

ORBOST & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY Inc.

P.O. BOX 284 ORBOST VIC 3888



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NEWSLETTER

GIPPSLAND & NORTHERN CO-OPERATIVE COMPANY

'Snowy River Mail', Wednesday, July 6, 1927:

Operations are in progress at the site of the new store for the Gippsland and Northern Co-Operative Company.

The building, which is to be of reinforced

concrete, will have a dimension of 70 by 70 feet. The concrete basement will be 70 by 36 feet. The necessary excavation for the basement has been made, and the stone for the concrete crushed. The filling in of the concrete at the basement will soon be under weigh (sic).

Gippsland & Northern Co-Operative Co.
UNIVERSAL PROVIDERS, ORBOST. Ltd.



The Most Up-to-date
Establishment in
Gippsland.

All Tourists'
Requirements
Always on Hand.

Inspection
Cordially Invited.

'Phone: Orbost No. 11.



'Snowy River Mail', Wednesday, March 14, 1928:

GIPPSLAND & NORTHERN OFFICIAL OPENING OF NEW PREMISES

A plethora of the fair sex assembled last Friday afternoon at the commodious new premises recently erected by the Gippsland and Northern Coy. Pty. Ltd. In Orbost, they being present by invitation to assist in this official opening.

Mr. Percy Nixon, local chairman, expressed pleasure at officiating as he claimed a good deal of responsibility for the building of the new stores. He considered it was something the district should be proud of. They had in the past received a good deal of support from non-shareholders, and if the shareholders had been half as loyal as the latter the business would be a success. The business was theirs and every penny spent would build up their own company. If the directors did not give satisfaction, well then boost them out. Instead of growling the shareholders should remember their power. He desired to congratulate Mr. Taysom on the the successful manner in which the erection of the building had been carried out, and there was another monument across the road to his capacity. People had said to him that he had a great monument. He had replied that he was proud of it and that it would be a monument to him when he was in the cemetery. The people should be proud of any building that improved Orbost. He desired to appeal to shareholders to give their business support and assistance. The building was an expensive one and unless the directors got the support of the shareholders it would not pay. People should put money into an institution that belonged to themselves. (Applause).

Mr. A. W. Wilson, general manager of the Gippsland and Northern, expressed pleasure at

being present, and was gratified to see so many ladies present. Mr. Nixon had said that it was their own business and that should be borne in mind. The shareholders in Orbost and district numbered 130; and subscribed 1396 shares, and had paid up £6316/8/6. The building had been erected, and as Mr. Nixon said, was a credit to the town. They were indebted to Mr. Nixon for getting the fine store in Orbost, and he had more than done his duty in that direction. The manager had told the directors that the old premises were not large enough, cramped operations, and did not allow of showing goods to the fullest advantage. The directors had two courses open: One, to shut up the place and say success had not been attained, or else take a bold step, and

'Snowy River Mail', Wednesday, March 7, 1928:

Gippsland & Northern Co-op. Co.

**OFFICIAL OPENING OF
NEW STORE**

AND

**Grand Display of New Season's Novelties
on Friday, 9th March.**

SPECIAL WINDOW DISPLAYS BY MR. JENNINGS, who has charge of our
Drapery Department.

OUR SHOWROOM is under the direction of MISS McPIERSON, who has had
experience in most of the big centres and is anxious to meet all our clients, who will find her
advice irrefutable in the selection of suitable apparel.

AFTERNOON TEA will be provided for the Ladies at Miss Shelley's Tea Room
from 3 to 5 o'clock.

If your invitation has miscarried through the post please accept this as an official invitation.

GIPPSLAND & NORTHERN

Co-op. Co., Phone 11, ORBOST. J. HOLMES SHORT, Manager.

provide premises to carry on and help to build up a business in the future. They took that bold step, and credit was due to Mr. Nixon in persuading the directors to erect the fine store. It belonged to the shareholders. It was co-operative. There were no capitalists seeking to make big dividends on investment for their own personal gain. The whole capital was subscribed by 8000 farmers in Victoria, and 40 Co-operative butter factories held shares. It was a Victorian farmers' co-operative venture. If success were achieved other co-operative stores would be established, and in course of time develop a huge co-operative concern. They had that in mind. The bigger the business the cheaper they could buy lines of goods. The present store was the only one that existed on the co-operative plan, and he was sorry to say that up to the present it was not so successful as to warrant the extension of that plan. Co-operation was not a one-sided affair, The directors had done their best to make the best provision for the employees and manager, and other necessary officials to give the people good service, and it now remained for the people to come along and buy the goods — to patronise the store because it was their own store. The people had raised £6236 for the erection of the store, but that was not the whole cost of erection. Other items such as the cost of land, etc., had to come into the picture, as the total was over £7000. The directors felt satisfied with the soundness of the district, and the desire of the shareholders to further the cause along co-operative lines that they had invested £26,201 in the district. That was a long way more than the people put in the business. There were no wealthy shareholders in the company. They were all farmers. Local people had put in £6000, and some of the farmers in other parts of Victoria were helping loyally to put this concern in Orbost. He impressed on the people the necessity of loyalty. The Company was there to give service, and were bound to pay 5 per cent on capital

100% BRITISH

Lister

BALL BEARING CREAM SEPARATORS

No other separator has this feature. British "Starlette" Stainless Steel in blocks of all sizes from 11 to 270 gallons, and Ball Bearings from 22 to 270 gallons.

"Starlette" will not rust, will be cleaner, and will last a lifetime.

Entirely unequalled efficiency and superior cream.

A size for every herd. *Price Terms Arranged. Allowance on Old Separator.*

OFFER G. & N. MAURINERY includes:

"Eclipse", the modern Milkier with 2 patented features;	"Standard" British Mowers, since 2 to 4 h.p.
"Standard" British Mowers, since 2 to 4 h.p.	"Standard" British Mowers with Paper Oil Bath Mower;
"Standard" Patent Combined Side Hake, Swath Turner, Trolley and Windrower.	

Ask for full details and free literature.

Local Agent: **C. E. COWELL, ORBOST.**

GIPPSLAND & NORTHERN CO-OP. CO. LTD.,
 Machinery Department,
 513 Collins Street, Melbourne, U.I. (Phone 1348 G.P.O.)

GIPPSLAND & NORTHERN CO-OP. CO. LTD.,
 AUCTIONEERS, LAMB & STOCK AGENTS
 MELBOURNE, ORBOST, WODONGA, TALLANGATTA, WANGARATTA, SHEPPARTON, WARRHAUL, YARRAM, LEONGATHRA, etc.

NEWMARKET SALES: Fat and store sheep and fat and store cattle every week.

CORPORATION YARDS: (Elizabeth St.) Fat and store pigs, chickens and dry cattle every week. Tracks covered. Special Land Department. Farms for sale and lease. Beyond waiting. Train access to land.

ORBOST AGENT: **C. E. COWELL,** Telephone: Orbost 181.
 HEAD OFFICE: 513 Collins Street, Melbourne. Telegrams "Lister", Melbourne.

before any profits could be divided. If the turnover were doubled on the present expenses then there would be handsome profits. But if it remained small, and overhead charges heavy then there would not be much profit for the shareholders. If they had grievances he asked them not to take them to the street corner, but to go to the manager, and they would be met in all fairness. He had just returned from a tour of the world and had many inquiries into the co-operative movement. He referred to the start made by the 28 poor weavers of Rockdale, near Manchester in 1864, out of which effort business of tremendous magnitude had been built up. The success was because they had been loyally supported. He referred to trade within the Empire, and an Empire marketing board. Millions were spent



to advertise such. It was of value to Great Britain and to Australia. The industrial people in England were solid behind their co-operative movement. The idea of all his talk was Co-operation, and in recognising that fact they would make this one of the finest Co-operative stores in Victoria. In conclusion he felt satisfied that the contractor, Mr Taysom, had carried out the job faithfully and well. Finally he extended a hearty invitation to all the ladies to visit the tearooms across the road and be the guests of the company at afternoon tea. (Applause).

Mr. J. H. Short, the manager, thanked all for their attendance, and hoped that on the following Friday afternoon he would see each and every one of them again present, not to listen as on the present occasion, but for the staff to listen to them, and hand the docket across the counter. (Laughter).

The invitation extended the ladies was availed of and pleasant chat over refreshing beverage whiled the remainder of the afternoon away.

'Snowy River Mail', Wednesday, November 7, 1928:

Mr. J. H. Short has tendered his resignation as local manager of the Gippsland & Northern Co-operative Company Limited pending the appointment of a successor Mr. B. - - - - -, the company's branch inspector is temporarily in charge of the branch.



Unfortunately hard times were ahead and 7 years later the following advertisements appeared in the local paper.

'Snowy River Mail', Thursday, January 3, 1935:

GIPPSLAND AND NORTHERN CO-OP. CO. LTD.

CLOSING DOWN

STOCKTAKING SALE

NOW PROCEEDING

Prior to Closing Down

Grocery, Kitchenware, Fowler's Goods, Boots and Shoes, General Drapery.

The balance of stock in all departments is to be cleared quickly, and while Stocktaking is proceeding, we are offering many bargains. This will be your last opportunity and it will pay you to enquire here first for any requirement.

THE PRICE IS RIGHT.

Gippsland & Northern Co-operative Co. Ltd. Stocktaking Sale

'Snowy River Mail', Wednesday, November 7, 1928:

G. & N. G. & N.

LAST DAYS

Thursday, Friday, Saturday

CLOSING SATURDAY, FEB. 16

In conclusion the Management tender thanks to all clients for their years of support, and wish to advise the Manager will be in attendance at the office for the convenience of Clients wishing to tender payment of their accounts.

GIPPSLAND AND NORTHERN CO-OP. CO. LTD.

★ ★ ★ ★

Now for a little nostalgia. Remember that big building everyone called Corner Hardware Store?

It stood on the corner of Nicholson and Salisbury streets before it gave way to a service station. The building was erected in 1932 by the Gippsland and Northern Co-op, who conducted business there until late 1938 or early 1939.

The building was vacant for a couple of years until Mr. L.H. Nowlan opened a hairdressing, tobacconist and billiard room business after he purchased portion of the building. That business remained in operation from about 1939 to 1970.

Occupants of the other section of the big building were Foards or J.B. Johnsons of Bairnsdale who traded as drapers in the early 1940s. Then followed Patersons furniture store. After they vacated the premises, Mr. C.V. Downey, a future licensee of the Club Hotel, purchased that section of the building and traded as a dealer in used furniture.

After some years Mr. and Mrs. C. Roberts purchased this part of the building and conducted the Corner Hardware Store for some twenty years.

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The cutting from "ON THE GRAPEVINE" (in the previous column) which appeared in the 'Snowy River Mail', in the early 1980s tells what happened to the building in the intervening years from when Gippsland & Northern closed their doors until Charles and Una Roberts took over the building and conducted their Corner Hardware Store business.

Mr. Lionel Henry Nowlan was a hairdresser and tobacconist at Orbost in 1937 and he is listed as a hairdresser, Nicholson Street, Orbost, in the 1949 Electoral Roll.

Mr. Nowlan's shop was apparently in two sections - on the right side was the barber and tobacconist where Jimmy McClymont was the hairdresser - and on the left side Mrs Nowlan had a tiny cafe. As well Lionel Nowlan operated a billiard saloon. His brother, Cecil, came to Orbost in about 1938 to work in Lionel's billiard parlour.

Mr. Charles Roberts and his wife, Una, operated the Corner Hardware Store at the corner of Nicholson and Salisbury Streets, Orbost, from 22nd December 1947 until April 1970. Soon after the building was demolished.



Corner Hardware Store

CORNER HARDWARE STORE

P.O. BOX 82

PHONE 267.

PUBLIC NOTICE

We wish to notify the public of Orbost and district that our business known as Corner Hardware Store will be closed down during April. All our electrical goods will be moved to premises at 155 Nicholson Street, Orbost.

Our Hardware lines are now offered for sale at large discounts.

C. W. & K. U. ROBERTS.

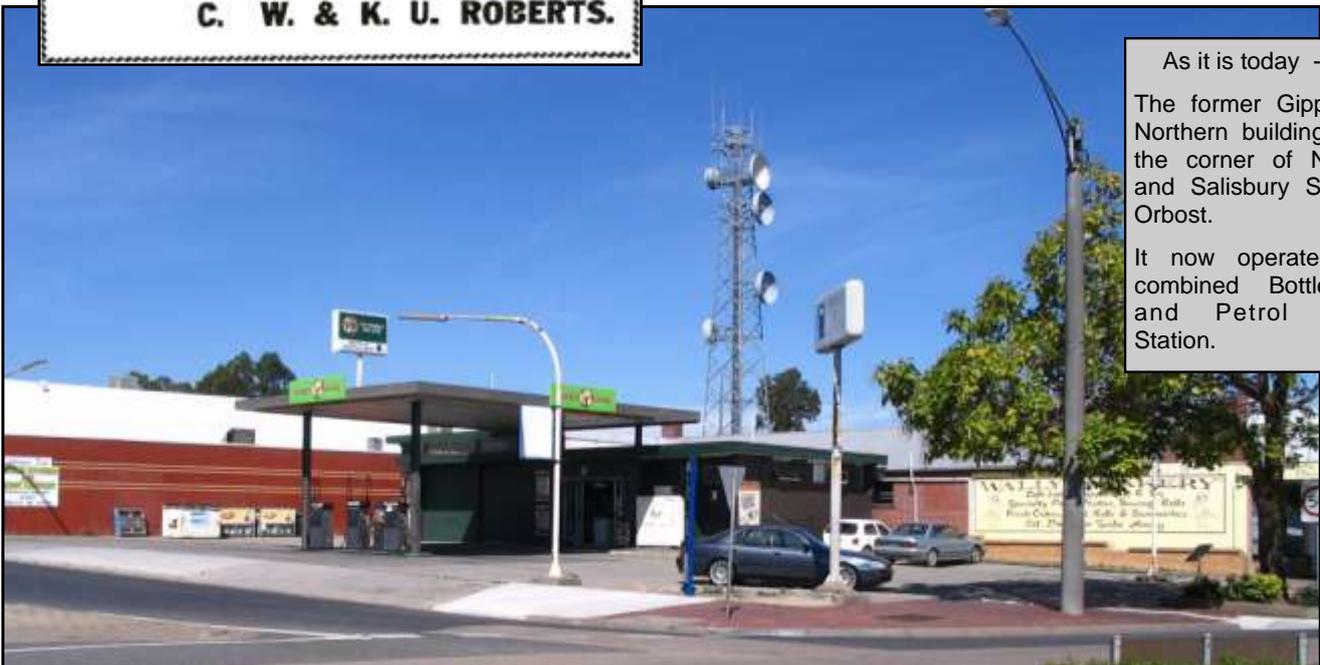


Demolition of the Corner Hardware Store building

Following the demolition of the Corner Hardware Store building a Caltex Service Station was erected on the site and operated for a number of years. Later on it was converted to a Bottle Shop for the Commonwealth Hotel.



Construction of the Petrol Service Station



As it is today - 2010.

The former Gippsland & Northern building site on the corner of Nicholson and Salisbury Streets in Orbost.

It now operates as a combined Bottle Shop and Petrol Service Station.



G. & N. Co-operative Stores

The 1920s saw the construction of many larger buildings in the town, including several banks, stores, and the Commonwealth Hotel. In 1927, stock and station agents Gippsland and Northern, decided to invest in the future with this impressive building opposite the Commonwealth Hotel. The opening of the new G & N store took place in March 1928.

As a co-operative of 8,000 Victorian farmers including 130 local shareholders, G & N advertised as being 'your own company'. It sold everything that the farmer and householder could need, including clothing. Sadly, hard times were to follow and the store closed in February 1935. Many other businesses later occupied the G & N building including a billiard parlour, furniture store, hairdresser, milkbar, SP bookmaker and a hardware store. This fine building was demolished in the early 1970s.

G. & N. Co-operative Stores
 Contact Herb Baillie...

OFFICIAL OPENING OF NEW STORE
 Grand Opening of New Store's Opening on Friday, 19th March.

GIPPSLAND & NORTHERN

Thanks for responding to my plea in the March Newsletter for **HELP NEEDED!!** in relation to the **CAPITOL CAFE**. Information received via email, telephone and written notes from Lorraine Coulton via Margaret Smith, Dave Paten via Marilyn Morgan, and Marina Johnson was most appreciated.

CAPITOL FISH CAFE

Proprietor: N. A. McDonald

Norman Alexander McDonald was a book-keeper at Macarthur's and was very musical. He was proprietor of the Capitol Cafe, Nicholson Street, Orbost, selling the business to Mr Coad on 4th December 1947.

Mr Harold Raymond Coad and his wife first operated the Newmerella Store. Their granddaughter, Heather Johnston, told Lorraine Coulton that Coad's shop was on the corner on the top side of the Newsagency.

Mr Coad also owned Orbost Welding Works. He welded the girders for the bridge over the Wallagaraugh River for the Shire of Orbost. The length of the two girders being 534 feet.

Mr McDonald's wife was Mae Lock, whose family had land at the far end of Jarrahmond. Their selection was between Pipe Clay and Wedenduck Creeks on the Snowy. The McDonald's retired from the Cafe to Bairnsdale.

Mr Lee Allen had the Capitol Cafe for a short time, maybe as manager. Mr Allen was secretary of the Orbost Football Club and he left Orbost in February 1954.

Edna Hall worked for Mrs Coad after leaving school and when Edna left Ella Butler worked there.

The Cafe was renowned for its great Fish and Chips.

Marina Johnson remembers Norman McDonald and his wife having a Kiosk at the Mechanics Hall on Saturday Picture nights, selling Drossou's soft drinks and ice-cream from a large green canvas bag with dry-ice to keep the ice-cream frozen.



Mrs. E. M. Mossfield proprietor of Cafe Capitol in 1937



The building on the right in the above photo taken in 2010 was the Capitol Cafe. Another view below.

