



SOUVENIR
OF
MT. BEAUTY
SENIOR CITIZENS
CLUB

PUBLISHED BY THE

LIONS CLUB OF UPPER KIEWA VALLEY

L.V.

OFFICIAL OPENING

MT. BEAUTY SENIOR CITIZENS' CLUBROOMS

8TH DECEMBER, 1972

NATIONAL ANTHEM

OFFICIAL WELCOME

Cr. C. McGill,
Shire President

Mrs. P. Sutton,
President, Mt. Beauty Elderly Citizens
Welfare Council

RESPONSE

Mr. H. H. C. Williams

PRESENTATION OF DONATION

Mr. S. Garoni,
President, Lions Club of Upper Kiewa Valley

OFFICIAL OPENING

Honourable R. McN. Holten, M.P.

BLESSING

RESPONSE

Mr. T. W. Mitchell, M.P.,
Patron, Mt. Beauty Elderly Citizens Club
Cr. S. Svarc,
Shire of Bright

Inspection of clubrooms and afternoon tea

FORWARD

The purpose behind this Souvenir Booklet has been to provide a brief history behind the formation of the Mount Beauty and District Elderly Citizens Welfare Council and the Mount Beauty and District Elderly Citizens Club.

During the course of the year, many generous people have donated items of equipment and money, some large items, some small, but to list the names of all these wonderful people would require a booklet much larger than this, plus there is always the possibility of accidentally missing some one. So to all you wonderful people, a very big THANK YOU.

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The Mount Beauty and District Elderly Citizens Welfare Council came into being on 24th November 1964, little did this small band of people think then, it would take eight years to see their dream become a reality.

The foundation Committee comprised President Mrs. P. Sutton, Vice Presidents Dr. J. Hutchings and Mr. J. Barton, Secretary Mrs. Y. Barton, Treasurer Mr. R. Bearlin, plus Mesdames J. Gleeson, C. Broadley and Messers C. Podakis, F. Dwyer and E. Ferris. Mr. & Mrs. H.H.C. Williams were the first Patrons.

Of the members of the foundation Committee, only Mesdames P. Sutton, J. Gleeson and Dr. J. Hutchings remain, of the others, some have left the District, whilst others have journeyed to the highest Club Rooms of all.

Before the Club Rooms could be built, the committee were faced with the task of raising \$5,000, as the local contribution, in addition a suitable site had to be found.

Many avenues were found to raise the local contribution and no doubt one of the most successful was the starting up once again of the Dederang Races. The first meeting was the Centenary Race Meeting of the Dederang Racing Club in 1966.

Since that first meeting, each year has been a steady flow towards the long awaited Club Rooms.

An Opportunity Shop was also conducted for a number of years and proved financially successful.

It is interesting to note that by 1969, the \$5,000 local contribution had been raised, a no small feat.

The year 1970 saw another major step forward when the site made available by the State Electricity Commission of Victoria, received approval of the Victorian Department of Health.

Had it been possible to commence building at once a large amount of Bridging finance would have been required, however, at this time advice had been received of a new Bill to go before Federal Parliament, which if successful would have meant a sizable Commonwealth Subsidy.

Needless to say the passage of this Bill was closely followed, in the meantime plans were going ahead for the building of the Club Rooms.

A deputation had inspected the new Club Rooms at Alexandra and the delegates were most impressed with the well built and compact Club Rooms, so from this visit came the basic floor plan. The plans were drawn up by Mr. G. Napier, who has been a tower of strength.

to the committee since he has been the only member left of the original building committee. Mr. Wally Hughes was another enthusiastic member of the building committee, passed away after a long illness, he will always be remembered for his wonderful help. Mr. G. Stuart, the third member of the original building committee moved from the district.

Working in close co-operation with the Shire Engineer, Mr. Napier carried on until the plans and specifications were completed. The news all were waiting for became reality. The Commonwealth Subsidy was available.

It is interesting to note that at this stage the monies that were available:

Commonwealth Subsidy	<u>10,800</u> ✓
State Subsidy	10,000
Shire Grant	6,000
Local Contribution	6,200
TOTAL	<u>33,000</u>

The Welfare Council were asked to supply an additional \$1,200; due to modifications required by the Department of Health, this then made the local contribution \$6,200.

The big day finally arrived. During May 1972, when with Tenders let, the builder finally moved onto the site and a dream was becoming to come true.

However, as usual with the good news also comes other problems, for the Club Rooms had to be furnished. The first help for these furnishings, came the Meals on Wheels Committee with a wonderful \$200, then the Elderly Citizens Club Members themselves came next with \$500 to help furnish their Club Rooms.

Quotes of basic requirements showed that to make it functional almost \$5,000 was required. The Commonwealth Department was sent a copy of the quotes and success, their reply showed, they had reviewed their original grant and increased it to 12,733. A new list of basic requirements was drawn up and ordered, however, this did not include curtains, floor coverings, blinds, awnings. Then it happened again, a fairy godmother appeared in the disguise of the Lions Club of Upper Kiewa Valley with a donation of \$1,500 this wonderful gesture allowed Mr, Napier to re-adjust the Budget and order those items above. Other donations have now made it possible for the Club Rooms to be opened - fully furnished. Apart from individuals, many local organizations have contributed small furnishings, such as coffee tables, chairs and special equipment for the rest room.

The day, all have worked so hard for over the years has finally arrived, when on Friday 8th December, 1972 the Hon. Mac Holten MHR declares the Mount Beauty and District Elderly Citizens Club Rooms open and may the years that follow be of joy and fulfilment for our Senior Citizens in a Club that has been given to them completely free of debt.

It is with much pleasure the help and assistance extended by the General Superintendents and their staff of the State Electricity Commission during the past eight years is recorded, without whose co-operation, this project would not have been built.

In the preceding pages, much has been said about the wonderful work of the Welfare Council, but what of the Elderly Citizens Club. The Club came into being on 30th January 1965, with the late Jim Coupe as president and Mrs. Sutton as secretary/treasurer. During the first year it increased to 43 members, but also no home. It was then that Mr. & Mrs. Fred Dwyer, "The Lawns", Tawonga South, offered member the use of a building on their property, this building was gratefully accepted by the Club and has remained their home until the present time.

Over the years, Club Members have welcomed many hundreds of members of visiting Clubs from all over Australia.

How do the Club Members raise finance, it comes in the main from craft work, stalls and competitions.

As with the Welfare Council, it is not possible to mention all the people who have made available the many items of equipment - equipment such as bowls, golf clubs, croquet set, ray lamps, electric urn, etc. etc. so the list goes on.

A very important part of Club equipment is the T.V. set, this set was made possible by the sale of goods donated by the sister of the late Mr. Reg Smith (Mrs Scott of U.S.A.), the T. V. has therefore been dedicated to Reg Smith and the late Jim Coupe.

Since the commencement of the Club, 21 valued members have passed away, but those original members will always remember the work contributed by them.

The Elderly Citizens Club now 90 strong, thank the Welfare Council for their efforts over the years to make the Club Rooms possible and also will never forget the wonderful hospitality for so many years that has been offered by the Dwyers.

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May God bless all those who enter these Club Rooms.

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The Lions Club of the Upper Kiowa Valley, is pleased to be associated with the Mount Beauty Elderly Citizens Welfare Council and the Mount Beauty Senior Citizens Club, on this very important occasion.

My Club appreciated the time and effort, put into raising the large amount necessary to enable the Mount Beauty Senior Citizen Club Rooms to become a reality.

We trust that our contribution of \$1,500 towards the furnishings of the Club Rooms, will add to the comfort of those who use it.

In conclusion, it is with much pleasure that we dedicate this booklet, to those members of the Elderly Citizens Welfare Council, who have done so much, in order that the Senior Citizens of this District have a place to go and enjoy each others company.

A.S. Garoni
President
8th December, 1972.

**MT. BEAUTY AND DISTRICT ELDERLY CITIZENS WELFARE
COUNCIL**

Cordially invite P. Sutton

to the opening of the Senior Citizen's Club
Rooms

on December 8th, 1972 at 2.30 p.m.

By the Honorable R. McN. Holten, M.H.R., Minister for Repatriation.

Mrs. P. Sutton, Pres.
R.S.V.P.
13-11-'72

Mrs. H. Churton, Hon. Sec.,
P.O. Box 52,
Mt. Beauty, 3699.

