

The Morwell Post

Morwell Historical Society

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



Morwell Bowling Club



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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 David McInnes 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
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 old Commonwealth Bank, corner of Commercial Road and Tarwin Street.

All photos, unless indicated, are from our archives

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The year is quickly coming to an end, and what a year it has been with all the activities going on in the Historical Society.

Our kitchen is complete, the carpet laid in the Hare Campbell room and the website upgrade in progress.

I am pleased to advise that the debt on our building is now down to \$40,000. We are nearly there!

We continue to have a number of individuals and groups visiting our building and donations of items continues to be at a high, the most recent being furniture items and shelving donated by ENGIE. The shelving will allow our library to be completed and updated in the new year.

We were recently successful in receiving a grant from Latrobe City Trust Community Gaming Support Fund of \$3150 for a 'Step Back in Time Conversation Cafe' to operate on our open days.

An application has been made for \$10,000 for Halo Halo Gippsland, a multicultural project offering placement at our society for multicultural locals.

The recent Plant Sale was a huge success, raising \$3,818.22. This event along with Bunnings BBQs and other events only happen with the support of our wonderful volunteer members. Thank you to all involved.

I thank everyone for their commitment to the Society over the year.

Alan McFarlane

President

SOME OBJECTS IN OUR COLLECTION

REED ORGAN

The pump organ is a type of free-reed organ that generates sound as air flows past a vibrating piece of thin metal in a frame. The piece of metal is called a reed.

Generously donated by Shirley Kuhlman,
6th September 2023



MORWELL BOWLING CLUB



In April 1913 the members of the proposed Morwell Bowling Club waited patiently for the arrival of a train from Melbourne. They had an appointment with the Victorian Railways Commissioners who were on their annual inspection of railway facilities in Gippsland. Sometime earlier a meeting had been held at which it was agreed to form a Bowling Club in Morwell but they needed land on which to lay out the greens and the railway land along Commercial Road was the ideal location. (skate park site 2023) The Alexandra Gardens had been opened in August 1904 on railway land so it seemed reasonable to extend the gardens by adding a bowling green. At their appointment with the Commissioners they intended to ask for sufficient land on which to build 4 rinks. Morwell was not the first club in Gippsland as Bairnsdale had started in 1901, Traralgon in 1907 and Boolarra also had a club.

Having received a positive response from the Commissioners, the men then arranged a public meeting on May 5th 1913, where they would formally establish the club and start work on the greens. At this time there were 41 men interested in becoming members. At this meeting held in Morwell Mechanics Hall, John Tatterson was elected President, Norman Gill Secretary and Charles Aherin, the bank manager of the Bank of Australasia, Treasurer, with the fees set at £2.2.0. The population of Morwell around this time was about 1,100 and the new club would be competing for members against the Golf Club which had been established in 1908.

The Morwell Bowling Club held its first game in 1914 and fortunately Morwell's Water supply from the weir on Billy's Creek had been turned on in 1913 so there was ample water to water the greens. A shelter, which was referred to as a pavilion, was built on one side of the greens and in 1936 a veranda was added.



When the Club season opened in October 1946 the new greens in Hazelwood Road were under construction and the old Club pavilion was moved in September 1948. The next day a giant working bee was organised to complete the move and members were asked to bring a spade, hammer or saw. A problem arose regarding what to do with the former green and after much discussion, a vote was taken and the old green was closed. On Saturday 9th October 1948 the season at the new greens was officially opened but the official opening of the greens did not occur until New Years Day 1949.



Ladies had always been a part of the club through catering, fundraising activities and had been able to participate on Ladies Days.

At the September 1947 AGM, a motion was moved by Mr. W. McRoberts, seconded by Mr. G. Smith, and carried, "That we agree to the formation of a Ladies Club providing the ladies take charge of the catering for Saturday's play – the profits to go to the Morwell Bowling Club".

On 9th October 1947 a meeting was called by Mr. Les Hare, President of the Club, who expressed the opinion that 'a good ladies club could be formed'. On the motion of Mrs W. McRoberts and seconded by Mrs. R. Watson, it was agreed that a Ladies Club be formed. Mrs. W. McRoberts was elected President and Mrs. J. Carmichael elected Secretary. The ladies could then play games in their own right. The Ladies Club kept its own accounts and regularly passed on funds to the Men's Club for the upkeep of the facilities. In September 1948, the Ladies Club agreed to affiliate with the Victorian Ladies Bowling Association.

FRONT COVER

Bowling Club Members

Back -Francis Horsfall, Keane Barry, Jim Brown, George Shaw, Tom Symons, Howard Rowell

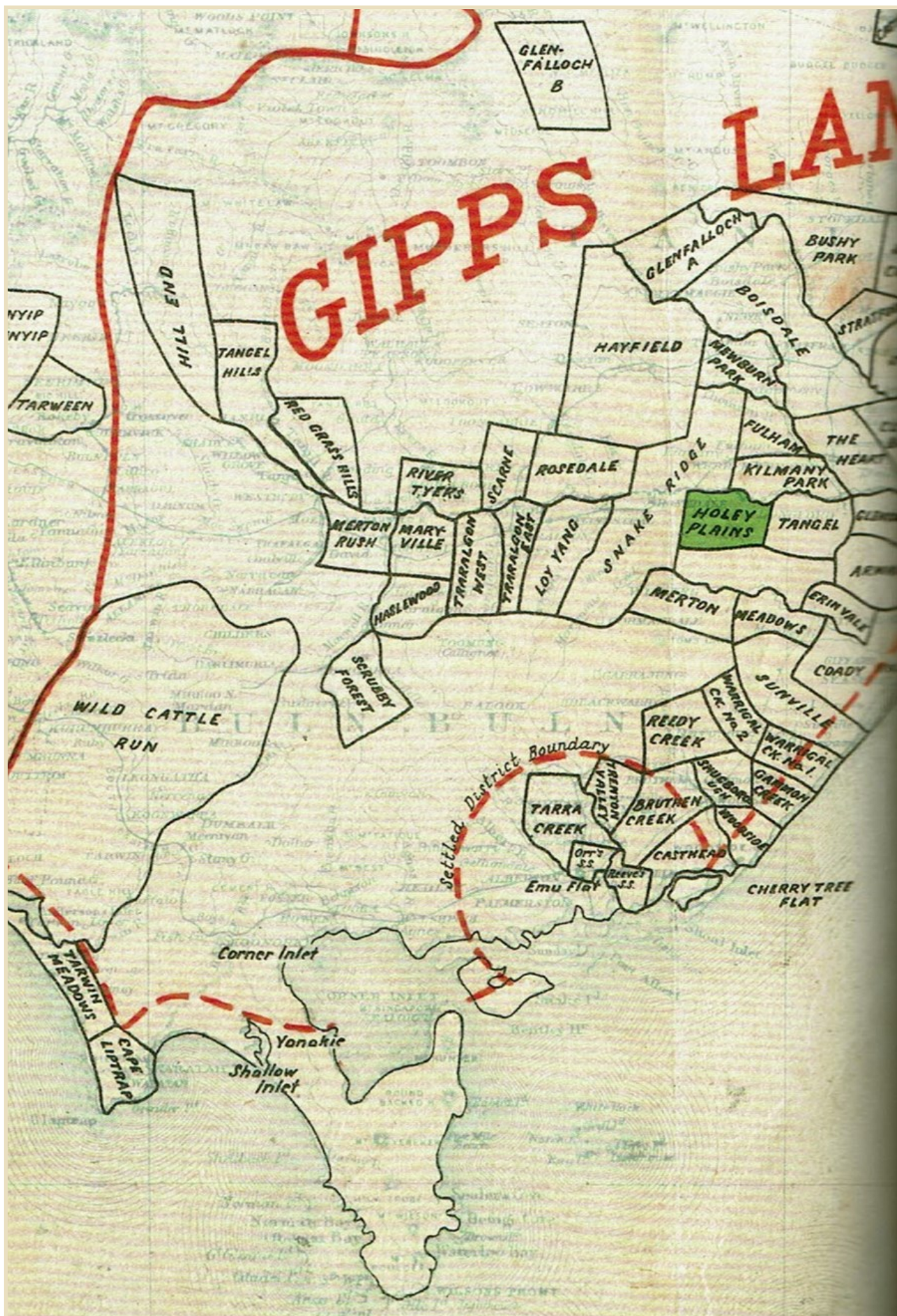
Front – Fred Firmin, Arthur Green, Percy Evans, Les Hare, Jack O'Donoghue, Jack Willis

Photo possibly taken before 1937 because Perce Evans left Morwell in 1937.

THE MORWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS GRATEFUL TO THE MORWELL BOWLING CLUB FOR FUNDING TOWARDS SEVERAL IMPROVEMENTS AT OUR BUILDING WHICH WAS PURCHASED IN 2015 WITH SHORT-TERM LOANS FROM A GROUP OF MEMBERS - A GREAT COMMUNITY ASSET.

Source-*Morwell Bowling Club - Recreation Centre 100 years of History 1913-2013* Prepared by Graham Goulding

THE CROOKE FAMILY OF HOLEY PLAINS



The Pastoral Holdings of Gippsland 1835-1851

In the 1840s the Crooke family took up a squatting run which they named “Holey Plains” because the land along the Latrobe River was literally full of crab holes but the rest of the land, 13,500 acres, was sandy. The property is on the Rosedale-Longford Road. It is about ten kilometres from Rosedale.

Edward Crooke arrived in Sydney in 1837 aged 27 to embark on a venture of raising livestock.

Aged 50, in 1860 Edward married Maria Jamison whose grand-father was a surgeon on the First Fleet. Maria was 24 years old and the marriage took place in Penrith, NSW. While Edward was away the property was managed by John Shiel. Apart from managing the livestock he was working on building the 2 storied homestead from bricks made on the site.

Edward and Maria



Richard and Thea Crooke in front



Richard and Thea Crooke 2022.

Their first child, Edward Jolley was born in 1861. The Crookes had 5 more children but Maria was never happy with “Holey Plains” so Edward rented “Rockley” in South Yarra and he spent his time between the two properties.

Edward died in 1873 and his widow Maria was left with 5 young children. Maria tried to buy “Rockley” but she couldn’t so she bought “Tivoli” in South Yarra. The children spent time between “Tivoli” and “Holey Plains” where they enjoyed riding the horses. When Edward Jolley turned 17 he took over the responsibility of “Holey Plains” and also assisted his mother at “Tivoli”. Maria died in 1897.

The Crooke family have been in continuous occupation of "Holey Plains" from almost the beginning of European settlement in the district. Today (2023) Richard and Thea Crooke own the property.

Source -*Success in Kangaroo Land - The Crooke Family of the “Holey Plains”* by Anne Andrew

MORWELL POST OFFICES

Once coaching services started from Melbourne in 1865 there was a daily service to Gippsland. The first mail that was delivered to the area came to an Inn at the crossing of the Morwell River (later Morwell Bridge). A man on a horse from each of the stations - Merton Rush, Maryvale, Scrubby Forest and Hazelwood would ride to the Inn to collect their mail from a mailbag that was hanging on a tree until the Post office was established in 1870.

In Morwell the first postal service was provided from the railway station soon after the arrival of the first train on the 1st June 1877. The official name of this Post Office was the Morwell Station Post Office. It was merely a branch of the Morwell Bridge Post Office.

The next site in 1880 was in C O Gilbert's Store in Commercial Road. The Post Mistresses in charge were –Mrs Mary Holland in 1880, Miss M Feeley in 1881, Alice Neville 1882 to 1884 and Miss Dean from 1884-1886. Site now (2023) Anglicare.



The next move was to the north-west corner of Tarwin and George Street. Miss Dean continued as Post Mistress and from 1887 to 1891 it was Miss Murray.

In 1892 a magnificent 2 story building was built on the south-east corner of Commercial Road and Tarwin Street. The architect made provision for a clock to be placed on the north gable of the Post Office but in 1934 there was still no clock. The Postal Department had been approached many times but in the end it was suggested that the townspeople contribute towards the clock. So the Old Scholars, who referred to themselves as "Old Boys" of the Morwell State School, organised to start a fund to pay for the clock and in February 1937 a sum of £34 was in the bank. All names of those who contributed were printed in The Advertiser. It did not take long for the required amount of £70 to be contributed.



On Friday 20 August 1937 at 2.30pm an unveiling of the illuminated electric clock took place. Mr Gerald Gilbert, an “Old Boy” and the first pupil teacher appointed preformed the unveiling and Will Gay, another “Old Boy” assisted him. Cr Ronald was in charge of the proceedings. The Union Jack covered the clock and Gerald Gilbert pulled a cord and unveiled the clock in front of a large crowd. So after 46 years with no clock the townspeople can now check the time by looking up at the gable of the Post Office. The occasion was celebrated by a reunion of Old Scholars and the public in the recently opened Town Hall in the evening with some dancing and items of harmony.

There was also a master clock downstairs in the Post Office which showed the same time as the main dial outside and it was constructed that in the event of electric power being cut off the master clock will carry on the good work and keeps the main clock on correct time.

In 1951 it was decided that Morwell needed a new Post Office so the mail boxes and private boxes were relocated to a new temporary building in Tarwin Street and a temporary mail room was erected at the rear of the present building. The top story was removed and the wall facing Commercial Road was taken back 20 feet from the footpath.

In 1952 work commenced on the new Post Office on the corner of Church Street and Princes Highway on land that once housed AJ Fosters Blacksmithing business.

Everyone wanted the clock to be placed on the new building but that did not happen and it is not known what happened to the clock.

The new Post Office was officially opened on 4th April 1955 by local federal Member Geoff Brown MP. There were several state parliamentarians and postal officials in attendance at the opening ceremony and Morwell Shire President Cr Vin Hourigan.

The only person the Society members recognise in this photo that was taken at the opening is Russ Billingsley, who is leaning on the counter next to the hat.

Since 1955 the Post Office interior has been refitted many times



New Post Office on the corner of Church Street and Princes Highway



In this photo, Society members recognise Mr. Russ Billingsley who is leaning on the counter next to the hat, Cr. Alf Ronald to the right of Russ Billingsley, possibly Roy Faulkner in the front row 2nd on the left in the light suit. If you recognise anyone, please contact a Society member with your suggestion.

Source -*Latrobe City Heritage Study* p 392

Morwell Advertiser 18 January 1934 p4, 19 August 1937 p3 , 26 August 1937 p3, 19 April 1951 p1, 7 April 1955 p6

FANTALES

Fantales were first produced in 1930 by Sweetacres when the Golden age of Hollywood had people flocking to the movies. Nestle was the sole distributing agent for Sweetacres throughout Australia. Today Nestlé own the Fantales brand, along with other Sweetacres products like Minties and Jaffas but strangely they are marketed under the Allens brand. Allens was originally a competitor to Sweetacres. The chewy caramels were wrapped with ‘fan tales’ of actors and musicians on its wrappers.

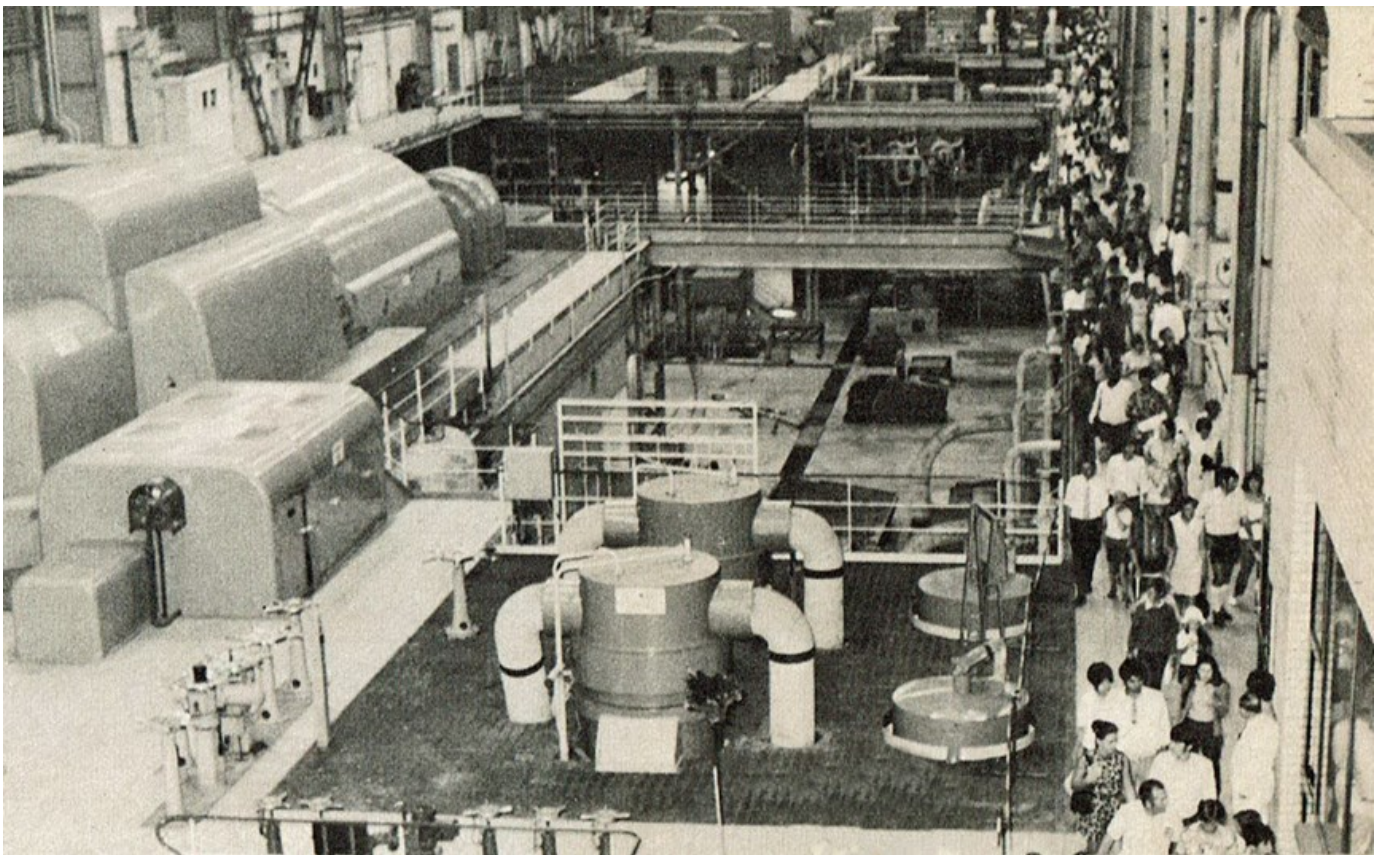
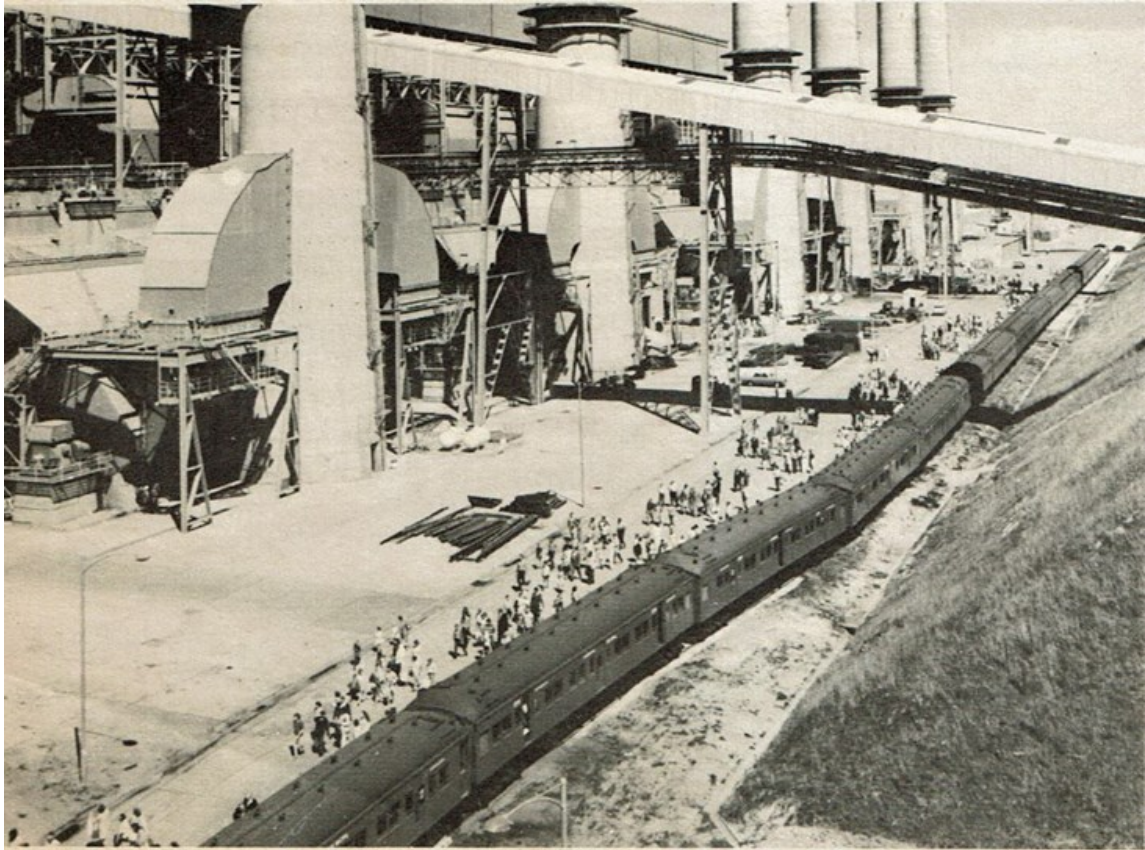
Fantales arrived shortly after the ‘talkies’. Commercial movies with sound arrived in Australia in 1928. Admission to the cinema increased by over 70% while admissions to every other amusement declined. In the 1930’s, movie stars like Humphrey Bogart, Clark Gable, Katharine Hepburn and Cary Grant captured the popular imagination. Sweetacres were on a winner.

Nestlé announced in June 2023 that they would stop producing Fantales due to declining sales.



HAZELWOOD POWER STATION FAMILY DAY MARCH 14th 1971

One thousand people arrive on the special 14 carriage train from Melbourne.



The inspection tours of the Power Station drew capacity crowds.

Source -*SEC News* March 25th 1971 page 6



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