

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. 10 No. 3 MARCH 1994

WELCOME TO THE MARCH NEWSLETTER

IMPORTANT NOTICE!!

The Presbyterian folk need their hall on the night of our next meeting so -

**OUR NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY MARCH 15 - WILL BE HELD
IN THE FOYER OF THE OLD TOWN HALL, CORNER OF
HAZELWOOD AND COMMERCIAL ROADS, MORWELL**

at the usual time, 7.30 pm.

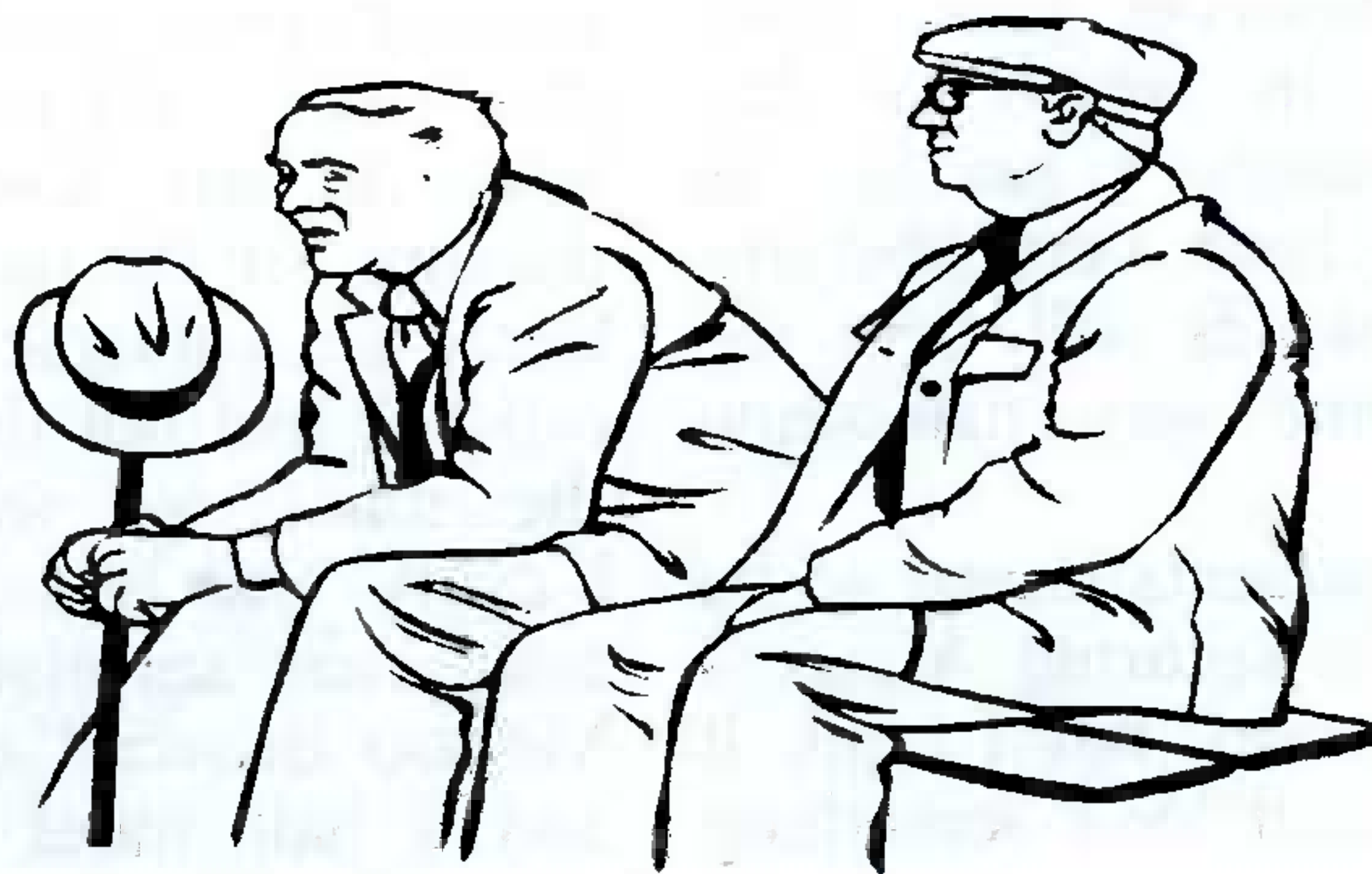
This will also be the Annual General Meeting of our Society. Mrs. Kath Ringin will be Guest Speaker at the meeting. Kath is the author of 'The Old Brown Coal Mine' and her family has links going back to the early days of Morwell.

There will be supper after the meeting and members will have the chance to look over our new headquarters.

EXCURSION

An excursion has been arranged for SATURDAY MARCH 19 to visit 'The Poplars', Yinnar South. Mr Bernie Walsh gave us a very interesting talk on the history of this property which was first settled by his family in 1887.

Meet at the Old Town Hall at 1.30 pm. B.Y.O. picnic afternoon tea. Anyone needing transport, please contact Elsie McMaster - (051)341149.



N.B. Those visiting 'The Poplars' are asked not to wear perfumes and not to smoke. The lady who occupies the property is allergic to these substances.

SOME SNIPPETS FROM OUR EARLY NEWSPAPERS

'Gippsland Times' (Sale) June 7, 1878

MORWELL

(From a Correspondent)

The question is, who are we to get now as a representative in the place of Dr. McCartney? It would scarcely do to put Mason in. I think McKean would be far preferable, if we could get him to keep his temper. There is some talk of Mr. F. Duffy coming to the fore.

A meeting of the farmers of Morwell and Hazelwood has been held at Fitzpatrick's Hotel, to consider the advisability or otherwise of erecting a cheese factory in the district; Mr. D. Shaw in the chair. At a previous meeting there was a committee appointed to select and report on a site suitable for a factory. The report was read by the chairman to the meeting as follows:- *"We, the undersigned, submit the following report to you of our inspection of the site for a cheese factory. It is a piece of Crown Land situated east of the Ridge Road, between R. Porter's selection and the railway line. This we think will be the most convenient site to suit the requirements of the district."* - signed D. Shaw, E. Crinigan, A. Nadenbousch, P. McGauran, and R. Watson." Mr. Dowling from Sale gave a long lecture on cheese making for the information of the committee, after which Mr. Matthews proposed, and Mr. R. Porter seconded:- That the site reported on by the committee be adopted. The resolution was carried. It was also carried that the committee be instructed to apply to the Lands Department for a grant of the land for the purpose of erecting a factory for the general benefit of the district.

The question of a ploughing match was then brought under the notice of the meeting and one was arranged to take place on Mr. P. Kelly's farm at Hazelwood, full particulars of which will be given in a future advertisement.... Mr. Kelly deserves great credit for the energetic manner in which he has laboured to provide this match. I see by the subscription list that it has been very liberally contributed to and the stewards will have the opportunity of offering some very handsome prizes.

Some of your Moe correspondents intend to be first in the field this time in securing Mason's seat in the forthcoming election, but I think it will be loss of time, as we shall have something

more popular in the field this time.

The Inspector of Schools has been round here, and has satisfied the minds of the residents in recommending that one school should be built in the township and one farther east towards Traralgon. This has given general satisfaction throughout the district.

'Gippsland Times' March 28, 1879

CORRESPONDENCE

COAL AT MORWELL

To the Editor of the Gippsland Times -

Sir, - I often feel greatly surprised to think there is so little prospecting done in this district for coal. I went out prospecting the other day looking for gold but as soon as I crossed the Latrobe River I found it was all coal formation and at the root of a tree that has fallen in a land slip I saw several indications of that mineral. I put a cutting into the hill, and then a tunnel, and have found there is lignite and coal. I cannot tell the thickness but it is in all the face, sides and roof, and it seems to get better as I get in; it burns very well when it is dry. It is situated about three miles north of the railway line, near the foot of the Morwell River, on Crown Land. I should like to see any gentleman who is willing to go into it, as I cannot afford to do it all myself, and I would give all the assistance I could to any bona fide parties wishing to test it in a bona fide manner.

HENRY GODRIDGE Morwell, March 23.

'Morwell Advertiser' February 7, 1890

A TRIP TO THE BOOLARRA COAL MINES

(By Our Travelling Reporter)

Perhaps no township in South Gippsland gives greater promise of advancement than Boolarra. The government have now evidently recognised the importance attaching to the vast carbonaceous area in South Gippsland. In a few weeks it will be definitely known whether brown coal is, or is not, to play an important part in the future of Victoria. Everything at present seems to point to an affirmative reply to this query, and in that case Boolarra will soon have to hew down her forest environment to prepare for the march of civilisation consequent upon her valuable mines being in full working order. I had not this trip time to spare to see all the mines, but will next week again visit the locality and report on others. What I did see somewhat surprised me. I was driven to the Mirboo Brown Coal Proprietary Co., some two and a half miles from Boolarra, managed by

Mr. W.S. Ward. As is usual the roads are abominable, and had I not been conducted by a reliable whip, Mr. W. Geale, I fear this report would never have appeared. We however got over the road without harm, save perhaps that our muttered imprecations against the council lessened our chances of dying happy. Arrived at the mine which is situated about 100 yards from the main Mirboo road the courteous manager showed me everything. The company have spared no expense in the erection of proper machinery which is an important feature in making such enterprises a lucrative success. It has been made by the Union Foundry Co., and consists of a splendid steel boiler, 26ft. by 6ft 6in., with fire bars made for the purpose of burning brown coal. The stack attached is well built of brick 50ft. high. The brace and screens are 80ft. from the ground, and the poppet-head 50ft. The erection of the machinery is under the supervision of Mr. Knox, which gentleman assured me everything would be in working order very shortly. The buildings attached to the mine are extensive, comprising a blacksmith's shop, changing rooms and dwelling houses for the miners. The line of railway which is to connect the mine with the Mirboo line is progressing favourably and will, Messrs. Climie and Read, the contractors, tell me, be shortly ready for the transit of coal. It will thus be seen those connected with this mine mean business, and the enterprise they have shown deserves to be crowned with success. Specimens of the coal can be seen at the office.

'Morwell Advertiser' February 7, 1890.

YINNAR

(By Our Travelling Correspondent)

The township of Yinnar is still making rapid strides in the path of progress, and is now becoming well-known as a township whose future prosperity is beyond doubt, as indeed what place is not which possesses a splendid district as regards first class soil, tip-top timber and decidedly go-ahead inhabitants. They have now a pretty little church, which was last Sunday formally opened by the Venerable Archdeacon Langley, a Mechanic's Institute which would do credit to any place, and numerous other improvements which have taken place of late all go to prove its rapid advancement. As regards the new church, I am given to understand that the ladies of Yinnar are now hard at work making elaborate preparations for the holding of a tea meeting in aid of the

building fund. This is to take place on Friday next, the 14th inst, and as it is the first time the good folks of Yinnar have had a chance to meet in the new hall for such a purpose the gathering should be a good one.

The tender for painting the Mechanics hall has been let to Mr. C. Headland, the price 15 pounds. It is with regret I have to chronicle that the enterprising firm of Messrs Pearson and Willey of the Yinnar Sawmill have had to temporarily stop work. They have been sinking a shaft for water but on reaching a depth of 60ft. had to stay further progress through foul air. The cutting at the mill was only last week let to Mr. Merry, who was to have started operations on Monday last. The absence of water of course prevents this, but I think the people may well trust the ingenuity of Mr. Edney, the manager, to contrive means to get things going again.

On Saturday last, Archdeacon Langley, assisted by Mr. Francis, reader, of Morwell, opened the new church at Yinnar by the administration of both sacraments. The attendance was good, the offertory, which was in aid of the building fund, amounted to 4 pounds, thirteen and tuppence. The Archdeacon preached in an open, manly way from the text: "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." John C. 12 V. 32, pointing out how fully some believed in the Christian faith when they were prepared to make sacrifices to extend it.

The Holy Communion was administered at the conclusion of the service. The cost of erecting the neat little building with fittings and furniture has been 160 pounds. The measurement is 31ft. x 21ft. besides a porch. It is lighted on either side by three Gothic windows and one on each side of the porch at the west end. There are two means of entrance by a door on the north and one on the south side of the porch. Beside these, the wall has been pierced at the southeast corner to allow of ingress from a vestry, which, with a chancel, it is proposed to add to the church at some future date. Mr. Langley presented a gift of two very handsome keroliers, each holding three lamps, also a nice scarlet cover for the Holy Table. Yinnar should certainly feel proud of their church.

'Morwell Advertiser' February 7, 1890

CORRESPONDENCE

(We wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not necessarily uphold views expressed by our correspondents in our open column.)

BENEFITS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH

To the Editor,

Sir,- Permit me to state a few facts with regard to the disgraceful state of things at Yinnar. I think it is high time something was done to remove the slaughter yard, boiling-down, piggery, &c., from our midst the smell of which is sufficient (at times) to poison a pig. This nuisance has been allowed to exist for the last three years, several complaints have been made to the Inspector of Nuisances but nothing has been done. About two chains from the above-mentioned there is a dairy, store, butcher's shop, boarding house, altogether there are about twenty persons residing on the premises inhaling the perfumes. The extreme hot weather has dried much of the putrid matter, but as soon as we get rain we will have it again to perfection if it is not put down with the iron hand of the law. I feel confident nothing short of this will be effectual, so many warnings have been given.

Apologizing for trespassing so much on your valuable space. I am, yours &c.,

A SUFFERER.

Yinnar 4/2/90

'Morwell Advertiser' March 14, 1890

A VOICE FROM THE STREET

By Peregrine Pickle

A bard at Traralgon, like "Herbert" Spencer, has broken loose. The following appeared in last Tuesday's issue of the "Journal":-

*Has Morwell's 'Advertiser' blown
its sounding trump in vain?
Has the 'Gazette's' shrill whistle died
in yells of nameless pain?
Has Murdoch's bore been sunk, alas,
is Rollo's work but naught?
Can I not sell my brown coal shares,
are they not worth a thought?*

*Oh! tell, oh! tell me, won't you buy
my bonny brown coal shares?
Oh! buy, and straight away you'll find
they'll lighten all your cares.
The first of all they'll glad your home
with gas and fires so bright,
And next in suit they'll surely make
your bank account seem light.*

*Then buy, oh! buy my brown coal shares,
Great Morwell is not dead;
If only you'll wait long enough
it's bound to go ahead.*

*Then speculate, my stranger bold,
loose you your long purse strings;*

*For far and wide throughout the land,
the fame of Morwell rings.*

*Traralgon's but a suburb of
Great Morwell's thriving town,
Don't be afraid my friend - look round -
and plank your money down.
The stranger gazed upon the scene,
then shook his head - "Ah well,"
Says he, "I'll plank no money down
as yet in Great Morwell."*

The Echo:-

The first verses remind me of Edgar Allan Poe's "delirium tremen productions" and the last three have the same swinging metre noticeable in John Ronald's "Cauliflower Tops". Touch the harp gently:-

*No! Morwell's 'Advertiser' lives
and like the ocean's roar
Its never-ceasing influence
is felt from shore to shore.*

*And wouldst thou dare, impetuous youth,
to frown upon our coal,
To raise the ire of one whose fame
is known from pole to pole?*

*Then listen, first and foremost, youth,
to save us trouble later,
Remember Morwell's solvent, lad,
we don't do 'biz' on paper.*

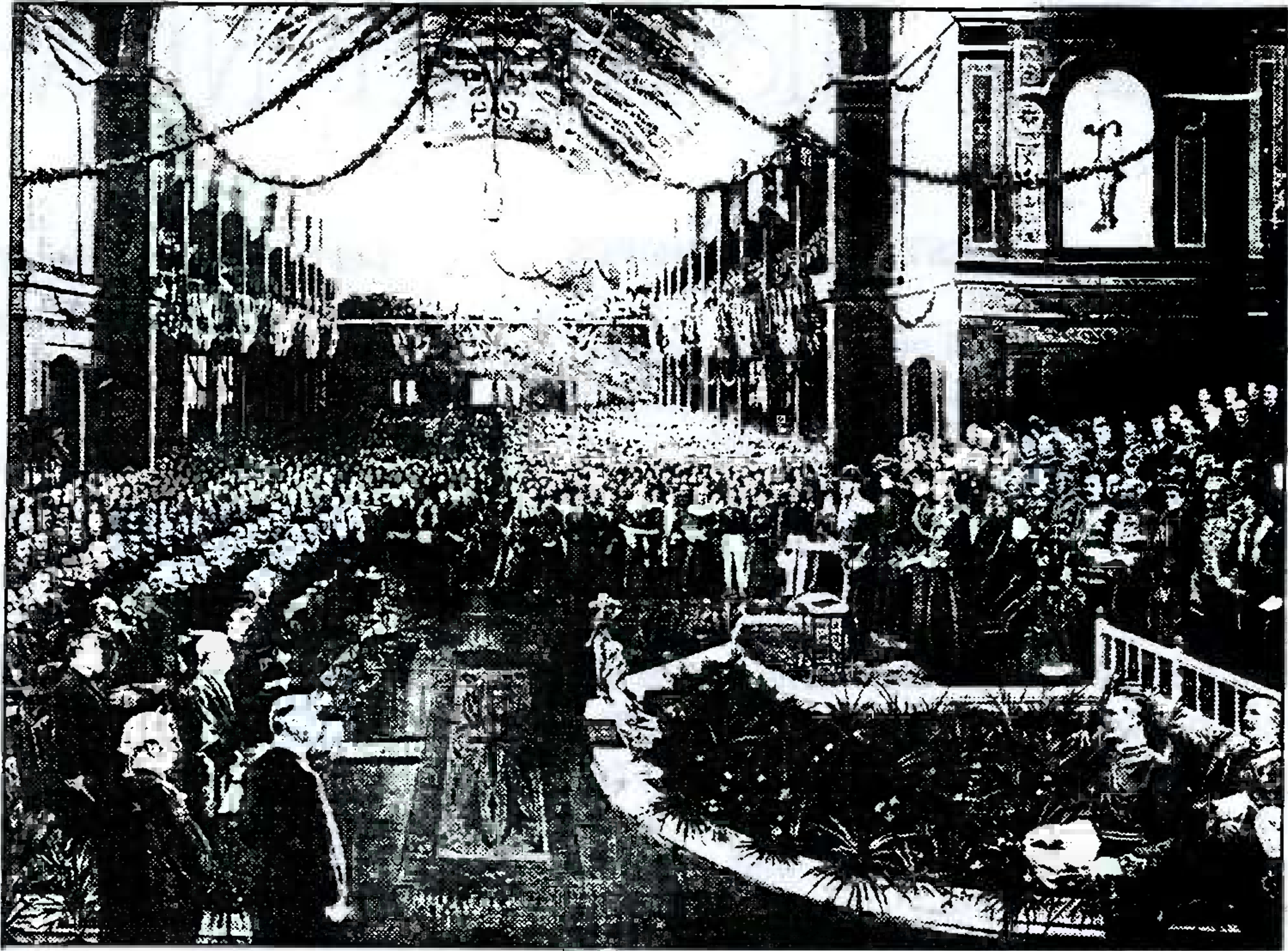
*We don't keep "leading citizens",
we have no John's nor Jim's
We spend our money lavishly
to suit our little whims.*

*We aint got no patrician blood,
we're what they call a churl,
We don't go on addresses
and we're off the bloomin' Hearl.
I'll tell you though what we have got
and from us you can't wrest it,
We've got the coal, we've got the pluck,
and money, sir, to test it.*

*And listen, bold Traralgon,
you surely must have read -
Did I not but a month ago
DECIDE THAT YOU WERE DEAD?*

*Then cease these ghostly mutterings,
'tis useless now to rave;
You're gone - may Heaven bless you.
LIE STILL WITHIN YOUR GRAVE!*

Historic day: a scene from the Exhibition Buildings in Melbourne in 1901, Federation day. Now Victoria hopes to be the centre of Federation's 100th birthday celebrations.



Federation party push

By DEREK BALLANTINE

VICTORIA is pressing hard to be the centre of celebrations for the centenary of Federation in 2001.

The event is being billed as the biggest in the country, barring the Olympics.

Plans are under way for a massive exhibition to mark the anniversary as the Premier, Mr Jeff Kennett, tries to persuade other leaders that Victoria should take centre stage.

Mr Kennett wants the proposed Centenary of Federation Exhibition to be the major event of national celebrations in 2001.

Other possible projects include a museum of Aboriginal culture at Docklands.

Tourist chiefs see the centenary as a major revenue-earner for Victoria, especially if the state can capitalise on international interest in Australia generated by the Olympics.

Celebrations are expected to take place throughout the year.

Victoria's claim to hosting the landmark Federation events stems from:

- Its central role in the process of Federation — the national campaign was launched in Melbourne in 1893, after Victorian Dr John Quick proposed a convention to draw up the Constitution.

- Melbourne's position as



Flashback ... how 'The Herald' saw Federation.

home of the Federal Government until Canberra was established in 1927.

- The Federation movement's push through the Victorian-based Australian Natives Association and the role of Alfred Deakin, then a member of the Victorian Parliament and later Prime Minister, in planning the campaign.

- The convention's completion of the Constitution in Melbourne in 1898.

- The role of the Earl of Hopetoun who, as a former Victorian Governor, was named first Governor-General of Australia in 1900.

- Federal Parliament's inaugural ceremony in the Melbourne Exhibition Building on May 9, 1901.

Historian Dr Bernard Barrett makes the claim that Mel-

bourne was the "cradle city of Federation".

Mr Kennett also says Victoria should have a primary role in planning for 2001 because of its close historical ties with the process that led to Federation.

The Minister for Major Projects, Mr Mark Birrell, and the Minister for the Arts, Mr Haddon Storey, are also pushing Victoria's case for 2001.

Victoria wants the Exhibition Building to be central to the event.

Under the Government's Agenda 21 program, the great hall and surrounding gardens will have been refurbished by 2001.

Other Agenda 21 projects include the restoration of the State Library.

Victoria will also have its new casino by 2001, an exhibition centre, and developments linking both sides of the Yarra.

The Government is reluctant to stage a world expo between Sydney's Olympic Games and the Federation celebrations because one will be held in Germany at the same time.

But it is being urged to stage a major trade fair or an international garden show.

"The centenary should recognise the historical maturity of our nation," Mr Kennett said.

"It should also recognise the achievements of the past 100 years and affirm a long-term agenda for the 21st century."



R. H. S. V. HISTORY NEWS

No. 145 MARCH 1994

EAST GIPPSLAND : A CHEST FULL OF HOPES AND DREAMS

"The Glory Box : A Chest Full of Hopes and Dreams" is the new exhibition at the Bairnsdale Museum presented by the East Gippsland Historical Society.

This very successful travelling exhibition from the Lilydale Museum, Victoria, takes a light-hearted look at the tradition of the glory box - What is it? Where did the idea come from? Why did so many women have one? What did they put in them? How have glory boxes changed over the years? Did you have a glory box? The exhibition provides the opportunity to experience a fascinating slice of women's history and to share in the reminiscences of several local ladies, as well as see on display remnants of their glory box.

The exhibition is supplemented with material from our local museum and community and will bring humorous and poignant memories flooding back.

"The Glory Box : A Chest Full of Hopes and Dreams" will be on display in the Delvine building at the Museum in Macarthur Street, Bairnsdale from Wednesday, 23rd February until Wednesday, 23rd March, 1994 during Museum opening hours - Wednesdays and Saturdays 10.30 am to 4.00 pm, and Thursdays and Sundays 12.30 pm to 4.00 pm.

School and group tours welcome and are available by arrangement outside these hours.

Admission charges are Adults \$3, Children \$1 - group concessions by arrangement

Catalogues will be available for purchase.

For enquiries, phone the Museum during opening hours on (051) 52 6363 or the Secretary on (051) 57 1576.

POLLY WOODSIDE MARITIME MUSEUM

Sunday March 27th 10am - 5pm - 'Polly Woodside' Maritime Museum presents a "SALUTE TO DUKE'S & ORR'S DOCK".

A unique opportunity to visit the dock and discover its 125 year old history before the building of the new Exhibition Centre changes the site forever. Talks, tours and displays.

Enquiries (03) 699 9760

Polly Woodside Maritime Museum,
cnr Phayer & Barnet Sts,
South Melbourne 3205

140TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TELEGRAPH

The following has been received from Mr. Gordon Hill, President of the Morsecodians Fraternity of Australia.

On March 3, 1854 a remarkable event occurred which was to change the course of life in Australia and project this infant country on its rapid journey to modernisation only 19 years after its founding. On this day the City of Melbourne was connected by the first morse telegraph line in Australia to the Town of Williamstown in Victoria. On April 7, 1854, official operation commenced. The system spread rapidly and with the completion of the Overland Telegraph line between Port Augusta and Port Darwin in 1872, Australia was able to communicate with the outside world and her long od of isolation was over.

Although the 150th Anniversary of the opening of the first telegraph line is an obvious milestone to celebrate, our ranks of operators with the old skills will undoubtedly be slender when this occurs in the year 2004. With this in mind the Morsecodian Fraternity based in Sydney but with members scattered over Australia, wishes to celebrate the 140th anniversary of the first Australian telegraph circuit. The group wishes to establish a physical morse link between Melbourne and Williamstown (venues at both terminals have been agreed upon and will be advised shortly). The Science Centre in Canberra would be linked with both terminals so that messages may be exchanged between the three centres. Members of the public visiting the venues would be able to view the proceedings or send brief telegrams to relatives or friends. A number of Morsecodians have volunteered their services to man the telegraph lines at the three venues, Melbourne, Williamstown and Canberra. For further information Tel. (047) 39 6735.

OPEN DAY

We again remind members that the Society's major event of the year, the Open Day, will take place at the Royal Mint on Sunday, 17 April, as part of the Victorian Heritage Festival. An interesting and varied program is planned, including a book fair; tours of the Mint and adjacent Flagstaff Gardens; an exhibition drawn from the Society's resources entitled "Moving South: the Migrants of Colonial Melbourne"; a display of vintage cars by the Mornington Peninsula Historical Vehicles Club; plant and preserve stalls; and refreshments.