

Post Offices of the Goldfield's Woodlines

- Barry Wilkinson

The Kalgoorlie woodlines were timber getting operations that covered a large part of the Eastern Goldfields region of Western Australia. Over the period 1900 to the early 1960s they spread west from Kalgoorlie along the railway line to Boorabbin; south, past Widgiemooltha; and, south east, to nearly the Eyre Highway,

The timber harvested was used for mining operations, for tunnels and stopes, firewood for condensers and boilers used in the Goldfields water supply pumping stations for power generation (electrical), and as fire wood for business and domestic purposes.

At the start of these operations the timber was located close to the main centre of the mines but as time went on and supplies were depleted workers needed to travel further out to continue with their operations. As the wood was cut out, the company would move to new areas setting up camps along the rail lines with a large camp at the terminus. At times this could be 100 miles from the main administration centre of the company's operation.

The moving operations consisted of taking up and repositioning railway lines and removal of buildings. Buildings and accommodation were placed onto flatbed railway wagons and moved to their new locations when the railway lines had been repositioned.

The Post Offices

Much of this information has been taken from Wise's Post Office Directory 1900-1940, when the town or company first appeared in the directory. It is therefore in chronological order of appearance in the directories.

Kurrawang

First directory entry is 1904. The West Australian Goldfields Firewood Supply Ltd., operated from Kurrawang.

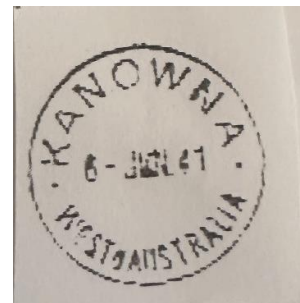
Kurrawang was an R.M.B. by the 28 February, 1905, and an Allowance office 10 May, 1905. It closed on the 10 November 1938.



Kurrawang was moved to Lakewood between 1937-38. The Post Master at the time, Lewis E Joseph, transferred from Kurrawang to Lakewood.

Kanowna

First known as White Feather, the Kanowna post office opened in 1894. The first entry of a woodline supply company, the Westralia Timber Company, appeared in the 1907 Wise's Directory, but the company transferred to Kurramia at about the same time (1907/08).



Kurramia

Located about halfway between Kanowna and Kalgoorlie, the West Australia Timber and Firewood Company operated out of Kurramia until about 1919.

The first directory entry is in 1911, although the Kurramia Woodline is listed as a receiver of mailbags on the 1 April 1908, and Kurramia Bush Store a receivables office on 16 January 1913.

It would appear these were mobile, that is, attached or part of supply/pay trains servicing camps along the line.

Kurramia itself became an Allowance Office on 1 July 1911, probably operating as a Post Office out of the Kurramia store that serviced the mobile operations previously mentioned.



The last post office directory entry for Kurramia is in 1922, and only two names appeared, the company itself and the accountant.

The company amalgamated with the Kalgoorlie and Boulder Firewood Company and shifted operations to Lakeside. Its timber concession had been cut off due to the Trans Australian Railway going through this part of the concession.

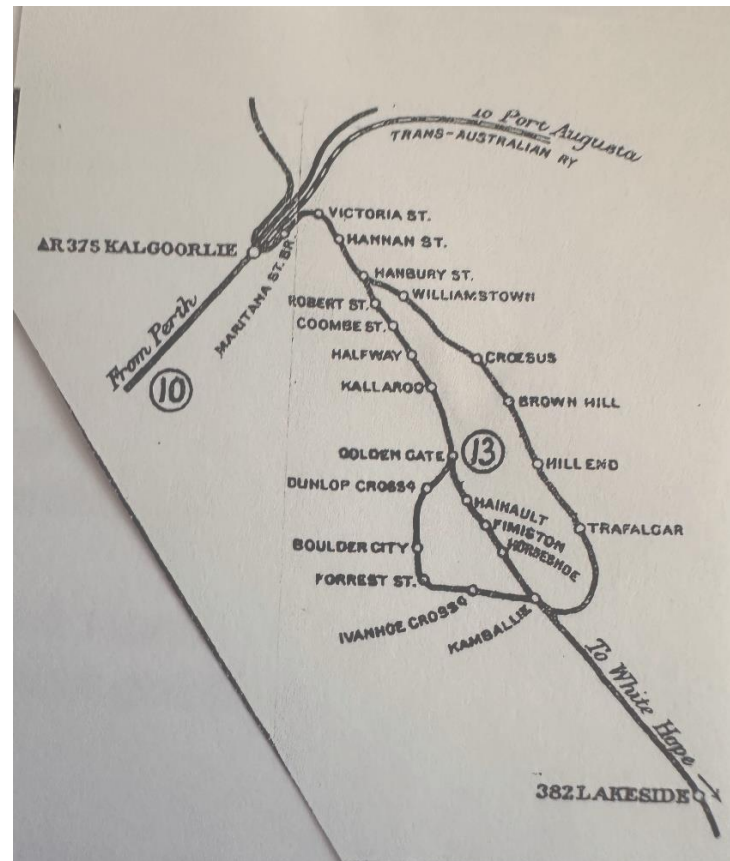
Lakeside

Lakeside did not appear in Wise's Directory until 1912, although it was a receivables office in 1903, becoming an allowance office in 1913.



The Kalgoorlie and Boulder Firewood Company operated from Lakeside as it continued with the amalgamation of the Kurrawa Company and the relocation of Kurramia homes to Lakeside.

By 1924 the Company was out of business and Lakeside deserted.



Lakewood

Kurrawang was due to close down in 1937 because the Trans Australia Railway had cut off part of its concession. The town was relocated between 1937/38 to a new location close to the old Lakeside and renamed Lakewood.

Lakewood's first entry in the Wise's Directory was in 1939/40. However, it had been made an Allowance Office on 12 November, 1938. On the Lakewood woodline, the main camp could be 100 miles from Lakewood with other camps along the way.

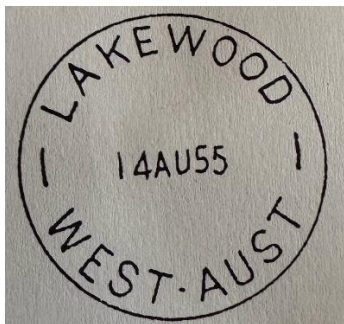
These locations would be serviced by a supply train with a dedicated carriage used as a shop, providing groceries and meat etc.

The Lakewood Post Office arranged for a mailbag to be delivered and for mail to be distributed along the line. Mail was also collected and brought into Lakewood to be delivered to the Post Office.

Once a month the pay wagon, a converted Ford truck body, would go out on the last Friday of each month.

The Post Mistress would travel out each Child Endowment pay day. However, postal marks or R.M.B. are not recorded for the Lakewood woodline, only for the Post Office.

Lakewood finally closed on 30 June 1965, ending the wood getting and the woodlines.



References

Bianchi, Phil & Tovey, Ray, 1935- & Bianchi, Phil & Tovey, Ray (2007). *Lakewood woodline 1937 to 1964: its origins, operations and people*. Hesperian Press, Carlisle, WA

Bunbury, Bill & Fremantle Arts Centre Press (1997). *Timber for gold: life on the Goldfields woodlines, 1899-1965: talking history with Bill Bunbury*. Fremantle Arts Centre Press, South Fremantle, WA

Fraser, Malcolm A (1887). *Western Australia Year Book For 1904-06*. PERTH

Fitzgerald, Crena (2021). *For a better life: Yugoslavs on the goldfields of Western Australia 1890-1970*. [Perth, Western Australia]

Hunter, L. R. M. (Lawrence Robert M.) & Hunter, L (1976). *Woodline: five years with the woodcutters of the Western Australian goldfields*. Fremantle, WA.

The Western Australia Study Group (1984). *Western Australia: The postal markings illustrated*.

Webb, M & A. (1993) *Golden Destiny: The centenary history of Kalgoorlie-Boulder and the Eastern Goldfields of West Australia*. City of Kalgoorlie/Boulder.

Wm. H. Wise & Co (1900-1946). *Wise's Western Australia post office directory*. H. Wise & Co. Pty Ltd, Sydney.

Invitation

PSWA Members are invited to write a small article for publication in Stamp Hinges on any philatelic topic that they are interested in and would like to share with other members of the Society

Fewer than 400 words and a few images is all it takes. (Long articles are also welcome).

Daytime Stamp Club

The Daytime Stamp Club has resumed meeting at the Scout Hall, 399 Rokeby Rd, Subiaco, in May, following some repairs to the venue.

May's attendance totalled around 20 members and guests. The regular Sale-by-Tender saw some spirited bidding following the previous months cancelled meeting.



The June meeting saw a reduced attendance due to the absence of a number of regulars who had tested positive to Covid and others suffering the usual Winter coughs and colds.

Nevertheless, the meeting was a success, with those attending having an opportunity to see Jeaninne Millstead's highly acclaimed one frame exhibit "Music in Our Hands", following its debut at Stamp Mart in May.

Thanks go to Kate Gentelli who stood in for the irrepressible Pat Martell and to Glen Stafford for helping out with the pencilling in the absence of Mark Leaman. Mark is now back and in fine fettle.

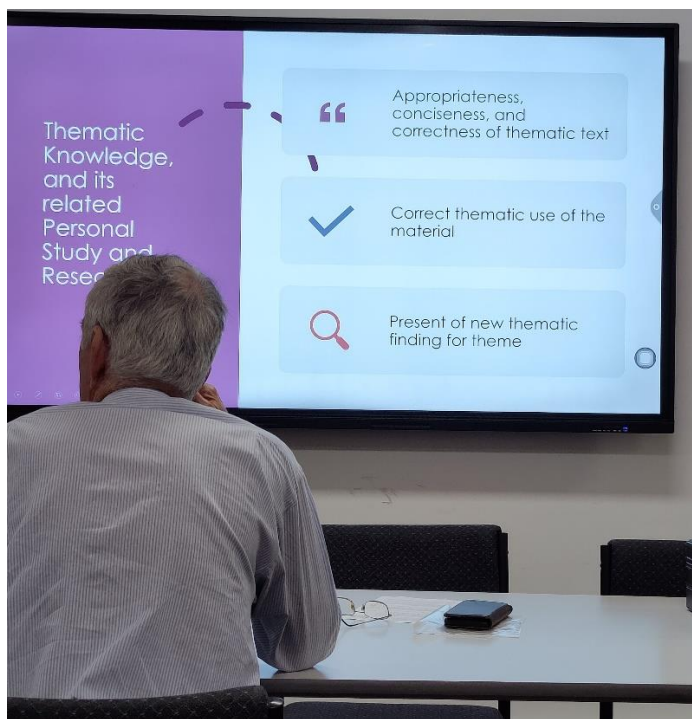
Next Daytime Stamp Club meeting is at 1.00 pm on 4 July at the Scout Hall, 399 Rokeby Rd, Subiaco.

There's generally plenty of parking available in that area of Subiaco. Those members who regularly attend usually park in the Palms' carpark off Rokeby Road and between Nicholson Road and Thomas Street; very close to the Scout hall at 399 Rokeby. The Palms carpark has a three-hour limit.

Philatelic Forum Notes

Over the last three months the PSWA's Philatelic Forum has had three very valuable presentations on topics that will help improve the exhibits of those members who currently exhibit or who plan to do so in the future.

At the April Meeting Glen Stafford focussed on how to improve the marks from research into the material making up an exhibit. Glen made the point that given "Philatelic and related Knowledge, Personal Study and Research" is worth 35/100 points in the judging criteria, understanding how to maximize the points available is a great way to boost the overall score. A set of PowerPoint images was made available to those who attended.



At the same meeting the late Trevor Spencer reviewed a "Guide for Judging Traditional and Postal History Classes". A copy of the Guide is available in the PSWA library.

The main topic for the May meeting was "Postage Due". Raymond Todd opened discussions on the purpose of Postage Due, how it was applied and calculated on under-franked postal articles. Ray provided sample Postage Due material for the information of the meeting. Susan Lally, Rod Kantor, Steve Hoath, Glen Stafford, and Trevor Spencer also displayed material relevant to the topic.

The meeting congratulated those who had participated in the Romania 2024 (FIP) International Exhibition in Bucharest 16 -19 April 2024. Forum Members results were as follows:

- Bob Neville, *The Revenue Stamps of Gibraltar, 1884-1911*; Vermeil.
- Glen Stafford, *Bolivia Revenues to 1906*; Large Vermeil
- John DiBiase, *Postal Notes and Orders of Australia*; Vermeil
- Trevor Spencer, *The WA Swans of De la Rue, 1871-1912*; Large Vermeil
- Ian Culshaw; *The Fiscal Stamps of WA, 1879 – 1974*; Gold.

The June meeting included a workshop on "Title Pages". Glen Stafford ran the workshop. Members provided examples of title pages that they had recently developed.

Against a check list, the members critiqued each-others' material with a report back session providing some interesting and helpful conclusions.

The check list comprised the following:

What mandatory items are shown?

- The title of the exhibit?
- Short, precise and general information on the subject?
- A description of the purpose of the exhibit (what is included and what is omitted)?
- A description of the scope of the exhibit?
- A plan of the structure of the exhibit?
- A list of personal research by the exhibitor within the subject (with references to articles or literature)?
- A list of the most important literature references?

Upcoming Philatelic Exhibitions:

- 3 – 7 July 2024; Jakarta 2024
- 4 August 2024; **Swanpex 2024**, Rockingham
- 12 – 15 September 2024; Canberra 2024
- 11 – 13 October 2024; Toowoomba One Frame
- 29 November – 3 December; Shanghai 2024
- 7-9 March 2025; Royalpex 2025, New Zealand. Entries to Commissioner (Tony Griffin) by 15 November 2024

WA Philatelic Gems Under the Hammer

The opportunity to obtain some of the most elusive philatelic items is fast arriving with the ACE Stamp Auction No 35 to be held on Saturday 12 October.

Trevor Lacy recently provided a copy of a Memorandum (No 2/64/13) forwarded by the Deputy Postmaster General to a Mrs M Mountain, of Greens Landing and dated January 21, 1913, informing her that approval had been given for the establishment of an Allowance Post Office at Greens Landing and her appointment as its Postmistress. The original Memorandum will be in the October ACE Stamp Auction No 35.

The back of the Memorandum bears an imprint of the dater stamp:



The front of the Memorandum specifies payment of an allowance of twelve pounds per annum. It also stipulates the office must be kept open between the hours of 11 am and 5 pm; and 8 pm and 9 pm Saturdays.

NO. 2/64/13. GENERAL POST OFFICE, PERTH. January 21, 1913. 190.

MEMORANDUM.

I have to inform you that approval has been given for the establishment of an Allowance Post Office at Greens Landing, and you are hereby appointed Postmistress thereof, subject to the Regulations of the Postmaster General's Department, and to take effect from then dater etc. arrives, upon which date you should open the office for business.

You will hold your appointment during the pleasure of the Postmaster General, and will be paid a present allowance at the rate of twelve pounds per annum, such allowance to be hereafter regulated annually, and to be subject to increase or reduction according to the amount of business done at your office.

The Postmaster General reserves the right to add other Postal and Telephonic duties at any time should the public requirements necessitate same, payment for which will be made at the usual scale rates.

A condition of your appointment is that you provide, without extra remuneration, the necessary accommodation and furniture for the transaction of the business of the Department.

It is necessary that your fidelity be guaranteed to the extent of £100. This guarantee will be furnished by the Department, but as your allowance is less than £25 per annum you will not be required to pay any premium on the guarantee.

If required you will also sell duty stamps, which will be supplied to you by the Colonial Treasurer, to whom you must apply for further supplies when required, as well as complying with his instructions relating to the preparation of quarterly and other returns.

The enclosed declaration should be subscribed before a Justice of the Peace and returned to this office as early as possible. If you intend to employ anyone to assist you it will be necessary for them also to make a similar declaration, the necessary forms for which will be sent you on application.

Printed instructions by which you are to be guided in the performance of your duties are enclosed herewith. Forwarded separately.

An advance, consisting of Postal Notes, Postage, and Postage Due stamps amounting to twenty (£20) pounds, together with official seal, and the following Stamps, viz. Dater and type, Obliterator, "R" for registered letters, "T" for surcharged letters, printed forms, books, scales, and other articles necessary for an Allowance Post Office, will be sent you in due course.

If necessary, post and letter cards, impressed envelopes, and newspaper wrappers may be obtained upon application.

You will exchange mails with the Post Office, Perth, and keep your office open between the hours of 11 a.m. and 5 p.m.; Saturdays 8 p.m. and 9 p.m.

Please acknowledge receipt of this communication (in accompanying form) and forward the same to this office by first mail after commencing duty.

Whysall
Deputy Postmaster General

Another interesting piece is a receipt from the Postmaster at Kalamunda to the Postmaster at Carilla dated 8/12/53 for the purchase of Postal Notes and Postage Stamps to the value of £3/14/00. The stamps were sold from Ted Davey's store and telephone exchange at Carilla.

Another receipt, issued by the Pickering Brook Post Office for receipt of a registered article addressed to the Telephone Branch at the GPO from the Carilla Telephone Exchange, will also be listed for sale:

POSTMASTER-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT R.I. Date Stamp

Received from Carilla Telephone Exchange
Address Carilla Telephone Exchange

ARTICLE FOR REGISTRATION ADDRESSED AS FOLLOWS—
Registration No. 402 Surname of Addressee Super Telephone Branch Office of Destination Perth

Signature of Receiving Officer [Signature] (P.T.O.)
This Receipt must be presented should inquiry be made concerning delivery

Vale Valerie Creaser

20 July 1933 – 20 April 2024



Valerie Creaser, a long-time and valued member of the PSWA, passed away peacefully on 20 April 2024. The Funeral Service to Celebrate her Life was held at the Church of Christ, York, on Thursday 2 May 2024.

Help

Steve Hoath collects WAPEX material and has the following piece which is postmarked on the second day of the 1954 Western Australian Philatelic Exhibition.



The piece features the Swan with an Inverted Frame, the Normal Swan and an Inverted Swan.

Under magnification you can see that two of the stamps have been fabricated.

Does anybody know the history of the piece? Were any others produced?

Steve at: schoath@gmail.com

Swanpex 2024 Souvenirs



Swanpex 2024 has released its list of souvenirs available for purchase at this year's event. They comprise:

- Full sheet of P-stamps @ \$60.00 per sheet
- Exhibition covers with a single P-stamp
- Non-perfined Stamps @ \$5.00 per cover
- Perfined Stamps @ \$5.00 per cover

Contact Dianne Saunders: diannedjs@hotmail.com

Major stamp events over the next 3 months

Rockingham Stamp Show & Swanpex 10.00 am to 4.00 pm Gary Holland Community Centre 19 Kent Street Rockingham	4 August
PNS Coin, Banknote & Stamp Fair 9.00 am to 1.00 pm South Perth Community Centre Corner South Terrace and Sandgate Street South Perth	10 August
PSWA Stamp-It & Auction 10.00 am to 4.00 pm South Perth Community Centre Corner South Terrace and Sandgate Street South Perth	25 August
Southpex 10.00 am to 4.00 pm Maddington Community Centre Corner Yule & Alcock Streets Maddington	8 September
Ace Stamp Auction No 35 Saturday 12: Viewing 8.30 am to 1.00 pm Auctions 11.00 am & 1.30 pm Sunday 13: Viewing 8.00 am to 12.30 pm Auctions 10.00 am & 1.00 pm Cannington Exhibition Centre Corner Albany Hwy & Station Street https://acestampauctions.com/	12 - 13 October