

I was watching *The Stratton Story* with James Stewart and June Allyson on cable television last week and I was fascinated to see Frank Morgan give a brilliant supporting actor performance.

We all know him as the 'Wizard' and Professor Marvel in the film the *Wizard Of Oz* but Frank Morgan had a wonderful career as a character actor in his lifetime.

Francis Phillip Wuppermann was born in New York City in 1890.

His father grew up in Germany and his mother was born in the US.

Frank came from a large family of 11 children. His father was a wealthy businessman who distributed Angostura bitters and all of the children were sent to university.

When his brother Ralph became a professional actor Frank was inspired and decided that he would also become an actor.

Ralph used the stage name of Morgan and Frank also adopted the name.

As Frank Morgan he debuted at the Lyceum Theatre in New York in a play titled *A Woman Killed With Kindness* in 1914.

His first Broadway play was *Mr Wu* and he played the lead. He married Alma Muller and their son George was born in 1916.

Frank signed a contract with Paramount Studios and made many silent films.

In 1931 he appeared with Fred Astaire in the Broadway musical *Bandwagon*.



Whatever Happened To ... Frank Morgan

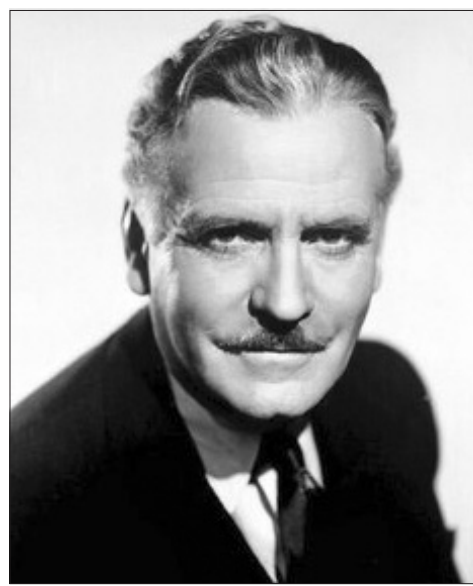
By Kevin Trask of 3AW and 96.5 Inner FM

In 1933 he signed a contract with MGM Studios and his films included *Naughty Marietta*, *The Great Ziegfeld* and *Sweethearts*.

In *Hallelujah, I'm a Bum* he co-starred with the legendary Al Jolson and in *Dimples* he played opposite Shirley Temple.

But the most famous role of his career came when he was cast as the Wizard in the classic film *The Wizard Of Oz* starring with Judy Garland, Ray Bolger, Bert Lahr and Jack Haley.

In fact Frank played five different roles in *The Wizard Of Oz*. In the Emerald City, he was the cabby who drove the Horse-of-a-Different-Color, a guard at the entrance to the Wizard's palace, the doorkeeper at the Wizard's palace and the Great and Powerful Oz himself; in the



● Frank Morgan

Kansas sequences he played disreputable fortune-telling Professor Marvel.

Margaret Hamilton who played the 'Wicked Witch' described him as a very generous man.

Frank Morgan was nominated for two Academy Awards during his career.

His best films included *Saratoga*, *The Shop Around the Corner*, *Boom Town*, *The Human Comedy*, *Tortilla fFat*, *White Cargo* and *Ah,*

Wilderness.

He had his own radio show and co-starred with Fanny Brice. He also appeared on *The Kraft Music Hall*, *The Bickersons* and the *Old Gold Show*.

Frank loved sailing and won a yacht race between Los Angeles and Honolulu.

He enjoyed the outdoors and owned a huge cattle ranch in California. He recorded a number of children's stories including the popular *Gossamer Wump* which was a story about a young boy who learns to play the triangle.

On September 18, 1949 Frank Morgan suffered a heart attack and died in his sleep at his home in Beverly Hills, Los Angeles.

He was filming *Annie Get Your Gun* with Betty Hutton and Howard Keel at the time and his character of Col. Buffalo Bill Cody was re-cast with Louis Calhern in the role.

Frank Morgan is buried in the Greenwood Cemetery in Brooklyn and his headstone bears the family name of Wuppermann.

His wife Alma died in 1970 and his son George passed away in 2003.

Kevin Trask
The Time Tunnel - with Bruce & Phil-Sundays at 8.20pm on 3AW
That's Entertainment - 96.5FM
Sundays at 12Noon
96.5FM is streaming on the internet.
To listen, go to www.innerfm.org.au and follow the prompts.

'Survival of Fittest' is real concept

People who follow various pursuits often have ultimate goals in the achievements of these pursuits.

A mountaineer, for example, may wish to ascend Everest - that's about the last thing I'd ever want to do.

As a fisherman I'd love to catch a 20lb snapper in the Rip, as I have frustratingly watched the pros do when I have been anchored right beside them,

bereft of a bite. A chef may hanker for a truffle pie; a classic car aficionado may want an E-Type; an art collector may wish to own a Leonardo; a cryptozoologist, such as myself, would love to catch a Bigfoot.

Further, as a sometime herpetologist, I've got a couple of ultimate goals, neither of which I have yet achieved.

Firstly I have always wanted to just

see, in the wild, and ultimately briefly catch, a death adder.

I've been on the lookout for ever, and it's never happened.

But my ultimate has always been to find a Bandy-Bandy - the harmless tiny black and white striped snake which occurs around much of Central Australia.

So what's happened now - my mate Rex Niendorf has beaten me to it. Just located one in an Alice Springs back yard last week.

The Clontarf Foundation is an organisation which has the ideals of improving the education, discipline, skills, self esteem and job prospects of young Aboriginal men.

And my mate Krafty turned his Overlanders' Steak House over to a fundraiser for this organisation in November last year when the Barmy Army was in town as part of the Chairman's XI cricket match.

They were challenged to Krafty's famous Ringer's Reward, the wolfing down of a 2kg lump of tender rump steak - like something out of "Man V Food".

The Army may excel in certain outlandish aspects of life in the pursuit of their chosen vocation, but devouring a great gob of steak isn't one of them - a local, Alan Rowe, finished off his in just 16 minutes.

The evening through there were plenty of other activities to interest the lively audience, and to raise money - a total of \$1060 was raised and Krafty threw in another \$940 of his own hard-earned and gave them a check for \$2000. Onya Krafty.

In the past I devoted many words to Bo's - Bojangles Saloon in Alice Springs.

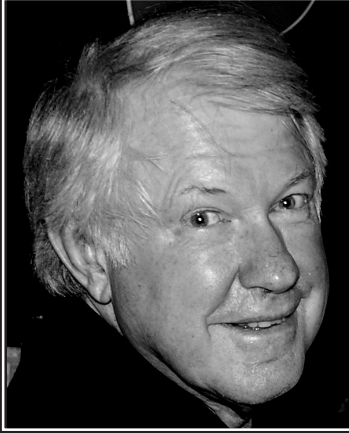
I have watched its growth to the once-prime watering hole in Alice Springs, then to the demise of where it is now - closed for the past three years.

I reported recently that it was about to become part of a national hotel chain. Now it's been revealed that this is the Ettamoga Group.

Spawned for the old cartoon in Post magazine, exemplifying the typically Aussie outback pubs, it's now about to reopen in the most appropriate place in Australia.

One did open years ago around Albury, but I'm not sure if it's still going.

The Outback Legend



with Nick Le Souef
Lightning Ridge Opals
175 Flinders Lane,
Melbourne
Phone 9654 4444
www.opals.net.au

Managing Director Leigh O'Brien said the plans were at an advanced stage. "We will extend the building upwards three floors, and will be employing between 30 and 50 local staff".

Bo's was always the really quintessential Aussie Outback pub, and it was only when this flavour was tampered with that it went downhill.

So now there is an opportunity for these new chaps to restore it to an atmosphere and viability to once again become an iconic Alice Springs institution

To further understand the Theory of Evolution, and to see whether it may match up with the story of Creation, I have begun to read Darwin's *Origin of Species* to see whether this can provide all the answers which it has purported to over many decades.

Can the intricacies and complications of our very psyche and persona just evolve by themselves, without any external "help".

Us Homo Sapiens haven't even been able to make a spark of life ourselves yet, to replicate even an Amoeba. My jury is certainly still out

on that one.

However it does appear that the "Survival of the Fittest" is a real concept - dark coloured moths survive and ultimately take over when flying around in forests with trees with dark coloured bark. And fish which manage to camouflage themselves in their environment survive and prosper.

And it seems that this is about to be demonstrated with our insidious cane toad. They started off in the tropics of South America, then went over to Hawaii, and now they're ravaging the environment of Australia. They're adapting themselves so they can tolerate harsher climates - so long as they have the water they can now tolerate the desert - they're hopping into the dams of the Tanami. Frogwatch coordinator Graham Sawyer reports that they have now been found in the arid desert itself.

And a new research paper claims that they are adjusting their "thermal tolerance" to cope with cooler climates.

Can do without that, thanks, Mr Darwin.

I've got a lot of Aboriginal friends, and the one thing which I can note about them is that they are always difficult to find.

Even when they lived in permanent homes I have often sought them out and have been told he's gone "out on Sorry Business; he's just gone down to Coober Pedy; or across to Areyonga".

The old tradition of 'Walkabout' is certainly dying hard.

And when they're not permanently housed they're impossible to find. I've been trying to find my friend Rodney for the past few months, and even when I reach him, tracking down to a town or settlement, getting him to the phone is another matter.

Aboriginal elder Abbott George has been missing for four weeks now.

Although he is probably OK, he has a number of medical situations, and his family is anxious to contact him.

He was last seen at the Laramba Community on July 7, when he left for Alice Springs to visit some family at Larapinta, and it's unclear where he's travelled from there, or where he is at the moment. He is partially blind, so there is concern.

Hopefully he'll turn up safe and sound.

- Nick Le Souef
'The Outback Legend'

Pith And Point

Dockers book

A new publication, *Fremantle Dockers: An Illustrated History* by Les Everett, with foreword by Matthew Pavlich, is being released this week by Slattery Media Group. Recommended price: \$49.95.

Op Shop Week

Melburnians are being invited to celebrate the vital role of charity op shops during National Op Shop Week to be held from August 24-31.

For Diggers

Victoria Cross recipient Keith Payne has launched Dollars for Diggers, a program to help modern veterans.

"The goal for Dollars for Diggers is to raise \$500 000 over the next four years. This will boost Soldier On's ability to provide employment, education and rehabilitation services to wounded veterans and run programs to help their families."

Fairfax sorry

Fairfax's Editor of *The Sydney Morning Herald*, Darren Goodsir, who originally defended a cartoon that was offensive to Jews, has now apologised. "It was wrong to publish the cartoon in its original form."

King Richard

King Richard - The Story of Dick Reynolds, by Dan Eddy, is a new book released in time for the AFL finals series. Reynolds won three Brownlow Medals playing for Essendon. The book, published by Slattery, is on the market for \$39.95 per copy.

Green World

My Green World, a Melbourne wildlife organisation, is hosting its inaugural fundraising gala event *A Wild Night*.

The event will take place in Melbourne's Bluestone Bar on the August 23. Tickets can be purchased for \$75 from www.trybooking.com/FHUD

Season launch

The Melbourne Chamber Orchestra is launching its 2015 season on Thursday, August 28 at the Sofitel Melbourne on Collins

Artistic Director, William Hennessy, has curated an adventurous year of music, featuring some of Australia's most talented soloists.

MCO's eclectic 2015 season brings together contrasts of old and new, well-loved and rare, original and arranged to create a distinctive MCO style.

'Bent' opens

Bent, a play by Martin Sherman, opens on Thursday, September 4 at Theatre Works, St Kilda.

Opening on the 75th anniversary of the start of World War II, *Bent* is the powerful and little known story of the persecution of gays, the 'Pink Triangles', at the hands of the Nazis.

Awards night

The 14th annual Helpmann Awards, which is set to take place on Monday, August 18 at Sydney's Capitol Theatre.

A full list of nominations was published in the *Melbourne Observer* newspaper and can be viewed at our website.