

The Morwell Post

Morwell Historical Society

URL: www.morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au

Email: secretary@morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au

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



Reo Semi-trailer bus 1950s on the school run, colloquially called "the Cattle Truck"



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 " The Morwell Post " - \$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:	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

It is pleasing to see most of our members have renewed their subscriptions to the Society for the coming year.

Some of our members visited our Business Supporter, Club Astoria, the German Club for "Kaffee und Kuchen" in July and enjoyed the hospitality provided. *Bienenstich* and *Schwarzwälder Kirschtorte* being the specialities.

Visits to our centre appear to have increased on our Open Days and the Step Back in Time Conversation Cafe concept has worked well in creating an environment for discussion and sharing stories. Thanks to the members who have volunteered their time to assist.

A recent visit by the Morwell Masonic Lodge provided the opportunity for their members to return to their old home, witness the changes to the Lodge and view our Masonic Order holdings.

Our book sale continues. We also have plants and jams for sale, again thanks to some generous members.

With 6 months to go until our debt needs to be finalised, it is extremely pleasing to note that the effort to raise the near \$250,000 over the past 10 years has been amazing and the generous contributions made by members is greatly appreciated.

There is an array of exhibitions on display at present and I encourage members to pop in and have a look, a cuppa and a chat.

Stay warm,
Alan McFarlane

SOME OBJECTS IN OUR COLLECTION



TDC Vivid Model A-1 Slide Projector 1950s



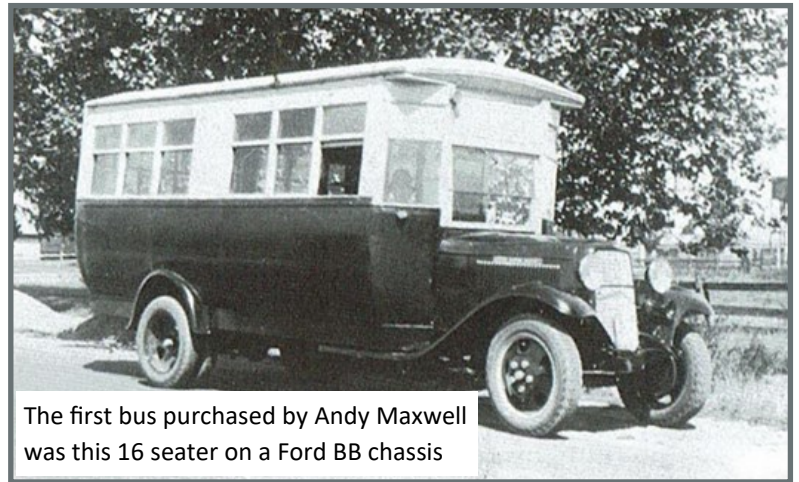
Hanimex Classmaster LVQ Overhead Projector 1950-1960s
Used before Microsoft PowerPoint for displays

THE PEOPLE MOVERS - LATROBE VALLEY BUS LINES

By 1922 there were approximately 35 'service cars' or taxi type vehicles operating in the Latrobe Valley. Prominent operators were Les Hare with 4 Model T Fords and later Oatland, Andy Maxwell with 2 Essex cars and a Hudson and Syd Williams with a couple of vehicles operating from Moe.

Mostly open Tourers, these vehicles could seat 6 people but frequently the load was closer to a dozen passengers, plus luggage, parcels and mail. The procedure on meeting a train in Morwell was to pick up as many passengers as were willing to be crammed in, then to tell the others to duck over to the pub and they will be picked up next.

As traffic built up, Andy Maxwell decided to put on a 16 seat Ford from Yallourn town and workers camps to the power station. At the same time, with a much improved road to Moe, he commenced a mail and passenger service with his Hudson car. In 1933 Maxwell found himself facing opposition from another operator, Bert Hardaker. Their business grew and by 1936 each owned 6 buses. It was at this stage that the relatively new Transport Regulation Board stepped in and at the Board's urging Maxwell bought out Hardaker and set the foundation for Yallourn Passenger Service which, for some years, was the dominant operator in the Latrobe Valley.



The first bus purchased by Andy Maxwell was this 16 seater on a Ford BB chassis

In the 1930s saw the establishment of the Australian Paper Mills plant at Maryvale. The transport requirements of workers on the big mill project led to establishing bus services from Morwell with Jim Catterick and in Traralgon with Bill (Pop) Ikin, first with service cars and later with buses. In 1943 Bill Ikin sold out to Traralgon Bus Lines and 5 years later, Morwell Bus Lines was formed to acquire the service operated by Jim Catterick, who at that time owned 5 buses.

In January 1949, the Traralgon and Morwell companies merged to form the Latrobe Valley Bus Lines bringing together a motley fleet of Reos, Oldsmobiles, Fords, a Morris, a Diamond T and a Federal. By 1973, when Latrobe Valley Bus Lines celebrated 25 years of operation, there were 66 Bedfords in the fleet, working mainly on industrial, school and track services and the company was moving towards a preference for diesel. It was looking at more powerful and larger capacity vehicles and had purchased 3 Leylands and 4 Linos for its Valley Tours operation.

Today, 2024, there is a staff of 120 and nearly 100 buses in the Latrobe Valley Bus Lines fleet. Most are Volvo Euro 6 standard buses which are low emission, reasonably quiet for a diesel vehicle and use up to 30% less fuel than a conventional diesel bus. There are 8 Volvo Hybrid Electric buses which are very quiet. One of these buses is part of the Government ZEB (Zero Emission Bus) trial. There are automatic high pressure washers on boom arms at each depot.





In 1943 Bill Ikin's fleet was a mixture of Oldsmobiles (2 at the right), Diamond T, Reo, Ford and other makes



LATROBE VALLEY FESTIVAL 1973
LATROBE VALLEY BUS LINES



Latrobe Valley Bus Lines buses at Yallourn Power Station terminal c1980 (colloquially called the "Bull Ring")



Latrobe Valley Bus Lines buses at Commercial Road Terminal c1980



Source -*The People Movers – A History of Victoria's Private Bus Industry 1910-1992* - John Maddock
-Thanks to Cody Roxburgh, LVBL General Manager for current information

MORWELL FOOTBALL CLUB'S PREMIERSHIP IN SEASON 1961



Morwell finished the 1960 season on top of the ladder but their year's success fell short in the Grand Final of that year. It was their traditional rivals Traralgon who beat them up to take out the Grand Final 9-10 to 8-8. It was a bitter pill for Morwell after a tremendous season under Les Sweet.

In 1961 Morwell set their sights on not only finishing on top of the ladder but to take the premiership. Morwell lost Frank Munro to rivals Traralgon at the start of 1961 and this was seen as a big betrayal by the Morwell fans.

Teams in 1961 were Yallourn, Maffra, Morwell, Bairnsdale, Trafalgar, Drouin, Moe, Sale, Traralgon, Warragul, Heyfield and Stratford. A 12 team competition which Morwell had to conquer. They didn't start too well being beaten by Bairnsdale in the opening match on Anzac Day (10-12 to 9-10), they then won the next five to boost their chances. In the seventh match they faced up to their old enemies Traralgon, and in those days it was standing room only as the fans from both towns flooded in to watch their heroes in action. Even for a 13 year old schoolboy (Laurie Williams) it was a great time to watch the stars of the day.

Traralgon got the better of Morwell with a 28 point victory. Eight more wins on the trot saw Morwell in second position but ninth team Drouin dented the Tigers pride beating them by 14 points, another loss to Traralgon the following week saw the Tigers slip further down the ladder to third. Miracles do happen in local football when top team Traralgon were beaten in the next two matches while Morwell won both to finish equal with Traralgon on the number of points.

The slide rule was brought out to work the percentage which Morwell topped Traralgon to finish on top. Morwell had all their guns firing in the second semi-final to beat Traralgon (10-9 to 9-7) by eight points. Traralgon defeated Moe in the preliminary final which saw the Grand Final rematch between Morwell and Traralgon. It was a time to take the car to the Yallourn Oval to park it on the fence on Friday night as Saturday would have been impossible due to the huge anticipated crowd. Living in Traralgon but being born in Morwell the problem arose, who to barrack for? Maroons or Tigers.

The Grand Final at Yallourn was a sell-out. Morwell went in as favourites especially after their semi-final win but it was Traralgon who set the pace with Brian Hammond, Frank Munro and Les Wright setting up the pace. Cars were leaving the ground in the last term as Traralgon had almost etched their name on the trophy. Morwell were behind going into the final term but steady pressure from coach Les Sweet and Bob Bridle saw the Tigers get within five points in extra time, Morwell's Brian Edwards will forever be lauded by Tiger fans as his long kick sailed through to give Morwell their first LVFL premiership beating their rivals Traralgon 10-13 to 9-14.

Celebrations by Morwell fans continued on Sunday and on Monday the team went on a "pub crawl" through the Latrobe Valley stopping off at Ryan's Hotel in Traralgon as guests (?) of the Traralgon Football Club. In the melee a few noses were bloodied but there were no serious injuries as both teams toasted the winners.

Laurie Williams

Commercial Road Primary School Grade 6 1950
Just 11 years later Brian was kicking the much needed winning goal for Morwell



Back: – John Ferguson, Ronald Hill, John Jell, Ken Dean, John Matheson, Noel Rodda, Doug Boulton, Les Thomas, ?Knight, Graeme Berrymore
2nd Back: – Neville Bond, ??, Marion Edmonson (father was the teacher), Glenys Leviston (Webster), Margaret McCarrick, ??, Coral Cowman, ?Margaret Ross, Stan Peachey, Bruce Robbins
3rd Back: – Joy Leach, Carol Rummey, Lynette Hardy, Avis Finlay (Pyle), Jill Hodgers, ??, Margaret Cleary, Jodie Foster, Kathleen Jenkins
4th Back: – Meryl Young, ??, Elaine Owen, Anne Winchester, Beryl Waite, ?? ??, Pat Rasmus, ??, Jane Robinson, Beryl Hatch
Front: – Murray Wigg, Davis Hewat, Don Brooker, Robert Hill, **Brian Edwards**, John Murray, Greg Snell, Terry Morris, Rick Payne

MORWELL FIRSTS FOOTBALL TEAM PREMIERS 1961



Back row: S. Martin, C. Edwards (Trainers), Peter Langley, Shane Junker, Peter Nelson, Dave Soutar, "Darby" Munro, Bill Wandin, Bob Bridle, Noel Langley, Jim Bickerton, Ray McBean, Brian Willaton, Barry Archbold, Keith Maughan, Bill Uhrhane (Sec.)

Front row: John Brereton, Harry Reeves, Les Sweet (Capt.), Laurie Wilson, Jack Walsh (Pres.), Brian Edwards, Frank Jewell, John Darling, Bob Nuske (Property Steward), Reg.owler (Trainer)

Best on the ground were Jim Bickerton, Laurie Wilson, Bob Bridle, John Brereton, Ray McBean, Shane Junker and John Darling

Source - Laurie Williams

-Morwell Football Club Centenary 1882-1982 Dr McLean Traralgon football historian

-Team photo - our files

-Class photo - Avis Pyle

MORWELL EAST SENIOR CITIZENS TURNS 40

When it was known that a new Senior Citizens Centre was to be built by the Shire of Morwell Council, beside Mitchell House, a steering committee consisting of Ann Draper (Council Social Welfare Officer), Joan Barfoot, (Council Home Help Supervisor) Cr Eddie Grinpukel and Cr Gloria Auchterlonie was formed to look into purchasing the furnishings for the new building.

On 1st May 1984 an afternoon function was held in the Ronald Reserve hall and 90 Senior Citizens joined the club. They worked hard to raise funds and donations came from Rotary, Apex and Lions Clubs.

In 1985 the Morwell East Seniors moved into the new centre in Vary Street and it was officially opened in March that year. A new committee was formed with Ray Pearce the President, Mrs D Deathe Vice President, Mrs R Barfoot Secretary, Mr F Barfoot Treasurer and 7 Committee members.

The choir that started 40 years ago is still active today and other groups have started and stopped but today there is a gentle exercise group, a craft group, and a social day once a month. Other groups that meet in the building are – Activity Centre run by Morwell Community Health Centre, Dutch Social Club, U3A Mah jong group, Men's Choir and a Sunday Church Group

At present there are 68 Members.



SALE CLOCK TOWER

In 1884 the Post Office and Clock Tower in Sale were completed but the Postal department began to haggle over the cost of illuminating the clock. In 1885 it was agreed that the borough council would pay the extra cost of illumination and also provide the bell. A bell weighing 850lbs was cast at Horwoods Foundry in Castlemaine at a cost of £64.

During the next 78 years, the clock was a landmark in Sale and it chimed in the new century. The most notable complaint came from Nellie Melba who appeared at Victoria Hall in 1904 and the next day declared that the Post Office clock kept her awake.

In the 1960s the town centre had grown away from Foster Street and the traders began to agitate for a new Post Office that was more centrally situated. In 1963 the Post Master General's Department constructed a new single story building in Cunningham Street. The old Post Office and Tower were demolished and the clock was removed and placed into storage.

After the post office closed Mr Arnup and a group of avid historians decided to construct a replica of the clock tower, and in 1988 to mark the nation's bicentenary the current Sale clock was opened.

A new tower was erected in Cunninghame Street and fitted with the clock, weather vane, balustrade and bell, but 6 meters less in height because the belfry was not included.

The clock tower is home to the original Thomas Gaunt clock from the post office and thanks to a group of dedicated clock winders, who wind it each week, locals witness a slice of history each day.

Mr Arnup has been winding the clock for four decades and is retiring due to the physical demands of the role.

"It's a straight climb of 65 feet and it's precarious ... so it's time to pull the pin and, so to speak, wind back," Mr Arnup said.

I have handed over the reins to a very capable clock winder by the name of Craig Hanson.

"He's a local guy and is very enthusiastic. Every time he sees the clock he makes sure it's up there being wound, which is really good."

Mr Arnup said the clock needs winding once a week so it's essential a local takes on the role.

"There aren't many hand-wound clocks in today's world."

Mr Hanson's history with the clock dates back to its inception. His uncle's father, Albey Freitag, coordinated the construction of the replica in 1988.

He said the clock was an iconic element of the Sale streetscape.

"It's been there for 40 years now and it's an icon."

Source: Gippsland Heritage Journal Vol 3 No 2 page 57

Various place on the internet

Photo of the clock tower - Boyd Thompson March 2023

The old Post Office on the N-W corner of Foster Street and Raymond Street, next to the Court House



Craig Hanson winds the clock



The clock tower at the cross roads of Raymond Street and Cunninghame Street



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

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Please deliver to:

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

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CWA Morwell Evening Branch

Morwell Neighbourhood House

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