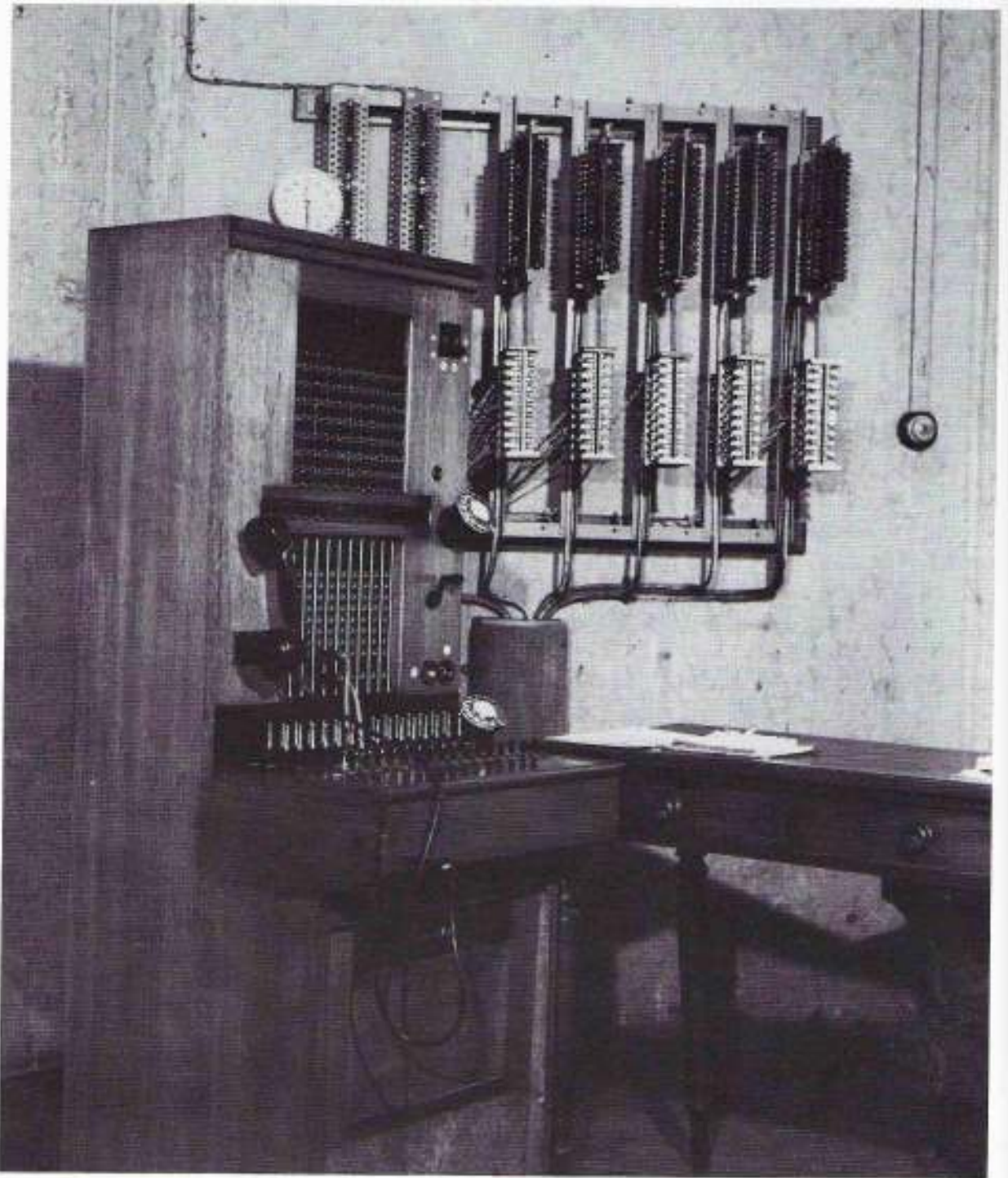


## Telephone Services



*This telephone switchboard was operated by Mrs Champion, along with a shop and Post Office which was housed in the Old Taroona Tea House, q.v., now number 162 Channel Highway. It remained in this location until c 1951 when Mrs Champion had a new Post Office, shop and residence built next door, on the corner of Channel Highway and Taroona Crescent, now number 160, 30th January 1947.*

POSTAL AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS MUSEUM.



## Water and Sewerage

Peter Spratt

Up until the late 1940s Tarooma was a series of scattered dwellings in streets constructed at right angles to the Channel Highway. These streets were Grange Avenue, Oakleigh Avenue, Winmarleigh Avenue, Seaview Avenue, Nubeena Crescent, Tarooma Crescent, Churchill Road, Jenkins Street and Hinsby Road. Oakleigh Avenue was the only street on the steep top side of the Channel Highway, or the Main Road as it was then called.

The topography of Tarooma, with its narrow band of development sandwiched between the high, steep hills to the west and the Derwent River to the east, dictated development of a water and sewerage system.

The early farms in Tarooma were all located near the creeks, which even today never completely dry up. Later wells were dug, and one most remembered was near the site of the "The Retreat" *q.v.* With the advent of galvanized iron the use of water tanks made it possible for housing development to take place away from the creeks. By 1942 the suburb had grown to such an extent that a reticulated water supply became essential. In *The Mercury* of Tuesday the 6th January of that year the following news item appeared on page 5, column 7:

### KINGBOROUGH NEWS COUNCIL TO PROCEED Tarooma Water Scheme

"We are now in a position to go ahead with the Tarooma water scheme," said the Warden of Kingborough (Mr. J.G. Charlton) at a meeting of the council yesterday. The council agreed to request the Hobart City Council to install a 6 in. main to the Grange to connect with the Kingborough pipeline.

The Under-Treasurer (Mr. F.W. Steele) wrote approving the council borrowing for a 25 year term £6,000 to finance the scheme at an interest rate of £3/17/6.

The Warden said although the council was still waiting for plans, it had been ascertained that the council could proceed. Some residents had questioned the wisdom of going ahead at this juncture, but he contended that the council should act. Water was badly needed for the district, he said, and if the council shelved the scheme it would lose the advantage of the Federal Government's contribution of a third of

the interest and sinking fund for the first 10 years.

Councillor E.C. Mitchell suggested that the necessary work from the Grange to Kingston be proceeded with immediately, and the question of the proposed rate clarified. He pointed out it would be foolish to estimate the rate 1/6 in the £ and find ultimately that 2/- would be required. Tarooma residents who had installed 1 in. and 3/4 in. pipes should be helped, if possible, he said.

Councillor W.D. Maddock said the rate could not be ascertained until the estimated cost of the scheme was known."

This proposed scheme involved laying a 6 inch Tasmanian Oak woodstave pipe from the Hobart City Boundary at Cartwright Creek to Tarooma Crescent. This pipeline served the community well until its replacement by more modern iron pipes. Towards the end of its useful life leaks were frequent and many times a council workman could be observed digging a hole in the road and taking out his pocket knife to sharpen a piece of wood in order to plug the leak.

Residents on the top side of the road, as far up as Nightingale Avenue off Oakleigh Avenue, installed water tanks on their roofs which would fill up overnight, as the water pressure during the day was non-existent.

The water supply was boosted in the late 1940s by a pump at the junction of Tarooma Crescent and the Highway lifting to a break pressure tank above Churchill Road. The break pressure tank was replaced by a storage reservoir between 1955 and 1958.

The Hobart City connection remained the only supply source until the Tarooma link from the Bonnet Hill pipeline from Ridgeway to Kingston was constructed and commissioned around 1956. The wood stave line was replaced by an 8 inch cast iron pipe in the early 1960s. This line is still in action today, although the pump was removed when the Bonnet Hill connection was made.

The continuing growth of Tarooma and the range in height from sea level to 140 metres led to the creation of a two-pressure system of high and low level with the Highway being the boundary of the two levels. Initially the reservoir off Churchill Road fed the low level, with the high level supply being direct connections to the Bonnet Hill line at Oakleigh Avenue, Coolamon Road and the Shot Tower. A high level reservoir was

## Community Services

constructed at Oakleigh Avenue in 1965 and a second low level reservoir off Stewart Crescent in 1970, leaving the Shot Tower connection as the only one without reservoir storage and with a pressure reducing valve limiting the pressure to that of the low level reservoirs.

### Sewerage Development

It was problems caused by the inability of the local clay soils to absorb household wastes which triggered off the first overall area action by Kingborough Council in the preparation of an area sewer plan in 1947. This plan, prepared by J.L.B. Fowler, Council's Consulting Engineer, began a 30 year involvement of the engineering firm established by him which saw the gradual implementation of the works which he proposed.

The 1947 population of Taroona was 700 persons with an annual increase at that time of 250 persons, an exceptionally high development rate.

There were no contour plans of Taroona in 1947 and Mr Fowler undertook a detail level survey and plan preparation of the whole area from Grange Avenue to Hinsby Road. The sewer plan prepared from this survey information showed a gravity foreshore main discharging off Quarantine Point and picking up all of the scattered development. A Treatment Plant was proposed on Quarantine Point and Council was persuaded to acquire the necessary land.

The plan was adopted by Council and approved by the Sewerage and Drainage Board and was then almost immediately changed by Council to allow septic tanks with the sewers being sullage lines discharging to the River Derwent at the end of each street.

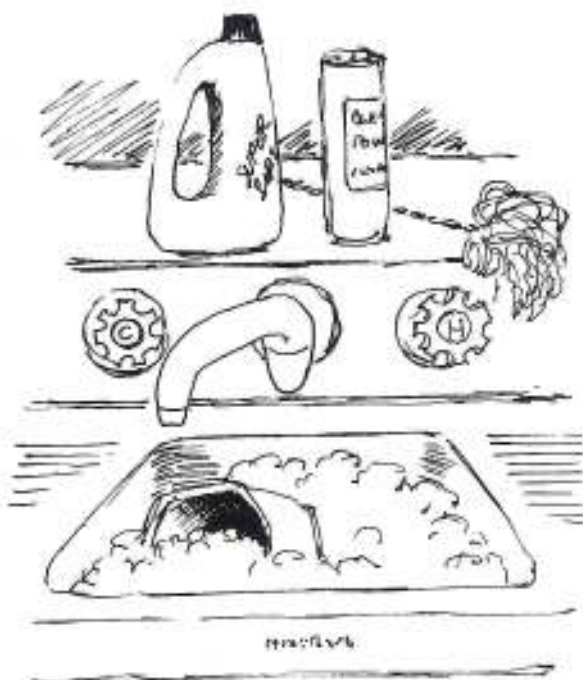
Seaview Avenue was the first sewer to be constructed immediately following the promulgation of the Taroona Sewerage Act in 1949. By the middle of 1951 Council was planning the construction of sewers in Hinsby Road, Jenkins Street and Taroona Crescent.

From 1951 to the early 1960s a number of subdivisions from Meath Avenue to Seaview Avenue were constructed with combined drains put in by subdividers which had a common drain for both sullage and stormwater and which discharged at the end of each street to the Derwent River.

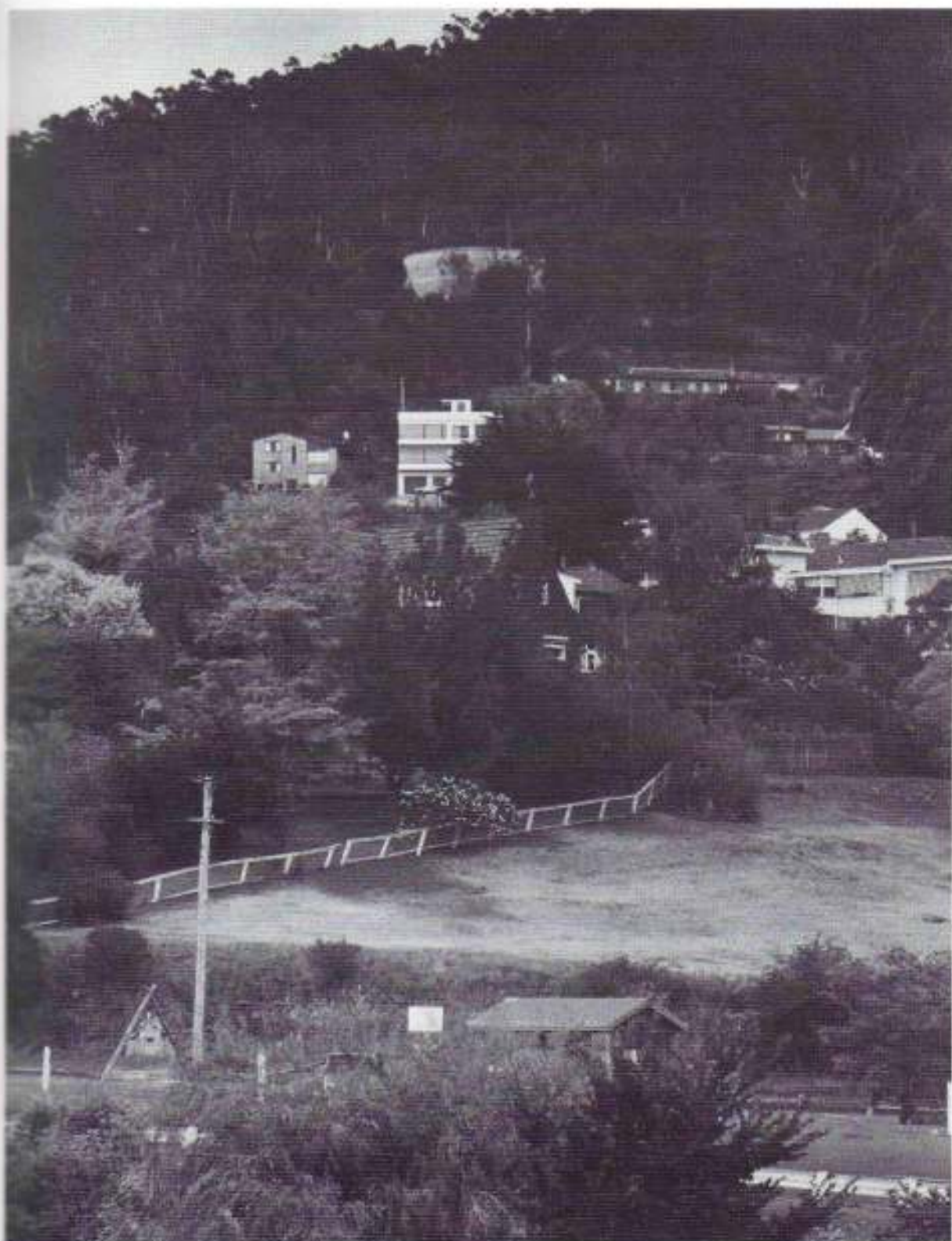
In the mid 1960s Council undertook the

construction of the trunk foreshore main and of separate sewer systems to replace the combined systems and with pump stations at Grange Avenue and Devon Walk to lift low level areas into the Trunk Main.

The system was finally amalgamated into a full sewerage system with treatment of all wastes with the commissioning of the Taroona Sewage Treatment Works on the Quarantine Station property at the bottom end of Nubeena Crescent in 1969.

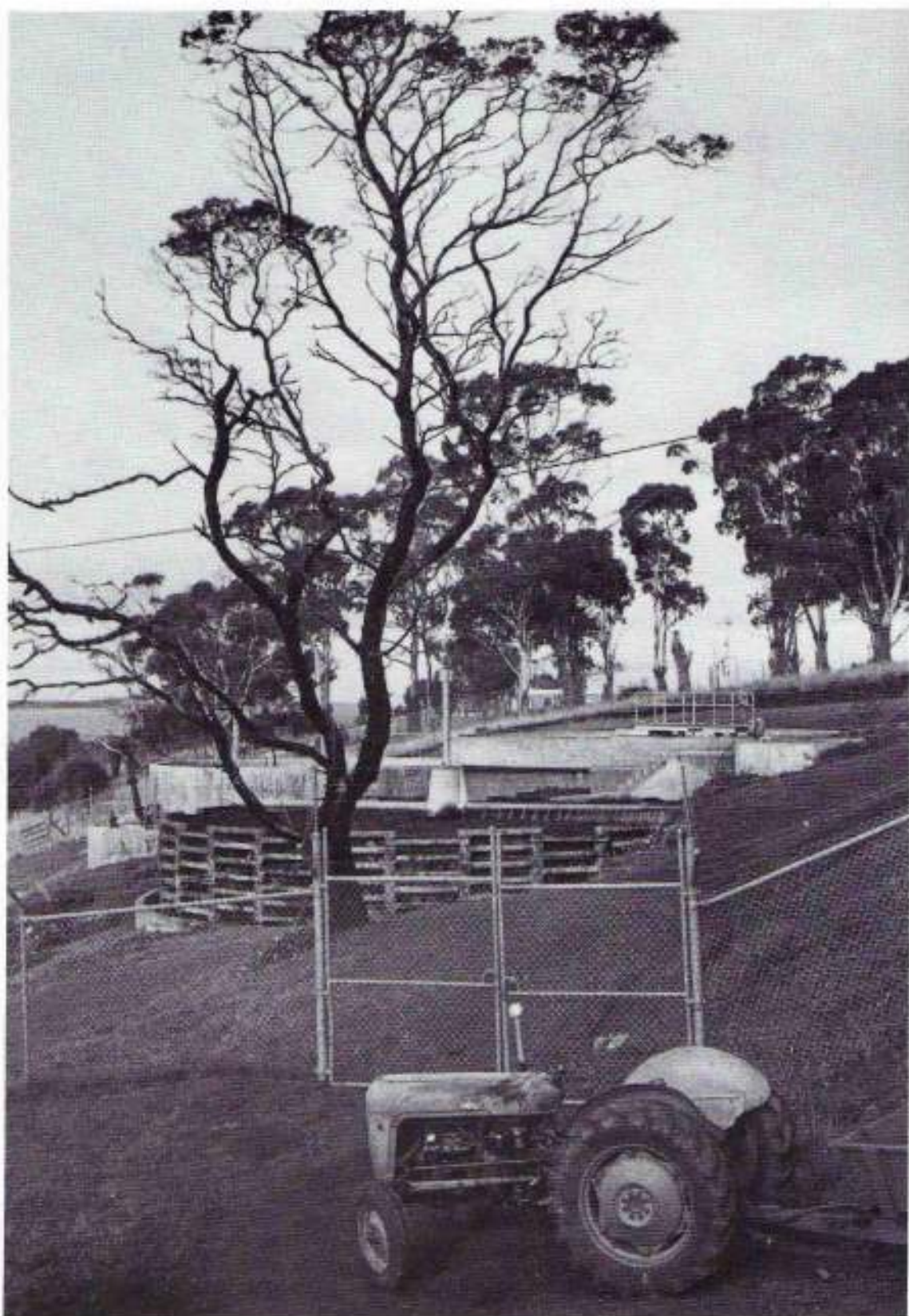






*The Reservoir at the top of Oakleigh Avenue, with the Channel Highway in the foreground at the boundary of the North Ward of Kingborough and the City of Hobart, 1986.*

PHOTO CARL WOOD.



*Sewerage Treatment works at Crayfish Point, 1973.*

PHOTO AMY ACTON.