

● Review by Col. Hutton

# Dandenong in the early '90s

Col. Hutton (after whom Hutton St. is named) was Shire President when the present Town Hall was officially opened in April, 1890, and he took the opportunity to summarise Dandenong's progress thus:

"Dandenong was first proclaimed a Road District on the 6th February, 1857, but it was not until November, 1862, that the members of the first Board were elected.

"The first meeting of the Road Board was held on 17th November, 1862. The first valuation of the property in the Road District amounted to a total of net annual value of £3647/10/-, realising on a 1/- rate £182/7/6, the number of properties then rated being 235, with an estimated population of 436 (the district).

"Since then the district has continued steadily to increase. On the 16th May, 1873, the Road District was proclaimed a Shire.

"The net annual value of the property in the shire, at that time was £12,820/17/-, realising on a 1/- rate £641/0/10, the

number of properties rated being 446, with an estimated population of 785.

"The population of the Shire for the year ending December 1889, was 2008, as against 436 in 1862.

"The income from rates for the year ending 30th September, 1889, was £2011/16/3, as against £157/3/- for the year ended October 1863.

"The Dandenong Shire has now (1890) under its control 115 miles of roads and streets (irrespective of private roads and streets; 52 miles of these roads have been formed, and 38 miles metalled.

"The council has expended on public works since November, 1862, up to September, 1889, the very handsome sum of £58,520/12/8, giving an average expenditure of £2167/8/7 for the 27 years."