

# CONTACT

GENERATION  
VICTORIA

MARCH 30, 1994

## New-look for visitors' centre



Generation Victoria Visitor Liaison Officers Catrina Szabo and Brian Giblin in the visitor centre which will soon be revamped and, inset, an artist's impression of one of the new attractions.

### A face-lift for Generation Victoria's Morwell visitors' centre will provide a boost for regional tourism

Generation Victoria will extensively upgrade its Morwell visitors' centre in a bid to generate new tourism opportunities for the Latrobe Region.

Work should begin next month

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CONTACT is published fortnightly for Generation Victoria Employees. Generation Victoria, a State-owned company, was previously the Production Group of the former State Electricity Commission of Victoria.

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to transform the existing centre - which was built in the 1970s, into an impressive, new-look visitor facility.

The new-look centre will include:

- A bucketwheel from the old Yallourn Mine Dredger 3, mounted at the entrance;
- A theatre, with seating for up to 80 people and featuring a high-tech video presentation on the electricity industry;
- Interactive displays on topics such as the flow of an electrical current and magnetism;
- Historical displays of photographs, documents and artefacts;
- Special lighting and sound effects;
- A corporate area for audio and visual presentations, and
- A gift shop and snack bar.

The area around the centre will also be upgraded with emphasis on extensive tree planting and landscaping, to be carried out in several stages.

Re-designed to cater for larger numbers of visitors, the Morwell centre should be able to boost the more than 40,000 tourists, school children and special interest groups who currently visit every year.

Public Affairs Manager Kevin Richardson said the centre would become a "must-see" attraction in the Latrobe Valley, and that visitor numbers could more than treble within two years.

"The sheer size of our natural attractions - the power stations and mines - make us a big drawcard anyway, but when backed by this

new-look centre, I believe we have the ingredients to provide a valuable boost to Latrobe Valley tourism," Kevin said.

"The SEC has actively supported regional tourism for many years and - with power industry restructuring - we, more than anyone else, recognise the need to diversify.

"We see this as a great opportunity to do just that by helping develop what is the fastest growing industry in Australia - tourism."

Kevin said Generation Victoria would begin to market the centre more aggressively than in the past and would work with Latrobe Valley Tourism and government departments to develop packages.

He said the centre would continue to be a popular destination for schools and would provide a range of information on the power industry for students of various ages.

Latrobe Valley Tourism Director Shirley Westerberg said she was extremely pleased that Generation Victoria was demonstrating its commitment to promote tourism.

"It is gratifying that Generation Victoria has realised the enormous potential it can offer the tourist," said Shirley.

The SEC has conducted tours of its Latrobe Valley power station and mining operations for several decades.

The visitor function was initially run from Yallourn before relocating to the existing centre in Morwell in the mid-1970s.

## Vic Hydro to join Gen Vic

### Vic Hydro will now come under the Generation Victoria banner

The SEC's hydro electricity group will officially transfer to Generation Victoria from tomorrow (March 31).

Vic Hydro initially transferred to National Electricity following the break up of the SEC but is now to join Generation Victoria, in accordance with the State Government's Electricity Supply Industry Review.

A total of 93 employees work for Vic Hydro in operations, field servicing, tests and catchment management located at Eildon/Rubicon and Mount Beauty.

Vic Hydro Manager Dale Blampied said both Vic Hydro and Gen Vic personnel, from various business units, had been working hard to ensure a smooth transition.

"Vic Hydro brings a new dimension to Generation Victoria and will complement its coal and gas fired plants," said Dale.

Generation Victoria Chief Executive Officer Pearce Bowman expressed a warm welcome to Vic Hydro employees.

## Last big load

### One of the biggest loads to be carried through Victoria arrived in the Latrobe Valley yesterday

The turbine for Unit 2 of the Loy Yang B power station arrived at the Melbourne docks on March 24 after being shipped from Japan, where it was manufactured by Hitachi at a cost of \$50 million.

The load was transported to the Latrobe Valley on a 192-wheel trailer and moved by three prime movers - two at the front and one at the back - travelling at an average speed of 10km/h.

Total weight of the outfit was about 500 tonnes - with the turbine itself accounting for 175 tonnes.

The cargo marked the end of an era for heavy transport in Victoria as this was the last big load for Loy Yang B.

These loads have become a common sight along this route over the past decade during the construction of Loy Yang A and B power stations.

With no new power stations planned for Victoria, it is likely to be the last load of its size to travel on our roads for at least the rest of the decade. The Unit 2 turbine and generator is expected to be fully assembled in the Loy Yang B turbine house by April next year, ready for commissioning.

The first steam turbine for Loy Yang B Unit 2 is scheduled for December 1995, before it is handed to private operator Mission Energy on September 30, 1996.



Big loads such as this one will not be seen travelling between Melbourne and the Latrobe Valley for some time.



# Power reform - to be or not to be

It's probably hard for many employees to get excited about whether Generation Victoria remains as a team of power stations and mines or whether they become separate teams competing against each other.

Big deal, you might say, people are still going to need electricity, so who really cares if we stay as a group or become separate organisations.

Well, some see it as very important, particularly if the Latrobe Valley is to retain its present position as the top regional source of electricity production in Australia.

The State Government policy is designed to achieve the best for Victoria by removing the monopoly features of the industry and introducing competition. That policy calls for the old Production Group to be restructured, with individual power stations corporatised and, where appropriate, privatised to encourage more competition.

The benefits from competitive markets are numerous.

Most importantly, the customer usually gets the lowest price when suppliers compete for their business. Prices in the long run reflect the basic cost structure, so if your prices are too high because you are wasting money, the customer will decide to buy from the opposition.

## BEANCOUNTERS' CORNER

BRIAN CLARK  
Director Finance



We have all done this in our personal shopping, and electricity is no different. It forces suppliers to get efficient or go broke.

In generation, price signals from a competitive market should be the key factor in industry decisions on investing in new capacity. Development of a National market will be crucial in changing the way we do business.

We will no longer have captive customers; they will be able to use contracts to buy from interstate suppliers, regardless of any physical limitation in interconnection between the states. And don't think for a minute that the weak transmission links will protect us from interstate competition.

This is the nub of concerns about the future shape of generation in Victoria. Even in a market limited to this State, brown coal stations would continue to face tough competition from other fuel sources. Since any generator can

access the transmission lines, there is nothing to stop the BHPs of this world from entering the power generation market, particularly if they already have access to a fuel supply such as gas or black coal.

Within a national market, you suddenly find heavy weight competition from the NSW black coal generation of Pacific Power breathing down our necks. Not that we are scared of some competition. Far from it.

We haven't gone through four years of painful cost reductions for the fun of it. Generation Victoria is far leaner than in the 80s, and just wants a chance to take on the gas and black coal competition without facing a five-goal deficit at the start of the first quarter.

Latrobe Valley brown coal stations are a unique blend of different strengths which combine well to create a strong, viable business. As a team, competing head to head with other fuel sources within Vic-

toria and interstate, Victoria has its best chance of having a powerful player in the national competition.

As a side issue, but important nevertheless, keeping brown coal stations as a team does provide an organisation with a commercial focus on brown coal development and with the financial muscle to invest in research needed to provide a long-term future for brown coal in the Latrobe Valley.

Most reasonable people support the objective of the Government to provide lower cost electricity to customers and create a more efficient electricity industry to encourage badly needed job growth in the Victorian economy.

Competition is healthy for everyone and should not be feared. Generation Victoria's tremendously improved performance in the past four years means we will be a worthy competitor in the national market. Whether we are allowed to compete as a team or as individual units, the future prospect for brown coal generation in the Latrobe Valley should not be underestimated.

We have the cheapest and best fuel source for electricity generation in Australia, as well as the people and plant to make the Valley a winner in this latest challenge we face together.

## service register

M A R C H  
1 9 9 4

### 30 Years

Bernard Lewis  
Brian Mattingley

### 25 Years

William Barnes

### 20 Years

John Guest  
Kevin Veysey  
Robert Enguell  
Graham O'Brien

### 15 Years

Richard Coldham  
Neil Fitzclarence  
John Gillam  
Marek Perelmuter  
Leandro Ruschena  
David Hoch  
Mary Jones  
Wayne Wright  
David Addis  
Trevor Astbury  
Allan Henry  
John Osborne  
Raymond Gill

### 10 Years

David Feldt  
Leslie Willoughby  
Brian Gilbert  
Gregory Price  
Raymond Bennetts  
Terry Best  
Alan Jones  
Midio Massimi  
Chris Phillipou  
Hal St Ellen  
Brian Lucas

The SEC/Generation Victoria Service Register recognises employees who have completed 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40 and over 40 years service.

If your name has not appeared, ask your administration officer to check your service record.



## Study measures power fields

The Sunday Herald-Sun newspaper recently referred to an epidemiological study involving electricity workers in Canada and France

The NE project aims to identify the level of magnetic fields, experienced in all occupations, at work and at home; to compare them with the Health and Safety guidelines; and to identify the field level of different workplaces and work practices.

Analysis will begin when measurements are completed, with results expected late this year.

Some previously published epidemiological studies have reported possible associations between EMF and cancer, but other studies found no association.

These studies raise - but do not answer - the question "Do electric utility personnel have an increased rate of cancer?"

In research published last year, the Southern California Edison research team in the United States studied 36,000 workers employed by the company from 1960 to 1988.

The authors reported: "We found no consistent association between either work in electrical occupations or magnetic fields measured in the work environment and death from all cancers combined, leukaemias, brain cancers, or lymphoma."

Any questions regarding the overseas research or the NE study can be directed to Leo Ruschena, Morwell ext 3513.

## Prison record

Prisoners on the Run fundraising event was a big success



MLC for Gippsland Peter Hall and former SEC Commissioner Ian Gibson were two of the people who stretched themselves at the Prisoners on the Run fun run.

Morwell River Prison has raised a record \$48,000 from this year's Prisoners on the Run charity event.

More than 100 runners took part in the annual event which featured a nine kilometre and an 18 kilometre fun run from Boolarra to the prison.

Generation Victoria sponsored the nine kilometre run and a number of our employees recorded good results on the day. Loy Yang employee Morgan Tucker was the first home in the

18 kilometre run in 1 hour, 38 seconds.

Trophies were presented by television personality Denise Drysdale.

The fun runs are the culmination of fundraising activities by the Morwell River Prison to raise money for distribution to local charities.

The major fundraiser this year was a raffle, with tickets being sold by prisoners at local towns and shopping centres.



# Old Yallourn stations to go

Generation Victoria signals intention to clear Yallourn power station site

Generation Victoria has called for tenders for site clearance of the remaining sections of the old Yallourn power stations.

Strategic Activities Manager John Herbert said that site clearance was necessary for practical and financial reasons.

"Major industrial plant and buildings such as the old Yallourn plant are expensive to maintain in a safe and secure manner, even if they are no longer operational," John said.

"Site clearance costs will be significant, but will still be more

practical and far preferable to the cost of on-going maintenance".

John said the two-year site clearance operation had the potential to provide more than 100 jobs.

The site to be cleared principally covers Yallourn C, D and E stations, which were built during the 1950s and early 1960's and provided the bulk of Victoria's power until Hazelwood Power Station became operational in the mid-1960's.

The original Yallourn A station was demolished in 1969.

Yallourn E station, the last operational station in the old

Yallourn power complex, ceased generating power in January 1989.

John emphasised the site clearance would be completed by registered specialist contractors, and that all requirements of both the Occupational Health and Safety Authority (OHSA) and the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) would not only be met, but would be paramount in consideration of any submissions received.

Both bodies would be fully briefed at all times, he said.

"When a contractor has been selected, further information will be made available.

"The decision to remove the buildings has been made only after careful evaluation of a number of proposals, and the timing has

been influenced by the potential to create additional job opportunities.

"Various proposals were made in 1990 under a previous registration of interest, some involving options to redevelop the stations.

"At the time, projected power generation costs made the proposals uneconomical, and it was decided to delay a decision until future power requirements were clarified.

"It is now clear that a redevelopment option would remain uneconomical well into the future, during which period the unused station site would present Generation Victoria with a mounting maintenance bill", John said.

## Letter

A certain amount of concern and pessimism has been expressed recently regarding the future of Hazelwood.

Although it is not possible for Hazelwood management to make firm statements regarding the life of the station, we believe it is necessary to outline a few facts.

In the first place, Generation Victoria is committed to maintaining the station's current role well into the future, despite rumours to the contrary by people who do not understand our situation or whose agenda does not necessarily include Hazelwood's long term survival.

The process of Electricity Supply Industry reform has created some uncertainty, which may continue for a little longer.

Restructure of the ESI, if actions outlined in State and Federal Government policies are fully implemented, raises the possibility of Hazelwood operating as a "stand alone business", competing with our current partners at Yallourn W and Loy Yang Power and Pacific Power.

Decisions on the final shape of Generation Victoria will be made at Government level. We can, however, control the present image and viability of our station.

It is important to understand that any influence we may have upon future decisions will depend heavily upon how successfully we respond to market needs - and how we portray that success to the decision makers.

Our challenge is to position the station as a preferred supplier of electricity to the central pool, and - since Hazelwood is competing mainly against four unit stations, with higher output than our eight units - we have to perform better than at present.

This translates to more cost efficient maintenance, low cost coal, less wastage and reduced labour costs.

It has been suggested that the station is being run down, either through lack of resources or deliberately, with the aim of selling off the station. Neither is true.

In 1992/93, we produced record power output, well above our budget. This could not have been done with plant which was being run down.

Transfield, our maintenance contractor, wants to be here for the long run and is fully supportive of maintaining the plant in a viable situation.

I am not aware of any plan to sell off Hazelwood; on the contrary, management comments quite clearly indicate a role for Hazelwood and a desire to maintain a strong brown coal generating capacity here in the Latrobe Valley.

I believe the destiny of Hazelwood, while not under our total control, can be influenced by us. For us to increase that influence, we all need to accept that change is inevitable - and should all be looking how we can control change before someone else controls us.

David Jones  
Station Performance  
Manager, Hazelwood  
Power Station



## George farewell

The huge Loy Yang Project is the most physical reminder of George Bates 43 years with the SEC

It was therefore no surprise that George should be honoured by past and present employees of Loy Yang Project in an on-site function last week.

The Loy Yang Project hosts for the lunch-time event chose an appropriate location - the George Bates Lookout, between Loy Yang A and B power stations.

Describing the function as "an informal farewell", Project Manager David Jones said the Loy Yang Project was the most physical reminder of George's achieve-

ments, and that he was largely instrumental for getting Loy Yang's 3000 MW of power on line.

George implemented the SEC's project management approach into Loy Yang Project when he was appointed Project Manager in April 1981.

He was responsible for bringing the first 500 MW unit at Loy Yang A into service in 1984 and as General Manager, Design and Construction, oversaw the progressive introduction of the remaining units.

As Deputy Chief General Manager his responsibilities included management of the design, construction and commissioning of new plant.

Loy Yang Project presented George with a number of gifts, including a John Mutsaers oil painting of Loy Yang and a George Bates cartoon.

## Cricket on menu for Fiji visit

Latrobe Valley power workers in Fiji playing in "international" cricket tournament



Tim Pianta, now working for Transfield at Hazelwood, is one of the LV power workers heading to Fiji for the big international tournament.

A group of Latrobe Valley power industry workers are in Fiji this week playing in a prestigious cricket carnival.

The Jeeralang Lyrebirds is one of 16 teams competing in this year's Crompton Cup, an annual cricket competition sponsored by a Fijian legal company and the Fiji Cricket Association.

Tim Pianta (Hazelwood, Transfield), Louie Gonzy (Hazelwood Stage 1 Admin), Robert Bulmer (Energy Brix, Rod Davies (Linesman, Traralgon), Eric Fleming (Morwell Mine) and Ian Gibson (former SEC Commissioner) are members of the Jeeralang team with power industry links.

Cricket is taken very seriously in Fiji and the Jeeralang team signalled their intention by holding a three day training camp to sharpen their skills before the competition.

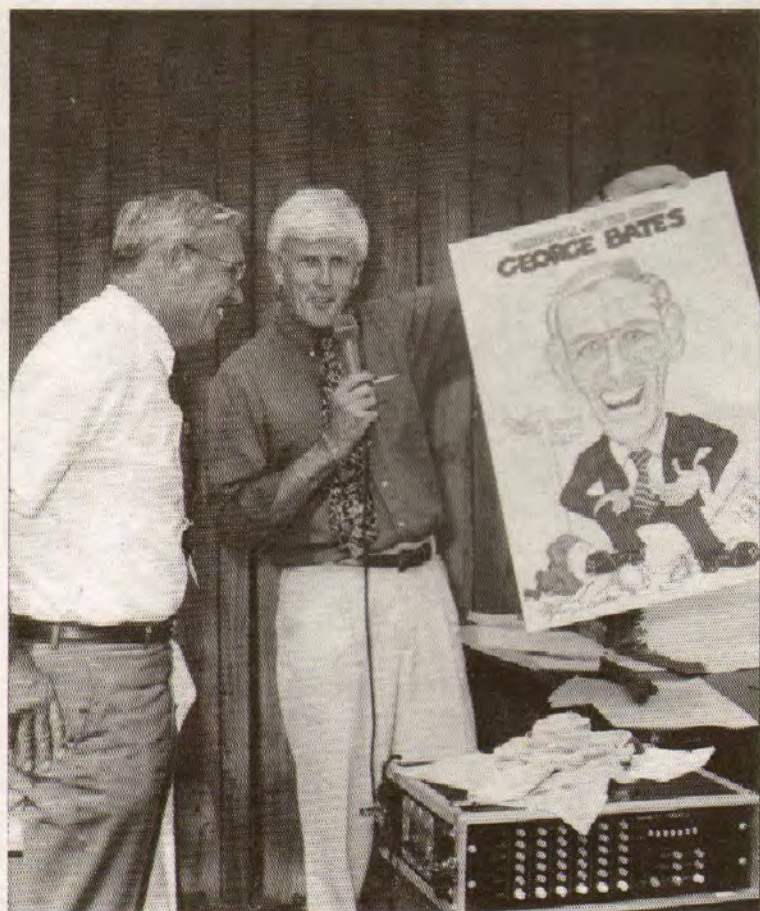
Each team plays three 30-over matches, followed by the finals, with all games played on coconut fibre matting pitches in the provincial city of Lautoka, 20 minutes from Nadi.

The 16 teams entered in this year's carnival include eight local sides (made up mostly of Indian players) and teams from Jeeralang, Coburg, Sydney Police, Westpac Bank, New Zealand, Cook islands and New Caledonia.

This is the first tour by a Latrobe Valley club, although Bundalaguah (Sale-Maffra Association) entered a team last year, winning two of its three matches.

Wives and girlfriends of the Jeeralang cricketers are also in Fiji to support and no doubt keep an eye on the players.

Patron of the Crompton Cup is Fiji's Prime Minister General Rambuka, who will present the trophies after the final on Fiji's National Day.



George Bates sees the funny side of one of the gifts presented to him by Loy Yang Project Manager David Jones.



# Team has powerful support

Loy Yang Power's colours will be carried into battle during the Rally in the Valley

**L**oy Yang Power will sponsor one of the top teams taking part in next month's Vic TV Rally in the Valley.

The Wise/Wylie Rallying Australia team will carry Loy Yang Power's colours when it battles it out against some of Victoria's best driver teams in the April 23/24 event.

Current holders of the Victorian title, the Graeme Wise and Helen Wylie team are keen to retain their title.

The year started for the champions on a mixed note, with a win in the first round at Ballarat in February and then a fifth in the Rally of Melbourne two weeks ago following suspension problems with their four-wheel drive Ford Sierra.

"We had to manufacture a torsion bar on the Saturday evening just to keep the car in the rally," said Graeme.

"Control of the car on Sunday was very different, so I had to make changes to my driving technique which reflected in our results for the early part of Sunday.

"With practice I improved and we were pleased to have managed a fifth."

Graeme said the inclusion of the Rally in the Valley into the combined Victorian/Australian Rally championships would ensure a strong field of competitors and keep everyone on their toes over the weekend.

He said the big guns would definitely be aware of their presence.

"I want to prove that we are not just a flash in the pan winner," he said.

The pair have already shown they can come back when the chips are down; they won the 1993 title on their return to the rally circuit after a horrific accident in the North Eastern Rally in 1990 totalled their car and almost cost Helen her life.

Graeme attributed last year's Victorian Championship crown largely to the efforts of his service crew.

Virtually the day after an event the team would systematically overhaul the main mechanical components on the vehicle, leaving nothing to chance.

Generation Victoria employees will have an opportunity to hear from the crew during a forum on



Graeme Wise and the Loy Yang Power-sponsored Ford Sierra which will compete in the Rally in the Valley.

Wednesday, April 20 in Loy Yang Power's Runge Room.

The Sierra vehicle will be displayed outside the Loy Yang Control Centre Building from April 20 to 22.

Two lucky Loy Yang Power employees, whose names will be drawn from a hat, will also be invited to be part the rally service crew for the weekend.

Loy Yang Power Manager Brian Cole will experience for himself what it's like to travel inside the car during a media launch at Morwell on April 22.

☐ The Morwell Mine circuit on Sunday, April 24 will again be a feature of the rally.

## watts on

Send your contributions to this column to Gerald May, Public Affairs, Wing 5, Morwell.

**MARCH 30:** A Noise Awareness Program at Production Technology is designed to meet the training requirements of the OH&S (Noise) Regulations 1992. Further information: Peter Attwood, Morwell ext 6228.

**APRIL 11:** Rehabilitation Group Meeting in Wing 3 lower, Morwell Admin. Further information: Dr Andrew Lark, Morwell ext 3015.

**APRIL 20-21:** Health and Safety Training for Supervisors at Yallourn Resource Centre. The two day course provides an insight into the relevant legislation and specifics such as accident investigation, auditing and risk identification. Course co-ordinator: Janine Warren, Yallourn ext 2405.

**APRIL 21:** A training session on the use of (MORT) Management Oversight Risk Tree analysis. MORT is an excellent technique for determining the root causes of accidents or major incidents. Personnel likely to undertake major investigations into fatalities or serious injuries should attend. Further information: Peter Attwood, Morwell ext 6228.

## Loy Yang lunch a real smash

Loy Yang employees are having their ups and downs - and that's only during lunchtime

**T**he annual Loy Yang Health Power Club volleyball competition has begun.

Sunsmart is again promoting the lunchtime competition at Loy Yang Power and Mine with finalists from each area playing off for the volleyball crown.

Loy Yang Power competition organiser Colin Preston said interest was down slightly this year but shift personnel had boosted numbers to help form a competition.

"This year we promoted the competition with a sausage sizzle and, while the day attracted a fairly good response, it didn't generate the interest we would have liked," said Colin.

"The Loy Yang Power Performance Group used lunch-time volleyball as a team building exercise in December last year and this year's competition has followed on from that."

*Pictured right: Loy Yang Power's Colin Preston displays remarkable skill in going for the ball with his eyes closed, and with team mate Max Anderson in support.*



## power lines

FURTHER changes have been made to the employee bus service.

There will no longer be a bus service from Churchill to the Morwell and Yallourn areas.

This service has been discontinued due to lack of patronage - the service was not used at all in the past four weeks.

Any queries about the change should be directed to Bernie McKenna on extension 6083.

**Some good signs**  
GENERATION Victoria signs are popping up around the place, with most SECV area signs now removed and replaced with our new logo.

In today's Contact, Generation Victoria bumper stickers are inserted for use on vehicles, bikes or elsewhere.

Identification of the new organisation is essential both for corporate and, in some cases, legal reasons. The changeover is being coordinated by Public Affairs.

Queries should be directed to Morwell ext 3974.



Gardner Perrott employees Neil Elliott and Glenn Marx erect a new sign at Generation Victoria's headquarters in Wing 6.

## Easter holidays

THE gazetted holidays for Easter are Friday, April 1; Monday, April 4; Tuesday, April 5 and Wednesday April 6 (SDO).

## Yallourn fire

A PULVERISED fuel fire broke out in a rising conveyor at Yallourn W Power Station last Wednesday.

No one was injured and there was no structural damage.

Morwell and Newborough CFA and Deanmac Emergency Services attended the fire and carried out a wash-out of the area.

The fire may have some connection with maintenance work carried out in the area earlier in the morning.

An investigation has begun into the incident.

## Engineers meet

THE Institution of Engineers, Australia, Gippsland Group will visit Yallourn W Power Station to inspect the Stage 1 drying shaft repair project on Thursday, April 21.