

### **February 1891: Grasshopper Plague**

*KERGUNYAH SOUTH (FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT) The weather this summer so far has been delightful. With the exception of one or two days, we have not had any really great heat. Up to the present we have had rain almost every week, consequently everything looks as fresh and green as in the spring.*

*We have scarcely got rid of the grass hopper plague than we are threatened by a second visitation. Every place where they deposited their eggs a month ago is now a living mass of young ones, who in a few weeks will devour everything green. Those who have the most generous supply of these troublesome pests are Mr Wallace and Mr Marum. Let us hope the cold nights will kill them before they are ready to travel to fresh fields and pastures new*

Source: "KERGUNYAH SOUTH." Wodonga and Towong Sentinel (Vic.: 1885 - 1954) 13 Feb 1891:

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article69563422>

### **August 1896: KERGUNYAH—Rabbits poisons & fencing**

*Poisoning of rabbits is still going on with pollard and phosphorus, but it is not taken now nearly as freely as it is in the dry weather. The farmers who applied for a share in the Government loan for the purchase of wire-netting are much chagrined at the sudden rise in the price.*

*The amount of money allotted to them will not nearly cover the length of fencing for which it was intended at present prices. Some of these who live in this part of the world will not accept the money unless the price of the netting falls again.*

Source: "COUNTRY DISTRICTS." *The Australasian* (Melbourne, Vic.: 1864 - 1946) 15 Aug 1896: 9.

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article139729461>

### **January 1895: Rabbit control complaints**

*Dederang and the south part of the valley of the Kiewa afford a good illustration just now of the one-sided nature of the Vermin Destruction Act. Through the winter, when other work was scarce, the farmers in these parts of the district worked hard in trapping and poisoning the rabbits, and about two months ago the country they occupied was comparatively clear—very few rabbits could be seen; unfortunately at the back of the farms for miles are unoccupied Crown lands where the vermin abound and are allowed to breed unmolested.*

*There is one man at Dederang to keep down the rabbits on country fringed by farms for at least 70 miles. He has no assistance, and the result of this is that the work of the farmers has now to be done all over again, with the certainty that the same process will be repeated until the Government recognises its responsibility in the matter. The inspector under the Vermin Destruction Act has been obliged to serve a number of these unfortunate landholders with notices that they will be summoned unless they destroy the rabbits. Who will do the same to the Government?*

*The shire councils have power to give a bonus for the destruction of the vermin, and about £600 was spent in this way in the Yackandandah shire, to which this part of the country belongs. If it had been empowered by the act to spend money in granting loans to the farmers for; the purchase of wire-netting permanent good would have resulted. About 30 miles of rabbit-infested Crown lands might have been fenced off, and the money spent would not have been lost to the ratepayers as it is now. The cost of the netting could have been made a first charge on the land on which it was placed, and from the improvement effected on it the farmers would have been enabled to pay the interest, which would amount to a very small annual sum.*

Source: "KERGUNYAH" *The Australasian* (Melbourne, Vic. : 1864 - 1946) 12 Jan 1895: <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article139704903>

### **September 1897: Rabbit control Program**

*The rabbit pest, which used to be so hard a matter to deal with some years ago, does not cause the landholders here nearly so much anxiety now-a-days. A league was formed among the farmers at Yackandandah some time ago, the members of which assist the Government inspector to the best of their power by keeping their own ground clear (by the constant use of poison etc.) and by supporting him in taking action against others who neglect their holdings. This was a step in the right direction. There are now regular days appointed for united action against the rabbits, and "the farmers have no excuse for not destroying them. Many of them have taken advantage of the loan granted by the Government for the purchase of wire netting, and have fenced off the unimproved leased blocks at the back; and the efficacy of phosphorus as a poison is a great encouragement to persevere in the work of extermination. The clearing of dead logs and timber which give cover to the pest-, and the substitution of neat fences of posts and rails or wire for the old «loienly rough-and-tumble or chock-and-log fence?, are transforming the appearance of the Country, and adding very greatly to the value of the farm.*

Source: "COUNTRY DISTRICTS." *The Australasian* (Melbourne, Vic. : 1864 - 1946) 4 Sep 1897: 12. <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article138627338>