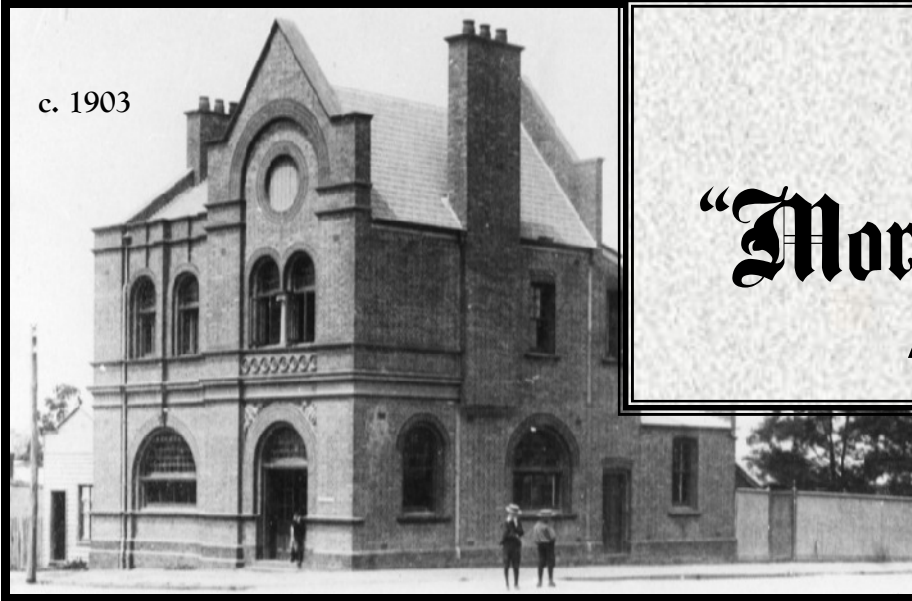


Morwell Historical Society Inc.

Website: www.LVonline.com.au/morwellhistoricalsociety.htm

c. 1903



The

AOO 16986 W

“Morwell Post”

April 2005

Vol. 22 No.2

Secretary: Elsie McMaster
2 Harold Street Morwell
Tel: 5134 1149

Compiled by: Stephen Hellings

Published every two months



Proudly supported by Latrobe City Council

MORWELL LOSES THE KARMA HALL

In the early hours of February 6, 2005, fire destroyed Morwell's Karma Hall, scene of many happy gatherings over the years.

Built in 1948, it was originally used as a picture theatre, dance hall and venue for wedding receptions and parties. A roller skating rink also operated there for a time.

In the years 1968 - 71, the Karma was home to the Kasbah Club and became known as one of country Victoria's best entertainment venues, attracting acts such as John Farnham, and The Easybeats.

Morwell Lions Club, which took over management of the hall in 1994, lost much of its memorabilia and equipment in the fire, including, trailers, barbecue, sound system and portable shelter used in fund-raising. The hall was used recently by a number of local groups, for activities such as dancing, drama and meetings.

Police investigations are continuing into the fire, which is thought to have been deliberately lit.

Elsie McMaster

VALE ERIC LUBCKE

Our Society lost one of its most valued members on March 23rd, 2005, with the passing of Eric Lubcke.

Eric joined the Society in 1987 and has been one of our staunchest, most reliable and hardest working members. He was a fund of knowledge about Morwell, Yinnar, Jumbuk and surrounding districts, having spent most of his life in these areas, and his wide circle of contacts enabled him to find and record much first-hand information about these communities which may otherwise have been lost.

Eric had a keen interest in photography and it is largely due to his efforts that Morwell Historical Society has an excellent collection of historical photographs of the area. He carried his camera with him wherever he went and, whenever he found someone with an interesting photograph, he would borrow it, copy it and record any information available.

He was a member of the team which produced the popular pictorial history "Glimpses of Our Past" in 1989 and he was also responsible for a number of the Society's photographic displays at public events such as the Shire of Morwell's Centenary and the Centenary of Federation celebrations.

Eric was Vice-President of the Society for three years and President for four-and-a-half years. Nothing was ever too much trouble for him. In spite of his commitments in a number of other community groups, if there was a working bee, or the need for a representative to attend a meeting, Eric would make himself available, and much of the Society's equipment such as display cases, filing cabinets, chairs etc was the result of his visits to auctions and clearing sales in the early days of the Society.

Eric was reliable, trustworthy and obliging - a gentle man in every sense of the word.

We will miss him greatly but remember him fondly and with gratitude.

Elsie McMaster

LYLE HOPKINS REMEMBERS THE POST OFFICE

At our Annual General Meeting in March, former Morwell Post Master Lyle Hopkins took an entertaining and informative look backwards at the Morwell Post Office, which has been in its present location for 50 years. Here is a brief summary of Lyle's talk:

Morwell Post Office opened on its present site on April 4, 1955. The previous Post Office was located on the corner of Tarwin Street and Commercial Road and the present Post Office was erected on a block of land which had previously held a blacksmith's shop, on the corner of Princes Drive and Church Street. The land cost 2,000 pounds (\$4,000) and the cost of the building was 38,000 pounds, at a time when the basic postage rate was threepence-ha'penny (4 cents) a letter.

Post Offices and telephone exchanges were both part of the Post Master General's Department (PMG) and the emphasis in the Post Offices was on service rather than profitability, since the telecommunications side of the PMG made substantial profits.

Post Office staff in the 'fifties, as well as dealing with the mail, had responsibility for the management of the telephone exchange, telephone accounts, collection and counting of money from public phone boxes and were also responsible for sending telegrams (by Morse Code until the advent of teleprinters in 1959) - a time consuming but necessary service, mostly run at a loss. The cleaning of the Post Office was also done by a Post Office employee, not a contractor as is the case today.

Mail came by train and was brought to and from the Post Office by contractors - Fred Blucher, Terry Lappin and Dudley McNamara were three who were well-known.

The Australian flag was raised and lowered daily and the public were quick to let staff know if the flag was not up by 9am, or if it had been left out overnight.

There were five postmen in 1955. Jack Hughes was Post Master, with Theo van Horn his second-in-charge, and Col Paull was postal clerk.

Bert Christie was appointed Post Master when Jack Hughes retired.

Lyle came to Morwell Post Office in 1957 as counter officer and telegraph despatch officer. In those days child endowment was paid at the Post Office and Lyle remembers the queues on endowment days stretching out the front door and down Church St. nearly to the laneway. Staff were also responsible for paying old age and widows pensions and for collecting fees for radio and television licences, and the increase in population and businesses in the sixties meant an increase in delivery staff, the installation of more private boxes, and more post boxes to be cleared.

1st July 1975 saw a great change, with the break up of the PMG department into two separate commissions - Australia Post and Telecom. Post Offices could no longer shelter under the telecommunications umbrella of financial security and now had to compete in a commercial world. Although service was still important, financial viability was the order of the day. Agency work expanded to include Shire rates and water rates payments, passports, citizenship interviews etc, plus philatelic sales. Morwell became Gippsland's only philatelic sales centre east of Dandenong. Packaging materials such as jiffy bags were introduced for sale and delivery of parcels was handed over to contractors.

In October 1977 the opening of the Morwell Mail Centre vastly changed mail circulation arrangements. Mail no longer came by train but by Australia Post vehicles and contractors. Post boxes around the town were now cleared by Mail Centre vans and sorting (now by post code rather than by area names) took place at the Centre, not at the Post Office as before. Col Paull, who had commenced his career at the old Post Office in Commercial Road, was Post Master at this time.

In 1982, Lyle came to Morwell as Controlling Postal Manager for the area - a new concept whereby he assumed responsibility for sub-offices, mail services, budgets etc. In the eighties, motor scooters were first used for telegram delivery, then on four of the delivery routes. Women were also employed as delivery staff. During the mid to late 1980s, Morwell Post Office was the highest revenue earning office between Dandenong and the New South Wales border.

In 1990 the then Morwell Shire created the garden and walk-through on land behind (and owned by) the Post Office in Church Street.

The explosion of 17th March, 1991, badly damaged the Post Office along with neighbouring buildings in Church Street. Lyle recalls that there was absolute chaos when he arrived at the Post Office in the early hours, but fortunately - with a great deal of effort - normal services were maintained, even though a little delayed.

In 2003, the posties were relocated to the Mail Centre and night sorting of their delivery mail commenced, resulting in earlier deliveries.

Lyle retired in 1993, and there have been five Postal Managers since then - the current occupant is Cheryl Francis.



Elsie McMaster

Morwell Advertiser and Gazette

9th May 1924

Sudden Death

A very old and highly respected resident of the district in the person of Mr Joseph Quigley, died very suddenly yesterday morning. It appears that deceased left his home, which is situated in Elgin Street, about 9 a.m. with the intention of going up the main street. He walked along Hazelwood Road and had reached Ann Street, between Mrs Shaw's and Mrs Tulloch's residence, when he suddenly collapsed and fell face downwards on the roadway.

He was observed by a young man driving Mr Wilsons' bakers' cart, and the police and the doctor were communicated with. Constable Suckling arrived at the spot in two or three minutes time, and when Dr. Mitchell arrived a little later life was extinct.

Deceased, who was 47 years of age spent practically all his life in Morwell and Yinnar, with the exception of a few years spent in Western Australia.

He was exceptionally good among stock, and for some time acted as dairy and stock inspector for the Shire of Morwell.

On Monday last he assisted in drafting stock at Mathieson, Davies, Vary and Co's, local yard sale and was about as usual on Tuesday and Wednesday. He, however, suffered from heart trouble for some time and occasionally received treatment from doctor for same. On Wednesday night he complained of not feeling "too good," but appeared to be all right when he left home yesterday morning.

He possessed a quiet, genial disposition and was very highly esteemed by a large circle of friends, all of whom were greatly shocked at the news of his sudden demise. He leaves a widow and three young children to mourn their loss, and deep sympathy is expressed for them and also for his aged mother and other relatives in their sad and sudden bereavement.

The remains of deceased will be interred in Hazelwood Cemetery this afternoon, the funeral cortege leaving Sacred Heart Church at 2 p.m.

Morwell Advertiser and Gazette

25th. January 1929

St. Mary's Church of England



ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the above took place on Tuesday last, when there was a representative gathering of parishioners present – the number constituting almost a record.

The Rector occupied the chair, and after the completion of formal business the election of Church officers for the ensuing year took place, and resulted in the following:-

Churchwardens: (Rector's appointment) Mr M. Abson; (elected by Parishioners) Messrs D. C. Mills and L. Davey. Vestrymen: Out of 11 nominations for the election of 6, the following were elected in the order of voting: Messrs H. H. Hitchins, T. Symons, J. Dow, H. Bridle, Young and Rogers.

The auditors appointed were Mr E. L. Vary, J.P., and Mr R. Dow.

The Parochial nominators appointed were Messrs D. C. Mills, L. Davey and R. Dow.

Then followed a good deal of discussion as to the most suitable method of celebrating the Jubilee Year of the Church in Morwell this year. It was eventually decided that special efforts be arranged for the week-end of Nov. 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th, which will be known as a "Back to St. Mary's Week." The proceeds of the occasion are to be used for building purposes.

A further motion was passed that "A Jubilee Fund" be opened for the current year, and that it be designed for a Rectory and a new Church, the donor to state for which (or both) purpose the gift is to be used.

The meeting gave evidence of an enlivened interest in church matters and this inaugural meeting of the Jubilee was a good start off for what is hoped will be a successful Jubilee Year.



From our scrapbook

JUNIOR MALE CLERK

(16-20 YEARS)

EXCELLENT opportunity for lad 16-20 years of age and approximately Intermediate Certificate standard to join a rapidly expanding organisation engaged in large-scale development of a vital industry. Excellent prospects for a keen ambitious lad.

SALARIES PER WEEK

16 years	£8 3 3
17 years	£8 16 3
18 years	£10 4 9
19 years	£12 9 10
20 years	£15 0 1
21 years	£17 14 6

Adult Salaries rising by annual increments to £22/19/6 per week.

(The above rates include Morwell Site Gas and Area Allowances)

Further advancement possible to higher salary classifications rising to £29/4/6 per week. Good opportunities to reach executive positions on higher salaries.

- ★ Excellent Conditions.
- ★ 38-hour, 5-day week
- ★ Cumulative Sick Leave
- ★ Long Service Leave
- ★ Superannuation

Apply by letter, stating age, qualifications and experience to
THE ACTING WORKS MANAGER, Production Depart.

GAS AND FUEL CORPORATION OF VICTORIA

TRAMWAYS ROAD, MORWELL.

“Morwell Advertiser”

8th. October 1956

Morwell Advertiser and Gazette

30th. August 1918

MEMORIAL SERVICE



UNVEILING CEREMONY

Every available seat was filled at the local Church of England on Sunday evening last, the occasion being a memorial service and unveiling of tablet erected in church to the memory of the late Mr Henry McIntosh, and his son Athol.

The "pew" in which Mr McIntosh and his son used to sit when at church, was draped across the entrance, whilst on the wall at opposite end was the tablet covered by a small Union Jack. At the back of chancel another large Union Jack was hanging.

The unveiling ceremony was performed by the Rev. A. J. Smith. On the "veil" being removed there was exposed to view a striking brass plate, about 10 inches by 12 inches, bearing the following inscription:-

"In loving memory of Henry McIntosh, died April 25, 1918. Aged 60.
And his son, Gunner H. Athol McIntosh, died of wounds in France,
October 22, 1917. Aged 23."

"Lo, I am with you always."

Mr Smith took his text from Joshua IV, 7: "And these stones shall be for a memorial unto the children of Israel for ever."

During the course of his remarks Mr Smith said they had met that evening to witness the impressive ceremony of unveiling memorial erected to the memory of the late Mr McIntosh and his son. He had not the privilege of personally knowing either Mr McIntosh or his son, but the very large congregation present was a testimony of the high esteem and regard in which both were held.

He was informed that for over 30 years Mr McIntosh had occupied the form at the end of which tablet was erected, and for nearly the same period was a member of the Board of Guardians, and was a leading officer of the church.

No one could say how greatly he was missed, and it was impossible to express in language the appreciation of the services rendered by him, and the loss sustained by the church in his death.

His son Athol was born in Morwell and had been baptised and confirmed in the church, and came regularly with his father to worship.

When the Empire's call came for men to fight for justice, liberty and right, and against German tyranny he was not found wanting, and as Isaiah of old said: "Here am I, send me."

He was not only an only son, but an only child, and like many other brave young men had lain down his life for us, and for his God, King and country.

He (Mr Smith) was pleased indeed that a memorial had been erected to such a godly father and noble son.

Mr Smith went on to say that the memorial referred to in his text had been erected by a nation lest they forgot what God had done for them. Through the intervention of God the waters of Jordan were cut off and the children of Israel were enabled to pass over the Jordan on dry ground into the promised land. Joshua therefore commanded twelve men-one from each tribe-to go into the midst of the Jordan and procure a stone each and carry same on shoulder to their camp, where the memorial was erected unto the children of Israel.

The memorial was not only to remind them of what God had done, but was also significant of God's promise, presence and power, God's promise to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob had been fulfilled upon their entering the promised land.

They were reminded of God's presence for He had led them and never left them alone. God's power had also been displayed in the fact that Nature's laws that he had created were subject to Him and he had overruled them for his people's sake. It encouraged them to put their trust in him.

Continuing Mr Smith said the lesson was a message to them all to consider and reflect on God's promise, presence and power. They should take time to consider and study God's promises given in Jesus Christ, the promise of pardon, the forgiveness of sin, and of life eternal.

Christ said “Verily I say unto you, he that believeth in me shall never perish but hath everlasting life.”

They were apt to forget God’s blessed promises contained in His Holy book. They were assured of God’s presence for He said “Lo! I am with you always.”

He believed those were the last words uttered by the brave young soldier who had given his life. “You and I,” said the preacher, “want to have the experience of that fact, and realise that wherever we are God is with us.”

After making reference to God’s power and the fact that Christ had said: “All power is given unto me in heaven and earth”; the desire of Paul to know the power of Christ’s resurrection; His power over sin, self and death, Mr Smith concluded by saying that the tablet that had just been unveiled reminded them of two who had been promoted from the Church Militant to the Church Expectant – and were with God whose presence was invisible and power invincible.



Photograph: “Duty Nobly Done” by John Pearson



Commercial Road

Serving our Township



Princes' Drive & Church Street

Next Meeting:

Tuesday 19th April at 7.30 pm

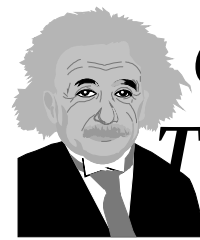
21 Church Street.

Everyone most welcome!

GUEST SPEAKER:

Mr. Peter Roberts

Mr. Roberts will be speaking about the Salvation Army's 50 years in Morwell.



Quiz Time!!!

The answer to February's little poser was: 1935

(The exact date was 10th January)

Our Puzzler for this issue is:

When was the Post Office on the corner of Tarwin Street and Commercial Road opened

Go on, have a guess!

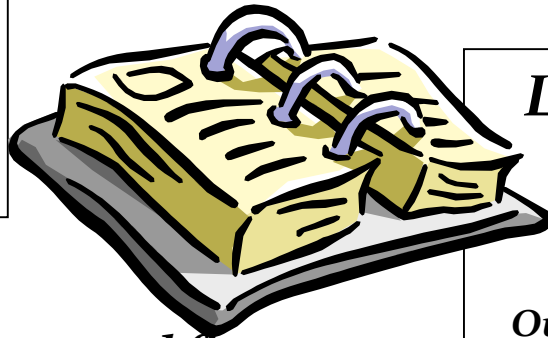
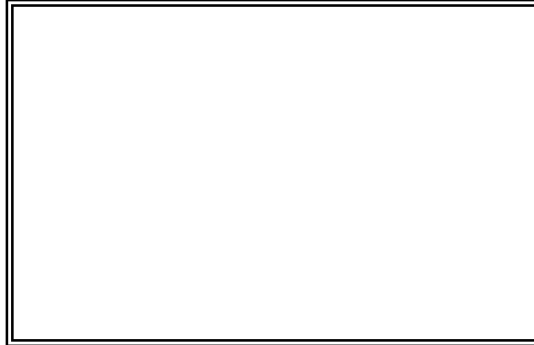
Pick a number!

1. 1888
2. 1890
3. 1892
4. 1900
5. 1955

Annual Subscriptions:

Please Note that annual subscriptions are now due:

\$17.00 single member
\$20.00 couple or



More from our facts and figures book:

Morwell School (No. 2136) was officially opened on 3rd April 1879.

The first teacher was Mr. John Irving; he arrived in town on 2nd April on the very first train from Melbourne (Princes' Bridge).

Mr. Irving taught at the school until 1884, he then shifted to the new school at Boolarra.

Local History on the Internet:

Our new Website Address is now:

www.Latrobacityonline.com

Thanks to Ben and Mary for their continued support and technical

