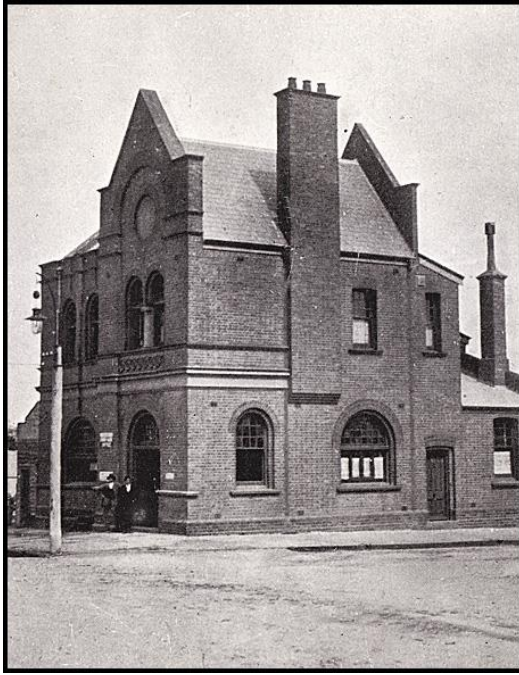


# Morwell Historical Society Inc.



Morwell Post Office – circa 1915

Morwell Historical Society –  
[www.morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au](http://www.morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au)

Written correspondence – The Secretary; 12  
Hazelwood Road, Morwell 3840

## *THE MORWELL POST*

*April 2017*

Vol 36, Number 2

Hazelwood Power Station control room as we remember it.



## Morwell Historical Society Directory 2017

President:	Bruce McMaster Phone: 5134 1149 – 0428 528 464
Vice-President:	John Willis
Secretary:	Florence Butcher
Assistant Secretary:	Elaine Andrijczak
Membership Secretary:	Shirley Prosser
Email:	<a href="mailto:secretary@morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au">secretary@morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au</a>
Treasurer:	Carolyn Schopp
Publicity Officer:	Kellie Bertrand
Archivist;	Bruce McMaster
Assistant Archivist & Volunteer Co-ordr:	Fay Thompson
Committee Members:	Kellie Bertrand Rosalie Davey Shirley Prosser
URL:	<a href="http://www.morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au">www.morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au</a>
Web Manager:	Florence Butcher
Research Library:	12 Hazelwood Road, Morwell, Victoria 3840
Research Queries:	<a href="mailto:research@morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au">research@morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au</a>
Postal Address:	12 Hazelwood Road, Morwell, Victoria 3840
Public Access:	1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday and last Sunday of each month, 11.00 a.m. – 2.00 p.m. Not open - December & January
General meetings	Third Wednesday each month – 2.00 pm – except December and January)
Annual General Meeting:	3rd Wednesday of March each year
Membership Fees:	Due 1 <sup>st</sup> July each year Ordinary Member \$25.00 Family \$30.00 (two persons at same address) <b>For a hard copy of <i>Morwell Post</i> - \$5.00 extra p.a</b>
“ <i>The Morwell Post</i> ” Editor:	Leo Billington – email: <a href="mailto:billington@net-tech.com.au">billington@net-tech.com.au</a>
Research Fees:	\$10.00 per hour or part thereof, and prices for photo prints on application and postage where applicable.



**Pictured – the business location for Mr Lewis Samuel. It's in Commercial Road either near or at the Hazelwood Road corner. I was fortunate to meet a member of the Samuel family earlier this month, Mr Brian Harwood who visited the Hazelwood Cemetery as part of his research into a family history. Brian believes this picture is circa 1887.**

### **LEWIS SAMUEL**

**SAMUEL - On the 14th March, at Morwell, Lewis, beloved husband of Elizabeth Samuel, aged fifty-two. In firm hope of a glorious resurrection. *Weekly Times* – 22 March 1890**

**Samuel.— On the 14th March, at Morwell, Lewis, beloved husband of Elizabeth Samuel, aged 52, leaving a sorrowing wife and family. - *Leader Melbourne* 22 March 1890**

'Continuing along Commercial Road was a vacant block of land owned by John Kelleher, a brother of Edmund Kelleher, which was in later years purchased by Angus McDonald. Then came Lewis Samuels' bakery, later owned by McDonald and Hone, Bakers and General Storekeepers. Lower down the street was John English's store, which later became Cavanagh and, Harris. Attached to this, was a shop, where E. Rowell tailored the suits for all and sundry.' From "Harking Back", written by Lew Vary and published in the *Morwell Advertiser*, September 17, 1942.

## ***WHO REMEMBERS THE INFAMOUS CORNER SHOPS?***

**In the February 2017 newsletter, information was provided about some of our former corner shops - The Phyllis Street shop, Mahony's shop in Jane Street, a once "modern shop opened in Hopetoun Avenue" and two former milk bar/corner shops (photographs were provided).**

**Since then, more material has arrived with me. I find this most gratifying since exchange of relevant information is what is supposed to happen from newsletters.**

**The two photographs shown in the February newsletter depicted Kohler's shop in Avondale Crescent, Morwell – see page 15, top picture depicting a fence across the front windows. My family once called this handy shop "the little shop". When I photographed the location, the new owner had been granted Latrobe City approval to create "accommodation units" within the building. I find this planning decision reprehensible as it only serves to make Morwell a third rate town.**

**The other (bottom) photograph on page 15 is at the corner/intersection of Booth and Comans Streets. Again, this shop is basically a private home.**

**Betty Woolley and Joy Blakely provided invaluable information about the Phyllis Street shop.**

**Since February, there has been more information. Firstly, from Betty Woolley.**

**Hello Leo,**

**I have been in contact with my friend regarding the Milk bar in Phyllis Street, info as follows: -**

**Pre-1957, my friend and family lived on the Princes Highway next door to Car Sales business on the corner of the Highway and Jane Street. At that time Mrs Alice Sykes conducted a small Milk Bar/ Shop at the rear of her house on the corner of Helen & Jane street, very near back to back with my friend's family. My friend remembered buying "Ice-Blocks" from Mrs Sykes. This may have been before Mahoney's shop was operating on the corner of Mary & Jane Street.**

**Circa 1957/58 my friend's family moved to live at 3 Phyllis Street and the shop next door was under construction, but the builder was unable to complete the work. Mrs Sykes bought the shop and adjoining 1 bed room flat and set up her business there.**

**Mrs Sykes had possibly 5 sons? Geoff married Val, Ian married Mardi, Allan married a lady who did relief primary school teaching, (all lived locally) and there were probably two other sons who lived elsewhere.**

**Mrs Sykes and her family worked in the shop and provided the local community with all Milk Bar line products. It is possible that Ice Blocks were still made and sold until the event of commercially produced icy poles came on the market. There would be large tins of a wide variety of loose biscuits which could be bought according to the weight (in a paper bag) which you wanted to purchase.**

**Any broken biscuits were sold at a very cheap rate for a few pence. (I recall that Leighton's Milk Bar on the corner of Jill Street and Hopetoun Avenue would sell a good size bag of broken biscuits for sixpence in the 1950's) There were cold sliced meats, groceries, bread, milk and similar. And of course, there was a huge variety of loose lollies to make a choice from.**

**The Sykes conducted the shop and let the flat to various tenants for a number of years. Neighbours from across the road, on the corner, named Kerr took over the business for a short time and Mrs Sykes lived in their house. It is possible she purchased the house.**

**The Sykes ownership continued for some time and other tenants conducted the Milk Bar until the Marino family bought the property, and then various tenants conducted business there for approximately 2 -3 year stints. Working as a 7 day a week business, the shop took a great deal of time.**

**Names of some tenants over the years were - Weatherly, Roy, Clissold, Arnold and Philomena? Pat and Tony Coulthard were the last people to run the Milk Bar.**

**Over the years, business changed with the advent of supermarkets and fast food outlets. In the latter years, hot 'Take Away' foods were introduced, (and even deliveries of same) to attract more customers, but eventually circa 2005, the Coulthards decided to sell off the fittings and close the shop. They had tried very hard to attract new owners without any success. The Marino family still owned the property and sold to owners who live in Western Australia, and to date they still own the premises.**

**Since that time the buildings have been rented out for private accommodation. The shop area variously used as a games room, bed room or artist's studio. There are 3 bedrooms in the house section and the one bedroom flat adjoining.**

**There was a telephone box outside the shop which was very handy for local people without a telephone at home, and a PMG postal box. The telephone box was in constant use, but as the years passed vandalism damage caused the box to be removed and there is no longer a postal box either.**



## **New Director for the Centre for Gippsland Studies appointed**

I wrote in our February 2017 newsletter that the full text of the announcement was in our last newsletter in December 2016. I also asked will we see another attempt at industrial tourism with a dose of history? The public awaits with scepticism. Since February, I have seen two news articles in the L V Express regarding comments about industrial tourism, one of these items criticised a silly idea about turning the former Morwell Power Station into a tourism attraction. I have not seen any initiatives from the Centre for Gippsland Studies!

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**Back to the interesting stuff. I recalled a milk bar in Hazelwood Road, immediately south of the former Town Hall (now the art gallery), located about today's site of the Police HQ. I asked around my contacts but alas, I was told I was dreaming.**

**But Betty Woolley believed otherwise:**

**Hello Leo,**

**No, you are not dreaming! I have given some thought to the milk bar in Hazelwood Road and I do remember going there several times, especially when attending some event at the Town Hall. At an interval, it was only a short walk to buy a drink or snacks, particularly if the Town Hall kiosk didn't have much on offer, or was closed.**

**I am sure this was the very first place I ever saw a juke box, it seemed so 'cool'!**

**There were often young 'New Australian' men at the Milk bar - perhaps this was a meeting place for those boarding nearby or at the Wallace Street Hostel? Various rumours said that there was gambling (the fellows probably played cards) conducted in a back room and some suggestion that 'friendly women' were available in another back room? Small town suspicion and talk?? I don't know! Thanks Betty – your memory is as superior as mine.**

### **Morwell Historical Society has the following books for sale:**

- |  |         |
|--|---------|
| - Streets and Place Names of Churchill                     | \$20    |
| - <i>Morwell: Past to Present</i> DVD                      | \$25    |
| - Glimpses of Morwell                                      | \$20    |
| - Jaberanda and Co. Living in the 20 <sup>th</sup> Century | \$20    |
| - Across the Old Bush Track                                | \$29.95 |
| - Morwell to Mirboo North Railway                          | \$15    |
| - Steamhorse to Power by Prue McGoldrick (1979)            | \$8     |
| - Changing Landscapes; [Settlement at Driffield]           | \$15    |
| - "Yallourn Was..."  | \$20    |
| - Souvenir History of Morwell by I.T. Maddern              | \$5     |

A vintage advertisement for Columbines caramels. At the top, a group of four people are in a red and green vintage car, singing into microphones. Above them, musical notes and the lyrics "Genevieve Oh, Columbines Good Columbines. Your flavour is so del-ic-i-ous. Of all the others none compare With Columbines. Good Columbines" are written. Below the car, the text "Anytime for COLUMBINES" is displayed in large, colorful letters. A large, tilted box of "COLUMBINE CARAMELS" dominates the center, with the box name repeated in different colors. The box is decorated with illustrations of people in various poses. In the foreground, two unwrapped caramels, one gold and one blue, are shown. To the right of the box, a block of text describes the product's qualities. At the bottom right, the "MacRobertson" logo is featured in a red box, with the tagline "THE GREAT NAME IN CONFECTIONERY" below it. The date "April 9, 1966" and "WOMAN'S DAY—Page 21" are printed at the very bottom.

Genevieve  
Oh, Columbines  
Good Columbines.  
Your flavour is so del-ic-i-ous.  
Of all the others none compare  
With Columbines.  
Good Columbines

Anytime for  
**COLUMBINES**

**STRAWBERRY COLUMBINE CARAMELS**

"Oh, Columbines, Good Columbines." Yes! COLUMBINES are really something to sing about . . . anytime, anywhere. Their mouth-watering creaminess is one of the secrets of a really satisfying caramel. Made with glucose for bounding energy, fresh creamy butter and milk for sustaining nourishment, COLUMBINES have a delicious, true caramel flavour that makes them so desirable . . . anytime. It's ANYTIME FOR COLUMBINES.

MADE BY  
**MacRobertson**  
THE GREAT NAME IN CONFECTIONERY

April 9, 1966—WOMAN'S DAY—Page 21

More memories about the Hazelwood Road milk bar –

Morwell Has Another Coffey

MORWELL has signed another Coffey-he is 21-year old, Peter, younger brother of the

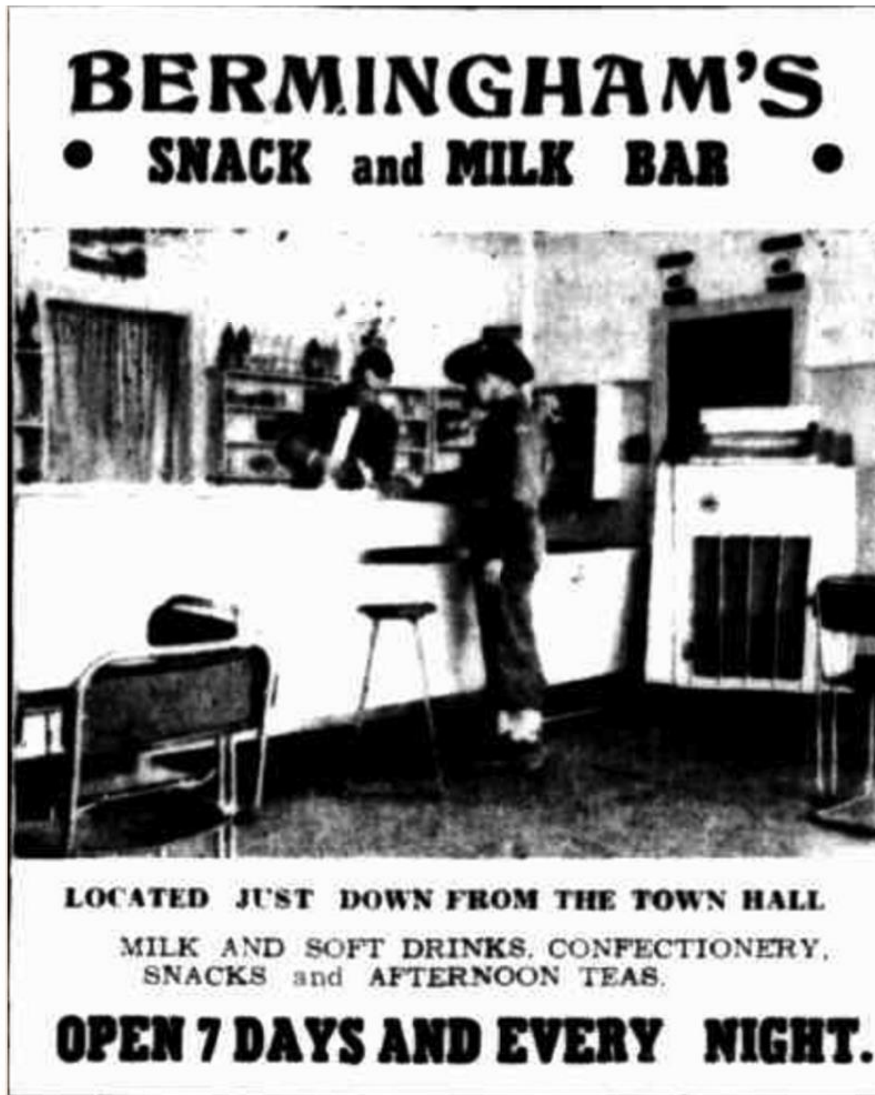
well-known John. With his mother, Mrs. K. Coffey. he has taken over the Snackbar. in Hazelwood Road. previously operated by the Morgan family. He has played for Koo-wee Rup in the West Gippsland League, as a ruckman, and learned his football with West St. Kilda C.Y.M.S.

*Morwell Advertiser*, Thursday, July 1 1954

Page 7



The Hazelwood Road milk bar was a great place to buy Columbines when the little kiosk at the Town Hall was depleted of its stock.



Source: *Morwell Advertiser* September 18, 1952

In the *Morwell Advertiser*, Thursday, January 8, 1953, it was reported that there was "Alleged Non-Compliance with U.B.R. An allegation that Mr. B. F Bermingham had not complied with conditions as set out by the Council in granting as occupancy of premises in Hazelwood Road for use as a shop was made by the shire engineer, Mr. J. W. F. Connan, at December's meeting of the Morwell Shire Council.

**\*7 Jane Street as it is today – see reference to Mrs Alice Sykes above page 4.**



**Donald Street – the former Kingham's milk bar site, near McDonald Street corner.**

**[A crooked photograph] – former McDonald Street milk bar near Donald Street corner.**



**The following story - on page 11 - was provided by member John Willis about Kingham's milk bar. Thanks John. Where is the house below?**





Hi John,

I had a think about the shop/s in Morwell.

The method for selecting the 3 Housing Commission shops was by ballot.

To be eligible you had to have served overseas in WW2 and have sufficient funds to fit out the shop as well as stock it, as they were just bare shells. There were no shelves or refrigeration.

Supplies came by rail from Melbourne, in those days; the rail goods shed was a very busy place.

The shop was always called the Donald Street store because it faced into Donald Street although the address was Quigley Street.

It was a great success from the very beginning as few people had cars and the only way to get to town was by bus or walk. Although green veg, was delivered by an old chap with one wooden leg and a horse and cart. There was a daily milk delivery, and ice on a weekly basis (the ice works were down near the Commercial Rd. Primary school)

It was normal to be open from 9am to 8pm, 7 days a week.

Things were different in those days. Cigarettes were kept under the counter, not for health reasons but because they were in very short supply. Butter came in 56lb blocks and had to be cut and packed in 1lb blocks,(we got these blocks from a factory in Traralgon) and sugar in 70lb Hessen bags

Eggs could only be obtained from the Egg Board. Nothing was rationed it was just in short supply but this did improve with time.

As mentioned earlier, these shops were very successful and this enabled Dad to open two more shops in Rintoull Street, and later two more in Bruton Street.

It was the opening of the Rintoull Street shop that started the end of the Housing Commission shops and also the fact that people were becoming more mobile.

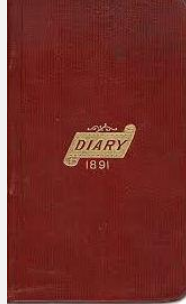
The staff numbers were quite high in the little Donald Street store and when busy there were 5 or 6 people working there.

The Donald Street shop still lives on as a shack in Fisher Parade Loch Sport, exactly as it was when we left it. It was cut into two halves and transported on two trucks to here as a weekender.

Tony

PS. We had nothing to do with the shop on McDonald st. it came after we had left Morwell

## Information Page:



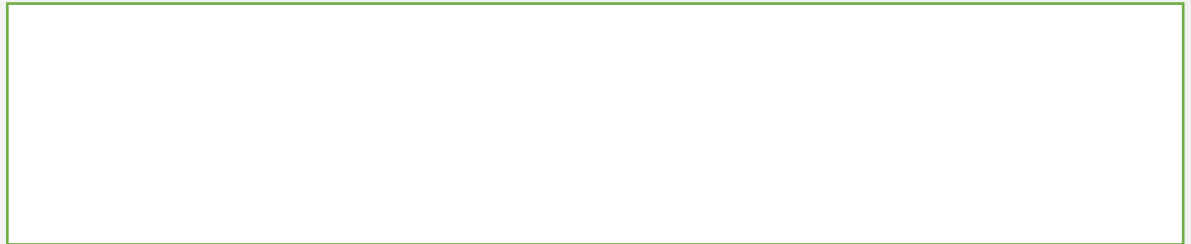
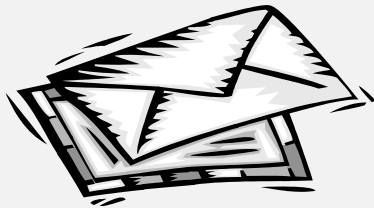
### Meeting dates for 2017:

**2.00pm Wednesday, May 17, 2017**

Guest Speaker: **KEN HARRIS**

Vice Pres. Friends of the Morwell

National Park > > Morwell's water supply  
from Billy's Creek Weir



If undelivered, please return to: 12 Hazelwood Road Morwell 3840

**From Our Morwell Cupboard File:** A reminder that the Research Room and Library are open on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays and last Sunday in the month, from 11.00am to 2.00pm.

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