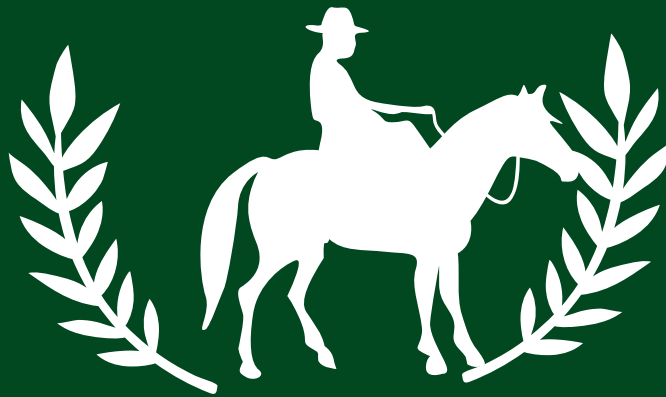


10DAYRIDE

THE PROSPECTORS RIDE



10 DAY - 2023

LANDSBOROUGH-MOONAMBEL-DUNOLLY



10DAYRIDE - APRIL 2023

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Welcome to the 2023, 10 Day Ride.

The attached itinerary has been a long slow burn which was composed and printed way back in April 2020 as we were about to embark on the ride at Landsborough, sadly the 2020 ride was cancelled at the last minute due to the state of Victoria going into the first stages of lock down because of Covid.

I have elected to retain the ride report on the 10 Day Ride which we undertook in 2019.

The attached itinerary has undergone a lot of resetting as the ride particulars have changed along the journey.

I look forward to seeing you at Landsborough on the 19th of April .

I will be at Landsborough a few days earlier and if you need to call me you can on 0427 520 378 as Claire won't be in the office to take your calls or enquiries.

And lastly on this point I must thank Claire for her input in helping pull the ride together, there have been lots of moving parts!

JOHN BRADY
RIDE MANAGER

ITINERARY

2023 PROSPECTOR'S RIDE ITINERARY

| LOCATION | DATE | ACTIVITY | DINNER |
|--------------|------------------|---------------------|--|
| LANDSBOROUGH | 19th April (WED) | Riders' Arrival | Pub Pizza Night |
| | 20th April (THU) | Ride Day | BBQ Dinner: Town Hall |
| | 21st April (FRI) | Ride Day | Free Night |
| MOONAMBEL | 22nd April (SAT) | Move/Ride | Summerfield Winery: Dinner & Band |
| | 23rd April (SUN) | Ride Day | Pub Roast at Moonambel Hotel |
| | 24th April (MON) | Colour Dress Up Day | BBQ at Camp - Gold Coin Donation |
| | 25th April (TUE) | Ride Day | Free Night |
| DUNOLLY | 26th April (WED) | Move via Moliagul | Pub Dinner at Railway Hotel Dunolly |
| | 27th April (THU) | Ride Day | Barefoot Bowls & Dinner |
| | 28th April (FRI) | Ride Day | Free Night |
| | 29th April (SAT) | Ride Day | BBQ at Camp: Engine Shed & Band / Awards |

GOLD RUSH 2019 TRAIL RIDE REPORT



With 158 registered riders/carts/backups, our mission as a committee was to have an enjoyable fun ride. We had three camps, Ross Creek, Enfield, and Meredith; with all camps having the luxury of toilets and showers provided. Riding tracks consisted of mostly bush, some undulating and hilly climbs, a few river crossings and back up roads. Paul kept the carts entertained sometimes meeting up with the horses, sometimes doing their own thing. There were four evening meals catered for, plus a couple of sausage sizzles and a hotdog lunch. We also enjoyed homemade scones, a cheese tasting, and a very fun navigational ride. DJ Mick's band started off the ride's evening entertainment, plus the annual dinner dance towards the end of the ride with another great band, Gavin kept us entertained through the week with dance music and movie nights, and the final night completed the raffle draws and the NARA & NACA awards. Cindy was the proud winner of the NARA award; she lost her horse and got it stuck in a tree! The NACA aware was a joint effort by Sharon Maynard (Showy) and Jeanine Bamfield, just for being themselves.....there is a story.

Gold day, there were some great costumes on both people, horses and carts, a great effort by all, we raised \$250 for the Ballarat Regional Integrated Cancer Centre (BRICC). Even though there were a few spills along the way, there were no major complaints so I hope we met our target of keeping masses happy. The money raised through fines, raffles and rug sales in total added up to \$9,600, a remarkable effort; \$8,000 of these funds were distributed to the three local fire brigades of Smythesdale, Enfield and Meredith, with a further \$1,600 going to BRICC.

Thank you to the committee for not only organising the ride, but for letting us all use their properties to camp on, and a special thank you to all the people who helped out and made this a fantastic, positive experience.

NAOMI
COMMITTEE MEMBER - 2019

INTRODUCTION

This year we have seen the 10DayRide website go live and have received many comments and suggestions from both the website and expression of interest forms. We have tried to take as many of these suggestions on board as we can. As laws tighten and permit requirements increase, so does the workload and cost for organizing and running these events. We thank you for your understanding and will continue to deliver value for the ride where possible based on your comments.

This year's ride is designed to require a moderate level of riding capability within the beautiful Victorian Region known as the Golden Triangle, a historical area that once inspired Australia's first Gold Rush period in the 1850s. The 2023 ride has been named "The Prospector's Ride" in recognition of the many hopeful souls who tramped across the countryside in hope of finding their fortune.

The ride commences on Thursday 20th April 2023 and wraps up on Saturday the 29th of April, however, there will be an opportunity for those who have requested only to attend a portion of the ride to join and leave at the various stages and camps. Riders can arrive from Wednesday the 19th of April at the first reserve.

Beginning in Landsborough, moving on to Moonambel and finishing in Dunolly, the ride will offer daily rides between 22km to 28km long, ranging in difficulty and landscape throughout the state parks the Golden Triangle has to offer. The riding trail will be led by a lead rider, but riders will have to move as a collective group spread over 1km.



We have tried to provide great value for the ride this year and have included a range of entertainment and activities across the ten day event.

We would like to say a massive thank you to those that have contributed goods for our raffle and in particular, BCF (Boating, Camping & Fishing) who is part of the Super Retail Group which is a listed ASX company, who have provided our main raffle prizes. We have fridges, camping goods and gift vouchers up for grabs. I'd also like to recognise those who have registered to volunteer in various roles to help the ride run smoothly. I will be speaking with you throughout the ride.

We look forward to another great year of riding, socializing and laughs with you all.

-by John Brady
Ride Director

LANDSBOROUGH TOM QUILTY PAVILLION (REGISTRATION CENTRE)



INSURANCE

As an ATHRA ride being conducted by the Smythesdale club, riders are covered under the ATHRA insurance. Please ensure you register and sign the ride attendance register.

SPONSORS AND BENEFICIARIES

This year the ride is supported by BCF (Boating Camping & Fishing) with some great prizes which include 2 camping fridges amongst other things. I ask you to buy raffle tickets and pay your daily fines as they will also give you some free tickets. Hopefully you can win a prize in the ongoing draws. All monies raised this year is for Landcare Australia and their national tree programme. Landcare Australia is an organisation which is highly credible and has many community-based programmes in supporting and caring for the environment. I ask you take 5 minutes of your time to learn about Landcare. Landcare programmes even extend to the farming sector and how to better care and protect your pastures and the environment which rural landowners rely upon for their living.

With the increasing awareness of the environment and understanding of climate change and its impact, every aspect of society is being asked to help protect our forests, our parks, our waterways and our private landholdings. As horse riders we all benefit and need a safe and healthy environment and access to the trails and places we all love to visit on our horses. Its expected today any groups or companies who use and benefit from the environment that they put back, nurture and help maintain the environment. For the ride we are undertaking over the next 10 days its important, via ATHRA, we can demonstrate our community values and commitment to helping the environment. Simply put we care as a group of individuals and clubs.

I wish to point out that back in 2020, BCF came on board as a sponsor once they understood what this ride and in turn ATHRA values were in helping the environment. Good public relations is part of a balanced set of values.

Based on the above approach and further sponsorship from other parties this ride via ATHRA has donated \$20,000 to the Landcare Tree Programme for 2023, which makes ATHRA a key partner of Landcare Australia, this is something we as riders should value and be appreciative.

ARRIVAL / REGISTRATION

You can arrive anytime from Wednesday 19th April. As outlined in the Insurance Section, it is imperative that you register upon arrival to camp. Main registrations will take place on the 19th and the 20th at the registrations area (signs will direct you there, look for the Australian Flag) where coordinators will ensure your attendance has been confirmed and provide you with a welcome kit of souvenirs.

If you turn up after the main registrations have taken place, please ensure you locate John Brady and ensure you have been marked off and have signed before setting up camp.

WOOD, WATER & FIRES

There will be wood and horse water supplied for at each camp. Campfires are permissible, although obviously, we will have to abide by any total fire ban rules, which will be instructed to you over the course of the ride. You need to light any fire only in a fire pit or drum, not on the open ground.

Given each camp is located on a local recreational reserve, please respect the locals and ensure you do not burn any rubbish of any kind. There will be water taps around the reserves and or tankers with water for your horses. As with previous camps, please do not wash your horse down at any watering spots. Grab a bucket and wash your horse away from these spots to prevent the water areas from becoming muddy and messy so we can keep them accessible to all.

RUBBISH

There will be limited bins available at the camps. Please try and be thrifty with your rubbish and take non-perishable rubbish with you.

Smokers need to ensure they do not leave butts on the ground at any time to follow both the reserves rules and comply with any fires bans in place.

CAMPS & FACILITIES

This year's ride will see us moving between three camps, located at each of the town's recreational reserves. All reserves have camping rules that will be advised whilst on site, so please ensure you follow and respect these rules for both the township and smooth running of the event.

Under no circumstances can people move to the next camp ahead of time or stay behind at any camp.

Each of the camping reserves offers both toilet and shower facilities, however, please be mindful they are limited. You are welcome to bring your own portable toilets and showers if you wish to. As always, fire-pit holes are not allowed at any camp site, nor are emptying camp toilets.

Please organise in advance an appropriate toilet dump point if you wish to bring your own facilities.

Additional camping facilities include communal buildings to socialise and run daily and nightly activities. There are kitchen facilities, however, these are to only be used by camp coordinators for catering purposes.



MORNING MUSTERS

The Morning Muster is an important part of the 10 Day Ride event and is a **compulsory information session for ALL ATTENDEES** whether you are a rider, a backup or just tagging on along on the ride for fun. Ride etiquette and safety is important so come early and listen carefully.

Musters will be held each morning so please ensure you organise your morning so you are able to attend and are on time to receive important information regarding daily rides, activities and camping instructions and any necessary changes that need to be made. It also provides an opportunity to ask any questions and to ensure you know who your point of contacts are for each day.

Musters also include fines for good or bad behaviour. There are a number of good prizes on offer this year so don't miss out on your chance to win some treasures

As always NO HORSES AT THE MUSTER!!!

HORSE YARDS

We will be within reserves at each camp, Riders/ Drivers must supply their own yards. Please do not attach your yards to any existing fencing. You can yard your horse in your own portable electric fence, portable hard yards, and tether pegs (note there will be no trees available given the camps are on reserves). You may hobble your horse but it must be within a yard of some type. Horse manure is to be scattered, not piled up. We will instruct you at each camp regarding manure and what to do.

FINES

As mentioned previously, at each morning muster we will be giving out fines for good and bad behaviour from the day or night before and you will be required to give a gold coin donation (or more) which will go to the ride's chosen charity. In addition, you will be given the option to purchase additional raffle tickets, instead of being fined this year, it's a trade off!

Remember to bring money to the muster just in case you have been up to no good, and if you've been good we will still fine you! You can't win. Naomi Benney will be the fine master.



POWER & WATER

There are limited power outlets and water taps around at the camps. Please do not connect your vehicles/trucks/trailers/floats to these outlets, unless you speak and gain approval from John Brady.

UHF

For those who have UHFs, the ride will be using channel 38.

HORSE FEED

We will have one horse feed delivery at the ride commencement in Landsborough at the first camp. Please be certain of what you order as we are unable to change the orders once they have been submitted to our supplier.

VOLUNTEERS

As you would all know from the Expression of Interest forms last year, we asked all riders and non-riders to nominate whether they would be willing to volunteer for the various roles required for the running of this year's ride. The volume of those willing to assist and volunteer was overwhelming and we'd like to give a huge thanks to you all.

We will try our best to limit the amount of support we ask of each volunteer and go over the roster at the start of the ride, in case for any reason you can no longer assist in the role indicated.

LEAD RIDERS & DRAG RIDERS

Lead & Drag Riders are an important part of the 10DayRide and will be nominated and coordinated each day at the Morning Muster. Please follow the instructions from the nominated Lead & Drag Riders on each ride so the ride runs smoothly.

Lead Rider: please do not pass the Lead Rider unless permission has been given by him/her to do so.

Drag Rider: opposite to the Lead Rider, the Drag Rider makes sure you do not get left behind.

They will ensure you have time to stop for any drama or adjustment you need to make and still be able to find your way. Please note though, that Drag Riders volunteer for this position and want to be back at camp at a reasonable hour, so be considerate of them and move along when they give you the word to do so.

FIRST AID

Each day we ride we require a minimum of two first aid riders. We received a great response of volunteer first aid officers for the ride and thank everyone that offered to assist. The riders who indicated they would volunteer will be included on the volunteer roster, again please notify us if you are unable to fill the role on the specified day and we will arrange a replacement.

Each First Aid Officer will be announced to riders at the morning muster.

MOBILE PHONES

You should be able to have coverage for the entire ride duration.

FUEL / ICE / SHOPS

LANDSBOROUGH

Landsborough town centre is small and limited, but does have the Landsborough Hotel which has a bar and meals. It is just a short walk from the Camping Reserve.

The closest major town is Stawell, a 25 minute drive and includes all major amenities.

MOONAMBEL

Moonambel town centre is a two minute drive (1.5km) from the Camping Reserve, and includes Moonambel Pub.

DUNOLLY

Dunolly is a major small town and provides all amenities such as supermarket (Dunolly Friendly Grocer), pharmacy, fuel and cafes all a short walk (1.2km) from the Camping Reserve.

RAFFLES

Raffle tickets will be available for sale throughout the ride and money raised will go towards our donation to Landcare and some other community groups. This will be discussed at the first muster, including our overall community focus and why.

COLOUR DAY (DRESS UP)

Monday 24th April we will be holding colour day. Dress up you and/or your horse in bright vibrant, loud colours today. Be as creative as you like, prizes for the most innovative and daring.

The Theme is: **Spots & Stripes**

\$5.00 donation for not dressing up with enough colour! Donations from this day will go to our community groups





LANDSBOROUGH

First camp will be located at Landsborough Football Ground.

Landsborough was the host town of the 2002 Tom Quilty Endurance Ride and is a rural village encircled by gold towns.

Known for its bushwalking tracks and wildlife we will spend 3 nights here.

AT THIS CAMP WE WILL HAVE USE OF

- The Tom Quilty Pavilion (look for the Australian Flag)
- Landsborough Community Centre which is adjacent to the football ground

LOCATION:

Landsborough Football Ground, King St, Landsborough

CAMPING:

Camping and yards will be in the paddock south of the Football Ground Reserve. Please do not build excessive sized yards for your horses as we have to accommodate 150 riders. The camping area will be sign posted.

REGISTRATIONS:

Registrations will take place in the Tom Quilty Pavillion on the Thursday (23rd April) You will be able to also collect your feed and pick up your 2020 ride kit, which includes a hard copy ride itinerary booklet (no need to print one out) and ride memorabilia.

TOILETS & SHOWERS

- Caravan Park toilets & showers which are to the west of the football ground
- There are additional toilets located in the Community Centre (with limited showers)
- There are also toilets located on the northern side of the reserve past the tennis court. Note you need to walk 200 yards.

FEED ORDER:

You will be able to collect your feed at the Tom Quilty Pavillion. A list will be on the wall with the names and feed orders, please take note of this.



- ◆ Landsborough is a rural village in central-west Victoria about 32 km east of Stawell. It lies in country encircled by gold towns, Ararat, Avoca, St Arnaud and Stawell, and was itself a gold field.
- ◆ In early 1856 gold was found and a rush was made on the Landsborough area. It was named the Malakoff Lead, probably after the battle of Malakoff in Crimea in 1855. There were further intermittent discoveries, and a particularly rich one in 1862. This was enough to stimulate formation of a township named after William Landsborough who led an expedition in search of the explorers Burke and Wills in 1861.
- ◆ The population of Landsborough was put at 8000-9000 people in 1862 and, whilst those figures did not last long, further discoveries during the 1860s prevented Landsborough from being deserted. A school was opened in 1864 and Bailliere's Victorian gazetteer (1865) recorded Landsborough as having several hotels, a bank and an insurance office, a brewery and a quartz-crushing mill. There was also mining at Navarre, Barkly and Frenchmans to the north and east.
- ◆ A local progress committee successfully agitated for the release of land for farm selections, and farming readily replaced mining as ore ran out. By the 1880s Landsborough was described as mixed agriculture and mining, and in 1903 there was no reference to mining in the Australian handbook's description:

LANDSBOROUGH (36° 59' S. lat., 143° 6' E. long.), county Kara-Kara, electoral district Stawell, shire Avoca), a post town, with money-order office and savings bank on Heifer creek, 150 miles (158 postal) NW. of Melbourne. It is distant from the Stawell, 23 miles, Ararat 25 miles, and Avoca Railway stations—30 miles. A daily coach runs to Ballarat *via* Avoca. Hotels: The Shamrock and Farrell's. There are two churches, one used by Anglicans and Methodists, and the other owned by the Roman Catholics, coffee palace, I.O.R. society, and a State school (No. 1,862). It is a place of petty sessions. Lighted with kerosene. At Wattle Creek, 3 miles N., is State school (No. 2,057); at Malikoff, 3 miles S., is State school (No. 1,398). The district is chiefly of an agricultural and pastoral character. Population, 300.



- ◆ Landsborough continued to be a prosperous town, adding a substantial Catholic presbytery (1917), Hodgett's store (1924) and an imposing public hall with three arches at its entrance (1922). All these structures remain, in addition to a Catholic church (1887), an Anglican church (1904), the Commercial Hotel and a primary school (18 pupils, 2014). There is also a recreation reserve, grain silos and a reservoir which supplies reticulated water.
- ◆ The Landsborough Valley is home to a number of vineyards in the Pyrenees wine region of Western Victoria including the Landsborough Valley Estate (1963).

Landsborough's census populations have been:

| AREA | CENSUS DATE | POPULATION |
|---------------------------|-------------|------------|
| Landsborough | 1871 | 354 |
| | 1911 | 529 |
| | 1947 | 253 |
| | 1966 | 163 |
| Landsborough and Environs | 2006 | 259 |
| | 2011 | 256 |



MOONAMBEL

Second camp is located in Moonambel, at the Old Football Ground. Moonambel is a small town located in the Pyrenees region and is known for its wine vineyards. The town has a general store, public hall, hotel and small primary school.

CAMPING:

Camping and yards will be set up in the paddock to the north of the Football Ground. There is limited spots to camp around the Football Ground and please do not camp on the ground itself.

- Please do not build excessive sized yards for your horses as we have to accommodate 150 riders.
- Camp fires will be permitted in pits or drums (except during full fire bans)
- A water tanker will be available for the horses

LOCATION:

Old Football Ground, Moonambel Road, corner of Natte Yallock Rd, Moonambel 3000

TOILETS & SHOWERS

Community Centre - includes toilets and showers





Dickson's Store, Moonambel – John Dickson (1827-1874) was storekeeper during the early history of the township.

- ◆ In the 1850s the location of Moonambel was part of the 'Mountain Creek' pastoral run, consisting of 80,000 acres. In 1853 'Mountain Creek' station was running about 16,000 sheep.
- ◆ In December 1860 reports began to appear of a gold-rush at McKinnon's 'Mountain Creek' station. By mid-January 1861 a visitor to "McKinnon's Goldfield" professed to be "utterly astounded at the extent of the diggings", which were situated "at the head of a small creek, which runs from a spur of the Pyrenees into the Avoca River". On the flat at the head of the creek were "several hundred holes, from five to fifteen feet deep, yielding payable returns". The writer claimed "there are about 10,000 people on this diggings, including storekeepers, etc., and almost everyone is doing well".
- ◆ By May 1861 the township that had developed on the Mountain Creek diggings was named "Moonambel". In June 1861 sixty-one town allotments were offered for sale at Moonambel. On 21 October 1861 the "municipal district of Moonambel, on Mountain Creek" was proclaimed. In January 1865 the municipal councils of Avoca and Moonambel, as well as the Avoca Road Board, amalgamated to form the Avoca Shire Council.
- ◆ In July 1865 a correspondent from Moonambel wrote that "this little township has at last, after being latent for some time, begun to have rather a lively appearance in the way of future prosperity and success". It was expected that the nearby Slaughteryard Reef would have stone-crushing machinery installed. The writer added that "in agricultural matters... a vast number of beautiful farms are now under cultivation".



- ◆ In the 1871 Census Moonambel is recorded as having a population of 280. In 1875 an Anglican school that had opened in 1861 at Moonambel was replaced by a government school in a substantial brick building.
- ◆ In the Census of 1881 Moonambel is recorded as having a population of 604 inhabitants. A description of Moonambel published in 1903 in the Australian Handbook contains the following details: "population, about 250"; three churches (Anglican, Roman Catholic and Wesleyan); the Commercial Hotel; a soap manufactory; "mining and farming are the chief employments of the inhabitants"; "there is a flourishing vineyard and a Government crushing battery here"; "lighted with kerosene".
- ◆ In the mid-1880s W. A. Adams had planted 40 acres of wine grapes on his "Mountain Creek estate" one mile east of Moonambel. The vineyard was acquired by John Kofoed in 1918 who set about re-working and revitalising the old and damaged vines. The varieties cultivated were Hermitage, Miller's Burgundy, Dolcetto, Cabernet, Sauvignon, Chasselas and Pedro, with one-third of the vineyard planted to Cabernet. In 1934 Kofoed was one of only two producers of the Cabernet variety in Victoria. Wines produced from John Kofoed's 'Mountain Creek' vineyard were mainly sold on the domestic market, though some were exported to England.
- ◆ In the Census of 1961 Moonambel had a population of 105.



Local Wineries



The Summerfield family winery is located off the Stawell-Avoca Road west of the township of Moonambel. The winery had its origin in the decision of local farmer Ian Summerfield to plant 10 acres of predominately Shiraz grapes in 1970. After a period of selling his grapes to wineries in the Pyrenees region Summerfield decided to try his hand at winemaking. Since 1999 Ian's son Mark Summerfield has been the winemaker at Summerfield Wines. The winery has accommodation facilities and a restaurant specialising in wood-fired pizzas.

Telecommunications



Moonambel's location in a valley and in a sparsely populated part of the state resulted in poor mobile phone reception which impacted on local residents and tourists. A base station was funded under the Mobile Black Spot Program and built in 2017.



DUNOLLY

Dunolly is the final stop and is a historic hold mining town, which at its height in the 1860s had a population as high as 35,000 with closer to 1,000 people now. It is known to be a quiet, attractive and historic town with a large number of historic buildings to remind visitors of its past glory.

AT THIS CAMP WE WILL HAVE USE OF:

- Toilets
- Showers
- Some Horse Yards

LOCATION:

Pony Club (Old Racecourse), Race Course Road, Dunolly 3000

CAMPING:

At this camp the Pony Club facility has the following:

- Showers and Toilets
- Tank Water for horses
- Limited yards for riders use
- Fires are permitted in pits or drums only (except for full fire ban days)

TOILETS & SHOWERS

Immediately adjacent to the club rooms



Dunolly is a rural township in central north-western Victoria, 50 km west of Bendigo and 150 km north-west of Melbourne.



Grazing and Gold

Dunolly was the name of a pastoral run taken up by Archibald McDougall in 1845. He named it after Dunolly Castle, Oban, Scotland, the seat of the McDougall clan. In 1852 gold was discovered at Moliagul, about 14 km north-west of Dunolly. McDougall's run was about midway between Moliagul and Dunolly, and in 1854 he sold it to Henry Simson who subdivided it for settlement. However, gold seekers moved through and beyond Simson's subdivision, uncovering rich finds, concluding at a particularly rich field in 1856 north of the future township of Dunolly. This place became known as old Dunolly. The miners more or less followed the valley of Burnt Creek, which runs in an arc around the west and south of the present township.

The Moliagul-Dunolly region became renowned for large nuggets, and recorded the largest per capita gold production of any mining town in Victoria in 1857. The Burnt Creek mine exploited reef gold and had a life of 22 years.



Township

A police camp was established at old Dunolly, but the permanent township was surveyed further south. It grew quickly. An Anglican school was opened in 1857, and a borough council was proclaimed on 21 May 1858. A hospital was built in 1860, and additions were made to it during the next 70 years.

A court house was built in 1862 and the hall for the Bet Bet Shire council was built in Dunolly in 1863. The London Chartered Bank of Australasia built elaborate chambers on the main street, the Broadway, in 1867, and the building is on the Victorian Heritage Register. In 1875 Dunolly was described in the Australian handbook:

DUNOLLY, a borough town, money order office, and telegraph station, 107 miles north-west of Melbourne, and about 32 miles from Castlemaine. The population is estimated at 1,553 persons. The London Chartered and Victoria Banks have branches, and there are agencies of the Victoria, Alliance, Northern, Australasian, Mutual Provident, Liverpool and London and Globe, Mutual Assurance, National Australian Widows' Fund, and Imperial Insurance Companies; the hotels include the Bendigo, Criterion, Commercial, Windsor Castle, and others. The Dunolly Hospital is one of the best managed institutions in the colony, and the means of affording an immense amount of relief to the sick and suffering. There is a public library; and there are churches belonging to the following denominations:—Congregationalists, Wesleyans, Episcopalians, Presbyterians, and Roman Catholics. A flour-mill is now in full work. Dunolly is a gold-field, the precious metal being found in quartz reefs and alluvial deposits. It is stated there are 130 distinct reefs, all more or less auriferous, in the mining division. These reefs are also found to contain iron, manganese, and copper, the latter in very small quantities. There is also a lode of antimony, which is only awaiting the erection of proper furnaces to prove a most remunerative industry. Dunolly is also famous for its deposit of kaolin, which is said to be of very pure quality. Slate has been discovered a very short distance from the town. The value of the mining plant engaged in the extraction of the gold is estimated at upwards of £64,000; one of the largest nuggets in the world was found near here in 1869. It weighed 2,230 ounces, its value being £9,534. A large number of Chinamen, upwards of 500, employ themselves in the surface diggings. Dunolly is the centre of a large agricultural district; the terminus of the Castlemaine and Dunolly Railway, and the coach town for all parts of the colony. The *Dunolly and Betbeshire Express* is the local newspaper.





District Centre

Dunolly was a rail terminus from 1874 to 1878 and has been a rail junction for the Inglewood and St Arnaud lines since 1888. This made it an important wheat transshipment point when the northern and Wimmera wheatlands later came into production. Before that happened, Dunolly's hinterland was agriculturally productive and the town did not suffer badly from the decline of mining. In 1893 a large flour mill replaced the earlier one (1873) and there were industries such as a foundry, brick works and a soap factory. In 1884 a new court house was built. Three years later it was exchanged for the Dunolly town hall building. The town hall (originally the court house) in the Broadway and the court house (originally the town hall, 1862) in Market Street are listed on the Victorian Heritage Register.

In 1903 Dunolly was described in the Australian handbook:

DUNOLLY (36° 52' S. lat., 143° 44' E. long.) (county of Gladstone, Dunolly electorate), a borough, with money-order, savings bank, and telegraph station on Burnt Creek, 126 postal miles (125½ by rail) NW. of Melbourne, and about 35 miles from Castlemaine. Fares from Melbourne, 22s. 7d. and 15s. 1d. It lies 681 feet above sea-level. The borough has an area of 5,760 acres, 340 dwellings, 387 ratepayers, 1s. 6d. rate, and ratable property of the net annual value of £7,392. The London and Victoria Banks have branches; and there are agencies of several Insurance Companies; the hotels include the Bendigo, Commercial, Windsor Castle, Royal, Railway, Red Lion, and others. The Dunolly Hospital has 52 beds. There is a public library of 1,512 volumes; and there are Wesleyan, Episcopalian, Presbyterian, Baptist, and Roman Catholic churches and Salvation Army, Masonic, A.N.A., I.O.R., and Oddfellows' lodges; a State school (No. 1,582), and a flour-mill. Streets lighted with kerosene. The soil and climate are particularly adapted for growing fruits of various kinds. Dunolly is a gold-field. Antimony, kaolin, and slate have been found. One of the largest nuggets in the world was found near here in 1869; it weighed 2,280 ounces, its value being £9,534. The yield for 1900 was 3,963 ozs. Dunolly is the centre of an agricultural district; which appears to be extending, and a large area is being laid down in English grasses. The reservoir whence the town water supply is derived has 7,500,000 gallons storage capacity, and another 2½ miles distant, has a capacity of storing 17,200,000 gallons. Population, 1,384. Local newspapers: The *Dunolly Express* and *Progress*.

In 1908 country races were replaced by a golf club on the racecourse. Dunolly's population fell by nearly one third between 1911 and 1921, and on 1 November 1921, the borough was united with Bet Bet Shire. Twenty years later Dunolly came into war-time prominence when a massive grain storage shed was built near the railway junction. It was enlarged in 1943, reaching dimensions of 520 metres by 74 metres. Described as the largest shed in the world, it was internally supported by forest-wood poles and called a stick shed. It was demolished in 1987. Its nearest copy is a stick shed at Murtoa. Both have been termed 'cathedral like' when viewed from inside.



Postwar Years

A goldfields museum was opened in Dunolly in 1966 and a motel was opened in 1988. Dunolly was unfortunate in the 1980s when the annexe factory of the Maryborough Knitting Mills was closed (1980) and railway passenger services ended. During the 1990s government lands and conservation offices were closed, the Council offices were closed when Bet Bet Shire was united with Central Goldfields Shire and the last bank closed in 1998. Only local agitation kept open the 13-bed hospital.

In addition to historic buildings already mentioned, the Anglican church and vicarage (1864-69) and the Catholic church (1871) are on the Register of the National Estate. The town hall and war memorial are striking reminders of civic pride, and many commercial buildings along the Broadway are intact examples of nineteenth century architecture.

There are still bulk grain storage facilities, along with tennis courts, a swimming pool (1956), a bowling club, a recreation reserve, a football club, a hotel and a caravan park. The school had 130 pupils (1998) and 80 pupils (2014). The museum/tourist information centre has details of historic walks around Dunolly. A goldrush festival is held annually on Melbourne Cup weekend and there is a well-attended monthly market along the Broadway.

Dunolly's census populations have been:

| CENSUS DATE | POPULATION |
|-------------|------------|
| 1871 | 1553 |
| 1911 | 1382 |
| 1947 | 882 |
| 1996 | 668 |
| 2006 | 607 |
| 2011 | 908 |



At the 2011 census the median age of residents was 55 (Australia 37 years).

10 DAY RIDE 2023

LANDSBOROUGH-MOONAMBEL-DUNOLLY



THE PROSPECTORS RIDE



10 DAY - 2023