

THE MORWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Published every month except December.

The Society meets every 3rd Tuesday of the Month 7:30pm Collins St. State School Library

WELCOME TO THE JANUARY NEWSLETTER.

From the November meeting:

There will be no meeting in December 1987 or January 1988. The next meeting of the Society will be held on Tuesday, February 16, 1988 at Collins Street State School.

It was resolved that the Society send letters deploring the proposed rezoning of Mathison Park, Churchill, to the following people: Hon. Frank Wilkes (Housing Minister), Hon. Val Callister, Hon. Barry Murphy, Hon. Richard Long and Morwell Shire President, Gloria Auchterlonie. A copy of the letter sent appears elsewhere in this newsletter.

An excursion is planned for Sunday, February 21 1988 to the site of Billy Hillier's grave on the banks of Billy's Creek, thence via the Mountain Hut Road, McDonald's Track and Golden Gully to the site of the world's tallest tree (no longer standing). Members and friends should assemble at the Morwell Arts Centre (old Shire Hall) at 1.30 p.m. B.Y.O. afternoon tea.

REQUEST/PLEA....Old photographs of Morwell and surrounding environs wanted for the preparation and compilation of Bicentennial project. All photographs will be treated with extreme care. Please contact Elsie McMaster, phone 34 1149.

Readers please note that this newsletter is for January 1988. This year will be the fourth year of publication. **A GOOD IDEA FOR 1988...** As this year is our Bicentennial Year, why not keep a diary. It would be a record of what you did in the Bicentennial Year.

Family Heritage
Australia Pty Ltd

23-27 Marquet Street,
Rhodes, N.S.W. 2138
Ph. (02) 73 5501

31 AUG 87

Dear Mr Niemann,

Did you know that a new first edition book entitled "THE BOOK OF THE NIEMANNS IN AUSTRALIA" is about to be published and you are listed in it?

A great deal of time has been spent to search through several million public records to locate and compile an extensive registry of Niemann families living in Australia. This interesting Niemann registry is featured in the book and is as complete as possible.

In addition, you'll find general and informative chapters about the origin and meaning of names, the history of our Australian forefathers, coats of arms and heraldry, as well as practical guidelines about how to research your own family genealogy. Whilst we have not traced your specific lineage, you and other members of your family will find this book to be of great interest.

You'll learn:-

- * How the Niemann family got its name and what it means, as well as historical spelling variations.
- * Where the Niemann population resides in Australia with a household count for each State and Territory.
- * About a coat of arms granted to an early Niemann. Besides its original heraldic description, there is also an interpretation and illustration of this Niemann coat of arms, which is hundreds of years old.
- * How to document the Niemann family tree and research your ancestry.

"THE BOOK OF THE NIEMANNS IN AUSTRALIA" is sure to be a valuable addition to your living room or library. Perfect bound in an attractive burgundy grained cover, it is gold embossed with the Niemann name on the front cover. It is 210mm x 297mm in size and is accompanied by a Certificate of Authenticity which bears a serial number and is registered in the owners name.

This remarkable collection of information is available only in "THE BOOK OF THE NIEMANNS IN AUSTRALIA", and we regrettably plan a limited printing. It is economically prohibitive to produce extra copies after our scheduled publishing date.

To reserve your copy, you must order by September 22nd, 1987. The number of books in this edition will be strictly limited to orders received by that date, so post your order today and allow approximately 6 to 8 weeks for delivery.

Yours sincerely,



Ruth Truscott.

P.S. Your book will be specially made for you here in Australia, so please allow approximately 6 to 8 weeks for delivery. Please see the Niemann Approval Order Form and Guarantee Certificate for details.

* Formerly Halberts S.A.

1988 - AUSTRALIA'S BI-CENTENARY YEAR

We wish you all a very happy year. This year, our Morwell town is approximately 110 years old. Below, I have made some notes about its first four decades starting from 1878. Most of these are taken from Prue McGoldrick's book, "Steamhorse to Power". But we're hoping that our members will help us record interesting data for each decade from then on. These facts will be included in future 1988 newsletters. We're looking not so much for facts etc found in other historical records, but anecdotes and personal experiences which give us a picture of life here in those times.

1878 The following extract from "Memories of old Morwell" (Advertiser 17/7/31) describes the town in that year --1878: "On the west end of the town was a selection held by Robert Henry, a carpenter, who had a house on the west corner of Hazelwood Road. On the opposite corner was Collyer's Hotel. This was first called Railway Hotel then the Cricketers' Arms Hotel. Next was Mr. Rintoull, the blacksmith, followed by Mr. Lutted, wheelwright; Mr. Plummer, butcher, Mr. Martin, shoemaker and the residence of Mr. O'Connor, a railway employee, on an allotment now occupied by the Bank of Australasia. Then came Fitzpatrick's Hotel--later Murdoch's Hotel".

1888 By this year Morwell had 15 major public buildings, 4 industries and many residences. Two local mines existed and farmers had had several good seasons.

1898 One notable event in the 1890's was that Morwell was severed from the Traralgon Shire. The last decade of the 19th century saw depression, drought and bushfires.

1908 This decade which includes the first years of the 20th century, were prosperous ones for Morwell. Its population increased. The building industry became a continued source of employment. Some notable buildings were; the Catholic School, Mr. Green's new shop and the Mechanic Institute building revamped.

Gippsland loses a pioneer

AS time wears on, the links with our past become more tenuous. The turn of the century is fast becoming something we have to read about in books.

The history of the famed settlers, the Medew family, is well documented, but could always be supplemented by the bright recollections of 94 year old Mr William Edwin (Bill) Medew.

That, unfortunately, is no longer the case. Mr Medew died just over a week ago, and Gippsland has lost one of its last few direct links with its early pioneers.

Bill Medew was the originator of the Medew milking dynasty, which also ended in November when grandson Doug closed down the milking shed...on the same Hazelwood North property where it all started.

Born at Koonwarra in 1893, Bill was one of Henry and Catherine Medew's nine children.

In 1901, the family undertook a two day journey in a covered wagon through the Gippsland hills to a partially cleared block in Jeeralang.

William was nine years old before a half time school opened, the teacher dividing his time between the Jeeralang and Jumbuck schools.

In line with the custom of the times, he worked on his father's farm until marrying Mary Foster in 1915.

He left the hill country in 1916 and farmed at



Pioneering Gippsland dairyman, Bill Medew, pictured on his 90th birthday.

Yinnar until 1922, when he moved to Hazelwood North. Bill Medew carved a 35 hectare dairy farm out of the Hazelwood North bush, setting the scene for generations of Medew milkers: a family that would include six children, 25 grand children, 39 great grandchildren and one great great grandchild.

His children say Bill Medew was a leader in the introduction of modern farming practices, being one of the first to apply fertilizer to pastures and to harvest hay and silage from pasture.

These advanced farming practices helped him weather the Depression,

and achieve a measure of security.

The loss of his farm to the expansion of SECV activities in 1951 was a severe blow, according to the family. But Medew shifted, house and all, to a clearing near Morwell, which is now the well populated Maryvale Road.

That was where he remained, using his farming skills to cultivate a large block full of flowers and vegetables.

He also pursued an interest in poetry and politics and was a keen member of the Masonic Lodge, which he joined in 1923.

His mind remained sharp to the end, his son

Norman said. "On the morning he went to hospital, he was planning to go out and plant some potatoes," Norman said. "Just 30 minutes before he died he was telling his doctor about the early days of Morwell."

Like a true pioneer, Bill Medew's love for farming stayed with him into the nineties, when, spade in hand, he would still travel out to the Hazelwood North property.

The farm is still there, although it looks run down. But the evidence of several generations is scattered around the property. Sadly, another human chapter in the settlement of Gippsland has ended.

Reminiscences of former citizens...

Mrs. Gladys Olver (see Nov. newsletter)

There is an error in the above article for which we apologise and correct. Mrs. Olver's brother served in World War 2 not in World War 1. (He was born during World War 1). The R. Pryke on the Morwell War Memorial would probably be their uncle.

* * * * *

MORE REMINISCENCES

The Green Family

The editor hopes you were able to read the article, "Mr. Green's New Establishment" (from Advertiser 1907) in November's newsletter, even if you had to use a magnifying glass. Apologies for the small print. This was the only way the article could be fitted into the paper size.

In this month's issue, we have more items about the Green family from editions of the Morwell Advertiser as well as reminiscences from Miss Kathleen Green, daughter of the late Mr. Arthur Green, and a valuable member of our Society.

Firstly, Kath had a little more to add about their shop. It had strong metal shutters on the outside of the windows put in place each night. These were not as might be expected, primarily to protect the premises from burglars or vandals. They were to protect the windows from roaming cattle. These animals, frequenting the streets at night would see themselves reflected in the windows and charge into the glass damaging both the windows and themselves. An incident often related by Kath's parents occurred during the building of this shop. Kath was then only 2½ years old. One day the builders left a ladder against the brick wall (about 13 feet high). Kath probably reasoned that ladders were meant to be climbed so perhaps the adults who found this toddler perched on the top rung should not have been surprised. However their consternation was understandable.

Kath's own biography is an interesting one. She attended Commercial Road school until the 6th grade. Then, as Sale was the nearest High School and there was no convenient transport, she went to Maryborough to stay with her

grandmother and attended the High School there. After that she was a boarder at Chromarty, a boarding school in Melbourne. Then at the age of 17, she returned home for a couple of years followed by 2½ years apprenticeship with Traralgon chemist, Mr. Robinson. Then she returned to Melbourne to spend 2½ years at the Pharmacy College there. After qualifying she did relieving work for 20 years all over Victoria, parts of New South Wales and Tasmania. She returned to Morwell in 1948 to care for her parents while still doing part time work in various pharmacies.

Kath had two sisters and two brothers. Eleanor (Mrs. Webster) the eldest sister, is still living. Her home is now in Mornington. Jean (Mrs. Chester) died in 1967. One brother, David Ian was killed during the war and Barrass died in 1961.

* * * * *

MORWELL'S WEATHER MAN, Mr. A. A. GREEN

Pursuing a hobby which he first took up at the end of last century is Mr Arthur Albert Green, of 53 Elgin Street, Morwell.

His hobby is recording rainfall in the town area, and his figures are so reliable they've played no small part in the area's growth and development.

At 87, Mr Green is one of Morwell's oldest original residents. He was born at Rosedale, but came here permanently in 1897.

He ran a draper's shop—the old iron store—in Tarwin Street, on the site now occupied by Coles-Dickins, and is well-known by three generations of local people.

Many's the tale Mr Green can tell of pioneering days here—when, although there was plenty of work, there was little money and people almost bartered to live.

Eggs were 6d a dozen, butter 6d a pound. Never more than 6d a pair for good working socks, and 2/6 for dungaree trousers. A pair of boots at 2/11 gave the storekeeper 9d profit, but he had to throw in a pair of laces to sell them.

HIS RECORDS AIDED DEVELOPMENT
But it is in his pluvius work that Mr Green is featured in this article.

With vast reservoirs and storages there is not the same vital interest in local rainfall, excepting in the farming areas.

But Mr Green continues to record the falls, and has amassed a rare record of the wet and droughts which in former times came close to meaning life or death for livestock in these parts.

It is true to say that his records have played no small part in the area's development.

His figures were used by bank managers, auctioneers and land agents to convince prospective customers that Morwell Shire was worth settling in.

WATER TRUST CHAIRMAN
Mr Green does not believe in weather cycles. He does say, however, that there has been bountiful rain in the area during the past 15 years and it seems we have emerged from ever being beset by water worries.

He has always been interested in water supply and rainfall, and was chairman of the Waterworks Trust for 25 years.

A quarter of a century in public service is commendable enough, but Mr Green caps that with having been treasurer of the Oddfellows Lodge for no less than 50 years.

Also a keen amateur photographer, and one of the earliest in the district with proper equipment, Mr Green during the First World War used to operate a Snapshots for the Front service. First AIF men would write that they wanted a picture of their

families, and Mr Green would oblige.

MYSTERY SOLVED
Although his rain-recording is a hobby, Mr Green has only once been challenged on his figures. The old Post Office, at the corner of Commercial Road and Tarwin Street

used to have a gauge, but at ground level. On a cloudless day, Mr Green's gauge was empty while the Post Office's showed a 'fall' of over an inch.

Mystery was solved when the same little boy was seen pointing to 'strike again'.



Morwell's Mr. Arthur Green checks a fall of rain. But, these days, he's having something of a holiday. The area is exceedingly dry after a below-average December.

"NOT A TOWN FOR AMATEURS"

Morwell is not a town for amateurs, in business or in community service work.

So said the former "senior banker" of the town, Mr Harold Glass, at a public farewell on Thursday, the eve of his departure on promotion to the ANZ Bank's Prahran branch.

"In any job, you have to be a professional", he declared. "And in community work, you don't stop long unless you are good."

"Morwell is the land of opportunity... the openings are here, if you have the will, the drive and the energy to be in it."

Mr. Glass went so far as to say that Morwell had a wider diversity of interests and opportunities than any other centre he knew.

The town had plenty of men and women of public spirit — but there was plenty of room for others to help. If a man wanted to grow in stature, this was the place for him.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO COMMUNITY
Tributes to Mr. Glass and his eight years' service to the Morwell area were paid by various speakers at the farewell, which was sponsored by Morwell Chamber of Commerce.

Deputising for the Shire President, Cr. A. L. Hare said Harold and Mrs. Glass each had contributed a deal to the community spirit of the town. As a bank manager, Harold had played no little part in Morwell's development over a critical period.

"Bank managers, come and go—but Harold is one we will never forget," said Mr. Keith Williams, speaking for the customers.

"His handling of clients was straight from the shoulder, and we learned to appreciate that. We

have all been to him for advice, and found him a loyal friend."

Mr. Col. Birrell, who succeeds Mr. Glass as senior bankers, spoke for the banking fraternity.

Mr. I. T. Maddern, headmaster of the High School, said Harold's work for the schools—in particular, the High School on which he served as a member of the Advisory Council, and Collins Street State School—showed his civic responsibility.

For Rostrum, Mr. Alan Holloway said Mr. Glass as a Freeman of Dais, had helped many of the younger men settle in and express themselves in Morwell. He had brought a vitality and sense of purpose with the establishment of Rostrum.

PRESENTATIONS
Mr. 'Jock' Southern, President of the Morwell Club, made a presentation on behalf of the club to Harold and his wife.

A presentation was also made on behalf of the Morwell Bowling Club by president Mr. Ron Levison, who said the club had shown a balance ever since Harold had joined — "and anybody who can make a balance out of a bowling club's finances is pretty good."

On behalf of the gathering, Chamber president Mr. H. S. Lazarus made a presentation. Mr. Lazarus also introduced Mr. Glass's successor in Morwell, Mr. I. A. 'Trig' Trigwell.



Cars are OUR Business

Several weeks ago, forty thousand spectators lined up at the finishing point to watch a 1901 Progress Flething win the sixty-seventh re-enactment of the London-to-Brighton veteran car rally.



This year's rally attracted a large field of 191 "horseless carriages," all of which had been built prior to 1905. The oldest competitor was a 1895 Rochet Schneider which, in spite of its age, finished the 53 mile course in fine style.

The history of this unique event really started in 1865, when crippling restrictions were imposed on England's road users. It was stipulated that all self-propelled vehicles must be preceded by a man on foot, carrying a red flag. The speed limit was 4 mph and at the discretion of any local authorities, this could be further reduced to 2 mph.

As a result of that day were most unpopular and the Act was fairly strictly imposed and indeed it is recorded that the Hon. C. S. Rolls of Rolls-Royce fame was once ordered to remove his machine from the vicinity of a public-house because "he was frightening the horses and the drivers couldn't drink their beer!"

In spite of public outcry, however, on August 14, 1896, an Act was passed which dispensed with the "Red-Flag Act" and raised the speed limit to 14 mph, which was, of course, quite flattering to many of the vehicles of that era. To celebrate the "emancipation of the motorist" it was decided to conduct a run from London to Brighton, to prove once and for all, just what a "modern horseless carriage can do."

It is not recorded how many vehicles started out on this first run, but only a few finished and the outright winners was Leon Bollee driving one of his own cars which finished the course in three hours, forty-five minutes, an amazing average of fourteen and a half mph—it's a wonder he wasn't arrested for breaking the new speed limit. Some fifty years after the event, it was disclosed that five entrants who "drove" electric cars, actually made most of the run by train, having put their vehicles on rail and unloaded them just outside Brighton where they liberally plastered them with mud to give the appearance of a long trip over bad roads—definitely not cricket.

Unfortunately, the history of motoring has had its share of dishonest competitors and also many unscrupulous dealers. This is, of course, largely past history—but it still pays to play it safe and deal with a franchised dealer—this ensures a fair deal for both the buyer and seller. We've been in business in Morwell over 25 years and we intend to stay here, and our policy of fair dealing is unchanged and unchangeable.

Bruce Kelly

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CARNATION — 14 oz. tin MILK	1/4 1/2
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WHITE WINGS 3 Pkts. JELLIES	1/11 1/2
COLGATE FLUORIDE Dental Cream Economy Tube	2/10
ARDMONA — 29 oz. tin PEARS	2/3
COTTEES — 26 oz. Bot. CORDIALS Lemon also Orange	2/7 1/2
GOLD COASTER—15 oz tin BEETROOT	1/3
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PMU SPAGHETTI also BAKED BEANS 16 oz. tin	1/6
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KRAFT MAYONNAISE Also SANDWICH RELISH 5 oz. Jar	1/7 1/2

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380 NEW JOBS NOTIFIED

About 380 new vacancies were notified in March to the Warragul District Office of the Commonwealth Employment Service.

Announcing this today, the officer in charge of the Morwell branch office, Mr Adrian Fitzpatrick, said there were still some jobs for males on dairy farms, although the seasonal decline in demand had become more marked.

Other vacancies came from the State Electricity Commission, from the building and construction trade.

Woolworths continued to place requests for adult females for their new store at Morwell. Other female vacancies were in hotels, guest houses, restaurants and in private domestic service.

On April 2 there were 30 males and 93 females receiving Unemployment benefit in the area served by the Warragul District Office (and Morwell Branch Office), which includes the municipalities of Alberton, Bass, Buln Buln, Korumburra, Mirboo, Moe, Morwell, Narracan, Phillip Island, South Gippsland, Traralgon, Warragul, Woomay, the Yallourn Works Area and Wonthaggi.

Arthur Green's death severed a link with the young Morwell

One of the few remaining links between Morwell as a country town and Morwell as a near-city was severed with the death on April 10 of Mr Arthur Green.

A resident since 1897, Mr Green's activities as businessman, resident and participant in public affairs have played no small part in the area's growth and development.

Mr Green came to Morwell in 1897 to take over the family drapery, electrical and shoe business — the old 'Iron Store' — in Tarwin-st., on the site now occupied by Coles-Dickins.

It was well known by three generations of local people.

Until failing health curtailed his movements over the past few years, he was a familiar figure, with his walking stick and bent pipe, in Morwell's business area.

Arthur Green was born

at Rosedale 88 years ago and, after education at Rosedale State School and Scotch College, did engineering with a Castle-maine firm before returning to help run the family property at Flynn, which his father owned in addition to a business at Rosedale.

Many were the tales Mr Green told of the pioneering days of Morwell when, although there was plenty of work, there was little money, and people almost bartered to live.

EGGS 6d A DOZ.

Eggs were 6d a dozen, butter 9d a pound, never more than 6d a pair for good working socks, and 2/6d for dungaree trousers. A pair of boots at 2/11d gave the storekeeper 9d profit, but he had to throw in a pair of laces to sell them.

Always interested in local rainfall, and its vital bearing on the farming and business communities, he continued to record the falls almost until the time of his death.

He had a rare record of wets and droughts which, in former times, came close to meaning life or death for livestock in these parts.

It can be truly said that his records played no small part in the area's development; and as first chairman of the Morwell Waterworks Trust, a position he held for 25 years, his practical knowledge was of great value.

LIFE OF SERVICE

A quarter of a century in public service is commendable enough, but Mr Green capped that with having been:

- Treasurer of the Odd-fellows' Lodge for 50 years;

- A Foundation Member, Life Member and greenkeeper of the Morwell Bowling Club, and Gippsland champion for two successive years

- An active Presbyterian churchman all his life.

His support for all worthy causes was well known, and he gave generously to all charities.

A keen amateur photographer, and one of the earliest in the district with proper equipment, Mr Green's pictorial records of Morwell over the years form a unique historical record of the town's progress.

A more practical side of Mr Green's hobby was evident during the war years, when photographs of the families of Morwell's servicemen were taken and sent overseas together with Red Cross and Comforts Fund parcels packed personally by him.

Mr Green was always a keen horticulturist. His rambling garden in Tarwin-st., now built over by shops, and what was, for a time, the site of the first Commonwealth Bank building, was a place of pleasure for all keen gardeners.

MEMENTOS

Always willing to share his considerable knowledge, he was indeed generous with plants and cuttings, and many Morwell gardens have lasting mementos.

Three daughters — Eleanor (Mrs Webster, East Brighton), Kathleen, and Jean (Mrs Chester, Heyfield) — survive him. Mrs Green died 12 years ago.

One son, Captain Ian Green, was killed in action with the 6th Div. in Africa, and the other, Barrass, died some years ago.

The memory of Arthur Green will live long with in Morwell, and his records of a town's growth have been written into its history — a fitting monument to a wonderful citizen.

—ROD CORBEL

Land only for industry with female staffs?

Morwell Shire Council is likely to insist that businesses which take up land which it makes available for light industrial development should employ at least as many females as males.

A proposal to this effect, on a recommendation from the Shire Secretary, will be discussed by Council in committee.

Mr Lord has recommended that all areas of Council-owned land available to industry for development should be classified in some clearly defined manner.

His view is that, unless Council defines a policy "then all we will be doing will be of absolutely no value to the unemployed girl, and nothing of any substance will be contributed by Council towards the necessary objective of good development a quality of opportunity for the sexes."

In the case of the balance of the land known as the 'racecourse reserve' he recommended that this be made available only to industrialists employing a minimum of 50 per cent female labor, and that the balance of the land fronting Princes Highway be reserved to industrialists employing a minimum of 30 per cent of female labor.

An exception would be made of 66 feet of land at the western end of the property.

First meeting of YF club

Pam Collis was elected president on April 18 at the first meeting of the newly-formed Morwell North Young Farmers Club.

Grant Derham was elected secretary. Other office bearers are: Public relations — Bryan Derham; treasurer — Peter Morris; senior vice-president — Peter Collis; junior vice-president — Jan Turvey; librarian — Ellen Wallace; sergeant-at-arms — John Derham.

Gippsland area supervisor, Mr Ferris, district council president, Mr Ian Christensen, and area secretary, Miss Eleanor Rowe, assisted members in the elections.

MEMBERSHIP OPEN

After the meeting Mr Ferris showed films of activities in other clubs.

Officials of the Club said this week that Young Farmers were not necessarily sons and daughters of farmers but any one who was interested in the land.

Membership is open to males and females between 14 and 25 years. Anyone who is interested may attend the next meeting, on Thursday May 5, at Morwell North State School.

Information may be obtained from the president, Pam Collis, tel. Morwell North 26.

SAVE \$6000

Shire Secretary Mr Reg Lord last week submitted evidence to Council that purchase of its own motor trucks, instead of hiring trucks and drivers, would mean a saving of \$6000 a year.

The matter was referred to the Estimates meeting.

CARS AND BOAT MISHAP HALT HIGHWAY TRAFFIC

Traffic was held up for about two hours late on Friday afternoon, when a car towing a boat careened over a 50-foot embankment at the overhead railway bridge about half a mile west of Morwell.

Minutes later another car 'flew' off the road and landed at the bottom of the embankment on the other side of the bridge.

The first car, which towed the boat, was driven by Joseph Jacobus Moret, of 41 Lexton-rd., Box Hill. He was travelling west towards Melbourne when, just before the bridge, the wheels of the boat trailer slid in loose gravel and dragged the car about half way down the hill.

The driver, and his son Anton, were not injured.

The boat, which had slid off the trailer, was recovered by a mobile crane.

Just as traffic was nearly ready to move again another car, travelling towards Morwell, veered across the road, knocked down a post, and 'flew' to the bottom of the hill to land in thick mud.

Although the car, driven by Mrs C. F. Anderson, of 17 Maryvale-rd., Yallourn, hit a post and a tree on the way down, she was not injured. She was wearing a safety belt.

The car remained on its wheels and only slight damage to the front was caused.

The Advertiser spoke to Mrs Anderson just after the accident and she said, "I can't believe it. I was airborne."



FARM SERVICE ANNOUNCES

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MORWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

c/- 2 Harold St.

Morwell 3840

1 December, 1987

The Honourable Frank Wilkes
Minister for Housing
Myer House
250 Elizabeth St.
Melbourne 3000

Dear Minister,

The members of Morwell Historical Society deplore the proposal of the Urban Land Authority to rezone Mathison Park, Churchill, and to subdivide it for residential purposes.

This Society believes that Mathison Park provides an important passive recreation area, not only for the township of Churchill but for the Latrobe Valley community as a whole, and that there is sufficient residential land available in the Churchill area, without the necessity for alienating land now zoned for public use.

Mathison Park was named after Shire Secretary W.K.Mathison, a man who foresaw the need to set aside open areas for public use in the Shire of Morwell.

The members of this Society believe that the Government should be maintaining and extending present Public Open Spaces in what is becoming an increasingly industrialised and urbanised region, and they oppose any move to rezone Mathison Park.

On behalf of the members of Morwell Historical Society, I request your support.

Yours faithfully,



Elsie McMaster
Honorary Secretary.



MINISTER FOR HOUSING
Myer House, 250 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne, Victoria. 3000.
G.P.O. Box 1670N, Melbourne, 3001.

8 DEC 1987

Ms E McMaster,
Honorary Secretary,
C/- 2 Harold Street,
MORWELL. 3840

Dear Ms McMaster,

Re: Mathison Park Churchill

I refer to your letter of 1 December, 1987 and advise as follows:

In order to resolve this long outstanding issue, I recently met with the Member from Morwell, Ms Val Callister, and representatives of the Shire of Morwell, my Ministry and the Urban Land Authority.

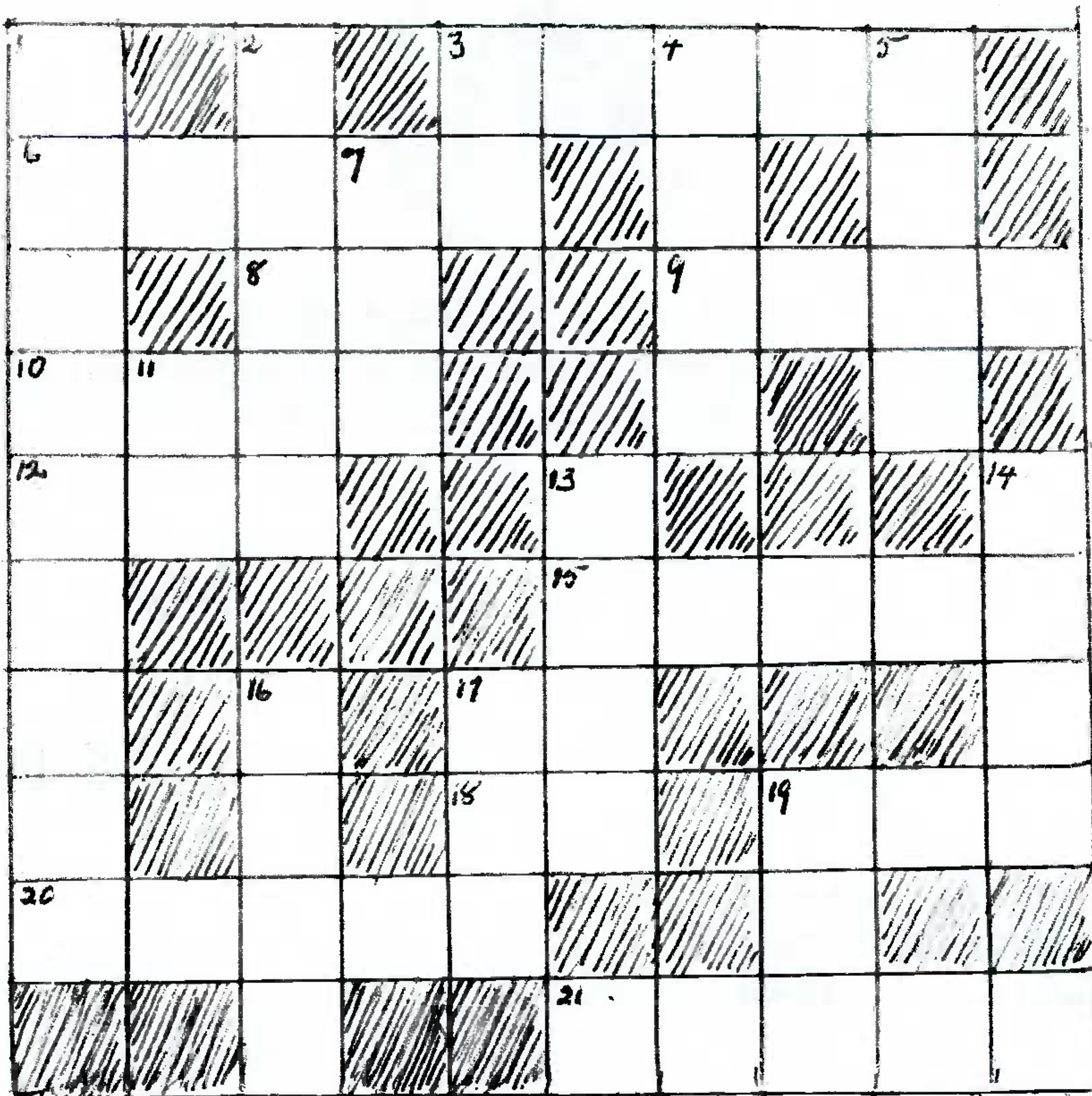
As a consequence, the Chief Executive of the Shire of Morwell, Mr Ron Waters, and John Lawson of the Urban Land Authority has now formalised a re-zoning which incorporates an agreement to ensure continued public ownership of Mathison Park and a number of other lands proposed for public use. This arrangement will require the concurrence of the Council and the Ministry of Planning and Environment and, providing this is available, should go on public exhibition in the near future. At that time you will be given an opportunity to examine the proposal and comment, if you so desire.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

FRANK WILKES

Historical Crossword



ACROSS

- 3 The surname of a lady who now lives in Morningson.
- 6 A district in the Strezelecki Ranges.
- 8 Used to join alternatives.
- 9 We published names on the 1896 Voters' _____.
- 10 In Feb. 1944, 13 people died in a bush _____.
- 12 A subscription - Ours due in March 1988.
- 15 We hope you will join _____ then.
- 17 The initials of our quiet achiever.
- 18 Will you be _____ our February meeting?
- 19 An exclamation of distaste - seldom used now.
- 20 In our October newsletter you were urged to keep one.
- 21 Read about a 347 year old _____ in Newsletter Feb. 1987.

DOWN

- 1 We had an excursion there in January 1987.
- 2 Newsletter October 1987 has a 1970 advertisement for Coles _____.
- 3 A Preposition.
- 4 A name found on the Voters' roll.
- 5 We all have a _____ to play in recording our history.
- 7 A mineral.
- 11 That is _____.
- 13 Pass on any interesting historical _____ to us, please.
- 14 The Diary of _____ L. (Vol 3, No 7).
- 16 There is a memorial one of these in the Senior Citizens' Car Park.
- 17 We had an informal ceremony on the 31st of _____.
- 19 The month of our 1st 1988 meeting (abbrev.).

T R I V I A

ANSWER to "What's in a Name" (see page 5 of Nov. newsletter)

His name was **James** but they called him Jim. He rode through the street, past the Town **Hall** until he came to the **Townsend**. There was a **Bond** between him and his horse so that no touch on the **Bridle** was needed to guide them through the **Wood**. A **Hare** scuttled through the **Green** grass from its burrow beneath a **Bush**. He could see a **Shepherd** tending his sheep. He wished he too could be a **Shepherd** instead of a **Coleman** in the Open Cut. The desire to have **William's** job used to **Maddern** him but he remembered the voice of **Mac Master** - "your anger!" was what Mac used to say. So after that, Jim's ability not to be **Pettigrew** stronger. Now it was dark and by the light of the **Mooney** rode back home. He changed into his **Taylor** made clothes and went to meet his lady love and to **Walker** in the moonlight.

(Did you get it all correct?)

* * * * *

Readers will find an article from The Express, Sept. 14, 1982 about Narracan. The article has some background to the excursion planned for February 21.

Also included in this newsletter is an article written by Tom Lawless. The article is from The Churchill News, November 19, 1987. There is a public meeting planned for early 1988 on the issue of a name change for Churchill.

** The article about Mr. A. A. Green is from The Advertiser, Monday, January 13, 1964 and kindly loaned by Miss Kathleen Green. Miss Green has also loaned the editor Advertisers from April 1957 and April 1966. Many thanks.

Stone the crows! It's Narracan

WHY Narroquon? Why was Narracan given the aboriginal word for 'crow' as its name? Wagra was named after the crows, too, but in another dialect. Korumburra supposedly means blowfly, and Tyabb comes from Tyaba, meaning some kind of worm. What put Narracan in such company?

The name was originally used for what is now Narracan East. The coming of the Thorpdale railway in 1888 gave rise to a new township on the line. The name migrated across from the original township, a far-from-rare event. The original Narracan then had the indignity of an 'East' tacked onto it. Such is life and such was the coming of the railway.

It may seem strange to people looking at the map of Gippsland today to realise that the first settlers in this area came up McDonalds Track from Lang Lang. This track was surveyed by G. G. McDonald between 1860 and 1862. It was surveyed again several times in the next few years, as the rapid growth of the hills scrub covered it. Once the real influx of settlers began after the 1869 Land Act, the track was clearly marked.

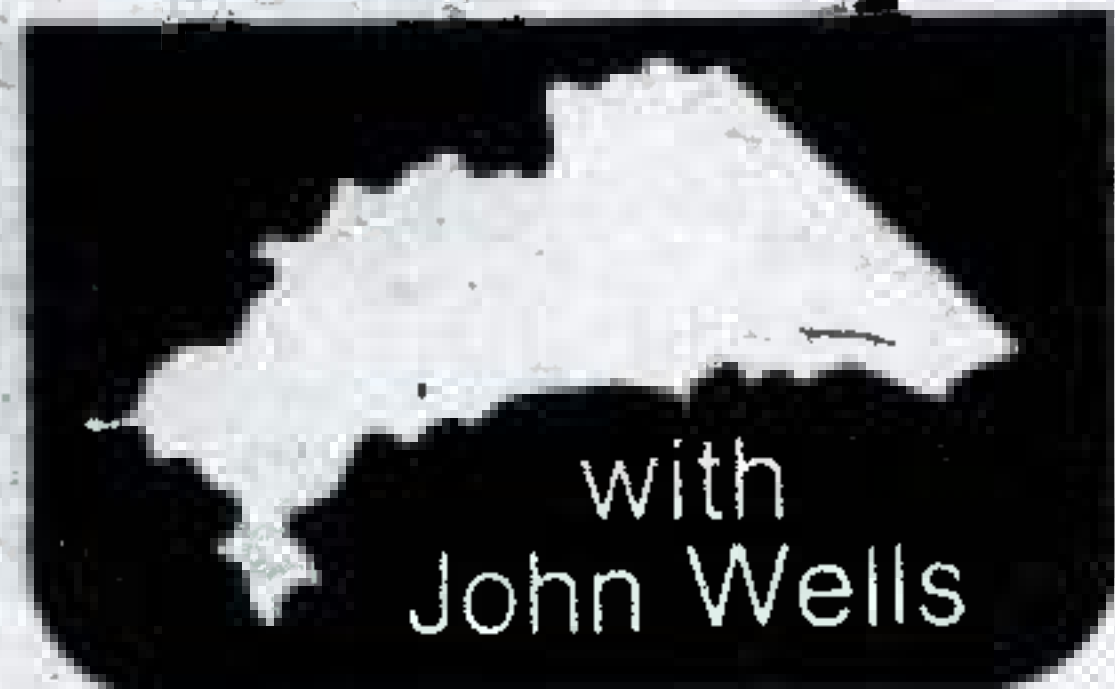
For people moving with drays or wagon, it was a fairly good route into Gippsland. McDonald had kept to the ridges and this meant the tracks had few bogs or swamps to trap wheeled vehicles. But this also meant that there was very little water along the track, making a problem for those moving cattle.

The opening up of a road into Gippsland along



ONE settler had his work cut out for him when he had to fell 72 large trees to make a clearing for his home. Pictured is one method of tackling the mighty bluegums.

Gippsland History



the foothills of the Great Divide on the 1860's made McDonalds Track somewhat redundant, and for some years, the work of the pioneer surveyor was largely forgotten.

The 1869 Land Act gave a great impetus to the settlement of Gippsland. It allowed settlers to take up land, up to 129 hectares, at one pound per acre, payable over twenty years at low

interest. It is said that this legislation was the result of pressure from the many people who had come to Victoria to search for gold, and who stayed to look for land when the goldrushes died. Whatever the reason, the 1870's saw a huge land-rush, with thousands of men going into the bush with little more than determination of their side.

Among the first settlers to come into the Narracan area were the Heals, the Auchterlonies, the Whites, the Charles, the Grahams, Saviges, Forsuths, Powells, and Ganges. Some of these names are still represented in the district.

The usual pattern of establishment was followed. The men came first, cleared the land, built houses and brought

their properties into production. Only then did they bring in their wives and children.

In the case of Narracan, it was also necessary to plant fodder crops as there was no grass in the district, which was heavy forest until it was cleared. The ridges had no undergrowth at all in places, but in the gullies, it was so thick that it was all but impenetrable. There was no grass anywhere.

One of the main problems in using packhorses was that up to half their load had to be feed for the return journey. Packhorses could not be kept on the selection at first, for lack of feed. Many settlers took their gear in with a packhorse, and then brought the horse out to Moe for agistment. Then they walked back up the track to their selections to take up their tools, and begin the terrible task of clearing the land.

H. P. Heal had to remove 72 large trees just to make a clearing for his home and to ensure that no tree was left big enough to crush a house if it fell. They were big trees and the settlers were to curse them when the 1898 fires swept the area, 'crowning' through the trees faster than a man could ride. The first selector was probably G. Auchterlonie. He started work on his selection in July 1873, but he was unable to take up permanent residence until two years later. In the meantime, Heal had cleared his place and got most of the clearing planted

down. In April 1874, Heal had completed a split-paling house and he sent to Melbourne for his wife. A son had come to Narracan to work with his father, while a daughter, Mary, had stayed in Melbourne with her mother.

The two women set out from Melbourne to walk to Narracan, beside dray laden with provisions and tools. It seems unlikely that they made the journey alone, but I have found no record either of the father or son going to Melbourne to meet them. The trip took a whole, hungry week and the women camped beside the dray each night. There were few places of accommodation fit for women on the Gippsland track in 1874.

Another settler, T. Savige, wondered what was the roar he could hear in the bush. It was constant, and he heard it all the time he was clearing his block. Finding out what it was had to wait until he could spare the time. Eventually he cut his way through the bush toward the sound, a discovered the Narracan falls, still a lovely spot.

Savige named his property Laughing Waters. He was one of the smart settlers. He built a store and the Tarwin Junction Hotel on McDonalds Track, and so he had a cash income while he was establishing his farm. Lack of ready cash was one of the main problems the early settlers faced. What capital they had was usually invested in seed, tools, horses and, of course, their land.

HAZZELWOOD OR CHURCHILL

In view of the renewed interest being shown re the name of our Town, Churchill News has asked Councillor Tom Lawless to write a report on the controversy that ensued more than 20 years ago when the towns name was changed from Hazelwood to Churchill at the time of Sir Winston Churchill's death.

Tom Lawless was the President and leader of the fight against the injustice that was done at the time by the name change.

It was away back in 1961 that the then Victorian State Coalition Government with Sir Henry Bolte as Premier announced that a new Township would be built in the Morwell Shire on land at Hazelwood South, and formed the "Hazelwood Joint Planning Committee" with Hazelwood Shire and Housing Commission of Victoria.

Land acquisition soon began, it took until 7th October 1963 when the Planning Committee published a notice in the "Morwell Advertiser" stating that a Planning Scheme had been prepared for the future Town of Hazelwood.

Then on the 17th October 1963 with great publicity the Housing Commission of Victoria and State Government released and put on public exhibition the futuristic plans for the new Town of Hazelwood. So great was the enthusiasm of the promotion that a model of the development was put on exhibition in Australia House in London.

Soon afterwards site work commenced and the first houses, the Howard Avenue, McInnes Crescent, Switchback Road block were planned to be ready for occupancy late 1965.



TOM LAWLESS

The Citizens Committee met the Minister for Housing with a 10 man deputation on 4th April 1965 and presented their petition.

Mr. Thompson told the deputation that he would do everything possible to perpetuate the name of Hazelwood but would not change the towns name back to Hazelwood.

The Melbourne Herald that afternoon reported the deputation as saying after its meeting with Mr. Thompson "We will keep on fighting to have Hazelwoods name restored even if it takes twenty years", and keep on fighting they did continuing to harass the Government and Council for another 18 months.

All went along smoothly until on Feb. 8th 1965 the announcement was made in a press release in the Morwell Advertiser that "Hazelwood will be renamed to honor Churchill".

Sir Winston Churchill, England's wartime Prime Minister had died a few days previously.

Mr. Lindsay Thompson Minister for Housing announced "that State Cabinet decided yesterday to change the name as a tribute by Victoria to Sir Winston Churchill".

Morwell Shire Council held a special meeting "in committee" and Shire Pres. Cr Les Hare announced that council had agreed with State Cabinet and on 15 March published the "Proclamation of Township of Churchill" and ordered that hereafter the area shall be known as the "Township of Churchill".

People everywhere were shocked and could hardly believe that such a thing could happen so quickly and secretly, particularly when there already were numerous Streets, Parks, etc named to honor the great wartime leader.

Their response was quick, the Hazelwood Citizens Association was formed and in a few days a petition of 1100 Signatures was ready for presentation to Shire Council requesting that Hazelwoods name be restored to the Town.

The then 12 member Council was thrown into confusion and after several meetings rejected the petitioners request by one vote.

The S.E.C. joined the fight and erected the large Hazelwood sign on the front of Hazelwood Power Station, almost a year later the Shire Council voted to support the Hazelwood Committee and the Government created a special "Place Names Committee" to adjudicate and make a recommendation to solve the dispute.

The Citizens Committee sent a four man deputation to attend a hearing by the place names committee and agreed to abide by its finding.

Legislation was passed in Parliament which in effect put the responsibility for Place names with the Minister for Lands at that time Mr. J.M. Balfour.

Eventually the recommendation was made and referred to State Cabinet and on 24 Nov 1966 Mr. Balfour announced that "after careful consideration of the committees report the Government decided to confirm its previous decision to name the Town Churchill".

The Citizens Committee reluctantly decided it could do no more, it had won the fight but the referee had come down on the side of the Government.

The Committee continued in existence and eventually some members joined with and carried on as the Churchill Citizens Association which for many years was the community watchdog for the new town.

(A)

(B)

(A)

(B)

December 1987 marked the end of an era for two Morwell educational institutions.

Morwell High School (now Morwell Campus of Kurnai College) saw the last of its senior students when the H.S.C class completed its studies.

From 1988 the Campus will be a junior high school catering for students from years 7 to 10. The 1987 year 11 students will complete their secondary education at the Maryvale Campus (formerly Maryvale High School) which is now the senior campus of Kurnai College.

At the other end of the educational scale, Morwell Baptist Pre-School closed its doors for the last time after 35 years of service to the pre-school children of Morwell and district. One of our members, Mrs. Amy Tibballs, was Directress of the centre from 1962 to 1967. Another member Mrs. Fay Thompson, was Directress from 1973 until its closure.

Included in this newsletter is a portion of the Morwell Campus information sheet with some information to supplement the above.

More Amazing Books.

Those interested in Elsie McMaster's article on page 4 of our November newsletter may also be interested in the Family Heritage letter re-printed here which was addressed to my nephew, Mr. J. M. Niemann.

One difference to the McMaster's Amazing book is that the Niemanns were asked to pay \$39.90 for a book not yet published. Another difference is that the surname is not British but German. As far as I know none of our Niemann family took the bait.

Jessie L. Cafiso (nee Niemann).

MORWELL HIGH REUNION A GREAT SUCCESS:

The reunion of students from the first ten years - 1956-65 was an outstanding success. Over 250 attended the dance at the Falcons' hall last Saturday whilst at least 360 people were present at the barbecue held in the school grounds on Sunday.

Organizers of the reunion, Kerry Miller, Dale Holloway and Lyn Cook, all ex-students of 1956-65, reported that people "came back" from every state except Northern Territory, and included visitors from Perth, Noosa Heads and Adelaide.

The school grounds, on such a fine day, and with the recently-planted trees providing a beautiful setting as well as shade, were perfect for the occasion.

Special features were:

Hall of Memory - all day crowds of people lined the benches on which albums of photos were laid out. Copies of newspaper reports were also popular.

I.T. Maddern Memorial Plantation -

Mrs. Eisie Maddern unveiled a plaque in memory of her husband the late I.T. Maddern Principal of Morwell High from 1961-71. The Maddern family and the school have combined to establish a fine plantation of indigenous species. Dorothy Howes and Philippa Maddern (daughters) spoke briefly.

Teachers Return - A large number of former teachers came back, including the following "originals": John Murett, Tom Van Rossum and June Goodwill.

First Year Students Return -

A feature of the back-to was the excellent attendance of the first group of students - those of 1956. (For the record there were 114 in attendance in February 1956 - 31 boys and 83 girls).

Souvenir Glasses - Special commemorative glasses were on sale and proved popular. A few are left and if anybody would like one (\$4.00) please contact the school.

Old Magazines Prove Popular -

A large number of copies of old magazines were available and these were quickly snapped up.

So popular was the weekend that it has been agreed to make a get-together of former students and teachers an annual event. Next year returnees are invited to a picnic at Gumbuya Park at 11.00 a.m. on Sunday, 13th November (B.Y.O. everything).

Our special thanks go to the organizers, Kerry Miller, Dale Holloway and Lyn Cook.

KURNAL COLLEGE TEAM IN NATIONAL VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIP:

Kurnat College's Under 19 Boys' Volleyball team will compete in the Australian Secondary Schools national championships in Canberra during the week beginning 7th December. Sixteen teams only, compete, and our team is one of three to represent Victoria. We were invited to compete following our excellent performance in the Victorian All-High School championships earlier this year.

The team consists of the following boys - all of whom attend the Morwell Campus of Kurnat College: Chris Lechlean, Chris Wood, Phillip and Matthew Swatnshbury, Mark Pastor, Andrew Franks, Craig Mason and Shane Carruthers.

I should like to congratulate the boys and all who have coached and given them support.

SOME COMMENTS ON EDUCATION BY PROFESSOR HEDLEY BEARE OF MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY:

Professor Beare is one of Australia's most distinguished educators; he was honoured recently by being awarded the 1987 Australian College of Education Medal. I have pleasure in presenting some extracts from his acceptance speech.

Education and the Future

And that leads to my second observation. It is the future which is worrying people, and whether we can adapt quickly enough to survive. Education has become a kind of scapegoat for our insecurities. The unknown is so close! The five year old who begins school in Year One next year will not complete his high school course until the 21st Century. And the HSC student who graduates from secondary school this year will by the year 2000 be in her early thirties, probably a young executive or a middle manager or heading a small enterprise. What must we as educators be doing now to ensure that those students are prepared confidently for the world in which they will be responsible citizens?

Education is quite clearly of pivotal importance for the future. Charles Handy again(5).

McKinseys in the Netherlands estimate that 70 per cent of the jobs in the 1990s) will be cerebral jobs, knowledge jobs that is, information jobs, not manual jobs, a complete switch from one hundred years ago when over 70 per cent of all jobs were manual. Remember that manufacturing will by 1990 be employing only 21 per cent of the workforce and that if that manufacturing is going to be of any value, then most of that 21 per cent will be doing clever jobs. The days of the factory hand are gone forever.

The post industrial economy is built on education. The sectors where lower levels of education used to predominate - farming, rural industry, and factories - are now rapidly being automated or technicised, and are giving way to the sectors where a post-school education is almost mandatory, those specialist areas associated with the professions (law, health, information and learning, finance, economics, politics) and many newly arrived and newly lucrative specializations like computing, psychological and counselling services, nutrition, nursing and medical care, electronics, the environment, music and the arts, the entertainment industry, and overseas consultancies.

Education is quite clearly a part of the burgeoning part of the economy, namely both of the Information Industry and of the Service Industries - indeed that most sensitive corner of it, the human services.

And a good education is basic to access to the other expanding areas of the post-industrial economy. Education has a crucial, pivotal part in the future. It will become even more important than it is now, or than it has ever been in the past.

Attitude Change

And thirdly, to inherit that future we will need in this country a massive change in attitudes. That change will largely come from teachers telling their students - and often then from students telling their parents! It has always been like that.

We are now substantially divorced from dependence upon Great Britain and now enormously dependent upon what we are prepared to do for ourselves, individually and collectively, and what we are prepared to do in cooperation with our neighbours in the Asian and Pacific circle areas. Progressively, we are also becoming internationalised. It is no longer satisfactory to compare the performance of Australian against other Australians, particularly Australian students against their own compatriots or those in their own State. Increasingly we will be working alongside of or competing against Chinese, Japanese, Indonesians, Koreans, Taiwanese, Singaporeans, Brazilians, Chileans, Fijians.