

# The Morwell Post

Morwell Historical Society

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Morwell Power Station before the Demolition of two chimneys

See page 8



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# Morwell Historical Society Directory 2019

President:	Bruce McMaster Phone: 5134 1149 – 0428 528 464
Vice-President:	John Willis
Secretary:	Florence Butcher
Assistant Secretary:	Elaine Andrijczak
Treasurer:	Carolyn Schopp
Committee Members:	Kellie Bertrand Rosalie Davey Shirley Prosser
Research Library:	12 Hazelwood Road, Morwell, Victoria 3840
Research Queries:	<a href="mailto:research@morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au">research@morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au</a>
Public Access:	1st and 3rd Wednesday and last Sunday of each month, 11.00 a.m. – 2.00 p.m. Not open - December & January
General meetings:	3rd Wednesday February to November – 2.00 pm
Annual General Meeting:	3rd Wednesday of March each year
Membership Fees:	Due 1st July each year Ordinary Member \$25.00 Couple – at same address \$30.00 Dependants – at same address \$5 each  Application Forms available on our web site for you to print and send.  For a print copy of “ <b>The Morwell Post</b> ” - \$10.00 per annum
Editor:	<a href="mailto:morwellpost@morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au">email: morwellpost@morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au</a>
Research Fees:	\$10.00 per hour or part thereof, and prices for photo prints on application and postage where applicable.
Facebook:	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/morwellhistoricalsociety">https://www.facebook.com/morwellhistoricalsociety</a>
Postal Address:	12 Hazelwood Road, Morwell 3840 Victoria, Australia

Front page icon is of the old Post Office c1930 which was on the site of the now Commonwealth Bank, corner of Commercial Road and Tarwin Street.

All photos, unless indicated, are from our archives.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Society has been very busy hosting a number of activities and we thank our volunteers who assist in promoting the Society.

On Thursday, 23rd May, approximately 20 members of the Morwell Rotary Club visited our rooms to learn about the Society. They were all very interested in the history of the rooms, our displays and in the records that we hold.

A successful Book Launch of the "*Morwell District Boer War Soldiers and Civilians*" publication by Rob de Souza-Daw was held on Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> May at the Morwell RSL. 170 people attended this event at the Morwell RSL where the Honourable Michael Baden-Powell, grandson of Major General Robert Baden-Powell launched the publication. Major General Baden-Powell was the British Commandant at the Siege of Mafeking during the Boer War. Les Maher of the RSL was the Master of Ceremonies and other speakers were Russell Northe, MP, Latrobe City Mayor Cr Graeme Middlemiss, Rob de Souza-Daw and myself. We thank Wayne Hutchinson, President, Morwell RSL for partnering in this event and making the RSL facilities available.

Thank you to our many volunteers on the day who helped to make the day such a success.

Gippsland Combined History Database – the launch of this database of over 82,000 records is significant for researchers, especially those seeking family history information. The database includes entries from 18 Gippsland historical societies/museums with our Secretary, Florence Butcher, contributing approximately 9,000 records from the Morwell Historical Society. This work entailed a great deal of work from Florence and we thank her very much for this contribution.

Note – research of the database is available at one of the participating groups – **it is not available online**. Check our website <http://morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au/gcd.htm> for the participating groups.

Two of our volunteers, Fay and Shirley, visited St Vincent's Primary School to talk to 60 Grade 1 and 2 children about the Beginning of Morwell. The talk was assisted by a visual display of 38 photos.

The Society has a very good collection of records that we can offer the public for research, particularly for those who are researching family history. During the year we have received requests for information from people who live away from the district but have had family living in the Morwell area. The most recent requests have been for families who lived in Morwell prior to 1900. These were the 'Walsh' family and the 'Dusting' family. We were able to provide information on where they lived, the children who attended the Commercial Road School, the parent's occupation and burial details at the Hazelwood Cemetery.

Research fees are charged if people can't visit the Society rooms.

Bruce McMaster  
PRESIDENT

### **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES DUE**

Annual Membership Fees are due on 1st July 2019. Could you please complete a **Renewal of Membership Form** and forward with your payment. This form is available at our rooms and online at our website under 'Membership'. Note that on the website, Digital Forms are now available where you have the ability to fill out and sign your **Renewal of Membership Form** online and send to us by email – no paper and no posting!

**All Renewals to be accompanied by a form**

## *School Days*

### Hazelwood Ridge State School No. 1768 - 1876-1945

This was the first school in the Morwell District but since it was 4 miles from Morwell it cannot claim that it was Morwell's first school. The honour goes to Morwell Ridge State School which operated from 1877-1879. The first head teacher, October 1876 to February 1877, was Mrs ML Matheson. When the Morwell to Mirboo North railway line was completed in 1886, and the new railway township of Yinnar appeared, the Hazelwood Ridge State School was sandwiched between Morwell and Yinnar State Schools so its recruiting area was severely restricted. The enrolments dropped to such an extent that the school was reduced to half time status, working with Yinnar South State School 1894-98 and with Driffield State School 1902-08. The Yinnar South State School was burnt down in 1898 bush fires and the Driffield State School suffered a similar fate in 1908. Therefore Hazelwood Ridge State School regained its full status in 1898 until 1901 and again in 1908 until its closure in 1945. The land was acquired by the SEC for the construction of the cooling pond for the Hazelwood Power Station. The SEC moved the building in 1965. Incidentally Barbara Irving taught at the school from 1880-87. Barbara was the sister of John Irving, the first head teacher of Morwell State School 1879-84.



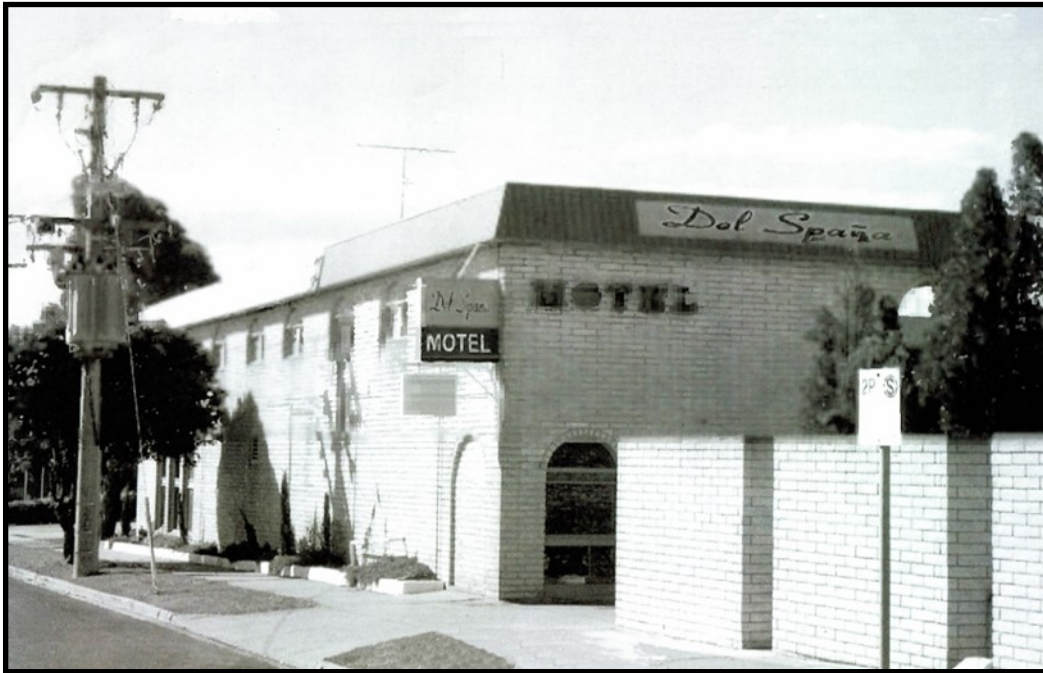
February 1932

Back L-R Alfred Miller (Teacher), David McNabb, James Embleton, Arthur Broadbent, Charles Hatfield, Jock Bond

Centre L-R Jack Daly, Constance Bond, Florence McNabb, Ruth Courtenoy, Enid Johnston, Marjorie Broadbent, Joyce Hardie, Tom Lawless

Front L-R Martin Hardie, Alex Adam, Brian Broadbent, Keith Mathews, Gordon Newton, Jim Lawless, Don Newton

## *Then and Now*



In the school photo on the previous page there is a photo of Marjorie Broadbent who married Ray Leighton and together they owned Del Spaña Motel which occupied the north/east corner of Buckley and Church Streets. This motel, built in 1969, and the Government offices next door in Buckley St were demolished in 2008 to make way for the Latrobe Community Health Service which was previously located on the corner of Princes Drive and Hopetoun Avenue.



The sculpture at the front represents water plants and was made at Mittagong NSW  
Photo taken Saturday 20.4.2019 about 5pm

## Lennie Gwyther's Great Adventure

On the morning of February 3<sup>rd</sup> 1932, at the tender age of 9, Lennie Gwyther set out on his beloved pony Ginger Mick to ride from Leongatha to Sydney to be present at the opening of the newly constructed Sydney Harbour Bridge on March 14th. Lennie rode his pony nearly 1,000 kilometres.

Lennie's parents Captain Leo, a WW1 soldier and Clare Gwyther had allowed Lennie to make the amazing journey as a reward for running the family farm for some months when Leo was in hospital in Melbourne. With no father around Lennie harnessed a four horse team and set about ploughing 24 acres to prepare it ready for sowing.



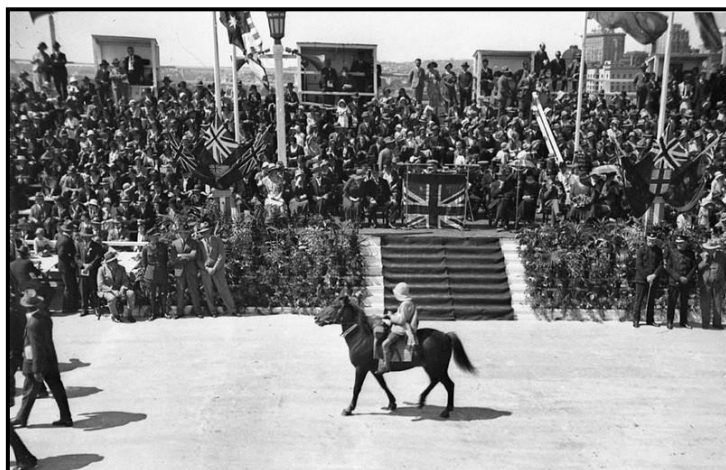
Day after day he worked behind the horses and somehow he managed to plough, harrow and smodge (smooth) the paddock and the crops were eventually planted.

Eager to start his trip the boy was up early and put on his suit -a woollen jacket and short trousers – rolled his spare clothes in an oilskin swag that sat across the front of his saddle and slung a sugar bag of rudimentary supplies, including a diary and pencil, over his shoulder. He had a special sou'wester –style hat for the ride with the brim turned up at the front and hung low behind to protect his neck from the sun. The plan was to ride to Sydney and then book a berth on a ship to Melbourne once he had finished with the bridge.

The Wooryal Shire President and a large crowd including his worried mother, proud father and bewildered three younger siblings were at the show ground to see him off. He carried a letter from the Shire President to give to the Sydney Lord Mayor.

After a steady day they stopped and camped for the night at Mirboo North. Each night he recorded the day's events in his diary. The next morning they were on their way early through Boolarra, Yinnar and on to Morwell where he rested his horse. It was almost nightfall by the time they reached the outskirts of Traralgon where it was planned that he would stay the night with the Philippses. After Ginger Mick was fed, watered and bedded Lennie was fed and the exhausted boy climbed into bed. Sam Phillips was a Vacuum Oil Company man and Vacuum Oil (later Mobil) had representatives in almost every major centre from Traralgon to Sydney. The Vacuum Oil men were sent a message to be on the lookout for the little fellow and to extend him every courtesy.

Lennie set off from Traralgon early but a hot northerly wind was blowing and to the north a fire was



racing through the heavily timbered hills. In no time the pair were lost in thick black smoke and by midday it was pitch black. There were two fires. The blaze to the north was in the Erica, Gilderoy, Warragul and Noojee area and a grass fire was ahead of them at Bairnsdale. Lennie and Ginger Mick were relieved to arrive at the home of relatives at Kilmany, near Rosedale.

The pair continued and fortunately the north wind had died and Lennie needed his oil skin coat as it was beginning to rain. That night he veered off the road to stay with friends at Munro and the next day he arrived at Bairnsdale and stayed at the Main Hotel.

The next day they arrived in Cann River where his father was there to greet him having accepted a lift in a neighbour's T Model Ford. Father and son made it to Bombala on 19<sup>th</sup> February, almost 3 weeks after leaving home. Lennie was taken to the school where the children were given rides around the oval on the patient pony before Lennie found lodgings at the Globe Hotel. Here his father took him to the doctor to see how he was holding up and the doctor proclaimed him 'as sound as a bell and in buoyant spirits.' By now his journey was starting to gain attention in Sydney where everybody was eager for next month's bridge celebrations. They continued along the Monaro Highway and spending a night at Bobingah Station, then Nimmitabel and onto Cooma where he stayed at the Prince of Wales Hotel. Next morning when Mrs Rolfe asked him what he would like in his lunch he told her not to worry about him but he would like an apple for Ginger Mick.

At Canberra he rode his pony up the steps of Parliament House and was introduced to nearly every Member of Parliament. The Prime Minister, Joseph Lyons shook his hand and wished him well. He was accommodated at the Canberra Grammar School for 2 nights. The next stop was Queanbeyan and onto Moss Vale and finally Liverpool. At last, on 8<sup>th</sup> March, 33 days after leaving Leongatha, Lennie and Ginger Mick rode through suburb after endless suburb toward the city and Martin Place. Here Lennie exclaimed "What a bonza town!" After the opening of the bridge Lennie rode Ginger Mick across it and joined in the official celebrations.

In 2017 the Leongatha Chamber of Commerce and many other local groups had this cast statue in bronze erected in the centre of the town on the South Gippsland Highway near the public rest stop. So, finally the town made tribute to a very brave young boy and his trusty horse.



Much has been written about Lenny.

As he passed through towns on his way, the newspapers of the day reported on his epic journey.

Did Lenny rest his horse at Bill's Horse Trough in Hazelwood Road?

*"The Bridge"* by Peter Lalor

*Morwell Advertiser* 15 April 1932

*Morwell Advertiser* 3 June 1932

*Traralgon Record* Mon 18 Apr 1932

*Weekly Times* 18 June 1932

Major newspapers also reported on the event

## Morwell Power Station Demolition of two chimneys

When dawn broke on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2019, there were four 300 foot high chimneys each containing 225 plates at the Morwell Power Station. The bottom 3 rows had 6 plates to a row. The next four rows had 5 plates to a row and the top 49 rows had 4 plates to a row. The plates were riveted together with 20,828 rivets per chimney. At the base of the chimney the rivets were 1 ¼ inches in diameter and at the top they were ¾ inch in diameter.



At 1.45 pm there were only 2 chimneys standing

Completed in 1956 the 170,000 kW Morwell Power Station was designed and built as an integral part of the Briquette Factories. Originally four Briquette Factories had been planned and ordered but only the first two were built. This was due to marketing problems mainly competition from, at that time, lower priced fuel oil and black coal which had become more readily available after the end of WW11. To compete with these lower priced fuels the sale of industrial briquettes in particular had to be extensively subsidised making their production uneconomical, hence the decision to cancel the construction of the second two factories.

The purpose of the Morwell Power Station was threefold.

Firstly, to supply steam to dry the raw brown coal to a moisture level suitable for pressing into briquettes.

Secondly, to provide power to operate plant in the Morwell Open Cut, ancillary services and the Briquette factory.

Thirdly, to generate electricity for public supply.

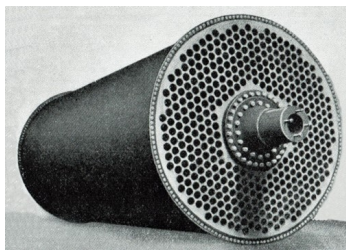




Without getting too technical, the following overview of the first of these functions provides an insight into the engineering background to one part of the briquetting process.

There were five steam generators in the Turbine Room of the Power Station. The turbines at each end of the installation had conventional condensers to convert the used steam back into feed water for reuse in the boilers. The three middle turbines had their used steam piped to the Briquette Factories.

In the Briquette Factories the low pressure steam (maximum 55psi but normally around 25psi) was circulated in large slowly revolving inclined drums. (approximately 3.950mm diameter X approximately 8.000 mm long ) containing 876 longitudinal tubes each with an external diameter of about 108mm. The crushed and screened raw, moist brown coal was fed into the top end of these tubes. As the pulverised coal slowly moved down the tubes by gravity the moisture level was reduced from 63% to 16%. The relatively dry granulated coal was then directly fed into the briquette presses.



Arrangement of tubes in the steam tube drier page 270 "*Brown Coal*"



Private photos  
ABC Gippsland  
Latrobe Valley Express  
"*Brown Coal*" Dr H Herman published in 1952 by the SECV

## Rousing Welcome

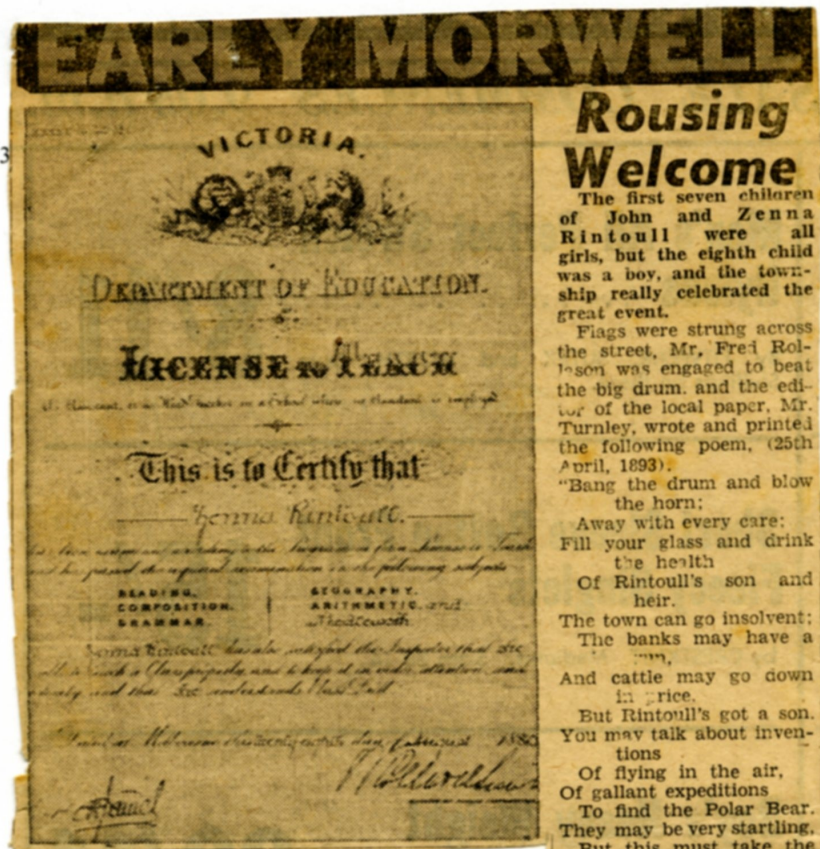
This article appeared in the *Latrobe Valley Express*, specific date unknown

Written by I.T. Maddern in his *Early Morwell* Series in the 1960s and 1970s

A lot has been written about the Rintoulls over the years but this one is particularly poignant.

Mr Turnley Editor Morwell Advertiser  
Wrote and printed the following poem (25<sup>th</sup> April 1893)

Bang the drum and blow the horn:  
Away with every care:  
Fill your glass and drink the health  
Of Rintoull's son and heir.  
The town can go insolvent:  
The bank may have a run,  
And cattle may go down in price.  
But Rintoull's got a son.  
You may talk about inventions  
Of flying in the air,  
Of gallant expeditions  
To find the Polar Bear.  
They may be very startling,  
But this must take the bun,  
Jack Rintoull is the father  
Of a noble little son.  
God bless his tiny offspring:  
And when he grows a lad,  
We'll often hear his cheery voice.  
As now we hear his dad.  
Tug the blooming joy bells  
For well they must be rung:  
Hoist the flags aloft Fred.  
For Rintoull's got a son.  
Home Rule can go to Jericho:  
Let Gladstone go to pot  
The Ulstermen can go to war.  
And most of them be shot.  
Jack Rintoull's gained a conquest  
The victory is won.  
And now he is the daddy  
Of a sturdy little son.  
The world may end for what we care  
Since we have lived to see  
Jack Rintoull with a baby boy  
A-dangling on his knee  
What matter now how soon for us  
This earthly race in run.  
The blooming universe can bust  
For RINTOULL'S GOT A SON.



Jack Rintoull's mother,  
Zenna, Morwell's first  
school ma'am.  
As now we hear his dad,  
Tug the blooming joy bells  
For well they must be  
rung:  
Hoist the flags aloft Fred,  
For Rintoull's got a son.  
Home Rule can go to  
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A SON.

## Rousing Welcome

The first seven children  
of John and Zenna  
Rintoull were all  
girls, but the eighth child  
was a boy, and the town-  
ship really celebrated the  
great event.

Flags were strung across  
the street, Mr. Fred Rol-  
leston was engaged to beat  
the big drum, and the edi-  
tor of the local paper, Mr.  
Turnley, wrote and printed  
the following poem, (25th  
April, 1893).

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the horn;  
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They may be very startling,  
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Jack Rintoull is the father  
Of a noble little son.  
God bless his tiny off-  
spring;  
And when he grows a  
lad,  
We'll often hear his cheery  
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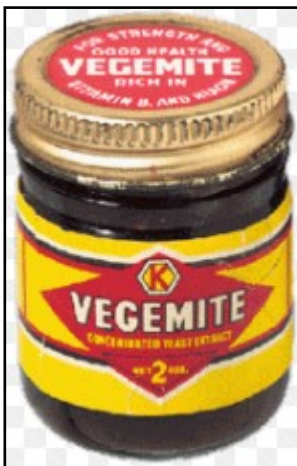


Jack Rintoull's mother,  
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Hoist the flags aloft Fred,  
For Rintoull's got a son.  
Home Rule can go to  
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Let Gladstone go to pot:  
The Ulstermen can go to  
war.  
And most of them be  
shot.  
Jack Rintoull's gained a  
conquest.  
The victory is won.  
And now he is the daddy

## Fred Walker

Fred Walker was born in Melbourne and worked in the food import and export industry and founded Fred Walker and Co in Hong Kong in 1903. He served in the Australian Military Forces from 1908-1918 before returning to his business. The company began manufacturing Red Feather canned foods and Bonox, a beef extract product that is still produced today.

In 1923, Walker, now in Melbourne, hired chemist Cyril Callister to develop a yeast product to compete with a similar English product called Marmite. There was a competition to find a name for this new, thick, black, Australian food spread made from left over brewers yeast extract with various vegetable and spice additives. The name Vegemite was selected by Walker's daughter Sheilah from a large number of entries.



1954 style jar of Vegemite

In the beginning Vegemite failed to sell well because Marmite dominated the sales. So from 1928-35 the product was renamed Parwill and it had the advertising slogan "Marmite, but Parwill." (Mar might but Par will) In 1935 it became known again as Vegemite. It has a rich source of vitamin B – they are B1 Thiamine, B2 Riboflavin, B3 Niacin and B9 Folate and it has very little added sugar but is rather high in salt. It was rationed in Australia during WW11 and was included in the Australian Army rations. It is claimed that in the late 1940s 9 out of 10 Australian families ate Vegemite. The Vegemite brand was owned by Mondelez International (formerly Kraft Foods Inc) until January 2017 when it was acquired by the Australian Bega Cheese group for \$460 million. Today at their Port Melbourne factory more than 22 million jars are produced each year.

Come on every one sing up loudly to this jingle that was first aired on the radio in 1954

*We're happy little Vegemites, as bright as bright can be.  
We all enjoy our Vegemite for breakfast, lunch and tea.  
Our Mummies say we're growing stronger each single week.  
Because we love our Vegemite, we all adore our Vegemite  
It puts a rose in every cheek.*

In April 1984 a 115 gram jar of Vegemite became the first product in Australia to be electronically scanned at the checkout.

In one of our new display cases we have an empty Vegemite glass and an empty Vegemite jar that were donated to us by Bill Bailey. Bill, who is an avid collector of anything and every thing has donated us many boxes of interesting items. Thanks Bill



Source: Wikipedia



### OPEN DAYS 2019

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

### OPEN DAYS 2020

5th February / 19th February / 23rd February  
4th March / 18th March / 29th March  
1st April / 15th April / 27th April  
6th May / 20th May / 31st May

Please deliver me to:

If not delivered please return to 12 Hazelwood Road, Morwell 3840

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