

*Rooney*



# CONTACT

OCTOBER, 1974



# contact



Prepared by the LV Public Relations Section for State Electricity Commission personnel employed in the Latrobe Valley operations area.

Editor: Kevin Richardson

## Cover

At three years and 10 months, Jennifer Newton is a happy kindergarten pupil, wielding a paint brush with as much gusto and imagination as any youngster.

However, Jennifer, daughter of LV transport driver Gordon Newton, has one big problem — she is almost totally deaf.

That's why she must wear a hearing aid strapped to her body for most of the time.

Jennifer is one of the 20 resident pupils at the Princess Elizabeth Kindergarten at Burwood, where 127 children between the ages of 3 - 6 years are being educated to cope with their problem.

SEC personnel in the Latrobe Valley have been generous supporters of the cause of the deaf, for whom an appeal is being conducted throughout October and the early part of next month. See pages 8, 9.

## Contents

Gardening "Doctor" .....	2
Yallourn "W" .....	3
Briquetting .....	6
A fishy Tale .....	7
A silent world .....	8, 9
Social club round .....	11
Spotlight on photography	12, 13

Regular features: Valley Visitors 4, Yallourn resettlement 5, Focus on Safety 10, Retirements 14, 15, Sport 16.

# Hazelwood gardener a keen tree 'doctor'



Picture: Looking justifiably proud of his handiwork is the happy gardener, Marcus Vanvalen.

**V**ISITORS of the Hazelwood Power Station Models Room in the past two months may have wondered about the "black puddings" which have appeared on some branches of indoor plants in the room.

But there is no need to worry about a contagious disease sweeping our tree population — the "black puddings" are the pride and joy of L/H Gardener Marcus Vanvalen.

Marcus explains that the particular indoor shrubs concerned — the ficus tree, or as it is more commonly known, the rubber tree — required pruning, but rather than merely lopping off the longer branches, Marcus sought to overcome the problem by a process known as aerial layering.

Keen gardeners may have heard of the term "ground layering", in which a low-lying branch is particularly cut, bent over and pegged into the ground, but aerial layering is perhaps less well-known.

Put simply, if ground layering can be considered as bringing a plant to the soil, aerial layering can be regarded as the exact opposite, bringing soil to the plant.

A branch is nicked at a certain spot and the area wrapped in peat-moss, which in turn is covered with plastic.

The top half of the branch draws nourishment from the moss as well as from the main stem, and begins to shoot its own roots. After two to three months, it can be lopped off and placed in soil to become a plant in its own right.

So while Marcus Vanvalen is busily "multiplying" his trees there is no cause for alarm.

Rather, we should all be encouraging him — perhaps he can do the same with the proverbial "money tree"!

# 'W' TO 'LOSE' A TOWER....

The plan to construct a four-tower cooling system for Yallourn "W" Power Station has been changed.

Instead, the Yallourn skyline will boast only three towers.

The excellent performance and capacity of the existing two towers are well above minimum design levels, making it possible to amend the four-tower plan.

Alternatives currently under consideration are to:—

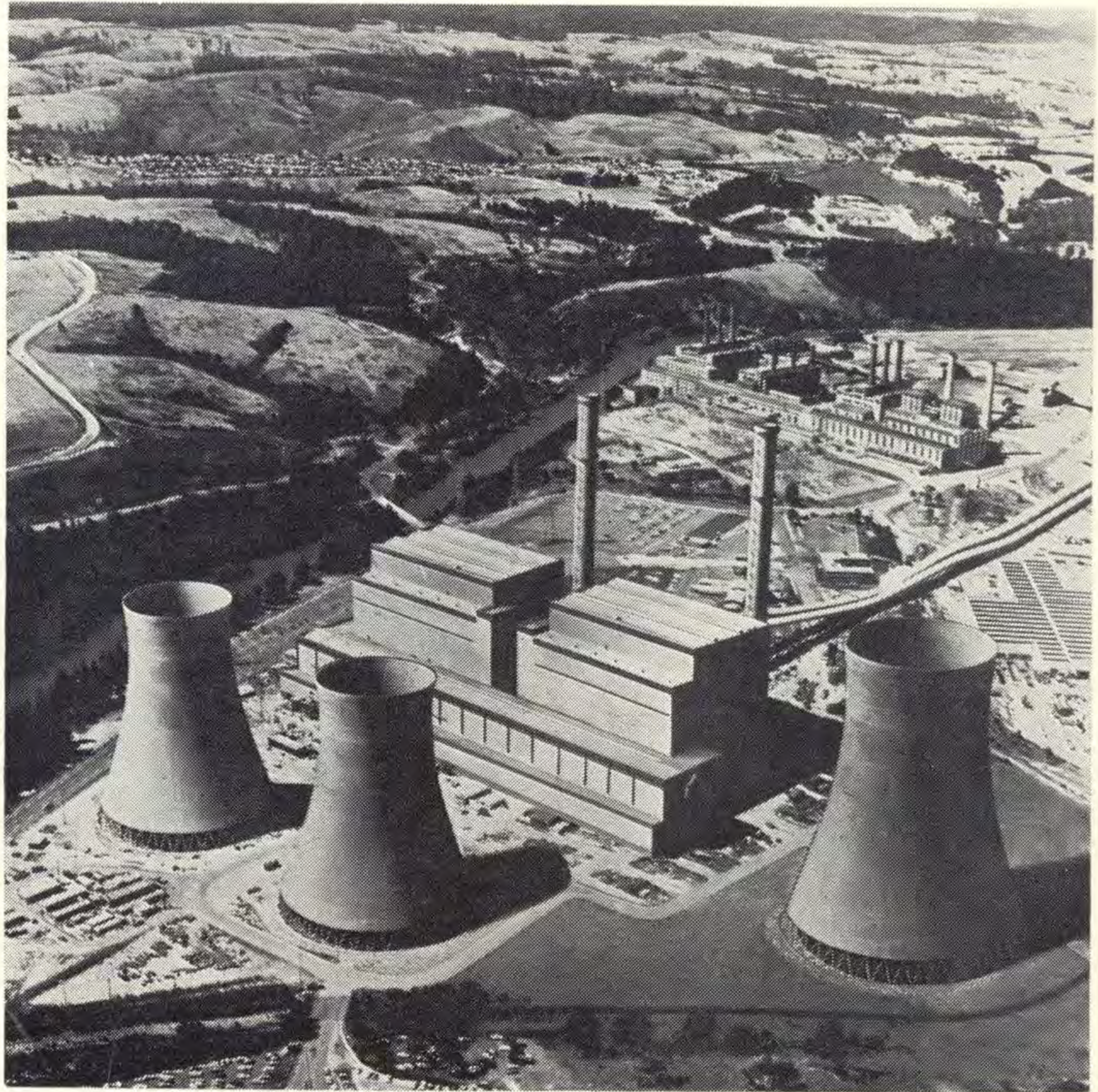
- build a third tower almost identical to the existing tower, inter-connecting the three to service the four Yallourn "W" units, and,
- install a third cooling tower, larger than those already there, to serve the two 375 MW units of the station's second stage.

The tower would not be inter-connected.

Meanwhile, a contract has been let for supply of the two stage 2 375 MW boilers.

Stage 2 turbo-generators are being constructed by the Tokyo Shibaura Electric Co., makers of the Station's Stage 1 units.

The first 350 MW turbo-generator has operated very smoothly for more than 12 months while work on the second generator is progressing toward a 1975 commissioning date.



## \$70-m. boiler contract let

**TWO** major contracts worth more than \$70 million have been let for the second stage of Yallourn "W" Power Station.

An order worth \$69 million — for boiler plant — will be placed with International Combustion Australia Ltd.

The other contract, for more than \$1 million, is for site works and will be let to the Morwell firm of J. Jeffrey and Sons Pty. Ltd.

The boiler contract will be the largest single order ever placed by the SEC, and the boilers — which will have a 76 per cent Australian content — will be among the largest brown coal burning boilers in the world.

**The contract will cover the supply, delivery, erection and putting into service of two 375 megawatt boilers and associated plant.**

The boilers will be designed by E. V.T., of West Germany.

In association with the boilers, two 375 megawatt generating units will be installed, with the first due to operate by mid 1979 and the second a year later.

When Stage 2 is completed, the 1,450 MW Yallourn "W" will represent a total capital cost of about \$380 million

The tower-types second stage boilers will be more than 91 metres high, slightly taller than the first two erected.

They will be assisted circulation boilers using a vertical separator vessel instead of the conventional drum.

Each will produce 319.1 kilograms of steam a second at a pressure of 16.8 megapascals, with main steam and reheat temperatures of 541 degrees Celsius.

The two boilers together will consume about six million tonnes of brown coal a year, and both will be served

by a single chimney 192 metres in height.

Work on the \$1 million contract awarded to J. Jeffrey and Sons Pty. Ltd., which will involve site levelling, foundation improvement for buildings, preparation of a construction storage area and installation of drains, roads, sewerage, water mains and security fencing, begins this month.

It is due to be completed in the power station area by the end of June, 1975, and in the construction area by the end of October, 1975.

Tenders will be called early next year for the foundations and steel-work for Stage 2 of the project.

When Yallourn "W" station is in full operation it will produce more than 8,000 million kilowatt hours of electricity a year, an output sufficient to supply the present needs of two million people for all industrial, commercial and domestic purposes.

## valley visitors

Interstate and overseas visitors were again prominent during the past month.

A group from Railwaytown primary school at Broken Hill (N.S.W.) looked over the Latrobe Valley as part of their excursion to Victoria as did students from Claremont High School (Tasmania) and Narcoote Primary (S.A.).

The Maltese High Commissioner, Mr. Forace, who was in the area for the celebration of the Maltese National Day, took time out to look over Yallourn Power Station and Open Cut.

A party of Engineering Officers and Senior Ratings from the Naval Reserve Group made an excursion to the Valley and showed particular interest in Yallourn 'W' Power Station.

Oakleigh Baseball Club, led by SEC Sales Promotion Officer Ray Hamilton of Metro ESB, organised a weekend trip to look over Morwell and Hazelwood and followed up with a barbecue lunch at Hazelwood Pondage.

Japanese industrialists from Nissolwai and Nippon Steel carried out an inspection of the Morwell and Yallourn Open Cuts.

Mr. Julius Bretka, Senior Research Scientist for the CSIRO, is no stranger to the Latrobe Valley having done considerable work with the clay found on the floor of the Yallourn Open Cut. He recently toured the area with Mr. Trevor Brown also of the CSIRO Physical Chemistry Section and Mr. Ray Ovanessian a Civil Engineer and Scientist from Iran. Mr. Bretka and Mr. Brown are involved with research on uses of fly ash for building materials, a field that is also interesting. Mr. Ovanessian advises the government of Iraq on the use of various building materials.



*Above:*

Warragul High School students were given a closer than usual look at the Yallourn and Morwell mining operation, since their teacher, Mr. Ross Hubbard, is planning a special mining project for youngsters in form 2. Mr. Hubbard, an "airlift" teacher from the USA, had been in Australia for less than two weeks when he began making arrangements for the WHS inspection tour. The group is pictured at Dredger No. 8 which is currently undergoing a maintenance overhaul.

*Below:*

Railway town primary school pupils were among the hundreds of visitors to the Commission's Latrobe Valley undertaking last month.

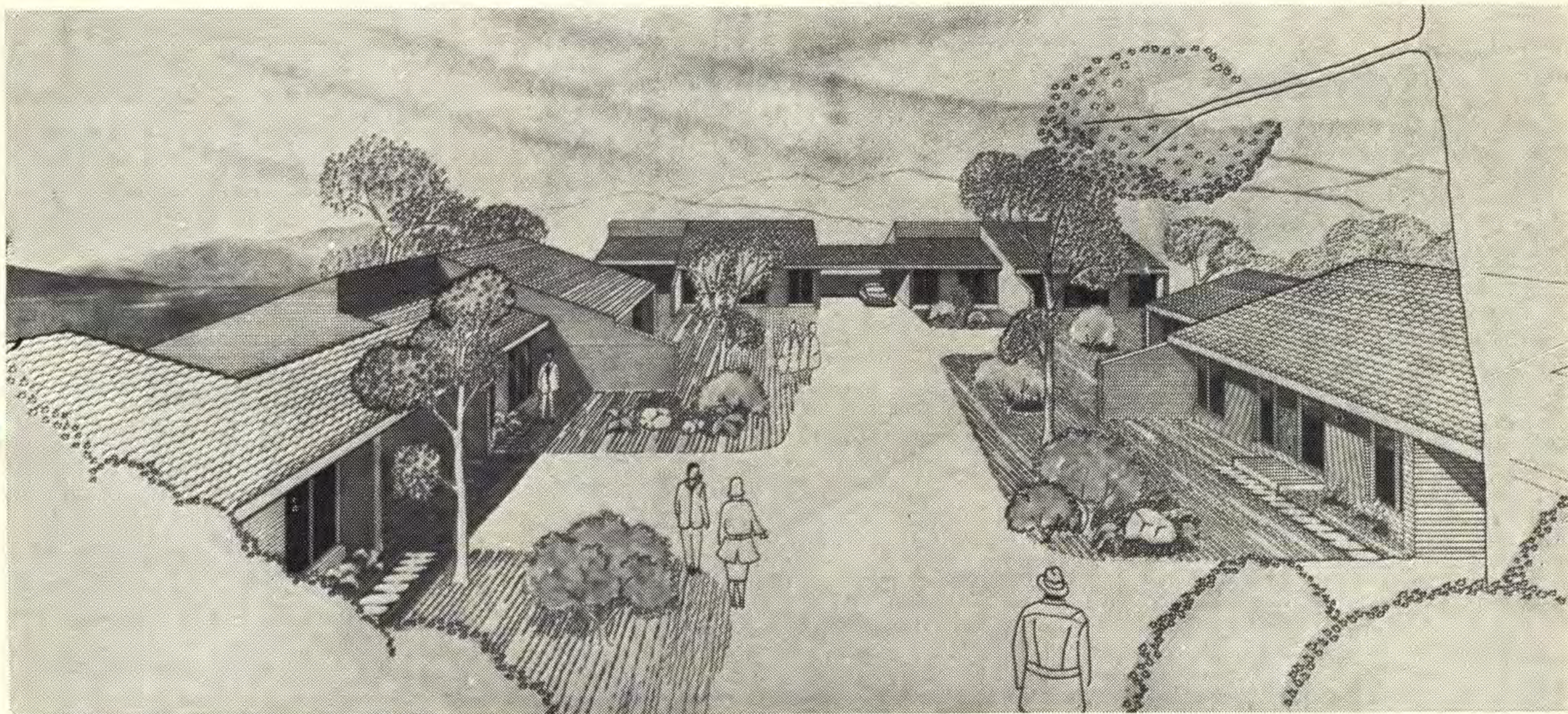


## Yallourn resettlement

Several State Government instrumentalities are co-operating in moves to make accommodation available in other areas of the Latrobe Valley for Yallourn residents leaving the town.

Pictured below is an artist's impression of proposed units for the elderly to be built in Newborough by the Housing Commission. Plans for the units were prepared after taking into

account the wishes of Yallourn people likely to become residents of the new units. The State Electricity Commission is expected to contribute to extra costs involved in building the larger—than—usual units



## GETTING IT STRAIGHT

**PLANS** to remove the township of Yallourn to enable mining of coal deposits there continue to be the subject of controversy, despite the findings of a full All-Party Parliamentary Public Works Committee Enquiry in 1970 and a subsequent review by State Cabinet earlier this year.

Incorrect statements, and in some cases distortions, have tended to cloud the issue and spread confusion.

Among specific criticism is the suggestion that the effect of removal of the town on the Latrobe Valley in general and Yallourn people in particular is being aggravated by the Commission's "avoiding the issue, closed mouth attitude and failure to consult or inform Yallourn citizens."

The facts are that in 1961, the SEC gave public notice that Yallourn township must be removed.

This was re-affirmed in 1969, when it was announced that removal of houses in the first section of the town must be completed in 1985.

Further wide publicity came during the Enquiry in 1970 by the Parliamentary Public Works Committee which, after hearing extensive evidence, accepted the necessity for the removal of Yallourn.



*Graham Black . . .  
Chairman Yallourn  
Resettlement Committee*

In 1972, it became evident that Yallourn "W" Power Station should be expanded and that this would require removal of the township to be put forward by several years.

In March, 1973, Yallourn tenants were notified by letter and by public advertisement that the first section of Yallourn would be required in 1979 for open cut development, a minimum notice of six years.

Before the announcement was made, a committee was formed to examine the effects of the change and to recommend what measures should be taken to assist tenants and their families.

Within weeks of the announcement, all Commission tenants were interviewed to ascertain their needs and to actively seek their opinions. Since then, planning has been in hand for the resettlement of Yallourn people, including the subdivision of housing areas, sale of houses and provision of units for the elderly.

Each of the 550 tenants already living in Yallourn in April, 1969, became entitled to a lump sum of \$2,250 to help them resettle, and an office — staffed by a full-time officer — was established to look after resettlement problems and enquiries.

All these things were put into effect in 1973, and all were given wide publicity.

Subsequently, letters have been sent by the SEC to all Yallourn residents outlining assistance details. The latest was in August this year.

**(Continued on page 15)**

# 'BRIQUETTES' TO SOLVE WASTE PROBLEM



## Meanwhile, back at the (horse) station

*Briquettes have been around a long time . . . just over 50 years, in fact.*

*The first briquettes produced by the Commission in the Latrobe Valley rolled from the Yallourn production line in November, 1924, at a rate of about 5,000 tons monthly.*

*This contrasts with today's yearly production level of about 1½ million tonnes, and a progressive total or more than 38 million tonnes.*

*There have been other changes, of course in the briquetting world.*

*Transport in the early days is a case in point, as this letter by Consigning Officer Tom Davey, written in 1927, indicates.*

*To the Fuel Sales Manager, Mr. Davey said:*

*" . . . my present method of transport at Yallourn is too slow and inadequate to maintain efficiently in my section.*

*"It is becoming increasingly apparent that in order to exercise proper control in the handling of the brown coal and briquette traffic, it is necessary that I should have a quick means of transport.*

*"My present means of transport (a horse) does not permit me to pay sufficient attention to the distribution and loading of trucks (rail), or control of truck movements.*

*"Telephonic communication is to-*

*tally unreliable and unsatisfactory."*

*Put simply, Mr. Davey's problem was to get quick and accurate information on open cut operation and availability of trucks.*

*Distribution of loading programs led to waste of time, wages and production, while at the same involving the Commission in heavy demurrage charges.*

*By the time Mr. Davey saddled Dobbin and high-tailed it to the open cut and back to the briquette loading area, information was out of date and the foul-ups which he said were costing the SEC \$26 per month were already well under way.*

*CONTACT has no record of the result of Mr. Davey's plea for a change from horse to engine power, but he did suggest one ground which may have received a sympathetic hearing.*

*If he were provided with a light car, Mr. Davey said, he could "immediately give effect to any urgent orders received from Head Office . . ."*

*His timing was probably fairly good.*

*In 1920-21, expenditure on "horses, etc." doubled that on motor vehicles, but in 1924-25 — although horses continued to be used in Yallourn — "horses, etc." disappeared from the balance sheets.*

*Progress had arrived.*

Briquettes and the Commission's approach to their production hold special interest for an American company keen on making profits from household garbage.

The firm, Sira International, has informally sought some details of SEC briquette operation to help it develop what it believes to be a profitable way of dealing with a worldwide problem of accumulating household wastes.

Garbage "briquettes," they say, are the answer.

The type of information and experience the SEC has acquired over the years in briquette production would be invaluable to the company.

Sira International has developed a pelletised fuel with a calorific value of 7,500 BTU per pound, which compares with a corresponding brown coal briquette value of 9,600 per pound.

With energy consumers looking for a fuel at a purchase cost of \$1 per million BTU, the company can place a \$15 per tonne price tag on its garbage fuel.

In addition, it makes a handsome profit from recoverable resources and is paid by municipal councils to take care of their garbage.

The company, which may be on a good thing, expects to recover plant capital costs (estimated at \$50 million) in approximately 625 working days.

**Here's how it hopes to achieve its aim:—**

- Gross revenues of \$50,000 per day in garbage processing charges to municipalities.

- Fuel pellets (delivered) — 2,900 tonnes per day.

- Recovered resources (scrap iron, aluminium, copper, brass, plastic, lead and glass cullet) — \$25,000 per day.

Bernie Briquette has made quite an apt — and highly regarded name for himself in Victoria.

It remains to be seen whether his garbage counterpart in the USA can do as well.

# Life in the fish-bowl—a lounge-room view

**W**ATER and electricity don't mix, but for a growing band of SEC personnel at Morwell, water is providing the basis for a rewarding hobby—the keeping of home aquariums.

The five Commission employees on the Committee of the Morwell and District Aquarist Society — formed in 1971 — are in good historical company.

The Chinese who, many centuries ago, took a fish from an outdoor pond and placed it in a bowl — the better to examine it and appreciate its qualities — became the first aquarist.

The philosophical and aesthetic pleasure afforded by the color shape and movement of the fish must have been a satisfying experience for the anonymous enthusiast, who thereby initiated a hobby which was to extend its bounds far beyond the Orient.

The Morwell Aquarist Society, with more than 40 men and women members, caters for all types of aquarium interests, ranging from tropical to cold fresh water, including the keeping of native and marine fish.

SEC employees form a large part of club membership, including president Vic Muth, vice-president Gunther Willrath, treasurer Brian Swash, librarian Terry Fisher and committee-man Frank Miller

Informal meetings held on the second Monday of each month — appropriately enough at the swimming pool hall — provide the opportunity for a chat over achievements and failures.

## Club activities include:—

- Talks and pictures: Tropical and associated subjects are covered, supported by slides and movie films.
- Field activities: Outings to collect marine and freshwater fish; aquatic plants and live foods for aquarium fish.
- Club competitions: Monthly shows of selected fish for judging and annual awards.
- Library: Selected books and magazines are available for members' use.

Keen to ensure that activities encompass the entire family, the society makes special provision for school students, with adult members happy to help overcome any transport problem.

Any inquiries about the club should be directed to Gunther Willrath (2697), Terry Fisher (2032) or Frank Miller (3608).



*Morwell and District Aquarist Society committee members, pictured during one of their regular meetings, while at left is a glimpse of what the club is all about, a peep into the not-so-private world of the aquarium inhabitant.*



## Suggestion Awards

Mechanical maintenance men Paul Walker (centre) and Con Doucas (left) just had to bring a smile to the face of Hazelwood Power Station Acting Mechanical Maintenance Engineer Les Kite.

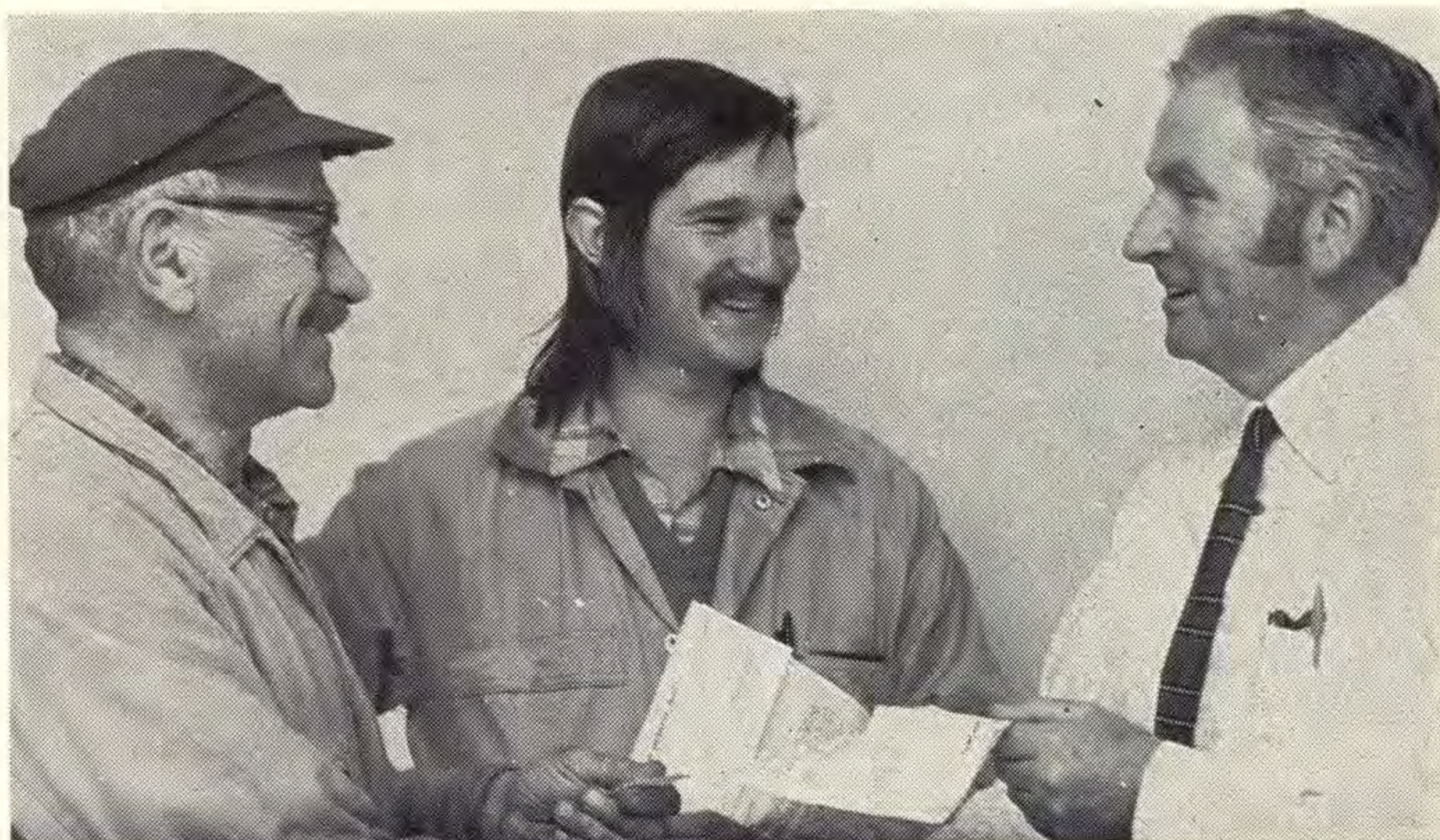
After all, they'd just played their part in maintaining not only plant, but the outstanding suggestion Award record of Hazelwood personnel.

Along the way, each man benefited

— Paul by \$50 and Con by \$75.

Paul suggested a modification which enabled more efficient packing on oil purifier hot water pumps, reducing maintenance costs.

Maintenance costs were also lowered through Con's award-winning suggestion — a special tool for the grinding and lapping of seats in the diamond sootblower heads.



# BACK TO SCHOOL - HAPPILY



Rubella should be a "dirty" word to all people, especially women.

It's the name for the virus which causes German Measles — and far wores if it strikes women during the first three months of a pregnancy.

The effect of rubella on the pregnant woman is trifling, but for the unborn child, it can cause a number of congenital defects, including partial or complete deafness.

Approximately 45 per cent of children attending the Victorian School for the Deaf are there as a result of rubella, a spokesman for the school said.

Which is a tragedy, because rubella is avoidable.

is a simple matter for prospective mothers — or all women — had German

Good Samaritan Mrs. Sturrock completes another Gippsland to Melbourne journey with a bus load of students ready to spend another week at the Victorian School for the Deaf.

Measles to be vaccinated against the virus.

That would save at least 45 per cent of children from a handicap which, to use a quote from the School's own annual report—

"... affects the mainsprings of every activity.

"It completely cuts the sufferer off from every ordinary provision for education, social and religious exercise, and imposes a serious barrier in the way of industrial opportunity."

# In a world of silence

**L**ATROBE Valley personnel have strong links with one of Victoria's most dedicated schools . . . the Victorian School for the Deaf.

The Valley has rallied to the support of the School, but there is another, more direct link.

Four of the School's 54 resident students are the children of SEC parents, while another child attends the Princess Elizabeth Kindergarten at Burwood.

"SEC children at the school are Dianne Round (Traralgon), Dianne Clegg (Morwell), Ian Grant (Moe), Greg Morrow (Newborough) — at the Kindergarten — Jennifer.

Along with the 291 being educated at St. Kilda and Burwood, the children are gaining the benefit of an increasingly sophisticated education, allied with affectionate care of a high order

The school provides home away from home accommodation during the week for country students who travel down each Monday. Within the grounds of the Victorian School for the Deaf is an Education Department - administered primary school.

Under principal Brian Reynolds, who is virtually following a family tradition by working in the field of educating the deaf, the School seeks imaginatively to overcome as far as possible the effects of a serious disability.

The curriculum followed is broadly that used in other Victorian Schools with some obvious variations.

The use of group hearing aids is one which is now giving way to radio frequency group aids which enable all students in a room, and the teacher, to make contact with each other, and without the impediment of trailing wires.

Lip-reading is another indispensable weapon in the armory of the deaf — and it is a subject which must be taught, and learned.

"Finger-talk", or sign language, is taught at the Victorian School for the Deaf. It is the only school in the State which includes sign language in its curriculum.

Helen Keller, probably the widest known and most highly respected deaf person in the world during an extraordinary life time knew exactly how the disability rated by comparison with other serious handicaps.

As well as being born deaf, Helen Keller was also blind — and mute.

However, during a remarkable 88 years until her death in 1968, Helen Keller came to represent the ultimate achievement in education of the handicapped.

Instructed from the age of seven, she learned to "read", write and speak — and eventually graduated

with honors from an exclusive American College. She became the author of many books and articles and was a champion of the handicapped.

Comparing the handicaps with which she was afflicted, Helen Keller had this to say—

"The problems of deafness are deeper and more complex, if not more important, than those of blindness.

"Deafness is a much worse problem, for it means loss of the most vital stimulus — the sound of the voice — that brings language; sets thoughts astir, and keeps us in the intellectual company of man".



The benefits are obvious, as a five-minute stay at the school demonstrates.

So, too, is the attitude of everyone involved in operating the residential section of the school.

Care for students accommodated through the week is brought as close as possible to the parental attentions the children would receive in their own homes.

Accommodation is therefore as informal and homelike as possible.

The Victorian School for the Deaf looks after deaf children from their pre-school days (Princess Elizabeth Kindergarten) through primary education and on to apprentice and "job experience" training.

Apprenticeship training is provided at St. Kilda in well equipped workshops, with the 20 current apprentices reaping the benefits of a unique partner-

ship between Education Department; Apprenticeship Commission and School for the Deaf.

Other students participate in a job experience programme which takes them into some form of employment for one day a week, while specialised instruction continues back at the school during the remainder of the week.

A job placement service gives good prospects of employment for most school-leavers, although the range of occupations open to them is limited.

However, none of the work of the Victorian School for the Deaf is possible without money; in its 112th report, the school points out that expenditure for the year ended June 30 this year was \$289,009.

Which explains why the School has been so grateful for funds raised by Latrobe Valley personnel since 1964 — all of it subject to government subsidy.

Above: Greg Morrow, Ian Grant, Dianne Clegg, Kathy Smitt and Dianne Round use some of the Electronic equipment set up at the school to help students with their audio training: The teacher is Arino Sernow.

Below: Mrs. Leanne Philp gives some cooking pointers to Dianne Round (left) and Dianne Clegg.



# Money-the key to the future

Money raised by SEC personnel in the Latrobe Valley will, appropriately enough, be used to buy much-needed electronic equipment for the Victorian School for the Deaf.

School principal Brian Reynolds told CONTACT last week that the plan was to provide every room in the school with a set of earphones and microphone for each pupil to enable the teacher to give personal help to each pupil, making full use of any residual hearing.

The sophisticated equipment, he said, would enable the teacher to speak to the whole class; to a single pupil, or to be addressed by a pupil.

Pupils can also contact each other. Speech therapy is a vital part of the primary school curriculum.

Organisers of the SEC/LV appeal are Ham Ballagh (3617) and Arch Porter (3414). Donations may be sent C/o Administration Centre.

The appeal, which opened on October 4, closes on November 14, —and the organisers are hoping for a record return, plugging the gap for 1973, when there was no appeal here.

In recognition of previous support, Victorian School for the Deaf Life Governor certificates have been presented to the Latrobe Valley Department and to the Morwell Power Station.

Totals raised in the Valley have steadily moved upward.

Sums raised were: 1964, \$228; 1965, \$393; 1966, \$357; 1967, \$351; 1968, \$409; 1969, \$507; 1970, \$592; 1971, \$836; 1972, \$846.



# focus on safety

## Safety brings its rewards



Winners of the Manager's Award for Safety in 1974, Morwell Power Station, smile proudly following presentation of a shield and certificate by Deputy Manager Graham Black.

**ONLY** one disabling injury for the entire year, and 568,336 man-hours without a disabling injury — a record for any power station anywhere in Australia.

This is the proud boast of Morwell Power Station personnel after receiving the Manager's Safety Award for the year ended June, 1974.

Approximately 60 personnel were in attendance on September 12 at M.P.S. Training Centre when Deputy Manager Graham Black presented the award and congratulated the group.

John Hill, electrical engineer and part-time safety officer, who accepted the award, described the performance as "quite outstanding".

He said that the 1970/71 figure of 33 serious injuries in the station was reduced two years later to 20—of which 14 were D.I.s — and falling further last year to six.

In an area covering 310 employees, the improvement surprised even the most safety-conscious, anguring well for a very SAFE future.

**An excellent safety record was also achieved by the runner-up, Administration sub-division.**

At first glance, it could appear that such a group would have few safety hazards to contend with, however, since Administration encompasses transportation, cleaning and patrol functions, its good safety record must be viewed in a different light.

During the year ended June, 1974, only one serious injury (A.D.I.) was recorded, compared with eight serious injuries (6 D.I.s) the previous year.

In 1973-74, there was a stretch of 397,945 manhours without a serious or disabling injury.

These impressive statistics led to presentation of the Manager's Special Award to Administration personnel.

Graham Black congratulated the sub-division and handed the Award to Yallourn Transport safety representative Reg Milburn.

An excellent Safety performance by the Administration Sub-Division earned this certificate. Pictured, from left, are Deputy Manager Graham Black, part-time safety officer John Pemberton and Reg Milburn.



# THE SOCIAL CLUB ROUND

Social clubs throughout the Latrobe Valley Works Area are shifting into top gear with the approach of the busy end-of-year round of engagements.

CONTACT hopes next month to bring a comprehensive calendar of events organised by social clubs here.

A call to Kevin Richardson or John Baldwin on 3228

before October 21 will ensure that your club's activities are mentioned on this list.

Meanwhile, Valley social clubs have been engaged in a variety of activities ranging from a trip to the snow — which received a new lease of life following wintry conditions late in September — to cabaret balls.

## CWS, Morwell

Central Workshops Social Club breaks new ground with its Melbourne Cup Eve social this year.

The Cup Eve event is traditional, but it will be held in Moe for the first time, at Shaw's Banquet Hall, where Brock Brothers' Band will provide swinging music.

The social signals the start of a busy period for the club, which is led by Keith Barlow.

Other officials are Keith Maloney (secretary), Dave Soutar (treasurer), Jack Brennan and Alan Vernon (vice-presidents).

## CWS, Yallourn

The Yallourn FC pavilion was packed for the Yallourn CWS Social Club smoke night on September 27, and as befits a "bucks' night" out, the entertainment was lively.

Next big events on the club calendar are the Christmas picnic at Thorpdale and the Christmas cabaret, which will be held this year at Shaw's Banquet Hall in Moe.

Club officials Ern Hanvy (president), Er Garlick (vice-president), Bob Weir (treasurer) and Lindsay Metcalf (secretary) plan to keep members on their toes for the next three months.

## Stores Group

All keen rally fans are reminded to keep November 10 free for a car rally organised by the Latrobe Valley Stores Group Social Club.

The rally will start and end (hopefully) at the Yallourn Fire Station with the first car timed to move off at 1.30 p.m. Entry fee is \$1 for members and \$1.50 for non-members.

At the end of the day a barbecue will be held and, although tea and coffee will be provided, contestants must supply their own meat.

All monies are to be handed to club secretary, Linda Hall, by November 1. Further information can be obtained from Linda on 3298.



## Main Office, Yallourn

The sky was not clear and blue, nor was the air as crisp as they'd hoped . . . but Mt. Baw Baw did turn on a genuine snow-storm for Main Office Social Club members who took part in a trip to the snow on September 14.

Thirty-two people made the trip, spending three hours at Mt. Baw Baw Alpine Village.

Several of the families had not seen snow previously, and despite the constantly falling snow, Mt. Baw Baw toboggans were worked overtime during the afternoon.

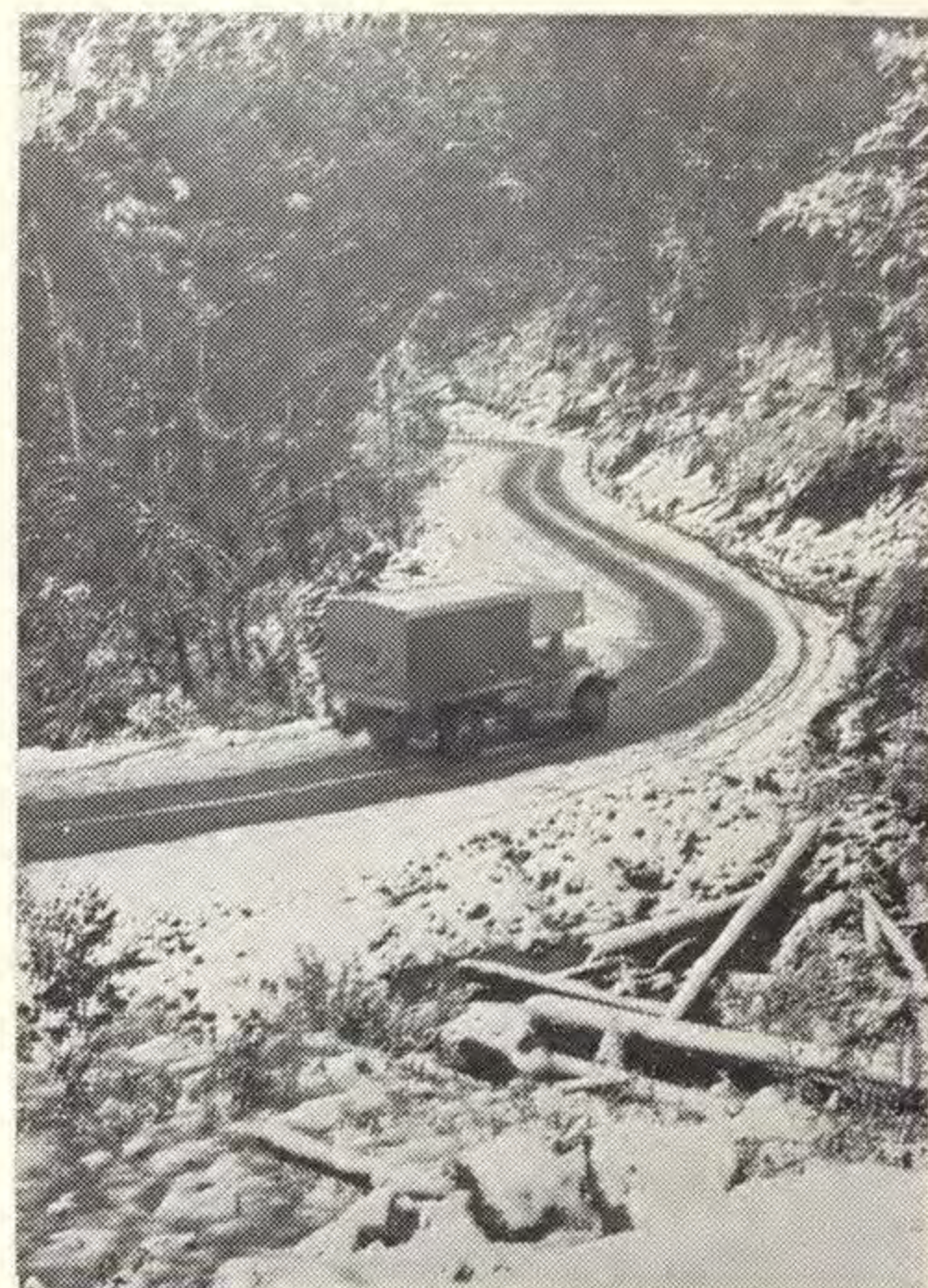
It was the first snow trip for the club, but it won't be the last. Draftsman Reg Walley was the "official" guide for the party.

A member of the Baw Baw Ski Club, Wal has been skiing for 18 years, and spends most of his holidays in alpine areas.

One of the big Mt. Baw Baw attractions was the 1,230 metre chair-lift, the longest in Victoria, which rises more than 300 metres.

*They don't look cold, but the atmosphere certainly was when members of the Main Office (Yallourn) Social Club and their families spent a day on Mt. Baw Baw.*

*The shot below of a Baw Baw transport vehicle making its way above the snowline illustrates the point that it was anything but a summery day.*



# Where the prints go

Members of the Commission's photography section in the Valley have been partners in production of CONTACT for years, but it was not until last month that current members of the section had the opportunity to see their photographic work transformed into the printed product.

With Senior Photographer Barry Sawyer, section members Jack Hinshelwood, Terry Smith (photographers), Irene Mansell and Selena Stoilkovic (drafting assistants) took time out to visit The L.V. Printers' premises in Traralgon, where CONTACT is published.

CONTACT issues regularly carry 30-40 block illustrations, demonstrating the importance to the magazine of the photography section contribution.

In their brief stay at The L.V. Printers, the visitors saw the blockmaking process; looked through the camera room; saw a demonstration of the linotype metal setting process and were on hand as magazine sheets rolled from the printing press.

In the illustration below, Barry Sawyer (left), Jack Hinshelwood, machine room foreman Dave Oliver, and Terry Smith (right) study the finishing product.



*Left: The L.V. Printers' proprietor Bert Thompson, one of the Latrobe Valley's real identities, makes a point to Barry Sawyer and Terry Smith. Former owner of the Traralgon Journal, Mr. Thompson is widely known throughout the newspaper world and printing industry generally. He is the author of several books.*

## Photographic artistry —SEC-style

**THE "leisure time explosion" is just around the corner, opening up for Australians an opportunity for a more meaningful and creative way of life . . . or a sterile pattern of aimless boredom.**

Increasing awareness of the need for more stimulating and more satisfying means of using spare time has brought an unprecedented enthusiasm for hobby interests and more rewarding recreational activities.

Photography is the answer for Commission employees Jack Hinshelwood (photographer, Yallourn), Bill Verhagen (Electrical Maintenance Engineer, Morwell Coal) and Campbell Gale (Overseer, Morwell Briquetting and Power Installation).

It's an interest which has everything going for it.

An absorbing pastime which calls for great imagination, initiative and attention to detail, photography — by its very nature presents the enthusiast with a range of experiences.

But for the Commission trio, photography is more than a pastime.

They see it as a legitimate art form.

Which is why they mounted a three-man photographic exhibition in the Kylo Gallery on Walhalla Road at Morwell during the week ended September 2.

A great success, the exhibition seems certain to become an annual event.

The quality of work on display was generally high, with several of the exhibits reaching an extremely high standard. Technically well produced, the photographs were bold and imaginative.

Kylo proprietor John Mutsaers, of Survey, is developing a gallery which will become increasingly popular among people interested in the arts.

The photographic exhibition was a worthwhile experiment which must have proved satisfying both to photographers and gallery.

● On the facing page is a small sample of the work of the three camera artists.

# Through the camera lens....



Above:

Part-time camera enthusiast Bill Verhagen (left) and Campbell Gale (second from right) and Commission photographer Jack Hinshelwood (right) are themselves the subjects of a candid shot along with John Musters, of Kylor Art Gallery.



Above: Lizard's Profile

An extremely sharp still life study, which required, at such a short focal length, an advanced technique and extreme patience by the photographer (Bill Verhagen).

Below: Rough Rider

Wayne Gale, Assistant District Manager for the SEC in the Mallee town of Sealake, makes a spectacular subject for this "mountain scape" study. The photograph was taken in 1973 by Wayne's father, Campbell Gale.



Below: Framed Peek-a-Boo

Senior photographer Barry Sawyer described this study as "a wonderful example of the introduction of a third dimension into a photograph simply by using a foreground chair to frame an attractive subject, fading into a background of white." (Jack Hinshelwood).



## retirements



**LEO LARKIN**

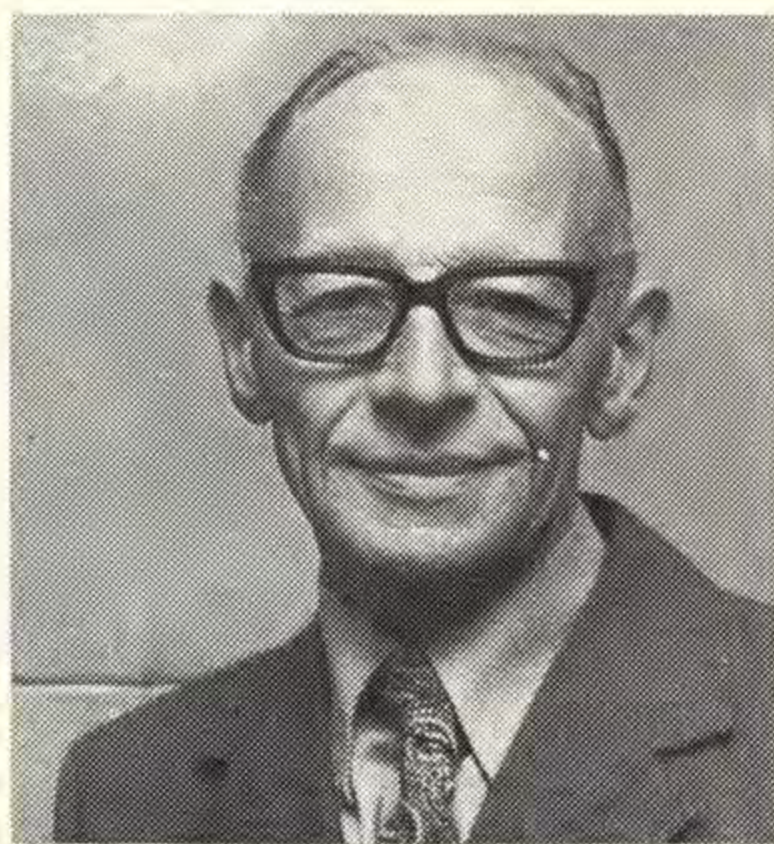
At a quiet farewell in the office of Yallourn Civil Works Engineer Tom Stillman on August 6, Leo Larkin was presented with a barometer, a set of drinking glasses and an alarm clock as mementos of his 28 years service with the Commission. Leo has worked throughout at Civil Works, since signing on at Yallourn as a laborer in 1946. In 1947, after a short spell as a motor driver, he was reclassified as a painter, and was later promoted to the post of leading hand, the position from which he retired.



**LIONEL "WHIP" METCALF**

On September 16, a real identity was lost to the Commission when Lionel "Whip" Metcalf retired after a career spanning more than half a century. Scanning through his service record, it is difficult to find a job Whip has not done, or an area he has not worked in. His first assignment was at Civil Works, Yallourn, back in December, 1923, as a "nipper", which, he says, was another name for a billy-boy and messenger. He progressed through a variety of jobs in this section, including driving a horse and cart, before transferring

across to the Yallourn Briquetting Factory in 1942 as a carter. A multitude of tasks then followed—cleaner, greaser, dry coal conveyor attendant, electrical plant attendant, steam plant attendant and electric press driver—in fact, "Whip" is almost a walking encyclopaedia on the Briquette Factory. In 1970, he spent a week at Morwell Briquette Works before moving across to Hazelwood Power Station as a trimmer and finally an Operator gr. 1, the position he held at his retirement. During his long career, "Whip" has made many friends and it seemed that most of them were in attendance when Hazelwood Power Station Superintendent Arthur Ewan presented Mrs. Metcalf with a sheaf of flowers and handed "Whip" a barometer and money-filled wallet. Mr. Ewan, for the Commission, presented "Whip" with a gold watch. Workmates added their own finale to a fine career the following Wednesday night at a special function highlighted by presentation of a transistor radio.



**JAN DE HAAN**

If anyone knows Stores procedure backwards, then it would have to be Jan De Haan, Storeman Grade 3, who retired on September 25. For the past 20 years, Jan has worked in the Yallourn Stores area, and—in the words of Departmental Materials Officer, Syd Kirchner—working the shift roster had made Jan a member of that "select band of operators" who ensure that the rest of us can sleep peacefully at night. Syd, who was speaking at

a special send-off for Jan in the Main Store Yallourn, later presented the guest of honor with an automatic toaster and a wall clock on behalf of both the Stores social club and fellow workmates.



**DONALD McNABB**

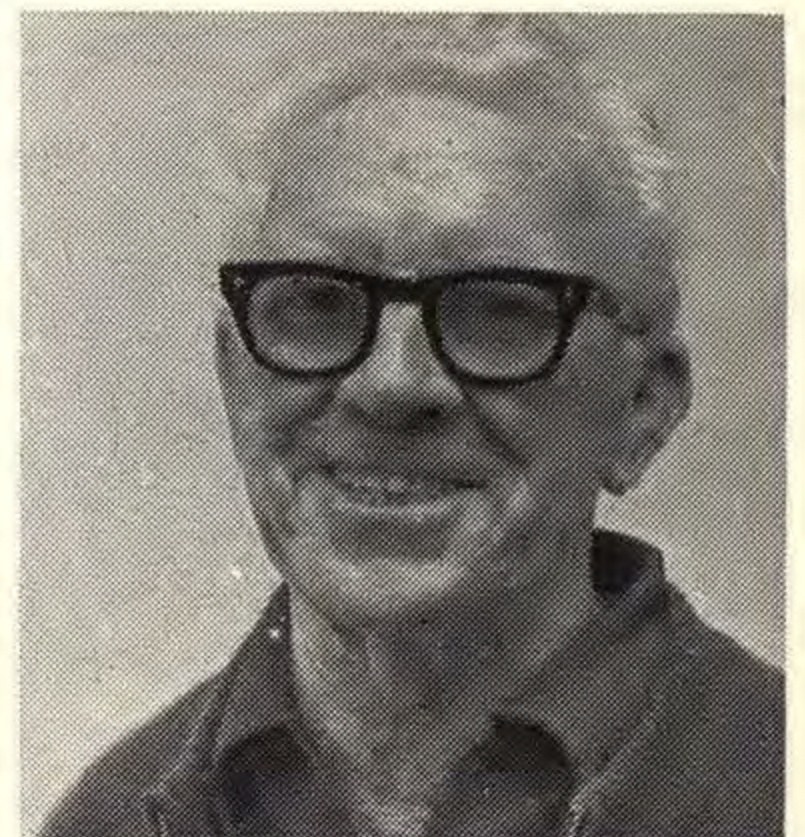
Donald McNabb, better known to his friends as "Sandy", said goodbye to the Commission on September 9 after a stay of nine years. Yallourn Mechanical Maintenance Superintendent Keith Taylor was on hand and presented Sandy with a fishing reel. After a brief spell in Coal Division as a Trades Assistant, Sandy became a Mobile Crane Driver, a position he held to retirement. Sandy intends to spend his retirement peacefully in Trafalgar, that is, when not out searching for those elusive fish.



**TONY DONAHOE**

Yallourn Hotel was well packed on September 13, for a retirement farewell to Tony Donahoe, who left the Commission after 39½ years service. Lionel Briggs, Boilermaker's Overseer, and Gerry Basten, Assistant Mechanical Maintenance Engineer at Yallourn, were on hand to "have

one for the road" with Tony, and presented him with a wallet stuffed with notes, a going-away present from his many workmates. Also well represented was the Central Gippsland Trades and Labor Council, a group with which Tony has been involved over the years, and officials thanked him for the work he has done in this field. During his Commission life, Tony has worked at different jobs in a variety of areas; he originally signed on as a laborer with Coal Supply, Yallourn, but then moved to Municipal, Patrols and Construction. In 1948 he took on welding, eventually transferring Yallourn Power Station where he retired as a welder Special. Tony intends moving to Dandenong, where he will take up residence with one of his daughters.



**STAN LATIMER**

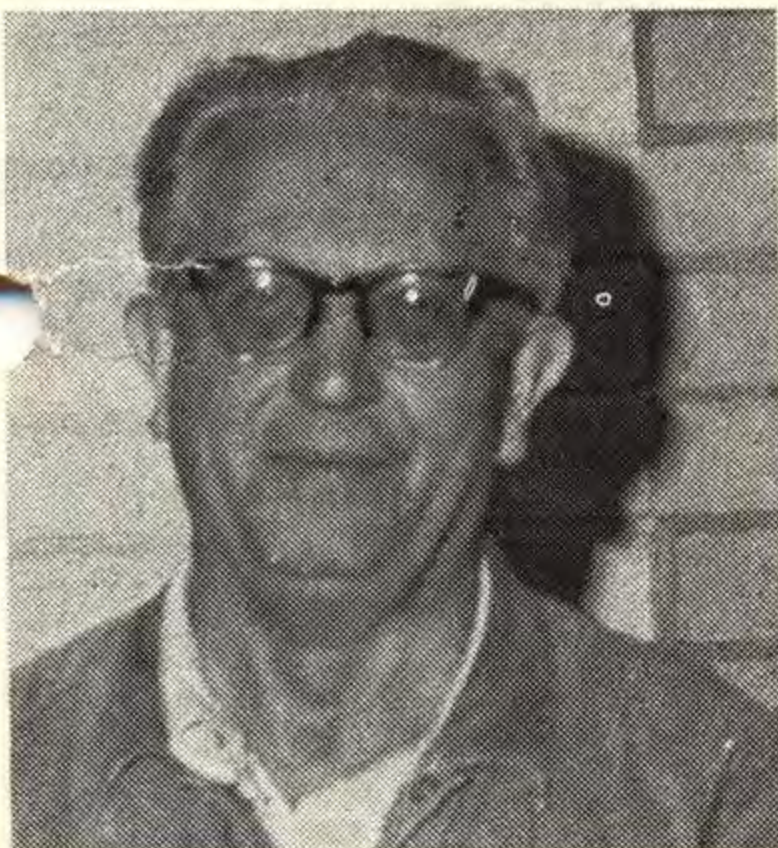
The Mowell Workshops Training Centre was the setting for a large gathering of workmates on September 13 to farewell Stan Latimer as he ended a 14 year career with the Commission. Stan, who began in 1960 as a trackman with Coal Division, soon transferred across to Electrical Services as a lines assistant. In 1973, he took on the job of machinist at the Electrical Workshops, a position he held until retirement. Assistant Electrical Services Engineer Brian Clark made mention of Stan's career when presenting him with reading lamps, a toaster, and blankets at the farewell. Stan intends to do quite a bit of travelling, initially to Queensland, and then across to England.

## retirements



**VLADAS SUPRANAS**

Crane-driver Vladas (Wally) Supranas will never be late for an appointment during his retirement if he makes full use of the automatic date watch presented to him by George Davis, Mechanical Services Engineer, at a special farewell on August 23. Wally has been with the Commission for over 20 years, with all but 21 months being spent in the Yallourn Workshops area. Jack Burke, foreman, and Frank Jarvis, rigger, were both on hand as representatives of Wally's workmates to wish him good health for the future. During his well-earned retirement, Wally intends to remain in the Morwell area, and he plans to spend much of his time in the garden.



**GERARDUS ALTHUIZEN**

Gerry Althuizen, who ended his SEC career with a farewell function at the Morwell Power Station canteen on August 23, must have been a very effective worker. Deputy Superintendent of the Morwell Briquetting and Power Installation, Cyril Morellato—when presenting Gerry with a wallet full of notes on behalf of his workmates—described him as "an employe that any employer would like to have". Gerry signed on at the then

Morwell Briquette Factory as a pick and shovelman in 1962, but over the years worked at a variety of tasks including coal conveyor attendant, bunker attendant, electrical plant attendant and finally operator gr. 3, the position from which he retired. Of course, after all this moving around, Gerry deserves a restful retirement, but he still intends to continue processing his own home brew, evidently a product which many of his assembled workmates had sampled . . . and obviously enjoyed.



**HEINZ HULBE**

Glorious sunshine is something most Victorians crave after, but for retiring Class 3 Engineer Heinz Hulbe, it will be taken for granted when he finally moves into the house he is building on Bribie Island, just off the Queensland Coast. Heinz, who has been with the Commission since 1954, began as an engineer with the Investigations Section of the Yallourn Open Cut, but transferred across to Morwell and Operations Planning, in 1956. Later the same year he was reclassified to Class 2, and in 1971 became an Engineer Class 3, the position from which he retired. Jack Vines, Manager Coal, and Bob Odgers, Operations Planning Engineer, spoke of their happy associations with Heinz over this period when they attended a special farewell function on September 13, while Deputy Manager Graham Black presented Heinz with a range of woodworking tools. Heinz is currently building a boat, so the tools will be used to maximum advantage.



**ELIZABETH QUIGLEY**

The Morwell Stores canteen was an appropriate venue for a farewell presentation to Mrs. Betty Quigley, who retired after almost 13 years with the Commission. As a canteen attendant, Betty's face has become familiar to many personnel throughout the Works Area; she began in 1961 at the Briquette Factory canteen and worked in various areas before settling at the Stores canteen. All her friends chipped in willingly for the presentation of farewell gifts. Fellow canteen attendant Carmel Carter passed on a sheaf of flowers from the "girls", while Canteen Supervisor Len Cox presented Betty with a small travelling case and a special telephone pad "to keep all our names in". Betty had previously received an overnight bag from another group of admirers, so travelling should be the key word during her retirement.

## Yallourn resettlement, (Cont. from P.5)

Municipal councils in the Latrobe Valley have also been subjected to criticism.

It has been suggested that they are not only unconcerned about the fate of Yallourn, but seek to boost their own populations, rate income, commercial profits and community activities as a result of the town's removal.

The Commission has had meetings with all authorities affected by the removal of Yallourn, including local councils, Housing Commission and Education Department.

All are co-operating to make resettlement as easy as possible.

The possibility of Morwell's future being clouded by the presence beneath the town of rich coal deposits has also been raised, with the Heath Gower Report of 1974 used as a basis for comment.

However, it is important to remember that the Heath Gower Report, which was a joint SEC-Housing Commission plan for orderly development of the Latrobe Valley, was written at a time when Morwell's population was only 2,700.

Expecting large increases in population in all Latrobe Valley towns, the report advocated that a new Morwell be built midway between Morwell and Traralgon, away from coal-bearing lands and where it could develop without hindrance.

The report advocated that this step be taken in 1947, not "perhaps one day", as was referred to in a newspaper recently.

Unlike the case at Yallourn, the Heath Gower Report was not accepted by the government of the day.

There have been accusations in letters to newspapers that the lump sum of \$2,250 has been paid to people not eligible for assistance, and that some eligible people have not received sums to which they were entitled.

Every application has been thoroughly checked and their claims are simply not true.

**the sporting scene**

# FOOTBALL TAKES A REST

## Ken makes it three

Most people would agree that 1974 has been a good year for football, but for three SEC football identities, 1974 will always hold special significance. Ken Jennings, Gus Eaton and John Kimberley, faces well-known to both local Australian Rules followers and SEC personnel, have all won awards for their performances on the field this season.

For Ken Jennings, a rigger with Coal Division, Morwell, scoring a record 37 votes to win the Mid-Gippsland Football League's best and fairest award has possibly been the highlight of his career. Ken has played only three seasons in the M.G.F.L. and has now won the award a record three times. He began his football career with Moe, playing alongside his brother, champion Latrobe Valley full forward, Ian Jennings, and then transferred to Longwarry in the West Gippsland League. He returned to Moe in 1971, but the following season took up the position of captain-coach at Hazelwood-Churchill.



## and...Gus and John score their first

Gus Eaton, a rigger at the Yallourn Power Station and long-time compatriot of Jennings, capped off a strong year by taking out the Rex Hartley Award, the best and fairest trophy for Second Eighteens in the Latrobe Valley League. Gus is a member of the Moe Football Club, and has been for the past 14 years, a period in which he has clocked up an impressive 245 club games. He began his football career in 1959, when, at the age of 15, he won his way into the senior team in his hometown of Urana in the Riverina, but after a short stay moved down to Gippsland.

Another member of the Y.P.S. crew, fitter and turner, John Kimberley, is also proud of his achievement in 1974. In comparison to Ken and Gus, John is only a young footballer, having played only 65 games, but he has made his mark by winning the best and fairest award for Yallourn after being runner-up last year. John has been a regular at Yallourn since his under 16 football days.

