

ORBOST & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

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NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER, 2007

NOTES ON THE HISTORY OF ORBOST PART 3

Compiled by Margaret Carlyon, Traralgon - 29/4/1963

These notes, on the History of Orbost, have been divided into a series of articles which will be used over several Newsletters. This is the third of a five part series.

ORBOST SHIRE COUNCIL

The Orbost Shire held its first council meeting at Orbost at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, September 14, 1892, when there were present: Councillors J. Cameron, C. H. Grove, H. Reed snr., L. Herbert, H. Cameron, J. Hossack and E. J. Pardew.

Mr. J. Cameron was voted to the chair and Mr. Lachlan Ross was appointed Secretary pro tem. The meeting then adjourned to 3 p.m. After the adjournment Crs. T. Laughton and J. D. Stocks were additional councillors present.



Orbost Shire Councillors and Officers 1907

Cr. Jas. Cameron was elected President of the first council meeting, and Mr. L. Ross was appointed the first Secretary, and Mr. G. Seymour, Engineer. Mr. J. Draffin succeeded Mr. Ross as Secretary, being in turn succeeded by Mr. T. F. Rollason.

ORBOST AND DISTRICT HOSPITAL

In 1906 a meeting was called in an old building in Munro Street at which a Committee was formed to

make a start to build a Hospital in Orbost. The first money was subscribed by Mr. Beck, a well-known commercial traveller who frequently visited Orbost. Though the building was not opened until 1929, one of the main leaders and supporters was the late Mrs. K. H. Macalister, Messrs. R. M. Macalister, J. F. McCoy, and J. S. Tomlinson, who were great workers for the movement.



Orbost and District Hospital - incorporated in 1930

The Hospital was greatly assisted by the Ed. Wilson and Patrick Brenan Trusts, benefiting by the former to the extent of £2,800. The first to take over the hospital was Matron Thomson, who carried on with the help of Sister Matthews for some time, when they were joined by Nurse Hardy. Doctors Nettleton and Blair were Hon. Medical Officers, with Mr. M. A. Randall Hon. Dentist.

ORBOST WATERWORKS TRUST

Orbost Waterworks Trust was founded in 1917, when a scheme supplying the township from

Young's Creek was adopted. The Trust at that time was formed of members of the Shire Council but later, the Constitution was changed to allow for the Councillors of the Central Riding and three gentlemen nominated by the Governor in Council comprising the trust. The works consist of a weir over Young's Creek, three Service Basins holding 1,750,000 gallons of water and a Purification plant, which was erected in 1930. The Reticulation area is laid with concrete pipes manufactured by the Hume Pipe Company from local material.

MECHANICS INSTITUTE AND FREE LIBRARY

The Orbost Mechanics Institute and Free Library was founded in 1885, with Mr C. H. Grove the President in the first committee. The Hall was erected by Mr J. Farquhar, Snr., and provided a place of recreation for many years, until in 1930 it was demolished and a new and much larger Hall was erected.



Mr Charles Henry Grove



Mr John W Farquhar

ORBOST BAND

The Orbost band began its activities in 1889 when, under the conductorship of Mr Austin, 18 gentlemen, rendered music at various places in Orbost, and whenever opportune time was available, such as at shows, sports meetings, etc. Band practice was held in the State School. This



Orbost Workers' Band 1910

band, known as Orbost Brass Band, made its first appearance before the public, when on a boat trip to Marlo, selections were rendered. Later a visit was paid to Delegate, N.S.W. When Mr Austin left the district in 1894, Mr C. Spink, became

bandmaster and filled that position until his death in 1921. While Mr Spink was conductor the Orbost Workers Band, which had functioned for a short period, amalgamated with the Orbost brass band to form the Orbost Municipal Band. After the death of Mr Spink, Mr W. Swan took over conductorship.

EDUCATION AT ORBOST

In the 1930s representations were made to the Education Department to provide a Higher Elementary School and the reply was to the effect that a large sum must be raised locally to enlarge the building and raise it to the status of a H.E.S. The late Dr Kerr and a committee soon raised the money by local subscription.



Orbost State School & Higher Elementary School Morning assembly 1921

The first State School in the town was conducted in a building in the main street, with Mr J. Rowe as the only teacher. The school was later transferred to the present school ground, but the original building on that site was later incorporated into the latter building. Mr Rowe, assisted at different intervals by juniors Fred and Harriet Stapley, carried on until Miss Beatrice Stapley was appointed as assistant. Mr Rowe and Ms Mattingley carried on for many years and eventually Mr Rowe retired from the Department.

ORBOST AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

The Orbost Agricultural Society was formed on October 10th, 1891, at a meeting called by the Orbost Progress Association. Mr James Nixon was voted to the Chair, and Mr L. Ross appointed Secretary. A provisional committee of 12 was formed: Messrs. W. Stewart, J. A. Watt, F. Perry,



*President: John Johnstone
 Vice Presidents: F. Nixon, M. Lynch and A.E. Rodwell
 Secretary: Geo Perry
 Committee: S. Lynn, Geo. Answer, C. Drevermann, J. Bird, J. Draffin, J. Cummings, R. Mosley, H. James, A. Saunders, P. Morris, G. Carter, A. Pardew, Jas Nixon, J. Gilbert, S. Grenville, W. Scharleman, G. Nixon, H. Richardson, J. Hocking, J. Fisher, J. Hossack.*

Orbost Agricultural Society Members 1892

C. N. Henderson, James Cameron, J. Russell, L. Ross, James Nixon, James Hossack, George Temple, J. Forsyth, J. B. Irvine. Mr James Nixon, President and Mr L. Ross, Secretary.



Orbost Show

The first show was held in March 1892 on the land later belonging to Messrs J. Bird and J. Eppestun. Following shows were held in the Recreation Reserve, but after a few years were held on the Committee's own land, which had been given to the society by Sir William Clarke. As the Showground was considered to be unsuitable without a great deal expense the Society decided to sell it and in conjunction with the Golf and Racing Clubs purchased 100 acres from Mr I. Perry, where a very suitable arena, giving a view of the surrounding district, was formed.

ORBOST FIRE BRIGADE

The Orbost Fire Brigade was formed in the year 1919. The late Chief Officer Marshall, from Melbourne, came up to a public meeting which had been called and the Brigade was formed in Browning Street under the lamp post on the Police Station corner. First Captain was the late George Hodgson, Lieut. R. Macalister and Secretary J. F. McCoy. As there was no fire station the reel (a cast off from the Bairnsdale Brigade) was kept in the shed at the back of the Council Chambers until the present Station was built in 1922.



Orbost Fire Station - built in 1922 - replaced in 1987

ORBOST RACING CLUB

The Orbost Race Club was founded in 1890. Many early members were: George Morgan, James Cowell, J. Farquhar, J. Cameron, L. Herbert, S. J. Lynn, Arch. Rodwell, J. Ashby, A. W. McLeod, W. Middleton, W. Archer, J. Pleydell

and J. Drew.



Orbost Races 1890s

On 17th May, 1890, the horse, "Homewood", owner T. Harris, Jnr. and jockey Kelly, were disqualified for life but such was lifted in 1894. Program of the Club in 1892, amounting to £73 was as follows: Hurdle Race £15, five starters; Maiden Plate £7, seven starters; District Plate £8 and silver cup, five starters; Orbost handicapper, 15 pounds, six starters; selling racy, 10 pounds, five starters; Consolation Stakes £7. The gates were sold for £5/17/6 and the Booths for £4/10/0. The Orbost Brass Band was in attendance under the baton of W. A. Gluth. The races were conducted on a course laid out in a paddock of Mr James Cowell at Jarrahmond.



Orbost Racing Club - Member's Ticket 1889

ORBOST BUTTER FACTORY

The Orbost Butter and Produce Company was registered on May 18th, 1892. Mr James Nixon was the Chairman of Directors, and Mr J. Scouller the Manager of the factory. Mr Scouller continued in office for about 30 years.

Turnover in 1906 was £10,961/3/3. Butter manufactured 103 tons. Operations commenced with 22 h. p. engines and the original staff was four. The old Butter Factory is now a bean sorting factory.

