

The Morwell Post

Morwell Historical Society

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You may be able to relate to some of these items



See page 4

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Morwell Historical Society Directory 2021

President:	Bruce McMaster Phone: 0428 528 464
Vice-President:	John Willis
Secretary:	Florence Butcher
Assistant Secretary:	Laurie Williams
Treasurer:	Peter Butcher
Committee Members:	Rosalie Davey Shirley Prosser Peter Gitsham
Research Library:	12 Hazelwood Road, Morwell, Victoria 3840
Research Queries:	research@morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au
Public Access:	1st and 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 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

School Sign

At the beginning of August, Chris and I went out to the site of Morwell North State School in Brinsmead Road and erected a commemorative sign. There is an article on page 7 documenting our visit.

Donations

The Society has received a large number of old receipts. These receipts are very valuable as it tells us not only the site the business but it gives us a date. We have many folders of Morwell CBD and in each site is a record of the occupier. Each month, when a business closes or begins, we record it. There were some Traralgon and Moe receipts that we will pass on to their societies. The Society has also received many photos. Possibly the most valuable one was a class photo of grade VI to VIII at Commercial Road State School in 1924. Unfortunately there were no names. In the post we also received a large envelope of cuttings from the Advertiser about St Luke's in the 1950s and 1960s, also some Yallourn High School effects and a ticket to the 1956 Olympic Games. From another donor we received a 3-draw filing cabinet and 63 large arch folders. Thank you to all our donors.

Quarantine Shed

It has been decided that a quarantine shed is necessary to place donated papers, photos and books and object while we sort through them. There is always the fear that silver fish, earwigs, mould or dust could be present. This shed, 3 x 2 metres, will be joined to the existing shed in the back yard. The present shed in the back yard contains mainly wood but also a lawn mower, whipper snipper and BBQ. Chris has dug out the foundation for the slab and he and David have put in the form work. John Ryan from Morwell Garden Supplies, Old Melbourne Road, has donated and delivered the packing sand and when the ready mix concrete supplier Holcim has some concrete over from a job they will deliver it to us. The Society also thanks AKZ for the donation of a sheet of reinforcing mesh.

Fundraising

On the 9th October, 12 members volunteered to sell sausages at Bunnings. I thank the following members – 1st shift -Steve Mason, Susan Sutherland, Melinda Roberts, Alan McFarlane, 2nd shift -Dave McInnes, Gaye Jones, Carolyn Schopp, Rosalie Davey, 3rd shift -Mark Smith, Fay Thompson, Lin Starke and Shirley Prosser. Thank you to Shirley for organising and buying the food. After expenses, they made \$688 and \$36 in the donation jar which will go towards paying off the building. So far this year the Society has made \$3616 from selling sausages. The next Bunnings BBQ day is Sunday 28th November.

Town Walk

This year is the 50th Anniversary of the Latrobe Regional Gallery. On Sunday 24th October, the Gallery organised a town walk hosted by Kellie Bertrand and myself. Twelve people registered to attend and much was learned and shared by participants. A very successful event.

Keep safe

Bruce McMaster, President

Participant on the Town Walk

Kellie conducting the show with Bruce waiting to contribute



REGIONAL DIGITISING PROJECT

In July, Maxine Holden from AMaGA, (Australian Museums and Galleries Association Victoria), came to the Society's rooms for 3 days and professionally photographed 85 of our museum objects and showed us how to place an object for quality photographing. These are some of the objects that were photographed.



This Shellite iron was donated to the Society by our member David Kneebone. In the 1940s his mother, poured the Shellite into the bowl and pump it up. The pump still works. She then struck a match under the handle. It was very dangerous and many housewives were burnt.

This Estey Organ came from St John's Church of England in Yallourn. It is a portable organ and was carried by pack horse to wherever the minister was conducting a church service.



This wonderful and well used red gum mallet was used to put a bung in a cask or barrel of wine. The mallet was donated by our member Lynette French. It was in Mills' Store on the corner of Tarwin and Commercial Road when Lyn's father Roy Faulkner bought the store in 1959.



This glass rolling pin is minus a stopper and was filled with crushed ice or water and when used in the early 1900s it kept the dough cool and stopped the dough from sticking. It was donated by Dorothy Bartlett .





This beautiful wedding dress came from the estate of Muriel Feehan. We do not know who wore it but the Society believes that it belonged to one of the Feehans as it is not in any of the Rintoull wedding photos that we have in our collection. Muriel was John Rintoull's granddaughter

This blacksmith bellows belonged to John Rintoull who had a blacksmith shop in the 1870s-1880s at 156-158 Commercial Road.

H1930 x W850 x D26cm

about 60cm deep - fully expanded

Very large - nearly 2 metres tall and very heavy 80-100kg

The nozzle on the end is called a tuyère (a nozzle through which air is forced into a smelter, furnace, or forge)



Maxine is photographing the bellows and Chris and Peter are holding the ladder.

FRONT COVER

Leather school bag

Boot and shoe last for mending different sized shoes and boots

Burrough's Adding Machine

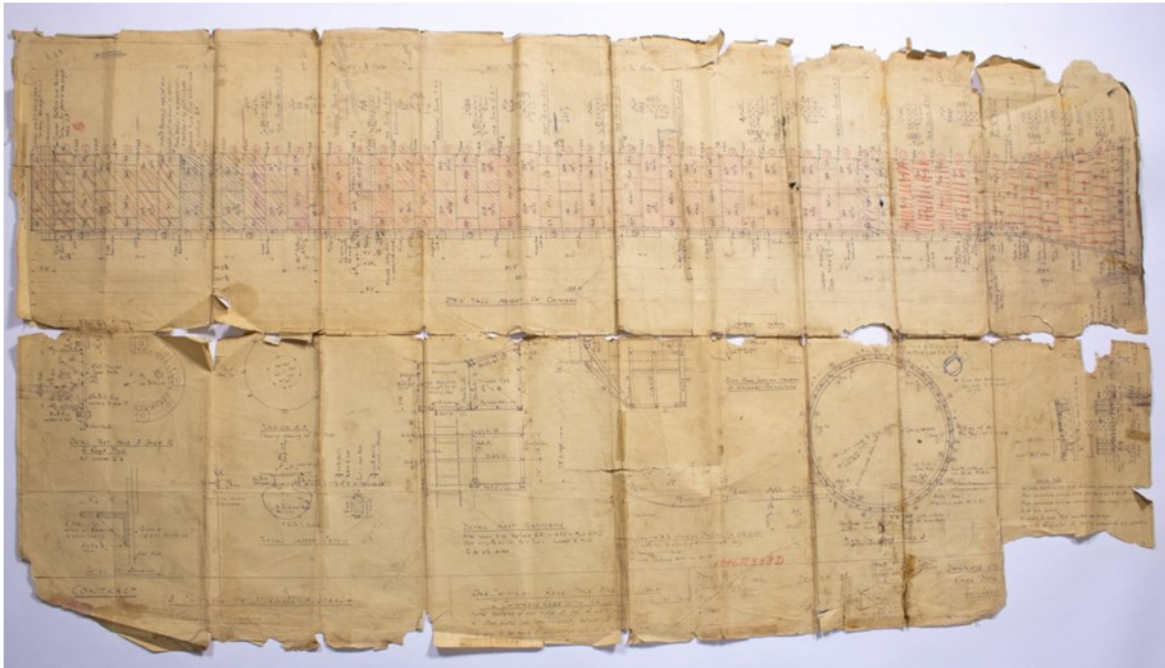
Spring wombat/fox trap



Coolgardie Safes were usually situated on the veranda and the top tray was filled with water which slowly dripped down the bags and kept the food fresh for a few hours. The fly wire at the front is missing. The Society does not know who donated the safe.



Below is a sketch of a Morwell Power Station chimney which was donated by Herman Wazmaya who helped build the 4 chimneys. The Society plan to get the sketch framed and put on display. A very historic document.



Maxine Holden and her band of helpers

At the back Peter Gitsham and Chris Roads, Front –Maxine Holden, Florence Butcher, Fay Thompson, Lin Starke and Elaine Andrijczak. Shirley Prosser was absent when the photo was taken.

MORWELL NORTH SCHOOL—2621

In 1883 Messrs R Johnson, D Snell, S Blanford, C Derham, J Suffern, H Whittles, S Barbor and W Lamb petitioned to the Education Department for a school to be built in Morwell North. School 2621 Maryvale North opened 1st September 1884 in a building leased from R Johnson for £5 a year. It was called Maryvale North because it was in the northern section of the old Maryvale Cattle Run. The school was a wooden building 20 feet x 12 feet with an iron chimney. It worked ½ time with Morwell Bridge from the beginning and when it closed 24 September 1892 there were 9 pupils on the roll and 8 of the pupils were Derhams. This school site is now in the Yallourn Open Cut.

A new site of 2 ½ acres on the NW corner of Block 101B (now Brinsmead Road), was bought by the residents from Tim O’Gorman for £20. The Bennetts Creek School building, which had closed in 1903, was moved to the site by George Firmin, Yinnar and his team of bullocks.



On August 3rd 2021 Bruce McMaster and Chris Roads went out to the school site on Brinsmead Road (off Latrobe Road), and erected the commemorative sign.

“SITE OF MORWELL NORTH STATE SCHOOL
No. 2621 1884-1975”

On 15th December 1932, at the Morwell North School, Santa (Frank Derham) came and distributed presents to the children. Recently 3 pupils from the school, Moira Maxwell, Betty Bailie and Hector Howlett sat for their Merit Certificate and each one was successful. Only one, Lowla Maxwell, successfully sat for qualifying certificate. Head master was Mr Young.

Morwell Advertiser 22 December 1932 p 9

CHARLES KOENIG

John Koenig married Ann Cameron in 1883 and they went to live on a farm at Narracan where Mary, Matilda, Annie and Thomas were born. In 1891 John and Anne Koenig took up land in Jumbuk in the Strzelecki Ranges at a cost of £1 an acre, on a low deposit. The journey from Narracan was made by horse and buggy, travelling via the swampy Trafalgar flats and often the 3 oldest children had to walk.

On arrival at Jumbuk the family lived in a tent until the slab hut was built. Four more children were born after settling in Jumbuk –Charles, Margaret, John (Jack) and Janet (Jean). There was no school at Jumbuk until 1900.

Charles, the first child to be born at Jumbuk, in 1892, helped his father and brothers clear and work on the land. When he was 23 years old he and his brother Thomas enlisted in July 1915. They left for Egypt in November 1915 on the *Wandilla* and served with the 31st Battalion AIF. Charles was seriously wounded in April 1917 in action to the north of Bapaume, France. He was hospitalised, firstly in France then was transferred to England in June 1917. His right leg was amputated below the knee and he received extensive injury to his left leg necessitating the removal of the left knee. Charles remained in hospital until discharged in February 1916 and returned home with an artificial leg. Thomas was killed in action in the battle of Polygon Wood in September 1917.

On arrival back in Australia, Charles enrolled in 1919 in a boot maker's course at the then Working Men's College along with 500 other ex-serviceman.



Charles is in the back row and 5th from the left.



After completing his training in 1920, he returned to Morwell and set up a boot repairing business firstly in Tarwin Street then in Commercial Road. In 1920 he married Ruby Lowe. They bought a house at 233 Station St (Princes Drive) and had three daughters –Gwen, Dorothy and Lorna. Charles died in 1952 aged 59 and Ruby died in 1958 aged 58.

Source –*Koenig Family History* compiled by Mrs Dorothy Fogarty 1997.

TWO KOENIG—LOWE WEDDINGS 1920 and 1930

A wedding of local interest was celebrated at the Morwell Presbyterian Church on Saturday afternoon last when Beatrice Victoria, second daughter of Mr and Mrs John Lowe was married to John Henry, son of Mr and Mrs John Koenig of Jumbuk. The Reverend AE Harvey performed the ceremony. The Church was nicely decorated for the occasion with Easter daisies, dahlias, gladiolas and an arch from which wedding bells were suspended.

The bride, who was given away by her father, looked charming in a long sleeved white satin frock, the draping skirt from one side with handkerchief affect forming uneven hemline. She also wore a wreath and veil and carried a pretty bouquet of chrysanthemums, lilies, gladiolis and fern. The bridesmaid Miss M Lowe, cousin of the bride, was attired in a green crepe de chene long sleeved frock and felt hat to match. She carried a posy of blue hydrangeas and pink roses. Mr Len Lubcke, nephew of the groom acted as best man.

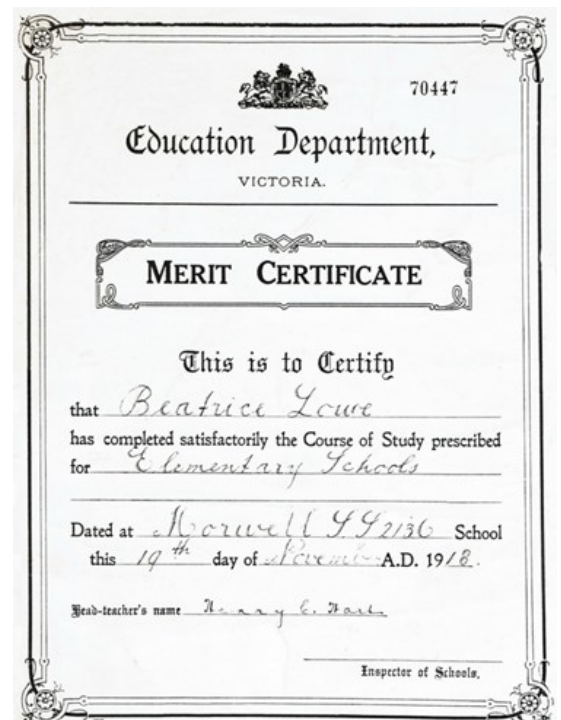
After the ceremony an adjournment was made to the Mechanics Hall where a breakfast was partaken and the usually toasts duly honoured. The happy couple left on their honeymoon by car amid showers of confetti and good wishes. The bride travelled in a mid-brown frock, hat and fur necklet to match.

Source -*The Morwell Advertiser* 13 April 1930 p.2

In 1920, Beatrice's sister Ruby Lowe married Charles Koenig, late AIF. Beatrice was the bridesmaid and John was the best man. Two brothers married two sisters.

The Merit Certificate began in 1890 and was given to all students who had successfully completed 8 years of schooling. Below is Beatrice's Merit certificate that she received in 1918.

Beatrice and Ruby's father was a coach builder and initially occupied part of John Rintoull's blacksmith's shop in Commercial Road before moving to a site in George Street. It is said that he built the first buggy in Morwell.



JUMBUK STATE SCHOOL—3349

In 1895 four families –Koenigs, Hams, Ritchies and Moyseys put in an application for a half time school in the Jumbuk region. The Education Department sent out an inspector, Mr Bothroyd, to survey the situation and furnish a report. This report was submitted on 30th January 1896. It appears that the Education Department was hesitant about setting up a school because of the financial outlay. The destruction of the Yinnar South School by fire in 1898 prompted the authorities to establish a school at Jumbuk, even if only temporary. The Department agreed to provide a teacher and equip the school if the residents provided the building.

The school was built on Ernie Ham's property in Ritchies Road, by William Ritchie It was approximately 15 feet x 20 feet x 10 feet and was constructed of split timber with a soft wood floor complete with an open fire place. The interior was lined with hessian and paper. On the 8th September 1899, the residents wrote to the Department telling them that the school was ready for use. It was situated about a mile from where the second school was located.

Jumbuk State School No3349 opened on 23 January 1900 with John Laing as Headmaster.

The children being very shy, Mr Laing found it difficult to teach them. In an effort to obtain cooperation of the students he made each of them a lolly. As time went on the children became very fond of him and admired his thoughtful ways. One of which was to put the coats on the floor to allow the younger ones to have an afternoon nap.

In 1948 the Callignee South School was transported to Jumbuk by Bill Duff and his band of helpers. The trip took 3 days and there were many anxious moments and much hard work getting the three trucks through. It consisted of a semi with the school on board towed by two other trucks loaded with pulp wood. It was necessary to prop the school as it travelled around the bends. The school closed in 1969.



OLD BUILDING SS 3349
(PERSONS NOT NAMED IN SEQUENCE)
RAY ARMSTRONG, JOAN ARMSTRONG, JEAN ARMSTRONG,
IAN RITCHIE, BETTY RITCHIE, VERA CAMPBELL, ERNIE CAMPBELL,
MAVIS CAMPBELL, ELVIN WILLANTS.
DONOR - J. RITCHIE

On 21st and 22nd October 1989, 400 former and present Jumbuk residents gathered at the Jumbuk School for a 'Back to Jumbuk' reunion weekend. The organisers painted the school, replaced several windows and put up a photo display on the walls



Back row -Peter Canavan, Owen Brill, Vira Waddington (nee Brown), ? , ? , Tom Taylor, Robert Coles, Andy Taylor, ? , Bill Mele Head Teacher 1952-1954

Front row-Margaret Walker nee Coles, Pat Devlin (nee Coles), Ann Jones (nee Harrison), Alma Glover (nee Brown) Ann Tatham (nee Foster), Gwenda Husson (nee Brown), Maisie (nee Taylor)



The Saturday night dance

Source – *A Brief Early History of Jumbuk* As written by Bryan Taylor and Alma Glover



OPEN DAYS 2021

Please check the current Covid-19 restrictions before attending.

6th October || 20th October || 31st October
3rd November || 17th November || 28th November

OPEN DAYS 2022

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

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Morwell Neighbourhood House



We sincerely thank Russell Northe, MLA for Morwell and staff for printing our Newsletter