

Rooney



CONTACT

AUGUST, 1974



contact



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Cover

An unusual angle on a Yallourn "W" cooling tower, focal point for many Valley photographers looking for something out of the ordinary.

The Yallourn "W" Power Station, a \$350 million project, has attracted wide attention throughout Australia and from international visitors.

The power station is the first in Australia to use natural draught cooling towers.

A common sight in Europe, the striking cooling towers are also planned for use at Loy Yang.

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Changes at top bring new faces to Valley



THE new head of the SEC's Latrobe Valley undertaking, Mr. Bill De Campo, and his wife, Sylvia, have made an early start on the task of making the acquaintance of the Latrobe Valley community.

A round of engagements has been arranged for Mr. and Mrs. De Campo to meet community leaders, and both have taken advantage of two SEC-LV functions to meet as many SEC employees and their wives as possible.

The first was the farewell to Bill and Dulcie Schulz — it was attended by a crowd of more than 200 — and the second was the annual Latrobe Valley Department Ball.

Mr. De Campo, as Assistant General Manager (Operations), has responsibility for all Latrobe Valley operations and two Melbourne departments following earlier appointments as Assistant Electricity Sales Manager (1965-68), Assistant Manager, Market Development (1968-69), Manager, Market Development (1969-71) and AGM, Administration (1971-74).

An electrical engineer by training, Mr. De Campo is a fellow of the Institution of Engineers of Australia and a fellow of the Australian Institute of Management.

The De Campos have two children, David (22) and Jenny (18).

For Mrs. De Campo, the Valley move is something of an upheaval.

Born in Footscray — her husband was born 3 miles away in Ascot Vale — she now resides in the next-door suburb of Maidstone, within a few minutes of most of her relatives, including twin sister Phyllis.

An obviously warm person, Mrs. De Campo has a strong sense of family. It comes through strongly as discussion turns to her husband and two children.

Although the Valley is new to her, Mrs. De Campo has a passing acquaintance with the area through her husband's work . . . and her "rain, hail or shine" support of Footscray Football Club.

Latrobe Valley (League) products she knows all about are footballers Quinlan, Morrison, Dell, Jennings, Rasmussen, Salmon, Cook and Geischen.

The Bulldogs are her major sporting interest, but she also has a soft spot for cricket, a game she played with considerable enjoyment for about seven years.

In fact, it was in a men's versus women's team cricket match that she — as skipper of one team — first met opposing skipper Bill De Campo.

Mrs. Madge McDonald (nee Brereton), of Moe, was a member of the women's team which, Mrs. De Campo recalls, won the match — "with a little help from the men".

(Continued Page 7)

BILL SCHULZ LEAVES L.V.

Former Latrobe Valley Department Manager Bill Schulz welcomes the new head of Latrobe Valley activity, AGM (Operations) Mr. Bill De Campo.

Our photograph was taken at Kernot Hall during an SEC farewell to Bill Schulz.

Responding to tributes paid to himself and Dulcie Schulz, Bill said that he regarded his new post as a real challenge.

He said that he would always cherish warm memories of his 20 years in the Latrobe Valley.



End of an era...

The past month has been a dizzy round of farewells for former Latrobe Valley Department Manager Bill Schulz, now assistant to AGM (Development) Jack Johnson in Melbourne, and Dulcie Schulz.

Functions attended by close friends, community figures, people who in one way or another have helped the Schulz family and Department colleagues have taken care of any spare time the couple may have had.

Morwell Chamber of Commerce dinner brought together the most significant gathering of civic and community leaders seen in the Valley in recent years.

Speakers paid tribute to Bill Schulz for an outstanding contribution to Valley affairs, and they made it clear that his behind-the-scenes community activities had not gone unnoticed.

More than 130 colleagues and their

wives attending an SEC LV function in Kernot Hall heard Manager Power Bill Graham give an apt description of Bill Schulz as—

“... a man of strong character and dynamic personality — honest, forthright, efficient and competent.

“A man who respects his staff and is in turn respected by them.

“A man of sincerity and integrity, not afraid to offer an opinion when approached — and above all, with a sense of humor.

“A man highly respected in the community, and actively participating in community affairs”.

The Schulz contribution to the SEC and the community in general would not have been possible without the encouragement and support of Dulcie Schulz, whom he described as “a woman of great understanding, generosity and concern for others, and a most remarkable hostess”.



Community leaders were out in force to farewell Bill and Dulcie Schulz last month. Pictured at one function, from left, are Morwell Shire President Jack Vinall, Mayor of Moe, Joe Tabuteau, former Morwell Shire councillor Les Hare and, at right, Morwell Shire Secretary Reg Dunton.

“I make my departure from the Latrobe Valley with mixed feelings, and a great deal of regret at the breaking of so many close associations built up in the past 20 years.

“When I came here in 1954, “E” Station at Yallourn was still under construction, and there was nothing above ground — and no Open Cut — in what is now the Morwell Works area.

“It is with considerable pride and sense of achievement that I now look back on those decades which brought development of the Open Cut and construction of Morwell Power Station, Briquetting Works and administrative and service facilities, Hazelwood Power Station and, at Yallourn, “W” Station.

“Of course, successful completion of all these projects, and the spectacular increase in the Valley’s contribution to the State’s power output, would not have been possible without dedicated teamwork.

“In that regard, I am fortunate to have worked with an exceptional team — in my view, unsurpassed — in my 20 years here, and I am grateful for this opportunity to express my deep appreciation to all who have shared in an exciting era of development.

“I feel confident that the same loyalty and service will be extended to my successor, Bill De Campo.

“Throughout my stay in the Valley, I have paid special attention to the Commission’s image and involvement in community life, a field in which my wife, Dulcie, has made a major contribution, to the Commission’s great advantage.

“Much of what she has done has gone unacknowledged because of her natural desire to avoid the limelight.

“Dulcie has always given me great personal support, and her work within the community has always been on a practical note — as her many Commission employee friends who have been blood donors would be quick to recognise.

“In my new appointment, I will be working in close association with many former Valley colleagues whose high calibre has been recognised by the Commission, but at the same time, I look forward to maintaining many friendships and close working relationships developed since 1954.”

— BILL SCHULZ

valley visitors

THEY CAME TO LOOK US OVER

Right: The General Manager of the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand, Mr. Kasame, pictured during a visit to the Latrobe Valley late last month.

Centre: Three educationists from Africa, spending a day in the Valley, photographed with Acting Assistant Education and Training Officer John Guy (see story at right).

Below left: Industrial Mobilisation course members take time out for a look over the SEC Works Area.

Below right: Warragul Technical School students get part of the Valley story at the Visitors' Centre at Yallourn.



JULY got away to a relatively quiet "tourist" start for the Commission, but the pace quickened to a rush by the end of the month.

A party of DCA trainees undertaking an electrical course were among early visitors, and a group of secondary teachers from the Latrobe Valley — led by Jenny Schulz — also took the opportunity to inspect the Works Area.

Mechanical Engineering students from the Ballarat School of Mines and three Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works engineers associated with the South Eastern Purification Project at Carrum were taken on a conducted tour of the Morwell and Yallourn open cuts and associated power stations.

The State Co-ordinator of the Civil Defence Department, Colonel Fred Wood, spent most of a three-day stay in Central Gippsland with the SEC, and senior personnel from a number of large Australian companies took part in an Industrial Mobilisation course at the Education and Training Centre.

★ ★ ★ ★

THE Commission's Training Centre and 1st Year Apprentice Training Workshops at Yallourn were of special interest last month to three senior international educationists spending 3½ months in Australia.

In Australia under a Commonwealth assistance scheme, senior education officer Mr. S. Havea, of Tonga, and school principals Mr. R. A. Folami, of Nigeria, and Mr. A. J. Sandi, of Sierra Leone, spent a busy time in the Valley.

Accompanied by the Regional Director of Education for Gippsland, Mr. Len Falk, they were shown through the Training Centre, Apprentice Training Workshop, Central Workshop, Open Cut and Yallourn "W" Power Station.



Yallourn resettlement

COMMISSION chairman Bob White has restated the SEC's view that there is no alternative to the removal of Yallourn township.

Although the Commission fully understood the concern of people involved in trying to save Yallourn, the SEC must press ahead with its plans to win the coal beneath the township, Mr. White said.

"The reasons have been accepted by State Cabinet, and the Premier, Mr. Hamer, only recently reaffirmed them by announcing that there was no purpose in holding another enquiry", he added.

Mr. White said that the Commission would continue to talk with residents to gain a clearer understanding of individual requirements and problems.

The objective would be to satisfactorily sort out the situation of each person.

"My major regret and concern is that opposition to the inevitable removal of the township causes uncertainty and distress in the minds of those affected — many of them elderly", Mr. White said.

MOE City Council is currently considering a plan to develop Monash Estate at Moe as a housing area with 281 Housing Commission allotments.

The estate, owned by the HC, has been designed as a "Neighbourhood Unit", with generous allowance for playing areas.

Moe Council has been pressing the HC to release the land.

If the plan is accepted, boundaries would also be fixed for a site for a village for the aged.

Special design flats for elderly Yallourn people are also on the planning boards, at the request of the SEC, which has provided land adjacent to Newark Avenue.

In addition, the SEC is carrying out a survey of land it owns in Trent Street, Newborough, and Moe City Council has been asked to expedite approval of a plan of subdivision.

The subdivision is to provide land for Yallourn residents.

CONCESSION RENTS STAY

The Commission, following its decision last month not to adjust concessional rentals of widows and retired personnel, at this stage, has given an assurance that it will continue to look sympathetically at the situation when future reviews are made.

A questionnaire was issued earlier this year to widows and retired personnel paying concessional rents, so that their situation could be re-appraised.

Replies show that almost all tenants in the category would be liable to pay increased rents because of rises in social services incomes and/or other sources of income, if the SEC's concessional rents were brought closer to equivalent rents charged by the Housing Commission.

With the likelihood of pensions and other income continuing to rise, it will be necessary for the Commission to review concessional rentals at intervals to ensure that they do not become completely unrealistic.

CYCLISTS... BEWARE!

Cyclists riding through the Works Area during heavy fog conditions should take special precautions, Safety Engineer Geoff Hall warns.

The onus is on the cyclist to ensure that he is visible to other road-users.

This, he said, means that dark clothing is "out".

Cycles should also have effective lights.

FOR SALE

Astor Stereo, cabinet model, record storage spame, maple finish.

Two Single Beds and Mattresses.

Hoover Floor Polisher-Scrubber.

Imperial Large Type Typewriter.

TELEPHONE: MORWELL 34 2244, EXT. 3457.

"Sporting" fire auxiliary

YALLOURN'S Auxiliary Fire Service, which is currently in the process of building up its strength to play an increasingly important role in the town's fire protection, has an outstanding fire demonstration record.

Demonstrations of fire-fighting skills and sporting prowess are major annual functions for thousands of volunteer firemen throughout Victoria.

No exception to the rule, Yallourn Auxiliary has been a consistent competitor, building up a fine record of success.

As with many Country Fire Authority

Brigades, demonstration activity has been looked on as an adjunct to fitness campaigns, with footballers and other sportsmen playing a leading role.

Demonstrations and general training activity fulfills a dual role of improving fitness and increasing technical fire-fighting skills in a team which administrators hope to build from a current level of 18 to about 30.

People interested in joining the Auxiliary should contact Fire Officer Jerry Ingram, who provide full information on conditions and responsibilities involved.

WANTED TO RENT

Two or three bedroomed house for a period of three (3) months—October to December — Phone LES WRIGHT, Extension 3207.

Anyone interested in forming a car pool from Traralgon to Yallourn? — If you are, phone Col Feeley on 2235.

SEC role in development of schools' camp



Distribution of the July issue of CONTACT was delayed for almost three weeks for reasons over which we have no control. Consequently, the August issue has been delayed until the end of the month, and the September issue is scheduled for distribution during mid-September.



The Minister for Youth, Sport and Recreation, Mr. Brian Dixon (right) pictured with SEC personnel Bob Peters (left) and Ian McDonald during a visit to Woorabinda last month.

WOORABINDA, the name of the Warragul Inspectorate School Camp on the northern shore of Lake Narracan—or Yallourn Storage Dam if you prefer—has nothing to do with the State Electricity Commission.

But through its employees, the SEC has had a lot to do with Woorabinda, a name which appropriately enough means "camp by a waterhole".

As parents, members of school committees and simply as interested members of the Latrobe Valley community, SEC personnel have played an important role in developing an outstanding educational asset.

Among those who have been prominent since the idea of a school camp began to be talked about are Woorabinda Board members Bob Peters, Don Coupe, Keith Cook, Dave McNicol, Ian McDonald, Ken McDonald and Ralph Leditschke.

And where interest and participation are concerned, they are just the tip of the SEC personnel involvement iceberg.

Woorabinda, which offers children throughout the Inspectorate—the area covered extends from Drouin to Morwell—a valuable experience in living together, is in constant use throughout the school year.

It gives children an opportunity to:—

- enjoy and learn from new experiences,
- develop a greater awareness of the interdependence of people,
- develop a greater understanding of one another, and,
- live with and meet people from other areas.

Several of the primary school children who used Woorabinda Camp to capacity last month take advantage of a fine day to try out the Camp's canoes. A wide range of new experiences, educational and recreational, is available to the thousands of children throughout Warragul Inspectorate.



Teachers look on the camp as an extension of the classroom, but one in which a much closer relationship can be enjoyed with pupils.

Developed throughout 1972 around the old Yallourn hospital buildings, Woorabinda is on land leased from the SEC, and a large proportion of furnishings was bought from the Commission's salvage section.

The camp was officially opened on February 21, 1973, by the then Mini-

ster for Education, Mr. Thompson.

The opening was preceded by a flurry of feverish activity in which Commission faces were again prominent as part of a team of dedicated parents, teachers and businessmen.

The rush may have died down, but with the camp settling into a period of steady development, there is still a need for keen and continuing support . . . which is where those SEC men came in.

AN elementary first aid session at a Commission pre-supervisory training course two years ago and the personal initiative of SEC Transport Foreman Col Grix saved the life of a young police constable in Melbourne 2½ months ago.

And a suggestion made by Col after the incident has resulted in a decision to provide Victorian Police with white coats when on point duty — a move which could prevent repetition of an unfortunate incident.

In an official letter of thanks, a Police Force spokesman has informed Col that the provision of white coats was receiving "priority attention".

Quick thinking by Col undoubtedly saved the life of Constable Kenneth McNeill, who was struck by a tram while on point duty at the corner of Swanston and Little Collins Streets on May 24.

Col, who — with Stan Hillbrick, of Transport Workshop — was standing at the corner when the accident occurred, has had no formal training.

However, the instinct to help spurred him into action.

It was raining heavily at the time, Col recalls, with the sky, roadway and the policemen's raincoat all the one color — black.

As a tram passed, Col — who did not see the accident — noticed a policeman's white hat on the ground, and as he glanced along the street, saw a motionless shape which he at first took to be a sheet of malthoid.

"It certainly did not look like a person," he said.

It took a split second to realise what had happened, and as Col ran to the injured constable, Stan ran beyond him to halt oncoming Traffic accelerating following a lights change.

SAFETY CONSCIOUS SEC MAN SAVES LIFE OF CONSTABLE



The policeman, suffering from head injuries, was not breathing.

"I didn't know what to do, until I recalled a lecture at an SEC training course. I prised his mouth open and cleared his throat by releasing the tongue."

"He began to breathe immediately," Col said.

Several constables at the scene were reluctant to touch their colleague until an ambulance arrived.

This led Col to suggest to the Victoria Police that all officers should be trained in elementary first aid and resuscitation, and that police should wear light-colored capes.

Col says that the safety conscious attitude developed in him by the Commission was a key factor in his reaction to the accident.

"On the day Stan and I arrived in Melbourne for a Driver Appreciation course, I commented that policemen wearing dark coats on point duty were being exposed to unnecessary danger," he said.

● Col is no stranger to emergency action.

While holidaying at Merimbula about five years ago, he was involved in the rescue of a man and his daughter who went overboard from the old fishing wharf in the southern N.S.W. resort town.

Valley 'newcomers'

(Continued from Page 2)

A self-effacing person whose quiet charm has already made its impression here, Mrs. De Campo will play an important role in supporting her husband as head of the region's major industrial force.

Her preferred social contacts are likely to be on a person-to-person level, with the golf course figuring largely in her plans.

However, she emphasises that her interest in golf is "strictly social".

The De Campo settling-in period will be interrupted next month when the couple travel overseas to America, where Mr. De Campo will attend the World Energy Conference in Detroit.

They'll be overseas for about one month, then it's back to the work-desk to get on with the challenge of a new and demanding area of Commission responsibility.

Water cascades over a self-made "weir wall" above the Open Cut.



Open cut survives fire, flood

Yallourn Open Cut is a landmark of international repute, but one with a chequered history.

Pictures on this page show scenes from the two major setbacks suffered in the steady development of open cut mining at Yallourn.

The first was in 1934, when exceptional flooding of the Latrobe River on November 30 to December 1 shattered a levee bank, engulfing the entire cut — machinery included.

Water filled the cut to a depth of 143 feet, suspending operations for several months while the extensive task of pumping out the water and repairing dredgers and other machinery was undertaken.

During the flooding, 260,000 cubic yards of overburden was washed into the Open Cut, and from the No. 2 level alone, 120,000 yards of silt was removed in the clean-up.

An estimated 4,663 million gallons of water filled the cut.

A flood Committee set up to report on the flooding proposed among other things, higher levees around the open Cut.

Coal output charts show that in the year after the flood, output at Yallourn fell by almost one million tons to 1,737,607. In the same year, the re-activated Yallourn North Cut contributed 252,924 tons.

The open cut has been hit by two serious fires, each caused by sparks or embers being blown in from outside the cut area.

First, on January 17, 1926, burned from midday until 5 p.m. on the following day, when weary fire fighters finally claimed victory.

However, it was the second major outbreak February 14, 1944 — which really set the cut alight.

(Continued Page 10)



In the picture above, Ben (at the tender age of 22) is pictured at the right taking a break from stacking pipes used in pumping operations during 1934-35.

LEADING Hand Fitter (Morwell) Ben Padfield is one who has a very clear recollection of the 1934 Yallourn Open Cut Floods.

He should have . . . he was in the cut at the time of the flooding.

As Ben recalls it, while workmen were busily constructing levee banks at the western end of the cut, the floodwaters "went around and broke through into the cut at the eastern end during the early hours of the morning".

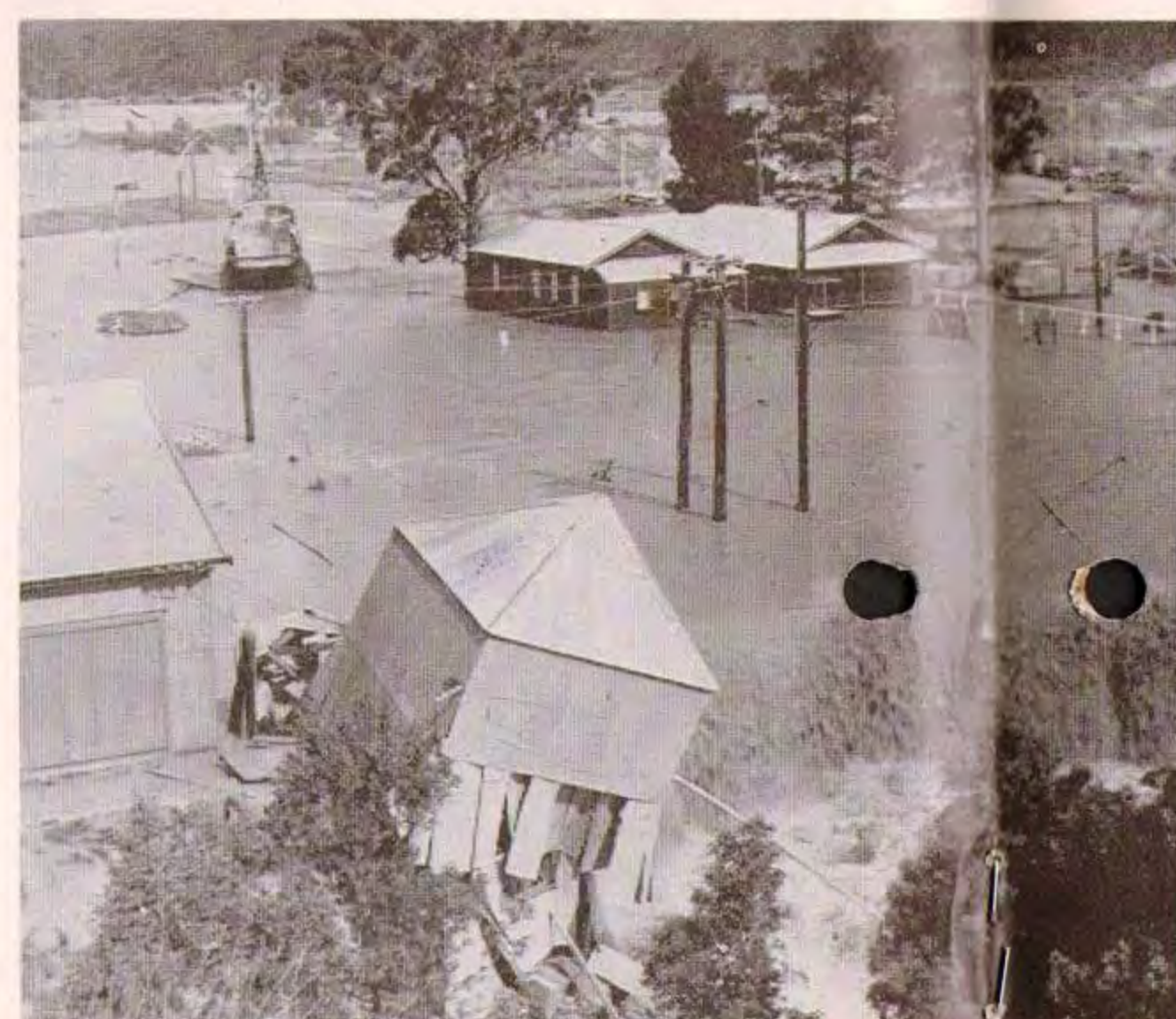
Dave Spittall (now retired) and the late Albert "Skinny" Pratt were two of the first men to know of the flood breakthrough.

"As they knocked off and left the Open Cut in their horse and dray, Dave and Skinny told the men building levees at the top that the opposite (eastern) end of the Cut was like Niagara Falls", Ben said.

Ben was later involved in the desperate attempts to salvage motors and other equipment from dredgers and machinery trapped by the rising water.



In the pictures above and above right, an SEC photographer has captured graphic pictures of the extent of flooding. A worker (left) looks out over the new lake, while the picture at right needs no explanation. The flooding itself disrupted cut operation, but equally significant was the time taken to rehabilitate the area.



Left: The Yallourn Open Cut presented a beautiful, even awe-inspiring sight when fire swept through it 30 years ago. Almost the entire Cut was alight when this shot was taken.

Below: By daylight, the Open Cut looked less spectacular, but billowing clouds of smoke left no doubt of the seriousness of the situation. Dredgers escaped relatively undamaged.



SELF-STYLED 'wandering poet' William Peli, who worked for the Commission for a short time in the 1930's, plans to pay a return visit to the Valley.

We're not too sure whether that is good news.

Disaster struck on his two previous visits — there was a fire in the Yallourn Open Cut (1926), and the Open Cut was flooded (1934).

It was in 1933 that Peli, according to a letter he sent to the LV Department last month, was employed in the re-

Wandering poet to pay us a call

opened Yallourn North brown coal mine, which kept up a supply to Melbourne when the Open Cut was flooded.

Since then, poems written by Peli have gained considerable coverage in the media.

He plans to re-visit the Valley and other places which evoke memories of a long and varied life. A book could be the result.

It is 41 years since William Peli worked at Yallourn North, obviously in a temporary capacity, and it is hardly likely that any contact reader will remember him, but then again . . .

L.V. Department Swingalong



Above: SEC Chairman-elect Charles Trethowan and Mrs. Trethowan chat to Ted and Lyn Thompson, George Bates and June Hutchinson during one of the infrequent dancing breaks. Right: AGM (Operations) Bill De Campo (second from right) and Mrs. De Campo (front, centre), take time out to meet some of the guests at the ball.

Below: Photographer Terry Smith caught some smiling faces when he snapped this group at the height of the ball.



For those who gave it a thought, the Annual Latrobe Valley Department Ball had about it an air of nostalgia . . it was the last of its kind before re-organisation of the Department.

Deputy General Manager Charles Trethowan and the five AGM's Bill De Campo (Operations), Bob Chapman (Marketing and Distributions), Peter Duncan (Personnel), Jack Johnson (Development) and Peter Moir (Administration) attended.

The music of the Starliters and Pheonix kept dancers on the move.

A general shortage of beer brought some worried creases to the brow of organiser Rod Doig, but former M and Heyfield FC coach Morrie Young had sufficient interest — and courage — to come to his assistance.

YALLOURN CLAY GAINS NEW LEASE ON LIFE

POTTERY is a fairly recent interest for Morwell Briquetting and Power Installation man Jim Thor . . . but recent is hardly the word to apply to the Yallourn Open Cut clay with which he is currently experimenting.

In fact, geologist Bob Gaulten estimates that the material, an exceptionally pure Kaolinitic Clay, is at least 35 million years old — about five million years older than the coal seam which overlays it.

Purity of the clay is what attracts Jim, manager (in his spare time) of the Traralgon-based firm of Gippsland Pottery Pty. Ltd.

A very plastic and easily worked medium, the Yallourn clay produces a clean product with a smooth texture highly desirable for some types of pottery.

In fact, the clay is a little too workable and must be mixed with other clays for best results.

Jim, who owns a mine at Heyfield, has been experimenting with various mixes of Yallourn clay and the Yallourn product, which has a high silica content.

He's closely involved in the industry, but Jim doesn't regard himself as a pottery expert.

He leaves that to former Sale Technical School teacher Max Fox and a staff of three, although he spends quite a bit of time at the pottery wheel.

Fourteen-year-old son Ashley shows a distinct flair for pottery-making, a development which pleases Jim and his wife Eileen, supervisor of the day-to-day running of the business.

When Jim says it is highly reward-

Some samples of Jim Thor's work, made on an experimental basis from various mixes of Yallourn and Heyfield clay.



The moment of truth . . . pottery removed from the firm's Traralgon Kiln is studied with anxious eye by Jim and Eileen Thor.



ing to create an attractive product from raw materials, he could be referring to more than a well executed piece of pottery.

Perhaps he has in mind the growth of a healthy business, now moving into top gear after getting away to a promising start.

FIRE !

(Continued from Pages 8-9)

A serious bushfire, originating on a farm three miles along the Latrobe River, swept across country past Yallourn and Morwell to the Jeeralang Hills, resulting in the deaths of 18 people and the destruction of 90 houses.

Miraculously, Yallourn township was saved without loss of life, but burning embers reached the open cut, setting

alight almost all coal surfaces, levels and coal faces.

It was not until four days later that the final fire was extinguished.

One unnamed officer quoted in the State Electricity Commission Magazine of April, 1944, gave a picturesque description of the scene.

"The view from the hill at the Old Brown Coal Mine was beautiful and awe-inspiring. At times the cut looked like fairyland, the coal-faces being festooned with myriad lights, while ever

and anon the loose burning coal would fall away in a coruscating cascade. Between whiles, billowing smoke would envelop the scene, and as it cleared the dredgers would emerge like great prehistoric monsters, immediately to disappear again as they became enveloped in smoke".

The romance dissipated rapidly as the work of fighting the fire and repairing the considerable damage to equipment which occurred, got under way.

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Contact this week focusses attention in a special article on the Gippsland Electricity Branch.  
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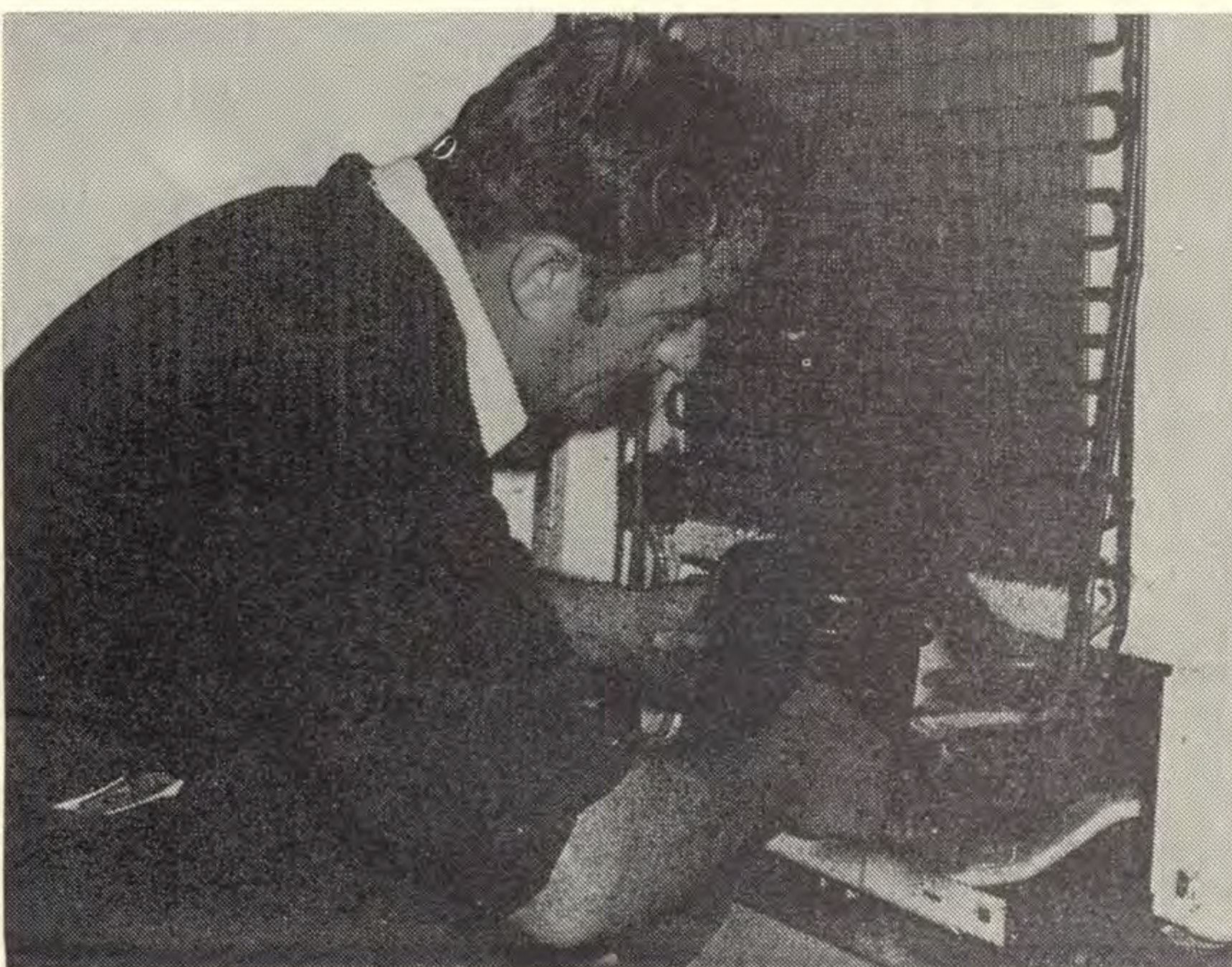
GIPPS. ELECTRICITY RESPONSIBLE



Above: Carl Bullmeyer, Herb Trevenen, Ian McGown and Jack Huxtable study a map showing the route of a proposed new transmission line.

Right: SEC Linesmen on the job, do their bit to ensure that the power keeps flowing through the Gippsland Electricity Supply Branch transmission lines.

Below: Refrigeration mechanic Ray Hill makes running repairs in the ESB appliance repair section at Traralgon.



THE mountain ranges of East Gippsland . . . the coastal shores of South Gippsland . . . the industrial complex of Central Gippsland . . . and the primary producing pastures of West Gippsland.

Apart from being part of Gippsland, all areas have something else in common; the 13,500 kilometres of overhead transmission line and the energy needs of the 84,000 SEC customers and their families are directly administered by a single authority — the Commission's Gippsland Electricity Supply Branch.

In area one of the largest of Victoria's 10 ESB's, Gippsland covers country from the eastern boundary of Pakenham to the Vic.-NSW border, and includes the coastal area from Phillip Island to Mallacoota.

Excluded from the area of the Gippsland ESB authority is the Latrobe Valley Works Area.

While the primary aim of the branch is to meet all customer requirements — which includes provision and maintenance of electricity supply, merchandising and servicing of appliances sold by the Commission and an on-the-spot advisory service — it is also a significant decentralising influence.

The branch payroll is 529, including an actual headquarters staff at Traralgon of 138.

Direct customer contact is provided mainly through personnel in the 15 district offices spread throughout Gippsland, and including Latrobe Valley offices at Traralgon, Morwell and Moe, with a sub-office operating at Yallourn under the jurisdiction of Morwell office.

While the branch office administers Gippsland affairs generally, it is the district offices which specifically meet the needs of local people.

Accent in district office operation is on close personal contact, with the resources and special skills of branch personnel available at all times to help solve complex problems.

The sheer size of the Gippsland Branch and the diversity of its terrain and development, places special emphasis on the role of district officers, who have sought and gained an intimate local working knowledge.

Attention to customer needs has given the Gippsland Branch an enviable reputation.

Apart from the 84,000 domestic consumers, the Branch serves the industries vital to the well being of the entire Gippsland region.

Customers range from sawmills throughout Gippsland to APM; from the individual dairyman to the co-operative dairying company, and from the densely settled dairying areas to the colorful isolated towns of Combiobar, Wulgulmerang and Dargo.

Gippsland, with its 13,500 kilometres of power line and 12,500 substations, represents an investment of \$46 million for the Commission — which gains annual electricity sales revenue of about \$15 million, plus about \$1 million in appliance sales each year.

That's an important element in the overall SEC picture and one of which the Gippsland ESB can justly be proud.

SUPPLY BRANCH WIDE TERRITORY

KEY SUPPLY MEN IN GIPPSLAND

THE Gippsland Electricity Supply Branch and the Commission's Latrobe Valley Works Area Structure are separate entities . . . but both are part of the same team, always aware of the need for teamwork and co-operation.

Gippsland Branch Manager Herb Trevenen hopes that there will be an increasing understanding by the Commission's 6,900 employees in the Latrobe Valley of the part ESB personnel play, not only in Gippsland, but throughout Victoria.

He expressed it simply and directly —

"Electricity is the life blood of Victoria, servicing its industry and its homes . . . but the use of electricity is also the lifeblood of every Commission employee the Valley".

The more SEC personnel and their families use electricity appliances, and show by their example that they whole-heartedly back the commodity they produce, the more the Commission — and its employees — will prosper, Herb is quick to point out.

Which is one reason why he is keen to see more Valley people seek the expert and friendly advice of Field Sales Officer Andy Ringin.

Herb's views on spreading the word on electricity are shared by Distribution Engineer Carl Bullmayer, Commercial Manager Jack Huxtable and Electricity Sales Engineer Ian McGown.



Herb Trevenen



Arthur Coppelstone



Gerald Knight



Chas. Effenberg

Right: Gippsland Electricity Supply Branch field officer Andy Ringin, a key figure in Branch promotional activities and customer contact work.

Below: Senior Clerk Jim Woodland and Mrs. Doris Eastburn, pictured in the showroom at the Traralgon District office.



WHEN disaster strikes in Gippsland—which has its share of fire, flood and high wind—a complex network of emergency services swings into action.

One element of the emergency force is the Commission's "restoration of supply" team, which is usually among the first on the scene.

The Orbost floods and fires which hit the eastern fringe of Gippsland in recent years were two disasters from which the SEC emerged with flying colors.

However, most of the work of Commission teams is in the less dramatic but vital area of maintaining day-to-day supply.

Fortunately, supply breakdowns seldom affect a large number of districts at the one time, enabling an effective pooling of resources on most serious occasions.

When a local crisis does occur, organising of the immediate remedy is in the hands of the District Office.

In the Latrobe Valley, this means:—

Morwell: Manager, Arthur Coppelstone. Assistant Manager, Ken Edwards.

Traralgon: Manager, Chas Effenberg. Assistant Manager, Kevin Seery.

Moe: Manager, Gerald Knight. Associate Manager, Col Flood.

retirements

PASQUALE IACOBUCCI

Known throughout Coal Operations as a very quiet unassuming worker, Pasquale Iacobucci celebrated his retirement on July 13 after 14 years service. Col. Ferguson, A/Coal Production Superintendent at Yallourn, presented Pasquale with a gold watch, while Lyle Horton, Coal foreman, and Terry Sears L/H Platelayer, wished him well for the future. Pasquale intends to continue residing in Moe during his retirement and spend time visiting relatives throughout the area.

BOB MACKIE

Bob Mackie ended his 25 year stay with the Commission on a quiet note when he retired on June 22. By nature Bob was a very unassuming person and this trait was evident in his work throughout the area. Originally Bob was closely connected with Power Division, having worked at both the Morwell and Yallourn stations, but transferred to Electrical Services when appointed to staff in 1950. Later he moved across to Stores Section and was eventually reclassified as a C.A.O. Gr. 1, the position from which he retired.

ELIZABETH KEMP



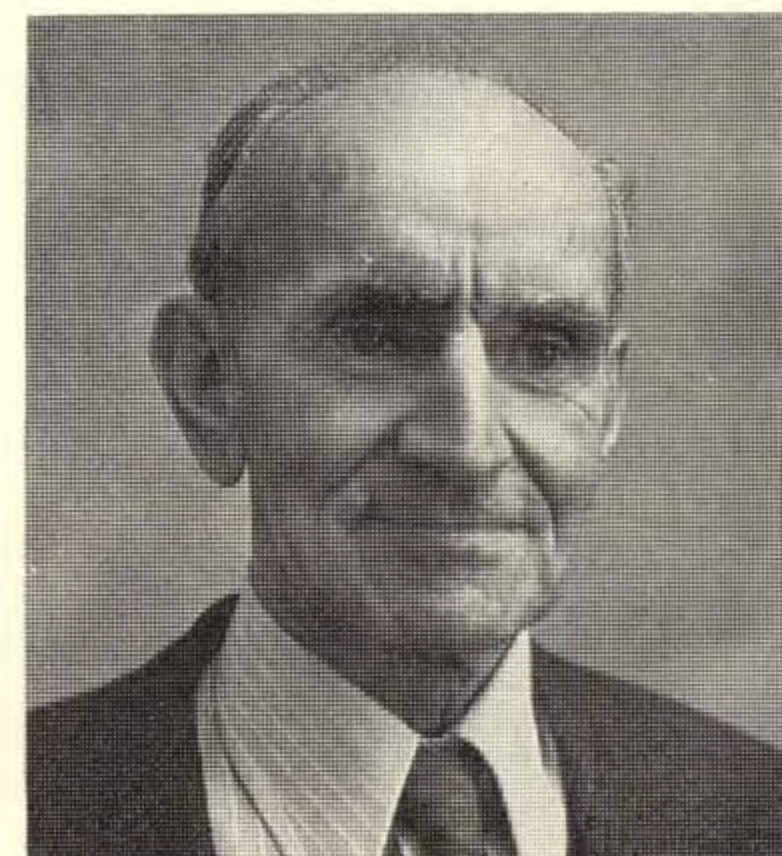
Few people would remember the July, 1969 edition of "Contact" when the story was told of Miss Betty Kemp, a librarian at the Yallourn Public Library and her multitude of community activities; but many will feel the effect of her retirement from the Commission after 11 years of excellent service. A popular figure at the Library, Betty was also well known for her work with the Yallourn Film Society, the Warragul U.F.O. Club, and the Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists Club. Perhaps the activities of the latter two clubs were uppermost in the minds of the Library staff when they presented her with a pair of binoculars at a special farewell function held before she left to take up residence in the picturesque Warburton area.

TOM BREWSTER



The Yallourn Power Station administration building tea-room provided the setting for the farewell presentation to Tom Brewster when he retired on July 26. Tom has been with the Commission for the past 24 years, having signed on as a fitter in 1950. He eventually transferred across to Staff as a Boilerhouse Engineer, a post which was later reclassified to Fuel Handling Officer. Tom's many workmates were on hand at the send-off to present him with a picnic set, as well as a "do-it yourself" door bell kit which, hopefully, will be installed in the near future when he carries out renovations to his house. Retirement will also allow Tom to spend added time at his favorite fishing haunts — even more importantly, it gives him the opportunity of tripping over to Brazil to visit a "long lost" brother.

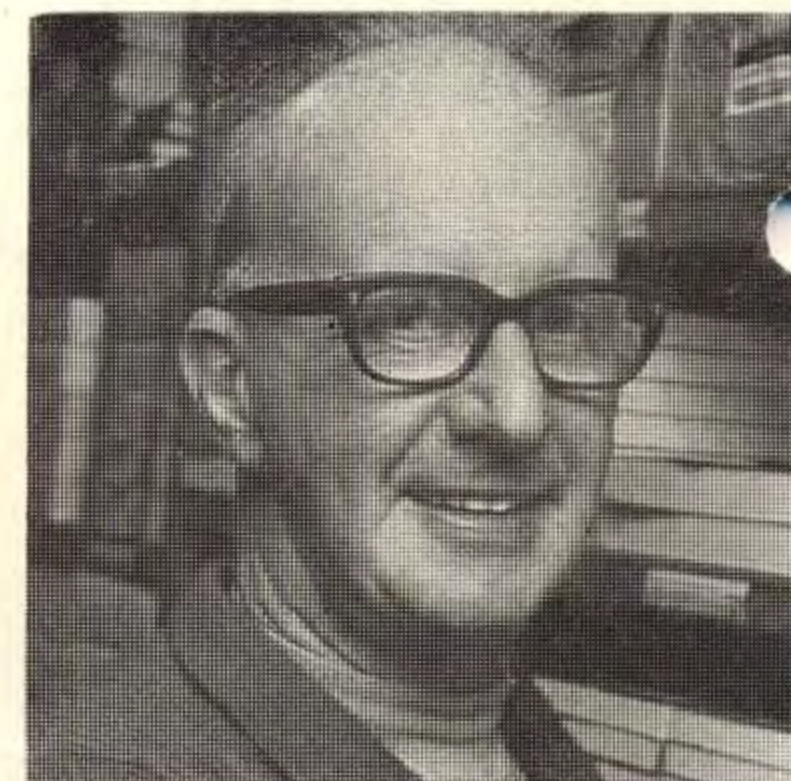
CHARLES LESTER



Former Survey colleagues from Kiewa and Head Office attended a retirement function for Charles Lester, July 5th. Charlie, who had worked with both the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission and the C.R.B., began his career with the Commission at Kiewa 27 year ago. Bob Peters, Surveyor-in-Charge, Latrobe Valley Department, who spoke of Charlie's excellent service, thanked him for his contribution to Survey.

Mr. Ray Meyer, Principal Surveyor, C. & A. Department presented Charlie with an electric drill and a brooch for Mrs. Lester.

CLAUDE WARREN



After more than 39½ years with the Commission, Claude Warren spent his final day chatting with his many workmates and admiring the wireless presented to him by Syd Kirchner, Departmental Materials Officer. Over a long career, Claude spent almost 18 years in Coal Division, where he worked as a chute attendant, Loco Driver, and greaser before transferring in 1952 to Yallourn Stores as a storeman Grade 1, the position from which he retired.

retirements

ARTHUR WALTON



A "teel for machinery" provided an apt description for the talent of Arthur Walton, according to Forestry Officer Ian McDonald who farewelled Arthur at a retirement send off on July 29 at the Yallourn Forestry Depot. For the past 36 years, Arthur has been a real identity in and around forestry circles; he began at the Depot in 1938 and very quickly became conversant with mechanical aspects of the section's operations. Stan Rendell, L/H Mechanical Plant Driver, had on hand a collection of old and new photographs dealing with the Forestry Depot over the years, and they illustrated the type of equipment and conditions which Arthur has had to deal with throughout his career with the Commission. Many of Arthur's workmates were in attendance to view this photographic "exhibition" and to present him with gifts for himself and Mrs. Walton as well as a prepared scroll.

FRED HENNE

A short but happy association with the Commission came to an end for Fred Henne, of Hazelwood Power Station, when he retired from active duty on July 9. Fred, who signed on as a Trades Assistant at Yallourn Workshops early in 1970, later transferred across to Hazelwood, where he spent the remainder of his time.

STAN BROWN

Eleven years of service with the Commission ended when Stan Brown retired on June 7th. Stan, who began in 1963 as a pickman at Yallourn, was soon reclassified as a T/A. at Coal Production Maintenance, where he worked until his retirement.

MAX HUMPHREY



"Jack of all Trades", is an apt description of Max Humphrey, Coal Division, who retired on July 3 after more than 36 years with the Commission. Max, who began as a laborer

in December, 1937, worked his way through a variety of jobs, including cleaner, form setter, greaser, tractor driver, pumpman and dredger driver. This fine service record was recognised when Col. Ferguson, A/Coal Production Superintendent at Yallourn, and Fred Strong, foreman at Coal Transport, spoke and made presentations at a special farewell function. During a well earned retirement, Max will reside out Toongabbie way, where there will be plenty of room for him to include in his favorite gardening activities.

JACK BLYTHE



Jack Blythe's 24 year career with the Commission ended on June 21, when he was farewelled by his many workmates at the Civil Works De-

pot Canteen. Jack (pictured centre front), a carpenter with the Commission may put his carpentry skills to the test on the home front. When he

does, the Black and Decker power saw presented to him by Yallourn Civil Works Engineer Tom Stillman will come in very handy.

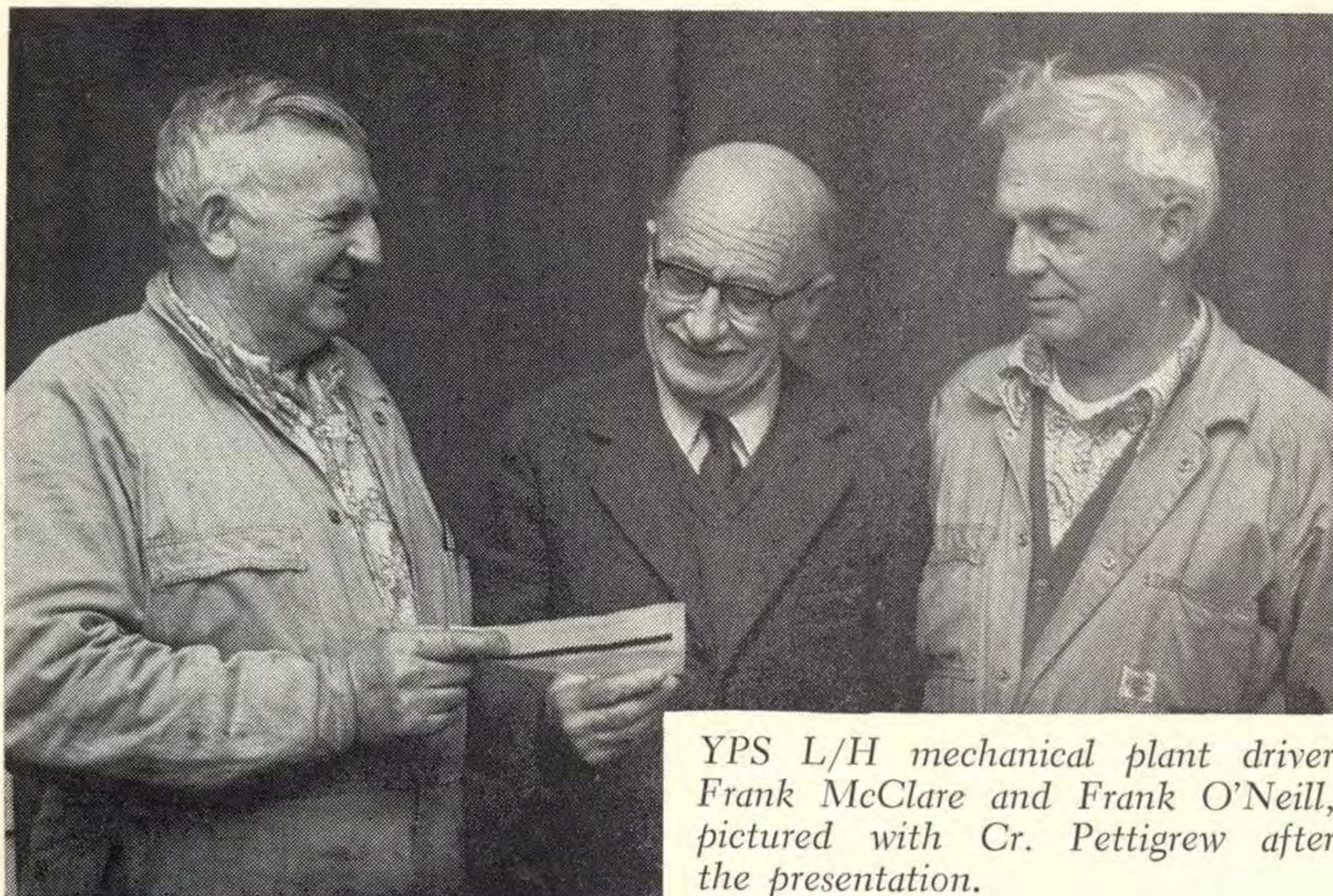
NELLY CUTTER



Mrs. Nelly Cutter (third from right), was obviously a very popular identity around the Yallourn Works Area if the activity surrounding her retirement on June 22 was any indication. During a 12 year period as canteen assistant, Mrs. Cutter served a

welcome cup of tea to many people in areas ranging from Electrical Services to Municipal Works. All groups were well represented at two farewell functions, at which she was presented with a digital clock; a set of glasses and a bundle

of notes. As a finale, Mrs. Cutter was taken to dinner on the night of her retirement by other women on the canteen staff. At present she is enjoying a well-earned holiday in Cairns, and for a change, someone else is serving her a cup of tea.



YPS L/H mechanical plant driver Frank McClare and Frank O'Neill, pictured with Cr. Pettigrew after the presentation.

THE Latrobe Valley Sheltered Workshops organisation is a lot better off financially following a generous donation by Yallourn Power Station employees.

In fact, the Sheltered Workshops benefited by \$1,029 when YPS Mechanical Maintenance Engineer John Hutchinson presented a \$343.24 cheque to LVSU representative Cr. Jim Pettigrew last month.

The sum was the cash value of approximately 1,000 safety points amassed by power station personnel.

Cr. Pettigrew, who said he was delighted at the gesture, explained that under the State Government policy of making \$2 for \$1 grants to organisations such as the Sheltered Workshops, a further amount of \$686 could be expected soon.

THE SOCIAL CLUB ROUND

Social clubs within the Commission play an important role, bringing workmates closer together outside the working arena as well as conferring worthwhile benefits and advantages on members.

Contact today begins a social clubs' column in which space is made available for information and comment from social club spokesman.

Yallourn 'W'

Yallourn "W" Social Club is currently looking at programme proposals for the year ahead.

Last month, a club-organised cabaret packed the Ukrainian Hall in Newborough to capacity, providing a great night out for members.

The social was so successful that the club committee is considering organising another.

Club president Alan Vickery and secretary John Lyon are confident that a lively programme will be announced within the next few weeks including details of the annual Christmas Picnic, a smoke night, possibly another social and at least one club outing.

Following the success of a bus trip to the Moscow Circus, officials are considering several follow-up proposals.

Hazelwood

The all important annual general meeting for the election of officers and discussion of a programme for the new financial year will be held as this article goes to press.

Keith Maloney, current secretary of the club, has indicated that dates for the Annual Cabaret Ball and Christmas Picnic have already been set, but that dates for further activities will be decided upon on or after August 16.

Already this year the club has staged successful car rallies and a well-organised Dinner Dance.

With a membership of about 350, it is hoped that sufficient support and sufficient ideas will be forthcoming to enable more enjoyable activities of this type to be arranged.

Morwell Staff

An important change to the structure of the Morwell Staff Social Club is being watched with interest.

In an effort to ensure that all sectors of the membership are adequately catered for, the club has formed a "young members" sub-committee and has plans for a second sub-committee for those toward the other end of the scale.

Club secretary Rod Doig emphasises that the sub-committees are not intended to fragment the club, which will continue to organise events on a similar scale to other years.

However, he points out that the move is in response to suggestions that some sections of the membership have not benefited fully from club activities.

MB and PI

A constitutional change is likely to bring a sharp reduction in membership of the MB and PI Social Club . . . but it is expected to be only a temporary reduction.

At the annual meeting, it was decided that from January 1, 1975, membership will be open to those employed in the immediate area of the installation.

Secretary Buddy Crane said that approximately 140 current members would be ineligible under the new rule, which is in line with general moves to cut down on multiple membership.

However, Buddy and president Ken Hewatt are confident that a drive for members in the area will recoup any fall in numbers.

The next event on the club's calendar is the annual golf day, to be held on a day to be fixed in September.

The tournament is open to all SEC employees. Arrangements are being made by Lex Derham.