

Morwell Historical Society Inc.



Morwell Post Office – circa 1915

Morwell Historical Society –
www.morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au

Written correspondence – The Secretary; 12
Hazelwood Road, Morwell 3840

THE MORWELL POST

JUNE 2017

Vol 36, Number 3

A perspective on the Hazelwood Power Station [Thanks to Shirley Prosser- who was given this marvelous photograph by a work colleague]



Morwell Historical Society Directory 2017

President:	Bruce McMaster Phone: 5134 1149 – 0428 528 464
Vice-President:	John Willis
Secretary:	Florence Butcher
Assistant Secretary:	Elaine Andrijczak
Membership Secretary:	Shirley Prosser
Email:	secretary@morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au
Treasurer:	Carolyn Schopp
Publicity Officer:	Kellie Bertrand
Archivist;	Bruce McMaster
Assistant Archivist & Volunteer Co-ordr:	Fay Thompson
Committee Members:	Kellie Bertrand Rosalie Davey Shirley Prosser
URL:	www.morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au
Web Manager:	Florence Butcher
Research Library:	12 Hazelwood Road, Morwell, Victoria 3840
Research Queries:	research@morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au
Postal Address:	12 Hazelwood Road, Morwell, Victoria 3840
Public Access:	1 st and 3 rd Wednesday and last Sunday of each month, 11.00 a.m. – 2.00 p.m. Not open - December & January
General meetings	Third Wednesday each month – 2.00 pm – except December and January)
Annual General Meeting:	3rd Wednesday of March each year
Membership Fees:	Due 1 st July each year Ordinary Member \$25.00 Family \$30.00 (two persons at same address) For a hard copy of <i>Morwell Post</i> - \$5.00 extra p.a
“ <i>The Morwell Post</i> ” Editor:	Leo Billington – email: billington@net-tech.com.au
Research Fees:	\$10.00 per hour or part thereof, and prices for photo prints on application and postage where applicable.

Various new businesses were established to take advantage of Morwell's growth after WW2. Other examples will appear in future newsletters.

One family company, still known today as Kennedy Haulage, was originally from Thorpdale before relocating to 13 Driffield Road, Morwell. The family home, at the same address, is pictured as at June 2017.



Double your Truck's life and save on fuel costs



INSTALL A

Perkins
 DIESEL ENGINE

REPLACE your worn out petrol engine with a famous Perkins 6 cylinder British Diesel Engine and cut your fuel bills to less than half. Developing 83 b.h.p. at 2,400 r.p.m., Perkins Diesels give DOUBLE the mileage per gallon of fuel costing approx. half the price of petrol.

Perkins specially designed conversion units will fit most trucks and buses—installation is simple and speedy.

With a Perkins you get instantaneous starting, smooth running, and trouble free operation. Give new, more economical life to your truck or bus with a Perkins Diesel Engine. Price from £229.

See your local dealer:
Kennedy Motor & Eng. Co.
 13 DRIFFIELD ROAD, MORWELL. PHONE 316.

QUEEN'S BRIDGE MOTOR & ENGINEERING CO. PTY. LTD.
 31-43 QUEEN'S BRIDGE STREET, SOUTH MELBOURNE. PHONE: 486 6451.
 AND AT 73 FEDERAL STREET, HOBART. PHONES 2 3436.

Advertiser and G

KENNEDY'S Furniture Transport.

We will carefully remove your furniture to any part of Victoria.

LIVE STOCK TRANSPORTED ANYWHERE
 (including Newmarket)

KENNEDY HAULAGE COMPANY

GENERAL CARRIERS.

PHONE M. THORPDALE. PHONE J.

WHO REMEMBERS THE INFAMOUS CORNER SHOPS?

[This section, covered in previous newsletters, has proven quite popular. Some MHS Inc members have provided invaluable material. Non-members have also contributed. I am sure there is more untapped information “out there”. Leo.]



These two photographs were taken in June 2017. The Vary Street establishment is what it is. The bottom picture at the corner of Vincent Road and Angus Street is a disgrace. It's abhorrent that local government condones public appearances like this to remain on show.

Joy Blakely has been a constant source of valuable material. The following was received in May;

[Joy and John Blakely – May 22, 2017]

Hi Leo

Hubby John read the above with interest and wrote the following for me to email to you!

" The shop on the corner of Donald and McDonald Street was started from brand new in the early 1960's by a Mr. Samuel Gnieslaw who called himself Sammy Law!

Two other people that ran the shop (and there were more I believe) were Alex Abela and his wife Carol, and Laurie Wilson (brother of Val) and his wife Lorraine.

Unfortunately, Alex was killed in a traffic accident between Gormandale and Yarram.

Also, another shop was started on the corner of Angus Street and Vincent Road. It was started from brand new by Arthur (Puck) Pattle and his wife, who before this operated the Yallourn Swimming Pool Kiosk."

Morwell Historical Society has the following books for sale:

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| - Streets and Place Names of Churchill | \$20 |
| - <i>Morwell: Past to Present</i> DVD | \$25 |
| - Glimpses of Morwell | \$20 |
| - Jaberanda and Co. Living in the 20th Century | \$20 |
| - Across the Old Bush Track | \$29.95 |
| - Morwell to Mirboo North Railway | \$15 |
| - Steamhorse to Power by Prue McGoldrick (1979) | \$8 |
| - Changing Landscapes; [Settlement at Driffield] | \$15 |
| - "Yallourn Was..." | \$20 |
| - Souvenir History of Morwell by I.T. Maddern | \$5 |

In the February 2017 newsletter, I asked will we see another attempt at **industrial tourism** with a dose of history? The public awaits with scepticism. Since February, I have now seen three news articles in the L V Express regarding comments about industrial tourism, one of these items criticised a silly idea about turning the former Morwell Power Station into a tourism attraction. Now heritage listing [of the power station] is being canvassed. I have not seen any initiatives from the Centre for Gippsland Studies! What is the view of the MHS Inc?

Back to the interesting stuff. I, plus Betty Woolley, recalled a milk bar in Hazelwood Road, immediately south of the former Town Hall (now the art gallery), located about today's site of the Police HQ. But alas, Bruce received a phone call early in June from Frank Mutsaers. Frank's parents, Tony and Willy Mutsaers conducted a milk bar style business from the Hazelwood Road site - - just as I recalled it. The Mutsaers family lived in a house adjoining the shop. They then moved across Hazelwood Road to run the Victory Café – generally known as Campbell's corner.

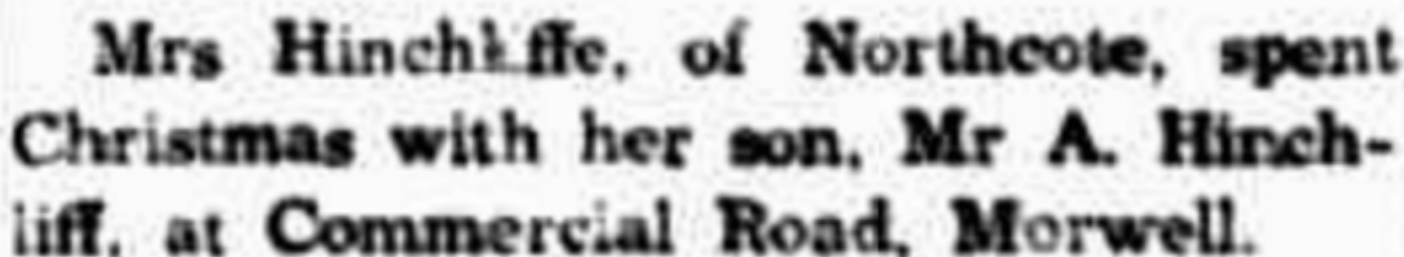
[I have spoken with Frank and he is awaiting lots of questions about his time in Morwell to be emailed to him. His memory of fine detail is amazing.]

Another early Morwell identity was **Alf Hinchcliffe**. He was best known as the go-to person should there be a building requiring demolition. His backyard in (residential) Commercial Road was a smorgasbord for any do-it-yourself "tradesperson" and even for those who were registered builders.

The news that the Memorial was to be shifted was announced in an article printed in the *Morwell Advertiser* on Monday, November 10th 1969:

War Memorial to Move – and it Won't Cost a Cent!

Tomorrow's 11a.m. ceremony at the War Memorial in Commercial Rd. will be the last on its present site. The memorial will be moved to a site in International Plaza off the Princes Highway, and will face into the car park opposite the Post Office. The memorial will be moved on the first week-end in December. Shire Secretary, Mr. Lord, given the task some time ago by council to plan the move with the R.S.L. is hoping that the memorial can be moved with voluntary help. Mr. Lord obtained the services of architects and town planners, Messrs Earle Shaw and Partners, to plan the new layout without cost. Mr. Lord said today that envisaged was the placing of the memorial in a bluestone courtyard, with the interior of the courtyard covered with red scoria from the Western District. The scoria is coming in a railway truck with all costs met by some Camperdown residents contacted by Mr. Lord. **Mr. A. E. Hinchcliffe** has donated all the bluestone and other materials required from surplus materials from the Sacred Heart Church, under demolition.



Mrs Hinchcliffe, of Northcote, spent Christmas with her son, Mr A. Hinchliff, at Commercial Road, Morwell.

Morwell Advertiser January 5, 1939

Where are these two houses in Morwell and to whom did they once belong? The photographs were taken in June 2017.



Thanks to Elaine Andrijczak for the following material:

Hi Leo

My cousin recently gave me some local photos my Aunty Gladys Neilson (nee White) had taken prior to her marriage and move to Melbourne.

There were some of the 'Back to Morwell' celebrations in October 1929.

I looked on TROVE and have typed up in Word articles relating to the Saturday Welcome celebrations on Saturday, 12th October and the 'Back to School' event on Wednesday, 16th October.

The article re the Saturday event has quite a few prominent names mentioned and historical content. Interesting that 'Crinigan' as we know it is spelt 'Crinnigan'...

My Aunty had photos of the 'Back to School' day (although I don't believe she attended this school) and the 'Sports Day' which was held on the Thursday, 17th October - her photos were clearly identified and show interesting photos of the Morwell Recreation Reserve in 1929.

So, I'm just forwarding these on in case you are looking for articles to include in any upcoming issues. I'm sure they will interest some readers.

Morwell Advertiser (Morwell, Vic.: 1888 – 1954), Friday 18 October 1929, page 2

BACK TO MORWELL A Great Time of Reunions and Rejoicing

As was anticipated, Saturday last, October 12th, 1929 – was a “Red Letter Day” in the history of Morwell, as it marked the opening day of the “Back to Morwell Celebrations”, and the return of quite a host of esteemed old residents, who in days gone by played an important part in the affairs of the town and district and whom it was a pleasure to meet and renew old acquaintance.

The streets of the town and many of the business places were gaily decorated with flags, bunting, colored lights, etc., and presented an attractive and striking appearance. At the entrance of the town, or Princes Highway, was a large banner stretched across the street, bearing words “WELCOME HOME”. Union Jacks and other flags waved proudly from the top of high poles and buildings, whilst lines containing scores of smaller flags and bunting along and across the streets fluttered in the breeze, and, as it were, “clapped their hands” in a joyful and welcoming manner.

Mr. Jack Keegan (Melbourne Secretary) and Mr. Rob Watson of Morwell, boarded a special train at Flinders Street and attended to the needs of all on board as far as possible, and their efforts on behalf of the executive and committee was very much appreciated.

The train arrived in Morwell to accompaniment of loud cheers from the crowd that thronged the platform, among whom were Mr. Walter West, M.L.A., Cr. E. Heesom (President of Morwell Shire), Mr. G. Watson (President of Back to Morwell Movement), Mr. G. P. Evans (Organiser), Mr. John Rintoull (one of the oldest residents of the town), Messrs. Angus McDonald, A. Green, E. L. Vary, D. C. Mills, Donald McKay, Jes. Williamson (members of Reception Committee), and many other residents, and, as Dryden wrote:

“In all they did you might discern with ease,
A willing mind and a desire to please.”

The railway platform and precincts of the station were bedecked with flags and bunting and at the entrance was the word “WELCOME” in large letters.

The weather was delightful, and upon the “comebacks” disembarking from the train in bright sunshine, there was a great inter-mingling of “old timers” with “present timers”. Greetings were most hearty and genuine, and expressions of welcome and friendship were not confined along to handshakes, nor was the kissing all between the ladies. The combined forces taxed the capacity of the platform, which was thronged from one end to the other. Among the number were Mr. W. H. Mitchell who was first stationmaster at Morwell, after the opening of the line through to Sale over 50 years ago and who attended the first public dance in Morwell – held in the Railways goods sheds; also, Mr Southorn (a popular stationmaster of recent years).

There was also a very old pioneer of the district in the person of Mrs. Kirwin who is 87 years of age, and another old ‘comeback’ – Mrs. Rowley, 85 years. Mr. Charlie Williams came all the way from Perth, W.A., and Mrs. W. Bolger, who was the first white child born in Morwell, returned from Elwood. Another present, with her husband, was Mrs. G. Irving (nee Edith Donaldson), whose father – the late Mr. David Donaldson, was one of the first, if not the first, general storekeeper, draper and newsagent in Morwell, and for many years carried on business on the site now occupied by D. C. Mills & Co., E. Muir & Co., and W. S. McKenzie (the property at the present time being owned by Mrs. Irving).

Another ‘comeback’ was Mr. Jas. Hamilton, a former local railway employee, who now occupies the position of railway road master in an important centre, and residing at Geelong. He was accompanied by his wife (nee Samuel), whose father was the first baker in Morwell, and also carried on business as storekeeper and newsagent in premises now occupied by Mr. E. G. Rowell. Then there were Mrs. Date and her daughter Elsie and two brothers, Messrs. Jack and Al. More who played an important part in local affairs in days gone by; also Mrs. Edney Snr and her daughter Mrs Cray, Mrs. Quirk, Miss W’Whae, Mr. D. Jarvie and his three sisters, Mrs. Bartlett and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Tulloch, Mr. and Mrs. W. Howlett, Miss Viger (former postmistress), Miss Vickers (school teacher).

The engine-driver, Mr. Percy Norman, and fireman, Mr. R. Wilkinson, were also old Morwellites. Among many others that might be mentioned was Dick Rodwell, one of Morwell's old-time footballers and most enthusiastic barracker, who, perhaps, due to his enthusiasm for football, has developed into a good shape of one, his "centre line" having increased enormously since his departure from Morwell some years ago.

When the excitement of the "come backs" arrival had somewhat subsided, the President of the Shire mounted on a stand and, on behalf of the residents of Morwell and district, extended a hearty welcome to all. He said he felt honoured at having the privilege of welcoming so many esteemed former residents, and he trusted their return visit would prove most enjoyable in every respect. The President and organiser of the movement also spoke, after which "For They Are Jolly Good Fellows" was sung, followed by three lusty cheers. A photo was then taken of the unique gathering by Miss Dicker, who accompanied the party from Melbourne. Everyone seemed loth to leave the station but eventually there was a disbursement and the crowd melted away by degrees, the "come backs" being conveyed in waiting motors to their respective lodging places.

At about 1.30, the Yallourn Brass Band composed of 25 members, under the conductorship of Mr. W. McMahon, marched down the main street and played a few stirring selections at the Post Office corner prior to marching to the Recreation ground where the Band at intervals played several further selections in a masterly and creditable manner, their music being much appreciated by both young and old. There was such a large number of cars in the street that considerable care had to be exercised to reach the ground without mishap. Fortunately, however, notwithstanding the crowd, the journey was negotiated in safety by all, and no accidents of any kind occurred to mar the proceedings.

The trysting ground presented an unusual and animated appearance. Motors cars were parked in neat array almost right around the outside of the football ground, whilst inside the arena were officials and competitors taking part in firemen's events, foot-racing, musical chairs on horses, high jumping, motor events, etc., etc. A splendid view of the proceedings was obtained and things were kept going with a swing. Located in various parts of the ground were numerous attractions, including a merry-go-round that was rushed by the children from start to finish. Then there was a palais de danse that drew the lads and lassies to its precincts. Excellent music was provided by Hall's Orchestra and quite a happy time was spent by those who indulged in the light fantastic. The needs of the "inner man" were also well catered for. Afternoon tea was provided by Mr. W. E. Wilson; fruit, sweets and ice cream were obtainable at stalls, under Mr. Martyn's control whilst a "drop of the crater" was available at a booth in charge of Mr. Orr, of Melbourne.

With the many attractions and forms of amusement combined with the meeting of old friends, the renewing of old acquaintance and making new friends, the afternoon passed quickly and pleasantly. The respective committee all carried out their duties faithfully and well, not a hitch of any kind occurring throughout the day's proceedings, for which those responsible, have to be complimented. **The winners of the principal events were:**

75 YARDS SPRINT

First Heat – J. Sloan (7 yards) 1, A. Vary (2 yards) 2.

Second Heat – B. Vary (7 yards) 1, Les Davey (6 yards) 2.

Final – B. Vary 1, L. Davey 2.

120 YARDS HANDICAP

First Heat – C. Thompson (9 yards) 1, A. Vary (4 yards) 2.

Second Heat – B. Vary (11 yards) 1, J. Sloan (11 yards) 2.

Final – B. Vary 1, C. Thompson 2.

MEN'S HIGH JUMP

W. Budge 1, A. Templeton 2.

FIRE BRIGADE EVENTS

One Man Marshall – J. Mayze 1, G. Ford 2.

Two Men Marshall – J. Mayze and J. Wright 1, Arch and Andy Templeton 2.

Disabled Hose – J. Mayze 1, P. Plant 2.

Hydrant Race – J. Mayze 1, Rob Watson 2.

Reel Race – P. Plant and A. Templeton 1, W. Watson and E. Comber 2.

OTHER EVENTS

Motor Car Straight Drive for Ladies – Miss McKay

Motor Car Reverse Drive for Men – Mr. N. Sharpe

Musical Chairs (Horses) – Mr. Jas. Ellis

Musical Chairs, Horses (unofficial) – Mr. Sec. Billingsley

Motor Cycle Flag and Barrel Race – Mr. D. Morley

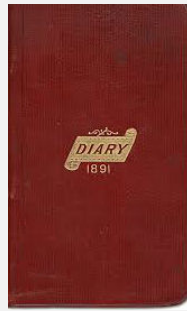
AT NIGHT

The town presented a wonderful and beautiful sight at night, when the many coloured lights with which the town was illuminated were switched on. The lights could be seen for some miles, especially those on the Fire Brigade tower and were a source of admiration by all who were privileged to see them,

A splendid programme of pictures were screened at the Mechanics' Hall, at which there was a large attendance, the seating accommodation being taxed to the utmost. Hall's orchestra provided appropriate music and all present thoroughly enjoyed the excellent entertainment provided.

There was also a dance in the Fire Brigade Station, at which there was such a large attendance that little room was available for dancing. Doug Mansfield's Orchestra provided the music and things were kept going merrily till midnight.

Information Page:



Meeting dates for 2017:

19 JULY – [today]
16 AUGUST
20 SEPTEMBER
18 OCTOBER
15 NOVEMBER
25 DECEMBER – CHRISTMAS DAY



Please deliver me to:

If undelivered, please return to: 12 Hazelwood Road Morwell 3840

From Our Morwell Cupboard File: A reminder that the Research Room and Library are open on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays and last Sunday in the month, from 11.00am to 2.00pm.

Articles and contributions to the Morwell Historical Society "Morwell Post" are welcome from any source without liability, and accepted subject to editorial approval. The editors reserve the right to amend/edit all contributions. The editor of the "Morwell Post" cannot be held responsible for the quality and accuracy of all information supplied to us. Readers should always check with originators of material published, with any queries relating to accuracy of information. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form, or by any means, electronic, mechanical, recording or otherwise without the prior consent of the publisher.



Supporters:

