

NORMAN HENDERSON

# Railway stalwart skilled in first aid

Railwayman and dedicated community member

**Born:** 1905

**Died:** January 6, 2003

**NORMAN** Henderson, or Norm as he was usually known, was dedicated to serving the community with his first aid skills.

He worked at the Bendigo railway workshops for almost 50 years and was a member of the railways' first aid classes for 40 years.

His expertise led him to participate in an Australian railways first aid champion's team and four Victorian championships.

Norm was born in Eaglehawk, Victoria, where he lived his whole life. In 1920, at 15, he began a fitting and turning apprenticeship at the Bendigo railway workshops. He went on to complete almost 50 years of continuous service there.

Norm always said he enjoyed his work, adding that he could not have stayed so long if he had not.

Norm worked on the Westinghouse braking systems on steam engines and rolling stock, including hospital carriages during World War II.

The workforce was so large, one enterprising businessman set up a horse and cart shuttle service to deliver men from Eaglehawk to the



**Norman Henderson**

workshops. When things improved, this was upgraded to a bus service.

For 40 years Norm was a member of the railways' first aid classes and was also an instructor in advanced first aid for many years.

Norm married Olive Eddy in 1931 at the Eaglehawk East Methodist church and they had two children, Norman and Joan.

Norm and Olive were together for 68 years before Olive died in 1999.

Although Olive was not well for many years, she remained living in their marital home assisted devotedly by Norm and other personal carers. Norm was secretary of the Eaglehawk East Methodist Sunday school for more than 50 years and continued to be a member of the now Eaglehawk Uniting church.

He was a good sportsman and

played football for the California Gully Football Club, which won the premiership in 1924 and were runners-up in 1925.

He also played tennis and later changed to lawn bowls, which he played until he was in his 80s.

Norm later took up carpet bowls, playing competitively with his team and winning the last competition just before Christmas, 2002.

His retirement from the railways in 1970 saw him become an active member of the Eaglehawk Senior Citizens Club, where he was treasurer for 12 years, retiring at 90.

A tree was planted with a plaque acknowledging his excellent work.

For many years Norm compiled scrap books of newspaper articles about the Eaglehawk senior citizens' club members and events.

These books are now housed in the club's library.

Norm enjoyed singing and was a member of the club's choir, performing at hostels and nursing homes in the Bendigo area.

He was also a member of the Eaglehawk masonic lodge for more than 50 years, singing in its choir too.

Norm is survived by son Norman, daughter Joan Reddie, five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.



