

# The Morwell Post

Morwell Historical Society

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Commercial Road, Maryvale Motors—late 1950s



See article page 4

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# Morwell Historical Society Directory 2022

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 Peter Gitsham 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 “ <b>The Morwell Post</b> ” - \$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:	<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 now Commonwealth Bank, corner of Commercial Road and Tarwin Street.

All photos, unless indicated, are from our archives.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As another year comes to a close, the Morwell Historical Society continues to remain a hive of activity, with our dedicated volunteers researching, cataloguing, maintaining and opening our building and raising funds for the society.

In March we celebrated 60 years and at that time, a debt of \$125,000 on our building.

We now have it down to \$80,000. A Council grant, a generous community, including a recent donation of \$7,500 from Engie, will allow this debt to be under \$60,000 by the end of the year. Of course we continue to seek support to retire these loans. All donations are Tax deductible.

The society continues to be active in the community with a history walk as part of the Rose Garden Festival, regular Bunnings BBQs, Bunnings community days and the upcoming Rotary family fun day.

We were fortunate to receive grants towards our maintenance and operations and a recent grant of \$20,000 through the State Government will enable our kitchen to be updated.

The Society Open Days will recommence in February, open on the first and third Wednesdays and last Sunday of each month. Our CBD location is very accessible and it is great to see so many call in on open days.

We continue to be short of volunteers and welcome any assistance members or potential members can provide.

Wishing all members and followers a safe, peaceful and joyous festive season.

Alan McFarlane

### A selection of uniforms in our collection



Morwell Technical School



Morwell High School



Morwell Royal Victorian Bowls Association

## MARYVALE MOTORS - FORD'S NEW HOME IN MORWELL

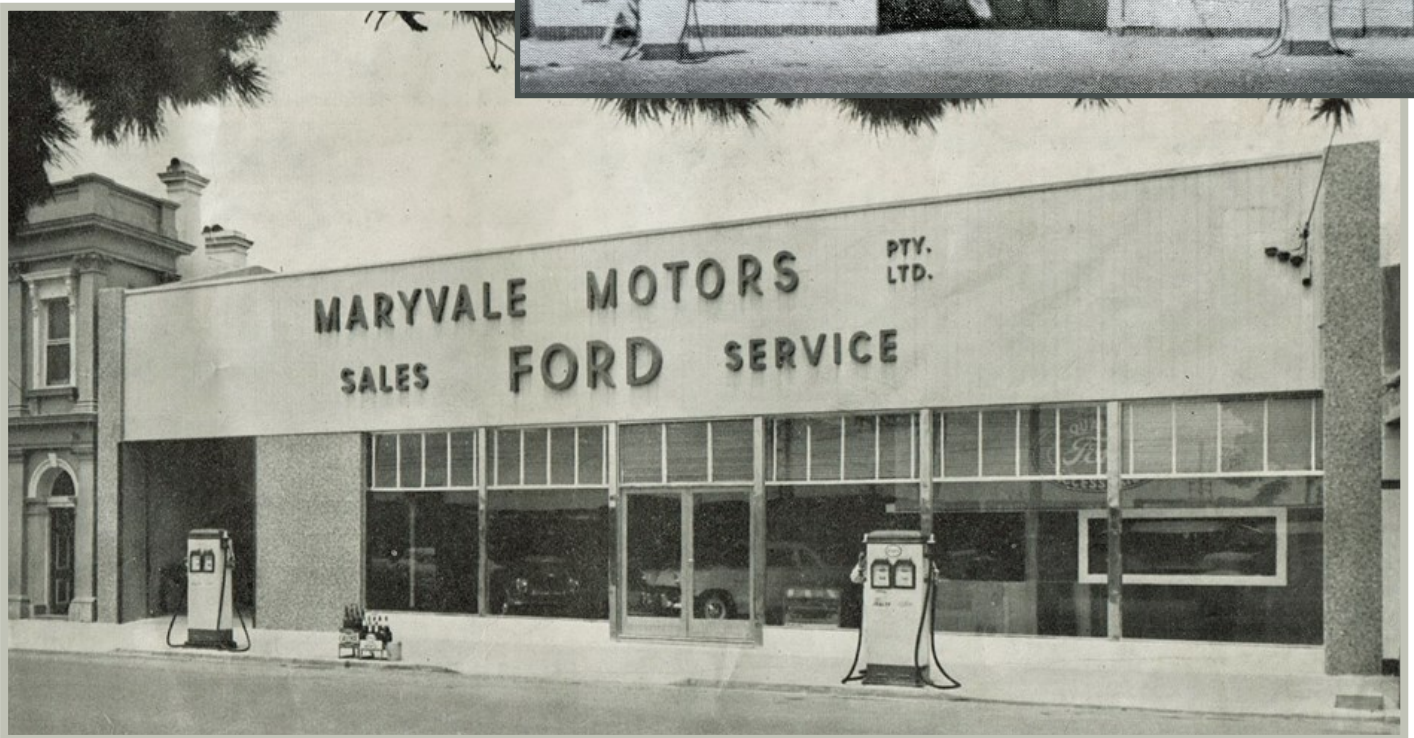
Maryvale Motors Pty Ltd officially opened its Commercial Road premises at 3pm on 13 December 1956. The ceremony was performed by Mr CA Smith, Managing Director of the Ford Motor Company of Australia before an assemblage of 500 guests.

**From this ...**

The main building has a frontage of 78 feet to Commercial Road and a depth of 155 feet. The used car showroom is accommodated on a 90 foot x 50 foot allotment fronting Hazelwood Road.



**To this ...**



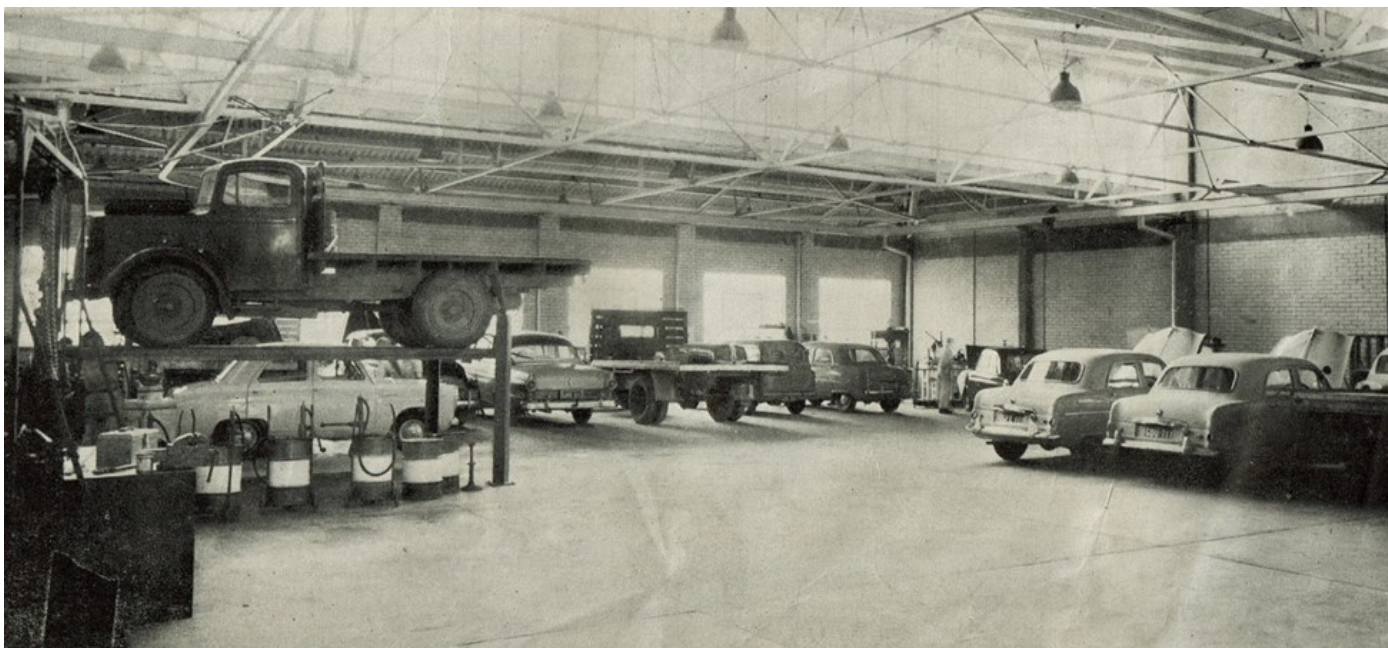
There's the lubritorium with its 2 hydraulic electric hoist, wheel aligning machine, lathes, grinders and everything that is necessary to put the vehicle back on the road or the tractor on the farm and keep it there. The Mono-Rail electric block and tackle, which can move heavy parts to any section of the building, is another feature of this company's approach to efficiency. Nothing is too big or too small –you can have a puncture mended or an engine overhaul.

The man behind the expansion of Maryvale Motors both in Morwell and Traralgon is Roy Cross. In 1944 he purchased the business in Morwell from Cr Hare and in 1946 a Traralgon branch was established in Princes Street. Ray was born in Warracknabeal and his parents moved to Traralgon where he went to school. He did an motor mechanic apprenticeship at a garage in Traralgon and in 1926 he went to Melbourne as a motor car salesman.



Mr Roy Cross

## The spacious and well equipped workshop

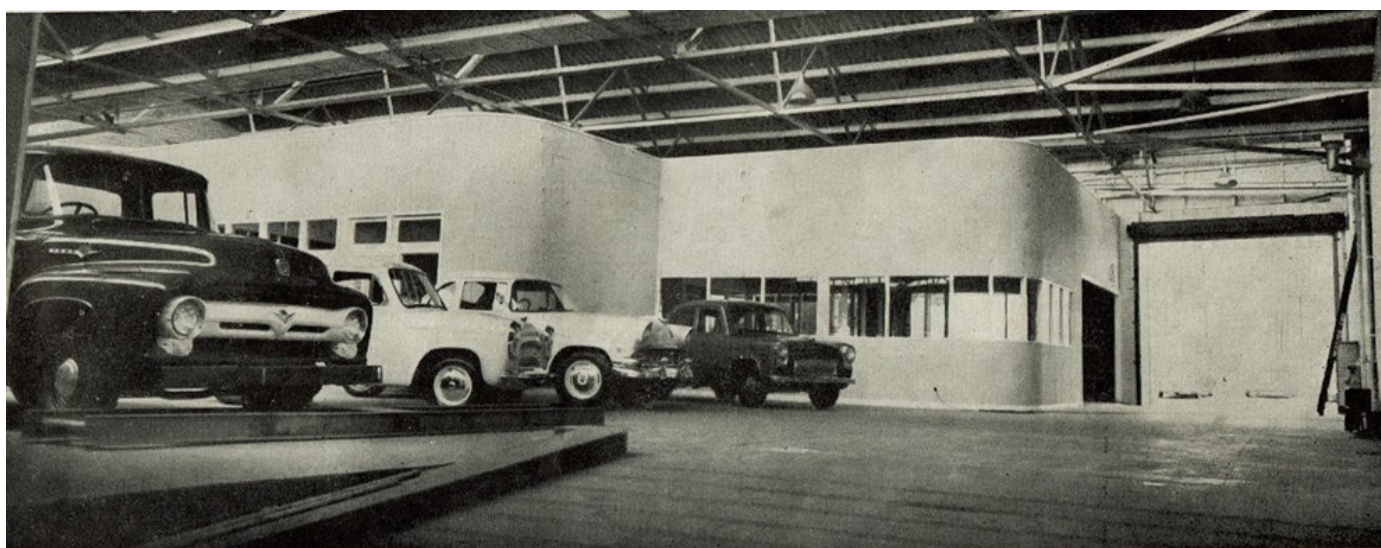


The Sales Division handles the Prefect, Consul, Zephyr and Custom line Sedans and the utilities from the 10 h.p. to the Mainline and Commercial trucks from 2 ton to 5 ton in all wheel bases.

Gippsland farms are probably the most mechanised farms in the state and geared to their service is the tractor division which supplies the famous Fordson Major and allied farm equipment of many varieties. If there is a smash a modern tow truck is on call.



Accessories Department

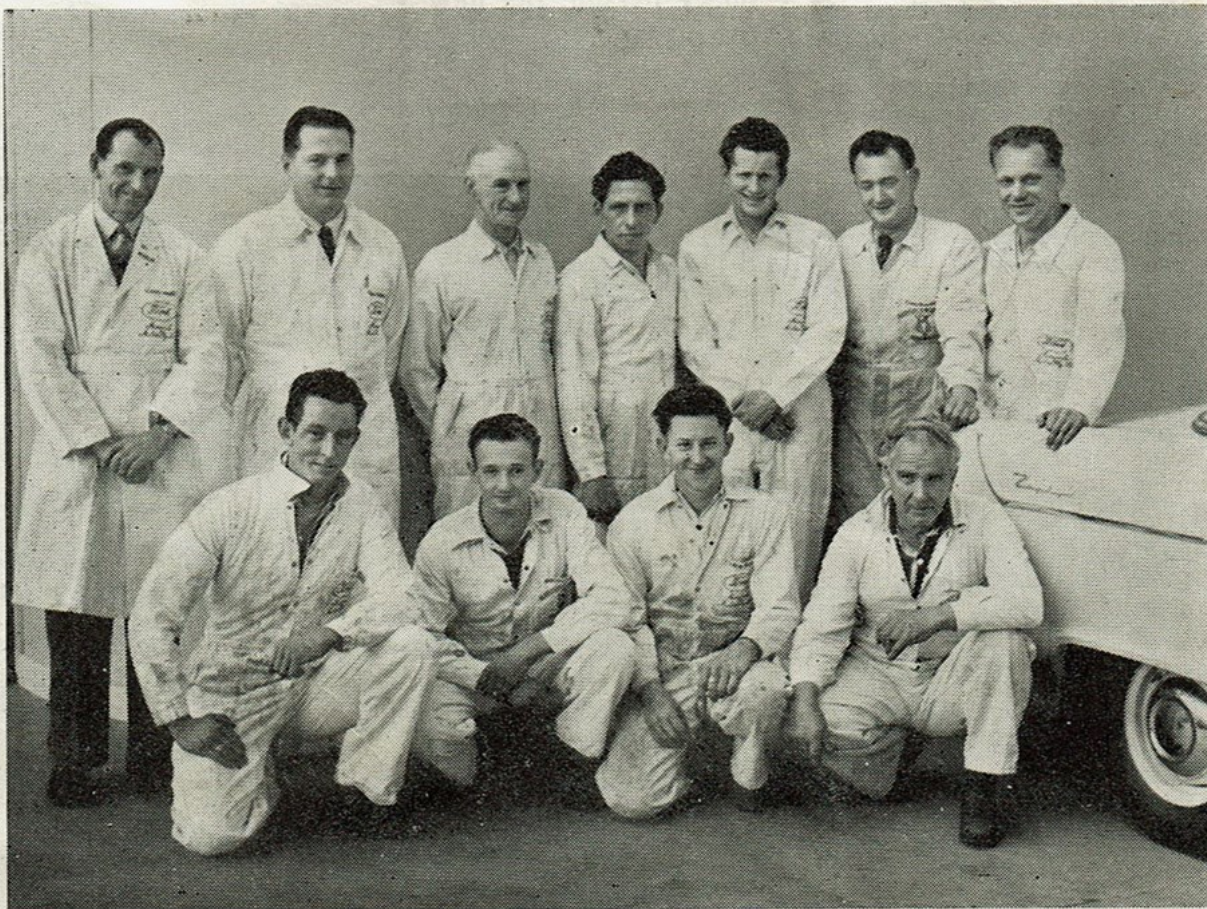


Source – This is part of a 4 page Supplement to The **Morwell Advertiser** Thursday 13 December 1956

## THE STAFF OF MARYVALE MOTORS



ADMINISTRATION AND SPARE PARTS— Back: G. Cooper, B. Harrington, I. Sykes, G. Rust (Manager), M. Hare, W. Squires, E. Rust (Sales Manager), B. Purss, J. Rissinich. Front: Miss M. Peter, Miss K. Kenny, Miss D. Vinall, Mrs. M. Barton, Miss E. Sands.



SERVICE STAFF — Back: R. Morrison (Service Manager), N. Brinsmead, J. Medew, M. Medew, N. Donnet, A. Sykes, E. Vrybergen. Front: C. Davison, H. Haughton, A. Smith, J. Thorburn.

## SIDNEY BUTTERS (nee CALABY) 1864– 1929

Sidney Calaby, the daughter of Henry Calaby and Margaret nee Johnstone was born at Homebush, east of Bendigo, in 1864. Sidney worked in her father's butchers shop and Henry Alfred Butters, born in Dunolly came and worked for him. Henry was 26 and Sidney was 21.

Romance blossomed between the young couple and they eloped to Melbourne and were married on 11th February 1886 in St Mark's Anglican Church in Fitzroy.

Their first born, Nellie was born in 1886 in Traralgon and she married Les Hare. Their second child Florence was born in Morwell in 1888 as were the other 11 children –Florence, Henry (Hal), Roy (Pang), Clarence (Tiger), Madge, Blanche (Bon), Clive (Claude), Iris (Irie), Eric (Rick), Norman (Norm), Mervyn (Tufty).

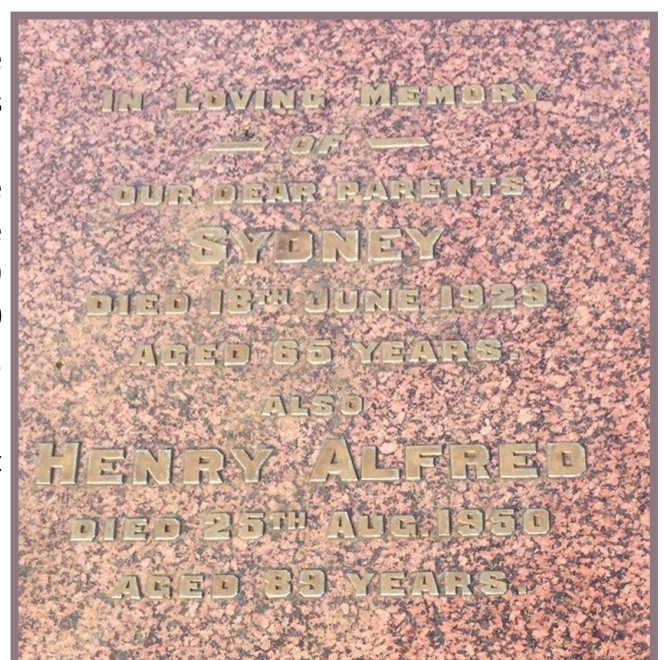
Sidney and Harry started a butchers shop on the corner of Station Street (Princes Drive) and Collins Street where the new Fire Brigade Station has been built this year. Sidney helped in the butchers shop but her services as a midwife and nurse were much in demand and she kept busy delivering babies and caring for her children.

The family lived in a residence attached to the butchers shop and the big lounge room often served as a maternity ward for one or more of Sidney's patients. At busy times, mothers, who often came from out of town to have their babies were bedded down where ever a space could be found. Often one of the children would wake up in the morning and find they had a new born baby in their bed. Sidney also delivered babies in their own house and she assisted Doctor Mitchell in nursing various illness and injury in the town. In 1919, during the flu epidemic she nursed the sufferers in Commercial Road State School which had been turned into a temporary isolation hospital.

Apart from her nursing, family and business duties Sidney was a great worker for charity and the advancement of the town. She was on the Commercial Road State School committee for many years and one of the main organisers of the annual school train trip to the beach at Mordialloc. When the Morwell football team defeated Boolarra in the 1922 Grand Final she collected money and presented an inscribed medal to each player of the Morwell team.

In the 1920s she started a small private hospital on the south west corner of Aherin and Elgin Streets and this hospital was usually full of patients. After a few years, Sidney's health began to fail and she was forced to close the hospital. Sidney and Henry went to Allansford to live with their daughter Bon and when Sidney died in 1929 she was returned by train to Morwell. Henry died in 1950 and they are both buried in Hazelwood Cemetery. Anglican B.

Butters Street in Morwell is named after Henry Alfred but maybe it should have been named after his wife Sidney.





SCHEDULE D.—28 Vict. No. 268.

# CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE.

District Bourke No. in Register 1707  
 On 11<sup>th</sup> Feb at S. Marks Church Fitzroy  
 Marriage by license was solemnized between As according to the

use of the Church of England  
 Signature Henry Alfred Butcher 750

Residence { Present Melbourne  
 Usual Melbourne

Age 26

Rank or Profession Butcher

Condition Bachelor

If Widower { Former } Deceased in { Children .....  
 {  } { wife } { Living 9 Dead 4 }

Birth Place Hornbush Fitzroy

Parents' Names and { Father Richard Thomas Butcher  
 Rank or Profession { Mother Mary Ann Eastcott  
 (Maiden Surname.)

Signature Sidney Calaby

Residence { Present Melbourne  
 Usual Melbourne

Age 21

Rank or Profession Spinster

Condition Spinster

If Widow { Former } Deceased in { Children .....  
 {  } { Husband } { Living ..... Dead..... }

Birth Place Hornbush

Parents' Names and { Father Henry Calaby  
 Rank or Profession { Mother Mararet Johnston  
 (Maiden Surname.)

I do hereby certify that I have this day, at S. Marks Church Fitzroy  
 duly celebrated Marriage between Henry Alfred Butcher  
 and Sidney Calaby

£50 after notice and declaration duly made and published as by law required.

Dated this 11<sup>th</sup> Feb day of February 1884

Signature of Minister, Registrar-General, } John P. Sturt  
 or other officer. }

Witnesses { J. H. Smith  
Mrs Sarah Ann Allen

By Authority: John Francis Government Printer, Melbourne.  
 all money and property of all persons who have been or shall be liable to pay the same shall be paid to the Receiver-General of the Public Revenue.  
 DESCRIPTION. Butcher's own description. Will be a valid and legal one.

There are 3 interesting things about this certificate, it doesn't tell us what year, Henry has 9 living children and 4 dead and on the left Henry has written his will.  
 Source – Butter's file and *Women of the Valley Morwell and District 1884-1944* page 11



## A SAD DROWNING - FLORENCE BUTTERS 1888 - 1897

In October, 1897 on a Saturday afternoon, 9 year old Florrie Butters, better known as Ivy, ventured out in the company of other children to fish in a deep old clay hole in George Corbett's brick yards in Helen Street. These brick yards were previously owned by William Murdoch. The hole was fenced around with a post and rail fence. This hole was very large and in places 20 feet deep and had some logs in the bottom.

The children had no fear and were fishing and playing around. The children had been there before and had been warned off by George Corbett the owner of the brick yards. Mr George Irving was passing by the hole and he told the children to go away as one of you might fall in but the children did not obey him. Ivy believed she had a bite on her line and as she set about to haul it in the earth slipped from under her feet and she fell in.

Nine year old Frank Wilson took off his boots to help Ivy but he could not reach her although she rose to the top several times. The children then ran for help. Dick Noy was the first that they met and he ran down to the hole but Ivy was out of sight. Dick took some of his clothes off and jumped in but could not locate Ivy. He got out of the water and took more clothes off and entered the water again with a rope in his hand. He recovered the body but unfortunately it was too late. Her fishing line was tangled around one of her legs.

Only a few days before "Ivy" had a narrow escape from drowning by falling into a hole close to Mr. Lobly's residence, and she promised not to go near such holes again.

Source – ~~Morwell Advertiser~~ Friday 22 October 1897 p 3



This photo show the fire truck pumping water from the clay hole c1946.

When the brick works closed a saw mill opened on the site and the hole was filled with sawdust. When the saw mill closed the site was left as a park and a playground was added.

The park, in Helen Street, is across the road from the Morwell Club. The sides of the former clay hole are visible.

Photo: Boyd Thompson 12 November 2022



## MARY ETHEL LAWLESS 1887 - 1960

Mary Ethel Lawless, known as Ettie Lawless, was born in 1887 in Gordon and she was the 4th child of 7 of Thomas and Catherine nee Scanlon. John was born at Yinnar in 1890 so we know that the family came to the Morwell District c1890.

Catherine died in 1891 and Thomas died in 1892 so the children were orphans at a young age. Catherine's sister Bridget married Christopher Walsh earlier than intended so they could care for Ettie and 3 of her brothers and the other 3 children went to another aunty in Melbourne.



When Ettie was 20 she took a lease on the Coffee Palace owned by the O'Rourke sisters on the corner of Commercial Road and Hazelwood Road and her sister Helena came back from Melbourne to help her run the business. A Coffee Palace is a hotel that does not serve alcohol. The Coffee Palace was such a success that Ettie and Helena bought the Railway Coffee Palace on the Princes Highway that was situated where the Lighthouse is today 2022. Helena married George Long in 1930.

In 1933 Ettie took over the Budgeree Hotel and renamed it Leumeath Guest House for a couple of years and then she took over the Gonyah Hotel.

This photo shows Ettie's niece sitting outside the Gonyah Hotel. On the sign is written Trout fishing and accommodation. In 1942 the Hotel was burnt and Ettie moved back to Morwell and set up a boarding house.

After a long illness Ettie died in 1960 aged 73 and she is buried in Hazelwood Cemetery.



## JIM PATTINSON

Jim Pattinson was a paling splitter from Boolarra. In 1927 he went to a height of 163 feet using 54 boards. Jim was ambidextrous so he was able to place the boards roughly one above the other not spiralling around the tree. As he inserted a board he would have gone down to the ground to get another board. He may have carried 2 boards but he went up and down the tree many times. When he was almost to the top of the tree, he removed his shirt and hung it on a branch and stated that if anyone could retrieve it he would place four more boards in the tree. The shirt was retrieved and Pattinson set the four extra boards in position. In the photo below you can see him near the top of the tree.



Source -*The Twelve Mile Peg* Roslyn Carstairs p 39

Photo of the tree on the right taken in 2004 by Boyd Thompson. The boards have fallen out but the tree was standing.

## KINDERGARTENS IN MORWELL

On July 5th 1950 the first Kindergarten in Morwell commenced operating in the Presbyterian Hall in Elgin Street for one morning per week. Some delay occurred for the opening of this centre due to financial difficulties and the inability to find a full trained leader. However Mrs B Wear, a qualified leader, agreed to conduct the centre until a permanent leader can be found. The Department of Health only gave approval for 15 children to be present in the hall at one time. Mrs Wear was assisted by two voluntary ladies at each session. The Apex Club members had a working bee to carry out the necessary work so the centre could open.

The names of the children to attend Kindergarten in 1953 were listed in the Morwell Advertiser 29 January 1953 p 6 –Bronwyn Green, Phillip Hinkley, James Henry, Paul Huguegin, Peter Leslie, Karen Oxnan, Nancye Griffin, Peter Lazarus, Leslie Blake, Margaret Willett, Francis Frew, Kenneth McNabb, Malcolm Lamont, Dorothy Heron, Kirster Craven, Rhonda Sibbison, Julie Salmon, Elizabeth Somerville, Richard McRoberts, Erica Palmer, Kaye Dunlop, Robert Lowe, Douglas Medew, Karen Mathison, Garry Scott, Gwenda Marchant, Brian King, Pamela Burn, Peter Chapman, Daryll Jones, Rodney Wilkinson, David Krohn, Brian Wells, Kenneth Mitchell, Russell Clyde, Robert Watt, Russell Evans, Malcolm Irvine, Brian Griffin, Rhonda Lazarus, Loris McNabb, Ross Wilson, Graham Dean, Brian Hinkley and Shirley Lovell.

Mrs Haugh was the Directress.

In 1960 a Preschool Centre, called Morwell Central Preschool, was built behind the Town Hall and the Presbyterian Church Hall Preschool closed.



1963 group

Last boy in the back row is Andrew Thompson. Middle row –2nd Julie James, 3rd Judith Firth, last girl Shaughan Pyle, Front row -1st boy Billy Warner, 5th boy Peter Vander Meulen. Thanks to Julie James for the photo.

This Preschool moved again in 2002 to 14 Maryvale Crescent when the site was sold to the Department of Justice and the name was changed to Maryvale Crescent Preschool.

The second Kindergarten to operate in Morwell was in the Baptist Church in McDonald Street (2022 St Peters Cafe). This building was moved from Well Street in 1951 and operated as a Preschool during the week and a Church on Sunday with the preschool staff moving all the equipment into the children's toilet on Friday afternoon and back out on Monday morning. It operated until December 1987 when it closed because the building could not comply with the new building regulations. All the equipment was given to a new preschool called Koolangarra Preschool which was built in Burnside Drive. This Preschool closed in 1996 and the weatherboard building was moved to Harold Street and an Aborigine Preschool called Dala Lida –Woolum Bellum opened and operated for a few years.



In February 1956 a third Kindergarten opened in Vincent Road and it was called Morwell East Kindergarten. The next preschool to open on 31 May 1965 was Elizabeth Wilmot Preschool at 23-29 Well Street. Doctor Elizabeth Wilmot was the Director of Maternal and Child Welfare. When houses were built

on Bridle Estate the Council opened two more preschools – Gillie Barry in Blackwood Place, which is now closed and Parklands in Bridle Road. Kurt Barry was the subdivider of the estate in that part of Morwell and Gillie was his wife.

Children at Elizabeth Wilmot Kindergarten in Well Street 1971



Children on the monkey bars at Elizabeth Wilmot Kindergarten.  
 Photo from a promotion booklet that was produced by the Morwell Shire called *Morwell Latrobe Valley Australia –Streamline for the 1970s.*  
 Source –Society's Kindergarten file.



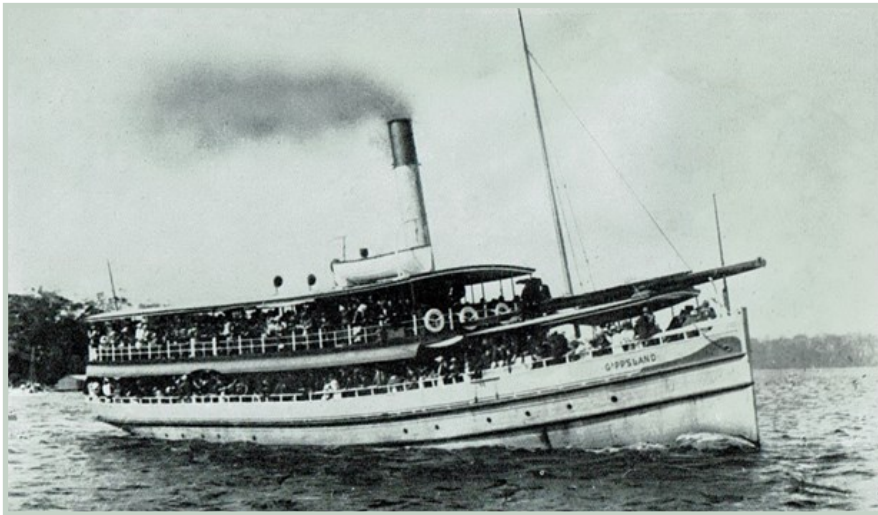
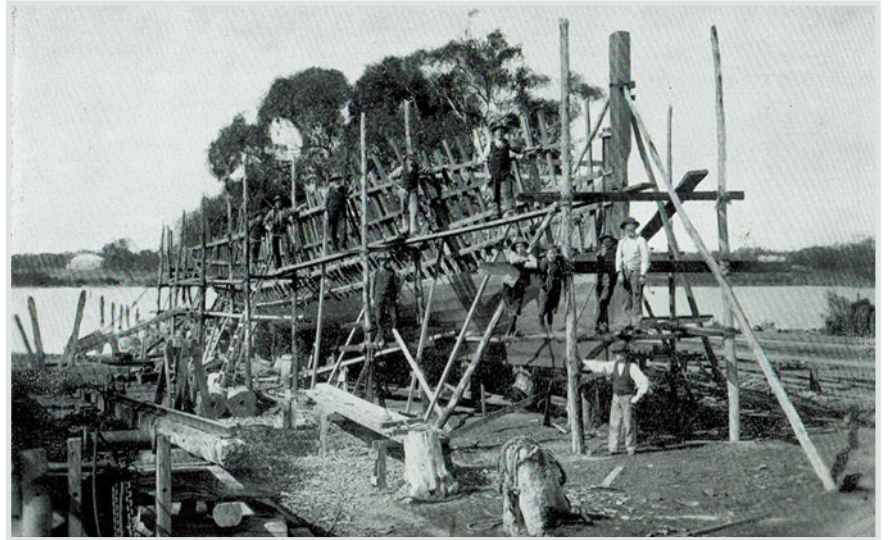


This interesting aerial photograph, taken 1969, shows the Town Hall Kindergarten squashed in behind the Town Hall **K** Also shows the railway line to Mirboo North.

## SS GIPPSLAND

The screw steamer *SS Gippsland* was the largest of the local steamers to service the Gippsland lakes and rivers in a time when steamers plied the 400 square km's water highways.

Built in 1908 by Peter Tierney at his Paynesville Slip, for Percy Dahlsen of Bairnsdale, her huge triple expansion engine enabled speeds of 14 knots – reportedly the fastest steamer on the lakes. The steamer was officially launched on 26 December 1908.



The *SS Gippsland* became a popular excursion steamer that was capable of carrying 450 passengers on a tourist journey from Bairnsdale to Lakes Entrance.

*SS Gippsland* on the Mitchell River  
The *SS Gippsland* remained in service till 1937 when she was superseded by cars and the railways.  
She was requisitioned for the Royal Australian Navy in 1942 and commissioned as *HMAS Gippsland* and she operated as a minefield tender.



Source –*The Story of Gippsland Shipping* JC Bull and Peter Williams

For a full account of building the *SS Gippsland*, page 50, as Bull was an apprentice on the steamer.



## 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