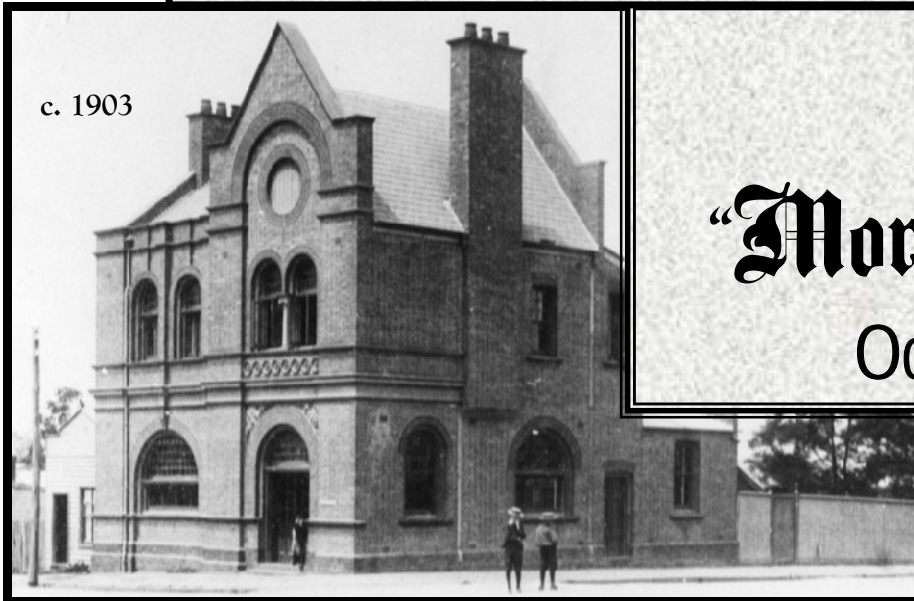


# Morwell Historical Society Inc.

www.morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au

c. 1903



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## The "Morwell Post"

October 2009

Vol. 26 No.5

Acting Secretary: Elsie McMaster  
2 Harold Street Morwell  
Tel: 5134 1149

Compiled by: Stephen Hellings

Published every two months: February to December

### **Society Meetings 2009:**

Meetings for the remainder of 2009:

October 21<sup>st</sup>.

November 18<sup>th</sup>.

2.00 p.m. 44 Buckley Street  
Morwell.

There are no meetings in  
December or January

S.H.

Items for publication in the "Post" are always welcome; please forward your contributions to either Elsie or myself. S. H.  
(P.O. Box 1163 Morwell 3840)

### **History Week Activities (Everyone Welcome!)**

#### **Hazelwood Cemetery Walk:**

Local historian **Claire Wood** will conduct one of her most informative and very popular cemetery walks on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October, commencing at 2.00 p.m. Meeting point will be at the memorial gates.

#### **Town Walk:**

The Society will conduct a Town Walk on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November.

We will begin our walk at 1 p.m. The meeting point for this activity will be at the Commercial Road Primary School. The walk will be led by your newsletter editor so please **no hard questions!**

Come along and enjoy these activities, there is no charge and you will learn all about your town and the early pioneers of the district.

### **"The Post"**

|                                |       |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| Doctor Shortage (1970)         | p. 2  |
| Maryvale Mill (1965)           | p. 4  |
| St. Andrew's (1970)            | p. 5  |
| Steel Industry in L.V. (1965)  | p. 6  |
| Vigilantes (1968)              | p. 7  |
| Obituary-Mrs. Walsh (1947)     | p. 9  |
| Morwell Historical Soc. (2009) | p.10  |
| Morwell Post Office (1947)     | p.11  |
| Next Meeting details           | p. 12 |

### **Inverloch Historical Society Visit**

Morwell Historical Society played host to Inverloch when they visited our area on 23<sup>rd</sup> September. Forty-two Inverlochians visited our rooms and viewed a DVD on the history and operation of the S.E.C. Our guests asked pertinent questions and wandered happily around our various displays. Much interest was shown in our World War I & II personnel records.

**Bruce McMaster** performed the duties of M.C. most admirably, ably assisted by **Elsie McMaster** and **Carol Smith**.

A good time was had by all!

S.H.



20<sup>th</sup>. March 1970

# DR. SHORTAGE “SERIOUS”... and will get worse

MORWELL'S doctor shortage is becoming serious and is likely to deteriorate even further over the next few months, the Shire Council was told on Wednesday.

Morwell Shire Medical Officer, Dr. Ric Bouvier, told council that people had to wait longer to see doctors, sometimes up to 10 days before they could secure an appointment, and doctors' house calls were being cut down to a minimum.

There are currently six doctors at the Morwell Medical Centre. Two other Morwell doctors will be leaving the area within a few months.

## Doctors

Dr. Bouvier added, however, that the problem of shortages, was common to all country areas. But council agreed that, because the shortage was not just peculiar to Morwell, it should not remain inactive in attracting more doctors here. Dr. Bouvier told council that the problem could be partly relieved if Morwell had a small, modern hospital to attract doctors.

## Worse off

“Gippsland, however, is worse off than the rest of Victoria,” he said.

“There are only 90 doctors here and we need at least another 20 to meet the public demand.”

When asked by council the reason for the shortage of doctors in country areas, Dr. Bouvier said that most were drifting to the cities which were obviously more attractive.

“Decentralisation of professional services to country areas has become almost as important as decentralisation of industry,” Dr. Bouvier said.

## No strain

Meanwhile, Dr. Bouvier assured councillors that the public was not yet suffering through the shortage. "The strain placed on doctors' services is due mainly to the tendency of people wanting to see doctors more often, and with health benefits people can afford this," he said.

2.

Dr. Bouvier said the number of general practitioners per population had halved in the past 20 years.

Some councillors suggested that the local Federal MP's be approached and notified of the shortage.

Cr. Murphy suggested that tax concessions to doctors willing to practice in country areas could be an incentive.

Council decided to confer further on the problem with Dr. Bouvier and act on his advice.



Morwell and District Community Hospital 1956

Photograph: Morwell Historical Society Inc.

3.

# Latrobe Valley Express

15<sup>th</sup>. September 1965

## RECORD OUTPUT AT MILL

### - Pulp, Paper Rise

Australian Paper Manufacturer Ltd. Maryvale pulp mill produced a record 117,000 tons of pulp and 82,000 tons of kraft container material in the last year, a company spokesman said today.

The Latrobe Valley's largest non-Government industry, Maryvale processed 10,000 tons more in both pulp and paper than the 1964 total.

The mill worked at near capacity for virtually the whole of the year, and took delivery of 449,174 tons of eucalypt and pine pulpwood, according to the 1965 annual report.

The Maryvale pulp production figure represented over 65% of the company's total for the year.

#### DELAYED

Meanwhile the semi-chemical pulp mill which is planned for Maryvale has been delayed. The report says this was due to wood supply problems, but steps were being taken to overcome this. New production units of this type required substantial additional steam and power.

In reviewing A.P.M. Forest subsidiary activities the report said increasing quantities of thinnings from company pine plantations in Gippsland were being used at Maryvale and the Rosedale Pyneboard factory.

Four thousand acres were planted in Gippsland during the past twelve months bringing the total A.P.M. Forest Gippsland area under plantation to 42,900 acres.

Logging and pulpwood harvesting operations locally were being improved by the introduction of special mechanical equipment.

Four special Canadian logging tractors and eight mobile splitters were now operating in Gippsland forests.

Greater use of aerial photography and mapping was being made in Gippsland forestry management, the report said.

# Morwell Advertiser

26<sup>th</sup>. February 1970

## DRINK PARTIES AT CHURCH

### Locked gates to bar vandals

A MORWELL minister claimed today that drinking parties have been taking place in the grounds of a Morwell church.

The Rev. W. J. Bramley of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church said that continued damage was being caused by vandals to both buildings and property.

For these reasons the Board of Management of St. Andrew's has decided that the path running from Church Street to James Street through church property will be closed to the public as a short cut.

Mr. Bramley told The Advertiser that after drinking parties in church grounds - most involving teenagers or aborigines - bottles and cans were left all over the place. Flowers have also been torn out.

Damage caused by vandals to halls and toilets had been considerable.

Equipment, including sinks and toilet bowls, had been torn out of walls, Mr. Bramley said.

He said that church officials were quite happy to let people use the path running through church grounds as a short cut. "But when these things happened it's time people were stopped from using it," he said.

### Gates stolen

Gates with padlocks will now stop the public from using the short cut.

Most users of the short cut are children from schools in the St. Andrew's church area.

About two years ago the path was also cut off from public use by means of gates but padlocks on the gates were broken.

The gates were eventually stolen.

Mr. Bramley said that because a few people would not respect others' property, the privileges of other people would be intruded upon.

He realised the closing of the path would cause some inconvenience, but it had to be done to protect the church property.

# Latrobe Valley Express

1<sup>st</sup>. December 1965

## IRON ORE FROM TASMANIA FOR VALLEY STEEL MILL?

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A STEEL INDUSTRY IN THE LATROBE VALLEY UTILISING IRON ORE SHIPPED FROM TASMANIA WAS A POSSIBILITY, LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEMBER FOR MELBOURNE WEST, MR. A. W. KNIGHT, SAID IN PARLIAMENT LAST WEEK.

Mr. Knight suggested the ore could be off-loaded at Port Welshpool and trucked to the valley.

He said if the East Gippsland iron ore deposits at Nowa Nowa had proved suitable for commercial development there would have been a steel industry in the Latrobe Valley today.

(Two years ago a major American steel company investigated development of the Nowa Nowa deposits. Express sources indicate the company is still interested in establishing a large plant here).

### NOT FAR

Mr. Knight told the Legislative Council that the source of Tasmania's iron ore was not far by sea from Port Welshpool.

(The Express understands a multi-million pound development at Port Welshpool in connection with another industry is proceeding, involving construction of extensive port facilities.)

"With the great brown coal deposits and discovery of natural gas it is possible a steel industry could be set up in the Latrobe Valley," Mr. Knight said.

"Everything else needed for a steel industry is there in abundance."

### Suffered

Mr. Knight said development of the Latrobe Valley had suffered because of the operations of "Wall Street cartels" and overseas vested interests in the oil industry.

Petrol was not being produced to the greatest degree possible from crude oil, and bunker oils were being "dumped," on the market and sold in competition with the natural fuels of Victoria.

Prices were thus being subsidised by motorists who were required to pay more for petrol than they should have to, Mr. Knight said.

### Failed

He did not agree with the description of the Latrobe Valley as the "little Ruhr" of the world because the Governments of the State had failed to ensure that enough industry was developed here.

~~~~~  
If only this had happened! S.H.

# *Latrobe Valley Advocate & Advertiser*

19<sup>th</sup>. January 1968

## VIGILANTES MAY ACT ON RAIDERS

Night raiders who have been harassing residents in the Winifred-Church Streets area may become the target of a vigilante committee if the recent spate of burglaries continues.

Residents of Winifred Street are afraid to sleep for fear of having some more property stolen.

Nothing is sacred any longer, lawnmowers, bicycles, carpenters' tools, cars and many other articles have been taken from properties in that area.

Theft reports come into the Morwell Police Station regularly from people in the Collins - Church -New-Winifred streets area, and they have been coming in since the first few weeks of last December.

Morwell police have 20 outstanding cases on file.

One resident in New Street said if things do not improve he may consider forming a vigilante committee to keep watch and catch the raiders.

He said his neighbours could take turns at keeping watch during the weekend nights. For it is during the weekends that most of the offences are committed.

Mr. Don Duthie, a plumber, who lives on the corner of Church and Winifred streets, said he had been "hit" twice.

### **\$370 loss**

"I couldn't stand another loss of equipment," he said. Mr. Duthie had lost about \$370 worth of tools in two night raids.

"Something has got to be done," he added. "I would say about 14 houses in Winifred Street have been raided at one time or another. Every time I hear the dog bark now, I jump out of bed with a lamp and an iron pipe."

Mr. Duthie has had oxy-acetylene gear stolen as well as two electric drills, two pop rivet sets and an electric light and lead and other sundry equipment.

“At one time, after I had been raided twice the chap next door, in Church Street, heard someone trying to tamper with my garage door. The garage faces Church Street.

“He rushed out and disturbed two chaps trying to break into my garage. This would have made the third time I had been burgled if they had got in.

“Anyway, he took the number of the car as they drove away. The next morning Mrs. O’Neil from up the road in Winifred Street said her car had been stolen that same night. Both her registration and the one my other neighbour took were the same.

Mrs. O’Neil, of Winifred Street said a week before her car was stolen, her daughter saw someone in their driveway one night.

“Gwenda was in the backyard and she saw this man standing in the driveway. She called out to him and he made off. Then she called out again and he came back and she apologised to him for frightening him. “She thought it was one of the neighbours. She later described the chap to Police, who were investigating a burglary up the road, as being about 45 years old and Italian looking,” said Mrs. O’Neil.

### **Terrible**

She said she even woke up when the garbage collector came. She thought it might have been someone trying to break into the place. “I even hear footsteps on the drive at night,” she added, “It’s terrible.”

One woman in Winifred Street left her front door open one day to visit some neighbours across the road. She saw a young boy go into the house. The police were called and the boy caught. He had taken about \$20 from the dresser.

Sinclair Avenue and Avondale Crescent have also been hit by raiders in recent weeks.

Two lawnmowers have been stolen recently. Mr. L. R. Blackford of Sinclair Avenue reported sighting a prowler one night. When the prowler saw Mr. Blackford approach, he jumped the front fence and disappeared.





# Morwell Advertiser

5<sup>th</sup>. June 1947

## A Pioneer Passes

MRS. B. M. WALSH

It is with deep regret that we report the death, which occurred at her home at Driffield on 25<sup>th</sup> May, of Mrs. Bridget M. Walsh after a long and lingering illness.

The late Mrs Walsh was born in Geelong and came to Gippsland with her family in the "eighties". In 1893 she married the late Mr. C. M. (Christy) Walsh at Mirboo, and the couple took over a property on Middle Creek, transferring some four years later to her late house at "Taradell", Driffield.

Her husband died in 1928. The deceased, who had enjoyed almost a life-time of good health, was some six years ago confined to her bed as the result of a stroke.

The funeral took place on 27<sup>th</sup> May at the Hazelwood cemetery, and the deep respect in which she and her family were held was shown by the large number of relatives and friends who followed the remains to their last resting place after a service at the Sacred Heart Church.

The service at the grave was conducted by the Rev. Father McCormack, and the funeral arrangements were in the hands of Roy Hastings, funeral director of Morwell and Traralgon.



Photograph: Morwell Historical Society Inc.

# A click of the mouse can help preserve priceless heritage

“Link” Supplement July 2009

Of the seven ancient 'Wonders of the World' defined by writers in the second and third centuries BCE, just one remains - The Pyramids of Giza. Fire or earthquake ensured that the other six Wonders no longer stand, though debate still rages about the actual authenticity and extent of the Hanging Gardens of Babylon.

Since time immemorial, nature or the hand of man has seen to it that what might be considered at the time to be valuable heritage, is impermanent. Not only have past generations in Latrobe's community witnessed the passing of such historic icons as Morwell Mechanic's Institute in 1935 due to fire, but with each bushfire, flood or other disaster, valuable aspects of heritage are likely to be destroyed.

Fortunately, much of our heritage escapes neglect or destruction and is preserved for other generations to enjoy through the work of historical societies and museums, but how safe are those records and artefacts?

Over the years, records and collections held in historical repositories, while no doubt far safer than existing in most other environments, have at times fallen victim to fire or some other form of destruction. In some cases records have been lost for ever, an experience that many Latrobe residents researching their family history will have seen first hand, as they discover 'gaps' in official records, often with a note alluding to some disaster that befell the missing information.

As keen preservers of much of the written and photographic heritage of our region, The Morwell and District Historical Society is no stranger to the tales of lost and unreplacable documentation that has occurred over the years. While undertaken for many years to ensure that

'all the eggs aren't being kept in the one basket', the availability and technological advances of computers has made that task just that little bit easier.

Archivist Bruce McMaster said the technology that computers afford has been eagerly embraced by the Morwell and District Historical Society to assist in preserving the town and district's heritage, while also making it more accessible to the community.

"Consider the situation where rare photographs can now be scanned electronically and a digital image of that photograph created, duplicated and stored inexpensively. The original can then be kept as safely as possible, free from the effects of frequent handling, or it can be returned to the owner in a situation where it has been kindly lent. The scanned image can then be accessed for research purposes or sharing with interested stakeholders

"Scanned electronic copies of photographs or documents are always backed up, so should particular electronic files or even an entire database ever be lost, or the original damaged or destroyed, a duplicate can still be accessed and further copies made," Bruce explained.

"Another enormous benefit of the historical society creating electronic databases is that it is so easy to cross-reference information. Take a group family photograph for example; an electronic database allows the names of all those people identified in the photograph to be listed, so that a search for any one of those names will result in a reference to that image. Location, year or other special aspects of the image can also be listed, creating numerous ways through which a search for those attributes, resulting in the identification of that particular image, can be made," Bruce said.

computer technology also



Members of the Morwell and District Historical Society - Rob De Souza-Daw, Stephen Hellings and Florence Butcher discuss features of a scanned image

provided the means for the wider community to freely access local heritage and historical information.

"The Morwell and District Historical Society maintains a website with photographs, stories about key episodes in our history, features of Morwell and surrounding settlements, and personalities from our community through the years. There are newspaper clippings, there is family history information, and links to other sites where further information is available. All of this can be accessed by schoolchildren and students, mums and dads at home, expatriates trying to find out more about where they

historians," Bruce said.

So what technological opportunities have the historical society already identified to enhance their collection and dissemination of heritage information?

Digitising sound files is an obvious objective for the society, which holds numerous taped interviews undertaken with local identities who remember bygone days. The society also has a collection of slides, many of which were taken at a time when history was being made. For these to be shared or accessed in the future, converting them to digital media is paramount, because time will decay them in their existing formats.

Further expansion of the website is

their website attracts interest from viewers interstate and overseas. Some of the 'hits' are by those researching family backgrounds, while other viewers are just interested in the development of the district over the years. The website also draws out information from people who have had a connection with the district in earlier times, encouraging them to share that information with today's domestic and virtual community.

The Morwell and District Historical Society website can be accessed at [www.morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au/](http://www.morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au/). Contact details for the Society are available on the website or contact Bruce

November 1947



POST OFFICE. MORWELL.

This magnificent photograph was kindly supplied by the East Gippsland Historical Society



# Next Meeting:

Wednesday

21<sup>st</sup>. October at 2.00 p.m.

Same value  
for money as  
last year

Morwell Historical Society Inc.  
Annual Subscription Rates:  
Single: \$17.00  
Family/Double: \$20.00  
Payable March 2009

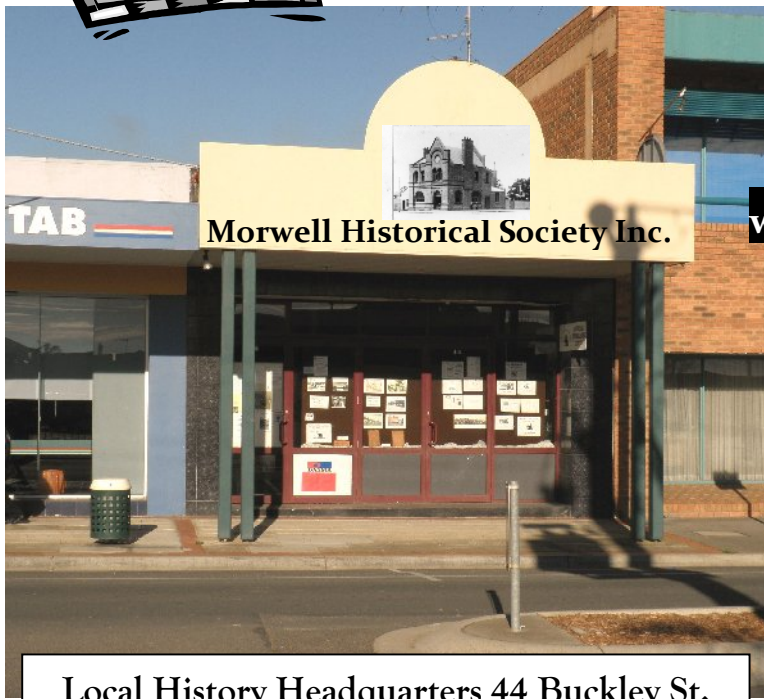
44 Buckley St. (next to T.A.B.)

Visitors are most welcome

We are open to the public on  
Wednesdays from 11am to 2 pm  
February to December



Please deliver me to:



Local History Headquarters 44 Buckley St.

Local History On-Line  
Our Internet Address is:

[www.morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au](http://www.morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au)



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