

OBITUARY

Mr. R. Kearns

Mr. R. Kearns, who died at his residence, Railway-terrace, Williamstown, on Tuesday night, in his 87th year, was an ex-commissioned warrant-officer and ex-chief gunner of the Royal Australian Navy, and earlier he was a member of the Royal Navy stationed in Victoria. He joined the navy in 1879, two years after his arrival in the colony. He was a native of Arklow, County of Wicklow, Ireland. Mr. Kearns was the originator of the Boys' Naval Brigade in Victoria, a body which reached a total membership of 10,000 lads, when the compulsory military training absorbed the movement. Among his "old boys" were past and present city councillors, a consul-general, consuls, barristers, solicitors and auditors. He took a keen interest in the youth of the community. There are many men in and around Melbourne who received their start in life from him when they were boys. Mr. Kearns was the sole surviving officer of the Victorian China naval contingent. Mrs. Kearns predeceased him by about four years. He leaves a granddaughter. The funeral will move from his residence this afternoon for Melbourne Crematorium at Fawkner. Mr. E. W. Jackson has charge of the arrangements.