

Dandenong as a Horse Market.

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It appears to be a recognised thing that the Dandenong horse market is superior to the Melbourne ones, and not only do Melbourne salesmen come here to sell, but many of our breeders and dealers now come to this market in preference to going on to the city. Messrs Campbell & Sons sold in the local market on Saturday last, and amongst the drafts yarded was one from Mr Tom Lees, Tarwin, who has always previously sold in Kirk's Bazaar. The same firm will be selling again at Dandenong next Saturday, and Mr John Lee is advertised to have another draft forward. This goes undoubtedly to demonstrate that Dandenong is the market up to date, for horses. And there is no reason why it should not be so. The distance from the metropolis is only an hours drive, and both buyers and sellers have no difficulty in reaching the scene of action. The yarding and selling accommodation is ample, with a roofed-in ring and a tan floor, while a good serviceable crush is at the disposal of all. There are no stringent police or municipal regulations, and a dealer buying a young colt may "sample" him, and jamb him into a crush, lead him from the yards and put him into a jinker on the main street straight away if he feels so inclined, and no one will interfere with his movements. Another advantage is that there is plenty of paddocking accommodation around Dandenong, with reliable capable men to shift horses about, and the owner, be he buyer or seller, can jump into his train or buggy and ride away feeling assured that his property will be safely and properly cared pending further orders. There are not any restrictions as to travelling through the streets, and the necessity of yarding at night as in Melbourne is obviated. At Dandenong the horses may be drawn from paddocks within quarter of a mile of the yards at any time during the day and transferred straight to the sale yards, with the result that they look full and fresh and well, and command much better prices than when driven long distances without a rest, are left standing in the yards all the previous night, and enter the ring tucked up and jaded. Dandenong is also the key to Melbourne for the whole of the vast Gippsland district, and being a town of some importance, every accommodation is obtainable at very moderate cost. With all these advantages is it only reasonable to think that this should be the head centre for the sale of horseflesh, and the fact that we now have a sale every Saturday, clearly demonstrates that such is the case, as the yards are becoming more popular every week. Both the supply and demand appear to be inexhaustible, and it is satisfactory to know that very few animals are passed out. While we can draw the trade from Melbourne it is our duty to do so, and every one should help in this direction—for all can do a little—by word or deed. The horse sales, with their attendant influx of visitors are already making themselves felt, and as a result all the shops etc., opposite the market are now well let, while the owner of those shops which had been let previously has put up the rent a third. It is to be hoped the sales will not abate either in their frequency or the number of animals yarded, and that in the course of time this will be the trading town for all the horses in Gippsland. With all the facilities and conveniences we have enumerated, we submit that such should be the case, and if our local agents bestir themselves they would find that those horses now being sent to Maffra, Sale, Traralgon, Bairnsdale and other yards, would be forwarded on here, which is so handy to buyers and to the shipping (for Indian sorts) and the advantages to agents, buyers and sellers would be mutual, while the market and town would go still further ahead.