

COMPLIMENTARY DINNER AT FAIRLIE CREEK. — Mr Charles Wederell having sold his interest in the Fairlie Creek Hotel, a few of his friends entertained him at a farewell dinner on Tuesday night last, on the eve of his departure from Fairlie Creek, where he has resided for the last seven years. Although the notice given was very short, sixteen of Mr Wederell's friends sat down to a splendid dinner, served by the new landlord, Mr Thos. Winter, in a style which reflects the greatest credit on the cuisine of his establishment. Mr Jas. Milne acted as Chairman, and Mr H. Struthers as croupier. On the removal of the cloth the Chairman proposed the usual loyal and patriotic toasts, which were duly responded to. The Chairman on rising to propose the toast of the evening said: — "I cannot let the opportunity pass without recording in some slight measure, the many high qualities possessed by the gentleman who is soon to be lost to the district. Most of you are aware Mr Wederell was one of the early settlers, in fact one of the pioneers of the McKenzie [sic] Country some twenty-six years ago, and in those early days when everything was in the rough, he had often to put his shoulder to the wheel. Mr Wederell has always been foremost in every good work inaugurated for the benefit of the township and district of Fairlie Creek. He has been warm-hearted and open-handed, and most of us have at some time or other been the recipients of his kindness and consideration. Allow me to assure Mr Wederell that when he leaves the Fairlie Creek district he carries with him the best wishes not only of the friends here present, but of the whole community, and I have no doubt it is the wish of all present to ask him, in the words of the Jacobite song, 'An' will ye no come back again'?" Finally, gentlemen, I call upon you all to join me in a right royal bumper to the health, happiness and prosperity of Mr Wederell, with all the honors." Mr Wederell, on rising to respond, said he felt highly honored by the kind and unexpected pleasure of being thus entertained on the eve of his departure. In the course of his remarks he gave a very entertaining resume of the rise and progress of the district since his first acquaintance with it some 26 years ago, and begged to assure the gentlemen present that he would always have the welfare of the Fairlie Creek district at heart, and, although leaving the district, he hoped often to meet and spend many a happy day with the residents of Fairlie Creek. After a few more appropriate toasts had been proposed and responded to, and several songs had been rendered by Messrs Close, Gall and the Chairman, the meeting broke up after spending a most enjoyable evening.