

MORWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS
published monthly, except December

**The Society meets every 3rd Tuesday of the month at
7.30 pm at Collins Street Primary School**

Secretary: Mrs. E. McMaster phone 34 1149

Vol. 5

No. 4

APRIL 1989

WELCOME TO THE APRIL NEWSLETTER.

For this newsletter there are two reports; one for the recent Jumbuk excursion and the other is our Annual Report for 1988. The Society extends its thanks to Elsie for all her hard work. From all reports, the Jumbuk excursion was a huge success. The Traralgon Historical Society last weekend held a successful and interesting "Historical Walk" within the inner city area.

Members will also note an interesting piece of research on the Hopetoun Lodge. Elsie McMaster has prepared this intriguing note of history.

Many thanks to Mrs. Nancy Gordon for the use of the copy of Morwell Advertiser and Gazette, August 26, 1937.

THE HOPETOUN LODGE.

An interesting letter has been received from Mr. Robert Bell of Buninyong, who is researching a Chronology of Freemasonry in the Greater Ballarat District. He writes: "Research has shown that the Meredith Lodge (Meredith is between Ballarat and Geelong) commenced its operations in Morwell on the 27th Feb. 1891. At that time it was called the Hopetoun Lodge No.163 and operated for just over three years before moving to Steiglitz and then to Meredith.

To add to the research file I am seeking the following information:

1. A photograph and details of Murdock's(sic)Building, Morwell, circa 1891 or any information concerning this building which was the meeting place of the Hopetoun Lodge when in Morwell.
2. Any information on the following names, all of whom were the first officers of the Hopetoun Lodge.

Charles P. Nind; James H.A.Cavanagh (or Cavagnah); Joshua Harris. " Secretary Elsie McMaster wrote in reply: " William Murdoch was a leading businessman in Morwell in the 1880s - 1890s. In 1879 he bought the Cricketers' Arms Hotel on the south-east corner of Commercial Rd. and Hazelwood Rd. As an annex to the hotel he built a hall which became known as Murdoch's Hall. It was a valuable asset to the social and community life of the township and it remained known as Murdoch's Hall, even after William Murdoch sold the hotel.

In 1886-87 Murdoch sold the Cricketers' arms and moved to another hotel further east in Commercial Rd. In 1887-88 he pulled down the existing building and rebuilt the hotel as a two-storey brick structure which was known from then on as Murdoch's Hotel until Woolworths store replaced it in 1964.

As you will realise, "Murdoch's Building" could refer to either of the above-mentioned sites but general feeling among Morwell H.S. members is that the Lodge meetings were probably held in Murdoch's Hall, the annex to the Cricketers' Arms. This hotel was sold to Roger O'Flaherty by William Murdoch. It was later owned by Henry Breed(1887) and Patrick Donovan (1889).

I have been unable to find any information on James Cavanagh or Joshua Harris, but Charles Pitt Nind was a well-known Morwell resident. He started the Morwell "Gazette" in 1885. He had previously been in partnership with his brother, Philip Pitt NInd on the Warragul "Guardian".

An exerpt from the obituary for Philip Pitt Nind published in the Maffra "Spectator" in March 1891 contains this paragraph:

"Until failing health compelled his retirement, Mr.P.P.Nind....was a member of the Gippsland Forest Lodge of Freemasons, one of the last ceremonies he conducted being the installation of his brother as Worshipful Master of the Hopetoun Lodge at Morwell about three weeks ago."

THE HOPETOUN LODGE (Cont).

Secretary's letter (cont):

" C.P.Nind came from a family of journalists - his brothers Philip and later Herbert, ran the Warragul "Guardian", brother Arthur the "Mornington Country Herald", nephew Herbert Ryan the Walhalla "Chronicle" and brother-in-law James Ryan the Maffra "Spectator".

Since this letter was written, a check of the microfilm of the Morwell "Advertiser" has yielded the following:

"Advertiser " Friday, February 27 1891 - Topics of the Week -

"This afternoon a Masonic Lodge is to be opened in Morwell and this evening a banquet is to be held in Mr. Murdoch's Hall next the Colonial Bank. From what we have heard, the new Lodge will be a strong one."

The brevity of this report on what must have been quite an event in the little township of Morwell, is perhaps due to the fact that the "ADVERTISER" was the opposition paper to C.P.Nind's "GAZETTE"

In the same copy of the "Advertiser" and in a number of subsequent copies, the following advertisement appears:

CAVANAGH AND HARRIS
Commercial Road Morwell

Groceries Drapery Furniture Ironmongery Crockery and Produce.

There is nothing to say that these were the Lodge office-bearers though it seems likely because in August 1893 a notice informs readers that

J.HARRIS & CO announce that they have started business as house/land, general commission agents and sharebrokers in Commercial Rd. next to Dr.Moir".

About this time the Cavanagh & Harris adverts stopped.

Then, in November 1893, the following advertisement appears:

J.H..HARRIS
Stock and Sharebroker
STEIGLITZ

Did Harris take the Lodge to Steiglitz with him?

If any reader can add to the above information, please contact Elsie McMaster who will be pleased to forward it to Mr. Bell who has promised us a copy of his research for our files.

Demand for Morwell Made Wedges

The Rintoull Family Blacksmiths

This item from the Morwell Advertiser and Gazette of 26/8/1937 is just one example of the skill of the Rintoull family blacksmiths. Not only their wedges but all Rintoull's blacksmith tools had an excellent reputation. Many will remember that John Rintoull Senior established Morwell's first smithy in 1877. He was then already famous. In 1874 he had won the world's horse shoe making record, turning out 36½ horse shoes in an hour.

This year in our January newsletter we reproduced Mr. John Rintoull's obituary notice printed in July 1936. Those interested might also like to refer back to our newsletter of May 1987, where a photo-stated page from the Express of May 23rd, 1975 includes one of Mr. Maddens 'Memory Lane' articles featuring the story of the smithy workshop of Rintoull and Son.

* PLEASE SEE FOLLOWING PAGE FOR ARTICLE *

12(a)

AUGUST 26, 1937

Morwell Advertiser and Gazette, Thursday,

SEEDLINGS

Antirrhinum (Snapdragon), Carnation
Pansy, Viola, Lupin, Lobelia, Nemesis,
(Margaret), Poppy (Iceland), Stocks,
6d. dozen, 3/6 100.

Anemone, Ranunculus, 9d doz. 5/- 100.
C. raria, Pansy (Rogglis Giants)
Hollyhock (Charters Double)
1/- dozen, 7/- 100.

Many other varieties

Plants, Bulbs, Shrubs, etc.

J. H. COURTENAY, Nurseyman,
Phone: Exchange Hazelwood.

Postal Address:

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Various Amounts to Suit
On Your Promissary Note

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81 COLLINS STREET, MELBOURNE

Foster MEREDITH

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MORWELL BRIDGE

Supplier of—
BRICKS

Demand for Morwell Made Wedges

"Rintoull's Wedges," made by Mr Rintoull, of Morwell, have gained a State wide reputation for superiority and are in keen demand, especially among sleeper cutters. The subjoined letter received this week by Mr J. K. Rintoull from Orbost Hardware & Timber Coy., is only one of many of a similar nature, and speaks for itself:

Orbost, 23/8/37.

RUSH ORDER

Mr J. K. Rintoull,
Morwell:

Dear Sir,—Although we have your advice that you cannot supply more wedges for some time we would appreciate it if you could make us a quantity say 2 or 3 cwt. over 3 months.

The sleeper cutters demand these wedges and we are in a bad fix if we cannot get them.

If you could let us have say a dozen wedges straight away from 7 to say 10 or 11 inches it would help us out.

Please send these wedges with first traveller or failing this send by rail.

Trusting you can help us in this matter.

Yours faithfully,

ORBOST HARDWARE & TIMBER CO.

Anti-Cancer Campaign Appeal

The Morwell Shire Council desire to close the above worthy appeal on August 31st and they are anxious that the shire's quota be raised by that date. The response so far has been very satisfactory but more money is still required.

Donations no matter how large or small will be thankfully received.

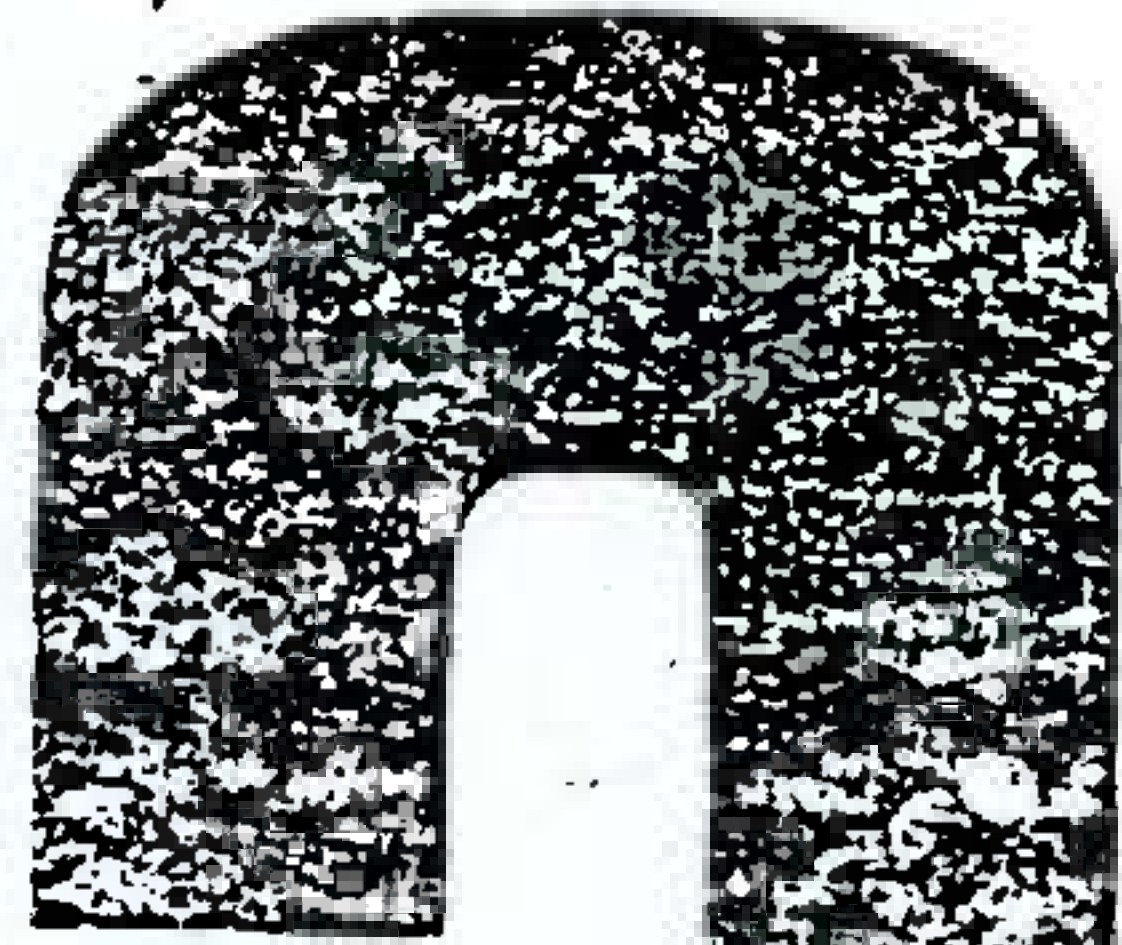
Subjoined is list of donations to hand:—

	£	s	d
Amount Previously Ac- knowledged	112	5	10
H. McLaverty	10	6	
E. Robotham	10	0	
Whatmough Family	10	0	
P.H.C.	2	0	
F. Bruton	10	0	
Miss M. C. Lawless	5	0	

Total £114 13 4

F. A. HORSEFALL,
Treasurer.

"No lady you've got it wrong,
Mumps is plural.
Racker in the "Mummy and the
Mumps," Town Hall, Sept. 16.



ADVANT

THAT ONLY

ADVANT

A Plea from Mrs Nancy Gordon (nee Rintoull)

Can you help?

Has anyone got in their possession any Rintoull's black-smith tools especially a wedge or a crowbar? Mrs Nancy Gordon, wife of Graham, the well known accountant, is the daughter of Jack (John K) and Effie Rintoull. She is anxious to locate some of these tools as well as any photos or printed material connected with the Rintoull blacksmiths.

Anyone who could help her would they please ring Morwell 34 - 3298? Not only Nancy but the other Rintoull descendants (especially the boys in the family) would be very grateful for your help.

The Express, Thursday October 6th 1983

COUNCIL GIVES UP THE GHOST

'Oldest' house to go



MORWELL is to lose its "haunted house". Morwell Shire Council this week agreed — a little reluctantly — to issue a demolition permit for the Jane St house, said to be the town's oldest brick house.

The house, known by generations of school children as "haunted", has an eerie past. The local newspaper editor of early times hanged himself from a beam just inside the back door.

An Express reporter looked inside that same, open door this week but the foreboding, pitch-dark interior and the spooky creaking of the door persuaded her to stay outside.

You don't casually stroll through the house, she found... you sneak up on it and hope that it isn't watching!

Eighteen months ago Morwell council tried to classify the house with the National Trust. Failing this, it went to the Historic Buildings Preservation Council which gives its decision within the next two weeks.

Not only is it said to be Morwell's oldest house, but the

only remaining house built with bricks fired from clay very similar to that of the open cut.

The demolition permit for the house, owned by Mr Geoff Bell, came before Morwell Council this week as an item of late business. Council granted the permit, but only after much debate. Cr Tony Hanning argued strongly against demolishing the house, but his efforts were in vain.

Cr Jack Vinall said he had always supported preserving the house but, following the last inspection, had decided that it was not worth preserving because of the cost and its state. "It would be very expensive for council to restore it. If council agrees that it stays, who pays for it?" he asked.

The Chief Executive, Mr Waters, pointed out that the legislation covering such situations were presently under review and was even caught up in the Morris land compensation report review. "If the Historic Buildings Preservation Council decreed the

house should be preserved, the council could be bound to have some responsibility for it," he said.

Mr Waters said that, if the owner could not demolish it, it was also doubtful whether he was responsible to renovate or re-establish it. "That was being looked at the committee before the government changed. It is not clear who pays."

Mr Waters earlier pointed out that, if the council refused the owner's request to demolish the house, it could be subject to an appeal to the Planning Appeals Board or have damages levelled against it.

When the motion to demolish the house was put to the vote, those who voted against it were the Shire President, Cr Keith Hamilton, Cr Hanning and Cr Brian Ingram. The other councillors, with the exception of Cr Bill McRoberts, who was absent from the meeting at that stage, voted in favor.

1983

BCLV aim still 1984

MID-1984 is still the target date for completion of the first stage of the BCLV coal to oil conversion plant at Morwell, according to the annual report of the Victorian Brown Coal Council.

This first stage includes the drying and slurring and primary hydrogenation sections. The second stage, comprising the solvent de-ashing and secondary hydrogenation areas, should be completed by mid-1986.

The pilot plant, which has designed exclusively for Victorian brown coal liquefaction, will be capable of processing 50 tonnes of brown coal a day. The dried coal will be turned to liquid hydrocarbons by a two-stage catalytic process.

According to the report, the pilot plant's primary purpose is to obtain the necessary scale-up data for a demonstration plant of approximately the size to use 5000 tonnes of dry coal per day.

The preparatory site works, administration building, cooling tower and underground piping and electrical cabling for the pilot plant were completed by the middle of this year, as were more than half the civil works.

The Japanese Government is funding the total building program, estimated at \$200 million, as well as its operation costs. The construction phase will provide a peak workforce of 420 jobs, with 180 being employed when the plant starts operating. Of these at least 70 percent will be Australians.

•More than 50 submissions on the Kinhill report recommendations were received by the Victorian Brown Coal

T. C. KLEINE**Morwell's Quality Butcher**

Assures the Public of Morwell that owing to the precautions taken under the Health Act, it is impossible for any meat affected with any disease to reach his shop.

Every animal slaughtered on his premises is inspected by a qualified Meat Inspector and cannot be removed until branded by him with the Council's protective brand.

Look for the Brand Before you Buy.

**Dairymen!**

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and

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Butter Factory

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Accurate Methods.

Efficient Service

Prompt Returns

Phone 25 - - Y I N N A R

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OR ADVERTISED
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MEETING NOTES.

OFFICE BEARERS: At the Annual Meeting of Morwell Historical Society Inc., the following were elected:

President: Mr. L. Bond

Treasurer: Mrs. D. Taylor

Vice-President: Mr. E. Lubcke

Committee: Mrs. A. Conrow,

Secretary: Mrs. E. McMaster

Mrs. J. Cafiso, Mr. A. Coleman,
Mr. J. Bush.

The Committee has power to co-opt further members.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS: It was decided that an increase in membership fees was necessary to cope with rising costs. Membership will now cost

\$7.00 per single member

\$10.00 per couple or family

** Please note: Subscriptions for 1989-90 are now due and can be forwarded to the Treasurer, Mrs. D Taylor, 17 Denise St. Morwell, 3840.

PUBLICATION GRANT: The \$5,000 Bicentennial grant has been invested in the Commonwealth Bank at 14% p.a. interest until it is needed for the pictorial history project. Another \$6,000 will be needed to cover the cost of publication and members are invited to suggest ways in which this might be obtained.

MEMBERSHIP FORMS: Enclosed with this newsletter, members will find an application for membership of Morwell Historical Society Inc. According to the articles of incorporation, each member is required to complete one of these forms. If you have received a form with this newsletter, you are already a member and are required only to complete the first section (down to "Signature of Applicant"). In future, new members will have to be nominated, as on the second part of the form.

** Please return your completed form when you pay your annual subscription.

MORWELL AND DISTRICTTHE 1980's

We hope our members will find items gathered this month from past Express papers interesting. If any reader finds any news of interest we could include in this section of our newsletters let us know. Ring either 34 1149 or 34 2638.

The dates on the left are, as usual, the dates of the papers in which the items were found.

- Tuesday 5/4/1983 Morwell site for Latrobe Valley Arts Centre. Reports recommend that the former Morwell Shire Offices and Town Hall as the ideal location for the Community Arts Centre.
- Thursday 21/4/1983 Morwell Rotary Club Activities Expo at Kernot Hall this week. Very successful.
- Tuesday 26/4/1983 Charities get little from Gifts. Universal Little Church Ltd masquerading as a charitable organization only gave a very small portion to the intended groups.
- Tuesday 26/4/1983 Highway to be divided in Morwell.
- Thursday 5/5/1983 Rain-A-Plenty . Five days into the month of May and the average rainfall figures have been almost doubled already.
- Thursday 23/6/1983 Tarwin Street Mall gets the council all clear.
- Tuesday 28/6/83 Snow, hail, sleet and minor flooding. The Latrobe Valley had it all at the weekend.

Tuesday 18/10/1983 The champ won't be stopped. Mr Alf Montague, a past Morwell RSL snooker champion now legless and living in Queensland, is making it again in snooker. He gets around the snooker tables in his wheel-chair. Mr Montague ran the Rintoull Street Pharmacy and lived in Morwell for 25 years. He lost one leg about 1976 (thrombosis) and the other later (the result of an accident).



25 Speyed Heifers, forward and fat
30 Choppy Cows
100 Fat Sheep and Lambs
20 Springers and Milkers
100 Head Mixed Cattle
200 Mixed Sheep

Morwell Pig Sale

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1st

Boolarra Yard Sale

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3rd

GEO. MCFARLANE'S

Clearing SALE

HAZELWOOD ESTATE

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16th

(Particulars Later)

SUMMER FODDERS

JAP. Millet m/c cleaned 2d lb. Disc-off 3 bag lots 6d. 5 bags 1/, 10 bags 1/6 cwt. Sudan 3½d. Saccaline and Imphee 4d H. R. Lucerne 1/6. Pasp. 1/5. G. K. Rape 7d. D. Essex 5½d Sp. Quotes Per Rye, Clovers, etc. Freight prepaid. Will book for forward delivery.

HAWTHORNE BROS. PTY. LTD., Kerang.

—NEXT HORSE SALE—

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 6th

Thence First Monday in Each Month.

South Gippsland Jersey Cattle Club
FOURTEENTH ANNUAL SALE OF

Pure Jersey Cattle

AT THE YARDS OF
GIPPSLAND AND NORTHERN
CO-OP. CO. LTD.

—LEONGATHA—

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15th, 1937

When there will be Catalogued

70 HEAD PEDIGREED JERSEY
CATTLE

Comprising 40 Males and 30 Females
All Bred From High Producing Stock
SALE STARTS 12 NOON SHARP
Catalogues on application to GIPPS-
LAND & NORTHERN CO., or W.
LEACH, Secretary, Welshpool.
Breed for Butter Fat Buy Jerseys!

WHY PAY RENT

MODERN DWELLING, 5 rooms.
W.H., S. & T. £595. £100 dep. 23/-
per week.

ALSO New Dwelling, 4 rooms, all
convs. £450. £75 dep., bal. 20/- p.w.

Building Blocks from £15.

R. FARREN WEBB & CO.,
Agents, Traralgon.

BOOLARRA RIDING

TO THE RATEPAYERS

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I desire to THANK you very sincerely for once more re-electing me unopposed as one of your representatives in the Shire Council. I appreciate the honor and continued confidence reposed in me and trust that my actions on your behalf in the future will meet with your approval.

Yours faithfully,

THOS. WHITE,

Boolarra South.

Morwell Shire Elections

TO THE RATEPAYERS OF YINNAR
RIDING

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I appreciate your goodwill in allowing me to be returned unopposed as your representative to Council.

Yours truly,

MARTIN F. WALKER.

WANTED

MAN for General Farm Work. £2
per week and keep. Apply—

R. WALKER, Yinnar.

W. J. NUTTALL, Hon. Sec.

Grand DANCE

HAZELWOOD ESTATE HALL

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8th

"FOOTWARMERS" ORCHESTRA
50-50 PROGRAM

FREE BUS from Traralgon and Yal-lourn, Picking up at Morwell Bridge and Morwell.

Double Ticket 4/, Gents 3/, Ladies 1/6
Proceeds in aid of Tennis Club

(Miss) L. SHAW, Sec.

KEEP THIS IN MIND
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10th
ANNUAL MOTHERS' CLUB

FAIR

(Afternoon and Evening)

MORWELL TOWN HALL

Full Particulars Later

WATCH OUT FOR
YINNAR FOOTBALL CLUB'S
WIND-UP BALL

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29th

Particulars Later

J. WHATMOUGH, Hon. Sec.

MORWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL REPORT - MARCH 21st, 1989.

The past year has been a busy and worthwhile one for Morwell Historical Society.

The society became incorporated in October 1988 and was represented at a number of gatherings during the year. These included dedication ceremonies for the Hazelwood Estate Soldier Settlers memorial and the Morwell Bridge/Morwell West memorial bridge. A delegate attended the regional meeting of the Gippsland Historical Societies at Foster, and members accompanied a year 7 History class from the Morwell Heights campus on an excursion to Hazelwood cemetery.

Several members joined Rosedale, Traralgon, Moe and Trafalgar Historical Societies on a trip to Brunton's Bridge to mark the centenary of its construction, and representatives took part in consultations on the proposed redevelopment of the old Morwell Town Hall. We badly need storage space for our growing collection of books, documents and photographs and it is hoped that this will become available when the Town Hall is renovated for community use.

Guest speakers at meetings included member Perce Mooney, who spoke about the Morwell Players, and Matthew Nickson from the "Private Lives, Public Heritage" display.

An ongoing project for the Society has been the location and copying of historic photographs of Morwell Shire. Vice-President Eric Lubcke has put a great deal of time and effort into this and we thank him for it. We hope to have a pictorial record of the history of our area ready for publication later this year.

The Newsletter has been published monthly by a hard-working committee consisting of Leo Billington, Jess Cafiso and Claire Wood and our thanks go to them. Many compliments have been received on the content of these Newsletters, which keep members informed and record events and information for future reference.

Numerous requests for information have been received from people researching family histories, from government departments (C.F.L., National Trust etc) and from high school history students. These requests have been answered wherever possible by members.

The theft on New Year's Day of the Ivan Maddern Memorial Seat leaves one wondering at the lengths some people will go to to get something for nothing. Morwell Shire is supplying a replacement seat and our Society will provide a brass plaque to be mounted on or near the seat. Hopefully both will be installed in such a way as to discourage future raiders.

Although a membership of twenty-seven is small for a town the size of Morwell, we believe that there is an increasing interest in local history in the community as a whole and Morwell Historical Society will continue to foster that interest as well as recording and preserving our heritage for future generations.

*P. W. Bond 21/3/89.
E. McEaster.*

Miss Jean Clements
DRESSMAKER

Has Commenced Business in Chapel Street. (opposite State School)

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CHILDREN'S WEAR A SPECIALITY

TERMS MODERATE

P. BRITTINGHAM

House Painter
And Renovator

Rooms Papered from 25/- (Labor and Material).

All Kinds of Paint Etc. Kept in Stock.

—Wall Papers from 9d.—

Estimates Submitted Free

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Furniture Removed with Care

Nothing Too Large or Too Small.

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'Phone 41.

SOME NOTABLE BUSINESSPERSONS

MORWELL ADVERTISER + GAZETTE

111 2 2071 ANS 55 26 1937

JUMBUK EXCURSION

On Saturday, April 1st, twenty-five people set off into the hills south of Morwell to visit Jumbuk. In the party were Morwell Historical ^{Society} Vice-President, Eric Lubcke and his cousins Gwen Medew and Dot Fogarty, whose Grandfather John Koenig was the first settler in Jumbuk, and Agnes Ritchie, the first white baby born there. Her family arrived a few months after the Koenigs and, at 94, she has a wealth of information about the area and its people.

Jumbuk residents Arch Chitty and the Taylor family were also in the party, as was Alma Glover, who grew up there.

Jumbuk was settled in the 1890s. As we wound our way up into the hills we wondered whatever possessed the early settlers to select land in such a steep and inhospitable area. It was, as Arch Chitty explained, almost the only affordable land available in the area at that time. A settler could select land, improve it and, if he proved a suitable tenant, could buy it at a reasonable price.

The Jumbuk area, like the rest of the Strzeleckis, was originally covered in tall dense timber, mainly bluegum and mountain ash. Agnes Ritchie tells how her father had to fell 103 trees to clear a site for the house. It was thought that soil which grew such big trees must be good for pasture. Unfortunately, this was not always the case and the settlers had to contend with very steep country, rain and mud, poor roads (non-existent at first), distance from markets, towns and rail transport, and with introduced pests such as ragwort, blackberries and rabbits.

Sadly, some were forced to give up the struggle and walk off their land - victims of the "Heartbreak Hills" as the Strzeleckis became known - but those who stayed benefitted from improved roads, motor transport and telephone communication in the 1920s, and were able to carve productive farms out of much of the area.

Our party stopped at various points on the road - stops that were enlivened by stories and reminiscences from Arch Chitty, Brian Taylor and the other "natives" of the area. Figuring largely in these yarns was Harry Robinson, mailman and carrier between Yinnar and Jumbuk for twenty-five years, who seems to have led a charmed life, having survived various plunges over the edge of the steep, narrow roads. He lay in a gutter as the 1939 bushfires raged over him, and emerged safely. He even survived a hit with an aboriginal stone axe which he had found and placed in the roof of his house. Hammering during renovations dislodged the axe, which hit him on the head and knocked him out!

We stopped at the site of the original Jumbuk hall which was destroyed in the disastrous 1939 fires, and at the site of Alma Glover's old home, now taken over by a pine plantation.

JUMBUK EXCURSION (cont)

We stopped also at the highest point on O'Reilly's Road and admired the view back over the Latrobe Valley. It was here that Eric Lubcke was herd-testing on January 13, 1939, when the bushfires roared over the hills. He drove ahead of the fire to help his aunt, Mrs. Drayton at Jeeralang Junction. There he picked up three visitors on their way back to Melbourne. Returning to O'Reilly's hill to see how the farmers had fared, he found members of the Blucher, Coles and Bright families sheltering in a dam. They survived the fire but all the buildings in the vicinity were destroyed. Eric drove back to Morwell with ten people (plus luggage) in his Morris 8/40!

Arch Chitty and his father had gone to help the Summerfield family fight the fire and were forced to take refuge in a well on the farm. They survived but the fire passed right over the well, burning the top of the wooden ladder inside.

The weather, which, in the morning had threatened to cause cancellation of the excursion, improved greatly - ("If you don't like the weather in Gippsland, just wait a minute.") - and we were able to appreciate the fine views from various points en route.

The last stop for the day was at the Jumbuk Hall, built on this site in 1939 after the fires. Here, Eric and Alma had set out a display of photographs and memorabilia and we enjoyed afternoon tea and a chat.

Altogether it was a most enjoyable and informative trip and our thanks go to Eric for his organisation, and to all the Jumbuk residents, past and present, who came along and shared their knowledge and their memories with us.

JUMBUK is derived from the Aboriginal word meaning to talk or discuss, but the meaning was corrupted to "white cloud or sheep". The area spans from Middle Creek to Calder Junction right through to about 2 miles past the local Hall towards Yinnar.

The mountainous terrain was covered in dense bush. Mountain-Ash, Hazel, Musk, & Blackbutt were predominant & as far as is known there were contracts let about the 1850's to ring-bark some of the large trees prior to survey in the 1870's after which the land was thrown open for selection. It is thought that the first settlers were Bolgers, but this is yet to be verified. Early 1890's settlers included Bluchers (Middle Creek), Koenigs, Ritchies, Hams, Morans, Moyseys, Draytons, Canavans, O'Riellys. A new wave of selectors came in in the early 1900's, including Lubckes, Colemans, Clarkes & Browns. Early ones appeared to have come in via Yinnar South, & later ones via Jeeralang Junction.

S.S. 3349, built by the early settlers & leased to the Education Dept, was opened in the latter months of 1899. The first Hall was built in the 1910 period & the Education Dept. leased the Supper room where S.S. 3867 was conducted until the building was burnt in the '39 fire. There were many & varied closings & re-opening of both schools due to the fluctuation of numbers of pupils etc. & at times both were operating at the same time, & on occasion part-time with Jeeralang. Because the original S.S. 3349 was in a dilapidated state by the 1940's moves were made to obtain a new school. The re-location of the Callignee South School (by then disused) to Jumbuk by Mr Bill Duff & Jumbuk parents is a story on it's own - it was a feat of bravery & determination, culminating in occupation finally taking place in May 1948. By 1969 it became unstaffed, & was officially closed in 1971. This building is now used by Churchill Primary School as a recreational venue.

The present Hall was built in 1939 in a location closer to the centre of residential occupation at that time. The 1910 period was an era of intense settlement & there were families on almost every property. The country grew wonderful pastures, but after the arrival of the Rabbits, the advent of the 1st World war, & ragwort & blackberry infestation many of the farms were deserted & neglected. There was a new wave of Closer Settlement in the 1930's Depression, but in the 1950's A.P.M. Forests began to buy & lease land for growing Eucalypts & Pines, so once again the hills are heavily timbered; regrettably not all native species. The lower reaches of Jumbuk are still habited by people who prefer to escape the Urban Rat-race, & they are able to enjoy the modern comforts of Electricity & sealed roads.