

VALE

The suddenness of the tragic death on Wednesday afternoon of Graham Douglas Laing came as a big shock to the community.

'Hippo' as he was always called, was enjoying a swim in Emily Bay. It would appear that he managed to climb up onto a rock before his heart gave out.

Hippo was born in New Zealand on 25th May 1918, the youngest of the three sons of Mona and Jim Laing. Monte is the surviving son. He did all his schooling on Norfolk when the Laing family moved back to Norfolk, living at Torrie Glen.

He joined the A.I.F. and went overseas during World War II, spending 4 years in a German prison camp.

He returned to Norfolk and married Frances (nee Snell) in 1950. Frances died in May last year.

Hippo and Frances farmed out at Anson Bay for many years, then sold the property and lived at Ball Bay. He and Frances enjoyed their fishing and caring for their daughter Suzie.

The great number who attended Hippo's funeral conducted by Rev. Philip Kitchin, was evidence of the popularity of this kindly and friendly man who was always on hand to help anyone and whose life revolved around his wife and daughter.

Since Frances' death, Hippo and Suzie have carried on the home together, caring for each other, and it is to 14-year old Suzie, and to Monte, particularly, and to their relatives and many friends we convey our deepest sympathies in their very sad and sudden loss.

LOCAL BOYS ATTEND ADVENTURE CAMP

Two Norfolk Island lads - Craig Buffett and Darren Bates - were guest speakers at the Lions Club last Tuesday evening.

The two boys had just returned from the NZCF National Adventure Camp held at Dip Flat which is situated in rugged mountainous country in the northern part of the south island of New Zealand.

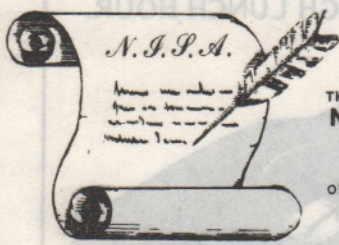
These 10-day training camps have been attended by Norfolk Island boys for some years now and all expenses (air fares, etc.) are met by the local Lions Club.

As guest speakers, both boys spoke very well and presented a most interesting summary of the activities they had undertaken. Darren had a comprehensive collection of coloured photographs which showed to good effect the ruggedness of the country and some of the icy-cold looking river that they were expected to dam and swim in. Craig also gave a good report on all that had happened to him - during the training programme he and Darren were in separate flights, describing the instruction that they undertook which included river crossing techniques, shingle slide crossings, map reading, observation of ground with particular attention to drainage pattern, first aid, cross country exercises, etc.

One of the show pieces that the boys brought back with them was the ration kit which consisted of many items of dehydrated vegetables, meat, etc. contained in small alfoil type bags and cooked over a small methylated spirit operated cooker.

The boys were full of praise for the ration kit, their only criticism being that included in it was 'never enough toilet paper'!!

Both boys expressed their thanks to Lions President Bernie Smith and also to Les Stringer-Menzies who is the Lion in charge of this particular project.



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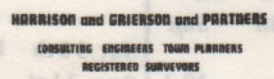
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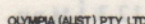
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