

Words of praise at minister's farewell

RECENTLY the many friends of the Rev. Ian McDonald met in the Lyndale Church Hall to pay tribute for his tireless work both within the church and the wider community.

Ian came to Dandenong 10 years ago as minister of the then Methodist, now Uniting Church, with his wife Pat, daughter Fiona and son Scott. Ian will be continuing his ministry at Sandringham this year.

Words of gratitude, praise, appreciation and love were expressed throughout the evening.

Mr Geoff Harvey was chairman for the evening.

Mr Maurie Jarvis, speaking on behalf of the Mayor, Councillor Surace and members of the Dandenong Council, referred to Ian as "a man of action", one dedicated to improving conditions in the community.

Max Oldmeadow said that both Ian and his wife Pat, were born leaders, arti-

culate with a great compassion for people in need, both young and old and possessed a deep Christian love.

He went on to mention Ian's work and support for Grassmere, Trewint and the Day Care Centre.

He praised Pat for her vision and hard work in getting the Day Nursery in North Dandenong established.

The Rev. Wally Stratford spoke of Ian's involvement at Presbytery meetings. He said Ian's expertise and pre-tension to cut through "red tape" and get to the crux of the matter, had been appreciated.

Musical items and sketches were interspersed with the speakers. One particular sketch by the youth group, entitled The Auction, was a clever and hilarious "send-up" of Ian supposedly bargaining for a new bus.

Mr Neil Lowe, spokesman on behalf of the Dandenong Jobs Resources Centre, a project dear to the heart of Ian and very much 'his baby', said how very proud and pleased he was, to have been associated with Ian in this project — "a man happy to work for others, looking for nothing in return".

He presented Ian with a beautiful little silver cross and chain, that had been fashioned in the Resources Centre.

Councillor Jan Bateman,

Mayor of Berwick, spoke of the wonderful contribution Ian had made to the people in the Narre Warren North and Endeavour Hills area. She called him "silver tongued" as he persuaded the Berwick Council to fund money towards the salary of Judy Secombe — who incidentally has worked with love and devotion among the people in the new and rapidly growing Endeavour Hills for the past two and a half years.

Warm words of thanks were voiced by representatives of the Scouts and Guides, and small gifts were presented to Ian as tokens of appreciation for his continued support and interest in their work.

Mr Len Francis, on behalf of their many friends, presented Ian with a car refrigerator, while Pat, Fiona and Scott received cheques.

In making the presentation, which he felt honored to do, he said that the impact that Ian and Pat had had on the people of Lyndale and the community at large, had been tremendous. He was sure that through their involvement, vision, and leadership, people had discovered talents they did not know they possessed, and people had been encouraged to develop those skills.

Len pronounced the Benediction after which supper was served.

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