

Mine Manager's House - Marie Hardwick, about 35 – 40 (c1900)

(90-second monologue)

Welcome. I'm Marie Hardwick.

My husband, James, is manager of the Coal Creek mine. He came to Australia after many years working in the coal districts of England and has spent much of his career helping to develop coal mining in Victoria.

Since arriving in Korumburra, I've had the remarkable experience of watching both the mine and the township grow.

The mine now employs around **500 men** and sends about **300 tons of coal** away every single day. There's even a railway that runs right to the pit so coal can be transported across the state!

But it isn't just the mine that's growing.

When we first came here, Korumburra was a tiny settlement of 150 people. Now the population has increased to more than 4,000! New businesses, homes and roads seem to appear overnight.

There's a real sense this town will become rather a fine place to live one day.

Our children love it here too. Edith and Len are always busy, and little Daisy... well, if she can reach a piano, she'll play it. I do wonder where that passion might take her one day.

As for us...

We've been very happy in this house, but before long we'll be moving to a much grander home in Radovick Street.

It will be exciting to begin a new chapter, though I suspect we'll continue watching Korumburra change and grow for many years yet.