

After leaving Glen Davis in December 1954 I thought often of my childhood spent in the beautiful Capertee Valley and the people who lived and worked at Glen Davis. It was not until the late 1960s that I returned home for the first time and found you cannot do this without some trepidation. Memories of Glen Davis as a busy township crashed around my feet as I walked amongst the ruins, the forgotten and empty streets and the vacant block, which was once the site of my home.

Most of the hard times of the town's residents passed over the heads of their children and it is only now researching the history of Glen Davis that I appreciate their frustrations. Families were coming out of the depression into a wartime situation and a life of rationing of petrol, tyres, food and clothing. This was further compounded by drought followed by almost 30 floods.

I have tried to look at what makes people choose the mining life and live in remote areas foregoing the comforts of life in the larger towns or cities. Men came from all walks of life to search for work and not all were familiar with the physical grind of the mining industry and its drawbacks. Whatever their background those who stayed shared a bond that only comes from a close knit and isolated population.

This book is not written to determine who or what caused the downfall and destruction of NOP at Glen Davis. It is to show the tenacity and strength of those who lived and worked there from 1938 to 1954 when everything was auctioned off and many families walked away with nothing. Two World Wars have brought Australians an awareness of the value of our historical records whether they are found in the diaries of private citizens, company memos and minutes or public records. The National Archives have been a great source of information and it is interesting to see what went on behind the closed doors of the Governments who served from 1937 to that disastrous day in January 1951 when the Menzies Government announced Glen Davis was to close after using it as a political football for so long.

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