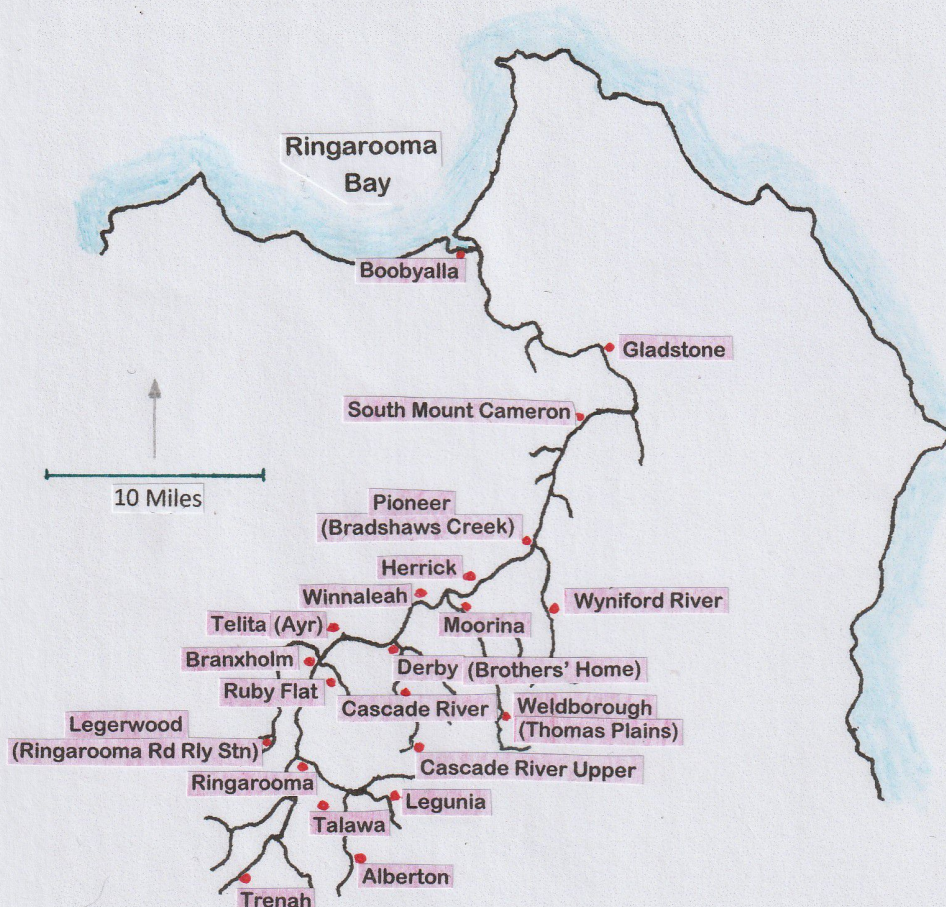
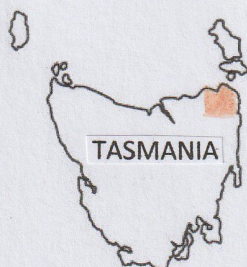


# Postmarks of the Ringarooma River Valley, North Eastern Tasmania



This is a study of the postmarks of the Ringarooma River Valley prior to 1970, displayed in sequence as we travel down the river and tributaries from source to sea. From common to very rare, postmarks from each settlement are featured and discussed.

Except for itinerant Chinese tin miners who generally did not use postal services, this remote part of Tasmania has always been sparsely populated, probably less than 2000 even today, and consequently postal material has never been plentiful. There were three dominant local industries; tin mining, forestry and farming. Forestry and farming are still practised extensively, but tin mining declined as resources became exhausted, and tourism has emerged as a major industry.

#### References:

Hardinge, John – *Tasmanian Postal History – The Post Offices and their Datestamps*. Tasmanian Philatelic Society Inc.

Campbell, H.M. RDP, FRPSL – *Tasmania: The Postal History and Postal Markings*. The Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria.

The Ringarooma Council with the aid of The Australian Bicentennial Authority – *As The River Flows*.

#### Notes:

\*Ringarooma River is abbreviated to *river* in the text, although tributaries are named in full.

\*Barred Numeral is abbreviated to BN, and Circular Date Stamp to CDS in texts.

\*Items of particular significance, including rarity ratings, are highlighted in bold type.

\*Rarity ratings are from Hardinge (see above), which is the latest reference on the subject.

\*Common postmarks are not rated, others increase in rarity through S (scarce) to five levels of rarity from R (rare) to 5R, the latter indicating that there are probably no more than ten copies likely to exist.

\*Post Office opening dates are indicated under the office name. No closing date means the office is still open.

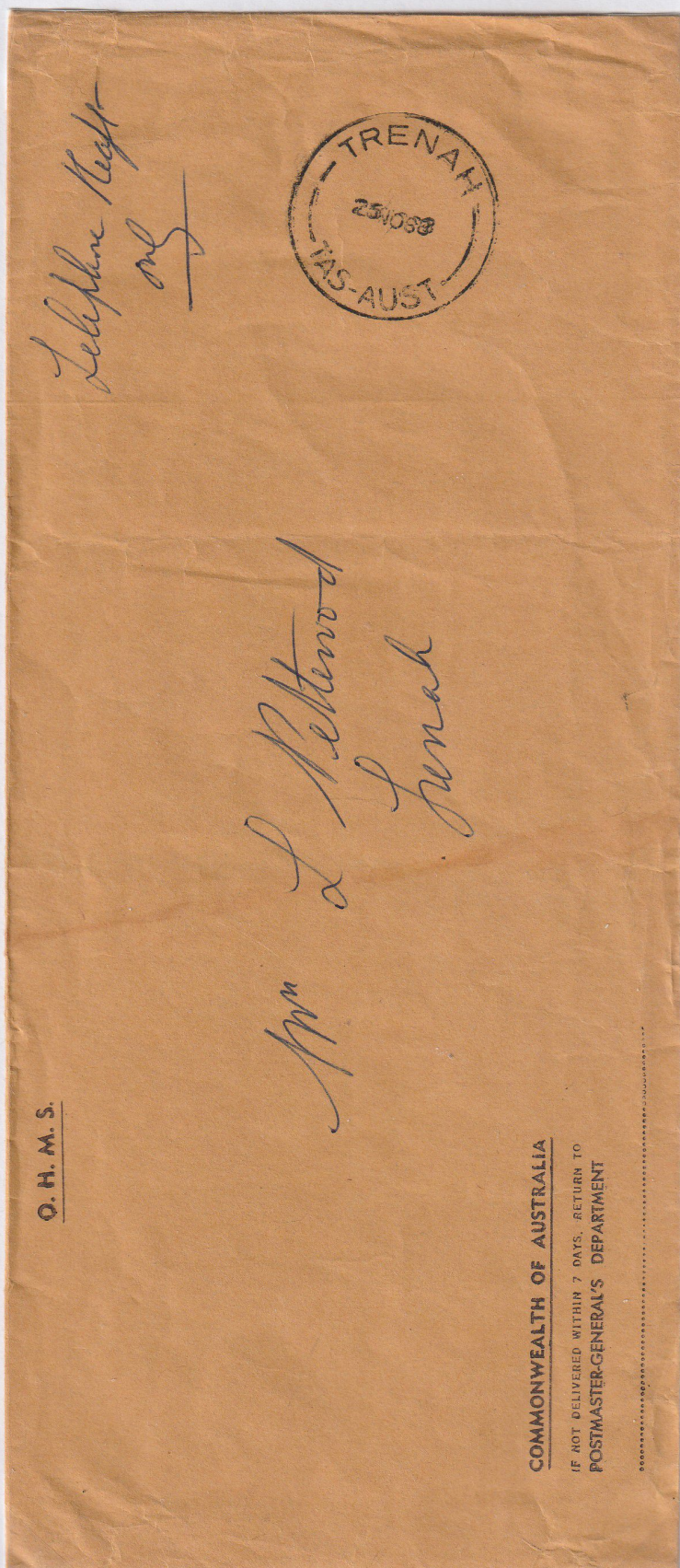
# TRENAH

PO 17.12.1923 - 14.12.1968

Postal facilities were transferred from Talawa as logging operations drew the population further up the valley. Myra Gill, daughter-in-law of Talawa postmistress, was Trenah postmistress for over 40 years, until the office closure. Myra's son Gary delivered mail to and from Ringarooma Post Office daily.



Type 4 postmark, **rated R**, was in use until 1<sup>st</sup> July 1963 and is seen here on cover with manuscript registration label.



Type 5s postmark was introduced on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1963 and remained in use until the Post Office closed. This cover, postmarked 25 NO 68 is the latest recorded date and consequently the last known Trenah postmark, rated 3R.

## TALAWA

P.O. 1.4.1911 - 17.12.1923



Talawa Post Office had two datestamps, the rubber Type R1 (left)(rated 4R), and regulatory steel Type 2b (right), which is rated 5R.



## ALBERTON

P.O. 16.10.1883 - 30.11.1968

Alberton was a short-lived tin and gold mining town on the Dorset River, and its first handstamp was the barred numeral 57.



BN 57  
(not rated.)



BN tied to Type 1 CDS, which has the date in manuscript, probably after forgetting to change the date slug to the 6<sup>th</sup>. CDS is not rated.



Type 4 (rated R)  
1925-1957



Type 5s (rated 2R)  
In use 1958 only.

## LEGUNIA

P.O. 21.2.1916 - 31.10.1968

Known locally as New River, Legunia was, and still is, primarily a farming district, Legunia being the name of a property situated on New River. There was also some mining activity in the early 1900s and a cheese factory, which closed in 1920.

**The Post Office was operated by members of the Singline family for all of its 52 years.**



Type 2b (rated 2R)  
1920 - 1954



Type 5 (rated 2R). In use  
1955 until office closure.

This Type R1 postmark (above) appears to have been enhanced at some time.  
**It is rated 5R, one of only five known.**  
Type R1 is understood to have been used from 1917 to 1919 only.

# RINGAROOMA

P.O. 1.10.1874 -

Originally named Krushka Town, after the Krushka brothers, who were considerably influential in the development of the region, Ringarooma has always been the largest settlement in the river valley and in the early 1900s the town supported various businesses, including two dairy factories.



BN 169 (**not rated**) was the first canceller used in Ringarooma.



BN 169 tied to Ringarooma CDS Type 1a (**not rated**), thus confirming the number's location.



The Type 1a postmark continued in use until 1932, and appeared in blue ink in 1912.



Type 4a (**not rated**)(left) followed until 1959. Note that the arcs within the postmark are unusually straight on the Ringarooma Type 4a, which was superseded by Type 5T (**not rated**) (right), the T indicating time, clearly seen here as 8am. This postmark was introduced in 1953 and also remained in use until 1959.



Type 5s (**not rated**)(right) was issued in early 1961 and continued to be used until September 1977.



## RINGAROOMA continued



"Paid at" datestamps were established for businesses and organisations which posted items in bulk and paid on account. This service was introduced at Ringarooma in 1954 and here we see **the postmark in black (above) and red (below), both of which are rated 3R.**



## RINGAROOMA ROAD RAILWAY STATION

P.O. 1.10.1910 – 31.3.1955

After the Post Office opened, the name remained until it was changed to Legerwood on 5<sup>th</sup> May 1919. It was also known, although not postally, as Railway Camp 16 Mile, it being the 16 mile railhead when the railway was being extended eastbound from Scottsdale, to eventually terminate at Herrick.



Type 2c (**rated 2R**) was the only postmark used, it being inscribed RINGmaRdRlyStn. Whilst generally black (left), the postmark was, although poorly, often struck using violet ink (right).



## LEGERWOOD

P.O. 1.10.1910 (as above) – 10.7.1993



The initial datestamp was Type 2b with the name misspelled LEDGERWOOD, which is rated 3R.



Type 4 (**not rated**) postmark (above left) was issued in 1922 with spelling corrected to LEGERWOOD, and continued in use until 1950, when replaced by Type 5 (**not rated**)(above right).



## RUBY FLAT

P.O. 1.4.1876 – 31.12.1877 & 1.8.1880 – 31.12.1880



This, predominantly Chinese, tin mining community was only open for two short periods. BN 183 (**rated R**) was allocated and no CDS has been seen.



Occasionally cancellers must have been mislaid. Probably this manuscript cancel, which is not listed and is possibly unique, is a case in point.

## BRANXHOLM

P.O. 1.8.1876 – 8.9.2014

(Postal counter now operating in local grocery store)

On opening, Branxholm Post Office was issued with  
BN 180 (not rated).



Type 1 (not rated) CDS was in use  
from 1886 to February 1936 and  
traditionally marked with  
black ink (left).  
Greenish blue ink was  
employed in 1918 (right).



Type 4a (not rated) postmark appeared in 1936 and  
continued in use until 1957.....

.....when it was superseded by Type 5s (not rated).

## AYR

R.H. 1.8.1922 – 31.1.1923

Ayr operated a Free Bag, which was a crown sealed  
bag for remote areas, then became a Receiving  
House, a low volume Post Office, for only six  
months prior to being renamed Telita (see below).  
No CDS was issued so a manuscript date mark was  
applied which is rated 5R.



## TELITA

P.O. 1.2.1923 – 30.11.1967

Originally named Ayr, the settlement was renamed  
by the Post Office in 1923 because of confusion  
with the similarly named town in North Queensland,  
despite considerable opposition to the change from  
locals. Telita is believed to be Aboriginal for  
'to chirrup' (like a bird).



Type 4 (rated S) postmark was  
utilised from 1923 to 1959.

## TELITA continued



Type 4(s) (rated 2R) 1960 – 1964  
small dateline replacing large.



Type 5s (rated 3R) issued in 1964 and  
used until office closure.



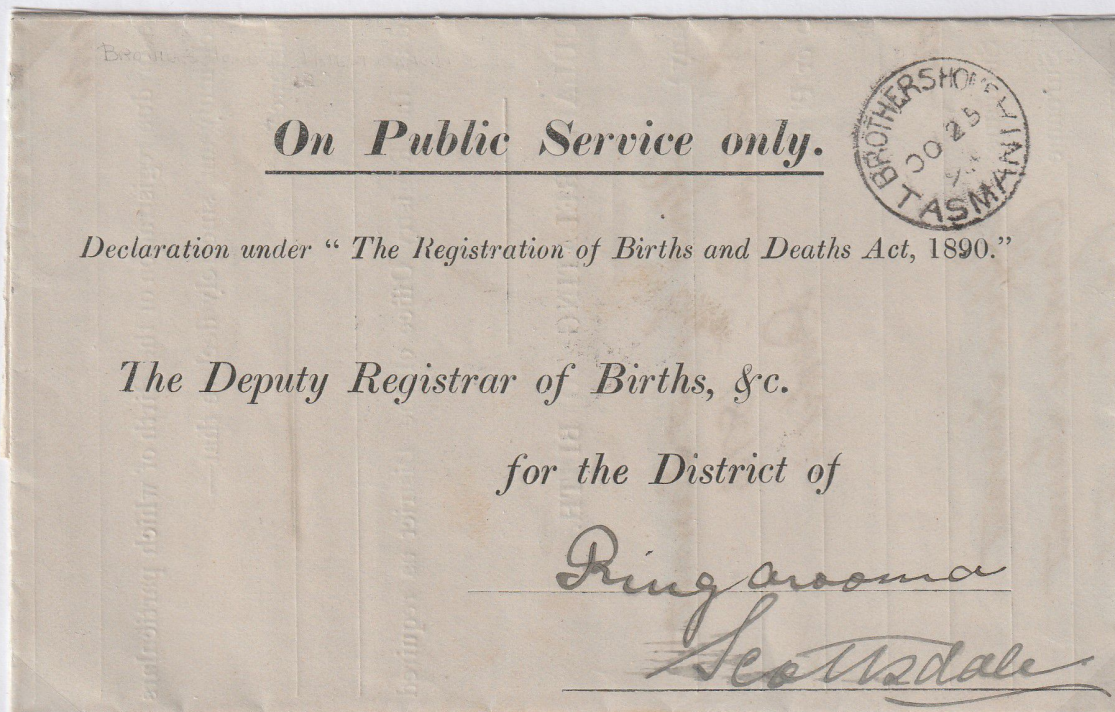
## BROTHERS' HOME

P.O. 1.8.1882 – 1.1.1886 (Name changed to Derby)

Brothers' Home was the name of a tin mine operated by the Krushka brothers, Charles, Frederick and Christopher, who played a major role in the early development of this north eastern corner of Tasmania, and was adopted as the settlement name until 1<sup>st</sup> January 1886



The Post Office was issued with  
BN 221 and Type 1 (rated 2R) CDS.



In 1886 Brothers' Home was renamed Derby but the initial CDS remained in use for several years. This postmark, with inverted and reversed month slug, appears to read 93 (1893), which is confirmed inside the document.



# DERBY

P.O. 1.8.1882 -



BN 221 was retained when the name changed from Brothers' Home to Derby.



An altered (different typeset of Derby to Tasmania) Type 1 (rated 2R) remained in use for 20 years, 1894-1914.



Blue/grey  
1912-14



Violet  
1914

Different ink colours of Type 1.



Type 2b (not rated) continued in use from 1914 to 1950 normally in black (left). However, in 1916/17 it appeared in blue (right).



This registered cover to Launceston illustrates Type 5 (not rated) postmark which commenced use in 1930.



In 1953 Type 5T (not rated) was introduced (left).

Essentially the same postmark as Type 5, but with 'T' indicating time added to the dateline.

## CASCADE RIVER

P.O. 1.12.1875 - 15.8.1887



Cascade River Post Office, located on Cascade River used BN 174 (rated 3R).

## CASCADE RIVER UPPER

P.O. 1.3.1884 - 31.12.1884



Numeral 230 (rated 2R) was allocated to Cascade River Upper, the office Open for only ten months

## WINNALEAH

P.O. 1.10.1912 -

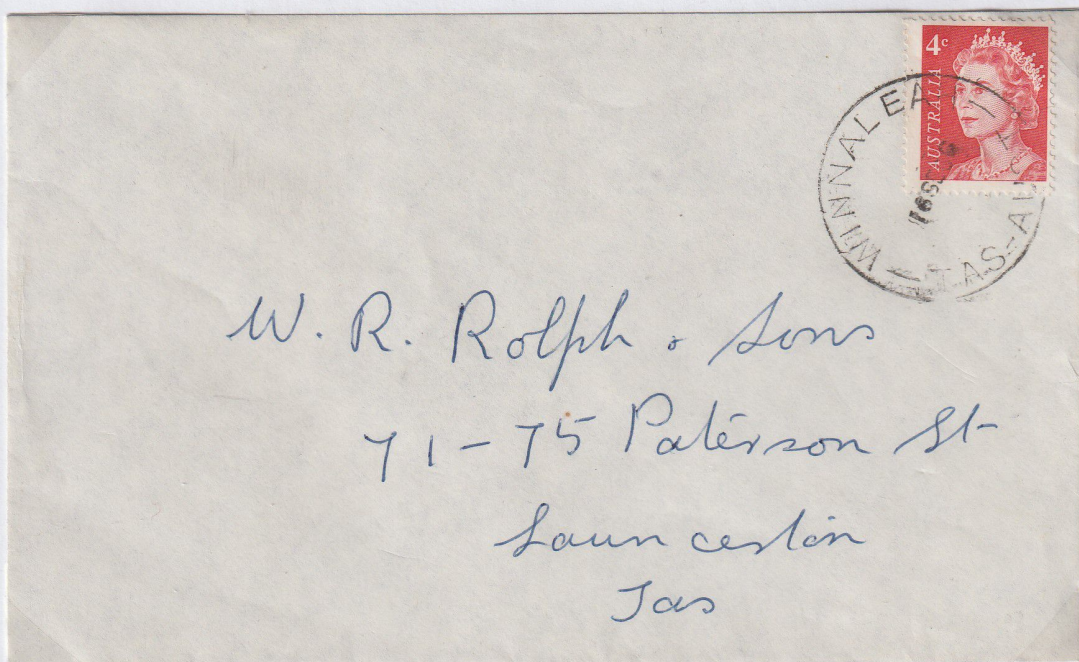
Winnaleah was originally known as Taronna, but because of confusion with Taroona in the south of Tasmania, the name was changed to Winnaleah, which is an Aboriginal word meaning fire.



Type 2b (not rated) CDS remained in service until 1952.



The replacement Type 5 (not rated) lasted seven years from 1952 to 1959.



Cover to Launceston carrying Type 5s (not rated) postmark, introduced in 1959.

## THOMAS PLAINS

P.O. 27.6.1876 - 1.1.1882 (Renamed Weldborough)

CDS was issued around June 1878. The name was changed to Weldborough, being located on the Weld River, on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1882. This CDS, rated 5R, dated 3 JU 80 and is from a letter bill, which was an advice of postal operations forwarded daily to a central administration facility.



## WELDBOROUGH

P.O. 27.6.1876 - 16.11.1971

Thomas Plains became Weldborough on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1882, named after Sir Frederick Aloysius Weld who was Governor of Tasmania from 1875 to 1880. Weldborough was allocated BN 179 (not rated) (right).



Cover bearing definite tie between BN 179 and Weldborough Type 1 (not rated) CDS.



Later Type 1 (not rated) after it had been recut following a fire at the P. O. on 16<sup>th</sup> May 1901.



Type 4 (not rated) postmark in use between 1927 and 1964.



Early use of Type 5s (rated R) CDS on 14 OC 64.

## WYNIFORD RIVER

P.O. 1.7.1883 – 31.10.1894

Wyniford River, named after the river on which it was located, was a short-lived tin mining settlement. The Post Office probably also served Garibaldi, a similar community located nearby. BN 257 (**rated R**) was the allocated postal canceller.



## MOORINA

P.O. 18.9.1876 – 16.11.1971

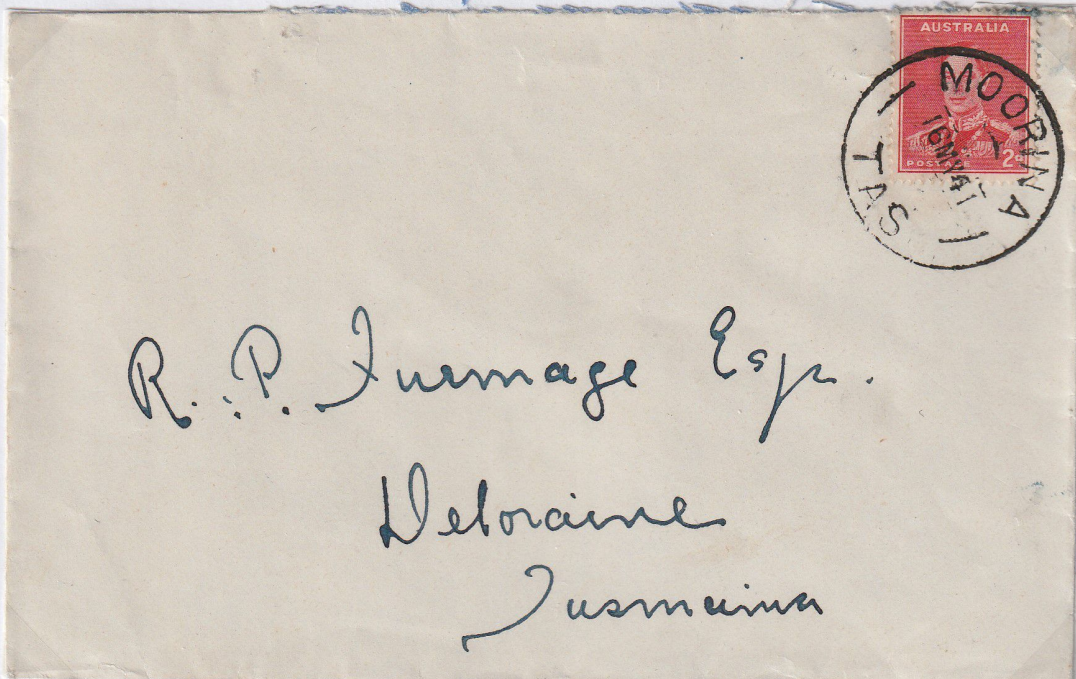
Moorina was originally known as Krushka's Bridge – there's that Krushka name again – and renamed Moorina after Truganani's sister on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1882.



Initially issued datestamp  
BN 181 (**not rated**).



Moorina BN tied to  
Type 1 (**not rated**) CDS,  
which remained until 1936.

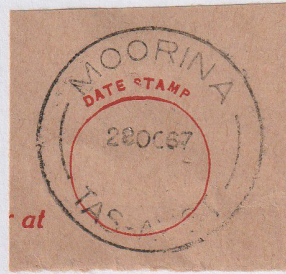


Type 4, which is (**not rated**) and was used between 1935 and 1959, on cover to RP Furmage. Rickman Penney Furmage was a Deloraine businessman and prominent local identity.

## MOORINA continued



Type 4a(s) (rated R)  
in use 1960-1965.



Type 5s (rated S) used between  
1965 and office closure.

## HERRICK

P.O. 1.8.1920 - 16.11.1971



The North Eastern Railway from Launceston reached its most easterly and final destination at Herrick in 1919. Herrick Post Office opened and became the sorting office for mail to Gladstone to the north and St Helens on the east coast. Type 2b (not rated) (left) continued until 1959, to be replaced by Type 5 (not rated) (right).



## BRADSHAW'S CREEK

P.O. 1.7.1883 - 30.6.1885 & 11.11.1889 - 1.1.1956 (renamed Pioneer)



Post Office reopened and was allocated BN 251 (not rated) and Type 1 (not rated) CDS

Type 4 (not rated) postmark was introduced in 1929 and used until name changed.



## PIONEER

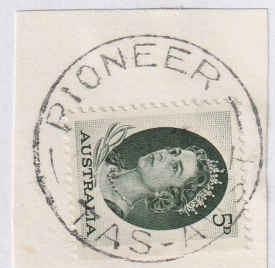
P.O. 11.11.1889 - 19.11.1993

William Bradshaw, after whom Bradshaw's Creek had been named, founded Pioneer Tin Mine and the town subsequently became known as Pioneer. That name was officially adopted for the settlement on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1956.



Relief No. 6 postmark was used during March 1956 only, until the new Pioneer datestamp arrived.

In due course, Type 5 (not rated) arrived and was in use from March 1956 to December 1966.



## PIONEER continued



Type 5(s) (**not rated**) was introduced in January 1967, used that year, rested in 1968, then reintroduced in 1969.

## SOUTH MOUNT CAMERON

P.O. 1.1.1879 - 14.12 1971

Upon opening South Mount Cameron was issued with BN 205 (**rated R**) and Type 1 CDS which is **not rated**.



Very clear impressions  
of BN 205



Type 1 CDS.



BN 205 tied to Type 1 CDS  
(S) Mt CAMERON.

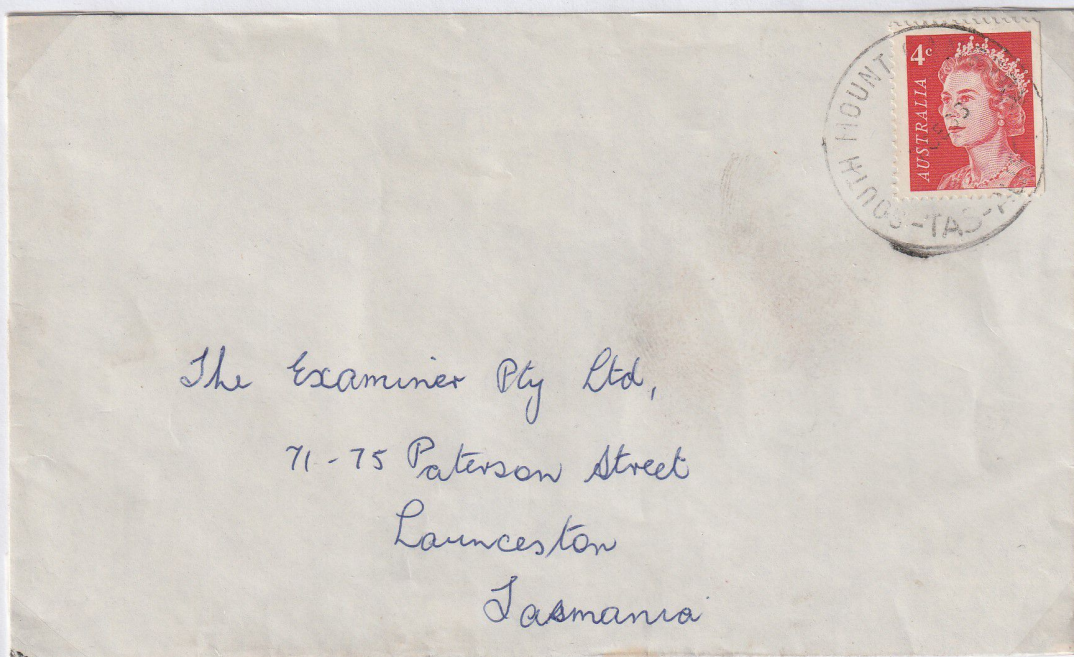


SOUTH MT CAMERON Type 4 (**not rated**)  
in use from 1939 to 1959.



Type 4a(s) (**rated S**) followed until 1965.  
This copy curiously dated -0 AU 62.  
Probably meant to be 10, 20 or 30.

## SOUTH MOUNT CAMERON continued



Type 5s (**rated R**) was utilised for the last six years of the office operation.

## GLADSTONE

P.O. 1.1.1879 - (now operates as LPO in general store)

Gladstone was formerly known as North Mount Cameron and the Post Office was opened under that name with BN 204 (**not rated**) (right), and no CDS has been seen in that name.



The change to Gladstone came on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1882 and here we have BN 204 tied to Gladstone Type 1 (**not rated**) CDS.



Post Office wrapper carrying impressed stamp of Edward VII addressed to Postmaster, Ringarooma with Type 1 datestamp.

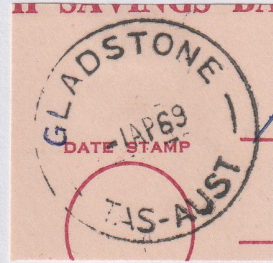
## GLADSTONE continued



Type 4 (**not rated**), which was in use between 1936 and 1958.



Type 5s (**not rated**) saw service from 1958 to mid-1960, then was reintroduced in 1969.



Unusually, Type 5L (**not rated**), with large print dateline, was used after Type 5s, with small print dateline, which was in use from mid-1960 to late 1969. This example has 'GL' of Gladstone enhanced.

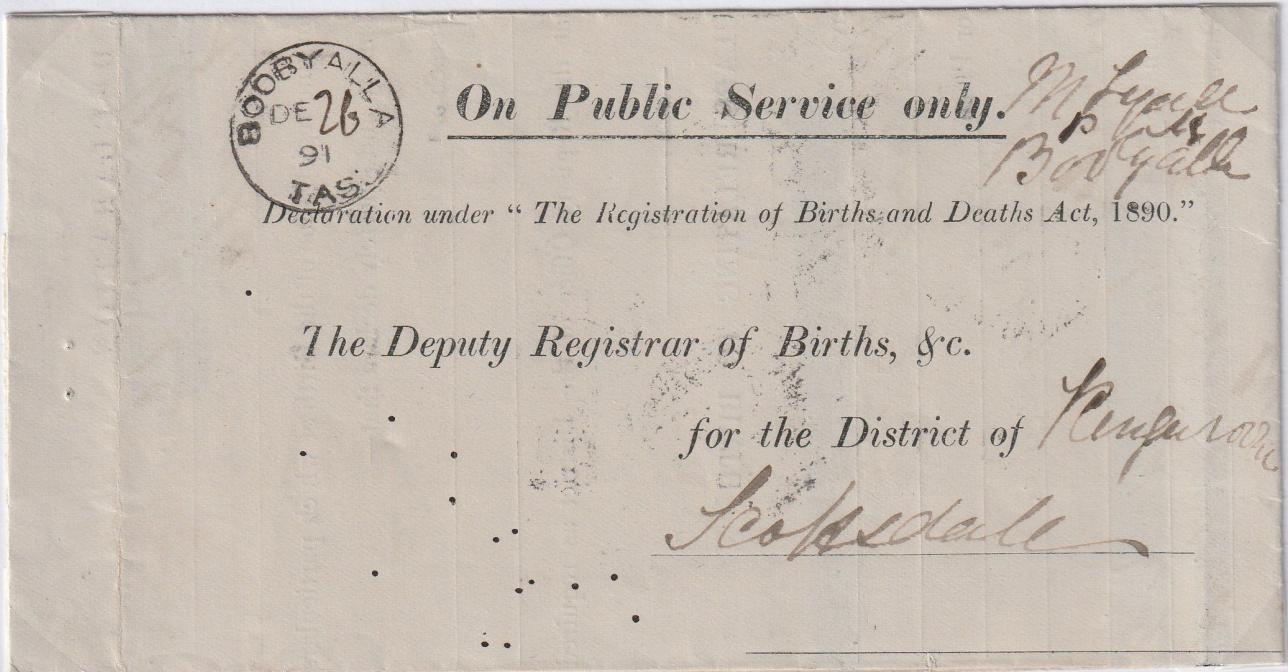
## BOOBYALLA

P.O. 29.7.1875 - 31.12.1927

Ringarooma and Ringarooma Port, on Ringarooma River Estuary which ran into Ringarooma Bay, were both proclaimed Boobyalla by His Excellency Sir Robert George Crookshank, Governor of Tasmania, on 12<sup>th</sup> November 1888.



BN 137 (**rated R**) was allocated when the Post Office opened.



This OPSO (On Public Service only) advice of a birth in Boobyalla with Type 1a CDS (**rated S**) dated DE 26 91, Boxing Day, has manuscript 26 and is countersigned by the Postmistress Mabel Lyall, who held that position from 1.11.1882 until 31.3.1893.

In this study we have looked at the Post Offices and seen the postmarks of the postal operations in the Ringarooma River Valley over the first hundred years. Today only three Post Offices survive, plus one LPO and one postal counter in a grocery store. Who knows what will happen in the next hundred years?