

# The Morwell Post

Morwell Historical Society

URL: [www.morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au](http://www.morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au)

Email: [secretary@morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au](mailto:secretary@morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au)



LM Ericsson employees hard at work - see p4-5



Photo supplied by Luisa Oates

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# Morwell Historical Society Directory 2020

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:	<a href="mailto:research@morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au">research@morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au</a>
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 “ <b>The Morwell Post</b> ” - \$10.00 per annum
Editor:	<a href="mailto:morwellpost@morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au">email: morwellpost@morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au</a>
Research Fees:	\$10.00 per hour or part thereof, and prices for photo prints on application and postage where applicable.
Facebook:	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/morwellhistoricalsociety">https://www.facebook.com/morwellhistoricalsociety</a>
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

The year has commenced with many activities being planned.

The Reunion of former employees of L M Ericsson Pty. Ltd.'s Morwell Plant, organized the Society for Sunday 9th February 2020, was a great success and a separate report is in this newsletter.

Planning is underway for a Garage Sale to be held at the Society's rooms on Saturday, 29th February 2020 8am-3pm. Funds raised from this event will be used to help pay off the Society's Building Loan - the balance is currently \$150,000.

If you have items to donate, these can be dropped off at the Society's rooms on Saturday, 22nd February 8.30am-3pm. No junk please and there will be no returns.

For further information, please contact Chris Roads 0400 043 423 or myself 0428 528 464.

Chris Roads and I are working on the refurbishing of the Society's display boards – this involves re-covering and raising the height of some boards and affixing castors to them all. These improvements will enable volunteers to manoeuvre the display boards much easier when preparing new exhibitions. These works are being done at a significant cost-saving to the Society with funding provided under the Latrobe City Council's Community Development Grant.



Chris and Bruce hard at work

You will have received notification of the Annual General Meeting to be held on Wednesday, 18th March 2020 at 2pm. Please consider nominating for a position and a Nomination Form and a Proxy Form have also been forwarded to you.

A big thank you to our members who volunteered to assist at the Ericsson's Reunion and are assisting Chris Roads and myself with the organizing of the Garage Sale. These events require many volunteers and could not be held without such valuable assistance.

Bruce McMaster  
President



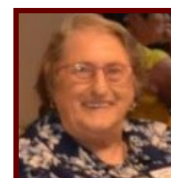
Gaye Jones, Shirley Prosser, Thelma Mayze, Rosalie Davey



Elaine Andrijczak and Shirley Prosser



Bruce McMaster, Fay Thompson



Peter Gitsham , Kellie Bertrand, Freda Webb, Florence Butcher, Alma Glover

## SOME OF OUR VOLUNTEERS

# REUNION OF FORMER EMPLOYEES OF L M ERICSSON MORWELL 1967 - 1988

This Reunion organized by the Morwell Historical Society was a huge success with 130 people attending. As a result of the overwhelming response, the event was transferred to the Morwell Bowling Club which donated the use of the Function Room to the Society.

A recent review of the Society's records revealed little information on the establishment of this company in Morwell and the fact that it employed over 700 employees at its peak, mostly women.

Photos received from former employees prior to the event were on display as well as newspaper articles relating to the establishment and operations of the company in Morwell.

The Shire of Morwell acquired the former La Mode premises in May 1967 to enable the establishment of the LM Ericsson plant in Church Street, Morwell. The company officially opened in Morwell on 1st August 1967. Subsequently the premises in Church Street were expanded, the Council also built premises at 58-60 Commercial Road, and additional premises were used at 213B Princes Drive and 13 Holmes Road, Morwell to cater for the expanding production required at the Morwell plant.

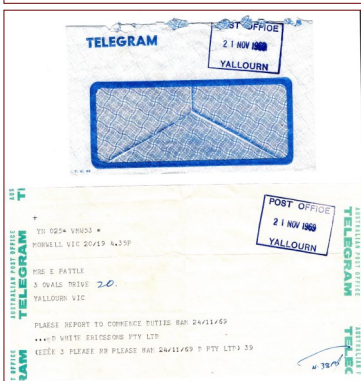
A request to the former employees to provide photos and memorabilia for the Society's archives has resulted in over 300 photos being received plus memorabilia donated to the Society.

Elaine Pattle has donated a copy of the Telegram she received on 21st November 1969 advising her to report for work at 8am on 24th November. Elaine also donated a copy of her payslip on 4th December 1969.

Trevor Donley brought along for display an 'Ericofon' phone which was produced by LM Ericsson and introduced in Australia in the early 1960s. The Ericofon came in at least 18 bright colours to suit any décor.

GROSS AMOUNT		NET AMOUNT		NAME
55.94	4.54	51.20	71.9331	E. PATTLE

Kjell Ardivsson, who was part of the team from L M Ericsson headquarters in Broadmeadows, took part in early negotiations for the establishment of the



Morwell Factory and continued providing support for the Morwell Plant, also attended the Reunion. Mr Ardivsson, from Melbourne, has donated numerous items relating to Ericssons, to the Society.



Those attending reminisced about how the company was great to work for and many life-long friendships were made. The Social Club provided many opportunities for the employees to get together and socialize.

Thank you to Elaine Andrijczak for having the forethought and energy to consider and organize such a worthwhile project for the society.

Thank you to all you who donated photographs and memorabilia and also made your own photos available for scanning.

Due to the popularity of the Ericsson's Reunion, it has been decided to continue all the displays at the Society's rooms PLUS the extra photos which were scanned and memorabilia which was donated on the day PLUS the photos of those present on the day - a total of over 400 photos.

The opening days will be during March and April and details will be advised soon.



Photo supplied by Julie Young



4 Tabone Sisters. Back - Tessie Borg, Annie Maruzza, Mary Andrews  
Front - Vicki Bounds



Doris Tanti, Doris Tanti-Stewart, Agnes Azzopardi, Mary Mallia, Carmen Baldacchino



Kjell Arvidsson, John and Heidi Lam



Photo: Ingrid Andreou's tools



Thelma with some of the memorabilia



Framed gift of a cable presented to Dr Ric Bouvier 1977



Julie Gatt Rose Zammit Marion Zammit Carmen Gatt



Lance Oates Luisa Oates(De Agnoi) Doris Tanti-Stewart

Unless indicated, photos by Kellie Bertrand

**SHIRE OF MORWELL**  
**Preliminary Evacuation Plans**

As it is remotely possible that it may be necessary for civilians to vacate this Shire it is the desire of the Government that all householders should know what they must do in such an event. At present it is considered that only a military landing on the nearby beaches would necessitate an evacuation and it must be clearly borne in mind that no evacuation of any type whatever is to take place unless the government on the advice of the military authorities so directs.

If you have to evacuate and have petrol for your car you must travel by/with

------(these 2 lines could have been left blank for the name of who you would be travelling with or how you would travel)-----

through Moe and Willow Grove to Noojee, etc. The evacuation Wardens will decide who will travel in your car. You must keep strictly to these roads. The military authorities will keep you off military roads and as many scouts as can be provided will keep you on evacuee roads. Always keep a big reserve of petrol in the tank of your car as possible. See that the vehicle is mechanically trustworthy. Limit your luggage. Wear as much clothing as you can as this is the easiest way of carrying it. Omit all unnecessary bulky articles. Take food enough to see you through a 200 mile journey which may be travelled at a slow pace. The following table contains suggestions regarding quantities of food to be taken.

Take thermos flasks or waterbags. Owing to risk of poisoning NO meat, meat pies, sausage rolls, saveloys

	Children from 3-6 years of age	Children over 6 and adults
Sandwiches	6 slices of bread	10 slices of bread
Biscuits (Plain)	10	15
Cheese	One 2 oz packet	Two 2 oz packets
Nuts (Peanuts shelled)	15	30
Raisins (Seedless)	One 4 oz packet	One lb packet

etc., should be taken. Make sandwiches of egg, cheese, marmite or vegemite.

Take an unbreakable plate, knife, fork, spoon and pannikin. If space is available in the car and you have tinned foods in your pantry take these with you.

Unless you receive orders from the Government to evacuate you are to continue your normal civilian activities. Even though fighting may break out in your neighbourhood you are not to take to the roads unless you receive orders through the Government but must take such cover as you can get at your home.

*Source: We had this article regarding WW2 recently slipped under our front door at the Society*

## THE 1919 INFLUENZA

The “Spanish flu” pandemic emerged at the end of WW1 killing more than 50 million people throughout the world. It began to appear in Australia on 15th October 1918 and about 40% of the population fell ill and 15,000 people died. CSL produced 3 million free inoculations for Australian troops and civilians which were partially effective in preventing death. Some believed that smoking was a good preventative of influenza and the tobacconists enjoyed high sales as many people took up smoking.

In February 1919 Dr Sutcliffe, who was Morwell’s Health Officer, put in place measures to fight the flu should an outbreak occur in the town. It was decided to congregate patients in one centre so that they could receive the best attention. With that object in view the Morwell State School was converted into a temporary hospital for influenza patients. The children were moved to the Mechanics Institute for lessons. Nurses were appointed and they were housed next door in St Mary’s Church. Furniture and equipment were moved into the “hospital” and the Red Cross Society supplied the bedding.

Mirboo North did not have a doctor and Dr Sutcliffe was concerned about ill people catching the train down to Morwell to visit the doctor and spreading the flu so he organised for the Railway Department to supply an emergency van to bring patients from Mirboo North and stations along the line to Morwell. A landing was made on the railway line opposite the “hospital” and gates were erected by the shire council so that the patients brought in by van would be as close as possible to the “hospital”. Messrs A McDonald, R Noy, F Lee, R Hentschel, Bert Fisher, J Miller, J Lance and J Ward volunteered to act as stretcher bearers and they were supplied with masks and gowns to wear when removing patients from the train and taking them to the “hospital”. At the end of February two cases of the flu were in the “hospital” and Morwell was proclaimed an infected area. By July there were 20 serious cases of the flu in the “hospital”. All entertainment places and public meetings were prohibited and the school in Mechanics Institute was also closed.

By the end of 1919 the influenza pandemic was over. The flu was caused by an H1N1 virus with genes of avian origin but where it started has remained a mystery. Many people believed it started in Spain and that is why it is often referred to as the “Spanish Flu”.

Source: : ~~The Advertiser~~ 14 February and 21 February 1919



Nurses at Morwell State School when it was used as a hospital in 1919

## THE VICTORIAN SOLDIER SETTLEMENT SCHEME - Hazelwood Cattle Run

During WW1 about 90,000 men and women from Victoria served overseas and about 70,000 survived to return home. There was an urgent issue of how to repatriate these returned soldiers. As well as providing war pensions and other financial assistance, State Governments of the time set up 'settlement schemes' to support returning soldiers with work. These schemes involved subdividing large rural estates into smaller farming blocks and leasing them back to discharged service people.

Victoria's scheme was created under the Discharged Soldier Settlement Act and 1917 reports from the time indicated there were about 11,000 farms created. Returned service people and their families moved onto the land from the first mass demobilisation right up to the 1930s although the majority of blocks were granted in the early 1920s. Soldiers who were successful in gaining such a block of land had the opportunity to start a farming life in a number of rural activities including –wool, dairy, cattle, pigs, fruit, fodder, and grain. These initial land allotments resulted in triumph for some and despair for others. Some simply walked off the land and went back to the larger towns that they had come from.

One such soldier settlement scheme was on the Hazelwood Cattle Run which was occupied by the McMillan family.

*Discharged Soldier Settlement Act 1917*

[http://www5.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/vic/hist\\_act/dssa1917305/](http://www5.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/vic/hist_act/dssa1917305/)

The McMillan homestead  
The SEC demolished the homestead  
in 1975



Hazelwood Estate Hall 1988

The soldier settlers on Hazelwood Estate in the early 1920s decided that they needed a hall for meetings, social gatherings, school, church services, polling booth, etc. A site for the hall on Fraser's Road was secured and Mr W Young erected the building. The official opening took place on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October 1926 with the President of the Morwell Shire, Councillor Rae opening the front door and declaring the hall open. Everyone

entered the hall to the strains of "Onward Christian Soldiers" with Mrs Ina Payne, wife of the President of the Hall Committee Chas Payne, playing the newly purchased piano. The following Wednesday a Grand Ball was held in the hall. The photo of the hall was taken in 1988 before it was demolished and removed to Briagolong.

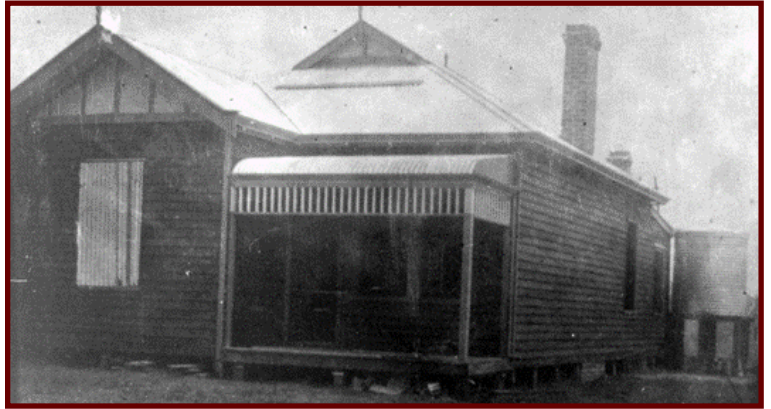


Hazelwood Estate Hall early 1960s  
Elaine Andrijczak





Arch McFarlane's 1<sup>st</sup> home c1926

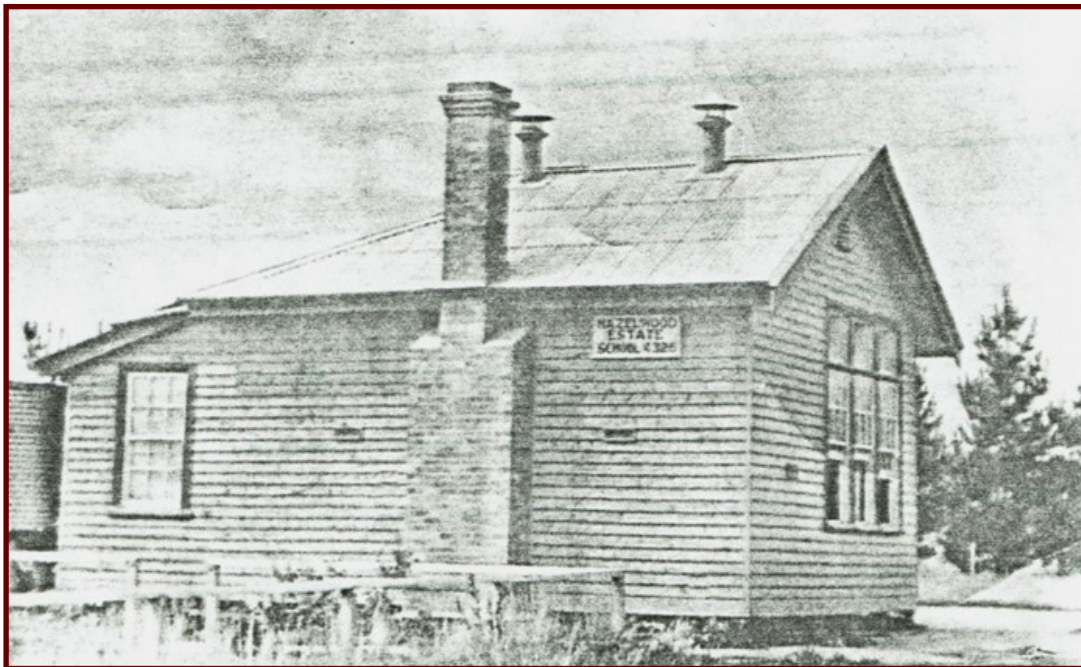


Jim Lawless' home built in 1922

### **Hazelwood Estate School No 4326**

In November 1926 the Education Department rented the hall and The school commenced with Mrs Ina Payne as teacher on the 8th November 1926 with nineteen pupils enrolled during November. These comprised infant classes to grade 9. In 1932 the Koornalla School, Traralgon Creek Road, closed and it was moved to Fraser's Road, not far from the hall.

Alice Wilmot, who later married Mr Arch Deppeler of Yinnar was appointed the teacher. It would have been wonderful for the teacher and her students to have their own building.



The school continued to be used as an alternative school for children who did not like going to a normal school. We do not know when it closed but on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1998 a fire destroyed the school.

Source: *Hazelwood Estate Primary School Diamond Jubilee 1926-1986* - by Wendy Ablett



## Hazelwood Estate – 1922

(MacMillan Selection)

The names listed below are the original 44 WWI Returned Soldiers who were allotted 44 of the original 45 allotments for farming under the Soldier Settlement Scheme on the Hazelwood Estate originally owned by the MacMillan Family. The number shown before each name is the Lot number of the subdivision established and also shows where each returned soldier originally came from.

Other Returned Soldiers took up other allotments privately.

1. William Henry Purcell	Bruthen	24. Alexander Bell	Drouin
2. Edgar Holmes	Clarinda	25. George Sylvester McFarlane (Jnr)	Morwell
3. David Guilford Williams	Yinnar	26. Charles Patrick Doyle	Morwell
4. Percy Vivian Currie	Yinnar	27. William Gordon Newton	Upper Maffra
5. Lindsay Savige	Morwell	28. Stanley George Thomas	Glengarry
6. Douglas McFarlane	Morwell	29. William Garfield Espie	Hill End
7. Robert Leonard Rule	Tostarre	30. Recommendation Deferred.	
8. Frank Melbourne Irvine	Yinnar	31. Charles William Unwin	Darnum
9. Roy Leslie Grauer	Yinnar	32. William Henry Budge	Yinnar
10. Frederick Dietrich	Yinnar	33. William George Rintoull	Morwell
11. Robert John McNair	Jeeralang	34. Alexander Morton Caldwell	Briagolong
12. Charles Macquarie Shaw	North Hazelwood	35. George Horsburgh	Jindivik
13. Donald Lachlan Murray Shaw	North Hazelwood	36. Alfred Brooker	Bairnsdale
14. Wilfred George Trew	Morwell	37. Alfred Leslie Bruce	Morwell
15. David Henry Jones	Trafalgar	38. Hector Theodore Trimble	Sale
16. Edgar John Hogan	Morwell	39. Charles Francis Maule Payne	Morwell
17. Albert Dietrich	Yinnar	40. Charles Hatfield	Melbourne
18. James Watson	Yinnar	41. Francis Jerome Gilfedder	Mirboo North
19. Thomas Charles Bunston	Traralgon	42. William Patrick Sweeney	Yarram
20. William Edward Morris Larkins	Swan Reach	43. Ernest Lock	Morwell
21. Ian Grant Simmons	North Hazelwood	44. James Richard Lawless	Boolarra
22. John Boyes	Warragul	45. Albert George Eric Johnstone	Yinnar
23. John Leviston	Yarragon		

There was a large inquiry for the allotments and the Board of Inquiry comprising: Messrs. F.T.A. Fricke (District Officer – Melbourne), W. McIlroy (Land Officer – Sale) and Councillor David J. White (Morwell Shire) sat at the Mechanics Hall to deal with the applications and allocations for each block and made the above recommendations.

Malcolm J Bugg, OAM, President – Morwell RSL Sub Branch Inc.

Cr. Kellie O'Callaghan, Mayor – Latrobe City Council.

11th November 2010.

LEST WE FORGET

This plaque is at ANZAC Lookout overlooking the Hazelwood Pondage



Cover photograph of Marilyn Lake's book

Sources: *The Limits of Hope - Soldier Settlement in Victoria 1915-38* by Marilyn Lake

From the folders and photos in our archives on the Hazelwood Estate

## PETER SIDDLER - CRICKETER

Born in Traralgon in 1984 and growing up in Morwell, Peter began playing cricket at the age of 14 for the Latrobe Cricket Club.

In 2009 Maryvale Reserve, in Grant Street Morwell, the Latrobe Cricket Club's main ground, was renamed the Peter Siddle Oval after Morwell's fast bowler Peter Siddle.

In 2008 Siddle became the first Latrobe Valley cricketer to play at Test level. The Latrobe Cricket Club player finished his career at the end of December 2019 as the 13<sup>th</sup> leading wicket taker in Australian Test history claiming 221 wickets at 30.66. All together Siddle played in 67 Tests.

### Some Career Highlights and Awards

15th Australian bowler to take 200 test wickets  
Sheffield Shield Title 2015  
Winning Ashes Team 2013/2014  
100 Test Wickets 2012  
Test match hat trick v England 2010  
ICC Emerging Player of the Year 2009  
Test debut v India 2008  
Sheffield Shield title 2019

Source: From many internet pages



### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Please note that the **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** of the Society is to be held at **2.00pm** on **WEDNESDAY, 18th MARCH 2020** at 12 Hazelwood Road, Morwell. All positions will be declared vacant – please consider nominating for one of the positions.

All nominations need to be in the hand of the Secretary 24 hours prior to the AGM.

Nomination Forms are also available on our web site:

<http://www.morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au/admin.htm>

There are a number of regular items that need to be decided at the Annual Meeting - these include the yearly subscriptions and when we should be open to the public.

If you are unable to attend the Annual General Meeting, please let us know of your thoughts by mail or email to: [secretary@morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au](mailto:secretary@morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au)

### Typo Correction

In the article about the Pointers in the last Post, the Chemist shop was at 164 Commercial Road not 104.



### OPEN DAYS 2020

4th March / 18th March; AGM / 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

### OPEN DAYS 2021

3rd February / 17th February / 28rd February

Please deliver me to:

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