

P.F. 994.51 DAN

# Market City - Dandenong

1866 - 1991

B/c 39105.

## BACKGROUND NOTES - DANDENONG MARKETS - 125TH ANNIVERSARY 1866 TO 1991

Historical research indicates that following the first European settlement of the Dandenong District in the late 1840's the importance of the area as a meeting and trading centre soon became apparent.

The Dandenong District was first sighted by Europeans when W. Hovell explored down the Dandenong Creek whilst surveying Westernport Bay in January 1827.

The first settler in the Dandenong area was J. Hawdon who established a Cattle Station there in 1837 he was closely followed by a squatter by the name of R. Allen who was evicted by Police Superintendent C. de Villiers in December 1837 when the latter established a Village of Native Police at "Tangenong".

With the early establishment of Cattle Stations in the district between Westernport and Port Phillip Bays trading in Livestock and Produce began to take place in the settlement on the banks of the Dandenong Creek.

The road from Melbourne to Dandenong was surveyed in 1847 but it was not until 1857 that the route as surveyed was cleared of bush between St. Kilda and Dandenong. By September, 1865, Hewitt & Co.'s Coaches offered a daily service from Dandenong to Melbourne connecting with their service from Sale.

In 1857 the Dandenong Roads Board was proclaimed to co-ordinate the orderly development of the District. The Board held its inaugural meeting in November 1862.

When the proposed settlement of Dandenong was first surveyed in the 1850's 2 acres of land was set aside as a Cattle Yards Reserve on the corner of Thomas, Foster and Mason Streets. The idea at this early stage was to develop Dandenong as a "MARKET TOWN".

Early in 1863 the Dandenong Improvement Association was formed with the aim of attending to the welfare of the area.

The D.I.A. soon requested the Lands Department reserve a site in Dandenong for a Public Market - the already secured Cattle Yards Reserve was overlooked and another site at the intersection of Lonsdale and McCrae Streets was chosen.

In November, 1863 Dandenong Ratepayers ( probably no more than 2 dozen or so when the total Dandenong population in 1861 was only 193 ) petitioned for the establishment of a Market in Dandenong and in May 1864 the Colonial Government officially granted approval for the requested Market.

In an effort to capitalise upon the growing tendency for Dandenong to become a centre of some importance particularly in the fledgling livestock industry Commissioners were elected on July 22nd, 1864 to set up a "Market Place" in Dandenong.

On August 14th, 1864 following their election by Ratepayers, the Board of Market Commissioners consisting of Messrs. S. Smithson, G. Hughes, A. Bowman and R. Walker (Chairman) held it's first meeting in the Bridge Hotel. The Secretary and Honorary Manager of the Board was Mr. H. Powis.

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BERWICK SECONDARY COLLEGE

Due to problems encountered in obtaining finance to erect Market buildings and enclosures it was not until October 10th 1866 that the Market was officially opened for business.

The Saleyards such as they were, were first leased to Rosling and Huckson for £1 per annum in return for their undertaking to upgrade the yards to handle as many as 100 head of Cattle, 100 Sheep and facilities for selling pigs. Messers Rosling and Huckson were in fact the first Auctioneers to operate in the Market - later "Pioneer" Auctioneers included Messers Egan, Clarke, Howard and Scott. In addition to the full range of livestock that was being auctioned, the early Auctioneers also sold farm produce ranging from honey and hay to fruit and vegetables.

Livestock Sales were held fortnightly at first but by March, 1870, sales were being held on a regular weekly basis with as many as 300 vendors and buyers being in attendance.

At this time all other Livestock Saleyards East of Melbourne including the then popular Cranbourne Market operated monthly.

Business's associated with the livestock industry including Saddlers, Veterinarians, Butchers and even a Blacksmith Forge soon set up shop in close proximity to the Market and Dandenong was well and truly "on the map".

Anecdotal evidence points to the fact that Produce Merchants and Retailers of General Merchandise attended these early Livestock Sales and established a type of "Paddys Market" that became a popular adjunct to the Livestock Market.

The inaugural Dandenong Show was held in the Dandenong Market Saleyards on the corners of Mason, Foster and Thomas Streets on Thursday, 7th March, 1872. Subsequent Dandenong Shows were held in the "Cattle Yard Reserve".

Dandenong's first Cattle Pound was established within the Saleyards in January, 1878.

On the 24th May, 1873, the Dandenong Roads Board became the Shire of Dandenong encompassing all of the present day localities of Springvale, Noble Park and Dandenong.

The Dandenong Shire Councillors took over control of the Market on July 29th, 1873 and the Second Shire By-Law was the first Dandenong Market By-Law.

By 1879 the Steam Rail connection from Melbourne to Sale through Dandenong was operating and the rail connection to South Gippsland from Dandenong was completed by 1892.

In 1926 the Market was again relocated, this time to the corner of Clow and Cleeland Streets onto land that had been acquired by the Shire Council for this purpose in 1890. In 1958 the Livestock section of the Market commenced it's move to the area that it now occupies on Cheltenham Road behind the Dandenong Railway Yards.

The Produce Market is still located on the corner of Clow and Cleeland Streets although the buildings comprising the Market in this location have undergone numerous changes and the adjacent Football Ground which also accommodated the Dandenong Show has for many years now fulfilled it's duty as the Market Carpark.

On the 31st May, 1955, the Shire of Springvale was separated from the Shire of Dandenong and on the 14th March, 1959, Dandenong became a City.

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