



**Of particularly interesting reading is the newspaper report of 29 April 1924, of the final clearing sale of Hunters at "The Halfway",**

*"Gentlemen, we are assembled here today to dispose of the last remnants of the finest estate in the North."*

*'So spoke the auctioneer, Mr. Bob Whinfield when he took the rostrum at that portion of the Burnewang Estate known as 'The Halfway'.*

*'For over half a century Burnewang was known as one of the largest sheep runs in the State, famous for its sheep and thoroughbred horses. For 40 years it has been in the Hunter family, and the stock bred on the stationer were known throughout the State for their quality, the name of Hunter being accepted by buyers as the hall mark of perfection, when connected with sheep, cattle or horses.*

*'The late Robert Hunter was a lover of horses, especially trotters, and he always had a big string of them on the station, Siam, Honest Harry, Willie Whips, Harry Alto, to mention a few of them, will give some idea of the quality of the horses that were housed in the stable of*

*Burnewang Park. There was no finer estate in Northern Victoria than the 40,000 acres held by the Hunter family, and there are numbers of people in the Elmore district today who cannot repress a sign of regret when they discuss the cutting up of this grand old estate.*

*'Acquired by the Closer Settlement Board only recently, the estate has been subdivided into small blocks and it is at the Halfway, three miles out of Elmore that the remaining farm implements, horses, hay stacks etc. that had not already been disposed of, were put into the hand of the auctioneers for sale.*

*'The Halfway which was an area of 500 acres and is dotted with quite a number of substantially built stables, grain sheds, and other outbuildings, was purchased at subdivision by Mr. T. McCormick.*

*'The sale was timed to commence at 1.30 p.m., but an hour before starting time there were large numbers of prospective buyers on the spot, inspecting horses, wagons, implements, hay stacks etc.. When the auctioneer was ready to make a start, there was fully two hundred people on the ground, and a constant stream of motor cars was making the dust rise in clouds from the various roads leading to 'The Halfway'.*

*'The first lot offered was an assortment of water pipes, trace chains, grain bags etc., and the auctioneer working rapidly soon passed through this lot, and then turned attention to the farm implements.*

*'Reapers and binders, plows, drills, graders were quickly sold at prices much below their original cost, and then the interest centred upon the draught stock.*

*'The fine heavy draughts were led into the ring singly, and the bidding for these horses was so spirited, that even the sphinx like face of the auctioneer lit up a gleam of excitement as the bids rose in £ 5/0/0 rises from £ 30/0/0 to £ 60/0/0 for the young horses, while the aged geldings brought an average of £ 45/0/0 each.*

*'Having disposed of the horses, the farm wagons and harness next engaged attention, and farmers secured some real bargains in leather goods.*

*'The wind up of the sale was the disposal of the hay stacks, which numbered eight, of various sizes. The first stack sold appeared to contain 30 tons of oaten hay and was knocked down for £ 37/10/0. The next stack which was twice as large, went for £ 93/0/0, while another of the large stacks was sold at £ 90/0/0. The other stacks were disposed of at varying prices which were apparently satisfactory to both buyer and seller, and then the crowd gradually melted away, leaving the purchasers to make arrangements with the auctioneers for the delivery of their bargains. And so the curtain rang down upon the last episode in the history of the famous estate.'*

*'The sale was conducted by Messrs. McInnes Whinfield & Co. and Messrs. Frank Wallis & Co.'*