

BUTTER FACTORY

13th FEB

1895

- 1 A MEETING OF A PROVISIONAL
COMMITTEE PROPOSING THE
OPENING OF A BUTTER FACTORY

1979

AUG.

- 2 HISTORY OF BUTTER FACTORY
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HISTORY OF DANDENONG BUTTER FACTORY

Dandenong Butter Factory and Ice Works commenced business in 1908 at 71 Walker Street, Dandenong. Mr.E.T.Elmore was the owner - manager.

In 1910 the business moved to 25 Stud Road, Dandenong (Phone No. Dandenong 9) and 1922 additions included a cool storage room divided into three compartments holding 100 tons of Ice.

New upstairs office and store-room, new water and sterilizing plant for ice making, up to date engine room and boiler room. The builder was Mr.Alf Jones of Dandenong. Mr.F.Scott was appointed Manager.

The factory supplied ice to Dandenong, Fern Tree Gully, Belgrave, Pakenham, Lang Lang, Poowong, and Wonthaggi. Total output was 4 tons per day.

In 1922 5 tons of butter was produced weekly from the cream supplied to the factory by local farmers. A new pasteurising plant was also installed. The Dandenong Butter Factory and Ice Works apart from filling a local and district demand in the supply of two necessary commodities in butter and ice gave employment to half a dozen people and distributed about £ 30.0.0 a week in wages during the ~~busy~~ season.

The factory in Stud Road was constructed of iron and brick and in the late 1920's was purchased by the O'Connell family of Geelong who owned the Geelong and Barrobool butter factories. Mr.Jack Powell was appointed Manager in 1931 Mr.Alex Stewart was appointed Manager (Mr.Stewart still resides in Stud Road, Dandenong.)

In the years between 1950 and 1960 the factory was at its peak in production with over 500 cream suppliers. It produced in the springtime up to 20 tons of butter per week which was sold locally and in Melbourne suburbs and a large portion was exported to England.

Mr.Stewart was still the Manager when the factory closed down in the early seventies, it has since been demolished and replaced by a block to two storey flats.

BUTTER FACTORY

A meeting of the provisional committee appointed in connection with the proposed establishment of a butter factory in Dandenong, was held in the shire hall on Friday afternoon, Mr G Howard (shire president) occupying the chair. The meeting was a somewhat lengthy character, but we are reluctantly compelled to curtail the report.

On the motion of Messrs McLean and Crooks, Mr Rodd was appointed secretary.

After some conversational discussion Mr Barr debated the matter at some length, pointing out that fully 2/3 of the Berwick and Narree Warren people got a good price for their milk, with regular payments, and it was useless to expect them to send milk to the factory. There was a difference of between 1½d and ¾d in the price paid by the factory, to that of people in Melbourne, and persons should not be expected to make such a large sacrifice.

Mr Macpherson thought Mr Barr had come there with the intention of putting a damper on the meeting.

If 2/3 of the people referred, to are doing all right, that about the other 1/3?

Were they to be cast down and despised. He thought they themselves could provide for the milk 300 cows.

Mr McLean quoted from the results of butter factories in the colonies in reply to Mr Barr.

Mr Crook advocated the factory system and combatted the arguments of Mr Barr. Mr Taylor also spoke in favour of the factory.

It was felt that but little could be done until an estimate of the probable supply of milk was obtained, and to this end the following were appointed a provisional directorate:- Messrs Stewart, J. Greaves, Daniel Bourke, Crooks, R. Gibb, W. Duff and Taylor. These gentlemen are to draw up a prospectus and wait on the dairymen of the district.

The meeting adjourned until the 20th inst.

SB&MJ: February 13, 1895.