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CROCODILE CREEK.

These two words have led this researcher on a merry chase. Other researchers tracing family, envisage a “town” of that name and Historians of the past say it was always Bouldercombe, when in fact it was a goldfield called “CROCODILE CREEK DIGGINGS” with many areas of habitation: two of which were Crocodile Creek and later Bouldercombe. This “field” were proclaimed in the Queensland Government Gazette of the 15th September 1866 from the advice, by telegram, of Mr. W.H. Wiseman on the 27th October 1865 to the Colonial Secretary. The “CROCODILE CREEK DIGGINGS”, boundaries started “above the crossing of the road from Rockhampton to Gladstone”, “S.W. to the back of the Dee range”, including all the watershed of Crocodile Creek. The first “workings” were “with-in a distance of 15 miles from Rockhampton” and covered an area of 30 square miles. One hundred and forty years on and there is much difficulty in trying to put the 18 or so “small, named communities” of this area, onto a map.

Crocodile Creek the waterway, in itself is also an enigma. On maps of yesteryear this creek was divided into two parts separated by the “Serpentine Lagoon” now known as the “Woolwash” lagoons. The upper reaches of this Creek started in the upper gorges of the Dee Range from Crocodile Mountain and Mount Gavial with one branch of it named “Gavial (meaning reptile or crocodile) Creek”, flowing down into Crocodile Creek, across the flats into the lagoons. The lagoons then emptied through “Crocodile Creek” down into the Fitzroy River, the mouth of which is “two miles down from Rockhampton”. Depending on who you were, over years this whole system became known as the “Crocodile Creek diggings” (proclaimed) or “Gavial Creek diggings”, (unproclaimed) in some reports; this whole area is now known as Bouldercombe.

In the absence of Mr. Jardine the Police Magistrate of that time, the Sub-Collector of Customs, Mr. John Brown was asked by experienced diggers John and Robert Durm, John Walsh and Duncan Mc Lear for the ‘privilege of a creek claim...100 yards square...as they appear to have found a payable gold field’.¹

Reports of “small parcels of gold from Table Mountain* or Gavial Creek diggings.”² In 1865 some of the prospectors entered the Gavial Creek diggings from Table Mountain, up the Razorback, along the Dee Range down into Crocodile-Gavial Creek diggings that flowed OUT of the Dee Range.

¹ QSA. Correspondenc Land & Works Department. Ref:LWO/A7. Letter 1st September 1865.

² The Bulletin. Rockhampton. 11th September 1865. **Researchers Note:** These two places were miles apart, and Tabletop Hill (Table Mountain*) didn’t become part of the Crocodile Creek Goldfield until new boundaries were proclaimed 12th December 1866. (Queenslander 15th December 1866) Towns now in the area of Table Mountain are Kabra*, Moonmera and Moongan, were developed as part of the “Kabra to Mount Morgan” rail link in 1894.)

A telegram was sent to the Colonial Secretary on the 28th September 1865, "gold has been found in payable quantities...with in 15 miles (24 kms) of town (Rockhampton). W.H. Wiseman follows up the first notification, with a letter to the Colonial Secretary on the 30th October 1865, stating that: "gold has been found in considerable quantity on the surface, in small nuggets weighing up to 1 ½ ozs. The site is in a gorge, in a very rocky place in the Dee Range. There is a very likely looking **flat** 2 miles (3.2 kms) lower down the creek."³ From the report dated 17th November 1865, after his inspection of the Crocodile Creek diggings, the Gold Commissioner states: "100 to 150 miners at work...from the patchy nature of the alluvial deposits...they are scattered over an aspect of about 30 miles (48.25 kms)...scarcity of water...many miners had no miners rights...half of these miners are on the head waters of the Dee on the opposite side of the range dividing them from Crocodile Creek". The Five mile rush, further South and over the range, in the gullies is 100 men with two stores built. The Four mile rush had 50 people and one store.

The track to the diggings were described as, "The road from Rockhampton is the Lower Dawson Road, passing McGregor's old public house ("Ulster Arms", corner Church and Gladstone Road) and crossing the road just beyond at a right angle; then over the railway line by an embankment, and down the Port Curtis Road, over a bridge or two and very boggy soil, the road on both sides being fenced for about a mile; then turning sharp to the right, leaving the Port Curtis road altogether, over half a mile of swamp and bog, over the axle in parts, and another mile of swampy ground brings one to Rocklands, a pretty country house belonging to Mrs. Oattly, fronting the Duck Ponds, a fine sheet of water. Keeping between the Duck Ponds and a fine lagoon covered with pink lilies the road skirts a floating bog of some miles across, and then for the first time the road becomes hard and gravelly. You must understand that from McGregors to this in flood times the "Clarence" could steam over the road without touching bottom. From the swamp to the Halfway Houses (7½ miles or 13.5 kms) the road improves, rising the whole way from Rockhampton to the diggings. The Halfway houses are two public 'boxes' rather than houses, of palings, with a large lagoon (Bunyip lagoon) of pure water in front, the road running between the lagoon and the house...The road, after leaving the Halfway, which is two miles nearer Rockhampton than the diggings, winds its way over a red soil, lightly timbered, and well grasses...until it reaches and crosses a mile and a half of paddy melon country (now a swamp), which looks like flooded ground, until the red, hard, firm gravel is again found and kept up top within two miles from the diggings. A cutting, the work of the Roads Department...has been made on both sides of a deep creek...from this into the diggings the road is like a bowling green. A house...intended for an Inn has been built close to the cutting, and another a little nearer the diggings. On sighting the diggings, Crocodile Creek is first seen on the left, and is kept on that side, the road winding between, holes, tents, and humpies to the creek; a dry arm which is crossed with ease...Bouldertown is then entered. On the right and left of the crossing the diggers are at work...the road or street having tracks on either side...Inns in every direction...built of

³ **Researchers Note:** These diggings started in June 1865 with the discovery of a quantity of gold from Gabriel's Gully in the Dee Range.

paling, packing cases and weatherboard...Humpies, bowling alleys, shanties, tents and a blacksmiths shop.”⁴

There was no resident Gold Inspector, police nor gold buyer on the field; they came from Rockhampton when called. Disputes over “claims” started early in January 1866. By the 23rd March “a Constable and three policemen were parading the diggings”, but they didn’t stay long. April and a new “rush” had taken diggers to the foot of the range. A race had been dug here but the upper part had collapsed due to heavy rains. “Some 600 Chinese had humpies in and around Chinese Street, and along the bank of the creek; and Ah Ching has a very fine garden of about 4 acres underweight. The “rush” to the right of the Baptist Church is turning out a considerable amount of gold.” June saw another Five-mile rush to within twelve miles of Rockhampton and another Four-mile rush in the same vicinity.

In a report dated the 21st July 1866 – “Principal diggings on the head of Crocodile Creek; 18 miles from Rockhampton 600 men with six stores, two hotels, three butchers and two bakers. While on another more Easterly head of the same creek are about 150 men.” The Northern Argus reports: “that stores are cropping up in gullies and scattered over a considerable extant of ground.” The Northern Argus also put out calls for the Government to pay “resident Surveyors, Commissioner, Engineering Wardens and mining registrar, to help quell disputes, “as a great part of all mining populations are composed of men whose intelligence seldom goes much beyond the point of his pick.” With no officials on the field, a dispute between a Tom Sayer and King was settled with both parties, “agreeing to fight it out, with the looser foregoing his claim.” King won after 17 rounds.

The Northern Argus, of the 4th August 1866 described the principal diggings “as a miniature township, containing several stores, bark huts and an extensive spread of canvas on Petticoat Flat, at the foot of the amphitheatre of ranges on the upper diggings. There are four or five houses preparing to open as Public houses, a Chinese kitchen garden, two bakeries and two smithies. It would be desirable to mark out a township as soon as possible at Petticoat Flat; and lay out the streets.”

The Rockhampton Bulletin of the 14th August 1866 notes, “the population cannot be fewer than 1000 miners and their families.....there are 300-400 in Crocodile and Gaviel Creeks and on the adjoining flats.....there are diggers six miles away over the range on the head of the Dee.”

Notification in the Northern Argus and the Bulletin of Rockhampton in early August 1866, “of a petition for a Post Office at Crocodile Creek or “Boulderton”, was signed by two hundred and sixty diggers.” The petitioners suggested that Mr. Evan Barker of the “Ballarat” store be appointed as “Post-master”. They nominated his store, which was next to the “Victoria Hotel” (licensee Ben Hamilton) to be the most central site. This petition was only successful in getting a postal service once a week to the vicinity, and it was the store of Mr. Edward Grandston at Crocodile Creek that became the Post office on the 10th August 1866. Postal services started on the 9th October 1866. Mr. Grandson’s “store” was

⁴ “The Queenslander” of the 12th January 1867.

a Library and news vendor's establishment. "Mr. Grandson comes to town three times a week, and carries passengers at a reasonable rate." Mr. Grandston held this position until 1869 when Mrs. Haydon took over. Mr. James Campbell got the appointment in 1872 when he became Headmaster of the school.⁵

The Rockhampton Bulletin of the 14th August 1866 comments, "The richness and the permanency of the Crocodile Creek diggings are now being thoroughly tested, in consequence of the large numbers of men that have gone to try their fortunes there since the suspension of the railway works. During the past six weeks...the diggers have rapidly increased...no fewer than 1000 including their families...300-400 of these employed in Crocodile and Gavial Creeks and on the flats...three puddling machines...sly grog prevalent...six hotels, which are substantial buildings...diggers well supplied with vegetables brought from Rockhampton...Chinese garden under cultivation". An Editorial in this same paper on the 18th August 1866, "The Crocodile Creek diggings have apparently had the effect of clearing the streets of Rockhampton of the unemployed."

The naming of "Bouldercombe" was in a letter on the 20th August 1866 to the Minister of Lands. Mr. Wiseman writes, "at the head of Crocodile Creek – now called Bouldercombe – there are four licensed public houses, one a very tolerable house, there are butchers shops and many stores. The coaches are plying daily, the road being perfectly level and about 15 miles from town." The population was spreading because of the small rushes along both sides of the road towards Rockhampton. "A rush has taken place about half a mile out of the diggings on the road to town. A camp had been established on Commissioner's Flat, with a building for the Commissioner. Stores and other building are springing up all over the Flat."

The following are reports of the overall "progress" on the Crocodile Creek diggings, from "several lucky miners on Petticoat Flat...Chinamen are arriving...shops humpies going up and drays arriving daily...a rush - ½ mile out of diggings – on road to Rockhampton...Government has put some [tar] on the road at five mile gully on the road to the Crocodile and they are putting down the sides and otherwise improving the road...Boulder Town still has no post office...the establishment of a camp at Commissioner's Flat...eight hotels...any number of stores...three druggists...two drapery establishments...Romanist Chapel...Dissenting meeting house of the Baptist Church...between the four mile waterhole and the Halfway house was the only vacant land...about 2 ½ miles from the diggings was a poultry farm...formation of a new road ¾'s mile from town turns right at Commissioners Camp...buildings are extending on either side of the road towards Rockhampton – they are up to the Halfway House...The Chinese have a town of their own, several buildings and a blacksmith's forge...claims taken up in the Rockhampton direction...Business of new comers putting up stores below the town (Bouldercombe)...One Hotel sold off; patronage of the other singing house is not such as could be desired...Bank of N.S.W. agency...slaughter yard a nuisance...another rush one mile lower down...in the Gully to the right of the road,

⁵ **Researchers Note:** Pugh's Almanac first named "Boulderton" in 1872 when residents of "Boulderton" were notified that their mail could be collected at Crocodile Creek School, down on the flat or 16 miles from Rockhampton (25.7 kms). The P.O. Directories of Queensland in 1889 first noted 'Bouldercombe' as being 18 miles (or 29 klms) S.W. from Rockhampton.

opposite the Chinese gardens named Poverty Gully...public houses are still going up on both sides of the road...we are losing a few diggers...majority of diggers, Chinese...Rain interfering with digging.”⁶

In **“BOULDER TOWN”**⁷ hotels licensed in 1866 were: “BOOMERANG” – Hugh Weir – 1866/67 – never renewed. “CRITERION” – James Richardson – 1866/67 – never renewed. “CROCODILE INN” – William Henry Narcarrow – 1866/67 – never renewed. “HARP” – Michael Lee – 1866/67 – Edward Long – 1868 – never renewed. “LIVE and LET LIVE” – Charles Bovel – 1866/67 – never renewed. “NORTH STAR” – David Cox – 1866 – never renewed. “SHAMROCK” – David Macrorie – 1866 – never renewed. “VICTORIA” – Ben Hamilton – 1866 – George Crook – 1867 – died.

In **“CROCODILE CREEK”** hotels licensed in 1866 were: “TRAVELLERS REST” – William Young Sing – 1866/1872 – Chas Ah You – 1872/1874 – never renewed. “QUEENSLAND” – Jim O’Rourke – 1866/ 1868 – never renewed. On **“CROCODILE CREEK ROAD”** hotel licenses: “COTTAGE INN” – 3 mile (4.8 kms from Crocodile Creek or 12 miles from Rockhampton.) – William Lynum – 1866/67 – never renewed. “REEFERS” – 3 mile – Edward Grandston – 1869 – never renewed. “STAR of HOPE” – 3 mile – R. L. Graham – 1870 – never renewed. “HALF WAY HOUSE” – 7 ½ miles (12 kms) – William Henry Pohlman – 1866/1869 – Fred Gregory 1869 +. “CAMP” - 7 ½ miles - William and Mary James – 1866 – John Kelly – 1866/67 – Michael O’Rourke – 1868+

As more areas of gold were discovered, NEW BOUNDRIES of CROCODILE CREEK GOLD FIELD were drawn. As at the 15th December 1866 the diggings became 96 square miles and were bounded on the North, Neeracol Creek in Stanwell – summit of Tabletop hill through Midgee Creek, six miles to the watershed dividing Dee waters from Fitzroy River.

The rains of December 1866 “filled all the paddocks and set the creeks running” so most of the claims of the “Commissioner’s Flat” were temporarily abandoned. When some of the diggers returned from “their Xmas Break” they discovered that Thomas Westall, James Wyllie, Samuel Wilkins and nine others had taken advantage of the situation. They formed the “Pioneer Gold Mining Co”. Joseph Robson applied for and received the five-acre lease for three years, on the 28th December 1866. The ground applied for is “on Commissioners flat below the Camp and is bounded on the East by the opposite side of the creek on the West by a line parallel with this creek, on the North by a line across the flat about a hundred yards below the Chinaman’s garden and on the South of the pegs.” When the returning diggers discovered that their Claims had been declared forfeited they applied to the Commissioner by petition, to have the lease delayed, stating that they “had only moved off the area due to local flooding, and were waiting for the water to subside before returning to prospect the area once again.” The digger’s petition was upheld in February 1867 and they were allowed to work their claims once again.

⁶ ‘The Queenslander’. starting on the 3rd November through to the 22nd December 1866.

⁷ **Researchers Note:** As per Pugh’s Almanac ‘Boulder Town’ was 18 miles from Rockhampton and ‘Crocodile Creek’ was 15 miles from Rockhampton.

“News of a violent clash between the Europeans and the Chinamen at the Crocodile Creek diggings.” had reached town. The Gold Commissioner, Mr. Jardine and seventeen policemen left town (Rockhampton) in the early hours of the morning to reach Crocodile Creek before daylight. They discovered “a class of new chum diggers” had taken advantage of the Chinese, by trying to peg claims in the Chinese Garden. The Chinese fought back and a riot ensued. A “mob” of Europeans, numbering 500 were setting fire to and destroying everything Chinese, then had driven the Chinese away. Many of the Chinese were injured. Ten Europeans were charged.⁸

“Another rush...on new ground...the other side of the creek...opposite the “GOLDEN AGE HOTEL”⁹...a battle ensued between parties of Celestials – Tatars and Chinese proper...300 in the mêlée’s...Poverty Gully next to Commissioner’s Gully still working”. The end of January 1867 and the Northern Argus reports, “business is reviving...Chinese had returned to their claims...tents, buildings and Joss-houses are beginning to show where Chinese Town stood before it was swept away by fire and foe...600 Chinamen.”¹⁰

February sees the request to the Government “for more police...too much water is a problem...water races are being dug...the race dug on Commissioners flat is materially acting in favour of those miners working Petticoat Flat...Store and Lodging house keeper on Commissioners flat - Cha Qui...George Crook the Licensee of the “VICTORIA HOTEL” died and his Estate is offered for sale...Mornish diggings are drawing the population off Crocodile Creek.”

March, and “there is a ‘rush’ to the upper end of Crocodile Creek...Surveyors laying out large tracts of land near Crocodile Creek...The trial of Gunn, Dolen, Mc Evoy and Malony for the stabbing of Paull Maden at Crocodile Creek finished, with Gunn and Dolen sentenced. The trial of the Crocodile Creek Rioters concluded 22nd March 1867...favored ground for another “rush” is to the right of the Baptist Church...the races of Commissioner’s Flat nearly finished...old puddling machines are been taken up and replaced with new timbers...Haye’s machine is being removed from upper flat to Commissioner’s flat...the other three machines are in full work.”

April of 1867 saw the dispute of “miners that had sunk a shaft in the middle of the roadway...the thoroughfare fronting the house and property of Mr. Charles Bouel...travelers were compelled to go through the allotment of Mr. Bouel in order to journey to and beyond his house.” Mr. Jardine, the Gold Commissioner, opposed the decision of the assessors, whom let the shaft remain. The result can’t be found of the Court case that ensued.

The correspondent of the Northern Argus on the 6th May 1867 reports, “the exodus from the Crocodile does not arise from the decrease of the find of gold, but entirely on account of the quantity of water...one claim with a three-horse power machine emptied a hole, only to be filled up again after a violent shower of rain...some shafts are now thirty or forty feet deep...heavy rain has filled up the creeks and swamped the district...many

⁸ From an Editorial. Rockhampton Bulletin. 8th January 1867.

⁹ Licensees. George Henry May 1866/69 – Chas Nash 1869/77

¹⁰ The Queenslander. 19th January 1867

instances of tools being washed away...the roads in some parts completely under water...the reefs at the Half Way House are turning up trumps...at 55 feet the gold shows an increase in quantity and quality.” The Queenslander for May reports, “the new reef at the rear of Half Way House...about 7 miles from town is said to be turning out very well...majority are Chinese on the field...several of the storekeepers have stopped supplying rations on “tick”...the flat is completely flooded...German’s are building a race.”

June and the newspapers are reporting, “Hector reef shows 6 oz. to the ton...Chinese arriving daily...five Chinese to one European...big nuggets got from Slaughter Yard Creek.”¹¹

August and reports were saying that there are only 200 Europeans now on the diggings...a reef has been struck behind White’s Public House¹², three miles this side of Bouldercombe...57 lots of land in Bouldercombe were offered for sale...No offers...nearly all Chinese at Crocodile Creek.”

Through to October the newspapers are not paying much attention to Crocodile Creek Diggings, as the majority on this field are Chinese at this time. They are going over the ground that others have abandoned. By the 27th October 1867 it was reported, “Although there has been work for two years at Crocodile Creek, the field was thought to have petered out.” The Queenslander reports 30th November 1867, “rush to the flat below Weir’s store a duffer...visit to China Town...stench is horrific...houses full of pigs and fowls...cackling of fowls, grunting of pigs and yabbering of celestials...the jolly row ...deafens one.” The Bulletin reports in December, “Chinaman’s Flat is left in a very bad state.”

The whole of the Machinery of the Pioneer Quartz Crushing Company,¹³ with the exception of two pieces, has arrived, and a portion is already on the ground. Mr. White, engineer, is to superintend the erection of the machinery. This is supposed to occupy about two months. The Secretary invites tenders...for building chimney and setting boiler.”

The report from the Bulletin on the 24th March 1868, “saw the christening of the machine of the Pioneer Quartz Crushing Company, at the “Half Way House”. At a quarter past two o’clock, Miss. Florence Hunter, daughter of Captain Hunter, broke a bottle of champagne on the fly wheel, at the same time pronouncing the name “Hector” amid the cheers of all present...familiar thud of the engines...crack of the stamper...The entire framework of the engine-house, and, in fact, every plank and batten on the premises, had been brought from Victoria...being seasoned timbers”.

¹¹ **Researchers Note:** The hotel named ‘Half-Way House’ was ‘opposite’ Hector Reef.

¹² **Researchers Note:** “GOLD DIGGERS ARMS” – Owner Alex Whiteside – not listed in Licensee lists.

¹³ This Company formed then registered in Rockhampton in August 1867. Morning Bulletin. 28th January 1868.

Michael O'Rourke advertises that he has taken over the license of the "Camp Hotel" and renamed it "The Hector Reef Hotel" from the 12th May 1868. The House contains two sitting rooms and four bedrooms, exclusive of those required for those of the family.

Mr. Frederick Gregory, one of our best and oldest sportsmen, and one too, who has proved his love for his horse, his dog and his gun...dedicating his time and money...endeavoring to create a taste for racing and shooting amongst our rising generation...on the ground attached to his hotel, the "Half Way House" on Crocodile Road." For the Race meeting to be held on the Queen's birthday on the 24th May 1869 Mr. Gregory "had laid out a very pretty race course and has gone to some considerable expense in grabbing up trees and making the turf in sound condition."

September of 1868 saw the firm of Gannon, Hinchcliffe, and Tudhope make arrangement to obtain another Quartz crushing machine for the Crocodile Creek field. The machine was rapidly erected and crushing began in January 1869. This machine became known as the "Salamander". Three quartz reefs are now been mined; one with in a mile of the town and another two at Three mile Creek, one owned by White and the other by Johnson. There are several more reefs in the neighborhood of Half Way House.

The "Hector" and the "Salamander" mills were crushing ore from Ridgelands to the North.

Further research will need to be done on this area, as this is as far as this researcher is prepared to go.

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BOULDER TOWN – “is then entered.” From newspaper, Queenslander 1867

CROCODILE CREEK., from P.O. Directory 1868 ¹⁴

BUSINESSES. 12 miles [19.306kms] from Rockhampton.

Blacksmith. - Andrew Derphon.

Bakers. – Doyle and Madden, Thomas Page, Peter Schatzel.

Butchers. – Heinricks and Co., George Travers.

Boot and Shoemaker. – Michael Lynch.

Chemist. – A. H. Cooper.

Dairyman. – John Love

Lemonade Manufacturer. – Schardon and Co.

Medical. - Dr. O’Grady, Chinese Dr. – Tong Toning (Tach Tong)

Publicans. – James Hault – “Hector Reef Hotel” ¹⁵

Edward Long ¹⁶

George Henry May ¹⁷

(No known hotels, usually Sly grog shops.)

John O’Rourke – “Queensland Hotel” ¹⁸

Sing Young – “Traveller’s Rest Hotel” ¹⁹

Post Office Store. – Edward Grandsden. ²⁰

Storekeepers. – Higgin, McDermot and Co., William Webb, Matthew Reynolds, James Rutherford, You Lee – Chinese, Quong Long – Chinese, On Quong – Chinese.

Slaughterman. – Joseph Rollinson.

Tobacconist. – Francis Johnstone.

¹⁴ (NOTE: Post Office directories receive entries within the three months prior to the end of each year, for the next year, hence some entries may be wrong for that year; ie – have left the area. Entries were not removed unless Editor is notified.)

¹⁵ Not in published Licensee registrations... Was the “Camp Hotel” 7 ½ miles from Rockhampton.

¹⁶ Hotel not known + not in Licensee registrations.

¹⁷ Hotel not known + not in Licensee registrations... was a Cordial Manufacturer and owned Bowling Alley in Rockhampton in 1866.

¹⁸ License not renewed after 1868.

¹⁹ Licensed until 1872.

²⁰ Became Licensee of the “Reefers Hotel” at 3 Mile for 1869.

BOULDERTON – Bouldercombe in Pugh's Almanac from 1872.

Mail for Boulderton's (Bouldercombe) nearest post office was Crocodile Creek.

BOULDERTOWN – (Bouldercombe) 18 miles S.W. from Rockhampton by coach.

Businesses as noted in the trial of the "Rioters". Riot of the 7th January 1867.

Storekeeper – Michael Fitzpatrick.

Publican – Daniel Galvin – Not in Licenses - query Sly-Grog.

"Boomerang Hotel" – Licensee: Hugh Weir – established in BOULDERTOWN. Listed under Crocodile Creek 1868.

1869/1870. Pugh's Almanac.

CROCODILE CREEK.

Post Office. – Mrs. Haydon.

1871/1873.

Post Office. – James Campbell.

School. – James Campbell. (Established 14th August 1871)

One Police Constable allocated in 1873.

1874/1876.

Post office. – E. J. Pool. Rockhampton to Crocodile Creek = 16 miles – weekly.

Bouldercombe residents were to collect their mail from Crocodile Creek.

No school in this entire area. 1879 and the Bouldercombe residents formed a committee to establish an independent school for the area. First enrollments were for July 1881. Mr. Millican was the first headmaster of this particular establishment.