

Lost towns on the Bellarine

MURRADOC

Murradoc is characterised by a flat plain of agricultural land and the Murradoc Hill. It is situated between the east of Drysdale and the west of St. Leonards. The name of the area derives from the Wadawurrung term given by Europeans for the local hill. It seems to have been named after the 'Ngar: Wi: It' (chieftain' of the Bengalit clan), Murradoc (or Murridunnuck). The Wadawurrung meaning appears to be 'dark earth' (derived from Moo: Du), reflecting the dark grey top soil of the area. European colonists described Murrindunnuck as 'King Murradok'. In 1852, the 'Murraduc Estate', comprising 480 acres of farmland, was offered for sale. Two years later in 1854, Alderman Burrow offered another 750 acres in 20 acre farm allotments as the Murraduc Farms Estate, it being described as 'fine agricultural land on the fertile banks of Swan Bay.' A Church of England School opened at Murradoc in 1860 until 1881 when construction began on a new timber State School on an adjacent site. The school closed in 1931.

WALLINGTON AND NEWINGTON

Located between Leopold, Marcus Hill and Ocean Road, the agricultural districts of Wallington and Newington began in 1853 following the subdivision of part of Fairfax Fenwick's property which fronted the Queenscliff Road. Fenwick named the subdivision, Wallington, after Wallington in Hertfordshire, England.¹¹²² On his retained portion, Fenwick built his homestead, 'Chevy', in c.1853. In 1885, following the death of then then owner, William Weekes, over 4000 acres were offered in multiple allotments as the Chevy Estate. The land included leased dwellings, vineyards and other farming properties between Lake Connemara and Curlewis as well as Wallington. A second sale of 3000 acres occurred in 1886. One purchaser was David Rhind, experimental farm in cultivator, stockbreeder and dairy farmer. (see Theme 4). Two hotels were established (both named the Wallington), with the Hotel on the Queenscliff Road (Bellarine Highway) capitalising on the famous fruit grown in the area. In 1887, the licensee of the Queenscliff Road hotel advertised his strawberry gardens and that strawberries and cream were on offer.

In 1893, Wallington was favourably described in the *Tourist' Guide to Geelong and the Southern Watering Places*:

A favourite resort for excursionists, either from Geelong or Ocean Grove, is the fertile valley of Wallington. There is a hotel, store, and post office in one, and for many it has been found a centre of attraction as a wayside house. The principal place of interest is,

however, the famous Wallington Gardens, justly popular for the enormous quantity of strawberries, and other fruits. Picnic parties find this a pleasant resort in the season, and being within six miles of Ocean Grove it forms a very agreeable outing for an afternoon. Some very beautiful views of the Lakes are obtained from this locality. Cobb & Co. supply vehicles of every description at moderate prices, from the cosy two-seated buggy to the heavy American coaches, suitable for parties from six to thirty in number. The usual way in making up such gatherings is to fix the day before who is to go, and gentlemen are generally found staying at the Coffee Palace [Ocean Grove] who willingly make all necessary arrangements whether the destination be Wallington, Drysdale Springs, Point Lonsdale, or boating on the lakes.

Source: ABOUT CORAYO: A THEMATIC HISTORY OF GREATER GEELONG

THEME SIX

BUILDING THE CITY, SUBURBS & OUTLYING TOWNS