

For 55 years there has been one constant about transport in the south-east suburbs. The motor industry might have come and (nearly) gone but Grenda's Buses have gone from strength to strength, transporting millions of people across the region.

From milk run to bus operator

IN 1945, Mr George Grenda sold his milk transport business and purchased a bus service which has now been used for generations.

The original service comprised four buses, which covered three routes — Dandenong-Oakleigh, Dandenong-Berwick and Dandenong-Cheltenham.

The business operated out of the family home in Oakleigh with a small depot at 9 Foster Street, Dandenong, the current site for the bus service.

The natural development of the Melbourne suburban area, better roads, and a greater access to motor vehicles meant a greater number of people populating the surrounding areas required public transport.

Between 1951 and 1964 three smaller bus services



were purchased and incorporated into the fleet.

In 1958 the Dandenong-Frankston service was purchased, and with a growing number of buses, the depot at Foster Street was enlarged. The administration was moved from Oakleigh to Dandenong.

After putting the business on a sound financial footing, George Grenda died in 1961.

The business passed to his sons Ken and Lance.

Other factors which contributed to the growth was the establishment of



Early days: Lance and Ken Grenda outside the early Dandenong depot.

the Pakenham Consolidated School and Hailebury College, the establishment of shopping complexes, in particular Chadstone and Fountain Gate, and the workers brought to Dandenong by such companies as GMH, Heinz, and International Trucks.

During the 1960s, the business grew at a much faster rate than any other single operator in the Melbourne area, and by the end of the decade Grenda's was involved in the coach business.

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The start: an early Grenda milk truck used between 1925 and 1945.