

Morwell Historical Society Inc.

www.morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au

c. 1903



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The “Morwell Post”

October 2015

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Secretary: Monika Cornell
12 Hazelwood Road Morwell
3840

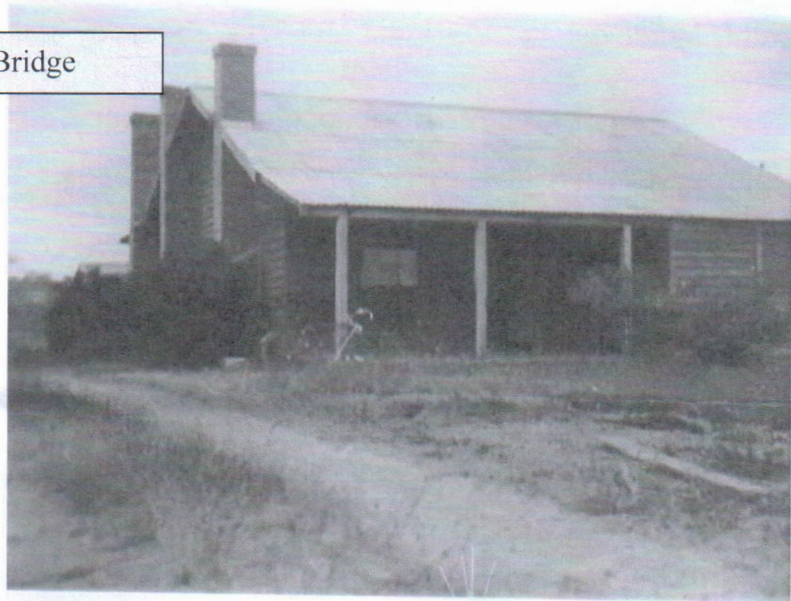
Please address all correspondence to the Secretary.

The official organ of the Morwell Historical Society Inc.
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Editor: Leo Billington

Items for publication in the
“Post” are always welcome;
please forward your articles to
the above address

From our old photographs

Ron Wall's family home in Morwell Bridge



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Morwell Historical Society Directory 2015 – 2016

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Monthly Meetings:	1 st and 3 rd Wednesday and last Sunday of each month, 11.00 a.m. – 2.00 p.m. Not open - December & January
Annual General Meeting:	3rd Wednesday of March each year
Membership Fees:	Due 1 st July each year Ordinary Member \$20.00 Family \$25.00 (two persons at same address)
"The Morwell Post" Editor:	Leo Billington
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.

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[Thanks to Florence Butcher for this compilation which will be the regular page 2 in all editions.]



What is the history of this Morwell house?



Where is this old farm house?



How good is your memory?

1. When a circus visited Morwell prior to Mid Valley being built, what was the preferred location for setting up?
2. What was the name of the first circus you saw in Morwell?
3. What are your favourite memories of this circus? Was it the selection of animals, the high flying acts, the fairy floss or just being taken out by your parents? Or did you go with someone else?
4. How many times did you go to a circus in Morwell? How much did it cost for a ticket?

MORWELL'S PROGRESS – This a long read but it's interesting to compare the Shire 's proactive approach to today's Latrobe City Council.

In view of the sustained demand for houses in Morwell, and the very promising outlook for town, and district, Mr H. W. Gay, Secretary of Morwell Investments Coy., recently wrote to the General Manager of the State Savings Bank, urging the Bank to continue its policy of making advancements to clients to enable them to erect what is generally known as "Bank Houses." The suggestion however, did not receive very favorable consideration, owing to there apparently being doubts as to the demand for houses being sustained.

The matter came before the Morwell Shire Council at meeting last week, and after some discussion it was resolved on motion of Crs. Ronald and Auchterlonie, that the General Manager of the Bank be communicated with and informed that there is a widely held opinion among ratepayers that the Bank is against financing the erection of houses in Morwell, and if that be correct, facts and figures relating to Morwell's progress and the demand for houses be supplied.

As a result, the subjoined forceful letter has been sent by the Shire Secretary (Mr Horsfall). to the State Savings Bank' Commissioners: SHIRE OF MORWELL Shire Hall, Morwell, 21/1/38. The Commissioners, State Savings Bank, Melbourne. Dear Sirs,-I have been instructed by my Council to take up with you the question of building houses in Morwell under the terms you offer in many other parts of the State of Victoria. I have a copy of your recent letter to Mr H. W. Gay, Secretary to the Mor well Investments Company, which sets out your doubts and also your policy regarding building in the township of Morwell. Under the circumstances, and in view of the altered conditions as compared with the past, this Council intends to go into the matter very fully, and endeavour to prove that Morwell is now one, if not the most, prosperous and substantial country town in the State. I have had a conference with your local manager who is held in very high esteem. His attitude is governed by your policy, and is not at all encouraging to those in this town who desire to take advantage of your building terms. If, however, he was instructed to submit cases, his knowledge of values, localities, prospects, and personalities, would be invaluable and help to solve the problem of doubtful building. This is not his proposal. but it is apparent that the attitude of your commissioners has been influenced by prior experience where the correct information was not obtained, with results detrimental to your finances and the welfare of the district. Houses that were built in Morwell in former years were disposed of by your commissioners at the only time in the recent history of Morwell when there was a slump, and should not be taken as a criterion of present and future prospects.

During the years 1930-31-32, the Shire of Morwell was in a bad way and the whole district took the tone of the municipality. At that time the bank' overdraft exceeded the limit allowed by the bank. - At the present time, the Shire of Morwell is regarded as the model Gippsland Municipality and does more work for the betterment of town conditions than any other similar shire in: the State.

The average overdraft for the last three years has been about £100, and works have included 10,000 feet of concrete kerb drains, in the town, 20 miles of bitumen roads surrounding the town, and the erection of a modern Town Hall at a cost of £11,000, of which only £7000 was borrowed. To give an indication of the value by and of the Shire as a security, ' might mention that this money, was borrowed for 30 years at 3 per cent and is as safe as any gilt edged investment.

During the past year 80 houses were built, and when the Morwell Investments Company recently built an additional 18 houses in a group, there were 40 applicants to rent ,and another 40 would have applied if there had been any chance of getting a house. I know personally. of a case where a business man has two blocks of land, £100 in cash, and wishes to take advantage of your terms. There are many others in a similar position, and the Council would like your Bank to accommodate them.

The adjoining town of Yallourn is continually building houses, but few people would live in Yallourn with -its coal nuisance and, lack of trading facilities, if they could obtain houses in Morwell. Another industry. Established within four miles of the town by the Australian Paper Manufacturers has also a stabilizing influence on general conditions. The surrounding country is prosperous and Morwell is the business centre for a very large farming population. Signs of the general prosperity are the congestion of street traffic, and the turning away of people from the new picture theatre, owing !to lack of accommodation. Unemployment is almost unknown there being only two sustenance cases, neither being fitted for general work.

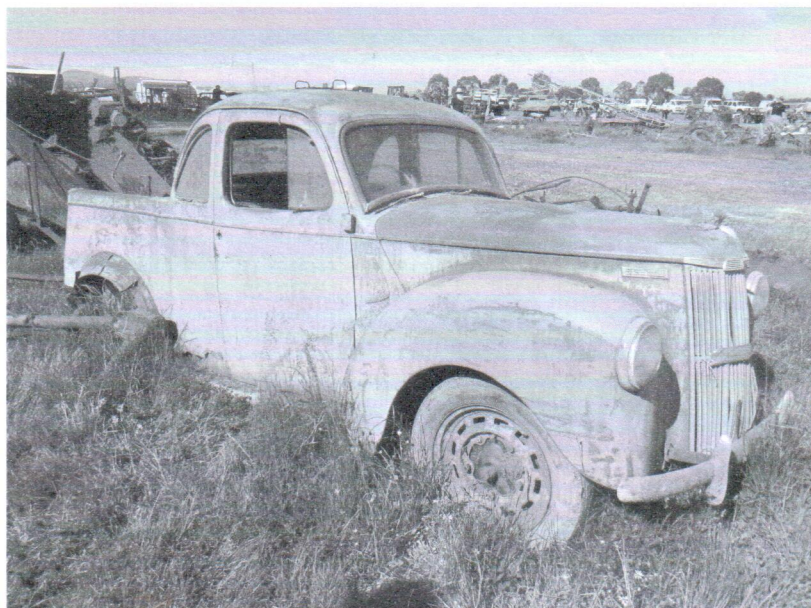
The average takings at the Town Hall in the way of 'income and expenditure exceed £100 per day both inward and outward and show a steady expansion. After one year, the Town Hall Committee, after paying all working expenses, interest and sinking fund, presented the Council with a cheque for £100, having no other use for the money. Every modern facility (with the exception of gas) is available in the town, which is also a stopping place for a large number of buses carrying business people to do their shopping. The signs are that Morwell is now a substantial town, some indication of which should be given by your bank in returns. My Council has authorised me to use every endeavour to alter the policy of your bank as expressed in your letter to Mr Gay. It is becoming increasingly obvious that this is now an important centre with a certainty of growing into a large town.

Several new industries will follow the paper mill which will cost £1,0000,000, and employ several hundred hands, none of whom will be allowed to live with in two miles of the mill.. All mill towns in Canada haire doubled their populations in the first three years, and there is every indication that Morwall will do likewise. My Council would be :pleased to have a visit from you or your representatives, as it is felt that any misgivings or doubts can be quickly and satisfactorily answered and removed. . An early assurance that your building policy has changed to meet the improved conditions is eagerly awaited by the whole of this community. Yours Faithfully, . F. A. HORSFALL, Shire : Secretary.

Morwell Advertiser - January 27, 1938

Who has ever ridden in one of these once popular utilities?

What make of vehicle is it?





Headstone for Margaret and John Flewin – Hazelwood Cemetery

Flewin, John - Born Kent, England 1846

Arrived by ship 'Glasburden' 1856 His father was first brick maker in Ballarat. Selected 82 acres Morwell, also conducted brick making business in the town

Married 1868, Margaret Watson of Queensland

Nine children

John Flewin deceased 1926 - Margaret Flewin deceased 1934

[Source – Morwell Historical Society]

FLEWIN

Obituary.

MRS. ANNIE HUGUENIN

A wide circle of friends of one of the district pioneers, Mrs. Annie Huguenin, will regret to learn of her death at her home in Ann St., Morwell, on October 21st, at the age of 64 years. The deceased, who was born at Hazelwood, was the daughter of the late **John and Margaret Flewin**, the former of whom was the pioneer of the brick and pottery industry of early Morwell. She married the late Mr. Arthur Huguenin, in 1907. Her health had been on the decline since the death of her husband some two months previously. The pre-occupations of home life and the care and upbringing of her family precluded her from active association with community interests, never the less she rendered ready assistance to all charitable and deserving causes. She was a devout worshipper at Church of England services until her health prevented regular attendance. A family of three sons, Harry, Jack and Stanley and one daughter, Ruby (Mrs. Uhrhane) survive her. The remains were interred in the Hazelwood Cemetery on October 22nd following a service at St. Mary's Church of England and the graveside conducted by Canon R. W. G. Phillips.

Morwell Advertiser Thursday, 3 November, 1949

J. BOLGER

General Carrier and Undertaker

**FUNERALS CONDUCTED BY
MOTOR HEARSE**

Furniture Carefully Removed by Motor Lorry
**Wood and Briquettes supplied at
Shortest Notice**

**Agent for: Cumming Smith Manures
Broadbent Bros.**

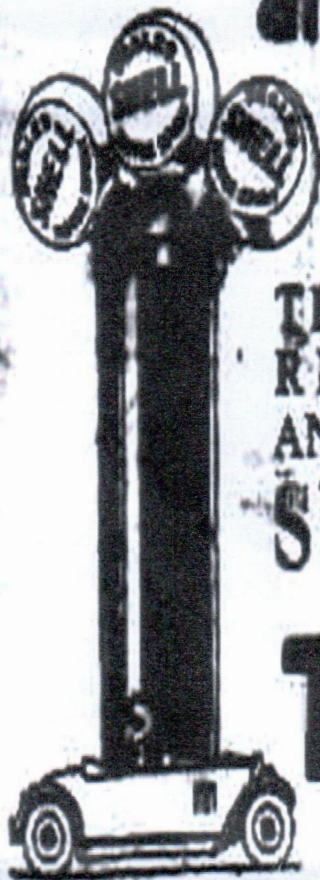
Sample Room for Hire

CAR FOR HIRE - **'Phone 1.**

Morwell Advertiser - December 1, 1932

GOOD MOTOR SPIRITS AND OILS

are not B-O-B-N

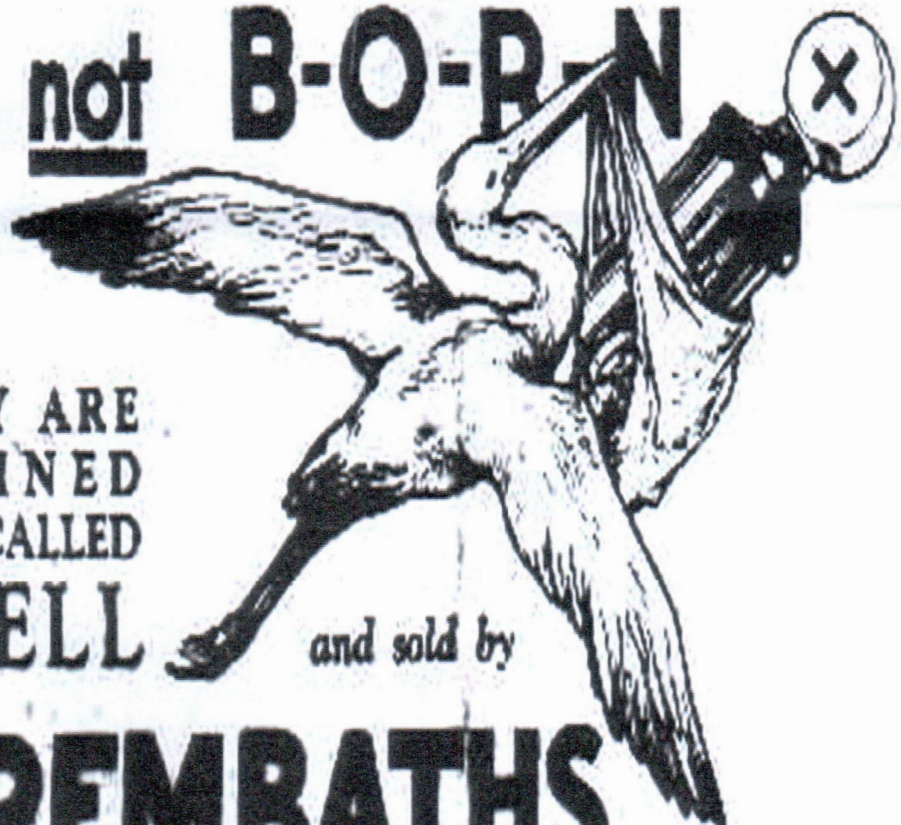


THEY ARE
REFINED
AND CALLED
SHELL

and sold by

TREMBATHS

STATION ST. — on Princes Highway — MORWELL



From the Back of the Filing Cabinet!



The August newsletter was my first and there were errors, largely in layout. For instance, I am still learning about page numbering so please bear with me. More to the point is the gratitude we should show towards Stephen Hellings for his editorship over (what seemed like) a century. I don't know for how long but he did a marvellous job. Thanks Stephen.

Leo.

Morwell Advertiser

Friday 19th. April 1901 (page 2)

OUR BOYS

ANOTHER PASSED AWAY - DEATH OF PVT. M.T. McDONALD

It is with feelings of profound regret that we record the death of another of our brave soldier boys, in the person of Sergeant **Michael Terence McDonald** (No. 936), son of Mr **Jas. McDonald** Yinnar, which sad event took place on 10th inst., at Pretoria.

Deceased was a member of the Fifth (last) Contingent, and about two months ago left Morwell in company with Private **G. Pettit**. His parents recently received a letter from him dated 18th March, in which he stated he was in the best of health, and was delighted with the work he was engaged in. He also mentioned he was looking forward to going to the front at an early date.

The next word his parents received regarding him was on Monday afternoon when the following sad telegram reached them from the Defence Department:- "Regret to report death of Sergeant M. T. McDonald, of debility, at Pretoria. Accept our expressions of deepest sympathy."

Needless to say, the news was a great shock to all those who were acquainted with deceased, and knew his many stirring qualities, but the blow to his parents was terribly severe, and the sympathy extended to them in their sad bereavement is widespread.

Deceased, who was just 20 years of age, was almost the first child born in Yinnar, or, as it was then known, "Scrubby Forest," and resided there all his life, prior to going to South Africa.

He was one of the best players in the Yinnar Football Club, and during this season played cricket for both the Morwell and Traralgon clubs; he was successful with the bat, but especially so with the ball, and was considered one of the best bowlers in Gippsland. He was a bright and intelligent lad, with a quiet unassuming disposition, every ready and willing to render a "helping hand"; trustworthy and reliable, possessing all the traits of a good soldier, and a general favourite among his comrades.

He had a longing to go to the front, and was delighted when he was picked as a member of the last Contingent, although it was with heavy hearts that his parents consented to his leaving home.

It is evident from cause of death that he was ill for some time, but kept the fact to himself, and when he was at last forced to give it, it was too late.

Further particulars regarding his death are anxiously awaited.

Hello Bruce

My book, *By the Scruff of the Neck - a suitcase of memories*. My family (there were seven of us) lived in Morwell 1952-58. I went to the Sacred Heart and to St Paul's Traralgon (now Lavalla). We arrived as Dutch immigrants and still know a number of the locals. The book seeks to describe and offer insight into the social conditions of Morwell at that time.

My family of seven worked on the power stations, Gas and Fuel etc. In short we contributed solidly to the Latrobe Valley at that time. I am having a book launch on Wednesday the 22nd of July at two pm in the Morwell Library

Thanks in anticipation

Henri Licht

Ph: 03 9754 8760

41 Belmont Ave
Upwey
3158

By the Scruff of the Neck is a remarkable achievement, and I read it with mounting admiration. It is a laceratingly honest, tough minded and often very funny account of a Dutch family which lived through the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands during World War II, then migrated to Australia in 1952, first settling in Tasmania and afterwards in the Latrobe Valley, Gippsland.

Henri was born in 1942, and the main story takes us to when he was sixteen, along the way reflecting upon being Dutch, Australian, and Catholic. His account of sexual tensions within the Church and in religious schools sounds disturbingly accurate.

His story ends – so far – in 1958, but there are a few fast-forwards, including his family's move from Gippsland to Melbourne; his education at Dandenong High School from 1959; his dramatic withdrawal from the Church in 1961, to the mortification of his parents, on the issue of whether priests had the right to direct the faithful how to vote; and his study of philosophy at Monash University.

I took a keen professional interest in this book: in my own autobiography I had disposed of childhood and my family by page seventy-one, whereas he has managed two hundred and eighty-two well written pages.

I have a cameo part in *By the Scruff of the Neck*, but only in the context of comparison with an influential earlier teacher. And yet – although I could be deluding myself – I suspect that my teaching (much of it outside the syllabus) stimulated Henri's already latent interest in cultural, historical and social issues: his references to Voltaire, Tolstoy, Stravinsky, and his detailed footnotes, remind me of somebody I hesitate to identify.

The period when I taught Henri at Dandenong will presumably have to wait for the next volume.

This is an important piece of social, and personal, history, too good – if I can be frank – to be niche published. It should be taken up by bookshops, reviewed, and widely read.

Barry Jones

Information Page:

Please note that the next meeting will be on October 21, 2015 at 2.00 p.m.
At 12 Hazelwood Road (Old Masonic Temple)

Meeting dates for remainder of 2015:

June 17th
July 15th
August 19th
September 16th
October 21st
November 18th



Please deliver me to:

The Foundation Stone for the Masonic
Temple in Hazelwood Road was laid on:
28th January 1927

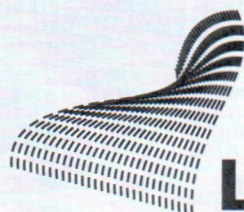
If undelivered please return to: 12 Hazelwood Road Morwell 3840



From Our Morwell Fact File:

- Captain of the Morwell Fire Brigade – 1936 to 1938 – William Gordon Budge was killed working on the Burma Railway on November 17, 1943.
- Harold McDonald was the first Officer-in-Charge appointed to the Morwell Fire Brigade – 1953 to 1978. Harold passed away in July 1986. He was awarded Life Membership in 1978.

The next edition of the "Post" is due out in October 2015.



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