

R. J. R. R.



CONTACT

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contact



Prepared for the State Electricity Commission's Latrobe Valley Department by the L.V. Public Relations Section.

Editor: Kevin Richardson

Cover

The distinctive turbo-generator at Yallourn "W", with the partly-constructed second generator in the background, makes a graphic cover shot for CONTACT.

The single 350 MW unit — the largest in the State's electricity generating system — has been operating most reliably for about 12 months.

The second generator is expected to be commissioned next year, signalling the half-way point in the planned installation of four units.

The remaining units have been ordered from the Tokyo Shibaura Electric Co., and tenders for boilers are currently being evaluated.

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750 reasons for John to raise an 'overseas' smile



John Ellingham has 750 reasons to smile as he accepts a cheque from AGM (Operations) Bill De Campo.

Hazelwood Power Station instrument and controls tradesman John Ellingham is now on his way to the UK to take up a post-apprenticeship scholarship awarded by the Victorian Overseas Foundation . . .

. . . and the SEC has made an ex-gratia payment of \$750 to enable John to be accompanied by his wife Pam and 14-month-old child.

John will work as an engineer's assistant for a Rugby firm during his two-year stay in Britain.

The family intends to see as much as possible of Europe before returning home.

An outstanding apprentice, John was Victoria's top apprentice (all trades) in 1971, the year in which he topped the Instrument Making and Repairing field.

During his training period—January 1968 to January 1972—John consistently returned trade subject marks in the high 80's and 90's.

He gained a Higher Technician Certificate in 1972, after completing academic requirements at Yallourn Technical College.

POUNDING PAYS OFF

ALL those hours of training paid off last month for marathon runners Allan Ashmore and Jim Willis (left).

In a brilliant display, Allan won the country title at the Victorian Country Marathon Championship at Bendigo, coming fourth after covering the tough course in 2 hrs 52.18 secs.

Jim Willis captured the veteran's championship when he clocked 3hrs 18.59 secs.

For Jim, this has been a champagne year.

He already had to his credit the veteran's title from the Traralgon marathon and the Victorian Marathon Club King of the Mountains event.

Another SEC runner to show plenty of stamina was John Lyon, who paced it with Allan Ashmore throughout to be the second runner home in a time of 2 hrs. 53.48 secs.

Lyon has been a placegetter in five successive country marathons.

Now all the fit trio have to think about is the Australian championship in Adelaide on September 21st.



AGM (Operations) Bill De Campo left Australia on September 19th to attend the World Energy Conference in Detroit, USA.

He will be away for one month, returning just before the introduction on October 28 of the four new departments announced last month to replace the Latrobe Valley Department.

The new departments, and their heads, are:

- Coal Production — Jack Vines
- Power Generation — Jack Robertson.
- Engineering Services — Max Gray
- Area Administration — George Bates.

During the absence overseas of Bill De Campo, Deputy Manager, Graham Black will control the LV Department, and he will continue to administer its affairs until October 28.

On that date, he will take up special duties aimed broadly at ensuring that the transition to the new organisation is as smooth as possible.

Graham's intimate knowledge of Valley operations and personalities will be of great value in the process of introducing the four new departments.

He joined the Commission in 1955, as Coal Production Operations Superintendent at Yallourn, becoming Assistant Coal Production Superintendent and General Services Engineer before

AGM (Ops.) away: DM in control



*Bill De Campo . . .
overseas*



*Graham Black . . .
in control*

taking up the post of Assistant Manager, Latrobe Valley Region, in 1967.

He was appointed Deputy Manager, Latrobe Valley Department, in 1971.

Graham, who intends to retire in February next year, also has an important role to play in helping introduce Bill De Campo to the Valley community.

Closely identified with moves to boost the Latrobe Valley, he is a former chairman of the Latrobe Valley

Development Committee and was chairman of the first Latrobe Valley Festival in 1970.

His association with various Valley groups includes membership of the LV Group of Melbourne Legacy.

Graham has been chairman since its inception of the Yallourn Resettlement Committee, which has been active in planning the provision of alternative accommodation for people moving from the town.

GETTING TO THE BOTTOM OF THE MATTER

LAKE Narracan, a popular recreation area during summer months, took on a somewhat "bare" look when it was drained recently to enable the storage gate to be repaired.

The 1841 million gallon storage dam was almost completely drained for repairs, which became necessary when a damaged section prevented complete closing of the gate.

It is not unusual for the level of the dam to be deliberately lowered during winter months.

Each year, the level is lowered in anticipation of wet weather, providing extra storage to limit flooding.

When the dam was drained this year, the 860 acre floor area was almost completely exposed, leaving only the Latrobe River snaking a winding course toward the weir area.

Developed to provide cooling water for power station condensers, Lake Narracan provides 460,000 gallons of water for daily circulation through the station.



valley visitors



A delegation from the USSR spent a day in the Latrobe Valley during a flying visit to Victoria on August 31.

The Latrobe Valley was included in the itinerary at the request of the Russian group, which spent only 1½ days in Melbourne during a brief stay in Australia.

The brown coal deposits were their major target, although as well as inspecting the Morwell Open Cut and its associated control centre, the party had a close look at the briquetting installation.

In the high-ranking delegation was the Minister for the Coal Industry, Mr. B. F. Bratchenko; chief engineer, Kemorova Ugol Combinet and Deputy of the Supreme Soviet, Mr. V. P. Bogatyrev, and the Deputy Head of the Foreign Relations Division of the

Industry Minister, Mr. V. P. Grebenshchikov.

The party was accompanied on its Latrobe Valley tour by the Minister for Fuel and Power, Mr. Balfour; the SEC's Deputy General Manager, Charles Trethowan; AGM (Ops) Bill De Campo and the chairman of the Gas and Fuel Corporation, Mr. Neil Smith.

Members of the Australian and New Zealand Society of Occupational Physicians (Vic. Branch) met at Yallourn "W" Power Station and Yallourn Open Cut and the Departmental Training Centre.

Engineering students from Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology spent some time in the generator and control rooms at Hazelwood, and in Yallourn and Yallourn "W" switch-yards.

Students from Devonport Technical College in Tasmania timed their visit to perfection, seeing the Latrobe Valley complex during ideal Apple Isle weather conditions.

Students from Mount Scopus College, St. Pat's at Sale and various secondary schools in Victoria were shown over the LV complex during the month.

Other school parties came from as far away as Western Australia, Victor Harbor (SA) and Tasmania (Devonport and Burnie).

Burnie Marist Regional College (Tasmania) students expressed keen interest in Yallourn "W" and the open cut at Yallourn when they spent a day in the Valley earlier this month.



Thais opting for nuclear solution

PUBLICITY given the so-called world energy crisis is relatively recent, at least in the mass media, and the layman could be forgiven for assuming that the crisis has crept up on mankind.

Of course, that isn't so — as the 40 million strong South Eastern nation of Thailand well knows.

As the general manager of the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand, Mr. Kasame, said when he visited the SEC's Latrobe Valley undertaking last month.

"We foresaw the energy crisis problems of the past 12 months as long as five years ago.

"Because of our very limited fuel resources, we have had to look well ahead, and to be aware of all developments in the energy field, as well as potential problems", he said.

The answer for Thailand, Mr. Kasame says, lies with nuclear power.

True to its policy of preparing well ahead for future developments, Thailand is poised to take the nuclear plunge.

The site for a nuclear station has been selected; some site works have been completed and design and specification plans are almost at the tender stage.

Until the sharp rise in oil prices, nuclear power was beyond the reach of the Thais . . . but events of the past 12 months have changed all that.

Thailand has relied heavily on oil in the past — its share of the energy sources market is 65 per cent — with hydro-electric installations pumping in another 30 per cent and brown coal limping along with five per cent.

Despite terrain problems and generally unfavorable overburden to coal ratios, Thailand will increase its brown coal "share" to 15 per cent.

Impressed with the SEC's Latrobe Valley operations, Mr. Kasame was especially interested in the two open cuts, which are on a scale far larger than anything envisaged in Thailand.

Because Thai open cuts are relatively small, and the coal seam inconsistent, draglines are used rather than the giant dredgers used by the SEC.

The degree of mechanisation in the Valley was an eye-opener for Mr. Kasame, who was also surprised at the relatively cleanness of the mining operation.



Mr. Kasame, pictured with Assistant Public Relations Officer Tom Grimes.

While in the Valley, Mr. Kasame conferred with Hazelwood Power Station Superintendent Arthur Ewen in talks which revealed that both had a great deal in common.

"We each had information to pass on to the other — but we had one other thing in common — each of us has problems for which we have not yet found a real solution", Mr. Kasame said.

Thailand's Electricity Generating Authority is — in common with most similar bodies throughout the world — very conscious of the environment and the environmental impact of generating activities.

While hydro schemes were "clean" producers of power, Mr. Kasame said, they still ran into trouble from conservationists who, he said don't see 'progress' as very important.

"They come out into the streets to make their public protest . . . and then return to their air conditioned homes, where they switch on the electric lights and settle down in comfort", he said.

Mr. Kasame, a Thailand University graduate who has undertaken post-graduate studies in the USA, has been general manager of the EGA for 15 years.

For some time he has had another job to occupy his spare time.

He is a member of the Thailand National Assembly, the body administering the country pending drafting of a constitution and election of an Assembly of career politicians.

A master of understatement, Mr. Kasame described his "part-time" job as . . . "interesting".

ON THE SOCIAL CLUB ROUND...

Morwell staff

The "younger set" of the Morwell SEC Staff Social Club kicked off their social year with a bus trip to Melbourne on Saturday, August 10. Highlight of the day was the viewing of the stage-show "Doctor in the House", currently playing at the Princess Theatre. The general consensus was that the trip had been a resounding success — this must be a good omen for the future.

Coming events: Show Eve Social — September 25, Traralgon City Hall; Cup Eve Social — November 4, Yinnar Community Hall; Children's Christmas Party — November 24, Yinnar Recreation Reserve.

Hazelwood

Kernot Hall was the venue for the Hazelwood Power Station Social Club's Cabaret Ball on Friday, August 16, and the huge crowd of 360 people evidently had the time of their lives. A few problems were experienced trying to beg, steal and borrow sufficient "liquid refreshment" for the evening, but once this was overcome, the success of the night was assured. Members are reminded of the Dinner-Dance in November, and the Christmas Picnic on December 8. More information available from new secretary Barry Dunn.

Yallourn staff

Memo from the Main Office Social Club, Yallourn — New secretary is Gary Gooding who takes over the mantle from Jimmy Bechaz. Neil Harwood and Graham Burgess still remain president and treasurer respectively.

Stores group

The Latrobe Valley Stores Group Social Club asks members to keep the following dates in mind:

- November 10, 1974 — Car Rally;
- December 1, 1974 — Christmas Picnic at Yinnar Recreation Reserve.

Further details are available from secretary Linda Hall.

The club issues a challenge to any other social club interested in a "friendly" game of football. So if your club boasts a certain football finesse . . . here's your chance to prove it.

SHIELD KEEPS H.W. FIRE FIGHTERS ON THEIR TOES

The student firemen move in close to extinguish a roaring blaze at the training track at Hazelwood. The fire competition has created a greater interest in training, and has ensured that personnel involved are given adequate practical experience.



The June, 1973 issue of Contact magazine carried a story on the inaugural firefighting competition for shift personnel at Hazelwood Power Station.

The "D" shift team won the title then, but in 1974, the trophy has changed hands.

The victors this year are the very cohesive and well trained team from "A" shift.

The event was keenly contested by all four shift teams, as evidenced by the "short halfhead" margin of 1.25 seconds between the winner, and 1973 champions "D" shift.

Handling long lengths of high pressure hose and training powerful jets of water on to specified targets is obviously a task which requires a great deal of co-operation and team-work.

The four shift teams practice regularly to improve their overall speed and technique.

Participation in a competition is an effective way of improving performance while adding interest to monthly training sessions.

This year, the competition was held on various dates during the period June 6 to 27, depending on which day suited a particular shift.

The winner was decided on the basis of only one run through the course, rather than on an average time for three runs, as was previously the case.

According to Electrical Operations Officer Norm Abbott, who arranges the training sessions for the different



Champions for 1974. The successful "A" Shift team pictured after their great effort. From right, they are—back row: Eric Cording, Chris Famulara, Vince Galea, Eddie Sinnott, Clarrie Wilson. Front: Jim Flynn, Bill Utteridge, Brian Porter, Nick Bandendistac.

groups, rivalry was high and the winning performance an excellent one.

As a sidelight to the actual competition, a challenge match has been arranged between "A" shift and a

team of staff members led by Station Operations Engineer Bert Mee.

Norm Abbott gives the staff group "a fair show", but the boys from "A" shift must be feeling very confident.

Apprentice get together

FIFTY-four former State Electricity Commission apprentices who took part in the highly successful reunion of 1924-37 apprentices on August 16, 17 had between them more than 2,000 years service to the Commission . . .

. . . and 34 are still adding to the aggregate total.

Former mechanical apprentice Ken Sinclair turned the clock back 50 years — he was the Commission's first apprentice, in 1924.

Now a resident of the Australian Capital Territory, Ken returned especially for the occasion, but the distinction of travelling furthest to be present went to Keith Barton, of Brobie Island in Queensland.

At the time of his retirement 2½ years ago, Keith was an electrical supervisor at Yallourn "W".

Visits to the Departmental Training Centre and Apprentice Training Workshops in Yallourn; a tour of Yallourn "W" and Hazelwood power Stations and inspections of the two open cuts were highlights of the reunion.

Since more than half of the "apprentices" are still employed by the Commission, most had not completely lost touch with Latrobe Valley developments.

However, some were seeing the area for the first time in many years.

Among non-commission guests at the reunion were two former principals of Yallourn Technical College, Howard Beanland and Edgar Scott.

With former electrical trades instructor Peter Brown, both men were teaching at YTC during training period of the reunion "apprentices".

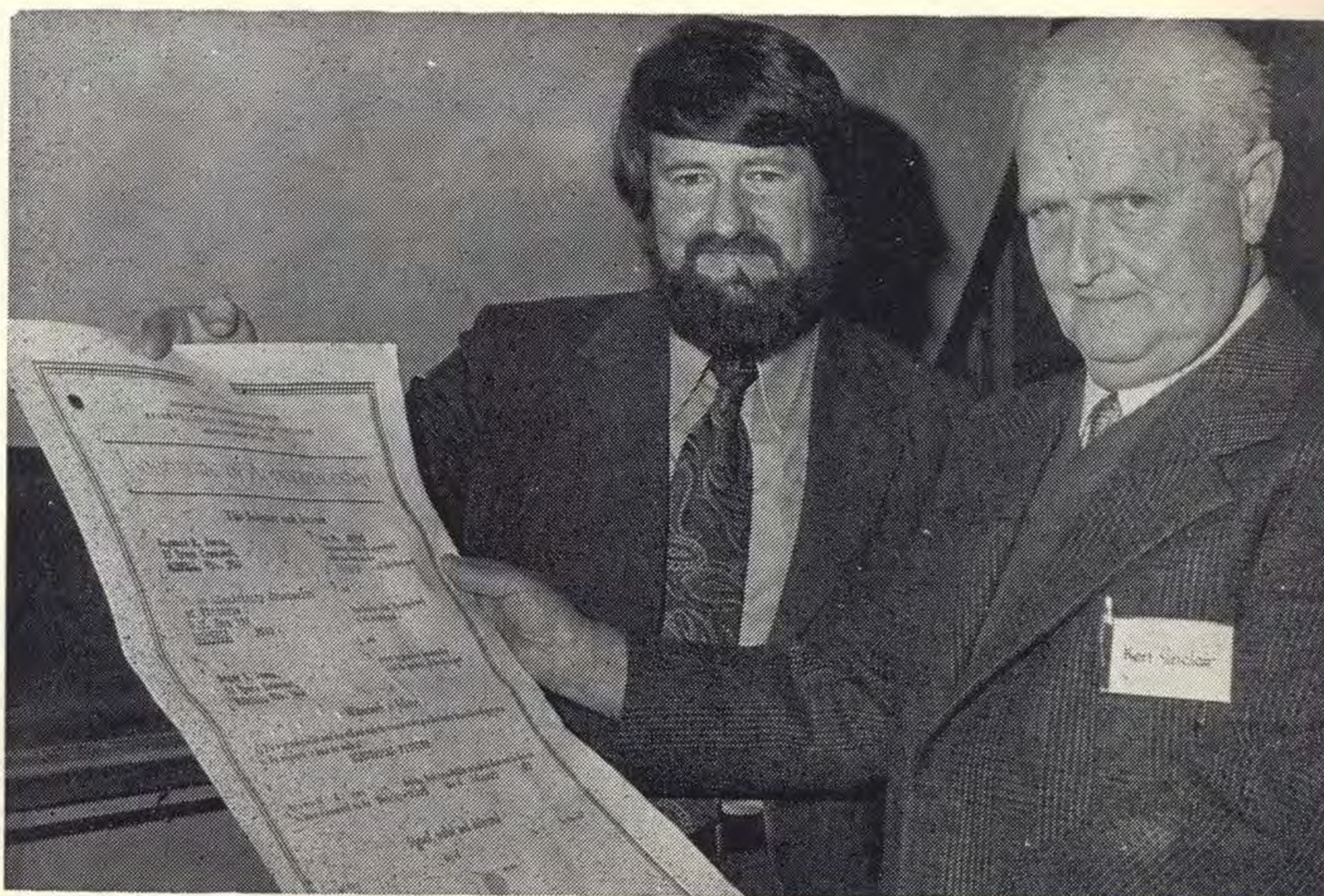
Of the 54 who returned for the get-together, 40 either worked through to retirement with the Commission or are still in its employ.

Although most of the conversation centred on the past, the future was brought into sharp focus by former Latrobe Valley Department Manager Bill Schulz, who outlined probable future developments, including establishment of the Loy Yang power complex.

He also traced the course of SEC activities in the Valley during the past 20 years, a period of intense development which saw the birth of the Morwell Open Cut; Morwell Briquetting Works and Power Installations; Hazelwood Power Station and Yallourn "W".

The apprentice get-together came on the eve of a farewell to another re-

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The Commission's No. 1 apprentice, Ken Sinclair (right) studies an enlarged apprentice indenture form with Education and Training Officer Athol Robinson.

THE GOOD OLD DAYS — 1924-37 ERA STYLE

The "good old days" . . . that was how most of the 1924-37 apprentices seemed to see the period in which they served their apprenticeships with the Commission.

In conversation, mixed in with the reminiscences and barrack-room jokes, those at the reunion displayed considerable nostalgia for those far-off days.

Before beginning their inspection tours, the "apprentices" were given some interesting facts and comparisons by Education and Training Officer Athol Robinson.

He compared SEC undertakings in 1924 and 1974, pointing out that 50 years ago Yallourn WAS the SEC, with almost all apprentices drawn from the township.

Today, the power generation complex has spread its wings, and apprentices are drawn from towns and cities throughout Central Gippsland.

Employment in 1924 stood at 2,084 . . . today it is 6,872.

The 1974 power generation capacity of 3,016 MW is also a far cry from the 1924 situation.

The former apprentices were keenly interested in training rosters designed to give the apprentice of today as

wide an experience as possible.

This contrasted with their own fairly static training.

However, rates of pay provided the most striking comparison.

Athol pointed out that in the 1920's, a mechanical engineering apprentice (later fitting and turning) could expect to receive 17/6 weekly in the first of his five years of training.

This increased to 23/- in the second year, 37/- in the third, 55/- in the fourth and 70/- in the final year. The electrical fitter was not as well off, receiving 10/-, 17/6-, 30/-, 45/- and 60/-.

Boilermakers began at 15/- and wound up their training on 63/-.

The 1974 apprentices serves only four years, receiving \$48.60 in the first year, \$63.60 in the second, \$86.85 in the third and \$101.25 in the final year.

The tradesman's rate in 1928 was £5.18/-, which compares with 1974 tradesman's rate of \$129.25.

So things have changed, a fact brought home most forcibly to the guests when they were taken on a tour of the Departmental Training Centre and Apprentice Training Workshops.



1. Acting Assistant Education and Training Officer John Guy points out features on the closed circuit T.V. used in the training centre to, from left, Keith Balstrup, Bill Godfrey, Wal Oakley and Tom Lane.

2. Sharing a joke are, from left, Frank Smith, Roy Wiggins, Ben Padfield, Jack Collier and Departmental Personnel Officer Brian Collier.

3. Len Saunders, Perc Challender and Norm Wardell are brought up to date by Apprentice Training Overseer Mike Meany.

4. "Clocking on" are, from left, Stan Rendell, Keith Randall, Ben Padfield and former Yallourn Technical College instructor Peter Brown.

5. Mike Meany is under the hammer from Goodwin Anderson, Vic Wiggins, Keith Hinde, Terry Salisbury, Jim Irving, Allan Hawken and Howard Beanland.

6. This vertical milling machine brought back memories for nursery overseer Keith Randall (right), who operated the machine for seven years from 1948-55. With him is brickwork overseer Bill Godfrey, who began his apprenticeship on the same

day as Keith — on March 3, 1933. Bill was chief organiser of the re-union.

7. Recently retired Dave Sloan (second from right), has a word with Fred Saunders, Fred Meers, Len Saunders and Perc Challender.

8. Apprentice Training Supervisor Ken Horton (left) looks on as 1st-year fitting and turning apprentice Ron Vella gives a demonstration for Terry Salisbury (second from left), Howard Beanland and Len Chapman (right).

9. Bert Moore, Gerry Hunt, Keith Lawrence, Jock McKean and Bert Hill had plenty to talk about when they met in the Apprentice Training Workshops.

10. Ken Horton (right) discusses a work plan with, from left, Bert Gribble, Kev Randall and Jim Fogarty.

11. They know each other well. Former LV Manager Bill Schulz greets Keith Barton, an electrical supervisor at Yallourn "W" until his retirement 2½ years ago. He now lives in Queensland. Keith Godridge, who also retired recently — from the Morwell Briquetting Works — also had some tales to swap with Bill Schulz.

12. This is not telling tales out of school . . . not with former Yallourn Technical College principals Edgar Scott (second from left) and Howard Beanland (second from right) in the picture. Their cheerful "students" are Jim Kain (left) and Don Benson.

13. Peter Brown holds the floor before Edgar Scott, former Manager Power Bill Graham, Howard Beanland and Cliff Price, a fitter and turner from 1936-41, and now Operations Manager for BP, Victoria.

14. Swapping tales are, from left, Frank Gray, Jack Collier, Roy Calder (now principal of Tottenham Technical School), Alvin Roberts, Laurie Baker and John Jones.

15. Ken Horton, Alf Warren, Keith Barton, Gordon Brown, Bill Roberts and Roy Wiggins study the work of the current crop of apprentices.

16. Looking back on the "good old days" are, from left, Frank Smith, Roy Wiggins, Howard Beanland, Bill Bowler, Goodwin Anderson, Jim Fogarty, Bill Godfrey, Bob Dinsdale, Edgar Scott, Peter Brown and Harold Smith.



AMENITY REVIEW



WHO'S WHO ON THE COMMITTEE

Chairman: **John Drewett**, Assistant Departmental Personnel officer.

Central Gippsland Trades and Labour Council: **Franz Onger**, **George Wragg**.

FED & FA, Morwell sub-branch: **Tom Irvin**; Yallourn sub-branch: **Hugh Coffield**.

MAO, LV sub-branch: **Sid Kane**.

Assistant Departmental Personnel Officer John Drewett (second from right) and other Amenities Committee members, from left, George Harris (MDA), Tom Irvin and Lou Sciclund, pictured during inspection of a Morwell Open Cut amenities building.

Priority recommendations soon

A MENITY facilities for Commission employees in the Latrobe Valley have been under scrutiny in the past few weeks by a newly-formed Amenities Committee.

Hazelwood Power Station was the first inspected by the new committee, which followed up quickly with a visit to Morwell Briquetting and Power Installation.

By the end of this month, the committee will have inspected facilities at all major locations.

The committee is comprised of a management representative, Assistant Departmental Personnel Officer John Drewett, and five representatives of staff and wages unions and associa-

tions.

Its role is to:—

- Look at existing amenity facilities within the area and to recommend priorities for their upgrading where necessary for the 1974/75 financial year and subsequent years, and,

- advise on the provision of amenities in new locations.

A comprehensive survey of amenities undertaken earlier this year by amenities officer George Seear, will form a basis for committee discussion.

When interviewed, representatives were unanimous that maintaining amenity standards was "a two-way process".

Where first class facilities were pro-

vided, there was a real requirement for the users to assist by treating items as they would their own property; otherwise money which would have provided new items would be diverted for repairs or replacement of existing facilities.

The union representatives see their members as having a real responsibility in maintaining the condition of amenities.

One item of interest to emerge from George Seear's survey was that in some locations there are more items than are actually required.

In some other locations, some items are too large for the groups they serve.

The Committee looks for co-operation in rationalising this situation so that all are provided for at the same standard, which could mean re-distributing items to areas, inadequately served at present.

It is not intended that the Committee become directly involved in detailed treatment of items, which is the responsibility of each section.

However, by helping promote appropriate standards, the committee will enable sections to see where their efforts need to be directed.



Franz Onger tries out the washing facilities, watched by Amenities Officer George Seear and Frank McInerny (FED & FA, Yallourn).

WORK BY TOP APPRENTICES GOES ON DISPLAY HERE

THE Latrobe Valley was well represented at the presentation in Melbourne last month of Apprenticeship Commission of Victoria Craftsmanship Awards for 1974.

SEC apprentices from the Valley submitted seven entries, six of which gained awards.

Commission personnel have had an opportunity to gauge the quality of workmanship in the models entered at a series of displays throughout the Works Area.

For several days after awards were presented by the Minister of Labour and Industry, Mr. Rafferty, in the Melbourne Town Hall on August 12, the models remained on display at the Careers through Craftsmanship Exhibition in Melbourne.

The three levels of awards made were:—

- Bronze Medallion.
- Special Honorable Mention.
- Honorable Mention.

Valley apprentices who submitted entries, and the awards they won, are listed below.

Phillip Reeves — 4th year boilermaker: One-third scale model adjustable grader blade. Honorable Mention.

Robert Reinkowsky — 4th year boilermaker: Model of Victorian Railways goods wagon. Bronze Medallion.

Daryl Keach — 1st year carpenter: Presentation jewel box. Bronze Medallion.

Peter O'Callaghan — 1st year turning and fitting: Bar Vyce, made from castings and base fabrication to drawing specification. Special Honorable Mention.

Chris Poletti — 1st year Electrical Fitting: Battery Charger made in design of instructors from apprentice training workshop, "Electrical". Bronze Medallion.

Cleff Scott — 1st year electrical fitter: Buzzer tester. Special Honorable Mention.

Winners of the five trade sections at Yallourn Technical College were:—

Boilermaking and Structural Steel Trade: Peter Northover (Grade one); Graeme Day (Grade two) and Phillip Reeves (Grade three). Electrical Fitting Trade: Lawrence Williams (Grade one); Geoff Thorson (Grade two); Gary Kilmartin (Grade three) and Martin De Bono (Grade four). Electrical Mechanics Trade: John Clough (Grade two); David Chapman (Grade three) and Denis Buckley (Grade four). Fitting and Turning Trade: Peter Heusman (Grade one); Ian Lowe (Grade two) and Miss Louise Bagnall (Grade three). Instrument Making and Repairing Trade: Peter McEachen (Grade one); Barry Fanning (Grade two) and Lance Thomas (Grade three).



SEC-trained boilermaker Ken Forbes, now in New South Wales, has been awarded an Outstanding Apprentice Award for 1974.

Ken, who began his career as an apprentice boilermaker and structural steel worker with the Latrobe Valley Department in 1970, is no stranger to success.

He was top boilermaking apprentice in his first year, and Outstanding Apprentice for all trades in his second, third and final years at Yallourn Technical College.

Although he left the SEC's employ this year, Ken didn't completely sever his connection with the power industry.

His first job was with a contractor on the Yallourn "W" Power Station, but he has now moved to the Newcastle area with a steel fabrication firm.

Ken came to Melbourne especially for Apprentice Week award ceremonies.

Ken, being congratulated above by Deputy General Manager Charles Trethowan (left) is pictured with another Outstanding Apprentice Award winner, SEC linesman David Schulz.



These models (at left) from the Apprentice Week exhibition are on display at various centres throughout the SEC Works Area until September 25. Acting Apprentice Training Officer John Davis (pictured) made final arrangements for the display.

Coal Div. men 'in the money'



Left: Stan Belling (centre) and Kevin May are congratulated by Manager Coal, Jack Vines (right).

MORWELL Coal Production employees Stan Belling, Supervisor Grade 3, and Kevin May, Foreman Grade 3, are both a lot richer following receipt of \$500 interim awards for successful suggestions.

Stan Belling's suggestion involved a vastly improved method for disposing of silt and fine coal around No. 7 coal conveyor transfer station area.

Sludge is transferred from the pit into a holding bay, where it is allowed to dry over a period of time, and, in its dry form, can be conveyed for normal power station use.

This eliminates the problem of transporting the messy sludge to special disposal dumps throughout the area.

A piece of equipment which can be used either in conjunction with the above, or as a separate unit, is a type of auger proposed by Kevin May.

The removal of silt or sludge from settling pits can now be accomplished in a more economical and cleaner manner than was previously the case.

Both ideas have been implemented at No. 7 coal conveyor transfer station.

However, their application could be extended to all open cut installations.

A proposal to modify the Elliot turbosvisory motors used in recording meters has really paid off for Transmission's Fred Jobson (centre) seen here with work-mates John Bremner (left) and Colenios Aristotelis—and a \$100 Suggestion Scheme cheque.

The modification is designed to overcome the problem of lead damage to motors during routine checks.

Estimated cost of modifying each machine is \$3, a trifling sum compared with the \$460 it could cost for re-wind repairs to damaged motors.



Foreman Bill Burrows (right) gratefully accepts a \$40 Suggestion Scheme cheque from Manager Coal Jack Vines. The cheque was for Bill's suggestion of a grooved plastic cover and crowned tail drum for fitting to the tail end of the 108 conveyor at Yallourn Open Cut. The modification helps keep grooves clear, reducing the incidence of belt slip and fouling. Overburden operations supervisor Ted Ellis is an interested spectator.



focus on safety



SEC firemen helped out in crisis at Trafalgar

It was the day petrol flowed like water . . . only far more volatile and dangerous for the township of Trafalgar.

The crash of a 6000-gallon petrol tanker on the notorious western approach to Trafalgar's Main Street had a familiar ring about it to the town's residents—especially SEC employee Dan Baillie.

Dan, captain of the Trafalgar Urban Fire Brigade—a position he's held for 17 of his 32 years with the brigade—was on the scene within minutes of the alarm just before 6 a.m.

That was the start of an eight-hour shift for Dan, other SEC employees Alan McGregor, Geoff Moreland, Greg Lamb and Roly Peterson and members of brigades from Trafalgar, Yarragon, Morwell and Traralgon.

The petrol tanker, after overturning three times, snapped an electricity supply pole and virtually demolished the luckless Tate's Garage building.

The injured driver was freed from his cabin by Roly Peterson, who is director of the Narracan Shire Civil Defence Unit.

An estimated 4000 gallons of petrol poured into gutters and open drains, finding its way beyond the Gippsland-Melbourne railway, beneath some shop fronts.

Firemen directed a curtain of foam on the tanker as the remaining petrol was pumped out.

A CFA device used for atmosphere testing indicated that the situation in the crash area was critical, which amply justified the decision to declare a state of disaster; halt all rail traffic until about 1 p.m. and divert Princes Highway traffic around the crash scene.

The situation was far more explosive than that which existed when a bitumen tanker overturned and caught fire on the same spot five years ago, incinerating its driver.

As Dan Baillie put it—

"This was definitely the most dangerous situation I have ever been in, with the whole place ready to go at any time.

"However it was the best organised operation I have ever seen, with firemen, police and townspeople getting on with the job of clearing the area and making it safe as quickly as possible.

Above: SEC workman Greg Lamb (left) missed work on September 3 . . . but it was in a good cause. A member of Trafalgar Urban Fire Brigade, Greg—with other firemen and Civil Defence workers—spent the day trying to ensure that no blast occurred following the wrecking of a laden petrol tanker at the western approach to the town.

Below: Trafalgar Urban Brigade captain Dan Baillie, an SEC employee currently in the Metallurgy section at Yallourn.



A display of models entered by SEC apprentices in the 1974 Careers through Craftsmanship Exhibition will be on display at the following locations on the dates shown.

- Monday, 23rd September — Yallourn Open Cut Canteen
- Tuesday, 24th September — Yallourn Power Station Canteen
- Wednesday, 25th September — Yallourn Workshops Canteen

The Craftsmanship Exhibition was held at the Melbourne Town Hall in August, as part of Apprenticeship Week.

A number of Commission apprentices received bronze medallions and special honourable mention certificates for models entered in the exhibition.

retirements

WHENEVER former Manager, Power, Bill Graham switches on the TV set in the lounge of his new home at 45 The Boulevard in Morwell, he'll think of his former workmates in the Latrobe Valley area.

The set, plus a wallet of notes, set of tables and beautifully finished clock set in a restored pressure gauge from the old Yallourn "A" Station were presented to Bill at a farewell get-together in Kernot Hall on August 28.

Not that Bill will need any reminders.

Since coming to the Latrobe Valley from Scotland at the age of eight, he has seen every development of the Commission's activity here, and since 1932, when he became an apprentice fitter, had played an important role.

As former LV Department Manager Bill Schulz pointed out, Bill has earned the reputation of being a most effective trouble shooter for the Commission.

His rapport with unions and unionists has been invaluable in the industrial relations field.

A "self-made" man who gained his professional qualifications the hard way — he walked four miles each way from his Yallourn North home to attend evening classes four nights weekly at Yallourn Technical College — Bill never lost contact with the man on the shop floor.

He never had people working "for" him — he always worked "with" people.

This was the secret of his success in the planning, negotiating and demanning of Yallourn Briquette Works without industrial dispute, and in the closure of Yallourn "A" and "B" power stations.

In his 42½ years with the Commission, Bill made an impressive contribution, particularly after 1962, when he was appointed PSS Morwell.

This was followed in 1965 by appointment to PSS Yallourn; regional engineer in 1967 and Manager, Power, in 1971 — during which time he has acted as Deputy Manager, LV Department, on several occasions.

The Bill Graham qualities referred to by former LV Department Manager Bill Schulz, who attended the farewell, were enormous dedication, application, self-discipline, tolerance, understanding and a good sense of humor.

Bill and his wife Lil, who was presented with a sheaf of flowers by Maria Rosato, will retain their close links with the Latrobe Valley.

They have moved into a new home in The Boulevard, Morwell . . . within easy viewing distance of the Commission's Morwell operations.



Bill Graham and his wife Lil, captured in a pensive mood by our photographer during a farewell function for Bill in Kernot Hall. In the background are Bill De Campo and Mrs. De Campo.

Apprentice get-together

APPRENTICES (from Page 7)

tiring "apprentice", former Manager Power, Bill Graham.

Bill was at the reunion to renew acquaintances with former workmates together again for the first time in an event which owed much of its success to the inspiration and organisation of brickwork overseer Bill Godfrey.

At the reunion were:—

Vic Wiggins, Power; Perc Challender, Melbourne; John Jones, Services; Jim Irving, Services; Alan Hawken, Power; Frank Smith, Services; Alf Warren, Services; Goodwin Anderson, Benalla; Don Benson, Morwell; Jim Kain, Melbourne; Terry Salisbury, Coal.

Bill Godfrey, Power; Harold Smith, Services; Bert Moore, Retired Melbourne; Ben Padfield, Services; Cliff Price, Melbourne; Bill Graham, Power; Len Chapman, Melbourne; Ken Sinclair, Retired (ACT); Alvin Roberts, Power.

Laurie Baker, Coal; Keith Lawrence, Services; Jim Fogarty, Power; Ron Hannon, Retired; Keith Balstrup, Melbourne.

Bob Dinsdale, Services; Gerry Hunt, Retired Lakes Entrance; Keith Barton, Retired Queensland; Stan Rendell, Forestry; Howard Beanland; Edgar

Scott; Bill Roberts, Power; Keith Randall, Services; Jack McDonald, Services.

Bert Hill, Power; Wally Rudge, Geelong; Frank Gray, Monash House; Wally Oakley, Monash House; Fred Meers, Power Newport; Keith Godridge, Retired.

Kevin Randall, Coal; Jack Lundy, Retired; Jock McKean, Power; Dave Sloan, Retired; Albert Gribbe, Coal; Gordon Brown, Melbourne; Fred Saunders, Power; Norm Wardell, Ballarat; Tommy Lane, Melbourne; Jack Collier, Power; Laurie Middlemiss, Power.

Len Saunders, Richmond Power Station; Peter Brown, Retired; Roy Wiggins, Services; Bill Bowler, Power; Roy Calder, Melbourne School Teacher; Keith Hinde, MB & PI.

— To Let —

Holiday Home at Eagle Point. Two-bedroomed, accommodate six.

All conveniences—septic tank, electric stove, refrigerator, washing machine, HWS.

Available from September, excepting period January 18-February 7, at \$35 per week. — PHONE MOE 27 2573.

retirements



LEN THOMAS

Len Thomas, who retired as a Senior Clerk on August 9, must be a real expert on Stores procedures; he has spent his entire 30 years in the Stores Records section. In this period Len's quiet and co-operative manner has made him an identity around the area, and his presence will be sadly missed. To mark Len's farewell, Syd Kirchner, Departmental Materials Officer, presented him with a battery-operated calculator, a gift which obviously will be put to good use. Outside of work, Len has been actively involved with the Moe Racing Club.



ALFRED HOLMES

Alf Holmes, who retired on August 9th, must regard Yallourn Power Station as his "home away from home". For his entire 22 years with the Commission, Alf has been located in this station, being involved at different stages as a cleaner, greaser and a trimmer. In 1958 he was reclassified as an Electrical Plant Attendant, and maintained this position until his retirement. Don Bromilow, Power Station Superintendant at Yallourn, presented Alf with a fishing rod which will obviously be put to good use. Alf and Mrs. Holmes intend spending 12 months touring Australia —



RALPH DRUMMOND

Morning "brew" was the unusual time for the farewell function of Ralph Drummond, who retired from the position of tool storeman, Central Workshops, Yallourn, after 21 years service. Ralph had been unable to attend the previously arranged farewell because of a bout of 'flu. However, he will be able to relax on a sun-lounge, one of the many gifts presented to him by his workmates. George Davis, Mechanical Services Engineer, in making the presentation, thanked Ralph for his reliable and conscientious service.



PERCY CAMPBELL

"A lot of reprobates" was the phrase jokingly used by Ron Allan, Acting Assistant Stations Operations Engineer at Hazelwood, when he spoke of Percy Campbell and his workmates and presented a wallet full of notes to Percy at his retirement function on August 16. Percy, who originally joined the Commission in 1938, stayed for 12 years. In 1966, he signed on again as a Trades Assistant at the Yallourn Briquette Factory, but later transferred across to Hazelwood Power Station as a Lube Attendant, the position from which he retired.

ALBERT GOSLING

A large crowd of workmates attended the Coal Division Mechanical Maintenance canteen, Yallourn, on August 23 to farewell L/H Electrician Special Class Albert Gosling and congratulate him on 22½ years service with the Commission. Joe Cox, Assistant Electrical Operations Overseer, spoke of his long and happy association with Albert, while Col Ferguson, A/Coal Produc-

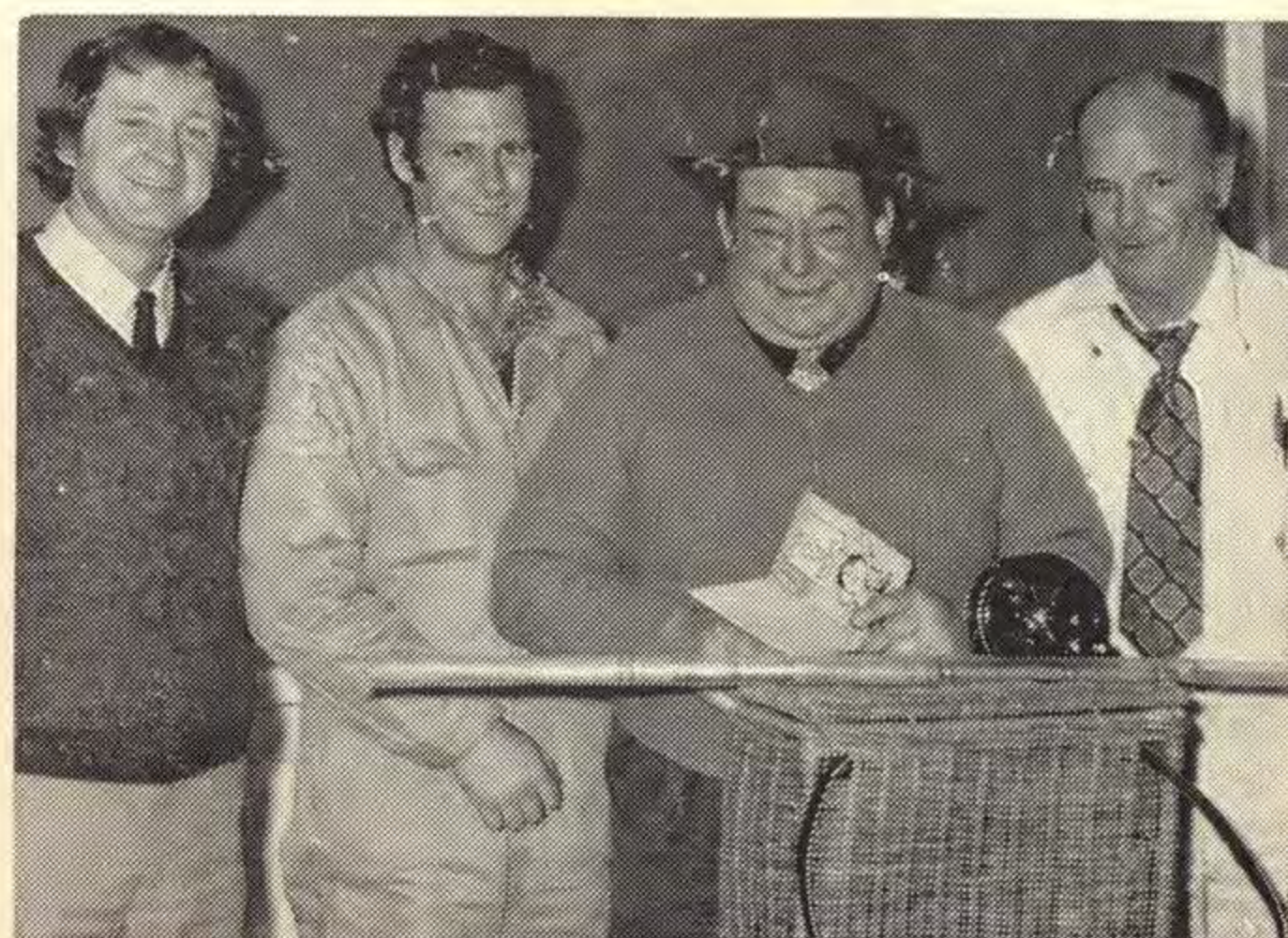
tion Superintendent, presented him with a wallet filled with notes.

As well, Albert received a carton of cigarettes from the local canteen as a token of appreciation for his continued support over the years, support which began back in 1952, when — after a short stay in Services Division — he transferred to Coal as an Electrical Fitter.

JAMES LESLIE

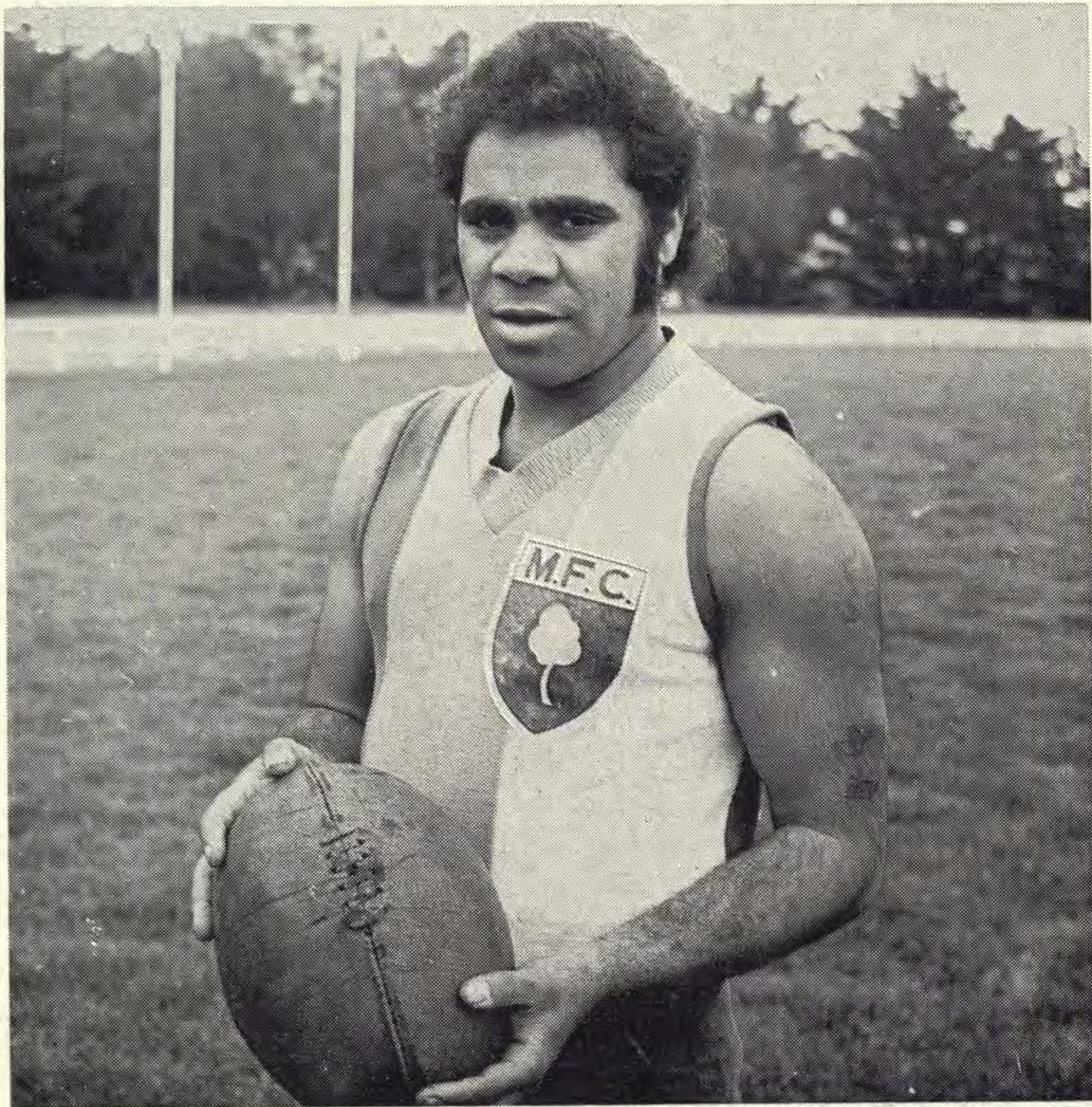
"Over 58 years as a working man" is the proud boast of Jim Leslie, who retired as a Trades Assistant at Hazelwood Power Station after spending 11 of these years with the Commission. Jim recalls going out to work at the age of seven years and working on a farm for 2/6d plus keep. Ironically, Jim intends to return to farming and work on his brother's property to see

out his retirement. It is to be hoped, however, that he takes sufficient time off to enjoy the fishing gear presented to him by fitter Reg Kemp at a well-attended farewell function at the H.P.S. Lecture Room on August 28. A Mechanical Maintenance Engineer Les Kite and Ted Thomas, Jim's foreman, were also present to wish Jim good health in his retirement.



the sporting scene

Frank's after State guernsey



COMMISSION apprentice Frank Marks wields a paint brush most days of the week, but he is hoping for a rest from painting during the week October 3-8, when he hopes to don football gear for an interstate carnival in Canberra.

Frank is one of the hopefuls on the long list for an Aboriginal team to represent Victoria in the carnival, the sixth since the series was first initiated by the National Aboriginal Sports Foundation.

The Foundation, currently led by former VFL great Pastor Doug Nicholls, is financed by the Federal Government.

Frank was a member of the Victorian team which took part in the carnival in Canberra two years ago, he's keen again represent his State.

The carnival has been a great success, attracting teams from all mainland states.

A nippy winger/half forward, Frank plays with Maryvale in the Mid-Gippsland League, where he's had his share of senior games.

A busy season in the MGFL has Frank in tip-top condition to press his claim to a place in the State side, and perhaps in the National team to be announced following the carnival.

First up success

Morwell Falcons Soccer Club, winners of both senior and reserve provisional league titles in their first year of metropolitan football, owe at least part of their success to "SEC power".

Coach Philip Blunt is a bricklayer at Yallourn and assistant coach Paul Tanti is also an SEC employee, in Morwell Briquetting and Power Installation.

Reserves skipper Paul Tanti, Alan Anderson, Tony Xerri and Tony Tanti—share in the general celebration—are also with the Commission.

It was a magnificent effort by Falcons, winners of two successive premierships in the Latrobe Valley Soccer Federation before heading for metropolitan ranks.

Next year they line up in Fourth Division . . . and are confident of holding their own.

PEGASUS FLAG

Morwell Pegasus Soccer Club are 1974 champions in the Latrobe Valley Soccer Federation, a championship win in which SEC personnel played no small role.

In fact, the Pegasus club has a decidedly "electric" flavor.

Led by Commission foreman Bill Hutchinson, Pegasus also included eight SEC men in its championship team—and three others played important roles in the big victory.

Youngster Mario Busuttil filled in for several rounds when Unit Controller Denis McAuley suffered an injury late in the season, and Falzon brothers Paul and Frank gave on-the-field assistance to the team each weekend.

SEC players in the team are McAuley, Ern Mustapha, Ern Bosma,

Tom Thompson, Sam Galea, John Reddiex, Joe Cassar and Theo Bosma.

Pegasus reserves, who also headed the championship ladder at the end of the season, owes much of its success to Commission personnel Adrian Kennedy, Philip Le Petit, Tony Azzopardi and Dennis Buckley.

For Pegasus, 1974 has been a champagne year, drowning out the memory of disappointments since 1963, when the club virtually scooped the pool.

Since then, Pegasus have been runners-up 10 times and third once.

Last week, the club added Battle of Britain honors to its 1974 list, and on September 29 will begin a (hopefully) successful quest for the Charity Bowl title.