

Store Point Hotel and a chemist

Within this bend of the creek are two adjoining freehold allotments forming part of the township of Store Point. The chemist shop to the right (downstream) was owned by Alan Marshal. The allotment to the left (upstream) was that of the Store Point Hotel, operated by H.P. (Peter) Auth and partners from 1864 until 1873. In 1867 the hotel consisted of 14 rooms with a bagatelle table, an attached butcher shop, stockyards, stable, several pigs, poultry and a *Cabinet d'aisance** beside the creek.

HOTEL FOR PRIVATE SALE.

C. MACKINTOSH & CO. have received instructions from Peter Auth, Esq. (who is leaving the district), to sell privately his well-known "Store Point Hotel," Donnelly's Creek, situated close to the celebrated Bismarck Reef.

For further particulars apply to the auctioneers; or owner, on the premises.

From T. O'Sullivan, Donnelly's Creek, in reply to the request of the Council that he should, without further delay, remove his *cabinet d'aisance* from the bank of that limpid stream, expressing his willingness to do so, and dealing at length with the "social evil," the integrity of the police, and other foreign subjects, into which a number of libels were ingeniously woven. —The letter, which caused as much amusement as if it were a penny-reading, was received.

Timothy O'Sullivan, a former publican of the Victoria Hotel at Edward's Reef, took possession of the Store Point Hotel in 1873. In 1876, O'Sullivan left Store Point to run a hotel in Maffra, leasing the building to publican Robert Stack. During O'Sullivan's absence, sly grog shanties flourished.

O'Sullivan returned as the licensed publican in 1883 and immediately complained to police of the illegal shanties. Several were subsequently charged but only one shanty-keeper, Ellen Smith, was convicted. Smith had

failed to pay a previous fine for the same offence and was imprisoned for one month. A few weeks later, the shanty-keepers had their revenge when O'Sullivan was charged with trading on a Sunday, allowing card-playing on his premises and not having a light burning outside. He was fined £2/5s for the indiscretions plus £6/10s for court costs. O'Sullivan continued to operate the hotel until 1886.

O'Sullivan and wife, Mary, had eleven children, the majority of whom were born during their days at Donnellys Creek. At least three sons were later involved in the hotel trade at Walhalla, Woods Point and Toombon. The daughters were often admired and adored for their catering abilities and warm personality by many a young bachelor throughout the ranges. The O'Sullivans also owned a house beside McKean's Creek, a little upstream from the creek junction. It was used as a temporary school in 1878 during O'Sullivan's absence. See the information sign at that site for more information.

Chemist Alan Irby Marshal was one of the statesmen of Donnellys Creek. He arrived in the early 1860s and was a principal owner of a mine on the Crinoline Reef near Tullamore. In 1869 Marshal owned a house in Mount Useful Gully and a shop on this site. He also owned a house at Tullamore near the Crinoline lease. Marshal was appointed postmaster and commissioner of the Supreme Court in 1875. He and wife, Edith, left Donnellys Creek in 1876 for Heyfield and later opened a combination general store, chemist, and dentistry at Moe where he became a highly respected member of the community and Justice of the Peace. The Donnellys Creek Post Office still existed on this site into the 1900s.

Matthew Clough is the current owner. Clough, Daniel Markham, and others were given the opportunity to build new huts after fires ravaged the area of Donnellys creek in February 2013. Matthew is contactable by email matthewcloughelectrical@gmail.com.

You are welcome to view, but please respect this private property.

*Cabinet d'aisance -- a formal and polite term for a toilet.

Source: Donnelly's Creek – From rush to ruin of a Gippsland Mountain Goldfield by Luke Steenhuis

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