

The Morwell Post

Morwell Historical Society

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The Queen's Visit

Her Royal Highness, Queen Elizabeth II heading towards the Railway Station on her way to Morwell
March 3rd, 1954 - corner of Railway Avenue and Eastern Road, Yallourn

Original photo by Murray Wigg

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Morwell Historical Society Directory 2018

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:	research@morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au
Public Access:	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. Corporate Supporter Membership \$100 For a print copy of <i>“The Morwell Post”</i> - \$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.

The Society has been very busy in 2018 with the building renovations, meetings and responding to genealogical enquiries.

Building Renovations

The new office area is almost complete with the air-conditioning inverter unit to be installed soon. This new area will provide volunteers during the winter months with a heated environment in which to work through administrative matters including updating the Catalogue with donated items e.g. photos, family history details.

A huge thanks to:

- Orlando Bianconi and Ray Ancilleri who carried out the electrical work for the new office
- Nick Marino who volunteered to paint the new office
- Bunnings Morwell who donated the paint for the new office
- Picton Hopkins donated the plaster and the plastering was carried out by Grand Ridge Plastering, Boolarra

Planning is underway to erect the mezzanine floor above the Compactus in the Archive Area to provide an extra storage area.

New Glass Display Cabinets

I am pleased to report that the Society has been successful in an application to the Public Record Office of Victoria for a grant of \$4,227 towards the purchase of three glass display cabinets. These display cabinets are made of safety glass, have lighting, are lockable and are on castors – a great addition to display our valuable collection.

Genealogical Enquiries

Enquiries are regularly received for information on family history research. Our Commercial Road State School records which go back to 1890 have proved to be a valuable resource in answering such enquiries.

The Society recently hosted a gathering of a group of the 'Shaw' family visiting from Queensland and Melbourne. This was a great opportunity to assist such a group meet with local relatives and share the 'Shaw' history.

Bruce McMaster
President

P.H.

(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. At 5 they would prepare for evening meal, which mainly consisted of Soup, Eggs or Cold Meats. As our house was on a corner, on way to local Football Ground (it was the O'right stop for "Swaggies" during Depression years) there would be a knock at back door - "Any tucker to spare, lady?" We would usually give them Tea, Sugar, fill their Billy, sometimes they would ask in return if there were any jobs to be done!

Celan, arrived on the scene by 14 months after me! He was a premature baby, only weighing 4 lbs, the birth took place at St. Hilary's Hospital, there he was kept in a crib in the sitting room with a fire going night & day (no Humid cribs, in those days.) His body would be rubbed with Olive Oil, wrapped in cotton wool & placed on a Hot Water Bag. At first he was fed with an Eye Dropper every hour. After many weeks he came home. A Lister Daly was

employed to care for him and our lounge was the nursery, she remained with us for some months. After all these years we reckon the Blue Oil is still coming out of Alan's pores !!

On Sundays we attended Sunday School at St. Marys S. of E. Afterwards it was home to a Roast Dinner, usually Chicken, from our Fowl Run. About 2 P.M still in our Sunday clothes, off we would go for a drive in the car or go visiting people in the Hazelwood district. When Mum & Dad were first married (1925) they owned a Horse & Buggy but by 1926 they were the proud owners of an Oaklands car, later models were Fords.

Most often we would visit the Applegate Bros, Batchelors Will, Bob. Some relation of Dad's was Housekeeper - Auntie Min I think? I well remember the Dairy outside, the Kitchen Shelves with the fringed Oil Baine and tin Canisters displayed. Afternoon Tea was served on the large dining-room table, covered with a brown moquette velvet cloth fringed, over that was placed a starched white table-cloth. Usually there would be Sandwiches, Scones,

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Gem Stones & several kinds of cake. We children were made to sit at table, Will & Bob sat in their big arm-chairs and were waited on!

The Sweeney family consisted of Uncle Bill, Auntie Cinnalene & Fay (one of my best friends) Once again afternoon tea was a grand occasion, Caraway Seed cake was always served & I absolutely hated it, but it was "manners" to eat it. Auntie Cinnalene always served tea from a trolley, her Royal Doulton "Duck Season" Tea Set being used on Sundays.

Fay served us morning tea in the same cups & saucers on my last visit to Tamworth in '89. Uncle Bill loved tormenting Fay & I, so there was usually hi-jinx. Most remembered was a beaded Cobra-snake he had brought back from the Middle East W.W.I. - it was very life-like to us as children & I can still hear A.A. calling out "Bill, Bill that's enough!!"

Dad bought me a white Pony, which we named Tinker (believe me he lived up to his name!) As I got older I was allowed to ride out to

Sweeney's and stay the week-end.

On one occasion Tinker decided he didn't want to go beyond a certain corner - Mum took a paling off the fence & beat his rump repeatedly - no go. so she said "Hop off Mary, I'll get on," which she did & she'd not been on a horse for many years, after repeated tries Tinker eventually gave in!!

About 12-13 years of age I graduated to a larger horse called Toby. Quite often I would help Dad draft sheep, particularly at shearing time, also I would help in the Shed with the fleeces lamping them down in the Press. I would arrive home smelling "Very Sheepy!"

Uncle Bill Davey owned a Barber's Shop & Billiard Saloon in Commercial Road (Mowell) Red & White Barber's Pole out the front. As a treat we were allowed to watch play on the two big tables with overhead lights.

It really fascinated me, though I didn't understand the game. Billiards were most popular in that era. Sweeney's was another Billiard Saloon.

Memories of Queen Elizabeth's visit to Traralgon - 1954

Annelie Roberts (nee Busacker) remembers ...

I was in Grade 5 at Morwell West Primary School in 1954 and was part of group of around 40 students who travelled from Morwell West to Traralgon to see Queen Elizabeth on her historic visit. Students from grades three to six at my school were able to go that day. I don't remember how we got from the school to Morwell Train Station, I can only presume we would have caught a bus from Morwell West. Catching a bus from the school would have been exciting in itself but strangely I have no recollection of it at all. I remember the weather well though and it was hot. As was normal at the time we didn't have a school uniform. We were dressed in thin summer dresses, socks, heavy covered shoes and of course, no hats. Back in 1954 the knowledge that sun burn caused skin cancer was unknown and hats weren't common among children, at least not the children of Morwell West.

I remember waiting along the side of the road of what is now Queen's Parade for what seemed like an eternity for a ten year old. I remember it was hot, very hot. I have memories of Red Cross tents set up with stretchers inside where people who had fainted from the heat, or were suffering heat stroke were being treated. Despite the hype and effort, it seems that the organisers hadn't considered providing shade or water for the expected crowd and the first aid tents did a steady trade that day.

Locals who lived along the route started to put out water in metal buckets with ladles for people to drink from. In the days before plastic and cheap metals no one carried water, and as school children we had arrived around 10am. In hind sight the lack of water supply may have been planned as there were no toilets for the crowd, so the lack of water may have been for the sake of public hygiene.

The landscape was different in 1954 to what it is now and the train line was lower. There were more trees next to the train line so from street level the view of the railway line wasn't clear. We didn't see the train arrive as it was arriving from Sale but I remember the cheers as the Queen stepped off train. The cheers then worked their way through the crowd as she and Prince Phillip grew closer in their car. Then I remember two people in a car going past. I remember waving and cheering. That is unfortunately my only memory of seeing the Queen. At ten years of age it really was just two people in a car driving past.

I remember we then had to wait where we were and I remember hearing the train pull away. I can't remember the train ride home or what would have been the bus ride back to Morwell West. I can't remember what I told my parents that night and I can't remember any personal reaction or feelings. What a pity! All I remember was standing in the sun for hours to wave at two people going past in a car. And the heat, I remember the heat.

Thankyou Annelie for answering our request. A lovely story.

Betty Woolley remembers ...

In 1954 I was in grade 3, aged 7 1/2 years, at Collins Street Primary School. Our teacher Mrs Kelly distributed flags donated by the Shire of Morwell, medals and booklets about the Queen to each student. I do not recall going to the railway station, but remember the train ride to Traralgon, which was so exciting with a train full of young children, teachers and some mothers who came along to help out with supervision. Once we arrived at Traralgon we walked to the show grounds where each school had a designated area inside the oval. Everyone seemed to have flag to wave at anyone who looked important in our eyes. We ate our packed lunches and finally the Queen & Prince Phillip were driven slowly past all the waiting children, who cheered and waved flags madly. The Queen & Prince Phillip waved and smiled back at us, making us believe that the attention was aimed at each child. After the Royal entourage had moved on we walked back to the train and sang all the way home. I do remember feeling very tired, it had been a very exciting day.

Attached photos of the flag, which I still have, even though not in original pristine condition

Thank you Betty, what lovely memorabilia, no matter what condition it is in.



Morwell children on steam train to Traralgon for Queen's visit 1954. Leaving from Morwell Railway Station. (archive file number 24930)





On April 3rd 2018 the Morwell Historical Society has received a Certificate and accreditation as a **Welcoming and Age Friendly group** after participating alongside 27 other local organisations in a program offered by the Latrobe City Council.

The Council developed the program to improve older people's connection with the local community and address their feeling of social isolation and loneliness.

The Welcoming & Age Friendly logo will indicate to community members that we are a 'senior-friendly' group - visitors will be greeted with a smile, shown around, introduced to others and supported to become a member of our Society.

Members Shirley Prosser and Elaine Andrijczak participated in the training and a peer audit of the Society.



The above photo shows the Latrobe City Mayor and Councillor Darrell White and Elaine Andrijczak holding the Certificate.

Please consider becoming a Volunteer to assist on our Open Days in greeting visitors.

Membership Reminder

Annual Membership Fees are due on 1st July 2018. 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 Membership Form online and send to us by email – no paper and no posting!

ODDS AND ENDS

Donations

People often come in with various items to donate to our society. Last month, Julie James came in on an Open day carrying a large box. To our surprise the box contained a variety of items including 2 Commercial Road Primary School grey tunics and 2 purple and white ties and 2 High School Blazers all from the 1960's that belonged to Julie and her sister Kerry. We now have 3 High School blazers. The blazer that we have on display was donated by Robyn Irvine (nee Smith).

Looking for ...

A small mannequin to display our donated uniforms

if you have something you think others may want to read about or can suggest a subject that hasn't been covered in previous newsletters, please let us know by post to: The Editor, Morwell Historical Society, [12 Hazelwood Road, Morwell.](#)" OR by email: morwellpost@morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au (we will do our best to research the subject to include in a future edition. If you have something to include, then so much the better.)

FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

The FAHS is the peak body representing the interests of historical societies throughout Australia.

<https://www.history.org.au/>

Under **What's new**, you can view the current e-Bulletin and all the previous e-Bulletins back to January 2009.

There is also a Newsletter which is also worthy of investigation.

Do investigate **Links > Other links** for further information that may be of help to your society.

DID YOU KNOW ...?

CODSWALLOP – In 1870 Hiram Codd (1838-1887) patented a method of retaining the fizz in a bottle of drink by inserting a marble in the neck that was forced up against a rubber washer by the pressure. The slang term wallop, meaning any poor quality drink, was added to his name by his competitors who were keen to discredit him after the popularity of his device threatened their businesses. It seems they were successful as codswallop now means nonsense or rubbish. Few of his bottles have survived as children broke them to acquire the marble.

(from "*Codswallop, Crumpet and Caper - Words and Where They Came From*" Edward Allhuisen 2009)



OPEN DAYS 2018

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

Please deliver me to:

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

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