

CONTACT

GENERATION
VICTORIA

CONTACT JUNE 8, 1994

Cooking is in the Kitchens

Ian Kitchen is looking to cooking in the kitchen



Cooking should come naturally to someone whose family roots are in the kitchen.

But it took until middle-age for Ian Kitchen, pictured above, to decide to learn how to become a cook.

The Yallourn rigger has just completed a 16 weeks Certificate of Commercial Cookery course at Casey TAFE in Dandenong learning bistro and restaurant cooking and party catering.

Ian learned all aspects of food preparation and table settings from formal to "a la carte".

Ian now becomes the second trained cook in the Kitchen family, following in the footsteps of his daughter Terrie who is a chef at the Pier Hotel in Cowes.

Ian has been working with Gen Vic for 13 years and is unsure of what his future holds.

"Gaining this certificate has given me a chance to improve my skills and compete in the world outside Gen Vic," said Ian.

Generation Victoria encouraged Ian to attend the course and re-imbursed his TAFE fees and other expenses.

Corporate employees received letters last week advising them of their new work location

Generation Victoria corporate employees have now been allocated to the new independent businesses with actual transfers likely to occur progressively from about July 1.

Chief Executive Officer Pearce Bowman said the development of business structures and placement of people within them would take place over the next two or three months.

"Apart from personal issues, the important thing, of course, is that we ensure each of the new businesses has the right mix of corporate and operational skills to ensure its future in the open market," Pearce said.

"We need to recognise that until actual separation, Generation Victoria continues to operate as a unit, although a number of people will be "wearing two hats" for much of the time."

Pearce said some people would remain within the Generation Victoria corporate area on an as-needs basis until later in the corporatisation timetable.

While the identified new businesses will be bidding separately into the market from July 1, their formation as legal entities won't occur until later in the year, probably in the final quarter.

Legislation for their legal formation will be introduced into State Parliament during the Spring Session, which begins in September.

"It is our aim to have the new businesses in the best possible shape and running as effectively

as possible when they actually come into being," Pearce said.

"In the meantime, we can expect announcements soon on the appointment of chairmen for the businesses, and the process of appointing chief executives has begun."

Pearce said development of the sixth new business was progressing along with that of the generation businesses.

The new business, which will include the trading entities and the Visitors' Reception Centre is also being looked at as the probable home for the activities of Production Technology, Loy Yang B Construction and Herman Research Laboratory.

A range of options still remains for Production Technology, and - along with consideration of the most appropriate way of dealing with strategic research functions - will be kept under ongoing review.

Reward to find computer thieves

A Morwell company is offering \$10,000 to anyone who can help track down the people who stole vital computer equipment

A \$10,000 reward is being offered for information leading to the arrest of offenders who stole computer equipment from Morwell Open Cut earlier this year.

Police believe Generation Victoria employees or members of the public may have information about the theft from a portable site office on the northern side of the mine, overnight on January 21.

Thieves forced a locked door of the old Fire Service building and removed two computers, two monitors and associated software worth \$21,556.

The stolen equipment was owned by Automation Conversion Systems and Design (ACSD) Pty Ltd which was developing monitoring and control systems for Morwell Mine.

ACSD Manager Geoff Martin said the theft had put his company six months behind in its development work for the mine.



ACSD Manager Geoff Martin is offering \$10,000 to anyone who can help find the people who stole computers from this building on the edge of the Morwell Open Cut.

"We lost a lot of information stored on back-up floppy discs and it meant we had to start from scratch in some areas.

"It was very unfortunate and we are keen to know who did it," Geoff said.

Detective Andrew McLaughlin from Morwell CIB said a vehicle would have been needed to carry the equipment and believed the

theft was carried out by either a Generation Victoria employee or someone who entered the works area from the nearby Princes Freeway.

Anyone with information can contact Detective McLaughlin during office hours on 34-2811 or the Crime Stoppers hotline anytime on 008-333-000.

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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.

Editor
Gerald May (35) 3228

Journalist
Laurie Williams (35) 3838

Photographer
Jenny Ritchie (35) 3623

Past power performance worth a peek

Newspapers have given wide coverage recently to the debate on the restructuring of the SECV and the intention to break up Generation Victoria into independent power stations

Some comments have been made about the past performance of the old SECV and Gen Vic which are worth another look at.

In general, it is better for us to focus on the generation end of the business, but, on questions like the average retail price of electricity, we need to look at the SECV level for any useful comparison with the other States.

Although price is not a perfect indicator of efficiency, there is no doubt it is mighty important.

For some years now the SECV has been reducing the real price of electricity by increasing tariffs by less than CPI. This has been quite successful in lowering the real retail price of electricity, particularly if you make an adjustment for the abnormal 10 per cent increase in the domestic tariff in late 1992.

It needs to be recognised that Australian electricity prices are quite low by world standards, but so they should be given our natural advantage with relatively cheap fuel.

Although some of our Victo-

rian customers get the lowest prices in Australia, it is quite right to say that the Victorian average price is still too high compared with other States and needs to be even lower.

It has been suggested that if GenVic had continued along its current path, it would have become an uneconomic player in the new national electricity market. This seems to imply that the massive cost restructuring of the last four years has been a waste of time. I think not.

While it is pointless defending why GenVic needed 10 000 people in 1989 to do the work we can now do with half that number (including contractor numbers), it is still unreasonable to pretend that our operations are not now vastly more efficient and competitive than was previously the case.

Certainly, unit costs of generation do not yet fully reflect these savings, and will not do so for a couple of years until the short-term impact of the costly redundancy programs are finished. However, every good business knows that it sometimes needs to

BEANCOUNTERS' CORNER

BRIAN CLARK
Director Finance



invest in abnormal restructuring costs in order to get its cost structure right for the long haul.

Most external business people agree that the performance of GenVic in reducing its recurrent operating costs has been outstanding and the equal of anything achieved in the private sector.

Comparisons with other States are difficult to make because of different accounting, but at the operating cost level, GenVic is confident it is now cheaper than NSW and closing the gap fast on our rivals in Queensland.

The total cost picture is less flattering because of the impact of the higher debt levels in Victoria.

Let's face facts, it would be stupid to deny that we invested too much money in plant in the past. NSW has invested even more in surplus capacity than Victoria, fortunately for them without incurring the same debt burden. The difference is that until relatively recently, dividends paid by the

electricity utilities in NSW (and Queensland even more so) were quite small and debt was repaid instead.

The SECV in the past was required to pay dividends rather than reduce debt. There was nothing wrong with this, but it is the old story, you can't have it both ways.

Being a relatively new boy in the electricity industry, I was interested to learn why the SECV thought it needed all the extra generating capacity reflected by investment in new plant such as Loy Yang B.

It seems a team of international experts was hired to provide advice to the SECV on the future electricity requirements for Victoria. Based on their best predictions on the likely performance levels of existing plant, and the desire to position Victoria to attract high energy industries (like aluminium smelters), it was forecast that the construction of the full eight units at Loy Yang would be necessary.

Sometimes you just can't win. Despite some legitimate criticism about our plant performance, the reality is that the plant at Loy Yang Power and Yallourn W is now performing better than it ever has, and far higher than forecast by the independent experts when the planning for future generation was done.

It seems our improved operating performance has contributed to the past investment decisions now looking bad. Who said life was fair?

Even the accountants must take some of the blame. (They say confession is good for the soul.) Much of the capital investment at Loy Yang represents the interest charges on project funding during the long construction period which were capitalised.

These probably should have been expensed against profits at the time, but this would have reduced dividends and increased pressure to raise electricity prices.

You could also argue that it is reasonable that future generations should pay the real cost of building power stations rather than dumping it on current electricity consumers.

As is often the case, there is no clear right or wrong on these issues, just a point of view.

Super info for package people

The Super Fund has released some last minute advice for employees still thinking about taking a Voluntary Departure Package

Generation Victoria employees wishing to take advantage of the enhanced Voluntary Departure Package should lodge their applications this week.

The VEI Super Fund is advising employees to lodge VDP claim forms as soon as possible, and of

Mine theft

A steel metal frame trailer, with Toyota Landcruiser wheels, and a cable drum stand, with a total of \$2000 has been stolen from near the fire service building on the northern side of Morwell Open Cut.

The theft, which occurred in early April, has been reported to police.

If you have any information regarding this theft, please contact Alan Duncan from Deanmac Emergency Services on Loy Yang ext 2111.

the necessity to actually leave Generation Victoria employment on or before June 15 if the employee wishes to take advantage of current taxation legislation.

This ensures that the Super Fund can handle the transfer of funds before the end of the current financial year - ahead of July 1 taxation changes announced by the Federal Government. Employees unsure of the tax implications for them should obtain independent qualified advice.

Employees resigning or taking a VDP after June 15 cannot be guaranteed payment before June 30.

The Super Fund is also advising employees wishing to take the VDP to:

- discuss future plans with their families, and
- talk to an investment adviser.

Meanwhile, the VDP situation remains unchanged.

The enhanced package will cease on June 30 and the lump sum four weeks pay and \$5000 will no longer be available.

From July 1, the availability of packages within any business unit will be dependent on the needs of the business at any given time, subject to Board approval.

Also from July 1, where packages are made available, they will be on the basis of the previous package.

Hist. Society to the rescue



Trophies won by the former Yallourn fire brigade have been given to the Morwell Historical Society for safe keeping.

Generation Victoria presented the Historical Society with the trophies, won by the Yallourn brigade at fire fighting competitions between the 1920s and 1960s.

The trophies may eventually be displayed at the Society's Commercial Rd premises in the old Morwell town hall.

Pictured above, Generation Victoria Community Relations Manager Mark Vitlin hands the trophies to Morwell Historical Society President Eric Lubcke.

Prisoners' efforts profit community

The fundraising efforts of Morwell River prisoners has helped dispel myths about prison life



Morwell River prisoners and some of the children who benefited from their fundraising activities.

Morwell River Prison has distributed a record \$50,000 worth of equipment to disadvantaged children in the Gippsland community.

More than 150 people, including disabled children, prisoners and prison officials attended a recent function at the prison to distribute computers and other special equipment to 21 recipients.

Gerald May from Generation Victoria's Public Affairs Unit and Glenn Crawford from Tattersalls were invited to present the gifts on behalf of the prison.

The \$50,000 was raised by the prison through its Prisoners on the Run charity event - sponsored by Generation Victoria - and a raffle, with tickets sold by prisoners at Gippsland towns and shopping centres.

This is the sixth year Morwell River Prison has raised money for children with special needs, with this year being the most successful ever.

Director of Correctional Services John Van Groningen said the fundraising activities were an example of the unison between pris-

oners and prison officers and it had become a model for the rest of the state.

"This event brings together a cross-section of society which normally does not get on well together - prisoners, prison officers and members of the public," John said.

"A lot of myths are dispelled when you come to a function like this and see an aspect of prison life which does not fit the stereotypes."

John thanked Generation Victoria and other sponsors for their involvement.

Power training looks to future

Loy Yang Power employees look to the future during course

An innovative training course is preparing Loy Yang Power employees for the challenges of the competitive electricity market.

More than 60 employees have so far attended the course which is conducted over two days at Rawson.

The course features a variety of group exercises which aim to develop co-operation, leadership and teamwork. There are no text books, folders or written tests in the program.

The course - designed by psychologist Dr Stan Rodski - requires participants to complete the exercises and relate their value to work situations.

Loy Yang Power Production Manager and Co-facilitator Chris McQuillen said the course developed a change in attitude and helped managers and workers gain results through alignment of vision, purpose, and values.

"Why we all resist change and why we continue to do the same things the same way is based on three principles - habit, prejudice and ridicule or even the fear of ridicule.

"These exercises and programs are designed to try and overcome these principles," said Chris.

Electrician James Johnston said the program helped reveal both sides of problems.

"I can now see that increased communication between managers and the workforce could not only speed up production but achieve a result that was beneficial to all parties," James said.



Loy Yang Power employee John De Vries, left, helps Henry Perez over some of "life's hurdles" during a training exercise at Rawson.

VRC upgrade to promote region

Renovations have begun on the Visitors' Centre in Morwell

Upgrading of the Generation Victoria visitors' centre has begun to help it play a bigger role in promoting the power industry and in attracting tourism to the Latrobe Valley.

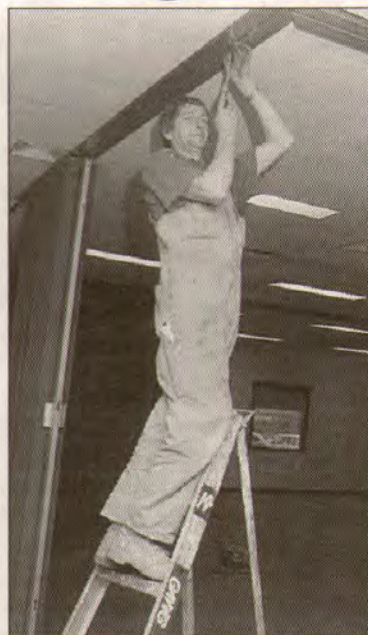
The extensive renovations mean the centre will be closed to the public from July 10 and will re-open on August 1.

When completed, the new-look facility will include:

- 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 bucketwheel from the old Yallourn Mine Dredger 3, mounted at the entrance;
- 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.

Generation Victoria Public Affairs Manager Kevin Richardson said the visitors' centre would remain open despite the changes to the electricity industry.



Steve McLaren from Gardner Perrott carrying out preparation work for the renovation of the visitors' centre in Morwell.

"The centre is recognised as a necessary service supporting the Valley power industry," Kevin said.

"The improved facility will continue to operate but we are currently exploring a number of options regarding its future operation."

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.

It is hoped the centre will become a "must-see" attraction in the Latrobe Valley, and visitor numbers could more than treble within two years.

service register

J U N E
1 9 9 4

30 Years

Arthur Kirkbright

Nikolas Papadakis

25 Years

Salvatore Prestipino

Peter Shears

Graeme Welch

15 Years

Gary Smith

William Redpath

Stephen Groen

Lance King

Charles Speirs

Russell Williams

Peter Duffy

Colin Ware

Colin Morris

10 Years

Bruce Dalgleish

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.

social news

HERE'S some of the social events being held by Generation Victoria social clubs this month.

YALLOURN Open Cut Social Club will be running a bus to "Buddy Holly Story" on June 18. Cost \$25 adults, \$15 children (under 15).

A trots night is also planned for July 30. Contact ext 2476 for further details. HAZELWOOD Power Station Social Club will hold a dinner dance at the Morwell Falcons Soccer Club on Saturday, June 25.

Featured band is Front Line and the cost is \$40 a double, all inclusive. Contact Michelle on ext 5372.

MORWELL Staff Social Club is holding a night at the Gaztromony Restaurant on Saturday, June 25.

Members \$16 a head for a set menu. Contact David Burt, ext 3652 for details. LOY YANG Coal Road Social Club are planning a "Disney on Ice" trip to Melbourne.

Further details from John Hehir, LY ext 2919.

Coal Road's annual meeting will be held on June 17. LOY YANG Power Station will be holding its mid-year cabaret at the Traralgon Bowling Club (Liddiard Road) on Friday, June 17.

Cost is \$35 all inclusive with music supplied by 'Dusk to Dawn'. Contact Sharon Scott on LY ext 2531.

Marathon men make mark in Melb.

Generation Victoria's marathon men were among the 2600 people in Sunday's Melbourne Marathon

Every muscle in your body is burning, your legs turn to jelly and each breath is a trial.

You're 30 kilometres into the marathon, there's just over 12 kilometres to go but every step you take is now a struggle.

According to long distance runners, 30 kilometres is the "half-way" mark of the marathon. They say the last 12 kilometres are as challenging as the first 30.

It's at this stage the marathon becomes a race of survival, when strength of mind pushes the body on to it's ultimate goal - the finishing line.

A group of Generation Victoria employees experienced this adrenalin rush when they took part in the Melbourne Marathon on Sunday in a field of 2600 runners.

None of them were in the race to win, only to improve their personal best times - the reward for hours of weekly training.

Fifty-four year-old Geoff

Wilson from the Hazelwood Store said he was "bankrupt" at the 28 kilometre mark of the Melbourne Marathon but persevered to finish in 3:08.

Geoff has run about 20 marathons over a 20 year period and says he uses them as the foundation for his fitness for the rest of the year.

His previous best time at Melbourne was 2:52 in 1985.

Hazelwood's Fred DeGuara was also competing in his eighth Melbourne marathon, recording his best placing (202nd) in the same time as last year 2:57.

He went within one minute of his personal best time, set three years ago.

Industrial Relations Officer Peter Chapple recorded a personal best time of 3:05 in his third Melbourne and fourth marathon overall. His previous best time was 3:19 in last year's Melbourne.

Loy Yang B Senior Employee Relations Officer Steve Storer also recorded a personal best time, running 2:58 in his third marathon, beating his previous mark by 34 seconds.

Hazelwood Power Stations' Bruce Stephenson was well outside his personal best of 2:59, running 3:23 in his 49th marathon.

He blamed insufficient training



Hazelwood's Geoff Wilson, left, and Peter Chapple from Industrial Relations on a lunchtime training run before Sunday's Melbourne Marathon.

and injury problems for his slower time but was still happy with his run.

Mine Plant Manager Ian Newnham, running his eighth Melbourne marathon on Sunday, finished in 3:50.

Forty eight year-old Ian said it

wasn't one of his better runs and attributed it to lack of training. It was Ian's 27th marathon and he has a best time of 3:17.

Note: Congratulations to all other Generation Victoria employees who took part in the Melbourne marathon.

Yallourn plaque a piece of history

An historical SEC plaque has been stolen from the old Yallourn admin building

The brass plaque, engraved with the State Electricity Commission of Victoria's coat of arms and dated 1921, was removed from above the front door of the admin building in late April.

The theft has been reported to police.

Anyone with information regarding the theft should contact

Generation Victoria's Security Manager Joe Kavanagh, Morwell ext 6434 or Alan Duncan from Deanmac, Loy Yang ext 2111.

The theft prompted the removal of the Sir John Monash bust, mounted near the admin building, as it was feared this would also be removed.

The bust is in a secure location and is likely to be presented to one of the new businesses formed from Generation Victoria.

Pictured right is the stolen plaque at the doorway of the old Yallourn admin building and, inset, the Monash bust which is now in safe-keeping.



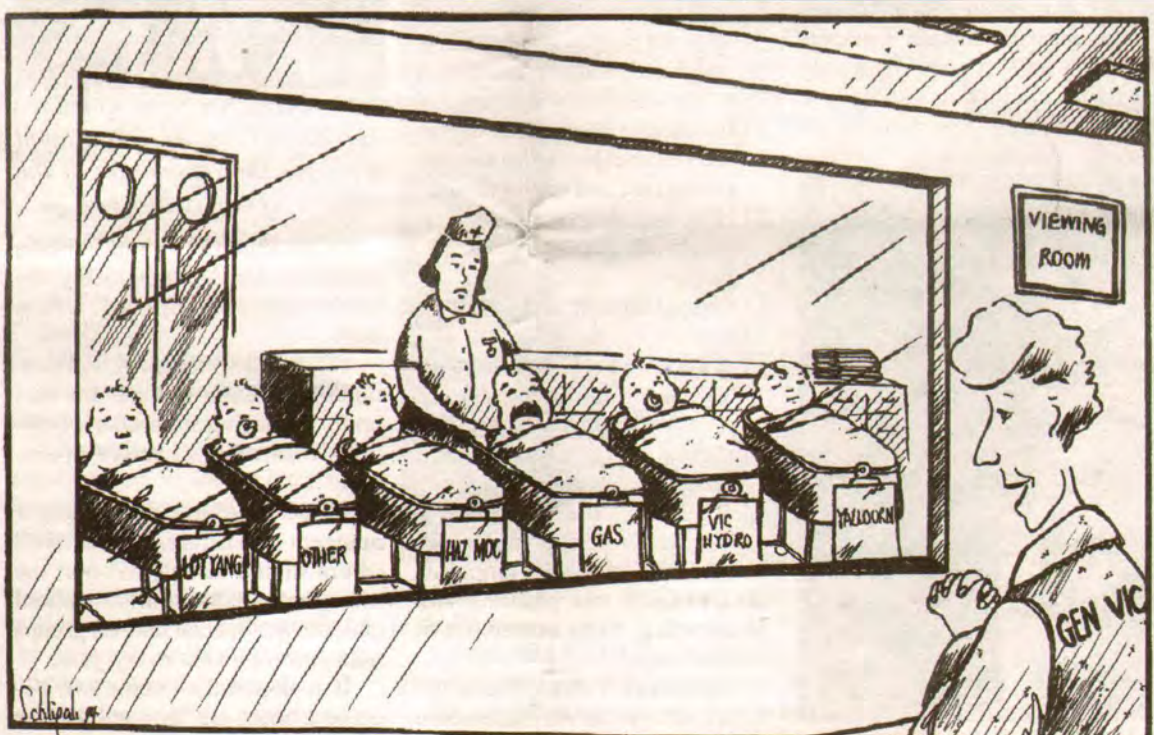
Eildon outage

Extensive maintenance work is being carried out at the intake structure associated with Vic Hydro's Eildon Power Station.

Eildon's two 60MW units will be out of service from April till December while the Rural Water Commission replaces the intake tower cylinder gates.

Routine power station maintenance will also be completed during the outage

Eildon will be out of action for a further 14 weeks from April 1995 for penstock painting. Currently, approximately 30 people are working in the Eildon/Rubicon area.



Six stand-alone businesses will be created from Generation Victoria. Each begins trading independently into the electricity market from July 1.

powerlines

ADMINISTRATOR of the VEI (Victorian Electricity Industry) Super Fund, Sedgwick Noble Lowndes, has moved to a new office with a new contact phone number.

Sedgwick Noble Lowndes holds all Fund records and pay benefits and answers queries from members.

The company is now located on the fourth floor, 555 Lonsdale St, Melbourne and their new hotline is (03)603-2722, fax (03)603-2777.

The Latrobe Valley hotline is still Morwell ext 3607.

Road works

PART of the No 7 level road on the southern batters of Morwell Open Cut will be closed for approximately three months due to the demolition of dredger 19.

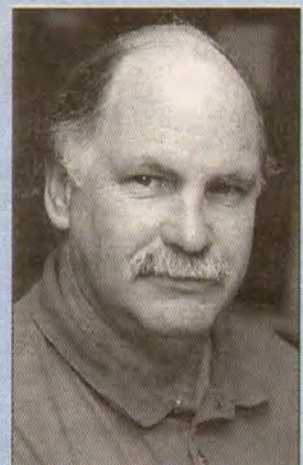
Road maintenance works will also be carried out on the Eastern Perimeter Road around Morwell Open Cut during June.

Sections of the road will be closed for periods of two to three days at a time.

Employees should observe the "Detour and "Road Closed" signs whilst the road works are in progress.

For further information regarding these road-works, please contact Bob Mansell at Morwell Open Cut on ext 3811.

Social life



Laurie Williams

HAZELWOOD Power Station has presented life membership to Laurie (Truck) Williams.

Laurie, who has been the social club secretary for 16 years, becomes the sixth life member in the club's 31 year history, joining the late John Naughton, Frank Pye, Ray Beaton, Alan Long and Karl Schulz.

Laurie, who leaves Generation Victoria with a VDP this week, was presented with the life membership by club president Michelle Soutar at a recent function.