



CONTACT

JUNE, 1980



New club for LV stampies?

Calling all stamp collectors!

A meeting early next month could lead to the formation of a Latrobe Valley SEC Philatelic Society.

The Melbourne-based SEC Philatelic Society formed in 1967 now has more than 200 members, nearly half of them from the Latrobe Valley.

Area Administration Computer Services Programmer John Hewson, a past president of the society, said membership had grown to the point where it was almost unmanageable.

"The society's main function is the sale of stamps, but with such a large membership of a single society it is almost impossible to organise a sale system satisfactory to all members. At present, exchange books of stamps take about two years to complete the membership circuit.

"If we were able to establish a society solely for Latrobe Valley members, the entire membership of the present society would benefit."

"Society officials have indicated they would be prepared to assist in the setting up of a Latrobe Valley society."

Questionnaires have been sent to all Latrobe Valley members seeking their views on the formation of a new society."

"The response so far has been overwhelming," John said.

"We hope to see as many existing and prospective members as possible at the meeting to be held in the



Morwell Workshops Training Annexe at 7.30 pm on Tuesday, July 8. People should enter through No. 2 gate."

Latrobe Valley Stamp enthusiasts (left to right) Derek Darby, John Hewson and Peter Butcher study a book of stamps.

Darby's trophy



Alec 'Darby' Bremner (Fire Services Officer, Morwell) is a top line trout angler . . . and he has a trophy to prove it.

The trophy, an eight kilogram (16lb) brown trout, was caught in Lake Peddar, Tasmania in 1978. However it has taken three years to have it stuffed and mounted by Traralgon taxidermist John Robinson.

The magnificent trout is 78 centimetres long and 25 cm deep and took Darby more than 30 minutes to land into his boat.

The landing of the fish was made easy because of the expert net work by Civil Works Engineer, Yallourn, Tom Stillman. Others on the trip were retired SEC employee Maurie O'Neill and Bill Pride of Morwell.

Contact



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

Cover

A record number of entries took part in this year's Latrobe Valley Sauna Sail, staged annually on the warm waters of Hazelwood Pondage over the Queen's Birthday weekend.

The total number of entries, in the largest small boat regatta in the Southern hemisphere, over the three days was 1867 — 300 up on last year.

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Jeeralang station's complete

Jeeralang B gas turbine station is now fully operational.

B station's third 80 MW unit was synchronised into the State's electricity generating system on June 7.

And on June 11 all seven A and B station's units went on full load — and the Latrobe Valley's newest power station began pumping out 450 MW of vitally needed power into the State grid.

That's almost three years to the day since the dozers first moved onto the site in Bonds Lane, south of Morwell on June 6, 1977.

By the end of this month B3 is expected to complete the trial run up to commercial operation which includes a 200-hour run at capacity output and 20 consecutive successful starts.

That will mark the successful completion of Alstom Atlantique's 23-month contract — their first in Australia.

Work started in August 1978 and construction workforce peaked in August last year at 200.

'A' station, built by Siemens, came into commercial operation between November 1978 and May 1979.

With the project complete, all but half a dozen of the main contractor's staff will be heading for home at the end of June. Jean Goux and Gabriel Novelin will remain in the Latrobe Valley for two years until the expiry of the maintenance period.

Gas turbine Contracts Superintendent Frank Fletcher, who has supervised the entire construction program, said: "It's a wonderful feeling of achievement to see the station in full swing."

Blowing the whistle on the whistle

Whatever happened to Yallourn A station's whistle?

It's 'deep-throated roar' played an important part in the daily lives of Yallourn townsfolk for four decades. The steam operated whistle had pride of place on top of the Latrobe Valley's first power station when it began generation in 1924 but when A station was retired in 1967 the whistle went too.

Twelve years later people are still asking where it's gone.

The man with the answer is Engineering Services metallurgist Don Ferguson: it is among the first world war exhibits at Old Gipps town at Moe.

Don, a Moe City councillor and member of the Old Gipps town Committee, said: "It's an appropriate resting place for an artifact of international, as well as local, historical interest."

"The fog horn was salvaged from the German capital ship SMS Emden after she was sunk by the Australian warship HMAS Sydney in the Indian Ocean off the Cocos Islands."

"When Lt. General Sir John Monash was appointed Chairman and General Manager of the SECV among the war trophies he brought to the Latrobe Valley was the Emden's fog horn. How it came into his possession is anyone's guess."

"Locals blame the whistle for Yallourn's exceptionally high birthrate. They reckon the wake up call half an hour before work started had something to do with it,"



Don Ferguson tracked Yallourn 'A' station's whistle at Old Gipps town, where he's pictured alongside it with Old Gipps town's operations manager Sheila Johnston — incidentally the wife of Walter Johnston, fuel distribution officer in training, Yallourn 'W' power station.

he said. "You could hear its rich bass note all the way to Moe. The present siren is just a puny little thing beside it", he said.

The late Fred Strong of Moe Historical Society noted: "It was blown at 7 o'clock in the morning as a warning that work time was getting near and at 7.30 as a signal to get into action. Then it announced morning break and at 12 noon time to knock off for crib. At 12.40 pm it again got things rolling, later announced afternoon break and finally at 5 pm it called the end of the day."

"In between times the whistle played another essential role: it was the only method of fire and flood warning. It was the whistle that gave the alarm for the 1934 flood. Its finest moment however came at the end of every year, when on New Year's Eve it was tooted in a fanfare to usher in the New Year."

Planning for career display

It's never too early to think about your child's career.

Parents, particularly those working within the SEC, should use their knowledge of the Commission and Commission personnel to explore career options for their children, says Training and Development Officer, Les Hunt.

His advice comes as preparations are under way for the Commission's third annual career display to be staged at the Morwell Town Hall between July 22 and 25.

The display sets out to educate schoolchildren, parents and teachers about Commission career opportunities to help them make an informed choice of career to ensure adequate preparation. Apprentices, technical trainees, commercial and engineering trainees will operate the working display and answer questions about their jobs.

"It is vital that students learn as early as possible what the job is all about and the educational requirements in that field."

"Too often we find that job seekers have unknowingly restricted their choice of career by giving up important subjects like applied sciences."

"It is also important to explore all the possible options. For instance females in the past have been hesitant to apply for jobs traditionally held by men. But there is no reason why girls should not consider apprenticeships, middle and professional engineering opportunities," he said.

Secondary schools throughout Gippsland will attend the display which is also open to the public between 9 am and 5 pm on Tuesday and Wednesday, and 9 am and 9 pm on Thursday and Friday.



Morwell fashions - MBPI style

The highlight of Morwell Briquetting and Power Installation Social Club's third annual ladies' night was an hilarious mannequin parade.

The evening was held in the Morwell Bowling Club recreation centre on May 16.

Clothes for the fashion parade were supplied by Carnaby and Mr. Jak of Morwell and admin clerk Dennis Hallinan's wife Enid organised the models' make up.

Musical entertainment was provided by Jack Perry of the Zig and Zag Duo.

Social club president Ken Hewart (left) and committee member Carmel Carter are pictured with special guest Jack Perry.

Clockwise from top left the pictures show Shiela Corser and Jimmy Gordon (Briquette Factory) who raised many laughs with their modelling antics.

The complete line up of models who took part in the successful evening: back row, left to right, Minicia Veljickovic, Phil Grech, Dagnia Waller, Leah Coleman, Barry Smith, Shiela Corser. Front row, Barbara Norman, Pat Hewart and Sandra Wagner.

The charming Barbara Norman models one of the many after-five dresses.

Playing up to the large crowd are Phil Grech and Shiela Corser.





AREA
ADMINISTRATION



Sisters by the half dozen

IT'S a family affair in Typing Services.

Contact discovered six sets of sisters among the group's 68 girls, which must be some sort of record.

Pictured together in Morwell's Area Administration typing pool they are: (left to right) back row, Linda Hall, typist, Morwell typing pool, with married sister Heather Lang, acting supervisor, duplicating and copying; the three Scharper sisters Fay Murka, computer operator from Hazelwood Power Station, with Wendy and Barbara, both typists; Leonie, a relief clerk with secretarial services, and Ruth Boulton, senior typist. Front row, standing left is Angela Smogavec, typist at Jeeralang, with her sister Marilyn, typist with Power Department at the Loy Yang construction offices; Rita Sharrock (nee Schembri) acting supervisor of supplies Yallourn stores, with her sister Cathy, a typist with supplies, Yallourn, and the Di Fresco sisters Angela, duplicator, and Lina.

MONASH HOUSE SEC employees ARTS FESTIVAL graduate - GIAE

Entries are coming in thick and fast for the Monash House Social Club Arts Festival.

The Festival, from August 4 to 15, has a new category this year for children of Commission employees.

"Kid's Kapers" will be judged in three sections — up to eight years, 9 to 11 years and 12 to 15 years.

Each child is allowed one entry, whether it be a picture, model or some form of handicraft. It is hoped to arrange an open day so that parents and children will be able to see all the exhibits.

For the adults, categories of painting, craft and photography are the same as last year. Entry forms for adults and children are now available from the Public Relations Group, Area Administration, Morwell, telephone 3623.

Entry forms must be returned by July 4.

Slide entries must be submitted with entry forms by July 4. All other exhibits must reach Monash House by August 1. The Public Relations Group, Morwell, will make arrangements to transport exhibits if they are with Public Relations by July 25.

A number of Commission employees graduated at Gippsland Institute of Advanced Education's graduation ceremony on June 21.

The spectacular ceremony was conducted in the new \$450 000 binshell.

Wayne's a one-eyed Tiger supporter

Wayne Mooney will travel a long way to see his mighty Tigers in action.



The Morwell Stores Officer has followed Richmond for more than 18 years and has travelled more than 120 000 kilometres (about four times around the world) in that time.

The only games Wayne missed were in 1972 when an operation on his ankle forced him to miss eight games.

The Tiger supporter says he wouldn't miss a match for the world.

"I'm a one-eyed supporter, but I can still see out the other eye.

"Francis Bourke is my favorite player. I admire his courage, determination and leadership qualities but the other 19 players aren't far behind," Wayne said.

There are no prizes for guessing who he tips for premiers this season!


**COAL
PRODUCTION**

Lou's hooking members for fishy society

There's something very fishy about Lou Mingaars.

In fact he's reported to have the best display of tropical fish in the Latrobe Valley.

Lou, an Operator in the Yallourn open cut, was behind the recent launch of the Gippsland Aquarium Society.

And now he's trying to canvass more support for the hobby.

"Already the Society has about 28 members, many of whom are SEC employees.

Learn

"The Society's aim is the promotion of fish keeping. We can all learn from each other's problems and experience, and from talks by guest speakers and educational films and visits," he said.

Lou has been hooked on fish since the age of four.

Breeding

"At one stage I had about 600 fish in 30 tanks. I used to breed



my own fish. I had a wide range of community fish — including sword tails, guppies, mollies and angel fish — a number of American cichlids — including fire mouths, oscars and rainbow cichlids — and some African cichlids.

"The most unusual fish I've owned was probably the characidium I got from South America — the first shipment to come to Australia.

The Mingaar family run their business, the Yallourn North Aquarium Supplies from their home in North Road, Yallourn North.

And the African knife fish I have is not very common."

The rewards?

"It's a very relaxing past time. In America, fish keeping is prescribed as an antidote to nervous disorders.

It's impossible to look at fish and think about problems at the same time. It's one of the most popular hobbies in the world — at least one person in every third home has a goldfish bowl," said Lou.

Business

He shares the interest with his family. His wife Lynne commands the business side of their hobby — the Yallourn North Aquarium Supplies — from their home in North Road, Yallourn North. And at four, his daughter Nicolle knows the names of more fish than the customers.

Anyone interested in joining the Gippsland Aquarium Society, which meets on the first Monday of the month at Yallourn North Primary School at 8 pm should contact Lou after hours on 67 1539 or at work ext 2118.

Coal's safety record is 'magnificent'

Coal Production Department's 1400 employees have notched up a commendable safety record.

In the four weeks from April 1 to May 1 this year, the department did not record a single Lost Time Injury — more than 300 000 accident free manhours.

The department has employees working in the Yallourn, Morwell and Yallourn North Extension open cuts.

Coal Production Manager Jack Vines said: "This was a magnificent achievement by all employees.

"A more positive approach to safety at all levels has led to this fine effort, an approach I would hope will continue.

"It is largely through the safety attitude of the individual and his total application and concentration on the job in hand that helps achieve a better safety environment for every employee within the Department."

• *Yallourn North Extension employees have notched up more than 9½ years without a Lost Time Injury . . . and they're still going strong.*



ENGINEERING
SERVICES

Albert's model engines 'unique'

Yallourn's heavy machine shop foreman Albert Reed is a master of machines.

By day he supervises the machining and repair of heavy equipment with large vertical borers and lathes.

At night he scales down his interest in machinery — painstakingly reproducing perfectly proportioned miniature model machines and steam engines.

Unique

His masterpieces are unique in Gippsland. They regularly excite interest at the Melbourne Traction Engine Society Labor Day weekend exhibitions — and have delighted locals at displays around the region.

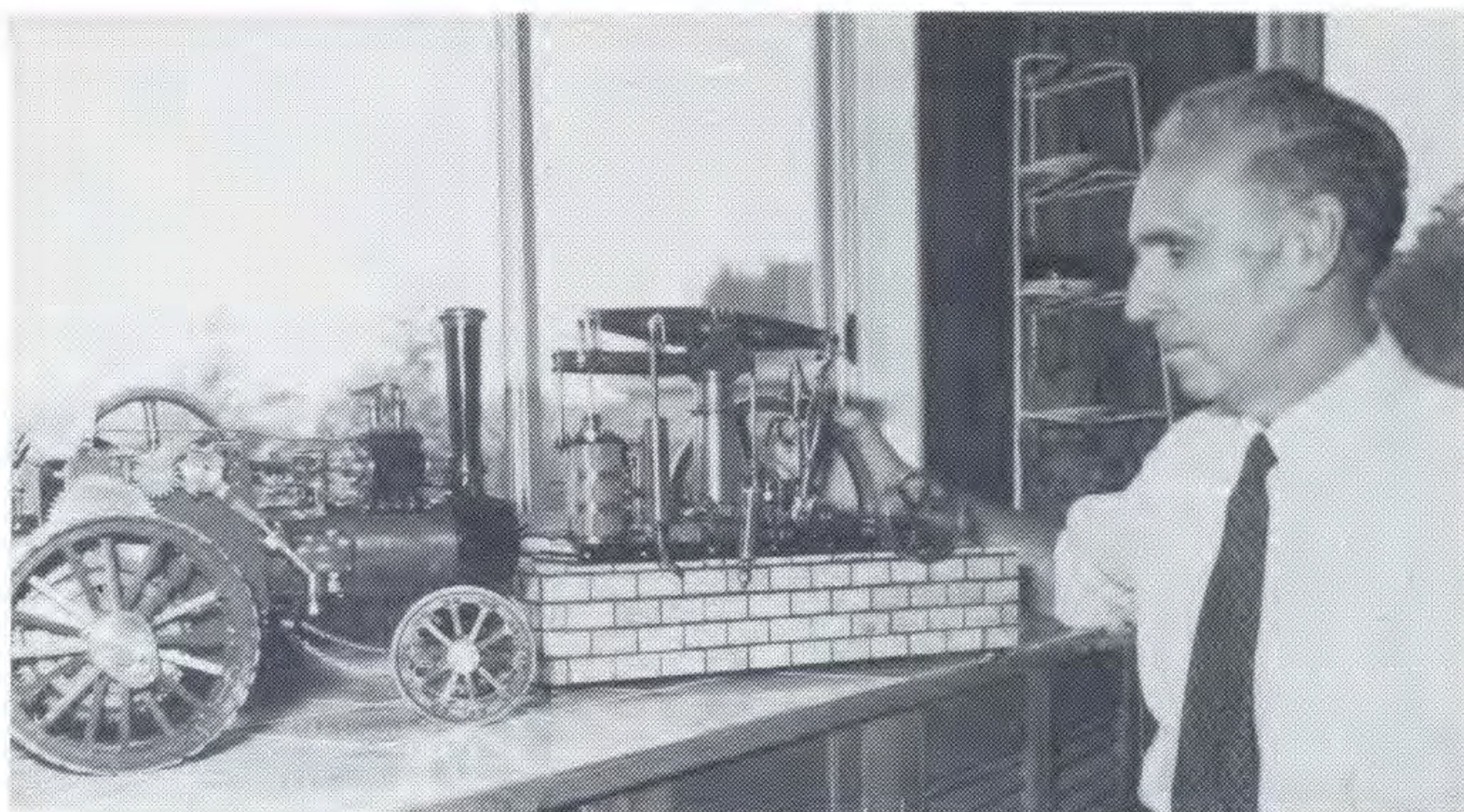
Albert fabricates his models in the workshop at the back of his Newborough East home from scale plans taken from the British publication *Model Engineer*. His equipment includes an antique 1905 lathe — salvaged from a Melbourne rubbish tip — a modern lathe, and drilling and milling machines. The castings all came from England, the other parts he manufactures himself.

Albert has been an enthusiastic model builder since a lad. He arrived in Australia from Lancashire in 1952 — but it wasn't until eight years ago that he set up his workshop here.

Beam engine

The gem of Albert's artifacts is a beam engine, built on a scale of one inch to a foot.

"It's an early 19th century double acting beam engine fitted with Watt's parallel motion feed pump and slide valve worked by a single eccentric. Speed is controlled by Watts conical pendulum governor acting on the throttle valve. The engine was mainly used as a mine pump and for town water supply. "I've been told there's a machine like it at



Goulburn — one of these days I'll have to go and see.

Creative

"It's a very creative hobby — not like building from a kit. Each piece is original — very satisfying.

Another of Albert's creations is the general purpose traction engine. "At present I'm working flat out on a Clayton steam wagon. And seventy five per cent complete is an 060 shunting loco," he said.

Heads for heights

Twenty painters and builders' laborers have been working up in the clouds for the past month.

The Civil Works team has been repairing the top 10 metre section of Hazelwood's 150 metre number four chimney. Work started on May 11 and was completed by June 8.

The project was supervised by engineer Richard Davies and foreman Geoff Causon.

Richard described the work as 'routine maintenance'.

"Over the years since the chimney was built in 1965 there has been surface deterioration. Repairs involved removing loose concrete, resurfacing the outside and redecor-

ating with epoxy resins and fibre-glass," he said.

The work was done from a purpose designed moveable scaffold suspended from the top of the chimney.

Pictured after the successful completion of the job are: back row left to right: Steve Rooney, Jim Lye, Fred Frendo, Geoff Causon, Robert Davidson, and Robert Burns. Front row: Richard Davies, John Gawron, George Gatt, Frank Falzon, and Hans Sedlbauer.

Other members of the team included Joe Zonneveld, Tony Ishtchuk, Gerry Ramselaar, Ian Samson, Mike Keenan, Bob Cooper, Graham Fletcher and Alan Taylor.



COAL PRODUCTION - IT'S A TEAM EFFORT ALL THE WAY



ABOVE: Having a well earned crib break is the No. 9 dredger crew (from left), Geoff Sharman of Churchill, Bill Wyntjes, Moe, Dick Griffiths, Morwell, Brian Atkin, Traralgon, and Rod Kent of Traralgon.



BELOW: Pumpman Kevin Durea of Morwell checks pressure levels of the pumps in the Morwell open cut.



ABOVE: Morwell ditch bunker attendant Allan Wilson of Morwell was busy unloading a rake of coal trucks when CONTACT called on him this month.



Morwell and Yallourn open cuts produce more than 31 million tonnes of coal annually.

That's an awful lot of coal in anybody's language — but it's a level of production vital to enable the Commission to continue to meet the State's electricity requirements.

The coal winning process in the two open cuts demands a finely-tuned Coal Production team effort involving more than 1400 employees.

The Contact camera this month visited the Morwell open cut where some 550 people are involved in winning coal to fuel Hazelwood and Morwell power stations.

Twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year and in all kinds of weather, Coal Production operation teams continue the coal flow, supported by their maintenance colleagues.

As the photos on these pages show, their jobs are many and varied — from bedman to ditch bunker operator, from dredger driver to conveyor attendant — and all have important roles to play.



LEFT: Roadrunner Darren Savage (left) with dredger driver Wally Byl near the new \$2 million M213 trunk conveyor.



ABOVE: A member of the No. 9 dredger crew, bedman Dick Griffiths of Morwell.



ABOVE: Climbing up to his cabin on S92 slewing conveyor is operator Rod Kent of Traralgon.



POWER GENERATION



Ollie's toes are all intact

Electrician Special Class Ollie Bianconi is the latest member of the Australian National Safety Council's Intactoes Club.

Ollie became a member recently when he was removing an oil circuit breaker on a trolley from the Yallourn Power Station's electrical workshop after an overhaul. While pushing the trolley through the doorway, it passed over his right foot. Safety boots prevented any injury.

YPS Electrical Plant Engineer Tom Skerry (left) presented the NSCA Intactoes Award to Ollie at an informal presentation early this month.

WHAT A BEAUTY...

WHAT'S 15 inches long, 13½ inches round and weighs four kilos?

The answer, astonishingly, is a carrot.

Pictured with his outside mouthful is the proud gardener, Cay

... SUPER CARROT

Monteny, an Operator in the loading shed at Morwell Briquette Factory.

Cay grew the monster in his Yallourn North garden — and the only fertiliser he used was chook manure from his home reared hens.

"I planted the carrots in January — so they haven't been in the ground too long. And they're good carrots — not woody. There was another a lot bigger than this, about 24 inches long, but it snapped getting it out of the ground.

"I told my mates at work about it — but they didn't believe me."

So Cay came to work armed with the evidence.

He's been gardening for 18 years and reckons to keep his family in vegetables throughout the year.

"But in all those years I've never seen carrots like the ones I've grown this year," he said.

However it's not the first time Cay's grown bumper size vegies. Last year it was onions. "They weighed in at about 1½ kilos each," said Cay.

Next year . . . ?



District Governor

YALLOURN Power Station fireman Peter Wells has been elected Apex District Governor (District Three) for 1980-81.

As governor, Peter will cover a district extending from Moe to Drouin and Bunyip to Neerim.

Peter, who will begin his year as District Governor in August, will act as an adviser and liaison officer between the seven clubs in the zone.

He has been a member of the Moe Apex Club for seven years and has held many official positions, including president and secretary.



Joe did it his way - at home!

Electrical engineer Joe Vanyai has taken his do-it-yourself philosophy to unusual extremes — he delivered his own daughter at home.

He and his wife Lorraine had planned a home delivery. But when the time came the midwife was in Melbourne. So they went ahead alone.

Said Joe: "I had no apprehensions at all. After all, giving birth is a perfectly natural thing. The pregnancy was without complications. I expected no trouble — and that's the way things worked out. Hospital was only seven minutes away if we needed help — but we never considered the option of the maternity ward.

"It was quite a long labor. Lorraine felt most comfortable standing up so I supported her with one arm and rubbed her back with the other. We seemed to be like that for a long time.

"Just at the final stages I sat her up on the bed."

our early

How did he feel? "I didn't have much time to think — but I'm not an emotional type of person. The next couple of days were a bit of a daze."

The Vanyai's only disappointment was that baby Kelly, born at 11 pm, didn't delay her birth by another hour to coincide with her mother's birthday.

"Simon was born in hospital. I was there for the birth but I only saw him behind glass for the next 10 days — although all the hospital cleaning staff could go in and pick him up. I'm sure things have changed a lot since then — but we were a lot happier by ourselves," said Joe.

PICTURED ABOVE: The home delivery team Joe, electrical engineer supervising the Yallourn coal conveyor contract, and Simon, aged 4½, with Lorraine and baby Kelly.



Centre court battle to rival Wimbledon

Wimbeldon organisers would have been proud of the razamatazz lead-up to the final of 1980 Rudolf Perpetual Luncheon Bat-tennis Final at Morwell last month.

Music, cheer squads, floggers and a capacity crowd at the centre court, between wings one and two, Area Administration building, at Morwell made for a grand final atmosphere.

The odds-on favorites, Tony 'Dicko' Dickinson (sponsored by Dicko's Deli of Churchill) and Gary 'Sucko' Suckling (Nursing Mothers' Association) rose to the occasion and gave one of the competition's best ever displays of skill and teamwork.

They defeated 10/1 outsiders Bob 'Speedie' Speed (Speedie Swimwear) and Richard 'Tony' Hancock (Sidchrome Tools) 21-18 points in the final.

Tournament organiser Paul 'The Rev' Devlin said more than 20 players competed in this year's successful tournament.

Barbara Howden (Property, Morwell) was named Ms. Centre Court and received a bottle of wine and a box of chocolates from tournament sponsor Rudolf Beilharz.

Winners 'Dicko' and 'Sucko' were shouted a luncheon by Rudolf (Administration Officer, Transmission Operations).



1980 bat-tennis champs "Dicko" Dickinson (right) and "Sucko" Suckling congratulated by the man himself — Rudolf Beilharz.

SERVICE REGISTER

JUNE

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

John Davis Ray Houghton Harry Bye	25 YEARS	Yallourn Power Station Patrol, Morwell Morwell Briquette and Power
		Yallourn Power Station Transmission Services, Yallourn
		Morwell Briquette and Power
Alex Gilmore Hendrik Fluit		
Fred Smith		
Ray Goldsbrough	30 YEARS	Morwell Briquette and Power
		Yallourn Power Station Patrol Loy Yang Drafting Yallourn
		Yallourn Power Station Transport Workshops, Yallourn
Tom Skerry Terry Bassett Bernie Hansford Alexander Demczuk Stewart Jarman		Yallourn Power Station Yallourn Open Cut Central Workshops, Yallourn
Paul Pace Alfred Elliott Joseph Cunningham		Transport Workshops, Morwell
Frank Roche		Yallourn 'W' Power Station
Witold Krzyskow		
Noel Edwards Bede Gilmore Stan Fisher	31 YEARS	Materials, Morwell Civil Services, Morwell Materials Yallourn
Murray Walker Roly Thompson	32 YEARS	Civil Services, Yallourn Central Workshops, Morwell
		Civil Services, Yallourn Yallourn Open Cut
Ken Waite Frank Siggins		
Frank Rennie Aubrey Davey Lyle Seear	33 YEARS	Morwell Open Cut Yallourn Open Cut Yallourn Power Station
Wally Entwistle	34 YEARS	Transport Workshops, Yallourn
Ron Mansfield Bill McInnes Ted Crookes Richard Cannot Bill Stevens		Yallourn Open Cut Hazelwood Power Station Coal Production, HQ Yallourn Open Cut Yallourn Open Cut

Syd Veal	36 YEARS	Central Workshops, Yallourn
Ern Mitchell Frank Miles	39 YEARS	Yallourn Open Cut Management Group, Engineering Services Hazelwood Power Station
Albert Chinnock		
Alfred Cook	40 YEARS	Civil Works, Yallourn
Brian Dooley	41 YEARS	Payrolls Morwell

Generous donations

Two Latrobe Valley organisations have benefited from the winding up of the SEC's uniform safety award scheme.

The Latrobe Valley Sheltered Workshop in Morwell and the Latrobe Valley Community Hospital at Moe both received sizeable cheques from the scheme recently.

The Sheltered Workshop was presented with a cheque for \$829.74 and the Hospital \$417.08.

More than 100 employees donated their entitlement under the scheme.

Some of the larger donations included: B. Garrett \$42.24, W. Godfrey \$40.92, J. Huxtable \$37.84, K. Mullins \$28.60, J. J. Robertson \$76.56, W. E. Barthomeusz \$55.88, B. J. Collier \$57.20, R. Greenwood \$46.64, F. Hiscock \$49.28, F. P. Miles \$68.20, A. H. Miles \$35.50, E. McGuinniss \$30.80, R. Roberts \$49.28, H. Wegh \$36.08 and M. Williamson \$71.28.

Power Production

Electricity production for Victorian requirements has increased by 7 per cent in the past ten years. It is now some 20 800 gigawatt hours a year.

Generating capacity available to the Victorian electricity supply system from all sources exceeds 4900 megawatts. Generating capacity 20 years ago was only 1305 megawatts.

Benefit fund changes for SEC's wages employees

Significantly improved superannuation benefits are planned for the Commission's 10 800 wages employees.

A revised and improved version of the Employees' Retirement and Benefit Fund scheme is presently being canvassed throughout the Commission.

If accepted by the workforce, it will be introduced on September this year.

An explanatory circular detailing the changes was distributed to every Commission wages employee in May. A formal approach has been made to the Victorian Trades Hall Council regarding the revised provisions.

To ensure that members of the fund fully understand the proposed changes and what the effect of these changes will be, members of the Commission's Superannuation Administration have visited SEC locations throughout the State for discussions with employees.

In visits to the Latrobe Valley in recent weeks, Superannuation Administration Manager John Nolan and members of his staff have held discussion sessions with more than 2500 employees.

Enthusiastic

He said indications were that the revised provisions had met with an enthusiastic response.

The Employees' Retirement and Benefit Fund was introduced in May 1970. It has been updated twice, in 1974 and 1977.

John said the latest revisions provided for a significant upgrading in benefits with appropriately increased contributions by both members and the SEC.

"Contributions will be calculated as a fixed percentage of a member's 'benefit fund wage' — which takes into account the basic 40-hour award wage PLUS SIPS or SOAPS, service grants and, where permanent, leading hand margins and shift premiums — and will be automatically adjusted in line with wage changes.

"Members will pay in 3.25 per cent of their benefit fund wage. The SEC will contribute twice as much at a percentage rate of 6.5 per cent and the Commission will continue to bear the administrative costs of the scheme.

"For new employees, after September 2, membership of the revised Retirement and Benefits Fund will be a condition of full-time employment and medical examinations will be a pre-requisite to acceptance for death and disability benefits.

Qualify

"Assuming the changes are introduced on September 2, existing fund members will automatically pay the increased contributions and qualify for benefits based on the new structure, subject to any existing restrictions on death/disability benefits for medical reasons. Past membership of the Fund counts for the new benefit provision.

"All full-time employees who are not at present in the fund will become members on September 2, without medical examination if at work on normal full-time duty."

John said that under the new scheme, normal retirement benefit at the age of 65 would represent a lump sum calculated as a multiple of the 'final average annual wage' — one half of the total of the last 104

week's benefit fund wages as related to the period of fund membership.

"Because every case is different, it is unrealistic to quote precise figures.

Examples

"Detailed examples are quoted in the notes accompanying the explanatory circular sent to all wages employees. Some indication of the improved benefits may be gauged by looking at the example of an employee whose benefit fund wage is \$234 per week, retiring in December this year and who has been a fund member for 10 years; under the new scheme he would qualify for a lump sum retirement benefit of \$15 866 as compared with \$5145 under the existing rules.

"Arrangements can still be made for groups of employees to be addressed by a member of the Superannuation Administration in relation to the effect these changes will have. If you have any questions about the proposals, or did not receive a copy of the circular, contact your administrative officer through your timekeeper," he said.

Superannuation Administration Manager John Nolan said some of the most frequently asked questions asked about the proposed changes included:

- | | |
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| <p>Q Does my existing membership from when I joined the fund count for the new benefits?</p> <p>A Yes, all past fund membership counts for revised benefits.</p> <p>Q If I die in a car accident while not at work, am I covered by the fund?</p> <p>A Yes, members are covered for death benefits whether at work or not. The same applies for disablement. You don't have to contract the sickness or injury at work to qualify for the total and permanent disablement injury.</p> <p>Q What if I am injured at work. Would the fund benefit be paid or offset against workers' compensation?</p> <p>A Fund benefit will be paid regardless of workers' compensation claims.</p> | <p>Q Do I have to do anything about my membership if I am a member on September 2?</p> <p>A No, if you are a member it will continue on. Timekeepers will take your increased rate of contributions. Employees who have worked for the SEC less than a year and under existing conditions aren't yet members will automatically become members from September 2.</p> <p>Q Is it to come in for certain?</p> <p>A Yes, unless the VTHC raises material objections by July 1, 1980. The response from the membership in group sessions has been enthusiastic. There will be a circular to wages employees detailing any changed provisions which have been altered because of feedback from members.</p> |
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Outward Bound is great

Outward Bound courses are a great experience . . . that's the verdict of two people who should know.

Gary Suckling, (Commercial cadet, Morwell) and Adrian Zwagerman (Boilermaker, Yallourn W) took part in the three week course in Canberra recently along with 52 other people from all corners of Australia.

"Outward Bound is a totally different experience. It gives you an opportunity to learn a lot about yourself, to develop new social relationships and to take part in exciting adventures," Gary said.

"Rock-climbing, canoeing, expeditions, rafting, abseiling, bush navigation, cooking, rope courses, caving and solo are just some of the parts of the Outward Bound activities."

Adrian said "Outward Bound provided an exciting challenge.

"There is adventure, education and a real lesson in life."

For further information on courses contact Mike Answerth (Public Relations) ext 3381.



Gary (left) and Adrian talk over their experiences on the Outward Bound courses in Canberra.



Lieutenant Bill Jackson, Warrant Officer Glen Campbell and Captain Ron Bishop with the First Latrobe Valley Boys' Brigade Company.

Boys Brigade company seeks new recruits

The world's oldest boy's organisation, the Boys' Brigade, is alive and well in the Latrobe Valley.

The brigade's First Latrobe Valley Company was formed nine years ago and has maintained very close ties with the SEC.

Led by Captain Ron Bishop (Coal Production Mechanical Construction Superintendent at Yallourn and Morwell) and Lieutenant Bill Jackson (Boilermaker Foreman, Yallourn E Station) about three-quarters of the company's members are sons of Commission employees.

Ron said the Boys' Brigade was founded in Scotland in 1883.

"The brigade is similar to the scouting movement, but companies are based at the church," Ron said.

"It is an inter-denominational Christian organisation, with activities based on the development of discipline, and Bible classes.

"Members are expected to regularly attend church or Sunday school."

Ron said the company meets every Thursday night at the Moe Baptist Church. There is a church parade every two months.

The company at present is looking for officers and more members. Anyone interested should contact Ron on ext 2538.

Contact contacts

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retirements



LES HAINES

A keen fisherman, Les Haines was presented with a Jarvis Walker fishing rod and reel to mark his retirement on May 20 — after more than 37 years with the Commission. The presentation followed an informal retirement function held in the Parkside Motel.

Les joined the Commission in 1943 as a builders laborer with Construction, Yallourn. He worked as a kiln cleaner, leading hand brickworker, skilled builders laborer, bar bender and machinist at Yallourn before being appointed trades assistant with Coal Production, Morwell. In 1967 he moved to Yallourn to Electrical Maintenance Section, as trades assistant, the position from which he retired.

Retirement plans include a trip to Queensland to visit his family, and fishing in the inland waterways of South-East Australia.

JIMMY HODGKIN



TIM RYAN

Travel is a high priority in Tim Ryan's retirement plans. He intends to tour Australia — and is contemplating an overseas trip.

Tim retired on May 17 after 31 years service with Coal Production in the Yallourn North and Yallourn open cuts. He joined the Commission in 1949 and worked with Construction as laborer, grader operator and tournapul operator before transferring to Coal Production at Yallourn North in 1952.

He worked as a driver and conveyor attendant before being classified mechanical plant driver group 5, the position from which he retired.

At a retirement function in the Yallourn Coal Production Overburden Village, Overburden Operations Superintendent John Kovacs presented Tim with a fishing rod and reel on behalf of his workmates.

More time on his 200-acre Jumbuk farm — that's what retirement will mean to Jimmy Hodgkin.

Jimmy retired on May 9 after nearly 15 years service with the Commission. At a farewell function held in Morwell's Coal Production canteen, acting Coal Production Superintendent Brian Ryan presented him with a wall clock and a wallet of notes on behalf of his workmates. His wife Pat who attended the function was presented with a sheaf of flowers.

Jimmy joined the Commission in 1965 as an electrical trades assistant. He was reclassified Patrolman B in 1966 and was promoted to 'A' in 1975 and leading hand Patrolman in 1978, the position from which he retired.



JOHN ANDREW

John Andrew retired on June 2 after a quarter of a century service with the Commission.

He joined the Commission in 1955 as a trades assistant in the Morwell open cut — after being involved in the building of dredgers numbers 20 and 21 as an employee of the constructing contractor.

After varied experience he was reclassified dredger driver in 1957 and appointed foreman in 1966. He was appointed overseer grade one, in 1976, the position from which he retired.

In his retirement, John will be busy with his hobbies of fishing, home handywork and car maintenance — and making toys for his grandchildren. He and his wife are also hoping to move to Queensland.

At a retirement function held in the Yallourn Hotel, Ted Waghorne, Coal Operations Superintendent, Yallourn, presented him with travel bags and a wallet of notes on behalf of his workmates.

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Volleyball champs

Arrbees have won the Latrobe Valley Volleyball Association's women's (section six) premiership.

Captained by Lynda Bertoli (secretary to Manager, Engineering Services) the team defeated Aegis 3-0 in the grand final after going through the season undefeated.

Also in the team were: Andrea Gill (Personnel), Marie Lawless (Engineering Services), Merrilyn McDonald (former Technical Librarian), and Joy Martin (Traralgon ESR).

Two other teams with strong SEC representation, Frantic (Men's Section 2A) and Ulysii (Men's section one) also took off premierships.

Ulysii, captained by John DeVries (Drawing Office, Yallourn), defeated Monarchs 3-2 in the final. Team members are; Phil Wilshire (Drawing Office, Yallourn), Peter Orr (Hazelwood Power Station), Stephen Orr (Power Generation Headquarters), Clinton Rodda (Coal Production Headquarters) and Shaun O'Neill (Carpenter, Yallourn).

This was Ulysii's fourth successive premiership.

Captained and coached by Malcolm Darby (Morwell Power Station) Frantic narrowly defeated Mad-Dogs 3-2 in an exciting final. Other team members were: Mike Gregson (Coal Production, Morwell), Col Smith (Yallourn Power Station), Rob Garnett (Yallourn W Power Station) and Dick Donchi (Hazelwood Power Station).



Minister's visit

Minister for Water Supply and Forests Jock Granter visited the Loy Yang Project last month — and he was impressed.

Mr. Granter and two senior State Rivers and Water Supply Commission officers took in a half day tour of the site.

The tour was part of a two day visit to the Latrobe Valley during which Mr. Granter inspected water storages.

Pictured at the Loy Yang Ash Pond are (from left): Engineering Services Manager, Ray Greenwood (Ray is a member of the Latrobe Valley Water and Sewerage Board), LVW and SB Manager Crofton Hatsell, State Rivers and Water Supply Commissioner David Constable and Minister for Water Supply and Forests Jock Granter.

