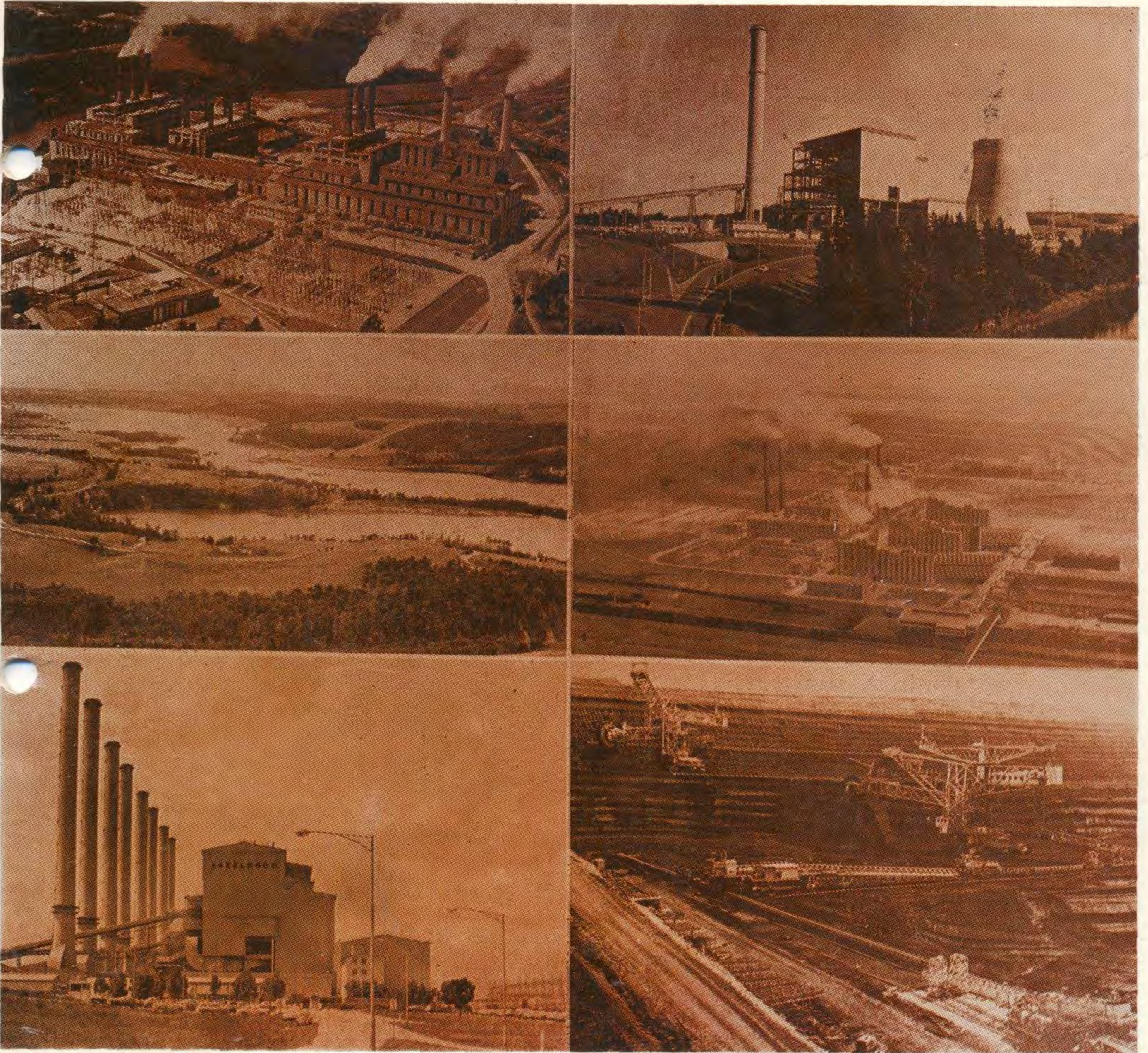


Shoreline

contact

THE STATE ELECTRICITY COMMISSION LATROBE VALLEY DEPARTMENT MAGAZINE

APRIL, 1972



NO SACKINGS IN THE VALLEY

There is still a feeling of concern in the Latrobe Valley that the Commission intends to reduce its work-

force by retrenching employees.

This is not the case.

It is true that the Morwell Briquet-

ting Factory workforce must be reduced by 180 men. The reasons for this reduction are, I believe, generally

known. However, for those of you who are not fully aware of these reasons I shall briefly reiterate them here.

The briquetting industry is currently losing in the region of 3½ million dollars a year. Cost reduction is essential if briquettes are to remain salable in competition with other fuels.

A reduction in manning would provide the necessary cost reduction thus, in our estimates, extending the public demand for briquettes by at least another ten years.

What perhaps is not so generally known is that the reduction of 180 men that I have referred to is intended to be carried out over a four-year period.

A four-year plan has been worked out by the Divisional Managers and myself so that there will be the minimum inconvenience to individual employees.

We have drawn upon the experience gained during the demanning of Yallourn Briquette Factory and Yallourn "A" and "B" Power Stations and the consequent retraining and relocation of employees.

I feel that it is worth quoting from a statement made by our Chairman, Mr. Bob White, on his recent visit to the Valley.

Mr. White said, "We are not in the business of sacking men. We are relocating them when progress changes the patterns of work."

Of course, any retraining and relocation scheme requires the co-operation of all concerned if it is to be successful. In this instance the individual concerned, his union and management must all pull together to ensure that the operation proceeds as smoothly and with as little inconvenience as possible.

If this happens, as I am sure it will, there will definitely be no sackings of Commission employees in the Latrobe Valley.

J. M. Schuly

Manager,
Latrobe Valley Department



GEORGE BATES



JACK ROBERTSON



ALLAN CROCKETT

MANAGEMENT CHANGES

Mr. George Bates, Manager, Transmission, is attending the Australian Administrative Staff College from March 10 to May 26.

In his absence, Mr. Jack Robertson is acting as Manager, Transmission, and Mr. Allan Crockett, in addition to his normal duties as Briquetting En-

gineer, is acting as Power Engineer.

Mr. George Bates will resume duties as Manager, Transmission, on his return from Staff College.



Fire-Fighting Equipment Demonstration

A demonstration of medium-density foam fire-fighting equipment was held recently at Morwell.

Object of the demonstration was to examine the effectiveness of the foam in smothering an oil fire in steampipe laggings.

Results were encouraging and a further evaluation will be carried out.

HAZELWOOD TOK - TOK

You couldn't get a much greater contrast than that between Hazelwood Power Station and a small island off the northern shore of New Guinea which has never known electricity.

Yet Peter Kuwi, who is now on a six-month study tour of the Commission's Latrobe Valley Power Stations under the Commonwealth Training Scheme, has made this transition.

Peter, who has worked for the Papua and New Guinea Electricity Commission for the past four years, was born on Ali Island which lies about seven miles north of the West Sepik District of New Guinea.

Money is unknown on the island and trading is done on a barter system. The islanders swap their fish and copra for various goods from the mainland.

The staple food is a kind of sago obtained from the sago palm. The sago flour is boiled, fried or stuffed into a section of bamboo and roasted. It is eaten at breakfast, lunch, tea, supper and, if you're feeling a little peckish, as a snack between meals.

Peter thinks bread and potatoes are pretty poor substitutes for it, though he thoroughly approves of Australian steaks and chops. Back on Ali Island if you want some meat with your sago you have to go hunt down a wallaby or wild pig. That might be one of the reasons why the islanders stick mainly to fish and vegetables.

Peter's family now live in Aitape, a small town east of Wewak, where Peter attended a secondary school run by the Administration.

Peter later went to high school at Medang and then to the Lae Technical College, where he took a three-year course in general mechanical engineering.

It can be extremely difficult in Papua - New Guinea to assess a student's mechanical aptitude. In Peter's case, before he went to technical college he had never even seen a screwdriver, let alone handled one!!

On completing his course and gaining his certificate, he joined the Papua and New Guinea Electricity Commission, where his training officer is Ted

Glass, formerly of Morwell Power Station.

Peter is stationed at Port Moresby in the planning section, assisting the mechanical and electrical engineers, and hopes, on his return, to attend a Middle Management Course.

Peter is unmarried at present and, so he says, is likely to remain that way for some time. In Port Moresby the going price for a wife is \$1,000. But

some New Guineans are gluttons for punishment. Peter recently went to a wedding in the Highlands—that of a local chief who was marrying wife number thirteen. As they say, there's no rest for the wicked!!

Peter says he has learned a lot during his stay here and is sure that the experience will stand him in good stead in the Papua and New Guinea Electricity Commission.



Under the watchful eye of Hazelwood Power Station's Unit Co-ordinator Noel McAuliffe, Peter Kuwi draws up a detailed maintenance schedule.



DREDGER... No. 12

Preliminary Work Well Under Way

The aerial photograph shows the No. 8 Dredger and a pair of tractor scrapers excavating the inclined ramp between No. 1 Level and No. 1A Level. On this ramp the new No. 130 Conveyor will be placed and the future pivot point for the face conveyors (No. 128 and No. 129 Conveyors) is situated on No. 1A Level below the position, as shown in the photograph, of No. 8 Dredger. The photograph

shows the panorama towards the south-west and the buildings shown in the middle of the photograph consist of the old, recently evacuated Latrobe Valley Community Hospital.

Further in the distance and slightly to the right a site that will be used for the construction of No. 12 Bucket Wheel Dredger is in the course of preparation near the Hernes Oak Sports Oval.

The Princes Highway and the Railway Line cross further in the distance. Slightly to the left of the middle of the scene, on the far side of the Highway, can be seen the Yallourn Open Cut High Level Storage Dam of about 70 million gallons of water, used for water spraying the coal levels within the Open Cut.

For Sale

LARGE BLOCK OF LAND, high position, Newborough. Cost Price. 83 Old Sale Road, North Newborough.

Engagement

Cronin, John (E.S.B. Showrooms, Moe), to Miss J. Hallyburton of Tanjil South.

Marriage

Weir, Robert (W/S Yallourn), to Miss Phyllis Nesbitt, Telephonist, Transmission. Holy Trinity Church, Moe, on January 15.

George Bates, Manager, Transmission, Latrobe Valley Department, has a brother, Harvey, who is Director of the Commonwealth Bureau of Narcotics, Canberra. Below he discusses a problem of increasing importance in Australia . . .

Drug Abuse

By Harvey Bates

Few people realise that drug abuse is not a recent phenomenon but a problem which has been acknowledged throughout the ages. For instance, morphine, discovered in 1805, was originally used as a cure for opium addiction; and then later, heroin, discovered in 1898, was reported as a cure for morphine addiction.

Drug abuse extends beyond the sensational regions of illicit traffic, of which one reads so much, to those areas associated with the everyday use of prescribed and/or socially accepted drugs like alcohol and tranquilisers.

The latter aspect is a medical and social problem of some dimension and significance. The other, a problem of growing concern and, because of the increased acceptance by our youth in the use of certain types of drugs such as L.S.D., marihuana, a problem to be tackled not only by law enforcement but also by doctors, parents, researchers and the community generally. As a result, action against drug abuse should be taken in four distinct areas:

- law enforcement
- education
- treatment and welfare, and
- the environment

When you consider the problem that exists in the United States today, we in Australia must accept that, if drug abuse continues to spread, we will be confronted with a problem of far-reaching social, economic and medical consequences, particularly when it is examined in relation to the younger age groups. In the city of New York 10,000 new heroin addicts are registered each year—the mean 'death age' of these addicts is 27 years. In that country countless millions of dollars are being spent, not only on law enforcement but on welfare, treatment and education.

Currently it is estimated that, at the best, they are holding their own but are making very little headway towards solving the problem.

There can no longer be any doubt as to whether a drug problem exists in Australia. Daily reports of arrests, drug seizures and, more recently, reports of young people being found dead or being rushed to hospital as a result of drug overdoses must surely dispel any doubts that may have existed.

In excess of 80% of the drugs reaching the illicit market in Australia

are manufactured or produced overseas. Once our isolation would have helped minimise the flow, but today with the modern types of transportation available and the general acceptance of overseas travel, this barrier no longer exists.

The trafficking of drugs into Australia and their subsequent distribution is now extremely well organised. It has passed through the era of a few ships' crew smuggling drugs at random



on an ad hoc basis, or the hippie carrying into the country a few ounces, for his own and his friends' use. Efficient business organisations have been developed to cope with the problems of manufacture, shipping, delivery on consignment and organised sales. Standard enforcement procedures have had limited success in detecting these organisations because of the sophisticated techniques being employed.

While supply and demand have had some bearing on this development, other factors such as fear, ignorance and corruption have played their part. However, one single factor more than any other can be seen at the root of the problem . . . greed. This factor is brought about because of the huge profits that are to be made from the illicit sale of the various types of drugs.

As a point of interest, the quantities of drugs seized by the Bureau of Narcotics by June 30 this year had exceeded those quantities seized for the total of the previous year.

An example of the sophisticated techniques to which I have referred include the use of skin-divers to recover drugs thrown overboard from vessels shortly after they had entered Sydney Harbour. Sonar Buoys to mark shipments thrown overboard for recovery after the vessel had cleared the area. Overseas factories constructing special compartments in the chassis and fuel tanks of motor vehicles; re-

A PROBLEM IN INDUSTRY

cruitment of diplomats to act as couriers. A factory constructing suitcases around specially moulded blocks of hashish. Organised groups of couriers operating with false passports and entering the country from less suspect areas; specially equipped laboratories with the best equipment available to illicitly manufacture L.S.D.; and countless other special devices and concealments which have been recently used to illegally import drugs into Australia.

Unfortunately, no accurate statistics are available to indicate just how many persons are abusing drugs in Australia. A recent survey at a N.S.W. University revealed the alarming fact that at least one person out of every five questioned had used marihuana at least twice.

Perhaps some measure of the problem can be gauged from the statistics of offenders. Last year just over 1,400 persons were arrested and prosecuted for more than 2,000 separate offences. This figure showed an increase of almost 100% over the past year and a 700% increase since 1965. In addition, there were in excess of 600 robberies from pharmacies, drug houses and hospitals for the sole purpose of obtaining drugs.

Using these statistics I would now like to make particular reference to what could be considered some of the most alarming aspects of the problem:

- 58% of the offenders were aged between 20 and 34 years;
- 39% of the offenders were aged between 14 and 20 years;
- just over 30% of all offenders had used or were currently using the so-called hard drugs.

One can only conjecture just how many more drug users go undetected. A 'guesstimate' perhaps as high as 9 out of every 10. It is certainly true to say that the greatest number of arrests of drug offenders have occurred in areas where there has been the greatest enforcement effort.

Yet a further point to ponder on . . . it is estimated that the Customs Department, despite the efficiency of both its Preventive Services and Narcotics Bureau, seize only 15% of the drugs being smuggled into the country.

The 18 to 34 age group represents the major portion of Australia's labour market today, and it is obvious from the statistics that some 80% of the

offenders last year came from this particular age group.

Few people have stopped to consider the problems that will plague industry should this trend continue.

Business and industry have no amnesty from the drug abuse problem which has affected all areas of Australian society and in view of the facts quoted, I would suggest that it is unrealistic for industry to assume that it does not already have its drug abusers or will not recruit drug abusers into its ranks.

It was recently reported in the 'Financial Review' that a survey conducted by the National Industrial Conference Board in New York, U.S.A., revealed that 53% of 222 companies consulted had found drug abuse to some degree amongst their employees.

Unfortunately, as a natural consequence, it can be expected that, where there are drug abusers, there are also suppliers, either the professional traffickers or the young user bringing drugs into the industrial setting and involving others. I am aware of at least two major companies in Sydney who have been affected in precisely this manner.

Just what effects can drug abuse have on industry? The following are extracts from journals received from the U.S.A. on this particular problem:

- Turnover losses due to dismissal of addicts has cost one company \$75,000;
- other industry losses include absenteeism and poor performance;
- employee thefts are rising as fast as the problem of abuse is growing;
- as a direct result, security costs have doubled or tripled over the past two years;

— some companies have been forced to set up special treatment centres within their own organisations;

— others use a medical screening programme to ensure that addicts are not employed;

— insurance companies are refusing to insure persons tested and found to be drug abusers;

— compensation claims have been rejected where accidents were caused by employees with a drug abuse history.

It can be seen from these extracts that the problem can range from increased thefts, greater security problems, loss of production, or ultimately to this situation recently reported in the U.S.A. 'One employee was found unconscious in one of our restrooms with a hypodermic syringe on the floor beside him.'

Let me assure you that many of the so-called soft drugs are high on the list of those which could cause these problems. Lysergic Acid Diethylamide or L.S.D. 25 is but one of these drugs. Its abuse in Australia over the past two years has increased by some 2,000%.

An expert conducting research into the effects of L.S.D. has classified it as the 'atomic bomb' of the mind. The use or abuse of this particular drug has caused irrational and often terrifying behaviour, sometimes resulting in suicide or senseless destruction. We do not need to turn to the U.S.A. and the Tate murders as an example, for recently in Victoria we had a similar situation.

The abuse of L.S.D. causes many and varied complications.

Imagine an L.S.D. user piloting a jumbo jet or carrying out some other delicate or complicated function, particularly where the lives of others are

dependent on basic care and the exercising of common sense.

Where does industry fit into the problem of drug abuse? I would suggest that, as it grows and it is growing at an alarming rate, every company should give some thought as to how it might tackle the problem.

First, what is the responsibility of industry? It can see drug abuse as a potential threat to security and profits, and dismiss any employee found involved. This may solve the problem temporarily, but it is probable that another abuser would eventually take this person's place.

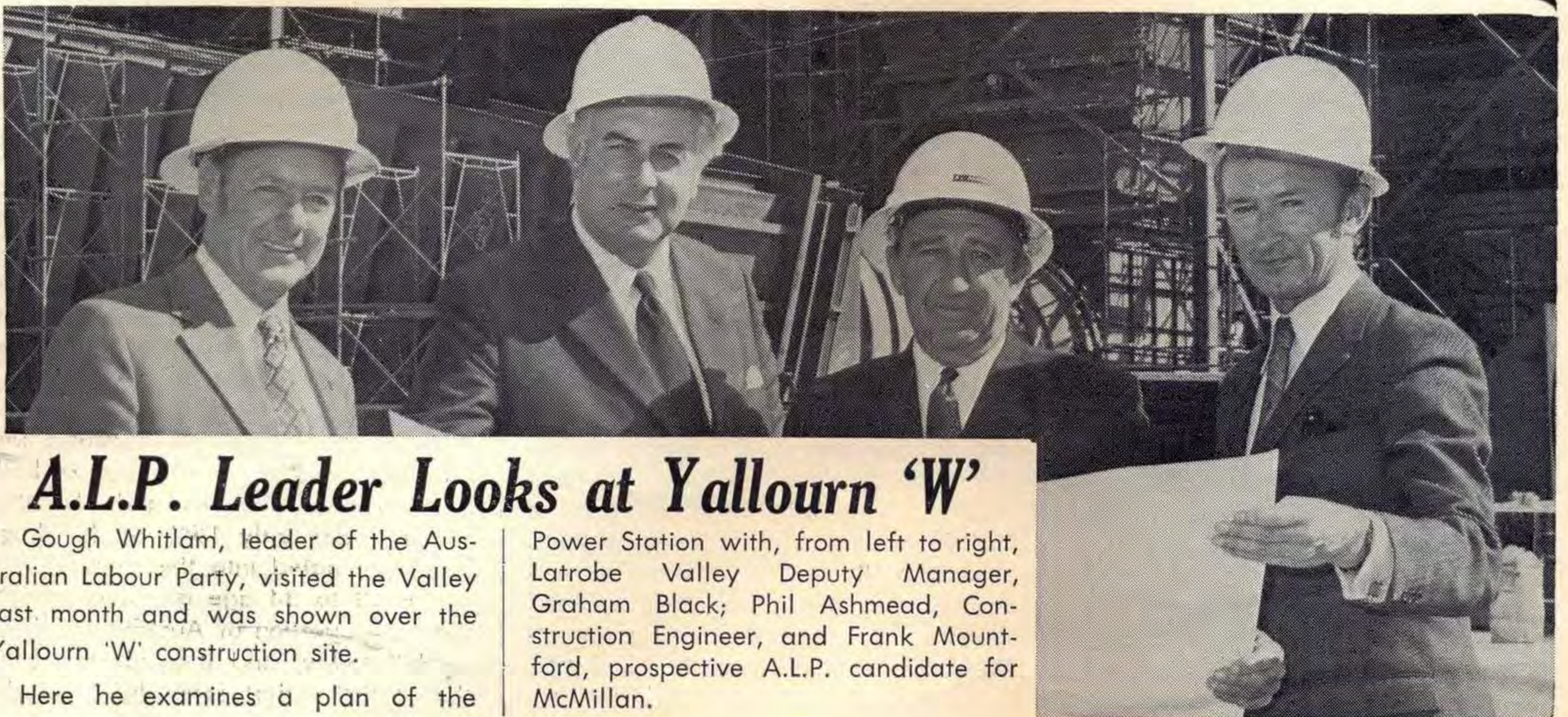
On the other hand, some companies might well be prepared to accept the problem as inevitable and show it as yet another 'loss' factor on their balance sheets.

The Commonwealth and State Governments recently embarked on a positive programme of education, one designed to better inform the children and parents of the problem of abuse. I am concerned that this programme will neither interest nor reach industry without some lead and assistance being given from this quarter.

Perhaps then the time is ripe for industry to begin educating security personnel, supervisors and employees by:

- arranging for qualified lecturers to address employee groups on this subject, and
- making available to them some of the excellent educational material now being produced.

There is no doubt in my mind that industry is in an excellent position to take positive steps to assist in containing a growing national problem by the development of an employee educational programme which will provide accurate factual information on the damages of drug abuse.



A.L.P. Leader Looks at Yallourn 'W'

Gough Whitlam, leader of the Australian Labour Party, visited the Valley last month and was shown over the Yallourn 'W' construction site.

Here he examines a plan of the

Power Station with, from left to right, Latrobe Valley Deputy Manager, Graham Black; Phil Ashmead, Construction Engineer, and Frank Mountford, prospective A.L.P. candidate for McMillan.



New Girls in Valley Typing Section

New faces this year in the Typing Section are shown in these two photographs.

At Yallourn (picture on right), Lyn

Melbourne, seated at the teleprinter, gives some hints on its operation to Lynda Young, on left, and Linda Bicknell.

Picture on the left shows Morwell Pool typist, Florence Paolemilio, at the typewriter with Shirley Clark.

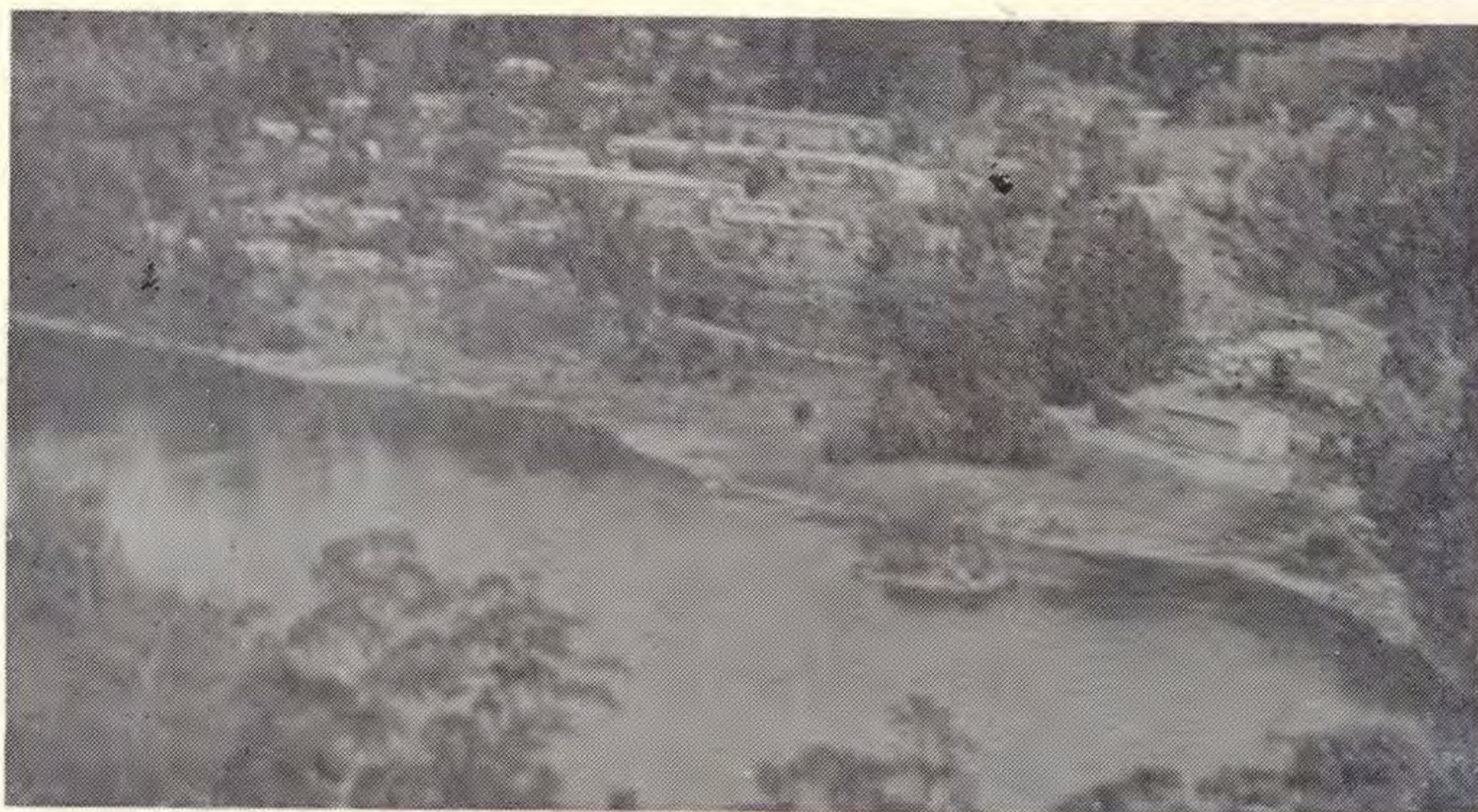
Spend your holidays at Bogong

The Kiewa area is a popular tourist resort and one of Australia's chief winter sports centres.

Two modern townships — Mount Beauty and Bogong — have been established by the Commission with electricity, water supply and sewerage. There are service stations in both townships, a general store and post office at Bogong and a shopping centre at Mount Beauty.

Mount Beauty is 20 miles from Bright and 52 miles from Wodonga. There is a bus service to Wodonga and Albury and a mail car service to Bright with bus connection in Wangaratta. Ten miles up the main road from Mount Beauty is the picturesque village of Bogong.

Nine miles further on is Falls Creek ski village, surrounded by some of the finest ski runs in Australia and equipped with chair, T-bar and Poma lifts. The area is also becoming a popular summer resort. Falls Creek has some 70 lodges, chalets and holiday flat units, with an approximate capacity of 1,500 beds, and is still growing.



It has electricity, water supply and sewerage. A Management Committee controls the area.

The Kiewa River is noted for its trout fishing. Sporting facilities include an 18-hole golf course and a swimming pool at Mount Beauty and the use of club tennis courts for a moderate fee. Boating and water skiing are permitted on Mount Beauty pondage, Lake Guy and Rocky Valley Reservoir in accordance with the regulations of the Victorian Motor Boating Act.

The Commission has holiday homes at Bogong fully equipped for six people, available for rental to all present and retired S.E.C. personnel.

Tariffs are \$25 per week or \$5 a day and bookings are preferably on a Saturday to Saturday basis.

The houses are equipped with everything you'd need except for bed linen, towels, etc. Blankets are supplied.

Further information and bookings are available from Ham Ballagh, Admin., Morwell, ext. 3539.

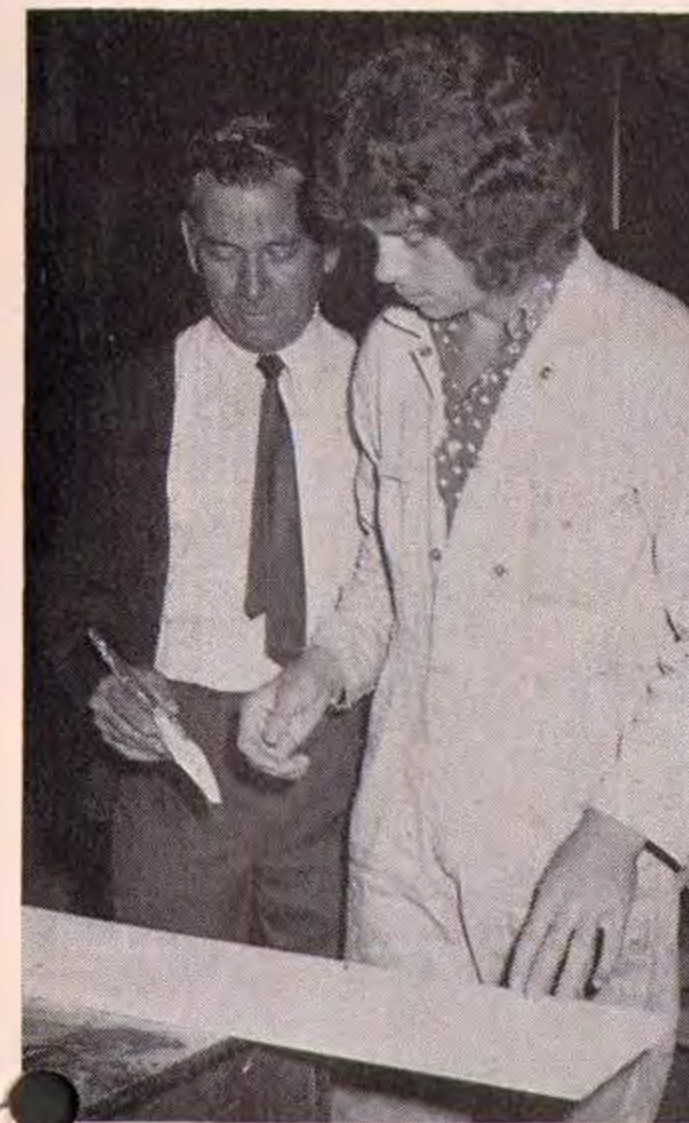
No vacancies exist for the September school holidays, December '72, January '73 or Easter '73. Five holiday homes are available for the periods April 29 to May 6 and May 20 to June 10. Further vacancies will be announced in future issues of Contact.



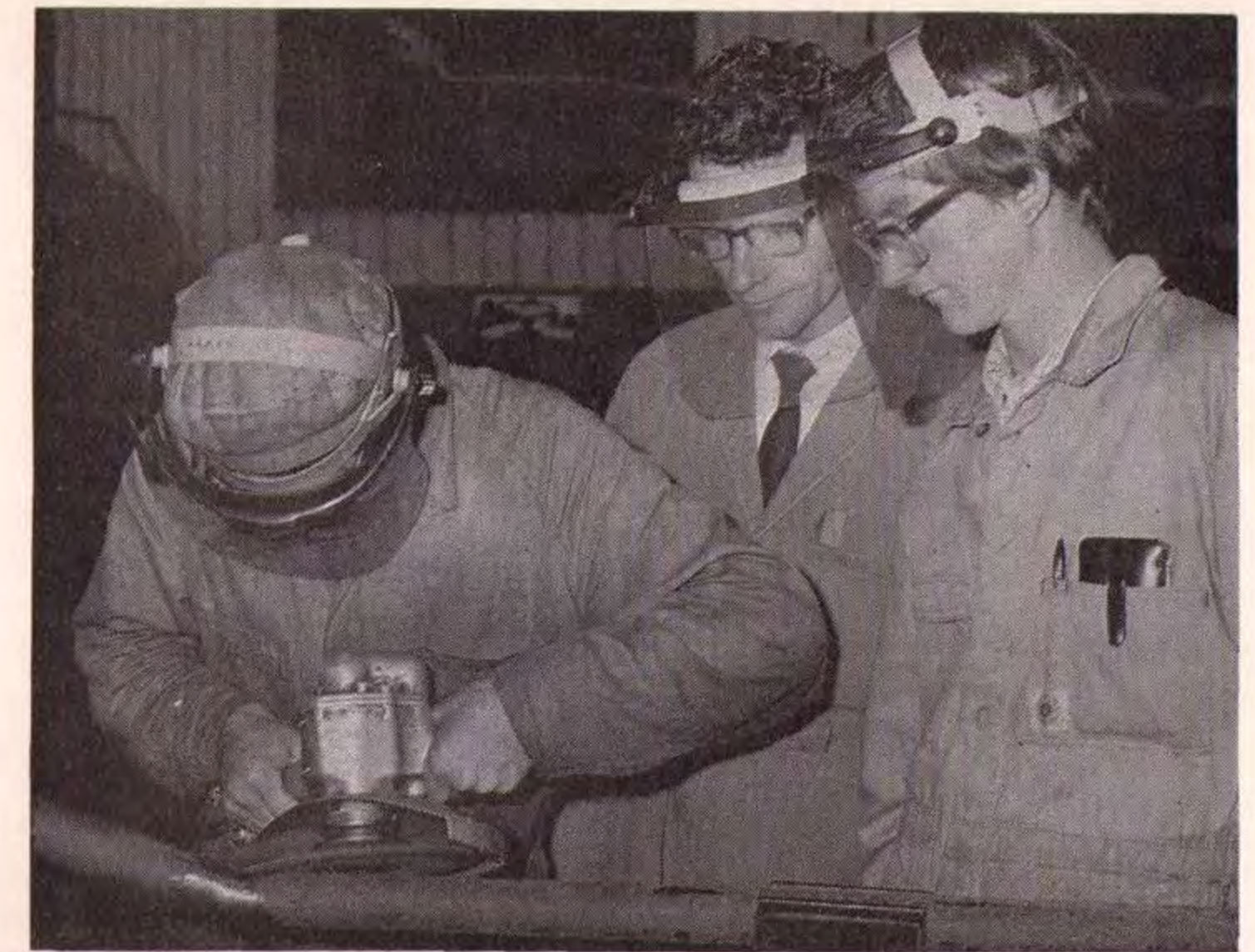
Instructor Clem Stephens with (left to right) apprentice Fitters and Turners, Tony Dyt, David Mintern, Walter Wilkinson, George Gatt, Ernest Henne.



Instructor A. Anderson gives apprentice carpenter Wayne Gallagher a helping hand.



Instructor Maury O'Niel shows apprentice painter John Creighton how it's done.



Instructor Len Hayes keeps an eye on apprentice Coppersmiths John Cardonia and Alan Markham.

APPRENTICE

INTAKE 1972



Mike Meany, Apprentice Training Overseer, keeps an eye on Orlando Biamconi, apprentice Electrical Mechanic.



Instructor W. Wilson with Instrument Maker apprentice Frank Butler.



Instructor Peter Allford goes over a blueprint with Fitter and Turner apprentice David Fyfe.



Instructor C. Bennett with apprentice Electrical Fitters (left to right) Andrew Logan, Warren Bassel, Francis Hyett.

SAFETY SECTION

WHEN WILL THEY EVER LEARN?

Safety Engineer-author Col Harvey hopes that this particular lesson will be absorbed before the time that this story appears.

The bubble dome of the mine office shook with violent sound. "Another rotten month," roared big Jake Clooney, Mine Manager for Terran Minerals, as he glumly surveyed his production figures. "We'll be importing ore from Earth to Mars instead of sending it, like we're supposed to, if these figures get worse. What gives?"

His production manager, Ivan Russki, shook his head. "We can't keep up production from the robot teams. The foremen have hardly got a sound robot left."

"Hog-wash!" snapped Clooney. "Our Damaging Impact rate has never been better. We've got a frequency rate below 10 and a flag from Earth two weeks ago to prove it. Pity there's not enough atmosphere up here to fly it in."

Ivan looked carefully at big Jake for a moment, "If you'd like to spend an hour with me in the mine, I could show you."

Ten minutes later, in space suits and helmets the men flitted by anti-grav scooter to the working area of the huge open-face mine.

It was an impressive scene—great steel robots moved ponderously to and from the work face, guiding huge collecting machines. These were both loader and conveyor combined and their continuously moving lines of ore snaked back several miles into the dusty haze of the loading bins. Other robots with nucleonic picks were progressively bringing down the work face with blasts which were soundless in the tenuously thin atmosphere.

"Have a close look at those robots, boss," said Ivan.

"Good grief," rumbled Jake, "There's one with only one arm and another with half his head missing. And half empty conveyor belts, too."

"It's not good, boss," said Ivan. "We've got foot traction units dented, hand units missing, legs and arms off, and some positronic brain types so radiation damaged that they need complete reprogramming. I'm beginning to think that the robots resent it, too."

"Nonsense," retorted Jake, but a good deal less confidently than when he was roaring back in the office. "Robots can't resent anything."

"Well, why is robot 77 standing behind you with his pick above your head?"

Big Jake was the boss because he was a man of action; one blink and he leapt forward just before the pick descended. He cursed and looked at the four foot deep crater in front of the very dusty Russki. "I thought those damned robots were programmed against harming human beings."

Ivan wisely hesitated before suggesting that his boss might not be human, and robot 77 spoke instead:

"True, master," it droned, "I could not deliberately harm a human being, but you happened to be standing just where I was about to dig next."

"Smart b..... machine," snorted Jake. "I'll clip your tinny ears with a laser if it happens again. See how your positronic brain box likes 2,000 degrees of heat."

As he trundled off, robot 77 replied in what were most definitely supercilious tones, "I am not programmed to like or dislike anything. Emotion is illogical and energy-consuming."

"If you're lucky it can be. Yes indeed it can be," murmured Ivan with a wistful look on his face.

Big Jake looked sharply at him, "You're off your happy pills again, Ivan. Take a double dose tonight."

"Now," he continued, "About these damaged robots. Obviously we're not getting rated output from them, but," and he jabbed a space-suited finger at Ivan, "how is it that our D.I. figure is so low with so much junked hardware about?"

"Well, boss," said Ivan, "for a Damaging Impact to register in the statistics the robot has to be non-productive for 24 hours. Now the foremen reckoned after that last speech of yours that those D.I. statistics were pretty important to you and they made up their minds that you would have a good record to report."

"So, units get borrowed from undamaged robots and put into damaged ones—so we get two units in production again within 24 hours, but neither working at full production.

There are many ways to solve the 24 hour problem."

"I'll bet," said Jake thoughtfully. "It looks like the real point of these statistics has been missed. The D.I.'s are only a way of measuring the size of the damage problem. What I want, and so does head office, is **no damage and full production**. If damage is costing us money and production, even though the D.I. figure appears to be good, then we haven't got what we want."

"Damage is still rife. The foremen need help to solve their damage problems. We also need to issue a clear statement about why we use D.I. statistics."

"Get your tape recorder and a bucket of pep pills. You and I are going to be busy."

He grinned, "If we have the first robot strike in history, odds are we'll finish up with a resident Program and Improved Robot Relations Group in the camp. Head Office on the doorstep. How does that affect you?"

Ivan chuckled. "Okay, if they're all females. But, boss, if your footwork had been slower, robot 77 would have been the first successful robot striker in history and you would have become the quickest reduction ever in overhead expense."

"Very funny," retorted Jake. "I'm the wit in this outfit. Let's get to work!"

Have You Ever Felt Like Saying . . .

Don't mess around with makeshift methods!

Learn to do things right!
Yes, I'll admit you might get by;
Remember, I said, "might".
But you don't have to take that chance,
So why be just plain dumb?
You didn't hurt yourself today,
But that day's bound to come.
You're very careful, playing golf,
About the club you choose,
So why get careless in the shop?
You know which tool to use!
Some dumb heads learn by accident;
That method can be rough.
The knowledge you gain that way
Might not come soon enough.
The time to learn is here and now—
Today! Right now! This minute!
There must be something in your head!
Why don't you USE what's in it!!



New Safety Engineer Appointed

From Monday, April 10, Geoff Hall from Transmission Division took over the position of Safety Engineer, Latrobe Valley Department, from Col Harvey, who has transferred to Power Division.

Geoff, Whose father, Bill Hall, was an engineer at Yallourn in the pioneering days, was formerly with Transmission Maintenance.

Here Geoff (on the right) looks over a safety magazine with Col Harvey.

This is an extract from a British Army First Aid Manual issued during the 1914-18 War to Private Andrew Watson of the Royal Medical Corps, British Expeditionary Force. It is submitted by his son, Tom Watson, First Aid Attendant, Workshops Area, Yallourn.

WHO AM I?

I am more powerful than the combined armies of the world;
I have destroyed more men than all the wars of all the nations;
I am more deadly than bullets, and have wrecked more homes than the mightiest of siege guns.
I spare no-one and find my victims among rich and poor alike;
The young and the old, the strong and the weak, widows and orphans know me.
I loom so largely that I cast my shadows over every field of labour;
From the turning of every grindstone to the moving of every truck and train.
I lurk in unseen places and do most of my work silently;
You are warned against me—but you heed me not.
I am relentless—I am everywhere!
In the home, on the street, in the factory;
At railway crossings or at sea.
I bring sickness, degradation and death;
And yet few seek to avoid me;
I destroy, crush and maim;
I give nothing but take all . . .

WHO AM I?

I AM CARELESSNESS



SEAT BELTS—ASK GEORGE!

George Vella—the well-known voice of the telephone exchange at Yallourn—had a terrifying experience one Sunday morning coming home alone in his car from Moondarra Dam.

He ran into a pile of gravel, his car skidded and struck an embankment where a front tyre blew. This caused the car to roll over twice and land on its roof against another embankment, leaving George hanging from his seat belt. He undid the belt and crawled out through the rear

window. Injuries? One microscopic scratch on his face and one on his leg.

As George said, "Thank God for seat belts. Please tell other motorists to make sure they and their passengers wear them at all times."

After looking at the photo of George's car—what's **your** excuse?

Still on motor vehicles—what about the junk often seen sliding about on the ledge behind the rear seat? In a sudden stop, some of this could become a flying missile and crack your skull.

RETURN TO THE DARK AGES

by Arthur Brogan

Transmission Division Co-ordination Engineer

Gippsland, from Pakenham to Orbost, from Omeo to Cowes, would virtually be without any power for domestic, commercial and industrial activities if Latrobe Valley Power Stations closed down as a result of a power system failure or industrial action.

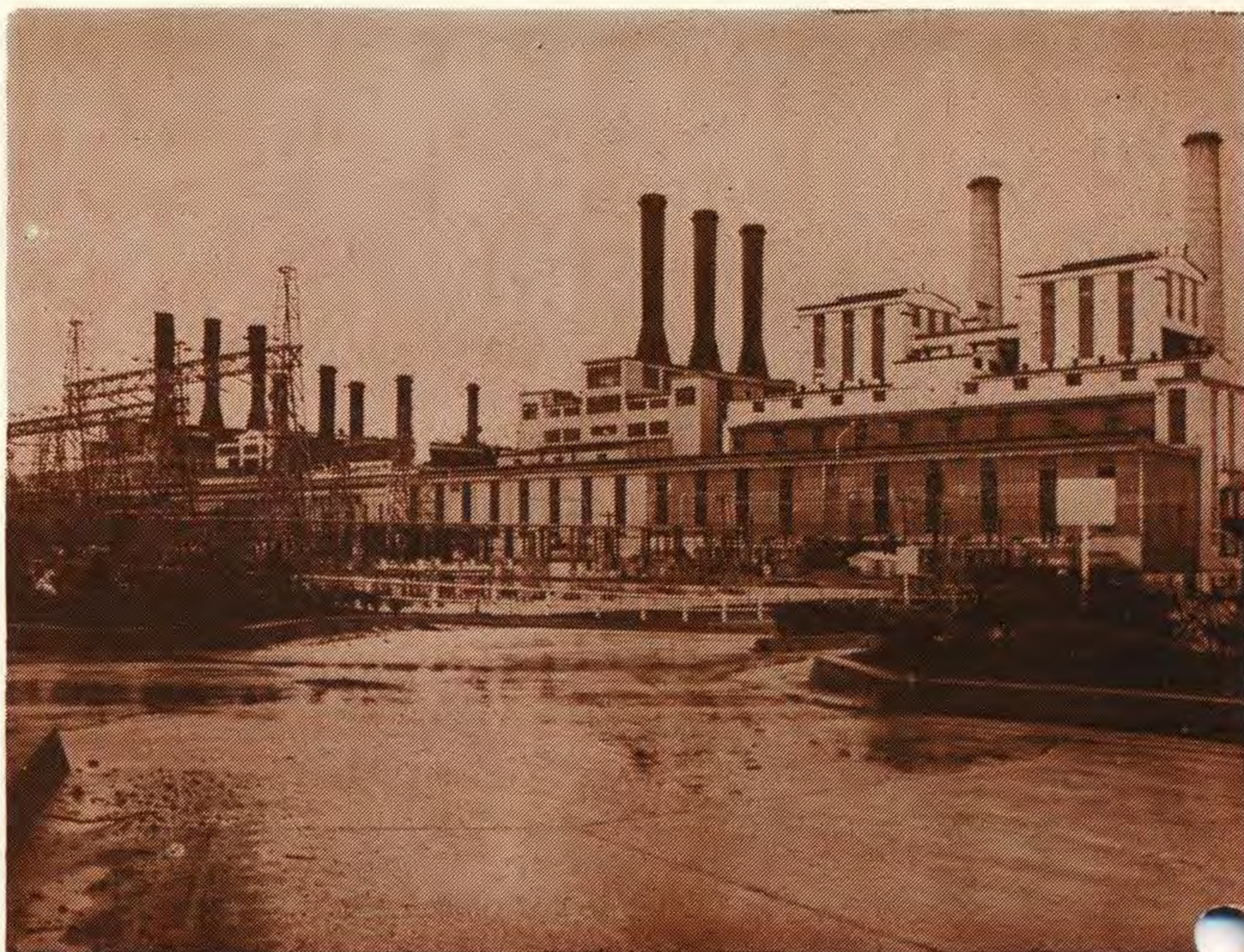
Power system failure would probably be of short-term duration, possibly only a few hours, but any lengthy shutdown would result in chaos throughout Gippsland.

On the domestic front, supply black-outs would be widespread and practically no power would be available for cooking, water heating, refrigeration or, in fact, for any purpose except perhaps one light.

The only way to supply private homes would be by providing some areas with power for a fixed period, on a rotational basis, to provide enough power for cooking, then blacking them out while some other district took its turn.

The dairy farming community and milk processing industry would be in an impossible situation. Without electricity cows would have to be milked by hand and most of the milk dumped, as plant would not be able to process the milk. Fresh milk for Melbourne and most Gippsland areas would stop.

The lack of electricity to operate



petrol pumps would cause a major disruption to transport systems throughout the area.

The fishing industry would be unable to process their catch, resulting in loss of employment.

Other industries and commercial business would be severely restricted or would have to close, causing widespread unemployment and inconvenience.

Essential services such as sewage treatment, water supply and the operation of hospitals, etc., could be seriously affected and could cause an outbreak of infectious disease, if the supply interruption were prolonged.

The overall effect would be loss of income and great inconvenience to the public. Perhaps most important of all, the community might look for alternative means of domestic and industrial power, seriously affecting our load growth and eventually our livelihood in the power industry.

Why is Gippsland so much worse affected than other parts of the State when they too largely rely on the Latrobe Valley Stations for power?

The reason is that as the major source of power in this State, all our transmission systems are designed to transmit high voltage power from Latrobe Valley "base load" power stations to the major load centres.

Major power transmission systems can be compared to a large water supply system. The Latrobe Valley Power Stations are in effect the reservoirs of power supplying electricity at high pressure to enable it to be delivered to distant locations.

Water storages are usually located at high altitudes so that the water flows downhill under the force of

gravity. To reverse this process would require the installation of pumps to provide sufficient pressure to return the water uphill along the pipeline.

The Latrobe Valley to Melbourne transmission lines can be likened to a water main with the pressure lower at the Melbourne end. To get power to flow from Melbourne to the Latrobe Valley it would be necessary to raise the electricity pressure at Melbourne to a higher level than at this end.

It is possible to provide some pressure increase, but because the lines, transformers and other equipment are designed for power flow from the Latrobe Valley to Melbourne, power flow in the opposite direction would be very limited.

If our Latrobe Valley Stations were to be shut down, power supply would thus be limited and difficult to transmit to Gippsland because power would have to be supplied from some remote source, such as the Snowy Mountains, with a consequent substantial voltage drop. Supply voltages would be lower than normal and this would make the operation of electrical equipment and appliances inefficient: electric toasters and stoves would take longer to heat up, electric jugs longer to boil, etc.

Once our power stations were shut down it would be very difficult for them to be restarted because of the problem of limited power supply and low-voltage conditions. Nearly all the power that would be transmitted here from Melbourne would be needed for re-starting purposes, leaving almost none for distribution to consumers.

It is to be hoped that we never see the day when all our power stations in this area are completely closed down.



ARTHUR BROGAN

Outward Bound

Phillip Pollutro of Electrical Workshops, Yallourn, recently attended an Outward Bound course. Here are his impressions of the course.

I arrived at the Outward Bound camp site at Harrietville on December 29, 1971, to attend the V.9 Outward Bound course.

We were welcomed into the camp by the director, Mr. John Steel. We then were split into four groups of ten and introduced to our individual instructors, who then proceeded to tell us the reasons for attending the course, followed by a briefing on the activities that would be occupying our time for the following month. Camping gear was also issued to us.

The first week at the camp was tough because we were being trained to attain a certain degree of physical fitness so as to withstand the more severe activities that were to follow. It was quite an experience because I had the opportunity to meet and get to know the persons I would have to participate so closely with and with whom I would have to depend on for safety, whilst under difficult circumstances that we were sure to come across later in the course.

At camp our daily activities included our rising at 5.30 a.m., a number of physical exercises, a half mile run followed by a swim in the Ovens River which was situated around a hundred yards from camp, after which we were to attend breakfast. At 9 o'clock our daily exercises began, some of these were circuit training, first aid, bush safety, cross country running, map and compass reading, lectures on rock climbing and canoeing.

Out of twenty-six days, sixteen were spent out of camp. The first was a quiet bush walk for the day to the old gold mines and then back to camp. Our second outing was a mock bush search and rescue. A few days later we were to go for an eight day excursion through the mountains. The first night out of camp was spent on Mt. Feathertop. From Mt. Feathertop we made our way to Mt. Hotham, from there to Mt. Loch. We spent the night in Derrick Hut because of bad weather. The next day we made our way to Mt. Niggerheads, then to Tawonga Huts where we camped for the night. Our final day was spent travelling through Pretty Valley and on to Rovers Lodge. All this approximately covered 30 miles.

From Rovers Lodge we picked up our supplies for an extra four days. Two of these days were spent on solo. It was a new experience to be out in the bush alone without anyone to rely upon. The other two days were spent canoeing and rock climbing. Our canoeing took place down the Mitta Mitta River. Even though I spent more times in the water than in the canoe I thought it was a very enjoyable experience. The last day before returning to camp was spent climbing the face of the Pretty Valley mountains.

All throughout this excursion each student was given a task of being a patrol leader and navigator. The patrol leader's job was virtually to keep the patrol together and to take on the responsibilities. I feel that the responsibilities of the patrol leader was an experience in leadership and I received the ultimate benefit from it.

Two days after returning to camp we went on a twenty-four hour orienteering test. The idea of this was to pick up as many check points as possible as a group of five. This was a new experience because we all had turns at being a leader and navigator throughout the night. Our group gained fourth position out of ten.

All these outings have been to prepare us for our final five day scheme, which was, without a doubt, the hardest challenge throughout the course.

As our final scheme drew closer we were to put into practice all we had learnt; we also had to plan our own route, stops and campsites. No matter which route was selected each one was found to be extremely rugged. The route which the five of us had selected started from Harrietville and made our way to Mt. Bogong. This distance was approximately 60 miles through thick rugged bush and mountains. The weather was high in the 80's and under these conditions different persons reacted. It was only a lesson on human behaviour we had to cope with as a team.

The last day at camp was taken up with inter-patrol competitions in such fields as:

Cross-country running, volleyball, tug-of-war, orienteering tests, a ten foot pole race, a beamtest, and also a pulse test.

The beam was a pole placed seven feet above the ground; the idea was



to get our patrol over it in the shortest possible time.

The pulse test was done by stepping up and down on a stool for five minutes, then our pulse was taken. We found that when we first attended the course our pulse was in the seventies and now at the end of the course we had cut down the pulse rate by half.

We were placed 5th in the orienteering test, 3rd in the volleyball and 3rd in the beam, 2nd in the ten foot pole race and also won the tug-of-war.

Our final night at camp was taken up by presentations of Blue Peter Badges. After that a concert was held and everyone participated. The instructors put on an act, which turned out really good. After that every patrol had to put on an act. Our patrol sang a little number, which was well liked.

It was a very enjoyable evening to the closure of such a wonderful camp.

The benefits I feel I have gained have been of great help; it has strengthened my character tremendously, both physically and mentally, it also has helped me to gain more self-confidence.

This is a very well designed course; it is meant to extend a fellow to his extreme limits, to attain his ultimate.

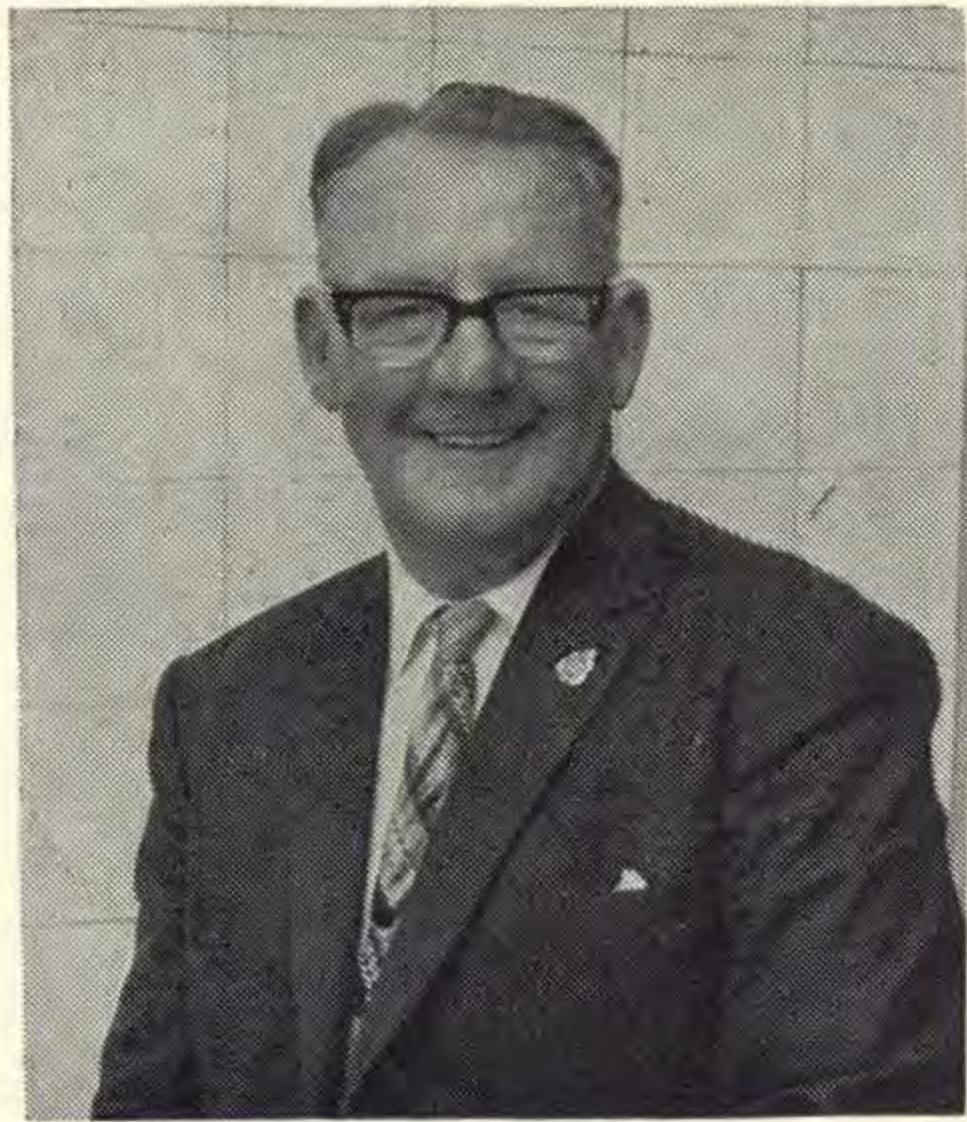
I am sure that any person to attend a later course will benefit tremendously from it as I have. In closing, I am very grateful to have been selected and to be given the privilege and honour of attending this V.9 Outward Bound Course.



Harry Baber, a Supervisor with Electrical Maintenance at Yallourn Open Cut, retired on February 25 after 43 years' service.

Harry, who started at the open cut in January, 1929, well recalls the days of horse-drawn equipment. He joined the staff in 1947 and became a Supervisor in 1963.

The Deputy Manager, Mr. Graham Black, on behalf of the very large gathering of Harry's friends, presented him with a pair of binoculars.



Bill Daniel, a Foreman with Yallourn Power Station, retired on Monday, March 27, after 42 years' service.

Billy the Bull as he was known, joined the Commission in 1929 and spent all his working life at Yallourn Power Station except for service with the A.I.F. during the war.

Bill was a stalwart of the Yallourn Town Band, took a keen interest in civic affairs and is a fervent member of the Salvation Army.

Many retired Yallourn Power Station personnel turned up for Bill's farewell which was very well attended.

The Deputy Manager, Latrobe Valley Department, Graham Black, on behalf of Bill's many mates, presented him with a wrist watch.

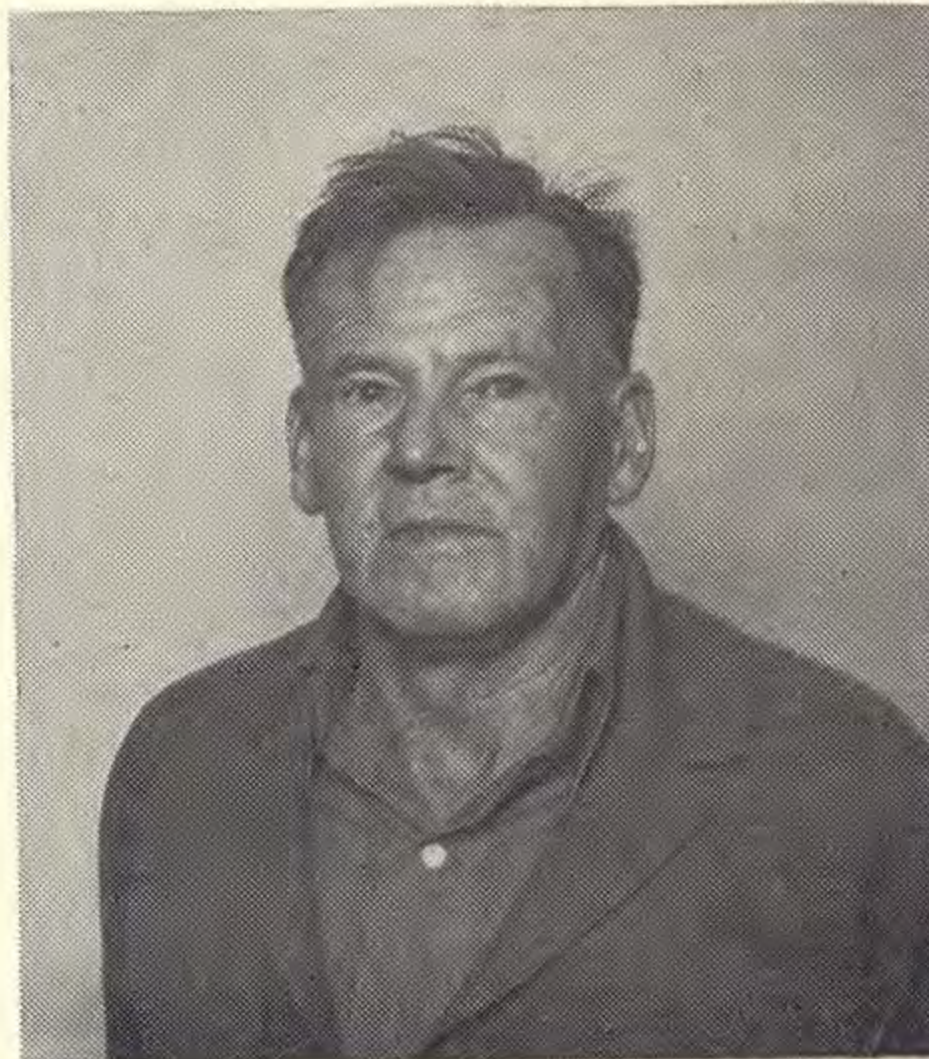


Frank Wilson, a Rigger at Central Workshops, Yallourn, retired on Friday, March 17, after 21 years' service.

Frank took a keen interest in the fire service and in first aid activities. He served in the Merchant Navy during the last war and all five ships he was on were sunk from under him.

A large gathering of Frank's mates gathered to farewell him, and Bruce Reynolds, Yallourn Workshop Superintendent, on their behalf, presented Frank with a wrist watch, cufflinks, a wallet for personal papers and a cultured pearl brooch for Mrs. Wilson.

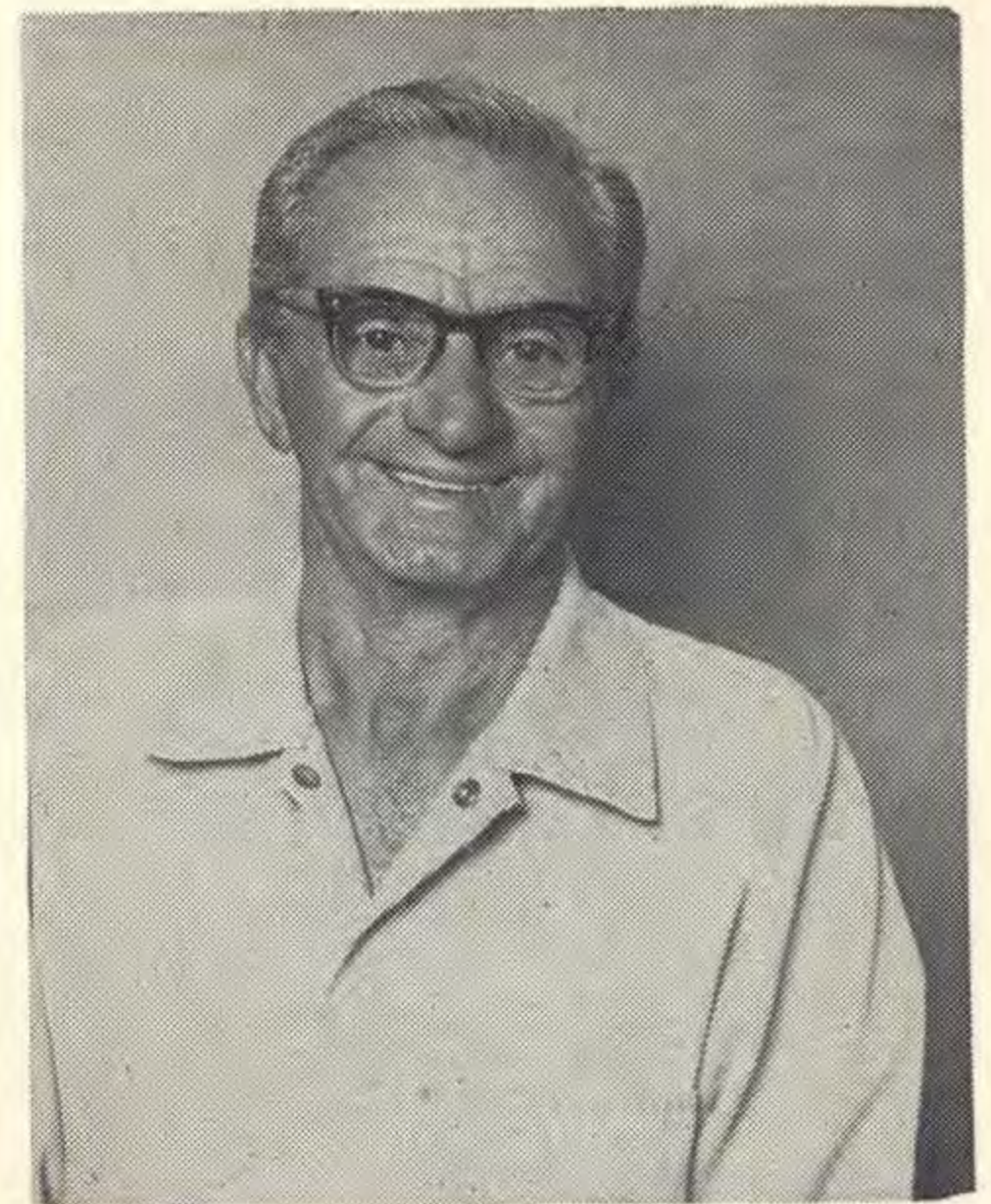
RETIREMENTS



Claud Bridle, a Ditch Bunker Loader with Coal Production, Yallourn, retired on Friday, March 17, after 26 years' service with the Commission.

Claud began his service in 1945 as a labourer and spent most of his time at Yallourn Open Cut. He transferred to Yallourn Power Station in 1970.

His many friends collected a bundle of notes for Claud to spend as he wished.



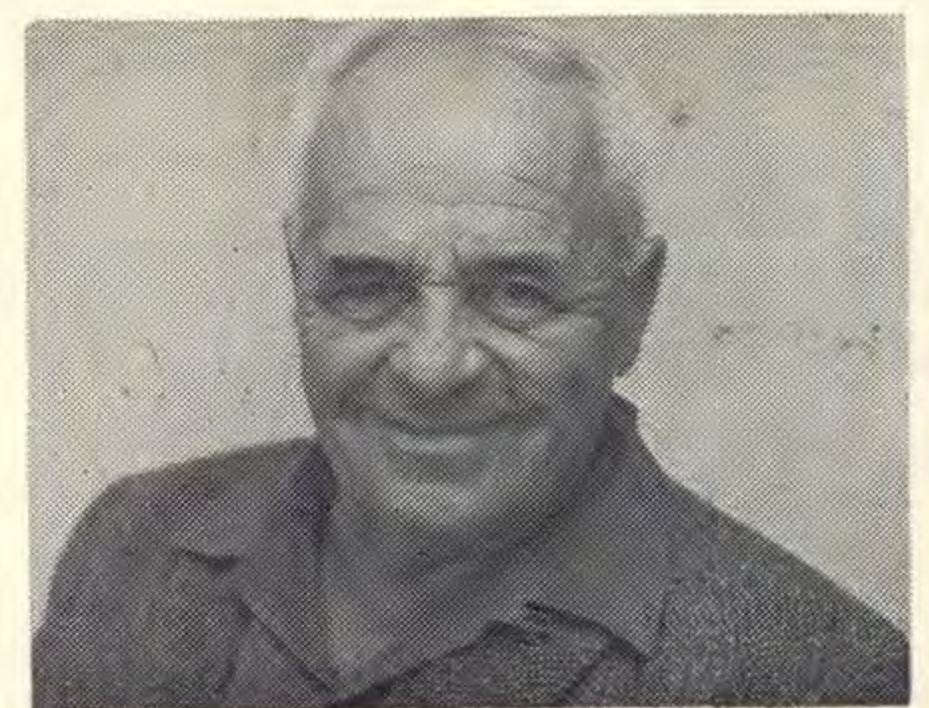
Len Anderson, a Turbine Driver at Yallourn Power Station, retired on Thursday, March 30, after 37 years' service.

Len tells an interesting story of how he came to join the Commission. He had a job driving a steamroller at Berwick in 1935 when his uncle, who was staff driver for Sir John Monash, dropped a letter for him into Berwick Post Office telling Len that they were taking on men at Yallourn.

The letter had no stamp and Len was asked to pay excess postage—in those days fourpence—in order to get it. He was in two minds whether to pay it or not, but finally decided to hand over his pennies, read the letter, went to Yallourn and was hired.

As Len says, it was the best fourpence he'd ever spent.

Although he's only taken it up in the last couple of years, Len is a keen bowler and he was presented with a bowls bag and cash by P.S.S., Arthur Ewen.



Jim Peterson, a Greaser at Yallourn Power Station, retired on Friday, March 24, after 15 years' service with the Commission.

Well-liked by his many mates at the Power Station, Jim was presented with money to buy some gear of his own choice for his favourite hobby—fishing.

Architectural Students Look Over Recreational Centre Site

Three final-year students of Melbourne University's Faculty of Architecture last month visited the 26-acre site in Crinigan Road, Morwell, as a preliminary to drawing up plans for the proposed Latrobe Valley Association of S.E.C. Social Club's Recreation Centre.

An artist's impression of the Centre will be published in Contact when the preliminary plans are completed.



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\$60 Suggestion Award

On Friday, January 21, Jack Collier, Technical Service Officer with the Electrical Plant Section at Yallourn Power Station, received an award of \$60 for a slip-ring brush tensioning device for use on the generators in 'E' Station.

Originally, devices were fitted with a brass spindle which was subject to considerable wear and the suggestion was to replace the brass spindle with

a nylon spindle. This has considerably reduced wear and hence the cost of maintenance.

Jack Collier has, prior to his award, submitted two successful suggestions.

In the absence of the Power Station Superintendent and the Electrical Plant Engineer, who were on leave, the Assistant Electrical Plant Engineer, Tom Skerry, presented the cheque.

SUGGESTION AWARDS, 1972

	Power		Coal		Services		Transmission		Commercial		Totals	
	No.	\$	No.	\$	No.	\$	No.	\$	No.	\$	No.	\$
January	6	165	—	—	3	40	—	—	—	—	9	205
February	22	620	—	—	4	175	2	30	—	—	28	825
TOTALS	28	785	—	—	7	215	2	30	—	—	37	1030
Approx. Average Awards		\$28		—		\$31		\$15		—		\$28

SPORT

PARADE



PISTOL CLUB SHOOT

The Latrobe Valley Pistol Club held an air pistol shoot at Yallourn North Youth Club Hall on the night of Wednesday, March 8.

Ray Love won the scratch event with 349 out of a possible 400 with John

Quinlivan a close second with 348. John took out the handicap event, however, with Alf Vella second.

The L.V. Pistol Club has 25 members at present and would welcome new members. The joining fee is \$8 and

11 FLAGS IN 22 YEARS

Yallourn brought its tally of flags to 11 in 22 years of competition when it won the Central Gippsland Cricket Association's "A" Grade pennant last month.

Hernes Oak took out the "C" Grade pennant.

TOP BAT OF VALLEY MID-WEEK CRICKET

Ricky Rode, who works in Morwell Power Station and plays cricket for Morwell Briquette, topped the Latrobe Valley Mid-week Cricket League's batting averages and aggregate runs.

Ricky scored 526 runs at an average of 58.4.

the annual subscription is \$12 single and \$16.50 for a husband and wife double.

The Club has its own pistols, both .22's and air pistols, for use by anyone who would like to attend a Club Shoot and try their luck. The man to contact is John Quinlivan, Survey Section, Morwell.

The photograph shows, from left to right: Marilyn and John Quinlivan, Tilly and Tony Andrews, Veronica and Ray Love.



WATER SKI-ING (PRONOUNCED SHE-ING) TRAINING

International water ski stars were in the Valley recently, training for their appearance at Moomba.

President of the Latrobe Valley

Water Ski Club, Don Suckling, coached the skiers.

Reece Jones, New Zealand Slalom Champion, and Pierre Plouffe, French-

Canadian Overall Champion (holding one of Don Suckling's training aides), appear to have thrived on the coaching schedule.