

ORBOST HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.



P.O. BOX 284 ORBOST VIC 3888

President: Beryl Macalister
Vice President: Geoff Stevenson
Secretary: Paul Dawson
Treasurer: Paul Dawson
Museum Curators: Geoff Stevenson
Eddie Slatter
Research Secretary: John Phillips

NEWSLETTER

MAY, 2005

BANK OF NEW SOUTH WALES

'SNOWY RIVER MAIL'

Wednesday evening, January 4, 1933

NEW BANK BUILDING FOR ORBOST

Tenders, closing 19th January, are called for the erection of a commodious bank building for the local branch of the Bank of New South Wales.

This building, to be erected at the corner of Nicholson and Wolseley Streets, will be of brick, and of commodious character, making an increased adornment to the town architecture. It will be of two storeys, with a frontage of over 40 feet to Nicholson Street. The banking chamber will be 27ft. X 21 feet, and downstairs are also dining room (12 ft. x 10 ft. 6), sitting room (19ft x 13ft), with well appointed kitchen and scullery, and garage accommodation. Upstairs there will be three bedrooms, one 20ft 4in x 16ft 1in, the second 20ft 4in x 11ft 2in and third almost as large with sleeping out accommodation.

It is expected that the erection of the premises will take 8 to 9 months.

The Orbost Branch of the Bank of New South Wales was opened in 1924 under the managership of Mr. Picken. Following him came Mr. Bartold, and the present manager, who is mainly responsible for the new premises, is Mr. Foster.

'SNOWY RIVER MAIL'

Wednesday evening, August 23, 1933

NEW BANKING PREMISES

NICHOLSON STREET FURTHER IMPROVED

During the past decade Orbost has risen from the ranks of a country village into a fair sized town that will hold its own both in business and architecture with other Gippsland towns of alleged more importance.

The recent addition is the new premises for the Bank of New South Wales. It is of modern design. It does not stand out in any amplitude of ornate designs of days gone by, but its solid and well built appearance, with ornamentations here and there, takes the eye. There is an old saying that "tuck pointing" brickwork is an effort to hide bad workmanship. This building stands aloof from such camouflage and shows to the world its naked triumph of good work.

The manager of the Orbost branch of the Bank of New South Wales (Mr. Allen) intends to open the new offices for business on Monday next, August 28.

The Architects for the building are Messrs Godfrey and Spowers of Age chambers 239 Collins Street, Melbourne. The contract was carried out by Mr. D. M. McOrist of Glenard Drive, Heidelberg, and the work was supervised by Mr. C. H. Summers.

The building is of Yallourn bricks, laid in cement mortar, and finished with cut and struck points and roofed with "Eureka" brown tiles.

The Banking Chamber is 27 ft. x 20 ft. with sand finished walls, colored a light buff, and a beamed fibrous plaster ceiling.

The Bank is entered from the street through double doors into an entrance porch, which opens into the Banking chamber, through double action spring doors with embossed plate glass panels. The windows facing the street are also glazed with embossed plate. The entrance porch and the bank fittings are of highly polished Queensland maple. The Teller's counter is 5 ft. wide, with panelled front and brass foot rail, and is filled with cash drawers and shelving. The accountant's desk stands behind the teller's counter, and is screened with a metal grille, and the whole chamber is wonderfully lighted from three sides. The Strong room opens off Banking Chamber and is constructed of heavily reinforced concrete, fitted with a Chubb door and steel shelving.

A door leads from the public space into the Manager's room and another door opens from the Manager's room behind a screen into the main office. During the construction period provision was made by the telephone staff for connecting the 'phone when building was completed, thus avoiding unsightly exposed wires. A clerk's lavatory, fitted with sanitary convenience, wash basin, and filtered water is also provided.

The private house is entered from the Manager's room and also from the South side into a stair-hall 15ft 6in x 18ft 3in. The sitting room 19ft x 13ft. opens from this Hall and the dining room is connected with sitting room through double glass doors. The kitchen, pantry, laundry and a lavatory are also situated on the ground floor.

The first floor is reached by a handsome stair-case, with polished hand rail and newels and panelled spandrel. The main bed room is 20ft. x 16ft. and there are two other bed rooms and a large sleep out. The bath room is fitted with a built-in porcelain bath, wash basin and bath heater with hot and cold shower. Wardrobes open off all bed rooms and the sleep out.

The windows throughout are fitted with the latest roller fly wire blinds, which roll up when not in use at the top of the window. The whole building gives the impression of plenty of light and air. The walls inside are cement rendered and water-proofed with "Non-porite" and finished with white plaster. The joinery timber, with the exception of the kitchen, lavatories and bath room is Queensland maple stained and finished with an egg-shell gloss. The kitchen etc. is finished ivory enamel.

It is the policy of Mr. McOrist to employ as many local tradesmen and as much labor as possible. The plumbing work was carried out by M. L. Douthat, the lighting by Mr. Alf Johnson, and the painting by Mr. George Gorey. The carpenter's work was done by Mr. McOrist and his personal staff, Mr. W. Wennell and Mr. Allen McLeish. The hardwood was supplied by Mr. Williams and Mr. Pow and in both cases was very satisfactory.

A feature of the job is the installation of an ultra modern septic tank by the local firm of Douthat Bros. A special feature of the installation is an approved chlorinator of their own design and manufacture.

