

The Morwell Post



Morwell Historical Society

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POYNTER Family Picnic



See page 4

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Morwell Historical Society Directory 2019

President:	Bruce McMaster Phone: 0428 528 464
Vice-President:	John Willis
Secretary:	Florence Butcher
Assistant Secretary:	Elaine Andrijczak
Treasurer:	Carolyn Schopp
Committee Members:	Kellie Bertrand Rosalie Davey Shirley Prosser
Research Library:	12 Hazelwood Road, Morwell, Victoria 3840
Research Queries:	research@morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au
Public Access:	1st and 3rd Wednesday and last Sunday of each month, 11.00 a.m. – 2.00 p.m. Not open - December & January
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 Ordinary Member \$25.00 Couple – at same address \$30.00 Dependants – at same address \$5 each 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

Last October we successfully received two grants from the Latrobe City Council. One grant of \$5,000 for Minor Capital Works was for blinds for all the 11 windows. These blinds are now up and when we project photos they are much clearer with the blinds down. The remaining money will go towards inspecting and partial upgrading of electrical wiring. The second grant was the Community Development Grant. This was for three items, one for a large Magnetic White Board on castors, another was for a Public Address system to use for group meetings and when we go on excursions, and thirdly, material to cover eight display boards including castors to easily move the boards around. This covering and the adding of castors to the display boards will progress as and when Chris, Elaine and Fay have the time. We sincerely thank the Latrobe City Council for their generous grants.

During Seniors Week on Tuesday 9th October, we manned a promotional table at Kernot Hall. I would like to thank Dianne, Gaye and Fay for giving up their day to promote our organisation. On Sunday 20th October we had a "Sausage Sizzle" fund raiser at Bunnings. I would also like to thank our volunteers who worked on the day –Elaine, Dave, Melinda, Rosalie, Gaye, Boyd and Fay. We made a grand total of \$650 and sold 340 sausages.

Since we purchased the building, five years ago, we have been progressively working on levelling the floor. Last week we finished the last area of the raised flooring and now the floor is much safer because there are no steps. We still have \$150,000 to pay off the building and have decided to have a Garage Sale on Saturday 29th February 2020 from 8.00am until 3pm. A sausage sizzle and tea/coffee will be available.

If any members have goods that they wish to donate to the society to sell in the sale, please drop them off on Saturday 22nd February 8.30am to 3pm at the rooms. PLEASE, NO CLOTHING For further information or if you can assist on the day, please contact me on 0428 528 464 or Chris on 0400 043 423.

On Sunday 9th February, from 12pm to 4pm, we are having a special day for those who worked at L M Ericsson to come along to us for a reunion and to bring in their photos. As we have no photos or memorabilia of the time, we hope to scan their photos and memorabilia to add to our collection and return them to their owners. When La Mode closed in 1965 the Morwell Shire Council bought their factory in Church Street and leased it in 1967 to L M Ericsson Pty Ltd makers of components for telephone switch systems. During the peak of operations in the early 1970s the factory employed 700 staff. This factory closed in 1988.

For catering purposes would any former Ericsson staff and employees who intend to come please register your attendance by phoning Elaine 0438 631 460 or Shirley 0409 436 019.

The very successful and popular Aviation Display closed on 24th November after being up for three months. We had many very interested visitors from all over Gippsland and Melbourne and even some from the west of Melbourne. I would like to congratulate John Willis on a very thorough, informative and professional display.

Many members dressed up in their "glad rags" and celebrated the end of the year with dinner at the Morwell Bowling Club on Sunday 24th November. It was a good to socialise and enjoy a meal together. I would like to thank all our hard working volunteers. Without you we could not exist. Next year the first open day is Wednesday 5th February from 11am until 2pm. Assistance with manning the room on Open Days is always welcome and provides members with the opportunity to progressively familiarise themselves with the material held by the Society and how to access our records. If you are unsure, just drop in to see how it all works. A member who knows how to access the records will always be there to assist.

I wish all our members seasonal greetings, a very happy Christmas and a healthy 2020.

Bruce McMaster
PRESIDENT

EDWIN (Ted) POYNTER - Morwell Chemist

Ted Poynter was born in Collingwood in 1878 and in 1911 Ted had his own Chemist shop in Berwick and that is where he met Mabel Davy. In 1914 they married and by 1916 Ted and Mabel had 2 children. Early in 1917 Ted sold his Berwick shop and for a few months he managed a chemist shop in South Melbourne before they came to Morwell and Ted became the Manager of Herbert Henry Browne's pharmacy at 114 Commercial Road in Morwell. Brown had enlisted and it was agreed that Ted would manage the shop until three months after Brown was discharged from the army.



On their arrival in Morwell, Ted and Mabel and their 2 children first occupied a rented house on the Princes Highway. Later the family moved into rooms above the Chemist shop. However finding them inconvenient Ted purchased 3 vacant blocks on land on the corner of Ann Street and Maryvale Crescent and had a small weatherboard Californian Bungalow built on them by Leischman Bros. Access to the home was from Maryvale Crescent and the southern portion of the 3 blocks was used for an orchard, vegetable garden, fowl run and a few hives of Italian bees. It was a time of great excitement in later years for the children, when "old" Jim Bridle arrived on bicycle with his apiarist gear to rob the hives and extract the honey with his centrifuge.

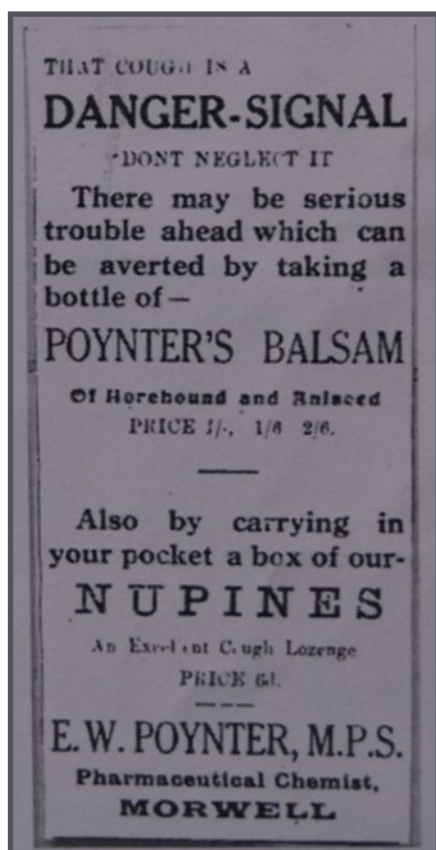
When in 1919 Mr Brown returned from the army and offered to sell the business and freehold of the Chemist shop, Ted Poynter, recognising the opportunities for business which would follow the imminent industrialisation of the area, was glad to make his offer and have it accepted.

Under the Contract dated 7.10.1919 Ted Poynter bought from HH Brown, the business and freehold of the Morwell Chemist shop, and the freehold of the adjoining jewellers shop, for £1300, being £730 for the land and buildings comprising of the two brick shops with footage of 29 feet to Commercial Road and right of way through to George Street, and £570 for stock, fittings and goodwill.

Ted used the rooms above the shop to develop two adjuncts to the pharmacy – photography and optometry and under his progressive management the business flourished. His efforts to attract custom included making arrangements with the various Friendly Societies in the area. Trade in patent medicines and a considerable prescription business was supplemented by cosmetic and veterinary lines and returns from the Chemist shop were supplemented by rent, firstly from the adjoining jewellers shop and later from the residential rooms above the shops.

A line of cough mixture was made in bulk, and after bottling, was labelled with a picture of an academic pointing to a blackboard displaying the name "Poynter's Pectoral Balsam".

In 1921 Ted obtained the first lease of the pharmacy in the Yallourn Medical Society's new building in the Town Centre at Yallourn. He was to provide a free prescription service to Society members for 1/3rd of members' subscriptions. A good trade in patent medicines and other lines was also in prospect as the town developed. He employed Miss Eileen Rose as a dispenser to handle the heavy prescription work load.

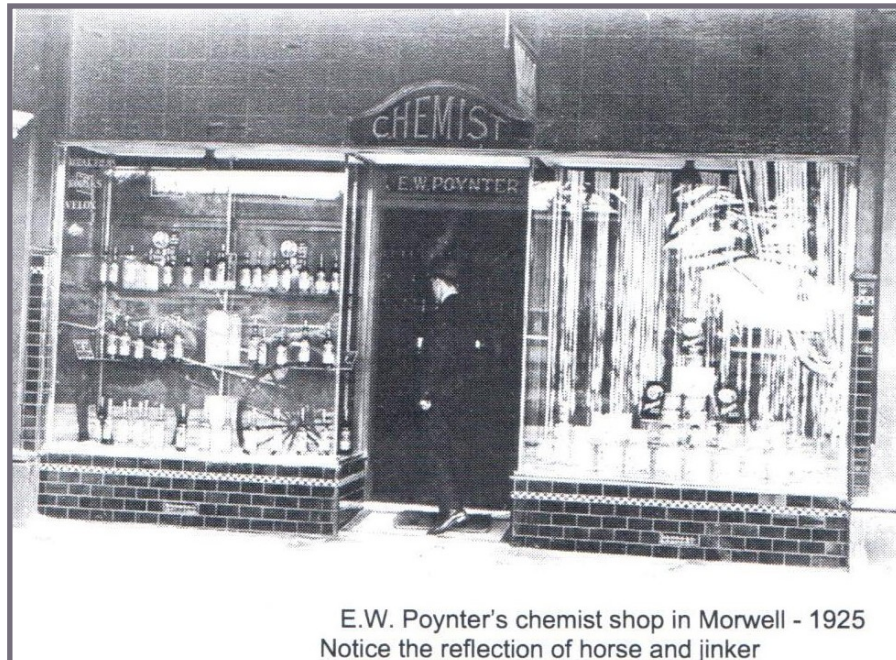


By 1922 the family had grown to four and Ted's sister-in-law Florence Davy, now his apprentice, was also accommodated at the Poynters in their newly built home at 21 Maryvale Crescent. Ted was a member of the Masonic Lodge, the Bowling Club, choir master and Secretary of St Mary's Church of England in Chapel Street. He was a member of the Yallourn Choral Society.

When Ted and Mabel came to Morwell they had 2 children Lorna 1915 and Dorothy 1916. In Morwell their family grew to eight children with Norman 1918, Joan 1921, Alan 1925, Keith 1926, Ian 1929 and Robert 1932. In 1931 the Morwell business was sold to Alan William Lloyd Dixon but the freehold of both of the Chemist shop and the Jeweller's shop was retained. The lease of the chemist shop returned £91 per annum payable monthly. Ted then worked full time at the Yallourn Pharmacy.

Ted Poynter began getting headaches in 1933 and became ill in 1934. A brain tumour was diagnosed. During several short periods in St Hilary's Hospital his Yallourn business was managed by his dispenser Miss Eileen Rose. Ted went to Melbourne in January 1935 to have surgery at the Alfred Hospital but unfortunately he died on 3 February 1935 aged 57 and was buried at Hazelwood Cemetery.

When their father died Lorna was 19 and had commenced nursing training at St Hilary's, Dorothy was 18 and was commencing 3rd year pharmacy apprentice at her father's Yallourn chemist shop. Norman was 16 and he had completed Form 6 at Brighton Grammar School, Joan was 14 and she was at Yallourn High, Alan was 10 and Keith was 9 and they were at Morwell State School, Ian was 5 and ready to start school and Robert was aged 2. Mabel was left an adequate estate to bring up her large family without real hardship but not without some stress. Mabel died in a Kew nursing home in 1988 in her 96th year.



FRONT COVER - Picnic c 1930

L-R Back Row (adults) Dorothy, Miss Rose, Ted, Mabel, Lorna

Front (children) Norman, Joan, Keith, Ian and Alan

Robert was born later in 1932.

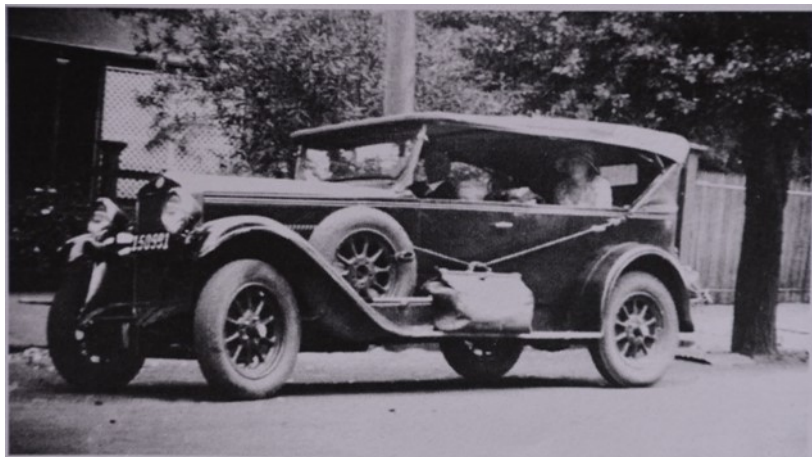


166 and 168 Commercial Road

The Poynter Chemist Shop

Now, Dec 2019, *Dante's Pizza Ribs Wings* and *Dear Delilah Florist Shop*

Ted and Mabel Poynter at their first home in Morwell c1919. Norman in pram; Lorna and Dorothy seated



Ted had many cars and each one he called "*Josephine*". He had a Swift, De Dion Boulton, Chenard Walcker 4 door and Fiat Roadster. (photo)

Before he died Ted bought Mabel a Fiat Battista.

In July 1937 Miss E. M. Rose, who had been Mr Poynter's assistant, took over the lease of the Yallourn Pharmacy
"When Acorns Grow" A history of the Yallourn Medical and Hospital Society

We thank Jenny and Henry Kornacki for lending us the Poynter book, "*POYNTERS & Their First Eighty Years in Victoria*" - revised. Jenny and Henry bought No. 21 Maryvale Crescent in 2000 and have renovated the house and created a lovely garden. They have been in contact with Poynter descendants.

SCHOOL DAYS

Tobruk Street Primary School

Approval for the construction of a third primary school for Morwell was given in June 1951. The school was planned to cater for children who would be living in the 300 home Housing Commission area known as the "Hourigan Estate".

Tobruk Street Primary School 4680 opened on 2nd February 1954 with an enrolment of 450 pupils accommodated in 12 classrooms. St Vincent's also opened in 1954 and so the Catholic children were able to move there. Numbers grew steadily to reach a maximum of 805 in 1968 necessitating the provision for more classrooms, some of them being portable.

Morwell Park in 1969 serving the east area of Morwell and Bridle Estate reduced enrolments to 500.



Tobruk Street PS 1962 6A

Back row -Paul Coleman, Tony Hosking, Chas Matthews, Brian Curtis, Don Hunter, Charlie Wookey, Greg Miles, George Dragon
Centre -Stephen Matthews, David Elbourne, Paul McNamarra, Kevin Careen, Norman Timmons, Ron Love, Mike Mareska, Gordan Clinnick, Vernon Hargraves
Front -Janice Wakefield, Lynette Williams, Bev Mann, Christa Semler, Wendy Frost, Carolyn Sullivan, Anne Cunningham, Joy Biggins, Marilyn Feely, Diane Rowe



West view along Churchill Road near Tobruk Street.
Who is the little girl?

OLD MINING SHAFT UNCOVERED AT

No. 7 Dredger was recently engaged in stripping overburden in the Yallourn Open Cut when it uncovered a mining shaft that no one knew was there.

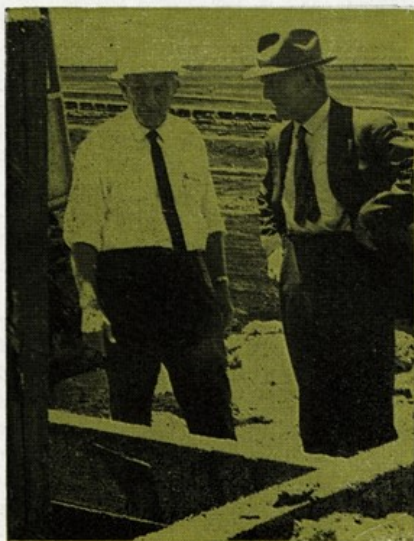
Records of the early years of the brown coal industry are frequently very vague, but some persevering detective work by Eric Foote, Coal Production Superintendent, Yallourn, finally established 'whodunit'.

This particular shaft was sunk in 1889 by the Gippsland Railway Coal Mining Company in the vicinity of the Hernes Oak Railway Junction.

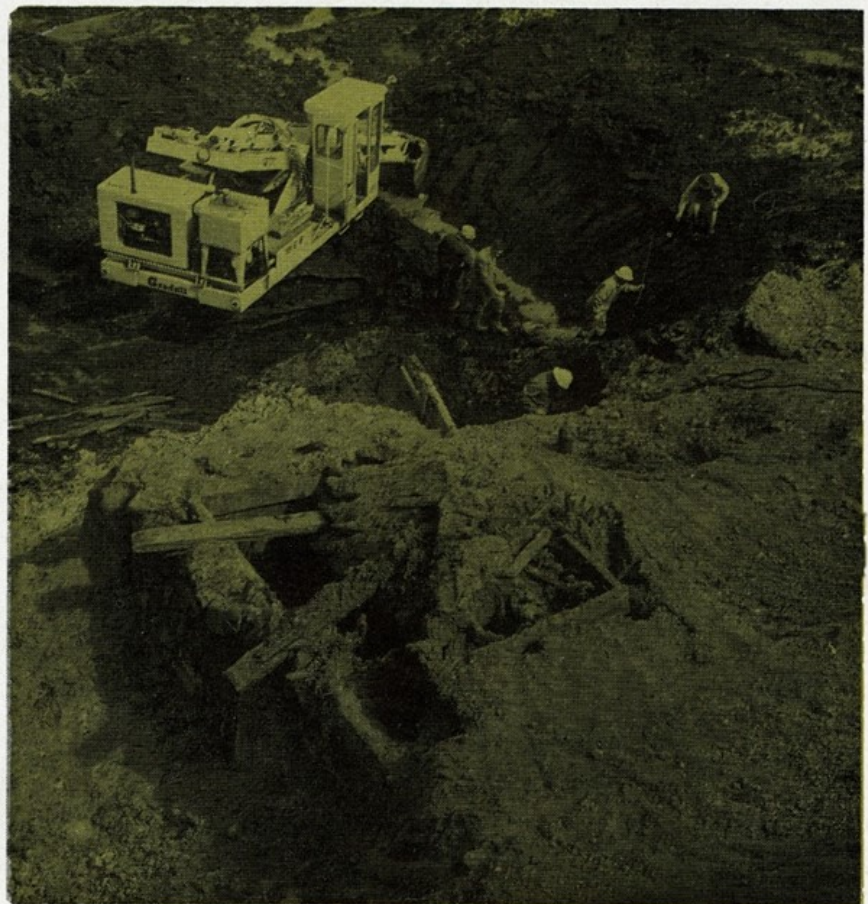
The well-timbered main shaft (14ft. x 6ft.) was one of three compartments, consisting of two haulage compartments of 5ft. x 6ft. section and the third compartment was a ladder and service way. The timber, which was bench sawn (4½ins. x 9ins.), was in an excellent state of preservation, although the ¾in. square spikes used to secure the 4in x 4in. arris in the corners showed the effect of the years, being rusted to smaller dimensions.

The depth of the shaft appears to have passed from the surface down to the bottom of the coal seam, some 180ft. below. The shaft was nearly full of water.

Some difficulty had been experienced by the shaft sinkers in holding back the loose ground immediately above the coal. This was evident from the amount of protective spilling timber driven into the overburden outside the area of the shaft proper.



Eric Foote chats with Bill Taylor at the head of the shaft. Bill, an ex-Foreman at Yallourn Open Cut who retired in 1950, and whose knowledge of the area goes back to 1911, had no recollection of any mining activity in the area.



The Hernes Oak Junction was situated on the then main Gippsland Line, and from this location a railway line travelled across the top of the present Yallourn Open Cut and was used for transporting coal from the Brown Coal Mine north of the Latrobe River (this mine was later known as the Yallourn North Open Cut). Subsequently, a railway line was constructed from the Yallourn Briquette Factory to Hernes Oak Junction. None of these railway lines exist at present because they had to be removed to enable the Yallourn Open Cut to expand into this area.

During the steam train era the Victorian Railways used to pump water from the shaft into a water storage tank for the use of the steam locomotives.

No information is available as to the use made of the brown coal from this shaft, but very little was used domestically in those early years due to the ease with which firewood could be obtained. Attempts were made to make briquettes, but difficulty was experienced in obtaining sufficient



Interior of the main shaft. The water level, after some pumping, is approximately 150 feet below ground level. Staging cleats still attached to wall plates indicate that shaft did not reach the operating stage.

compaction to keep the briquette whole. The coal was used in emergency as fuel when there was a shortage of black coal; and a mixture of brown coal and clay was baked and used locally as internal building bricks for partitions in dwellings. It was not sufficiently weather resistant for use on external walls.

YALLOURN OPEN CUT



Keith and Harry Godridge, whose grandparents kept the pub at the old Morwell Bridge township, told Eric Foote that their parents spoke of shafts in the area. According to their memories, the shaft was burnt out by fire and the area became known as the Black Forest.

VALLEY VISITORS IN 1970

During the year 1970, 70,249 visitors were conducted over the Commission's Latrobe Valley Region.

The numbers were made up as follows:

School Children	19,824
Organised Parties	4,720
Casual Visitors	39,107
Special Visitors	2,017
Visitors' Centre Only	4,581

TOTAL 70,249

During the past three years the Public Liaison Section has recorded visitors from 74 different countries.

BROWN COAL STILL MAIN FUEL FOR A.P.M.

The recent announcement that A.P.M. intends to use natural gas in its Maryvale Pulp and Paper Mill has apparently given rise to some speculation as to the future of Yallourn North Extension Open Cut.

Last June A.P.M. signed the largest individual sales contract ever written by the Commission for the supply of brown coal and briquettes.

The agreement, which covers a five-year period, provides for the supply to A.P.M. of 23,500 tons of briquettes and from 350,000 to 375,000 tons of coal each year.

Brown coal will continue to be used as the major fuel at A.P.M.'s Maryvale and Fairfield mills.

Commission Employees Raise Money for for Deaf Children Victorian School

The Central Gippsland Auxiliary of the Victorian School for Deaf Children wishes to thank all Commission employees who donated money to the 1969-70 appeal.

The Auxiliary raised in all \$1,100 for the Deaf School in Melbourne, of which \$592.51 was given by the men and women of the Commission.

Money raised annually in the Gippsland area helps towards the costs of renovations to the 100 years' old stone building which serves as the boarders' quarters for the School for Deaf Children. It also helps provide amenities for these children, several of whom are from the Latrobe Valley, who are living away from their homes and families.



Entrance to the drive shaft that connects with main vertical shaft. The water was in process of being drained when this photograph was taken.

THAT ONE SPECIAL DAY



Thompson - Vincent

A pleasant ceremony took place at St Mary's Church of England, Morwell on Xmas morning when Mr H.J. Thompson and Miss L.M. Vincent, both of Morwell, were united in the bonds of matrimony by the Reverent A.E. Adeney. Despite the early hour, (7a.m.) appointed for the ceremony, there was a goodly number of friends of both the bride and bridegroom present to witness the tying of the nuptial knot. As the bride entered the church "The Voice that Breathed O'er Eden" was sung and as the happy couple left the church, the organist (Mrs L. Davey) played The Wedding March.

The bride, who was given away by her father, looked charming in a dress of white silk. Mr and Mrs Thompson, motored to Moe, where they entrained en route to Melbourne.

On Monday evening last, Mr and Mrs Thompson were accorded a very hearty "welcome home", at the Mart, when a number of toasts were duly honored, the principal speakers being Messrs Jack Rintoull, B. Kleine, W. Wilson and H. Walsh. Songs and recitations were also contributed. Mr Thompson, in a neat speech, responded on behalf of himself and wife. The guests were made most welcome and fared sumptuously at the hands of Mr and Mrs Thompson. The proceedings were brought to a happy termination with the singing of "They are Jolly Good Fellows" and the National Anthem.

Morwell Advertiser January, 1916

Irving - Matson

IRVING—MATSON A pleasing ceremony took place in the local Church of England, on Wednesday last, the occasion being the marriage of Mr Lionel Wallace Irving and Miss Annie Matson (daughter of Mrs Muntz, of Malvern, and grand-daughter of Mr and Mrs J. B. Jones, of Morwell). The church was very tastefully decorated by friends of the bride, and the ceremony was witnessed by a large gathering of friends and relatives, the officiating clergyman being Rev. A. E. Adeney.

The bride, who was given away by Mr Muntz, looked very becoming in a pretty dress of creme frosted crepe over silk and swathed belt of satin ; she also wore wreath of orange blossom and tulle veil, and carried an ivory bound prayer book with satin streamers.

The bridesmaid (Miss Lily Hodson) was nicely attired in creme voile trimmed with lace and silk swathed belt, pink hat lined with black and pink roses, and carried an early Victorian bouquet of pink roses.

Mr R. Irving (brother of bride-groom) was best man.

Miss Davey presided at the organ. After the nuptial knot had been duly tied a reception was held at the residence of Mr and Mrs Ward, where wedding breakfast was partaken of and usual toasts honored.

The happy couple left on their honeymoon, by evening train, amid showers of confetti, rice and good wishes. The bride travelled in a champagne colored dress of ratine cloth, black crepe-de-chene hat with brown silk roses.

Morwell Advertiser February 1915

Reg Irving is Lionel Irving's younger brother

Their father, John Irving was Morwell's first state school teacher. John died in 1894 aged 38.

FREE MILK FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

In 1950 Sir Earl Page, the Minister for Health with the Menzies Government announced a scheme to give about 1 million school children in Australia one third of a pint free milk. At this time milk production in Australia varied between 1,000 and 3,000 gallons a year and the amount required for the scheme was less than 1% of milk production.

In Victoria more than 66,000 pupils received the free milk. Were you one of these children? Did you add flavoured Quik or topping to your milk so you could drink it? I remember putting a topping called Blue Heaven in the milk. I also remember the milk monitors, always the boys, had to put a number of bottles on the teachers table for him to take home.

Unfortunately in some schools the milk was left in the sun and yuk..... This consequently turned many children off milk for life.

In 1973 the scheme was discontinued under the Whitlam Government.

Today, the Victorian Government funds a School Breakfast Club in around 500 schools, and sources fresh milk from the Victorian Dairy Industry. This program costs the State Government \$14 million a year.

Sydney Morning Herald July 1st 1950

<https://australianfoodtimeline.com.au/school-milk/>

Australian Food History Timeline

The "X" in "Xmas" doesn't take "Christ" out of Christmas

Xmas is a common abbreviation of the word Christmas, however, some people think that this spelling is not right, because it takes the "Christ" out of Christmas. Don't worry, no one is taking the "Christ" anywhere. In the Greek alphabet, the letter X ("chi") is the first letter of the Greek word for Christ or Christos.

In the early days of the Christian church, Christians used the letter X as a secret symbol to indicate their membership in the church to others.





OPEN DAYS 2020

5th February / 19th February / 23rd February
4th March / 18th March / 29th March
1st April / 15th April / 26th April
6th May / 20th May / 31st May
3rd June / 17th June / 28th June
1st July / 15th July / 26th July
5th August / 19th August / 30th August
2nd September / 16th September / 27th September
7th October / 21st October / 25th October
4th November / 18th November / 29th November

Please deliver me to:

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