

Albury Saleyards

Joe Wooding

The Border Post of July 7, 1880 was full of praise for the Riverina Yards just opened by TF Waller & Co on the corner of Wilson and Olive Streets. There were 12 pens on nearly an acre. The top rail received special mention. It was on the flat, "giving seating for the buyers and sellers alike." Today, St David's Uniting Church occupies part of the site.

Previously, when Moore & Waller in 1874, advised they were disposing of their yards near the Bank of NSW in Townsend Street, the need for municipal sale yards was touted. The Hovell Tree Reserve seemed the ideal location to some, others held the view the river precinct would be despoiled and vehemently opposed such a move to the extent that it was more than a decade before Council finally obtained from Government, a 27 acre site far removed from the town on the Sydney Road. Albury's public hospital now graces this Borella Road site.



The First Pen of Pigs to be Auctioned at Newmarket after the Swine Fever Outbreak in 1961.

The Albury Municipal Saleyards were opened by Mayor, Alderman TH Mate on Wednesday, November 7, 1888. He remarked at length of the difficulties faced from prejudices and selfishness of those who for so long, had not wanted yards in the first place. Two cases of champagne however, eased the difficulties experienced in the past.

Designed by Gordon & Gordon, the yards were built by Mr James Cummings at a cost of 1780 pounds. Accommodation for 30,000 sheep, 300 fat and 1,400 store cattle was provided. Some horses were also traded.

The Newmarket site, as it became known, added a Municipal Abattoir in 1938 before its closure in the 1970s.

Post war, another use for the back pens was devised when locals gathered to try their luck at a game of two-up.

In 1961, an outbreak of swine fever closed the border with the result that NSW pigs could not be taken to Wodonga and were sold at Newmarket.

In the photo, a dozen wise men of the stock world inspect the first pen of pigs to be auctioned.

From left – Wally Treloar (F&G), Vic Wilson (Dalgety), John Curtis (F&G), Graham Waldon (NZL), Paul Crawshaw (Elders Carrier), Bill Gardiner (buyer), Frank Devine (F&G), Ken Skeen (F&G Auctioneer) Barry Blakley (Stock Agent), Geoff Smith (Younghusbands), Mat Kilpatrick (Dalgety Auctioneer), Graham Marshall (F&G Agent, Holbrook).

The yards were levelled in the 1980s when many of the posts and rails found their way to various farming properties around the Albury district.