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1960's to 2008

In 1964 the Southern Aurora Hotel Motel – K's Dandenong Hotel P/L owned by Mr and Mrs Karnhauser was built on the railway line. The hotel adopted a name synonymous with railways (Southern Aurora Express). It was believed to be the first privately owned licensed premises with residential accommodation to be built on railway property (in Victoria), in fact next to Dandenong Station. The construction costs of the building were expected to be in the vicinity of half a million dollars. By 1969 the Foster Street bottle shop was completed as part of the hotel complex – a site now Heritage Listed with the City of Greater Dandenong. (Appendix 22)

By the 1986 the Grenda's corporation had purchased many allotments in the immediate vicinity and took over a large section of this study area (Appendix 24), with the remaining areas predominantly now sporting new office/retail developments.

It should be noted that almost all of what stands on these sites today came at the expense of many buildings that, by today's standards, would have held important historical significance and offered a glimpse into a proud, semi affluent residential area. With the exception of several homes in George St, that unfortunately do not illustrate the architectural standard of others, the residential usage in this study area has disappeared.

What remains today can best be described by resident Jenny Pemberton Webb who once said: "Dandenong is like a crusty diamond that's in the process of getting a fantastic polish – you can see the old sparkle come through more and more every day".

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REVITALISING CENTRAL DANDENONG INITIATIVE