

ORBOST HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.



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NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER, 2003



JAS. DREW'S COMMONWEALTH HOTEL, ORBOST



MARSHALL'S COMMONWEALTH HOTEL, ORBOST

'Snowy River Mail' – January 5, 1901.

THE COMMONWEALTH HOTEL

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Another handsome addition to the business houses of Orbost was opened on New Years Day, when Mr. Jas. Drew commenced business in his new hotel, "The Commonwealth". For some years past residents and visitors have recognised the fact that the hotel accommodation of the township was not sufficient for requirements, and an agitation sprang up for another hotel. At the request of a number of residents Mr. Jas. Drew was the first to move in the matter, and after considerable trouble and no little expense to himself, succeeded in inducing the authorities to take a poll to consider whether or not the number of victualler licenses in the district should be increased. The result, as is well known, was that the ratepayers decided almost unanimously in favor of an increase of two hotels. As Mr. and Mrs. Drew, have had considerable experience in catering for the wants of the public, Mr. Drew decided to apply for a license, and having purchased the land adjoining their Coffee Palace, erected substantial buildings thereon. The result was that the licensing court gave Mr. Drew the only license granted, although there were several applicants. Mr. Drew has now purchased the Coffee Palace as well as the land adjoining, and is making a number of improvements to the building. At present the Commonwealth Hotel contains sixteen rooms, including a spacious billiard room with a first-class table, a number of large bedrooms, parlors, etc., and when completed the accommodation should be equal to any obtainable in East Gippsland. The stabling will be largely added to, and good grass paddocks will be provided, the proprietor being determined to make every provision for stockmen and travellers generally. We wish Mr. Drew success in his new venture, and as he intends keeping only the very best wines and spirits, and making moderate charges there is little doubt but that he will soon reap the reward which his energy and enterprise deserve.

'Snowy River Mail' – November 24, 1900.

Notice of Application for a Victualler's License

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I, James Drew of Nicholson Street Orbost do hereby give notice that I desire to obtain and will at the sitting of the Licensing Court for the Licensing District of Snowy River to the holders at Orbost on the 19th day of December 1900 at the hour of ten o'clock in the forenoon apply for a Certificate authorising the issue of a Victuallers License for premises situate at Nicholson street Orbost containing twelve rooms exclusive of those required for the use of my family and servants.

Dated the thirtieth day of October one thousand nine hundred.

JAMES DREW.

RUPERT J. MOSLEY Nicholson Street Orbost
Solicitor for the applicant.

'Snowy River Mail' – December 22, 1900.

LICENSING COURT

The Licensing Court for the Licensing District of Bendoc and Snowy River was held in Orbost on Wednesday, before Messrs Holmes (chairman) Crosswell and Smallman.

NEW LICENSE FOR ORBOST

Mrs Dyer, Mrs Bruton, W. A. Gluth and Jas. Drew each applied for a victualler's license for premises erected or to be erected in Orbost.

After the evidence in each case was heard, Mr. Drew's application was granted, and the valuation of the premises was fixed at 60 pounds per annum. The license is to date from 1st January, 1901.

'Snowy River Mail' – May 4, 1901.

Notice of Application for Transfer of License

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I, THE UNDERSIGNED, James Drew being the holder of a Victuallers License for the house and premises known as the Commonwealth Hotel situate at Orbost of which I am the owner do hereby give notice that I intend to apply to the Licensing Court for the Licensing District of Snowy River to be holden at Orbost on the 13th day of May 1901 at the hour of ten o'clock in the fore noon to transfer the said License to John Whitney Bird of Orbost. And I the said John Whitney Bird do hereby apply for a transfer of the said License to me.

Dated the eighth day of April 1901.

JAMES DREW Transferror

J. WHITNEY BIRD Proposed Transferee
RUPERT J. MOSLEY, Orbost, Solicitor for the applicants.

It will be seen by advertisement in another column that that popular sportsman, Mr. J. W. Bird, is applying to have the license for the Commonwealth hotel transferred from Mr. J. Drew to himself. Mr. Bird has resided in Orbost for a great part of his life, and since leaving this district some three years ago has managed one of the most flourishing hotels in the north coast of Tasmania, so that the Commonwealth is not likely to lose the good name it has already gained under the management of Mr. Drew. In future the hotel will be carried on by Messrs Bird and Drew.

'Snowy River Mail' – May 18, 1901.

At the Licensing Court held in the local Mechanics' Institute on Monday, before Mr. Holmes, P.M., an application was granted for the

transfer of the license for the Commonwealth Hotel, Orbost, from James Drew to John Whitney Bird.

It may be observed elsewhere that the licence for the Orbost Commonwealth hotel has been transferred from Mr. Jas. Drew to Mr. J. Whitney Bird. The proprietors of the hotel are lucky in obtaining the services of an experienced cook and waitress, the table now being the best that can be had for the tariff. The very best brands of ales and spirits are kept, and the wants of the public are splendidly catered for in every respect.

'Snowy River Mail' – Saturday October 4, 1902.

Notice of Application for Transfer of License

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I, THE UNDERSIGNED, JOHN WHITNEY BIRD being the holder of a Victuallers License for the house and premises known as the Commonwealth Hotel situate at Orbost of which Margaret Agnes Drew is the owner do hereby give notice that I intend to apply to the Licensing Court for the Licensing District of Snowy River to be held at Orbost on the 13th day of October 1902 at the hour of eleven o'clock in the forenoon to transfer the said License to the said Margaret Agnes Drew of Orbost aforesaid Married Woman. And I the said MARGARET AGNES DREW do hereby apply for a transfer of the said License to me.

Dated the first day of October 1902.

J. WHITNEY BIRD Transferror

M. A. DREW Proposed Transferee
RUPERT J. MOSLEY, Orbost, Solicitor for the applicants.

'Snowy River Mail' – Saturday October 18, 1902.

At the Orbost Licensing Court on Monday, before Mr. Holmes, an application for the transfer of the license for the Commonwealth Hotel from John Whitney Bird to Margaret Drew was granted, as was also the application for the transfer of the license for the Murrungowar Hotel from Julia Smith to Annie Bruton. Mr. Mosley appeared in support of both applications.

'Snowy River Mail' – Saturday May 23, 1903.

The Commonwealth Hotel, Orbost, has been leased for a term of 10 years to Mr. Jas. Dickson, of Lucknow. Mr. Dickson takes possession on 27th June.

'Snowy River Mail' – Saturday July 18, 1903.

I, THE UNDERSIGNED, MARGARET AGNES DREW being the holder of a Victualler's license for the house and premises known as the Commonwealth Hotel situate at Orbost of which I am the owner do hereby give notice that I intend to apply to the Licensing Court for the Licensing District of Snowy River to be holden at Orbost on Monday the third day of August 1903 at the hour of two o'clock in the afternoon to transfer the said license to James Thomas Dickson of Orbost aforesaid. And I the said James Thomas Dickson do hereby apply for a transfer of the said license to me.

Dated this 15th day of July 1903.

M. A. DREW Transferror

J. T. DICKSON Proposed Transferee
RUPERT J. MOSLEY, Orbost, Solicitor for the applicants.