

# MOVING CEREMONY IN BALLARAT SHULE

At a moving thanksgiving service last Sunday communal leaders and personalities from Victoria, as well as distinguished non-Jewish guests, marked the centenary of the Ballarat Hebrew Congregation at the now 100-years old Synagogue in Barkly Street, Ballarat.

In all, 250 people attended the service which was conducted by Rabbi Danglow assisted by Rabbi Chaim Gutnick and Rev. Kowadlo.

Before the service, a special "Back to Ballarat" re-union was held in the communal hall next to the synagogue at which many former residents



● Our picture taken before the Ballarat centenary service last Sunday shows Rev. E. Kowadlo, left, shaking hands with Mr. Burnett, 94, oldest

living member of the Ballarat congregation, outside the entrance to the shule in Barkly Street, Ballarat.

of the Ballarat community and their families met to renew old friendships and to exchange memories.

Among the distinguished guests who attended the service were the mayor and mayoress of Ballarat, Cr. A. W. Nicholson and Mrs. Nicholson, Mr. Dudley Erwin, M.P., Cr. G. L. Scott, M.L.A., Cr. A. T. Evans, M.L.A., Mr. V. O. Dickie, M.L.C., Mr. M. L. Byrne, M.L.C. and Mr. Baron Snider, M.L.A. Mr. Snider brought greetings from the Victorian Premier, Mr. Bolte.

The service was opened by Rev. Kowadlo who conducted Mincha and by Rabbi Chaim Gutnick who read two selections from the Bible in English.

In his address, Rabbi Dangelow said that the history of the Jewish congregation in Ballarat was closely linked with the development of the city itself.

Also, throughout the years, members of the synagogue had striven often against difficult obstacles to maintain the activities of the synagague. They had done all and more than was expected of stout-hearted members.

He took as his text a verse from Job: "For there is hope of a tree, if it be cut down that it will sprout again; that the tender branch there will not cease."

This verse he said could well be applied to the history of the Ballarat congregation which had faced many periods when its very existence was threat-

its very existence was threatened.

Today again, the numbers of the congregation were very reduced and it was due to the efforts of such stalwarts as **Mr. Marcus Stone**, president, Mr. Paul Simon, secretary, and Mr. Elias Abraham, treasurer that the services were continued from Sabbath to Sabbath and on Holy Days. He hoped and prayed that Ballarat would see the congregation spring into life and in the years to come, the congregation would go on to renewed activities and prosperity.

He spoke of the urgent need for funds for renovations to the synagogue to ensure that it would continue to serve the needs of the congregation.

Mr. Burnett, 94, oldest living member of the congregation who only recently shifted to Melbourne, unveiled a special plaque to commemorate the service.

Following the service guests adjourned to a large marquee pitched between the synagogue and the communal hall where afternoon tea was served. A number of addresses were made by various of the official guests present. Speakers included, the president of the congregation, **Mr. Marcus Stone**, the mayor of Ballarat, Cr. Nicholson, Rabbi Danglow, Mr. Dudley Erwin M.P., Mr. Baron Snider M.L.A., Rabbi C. Gutnick and Mr. Walter Lippmann.