

Name above the news

ON Monday, July 27, 1992, the Dandenong Berwick Leader was born.

Leader Newspapers then-managing director Rex Gardner welcomed readers, saying the Dandenong Berwick Leader was "intent on serving your community as a responsible, fair and forthright newspaper".

Television and radio personality Ernie Sigley launched the first edition at a public function in Palm Plaza, attended by footballers including Hawthorn great Michael Tuck, baseball and basketball stars.

Police stories, including a murder investigation, plans for a 1000-seat theatre at the Clow St council offices, job creation schemes and a furore over a topless sandwich hand dominated early editions.

The new paper's editors had a daring but short-lived design idea, which involved printing the classified section upside down. The idea was that the reader could flip the paper



over and read the classifieds as if they were at the front.

Cherub-faced sporting teenagers grinned from the pages, such unknowns then as Justin Leppitsch, now a star Brisbane Lions key position player, and Ian "The Freak" Harvey, now an Australian one-day international cricket all-rounder.

The Dandenong Berwick Leader brought to you the fight to save Doveton's Joseph Banks Secondary College and the tragedy of former Maralinga Primary School student Peter Gent, who was among those shot dead as part of the Branch

Davidian religious cult siege in Waco, Texas.

Worse was to come later in 1993, when six players from the Lyndale Football Club were killed in a plane crash during an end-of-season trip to Tasmania. There was the crippling blow of chief local employer Heinz shedding 130 jobs and the Dandenong Football Club's attempt to tackle a \$250,000 debt by closing the club and starting a new entity - the Dandenong Redlegs.

The \$300 million Dandenong Plaza development was launched late in 1993.

In June 1994, the Dandenong Berwick Leader was split into two editions to provide better coverage of each community.

It was just as well, as there was plenty of drama to cover that year. Firstly there was the demise of the Dandenong Redlegs, meaning that for the first time since 1958 when Dandenong was admitted to the VFA, the city was without senior level representation.

Then there was the trauma of the Kennett Government's local government amalgamations. Besides a bitter battle to include Hallam and Endeav-

our Hills in the proposed City of Heatherton, that name burned on the tongues of community leaders and they successfully campaigned to have it changed to the City of Greater Dandenong.

Moving with the times, the Dandenong Leader became the Oakleigh Monash Springvale Dandenong Times in 1995 to reflect the new face of the region after council amalgamations.

In the years following we brought you all the news, good and bad, and the characters, good Samaritans and achievers that make this city great.

Dandenong in picture

A FASCINATING exhibition of historical photographs of Dandenong dating back to the mid-19th century is on display at the Heritage Hill Museum.

Museum services coordinator Lena Condos said more than 130 photographs would be exhibited with accompanying text on 14 panels representing the region's different historical phases.

"These images help to remind us of the changes and developments our city has gone through over the past two centuries, from pre-white settlement to the post World War II growth and development of the 1950s," she said.

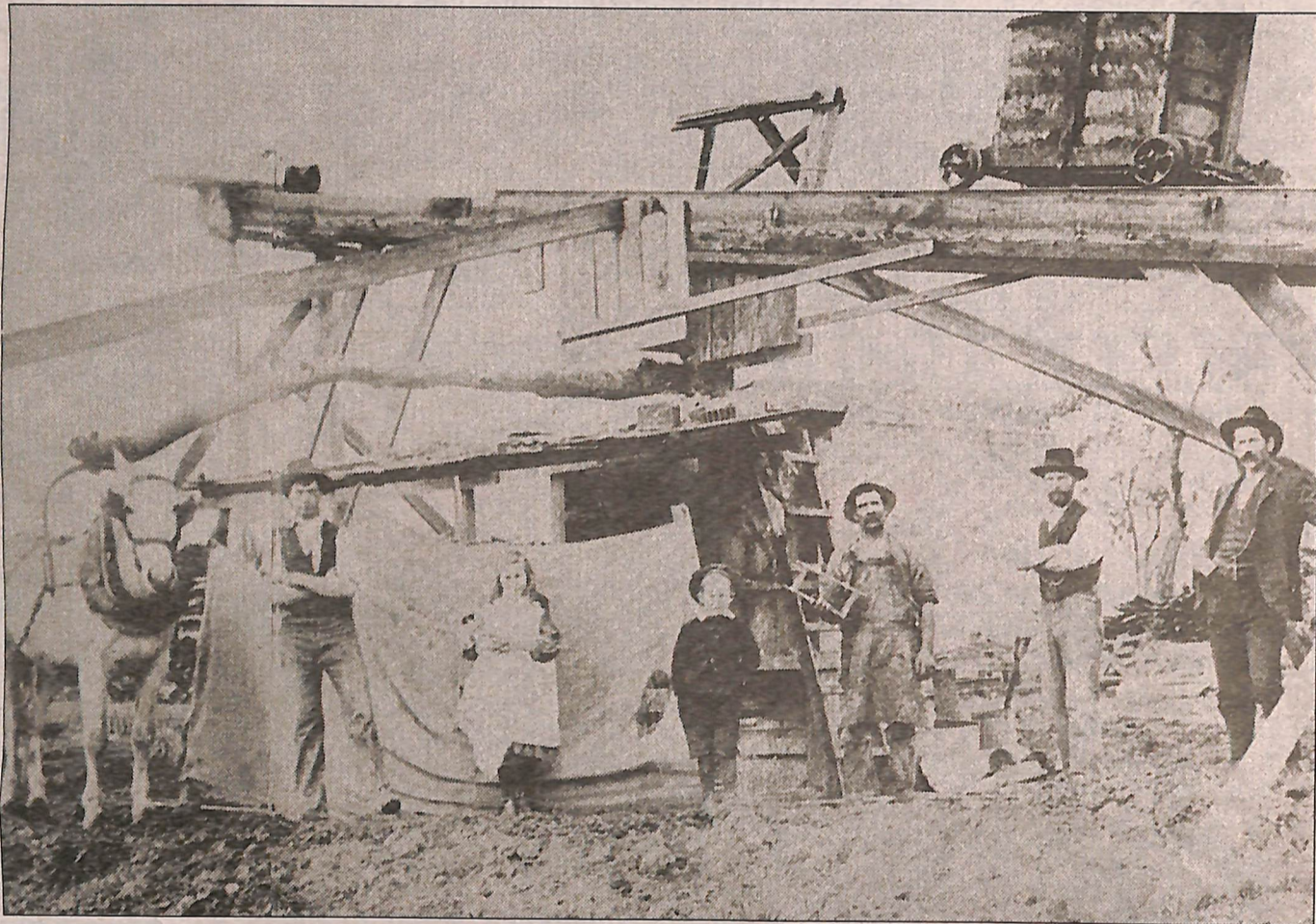
Images include early slab cuts, early pioneers and views of Dandenong as it took shape from horse and buggy days through the war

years and to the industrial boom of the 1950s.

Museum staff spent three months sourcing photographs from the Dandenong and District Historical Society, the State Library and Dandenong Library, so that the exhibition could be run concurrently with Centenary of Federation celebrations.

"It will allow an intimate insight into the past, of not just the large events, but the day-to-day happenings and people of the City of Greater Dandenong," Ms Condos said.

Images of our Time will be on display at the Heritage Hill Museum, 51 Langhorne St, Dandenong, until August 10. Entry prices begin at \$2.40, and museum hours are Wednesday to Friday and Sunday 1-5pm. Details: 9793 4511.



Historic images: a picture of the Ordish Firebrick Company will be among an exhibition of historical photographs at Heritage Hill.

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Name springs from a hotel

AS FAR as anyone can tell, the name Springvale was first used by hotel proprietor Matthew Bergin.

In 1858 he opened the Spring Vale Hotel, and historians believe he chose this name "partly because it is situated in a small valley of springs and partly because the name had some association with a place in his native Queen's County, Ireland".

Springvale Historical Society spokeswoman Marian Rollings said the first settlers in the area were from the British Isles.

"There were three distinct groups. The Irish settled on the rise towards Dandenong Rd, the Scots settled in the area around the present railway station and the English settled in the southern area near where Springvale Rd meets Heatherton Rd," Mrs Rollings said.

The first railway link with Melbourne, established in 1879, meant the world to the farming settlers because of its reliable means of transport to and from Melbourne.

She said councillors representing the Spring Vale ward of Dandenong Shire convinced the railways of the need for a stop locally and in 1881 the



The '20s: George Burden's store in Springvale, 1924.

Spring Vale Rd station was included in the timetable.

Schools and churches sprung up in the region around the turn of the century, but it wasn't until major engineering firm Kelly and Lewis Ltd set up on Springvale Rd in the mid-1920s that Springvale took off.

The large engineering firm, which built pumps, steam engines, winches and other heavy machinery, brought tradespeople and their families to the area.

The new prosperity provided by the company - for which everybody in the area wanted to work - and other new manufacturing business led to

the Springvale Theatre and a Commonwealth Bank of Australia being built in Springvale Rd in the mid-1920s.

After battling two wars and the Great Depression, the area boomed with soldier settlers, who arrived en masse in Springvale and Noble Park.

New industries sprang up, migrants flocked to the area to take up work opportunities, and in 1961 then-State Premier Sir Henry Bolte declared Springvale a city.

■ Sources: Marian Rollings and Les Lester, Springvale Historical Society.



The '50s: Springvale Rd pictured in 1952.

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