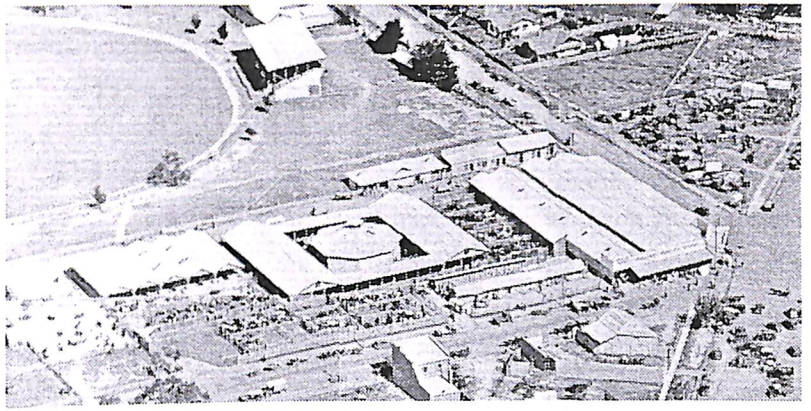
years since being relocated. Barely three months after all the stock market was completed, primary producers began to complain about watering facilities, catering and cramped conditions. Stock agents suggested a third market day to overcome the crowded conditions. From October 1963, dairy cattle were to be sold only on Wednesdays. In protest, Gippsland farmers took their livestock to other markets because they could not afford to make two visits to Dandenong each week, or pay for accommodation and the feeding of their stock in the yards. Fortunately an extra government grant in 1964 enabled extensions to be undertaken to ease the situation.

Although the stock market was doing quite well, by the 1980s it was no longer attracting the rural community to Dandenong. Stock was sent to market by truck and agents sold them on behalf of the absent farmers. A decline in the importance of the railway for transporting stock has also been noticed. The rail system had proved increasingly unreliable with the frequent unavailability of railway trucks, and the termination of the practice of employing railway stockmen. The use of rail had always meant that stock had to be transported to and from the train at the commencement and completion of the journey, as well as the adequate provision of food and water. Road transport had proved, by comparison, quick, direct and cheap. The positioning of saleyards near a railway seemed increasingly inappropriate.

The Dandenong stock market was five hundred metres from the nearest residential area, surrounded by industrial development. From the late 1970s and into the 1980s there was an overall drop in the sales of cattle, pigs and poultry. In 1985, for example, although Dandenong had achieved the third highest cattle sales



1928. Aerial view of the Dandenong markets. The markets relocated to new buildings on the corner of Clow and Cleeland Streets between June, 1926 and October, 1927. Livestock pens, shed and selling ring are located left of the produce pavilion at centre right. Agents' offices separate the markets from the showgrounds.

in Victoria, nevertheless this was a twenty nine percent decrease over sales in 1979. On the other hand Korumburra had witnessed a forty five percent increase during the same period.

While the stock market had problems with continuing to appeal to the rural community, the produce market deliberately retained a rural atmosphere in a metropolitan area. The country atmosphere as well as the low price of goods attracted shoppers to the Dandenong market. Many visitors to the produce market were totally unaware that a stock market existed in the same town, so separate were the sites, purchasers and operations from each other.

At one time, most shoppers at the market had travelled from Gippsland and the Mornington Peninsula, but from the 1950s this