

# Morwell Historical Society Inc.

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c. 1903



# The

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# “Morwell Post”

February 2004

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Compiled by: Stephen Hellings

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## ‘A Souvenir History of Morwell’

Our thanks go to the family of the late Ivan and Elsie Madden for their donation of a number of books, papers and items from their parents’ collection. Among these are a number of copies of *A Souvenir History of Morwell*, compiled by Ivan Maddern for Morwell’s centenary celebrations in 1979. The book (soft cover, 80 pages) has been out of print since that time. The copies we have may be slightly damaged (rusted staples, slight discolouration) but are entirely readable.

We are offering these to members at \$5.00 a copy (plus \$1.00 postage). Any remaining copies will then be made available to the general public. Also available are a few copies of Ivan Maddern’s booklet (approx. 20 pages) on the *History of State Education in Victoria* at \$1.00 each.

Enquiries and orders: Elsie McMaster  
2 Harold Street, Morwell, 3840.

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## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of Morwell Historical Society Inc. will be held on: **TUESDAY, MARCH 16<sup>TH</sup> AT 21 CHURCH STREET MORWELL AT 7.30 PM.**

Election of office bearers for the coming year will be held and all positions will be declared vacant prior to these elections.

# Morwell Advertiser and Gazette

8<sup>th</sup> August 1935

## Wedding



### WINCHESTER - BENN



A very pretty wedding was solemnised by the Rev. L. W. A. Benn, in St. Mary's church, Morwell, on Saturday last; the contracting parties being Mr Stan Winchester, of Burwood, and Miss Norma Benn, fifth daughter of Mr and Mrs W. S. Benn, of Hawthorn.

The bride looked very winsome as she entered the church with her father, as the congregation sang, "The Voice that Breathed O'er Eden." She was becomingly frocked periwinkle blue silk with hat and shoes to match, and carried a dainty shower bouquet of carnations, daphne, camellias and sweet peas. Her sister, Miss Hope Benn, accompanied her, as bridesmaid, gowned in pale blue silk, with hat and shoes to tone, and carried a shower bouquet similar to the bride's.

The best man was Mr J. Porteus, of Maryborough.

Madame Morgan played selections on the organ during the signing of the register, and Mendelsshon's "Wedding March" as the bridal pair left the church, which was tastefully decorated with greenery and white flowers, by Miss A. M. Clark, who also made the bridal bouquets.

The wedding breakfast was laid at Mr Wilson's café, where the usual felicitous toasts were duly honored. A handsome wedding cake adorned the bride's table.

Later the happy couple left by car for Melbourne amid showers of congratulations and confetti. Their future home will be at Burwood.

It is of interest to note that Mr Benn, who on this occasion gave his daughter away, was himself married in St. Mary's, 42 years ago, by Archdeacon Langley, of Rosedale - afterwards Bishop of Bendigo. It was a very hot day and Mr Benn and his bride rode on horseback from Dumbalk, a distance of 36 miles.



# Morwell Advertiser & Gazette

31<sup>st</sup>. May 1929

## FIRE

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### SERIOUS CONFLAGRATION NARROWLY AVERTED

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What in all probability would have been a most serious conflagration, was narrowly averted about 11 o'clock on Monday evening last, when a fire broke out, under most exceptional circumstances, in the Toy Department of G. P. Evan's newsagency, in the main street.

The building is a two storey structure. On the bottom floor is Mr. Evans' shop, whilst the top floor is occupied by Mr. Braham, dentist, and his wife.

Mr. Evans who does not reside on the premises, locked up his shop at about 9 p.m., and went home leaving everything in order. About two hours later Mrs. McGuinn happened to go outside before retiring to bed and smelt something burning, and drew her husband's attention to the fact.

On investigating it was discovered that the chimney which has a fireplace on ground floor (in Evans' shop) and one on the toy storey, was on fire. Mr McGuinn also noticed that smoke was issuing from rear of Evans' shop. He rang up Mr. Braham, and making further investigations discovered that a fire had broken out in the Toy Department of Evans' shop.

An alarm was quickly raised and an entrance was made into the shop by breaking a window. Fortunately water was available, and although the room was full of dense smoke, a few buckets of water extinguished the flames that were leaping out of the fireplace which contained a number of dolls, mechanical toys and other articles that had been set alight through burning soot falling from top of chimney to the fireplace below.

But for the timely discovery of the outbreak the fire would probably have been one of the most serious that has occurred in the town for many years.



# Morwell Advertiser and Gazette

29<sup>th</sup> August 1935

## Offensive Behavior



At the Morwell Court of Petty Sessions, last week, before Mr Thomson, P.M., Albert Gribble, Alexander Scott and Mark Stepnell were charged on the information of Constable Keith W. Pyle, with offensive behaviour at Brown Coal Mine, on June 29<sup>th</sup>.

John Robinson, billiard room marker, of Brown Coal Mine, gave evidence regarding a disturbance that took place inside and outside his billiard room on the night of 29<sup>th</sup> June.

He told the defendants to cut out the rough and to stop using obscene language. He did not care to repeat the language used, but would write it down. In trying to put Stepnell out of the room he was knocked down. Mr Pratt came to his assistance, and defendants were got outside, where a fight took place.

He informed the police and Constable Pyle arrived on the scene whilst the fight was in progress.


Constable Pyle stated at 11.15 on the night of 29<sup>th</sup> June he saw Scott and Gribble engaged in a fight, at Brown Coal Mine, outside billiard room. He asked them what they were fighting about and Scott replied, "Gribble said he was a better man than I am."

Gribble was fined £1 for offensive behaviour.

Scott was fined £1 for offensive behaviour and £2 for obscene language.

Stepnell (who had a previous conviction) was fined £2 for offensive behaviour and £3 for obscene language.

Each of the defendants were also ordered to pay 7/8 costs.



# Morwell Advertiser and Gazette

7<sup>th</sup> February 1935

## OBITUARY



### DEATH OF MR E. W. POYNTER



A very highly esteemed resident of the town in the person of Mr E. W. Poynter, chemist, passed away on Sunday last, after a brief illness.

The deceased gentleman, who was 57 years of age, came to Morwell about twenty years ago, and purchased the pharmacy business then carried on by Mr H. H. Brown. He proved himself a most reliable and capable chemist and built up a good business in Morwell, and also established a branch of the business at Yallourn.

A few years ago he disposed of his business at Morwell, and devoted his time to the branch at Yallourn, which had developed considerably.

He took a keen interest in Church affairs and for some years past was Secretary of St. Mary's Church of England. He was a member of the Morwell Bowling Club and took part in match against Yallourn, on December 15<sup>th</sup>. He was a man of integrity and held in very high esteem by a large circle of friends.

A few months ago, Mr Poynter took a sudden bad turn, and was an inmate of St. Hilary's private hospital for a time. He improved very considerably and appeared almost restored to health again, when he took another bad turn last month, whilst spending a holiday at Inverloch. He was treated by Dr. Mitchell and specialist in Melbourne, but although everything possible was done, it proved of no avail, and he passed away in the Alfred Hospital, Melbourne.

Deceased leaves a widow and family of five sons and three daughters to mourn their loss and much sympathy is expressed for them in their sad and sudden bereavement.

The remains of deceased were brought from Melbourne and interred in the Hazelwood Cemetery on Monday last, the funeral cortege being a large one.

The Rev. L. W. A. Benn conducted an impressive service at the grave side and during the course of his remarks said he desired to pay tribute of appreciation and respect to the late Mr Poynter. As a business man he enjoyed the confidence and respect of people because he was a man of integrity. He was a man possessing a versatile nature. He had a keen literary taste and a sound mechanical knowledge. He was of a quiet disposition and sought to avoid disagreement and his life was one of quiet usefulness.

He was a loyal and devoted churchman and he brought business ability to bear on church matters with which he was associated, in conclusion Mr Benn said he would greatly miss Mr Poynter's advice and companionship.

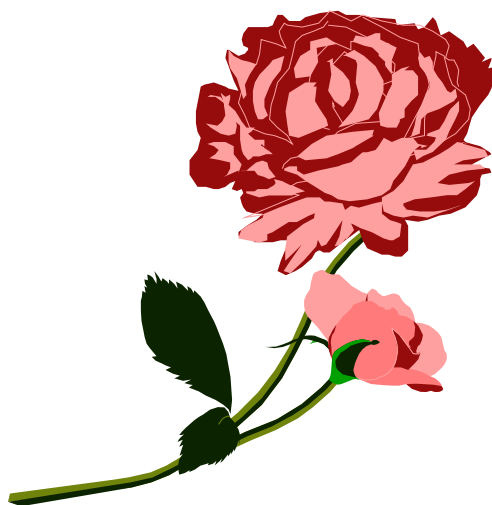
Mr Poynter was a member of the Morwell Masonic Lodge, and at the conclusion of Service conducted by Rev. Benn, a short Masonic service was held, Bro. E. S. Hall acting as Chaplain.

The mortuary arrangements were carried out by Messrs Le Pine and Sons, of Melbourne.

The pall bearers were Messrs L. B. Trigg, G. Watson, D. C. Mills, F. Jenkins, T. C. Kleine and E. S. Hall.

There were a great many beautiful floral tributes.

A Memorial Service will be conducted in St. Mary's church, on Sunday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, at 7.30 p.m.



# Morwell Advertiser

July 17th. 1958

**A.N.Z Bank today announced plans for the erection of a modern building to replace the present branch premises situated at 184 Commercial Road, Morwell.**

The premises will be demolished and a temporary bank building has been erected on the site, the whole project being co-ordinated to ensure the smooth continuity of banking services to customers at the present address.

On completion of the new building the temporary bank will be moved to form portion of the new branch where it will be used to provide staff amenities.

The present Agency at 207 A Princes Highway will be continued by the Bank.

The rapid expansion of the Bank's business in Morwell has necessitated larger premises and the local manager, Mr. H. R. Glass, said that this provided a welcome opportunity for the Bank to give Morwell modern up to date premises similar to those which have become a feature of A.N.Z. representation in many areas.

“ The new building would enable the branch to give the best in service to its trading and savings customers” he said.

Morwell was a small township serving the farming community when the Bank of Australasia (merged into A.N.Z. Bank) purchased the land and built the present branch in 1903.

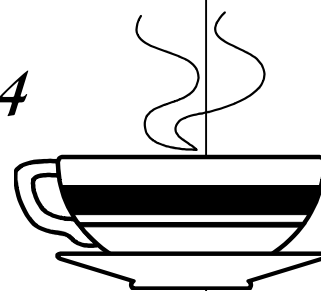
The Bank has commissioned Alan Grieve Pty. Ltd., of Morwell, to erect the building which is expected to be ready for occupation by mid-November this year. The architects are Leslie M. Perrott and Partners of Melbourne.

Mr. Glass stated that the Morwell branch will be modern in every respect and will incorporate the “ open look” which has done so much to promote good customer relationship throughout the Bank's branches. Up to date internal fittings and furnishings will be used to provide pleasant and congenial surroundings for customer and staff.

Night safe facilities, which allow customers to safeguard their money after banking hours will be provided, Mr. Glass said that he would be pleased to explain this modern service to interested parties.



*Next Meeting:*  
*Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> February 2004*  
*At 7.30 pm*  
*21 Church Street*  
*Everyone most welcome*

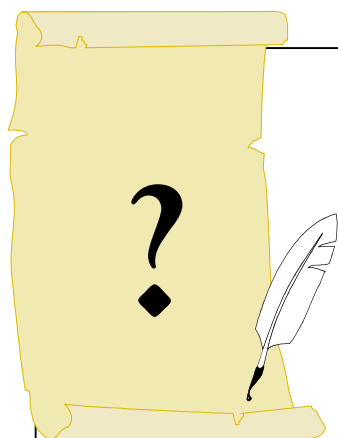


*LATROBE COMBINED HISTORY GROUP*

The Latrobe Combined History Group meets half-yearly.

The next meeting will be held on *Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, at 21 Church Street Morwell, at 2.00 pm.* Representatives of the Morwell, Moe, Boolarra, Yallourn North, Traralgon and Yinnar Historical Societies and the Central Gippsland Family History Society will be attending.

*All members are welcome.*



*Morwell Historical Quiz*

The answer to our last quiz was:

**Mr. Vin Hourigan**

Your question this month is:

**In which year did the Spanish Flu epidemic strike Morwell?**

*Morwell History On-Line*

Many thanks to Ben and Mary for their unstinting help and computer support

**Classens Computers**  
**Church Street Morwell**

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