

Smith's hospitality was renowned

Smith's Hotel 1862 - 1866

This hotel was run by William and Ellen Smith during the turbulent years surrounding the initial gold rush excitement.

Strategically placed, the restaurant and accommodation house was located to take advantage of business both from the White Star Mine as well as travellers from Sale to Woods Point.

This establishment was described as a slab house with druggeted walls. Similar to hessian, drugget was a cheap coarse woollen fabric lining either felted or woven which offered little protection during windy nights or the frequent winter snowstorms.

Despite this, the Smiths' hospitality was renowned. It was said that they never refused to feed anyone regardless of whether they had the means to pay. Indeed many travellers went out of their way to enjoy a hearty breakfast of fresh meat and eggs.

Source: Paoletti R. & J., 2013, 'McEvoy's Track - the Gateway to the Gippsland Goldfields'.



The grave of Englishman and miner, William Watts is situated behind this establishment. Watts died from an unknown chronic illness on the 7 February 1865, aged 42.

Drawing: Mail man travels through a bitter snow storm which was a typical scene for this area in winter. From Christie R.W., 1989, 'Tracks to the Woods Point and Jordan Goldfields'