

MORWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

PUBLISHED MONTHLY, EXCEPT DECEMBER

Meetings : 3rd. TUESDAY of the month at 7.30 PM

in ST ANDREWS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HALL

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FEBRUARY 1994

WELCOME TO THE FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER.

Our first meeting for 1994 will be held on Tuesday, February 15th. The main business will be to plan the program for the coming year. There have been a number of suggestions for excursions, and we will be discussing proposed activities for Heritage Week.

We are in need of volunteers to help with the cataloguing of our photographic and map collections. It is proposed that a group of those interested in helping make a visit to the Centre for Gippsland Studies to investigate the best methods of cataloguing and storage. If you can help, please contact Elsie McMaster, phone (051)341149.

This month marks the 50th anniversary of the worst disaster in Morwell's history - the 1944 bushfires. We reprint a number of the reports from the Morwell 'Advertiser' in commemoration of this event.

Our member Claire Wood has been working on a history of the Hazelwood Cemetery to be used as an introduction to the record of headstones compiled by the Mid Gippsland Genealogical Society, and soon to be available on microfiche. A summary of her research appears in this newsletter and Claire would be pleased to hear from anyone who can add to, or amend, any of the information presented. You can contact her at Morwell Library - (051)341047 - during Library hours.

Notice: The Annual General Meeting of Morwell Historical Society Incorporated will be held on Tuesday, March 15, 1994 in St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Morwell.

The next meeting of the Society will be held on TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15.

Hope to see you there.

'Herald-Sun' 18/1/'94

Loyal patriot

James Charles Bush, community leader. Born December 3, 1903. Died January 4, 1994.

JAMES Bush was a civic activist who was driven by a deep sense of duty and loyalty to Australia.

When Jim Bush's brother Herman died in World War I, it engendered in

him a profound sense of service and loyalty, according to his son Richard.

Richard Bush said his father was a patriotic Australian who saw things he felt needed to be done.

After the deaths of his father and brother, 15-year-old Jim began work in a drapery and studied part time as he supported his mother Louisa and sister Ruth.

By age 18 he was registrar of the Anglican Diocese at Ballarat, by 23 a qualified accountant and at 29 a Ballarat councillor. He married Emily Negri in 1933.

In 1944 the family moved to Morwell with a textile company.

Jim remained after the project failed and began his prodigious input into the Morwell community.

"Jim worked tirelessly for the benefit of his family and community," Mr Bush said.

James Bush was a foundation member and president of Morwell Rotary Club, founding president of Morwell Chamber of Commerce and Industry, president and life governor of LaTrobe Health Services and life member of the LaTrobe Valley Football League.

A funeral for James Bush was held at St Mary's Anglican Church, Morwell, on January 7.

'Harking Back' Llew Vary

Morwell 'Advertiser' October 8, 1942

The names of the first councillors elected were Messrs Donald Shaw, M. Mulcare, John English, Bert Turnley, E. Kelleher and W. Murphy. This council was short lived, for in less than two years all resigned except Shaw and Mulcare, but no election took place to fill these vacancies. Samuel Vary, Geo. Firmin, Donald McMillan and another whose name I cannot at present recall, offered their servoces and were elected unopposed. At this time the council met in the Mechanics' Institute in Tarwin St., a most unsuitable place, and some of the councillors began to look for more suitable premises where they could hold their meetings undisturbed, and finally selected an old wooden shop and dwelling on the site where the sewerage authority's office is now situated. The purchasing of this old building caused a good deal of comment, and was used as an election dodge to endeavour to out some of the councillors at the next election. But those ratepayers who could see further than their nose were sure it was a sound investment. The facte were 200 pounds cash was paid for this building, and the money was borrowed at 4% which meant 8 pounds per year interest had to be paid. Against this was the saving of 26 pounds per year rent for the Mechanics', so one will readily understand that any opposition to the purchase of this building was by no means justified. About this time John Hall and Geo Roy were elected and proved to be excellent councillors and townsmen. Later the Shire was divided into four ridings, with three representatives in each, and the people apparently became more sedate. All the keenness and humour of the elections seemed to die out.

I will now take you back to Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887. This was a real Gala Day for Morwell. Special trains were run from Narracan, Moe, Trafalgar and Mirboo North, bringing the school children and others. The children were all lined up in the main street, each school separate under their respective teachers, and marched with banners and flags fluttering in the breeze, headed by the Morwell Brass Band, to the Show Grounds in Hazelwood Road. A floral arch decorated the gateway. A great carnival was held and every child was presented with a medal that had been struck to commemorate the occasion. To celebrate the event and make it important, Mr McMillan of Hazelwood gave a bullock which was roasted whole on what is known as a spit. Several men were detailed to work in shifts keeping the fire up to this huge carcass at night. Owing to heavy rain great difficulty was experienced in keeping the fire going, with the result that the ox was only partly cooked. The children were each given a slice of this underdone meat between two chunks of blood soaked bread. I well remember my sister Alice throwing hers away and making me do likewise. It was afterwards ascertained that the men whose job it was to keep the fire going had adjourned to the Cricketers Arms to get something to keep out the cold and did not notice the time going, and when they returned the fire had got down so low they did not get it started again until after daylight.

Going back to council elections, I will relate a further amusing incident. Just prior to an election, a writer who signed himself "Cripples", wrote a number of disparaging letters to the local paper. After several of these letters had appeared, some other person writing in a lighter vein settled the epistles of "Cripples" for all time with the following

verse:

When the world was first created there
was useless stuff left over

The King of Mischief found it out and
thought himself in clover

He made a line of toads and frogs to live
in sluggish ripples

Then punched the refuse into shape and
laughed and called it "Cripples".

One personality of later years we must
not forget was John Barton Hoyle,
familiarly known to everybody as "J.B."
He took a very active interest in all
matters pertaining to the welfare of the
town, and held office in almost every
committee. It was owing to his untiring
efforts that the soldiers' monument was
erected in 1921. Strange to say he died
the day it was unveiled.

There are some things which I think
should be recorded, if only to bring back
old memories to those who can
remember them. I am afraid new arrivals,
when they hear them, will say we have
slipped back in some directions, while
progress has been made in others.

Morwell up to the year 1893 boasted of a
full dress Agricultural Show, held every
autumn, and an annual sports meeting
with a 20 pounds Sheffield Handicap.

Race meetings were held twice and
sometimes thrice a year, when horses
came from all over Gippsland to
compete. These functions are all defunct
and the grounds where they were held
have long since passed into other hands,
and I'm afraid never to be redeemed.

I wonder how many can remember the
railway gates on the Mirboo Crossing at
the west end of Commercial Road. The
keeper was Mrs. Noy (Mr R.Noy's
mother), and Bryden's gates near the
Soldier's Monument. And would you
believe it, the Mirboo train which was
stationed at Mirboo puffed and grunted
along the line arriving in Morwell at 8.45
a.m. leaving at 12.10 p.m., returning to

Morwell again at 5.45 p.m. and making
the return journey to Mirboo after the
passenger train from Melbourne arrived
at 9 p.m. The popular and genial Pat
Murray was the driver.

And with this I will end my story.

If I have given my readers any pleasure,
however small, I am well repaid, for I
have always held kind memories of those
stout hearted men and women who
blazed the trail, and I now conclude by
suggesting to the younger generation,
who have sprung from the same stock,
although, by altered circumstances, have
lived more sheltered lives, that they
should realize the magnificent heritage
left them by those splendid specimens of
humanity THE PIONEERS.

This is the last of Hugh Vary's very
informative articles. We hope you have
enjoyed them. A further item of interest
which relates to the section of 'Harking
Back' printed in our January 1994
Newsletter has come to light. It comes
from the February 12, 1907, edition of
the Foster 'Mirror':

'The Gunyah Gunyah district was only
opened up a few years ago, but vast
strides have already been made by the
selectors in the matter of reclamation.
The first man to pass through Gunyah
was Bill Dodd, of Morwell, who
performed that feat about thirty years ago
(1877). Bill was recognised as the best
bushman in Gippsland. A gold rush
broke out at Stockyard Creek. The road
there was a roundabout one and the
proprietor of the old Retreat Inn, near
Moe, offered Bill Dodd five pounds if he
could blaze a track straight through from
Moe to Stockyard Creek. Bill accepted
the offer and with a mate named Varley,
set out on the journey. The only food
they took with them was 12 lbs. of flour
and 5 lbs. of beef. For miles in places the
scrub was so dense that it was almost
impossible to get through, whilst the

difficulties in crossing creeks, gorges and ravines can only be imagined.

They succeeded in blazing a track but it was touch and go with them.

Their small stock of provisions ran out days before they got through. Tree ferns, however, were plentiful, from the centre of which they extracted a white pith, on which they existed for several days.

When they sighted Stockyard Creek they were practically naked, their clothes having been torn off them whilst making their way through the dense undergrowth.

By tying together the rags that were upon each, sufficient clothing was "manufactured" to enable one of them to go into the mining camp for clothes, food and, above all, something to drink.

In due time the publican paid Bill Dodd his five pounds and to this day the track which runs midway between Gunyah and Mirboo North is known as Dodd's Track.

OUR OLDEST BUILDING UNDER THREAT

The first St. Mary's Anglican Church, in Chapel St. Morwell, was opened in February 1886 and in February 1887 Mr. Albert Edwards was appointed the first residential Stipendiary reader. The church cost 330 pounds to build and was constructed of bricks made in Morwell from clay quarried from the site in Helen St. which is now occupied by the bowling green.

The foundation stone was laid in July 1885 by Mr. John Robb, a contractor on the Morwell - Mirboo railway line, who had made a generous donation to the building fund.

At the dedication service the following February, the Ven. Archdeacon Stretch took as his text Luke 7:5 - "For He loveth our nation and hath built us a synagogue."

St. Mary's in Chapel St. was used for

services until the new St. Mary's in Latrobe Road was built. Since then it has been used by the Commercial Road State School and is now the base for Gippsland Family Services 'Kids Biz' after - school program.

The church, now nearly 109 years old, has some cracks in the brickwork and there has been a problem with damp, which seems to have been overcome, but Commercial Road School Council members are concerned at the possible cost of maintenance and there has been a move to have the church demolished. School Principal David Pickburn wants to save the building and, with the support of Morwell Historical Society, he has approached Morwell City Council to assess the feasibility of restoration. We await further developments.

RED CROSS CALLING!

As always, callers are needed in the Morwell area during March, which is Red Cross Month. If you can help this very worthy cause, please contact Jessie Cafiso - phone 342638.

This year's Red Cross Calling campaign in Morwell will be launched on Sunday, February 20 with a Pleasant Sunday Afternoon at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church hall in Church St., starting at 1.30 pm. Admission is by donation - \$2.00 - (or more if you wish!) and the varied program will consist of musical numbers, recitations and presentations by a number of local residents. Further information can be had from Jess Cafiso on the above phone number.

HAZELWOOD CEMETERY TRUST : A HISTORY

In 1879, Hazelwood was described by Bailliere's Victorian Gazetteer:

"The district is an agricultural and pastoral one. The Morwell township joins, but the township is 4 miles distant from the centre of Hazelwood. The communication is by horse and dray. The population numbers about 300. There is a state school, in which Ministers of the Presbyterian and Wesleyan Church preach once a fortnight."

Morwell was a small village servicing the needs of the farmers from the surrounding districts and the railway construction gangs. In 1878, Morwell consisted of three hotels, a blacksmith, wheelwright, butcher, shoemaker, general store and three houses; the railway station housed the Post Office.

Little is known about the early years of the Hazelwood Cemetery Trust as most of the early records are missing. What information there is, is to be found in the files of the Cemetery Section of the Health Department, the Government Gazette and the local newspapers.

On 21st August 1878, "the residents of Hazelwood, Maryvale and Morwell" appeared before the Local Lands Board sitting in Traralgon and applied for a cemetery site to be set aside. A sketch plan presented to the Board shows the site was on the main Hazelwood-Morwell Road. (As a result of changes in settlement and development patterns, the cemetery is now on the main road to Hazelwood Power Station).

The site was surveyed by James Robinson in December 1878, and gazetted as a Cemetery on 7th April 1879.

Before the cemetery was established, people were usually buried in lone graves close to where they died. Billy Hillier, who died in the early 1870s, was buried on the banks of Billy's Creek. However, William Burns, a railway worker who died of "heart disease" in June 1878, was taken by train to Sale and buried there. A letter held in the files of the Health Department indicates that a child was buried on the site in September 1878, and it is likely that other burials took place before the site was officially declared a cemetery.

The first Trustees are listed in the Government Gazette of 11th February 1881 as John Fitzpatrick, David Donaldson, John Tinker, Samuel Lewis and David Turner.

It is likely that in those early years, the Trustees concerned themselves with clearing the land; fencing it; constructing internal pathways and drains; surveying the cemetery; pegging and marking graves.

The cemetery rules established in 1888 indicate that a Sexton was employed to look after general maintenance and grave digging.

By 1890, the cemetery had been divided into denominational sections - Church of England, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, Methodist-Wesleyan, with a section marked Free Ground.

Financing the cemetery, establishing fees for graves, grave-digging etc., would have been a high priority for those first Trustees. In 1888, the Trust's balance sheet showed an income which included £3 from fees for graves, and £16 being spent on loan repayments.

In 1888, grave digging fees for burials conducted after 6 pm. in summer and 4 pm. in winter were £1 for adults and 10/- for children. Outside of these hours, there was a surcharge ranging from 10/6 for early morning burials to double the usual fee for interments on Sunday.

Control of rabbits would have been a problem from the early days of the cemetery, and remains a problem today. In 1913, the Trustees unsuccessfully applied to the Health Department for permission to sell the road reserve surrounding the cemetery. Part of their justification for the sale read:

"The Trust has completed netting of the Cemetery at a cost of £30 as rabbits are getting very bad and damaging the trees and plants, and if these roads were sold to Applegate Bros. they would pay their share of the netting".

Today we think nothing of the journey to the cemetery, but it was not so easy in those early days. The Morwell Advertiser reported on 6th September on a narrow escape:

Mr William Tulloch and Mr C. Popham had a narrow escape from being drowned yesterday in Middle Creek, while travelling to the funeral of Mrs B. Scanlon of Budgerie. After the recent heavy rain the creek was much swollen: and as Mr Tulloch was driving the horse over the crossing near Mr Gilberts a tree fell across the creek, which had the effect of damming the water back, and the hearse immediately turned on its side and disappeared under the stream.

The water was so high that nothing could be done to save the horse or the hearse, which are both in the stream. As neither of the occupants of the vehicle could swim it was a fortunate thing that a fatality did not occur. The body of the deceased was afterwards conveyed to the cemetery in a wagonette.

Over the years, the Trustees have battled to maintain the condition of the cemetery at an acceptable standard. In 1932, the Trust was spending 50/- per week controlling weeds. Maintenance of graves has always been the owners responsibility. However, in 1933 the Trust offered to maintain grave for owners at a minimum charge of 10/- per year. In 1935, the Morwell Advertiser editorialised

"No attempt has been made to beautify the grounds in anyway by the planting of trees and shrubs. Almost the whole of the area is covered by long grass that obscures many of the graves. There is a winding carriageway (rather neglected), but no made paths between graves. All that can be seen are scores of small dangerous wood pegs, almost covered by grass."

The basic problem for the Trust was lack of money. In recent years, ongoing and significant funding from the Shire, now the City of Morwell, and grants from State and Federal Governments, has resulted in substantial improvement in cemetery maintenance.

In 1982 a separate lawn section was developed with a donation of \$500 from the Morwell Apex Club; and a children's corner was constructed by the Rotary Club of Morwell in 1983. The same year, water was laid on at a cost of \$4719, which was funded by then Shire of Morwell. The Italian Australian Catholic Federation replace the eastern boundary fence in 1985. Commonwealth Government grants totalling \$42,446 for maintenance and improvement of facilities between 1985 and 1987 gave the cemetery "the reputation of being the best maintained in Gippsland". In 1984, there was a letter in the Latrobe Valley Express congratulating the Trust on the condition of the cemetery.

With the establishment of a crematorium in Traralgon, an ash garden has been developed recently.

It is worth noting that over the years, the Trustees themselves have spent much time and effort handling routine maintenance work in addition to their normal duties as Trustees. Until relatively recently the Trustees were nominated by the Churches. Some of the Trustees who have served the Cemetery for more than 20 years are:

Alphonse Nadenbousch	1887-1925
Joseph Buckley	1899-1926
William Applegate	1912-1933
Alfred Hone	1916-1940
John Ronald	1926-1953
John Bolger	1926-1954
Arthur Hare	1933-1981

The current Trustees are Louis Bond, Chairman; Jack Huxtable, Mervyn Willis, George Firmin, Mohsin Chakera, and Peter Ross.

Early secretaries of the Trust included Charles Pitt Nind in 1890, and J. B. Miller in 1894. Nind was paid £1 per year. H. W. Gay was secretary at least as early as 1923. He died "in office" in 1949. Anthony Holden was secretary for 12 years until 1962, when he was succeeded by James Bush, one of the Trust's longest serving secretaries. Mrs Susan Culliver, the current secretary, was appointed in 1988 when Mr Bush resigned.

In 1894, George Young was the caretaker/grave digger and was paid £5 a year (in 1928, the caretaker, G. Young, died - I'm still checking to see if they were the same person). Since then, there has been a high turnover of grave diggers - the Trustees at regular intervals opting to employ day labour or reimbursing the Shire for digging by Shire workers. Greg Taylor, contracted to dig graves since 1986, has been in the job longer than anyone else since 1929.

Alex Ingwersen has been the gardener at the cemetery since 1989 - and his work, and the ongoing commitment of the Trust and the City Council, is reflected in the very good condition of the cemetery at the moment.

Since the cemetery began there have been approximately 2500 burials; burials average around 50-55 per year. It is expected that burial plots at the cemetery will be available well into the next century. In 1890, the Trustees reported to the health Commission that about 150 burials had taken place since the cemetery opened in 1879, 30 during the previous 12 months. The Cemetery Register appears to have been started about 1890, with earlier burials added at this later date, presumably from the memory of the locals or from information on headstones. Inevitably, some burials, like that of James Matson, were neither recorded in the Register or remembered on headstones (The Morwell Advertiser noted Matson's death and subsequent burial at the cemetery on 25th November 1886).

The register does not list causes of death. Ivan Maddern in his column "Memory Lane" (Latrobe Valley Express 10/5/1974) found that early newspapers recorded 30 deaths in Morwell between 1886 and 1889. Causes of death included diphtheria, typhoid, drowning, railway accidents, dropsy, suicide, post-operational complications and a throat infection.

Headstones date the earliest burial as that of Neil Murdoch in 1871, but he actually died in 1872, and is buried at Bacchus Marsh. The stone is on the grave of his brother William who died in 1885 (Memory Lane, Latrobe Valley Express 26/4/1974). Other early headstones include those of:

Mrs Louisa Wicks, died 13.5.1879, aged 48
 Mrs Bridget Daly, died 21.6.1879, aged 52
 Michael Keegan, died 4.7.1879, aged 14.

In 1944, fire devastated the Shire of Morwell. Thirteen people died. The granite and iron gates at the entrance to the cemetery were established in memory of those who died. Funded by donations, the gates cost £151/10/-.

A plate on one of the pillars lists the names of those who perished:

Harry Cook, Morwell	John Robinson, Jeeralang
Mrs E. Dyer, The Ridge	Charles Tanner, Hazelwood
Jim Flitton, Hazelwood	Dick Thomas, Hazelwood
Miss Grace Hare, Morwell	Arch Thompson, Jeeralang
Percy Jones, Morwell	Frank Walker, Yinnar
Mrs Vera Jones, Morwell	Mrs A. Woolacott, Morwell
William McNair, Traralgon	

Bush and Grass Fires Sweep District.

HEAVY LOSS OF LIFE.

HOMES AND STOCK

Monday afternoon and night and right into the early hours of Tuesday morning a fire, which came from the Haunted Hills locality swept towards the town with startling suddenness. A wind, reaching gale proportions at times, aided it appreciably. It commenced soon after lunch hour and by 5 p.m. thousands of acres of grass, houses, fencing and stock had been licked up. Other houses were saved by desperate efforts of fire-fighters who rallied splendidly to the call. This fire, before reaching Morwell, swept homes away at Herne's Oak and Morwell Bridge as if they were mere sheds. While the flames were at their peak on the western fringe of the town fires started to the south beyond McLean Street. Evidently burning leaves and gas currents started this. Later this flare swept on over the Ridge Road towards Hazelwood, and beaters were almost powerless to arrest it. How some houses were saved is indeed a miracle. Other fires swept from the back of Ylnnar to the hill areas. One started near Traralgon South and later in the evening the fire from the Ridge ran into it. The area swept covered a large scope and the fire burnt itself out in timber country near South Callignee.

A fire that started on the Prince's Highway just beyond the Long Bridge

at Traralgon went towards South Callignee also, after licking up fences and herbage right over Hilltop and along the old Switchback Road. All homes were saved. In a couple of cases the flames seemed to part company, sweep on either side of houses demolish sheds, etc., but leave the house intact. Even on occasions the flames reached doorsteps and consumed the flowers and vegetables in gardens.

However, the most strenuous fight of all was waged at night on the northern outskirts of Morwell. A wind took flames all over the area from the western approaches to beyond Hourigan's home, and across the overhead railway bridge (which was destroyed) to the south. Houses went up in smoke despite hard fighting by firemen and others. Every house in the area was menaced and so close was the call in some that even hedges and outbuildings were burnt like unto tinder.

The sad loss of life has cast a gloom over the entire district. Residents of the town were quick to render assistance and a casualty clearing station was established at the Town Hall, where sufferers received attention and the needy clothing to tide them over a definite critical period. Food there was in abundance.

Troops were rushed to danger areas from Royal Park and stations in East Gippsland. They rendered yeoman service and deserve the best thanks of all. These men also brought Red-Cross and food waggons. The troops stood by all day Tuesday putting out

burning stumps and logs and doing anything asked of them by the more experienced in fire fighting.

The bulk of traders on Monday afternoon closed their doors in order to release personnel to assist at the various fire fronts.

A complete ring of the township discloses a scene of devastation. Scores of miles of fencing are down and stock wander aimlessly about the back roads. In many paddocks dead sheep dot the blackened. So dangerous did the fire appear in the Hospital locality that patients were removed to the Town Hall by nurses and assistants. Here again a rare save was effected.

SHOPS CLOSED YESTERDAY

In order to allow numerous people to attend the funerals of a number of the fire victims, the Traders Association closed their doors until 4.30 p.m. on Wednesday. This was also out of respect to the memory of the deceased. Three were buried at 2 o'clock, two at 3 p.m. and two at 4 o'clock. The scene at the Cemetery was indeed a sad one.

[More details in inside page.]

Daylight Saving

The Government has officially announced that daylight saving will cease on Sunday, 26th March.

ANOTHER ALARM ON TUESDAY

Beaters were rushed to a further outbreak opposite Mr Edward McGauran's home on the Prince's Highway, on Tuesday afternoon. It was confined to a big patch of bracken fern and a wide strip of grass land on the east of the ferns. It was under control by the setting of the sun. The army of beaters, in which the troops were noticeable, rendered good service. It was a lucky save considering the high wind that was blowing at the time. This was the nearest burn on the Highway between Morwell and Traralgon following the great fire on the Monday night, which swept the properties of Messrs Bridle, Jones, Watson, Buckley and McGauran. In this fire many sheep and cattle perished, and fences are down for miles. One of the greatest losses to farmers is feed, which was scarce enough before the flames licked over the countryside.

In the late afternoon a call came from the Paper Mill area, where a fire had entered the heavily timbered paddocks known as "Derhams." It burnt fiercely right to the bitumen road on the west side of the mill. A fortunate change of wind allayed any fear that damage would accrue to mill property. By nightfall all danger had gone, much to the relief of a big gang of men who were standing by to render assistance if necessary. These included many A.P.M. employees. This fire came direct from the west, and was not an off-shoot of Monday night's fire at Morwell.

Open Cut Ablaze at Yallourn.

Igniting from sparks and debris carried from the bush fires in close proximity the open cut at Yallourn became an inferno by Tuesday. Latest reports indicate that a copious water supply is aiding firemen to get the blaze under control.

LIST OF VICTIMS

With the death in Yallourn Hospital of Mr Harry Cook (who fell off a truck) and John Robinson (aged 16) of Jeeralang, the list of dead due primarily to the fires, is as follows:—

Miss Grace Hare, Morwell.
Mr Charles Tanner, Hazelwood.
Mr Arch Thompson, Jeeralang.
Mrs Woolcott, Morwell.
Mr Percy Jones, Morwell.
Mrs Vera Jones (his wife).
Mr Jim Flitton, Hazelwood.
Mrs Dyer, The Ridge.
Mr Frank Walker, Yinnar.
Mr Dick Thomas, Hazelwood.
Mr Harry Cook, Morwell.
John Robinson, Jeeralang.

People in Hospital

Mr Wm. Woolcott (Hazelwood).
Wesley Espie (Hazelwood).
Albert Farley (Jeeralang).
Mr Les Hare (Morwell).
Ern Waldon (Hazelwood).
Wilhelm Schmidt (Morwell).
Fred Chessum (Stn. Hazelwood).
Hugh Bingham (Herne's Oak).
Ian Moore (Moe East).
Miss Edith Waldon (Hazelwood).
Mr A. Coombes, Jeeralang.

Homes Destroyed

Dozens of homes fell before the flames in every direction the "Red Steer" careered. Many buildings were razed at Herne's Oak, but because we have been unable to get authentic details in this locality, we are unable to publish a complete list. Homes lost in the district mentioned below are subjoined:—

Morwell

Mr H. Frost-Samuels, Prince's Highway.
Mr Simpson,
Mrs Kennedy (near brickyards).
Mr Alf Ronald, "Merlya."
Mr Jack Lawless, "The Ridge."
Mr Alexander,
Mr Waldon.
Brinmead's old home (The Ridge).

Five houses owned by Morwell Investments Pty. Ltd. in Papyrus Street, tenanted by:—Messrs Ford, Holding, Davies, Briggs and McGee.

Hazelwood

Mr Jack Medaw.
Mr Stan Thomas
Mr W. McFarlane.
Mr Jack Flitton.
Mr R. Leviston.
Slcock's old Homestead.
Jones' old Homestead.
Mr George Gibson.
South Hazelwood Hall.
North Hazelwood Hall and Church.
Mr Mick Maxwell.
Mr Merv. Jones.
Mr Cranwell, Mr. W. Woolcott

Mr Dick Lyons.
Mr Furnell (2 houses).
Mr Alf Bruce.
Mr Ern Nadenbousch.
Mr Joe Bolding has everything destroyed beside the house.
Mr Keith White.

Budgeroe

Mr Elliott.
Mr Bond.
Mr Faulkner.
Mr N. Reid.
Mr Witham.
Mr A. Tuffin.
Mr Costen.
Mr Worthelm.
Mr Husson.

Hazelwood South

Mr R. Hare.
Mr G. Roy.
Mr T. Lyndon.
Mr W. Evans.
Mr J. H. Dobbin.
Mr T. Trimble.
Jeeralang Hall.
Mr Hushett.

Morwell West

Mr McSweeney.
Mr Gould.
Mr H. Boddy.
Mr Theobald.

Callignee South

When the fire from Morwell Junctioned with two from Traralgon on the Old Callignee Road many houses came directly in the path of the inferno. The first house to be demolished was Mr James Holden's at "Chester Park." Others known for certain to have been razed to the ground are:—

Mr Hector Hentschell.
Mr Tom Gilmour (also P.O.)
Mr H. Burley,
Mr Sims.
Mr Jack Eason.
Mr Din Boland.
Mr Jack Lyndon.
Mr H. Mutton.
Mr Fred Walker.

MORWELL BRIDGE

When the fire swept down on this settlement no fewer than 7 houses and the school were destroyed in double quick time. The lack of water precluded any attempt at organised fire fighting. So rapid did the flames descend that many residents rushed to the Morwell River and took shelter. They suffered only from heat as the flames licked from bank to bank. Their presence of mind proved their salvation. Those who lost their homes and belongings were:—

Mr Pringle
Mr Davis
Mr Bennett
Mr Tierney
Mr Johns
Mr Toseland
Mr Cane.
State School, shelter shed and out-buildings.

Commonwealth Flax Mill Goes Up in Smoke.

An important industry that will be lost to Morwell—at least for some time—is the Flax Mill on the west side of Latrobe Road. The mill came in a direct line of the flames after they reached the north side of the township. All around the mill proper were stacks of this season's flax. These, also have been lost. In addition fibre spread in paddocks adjacent to the A.P.M. cubicles and at the rear of private homes from Maryvale Road to Hopetoun Avenue were consumed quicker than a kiddy can eat ice cream. It was this wealth of fibre, as dry as thistledown that gave added impetus to the inferno that nearly caused dozens of homes in the immediate area to be lost. Manager Arthur Behring cannot give a conservative estimate of the loss sustained. It must run into thousands of pounds. Quite a number of employees will be minus pay envelopes for a period. Of course these can be absorbed in other avenues, as the labor problem is distinctly acute in every direction. Let's hope no great hardship follows the unfortunate demolition. Although every precaution had been taken to safeguard the mill and flax stacks nothing would have been of avail. The gale swept everything before it and carried lighted twigs and leaves chains ahead of the main blaze.

Stock Losses

The loss of sheep, cattle, horses and pigs has been enormous. It is impossible to make any calculation yet. On almost every farm swept some stock were burned, and others had to be destroyed after the fire had passed on. At Budgeroe on one property the flames came across so quickly that the dogs could not be released from the chains and they were roasted in that sorry predicament. Pigs suffered a similar fate in the styes. Gangs of men, including members of the V.D.C. have been engaged disposing of carcasses of animals. They have worked grandly without any thought of even being thanked. It is times like these the best in the human being is brought to the surface.

Council Meeting Adjourned.

Called for Wednesday (yesterday) the ordinary meeting of Morwell Shire Council was adjourned for one week owing to the unusual circumstances. Councillors Hall (president), Quigley, and D. White were in attendance at the time stipulated 11 p.m.

MORWELL ADVERTISER
Thursday Feb. 17, 1944

13th Fire Victim. Relief Needs Met.

MR W. McNAIR'S BODY FOUND.

Missing since bush fires swept this district last Monday week, the body of William McNair, 52, of Morwell, was found badly burned in bush country at Jeeralang North Sunday morning. His death brings the total in the Gippsland fires to 13.

McNair, who was an employee of Australian Paper Mills, at Morwell, was last seen a few days before the fires broke out, at his property at Jeeralang North, where he periodically visited and camped. A search of the locality was begun by police when it was found that the man's camp had been destroyed and he was missing. His nearest neighbor was Mr Mac Beaton about 5 years ago McNair was reported missing when a fire swept through the same area. He was later found unharmed.

The unfortunate man was evidently making his way towards Morwell when the flames overtook him.

The remains were found by Mr C. Mele.

Mr McNair, who was on a fortnight's vacation from Maryvale Paper Mill, was popular among his workmates, and general regret is expressed at his sad end.

The remains were interred in Hazelwood Cemetery on Monday, the cortege moving from the Presbyterian Church. Rev. Hovenden read the service at the grave side and the mortuary arrangements were in the hands of W. McIntosh and Co.

About Town Carrier's Loss.

Here's another chap who lost his means of livelihood—at least till he gets another truck to cart goods around the town and district. He is Mr Edwy Snell, who is almost as well-known as the P.O. clock. He had been for a load of wood at Hazelwood and when the fire came across the wood ignited. So intense was the heat that any hope of discharging the load in an effort to save the truck would have proved abortive. So all was lost. To the genial carrier this loss was just as severe as having several head of dairy cows burned. It was Edward's real money-spinner. His abode and personal belongings were also lost in the burn that swept over the first spur on Maryvale Road from the Flax Mill direction.

After visiting Yarram, Sale, Traralgon, Morwell, and Cranbourne, Mr Chandler, M.L.C., chairman Bush Fire Relief Committee said that it was apparent that steps taken by the committee had met immediate urgent needs. The pressing need now was for fodder, and immediate needs must be met and provision made for future requirements. He added that 1,500 bales of meadow hay had been secured for distribution in Morwell area, and fencing posts would also be sent to Morwell immediately.

It was thought, said Mr Chandler, that because of the fires only about 50 per cent of milk production could be secured by dairymen.

Mr Chandler expressed himself greatly impressed with the wonderful spirit shown by burnt-out settlers, and also paid tribute to the splendid work performed by the Red Cross Society and other organisations.

WIND VAGARIES IN BUDGEREE FIRE.

An unusual feature of the bush fire last week at Budgerree was witnessed in the demolition of the church. The sacred edifice went and the other buildings almost adjoining were left to stand as silent sentinels inside the burnt cordon of heavy timber. When the flames hit the scrub that converges on every side of the hall, school, church and one private residence it appeared a foregone conclusion that all would be razed. So certain this implied itself on school-teacher Swan's mind that he decided to leave the near

precincts for a safer place. Hustling his wife and a few personal belongings into the car, he felt. (Mr Swan occupied the residence near the school). However, the wind played tricks with the flames. It demolished fences and outbuildings at the hall and school and then cut across in angle fashion and left the church in ashes. All four buildings are in a line on a small clearing.

Voluntary Workers at Red Cross Depot Do a Great Job.

We chatted with one of the unfortunate victims of the fire in the outskirts of the town on Friday. He lost all his clothing in the flames which swept the locality near where Morwell Butter Factory once stood. He visited the depot at the Town Hall to get some clothing. "You look brand spanking new," we remarked to him as he dropped into Tonsorial artist Will Davey's for a hair-cut. He was outfitted even to a multi-colored broad-shouldered tie. "Yes," he said with emphasis referring to the clothes specialists at the depot, "They have done a wonderful job for me. It's the first time I have ever had occasion to seek favors such as bestowed on me to-day. It's a great work they are doing." This is typical of scores of similar cases. One could get almost anything in the clothing line from hairnets to socklets! And in passing may we tender appreciation of the big-hearted public of Morwell and district. They brought all sorts of goods to be sorted up ready for allotment to the sufferers. And of the workers at the Depot—they were super. Many went without meals and sleep to do a task wherein the only reward was profuse gratefulness from the unfortunate victims. That alone was sufficient. These big-hearted humans evidently took the Golden Rule to heart viz.:—"Do unto others, etc." May they weary not in doing well!

BIG STOCK LOSSES.

Nearly every farmer lost stock—sheep and cattle in particular. Among the heaviest losers were Messrs Stan Thomas and Alf Ronald. The former lost his complete picked dairy herd (including a pedigreed bull) and the latter assesses his sheep loss at over 1000. In addition both residents lost their home, furniture and clothing. Mr R. Alexander, who lived on the flat east of the hill where Mr Lawless' and Brinsmead's old homes were razed, was also a heavy loser. House, furniture and many cattle were licked up in an amazingly short time. So quick did the fire descend here that no time was allowed even to remove a deal of valuable furniture recently placed in the house.

Thus the savings and gatherings of years are gone. And all within less time than it takes to relate. The "Red Steer" has no friends when he sets forth on his mad gallop.

THE TRAGEDY AT E. HARE'S FARM

Women Served Tea to Fighters
Just Before the End.

Exactly what occurred at Mr Ern Hare's property, where no fewer than four people met their death by burning on 14th February, can be gauged from these statements by men who were there assisting to quell the flames and doing all in their power to save valuable lives. Here is what Hedley Orchard, a truck driver, of Morwell, said:—At 5 p.m., on Monday of last week, I was near Mr E. Hare's home. A grass fire was coming rapidly. I saw Miss Hare seated in a Vauxhall car at the front gate. I offered my services to drive the car but she said it was alright. With another man's aid Mrs Dyer was placed in the back seat of the car, and Miss Hare was told to drive towards the Hazelwood Cemetery. This I thought would be a haven of refuge. As the flames had almost reached us I jumped on a passing truck and went to the spot I had told the late Miss Hare to go. Later in the afternoon in company with First-Constable Penrose, of Boolarra, the body of Mrs Dyer was found some 3 chains from where I left her in Miss Hare's car. She had evidently got out and been overcome with smoke and flames.

"In It For 20 Minutes."

Leonard G. Campbell, of the "Victory" Cafe, was also present as a fire fighter at the Hare homestead. He said during the height of the fire he saw the late Miss Hare and Mrs Vera Jones serving tea to the exhausted fire fighters. Seeing the danger of the situation in the west he said to Miss Hare, "You had better come around the front." The couple did so. Soon after the fire reached the house, and everything adjacent thereto was licked up. After the flames had passed Miss Hare's car was standing in front of the house facing the way the fire had advanced from. Later at the Morwell Hospital he saw Mr Jones and asked, "Where did you get Percy?" The unfortunate man, who succumbed to his terrible burns in that institution said, "I really don't know, but I was on it for 20 minutes."

"I am on Fire, Put Me Out."

David T. Davies, of Duckley Street, Morwell, was another who answered the call on the fateful Monday. He was also in the vicinity of Ern Hare's home. It was about 5 o'clock as far as he could calculate, and a fire was coming rapidly from the direction of Yallourn. He went and sought shelter behind a water tank. Mr Len Hare and Mrs Jones had also sought that haven. Later the trio left the shelter. Mrs Jones was with him. Going out a double gate he saw the late Miss Hare lying close by. Her body was badly burned. All her clothing had been burnt off. With Mrs Jones' assistance he carried Miss Hare to a spot at the front of the house and laid her on the ground. A man, whom he now believed was the late Percy Jones, came up to him and cried out, "I am on fire; put me out." He at once did so, and then we arrayed ourselves about Miss Hare to protect her from showers of sparks and falling lighted debris. A great gust of wind came and the flames rushed towards us. He saw the danger and started to crawl through the gateway. At the same time he kept looking back though the haze beckoning and waving to the others to follow. Eventually he made his way to a paddock. Coming again towards the road he saw the body of Miss Hare lying on the turf about 50 yards from where he had left her. Evidently she had made a valiant attempt to crawl to safety as he had tried to direct her. However, he did not see any sign of Mr and Mrs Jones.

James Filston Turned Back.

Geo. Temple, a Hazelwood farmer, was one of the first men to see the late James Filston, Richard Thomas and John Robinson alive in the late afternoon of Monday, 14th February. He was with the trio, as also was Messrs West Eagle and Don Ridgway. The party were on Mr Nadenbousch's property. A fire made its appearance over The Ridge. It approached at a terrific pace. Sensing the danger Mr Temple said to the late James Filston, "I'm off; are you coming?" Deceased said he was and proceeded a couple of yards. Then he turned back to where the other men were standing in a millet patch. Thinking of his own home Mr Temple made for it. The distance was some 800 yards, and he did the trip in record time. However he just reached the domicile when the fire swept up and destroyed it.

At Jeeralang.

Here the fire must have been a wall of flame. Tall timber prevails and flames reached over the tops of the trees. Just how any human or stock survived is a veritable miracle. The inferno swept all round Sagar's, Chadwick's, Will Oates, Hullah's, Bennett's, J. D. Fowler's and Mac Beaton's. Homes escaped, but many outbuildings were licked up. The homes of F. E. and Frank Fowler were demolished. The former lost 45 head of cattle and a horse, whilst Frank (who is a member of the Forces) also had cattle incinerated. The South Jeeralang school went up in smoke, as also did its neighbour, Jeeralang North.

MORWELL NORTH BLAZE

As briefly mentioned in our last issue a fire broke out in the heavily timbered paddock familiarly known as Derham's but now owned by Australian Paper Manufacturers. It started on Wednesday afternoon and continued on the Thursday long into the night. Practically the whole of the bush area was traversed, whilst a deal of grass land to the west was also swept across. No houses were affected. Many boaters from the mill and elsewhere worked hard during the real danger periods and were relieved where the fire burnt itself out. A pipe line to carry effluent from the mill runs in the lighter furze country for some distance. It however, had been saturated by water leaking from the pipes at intervals along the line, and thus no danger to the line was apparent at any stage of the conflagration. The wind was favorable for the burn, and residents along the Latrobe River flats had no cause for alarm.

OUT DRIFFIELD WAY.

Much grass and fencing was lost in the above district by the fires of last week. And on top of that Mr Marrett lost his home and outbuildings. The family's wearing apparel was also demolished. Residents consider they were fortunate the wind was blowing a direct north-wester at the time. A genuine northerly would have been ruinous to the settlers residing there. Like the majority they sympathise with those who suffered in other parts of the district.

Feb. 24, 1944.

BOOKS AND TOYS FOR BUSH FIRE KIDDIES

Last week, schools in the Sale and District Inspectorate launched an appeal for books and toys for the benefit of children in the burnt-out areas around Morwell, where schools and homes have been demolished by fires. These came to hand last Friday and on Saturday morning Mr J. Goyen and staff of Morwell School put in a few hours sorting out and allotting the gifts. These will be despatched at once, and are sure to gladden the hearts of the kiddies who have lost all such treasures. The thoughtfulness of those who instituted the appeal up East and the children who responded is fully appreciated at this end.

Mr Jack McInnes, of North Hazelwood, is indeed lucky to have his home intact. He was absent from the house when the fire arrived, and it was totally unprotected. Mr McInnes had taken his family to a safe spot, and when returning a car coming in the rear got its bumper bars tied up with his car. It took some time to release it. Then the fire had passed on to do its destructive work elsewhere. The settler was astounded as he viewed his house intact through the smoke. However, all his grass was swept over, and the sheep lost entirely. Cattle were saved.

DISPOSAL SQUAD FINISH JOB

Yesterday (Wednesday) the squad of uniformed men who have been in the shire since February 15th, disposing of carcasses of cattle, horses and sheep, lost in the fires, took their departure for their military base, somewhere in Victoria. The men did a wonderful job, and one that few civilians would care to tackle. They earned the gratitude of farmers. It was deserved.

The Australian Defence League at Yallourn unfortunately lost about 100 tons of firewood when the fire early swept through that area. It had been cut and stacked ready for distribution during the approaching winter to local families of men in the forces. Every effort will be put forward by this patriotic body to restore the loss prior to the cold weather setting in in earnest.

RUMOUR MONGERS GET THE AXE

When the appeal went forth on the Tuesday following the tragic bush fires, for men to volunteer to dig graves for the unfortunate victims, it was quickly answered by a dozen men. They did their job faithfully—and it was hard work in comparison to the usual provocations of "the men. Their "good deed" done these men earned the gratitude of relatives of the victims and the public in general. The work was done voluntary. These big hearted workers were not out to exploit the situation by accepting payment. Even if they did they were entitled to some recompense. A grave-digger proper would receive payment. Despite the fact that the money received was immediately handed to Morwell Fire Relief Fund a few "chin-waggers" in the street spread the rumor that the men put the cash received in their pockets. So keen did some of the men feel on this matter that a request was made for this refutation of the lying jade (Dame Rumour's) street prattle. We are certain that the stupid remarks emanated from that class of person who would not even be satisfied if he tossed up a summons and it came down a £5 note. We, like close to 100 per cent of shire residents, "dips our lid" to the volunteer workers, for their contribution of £12/17/6 to the Fund.

WATER SHORTAGE FOR STOCK

With the rapid drying up of dams on district farms, many land owners—especially dairymen—find themselves having to cart water to appease the thirst of stock. This is being done per medium of barrells, cream cans and water carts. Mr Geo Rae, of Maryvale, finds the task a very strenuous one. Chatting to him over the phone on Tuesday he said the job was nearly an all day one with a Furphy water tank, as nearly 150 head had to be watered. Mr Rae said he was anxious to be a contributor to the Bush Fire Relief Fund, and as we did not force him to any stated amount he said, "Put me down for £12/12/-. I will bring in my cheque as soon as I can get into Morwell." Thanks!

CATTLE AGISTMENT

On Thursday evening, last week, a large number of farmers assembled in the Morwell Town Hall and discussed the problem of agistment for dry cattle from the burnt out areas. Mr Llew Vary was voted to the chair and Mr P. P. Kelly acted as Secretary. Information re same may be obtained from the above gentlemen. Particulars in regard to dairy cattle will be obtained in another column.

DEVESTATION BRINGS UNITED FRONT TO MORWELL

The A.P.M. Shock Brigade, convened by the Inter-Union Shop Committee went into action last Saturday morning, to recover iron and timber from a burnt shed of Mrs Thomas. There were carpenters, plumbers, ironworkers machine-men, fitters apprentices, a driver and truck. Also the well known Morwell communist, M. Alexander, who is doing all he can for others, until he can obtain material for his own farm.

After lunch, other organisations came on to the job, the R.S.L., V.D.C., C.R.B., traders, farmers, and they finished the job in record time. This was not the only job done last week-end. There were small parties all over the district, doing their best to put farms back into production, because they know that if they can fix up homes and fencing which have been destroyed it might mean the difference between no butter or "6 ounces."

Here, when men of all creeds are doing their best in this terrible disaster to our countryside, our State Government is in recess until May.

Every man is asked, this week-end, to make himself available. We appeal also to the men at the Maryvale mill. Mr E. Mann is organising work in between shifts. The chief organiser for Morwell is Mr J. Catterick, who has done a splendid job. At the Mill, Brigade leaders are Mr "Bunny" Peters (Traralgon) and Mr Jack Henry.

Homes lost at Herne's Oak were:— Mesdames Reville, Card and O'Rielly; Messrs Palmer, Parker, Backman, Neames, Sandman, Cloak, Kiernan, Lavery and Forsyth. In addition the public hall is also missing at the settlement. It was a miracle how many more houses escaped the flames, as the fire went right to the walls, destroying all fences and outbuildings. Quite a few other residents lost belongings, viz., Messrs Hamilton, Bingham, Oliver and Mrs Davis. This spot is right in the danger zone, and must remain so whilst virgin timber prevails even to the outskirts on every side. To burn a decent break would be more than a problem.

Victims of the fire in Morwell Shire, who are desirous of getting information concerning the replacement of buildings, fencing, etc., should communicate at once with N. Baldy (shire secretary), J. Donohue (Lands Officer) or First Constable Bert Stanton. Failure to do this will cause delay. If burnt-out settlers write direct to Government departments regarding claims their enquiries will be referred back to the Morwell end for ratification. So start on the right track—enquire locally.



R.H.S.V. HISTORY NEWS

NO. 144 FEBRUARY 1994

DR LEONIE FOSTER

At the Annual Meeting, Volunteers' Party and the final meeting of Council (followed by a dinner), some of us had the chance to say thank you to Leonie for three years' hard work as our Director. Many others, I know, would have welcomed the opportunity. It is sad that ill-health made her resignation advisable.

Leonie brought special gifts to the position: a courtesy and warmth in dealing with people; precision, insight and tenacity in handling the accounts; a creative impatience towards the bumbling of some bureaucrats, and the energy and ability to "sell" R.H.S.V. across the country. She sat on significant Heritage Committees and everywhere she went made a point of promoting this Society.

It could all be minuted like this:

*She made a name with shipwrecks
And then became our engine:
Set all sails, too, with energy and skill
To help the ancient Lady Nelson,
Becalmed (we thought) on our logo,
Put out to sea.*

*She made a name with shipwrecks
And then became our anchor;
Helped us to weather accounting shoals,
Set up bright channel lights
For new arrivals,
And lined the wharf with cargoes of ideas.*

*She made a name with shipwrecks
And then became our bosun;
'All hands on deck', she'd shout,
As the gales came up,
'We'll tack across the bows of bureaucrats
And make them reef the rent'.*

Weston Bate

MR KEVIN GATES

Kevin Gates succeeds Leonie Foster, but with a different title - Executive Officer. He retired to Melbourne early in 1993 after a long career in the Department of Foreign Affairs. He was at different times Australian Ambassador to Greece and Mexico, and spent his final posting in Chicago, as Consul-General. There he delighted in the cultural life of a city which flowered at about the same time as Melbourne, and liked to draw to the attention of Chicagoans the parallels between their history and ours.

One of the first things Kevin did on returning to Melbourne was to join R.H.S.V.. He has an honours degree in history from the University of Melbourne and an abiding interest in Australian history.

"THEY'RE OFF" - AFTER A FALSE START

4 March 1994

The excursion to the Victorian Racing Museum, which was to have taken place in 1993, will now be held on 4 March. Enjoy another aspect of our history by visiting the Museum at Caulfield Racecourse. A highlight of the afternoon will be a tour of the new grandstand complex with architect, Mr James Bate.

Meet at Gate 22, Station Street, Caulfield (it is near the station) at 1.30pm; conclusion at about 4.00pm. Reasonably priced lunch can be obtained at the Heath Family Bistro between Gates 22 and 23. Car parking in the immediate vicinity is by ticket.

The cost, which includes afternoon tea, is \$5.00 to members of the R.H.S.V. and its affiliated societies \$6.00 to non-members, payable on booking with the R.H.S.V. no later than Monday, 28 February.

DESTRUCTION OF SCHOOL RECORDS

The disastrous fire which destroyed part of the Korumburra Secondary College recently included the destruction of school records, but members of Historical Societies throughout the State will be pleased to read that copies of all but two of the Pupils' Registers of past and present Primary Schools in that district were already in the possession of the local Research and Craft Centre.

For years, the R.H.S.V. has been advocating the photocopying of all Pupils' Registers by local Historical Societies, for their use in tracing families is extremely valuable. These Registers record the name and age of each pupil, the date of enrolment, the school from which the pupil transferred, if applicable, parent's name, distance of residence from the school and, where applicable, the date of transfer and the name of the School to which the pupil was transferred.

We can only hope that Historical Societies will place this very necessary project on their programme for this year. Pupils' Registers for closed schools may be found in the hands of school correspondents, or filed at a larger school in the district or in the hands of the Education Department itself, but it is necessary to locate the Registers and to record their location, to photocopy them in duplicate and to cover the originals in suitable plastic covers to preserve them from unnecessary handling. The photocopies should all be filed together in one file to which reference may be made and the second copy returned with the original to the holder so that the photocopy may be used in future.

There is no substitute for these family records. Local newspapers do not provide such details, even in death notices, and the compilation of a complete set of these Registers of all schools, both past and present, in their district will form one of the most valuable acquisitions of any Historical Society.

BOOK NOTES

The Rise and Fall of the Mt Hunter Tin Mine, by Ian McKellar. Heathmont, 1993. Available from I.C. McKellar, 9 Homebush Court, Heathmont, Vic. 3135. RRP \$8.00 (\$1.00 posted).

A relatively little known part of Wilson's Promontory is the northern section, Mount Singapore, forming the eastern shore of Corner Inlet. South of Mt Singapore there was a township established in 1892 called Seaforth, but it never developed because of the Depression and there was almost no building placed on the land. Further south is Mount Hunter and here there was evidence of tin, and the Mt Hunter Tin Mining Syndicate mined here from 1923-25 in great hopes but met with little success. Today there is not much remaining to mark the site of this enterprise which in its heyday employed a large number of men, and used a great deal of advanced machinery for sluicing and processing.

Ian McKellar has known the area for many years as a long time bush walker, and his years of experience as an engineer and historian have given him the background and enthusiasm for following up his own interests in this almost forgotten venture. In this well researched and produced book, fully illustrated with contemporary and recent photographs, maps and charts, he follows the progress of the company through its few short years. This is a valuable addition to the literature on South Gippsland and Wilson's Promontory, and will be important as well for researchers in mining history.

JDA