

The Morwell Post

Morwell Historical Society

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 <https://www.facebook.com/morwellhistoricalsociety/>



Filling in the well in the Sacred Heart car park



See article pages 4-5

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Morwell Historical Society Directory 2023/2024

President:	Alan McFarlane Phone: 0448 430 394
Vice-President:	Shirley Prosser
Secretary:	Florence Butcher
Assistant Secretary:	Elaine Andrijczak
Treasurer:	Peter Butcher
Committee Members:	Rosalie Davey Laurie Williams To be elected
Research Library:	12 Hazelwood Road, Morwell, Victoria 3840
Research Queries:	secretary@morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au
Public Access:	1st and 3rd Wednesday and last Sunday of each month, 11.00 a.m. – 2.00 p.m. Open - February to November
Gathering of Members:	3rd Wednesday of month - March, May, July, September, November - 2pm (informal get-together and afternoon tea)
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 old Commonwealth Bank, corner of Commercial Road and Tarwin Street.

All photos, unless indicated, are from our archives

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Morwell Historical Society now enters its 62nd year, with the recent Annual General Meeting re-electing last years office bearers to the new committee.

The society is grateful for the support of local politicians, Latrobe City Council, our sponsors and the many wonderful members who give so much of their time.

We will continue with Bunnings BBQs during 2023, a great fundraiser, and we look forward to our members' support when looking for volunteers.

Stage 1 of our kitchen update is nearing completion and looking great. We await advice from a Federal Government grant to complete the project.

Thanks to ENGIE, we recently received hundreds of technical books related to Hazelwood Power Station.

On the 26th March we held a reunion for all those who went to the Morwell North School that closed in 1976. About 40 people attended and some visitors came from Melbourne and the Gippsland region.

Many had never met since they left school over 70 years ago.

The display in our rooms will remain for a couple of months. Worth a look!

Photos of the event can also be found on our Facebook page.

Thanks to all members who helped on the day.

Our debt on our building now stands at \$60,000 and we continue to seek local donations to assist retiring this commitment.

The next Gathering of Members will be held at 2pm on Wednesday 17th May. Come along, have a cuppa, a chat, view our displays and have some input into your Society.

Alan McFarlane



Brick from the Sacred Heart Well



SOME OBJECTS IN OUR COLLECTION

Spring wombat/fox trap

Piece of meat placed on the trap and the trap buried just below the ground

Trap secured by a metal spike

Serrated steel-jawed leghold traps cannot be used to trap any animal and the sale of them is illegal.

THE WELL IN SACRED HEART CAR PARK

Last year there was a subsidence in the Sacred Heart car park in Morwell. Temporary fencing was erected to prevent vehicles and people from falling in the hole.

The subsidence had resulted from the collapse of the bitumen and earth into the ruins of a brick constructed underground well. When the Convent was demolished in 1965 some of the wood from the convent and the bricks from the dome of the well were thrown into the well and this wood slowly rotted and caused space under the bitumen. The well was probably built before Morwell had gravity supplied water from the weir in Billy's Creek in 1913.

The Donaldson family lived on the site where the car park is today from the late 1870s to 1905. After David had died in 1886 and Anne had died in 1905, the Church and the house became the Convent. Therefore, the well was possibly used by the Donaldson family and the St Joseph nuns.



This photo is Donaldson's house next to the Presbytery

This is how the dome would have looked. Photo taken on a farm on the north side corner of Hazelwood Estate Road and Yinnar Road. MHS 24172



At 7.30 am on the 6th March 2023 Ace Earthmoving from Toners Lane began pumping out the water, digging out the well and taking the unwanted materials away in a tip truck. Except one brick that was given to our Society. Unfortunately there is nothing on the brick as to which brick works made it. It is quite likely a brick from the dome of the well. If it was a brick from a chimney it would have had a frog in it.



At noon the first truck load of ready mixed stabilising concrete arrived and began to fill the hole.

Then the 2nd truck load came.
(cover photo)



Nearly full

When the concrete dried, it was covered with bitumen.



PAYNES BON MARCHÉ

Payne's Bon Marché (*Good Market*) was a drapery, clothing and general Haberdashery business which was founded in Melbourne in 1875. The main store was established at 138-144 Bourke Street Melbourne by an Irishman from Cork named John Payne. After a success in Melbourne he opened branches in other state capitals and country towns in Australia.



THE ROSE SERIES P. 1637
Copyright

COMMERCIAL ROAD, MORWELL, VIC.

In Morwell, Payne's Bon Marché opened a large emporium at 232 Commercial Road in November 1959 and the children were given free balloons and drinks. The emporium was jointly occupied by Payne's and the self-service grocery chain of Connell-Dickens, a subsidiary company of GJ Coles. Three interesting features of the brick building were - the large plate glass windows that fronted Commercial Road, the gabled saw tooth roof and the mezzanine floor that suspended from the ceiling.

The emporium had numerous departments: Manchester, chemist dispensary, crockery, cutlery, electrical goods, furniture, hardware, paint, men's and boy's wear, footwear, toys, hair dressing salons, women's fashions and a snack bar. There were public toilets and a lounge for women shoppers.

Payne's opened a small store in Rintoull Street on 13 August 1956 before establishing the one in Commercial Road.

PAYNE'S BON MARCHE.

Fifty-sixth Anniversary.

The 56th birthday of Payne's Bon Marche will be celebrated during May. The business was founded by Mr. John Payne in a single-fronted shop on a site where the Eastern Market is now situated. To-day the employees of the emporium number more than 500, and indirectly an additional 150 are constantly employed in associated factories the output of which is utilised by Payne's. Stocks in many of the departments are confined almost to Australian productions. Among recent business transactions made by Payne's with a view to fostering Australian industries are contracts covering the total output of a well-known corset factory and knitting mills. Another large purchase was 5,000 pairs of blankets and more than 20,000 yards of woollen piece-goods. The 56th anniversary sale will begin at Payne's to-morrow; details will be found in Payne's sale announcement appearing in the advertising columns.

1931, April 28 *The Argus Melbourne, Vic.* p. 8.



1960s

PAYNES bon marché

Victoria's Most Progressive Store brings Ultra Modern Buying Facilities to the LATROBE VALLEY

PAYNES bon marché ARE PROUD TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS PROGRESSIVE DISTRICT

DEPARTMENTS

- Fashion Goods
- Underwear
- Children's Wear
- Men's and Boys' Wear
- Shoes
- Manchester
- Knitwear
- Bedding
- Toys
- Dress Materials
- Furniture
- Floor Coverings
- Radio and T.V.
- Electrical
- Hardware
- Men's and Ladies' Hairdresser

PROGRESS WITH THE LATROBE VALLEY

In the Hub of The LATROBE VALLEY!
PAYNES BON MARCHE, Commercial Rd., Morwell

Today, 2023, 230 Commercial Road is Harvey Norman.
 John Payne who founded Payne's Bon Marché died in 1938

A LONELY GRAVE

Gippsland has many lonely graves but possibly the grave that most people know about is that of Catherine Cane better known as Kitty Cane.

Kitty Cane was a supposed dance hall girl having arrived in the district during the hey-day of Woods Point. She was carted by pack horse to the area, so it was said, by Louie the French man for nine pence a pound which was an amazing feat considering her tremendous bulk as she weighed in at 22 stone. Kitty soon set up a wayside tavern along the side of the road near Aberfeldy intent on catching the trade from all those who passed by. Her business venture survived for only a short time as Kitty died on 10 April 1863 at her tavern of an unknown ailment.

Local miners hearing of this stressful situation arrived to give Kitty the great send off they thought she truly deserved. Several men intended to carry her to the Aberfeldy Cemetery. Kitty's great weight defeated them and they laid her body to rest a short distance from her shanty. Today the ghost of Kitty Cane still survives, as does her grave, clearly seen and sign posted along the road way about 4 km out on the Walhalla side of Aberfeldy.



There was another lonely grave in Toongabbie. Ned Stringer walked from Walhalla to Sale to the doctors and died on the return trip to Walhalla on 26 September 1863, 5 months after the death of Kitty Cane. Stringer discovered gold in 1862 at Stringers Creek, now known as Walhalla. His remains were reinterred in the Toongabbie Cemetery in 1892.

There is a plaque on the site in Toongabbie where he died.

Source -*Lonely Graves of the Gippsland Goldfields and Greater Gippsland* by GJ Rogers and Nelly Helyar p 23

LYNN SHOE FACTORY

In August 1965 Lynn Shoe Co Pty Ltd opened its Davey Street workshop. The Morwell plant concentrated on the manufacture of the shoes uppers which were forwarded to Fitzroy for finishing. Several of the girls were former employees of La Mode which closed down in July. The girls are producing between them an average of 130 pairs of uppers a day.

The factory plant consists of a machine room and a beading room. Six of the girls are employed in the machining section and two in the beading room with Mrs Didlock supervising. Mrs Didlock learnt the shoe trade in Melbourne some years ago. About 12 months ago she joined the staff at a Moe shoe factory, but left there to take charge of the Morwell plant. The girls employed are from Morwell, Moe, Newborough and Traralgon.



A view of the machine room. Left to right-Yvonne Thorburn, Jame Bonnici, Kris Rosa, Helen Sydetlik (standing), Mariet van der Meulen, Val Crawford and Janet McKenzie

Source – *Morwell Advertiser* Thu 12 August 1965.

Incidentally -Paddle Shoe Factory opened in Morwell January 1965

BOOTH STREET - WHO WAS BOOTH?

There are 3 streets in Morwell that have houses that were built for those who worked for the Australian Paper Manufacturers -APM.

Botany Street -the name came from the town south east of Sydney where APM had a mill.
Fairfield Street – The name came from the suburb in Melbourne where APM had a mill. Booth Street - Charles Booth was Managing Director of the APM.

Charles Sylvester Booth was born in 1897 in Halifax, Yorkshire, England, the son of John and Ada nee Wilson. Charles enlisted in the British Army in WW1 and was commissioned in the Royal Engineers Special Reserve. He was attached to the Australian Corps in France with the local rank of major and was mentioned in dispatches. After the war he served a deferred apprenticeship in mechanical engineering with Armstrong, Whitworth & Co Ltd at Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

In 1923 Charles Booth came to Australia as secretary and accountant to a contracting company set up by Armstrong, Whitworth & Co Ltd. In 1929 he was appointed as Australian representative of Walmsley Chas. & Co., later Walmsley (Bury) Ltd a member of the Armstrong Whitworth group and one of the leading British pulp and paper engineering firms.

Charles Booth married Ellen Grant, a trained nurse in 1929 in Toorak Presbyterian Church.

Booth left Walmsley in 1946 and joined Australian Paper Manufacturers Ltd as Assistant Managing Director and in 1948 became Managing Director. When he retired in 1959 he became chairman of APM and the company was securely established as the country's leading pulp and paper maker.

Booth retired as chairman in 1966 but remained on the board until his death in 1970.

Charles Sylvester Booth was knighted in 1969.



This photo taken in Nov 1947 from what is now Vincent Road and looking west down Booth Street. The electricity pole is still standing on the corner although not as straight and the houses now are nearly 80 years old.



The house on the south west corner of Booth Street and Vincent Road has had a veranda added to the front.



The house, 7 Booth Street, on the north- west corner of Booth St and Vincent Road has had a large window added. It has not been occupied for a while.

Source -*Australian Dictionary of Biography*

-Black and White photo no 22353

-Both coloured photos taken Boyd Thompson 18.12.2022



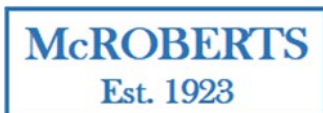
OPEN DAYS 2023

1st February || 15th February || 26th February
1st March || 15th March; AGM || 26th March
5th April || 19th April || 30th April
3rd May || 17th May || 28th May
7th June || 21st June || 25th June
5th July || 19th July || 31st July
2nd August || 16th August || 27th August
6th September || 20th September || 24th September
4th October || 18 October || 29th October
1st November || 15th November || 26th November

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