

Fern Tree Gully Echoes. Miss A. A. Graham having tendered her resignation as assistant to the Sassafras state school, was the recipient of a number of presentations from the scholars before taking her departure for West Australia. Her position has been filled by Miss Plowman, of Sassafras. The various works on the Gembrook railway have been completed, and the line is now ready for the summer traffic. The engine-house at the Upper F.T. Gully station is also finished. The committee of the Sassafras mechanics have increased the number of trustees from 2 to 5, Messrs A. G. Plowman, Green and Earney being elected. The residents of Olinda have had under consideration for some time the question of providing a recreation reserve and mechanics' institute, and with a view of taking some definite action a meeting was held at Mr J. Gutmann's, "The Hospice," on Wednesday evening, 19th inst. Mr Dodd was voted to the chair. The hon. sec., Mr W. B. Parsons, read a letter from the lands department, pointing out that if the residents would find £2 10/ for survey fees, the department would at once proceed with the work. Mr Gutmann reported that he held a sum of £2 11/9, being the proceeds of an entertainment held at "The Hospice." The secretary was instructed to forward the amount, viz. £2 10/, to the department. The meeting then proceeded to deal with the matter of a reserve for recreation. It was resolved that 5 acres of land be set apart for the purpose, and that an effort be made to have the reserve in readiness for the next annual sports. Mr H. Harbord was appointed hon. sec. to the recreation reserve committee. The mechanics' building will cost £250, and towards this the committee have in labor promises up to £50. It is intended to have the building erected within easy distance of the sports ground, so as to provide for the convenience of Sunday school picnics,

OPENING OF NEW RECREATION GROUND AT OLINDA. Olinda's need in the matter of a public recreation ground are now well on the way to being properly met. The committee of management last month made a start to clear the newly acquired site, which comprises five acres of nicely graded land adjoining the Mechanic's Institute. It is conveniently situated, and has a fine out-look, besides being sheltered by the neighboring forest from the strong northerly wind, which often interferes with games in progress. Their task was a heavy one, as the ground was thickly timbered with well grown sap-lings, which completely hid dozens of old stumps and logs and remains of old forest giants, fallen in the old split-ting days. About a dozen strong and resolute enthusiasts working long hours stuck to the job right up to three o'clock on Saturday last, when the Monbulk men arrived to play the local team. A fine game, which was in doubt till the last few minutes, resulted as follows: - Monbulk, 5 goals 9 behinds; Olinda, 4 goals 7 behinds. The onlookers thoroughly enjoyed the game, but it was manifest to all that though much of the pioneering work had been carried out, a lot of work is needed to the surface and surroundings before it can be regarded as fit to play first class matches upon. It makes arduous effort and brute force predominant over the fine skillful player, besides being somewhat dangerous to limb. The committee realise this but require

money to carry out the secondary works, and to pay what is owing on account of what has been already done. As it is felt that many residents and property owners on the mountain would be willing to contribute to a fund to make the reserve worthy of Olinda, they desire the present position and their future intentions to be known to those willing to assist. At present 2½ acres has been cleared at a cost of £40. Of this £20 has been given in the form of free labour, careful tally of which has been kept, and £20 is owing for hired men, horses, explosives, etc. To meet this liability, they are issuing debentures at 10/- each, bearing interest at 3 per cent., to be redeemed in two years. Other work contemplated is clearing balance of land, 2½ acres, £40; fencing five acres, £20; ploughing, harrowing, etc., £5; grass seed, £3; hire of grading machine £5; extra labour and contingencies, £7; total £80. This with £20 now owing, means that £100 is needed. Those who are sympathetic with the committee's aspirations should forward their donations or applications for debentures to Mr. E. Boulter, treasurer, Bella Vista, Olinda. The raising of this money will do very much indeed to enhance property values, as a well fitted out ground where all members of the community can enjoy recreation is a most valuable asset for them to possess. Later on tennis, croquet, and other forms of enjoyment will find plenty of room, when the clearing, forming and fencing work is quite provided for.

Healesville and Yarra Glen Guardian (Vic. : 1900 - 1942), Friday 12 September 1913, page 4

HALL FOR OLINDA Cr McAlpin in pursuance to notice given at a previous meeting, moved that the council make a special order to borrow the sum of £600 for the construction of a hall at Olinda, in terms of notices of intention to borrow published in the Government Gazette of July 2nd, 1913. The mover went on to say that the money was required for building a hall, which was badly wanted at Olinda. The council was being guaranteed, and the building would be managed on similar lines to the Croydon and Ringwood Halls. The population was growing and the district was well patronised by visitors. From a financial aspect he was confident it would be a success and as a public want it would be a great benefit to the residents. The site was a good one and there were a few acres connected with it for recreation purposes. It was also handy to the school and Post office. He had very great pleasure in moving the motion. Cr Daly remarked that he understood that there were some objections on the part of the managers of the Ringwood and Croydon Halls to supply the council with balance sheets. He would like to know if this difficulty would be obviated in connection with this proposition. Cr Blair seconded the motion, and said that he had moved against the borrowing of the money for the Ringwood and Croydon Halls, but he was now convinced that the council had acted wisely and he was satisfied that the hall was a necessity at Olinda. It would be an attraction to the place, would be a good asset, and the council would be furnished with returns. Cr Kings said that he had spoken against the management of the Ringwood and Croydon Halls, and would have opposed the motion if it was to be conducted on similar lines to the other two. The auditors for three years running had referred to the absence of balance sheets from the managers of the Ringwood and Croydon Halls. The President said that when people were willing to help themselves it was the duty of the

council to try to assist them. Olinds was handy to the city, was a popular tourist resort ,and was a growing place. The hall would be a boon to the place and would be a good revenue producing asset to the coun-cil. The motion had his hearty support. On being put the motion was declared carried unanimously. General Business. Resolved, on the motion of Cr Kings and the Ptesident, that about three claims of oadc be formed on the Coldstreamth road between Mlr Black's and 3hr F." 1. Lithlgow's properties Resolved. on let!e motion of the President .and Cr T'Ghee that a footpath be ::formed from Allison's Cottages -to W\ine IMall on the Cave ill road. Cr d'CGhmee called attention to a culvert on Victoria road which itad silted up and the water ?'as overilowing and damaging the road.Refcihred to the engineer. Cr J\T'Ghee s-aid that it . seemed to be the practice of some people to cut briars and leave them lie on the roads. iHe met a man recently driving a 'flock of sheep alodig a road and lihe complained that' his sheep were dragging cart loads of briars along with t]hem .-Referred to the inspector

Cr Blair" moved thst all. owners of land adjacent to .roads infested with briars be informed that t]he must, take actioil ant once to clear" their -,land and- half of thlie road frontage of .briars, etc., otherwise the council will immediately en- I l force the la]w agaitst those who. Idisregaird the wriining.-Seconded by - Cr Kings and carried . i. esolved, on the motion of Crs .McAlpin and Blair thait the pipes obttained for the road near Blood B\ros. it Iijngwiold be laid down as s soon as possible y Resolved, on the motion of Cr d Blai; -that the engineer have the d bridge over the bushy creek on theYarri road, Ibtweet \\\ onga Plark - hli;iste id and r I'a.-ne's gate ren paired at once . Cr McAlpin reported that, Crs. - Daly, nd- Blair ,thel ongiticer and - imself hliid met r Chalhners and d- iiscussed the question of drainage l. with him, but they could not rew omiiniid the council to accede to i all h is demanids. He moved that l- illr Chalhners Ies written to stating i: .hat this cou'icil will agree to cut it a drain 13 ch sins in lengtlr prov liding he gives the council the right to turn the i"ator from West is Prussia. r:riad into same.-Seconded is by Cr lairi and carried. 's Cr Blair reported that Crs Daly d- and- fcAll in, the enigineer aid himid self had made an inspection of the r- 10oft righ -of-way Captain Mil'es deve si:ed should Ie wideied to 14ft. To lie carry out the proposal a strip of lit land fi;t wide would require to be re taken of tte icreatioa giouind. sts The representatives of the council en could iit recommend the reduction of the reserve, and lihe moved that at Capttin niles be informed that the a- council cannot agree to tihe proposal it, --

FERNY CREEK

Reporter (Box Hill, Vic. : 1889 - 1925), Friday 8 May 1914, page 6- Below

FERNY CREEK NOTES. At the annual meeting of the Ferny Creek football club the following office-bearers were elected :- President, Cr. C. Earney; secretary, Mr C.Hackett; treasurer, Mr J. Breen; captain, Mr. T. Brown; goal umpire, Mr. T. O'Don. Other business having been disposed of, a lengthy discussion took place as to what had been done in connection with the recreation reserve granted to the residents some six years ago. The chair-man (Cr. Earney) made a lengthy state-ment outlining what has been done as far as his knowledge went. Some six years back, in company with Mr T. O'Don, they interviewed Mr. J. Reid, then surveyor-general, and now secre-tary of lands, respecting a site opposite Breen's, and the department granted five acres. A president, secretary, and committee of

management was appointed. The government has made three £10 grants. Concerts have been held to raise funds, but for the want of someone to raise those grants, they have lapsed, there only being one of two meetings held that year. The chairman's statement was received with disappointment. On the motion of Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Alderson, the meeting requested the president (Mr. J. T. Bird), and secretary (Mr. W. E. Clarke) to convene a public meeting to explain the position of the recreation reserve. The speakers pointed out that certain residents held in trust, on behalf of the reserve, certain monies, amounting to £20, asked if the government grants of £30 had been lost, or what had become of it. Taking the properties surrounding the reserve as a guide, they were selling at £100 per acre, hence the reserve must be taken at that value. Were they to lose this valuable asset through the neglect of the officers? The speakers summed up the position as disgraceful, and thought if the minister of lands knew the true state of affairs he would put his pen through the whole business.

Fern Tree Gully Echoes October 1911

The Ferny Creek United football club and their supporters were hard at it on Saturday chopping down trees on the new reserve given to them by the government, at the junction of the Shorbrooke road on the mountains. Twenty-two brawny arms worked and sweated, and if they keep up the enthusiasm they will have a really good football ground for the season after next. They have a nice piece of ground, as level as can be expected in such rugged country, and the new reserve will be a real boon for sports of all kinds. The workers were in charge of Mr. W. Breen, the owner of the first property in the district, and they are lucky in having such an experienced mentor. Mr. E. Earney kindly provided refreshments for the whole of the workers.