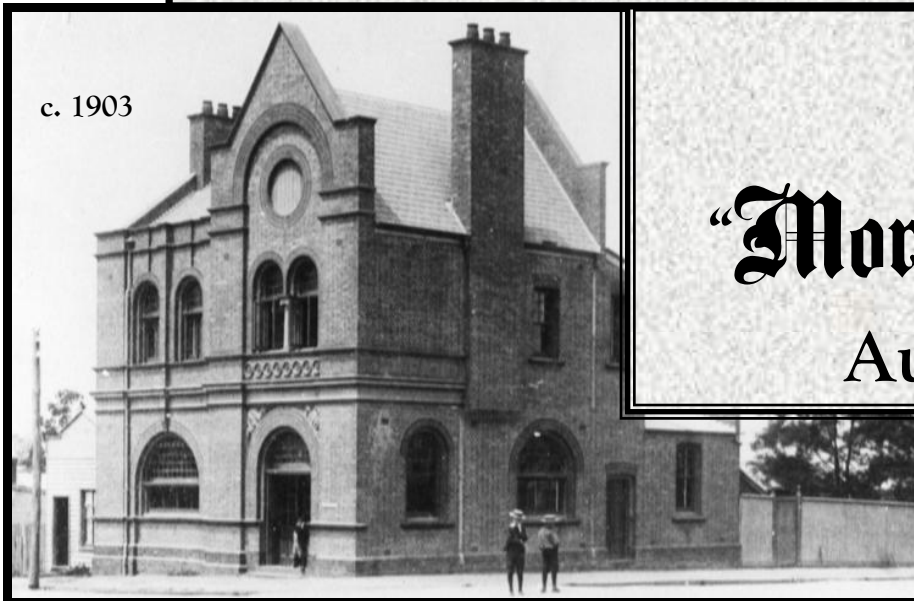


Morwell Historical Society Inc.

www.morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au

c. 1903



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The "Morwell Post"

August 2009

Vol. 26 No.4

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Published every two months: February to December

Society Meetings 2009:

Meetings for the remainder of 2009:

August 19th.

September 16th.

October 21st.

November 18th.

2.30 p.m. 44 Buckley Street
Morwell.

There are no meetings in
December or January

Items for publication in the "Post" are always welcome; please forward your contributions to either Elsie or myself. S. H.
(P.O. Box 1163 Morwell 3840)

Obituary

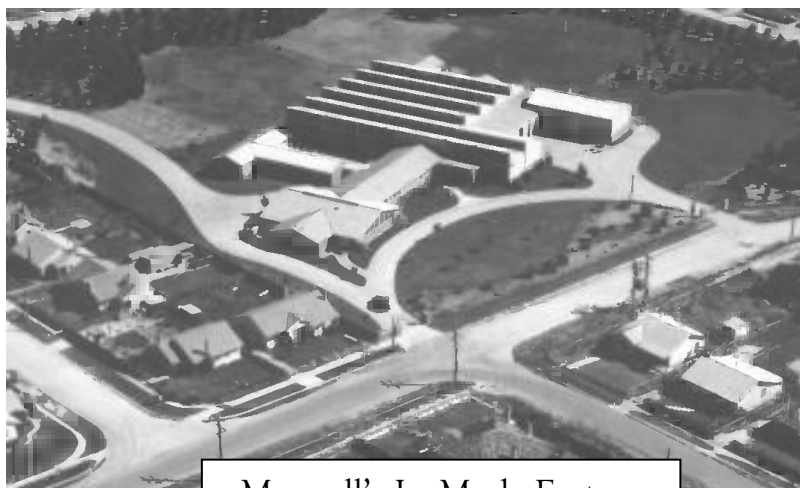
We extend our sincere sympathy to our President, Leonie Pryde, on the recent passing of her husband, Alan.

Alan was born in Foster and grew up in Boolarra. He worked at the Morwell La Mode factory and at A.P.M. and he and Leonie had a farm at Morwell North which they worked until Alan's ill-health necessitated a move into Morwell.

Alan was well-known as an umpire with the L.V. Football Umpires Association, and as their family grew, he and Leonie were heavily involved in the Morwell Pony Club and the establishment of Traralgon Little Athletics Club. Our thoughts go out to Leonie and family at this sad time.

"The Post"

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Morwell's La Mode Factory

Morwell Advertiser

14th. May 1909

OUR BROWN COAL

SALE OF MR. BUCKLEY'S MINE

TO ENGLISH SYNDICATE

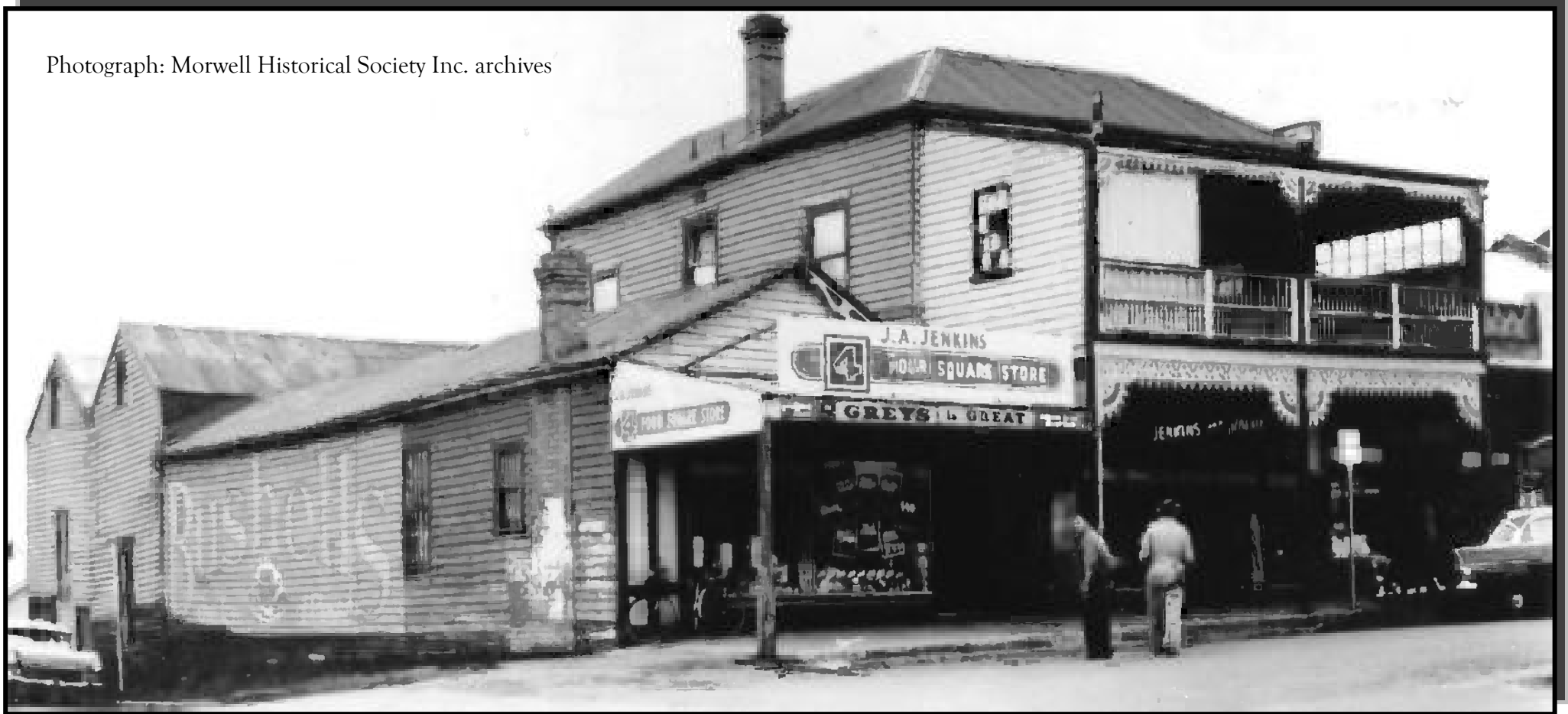
In no part of the world are there larger seams of brown coal than are to be found in Morwell, and residents for years past have had hopes that sooner or later there would be some development of the great wealth hidden below the surface. It however, has been almost a case of "Hope deferred making the heart sick," for the people of the district have been waiting so long, and been disappointed so often that they almost lost faith in the belief that the coal was going to do anything for Morwell for generations to come.

We are glad to say that there is now every promise of the local mine on Mr Buckley's property being developed at an early date. An English syndicate that for some years past has had dealings with Mr. Buckley have decided to purchase the whole of the property on which the mine is located. So anxious were they to secure the property that we understand they paid £2,000 for another company to waive their right of 12 months' option of purchase. We are informed that it is costing the syndicate about £11,000 to secure the property, in addition to giving Mr. Buckley 5000 shares in the mine.

Mr. Buckley informs us that the transfer of the property will be signed to-day, and the purchase money paid over on completion of same. It is not known in what way the syndicate propose to go to work, but it is only reasonable to suppose that in order to get a return for their outlay they will take immediate steps to develop the mine in a manner that will give them a satisfactory return for their outlay, and in order to do this it must necessarily mean the employment of a large number of men, and in due course should be the means of making Morwell one of the most progressive and thriving towns in the State. So mote it be

Refer to previous issue for article regarding fire at Jenkins store in 1933

Photograph: Morwell Historical Society Inc. archives



Jenkin's Store Tarwin Street 1962 just prior to commencement of demolition

The following paragraphs have been extracted from the book: "People in Glass Houses" (Growing up at Government House) by Adelaide Lubbock. Published by Nelson. The extracted sections of this book (pages 69-71) deal with a visit to our neck of the woods made by the Governor of Victoria (Sir Arthur Stanley) in 1914.

Every time my mother made an expedition into the country she felt that at last she had visited the real 'outback'. In fact, although the places she visited were primitive enough in those days, she never penetrated beyond the settled districts of Victoria and New South Wales. She never rode a horse, camped in the open, or was without a chauffeur-driven motor car and attendant ADC. Just before Christmas she and my father went by train on a visit to a little bush township in Gippsland called Gonyah, where my mother was to install another Bush Nursing post. They arrived in the evening at the town of Morwell, some ninety miles east of Melbourne, now the centre of the Yallourn coal and gas industry.

We were received at the station by the Shire President who started 'God Save' in a high falsetto which was joined in by an invisible crowd as the station was pitch-dark. It was a lovely summer's night but there was no moon so it was difficult to realise who one was being introduced to - for directly 'God Save' was ended, names of the Councillors and prominent people of the district were called out and a blind fumbling to shake the right people by the hand ensued.

At last we were allowed to leave the station and were escorted to a wooden hall close to where a concert was given and which lasted till nearly 12 o'clock . . . Arthur and I were beginning to get *sodden* with the atmosphere, the aching incandescent gas lights, and length of the programme, and we exchanged glances of infinite relief when once more (for the third time that evening) the National Anthem was given out - but the end was not yet! To our horror a feast had been prepared in an adjoining room and we had to sit down to a solid meal and what is written down in the Programme at these functions as 'Tea or Lunch and *Informal Chat*' which I think is delightful. At last we got back to our car and slept on board it in Morwell station. This is a junction and the noise throughout the night effectually abandoned all hope of

sleep - especially as a train of starving stock was drawn up alongside of us and made the night hideous with their 'Informal Chat'.

Early next morning we arrived at a place called Boolarra where the inhabitants and school children were drawn up on the platform to receive us. The children are always more rivetted by my clothes and eye glasses* than by poor Tibaldi's speeches - but the adults *revel* in his addresses, and he is wonderful in the freshness and novelty he manages to put into each one. Sometimes he makes 7 or 8 in the day.

After this ceremony the vice-regal party drove in a fleet of cars to Gunyah. On the way they stopped at a hamlet consisting of about a dozen small houses, a school and about fifteen children. 'They had never seen a motor before and were wildly excited at the sight of six of them,' said my mother.

The last part of the road to Gunyah was terrifically bad and we were shot up and down and from side to side till we were sore. At last we arrived and found a little crowd awaiting us outside the wooden room that serves for a church and meetings and dancing and everything . . . The Bush Nurses received us and looked incongruous figures in that wild setting in the neat spic-and-spanness of their uniforms.

After lunch we were taken to see one of the largest gum trees chopped down. It is wonderful to see the skill with which the bushmen do it. They drive stakes in at intervals up which they climb, and they stand on one of them and chop, sometimes at a height of 70 feet as the trunk is much thinner and easier to cut at that height . . . Some of the bushmen had worked all the previous day to cut the jungle so as to make it possible for me to go through it. We went down, down into the loveliest dark, cool greenness, out of the glare of the upper world. It felt as though one's ordinary life and existence had stopped altogether. I couldn't believe that any of you really existed or that the war was going on or that anything mattered. The intense silence . . . gave me a hypnotised feeling that I was dreaming . . . It was a new sensation to be standing on spongy, thick wet moss in this dry country - but it was a very disagreeable experience to find that it was active with leeches . . . This rather spoilt my pleasure for the rest of the time, as I kept on thinking I felt them up my legs, and I lost all modesty in investigating . . . Then we took to our motors to get back to the station at Boolarra where we again slept. We had to have many handshakings and goodbyes. The Shire President made a speech of course, in which he said 'Your Excellencies have behaved yourselves splendid all through the day and we haven't found you a bit of trouble to entertain - for you seemed to enjoy everything downright 'earty' - which was gratifying as well as amusing.

* My mother was very short-sighted but did not like wearing spectacles. Instead she had a tortoiseshell 'lorgnette' suspended by a gold chain round her neck which she would raise and peer through when she wanted to see anything clearly.

At last we regained our saloon at Morwell Junction and there found telegrams announcing the capture of the three German cruisers* ... all fatigue dispersed at the glorious news - Arthur waving the telegram and shouting 'Good news!' and the people came flocking back to hear. A. jumped up on a car and read the cables and everyone went mad for joy ... It was a splendid finish to the day and I don't believe the people will ever forget it!

* Battle of the Falkland Islands December 1914 in which five German Battleships were eventually sunk or captured. 'Thus came to an end the German Cruiser warfare in the outer seas.' W. S. Churchill, *World Crisis 1911-1918*.



Sir Arthur Stanley

16th. March 1972

Over 230 attend farewell

Morwell and district people turned out in force on Thursday night to farewell Mr and Mrs George Rust.

The Rusts have left Morwell after 40 years to live at Rosebud.

More than 230 people attended the public farewell held in Morwell Town Hall.

The function was arranged by the Morwell Players and Morwell Red Cross and CWA branches.

Mrs Rust was a dedicated member of these organisations.

Guests

Official guests included Shire President Cr. J. Vinall, and Mrs. Vinall, Morwell Red Cross branch president Mrs. A. Corbell, Maryvale High School Mothers' Club president Mrs C. Hutchinson and Morwell Players president Mr. P. Mooney.

Hostesses were Mesdames, M. Ryan, G, Dennis, P. Mooney and Miss Robin Hill.

In conjunction with the farewell was the first performance of Morwell Players' production, "The Irregular Verb to Love".

Mrs. Rust chose to produce the play for the recent opening of the Little Theatre in Traralgon.

A number of presentations were made to the couple.

Cr. Vinall presented Mrs Rust with a sheath of flowers on behalf of those present.

Mesdames Corbell and Hutchinson made presentations on behalf of their organisations.

A silver inscribed rose bowl was presented by Mr. Mooney on behalf of the Morwell Players.

Those present enjoyed a delicious supper provided by the host organisations.

Latrobe Valley Express

25th. January 1983

Quigley clan to gather

A QUIGLEY family reunion will be held at the Yinnar Recreation Reserve on Sunday, March 27th.

John Quigley was Morwell's first trader having established a store and public house on what is now known as the Centre Club Hotel,

John and his wife Bridget (nee Maher); together with their young family, came to Morwell from the goldfields of Ballarat, Steiglitz area in 1877. They journeyed in company with the Cahill and Keogh families.

After selling their Morwell business to Mr. E. Kelleher, the John Quigley family purchased farm land at Yinnar; then known as Scrubby Forest. In 1880 Mr. Quigley was made a JP.

The Quigleys had 11 children and eight of them married the sons or daughters of other selectors in this area.

The family reunion is expected to attract a large number of relatives and descendants and will commence at 9 am.

A welcome and registration will be followed by outdoor Mass on the Yinnar Football Oval.

Any enquiries should be directed to Des Bennett, phone (051) 681228.



Club Hotel photographed c. 1911

Morwell Advertiser

15th. May 1947

“Diggers” Farewell a Good Friend

Smoke Social to Mr. A. Rome



DIGGERS of both World Wars turned out in numbers last Saturday night to do honour in the form of a smoke social and presentation to Mr. Alan Rome before his departure to take over the duties of manager of the Bank of Australasia at Walwa. It was a fitting tribute of appreciation of work unstintingly done for servicemen over the war years and for ex-servicemen in the difficult adjustments following the transition from a war to peace footing. Mr. C. Findlay (vice-president of the Morwell sub-branch) presided in the unavoidable absence of the president, Mr. F. J. Jenkins.

Mr. Findlay said the object of the meeting was to say “good-bye” to Mr. Rome, who had been a good friend to the soldiers in the Morwell district. In his activities as secretary to the Shire Patriotic Fund, £8,000 devoted to the needs of men on war service, had passed through his hands. To both young and old diggers he had been both a friend and adviser, available to them at all times. Mr. Rome’s effort for sporting activities organised by the League were outstanding, and were far in excess of anything that could be expected of him in his official capacity.

In saying “farewell” to Mr. Rome, he tendered the congratulations of the Morwell diggers on well deserved promotion to the management of his bank at Walwa, and advised him that the thoughts and good wished of everyone would go with him.

Mr. B. Stanton said the Morwell Sub-branch did not feel disposed to let Mr. Rome go without a farewell function. Their guest was one of those “birds of passage” who were representatives of services that no town could do without. It was remarkable how many of these people offered their best services to the communities in which they lived, despite the fact that they did not own even a single brick in these towns.

There was a certain camaraderie among these officials which he trusted would be of considerable advantage to Mr. Rome in his new sphere of operations. He wished his guest, his wife and family the very best in life in the future.

Mr. Stan Thomas said that his estimate of Mr. Rome could be summed up in very few words. "One of Nature's Gentlemen" and he was sure one could walk the length and breadth of Victoria without meeting many of his equals. It gave him great pleasure to acknowledge the great personal services which he himself had received from Mr. Rome, and he wished him all the best for the future.

Mr. Alan Pryde expressed his regret for not having had the benefit of a longer acquaintance with Mr. Rome, but even in that short period he had been able to appreciate his work in Boolarra. He was also aware of the services rendered to the Morwell Sub-branch, for which he desired to express his thanks. In endorsing the remarks of the previous speakers he wished Mr. Rome and family the very best in the future.

Mr. W. E. Ferguson referred to the assistance he had received from Mr. Rome in the carrying out of his duties as treasurer in patriotic and league activities. It had been a great joy to have worked with him, and he trusted that Mr. Rome and his family would be very happy in their new environment.

Mr. A. Bell felt that he had had as much to do with Mr. Rome as anyone else in regard to patriotic funds, and particularly referred to the great success of the Shire Patriotic Fund. He wished him the best in his new appointment.

Mr. W. Barnett, representing North Hazelwood, said that Mr. Rome was unfortunately a bank official who had to move on in the course of his duties. He felt there would come a time when local people would appreciate the benefit obtained through the efforts of their guest.

In his association with Mr. Rome in the Shire Patriotic Fund, his happiest memories were of the smooth running of the administration. North Hazelwood appreciated his worth, yet he could not honestly say that he regretted the break since it meant a rise in status for Mr. Rome, "Your new friends will not appreciate you more than we do and all North Hazelwood trusts that you will be happy in your future life."

Cr. E. Penaluna said that Morwell was losing the best of its citizens. He had always been willing to give good advice, and had always been a particularly good friend to diggers. He had mixed feelings of both sorrow and pleasure at Mr. Rome's departure, and felt that the people of Walwa would be the gainers by Morwell's loss.

Mr. Hugh Evans, for the young diggers, said Mr. Rome's community work was an example for young members to live up to. It would not be long before the

people of Walwa discovered that they had the type of citizen whose worth had been so widely appreciated in Morwell.

Mr. C. H. B. Clifton for the banking community, and the Dads' Association congratulated Mr. Rome on his promotion in the banking service, and on the work done for soldiers, a "man's" job, for which he thanked him as representative of the Dads' Association.

Mr. G. J. Lawless said it was fitting in paying tribute to the community work of their guest, to remember the assistance unstintingly given him by his wife without whose help and co-operation it would not have been possible for Mr. Rome to have applied himself to his tasks and so successfully completed them. In the peak of the activities associated with the patriotic carnivals of the early war years, Mrs. Rome had held down the home front and enabled her husband to devote the time, energy and drive which made these shows major successes.

He asked Mr. Rome to convey to his wife the thanks of the members of the sub-branch for the part she had played in the many jobs well and truly done.

After brief expressions of regrets and good wishes by Messrs D. O'Callaghan, M. Thompson and I. Adams, the chairman, Mr. Findlay, presented the guest with a travelling rug as a memento and small token of the esteem in which he was held by the ex-servicemen of the district.

In reply, Mr. Rome said he desired firstly, to express his pleasure at the honour of being entertained by members of the R.S.L. To him it was a privilege to have worked with them and during the war years for service people generally. He had only done his duty as he had seen it, and that was the least he could have done. He thanked the various speakers for their appreciative remarks, which he felt, were not all deserved.

He was, however, particularly appreciative of the references made to his wife, without whose help and co-operation he could not have carried through with the jobs referred to by the speakers.

In conclusion, he thanked all most sincerely for the gift and the good wishes expressed for the future welfare of his wife and himself.

The evening was brightened by community singing conducted by Mr. N. Minor and items by members of the party.



Next Meeting:

Wednesday

19th. August at 2.30 p.m.

Same value
for money as
last year

Morwell Historical Society Inc.

Annual Subscription Rates:

Single: \$17.00

Family/Double: \$20.00

44 Buckley St. (next to T.A.B.)

Visitors are most welcome

We are open to the public on
Wednesdays from 11am to 2 pm

February to December

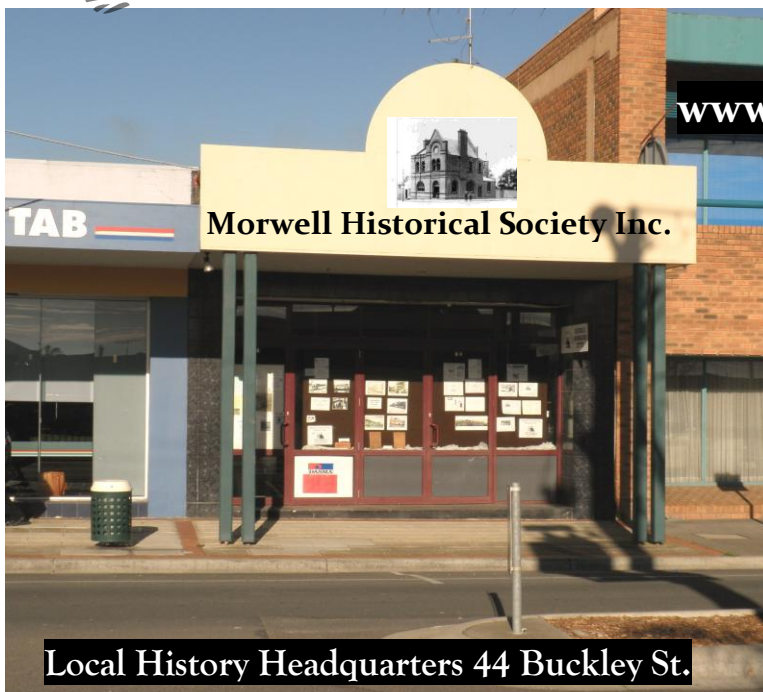
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