

The Sovereign Hill boiler water supply

Situated outside the boiler house are two grey tanks. The largest of these is the 'cold well', the bulk supply of water to feed the boilers. This is itself a former Cornish boiler built by Thomsons in Castlemaine in 1907, and registered in 1927 as BIA 7077 when in the ownership of the *Geelong Returned Soldiers & Sailors Woollen & Worsted Co-operative Company*. This Company operated a woolen mill at Geelong from 1922. The boiler was inspected at machinery merchants Cameron & Sutherland's yard in Bendigo, and presumably came from a Bendigo gold mine.¹ This vessel feeds the adjacent and smaller 'hot well', which receives heat from condensate returns, and a small amount of direct steam heating under the control of the boiler attendant. The 'hot well' is run as hot as possible without boiling (it cannot be pumped if boiling) and minimises the thermal shock when feed-water is introduced to the boiler. This vessel is itself a former under-fired multi-tubular boiler of unknown origin.

References

¹ PROV, VPRS 7854/P2, unit 71, BIA 7077.