

Beardmore's house of good repute

Beardmores Hotel c.1870 – 1930's

Sam Beardmore and his son were fortunate enough to stumble across a sizeable gold nugget at the 'All Nations Reef' near Matlock.

With the proceeds they purchased Denis Kelleher's hotel in the early 1870s.

Beardmore Halfway House offered quality food and accommodation. Already a man of good repute, his hotel quickly became a favourite for travellers from the Fulton, Donnelly's, Jordan and Walhalla goldfields.

This establishment also doubled as a post office for Fulton Creek residents for a time. A Fulton Creek representative would regularly walk to Beardmore to collect their mail. This practice continued until the early 1890s.

When the mines inevitably failed, Mr Beardmore was not deterred by the weakened hotel trade. In 1882 he leased 6,300 acres of crown land to attempt a living from cattle. Unfortunately the mountainous country between the Thomson River and Mt. Useful did not support the animals and was abandoned.

In 1911 Mr Beardmore died aged 76. However his hotel continued to operate well into the 1930s. This was largely due to the great value placed on his memory.

Source: Steenhuis, L., 2001, 'Donnelly's Creek: From Rush to Ruin of a Gippsland Mountain Goldfield'



Photo: Paoletti, R., 2007, 'Gold for the Taking: A Pictorial History of the Heyday of the Walhalla- Wood's Point gold belt: 1860's-1960's'

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