – adjoins Pinnibar
- John Pearce had Tom Groggin & Nankervis took over from him
- Jo Gibson had the Pinnibar run. Jack G & Jo snr were brothers. Jo jnr went to Thowgla & I bought their 350 acres at Beloka.

Name: Norman Pendergast Date of Interview: 19/11/1977

- WJC Pendergast's father was James P
- Neil & John Pendergast took Buembah after John Murphy gave it up
- WJCP and Murphy helped Gibsons build their house
- WJCP managed Buemba himself. The country was clear & he kept it burnt. He bred most of his stock but occasionally bought cattle. He had a lot of cattle. He lived with them & only came home on some weekends, & then headed out again. In autumn snow would put the stock off the tops. He used to live up there & keep them up there. Stock would be wintered in Wheelers Creek. There was one muster, in spring time when WJCP would bring the breeders into the paddock country around Mt Leinster. He grew bullocks up to 8 or 9 years old. They were never really fat; were sold as stores. He had a permanent buyer for his bullocks – S. Riggall, who would buy 100 – 200 head at a time. S.Riggall also bought from Omeo station; he was a big bullock buyer, usually Herefords.
- There was one hut on the big Gibb at the head of Stoney Creek. WJCP spent 4 days in a week at the top hut – to stop the cattle coming down so he could save the low country for winter
- WJCP and Jo Gibson worked together a bit.
- WJCP had about 1000 head in the Buemba area and some in the paddock country at Mt Leinster. He had bulls on the run. He employed help to get the cattle on to the tops, but after that he handled them on his own; he virtually lived in the bush.
- Norman P used to help WJC P and Gibsons. Gibsons would have about 900 – 1000 head out to Davies Plain. There was Pierce's yards on Davies Plain, at north-east end on top. Dick & Dave King managed for Gibsons & put in most of their time on the tops. They camped in huts at Davies Plain, Buckwong, keeping cattle from wandering into Groggin, & bringing them back. They would muster cattle back to Buckwong, away from Groggin. They left all their dry cattle in the bush; cows were brought to home paddocks to calve.
- Ben Wheeler brought bulls over from the Corryong side & stayed with Neil P. NP would get the pick and the rest was auctioned at Benambra – this was around the turn of the century. Up until 30 years ago there were bull sales here, & Corryong people would come across.
- In the old days the top country was often better than the low paddocks; and rabbits weren't on the tops either.

Name: H.L Pendergast Date of Interview: 22/11/1977

- Tom Pendergast came across from Monaro in 1835 & set up a grazing operation. He established Omeo A station & managed it till 1851 when he went back to Monaro. He handed it over to his 3 sons. Omeo plain was a vast open country & never had a tree on it.
- By around the early 1860s the 3 boys had large bush runs :
  - \* John P – Buemba
  - \* Bill P – McFarlanes Flat
  - \* James P – Limestone
- Limestone was an outstation of Mt Leinster & Jas P spent as much time there; he bred out of Limestone too
- The early years were Rafferty's Rules

- Billy P's boys were handling McFarlane's Flat; there was a disagreement with Freebodys and they were thrown off. They were there a long time before this happened.
- Worcester had Buemba once
- They would have grazed the Cobberas from the very start as it was the pick of the Limestone country – the main grazing ground. 50 years ago they used to exchange cattle out there with the Freebodys. They had the Tin Mine and Ingeegoodbee run – very good run, top stuff; all snow country but with many sheltered areas. We met them at Cowombat Flat.
- Claude P had a lease taking in the back of the Cobberas
- The O'Rourkes were more down Suggan Buggan way. When he died Neddy O'R had cattle in the hills. O'Rs had a settlement below Ingeegoodbee.
- HLP first went out to Limestone when he was 8 yo. HLP had a pack horse team & packed supplies out from Mt Leinster to the Mt Pilot mine. Took 2 or 3 days.
- Sometimes in a bad year, if cattle didn't sell at market they had to be brought back for boiling down
- Limestone was a family thing, and 7 or 8 people were involved. Gold was found there in 1851, and there was mining there around the turn of the century. WJCP mined professionally there from 1910 – 16 – sluiced - & took out 1000 ounces of gold. There were water races that a chap built for tobacco & tea ! Old James P found caves there, & when he found them he filled in the entrances to stop them being damaged. Marble is also there.
- In the early days certain areas were set aside for heifers, cows (breeders), etc. Each division of cattle was separated & cattle could be educated if you could stop with them for long enough. We would have spent 11 months of the year in the bush; there used to be men at Limestone hut all the time. The number of cattle would be up to 1000 head – cows, calves, yearlings, 2 yo, 3 yo; sell up to 4 yo
- Droughts: one year all the cattle died & James P marketed only one calf – so to earn money for food he went packing food to here from Port Albert; that was in the early days.
- James P: - L.H P – always worked for his father  
- C.H.V – worked on his own at Limestone  
- WJC – pulled out from Limestone after a number of years & went into Buemba
- Till 1914 we use to drive cattle from Limestone to Maffra auctions; sold as stores. We bred mainly but also bought a number.
- James P was into breeding cattle in a big way. But he lost all his cattle twice. First in the 1902 drought.
- In 1972 was the first time in history that Limestone creek stopped flowing.
- There was little in the way of capital improvements on the runs. Freebody had a settlement at Cowombat Flat, & he cropped there. He had a few acres sown to grain for bread; and packed in a chaff cutter on horses. This was before my time, 1900 – 14. Freebody had a stallion out at Cowombat Flat & it needed to be grain fed: that was the motivation for cultivating Cowombat Flat in the first instance. They had paddocks out there
- At Limestone Pendergasts grew our own wheat & ground it – around the turn of the century; it was an established practice. The basic diet was beef & bread. We had a plough out there.
- HLP went out to the runs in 1928

- We all let horses go to fend for themselves in the bush during dry years – in Pendergasts & Freebodys. That was the origin of brumbies there. Drought was more severe in the past as there were not alternative sources of feed. Today you can bring in feed.
- HLP has no knowledge of starving stock being put out at the Cobberas.
- The sons of William Pendergast, JAC P & WJ P, had the McFarlanes Flat run before Freebodys. Freebodys got them off by out-tendering them for the run. Ps couldn't keep their horses off McFarlanes Flat & Freebodys were awarded 1 pound per head compensation. This was in 1908 – 14 – 18, no earlier.
- Rogers did come out to the Cobberas but it was the edge of their run, & they were mainly around Reedy river, Suggan Buggan, head of the Buchan river around Native Cat, and Freestone at the back of the Cobberas. They came into the picture much later than the Pendergasts.
- Davies Plain – doesn't know much about it.
- Soutters had Forlorn Hope run
- Tom Sheean had a selection; was not very successful; struggler.
- Whites had plenty of land – heck of a lot in 1870s & 1880s. But by the 1930s they were in a bad way because of droughts, rabbits, etc. This was a desolate & desparate area up until the 1930s; very poor. Bad seasons, low prices, high interest rates; no money in the country, and in the 1920s & '30s especially labour was very cheap. So people were always looking for gold. In the 1920s & '30s there were plenty of people through the mountains looking for gold – that was the only thing with a bit of gilt edged security. We were lucky we got by. It was not until the late 1930s that prosperity hit here
- Osborne Young & S Young once took 500 horses – remounts; had a heck of a lot of horses on the high plains, but virtually no cattle.
- Cultivation of Buemba flat.

Name: Joseph Gibson, Thowgla, Date of Interview: 28/4/1977

- Grazing block 46 used for heifers
- Run boundaries were a bit of a query
- It took 3 days to get to Pinnibar: 1<sup>st</sup> – to Bullock creek; 2<sup>nd</sup> to Surveyors Creek; 3<sup>rd</sup> to Pinnibar. We had yards at these places.
- 50 years ago we took up 1000 head; later 100 – 120. WJ Pendergast also had about 1000 head around the same time.
- In 1900 John Gibson got Pinnibar. He had moved from Omeo to Thowgla in 1899.
- The first European at Pinnibar was Jack Toland who was hunting blue possums. He was out there by or before 1898, & he had a camp between Mt Pinnibar & Horseshoe creek. He burnt the country while he was out there; at that time the country was heavily covered by bark & leaves. Toland had country on the other side of Gibbo, not far from Pinnibar. But he didn't put cattle up at Pinnibar. He reckoned that the country wouldn't grow grass, so he left. There wasn't much grass there then, but it came good after rain in 1902, before the drought, & during the drought the grass came up very good. John Gibson didn't have many cattle at this time, especially for the size of the run (29,000 acres). He was the first to put stock out there, & that was in 1901.

- The best mountain grazing is between 5500 – 6000 feet. The last 1000 feet on Kosciusko is no good because of the snow, & wind & rocky land; the weather is too bad. The lower peppermint country is not good for summer grazing but in winter cattle will stay on it.
- Cheynes took up over 5000 sheep to Pinnibar via Wheelers creek. The sheep were railed from Goulburn to Wodonga, and then walked via Nariel to Pinnibar. They built a yard near our hut. They left after a tree fell across their yard & killed some sheep during a great storm; they got windy. They were intending to go through to Omeo, but couldn't go any further & put the sheep onto Wild Boar, but it was too steep & had no grass so they moved on to Pinnibar. Cheynes were big stock auctioneers, & they had got caught with a lot of stock. When they left Pinnibar they came back on the Mines Department track via Thowgla creek. The sheep accident happened near Dead Finish, where we used to leave cattle. In those days you could drive big mobs through the bush as the timber was not scrubby.
- I (Jo Gibson) went up there in 1915. 1914 was a very bad year & cows died in the hundreds at Thowgla
- The lower bush runs were used in autumn, just to get the cattle off the high country before the snow. We would get them onto the low country & they would stay there a while before being moved down. The lower bush runs aren't needed any more as it's easier to get cattle on & off the tops by road transport. Also, now wages and insurance costs are too high & prohibit employing people to look after cattle out there.
- When old Jo Gibson took men up they fenced a horse paddock. There was an old fossicker's hut there & the paddock was built around it.
- There were mountain possums up there in their thousands. They used to coil up in the grass as there were no tree hollows, as the trees were too young. They were easy prey for foxes and dingoes. I haven't caught a blue possum there for years. The skins were very good for rugs; there was big money in it, much more money than cattle. Folkes used to pack them into Thowgla. There were no rabbits then. They were snared. Many people were after possums. There was a good market for kangaroos too.
- There are not many dogs here; not even at Pinnibar; they stick to the higher country.
- Wild horses never got to Pinnibar. They would go to the kangaroo grass country, around the head of the Tambo River. We never saw horses on Pinnibar.
- Simpsons were selectors & had the 6 Mile country; John Simpson et al were on the Gibbo and Wild Boar, but it was too steep. My brother had it after father died. Last year people from Tumut came around, when it was very dry, & we gave them a destination; they wanted to get on Pinnibar but ended up not going. A lot of people have a go at the country but don't know how; you must out by April or you're in trouble.
- We had 3 log huts with earthen floors; we used them for camping and salting; in later years we took out mattresses. There was a hut at Surveyor's Creek, half way out, with barbed wire paddocks. And there was a wire paddock at Pinnibar, but loggers felled trees on the fences & now we only have a yard out there. The loggers were the cause of him going out of the area. In later years we only put out dry heifers. Now we keep it mainly for drought relief.
- The worst years were: 1902 – bad in the Riverina but not here; 1914 – bad throughout most of eastern Australia; 1919 – dry in NSW but not here, & the drought broke around the end of January; 1923 – drought

- Cheynes probably just came across Pinnibar in 1902; in 1914/15 the sheep's heads were still there
- Today roads are a disadvantage for cattlemen as the cattle wander along them
- We began using super phosphate in the 1930s, especially on bullock fattening country.
- We don't sell calves; we fatten at the moment but it is getting too costly to fatten bullocks.
- Around Omeo cattlemen sell calves as they can't winter them; but the country around Towong is used for fattening
- In the old days we had a property in the Riverina for fattening – that was till 1924; then we sold store bullocks.
- No-one lived out on Pinnibar. We'd go out for a week, & then come home. Cattle wouldn't be disturbed as there were no roads.
- WJC Pendergast had the Buemba run on the Gibbo side – Mt Anderson, Mt Hope – good summer country; he had low land country too. Our run took in part of where he ran; we used paddocks he put in
- We had good Herefords, big bullocks, which were sold to a Gippsland buyer. We turned cows out after the calves were weaned – we were not selling calves in my time. We sold to someone from Glenmaggie
- Omeo was the stronghold for the Gibsons. The family originally had a selection on the Yarra River at Kangaroo Ground. Then they went to Orbost, but after floods John Gibson went up to Benambra. My father was there till 39 years old. They grew crops there, especially oats, and they had a lot of cattle and lease country out at Buckwong which joined the high country at Davies Plain & ran out to the Murray. There were wild horses out there. The run went down to Tom Groggin. The local gold diggings provided the market for crops; but cattle were not worth much till 1946
- The Omeo country is very good for merino wool: plenty of wind to keep the wool dry
- The Aboriginals were at Pinnibar for a long time. We found many axeheads and sharpening stones. They were after wombats, & dug round holes to dig them out. They were probably also there for the possums which were in the grasses in the thousands. The artifacts were found at about 4,500 feet, amongst the woolly butt; that's where the possums were, amongst the Woolly but and white gum, but not in the snow gum as it was too cold there.
- Down much lower there were grey possums.
- Snow gum is the best cattle country. We used to salt them around the huts so they would come when we wanted them
- Toland had a bark humpy well into the peppermint country. Possums were also around Gibbo where Toland was reared
- There was never gold at Pinnibar, but on the Gibbo there was plenty of gold, throughout WJC Pendergast's country. I've looked for gold but never found any.
- Omeo cattle used to go to Gippsland for sale; North-east cattle were sold at Wodonga.
- In the 1880s & '90s, in the very early days some cattle were taken for slaughter over the high plains to Beechworth; for example, Murphy from Buemba took cattle to Beechworth, because of the good prices. Then there was only a bush track from Omeo to Cobungra, to Hotham to Beechworth. Paddy White at also sold a lot to Beechworth.
- Before the land selectors came the big station owners – Evans at Thowgla, Wheeler at Nariel, Watson at Tintaldra and Walwa – had no need to go into the hills as they had too

much low country. Wheelers bred horses for India; but they stopped when the selectors came, around 1870.

- For years we used to take young cattle to NSW for winter, on agistment on sheep stations. It was good warm country with nice herbage. Then we would take them straight out to the tops. We had 450 on the road last year to Hay and back.
- In the past many graziers went for dairying because the price of beef cattle was low. Now the market for milk has gone down hill
- The 1939 fires came onto 6 Mile, but didn't affect Pinnibar; didn't get in to the good woolly butt
- The 1926 fires went up Boebuck country and killed many stag trees. We had cows & calves there; didn't lose any.
- We used to do control burning; we'd go up on the ridges & burn down – straight after the snow had melted when the vegetation was very dry. We had no trouble with fire. It was especially good with a north wind. The grass would come up well with rain and warmth. If you got a couple of days with a north wind you wouldn't have to burn again for 3 or 4 years. We liked spring burning the best. Autumn burning is too hard to control; also it's too uncertain in autumn, with frosts, etc. That made it too hard. We would burn the lower country in spring too.
- John Gibson snr also used to burn in spring; it was the best chance to burn.
- We would leave stock out later – would get as much out of it as we could, then we would have to paddock the stock. We had cows there too with bullocks, & turned them out in the lower country. The cows were brought back to the paddocks in winter. When mustering we would go for the bullocks first to make sure we got them; cows would straggle back home themselves – so were left till last.
- The Hotham area is too stoney for cattle; stoney country is likely to get dry. Snow grass is best when in seed, around May – June when you have to leave. Grazing is better at Pinnibar because there is more soil.
- Ross & Lebner truck stock in & out; the cattle don't have much contact & go wild. They are not running the place properly.
- In the past we had 3 men working, & got fencing contractors.
- Blue possums are probably extinct now around Pinnibar; grey possums are probably extinct now around Thowgla.

Name: Sid Simpson, Date of Interview: 29/4/1977

- The Simpsons came from Stanley in England. The first came to the North East around 1848. They took a mob of 20 to 50 head to Melbourne & were on the road for a few months
- Grandfather Charlie Simpson grazed cattle from Nariel to Pinnibar. He got to Nariel before 1900. He had Hereford cows and calves in the hills.
- Sid's father was Tom Simpson
- In 1911/12 Sid Simpson & his brother-in-law Arthur Cook were mustering; Jo Ashton tailed out cattle of his grandfather, in the bush. Arthur Cook's father used to pack out meat to the Dart mines
- Around this time there was a problem with Gibsons around Pinnibar. Sid says there was a court case over Pinnibar. John & James (Gibson's?) father ran through to Mitta from Nariel

- Arthur Hughes had no freehold of his own; he looked after Mrs Carmody's property after her husband died
- The Forests Commission were a dictatorial mob
- We used to run cattle in the bush in summer; there were good gullies. We would salt now & again; had a proper salt trough. Mustering took 2 weeks. We had 100 – 300 head put out at Bulls Horn in summer. And we used to breed remounts for the Indian army
- Sid took over from his father (Tom) at Nariel. After Charles S died they didn't go in much with beef cattle – they were dairying instead. But Sid used to muster with Jim Carmody out on the Dart in the vicinity of the mines. JC had a couple of hundred head; he weaned the calves & then put the stock out into the bush for summer – the Razorback, out the side of Pinnibar
- There were many possum & kangaroo shooters around the end of the horse & buggy days
- In the early 1900s the valleys were being cleared; the mines closed & many Chinamen were employed to pick up logs & burn them – clearing the land

Name: Jean Carmody, Upper Nariel Date of Interview: end of April, 1977

- The Carmodys were originally from Ireland; 4 or 5 boys came out to Australia & one, John ended up selecting at Nariel; he had previously been at Mitta. They were first miners, & then turned to butchering (probably only had a licence; when he came to Nariel he was said to be a butcher) and farming. They moved to Nariel in 1886 (possibly 1882) & they had the Gibbo mountain run before they moved from Granite Flat where they were mining. John Carmody was an expert at making water races, and he later applied this skill to the agricultural scene. His father was Thomas Carmody
- Arthur Hughes was an orphan; he worked around CC (Colac Colac ?) for many years; he was very strong & worked hard. He was a stockman, & he started buying a few cattle for himself & ran them on the roads. By the early 1920s he was able to be fully self-employed. He rented properties until he bought his own. He would buy very good stock & put them into the mountains. In 1939 he lost a few to cattle duffers. He had 600 head unaccounted for, & a chap called Bob New was caught with a few of them. He was taken to court but got off.
- The court case was in 1940 at Wangaratta court, Crown v Bob New. New had cattle belonging to Simpsons and Arthur Hughes. He had re-branded them & sold some (maybe a lot) at Wodonga. But he was only caught with a few head & got off.
- My father Thomas Carmody (jnr ?) died in 1919, & my mother moved to Corryong. The dairy herd was taken over by a share farmer, and Arthur Hughes took on our beef cattle operation as manager. His and our cattle were together in the mountains. This arrangement continued until about 1930, & then John Carmody took over our cattle; we had about 300 – 400 head. A.H was an honest man, and very thrifty. He ran 600 – 800 head in the bush, & some were in the bush all the time, though he would often shift cattle to a property at Tallangatta for the winter.
- The run used was the Gibbo range; and stock were wintered at the head of the Dart. Arthur Hughes had the 6 Mile Plateau summer country and its lower reaches; adjoined Pinnibar. About half the stock were wintered in the bush; but bulls were never run in the scrub. Cows & calves went out after being joined with the bulls. Arthur had 2.5 – 3 yo bullocks and some cows when he came in with us. The last year we had cattle in the mountains was after 1939;

and Arthur continued on for 5 or 6 years. He had 4 – 5 – 600 cattle in summer; adjoined W.A Pendergast who had about 1000 head – he was in it in a big way.

- The path to Gibbo was the same as the road. It was one day out to Carmody's yards, and another day to split them up. Me and Arthur Hughes and a few neighbours helped; we salted. After Arthur's health declined (he got rheumatic fever) we had stockmen to look after the cattle. These men were on the high country most of the summer, salting & checking (1928 – '30s). They lived at the hut at Carmody's yards. Before the stockmen were employed Arthur Hughes would go out twice a month for about 2 days. The stockmen were probably running more & keeping the stock together, making them easier to muster. Mustering took 2 – 3 weeks. They'd go out & muster what they could & hold them in a paddock for 2 – 3 days, then bring them in; then go out again for more. Always a lot were missed. We only brought out what were needed, & the rest were put in the Dart for the winter.
- The 1939 fires were very fierce, and afterwards scrub came up, so the quality of the runs deteriorated. And with the advent of super phosphate (increasing the carrying capacity of the paddock country) it became uneconomical to use the runs.
- Gibbo was very good grazing country in the early days. But Wild Boar range was the best. From the early 1920s to 1932 we had 300 – 400 head on Gibbo & Wild Boar, and about 150 dairy cows at home. In the 1920s the summer country was top class, with no scrub, and the cattle would get fat there. Wild Boar was better grazing, but steeper and not so accessible. Cattle would go out in mid-November and by mid-February would be pretty sleek. A portion of the herd would be sold straight off the runs, by private sale and also at auction sales at Corryong. We only ran Herefords as shorthorns were too soft. Carmodys were one of the first to take cattle out to Gibbo & Wild Boar; John Carmody.
- The last time we milked was in 1939, & after that we only had beef cattle, & only on the low lands.
- John Carmody and Thom Carmody jnr bred a lot of horses for the Indian remount market. The whole upper Murray was a horse breeding area; in the early days everybody at Nariel bred horses; when Jim Carmody was a boy he had 20 – 30 mares. The Tom Groggin people also had horses. A buyer for the British army in India came around & selected the horses; local horse breakers & farmers broke them in. Carmodys also bred draught horses for ploughing. The horse market slowed down after WW1 and there was a gradual decline as the British got out of India
- There used to be a few brumbies around Mitta, & lots around the Cobberas; but none around here
- Scrub bulls were also common when running in the bush; usually 12 to 18 months old
- Up to 1920 father also grew vegetables & sold them locally and at Corryong; he also grew maize & had pigs. There was a barter system that operated then
- In the early 1900s people were engaged in mixed farming; they didn't have dairy herds as we know them today.
- There was a levy on cattle crossing from NSW to Victoria before federation. There was heavy traffic of stock from Manero via the Cobberas, and also via Bonang, which was dodging the tax

- Dick and Keith Rogers used to buy cattle here or at Wodonga, or Wagga, & drove them through Nariel to Wulgulmerang. They were going at the same time as Naughtons.
- Naughton brothers owned Maragle Station near Tumut & there was a lot of traffic of sheep and cattle between there and Cobungra; around 300 – 400 head in one mob once. The number varied according to the season, & they generally came through Nariel every year. They would camp at Carmody's yards at Nariel
- In 1902 Ike Walker & Wheeler from Colac Colac camped at Strait Creek (now called Cattlemen's creek) with starving stock. They were only 10 -15 miles from Pinnibar.
- Generally people who were short of land ran stock in the hills. Economics would push you out there. We were glad to get out. We were finished with it by the early 1940s.
- The close country was good winter country till 1939; it is now improving & will again be a viable proposition in about 10 years. The 1939 fires burnt down to the bare rock & burnt the peaty soils.
- Rabbits were bad in the low lands, but not in the snow country; after 1939 we were dealing with the rabbits, but when they declined the blackberries got worse.