

# The Morwell Post

Morwell Historical Society

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

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



Elsie McMaster



See article page 4

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# Morwell Historical Society Directory 2024/2025

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 Rob de Souza-Daw Laurie Williams
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
Members' Gathering:	Every two months on the 3rd Wednesday - commencing 21st February 2024, then April, June, August, October, at 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 \$30.00  Application Forms available on our website for you to print and send.  For a print copy of " <b>The Morwell Post</b> " - \$10.00 per annum
Editor:	email: morwellpost@morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au
Newsletter Team:	Fay Thompson, Elaine Andrijczak, Florence Butcher
Research Fees:	\$10.00 per hour or part thereof, and prices for photo prints on application and postage where applicable.
Facebook:	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/morwellhistoricalsociety">https://www.facebook.com/morwellhistoricalsociety</a>
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 to the AGM 17th April 2024**

We are now in our 63rd year as a Historical Society after a busy past 12 months.

Improvements to our facility over the past year have included-

- laying carpet in Hare Campbell and Dianne and Don Harle rooms provided by Morwell Bowling Club and Latrobe Council grant
- finalising kitchen upgrade funded by Federal Government
- website upgrade funded by Morwell Bowling Club and member donation
- new library area shelving provided by ENGIE
- external notice board funded by a member donation.

A recent Latrobe City Trust grant has allowed us to equip our kitchen and establish our 'Step Back in Time Conversation Cafe' providing an opportunity for the community to visit our centre 3 days a month and have a cuppa and nibble whilst sharing stories. After only 3 months, the cafe is very successful.

In addition to visits by community groups we-

- hosted a Morwell North reunion 12 months ago
- hosted the Royal Historical Society Victoria regional seminar in August
- provided a power industry exhibition for CRC , National Power industry Conference in November. This exhibition will remain until the end of May.

Our members continue to attend special events, community days and expos promoting the Society and sharing our history.

A positive partnership with Latrobe City has us researching matters for them including a current project to identify the history of street names and parks and reserves. We were also fortunate to receive a \$2000 grant from Council to offset our rates.

We continuously field enquiries for historical research and are welcoming of regular donations of various historical items, magazines and photos. A significant donation of technical books from ENGIE are now part of our collection.

In addition to our regular Bunnings BBQs, we held a major fundraiser in a Spring Plant Sale in October which was hugely successful.

These funds along with other support has enabled our debt on our building to be reduced to \$30,000. We have another 12 months until the debt needs to be finalised.

We have been fortunate to have had the support of Latrobe City, ENGIE, Morwell Bowling Club, Bunnings, Millers Plumbing, our Corporate and Business sponsors and some very generous members and community members to allow us to operate and reduce our debt.

I wish to thank our wonderful core group of volunteers who support the maintenance and management of this valuable community asset and to all members who assist with the operation of our Society.

I look forward to your ongoing support.

Alan McFarlane

### **COMMITTEE 2024/2025**

President:	Alan McFarlane
Vice-President:	Shirley Prosser
Secretary:	Florence Butcher
Assistant Secretary:	Elaine Andrijczak
Treasurer:	Peter Butcher
Committee Members:	Rosalie Davey Rob de Souza-Daw Laurie Williams

## VALE - ELSIE McMASTER 1939-2024

On March 9th 2024 Morwell lost one of their treasures and the Historical Society lost a dedicated member. Elsie and Bruce both grew up in Foster and went to the same school. After High School, Elsie moved to Melbourne where she studied to be a High School teacher at Melbourne University. Bruce was working in Melbourne and he used to drive Foster friends back to Foster on the weekends. It was during these trips that he and Elsie started their courtship. They became engaged and married in Foster in 1964. After University Elsie taught at Foster High, then she moved to Melbourne to be near Bruce and taught at Oakleigh High. Bruce then got the position of Health Inspector with the Morwell Shire and Elsie inquired with Morwell High for a teaching position. Fortunately for her there was a teacher who wanted to teach in Melbourne so Elsie swapped with her.



1965 staff of Morwell High School

Back -P Pickburn, P Molony, J Murfett, WJ Waldron, E Dyrenfurth, D Winkler, G Rowe, B Foster, A Day

2<sup>nd</sup> back - P Caplan, I Fry, B Hirstgood, F Withoos, G Peters, G Creagh, A Romijn, W Traill, K Clements

2<sup>nd</sup> front - B Grant, H Beaumont, D Pryde, E Rowe, R Debono, P Price, I Doherty, J Cafiso

B Stuart, D Jones, C Yule, M Dennis, R Edmondson

Front -H Johnson, F Dougan, H Jacobs, I McLaren, E McMaster, IT Maddern (Head Master) J Griggs, M Harney,

C Waldron, M Martin, L Benjafield

Later Elsie became Senior Mistress.

When Caroline came along in 1968 Elsie retired from teaching and then Christine and Sharon were born. When the girls were young Elsie taught English to migrants in her lounge room.

The Morwell Historical Society was established by Ivan Maddern in 1962 but when he moved away the Society went into recess. In 1973 the organisation started up again with Elsie and Bruce as members. Elsie was a very capable Secretary for 27 years, from 1984 to 2011 and Editor of the Newsletter for 18 years, from 1984 to 2002. The plate of cake that Elsie brought to the monthly meetings and other events did not last long.

In 1993 Elsie and Anne Dettrick wrote the book *Women of the Valley*, about 24 Women in Morwell and District from 1884-1944.

During her Secretarial years Elsie organised numerous excursions for members.



Elsie, Lorna Williams and Bruce on a Historical Society Excursion to Carmen McKay's property "Scrubby Forrest" near Yinnar. c1990



In 2005 the Morwell Historical Society received official approval as a 'Place of Deposit' by the Public Records Office.

The below photo is the official launch of the PRO Place of Deposit

l-r –Kym Tunbridge, Elsie McMaster, Joyce Cleary, Leonie Pryde (President) holding the certificate, and Bruce McMaster



Latrobe City Council Landscape Officer Melissa Ellis, Rotary Club member Graeme Cornell and Morwell Historical Society member Elsie McMaster *Latrobe Valley Express* 17.6.2010



Elsie will be remembered fondly by many people - the McMaster and White families, the Collins Street Primary school students, teachers and parents, the Morwell High School students, teachers and parents (when she retired she was Head Mistress), the Morwell and Foster community, Harold Street neighbours and the members of the Morwell Historical Society. The Society thanks Elsie for steering it in the right direction and for all the hours that she gave with a smile. RIP

## MORWELL GOLF CLUB

In September 1908, Dr J.S. McLean convened a meeting at which it was decided to form the Morwell Golf Club.

First Officers were:

President - Dr Mclean

Vice Presidents - Rev. Fr. E.J. Coleman (RC) and Mr W. Applegate

Captain - Dr Mclean

Treasurer - Mr C.R. Aherin (Manager Bank of Australasia)

Committee - Messrs. Davey (Murdoch's Hotel) Smythe (Cricketers' Arms Hotel) and Buckland

Secretary - Mr H.H. Brown

A course was laid out in "Kleine's Paddock" about where the SEC Workshops were, in Electra Avenue. After about 18 months it moved to the other side of the railway line to Buckley's Hill and rented land from Vin Hourigan. The course had 9 holes and the first tee was beside the Princes Highway east of the Uniting Church. The first clubhouse was situated at the rear of F. Samuel's home on the site of the current Morwell Hotel (The Top Pub).

*The course was very rough, with cow droppings, kangaroo grass, tussocks and the greens were described as "sand scrapes" .*

Hourigan's Land was sold off to the Housing Commission in 1949 and the Golf Club was forced to close. The game of golf was not played in Morwell for another 26 years.

The present Golf Club had its beginnings in 1965, when a public meeting was called in Morwell Council Chambers to judge what interest there was in establishing a Golf Course in Morwell. 69 people attended.

A steering committee was formed comprising of Ron Liddicut, Alan Grieve, Tom Stillman, Bill Youngman, John Bull and Gordon Lawrence. In 1969 a meeting of debenture holders was held with the object of refunding all debentures and winding up the steering committee because of the unavailability of suitable golf course land. The meeting rejected this unanimously and requested the Steering Committee to make a concerted effort to find suitable land. By early 1970 preliminary arrangements had been made with the SEC for a 40 year lease of about 165 acres of land north of Crinigan Road.

A meeting held in November 1971 a constitution was adopted and elected the following office bearers:

President: Tom Stillman

Vice Presidents: C. Curry

K. Williams

Captain: A. Grieve

Vice Captain: M. Little

Secretary: D. Kick

Asst. Secretary: H. Wallington

Treasurer: R. Smith

Committee:

W. Campbell

R. Cook

J. Gray

F. Hall

C. Howes

W. Howes

W. Warren

The first AGM was held on 4th December 1972 at the "Karma".

Shortly after this, a \$50,000 Morwell Golf Club Cooperative was formed for course construction and was fully subscribed. At the AGM held in 1972 the club had 338 members even though there was no course.

On 12th May 1975 two Yallourn houses were purchased and located side by side. These houses were connected, a dining room was created and with further

modifications the Morwell Golf Club had a Clubhouse in a wonderful setting.

Following many tireless hours, days and months of work by numerous volunteers and paid staff, the course was officially opened on Saturday 5th March 1977 by Mr W De Campo, Assistant General Manager SECV, (Operations) with Pat Keenan as President.





On 3rd July 1975, the Associates side of the club was formed. They were ably led by the following committee:

President: Pat Keenan	Vice President: Doreen Liefman
Secretary: June Cunningham	Captain: Helen Attridge
Handicapper: Dorothy Rejmer	House Committee Chair: Dawn Pallot



Custom Logo golf balls for Tournament days



Source: *Centenary Celebrations - A Brief History of the Morwell Golf Club 1908-2008*  
Clubhouse and plaque photos taken by Boyd Thompson on 22 March 2023

## JOHN AMEY 1811-1894

One of the first people to be buried in Hazelwood Cemetery was John Amey, a convict, who was transported to Van Dieman's Land (Tasmania) in 1838.

John Amey was born in 1811 in Sandford in Devonshire. Aged 26 he was tried in Dorset for feloniously stealing a carving knife to the value of two shillings and sentenced to 15 years. In Tasmania he worked on a farming property and in 1841 he was issued a 'ticket of leave' as a reward for meritorious conduct of a 'larceny' committee in his master's house in 1838.

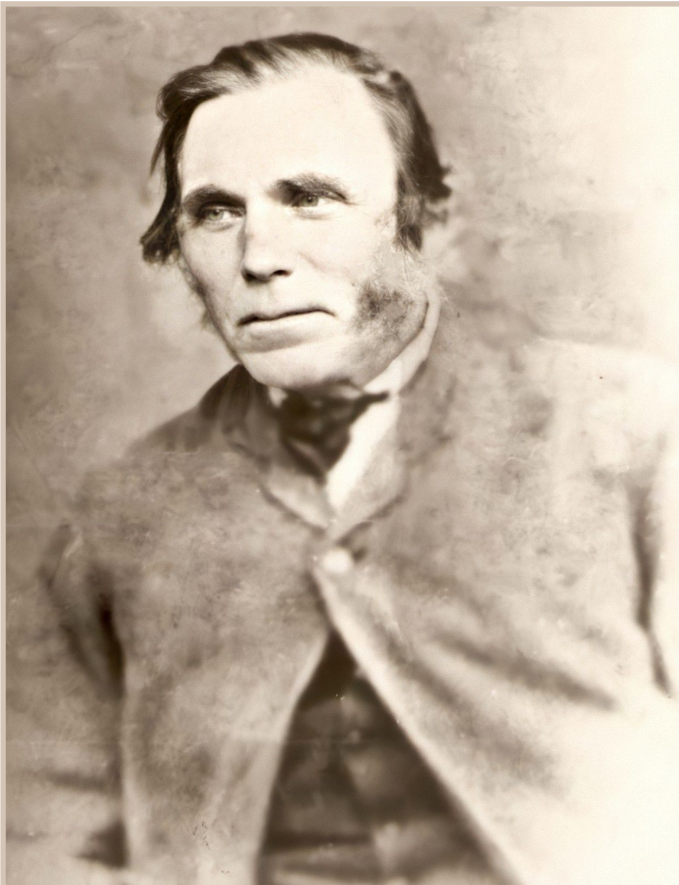
In 1841 John married Margaret Peers-Robinson in Hobart and they had a daughter, Charlotte Louise in 1842, the same year that John received his certificate of freedom.

In 1850 John is recorded as a farmer at Alberton on the coast of Gippsland.

John married Eleanor Stafford and they travelled to Hobart in 1854 to bring back Charlotte. Eleanor died in Foster in 1887 and was buried in the Foster Cemetery. (Ellen on her head stone)

John married Barbara Saunders nee Powell in Fitzroy in 1889 and they selected land to farm beside the Franklin River at Corner Inlet.

Charlotte married James Simmons in 1859 in Alberton and they had 10 children who were all born at Alberton. The family moved to Foster and Martha died when she was 13 in 1891. James died in 1918 and Charlotte died in 1920. Martha, James and Charlotte are all buried together in an unmarked grave beside Ellen in Foster Cemetery.

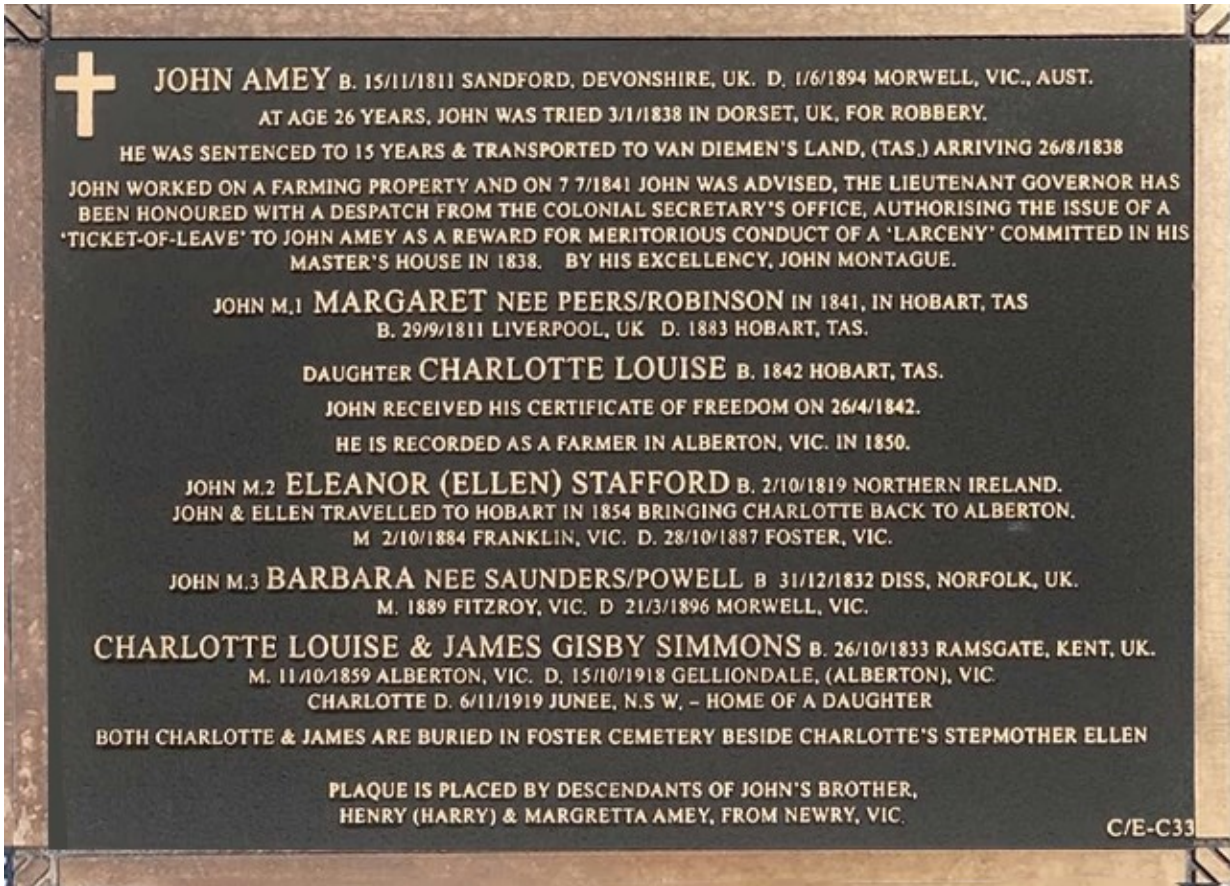


John died in 1894 and he is buried in Hazelwood Cemetery

The photo of John is from the *Foster Mirror* 28.9.2022.



John's Plaque at Hazelwood Cemetery was recently placed by the descendants of his brother Harry. Photo of plaque taken by Rob de Souza-Daw March 2024




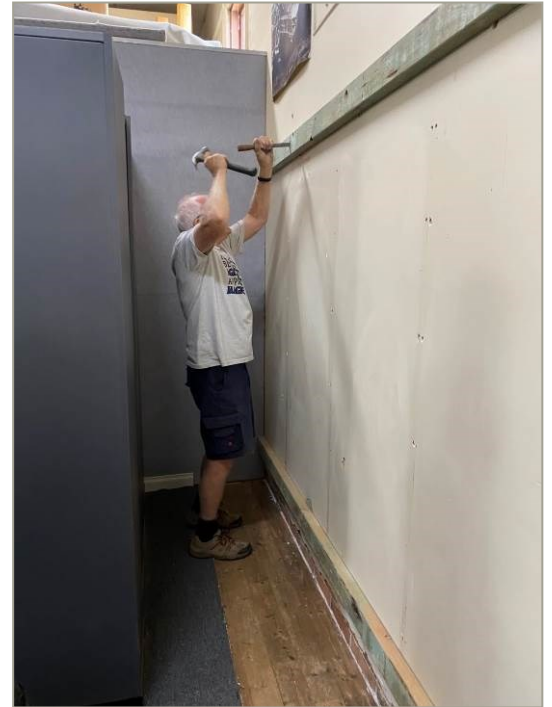
John is recorded as paying Rates to the Morwell Shire in 1883. His occupation is gentleman

ASSESSMENT to the SHIRE RATE for the period ending the  
 made this Fifth day of December in the year of our Lord 1893 after the

No. on the Rate.	Surname of Person Rated.	Christian Names of Person Rated.	Trade or Occupation.	Name of Owner of Rateable Property.	Description and Situation of Rateable Property.
1	Angus	Millican	Carron		Land Morwell
2	Arney	John	Scutlough		House
3	Allen	John	Labourer		House Morwell
4	Allon	James H.	Butcher		Land Morwell
5	Amiel	Samuel	Grazier		House & Land Hazelwood
6	Amiel	Frank	"		Land Butcher
7	Amiel	Ed.	"		"
8	Anderson	Andreas	Carpenter		Land Fingel
9	Arnold	Thomas	Grazier		Land Hazelwood
10	Applegate	Paul	"		"
11	Applegate	Millican	"		"

## OUR LIBRARY

Thanks to  we now have a professional looking library with the help of a large compactus reformed into regular library shelving.



All the books were removed and Chris set about with the help of Orlando to put two separating boards on the wall to screw the shelves onto for security and to minimize mould forming.



Once the shelves were back then Susan and Peter Lendon put the books back in categories.




Thank you to all those who helped.



All finished, ready for the second round of tidying up the categories



 also donated a further large compactus which we have on the mezzanine floor. This has also been reformed to regular library shelving. Also donated are over 340 books in this library of historical Civil and Mechanical Engineering books used by the Power Industry.







## OPEN DAYS 2024

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

**Members' Gathering:** Every two months on the 3rd Wednesday - commencing 21st February 2024, then April, June, August, October, at 2pm (informal get-together and afternoon tea)

Please deliver me to:

If not delivered please return to 12 Hazelwood Road, Morwell 3840

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CWA Morwell Evening Branch

We sincerely thank Harriet Shing, Member for Eastern Victoria and staff for printing our Newsletter