



Established in 1863 by Mr. Joseph Farra, father of the present proprietors, the business was successfully conducted for many years by the founder as tinsmith, japanner, and colonial oven and spouting manufacturer.

In 1885 the present senior partners, (Thomas Porteous Farra, James Fawcett Farra, and Charles Joseph Farra) who had learned the business under their father's guidance, took over the establishment, the firm continuing under the style of T. and J. Farra till July, 1897, when Mr. Charles Joseph Farra was admitted to the partnership, and the designation altered to that of Farra Bros.

Joseph was born in Manchester, England in 1829, and at some stage emigrated to Melbourne, Australia, probably chasing gold. In 1855 he married Janet Porteous in Melbourne. In 1862 he and his wife and two sons, Thomas Porteous born 1856, and James Fawcett born 1856, travelled to Dunedin on the vessel *Eldinga*. On his arrival in Dunedin he was told that "only Presbyterians should settle here and as he was an Anglican he should proceed to Christchurch". Undismayed he nevertheless made his home here in 1863.

The premises at 25 Stafford Street, which were built to meet the demands of a rapidly developing trade, were erected by the founder on a freehold section of land, and are now leased to the firm. The shop and showrooms consist of a three storey brick building, affording over 3000 square feet of floor space. The office is situated on the main floor, which otherwise is used as a shop and showroom. The top flat is utilised for carrying on the work of japanning, and also for storing stock, while the cellar contains large quantities of manufactured articles and material. The workshop at the rear of the shop and offices is a single storey building with about 2000 feet of floor space. A full plant, which is up-to-date in every respect, is used in this department, and large quantities of household ware, including ashpans, baths, billies, boxes, etc., are turned out by a staff of experts numbering fifteen.

Farra Bros. manufacture travelling trunks in great variety, the leading brands being known as "Henley," "Brighton," "Wanaka," "Milford", "Tourist," and "Union." Colonial ovens, spouting, and ridging are also manufactured on the premises, and they are well known as manufacturers of first class goods in every line they produce.

The Otago Iron Rolling Mills, which commenced business in 1887, acquired Farra Bros in 1949, followed by A.L. & C. Currie in 1956, and Newberry Walker in 1957; but the Otago Iron Rolling Mills itself closed in 1953. In 1969, Farra Bros & Currie Newberry Walker amalgamated with Dunedin Engineering & Steel Company Ltd (est. 1868), but the companies continued to operate separately for many years. The company now trades as Farra Engineering.

Joseph Farra died on 18 January 1907 and is buried in Dunedin's Northern Cemetery in the family grave. Thomas Porteous Farra died in 1915, and James Fawcett Farra died in 1914.

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trust