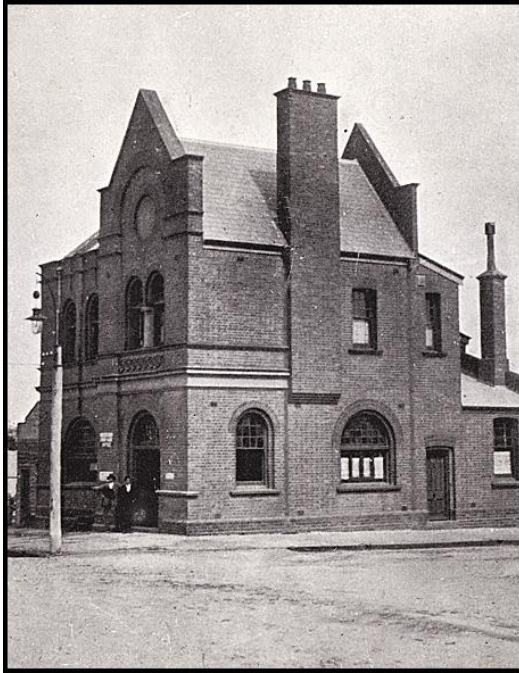


Morwell Historical Society Inc.



Morwell Post Office – circa 1915

THE MORWELL POST

JANUARY 2018

Vol 37, Number 1

Best wishes for 2018



More about the Watson family inside this edition of *The Morwell Post*

[Photograph – Leo Billington. Charles and Grace interred at Hazelwood Cemetery)



Morwell Historical Society Directory 2018

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

Obituary.

MR. WILLIAM ROBERT DAVEY

THE death occurred (suddenly) on Saturday night last at his home in Commercial Rd., Morwell, of Mr. William Robert (Bill) Davey. He was known to have returned home a little after 6 p.m. and was found dead by his wife some half-hour later on her return.

The deceased, who was aged 55 years, was born at Murdoch's Hotel Morwell, of which his father, the late Mr. Charles Davey, was the then licensee. He was educated, at the Morwell State School and, on leaving, became, apprenticed to a dentist in the town.

He enlisted in the 1st A.I.F. in 1915 and, on going overseas, was attached to the 2nd Field Artillery Brigade, with which he served in France till the end of the war. He returned to Australia and was discharged in 1919. He resumed civilian life in Morwell by entering into a partnership with Mr. E Kleine in a hairdressing and tobacconist business, later purchasing the old Masonic Hall and there engaging in a similar business on his own account, which he continued to conduct to the time of his death, with the exception of having leased the saloon during the last few years to Mr. Clem. Mitchell.

Prior to going overseas, the deceased was a promising athlete in the pedestrian field, and a playing member of the Morwell Football Club with which he continued his association on return to Australia. He was one of the original members of the Morwell Fire Brigade and was intensely interested in that work.

It can be claimed that the deceased was one of the most popular figures in Morwell, endowed with a charming friendly personality, which won him hosts of friends. Without becoming actively associated with any particular organisation, he pulled his weight for all and sporting bodies particularly, over the years and they are deeply indebted to his always ready and practical assistance.

He is survived by a widow and one son, William, at present in Tasmania. The service at St. John's Church of England on Monday by Canon R. W. G. Phillips, was followed by a Soldiers' Service, read by Mr. J. E. Gibson, President of the Morwell R.S.L., and the laying of poppies on the casket by the large number of returned men present.

As the funeral cortege left the church for Spring Vale Crematorium, it was proceeded by a party of R.S.L. members who marched two abreast to the Post Office as a final gesture of respect to their departed comrade.

***Morwell Advertiser* – Thursday, December 1, 1949**

VALLEY FILM TO GIVE WIDE PUBLICITY

-SEC PRODUCTION

A HALF-HOUR DOCUMENTARY COLOR FILM OF THE LATROBE VALLEY BEING PRODUCED BY THE STATE ELECTRICITY COMMISSION WILL HAVE AN AUSTRALIA-WIDE DISTRIBUTION.

The film is expected to be completed before the end of the year, and will cost several thousand pounds.

An S.E.C. spokesman said in Morwell today that although the Commission was producing the film, actual S.E.C. operations in the valley would not take all the time-light.

Hello to you!

This is the first issue of your new Latrobe Valley newspaper.....and The Express is delighted to meet you!

The Express will be delivered every Wednesday afternoon to every house in the urban areas of Moe, Newborough, Yallourn, Yallourn North, Hernes Oak, Morwell, and Traralgon.

It will be yours each week, completely free of charge, bringing you news from ALL Latrobe Valley centres.

In addition it will be distributed to the towns and farms in the immediate districts of the major centres.

In all The Express will reach

Last local SEC film "The Powermakers" was released about ten years ago, but dealt exclusively with Yallourn.

The Commission would devote more than a third of the film to the many facets of the valley, including schools, sports amenities, and libraries.

Local industries in the film will include Yarragon Textile Mills at Moe, South Eastern Milk Products' factory at Traralgon, and the Gippsland Cement plant.

FARMING TOO

The valley's close affinity with the primary producer is recognised in a segment shot at Mr. Frank Lawless dairy farm at Hazelwood.

Photography is by the S.E.C.'s top Melbourne cameraman Mr. Jim Hayes, and commissioned to direct production is Sydney film consultant Mr. Shan Benson.

Mr. Benson told the Express today he had been asked to produce a film which would give a "round picture of the Latrobe Valley, whether it was shown in Cairns or Perth.

It would have an original music track, composed by an Australian composer and played by an Australian orchestra.

LOCAL COMMENTS

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Toongabbie,
Moondarra, Y
Also The E
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and only addi



Vol 1, No 1 - WEDNESDAY, JULY 14, 1965

Hooray



Latrobe Valley Express, Wednesday, July 14, 1965

[This lead article tells us that history repeats itself as Latrobe City Council now tries in vain to market our municipality.]



an already tight schedule MOE's new president, Mr. Henry J. Kirkwood, has not missed one weekly meeting of Rotary in eleven years.

His own personal attendance record is a true reflection of Moe's outstanding Rotary meeting attitude. The club has won the district attendance title for the whole of south-eastern Victoria and Tasmania seven times in ten years.

Mr. Kirkwood, married, with four children, finds in Rotary his most worthwhile community contribution.

His club over the years has initiated many sound Moe organisations including a horticultural society, benevolent society, and assistance to youth organisations.

Leader of MORWELL this year is well-known valley identity Mr. Des Kelly, who has held practically every other portfolio in Morwell Rotary with the exception of the presidency.

Mr. Kelly, whose family has been in bus-

its 21 years since Morwell was sponsored by Traralgon.

Although there will probably be some special "21st" function or project, Mr. Kelly says his part as leader

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Rename Morwell Churchill.....?

SIR,

I have solved the problem of the Hazelwood-Churchill issue!

We are instantly told of how good is the town of Morwell—with the Council so dedicated to Churchill why not change the name of Morwell to Churchill?

What an illustrious town it would be. People living on Snobs Hill would be calling their area Churchill Towers, whilst St. Phillips on the Hill would be known as St. Phillips on the church-hill.

The aborigine settlement would be well suited with the name Churchilooloo (We will fight in the streets). The main street could be named Churchill Place and the Council Chambers Churchill Hall. There are untold formalities in this field such as Church-ill for the Hospital, Churchill for the footy Ground and Hub and Bub Churchill for the Council. At rate notice time the theme could be "Never before have so many owed so much to so few".

CIGARS FOR CR. HARE

The people of Morwell would lose their identity as Morwellites and become Churchillians, a much better sounding name bearing all the dignity that this town deserves. Les Hare could be equipped with Cigars to hand out on his morning rounds, and who would



deny Vin Hourigan the right to do a bit of painting.

The imagination does not have to be stretched too far to visualize the By Laws inspector dressed up in the morning coat and wearing a bow tie and top hat.

COAT OF ARMS

A coat of arms is easy. What of a photo of a country councillor with a picanniny on one knee and a Bulldog on the other surrounded by the Motto "We will go through Hell and Fire, to keep this place a Shire". It could also have guns pointing toward Traralgon and Moe.

If all this could happen why not then call the new township out south Lawlessville in honor of those indignant, brave citizens who have opposed authority and taken a stand as did the people of Britain in "Their Shining Hour".

JOE BLOW (MORWELL)

Meeting together for the first time following their inductions last week as leaders of the Latrobe Valley's three Rotary clubs are (from left) Moe's Mr. Henry Kirkwood, Morwell's Mr. Des Kelly, and Traralgon's Mr. Kevin Robbins.

WE HEAR TELL



The usual burst of drive which accompanies selection of a "national costume" for Australia's representative as she blasts off annually for the star-studded rendezvous with the Miss Universe contest has just been filed away for another year, without any acceptable "costume" coming to light which would reflect our great tradition. Might we suggest those desirous of donning a typically Australian dress for formal occasions adopt that of the original occupiers of this country and run round in the nude. We'd win a lot more beauty contests, or something!

Busiest boy around town in the next few months will be Gippsland Federal Member PETER NIXON. Just back from his close look at the Vietnam situation he's already appeared on several platforms as guest speaker, and has bookings as far ahead as ALVA'S annual meeting in October.

Tipped as the Country Party's next certainty for a portfolio, Nixon has stated he'll be happy to address sizeable groups on South-east Asian problems as they're

related to this country...if he can find enough days in the week. ***

Colleague tells the story of the young chap who was hitch-hiking in pouring rain in the dead of night near Warragul the other day. Seems this chap had hitch-biked from Kalgoorlie to Sydney from Sydney to Melbourne, and from Melbourne to Warragul. Was heading for Newborough to see his folks for the first time in three years, and he was going to make it even if he had to crawl.



ELECTRIC COOK THAN EVER... the secret's in

Fast magic-coil hotplates are one of the many advances in electric cooking in recent years.

They heat up the instant you switch them on and glow red hot in seconds because the electric element is actually inside the spiral metal coil. Magic-coil hotplates cook with direct concentrated heat. You have precise temperature control from the gentlest simmer to the most furious boil.

District Of
TRARALGON -
108-116 Fran

MORWELL -
Cnr. Princes H
Morwell.

YALLOURN -
Centreway, Ya

MOE -
George Street

The Express, Wed

The following is scanned from a family document, *My Memoirs, 1926 - 1939*, provided by Rosalie Davey. It was written by Maree Robertson [nee Davey]. Maree's memoirs cover 11 pages and represent an invaluable insight into Morwell's community. I plan to reproduce the pages over, perhaps two newsletters.

REGINALD RAGLAN + EUNICE MAY (MADDEN)

DAVEY.

1897 - 1977

1898 - 1976.

Reg Davey was born, educated and lived in Morwell all his life. His parents were among the early settlers in the district. He served as a member of the 8th Light Horse Regiment in Egypt in World War I. Reg. met Eunice, a Tasmanian lass married her and made their 1st home in Hazelwood Rd. They had a farming property a few miles from Morwell. There are four children: - Maree (Robertson) Alan, Lynette (Thompson) & Roger. During the 1920's Reg played football for the tigers and as the years passed became involved in community affairs. He was a foundation member of Racing Club, Rotary Club, life member of Morwell Club & Bowling Club. & for many years Morwell Shire Council, Commissioner Water-works Trust. Also he had a long association with Masonic Lodge, R. S. L & St. Mary's Vestry.

Eunice was a kind and gentle person who stood beside her husband on official occasions & always there to lend a helping hand. In an unobtrusive way

P. 2.

she helped many people in times of trouble.

To their children they were wonderful and loving parents.

His pleasures were simple,

His needs were few,

If his family was happy - Dad.

Then he was too.

Her life was not selfish.

For others she lived

Not for what she received. - Mum.

But for what she could give.

A Stain Glass Window was dedicated in memory of Reg. Eunice in St. Marys Church of England - date of Rd. Morwell.

FIRST PAGE
after Introduction

Morwell 1926 - 1939.

We lived at 26 Hazelwood Road, Morwell, Maun. Dad's first home. Uncle Bill Turner, a builder erected this home for them in 1925 and they moved in after their honeymoon. I was born at St. Hilary's Hospital on June 8th 1926.

My first recollection of my early childhood was my first day of school at the Commercial Rd State School. My father began his education there in 1902-3. it dated back to 1879.

I would have been 5 yrs of age and the infant teacher was a Miss Maun. I remember her wearing a Navy fitted frock with white Peter Pan collar & a string of Pearls.

My friends Betty Jenkins, Penet Mitchell began school also, Fay Sweetney was to start the following year.

As the years went by our home was added to as the family increased: a sleep-out, back verandah enclosed (a maid's room) outside laundry & Toilet.

Uncle Mont Madden came over from Tasmania (I was 6-7 yrs) to help Dad build a Play house, like a miniature house but only one room. Many happy

P. 2.

hours were spent there with my friends, playing "Mothers & Fathers, Dns & Nurses"!

At this time Dad, who mainly ran Sheep on his property, 4 miles west of Morwell would ride out on his horse each day to inspect them, sometimes twice a day during the lambing season June-July, leaving home as early as 5 A.M. Quite often he would bring home 2 or 3 baby lambs tucked under his tail-skins, the lambs having lost their mothers, through extremely cold weather. They would be brought into the kitchen, placed in a box near the wood stove until they revived. It was my job to give them milk in a baby's bottle. I remember one little black lamb, he became a real pet. "Everywhere that Mary went, the lamb was sure to go!" We always ate our main meal at 12.15 P.M. sharp, allowing us children time to walk home from school. A maid attired in black frock, frilly white Apron, Head-piece would wait on table. Dad would serve the Meat Course & Mum the Vegetables. This rule applied in our

household - children should be seen and not heard unless spoken to!"

Mum employed numerous maids during the prosperous years, right up till War broke out in 1939. Some were local lasses, others live-in engaged through advertising. One particular girl, who'd been with us 12 months told Mum she was getting married so would leaving - next thing we knew she'd flitted and with half of Mum's linen closet!! Some of the local girls were Hilda (Salvation Army) from Yallowm North, Rene Guy, & lo Huguenin. George Guy was employed by Jenkins Store - Grocery Dept. each Thursday he would call for the weekly order. He became friendly with Rene so they started courting, I know as they would say goodnight under the Almond tree, which was outside my bedroom window, eventually they married. The Baker, and Milkman also called - a $\frac{1}{4}$ high loaf of Bread and a Gill of Cream Please! The maids were rostered to do certain tasks on each day of the week, such as cleaning silver, polishing Brass, (which Mum had a lot of) ironing, tidying cupboards etc. These tasks would be carried out after lunch and the maids would have 3-5 P.M. as leisure hours.

(To be continued in the next newsletter. Space is a premium with so much historical material at present in my library. Leo.)

We'll say farewell to Maree's family for the moment until our next newsletter. The pages are precious and have been scanned hence the space underneath each page. That is, the space is not deliberate. More importantly, I hope the writing is legible. Maree's memoirs provide a valuable description of a cross section of Morwell's past socio-economic culture.

.....

A comment recently passed on to me: "Not knowing our history tells us we don't know where we're going."

.....

Recommended reading; *The Vanished Land; Disappearing dynasties of Victoria's Western District*, by Richard Zachariah; Wakefield Press; 2017.

I have just finished this book. It had me "hooked". While it's about Victoria's western district, there are parallels that are obvious in our municipality.

.....

WILL WATSON – was the son of Grace Henderson and Charles Watson [see headstone above]. Charles was the 7th child born to Margaret and Robert Watson, who produced 13 Children, 9 of whom survived to adulthood. Names of those 13 children in order of birth – James, Margaret, William, John, Ellen, Robert, Charles, Thomas, Agnes, George, Mary, Christina and William. There was another – George – born to Ellen and an unnamed father. More information in our next newsletter.

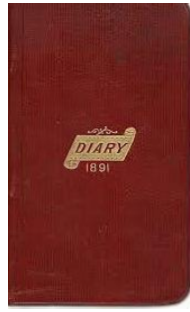
Will's death during World war One was recorded as such:

He [William Dunbar Watson] was registered in the 6th Machine Gun Company. His death report was made by the "Commanding Officer 20 General Hospital, Camiers, France – place of burial was Etaples on 5th March, 1917; cause of death – Pleurisy with effusion."

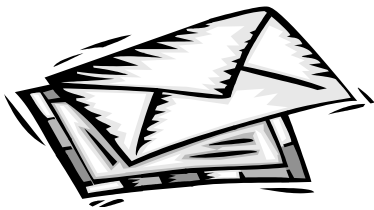
Etaples is the largest Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery in France with 11,517 casualties from the First and Second World Wars.

Depending on its cause, pleurisy can be associated with an accumulation of fluid in the space between the lungs and chest wall called a pleural effusion, or it can be dry pleurisy, which has no fluid accumulation.

(To be continued in the next newsletter)



Meeting dates for 2018
21 FEBRUARY – at Hazelwood Road



Please deliver me to:

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

From Our Morwell Cupboard File: A reminder that the Research Room and Library are open on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays and last

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