

Morwell Historical Society Inc.

www.morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au

c. 1903



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Please address all correspondence to the Secretary

Items for publication in the
"Post" are always welcome;
please forward your
contributions to the above
address

The "official" organ of the Morwell Historical Society Inc.
Published every two months: February to December

Do you remember when it used to look like this?



Near corner of Tarwin & George Streets

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Historical Society 'Open Day'

Sunday, 30th. October 2011

To mark the culmination of 'History Week' the Society threw open its doors at 44 Buckley Street and invited the general public to participate in an 'Open Day'.

We centred our displays on memorabilia and records from the ex Collins Street Primary School.

As usual this display proved extremely popular with our visitors. Many ex students, parents, and staff spent some happy hours wandering 'down memory lane'. Several albums of class photographs were incorporated into the display and visitors very kindly identified and recorded many 'missing' names.

We also featured a display commemorating the 90th Anniversary of the unveiling of the Morwell Soldiers' Memorial. This display also drew its fair share of public interest. Several people were seen to be carefully perusing the material on offer.

The third of our major displays depicted the 75th Anniversary of the official opening of the Town Hall building at the corner of Hazelwood and Commercial Roads.

The "Latrobe Valley Express" published an article on the 'Town Hall' in the edition dated: 27th October, in which they also very kindly advertised our opening to the public.

The 'Open Day' which was very well attended (approx. 60 people) ran from 10am until 2.30 pm and all visitors seemed to enjoy our many and varied offerings.

Numerous and sometimes difficult questions were being asked, but the Society members who were present on the day acquitted themselves brilliantly and did the Society proud.

We had to drop subtle hints and ring the bell to get some people to go home at the end of the day!

The Society received offers of photographs and other forms of memorabilia, and many interesting pieces of information also came our way. The contents of the donation box should keep the Treasurer happy.

All in all it was a very successful day; we were especially pleased to see some of the students from Commercial Road Primary School in attendance seeking further information for their projects on Morwell history.

We will definitely have to hold more open days in the future.

I would be most interested to receive your views and opinions on this matter, please feel free to let me know. S.H.



Open Day at 44 Buckley Street

Morwell Historical Society Vice-President and Curator Mr. Bruce McMaster discussing historical matters whilst sitting in the Shire of Morwell Presidential chair.



Morwell Fire Brigade

The following information on the fire station in Church Street was kindly supplied by Society member: *Betty Woolley*.

"Just thought I would send a very small memory regarding Morwell Fire Station which was built in 1953.

Our family (Stan, Norma and children Ann & Betty **Winchester**) lived in a rented home at number 19 Church Street, opposite vacant land which was eventually acquired to build a new Fire Station and accommodation in 1953. We watched with interest as the new building took shape over time. My mother Norma provided boiling water on work days, for hot drinks at 'smoko' and lunch times for the construction workers building the new Fire Station. When building was completed the workmen gave her a large box of chocolates in thanks for her contribution.

I cannot recall if she also provided food, but that may have been something my mother would have done. When my father was employing builders (he built many homes etc. in Morwell & surrounds until 1956) she always provided them with morning tea if they were working undercover in our large garage on wet days.

One of the men who would come to collect a billy of hot water was a Scotsman named (George?) Dickson who had a daughter (Helen?) who in later years taught at Collins Street Primary School.

I remember **Harold McDonald** and his wife moving into one of the attached homes.

Around the time of the opening of the Fire Station we moved to 6 June Street to our own home.

Whenever my sister and I walked to St. Mary's Church to attend Sunday School the volunteer firemen would be practising running out hose & reel, racing up ladder with a hose to hit a target etc. along Buckley Street. All very fit young men training for competition against other Brigades and also to enhance their fire fighting skills.

The siren was regularly tested each Sunday around midday."

Regards,
Betty Woolley.



Station Officer Harold McDonald



Church Street April 2000



Photographs: Morwell Historical Society archives.
The engine shed at left was removed from the site in October 2004. The rest of the site was cleared in October/November 2008

From our Prominent Citizens File:

Mr. Stanley G. Winchester

- Inaugural member of Morwell Rotary Club, 1946.
- Member of Morwell Chamber of Commerce, 1946.
- Assisted with construction of St. Mary's Community Centre in 1947
- Committee Member, Morwell Agricultural and Pastoral Society, 1948-1949.
- Member of Executive Committee, Morwell Chamber of Commerce, 1948, 1952-1953.
- President Morwell Rotary Club 1951-1952.
- Inaugural President Good Neighbour Council 1952
- Built St. Philip's Church of England at Morwell East 1953
- Secretary Morwell Rotary Club 1959-1960, 1960-1961.
- President, Morwell and District Community Hospital, 1964-
- Life Governorship of Morwell and District Community Hospital, 1981.
- Passed away on September 13th. 1983.



The 'Charter' members of Morwell Rotary photographed in 1946 outside the Masonic Temple in Hazelwood Road. (Mr Winchester is indicated by arrow.)

Morwell Advertiser and Gazette

8th August 1935

Wedding



WINCHESTER – BENN



A very pretty wedding was solemnised by the Rev. L. W. A. Benn, in St. Mary's church, Morwell, on Saturday last; the contracting parties being Mr Stan Winchester, of Burwood, and Miss Norma Benn, fifth daughter of Mr and Mrs W. S. Benn, of Hawthorn.

The bride looked very winsome as she entered the church with her father, as the congregation sang, "The Voice that Breathed O'er Eden." She was becomingly frocked periwinkle blue silk with hat and shoes to match, and carried a dainty shower bouquet of carnations, daphne, camellias and sweet peas. Her sister, Miss Hope Benn, accompanied her, as bridesmaid, gowned in pale blue silk, with hat and shoes to tone, and carried a shower bouquet similar to the bride's.

The best man was Mr J. Porteus, of Maryborough.

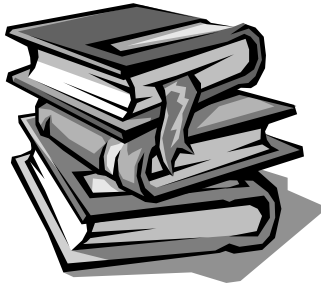
Madame Morgan played selections on the organ during the signing of the register, and Mendelssohn's "Wedding March" as the bridal pair left the church, which was tastefully decorated with greenery and white flowers, by Miss A. M. Clark, who also made the bridal bouquets.

The wedding breakfast was laid at Mr Wilson's café, where the usual felicitous toasts were duly honored. A handsome wedding cake adorned the bride's table.

Later the happy couple left by car for Melbourne amid showers of congratulations and confetti. Their future home will be at Burwood.

It is of interest to note that Mr Benn, who on this occasion gave his daughter away, was himself married in St. Mary's, 42 years ago, by Archdeacon Langley, of Rosedale – afterwards Bishop of Bendigo. It was a very hot day and Mr Benn and his bride rode on horseback from Dumbalk, a distance of 36 miles.





Morwell – Facts, Figures & Dates

Purvis Stores Supermarket - Buckley Street

The Purvis organization opened a Supermarket in Buckley Street on Thursday May 29th. 1958.

In July 1957 the architects for the project Smith, Tracey, Lyon & Brock announced that a tender for the construction of the supermarket had been accepted from Mr. **R. J. Ireland**, Gibson Street Trafalgar. The cost of the successful tender being £ 27, 006.

The building measured eighty-seven feet by one hundred and thirty- seven feet. Off-street parking was provided for one hundred vehicles.

There was much activity on the day of the official opening, activity which included a helicopter landing in the car-park!!

The first Manager of the Supermarket was Mr. **Jack Francis**. Other staff members at the time were: **Bill O'Brien, Jim Johnson, Roy Woods, Ken** and **Bob Watts**.



Photograph: "Purvis for Survis"



"Lurgi" Gas Plant - 1956

The Morwell Gas Plant which cost £ 10 million to construct was officially opened by the Duke of Edinburgh at 12.35 p.m. on Monday 5th. December 1956. During the official proceedings the Duke stated that:

"This is a memorable day, and I am sure that gas engineers all over the world will join me in wishing this development and all who are responsible for it every success."

The facility was located on Morwell's eastern outskirts and ceased production in November 1969 due to natural gas discoveries in Bass Strait. The plant lay derelict for several years before being demolished in the early to mid 2000's.

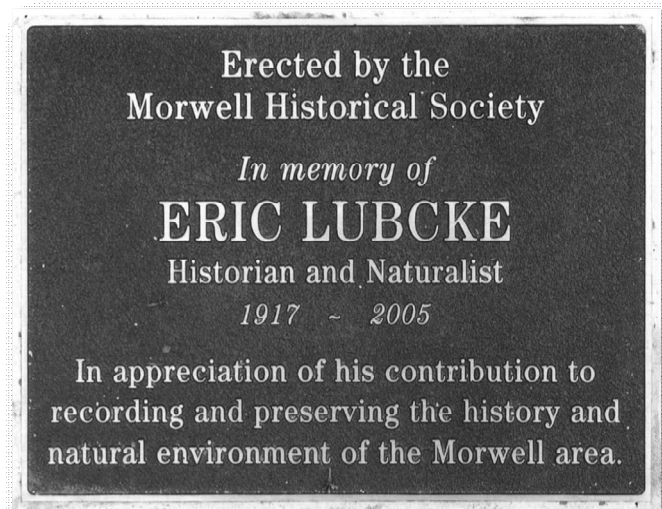
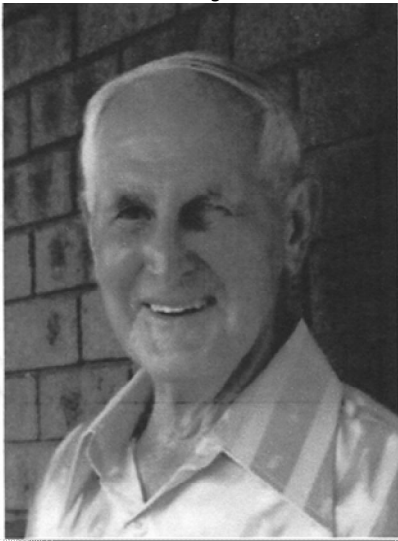


H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh officially opening the "Lurgi" gas plant, December 1956

It Happened in December!

(A random selection of events that took place during the month of December)

- The St. Vincent's Catholic Church building in Morwell East was officially opened on 19th December 1971.
- Faulkner's Self-Service Grocery was established in Church Street on 21st December 1953.
- Turner's Hardware opened in Buckley Street on 8th December 1955.
- Construction of the Hazelwood Power Station began in October 1959. The final unit was commissioned in December 1970.
- The *Eric Lubcke* Memorial Seat which is situated in Maryvale Crescent was unveiled on Sunday 9th December 2007. (It was a beautiful day).



- The Morwell briquette plant commenced production on 8th December 1959.
- The Morwell Public Library in Hazelwood Road was closed on Saturday 7th December 2002. The library was re-located to Elgin Street (Happy Days!) to allow the construction of the Justice Precinct.
- Collins Street Primary School (No.4655) operated from 30th April 1951 until 18th December 1992.
- Mr. *Don McKay* surrendered the licence of the Cricketer's Arms Hotel on 31st December 1930. The Hotel was demolished in August 1932.
- Hazelwood Ridge Primary School No.1768 closed in December 1944.
- Derham's Hill school (4684) was opened on 14th December 1951. It closed on 4th October 1954.
- The A.N.Z. Bank opened its new building in Commercial Road on 8th December 1958.
- The Club Hotel in Commercial Road opened for business in December 1886.
- Lawree Home Made Cakes established in Church Street on 21st December 1953.

ERIC LUBCKE –

Unveiling of Memorial Plaque – Sunday 9th December 2007

Address delivered by Leonie Pryde
(President Morwell Historical Society Inc.)

Firstly, I would like to welcome you all here today, with a special welcome to Eric's family – his wife June, brother Len, sister Janet and the other family members who have come to help us dedicate this seat.

Eric was an active and enthusiastic member of Morwell Historical Society for many years – he and June were Life Members - and he was President for four-and-a-half years, but he was also a member of a number of other local community groups and he put a great deal of time and energy into all of them.

Eric was born in Morwell where his parents had a delivery service, using horses.

They moved to a farm in Driffield and Eric started school at Commercial Road, travelling in each day by jinker with the neighbouring Bond children. Later, they moved to Morwell North where Eric's father worked with horses at Brown Coal Mine (now Yallourn North), then back into Morwell.

On leaving school in 1931, Eric worked on local farms for a few years, then became a Herd Tester – he was Secretary of the Herd Testing Association for 18 years, and a Life Member.

When war came, Eric, blind in one eye from a childhood injury, was rejected from active service but joined the Army Reserve and served at the Yallourn North Anti-Aircraft Battery before taking a job at the Nestles Milk Factory in Yinnar.

After about two years he took up farming at Hazelwood and became involved in a number of farming groups – a Farmers' Discussion group (which he started), the Herd Testing Group, the Artificial Breeding Group, to name a few – then, after about ten years farming, he returned to work for Nestles as Field Officer, finally moving to Moe Co-op as Field Officer, before retiring.

Eric had a great love of nature. He was responsible for the propagation and planting of the native trees at Morwell Golf Course, was a foundation member of the Friends of the Rose Garden and he represented the Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists Club on the Committee of Management of Crinigan Road Reserve for about twelve years.

He was asked by Morwell Council to propagate some Yarraensis eucalypts and he spent a lot of his spare time for ten years in collecting the seed, planting and caring for the lovely Yarra gum plantation, named in his honour, which you see at the end of this park.

Eric was also a great supporter of the Presbyterian Church and took part in many of its activities, including 'Dad's Army,' and the Annual Church Fetes, for which he grew literally thousands of tomato plants over the years.

As I mentioned earlier, Eric was a Life Member of Morwell Historical Society and it was his interest in photography and his wide knowledge of local families and local history which is largely responsible for the excellent photographic collection now held by the Society.

Our Historical Society in particular, and Morwell in general, owe Eric a great deal and it is with much pleasure that I dedicate this seat to his memory, and I ask June to come and unveil the plaque.

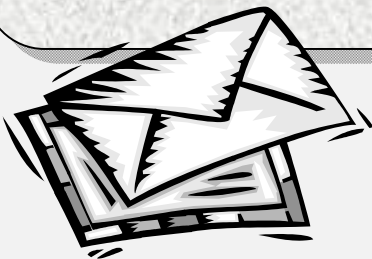
Information Page:

Please note that the next meeting will
be on 15th. February 2012 at 2.00 p.m.
At 44 Buckley Street

Membership Fees:
Per Annum
\$20.00 per Member
(Payable March each year)

*I would like to wish everyone the compliments of the season and a very
prosperous and Happy New Year.
See you all in 2012.*

Please deliver me to:



Thank You

I would like to give a very big thank you to the following people:

Eddie Beulke for allowing the publication of his very interesting articles on his early
life in Morwell.

Elsie & Bruce McMaster for their invaluable assistance with printing, preparation &
delivery.

Florence Butcher for her archiving and cataloguing.

Everyone who throughout the year provided helpful & constructive feedback.

Editor.