

# Land rose 30% in 90 days, says agent

A Thomastown real estate agent yesterday expressed concern over the inflation of land prices in his area.

On Saturday, the agent, Mr. Edward Love, sold 33 building blocks for a total of \$258,400, at Thomastown.

"It is a shame people had to pay so much for blocks that are small, unsewered and a mile from the Thomastown shopping centre and station," he said.

Buyers paid up to \$6700 for each of the blocks measuring about 50 feet by 150 feet.

Half the buyers were home developers who would sell the land at still higher prices, he said.

Many were migrants, employed in factories around Thomastown.

One of the firm's representatives, Mr. John Love, said that while home prices have increased by about 20 per cent. since Christmas, land prices in the area have increased by between 30 and 40 per cent. in the past three months.

About 1000 people at

## Sydney leagues club closes

SYDNEY. — South Sydney Leagues Club, one of the city's best known licensed clubs, closed down on Saturday night after an 11th-hour bid to raise \$50,000.

It has been estimated the club has debts totalling more than \$1 million.

The Official Receiver (Mr. C. H. R. Jackson) said the bid for the \$50,000 loan was to cover creditors' notes and poker machine taxes.

Four other clubs — the Mariners, the Airforce Club,

## That's no Holden



# States get \$218m for housing

CANBERRA. — The Federal Government will provide more than 218 million to the States for low-cost housing this financial year.

This is a rise of 26 per cent. over the amount made available in 1972-73.

Victoria's share of the housing programme is \$53.5 million compared with \$39 million last year.

The Minister for Housing (Mr. Johnson) said yesterday that advances to the Victorian Housing Commission would be used to begin building more than 3000 dwellings in 1973-74.

Some of the money would also be used to purchase and develop land, Mr. Johnson said.

He described the housing allocation—details of which were finalised at Friday's loan council meeting — as the start of "a new era in housing for the under-privileged."

"The inner significance of the new housing agreement, which will now become a reality, is the assumption by the Australia-

wealth money given to the Housing Commission can be sold. The rest must be rented to low-income families.

The housing agreement follows months of wrangling between Federal and State Governments. Mr. Johnson at first wanted all the Housing Commission houses to be rented, but later agreed to 30 per cent. being sold after pressure from the States.

Under the agreement, Victoria will get \$37.5 million for Housing Commission building and \$16 million for low-interest lending.

Mr. Johnson said the commission intended to make greater use of its concrete housing project at Homes Glen, which produces prefabricated components.

He said purchasers of State Housing Authority dwellings would pay interest rates between 5 per

## Vic. will go ahead with new court

The State Government will go ahead with its proposal to set up a Small Claims Court to deal with consumer complaints.

The Premier (Mr. Hamer) said last night the court would be set up "as soon as possible" and handle consumer complaints involving goods and services worth up to \$500.

Speaking on 3XY's Liberal Magazine, Mr. Hamer said