

Old brick works revive memories

By M. Sterk.
Dandenong & District Journal
 ANOTHER QUALITY FAIRFAX NEWSPAPER

THIS year *The Journal* celebrates its 130th anniversary. As part of the celebrations, a series of features looks at the people and institutions that have contributed to our history.

A PICTURE submitted to *The Journal* by Mr Leo Hawkins started it all.

It was a picture Leo found when cleaning out a spare room and depicted the staff of the then Ordish Firebrick Factory in Stud Road, Dandenong in 1939.

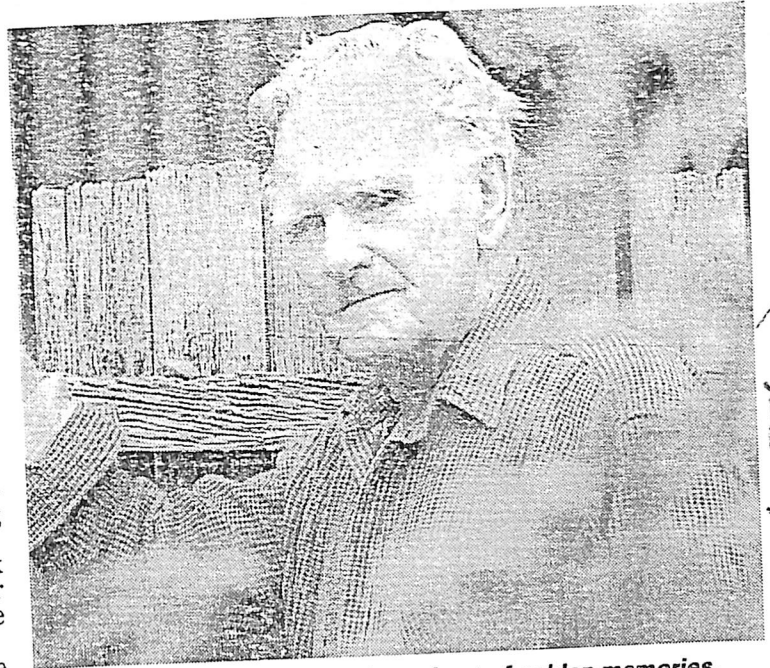
The picture brought back memories for Leo and another former "brickie" employee Bill Aldersea.

Bill, 77, who has undergone heart surgery, can still clamber aloft in a cherry picker and he can still wield a mighty axe. He also knows a good clean made brick when he sees one.

Bill left South Gippsland at the age of 10 to come to live with his family in Langhorne Street, Dandenong.

"I left school at 14 and went chopping wood in the police paddocks. We used to bring the wood up Power Road to a woodyard at the corner of Langhorne and Walker Streets, where the chemist is now. It was cut in foot blocks and we had to pay a fee to the government for the privilege of cutting the wood.

"In those days during the De-



MR William (Bill) Aldersea has a host of golden memories.

pression you could not get work. You just took it when it came. I made bread and buns at Bartlett's Bake House in Dandenong but the flour got on to my lungs. I worked at the Bacon Factory premises for a Mr Lovell. We got all the offal from the factory and made it into chook food and blood and bone. It was a rotten job. Then I worked at a blacksmith's shop opposite the market," said Bill.

Bill's keen blue eyes twinkled when he thought of "Old Stormy Fletcher" a police officer, who used to cuff the wayward kids around the ears and send them packing from main

street and the might of Bob Howard, another wellknown officer the kids all respected.

He chuckled when he recalled his days at Ordish. "When I worked at Ordish in Stud Road I used to get the sack all the time. I think I got the sack nine times in 8 1/2 years... but they always asked me to come back," he said.

Bill got a reprieve from war service when he was seconded to essential industry... "The manpower bloke sent me to Ordish, I had no option. Ordish Firebricks were used to build the furnaces to fire the machinery to make the munitions," said Bill.



LIFE BEGINS at The



Valley Private Hospital

Photography: ADAM TRENT PHOTOGRAPHY
 For Photo Orders Ph: 9701 0695



A son, Kristian Mikael, born on 8/7/95 to Paul & Ivette Admiraal of Narre Warren.



A daughter, Alexia Jayne Monique, born on 10/7/95 to Elizabeth & Ewald Kaintz of Cranbourne.



A son, Brayden Joel, born on 5/7/95 to Julie and David Cripps of Hampton Park.



A daughter, Sally Ann, born on 11/7/95 to Melinda & Jeremy Price of Narre Warren.



A son, born on 5/7/95 to Valerie & James Dickson of Narre Warren North.



A daughter, Tara Athie, born on 19/7/95 to Anita Basso of Cranbourne.



A daughter, Tarryn Ashlee,

A son, Hayden Thomas,

2nd or 3rd
 Death 2/2/1997

Achievers sought

...to become