

Shore



SEC

contact

FEBRUARY, 1975



TRARALGON



contact



Prepared by the L.V. Public Relations Section for Personnel of the Operations Group employed in the Latrobe Valley.

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Cover

Loy Yang came under close scrutiny last week when the Parliamentary Public Works Committee and a party of Pressman and SEC officials flew over the area, setting the stage for a closer look by bus later in the afternoon. Representatives of the Loy Yang Landowners' Association joined the party for the bus tour. A keenly interested member of the party was Mr. David Kregg, chairman of Burmot (Australia) Pty. Ltd., the company engaged to undertake an independent assessment of environmental aspects of the SEC's Loy Yang proposals.

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Bruce takes to stores like a 'dux' to water



The SEC Board of Commissioners was impressed with the industrious approach and high morale of Operations Group personnel during the Board's annual visit to the Latrobe Valley area last month.

In a letter to AGM (Operations) Bill De Campo, Commission secretary Frank Chipperfield said that Commissioners "noted with pleasure that the Latrobe Valley administration was operating smoothly and efficiently under the major organisational changes made late last year".

Mr. Chipperfield said Commissioners were most impressed with the general state of tidiness at Yallourn C and D power stations, and the Morwell Briquetting and Power Installation.

The inspection, he said, was "very rewarding and interesting", thanks largely to the excellent arrangements made within the Latrobe Valley.

Report, pictures — pages 8, 9

Bruce Dumble, the SEC's top stores trainee last year, is congratulated by Acting Departmental Materials Officer Col Glen.

Bruce Dumble, of Yallourn Stores, has a special reason to be proud . . . not only for completing his stores trainee course successfully, but for coming through with flying colours.

In fact, his excellent results have earned him the title of Dux of the State.

The course is run by the Commission on a State wide basis, and includes three years of part time classroom study, coupled with job application.

Bruce must now undergo a year of practical experience before reaching the post of Storeman's Assistant.

GEORGE SEEAR ON SICK LIST

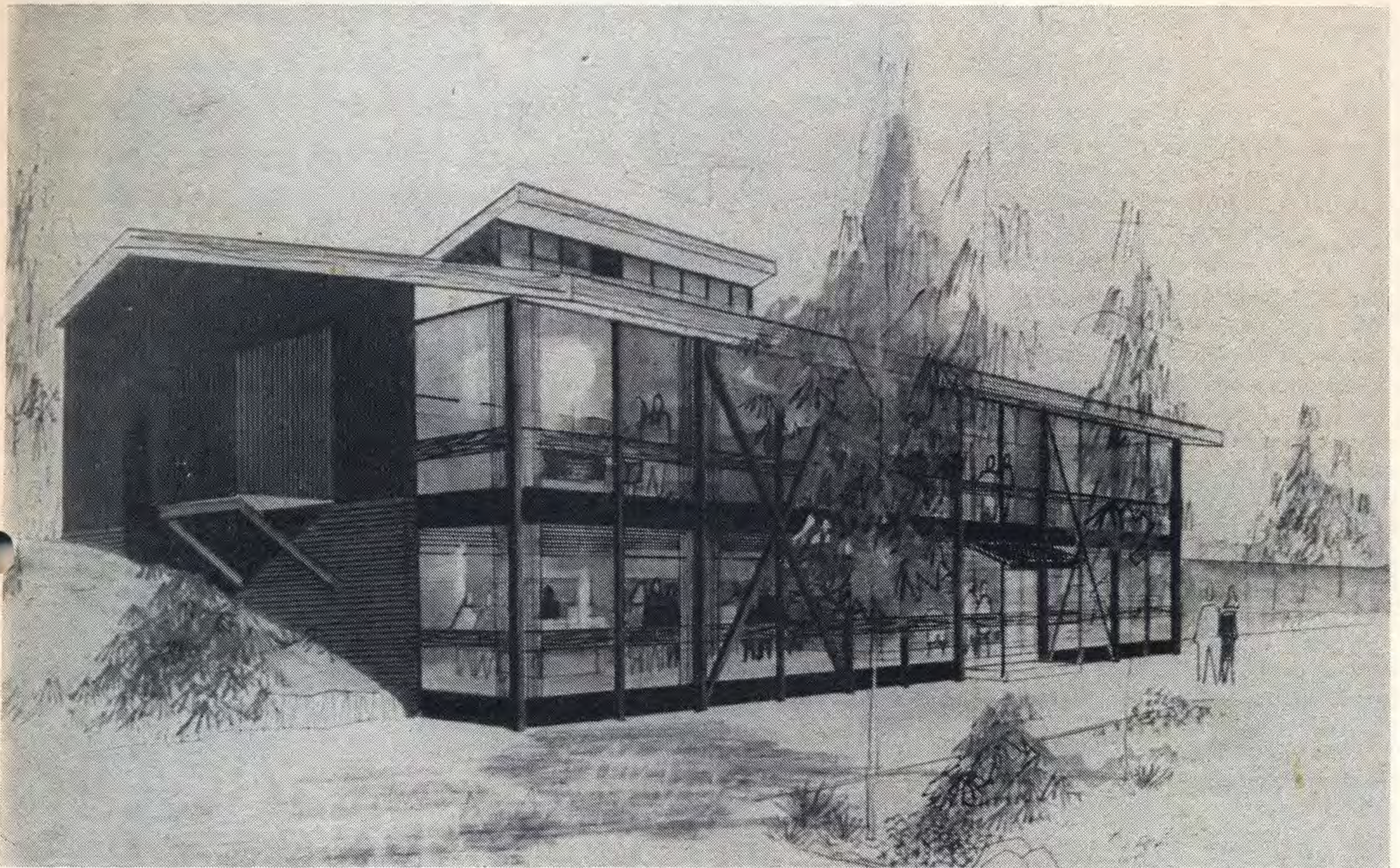
Amenities Officer George Seear is currently on extended sick leave.

George, one of the best-known of SEC personnel in the LV area, took ill at Morwell late last month.

Until further notice, Frank Miller will be Acting Amenities Officer.

He will work from the Main Office in Yallourn (Extension 2209).

New look centre for visitors



A \$237,000 visitors' centre to be built on the ridge beside the administrative headquarters at Morwell later this year will considerably upgrade facilities for entertaining visitors to the SEC complex in the Latrobe Valley.

Ultimately, the centre will form the focal point of an attractively landscaped park setting, complete with electric barbecues and other picnic facilities.

The project, which will cost almost \$½ million when completed, was formally approved by Commissioners during their traditional January meeting in the Latrobe Valley.

The new centre will replace existing visitors' reception facilities at Yallourn.

Accommodation will be provided at the centre for two public liaison officers, six guides and a receptionist.

The two-story building will include:

- A display area (lower floor) in which relief maps and models emphasising the role of the SEC's Latrobe Valley operations and their place within the Gippsland environment can be sited, along with scale models of machinery such as dredgers and their attendant conveyors. Animated models

An artists' impression of the Visitors' Centre to be established on the ridge north of the administrative headquarters at Morwell. In addition to the two-storey Centre, the SEC has plans for elaborate landscaping which will provide a picturesque park setting complete with picnic facilities for the thousands of visitors who look over the SEC undertaking every year.

will give a graphic picture of specific SEC operations, and an audio-visual projection unit will screen a continuous documentary on Commission activities in the region.

It certainly pays to be on the ball at all times.

Guide Jack Garside is, which led to some good PR both for Jack and the Commission early this year.

Jack was guide to a family group which inspected Morwell open cut and Hazelwood Power Station, but what he didn't know was that he was playing host to Federal parliamentarian Alan Cadman, MHR for the NSW electorate of Mitchell.

- A multi-purpose area (upper floor) capable of accommodating 100 guests for informal meals, or 50-60 for more formal occasions. Used as an assembly room/theatrette, the area will cater for up to 120.

- A basically-equipped servery.
- Toilet facilities.

A new car park will be constructed for administration headquarters staff before work begins on the centre. The existing staff car park will become a visitors' car park.

It is estimated that about 55,000 of the 80,000 visitors who annually inspect the SEC's works areas in the Latrobe Valley spend some time at the Yallourn Visitors' Centre.

In a letter to the Chairman later Mr. Cadman complimented the SEC on its public inspection arrangements.

Pointing out that he had toured the works area in a private capacity, Mr. Cadman commented on the courtesy and assistance extended to his family by guides and personnel at Morwell and Hazelwood.

Jack Garside was singled out for special comment.

valley visitors

January and early February are traditionally quiet periods for guides at Morwell and Yallourn . . . but it is the quiet before the storm.

Since this issue of CONTACT went to press, their workload has warmed up considerably — not that they were without visitors to escort last month.

Of special interest was the inspection tour by members of the Papua - New Guinea table tennis team which took part in the Commonwealth championships in Melbourne.

Accompanied by Neil Roberts, of the University of Papua - New Guinea, the team was comprised of University students Simon Zial (New Ireland) and Russell Purai (Manus Island), and Moresby Teachers College students David Petelo (Milne Bay), Gena Kwalahu (Central District) and Vui Kila (Central District).

It was the first time native-born Papua/New Guinea people have represented their country in table tennis matches overseas.

While in the Latrobe Valley, the team was entertained by the table tennis association at Traralgon, where members were billeted overnight.

SEC shift workers have been enjoying a little "on air" company since five members of radio station 3UL's announcing team spent a day with the Commission on January 20.

Max Taylor, Graham Lever, Steve Walsh, Brendan Atchison and Glen Knight took a close look at Commission operations, the size and scope of which impressed them greatly.

The State president of the Jaycee movement, Neville Goodwin toured the Commission works areas on January 20 with his family during a two day visit to the Latrobe Valley.



Aspects of DC traction interest Professor John Reeves, an electrical engineer from Waterloo University in Ontario, Canada.

Now at Monash University for a short period, Professor Reeves spent a few days with the Commission, including a visit to the Latrobe Valley area where he had detailed discussions with Transmission Engineer Ray Greenwood and other Transmission Operations Department personnel.

A youngster who has shown some aptitude for town planning was a guest of the Commission with his family last month.

Dennis Kilmartin, a student of St. Augustine's Kyabram, spent a day in the Latrobe Valley during a week-long stay in Warragul, his prize for winning a Warragul Chamber of Commerce competition.

School students throughout Victoria were invited to comment constructively on Warragul's town planning, and to suggest improvements.

Warragul businessmen were impressed with the entry submitted by Dennis, who is pictured with Mr. and Mrs. Kilmartin and brothers Brendan and Brian while being shown through Hazelwood Power Station by guide Stan Maude.

BIG DAY FOR NEW APPRENTICES

January 28, 1975 was a big day in the lives of 96 Latrobe Valley youngsters . . . it was the day they officially began their employment with the Commission.

To mark the occasion, Personnel Officer Brian Collier personally welcomed the new apprentices to the workforce, and to the Education and Training Centre.

Eight boys not present on Induction Day are due to begin their training later, bringing the 1975 intake of apprentices to 104.

The apprentice training scheme offers instruction in mechanical, electrical and civil trades.

This broad categorisation covers a variety of classifications, ranging from fitting and turning to gardening, giving the potential apprentice a wide selection from which to choose a career.

The first day for the newcomers was a little bewildering, involving them in the filling out of necessary paperwork, collecting overalls and other safety gear, and familiarising themselves with their new surroundings.

However enthusiasm seemed to be the key word, and everyone concerned appeared anxious to sort out initial problems.

In his welcoming speech, Brian

Collier indicated that the scheme had built up an imposing track record over the years, and that the Commission was proud of what had been achieved.

OBITUARY

Former Morwell (Coal Production) crane driver William Herbert Roberts died on January 16 at the age of 75. The late Mr. Roberts, who retired in 1964 after serving 42 years with the Commission, is survived by a widow; two sons and three daughters.

Rewards for top apprentices

Twenty-three first year apprentices presented with awards at an impressive ceremony at Yallourn by Assistant General Manager (Operations) Bill De Campo ended their first year on a high note.

Eight awards of Distinction were presented—to fitting and turning apprentices, Brian Mann (Yallourn North), Peter O'Callaghan (Morwell), Darryl Bannister (Warragul) and Brendan Keene (Heyfield); Boilermaking Apprentice Wayne Yeomans (Yallourn North), Electrical Apprentices Thomas Bodin (Churchill) and John Solohub (Yarra-

gon), and Electrical Fitting Apprentice Geoffrey Murray (Morwell).

MERIT AWARDS WENT TO:

FITTING AND TURNING: Brian Price, Newborough; Russell McRae and Barry Rendell, both of Yinnar.

BOILERMAKING: Andrew Kackowski, Morwell, and Francis O'Meara, Moe.

CIVIL TRADES: Robert Knight, Daryl Keuch, both of Traralgon.

ELECTRICAL MECHANIC: Alfred Mills, Stephen Vanyai and Francis Leister, Moe.

ELECTRICAL FITTING: Alan Greaves, Traralgon; Joseph O'Bryan, Morwell.

ELECTRICAL FITTING AND ARMATURE WINDING: Michael Lange-nakker, North Newborough.

INSTRUMENT MAKING AND REPAIRING: James McIntyre, Neil Wold, Morwell.

The Presentation Ceremony was attended by the parents of many of the apprentices.

Before the ceremony, they saw their sons at work in the Apprentice Workshop and had the opportunity to meet instructors for discussions on apprentices' progress.



1. Assistant General Manager (Operations Group) Bill De Campo congratulates first year apprentices on achieving Awards of Distinction after an excellent year of training. The award-winners are the top apprentices for the year.

2. Noel Kingsley and his wife Pat look pleased with the standard of work done by apprentice son Phillip.

3. Leading Hand Fitter (Morwell), Brian Bertoli and Mrs. Bertoli can now safely leave some of those handyman jobs to son Michael, who showed plenty of ability at machine shop practice. Also in the picture are youngster Kerry Bertoli and Janet Snell.

4. Award of Merit apprentices, photographed after a presentation ceremony attended by parents and SEC training personnel late last year.

Darwin family moves in

Yallourn's newest family was a little overwhelmed by it all but there was no mistaking the warmth of their welcome.

The Beasley family, the first from the cyclone-shattered city of Darwin to accept the SEC's offer of accommodation at Yallourn, arrived at their temporary home in The Angles on February 1.

Officials from Latrobe Valley Rotary Clubs and other service organisations were on hand to make the newcomers feel at home, and to help in their transition to a new home.

Since their Darwin home was destroyed by Cyclone Tracy on Christmas Eve, Ted and Val Beasley and their six children — Ricky 15, Eleanor 13, Anthony 12, Danielle 7, Melissa 4 and Bernadette 3 — had been residing at Mt. Evelyn.

There was no point in their remaining in Darwin, where Ted Beasley works as a draftsman with the Service and Property Department.

Only the bathroom of the fibro-cement home they occupied remained standing after the cyclone.

The Beasleys were quick to respond to the offer, made by Assistant General Manager (Operations) Bill De Campo immediately after the Darwin disaster, of 100 houses for occupancy on a temporary basis.

A second family, Mr. and Mrs. Geoff Pickburn and their two children, are expected to move to Yallourn within the next few weeks, although



SEC Special Officer (LV) Graham Black welcomes Mr and Mrs Ted Beasley and their family to Yallourn. At the right of the picture is the Governor of Rotary District 282, Don Pittard, of Boronia.

like Mr. Beasley, Geoff Pickburn has now returned to Darwin.

Geoff, a former SEC employe, is an RAAF Air Traffic Controller.

The Latrobe Valley community has been generous in its support of the newcomers.

The Rotary Club of Moe co-ordinated the efforts of individuals and ser-

vice organisations involved in helping the Darwin evacuees settle into their new homes.

The houses have been prepared for the families, lawns and gardens made ready and furniture donated by interested people in the area from Traralgon to Poowong.

Churchill Jaycees arranged through local businesses the supply of toys for children of the two families. Toys were presented to the Beasleys last week by Chapter officials.

As this issue of CONTACT went to press, three other families were considered likely to move to Yallourn.

Film society seeks members

SEC personnel David Callenburg, Hans Foubel, Jerry Hagen and Alan Lofts are keen cinema fans, and they've found a comfortable, convenient and pleasantly informal way of viewing top-class films.

As members of the Moe Film Society, they have access to Festival quality films screened on the first and third Wednesday of each month in the comfortably appointed theatre at Newborough High School.

The Society expects a membership boost this year following its decision to programme 22 adult films for showing on its 20 night programme in 1975.

For this reason, membership is for those 18 years and above, with total membership restricted to 100.

The membership fee of \$10 provides excellent value for cinema fans.

Society president Rod Williams — he's also projectionist when not teaching at Newborough High School — sees the informality of the MFS and the opportunity for a social chat as other membership advantages.

"But please don't suggest that we're some kind of highbrow film society; we are basically a group of people with a common interest in good films", he said.

Programmes and membership details are available from Rod through Box 167, Moe, or by phoning him at

27 3393 (Newborough).

For those who enjoy a good film, the programme from February 19 is:—
February 19: W. R. Mysteries of the Organism (R).

March 5: The Red Psalm. March 19: The Sexy Dozen (R).

April 2: Double Suicide. April 16: Slaughter's Big Rip-Off (R).

May 7: Ecstasy, and Box.

June 4: Murmur of the Heart (R). June 18: Alvin Purple (R).

July 2: Blood of the Walsungs, and Skin Deep. July 16: Stone Killers (R).

August 6: Swedish Interlude. August 20: Dream Life.

September 17: Ulysses (R).

October 1: Diary of a Shinjuku Thief (R), Girl from the Family of Man. October 15: Love Machine.

November 5: Paarungen (R), and Possum. November 19: To Be Selected.

December 3: Themroc. December 17: The Don is Dead.

December 19 — “. . . we are now settling in quite well, and hope to have some sort of order established before Christmas Day. The house is quite nice, with an established garden . . .”

December 27 — “. . . only the kitchen and bathroom walls are left standing . . . all our goods are scattered over a couple of blocks . . . how we survived is impossible to comprehend but, thank God, we did . . .”

The newspapers described it as Australia's greatest single civil disaster — and it was, but Yallourn Power Station assistant maintenance engineer Gerry Basten sees Cyclone Tracy's Christmas Eve demolition of Darwin in more personal terms.

Gerry, who is on loan for 12 months to the Northern Territory's Department of Housing and Construction (Electrical Supply Undertaking), is Assistant PSS at Stokes Hill Power Station in Darwin.

He describes Cyclone Tracy's Christmas visitation as “. . . a terrifying experience for us all”.

“How we survived it is impossible to comprehend . . .”

A Darwin resident since only November 19—his wife Maree and daughter Lisa arrived on December 7—Gerry saw the comfortable home he lived in destroyed by the fury of the cyclone.

In a letter to his parents in Morwell, immediately after the disaster, Gerry said that he and his family were temporarily living in a flat “a few hundred yards from where our house was.”

Mrs. Basten and Lisa have since come to Melbourne to stay with Mrs. Basten's mother.

The Bastens salvaged some of their drenched belongings after the cyclone, but with their possessions ruined, had a somewhat chequered introduction to Darwin.

Gerry seems to have taken the disaster fairly philosophically, pointing out that “. . . our story is fairly typical of the lucky escapes — although there were many others who were not so lucky.”

The 12 hour warning of Cyclone Tracy's impending visit was taken seriously by the Bastens, who made what preparations they could.

Then, as Gerry puts it—

“. . . the winds grew really strong and we could hear debris blown around outside.

“However, the house remained intact and the “eye” of the cyclone came about 2.30 or 3 a.m.

‘Welcome’ to the N.T.

“It was very calm, and I checked our front garden, removing several sheets of roofing iron so they would not blow into our house later.

“Someone's roof was on our corner fence.

“After about half an hour, the wind again sprang up.

“This time, it became very strong, with a terrifying noise, much stronger than before.

“Maree and I both got under the kitchen table with Lisa — who so far had slept right through — and not long after, we could hear the terrible noise of parts of our house being torn away.

“Finally, the roof was ripped off the bathroom, as well part of the outside wall.

“I managed to jam the mattress under the table and hang on to both.

“Maree was holding Lisa with one hand, and holding the table with the other while gusts of wind ripped at everything and rain pelted down everywhere.”

The ordeal ended at about 5.30 a.m.

The Basten home was reduced to a wreck in which only the kitchen and bathroom walls were left standing — after a fashion — and the family possessions scattered a couple of blocks.

Since the disaster, Gerry has worked with others to restore power and attempt to get Darwin back on its feet.

The SEC has sent a team of workers to help in the process.

Early this month, Gerry returned to Melbourne on special leave . . . but he is keen to return for the remainder of his 12 month spell in Darwin.

A ‘LIFE ON THE OCEAN WAVES’ SUITS FORMER HAZELWOOD MAN

While Hazelwood Unit Attendant Gerry Basten has been having a torrid time at Darwin, a former Hazelwood unit attendant has been living it up in style in the Arabian Gulf.

For Jim Miller, who is working as an electrician — the only one — on a drilling rig off the coast of Qatar, near Bahrain, the change of scenery has brought nothing but good.

Instead of Hazelwood “Terra Firma”, Jim's area of responsibility is a small island powered by three caterpillar AC generators, and with three EMD generators (DC) for drilling.

His SEC training, he says, has helped him out of a number of tight spots electrically speaking, and with pumping systems and water distillation plant.

Off-duty time spent in duty-free Bahrain (average temperature 46 degrees C) provides a somewhat warm interlude for Jim, despite the \$A300 monthly bill for an apartment situated 400 yards from Bahrain's Brown-Boverie gas turbine power Station.

Perhaps his tax-free annual wage of \$U25,000 makes the high rent easier to bear.

And the electricity charge of .84 cents per KWH; beer price of 28 cents a can (Fosters); Scotch price of \$3 a bottle and 17 cents for a packet of cigarettes would help take some of the strain out of living.

Provided he remains healthy on his island home — it costs the company \$1,600 for the helicopter trip to the mainland doctor — Jim seems to have found an excellent way of coping with today's inflationary pressures.

'Getting to know you' visit by board

The accent was on informality when SEC chairman Charles Trethowan and commissioners Sir Roger Darvall, Mr. Bernard Callinan and Tom Scott paid their yearly Board visit to the Latrobe Valley area last month.

They were accompanied by the secretary, Frank Chipperfield, and assistant secretary, Frank Glynn.

In his first Valley tour since being appointed chairman, Mr. Trethowan

made full use of the opportunity to meet as many Commission employees as possible.

It was very much a "getting to know you" visit for the Commissioners, who met many of the people responsible for Operations Group activities in the Latrobe Valley.

During their two-day visit to the LV area, commissioners inspected Yal-lourn Power Station and Morwell

Briquetting and Power Installation, as well as looking over amenities and environmental activity at Morwell and Yallourn.

A highlight of the second day for commissioners was the time spent at the Latrobe Valley Sheltered Workshop, where they met and talked with officials and workers.

Civil Services Engineer Max Williamson, who is treasurer of the L.V.S.W.

Board, was among those who met the SEC party and explained the operation and aims of the workshop; now operating in new modern premises.

In addition to contact with SEC personnel, the commissioners also met civic leaders at Traralgon, where Mr. Trethowan described the proposed Loy Yang project as "huge and exciting, with significant implications for the Latrobe Valley".



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1. Chairman Charles Trethowan, ready for a bowl with Bill Raymond and Lou Scicluna (right).

2. Commissioner Bernard Callinan with Cyril Morellato (right).

3. Alan Castellow makes a point to Mr Trethowan, Assistant Secretary Frank Glynn and Mr Callinan.

4. Commissioner Sir Roger Darvall chats with Judy McKenzie and Sue Postlethwaite (right).

5. Dot Nesbitt and Joan Manicola (right) do the honors for Mr Callinan and ETU Organiser Ian Berwick.

6. Mr Trethowan and Secretary Frank Chipperfield try their hand at LV Sheltered Workshop operations, watched by admiring crowd which includes Commissioner Tom Scott (right) Graham Black (left) and Max Williamson.

7. AGM (Ops) Bill De Campo gets the good oil from Albert Vanleishout and Jan De Vries.

8. Jack Berry and Arthur Hamilton share a joke with Mr Callinan.

9. The chairman makes a point to fireman regulator Tim Harris.

10. Bob Rennie and Sir Roger Darvall locked in deep conversation.



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John gets through outward bound

The Christmas period is usually a time reserved for peace and relaxation . . . but for one young Commission employee, the exact opposite was the case for 1974.

Commercial trainee John Giercan, currently based in Costs and Bookkeeping, Morwell, spent the period on an arduous and demanding Outward Bound Course at Howman's Gap, 17 miles from Mt. Beauty.

John was the Commission's representative in a complement of 66 young Victorians who went through almost four weeks—from November 28 to December 23 — walking, running, swimming, exercising, climbing . . . and just generally trying to stay alive.

John has obviously reaped great benefits from the course in terms of physical fitness, but perhaps his greatest gain was in personal self-development, and heightened awareness of his own abilities.

Generally speaking, the aim of Outward Bound is to prove to individuals that they are capable of achievements which previously they thought impossible, and that the most difficult of situations can be overcome by application, and through the co-operation—and with the help — of others.

John would be the first to admit that, at first glance, some of the course activities appeared to be "unreal".

Walking non-stop for 24 hours, or spending two days and three nights alone in the scrub are not everybody's idea of fun.

But such challenging situations, John was to find, could be conquered if one was prepared to "have a go".

He only hopes that he can apply this philosophy to his everyday life.



SEC weighs in with Traralgon barbecues

Travellers pausing for a break at Traralgon on their way east — or heading for Melbourne — can now refuel the inner man (and woman) in pleasant surroundings in a park beside Traralgon, thanks to the SEC and local service groups. Pictured after the formal handing-

over of electric barbecues donated by the SEC are District Manager Chas. Effenberg, Senior Public Relations Officer Stan Aitken, Traralgon City Councillor Bert Watkins, Gippsland Branch Manager Herb Trevenen and Sales Manager Ian McGown.



Completion of 50 years' electricity supply service to the Traralgon district was marked in a tangible way last month when the SEC presented two electric barbecues to the Traralgon community.

The combined efforts of the SEC and community groups Apex, Rotaract and Lions has provided a useful and attractive facility in a pleasant park on the western bank of Traralgon Creek.

Gippsland Branch Manager Herb Trevenen told Traralgon City's Cr Bert Watkins that he hoped the coin-operated barbecues which were installed by Apex and Rotaract Club members would be put to good use.

Cr Watkins was able to set his mind at rest.

He pointed out that since their installation in time for the Christmas/New Year period, the barbecues had been well and truly broken in.

One unit was donated by the Traralgon District Office, while the former Latrobe Valley Department made arrangements for donation of the second barbecue.

With Traralgon councillor Chas Effenberg, who is also Traralgon District Manager for the SEC, on hand to supervise installation of the barbecues — and with Sales Manager Ian McGown keeping a close eye on developments — there was no way the project could fail.

The result is a Princes Highway oasis for travellers, and with Traralgon City Council planning to develop the park further — possibly including a water fountain — it will become one of the more attractive stopping places on the Melbourne—Gippsland route.

Two electric barbecues are in operation at the Gippsland Folk Museum in Moe, and two are to be installed at Morwell.

TRANSMITTING THE RIGHT MESSAGE - ON STAGE



An electric shock is not usually the best subject for hilarity, but Graham McWilliam, Ian McLeod and "Dangerous" Dan O'Brien just couldn't help themselves. "Patient" Ron Rees looked the part of the victim.

Patient Basil Solohub didn't seem to mind his "injuries" — or the ministrations of first-aiders Ian McLeod and Ray O'Brien.

Countless ways of getting the safety message across have been tried within the SEC, seldom more entertainingly than by the Electrical Services section of the Latrobe Valley Transmission Division.

The audience of almost 200 apprentices, staff and wages personnel who attended a lively stage presentation of a safety/1st aid show in the Reception Centre at Yallourn would gladly have paid premium prices for front-stall seats.

Actors in the star-studded cast were Elec. Services 1st aid competition team members Dan O'Brien, Ian McLeod, Ray McBride, Basil Solohub, Murie Zweytzer and Ron Reeves.

Separate segments of the production were introduced by Keith Buckland (a "ring-in" from Transportation, Melbourne) and Graham McWilliam, while narration was by 1st aid coaches Bill Wood, Norm Casey and Bob Howell.

The imaginative plot used a series of mishaps at a none-too-sober house-painting exercise to illustrate the need for safe working practices, and correct treatment of accident victims.

A car smash even got into the act when a small car crashed its way on to the Reception Centre stage.

During the 2½ hours of almost non-stop action, 1st aiders were called on to treat the car crash victims; an electric shock patient; a man with a badly gashed leg — he rode his bike into the crashed car — and a none-too-observant drinker who took an unhealthy swig from a bottle of thinners.

The thinners drinker was "Dangerous" Dan O'Brien, the menace who caused almost all of the accidents.

The initiative demonstrated by the production reflected great credit on a hard-working team which has obviously found an effective means of communication.



One of the basic requirements of a good suggestion is simplicity, a point emphasised by A/Mechanical Maintenance Engineer Les Kite when he presented suggestion awards to L/H machinist Fed Fryer (left) and L/H fitter Vern Jacobs in the Hazelwood Power Station lecture room.

Both suggestions are simple in make-up and have large scale application.

Fred Fryer received an award of \$300 for his improved type of poppet valve seat for use in each of the all-important steam sootblowers at Hazelwood. The modification has greatly reduced the rate of poppet valve seat replacement and with 450 steam sootblowers at Hazelwood, the merit of this idea is obvious.

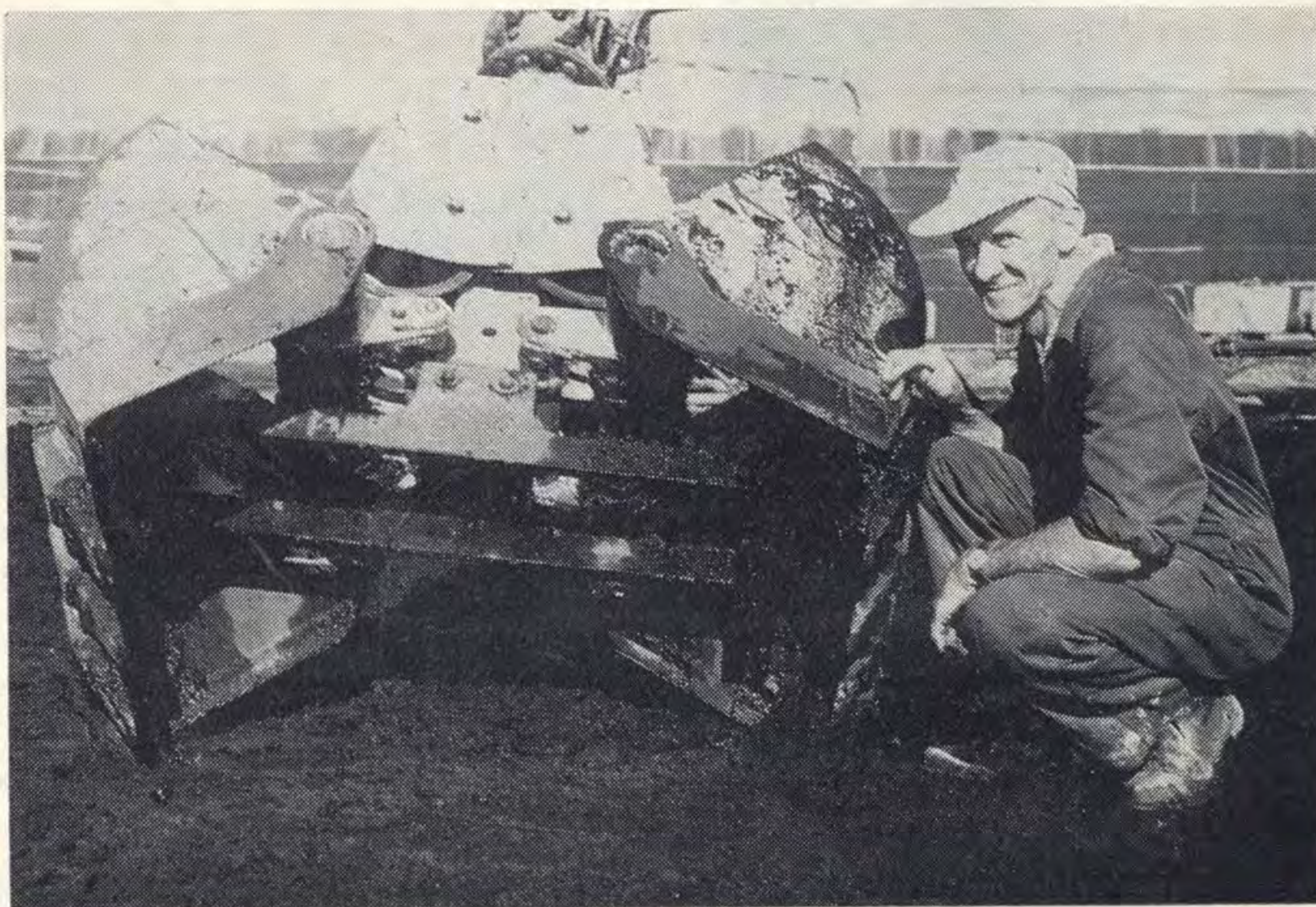
Vern Jacob's suggestion is also applicable on a wide scale.

He proposed an improved method of renewing steel liners on the inside of the doors for each of the 64 pulverising mills at Hazelwood.

Direct savings in terms of time and efficiency have been the result. Vern's reward was \$450.

Morwell Coal Production came under the suggestions spotlight on November 28, when mechanical plant driver Ray Mitchell was awarded \$200 for suggesting that a special scraper be fitted inside the clam shell bucket of the "Hymac" mechanical grab—(right).

IDEAS BRING PAYOFF



Award for SEC.... again

Contact magazine readers would have noted the constant references in 1974 to suggestion award winners, and the general suggestions consciousness of Commission personnel.

It is a situation which really paid off when—for the second successive year—the SEC won the coveted first prize in the Employee Suggestions Awards competition organised by the Productivity Promotion Council of Australia. Commission entries also did well in individual category awards.

At an impressive ceremony in Melbourne, foreman electrical mechanic Werner Arheidt and L/H electrician

special class Alan Northover, both from Hazelwood Power Station, received cheques of \$250 for the State's top suggestion dealing with dust level detectors in the electrostatic dust precipitators at Hazelwood. The suggestion was described by judging panel chairman Jack Campbell, as one which, although simple in nature, carried out a vital function.

The problem of dust level detection has long been a difficult one for which even manufacturers of the dust hoppers were unable to find an economical answer.

Also among award winners was L/H blacksmith Matt Kelly, of Yallourn Workshops.

Matt's suggestion of an improved method of repairing worn mill blades won for him a certificate of merit,

while the increased safety of the job brought about by his idea received special praise from the judging panel.

Another Valley identity among the finalists was foreman grade 3 Kevin May, of Coal Production, Morwell.

Kevin proposed the use of a special type of screw auger for the removal of sludge from coal settling pits.

Awards were presented by Trades Hall Council Secretary Mr. Ken Stone, and it was a smiling AGM (Personnel) Peter Duncan who accepted the Employer's Plaque on behalf of the Commission.

Each finalist was presented with a bottle of champagne, while award winners also received a set of ceramic pottery, made and designed by students of Caulfield Institute of Technology.

WHEN DRESS RINGS GO ASTRAY....

The wearing of rings is becoming more and more common . . . but it can be something of a mixed blessing in an industrial situation.

A recent incident at an ICI factory may not have a direct application to the SEC situation, but it does highlight the need for extreme care when wearing a ring on the job.

An ICI driver lost a finger in an unusual accident which occurred when he drove his vehicle up to a post on which there were buttons to remotely control the operation of a workshop door.

He brought his vehicle to a very slow forward speed, reached out of the cab, grasped the head of the pillar with his right hand, and then pressed the button with his thumb.

As he pressed the button, he felt a sharp pain in the right arm.

Safety + points = \$'s



Yallourn Open Cut mechanical maintenance overseer Bob Dunlop (second from right) presents a "safty points" cheque on behalf of workmates to the chairman of the Latrobe Valley Sheltered Workshop Board, Cr. Jim Pettigrew, and LVSW treasurer Max Williamson. Pictured at right is Eric Webster.

Aware that the vehicle had moved forward, he stopped it; opened the door and leaped out.

His right ring finger, amputated at the base, was found on the pavement nearby with a distorted gold ring.

SEC safety officers have plenty of stories in which rings have played starring roles — largely because personnel concerned have become so used to wearing a ring that its presence has been overlooked.

Open cut maintenance men rewarded

A team effort involving the efforts of day and shift electrical maintenance workers in Morwell open cut led to the group's achievement in completing 213,405 man hours without disabling injury in a 14-month period.

Acting Electrical Maintenance Superintendent Malcolm Capon said this when introducing a safety award presentation late last year.

It was an achievement of which all concerned could be proud, he said.

A special tribute was paid to safety officers Sam Hughes and Reg Simpson.

Coal Production Supervisor Ian Wilson commended the group on "diligently seeking to maintain the high standards of electrical safety set by the Commission".

In adding his congratulations, Coal

Department Manager Jack Vines referred to some of the hazards associated with electrical maintenance, which he said involved a wide range of equipment and was often carried out in highly adverse weather conditions.

"It is to the credit of you all, and to your sense of teamwork, that it has been possible to earn this award", he said.



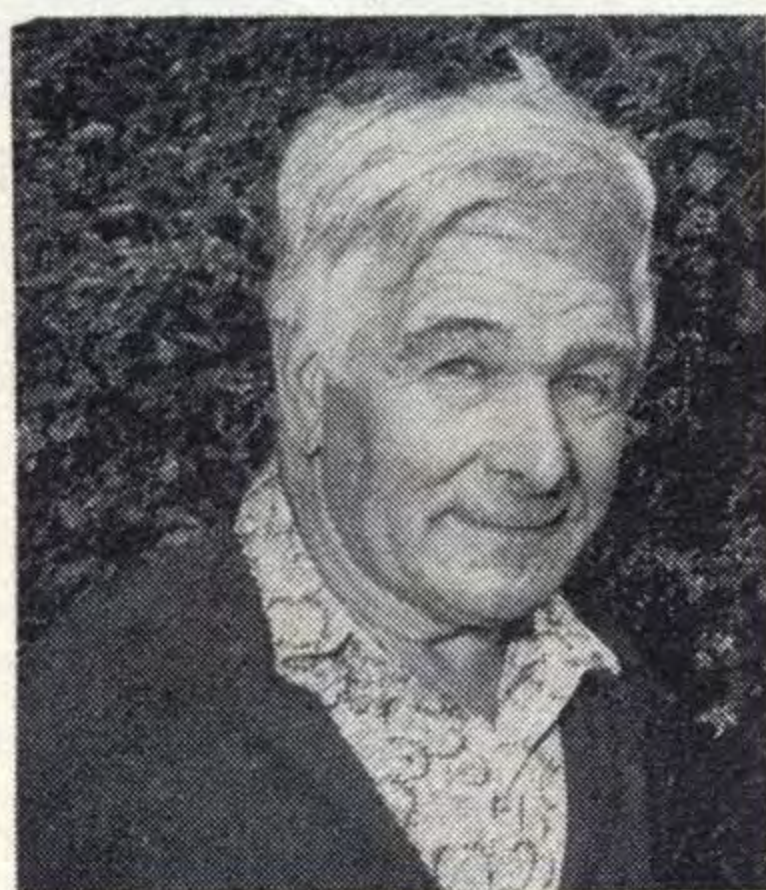
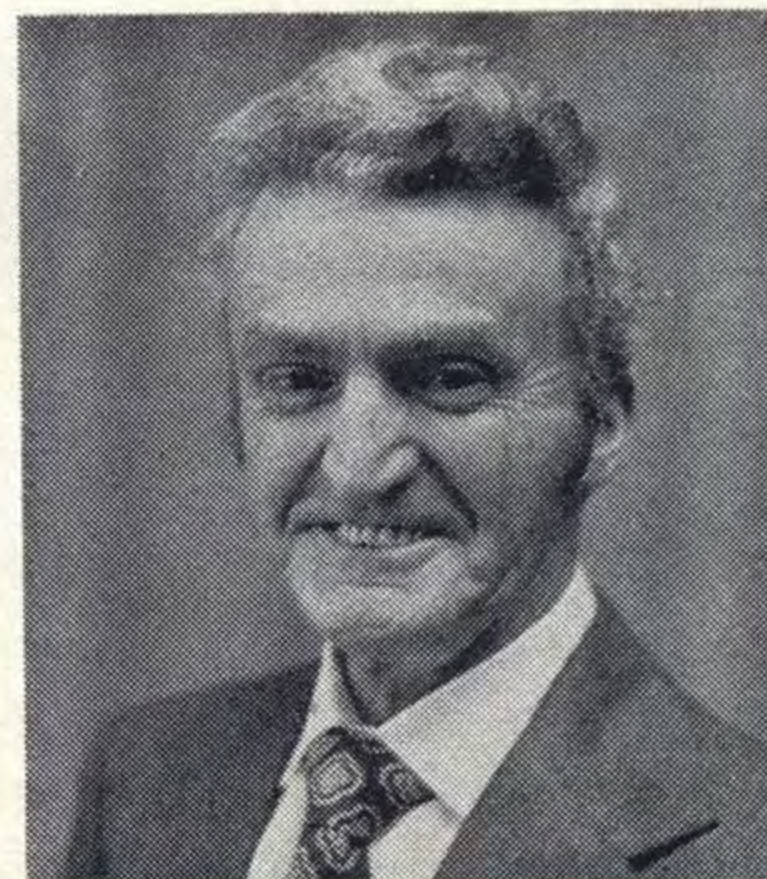
retirements

GEORGE GUY

Personnel Division suffered a real loss on January 12 when George Guy filed a leave card for the last time and bade farewell to his workmates and associates. George has become almost an institution with the walls of Personnel Division in the past ten years, especially to the younger folk, and has helped many a newcomer over initial trouble spots. He has also become known as the friendly voice on the other end of the line when queries were made concerning leave balances for wages personnel. George

began in 1949 as a Storeman at Yallourn, but soon transferred to Morwell and was made a Leading Hand. In 1955, he was appointed a clerk with Stores section and transferred to Clerical section in 1962. Two years later, he moved to Personnel Division where he remained until retirement. Throughout his career, George displayed a high degree of conscientiousness and enthusiasm, a virtue especially emphasised by Personnel Division Manager, Brian Collier when presenting George with farewell gifts of a gold

watch and cuff links, and a brooch for Mrs. Guy.



MERVYN TASKER

A real man of the land in Mervyn Tasker took his leave of the Commission on January 3. Before signing on in 1962, Mervyn was at different times involved in farming in the Wimmera, Gippsland and Werribee areas, but he obviously thought that the Commission's pastures were greener. For the past 14 years he has been with Civil Works, Yallourn;

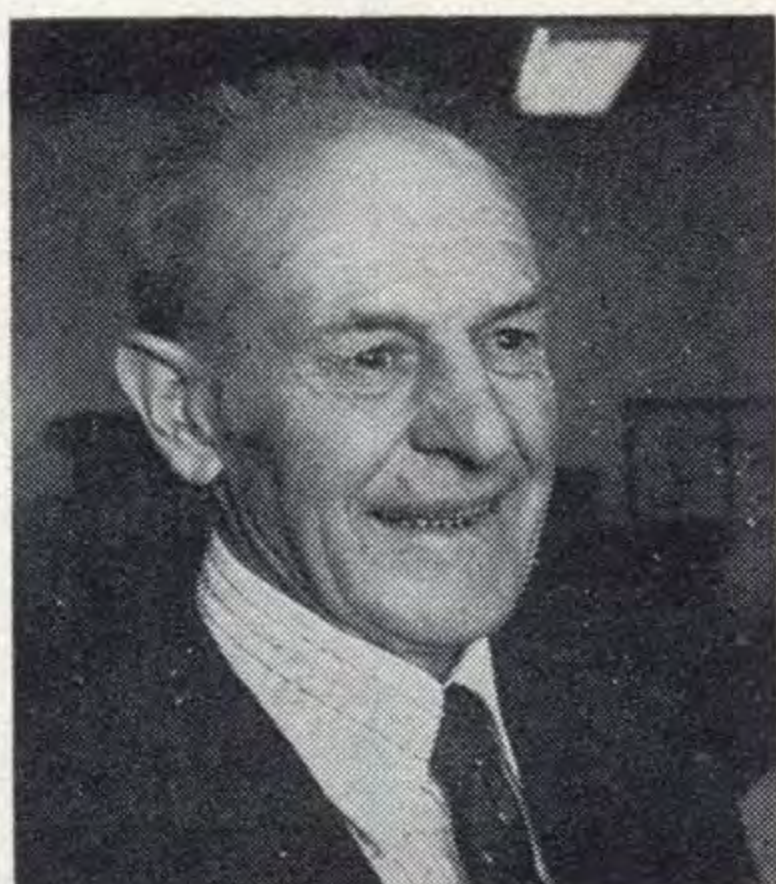
he began as a sanitary attendant, quickly rising to the position of Leading Hand, before being reclassified as a L/H waterman in 1964. He was appointed as a motor driver in 1969 and, finally, took on the duties of L/H motor driver in 1970. Mervyn's main aim now is to enjoy his planned extended holiday in England visiting relations and old friends.

ALAN JONES

A highlight of the farewell send-off for L/H loco driver Alan Jones on January 3 was the presence of Harry Marshall and Mr. E. Oddy, foreman with whom Alan was associated in the very early days of his 40 year Commission, and Coal Division, career. In fact, Harry Marshall was the foreman to whom Alan reported on his very first day with the Commission. Both gentlemen are now retired, but they turned out at the Southern Pivot, Yallourn, to wish an old mate "all the best" on his final day. Also

present at the farewell was current Transport foreman Jack Breen, who passed on to Alan a Wallet of notes on behalf of workmates, while A Coal Production Superintendent Col Ferguson made special mention of Alan's outstanding career. During his early time with Coal Division, Alan worked at times as a laborer and as a greaser, but in 1944 he took on the duties of loco driving. In 1957, he was promoted to Leading Hand, and remained in this position until retirement. After such a long and busy career, Alan will obviously welcome a rest, but the

large plot of vegetables next to his house in Moe will take a lot of looking after.



Laurie Middlemiss

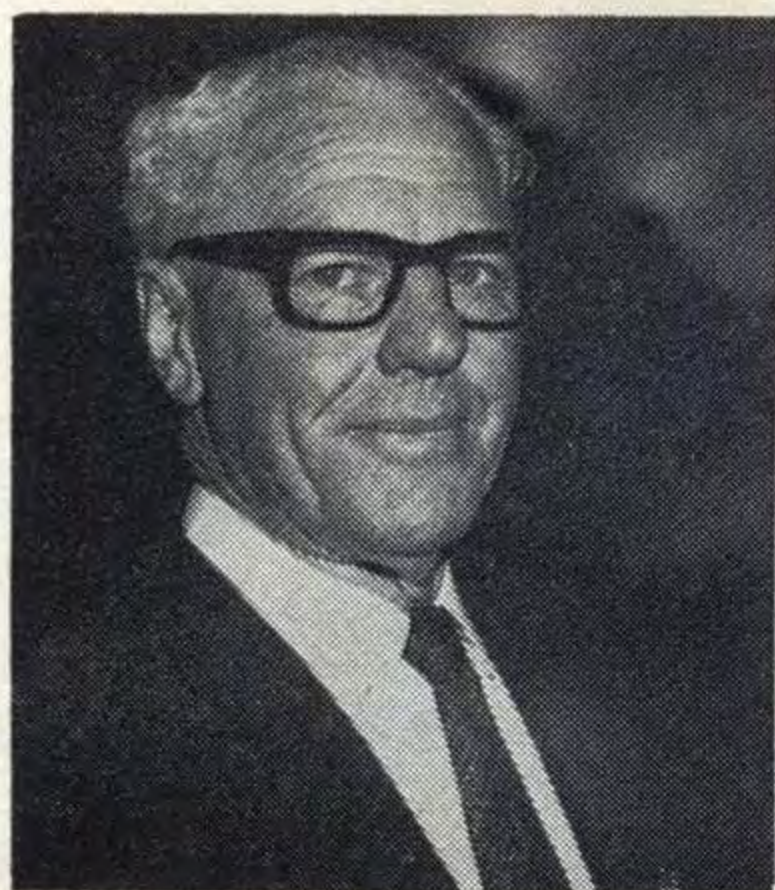
"40 years continuous service" is the proud boast of fitter Laurie Middlemiss, who retired on December 13 after having become one of Yallourn Power Station's favorite sons. A large crowd of workmates, past and present, packed the station annexe on Laurie's final day to say farewell. Manager, Power and Generation Jack Robertson did the

honors by presenting Laurie with an electric drill while Mrs. Middlemiss received a sheaf of flowers. Laurie, who began with the Commission in 1931, had several breaks in service due to a limited amount of work available. However, since 1934, he has been a "regular" at Yallourn Power Station. He now intends to spend his well-earned retirement very quietly "just watching television".

retirements

SYD KIRCHNER

Departmental Materials Officer Syd Kirchner ended a distinguished career with the Commission when he was officially farewelled at the West



Mess, Yallourn, on December 12. Among the large crowd in attendance were personalities such as Viv Gore, Ron Farrington, John Sheperdson, Harvey Norris and Wes Betts, all of whom have known or worked with Syd at some stage of his 28 year career. During this period, Syd's name has become synonymous with Stores procedure.

He began as a storeman at Footscray in 1946, but after preliminary training, transferred to Kiewa where he worked his way through a variety of positions before reaching the post of Administration clerk (Stores). In 1954, he moved to Yallourn as Assistant Storeroom Supervisor and

again began to climb the ladder, winning promotion to Superintendent of Stores, Yallourn, in 1959 after four years as Assistant Superintendent, Yallourn. With the formation of the Latrobe Valley Region in 1963, he took on the regional duties of Assistant Superintendent of Stores, and in 1970, was appointed Superintendent, a post later retitled Departmental Materials Officer. This fine service record was recognised when A.G.M. (Ops) Bill DeCampo presented Syd with a gift of a lawnmower on his retirement, and emphasised that an officer of Syd's ability and loyalty would be difficult to replace.

JACK CARRODUS

Fellow cleaners were out in force at the Morwell Service training centre on December 3 to farewell "jack of all trades" Jack Carrodus, who retired after more than 19 years with the Commission. Over this period, Jack has spent time as a laborer with Coal Division, a trades assistant and a cleaner with Civil Works, and as an office cleaner with Administration. But before joining the Commission, he spent more than six years on a vegetable farm at Kinglake, preceding which, he was involved in the bakery business for 20 years. This varied career was highlighted by foreman cleaner Bob Eviston, while Administration Assistant (Records and Cleaning) John Pemberton handed over to Jack an envelope bulging with notes. Jack is a very keen punter, so the cash presentation may have been of use during the Christmas racing season.

ERNEST MERCER

A premature farewell was the case for Ernest Mercer when he said good-bye to many of his workmates on December 20. Ernest was due to retire on January 2, but his presentation was put forward to ensure that all his acquaintances would be at work and able to attend. Civil Works Engineer Tom Stillman was on hand to congratulate Ernest on his 25 years service and presented him with a picnic set, a gift which Ernest — a keen fisherman who likes to move about after the "big ones" — will find most useful. Ernest has been a member of the Civil Works team for most of his Commission life. He spent nine months as a laborer with Coal Division, Yallourn, when he first signed on, but subsequently moved across to Civil Works as a sanitary attendant. In 1951, he was reclassified as a waterworks attendant, a position he held for 11 years before being promoted to Leading Hand Waterman, where he remained until retirement.

BEN BRANS

For Ben Brans, former Shift Engineer (Power), relics from days gone by have always held a peculiar fascination. In this regard, he must have been looking forward to his retirement, for he has bought an old house in Traralgon and intends to work on its restoration. Ben left the Commission on December 10, when Superintendent, Morwell Briquette and Power Installation, Alan Castelow wished him well in his retirement and handed over a cash presentation which, naturally enough, Ben intends to use for restoration work. Ben came to the Latrobe Valley in 1962 after having spent nine years at Ballarat as a Shift Engineer with Production Department. He took up the appointment of Boiler House Engineer Gr. 1 at Morwell Power Station, but was reclassified to Grade 2 within a couple of months. He remained in this position for 11 years before taking on the duties of Shift Engineer (Power), the post from which he retired.

AUB MARTIN

Aub Martin took his leave of the Commission when he attended an informal send-off in the office of Departmental Administrative Officer Neville Thompson on December 10. Aub's retirement was originally set down for October, but illness prevented him from previously farewelling his many workmates. Aub began his association with the Commission more than 24 years ago when he signed on as a clerk with Accountancy Division at Head Office. He then moved through several posi-

tions — clerk with Design and Construction Department; search clerk with Estate Branch; clerk grade 3 with Electricity Supply Department — before transferring to the Latrobe Valley in 1958 as Assistant Works Property Officer, Yallourn. His position was retitled Property Assistant in 1965, three years before he was promoted to clerk grade 5, the position from which he retired. During his years in the Latrobe Valley, Aub spent most of his spare time exploring bush tracks throughout the local area. Hopefully, his health will

allow him to continue with his favourite hobby.



sporting scene

'Fancy meeting you here....'

When AGM (Ops) Bill De Campo accompanied SEC Commissioners on their inspection tour of Yallourn Power Station last month, the last thing he would have expected was to be bailed up for a talk on cricket.

Not that he minded when bricklayer Reg Bacon raised the subject.

After all, the two met in happy circumstances in Sydney last year when Bill De Campo accepted on behalf of the SEC the shield competed for every two years by cricket teams from the SEC Social League and the Sydney Country Council Sports and Social League.

A keen cricket fan himself — he played competitively in Melbourne for some years — Bill De Campo found himself on common ground with Reg.

A top all-round sportsman, Reg has an enviable record as a footballer in the Latrobe Valley and Mid Gippsland Leagues.

In his 14 years with Moe Cricket Club, Reg has been a solid batsman, a fine wicket-keeper and a driving administrator — he is now president of the Club.

During a long career, he has represented Central Gippsland Association at Country Week on four occasions, but unfortunately for him, it was in the year he was unavailable that the CGCA team won the title.

Which has a parallel with the Yallourn team which plays in the Social League competition.

During Reg Bacon's captaincy from 1969-73 (and again last season) the side was undefeated throughout the season but went down in the final series.

Reg hopes that is a cracked record which will be finally shattered this year.

In the meantime, he's trying to keep an eye in with a view to gaining a third crack at the Sydney County Council Sports and Social League team when a return visit is paid to Melbourne next year.



Above: AGM Bill De Campo proved a good listener when he and Reg Bacon met on the firing floor at Yallourn Power Station during the annual Commissioners' visit last month. The subject was not brick-laying, Reg's day-to-day specialty, but cricket — a sport in which both share a common interest.



Left: Three top SEC cricketers, photographed during the 1974 trip to Sydney, from left, Evan Rowlands, the late Charles Karpinsky and Reg Bacon.

Is this Yallourn's cricket year?

In the past five years, the Yallourn S.E.C. Social League cricket team has turned in some real "Collingwood" performances.

The club has fallen into the habit of putting together a first-class home and away season before completely succumbing once the semi-finals are reached.

Hopefully, this season will be different.

Having only suffered one loss, and a very narrow one at that, so far Yallourn will line up for the semi-final on February 23 at Fawkner Park, and

— if things go according to plan — the grand-final at the St. Kilda cricket ground a fortnight later.

On February 16 the side will play Rooney St. another highly placed team, in a match which will give Yallourn players a taste of what lies ahead.

Yallourn skipper John White is emphatic about his team's chances this year.

"We'll win it", he says, and his confidence appears to be well justified if Yallourn's most recent performance is any guide.

On February 2, Yallourn — at home to Cavanagh Street — scored a most convincing win.

After bundling the opposition out quickly for 70 runs, Yallourn had little trouble hitting up an impressive 9/150.

Man of the match was all-rounder Terry Birch who took 4/17, an effort followed up with a hard-hitting 42.

Other good players were Reg Bacon, who scored 55 runs before retiring, and Trevor French and Merv Graham, each of whom took 2/20.