

The Morwell Post

Morwell Historical Society

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



Morwell's first buggy, built by John Lowe, wheelwright, outside Jack Rintoull's blacksmith shop.

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Morwell Historical Society Directory 2025/2026

President:	Alan McFarlane Phone: 0448 430 394
Vice-President:	Shirley Prosser
Secretary:	Florence Butcher
Assistant Secretary:	Elaine Andrijczak
Treasurer:	Peter Butcher
Committee Members:	David McInnes 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 19th February 2025, 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: secretary@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

Some images may have been AI enhanced to improve clarity where photos were grainy, blurred, over- or underexposed.

OUT AND ABOUT WITH THE SOCIETY

PRESIDENT

1. Attended the opening of the New SEC Office in Commercial Road which had been attended by the Minister and the Mayor of the Latrobe City Council and a lot of other people. The office is well worth a look and donations made by the Society are on display. The Chairman in his address complimented and acknowledged the contribution made by the Society.

Alan had since spoken to Oscar Machen, an employee of the New SEC Office, who is keen to have an association with the Society in the future.

2. Attended the Remembrance Day Ceremony in November last year and laid a wreath on behalf of the Society. (indoors due to inclement weather)

3. Attended the Community Training Session on Governance organized by Volunteering Gippsland at Latrobe City Headquarters.

4. We hosted a wonderful group of ex Morwell High School students. They enjoyed our hospitality whilst reminiscing, sharing photos with us and catching up with school friends.

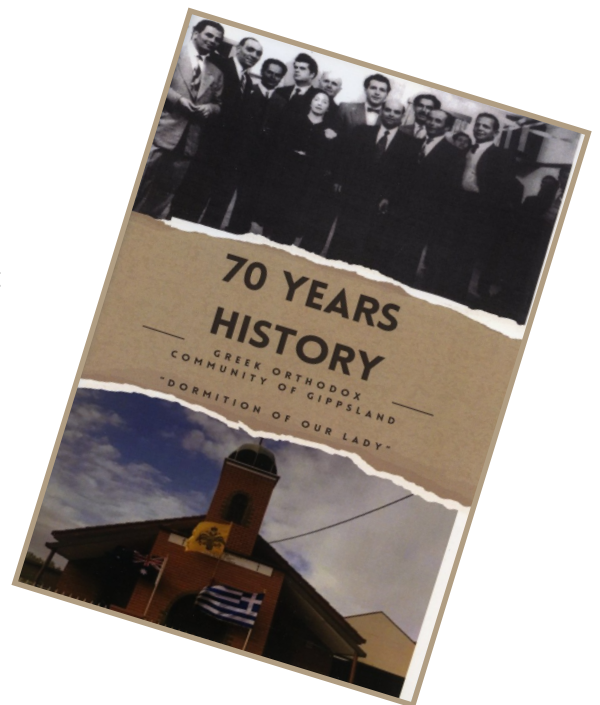
5. Attended the Bunnings Christmas event on 4th December, with Orlando.

6. Attended the successful Christmas Lunch with members at the Morwell Bowling Club on 10th December 2025.

Peter and Florence attended the launch of the book, *"70 Years History, Greek Orthodox Community of Gippsland - Dormition of Our Lady"* at the Greek Church in Morwell. We were generously donated a copy of the book.

Best wishes

Alan



SOME OBJECTS IN OUR COLLECTION

Two tiered wooden pencil case and pencils owned by Bert James BOARDMAN 1892-1973 photographer and farmer of Jeeralang.

Note he stamped his name on the inside of the lid.



MORWELL ANNUAL HORSE PARADE 1898

The Annual Horse Parade in 1898 was well patronised. John Rintoull, the promoter, was busy all morning collecting subscriptions. At 12 o'clock sharp the horses gathered at Halls on the south-west corner of Commercial Road and Tarwin Street. At 20 past 12 the horses were lined up in the middle of Commercial Road before the judges Keogh and Neilson.

The draught horses were:

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| The Admirable | - a dark 7 year old bay horse that was 17 ½ hands high and formerly owned by Mr Murray but now owned by Mr Curran of Traralgon. |
| Earl of Fife | - a massive horse, imported from New Zealand standing 17 hands high and owned by Mr D Clyne. |
| Jock of Albyn | - a young dark bay horse standing 16 hands high. His owner Mr Cochrane is leaving the district and on his side was a card saying "for private sale". |
| Farmers Favourite | - a four year old nuggety, dappled bay horse with black points owned by Mr Fletcher of Willow Grove. |
| Reality | - an imported horse of 15 hands high. He was recently purchased by Mr Bond of Yinnar from Mr Bosse. |

The judges awarded The Admirable 1st and Earl of Fife 2nd.

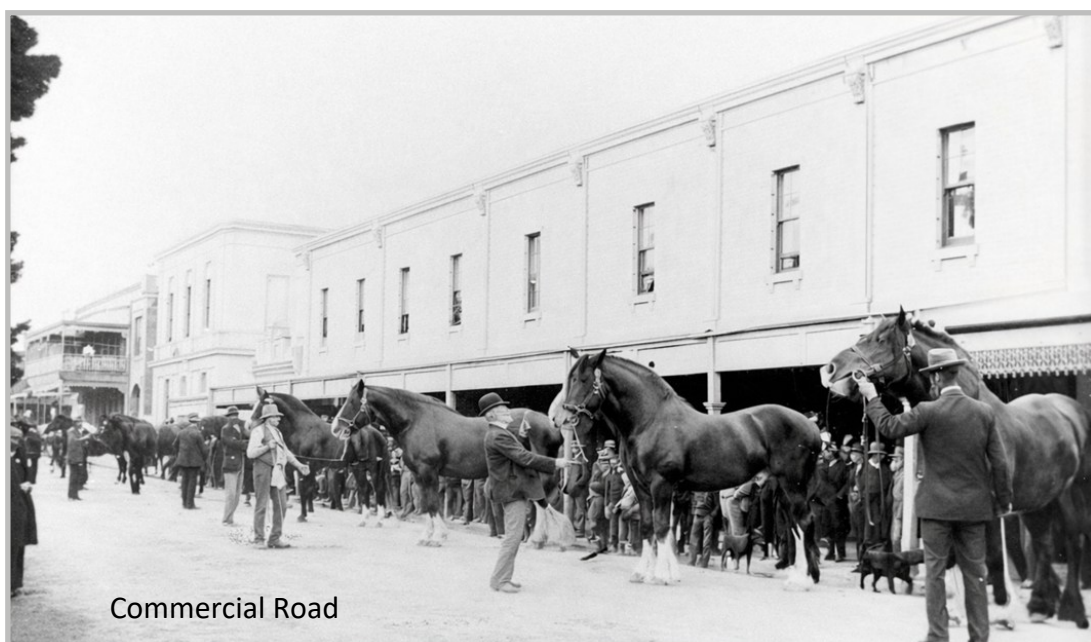
The bloods were:

- | | |
|----------|--|
| Pickwick | - a dark blood horse standing 16 hands high. Pickwick is booked out for the season which disappointed many horse owners. |
| The Don | - a dark brown thoroughbred horse from Upper Maffra standing 16 hands high. |
| Cupid | - a grey horse with dark points owned by Mr W Bolger of Yinnar. |
| Argonaut | - a grey horse that stands 16.2 hands high that was owned by Mr Curran of Traralgon. |
- Pickwick did not compete and the judges awarded Argonaut 1st and Cupid 2nd.

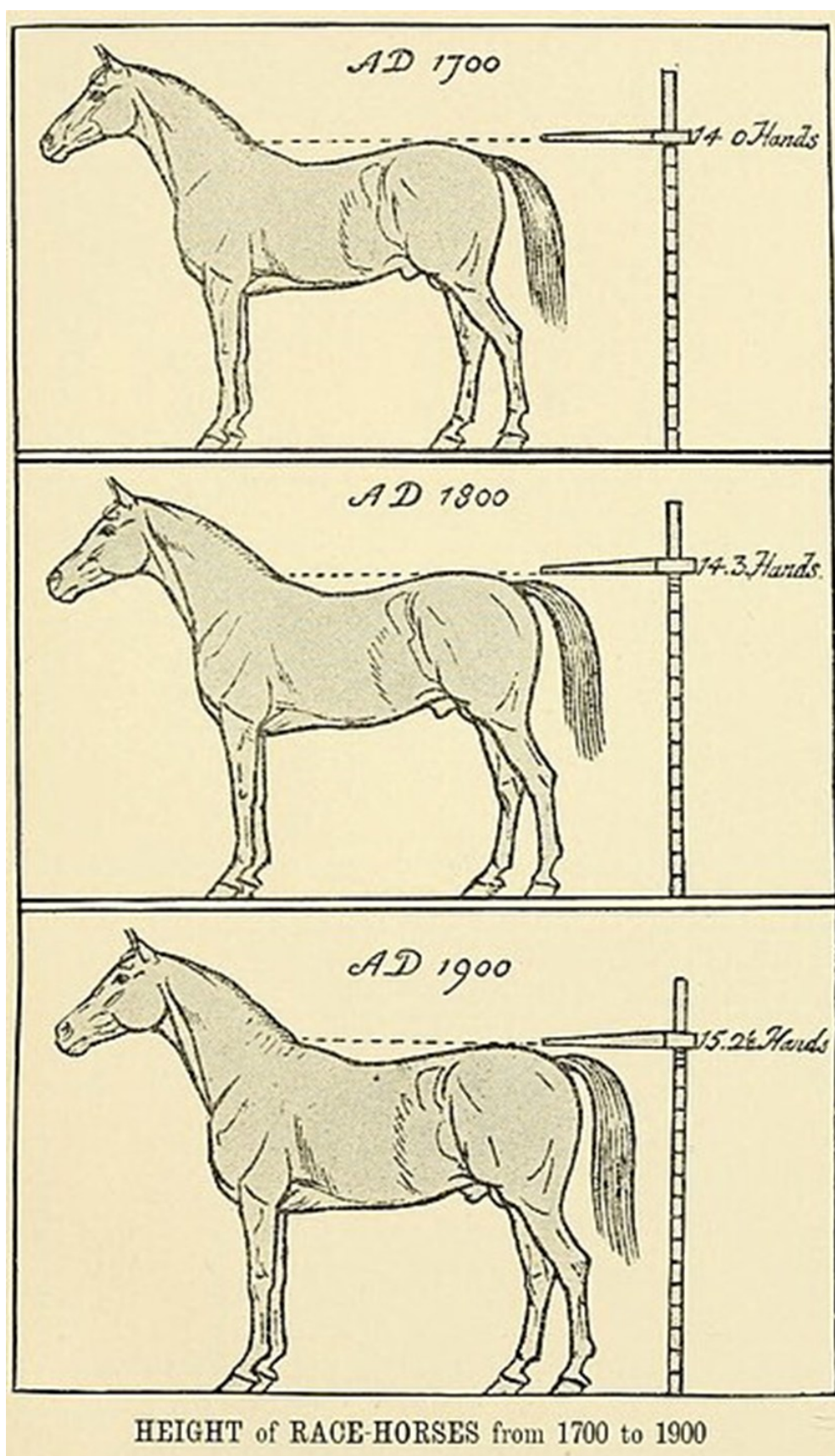
The ponies were:

- | | |
|--------------|------------------------------|
| Master Dandy | - owned by Mr Curran |
| Timmy | - owned by Mr Bond of Yinnar |

The judges awarded Master Dandy 1st.



The measurement 'hand' in relation to horse height has been used for over 1,000 years. The average horse height stands between 14 and 17 hands high and is measured from the ground to the highest point on their withers which lies just behind their neck. One hand equals 4 inches. (10 cm)



Source Morwell Advertiser -16 September 1898, page 3

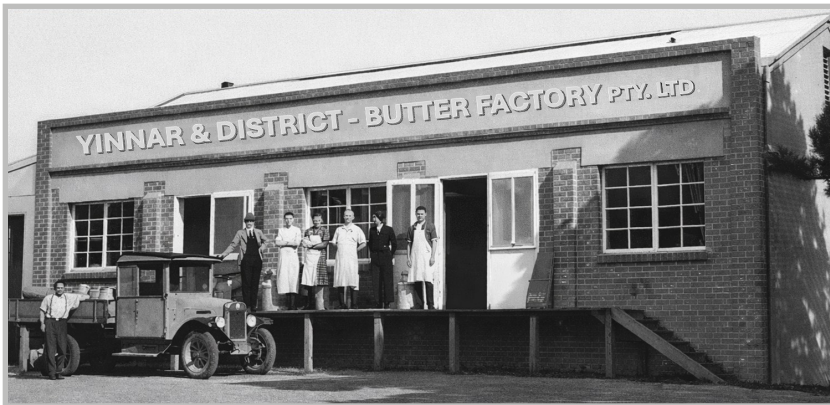
EDWIN WALTER KEAT 1883-1975

KEAT COURT

Off Symons Crecent there is a small Court named Keat Court.

Edwin Walter (Ted) Keat was a Morwell Councillor 1935-1936 in the Yinnar Riding but he is better known as a manager of butter factories. Ted had managed butter factories at Gundowring (Kiewa Valley), Springhurst, Archies Creek and Rochester before he came to Yinnar. While he was at Archies Creek he and Margaret had two sons Mervyn and Lindsay.

Yinnar Butter Factory was established in 1929 and in 1931 the management was taken over by Ted Keat who joined the partnership, which then became known as Stephenson, Morley and Keat Pty Ltd. Ted Keat's two sons Mervyn and Lindsay, also joined the factory staff.



In 1936 a dispute arose and Ted Keat severed his connections with the Yinnar Butter Factory and the family moved to Buchan to establish a Butter Factory that had closed in 1911.

In the 1950s Ted and Margaret returned to Morwell and had a small house built at 55 Elgin Street. Lindsay was married to Connie Payne and they were living in Donald Street in Morwell. Mervyn who was separated from his wife came to Morwell to live with his parents. When the parents died, Ted in 1975 and Margaret in 1977, Lindsay and Connie moved from Donald Street to the Elgin Street house.



In 1985 Coles bought the Keat house at 55 Elgin Street and 3 other neighbouring houses and extended their store and car park.

Note Coles New World Supermarket in the background



Keats house being moved

Source – Connie Keat - *Against All Odds*

The Butter Factory photo came from a plaque on the Butter Factory site.

Elgin Street house photos from our files

Church Street Shopping.

FIVE MODERN SHOPS COMPLETED

MR. K. Rice, of the Latrobe Joinery Works, Morwell, announced on Tuesday that seven weeks and three days from the turning of the first sod he will hand over to the five incoming tenants the block of modern shops in Church St.

Mr. Rice agreed that some of the work was carried out at week-end but pointed out that time was lost through wet conditions in the early stages.

The shops were built to the plans and specifications of the owner, Mr. Eric Gude, and a severe penalty clause was written into the contract as a possible deterrent to undue delay.

The five shops, situated immediately north of the modern shop construction of Watson-Cobb and Latrobe Meat Supply, have a frontage of 108 ft. to Buckley St. and a uniform depth of 43 ft. to an easement at the back.

The construction is of cream Traralgon bricks, with a high parapet front wall, which carries a full length cantilever verandah. The inside treatment is a sand finish.

All shops are fitted with plate glass windows, set back at the bottom from the building line and framed with stainless steel frames.

The internal lighting is liberally supplied by fluorescent tubes, set close to the ceiling. This work was carried out by Mr. Carter, of the Latrobe Joinery Works.

As we go to press, round the clock efforts are being made by the tenants to be ready for the combined opening early next week.

The types of businesses contemplated by the tenants are: Self service grocery (R. Faulkner); shoe store (Unthank & Gude); Morwell Fruit Supply; Golden Fountain Soda Bar and Grill Room; "Lawree" Home-made Cakes.

CHURCH STREET 1953

In December 1953 Eric Gude had 5 shops built on the west side of Church Street. They were built by Rice of Latrobe Joinery in Latrobe Road. Wally Henrikson opened a cake shop on the corner of Church and Buckley Street (recently the Powerhouse Donut Shop). Wally was married to Joyce Watson and they had 2 children – Maree and Lawrence and he called his shop Lawree Cake Shop, a composite word of his 2 children's names.

Roy Faulkner opened Morwell's first self-service grocers shop called Faulkner Self Service. Roy was married to Elva Watson. Stan Gude's son Graham and Frank Unthank opened a Shoe Shop. Eric Gude's sister and brother in law opened Morwell Fruit Supply and Peter Nanio opened the Golden Fountain Soda Bar and Grill Room. Stan and Eric Gude were brothers and Stan later owned Gude's Arcade. Stan married Ruby Watson, the sister of Joyce and Elva.

The sixth shop from the corner was Latrobe Meat Supply with Bert Budge, Alf Welsh and Geoff Murton. Next door was Watson and Cobb owned by James Watson and Keith Cobb.

On the east side of Church Street there were houses.

WHY NOT GIVE US A TRY?

OPENING NEXT MONDAY
(DECEMBER 21st)

MORWELL'S MOST MODERN SHOPPING CENTRE
CHURCH STREET

It's NEW! It's BETTER! It's BRIGHTER!

★ SAVE TIME AND MONEY... By Serving Yourself at — FAULKNER'S SELF-SERVICE Where Only the Best in Groceries are Stocked. ● NUMEROUS SPECIALS ● ★ Free Gift for all Purchases over £1. ★ GARDENERS... Inspect our well stocked Nursery Bar. OFFICIAL BARNETTS provided for Customers to select their goods. Delivery, if desired, by Taxi Truck.	<i>"Lawree"</i> FOR QUALITY IN HOME-MADE CAKES and PASTRY ☆ All Baking by Experienced Dutch Pastry Cook USING NEW MODERN ELECTRIC OVENS CUSTOMERS GIVEN OUR PERSONAL ATTENTION ☆ Fresh Local Bread Sold Daily ☆
"BIGGER and BRIGHTER" Morwell Fruit Supply By Good Luck! Freshness For Customers and BUYERS Attention With their New Refrigerated Cool Room to give you... FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLES DAILY ● REMEMBER... FOR QUALITY AND SERVICE ● — MORWELL FRUIT SUPPLY —	Golden Fountain Soda Bar & Grill Room ☆ THE ULTIMATE IN REFRESHMENTS ☆ Morning and Afternoon Teas a Specialty. SNACKS AND SUPPERS AT ALL HOURS DRINKS — SWEETS — SUNDAES Sennitt's Ice Cream Under the direction of JOHN HENRY
Unthank & Gude FOOTWEAR SPECIALISTS ● Specialising in Children's Multiple Fittings ● Large Range of Men's and Women's Footwear Inspection invited at our Modern Store.	Watson - Cobb FOR... KELVINATOR BRAEMAR ★ ● and all other quality Merchandise

Latrobe Meat Supply
. . . For Meat That's a Treat

Note the "Lawree" advertisement:
"All Baking by Experienced Dutch Pastry Cook"

WILLEM FERDINAND (BILL) TAALMAN 1920-2012



Willem Ferdinand (Bill) Taalman was born in 1920 in Hulst, a town of 17,000 in Southern Holland near the Belgian border. After leaving school Bill became an apprentice pastry cook. The German occupation in 1940 made life very hard. On one occasion he was forced to work for the Germans repairing dykes. Air raids were a regular occurrence and there was great rejoicing when the allies liberated Hulst. It was one of the first areas in Holland to be free.



After the war Bill continued to work as a pastry cook apprentice. In 1946 he was called up to the Dutch army and the following year he was sent to what was then Netherlands East Indies (now Indonesia), in an attempt to restore Dutch control over their huge Asian Empire. He served in Sumatra first as a despatch rider then as a driver for the Colonel of his unit.

In 1950 the Dutch abandoned the attempt to regain their empire and the army was withdrawn. Back in Holland Bill resumed his trade but decided to immigrate to Australia. He came to the Latrobe Valley in 1952 and found work in Yallourn. In 1953 he came to Morwell to work in Wally Hendrikson's cake shop called "Lawree". This shop was at 37 Church Street and was on the corner of Church and Buckley Street. Bill bought this shop in 1956 and sold it in 1985.

Bill's wife Leonia Maria (Lea) came to Australia in 1953 and they were married by Father Daly in Yallourn. They had 2 children Edwin and Jenny.

Bill died in 2012, Jenny died in 2015 and Lea died in 2021. They are buried together in the Gippsland Memorial Park Traralgon -Plot L8-K004.



Adrian and Fiona Niero opened *The Powerhouse Donuts* in November 2020 and closed in 2024

In 1991 Mercers had the Cake Shop then in 1993 *Cakes and Crusts* occupied the corner. The next shop was called *Pieces of Cake* and then in 2013 *Belson Café and Bakery*



Source –~~Morwell Advertiser~~ Advertisement -Thursday 12 November 1953 page 1

-Taalman article written by Keith Brownbill for Rotary

-Church Street information from Lynette French and Jim Morris

WILLIAM SEDLEY BENN 1862-1937

Irish born WILLIAM SEDLEY BENN kept a diary from when he was 20 until his death. The following are 2 entries regarding his marriage to Gertrude Mary Davies in 1894.

Thursday 8th February 1894

Got up early and caught my horse and Gertie's pony and left mothers and rode down about 4 o'clock in the morning and Gertie and I rode to Morwell to get married. There were a number of others who came as far as Boolarra and took the train from there being Mrs Davies, Mrs Denney, Kate Benn and Percy and Fred Davies. After Gertie and I arrived in Morwell about half past 10 o'clock I did a few little things to get ready and at 2 o'clock we were ready and at the time appointed we were at the Church of England, Morwell and we were happily united by Archdeacon Langley in the holy bands of marriage. We both get along fine and neither of us were in the least nervous. After the marriage we all went up to dinner at Kelleher's Hotel where I ordered dinner and we all enjoyed ourselves very much and toasts were drank in wine to our health and happiness by those present, Sydney Perrins and Mr Gamble reader in the Church of England. I was greatly pleased with the whole affair which passed off most satisfactory. I never saw Gertie look so nice as she did, her attire was simple but very nice and sensible and I am more pleased than ever with her, before we went to the church Gertie and I went into a room and we both knelt down and prayed together to be guided and left ourselves in his hands. After tea Gertie and I took the train to Traralgon and stayed the first night of our married life in the Grand Junction Hotel. We were very happy.

Friday 9th February 1894

Got up and walked around Traralgon and the reserve. After dinner we took the train to Morwell and arrived safely and then got ready and I got the horses and we rode down to Dumbalk which is from Morwell about 30 miles. It was very late when we arrived home about half past eleven o'clock. We were both completely knocked up and very tired after all our riding etc and we were both most glad to be at last home. We have a chapter every night and prayers before we go to bed. God has been very good to us so far in our lives and we trust him for a bright future.

William and Gertie had 11 children

-Lillian 1895, Leslie 1896, Ivan 1897, Vera 1899, Doris 1901, Constance 1903, Arnold 1904, Norma 1908, Leonard 1909, Raymond 1911, Winifred 1912



The Benns home
"Riversleigh" in Dumbalk
North in 1894
William and Gertie can be
seen in the lower left hand
corner.

Around 1922, William leased the farm, they then moved to Maryborough and he was an insurance inspector until he retired. Gradually parts of the farm were sold. The last portion remained with the family until about 2014.



Back row: Lillian, Arnold, Leonard, Leslie, Norma, Raymond and Winifred

Front row: Constance, Vera, Gertrude, William, Doris and Ivan

In 1937 William and Gertie went for a holiday in Stradbroke with their daughter Vera and her husband Frederick Bradley. William got a chill which developed into pneumonia and he died in St Helen's Private Hospital in Sale. When the family gathered together for the above photo in 1936 they did not realise that William would die the following year.

Gertie was lost without William and often went to stay with one of her children for a holiday. In 1955 she was with Vera in Stradbroke when she died. Gertie had continued writing in Williams' diary till the day she died.

The Society thanks Betty Woolley for the above information and photos. William and Gertie are her maternal grandparents and Norma is her mother who married Stan Winchester in St Mary's Church in Morwell in 1935. They were married by her mother's brother Leslie who was St Mary's Rector from 1928-1935.

Source -Morwell Advertiser Thursday 22 July 1937 p9

-Morwell Advertiser Thursday * August 1935 p9



OPEN DAYS 2026

4th February || 18th February || 22nd February
 4th March || 18th March; AGM || 29th March
 1st April || 15th April || 26th April
 6th May || 20th May || 31st May
 3rd June || 17th June || 28th June
 1st July || 15th July || 26th July
 5th August || 19th August || 30th August
 2nd September || 16th September || 27th September
 7th October || 21st October || 25th October
 4th November || 18th November || 29th November

Members' Gathering: Every two months on the 3rd Wednesday - commencing 18th February 2026, 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