

Titcher's Pharmacy CENTENARY

Warren Titcher, man of many parts!

Cr Warren Titcher is a man of many parts, versatile, caring, compassionate, community minded and combines the meticulous skill of a statistician with a keen sense of history.

He is a fourth generation pharmacist, the third generation of his wellknown family to work and live in Dandenong, and he is noted, in particular, for his many behind the scenes acts of kindness to the less fortunate in the city, including people down on their luck and drug takers.

He is active in programs for the treatment of drug abuse.

In this facet of his busy and rewarding life he has spoken to more than 50 service organisations on the problem.

Cr Titcher qualified at the Victorian College of Pharmacy in 1954 and worked there full time in 1955 as a demonstrator.

He studied medicine at the Melbourne University from 1956 to 1959 but returned to the pharmacy business when his father, Warren Senior, lost his life in a tram accident in Melbourne in February 1959.

By examination he became a Fellow of the Pharmaceutical Society in 1961.

In his community role Cr Titcher has been a Councillor since 1968, and was Mayor of Dandenong during its important centenary year in 1972-1973.

He was president of the Dandenong Chamber of Commerce and Industry in 1965-66, and this involved a rather difficult year as it was the decimal currency conversion period.

He was president of the Rotary Club of Dandenong

East in 1982/83 and has been a Rotarian for 15 years.

In furthering his interest in local history he has been an enthusiastic member of the Dandenong Historical Society and assumed a major role in the publication of the centenary issue of the Dandenong Journal in 1965.

Titcher family has a long history

THE Titcher family has been traced back in England in 1650, in the tiny village of Offwell in the County of Devon.

Making several moves still remained in Devon. South West during the next Births, Marriages and Deaths have been recorded three centuries, the family



CR Warren Titcher dispenses the one millionth prescription in 1975.

in the villages of Widworthy, Northleigh, East Budleigh, Littleham, Woodbury, and Lympstone.

Perhaps the most significant date was on 17 December, 1776 when Robert Titcher married Sarah Andrews at Littleham.

Surprisingly, the dispensary has only been moved to ground level in recent years, and the pharmacy still trades actively as Quant's Pharmacy, and in the original building, (the only major change has been

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The name 'Andrews' has been preserved as a christian name ever since, having been used in six generations since that time.

Robert Andrews Titcher (1778-1844) was a linen draper and wine merchant, and obviously manufactured some of his own product as he bequeathed a cider press in his will!

At that time in England, it was common for Chemists and Druggists to trade in wines and spirits, and it was perhaps a natural event that his son became a pharmaceutical chemist.

He was also called Robert Andrews Titcher and was born at Lympstone in 1825.

He set up a pharmacy in Torwood Row in the seaside resort of Torquay, Devon, in about 1848. He married Eliza Ebbels in January 1851, and in October of that year their only child was born — Robert Andrews Titcher, who was to found the Titcher dynasty in Dandenong.

The old pharmacy is still trading in the renamed Torwood Street, and the Census of 1851 lists the people of 5 Torwood Row as (at 30 March) Robert A. Titcher — chemist — aged 25, Eliza Titcher — wife — aged 33, Robert Warry — apprentice — aged 19 Robert Warry, the apprentice, went on to establish a business at Bristol, where he died as a relatively young man in 1874.

However, more tragic was the death of Robert Andrews Titcher, the husband of Eliza Ebbels. They had been married in January 1851, their son born in October 1851 and then Robert died in February 1852.

The cause of death was pulmonary consumption, which is not surprising as the dispensary of the pharmacy was located in a dank and musty cellar.

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Titcher family history

● CONT. FROM PAGE 3

the street number, being now No. 37 Torwood Street).

Robert Titcher's widow, Eliza, was permitted to carry on the business as "Titcher & Co", for several years, but on 20 July, 1858, she set sail from England with her six year old son and a few family, friends and relatives.

The ship, the "Middlesex", arrived in Melbourne on November 1st, 1858, and

the family settled at Happy Valley, near Ballarat.

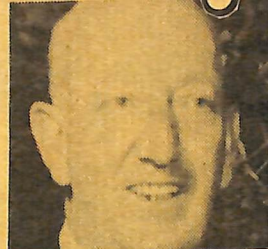
The young Robert Titcher probably became apprenticed to his uncle, William Trewartha, who also arrived on the ship in 1858.

A business was established at Ballan in the mid 1870's, and in August 1874 Robert Titcher's name appeared in the Australian Sketcher in "An extraordinary shooting case at Ballan," having dressed the wounds of one of the victims.

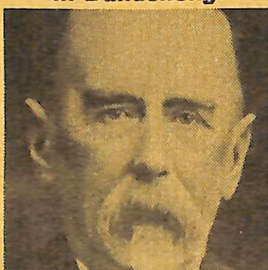
Between 1876 and 1880, 'Titcher & Trewartha' set up a partnership business in High St., St Kilda, between Farmer St and Inkerman St.

The partnership was dissolved in 1880, William Trewartha going into business in Elizabeth St, Carlton, and Robert Titcher becoming manager of the Williamstown Dispensary.

When he left the Dispensary in 1884 to start in Dandenong, Robert Titcher was presented with an "illuminated address" for his services of four years to the Dispensary.



R.N.W. Titcher (Warren Senior) - second generation pharmacist in Dandenong.



ROBERT Andrews Titcher - founder of the pharmacy

Long association with Rocke Tompsitt

THE association between the firm of wholesale druggists, Rocke Tompsitt and Co., and the Titcher family actually dates back to 1877, when Rockes set up a warehouse at 292 to 298 Flinders St. Melbourne.

At that time, Robert Andrews Titcher was trading in partnership with his uncle, William Trewartha, at High St. St. Kilda.

Soon after, the partnership dissolved and Robert Titcher became manager of the Williamstown Dispensary, until he moved to Dandenong in early July 1884.

Rocke Tompsitt became the leading wholesale druggists in Melbourne, and in the 1888 Centenary Exhibition of Melbourne won the Gold Medal for their product of Fluid Magnesia.

In 1960, Rockes bought out the firm of Victorian Drug Company, and in 1961 moved to a new warehouse complex in Griffith St. Richmond, from where they still actively operate.

In 1979, Rockes themselves were taken over by Fauldings of Thebarton, South Australia. This enabled Rockes to expand their operations and range of products, which include

the famous Neutrogena soap, which Titcher's are featuring as a 'special' during their Centenary sale.



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Titcher's Pharmacy

CENTENARY

SALE OF THE

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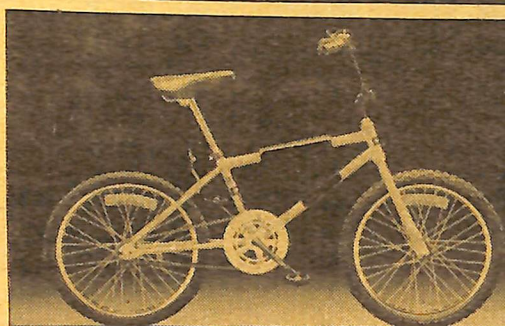
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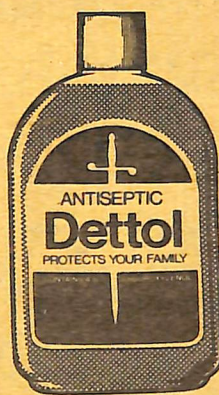
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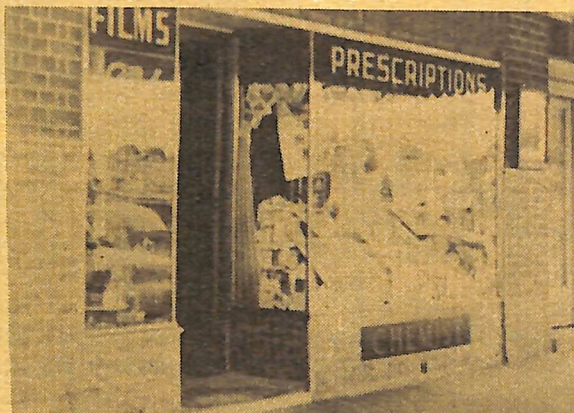
PHARMACY

309 PHARMACY ST., DANDENONG

Chemists cured ills of old



LONSDALE St. Dandenong in the early 1900's — Titcher's Pharmacy is in the centre, just left of telegraph pole.



TITCHER'S Pharmacy at 285 Lonsdale St. in the early 1950's

As early as 1850, Dandenong had professional men to look after the ailments of the population.

Mr W. Morgan, a chemist, established himself in a small house in McCrae St., just up from the Walker St. corner. He did not remain long, being drawn to Gippsland by the gold rushes of the 50s.

Weston Phillips, son of Dr C. Phillips, opened a shop in the main street in 1860. He was succeeded by Mr J.H. Smith early in 1880, who built up quite a trade in veterinary supplies, and also caused quite a disturbance amongst the other shopkeepers.

Mr Smith took strong exception to the general storekeepers stocking patent medicines, and told them outright that he, as a chemist, had exclusive rights to sell medicines.

The storekeepers refused to budge, so in August of 1881, Mr Smith filled the window of a vacant shop next to his with tea and whiting, all marked at considerably reduced prices!

The storekeepers, although concerned treated the matter as somewhat of a joke, but changed their tune when the window was rapidly sold out.

They eventually capitulated, transferring to Mr Smith their stocks of medicines, and taking over the remains of the "grocery business."

Mr Smith sold to Howard Tapley Noakes in 1883, and on June 30th 1884, Robert Andrews Titcher, formerly from the Williamstown Dispensary, took over the business, which remains in the family to the present time.

Mr Titcher, when he bought the business from Noakes, actually moved into a new building further up the street where the Dandenong bazaar now stands — he had been there only two months when another chemist, Joson Couve, made a shrewd business move and opened in the old shop previously occupied by Smith and Noakes.

He widely advertised this fact in the local newspapers, remained open longer at night, and made things worse by stating that he was a chemist BY EXAMINATION.

Mr Titcher had qualified by apprenticeship only, as the Pharmacy College was not established in Victoria until 1882, whereas Joson Couve had received a diploma as pharmaceutical chemist and dentist from the Pharmaceutical Board of Mauritius.

Mr Couve had previously migrated to Victoria in 1883, and went into business at Berwick before coming to Dandenong.

Mr Percival Pike, also chemist by examination, took over Couve's pharmacy in 1891, the latter gentleman having "removed to Clifton Hill."

Mr Pike lasted only a few years, becoming Registrar of Births and Deaths of Loch in 1894, and for a while Mr Titcher was once more the only chemist in Dandenong.

Titcher's pharmacy continued under the direction of Robert Andrews Titcher until his death in 1928. For a short period, the business was actually owned by his widow, Fanny Louise Titcher, as his youngest son (R (Robert Noel Warren Titcher) had not yet passed his pharmacy examinations.

Warren (Senior) became duly qualified in 1930 and under him the business prospered. In 1954, a major decision was made to move the pharmacy from its location at 285 Lonsdale St. to a new shop at 309 Lonsdale St. Also at this time, Warren (Junior) was qualified as a pharmacist, and after a year

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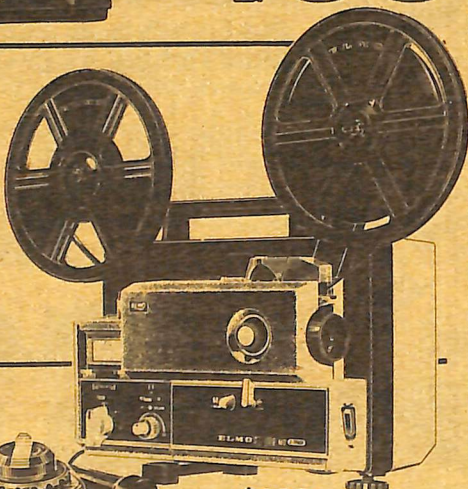
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