

MORWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

published bi-monthly

Meetings third Tuesday of the month-7.30pm

Old Morwell Town Hall

Sec/Editor: Elsie McMaster 2 Harold St Morwell 3840

☎(051)341149

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Welcome to the November Newsletter

This month's newsletter comes to you a little earlier than usual so that you will have time to advise the Secretary whether or not you will be attending the final meeting for 1996. This will take the form of a **dinner at Tower Gardens, Savige St, Morwell on Tuesday, November 19 at 6.15pm.** **Guest Speaker will be Meredith Fletcher, from the Centre for Gippsland Studies, Monash University.**

All members and friends are welcome. Cost is \$20 per head, payable on the night.

If you haven't already done so, please let Elsie McMaster know by Tuesday November 12 if you plan to attend. Phone (051)341149

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✱ The *Centre for Gippsland Studies* Annual History Conference, held on Saturday October 12, at Monash University Gippsland Campus, was well attended and greatly enjoyed by all the participants. The theme was *Gippsland's Rural Schools* and the nine guest speakers gave most entertaining and informative presentations on many facets of life at rural schools throughout Gippsland as well as information on researching school history and the marking of the sites of former schools.

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✱ Another **HERITAGE WALK** will be held on **SUNDAY NOVEMBER 17** starting at **2.00 pm**

from the corner of Princes Highway and Latrobe Rd (Beaurepaire's). Leader will be Mr Will McRoberts and the walk will take in the area bounded by Latrobe Rd, Davey St, old Princes Highway and Madden St.

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✱ This will be the last newsletter for 1996 and after our dinner on November 19, the Society will be in recess until February 1997. We wish all members and their families a safe and restful summer break.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

* **Renovations to the old St Mary's Anglican Church** in the Commercial Road School grounds are proceeding apace. Quite a lot of landscaping work had been done to the gardens surrounding the church building and these, together with the church, will form a Historic Precinct, which will be available for public use. The church was built at a cost of £330 and was opened in 1886.

* The Society has received an invitation to mount a display at the **Church St Fiesta**, to be held on **Friday November 15** in Church and Buckley Streets between **6.00pm and 9.30pm**. We would be sharing a table with the Rose Garden members and our contribution would be a display of historical photographs, similar to the display at the Tarwin St Autumn Festival earlier this year. No decision has been made about our participation but Morwell members may receive a request for assistance if we decide to take part.

* An invitation has been received from the *Lady Southern Cross Search Expedition* to take part in celebrations of the **centenary of the birth of Sir Charles Kingsford Smith**. Morwell was one of about 200 towns throughout Australia where Kingsford Smith carried joyriders in the 1930's. On **Sunday February 9, 1997**, many of these towns will be celebrating the achievements of Smithy with barbecues, picnics etc. Traralgon Historical Society and the L.V Aero Club have also been approached and it may be possible for us to join with those groups to mark the occasion. More details in our January 1997 Newsletter.

* We have been approached by representatives of some Morwell businesses to compile a history of the occupancy of the various commercial sites in the central business district. We are at present attempting to list the occupants of the various sites in Commercial Road and Tarwin St and would appreciate any information about businesses and their operators, in those streets, at any time since 1879.

SMITHY'S LAST FLIGHT

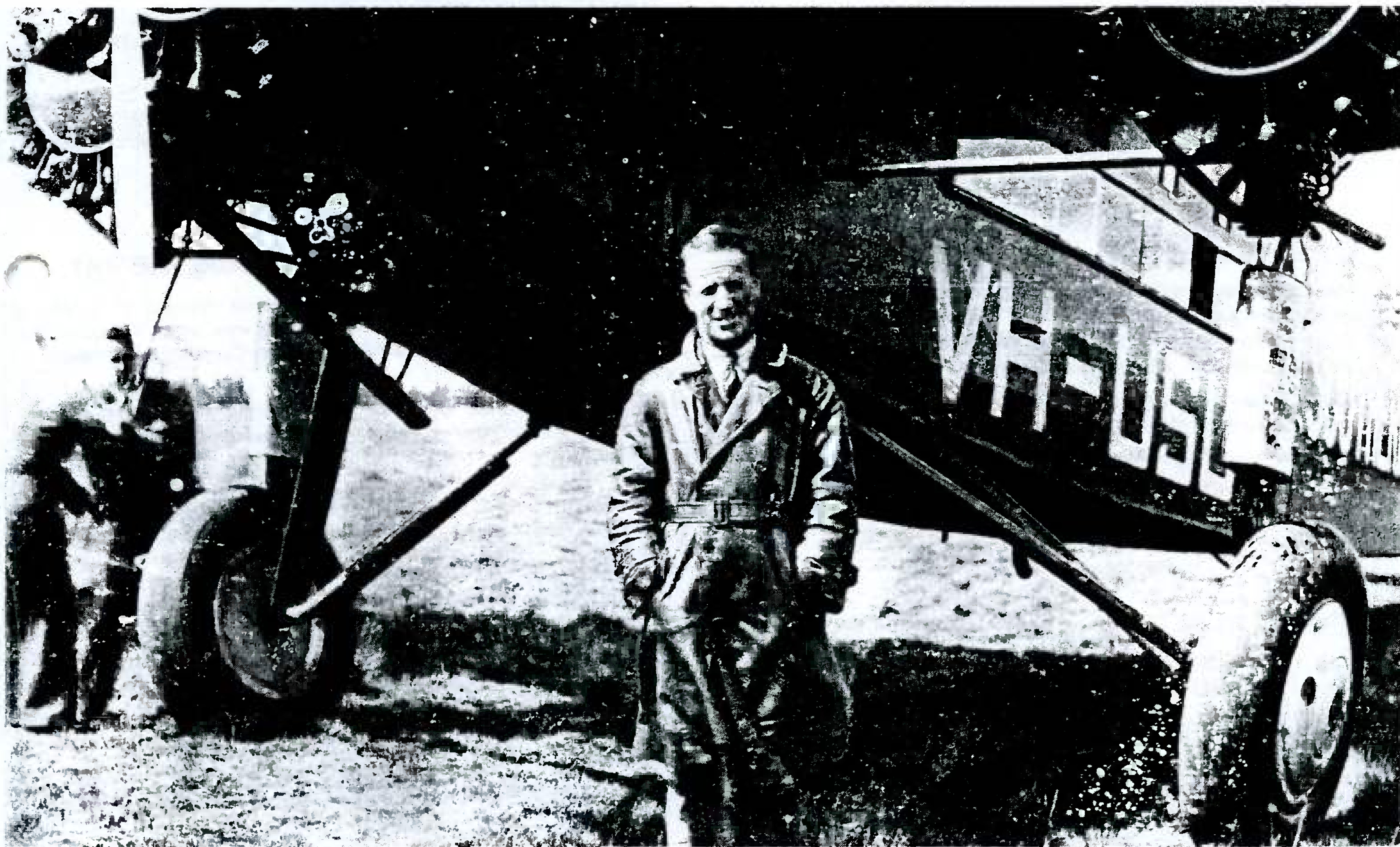
Sir Charles Kingsford Smith and his co-pilot Tom Pethybridge disappeared over the Bay of Bengal on Friday November 8, 1935 while on a flight from England to Australia in their Lockheed Altair, *Lady Southern Cross*. The *Melbourne Sun News Pictorial* of Saturday, November 9, 1935 said:

'When soon after the Armistice was signed, the Air Ministry refused to grant a young pilot permission to fly a service machine to Australia, it little knew it was turning its back on a man who was to make the whole world his field for an amazing series of exploits in the air. Having ventured with an air service in the north of England, had a session of stunt flying in America, Kingsford Smith came back to Australia in 1921. (Six years later) picking up a pair of old Bristol machines and with the late Keith Anderson as pilot of one of them, he flew from Perth to Sydney.

In June of that year, 1927, Kingsford Smith and the late C.T.P. Ulm ...flew around Australia in a Moth plane, covering the distance of 7539 miles in 11 days. Ulm and Kingsford Smith then set off for America to arrange a trans-Pacific flight.

The Southern Cross, probably the world's most famous plane, became the property of Smith and Ulm in 1928. On May 31 of that year the triple engined Fokker took off from San Francisco and headed for Australia. Aboard were Kingsford Smith, Ulm, Lyon and Warner. The Southern Cross landed at Brisbane, having completed the great trans-Pacific flight of 6417 miles in 82 hours 42 minutes.'

Kingsford Smith continued to break records both within and outside Australia but had to battle ill health and creditors at various times during the next seven years. He was attempting an England- Australia record flight in *Lady Southern Cross* when he disappeared and no trace of the plane or the two pilots has ever been found.



Smithy and the *Southern Cross* in Morwell

FROM ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S *History News*

September and October 1996

HERITAGE GUIDELINES PROJECT

Input sought for heritage guidelines

The Australian Heritage Commission is inviting local communities to help create a comprehensive guide on recognising and caring for heritage places.

The Commission, through a recently announced Heritage Guidelines Project will draw on the expertise of local government, community groups and interested individuals to develop practical guidelines for helping local groups to record and care for their

heritage. They will be the first guidelines to integrate natural, historic and Indigenous heritage in a single approach.

The project, together with the Coastal Heritage Identification Review, is being funded under the Commonwealth Coastal Action Program.

The Heritage Guidelines will enable councils and communities to locate their places of special value and to make sure they can be protected both through the planning system and through community initiatives.

The Commission has enlisted consultants Context Pty. Ltd., to consult widely in developing the guidelines. They are particularly interested in hearing from people about :

- * Similar guides : examples of guidelines that work and those that don't - and why?
- * Local needs, interests and resources : how can the Guidelines best meet different local needs and interests, and be adaptable to varying levels of local resources?
- * Successful projects : examples of successful projects that involved the community in recognising and caring for heritage places.
- * Ideas for content and form : what should the guidelines cover? What formats should we explore - printed word, images, electronic?

The consultants will contact communities through an extensive publicity program and through State based focus workshops with local government and community interested groups. A national search conference will involve professionals in the field.

Consultations will also involve the State government agencies responsible for identifying and protecting heritage places.

Those interested in contributing to the project are invited to contact the team at the following address. They will be sent a questionnaire requesting specific information relevant to the project. The contact details are :

Heritage Guidelines Project
P.O. Box 193, West Brunswick 3055
Phone : (03) 9380 6933, Fax : (03) 9388 2496
e-mail: context@peg.apc.org

HISTORY INSTITUTE SUMMER SCHOOL OF HISTORICAL RESEARCH

WEDNESDAY 29 JANUARY TO FRIDAY 31 JANUARY 1997

The now renowned annual three-day History Institute Summer Schools of Historical Research offer a sampling of archival institutions, libraries and other record repositories and historical venues. There will be tours and practical sessions on locating and using a variety of records. Specialist lecturers will share their expertise.

The course is designed to appeal to both novices and those who wish to recover their research skills or extend their range. It is for historians, researchers, teachers, students, librarians, genealogists and the wider public interested in undertaking historical research and needing help in locating historical records, handling and sifting the available data, using finding aids and managing the material obtained.

The cost of \$250 for three days (or \$100 per single day) includes all travel, entrances to venues, lunches, morning and afternoon teas, speakers, and wine and cheese at the conclusion of the final day. An optional extra will be a dinner on the first evening.

Numbers are limited and bookings will be treated in order of receipt. Registration forms can be obtained from the History Institute, Victoria. A \$25 deposit is required by Friday 20 December 1996, the balance, payable to the History Institute, Victoria, by Monday 20 January 1997. The History Institute reserves the right to cancel the Summer School if there are fewer than 15 participants.

BOOK NOW through The History Institute Victoria, Inc., 254 Faraday Street, Carlton, Victoria, 3035 (phone and fax (03) 9344 6209) and improve your knowledge on sources and methods in historical research.

MIRBOO NORTH CEMETERY LEADS THE WAY

On the Grand Ridge Road in the Strzelecki Ranges of South Gippsland a small country town is leading the way, which is believed to be a first in Victoria, with a newly unveiled Cemetery Information Board.

Working together the Cemetery Trust and the Mirboo & District Historical Society have made many improvements recently to the Cemetery which was established in 1882. The information Board shows a list of names of each burial, date of death age, gender, and grave numbers. On the opposite board is a map giving the location of each interment for both marked and unmarked graves. Also to be put in place are 300 numbered pegs on unmarked graves which will make them easy to find. It will be a genealogists delight if they have loved ones buried at Mirboo North.

Also a brief history of the Cemetery is included, as well as a list of rules and scale of charges dating back to 1889. Since its establishment 1260 interments have taken place. There are three Cemetery Trustees and Suzanne Campbell is Secretary. She may be contacted on (056) 641 282 for any further information.

Congratulations to all who helped with this venture and may many other Cemetery Trusts visit our small town to see this wonderful achievement.

S Richards
Publicity Officer for the
Mirboo & District Historical Society