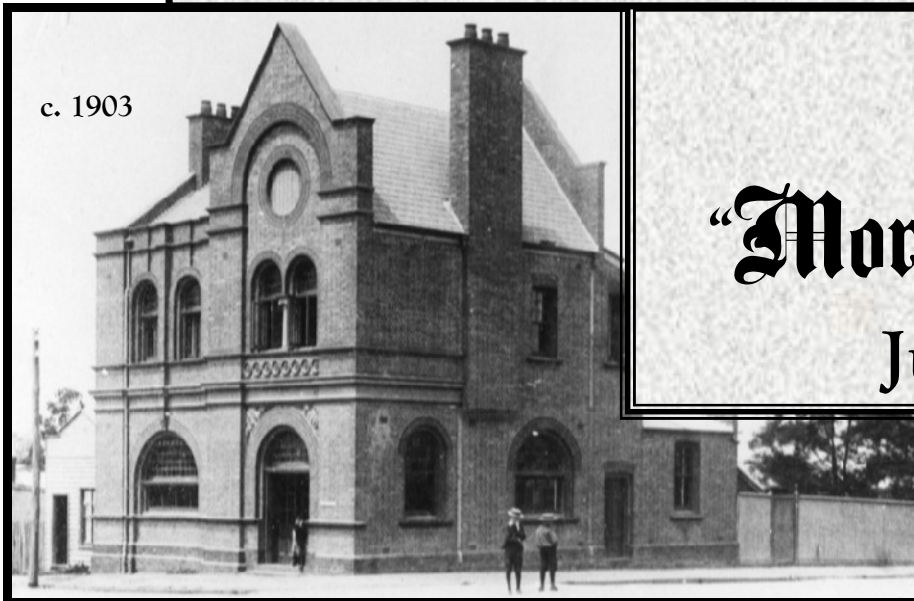


Morwell Historical Society Inc.

www.morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au

c. 1903



The

AOO 16986 W

“Morwell Post”

June 2009

Vol. 26 No.3

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Compiled by: Stephen Hellings

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Items for publication in the “Post” are always welcome; please forward your contributions to either Elsie or myself. S. H.
(P.O. Box 1163 Morwell 3840)

SOCIETY ACTIVITIES

Work continues, as always, on cataloguing our considerable collection of photographs, documents and artefacts. We have applied for a National Library grant to upgrade our computer software. This will cost about \$2000 but will greatly facilitate our cataloguing activities.

We have recently obtained copies of twenty-eight photographs of the Morwell district held in the archives of the East Gippsland Historical Society. These include two of special interest that we have never seen before - one of the building of the present Post Office, and one of the temporary Post Office in Tarwin Street, which was used when the top storey of the old Post Office had to be removed because it was unsafe.

We recently received a grant from the Royal Historical Society of Victoria (with which we are affiliated) to produce a banner and a brochure promoting our Society's activities. The Latrobe Council's Heritage Overlay to its Planning Scheme is now available for public scrutiny and comment and we urge all those interested in our local history to check it out. A copy is on view in our Information Centre, 44 Buckley St, and your comments would be welcomed.

“The Post”

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The Centre is open each Wednesday between 11am and 2pm, or by appointment at other times.

Also approaching completion is Stage 1 of the Interpretive Heritage Signage project which will see signs erected in various parts of Latrobe City pointing out areas or items of historical significance. Morwell's first signs will indicate Commercial Road School, Alexandra Park, the Morwell-Mirboo Railway, the former Colonial Bank and the former St Mary's Church. We are also planning to return to its original site the historic Bills horse trough, formerly situated on the median strip of Hazelwood Road but later moved to the Pony Club's grounds in Toner's Lane.

Elsie McMaster

Morwell Advertiser and Gazette

22nd. November 1918

Wedding



WALSH-SILCOCK



A pleasing ceremony took place on Wednesday, last week, in the Sacred Heart Church, Morwell, when Mr Thomas Walsh, of Yinnar, and Miss Margaret Mary Silcock, eldest daughter of Mrs Silcock, of South Hazelwood, were at nuptial mass united in the bonds of wedlock by the Very Rev. Father Hayes, assisted by Father O'Connor, in the presence of a large gathering of relatives and friends.

The bride, who was given away by her uncle, Mr John Silcock, looked charming in a dress of crème crepe-de-chene, trimmed with Maltese lace and stitches. She also wore customary wreath and veil, and carried a pretty bridal bouquet of white roses and lilies.

The bridesmaids were Miss L. Silcock (sister of bride) and Miss F. Mackey (cousin) who were becomingly gowned in cream gabardine costumes and black tulle hats. They also carried pretty pink and lavender posies.

Mr J. O'Brien was best man, and Mr J. M. Silcock, groomsman.

As the wedding party entered the church, which was beautifully decorated for the occasion by girlfriends of the bride, the Wedding March was played by Miss Olive O'Rourke, and the strains were repeated as the happy couple were leaving the building. During the ceremony the choir sang, and a solo "God be with you", was nicely rendered by Mr. Furlong.

As the bride was leaving the church, she was met by little Vera Lawless, dressed in white satin, who placed a white satin horseshoe tied with ribbons, on her arm.

Subsequently a reception was held at "The Willows," the residence of the bride's mother, where a large assemblage sat down to a sumptuous wedding breakfast, at which the usual toasts were duly honored.

The bride was the recipient of a host of handsome and costly presents.

Mr and Mrs Walsh left by motor amid showers of confetti and good wishes, for Melbourne, en route for Tasmania, where the honeymoon is to be spent.



Sacred Heart – Morwell

Photograph: M.H.S. Inc. archives

Latrobe Valley Hotel - 1958

The site was located on the corner of Collins Street and the Princes' Highway. Work commenced at the site in early May 1957.

The builder in charge of construction was Mr. C. K. McInness from Dandenong. The works foreman was Mr. V. Hocking.

The building consisted of two storeys (the plans allowed for a third if required at a later date) the framing was made of steel and reinforced concrete, faced with attractive cream brickwork.

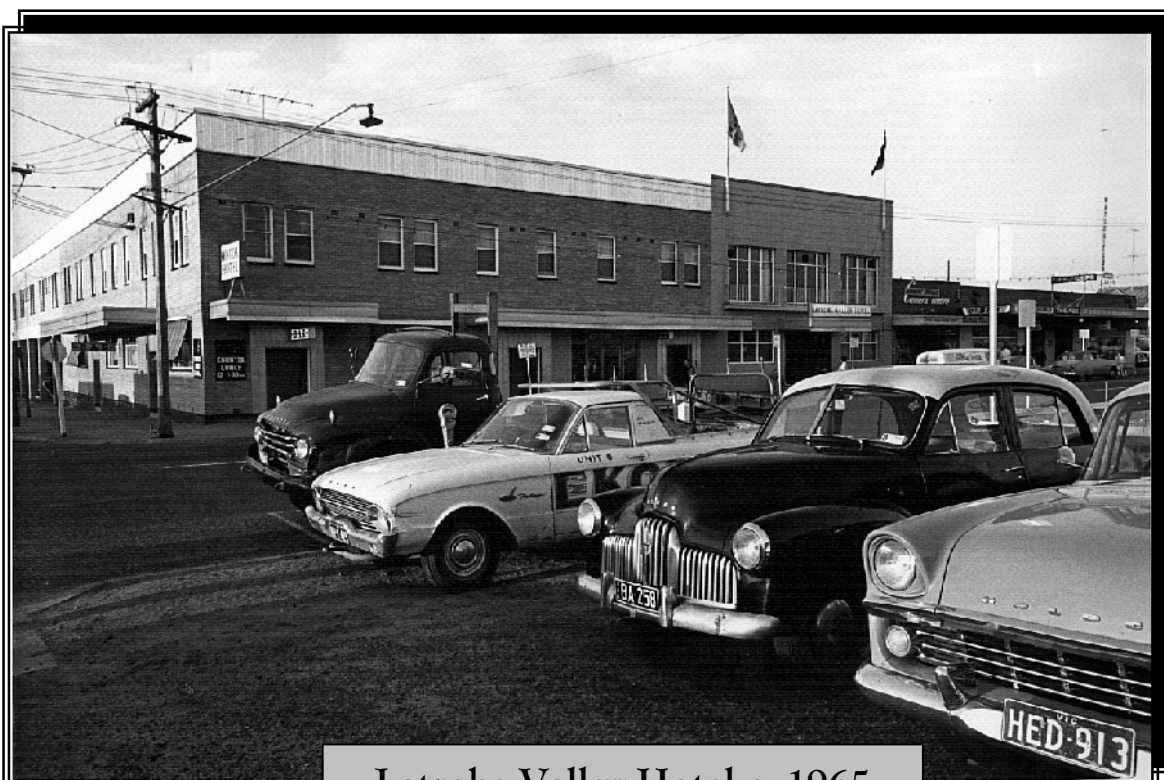
The project took 13 months to complete. The total cost including furniture and fittings amounted to approximately £210,000.

The Latrobe Valley Hotel was officially opened at 4 pm on Monday, July 7th. 1958.

There were 25 bedrooms: 18 single and 7 double. Each bedroom was provided with hot and cold water connected to hand basins. Communal showers and bathrooms were located next to the bedrooms.

Toilet facilities were provided on all floors. There was also one suite, which had private shower and bathroom facilities.

All bedrooms were supplied with a telephone.



Latrobe Valley Hotel c. 1965

MORWELL
ADVERTISER

29th. January 1970

Started with T-Models

(Abridged)

AFTER 25 years as manager of Maryvale Motors, Morwell, Mr. George Rust retires tomorrow.

Mr. Rust has been with Maryvale Motors for 42 years, and still remembers the days when he sold T-model Fords.

Mr. Rust was farewelled by the staff of Maryvale Motors at dinner at the Grand Junction Hotel, Traralgon, last week.

He was presented with a gold watch in honor of his many years of service to the company.

Officials of the Ford Motor Company were among those present at the farewell.

Earlier in the day a plaque and gold watch were presented by Ford representatives to the dealer principals, Mr. R. Wedge and Mr. R. Cross, at the offices of the Morwell branch of Maryvale Motors.



1958

Morwell Advertiser and Gazette

2nd. May 1919

Obituary

We regret having to record the death of **David John Whitelaw** (late A.I.F.), son of Mrs and the late Mr **James Whitelaw**, who passed away at Austin Hospital, Melbourne, on Anzac Day - 25th April - after a long illness.

The deceased soldier, who was 28 years of age, resided in the district nearly all his life, and was well and favourably known. Soon after the war broke out he enlisted and went to the Front.

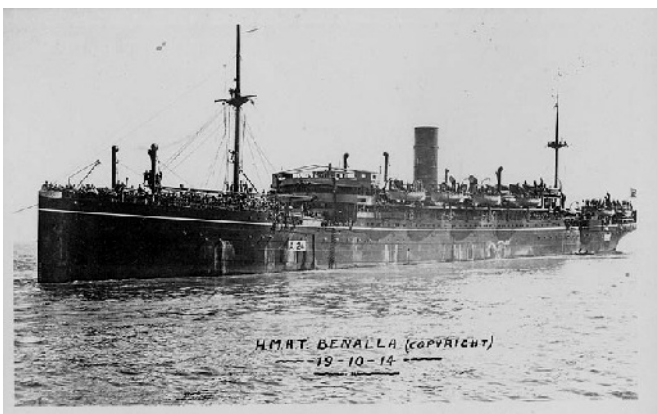
Unfortunately he got severely wounded and about two years ago was invalided home, with but little hope of recovery. He failed to improve under best of treatment and for some time prior to his death his case was regarded as hopeless.

The remains of deceased were interred in the Springvale Cemetery on Saturday.

Private David John Whitelaw served with the 46th Battalion. He enlisted on 24th January 1916, and left for overseas on 4th April 1916. He arrived back in Australia onboard "Benalla" on 24th October 1917.



S.H.



H.M.A.T. Benalla 1914

Morwell Advertiser

26th. May 1970

Char plant is in production

THE \$3 million Morwell Char Plant began production this month. The plant will use 140,000 tons of briquettes a year to produce 60,000 tons of char in the initial stages.

The char plant has been built on an area of eight acres alongside the SEC's briquette work at Morwell.

The SEC is currently producing about 1 ¼ million tons of briquettes a year.

The new plant began this month producing char, which is the resultant fixed carbon after carbonisation of the briquettes. The char produced by briquettes is one of the finest basic carbons available in the world.

It is not being produced as a fuel but as a basic carbon of high chemical purity. Initial output of the plant is committed to Japanese interests under the terms of a five year contract.

New markets

The Japanese use char to make carbon disulphide, a raw material for rayon in clothing manufacture.

While the Japanese commitment is being met there will be the prospect of other markets opening up.

Some of the char will be converted to barbecue fuel for the Australian market and for export.

Other applications ideally suited to Victorian char are the ferro-alloy and the activated carbon markets.

The Morwell char plant is owned by Australian Char Pty. Ltd., the shareholders of which are the Nissho Iwai Co., Elder Smith Goldsbrough Mort Ltd., and the State Electricity Commission.



"Lurgi" Gas Plant

Char Plant

Photograph: Morwell Historical Society Inc. archives

Morwell Council 1928



21509

How many councillors can you identify?

Morwell Advertiser and Gazette

26th. October 1933

BIG BLAZE



AT JENKINS' EMPORIUM

Firemen Do Excellent work

Residents of the town were disturbed from their peaceful slumbers about 3 o'clock on Monday morning last, by the ringing of the fire bell, which causes the large majority of folk to jump out of bed and rush outside to ascertain where the fire is. On this occasion it was easy to locate the outbreak by the big blaze and flames shooting skyward from Jenkins' Emporium in Tarwin Street.

Portion of the building is two-story, and Mrs. Jenkins, Snr., Misses Jenkins, and Mr. W. Jenkins sleep upstairs. When it was discovered where the fire was everyone's first thought was whether Mrs Jenkins or any other members of the family had been "trapped" and all were greatly relieved when they found that although they had to make a very hurried exit in night attire, they were quite safe.

At the south end of the emporium is the grocery, hardware, etc. department: then

comes the men's clothing, boots, etc. Overhead are bedrooms, with balcony in front overlooking Tarwin Street. Separating this portion of the building from the drapery, Manchester, millinery and fancy goods, departments, was a passage-way and brick wall, in which there were doors connecting one department with another.

On Sunday night Mr. W. Jenkins went to bed as usual up-stairs, above the shop. His mother and brother Phill, who had returned from Melbourne during the afternoon, and the Misses Jenkins also went to bed upstairs.

Just on 3 a.m. Mr. W. Jenkins was awakened by a crackling noise, and at the same time saw the reflection of a fire on the Mechanics' Hall, across George Street. He quickly discovered that the emporium was on fire, and saw flames shooting up through the roof of the drapery and millinery departments. He quickly raised

an alarm, and Mr Barras Green, who was awakened, rushed and rang the fire bell.

The firemen lost no time getting to the scene of conflagration, and with commendable promptitude responded to the call for their aid.

However, by the time they were able to attack the fire, there was a tremendous blaze, and it looked as though the whole of the building would be demolished. The firemen worked like Trojans and despite the risk, which was considerable, the intense heat and dense smoke, they fought on like Anzacs until they had gained a great victory.

The brick wall separating the living quarters and grocery department and men's wear from the drapery and millinery departments, combined with the efforts of the firemen, prevented the flames from spreading beyond the wall. At the other end, a narrow right-of-way and the fact that Miss Stammers' costumiere's shop is built of brick, saved the fire from extending northward to her shop and Mackenzie's furniture arcade.

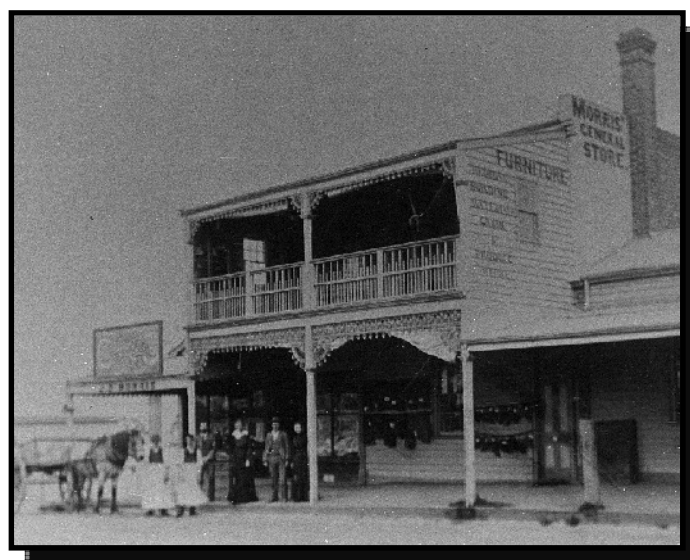
Between 300 and 400 people, including men, women and children, clad in scant attire, watched the proceedings, at a safe distance.

An employee of the State Electricity Commission arrived on the spot in good time and cut off the electric current, which avoided the danger caused by falling "live" wires etc. Before 4 o'clock the firemen had the outbreak well under control, but it was nearly 5 o'clock before all the crowd that had gathered dispersed and went to their respective homes.

The origin of the fire is a mystery, but the general opinion is that it was caused either by thieves or an electric wire.

A few days ago, a large consignment of goods for the Christmas trade was received and placed in the drapery department. All were destroyed by the fire. The loss is partly covered by insurance, in the Alliance Insurance Company. The building was erected by Mr. J. D. Morris, of Dalby, Queensland, and formerly of Morwell, who still owns the property.

Every member of the Fire Brigade, including reserve members were present. They were:- Capt. R. Noy, Lieut. L. Noy, Firemen W. Lobley, R. Watson, R. Keith, W. Budge, C. Olver, J. Huguenin, N. Davey, R. Hewart, J. Wear, P. Robinson, J. Robinson, G. Campbell, R. Latta, C. Clark, K. Billingsley and M. Tory.



The property in earlier times

Next Meeting:

Wednesday

17th. June at 2.30 p.m.

Same value
for money as
last year

Morwell Historical Society Inc.

Annual Subscription Rates:

Single: \$17.00

Family/Double: \$20.00

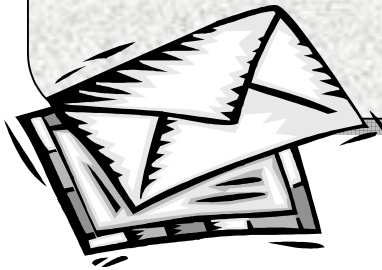
44 Buckley St. (next to T.A.B.)

Visitors are most welcome

We are open to the public on
Wednesdays from 11am to 2 pm

February to December

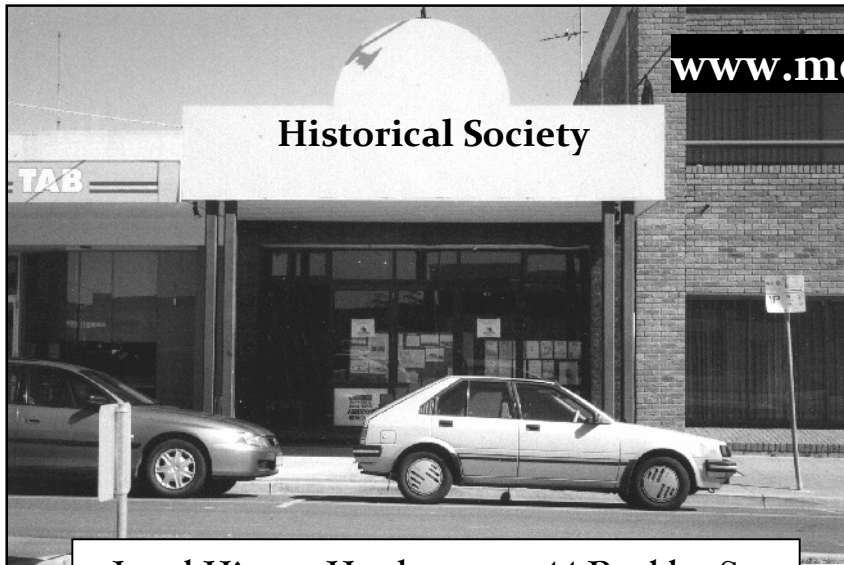
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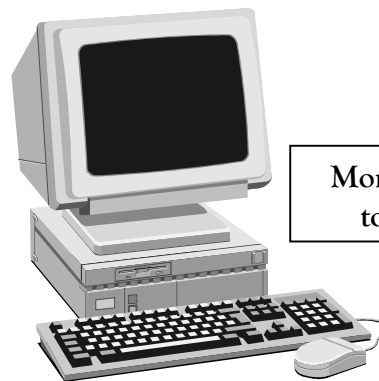
Local History On-Line

Our Internet Address is:

www.morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au



Local History Headquarters 44 Buckley St.
(New photo next issue)



Morwell History at the
touch of a button.