The above image is the front cover from my main document. The following pages focus on why this is the scene is the correct site of the police camp of Oct 1878 where the police troopers were shot.

In the image collage made up of the original photo and the same place today. Behind the standing man’s left elbow, we can see a ‘log’ lying on the ground where the ground rises steeply up into the background. That slope is only to be found in one location to match the old Burman photos, and with that and other features we can be sure this is the site pinpointed where Constable Lonigan was shot dead by Ned Kelly. This is the spot along Stringybark Creek where the photos were taken by Frederick Charles Burman 1878.

1 Burman photos , view direction of light and shadow
2 Orientation of McIntyres Map, not the same as Burman photos
3 Log angles configuration and analysis
4 Scale of ground photographed
5 Camera views
6 The Viewer Scope
7 Four sites Map along SBC
8 The Kennedy site
9 Distance map
10 Overall view of the sites
11 The Cudden photo and JJ Kenneally photo circa 1930s
12 Now and Then image
13 The Nov 1878 Australian Sketcher drawing the scene.
14-15 Illustrations: First and second encounters.

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The Burman Photos orientation using light source information only.

Below: The original forensic photos. The red arrows point to positive light and shade.

Sydney Kirkby, MBE, Antarctic explorer and surveyor gave me his opinion on these photos:
"My reading of the light in the re-enactment photo is thus. The sun is close to the zenith (in the N) and seems to me to lie above the photographer's right shoulder, say 20, 30 degrees (somewhat post noon) off the orientation of the camera. - We followed these conventions (or tried to) with our mapping photography, both aerial and photo-theodolite. (14 Nov 2012)"


Syd confirms with me that the light comes from the right behind the photographer and generally face-on to the logs and trees. Meaning, the photos are looking southerly. In order to convince any detractors, I provide these following illustrations.
Orientation of McIntyre’s map and Burman photo

The Burman photo is looking South

Diagram of McIntyre’s Map layout showing sun positions - Azimuth horizontal and Altitude vertical in degrees as per the CSI@SBC report page 78 July 2011 edition.

The sun rays follow the steep inclines as example
12 noon = 68 degrees
At 2 pm = 55 degrees
This would apply over the whole of N.East Victoria in November of 1878.

Are we all happy with this?

Bill Denheld sketch 3 Feb 2013

By using the CSI@SBC team sun movements on page 78 of their report, the 2 pm yellow triangle beam matches the red arrows placed over the Burman photo.

You will see the yellow angle only match the photo looking southerly.
The base map shown is McIntyre’s orientation showing the tent and two logs facing the tent forming a V. This is an approx actual layout of the logs according to the Burman photos.

The same McIntyre base map has been adopted by the CSI team except that they have the Burman photos looking to the E. North East which is just not possible using their (CSI team) sun movement chart for that time. The sun light angle plus McIntyre’s own statements tell us the seated man’s head was to the west.
Looking down we see a bird’s eye view of the logs configuration.

A faint 3 m grid line can be seen to give a scale to distances.

**Historical points to remember**

Constable McIntyre said-
‘Kelly was on his right - the creek side’.
‘the tent entrance faced the creek east’
‘the Sun set to his left’ – West

Mc said they waited for the 2 returning police – ‘looking down the creek- North’

In the photo, the man with raised arm represents Sergeant Kennedy coming into camp from ‘higher ground’ and from the west. *(In reality McIntyre was positioned there when greeting Kennedy coming back to camp.)*

*See illustration second encounter last Page*
Scale of the ground as photographed.

Creating a perspective grid over the layout as shown, and using the two burnt posts and the standing man’s height being average 5 foot 8 inches, we can estimate the posts are 12 foot or 3 metres apart. This allows us to estimate ‘a perspective’ for distance from the camera lens to the logs, the stump and hut site, and the background slope.

We can see the ‘proportional grid ratio’ i.e., grid height to width is about 9 to 1. Meaning the camera view was low to the flat ground photographed showing a hut’s footprint. This low camera can be explained if the camera (on tripod) was standing lower down the creek embankment. The picture above suggests the camera was only ½ metre above the ground but when distances are considered, calculations indicate 1 metre above flat ground is more likely.

Further photo analysis

The photo can be divided into three parts 1/3rd sky 1/3rd slope and 1/3rd flat foreground.

Any site along Stringybark creek to be considered must be capable of the above three thirds division.

There must be enough room for the log elements and two hut sites.

Note; there is no creek between the flat ground and the slope.

Cross section DD angle is 14 degrees.
Camera views

We can estimate the position of the camera on the basis of view angles. Please observe the left and right edges of each view. Assuming the photographer used the same camera for both shots, the wider view has approximately the same view angle as the closer in shot. From the top pink view, the photographer simply moved back to his right by 10 metres, and swung the camera about 15 degrees to his left.

Compare the pink array with the pink outlined photo, and similarly with the green photo. The Blue line links the positions of the two hut’s fireplace found in both photos.

Notes on the board are upside down. E.g., M = McIntyre L = Lonigan

The distance from camera to the big tree on far right is estimated from 24 to 27 Metres and to the 2 little trees higher up the slope (above the standing man’s hat) could be about 42 metres (from the camera). So we are talking about relative short distances.

The long log behind standing man is about 10 to 12 metres long. The stump in the middle foreground (top photo) is about 9 metres from camera, and in the bottom photo about 15 metres from camera.

Notice there is only one post in the top photo but two in the other. The common thing to both images right edge margin is the large tree which allows for fairly accurate plotting of the photo arrays on the model board.
 Viewer Scope

Having established a site where the police camp could have been, we use a device made I call a ‘Viewer Scope’. It’s a camera in reverse. We are looking for a view the camera captured long ago. So long as not much has changed, we should be able to see the same views today, and I think we can.

The viewer scope has the outline of the Burman photo etched onto the window.

The viewing peep hole can be moved in or out as with the view through a telephoto lens or wide angle lens. The closer the peep hole the wider the view.

This viewer scope confirmed a location being around 1010 metres from the junction of Ryans and Stringybark creeks. One old parish map has the site at 804 metres, yet another at 645 metres from the junction.

Having established with fair certainty the place where the police had camped and where Constable Lonigan was shot, we can now try and determine where Scanlan and Sergeant Kennedy were shot.

Constable Scanlan was said to be about 30 yards behind Kennedy when the first shot was fired at Kennedy that missed him. By that time Scanlan managed to unsling his ‘Spencer rifle’ and take a pot shot at Kelly but the bullet was said to have whistled through Kelly’s beard. The other gang members then turned their guns onto Scanlan shooting him dead. Sergeant Kennedy then tried to escape moving from tree to tree north following roughly the direction of Cnst. McIntyre that had escaped seconds earlier on Kennedy’s horse. One Spencer rifle bullet found north of the camp may provide evidence where Scanlan died. This Spencer bullet was found by a gold prospector detector-ist after my story went on line in 2003.
Sites along Stringybark Creek.

Please Note: The numbered arrays are photo views according to different scenarios

Site 1, Current signposted site. Kelly historian Ian Jones accepted this site where tourists are currently being sent. The photo array takes in the slope on the west bank but is too far away. Secondly, McIntyre said they looked north with Ned Kelly on his right, the creek side. This site1 does not work because the Ck would be on their left.

Site 2A, The only true site for the Police camp and Burman photo view array. 2B was an early consideration if the slope was the east bank but this view was dismissed.

Site 3A was Linton Briggs’s police campsite. He held this site as the Burman view for the past 40 years till I pointed out there was no slope sufficiently high enough. The next day he turned his scenario around to 3B. Since then his team CSI @SBC have published that this area ‘array’ be turned around to take in the current Kelly tree, so the photo array should be looking North East rather than east. Despite my endeavors to convince them they are wrong in all manner of primary sources, To this day they continue to believe in the Kelly tree site.

Site 4, The picnic ground was believed to be the site from 1884-5 on, based upon early parish maps and the main reason they created the picnic ground there in 1970’s.

The main problem with all sites except 2A is there is no slope like in the Burman photo, and the figures in the Burman photo were on the north side of the logs, an impossible scenario at 2B, 3A, 3B and site 4.
The Kennedy tree site.

This site has not been proven, but Leo and I think this is the same area as in the image below left of where the body of the Sergeant was found (Note Burman photo)
The blackened tree is huge and not hollow as it appears below right.

To understand the history of where they found Kennedy’s body about a week later, the following estimated distances were recorded.

In McIntyre’s Manuscript published some 24 years after the event, McIntyre said “he jumped on Sergeant Kennedy’s horse and headed North, he then headed due west. (towards Kelly camp)
On Page 37 telegram by Henry Pewtress -
"the body was found about a mile North East by a volunteer Henry Sparrow".

On the same page - "The body had been found 8 Am in the midst of some ferns over a 1/4 mile down the creek from the site of our encampment.

Here are some scales-

30 chains = 660 yards or 604 Metres.
G W Hall 1879. This is more than 1/3 but less than 1/2 mile.

1/2 Mile = 880 yards is about 806 metres - Tomkins, Nov 1878 Mansfield Shire president.

1 Mile = 1760 yards is about 1612 metres - Super Intendant Henry Pewtress.

Of all distance estimates, perhaps only Tomkins ½ Mile could be relied upon.
Super Intendant Pewtress only sent the telegram to Melbourne stating 1 Mile

There is a scale extended map for Page 9 to be inserted CLICK here.
1. Police Camp - Kelly gang shootout site on West bank.
2. Logs where Const Lonigan was shot dead.
3. Const Scanlan shot dead and first Kelly tree.
4. Current tourist site identified in 1993 was proven wrong.

5. Path taken by escaping Const. McIntyre crossing the creek north then west. This track was later partly followed by Sgt Kennedy.

6. The second Kelly tree. This sign posted tree was dead and riddled with white ants and fell over in the 1930s.

7. Third Kelly tree was marked in 1933/4 and meant to commemorate the three dead police by local resident Tim Brond.

8. Recent Tourism Car park.

9. Picnic ground of 1973 was thought to be the shootout site. In 2003 at the picnic ground a stone monument was erected to commemorate the dead police.

10. An early settler house site.

11. Dart arrows follow likely area where Kennedy was killed within outlined area North East of camp.

12. StringyBark Ck and road turnoff being 650 m to picnic ground and 1010 m to true police camp by road.
This photo was taken around 1930. On the previous page see No 6

The photo is looking East N east across SBC and cannot be the site. In the background left is the current Kelly tree first identified by myself in 2003. Doubt also surrounds this photo below, but the lighting suggests the site at the two huts looking south.

This photo in 1930 book by JJ Kenneally "The inner History of the Kelly Gang". JJK had Tom Lloyd, the fifth gang member as his guide so this may be the true site. On the previous page 10 this photo most likely was taken between #3 and #5
Then and Now

The bottom picture ‘Now’ shows the three main points important in identifying the correct location. I compiled these images to compare the lay of the land even though different focal length camera lenses are in use.

2 fireplace  1 Post hole under the black wood and fireplace to the right out of view
This important image from The Australian Sketcher published within weeks of the atrocity clearly shows the 3 point attributes of the current day location at the site of two huts. This meant the artist visited the site and drew what he saw.

Below: This large pile of stones once formed the C shaped formed fireplace of a hut that most probably was referred to by Ned Kelly as the ‘Shingle Hut’ in his 1879 Jerilderie letter as where the police had camped. There is another collapsed fireplace only 10 metres away from this one.

The drawings below show the first and second encounter the police party experienced. They were done for the recent 2013 Ned Kelly book by historian and author Peter Fitzsimons, who asked me to prepare clear bird’s eye views of the first and second encounters showing the police camp, and the layout of logs and the two huts locations. This fireplace (left) is best seen in the second encounter (see illustration) pile of rocks of the ruined hut with tree branches crashed through.
View over the Police camp at StringyBark Creek 26 Oct 1878 - looking South West.

This scene shows the first encounter by the Kellys towards the camped police. Constable McIntyre holding hands up while Const Lonigan takes cover with revolver is instantly shot dead by Ned Kelly. Dan Kelly and his mates take aim at McIntyre who had attended to the horses that are now startled by gun shots. Draped over some ready firewood is a horse blanket, besides which are saddles, one for pack horse with straps. At the tent are their camping gear, saddle bags, ropes, bucket, behind which is a steep slope shown in the photos taken at the time by ‘Burman’ of Bourke St Melbourne. The area had been partly cleared as a horse paddock by early lease holders leading up to the pioneer land selectors. In the foreground is a spring - known as StringyBark Creek, the very reason the huts were built there. Image drawn by Bill Denheld after photo by Burman and description by McIntyre.
View over the Police Camp at Stringy-Bark Creek. 26 October 1878 -
The 'second encounter' by the Kelly gang, view looking North West over the
ruins of two small huts near where the police had camped. The two returning
police are greeted by bailed-up surviving Constable McIntyre telling them to
surrender as they are surrounded. Bottom left, Joe Byrne and Dan Kelly,
Steve Hart at the tent when Ned Kelly takes a shot to Sergeant Kennedy with
Constable Scanlan at the rear where he will be shot dead by the gang.
Constable Lonigan is hidden from view by the log behind which he too was
shot dead some time earlier. This site is still visitable today.