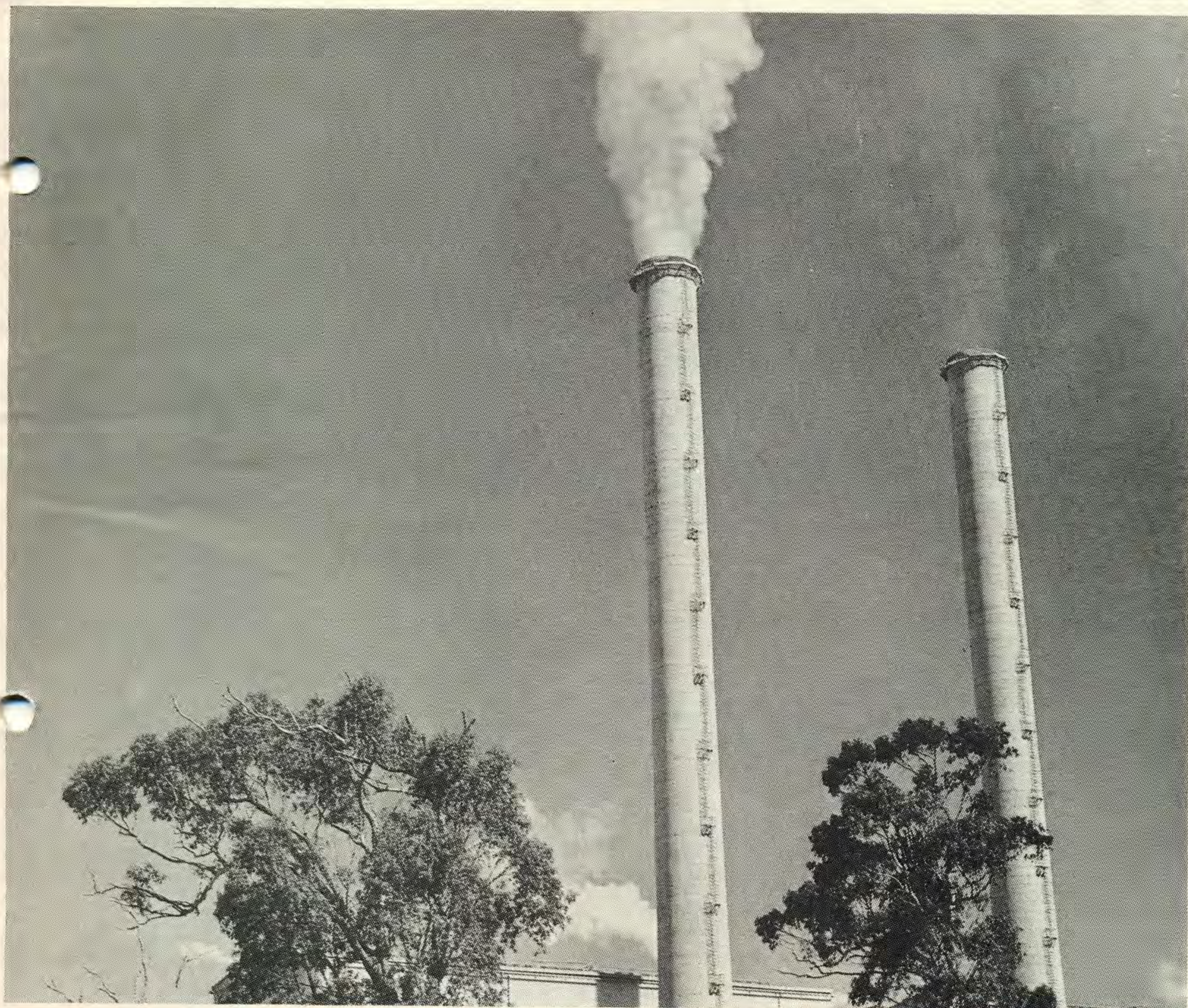


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THE STATE ELECTRICITY COMMISSION LATROBE VALLEY DEPARTMENT MAGAZINE

OCTOBER, 1972



POLLUTION CONTROL IS COSTLY BUT WORTH IT!

The emission of combustion products is an inevitable consequence wherever fuel is burnt to provide energy. However, this emission can be reduced to the practical minimum as the above

photograph of Hazelwood Power Station illustrates.

For purposes of comparison the electrostatic precipitator of the chimney on the left was switched off, whilst

that of the chimney on the right remained in operation.

You can see for yourself the dramatic difference in the emissions of the two chimneys. The electrostatic precipitator

retains approximately 98 per cent. of the dust.

The height of the chimneys — 450 feet — ensures adequate dilution of effluent gases and it is often impossible to tell by outside observation whether or not boiler plant is operating. The cost of sophisticated anti-pollution equipment is considerable. Hazelwood's electrostatic precipitators cost \$8 million to install, but I know it was money well spent. Precipitators,

the most effective type of dust collector available, are already installed on Hazelwood boilers and Morwell Briquette Factory drier stacks. They will be installed at Yallourn 'W' and are presently under construction at Yallourn 'E' Station.

The Commission is very conscious of the need to minimise the impact of its activities on the environment and conducts continuous research to enable this need to be fulfilled.

As new operating plant comes into service we will continue to keep a close check on the effect of its operations on the environment of the Latrobe Valley.

J. M. Schurly

Manager,
Latrobe Valley Department

Electric Power Fundamental to Mankind's Betterment

Mr. Walker L. Cisler, O.B.E., Chairman of the Board of the Detroit Edison Company of the U.S.A., on a recent visit to Australia delivered the keynote address at the Third South Pacific Electrical Convention at Brisbane.

Mr. Cisler's theme is of particular interest to those engaged in the generation of electricity, so we publish below the general tenor of his speech.

"In the industrial nations there is an ever-pressing demand for more equitable economic opportunity; and in the developing world, more than two billion people want their share in the same advantages. Studies show that there is a direct correlation between living standards and the per capita use of energy. Therefore all signs point toward the need to increase, rather than retard the utilisation of energy. And right in the centre of things stands the electric power industry.

"In the utilisation of energy, electric power has a special advantage. It can be derived from every other form of energy — mechanical, thermal, hydraulic, chemical, from light itself. It is infinitely versatile in application and can again be the source of energy in other forms.

"In ways that are still only partly understood, electrical phenomena are woven into the basic structure of the universe. The light of a star or a candle is one and the same form of electromagnetic radiation. Electric and magnetic phenomena occur in the atom, the sun, and the human brain.

"We have only begun to fathom the potentialities of this great force, the use of which is increasing twice as rapidly as the use of energy in other forms.

"It is our responsibility to plan wisely for the inevitable increase in electric energy requirements, and for the thoughtful utilisation of this valuable energy resource."



"So what joker at Monash House thought this one up?"



High Standard of Craftmanship Shown by Valley Apprentices

Eight entries were submitted by Commission first-year apprentices of the Latrobe Valley Department in the Apprenticeship Commission of Victoria's competition for its Annual Craft Awards.

Six of these entries won awards—a good indication of the high standard of craftsmanship turned out by the Apprentice Training Workshop.

The top award, a Bronze Medal,

was won by Lenny van Berkel, an apprentice boilermaker, for his entry of a multi-drawer tool box.

A Special Honourable Mention went to apprentice fitter and turner David Mintern for his entry of fitting mating parts.

Honourable Mentions were awarded to apprentice fitters and turners John Gatt (surface gangs), John Christiansen (power winch), David Fyfe (centre drill

holder) and Colin Sim (centre drill holder).

Presentations to the apprentices were made at an informal ceremony in the Apprentice Workshop by Mr. G. Blampied, Vice-Principal of Yallourn Technical School.

Pictured above with their entries in the competition are (left to right) Ian Boyes, John Christiansen, David Mintern, Len van Berkel, John Gatt, David Fyfe, George Gatt and Colin Sim.

Hazelwood Power Station

by Bruce Johnston, Assistant Power Station Superintendent

Landscaping or beautification, particularly around the perimeter of Hazelwood Power Station, is progressing as a continuous, relatively long term project. It is aimed at improving the amenity and making the surrounds more pleasant, more interesting and more natural.

Historically, the site selected for construction of Hazelwood Power Station, chosen about 1956, was east of "The Ridge" in a very prominent part of the Latrobe Valley. It was exposed open grassland, with sparsely scattered trees which leant before, but did little to break, the force of the prevailing cold winter winds from the west.

Following Yallourn 'E' practice, a semi-outdoor design of station was chosen. Although various alternative layouts were studied, the natural ridge fixed the line of the turbine house at 49° east of grid north. The turbine house needed to be near the cooling pond while the boilers were best located nearest the source of their coal supply. So the site layout really selected itself in the end.

However, this meant that the open back of the boilers faced into the teeth of the cold westerly winds.



Standard roses in a formal bed have been planted at the south-east corner of the station.



The landscaped walkway leading to the car park is a mass of colour when the various flowers are in bloom

By way of comparison, both of the other two semi-outdoor stations in the Latrobe Valley face the opposite way. They present solid walls to the westerly winds and have added shelter from adjacent hills.

So then, protection from these winds, both for the people at Hazelwood and for the tree and scrub species considered, was a major factor to consider in the beautification plan.

Much had been done during station construction to lay out and construct gardens, lawns, paths, roads, car parks and plant trees in a tasteful, park-like setting on the main or front approach to the station. However, much remained to be done on the remaining three sides. Tidying up and beautification were needed.

Construction Branch of Power Department set up a committee with Power Station and Services Division representation to produce a master plan and oversee the works undertaken by Services Division and, at the same time, being mindful of the general area Fire Protection requirements. The committee first met about twelve months ago.

Since then, old construction buildings and facilities have been progressively demolished, surplus security fence, construction power supplies and lighting removed and the land shape re-

stored to its more natural form.

Selection of suitable species of trees was made, based on Forester advice and Foreman Gardener experience, and these were laid out on the master plan. For example, experience showed that some species would not grow satisfactorily in our heavy clay soil, with wet feet in the winter. By contrast some fine specimens, just inside the front fence, are thriving under these conditions. They are Eucalyptus Botryoides, commonly known as Mahogany Gum and Eucalyptus Maculata—a spotted gum native to south-eastern N.S.W. Adjacent Eucalyptus Ficifolia—West Australian Flowering Gums—are very stunted under these conditions.

Considerable attention was given to the layout of major windbreak or shelter-belt tree plantings. When completed, they will shelter the station, particularly at ground level, from westerly, northerly and easterly winds. Southerly winds, coming across the cooling pond, will meet the walled or protected sections of the station.

These major windbreaks to the west have already been planted and are growing well. They are similar to those planted in the Newborough area about eighteen years ago. Of eight rows, spaced six feet apart, with trees spaced twelve feet apart in rows, the

Beautification

Hazelwood

outer rows of mixed species include Eucalyptus and Wattles, while the centre six rows are of Pinus Radiata. Yallourn Forestry Section chisel-ploughed, ridged, fertilised, planted and fenced these windbreaks.

Other random tree plantings are proceeding. Many have already been planted both within and outside the security fence. Although the past Summer-Autumn period was very dry the majority, with some watering, are doing well. Gaps are being replanted.

Maintenance of lawn areas has been carefully considered and economic mowing and watering studied. Last summer, a dry one, highlighted the inability to keep up with watering by manually moving hoses. Consequently, an automatic watering system is being designed. It will use pop-up, oscillating sprinklers, programmed to water at night when wind is usually lighter and evaporation less. Both the duration and frequency of watering will be easily varied on a timeclock basis. About ten acres will be automatically watered. It is hoped to instal the system during the coming spring.

In the coal handling area, additional extensive areas are to be concrete paved for operation reasons. As this work is progressively completed the surrounding area will be shaped, soiled and grassed and trees or shrubs, as appropriate, planted. Batters will be more naturally shaped and grassed to improve their appearance.

Action is proceeding to improve the middle distance scene or view. Coal Division have the Yallourn Forestry Section undertaking environmental rehabilitation work. The southern face of the Morwell overburden dump is being shaped, chisel-ploughed, fertilised and seeded to stabilise the slope and control erosion while dramatically improving its appearance. Trees will also be planted. Pasture will be sown and fenced for grazing. Major windbreaks will also be planted.

At the same time, Forestry Section are hay mulching the ash pond southern batters, and will hydro-sow grass seed with their mobile equipment. They have vastly improved the appearance of the station rubbish dump and more will be done.

The prime view from the Station Administration Building across the cooling pond to Churchill and beyond to the Jeeralangs is to be "dressed up" a little. Unfortunately last year's planting of trees, on the far side of the cooling pond, was eaten by cattle. The dry period with its pasture shortage resulted in them breaking down the fences and enjoying a varied diet.

Evergreen Wattles and Eucalypts have been planted by the circulating water screens. It was thought that leaves from deciduous trees could be troublesome at the circulating water screens. Weeping willows have been planted on the far side of the outlet channel.

Kerb, channel and roadside improvements are being designed by Civil and Architectural Department for Brodribb Road. Services Division hope to commence this work later this year.

The L.V.W.&S.B. are shaping and improving a triangular area they own on Nadenbusch Road, south of their reservoir. Grass and trees will be planted at the intersection of Nadenbusch and Brodribb Roads.



Bruce Johnston

Work is proceeding steadily and probably will take some years to be fully completed. Bird life is on the increase, the landscape is improving and some of the starkness is being softened. Altogether, this will help make Hazelwood Power Station a still more pleasing place to work and to visit. Our largest Power Station, presently the largest in Australia, visible from most parts of the Latrobe Valley by day and night, will further develop into a scenic asset of which we can all be justly proud.

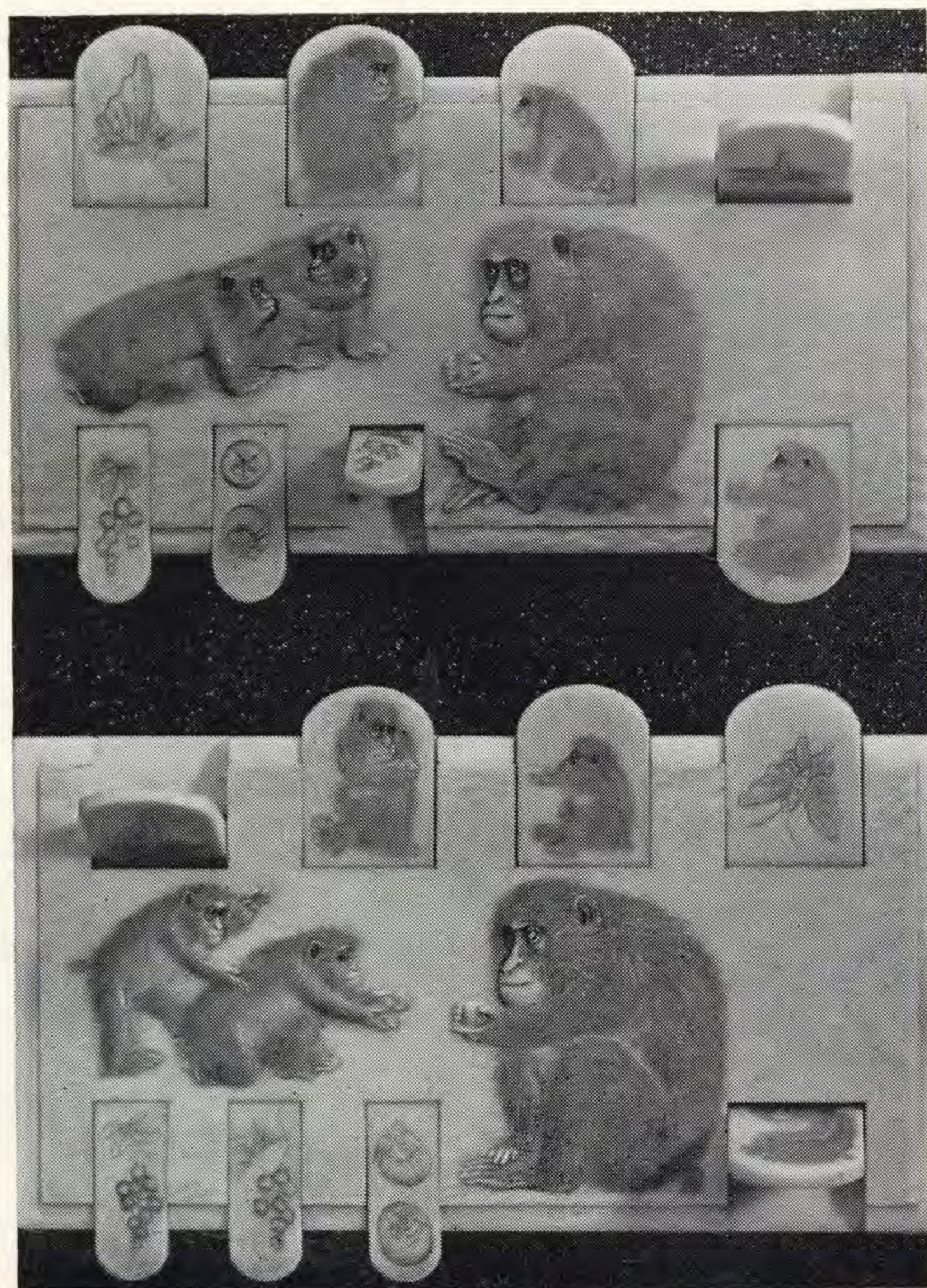


Tall trees and rockery plants frame the station at the south entrance

School Badges On Display

About 1,000 school children visit the Latrobe Valley Department works area every month on tours of inspection.

Many of these school tours leave a badge behind as a memento of their visit. These have been collected by the guides at Yallourn and mounted on specially constructed boards at the Visitors' Centre. One of these boards is shown on the right.



★ Wotisit?

Derek Darby, a draftsman at Yallourn, is a puzzled man.

He has obtained possession of the shallow boxes in the photograph on the left. Made of ivory or some ivory-like material with inset tabs that lift up and about a quarter of an inch deep overall their purpose is a mystery.

Will lifting a combination of tabs open the lid? Is it a game? Is it some devilish cunning communist trick? If you know what this monkey business is all about, give Derek a ring on Ext. 2451.



Morwell Workshops Social Club's Dinner Dance Held on Friday, October 13



Commission Blood Donors Give It Lying Down

Each month Commission personnel give blood to the Latrobe Valley Community Hospital's Blood Bank.

Hospital nurses come to the Morwell Admin. Building's Assembly Room on the second Tuesday of each month and collect an average twelve to fifteen pints from the blood donors.

This month the blood donors came from Hazelwood Power Station and on these pages Contact shows the sequence of events.



First step—a blood sample is taken from Fitter Alan Anderson's thumb. This is done to check on the blood count, type and general suitability of the donor's blood.



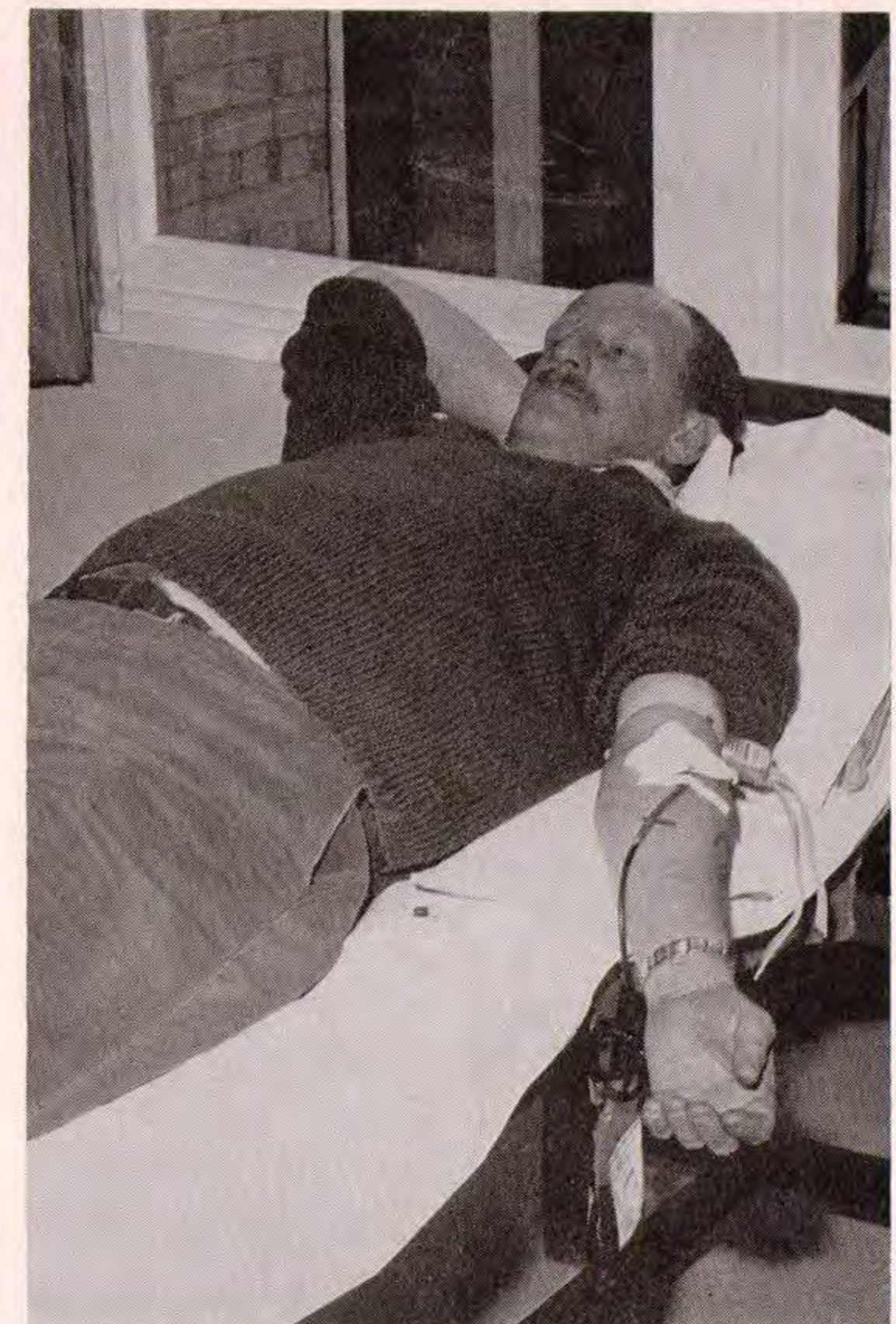
Behind the hair Helen Wilson takes down the inevitable particulars of (left to right) Fitter George Keith, Rigger Bob Smyth and Alan Anderson.



Rigger Albert Dolan looks as if he's concentrating on something else whilst the needle is inserted.



All over—Rigger George Te Wierek watches as his arm is banded.



Trades assistant Roy Parker looks nonchalant as his plastic bag slowly fills.



Tea and biscuits—not just for two, but for all the donors. Fitter Alex Cooke, T.A. Eric Pointer, Fitter Mike Dixon and T.A. Roy Parker gather round

the tea table while, in the background T.S.O. John Alexander and Fitter George Keith await their turn to be registered.



SUPERPLANE FLIES AGAIN

Each year the Latrobe Valley Department applies fertiliser to the 6,000 plus acres that it leases out as grazing land.

This grazing land, which acts as a buffer zone around the works area in case of bush fires, extends roughly

from Yallourn North to Driffield and from Newborough to Traralgon South.

Approximately 500 tons of granulated superphosphate and potash are applied by air at the rate of 1,000 acres per day.

Aerial spreading has been used for the past five years in preference to

spreading by bulk truck or tractor-drawn implements as it broadcasts the fertiliser more evenly and economically.

The plane featured in the photographs above is a De Havilland Beaver, which takes a load of about one ton each trip.

Swans Thrive In Hazelwood Environment

The swan population of Hazelwood Fire Services Reservoir has increased by five this year.

Our photograph shows the proud parents showing their cygnets the right way to forage for food and still keep a wary eye fixed on the bank.





World Energy Conference Delegates in Valley

Delegates to the World Energy Conference visited the Latrobe Valley in October.

From twelve different countries, the delegates were

accompanied on their tour by Sir Willis Connolly. Our photograph shows P.L.O. Bob Purves explaining some points of interest in the Valley to the visitors.



All Hail!

A sudden hailstorm swept the Latrobe Valley in October and carpeted some areas to a depth of several inches.

Our photograph shows the scene by Yallourn Railway Station where the hailstones covering the ground resembled the aftermath of a snowfall.

SAFETY SECTION



Morwell Open Cut Wins Manager's Safety Award

The 1971-72 Manager's Award for Safety, presented annually to the section showing the greatest improvement in safety performance, has been presented to Morwell Open Cut.

Morwell Open Cut improved its Frequency Rate by 71% and Latrobe Valley Department Deputy Manager Graham Black said this was an excellent achievement when one considered the difficult conditions obtaining in the Open Cut area.

Mr. Black went on to say that the general accident Frequency Rate of the Latrobe Valley had shown a marked improvement during the past seven or

eight years, reducing from the 80 mark to 17.

Mr. Black then presented Morwell Coal Production Superintendent Ian Wilson with the Manager's Trophy and Certificate.

In reply, Mr. Wilson said that he was very pleased to accept the Trophy, but did not want to win it again. He paid special tribute to the safety records of the following sections — Mechanical and Electrical Maintenance, Operations Coal and Overburden, Auxiliary Sections, Mobile Plant and the Road Gang.

The photograph shows, from left to right, Safety Engineer Geoff Hall, Mr. Black and Ian Wilson.

Thoughtlessness Can Be Dangerous

Thoughtless actions are probably the greatest enemy to any accident prevention campaign.

★ ☆ ★

During the last month two such actions were brought to notice in the Latrobe Valley.

★ ☆ ★

A dry powder fire extinguisher was stolen from the vicinity of the data processing room in the Yallourn Main Office. The theft of any item is an offence in its own right, but when we consider that the stolen item is a device which may well prevent a serious fire and possibly in the extreme case save someone's life, it makes one ponder on the stupidity of this thoughtless action.

★ ☆ ★

In the second incident two tradesmen in Yallourn Central Workshops managed to lock a workmate in wire cage and then commenced to squirt him with oil from oil cans.

★ ☆ ★

Medical attention was required to wash the oil from the victim's eyes, but fortunately no serious injury was inflicted. The Commission has no rate of pay for clowns and definitely no place for practical jokers.

★ ☆ ★

Remember that no matter how many laughs we may get from a practical joke they can never add up in value to the loss of a human eye, broken back, ruptured bowels or loss of life.

Don't be Shocked

The latest report by the Chief Electrical Inspector of Victoria, Mr. T. J. Curtin, states that electric shock killed ten people in their homes last year.

By obeying the following simple rules you can avoid electric shock in your home:

Don't meddle with an appliance or plug;

Don't touch outside housewires;

Don't use makeshift power leads;

Don't use home-made extension lights;

Don't use light sockets for appliances;

Don't touch any bare electric element;

Don't use portable radiators in the bathroom. Water is a good conductor. If a bare wire comes into contact with a wet floor, you can get a shock;

Don't remove the plug of an appliance or socket unless the power is switched off;

Don't pull a plug out of the socket by the flex—pull the plug itself;

Don't allow switches or sockets to remain uncovered or broken;

Don't use frayed or damaged flex; replace it as soon as wear appears;

Don't use double adaptors for more than two appliances—have more power points installed;

Don't change or clean a lamp bulb until you have switched off the power;

Don't fill or empty an electric kettle until the power is switched off and the plug is disconnected;

If a person is knocked out by an electric shock:

Switch off the power supply if possible;

Pull the victim away from the wire or appliance with a piece of wood or some other dry insulating material;

Don't touch him with bare hands or feet;

Once he is away from the HT con-

tact, immediately begin resuscitation as for drowning;

Get someone to call a doctor;

Mr. Curtin said the biggest blunder people make is not connecting the earth wire correctly.

"This wire is vital in protection against shocks.

"It is green or green-yellow and

should be connected to the pin marked earth or E.

"Under the regulations a householder is not permitted to work on the permanent wiring of the house.

"The regulations do not cover the appliances used in the home.

"We recommend that an electrician be called to work on them."



Wise Owl No. 11

On Wednesday, October 18, Peter Gibbons, a Boilermaker with Central Workshops, Morwell, became the eleventh Latrobe Valley member of the Wise Owl Club.

Peter was chipping weld metal with a hammer and chisel when a piece of metal flew away from him, struck a steel plate, rebounded and struck Peter's safety spectacles bang in the centre of his right lens.

Such was the force of the impact that the lens broke, but luckily there was no injury.

You can imagine what Peter would be like now but for his good judgment in using his eye protection.

All types of protection are provided for the many jobs you have to do, but none of it is any good if you don't use it.



Special Investigations Officer Gordon Duncan retired on Monday, October 2, after 15 years with the Commission.

Gordon started his career with Victorian Railways, joined the R.A.A.F. and became a Warrant Officer, had a go at dairy farming, joined the L.V. Department as a Patrolman, became Patrol Supervisor in a year, then was appointed Special Investigations Officer in 1966.

Gordon's farewell was held in the Morwell R.S.L. Club where, from 1961 to 1963, he was President and successfully laid the foundations for the bar's profitability.

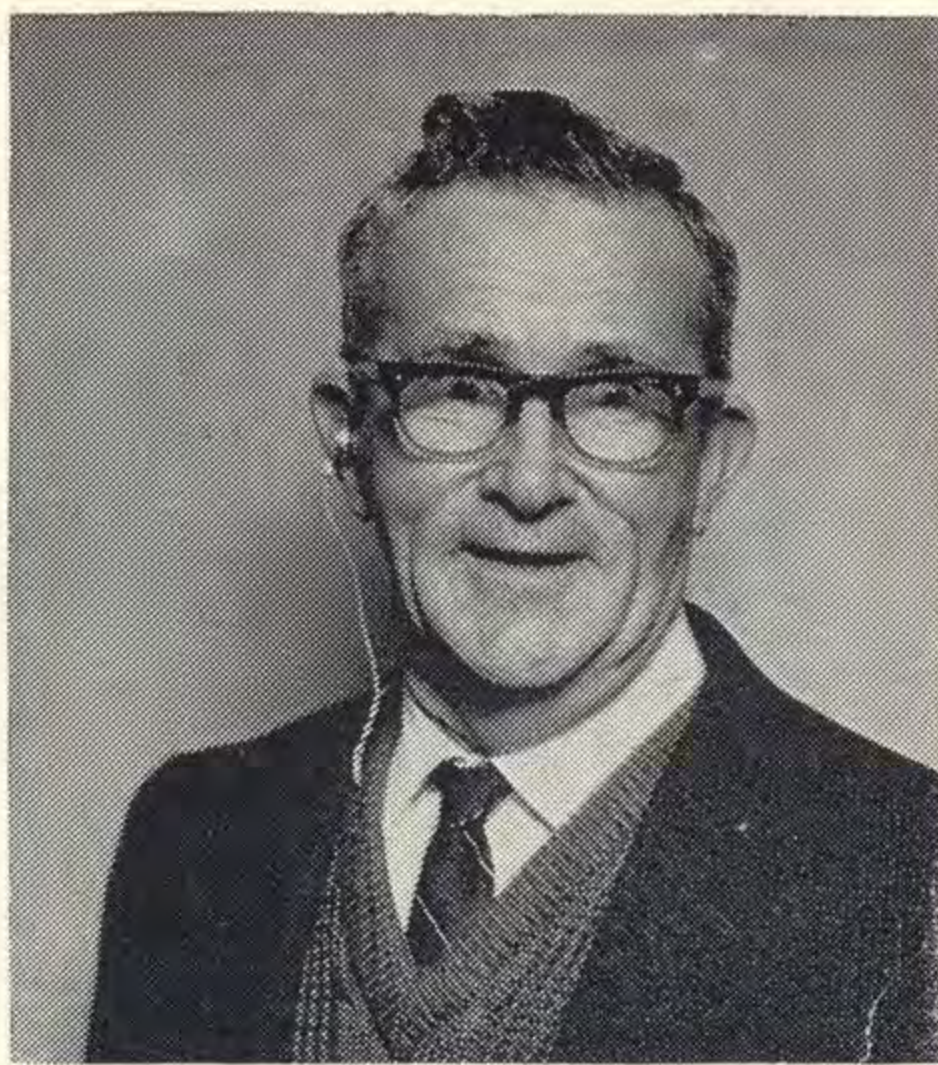
Gordon is retiring to his farm at Heathcote and, when last seen, was busy trying out his pewter beer mug with which, together with a power tool kit, he had been presented.



George Wright, a Fitter at Yallourn Power Station, retired on Tuesday, September 19, after 16 years' service.

George was an institution at Yallourn because of his work with the Social Club. He was Secretary of the Club and its one and only Life Member.

Power Engineer Jack Robertson said that the area social clubs were of value in making for a contented staff. He then presented George with a matched set of suitcases and a camera kit.



Albert Patching, an Electrical Patrolman at Yallourn Power Station, retired on Tuesday, October 17 after 24 years' service with the Commission.

Albert, or Bert as he was known, was a quiet personality and had worked with Coal Production and Construction before joining the Electrical Maintenance Section at Yallourn Power Station.

As a farewell gift Bert received a power drill and his wife and sister-in-law were presented with bouquets.

RETIREMENTS



George Morello, a Cleaner at Yallourn Power Station, retired on Tuesday, October 10, after 17 years' service.

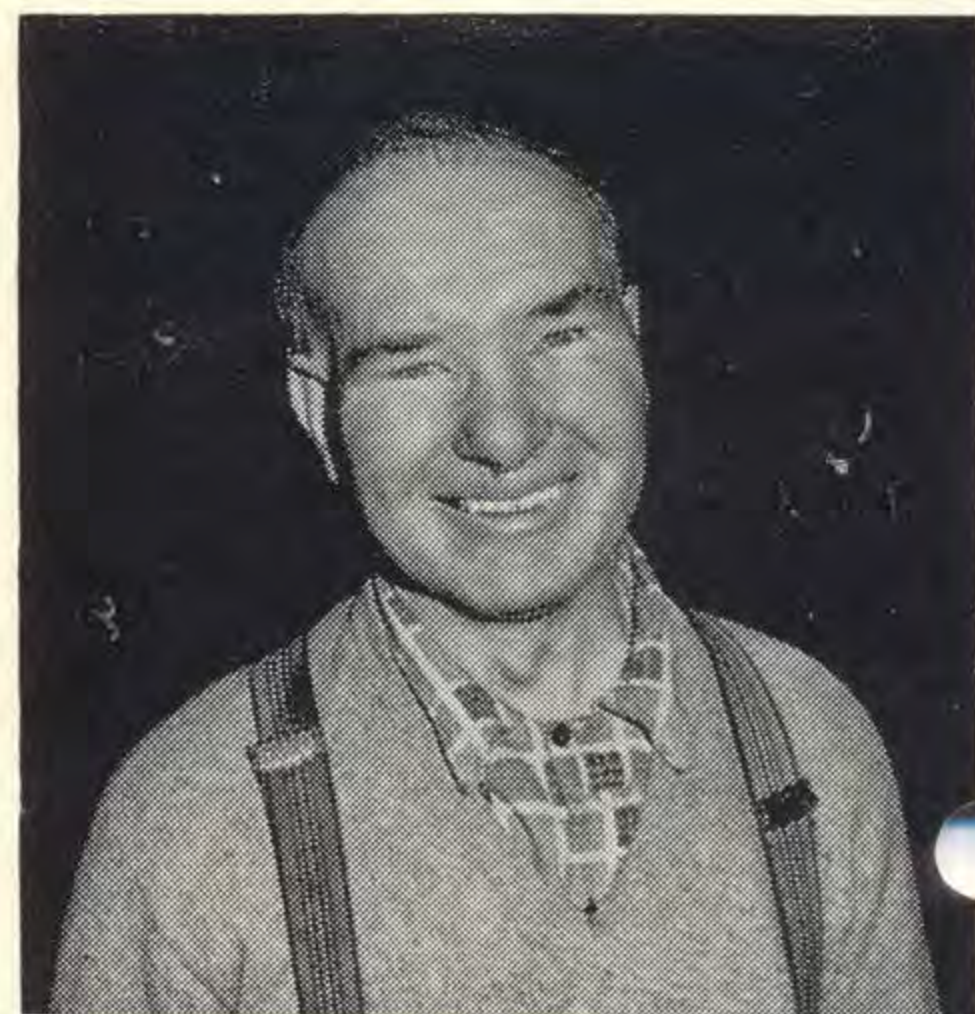
George first joined the Commission in 1951 on his arrival from Italy, left shortly afterwards and rejoined in 1955.

A large amount of George's time was spent cleaning the foremen's block and the foremen presented him with a barometer which should be useful on George's farm at Moe.

P.S.S. Arthur Ewen presented George with a bundle of notes collected by his workmates.

Nineteen years of service with the Commission ended for Welder Special Jim Higgins on Tuesday September 26.

Jim worked at Yallourn Workshops and took a keen interest in union affairs. He was President of the local Boilermakers' Society in the early 1950's and was also a shop steward. In the period he was shop steward



there were never any strikes, which says a lot for Jim's peace-keeping abilities.

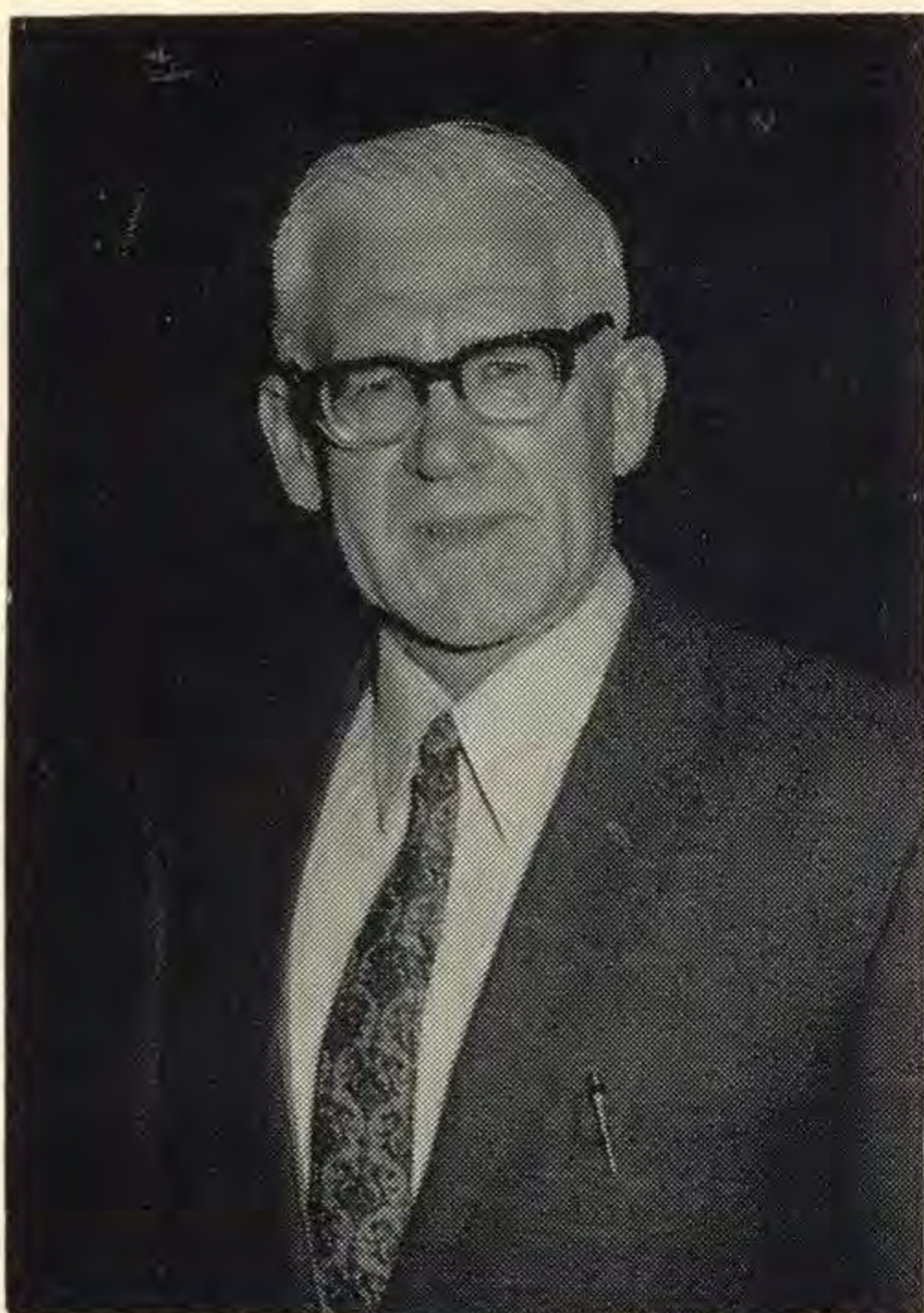
Mechanical Services Engineer George Davis presented Jim with a book on fishing and two watches—one for his wife.



Arthur "Bluey" Dunn, a Boilermaker at Hazelwood Power Station, retired in October after a total of almost half a century's service.

Bluey's career with the Commission was somewhat chequered as he left and rejoined seven times in all. He originally started in 1923 as a Nipper, left and rejoined as a Labourer, Trades Assistant, Painter, Boilermaker, Rigger, Pitman and Plateman respectively.

A crowd of Bluey's mates from Yallourn were in attendance at Bluey's farewell to wish him well in his retirement.



Keith Smith, a Foreman at Central Workshops, Yallourn, retired on October 6 after 43 years' service.

Keith was one of the stalwarts of the Yallourn Town Band and a well known personality in Yallourn. According to his mates he was a great story teller, adapting six basic stories to suit every occasion.

Keith started off as a Tool Storeman, became a T.A., a Fitter and a Leading Hand before becoming a Foreman in 1953.

Deputy Manager Graham Black, on behalf of Keith's workmates, presented him with a power drill kit, an electric shaver, a cuff links and tie bar set, a Commission tie and a gift for his wife.

RETIREMENTS

(Continued)



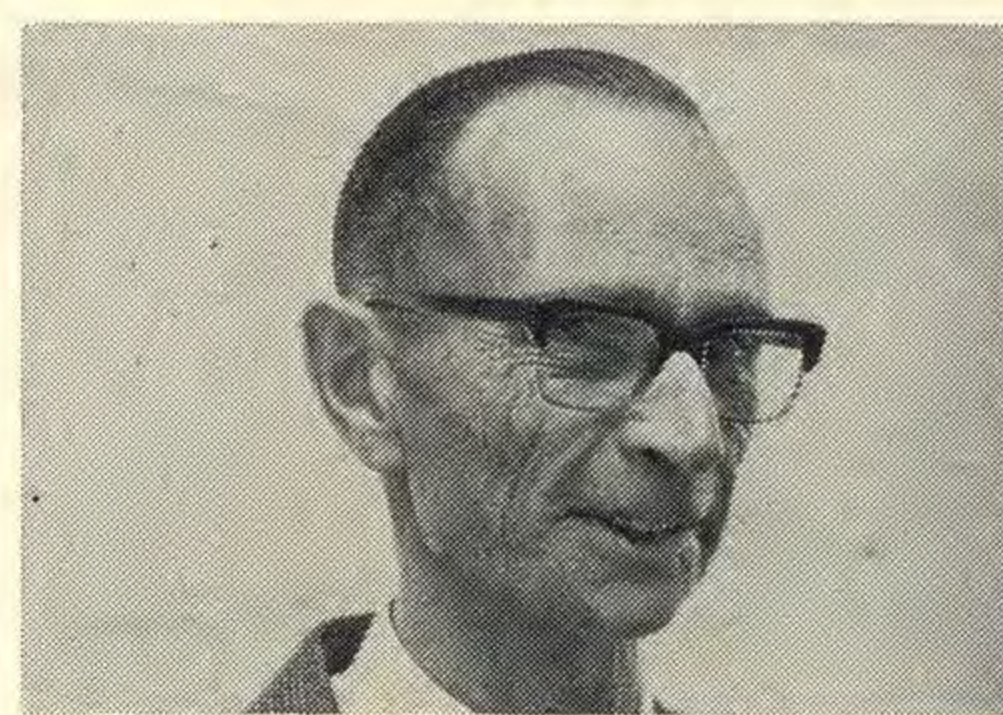
Norm Byron's 45 years of service with the Commission ended on Friday, September 29, with a farewell function at the Municipal Services Depot Canteen, Yallourn.

Norm started with the Commission as a horse driver and worked in the Open Cut and Briquette Factory. He also served as the Yallourn Pound-keeper and raised some crops of oats and millet around the Eastern Hostel for his horses.

Norm then joined the Municipal Depot and in 1956 was appointed a Foreman, Grade 2.

Norm's workmates clubbed together and gave him a variety of gifts, including an electric fan and a bouquet for his wife.

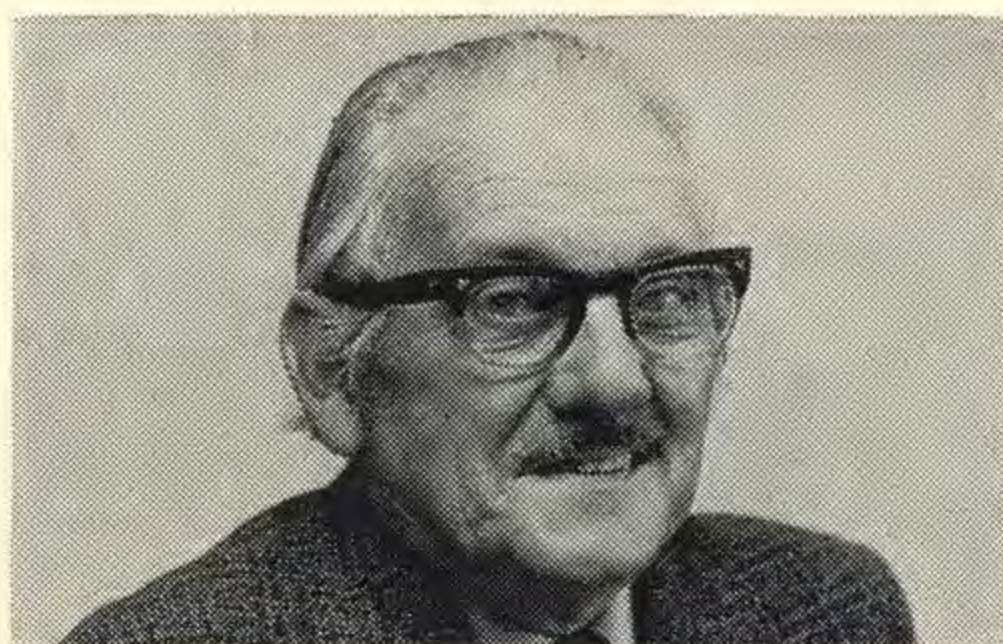
Acting Manager Graham Black presented Norm with a gold watch for achieving 45 years of service and commented that, judging by Norm's looks, he looked like breaking the Provident Fund.



Gerry Hunt, Briquette Operations Foreman at Morwell Briquetting, retired on Monday, October 9.

Gerry originally joined the Commission in 1934, but left in 1955. He rejoined in 1959 and retired prematurely because of ill health.

Now living at Lakes Entrance and doing a lot of fishing, Gerry was presented with a power drill, a photograph album and a gift for his wife.



Leo Walsh, a Clerk with Central Workshops, Yallourn, retired on Friday, September 22.

Leo was the man responsible for seeing that supplies went in and out of the Workshops smoothly and, according to George Davis, Mechanical Service Engineer, this he did very efficiently.

Leo was presented with a pair of sleeping bags and a two-speed power drill.

Road Closed for Railway Line Repairs

The Eastern Levee Road which skirts the Yallourn Open Cut was closed to traffic for a few days this month whilst a maintenance job was carried out.

Over the course of time the narrow gauge railway lines tend to sink under the surface of the road and need to be raised and new ballast inserted under them. This work is done at regular intervals.



SPORT PARADE

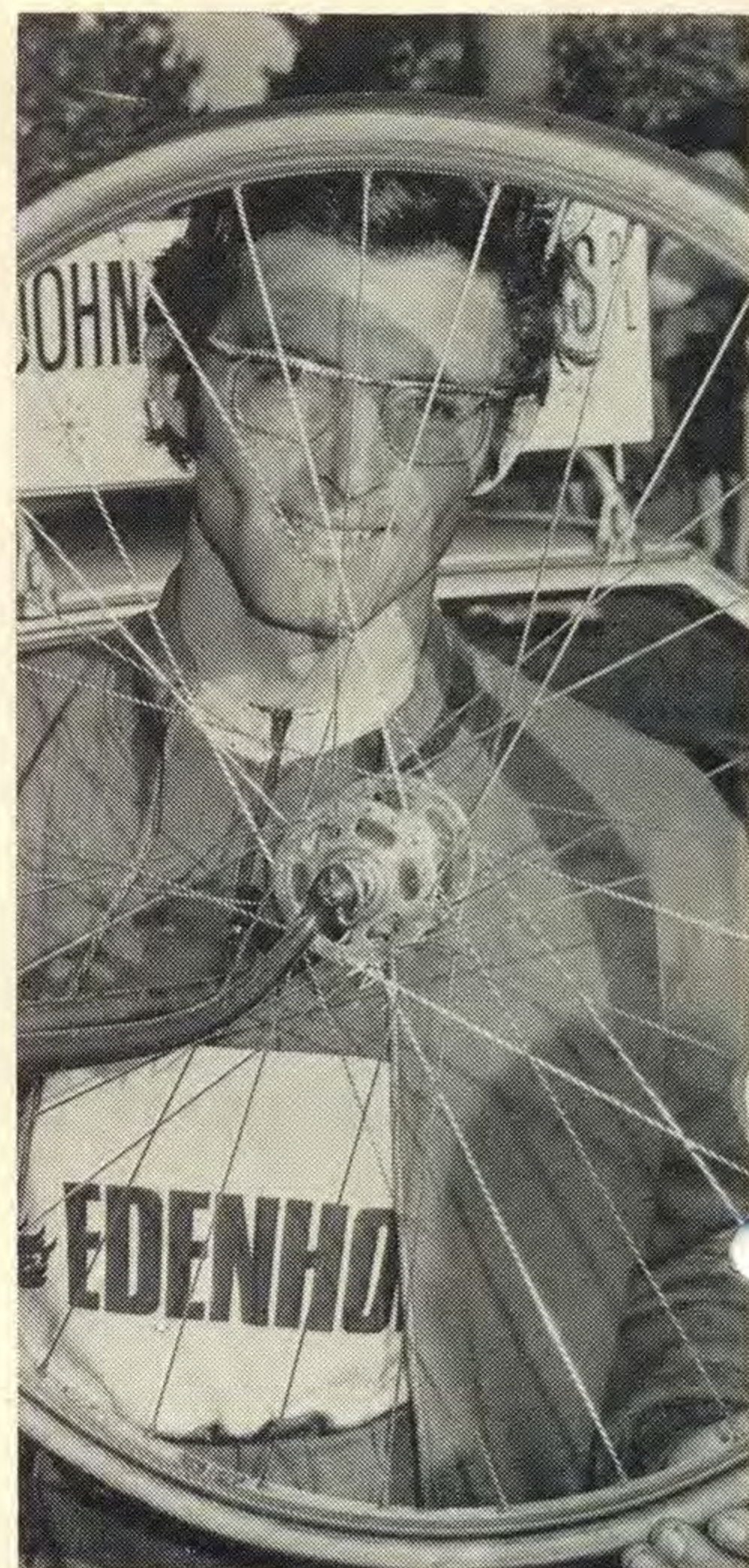
Sun Tour Draws Crowds At Yallourn

The eighth day of the 1,200-mile Sun Tour ended at Yallourn on Friday, October 27.

Leading team in the Tour was Edenhope which included Bob Kypriotis of Coal Production Mechanical Maintenance, Morwell Workshops.

The Yallourn township team was

lying second, the position they finally occupied at the conclusion of the Tour. This is the longest ride that Bob Kypriotis has been in and he did exceptionally well to finish in 13th place in the final classification. The largest distance that Bob has previously ridden is 600 miles—only half of the Sun Tour distance.



Bob Kypriotis looks through one of his 1,000-mile wheels

A large crowd was on hand to watch Bob win the second intermediate sprint as the Sun Tour enters Yallourn.



Super Veteran Badge Awarded

Alan Hawkin, a former Commission staff car driver, long since retired, was presented with his Super Veteran Badge this month at the Yallourn Bowling Club.

The Super Veteran Badge is awarded to active bowlers who are eighty years old, so Alan is doing pretty well for himself!

Our photograph shows Keane Barry (retired from Yallourn Staff), R.V.B.A. Councillor, representing the Mid-Gippsland Bowling Association, congratulating Alan (on right) on his award.