

Morwell Historical Society Inc.

Website: www.LVonline.com.au/morwellhistoricalsociety.htm

c. 1903



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Morwell Historical Society Inc. Annual Dinner

To be held at MORWELL GOLF CLUB, Fairway Drive, Morwell on Tuesday October 19th at 6.30 pm for a 7.00 pm start.

Our Guest this year will be Mr. **Graham Cook**, who will speak about his time as a policeman, with particular reference to his involvement with search and rescue activities.

Cost: \$15.00 per person. Drinks at bar prices

R.S.V.P. Tuesday, October 12th.
Elsie McMaster,
2 Harold Street Morwell 3840
Telephone: 51341149



Morwell Advertiser

5th. October 1967

(Abridged)

BRIGADE LIFE MEMBER

AFTER 25 years service with the Morwell Fire Brigade, Mr Harry Huguenin was officially made a life member of the brigade at a special presentation on Friday night.

Mr Huguenin, a prominent Morwell businessman, is the first life member of the Morwell brigade and one of the few life members in Gippsland.

He has been with the Morwell brigade since his teenage days, when too young to be an official member, he used to help out around the station.

During the war years, Mr Huguenin was the brigade captain.

He recalls many memorable incidents that have occurred over the years, from the time the fire station was situated opposite the post office, to its present location in Church Street.

“Two-way radios and telephone communications are a vast improvement on the communications of the thirties”, Mr Huguenin said.

“It was not uncommon to be informed of a fire out of the town, by somebody who has had to travel some miles to report it” he said.

***Morwell
Fire Brigade
Life Member***

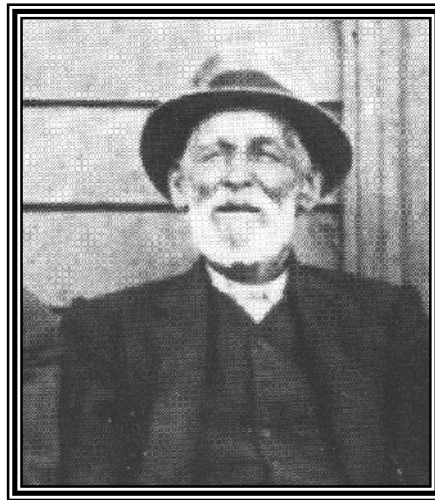


***Mr. Harry
Huguenin***

Morwell Advertiser and Gazette

4th October 1929

DEATH of MR J.B. JONES



Photograph: Morwell Historical Society archives

A "grand old man," who was one of the very early pioneers of Morwell, in the person of Mr J. B. Jones, passed peacefully away on Wednesday last, at his late residence, Morwell.

Deceased, who had reached the ripe old age of 84 years, was quite an outstanding figure, and his crossing of the Great Divide, will leave a gap in our midst, that will be very noticeable for a considerable period.

He was born in Ballarat and arrived in Morwell over 60 years ago. He played an important part in the construction of the Melbourne-Sale railway, and was entrusted with responsibilities that he carried out faithfully with credit to himself and satisfaction to all concerned.

We understand that among many things he had charge of was the construction of railway bridge over Morwell river, and the pegging out of site for Morwell Railway Station. After the completion of the line Mr Jones was appointed a ganger, on a section between Morwell and Moe, and subsequently had charge of the "length" that included the local railway station yard, a position he occupied until he retired on a pension some years ago.

Whilst he was a zealous and faithful employee of the Railway Department, he was also a “boss” that was loved and respected by those who worked under his direction.

Deceased was highly skilled in “woodcraft”, and after he retired from Railway Department he acquired a hobby for making beautiful fiddle-back walking sticks with musk handles, mauls and various other things. He was also quite an expert in repairing chairs and in doing other cabinet work.

He used to scour the bush in all directions for choice trees and timber that he would afterwards convert into something beautiful and artistic. In his wanderings he discovered quite a lot of things, including brown coal, mountain streams, beauty spots, etc. and could relate a host of most interesting incidents connected with the early days.

For years past he made a habit of driving his little pony and cart, every forenoon from his residence to the post office, where he would meet old friends and have a “yarn” until he secured his mail and daily paper. He was kind, genial and courteous. In short the essence of a thorough gentleman, and it is safe to say that he did not have an enemy in the world.

Instead he was simply revered and loved and regarded by the many with whom he came in contact as a “grand old man.”

He could relate a host of most interesting incidents connected with the early days of Morwell and district, and was looking forward to meeting many old friends during the forthcoming “Back to Morwell” week.

He, however, took a rather bad turn about a fortnight ago, and gradually sank, death being due to heart failure. The remains of deceased were interred in Hazelwood Cemetery, yesterday, and the large gathering that assembled at the grave side to pay their last tribute of respect showed the esteem in which deceased was held by all sections of the community.

The Rev. L. W. A. Benn officiated at the grave. An Oddfellows service was also conducted by Bro. J. Hinson, P.G.M. The mortuary arrangements were carried out by Mr J. Bolger.

Deceased leaves a widow and four daughters, and much sympathy is expressed for them in their loss.



Morwell Advertiser and Gazette

29th. April 1927

ANOTHER FIRE



O'ROURKE'S COFFEE PALACE DESTROYED

Residents of the town were once more disturbed from their peaceful slumbers, when at about 4.20 yesterday morning the local fire bell pealed forth its alarm, and within a few minutes men and women were hurrying down the street in all sorts of attire.

Most people on the east side of the town thought the conflagration was at McKay's Hotel or Hare's motor garage, but on arrival there found that O'Rourke's Coffee Palace was in flames, the crackling of same being heard for a considerable distance.

Members of the local Fire Brigade were soon in action, and although there was a good pressure of water and they worked well, it was found impossible to save the building, which was a very old one lined with paper and canvas.

The fire was, however, prevented from spreading to adjoining buildings and in about half-an-hour the outbreak was under control, but not before the "palace" had been reduced to ashes.

The origin of the fire is unknown, but it appears to have started in the dining room. There were nearly 20 boarders on the premises, all of whom were sound asleep when the fire started. Several had a narrow escape and most of them lost some of their belongings.

Mrs. O'Rourke was away in Melbourne, but her daughter Mrs. D. McGrath and her husband who were on holidays were staying in the house and lost some of their things. Mrs. Maxfield, another of Mrs. O'Rourke's daughters was also at the palace and lost articles owing to having to make a hurried exit. Miss Vera Radcliffe also had a close call, just escaping in the nick of time.

Fortunately not one was injured although practically all in the house lost personal belongings. Some furniture, beds and bedding were carried out on to the roadway.

We understand the building was insured, but at the same time Mrs. O'Rourke will be a heavy loser.

Owing to lack of accommodation the boarders will have some difficulty in securing lodgings in the town. In fact someone remarked that they were like a lot of sick fowls looking for a roost.

This makes the fifth fire in the town during the past two months. It is hoped it will be a long time before there is another outbreak.

Morwell Advertiser and Gazette

9th December 1948

Skating Carnival



Last Friday night's juvenile carnival was a fitting finale to a most successful first year skating season at the Paramount.

Denied previously the opportunity of participating in this exhilarating pastime, crowds of the younger generation advanced to varying stages of proficiency during the season, some indication of which was evident in the exhibition of the prize-winners.

Santa Claus rounded off a good night for the children with presentations of sweets in the presence of a good crowd of on-looking parents.

Prizes went to:

Senior Boys: **George Ellis**; Junior Boys: **John Jenkins**; Senior Girls: **Pat Lay**;

Junior Girls: **Barbara Ferguson**; Best Girl Skater: **Pat Lay**; Junior Girls' Flag Race: **Barbara Ferguson** and **May Wells**;

Senior Girls' Flag Race: **Fay Wells** and **June McDonald**; Senior Couples: **Shirley Simons** and **Trevor Lay**;

Junior Couples: **Fay Wells** and **John Jenkins**; Junior Boys' Flag Race: **John Ferguson** and **Leslie Campbell**;

Senior Boys' Flag Race: **George Ellis** and **Kevin Kearns**; Best Girl Skater (under 8): **Rosslyn Davey**; Best Boy Skater (under 8): **Johnny Cassidy**.



Morwell Advertiser

9th April 1964

POLICE CHOOSE MORWELL AS HEADQUARTERS

At a time when neighbouring municipalities are taking titles of capital, and alike, the Victorian Police Force had recognised Morwell as the centre of a vital district.

Member for Morwell, Cr. J. C. M. Balfour, said this at this afternoon's official opening of the £60,000 police district headquarters.

The opening was declared by Chief Secretary and Attorney-General, Mr. A. G. Rylah, who said Victoria had a tremendous asset in its Police Force and it was a force which deserved the best in accommodation pay and conditions.

Following his tour overseas in which he had observed police forces of other nations, Mr. Rylah said he was proud that Victoria's force was part of the community and had earned the respect of thinking people.

AREA GROWTH

The Police Chief Commissioner for Victoria, Mr. R. H. Arnold told the large gathering that the new building came with the development of the State and particularly the tremendous growth of population in the Latrobe Valley.

Morwell was first given a police station in 1897 with one mounted constable.

In 1921 there were two constables and five years later Mr. Gunther came as a Senior Constable.

Morwell merited a Sergeant in 1948 when Sergeant Derham arrived.

Today with the movement here of the Superintendent's headquarters from Warragul strength was 27 including two typists.

Superintendent J. B. Skea, the first superintendent at Morwell, presided at the official opening.

Following the speeches, Mr. Alec Cousland, president of the Morwell sub-branch of the RSL, made a presentation to the superintendent - a framed portrait of Her Majesty the Queen - for the new building.

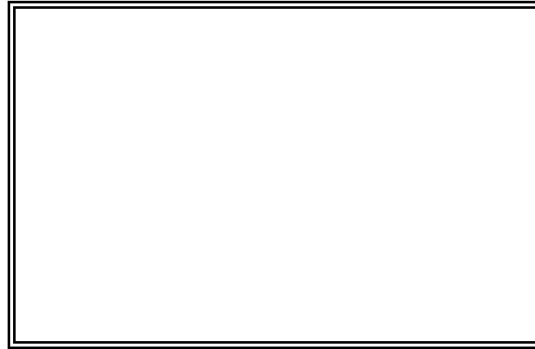
Next Meeting:

***Annual Dinner
(See front page)***

Everyone Welcome



Morwell Fact File



Did You Know That:

***Coles Variety Store
opened in Tarwin Street
at 9 am on 10th August
1950***

***The first manager was
Mr. Norman Cornall***

Quiz Corner:

The mystery personality from our last quiz was:

Cr. David White

Our brainteaser for this issue is:

In which year did **Lou Bond** first become Morwell Shire President?



History on the "Net"
*Our Internet address is printed on
the top of the front page*

***Our sincere thanks to Ben and
Mary for their invaluable
support and guidance***

***Claassens Computers
Church Street
Morwell***

