

VISITING MARYSVILLE

BY M. AUSCHLIMAUER

About six months after the Black Saturday bushfires my husband and I visited Marysville. The town still looked very devastated with just small pockets of activity and some new buildings in progress. We found it quite hard to believe this was the beautiful little town of Marysville, which so many people enjoyed over the past years.

When thinking of the many families so tragically affected during that terrible fire period, it has been heartening to hear of the good things that have been done to help. However much remains to be done.

It was my privilege to accompany twelve ladies from New Hope Baptist Church in our church bus on a visit to Marysville recently. The trees are bushing new green growth and the town and surroundings areas are showing signs of rejuvenation. The week we visited, a new Primary School, Pre-School and Maternal Health complex was opened. We took some quilts the New Hope Baptist Church craft ladies had made and delivered them to a depot from which they will be distributed to the needy folk.

The ladies enjoyed lunch together in the bakery café, one business which survived the fires. We also walked around the town centre. We visited an exhibition, which dramatically illustrated the horrors of that day. The pain and loss is still quite evident, so we pray that just as the trees are showing signs of new growth, so the people of the bushfire affected will also experience renewal and regrowth.