

The Morwell Post

Morwell Historical Society

URL: www.morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au

Email: secretary@morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au

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BILLS HORSE TROUGH



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Morwell Historical Society Directory 2022

President:	Alan McFarlane Phone: 0448 430 394
Vice-President:	Shirley Prosser
Secretary:	Florence Butcher
Assistant Secretary:	Elaine Andrijczak
Treasurer:	Peter Butcher
Committee Members:	Rosalie Davey Peter Gitsham Laurie Williams
Research Library:	12 Hazelwood Road, Morwell, Victoria 3840
Research Queries:	secretary@morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au
Public Access:	1st and 3rd Wednesday and last Sunday of each month, 11.00 a.m. – 2.00 p.m. Open - February to November
General meetings:	3rd Wednesday February to November – 2.00 pm
Annual General Meeting:	3rd Wednesday of March each year
Membership Fees:	Due 1st July each year Single Member - \$25.00 Family Membership -Family living at the same address includes children under 18 years old - \$30.00 Application Forms available on our web site for you to print and send. For a print copy of “ The Morwell Post ” - \$10.00 per annum
Editor:	email: morwellpost@morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au
Research Fees:	\$10.00 per hour or part thereof, and prices for photo prints on application and postage where applicable.
Facebook:	https://www.facebook.com/morwellhistoricalsociety
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

FUNDRAISING

On 14th May we had another sausage BBQ at Bunnings. I thank the following people 10 for who volunteered to work – Floretta McInnes, Gaye Jones, Elaine Andrijczak, Ray Beebe, Laurie Williams, Peter Butcher, Orlando Bianconi, David Kneebone, Fay Thompson and lastly but not least Shirley Prosser who bought everything, organised the roster and worked 2 shifts. The eleventh person was myself. The Society made a profit of \$643.50 and \$50.20 in donations.

Thanks to all members who volunteered their time to help towards paying off the Society's debt.

RENOVATIONS

- The opening door into the chair room has been replaced with a sliding door
- The front 4 steps now have safety anti slip fluorescent tape.

Thanks Chris.

GRANTS

Thank you to the Latrobe City Council as we continue to receive an annual Operational Grant of \$1,000 to help cover the operating expenses of the society.

DONATIONS

A slide projector made by the Aldis Brothers in Birmingham in 1953 and a projector screen.

- 2 cardboard suitcases
- 8 boxes of books

-2 descendants of the Green family (Sue Hateley and her sister Julie), came up from Melbourne to our rooms and donated over 170 photos included some Commercial Road State School class photos from the 1960s. We also scanned over 70 further photos from their personal photo albums. Green's store was in Tarwin Street, about where the chemist is today.

-jumpers, photos and trophies from the Latrobe Valley Football League

- 8 charcoal carpet squares each 4x4 metres from the Morwell Bowling Club

Now we need some underfelt and a carpet layer

-1956 Video recorder and a 1992 lap top computer, both in cases

Thank you to everyone who gave us items.

GUEST SPEAKERS

- April meeting –Rob Gaulton, former Geologist with the SEC
- May meeting –Graham Burgess, 100th Anniversary of the Morwell RSL

PROMOTION

I was interviewed by the ABC Radio Sale in relation to our building debt. As a result, the Society received two new members, Michelle and Bill Darling. There has also been some discussion re possible donations to our building fund.

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS DAY

Twenty five of our members had an enjoyable get-together at the Morwell RSL for lunch on July 3rd followed by afternoon tea at our society rooms. Thanks to Shirley for organising.

FEES

The fees are now due. Single member \$25, family at the same address which includes children under 18, \$30. A print copy of The Morwell Post \$10 per annum (6 newsletters). Either pay Peter Butcher or Direct Debit into the Commonwealth Bank. Account Name: Morwell Historical Society; BSB: 063522; Account No.: 00900501

Add your name to the *Reference*

Stay safe and keep well

Alan McFarlane President

Looking out the Green's shop window towards the west side of Tarwin Street



MORWELL SCOUTS - OPENING OF THE NEW HALL—1936

Wednesday April 1st 1936 was quite a Red Letter Day in the history of the scouting movement in Morwell when the recently acquired hall was formally opened in the presence of a large and representative gathering of scouts and citizens. Among those present were Messrs CH Hoadley - Chief Scout Commissioner, OBE, JH Thomas - National Scout President, RD Dixon - County President, C Game - Organising Secretary, LB Trigg - President of Morwell Association, EG Pearson - Vice President, ES Hall - Secretary and Chas Brown - Scout Master.

The Scout Troop was formed in Morwell in 1932, but the boys were at a big disadvantage in consequence of not having a hall. An opportunity of securing the old butter factory in George Street erected by "Capads" Coy that could be converted into a suitable hall, was presented a few months ago, but for want of money it looked as though it could not happen. Mr Norman Sharpe, however, came to the rescue with a donation of £50 to the committee towards the purchase of the building. An appeal was made through the *Morwell Advertiser* for further donations from the general public and over £50 more was raised enabling the committee to purchase the land and the building. A new floor, donated by Saxton's of Moe and ceiling were put in, also a stove, etc in the kitchen and other additions including lighting. A lot of valuable work was carried out by voluntary labour and in due course the opening day was eagerly awaited. The names of the people who donated money were listed in the *Morwell Advertiser*.



Mr Norman Sharpe

At 8 o'clock the Morwell Troop, numbering about 20 Scouts, formed in front of the Hall and after being duly inspected, marched inside where they were addressed by Chief Commissioner Hoadley who also decorated several boys with merit badges. He said he was pleased to be present and urged all scouts to prove themselves worthy of the name. They had much to learn and a boy who joined was not likely to become a "Pukka" Scout before he was 15 or 16 years of age.



Note the 1960 FB Holden and the Parking Meters

Just to the far right, the windows of the RACV are just visible

In conclusion the Chief Commissioner presented badges to the following members of the Morwell Troop

Patrol Leader Ross Berwick –Kings Scout badge and all round cords.

Scout Alwyn Berwick – First class swimmers and Pukka

Scout Milton Harding –Two years service Star Ambulance Man, Swimmers, Public Healthy Man Scout

Stewart Berwick –Second Class Cyclist

Scout Arthur Williams –Cyclist and one year service star

Patrol Leader Lindsay Murray –Two year service star

Scout Alf Budge –Second Class Cyclist

Scout Keith Hutton –Service Star

Scout Ian Jeffreys –Service Star

After many speeches a photo of Norman Sharpe was unveiled and the evening finished with a dance and super.

Source -~~Morwell Advertiser~~ *Morwell Advertiser* 2 April 1936 p 3



Morwell Scout Troop 1934

Back row: -Jim Catterick, Jack Klein, Des Davey, Don Kelly, Strew Berwick, Ross Berwick, Colwyn Angus, Bruce Brinsmead.

Centre: -Lindsay Murray, Russ Billingsley, Haven Davey, Bill Davey, Milton Harding, Milton Vertigan, Bill Collins.

Front row: -Alwyn Berwick, Des Kelly, Gordon Budge, Chas Brown, Scout Master, Les Pritchard, Alf Budge.

In short ...dating back to British imperialism in India, "Pukka" is a word which had evolved from the Hindi to mean "solid" and applied to the scout to mean "First Class".

BILLS HORSE TROUGH

The Horse Trough that was originally at the corner of Hazelwood Road and Commercial Road has been reinstated in the median strip only a few metres from its original position in front of the Town Hall.

This trough is one of 500 throughout Australia that was established in accordance of a trust fund established by Annis and George Bills. Annis and George were animal lovers and keen supporters of the RSPCA with George becoming a Life Governor in 1924. Having no children of their own they donated large sums of money to charities and individuals and following the death of Annis in 1910 and George in 1927 a trust fund was established and administered by George's sister Daisy Cook and her husband in accordance to George's wishes.

The early troughs were individually designed and constructed but by the 1930s, a relative of Bill's, Jack Phillips, became the contractor to the Estate and a registered design of precast concrete became the standard of future troughs. Although designed primary for horses, some troughs, such as Morwell's, had dog bowls fitted to the side. Troughs were constructed at Phillips site in Auburn Road, Hawthorn for dispatch throughout Australia. Later in about 1938 Rocla took over manufacture and moved the production to a site in Junee NSW but still used the Phillip's design. The moulds were transferred to Sydney where a further 200 were supplied to various localities. However with the increasing use of the motor car from the late 1940s caused a decline in demand for horse troughs and no further troughs were dispatched after WW2. Central Australian troughs were used predominantly for camels.

It is unknown when Morwell's horse trough was relocated to the Pony Club in Toners Lane. On 6th June 2010 a combined project of Morwell Historical Society, Morwell Rotary Club and Latrobe Council it was relocated to the site on the median strip at the north end of Hazelwood Road close to its original position.

ORNAMENTAL TROUGH GIFT TO MORWELL SHIRE Recently an ornamental water trough and drinking fountain was presented to the Morwell Shire Council, and has been erected in Hazelwood Road, on concrete base, close to the Prince's Highway. The gift combines a horse and cattle watering trough, a drinking fountain for human being, as well as a small drinking trough for dogs. It is splendidly constructed and is quite an ornament. It bears the inscription: "Donated by Annis and George Bills, Australia." We understand that similar troughs have been donated to other councils that have applied for same, in accordance with will of the donors. It appears that the donors who were very wealthy had a great love for dumb animals, and left a considerable amount of money to be spent in providing needs and comfort for animals. No doubt the trough will be much availed of during the coming summer.

The horse trough languishing at the Pony Club
Note the small trough for dogs



LINE IT UP



ALL DONE!



David McInnes, Stephen Hellings, ???, Graeme Cornell, Bruce McMaster

Source

– *Latrobe City Heritage Study 2005* –Heritage Victoria p 349-350

– *Gippsland Heritage Journal* Sep 1996 p 44-47

A PAPER CHASE 1892

There was a lot of fun when a “paper chase” was held

A form of cross-country running in the early 19th century was called paper chasing, or hare and hounds—the “hares” started a few minutes before the others and left a trail of paper scraps to be followed by the “hounds.” Cross-country runners came to be known as harriers, after a small hound used to chase genuine hares. A significant event was the founding of the Crick Run at Rugby School in 1837.

Local residents decided to do it on horseback!

Messrs. Earle and Mather had previously laid the trail, so it promised to be over some rough country. Mr. Rollason, one of the promoters of the hunt was mounted on a fiery grey, which one might easily mistake for Ted Rowe's Robin whilst 19 others were mounted on more or less brilliant mustangs.

The scent was picked up at Crinnigan's lane below the tennis court, and Mather on "Tinmine", Butters, on his well-known grey, "Rocket", W. Applegate on "Charley", Geo. Hoyle on a plucky little pony, and Jim Harris on "Lilly", led the band over the log fence into Buckley's closely followed by T. Keegan, D. Fleming, Rollason, Millett Bros. and Gant, the latter succeeding in considerably reducing the height of the fence for those remaining amongst whom A. Brown was prominent in his persistent efforts to entice his "neddy" to negotiate the jump.

All, however, were over at length and away they went helter skelter to the double dividing Buckley's from Crinnigan's. These jumps were safely negotiated by the leading division before mentioned, others taking advantage of the lane, and meeting their compeers on the road between Crinnigan's and Fitzpatrick's. At this point a stiff post and rail dismayed the stoutest heart, and a rush was made for the panels leading into the road.

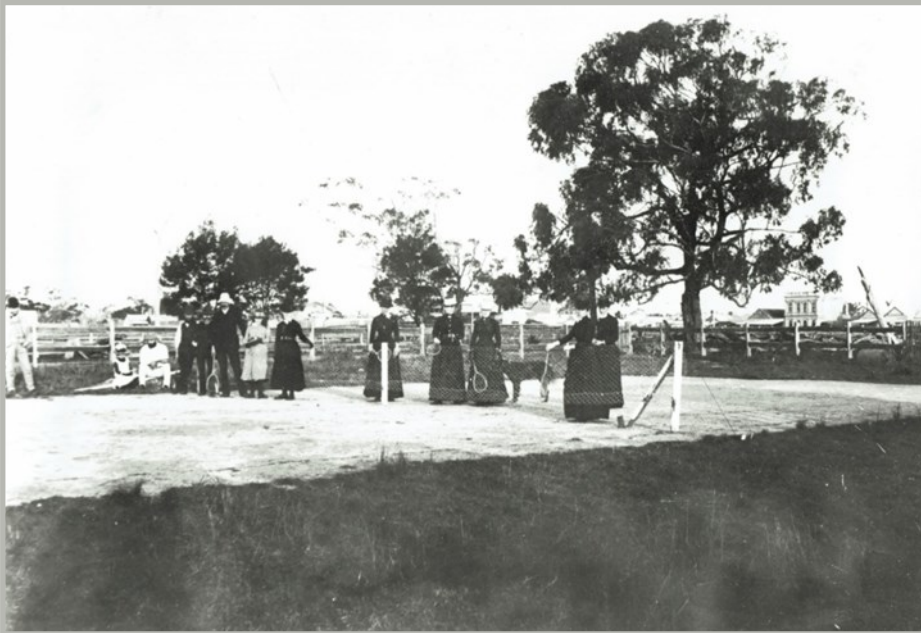
The trail now lay in an easterly direction, and the true huntsmen were only settling to their work and fast going was the order of the day until the crown of the ridge was reached, where a check was made to enable the stragglers to come up. Amongst the first flight at the check, were W. Applegate. G. Earle, D. Fleming, Harris and Mather, Rollason and Gant being a few minutes late, followed 10 minutes afterwards by the remainder of the party.

Off again in an easterly direction. two fences were safely negotiated, and a point opposite Mr. Ogilvy's house, on the other side of the ridge reached, the trail changed to a southerly direction into Buckley's paddock. Thence across the double into Porters racing parallel with the road, over two more fences, and out on to the road at a point near the railway bridge.

Here a good many spectators had assembled and cheered the horse men over the fence into the road. The bridge was now crossed, and the Ridge road followed till Tolmie's corner was reached. A log fence leading into Tolmie's paddock was then negotiated, and the trial followed in a westerly direction, to a point about half a mile above Brownsword and Coopers' brick works thence in a northerly direction on to the main road, then about three chains along the road and back into O'Flaherty's paddock, thence in a western direction over a post and rail near the brick works. From this point the going was in earnest. Mather, Earle, Butters, T. Keegan, Applegate and Harris leading the van.

Full tilt they came for a stiff log fence leading home past the English Church, Butters and Mather getting over first and running neck and neck for the winning post - the post office, Mather just getting home. These two were closely followed by T. Keegan, W. Applegate, G. Earle and Harris. Altogether about 19 fences were jumped, the distance covered being about 5 miles.

After the hunt a meeting was held to form a Morwell Hunt Club, Mr. Earle in the chair. The object of the meeting being explained it was decided to charge 5s. for membership for the season, and that a hunt be held every Wednesday afternoon when nothing else was on, and that a trophy be given for a cross-country steeplechase for horses that have competed three times in the Club's hunts. Mr. Brown was elected President of the club, Mr. Rollason secretary and treasurer, and Messrs. W. Applegate. G. Earle, H. Butters. D., Fleming. J. Keegan J. Graham and B. Turnley a working committee. The next hunt will take place on Wednesday afternoon next at 3 p.m.



The race started below the tennis courts on the corner of Helen Street and Latrobe Road.

The riders went past St Mary's Church



The winning post was the Post Office on the corner of Commercial Road and Tarwin Street. (Where the Commonwealth Bank was situated)

Source – *Morwell Advertiser* Friday 8 January 1892 p 3.

BUSH MISSIONARY—REV RICHARD FRANCIS CROCKER 1867-1953

After a period of 12 years service, 1925 to 1937, in the Gippsland mountainous Strzelecki Ranges the Rev R.F. Crocker, a Tasmanian Congregational minister, returned to Hobart to his wife and family. Tasmanian born, Mr Crocker, had early experiences on NSW stations which gave him the experience for a parish life of 30,000 square miles. At the age of 18 he obtained a position on a station on the Yass River, NSW, and after 18 months there he was appointed in charge of a station on the Goulburn River. Leaving that, for some time he was engaged in droving sheep and at one time brought a mob of 13,000 head from Wagga Wagga to the north of NSW. Mr Crocker sought fresh experience running wild horses in the north of NSW in the Monaro Plains and he was a fellow rider of “Banjo” Patterson when he wrote his famous poem “The Man from Snowy River”. It was here that he decided to study for the Ministry.

Mr Crocker returned to Tasmania and in 1900 was appointed Congregational minister in the Dunalley circuit. He had two more circuits in Tasmania before he accepted a position with the Victorian Congregational Bush Mission. The Gippsland Mountains were rugged country and he covered them either on horseback or on foot. His district stretched from Wonyip, 15k north of Toora to Jeeralang and services were held either in the open air, in halls, schools, private homes or any place available. Some of the other places he visited were Balook, Livingston, Le Roy, Jumbuk, Mirboo East, Ryton and Mandalay. He advertised in the Morwell Advertiser the places that he would be the following week with often 3 services a day, 7 days a week. He kept records of where he went and one year he travelled over 5,600 miles and had religious contact with over 10,500 people. The Reverend Crocker buried, baptised and married many people and he organised concerts and school picnics. Each Christmas he launched an appeal through Victorian Newspapers for presents for the children and each year about 200 were distributed.

When he departed for Tasmania in 1937, he was given many “send offs” from each settlement who gave him gifts, or a wallet of money and he claimed that he had received the greatest help and assistance from the residents and without that help he would have found it impossible to carry on.



A COUPLE OF SNIPPITS OF INFORMATION ABOUT Rev. RICHARD FRANCIS CROCKER

1. Rev. R.F. Crocker, of Dover has accepted an invitation to become the bush missionary to the Congregational Union of Victoria, and will commence in September.

The Advocate. Burnie 30 June 1925 p2

The Mercury Hobart Tasmania, Monday 15 August 1904 p4

2. Rev. R.F., Crocker sailed for Melbourne on “Coogee SS.” August 13 from Launceston.

3. The Australian Electoral Roll of the day had Rev. Crocker registered as a minister living at Jeeralang

4. **FATHER SERIOUSLY ILL. IN TASMANIA.** *Minister Cycles 100 Miles to Catch Boat.*

MORWELL (Vic), Friday June 1933. -When Rev. R.F. Crocker, of Jeeralang, received word recently that his father was seriously ill in Tasmania he rode 100 miles to Melbourne on a bicycle, and there caught the boat to Launceston. Thence he went by train to Hobart, and then walked 12 miles to his father's home, where he arrived 48 hours after he had set out from Jeeralang. A few hours later his father died.

Rev. Crocker is more than 60 years of age.

5. Rev. Crocker married twice and had seven daughters.

THE FOLLOWING IS JUST A SAMPLE OF THE MANY "FARWELLS" GIVEN TO REVEREND CROCKER

PRESENTATION TO REV. CROCKER

At Balook on Thursday evening last, at the conclusion of a greatly appreciated lantern lecture on "The North and South Islands of New Zealand," a gathering of about sixty people of Balook, and a few from Valley View presented the retiring Bush Missioner, Rev R. F. Crocker, with a wallet of notes.

Mr L. Caldwell, of Balook, in making the presentation, thanked Mr Crocker for all he had done during his stay with the people in the hills.

Mr Crocker, in responding, said that all had helped him in his work, and it was only by their kindly and wholehearted co-operation that the Mission had been successful. He described his early life on a cattle station and later among wild horses, being a fellow-rider with "Banjo" Patterson, when he wrote his famous poem, "The Man from Snowy River." until he (Mr Crocker) was called from this work to the Ministry. Mr Crocker added that he was surprised to receive the gift and thanked them all sincerely for their kind thought. He said, it would be difficult to leave his work there after so long but felt that the time had come to relinquish his charge.

Enjoyable music and supper, provided by the Balook ladies, were appreciated after the speeches.

Rev. CROCKER FAREWELLED

AT RYTON

On the evening of the 24th March, before leaving the district where for twelve years he labored faithfully as a minister of the Gospel, the Rev. R. F. Crocker was farewelled at Ryton hall by a large gathering of friends.

In presenting Rev. Crocker with a wallet of notes, on behalf of the Ryton people, Mr W. Mills referred to the sterling qualities of devotion to duty, self sacrifice, courage and love at all times displayed by our good old friend and, which have endeared him to the hearts of all, irrespective of creed or dogma. Mr Mills further added that the Rev. Crocker's versatility was well known and cited instances where he showed extraordinary practical knowledge of veterinary surgical operations to cattle suffering from Blackleg disease, which knowledge, coupled with a thorough understanding of farm and domestic matters made Mr. Crocker the one reliable authority in these hill districts.

Mr Crocker, in responding, briefly described how he was led by Divine guidance to these hills where he had ever been received with hospitality and friendship by one and all. He thanked the people for the love shown to him the long years of his ministry here and assured one and all that each would be remembered when he knelt in prayer at the throne of Grace. He trusted that the seed sown would bring forth fruit an hundred fold.

On behalf of the school children, Mr A. A. Brown assured Mr Crocker that his little nameless unremembered acts of kindness and of love were highly appreciated by the pupils who would ever carry in their hearts fond memories of his faithful unselfish service.

During the evening the company enjoyed many varied indoor games, after which supper was served by the ladies.



OPEN DAYS 2022

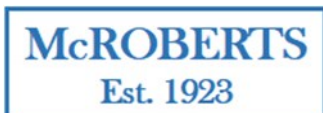
Please check the current Covid-19 restrictions before attending.

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

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We sincerely thank Harriet Shing, Member for Eastern Victoria and staff for printing our Newsletter