

## Extracts from the *Ararat and Pleasant Creek Advertiser*, 1865\*

### 10 October 1865

The public supper for Mr Dash prior to his departure for Hamilton to the Receiver & Paymaster's Office will take place at Tuson's Hotel this evening. It is expected there will be a large party of townspeople present on the occasion Mr Dash having been long and favourably known to every resident of Ararat.

### 13 October 1865

**Public Supper to Mr Dash.** A large and influential party of townspeople of Ararat assembled at Tuson's Camp Hotel for the purpose of entertaining Mr Dash, late of the Ararat Treasury, at a complimentary supper .... The chair was occupied by Mr Banfield and the vice-chairs by Messrs Constable and Macabe. Amongst those present were a large number of Foresters and of the Fire Brigade who, dressed in the badges of their orders, enhanced the considerable gay appearance of the assemblage.... The decorations of the room and the garniture of the supper tables were such as reflect credit on the taste and liberality of the host.... Mr Constable proposed the toast of "The Defenders of the Soil" hoping that the embryo rifle club of Ararat would not be forgotten.... Mr Banfield rose to propose "The Guest of the Evening". He said that the social affairs of this young colony seemed to be marked with somewhat of the peculiar characteristics of its climate – sudden and rapid change. Referring to the manner in which Mr Dash had discharged the everyday duties of his office during the four and a half years he had been amongst us he said that kindness, affability and attention have characterised Mr Dash. Mr Dash had also identified himself with our institutions in a way and manner that gained for himself the respect and esteem of his fellow townsman. For a considerable time he had been a most indefatigable member of the Hospital Committee.... a very active and useful member of the Fire Brigade.... was a member of the Ararat Cemetery Trust.... was recently elected a member of the Ararat Public School Committee.... a valuable member of the Dramatic Club.... wish him God Speed in the future. Mr Dash replying said when I arrived in Ararat a perfect stranger I looked around me and wondered what I was going to do with myself, alone in a community so thoroughly strange. By and by I gathered my family around me and began to meet faces that gradually grew familiar. It was not long before my attention was directed to the Mechanics Institute.... Gradually I got mixed up in other bodies.... My interest in the place and the ties which bound me to it increased until now the very soil of Ararat seems to cling to me.... If anyone thinks I have injured him in speaking or acting unthinkingly towards him, I would remind him of the motto, "Censure none too rashly....". If I have offended any I freely ask their pardon.... If any of us meet again I trust that we will hold out the right hand of fellowship to each other.... Mr Chairman and friends I bid you farewell.

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\* *Extracted by Miss Lorna L Banfield, Ararat, 1970*