


# Industry



# Farming and Dairying

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By Claire Turner, Casey Cardinia Library Corporation

 number of industries have flourished in Cranbourne over the years. The earliest industries were dictated by the demand for produce and the composition of the natural landscape. As the township developed in the late 1850s, the bakery, hotel, blacksmith's and general store appeared. It is interesting to look closely at the changes that have occurred over the years. As the community's lifestyle and interest changes, so too do the type of industries and shops that can survive. Many of the once thriving industries can hardly be imagined now, but they were an important part of Cranbourne's development and history. Agriculture was the most popular way to earn a living during the early settlement years, and was in fact the dominating industry until subdivision commenced in the 1950s.

Dairying was the primary occupation until around the 1950s. Locals remember that there was a convoy of horse-drawn carts and trucks at the Cranbourne station every day delivering their milk cans to Melbourne. As an industry dairying in Cranbourne took a successful leap forward in the late 1920s when the Lady Talbot Dairy was established at the 'Mayfield' property. There were

initially around three hundred cows, which were all milked by hand. The dairy, owned by the Hope family, employed many local people and the milk had the prestige of being the first bottled and pasteurised milk produced for Melbourne. The bottled milk was packed in ice and transported to the Cranbourne station by horse-drawn lorry. These early bottles read:

*Raw milk bottled for sale by Lady Talbot Milk Supply Co.  
From Govt Accredited Tuberculosis Free Herd. Bottled  
and sealed at Cranbourne.*

Throughout this time the farming industry continued to develop. Dairying was still a main focus, particularly for small farms, whereas larger farms diversified into horse breeding. There were a number of gentlemen like Alexander Cameron (Jnr) and James Lecky who were passionate horsemen and developed highly prized horse studs. Dr. Smith Adams who lived at 'Balla Balla' on Baxter - Tooradin Road was also a keen supporter of the horse racing industry and was notorious for driving a hard bargain. The local interest in horses served in partnership with the interest in racing to fuel the growth of the Cranbourne Racecourse and Recreation Reserve from the 1860s. Horseracing is of course an 'institution' in Cranbourne today and is part of a long heritage.

# Mornington Farmer's Association

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By Claire Turner, Casey Cardinia Library Corporation

**F**arming continued to be the staple industry for Cranbourne. Agriculture was taken very seriously by people as this was the source of their livelihood. New discoveries and improvements in agricultural methods were highly sought after and this was largely the impetus for the establishment of a Mornington Farmers' Association, as a branch of the Port Phillip Association. Cranbourne at this time was part of the Parish of Mornington. The Association began in 1856, and in 1857 the first agricultural show was held in Cranbourne, at the show grounds on the corner of Sladen Street and Cameron Street.

Alexander Patterson (1813-1896) was a local man and owner of the successful 'St Germain's' property on Ballarto Road. He was the driving force behind the Association and was recognized across Victoria as a leading man in agricultural developments. The Association involved farmers from surrounding districts, including Berwick. By 1860 it was decided that the annual show would alternate between Cranbourne and Berwick. This was the forerunner of the annual Berwick Show, which is still held today.



# Gravel and Sand Quarrying

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By Claire Turner, Casey Cardinia Library Corporation

**S**and quarrying was and still is a staple industry in Cranbourne, sustained by the naturally sandy soil in the district. By the 1880s, farmers were exploring the possibilities that were offered by the native landscape. Quarrying the natural rock deposits and carting the sand that was plentiful developed into industries that would supplement farming in the district. Sand was used to make bricks and support the building boom in Melbourne. The railway went through in 1887 facilitating the easy transport of resources that were being developed in Cranbourne.

Men like William Brunt, who owned the farming property 'Spring Villa' on the South Gippsland Highway, began to diversify their farming interests. Brunt quarried in the property opposite his farm. Gravel was hand dug, shovelled into drays and carted to the station. It was sold to St Kilda Council to build pathways in the then coastal resort.

The sandpits became central to Cranbourne and by the 1930s there were even rail tracks across the highway to transport the sand with ease to the station. Local residents

remember playing around these giant sandpits as children, and having picnics in the bushland that surrounded them. There were sand quarries behind the cemetery (still there today) and along Berwick - Clyde Road. Cranbourne's sand was reputedly highly sought after. Local resident Clyde Manks describes the sand industry:

*Cranbourne had large deposits of sand that was sent by rail all over Melbourne, and to a number of towns all over Victoria. It was claimed to be the best brick-layer's and plasterer's sand available. There were two siding lines (railway) out to the sand pits – one went along Cameron Street over the South Gippsland Highway, and the other went along the west side of the Cemetery to the sand pits in that area.*

The sand industry was an important source of employment for local men and also attracted workers from other towns. Clyde Manks recalls that:

*Hundreds of men were employed over many years in the sand pit – men would come by train on Monday mornings, some would last a day, some a week and some for months. Many homes in Cranbourne had a boarder at times.*

# Cranbourne Market

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By Claire Turner, Casey Cardinia Library Corporation

**M**arkets were an essential part of life in agricultural districts. Local produce would be sold and livestock auctioned. During the 1860s and 70s, Cranbourne was known as a market town. It is believed that this early market was held on the Mornington Farmers' Association show grounds on the corner of Sladen and Cameron Streets. Dandenong Market was in direct competition with Cranbourne and even within Cranbourne competition between auctioneers to attract the largest crowds was strong.

Controversial Shire Councillor Alexander Cameron decided in the late 1880s that Cranbourne required its own official market. Land was set-aside next to the Old Shire Office (where the new offices would be built in 1978). The market buildings were constructed in 1889 and the plans and specifications were put on display by the Shire Secretary, A. N. Facey at the Mornington Hotel.

There were soon problems with a rebel auctioneer who decided to begin his own stock auction market in the yards of the Cranbourne Hotel. The Shire took court action against the accused. The Shire Secretary, A. N. Facey was appointed as the prosecutor for the case in the Cranbourne court. All must have been resolved because the Cranbourne market lasted until the 1930s, when the depression and competition from Dandenong became too great.



Market day varied during the forty or so years that it was held. In 1901, it was advertised as being on a Thursday whereas during the 1890s it was on a Monday and Council meetings were held on the same day. People would drive their cattle from their properties into Cranbourne. Market day must have been a real sight to see. Paddy Einsiedel (1877-1958) drove his cattle from his various properties at Lang Lang and many others would have done the same. A local resident recalls how families interacted with the market:

*Arthur Ryland, a well-known local identity, had a sweet stall with his sister. Every week I would beg a penny from mum and buy four aniseed balls or a licorice strap from them. This was my market treat....every autumn Mum would buy a case of ripe tomatoes for a shilling and spend most of a day making our annual supply of tomato sauce.'*

# Hotels

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By Claire Turner, Casey Cardinia Library Corporation

**T**he township of Cranbourne needed local businesses to service the farming community. Hotels were the first to appear and they provided quite varied and essential purposes beyond just the provision of alcohol. Hotels were the civic centres before local government was established. They usually had many rooms that served as meeting rooms, libraries and lounges. There would be a small public bar for the express purpose of drinking alcohol, but this was only a small facet of the hotel's function. Hotels were stop off points for travellers on coaches and were required to have room for horses, coaches and people. They would also often handle the mail and were required by law to be a venue for coronial inquiries and to make their cool room available for use as a morgue. They were usually managed by women, who found that through the hotel they could earn a living, run a family and also participate in public life.

Cranbourne's first hotel was the Mornington Hotel and was originally managed by Mr and Mrs Gooch. It was on the site of today's Kelly's Hotel. The Gooches were evangelicals and Mr Gooch held some of the earliest meetings of the Cranbourne Church of England in the hotel. This was before the church was built in 1865 and while Gooch was the Church committee secretary. A



*Kelly's Motor Club Hotel*



*Mornington Hotel*

later manager was Mrs Harris who ran the hotel when it was owned by Isaac Mullins during the 1870s. She is mentioned in the Racecourse history as having made the most of race days and was a very enterprising woman:

*Mrs Harris, of the Mornington Hotel (Cranbourne), had a booth on the ground and did a roaring business in supplying refreshments to an apparently thirsty gathering.<sup>1</sup>*

The Nurse family ran the hotel during the turn of the last century. The hotel was finally owned by the Kelly family, who continue to run it today as Kelly's Motor Club Hotel.

The 'Cranbourne Hotel' was established in the early 1860s by the Reverend Duff's brother Robert and his wife Margaret. This hotel building survived up until around the 1970s and was located where the Cranbourne Park Shopping Centre is today. A series of women owned and managed the hotel, which was usual in Australia during the nineteenth century. Margaret Duff (later Tucker), Bridget Savage and Mary Einsiedel (died 1906 age 69) all ran the Cranbourne Hotel in succession. The Kelly family took it over in around 1917 and it was renovated and re-furnished. They also renovated the Mornington Hotel and held both licenses. The Kelly family initially ran both hotels, but in later years the Cranbourne Hotel was leased out to local businesses such as antique dealers and hair salons, making 'Kelly's' the star attraction.

Kelly's Hotel provided long-term accommodation to local workers such as the bank clerks and schools teachers during the 1930s and 40s. Anice Stammers (nee Facey) grew up over the road from Kelly's Hotel. Her father owned Facey's butcher shop on the National Bank side of the main street. Anice can remember the Hotel and the Kelly family:

*I was an only child up till 1945 (when my sister was born) so I was always off playing with someone or over at Kelly's Hotel annoying Mr and Mrs Kelly as they had a wonderful playhouse their girls had outgrown. I spent many hours there... it (the hotel) is still a landmark today but not the place I remember with a huge stove in the kitchen, a pantry and ironing room, a dining room with starched white table cloths and crocheted sauce bottle covers.<sup>2</sup>*

A section from the local newspaper, The Mornington Country Herald in 1889 demonstrates just how fierce the competition was between the two hotels before the Kelly family took them over. The Mornington Hotel was described as having:

*First class accommodation for visitors and travellers... Good stabling and paddocks. Horses and buggies for hire.*

The Cranbourne Hotel claimed the following:

*Visitors and Travellers will find first class accommodation and every convenience...vehicles and saddles for hire. Good stabling and first class paddocks.*

By 1919, the Cranbourne Hotel had been 'practically rebuilt and newly furnished throughout' and was being run by Arthur Kelly as 'Kelly's Cranbourne Hotel'. Kelly claimed that 'everything is done to make this hotel a home away from home: Only best brands of liquors stocked.'<sup>3</sup> In the same year, the Mornington Hotel was renovated and running as 'The Motor Club Hotel' managed by Mrs S. Kelly, and boasting 'Excellent cuisine, large billiard room, ales, wines and spirits of the best brands, cabs meet all trains, sporting parties catered for. First class stabling and loose boxes - motor garage.'<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Marc Fiddian, *Of Heath and Horses: A History of Cranbourne Turf Club*, Cranbourne Turf Club, Pakenham, 1993. p. 9.

<sup>2</sup> Recollection of Mrs. Anice Lenzel Stammers (Facey), in possession of the Casey-Cardinia Local History Archive, Melbourne, 2000, p. 2.

<sup>3</sup> South Bourke and Mornington Journal, August 1919.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid

# Shops

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By Claire Turner, Casey Cardinia Library Corporation



**C**ranbourne had the usual shops that flourish in a country town. Hotels, blacksmiths, saddlers, bakers and butchers were all essential. These businesses continued through the decades, providing work for the second and third generations of Cranbourne families that were not interested in or able to work on the farm. Most of the food suppliers would deliver, both to houses in the township and out to farms. During the 1920s and 30s Charlie Bregazzi would deliver the milk in the town and he was also a landscape painter. Joe Taylor was the local baker and he travelled long distances to deliver bread. His family had run the bakery since the 1880s. On one occasion there had been

yet another flood out at Cardinia and Joe was trapped. He had been delivering bread and could not come home because the water was too high. Similarly, the butcher would come out to his customers perhaps twice a week and prepare cuts of meat on the spot, as Pam Ridgway remembers:

*The butcher's cart came around once or twice a week. Meat was weighed at the gate on small scales the butcher had with him. I remember the butcher always had a switch of gum leaves to deter any flies. The baker had a similar cart to deliver bread and brought a few loaves to the door in a large basket.*



Anice Stammers (nee Facey) can remember as a girl the sorts of shops that were in Cranbourne during the late 1930s: *I used to love starting near Poole's Garage on my scooter and freewheeling down the footpath to our house. First I'd pass Joe Taylor's horse paddock and his bakery shop and bake house where I would be sent to get a loaf of bread still hot from the oven. I'd pass Mosey Miles the saddler, then the National Bank, the estate agents and next to our place, Mr and Mrs Cowe's shop which sold fruit and vegetables, ice cream, ice blocks, cigarettes, and best of all lollies.*<sup>5</sup>

Shops on the Kelly's Hotel side of the highway included Hogg's Groceries, Espie's blacksmith shop and the Smith and Jolly joinery. These shops mark the original layout of the main street.

The shops on the other side of the highway were pulled down to make way for the widening of the road.



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<sup>5</sup> Recollections of Mrs. Anice Lenzel Stammers (Facey), p. 3.

# Medical Services

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**T**he availability of medical services in early Cranbourne fluctuated for many years. There was a doctor in the early township and he was described by a traveller in the 1860s as being rather unreliable. James Watson recalled that:

*The ruined cottage is mentioned because in it lived, or rather existed, the local doctor – a clever man, but one who had the habit that many an otherwise good man has fallen victim to. The minister kept his books and instruments, and, for special cases, he was sobered up for a couple of days, the hotel being taboo to him til he had completed the case in hand.<sup>6</sup>*

Residential houses were used as hospitals in Cranbourne at different times. There was a maternity hospital on Duff Street in the 1910s, and the house later

owned by the Rolstone family on the corner of Codrington and Childers Streets was run by Nurse Brockhurst during the 1920s and 30s. Many children were born there, if not at home.

Cranbourne only had a resident doctor at odd intervals for many years. During the 1920s and 30s, Doctor Percy Langmore visited from Berwick one day a week and held his surgery in the lounge room at Mrs Cowe's milk bar. There seems to have been a general perception that: 'one had to be nearly dead to go to the doctor'. Home remedies were mostly used in preference to a visit to the doctor. These remedies included mustard plasters, cough mixture and sticking plaster.

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<sup>6</sup> Niel Gunson, *The Good Country: Cranbourne Shire, The Shire of Cranbourne*, Frankston, 1968. p.68.

# Women in Business

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By Claire Turner, Casey Cardinia Library Corporation

**B**ehind every successful man there is a successful woman is a well-known cliché, but in Cranbourne there seems to have been a successful woman behind every successful hotel. Women played a critical role in the hotel industry of Colonial Australia, with 40 to 50% of hotel licenses being held by women until the 1950s. If they did not hold the licence, wives, daughters and sisters still usually all contributed to the family business. Running a hotel provided women with independence, economic gain, status and political identity.<sup>7</sup>

Cranbourne's female hotelkeepers, like their colleagues in neighbouring Dandenong and Tooradin, were able to run their domestic and entrepreneurial lives through their hotels. Recent studies have concluded that the notion of public and private spheres for men and women became melded in hotels. Women could raise children and earn a living at the same time and enjoyed the benefits of being at the centre of community life.<sup>8</sup> Female hotelkeepers like Cranbourne's Margaret Duff (later Tucker) would have co-ordinated early Shire meetings, which were held at the Cranbourne Hotel during the 1860s, along with other local social events. Hotelkeepers also contributed to church and political life. This was certainly the case for the Gooch, Tucker and Duff families.<sup>9</sup>

The oldest Hotel in Cranbourne was the Mornington Hotel. It was located on the site of today's 'Kellys' Hotel in High Street. Originally owned by Mr. and Mrs. Gooch, the hotel began in the 1860s. From the late 1870s, it was known as Harris' Hotel and was primarily run by Mrs Elizabeth Harris. She was an innovative businesswoman, who regularly set up an alcohol stall at the Cranbourne Race events.

Mrs Harris, of the Mornington Hotel (Cranbourne), had a booth on the ground and did a roaring business in supplying refreshments to an apparently thirsty gathering.<sup>10</sup>

Margaret Tucker owned the Cranbourne Hotel, which was on sixteen acres of land. Robert Duff, the Reverend Duff's brother, had widowed Margaret in 1861. She was widowed a second time by Edward John Tucker, who was the Rev. Duff's brother in law (Duff married Annie Tucker).<sup>11</sup> Edward died in 1872, at the age of 36. He had been active in the community as the first Secretary of the Cranbourne District Road Board and as Secretary and Treasurer of the Mornington Farmers' Association. Margaret ran the pub from the 1860s and was clearly a good businesswoman, who skilfully managed her inherited property to afford herself the title of 'Lady' in her retirement. This reinforces how female hotelkeepers

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<sup>7</sup> Wright, 'Of public houses and private lives: female hotelkeepers as domestic entrepreneurs', *Australian Historical Studies*, no. 116, 2001, pp. 60 & 62.

<sup>8</sup> Clare Wright, p. 68.

<sup>9</sup> Clare Wright, p. 68.

<sup>10</sup> Marc Fidden, *Of Heath and Horses: A History of Cranbourne Turf Club*, Cranbourne Turf Club, Pakenham, 1993, p. 9.

<sup>11</sup> Niel Gunson, *The Good Country: Cranbourne Shire*, The Shire of Cranbourne, Frankston, 1968, p. 110.

could fulfil their social aspirations through the 'domestic liberty' that living and working in a hotel afforded them.<sup>12</sup> By the 1890s, Margaret was a significant landowner, with six properties, which she leased to men like Josiah Clarke Allen and Patrick Savage. The 'Fernlea' property in Clyde, which remains today, was her retreat for retirement until she died in 1902. She is buried at the Cranbourne Cemetery.

The Cranbourne Hotel was later run by a series of women. Bridget Savage leased it from Margaret Tucker in the 1880s, and in the 1890s it was run by Mary Einsiedel. There was a long tradition among female hotelkeepers of passing licenses onto a string of women. Mary was taken to Court in 1888 and fined for allowing illegal gambling on her premises. The hearing was held in the Old Shire Offices and was presided over by Alexander Patterson. It must have been awkward for her as a well-known identity, to be publicly fined and reported in the local paper.

Female business owners were quite a presence in the Cranbourne Township but they were also working as farm and property owners. Mrs Henry owned ten lots of property in 1863. Other female landowners included Ann Poole, who leased her 20 acre property to contractor Donald McKay in 1886. Ann Peterson ran a shop in the 1890s. Ann Churchill was widowed in 1883 by her husband James. She maintained a 32 acre property. Eliza Robins owned 156 acres, which she also leased to Donald McKay.<sup>13</sup>

In later years, women continued to run businesses in Cranbourne. Mrs Oliver ran a taxi service and lived near the railway station where she would have been in a good



*Mrs Gooch*

position to meet the Melbourne train. She was a stout woman who could certainly hold her own. Mrs Cowe ran the milkbar and was particularly known for her home-made ice cream. She has been remembered as being a good businesswoman and the children certainly knew it – they used to hope that Mr Cowe would serve them their ice cream because they would get a little extra serving with a wink!

It is clear that Cranbourne's women played a role in the public life of the township. Women who owned hotels would have been directly exposed to and involved in the cut and thrust of Cranbourne society life. As landowners, they would have been exposed to the rigors of the agricultural market place, managing livestock in addition to the ordinary daily toil of running a family and a home.

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<sup>12</sup> Clare Wright, p. 75.

<sup>13</sup> Shire of Cranbourne Rate Books. Held by the City of Casey.

# Post War Industry

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By Claire Turner, Casey Cardinia Library Corporation

**T**he industries in Cranbourne were quite consistent until after the Second World War (1939-1945). Dairy farming, crops of peas, beans and potatoes, horse breeding and local business in the town were the staples but the developments across Australia after the War soon impacted on Cranbourne.

The Cranbourne Market had petered out during the 1930s and its buildings next to the Shire Offices were used by Hiltons Knitting Factory. This factory employed around 60 local women during the 1950s. Women had joined the workforce during the war, and in the Cranbourne area they were particularly known for their help in the land armies that kept the farms running

while the men were off fighting. At the end of the war, there was a general acceptance that women could work, so the factory provided a good local opportunity.

The Cranbourne Shire was planning to expand the district and looked for ways of attracting people into the community to live. An expression of interest by the International Harvester Company in the late 1940s to set up a factory in Cranbourne was welcomed by the Shire Secretary, Harry Cockcroft. International Harvester was also establishing a factory in a new district that would be called 'Doveton'. The Cranbourne factory was located on the corner of Cameron Street and Sladen Street, where the Library is today.