

The Morwell Post

Morwell Historical Society

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A BUMPER ISSUE - 4 MORE PAGES

The Maya Theatre in Buckley Street
Opened in June 1956 then became our first Village Twin
Showing then, "To Hell and Back" and "The Naked Dawn"



See page 6 for our Drive-In Theatre article

IN THIS ISSUE

Directory	Page 2	John Barton Hoyle 1860 - 1921	Page 10-11
President's Report	Page 3	Morwell State School Bell	Page 12
Our successful grants - Display Cases	Page 4-5	Edna Margaret Walling 1895 - 1973	Page 13
Drive In Theatres	Page 6-7	Sacred Heart Catholic Church and School	Page 14-15
Ernest Roy Faulkner 9.4.1914 - 21.2.2002	Page 8-9	Opening Times and Supporters	Page 16

Morwell Historical Society Directory 2022

President:	Alan McFarlane Phone: 0448 430 394
Vice-President:	Shirley Prosser
Secretary:	Florence Butcher
Assistant Secretary:	Elaine Andrijczak
Treasurer:	Peter Butcher
Committee Members:	Rosalie Davey Peter Gitsham Laurie Williams
Research Library:	12 Hazelwood Road, Morwell, Victoria 3840
Research Queries:	secretary@morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au
Public Access:	1st and 3rd Wednesday and last Sunday of each month, 11.00 a.m. – 2.00 p.m. Open - February to November
General meetings:	3rd Wednesday February to November – 2.00 pm
Annual General Meeting:	3rd Wednesday of March each year
Membership Fees:	Due 1st July each year Single Member - \$25.00 Family Membership -Family living at the same address includes children under 18 years old - \$30.00 Application Forms available on our web site for you to print and send. For a print copy of “ The Morwell Post ” - \$10.00 per annum
Editor:	email: morwellpost@morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au
Research Fees:	\$10.00 per hour or part thereof, and prices for photo prints on application and postage where applicable.
Facebook:	https://www.facebook.com/morwellhistoricalsociety
Postal Address:	12 Hazelwood Road, Morwell 3840 Victoria, Australia

Front page icon is of the old Post Office c1930 which was on the site of the now Commonwealth Bank, corner of Commercial Road and Tarwin Street.

All photos, unless indicated, are from our archives.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

FUNDRAISING

On 2nd July the Society made \$714 plus \$48 donations at Bunnings sausage BBQ. I thank Shirley Prosser for organising everything and Melinda Roberts, Peter Lendon, Laurie Williams, Rod Connelly, Ray Beebe, Orlando Bianconi, Carolyn Schopp and Fay Thompson for volunteering. As well as making money we are also promoting the Society. I enjoy my 2 ½ hours talking to people and keeping warm while cooking.

DONATIONS

- FROM ENGIE - 5 drawer cabinet, 10 drawer cabinet containing hundreds of photos, 24 framed photos and 2 framed watercolour paintings by June Riviere and Bob Pelchen
- Comb Binding Machine for A4 books
- Small box of bills and receipts from the 1940s to 1960s. This box is very useful as it tells us where the businesses were located. For example there was a Garden Nursery at Martin Grove in Morwell.
- Small book about the Opening of St Vincent's Church in 1881

GRANTS

2 display cases: a 'mushroom' style display cabinet and a Mannequin Glass Tower Display Cabinet including a Female Headless Mannequin with a Stand.

QUARANTINE SHED

Dave McInnes and Chris Roads have finished building the shed. These two members are much appreciated as they save us paying someone to do the work. Thank you

LETTER BOX

Our new letter box now stands proudly at No 12 Hazelwood Road. Thanks go to Chris Roads and Boyd Thompson, an experienced blacksmith, for all the work that went into its construction and erection.

VALE

Condolences to our members, Bronwyn and Rod Connolly on the death of our member Ken McFarlane (Bronwyn's father)

OUR DEBT

Thanks to Latrobe City Council, generous community members including Harriet Shing, our debt for our building is now \$81,000.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome Andrew Wrathall, Jos and Jen Claassens, John and Diane Penney and Susan Hateley

VOLUNTEERS

Any member who has some time available from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday or last Sunday of each month, is more than welcome to assist with open days. If you are able to assist, please let Shirley know, 0409 436 019.

Stay safe and keep well

Alan McFarlane President



Latrobe City Council Grant

The Historical Society was recently successful with its application to the Latrobe City Council's Community Grants Program for a Minor Equipment Grant for a 'mushroom' style display cabinet to the amount of \$1,593. The Society contributed \$200 towards the purchase of the display cabinet. The display cabinet is 950mm(h) x 900mm(w) x 900(d), glass to sides, top and back, has concealed internal strip lighting, 2 lockable glass sliding doors, a lockable storage base and hidden castors for mobility. This display cabinet presently has Masonic Lodge memorabilia on display.

The Society thanks the Latrobe City Council for this grant.



Australian Museums and Galleries Association (AMaGA) Grant

The Historical Society was recently successful with its application for a grant under the Culture, Heritage and Arts Regional Tourism (CHART) Program funded via the Australian Museums and Galleries Association (Australian Government) of \$3,000 towards a Mannequin Glass Tower Display Cabinet and a Female Headless Mannequin with a Stand. The Society contributed \$309.90 towards the purchase of this display cabinet. The cabinet is 2200mm(h) x 800mm(w) x 800(d), has 2 LED panels, glass to sides and back, a lockable glass hinged door, an elevated platform base 70mm(h), and hidden castors for mobility. This display cabinet presently displays a dress of the 1940s era.

The Society thanks the Australian and Museums Galleries Association for this grant.

Presented beside Alan McFarlane our President



DRIVE IN THEATRES

Morwell Panoramic Drive In was on 6.8 hectares (12 acres) at 105 Latrobe Road and could accommodate 430 cars. Built by the Houlahan family and local business interests, it opened on 29th August 1956 with Mr Frank James the Manager. It had one screen that was 80 x 30 feet. An unusual aspect of this Drive In was that you had your windscreen washed as you drove through the gates. To help visibility on wet evenings, chemicals were added to the wash to help keep the windscreen clear during the rain.

It employed 30 people and closed early 1970s.

The site was then used for the Morwell Sunday Market until it closed 12.6.2022



Both indoor and outdoor stalls created a truly friendly market atmosphere.

It is proposed a new housing estate called Panorama Estate will be developed on the site with 65 houses



The Ticket Booth at the Panoramic with entry either side

There was another Drive In theatre on the Princes Highway between Morwell and Traralgon which opened in 1965. The cafeteria was a very early version of the 'self-serve' style. One of its original projectionists in 1965, Ted Hogno, later (c1970) became the manager. It could accommodate 686 cars, had one screen and was operated by Village Drive In Pty Ltd. In the 1960s the Drive In often enjoyed 2 full houses per night. When VHS (Video Home System) came out in the mid 1970s, it was easier and cheaper to watch a video at home and by 1990 the audience was dropping off and the Village Drive In closed in May 1990. Latrobe Regional Hospital was built on the site, 11 Village Avenue and the Hospital opened in July 1991.

IN THE BEGINNING



CLOSE TO THE END



TOP: Aerial Survey by the S.E.C.
BOTTOM: Google Earth

ERNEST ROY FAULKNER 9.4.1914 - 21.2.2002

George Evan Faulkner 1892-1948 married Mynetta Jane Martin 1893-1960 George and Myetta had 3 children

Ernest Roy 9.4.1914 - 21.2.2002

Frederick Ian 18.3.1916 - 9.4.1989

Laurice Jean (Tup) 1919 - 17.4.1936

Roy was born at Yarragon and when he left school he worked in Williams Grocery in Yarragon for awhile and then went to Melbourne where he worked in a slaughter house. While in Melbourne, on 22nd July 1939, he married Elva Watson in the Morwell Presbyterian Church. Elva was a Morwell girl, whom he had met at a dance in Morwell. George and Mary Watson had nine children and Elva was the seventh. In 1940 Roy and Elva came to Morwell and lived with Elva's parents, George and Mary Watson. Roy worked at Purvis's in Sale for a few months then Purvis's at 210 Commercial Road for 11 years. In 1941 Roy and Elva moved to their house at 2 Joy Street. At this stage they had a daughter Lynette.

In 1943 Roy joined the Air Force and as he was stationed at Townsville, Elva and Lynette went back to live with Elva's mother. Roy was discharged from the Air Force in 1946 and in 1948 they moved back to their house in 2 Joy Street where Ann was born.

Roy initially worked at the SEC for about 2 years, 1951-1953 then he went to Yinnar to work in partnership with Arthur and Ellis Vinning of Vinning Brothers General Store in Yinnar and they moved to Yinnar to live. This move only lasted a few months and when they returned to Morwell in 1953 Roy rented 2 shops from Eric Gude, in Church Street. This is an interesting photo as it was taken inside the shop and across Church Street, on the east side, there were houses. Faulkner had the first Self Service Grocers shop in Morwell. This shop opened on 23 December 1953 and closed in 1970.



Elva Faulkner on the cash register and the girl is her daughter Ann, who was about 4 years old
The customer is Mrs Ross from Papyrus Street

In 1959 Roy Faulkner bought David Mills business at 196-198 Commercial Road from Inverness Investments, the descendants of David and Annie Donaldson, who owned the shop on the corner for nearly 70 years, as they owned the first store on that corner in the early 1880s. He bought it in the names of his daughters Lyn, Ann and Murray. (Murray French is Lyn's husband).

In 1979 the corner shop, No 198 was a liquor shop and No 196 was a delicatessen.

In 1986 the two shops were demolished and then rebuilt into four shops. The Liquor store moved to 206 Commercial Road. Nos. 202-204 Commercial Road became *F & G Hardware* (Faulkner and Gaunt). In 1984 Roy Faulkner bought out Gaunt. Then in February 1991, Nos. 202-204 became *House & Gift* (owner Ann Faulkner).



These 2 shops, which included 3 numbers, 202-204 and 206 were sold 12 April 2013 to Rayburn.

In 1954 work started on the 100 foot high water tower which had a 200,000 gallon tank that was filled from Buckley's Hill Reservoir and was pumped along Vincent Road.

This tower was to give adequate water pressure to the residences on the higher reaches of Morwell. It opened in 1955. This tower was built on John Watts' property and when he moved to Melbourne in 1964 Roy Faulkner and Alan Grieve bought the property and turned the house into *Golden Hill Restaurant*.

This popular Morwell venue was the place for many functions including Saturday night dances. They sold it to Gray Douglas who sold it to Marj Leighton. It was demolished and now homes are built on the site.

Golden Hill Restaurant
Smtt V/L Gray V. Douglas Doninee



Source –Lynette French nee Faulkner

JOHN BARTON HOYLE 1860 - 1921

John Barton Hoyle was born in Beechworth in 1860, the son of Thomas and Mary Anne (nee Barton) Hoyle who worked in the mining industry. In 1889 John married Mary Powell and in 1890 they came to Morwell. Their only child, Rose Catherine was born in 1891. Sometime later he entered into business in Morwell as a land and general commission agent and eventually became a sworn valuator where his services were in great demand. In addition to valuing properties for money lenders, insurance companies and others, he also acted for the Government in connection with land tax valuations on other occasions and was regarded as one of the best land valuers in Gippsland. While being a successful business man he also gave a lot of his time to many organisations in the town.



John Hoyle at some stage of his 31 years in Morwell belonged to the following organisations

- Correspondent of the local School Board of Advice and subsequently Chairman of the School Board
- Committee member of the Mechanics Institute
- Secretary of the MUIOOF (Odd Fellows) Lodge
- Grand Master of the Sale District MUIOOF (see image)
- Member of ANA (Australian Natives Association)
- Member of the Free Masons and was a Post Grand of the Morwell Lodge No 202
- Secretary of Morwell Brown Coal Development Association
- Took a keen interest in local sport
- Secretary and President of the Morwell Football Club
- Secretary of Morwell Turf Club
- Secretary St Patrick's Race Club
- Captain of Morwell Rifle Club
- Member of Morwell Bowling Club
- Staunch supporter of the Liberal and National parties
- Local Secretary of the Hon. GH Wise MHR (Post Master General)
- Local Secretary of the Hon. Thos. Livingston MLA (Assistant Minister for Agriculture)
- Secretary of the local Repatriation Committee
- Secretary of Morwell Patriotic Committee

In fact there was scarcely a club or institution in Morwell in which "J.B.", as he was familiarly known, was not associated and what's more he always put his heart and soul into everything in which he was connected and did his part in carrying things to a successful conclusion. During WW1 Hoyle took a leading part in "send offs" and "welcomes home" to the boys of the district who went to the Front.

He played a prominent part in the movement for the erection of the Soldiers Memorial in Commercial Road, Morwell and as Secretary did practically all the work in connection with the matter. Ill health, on his part, delayed the completion of his task for some considerable time but eventually the memorial was erected and arrangements completed for the unveiling ceremony. Mr Hoyle had suffered from bronchial asthma and a heart attack as he grew older and a few hours before the unveiling of the Soldiers War Memorial in June 1921, he had another heart attack and was unable to attend the function and unfortunately died without seeing the unveiling.

His death was a big loss to Morwell and District and on the day of his funeral all the flags in the town flew at half mast. He left behind his wife Mary and Rose their daughter. In April 1922, Rose married William Shaw of North Hazelwood.

When you walk south through the Subway and see the 3 palm trees beside the toilet block, think again of "J.B." as this was the triangle where the Soldiers War Memorial was erected in 1921. The palm trees are now standing in Legacy Place.

When you go down Hoyle Street give a little thought to "J.B." the man who missed out on unveiling the Soldiers War Memorial.



When the Soldiers War Memorial was initially erected, there were no palm trees, granite fence posts or chain fence. The fence was erected in 1931.

In December 1969 it was moved to a site on the Princes Highway between the railway line and the south end of Hoyle Street.



In June 1990 the granite memorial was moved again to its present site at the intersection of Tarwin and Elgin Streets beside the RSL.

Before the dawn service April 25th 1995
Photo taken by Bill Meinhardt



Sources: "Crossing the Bar" - Stephen Hellings
Other sources in our collection

MORWELL STATE SCHOOL BELL

On Tuesday morning when the scholars arrived they were assembled by the Head Teacher Mr Garlic who welcomed them back to school and said that they now had a bell. He hoped that there would be no late comers and called on the Rev P Ackland, Secretary of the School Committee, to address the scholars. The Reverend gentleman spoke of the alarming clang of the fire bell, the call to worship of the church bells and the welcome summons of the dinner bell. This bell which began its mission in life as a ship's bell in the olden days and afterwards owned by the late Samuel Vary and used as a cow bell on his farm and later this bell was presented to the school by Miss Vary, Samuel's daughter.

Mr J Rintoull donated the fittings for the bell to be erected. Mr Trembath donated the welding of same and Mr Foster attached the bell by the fittings to the stand that had been made by Messrs Ackland, Bavington and Jordan. Mr Ackland then thanked the donor and called upon Miss Vary to ring the bell, which she did, while the scholars applauded and afterwards cheered her.

So the ceremony passed into history and the bell entered into another term of usefulness.

Morwell Advertiser 5th Feb 1942 p 1



The Society has this heavy brass bell on display in our rooms

EDNA MARGARET WALLING 1895 -1973

Edna Walling was born in 1895 in Yorkshire, England and at the age of 14, 1909, she immigrated to New Zealand with her parents William and Margaret Walling and her sister Doris. In 1914 the family moved to Melbourne. Edna studied horticulture at Burnley College and she commenced her own landscape practice in 1920.

In the 1920s, as Australia's first woman land developer, Walling began to develop a village at Mooroolbark on the outskirts of Melbourne called Bickleigh Vale Village. A gently curving unsealed road wanders amongst the trees. With its unique collection of charming houses and gardens is one of her most acclaimed achievements. This village is still as Edna designed it and it is recognised by the National Trust. Edna died in Buderim in Queensland in 1973.

Edna Walling planned hundreds of gardens in Victoria and NSW and Morwell has one in Church Street.

La Mode opened in 1945 with the grounds designed by Edna Walling. (photo late 1950s). This property, with a "Place of Significance" listing, means that, in order to conserve the heritage significance of significant trees, one of its policies is to: "... Encourage regular maintenance of significant trees including monitoring of conditions, pruning, pest control and disease".

Miss Edna Walling, a well-known landscape artist, is responsible for the planting of the grounds, with the aid of the State Forestry Commission, and 3000 trees of different varieties have been planted.



From the *Morwell Advertiser* 11 July 1945 p5



Source: *The Unusual Life of Edna Walling* by Sara Hardy
Story of Progress -Morwell 1955-1958

Latrobe City Heritage Study Volume 3: Heritage place & precinct citations

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL

From 1877-1881 mass was offered first in the home of Phillip Keegan on the Hazelwood Track, then in the dining room of Kelleher's Hotel and Fitzgerald's Hotel and then Murdoch's Hotel. Edmund Kelleher, Timothy O'Connor and Edward Crinigan bought three adjoining allotments in George Street (now Coles car park) and the first Sacred Heart Church was built there and dedicated in December 1881. The little weatherboard church was also used as a school which opened in 1884.

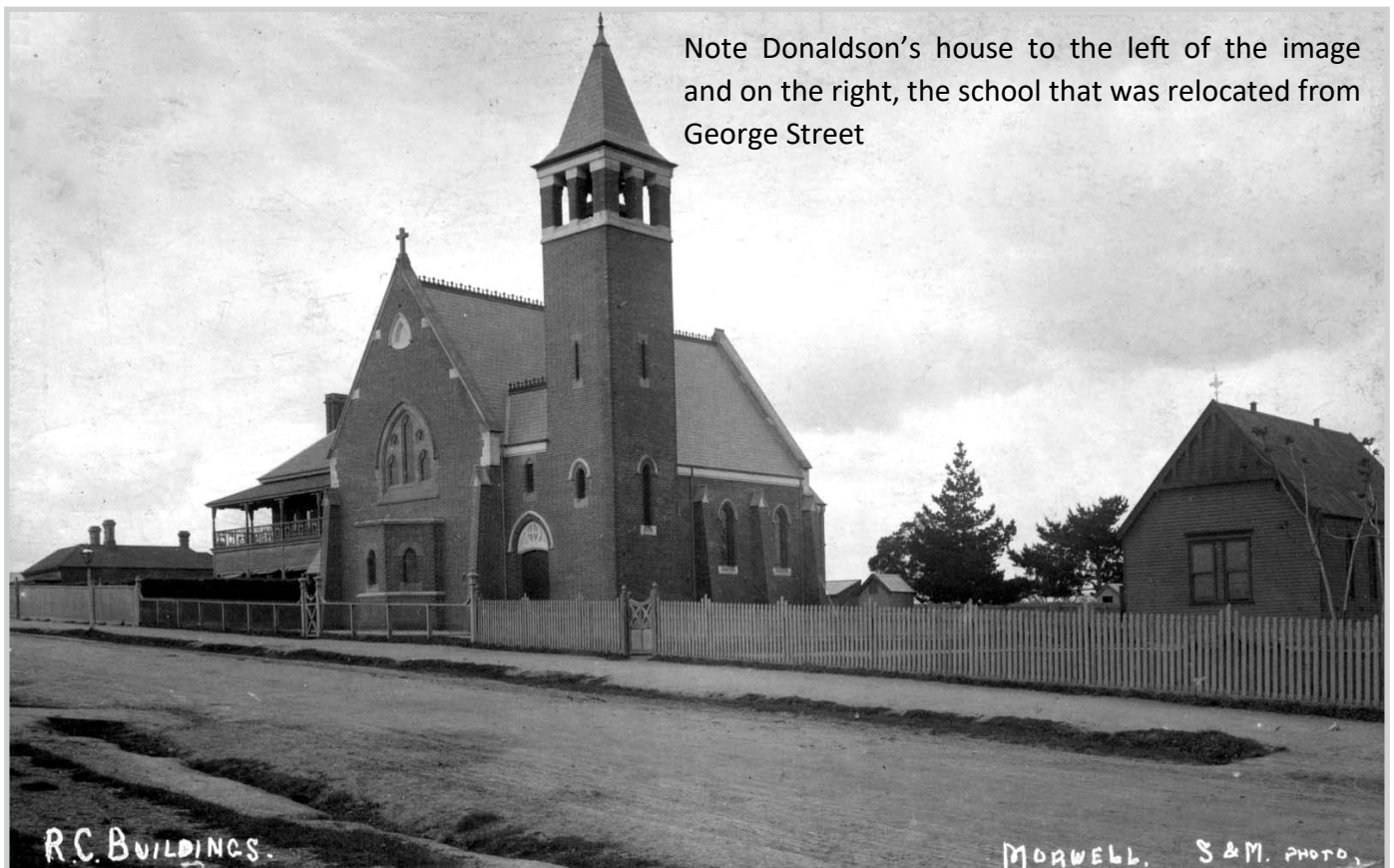
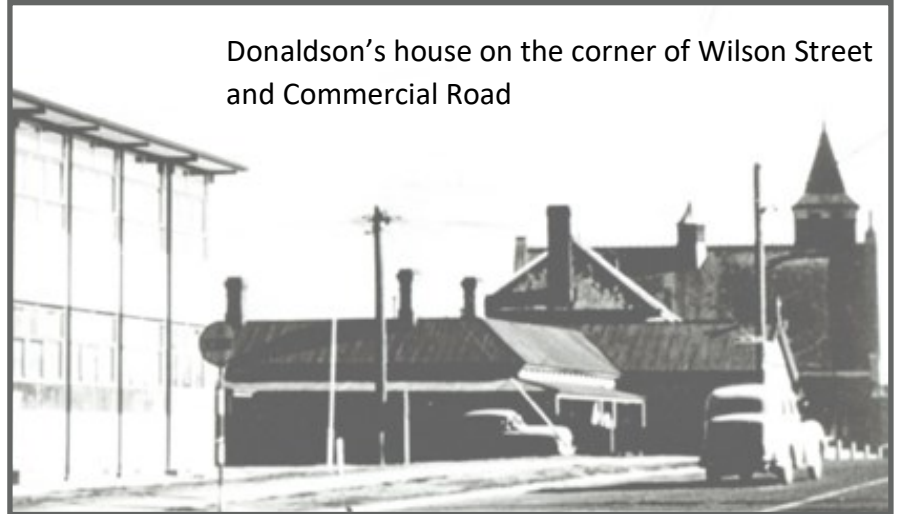
In 1902 John Hall built an early English Gothic church and the 75 foot bell tower in Commercial Road.

Beside the Presbytery is Donaldson's house on the corner of Commercial Road and Wilson Street which the church bought in 1906 and it was renovated to become the convent for the St Joseph Sisters. Today this site is a car park. The George Street building was moved to Commercial Road on the west side of the church. In 1927 the present school site was purchased and a new school was built there in 1933. The present 2 storied school was built in 1961.

The 2nd church and bell tower were demolished in late 1969 and a new church was built.

Source - *A Souvenir of History of Morwell* - I. T. Maddern p 67-68

Morwell's Sacred Heart - Jack Vines





The first Sacred Heart Church in George Street.



The bell tower topples

The Gippsland Times Friday 9th. December 1881 (page 3 col 3)

The following article was gleaned from the round up of local news items:

On Sunday, 18th inst., the new Roman Catholic Church at Morwell will be opened by His Grace the Archbishop. This is the first Church of any kind which has been erected in this rising township.

It is, like almost all other buildings in South Gippsland, built of wood – stone, or even brick, being unknown luxuries in the district – and from its many gables, surmounted with the sacred emblem, forms quite a feature in the pleasant little township.

The main chapel is thirty-five feet long and twenty-five feet broad, having high walls and sloping roof, well framed with two principal rafters of a new and ingenious construction by which joists are dispensed with, thus allowing the full height of the roof to be unobstructed. This is lighted by six Gothic painted windows.

The building was designed by and built under the superintendence of Mr James Campbell, of Traralgon, by Messrs Fidler Bros., contractors, of Sale.

The interior has not yet been supplied with seats, so that the committee will have to exercise their ingenuity to accommodate the large congregation which will doubtless assemble at the opening of the church on the 18th inst. – Independent.



OPEN DAYS 2022

Please check the current Covid-19 restrictions before attending.

2nd February || 16th February
2nd March || 16th March; AGM || 27th March
6th April || 20th April || 24th April
4th May || 18th May || 29th May
1st June || 15th June || 26th June
6th July || 20th July || 31st July
3rd August || 17th August || 28th August
7th September || 21st September || 25th September
5th October || 19 October || 30th October
2nd November || 16th November || 27 November

Please deliver me to:

If not delivered please return to 12 Hazelwood Road, Morwell 3840

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Morwell Neighbourhood House

We sincerely thank Harriet Shing, Member for Eastern Victoria and staff for printing our Newsletter