

A heritage study of selected properties within the boundaries of the City of Greater Dandenong

Part I

Revised Environmental History

Part II

Evaluation of the Significance of Heritage Places

Management Summary

This study for the City of Greater Dandenong (A revised environmental history and An evaluation of the significance of selected Heritage places) was commissioned by the City of Greater Dandenong and funded by the City of Greater Dandenong and Heritage Victoria, Department of Infrastructure in 1999.

The study is one volume of documentation of individual sites. The volume is organised by street names in alphabetical order.

The study is confined to boundaries of the City of Greater Dandenong as they are in 1999.

The main purposes of this study were to provide:

- An assessment of 96 places of post-contact cultural significance; 77 sites selected from a list included in Appendix 7, City of Greater Dandenong Stage One Heritage Study and 19 additional sites selected by the Heritage Study Steering Committee
- research history, description, condition, context, significance and recommendation components for each of the 96 selected places
- non-statutory recommendations for the conservation of heritage of the study area
- a revision of the Environmental History prepared as part of the City of Greater Dandenong Heritage Study Stage One, to incorporate research from the individual places researched in this study; and
- a computerised database of each site including black and white photos, aerial photos and maps with the assistance of the GIS section of the City of Greater Dandenong.

Part I

Revised Environmental History

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Management Summary

Thematic Environmental History Brief

The following is an extract from the study brief which outlines the content of this section.

This aspect of the study addresses the history of the physical development of the area identified in stage one and since post-contact occupation and settlement. It identifies and explains aspects and themes that are crucial to understanding the social and historical fabric of the area as it exists today. The thematic environmental history is concise (up to 44,000 of words and text) and analytical. The thematic environmental history of Greater Dandenong clearly defines and explains the key themes that provide an historical explanation for the existing physical fabric and settlement/land use patterns for the study area. The history, as much as possible, makes good use of illustrative material including copies of original photographs.

These themes are applied in the identification and evaluation of individual components of the study area's heritage.

The research for the thematic environmental history provides:

- information as to the location and importance of places of potential cultural significance;
- a context for the comparative assessment of places of cultural significance; and
- information on places of potential significance for which physical evidence and extant remains may be negligible or non-existent or exist solely in archaeological (subsurface) context.

Introduction

It was a land of creeks, swamp, trees and intersecting tracks in the days when Aboriginal people first shared their country with the new European settlers. Strange hard-hoofed animals invaded the landscape, especially cattle, but also horses and sheep. River red gum grasslands, creek flood plains and dry heathland were to be transformed over the next fifty years.

In the early days of contact, the Aboriginal occupants were valued guides and messengers, stockmen, and cutters of bark and timber. Surveyors used Aboriginal words in the naming of parishes such as 'Dandenong' (thought to be from 'tanjelong', meaning 'meeting place' or 'rich flat'), 'Mordialloc' and 'Eumemmerring'. The Native Police, based in the Police Paddocks close to Dandenong, took part in the exploration and opening up of Gippsland. Their constant traffic to and from the Police Paddocks helped to mark out and consolidate the earliest 'roads'.

Almost two hundred years since a European drew the coastline and local creeks on a map, the creeks are still a reminder of those days and the early struggle to subdue nature and the original occupants. The creeks were one of the features that attracted the early settlers, since water was essential for their stock and for themselves. By taking over nearly all the land fronting the creeks, the squatters consolidated the dispossession of the Aboriginal people.

Crossing the creeks was a challenge, the building of bridges one of the first technical achievements of the new settlers. Floods remained a threat for decades and many lost their lives in swollen waters. The draining of swamps, especially Carrum Swamp, was a long struggle. The building of railway lines was another technical achievement, overcoming the tyranny of distance and bringing closer the metropolis and the vast region of Gippsland to the east and the south-east. Later, some of these same swamplands provided a site for a large-scale sewerage plant.

The building of railways, roads, highways, freeways and major drainage channels meant new lines on the map and more people coming to live and work in the area. Where a road and railway intersected, there a settlement often developed, as at Dandenong, Springvale and Noble Park. Such centres were far enough away from the metropolis to be regarded as 'country' and for many years the majority of the population were engaged in timber-cutting, farming and market gardening. The roads and the railway lines were vital connections to the metropolis and its markets. But the area that is now 'Greater Dandenong' also developed its own market and its own strength as a commercial centre. The Dandenong Market and the town itself became the 'hub of the wheel', making its impact felt for miles around.

The early industries, coming out of the land itself, were small, but of state-wide significance. The red-gum timber provided blocks for roads and wharves in Melbourne, for export and charcoal. Eucalyptus oil from local trees was said to be the first distinctly Australian manufacture (Arnold 1998:5). Ordish Firebrick works, initially using local clay, supplied government and industrial users of firebricks all over Australia. 'Dandy Bacon' became known throughout Australia and went overseas. Kelly and Lewis, the district's first engineering works, was Australia's leading producer of pumps. These industries, on their own, could not make the district survive and grow, but the industries and the small blocks of land suitable for market gardening and poultry farms did attract new settlers. The population grew very considerably in the first half of the 20th century. The railway stations, schools, churches, and public halls (including the town hall in Dandenong) all represented in different ways the meeting of invisible lines of interaction between local and State levels. The very distance from Melbourne, 14 to 20 miles, was a factor in forcing self-sufficiency and ensuring that the district and its neighbourhoods developed, to some extent, their own character.

It was the converging of lines of railways, roads and existing centres of settlement at Dandenong, Springvale and Noble Park which attracted immigrants and industries to the area.

Cheap land and cheap power were additional factors. Some of the firms that settled in the area after World War Two were of national and international significance. The people who worked in them, and who settled in the area, were from all over the world. The influx of Europeans from the 1950s onwards, followed by an influx of immigrants from Asia from the late 1970s onwards, transformed the area culturally and ultimately transformed parts of the landscape.

Influential factors included the extent and density of community group activity and the struggle for survival, both economic and cultural. The struggle with government, both local and state, for basic facilities has brought people together, above all at Noble Park. There has also been a sharing and recycling of facilities.

Despite all the changes, in a populous municipality full of new housing, there is physical evidence of a commercial and cultural vitality that has emerged and endured over the years, including recent years. The Koorie community is visible, and proud of its identity. At the same time, some of the market gardens remain in the Keysborough area and cattle still graze in the paddocks to the south, in a landscape that is evocative of earlier times.

1.0 Exploring, exploiting and altering the land

1.1 Exploring and surveying

William Hovell was possibly the first European to explore the country north of Western Port and to describe his impressions. After his first expedition with Hamilton Hume, from Lake George to Western Port Bay in 1824, he returned in 1826 to explore Western Port Bay and journey further inland. Travelling north from Schnapper River, leaving on 14 January 1827, they reached the Dandenong Ranges and followed the Dandenong Creek down on its eastern side.

Hovell was impressed by the soil and the grass and considered it 'worth the attention of either farmer or grazier'. The creek was too deep and full to cross, but turned 'to about west'. They followed it for about three miles and stopped for the night. They probably crossed the site of Dandenong at about this point. The next day they came to 'a wide piece of water, the commencement of a creek running south'. This may have been the area that is now one of Melbourne Water's retarding basins, located east of the Frankston-Dandenong Road, behind a Melbourne Water Depot. Hovell commented: 'Some parts of the land [have] a great deal of timber on it and on others very little, but where that is the case it is very large. Some would

measure 40 feet in circumference.' The party met several Aborigines and one of them 'put us upon a path which he gave me to understand would take me to where the boat can come' (quoted Hibbins, 1984: 2-4).

A month later, Hovell returned on a second expedition, this time to the land further south - the plains, and 'equally as extensive marshes'. His party crossed the marsh, but it took them three hours and was very tiring, 'in consequence of high reeds, water up to the middle and a close tea tree scrub, the roots of which ... tripped the men up and threw them on their faces' (quoted Hibbins, 1984: 5).

The significance of Hovell's remarks was that they were basically favourable and encouraged settlement. Seven years later, pastoralists came to this region from Van Diemens Land and the settled areas of New South Wales, anxious to use the land for their sheep and cattle.

The movement south was led by men such as Joseph Hawdon, one of the first three overlanders, (De Serville, 1980: 203). He brought his cattle to the infant settlement at Port Phillip in December 1836 and, soon after arriving, headed south-east to the Dandenong Creek. He was joined by his brother John in



Figure 1. Greens Road Aboriginal scarred tree

1837 and moved on elsewhere. Others came this way, also looking for good country. They crossed the Dandenong Creek and went east, towards Gippsland (Brennan, 1973: 3-4).

During the 1840s -1850s, the Government undertook preliminary surveys of the land, creating counties and parishes and dividing them up into blocks of varying size. Henry Foot surveyed land within the parish of Dandenong early in 1852 and by August, a number of sections were put up for auction. By late 1854, R. Meikle had surveyed the parish of Mordialloc and by 1858 N. Callanan had surveyed 'country lands in the parishes of Lyndhurst and Eumemerring' and commented on the 'fine agricultural soil partially subject to flood', in the present Keysborough area (Central Plans Office: parish maps, 1854, 1858).

The early surveyors sometimes indicated the nature of the soil and the type of timber on their plans and maps. A map of 1843 shows 'scrubby box, banksia gum, lightwood gum, sheoak' on the eastern side of the Dandenong Creek. South of the Eumemerring Creek, it showed 'good soil, abundance of grass'.

There are few relics of the environment traversed by the early European explorers and surveyors. The open swamp lands partly remain, in the southern portion of the Greater Dandenong area. Some of the ancient gums have survived, particularly in the Keysborough area, and native vegetation is once again returning in garden and parkland. Fred Woodman has pointed out that the north side of the railway line from Noble Park to Mile Creek is 'notable for the association of River Red Gum, Swamp Gums and Blackwoods' and these are also along Railway Parade from Chandler Road to the Bennett Street Overpass (Fred Woodman, personal communication, 31 March 1999). The creeks certainly remain, though generally confined in concrete by drainage authorities. Modern bike paths and walking tracks follow some of the waterways, unknowingly also following in the steps of the 19th century explorers and surveyors.

1.2 Exploiting natural resources

Timber

Recollections of the Dandenong area in 1854 referred to giant gums, interspersed with sheoaks. The slope, where now Langhorne, McCrae and other streets run, was 'heavily timbered with redgum, the minor trees consisting of sheoak, lightwood, wild cherry, honeysuckle and peppermint'.

All around Dandenong was magnificent redgum country and much fine timber was cut from the area embraced by Dandenong, Lyndhurst, Bangholme and Hallam. At Lightwood Flat ... and Sandown Park, peppermints, swamp gums and other small trees predominated; and with an occasional clump of redgums, similar country ran back to beyond Springvale (quoted 'G. F. R. ', 1935:12-14).

The area's red gum forests provided shelter for the invading cattle in the early days of European occupation. Sheoak was good for firewood. But soon the gums served another purpose, as sawn timber was needed for building and road-making in Melbourne. The best trees, it was said, were felled in and around Dandenong. Aborigines were amongst those who worked for the new managers of the land, grubbing, splitting and sawing timber and cutting bark (Hibbins, 1984: 26).

Even in those early days Dandenong was famed for its red gum timber, and thousands (I might say millions). of feet were taken out by sawyers for works in Melbourne, especially for planking the wharves. There was very little money in the labor of timber-getting, but it entailed any amount of hard work... 'At daylight everyone who was able was hard at work, and until it was too hard to see to strike a blow the axe could be heard ringing among the trees, and the saw humming in the pit' ('G. F. R. '1935:12-14).

There were splitters, sawyers and wood-cutters in the Keysborough area, by 1851, on 'Mr Keys' run'. With the coming of the gold rushes, demand increased enormously. Timber was needed for fencing, building, steam power, heating, cooking (Hibbins, 1984: 44-45).

Timber cutting and timber milling continued in Dandenong for many years and led to other local industries. The first timber yard in Dandenong was run by John Hemmings, from 1854, who later developed his carriage works there.

Charcoal-burning was one of the earliest industries related to the rich timber resources of the area. Among the early charcoal-burners were Thomas Standing, Thomas Petter and James Hampton, who began charcoal-burning at Dandenong in 1856; Alexander Milne; John Jacobs; and a band of Germans in the 1860s. A large kiln could produce 70 to 80 bags of charcoal. The charcoal was sent to Melbourne, where it was used in blacksmiths' shops, furnaces and brick-making kilns. In 1935, it was said that relics of the charcoal-burners' ovens could still be seen around the town, but it is unlikely that any such evidence can still be found ('G. F. R. '1935: 43-44).

Quarrying of local stone

The Greater Dandenong area was never a major stone quarrying area. However, there were a number of stone quarries in the early days, including one in Wedge Street, one in Yarraman Park (the area bounded by Heatherton, Kirkham and Melbourne Roads), one in the Police Paddocks, behind the Stud Depot. Many local buildings were built of stone quarried locally ('G. F. R.' 1935: 74). A local granite quarry provided the stone for the bridge over the Dandenong Creek, built in 1867.

Clay pits and brick-making

The Dandenong district, and the Berwick area beyond, were found to have plentiful supplies of clay. Brick-making became one of the main industries of the area, using the local clay. In fact, Dandenong was once, it was said, 'famous for brick making' (quoted Jarvis, 1971:54). Although most of the early buildings were of timber, bricks were used to build the chimneys. One of the early chroniclers has described one instance of local brick making:

The first bricks, I believe, were made from clay dug out of a hole where now runs the Mile Creek. It was when Mr Lyall was building the homestead at Yarraman Park, in the early '50s... The bricks were needed for the chimneys. This hole was gradually extended by rains, and ... there soon was a succession of holes and deep cracks, until the creek was formed ('G. F. R.' 1935: 78-79).

The hole referred to was probably where Heatherton Road now crosses the Princess Highway. Other clay holes used for brick-making were along the Princess Highway (Mr Northay); off Pultney Street (Charles Hobb); off McCrae Street (Walter and

William Handley); on the corner of Hutton and Robinson Streets; and a large site near the present railway station (Jarvis, 1971: 53). The site near the railway station was used by the Centennial Brick Works, 1881-1901 (see later section on manufacturing, 3. 3). An important and distinctive source of clay, to the north of Dandenong, exploited by the Ordish Firebrick Company, from about 1900, was described in the *Weekly Times*, 12 July 1930:

With a proved deposit of fire clay covering 20 acres which is now being worked on a face 1300 feet long and 60 feet high. The quantity of clay known to exist without further testing is stated by the State Geological Department to be the largest known deposit of fire clay in the world.

The Ordish company was located east of Stud Road, north of David Street. The fire clay was of the type required for furnaces, at a time when a great many furnaces were being built. However, better clays, capable of withstanding higher temperatures, were later in demand and the Ordish Firebrick Company began importing clay from other areas (Brennan, 1973: 125-126).

Eventually Dandenong's clay pits were used up or no longer needed. Over time, they were filled and recycled for other purposes. However, some of the products of the clay pits and brick works survive, as part of the fabric of Dandenong's oldest buildings.

Sand pits

The coarse sands of the Springvale-Clayton area proved to be a very suitable ingredient in the making of concrete and eventually the area became one of Victoria's major sources of

concrete sand. This in turn came to create huge environmental problems, with large and dangerous holes and damage to roads.

The quarrying of sand began in the Springvale area in the 1930s, in the vicinity of Clarke Road. Two small companies were operating during the 1940s, but after 1945 found that there was a huge demand for concrete sand and expanded the existing pits. There were five sand pits operating in 1953 along Clarke Road, and further pits in Rowan and Spring Roads. In 1976, 76% of Melbourne's sand requirements



Figure 2. Ordish Firebrick Co 1904 (Brennan)

were supplied by the Heatherton-Dingley tips, with an annual consumption rate of three million tonnes. Several of the pits were worked out by the 1970s and took on a new life as municipal tips (Hibbins, 1984: 158, 238-239).

Sand, like clay and stone, was important in providing the raw material for the development of secondary industry in the area. It is possible that the decision of the Rocla Pipe Company to locate in the Springvale area, and Humes to start a factory at Westall, was influenced by the proximity of sand deposits.

1.3 Altering the environment for economic development

The clearing of vegetation was the first method of altering the environment, as a preliminary step in developing the land for profit. Cutting down of trees was part of the process of making tracks and roads. The demand for timber as a raw material and for firewood encouraged the growth of the timber-cutting industry in the 1850s (see section above on exploiting natural resources). When the timber resources were almost exhausted, the settlers turned to farming as a means of obtaining an income.

Draining of swamp land, especially Carrum Swamp, was a further means of adapting and using the land for commercial purposes. This began to occur in the 1870s, as a concerted effort by selectors and the local council (see section below on settling the land). The building of major drains was the result. Between 1881 and 1882 the Dandenong Shire Council spent £5,408 on constructing a channel to connect the Dandenong Creek with the main drain. The Carrum Irrigation Trust was

established in 1889. The Trust spent large sums, over £22,000, on drainage works but was hampered by the 1890s depression and the collapse of so many banks (Hibbins, 1984: 97). During the years 1904-10, the Government took over the works and control passed to the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission (Hibbins, 1984: 124, 162, 228).

The problem of flood control within Dandenong Shire and other municipalities became so great that the State Rivers Commission called together all the local councils affected. The result was the formation of the Dandenong Valley Authority. In the late 1960s, the Authority undertook a major review of the local drainage system and 'a remodelling of the Mile, Dandenong and Eumemmerring creeks in the form of a low flow pipeline set in a grassed overflow channel' (Hibbins, 1984: 228-229).

The flood control work also involved the creation of retarding basins. The Greens Lane Retarding Basin, near the Frankston-Dandenong Road, is actually a natural retarding basin, which Gillian Hibbins suggests was once the Baungan Water-hole. Here, the Wedges had their dwelling and possibly Hawdon, Langhorne and Johnny Bourke before them.

The encasing of local creeks in concrete certainly transformed the environment. It met the problem of flooding and thereby enhanced the value of properties in the area. It also met with some opposition. The struggle with the waters has been a long battle and is an important theme in the area's history. This struggle has not been undertaken by local people in isolation but as part of major drainage works instigated by a regional authority now under the management of Melbourne Water.

2.0 Peopling the land

2.1 Migrating

Migrating from Britain 1830s-40s

British settlers in the first wave, arriving during the 1830s-40s, were very much transient residents. Land in the Greater Dandenong area was only available on a lease basis, not for sale, until the 1850s. Most gentlemen settlers left their stations in charge of a supervisor or stockman, while they themselves lived in Melbourne. The huts and outbuildings built by these early migrants have not survived, though their names are commemorated in some of Greater Dandenong's major streets - Lonsdale and his nephew Alfred Langhorne (from England), McCrae and Clow (Scotland), Foster (from Ireland). The street names were first given when the township of Dandenong was surveyed in 1852. There were also street names probably given in honour of William Thomas, Assistant Protector of Aborigines



Figure 3. Glen Alvie, Keysborough, Keys family homestead; original section built in 1841/2



Figure 4. Keysborough Uniting Church

who established an Aboriginal settlement at Nerre Nerre Warren and George Robinson, Chief Protector of Aborigines (Hibbins, 1984: 17-20).

English-born Michael Solomon and his wife, Sarah, were living in the southern part of Greater Dandenong in 1841 and their household at 'Moode Yallo' was listed in the census of that year. Of the six people listed, all had 'arrived free' (not convicts). Two were Jewish (Michael and Sarah). Three were Church of England and one was Roman Catholic. Solomon was one of the earliest settlers in the Port Phillip District, the son of a wealthy merchant in Van Diemen's Land. By 1842 he was insolvent and returned to Tasmania.

Two years later, the Moode Yallo station had come into the hands of Irish-born George Keys (Hibbins, 1984: 29-30, 32, 34-5). George and Margaret Keys were assisted immigrants from

Northern Ireland who arrived in the colony in 1842. Their son William and his sister Mary had immigrated earlier, in 1840, and the rest of the large family followed. The Keys' homestead, 'Glen Alvie', Keysborough, which still contains portion of the wattle and daub 1840s building, is probably the most significant structure in the whole of the Greater Dandenong area, in terms of its links with the story of early migrants to the district and to what later became Victoria.

The main part of the existing brick homestead is thought to have been built in the 1870s.

Another of the Keys properties was 'Eversleigh', where William George Keys, grandson of George Keys, was farming in the 1870s. The homestead still survives in Jalta Court, Keysborough. The "Keysborough" section of the Greater Dandenong honours this early family, members of which still live in the suburb.

Outbuildings at the rear of more modern structures in Chapel Road, owned by the Keys and Bowman families, may go back as far as the early days of settlement, possibly the 1850s-60s (Bob Bowman transcript, S& D HS). One example is an old dairy building at 'Holmwood', a property owned by George Keys, his son William and William's wife, Eliza, and their son, Robert George Keys. In the early years of this century, the farm was rented by his sister,

Elizabeth Bowman, nee Keys, and her family. The surviving Wesleyan (now Uniting) Church at Keysborough, although not built until the 1870s, and the neighbouring (now closed) school can be seen as another link with this early Irish migrant family and relevant to the whole theme of migration. In fact, this part of the Keysborough district could be seen as a significant heritage precinct reflecting the early migrant impact. The Keys family became an important and dominant force, not only in Keysborough but in the affairs of the whole Dandenong district over many years.

Farther north was the establishment of Christian De Villiers, thought to be of South African origin, who ran one of the earliest hotels in the district, the 'No Good Damper' Inn, which was operating by August 1840. In 1841 he had a household of 11 people, including himself, nine domestic servants and a shepherd. Of these, ten were male, one was a married woman; eight were ex-convicts. Soon after, the licence passed to William Scott and then to Robert and Elizabeth McKee. By 1849, the 'No Good Damper' Run was in the hands of Robert Robinson, managed by his brother George Power Robinson, from Cornwall, who married Thomasina Prout, also from Cornwall, in 1855 (Hibbins, 1984: 23, 29, 32, 44).

Many early migrant residents were employees of absentee landholders. Among these were John Conway Bourke, an Irishman who had come out in 1839 and who managed Alfred Langhorne's station 'Baungan', in the south-east portion of the Greater Dandenong area until 1844, and James Thompson, who worked for Dr Farquhar McCrae at Dandenong Creek. With Thompson were eight men, who were listed in the 1841 census. Dr McCrae had strong views on certain migrant workers, objecting to immigrants 'from the Southern and Western parts of Ireland... as being very generally not only ignorant of all agricultural matters except the use of the spade, but also prone to form combinations and to produce insubordination on Stations' (quoted Sullivan, 1985: 164). Later, Johnny Bourke worked for the Wedge brothers as a boundary rider, according to 'G. F. R.' in his reminiscences (G. F. R. : 76). His waterhole is now a retarding basin (see previous section).

Many of the migrant landholders of the 1840s were prominent in Melbourne society, members of the Melbourne Club and deemed worthy to be described as 'gentlemen'. Some (for example, McCrae and Foster). were magistrates. Some achieved high office in government (Lonsdale, Foster and O'Shannassy).

Irish-born John O'Shannassy (later to become Victoria's second premier) held the Windert or Windiet station for four years (1842-6). This was a large lease of 40,000 acres, described in the licence as 'near the Dandenong Creek', between North Rd, Ormond, the 'No Good Damper' run, and the Mordialloc Creek, taking in most of Moorabbin and Mordialloc and a large portion of Springvale (Hibbins, 1984: 30-31; Sheehy, 1970: 14-15, 24). He and his wife Margaret had arrived on the William Metcalfe in 1839, amongst the first batch of assisted immigrants. Years later, O'Shannassy described his time in the area when he was so 'anxious to succeed as a settler':

I was married and had three children born to me in this district; I worked hard to improve the property. But notwithstanding all my advantages and the possession of that vast estate for ten pounds per annum, plus all my capital and energy, I was obliged to abandon the place, because I could not make enough to pay my servants (Brighton Southern Cross, 24 December 1881).

Robert Caldicot Walker took over McCrae's pastoral lease in 1846 and remained in the district for many years, purchasing land north of the new township of Dandenong in the 1850s and becoming one of the first commissioners of the Dandenong Market, in 1866. Charles, John and Henry Wedge, from East Anglia in England, and nephews of John H. Wedge, one of the founders of the infant colony of Port Phillip, took over the lease that had been Langhorne's, at the south-eastern end of the Greater Dandenong area (Hibbins, 1984: 33-34, 39, 42, 55).

By the end of the 1840s there was a sprinkling of migrant families who were to stay in the district for decades to come. Although they had as yet no security of tenure, since no land had yet been sold, they were already very much part of the local scene. With survey and land sales they were able to consolidate their position during the 1850s and some of their descendants still live in the district today. Other migrants of the 1840s made some money on the gold diggings and were able to buy land in the Greater Dandenong area once it was up for sale. Among such migrant families were Thomas and Mary Corrigan (arrived from Dublin in 1848) who bought land in the sales of the 1850s. Obadiah Potter, from Norfolk, England arrived in 1849 and later bought land in Dandenong. John and Elizabeth Greaves arrived from Buckinghamshire, England, the same year. Their son John later bought land east of Springvale Road.

Migrating in the Gold Rushes

The migrants of the 1850s had brought a range of skills, which they used and extended in their new homeland. Some were able to buy land in the Greater Dandenong area once the area had been surveyed and lots had been put up for sale. With a very few exceptions, they came from England, Ireland and Scotland. By 1861, the proportion of English migrants was higher in the broad 'Oakleigh' region of which Dandenong and Springvale were part than in many parts of Melbourne (Peel, 1974: 68-9).

English migrants included Joseph and Sarah Chandler, from Leicester, who arrived about 1851; John Hemmings, coach builder from Bristol, who arrived in 1855 and developed a substantial business in Dandenong; Henry Powis, builder, from Shropshire, who arrived 1853; Thomas Harrison, from Cumberland and his wife Johanna (nee Husband), dairy farmers; Joseph Foster, from Derbyshire, who arrived in 1859 and had a farm off Chapel Road, Keysborough; William Seamer, from Kent; and William Smartt from Middlesex. Sydney Smithson arrived in Victoria in 1854 and by 1860 had opened a store in Dandenong, as did Augustus Rodd, also from England.

From Ireland came James Beatty, who arrived in Victoria in 1856 and, after many travels, finally took up market gardening in the Dandenong area; Thomas Casey, who became publican of the Albion Hotel, Dandenong; Thomas Cahill, carpenter and wheelwright who arrived in 1852 and eventually settled at Dandenong; and Tobias Brennan, from Kilkenny, who began wood-carting, and later had a dairy farm and market garden in the Springvale area, just south of the Princess Highway.

Scottish migrants, a smaller proportion of the local population, included Alexander Milne, of Springvale, charcoal-burner (Hibbins, 1984: 45); John Young, blacksmith, of Springvale; and John McIntosh, Springvale.

More unusual were Charles White, originally from Prussia, boot maker, Dandenong; Joson Couve, pharmacist, from Mauritius, who opened a pharmacy in Dandenong; Jacob Anderson, a Norwegian who arrived in 1855 and married Irish-born Rachel Gardiner; and Ah Ling, Chinese gardener, who became one of the oldest inhabitants of the Dandenong district, 'highly respected by all as an honest man' (Brennan, 1973: 44, 50, 57). There were also the German charcoal burners who were at Dandenong in the 1860s, including John Jacobs.

The first church buildings were a visible symbol of the migrant presence, though church services were held long before substantial buildings appeared. St. James Anglican Church, Dandenong (built 1864) is the oldest surviving example of these early migrant-built churches. It was preceded by a

church-hall (opened 1856) which was also used for school purposes in the early years. The Catholics of the area celebrated the opening of St Mary's Catholic Church, Dandenong in 1866 (on the site of the present modern church). The first Methodist service was held at the home of the Keys family in 1854 and a Methodist chapel opened in Dandenong in 1856, replaced by a larger building in 1867. The Keysborough Methodists built their own church in 1861 and a more substantial building in 1877, which still survives.

Churches and schools were closely linked and the local schools were all initially denominational schools, with some government aid. Parents were the driving force behind the early schools. They paid fees and often contributed to the costs of the structures, which housed the pupils. The first school in the Greater Dandenong area appears to have been a Church of England school which began in a tent in Dandenong on the site of the present church hall in Langhorne Street in 1851 (Blake, vol. 3, 1973: 289, 337).

Irish migrants were a major group in the Dandenong and Springvale areas and gained the support of the Catholic authorities in setting up schools in the 1850s-60s. In 1858, Father Niall started a small school just across the Eumemmerring Creek, near where the Heinz complex stands today. This later became Common School No. 244 (G. Dickson, 1983: 14). Nine years later, the Irish farmers of Springvale succeeded in getting support for the opening of Common School No. 934, in a leased building, a house owned by Charles Daley on the west side of Springvale Road.

Migrating in the 1920s

With the passing of the years, the proportion of native-born Australians increased. The census data for 1901 show that the total population of the Shire of Dandenong was 2,955. Of this number 2,314 were born in Australia (78%); 550 were born in Britain (18.6%) - including 288 born in England (almost 10%); 165 in Ireland; 93 in Scotland; 4 in Wales; 29 in Germany; 5 in Norway and Sweden; and 2 in Holland (Census of Victoria, 1901: 192-193).

By contrast, in 1933, when Dandenong Shire's population totalled 11,074, the number of Australian-born totalled 9,566 (86.4%). 1,200 persons were born in Britain (10.8%), 20 were born in Germany, 20 were born in Italy, and 12 were born in Denmark, including the parents of Andrew Ericksen of Springvale (Source: Marian Rollings), 10 in Sweden; and 2 were born in Syria. The Syrians were Kinnon Massoud, travelling salesman, and his young wife, brought out from Syria. The census of 1933 shows that several hundred British-born migrants had arrived in the area since the beginning of the

century. Amongst these were Robert Mackay from Scotland, who started a general store at Springvale in 1926 and Henry Behlow, from Germany, who settled at Noble Park (Hibbins, 1984: 116, 118, 146; Fred Woodman, 31/3/1999). The figures also indicate a continuing German presence and the coming of the first Italians to the area (Census of the Commonwealth of Australia, 1933).

Such figures help to reinforce the picture of a society, which was predominantly British in background. This partly explains the continuing and growing importance of sports, which were of mainly British origin and of institutions such as churches, which carried on the traditions of 'the old country'.

Migrating after World War Two

The 1954 census shows a picture that was beginning to change. The population of the Dandenong Shire had more than doubled in 21 years to reach 27,748. Of this number, 22,938 were Australian-born (82.6%). There were 2,419 people in the Shire who were British-born (8.7%). The numbers of those born in Europe were now in the hundreds. The biggest group was born in the Netherlands - 600. The other main groups were born in: Italy - 357; Germany - 275; Malta - 231; Poland - 217; Ukraine: 76; Latvia and Lithuania - 68.

The Dutch soon made their mark on the area. Some went into the market garden and flower farm industry. Those that belonged to the Reformed Church bought a site and built their own brick church in Cleeland Street, Dandenong, in the 1950s. They were amongst the first of the new ethnic groups to build their own church. Some of the Dutch Catholics joined St Mary's choir, Dandenong, during the late 1950s-early 1960s and later formed their own choir, the St Gregorius Choir (G. Dickson, 1983:164). Kitty Rynsent, from Amsterdam, later recalled the beginnings of change in the town of Dandenong:

There was huge excitement because a continental shop was opening up in Lonsdale Street. And so everybody spread the word, 'hey guess what... they're going to have some dropjes?' Dropjes are like a licorice. Well, we couldn't believe our luck, dropjes. And so up early, shop opens nine. Well we were lined up already at eight o'clock... Anyway it was a huge success because they had nothing left on the shelf by the end of the day (Alves:17).

A Dutch butcher moved into Dandenong in the 1960s and started selling the 'Dutch way of meat'. By 1961, there were 2,598 Netherlands-born people in the area then covered by the municipalities of Dandenong and Springvale, one of the

highest concentrations of Dutch people in the metropolitan area at that time. In the 1970s, a Dutch club started, the Limburger Kangaroos. The Reformed Church congregation sold their site in Cleeland Street and built a new church and resource centre in Outlook Drive. This was opened in 1983.

Over 1,000 Italians were living in the City of Springvale by 1961 and another 818 in the then City of Dandenong. Italians opened delicatessens and restaurants, formed Italian social clubs, played soccer and participated in the life of the Catholic churches of the area. In 1958, the Catholic newspaper, the Advocate, reported: 'The musical tradition in which many New Australians are steeped is noticeable in St. Mary's Choir [Dandenong], which is conducted by Mr A. De Stefano'. During the 1970s, Italian masses at St. Mary's were put on a regular weekly basis (G. Dickson, 1983:164). Also in the 1970s, Freccia Azzurra Club, a sporting, cultural and recreational complex for the Italian community, opened in Springvale Road, Keysborough.

Germans were the fourth largest overseas-born group by 1961, after the British, the Dutch and the Italians. There were 1,285 in the Cities of Dandenong and Springvale at that time. German Lutherans began holding services in Dandenong in 1956, using the St. James Church of England building. By 1962, they had built a multi-purpose church-hall, which still remains in Pickett Street. For the first five to ten years the services were in English and German. Latvians, Lithuanians and Estonians were also among the congregation (Pastor John Wilksch, 1998: personal communication). At Springvale, the beginnings of a German Lutheran church can be traced to 1958 when a small group of Lutherans began holding services. Some had previously attended the German Lutheran church in the city, where the Personnel Officer from Bosch was very involved. Some German employees at Bosch lived locally. Inge Ude recounts:

Because of all the migrants in the area we decided to set up another one in the Springvale area and he of course approached all of us who might be interested and that's how we came to join them (C. Creaser transcript: S&DHS).

St. John's Lutheran Church, Springvale finally opened in a new building in 1960. Later, the congregation added a hall and a manse. There were German language classes on Saturday mornings. Hadwig Oberle has explained why the church was important to her: 'To have a German church is part of your background'. Inga Ude recalls: 'You never felt lost. You always knew you had a place you could go to. I think it helped a lot' (C. Creaser transcript: S&DHS).



Figure 5. Pickett Street Lutheran Church, Dandenong

The new Polish community in Dandenong joined in the worship of St. Mary's Catholic Church, but once the liturgy changed from Latin to English they 'successfully petitioned for a Polish priest to say mass in Polish'. They ran Polish dances, at which other migrants were welcome. 'Very friendly we were together', remembered Leoni Horaczko, years later (Alves:12-13).

Greeks and Greek Cypriots began to arrive in the 1950s-60s and in 1959 the Greek community of Dandenong established St Panteleimon's Greek Orthodox Church in Herbert Street, Dandenong. The Premier of Victoria, Richard Hamer, wrote a tribute to their efforts in 1979, when they commemorated the church's first 20 years, in a published history, written mainly in Greek.

In establishing a church and a community hall in that time, the community has not only made provision for the 3,000 district residents of Greek origin but has also shown what a great asset to our country are these citizens of ours who have come from Greece.

In Springvale, those of Greek origin built the church of St. Athanasios in Windsor Street in 1979 and a Greek community centre in Balmoral Street. Some years later, they began building a large new domed church in Newcomen Road.

There were enough Russians in Dandenong for a Russian Orthodox parish to be started in 1962. During the next 20 years, church services were in the hall the local people had built. More Russians arrived in the area, including a group of refugees from Mongolia in 1965. Alan and Lois Williams of the Dandenong Methodist Church were responsible for bringing out an enormous number of 'White Russian' refugees, working in with the United Nations refugee organisation and an Immigration Committee of the local Methodist church (Source: Max Oldmeadow).

The children of the refugees attended the South Dandenong State School, which developed strong links with the local Russian community. The school was a centre for adult migrant education and became a meeting place for Russian refugees. In 1971, out of 502 pupils, 110 were Russian (Blake, 1973, vol. 3: 503). The present church, the Church of Our Lady's Dormition, was completed in 1982 (Father Michael Protopopov, 1998: personal communication). The church hall has become the base for the Russian Senior Citizens Group. The church has also been involved in the Russian Welfare Society, which runs a home for elderly Russian people.



Figure 7. Russian Orthodox Church, Dandenong

In 1961, the overseas-born (almost entirely from Britain and Europe) comprised 25 % of the combined population of the City of Springvale and the City of Dandenong. It should be noted that the present City of Greater Dandenong comprises all of the former City of Dandenong and 70% of the former City of Springvale, with some small additions from other municipalities. The proportion of overseas-born increased to 32% by 1971. In both municipalities the proportion of people born overseas increased each year to the point in 1991 where the overseas-born were 46% of the population (Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census, 1961; City of Greater Dandenong, 1996).

Migrating in the 1970s-80s

The Commonwealth Government's Enterprise Migrant Centre officially opened in Springvale, off Westall Road, on 29 October 1970 and had a major impact on the surrounding area. It was said to be the 'first entirely new migrant hostel to be completed in Victoria under the Australian Government's hostels rebuilding program' and cost approximately \$4 million to build and equip. It was designed by the Commonwealth Department of Works to accommodate about 1,000 people and included 250 family units. One of 27 hostels run by the Government agency, Commonwealth Hostels Limited, the role



Figure 8. Enterprise Hostel Migrant Centre

of the hostels was to be a 'bridge between an old way of life and a new one'. The average length of stay was 15 weeks and the maximum time allowed was one year (Enterprise booklet, 1971: 2-7).

It was a natural progression from residence in the hostel to finding homes to rent and later to buy, in the vicinity. Many found jobs in the adjacent region and some established their own business. Gillian Hibbins has pointed out that: 'The dominant nationality [at the hostel]... tended to change from year to year in reflection of political upheavals elsewhere. In 1971 the Yugoslavs were the largest group ... An estimated three-quarters of the hostel residents tended to move out into the immediate residential area' (Hibbins, 1984: 223).

Migrants from the former Yugoslavia developed a range of facilities, according to their diverse backgrounds. The Serbian Orthodox bought land in Keysborough in 1982 and began building the Serbian Orthodox Church of St. Stephan in 1987, and also a hall and a sports centre at the corner of Church and Perry Roads. The Macedonians built a Macedonian Orthodox church in Edinburgh Street, Springvale. The Croatian Catholics built their own centre in Springvale Road, Keysborough. The Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina occupied a site in Leonard Avenue, Noble Park (formerly a Catholic church/school), a complex which included a kindergarten and a primary school (part of Minaret College, with the main campus at Springvale). At Springvale they also had a soccer ground.

In December 1977 the first Vietnamese refugees arrived at the Enterprise Centre. Tran T. D. arrived in 1978 with her brother and his family:

For the next five months we lived in the migrant centre at Springvale ... Two weeks after our arrival I started to study English for new arrivals at the Springvale centre ... We spent our first Christmas and Vietnamese New Year at the hostel and although we were provided with every comfort there... we were eager to move out and get settled in our own place, instead of living among a large community of nearly 800 people with all its problems (Hawthorne, 1982: 295-296).

By 1981, almost 50% of the population of the Springvale area south of the railway line was overseas-born. It was in the Springvale area that many Vietnamese and Chinese settled. In 1991, 16% of the population of the Greater Dandenong area was people born in an Asian country, while 6% of the population (7,478 people) was Vietnamese, the largest single group out of all the overseas-born (Hibbins, 1984: 223). The Vietnamese presence became most evident in central Springvale, in the small businesses along and in the vicinity of

Springvale Road. The Bright Moon Temple in Springvale is probably the most striking example of the Asian impact on the cultural landscape of the Greater Dandenong area.



Figure 9. Springvale Road Bright Moon Buddhist temple

In the 1980s-1990s, many migrant groups opened community centres and places of worship or meditation. Sometimes these were in houses in the older settled areas, such as the Varya Buddhist Centre, Rich Street. Some were in modern buildings such as the Vietnamese Church Centre, Church Road, in the open lands of Keysborough South (City of Dandenong Community Directory 1998-9: 36-42,75-78). Some migrants have made use of facilities that were a legacy from earlier waves of migrants. For example, in the mid 1980s, the Turkish Muslim community took over the site and building first developed by the mainly Dutch congregation of the Reformed Church, at the corner of Hopkins and Cleeland Streets. In the early 1990s, Fijian, Samoan and Tongan groups began having their own services, in their own languages, in the 121 year old Uniting Church in Scott Street.

By 1991, those born in the United Kingdom (7,382) were the second-largest single group amongst the overseas-born within the City of Greater Dandenong, after the Vietnamese (7,478). Those born in the former Yugoslavia were another major group (4,670), followed by the Italians (3,529) and those born in India (2,278). The Indian influence is visible in certain neighbourhoods, for example, in shops and restaurants in the central Dandenong area and in Noble Park.

With the ageing of the population and an expansion of Council services, more and more

ethnic Senior Citizens groups developed, meeting in a variety of venues. The final resting place of many migrants in the area is the Necropolis at Springvale, which reflects, in a remarkable way, the immense cultural diversity of the neighbouring communities (see section 9. 5: Dying and mourning).

2.2 Settling the land: Government schemes

Selection

Government attempts to settle people on the land began in the 1860s, when the Victorian Parliament passed laws to encourage settlement in areas where pastoralists had enjoyed cheap leases. These acts, known as the Selection Acts, encouraged occupation of modest-size holdings.

Some of the early maps marked the swamp (Carrum Swamp) in the south-west part of the present Greater Dandenong area. It was as yet unoccupied and used mainly for grazing. A note on a map dated 1866 commented:

With a good system of drainage the country compassed in this survey would be well adapted for agricultural purposes, as the soil is chiefly black alluvium. In the present state the country is subject to inundation but affords excellent summer pasture (Central Plans Office).

Following the 1869 Lands Act, vast areas of Victoria were put up for selection, on a system of delayed payment, with conditions regarding residence and improvements. The swamp land was amongst the areas available for selection. The land bounded by Pillars Road, the southern-most portion of Springvale Road, the Mornington Peninsula Freeway, Thompsons Road and McMahrens Road was the swamp land taken up by selectors within the present Greater Dandenong area during the early 1870s. McMahrens Road and Pillars Road commemorate the names of two of these selectors. Several members of the Keys family, who already owned land in the adjoining district, also took up selections.

Many of the selectors could hardly peg out their land. George Cairns reported that his land was 'altogether unfit for cultivation ... scarcely fit for grazing there being no dry camping ground on it.' (quoted Hibbins, 1984: 69). Edgar Pettit had wanted to grow willows for basket-making but several thousand willows sent out from England were 'spoilt by salt water in addition to the three thousand sets I obtained in the colony and planted on the ground' (quoted Hibbins, 1984: 68). Thomas Pillar was one of the few local selectors to actually live on his selection. He put up a two-roomed wattle and daub hut, grew three acres of vegetables and supplemented his income by working for the Shire. He and his wife, Catherine, had a family of thirteen children (Hibbins, 1984: 76). John McMullen built a wattle and daub hut on his selection, though he also had land elsewhere.

In 1872 selectors met to discuss the need for a good drainage system. Their solution was to build a system of drains, linking the Dandenong Creek to the Mordialloc Creek and the

Eumemmerring Creek to the Kananook Creek, thereby running the water into the sea. A further drain was to run north-south and to connect with both the other drains. The selectors agreed to finance the scheme by rating themselves one shilling per acre for three years. Later the new Dandenong Shire Council (established 1873) also contributed to the cost of the drainage scheme.

There were other selectors to the north-west of the Carrum Swamp, in the vicinity of another swampy area, Tea-Tree Swamp. Joseph Chandler, William Henry Martin and John Carson selected small blocks in the area adjoining Dandenong Creek at the southern end of Perry Road. Joseph Chandler was the only one of these selectors to build in the immediate area, a large weather board house. He named the property 'Lowlands'.

On the other side of Dandenong Creek, selectors such as Mary Ordish, John Hemmings, W. Whitelaw and W. Williams took up portions of land varying in size from 38 acres to 89 acres. Nearer the township of Dandenong, J. Ortgies took up a selection of 10 acres, which actually was part of cemetery land. He had even built a brick cottage and fenced the land before the error was discovered (Central Plans Office: Parish of Eumemmerring; Brennan, 1973: 100).

For most selectors, such as the Keys brothers and their nephews, selection was mainly a means to expanding their holdings of land in the area. For all those involved, it was a hard struggle to clear the land and make it productive. Some selectors were ruined. Years later, a local resident commented 'The Carrum Swamp will ever be a swamp' (G. F. R. ,1935:102).

Closer Settlement

After the 1914-1918 war, the Victorian Government's Closer Settlement Board bought 165 acres from John Keys, in order to settle returned soldiers there. The land was south-east of Noble Park (the block bounded by Isaac, Bloomfield, Cheltenham and Chandler Roads). The new settlers included Kelsey, Edgely, J. J. Mills and J. C. Mills (brothers), Dillon, Doyle, R. Little, A. W. Ebsary, J. W. Cole and W. W. Smith and C. W. Smith (brothers). They soon began clearing the trees and planting vegetables. It was a market garden area for a considerable period (Hibbins, 1984: 140; G. Dickson, 1983: 3). Closer in, along Yarraman Road, the Blackmores had a market garden for many years.

War Service homes

In 1927 the Victorian Government bought 54 acres from the firm of Kelly and Lewis, north of their works, in the area of Whitworth Avenue

and Glendale Road. After World War Two, the Government began to provide homes for ex-servicemen. The block in Springvale was transformed as 300 new homes appeared, in weatherboard and brick. The estate was completed by 1952, though lacking in facilities, such as made roads, footpaths. Not all the homes had water or gas connected and the new settlers combined together to develop facilities for the children of the estate, including a playground and hall (Hibbins, 1984: 176, 192).

Housing Commission

The Victorian Housing Commission was established to work on slum reclamation and to re-settle people on new estates. The Commission operated across the state, including country towns. Dandenong was included in its 'Country Programme'. The Housing Commission's main impact on the Dandenong area was in building a vast estate to the east of the town of Dandenong, just across the creek in what was then the Shire of Berwick. This was later named 'Doveton'. Work on construction began in 1955.

Within the Greater Dandenong area itself, the Commission developed smaller estates, notably in the area now known as Lyndale, adjoining Gladstone Road, north of Heatherton Road, in the North Riding. Many of the streets were named after Australian prime ministers: Lyons Court, Latham Crescent, Chifley Crescent, Curtin Crescent, Scullin Street, Deakin Crescent, Fisher Court, Reid Court, Hughes Crescent, Fadden Street, Menzies Avenue. The blocks were 50 feet by 120 feet and the houses were weatherboard, concrete or brick veneer (Shire of Dandenong: rate cards, 1957).

By June 1956, the Housing Commission had completed construction of 732 dwellings in Dandenong (Victorian Parliamentary Papers, 1955-6, vol. 1: 967-968). By 1958, the Commission had built 67 houses in Springvale (VPP, 1957-8, vol. 2: 519).



Figure 10. Dandenong North Housing Commission of Victoria estate

3.0 Developing local, regional and national economies

3.1 Developing primary production

Pastoral industry

Europeans first occupied the area because they wanted suitable land for their cattle and sheep. Many of the Leaders of Port Phillip's early development had some pastoral interest in the Greater Dandenong area, if only for a brief time. Among these were Captain William Lonsdale, the Police Magistrate, who took over Joseph Hawdon's lease and placed his nephew, Alfred Langhorne, in charge; J. F. L. Foster, later Colonial Secretary, who, with his brother William, bought the lease of the Eummemerring run from Dr Farquhar McCrae in 1843; Rev. James Clow, 'a man of substance with mercantile and squatting interests' on the eastern side of Dandenong Creek, just outside the Greater Dandenong area, and John O'Shannassy who later became Victoria's premier on two occasions (De Serville, 1980: 114-117, 137).

For some, it was an investment, which did not require their personal involvement. Their supervisors, managers, shepherds and boundary riders did the work. Since the 1840s were times of depression, stations changed hands frequently (Hibbins, 1983: 245). However, the pastoral phase only lasted about fifteen years in the area and there were never more than about seven pastoral runs. Stations varied in size from O'Shannassy's 40,000 acres (about 62 square miles, stretching as far as Brighton) and the Wedge brothers' 41 square miles (Ballymarang and Baungan, in the south) to Keys' station, Moode Yallo, which was 10 square miles and Robert McKee's small run, 'No Good Damper', which was 2,500 acres in 1845.

A quick tour of the district would have revealed half a dozen rough houses with their outbuildings interspersed over some 50 square miles as well as the occasional shepherd's outstation in the form of an even rougher hut (Hibbins, 1984: 34).

The number of stock varied from station to station. Michael Solomon had 1,200 sheep and 500 lambs, when he became insolvent in 1842. Robert McKee had 700 sheep and 160 head of cattle on his 'No Good Damper' run at Springvale in 1845 (Hibbins, 1984: 31). A year after their arrival, George Keys and his family had 408 cattle on the 'Moode Yallo' run, in what is now Keysborough.

The Wedge brothers, R. C. Walker and the Keys family were the pastoralists who survived the period of insecure tenure, based on leases and annual licences, and were able to consolidate their position by purchasing land. Walker lived at the 375 acre

property known as 'The Grange' in Dandenong, north of the township and adjoining the creek (bounded by Clow Street, Stud Road and Heatherton Road). Later he sold the property to Captain Ross, who in turn leased it to Dr. Bathe, whose activities included the breeding of thoroughbred horses and cattle-raising. Some of this land is now part of the Produce Market.

Henry and John Wedge continued to live in the district for some years. Henry developed a pedigree herd of cattle at Ballymarang, south of the present border of Greater Dandenong. This was continued after his death in 1866 by his brother-in-law, Thomas Rossiter, who left the district in 1881. John Wedge sold his property, St. John's Wood, on the eastern side of the Frankston-Dandenong Road, in 1873 (Hibbins, 1984: 71-72; 'G. F. R. ', 1935: 18-19).

Much of the Wedges' original Baungang run was sold in the land sales of 1859. The rest of the lease was transferred to J. Wood Bailey who took it over in 1860 and moved the Baungang homestead to the junction of the Eummemerring Creek and the Swamp. He called his run 'Bangholme' and was living in the homestead, with garden and stockyard, and the adjoining 317 acres, which he leased (in the vicinity of St. Leonard's College Patterson River Campus). His efforts to obtain a square mile pre-emptive right were unsuccessful. Instead, the selectors surrounded him. After years of litigation, Beilby left the district in 1881. Pastoralists such as W. J. T. Clarke bought land in the area in the 1850s land sales. Clarke, said at the time to be the wealthiest man in the Australian colonies, probably used his 489 acres as resting and grazing paddocks for his cattle coming from Western Port and Mornington Peninsula to the market in Melbourne. The area is now occupied by the Eastern Treatment Plant, bounded by Thompsons Road and Worsley Road.

Of all the pastoralists using the area for their stock, the members of the Keys family are the only ones who remained over a substantial period of time. The Keys homestead, Glen Alvie, includes an important example of an early structure dating back to the pastoral era. Of swamp paperbark and daub construction, it is of outstanding significance because it is a rare physical link with that phase of Australia's history. However the Keys family members were farmers, rather than pastoralists. It was a severe constraint that they were not allowed to cultivate their land in the days of the pastoral lease. The following section refers to their long-continuing role as local primary producers.

Farming

In the land sales of the early 1850s, George Keys and his family were able to purchase several sections of land, in the parishes of Dandenong and Mordialloc, north of the Swamp. By 1859, the area was being described as 'Keysborough' (marriage certificate, 1859, cited in Hibbins, 1984: 48). The Keys brothers soon began cultivating, and later extended their holdings by selection.

Many of the early farmers had to clear their land before starting on cultivation. For the selectors, 'improvements' such as clearing were a condition of their lease. Thomas Pillar was clearing paper-bark and burning off, as well as growing three acres of vegetables. William Henry Martin cleared four acres of dense tea-tree on his block and planted potatoes, maize, vegetables and an orchard of 504 fruit trees. Joseph Chandler ran a dairy of fourteen cows, and also kept pigs. James Andrews kept cows on his 93 acre selection, which included three acres planted with potatoes and vegetables.

One of the early buyers, James Simpson, tried to sub-divide one of his blocks of land, advertising it as 'Le Spring estate, village of Elmsford', said to be 'admirably suited for market gardens and small farms'. Nobody wanted to live in the proposed new village, but local people later took up the small-size allotments, of five and ten acres, for market gardens (Hibbins, 1984: 52).

The Government statistics for annual production give some idea of local land use in the late 19th century. A local Agricultural Statistics Collector gathered the information in each municipality. Their accuracy cannot be verified, but they enable comparison between municipal areas and highlight the characteristics of a particular area.

In 1874, the official figures showed that the new Dandenong Shire (which at that time extended to Mordialloc) had 120 holdings, 21,713 acres occupied, and 817 acres cultivated, or almost 4% 'under tillage'. Hay was produced from 222 acres; 57 acres were orchards; 67 acres were producing potatoes and 18 acres were for mangel-wurzels, a root crop. Six years later, the official statistics indicated an increase in agricultural holdings in Dandenong Shire to a total of 158 holdings. Of the shire's 28,628 occupied acres, 71% were freehold, 19% were leased, 10% were selected land where purchase was not yet completed, and 1152 acres or 4% of occupied land were under cultivation. By 1891, the number of holdings had increased to 229. Of these, 53%, or 122, were holdings of one to 30 acres. Another 51 holdings (22%) were between 31-100 acres in size. Livestock in the Shire of Dandenong in 1891 included 1,060 'milch' or dairy cows, 2,277 cattle, 1,338 horses, 569 pigs and 11,776 sheep. The numbers of poultry included over 10,823 fowls and 1,406 ducks.

The pattern of farming was mainly one where the majority had small blocks of land. A few large landowners could graze sheep and cattle. The farmers of Keysborough/Elmsford went in for dairying, helped by the proximity of railway stations, once the lines had been built. Milk and butter could be sent to Melbourne by train, from Dandenong or Mordialloc.

Women and children played a major role as dairywomen and also took responsibility for calves, pigs, and poultry as well. One of the descendants of the early settlers has commented about his own family: 'It was the unmarried sisters who were the real slaves in milking cows and feeding the animals'. Some of the old farm buildings where the women did so much of their work may still survive, behind modern homes, for example, at 'Holmwood,' residence of the Bowman family (built 1934, on the site of an earlier house). Bob Bowman has described an old brick dairy at the back of the house:

The cow shed was several chains from the dairy and they would cart the milk from the cow shed in cans down to this old dairy, a double-brick, soft brick building. They would set the milk in big wide bowls, skim the cream off the top the next morning and then make butter, and they would take the butter down to Brighton or High Street, St. Kilda, sell the butter and then come home with tea, sugar, flour etc. (Bob Bowman, S&DHS transcript).

The number of small farms increased further in the early years of the 20th century, with closer settlement at Noble Park and further sub-division. Frank Buckley's subdivision provided for 31 blocks, ranging in size from nine to thirteen acres. The advertisement for his land sale announced; 'The land is good, easily worked and capable of producing garden and farm crops to perfection and the facilities for disposing of them are exceptionally great' (quoted Hibbins, 1984: 113).

Some farms began to specialise. There emerged a large number of poultry farms, including a large poultry farm operated by Victorian Railways, near Noble Park. This opened in 1922 on a site of 11 acres and in 1927 produced 35,268 dozen eggs, 1,225 chickens, 2,564 ducklings. Its main purpose was to supply eggs to the Railways catering department. Egg production was a major industry in the Springvale area, with five-acre farms running three to four thousand chickens and the eggs picked up twice-weekly by a carrier. Clarke Road had at least ten farms, carrying a total of 150,000 poultry in the late 1920s (Hibbins, 1984: 146, 158).

By 1939, the Greater Dandenong area was still predominantly rural, with a high proportion of farmers amongst its population (Sands & McDougall, 1939: 297-299). Maurie Jarvis has recalled the change that transformed the area:

We started off a little cow town, Dandenong was known as a rural market town. We had farming, market gardening, poultry farming and other rural aspects... And suddenly in the 1940s and '50s, almost over night, there was a terrific change in character. You could feel the winds of change blowing (quoted in Alves, 1992: 3).

There is still a farming presence in some parts of the Greater Dandenong municipality. However, because the area has changed so rapidly in the last fifty years, the remaining farms need to be documented and more research undertaken on any surviving physical evidence of those that have gone.

Market gardening

Once the large Keys family had purchased land in the area, they could use the land for cultivation, as well as grazing. In 1856, William Keys was selling potatoes in Melbourne at £20 per ton and onions at £25 per ton.

According to the figures for 1871, the main crops produced in the Dandenong Road District (apart from 295 tons of hay) were 171 tons of potatoes, 300 tons of mangel-wurzels, and 84 tons of beet, cabbages, parsnips and carrots (Statistical Register of Victoria, 1871, Production: 13). Such figures indicate that the soils of the area were suitable for these types of crops.

A number of the selectors of the 1870s grew vegetables for sale. Further subdivision in the early years of the 20th century increased the number of small holdings and encouraged market gardeners to settle in South Springvale and the Noble Park area (see also preceding section on farming). Prior to 1915 the Keysborough market gardeners were supplying tomatoes to the Rosella factory in Richmond, though soil fungus brought this to an end. They were still growing potatoes and these were in demand (Hibbins, 1984: 123). The Dandenong market was another outlet for produce, and was operating twice weekly, with provision for stalls selling local produce.

The growth of canning increased demand for market garden products. The Gartside cannery opened in Dingley in 1916, just across the present municipal border, and is said to have been, with Edgells in Bathurst, the only straight vegetable canners in Australia during the 1930s. During World War Two, the cannery took on contracts of canned vegetables for the army and this in turn increased production and the demand for local vegetables (Hibbins, 1984: 144, 158, 166). In the 1950s, the coming of the Heinz factory to Dandenong provided a further demand for local produce.

With the growth of the market garden industry came increasing mechanisation. Sheds were needed for trucks, tractors and other equipment, for storage and packing.

Irrigation systems were installed. All this helped to change the physical appearance of the market gardens.

Flower farming could be seen as a specialised branch of market gardening. It was already going on west of Westall Road in the late 19th, early 20th century, but became prominent in the present Greater Dandenong area when C. E. Isaac established his Flowervale Nursery at Noble Park in 1922. Isaac specialised in seedlings and by 1934, the nursery was a large-scale flower-seedling business, employing 20-25 people and also producing and selling bulbs and annuals in bloom (Hibbins, 1984: 140, 157). Isaac's three sons (Cyril, Bernie and Arnold) were all at one time connected with the nurseries (Fred Woodman: personal communication, 30 March 1999). In more recent times, additional gardens and nurseries have greatly expanded the flower-growing industry. The firm of Van Wyk and Son has become one of the largest in the area.

The growing of native trees and plants is the most recent aspect of plant production in the Greater Dandenong area. This was pioneered in the 1940s by Cyril Isaac and Alex Wilkie, who developed a base, which became known as the Natural Resources Conservation League of Victoria, situated in Springvale Road. By the 1960s and onwards, the League was distributing hundreds of thousands of trees each year and running an educational program (Hibbins, 1984: 231). By 1999, the League had distributed over 40 million trees and was distributing about two million trees a year.

Many of the area's market gardens and nurseries have gone, to be sub-divided and covered with housing and roads, but many are still an ongoing part of the landscape. There are small patches such as that adjoining Tootal Road, south of Heatherton Road, and the large expanses of Keysborough South. Some clearly have their origins in the 1920s-30s. Others are more recent developments. Their continuing operation has been affected by the Melbourne Metropolitan Planning Scheme, which provided for green wedges in the midst of an expanding city (Dingle and Rasmussen, 1991: 319-322).

3.2 Feeding people

The history of the Greater Dandenong area provides many examples of the theme of feeding people, going back to the early days of European settlement. Georgiana McCrae stayed a night in the area in March, 1844, and later reported in her diary: 'Went ... to "No-Good Damper", [possibly south of Centre Road and east of Westall Road] and reached the inn at 4p. m... . Mrs McKie, hostess of the inn, loud in her lamentations about the kangaroos raiding her melons and cucumbers ... For dinner, three courses of veal.' (McCrae, 1934: 129-130). Georgiana's

hostess, Elizabeth McKee, was probably growing food both for her family and the visitors to her hotel. The McKees grew oats as well as vegetables.

From the late 1840s onwards, members of the Keys family were running cattle and dairy cows, ultimately sources of meat and butter for the Melbourne market. The Keys women - Margaret, Eliza, Marie, or their employees, would have been making the butter. The surviving wattle and daub outbuilding at 'Glen Alvie' dates back to this time and may have been associated with dairying activity.

John Greaves, who bought land in 1853, east of Springvale Road, was possibly one of the first to plant an orchard in the area. William Keys may have been amongst the first to sell local produce in Melbourne, in the 1850s. The selectors of the 1870s increased the numbers of those growing food in the area. The thousands of poultry and eggs in the area in the 1870s onwards were a further source of food. The Keys family were noted for the cheese they produced (see earlier sections on settling the land, and developing primary production).

The commercial processing of food got under way in the early twentieth century, though for a short time, the area had a grain mill, mentioned in the 1871 statistics. The bacon factory at Dandenong began in 1912 and continued for over sixty years.

With a growing number of small farms and market gardens, the area's production of food increased. By 1915 there were some differences between the northern portion of Dandenong Shire - 'practically all dairy farming and some oats' - and the southern portion with its grazing paddocks and market gardens (Hibbins, 1984:119). The greater specialisation was also evident in the growing number of poultry farms. None could be bigger than the Victorian Railways' Mammoth poultry farm, established to provide a steady supply of eggs to their Railways catering department.

The processing and distribution of milk and milk products was evident in the Australian Milk Company's operations, off Broadlands Street, Dandenong, from 1921 to 1945. Its brick dairy, built in 1921, later became a stockfeed factory. At Springvale, there was a dairy at the corner of St. Johns Avenue and Balmoral Avenue (Merle and Eric Mitchell, personal communication, 16 April 1999).

By the late 1930s the area had a butter factory, a cheese factory and a crumpet manufacturer (Sands and McDougall, 1939) and the bacon factory had expanded production to include not only bacon, but hams, sausages, lard and processed chickens (see section below on manufacturing). Gartside's vegetable canning factory at Dingley, just outside the Greater

Dandenong municipal boundary, was processing vegetables from all around the surrounding district.

During the Second World War, Government legislation and regulation placed enormous

pressure on the local farmers and market gardeners, in the effort to increase food production. Labour was in short supply and those available had to work long hours. The Dandy Bacon Factory was exporting its ham and bacon products to the armed services throughout Australia and the Pacific region. It also produced a range of smallgoods and 'Dandy' poultry.

In 1955, the H. J. Heinz factory opened at Dandenong, a vast factory where hundreds of workers mixed, chemically tested and sealed into millions of cans its 57 varieties. The company 'used tomatoes, carrots, meats, potatoes, beans, peas, everything that people ate and which Heinz could put in a tin' (Brennan, 1973:129). Since World War Two, demand for the many varieties of Heinz products had continued and was ongoing (see also later section, 3. 3: Manufacturing).

H. J. Heinz had started in the United States in 1869 and was exporting world-wide by the end of the 19th century. The first Heinz factory in Australia opened in Richmond in 1934, but by the late 1940s it was too small to meet the increasing demand for canned food. This led to the decision to re-locate to Dandenong, which was well-situated on a highway and close to the railway line. An added attraction was the availability of vegetables from local market gardens. Although the closure of operations was announced recently, the complex symbolises the enormous contribution made by local producers and processors to feeding the people.

3.3 Developing an Australian manufacturing capacity

The trees of the area provided the resources - firewood, charcoal and eucalyptus - for the

development of the first local manufacturing industries (see also section on exploiting local resources). The clay of the area provided the raw material for the development of brick-making. Livestock of the region provided milk and cream, which local women (and later a butter factory) transformed into butter, and meat which ended up as bacon in the Dandy Bacon Factory.

Early factories

It has been suggested that the manufacture of eucalyptus oil which began near Dandenong about 1852-54 was 'possibly the first distinctively Australian trade established in Victoria (after the boiling-down works of the 1840s)' (Victorian Year Book,

1973: 323, 721). Joseph Bosisto, encouraged by his friend Ferdinand Von Mueller, the Victorian Government Botanist, began eucalyptus distilling, using a roughly-constructed still on the Dandenong Creek and continued this activity in the area until 1875 (Hibbins, 1984: 45, 89). He refined and bottled the oil at Richmond and also had a distillery at Emerald.

Two establishments which started in 1865 included a tannery, facing Kidds Road, and a whip thong-making works. This latter was run by Frank Henderson. It was 'rather an important shop and employed half-a-dozen hands. Mr Henderson did a large trade with the other States and his whips were famous, especially those made for the stockmen' (G. F. R. ', 1935: 33).

It is difficult to know whether the official published statistics were accurate or not, but only

one factory or 'works' was listed for Dandenong in 1869, 1870, and 1871, with a total of seven employees (Statistics of Victoria: Production). One grain mill and one brewery (possibly Dunbar's) were listed in 1871. The mill was possibly the Cadle family's flour mill. In 1864, they had purchased a flour mill in Langhorne Street from William Monger, a builder who had constructed the mill in the 1850s. Their grain business continued for many decades.

In 1872 there were three factories, employing 16 males, 2 females; in 1873 four factories employed 12 males and one female, but a year later all the employees of the four factories mentioned were males (16). The number of works decreased to three in 1879 and had not risen ten years later, though two of the works were using steam power by that time. The early years of the 20th century saw little change, except a slight decrease in the number employed.

By 1907 there were two manufacturing establishments employing only five workers. The situation started to change by 1909 when six works were in operation, employing 27 hands.

John Hemmings' workshop and wheelwrights business was operating in Pultney Street by 1856. In 1870 he opened his new coach-building factory ('G. F. R. ', 1935: 13). It was no doubt one of the establishments in the manufacturing statistics for Dandenong during the later years of the 19th century. Hugh Murray moved his foundry from Buln to Dandenong in 1898 and began agricultural implement-making, notably harrows, 'sold all over the Commonwealth and made of Australian material'. It employed about ten hands all the year round (*Weekly Times*, 12 July 1930). This became a long-enduring enterprise, which still continues (Brennan, 1973: 42, 126).

Brick-making

There were many small brick kilns at various places in and around the town. Many Dandenong buildings, such as the Wesleyan Church and the Bridge Hotel were constructed from bricks made out of clay excavated close by. One brick yard was listed in 1870 and this increased to two brick yards, a year later (Statistics of Victoria, 1870, 1871, Production).

The Centennial Brick Company utilised fine clay in the vicinity of the present railway station, beginning in 1881. It kept going for 30 years and employed over 50 men in the 1880s ('G. F. R. ': 80). A more short-lived enterprise was the Diamond Hill Brick Company, promoted by entrepreneurs in 1888, in the vicinity of the present South Gippsland Highway, and using a new kind of kiln. The venture was not a success.

Brick-making in the area, using local clay, was an essential preliminary to the more long-term business of manufacturing firebricks. The Ordish Firebrick Company, established in 1894, became 'the largest and most successful' of all the brick works in the district, but also one of the largest brick-makers in Victoria (Brennan, 1973: 45, 125-126). In 1930, the Ordish Firebrick works were described as:

One of Dandenong's valuable assets ... situated in Stud Road, about a mile and a quarter from the town, on 52 acres. The six kilns have each a capacity of 37,000 bricks, and the weekly output is 50,000 bricks and tiles, keeping 30 hands engaged (Weekly Times 12 July 1930).

In 1930 the Ordish company was supplying firebricks to Newport Railway Workshops, the SEC at Yallourn, and gas works and factories in Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania and New Zealand, according to their own designs. Later there was a demand for firebricks of a different kind of clay and the firm began importing clays from elsewhere, including overseas. The company name changed to Newbold Refractories, which finally ceased operation in the 1970s.

In 1912, the Dandenong bacon factory began production. The pig producers of Gippsland had formed the Gippsland Co-operative Bacon Curing Company Limited in 1910 and selected a 22 acre site close to the Dandenong railway station, with its own siding. In the first year, the company processed 8,772 pigs. For the year ending April 1930 the intake was 33,504 pigs and 6,633 calves and cattle. In 1938 the factory handled 38,000 pigs. The *Weekly Times* (12 July 1930) commented: 'The company's hams and bacon are favourably known all over the Commonwealth and a large export business has grown up'. As well as smallgoods and 'Dandy' poultry, the company also produced animal food and processed by-products.

In 1955 the co-operative company was replaced by a new company, Victoria Bacon Limited, which in turn established subsidiaries in other parts of Australia, under a holding company, Australia Bacon Ltd, based in Dandenong. In 1965 the total intake was nearly 156,000 pigs (Brennan, 1973: 123-125). Dandy Tallow Pty. Ltd., established in the 1930s, was probably a sister company to the bacon company. Despite the company's success, it eventually ceased operations.

Other factories of the '30s were the Dandenong Mills, knitting mills; Heparadine Pty. Ltd, manufacturing chemists; Plasteroid Ceiling & Fibrous Plaster company in Grace Street; and Thos. Robbins, crummet manufacturer. Two oil companies - Shell and the Vacuum Oil Company - had depots in the Dandenong area.

From 1922, the Dandenong Butter Factory was operating in Stud Road, 'one of the more picturesque industrial buildings ... tragically demolished in 1972' (Brennan, 1973: 123). There was also the West Gippsland Cheese Factory (1937), possibly the same as the Associated Dairies Cheese Factory, in Foster Street in 1950.

Kelly & Lewis arrived at Springvale in 1922, and became 'one of Australia's largest pump manufacturers' (Victorian Year Book, 1973: 325). They bought a large block of land, east of Springvale Road, facing the railway line, and established a 'thoroughly up-to-date works' (*Weekly Times*, 12 July 1930). As one Springvale resident has said: 'Nearly everyone used to work for Kelly and Lewis'. Smaller firms followed: the Ace Wire Works, the Hercules Metal Gates and Fencing Works and Crumps Agricultural Machinery Factory. Real estate advertising predicted that Springvale would become 'the Birmingham of Australia' (Hibbins, 1983:136).

Most of these firms have now gone from the area. Kelly and Lewis took on a new life at Castlemaine, in association with Thompsons of Castlemaine (see also section below on Engineering). Hucksons Diecastings came to Springvale in 1929, to manufacture car accessories and electrical, wireless, telephone and other parts (Hibbins, 1984: 153). The firm still continues, in Newcomen Road.

A few small industries started at Noble Park: an early plastics factory at the southern end of Buckley Street, a wrought-iron works in Moodemere Street and plaster sheet factories, in Princess Highway and Heatherton Road (late 1940s). All these have closed (D. Dickson, 1983: 27). A saw mill operating in

Spring Vale Township Estate, Spring Vale

DESTINED TO BECOME

"THE BIRMINGHAM OF VICTORIA"

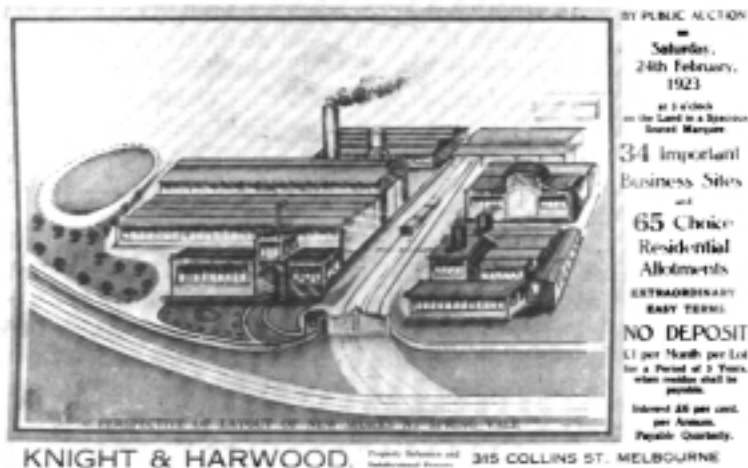


Figure 11. Springvale estate handbill showing Kelly & Lewis 1923 (Hibbins)

Kelvinside Road was unpopular and its licence was not renewed after a fire destroyed the mill (Fred Woodman: personal communication, 30 March 1999).

Rocla Concrete moved their works to Springvale in 1924, locating on the eastern side of

Springvale Road behind the station and producing concrete pipes, channels and slabs. Their complex in Sandown Road is probably the second oldest continuing industrial establishment in the Greater Dandenong area. Rocla got the contract to produce the pipes for the sewage treatment works at Braeside which opened in 1940.

An unusual and important war-time initiative was the huge distillation plant, near the Springvale railway gates. This steel, brick and concrete structure was built by Emptor Ltd. in 1943, to produce resins, turpentines, acetates, oils and tars from waste timber. It was part of the drive to develop Australia's self-sufficiency at a time when it was impossible to import many basic chemicals and other substances (Hibbins, 1984:166; *Dandenong Journal*, 27 January 1943, 6 July 1965). However, it appears that because of a delay in delivery of the machinery, production never got under way and local people described the building as 'the white elephant'. After the war it was used as a servicing and distribution centre for used tractors and from 1962 by Emptor's car division.

Other firms at Springvale during the war years were the Spring Vale Manufacturing Company, who built a factory to produce moulding and fibro metals, and Hodson and Gault who began making electrical equipment. Also during the 1940s, the firm

'Beau Monde' came to Dandenong, as a small adjunct to the main mill at Coburg, and opened in Foster Street, producing hosiery.

Post-war factories

In the immediate post-war period, over 20 firms began operations in the Greater Dandenong area, mainly because of the district's proximity to Melbourne, the extensive road and railway links with Melbourne and the rest of Victoria, the availability of relatively cheap land and a ready labour supply as more migrants settled in the area (Hibbins, 1984:172).

The main areas to be selected by industrial enterprises were in the northern part of the Greater Dandenong area, along or in the vicinity of the Princess Highway, and to the south, in areas which were at that time in other municipalities, notably the Shire of Cranbourne and the Shire of Berwick.

In the northern part of the area, John Cockbill and his partners bought the Australian Milk Company/ Brooklands Full Cream Products building, off Broadlands Street, in 1945 and developed a stockfeed factory. Cockbill had been operating a stockfeed factory in

Williamstown, producing pelleted seeds for the poultry industry. He extended production at Dandenong to include feed for horses and dairy cows as well as poultry feed. The firm 'Yarra Falls' moved their textile mill from Collingwood in 1947 and expanded their operations by building a substantial red brick factory, 1949-1952. They occupied the site in Bennett Street until 1968, when Custom Carpet Manufacturers Pty. Ltd. took over. The factory is now owned by Tuftmaster Carpets Pty. Ltd. . Westminster Carpets began production in 1949. Victoria Carpets arrived in 1953.

Gillette, an American company, built a large blue-tiled factory at Springvale in 1962. Their first Australian factory had opened in Sydney in 1957. Henry Bolte, Premier of Victoria, opened the new complex on 6 December 1962. It was described as having 'advanced automation, spaciousness and efficiency' and was valued at £1.5 million. The factory operated for almost 30 years, closing in 1991. Squibb Pharmaceuticals built a substantial complex on the Princess Highway and this was opened by the Prime Minister, Harold Holt, on 8 May 1967. It still continues in the year 2000, under the name of Bristol Myers Squibb Pharmaceuticals Pty. Ltd. Zoning was a factor in the 1970s and new industrial enterprises were concentrated on the Princess Highway, Westall Road and Centre Road.

A number of firms began operations in the 1950s-70s, in the area which for some years was part of the Shire of Cranbourne. From 1994, following local government re-

structuring, this area became the south-eastern part of the City of Greater Dandenong. By 1988, the area, bounded by the Frankston-Dandenong Road, Fowlers Road and the South Gippsland Highway had 137 industrial establishments. Major firms to set up factories included South Australia Rubber Mills (1952); Commonwealth Engineering (1954), and Beslite (1958) who made concrete bricks (Ware, 1976: 43-45).

The most notable of the post-war enterprises to arrive in the Dandenong area were three major industries, operating on a very large scale. They played a dominant role in the urbanisation of the former farming area and the development of Dandenong and the new suburb of Doveton. At that time these new factory sites were beyond the borders of the Dandenong Shire, mainly within the Shire of Berwick. First came the vast International Harvester Company, the Australian wing of a huge American company that produced commercial motor vehicles and farm machinery.

The new Motor Truck Assembly Plant at Doveton which opened in 1952 was designed by the architectural firm Hassell and McConnell. This firm won the Architecture and Arts Award in 1955 for the design of the adjacent Heinz Factory (see below). The International Harvester building was described in 1954 as 'a simple, unaffected and handsome plant worthy of this progressive international company'. It is still seen today as a good example of early factory planning ideas in Victoria. The complex originally comprised a steel-framed factory, administration block buildings, and an amenities building. Costing £1 million, the factory at first employed 500 people and produced 56 different types of motor trucks for local needs and export. By 1973 it was employing workers of thirty nationalities. It depended strongly on casual labour (Context, 1993).

The new factory of H. J. Heinz Co. Pty. Ltd. , on the Princess Highway, was opened by the Prime Minister of Australia, R. G. Menzies, on 7 November 1955. Described in the company literature as 'the largest food-processing plant in the Southern Hemisphere' and 'an architectural showpiece' (The Heinz Story), it won the Architecture and Arts 1955 Award for the best-designed building erected in Australia that year. The architects were Hassell and McConnell. With curved roofs and glass curtain walls, landscaped gardens and lawns, it was termed 'one of the few industrial projects in Australia that could be classed as top-flight architecture'.

Like International Harvester, the Heinz firm was attracted by the geographic location, with ready access to highways and railway lines and cheap power. In the words of Niall Brennan: "For the Heinz organisation, Dandenong was a central position

in which they could get their raw materials more easily. Although an American company to begin with, they were in effect not unlike the bacon factory: a secondary industry based on local primary industry. They reached out to the whole of Gippsland for their supplies” (Brennan, 1973: 129). The vast factory, occupying a site that had once been Higgins’ dairy farm, employed large numbers of part-time workers, especially migrant women. The growing population of Doveton and Dandenong provided a ready source of labour (Brennan, 1973:130; Context, 1993).

General Motors (Australia) Pty Ltd, formed in 1926, is a major Australian industrial company which has played a dominant role in the development of Dandenong and neighbouring Doveton. Between 1935 and 1936, a two-storey GMH head office, assembly plant and warehouse were opened at Port Melbourne. It was here, in November 1948, that the first Holden was launched. This completely new six-cylinder, six-seater sedan was Australia’s first successfully mass-produced car. Between 1951 and 1952, to meet the needs of the rapidly expanding GMH empire, land was purchased at Doveton. Part of the land was the former 130 acre dairy farm of the Foy family, and a further 147 acres bought for future expansion of the General Motors Holden empire. GMH was the third of the three major companies that established large industrial complexes at Dandenong/ Doveton in the 1950s. This area was chosen because, although it had been used mainly for primary production, there were factors favouring future industrialisation. This was aided by government support through the Housing Commission’s establishment of a new housing estate nearby, providing inexpensive housing for the influx of workers.

In planning the GMH plant, personnel made overseas visits to study the latest assembly plant practices and factory layouts. The designing architects chosen by GMH, Stephenson and Turner, were noted for their industrial and hospital work. It was a good example of ‘architectural design philosophy influenced by International Style Modernism’, using reinforced concrete, aluminium curtain walls and ceramic glass.

However, these latter features, in the administration building, were later replaced with continuous glass and metal cladding.

A special feature was the provision of staff amenities such as a canteen with a seating capacity of 1,480, staff and general dining rooms, a sports and recreation centre. GMH even had its own railway station, a boon for the army of shift workers who came to work there

from the inner suburbs. The complex cost £15 million, about half of it for buildings. Construction was completed by early 1956 (Context, 1993). GMH became Australia’s largest manufacturer of commercial vehicles and had the second largest assembly plant in Australia. Its move to Dandenong resulted in many other industries being located there. One result of this development was the tension between the local councils of Berwick, Cranbourne and Dandenong in relation to this territory (see section on Governing). The GMH factory complex, is now reduced in size, with some areas used by Holden Ltd’s Holden Service Parts Operations and new industrial establishments occupying the remainder of the original property.

Industrial growth 1960s-70s

Amongst the largest of the firms to develop sites in the Greater Dandenong area were

Australian Fibreglass (1960). and Australian Window Glass (1962), established by Australian Consolidated Industries. The sites at Dandenong were ideally situated for their purposes. The fibreglass factory expanded production to include fibre glass wool insulation in 1963 and by 1968 was employing 400 people. The window glass factory was taken over by Pilkington Australia in 1972 and in 1974 began a new method of glass manufacture. The basic raw materials for their product, silica, came in the fine white sand found in the vicinity, at the Lang Lang sand-pits. By 1988 the firm was employing 600 people and exporting to South-East Asia (Gunson, 1968: 225; Hooper, 1988: 24).

Nissan was the largest international firm to establish a manufacturing plant in the area. The Japanese firm began assembling Datsun cars in Australia in the mid 1960s in Sydney and from 1977 at Clayton. It opened its National Parts Distribution Centre at Dandenong in 1981 and a new aluminium casting plant in 1982 (Hooper, 1988: 24-5). It also established its Technical Training Centre and its head office on adjoining sites.



Figure 12. Kelly & Lewis from the air c1926 (Hibbins)

3.4 Developing an Australian engineering and construction industry

Early blacksmith's shops were the forerunners of engineering establishments. There were

blacksmiths at Dandenong and at Springvale in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, but there is no known surviving evidence of their activity, except photographs. Kelly & Lewis, Springvale, was probably the first engineering firm to come to the district. They began initially in Melbourne in 1889, producing forgings for Victorian Railways and boilers for locomotives. By 1922 they had relocated to Springvale, with access to the railway line via their own siding, and soon became a dominating force in the district (Hibbins, 1984:134). Among their products were all types of engines and pumps, compressors and engineering accessories. Nothing remains of Kelly and Lewis in the Springvale area, except the names given to the streets which were on the sub-divided land, formerly owned by Kelly and Lewis. The street names in this neighbourhood all derive from renowned early engineers.

Commonwealth Engineering or Comeng moved into the area in 1954, occupying a 42 acre-site south of the Princess Highway, adjoining the Frankston-Dandenong Road and close to the railway line to South Gippsland. Private railway sidings were built connecting the factory with the main railway line. Comeng were major suppliers to Melbourne's metropolitan rail service, with large contracts to manufacture passenger coaches for suburban lines, notably the railway carriages that replaced the old 'red rattlers'. In 1968 the Comeng group of companies was described as 'the largest manufacturers of railway rolling stock in the Southern Hemisphere' (Gunson,1968: 224). The firm gained a number of overseas contracts in South-East Asia, including a contract to provide passenger coaches for Cambodian Railways and a contract for supply of 70 light rail cars for a new tramway to be constructed in Hong Kong (Gunson,1968: 224-225; Hooper, 1988: 24).

Comeng also moved into production of components for motor vehicles, including large-scale manufacture of truck chassis, to suit the vehicles produced by neighbouring firm International Harvester. The volume of production was such that Comeng became the largest manufacturer of truck chassis in Australia. A further area of activity was in the building industry, notably in relation to the cladding of aluminium and bronze multi-storey buildings in the 1960s (Gunson,1968: 224-225). In later years the factory expanded its site and changed its name. It is now known as AD Tranz.

3.5 Providing entertainment

Race courses

In the very early days, horse racing took place in the public streets of Dandenong ('Garryowen', 1888), and north of Springvale, near the Post Office Hotel. There were a number of private racecourses, including the one at 'Orleigh Park', at the corner of Gladstone Road and Halton Road. Here race meetings were held in the 1880s. The property was later renamed 'Rawdon Hill' and eventually sub-divided, though the homestead still survives (Ray Carter: personal communication, 3 March 1999; Hibbins: 89-90, 156).

Sandown, racetrack in Springvale, is renowned for three different types of racing - horse racing, greyhound racing and motor racing. The origins of Sandown as a horse-racing venue go back to the later 1880s when William Cullen, a Brighton publican, ran some horse races on his land near Springvale and laid out a saddling enclosure and grandstand enclosure. He called it 'Oakleigh Park'. In 1891 the course was bought by other racing enthusiasts and re-named 'Sandown Park' after the fashionable racecourse in the south of England (Hibbins, 1984: 90-91).

A private company ran the racecourse for many decades, holding six racing meetings a year and two hunt club meetings. There were two stands, with a total capacity of 2,500 people, a racing course of almost 12 furlongs and a steeplechase course of almost two miles. In response to the demand for a proper railway station, the Railways Department agreed in 1925 to build one, if local residents could raise £2,000. They managed to raise half of this amount over the next two years. In 1931 the Victorian Government decided to close the Sandown racecourse, as part of a policy to reduce the number of private racecourses. The course was put up for sale, but there was no purchaser and instead the land was leased for grazing. In 1934 the Sandown Racing and Coursing Club took out a lease on the old racecourse and used it until 1947, though the Government used it for army training between 1942 and 1944 (Hibbins, 1984: 148-150, 163,168).

The Victorian Trotting and Racing Association, later the Melbourne Racing Club, bought the old racecourse at the end of the 1940s, sub-divided some of the land in the 1950s and began a major program of improvements. This involved clearing the course of all trees to make way for a new motor racing track and included the construction of a reservoir. The new track opened in 1962 with Jack Brabham and Stirling Moss trying out the new circuit. In the same year, a new grandstand was officially opened. It was an innovative design, in architectural and engineering terms: cantilevered - to ensure

no pillars obstructed the view of the racecourse and steel-framed in reinforced concrete. There was seating for 10,000 people and all the facilities were under the one stand. The architects were Boggle and Baffled.

In 1963 the Melbourne Racing Club merged with the Victorian Amateur Turf Club. New horse racing facilities included a new racecourse opened on 19 June 1965 by the premier, Henry Bolte, a new railway station, an overpass into the course from the Princess Highway and large car parks (Hibbins, 1984: 233-235). In 1973 the Sandown motor racing track was described as 'of world-class', where top international drivers regularly competed (Australian Year Book, 1973: 617). Since that time Sandown Park has increased in popularity and by 1996 was attracting 110,000 people annually.

To the south of the Highway, the Sandown Coursing Club developed a greyhound racing track on 19 acres of land and opened it in 1952. This was bought by the Sandown Greyhound Racing Club and converted to night mechanical hare racing. In 1961 greyhound racing was televised for the first time in Australia's history - at the Sandown track. Closed circuit television, TAB betting and computerised betting added to the track's importance and it too became a major Melbourne attraction (Hibbins, 1984: 168, 233-234).

Picture theatres

In about 1899, the Dandenong Town Hall was the venue where local people had their first experience of 'magic lantern' pictures, the marvel of gramophone records and later the first movies. A local resident recalled:

They lined up in 1903 to listen to a phonograph! They used to fill the Town Hall with people wanting to hear an Edison, and then the biographies, the first moving pictures' (Brennan, 1973: 105).

In 1924, picture theatres opened in Dandenong ('the Boomerang', later known as the 'Mayfair') and in Springvale. Springvale's cinema closed in 1963. At the Noble Park Public Hall, the local residents could see silent pictures and later 'talkies' on Saturday nights over many years, though State regulations in the 1980s did not allow the hall's use as a theatre (D. Dickson, 1983:10). In 1950 the Mayfair Picture Theatre was operating in Thomas Street, Dandenong. After the buildings were demolished, a new complex was built, including the Gala theatre, though this did not continue for very long (Ray Carter: personal communication, 3 March 1999). The Dandenong drive-in cinema of later decades, off the South Gippsland Highway, eventually gave way to a trash and treasure market. Cinema returned to central Dandenong when Village Roadshows opened its set of ten cinemas within Dandenong Plaza, at the end of the 1980s.

Dances

Modern dances were held very successfully in the Dandenong Town Hall and the Springvale Town Hall in the 1950s and 1960s. For a brief period, in the early to mid 1960s, a very successful 'Lyndale Top 40' dance was held at the Menzies Avenue Public Hall. At all of these venues, live bands provided the music. A number of church halls were also venues for dances at this time (Ray Carter: personal communication, 3 March 1999).

Gambling

Many hotels and clubs became gambling venues, especially following the legalisation of poker machines in Victoria. Dandenong currently has one of the highest number of installed poker machines per capita in the Melbourne metropolitan area (Ray Carter: personal communication, 3 March 1999).

Various places of entertainment

Night clubs, discos and massage parlours were among the places of entertainment introduced into the Greater Dandenong area in recent years. A social history of the municipality could follow up the story of local entertainment during the last few decades (see also Section 8. 3: Eating and Drinking: Hotels).

3.6 Providing accommodation

The local hotels of the area provided the first shelter for travellers as far back as the 1840s, at the 'No Good Damper' inn near Springvale and at Dunns' hotel in Dandenong. A range of guests stayed overnight on their journeys to and from Gippsland, from C. J. La Trobe to the Catholic Bishop Goold who recorded in his diary, on 5 May 1853:

As we approached Dandenong, rain fell in heavy showers. We arrived at the inn a little after 4, having travelled 36 miles since morning. I went to bed at 10 o'clock but could not sleep in consequence of the boisterous conversation of persons in an adjoining room (quoted G. Dickson, 1983: 8).

Of the many hotels in the area, only two survive, though considerably changed - the Bridge Hotel, built in 1858, now the Dandy Inn, and the Albion Hotel, built in 1891 and run by Mrs McQuade (see also section below on hotels). Mrs Janet Bowman ran one of the first boarding houses in Dandenong. It opened in 1861, on the corner of Scott and Lonsdale Streets. It continued until about 1900, when it was destroyed by fire. One local resident later recalled:

'We had a good number of boarding houses, as there was a great body of men working around Dandenong, and many preferred not to go to the hotels but patronised boarding houses' ('G. F. R', 1935: 8, 123).

The Dandenong Market increased the need for overnight accommodation in the town and boarding houses and hotels catered for the weekly demand on market days. Henry Rodman's 'Temperance Hotel and Dandenong Dining Rooms' was between the old market site and the present market site, on the corner of McCrae and Clow Streets ('G. F. R', 1935: 122-123). Dandenong House, conducted by the Matthews family, was a leading guest house in the 1930s-1940s. It was very near the railway station, at 52 Foster Street (*Weekly Times*, 12 July 1930; Melbourne Directories). 'Shortlands Boarding House', in Carson Street, accommodated single male migrant workers in the 1950s. Motels appeared along the Princess Highway in the 1960s-70s, to provide for the needs of passing motorists. Sandown Park Motel also serviced those attending race meetings at Sandown, together with the Sandown Regency Motor Inn and the Sandown Park Hotel.

3.7 Servicing tourists

Blacksmiths were as important as hotel-keepers in catering for the needs of passing travellers on their journey to and from Gippsland. There were two smithies in Springvale by the late 1880s and three in the centre of Dandenong, those of Thomas Green, J. L. Tulloch and Sam Masters. As the automobile took over, blacksmiths gave way to garages. One of the earliest garages in Dandenong was Broomhall and Renfree, in Pultney Street. A photo, taken in 1915, shows the seven cars in the town at that time (Dickson, Titcher and Tonta, 1990: 24). By 1939, there were nine garages and one blacksmith in Dandenong.

In 1933 Alan Singleton put up a shed and a Plume motor spirits sign, and installed two pumps on the corner of Springvale Road, Centre Road and the Princess Highway. In 1936 Bill Blanchard took over and his garage expanded. Blanchard's clock tower was quite a landmark until it blew down in 1981 (Hibbins, 1984: 156, 164-165, 184).

By 1939 there were nine garages or motor garages in Dandenong - and only one blacksmith. The motor car was here to stay. The stream of traffic continued through Dandenong even after freeways were built. The coming of self-service petrol pumps decreased some of the work, but there was still a demand for motor mechanics.

4.0 Extending economic links



Figure 14. Dandenong market 1930s (State Library of Victoria, published by *The Herald and Weekly Times* 5 May 1931)



Figure 13. Lonsdale St market day 1906 (Brennan)

4.1 Dandenong Market

The Dandenong Market was at the heart of the town's commercial activity, the main influence on Dandenong's growth as a market town, later market city, giving it a special character of its own. The market made Dandenong the

commercial centre of a vast region - Gippsland and beyond. It was the biggest stock market in Victoria after Newmarket and the largest dairy market in Victoria for some years. The combination of livestock, goods and produce sales made Dandenong Market one of the busiest in the State, with 650 stalls by the early 1990s. For much of its life, until 1958, when the Stock Market and the Produce Market separated, Dandenong was a gateway between city and country, bringing both elements together on market days. An important aspect of the impact of the market on Dandenong

over the years was its effect on local businesses, its link with the bacon factory over many years and its involvement in the export trade via local and metropolitan abattoirs. In Dandenong, local business advertised their proximity to the market and did more business on market day than all the rest of the week.

Market sites

The first official site for the Dandenong Market was a one-acre triangular site at the corner of Lonsdale and McCrae Streets (Victorian *Government Gazette*, 1863: 2612; quoted in Ferguson, 1986: 15). This opened under the supervision of commissioners in 1866 and was used for 60 years. The site became so overcrowded that stalls were forced to occupy part of Lonsdale Street. The second site was at the corner of Clow and Cleeland streets, on land bought by the Council of the Shire of Dandenong. This was used by both Stock Market and Produce Market for 30 years. The third site was a new site for the Stock Market, between Cheltenham Road and the railway line. The Council bought this and moved the Stock Market there in 1958, leaving the large and vibrant Produce Market at the Clow-Cleeland Streets site, where it still is today. In 1996 the Council decided to close the Stock Market which ceased operations in December 1998 (Dandenong Council correspondence 29/10/1996).

Early days

From the beginning the market was a general market, with cattle yards, cow yards, calf pens, pig yards and a farm produce area. In March 1870, while under Thomas Rosling's management, it changed from being a fortnightly market to a weekly market. This probably strengthened the Dandenong market's success, since most country markets in the region operated on a monthly basis.

In May 1873, the Dandenong Road District became a shire and on 23 August 1873 the new Shire Council took over the Market's management and debts. For the next few years, expenditure on the Market exceeded income but by 1879, the Council was making a profit. All sellers paid dues and a schedule of 1874 shows that items sold at the market ranged from livestock, including poultry and horses, to fruit, vegetables, hay, grain, flour, dairy produce, eggs, fish, rabbits, pork and bacon (Ferguson, 1986: 18, 103). Sellers came long distances. One Gippsland farmer later recalled the difficulties of travelling by road: 'After some years we commenced carting our butter, eggs and bacon to the Dandenong market. The roads were still very bad; the journey always took three strenuous days' (quoted Gunson, 1968: 109).

Dairymen would bring in pigs and calves to the Market, and perhaps take home a milker or two. Pigs were a major commodity at the Market in the later 19th and early 20th centuries. On the early farms of Gippsland, milk production and pig-keeping were closely linked, since farmers kept cows, milked them, separated the cream and fed their pigs, especially young pigs, on the skimmed milk that was left. The cream was

made into butter, at first on the farms and later in butter factories. Later, farms sold milk direct to milk distributors and used more grain or other feed for their pigs. When wheat was dear, it was less profitable to keep pigs and pig breeding declined.

The 'gateway to Gippsland'

Dandenong was the junction of the eastern and south-eastern road and railway systems that connected Gippsland with the metropolis, 20 miles away. The district around Dandenong became one of the main sources of Melbourne's milk supply and famous for its herds of pedigree dairy cattle (*Argus*, 21 December 1921). Dandenong Market was important as 'a great clearing centre of surplus stock from one of the most productive closer-settled districts in the state' (*Leader* 23 July 1947:4). Some farmers came to buy store cattle to fatten them up and sell later at a profit. Others came to buy cattle at the Dandenong market.

At that time, most cattle trucks were horse-drawn. But almost all of the cattle at the Dandenong Market were escorted through Dandenong by whip-cracking horsemen. Sometimes I would wag school to spend time at the market, which was then located on Main Street (now Lonsdale Street) from Clow Street to the rear of the Post Office. Cattle pens ran back from the footpath on the east side and the fresh produce section ran along the wide footpaths.

Every Tuesday, drovers and cattle dealers would drive a fairly large mob through the railway gates at the end of Pickett Street, along Railway Parade to Hemming Street and Close Street and across the highway to the market entry in the McCrae Street area. A horseman would gallop up each footpath, closing the gates in the mainly picket fences, while residents and children watched the scene through the fences or windows. The cattle market centre would have been where the Westpac and Commonwealth banks are now, with about six auctioneers' offices near the present newsagents (Maurie Jarvis: personal communication, 1998).

A market for small farmers

From early days, there were many small farms in the Dandenong, Mornington and Gippsland region, so the stock brought into the Dandenong Market were often 'single offerings', such as one calf, brought in a chaff bag. On one market day in 1947, Mrs E. Smith, of Dandenong, had two cockerels for sale; Mr R. Walker of Cardinia brought in a cow. Even in 1988, Dandenong was described as an area that was 'somewhat unique geographically, in that a great number of vendors are small landholders resulting in many small and single lots being presented for sale' (Dandenong City Council: correspondence).

A large stock market complex

Situated south of the Gippsland railway line and the Dandenong railway goods yard, the stockmarket complex at Cheltenham Road was used for 40 years (1958-1998). It was a vast area of timber post-and-rail animal holding pens and sales pens, covered walkways, lanes, ramps, sales rings, corrugated iron auction rooms, offices, cafeteria. The clock erected in 1962 was in memory of 'the pioneers of Dandenong and the early users of Dandenong Market'.

Premier cattle and horse market

Dandenong Market was famous as a cattle market for many years. With the closing of the Newmarket Saleyards, Dandenong became the only remaining large and municipal owned livestock market in or near the metropolis. In 1985, it was described as 'Victoria's premier cattle market'. From 1960 to 1997 over six million cattle were sold there. Between 1960 and 1985 over one and a half million calves (1,718,833) were sold at Dandenong Market. The Dandenong Stock Market was considered on a national basis as 'a very reliable pace-setter' (Maurie Jarvis; personal communication, 1998).

Horse sales were also a feature of the Market, being held on Fridays and Saturdays. With the coming of cars and trucks, fewer people used horse transport and the number of horses sold at the Market decreased over the years. However, more horses were sold at Dandenong Market than at any other market in Victoria in the early 1990s. In 1996-7, the 1,864 horses sold at Dandenong Market made up 38% of all horses sold at markets in Victoria.

Exports

Dandenong Market became involved with overseas trade through the Dandy Bacon factory, which had developed a large export business by 1930, and through major meat works and canneries such as Angliss's. By the late 1980s ten of the major meat works in Victoria were operating within 30 minutes drive of the Dandenong Market. They had large abattoirs and exported frozen meat across the world. Dandenong became 'the hub of the wheel', both in selling and processing, especially of beef (Dandenong City Council: correspondence). Castricum Brothers Abattoirs exported to forty seven (47) different countries sending Dandenong products around the world.

4.2 Retailing and banking

Dandenong shops

Only a few stores were in the area in the 1850s and these were in the township of Dandenong. A photo, taken possibly in the late 1850s, shows John Hemming's wheelwright and carpenter's business, a small timber shed in Pultney Street, with tall gums in the background. A later photo, taken in the late 1870s, shows Ellis's store, a substantial two-storey building, on the corner of Walker and Langhorne Streets, which was demolished in 1971 ('G. F. R. '1935: 30, 87).

Most of the early shops were in Lonsdale Street and in the vicinity of the Market, such as a veterinarian, a saddler, a blacksmith's forge and a butcher shop - which were all closely related to the business of the Market. Many were single-fronted, single-storied and of timber construction in the early days, with few exceptions. One of the early stores was Bowman's and Renard's 'Kangaroo Store'. Later a rival 'New Kangaroo Store' opened next door. Blacksmiths' shops were especially important, as long as horses and the vehicles they pulled were the only means of transport (Dickson, Titcher and Tonta, 1990: 2, 24). One of the early women shopkeepers was Mrs Kidd who had a cake shop, near the old Albion Hotel in 1870.

Then Dandenong was basically a one-street county town, with shops that benefited greatly from the weekly market. In 1882, the Dandenong Advertiser reported: 'It is a recognised fact that the Dandenong tradespeople take as much money on Tuesdays, as they do on all the other days of the week put together.' (*Dandenong Advertiser*, 19 April 1882).



Figure 15. Hemming's workshop, Pultney St, c1856 (Brennan)

By the 1890s, an extensive row of shops, many of them two-storey, and of brick, lined the Melbourne Road (in the area now known as Lonsdale Street). One of the most elaborate was Caffin and Caffin's Dandenong Cash Store, built in 1893. In a photo taken about fifty years later, in 1945, the roofline and general appearance of the line of shops hardly seems to have changed. The main visible change is the number of motor vehicles parked in the street and the increased number of shops and businesses. A few surviving buildings, such as the Cosy Corner Café, with corner tower and cupola, are a reminder of the Dandenong shopping precinct as it was in the early years of the 20th century. By 1939, chain stores such as Williams the Shoeman and Crofts had arrived. By 1950, more chain stores such as Woolworths and Moran and Cato had arrived - and an American Hamburger Bar. There were some shops in Foster Street and a few in Langhorne Street, at the town end.

Within the next thirty-five years, drastic changes occurred and the whole character of the shopping precinct altered radically. In 1962, a visiting journalist, Stuart Sayers, noted 'the brashly modern shops of glass and steel with spruikers shouting into microphones to lure customers in. 'He commented: The influence of migrant ways and tastes is evident in the Dandenong shops - in the exotically named foods on display, in sharp-toed shoes and the espresso machines in milk bars' (*Walkabout*, May 1962: 12). Sayers reflected that the spectacular industrial growth of Dandenong had not swamped the city's development as a market centre.

'The pattern was set by the market. Then came industry and the growth of population and residential districts. In between the industrial and rural sides, but serving both, the commercial and retail heart of Dandenong grew, as amalgam cementing two disparate elements in a firm indissoluble whole' (*Walkabout*, May 1962: 12).

'After years of demolition and rebuilding, only isolated examples remain of the 19th century stores. Arcades appeared,

then plazas. Today the vast modern indoor shopping complexes of Dandenong Plaza, Myer, Safeway, Coles and K-Mart cater for shoppers and their cars. The Dandenong Central Activities District has become Melbourne's second largest retail and commercial centre. While the appearance has changed, there is an element of continuity, for this district still provides a central focus for the wider region' (*Greater Dandenong: A Profile of Our Communities*, 1996: 31).

Springvale shops

The first general store in Springvale was opened by Thomas Cuddleford Woods, in 1887, on the corner of Balmoral Avenue and Springvale Road. About 20 years later, George Burden had bought Wood's store and was delivering supplies and picking up eggs from the local farms. John Young's blacksmith's shop had been at Springvale from the 1860s, up near the Springvale Hotel, just outside the present boundary of the City of Greater Dandenong. William Young, no relation, arrived in the late 1880s and started his smithy in Springvale Road, becoming part of the new settlement that was slowly growing up near the Springvale railway station. James Turner started a store at the north corner of Balmoral Avenue and Springvale Road by the early 1890s. By 1915, there was a butcher's shop and a bakery (Hibbins, 1984: 112,113).

Many new shops appeared in the 1920s, from a new butcher's shop to a new produce store on the corner of Windsor Avenue and Springvale Road. George Burden and Edward Hughes put up several shops in Springvale Road. The two-storey Burden's Buildings, dated 1923, still survive in Springvale Road, a monument to the growing vitality of 1920s Springvale and the faith in its future shown by one of its leading citizens. Hoban built shops north of the railway line, also in the 1920s. By 1946, it was estimated that Springvale had 55 shops. This was to increase further during the next period of development in the 1950s, when some of the older buildings, such as Youngs' smithy, were demolished. 'Turner's Corner' became a service station in 1953. Rockman's tiled and glass-fronted Department Store opened and many new shops were built.

At Springvale South, Robert Mackey had run a general store since the 1930s. In the 1960s the Mackeys expanded this into a small shopping centre. By the 1990s, Springvale Plaza Shopping Centre had been built south of Heatherton Road. At Harrisfield, a



Figure 16. Burden's store, Springvale (Hibbins)

group of six shops appeared in the 1950s, in the vicinity of the old store, which was demolished in 1970 (Hibbins, 1984: 185). In the next 30 years, Harrisfield's shopping strip, along a stretch of Princess Highway, developed into a retail and entertainment precinct. A major change occurred in the 1980s-early 1990s in Springvale's shopping precinct, which took on a distinctly Asian character, as more and more immigrants from South-East Asia settled in the area and bought businesses.

The next and biggest phase of development was in the 1970s when the Parkmore-Keysborough Shopping Centre opened (1973) on a site of 18.5 acres in Cheltenham Road. This continued to expand in succeeding years, adding what was then the largest K-Mart in Australia and a huge new Coles Supermarket (Hibbins, 1984: 186-187). By 1996, Parkmore had become widely recognised as a regional retail precinct and with 120 stores, including four major department stores.

Noble Park shops

The first shop in Noble Park was opened in 1912, at the corner of Buckley and Douglas Streets, a paper shop which included the post office. This building still survives (Norma Robie, 1998, personal communication). At about the same time, a bootmaker's shop opened, also in Douglas Street. These were followed by two more in 1914, including a general store at the corner of Leonard Avenue and Douglas Street. As the population grew, so did the number of shops, including a bakery and a butcher's shop in Buckley Street and a number of shops built by W. James in Douglas Street. A hay and corn store and timber yard, opened in the 1920s, supplied the needs of local market gardeners and poultry farmers (D. Dickson, 1983:28-29). During the Depression of the 1930s, shopkeepers such as 'Paddy' O'Donoghue, baker, did much to help the unemployed and their families, although it was a struggle (A. J. O'Donoghue, 1973: 19).

Later, a shopping centre was established in Ian Street, the other side of the railway line. By 1983, there were 60 shops in the main shopping centre and 25 shops in the Ian Street area. By 1996, there were 116 separate shop fronts in the Noble Park shopping centre.

Banks

The Commercial Bank was the first to open a branch in Dandenong, in 1869 and continued throughout the years to support major developments in the town. As the pioneer of banking in Gippsland, it enhanced the central position of Dandenong in the region. The Commercial closed its doors in 1893 despite a public meeting expressing its support. A short-lived bank was the Provincial and Suburban which lasted only from 1877 to 1879, when it collapsed.

The growing prosperity of Dandenong possibly influenced the Colonial Bank to establish a branch in 1883. Its first bank

manager, Alexander McLean, was very popular. When he died in 1913, after 30 years of service, the local citizens honoured his memory by erecting a drinking fountain in the garden opposite. The Colonial Bank became the National Bank in 1918. It was located on the site of Bowman's Royal Hotel, at the corner of Walker and Lonsdale Streets.

Other banks came to Dandenong in the 1920s-30s, including the Bank of New South Wales, the English Scottish and Australian Bank, the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney, the Bank of Australasia and the State Savings Bank. Nearly all the banks were on the western side of Lonsdale Street. In 1932 the Commercial Bank, a brick building, was on the same site it had occupied for 63 years. The E. S & A Bank was on the site that had once been Augustus Rodd's store. During the next forty years, the scene changed considerably. Most of the banks were housed in modern structures. When the National Bank was rebuilt it was the first multi-storey building in Lonsdale Street.

At Springvale, banks began to arrive as the number of shops increased along Springvale Road in the early 1920s. They began by setting up branches in local stores, the E. S. A. at Burden's store and the National Bank of Australasia at the office of J. Foster, estate agent (Hibbins, 1984:137). At Noble Park, the State Savings Bank opened an agency in the general store, at the corner of Douglas Street and Leonard Avenue, conducted by Mrs O'Neil (D. Dickson, 1983: 29). By 1946, Springvale had four banks, a sign of its growing commercial maturity.

Alternative banking arrangements were provided by co-operative building societies. Ray Carter has pointed out that these societies were groups of people joined together in a co-operative for the specific purpose of together borrowing money from a bank to build houses for all of their members. The co-operative came to an end on completion of the houses. Permanent Building Societies were an extension of this idea in that new members were continuously admitted. The Dandenong Permanent Building society grew quickly, amalgamating with other societies along the way. Its headquarters was in a building at the corner of Thomas and Walker Streets' (Ray Carter, personal communication, 4 March 1999).

The Dandenong Credit Co-op began in the precincts of St. Gerard's Church. One of its most important functions was financial counselling, as well as providing deposit and loan accounts. It grew and became Dandenong Community Credit Union. In 1995 and 1997, it amalgamated with other credit unions, eventually becoming part of Advantage Credit Union, the largest credit union in Australia, with Bob Powell, a Dandenong resident, as its chairman (Ray Carter, personal communication, 4 March 1999).

5.0 Building settlements

5.1 Moving goods and people

Aborigines made the first tracks through the area over thousands of years. When European explorers tried to make their way through the bush or across the swamps, they often got help from Aboriginal guides. The township of Dandenong developed around a crossing place over the Dandenong and Eumemmering Creeks. Amongst the early tracks from Melbourne towards Gippsland, further south than the present Princess Highway, was the route along the 'Old Dandenong Road' and Cheltenham Road. On 27 December 1847, Superintendent C. J. La Trobe noted:

... at the close of last month I made a hasty visit to Gipps Land mainly for the purpose of inspecting the new line of communication running eastward from Dandenong to that portion of my district which had been partially opened from the Gippsland side in the course of last summer (quoted in Brennan, 1973: 34).

In another report on 27 April 1848, La Trobe wrote:

Referring to the proposed construction of a line of road from Dandenong district across the ranges, to the La Trobe river and Gipps Land ... I now have the duty to state ... that the work has been satisfactorily brought to a termination during the course of the summer and that this line of communication thus opened is found to be of very great public convenience (quoted in Brennan, 1973: 34).

Brennan points out that 'a line of communication' was little more than a bridle track. However, La Trobe's comments are significant since they indicate the beginnings of Dandenong's role as the gateway to Gippsland and the realisation that transport links were needed.

Roads

Between 1853 and 1857, Victoria had a Central Roads Board, but from 1857 responsibility for road construction and maintenance was increasingly passed on to local government bodies (W. K. Anderson, 1994: 14-20). The Dandenong Road District was proclaimed that year. In 1858 the Victorian Government allocated £30,000 for the construction of a road from Melbourne to Sale. The route chosen was the most northerly, from Caulfield, east to Oakleigh and then south-east to Springvale. This route has changed little to the present day. Toll gates were to bring in revenue towards the cost of constructing the road. These tolls lasted until 1878.

By the end of the 19th century, Victoria's roads were in a deplorable state. This situation eventually led to the creation of the Country Roads Board which then took responsibility for main roads. When the Prince of Wales visited Australia in 1920 the main coastal road from Sydney to Adelaide was named

'Princess Highway' in his honour. It was said that of 593 miles of this road in Victoria, 'fully 500 miles were at the time in good order'. The other 93 miles were in Gippsland where the road was impassable in winter (W. K. Anderson, 1994: 22, 59-60).

By the early 1950s, many roads within the area were unmade private roads. The Local Government Act of 1950 gave local councils the power to compel sub-dividers to 'form roads to permanent level' and this helped to solve the problem. The road patterns in sub-divisions changed from the grid plan used with the township of Dandenong and much of early Springvale, to the 'can of worms' design of the 1960s and '70s, with curving courts and crescents which discouraged or prevented through traffic (Hibbins, 1984: 176, 179).

A major feature of recent decades has been the construction of freeways such as the South-Eastern Freeway, the Mornington Peninsula Freeway and the South Gippsland Freeway. The latter two now form the eastern and western boundaries of the City of Greater Dandenong in its southern portions.

Over the years 'the rapids of Dandenong', so described once by the poet Adam Lindsay Gordon, have swept away more than one bridge in the area. The first bridge over Dandenong Creek was constructed in 1840. A flood swept this away ten years later and it was replaced. A stone bridge, built in 1866, probably by Robert Huckson, lasted 52 years. Part of it was granite, quarried locally from the vicinity of Wedge and Power Streets. This bridge was replaced in 1919 by a ferrous metal single-span bridge, with concrete deck, known as the 'Peace Memorial Bridge'. It was designed by R. H. Woolcock, shire engineer, once described as 'one of the best engineers in Victoria'. Part of the bridge still carries portion of the Princess Highway over the Dandenong Creek. Modern concrete bridges now span the local creeks at many points.

Before 1865, Gippsland travellers went to Melbourne by boat from Port Albert. With the coming of a coach service, Dandenong became a major stopping place, for the changing of horses and as a refreshment or overnight stop for passengers travelling between Gippsland and Melbourne. The early coach journeys overland, from Sale to Melbourne, took 36 hours, though this was later reduced to 24 hours. The firms of Cobb and Co. and Hewitt and Co. both used Dandenong as a staging post. Later they amalgamated. The service was daily except for Sundays. In addition, the Bridge Hotel was the centre for a local coach service, run by the proprietor, to Grantville. Mrs Dunbar, of Dunbar's Hotel, ran a coach service between Melbourne and Tooradin. The coaches were very important until 1879 when the railway opened (Brennan, 1973: 72; Uhl, in VHM, vol. 34, no. 2, 1963: 81).



Figure 17. Springvale Railway Station (extended from its original form)

Railways

Until the coming of the railway, the Greater Dandenong area was virtually on the frontier of settlement. Construction started at the Sale end and reached Oakleigh in 1877. After some delay, the link was made with Melbourne and the line officially opened in 1879, amidst great celebrations. By the early 1880s, Springvale had a station, consisting of a platform and open shed. The first train to stop at Noble Park was about 1915. Electrification of the line between Oakleigh and Dandenong was completed in 1922. The line between Dandenong and Warragul was electrified by 1954 (Harrigan, 1962: 166). New stations were opened at Sandown in 1965 and Yarraman in 1976.

The railway was a factor in attracting people and industries to settle in the area. Workers could commute to the City. Farmers and market gardeners could send their produce to Melbourne by train. Railway access was convenient for firms such as Kelly and Lewis, which had its own railway siding, and for the Dandenong Market. General Motors Holden gained its own railway station.

When the railway age began, it tended to deflect government spending away from expenditure on roads. In more recent times, the reverse has applied and Government policy has focussed on the building of freeways. The City of Greater Dandenong has examples of both these aspects of progress. Apart from the railway itself, the oldest structures representing the railway age are probably the station and signal box at Springvale. The substantial station complex at Dandenong, on the other hand, symbolises a modern attempt to affirm Dandenong's role as a dynamic regional centre.

5.2 Establishing lines and networks of communication

Postal services and post offices

Victoria's first official postal service involved two people associated with the Greater Dandenong area. This was in 1837 when the New South Wales government gave Joseph Hawdon the Melbourne to Yass overland mail contract, which began on 1 January 1838. The actual 'postman' who carried that first official mail delivery, with many adventures, was John Conway Bourke. He was an employee of Joseph Hawdon's and worked in the Dandenong area for some years.

A less official postman was the Aborigine commissioned by Mrs Clow to carry four dozen biscuits to her son on the eastern side of Dandenong Creek. His wages were six of the biscuits. With the help of a fellow-Aborigine, the biscuits were delivered safely. The carrying of messages and parcels was often a personal and individual operation in those days (Bride, 1898: 108-109).

Hotels or stores were the first collecting and delivery points for mail. Dunbar's Hotel in Dandenong was an early postal base. In 1856, the post office in the hotel was 'the last one this side of the Melbourne PO' (quoted in Brennan, 1973: 72). Another was the Post Office Hotel on the Dandenong Road, half a mile from the Springvale Hotel on the Melbourne side. A mail contractor, Patrick Mulcare, carried mail between Melbourne and Dandenong, as a weekly service in 1855. In 1862 the stage coach had the contract (Brennan, 1973: 74).

Dandenong was the postal centre for a large district for many years and had the designation 'Post Town' in the Victorian Municipal Directory for 1875. A post office building opened in

Lonsdale Street, Dandenong, in 1880, following the construction of the railway. The building has since given way to a modern two-storey structure in Lonsdale Street, now mainly a shop, while the mail delivery centre is in Plunkett Road (Ray Carter: personal communication, 4 March 1999).

With the development of a telephone network, Dandenong was again an important communications centre. There were only 20 subscribers in 1909, but numbers had increased by the early 1950s when fifteen girls were working in the 'telephone room' in the Dandenong post office, handling manual telephones (Alves, 1992: 7). In 1927, a telegraph office opened at Mrs Miles' store on the Princess Highway. This included a public telephone line connecting it with Dandenong (Hibbins, 1984: 146).

In the early years of Noble Park, the first store, at the corner of Buckley and Douglas Streets, was also the agency for the post office. Mrs Scott ran the post office and arranged for the daily delivery of mail. Mail was delivered on horseback. The postmaster at Springvale was the storekeeper until 1923, when a post office was built, a small timber building. A brick building later replaced this and in turn gave way to a modern two-storied post office in 1962 (Hibbins, 1984: 117, 137, 184).

With the growth of the area, new post offices opened in Dandenong's north, east and south, in Springvale South, Sandown Village, Keysborough and Noble Park East. A delivery centre was built in Plunkett Road, Dandenong.

More sophisticated electronic systems and competing service-providers have perhaps diffused the whole area of telecommunications. Computers in homes, offices, schools and factories connect to global information systems. Within this new context, the libraries have taken on the role of facilitating public access.

5.3 Informing through newspapers

The first newspaper relating to the area was the *South Bourke and Mornington Journal*, which originally was printed in Richmond, under the management of Harvey Roulston. Later, he concentrated on Dandenong and had an office in Lonsdale Street, Dandenong. This became the *Dandenong Journal* in September 1927. His family of four sons and two daughters were all involved in the paper's management at one time or another. His son, George, otherwise known as 'G. F. R.' published his reminiscences of early Dandenong in the pages of the *Journal* (Brennan, 1973: 138-139). One of its journalists was Andrew Ericksen, Springvale resident and son of Danish parents, later first mayor of the City of Springvale. In the late 1920s he wrote a substantial weekly column on the affairs of

Springvale, a sign of its increasing importance (Hibbins, 1984: 158). In the 1950s, Greg Dickson was the proprietor. The office was at No. 1 Scott Street, off 319 Lonsdale Street.

A rival newspaper for many years was the *Dandenong Advertiser*, which began in 1874, under the auspices of the Swords family, initially using Bowman's Hotel as its base. Three generations of the family were involved with the paper. This was both published and printed in Dandenong, at 31 Walker Street. It was Robert Swords who sparked off the campaign for a public hospital in Dandenong with an article headed 'Wake up Dandenong' (Alves, 1991: 6). *The Advertiser* finally ceased publication in 1959 (Brennan, 1973: 137).

Niall Brennan points out: 'The power of a local journal cannot be overlooked'. He describes the *South Bourke and Mornington Journal*, as 'a cohesive agent throughout the whole area' and notes that the two papers helped to 'keep each other on their toes' (Brennan, 1973: 137). Certainly they kept local residents informed on a range of local happenings and stimulated debate on current local issues by stirring or challenging editorials. In the 1970s the *Dandenong Journal* faced competition from the *Dandenong News*, which was owned by the Age. When the Age bought the *Dandenong Journal* in the late 1970s, the *Dandenong News* ceased publication. The current newspapers are the *Dandenong Journal*, the *Dandenong Examiner* and the *Oakleigh Springvale Dandenong Times* (Ray Carter: personal communication, 4 March 1999).

5.4 Providing services

Gas

Gas first came to a portion of the Greater Dandenong area in 1888, after a public gas company was formed the previous year. The company built a gas works in Hutton Street and a number of houses were connected. In March 1888, the *Dandenong Journal* reported that the township was 'lighted with gas' and 'the illuminating power of the gas is highly satisfactory' (quoted Brennan, 1973: 127). A gas-lit banquet celebrated the occasion. The extensive complex was demolished in the early 1970s. Sue Jarvis described the buildings shortly before their demolition (Jarvis, 1971: 97):

A complex of 5 fine buildings today stand deserted on the Hutton Street property of the former Gas Works. They include residences, an office fronting the street and two large brick buildings at the rearway - the gas works themselves. None of the gas equipment remains, so the two brick halls could, by their fine construction and proportion, be anything from an assembly hall to a railway shed or a factory. The front office and two rear workshops are simple yet beautifully

proportioned buildings ... The use of arched window heads, circular fanlights above doors, and arched door openings in the workshops are arranged in perfect harmony with the gabled roofs and clerestory ventilators.

There were two gasometers in the area that is now the City of Greater Dandenong - one in Hutton Street, Dandenong, and one in Springvale Road, on the site that later became Killester College (Eric and Merle Mitchell: personal communication, 16 April 1999). In the 1950s the Colonial Gas Association had showrooms at 203 Lonsdale Street. By the 1970s, the Gas and Fuel Corporation had taken over the responsibility for gas supply (Brennan, 1973: 127). The supply and installation of gas is now privatised. Gas appliance showrooms are located on the Princess Highway and Springvale Road. When the tapping of natural gas developed, the main distribution terminal was at Dandenong, occupying a substantial block of land south of Greens Road.

Electricity

In 1914, a private company, the India Rubber, Gutta Percha and Telegraph Works Pty. Ltd. acquired the rights to supply electricity to the town of Dandenong and built a power house in Clow Street. In 1921 the Shire Council bought all the assets of the company and in turn transferred these to the State Electricity Commission in 1923, which by that time was operating large new power stations in the La Trobe Valley. The cheap and ample supply of electricity close by was one of the factors attracting new industries to the area (Brennan, 1973: 127).

In December 1924 electricity came to Springvale and Noble Park. Springvale initially had 110 consumers. By 1928 there were 50 subscribers in Noble Park (Hibbins, 1984:135, 144). The electrification of the railway line between Melbourne and Dandenong was completed by 1924, though a sub-station was not built at Springvale until some years later.

Sewerage

A local sewerage scheme began in 1936, a year after the Dandenong Sewerage Authority was formed (Brennan, 1973: 121). The Authority used land in the south of the area as a treatment plant and provided connections to the settled neighbourhoods of Dandenong. The detailed survey undertaken by the Authority in 1935 provides an excellent record of settlement at this time. A set of the 1935 maps is available at the City of Greater Dandenong offices of the Heritage Coordinator. Springvale and Noble Park were not

connected to a local sewerage scheme until after World War Two. In 1947, a separate body was established - the Springvale and Noble Park Sewerage Authority (Hibbins, 1984: 181).

The Authorities were eventually absorbed into the Board of Works, which in turn later became Melbourne Water. From the early days of the sewerage scheme, some of the land was used for agistment and horses and cattle still graze on the pastures.

There were proposals for a south-eastern treatment scheme in 1924, and land purchased at Braeside, just outside the boundaries of the present City of Greater Dandenong, though the new treatment plant did not open until 1940 (Hibbins, 1984:150-151, 166).

Water

In the early days of European settlement, residents relied on springs, the creeks, wells, dams and rainwater tanks. In times of drought, as in 1922-3, Springvale residents obtained water from a water truck at the railway siding. Water reticulation gradually reached the populous areas of the district. For many years, the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission were responsible for the supply of water to residents. By 1924 the Commission had constructed a sizeable dam, near Gladstone Road. This was known as the Dandenong Reservoir and was there until the 1980s. In 1958, the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works took over the responsibility of water supply. The M. M. B. W. was later reconstituted as Melbourne Water. Reservoirs outside the area helped to increase the water resources available, for example, the Mount Waverley Reservoir and the Cardinia Reservoir. (Hibbins, 1973: 135, 182).

Fire

Dandenong's fire brigade began in 1894, using a wooden building as its fire station, on a site at the corner of Walker and Robinson Streets. At that time the brigade was made up solely of volunteers. A brick complex was later built and it is thought that the original wooden building was later moved to Bangholme. Fire brigades at Noble Park and Springvale were established in 1928. Noble Park's first station was a weatherboard building constructed by voluntary labour in the grounds of the Public Hall. In 1931 the Country Fire Authority built a new station in Buckley Street, which still survives. Springvale's 1928 fire station was replaced by a modern building in 1958 (Hibbins, 1984:144, 149, 162, 184). In Dandenong, the C. F. A. built a new complex on the Princess Highway, including a fire station and the CFA Zone and Region 8 Headquarters.

5.5 Developing facilities

There were few medical facilities in the district's early days as an area of small scattered rural communities 15- 20 miles from Melbourne. Women played a key role as nurses and midwives and it is said that George Dunbar, of Dunbar's Hotel was the district's main medical man before any resident doctor arrived.

Early doctors

The first doctor in Dandenong, a Dr Charles Phillips, is said to have arrived about 1857. He was the only doctor for some years, but since he suffered from asthma, he had assistants to help him in the practice ('G. F. R':1935: 28). He died in 1879 and was succeeded by Dr Henry Ogle Moore. An additional doctor in the practice was Dr. Lee Brown, a popular physician who left in 1909 (Brennan, 1973: 96-97). Dr Langley was the medical officer for Dandenong Shire when the terrible 'flu' epidemic of 1919 hit Dandenong and was the first to publicly express the need for a public hospital. The Dandenong State School and the Drill Hall became temporary hospitals, staffed by Red Cross volunteers, and local people donated food, bedding and equipment (Alves, 1991: 5).

By 1939 there were six doctors in Dandenong, including Dr. Ellen S. Walker, probably the district's first female doctor. The other doctors in 1939 were Sir Gilbert G. Boileau, Alfred J. Frost, Douglas (Ian) Hart, Alfred Oldham and Arthur E. Taylor (Sands and McDougall, 1939: 297-299). Dr Ian Hart and his wife Dorothy commissioned the building of 'Benga' in McCrae Street, where they lived for many years. By 1950 there were nine doctors in Dandenong, including Dr Ellen Walker and the group practice of Doctors Ian Hart, Alfred Oldham and A. M. Hutson, all at 15 Scott Street, at the corner of Thomas Street, adjoining the hospital Murray House. Their surgery was known as Murray House (Source: Max Oldmeadow). By 1973 there were 60 doctors in Dandenong.

Dr. Samuel Halrahan, Springvale's first resident doctor, arrived in 1920, followed by Dr Andrew Mawson in 1924, Dr. Robert Lawrence in 1927 and Dr Norman Luth in 1932 (Hibbins, 1984: 137, 163). Dr Luth served the community in Springvale for 40 years before retiring in 1972. In the early years of his practice, the depression years, he was sometimes paid in fowls and vegetables. He delivered many babies and was active in community affairs, eventually becoming a local folk hero. At one time, he was the only doctor in Springvale. He was also the local health officer (Marian Rollings: personal communication, 25 June 1998). Local reserves include two that are named in honour of local doctors - Norman Luth Reserve in Springvale and Dr Aubrey Moss Memorial Garden in Noble Park.

Hospitals

There were a number of early private hospitals in Dandenong, though the evidence is fragmentary. One small hospital was Mrs Orgill's homeopathic hospital which was caring for patients about 1896-8 (Skidmore, 1984: 9). Miss Campbell, a trained nurse, had a private hospital in Scott Street in 1911 (SBMJ, 29 December 1911). In 1922, a hospital opened near Dandenong High School, on the Princess Highway. An advertisement indicated that:

Nurse E. J. Marshall wishes to notify the public of Dandenong and surrounding districts that Novar ... has been approved of by the Health Commission as a general hospital and is now ready to receive patients (SBMJ, 20 April 1922).

One of the most well-known local hospitals was Murray House Hospital, with 18 beds, from 1929 to the early 1940s. This was run by the Thompson sisters and was near the corner of Scott and Thomas Streets (Source: Max Oldmeadow). Miss Ahern's private hospital, Merlin Private Hospital, was in Langhorne Street and was still going in 1939. It returned to being a private residence in 1944 and the building still survives. A third hospital was St. Helen's Dandenong Private Hospital, at 24 Thomas Street. This was still open in 1950.

In 1924-25, the Mawson sisters ran a small private hospital in Buckingham Avenue, Springvale, next to the house of their brother, Dr Andrew Mawson, in Buckingham Avenue. Sisters Coleman and Paton took over the hospital in 1926 and it became known as St. William's Hospital. In Noble Park, a private hospital called St. Elmo started in 1928 (Hibbins, 1984: 144).

Each year hundreds of people travelled to Melbourne for hospital treatment and it was not until 1937 that a campaign got under way, to promote and work towards a community hospital. An Investigation Committee proposed a hospital which would be funded initially by a grant (25%), a loan (50%), and 25% from local community contributions. £5,000 had to be collected before building could commence. It was a huge local effort, in a community still recovering from the Depression.

A month before the outbreak of World War Two, a five-acre site was purchased on the corner of Cleeland and David streets. Work began on building, less than two years later, and the first two patients were admitted to the Dandenong and District Hospital in April 1942. The new hospital had 34 beds when it opened and this increased to 82 beds within 14 years. In 1962, its 10,000th baby was born (Alves, 1991: 1, 6-9).

St William's Hospital, Springvale, was about to close in 1950, when Sister Coleman decided to retire, but local community action and vigorous fund-raising led to its continuance and

extension, from a five-bed hospital to 26 beds in 1965 (Hibbins, 1984: 222). It became the Springvale and District Community Hospital and eventually received support from the local council and from the State level, as well as continuing to benefit from the support of a Ladies Auxiliary, service clubs, and other community groups. By 1991, the Dandenong and District Hospital was a 334 bed major public hospital (Alves,

1991: 9). The South Eastern District Hospital opened in Noble Park, on the corner of Heatherton Road and the Princess Highway. The Valley Private Hospital, formerly known as the Dandenong Valley Hospital, north of Police Road, is just outside the present municipal boundary. The hospital complex at Springvale took on a new role as the Springvale Community Health Centre.

6.0 Education

6.1 Forming associations, libraries and institutes for self-education

The Dandenong townsfolk built their first Mechanics Institute in 1863, a small timber building, which included a library. A more elaborate structure was needed and in 1876, a new brick building was added in front. This contained the Institute and Library (with 500 volumes), as well as providing a space for Council meetings ('G. F. R.', 1930: 88-89) and a venue for many functions. This in turn, after many battles, gave way to the grand new town hall complex, built in 1891. The Institute was granted the use of one whole floor in the new building. This included space for a reading room and library, which continued in that location until the 1970s (Brennan, 1973: 94-95).

In 1915, Springvale residents opened their Mechanics' Institute on the corner of Balmoral and Buckingham Avenues (demolished 1998). This included a small library and reading room, with some books donated by local people. Fifty years later, a large public meeting pressed the Springvale City Council for a free municipal library service. Negotiations over the next six years resulted in the establishment of the Dandenong Valley Regional Library Service, involving Springvale, Dandenong, Berwick and Cranbourne. The new service was to share the costs of staff, books and operating expenses, while each municipality provided its own building(s) and/or mobile units. Nearly 20,000 residents of the City of Springvale signed up as borrowers. Springvale's library was the first public library in Australia to use bar code labels and light pens for automatic recording of loans (Hibbins, 1983: 229-230).

In 1994, a local branch of U3A (University of the Third Age) was formed and began classes, developing an extensive program. It is currently based in the Chisholm Institute of TAFE's complex.

6.2 Establishing schools

Schools are an interesting indicator of the growth and maturity of a district. They often only come into being as a result of intense pressure and lobbying by parents. The continued well-being of schools, and the extent of their facilities, is influenced by the efforts of local people, especially parents, both in terms of fund-raising and through the decisions of bodies such as mothers' clubs, school committees and advisory councils. Between the early 1950s and the early 1980s, the local people gained at least 24 government primary schools and 10 government secondary schools in what is now the Greater Dandenong area. The role of each school within its neighbourhood, and the different qualities or character of each school are aspects which could well be researched further.

Early days

In the early days of the colony of Victoria, schools were either small private schools or had some government support from the Denominational Schools Board or the National Schools Board. The first school in the Greater Dandenong area appears to have been a Church of England school which began in a tent, on the site of the present St. James church hall in Langhorne Street, Dandenong, in 1851 (Blake, 1973, vol. 3: 289, 337). A small school was started by Father Niall in 1858, just across the Eumemmerring Creek, two miles from the township of Dandenong. When Inspector Sircom visited the Eumemmerring school in 1861, there were 44 pupils on the roll and 30 present (Dickson, 1983, p. 14). At Keysborough, a private school was using the Methodist church for some years, from 1861, though it may have closed at some point.



Figure 18. Keysborough State School c1895 (Hibbins)

Under the new Board of Education (1862-1872), all government-supported schools became Common Schools. There were four Common Schools in the whole of the Greater Dandenong area during all or part of this period. The school at Dandenong became Common School No. 186. Eumemmerring became Common School No. 244. In 1867, a new Common School opened in the Springvale area - No. 934, in a leased building, a house owned by Charles Daley, of Springvale, about a mile south of the present Princess Highway. 51 boys and 26 girls enrolled initially. Keysborough school became Common School No. 1013 in 1869, leasing the timber church building, which possibly still survives.



Figure 19. Dandenong State School c1907 (Brennan)

Government primary schools

(Information in this section is mainly derived from Blake, 1973, vol. 3 and individual schools.)

The Keysborough people were anxious to have a new school building and succeeded in getting a site and raising funds towards construction. Bricks for the school were to be made from raw materials close to hand, specifically clay from across the road, but apparently the bricks turned out to be unsuitable. The foundations were of local ironstone. The brick building (with three-room residence) was completed in 1874, as Keysborough State School No. 1466. It ceased to function as a school in 1993, but still survives as a private residence and as one of the older buildings in the Greater Dandenong area. The building is also of interest because it received substantial local contributions in a time of transition as the State took over responsibility for school finances and buildings. Cypress in the former school precinct were planted in the 1930s.

The second State School in the area was Dandenong No. 1403, opened in May 1874, west of Robinson Street and north of Foster Street. A public meeting, held just over a year before, had urged the Minister for Education to have 'a State School in the Town of Dandenong'. However, with increased enrolments, overcrowding and the coming of the railway in 1878, the site proved unsuitable and a new brick school was built on a two-acre block in Foster Street, the site of the present school, in 1881. Because the numbers of pupils had greatly increased, additional brick rooms were added in 1901 and 1909. In the 1950s the Education Department bought an additional five acres. School numbers rose to 760 in 1960, with 17 classes in 15 rooms. The school still survives and is an important part of the region's heritage.

The third State School was at Springvale, No. 1658, opened in 1875, on a two acre site adjoining Dandenong Road. It replaced two earlier schools, No. 934 at Springvale and another school (Wellington No. 685) further north. Later, the school became known as Springvale North. With a growing school population, its site was extended by four acres. Between 1951 and 1958, attendance doubled, to reach over 1,000.

Eumemmering No. 244 became a State School in 1873, but in the hard days of the 1890s depression the older pupils had to transfer to Dandenong No. 1403 and only the infant classes remained on the original site. In 1904 the school was re-



Figure 20. Springvale State School c1923 (Hibbins)

located to a new site on Hallam Road (outside the Greater Dandenong area). From 1923 onwards the school was called 'Hallam'. Later, it re-located to Harmer Road.

The coming of the railway resulted in increased population in the vicinity of the railway line to Gippsland and the new station at Springvale. After years of agitation, a new State School opened, 'No. 3507 Springvale Railway Station', an adjunct of the older school Springvale No. 1658. It was the first of four schools to be established in the Greater Dandenong area in the first half of the 20th century. 25 pupils enrolled initially in 1905 and had their lessons in the Wesleyan chapel hall. It was some years before the Education Department had purchased land and built a new brick school to cater for 100 pupils. This opened in 1912 and still survives, in Springvale Road. The peak enrolment year was 1956 with 948 pupils.

Noble Park State School No. 3675 opened in 1911, not long after the area had been sub-divided. As at Springvale, the pupils were taught in a rented hall. Enrolments reached 100 by 1917 and local developer, Frank Buckley, donated land for a school, adjoining Buckley Street. The Education Department built a

two-room timber structure which may still survive, as part of the Noble Park Language Centre. Bangholme State School No. 3884 opened in 1915, at the corner of Bangholme and Harwood Roads (Blake, 1973, vol. 3: 440).

Dandenong West State School No. 4217 opened after years of agitation, led by two women, Mrs Murray and Mrs Downey, supported by the Dandenong Improvement Association. The Education Department eventually bought a site in Birdwood Avenue and constructed a brick school, opened in 1925, with an enrolment of 229 pupils. In 1952 land was bought for an oval. With increasing numbers in the 1950s-60s, extra classrooms were added, reaching a total of 23 classrooms.

In the post-war expansion of the Dandenong-Springvale-Noble Park area, primary schools soon became over-crowded. Springvale State School's peak enrolment year was in 1956 when 940 pupils were on the school's register. The seven new State Schools which opened during the 1950s included: Dandenong North No. 4723 (1954); Harrisfield No. 4730 (1955); Lyndale No. 4771 (1956); Whiteside No. 4785, Springvale (1957); Heatherhill No. 4802 (1958); and Yarraman Park No. 4807 (1958).

A further six schools opened in the 1960s: Dandenong South No. 4810 (1961); Greenslopes No. 4891, in Dandenong (1965); Oakwood Park No. 4856 in Noble Park (1965); Southvale No. 4859 (1967); Sandown Park No. 4901 (1967); and Springvale West No. 4966 (1969). John Farnham, who became one of Australia's most celebrated pop singers, went to two of these primary schools - Yarraman Park and then Lyndale. Sandown Park State School No. 4901 was the first primary school to open with a fully-functioning canteen, a fully-stocked library and equipped classrooms - all as a result of the fund-raising efforts of people in the area while the school was being built (Eric and Merle Mitchell: personal communication, 16 April 1999).

With the growing population in the early 1950s, the Education Department bought additional land further along Buckley Street, Noble Park and established the Noble Park State School's infant school there. The school's total enrolment reached 910 by 1965, despite the opening of three other

primary schools in the area. Later, as the school numbers eased, the entire school moved to the infant school site (Hibbins, 1984: 221).

Springvale (State Library of Victoria Willee Collection)

The greatest number of schools opened in the Greater Dandenong area, in any decade, were those opened in the 1970s, a total of eleven schools: Chandler No. 4941 in Noble Park (1970); Wooranna Park No. 4989, a brick school on two levels, (1971); Springvale South No. 5015 (1971); Wallarano, Noble Park (1973); Coomoorra, Keysborough (1975); Maralinga, Keysborough (1975); Springvalley, Clarke Road, Springvale South, (1975); Keysborough Park (c. 1977); Noble Park North (1977); Rosewood Downs, Dandenong (1977); and Silverton, Noble Park (1978). Seven of these schools were located south of Heatherton Road, an indication of the rapid growth of new housing in the southern area. Wooranna Park, Noble Park North, Rosewood Downs and Silverton were north of Heatherton Road. Noble Park North later merged with the neighbouring high school, to form Carawatha College (1993), an interesting educational experiment.

After decades of opening new schools, a reverse situation occurred in the 1990s, when a process of closure and merger began. The old Keysborough school closed in 1994. The Bangholme school also closed. The original Springvale State School No. 1658 (Springvale North). closed and was demolished for a new housing estate. Whiteside Primary School closed in the mid 1990s and merged with Sandown Park Primary School, Wareham Street, to form Springvale Heights Primary School in 1994. The Whiteside school site was sold and later transformed into the Springvale campus of Minaret College.

This period was also a time of consolidation, when many local school communities improved their facilities, added a library, developed an oval, and landscaped school grounds. Many schools became local resources, with halls to hire. Although built and controlled by a government department, each school developed its own character, influenced by its neighbourhood and the local people. For example, Dandenong South State School built up links with the newly-arrived local Russian community in the early 1960s. A local nursery, Camellia Lodge Nursery, gave Oakwood Park State School a donation of camellias, rhododendrons and azaleas for its garden.

Noble Park Language Centre

This language centre developed intensive courses for children of non-English-speaking background. It was initially located in the Noble



Figure 21. St Joseph's Catholic School Buckingham Avenue.

Park Primary School, but later moved to the site of Noble Secondary College which closed in the mid 1990s (Hibbins, 1983: 221).

Catholic primary schools

St. Mary's Catholic School was opened in 1912 by Archbishop Carr, who announced: 'This is the greatest event that has ever yet happened in Dandenong'. 100 children transferred from the Dandenong State School. The timber building was in McCrae Street, Dandenong. A photograph taken two years after the school opened shows the children busy in the school garden, with the school in the background. The Presentation Sisters came to run the school and lived in the convent next door to the school (G. Dickson, 1983: 52, 81). The school grew in size and extensions were added in 1919.

St. Joseph's Church, blessed and dedicated by Archbishop Mannix in 1938, opened in St. John's Avenue, Springvale as a dual purpose centre, both church and school. The nuns of Notre Dame des Missions from Oakleigh were the first teachers (Hibbins, 1984: 165). With the arrival of vast numbers of European migrants and their children, the Catholic parish of Springvale began buying land and constructing new school buildings, spending a total of £120,000 during the years 1955-1962 (Hibbins, 1984: 212).

The new St. Anthony's, in Leonard Avenue, Noble Park, was built in 1952. It was designed to serve as both church and school. Later some of the students transferred to buildings adjoining the new church in Buckley Street. In 1982, the school vacated the Leonard Avenue site (Hibbins, 1984: 218; D. Dickson, 1983: 18).

St. Gerard's was the second Catholic parish in Dandenong. A new complex of church, school and presbytery in Gladstone Road, North Dandenong, was completed by May 1957, when Archbishop Mannix came out for the official opening (G. Dickson, 1983: 108).

The Resurrection Primary School opened in temporary portables in Corrigan Road, Keysborough, in 1975. The building, part of a modern and extensive parish complex, was completed some time later (Hibbins, 1983: 219). The most recent Catholic primary school to be opened was St. Elizabeth's Primary School, in Dandenong North (1978).

Islamic schools

The first local Islamic primary school started in the Noble Park area, in 1992. It is now part of Minaret College. The Islamic community bought an additional site in Springvale, in the area of Lewis and Birch Streets, the site formerly occupied by Whiteside Primary School. This is now the main campus.

Other independent primary schools

Haileybury College Primary School was opened in 1976, as part of the larger college complex which opened in 1963 (see section below). The Seventh Day Adventist Carrum Downs Primary School opened in Thompson Road.

Special schools

Special schools opened in the area include Emerson School in Heatherton Road, Dandenong, and Noble Park Special Developmental School. These provide education for people with disabilities and special needs.

Early secondary schools

The earliest secondary education was provided by private schools. Miss Matilda Shaw's school for young ladies opened in 1874, in the house now known as Laurel Lodge, Langhorne Street, Dandenong, which she rented. In 1884 she had her own house built, further up the road, 'Merlin', at the corner of Langhorne and Wilson Streets and moved her school there. At one stage, the school had 20 lady boarders. Both houses still survive. Miss Shaw kept her school going for a total of 19 years, closing the school in 1889 when she married. The school had a good reputation and was mentioned in the book *Victoria and its Metropolis* (Sutherland, 1888:). Dandenong Grammar School, for boys, started in 1888, under Malcolm McPherson who had taught at the Dandenong State School. It lasted for some years (Brennan, 1973: 84-85).

State Secondary schools and colleges

The Melbourne Continuation (later High) School was the first to provide State post-primary schooling, in 1905, followed by 28 other schools in the next fifteen years (Blake, 1973, vol. 1: 441-481). Premier Thomas Bent had said at Dandenong in 1905 that he was 'proud to have assisted in giving a chance for the children of the poorest to get to the university if they had the brains and the application' (Argus, 17 July 1905). Dandenong High School, opened in 1919, was the first government secondary school in the area and the 29th state high school in Victoria. The building was completed in 1920. It is important because it was amongst the earliest government high schools in the state, reflecting profound changes in thinking about educational provision. Many of the school's pupils distinguished themselves in later years and the school still maintains an excellent reputation.

The next great wave of expansion in the area of secondary education was in the early 1950s, as the impact of migration made itself felt and the demand for secondary schools increased, especially in Melbourne's rapidly-growing suburbs. Springvale Secondary College, established as a High School in



Figure 22. Dandenong High School

1954, represents this demand. There was an unprecedented jump in secondary school enrolments and the Education Department devised a new method of 'Light Timber Construction'. Springvale High School was amongst the first nine high schools to use the timber-framed, concrete tile-clad schools in 1954. They were to be built in sections over three to four years (Blake, 1973, vol. 1: 527-531). The site of the new high school, a grazing paddock off Sandown Road, was 12 acres in extent. Enrolments increased rapidly and reached over 1,000 by 1962 (Blake, 1973, vol. 1: 588-599).

The explosion in the demand for secondary schooling is also seen in the establishment of Dandenong Technical School, for boys, opened in February 1954, after considerable urging by the Dandenong Shire Council, the Returned Soldiers' Association and other public bodies. The Education Department purchased a large block of land adjoining Cleeland Street and Stud Road. Apprentice education was a feature of the school during its first ten years. A famous ex-student is John Farnham, who began a plumbing apprenticeship there before going on to become a pop star (Source: Ray Carter). In the early days of the school, 'frequently, cattle being driven to the sale yards broke into the grounds and were rounded up by drovers and their dogs' (Blake, 1973, vol. 3: 605).

Dandenong Girls' Secondary School opened in 1957, though the buildings were not completed until 1959. It opened because of overcrowding of Dandenong High School and was situated on an eight-acre site, fronting Ann, David and Cleeland Streets. In more recent times it was re-named Cleeland Secondary College (Blake, 1973, vol. 3: 556).

Westall Technical School opened in 1957, in various buildings in

Springvale. It was planned to be in Queens Road, Westall. However, the Department decided the chosen location was unsuitable and bought a new site in Noble Park, in the area at the corner of Douglas and Thomas Streets, formerly known as Luxford's paddock. Buildings were completed by 1958-59 and the school took on a new name, Noble Park Technical School. Students came from a wide area, from Huntingdale to Berwick. Later the school changed its name to Noble Secondary College, but this was closed in the mid 1990s. Part of the site became a campus of Casey Institute of TAFE, now Chisholm Institute of TAFE. The southern end of the site was used for the Noble Park Language Centre (see section 6. 5).

New secondary schools opened in the 1960s included Lyndale High School, opened in 1961. This resulted from the growth of the Lyndale area, both Housing Commission and private homes and the strain on the resources of Springvale High School (Blake, vol. 3: 570). John Farnham, yet-to-be a celebrity, sang at the official opening of Lyndale Secondary, three years before his singing career began (Ray Carter, personal communication, 1998).

Noble Park High School opened in 1961 in local halls, occupying its completed new building in Callaghan Street in 1962. Its name changed to Noble Park Heights Secondary College and more recently to Noble Park Secondary College.

The Springvale-Noble Park area continued to grow so much in the early 1960s that the Victorian Education Department decided to open an additional secondary school in the district. This was given the name Heatherhill High School and opened in portable classrooms in 1966. The courtyard style buildings, 'well-designed for modern educational practice', were ready for

occupation by the end of 1968, situated in James Road, Springvale South.

Government secondary schools opened during the 1970s included: Chandler High School, opened in 1972, in Isaac Road, Keysborough. ; Keysborough Technical School; Coomoora Secondary College in Coomoora Road, Springvale South; and Noble Park North High School, which opened in Browns Road, in 1977. It became Carawatha Secondary College in 1987 and merged with the neighbouring primary school in 1993 to form Carawatha College.

The portion of Dandenong Technical School which provided apprenticeship training took on a new role as part of a college of advanced education. This later became part of Casey Institute of TAFE, now Chisholm Institute of TAFE (see section 6.4, below). The portion which provided a broad technical education remained as the Dandenong Technical School (eastern end of the campus, off Cleeland Street). In the re-naming process of the 1980s it changed its name to the Dandenong Valley Secondary College (Ray Carter, personal communication, 1998).

The number of secondary schools in the area appears to have decreased in the 1990s, probably as the result of centralising and economic rationalising policies followed by the Victorian Education Department. Noble Park Technical School became Noble Secondary College for a time but was closed in the mid 1990s. Dandenong Valley Secondary College was closed. Keysborough Technical School disappeared from the scene. Its site in Henderson Road is now occupied by housing (in the area of Scott Crescent). In the renaming of schools in the 1980s, Dandenong High School was the only school to insist on retaining its original name. Most high schools took on the designation of 'college', as elsewhere in Victoria.

Catholic Secondary Colleges

In response to local demand, the Catholic Church opened a secondary school for girls, in 1955. This was Killester, run by the Brigidine nuns and situated in Springvale Road. Archbishop Mannix came out to bless the new school, an impressive two-storey building (Hibbins, 1984: 218; Dandenong Journal, 19 January 1955).

St. John's Regional College, Dandenong began as St. Mary's Boys School in 1958, to 'fill the gap in Catholic secondary education for boys' (G. Dickson, 1983: 113). The De La Salle Brothers were the first staff and the students had their lessons, first in a 'pre-fab' building, in McCrae Street, then in



Figure 23. Killester, Springvale

part of St. Mary's Primary school in New Street. Later the school changed its name to St. John's and moved onto its own site in Caroline Street in 1967-68. In the meantime, a girls' secondary school had started, based at St. Mary's. This new school became co-educational, a large college serving a vast region. The number of students reached over 1,500 and a new college, Nazareth College, opened in North Dandenong in 1986.

Islamic College

In 1992 an Islamic school opened in Leonard Avenue, Noble Park. This appears to be the site and brick building previously occupied by St. Anthony's Catholic School (D. Dickson, 1973: 16). In 1995, a secondary college opened in Springvale, part of the Islamic complex in Lewis Street and the main campus of Minaret College.

Other independent secondary colleges

Haileybury College, Brighton, bought 37 acres in Keysborough (part of the old Wyatt farm), adjoining Springvale Road, and established its senior school there. Prime Minister Menzies came to open the school in February 1963. The site was extended in size 13 years later. The vast complex, east of Springvale Road, now occupies 96 acres and attracts students from all over Melbourne's south-eastern suburbs. St. Leonard's College, Brighton bought a site on the Patterson River, east of Wells Road, in 1981 and developed 'St. Leonard's College at Patterson River' there during the late 1980s (Hibbins, 1984: 232-3). In the early 1990s, the Assembly of God church developed their Lighthouse Christian Centre and College in Springvale Road, at the southern end. These three schools, and Minaret College, are the only non-government, non-Catholic, schools in the whole of the City of Greater Dandenong.

6.3 Training people for workplace skills

It was mainly because of the rapid industrialisation of the area between Oakleigh and Dandenong in the early 1950s, that the Education Department decided to establish Dandenong Technical School for boys (1954) and a new technical school in the Westall area, initially called Westall Technical School (1957). This latter school, built instead in Noble Park, at the corner of Douglas and Thomas Streets (1958-9), eventually became Noble Park Technical School.

Apprentice education was a feature of the Dandenong and Noble Park technical schools during their early years. The workplace training role of these two sites continued as part of the development of Dandenong's College of Advanced Education, later Casey Institute of TAFE and now Chisholm Institute of TAFE (see below). However, the portions providing apprenticeship training were separated from the general secondary education sections of their original institutions.

On-the-job training was also carried out within workplaces, though this is an aspect which requires further research. One example is the Nissan Training Centre located near its manufacturing complex.

6.4 Building a system of higher education

By 1964, Dandenong Technical School was far more than a secondary school. It had a total enrolment of almost 2,000, including 699 day students but also diploma students, apprentices and part-time evening classes. Its site was 23 acres, with frontages to Stud Road and Cleeland Street. In the 1970s, the portion of Dandenong Technical School which provided advanced technical training was up-graded to the status of a College of Advanced Education, the first tertiary institution in the area. Later this was re-designated a TAFE (Technical and Further Education) college and it became part of Casey Institute of TAFE, with other campuses at Springvale (Noble Park); Cranbourne and Berwick. The Noble Park Technical School had included a Trade School for apprentices and the northern section of the school site became part of the Casey Institute of TAFE (Springvale Campus). In the year 2000, these various campuses are part of Chisholm Institute of TAFE.

6.5 Educating people in two cultures

The Enterprise Migrant Centre at Westall originally included an education centre for adult migrants, who were given short courses in English as a second language. A language centre began at Noble Park, initially on the site of the original Noble Park Primary School and later occupying the southern end of the Noble Park Secondary College site.

Saturday morning schools or evening language classes were a major part of the process of settling down in a new country and provided opportunities for the children of migrants to learn the language of their country of origin, or their parents' country of origin. Dandenong High School developed a very large Saturday morning language school, which still continues. The Greek community at Dandenong ran a Greek school on Saturdays so that their children could learn the Greek language and culture.

Many church centres held language classes: for example, St. John's Lutheran Church, Springvale, held German language classes. The Serbian Orthodox community has organised classes in the Serbian language and culture at the church centre in Perrys Road, Keysborough. These are but a few examples. The transmission of culture and language by many diverse groups is part of the very complex picture seen within the Greater Dandenong area.

ELLA centres, where English Language and Literacy Access is provided for migrants, are also an important part of both the Springvale and Dandenong Public Libraries in the City of Greater Dandenong.

6.6 Educating people in conserving natural resources

Cyril Everett Isaac, who lived within the area that is now the City of Greater Dandenong for many years, was a pioneer in horticultural education in Victoria and a conservationist who had immense influence nationally. A teacher who believed that a pleasant environment can aid the learning process, Isaac's activities in growing and promoting the use of plants attracted the attention of Frank Tate, Director of Education in Victoria. This led to the formation of the Victorian State Schools Horticultural Society in 1910 and Isaac's appointment as fulltime superintendent of the State Schools Nursery near Oakleigh and a network of sub-nurseries.

Isaac's work with the State Schools Nursery involved organising programs of training, producing educational material and courses and supervising the growth and distribution of thousands of plants. He was later described by a leading educationist as 'one of the specialists who organised the new methods' (quoted Blake, vol. 1: 311). This was an innovative period in Victoria's education system. He enlisted in 1916, leaving his family in the local area, and returned after World War One. In 1922, he resigned from the Education Department to start his own business, the Flowervale Nursery,

Noble Park, and was active in local affairs, being a shire councillor for some years in the 1920s-30s and MLC for the South Eastern Province 1940-1952. During this time he lived at 56 Stud Road, Dandenong (Sands & McDougall Directory, 1950), where he developed a tree research nursery. After the terrible bush fires of 1939, when so many forest trees were destroyed, Isaac became the major force behind the 'Save the Forests' Campaign, begun in 1944 and incorporated as the Natural Resources Conservation League in 1951. It was also in 1944 that Isaac organised a community forest planting west of the Dandenong Showgrounds, behind Greaves Reserve (Eric and Merle Mitchell: personal communication, 16 April 1999; and Carmen Powell, Dandenong and District Historical Society, September 2000).

With assistance from the Victorian Government, a site was purchased in Springvale Road and Alex Wilkie, nurseryman was appointed as its manager. This site has continued as the headquarters of the NRCL since that time. The League has had an enormous impact, through its educational programs, research, involvement in conservation issues and the supply of millions of trees to farmers, local government and large State agencies. In 1992, the League took over the educational program of the Victorian Schools Nursery which closed that year.

7.0 Governing

7.1 Developing institutions of self-government

Beginnings of local government

The Government Gazette of 23 February 1852 included a notice proclaiming the township of Dandenong and this was followed up by survey and land sales. The land sales were announced in the Gazette also at various times during 1852. The 1854 census reported the population of the township of Dandenong as 48. In the 1857 census the population was 59. This included 37 males and 22 females.

On 6 February 1857 the Dandenong Road District was proclaimed and the Government approved funds to construct a road from Melbourne to Sale in 1858. On 13 February 1858, the first Court of Petty Sessions met in the newly-opened Bridge Hotel (Brennan, 1973: 30). Clearly, the administrative and judicial arms of government had extended as far as Dandenong by then.

According to the 1861 census, the population of Dandenong was 193 and there were 40 houses. By 1865, the Victorian Gazetteer was reporting the population of the town as 250 and the number of dwellings as 50. It is worth noting that by that time Dandenong was being described as a 'town'. It had a police station, court house and two hotels.

In 1871, the population of the Dandenong Road District was reported to be 864 persons - 447 males and 417 females. Within this district, the township of Dandenong was the only major centre of population with 57 dwellings and 311 people - 164 males and 147 females. Springvale was a tiny settlement of six dwellings, just beyond the then municipal boundary, with a population of 27 people - 12 males and 15 females. However, there were more residents dispersed around the surrounding area. There were enough children in both Dandenong and Springvale for at least two government-supported schools to be operating (see section on educating).

Shire of Dandenong

On 16 May 1873, the Shire of Dandenong was proclaimed, with a territory of 59 square miles and 273 ratepayers. As with the Road District Board, its responsibilities included constructing and maintaining roads. Within its jurisdiction were three toll-gates, on the main roads, which brought in some revenue. It was also responsible for issuing licences to hotel-keepers. The council met monthly, in a room within the Dandenong Mechanics Institute, on the Walker Street and Lonsdale Street corner. It had no shire hall or council chamber of its own. Its shire secretary over many years was John Keys. The shire council took on additional responsibilities. In 1873, it accepted responsibility for the Dandenong Market, previously administered by commissioners appointed in 1866. Also in the 1870s it became involved in the drainage schemes for the Carrum Swamp, a heavy load on its finances.

Both the Dandenong and Springvale centres benefited from the coming of the railway. The centre of Springvale's population shifted from near the main Dandenong Road to the vicinity of the new railway station and the present Springvale Road. Speculation and sub-division brought more people into the area, and virtually the establishment of a new township advertised as the 'New Spring Vale Township'. The opening of a Wesleyan church and a store confirmed that the neighbourhood was progressing (Hibbins, 1984: 89). Dandenong's status was enhanced as the town gained a station master and a postmaster. There were two local newspapers, four hotels and three banks. The Dandenong Market attracted throngs of people each week and new businesses erected substantial shops in the main street.



Figure 24. Dandenong town hall

(State Library of Victoria by John T Collins, c1974)

A new town hall

In the late 1880s the Shire Councillors debated the question of acquiring their own civic offices. At that time there were only 647 ratepayers. Amidst bitter opposition and a ratepayers' poll, there emerged a plan which would utilise the Mechanics Institute site, demolish their building, erect a new Town Hall, house the law courts, and provide one upper floor for the activities of the Mechanics Institute. John Keys, shire secretary and also a local member of parliament, led the group supporting the proposal for a new town hall. The majority of ratepayers voted for the Council's proposal to take out a loan of £4,000. The Victorian Government assisted with a contribution of £2,000, in return for including a Court Room in the plans. The architects chosen were Beswicke and Hutchins, who had already designed town halls at Malvern, Hawthorn and Brighton. The builders, McCulloch and McAlpine, constructed the building at a cost of £9,269. On the ground floor were municipal chambers, public hall, court house and caretaker's residence. On the upper floor were public library, reading room, billiard room and club rooms.

In a sense, the Town Hall was very much a local product. The architect, John Beswicke, was a son of Elizabeth Keys who had arrived in the area in the 1840s. The bricks used in constructing the building were made of local clay, by the Centennial Brick Company of Dandenong. The spacious and 'very handsome' building was completed ahead of schedule and opened on 3 September 1890. A century later, it was described as:

A superb example of the Victorian nineteenth century town hall. Its grand proportions made a confident statement on behalf of Dandenong that it represented a strong community of people sharing a vision for the future of an important provincial municipality (Simon Molesworth in Dickson, Titcher and Tonta, 1990: 5)

For the next 78 years the Town Hall was the home of the municipality of Dandenong. It was also the legal centre for the area, since the law court sessions continued to be held there until 1939. The Town Hall received a major internal reconstruction and extension in 1939-40, at a cost of £10,000. It continued to be the scene of many civic and community occasions.

Severance

Meanwhile, the shape of the municipality had changed. The south-eastern portion - four and a half square miles from Mordialloc to Carrum - was separated and re-named the Borough of Carrum in 1920. Dandenong Shire's population increased, from 13,000 in 1945 to 28,000 in 1954. The rate revenue increased, from £42,000 to £318,000. Two shires were now a viable proposition. Other centres of the area were growing at Springvale and Noble Park and by the 1950s were more populous than Dandenong itself (Brennan, 1973:117; Hibbins, 1984: 172-175). The part of the shire which included Dandenong town wanted to break away and yet keep its name.

In the end, the eastern and western sections went their different ways, though by a convoluted process. The Shire of Dandenong changed its name to 'Shire of Springvale and Noble Park' and then the town of Dandenong, the eastern end, which had petitioned for severance, seceded from the newly-renamed shire. Occupying quite a small area of 14 square miles, it took the name 'Shire of Dandenong' and tried to get approval to annex 11 square miles to its east, parts of Pakenham and Cranbourne Shires. However, these moves were unsuccessful (Fred Woodman, personal communication, 30 March 1999; Ray Carter, personal communication, 4 March 1999). The western end, the Shire of Springvale and Noble Park, really the old or parent shire minus the town of Dandenong, was an area of 40 square miles. At the same time, the spelling

of 'Springvale' was regularised and the previous use of the term 'Spring Vale' discontinued. This was in 1955.

The new entity of Dandenong Shire, based at Dandenong, occupied all the civic buildings and offices. The older entity had no physical base of its own for a time. For the first year, the staff shared the same shire secretary and quarters in the Dandenong Town Hall. The Springvale-Noble Park staff then worked from a weatherboard house and the councillors met in a temporary building built in the back yard. The assets and liabilities of the former municipality had to be sorted out and a substantial payment made to the 'old shire' as it faced its new life. This was only fair since the ratepayers had contributed, years previously, to the building of the grand old Town Hall (Brennan, 1973: 118).

In 1957, the Shire of Springvale and Noble Park purchased the old Gracedale Racing Track, adjoining a Council depot. They commissioned plans for new municipal offices and these were completed and opened early in 1959. Some adjustment in shire boundaries took place in 1959 in the area of Westall Road and between Centre Road and the Princess Highway.

Two new cities

The new compact Shire of Dandenong became the City of Dandenong in 1959, four years after severance. The first mayor, G. T. Andrews, was the grandson of migrants of the 1850s. The Town Hall was very much part of the proclamation celebrations. Some years later, in 1968, the City of Dandenong's municipal offices were transferred to new buildings in Clow Street. The Town Hall was developed as a venue for community festivals and entertainment and a portion was used to house the Council's historic archives.

In 1961, another new City was proclaimed - the City of Springvale. The Premier of Victoria, Henry Bolte, came for the proclamation and to open the massive new civic hall. Andrew

Ericksen, who had been the first president of the Shire of Springvale and Noble Park six years before, was the first mayor of the new city.

Amalgamation

In 1994, as part of the state-wide re-structuring of local government in the early 1990s, the City of Greater Dandenong was created. In a sense, it brought back together the two Municipalities of Dandenong and Springvale - 100% of the City of Dandenong and 70% of the City of Springvale. The new municipal boundaries were not very different from the Shire of Dandenong as it had been in 1948. However, the new municipality gained small portions of the former Cities of Berwick and Cranbourne, including the area of industrial complexes long coveted by the City of Dandenong (south of the Princess Highway and east of the Dandenong Creek).

7.2 Developing administrative structures

An early police depot

In the early days of European settlement, Captain William Lonsdale, the Police Magistrate, took steps to establish a Native Police force. In 1837 he invited C. J. de Villiers to form a native force and selected a site on the Dandenong Creek - the beginning of the Police Paddocks and the first police depot in the area. While most of the paddocks are on the eastern side of the creek, in what is now Churchill National Park, a portion was on the western side, within the present boundaries of Greater Dandenong. A small group of Aborigines agreed to join the force and wear the elaborate uniforms issued to them. An assistant supervisor was appointed. The early stages had many problems, mainly amongst the settlers. De Villiers resigned and the police depot was virtually abandoned in 1839.

Three years later, La Trobe commissioned Henry Pultney Dana to undertake the task of reviving the Native Police force. A corps of 21 Aborigines enlisted and were issued with uniforms. The police at Dandenong were given the 'Central Gipps-Land Region' to look after from their depot at Narre Warren and played an important part in the exploration of and opening-up of Gippsland. Dana also used an additional camp on Merri Creek, near the Yarra.

Despite difficulties, the corps lasted for ten years, until 1852. During this time, they ranged widely over a large area of Victoria, as well as being responsible for the Gippsland district. On one occasion, 'Captain Dana and his Black Police did good service in restoring order'



Figure 25. Springvale City Hall

(‘Garryowen’, 1888, vol. 2). The gold rushes seem to have hastened their end, for the Native Police were sent to Ballarat to collect licence fees and incurred the miners’ hostility. When Henry Pultney died on 24 November 1852, the Native Police were disbanded.

The Native Police Depot apparently continued to operate as a regional police base and also took on a new life as a stud depot for police horses, hence the road named ‘Stud Road’. Additional land was fenced off for grazing the horses. The land was not permanently reserved until 1885. The police stud itself remained in the area until 1935, when it moved to Bundoora and then to Broadmeadows. Meanwhile the Depot had a further use as a base for a group of Aboriginal trackers brought down from Queensland in 1880 (Brennan, 1973: 7-31).

Local police stations

In April 1851, a new police station opened in the Dandenong township, in Langhorne Street, on land permanently reserved for police purposes. Sergeant-Major McClelland and two constables were in charge of the new station. In 1859 the Victorian Government advertised for tenders for the erection of ‘Police Buildings (Township) in Dandenong’. These were repaired in 1878. Matthews and O’Halloran got the contract to build ‘new police quarters and stables’ at Dandenong in 1888-89. It seems that one building survives from either the 1850s or the 1880s, a two-storey brick stable with a gable roof (City of Dandenong: Heritage Buildings, 1993). The other buildings were demolished in the 1950s and a new police complex developed, though still in Langhorne Street.

Springvale had its own police station by the 1920s. A new building replaced it in 1956, at the corner of Windsor Avenue and St. John’s Avenue (Hibbins, 1984: 144, 184). The present new police complex at Dandenong is of modern construction, built in the early 1990s. Its large staff work amongst a vast population, since the new building not only houses Dandenong police station but a district headquarters and other specialised activities. The police district extends into Gippsland and contains the Mornington Peninsula and Phillip Island (Ray Carter, personal communication, 4 March 1999).

Courts

In the early years, honorary magistrates, local citizens of some standing, presided at the Dandenong Court of Petty Sessions, which met each fortnight. In a sense, they complemented the work of the police. The significance of their work was possibly a factor in influencing the Victorian Government to allocate £2,000 towards the new Town Hall, which was to include a Court room. This was in use for fifty years. In 1939-40, the court moved to a site on the corner of Langhorne and Wilson Streets, Dandenong, where there is now a police car park (Ray Carter: personal communication, 1998). A new courthouse was built in Windsor Avenue, Springvale, in 1960 (Hibbins, 1984: 184).

In the 1990s, new law courts were built in Foster Street, Dandenong, on land formerly occupied by the Presbyterian church, which had been demolished in 1987. The new court complex replaced the smaller courts at Dandenong, Springvale and Oakleigh and is now one of the busiest in metropolitan Melbourne (Ray Carter: personal communication, 1998).

7.3 Preparing for war

The first local military group was a ‘Light Horse troop’, formed in 1877, as part of a Victoria-wide corps of volunteers. A later volunteer body, the Victorian Rangers, formed in 1888, had a local unit at Dandenong. The Drill Hall in Lonsdale Street, built in the 1890s and still surviving, was a result of the growing concern about defence and military training. In 1899, there was a call for volunteers to serve in South Africa. Eleven Dandenong men volunteered and went off to the Boer War, returning a year or so later to a heroes’ welcome. It was the first time, suggests Niall Brennan, that Dandenong had found itself identified with a great world event: ‘there was a real sense of participation when Dandenong’s local men went away’ (Brennan, 1973: 105-108).

Military training on a voluntary basis continued in the early years of the 20th century. The Fifteenth Field Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery, Citizen Military Forces, became Dandenong’s own unit, at one time a unit of 200. Dandenong sent men to fight in World War One and World War Two and later wars, and the C. M. F. still continues to use the buildings in Lonsdale Street.

8.0 Developing cultural life

8.1 Organising recreation

Among the Aboriginal sports first observed by European settlers was a game which involved kicking a ball made of possum skin. Informal sport in the early days of European occupation included kangaroo hunting. Horse racing was already occurring at Dandenong in 1851, when the great bush fire of 'Black Thursday' broke out ('Garryowen', 1887, vol. 1: 441).

Early days

Local men were playing team football in the Dandenong area by 1874. A visiting team that year played the local club in a paddock made available for the occasion ('G. F. R. '1935: 72-73). Dandenong Park became a popular football venue and a photograph of the 1890s shows a large group of men and boys on the steps of the pavilion, in what is now the Shepley Oval. By 1910, Dandenong Football Club was playing in the Mulgrave District Association. A year later, the Dandenong team joined the Dandenong and Berwick District Football Association (Paul, 1994: 2). The club reformed after World War One and won the final against Springvale in 1919.

In 1909, Frank Buckley, founding father of Noble Park, donated five acres of land for sporting purposes. This was later named Moodemere Reserve. Local people fenced it, cleared it, and built sheds and by 1927 it was ready for use. A football club had started in 1918 and initially played in a paddock behind the station. The Noble Park club played other local teams within a district association, winning the premiership on several occasions. There was especially strong competition with Noble

Park's chief rivals - the teams of Dandenong and Springvale. Conditions were often very muddy and the Shire Council drained the ground in 1932.

Springvale's football club began in 1906, but it was some years before there was a local recreation reserve. In the meantime the club played opposite Young's smithy, in the area where Warwick and Kintore Avenues are today. A recreation reserve committee raised funds and purchased six acres of land from James Hatty. The ground was finally opened in 1921, off Newcomen Road, north of the railway line. The RSL built a grandstand and club room in the recreation reserve in 1936. This was funded by the sale of the Springvale Memorial Hall to the Masonic Lodge of Springvale, a move first

discussed in 1927. The grandstand was to be a monument to the memory of the fallen. The stand included a clubroom and dressing rooms underneath. Other works included a galvanised iron fence and the planting of 80 cypress trees (Hibbins, 1984:112, 131,164). Soccer was being played in the 1920s-1930s, but clubs did not develop in a big way until the post-war period.

The recreation reserves provided a venue for football games and practice in the winter. In summer, cricket took over. One of the earliest cricket matches documented was a match in 1874, when a Dandenong cricket team convincingly beat a Springvale team (Hibbins, 1984:89). In the 1890s Dandenong had some fine cricketers and a photo taken at that time shows the Dandenong Cricket Team ('G. F. R. ', 1935: 60). Home matches were played on a ground within Dandenong Park.

Generally, cricket teams were made up of men. However, there was a brief episode when a ladies' cricket team was playing at the ground in Dandenong Park. They were the Dandenong Sunflowers. At a match in 1905 the Dandenong Sunflowers, (wearing cream blouses, dark blue skirts, Panama hats with a sunflower in front, orange belts and ties), captained by Miss Tharle, played the Boomerangs from Brighton:

The bowling of Miss Orgill and Miss Tharle proved disastrous to the batswomen, and within the space of half an hour the Boomerangs were all out for 21 runs, the two bowlers mentioned taking all the wickets. The Sunflowers, who hold an unbeaten record, then went in and it was soon clear that the Boomerangs were set all their work to get their opponents out (Australasian, 14 July 1905, reproduced in The Fount, SDHS, No. 2., 1982).



Figure 26. Springvale Football Ground grandstand

The Dandenong Sunflowers won this match but the team does not appear to have continued for many years. Women were supporters, spectators, and the providers of refreshments. They also joined in the many social and fund-raising activities, which were an important side of sports life.

Cricket, like football, was a popular pastime and, while encouraging local rivalries, fostered neighbourhood loyalties and sense of identity. In 1911, Springvale officially started a cricket team and established the Spring Vale and District Cricket Association (Hibbins, 1984: 112). Noble Park's first cricket club started in 1931-32 and won the premiership in its first year. After a time of playing in various paddocks, a re-formed club began using the Moodemere Reserve. Some years later the club was also using Ross Reserve, Noble Park and began entering a number of teams into district association matches, including Under 14 and Under 12 teams. Cricket was often played in the 10-acre paddock of H. Behlow, south of Heatherton Road, east of Corrigan Road.

Tennis became increasingly popular in the early years of the 20th century and women did participate in local tennis clubs. Nearly every church had its tennis court and clubs played in district associations. From the 1930s onwards, hundreds of people were playing tennis, both senior and junior, mainly at weekends. A surviving tennis court is still to be found at St. James Anglican Church and within the Uniting Church complex, in Robinson Street, Dandenong. The Methodists installed their tennis court in 1911, the Catholics in 1923 (on the site of the present modern church) and the Presbyterians in 1930. At Noble Park, a tennis club was formed in 1918 and played on courts in the area behind the site of the present Public Hall. At Springvale, the Presbyterians formed a tennis club in 1923 and a Methodist tennis club was active in the 1930s.

The Dandenong Bowling Club began in 1882 and obtained a bowling green within Dandenong Park. A photo taken in 1906 celebrated their winning of the Pennant Premiership that year ('G. F. R.', 1935: 60). It is probably the oldest surviving sports club in the Greater Dandenong area. By the 1930s the Dandenong Croquet Club had land allocated within Dandenong Park.

There was a golf course in Dandenong in 1935, shown on the maps drawn that year for the Dandenong Sewerage Authority. The course was located near the Dandenong Creek, on the same site as that now occupied by the Dandenong Workers Social Club. This was probably 'the creek-divided golf course', used by the Kingswood Golf Club before they moved to Dingley, in 1937, (Hibbins, 1984: 164). and the 'Forest Hills Golf

Links', which are listed in the Melbourne Directory between 1939 and 1950 in the same location, off Wedge Street, and shown on a map of 1948. This is now the Dandenong Workers' Social Club Golf Course.

Early swimming pools in Dandenong were waterholes along sections of the Dandenong Creek, but by the 1930s there were 'Dandenong Swimming Baths', near the Creek and east of Lonsdale Street, next to the Drill Hall. The baths no longer survive. A swimming complex was built in the mid-1990s, on the corner of Cleeland Street and Heatherton Road. This contains Melbourne's third 50 metre indoor pool. Renovations included a special entry point for people with disabilities, a squash court and gymnasium. The new complex is visited by about 800,000 people a year (Ray Carter, personal communication, 4 March 1999).

Post-war expansion

In the period after World War Two there was a huge increase in the number of people playing sport and the number, extent and quality of sports facilities. For some years, many of the sports were played mainly by young people within school teams. In recent decades, from the 1970s onwards, there has been another massive expansion of junior sport, with a shift from school-based sport to week-end sports activity.

During the 1950s-80s, the local councils of Springvale and Dandenong became more and more involved in the provision and maintenance of sports reserves and this is still a major area of responsibility of the present Greater Dandenong Council. In all cases, local people played a major part in procuring the reserves, which became vested in the Council. For example, Burden Park Reserve was a creation of the 1950s-60s. It was a 20 acre site, which came to include tennis courts, a bowling green, and a green for the Springvale Croquet Club (established 1951). Other early sports reserves in the area were at Harrisfield and Springvale South.

Netball became popular from the 1940s and provided new opportunities for girls and young women to be involved in competitive sport. By the 1990s there were 13 netball clubs and two netball associations (Springvale and Dandenong) in the Greater Dandenong area. Some clubs were connected with the Catholic churches in the area.

Basketball, badminton, baseball, softball, squash and hockey enthusiasts increased in number. New indoor centres and sports grounds were opened to meet the demand. One of the most notable sports facilities in the area is the Dandenong Indoor Sports Stadium in Stud Road. Opened in 1986 and extended in 1994, the stadium has especially become known as the home of the Dandenong Amateur Basketball

Association, which had 9,500 members competing weekly in 1996. The stadium hosts regular national and international events.

Over the decades, there were two sets of Dandenong teams - Dandenong District and

Dandenong United. The Dandenong football club joined the Victorian Football Association and won several premierships. They had teams in both the 1st and 2nd divisions, but in a restructuring process Dandenong disappeared (Max Oldmeadow: personal communication, 1998). The Springvale team did well over the years and in 1980 the 'Valers' joined the Victorian Football Association. Keysborough started a football club in 1948, using a ground donated by R. Allen, a descendant of one of the 19th century settlers (Hibbins, 1984:193).

Soccer eventually became one of the most popular sports in the area. One of the first soccer clubs was the Springvale Soccer Club, started by Maltese migrants in 1957. This gained a home at Ross Reserve, Noble Park. Later, Springvale City Council developed Coomoora Reserve, which included soccer grounds. In recent years soccer clubs have proliferated, reaching a total of 26 in the late 1990s. Some clubs began using school sports facilities, while others played on grounds, which formed part of larger complexes used by particular ethnic groups. Rugby enthusiasts established the Gaelic Park Rugby Ground, and also played in central Dandenong.

The Dandenong Workers' Social Club bought the golf house in Wedge Street, also acquiring the golf course that is mainly on the eastern side of the creek, within the City of Casey. Albert Park Golf Club bought 220 acres from the Keys family in 1947 and developed what is now known as the Keysborough Golf Club, near Hutton Road (Hibbins, 1984: 235). Springvale Croquet Club, established in 1951, gained a home in Burden Park Reserve.

The swimming pool at Noble Park was very much the result of a determined community effort, begun in 1961. Children joined in the fund-raising, often through street clubs undertaking their own particular fund-raising project (Hibbins, 1984: 200-201). The Council bought land near the railway station and this became Ross Reserve, which later also acquired a soccer ground and athletics track. The outdoor swimming pool was opened at the end of 1962.

The National Water Sports Centre, on Paterson River, was developed as an international, Olympic-standard waterway facility, and currently hosts 40 special events a year. The Dandenong Amateur Basketball Association, which has nearly 10,000 people competing weekly, also hosts national and international events, in its massive stadium, off Stud Road.

More recent developments include the construction of indoor sports facilities, such as an indoor tennis centre in Noble Park North; the Dandenong Skate Centre; and Springers' Leisure Centre, in Cheltenham Road, Keysborough, catering mainly for badminton, basket ball, netball and in-line hockey, opened in 1993. The municipality of Greater Dandenong now has over 21 kilometres of bike tracks and walking tracks and the Spring Valley BMX Bike Track. By 1996, there were 30 large areas for sports pursuits and 136 smaller areas for passive recreational pursuits.

8.2 Eating and drinking

Hotels served two main purposes in the early days of European settlement - firstly, providing refreshment and shelter for travellers and secondly, providing a local meeting place. The hotels took on other roles as post office, coach staging points, store, venue for court sessions, inquests, formal meetings of local bodies and church services. Women played a crucial part in hotels, as hostess, cook, and finance manager. Women were often the licensees. On the whole, men were the main users of hotels.

Two early hotels were the 'No-Good Damper', in the Springvale area, operating by 1840, and a hotel at Dandenong, there in 1846, when Patrick Gerrity, bullock driver at the Native Police depot, borrowed a troop horse to go into Dandenong (Brennan, 1973: 23). 'Garryowen', in his *Chronicles of Early Melbourne*, noted that after the terrible fire of 'Black Thursday' in 1851, the only building unharmed in the area was the hotel.

Dunn's Inn is said to have started in the late 1840s, a small establishment with four rooms. It was situated near Thomas and Scott Streets, set on the rise of the hill to avoid the danger of floods (Brennan, 1973: 67). Dunbar's Hotel, originally one-storey, with a store and post office, was on the corner of Walker and Lonsdale Streets. It was later re-built as a two-storey building and known in the 1880s as the Royal Hotel or Dunbar's Royal Hotel. Another Royal Hotel, run by Dawson was just opposite. The Royal Mail coach stopped at Dunbar's, which was also known for a time as the Dandenong Hotel (Dickson, Titcher and Tonta, 1990:8,10,34).

A. W. Bowman's Royal Hotel, a two-storey building, was located at the corner of Walker Street and Lonsdale Street. It was de-licensed in 1874, then used as a newspaper office. The building was demolished and the site is now occupied by the National Bank, 'the first multi-storey building to grace Lonsdale Street' (Dickson, Titcher and Tonta, 1990: 32). The Shamrock Hotel, built by Gregory Keighery, about 1866, was a two-storey hotel on the corner of Scott and Lonsdale Streets.



Figure 27. Albion Hotel

The Old Dandy Inn, formerly the Bridge Hotel, is a 19th century hotel which still survives and is possibly the oldest building within the town area. By 1858, Michael Hennesy had started to build the Bridge Hotel, but ran into financial difficulties and the building was completed by George Hughes and John Prevot. That same year the hotel provided one of its rooms for use by the Court of Petty Sessions. It was also used for meetings by the Dandenong Road District Board. The Bridge Hotel was the terminus and inter-change for a coach service to Grantville, Tooradin and Melbourne. George Usher, licensee of the hotel, initiated the Grantville coach service.

On 12 August 1864 the hotel was the meeting place where local citizens proposed that a market be established in Dandenong. In the early 1870s it was the town's most substantial hotel. The hotel is a two-storey structure, built of bricks, which were made from a clay deposit at the rear of the property, and with a slate roof (City of Dandenong, Heritage Buildings in Dandenong, 1993). The upper floor facade of the building is largely unaltered, except for the removal of the verandah and the conversion of French doors to windows in the early 1900s. Considerable changes were made to the ground floor in the 1930s.

The Albion Hotel, Lonsdale Street, is also still standing, a two story brick hotel built in 1891 for Peter McQuade. It is on the site of Alexander Bowman's store, which he started in 1852, possibly Dandenong's first store. Later the store became the Mornington Arms Hotel. Charles Dobson purchased it in 1882 and re-named it the 'Albion'. Peter McQuade was the proprietor in 1889 and the McQuades replaced the early one-storey timber building with the present two-storey building in 1891. The hotel has been in the possession of the McQuade family continuously since that time. The verandah has been removed but the facade has remained largely unaltered (City of Dandenong, Heritage Buildings in Dandenong, 1993).

The Springvale Hotel, north of the Dandenong Road, started in the early 1850s and the building continued on into the 20th century. However, it is not part of the City of Greater Dandenong and is therefore not included in this study. The same applies to the Post Office Hotel, once situated half-a mile away on the road to Melbourne.

A few new hotels appeared in more modern times. The Southern Hotel-Motel was built in the 1960s, next to the Dandenong Railway station, at an estimated cost of half-a million dollars. Strategically placed to capture the passing trade, it was later remembered for its nightclub atmosphere (Norman Deacon, personal communication, 12 April 1999). In the mid 1990s, just before the new railway station was built, it was demolished, except for the drive-in Foster Street Bottle Shop.

The Sandown Park and the Waltzing Matilda, on the corner of Springvale and Heatherton Roads, both built in the 1970s, were said to be 'two of the busiest hotels in Melbourne' (Hibbins, 1984: 186). Others were the Keysborough Hotel and the Dandenong Quest Inn on the Princess Highway. Local hotels provided entertainment as well as food and drink, especially after opening hours were extended from 6 p. m. to 10 p. m. , thereby competing with venues where dances were held regularly. In turn, the newer, larger hotels may have been affected by drink-drive laws, since these were mainly accessible by car. The older hotels, closer to centres of population, were accessible on foot (Ray Carter, personal communication, 4 March 1999).

8.3 Worshipping

The theme of worshipping overlaps with other themes such as the theme of migrating and the theme of educating. Religious groups often first met together in homes or the local hotel. The Springvale Methodists initially met in the waiting room of the new railway station. The home of George and Margaret Keys, in Keysborough, (now 'Glen Alvie') was the scene of one of the first services in the area, conducted by the Wesleyan minister, the Rev. James Bickford, in 1853. He later described the occasion as: 'a unique spectacle in the midst of the Australian forest, a nucleus of light and moral force for the whole neighbourhood' (quoted in Brennan, 1973: 79; Hibbins, 1984: 43).

Early congregations

In a sense, the location pattern of places of worship mirrors the pattern of settlement. The initial development of the township of Dandenong was reflected in the four congregations which began in the 1850-60s and the buildings they constructed - Methodist (chapel, 1856, a new brick church, 1867); Anglican (schoolhouse, 1857, church, 1864); Roman Catholic (church, 1866); and Presbyterian (congregation meeting in 1854 but date of first building not known). Few of the original buildings have survived, except St. James Anglican Church, Dandenong, though members of three of the churches still worship on the sites reserved in the early period. The original Presbyterian church site was sold in the 1970s and is now occupied by the law courts.

The growth of community life in the more scattered settlements is evident in the building of a Methodist church at Keysborough (40 feet by 20 feet weatherboard), in 1861; a Wesleyan church, a small weatherboard building, at 'Lightwood', in 1863, about a quarter of a mile south-west of the present Methodist church in Springvale (Hibbins, 1984: 51, 53-54, 59-60); and the 1876 Keysborough church, which still survives. Keysborough's earlier timber church of 1861 became a Sunday School and hall and still survives, behind a hall of 1935.

During the 1880s to early 1890s, the boom period of Melbourne, several new church buildings were erected in the Greater Dandenong area: Methodist and Presbyterian churches in Dandenong in 1887, both

substantial structures of brick; the Methodist church in Springvale, which began in 1887, reflecting the development of 'New Springvale'; and a new Roman Catholic church, also of brick, built in 1892. Of these churches, only the Methodist church building in Dandenong survives, now Trinity Uniting. Built in the Gothic style, in a commanding position, its architect was John Beswicke, son of Elizabeth Keys.

During these years, most of the congregations developed a complex of buildings, with church, hall, and house for resident priest, minister or pastor. The first Roman Catholic presbytery at Dandenong was built in 1885 (demolished 1967). The Dandenong Methodists built a second parsonage, large and costly, in 1887 (still surviving) and the Presbyterians had a manse for their resident minister by 1890 (demolished).



Figure 28. Dandenong Uniting Church (rear)



Figure 29. Methodist church at Bangholme

Growth 1900-1939

In the early 20th century, with an increased population, existing churches began adding halls, for use as Sunday schools, and new congregations began meeting in homes or local halls, then erected their own buildings, generally of timber. At Dandenong, the Church of England built a new Sunday School hall in 1905 (still surviving). This

replaced the old school that had been there for several decades. The Methodist church bought a disused church from Berwick for use as a Sunday School in 1900 and built a new brick Sunday School in 1925, which still survives, within the present complex. At Keysborough, the earlier timber church, now a Sunday School and hall, was lengthened by 10 feet in 1910. In 1935, a new building for use as a hall and for Sunday school was opened. Presbyterians bought a building from the Seymour army camp in 1919, for Sunday School use.

On the whole, the churches and church halls built at this time were clustered in the main

centres of settlement. In Dandenong, the Church of Christ opened their new weatherboard church, at the corner of Robinson and George Streets in 1904 (Jarvis, 1971: 115, 140). This is still surviving, though currently used by the Church of the Word and up for sale. The Salvation Army built a hall in Walker Street, Dandenong (now demolished) and a hall in Springvale Road, in 1914. The Presbyterians of Springvale, after years of meeting in a hall, completed their weatherboard church in 1915, now a Guide hall in Royal Avenue, and in 1923 the Church of England members started planning their church, the Church of the Ascension, which was to be built in Buckingham Avenue. The most distant church in the area was the Methodist church at Bangholme.

At Noble Park, the first service was held under a redgum tree in 1910. Two years later, Frank Buckley, the original developer of Noble Park, moved a church building from another suburb for use by the Church of England adherents. This was later given the name of St. Aidan's (1927). but burnt down in 1949. The Methodists and Presbyterians worshipped together in a 'Union Church' for some years, using an old Presbyterian church building brought from Walhalla and erected in Joy Parade. The Methodists built their own church in Allan Street in 1926. The Roman Catholics initially met in the old Public Hall and erected their church, St. Anthony's, in Joy Parade in 1922. Archbishop Mannix came to the opening (D. Dickson, 1983:16; Hibbins, 1984: 143).

The growth of Dandenong West was reflected in the St. Luke's church hall in Potter Street, built in 1934 and used by hundreds of Sunday School children (Jones, 1964:13). Later, in 1958, this was moved to Dandenong North to Heatherton Road and dedicated in 1960 as St. Michael's (V. Jones, 1964: 17). At Springvale, the Roman Catholics met in the Mechanics Institute for five years and celebrated the opening of their new church-school, St. Joseph's, in 1937. In the words of Lilian Brash, 'No cathedral in all the world looked more beautiful than this church-school' (quoted G. Dickson, 1983: 89).



Figure 31. Lutheran Church, Dandenong



Figure 30. Dandenong Presbyterian Church, designed by Chancellor & Patrick

Expansion in the 1950s-60s

In the post-war period of immigration and growth, many new churches were built as the population increased, and as older buildings became inadequate for modern use. During this time more than twenty churches were built or opened in the Greater Dandenong area, including three Roman Catholic; two Church of England; one Greek Orthodox church and at least thirteen Protestant and other churches, mainly in the Anglo-Saxon tradition, but including three European churches. The Roman Catholic churches, whose parish boundaries were constantly changing, were running schools as well as churches.

Many of the new immigrants were Roman Catholic and three Roman Catholic churches were built in the post-war expansionist years. At Dandenong North, St. Gerard's was completed in 1957 and at Noble Park, a new St. Anthony's was built in Buckley Street in 1958. At Dandenong, St. Mary's parishioners dug and poured the foundations for a new modern church, which Archbishop Symonds opened in March 1959.

At Springvale, the members of the Church of Christ, after ten years of services in the Mechanics Institute, built an architect-designed brick church in Windsor Street in 1952. This was built by Jock Lawton, of Springvale. Church of Christ adherents at Noble Park met in the Public Hall and the R. S. L. Hall, after World War Two, and then built a new church in Kelvinside Road in 1958 (Hibbins, 1984: 218), now the Romanian Pentecostal Apostolic Church. The Church of Christ congregation in Dandenong built a modern church in cream brick in 1957, at the corner of Mason and Walker Streets.

The Methodists built a new church on their site in Balmoral Avenue, Springvale, in 1953, adding a new hall and demolishing the old church in 1961. Meanwhile, they opened a new Methodist Church in Heatherton Road ('Heatherhill') in 1958, a church hall in Edinburgh Road, North Springvale and a church in Lyndale, Dandenong North (Holly Avenue). The Presbyterians built a brick church at Noble Park in 1956, St. Columba's; a fibro-cement hall in James Street, Dandenong in 1958, with a brick addition in 1961, St. Andrew's; and a new St Stephen's church in Buckingham Avenue, Springvale in 1960.

The congregation of St. Luke's Church of England, in Potter Street, Dandenong West, built a modern combined church and hall, designed by notable architects, Chandler and Patrick, and completed in 1957. The builders were a local firm, W. B. Leed & Son. The Presbyterians bought the church in 1995 and it was dedicated in 1997. The Salvation Army opened a new brick citadel at Springvale in 1961, near Sandown Park, at the corner of View and Colonsay Streets. A Baptist congregation started meeting in Dandenong, in 1961, at first in a house, and then in a hall brought from Sassafras, and placed on a site in James Street. Later, a 'daughter-church' developed from this and a Baptist congregation began meeting at Noble Park.

The Seventh Day Adventists opened their first church in Springvale in Albert Avenue in 1952, and a new brick church on the site adjoining in 1962. The Assembly of God congregation built a church in Sullivan Street, Springvale in 1963, a

building which two decades later was used by the Spanish-speaking South American members of the Seventh Day Adventist Church.

The first churches built by particular ethnic groups were the Reformed Church building at 139 Cleeland Street, Dandenong, built by the Dutch in the 1950s; the German Lutheran church opened in Springvale in 1958; the Greek Orthodox Church of St. Pateleimon, Dandenong, opened in 1959; and the Lutheran Church in Dandenong, built in 1962, though the congregation had been meeting since 1956.

Times of change: 1970s-90s

Over almost three decades, from 1970 to 1997, the total number of places of worship in the Greater Dandenong area increased to over 70. Amongst these were four new Orthodox churches (Greek, Russian, Serbian, Macedonian); two new Roman Catholic Churches: St. Elizabeth's in Dandenong North and Resurrection in Keysborough; a Croatian Catholic Church and a Vietnamese Catholic Centre; two new Anglican churches (St. Aidan's at Noble Park and Ascension at Springvale); and new churches representing a range of other denominations from the Church of Latter Day Saints in Gladstone Road to the new Church of Christ building in David Street, Dandenong.

Some of the newer places of worship were impressive architecturally and innovative in concept. The parish centre for the Church of the Resurrection was described as 'a struggle in creating a new style based on local suburban motifs' The parish complex included a church, parish centre, primary and secondary school, childcare centre, learning centre and units for the elderly.



Figure 32. Polish Seventh Day Adventist Church, James St

Dandenong

A striking change was the appearance of Islamic mosques and Buddhist temples and centres. In the early 1980s all the churches of the Greater Dandenong area were Roman Catholic, Orthodox, Anglican, or the other Christian denominations. Before the 1990s there were no Islamic or Buddhist places of worship marked on the map, though many of the different religious groups were meeting in halls or houses. The situation was very different by the mid 1990s, when there were at least three Islamic centres - Albanian, Bosnian-Herzegovinan, Turkish - and one Buddhist temple, the Bright Moon Temple, in Springvale Road. But by 1998, there were approximately 12 Buddhist centres listed for the Greater Dandenong area, the majority being in Springvale.

Not all the new places of worship started on open land. In many cases, religious groups recycled existing facilities for the time being. Complex layers of use emerge as one traces particular sites. The church built by a mainly Dutch congregation, adherents of the Reformed Church, was later used by Revival Centres of Australia and then became the site of a Turkish Islamic centre and mosque. The 1950s Catholic church complex at Noble Park became a complex owned by the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Methodist hall in Edinburgh Road was used by the Serbian Orthodox before they built their new church in Perry Road. The Assembly of God's original church in Sullivan Street, Springvale (1963), became the home of a Seventh Day Adventist Yugoslav congregation in 1977. The Presbyterian church of St. Andrew in James Street, Dandenong, was leased to the Coptic Church in 1978 and sold in 1980 to the Polish Seventh Day Adventist Church, who completed building their striking new complex in the early 1990s. The Spanish Christian Church began using the former Masonic Lodge in 1997 (Carter, Gipps-Land Gate, 1997, vol. 23, no. 2: 6).

Ray Carter has pointed out that: 'Two features of religious worship in Dandenong are the number of groups using the town hall over the years, and the widespread practice of churches 'recycling' sites once used by other churches. A prime example of this is the original Church of Christ site on the corner of Robinson and George Streets'.

Several churches welcomed migrants into their congregation. For example, a group of Cambodians became very much part of the Uniting Church congregation at Springvale. All the Catholic churches had very large numbers of migrants in their congregations. At Dandenong, in the 1970s, Monsignor Walsh put on regular weekly masses in Polish and French, as well as in Italian. Other churches provided facilities and support for

particular migrant groups to worship in their own language: for example, the Reformed Church developed a Chinese branch. At one time, there was a Spanish language congregation within what was then the Springvale Corps of the Salvation Army. St. Luke's Anglican Church, Dandenong, was used by the Spanish Seventh Day Adventists for some years. Spanish and Polish Seventh Day Adventists at Springvale had their own congregations and developed separate centres.

Amongst the Protestant churches there have been some major changes. In Springvale, the Presbyterian Church decided to sell its property, because of financial difficulties. The site was sold to Safeway in 1970 and the buildings demolished. The congregation met at the Methodist Church in Springvale for about two years and then formed a joint parish with the Methodists in 1973 (Rollings, 1987). The union between the Methodist and Presbyterian Churches and the establishment of the new 'Uniting Church' meant that these churches in the Greater Dandenong area were no longer separate entities. Scots Presbyterian Church, Dandenong was sold and later demolished. However, there was a continuing Presbyterian Church in Australia. In 1982, Presbyterian services were again held in Dandenong, using the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Hutton Street. In 1995 the Presbyterian Church bought St. Luke's Anglican Church, in Potter Street, Dandenong. The Presbyterian complex was dedicated in 1997.

The Salvation Army opened their new citadel in James Street, Dandenong in 1970. According to Ray Carter, the 'in the round seating' in the citadel was 'the first of its type in the Army at the time of construction.' The Church of Christ congregation sold their church, at the corner of Mason and Walker Streets, in 1989, and built a church in David Street, using stained glass from the earlier building. The Assembly of God built a large church in Gladstone Road in 1985 (Carter, in Gipps-Land Gate, 1997, vol. 23, no. 2: 4). A South Slav Baptist Church started at Springvale at the corner of Grace Park Avenue and View Street, Springvale and Christian Revival Crusade opened a church at 68 Garnsworthy Street, Springvale. The Baptists of Dandenong built a new church on their site in James Street.

The appearance of Islamic mosques, Buddhist temples, domed Orthodox churches and modern church/community centres is changing the landscape of the City of Greater Dandenong. An inter-faith committee has met regularly for over ten years, a unique example of co-operation (Max Oldmeadow: personal communication, 1998). The municipality possibly has more Buddhist centres than any other municipality in Victoria. Many of the places of worship are regional resources, serving a catchment area far beyond the City boundaries.



Figure 33. Springvale & District Historical Society HQ

8.4 Forming Associations

This is a complex theme since it overlaps with many others, including the themes of migrating, educating, organising recreation and worshipping. Many migrant groups have formed associations. Early examples of these were the Hibernian Association, which used the Dandenong Town Hall for its Testimonial Dinner to Daniel Ahern in 1912 or the Caledonian Society, which was listed in a Sands and McDougall entry for Dandenong in 1939.

The Dandenong Club occupied a house in McCrae Street when it was first formed. It was forced to relocate to its present position in Heatherton Road when the 'Capital Centre' was established in 1989. The Dandenong RSL was forced to relocate when the Capital Centre expanded in the mid-1990s to become Dandenong Plaza (Ray Carter: personal communication, 4 March 1999).

The City of Greater Dandenong possibly has a greater number of migrant-initiated, ethno-specific organisations than elsewhere in the Melbourne Metropolitan area. A number of these are senior citizens groups from particular ethnic backgrounds (City of Greater Dandenong, Community Directory, 1998). Some associations make use of existing facilities, such as a migrant resource centre. Others have built their own centres, with much labour and personal sacrifice, while at the same time trying to help their relatives and countrymen back in their homeland. An example of this is the Serbian complex in Perrys Road, at the corner of Church Road.

The Order of Freemasons was an early association, which established a substantial two-storey building in Mason Street, built in 1923 by N. A. Taylor. It closed in 1991 and is now a Spanish Christian Church. The RSL who were active in both Dandenong and Springvale occupied 'Westwood' for some years, a fine building. Progress Associations worked to build neighbourhood halls for the good of the local community.



Figure 34. Armytage Own Scout Hall

Noble Park Public Hall was the most notable example of community effort by local associations. The hub of local activity, it opened in 1925, replacing an earlier community hall. It was funded by a loan from the shire council repayable annually, and was the scene of many community gatherings, from weekly picture nights and regular dances to protest meetings, church services, and a huge welcome to returned soldiers. An ownership dispute with the local council was finally resolved in 1957, with a closing payment by the local community. Extensions, financed by a co-operative and voluntary labour, were added in 1979.

Scouts and Guides often built or used their own halls and many of these survive. The most impressive is the Scouts' Armytage Own Scout Hall, in Hemmings Park, Princess Highway. This is said to be the first purpose-built scout hall in the Dandenong area. The funds for the hall were donated by Ada, a daughter of the Armytage family of Como House (Melbourne) fame (City of Dandenong, Heritage Buildings in

Dandenong, 1993). An army hut next to the Scout Hall was used for many years as the meeting place for the Cubs group (Eric and Merle Mitchell; personal communication, 16 April 1999).

In more recent times historical societies have formed to research, record and present their district's history. Dandenong and District Historical Society was formerly based at Laurel Lodge and is now in the Dandenong Town Hall. Springvale and District Historical Society occupies a new historical centre, near the municipal offices and library.

8.5 Honouring, remembering, commemorating

The City of Greater Dandenong is well-endowed with plaques, cenotaphs, memorial halls and parks, fountains, gates and memorial trees. These testify to a sense of local identity and a sense of history, within the different neighbourhoods of the municipality. The process by which each group of local people has planned and financed these memorials has perhaps been as important as the final product, strengthening community ties and articulating local values.

Memorial halls

One of the first memorials in the area was the Memorial Hall at 10 Langhorne Street. This was erected in 1920 by the citizens of Dandenong to honour those who had served in World War One. A plaque, erected in 1965, commemorates this. In 1920, the Springvale residents who had returned from World War One formed a local (Springvale) branch of the Returned Soldiers and Sailors Imperial League of Australia (later the R. S. L.), set about fund-raising, bought land and built a Memorial Hall. A re-formed RSL branch decided to sell the Memorial Hall in 1935 and used the money to finance a memorial grandstand for the Springvale Recreation Reserve (Hibbins, 1984: 132, 164).

At Bangholme, the people of the district decided that they wanted their own community hall and that it was to be a Soldiers Memorial Hall. Two local farmers donated land on Worsley Road, near Hammond Road and the local people obtained a timber building from Dandenong, the former fire station. The building, which still survives, with additions, has significance as a valued community asset, but also as the recycled 1890s fire station.

Honour rolls, cenotaphs and memorial parks

An Honour Roll within the Town Hall contains all the names of those from the district who served in World War One and World War Two. A plaque on the 'Peace Memorial Bridge' over the Dandenong Creek remembers 'the brave men who gave their lives to save civilization'. A simple cenotaph inscribed

'Lest we forget' was originally in the centre of Lonsdale Street, (Dickson, Titcher and Tonta, 1990: 30) but was moved to a new location in the Dandenong Plaza precinct. The new setting incorporated a modern memorial, the 'Pillars of Freedom', commemorating all those who fought in the Boer War, World War One and World War Two, Korea, Malaysia and Vietnam. This involved extensive community input and was unveiled in 1995, 50 years after the ending of World War Two (Ennis, 1997: 3-4).

Springvale's cenotaph was a cross of granite, originally placed in front of the primary school. This was moved, because of road-widening, to the Mechanics Institute and later to the vicinity of the municipal offices, where a modernised memorial was unveiled.

Noble Park people decided in 1959 that they wanted their swimming pool, achieved after

months of intensive fund-raising, to be a memorial to the men and women who served Australia in World War Two. In 1995, also commemorating the end of World War Two, Noble Park residents discussed and planned a memorial park, which would broaden the concept of a War Memorial by embracing the arts and the cultural diversity of the region in a positive and creative way ... '(quoted Ennis, 1997: 4). The project received additional help from other sources, including the 'Australia Remembers' program, and had substantial input from a community artist and local firms. The result of the total collaborative effort was a commemorative park, at the corner of Heatherton Road and Mons Parade. It was dedicated to 'all those fallen in war', and including a cenotaph of rock, tiled paths, and a tree, which was a descendant of the Lone Pine at Gallipoli.

A Pioneers Memorial Park behind the municipal offices in Dandenong honours some of the district's pioneers. Two reserves are named in honour of local doctors. Several reserves and recreation grounds commemorate local councillors.

Fountains, signs and plaques

A drinking fountain, installed in the Produce Market, commemorated 75 years of scouting and still survives. The 'Dandy Pig' sign, once promoting the 'Dandy bacon' factory in the main street, was re-erected within the car park of the Produce Market, a memorial to an important local and regional enterprise which lasted over half a century. A series of plaques erected by the Dandenong and District Historical Society traces the history of the Dandenong Market at its various sites.

8.6 Living in and around Australian homes

A number of examples of houses and gardens from the 19th and early 20th centuries survive to give some indication of earlier lifestyles. Many of the older houses have been demolished, leaving only a few trees or a pair of gates. A brief glance at a small sample of houses may show something of the changing face of the municipality and its connections with smaller and larger worlds.

19th century homes and gardens

An 1860s house at 51 Langhorne Street reflects the prosperity of Robert Huckson, its builder and first owner and a man who had built the New Treasury Building in Melbourne, lighthouses in far places such as Gabo Island, and some of the main structures in Dandenong. These include the stone bridge and the first Royal Hotel. He, or his brother James, was one of the first auctioneers at the new Market. James had the contract to supply red gum timber for the market buildings. Possibly he supplied any timber needed in building this house. He may even have helped to build it. Robert Huckson was probably so busy building that he had little time to live in this simple, solid, elegant, building, if at all. He completed it in 1869, leased it out, and then sold it to someone who continued the leasing arrangement. The house was originally of unpainted brick, the roof of unpainted iron. The grounds extended to McCrae Street and included stables at the rear.



Figure 35. A house in McPherson St, Dandenong € a well-

For 15 years, from 1869, Miss Matilda Shaw was the tenant and ran the house as a boarding school for young ladies. She needed a plain cook and laundress, able to milk a cow, for she had twenty boarders to feed. The house was probably overflowing with young ladies for in 1884 she bought land just up the road, built 'Merlin House' and moved the school to its new and larger premises. The house became a doctor's residence, the home of Dr. Henry Ogle Moore. He had a large practice, as far as Ferntree Gully but may have had a surgery at the house. He and his wife and family left Laurel Lodge about 1896.

A description of the house about 1896 refers to an orchard and a well in the brick courtyard in the back garden. In the back part of the house there was a maid's room, a bathroom and a kitchen. Underneath the stairs there were steps leading down to a cellar (Skidmore, 1984: 11).

Joseph Clarke, auctioneer and stock and station agent lived at Laurel Lodge with his family for almost 12 years. He and his wife, Isobel, moved there at the end of 1899, but Isobel Clarke died two months later. A photograph taken in the garden shows white-bearded Joseph Clarke with a bicycle, three young ladies sitting on a garden seat, many trees, and a latticed shade house to the right of the house. After Clarke's death, the house and garden appear to have deteriorated. In 1918, the Shire Engineer, R. H. Woodcock bought the house and members of the Woodcock family lived there over the next 54 years. During that time, a tennis court was laid out in the grounds, and the rear portion of the property, including tennis court and stables was sold to Dr Ian and Mrs Dorothy Hart who built 'Benga'.

A rather different and later house in North Dandenong is 'Bundalohn', now 'Rossmoyne', built for Henry Gyles Turner, banker, historian, and writer, and his wife Helen in 1892 as their country residence. It was named after their house 'Bundalohn' in St. Kilda. While 'Laurel Lodge' was closely connected to the social and commercial life of Dandenong, since its owners were the Leaders of town society, 'Bundalohn', through its first owner, had connections with the highest financial and literary circles in the land. Henry Gyles Turner was manager of the Commercial Bank, 'the biggest bank in Melbourne throughout the boom and depression periods' (Cannon, 1976: 31, 168-177). Even while the designs for 'Bundalohn' were being drawn, the bank was tottering and it is not surprising that the title was put in Helen's Turner's name. The bank did at one time close its doors, but somehow survived, though at enormous cost to its depositors.

The design of the house won awards at the Sydney Art and Craft Exhibition in 1892. With wide verandahs and large plate glass windows, it was well ahead of its time, being based on the Californian Bungalow concept. One of the present owners has written a history of the house:

The exterior of the house was a mixture of styles and materials. There was red brick stucco, oiled pine shingles, weatherboard, red ceramic tiled roof and decorative ridge capping. Inside the two large reception rooms were lined with an oiled red pine dado... The impressive staircase was in the front hallway... There were rooms at the back for the housemaids and manservant along with storerooms lined with angled tin to keep the rats out. On the property, in keeping with the architectural style of the main building was a coach house and stables (Scott, 1996: 4).

There was a bathroom with cast iron bath, a cellar, a dairy, and a scullery with cast iron enamelled sink. The garden included an orchard, elms and poplars, a Moreton Bay fig, camellias and rhododendrons, cypress trees. The whole property originally extended over 100 acres, with Dandenong Creek as its eastern boundary. Helen Turner died in 1914 and Henry Gyles Turner in 1920. The property was sold several times, was re-named 'Rossmoyne', became part of a farm, was sub-divided and, finally ended up as a suburban home.

The 19th century settlers mainly sought to recreate a traditional environment - that of the Old World - by planting elms and oaks, or to create a new environment by planting exotic trees. A group of enormous Algerian oaks survives at Absolem House, an 1890 villa built on land that was previously Orleigh Park. Another Algerian oak survives off Mollison Street, on land that was formerly Oakwood Park (demolished in the 1950s-60s), the home of the Beswicke family. Here also is an African olive and an old photinia. Early 20th century homes and gardens Thuruna, an iron-roofed, brick house at 60 Clow Street, Dandenong, was built for the Cadle family in 1905 and still survives. It had five main rooms, a bull-nose verandah, decorative hand-painted pressed metal ceilings, floors of Baltic pine and walls of plaster. The property originally included a fernery and extensive gardens. It is recognised as being 'representative of many houses constructed in Dandenong in the early 1900s, of which only a few survive' (City of Dandenong, Heritage Buildings Report, 1993).

The houses at 21-23 Hemmings Street, Dandenong, were built of brick, possibly because the owner, James Pickett, had a brick-making business. No. 21 was built in 1908-9 and No. 23 in 1913-14. With their iron roofs and cast-iron fretwork, they represent a pre-war period when there was an abundance of building materials. The weatherboard house known as 'The Ranges' was owned by Miss Margaret Cheevers, 1911-18. The original layout of her extensive (2.5 acres) garden is still intact, with beech, oaks, a privet hedge, blue spruce, many roses, stone-lined paths and a gravel drive. The exotic theme was followed in properties such as 342b Hammond Road (built 1912), where there is a Canary Island Palm and two Monterey cypress, and the garden at 73 Pultney Street, where there are two Californian redwoods at the rear of the house (c. 1915) and two cypress on guard at the front.

There are a number of houses of the 1920s-30s still surviving in Dandenong, Springvale and Noble Park and these deserve systematic detailed study, house by house. The 1935 plans drawn for the Dandenong Sewerage Authority show that most of the houses in the town of Dandenong at that time were of weatherboard, with a verandah and separate outside toilet, and set on sizeable blocks of land. Most had some trees in the

garden, often fruit trees. Even today a walk along a section of a street such as Hutton Street, Dandenong, gives a sense of the country town that was, while a stroll in the 'back streets' immediately behind Springvale Road likewise provides a reminder of a past era, an era of chimneys and fireplaces, an era when European and other exotic trees and plants grew in gardens, rather than the indigenous plants preferred today.

'Wallara', in Close Avenue, Dandenong, a Californian Bungalow built in the 'Old English' style in 1925, was owned by Leslie Russell, solicitor, and his wife, Winifred. Its garden had a Canary Island palm, a flowering gum, cypress hedge, and these still survive. Originally it also had a tennis court. In rather different styles were Oscar Wanke's Californian bungalow, built in 1920 in Gladstone Road, and the Ordish family's Spanish-style villa, built at 27 Macpherson Street, c. 1932, with pandanus, cumquat, and cedar, in the Spanish-style garden.

'Benga' in McCrae Street was built in 1936 for Dr Ian Hart and his wife, Dorothy. A noted architect, J. F. W. Ballantyne, a student of Walter Burley Griffin, designed the single-storey, clinker brick house in the 'Tudor revival style'. Norman Taylor, a local builder, built the house. The property, like those of other leading citizens of Dandenong at that time, had a tennis court originally.

1940-1950s

An example of a post World War Two house and garden is at 'Girrawheen', 60 Jones Road, Dandenong, the home of Maurice and Gwen Jarvis. Here there are English trees and weeping elm plants, variegated holly, roses and ivy, but also camellias, azaleas and a magnolia tree. Also built in the 1940s, was the home of Cr. Andrew Ericksen and his wife, Amelia, nee Burden, on the south-west corner of Balmoral and St. John's Avenue, Springvale (Marian Rollings: personal comment, 29 June 1998).

The houses built by the Housing Commission in the early 1950s give some homogeneity to their neighbourhood, following a set of five basic designs and built of weatherboard, concrete or brick. Other large estates have a particular character, with brick veneer becoming the favoured building material, and all houses having accommodation for the all-important car.

Further away from the more densely populated areas of settlement there still survive homes, which were once, or sometimes still are, part of market gardens or farms. Here, there are outbuildings, especially sheds for machinery and vehicles; hedges and fences; and occasional mature trees, both exotic and native. Hidden away in the open areas to the south are homesteads such as Glen Alvie, but also old farm buildings behind modern homes and gardens.

8.7 Appreciating and enhancing the environment

The individual work done on private homes and gardens was one way of enhancing the local environment. At the same time, there were attempts to keep some of the original or remnant landscape and planting schemes for public places.

Preserving remnant vegetation

Braeside Park, with its distinct environments of wetlands, heath land and red gum woodland, is just outside the City of Greater Dandenong. However, it is helpful to be aware of this landscape in order to appreciate what the local environment may have looked like before successive waves of land use and development transformed it.

A few examples of river red gum have been deliberately retained within the present City and are important reminders of the earlier landscape. Some old red gums survive north of the railway line near Noble Park, as well as swamp gums and blackwoods. These are also along Railway Parade from Chandler Road to the Bennett Street Overpass. Fred Woodman comments: 'Along this strip there still exists remnant ground plants of Pale Flax Lily, Small-leaf Bramble and possibly the last remaining indigenous species of Purple Coral-pea to the east'. There is a significant group of remnant swamp gums along Lightwood Road, slightly west of Sandown Park station (Fred Woodman, personal communication, 31 March 1999).

Notable examples include a scarred tree within the Heinz complex, a scarred tree at the corner of Ordish and Greens Roads and possible scarred trees at the Workers' Club, Dandenong (Dandenong & District Historical Society list). There are still river red gums in the southern non-urban areas of the municipality. Wetlands or swamplands in the southern part of the City are also reminders of distinct environments with their own ecosystem. Consciousness-raising as to the value of these natural habitats has increased in recent years and many important local sites have been identified in municipal management plans.

A number of significant trees were identified within the City of Greater Dandenong during 1999. Among these were a group of large mahogany gums, 1.5 metres in diameter, at 542-544 Springvale Road, and a large red gum at the Parkmore Shopping Centre (information from John Wisniewski, City of Greater Dandenong, Environmental Planner, 25 March 1999).

Planting exotic trees in public places

The early generation of residents whose origins were in the Northern Hemisphere tried to enhance their local environments by planting trees from Europe, Africa, Asia, America and other parts of the world. Some of the first public plantings were in Lonsdale street, Dandenong, which had a fine row of pines. Later, these were replaced by palms, which in

turn were removed in 1954. An Algerian oak, planted in Dandenong Park about 1873, is probably the oldest tree in the park. It still survives, together with peppercorns, oaks, elms, birch, cypress and cedar, planted over many years. Two old peppercorns at Dandenong Primary School and cypresses at St. James Church Hall, probably date back to the 19th century.

From the 1880s and especially in the early years of the 20th century, encouragement was given to tree-planting in schools. 'Arbor Day' (which originated in the United States) became a special event each year, promoted by the Victorian Education Department. The first Arbor Day at Springvale's State School No. 3507 was on 19 July 1912, when the pupils and teachers planted a number of trees. These plantings probably include the camphor laurel, row of cypress and two Canary Island palms, which still survive. Some surviving old peppercorns may have been part of this planting or part of an earlier cultural landscape. The event was not long after the opening of the school's new building. Church grounds were another public space where people could enjoy or appreciate the trees, as at St. James Church of England, Dandenong, where elms were planted about 1900.

An example of public planting in the 1920s is the row of red flowering gums in Heatherton Road, Springvale, making a striking display each summer at an important intersection. Examples from the 1930s include a row of Monterey cypress planted in Newcomen Road, Springvale, and the cypress trees planted by Keysborough people in the grounds of the local church and school. After World War Two, a row of elms and oaks were planted at the back of Dandenong Park, in Pultney Street, possibly as a memorial to those who had fought in that war.

In more recent times, the parks and gardens section of local government councils has been responsible for street plantings, for example, an area of flowering pear in Springvale Road in the 1950s and the avenue of Apple Box and Brush Box in Close Avenue, Dandenong, in 1967. Churches, factories and schools have been involved in landscaping and plantings which have enhanced their various precincts. This is an ongoing process with much greater emphasis now on native or indigenous species.

Community plantings

Community plantings and increased use of indigenous vegetation in private gardens and public spaces in the Greater Dandenong area has also played a part in fostering an understanding of the 'natural wonders of Australia'. The first community tree planting in Victoria took place within the City of Greater Dandenong at Greaves Reserve in 1944.

9.0 Marking the phases of life



Figure 36. Truby King Centre, Springvale

9.1 Caring for the young

Infant health centres

Over thousands of years Aboriginal mothers had cared for their children according to the age-old traditions and rules of their tribe. The migrant women settlers of the 1840s onwards also followed their own traditional ways and instincts in relation to child rearing. But in the 1930s a new theory of child care exerted a powerful influence, from New Zealand to Australia and across the world. Dr Truby King advocated his ideas on strict routines for babies and the need for mothers to be supervised and guided by infant care experts. Committees were set up during the 1930s and 'Truby King Infant Welfare Centres' established (Gammage and Spearitt, 1987: 147).

By the early 1930s, Dandenong had its infant welfare centre in a wooden building at the entrance to Dandenong Park. At Springvale, a local committee met in 1933 to discuss setting up an infant welfare centre. They secured a room and distributed notices to local shops promoting the Truby King Centre. Within six years, Springvale had a new cream building in Lightwood Road, a centre which is still in use today. Meanwhile, at Dandenong, local efforts resulted in the modern red brick infant welfare centre and kindergarten which still continues. At Noble Park the first infant welfare centre opened in 1937 in a room at the back of the Public Hall. By 1940, the centre was in a separate building next to a children's park. It was in fact the old Dandenong infant welfare centre re-cycled (Hibbins, 1984: 163, 165).

In newly-settled and rapidly-growing areas, further centres opened during the 1950s -60s,

beginning with Harrisfield in 1954, using a hall. A major change occurred in the City of Springvale from 1963, when Springvale Council took over the financing of salaries and

maintenance in infant welfare centres. The Springvale Truby King League Committee was able to disband. By the mid 1990s there were 19 maternal and child health centres in the area within the jurisdiction of the Greater Dandenong Council.

Kindergartens

Kindergartens in the Greater Dandenong area emerged out of play groups and play centres, sometimes using the facilities of the infant welfare centres. This occurred at Springvale, where the first play group began in 1945, in the Lightwood Road infant welfare centre. At Noble Park, local parents worked hard to provide and improve shed and hut facilities, on Council land next to the infant welfare centre. Some infant welfare centres and kindergartens were jointly run, as at Heatherhill in 1968. At Dandenong, the Kindergarten was an integral part of the brick centre in the park. Some of the churches ran kindergartens until Council aid was forthcoming. In the 1960s, Springvale Council built a number of kindergartens, reaching a total of 20 by 1980. In the late 1990s, the City of Greater Dandenong has 25 kindergartens.

Child care centres

Child care became a major issue when the number of working mothers increased. In 1976, over 50% of adult women in the City of Springvale were working mothers. In response to the need, the City of Springvale opened child care centres, one in Springvale and one in Noble Park. The Council also developed a family day care program to provide a council-supported child care system in private homes. Traditional child care arrangements no doubt continued, enlisting the help of relatives, friends and neighbours.

9.2 Growing up

During the years of the 1930s-1950s activities for young people were mainly centred on the local churches, sports clubs and scouts and guides. Church halls were the venue for weekly Sunday School and, from the 1950s, for church youth groups. Most of the sports clubs were male-oriented, with the exception of tennis clubs, though young women joined in the social activities.

In 1945, a local policeman in Springvale started a boys' club, meeting in venues ranging from a bake house loft to the Mechanics' Institute, an 'igloo' in Balmoral Avenue, a Nissen hut in Osborne Avenue, and finally a properly-built hall, opened in 1974. By 1977, the numbers using the youth centre had risen to over 3,000 and it was said to be the State's biggest youth club (Hibbins, 1984: 203).

At Noble Park, a group started gymnasium and dancing for young people in the Public Hall and the Methodist church hall. This moved to the RSL hall and by 1966 had 360 young people involved.

Youth groups started within particular ethnic communities, such as the Croatian Catholic Youth of Springvale and the Cambodian Chinese Youth Association. There were still some church youth groups and church-aided youth services, but also youth refuges; drop-in centres, such as the hall in Edinburgh Road; youth resource centres; and youth services provided by the Council.

9.3 Forming families and partnerships

Churches were, and to some extent still are, the main places where people brought their children to be baptised and where marriages were celebrated, according to ancient traditions and rituals. Some weddings were celebrated at private homes in the early days. In more recent times, civil celebrants became popular. Local restaurants, clubs, hotels and church halls were venues for many a wedding feast. Specialist reception centres have appeared in the Greater Dandenong area in recent times. One of these was 'The Windsor', on the Princess Highway, now demolished. Others have appeared, including the Grand International Reception Centre in Thomas Street, Dandenong, and Springvale International Reception Centre, Heatherton Road, Springvale South.

9.4 Growing old

In Dandenong, as elsewhere, facilities for older people were at first provided by self-help, and increasingly attracted support from local councils.

Senior Citizens Clubs

One of the earliest Senior Citizens' Clubs in the area was possibly that developed as an Elderly Citizens' Club, at Noble Park, initially meeting at the Public Hall. In 1961, the Club launched an appeal for funds to build club rooms and received support from Springvale Council and State levels. The club rooms were completed by 1964, set in Copas Park. By 1965, the club had 350 members (Hibbins, 1984: 214-215).

Springvale Elderly Citizens Club started in 1958 and met initially at the Mechanics Institute, then in an old pre-school that was moved and re-located behind the Institute. In 1967, the Council contributed 75% of the \$40,000 needed to build the club's new rooms within Andrew Ericksen Reserve.

Dandenong Senior Citizens' Club gained its own premises in Langhorne Street, while other clubs have developed, using community venues. For example, a Sri-Lankan group uses Noble Park Hall. A large number of senior citizens' groups started with members from a particular ethnic group, for example, the Cambodian Elderly Citizens; Springvale Indo-Chinese Elderly Citizens Association; and Ukrainian Elderly Citizens Club. By the mid 1990s, the Greater Dandenong Council was providing support to over 50 senior citizens' clubs, multicultural groups and other groups which were serving older people.

Retirement villages, hostels and homes for the aged.

In 1951, the Dandenong Homes for the Aged Committee of Management purchased the house Thuruna, at 60 Clow Street, Dandenong. They built several self-contained units in the grounds and used the house itself for the resident matron and as a communal activities area for the residents in 2000. "R. S. L. Care" has assumed responsibility for this facility. Another old house taken over for use by the aged was Abbotts' house at 4-6 Mason Street, Dandenong, now the Dandenong Private Nursing Home. The original Commonwealth Migrant Resource Centre, Westall Road, Springvale has been purchased by Primelife Corp and redesigned as a residential age care complex.

In 1966, Springvale Council transferred some land within Ericksen Gardens to the City of Springvale Elderly People's Society who were raising funds for housing. The Housing Commission of Victoria used this land to build 21 units in Springvale and also built 25 units in Mons Parade, Noble Park (Hibbins, 1984: 215-216). Springvale Council helped to finance a hostel for the frail aged, in Springvale Road, and this was opened in 1978.



Figure 37 Thuruna, Dandenong

More recent developments have included the Dandenong Valley Retirement Village, off Stud Road; Parkglen Retirement Village; St. Joseph's Hostel, Noble Park; and the St John of Kronstadt Hostel, for Russian residents. There are now at least another ten hostels and nursing homes within the municipality.

9.5 Dying and mourning

Cemeteries

The Springvale Cemetery opened in 1902, the final stage of a process which had begun 24 years before, initiated by the Victorian Government. It was created as a metropolitan resource, not as a local amenity, 'a burial ground which in modern times was one of the most remarkable in Australia' (Brennan, 1973: 102).



Figure 38. JA Boyd chapel, Necropolis

The Victorian Government had been concerned to find a cemetery site that was out in the country but was accessible by train. A party of distinguished people, including Francis Longmore, the Minister for Lands, made a special inspection in 1878, as part of a tour of several sites. One 300 acre site adjoined the Main Road (now Princess Highway) at Springvale and had once been the homestead section of the 'No Good Damper' run, then Robinson's farm. Although another site at Frankston was selected, the Government did buy the land at Springvale, for £2,750. Nothing more was done about the matter for years, but the issue was revived in the 1890s and in 1901 the Government finally agreed.

The Springvale Cemetery was proclaimed on 28 February 1901 and a Springvale Cemetery Trust was established, with representatives from nine councils in the metropolitan area. Dandenong Shire Council was one of the representatives. The

core of the cemetery was laid out in the pattern of the Union Jack. The Trust bought a further 470 acres and decided to run a loop line, or siding, from the main railway, west of the racecourse, to the cemetery (Hibbins, 1984: 93-96). Along this, funeral trains could bring the coffins and mourners. The Necropolis, meaning 'City of the Dead', was opened on 18 March 1902 and the first burial took place two days later. The first mortuary trains ran from 1904 and in 1905 the first cremation took place. One of the early burial areas was a Chinese burial area (opened in 1904). A Necropolis brochure, published in 1906, declared that the cemetery had no equal in the Commonwealth', meaning Australia (quoted Hibbins, 1984:119). In the first few years, the number of burials was not as great as originally expected. Cremation was not popular in the early years. However, the establishment and maintenance

of the cemetery did provide employment and brought new families to the district.

Gradually the cemetery attracted more burials and visitors, with a regular daily train service, introduced by the railways in 1926. A vast new crematorium opened in 1936. It was to be 'the largest in the British Commonwealth ... a mechanised marvel' (Brennan, 1973: 103).

Improvements in the years after World War Two included the building of four memorial chapels and a rose garden. The designer of the J. A. Boyd Chapel was D. F. Cowell-Ham. During the 1930s, there was extensive landscaping and planting, including 700 flowering gums in 1935 and new rose gardens in 1937-9. A Jewish chapel was

added in 1941 and a war cemetery was opened. Here were buried 611 Commonwealth service personnel who died after injuries received while on war service. In 1951, the mortuary train loop was demolished. By 1960, cremations outnumbered burials by five to one (Hibbins, 1984: 238). Changes in the 1960s included a Victorian Garden of Remembrance. An addition in 1982 was an Islamic burial area.

In 1991, a new crematorium, costing \$6 million, was opened. By 1996, the Necropolis was handling 9,725 burials and cremations annually. The cemetery is said to be the fifth largest cemetery in the world. It comprises a vast landscape, with lawn and monumental cemeteries, memorial trees and rocks, water gardens and scenically landscaped grounds, with places for reflection and contemplation. A characteristic of more recent years has been the landscaping of the grounds, using native plants, and the multi-cultural character of the cemetery.

Melbourne Chevra Kadisha opened a Jewish cemetery nearby, off Browns Road, in 1964. The Adass Israel Jewish Cemetery is also close to the Necropolis.

There were burials on the site of Dandenong Cemetery in 1849 and 1854-55, before a cemetery was gazetted on 19 November 1857, when 20 acres of land were reserved for a public cemetery, off what is now Kirkham Road. Four leading local residents were the cemetery's first trustees. In 1945, the Shire Council took over control of the cemetery. Many of the pioneer settlers were buried there, including more recent pioneers, such as the Russian immigrants who came to Dandenong in the early 1960s. Amongst the memorials to the dead are many fine monuments, although the majority are simple headstones.

Bunurong Memorial Park, entered from the Frankston-Dandenong Road, is a large new cemetery opened in 1996 and extends over 300 acres, as far as Thompsons Road. It was designed as a regional facility and is administered by a trust. Costing \$12 million, the complex included a mausoleum and a crematorium. A chapel and lounges were among the buildings added in 1999.

Part II

Evaluation of the Significance of Heritage Places

List Of Heritage Places (arranged alphabetically by address)

Please note that the following sites, previously listed in Appendix 7 of the City of Greater Dandenong Heritage Study One Volume 1, 2, and 3, have been deleted:

- House in Athol Street (site no. 1) has been demolished
- House in Springvale Road, (site no. 75) now forms part of the City of Kingston

The house previously listed as being on the Frankston-Dandenong Road, Bangholme (site no. 21 in Appendix 7 of the earlier study) has been changed to read 505 Thompson Road, Bangholme and listed alphabetically in the following table.

Heritage Places (arranged by alphabetical address only)	Recommended for inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Register	Recommended for inclusion in the Register of the National Estate	Recommended for protection under the City of Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme	Of Cultural Significance to the Community of the City of Greater Dandenong Region
Bennet Street 1, South Dandenong, <i>Tuffmaster Carpet Factory</i>	√	√	√	√
Birdwood Avenue, Dandenong, <i>Dandenong West Primary School</i>			√	√
Off Brighton Road, Dandenong, <i>Dandenong Stock Market Complex</i>			No longer existing	√
Brighton Road, Dandenong, Dairy Sales Ring, <i>Dandenong Stock Market Complex</i>			No longer existing	√
Brighton Road, Dandenong, Springer Sales Ring, <i>Dandenong Stock Market Complex</i>			No longer existing	√
End Of Broadlands, Off Heart Street, Dandenong, <i>CC Stockfeeds</i>			√	√
Buckley Street 18, Noble Park, <i>Noble Park Public Hall</i>			√	√
Carlton Road 82-88, Dandenong, <i>Ferring</i>			√	√
Chapel Road, Keysborough, <i>Keysborough Methodist (Later Uniting) Church</i>	√ (As part of the Chapel Road / Keysborough Properties associated with the Keys Family)	√ (As part of the Chapel Road / Keysborough Properties associated with the Keys Family)	√	√
Chapel Road Lot 55, Keysborough, <i>Keysborough State (Later Primary) School</i>	√ (As part of the Chapel Road / Keysborough Properties associated with the Keys Family)	Already included in the Register of the National Estate	√	√

Heritage Places (arranged by alphabetical address only)	Recommended for inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Register	Recommended for inclusion in the Register of the National Estate	Recommended for protection under the City of Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme	Of Cultural Significance to the Community of the City of Greater Dandenong Region
Chapel Road 115, Keysborough, <i>Farm House</i>	√ (As part of the Chapel Road / Keysborough Properties associated with the Keys Family)	√ (As part of the Chapel Road / Keysborough Properties associated with the Keys Family)	√	√
Chapel Road 310, Keysborough, <i>Holmwood Farm Complex</i>	√ (As part of the Chapel Road / Keysborough Properties associated with the Keys Family)	√ (As part of the Chapel Road / Keysborough Properties associated with the Keys Family)	√	√
Close Avenue, Dandenong, <i>Street Trees, Angophora & Queensland Box Avenue</i>			√	√
Close Avenue 36, Dandenong, <i>Wallara Special Accommodation House</i>			√	√
Clow Street 60, Dandenong, <i>Thuruna, Former W. M. Cadle House</i>			Already included in the Local Planning Scheme – Heritage Overlay	√
Corrigan Road 402, Keysborough, <i>Keysborough Learning Centre, Parish of the Resurrection School, Units for Elderly, Parish Centre and Chapel</i>	√	√	√	√
Douglas Street 49-54, Noble Park, <i>Noble Park Commercial Offices</i>	-	-	-	-
Foster Street 62, Dandenong, <i>Foster Drive-In Bottle Shop</i>			√	√
Foster Street 186, Dandenong, <i>Dandenong State (Later Primary) School 1403</i>			Already included in the Local Planning Scheme – Heritage Overlay	√
Frankston-Dandenong Road 790, Bangholme, <i>Bunurong Memorial Park</i>	-	-	-	√
Gladstone Road 71, Dandenong North, <i>Lemon Scented Gum, St Gerards Catholic Church</i>			√	√
Gladstone Street 71, Dandenong North, <i>Former Credit Union Hall</i>				√

Heritage Places (arranged by alphabetical address only)	Recommended for inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Register	Recommended for inclusion in the Register of the National Estate	Recommended for protection under the City of Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme	Of Cultural Significance to the Community of the City of Greater Dandenong Region
Gladstone Road 97, Dandenong North, <i>House and Tree</i>			√	√
Hammond Street 342b, Dandenong South, <i>House and Tree</i>			√	√
Heatherton Road Near 920 (Cnr to Springvale Road), Springvale, <i>Trees</i>	-	-	-	-
Hemmings Street 21 And 23, Dandenong, <i>Houses</i>			√	√
Hemmings Street 32, Dandenong, <i>Shop And Residence</i>	-	-	√	√
Hutton Road 66, Keysborough, <i>Glen Alvie (Former "Prospect House")</i>	√ (As part of the Chapel Road / Keysborough Properties associated with the Keys Family)	√ (As part of the Chapel Road / Keysborough Properties associated with the Keys Family)	√	√
Jalta Court 1, Keysborough, <i>Eversleigh</i>	√ (As part of the Chapel Road / Keysborough Properties associated with the Keys Family)	√ (As part of the Chapel Road / Keysborough Properties associated with the Keys Family)	√	√
James Street 11, Dandenong, <i>Trees and House</i>			√	√
Janmara Court Off 9, Dandenong, <i>Trees at Absolem Special Accommodation House</i>			√	√
Jones Road 60, Dandenong, <i>Tree & House "Girrawheen"</i>			√	√
Kirkham Road, Dandenong, <i>Dandenong General Cemetery</i>			√	√
Langhorne Street 51, Dandenong, <i>Laurel Lodge, Later Heritage Hill and Garden</i>	√ (As part of the Heritage Hill Precinct)	Already included in the Register of the National Estate	Already included in the Local Planning Scheme – Heritage Overlay	√
Langhorne Street 59, Dandenong, <i>St James Anglican Church, Trees and Garden</i>	√ (As part of the Heritage Hill Precinct)	Already included in the Register of the National Estate	Already included in the Local Planning Scheme – Heritage Overlay	√
Langhorne Street 59, Dandenong, <i>St James Anglican Church Hall and Trees</i>	√ (As part of the Heritage Hill Precinct)	Already included in the Register of the National Estate	Already included in the Local Planning Scheme – Heritage Overlay	√

Heritage Places (arranged by alphabetical address only)	Recommended for inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Register	Recommended for inclusion in the Register of the National Estate	Recommended for protection under the City of Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme	Of Cultural Significance to the Community of the City of Greater Dandenong Region
Off Langhorne Street, Dandenong, <i>Stables, Dandenong Police Station</i>			Already included in the Local Planning Scheme – Heritage Overlay	√
Langhorne Street 61, Dandenong, <i>Shaw's School Later Merlin House and Garden</i>			√	√
Lightwood Road 1, Springvale, <i>Truby King Centre</i>			√	√
Lonsdale Street 157-161, 163 And Foster Street 126-134, Dandenong, <i>Cosy Corner Café & Shops</i>			√	√
Lonsdale Street 174, Dandenong, <i>Dandenong Park, Trees</i>			√	√
Lonsdale Street 174, Dandenong, <i>Truby King Centre</i>			√	√
Lonsdale Street 174c, Dandenong, <i>Sound Shell</i>			√	√
Lonsdale Street 174e, Dandenong, <i>Oak at Bowling Club</i>			√	√
Lonsdale Street 185-195, Dandenong, <i>Old Dandy Inn</i>			Already included in the Local Planning Scheme – Heritage Overlay	√
Lonsdale Street 224-234, Dandenong, <i>Dandenong Town Hall</i>		Already included in the Register of the National Estate	Already included in the Local Planning Scheme – Heritage Overlay	√
Lonsdale Street 265-273, Dandenong, <i>Bargain Home Furnishings</i>			√	√
Lonsdale Street 327-333, Dandenong, <i>Albion Hotel</i>			√	√
Lonsdale Street 355-359, Dandenong, <i>Rabana Restaurant</i>			-	√
Lonsdale Street 282, Dandenong, <i>Dandy Discounts</i>			√	√
Mason Street 5, Dandenong, <i>Masonic Lodge, Now Spanish Christian Church</i>			Already included in the Local Planning Scheme – Heritage Overlay	√

Heritage Places (arranged by alphabetical address only)	Recommended for inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Register	Recommended for inclusion in the Register of the National Estate	Recommended for protection under the City of Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme	Of Cultural Significance to the Community of the City of Greater Dandenong Region
McCrae Street 66, Dandenong, <i>Benga House</i>	√ (As part of the Heritage Hill Precinct)	Already included in the Register of the National Estate	Already included in the Local Planning Scheme – Heritage Overlay	√
Macpherson Street 19, Dandenong, <i>“The Ranges” Garden</i>			√	√
Macpherson Street 27, Dandenong, <i>Ordish House, Garden</i>			√	√
Memorial Drive, Noble Park, <i>River Red Gum Avenue</i>			√	√
Off Mollison Street, Dandenong, <i>Algerian Oak</i>			√	√
Newcomen Road, Springvale, <i>Springvale Football Ground Memorial Grandstand and Trees</i>			√	√
Perry Road, Keysborough, <i>Sherwood Lodge</i>			√	√
Potter Street 51, Dandenong, <i>St Lukes Church Of England, Later Presbyterian Church</i>			√	√
Princess Highway, Dandenong, <i>Peace Memorial Bridge</i>			√	√
Princess Highway, Dandenong, <i>Armytage Scout Hall</i>			Already included in the Local Planning Scheme – Heritage Overlay	√
Princess Highway, Dandenong, <i>Dandenong High School</i>			√	√
Princess Highway 1-35 Doveton, <i>Former International Harvester Co.</i>			√	√
Princess Highway 43-65, Doveton, <i>HJ Heinz Co. P/L</i>	√		√	√
Princess Highway 71-125, Doveton, <i>General Motors Holden P/L Complex and Trees</i>			√	√
Princess Highway 504, Noble Park, <i>Gillette Offices and Factory</i>			√	√
576 Princess Highway, Noble Park, <i>Gordon Ford Courtyard, E. R. Squibb., Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Complex</i>			√	√

Heritage Places (arranged by alphabetical address only)	Recommended for inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Register	Recommended for inclusion in the Register of the National Estate	Recommended for protection under the City of Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme	Of Cultural Significance to the Community of the City of Greater Dandenong Region
Princess Highway, Springvale, <i>Springvale Cemetery Necropolis Crematorium & Chapel Complex</i>			√	√
Princess Highway, Springvale, <i>Springvale Cemetery & Necropolis Complex & Landscape</i>	√ (gardens only)	√	√	√
Off Princess Highway, Springvale, <i>Sandown Racecourse Grandstand</i>	√	√	√	√
Off Princess Highway, Springvale <i>Sandown Racecourse</i>	√	√	√	√
End Pultney Street, Dandenong, <i>Gates, Shepley Oval (Originally at Springvale Crematorium)</i>			√	√
Pultney Street, Dandenong, <i>Elm And Oak Row</i>			√	√
Pultney Street 73, Dandenong, <i>Californian Redwoods</i>			√	√
St John's Avenue 37, Springvale, <i>St Joseph's Church</i>			√	√
Scott Street 18-24, Dandenong, <i>Raux & Sons, Cobb & Company</i>			√	√
Scott Street 34-38, Dandenong, <i>Methodist Later Uniting Church Complex, Garden and Tree</i>			√	√
Springvale Road 190, Springvale, <i>Emptor P/L Building</i>			√	√
Springvale Road 224-234, Springvale, <i>Burden's Buildings</i>			√	√
Springvale Road 353, Springvale, <i>Springvale Primary School, Trees</i>			√	√
Springvale Road, Springvale, <i>Ornamental Pear Tree Avenue</i>			√	√
Springvale Road 397-407, Springvale, <i>Oak</i>			√	√
Springvale Road 593, Springvale South, <i>Natural Resources Conservation League Nursery</i>			√	√
Cnr Stuart & King Streets, Dandenong, <i>Pioneer Park</i>			√	√

Heritage Places (arranged by alphabetical address only)	Recommended for inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Register	Recommended for inclusion in the Register of the National Estate	Recommended for protection under the City of Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme	Of Cultural Significance to the Community of the City of Greater Dandenong Region
Stud Road 121, Dandenong, Former <i>Dandenong College Of Tafe</i>			√	√
Surrey Road 23-25, Dandenong North, <i>Rossmoyne House, Tree</i> (Former "BUNDALOHN")			√	√
Thomas Street 20, Dandenong, <i>Crosby Bakery</i>			√	√
Thompsons Road 505, Cranbourne, <i>Farm House</i>			√	√
Walker Street 53-59, Dandenong, <i>Liquid Night Club</i>	-	-	-	-
Windsor Avenue 6, Springvale, <i>Springvale Church Of Christ</i>			√	√
Between Worsley, Thompson And Frankston-Dandenong Road, Bangholme, <i>Farm Landscape</i>			√	√

Introduction

Historic Places Citation

The following citations (part of a Stage 2 Evaluation of selected sites in the City of Greater Dandenong) are a detailed assessment of ninety-six (96) places. Seventy-seven (77) places were identified in Appendix 7 of the City of Greater Dandenong Heritage Study Stage One in 1998/99: two sites (Sites 1 and 75), were deleted from the list because they were either demolished or outside the City of Greater Dandenong municipal boundary. Sites 16 and 17 (Cosy Corner Café) as per sites 46 and 47 (Keysborough Learning Centre, Parish of the Resurrection) were amalgamated to avoid repetition of the history content. All of the initially selected sites were found to be of potential heritage significance either at Local, Regional, State or National levels. The remaining nineteen (19) sites were chosen by the steering committee, from a broader list of potentially locally significant places.

A detailed investigation followed, which examined the history and physical condition and appearance of each of the places in terms of how each illustrated their history or other significant historical, architectural, aesthetic or other aspects.

The historical themes and criteria used for this analysis are listed below.

Historic Themes

The following are themes previously identified in the history of the City of Greater Dandenong and revised in this study, which represent historical patterns of events or places. The sites identified have been assessed for their expression of these themes, depending on the physical evidence remaining at the site or its integrity.

1.0 Exploring, Exploiting and Altering the Land

Evidence of:

- 1.1 Exploring, exploiting and altering the land
- 1.2 Exploring and surveying
- 1.3 Exploiting natural resources
- 1.4 Altering the environment for economic development

2.0 Peopling the land

Evidence of:

- 2.1 Migrating
- 2.2 Settling the land: Government schemes

3.0 Developing local, regional and national economies

Evidence of:

- 3.1 Developing primary production
- 3.2 Feeding people
- 3.3 Developing an Australian manufacturing capacity
- 3.4 Developing an Australian engineering and construction industry
- 3.5 Providing entertainment
- 3.6 Providing accommodation
- 3.7 Servicing tourists

4.0 Extending economic links

Evidence of:

- 4.1 Dandenong Market
- 4.2 Retailing and banking

5.0 Building settlements

Evidence of:

- 5.1 Moving goods and people
- 5.2 Establishing lines and networks of communication
- 5.3 Informing through newspapers
- 5.4 Providing services
- 5.5 Developing facilities

6.0 Education

Evidence of:

- 6.1 Forming associations, libraries and institutes for self-education
- 6.2 Establishing schools
- 6.3 Training people for workplace skills
- 6.4 Building a system of higher education
- 6.5 Educating people in two cultures

7.0 Governing

Evidence of:

- 7.1 Developing institutions of self-government
- 7.2 Developing administrative structures
- 7.3 Preparing for war

8.0 Developing cultural life

Evidence of:

- 8.1 Organising recreation
- 8.2 Eating and drinking
- 8.3 Worshipping
- 8.4 Forming Associations
- 8.5 Honouring, remembering, commemorating
- 8.6 Living in and around Australian homes
- 8.7 Appreciating and enhancing the environment

9.0 Marking the phases of life

Evidence of:

- 9. 1 Caring for the young
- 9. 2 Growing up
- 9. 3 Forming families and partnerships
- 9. 4 Growing old
- 9. 5 Dying and mourning

Refer to the Revised Environmental History in Part I of this study for a detailed list of each theme.

Criteria For Assessing Places (Sites & Areas)

The following set of criteria is used in the study. The criteria adopted by the Australian Heritage Commission (detailed in the Australian Heritage Commission Act 1975), which incorporates historical, aesthetic, scientific and social significance is also adopted in this study.

Criterion A:

Its importance in the course, or pattern, of Australia's natural or cultural history

- A. 1 Importance in the evolution of Australian flora, fauna, landscapes or climate.
- A. 2 Importance in maintaining existing processes or natural systems at the regional or national scale.
- A. 3 Importance in exhibiting unusual richness or diversity of flora, fauna, landscapes or cultural features.
- A. 4 Importance for association with events, developments or cultural phases which have had a significant role in the human occupation and evolution of the nation, State, region or community.

Criterion B:

Its possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Australia's natural or cultural history

- B. 1 Importance for rare, endangered or uncommon flora, fauna, communities, ecosystems, natural landscapes or phenomena, or as a wilderness.
- B. 2 Importance in demonstrating a distinctive way of life, custom, process, land-use, function or design no longer practised, in danger of being lost, or of exceptional interest

Criterion C:

Its potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Australia's natural or cultural history

- C. 1 Importance for information contributing to a wider understanding of Australian natural history, by virtue of its use as a research site, teaching site, type locality, reference or benchmark site.
- C. 2 Importance for information contributing to a wider understanding of the history of human occupation of Australia.

Criterion D:

Its importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of:

- (i) A class of Australia's natural or cultural places; or
- (ii) A class of Australia's natural or cultural environments

- D. 1 Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of the range of landscapes, environments or ecosystems, the attributes of which identify them as being characteristic of their class.
- D. 2 Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of the range of human activities in the Australian environment (including way of life, philosophy, custom, process, land use, function, design or technique).

Criterion E:

Its importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group

- E. 1 Importance for a community for aesthetic characteristics held in high esteem or otherwise valued by the community.

Criterion F:

Its importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period

- F. 1 Importance for its technical, creative, design or artistic excellence, innovation or achievement.

Criterion G:

Its strong or special associations with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons

- G. 1 Importance as a place highly valued by a community for reasons of religious, spiritual, symbolic, cultural, educational, or social associations.

Criterion H:

Its special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in Australia's natural or cultural history

- H. 1 Importance for close associations with individuals whose activities have been significant within the history of the nation, State or region.

Heritage Or Cultural Expression Of A Place

As stated in Criteria One (1), the property, place or item in question will need to be identified by its heritage expression. This is determined by the existing condition of the building and its remaining distinctive architectural features, by the extent of historical evidence in existence or by a combination of the two.

Extent Of Heritage Value

The heritage values used are:

- National Significance (Australia)
- State Significance (Victoria)
- Regional Significance (City of Greater Dandenong)
- Local Significance (Defined localities within the municipal boundaries)

If the place is not judged as of value within the above framework, as either National, State, Regional or Local heritage significance, it will be judged as Typical or Representative, awaiting further work to establish a relevance to the criteria or historical themes.

Abbreviations

Abbreviations used in this text include:

RB Rate Books, City of Greater Dandenong and Public Records Office

Non-Statutory Recommendations

Heritage Advisor

It is recommended that a Heritage Advisor be retained to assist in the administration of the Planning Scheme Provisions.

The Heritage Advisor's role is also to:

- provide information to property owners,
- assist property owners with advice regarding maintenance, restoration, re-construction and re-use of buildings,
- to assist council with the management of Council owned and controlled heritage sites, and
- to assist Council in the administration of the heritage provisions of the Town Planning Scheme.

The provision of free specialist advice can assist property owners with advice about their buildings, understanding the recommended town planning objectives and assistance with the preparation of town planning submissions.

Heritage Victoria can assist municipalities with advice regarding the administration of such services and access to funding to assist with the employment of a Heritage Advisor and the revolving heritage fund.

Access to Financial Assistance

Heritage Victoria

Owners of sites on the Victorian Heritage Register have access to funding assistance through Heritage Victoria. The Heritage Advisor can assist owners with the preparation of application for such assistance.

Australian Heritage Commission

Sites listed on the Register of the National Estate have access to funding assistance through the Australian Heritage Commission. The Heritage Advisor can assist owners with the preparation of an application for such assistance.

Rate Relief

The council can assist property owners by giving rate relief to owners of heritage sites listed in the Planning Scheme. This may apply to all or only a selection of sites that meet the criteria developed by the council.

Reduced Town Planning Application Fees

The council can assist owners of properties protected by listing in the Planning Scheme by waiving fees for planning permits, waiving fees under a certain cost, or reducing the town planning permit fees. The fee waiver or reduction applies only to those planning permit applications that become necessary under heritage planning provisions.

Public Heritage Program

The Public Heritage Program has been established to assist government agencies (State and local) to recognise, maintain, and capitalise upon heritage assets as part of an economically valuable and cultural resource. The council can apply for funding through Heritage Victoria for capital works funding for public heritage places listed in the local planning scheme and owned by government agencies; interpret and present public places for the benefit of the community and enhance domestic and international tourism. The public heritage program will also help local government to identify, manage, and promote heritage places and provide seed funding to initiate and launch regional heritage projects.

Access to Information

Information Sheets

It is recommended that the information regarding areas and individual sites gathered during the study be made available to owners and ratepayers. Understanding the history and significance of a building or place can assist owners to retain and protect the site.

This can be done by making copies of the study available at the Council, library, historical societies, and other local interest groups. A precis of the information in the study or select parts

of the study such as the history section could be provided at cost to interested people.

Council should prepare a policy regarding the Information Sheets on the individual sites so that copies can be made available to owners at no cost or for a small copying fee. The Council may wish to send a copy to each owner.

Library of Restoration Publications

Recently many excellent books on building styles and restoration have been published. It is suggested that the Council purchase a selection of these for use by building owners and Council officers. These could be kept at the Council or be made available through the Council library system. A list of restoration publications follows (in alphabetical order). This list is not exhaustive as suitable books are being published regularly.

- Peter Cuffley, *'Cottage Gardens in Australia'*, Five Mile Press, Melbourne 1983
- Department of Planning, NSW, *'Getting the Details Right – Restoring Australian Houses 1890s – 1920s'*
- Ian Evans, *'The Australian Old House Catalogue, The Complete Where to Get It Guide for the Home Restorer'*
- Ian Evans, Clive Lucas and Ian Stapleton, *'Colour Schemes for Old Australian Houses'*, Flannel Flower Press.
- Helen Lardner for the Historic Buildings Council, *'Caring for Historic Buildings, guidelines for alterations and additions to historic buildings'*, Melbourne 1993
- National Trust of Australia (Victoria) Technical Bulletins

This series provides technical information about the care and maintenance of many aspects of buildings and landscape. New titles are added regularly. The bulletins are available from the National Trust in Melbourne.

- 'Exterior Painting Colours for Buildings of the Victorian Period'
- 'Lettering and Signs on Buildings c1850-100'
- 'Principles of Cleaning Masonry Buildings'
- 'Plantings c1850-199'
- 'Damage to Buildings on Clay Soils'
- 'Wood deterioration in Buildings'
- 'Fences and Gates c1840-1925'
- 'Physical Investigation of Buildings'
- 'Our Inter-War Houses'
- 'Conservation of Roofs'
- Robert Moore, Sheridan Bourke and Ray Joyce, *'Australian Cottages'*, J. Hamlyn, 1989

- Des Regan and Kate Press, *'How to Trace the History of Your House'* Penguin, 1990
- Celestina Sagazio, editor, *'The National Trust Research Manual, Investigating Buildings, Gardens and Cultural Landscapes'*. Allen and Unwin 1992.
- Ian Stapleton, *'How to Restore the Old Aussie House'*. John Fairfax Marketing, 1984 Flannel Flower Press.

Presenting the Findings of the Heritage Study

Presenting the study to residents can allow them to fully understand the Heritage Study objectives and recommendations and give feedback to the Council about residents' requirements for the protection of the Council's heritage.

Council may wish to have an official launch of the study and allow a period of public exhibition and comment before proceedings with implementation of the recommendations.

Assistance with Publications

The Council may wish to publish, or support community organisations to publish parts of the study and information booklets based on the information gathered in the Heritage Study for use by residents and visitors.

These publications are very effective in interpreting the Council's heritage and can assist with community awareness of the history and heritage in the Council.