

## 5. Kangerong, Protectorate second station

Kangerong/Kangeron/Kangerrong/Canjeerung/Gan.jer.rong/  
Karangarong/The Principal Encampment/Mr Hobson's Station/  
Kangerong – Mr Hob\* Station/The Survey/Hugh Jamieson's Special  
Survey/Kangerong House

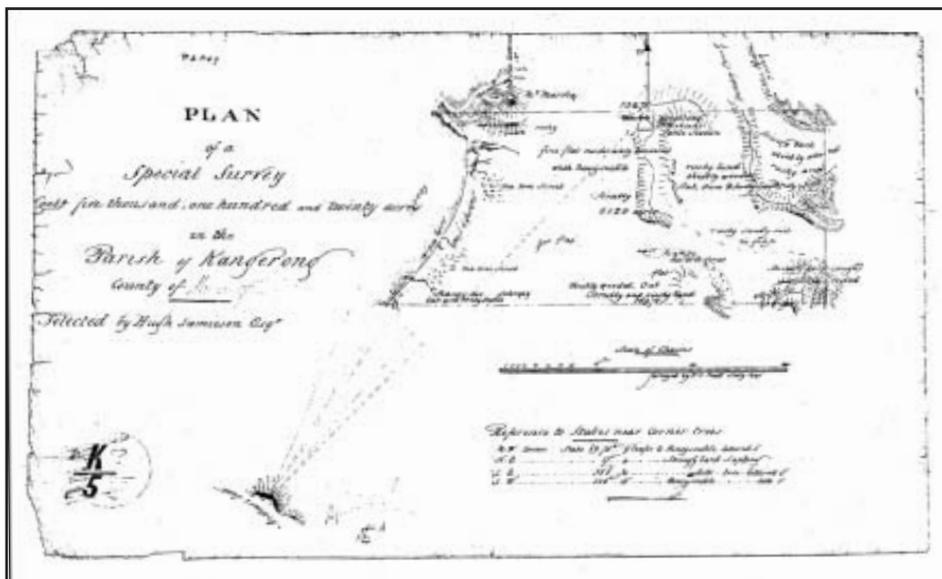


Fig 26. 'Plan of Special Survey of Kangerong', SS 5A

This map is © Crown (State of Victoria), 2010, all rights reserved, reproduced with the permission of the Surveyor General of Victoria.

Kangerong is the Aboriginal name for the place occupied as a pastoral run by Edward William Hobson who took it up in the middle of 1838 but was subsequently forced off it by Hugh Jamieson's purchase of it in 1841 as a Special Survey.

Assistant Protector William Thomas described Kangerong, meaning the run, as the principal encampment of the Bonurong on the Mornington Peninsula. But Hobson's run, Kangerong, actually included all three Protectorate stations. It is marked on two plans, that of Nutt 1841 and Smythe 1841, on the lower south-east slopes of Mt Martha within the Brokil Creek drainage system, near Ellerina Road; it is marked also on four different maps drawn by the Assistant Protector William Thomas.

The Bonurong encampment Kangerong has been identified as the rising ground near the roundabout where the Nepean Highway crosses over the Moorooduc Freeway. The Brokil Creek drainage system shown on Smythe's map has been altered over the course of time by road construction works, and the actual site of the encampment has been destroyed in the construction of the freeway and its ramps, plus the Nepean Highway overpass. The identification was made in a manner similar to the identification of Tubberubbabel. The encampment at Kangerong was 'within quarter of a mile'<sup>1</sup> of Hobson's. Doubtless on the advice of the Bonurong, Hobson's house was situated on rising ground; it was 50 yards to the east of the waterhole belonging to the Bonurong, now fenced.<sup>2</sup> Their own encampment would have been on rising ground also, 'the blacks showing us by the marks on the trees to what heights the floods sometimes rise'.<sup>3</sup> Circles of a quarter of a mile in radius drawn around Hobson's, and around the waterhole, quickly reveal that the encampment would not have been on the low-lying floodplain of Brokil Creek in the south-west quadrant of the circle. Nor would it have been on the hilly country to the south-east, because if it was, then Hobson's house would have stood between the Aboriginal encampment and their water. The north-east quadrant of these circles is also the low-lying floodplain of the junction of Tassel's Creek and Brokil Creek. It is the north-west quadrant of these circles that satisfies all the conditions for a typical encampment, closest to their former waterhole, on rising ground, away from the European, and still close to Brokil Creek after its junction with Tassel's Creek. The two circles in fact intersect here.

Nutt's map of his survey throws up an ambiguous gap in the fencing around the waterhole. It is possible that this gap is an artefact of the production process of the map, a mistake, but it is at least possible that there actually was a gap in the fence around the waterhole, and that its purpose was to allow the Bonurong free access to their water while keeping out the sheep. It will be noticed below that Thomas told the people not to camp within the fence.

Whenever Kangerong is mentioned, it needs to be asked from the context – is it Hobson's run that is meant, or the actual place where he lived at this time, which was Buckkermittewarrer near the drive-in, or the hut where his shepherd lived on the run Kangerong and where Kangerong House was being built, or the Aboriginal encampment called Kangerong, a short distance from the waterhole, the shepherd's hut and the new house being built? Sometimes, it is not possible to be sure.

There was nothing here at Kangerong belonging to the Protectorate, no buildings, no equipment, no supplies. The simple fact is that the Bonurong were already living here in two separate encampments on their own land on which Hobson 'dropped', to use the language of Samuel Jackson Thomas.<sup>4</sup> In my view,

---

1 *HRV*, vol 2B: 536.

2 George D Smythe, 1841, CS 81A, PROV.

3 William Jackson Thomas, CY 3106, frame 61, ML.

4 CY 3106, frame 63, ML.

it is most likely that the Bonurong showed Edward Hobson and/or George Smith this land, in the same manner as they pointed out Tubberubabel to Thomas, and Kullurk to Henry Howard Meyrick, and Carup Carup to Captain Baxter. If so, their reasoning does not appear to have been recorded, but it is likely to be along the lines which the historian Jan Penney described in her PhD thesis on the explorer Charles Sturt and his boat journey down the Murray. Penney describes various Indigenous groups attempting to entice Sturt to settle down with them so that they could access the material goods which he carried, and they wanted. The recovered biographical details of the Europeans George Smith and Edward Hobson are presented in this chapter and the next chapter because they are crucial in understanding the good relationships that existed.

### 29 January 1836

Joseph Tice Gellibrand's party including Mr Gardiner, Mr Robertson and Mr Leake, having walked from Sandy Point, found water near the 100 huts now identified as Tubberubabel, camped, walked further, altered their line of march a point or two more west, then:

came upon a salt water Creek which led to Port Phillip Bay. We found a fire burning at two native huts and every appearance of their having been occupied the previous night, and on the Beach we found tracks of natives proceeding to Arthur's Seat.<sup>5</sup>

This party, having altered the direction of its line of march by a few points westward after Tubberubabel, would have walked through Kangerong en route to the mouth of Brokil Creek.

### 1838

Edward William Hobson settled at Kangerong.<sup>6</sup>

## The Hobson family

Edward William Hobson and his brother Edmund Hobson are said to have been born in New South Wales:<sup>7</sup> they were baptised in VDL:<sup>8</sup> their father, also named Edward, was a schoolmaster in the VDL district of Clarence Plains.<sup>9</sup> Edward William was a seaman in his youth in the coastal trade around Australia and New Zealand, with his mother's family the Lutterells. He arrived in Port Phillip in 1837, taking up his first station on the Plenty River.

---

5 Bride 1983[1898]: 11–12. This is the mouth of Tassel's or Brokil Creek, now developed as a marina.

6 Billis and Kenyon 1974[1932]: 83.

7 'Hobson, Edward William (1816 – 1890?)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, vol 1: 544.

8 Register of Births, Deaths, Marriages, Archives Office of Tasmania.

9 Clark 2000, vol 5: 246.

Edmund, the much loved and respected doctor, was an heir to his grandfather, Dr Lutterell, and was sent to Europe to obtain his medical qualification. He accompanied Lady Jane Franklin on her overland journey from Port Phillip to Sydney in 1839, and while on a stopover at Port Phillip, he visited Kangerong. In 1840 he returned permanently to Port Phillip with his wife Margaret, spending time at Kangerong while he was convalescing from pulmonary disease. While at Kangerong he travelled by gig to Wul-wul-a-bulluk, the station at Capel Sound, for which he held the licence with his brother, and the place where a substantial house was built by the time the McCrae family took up their run at Arthurs Seat.<sup>10</sup> The Index to Depasturing Licences, 1840 to 1851, shows him to have taken out some licences in his own name, as well as other licences with his brother Edward, and with Dr James Agnew, another connection from VDL, in both the Western Port and Gippsland squatting districts.<sup>11</sup>

Robinson's journal for 1847 records numerous mentions of visiting Dr Hobson, taking tea with him, dining with him, showing interest in the fossil specimens which Edmund, a distinguished naturalist, collected, and corresponding with him while Robinson was away on field trips. When Robinson's wife Maria lay dying in the winter of 1848, Robinson sent a dozen roses to Mrs Hobson which resulted in Mrs Hobson calling the next day: separately, Edmund Hobson called and offered to pray for Mrs Robinson, an offer rejected by Robinson (Dr Godfrey Howitt was Mrs Robinson's physician, not Dr Edmund Hobson).<sup>12</sup>

The mother of Edmund and Edward Hobson, Melvina Hobson nee Lutterell, was known in Port Phillip as George Smith's wife, though exhaustive searches in Tasmanian, New South Wales and Victorian archives reveal no marriage, and she was not buried as Melvina Smith but as Melvina Hobson, widow. She lived with George Smith at Dr Edmond Hobson's Melbourne house Carrencurrenalk, on the south side of the Yarra, near the McCraes at Mayfield, opposite what is now the Studley Park golf course. They had a house as well at Capel Sound.

George Smith had a son known in the records only as Mr Smith Junior (no given name is ever mentioned), and it is not known whether he was Melvina Hobson's son by George Smith or George Smith's son by a previous marriage.<sup>13</sup> Edward Hobson was the first squatter on the Mornington Peninsula, and the extended families, together with their connections, were deeply engaged with the Bonurong.

---

10 Edmund Hobson to Margaret Hobson Ms 8457, Box 865/2B, SLV. This letter is undated but is possibly 1843 as Edmund enquires after 'little Jack'. Edmund and Margaret Hobson had twin boys born Melbourne 1843, one of whom John, died aged five in 1848 the same year as his father. This child is presumably little Jack, see Pioneer Index, Victoria, 1836–1888. In the same year 1848, Margaret Hobson had another set of twins.

11 Button Index, GMF 92/Box 38, SLV; Jane Franklin, GH, Hobart 18 February 1841 to my dear Dr Hobson, Ms 8457, Box 865/1/c, SLV.

12 Clark 2000, vol 5: 205. Mrs Robinson died on 10 August 1848.

13 For George Smith's wife/Melvina/mother of Edward and Edmond, see George Gordon McCrae, Ms 2523/4/c, SLV; for Carrencurrenalk, see Kerr's *Melbourne Almanac* for 1841.

Kangerong was the principal encampment on the Mornington Peninsula and the run functioned for Europeans as well, as the hub of the district. Edward Hobson was helpful to the new chums Alfred and Maurice Meyrick at Boniong; later, he facilitated their brother and cousin Henry Howard Meyrick onto Colourt. Edward Hobson is the pivotal figure in the early history, and it is highly likely that this Bonurong speaking young man, with his good relations with the Bonurong, together with George Smith, his mother's partner, set the tone of the peaceful interactions on the Mornington Peninsula. It is fatuous to dismiss these good relationships as attributable to the fact that the Bonurong were a mild and inoffensive race (a judgement sourced from Henry Howard Meyrick and repeated endlessly in local histories). The Bonurong were no different from any other nation in the Kulin Confederacy in terms of their culture and lifestyle. That there was no conflict at all on the Mornington Peninsula is to be explained in the same terms as conflict is explained in other regions of Victoria, that is, in terms of individual leaders, of social and political agendas of groups, of the tone of relationships both Indigenous and European. It is patronising to label such powerful and distinguished leaders as Old Mr Mann, Koolloorlook, Kurborough, Old Doctor, Bobbinary, Budgery Tom, to name but a few, as 'a mild and inoffensive race'.



**Fig 27. 'Tommy Hobson'**

Carl Walter photograph, 1866, at Coranderrk; *possibly* related to Edward Hobson's Tommy. Reproduced with the permission of the State Library of Victoria.

As can be seen from the records of their relationships with the Bonurong in this chapter and in the next, Edward Hobson and George Smith seemed genuinely to like them and to respect them; more importantly, these day-to-day records demonstrate that the Bonurong men and women observed Europeans keenly, interpreted European reactions accurately, judged them, criticised them, defied them, manipulated them to get what they wanted, all the while giving precedence in their decision making to their prior tribal relationships: they also retained their freedom of movement throughout their country (except Melbourne).

### no date

Kangerong is on a Thomas map which he has annotated 'these places are not put down upon any scale merely [illegible] to show watercourses, names and position regarding the coast'.<sup>14</sup> This map is undated and located now in a miscellaneous collection of equally undated material. But it probably dates from 1839, at the time of Thomas' first walk around the peninsula, and subsequent selection of Tubberubbabel, as he specifically relates the Aboriginal camping places to the creeks they are on, and states that beyond Arthurs Seat there is no creek of any importance, and this latter conclusion was the prime reason for selecting Tubberubbabel.

### At the beginning of 1839

'Between my run<sup>15</sup> [Jamieson, at Cape Schanck] and Melbourne, a distance of about 70 miles, there was but one settler Mr Edward Hobson, located at Kangerong at the base of Arthurs Seat'.<sup>16</sup>

### 4–6 April 1839

Dr Edmund Hobson, who had arrived in Port Phillip with Lady Franklin's party from VDL, en route overland to Sydney, visited his brother Edward at Kangerong. Edmund recorded that he met a very intelligent native at Kangerong, from whom his brother had received great assistance, and who was somewhat of a traveller, having visited VDL and Flinders Island.<sup>17</sup> This man gave him

---

14 Thomas Papers set 214, item 22: 529, ML.

15 The writer is Robert Jamieson at Cape Schanck (Bride 1983[1898]: 90).

16 It was actually Hobson's farm station that was situated at the base of Arthurs Seat, his hut and his cattle paddocks; his other station Kangerong where his sheep were was situated on the lower slopes of Mt Martha. See Map 'Jamieson's Special Survey', SS 5A, 8081, VPRS 8168, PROV.

17 JP Fawknor brought three natives of Port Phillip to VDL in September 1836; one named Dallah Kalkeith returned to Port Phillip from Circular Head (Billot 1982: 95). The other two were Derrimut and Betbenjee, see Plomley 1987: 655. But there is no mention of their going to Flinders Island. William Buckley moved permanently to VDL in 1837. The two Bonurong men who fit this description of having visited Flinders Island and VDL before 1839 are Derrimut and Ben Benger. Ben Benger/Bait Banger/Bedbenji/Ner-rong-er/Nerongho/Robert Webb/Captain Good, age about 25 in 1839, wife Lygil/Ligee/Lizzie, age 17 in 1839, visited Tasmania with William Buckley in 1836. Ben Benger was a clan head whose country was the Werrabee River. He died between June and December 1851. Thomas used him as an example of deep and abiding love in answer to a question on chastity in an enquiry – he and his wife were seldom parted. The other person whom it could have been is Derrimut, but I think this unlikely as Derrimut was known as 'Fawknor's civilised black', and I think it likely that he would have been so described if it were he: future work may make this identification

information about the egg sacks of stingrays and sharks among other things.<sup>18</sup> When the brothers returned to Melbourne for Edmund to resume his escort duties with Lady Franklin, they found that her party had left, but they caught up with them at Craigieburn, and Lady Franklin recorded in her own journal:

Dr Hobson's brother speaks their language well and has a very intelligent native – his brother is 22 and has 700 or 1000 sheep and 150 cattle – is steady and active – has love of literature.<sup>19</sup>

Later, in 1847, Edmund Hobson operated on the young Bonurong man, Corporal Buckup of the Native Police, an amputation of a leg under ether which saved Buckup's life.<sup>20</sup> Buckup was a son of the Bonurong clanhead Budgery Tom, mentioned so frequently in these early protectorate records, the owner of all the country around Carrum swamp and across to the Western Port Highway.

### 21 June 1839

In a letter to Robinson of this date Thomas notes that the former natives of John Batman, Bull, Pigeon and Joe the marine have been engaged or decoyed in the service of Mr Smith Junior, son of Mr Smith of the Lamb Inn and are now at Arthurs Seat about 50 miles from Melbourne. They went in a boat.<sup>21</sup>

## John Batman's VDL natives

By the time the Sydney Aboriginal men known as John Batman's natives turn up on the Mornington Peninsula, they have a vast amount of experience in dealing with Europeans and Aborigines both in VDL and at Port Phillip and in Pigeon's case, Western Australia. The names by which they were listed on vessels to Port Phillip are as follows – Jno Pigeon, Martin, Bill Bullets, Joe Bangett, Jno Stewart, Old Bull, and Chief Mackey.<sup>22</sup> Batman also brought over two young Tasmanian boys, John Allen and Ben Lomand. Some of these men had been with Batman in his conciliation efforts with the Tasmanian Aborigines; two of them

---

certain. Considering that Robinson stated subsequently, in 1838 before he arrived in Port Phillip as Chief Protector, that his VDL blacks were very friendly with the blacks at Port Phillip (see Chapter 11), the travels of Derrimut and Betbenjee, and the relationship in general, require further research.

18 EC Hobson, 'Diary of a Journey overland from Melbourne to the Hume River with Lady Franklin's party April 1839', Ms 383/09, Box 25/1, SLV.

19 Russell 2002: 38.

20 Chief Protector's report for 1847, Robinson Papers, vol 61: 40, ML. Buckup's biographical details are in Chapter 7.

21 CY 3082, ML. In the next letter of 22 June, Thomas gives details of the following: Robert Bullett and Robert Allen in the service of Mr Newton at Mordialloc; Thomas Warton, ten years old, of Port Phillip living with Mrs Warton; Jack eight years old, living with Mr Arden editor of the *Port Phillip Gazette*, and going to school; Mr Batman's black Jack who went with the dray to supply forage for the horse police and was left at the Goulburn; Bungat removed to Baxter's station at the Goulburn; Sam, removed to Dixon's station at the Goulburn; Pigeon taken by young Smith to Arthur's Seat; Ben Loman at a station at Gellibrand's point, Williamstown; John Allen and Old Bull at Batman's sheep station; Cook was dead, and Pigeon had been given a grant of land in VDL.

22 Plomley 1966: 474.

had received land grants of 100 acres from Governor Arthur; Pigeon had been with the sealers in Bass Strait and was a crewman on board the *Hunter* in 1826; he was left at the Recherche Archipelago and made his way to King George's Sound<sup>23</sup> where he was employed by the first commandant Major Lockyer;<sup>24</sup> he possibly knew, or knew of Bonurong women. All the Sydney blacks of John Batman could speak English and were considered 'civilised'; some of them were present with the Bonurong men Budgery Tom and Kollorlook at the signing of the treaty;<sup>25</sup> some went with Benbow and the other Bonurong men in the parties who went after the men who killed Franks and Flinders; some lived at Batman's hill where the cauldron of rice and jam was kept going round the clock for feeding the Port Phillip people.

Ten of Batman's blacks were present with about 50 Port Phillip Aborigines on Batman's hill at the first public religious service conducted in Port Phillip in April 1836, a Church of England service conducted by the Reverend Joseph Orton.<sup>26</sup> According to the minister, the Aborigines were:

the largest portion of my congregation ... who sat very quietly during the time of service, and seemed particularly interested by the singing.<sup>27</sup>

Of this largest portion of the congregation, Aborigines, Orton went on to describe Batman's Sydney blacks in particular:

smart, intelligent looking fellows, dressed in red shirts and white trousers, with black handkerchiefs about their necks. The chief of the party was decorated with a full military suit presented to him by Governor Arthur which he wore with ease and grace.

It was a Colonel's uniform, in excellent condition, with the cocked hat and feathers forming the crowning ornament.<sup>28</sup> This uniform was presented honourably to the recipient, a formal recognition of services rendered – not a joke. Neither

---

23 Plomley and Henley 1990: 7; Cumpston 1970: 87.

24 *HRA*, 3rd series, vol vi: 469.

25 One of Batman's initial party, William Todd remained at Indented Head when Batman went back to Tasmania and kept a journal which has survived. He mentions the Sydney blacks Pigeon, Joe and Bull, and says that the local Aborigines' 'joy was beyond anything when they saw them'; Todd also says that the local Aborigines sang the same song at the corroboree that night as the Sydney blacks (William Todd, 'Journal June to November 1835 at Indented Head', Ms 7692, Box 28/11, SLV).

26 Bonwick 1856: 133. Bonwick's informant was an eyewitness, Mr William Willoughby who purchased the Cape Schanck run from Robert Jamieson and later settled at Langwarrin. He was the father of the lost child thought, *wrongly*, to be taken by the Bonurong in 1846. It is still repeated in local histories that the Bonurong took her. In fact at least three children went missing in Bonurong country, the others that I know of being pound-keeper Atkinson's child in 1846 (for whom the Native Police searched), and a child from Barker's station at Cape Schanck in 1850 about whom Jamieson told the McCraes that a sock had been found half a mile from where the child went missing, and they were not going to tell the father of this distressing fact. The myth about Willoughby's child being abducted probably gained credence because, as Thomas noted, Old Maria was known to be very much attached to the child.

27 Rev Joseph Orton's memorandum quoted in Symons 1870: 136–137; Campbell n.d.:165.

28 Bonwick 1856: 133.

Orton nor Bonwick offer any evidence to suggest why the Bonurong and Waworong attended, or what they made of the featured procession of the ten strikingly dressed foreign Aborigines.

When Robinson uses the term ‘decoyed’ it is more likely to be sour grapes than to reflect the reality of an informed engagement of these men to work at Kangerong.

### July 1839

Edward Hobson, Robert Jamieson and George Desailley:

together with three aboriginal natives [unnamed] carted a whaleboat from Kangerong to Western Port for the purpose of exploring the country in the neighbourhood of that bay<sup>29</sup> ... Mr Hobson’s station was on what is now<sup>30</sup> the Point Nepean Road.

## George Desailley

George Desailley was another youngster, just 17 years old when he crossed over from VDL. His father was Dr Francis Desailley and his brother was Francis Junior. They arrived in the ill-fated *Britannia* on 1 April 1839: the father went to the Glenelg River, then to Gippsland. The two young brothers went to Edward Hobson’s Kangerong station and seemingly formed an outstation for Hobson, marked on Smythe’s 1841 map as Tondanue at the back of Rosebud, en route to Boniong. The connection was a family one; Edward Hobson’s grandfather, Dr Lutterell, was a friend of both Dr Francis and Dr TA Desailley. The Desailley brothers ended up in the Riverina holding 2,000,000 acres – the largest landholding in New South Wales.<sup>31</sup> Desailley’s hut is shown near Tondanue at the back of present Rosebud on a Thomas map.<sup>32</sup>

### no date but before August 1839

A work agreement was entered into between Edward William Hobson and three of John Batman’s Sydney natives,<sup>33</sup> Pigeon, Joseph and Unnamed. The salaries were 12 pounds 14 shillings and 16 pounds plus board and lodging.<sup>34</sup>

---

29 Bride 1983[1898]: 90.

30 1853.

31 Kenyon, AS Ms 7597, Box 502/7, SLV.

32 VPRS 4410, unit 3/67, PROV.

33 Batman had died in May.

34 *HRV*, vol 2B: 744, 766. There is a large file with documents that show that Robinson’s blacks cut adrift, including little Johnny Franklin, the New Holland native from South Australia who came over with his mother Charlotte/Sarah, were also engaged under work agreements which included housing, board, clothing and monthly cash, at VPRS 10, unit 1/334, PROV. Johnny Franklin was put with settler David Hill for no money but instruction in reading and writing plus board, lodging and clothing (*HRV*, vol 2B: 748).

'I Succeeded Once'

## August 1839

Thomas on his first journey to the Mornington Peninsula wrote that:

A chop tree was the only guide to Arthur's Seat which Mr Hobson with the assistance of the Western Port blacks had marked.

It was a heathy country, he said, between Melbourne and Arthurs Seat, ie sandy, so that though the dray had been there twice, it had not left a track.<sup>35</sup>

## 17 August 1839

About 2 pm on this day Thomas and his son:

arrived at the first station, Mr Hobson's, 48 miles from Melbourne ... Mr H made us very comfortable. After taking refreshment we went to the blacks, who were within quarter of a mile.<sup>36</sup>

On 18 August he spent most of the day with the Bonurong and was much surprised to see how comfortable they were compared to what they are when in Melbourne. There was one old man about whom he wrote a comment which is indecipherable, but he said the rest seemed well and happy.<sup>37</sup> A family arrived in 'a very distressed state', consisting of an old man, three lubras and four children.<sup>38</sup> He took a census of the blacks and commenced a vocabulary. On 19 August Thomas saw the signed work agreement papers of the above-mentioned three natives<sup>39</sup> at Hobson's and was 'most pleased to find the straightforward conduct of this settler'.<sup>40</sup>

In his summary of proceedings for August, Thomas adds the further detail that there were 36 in the whole encampment at Kangerong and that he stayed with them till night, and informed them that he was going to live among them and make a miam for his lubra.<sup>41</sup> They were preparing to leave on a five day excursion around their country and they invited him to go with them, and he said he would have accepted the invitation except that his cart had not arrived from Melbourne and he had no provisions and did not want to 'depend on their bounty' at the start of his 'career' among them.

He accompanied the men on their excursion for a while, and then turned back to Hobson's where he found the women and children preparing to depart on a

---

35 Byrt 2004, CD WT 2606 F.DOC.

36 *HRV*, vol 2B: 536. It needs to be noted that Thomas' dates differ by a day in his Summary of Proceedings for August.

37 Thomas Summary of Proceedings for August 1839, CY 3082, ML. Bunggame mentioned in Chapter 3.

38 *HRV*, vol 2B: 536. There is only one family in the records with this structure, the family of the Bonurong chief Old Mr Man.

39 In a draft letter to Robinson, Thomas names the third man as Joe the Marine (CY 3082, ML).

40 Thomas Summary of Proceedings for August 1839, CY 3082, ML.

41 Thomas Summary of Proceedings for August 1839, CY 3082, ML.

three day fishing expedition.<sup>42</sup> Thomas then made his first exploratory journey on foot around the Mornington Peninsula from 21 August to 25 August 'to ascertain the probable resort of the blacks'. He arrived back at Hobson's on 26 August and, presumably on the basis of not finding any other evidence of favourite congregating spots on his five day exploration, nor water, he selected 'the site of my hut where Burrenum [Mr Dredge] said he was born, opposite to a series of waterholes called by the natives Tubberubbabel'.

### **26 August 1839**

Thomas visited the blacks' encampment at Kangerong and was:

much struck with two blacks cleaning their guns. They had screwdrivers and took the lock to pieces, cleaning the barrel and touch hole as carefully as any white man. Others were employed in sewing skins with sinews of kangaroo, others in stretching skins out on pieces of bark.

Thomas stayed with them till evening.<sup>43</sup>

### **27 August 1839**

Thomas was at his quarters at Tubberubbabel when 'the whole party from Kangerong except the old man pay me a visit'. He wrote that they were 'delighted' to see construction begun on his lubra's miam.<sup>44</sup>

### **28 August 1839**

Thomas visited them early in the day at Kangerong, and on the way he met a party of lubras who were coming to Tubberubbabel to cut bark and tea-tree for him for the construction of his house. He returned to Tubberubbabel at 2 pm to find that his son spoke well of their work and said that they had cut nearly enough bark and tea-tree. Thomas gave them a good feed and they lay down and slept till evening when he sent them home to Kangerong with more flour and sugar.<sup>45</sup>

### **24 October 1839**

After a hazardous journey from Melbourne to Tubberubbabel (bullock dray got stuck several times, his cow got loose and swam a flooded Creek, then her calf followed, then the hobbled bullocks followed and nearly drowned), Thomas got safe to Tubberubbabel at sunset.<sup>46</sup> The next day he visited the natives early at Kangerong, gave them rice and sugar and proposed a spot for them to erect their miams 'of which they promise to do the following morning'. Next day,

---

42 Thomas Summary of Proceedings for August 1839, CY 3082, ML.

43 Thomas Journal, *HRV*, vol 2B: 538.

44 Thomas Journal, *HRV*, vol 2B: 538.

45 Thomas Journal, *HRV*, vol 2B: 539.

46 Thomas Journal, *HRV*, vol 2B: 554.

'I Succeeded Once'

26 October 1839, he visited early 'the natives' principal encampment about 1 mile southwest of my hut'. The principal encampment is Kangerong: his hut, the site for his Protectorate station, is Tubberubbabel. The natives 'break their encampment with Mr Hobson, said goodbye' and all followed him to Tubberubbabel by noon.<sup>47</sup>

They agreed to move to Tubberubbabel because Thomas told them the government would ration them there. But the rations were meagre, and they complained that it was not like the good rations they received from Batman and Fawkner. Thomas was repeatedly called back to Melbourne by the Chief Protector, and though he left his wife and children at Tubberubbabel, and his son William Jackson Thomas squatted at Tuerong, and though Thomas and Mrs Thomas and their son often distributed personal supplies to the blacks, there was seldom enough to feed everybody.

## 1840

On a list of placenames 'Kangerong – Mr Hobson's Station'.<sup>48</sup>

### 11 January 1840

Thomas visited Kangerong; there were 19 natives there, two of whom were ill. He bid them come to Tubberubbabel and attempted to teach six children their letters, but they showed very little anxiety to learn: they can repeat the letters by heart, but do not recognise them when shown. A marginal note records that the sick people at Kangerong were Maria who was Mr King's mother, and Kurlblene aged 11 years who was one of the sons of Old Doctor and who appeared to be in a decline.<sup>49</sup>

### **Old Doctor/Won-go-no/Wonggonar/Wongoro/ Wongona/Wongurn**

His country was Kurrun, the flat country from Moody Yallock to Konnigo, including Horsfold's and the great Marsh [Carrum swamp] (Principal families and the countries they claim, CY 3130, frame 32).

Jul 1839 – Doctor/WON-GO-NO (Name taken in encampment, Thomas 'A' Diary, set 214, item 1, ML).

11 Jan 1840 – Thomas visited Kangerong and attended to those who were ill; Kurlblene a youth aged 11, Old Doctor's son appeared to

47 Thomas Journal, *HRV*, vol 2B: 554.

48 Thomas Papers set 214/2, item 1, ML; Byrt 2004, CD WT 2605 N.DOC.

49 CY 2605, item 1, ML.

be in a decline (CY 2605, item 1, ML); Feb 1840 – On Thomas' list of those not going to Western Port on the raid is Dr and his family who are going to Moody Yallock, a party of 5 (Thomas 2605, frame 8, ML); 13 Apr 1840 – Prior to the fight, still encamped on South side of river, Old Doctor and 6 of his family (CY 2605, item 1, ML); 22 Apr 1840 – Thomas and the Bonurong were camped at Moody Yallock en route to Tubbarubbabel, and Doctor and his family joined us (CY 2604, item 3, ML); 16 May 1840 – The Doctor and family except one youth very ill leave Buckermittawarra for the limeburners (CY 2604, item 3, ML); 12 Jun 1840 – Old Doctor and family, six persons in all are at Turtgurruck (CY 2604, ML); 24 Jun 1840 – Doctor has three children (CY 2604, item 3, ML); 9 Aug 1840 – Described by Hobson's drayman as a tall man, known to be well disposed (CY 2604, ML); 15 Aug 1840 – Saturday, the whole of the Western Port blacks are at Melbourne except Doctor and his family who are at Pt Nepean (CY 2604, item 3, ML); on a list from 1840 of Principal Families is Old Doctor Wongurn c. and Beurar l. bracketed together as a couple, parents, plus their children Morap c. Kurberener c. Pourrut l. and Wilwilrup l. (CY 2605, item 1, ML); Doctor and his family were one of four families staying with Henry Howard Meyrick at Narren–Gullen station at the back of Mt Eliza towards the end of 1840; Doctor performed an operation on Cognamine Wongill alias Lively, who was sick with a pain in the breast. Doctor placed the patient on his back, knelt at his side and pummelled his chest 'most unmercifully'. All of a sudden Doctor jumped up and showed the onlookers a large nail which he said he pulled out of the chest of the patient; he started singing, threw the nail into the sea and stated that he had cured the patient; and he had – next day Lively went kangarooing with Meyrick (HH Meyrick in Hales and Le Cheminant 1997: 14).

7 Jul 1842 – WONGGONAR, male, aged 60, married, died at Mahun Western Port, most celebrated Doctor (CY 3082, first doc on reel, ML).

1846 – On 'Family Connections Census' are Old Doctor's widow, Boorowrook and her two daughters, Wilwilrook aged 10 and Borut aged 8 (CY 3083, ML).

1861 – In an estray dated 1861, Thomas lists a Boorut, a female, lubra of Andrew a Gippsland man, with two children who are a male aged six years named Wandum, and a half caste aged two years, all of whom are with Mr Green at Coranderrk (CY 2984: 235, ML).

'I Succeeded Once'

### **17 January 1840**

Thomas visited Hobson but he was out. Thomas took the opportunity to reprimand Pigeon for making free with the lubras.<sup>50</sup>

### **28 January 1840**

Police Magistrate Captain William Lonsdale wants to know from Thomas whether there are any new Aborigines at Kangerong.<sup>51</sup>

### **9 May 1840**

Thomas recorded 23 Aborigines at Hobson's and Merricks.<sup>52</sup>

### **11 May 1840**

Thomas found the whole of the blacks at Kangerong, 122 of them.<sup>53</sup>

### **13 May 1840**

Thomas gave further details of the encampment at Kangerong described as 'about 5 miles W of Tuerong. Give them charge not to Encamp or near in a brush paddock of Mr Hobson at Kangerong'.<sup>54</sup> In a report to Robinson, Thomas noted that they were camped 'on a rise by Kangerong by Mt Martha'.<sup>55</sup>

### **16 May 1840**

Mr Man and family and the young men return to Kangerong.<sup>56</sup>

### **27 May 1840**

Thomas, sick from an illness he attributes to his leaky tent roof, learned from his son that the blacks who left Tubberubbabel on Monday 25 May are at Kangerong. Thomas visited and found 104.<sup>57</sup>

### **29 May 1840**

Thomas visited the blacks' encampment at Kangerong only to find they had shifted to Bukkumetterawarra by Arthurs Seat.<sup>58</sup>

---

50 CY 2605, item 1, frame 35, ML.

51 Thomas Journal CY 2605, item 1, ML.

52 Thomas Journal, CY 2605, item 1, ML.

53 Thomas Journal, CY 2604, item 3, ML.

54 Thomas Journal, CY 2605, item 1, ML.

55 Thomas Second Periodical Report, 7 November 1840, VPRS 4410, unit 3/67, PROV.

56 Thomas Journal, CY 2604 item 3, ML.

57 Thomas Journal, CY 2604, item 3, ML.

58 Thomas Journal, CY 2604, item 3, ML.

### 27 July 1840

Ganjerong is Mr Thomas Senior's second station, one mile from Tubberubberbil. Robinson visited 'Gan.jer.rong' with Thomas the next day and recorded the added information that Thomas' third station was called 'Bag.her.me.dare.re.wur.er'.<sup>59</sup>

### 9 August 1840

This is a Sunday, and Thomas normally does not travel but he has gone to Buckkermittewarrer to investigate an alleged assault on Hobson's dray travelling the road between Buckkermittewarrer and Kangerong. The assault took place within 400 yards of the hut at Kangerong, and Thomas records that there are 11 hands with the carpenters living there at Kangerong.<sup>60</sup>

### August 1840

Superintendent La Trobe made a four day visit to Arthurs Seat and Cape Schanck but made no mention of Aborigines.

### August 30

With Elliot Herriot, he having taken up a run at Cape Schanck adjacent to James Thomson's. A long ride. The last part in the dark to Hobson's. Very little of the intervening country taken.

### August 31

Up. Camp the second night on the shore of Capel Sound. Explore the country towards the Schanck on one hand, and towards Pt Nepean on the other. Visit the site of Collins Settlement (1802). Greatly struck with the character of the long point separating the Bay and the Schanck and terminating in Pt Nepean – Sand dunes – The oak forest – & "cups and saucers". Failed to reach the Point. No station at Arthur's Seat till long after this, nor on the point beyond a few limeburners who may have been already there.

### September 1

Camp at Creek

### September 2

Hobson's

---

<sup>59</sup> Clark 1988, vol 1: 356, 357.

<sup>60</sup> Thomas Journal, CY 2604, item 3, ML.

'I Succeeded Once'

### September 3

Return home.<sup>61</sup>

### 1840 or 1841

Hobson's and Kangerong are both marked on a Thomas map of the Western Port District.<sup>62</sup>

### 29 January 1841

Hobson's station is shown on another Thomas map of the Western Port District.<sup>63</sup>

### 22 May 1841

Thomas visited Tubberubbabel, Kangerong, Bukkermerderra and Deangeong only to find all the Aborigines had gone to Melbourne. Slept at his son's station at Tuerong.<sup>64</sup>

### 1841

Description of Hugh Jamieson's Survey 'County of [blank on original], parish of Kangerong near Mt Martha. Bounded on the west by Port Phillip Bay, on the north by a line about 10 chains south of Mt Martha bearing East 328 chains 75 links, on the East by a line bearing South 160 chains and on the South by a line bearing West 369 chains 75 links'.<sup>65</sup>

### 23 June 1841

Assistant Protector William Thomas in a formal petition to the Governor of New South Wales Sir George Gipps:

prays that no more Special Surveys be disposed of in his District without the Protector being consulted whether or not the Aborigines can dispense with the same ... there are four blocks already disposed of in Your Petitioner's District, three of the four are a serious loss to the Aborigines, viz that block by the coast by the Red Bluff [Henry Dendy's Special Survey, 5180 acres at Brighton and Moorabbin, which Liardet painted],<sup>66</sup> that block by Mt Martha [Hugh Jamieson's Special Survey of

---

61 Charles Joseph La Trobe, *Australian Notes 1839–1854, Dates of Journeys etc*, Ms 130003, vol 4, SLV.

62 VPRS 4410, PO unit 3, item 67, PROV.

63 This map was formerly located with its correspondence at VPRS 11, Box 7, no 365, but has been re-located to VPRS 6760/PO unit 1, item 1, PROV. It is also reproduced in *HRV*, vol 2B: 578–579.

64 Thomas Journal, CY 2605, item 5, ML.

65 VPRS 14152/P 0001, unit 000001, PROV.

66 *HRV*, vol 6: 380. The fourth Special Survey which was not mentioned as a site of importance for fishing was Henry Elgar's Special Survey of 5180 acres at Boroondara and Nunawading.

5180 acres including Kangarong, Tubberubbabel and Bukkerrmerderra], and the splendid swamp by the Yarra [Frederick Wright Unwin's Special Survey of 5180 acres at Bulleen], all favourable fishing places.<sup>67</sup>

### July 1841

Kangerong, Dr Hobson's cattle station is shown as a rectangle with a waterhole on Thomas H Nutt's 'Plan of a Special Survey containing five thousand one hundred and twenty acres selected by Hugh Jamieson Esq in the Parish of Kangerong County of [blank on original]'<sup>68</sup> Mornington filled in by another hand subsequently.

### no date but probably July 1841

Hobson's is marked on a third Thomas map.<sup>69</sup>

### 13 November 1841

Canjerung – the rectangular homestead site including a water pool is marked on George D Smythe's 'Survey the Coast of Port Phillip from the Mouth of Tangenong Creek to Arthur's Seat'.<sup>70</sup>

### 14 January 1842

Thomas took Budgery Tom to Kangerong.<sup>71</sup>

### 8 September 1843

Thomas in Melbourne was concerned for the welfare of his blacks and went to enquire along the beach. He called at a number of native encampments for which he gave the native name, and in the margin, the squatter occupying the run. These places were Boollerim – Mr Shannessey, Binningean – Captain Baxter<sup>72</sup> and Ballewrunan – Mr Gorringer<sup>73</sup> where he stopped the night having travelled 43 miles on horseback. He found no blacks. Next day he visited Tuerong then Kangerong and heard at Kangerong that the blacks were at Kulluck. The next day was a Sunday; even so, he rode from Tuerong to Kulluk and found the blacks. They then came to Tuerong and encamped by a Creek, about 30 of them, all Western Ports except one Barrabool lubra and her child. 'The poor children and lubras look very sadly', he wrote ' – poor creatures'.<sup>74</sup>

---

67 Enclosure to VPRS 10, unit 3, 1841/909, PROV.

68 Special Survey 5, VPRS 8168, P/1, PROV.

69 Thomas uncat Ms set 214, item 22: 547, ML.

70 CS 81a, VPRS 8168, P/1, PROV.

71 Thomas Journal, CY 2605, item 5, ML.

72 We know this as the run Carup Carup.

73 Ballewrunan is Poleorongong, the important encampment at the back of Mt Eliza.

74 Thomas Journal, CY 2606, item 2, ML. Thomas crossed out another sentence in this days' entry for which the verb cannot be read. It looks like a matter of regret for the station they once had.

'I Succeeded Once'

### **17 January 1844**

Mortgagee's Sale advertised in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, of Jamieson's Special Survey, 5120 acres plus a cottage on the estate, and other improvements, to be held in Sydney on 8 February.<sup>75</sup>

### **15 February 1844**

Georgiana McCrae recorded that Captain and Mrs Reid, Mr Jamieson, Mr McCrae and 'myself' went on horseback to inspect the Survey. Alighted at Kangerong House.

### **19 April 1844**

Mr McCrae and Mr Jamieson started for Kangerong.

### **11 June 1845**

Mr Russell (government surveyor) and party arrive for the survey of 6000 acres.<sup>76</sup>

### **11 July 1845**

Mr McCrae leaves tomorrow for Kangerong, to ride with Mr Jamieson for Melbourne.<sup>77</sup>

### **1 November 1845**

Superintendent La Trobe and Commandant Henry Dana of the Native Police visited Mt Eliza, Karangerong, Arthurs Seat, Cape Schanck and the Pulpit Rock. Next day La Trobe noted 'the fine wild view' and had a long ride after kangaroo with Barker and Dana on the western side of the peninsula. On the following day he started before breakfast and rode to Arthurs Seat, thence to town, leaving Dana at the end of the Long Beach. He arrived back in his Melbourne office at 1 pm.<sup>78</sup>

### **no date but after 1845**

'Not far from our old Devonian neighbours lived the holders of the Kangerong Special Survey, three brothers, gentlemen by birth, breeding and education, capital horsemen and the best of neighbours. Their weatherboard house an unpretending structure well finished with nooks, stockwhips and branding irons, sufficiently spoke to its owners – one a bit of a dandy, another a reading man and the third like each of the others, an out and out bushman'.<sup>79</sup> The three Jamieson brothers were Bushby, Hugh J and Archibald J.<sup>80</sup>

---

75 *Sydney Morning Herald*, Wednesday 17 January 1844: 4.

76 Weber 2001: 546.

77 McCrae 1966: 127, 137, 195.

78 Charles Joseph La Trobe, 'Memoranda of Journeys...', vol 1, no 37, Ms 130003, Box 79/1, safe, SLV.

79 George Gordon McCrae, 'Experiences not exploits', vol 3, Ms 2523/4/c, SLV. These are the Jamieson brothers.

80 McCrae 1987: 62.

## **Bush/Bushby/Busby/Busby Jamieson/ Trooper Bushby Jamieson**

He came from the Vale of Tempe cattle station, owned by the Jamieson brothers, purchased by William Kyle's father, renamed Tarcomb: it was west of the Tallarook ranges, over the Goulburn River. This black in particular was always ready to help us, taught us tracking, knowledge of distances, of direction for travelling, the necessity of caution. He would say 'plenty wild blackfellows alonga there' ... very intelligent and useful, afterwards joined the Mounted Police under Captain Dana and Lt Walsh.<sup>1</sup>

13 Sep 1845 – Trooper Bush arrived with troop horse Panekin and very insolent.

4 Jul 1850 – Trooper Bushby returned from Melbourne [to Native Police Corps HQ at Nerre Nerre Warren] bringing the two horses belonging to Mr Powlett; 28 Aug 1850 – Trooper Bushby arrived from Melbourne with despatches to send Corporal O/Bryan and a trooper to escort a prisoner from Mt Macedon; 29 Aug 1850 – Corporal Gellibrand and Trooper Bushby left for Melbourne; 17 Oct 1850 – Trooper Bushby arrived from Melbourne with letters for the Commandant; 19 Oct 1850 – His Honor left the station accompanied by Troopers Marambool [Warworong man] and Bushby; 25 Oct 1840 – Troopers Bushby and Tommy in Melbourne; 14/15 Nov 1850 – Troopers Bushby and Condine are to attend drill [the day after the opening of Princes Bridge which the Corps attended]; 24 Dec 1850 – Trooper Bushby left for Melbourne with letters from the Commandant.

9 Apr 1851 – Trooper Bushby arrived from Melbourne with despatches; 10 Apr 1851 – he departed; 24 Apr 1851 – Trooper Bushby arrived from Melbourne; 2 May 1851 – Corporal Cohen and Troopers Souwester [Port Fairy], Robinson, Isaacs relieved Bushby, Peter and Condine who returned to station; 3 May 1851 – parade and pay; 14 May 1851 – Troopers Bushby and Condine to stockade [the Native Police Corps were the first guards at Pentridge]; 19 Jul 1851 – Troopers Paddy and Murray left for Pentridge to replace Troopers Bushby and Sam deserted (all 'Dandenong Daybook', VPRS 90, PROV). 1 to 31 May 1851 – Trooper Bushby, pay abstract, receiving one and a half pence per day, three shillings and ten and a half pence per month (VPRS 29, vol 55: 127, PROV).

I. 'Reminiscences of William Kyle', Victorian Historical Magazine 10(3), June 1925: 160.

'I Succeeded Once'

## January 1846

On Thomas' 'Boongurong Family Connections Port' census of this date, he lists the sections of the Boonwurrong, the places they belong to, the names, sex and age of the people. Kangerong is a section. It has only three people – Bobbinary, male, widower; Yal Yal, male 20 and Boyyerup, female 23.<sup>81</sup>

## Disappearance of Willoughby's child

Even today, secondary sources are on our library shelves which state that the Bonurong stole this child. They did not. Because the alleged perpetrators ended up at Kangerong, the recovered evidence is presented here. I regard the Aboriginal evidence as truthful: Billy Lonsdale himself organised the checking, and the women would not lie to him.

### 6 March 1846

The Chief Protector having ordered Thomas to Western Port to investigate the disappearance of Mr Willoughby's child, Thomas was at Willoughby's station (Lang Warren) helping to search for the child who had gone missing from the No Good Damper Inn. At Ruffy's station (Mahun) he learned that Lummer Lummer, Nerreninen, Worrakup, Korrabak and Old Maria happened to be passing at about the time the child wandered off, and everyone knew that 'This lubra [Maria] had previously shewn a favourable fond disposition for the child'.

Next day, Thomas accompanied Mr Willoughby six miles to Mrs Martha King's station on Kings Creek at present Hastings, where Mr Sage (Captain Baxter's future son-in-law, later of Sage's cottage) and Mr Meyrick (Henry Howard of Coolart) assured him that Old Maria was at the Heads on the day that the child disappeared. Thomas and Willoughby walked back to Lang Warren and Thomas insisted that the pond be drained. No body was found. Then he went back to Mr Ruffy's only to find that there had been a mistake in the earlier evidence – Old Maria was confirmed as not being with the four male Bonurong when the little girl wandered off. Thomas then learned the details at the No Good Damper Inn.

The mother of the child had recently been confined of another child at the No Good Damper Inn. The little girl, about four years old, followed her father to the stockyards about 100 yards away. While they were at the stockyard, a boy in charge of some cattle came and told Mr Willoughby that the cattle were lost. Mr Willoughby promptly left, believing as he said, that the child would go back the 100 yards to the No Good Damper Inn. After about an hour, the father returned from the lost cattle and discovered that the child was missing.

---

81 Thomas Papers, Family Connections Census, CY 3083, ML.

Immediate searches proved fruitless, and the child's body, mangled by native cats, was not found till three weeks later, less than one and a quarter to one and a half miles away.

A fortnight after the child went missing, but before the body was found, Billy Lonsdale told Thomas that on hearing of the disappearance of the child and the rumour, he (Billy Lonsdale) sent a young man to Point Nepean to check on Old Billy's lubra and Jack's lubra, and that they did not have the child, nor had they seen it. They were now at Kangerong.<sup>82</sup>

#### **Undated but between 7 May 1847 and 6 September 1848**

In Georgiana's own account of young Myrnong hiding in the chimney of Georgiana's bedroom to escape from her husband, she recorded that Myrnong escaped to Kangerong where she was waddied (Hugh Gordon's edition states that she escaped to the Survey).<sup>83</sup>

#### **1848**

Liardet would like to lease portion of Jamieson's Survey and have a boat and seine net ... would be a pleasant neighbour.<sup>84</sup>

#### **21 December 1852**

Superintendent La Trobe, having gone down from Melbourne to Point Lonsdale in the pilot boat, crossed the bay to look at the *Ticonderoga* moored off the Quarantine Station, then rode to Settlement Point, then to the Burrell's at Arthurs Seat, then to 'the Survey' and on to Balcombe's and Melbourne.<sup>85</sup>

---

82 Thomas Journal, CY 2606, frames 338–342, ML.

83 Weber 2001: 610.

84 McCrae 1966: 255.

85 Charles Joseph La Trobe, 'Memoranda of Journeys...', vol 2, no 83, Ms 130003, Box 79/1, safe, SLV.