

# The Morwell Post

Morwell Historical Society

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## The Five Scots



See page 4

### IN THIS ISSUE

Directory  
President's Report  
The Five Scots  
Decimal Currency 1966

Page 2 A Stereograph  
Page 3 William Henry Polden  
Page 4-6 Robur Tea  
Page 7 Opening Times and Supporters

Page 8  
Page 9  
Page 10-11  
Page 12

# Morwell Historical Society Directory 2022

President:	Bruce McMaster Phone: 0428 528 464
Vice-President:	John Willis
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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. Open - February to November
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 Single Member - \$25.00 Family Membership -Family living at the same address includes children under 18 years old - \$30.00  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**

## **DONATIONS**

Before Christmas, Chris went to Hazelwood Power Station Store and brought back to our rooms – SEC Contact - 1971-1994, SEC News -1950-1993, Jumbunna 1995-2012 and a 6-draw large drawings/maps storage cabinet. Chris returned and also brought back 3 monitors, a large amount of coloured A3 cardboard and some computer cables. The Society thanks Ian Needham and Donna Huizer for organising the Engie donations.

The Society has also been donated a 1991 basketball trophy, 2 inscribed golf balls and a 50 years St Vincent and Sacred Heart mug. Thank you.

There was also donated a large amount of Masonic Lodge items and Scottish items including a framed photo of the 1981 Morwell Caledonian Pipe Band and a 1939-1989 Morwell Caladonian plaque. The Society appreciates all donations and thanks the donors.

On page 10 there is an article about Raynor's Tea Rooms which opened in 1944. We know that Meca Enterprises occupied the site before Tom and Jackie opened Asian Noodle Bar in 2013. What we do not know is what businesses occupied the site between Raynor's and Meca. We also know that the Robur sign was there in 1989. Does anyone know when it was painted over?

## **COVID**

The Society would like to extend their thanks to the Department of Health and Human Services (DFFH) Community Partnership team for their ongoing support during the pandemic. It continues to be important that we keep each other safe, informed and connected and I would like to acknowledge our member, Kellie Bertrand for managing the Government Covid documentation and for supporting us to be COVID compliant and COVID safe. Thanks Kellie.

## **NEW COMPUTER**

At last our grant for the new computer arrived and it is now in the office doing its job of recording all our data and holdings.

## **FUNDRAISING**

On February 12 the Society made \$608.17 plus \$52.50 in donations at Bunnings BBQ. I thank all those who took part, especially those who volunteered for the first time.

Thank you to Shirley who effortlessly manages to organize volunteers to crew the BBQ on the day. It takes at least 12 to make the day enjoyable and easy to manage. Elaine, Orlando, Laurie, Gaye, Ray, Rod, Bronwyn, Rosalie, David Kneebone, David McInnes, Peter Lendon, Fay, and Chris for picking up the bread and sausages. Many thanks also to Brendan from *Zios Pizzeria* who continues to support us, especially peeling and cutting up the onions—10kg at least!

## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

The Society turns 60 on March 15th. Depending on COVID restrictions, to celebrate the event there will be a showing of photos at 7pm and supper. Entry fee of \$10, which goes towards repaying our debt. More details closer to the date.

Incidentally we are a year older than Moe.

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Our AGM will be held on Wednesday March 16th 2022 at 2:00pm at 12 Hazelwood Road, Morwell

Keep safe, Bruce McMaster

## THE FIVE SCOTS

Many older members would remember the singing and entertaining group The Five Scots which performed in Gippsland and if you did not see a live performance you would have seen them on the television. The following is an extract from the first 15 pages of a book written by Gavin Dykes, "History of The Five Scots".

My name is Gavin Dykes and as unbelievable as it sounds I was a painfully shy lad growing up in Glasgow. At Scottish parties, which are legendary, Spin the Bottle is played and if the bottle stopped at you it was your turn to sing or recite a poem. I hated it. I used to nick off and hide until it was over. I would also find it really hard to walk into a crowded room of strangers and would have to pluck up the courage. It took me ages to get over this and so what happened next is even more remarkable.

My first taste of entertaining was on the ship when I left Glasgow in 1952. I was one of a number of bachelors and some of us were roped into taking part in the ship's concert. For some reason, perhaps it was the sea air, I don't know but I really enjoyed it. There was something new in my life and when I arrived in Australia I felt like someone different.

This is the story of the Five Scots. A group I formed back in 1961 when I roped in a few friends to help me do a 30 minute spot of entertainment for a friend Shield Doig's 21st birthday party. Well the 30 minutes finished up as a 20 year career in show business so actually this story should be entitled "How to succeed in show business without really trying" because that is what we actually did.

One of the guests at the party that evening was my friend George Stevenson, Master of the Traralgon Masonic Lodge. He came to me afterwards and said they were having an installation banquet the following week and would we go along and do the same thing? I agreed there was no problem we'd do it for George and the Lodge. So we went along and did the show with no hesitation and from then on we were getting invites from all over Gippsland. All the Masonic Brethren from Gippsland were there and so we were getting lots of invites from everywhere.

So to get us started I wrote a little sketch out and I modelled it on "In Melbourne Tonight" which was a big show at the time. I made up a TV with a big piece of Masonite. It was a mock TV screen. Of course TV was just beginning in Australia so it was all very new. We would get behind "the screen". I would go on and introduce the show "In Waterhole Creek Tonight" and continue by saying it was coming to you direct from the studios of the Gas and Fuel Corporation and it's your favourite Smelly Telly show because it's the show that always stinks.

So we did all these commercials on and off the "screen" with limited speech involved. Jimmy Gilfillan would come on and he would just stand there and wouldn't say a word. He would just splash his big smile and show his teeth. He would disappear off and I would go on and I would say that this man uses ordinary everyday tooth paste but after using "Red Gum" toothpaste for only 3 weeks this is how he looks now. Jimmy would walk back on again, open his mouth give a big smile but this time he had removed his dentures and was showing a mouthful of gums and he would disappear off the "screen" again.

In another ad, Jim would walk on wearing a soft hat. He would just look at the screen and with no words spoken pull off his hat. At the same time a shower of confetti would come out all over him. He would disappear off and I would come on again and say "That's a shocking case of dandruff. This guy should change to a new miraculous shampoo called Less Hare". At the time Les Hare had recently been the Morwell Shire President, he was well known so we named the shampoo after him. Alex would then come on a second time and take off his hat and this time he was wearing a flesh coloured bathing cap so that was it. He looked bald.

They were the commercials and we would do 2 or 3 of these and in between Ossie Drummond would play his mouth organ. By the way the fellows I roped in were: -Jim Gilfillan, Rodney Doig, and last but not least Hughie Gunn. So we were the 5 who originally started The Five Scots.

Ossie would play some tunes on the mouth organ and we would tell a couple of jokes. Our skits became a very successful thing but the trouble was that we also played pipes and drums. There were 2 pipers and 2 drummers in the group. So we were carting all this “stuff”, props, TV screen and 2 sets of bag pipes and drums around with us and it took a bit of setting up. We had to use a trailer and decided it was a dead loss and we had to do something different.

In 1962 something different came along in the form of George Renwick who had arrived from Scotland. George was a brilliant self taught pianist. He couldn't read a note of music. None of us had learnt a song in our lives before so it was an unusual group. I suggested we do something different and the boys agreed to cut out the comedy. We started learning songs and George was one of the reasons we took to singing. We had the keys to the Masonic Lodge in Morwell and we would go there and practice with the piano. We left comedy behind and just worked on singing. I had never sung in Scotland growing up and the only “singer” in our house was the sewing machine.

We did a show at Kernot Hall Yallourn and while we were there one of the committee members from Yallourn Thespians came up and asked if we The Five Scots would do some songs in their annual review taking place in a month's time. On the program a young girl Heather Ritchie, a ballet dancer was doing a dance and someone got the idea of us standing in the background with straw hats and moustaches (not in our kilts but white shirts and light trousers) singing “Strolling in the Park One Day” we did a wee dance step while she did her ballet. Anyway that went over very well and her mother told us she was dancing the same dance in the Eisteddfod in Traralgon on Monday night and she asked if we would dress up and do the same song and dance step.

I remember at the time I thought “Oh geez, we are not really interested” but Heather was a nice kid and the mother was a nice woman and so we agreed.

The next day I got a phone call congratulating us saying that we had won a prize at the Eisteddfod and it was in the category for an act with the most TV potential. I remembered feeling surprised and until this day I don't know who the judges were but they must have seen something in us that we didn't see.

Anyway the prize was an appearance at Channel O in Gippsland.

Norm Carlyon was the manager at that time before he went to Melbourne and he was putting on a concert with all the different ethnic groups in Gippsland. We participated and represented Scotland.

We sang in Sale and Bairnsdale. It was a good concert, I should mention at this time that with George Renwick being there Ossie Drummond had dropped out and Hughie Gunn dropped out because he had to do night shift. I got my brother Alex and his great mate Bob McLeod to join us.



The 'Five Scots'  
L-R Jimmy Gilfillan; Alex Dykes; George Renwick  
(kneeling); Bob McLeod; Gavin Dykes c. 1967

I received a phone call from a man who said there was a new show starting on TV called "Battle of the Towns" and could we go to the supper rooms in the Morwell Town Hall for an audition. We were going to play at Yallourn North that night so we did a quick song and went on our way to Yallourn North thinking no more about it.

I got a phone call to say that we were in the Morwell team.

The show was to consist of 4 acts from each town from all over Gippsland. From Morwell there was us Five Scots, Kevin McGarth and his Basin Street Jazz Band, there was a girl and a classical pianist. The show went on for weeks. It was a knock out competition. We were in kilts and the lights were right in our face. Anyhow it was good experience for us and we won the battle of the towns and the prize was \$500 which was a good some of money in 1962 and we donated it to the Morwell Hospital in Elgin St.

I got another phone call to say that the Gas and Fuel were putting on a cooking demonstration to be held in the RSL Hall in Morwell. Frank Wilson who was running New Faces in Melbourne was coming down to comper it. We bowled up to the RSL Hall on a Friday afternoon and were introduced to Frank Wilson and went on and did two songs. The first song was "Donald Where's Your Trousers?" I can't remember the other song but both were real lively songs. There were 400-500 people in the hall. It was packed. Frank asked us if we would go on new faces. He sent us an application form which we ignored. We received a reminder to fill in the application. Anyway I wrote back agreeing to go but I told them we would need accommodation because it was over a two hour drive and 7 am was an early start. We travelled down to Melbourne and booked into a pub on Bridge Road Richmond. On Saturday we wandered along to Channel 9 studios. Our turn came and I don't remember the songs but I looked at the judges and I could see their feet tapping under the table and they were tapping their pencils. When we finished they told us our act was good for stage and television. On the way home we stopped at the Berwick Pub for lunch and I said to the others that we might end up on In Melbourne Tonight.

Lo and behold a telegram arrived asking us to appear on In Melbourne Tonight.



The 'Five Scots' fly to Wagga for a performance (c1967)

This article printed with kind permission of Judy Dykes in memory of her husband Gavin.

## DECIMAL CURRENCY

“On the 14<sup>th</sup> of February 1966”

There was a lot of love in Australia on this day. It wasn't only Valentine's Day, but the day that the currency changed from pounds, shillings and pence to dollars and cents. Robert Menzies had made an election promise in 1958 to seriously consider decimalisation. Menzies, a staunch monarchist believed the new currency to be named 'royal'. The Australian people were not happy with the name royal and it was a great relief when the name 'dollar' was chosen.

New notes and coins were designed. The coins featured Australian wild life while notes reflected Australian history and contributions to the world. In preparation to the big switch, a stockpile of one billion coins were minted and transported all over Australia by police escorted trucks in 'Operation Fastbuck'. Bank machinery, parking meters, cash registers and petrol pumps all had to be converted.

Throughout the two year phasing out period, citizens could either use the new or old currency to pay for goods and services and any change they received would be in dollars and cents. The Reserve Bank gradually withdrew the old money and some of the old coins were recycled to make new ones by the Royal Australian Mint. The campaign to educate everyone was very successful and centre stage was “Dollar Bill”, a cartoon character who was everywhere, on the TV ads, newspapers and the radio.

These are the words from the famous jingle which is sung to the tune of “Click Go the Shears” and the lyrics were written by Tom Roberts.

In come the dollars, and in come the cents  
to replace the pounds, and the shillings and the pence  
Be prepared folks when the coins begin to mix  
on the 14th of February, 1966

Click goes the cents folks, click, click, click  
Changeover day is closer than you think  
Learn the value of the coins and the way they appear  
and things will be much smoother when the decimal point is here.

In come the dollars, and in come the cents  
to replace the pounds, and the shillings and  
the pence  
Be prepared folks when the coins begin to mix  
on the 14th of February, 1966

This paved the way for metrification in the 1970s –that is the official conversion of measurements from the imperial system of ounces and inches to the metric system, grams and metres.

1963 & 1964 Last Pre-Decimal Coins Issued 9 Coins



## A STEREOGRAPH

What is a stereograph?

It is two nearly identical photographs paired to produce an illusion of a single three-dimensional image when viewed through a stereoscope. Recently, the Society was donated a stereoscope and 2 boxes of photographs.

George Rose, 1861-1942, was a Melbourne photographer who started his career around 1880 producing



three-dimensional images. He called his business "The Rose Stereograph Company". He toured the world with his 3-D camera, producing stereographs for the home and overseas markets.

The clips that held the photographs were missing but our member, clever Chris Roads made some, so now we can use the stereoscope.

5 Indian cards, 3 Korean cards, 9 Japanese cards, 3 Irish cards, 3 Chinese cards, 26 cards re Boer War in Melbourne and South Africa, 22 cards of the Duke of York visit to Melbourne.





## WILLIAM HENRY POLDEN

One of the early housing estates in Morwell was the Polden Subdivision and the houses were built by Jennings in 1948 and available for sale in April 1951. The trees were planted in Polden Crescent in 1953.

William Polden was born in 1885 in Langford which is a small town in Bedfordshire, England. He married Isabel Mason in 1913 and she was born in 1882 in Bardon Mill which is a hamlet in North West Leicestershire in England.

William and Isabel had one daughter Ruby Isabel. So that is where the street names Polden, Langford, Bardon and Ruby originated. Then there is a little street off Polden Crescent called Willis Street which has a dead end because of the Mirboo North railway line easement. This street was originally called Will Street, possibly after William Polden, but for some reason it was changed to Willis, after an outstanding Chairman of the SEC., Dr Willis Connolly who became Chairman in August 1956.



Avondale Road looking west from Ruby Street 4th August 1948

It is not known where the name Avondale originated, possibly some reference to their previous residence in Leicestershire, but there was a house in the street called "Avondale".

William and Isabel lived at 11 Avondale Road.



Avondale Road looking west  
from Ruby Street 17 September  
2021  
70 years later.

## ROBUR

Robur was originally Griffith's Brothers Teas. In 1925, its founder James Griffiths and his wife Emily were killed by train and the tea company was sold to Robur tea which itself lasted to 1974.

Griffiths had made his company a household name through his pioneering use of outdoor advertising by installing the infamous blue and white enamel "Griffiths Tea" promotional signs affixed to the railway boundary fences highlighting to travellers the distance to or from Melbourne, indicating how many "...miles to Griffiths Tea". These signs are much sought after today and are well known in the eastern states of Australia.



Robur, means as strong as oak, referred to the tea being strong, dependable and a good quality product. Robur was located at 123 Swanston Street, Melbourne, and it had its own tea rooms. The company embraced outdoor advertising using posters and signs painted on walls around Melbourne and regional areas. Many of these feature Robur's "perfect teapot"-a sterling silver or nickel silver plated pot with an internal strainer cup. Robur tea "ghost signs" can still be spotted around Victoria. The company was taken over by Tetley in 1974 which in turn was taken over by India's Tata Company.

In 1941, Eddie and Rose Raynor built Ed Raynor's Tea Rooms and Food Store on the Princes Highway. The Post Office, which is across the lane way was not built till 1955. In the photo there is a sign pointing to La Mode Industries. The Fire Station was across the road and Eddie was a member.



Lieutenant Eddie Raynor 1953

Eddie Raynor married Rose Edwards in St James, Traralgon in May 1939. Her parents lived in Walhalla and Rose's mother catered for the wedding. Eddie and Rose first owned the Cafe Royal in Commercial Road which was previously owned by Jeffries.

The Tea Rooms and Food Store were built by Ray Sweeney of Traralgon in 1941. It measured 35 feet by 18 feet and had all modern fittings including a stainless steel sink. The shop windows had sparkling glass and end mirrors. The cantilever veranda was lined in plaster sheets. A private living room opened off the passage that led to the kitchen. The kitchen was fitted with a one fire stove and an electric stove. Also a built-in cabinet, abundance of cupboards and shelves and over the sink were hot water jets. Upstairs there was a lounge, 2 bedrooms with built in robes, a sleep out, bathroom with a toilet and a built-in linen press. The building contained 3 fireplaces, one in the cafe, one in the lounge room and one in the living room. Organisations hired the Tea rooms for meetings and social gatherings. Eddie and Rose frequently catered for weddings and birthdays. The tea rooms was a booking centre for LV Bus Lines and the bus left from outside the door.





## OPEN DAYS 2022

Please check the current Covid-19 restrictions before attending.

2nd February || 16th February  
2nd March || 16th March; AGM || 27th March  
6th April || 20th April || 24th April  
4th May || 18th May || 29th May  
1st June || 15th June || 26th June  
6th July || 20th July || 31st July  
3rd August || 17th August || 28th August  
7th September || 21st September || 25th September  
5th October || 19 October || 30th October  
2nd November || 16th November || 27 November

Please deliver me to:

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Morwell Neighbourhood House



We sincerely thank Russell Northe, MLA for Morwell and staff for printing our Newsletter