

MORWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

published monthly, except December

Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm

in St. Andrews Presbyterian Church Hall

Vol. 8 No. 6

JUNE 1992

WELCOME TO THE JUNE NEWSLETTER

Well, the excitement of the Municipal Centenary is behind us. The Society's displays of photographs, documents etc. at Kernot Hall and Yinnar Hotel were very well received and a great deal of credit must go to Eric Lubcke who spent many hours over many weeks organising the two displays.

"Heart of the Valley" was launched at the Community Fun Day on 24th May and is selling well.

Our Secretary contacted Duesburys, the firm acting as receivers for the Morwell Co-op, asking that any documents not required in the winding up of the company be given to Morwell Historical Society. We have received a box of archival material containing photographs, tape recordings, documents etc. From this material we print a brief history of the Co-op (Writer unknown) and a letter requesting further investment from members to finance the new building (1959).

To all those members who rushed to renew their subscriptions last month - thank you. To those who haven't renewed theirs yet - a gentle reminder:

NEXT MEETING TUES. JUNE 16



SUBS ARE DUE NOW!!

\$7 Single member

\$10 Couple or Family

MORWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC. ANNUAL REPORT 1991-92.

This has been a fairly quiet year, with membership remaining steady at thirty-eight.

Speakers covering a variety of topics were guests at our monthly meetings, held on the third Tuesday of each month (except December and January) in St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Morwell.

Our President and Vice President have put in many hours of their time as members of the Morwell Municipal Centenary Committee and the Society will be taking an active part in the Centenary celebrations commencing in May.

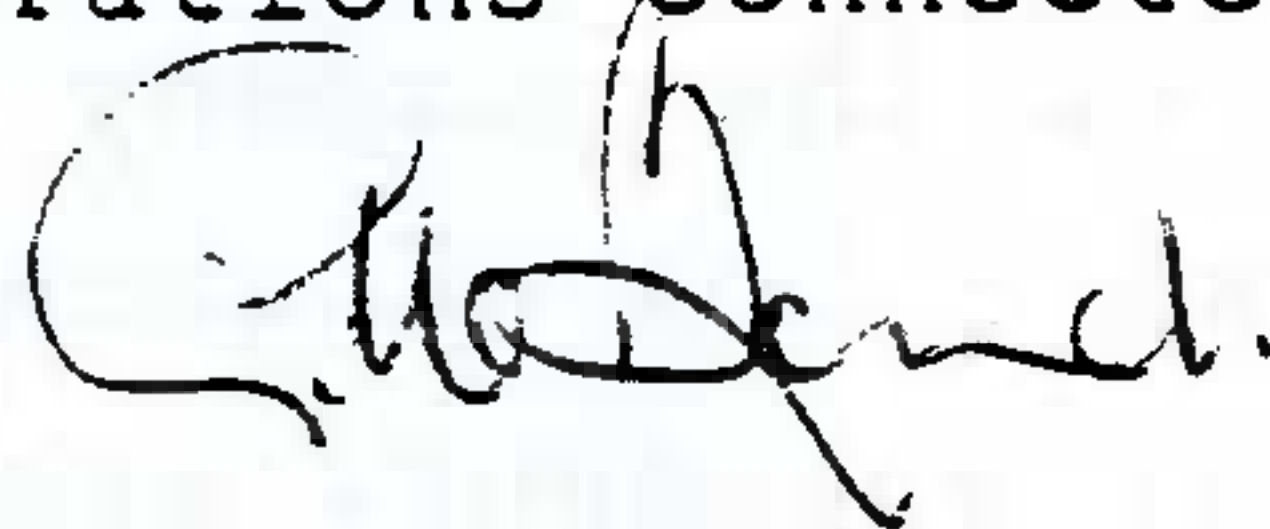
Approximately 100 of our best photographs have been enlarged and mounted for display purposes and use has been made of the Society's photograph collection by the City of Morwell (for its soon-to-be-published history), by private researchers and by two local hotels which have used enlargements for decorating purposes.

Members have assisted a number of V.C.E. students with their local history assignments and have answered numerous questions from family researchers seeking information about former residents of the district.

A presentation of photographs and information was mounted at the Senior Citizens Week display at Mid Valley shopping centre in April 1992.

An enjoyable dinner meeting was held at the Churchill Hotel in November 1991. Several long-time residents were invited as guests and dinner was followed by an evening of reminiscences about the Churchill/Hazelwood area.

Members are looking forward to a busy and rewarding year, participating in the various celebrations connected with the Morwell Municipal Centenary.



L.W. Bond, President



E. McMaster, Secretary

Shire Severance.

As stated in our last issue, now that severance has been granted it becomes the duty of the petitioners to recommend someone to prepare a roll; also someone to act as returning officer. They must also name the polling places and the date for holding the election.

With regard to the latter we made a slight error in our last, and have subsequently learned that the municipal elections, by the amended Act take place on the *fourth* Thursday in August in place of the second as heretofore. We will therefore have the elections on that date.

When the new council is first constituted, indeed for the first year of its existence, some hard work will fall to the

lot of councillors in putting things into working order. It therefore behoves the ratepayers to put only those men in who have a thorough grasp of municipal government, for the whole fabric depends on a good foundation.

In years to come it may be less important to choose men of experience, but at the present juncture it is imperative. We have sufficient evidence in the way matters have been bungled in the Traralgon Shire to warn us against returning incompetent men.

It must be borne in mind that the old times when council meetings were simply "a win, tie, or wrangle" have passed. We have progressed, and if we mean to keep abreast of the times we must put men at the helm who understand the chart.

The taunt has been thrown out to us by our Traralgon neighbors that ere long we will discover that we have made a big mistake, and their prognostications may come correct if we are not careful what sort of men we get to represent us. We don't want men in who will act as mere automatic machines, we want men who will think for themselves, and having done so express their honest convictions fearlessly.

It is to our advantage, financially, that a good many candidates come forward, and yet we would rather see a few. It is said that "in the multitude of counsel there is wisdom". That may be right enough in a general sense, but in this case we have to *find the wisdom*, and unless we watch it the unwise may go in while we are looking for the wise.

In short, if there are too many stand the object of the ratepayers may be defeated through the splitting up of votes. It would be wise for the ratepayers directly the candidates are announced to consult as best they can among themselves, pick out their men and stand by them.

[June 10, 1892]

The Badgeron Creamery.

The above creamery owned by the Badgeron Creamery Co. limited, is on a very firm basis. The company was the first promoted and established, on the co-operative principle, in the Morwell district. The business of the past season will show when the Government bonus is received, a net profit of about 72 per cent, on the amount of capital paid-up—a result very satisfactory to the shareholders, and which certainly should be an encouragement to the district. It is expected too, that the quantity of milk will be doubled next season, as several of the old suppliers intend to considerably increase their number of cows, and other farmers in the neighborhood are expected to become suppliers.

The creamery is fitted up with De Laval separators capable of treating 420 gallons per hour, the power being obtained from a Horizontal engine driving the boiler, and we think we are not overstepping the truth when we say that altogether the creamery is one of the best equipped and fitted up in Gippsland.

The suggestion has been mooted by several of the shareholders, that it would be more profitable to make up the butter instead of forwarding the cream to Melbourne, and as it is expected that the suppliers would be willing to take up more shares in the event of the change being made no doubt the extra building and machinery necessary could be procured and erected before the commencement of next season.

In the event of such a change coming to pass there is one thing very much in the company's favor. The situation is an excellent one for a splendid supply of clear water, and the present creamery building being built on a bank, a cellar could be excavated at a very little cost. The site is most centrally situated, the shareholders having access to it by four roads, and being built in a valley there is always a beautiful current of fresh air passing through the creamery already built there. Anyhow we wish the company every success, and trust that by the aid of their energetic secretary, whose books, by the way, are a standing credit to him, the company may go on to further success.

THE ELECTION.

We have been granted severance, and I have no hesitation in saying that the election for the six councillors for the new shire will take place on Thursday, the 25th of August. Up to the present there are ten known to be in the field, who are certain starters, viz. Messrs. Vary, English, Shaw, Bates, Firmin, Turnley, Walsh, Murdoch, Murphy and Mulcare. Now supposing no more come forward there are four to be disappointed. Who will they be? It is hard to say, and as I like the lot more or less I am a bit mixed, and must find solace in music. Hand down the banjo:—

Vary should go in you know,
For it would be contrary,
To leave him out when none can say,
That he will ever vary.

And English too, it wouldn't be
Quite English don't you know
After Johnny's last defeat
No sympathy to show.

And Shaw, well, we are sure that Shaw
Is sure to be returned;
For Hazelwood will stick to Shaw
Whoever else is spurned.

And then there's Bates, who states he
hates
Those candidates who snivel;
And as for throwing baits for votes
He says it "bates" the devil.

And Firmin, too, among his friends,
A firm man still he stands,
And firm he'll be until his foot
is firm in other lands.

And Turnley hopes that none will turn,
But stick to him eternally;
He turned the engineer adrift
No do a turn for Turnley.

And then there's Walsh and Murdoch,
And Murphy and Mulcare,
Of your support we also think
That they deserve a share.

We'd give them all a verse apiece,
For we have lots of time
But, truth to tell, their blessed names
Are ugly ones to rhyme.

There, that's enough of the banjo, I'll have
another go on some other instrument. Hand
us down to mouth-organ. Thank you, here
goes:—

There're ten at present starting,
Their fate must yet be learned,
For Graham says that six of these
Can only be returned.

There's Vary, Walsh and Murdoch,
Turnley and Mulcare,
English, Bates and Murphy,
And Shaw and Firmin there.

Now what's the betting who'll be top,
Some say it will be Vary;
Some say that Shaw is sure to be
While others are contrary.

If Shaw "bates" Vary I am sure
That Bates will swear infernally,
If he's not sure to be the next,
And followed close by Turnley,

And Firmin's firm conviction is
That Walsh and Bates repent,
They dared oppose an angel from
The Heavenly firmament.

And then there's English, who has friends
Who're English heart and soul,
Who any they'll cheer like Englishmen,
When English heads the poll.

And Murdoch, too, has many friends,
And though his name won't rhyme,
The laird will give the field of ten
A rather merry time.

Well, I have finished with the mouth-organ. I can't play it any more as there is someone at the back of the office thumping the piano to the tune of "Remember or Forget." "I sat beside the streamlet" the song starts, and it has just struck me that it is more than probable that those who are defeated in the coming election will make a beeline for the river to commit suicide or something of the sort. Now I don't know who will be rejected, so before the piano stops we'll suppose that the whole lot are put out, and six outsiders get returned. Imagine them on the banks of the Morwell river. Here goes:—

"REMEMBER OR FORGET

[Copyright against singing in public.]

They sat beside the Morwell; they watched
the waters flow;
And thought of all their reckonings one little
day ago,
When on the Presidential chair their beating
hearts were set,
Ah, cruel though remembrance is, 'twere
wiser to forget.

Ned's heart was full of suffering; Bates' voice
was choked with pain;
Tears trickled over Murdoch's cheeks, and
fell to earth like rain;
And words that rose to Turnley's lips were
fraught with wild regret,
'Twere madness to remember, 'tis wisdom to
forget;
'Twere madness to remember, 'tis wisdom to
forget.

Jack English sitting on a stump, was staring
at the sky,
While Firmin dipped his feet into the stream
as it ran by;
Tom Walsh said beggared if he knew that the
hardships to be met,
For cruel though remembrance was, 'twere
harder to forget;
For cruel though remembrance was, 'twere
harder to forget.

Shaw was starting to go home, for cow-time
had arrived,
And Murphy and Mulcare were dragging just
where Vary dived;
"No body yet," said Murphy; "would God we
ne'er had met;
For cruel though remembrance is, 'tis harder
to forget;
For cruel though remembrance is, 'tis harder
to forget. [June 10, 1892]

SOME NOTES ON THE EARLY HISTORY OF MORWELL CO-OP

The Morwell Co-op was established in 1955. The formation meeting was held in July of that year. The desire to form a trading co-op in Morwell was brought about by the successful establishment of a trading co-op at the Richmond power station. The senior staff of the SEC at Morwell felt that a similar organisation would be advantageous to the staff at the time, taking into account the large influx of construction population into the Morwell area in 1955 and that shopping facilities in Morwell were very limited.

The SEC made available premises in Wallace Street on the one condition that if it did not succeed in 4 years it should be wound up. If it was successful at the end of the 4 years they would have to provide their own premises in the commercial area.

The first board of directors comprised - J. Tulloch, G. Jones, Jack Robert, H. Westgarth, G. Benson, L. Kite, R. Farrington.

The name of the co-operative was the SEC Staff Co-operative Limited.

In the early days it was run virtually with voluntary labour and stacking of shelves was done at night. Hours of labour were recorded with the idea of reimbursement from profits on a nominal basis. Later (I think) SEC wages staff were admitted as members and then the staff of the Gas & Fuel Corporation.

The first employee was Harold Hugenin who came to the Co-op at the close of D.C. Mills' grocery store which was located on the corner of Tarwin Street and Commercial Road. Harry had been with D.C. Mills for many years and was an experienced grocer.

MORWELL CO-OP (cont).

The second employee was Mr Arthur Barrett who had been for some years in the grocery department of Jenkins' General Store, which was located at the corner of George Street and Tarwin Street.

The next two employees were Mrs W. Rankine and Miss Fay Smythe, and these four employees continued with the Society until 1959 when the Co-op built a new store on the corner of Hazelwood Road and Ann Street. Prior to the building of that store, the Co-op decided to go into petrol and bought a piece of land from Mrs Vary in Buckley Street and built a small service station on that property which was managed by Mr Arthur Barrett, and so when the new premises were built in Hazelwood Road a petrol station was built into the property at the same time. The design work for the new building was carried out for the Co-op by Esso through their architectural division. The Buckley Street property was later sold to Kelly Bros.

Later the Co-op obtained an option on the adjoining property in Hazelwood Road from Mr & Mrs E. Nadenbousch and upon the death of these very fine people, the Co-op exercised its option and purchased the property. This was converted into a meeting room. The Co-op then bought residential property in Ann Street and used the house on that property as an accounting department for some years. That house was later removed and moved to Franklin Street. At the same time a Laneway between the Ann Street house and the Co-op was transferred to the other side of the property and that property became part of the parking area existing at the present at the back of the Co-op. The first extension to the Co-op was a two storey brick and concrete building. It was used for the furniture department and a hardware department on the ground floor. This was built on the rear portion of the land bought from the Nadenbousch family. Subsequently an additional two storey building was built to provide extra space for the credit co-op (Latrobe Valley Credit Union) and for store room facilities.

MORWELL CO-OPERATIVE LIMITED.

Dear Member,

As you are aware, your Society has concluded three successful years of trading, each year almost doubling the previous year's figures, and yet if this expansion is to continue, it is essential that the Society move into suitable premises extensive enough to permit this growth, with its consequent benefit to shareholders.

Members who attended the Annual Meeting of the Society had outlined to them the plans for the proposed new shop and petrol station premises on the corner of Ann Street and Hazelwood Road. The Atlantic Union Oil Co. is enthusiastically supporting us by making available the services of their architects who will design not only the petrol sales section, but the shop section as well. A sketch of the proposed layout may be inspected in the shop at the moment. Altogether a great deal of time and research has already been given by the Society's officers so that the facilities to be provided in the new store will be available at an economical figure and yet still in keeping with the latest trends in self service marketing.

It is estimated that the cost of the new building will be in the vicinity of £16,000, completely equipped, and whilst a small part of this amount may be obtained from outside sources, the majority of this money must come from the shareholders. Your Board of Directors is now asking that each member contribute some financial assistance towards bringing this scheme to fruition. We realise that some are not in a position to contribute much, but even a further £1 share is of some assistance.

The assistance may be in either of two ways:

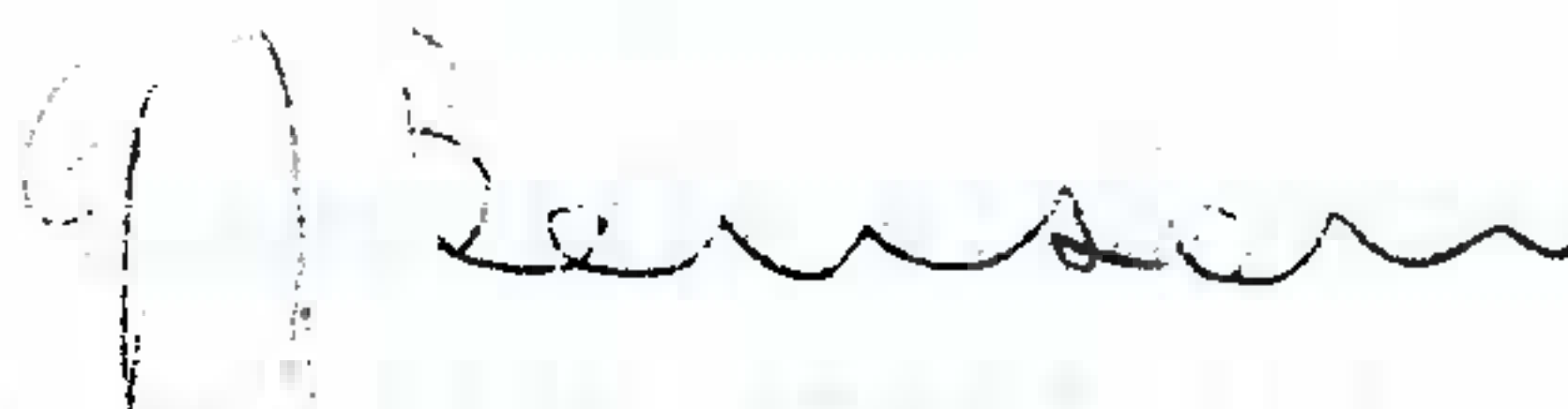
1. Application for further £1 shares bearing interest at 5% per annum; The Board urges those members still holding less than 20 shares to bring their shareholding to at least £20/-/-, and
2. By depositing with the Society funds on short term loan, bearing interest at rates in excess of 5% per annum and for the terms and conditions shown in the attached Offer of Deposit.

We enclose with this letter both an application form for further shares, and an Offer of Deposit, and urge that you complete the form suited to your requirements and return together with your cheque in the envelope provided at the earliest opportunity.

The future success of the Society's trading operations depends upon this expansion, and each shareholder must accept the responsibility for the provision of the greater part of the necessary finance.

Yours faithfully,

for MORWELL CO-OPERATIVE LIMITED



(G. J. Benson)
CHAIRMAN.

Encls.



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JULY EXCURSION

SPRING STREET WALK - TUESDAY 21 JULY

This RHSV excursion visits, on foot, three establishments in the vicinity of Spring Street, Melbourne - The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, the Royal Society of Victoria and the Salvation Army Heritage Centre, all providing their own specialist guides.

We meet at 11.15 a.m. outside the Princess Theatre, cnr. Little Bourke and Spring Streets. The area is well serviced with trams, lightrail and buses; nearest station Parliament (Melway 1B P7). Bring your own lunch (RACS); lunch time tea/coffee and afternoon tea (S.A. Heritage Centre) provided. Cost \$8.00, payable on booking with the RHSV no later than Friday, 10 July. Limit 20 participants: early booking advisable.

FAMILY HISTORY SUNDAY

28 June 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Polly Woodside Maritime Park, Phayer St, South Melbourne. Ph. 699 9760 for details. Displays, information and short talks on family history research, focusing on ships and the sea voyage. All welcome. Pirate fun for the children.

INDEXING WORKSHOP

Saturday, 19 September 1992, 9.30 a.m. - 4.30 p.m. RHSV Council member, John Adams, is to hold a workshop for potential indexers at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology Graduate School, 91 Victoria St.

The one-day course includes a basic background to indexing for historical society collections, and includes some reference to indexing newsletters, newspapers, photographs and local history publications. Participants will be given a set of notes and will be sent some preliminary exercises at which they can try their hand before coming along to discuss their results at the workshop. Cost \$35 - including notes, morning and afternoon tea. BYO lunch. Bookings with payments to RHSV by 1 September.

The RHSV Library has added to its microfiche collection the following from the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages:

The Victorian Pioneers Index 1836-1888, a new consolidated listing of births, deaths and marriages. The index is in alphabetical order to eliminate the need to search the indexes on a year by year basis. A separate *Guidebook to the Victorian Index* is provided. Other additions to our collection are Issue 5, 1914-1930 Marriages and Issue 6, 1941-1960 Deaths.

WOODROFFE INAUGURAL LECTURE AND BIENNIAL STATE CONFERENCE

See program and enrolment details enclosed with this issue of History News.

(See Elsie McMaster for application forms if interested).

The 1992 State Conference will be held at Daylesford on Sat. 29th and Sun 30th August.

On Saturday, the keynote speaker will be Susan Priestley. Her topic: Peopling Places and Placing the People.

There will also be speakers on mining, forestry and tourism/mineral water.

Professor Weston Bate will chair a panel discussion.

On Saturday evening there will be a dinner and Professor Geoffrey Serle will present the inaugural Woodroffe Lecture.

On Sunday morning there will be a choice of two bus tours - Timber Tramways or Macaroni Factory and Hepburn Mineral Springs Reserve.

Cost (if you pay before July 17): Conference \$20.00

Dinner/Lecture \$18.00 Bus Tour \$14.00