



James Jewell

James Robert Jewell

Butcher and politician

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James Robert Jewell was born in 1869 in South Australia, the son of a miner and a school teacher from Cornwall. The family moved to Victoria during James's childhood.

He worked at a number of professions: he was employed by a butcher for three years from 1885 then took a turn at gold mining, followed by employment at the New Northcote Brick Company up until 1891. He went back to butchering from 1891 to 1894 then became an engine driver for a year. He was employed as an agent for W.C. Angliss and Co. until around 1900 when he finally returned to his original profession and opened his own butcher shop in Brunswick, eventually owning three shops. When the 1930s Depression hit, he was forced to close two of them.

James Jewell contributed tirelessly to the local community. He was Vice-President of the East Brunswick Progress Association, member of the Brunswick Technical School Council, and President of the Brunswick Junior Football Club. He was also a skilled woodworker and a Freemason. The Jewell Railway Station and the South Brunswick District is named after him.

He was a member of the Labor Party and MLA for Brunswick from 1910 until his death in 1949 and was appointed Whip in 1924.

James married Gertrude White in 1896. They had two daughters and after Gertrude's death in 1903 he married Annie Amelia May Robinson. James and Annie had one son and two daughters.

James Jewell died at West Brunswick on 14 May 1949 and is buried at Coburg Cemetery with his second wife Annie, their infant son James and grandson Raymond Sheldon.

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