

# Villages of different colours

Blue Jacket 1862 - c.1868

**This small village was just downstream from the township of Red Jacket.**

**Both are said to have taken their names from sunken ships. Others argue the townships were named after the red and blue garments worn by the early settlers.**

The shingled roofs and log cabin establishments gave the town an American frontier feel. Local newspaper, the Gippsland Guardian advertised:

*"Mr O'Keefe's Restaurant on the Blue Jacket, [as having] every accommodation for the traveller"*.

When the reporter later visited he had this to say:

*"I never received better and kinder entertainment in my life, nothing was considered too much provided they could make you comfortable. I left his house with a feeling which is not easily forgotten"*



Photo: Blue Jacket shack c.1920 from Paoletti B., 2007, 'Gold for the Taking: A pictorial History of the Heyday of the Waltham Woods point gold belt: 1860's - 1960's'

Confusion over Red and Blue Jacket caused problems. Advertising and sales within the town had several examples of incorrect reporting. This may have been due to the two town's lack of distinction given their close proximity and similar names.

Like many early gold mining towns of the era, after the short rush, many commercial

undertakings were in financial difficulty. Most of the residents moved away.

Some lost themselves in drink after never recovering their debts. Others turned to criminal activities. The town never held the status of its neighbours and faded like a true ghost town of the Gippsland Goldfields.