
EUDUNDA FARMERS' CO-OPERATIVE
SOCIETY LTD

BRG 179
Series List

The co-operative was established on the principles of the Rochdale Society in 1896, commencing as a group of traders in firewood, and meeting in a hotel parlour which was rent-free.

The reasons for its establishment lie in the economic conditions of the 1890s. Farmers used mallee roots as a means of getting ready cash. As the 1890s depression deepened, the storekeepers who were acting as middlemen, refused to pay in cash, insisting instead that the value of the wood be taken in goods. As a result Thomas Roberts suggested they trade directly on the Adelaide market and when this suggestion was agreed to a committee was established and a city representative appointed.

While this venture was successful, farmers wanted more from the organisation and so the co-operative was established. The first meeting was held in December 1895 at the Eudunda Hotel. The owner of the hotel, Mr E.A. Mann, was to become part of the Society's board of management. The constitution and rules were adopted in January 1896.

Activities commenced immediately with wood selling, and in December 1896 purchased their first store. Other stores followed in the next few years, often in response to local demands. The growth of the Society has continued over the years to the present time.

From "The Patch to Prosperity" (a company history).

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Meeting attendance books 1904 -1908 (2 vols)
"Path to Prosperity" (Co. history)
- PLUS Outsize book of plans with index.

3 loose plans, including of Port Augusta and Renmark