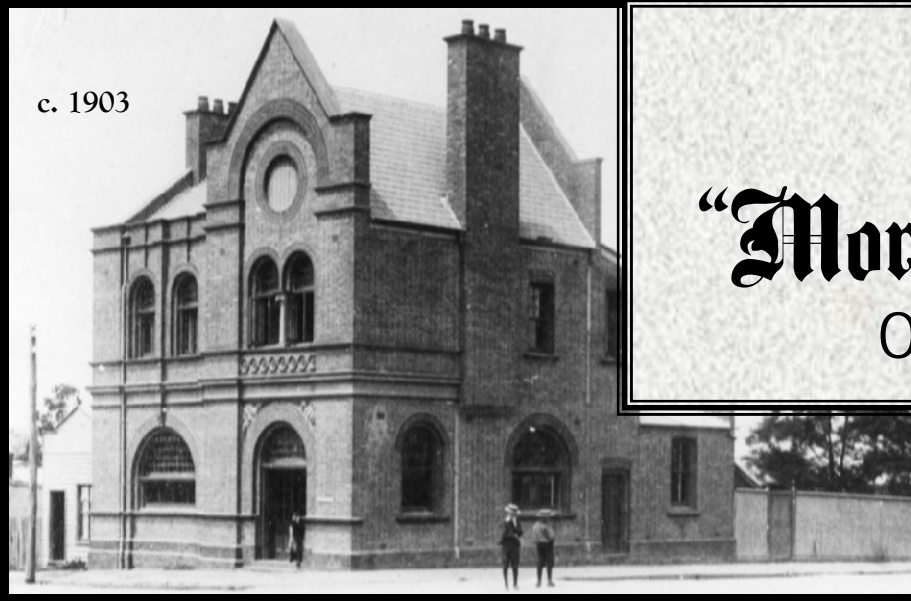


Morwell Historical Society Inc.

www.latrobeonline.com

c. 1903



The

AOO 16986 W

“Morwell Post”

October 2006

Vol. 23 No.5

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2 Harold Street Morwell
Tel: 5134 1149

Compiled by: Stephen Hellings

Published every two months



Proudly supported by Latrobe City Council

Annual Dinner 2006



Where: Morwell Golf Club. Fairway

When: Tuesday 17th October 2006

Time: 6.30 pm for 7.00 pm.

Guest Speakers: Diane and Graham Goulding will be chatting about their recent travel adventures in China.

“The Post”

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Hazelwood 1935	p. 8
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Cost: \$20.00 per person
(Drinks at bar prices).

R.S.V.P.: 12th October

Elsie McMaster 5134 1149



Reminiscences of Derham's Hill, Victoria –Part II

Alice had to become accustomed to using a wood stove and the rest of the family collected wood from “down the bush” with the permission of the Mill Management. Operation of another new appliance had to be taught and learned. Wood to heat the bath water, wash copper, and the cooking stove had to be collected, and Herbert was in charge of the wood chopping block and the new axe.

May has a strong and amusing memory of Alice and Herbert operating a cross-cut saw.

Water for all usage was collected in a 2,000 gallon rain water tank and collected from the corrugated iron roof. We found that one of the fastest ways to become an Aussie was to learn how to be conservative with water.

As soon as possible, Alice sewed curtains by hand for the windows and some extra pieces of furniture were purchased. The building of all the houses had not been completed it was strange to live in a “street” with no roads and no fences.

Alice soon coped with the contrariness of the copper and wood stove and cooked some fine meals for the family. Juggling the shopping days with the weather, the ice man's deliveries and the meals, so that the meat, butter, bread and milk would be at its best was not an easy task.

One way to overcome the problem was to eat poultry more often and Vera and May were sometimes sent down to Powter's Poultry farm which was several hundred yards down the road towards the Mill.

There one could purchase fresh eggs and poultry; the poultry so fresh it had to be carried home by the legs for Herbert to slaughter. I believe that at one time, milk and bread were delivered to the settlement, since I recall Alice having to buy a milk billy.

These were very happy days for Alice as she set about making a new home and meeting new friends. She sometimes walked down to the poultry farm during the day when the rest of the family were at school or work and would enjoy a visit to Mrs Powter who also was English.

“Medical assistance” was provided by the “Rawleigh” door-to-door salesman who delivered his potions for horse and man, together with his cosmetics and jelly deserts. For any other situation or emergency, a quick run to the Powter's to use their telephone, or a plea to the Mill for emergency assistance at the first opportunity just about covered everything.

Saturday morning “down the street” – Morwell, was the usual time for professional hairdressing, though a lot of cutting; and setting for the ladies’ hair took place at the settlement. Dry-cleaning of clothes was then not so popular, but like film developments, shoe repairs and orders from the shops, residents, in the same way as country people the world over learned how to become patient about such things. A.S.A.P., “ instant” etc. were terms not then in use.

Like people everywhere who have to go daily to work, Herbert was the first of his family to assimilate; and shared stories of his work and the Mill with the rest of the family. He travelled on the Latrobe Valley Bus Lines’ vehicles, some of which were articulated.

With a good imagination, the long buses seemed to provide a roller coaster ride for every shift as they made their way through the narrow, winding roads whilst avoiding other vehicles. It is believed that the Mill subsidised the buses which ran back and forth between the Mill and Morwell and also between the Mill and Traralgon in time for the start and end of each shift.

That was another opportunity to get to know people.

Colin started school at the Morwell State Primary School and soon made new friends including Laurie and Gil Powter of Lyndale Poultry Farm which was just a short walk from Derham’s Hill.

May and Vera had to look for work as there was no opportunity to work at the Mill at that time. May had recently left University High School with no work experience and Vera’s work experience had been in a solicitor’s office and the trunk line telephone exchange in Birmingham, England. One can never know their gratitude of being given the opportunity to be taught how to sew on an industrial sewing machine.

They were most fortunate to find work at the La Mode Industries factory in Morwell where Vera decided that it would be a good idea to “tawk Ossie” and quickly set about trying to lose her English accent. Some happy days were spent in that model factory which was light, spacious and airy.

The ladies and girls were friendly, by helping “the two little English girls” assimilate into Australian society. Vera and May made friends and became efficient in work but could not compete with the piece work wages because they left the factory early each day.

This was with the blessing of the Mill and the factory management to enable them to be able to use the shift bus to travel to and from work each day.

Other bus users came from a small timber camp opposite Derham's Hill and where it is recalled by May that one of the workers was Jackie Love. He eventually married and lived in Traralgon. He and his wife were also a friend to May and her family when she married and lived in Traralgon.

One by one, the houses and fences at the settlement were completed and the work carried out by a team who housed their workshop next to the Tindall's house at the second intersection on the main street. The foreman was well known and called Charlie. Whether that was his given name at birth or not is difficult to determine.

Diagonally opposite lived the family Johnson who it is believed came from Trafalgar. Another new couple, living next door to the Tindall's had come from England and eventually went to live in Rupanyup north-west of Melbourne.

Other families from overseas were the Quinn and Hitchcock families.

Hitchcocks moved to Traralgon from Derham's Hill when a house became available. Good friends of Alice and Herbert were Fred and Lita Leverton. Their son Fred and daughter Gwenda remained friends to the family even after they all moved to Traralgon and the Levertons eventually to North Newborough and Castlemaine.

When May married in Traralgon, Gwenda was her flowergirl.

Like the Levertons; a couple living in the first street from the main road took great pride in making a garden around their cottage. Soon, fresh vegetables were keeping the families supplied and the surplus was preserved or sold to neighbours. It seemed strange to some that vegetables were grown amongst the flowers. Even after the Levertons went to live in Castlemaine and their children had grown up, Fred and Lita were still expert gardeners and kept the kitchen supplied with food throughout the year.

Social life was what each family could make it. Visits to the neighbours, card games, and suppers of biscuits with Vegemite and grated cheese, followed by cream sponges were frequently on the entertainment programme. The cream sponge makers became competitive, especially for those who had never used a wood stove before.

There were visits to the cinema on Saturday nights in Morwell by "the picture bus" which was usually full. The programme comprised newsreels, westerns, British comedies and war films and the evenings always ended with everyone standing quietly for the playing of the National Anthem whilst images of the Queen were shown.

TO BE CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE



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Derham's Hill c. early 1950's

Morwell Advertiser

25th. May 1950

OBITUARY

AUBREY ERNEST BARTLEMAN

THE wide circle of friends of the late Mr. A. E. Bartleman, affectionately known to his intimate friends as "Bart", will be shocked to hear of his death on May 17th. at his home, 103 Toorak Rd., Hawthorn East. As the result of a chill while travelling home from Morwell during the previous week-end, he contracted pneumonia and died suddenly.

The deceased came to Morwell as manager of the Bank of Australasia in 1935, a position he held until his retirement in 1944.

As a bank manager, he was highly respected for the soundness of his judgment and his rare quality for helpful service.

Following his retirement, he engaged in the field of life assurance as a representative of the Australian Mutual Provident Society and spent most of his time at Morwell returning home at the week-ends.

He was a member of the New Zealand Expeditionary Forces in World War 1 and a member of the local R.S.L.

He leaves a widow, a son (Peter) and daughter (Judith), to whom sympathy is extended.



Morwell Town Hall

**70th Birthday
October 2006**



Morwell Advertiser and Gazette

13th. June 1935

Hazelwood Estate Memorial Hall



A most enjoyable and successful Card Party and Dance was held in above hall on 6th inst. A welcome was extended to Mr. and Mrs. Alan McFarlane by Cr. D. J. White on behalf of the Ladies Committee and local residents and a presentation of cutlery made. Mr. A. McFarlane responded briefly on behalf of Mrs. McFarlane and himself.

The Euchre tournament resulted as follows – Mesdames V. Morrison, Espie, Dietrich Snr., A. McFarlane, and Misses D. Ruddram and Shaw tied for Ladies' prize, and Messrs Espie and Robinson tied for Gent's prize.

A box of chocolates kindly donated by Miss Topsy Mills to be disposed of in aid of Hall Funds, was won by Mr. Elder-Berwick and realised nearly 30/-.

The Ladies Committee wish to record their appreciation of Miss Mills' generosity.

After supper dancing was carried on until about 1 a.m. with Mr. Bob Danks at the piano.



Morwell Advertiser and Gazette

10th. June 1937

Post Office Clock



A few months ago the "Old Morwell School Boys" initiated a movement among themselves with the object of having an electric clock placed in the gable of Morwell Post Office. The proposal was supported in such a practical way by "Old Boys" that they have subscribed sufficient money to secure the clock, and the committee were very hopeful of having it installed early this month before the completion of the renovations to the building now in progress.

A slight hitch in the arrangements has, however, occurred that may delay the installation for a time, as will be seen by the subjoined communication received by the Secretary (Mr. H. W. Gay) from Ingram Bros. Pty. Ltd., of Melbourne, which reads as follows:-

Dear Sir,- Yours of 1st June to hand.

We regret delay in forwarding the enclosed diagram for wiring of the electric clock.

We would like you to understand, however, that the installation has got to be proved before we can commit ourselves to a final diagram, hence the delay. The installation is quite unusual and to our knowledge has not been carried out before.

We know your Committee and yourself would not thank us to turn you out a job that was not 100 per cent efficient.

It is very necessary in special designs such as this one, to make several drawings over a period so that one's mind has a chance to bring out different methods of operation.

These designs are then compared and the final design is in most cases very different to the one first thought of.

However, we think we have the right installation nearing completion now, and we suggest you make no arrangements for the Public Opening until

you hear from us in another week or ten days, when we hope to have the clock operating in the workshop.

The diagram is complete and also contains a short letter for the electrician.

Should he desire any further information he had better write us direct.

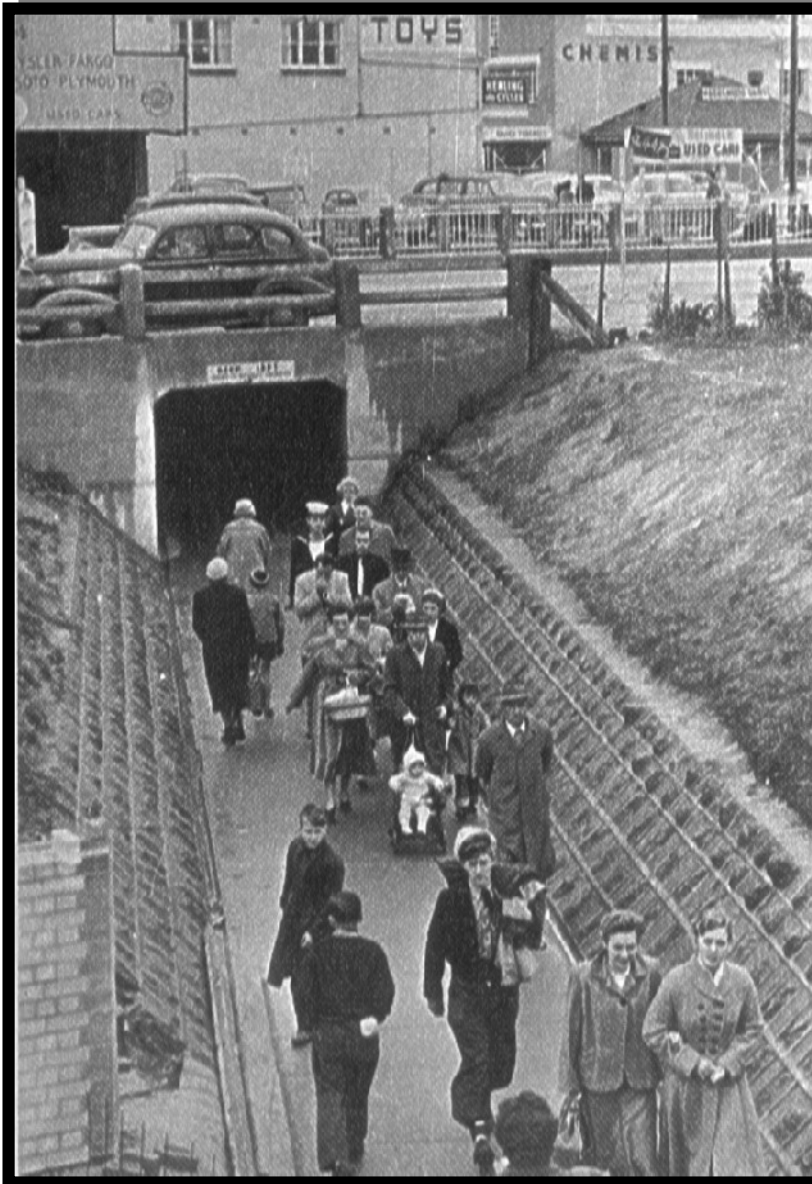
It will be necessary for you to finalise the position of the control box for the electrician. A scale sketch of this is also enclosed.

Yours Faithfully,
INGRAM BROS. PTY LTD.
ROY M. BRIGHT
Director.



Official opening ceremony 20th August 1937

Photograph: Morwell Historical Society Inc.



The Changing Face of Morwell

1950's



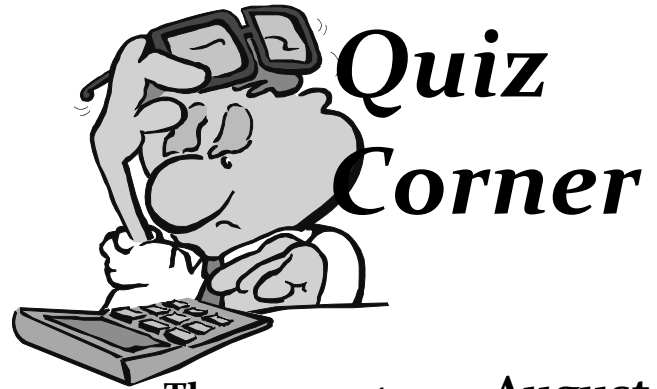
2006

Next Meeting:

Tuesday 17th October.

Society's Annual Dinner

(See front page)



Quiz Corner

The answer to our August question was:

Cr. McRoberts

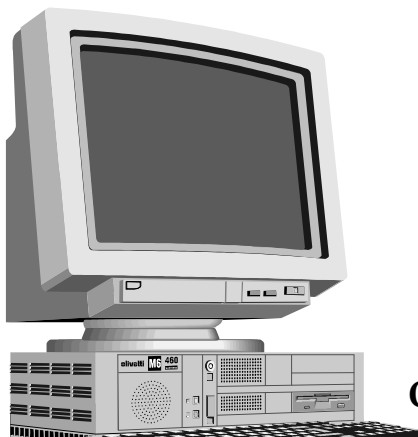
Your question for this issue is:

Who performed the official opening of the Morwell Town Hall in October

Morwell Historical Society
Inc.
Annual Subscription Rates:

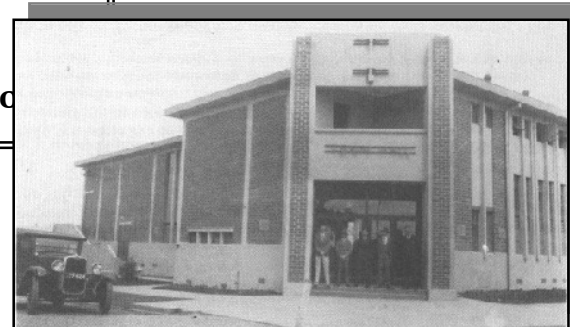
Single: \$17.00

Family/Double: \$20.00



Our Internet Address is now:

www.latrobacityonline.com



Our sincere thanks to Ben and Mary for their continued support and technical expertise

Claassens Computers

A Very Big Thank You To All Those Willing Volunteers Who Helped Us To Move Into & Set Up Our New Premises In Buckley Street