

# ORBOST HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.



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## NEWSLETTER

JUNE, 2004

### ORBOST POST OFFICE

'THE SNOWY RIVER MAIL'

Saturday, May 7, 1898

The new post and telegraph offices being erected in Orbost have now assumed a more satisfactory shape and when completed the building will be a handsome addition to the township. The Orbost shire council has applied to have a receipt and pay office established here. A great deal of inconvenience and delay often arises in consequence of the people of the district having to do business with the Bairnsdale office, and if the application is granted the new buildings will afford ample accommodation for a branch Revenue office.



‘SNOWY RIVER MAIL’

Saturday, June 11, 1898

The plasterers are now exercising their decorative ability on the interior of the new post and telegraph offices at Orbost and are making good progress with the work. The buildings which are commodious reflect credit on the contractors, Messrs J. A. Scouell and Son, who have had many disadvantages to contend with owing to the unavoidable delays which have occurred in getting material from Melbourne by the schooners. When completed the offices will form an attractive addition to the buildings of the township. The contractors estimate that the work will be finished in about six weeks.

‘SNOWY RIVER MAIL’

Saturday, September 24, 1898

The Orbost people may be heartily congratulated on the excellence and suitability of the new post and telegraph office, which is without doubt a credit to the district. The fact that such an imposing building has been erected in the township and that there appears to be every probability of the establishment of a daily mail to Orbost at an early date seems to indicate that the authorities are at least waking up to the requirements of this thriving and progressive district. Considering the size and growing importance of Orbost the postal arrangements cannot be regarded as satisfactory at the present time. It is well-known that the Orbost post office pays remarkably well, and it has been generally understood that the amount of business transacted here would have been sufficient to warrant the establishment of a daily mail long ago. Bruthen and Cuninghame have been favored with daily mails for years, and Orbost has equal, if not greater claims to consideration. As to the question of expense, it is probable that the cost of running a daily mail to this town would be a mere trifle compared with what has been expended in providing many other places with mail communication. In view of these circumstances the fact that we can boast of only four mails a week from the metropolis is surprising and appears to indicate not only great neglect on the part of the Postal Department but a lack of interest on that of the residents of the district themselves. The latter have pursued a policy of hopeless inactivity in regard to the subject of mails and other postal facilities, and the interests of the district in this connection have suffered considerably in consequence. Perhaps, however, there is no occasion to take action at this juncture in regard to the matter, but in the event of the authorities deciding not to make any alterations in the mail service the residents of the district should certainly bestir themselves and hold a public meeting for the purpose of making arrangements to have the matter brought forcibly under the notice of the Postal Department and the Hon. H. Foster, by petitions signed by all interested in the welfare of the district. It is true that some steps have already been taken by the Shire Council, but we wish to point out that the policy of the Orbost people in leaving solely in the hands of that body important matters which should be dealt with by themselves is one that has nothing whatever to commend it. Undoubtedly the representations of the Shire Council will have considerable weight, but they would have infinitely more weight if they were backed up by the general public. Such being the case it is to be hoped that should our expectations not be realised the residents of the district will take energetic measures themselves to secure better postal facilities than they have at the present time.

‘SNOWY RIVER MAIL’

Saturday, November 5, 1898

The business of the Post and Telegraph department at Orbost will in future be carried on in the new offices. Messrs H. James & Co. have also removed into their new and commodious premises. Needless to say the completion of these two handsome buildings has added greatly to the appearance of our main street.

