

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. 6

No. 3

MARCH 1990

WE'RE MOVING!

Yes, the TUESDAY MARCH 20 meeting will be held in ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HALL at 7.30 pm. It is hoped that this venue will continue to be available for our meetings. We have greatly appreciated being able to meet at Collins st. State School but the demands of the school's security system mean that meetings must finish at 9pm. This puts an unacceptable limit on the length of meetings, particularly if there is a guest speaker.

At our March meeting, members will have the opportunity to meet and talk to Morwell Shire historian, Mr. Stephen Legg.

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of Morwell Historical Society will be held on TUESDAY APRIL 10, 1990. All positions will be declared open. Nominations and items for the agenda should be lodged, in writing, with the Secretary, Elsie McMaster, not later than Tuesday April 3, 1990.

HELP WANTED!

Our Treasurer, Dot Taylor, is compiling a history of Herne's Oak from its beginning, when it was named Haunted Hills, to the present day. She would appreciate any information, photographs, documents, anecdotes, reminiscences etc pertaining to the town and surrounding district. Her phone number is (051)337701.

INDEX TO M.H.S.NEWSLETTERS

Members and others interested in Morwell's history will be delighted to hear that one of our members, Librarian Claire Wood, has compiled an index to the original Morwell historical Society Newsletters. These Newsletters were compiled by Morwell historian the late Ivan Maddern. They represent hundreds of hours of research and contain a wealth of historical information about Morwell and surrounding areas. The Newsletters and index are available in the local history section of Morwell Library.

LOOKING BACK - THE END OF THE DECADE - 1890.

The District Inspector of Schools wrote, in 1890:

"Morwell is at present the most progressive town in Gippsland. Workmen are bringing their families to Morwell as fast as accommodation can be provided. New houses are going up in all directions. A few weeks ago thirty houses were in course of construction at the same time.

The discovery of the vast seam of brown coal within half a mile of the railway station is already giving employment to several men and when further developed will furnish occupation for many more. A pottery has been established recently. Forty men are already employed and the owners intend to increase this number to 100 as their preliminary operations are completed."

From Morwell Historical Society Newsletter Vol.12, No.3. 1973.

OCCUPATIONS NO LONGER....

Following are a few jobs which either no longer exist or are fairly limited in extent:

Fletcher...maker or seller of arrows
 Thatcher....builder of thatched roofs.
 Ostler... stableman at an inn
 Postilion...rider on a horse drawing a
 coach with no coachman.
 Coachman.... driver of a coach

Lamplighter...lighter of the old gas street
 lamps
 Teamster....driver of a team of horses
 or bullocks.
 Telegraphist...telegraph operator
 Charcoal burner...a woodcutter who burned
 wood to make charcoal for
 pottery and glass kilns.

THE BUSH NURSING SERVICE AT GUNYAH

In November 1910, the Victorian Bush Nursing Service commenced, thanks largely to the efforts of Melbourne ophthalmologist James William Barrett and Lady Dudley, wife of Australia's fourth Governor-General.

The following extracts are from Susan Priestley's excellent book

"Bush Nursing in Victoria 1910 - 1985 - The First 75 Years"
published by the VBNA in conjunction with Lothian Publishing Co. 1986.

"Gunyah, isolated in the forested ranges to the east of Meeniyan, was in even more urgent need of a nurse. Early in April 1912 an English woman, Edith Hughes, was installed. She had worked as a district nurse in London and after coming to Melbourne had undergone extra training at the new infectious diseases hospital at Fairfield. In 1912 Gunyah boasted a hotel, post office, store and hall. It was the centre for timber getters whose undisputed skill in felling the tall straight mountain timber meant a sad laying waste of the adjacent bush not to mention the occasional human trauma caused by a tree spinning on its butt or logs rolling off balance.

Gunyah was isolated from the nearest rail centre at Boolarra by over 25 km of awful roads with no telephone or telegraph link. On a wet November day in 1913 it took four hours to ride in from Boolarra, even on one of one of the game hill-bred horses which would plough through mud up to their girths and unhesitatingly go down really steep slopes on their haunches. Edith Hughes became so attached to the pony which the local community provided that when she resigned to take a rest early in 1915 she bought the pony from them.

Leaving the mud aside, the natural beauty of the district was breathtaking. Gullies were filled with the green starry hearts of tree-ferns, and the grey-green upper storey of the forest was enlivened by the copper tints of beeches and new gum tips, and festooned with garlands of native clematis. At the foot of the hills there were clear streams tumbling over rocky rapids and waterfalls. When the Governor and Lady Stanley were brought by car in December 1914 they were tossed about until they were sore but they found the blunt warmth of the people most engaging. Lady Stanley was overwhelmed by a walk down 'into the loveliest dark, cool greenness... The intense silence... gave me a hypnotised feeling that I was dreaming'. It was a rude shock then to discover that the thick wet moss on which she stood was alive with leeches. For the rest of the afternoon she kept thinking that they were up her legs and 'lost all modesty in investigating.'

" Bush nurses were required to meet the general nursing standards set by the Trained Nurses Association and to have six months extra training with district nurses. Mid-wifery training was to be arranged when necessary and the training fees would be paid by the Order (Australian Order of District Nursing).

The nurse was to work closely with a doctor whenever possible and in every infectious case. She was not to influence the patient in choosing a doctor, nor interfere in any way with patients' religious beliefs; she could accept no fee or gratuity, was to wear uniform on duty but no ornaments; she was responsible for all appliances and other items lent to her patients, for her patients' personal cleanliness and for instructing their relatives in keeping order in the sick rooms, and the general surroundings hygienic. For all this she was to receive £ 80 a year plus accommodation, board, uniform and travel expenses while on duty. This was equivalent to the salary of a hospital nurse with five or six years experience. One month's paid holiday could be taken each year with a free half day a week 'if possible'."

"Gunyah was not a rich area and had never easily raised the minimum funds. It was deeply troubled by the depression. The sister boarded at a private house when most centres had bought or rented cottages for their nurse to occupy independently. Almost half Gunyah's members were ex-soldiers and their families, who often struggled with disability as well as poor returns for their farming effort. After 1930 the state government began settling unemployed people on some of the abandoned farms. When 12 families of sustenance workers were sent to Gunyah in 1933 the VBNA Council paid their subscriptions so they would be eligible for nursing care. The usual annual average of home visits by the nurse was 150 and at least one third involved stays of one or more days and nights. Among these were the four or five births recorded each year. The nurse's regular visits to six or seven rural schools were equally valuable to community health. The Toora Bush Nursing Hospital treated Gunyah members at half cost. Even so, the centre struggled financially, too depressed even to arrange successful fund-raising occasions. It closed at the end of the March quarter in 1935, still owing £41 to the Association. At least one bush nurse, Helen Sinclair, married locally in 1927 and she continued to use her nursing skills."

Can you help?

Year 11 students at the Maryvale Campus of Kurnai College who are currently enrolled in Twentieth Century History are studying the 1914-1919 war period.

This year marks the 75th Anniversary of the landing at Gallipoli, and these students will be paying particular attention to this campaign.

As part of their studies on World War I, the students will be completing research projects which will be concerned with-

- Personal memories and biographies of 1st World War soldiers, sailors or nurses from local community- especially those soldiers who served on Gallipoli.
- The experience of the local community during World War I especially in the context of the Gallipoli campaign.

If you are able to assist the students with their research, please contact Jane Sharp-History teacher at Maryvale Campus of Kurnai College ph:341200.

BLAZE FOLLOWS CRASH

War Crime

Postponed: Japs Appeal



PASSERS-BY helped to put out the flames when a motor cycle caught fire and crashed into a shop window in Maling-rd., Canterbury, yesterday. Some of the boots and shoes on display in the window were damaged. ABOVE: Smoke pouring from the machine as a jet from a fire extinguisher was directed on the flames. RIGHT: The damaged shop window.

Too Irish For The Lawyers

CANBERRA, Tuesday. — "No lawyer will ever be able to understand this new relationship — it is entirely paradoxical," the Minister for Immigration (Mr. Calwell) said in the House of Representatives today. He was replying to Mr. Beale (Lib., N.S.W.) — a lawyer — who, during the debate on the Nationality and Citizenship Bill, had queried the position of Irish citizens in Australia. "The Irish citizen in a British country will be neither a British citizen nor an alien, but will be somewhere in between," said Mr. Calwell. "Creation of this relationship is a triumph for the British ability to compromise."

A.R.U. To Seek Repeal Of Act

AFTER endorsing settlement terms of the Essential Services Act dispute, the State executive of the Australian Railways Union instructed its representatives to move at the next meeting of the Trades Hall Council for immediate T.H.C. action to secure repeal of the Act. The executive protested against the use of detectives of the homicide squad to interview railway men on railway property during the dispute.

RAILWAYS DON'T WANT THE BIRD THIS YEAR

IF Uncle Henry is going to send you a live Christmas turkey from the country by rail, you will have to cage and feed the bird in the backyard for nearly a week. Yesterday the Railways Commissioners announced that no live poultry would be carried between December 20 (the Monday before Christmas) and January 3. Of course, this will be a good excuse for you to get Uncle Henry to kill and dress the bird. Then the railways will carry it up to Christmas Eve as a perishable parcel. The Melbourne goods depot was closed from December 24 to 27 and from December 31 to 11 passengers and 3000 lb. of spate parts.



Cave Find No Link With Pay Killings

SYDNEY, Tuesday. — Articles recovered from a cave in Picton district today are not thought by detectives to have any connection with the blowing up of a railway pay train at Yendarra, eight miles away, in December, 1941. After forcing their way through rough bush today a party of C.I.B. experts reached the cave where a Water Board employee, W. D. Hanna, who was hiking in the district, found the articles at the week-end. Articles recovered by the police and brought to Sydney tonight for expert examination by the scientific branch include: a canvas bag similar to those used by the Commonwealth Bank for carrying bullion; an empty lysol bottle; a rubber of-

It was at first reported to the detectives that some money had also been found in the cave, but there was none there when they made their search today. It was the report of the money that first raised any connection with the Yendarra hold-up, in which three of the crew of the payroll train were killed when it was blown up and part of the £10,000 it contained stolen. No arrests were ever made. After the scientific branch examination, detectives will resume inquiries to see if there is any connection between the articles and other crimes in recent years.

Pacific Air Records

SYDNEY, Tuesday. — The U.S. Sydney air record has been broken for the second time within a week. When the second of the Government-purchased DC6 airliners reached Sydney today it cut two hours eight minutes off the record made last week by the first DC6 to reach here. Record flight time was 26 hrs. 39 min. The plane carried 11 passengers and 3000 lb. of spate parts.

TOKIO, Tuesday, AAP-Reuters. — Execution of Hideki Tojo and the six other Japanese war criminals sentenced to death will be postponed. General MacArthur's headquarters announced this today. At least two of the war criminals—Doihara and Hirota—have appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court against the sentences. Hirota was a Foreign Minister and later Prime Minister of Japan. Doihara commanded Japanese troops in Malaya and earlier in Manchuria. General MacArthur's headquarters said that executions would not be carried out pending the result of the appeals. The Tokyo newspaper Mainichi said that the executions had been postponed. Lieutenant-General Walton Walker, Commander of the U.S. 8th Army, who has charge of the executions, said that he had not received any instructions concerning delay in the hangings. The A.A.P.-Reuters correspondent points out that appeals by General Masaharu Homma, Commander of the Japanese 14th Army, who ordered the Bataan death march, and General Yamashita, Japanese commander in the closing days of the Philippines campaign, had their appeals rejected by the U.S. Supreme Court. Both were executed. Doihara and Hirota are appealing on the grounds that General MacArthur had no authority to establish the military tribunal which convicted them and that their trial violated international agreements. The prosecutors told the court trying Admiral Soemu

MET er. with winds. veloping late. VICTORIA. — Warm with northerly winds extending generally during the day increasing to strong and squally in western half. Unsettled weather developing from the west with variable rain and thunder.



ERDINAND VON MUELLER

MUELLER STAMP HAS ONLY ONE EYE!

ONE Baron von Mueller stamp in the recent commemorative issue has a defect — the left eye did not print. The stamp (above) was bought this week by a Melbourne business man, Mr. George J. Manton. A leading philatelic authority said yesterday that the value of the stamp would depend on whether it was a single mistake on one sheet only, due to an inking fault, or whether the same mistake occurred on each sheet of stamps, due to a fault in the plate from which the printing impression was taken. Paradoxically, he said, that if it were a single freak it would be worth nothing. If it occurred on each sheet it would be of considerable value. Melbourne philatelists yesterday reported no similar defective von Mueller stamp. The Commonwealth Note-printer (Mr. G. McCracken) said last night that a paper flaw or a piece of gum under the stamp could have been responsible. A P.M.G. official said that girls checked the stamps as they came off the machines, but as millions were printed it was possible for a few faulty ones to escape notice. The issue commemorated the work of Baron von Mueller, German botanist, who began Melbourne's Botanic Gardens.

M.L.A. Wants "Nudist" Magazines Banned

MELBOURNE bookstalls were selling pornographic magazines, claimed to be naturist publications, to children as young as 10 years of age, Mr. Cremean (Lab., Clifton Hill) alleged in the Legislative Assembly last night. Mr. Cremean displayed two copies of magazines sponsored by nudist clubs, which had been sent to him by a clergyman with a letter of protest. The magazines were "well-spiced with nude poses of women, men and mixed groups, more calculated to pander to depraved minds than genuine students of art," he said. He said booksellers had told him that the biggest sale of the magazine was to children between 10 and 16 years of age. He urged the Government to take steps to ban the publications. The Chief Secretary (Mr. Dodgshun) promised to make inquiries.

Saturday Work Order For N.S.W. Butchers

SYDNEY, Tuesday. — Conciliation Commissioner Kelly today rejected an application by the Meat Employees' Union for Saturday closing of butchers' shops during the summer. The decision applies to shops where assistants are employed. Decision was reserved on an alternative application by the union that double rates should be paid to butchers employed on Saturday mornings and for the granting of December 28 and January 3 as additional holidays.

N.Z. Air Force Plane Missing

WELLINGTON (N.Z.), Tuesday. AAP-Reuters. — A New Zealand Air Force plane piloted by Flt.-Lieut. ... Battle of Britain veteran, with two other Air Force members, is missing on a flight from Napier to Ohakea. The plane was sighted 50 miles from Napier. The engine was reported to be making "funny noises." Three Air Force machines searched today. Eleven planes will take off early tomorrow and will be joined later by 11 others from Air Force stations in both islands.

Kiwis Greet War Leader

THE Governor-General of New Zealand (Lieut.-General Sir Bernard Freyberg) spent last night among his countrymen and former fellow soldiers — the Kiwis company at the Comedy Theatre. After the show he and Lady Freyberg went backstage, where they chatted with the performers. General Freyberg remembered most of them from the war days and greeted several by their Christian names. He told them he had a parental feeling for the company. The Kiwis were first formed as an entertainment unit by a group of New Zealand soldiers in Egypt in 1941. At one time they were known as "Freyberg's Circus" and the general himself has seen many of their performances in Italy, Egypt and other places in the Middle East. Left, the General is shown shaking hands with Terry Vaughan, producer and musical director.



"IT'S THAT MAN DAVIS"

Reds Divide Berlin As Mobs Demonstrate



LONDON, Tuesday, AAP.—Russian-backed Berlin Communists today established a separate city administration in opposition to the democratically-elected anti-Communist city government.

The move, made to avoid free elections on December 5, virtually completes the political division of Berlin between East and West.

Before the Red administration was formed the Soviet-controlled Berlin radio made appeals every 10-minutes for Germans to demonstrate in the streets against the official administrators. All shops and offices in the Soviet sector were closed at mid-day to free employees to join anti-West demonstrations in the Unter den Linden.

Police radio cars operated along Bizonal frontiers to reduce incidents.

The Red administration elected Fritz Ebert, a member of the Communist-dominated Socialist Unity Party as provisional "Lord Mayor of Berlin"

Ottomar Geschke, a leading Communist, told the meeting that the present administration must be dismissed and a provisional administration be set up in its place before the general elections.

The present administration, he said, had "failed to fulfil its obligations by disregarding the vital interests of the city."

NAZI TACTICS

Earlier, the chief of the U.S. military Government's civil administration (Dr. Harry Franklin) accused the Russians of "Nazi tactics," adding:

"Communist attempts at breaking up election campaign meetings and tearing down election posters are a repetition of what the Nazis did before they came to power."

The final splitting of the Berlin administration will almost certainly end what small chance there was of agreement between the Western Powers and Russia on Berlin.

American, British and French officials had approved in principle the latest suggestion from the Security Council "Neutrals" that financial experts attempt to work out a plan on the Berlin currency issue, and Russia's Mr. Vishinsky was also reported to have agreed.

An American delegation spokesman, however, said it was difficult to reconcile Mr. Vishinsky's acceptance with recent Soviet deeds in Berlin.

Under the plan submitted, neutral financial experts were to examine the currency problem in consultation with Western and Soviet experts in an attempt to find a solution acceptable to both sides.

Western officials now say, however, that a currency agreement would be impossible to apply in a divided Berlin.

Meanwhile, at Frankfurt, the three Western military governors are completing plans for a Western German State.

France, which hitherto was not fully co-operative, has now expressed hopes for an agreement.

CHURCHILL, 74, HAS PARTY

LONDON, Tuesday, AAP.—Mr. Churchill will hold a small dinner party with his family tonight to celebrate his 74th birthday.

A member of his staff said that Mr. Churchill had arranged nothing elaborate and was spending the day quietly.

Mr. Churchill spent much of the morning reading the hundreds of telegrams and greetings that have arrived.

Insemination Not Enough For Marriage

LONDON, Tuesday, AAP.—The Divorce Court today decreed null a marriage where there was one child, conceived by artificial insemination.

The wife petitioned for nullity on the ground of her husband's incapacity to consummate the marriage.

The judge said that it would be better for the child if he granted a decree rather than allow it to be brought up by an "embittered mother, tied to a marriage that had never been a real marriage, which only through the unnatural aid of science had produced the fruit of marriage."

The 37-year-old husband contended that to grant a decree of nullity would make the child (a boy) illegitimate and would be against the public interest.

World Talks Plan On Pulp Problems

OTTAWA, Tuesday, AAP.—The Canadian Government will sponsor an international conference on problems of world wood pulp supply and demand.

The conference probably will be held at Montreal next March. Delegates from 19 countries, and observers from others, are expected to attend.

ROUND-UP of World News

The Sahara Desert in North Africa is creeping south at the rate of more than a mile a year, according to delegates to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisations conference meeting at Beirut.—A.A.P.

DEFENCE personnel in Britain on October 1 last totalled 786,900, compared with 931,200 on January 1.—A.A.P.

ANTI-STRIKE bill, outlawing stoppages and collective bargaining by Government employees, was passed by the Japanese House of Representatives yesterday.—A.A.P.

EXPLOSION deaths at the British Cocoa Mills at Hull now total six.—A.A.P.

EXPORTS to Russia by Britain in the year ended September were valued at £538,000, the Secretary for Overseas Trade (Mr. Bottomley) announced in the House of Commons.—A.A.P.

ESCAPE from Czechoslovakia by Dr. Rudolph Madar, former secretary of the Czech Parliament, with his wife and young daughter, is announced.—A.A.P.

RAIN-MAKING experiments in U.S. are not ended, despite the Air Force report that they are economically useless. Mr. Vincent Schaefer, a scientist with the General Electric Co., said yesterday that important developments would be disclosed in January.—A.A.P.

TRIBAL chiefs of the Belgian Congo will each receive a gift radio set from the Government so that they can listen to a series of special broadcasts.—A.A.P.

Zionists Hold Men, Plane For Ransom

LONDON, Tuesday, AAP.—Zionist bandits in Yugoslavia are blamed for the disappearance of four Englishmen in a Lockheed Lodestar plane which vanished after leaving Croydon last month for Australia.

The bandits, according to the Daily Mail's Belgrade correspondent, are holding two men, members of the crew, for ransom, although it was earlier reported that the plane had crashed.

The owners advertised on November 2 for information and offered a reward of £250. From Berne, Switzerland, came a reply offering to hand over the two crew members for £1500 ransom, but refusing return of the plane, which would be flown to Palestine.

The pilot, Captain Thornton Hall, and navigator, J. Ash, were flying two engineers to New South Wales to begin a new surface-mining venture.

Mr. Geoffrey Welch, representing the owners, R. A. Brand and Co., flew to Milan with the ransom money, but the intermediary had fled when he learned that there was to be no secrecy about the rescue. The Yugoslav Foreign Office has been asked to help.

UNIFORMED POLICE grab Garry Davis (arrow), 26-year-old ex-bomber pilot, after he had interrupted proceedings of U.N. in Paris recently by yelling "one Government for the whole world." Dr. Evatt, president of the Assembly, banged the gavel and called for order, saying to U.N. assistants, "It's that man Davis." Immediately guards rushed, seized him and hustled him from the Assembly Hall.

French Hunt Down Gestapo Thugs

PARIS, Tuesday, AAP.—After a four-year search, gendarmes in Grenoble have tracked down three of the most brutal members of the war-time Gestapo.

They are charged with having tortured and murdered more than 100 French patriots in the Grenoble region. Their victims included the son of the present Minister for the Interior (M. Jules Moch).



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COTTONS for Christmas Festivities

Top left—Children's FLORAL VOILE FROCKS 26/10

Above Centre—CHILD'S FIGURED COTTON DIRNDLS 26/10

Shirred frill on skirt and neck finished with velvet bows. A dainty style suitable for parties. 24, 27, 30 in.

Above Right—GIRLS' FLORAL COTTON FROCKS 22/3

Shirred elastic waist, patch pocket. A useful holiday frock. 24, 27, 30 in. 14/10 33, 36, 39 in. 18/1

At Right—Ladies' Parti-Pique DIRNDLS 40/3

Styled by "Richall" in attractive florals of various colourings. Easy-to-laundry button-through style with mock pockets on bodice and skirt. Attractive designs on grounds of Green, Blue, Pink and Lemon. S.O.S. 43/11 X.O.S. 47/7

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LUCKY TO LIVE

Former Morwell and Gippsland swimming champion Kevin Hunt, 21, is lucky to be alive.

He was in a serious car accident on March 10 at Janey's Creek on the Tumut to Talbingo road in the Snowy Mountains.

A friend Allister Cummins, 26, of Talbingo was driving Kevin's car when it is believed a wheel came off the vehicle.

The car hit a rocky bank, reared 20 feet in the air and came down upside down.

Kevin who suffered head and neck injuries, a broken shoulder blade, and leg injuries also suffered petrol burns.

He found himself lying upside down in the car in a pool of petrol four inches deep.

No spark

By a great stroke of good fortune there was no spark to ignite the petrol.

Cummins also suffered neck injuries and both men were taken to Tumut Hospital.

Kevin recovered sufficiently by last week to be flown home to Morwell on Saturday.

As the picture illustrates he is still not feeling anything like championship swimming form.



• ABOVE: Kevin is shown resting today at his home in Toora-st., Morwell.

\$2500 WORKS FOR PONDAGE

The ministry of Tourism has made new grants for works at the Hazelwood Pondage.

Morwell Shire Council has been informed that \$500 must be found locally to make a total of \$2500.

The grant will be used for:

- Additions to existing boat launching ramp, (\$800);
- Graveling and additions to car park (\$700);
- Provision of picnic facilities (\$1000).

Principal shareholder in the purchasing company is the group which currently owns and operates the Morwell Hotel-Motel.

Several prominent Traralgon businessmen are also involved.

Stages

Mr Forbes said last night that development of the Royal Exchange Hotel would bring a new standard of facilities to the Traralgon public.

Development will be in stages.

"First stage will include the building of a large new lounge area with a Bistro for meals service and a modern drive-in bottle shop facing the Church-st. frontage," he said.

"Further stages will include the complete remodelling and enlarging of the present bar, alterations to the kitchen and dining areas, additional and completely renovated accommodation facilities and an entirely new facade in a modern Spanish style for the complete building".

LEAVING TONIGHT

Mr and Mrs. Michael Guss will leave Morwell tonight on the first stage of a two-month overseas business and pleasure tour. They will return home on May 23. It will be a combined business and pleasure tour.

LATE TRADING ON THURSDAY NEXT

Late night shopping will be moved forward to Thursday next week because of the Good Friday holiday.

This was announced today by Morwell Chamber of Commerce president, Mr Ian Moller.

There was some doubt among traders whether they could open. The chamber has now recommended Morwell businessmen to open next Thursday night.

The meeting date was decided at a meeting of businessmen this morning.

Ruling

The chamber received a ruling this morning from secretary of the Victorian Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry indicating shops could open on the night before Good Friday.

Review

Latrobe Valley traders will review the general shopping hours situation at a meeting in Morwell Town Hall on April 5.

Clarification

Mr Moller said the meeting had been arranged because there was some division of opinion among traders.

It was necessary to clarify the position, Mr Moller said.

MORWELL MEN IN \$½ M. HOTEL DEAL

By CLEM PITT

The Royal Exchange Hotel, one of Traralgon's best-known landmarks, has changed hands.

It has been sold in a property deal worth almost \$½-m in which prominent Morwell men are closely involved.

Sold with the hotel are an adjoining caravan park and four houses in a commercial area covering 3½ acres.

The sale was announced in Morwell last night by Mr D. S. Forbes, chairman of the purchasing company, Hotom Holdings (Traralgon) Pty. Ltd.

surrounding properties is about \$480,000.

Second

This is the second major hotel sale in Traralgon in less than 12 months.

Total cost of the purchase of the hotel and

The other was the Crown Hotel, which recently changed hands for more than \$250,000.

Licensee of the Royal Exchange Hotel was Mr Herb Bowles, a well-known figure in Traralgon sporting circles.

The Royal Exchange Hotel is situated on the corner of Princes Highway and Church-st. on the western approach to Traralgon.

The area purchased runs along Princes Highway frontage to Permeaux' bulk depot, across to Service-st. and back to Church-st., excluding an engineering business on the corner.

Water shock

Latrobe Valley people have been shocked by an announcement that Latrobe River water is likely to be diverted to the Mornington Peninsula.

It is being claimed that additional water will be needed to service the huge Westernport development.

A representative meeting, convened by Latrobe Valley Water and Sewerage Board, will be held at Traralgon on April 26 to consider a vigorous protest against the switch.

Morwell Shire Secretary Mr Reg Dunton said today the LVW&SB invitation had come to hand on Monday.

Shire president Cr Jack Vinall said it was certain Morwell would be strongly represented at the Traralgon meeting.

WHAT'S NEW AT
ROBINSON'S MORWELL PHARMACY

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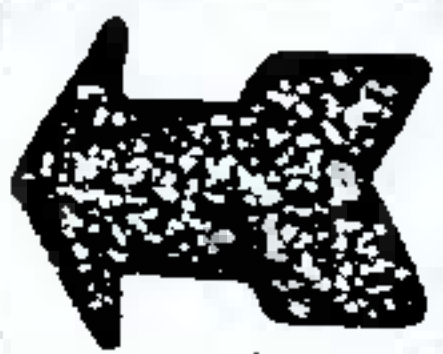
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Princes Highway Morwell

LESLIE'S MARCH SPECIALS