

Morwell Historical Society Inc.



Morwell Post Office – circa 1915

Morwell Historical Society –
www.morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au

Written correspondence – The Secretary; 12
Hazelwood Road, Morwell 3840

THE MORWELL POST

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Hazelwood Power Station as “we” may remember it.



Morwell Historical Society Directory 2017

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Postal Address:	12 Hazelwood Road, Morwell, Victoria 3840
Public Access:	1 st and 3 rd Wednesday and last Sunday of each month, 11.00 a.m. – 2.00 p.m. Not open - December & January
General meetings	Third Wednesday each month – 2.00 pm – except December and January)
Annual General Meeting:	3rd Wednesday of March each year
Membership Fees:	Due 1 st July each year Ordinary Member \$25.00 Family \$30.00 (two persons at same address) For a hard copy of <i>Morwell Post</i> - \$5.00 extra p.a
“ <i>The Morwell Post</i> ” Editor:	Leo Billington – email: billington@net-tech.com.au
Research Fees:	\$10.00 per hour or part thereof, and prices for photo prints on application and postage where applicable.



Morwell Power Station in more salubrious days – note the number of cars parked.



Morwell Commercial Road; 1960

**December 20, 1954 - From the *Morwell Advertiser*
An item from the previous newsletter – and a response received**

Where was
Hustlers store
located in
Commercial
Road?

Hustlers Pty. Ltd.
Commercial Road, Morwell

Gifts For Early Christmas Shoppers

Lingerie
Prestige
First Man's Special Measures by Prestige

Men's Wear
"Prestige" Summer Silk Slips, long knee-length Matching Socks 23/6
Range Last Tailored Nylon Socks - Slips of Socks 12/11
Two-piece Nylon Sets, 1-Slip and Sock, printed £2/12/6

Ladies' Wear
Ladies' Gay Floral and Paisley Pattern Cotton and Vellor Fibres Frocks, sizes 10-14, 16-18, 20-22, 24-26, 28-30, 32-34, 36-38, 40-42, 44-46, 48-50, 52-54, 56-58, 60-62, 64-66, 68-70, 72-74, 76-78, 80-82, 84-86, 88-90, 92-94, 96-98, 100-102, 104-106, 108-110, 112-114, 116-118, 120-122, 124-126, 128-130, 132-134, 136-138, 140-142, 144-146, 148-150, 152-154, 156-158, 160-162, 164-166, 168-170, 172-174, 176-178, 180-182, 184-186, 188-190, 192-194, 196-198, 200-202, 204-206, 208-210, 212-214, 216-218, 220-222, 224-226, 228-230, 232-234, 236-238, 240-242, 244-246, 248-250, 252-254, 256-258, 260-262, 264-266, 268-270, 272-274, 276-278, 280-282, 284-286, 288-290, 292-294, 296-298, 300-302, 304-306, 308-310, 312-314, 316-318, 320-322, 324-326, 328-330, 332-334, 336-338, 340-342, 344-346, 348-350, 352-354, 356-358, 360-362, 364-366, 368-370, 372-374, 376-378, 380-382, 384-386, 388-390, 392-394, 396-398, 400-402, 404-406, 408-410, 412-414, 416-418, 420-422, 424-426, 428-430, 432-434, 436-438, 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884-886, 888-890, 892-894, 896-898, 900-902, 904-906, 908-910, 912-914, 916-918, 920-922, 924-926, 928-930, 932-934, 936-938, 940-942, 944-946, 948-950, 952-954, 956-958, 960-962, 964-966, 968-970, 972-974, 976-978, 980-982, 984-986, 988-990, 992-994, 996-998, 1000-1002, 1004-1006, 1008-1010, 1012-1014, 1016-1018, 1020-1022, 1024-1026, 1028-1030, 1032-1034, 1036-1038, 1040-1042, 1044-1046, 1048-1050, 1052-1054, 1056-1058, 1060-1062, 1064-1066, 1068-1070, 1072-1074, 1076-1078, 1080-1082, 1084-1086, 1088-1090, 1092-1094, 1096-1098, 1100-1102, 1104-1106, 1108-1110, 1112-1114, 1116-1118, 1120-1122, 1124-1126, 1128-1130, 1132-1134, 1136-1138, 1140-1142, 1144-1146, 1148-1150, 1152-1154, 1156-1158, 1160-1162, 1164-1166, 1168-1170, 1172-1174, 1176-1178, 1180-1182, 1184-1186, 1188-1190, 1192-1194, 1196-1198, 1200-1202, 1204-1206, 1208-1210, 1212-1214, 1216-1218, 1220-1222, 1224-1226, 1228-1230, 1232-1234, 1236-1238, 1240-1242, 1244-1246, 1248-1250, 1252-1254, 1256-1258, 1260-1262, 1264-1266, 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New Director for the Centre for Gippsland Studies appointed

Federation University Australia has appointed Professor Erik Eklund as its new Director of the Gippsland Studies Centre.

When this appointment was publicly announced, Professor Eklund was quoted:

“With the announcement of the closure of the Hazelwood Power Station we need to think about how we might remember, conserve and adapt the industrial sites that helped shape the Latrobe Valley.

“Life in the regions is fabulous but we all know that we have some major challenges confronting us. We want Federation University Australia and the Centre for Gippsland Studies to make a major contribution in dealing with those challenges.”

[The full text of the announcement was in our last newsletter. Will we see another attempt at industrial tourism with a dose of history? The public awaits with scepticism.]

DRIVE IN [source: unknown]

A new and innovative concept in entertainment came to Morwell in 1956, the drive-in theatre. The Panoramic drive-in, situated in Latrobe Road on a 12 acre site near the Holmes Road intersection screened its first films at a special function held on a wet and damp Wednesday 29th. August. Mr. Frank James, Panoramic's Managing Director took the opportunity to thank those who were instrumental in assisting his company to establish the new facility.

He made special mention of Shire President Cr. Alan Hall, without whose help the drive-in would not have come to Morwell. Mr. J. W. F. Connan, the Shire Engineer and Mr. W. K. Mathison, the Shire Secretary also received a special vote of thanks. Morwell Waterworks Trustees Mr. R. R. Davey and Mr. W. McRoberts were thanked for making the site available.

"The drive-in" officially opened to the public on 30th August. The opening night's proceeds were donated to local community groups. Amongst those to benefit were: Morwell Red Cross, Morwell High School, Latrobe Legacy Group, The Benevolent Society and the Morwell and District Hospital.

The price of admission for the first night was 1/- per vehicle, irrespective of the number of occupants carried. Children were provided with free lollies and balloons.

The "Panoramic" operated six days per week: Monday to Saturday.

Each evening, the gates would open at 6.30 with show time commencing at 7.30.

On Monday to Thursday evenings, the programme was double-billed. On Friday and Saturday nights the "Panoramic" screened two shows, the second commencing at 9.30.

General admission prices were: Monday to Friday - Adults 4/- and Children 1/-. On Saturdays, the adult admission was increased to 5/-.

The Panoramic drive-in provided extensive meals service. Patrons were able to obtain their meals at the catering section, or if preferred, they could avail themselves of the tray service direct to their vehicle.

The "drive-in" also catered for the amusement needs of children by providing a fully equipped playground. The playground was situated near the viewing area.

"The Panoramic" was able to accommodate 436 cars; plans were in place to extend the site's carrying capacity to 500 vehicles.

Attendants washed the windscreen of each vehicle upon entry to the facility. In wet weather, the water used to wash the windscreens was chemically treated to ensure good viewing.

The projection and sound equipment cost £14,000 and was installed by R.C.A. (Radio Corporation of America). The viewing screen measured 80 feet by 30 feet. The construction and terracing work was carried out by Bendigo building contractor John D. Booker. Mr. Jas Houlihan performed site supervision duties. The total cost of the facility came to approximately £60,000.

To operate on a six-day basis, the "Panoramic" needed 30 employees in various categories: Projector Operator, Cashier, Cook, Kitchen and Cafe staff, Car Attendant.

Mr. Vin Mannes was the manager.

From Fay Thompson - RETAIL CORNER – BOOKS FOR SALE

Morwell Historical Society has the following books for sale:

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| - Streets and Place Names of Churchill | \$20 |
| - <i>Morwell: Past to Present</i> DVD | \$20 |
| - Glimpses of Morwell | \$20 |
| - Jaberanda and Co. Living in the 20th Century | \$20 |
| - Across the Old Bush Track | \$29.95 |
| - Morwell to Mirboo North Railway | \$15 |
| - Steamhorse to Power by Prue McGoldrick (1979) | \$8 |
| - Changing Landscapes; [Settlement at Driffield] | \$15 |
| - <i>"Yallourn Was..."</i> | \$20 |
| - Souvenir History of Morwell by I.I Maddern | \$5 |

Joy's eulogy

Joyce Dawn Cleary was welcomed into the world on the 23rd of April, 1926 by her parents, Dot and Rick Butters. Joy was their only child and as the family said, you can't improve on perfection.

Growing up in Morwell in the boarding house run by her parents, Joy had a very, very happy childhood. While she was an only child she never felt lonely, with people coming and going in the boarding house, and visiting extended family in Melbourne.

Joy was one of the first students to attend Commercial Road State School, and many years later some of her great grandchildren have followed in their nana's footsteps. Joy's secondary schooling was at Yallourn High School where she was Dux of her class.

On leaving school, Joy's first job was as an Usherette at the Yallourn Cinema where she watched 'Gone with The Wind' some 17 times; she loved it so much she also watched the film whenever it came on tele.

Joy then went on to work at Sharpe's Emporium where she was employed until marrying Ray Cleary. Setting up home in Morwell, Joy and Ray welcomed the safe arrival of their children, Gail, Den, Di, and twins Sue and Sandy.

In 1964 Joy and Ray went their separate ways and Joy was left to raise her five children on her own; what a testament to the amazing lady she was. These were the days when there was no government support, and Joy needing to bring in an income commenced work at Barry's Music Centre. From there Joy went onto full time work at Morwell Fashion Centre; starting her new job on her 41st birthday, Joy

eventually became the Manager, a position she held until retiring 20 years later.

In between all this Joy did cake decorating for many weddings in the area, and of course countless birthday cakes for her grandchildren which she loved to do, and needless to say, they loved the end result.

There was always a warm welcome to be had at Joy's home with the kids bringing home their friends, especially Den who would bring home mates who could on occasion, be a little on the wild side. They all had the utmost respect for J C, as they called her, and she never judged any of them.

Although Joy was normally a very accepting and laid back person, Sandy recalls a time when she and her Mum were walking home from the street, and they passed Den and his mates who were sitting on the bonnet of a car at a local hangout spot. As they walked past, Den said hello to his mum, but she just continued walking without acknowledging him. Sandy said to her, "Mum didn't you hear Den say hello", to which she replied, "he hasn't got anything on his feet". Obviously, a shoeless son was not on her list of acceptable standards.

Joy was a lady in every sense of the word; always well dressed and groomed, and as many ladies of her era did, weekly visits to the hairdresser were a given.

A good cook, Joy like many of her generation, could make a meal stretch. The kids loved their mum's cooking except for brussel sprouts, hence whenever Joy served them up, whoever went to the toilet would grab them off everyone's plate and throw them under the house. The cats enjoyed them immensely and Joy was none the wiser until recently. She said she thought as there were never any left on the plate that we all loved them, how wrong she was!!

While sprouts weren't a family favorite Joy's Sunday roasts went down a treat and for tea it was scones, cold meat and salad followed by her speciality, Apple Blossom pie. This recipe was published for others to bake, but somehow it seems as though she omitted to put in a secret ingredient as they never turned out to be exactly the same as Joy's, which seemed to happen with any recipe she gave out. I wonder why?

Come Christmas each year, the kitchen was entirely Joy's domain and lo and behold if you entered while she was cooking; it didn't matter how warm the day, Joyce undeterred by how hot it was, would be busy in the kitchen cooking, resulting in the most delicious fare that was prepared to perfection and greatly enjoyed by all; as her family say, 'there was nothing like Christmas at mums'.

One Christmas, with money being tight, Joy came up with the idea of spraying a dead branch white, decorated it, which looked fantastic and this idea is very much in vogue today.

Joy's love for dancing saw her and Ray become 'Gippsland Jitterbug Champions in times gone by. The story is told that one time, Australian Jitterbug champions, Clyde Porter, and Midge Minns came up to the Valley to do an exhibition after which Joy and Ray were selected to get up and dance. Such was their talent, everyone thought they were better than the champions. Joy encouraged her girls in ballet and Den in tap dancing taking them to eisteddfods/ etc. and sewing their costumes.

Living two doors down from Joy were relatives Peg & Des Ryan and their three children Danny, Julie and Mandy. Enjoying a close relationship with them Joy followed her nieces dancing careers, and took great pride in their achievements and watching them perform over many years.

Joy also had a great love for music and live shows; in earlier years, she loved seeing Frank Sinatra and other greats perform at Festival Hall and later loved taking the train to Melbourne to take in a show regularly, staying the night at the grand old Vic.

Joy enjoyed socialising with her neighbours and loved their regular card nights in each other's homes. Playing Canasta and Bolivia with Joan and Kevin Noy, Alex and Beryl Nicholson and Myrtle O'Neill, these were great times indeed.

In 1987 Joy retired from work at the age of 61, she hated not working and became involved in the Historical Society and with Mitchell House where she served on the Committee. She also kept active playing tenpin bowls and badminton and loved to watch tennis and cricket on the tele, even if it was on in the wee hours of the morning.

With the years passing by Joy's family had grown considerably having welcomed as her own, Terry, Jackie, Ross, Rob and John into the family and her dearly loved grandchildren, Kylie, Brooke, Kellie, Nicky, Marnie, Paul, Jarrod, Emma, Grant, and Wendy and later her much loved 15 great grandchildren.

Joy adored all her grandchildren as much as they adored and loved their Nana; there wasn't anything she wouldn't do for them. Joy was a big part of their lives attending their school and ballet concerts, and loved having them stay during school holidays, often taking them to the cinema and making their favorite food. If they were bored, out came the cards and they all knew how to play gin rummy.

Speaking of games, Joy never lost her love for scrabble, enjoying the game with Janice Bartlett, she also took great delight in playing with her family; with her dictionary, nearby, any word over three letters was always

checked....and if Joy got a triple word score, a quiet, little smirk would appear on her face. Den commented that his mum was the only person he knew who could turn a game of Scrabble into a blood sport.

Joy also took to Trivial Pursuit after Den dropped the game over for her to play. The next time he visited she asked if he would like to play but little did he know that she had memorized every card, she was so keen to beat him.

Joy was a familiar sight in Morwell walking to wherever she needed to go. Setting a mean pace, you had to run to keep up with her; even when she had her wheelie walker she kept up the pace. Most days Joyce would walk up the street stopping to have a chat with everyone she met along the way; and as you know Joy was good at talking, something all her children have inherited.

One of Morwell's matriarchs, Joy was a cherished mother, Nana, aunt, and dear friend. What a wonderful legacy Joyce leaves.

TEST YOUR MEMORY – and there were plenty of memories forthcoming.

WHO REMEMBERS THE INFAMOUS CORNER SHOPS?

Mahoney's "corner shop" – corner of Jane and Helen Streets. (Jim Mahoney and his sons, Jim and Ian ran this store for years plus providing a grocery home delivery service.)

An application from Mrs. A.M. Sykes, of 7 Jane Street enquiring if it would be possible to build a small shop for mixed business purposes at the corner of Jane and Helen Streets was referred to the Planning Committee, at the last meeting of the Morwell Council.

Morwell Advertiser, February 5, 1953

Re Mahoney's Corner store. We built in Mary Street in 1963 on the corner of Charles Court and still live there! The shop existed then. Mahoney's lived diagonally opposite their shop on the corner of Mary and Jane Streets, and John's parents lived 2 doors from the Mahoney's in Jane street! John's brother's wife worked in the shop! Of course, it was our corner store and we shopped there almost daily!

The shop changed hands several times before closing about 6 years ago. It sold recently at auction for around \$70,000. The two-storey rear of the shop built by the then owners, the Savva's, about 30 years ago, was pulled down following the earthquake Morwell experienced about 4 years ago because it was deemed dangerous! Another shopkeeper (before the Savva's) lost his wife when she committed suicide in a settling pond near the railway line/commercial road. Thus, there is a lot of history attached to Mahoney's corner shop!

Regards, Joy. **[Thanks to Joy Blakeley and Betty Woolley for these two snippets.]**

The Phyllis Street shop. **[Betty Woolley and Joy Blakely were quick to reply on this one. Many thanks.]**

Hi again. John [Blakeley] was told today [December 24, 2016] that the Sykes family had the Phyllis St. shop for many years and he believes they started it!

Hi Leo, John said to let you know that Hans Koch of Maryvale Electronics fame was the proprietor of the above shop 51 years ago. He would not have been the first proprietor but John doesn't know who preceded him. Hans is still alive, but his wife has passed away. John thinks he may live in English street, Morwell, and will enquire of a friend who knows where he lives and we will let you know. His son turned Maryvale Electronics into Sound on Wheels in Buckley Street and then shifted the business to Commercial road. [Email received from Joy - December 23, 2016]

THE SYKES FAMILY — Thanks Betty

Respected Citizen Passes

THE death occurred (suddenly) at his home at 7 Jane St., Morwell, last Thursday, of James Alfred Sykes, at the age of 51 years. The late Mr. Sykes was born at Deptford and spent the greater part of his life at Bairnsdale, where he engaged in the blacksmithing trade. He was a playing member of the Bairnsdale Football Club, and later an active supporter; a member of Bairnsdale Angling Club and a keen fisherman and a member, and for a period secretary of the Bairnsdale Brass Band. In 1926 he married **Miss Alice Skipworth** at Bairnsdale. Eleven years ago, he came to Morwell, and was employed with the State Electricity Commission, but in his spare time carried on blacksmithing to assist various businesses and organisations, including the Morwell Shire Council, because of the scarcity of these particular tradesmen at the time. On Saturday, a service was conducted at the home in Jane St. by the Rev. R. Hunt, and the remains were laid to rest in the Hazelwood Cemetery in the presence of a large gathering of mourners from Melbourne, Morwell and Bairnsdale. Pall-bearers were his four sons, Norman of Port Melbourne, Alan, Ian and Geoffrey of Morwell and coffin bearers were Messrs J. Skipworth, of Melbourne, J. Evans (Melbourne), F. Brown (Melbourne), C. Locke (Morwell), H. Kyle (Bairnsdale) and C. Sykes (Gelantipy). He is survived by a widow, four sons and daughter-in-laws Patricia and Sylvia. **[Alice Skipworth = Alice Sykes]**

Morwell Advertiser, October 9, 1952

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ENGAGEMENT

SPRUHAN-SYKES. -The engagement is announced of Patricia Ella, youngest daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. J. Spruhan, of Bendigo, to Alan Maxwell, second son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Sykes, Helen St., Morwell.

Morwell Advertiser September 7, 1950

The Kiosk
Tenders.

THE council at the request of the Morwell Shire Band received tenders for the right to sell sweets, etc. in the foyer of the Town Hall for one year from the 1st February, 1947. Three tenders were received-L. B. Campbell. £1;15 per week: E. Martyn, 15/ per week and R. Blake 17 6 per week. The tender accepted was from L. B. Campbell at £1 15/ per week.

Morwell Advertiser, January 16, 1947

Balance Sheet

The balance-sheet showed that during the 'year £489/10/- had been received for picture rights; £65/1/ for hire of auditorium; £75/18/ for hire of supper room; £26 for rent of sweets stall; £4/5/6 for hire of crockery, whilst £161/6/3 were received in subscriptions and grants to Library.

(Auditor, reporting on, the Committee's accounts for the year ended.30th Sept.,1938, for the Morwell Town Hall Committee)

Morwell Advertiser, December 22, 1938

Town Hall Kiosk

The successful tenderer for the rights to conduct the sweets stall at the Morwell Town Hall was Mrs. A. M. Sykes at a figure of £3/17/6 per week.

Morwell Advertiser, March 26, 1953

The Town Hall sweet stall was obviously popular. Who can remember? Any more information?



Another mystery house creating angst among MHS members is this one – Espie’s old house. A reply was received from Elaine Andrijczak during January:

“Hi Leo

A comment on your photo of Espie's house on page 10 of December 2016 Morwell Post. I was thinking that the house was on Switchback Road and Darrell has confirmed this. It was on Switchback Road, about opposite where Nadenbousch's Road intersects with Switchback Road and adjacent to where Denis

Cook lives. Darrell said the house is no longer there having been demolished some years ago. Cheers Elaine.” [Thanks from Leo]

Modern Shop Opened in Hopetoun Avenue

A new modern mixed business will commence operations next week in Hopetoun Avenue on the corner of Jill Street, and will fill a long-felt need of shoppers in the surrounding areas. Owner of the business, which is situated at the front of a modern brick residence is Mrs. M. Leighton. The shop will supply grocery lines of all descriptions, delicatessen needs, milk, ice-cream and all confectionery lines. A comprehensive refrigeration system has been installed by Morwell's "Frigidaire" representatives, Kelly Bros., of Princes Highway, and the building was erected by Mr. A. Hinchcliffe.

Morwell Advertiser, January 15, 1953



Do you recognise the Hopetoun Street “modern shop” now?? Look what Latrobe City Council approves!!!!!!!!!!



Who recognizes these two former milk bar/corner shops in Morwell? Please send information to Leo.

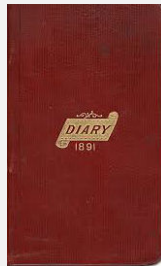


In the next newsletter, I will unveil the long-awaited mystery school at the Jennings depot site in Morwell.

Please note all meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of each month – 2.00 pm - at 12 Hazelwood Road (Old Masonic Temple)

WELCOME TO 2017 EVERYONE – from Leo

Information Page:



Meeting dates for 2017:

2.00pm Wednesday, 15th February 2017
Guest Speaker:
Jane Barr of Berry Street,
Ginnsland Region



If undelivered, please return to: 12 Hazelwood Road Morwell 3840

From Our Morwell Cupboard File: A reminder that the Research Room and Library are open on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays and last Sunday in the month, from 11.00am to 2.00pm.

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