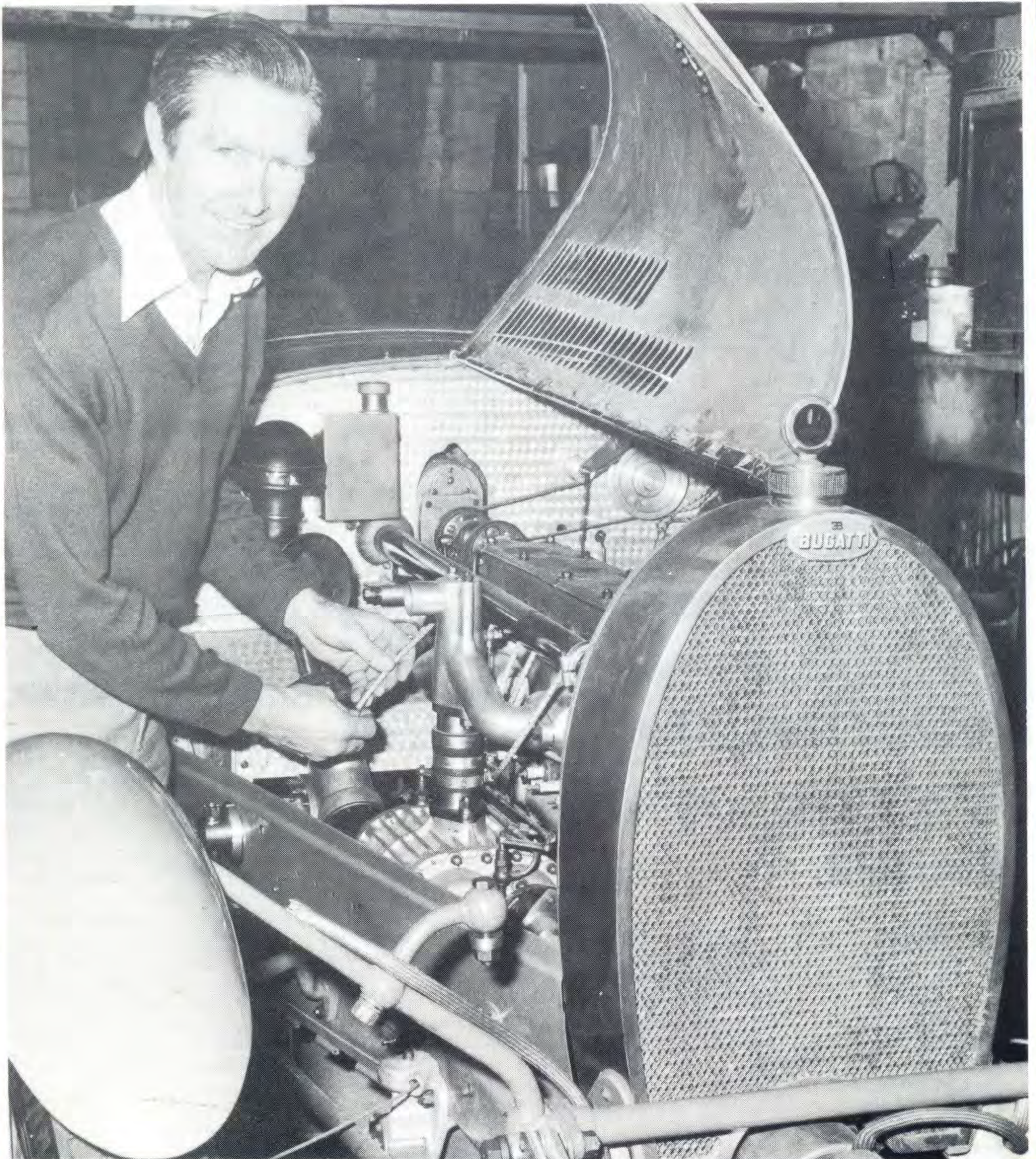




# CONTACT

MAY, 1980



# Harnessing an interest in trotting

Former Commission employee Ted Cowper is making his mark on the Traralgon trotting scene.

Ted, who joined the Commission in 1966 as a fireman, resigned two years ago as fire services officer – but he is still closely associated with SEC activities. He's working at Loy Yang as the National Safety Council's supervisor emergency services.

It's only a couple of years since he took up the sport. But what he might lack in experience he certainly makes up for in enthusiasm – and results.

His horses are already making their mark on trotting tracks throughout the State and as well as forging a reputation as a trainer, he holds a country driver's licence.

Now as President of the Traralgon-based Latrobe Valley Trotting Club social club he's trying to canvass support for the sport among the local community.

"I enjoy training and driving. My wife and eldest daughter work the horses – and are both planning to go for their own licences. And the young ones enjoy grooming the horses.

## After Members

"We desperately need more members at Traralgon. I can't understand why more people aren't involved in trotting locally, considering the number of horses and interested horse people there are in the area.

"At Traralgon we run five meetings a year. It only costs \$10 a year – and that entitles you to attend each meeting with a partner. That should be inside everybody's budget."

Ted had little to do with horses until he arrived in Australia 15 years ago. "I started off chasing brumbies. Then I gave that away in favor of



*Ted Cowper, wife Margaret and daughter Karen with two of their horses.*

breeding Appaloosas when shift work started to get in the way.

Mike Scandolera, a fitter at Morwell Briquetting and Power Installation, sparked Ted's interest in trotting. He's something of a father figure to the sport in Traralgon, having been an enthusiast for 18 years and a founder committee member of the Latrobe Valley Trotting Club.

He has driven on every race course in the State, racing both his own horses – and Ted's.

On April 19 he drove Ted's champion Micky Malone to first place in a 3-year old pacers race at Traralgon, where, in spite of his 10 metre handicap he turned in the second fastest time of the day.

"I got caught up in the sport through my grandfather and father. It's a terrific family sport," said Mike.

He accommodates his four working horses, racer Flash Larrakin, three brood mares, and a couple of foals on his 12 ha farm at Glen-garry West, which also features a training track.

Ted says "The big difference between race horses and trotters is that thoroughbreds need a professional trainer and a jockey to ride them.

"In trotting a man can train and drive the horse himself. You can follow the horse right through, from beginning to end.

"An awful lot of horses don't actually get to the races. That can be very frustrating – putting a lot of work into a horse and it not making the grade.

"But that's just the ups and downs of the sport and you shouldn't let yourself be put off. The next one's always going to be a winner," said Ted.

Among the 32 horses Ted at present accommodates on a total of 19 hectares he's got three pacers – Micky Malone, Defiant Jones and Rising Dawn – two brood mares, two foals and a yearling.

To make sure his horses are in tip top shape for the races, he's built a small practice track at his home in Melrossa Road, Traralgon.

## Contact



Prepared by  
the L.V. Public  
Relations Group  
for Operations Group  
employees.

## Cover

*Yallourn Workshops Superintendent Geoff Fullard has lavished 25 years of dedicated effort on this vintage Bugatti car – the only one of its type in Australia. Full story page 7.*

## Inside

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# Apprentices take out top awards

Fourteen Commission employees have carried off top apprenticeship honors.

The Gippsland Regional Council for Technical Education and Yallourn Technical College awards were presented in the college assembly hall on May 7.

Regional awards went to third year apprentices, Peter Lowater, 19, (electrical fitting and armature winding), Robert Lang, 19, (electrical mechanic), Steven Haney 19 (instrument making and repairing), Andrew Boothman 19 (fitting and armature winding), Barry Winkler, 20 (metal fabrication) and Brad Shaw, 18 (painting and decorating).

They achieved double honors with the Yallourn Technical College awards for the best third year apprentices in their trade.

Third year automotive apprentice John Mirams received the college's award for the best third year apprentice in his trade.

Another regional award went to 20 year old Frank Dean who received the Australian Welding Institute's fabrication award for the Gippsland region.

The College award for the outstanding middle level student went to mechanical design draftsman Phillip Willshire, of the Yallourn drawing office.

## First Year

Best first year certificate student went to engineering assistant trainee Neil Edwards, 18.

Yallourn Technical College award winning second year apprentices were 17 year old Stewart Lang (electrical trades), Joe Vella, 18 (fitting and machining) and Glen Gibson, 16 (metal fabrication).

First year honors at the college went to John Geremia, 17 (fitting and machining), Christopher Lewis, 18 (electrical trades) and Trevor Hough 18 (painting and decorating).

More than 350 people attended the ceremony. Awards were presented by Mr. Mick Scanlon, principal of Yallourn Technical College, Area Administration Manager, George Bates, who is acting chairman

of the Gippsland Regional Council Technical Education and Mr. Barry Dunstan chairman of Yallourn Technical College Council.

At the same ceremony acting property assistant Paul Devlin was presented with his Certificate of Business Studies (Real Estate) — the result of four years' study.

*Prizewinning apprentices (left to right): Andrew Boothman, Robert Lang, Trevor Hough and Stewart Lang.*



## Work experience program

More than 200 Gippsland secondary school students will take part in a work experience program with the Commission in the Latrobe Valley in the next 12 weeks.

Training and Development Officer Les Hunt said years nine to twelve students would work for two weeks in a wide range of positions, both technical and commercial.

Les said the Commission this year had stepped up its involvement in the State Government-sponsored work experience program.

"There will be five intakes, totalling 205 students — nearly

## WINTER SCOPE

SCOPE, the Latrobe Valley Continuing Education Committee, is about to launch its winter program.

Executive officer Ian Minns said the program, which would be available from the end of May, included a number of activities to be run on a weekend or for a short period.

"These are designed for the shift worker or people unable to commit themselves to a course running over a long period on a regular basis.

"Activities will include craft classes for men and women, workshop classes in woodwork, machining, furniture restoration and jewellery-making, and single day activities such as bread-making, dressmaking, brass rubbing and organic gardening."

Further information is available from SCOPE in Moe, telephone 27 4370.

three times the number of positions we were able to offer last year," he said.

"We believe the work experience program is playing a significant role in enabling students to make a properly informed career choice.

"In many of the careers the Commission offers — particularly the professional and semi-professional technical fields — it is vital that students learn as early as possible what the job is all about and the educational requirements in that field."

You might worry about spiralling overdraft rates, but at least there's money in the bank to borrow. What if the supply were to run out? That's the problem the Commission is facing at present.

During the 1970s Victoria relied on the Snowy hydro-electric scheme to supplement normal power generating capacities as required. But there are strict limitations to the SEC's borrowing entitlements.

The Snowy scheme is a dual purpose resource. Power generating authorities vie with the Murray-Murrumbidgee irrigation projects for the water from the Snowy. And Victoria's share of the power output is modest. How much power is generated depends on water levels and rainfall. In a good year it might be as much as 4800 gigawatt hours. In a dry year, significantly less.

Thirteen per cent of the generated power is reserved for the ACT. The residue is divided between NSW and Victoria on a 2.1 ratio.

Power Generation Department says there is no easy solution to the problem of finding an alternative power source to tide things over until Newport D, Yallourn W stage 2 and Loy Yang power stations come on stream.

But it is certain that minimising plant outages on thermal power stations in the Latrobe Valley through improved plant reliability and reduced industrial disputes would significantly ease the situation.

Every outage results in further drains on the limited resources of the Snowy scheme. And every unnecessary "overdraft" at Snowy contributes in the long term to the problem of meeting Victoria's energy requirements — a problem that will continue to haunt the Commission until the completion of the new power station projects.

A series of plant failures and industrial disputes are behind the slippage of the Commission's Snowy bank account into the red. These include outages resulting from the hydrogen explosion and blade failure at Hazelwood, sub shaft failure at W1, sub heater collapse at W2 and the 1977 strike.

The large generating units operate best at steady load. Every stop-start operation subjects the machinery to severe thermal and vibrational stresses and increases the likelihood of human error and mechanical breakdown.

In addition, the time necessary to stop and start a power station is considerable. When taking into

# Keeping the energy account balanced

account start up and shut down times a clear day's stoppage can result in the loss of a day and a half's power generation.

The new water year began this month and Victoria started the year heavily overdrawn to the tune of 350 gigawatt hours. As the year progresses Victoria is almost certain to increase its overdraft to the limit.

Until completion of its three new major power station projects, Victoria is depending on high annual rainfall and a good plant situation to enable Snowy to cope with the demand.

It is therefore vital that all unnecessary outages are eliminated — or instead of being overdrawn, Victoria will find itself heading for bankruptcy.



## *Brushing up on a family tradition*

MEET Traralgon's Ken Kwan — one of the Commission's Loy Yang pioneers, who has been on site since 1977.

And he's a man of hidden talents. Unknown to many of his colleagues, he's quickly establishing quite a reputation as an artist.

Ken, an engineer with Civil and Architectural Department, says it isn't surprising he has a fair share of artistic talent.

"All my family are artists, from my grandfather onwards, so I started very early.

"My father never wanted to teach me. He felt that painting was an artistic expression of self,

not a set of rules — and that I would most improve just by practising.

"To begin with I used to specialise in charcoal drawings, almost exclusively portraits. I had no formal tuition until we arrived in Traralgon two and a half years ago, when my wife, Josephine persuaded me to take lessons.

"Since then I've studied watercolors and oils — and now I mostly paint Gippsland landscapes," said Ken.

*Ken and Josephine Kwan, pictured beside one of Ken's recent paintings, with their three sons (left to right), Christopher, Anthony and Nicholas.*



AREA  
ADMINISTRATION

## ... and the beat goes on

If you ever catch Paul Devlin at his desk with a far away look in his eye, chances are he's working out the fingering of a complicated piece of guitar music.

Paul is acting property assistant, Area Administration. Few of his colleagues realise that in the 1970s Paul was one of Gippsland's premier musicians. His name was synonymous with most of the popular dance bands of the time and his talents embrace a broad spectrum of musical taste, from rock to blues, jazz, classical, rhythm and contemporary music.

Since domestic and work commitments have restricted the time he has to gallivant around Gippsland night spots, he has established an enthusiastic following among a score of guitar students.

"My first recollection of playing music is on a guitar I made as a boy out of burnie board and fishing line. I didn't really get into music till I started work — I bought a guitar with my first pay packet," said Paul.

He learnt to play from books and a succession of guitar teachers and soon began to play in groups around the area.

He first established his reputation in Vampyres, a Leongatha based group. When that split, he took to freelancing along with basist Peter Rich, former administration Clerk at Hazelwood Power Station.



Paul Devlin (right) and Brian Eddy relive the good old days when they used to play in the same band.

"The most satisfying period of my performing years was when I was with the Nigel Rich Quintet, between 1969 and 1972 — the line up included vocalist Ron Perry, alias Reg Morris, machinist at Yallourn 'W'. That band played throughout Gippsland. Our biggest audience was at the Sale Memorial Hall when we played before 1300 people.

On a number of occasions Paul teamed up with property section colleague saxophonist Brian Eddy, secretary of the Land Utilisation Committee.

Other bands he played in included the rock 'n' roll group Drive "N" Beat, which featured Karl Loehr, TSO

at Yallourn 'W' on bass, Wayne Shaw, fitter and turner at Yallourn workshops on drums, and Jeff Soles, toolmaker at Yallourn workshops on trumpet.

Studies got in the way of Paul's performing career when he started working for his Certificate of Business Studies (Real Estate Management).

He completed his studies last year and is preparing to head up north to Queensland on long service leave in June with his wife Heidi (former Technical Librarian Assistant, Morwell) and their three children Emmeline, Jennifer and Leone.

He plans to relaunch himself into a playing career on his return.

## Busy study tour itinerary



Personnel Officer John Drewett (left) leaves the Latrobe Valley next month for seven and a half months overseas on a Commission Experience and Study Award.

He will spend 22 weeks in the UK visiting a number of instrumentalities including the Central Electricity Generating Board, the Engineering Industry Training Board, the Department of Health and Social Security, Manpower Planning and British Steel.

After two weeks in Norway, Sweden and Germany's Ruhr Valley, John will visit both the east and

west coasts of the United States together with some parts of Canada.

Major topics for his attention include the introduction of new technology, the implications and consequences of being the predominant employer in an area, forms and methods of work force involvement in non-industrial issues and topics, problems associated with significant levels of unemployed young people and means of effectively introducing them into the work force, and the effects of significant changes in age and sex composition in the work force as a result of legislation.


**COAL  
PRODUCTION**


## Loy Yang line-up

Coal Production's Loy Yang open cut team is now established on site.

The team is captained by Coal Production Superintendent Bob Odgers while vice-captain is Greg Stuart (Assistant Coal Production Superintendent).

*Above: The team (from left: Bill Conrow, Gordon Stewart, Bob Odgers, Dianne Houghton, Greg Stuart, Keith Taylor. Front Row: Kevin Snell, Ian Robinson, Les Wright, Doug McCowan, Harvey Hall, Jim Colley and Alan Vickery.*

*Left: Les Wright and Dianne Houghton setting up their filing system at Loy Yang.*

The 10-strong team moved from Morwell to Loy Yang early last month and is located in the Commission's site office.

The initial team is: Bill Conrow (Operations Engineer), Gordon Stewart (Electrical Engineer), Keith Taylor (Mechanical Engineer), Kevin Snell (Operations Supervisor), Ian Robinson (Technical Services Officer, Electrical), Les Wright (Commercial Officer), Doug McCowan (Mechanical Supervisor), Harvey Hall (TSO Mechanical), Jim Colley (Operations Foreman), Alan Vickery (Electrical Supervisor) and Dianne Houghton (Typist).

Coal Production is preparing for the start of operations in the open cut, which is expected early next year.

## New trunk conveyor

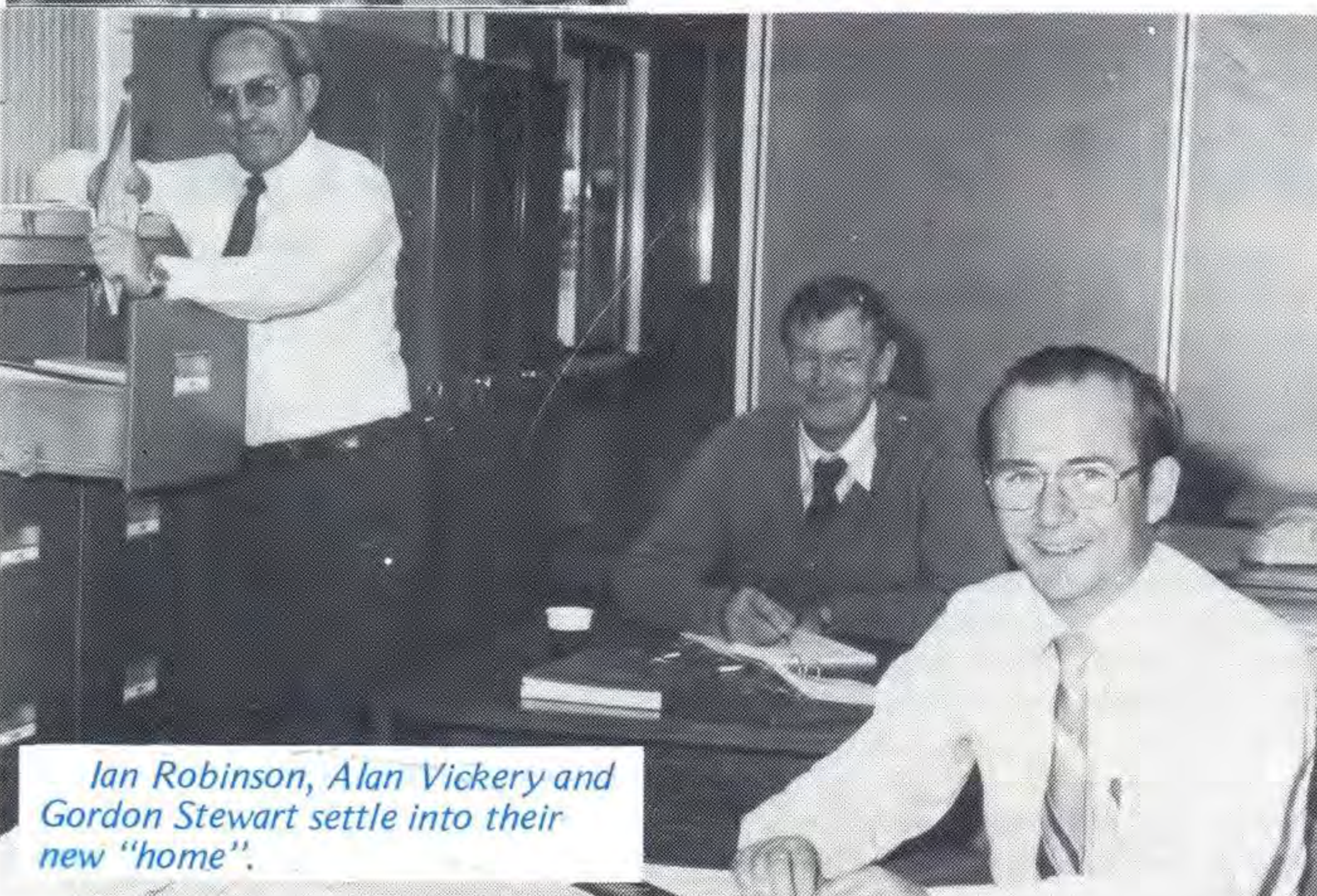
A new \$2 million trunk conveyor (M213) will be brought into operation in Morwell open cut this month.

The huge stationary conveyor was built by Japanese company Nissho-Iwai.

Built on number one level, the conveyor will be the first of four to be constructed over the next four years.

No. 10 dredger will work hand in hand with M213 trunk conveyor.

Over the next few years No. 11, 9, 21 and 19 dredgers will excavate sites on their various levels to also establish new trunk conveyors.



*Ian Robinson, Alan Vickery and Gordon Stewart settle into their new "home".*



**ENGINEERING  
SERVICES**

## Dozer order

The Commission has placed a \$2 million order for 12 Caterpillar bulldozers.

Transport Engineer Peter Elliott says the order represents one of the most significant purchases of bulldozers in Victoria for some years.

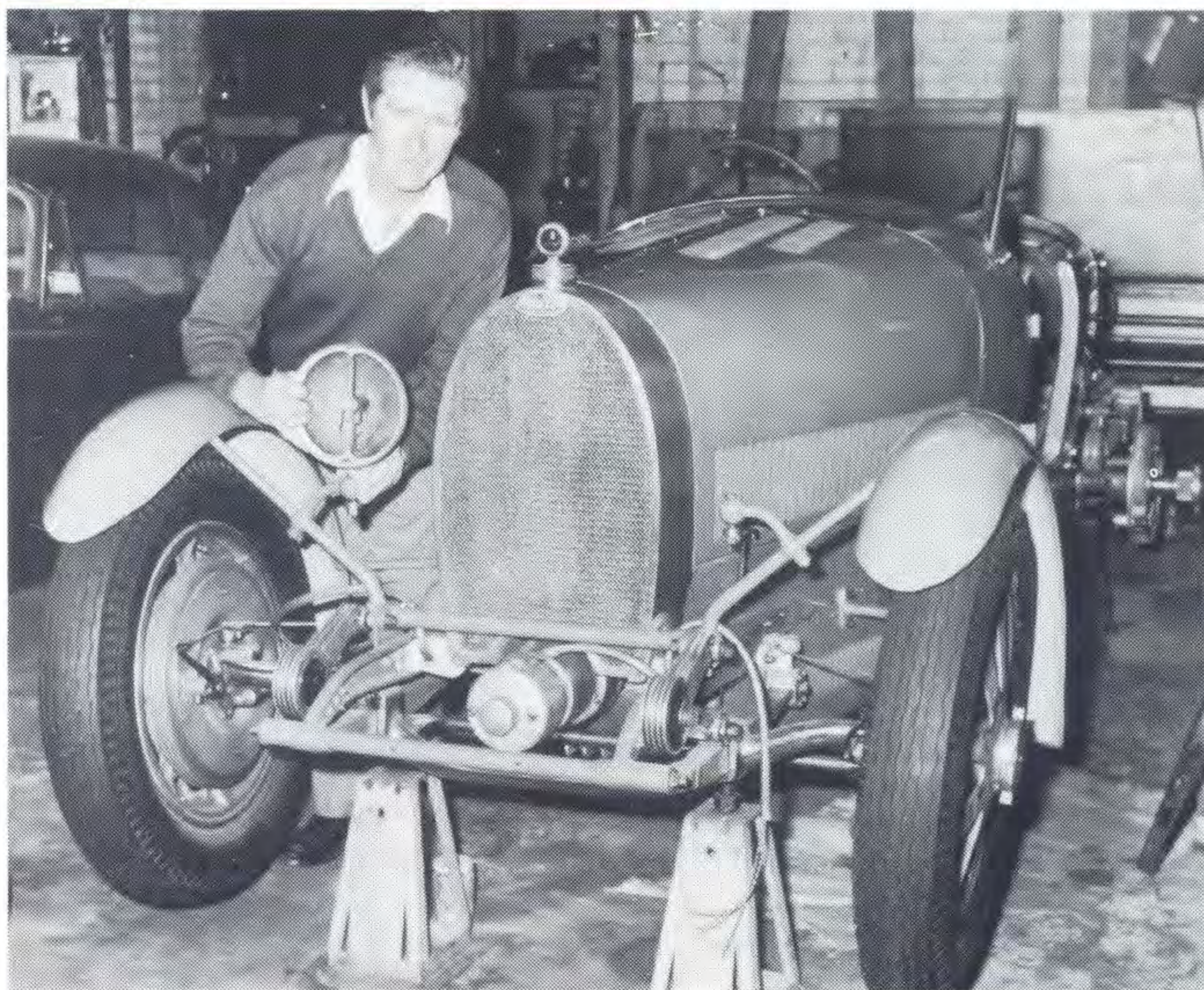
The machines – D6s, D8s, and D9s – will be delivered progressively over the next 12 months.

## LY workshops

Construction of the transport workshops at Loy Yang began last month.

They are scheduled for occupancy by the end of this year.

The \$2 million workshops, being built for C and A department by C. D. Mason Constructions of Berwick will house, repair and servicing facilities for the entire fleet of Loy Yang vehicles and plant items, from D9 bulldozers to chain saws and motor mowers.



# Reconstructing a classic

Yallourn Workshops Superintendent Geoff Fullard has the vintage car bug. In fact he's had it for 25 years.

But in a couple of months, a quarter of a century's painstaking effort spent on reconstructing his Type 43 Grand Sport Bugatti from 'a heap of metal' will pay off when the unique vintage car will finally take to the road.

Geoff says the Bugatti is the only one of its type in Australia. He estimates it was made in late 1927 or early 1928 and understands it was imported from England in 1929.

"I picked it up as a heap of metal from a Yallourn couple," says Geoff.

Then began the difficult business of tracking down spares both around Australia and overseas – and even fabricating some parts himself.

Literally thousands of hours later, Geoff has the satisfaction of seeing a successful conclusion to the enterprise.

Describing his car he said: "This model is considered one of the most interesting cars ever put out by

Bugatti. It has a touring body and chassis and supercharged racing car engine of 2.3 litre capacity. It features cast aluminium wheels – I had to get the casting done in England and did the machining myself."

As a sideline, Geoff also pursues an interest in vintage motorcycles.

"I drive a Velocette, an old 1954 motorbike. I've also got a 1927 Coventry Eagle and a couple of other bikes awaiting restoration," he said.

● *Geoff is pictured above with his pride and joy, the restored Bugatti.*

## Charlie's prize catch

Those fish stories just keep rolling in.

Morwell workshops motor mechanic Charlie Armstrong thought all his Christmasses had come at once when he hooked this 26 kilogram mullaway in the Top Lake at Mallacoota last month.

Charlie took only 10 minutes to land the two-metre fish.

It was the first time he had fished at Mallacoota and he says it won't be the last.

"It's the biggest fish I've ever caught," Charlie said.

"I used tailor fillet for bait and caught it on a 14kg breaking strain line. After fishing all night the mullaway took the bait at 5 a.m.

"I stored the fish in the kitchen freezer for a couple of weeks and then had it cut up by a Morwell butcher."

*Proudly displaying the prize catch is the Armstrong family (from left) Charlie, his wife Ann and daughter Naomi.*



# More to the 'man at the gate' than meets the eye

For many people, the first contact they have with the Commission in the Latrobe Valley is through the "man at the gate".

And the patrolman is a familiar figure to Commission employees in all fields of operations.

But it is doubtful if many people realise the complex and expanding role performed by patrol.

According to Latrobe Valley Patrol Supervisor Ray Houghton the maintenance of security is one of the most important requirements in an operation as big and complex as the Commission.

In the Latrobe Valley, in particular, with its massive open cut and power station undertakings, security is vital. The 80-strong LV patrol section works around the clock safeguarding works areas and other Commission installations.

The operation is divided into three sub-sections based at Yallourn, Morwell and Loy Yang. Supervisor at Morwell is Hugh Gunn, at Yallourn Dick Gray and at Loy Yang, Norm Casey.

### Public relations

In addition to their security function, one of the patrol's roles is quite clearly that of public relations. They must have a sound general knowledge of all Commission operations in the Valley and must be familiar with all departmental senior officers, project engineers and their locations, as well as all

contractors and suppliers involved in construction projects.

Patrol operates a number of two-way radio equipped vehicles in the Valley throughout afternoon and night shifts, Monday to Friday and around the clock at weekends.

It is patrol's responsibility to insure the security of Commission installations, protect Commission and contractors' property and generally police SEC regulations.

### Keeping check

Examples of insecurities detected by patrolmen are unlocked buildings, gates and vehicles, lack of security lighting, children in works areas and unauthorised entry in general. Reporting fires, signs of forced entry, unauthorised positioning of locks, stray cattle on roads or the inter-connecting railway — it's all in a day's work for the patrolmen.

Escort operations — for ambulance, wide and long loads of heavy equipment, wages and salaries — are another major patrol activity.

*BELOW: Loy Yang patrolman Allan Bull stops a contractors vehicle at the Barton's Lane patrol gate.*

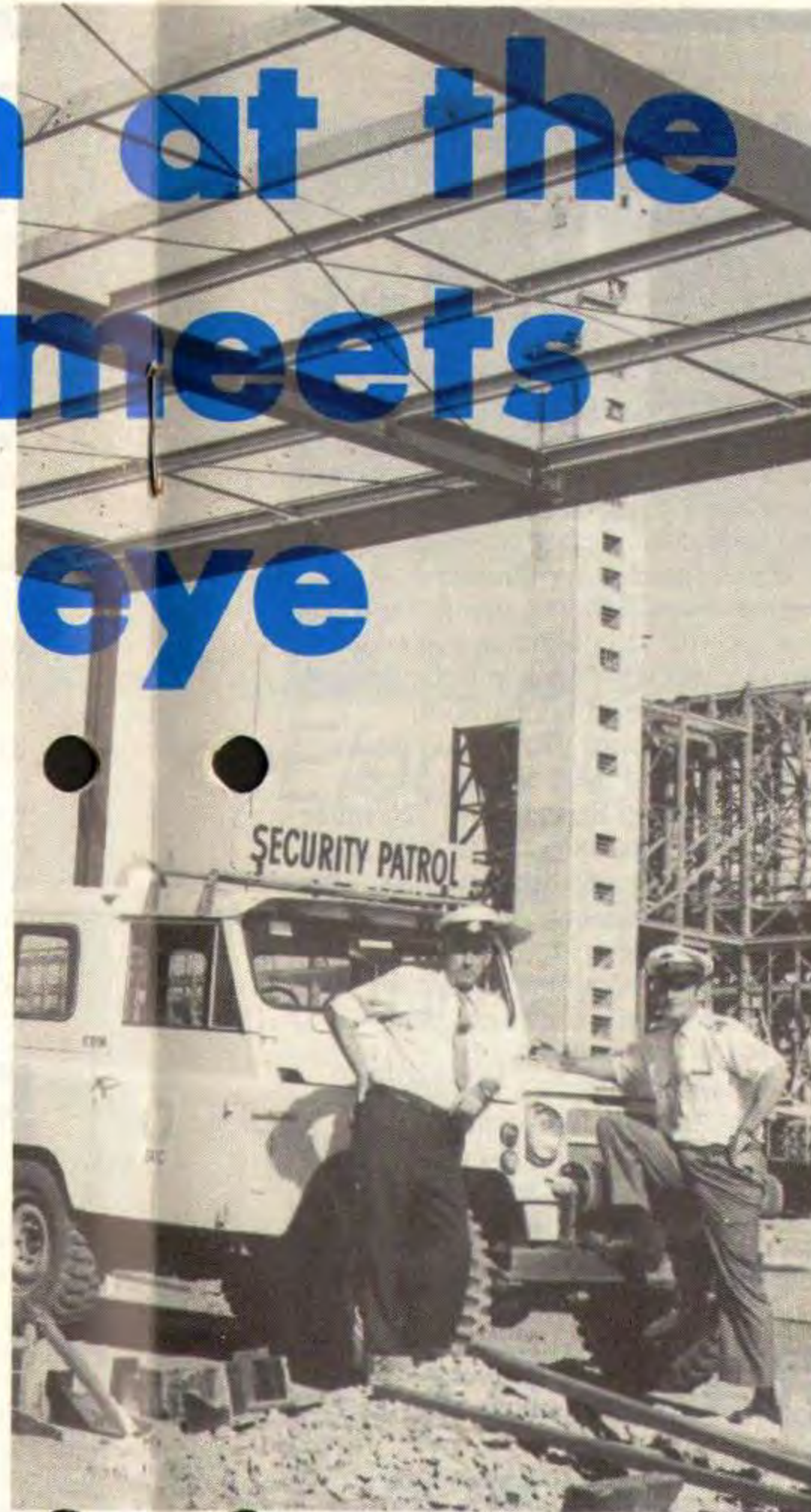
The patrolmen on gate duty are responsible for ensuring that there is no unauthorised entry into works areas and that all material and equipment leaving the area has been cleared.

A senior patrolman at Morwell would travel about 100 kilometres during a shift. As well as controlling the activities of the shift on duty he carries out inspections of car parks and installations outside the works areas.

His counterpart at Yallourn is involved in similar activities, with outside inspections taking him 100 to 110 kilometres each shift.

Inspections include Yallourn township, Yallourn North Extension open cut, the weir wall and Yallourn resettlement areas at Newborough.

Meanwhile at Loy Yang, patrolmen are kept busy inspecting in and around the huge power station site.



*ABOVE: Contractors employees use the remotely controlled gate at Yallourn 'W' power station.*

*LEFT: Loy Yang Patrol Supervisor Norm Casey (right) is pictured with patrolman Eric Cox under the framework for one of the new Loy Yang patrol gates.*

*RIGHT: Operating some of the new monitoring equipment at Yallourn is patrolman Jack Cronin.*



*Briefing patrolmen is an important part of Latrobe Valley Patrol Supervisor Ray Houghton's job. Here he is pictured with (from left) Val McGann, Brian Curtis, Ray, Hugh Gunn, Colin Gabber, Alec Williamson and Anton Vonk.*

## Electronic age

Commission patrolmen are moving quickly into the electronic age, their tools today being closed circuit television, alarms and computer systems.

And there are more changes to come. Some of these introduced recently or at present under investigation include —

- personnel identification tags for some employees,
- remote control alarms backed up by closed circuit television,
- automatic vehicle gates in remote or seldom used areas —

these will be operated by magnetic keys issued to authorised personnel, and

- remote control pedestrian gates with which the patrolman can control employee entry and exit from works areas with minimum delay — this system also involves talkback procedures and closed circuit television.

Eventually, all these systems and equipment will be linked to a central security control room, from where all entries and exits will be monitored.





## Time at the top

Power Generation Department engineer Ray Beebe is back at Yallourn Power Station after a nine-month secondment to the Northern Territory Electricity Commission.

Ray worked at the oil-fired Stokes Hill Power Station (141 Megawatts) in Darwin, including a six week stint acting as Power Station Superintendent.

Ray said the station has eight boiler/turbine units ranging in size from 7.5 MW to 23.5 MW. There are also three gas turbines in Darwin totalling 40 MW.

His major role at the station was to set up the performance section for assessment of plant performance. He was asked to find ways to increase station efficiency and keep production costs to a minimum.

Ideas offered by station staff helped the performance section in testing areas to be investigated. The work was aimed at making the best use of existing plant, recommending modifications for improvement, optimising availability and reliability, and improving environmental aspects.

### Test program

An on-going test program was developed to monitor unit efficiency.

The Commission's plant condition monitoring, which ensures major maintenance is done when it's needed rather than at a set time, was introduced.

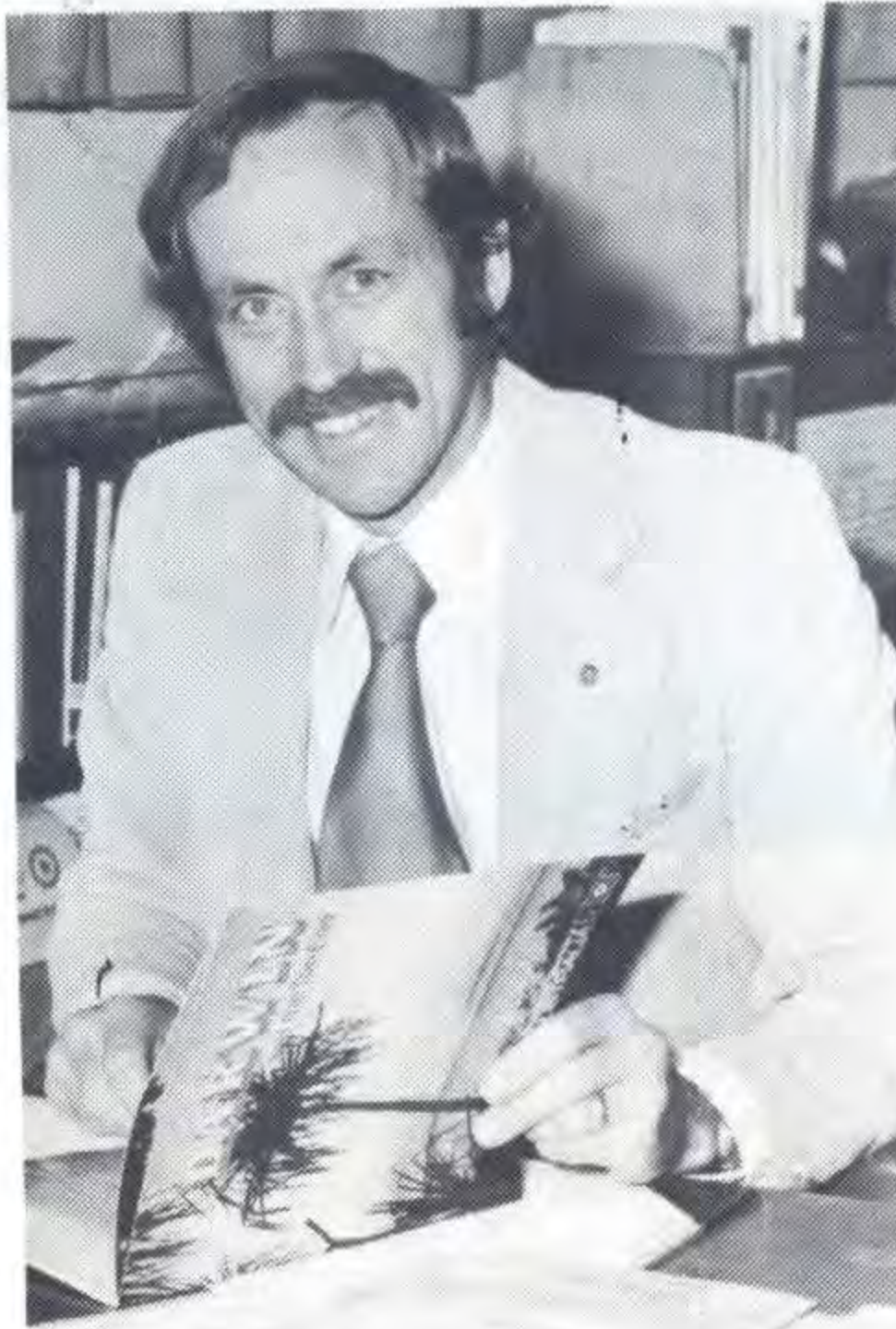
Revision and modification of plant operation, such as pipe trace heating to enable use of cheaper heavier oil, are estimated to save up to 10 per cent of the present annual fuel bill.

Ray said Darwin's power and energy demand is growing at 12 per cent a year.

There is adequate steam and gas turbine plant for some years, hydro power from a new station on the Ord River is proposed; and conversion of Stokes Hill to coal-firing is being studied.

According to Ray the NTEC will depend on oil for several years.

The performance improvement program will be continued by NTEC staff.



Ray, who lived in Nightcliff a Northern Darwin suburb, with his wife Barbara and children Natalie, 5, and Melissa, 2½, intends to return to Stokes Hill later this year for a week to review progress of the work carried out on his proposals.



## New cooling tower set to begin work

Yallourn W's newest cooling tower is about to begin its working life.

The number three tower, built by Lewis Construction Co. Pty. Ltd. under the W2 construction program, will be operational for about six weeks.

It will stand in for number one cooling tower, which is being taken out of service for maintenance and repairs. This will enable W station units one and two to remain in operation without significant production losses.

Yallourn W Power Station Superintendent Norm Bowles said: "Number three tower was ready. Until both the Stage 2 units are available we have spare cooling capacity.

"The cooling system has been designed with maximum flexibility and number three tower can supplement W1 as required.

"Repairs required on number one tower include the replacement of all the water sprays with a more robust design. If we were unable to use number 3 tower this would result in a long outage involving the total shut down of unit one," he said.

## Blasting off

Power Generation Department co-ordination engineer Graeme Sambell (left) has been a model enthusiast for more than 20 years.

However, his current project is the most ambitious yet - a model of the American Satin Five space rocket, and it will actually fly.

Graeme has spent more than 100 hours assembling the metre-high rocket.

Three solid fuel engines will enable the rocket to fly to a height of 200 metres when the capsule will break away from the rocket and float back to earth.

The kit for the realistic rocket was imported from America.

Graeme decided on the rocket project following an inspection of the real Satin Five rocket at Cape Kennedy in America during a world tour in 1975.

Graeme's hobby is a family affair - his wife Barbara and children Karen, 9, and Christopher 7, also take an active interest.



## TRANSMISSION OPERATIONS



# Elec Workshops best in annual golf tournament

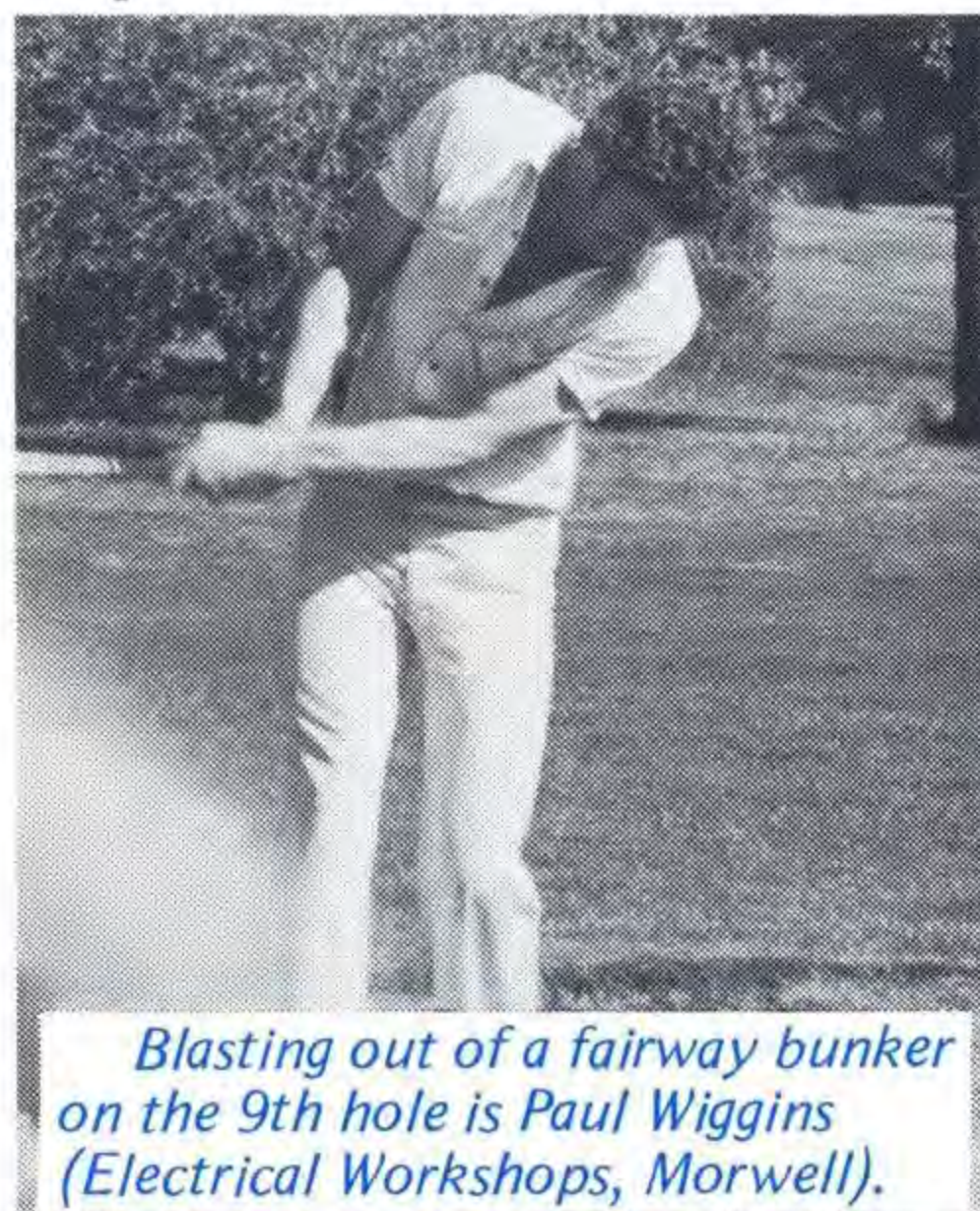
An Electrical Workshops team scored a strong win in this year's Transmission Golf tournament.

Winning team members were: Danny Belt, Ernie Hanvy, Peter Hanvy and Allan Gretton.

More than 65 Transmission golfers competed in the tournament at Yallourn Golf Club.

Trophy winners were, A grade: Phil Watts (Headquarters, Morwell); B grade: Bob Scorse (Operations, Yallourn); women's event: Danielle Hall, junior event; Peter Hanvy.

*Chatting before teeing off at the 10th hole are (from left); Jim Richardson (Tests Lab, Yallourn), Wayne Casey (Stations, Yallourn) and Steve Agius (Training Centre).*



*Blasting out of a fairway bunker on the 9th hole is Paul Wiggins (Electrical Workshops, Morwell).*

*Top: Putting out on the fourth hole are (from left); Bruce Knight (Tests Supervisor, Yallourn), Bill Gobel (Production Co-Ordination), Steve Agius (Training Centre, Yallourn) and Grant Cowley (Area Lines, Yallourn).*



## Collecting more than token effort

Collecting advertising tokens is probably not everybody's cup of tea, but for Morwell Electrician Special Class, Doug Mooney, it has become a rewarding hobby.

Doug began his hobby three years ago.

His collection, which totals more than 300 tokens, is one of the biggest in the Latrobe Valley.

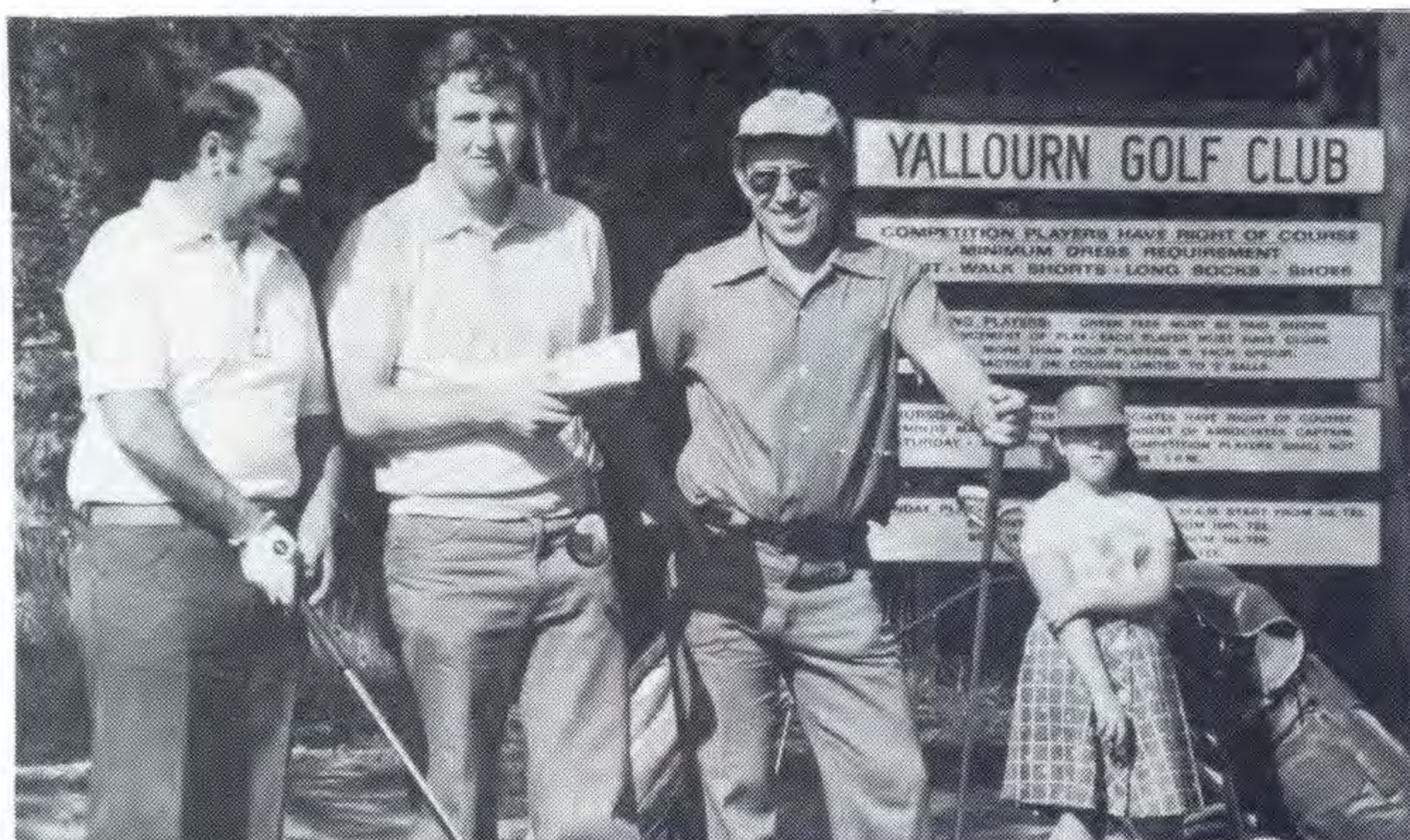
The oldest token is a 1812 English public toilet penny.

"They come in all shapes and sizes from all over the world. I've got them from America, Great Britain, Thailand, and a number of other countries," Doug said.

"My aim is to eventually have the best collection in Australia.

"There are many types of tokens — bread, transport, advertising, slot machine, telephone and gas tokens, to name a few.

"Collecting tokens is a branch of coin collecting, but not as expensive".



# SERVICE REGISTER

## MAY

Commission staff and wages personnel who reached significant service milestones during May are included in this month's register.

### 25 YEARS

Alex Wilson  
Ivan Tosin  
Domenico Fazioli

Michael O'Brien  
Henry Crane  
Angelo Bacchetti  
Vern Grealy  
Joe Logiodice  
Frank McInerney  
Roy Hanley  
David Balfour  
Tony Stephens  
Henry Willcox  
John Parr  
Jim Harrup  
John Crozier  
Arthur Morgan  
John McLean

John Rowlands  
George Buckton

Frank Amaira

Catering  
Yallourn Power Station  
Morwell Briquette and  
Power  
Yallourn Power Station  
Yallourn Power Station  
Hazelwood Power Station  
Yallourn Power Station  
Machine Shop Morwell  
Yallourn Power Station  
Yallourn Power Station  
Yallourn Power Station  
Yallourn Power Station  
Yallourn Power Station  
Secretarial  
Survey  
Civil Services  
Materials and Services  
Morwell Briquette and  
Power  
Hazelwood Power Station  
Morwell Briquette and  
Power  
Yallourn Power Station

### 30 YEARS

Don McTaggart

Richard Boyes  
Charles Spencer  
Alec Bremner  
Paul Suda  
Henry Opalinski  
Charlie Nikodemski  
Marian Smalera  
Alf Rogowski  
John Paszkiewicz  
Joe Prokopiwskyi

Mike Pawliw  
Ted McBride  
Karl Karpinski

Tony Micallef  
Ron Williamson  
Stan Ryan  
George Djordjevic  
Joe Giovanof  
John Wojciow  
Ben Sutcliffe

Morwell Briquette and  
Power  
Transmission Operations  
Secretarial  
Fire Services  
Forestry, Yallourn  
Yallourn Power Station  
Yallourn Open Cut  
Hazelwood Power Station  
Civil Services, Yallourn  
Yallourn Power Station  
Central Workshops  
Yallourn  
Yallourn Open Cut  
Machine Shop, Yallourn  
Yallourn 'W' Power  
Station  
Yallourn Power Station  
Civil Works, Yallourn  
Yallourn Open Cut  
Yallourn Open Cut  
Yallourn Open Cut  
Forestry  
Yallourn 'W' Power  
Station

Bill Shaw  
John Insley

Ivan Kowal  
Wasył Melnyk  
Paul Carabott

Tom Grant

Charles McIntyre

John Grima

Norm Burke  
Don Malpass

Stan Hillbrick

Frank Williamson

Ernie Rawiller

George Whitmore  
Jim Helms

Gordon Wilson

Rex Cooper

John Irving

Allen Douglas

### 31 YEARS

Yallourn Power Station  
Central Workshops  
Yallourn  
Yallourn Power Station  
Yallourn Power Station  
Yallourn 'W' Power  
Station  
Morwell Briquette and  
Power  
Transmission Operations

### 32 YEARS

Yallourn Open Cut

### 33 YEARS

Mechanical Workshops  
Finance

### 34 YEARS

Transport Workshops  
Yallourn  
Yallourn Open Cut

### 36 YEARS

Drafting

### 40 YEARS

Yallourn Open Cut  
Drafting

### 41 YEARS

Yallourn Power Station

### 43 YEARS

Morwell Briquette and  
Power  
Morwell Briquette and  
Power

### 44 YEARS

Yallourn Open Cut

# Indenture day for 153 apprentices

A record 153 apprentices, who began work in January this year, signed their apprenticeship indentures last month at a series of functions in Yallourn, attended by parents, SEC training officers and members of the Industrial Training Commission.

Parents were given the opportunity to see the apprentices' work environment and talk with instructors about the progress being made.

The largest single group was fitting and turning where 53 apprentices were employed.

Other trades include boiler-making (35 apprentices) electrical mechanics (20) instrument making 10, carpentry, plumbing, painting and decorating, linesmen, refrigeration mechanics and motor mechanics.

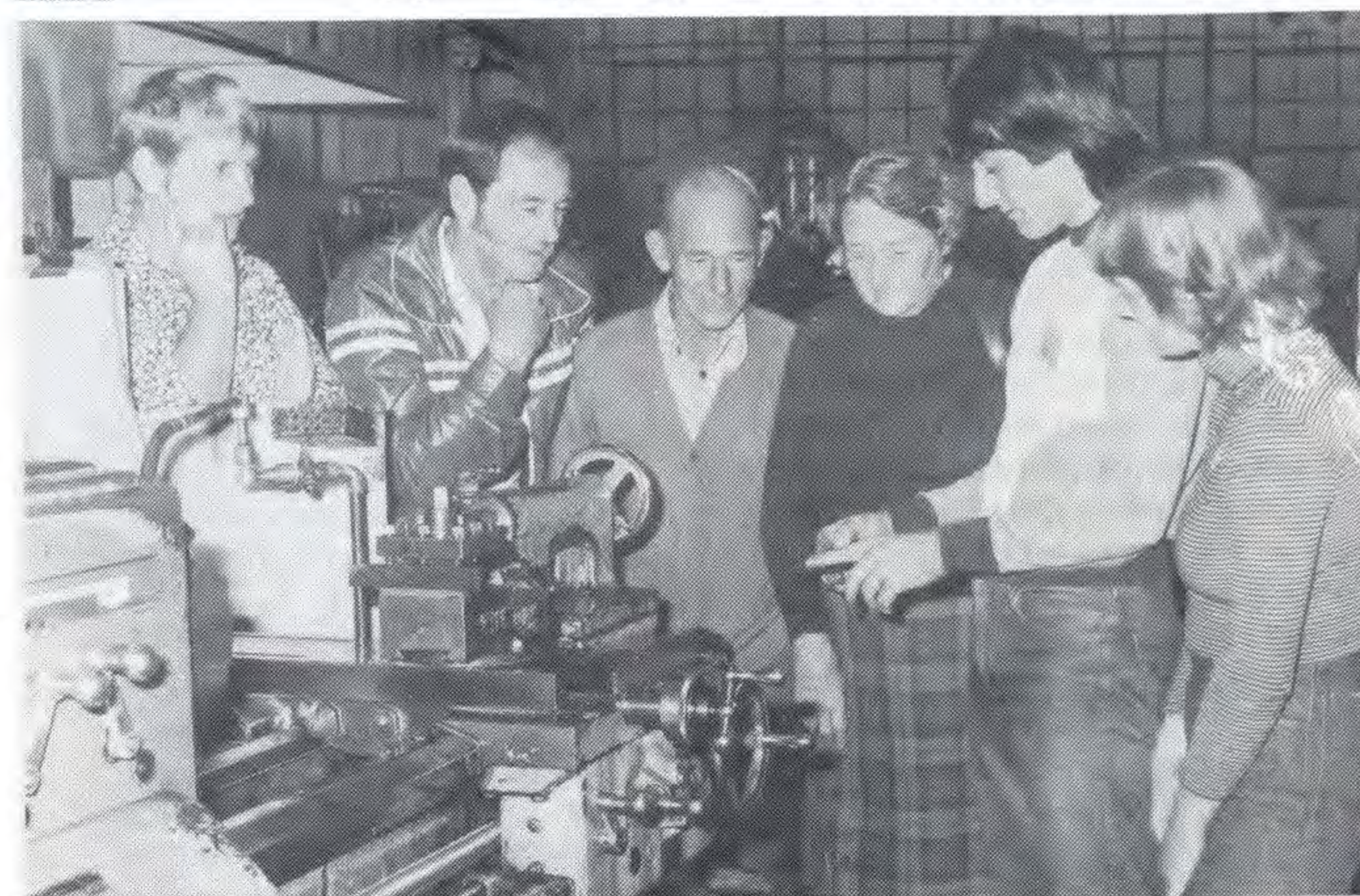
Apprentices have come from all corners of Gippsland and the Latrobe Valley.

*Above right: Nola and Bob Moss of Trafalgar chat with their son Peter, an apprentice fitter and turner.*

*Right: Walter Maslen of Moe, an apprentice fitter and turner, explains the workings of a lathe to his family (from left) Rae and Walter Maslen, Jim and Ada Walker and Marlene Jones.*



*Above: Boilermaker apprentice Alan Gannon of Newborough, shows his parents Therese and Ted some of his work.*



*Neville Mitchell of Warragul, signs his fitting and turning indentures in front of his parents Joyce and Eric, while SEC Training Centre Office Assistant Tessie Bonnici looks on.*

## The helpers need your help -- now !

Can YOU help Lifeline?

The organisation which helps thousands of Gippslanders a year is turning the tables on the community — and is itself seeking help.

It is campaigning for funds to help meet the capital costs incurred in buying a permanent home from which to operate the service and run training courses. In January it launched a 25 month appeal to raise \$25,000 — but already it is way behind target.

Organisers are appealing to individuals and businesses right across Gippsland for financial support. An annual donation of \$2 a year or more entitles the subscriber to membership of 'Friends of Lifeline'.

A number of Commission employees are among the volunteer counsellors and on the board of management. One board member is Personnel Officer, John Drewett.

He said: "A team of 92 counsellors operate the 24-hour confidential telephone counselling service. We get an average of 65 calls a week — double last year's figures — from people as far away as Bairnsdale and Lakes Entrance, Yarram and Warragul.

"The main aim is just to be there and listen — sometimes that's all people need. Often by talking, callers find they can work the way through their own problems. Once they realise they have the potential to sort themselves out, their self esteem rises.

"The service is strictly anonymous, chiefly to protect the caller who would be very embarrassed to run into the person to whom he had just unburdened himself.

"Callers range from seven to 70 year olds, from all walks of life, men and women.

"The greatest number of problems concern marital relationships, mostly stemming from a breakdown in communications. Other stresses include anxiety, depression, and loneliness — particularly among young people, especially young mothers. Drug dependancy is emerging as a growing problem," said John.

Anyone wanting to contribute to the Lifeline appeal should phone Val Rohde, Lifeline's Director on 34 4311 or write to Box 678 Morwell.



*Kelpie and wife Margaret inspect some of the 187 varieties of maidenhair fern they grow in the fernery at their Le Roy property.*

## GOLD ISN'T ALL THAT GLITTERS FOR KELPIE

There's gold in Traralgon Creek — and rubies too. Ask Kelvin Smith. He's seen the evidence.

But before you all rush out with your gold pans, Kelvin would be keen to point you in the direction of better hunting grounds.

Kelvin — better known to many as 'Kelpie' — is a real multi-faceted personality.

At Loy Yang he works with the Commission's Civil and Architectural Department as acting fire officer and soil conservation liaison officer. Once home he assumes new dimensions — gold fossicker, gemologist extraordinaire and compulsive fern grower.

Kelvin, who started his working life as a market gardener and florist alongside his father in Adelaide, said of his enthusiasm for ferns: "I've been interested in plants all my life. The great variety of ferns makes growing them a fascinating and rewarding hobby."

### 8000 plants

His glasshouse at present accommodates about 8000 plants. That includes 187 different types of maidenhair fern and "perhaps 80 other varieties — I've never bothered to count".

"One of these days I hope to make my ferns a paying hobby," he said.

Meanwhile, they are already helping to raise money — Kelvin regularly donates ferns to social club raffles.

He doesn't pursue his hobby of gold fossicking to quite the same lengths — nevertheless it's had its rewards. "The biggest gold nugget I've found is about three times the size of a head of a match. That mightn't sound big — but it shows up like a football in a pan of dirt.

### Gold traces

"In my experience, the best gold's to be found in the Tanjil River and adjacent gullies — although you can find traces of gold almost anywhere around here," he said.

Since he first became interested in gem stones about 15 years ago, Kelvin's interest has developed into one of the biggest collections of gem stones in the Latrobe Valley.

"People ask me why I don't sell the collection. But then where would the interest be? I wouldn't be sharing it with people now," he says.

# retirements



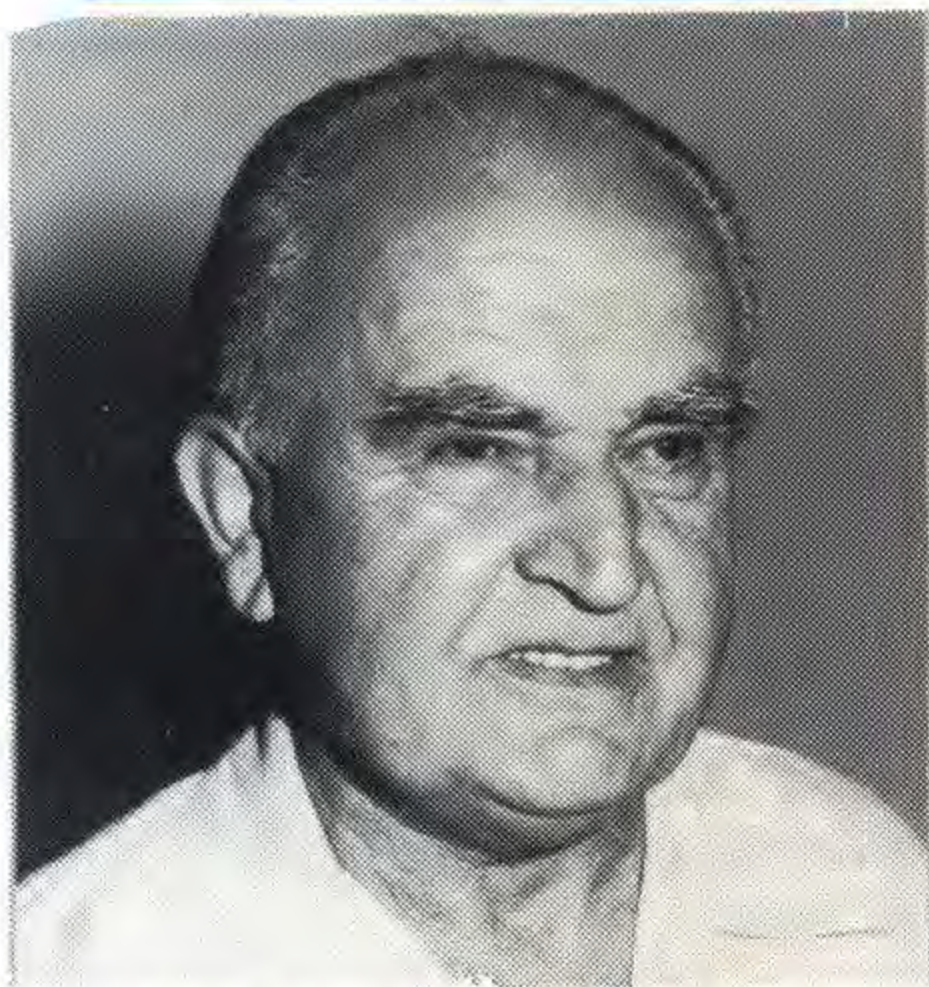
**JOSEPH BIALON**

Joseph 'John' Bialon has retired after nearly 22 years service.

John began with the Commission as a laborer with Construction, Yallourn, in April 1958. He retired as a skilled builders laborer with Civil Services, Yallourn.

John plans a relaxing retirement enjoying his hobby of gardening.

At an informal farewell function in the Yallourn Civil Works Depot canteen Civil Works Engineer Tom Stillman presented him with a wallet of notes.



**GEORGE STOILJKOVIC**

Retirement for George Stoiljkovic will mean time in the garden and building a house.

He left the Commission on March 26 after more than 27 years service. At a retirement function George Loughborough, Station Operations Engineer presented him with a wallet of notes.

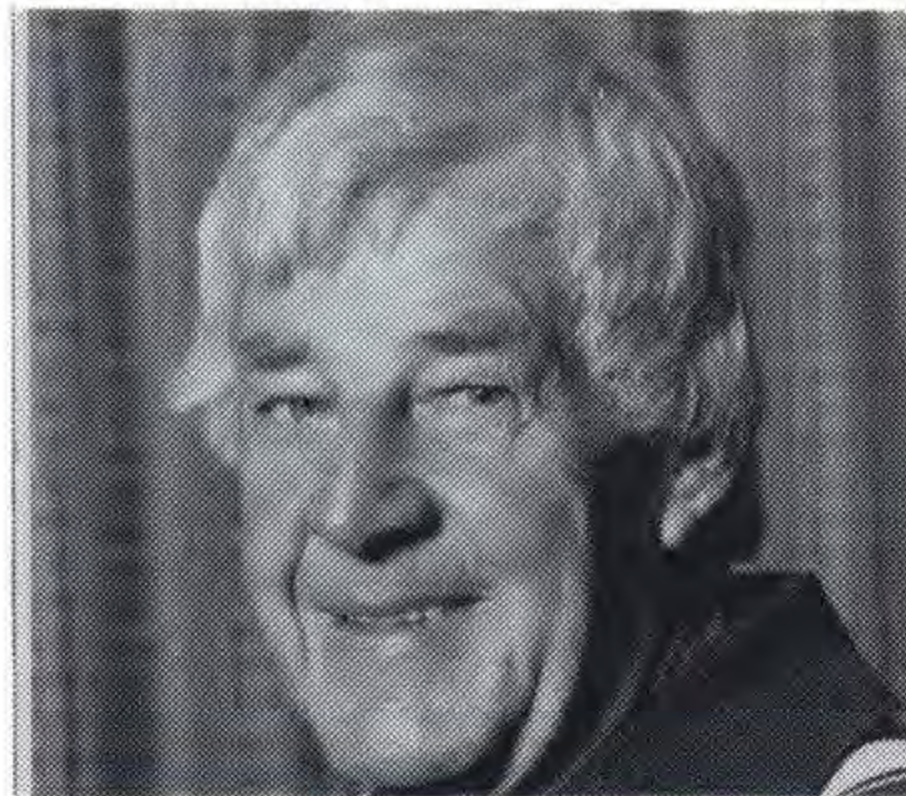
After joining in 1952 as a laborer in Yallourn open cut, George worked in the cut and in the power station as a tipper, belt attendant, greaser, load weigher, electrical plant attendant and dry coal conveyor attendant before moving in 1969 to Hazelwood where he worked as an operator grade one until his retirement.

**GEORGE BIDDISCOMBE**

Former Collingwood footballer George Biddiscombe retired on March 17. Among George and his wife's early retirement plans is an extended tour of Australia's east coast.

George, who lives in Morwell, joined the Commission in 1970 from the Gas and Fuel Corporation as an instrument maker and repairer. After a month at Yallourn Power Station he moved to Morwell Briquetting and Power Division where for the past nine years he worked as instrument and controls tradesman.

At a retirement function technical services engineer John Manicola presented George with a wallet of notes.



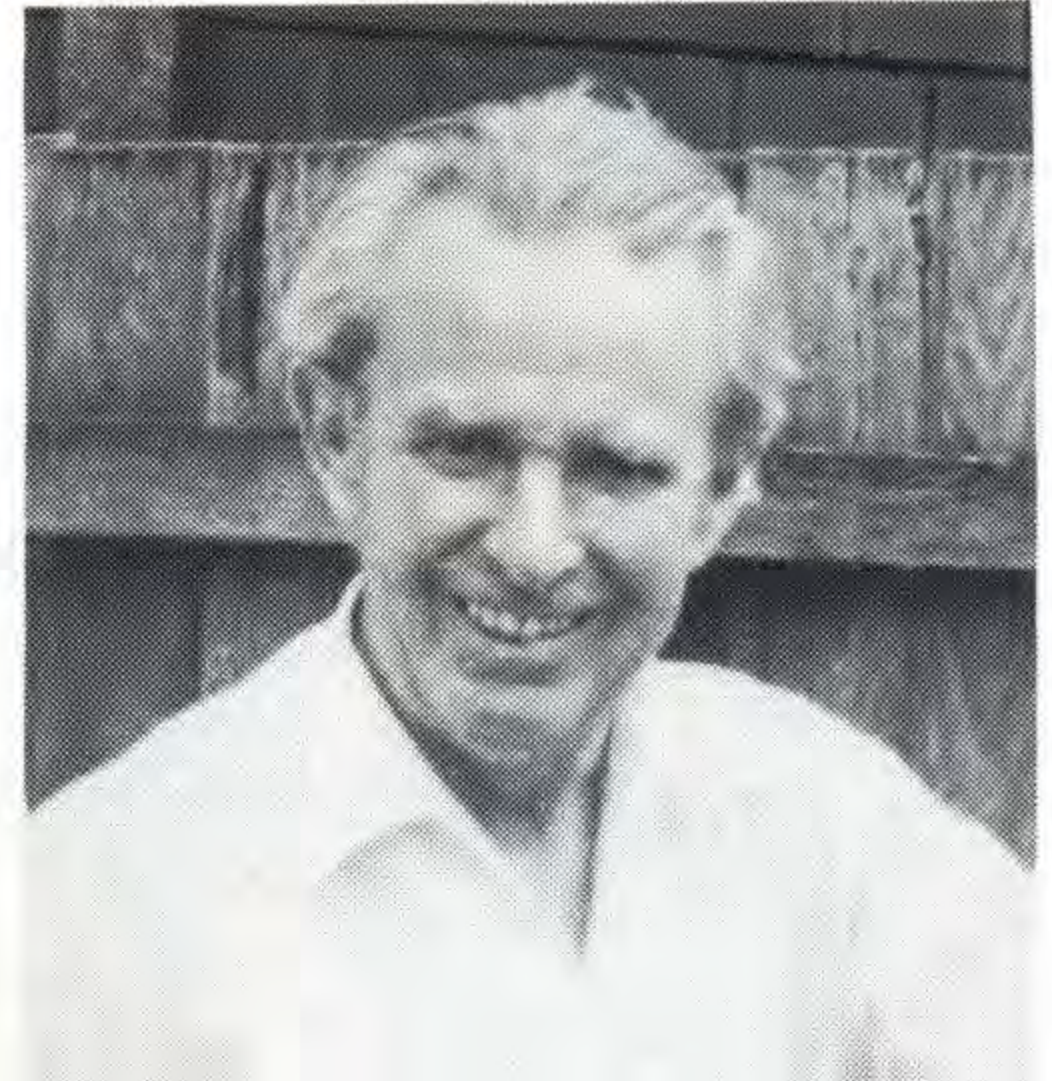
**ERIC HUMPHREYS**

Eric Humphreys retired on March 13 after more than 27 years service with the Commission.

He started work in 1952 as a fitter at Yallourn Power Station. By 1955 he had been promoted to Foreman grade three. He moved to Hazelwood Power Station in 1963 and was promoted to overseer grade one in May 1966. Later that year he was appointed instrument overseer (programming) of the technical services section at Hazelwood, the position from which he retired.

In retirement, Eric and his wife plan to live in Boolarra where they will enjoy their mutual hobby of lapidary.

At a farewell function he was presented with a clock radio and a wallet of touring information.



**KEN ELLIS**

Ken Ellis is living in Tweed Heads, N.S.W., following his retirement.

Ken began his 33 year Commission service as a draftsman with Construction Department in January 1951. He retired from the position of draftsman with Survey in Engineering Services Department.

In retirement Ken intends to enjoy his hobby of fishing. At an informal farewell in the Morwell Club, Principal Surveyor, Barry Ross presented Ken with a drill press stand and an orbital sander.

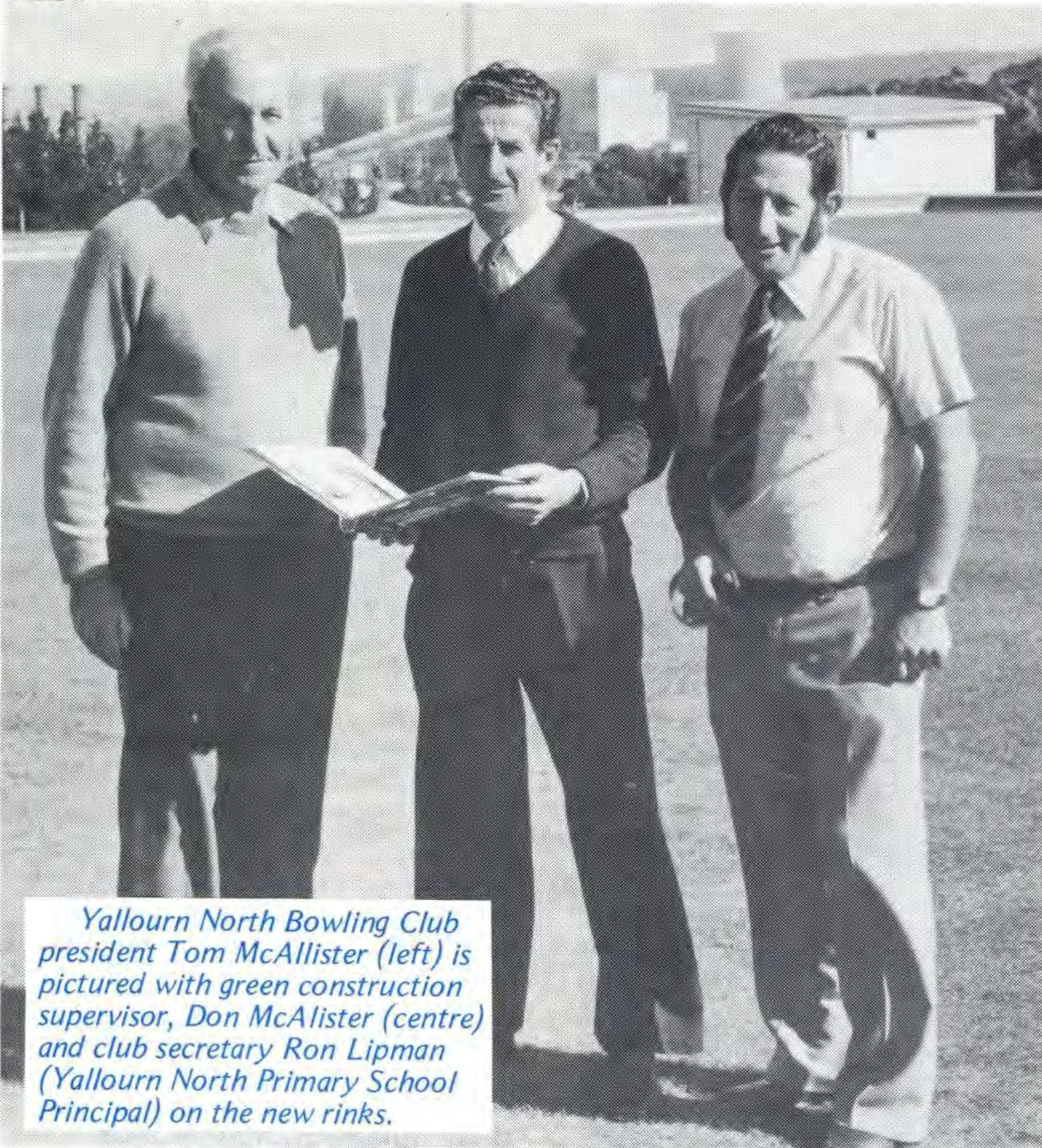


**JOE KUROWSKI**

A holiday in New Zealand will mark the start of Joe Kurowski's retirement.

The leading hand operator grade three at Hazelwood Power Station left the Commission on April 20 after 18 years service. He joined in 1962 as a platelayer in Morwell Coal Production. He moved to Hazelwood and worked as a trimmer, coal conveyor attendant, electrical plant attendant and leading hand before being appointed to the position from which he retired in 1973.

Joe was presented with a wallet of notes by George Loughborough, Station Operations Engineer at a farewell function.



*Yallourn North Bowling Club president Tom McAllister (left) is pictured with green construction supervisor, Don McAlister (centre) and club secretary Ron Lipman (Yallourn North Primary School Principal) on the new rinks.*

## New greens taking shape

Work on the new \$150 000 Yallourn North Bowling Club is well advanced.

A team of volunteers — many of them Commission employees — have been working on the club since 1975. When completed it will have eight rinks and a large modern clubhouse — the former Yallourn kindergarten building.

Club president Tom McAllister, (Yallourn Power Station boiler-maker overseer) said SEC employees make up about 90 per cent of the club's current membership.

The land for the new rinks was obtained from the Narracan Shire Council and the kindergarten from the SEC.

Green construction has been under the capable supervision of Don McAlister, Yallourn Power Station Boilers Supervisor (no relation to Tom).

The Club hopes to increase its membership to 100 by the end of this year. Anybody interested in joining can contact Don on ext. 2782.

## SOCCER CLUB MOVES INTO NEW 'HOME'

Yallourn Soccer Club has moved into its new \$250 000 home at Burrage Reserve, Newborough.

Two grounds and magnificent clubrooms make up one of the best soccer centres in the Latrobe Valley.

The SEC provided more than \$160 000 for the project as part of the relocation of Yallourn facilities program.

Committeeman Ron Sincich (Yallourn Drawing Office) said the Commission had made a magnificent contribution which had enabled the club to develop a first class facility.

Work began on the Burrage Reserve early in 1979 and was completed last month.

The club won its first match on the new ground, defeating Chelsea 4 - 2.



*Chairman of the Victorian Metropolitan Soccer League Mr. J. Whittaker officially opens the Burrage Reserve clubrooms and grounds.*

According to Ron the Club's next project is to have lights installed at the ground for night soccer.

### Contact contacts

#### FOR SALE

Australian Native Plants, Grevilleas, kunzeas, melaleucas, acacias, pittosporums. . and many other varieties. Prices: \$1.40 each, \$1.00 each for 20 plants or more. All plants are sold in 15cm pots. Contact: Ray Williams, Yallourn 'W' Construction, ext. 2131 or 66 1306 after hours.

#### FOR SALE

Two land rover wheels, complete with tyres and tubes. New jeep service re-caps. 7.50 x 16. \$50 each. Contact T. Hardman, ext. 2822.

#### FOR SALE

Stihl chain saw, 40 cm, 020, in perfect condition. New chain and file guide. \$180. Contact David Wellsmore, 29 Butters Street, Morwell

#### BOARD REQUIRED

Private single board is required in the Latrobe Valley area. If you think you may be able to assist in this matter please telephone ext. 2885.