



Coonanga Homestead

- Located 15 miles north of Numurkah, about 1 mile from the Murry River. See book "Numurkah" in my collection.
- Built by George Currie in 1874, it was unusual for its size (14 rooms) and slab construction.
- When purchased by the Whytes' it had only 440 acres left of the original large tract of land.
- It had a 40ft well of pure water, a lagoon filled from the Murray River and a 3-acre garden with fruit trees.
- While the Whytes owned Coonanga it was the centre of local life.
- It was the site for a local Ulupna school, the local community played tennis there, and for many years it was also a Receiving Office for mail.
- The Numurkah & District Historical Society owned the house from 1968 until the early 2000's.



Numurkah/Ulupna, Victoria

- The Numurkah district is on the Broken Creek tributary of the Murray River in the north of the State and was first available for farming in 1878.
- Ulupna 'village', 230 kms north of Melbourne near the Victoria / NSW state border, was near the Creek's junction with the Murray River.
- In the 1880's Numurkah experienced rapid growth (from 100 to 1,000+) and was connected to Shepparton by rail, with hotels, churches, shops, and farm related businesses.
- Farmers relied on dry-farming techniques with a very variable rainfall and periods of great drought (1880/86) - a tough life in a primitive rural setting.
- Local Rural development didn't get going until 500 WWI veterans took advantage of the Murray Valley Soldier Settlement program in the early 1920s.
- At the end of WWII, the Government purchased significant land surrounding Strathmerton for 400 dairy farms, and finally ensured the development of irrigation and necessary dairy farming infrastructure.
- In 1949 Kraft purchased land in the area for a major cheese factory.