

that Moorabbin probably felt itself much more isolated from the outside world than it does today. Television, 'phones and fast cars have brought us all closer together.

It is true though hard now to believe that in these newspapers of only twenty-seven years ago there is hardly a mention of a car. The demands of the war had absorbed nearly all the materials necessary to their making and running. They also imposed restrictions on shopping. Tea, sugar, butter, meat and clothing were rationed and shops were allowed to sell only a fixed quota each day. Everyone carried his card of coupons; each coupon represented so much quantity or value - 1 coupon for half a pound of tea or butter, twelve for men's shoes, four for stockings and so on - and with the money were handed to the shopman to be detached.

But life went on just the same, though it was an anxious life for those whose sons, husbands and brothers were fighting in New Guinea or Greece or North Africa or held as prisoners of war in Germany or Burma or Singapore. There were death and in memoriam notices to some of these. A good deal of the social life of the time centred round efforts to raise money to provide comforts for soldiers. Miss Australia and her rivals devoted their money to the Australian Comforts Fund; there was a "Relatives Association" which presumably did the same, and a "Bayside Joymakers' Club, established in 1940, "existed to provide entertainment to the troops which has always been absolutely free to them and all funds raised for Prisoners of War and Red Cross - admission 1/11 (19 cents)." For soldiers who were returning a Welcome Home Committee was formed at Cheltenham; it decided to organize a dinner and dance for the boys at the Soldiers' Hall on Nepean Highway. There was to be a door-to-door appeal for funds (the term "door-knock" had not yet evolved.) Cheltenham also had a Victory Club; 400 people attended one of its functions and enjoyed community singing, games and dancing.

The cost of living in 1945 was much lower than today. A place to live in was much cheaper; an estate agent advertised "properties of all kinds from Moorabbin to Frankston - from £600 (\$1200) to £2000 (\$4,000) - ah! if only we'd been able to see into the future. Ordinary commodities on sale included blankets for 45/6 (\$2.44) each, towels at 4/9 (45c.), working shirts for 9/11 (99c.), a five pound tin of jam for from 30 to 40 c. cabbage plants at 20c. per hundred. And you could have your block fenced with five-foot palings for 4/6 (45c.) a foot.

There was very little unemployment during the war and the "Situations Vacant" columns were much smaller than those of today. The most interesting items refer to women. Lincoln Mills wanted women for part time work; Mentone Grammar School needed a woman for "ironing and other duties"; someone else hoped for a daily help. These three advertisements all added "over 45." It was apparently still unusual for young married women to go to work. Time has brought a great change there.

Ten years before television moving pictures were popular at Highett and Cheltenham. (Some of us remember the old Highett Theatre demolished a few years ago to make room for a new library.) The Cheltenham pictures were held either at the Soldiers' Hall or the Mechanics Institute on the Highway (replaced in 1960 by the Hall and Library.) There were euchre parties, balls, plain or "grand", scout fetes and a gymkhana. Crazy whist was as popular as today but a little cheaper - 1/6 (15c.)

There was an acute housing shortage in 1945. The building of private homes almost ceased during the war; people in need of a home put urgent, almost pathetic appeals in the "News" - "Wanted to rent - house, half house, flat or dwelling above shop." "Wanted to rent - house (willing to vacate same for Christmas six