

Guide Book «

Pictorial Souvenir -1. FEB 1913 (

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Fernshaw,

Narbethong.

Marysville.

Printed and Published by

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Healesville.





The Badger-Foot of Mt. Riddell.

GUIDE BOOK

AND

PICTORIAL SOUVENIR

OF

HEALESVILLE,

FERNSHAW, NARBETHONG, & MARYSVILLE.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY
J. C. STEPHENS, 146 ELIZABETH STREET, MELBOURNE.

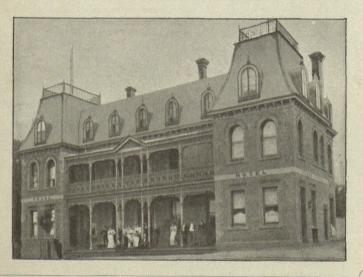
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. HEALESVILLE . . .



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HIS Hotel affords exceptional advantages to its visitors, situated as it is in the very heart of the beautiful mountainous scenery of Healesville.

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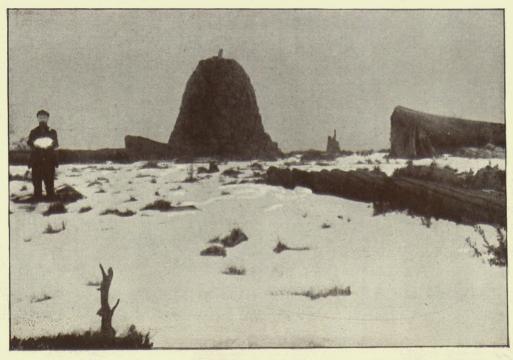
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Top of Mount Juliet (Winter).

Etta's Glen (Black Spur.)

INTRODUCTORY.

HE popularity of the Healesville District as a Tourists' and Holiday Resort has in no way diminished since the publication of the First Edition of the Guide Book, ten years ago.

Situated as it is, within two hours easy railway ride from Melbourne, on the fringe of the most beautiful mountain scenery in the State, there is every reason why it should be popular; but we must confess that the local residents, as a whole, have fallen somewhat short of their duty in trying to make the district attractive to visitors. Nature has most beautifully endowed it with lovely scenery—mountain, stream, and fern gully—but the people have done little to place these attractions more easily within the reach of visitors. In ten years, hardly a track has been cut, or a finger-post erected, to aid the tourist in his peregrinations.

How strikingly this indifference contrasts with the progressive and enterprising conduct of our neighbours in Sydney and Tasmania! In the former both

Government and private enterprise have been directed to popularising holiday resorts and beauty spots. From Sydney, Saturday to Monday trains are run to the Blue Mountains, exactly double the distance from Melbourne to Healesville, at a trifle more than the same fare.

But what marvellous efforts have been made to encourage visitors! Every point is made the most of. Routes to beauty spots, falls, etc., are properly formed; finger-posts and shelter houses erected; seats provided; points of vantage are securely fenced; paths with thousands of steps cut down the mountain sides, to water falls, fern gullies, and so forth; and every effort made by the central and local authorities to attract visitors from the great centres of population.

And what is the result? That almost every visitor to Sydney includes the Blue Mountains and the Jenolan Caves in his trip.

The same in Tasmania. In what used to be regarded as quiet, slow Launceston, the authorities have exhibited an energy and enterprise which should put our people to shame. All along the rugged hill-side which margins the Cataract Gorge and Basins, paths have been formed, seats erected, and rotundas built, which invite the visitor to view the beauties of the place; and the result is that every tourist who

visits Launceston is a permanent advertiser of its attractions.

There is no question that our Government, and especially the Railway Department, are very much to blame for the indifference which exists. If the Railway authorities adopted a progressive go-a-head policy, and induced traffic by cheap fares, the people would travel; and if the local residents failed to meet the requirements of the visitors, other folks of a more enterprising character, would take up the business and elbow them out.

It must not be forgotten, however, in justice both to the local authorities and the private residents, that they are very much hampered in their movements by the fact that the mountainous district for ten miles beyond Healesville is the gathering ground of the Melbourne Water Supply; and the Metropolitan Board of Works, who have the control of the Water Supply, adopt measures of such a restrictive character as to keep people as much out of their area as possible. But while such a policy must be approved of as applied reasonably to localities which directly affect the Water Supply, there is no question that a much more liberal attitude could be adopted in regard to localities below the intake weirs.

The Mathinna Falls, and the gullies between the

spurs of Mount Monda, Mount St. Leonard, and up the Badger or Corranderrk Creek, behind Mount Riddell, could all be opened up, and be made accessible by tourists and visitors, without in any way affecting the Water Supply.

The enterprising few who push their way into these remote spots have secured photographs which afford indisputable evidence of the beautiful resorts hidden away among the mountains, and there seems no good reason why they should not be made more accessible.

In spite of these drawbacks, however, Healesville continues to be the popular country outing for metropolitians. The last two or three years the number of visitors in the summer months has been greater than ever before; and these are of the most desirable class. Almost every distinguished stranger who visits the State is taken to Healesville, the drive from the township to Fernshaw being one of the most picturesque and enjoyable in Australia.

During the visit of the Duke and Duchess of York, the one day not claimed by some State ceremonial in the metropolis was availed of by Her Royal Highness the Duchess for a quiet trip to Healesville. The whole day was given up to the outing, and Her Royal Highness testified her gratification at the pleasure derived from her trip to Healesville and Fernshaw.

Amongst the mementos of the visit which the Duchess took away with her was a morocco bound copy of our "Guide Book," which Miss Mabel Phillips was permitted to hand to the Countess just before the train left on the return journey.



HOW TO GET TO HEALESVILLE.

Healesville is the terminal station on the Hawthorn and Camberwell railway line, and is 38 miles from Melbourne. Trains leave Princes Bridge until the completion of the Central Railway Station, morning, mid-day, and afternoon, as per time table. This is the ordinary method of travelling, but cyclists easily accomplish the journey in half-a-day. There are two road routes—the one by way of Johnston Street Bridge, Cotham Road, Kew, White Horse Road through Box Hill, Ringwood, and Lilydale; and the other by way of Heidelberg, Eltham, and Yarra Glen. The latter is rather the longer, but as it goes up over

the Christmas Hills, before entering Yarra Glen, it is the more interesting, either for driving or cycling. There are no very great difficulties to the cyclist on either route; but there are some steep gradients both on the road up, and throughout the Healesville district, consequently a low gear should invariably be used. The best way, undoubtedly, is to take train as far as Healesville, and cycle from there; but it is not a cycling country. Even the main Fernshaw Road is hilly, but strong and experienced riders can manage very well.

Healesville is a fairly extensive township, pleasantly situated, on the little Watts River, about a mile above its junction with the Yarra, and within three or four miles of the lofty ranges which lie to the north and east. In the township proper are the large and well-conducted Grand Hotel, a fine brick building of handsome design, in the main street, with coach offices, and letting stables adjoining; the Healesville Hotel, also in the main street opposite the new Post office; and the Terminus Hotel. The proprietors of these send vehicles to meet the trains. In addition to these, there are several boarding establishments, whose addresses will be found in our advertising pages, as well as furnished houses and appartments.

HEALESVILLE COLLEGE.

. . . (For BOYS.) . . .

Principal - - REV. J. HEYER, M.A.

Headmaster - MR. GEO. WOOD, B.A.

. . . Charming Site, High, Healthy, Picturesque . . .

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... "ST. FILLAN," NARBETHONG ...

SUPERIOR ACCOMMODATION FOR VISITORS.

Beautiful Mountain Scenery.

Close to the famous Black Spur and Stevens n Falls.

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Visitors can rely on every care and comfort. Terms moderate.

.. Visitors to Healesville ...

GOOD ACCOMMODATION. BEAUTIFUL SITUATION

About One Mile from the Rallway Station.

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Near Tramway at Myer's Creek & Weirs & Aqueduct, Condon's Gully.

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To Tourists, Visitors and Others.

HORSES & VEHICLES for HIRE.

Parties met at Station or where required and driven to any part of the District.

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NICHOLSON STREET. HEALESVILLE.



Upper Mathinna Falls.

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Lower Mathinna Falls.

There is accordingly very good accommodation available, though at all times it is desirable that intending visitors should, if possible, inspect beforehand, and secure what they require at the house they may select, as in the holiday season the various houses are at times filled to their utmost capacity. The coaches for Fernshaw and Marysville meet the morning trains from Melbourne daily, and intending passengers should secure their seats in advance to avoid disappointment. This can be done by communicating with the manager, whose booking office is at the Grand Hotel.

In Healesville itself every necessary is obtainable. In addition to the post and telegraph offices, butchers, bakers, drapers, bootmakers, and kindred establishments, there are newsvendors who supply the Melbourne papers by 9.30 a.m. daily; and several storekeepers keep an excellent assortment of sporting requisites. The business houses are mostly of a substantial character, and the streets are well formed and maintained. Of churches there are five, representing all the principal denominations. By the formation of a Water Trust, the Shire Council has made provision for a plentiful supply of pure water, which is taken from the Graceburn, about three miles from the town, and brought down in pipes, the

pressure being sufficient to reach the highest point in the township.

The Healesville College, a superior Boarding and Day School for Boys, has been established in a fine healthy situation, and with the State School, and two or three private schools, amply provides for the education of young folks of both visiting and permanent residents. It is surprising that with the special advantages it offers as a health resort, Healesville has not earlier had a number of such institutions.

There is an extensive Recreation Reserve, near the junction of the Fernshaw and Don River Roads, where even such an immense number of excursionists as comprised the Metropolitan Post Office Pienic, found ample accommodation. A Tennis Court and a Bowling Green are maintained by the local clubs, to which the subscription is very moderate, special terms being made for visitors. Trout and blackfish are caught in the streams quite close to Healesville, and there is a little shooting a few miles out.

Horses and vehicles can be hired at reasonable rates from the Grand Hotel stables, Mr T. Cornish, Nicholson Street, and others. Picnic parties and campers can have their equipments carted from and

to the station by arrangement with W. Phillips, the local carrier.

The Tourist Club, which was formed with the object of affording strangers information about the district, has unfortunately ceased to exist. publisher of this Guide Book, Mr. J. C. Stephens, 146 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne, who has been closely associated with the district for many years, and has taken an active part in popularising it with holiday makers, will, however, at all times be happy to give intending visitors any information in his power, which this publication may not afford; and several of the local residents, including, Mr. Ford, stationer, Mr. Thomas, ironmonger (who conducts a Tourists' Agency as part of his business), the proprietors of the local hotels, and others who take an interest in the progress of the district, are ready to afford information to enquirers.

No person is allowed within the Metropolitan Board of Works' reservations without a permit, which can be obtained at the Board's Office, the Rialto, Collins Street, Melbourne. Visitors should furnish themselves with these permits before leaving town. Furthermore, attention must be paid to the regulations which apply to these reserves. No fires must be

lighted, rubbish, paper, bottles, &c., must not be left about, nor thrown into the streams; nor must anything be done calculated to pollute the water. Persons fishing the streams above the weirs must not walk in the water.

Tourists are eautioned against being too venturesome in their explorations. To strangers there is such a similarity in the conformation of the country that one gully or spur is easily mistaken for another, and it is not only disagreeable but dangerous to be bushed in the ranges. More than one life has been lost in this way in the district. In the event of one losing his way, the safest course is to follow down running water; it is certain, sooner or later, to lead to a settlement.

It is well also to caution strangers about snakes. Though not more numerous here than in other country places, it is well to be guarded. Children especially should be warned against running about barefooted among the tussocks on the river banks; and care should be exercised in picking maiden-hair fern from under logs, and in spots where there is dense undergrowth, for these are the favourite resorts of snakes.

Good, strong boots should be worn. Thin footwear soon gives out, and is trying to the feet.

Campers and sportsmen should exercise care in the use of firearms. Only short range pieces should be taken.

Tours.

A number of very interesting walking or cycling tours can be arranged through the Healesville district. One walk is from Yarra Glen via Kinglake and Toolangi over Mount St. Leonard, down to Healesville; about 21 miles. The walk from Yarra Glen to Toolangi is about 12 miles, and as Toolangi House is situated high up the range in beautiful country, a stay, long or short, may pleasantly be made there, and the walk on to Healesville, by way of the top of the mountain, may be done leisurely. There is a bridle track all the way.

Another is the long but popular walk *via* Marysville to **Wood's Point**, and back by Warburton.

The round trip from Melbourne by rail to Alexandra, thence either to Marysville, Narbethong and Healesville; or Buxton, Narbethong and Healesville, is either a cycling or walking tour; and may begin from either end. Many prefer to begin cycling at Healesville, via Marysville to Alexandra, and there pick up the train or continue cycling by various alternative routes back to the metropolis.

THE OUTINGS.

Certainly the immediate surroundings of the township present considerable attractions to visitors, but Healesville's advantage to our mind consists of its offering every convenience of town life to the vistor at the same time that it places within his reach the beauty spots for twenty miles round. With Healesville as his head-quarters, he is immediately accessible by telegraph, post, or train in the event of communication being required with him; and in case of urgency he can take the first train for the city.

One great advantage is the variety of outings which can be made. Whether the visit be for a day or a week, a programme can be arranged to fit. If the visitor arrives by the morning train and desires to return in the evening, he has a choice of outings. If he be a good walker he can do any of the following:—

MALLESON'S LOOK OUT, on the Don River Road, distance six miles from Healesville. Walk or drive.

MATHINNA FALLS (seven miles). Follow the main Fernshaw Road for three miles, then take track to left. (Five miles can be driven.)

MYER'S CREEK AND FALLS (five miles). St. Leonard's Road to the end, then turn to left, and on

GEO. FORD,

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... Good Accommodation for Visitors. ...

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.. Superior Home Comforts ...

Overlooking

Railway Station, Tennis, Bowling, Croquet, and . . Hop Grounds



TERMS MODERATE.

Misses Tevlin.

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Myers' Creek Falls.





Condon's Gully.

crossing the Watts follow tram line. (Only a part of the way can be driven.)

CONDON'S GULLY (five miles). St. Leonard's Road to the end, then turn to the right. (Can drive three miles).

MOUNT RIDDELL (six miles). Take Don River road as far as cemetery, then turn to the left. A poor track and not easy to follow.

MOUNT JULIET (ten miles). Fernshaw Road to sixth mile post, through slip-panel to right. (Seven miles drive and the rest walk.)

GRACEBURN WEIR (four miles). A walk of three miles along the main Fernshaw road. Turn to right after passing Lindupp's.

FERNSHAW, BLACK SPUR, NARBETHONG, and MARYSVILLE. The whole journey of 23 miles to Marysville and back can be done in a day; but it is unsatisfactory to attempt it, as the most interesting features are missed. The coach journey is interesting for the most part; but to enjoy it, the trip should cover several days. Fernshaw (seven miles) makes a very pleasant day's outing, especially for a party; and since the Sunday train has been run, the most popular outing on that day has been the drive to Fernshaw. Vehicles meet the train at 1.15 p.m., and

the return trip is made in ample time to catch the train to Melbourne about 6.30.

CORANDERRK, the aboriginal station, is only two or three miles from the railway, on the Lilydale Road, the entrance being from the new road which turns away to the left on the Healesville side of the old entrance gate. Visitors are received on any day but Sunday. Two or three hours are sufficient for the trip.

CLOSE TO THE TOWNSHIP are many delightful spots for a quiet picnic. Within a couple of hundred yards from the railway station, sheltered spots in the bends of the Watts River can be found, where, in the hottest weather, the trees offer a most acceptable shade from the sun. At one time the Graceburn Creek was a series of delightful shady retreats, but private persons in years gone by acquired ownership of the banks of the stream, and have cut down the trees and warned off strangers. But, further up, the little stream is open in some places.

THE BADGER CREEK, three miles from Healesville, on Don River Road, is a very pretty and shady stream.

Long walks are very fatiguing to ladies and young children; and for anything over a mile or two, it is advisable to drive when these are of the party. Especially is this so in hot weather.

HEALESVILLE CASH STORE

NICHOLSON STREET, Near Railway Stn.

GROCERIES and PROVISIONS, IRONMONGERY, CROCKERY, and STATIONERY

• VISITORS and the General Public can get the BEST VALUE that money can buy.

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We are determined to—"SHINE & ECLIPSE" any previous efforts by offering inducements of such a character that shall **Delight** and **Satisfy** the most fastidious......

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J. R. ANDERSON, ... Proprietor.

W. B. PHILLIPS, Jun.,

... CARRIER, HEALESVILLE, ...

Is prepared to convey Parcels, Luggage, Furniture and Goods to any part of the District.

Tourists' Camping Equipments conveyed to all the Beauty Spots, and arrangements made for return by any Train.

Letters promptly attended to. Terms very moderate.

All Trains met.

Visitors to Healesville!!

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EXCELLENT ACCOMMODATION. Beautiful Situation. Bath. Piano. Home Comforts.

Terms: 25/- per Week; 5/- per Day.

MISS LEEDER,

Blackwood House, HEALESVILLE,

Waggonette will meet any Train if advised.

DETAILS OF TRIPS.

Malleson's Look-out and Launching Place.

× × ×

This is a very enjoyable drive from Healesville, which every visitor should endeavour to take. Leaving the main Fernshaw road two hundred yards after crossing the Graceburn River, near Mr. Walker's store, the road branches off to the right, and continues for about two and a half miles in a straight line, south-easterly, as far as the Badger River.

A few hundred yards after crossing the Badgerbridge the Boggy Creek road breaks off to the right, the main Launching Place road keeping straight ahead. A little further on, pedestrians may save a good mile of walking by crossing into the private property, if permitted, and walking straight up the steep hillside, instead of following the made road, which bears away to the left. The ascent of Mt. Tonnebuang is made by a cleverly cut zig-zag road, which was so well planned that a clear rise of some 1200 feet from the base is effected at a very easy gradient. Well up the mountain, at one of the angles formed by the zig-zag, the timber has been cleared, and a grand panoramic view is obtained of the country to the West and North.

This is known as Malleson's Look-out. The cultivated ground showing in picturesque patches for miles around, the alternation of forest and clearing, hill and dale, with the noble mountains to the right, and the Yarra Flats in front, through which the railway can be traced almost to Lilydale, offer an outlook indeed calculated to command admiration.

Sometimes, surprising cloud effects are obtained from this height. On an early spring morning, the traveller rises above the mists in the valley, and views below a sea of soft white cloud, very much resembling an ocean of cotton wool, from which rise, like islands, the tops of the mountains around. An hour afterwards the clouds have disappeared, and the charming landscape is spread before the admiring traveller.

From this point to the top of the saddle, at which the road crosses the range, the view of Mount Riddell is really beautiful. The symmetrical trees rise with surprising regularity from the depths of the Badger valley to high up the mountain, the varying shades of the abundant foliage presenting prospects which only an artist could fully appreciate.

Once over the top of the hill the scene changes. Instead of being poor, stony land, as on the side of the mountain you have ascended, you find a rich chocolate soil of surprising depth, and fern trees, and other native vegetation grow with tropical luxuriance. Tiny streams trickle down the mountain side and across the road; and in the gullies are a profusion of ferns. A bend in the road brings into view "Coonara," originally built by the late Mr. Malleson.

A little further on the Don River is met with for the first time, and the road continues on through pleasant surroundings till the mile of flat land is crossed, and the River Yarra is reached at the Launching Place. The half-dozen habitations in the immediate neighbourhood hardly merit the importance of being called even a settlement; but there is a railway station here on the Warburton railway line, and, being the junction of the Healesville Road, may in the future increase its importance.

Tourists who wish to make the round tour of Healesville and Warburton, must use this junction. From the Launching Place to Healesville is about 14 or 15 miles, and there is a choice of two roads. About a mile and a half from the Yarra, a road branches away to the left from Malleson's Road, and leads to Healesville by way of Corranderrk Station. It is more level than the other, and consequently more suitable for cycling, but the road over the mountain is much more picturesque, and much preferable for either driving or walking.

Mathinna Falls.

Seven miles from Healesville on the eastern slopes of Mount Monda, the stately range to the north of Healesville, are situated the Mathinna Falls. Though familiar in name to the townspeople, they are comparatively little visited except by tourists, owing to the difficulty attending their approach. From Healesville the most satisfactory mode of making the trip is on horseback, although by good walkers it can easily be done on foot. For a party, traps can be driven considerably more than half the way, the vehicles being left at the foot of the spur while the ascent is made on foot. Under any circumstances a fine day should be chosen, and a reasonably early start made. The main Fernshaw road is followed past Gracedale, the track branching off to the left immediately opposite Mr. Lindupp's gate, where there is a finger plate. The track is suitable for vehicles, and is easily followed to the Watts River, which is forded, walkers crossing by a rustic bridge. On the other side the track turns to the right, continuing along the river bank for a mile. At a point about level with the fence enclosing the weir on the Watts River, seen a short distance away, what is frequently a stumbling block to tourists is encountered. The main track, which continues on, is suddenly forsaken and a narrow bridle

track to the left followed. This is as far as vehicles can be taken, though saddle horses can go on to the Falls. The track follows the spur, and as there is very little scrub and the bracken ferns hereabouts are not high, the view to the right and left becomes increasingly interesting as you advance. To the right, the gully formed by the spur and the range opposite, dips rapidly, showing to advantage the myriad ferns which grace the gully and hillside. Some little distance further on the track passes under a cluster of tall tree ferns, which form a bower strongly reminding one of an Easten palm scene.

There is a proposal to mark out from this spot a track to the Maroondah gully, so as to approach the Falls from the bottom instead of, as at present, coming upon them from the top, where they are not nearly so imposing as when viewed from below. As we resume the ascent, Castella's Gully claims attention on the right, as before, the verdict of the company being that, without the Falls altogether, the trip is well worth taking for the scenery witnessed *en route*. The sky appearing through the trees ahead indicates our approach to the crown of the hill; and very shortly we secure the horses and proceed afoot.

Descending the side of the hill some 50 or 60 feet, and directed by the plash of the water, we are not

long in discovering the object of our visit at the upper end of the gully, where the topmost of the Mathinna Falls dashes over a basework of rock on to the boulders at our feet; after rapidly coursing through the rocks, makes a second bound over a projecting ledge to another shelf below; and as we descend the side of the cataract we discover that there are several distinct falls, all differing in character, and culminating some 200 feet below in one of the most charming visions of fairyland imaginable. Between the second and third fall from the top the stream is crossed, and on the opposite side a clear view down the Maroondah Gully is obtained from a little perch, well named the Crow's Nest. The hills rise abruptly on either hand, while the course of the Falls into the valley below leaves an open view ahead. And such a view! The wondrous variety in form and shade of the foliage which clothes valley and hill-sides—the pale green of the ferns, the darker tints of the shade trees, the goldern glory of the flowering wattles, and the massive stems of the towering gum trees-with the blue mountain range in the distance, the music of the falling waters in the ear—these, and other influences together produce an ensemble which it would be very hard indeed to match. The lowest fall is the most imposing of the series, as not only is the depth greater, but the water, by the formation of the rock, is spread over a wider surface, and the result is more effective. The top fall, however, is, in connection with its surroundings, perfect in its way, and as the place is naturally the spot for pic-nicing, it invariably receives due attention from visitors.

The return journey is much more easily accomplished than the trip out, and as we regain the level country, we are surprised to learn that quite a little brook, which one feels tempted to leap over, is the Falls Creek. That such a marvellous effect should be produced out of so little material, is only another evidence of what a magician Nature is.

Myers' Creek and Falls.

A very interesting outing is that to Myers' Creek, on the slopes of Mount St. Leonard, a walk of about five miles. The route is down St. Leonard's Road to the end, then turn to the left and cross the bridge over the Watts River, where the timber tramway is followed for the whole of the distance. The trolly from the bridge to the sawmill makes two trips a day, and the easier plan is to arrange with the driver for a ride up. For the first mile or more the trip is an ordinary bush one, but from the time the little Myers' Creek is struck the scenery improves. Before the tramway was

built the foot track followed the Creek, crossing and re-crossing on ferns and logs, and about four miles from Healesville the Falls were reached. As they were then approached from the foot and were bordered by ferns and shaded by foliage, the effect was very beautiful indeed. The woodman's axe, however, has of late denuded the foliage, and in making the tramway along the hillside a higher level was adopted than even the top of the Falls, so that the effect has been practically destroyed; and what was a year or so ago one of the prettiest spots about Healesville would now be passed by almost without notice. From this point, however, the scenery on the track improves. The tram line winds in and out through groves of ferns and foliage, with the Creek splashing and rushing in endless cataracts close at hand, openings in the bush revealing occasionally most inviting picnic spots. As the ascent up the mountain continues, the timber improves, and this explains the existence of the tramway, which connects with the sawmill established by Mr. Crowley on Mt. St. Leonard, some six miles from Healesville. The return journey down hill is much easier, and can be undertaken by any ordinary walker; but only fairly good walkers of the fair sex should attempt the whole trip. Only about a mile and a half or two miles from Healesville can be driven.

Condon Gully.

There is no doubt in the minds of those who have made walking tours to the mountain fastnesses about Healesville that there are as yet undiscovered a very great number of eminently attractive spots which only require to be known to be popular with tourists. One of these is Condon's Gully, on Mount Monda. It is situated very much as are the Mathinna Falls, at the head of a gully of exceptional beauty.

The St. Leonard's Road is followed to the end, when the abrupt turn to the right is taken, between the fences, and the course of the Watts is kept to the bridge. This is crossed, as well as the log over Donnelly's Creek a few chains further on. The upper or right hand cart track is then taken up, and is too well defined to be missed. It passes on the upper side of the pine trees within the fence enclosing the mouth of water tunnel and aqueduct, and vehicles can be 'driven for some distance. Soon, however, the ascent becomes too much for harness horses, and for about a mile and a half the spur is followed ever upwards. At length the track deviates to the right, and about 200 yards along a very pretty path leads into the shady fern gully, down which a little stream of cool, clear water flows. Some of the tree ferns in the gully are very large, and the fronds are superb. The trunks are clothed with a dense covering of mosses which fairly carpet the rich peaty soil. The timber, too, is magnificent; black butts of enormous girth and height, and blackwood of unusually large dimensions, being seen at intervals.

Some distance up the gully are the Falls. The little stream falls in a succession of cataracts which have a very pretty effect, especially when there is a good body of water coming down. But the travelling is very heavy, and most people are content when they have reached the Gully.

Mount Juliet.

For the young and vigorous, the mountain peaks around Healesville possesses a powerful attraction. Almost the first impulse of the active youth on his initial visit to the district is to rush away and scale a mountain top. More especially is this the case in the winter months, when the snow spreads its fleecy mantle over the crests of the ranges, and those who have accomplished the somewhat difficult task of scaling the heights of Mount Juliet in the snow, have returned a unanimous verdict that "the game was worth the candle." If the trip is undertaken in the summer, a cool day should be chosen, as the ascent is

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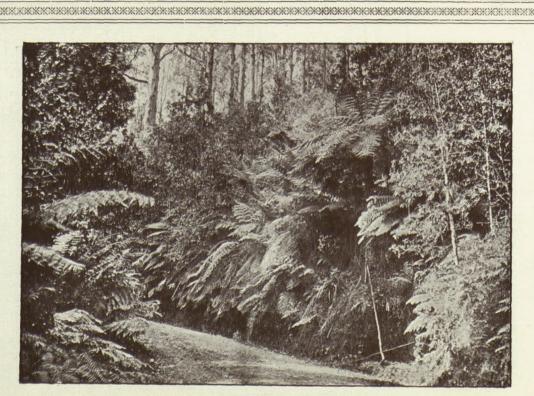


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Bridge over Graceburn-Don Road.



Road on Black Spur.

very trying in ordinary weather, while in a high temperature it would not only be devoid of enjoyment, but even the magnificent view obtained from the top would hardly be a sufficient quid pro quo for the exertion involved. Taken at the right time, however, and with a knowledge of the route, the ascent of Juliet ranks amongst the best of Healesville outings.

Roughly speaking, it is a ten mile journey—six miles from Healesville along the main Fernshaw road to the slip panel, one mile up the cart track, and about three miles up the Mount to the cairn on the top. Some active people walk the whole way—ten miles there and ten miles back—and do it in eight hours; but that is making a toil of pleasure. Others prefer to drive to the slip panel, or ride to the end of the cart track, walk up the mountain and back, and ride or drive back to Healesville. Assuming the outing to be a winter one, a start should be made directly after breakfast. The drive to the slip panel is done in about an hour, or the walk comfortably in two hours. If the latter mode of travelling has been adopted, the visitors will be prepared for a little refreshment before ascending Juliet. The end of the mile walk along the cart track is a good place at which to rest. Water can be obtained from the little creek to the left, and with considerable persuasion the billy may be made to boil. It is well to have lunch here, as with the snow two feet deep there is little temptation to stay long on the top of the mountain, and after descending, with feet wet and cold, the travellers are not disposed to spend half-an-hour in boiling a billy.

The light repast over, all superfluous gear should be hidden in the scrub-not so carefully as to defy discovery on return-and the ascent commenced in earnest. And here it may be as well to say that it is always desirable that at least one of the party should know the track, and especially is this the case when the snow is lying on the ground, as the beaten path is hidden from view, and the marks are hard to pick up. There is a spring about half-way up, quite close to the track, and again some distance down the side S.E. from the cairn on the top, water is to be had; but few are disposed to look for it. The surveyors who built the cairn have left it on record that there is a pretty waterfall about 800 feet down in this direction, but the 3,600 feet of Mt. Juliet is enough for most people in one day, and the exploration work can, therefore, only be undertaken by those who are prepared to camp for the night on the mountain top, which is purely a summer treat. Those who have done so, speak of sunrise on Mt. Juliet as a sight of a life time.

Mount Riddell.

Though it is exceeded in altitude by many other mountains about Healesville, Mount Riddell is nevertheless the most striking of them all. Its proximity to the town, and its conical form at once secure the attention of the visitor.

One of the first acts of the once energetic Tourist Club was to reconnoitre and storm Riddell, with the result that not only was an easy and practicable route discovered, but further, that at several points, with very little clearing, magnificent views of the surrounding country were obtainable. At one of these, a large rock—known as Exhibition Rock—offered a particularly good outlook, Melbourne being seen with the naked eye. The Club blazed a track, evidences of which can still be seen, and cleared the timber so as to provide lookouts.

The best course is to follow the Don River road to the cemetery; then take the fenced roadway to the left marked by a finger-post. This road is followed for about a mile, obstructing fences being crossed, till a little over the second rise, at the angle of an intersecting fence on the right, a blazed tree is seen. There the blazed track to the right is taken up as far as the long spur ahead. This spur is the easiest for the ascent.

Mount Riddell could be done in a half-day; but it is wiser to make a day's out of it, and to take things easy. The hour or two to spare can then be well filled in exploring the south side of the range. The height of Riddell is estimated to be about 2,500 feet.

The Aqueduct.

The Maroondah or Watt's River Water Supply Works, the first portion of which are completed, are well worth a visit. The scheme is simply the utilisation of the water from the Watts River at Fernshaw as a Supply for Melbourne supplementary to the Yan Yean. And in order to effect this works of great magnitude have been necessary, involving the tunnelling of hills, the construction of some forty miles of channelling, syphons, weirs, etc., costing the country about £400,000. And this is only the first portion of the complete scheme, which embraces the conversion of that part of the valley of the Watts, near Holland's old saw-mill, into a vast reservoir, as well as impounding of the waters of the Graceburn and Badger Rivers. It is hardly likely, however, that this portion of the work will be entered upon for many years to come.

There is nothing sensational or phenomenal in the Aqueduct or its surroundings, but to those who like

to know "how" effects are accomplished, it is extremely interesting to see the difficulties in the way of bringing the stream out of its course to a given point, and how they are overcome.

The Aqueduct can be struck almost anywhere to the north-west of Healesville; but the best course to adopt would be to go out as far as the weir on the Watts, at the foot of the spur which is ascended in going to the Matninna Falls. Thence to follow the course of the channel (which is covered in for some distance) say for two or three miles towards Healesville. In that distance, the tunnels through the hills, the syphon carrying the water in pipes from a point on one hill, down a valley, and up the opposite hill-side to an almost equal height, and a considerable length of the open concrete channel are seen, and will convey a fair idea of the difficulties which have had to be contended with in carrying out the scheme.

Coranderrk.

The Coranderrk Station is one of the three or four pleasant refuges the Government has considerately provided for the fast declining native race of the colony; and though the superintendent, Mr. Shaw, naturally shrinks from allowing his institution to be

made a "show" place, he (on week days only) is gratified to allow interested visitors to inspect the arrangements of the little settlement. The estate comprises some 3,000 acres of land adjacent to Healesville, on the road to Lilydale, being only some two miles from the Healesville railway station. A pleasant drive lands the visitor at a fairly regular cluster of cottages, mostly brick, in which the natives are domiciled in families. The chapel, schoolhouse, and the Superintendent's quarters, are somewhat more imposing edifices, near the Badger or Coranderrk river, which flows through the estate from one end to the other, ultimately joining the Yarra.

The natives are yearly becoming fewer in number, and it is only a question of time when, in this colony, the native race will be extinct. The visit, therefore, to Coranderrk is one of special interest to young folks, who will be pleased to carry down to their wondering grandchildren reminiscences of what in half a century promises to be an extinct race.

The natives are occupied in keeping in order the large farm on which they are settled, though only sufficient produce is raised for the use of the residents.

The native men are very apt in making spears, boomerangs, and other implements of warfare, etc., which happily are now only regarded as curiosities, and

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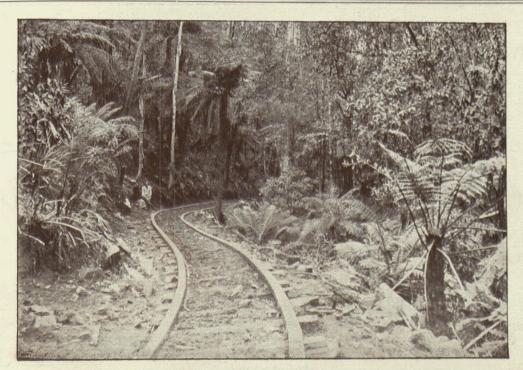
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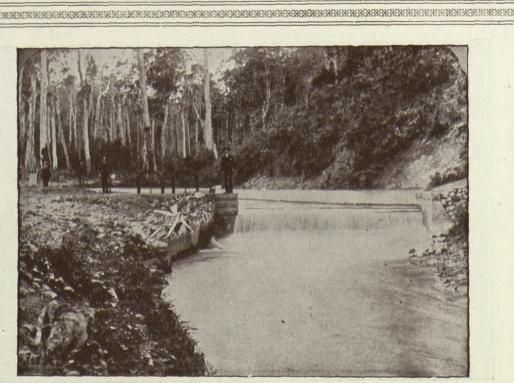
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The Myer's Creek Tramway.



Watts River Weir.

in working up rugs and mats with the skins of animals which they trap and shoot; while the native women are very deft in manipulating grass, etc., with which they make up baskets, mats, and nets, which strangers are pleased to purchase as mementos of their visit to the Station.

A trip to Coranderrk only occupies two or three hours.

Some very interesting information in relation to native names was given in a letter in the *Argus* from Mr. Dawson, the author of "Australian Aborigines," from which the following extract is taken:—

"The Coranderrk aboriginal village takes its name from a pleasant smelling shrub, named Prostanthera lasianthos by Mr. Guilfoyle, the curator of the Melbourne Botanic Gardens, and called Korranderk by the aborigines.

Watts River—general name, Bruung Kuuzalk, 'Rotten log.'

That part of Watts River where the dam and reservoir are proposed to be formed is called Maroondah. 'Mount Monday,' the mountain forming one side of the valley, is a corruption by the white man of Maroondah.

TO FERNSHAW AND MARYSVILLE.

By far the best known, as it is deservedly the most popular, outing from Healesville, is the drive along the main road to Fernshaw, Narbethong, and Marysville, a total distance of twenty-three miles. It may be made by coach, leaving Healesville at 10 o'clock, three quarters of an hour after the arrival of the train from Melbourne; or, in the case of a party, the most enjoyable method of accomplishing the journey is to hire a pair-horse trap at Healesville, and do the trip in a leisurely and pleasurable manner.

The road immediately after leaving Healesville becomes an ascent; and very soon, first on the left and then on the right, occasional breaks in the timber give glimpses of vistas of forest and mountain scenery, which become grander as you advance.

Three miles from the station a turn of the road brings into view Gracedale House, on an eminence overlooking the valley of the Watts on one side and of the Graceburn on the other. Just past Gracedale the track to Mathinna Falls branches off to the left, and on the opposite side of the road is the Graceburn aqueduct and weir.

A mile further the road commences to fall towards Fernshaw.

Beautiful gullies, in which there is a profusion of ferns of every variety and degree, from the delicate maiden hair to giant trees 40 feet in height, present themselves at every turn in the road. At the six-mile post the slip-rails of the track to Mount Juliet are passed; and seven miles from Healesville you rattle into the lovely dale famous throughout the colony and beyond it for its exceptional beauty—Fernshaw.

At one time it was a thriving little settlement with two inns, a post office, store, and a number of settlers and fruit growers; but the waters of the Watts River were required for the metropolis, and, at enormous expense, and in the face of many obstacles, the stream was carried over hill and dale for fifty miles to contribute to the city wants. Moreover, to ensure the purity of the supply, every householder and settler about Fernshaw, where for seven miles the country drains into the Watts river, was bought out by the Government and required to evacuate. This explains the absolute demolition and extinction of the little village at the foot of the Black Spur, which for years was one of the most popular summer resorts of tourists. However, though the settlement was broken up, the scenery remains.

The enclosure inside the stile is the favourite resort of pic-nicers, who appreciate the shade of the trees, and the proximity of the crystal stream. Fires are permitted in the roadway just outside the fence, and "billy tea" is consequently a popular institution.

There are several most attractive outings accessible on foot from Fernshaw. The Watts River alone abounds in beautiful surroundings. The walk through the bush to Mathinna Falls; Morley's Track, which faces you as you turn to the left to begin the rise of the Black Spur; and half-a-dozen other walking trips may be made from this standpoint. Finger posts mark some of these tracks, but to follow them needs some local knowledge, as they are not very well defined in parts.

Immediately after leaving the Watts, at Fernshaw, the ascent of the Black Spur is commenced, and for something like four miles the horses have an unbroken pull on the collar. The scenery becomes majestic as you ascend. The timber is finer, and the foliage more varied and beautiful. The native myrtle, which here grows to perfection, glistens like holly in the sunshine; and with its neighbours, the sassafras and wattle, offers an imposing contrast to the wealth of delicate green in the myriad ferns of every class at their feet,

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9





On the Graceburn Creek.

Stevenson Falls (Marysville).

Close beside the main road, scenes of beauty lie hidden; as in the case of

Etta's Glen.

in which thousands of visitors have pic-nicked. It is about two miles up the Spur, on the left-hand side, and may be easily passed unobserved, the only feature to mark its existence being a calico poster of Board of Works regulations affixed to a tree. The "Glen" is close beside the road, and is of fascinating beauty. The ice-cold water dashes down the rocky gully, on the side of which is a natural camping ground. Every one of the fern trunks is thickly inscribed with initials, which have also been cut on everything cuttable, and speak volumes for the extensive circle of patrons who have found safe conduct to this sylvan retreat.

Resuming the journey, you in due course reach the crown of the range, along which you drive for a mile or two before beginning the descent to Narbethong. Through the trees you get occasional glimpses of the majestic ranges towering in the distance above the intervening forest, the Cathedral Range, Mount Strickland, and others showing in rugged prominence against the clear sky.

About a mile from the foot of the hill "the Hermit-

age" is passed. It is a picturesque house of accommodation, and the only one of the kind on the Black Spur. Another mile completes the journey as far as

Narbethong, ·

fourteen miles from Healesville. The Black Spur Hotel and the post office, comprise the settlement, which is simply a stage in the journey at which horses are changed. Two miles further on is situated Mrs. Miller's popular establishment for visitors, "Saint Fillan." It is a very fine comfortable house, originally built by the Hon. James Munro, and a favourite resort of families seeking country air. Mrs. Miller has been long and favourably known to visitors, and "St. Fillan" ranks among the best known houses in the district. Anglers find excellent sport here, Fisher's Creek and the Acheron both being within easy reach. There is also some delightful fern scenery in the neighbourhood.

Near "Saint Fillan," the road divides, the branch to the left going on to Buxton and Alexandra, and that to the right to Marysville. Three miles further on, the "Grange," the comfortable home of Mrs. Eason, is passed. Here, too, many families spend with satisfaction their summer holidays; the Stevenson Falls and other points of interest being within

easy distance. Another half-hour's easy driving, lands the tourist at

MARYSVILLE,

twenty-three miles from Healesville. The township is of modest proportions, peacefully nestling in a valley, through which flows the Falls Creek. There are two hotels—Keppel's Australian, to which is attached a post office with telephone communication with Healesville, and the Marysville.

The Stevenson Falls

are justly regarded as the premier attraction of the district. They are situated two and a half miles from the main road of the township, and once the visitor gets on the track, it cannot be missed. But to pick it up is rather confusing, as the road to the State School is much better defined, and unless warned, strangers are apt to take it instead of keeping to the left and over the little footbridge which leads to the Falls track. The walk is level and easy, and may, with confidence, be essayed by any ladies and children equal to a town walk of two and a half miles each way. The path is more shaded about half-way out, and thence it becomes a delightful bush ramble. The road lies alongside the Stevenson River which dashes swiftly over its rocky bed in the valley below, hidden

from view by a profusion of ferns, trees and shrubs, of that varied character which lends such a charm to the river bank scenery in this district. After looking expectantly for the Falls for some time before, the visitor is brought suddenly into view of them as he rounds a turn in the track, and a very beautiful sight they present. Though just a glimpse of the two upper leaps of the four which constitute the Stevenson is obtained, only the lower two can be viewed to their full advantage from the point to which the track brings you; but unquestionably they are as a whole the most imposing as seen from this aspect. There are tracks, somewhat difficult of ascent, up the sides of the hills; and though at the top of the second. fall a better conception can be formed of their real extent, as a spectacle it is not nearly so impressive as at the foot where the full body of water completes its final leap of over a hundred feet into the basin below. The total height of the Falls has been in years past set down at about 400 feet; but a section of the Australian Association for the Advancement of Science, who visited them some years ago, has recorded in Keppel's Visitors' Book that the actual height is 347 feet. As before mentioned, this very great drop is not accomplished in one but four distinct leaps, separated by ledges, over which the water sprays and dashes with beautiful effect, no

matter from what aspect it is viewed. The view down the valley from the ledge above the third fall, is a grand one. The water surging over the fall above; swirling for a moment at your feet, then hurling itself over the rocky face into the abyss below,—while beyond, the beautiful valley, rich in its wealth of foliage, lies in peaceful contrast to the furious raging of waters about you.

The beauty of the spot, and its refreshing coolness, with the inviting shade of trees, and the sound of the falling waters, make the valley at the foot of the Falls one of the most enjoyable spots for lunch on a summer day that can well be conceived; and during the hot weather, it is not by any means surprising that visitors frequently spend day after day here. Owing to the difficulty of obtaining a suitable position for the camera few photographic representations of the Falls do them justice.

Tommy's Bend

Is another favourite spot with tourists. The main Wood's Point road is followed over the bridge crossing the Stevenson river, and for nearly six miles a steady stiff acsent is maintained, Rubbly Spur being sufficiently steep to test the powers of man or beast. The scenery, as usual, becomes grander as the height increases, but as the fourth or fifth mile post is reached, the opposite range appears gradually

to approach that along the side of which the road is formed, and the converging of these hills, with the beautiful foliage of the trees and ferns in the gully between, excites the keenest admiration. At the culminating point of this unsurpassed sassafras gully, the road takes a horse-shoe turn, forming what is known by the homely denomination of Tommy's bend, on Mount Grant.

To the tourist with ample time at his disposal, the road all the way on to Wood's Point is interesting, and sturdy pedestrians frequently make it a walking tour. Others branch off to Warburton and the Launching Place, and back either to Healesville or Lillydale.

To Mount Bismark.

is another popular walking trip. It is short, being less than three miles up the Splitter's Track. At present there is a dray track a good way up; and though the acsent of the Mount is pretty stiff, it is nevertheless practicable even by ladies. From the top, which is clear, there is a magnificent view of the surrounding country, a grand prospect being obtained right down the valley of the Goulburn. The fern gullies about the range are very fine, and good fishing is to be had in the rivers about Marysville, the Taggerty affording capital sport.

A Word to the Residents.

Some years ago a number of local gentlemen formed themselves into the Healesville Tourists and Progress Association, with the object of popularising the District as a Tourists' resort. They did good service in many ways, principally by opening up some of the beauty spots, making them more accessible, erecting finger posts, keeping tracks open, etc. But after a year or so some of the more active members were withdrawn, and the organisation collapsed. Later a Bowling Club and a Tennis Club were formed; and although these are recognised as a distinct attraction to the district, the Clubs are so poorly supported that they are with difficulty kept alive. The old laissez faire country indifference is standing in the way of Healesville prospering, and if this is permitted to continue, the old residents must not complain if some day they find themselves shunted out by more enterprising and progressive people.

Happily, there are some exceptions—a few people who are alive to the fact that they have a right to do something in the way of assisting Nature. The scenery is here at our

doors; but the attractive spots must be made more easily accessible. At the present the best places are inaccessible except to the physically robust. This should not be; and if better tracks and roads were made, many places which at present can only be reached by walking, could be driven to.

One other matter. Visitors should be able to get really comfortable accommodation. In the old days, they have been content to take whatever they could get; and if their accounts are true, what they get in some places even now is far from satisfactory. Those who profess to receive visitors should provide reasonably good accommodation, as the conditions of living in Melbourne are very different now to what they were 20 years ago. They should have reasonably comfortable rooms; fairly good living; and some endeavour should be made to make their visit enjoyable. It is quite certain that to do this will pay, as houses where visitors are well catered for will be well patronised, while the others will be neglected. Many of the Healesville houses happily enjoy a reputation for excellence in this respect, and it will pay others to follow their lead.





Graceburn Weir.

On the Badger Creek.