

FURPHY WATER CART CEREMONY REPORT

- Nominated by:** National Committee on Agricultural Engineering
- Commemorates:** The Furphy Water Tank/Cart
- Location:** John Pick Reserve
Wyndham Street
Shepparton
- Installation:** Mounted on galvanized steel pedestal on concrete foundation.
- Unveiled:** 24 October 1985, by Mayor of Shepparton, (Mr. John Weir).
- Present:** Furphy family representatives including John S Furphy (grandson of John Furphy – See photograph, far right: Mayor, centre: John S. Furphy).
Local historical society representatives, IE Aust representatives, Bill Brown, Principal Agricultural Engineering Officer, on National Committee of Agricultural Engineering, Graham Redding Senior Engineering Research Officer, both of Agricultural Engineering Centre, Werribee Victoria, of Victorian Department of Agriculture and rural Affairs.

This plaque is second in IE Aust program of Historical Engineering Markers and Landmarks instituted by National Committee on Agricultural Engineering to commemorate historic engineering objects and sites and to bring the Institution before the public.

Previous marker is also nominated by the National Committee on Agricultural Engineering is in Bundaberg and commemorates the development and manufacture of sugar cane harvesting machines in that city.

(Typed form handwritten report on file.)



**HISTORIC ENGINEERING
MARKER
THE FURPHY WATER CART**

IN 1878 JOHN FURPHY INVENTED THE FURPHY WATER TANK WITH THE CAST IRON ENDS SEALED BY HEAT SHRINK IRON BANDS. THESE OUTSTANDING EXAMPLES OF EARLY AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING, INGENUITY WERE WIDELY USED THROUGHOUT RURAL AUSTRALIA. THE TERM "FURPHY" BECAME A SYNONYM FOR SUSPECT INFORMATION & HUMOR DURING WORLD WAR I WHEN DRIVERS OF HORSE DRAWN WATER CARTS SERVING AUSTRALIAN TROOPS, CARRIED INFORMATION & COSEP BETWEEN CAMPS. THE TANKS ARE STILL MANUFACTURED AT THE SHEPPARTON WORKS.

DEDICATED BY
THE INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS, AUSTRALIA, 1985.

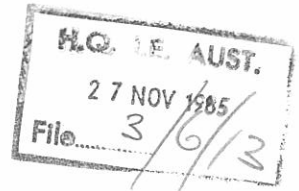


HISTORIC ENGINEERING LANDMARK/MARKER DETAILS

NAME OF SITE/OBJECT (Engine House, Machine etc)

Engineering construction artefact

PARK..



NAME OF SITE/OBJECT

Furphy Water Cast

John Pick Reserve.

LOCATION

Map and Grid Reference

John Pick Reserve

Address:

Wynndham ST

Shepparton
Vic 3630

NAME AND ADDRESS OF OWNER

CITY OF SHEPPARTON.

DETAILS OF PLAQUE

HISTORIC MARKER. - REFERRING TO FURPHY WATER CAST

HOW INSTALLED/MOUNTED (on wall, on cairn, etc)

CONCRETE FOUNDATION
GAL. STEEL PEDESTAL.

DETAILS ON AN UNVEILING CEREMONY

When?

24/10/85.

Where?

JOHN PICK PLAYGROUND.

Who Attended?

MAYOR

FURPHY FAMILY REPS.

LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY REPS.

REPS. INSTITUTE ENG AUST.
BASED AT WERRIBEE Vic

PUBLICITY COVERAGE

HISTORICAL SOCIETY - NEWS LETTERS ETC.

PLAQUE MAINTENANCE RESPONSIBILITY

(Person or organisation excepting responsibility for the up-keep of the plaque)

- SHEPP CITY COUNCIL
- OR. J. FURPHY & SONS

IEAUST NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS FILE ON SUBJECT



“Neither accident nor luck.”

JOHN FURPHY, the company founder, was born on June 17, 1842, at Moonee Ponds in Victoria. His younger brother, Joseph, was destined to become a famous writer later in life using the pen name of Tom Collins. He wrote the Australian classic bush novel, “Such is Life”, which was published in 1903 when Joseph was sixty.

In 1873 there were about 13 families living in and around the Shepparton area. John Furphy, then 31 years of age, selected and bought ten acres of land fronting Tocumwal Road (now Wyndham Street) and this area is now prime city space in Shepparton.

John quickly set up a blacksmith and wheelright shop and began business. He soon added a steam works and was able to progress from light smithing and engineering to heavier work. About 1878 a cupola furnace was installed and the iron foundry section of the business began.

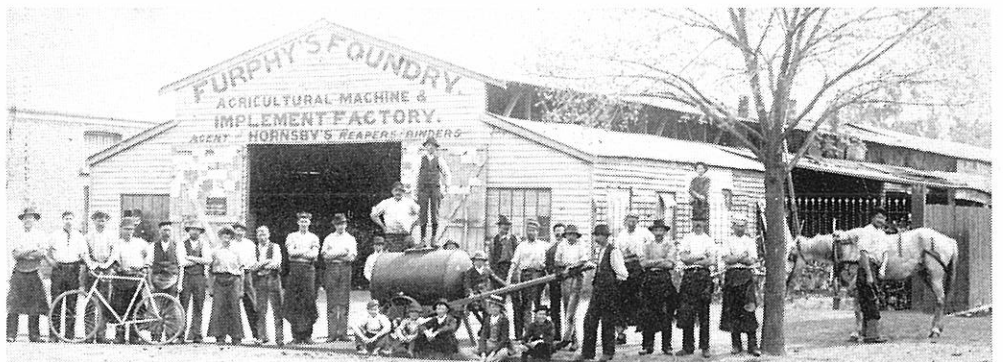
The implement and foundry works flourished and by 1880 there were 38 men and boys on the payroll. By 1888 John Furphy could claim to have the most extensive establishment of its kind in Northern Victoria.

In 1906 the business moved from the Wyndham Street position to a site opposite the railway station. The plant was modernised with the addition of a suction gas engine to drive a large D.C. generator.

J. Furphy & Sons was one of the few electrically powered factories in Victorian at the time and certainly the first in the Goulburn Valley. Some time in 1908 the entire generating plant was moved to the recreation reserve in Shepparton, and the townsfolk were able to witness their first athletic carnival under lights.

John Furphy was an active lay preacher for the Methodist Church of the area and devoted most Sundays to travelling in his buggy to the surrounding settlements and preaching to their congregations. One eventful Sunday John was returning home via the Hayes Street rail crossing and probably preoccupied with the days’ lessons failed to notice an approaching train. The resulting commotion saw John’s white horse struck and killed as it moved over the line, leaving John Furphy shocked and alone on a horseless buggy.

Wyndham Street
site, 1880



John Furphy showed the flair of his family in his speaking and writing even in his advertising. In editions of the Shepparton Chronicle published around 1889, he wrote general letters related to his products or some facet of the business which was appropriate at the time.

Of his farm gates, John Furphy wrote, “My price for 12 feet wide with rails, hangings, and fastenings with the name of the owner or place cast on the centre in raised letters is

only £4. I have made very little out of them, except for the satisfaction of spreading the marks of civilisation."

In another letter to the public he wrote, "The stripper which I exhibited at the Centennial is now on view at my factory. It is the best I know how to make and only modesty prevents my adding — the best in the world".

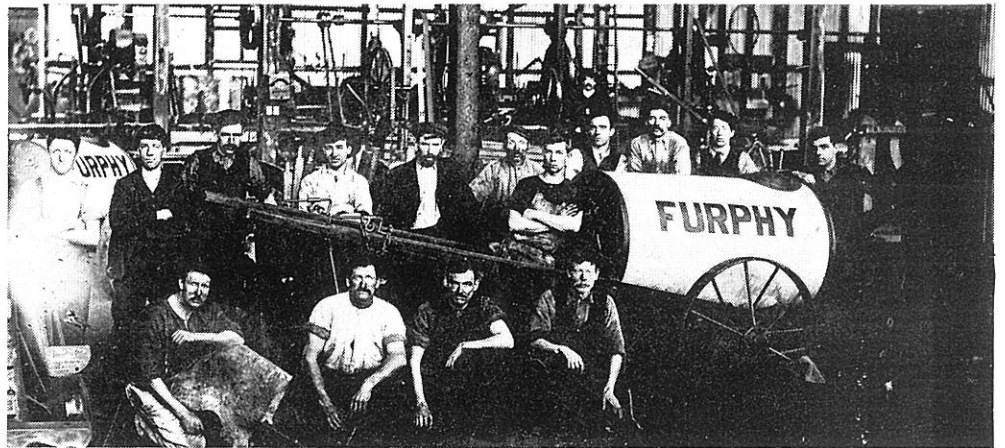
It is neither accident nor luck that the Company has over one hundred years of experience as engineers. The policies of the business are conservative by some standards, but the firm has always been able to organise and adapt to the necessary changes of progress and development.

In 1978 the company relocated its operation to a 4.5 hectare site off New Dookie Road, bounding on the city limits. Modern offices, workshop, and a foundry were built and since that time, J. Furphy & Sons Pty. Ltd. have expanded and now employ over eighty people.

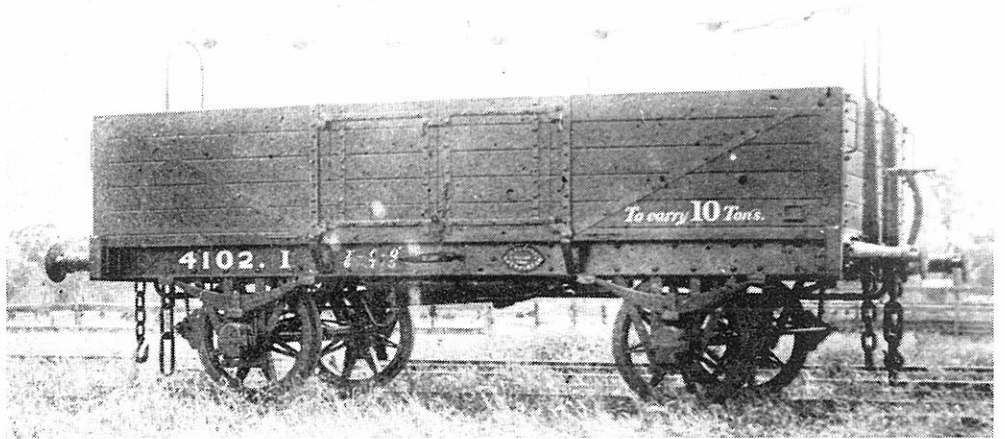
Manufacturing is still the main business and since the late 1960's the company has concentrated on mild steel, stainless steel and aluminium specialised equipment and plant installations, for the food industry. The foundry also has diversified into fancy and ornamental castings, and has taken advantage of the increasing demand for cast iron pot bellied and wood-burning stoves.

Southern New Wales and northern Victoria, the regions serviced by J. Furphy & Sons Pty. Ltd. are of increasing importance for food processing in Australia. This expanding food industry is finding the skills and services offered by J. Furphy & Sons Pty. Ltd. are appropriate to their needs.

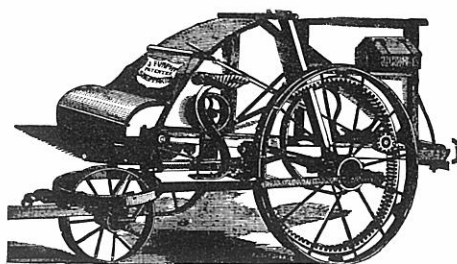
Interior Hoskin Street works, 1908.



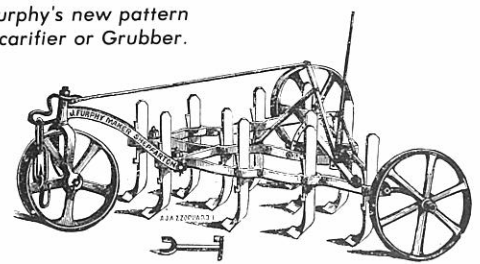
A "Furphy"
Rail Truck, 1912



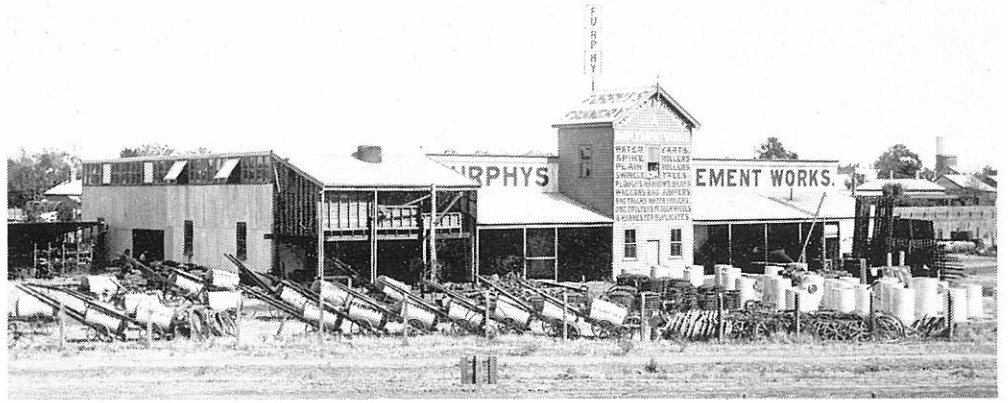
J. Furphy's Patent Oblique Automatic Stripper. Winner of First Prize at Grand National Show, 1884, and numerous other prizes.



Furphy's new pattern Scarifier or Grubber.



*Furphys Implement Works,
Hoskin Street, 1906*



In 1925 a slight change was made in the casting of the ends and the metal was poured in from the middle right side of the mould. A keen eye can spot the pouring points and gauge the approximate era of manufacture. At this time a square band was used to secure the ends. A land grader was added to the list of products in 1930 and the date "1942" was added to the original inscription of "Born about 1880, still going strong", in that year. The date was dropped from the mould in 1960 and some of the products were deleted from the list in 1965.

The demand for new water tanks is still strong and during dry seasons many old units are brought in for reconditioning. This simply involves the fitting of a new galvanised cylinder to the original cast ends. The shrink fitting of the ends is still the most simple and efficient method for a perfect seal. Today's tanks are designed for more modern methods of transport, but the basic construction remains the same as those first produced.

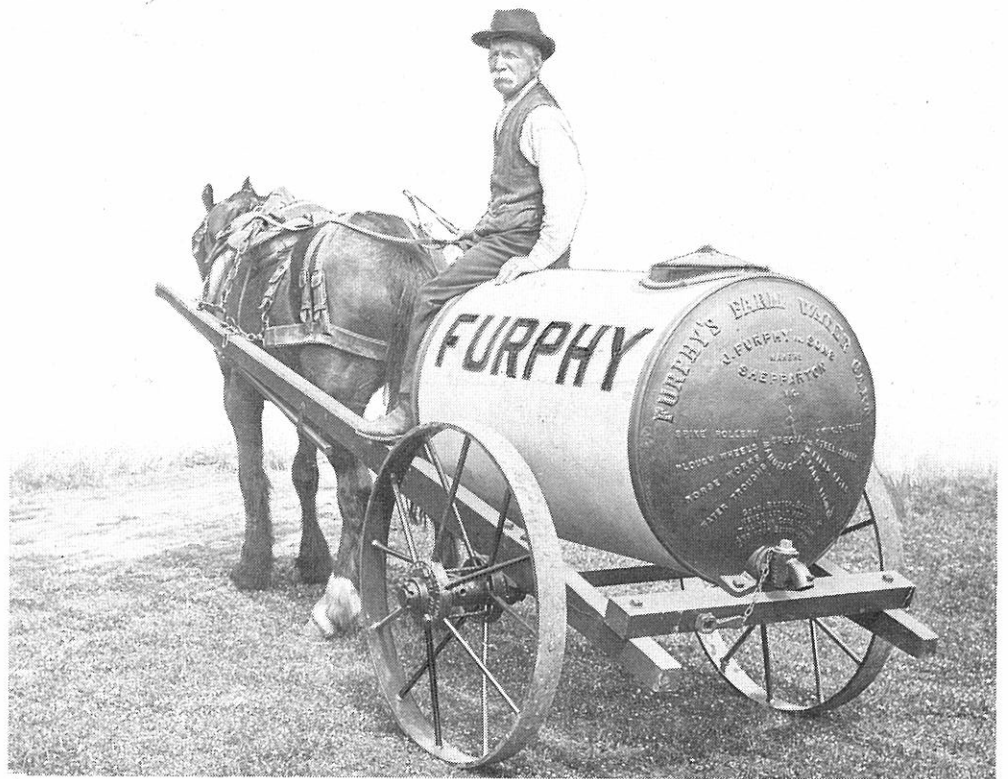
*Tank end moulds,
ready to pour,
1910*



*Consignment, Watercarts
on route to Finley,
1904*



THE WATER CART



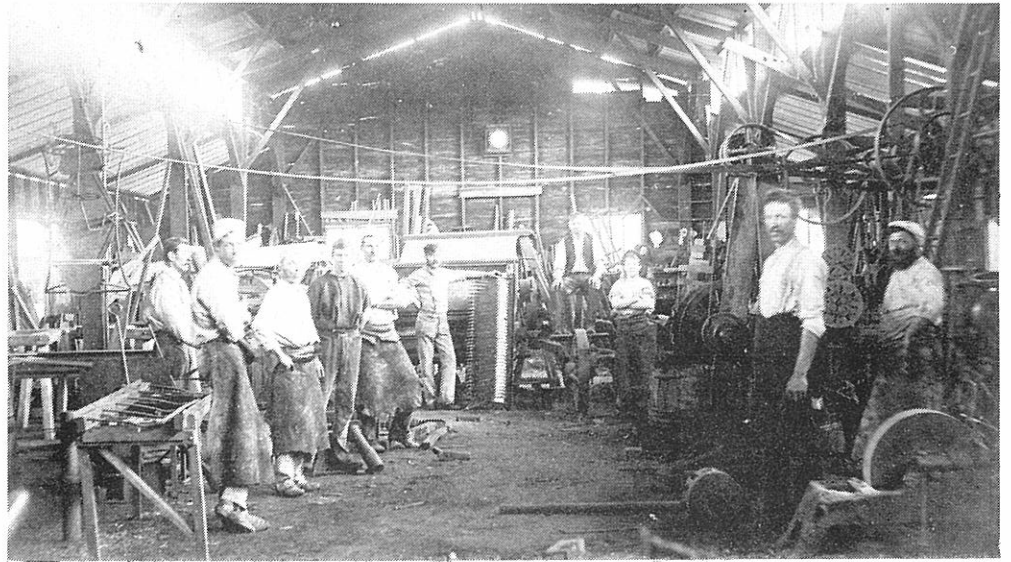
The most distinctive product to carry the Furphy brand would certainly be the water cart. The presence of the cart in military camps in Australia and overseas during the First World War led to the name of Furphy becoming an indelible part of our language and idiom. It was used extensively in Europe and the Middle East to carry water to the troops and the drivers of the carts were notorious sources of information and gossip for the men as they moved from camp to camp. As could be expected, not all their news was reliable and so it was that the word Furphy rapidly became a synonym for suspect information or rumor.

The first water cart was made between 1878 and 1880, with establishment of the foundry works. The growing demand for agricultural implements prompted the installation of a furnace for casting components. This replaced the rather time consuming task of forging them.

The water cart was in itself a complete invention of John Furphy. No similar article was at that time used in Australia or overseas. The method of carting water in those days was confined to horse drawn arrangements of wooden casks or barrels placed on a skid or sled. Water had to be transported for stock and domestic use. Few homes of the time were designed to collect rain water from the roof and water had to be taken to horses working in the field.

John Furphy was an experienced wheelwright and he employed a similar method of construction for the water tank. It consisted of shrinking an iron band on the end casting to hold and tightly seal the cylinder or body of the tank, just as the iron tyre was fitted to the

Interior Wyndham Street
works, 1873



Water Carts on route
to rail, High Street,
1900



wooden body of the waggon wheel. The tanks were made of cast iron ends, three feet in diameter with a sheet steel body rolled to form a cylinder.

For the first few years the cylinders were made from 1/8 inch black steel and were three feet six inches long. All the iron for the foundry was imported from England and Europe. Galvanised sheets were imported when they became available and when John Lysaght began galvanising in Australia the body sheets were obtained from Melbourne.

The first carts were available in 180 and 250 gallon capacities. The 180 gallon unit proved most popular because when filled, it weighed about a ton and was a fair load for a good horse. The tank was carefully balanced over the axle to give a good weight distribution for the horse whether the tank was empty or full.

The cart frame was made from wood and was fitted with 30 inch cast wheels. Rubber tyred wheels and a steel chassis were introduced in about 1945 and the mobility of the cart was greatly improved.

The first carts found a ready market in Victoria and the Riverina and eventually found their way into all states.

The first end castings had the simple inscription "Furphy" in a small square at the top end of the plate. In 1890 this was changed to read "J. Furphy, maker, Shepparton". The value of advertising was recognised and raised lettering listing the products of John Furphy was added. In 1895, John added a short rhyme with a strong message. It read "Good, better, best — never let it rest — till your good is better — and your better, best." John's son, William added a Pitman's shorthand inscription in 1910, which translated tells the reader that "Water is the gift of God, but beer and whisky are concoctions of the devil, come and have a drink of water." William also added a modified version of a saying attributed to W. M. Hughes, the prime minister of Australia, together with an illustration of a stork holding a baby in traditional fashion. The statement, also in shorthand, read "Produce and populate or perish."

handworked methods, co-ordinating fabrics and wallpapers. The complete recover service, specialising in antiques.

40a-40b Carrington Road, Randwick N.S.W. 2031. Phone (02) 398 6495.

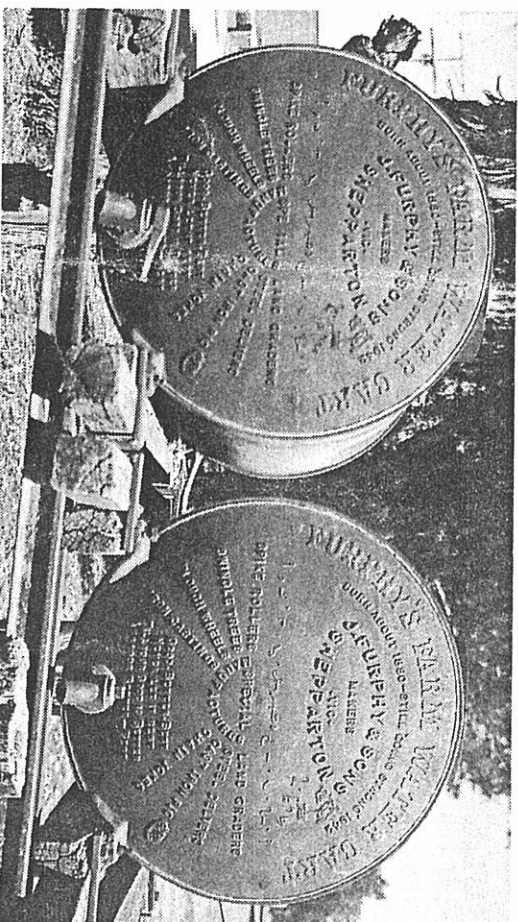
Born about 1880, Still Going Strong

The Furphy Foundry has long been Australia's most famous manufacturer of fancy and ornamental iron castings, including outdoor furniture, light standards, hall-stands, umbrella stands and, of course, beautiful Victorian lacework, all with that lasting charm and quality.

What country inn or homestead is complete without a cast iron street lamp, door-stop or humble bootscraper?

The Furphy company's history in Australia is a long and interesting one.

John Furphy, the company founder, was born on June 17, 1842, at Moonree Ponds in Victoria. His younger brother Joseph was destined to become a famous writer later in life using the pen name of Tom Collins. He wrote the Australian classic bush novel "Such Is Life", which was published in 1903, when Joseph was 60. In 1873 there were about 13 families living in and around the Shepparton area. John Furphy, then 31



Water cart c/1900.

years of age, selected and bought ten acres of land and quickly set up a blacksmith and wheelwright shop and began business. He soon added a steamworks and was able to progress from light smithing and engineering to heavier work. About 1878 a cupola furnace was installed and the iron foundry section of the business began.

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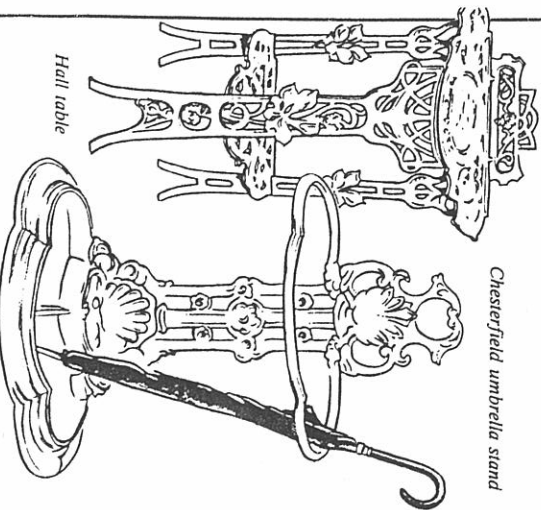
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Chesterfield umbrella stand



Hall table

Custom made fences, gates and railway station lights.

128 PARRAMATTA ROAD, CAMPERDOWN.
PH: (02) 51 5135. FAX: (02) 550 5540.

New iron age furniture.
Come and discuss your design.

146

Continued from page 32

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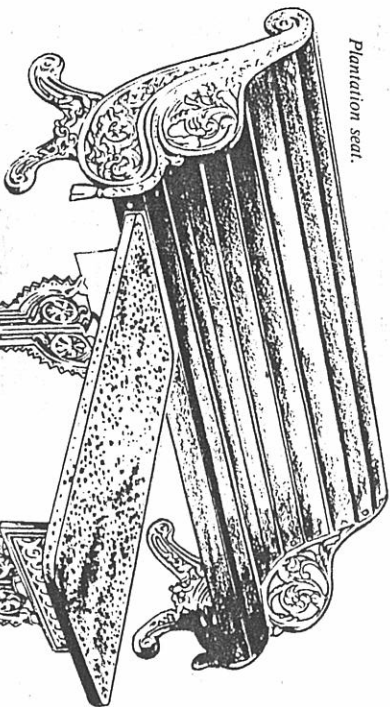
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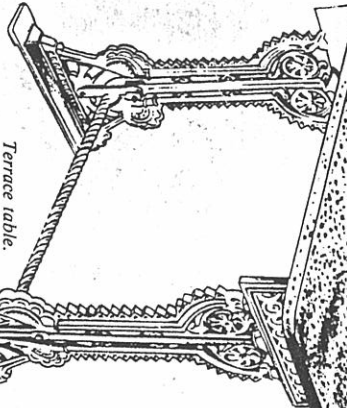
Plantation seat.



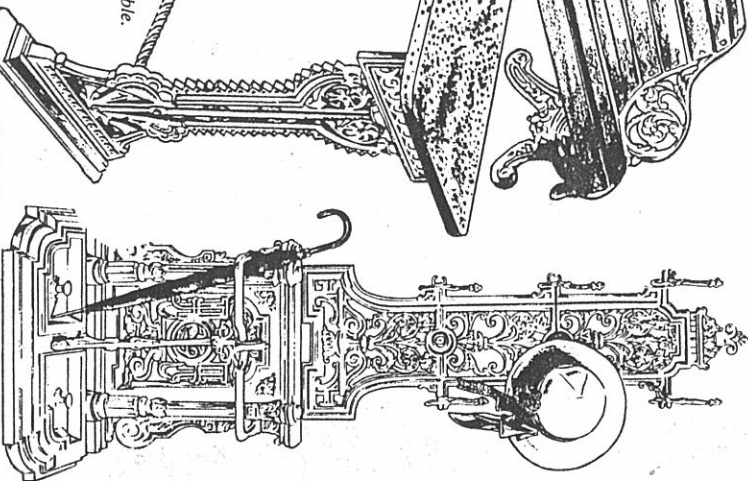
mould. A keen eye can spot the pouring points and gauge the approximate era of manufacture. At this time a square band was used to secure the ends. A land grader was added to the list of products in 1930 and the date 1942 was added to the original



Lion door stop.



Terrace table.



Original hall stand.

reader that "Water is the gift of God, but beer and whisky are concoctions of the devil, come and have a drink of water".

William also added a modified version of a saying attributed to W.M. Hughes, the prime minister of Australia, together with an illustration of a stork holding a baby in traditional fashion. The statement, also in shorthand, read: "Produce and populate or perish."

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perfect seal. Today's tanks are designed for more modern methods of transport, but the basic construction remains the same as those first produced.

There's a couple of Furphy water carts (scheduled for reconditioning), property of a Victorian country fire brigade, according to a local, "they fit just right in a Holden ute or Landcruiser".

Furphy's interests these days are quite diverse, encompassing engineering steel fabrication, etc, for a variety of needs and industries.

The ornamental products division of the company is now under the control of Roger Furphy, who describes himself as "a fourth generation Furphy". One of the Furphy projects of which Roger is very proud and which most Sydneysiders would be familiar with is the cast Gothic balustrading around Circular Quay, which demonstrates iron's ability to withstand the elements and complement any setting.

The designs offered in furniture and decorative fixtures are as diverse as they are interesting and time-proven.

The Furphy plantation seat had its origins in the American south and was to be found in many Australian pastoral stations in the late 19th century. The original design was English and the length varied according to needs.

The terrace table was originally made around the turn of the century. It was fitted with a marble top and used in Australian cafes and luncheon rooms.

The hallstand was made originally in the very early 1900s for state and local government offices.

The complete Furphy collection, available today, is well worth a look for the discerning Victorian house restorer, decorator and landscaper.

FRANK KNOX
Frank Knox Steelworks
(02) 51 5135

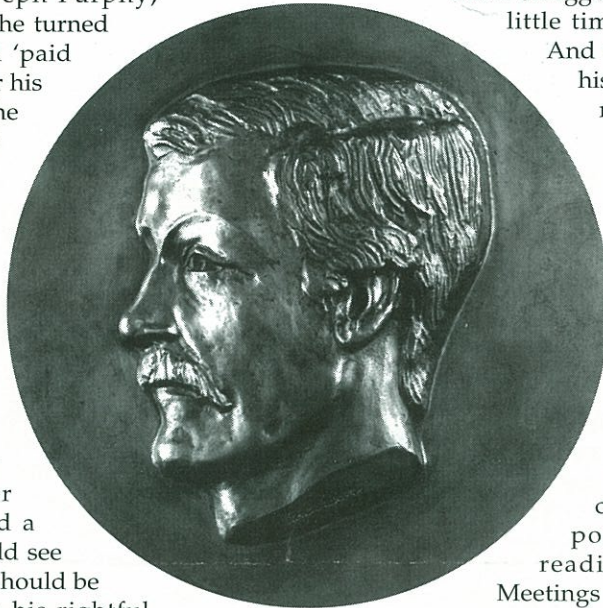


State Library of Victoria

BUSHMAN AND BOOKWORM

Joseph Furphy in the State Library of Victoria

'Ignorance-shifting' was, for Joseph Furphy, 'always a labour of love', to which he turned with enthusiasm whenever he had 'paid the Adamic penalty' of labouring for his daily bread. From boyhood, when he learnt passages of the Bible and Shakespeare even before going to school, to old age, when he confessed to his mother - that same mother who had taught him to read - that he was 'the slave of the printed book', Furphy sought knowledge. 'My idea of dissipation', he once told the young bushman and would-be writer, Cecil Winter, 'is to revel in some new volume of one of my favourite sciences - Ethnology or Astronomy'. A man who earned a living by manual work, Furphy could see no reason why 'the manual worker should be rude and illiterate; shut out from his rightful heirship of the ages'.



There were few books in the hut on the Ryrrie station in the Yarra Valley where Joseph Furphy was born on 26 September 1843. His parents - embodiments of the classic Protestant virtues - had come to 'the working-man's paradise' from Northern Ireland where their families were tenant farmers. To their children they passed on a strict moral sense, a belief in hard work, and, most important of all for the future writer, a respect for learning and a love of literature. Eventually they were to realise the dream of owning their own land, taking up a selection near Corop which is still farmed by their descendants. Joseph, who had spent much of his youth 'dodging out of farm work', could foresee no other occupation for himself, and along with his parents and other family members he selected land in the late 1860s.

Writing was for Joseph Furphy - and for other members of the family - a form of self-expression to be enjoyed when there was leisure. As a boy he had amused himself by writing a verse parody, 'Childe Booth's Pilgrimage', in which he showed off his knowledge of English poetry. As a young man he mocked his brothers in verse - and they repaid the compliment. He had a brief moment of fame shortly after his marriage in 1867, when he won a local competition for a poem on the death of Lincoln.

But a struggling selector with a young family had little time for reading and less for writing. And when in 1877 Furphy could not meet his debts and lost his land, things were no easier. For the next six years he earned a precarious living with a team of bullocks, first in the Corop district and then, from 1880 to 1883, in the Riverina.

The years in the Riverina, when he tramped beside his team, taking supplies from the railhead at Hay out to the sheep and cattle stations and returning with wool, left an indelible mark on him. Often alone for days on end, separated from his wife and children back in Hay, he carried pocket editions of Shakespeare for reading by the camp fire at night.

Meetings with other bullockies and travellers on the plains were occasions for the exchange of ideas as well as news. A shearer who camped with him one night remembered him as 'the most learned bushman that I have ever met, a real bushman'; but went on to reflect that 'Joseph Furphy was of us, but not one of us'.

There was plenty of time for reflection on metaphysical questions, and on more immediate social and political questions. For the first time in his life he was led to examine critically the values that he had been taught from childhood.

Such considerations were secondary, however, to the business of earning a living. Although he prospered for a time, and had two teams, he was always aware how vulnerable he and the other teamsters were to circumstances over which no man has any control. In the drought of 1883 his worst fears were realized when his bullocks perished, and consequently he lost his means of livelihood. With this disaster ended any hopes he may still have had of being independent as were his brothers and sisters.

John Furphy, his elder brother, came to the rescue with a job in his foundry at Shepparton. The only member of the Furphy family not to settle on the land, John had been apprenticed as a blacksmith, and now had a flourishing business, selling farm machinery. His was a success story of hard work, initiative, and intelligence directed to a particular

State Library of Victoria
The Queen's Hall

22nd August to 8th October, 1995



need. John Furphy adapted farm implements designed for other countries to suit the conditions in the Goulburn Valley. He was to secure a lasting place in Australian pioneering history with his water-cart, a simple construction consisting of a galvanized iron tank with cast-iron ends, mounted on shafts so that it could be drawn by a horse. Especially useful for carting water in dry areas before irrigation was introduced, the cart was in widespread demand throughout Victoria and the Riverina, and even beyond, by the end of the century. (With the name 'FURPHY' painted on the side in large letters, it was easily identified, and started to become known by the maker's name. In the First World War, when it was used by the Australian Army, the drivers of the carts were regarded as sources of rumour and misinformation, and the name itself came to signify false rumour. In this roundabout way the family name of an upright and pious man, with a very strict regard for the truth, became part of the language.)

For Joseph Furphy, his brother's foundry was a haven. Now, for the first time in his life, he enjoyed the advantages of working regular hours; having paid 'the Adamic penalty' for eight hours each day, he could turn to his books. At the back of his cottage on the bank of the Goulburn River, he built an unlined lean-to, just big enough for a table and chair, a bookcase, and a stretcher bed. Night after night he was in his 'sanctum', reading and writing by the light of a lantern shaded by an old felt hat. His experience of the Riverina made him receptive to the ideas of Socialism that were espoused by some of his fellow-workers in the foundry. The Sydney *Bulletin*, with its message of "Australia for the Australians", became his regular reading. He took little part in the affairs of the town, where his brother was a leading citizen. When he ventured out of the sanctum it was most often to the nearby Mechanics' Institute.

Of the 'mechanics' in Shepparton, comparatively few belonged to the Institute, which attracted the bourgeoisie rather than the working man. Furphy was technically a 'mechanic', and probably no-one made greater use of the books it contained than he did. The Mechanics' Institutes were an important element in colonial culture, but their value seems to have varied from place to place. In Shepparton, as in some other Victorian country towns, the introduction of billiard tables turned the languishing Institute into a flourishing social centre. For Furphy, however, the attraction

was books not billiards. When revising *Such is life* for publication, he found himself 'so blocked by my own infernal ignorance that he 'wore a pad' from his sanctum to the copy of the *Encyclopedia Britannica* in the Mechanics'.

Such was his hunger for information that he enlisted the help of friends in Melbourne. A fellow-blacksmith, William Cathels, who worked in South Melbourne, was the only man of his acquaintance to whose erudition he acknowledged himself inferior. For Kate Baker, a young schoolteacher whom he had met in the country, he was the unequalled authority; and her belief in his abilities gave him confidence to undertake the writing of *Such is life*. From time to time she would receive a request to visit the Melbourne Public Library on his behalf to check something which he had read on

one of his own rare visits there. No writer ever valued a library more.

For years he laboured over the book to which he eventually gave the name *Such is life*. He had no literary acquaintance, and he had published little - only paragraphs and verse in the *Bulletin* - by the time he was ready to send the bulky manuscript (1,125 pages in his copperplate handwriting) to a publisher. The first reader of the completed work was A. G. Stephens, Literary Editor of the *Bulletin*, who pronounced it to be 'fitted to become an Australian classic or semi-classic'. It was published by the paper in 1903, shortly before Furphy's sixtieth birthday. At the end of the following year he moved to Perth, where his sons had established their own foundry, and died there in 1912.

Such is life, which was his major work, is an extraordinary achievement, distilling the thought and experience of a lifetime. Furphy was not the only autodidact in a country town in the colonies to attempt literature - there were other would-be novelists in Shepparton itself - but he was the only one who succeeded in producing a work of enduring worth. Behind the work is Furphy's experience as a bushman - and as a reader.

The knowledge in which Furphy so delighted has, however, proved to be a problem for later generations, who do not share his cultural values. His consciously literary style, with its rich cargo of allusion and punning, his unusual approach to narration, which calls upon the reader to play detective, and the extended digressions by the opinionated and pedantic narrator, do not make for easy reading. It is a book for readers who are prepared to think.

A hundred years ago Furphy was finishing the book into which he put not only his knowledge of life but his hopes for a future Australia. The issues of identity which were so central to that time are once again a focus of public discussion. *Such is life* offers to contemporary readers an insight into that earlier Australia, as interpreted by a man who observed life with an ironic yet compassionate eye, and thought long and hard about it.

John Barnes

CATALOGUE

1 Wallace ANDERSON

[Joseph Furphy]

[n.d. but ca. 1934]

Bronze plaque

MS 5616 Box 498/1

On September 29 1934, the Yarra Glen State School held a ceremony to mark the unveiling of a memorial tablet to Joseph Furphy. The plaque was possibly cast at the same time. It was donated to the State Library by Kate Baker in 1951

2 UNKNOWN PHOTOGRAPHER

[Joseph Furphy ca. 1903]

Gelatin silver photograph

14.0 x 9.5 cm

MS 5615 Box 498/11

Photograph of Furphy taken at about the time *Such is life* was published

3 UNKNOWN PHOTOGRAPHER

[Residence of Joseph Furphy, Shepparton]

[n.d. but ca. 1890]

Gelatin silver photograph

8.3 x 11.4 cm

MS 5615 Box 498/11

A view of Joseph Furphy's house in Welsford Street, Shepparton. A skillion built behind the house served as the "sanctum" in which he wrote *Such is life*

4 UNKNOWN PHOTOGRAPHER

[Tom Collins House, Perth]

[n.d. but ca. 1949]

Gelatin silver photograph

9.0 x 13.9 cm

MS 5615 Box 498/11

Joseph Furphy built this house between 1908-09. Today, it is owned by the W.A. branch of the Fellowship of Australian Writers

5 "GILROONEY" (R. J. CASSIDY) (1880-1948)

Poem

n.d.

To: Joseph Furphy

Cassidy worked as a journalist on the *Australian worker* and *Barrier truth* and was a writer of ballads. His *The land of the Starry Cross and other verses* was published in 1911. Joseph Furphy told his mother that Cassidy was "a fine fellow; decent and manly as he is brilliant and forceful"

Kindly loaned by Professor John Barnes

6 UNKNOWN PHOTOGRAPHER

[Furphy water cart]

[n.d. but ca. 1900]

Gelatin silver photograph

15.0 x 22.3 cm

Furphy's Farm Water Carts were the chief product of John Furphy's foundry. A deceptively simple invention, it consisted of a 180 gallon galvanized tank with cast-iron ends mounted on a wooden frame. The cast-iron ends provided an ingenious form of advertising for the foundry

Kindly loaned by Professor John Barnes
Original in possession of J. Furphy & Sons

7 UNKNOWN PHOTOGRAPHER

[Furphy's Foundry, Shepparton]

[n.d. but ca. 1890]

Gelatin silver photograph

14.7 x 20.0 cm

A general view of the foundry with some of the staff. Joseph's brother John was the entrepreneur of the family as his success attests. Apart from items of his own manufacture such as the water carts and a patent grain stripper,

John diversified by becoming an agent for overseas firms such as Hornsby

Kindly loaned by Professor John Barnes
Original in possession of J. Furphy & Sons

8 H. A. GEORGE (PHOTOGRAPHER)

[Grant Hervey]

[n.d. but ca. 1900]

Gelatin silver photograph

18.8 x 7.4 cm, on mount 21.6 x 11.4 cm

Inscribed on photograph in subject's hand in black ink l.c.: Ever yours / Grant Hervey.

Inscribed on verso in subject's hand in black ink c.: To my pal - Joe Furphy. / In all health - / Grant Hervey

"Grant Hervey" [George Henry Cochrane, 1880-1933] was a blacksmith before turning to journalism. He first wrote to Furphy in 1900 after reading his pro-Boer poem "The fly in the ointment" in the *Bulletin*. They shared a dislike of the Boer War and an enthusiasm for Socialism. In 1900 A. G. Stephens had formed the Australian Society of Irresponsibles, naming himself as President. Their mutual association with the *Bulletin* led to Hervey and Furphy respectively being named as Secretary and Legal Manager

Kindly loaned by Professor John Barnes

9 Joseph FURPHY

Postcards. Fremantle

23 August 1905 and 28 December 1906

To: Frank and John Bannister

"Tom Collins" sends birthday greetings to members of Kate Baker's family

Kindly loaned by Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Bannister

9A John Henry NEWMAN (1801-1890)

Lead kindly light

London, Paris, New York: Raphael Tuck & Sons

Initially inscribed to Kate Baker from "Tom Collins", then to Nanette from "Auntie Kate, O.B.E."

Kindly loaned by Mrs. Nan McCulloch

10 Joseph FURPHY

My birthday: an ollapodrida

Melbourne: E. Newlands

[1912]

LTP 808.81 F982M

A poem which possibly validates Furphy's "claim to know off by heart all the Poetry in the English language ..."

[See item 23]

11 Joseph FURPHY

A Christmas hymn

London and Melbourne: Fletcher & Co.

[n.d. but ca. 1915]

MS 9020

Furphy probably wrote *A Christmas hymn* in 1908 in response to his mother's request. It was later set to music (by Arthur Chanter) and published

12 Joseph FURPHY

Such is life: being certain extracts from the diary of Tom Collins

Sydney: Bulletin Newspaper Co., 1903

MC 819.93 F982S

Such is life was published on 1 August 1903. By October, 685 copies had been sold and in May 1904 the book was in its second thousand. Sales slowed down, however, leading to the *Bulletin* declining to publish *Rigby's romance*

This copy of *Such is life* is inscribed by Furphy to his "foremost friend" William Cathels. Cathels was a blacksmith living in Melbourne when Furphy met him about 1892. A mutual love of books brought the two men together

13 Joseph FURPHY

Poems of Joseph Furphy

Collected and edited by Kate Baker
Melbourne: Lothian, 1916

MS 5615 Box 498/6

A. G. Stephens described Kate Baker as "Furphy's gallant standard bearer". Certainly Kate and Furphy remained great friends until his death. Indeed, his death caused her to suffer a breakdown; after she recovered she worked tirelessly to promote Furphy's work until her own death in 1953. Kate Baker was awarded the Order of the British Empire in 1937 for her services to Australian literature

This edition contains embellishments added by Kate and is inscribed: "To KB - New Year 1917 / from herself"

14 Miles FRANKLIN (1879-1954)

Joseph Furphy: the legend of a man and his book
Miles Franklin in association with Kate Baker
Sydney: Angus and Robertson, 1944

MC 819.93 F982F

Miles Franklin's collaboration with Kate Baker proved an exasperating one. Franklin was forced to suppress many details of Furphy's life as Kate refused to accept any criticism of him. Also, members of Furphy's immediate family were still living. It was not until 1990 that John Barnes produced the definitive biography, *The order of things: a life of Joseph Furphy*

This copy is signed by Miles Franklin

14AJ. FURPHY & SONS

[Model of a Furphy Farm Water Cart]

Water carts have always been an important product of the foundry. Numerous models have been produced, continuing up to the present day

Kindly loaned by Mr. Andrew Furphy of J. Furphy & Sons

15 UNKNOWN PHOTOGRAPHER

[Illuminated address presented to Mr. G. V. Furphy Aug 31.st 1898]

Ink, watercolour, gilt embossing and albumen silver photographs
Unsigned. 99.0 x 72.5 cm, in original frame
110.5 x 83.5 cm

The latter half of the nineteenth century witnessed the increasing popularity of illuminated addresses. They were presented for various reasons and usually bore fond messages for the recipient. This address was presented to John Furphy's son George upon the occasion of his marriage

Kindly loaned by Mr. Andrew Furphy of J. Furphy & Sons

16 Joseph FURPHY

Letter. Shepparton

8/4/'01

To: Harry Baker

MS 8148 James A. Booth Papers
Box 497/6(b)

Harry Baker was a brother of Kate Baker. In this letter, Furphy announces his intention to visit Sydney and "create a disturbance in the Bulletin Office". *Such is life* had been accepted by the *Bulletin* in 1899, and Furphy was concerned at the delay in publication

17 Joseph FURPHY

Letter. Shepparton

1/5/'01

To: Harry Baker

MS 8148 James A. Booth Papers
Box 497/6(b)

Furphy was "desperately employed in cutting up my book [*Such is life*] to suit the *Bulletin* Co. ... I find this job too much like pulling down a house and rebuilding a skillion". As a result of his visit, the *Bulletin* had agreed to publish a shortened version of *Such is life*

- 18 **UNKNOWN PHOTOGRAPHER**
[Interior of Furphy's Foundry, Joseph Furphy at extreme left]
[n.d. but ca. 1890]
Gelatin silver photograph
14.8 x 22.4 cm
Joseph Furphy began working for his brother in 1883. As a general mechanic he turned his hand to numerous tasks over the years including that of "roving expert" for the Hornsby machines. Working regular hours allowed Furphy time to visit the Shepparton Mechanics' Institute and devote himself to his writing. Kindly loaned by Professor John Barnes
Original in possession of J. Furphy & Sons
- 19 **Miles FRANKLIN (1879-1954)**
Letter
23rd May [1904]
To: Joseph Furphy
MS 9419/3015 Victor Kennedy Papers
Box 1900
The "12 mths experience" to which Franklin refers in the second paragraph was the period she spent working in domestic service under an assumed name, in search of literary material
- 20 **"GILROONEY" (R. J. CASSIDY) (1880-1948)**
Letter. Colac, NSW
24/10/'6
To: Joseph Furphy
MS 9419/3015 Victor Kennedy Papers
Box 1900
A range of issues are discussed in this letter including friendship, Bernard O'Dowd's poetry, and Grant Hervey
- 21 **Bernard O'DOWD (1866-1953)**
Letter
12/9/09
To: Joseph Furphy
MS 9419/3016 Victor Kennedy Papers
Box 1900
In a letter to Miles Franklin dated 7 August 1905 Furphy observed, "Of all Democrats, here or elsewhere, Bernard O'Dowd comes nearest to my ideal". Impressed by a Presidential Address O'Dowd delivered to the Literature Society of Melbourne, Furphy wrote to him [the letter has not survived]. O'Dowd eagerly seized the opportunity to reply: "I need hardly say that your spontaneous greeting, however undeserved it may be, did me good"
- 22 **Joseph Furphy**
Letter. Shepparton
23 Sept. '03
To: [Cecil Winter]
H 15978 Box 107/3
Furphy's letters to Cecil Winter are particularly interesting because they cover a range of topics, including the writing of *Such is life*. "I write only of what I know. You wouldn't catch me laying a scene in Russia or Brazil, nor undertaking a Society story."
- 23 **Joseph FURPHY**
Letter. Shepparton
Oct. 12, '03
To: "Riverina" [Cecil Winter]
H 15979 Box 107/3
A number of pertinent observations are made in this letter, including comments on Grant Hervey and Winter's writing. Furphy also reveals his idea of "dissipation" - revelling in a favourite science or history. Poetry is also a favourite pursuit: "... in my untruthful moments I claim to know off by heart all the Poetry in the English language ... think Milton was overpaid with £10 for Paradise Lost ..."
- 24 **Joseph FURPHY**
Letter. Shepparton
Monday [n.d. but Dec. 1903]
To: Cecil Winter
H 15983 Box 107/3
By the late 1890s Furphy's interest in Spiritualism was steadily increasing. The *Bulletin* published a paragraph he wrote on the subject in 1899. In this letter his interest continues unabated as he describes the procedures for a seance
- 25 **UNKNOWN PHOTOGRAPHER**
[Cecil Winter]
[n.d. but ca. 1903]
Gelatin silver photograph
14.1 x 9.3 cm, on mount 16.7 x 10.6 cm
Inscribed on photograph in subject's hand in black ink l.r.: Your old mate, / "Riverina".
Inscribed on verso in subject's hand in black ink u.c.: with this photo goes the / best wishes that a bush- / man can wish - & / "Here's luck! old man / here's luck!"
Cecil Winter was only twenty or twenty-one when he first wrote to Furphy after the publication of *Such is life*. Winter was working on a station in the Riverina. A *Bulletin* contributor himself under the pen-name "Riverina", Winter enjoyed a regular correspondence with Furphy
Kindly loaned by Professor John Barnes
- 26 **Joseph FURPHY**
Letter. Shepparton
Dec. 23, '03
To: Cecil Winter
H 15984 Box 107/3
"Now, Cecil! I adjure you in the name of Edward VII, to read this book in a cynical and censorious frame of mind." Furphy had sent Winter a copy of the typescript of *Rigby's romance* with the request that he read it, then pass it on to Grant Hervey for comment
- 27 **Joseph FURPHY**
Letter. Shepparton
Jan. 28 [1904]
To: Ces [Cecil Winter]
H 15986 Box 107/3
Furphy discusses Lawson and *Rigby's romance*
- 28 **Joseph FURPHY**
Letter. Shepparton
Sunday, 17 April [1904]
To: "Riv." [Cecil Winter]
H 15988 Box 107/3
An account of Furphy's impressions of his meeting in Melbourne with Molly [Winter's sister] and Miles Franklin. His interest in Miles is apparent from the detailed description he provides
- 29 **Joseph FURPHY**
Letter. [Shepparton]
Tuesday night [May 1904]
To: Dick Hindson
H 15996 Box 107/3
"Sent A.G.S. [A. G. Stephens] a literary criticism - on a portion of Tennyson - for the R. P. [Red Page]. That despot fired it out ..."
Item 30 is the memorandum which provoked this response. Undaunted, Furphy submitted the criticism to the *Argus*, then the *Age*. It was eventually published in *Steele Rudd's magazine* in 1907
Dick Hindson was a work-mate of Cecil Winter's who also wrote verse
- 30 **A. G. STEPHENS (1865-1933)**
Memorandum. Sydney
3/5/04
To: Jos. Furphy
H 15992 Box 107/3
Stephens disliked "the intrusion of so many pompous polysyllables" in a piece of work Furphy submitted to him [See item 29]
- 31 **Grant HERVEY (1880-1933)**
Letter. Casterton
July 14th [1904]
To: Riverina [Cecil Winter]
H 15993 Box 107/3
A letter in verse praising "blessed brother Furphy" and *Such is life*
- 32 **Miles FRANKLIN (1879-1954)**
Letter. Penrith
Aug. 12th 1904
To: Joseph Furphy
H 15997 Box 107/3
Franklin recalls how much she enjoyed meeting "Tom Collins" whom she describes as "an Australian Shakespeare". The possibility of working in America is raised: "I believe domestics have a better time there - They have a very, very hard one here"
- 33 **Joseph FURPHY**
Letter. Fremantle
April 28 [1907]
To: T. C. Lothian
MS 6026 T. C. Lothian Papers
Box 40
Such is life had not sold sufficiently well to encourage the *Bulletin* to take a chance on *Rigby's romance*. After George Robertson refused it, Furphy turned to T. C. Lothian. In addition to *Rigby's romance*, Furphy offered Lothian *The buln-buln and the brolga* and *The whirligig of time*
- 34 **Joseph FURPHY**
Letter. Fremantle
Aug. 26 [1907]
To: T. C. Lothian
MS 6026 T. C. Lothian Papers
Box 25
Furphy asks Lothian to return the manuscript of *The whirligig of time* realising he "must look elsewhere" for a publisher.
- Howver, Furphy was in no hurry to have *Rigby's romance* and *The buln-buln and the brolga* returned: "They are as well in your office as in my very uncomfortable sanctum". In November 1907 news came of Lothian's refusal of all his manuscripts
- 35 **Joseph FURPHY**
Letter
28th [1912]
To: [Kate Baker]
MS 9491/2635 Victor Kennedy Papers
Box 1900
"First, consider yourself smacked." This letter was written shortly before Furphy's death. He maintains the teasing banter that characterised his approach to her during the course of their friendship. Furphy's desire to see *Rigby's romance* in book form would sadly not be realised in his lifetime
- 36 **J. FURPHY & SONS**
[Cast-iron end of a Furphy Farm Water Cart 1920]
An elaborate example of the cast-iron ends which provided an effective form of advertising for the foundry. In 1910 Pitman's shorthand was introduced and read "Water is a Gift from God but Beer is a Concoction of the Devil don't drink Beer"
Kindly loaned by Mr. Andrew Furphy of J. Furphy & Sons

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