

August 1836, while surveying the Glenelg River region

"Next day, fortunately, by skirting the head of a ravine, firm ground was found, with only one bad place intervening. On 17th August, after persistent labour in the mud and mire, the whole party reached the camping place. Piper*... reconnoitring the river, reported streams in on the left, one large one from the right, falling on the rocks, and the Glenelg itself large, like the Murray, and good for boats.

"All this news only made me more impatient to embark in them. The barometer was rising, the spring was advancing, and the approaching warmth might be expected to harden the ground. The cattle would be refreshed by a week's rest in the midst of the rich pasture around us, while our labours, to all appearance, were on the eve of being crowned by the discovery of some harbour which might serve as a port to one of the finest regions upon earth."

* *Piper* was a Wiradjuri man whose Country is now known as Bathurst. Piper acted as a guide, diplomate and translator for Thomas Mitchell during his expeditions in south-eastern Australia.

22nd December, 1846, while surveying the Bogan River region

"This fine grazing country had been abandoned more than once from the failure of the water, and yet these ponds seemed capable of holding an almost inexhaustible supply. A single dam would have retained the water for miles, the Bogan always flowing through clay in a bed of uniform width and depth like a canal. No doubt a little art and labour would be sufficient to render the land permanently habitable:"