

# MORWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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March 2002

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual general meeting of Morwell Historical Society Inc will be held on **Tuesday, March 19 at 7.30pm in the Society's rooms at 21, Church St. Morwell.**

All executive positions will be declared vacant and elections will be held to fill those positions.

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The year has begun busily for our Society. The display at our rooms in Church St has attracted quite a deal of attention and we have received donations of a number of photographs and items for our collection.

Members attended the launch of the latest book on Yallourn – *'Digging People Up for Coal'* – by Dr. Meredith Fletcher, of the Centre for Gippsland Studies, and one of our members, Muriel Feehan, was interviewed for a TV documentary promoting the launch.

We have given talks to local community groups, one of which included a historical walk along Commercial Road, and we have dealt with a number of inquiries from people wishing to trace the history of their families or, in several cases, the history of their houses.

In April, we will participate in the **National Trust Heritage Festival** – a program appears on the back of this newsletter and we hope as many local people as possible will join in.

*Yallourn North Historical Society will be conducting a fund raising  
Fashion Parade on Thursday, March 21  
at 1pm, in Monash Hall, Reserve St, Yallourn North  
Fashions from Magdalene Centre  
Entry \$5 Afternoon tea will be served*

**NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, MARCH 19 – 7.30pm –  
21 Church St Morwell.**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, FOLLOWED BY AN ORDINARY  
GENERAL MEETING**



## ***INSURANCE***

There has been much concern lately about insurance for public and community organisations. The following is taken from the *Federation of Australian Historical Societies Newsletter No 16 – December 2001*.

The Royal Historical Society of Victoria has negotiated an insurance arrangement for member Historical Societies. Following is a summary of the main points of that arrangement:

**\*\* Historical Societies are exposed to three types of risk.**

**The first is being sued by members of the public, or its own members,** who may be injured by **negligence**, real or alleged, arising out of a society's activities. These activities include meetings, functions, excursions, displays, exhibitions, food poisoning from food supplied, or the ownership or lease of premises. These are the risks insured by the **RHSV Public Liability Policy**. The Policy limit is \$10 million. Whilst members can sue their society for injuries arising out of negligence, this would be a very rare occurrence. If injuries occur, they are more likely to result from an accident, not involving negligence, in which case the member cannot sue.

**So, the RHSV offers a second policy to cover accidents to members** where there is no negligence on the part of the society. This policy pays \$60,000 in the event of death or serious disability, and covers loss of income of up to \$3000 per week if the injured person is an income earner, or 80% of domestic help if the victim is not an income earner. The policy also pays 75% of non-Medicare medical expenses not otherwise insured.

Unfortunately the **RHSV's insurers will not cover persons over the age of 80 years under the accident policy.** (Most insurers will not cover people over 75). However, for an **additional premium of \$121 per annum** for each named person, they will insure people beyond that age.

Risks which are **not insured by the RHSV scheme** are for loss or damage to property owned by the member societies, which must arrange their own insurance for premises and contents.

The insurances are placed with two major insurance companies which operate worldwide. The *American Reinsurance Co. Ltd* is the insurer for public liability. It is a member of the *Munich Reinsurance Group*, the largest reinsurance group in the world. The personal accident insurer is the *American International Group*, the largest insurer of commercial and industrial risks in the USA.



## ***FIRE IN TULLOCH'S BUILDINGS***

From: Morwell Advertiser, 22 November, 1929

'Quite a sensation was caused in Morwell on Saturday night last when, at about 10 o'clock, the fire bell rang and an alarm quickly spread that a fire had broken out in a row of shops in the main street, known as "Tulloch's Buildings", between Conlan's Club Hotel and Barry's "Murdoch's" Hotel, and occupied by J. Jordan, saddler and harness maker; J.R. and F. Dow, grocers; Sharpe Bros drapery emporium and T. Furlong, fruiterer and confectioner. All the shops were constructed of wood, with brick front portions, having been erected about fifty years ago, although some alterations and renovations have been made in recent years.

Pictures were being held at the Mechanic's Hall and considerable excitement prevailed there when someone announced that half the town was on fire.

The outbreak occurred in Jordan's shop, which is at the east end of the row and adjoins Conlan's Hotel. Although the alarm was soon raised and members of Morwell Fire Brigade were quickly on the scene, the flames soon got a hold of the old wooden structure and there was every prospect of there being one of the most serious conflagrations that has occurred in the town for many years past. It was therefore deemed advisable by onlookers to solicit the aid of Traralgon and Yallourn Brigades. Both these Brigades kindly responded to the call as promptly as possible but before their arrival on the scene, the Morwell Brigade had the fire under control, having effected a wonderful save by good work. Fortunately there was a splendid pressure of water available and the fire was attacked from front and back and also from roof, volumes of water being poured in from all directions.

A great crowd gathered and much excitement prevailed as the battle against the flames progressed. By degrees the firemen made progress and in their hands the water gradually gained ascendancy over the fire. Although Jordan's shop and contents were reduced to ashes and Dow's store and stock practically destroyed, Sharpe's emporium, carrying over 5000 pounds worth of stock, and Furlong's well-filled shop were saved. Considerable damage was, of course, done by water.

Mr Norman Sharpe had quite a narrow escape. When he arrived on the scene his shop was full of smoke. He, however, had about 100 pounds in money in the shop and resolved to try and secure it. After some difficulty he got the money but before he could reach the door he was overcome and fell to the floor. Fortunately he was rescued from his perilous position and taken outside where he soon recovered.

A special word of praise is due to the local Fire Brigade who responded so promptly to the call and worked so hard and successfully against the fire fiend that threatened so much destruction. Unfortunately most of the firemen had their clothes badly damaged, some being completely ruined. We understand that firemen have no claim on Insurance Companies or others to make good any of their loss sustained in such a way. We would therefore suggest that the Brigade form a fund immediately from which to make good losses sustained by firemen (whose services are voluntary) whilst doing service in fighting any fire.'

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(TO THE EDITOR)

Dear Sir, - I will not ask you for very much space now, but I will express my feelings and appreciation more when the Morwell Fire Brigade and I will celebrate their wonderful achievement at a dinner in the very near future. No doubt the members of the Morwell Fire Brigade are great heroes. They have saved four business houses and unemployment for about 14 people, also 3,000 pounds to Sharpe Bros Firm, which would have been a great loss if same had been completely destroyed. I also wish to THANK the general public for their efforts to assist us in every possible way. The Yallourn and Traralgon Fire Brigades deserve all credit for their wonderful response to our 'call for help'

Wishing the Morwell Fire Brigade every success in the future.

Yours faithfully, NORMAN SHARPE



# YOUR HERITAGE – YOUR HISTORY



NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA (VIC)  
**2002 VICTORIAN HERITAGE FESTIVAL**  
**'BEYOND THE BIG SMOKE'**  
SATURDAY & SUNDAY - 13<sup>TH</sup> & 14<sup>TH</sup> APRIL.

**Morwell & District Program**  
**'COCKIES, TOWNIES, CHURCH & THE REST'**



**'THE CHURCH'**

**SATURDAY & SUNDAY 10AM – 4PM**  
**ST. MARY'S CHURCH, MORWELL** – attend a historic display of artefacts presented by St. Mary's Church to celebrate the centenary of the Gippsland Diocese of the Anglican Church. Admittance free.



**'THE REST' - at Hazelwood Cemetery**

**SATURDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> AT 11AM** – Join in a no-cost guided walking tour round the 1879 historic Hazelwood Cemetery and see where our pioneers and early settlers are laid to rest. Members of Morwell Historical Society will ensure an interesting morning.

**'THE TOWNIES'**  
**SATURDAY 2PM – TOWN WALK & TALK**  
– hear the history and see the sites of important buildings that once graced the main streets of Morwell.



Afterwards, enjoy afternoon tea (cost - donation only) in the Morwell Historical Society rooms in Church Street. Displays and Local history books for sale. Guided tour free.



**'THE COCKIES'**  
**AIRLIE BANK HOMESTEAD**  
**33 THE BOULEVARD, MORWELL.**

**SUNDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> – 11AM TO 4PM AT AIRLIE BANK**  
– View photographs and memorabilia of farming life and families of rural pioneers displayed in the grounds of this c. 1880 homestead now used as an exhibition gallery. Light refreshments will be available, or enjoy a BYO picnic lunch while listening to pleasant music in the parkland adjoining Waterhole Creek. Afterwards, inspect the acclaimed Australian Lighthorse exhibition, (gold coin donation).

**ENQUIRIES:** Gloria Auchterlonie 5134 4602 or Elsie McMaster 5134 1149