

This Society has the capacity to carry out family research for those seeking it. We access our special family-tracking disks (from 1883 onwards), family records held by us, and other means. One special piece of equipment is a new Reader-Printer purchased in 2008 as a result of a very large grant from the state government; this allows us to read both microfilm and fishe. There is a charge for research, quotes given when given details of information sought.

We are very proud of our museum complex, and ensure all visitors are well satisfied with their visit. So many say they only have very limited time available but they may leave four hours later; this is not unusual.



Entry Fee :

\$5 per person

50¢ per child under 14

This fee covers both buildings

The Murtoa Museum Complex is open to visitors each Sunday between 2 and 5pm or by appointment...

Murtoa is approximately 25 minutes from Horsham, 45 minutes from Stawell, and one hour from Halls Gap. The Museum Complex is situated in Comyn Street, opposite the Railway Hotel and the former railway station.

Need more information?
Then contact Murtoa & District Historical Society Inc.

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Murtoa & District Historical Society & Community Museum Inc.

invite you to view



THE MURTOA MUSEUM COMPLEX

Historical Heritage Listed Water Tower

Home of the famous James Hill Taxidermy collection

The **GROUND FLOOR** contains the famous **James Hill Taxidermy collection**, consisting of hundreds of birds (from Australia, New Guinea and America), 600-odd birds' eggs, nests, reptiles, an emu, a kangaroo (with a checkered past) and much more



fauna. All are displayed for ease of looking. This taxidermy collection is held under a scientific licence issued to the Lions Club of Murtoa. Some birds on display are already extinct, and many are on the high-endangered lists. Three of the birds on display, along with three naughty Murtoa girls, were responsible for a Commonwealth Act of Parliament to be proclaimed, and this has never been revoked.

Many major authorities rate this collection to be the best in the world. Museums Australia has donated some of the display cases because of the scientific value of the collection. There are four video presentations pertaining to the collection on this floor



FLOORS 1 - 3 contain memorabilia, tools, clothing, photos and maps relating to the district. Seems to have what every country museum has, but we offer a **BIG SURPRISE** packet within these floors.

Concordia College Building

Built in Murtoa in 1890, it had its first student in July of 1890. Others traveled from the USA to both teach and study there. It was relocated to Adelaide in late 1904. A different type of historical presentation is gathered in Concordia. We endeavour to show the opening up of the area by, firstly, the aborigines and squatters, and then the settlers; travel to the Wimmera; and when they arrived, land selected (size, acres, etc.) construction of family housing, farm life, school, church, sport, businesses, general details. There are many photographs dating from the earliest known. Wedding photos depict the change in dress style, and how wedding cakes have altered from huge over-decorated cakes to the "humble" mud cake. Wedding dresses (including one brown gown) are an integral part of the display, which also includes German Bibles. Trousseau items, a man's embroidered wedding vest and a beautiful child's jumper made from socks are well displayed.



Three different-styled music organs are seen - One very ornate Lutheran organ, one plain but beautifully paneled organ from the Kewell Church of England and a traveling organ for children. One special eye-opener is the old switchboard, which so many people have fond memories of seeing or working one like it. One video presentation of four stories relates some wonderful tales about apples and walnuts stored in a coffin (very funny narration), why Comyn Street has a bend in it, and interviews with members of the longest - running Brass Band in the World - Coromby Brass Band - together with several of their orchestral appearances.



Another video presentation shows tractors, cars and other vehicles from the early days.



Come and enjoy a walk through time, see Australia's "good old days."

The pleasure is ours to share with you.