

# FOUR-STOREY BANK FOR MAIN STREET

## National Bank To Erect Imposing Structure

Lonsdale Street, Dandenong, will soon have its first four-storey building — the new National Bank at the corner of Walker St. and Lonsdale St.

Already the old building is in the hands of the wreckers, and the bank is preparing to move into temporary premises in Walker St.

The new building, the tallest yet to be erected in Lonsdale St., should, like the town hall on the opposite corner, be a striking feature of Dandenong's changing sky-line.

— Engineer G. Wright told the Dandenong Council on Monday night that the building would take from 12 to 18 months to complete.



The building as it appears today



Dandenong branch, of the National Bank as it was in 1920. The change from Colonial to National Bank is very evident in the facade signage.

# DANDENONG'S NEW "CITY-SIZE" 4-STOREY BANK

## Will be striking Main St. feature

About to rise from the ruins of the old bank and shop at the corner of Walker and Lonsdale Sts., the new £250,000 National Bank, pictured here, will soon be a dominant figure of Dandenong's main street skyline.

This modern "city-size" building, built with an eye to the future, will enhance the business heart of Dandenong.

The bank will occupy the ground floor, apart from one shop for letting in Walker St., and the three upper floors will be given over to office accommodation, accessible from the Lonsdale St. frontage and served by two lifts.

The National Bank of Australasia Ltd. has already let a contract to Pollard Bros. for the erection of this modern bank and office building, which is expected to cost about £250,000.

Business at the Dandenong branch of the National Bank has doubled during the last 10 years.

Here is a building, at last, which will be well worthy of the main street of such a flourishing young city.

The bank's four storeys will make it the highest commercial building in the shire. Height in buildings is not only an economical essential in the present-day town, but it also lends an air of distinction to the areas thus favored.

The new branch will be a steel-framed and concrete structure with external brick panel walls and hollow block floors.

The two street frontages are designed as curtain walls with infill panels of wire-cast ceramic colored glass.

Up to the first floor height the exterior will be faced with colored granite.

All windows to the office floors will be double-hung type and constructed in aluminium.

Entrances to the bank and offices have been combined, with walls of marble facing and timber panelling.

The floors of this lobby and the public space in the bank are to be paved in Sicilian marble.

The building will be heated throughout by means of electric space heaters.

The new branch will have a frontage of 47 feet to Lonsdale St. with a depth of 128 feet to Walker St. The building will extend over the whole area.

J. F. Craven, who has been seven years in Dandenong.

Dandenong branch was first opened in 1889 by the Colonial Bank of Australasia Ltd. The National Bank acquired it on amalgamation in 1918.

There have only been five managers of the branch since 1889.

The first manager was Mr. Alex. T. McLean, who had the distinction of being the only bank manager in Australia honored by the erection of a monument. He worked at Dandenong for many years and was very popular in this district.

After his death funds for the monument were raised by public subscription. When Lonsdale St. was widened to four lanes, the monument had to be removed.



£250,000 National Bank Premises

The new branch will undoubtedly be a landmark in the area and will pay tribute, architecturally, to the potential of the shire and town.

The bank is to be commended for its enterprise in this venture, which is convincing proof of its faith in the Dandenong district. It is hoped that other companies will adopt the National Bank's practical attitude to our growth.

Architects for the building are Meldrum and Noad.

: October 11, 1939



## **CERTAIN** when so much is uncertain

In this world, where so much is uncertain, money placed on Interest-Bearing Deposit can be regarded as secure and safely invested. The interest is certain, and is payable every six months if required. On the due date the amount, plus interest, may be withdrawn or deposited for a further term. Amounts from £5 upwards will be accepted. For full particulars, ask at any of the National Bank's offices and branches.

**THE NATIONAL BANK**  
*of Australasia Limited* (Incorporated in Victoria)

# The day a bank closed its doors

If one of our banks had a "run" on it and was forced to close its doors, can you imagine our citizens rallying round it and attending a public meeting to express sympathy with it in its troubles, and voicing confidence in its ability to recover?

Yet, that happened in Dandenong in 1893 when, following the collapse of the land boom, the Commercial Bank of Australia had to close its doors temporarily.

How the bank surmounted its difficulties and re-established itself to become

today's thriving institution is history.

And no doubt Mr. Paul O'Toole, manager of the CBA's present modern bank in Lonsdale St., would not envy the task that confronted the then manager, Mr. H. M. Sutherland JP in trying to sa-

tisfy his troubled clients and convince them that their money was safe.

In the Journal of April 12, 1893, there appeared this unusual advertisement:

"A Public Meeting" of the inhabitants of Dandenong and the surround-

ing districts will be held in the TOWN HALL, DANDENONG, on the evening of Friday, 14th April, at 8 p.m. to express sympathy with H. M. Sutherland Esq., JP, manager of the Commercial Bank, Dandenong, in his present unmerited troubles.

"The Hon. J. B. Patterson, Premier, the Hon. James Service MLC, the Hon. James Buchanan MLC, John Keys Esq. MLA, Henry G. Turner, Esq., General Manager, of the Commercial Bank, Col. Hutton, and others, are expected to be present at the meeting and take part therein."

"James Greaves, Esq., JP, President of the Shire of Dandenong will take the chair."

In the same issue, appeared a letter under the name of Malcolm Macpherson, of Gordon Cottage, Dandenong, urging support for the public meeting, "for the purpose of expressing our sympathy with our esteemed friend, H. M. Sutherland, Esq., manager of the Commercial Bank of Dandenong, in his present trying position, as a man of sterling qualities in the several relations of life, as evidenced by him amongst us for more than a quarter of a century . . . We can at the same time show our appreciation of the noble and eminently useful institution which has fallen on evil days, through no fault of its management, and also humbly endeavour to do

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