

Dr Andrew: a tribute

By PRUE MCGOLDRICK

THERE is a six-foot stone wall in Yallourn which is a tribute to the energy and enthusiasm of Dr James Moore Andrew.

It stands in front of 2 Centreway, where he lived for over 40 years. He built it himself to gain privacy for his wife Dorothy and four young children.

It is a symbol of the man he was - strong and upright.

His physical strength amazed fellow workers. As a member of the Captain Hurley Rover Crew in the early thirties he helped build a hut on Mt Erica.

Working from dawn to dusk he carried building materials and bags of cement up the steep mountain through dense bush to the site.

Because his children were too young to climb he carried them too, to see and enjoy their first experience of snow.

He had so much energy that he could not remain still. Within months of his arrival in the small township of Yallourn in December, 1925, he attended the inaugural meeting of the Yallourn Golf Club.

Later the Yallourn Hospital was erected on 15 acres adjoining the golf course.

9 holes lawn

Dr Andrew was so keen about his golf that he would squeeze in nine holes between surgery, home visits and hospital rounds. Not content with that he built a nine-hole putting green in both the front and back gardens of his home.

A most energetic young man, he needed energy in those days to cope with all he had to do.

He was appointed Resident Medical Officer in 1926 and later the same year District Health Officer, a post which he held till his death.

His duties were demanding, there were many nights when he got no sleep at all. He was not daunted by difficulties, they were there to be beaten.

Like the time in 1927 when his hand was severely injured in a motor accident. Therapy was required to strengthen injured muscles and tendons so he took up knitting, and in no time was turning out knitted garments of high standards.

The hand mended satisfactorily enabling



him to perform many surgical operations in the ensuing years.

He owned a T-model Ford, one of the three cars in the town. On one occasion it became temperamental and refused to budge. He pushed it, running alongside, jumped inside and tried to start it. He covered a mile in this way before finally conceding defeat. Home visits were continued on horseback - babies would not wait for errant cars.

End of era

Dr Andrew brought generations of Yallourn residents into the world, he was known and trusted as an exceptional family doctor. His passing marks the end of an era in this field.

One of today's teenagers recalls how he made her feel the most important little girl in Yallourn. As a toddler she would be hoisted on to his knee and asked "Well, Cherub, what's the matter with you?"

He would spend hours at night sitting with very ill patients, reassuring them and their families.

He was intensely interested in his patients, even in latter years when he no longer performed operations he followed their cases assiduously.

Medical colleagues held him in high esteem as a medical diagnos-

tician. They marvelled at the breadth of his abilities. He had performed almost every known operation in obstetrics and gynaecology. He could turn his hand to anything.

In recreation too, he showed the same ability and tremendous enthusiasm. As a member of The Glee and Madrigal Male Choir, he sang with such gusto that newcomers were warned "Don't stand too close to Jimmy or you will be deafened".

Later he was to teach himself the cello and play with the Yallourn Orchestral Society for

THE most recent picture taken of Dr Andrew when Moe photographer Adrian van Houts, presented him with a life-size portrait to be hung in the Latrobe Valley Community Hospital ward which bears his name.

many years.

Honest to a degree, during the petrol rationing period of the war, as a doctor he received a greater issue of petrol coupons than most. It was typical of him that he would return those which were over and above what was absolutely necessary for him to perform his duties.

He was a stalwart member of St Andrew's Church, Yallourn; his generosity to which was known only to a few.

Yallourn townspeople benefited enormously from his efforts on their behalf. He was a driving force behind the Yallourn Civic Association, which was abandoned in 1947 after the formation of the Yallourn Town Advisory Council.

When the "depression" hit in the thirties, he was vice-president of a group formed to study Douglas Credit and other monetary reforms. And when bushfires swept through the area in the early 40s his unflagging energy at the firefront kept the weary firefighters going.

One could go on and on, all who knew him have their stories to tell. They vary in content but there is a thread running through them all which shows Dr James Moore Andrew to have been a dedicated doctor and an enthusiastic lover of humanity.

QUEEN'S HONOR TO "GREAT MAN OF GOD"

THE LATE Doctor James Moore Andrew was truly a man of God, Rev. F. S. Belcher, minister of St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Yallourn, said on Monday at the doctor's funeral service.

"I don't know of anyone who contributed more to any one congregation," he said.

Dr Andrew, 73, died on Thursday at his home in Yallourn almost 47 years after settling in Yallourn.

"He was an almost penniless doctor looking for a place to practise. He came here with 25 shillings or so and, having known poverty, helped to become the great man that he was," Mr Belcher said.

Dr Andrew was Yallourn's first and only medical officer of health. He began duty on December 31, 1925. This year he was given the MBE in the Queen's

honors list.

His funeral service was largely attended. The small red-brick church with red-tiled roof, was filled to capacity, as was the adjacent church hall to which the service was amplified.

Mourners included people from many walks of life, from teenagers to the elderly. A young man on crutches, his legs in calipers, entered the church unassisted with two uniformed nursing sisters.

One of the doctor's brothers, the Rev Hugh Andrew, an Anglican missionary in New Guinea, read from the Scriptures, from Timothy, who said he had fought the good fight, finished the course and kept the faith, and now awaited the place laid up for him in heaven.

Mr Belcher said that Dr Andrew had been born in Kyneton and was the eldest of six children. His father had died before James was nine years old.

His widowed mother taught music and James inherited the gift from

CONTACT

KEVIN EGAN

FOR ALL YOUR INSURANCE NEEDS
LIFE, FIRE, GENERAL

32 B KENT ST. MOE
TELEPHONE MOE 28

REPRESENTATIVE

A.M.P. SOCIETY

Christmas CARDS

CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR SALE
10 FOR 60 CENTS

DESIGNED AND SILK SCREEN PRINTED
BY THE CHILDREN FROM
CO-INDA DAY TRAINING CENTRE,
HICKOX STREET, TRARALGON

CONTACT THE SUPERVISOR

PHONE 74 1956



Continued Page 49

Engineer's assistant farewelled

DEATH OF LONGEST SERVING MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

DR. JAMES ANDREW, MBE, OF YALLOURN

One of Yallourn's most outstanding citizens, Dr James Moore Andrew, died peacefully at his home on Thursday night.

He was probably the longest serving medical officer of health in Victoria - if not Australia, having taken up his duty in Yallourn on December 31, 1925.

Born at Kyneton on September 13, 1899, he was educated at Melbourne University where he gained his M.B.B.S. in 1922, and his M.D. in 1924.

He arrived in Yallourn when the township was still in its infancy, and ancillary services had yet to be completed.

Speaking at the Yallourn Town Advisory Council meeting on Friday, the chairman, Mr N. Wishart, said that in the early years Dr Andrew worked under most difficult and makeshift conditions.

46 years

During that time he played a leading role in the development of medical and hospital services, and the establishment of the Yallourn Medical and Hospital Society.

Dr Andrew completed 46 years of service to the community, both as a doctor and leading citizen, on December 31, 1971.

In this year's Queen's Honors List, he was awarded the MBE.

"His contribution to community health was significant," Mr Wishart said.

As the town and works



to many and had been a citizen who had always been willing to contribute of his time, talents and money to worthwhile causes in the Yallourn community.

Cr J. P. Ashmead said that Dr Andrew had been "the greatest citizen Yallourn ever had". He had known him for 37 years. He said the doctor had taken an interest in "just about everything". He had been a very keen trout fisherman and a handy photographer.

Sad loss

"Anyone could talk to him in the street. It is a very sad loss," Cr Ashmead said.

The council observed a brief period of silence.

Dr Andrew's wife, Dorothy, predeceased him. He leaves three children: Judith (Mrs Jerome), Margaret and David.

His funeral was at Springvale Necropolis on Monday after a service at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Yallourn.

expanded, the SEC looked to him for advice on many problems directly and indirectly concerned with medical services and community health.

First hospital

He was in charge of the first hospital built by the SEC, in 1928, and continued to be senior medical officer until the hospital was taken over by the Hospitals and Charities Commission in 1951.

He was made a life governor of the Latrobe Valley Community Hospital in 1956 and served on the management committee from 1957.

He was a member of the medical advisory boards for hospitals at Warragul, Traralgon and Sale and, until a few years ago, for the Latrobe Valley Community Hospital. The maternity wing of the Yallourn hospital was named after him.

Interests

He had always taken an active interest in cultural, civic and sporting activities - golf and cricket, music and debating, the scouting movement and civic and church affairs.

He was a foundation member of the Yallourn Glee and Madrigal Society which was formed in 1927, and the Yallourn Orchestral Society, founded in 1931 and later renamed to include the word "choral". He was the current president, an office he held many times.

Founder

In 1935 he played a leading part in the formation of the Yallourn Civic Association and was actively associated with it until it was disbanded in 1948, following the setting up of the Yallourn Town Advisory Council. He had been president of the civic association for many years.

He was a leading layman of St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Yallourn, where he served continuously on the board of management since 1926.

Gave freely

Mr Wishart said that Dr Andrew had played the part of family doctor



YALLOURN ELDERLY CITIZENS PRAISED

MEMBERS of Yallourn Elderly Citizens' Club were praised at Friday's meeting of Yallourn Town Advisory Council.

The chairman, Mr N. Wishart, read the club's annual balance sheet which revealed a bank credit of \$148.

Mr Wishart said the club was a "very well run organisation"; that it was

a "very important part of our town"; that it was "doing a lot for people".

It isn't easy for any organisation to show a credit balance, he said.

The council secretary, Mr T. C. Spencer, said that the club's membership fluctuated between 100 and 127.

MR VIC Sheridan, an employee of Moe City Council for about 10 years, and engineering assistant, left last Friday week to become building inspector for Oakleigh City Council.

He is pictured above (second from left) receiving a gift from city engineer Mr P. Abolins, on behalf of the council indoor staff. Others, from left, are superintendent of works Mr R. Brooker, and deputy town clerk Mr G. Ryland.

\$170 FIRE

FIRE in a shed at the rear of Margaret St, Moe, premises on Sunday caused \$170 damage. Moe fire brigade attended under Captain Ebsworth. Contents of the shed were owned by Desmond Davidson.

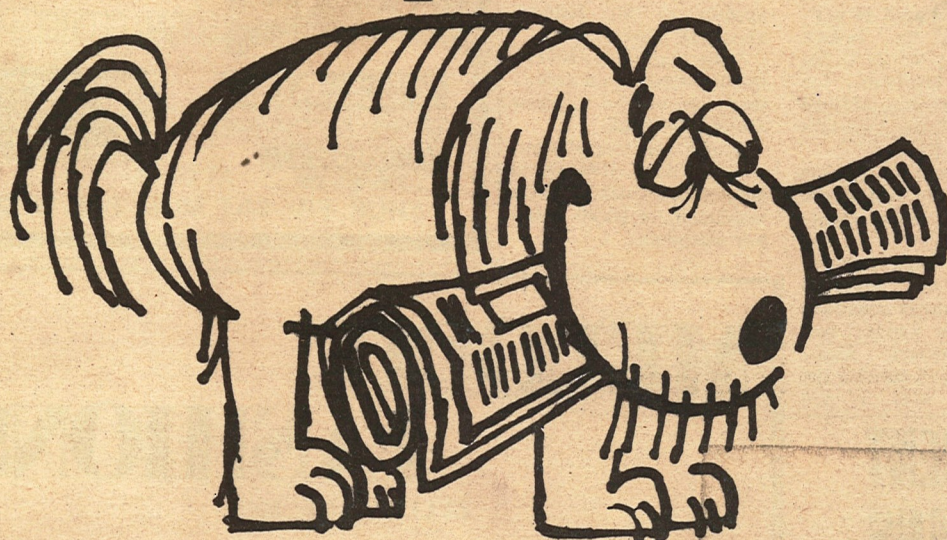
Babies upset police

MOE police are up-arms about babes-in-arms being left in parked cars. A spokesman said on Monday that a baby was left in a parked car on a hot day last week, for 20 minutes. He pointed out

that there was also the danger of the car being stolen.

MOE City Council expects to receive \$3500 from dog licences during the next 12 months.

put your money where your mouthpiece is!



That's right here in the columns of your district newspaper. Where our community's needs are expressed... where local information is published... where you're involved in the news you read. That's why this newspaper will carry your advertising message into nine out of ten district homes. So whatever you have to sell, you'll sell it best in your own newspaper.



MOE ADVERTISERS
phone **KARL SHOEMAKER**
on Moe 10

ATTENTION FARMERS & CONTRACTORS

Don't risk
repairs and
time this
season

... You must
NOT

AND HAVE YOUR
PERTLY CLEANED
BY P. D. RADIA
ATOR SPECIALIST
ST. M

**SAME DAY
BY APPOINTMENT**

All work guaranteed

HAVE YOUR RADIATOR
ABSOLUTELY FREE

P. D. RADIA

93 MOORE
PHONE 22

End of the Andrew era

WHEN a community loses a man such as Doctor James Moore Andrew — a man who epitomised the very essence of our way of life — that community learns a little of the man.

So it was at his funeral service on Monday, when Rev. F. S. Belcher said: "He was truly a man of God."

He was also a man of the people, a stranger who came to Yallourn when it was still struggling to develop — indeed when he himself was struggling.

He was fresh out of medical school, financially very close to the breadline. But there was great drive in this man who was fatherless at nine years of age, the eldest of six children living in a small country town, their mother teaching piano to support her brood.

The struggles of his formative years, when his questing mind was often stymied for want of capital, served well to steel him for his years in Yallourn.

Yallourn had very little going for it, and it was in this field that he took the whip hand. Institutions and organisations were moulded by him, encouraged to look ahead to a greater Yallourn.

He developed the medical services, saw the birth of the hospital, found time to further his love of music, and worked tirelessly on community activities.

With all his many activities he was still the family doctor, healer of the sick, protector of new life.

It was fitting in his last year of life that the Queen should bestow on him the MBE.

It was also fitting, perhaps, that the town of which Dr Andrew was so much a part should outlive him by only a few years. To have watched his town die, as it must this decade, would have been a cruel fate.

The town to which the doctor gave so much may not be there soon, but the work of this man will never be forgotten by those who lived there.

Express opinion

A dry argument

THE MOST devastating effect of the continuing drought may not be felt by the Latrobe Valley for years to come. . . if the Melbourne authorities have their way.

Thousands of words have been written, and many thousands more said, on why the Latrobe River headwaters should not be diverted to serve Westernport and the Mornington Peninsula. But it may take more than words to save that water, if Melbourne wants it.

Already Melbourne itself has applied water restrictions and at least one metropolitan newspaper has demanded that the needs of the metropolitan millions be put before those in the country.

Gippslanders recognise the danger. They have rallied in their hundreds to support the moves to fight for retention of the Latrobe for the Latrobe Valley. Now an official inquiry will be held and evidence given in full. After that. . . who knows? How much influence will a drought-restricted Melbourne have when the final decision comes?

What we need now is recognition by the Government and the Department of Decentralisation of the importance of a future reserve of water for the decentralised development of this region. After all, isn't the lack of water one of the best reasons to curb Melbourne's growth immediately?