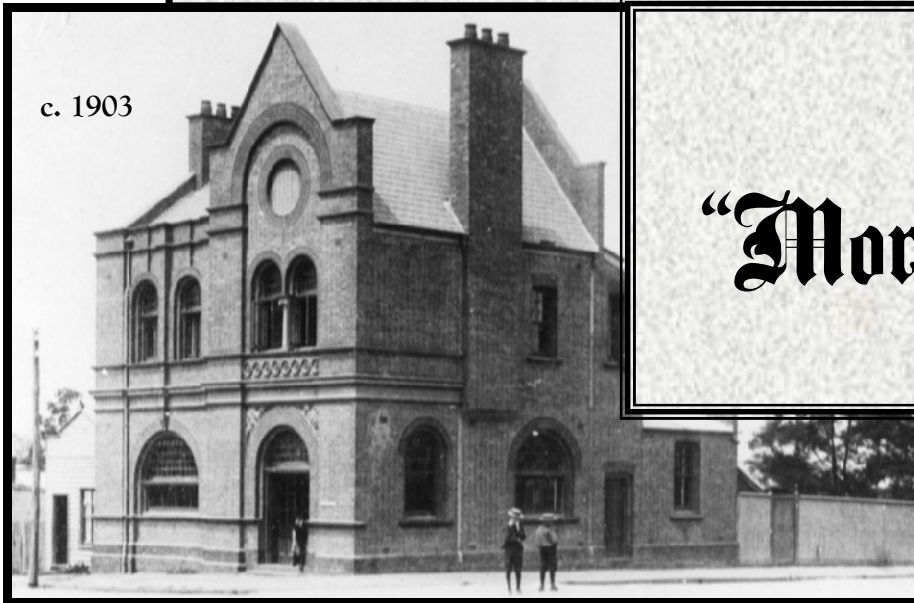


Morwell Historical Society Inc.

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

c. 1903



The “Morwell Post”

July 2002

Vol. 19 No.4

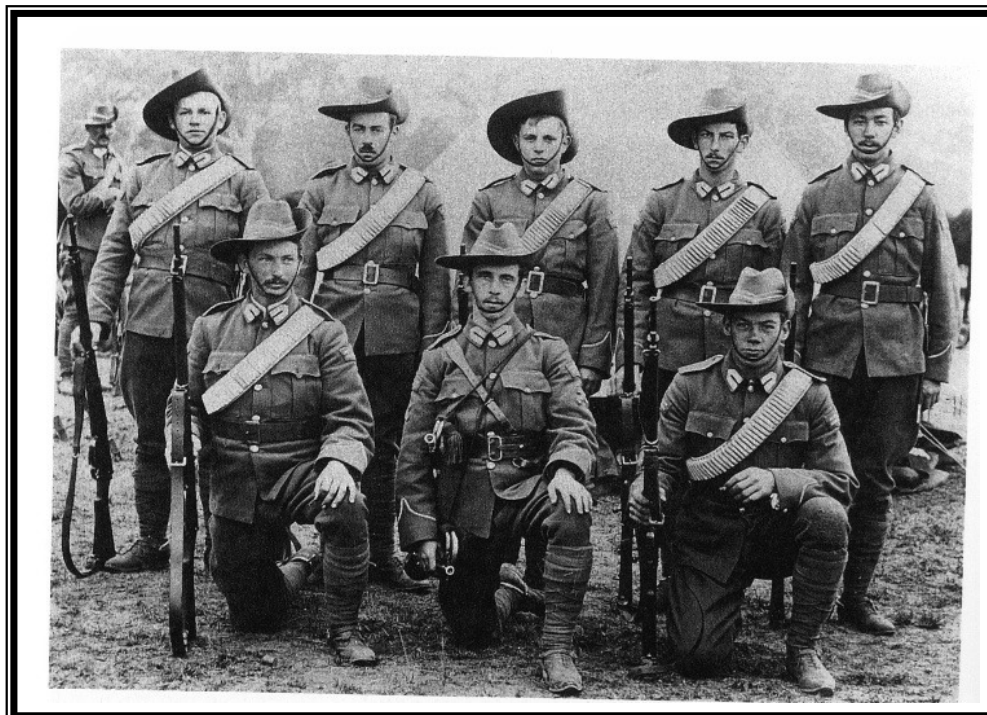
Secretary: Elsie McMaster
2 Harold Street Morwell
Tel: 5134 1149

Compiled by: Stephen Hellings

Boer War Anniversary

The 31st May 2002 marked the 100th anniversary of the end of the Boer War in South Africa.

To commemorate the occasion the Morwell Historical Society is compiling a series of articles and letters that were published in the local press of the day. We would be most grateful if anyone could possibly supply photographs, information or memorabilia of the period.



Help!

Can anyone
identify the
members of
this militia
unit?

Thank You

Ed.

*The following article appeared in the **Morwell and Yinnar Gazette** edition dated:
Friday, 19th. April 1901:*


Sad Death of Sergeant M .T. McDonald

To say that deep sympathy was felt deceased's parent's and relatives all over the district when the sad news became known that Sergeant Michael Terence McDonald, a member of the fifth Victorian Contingent, had died from debility in South Africa, but faintly indicates the sincere sorrow that was felt at his sudden death. He was the son of Mr and Mrs McDonald, of Yinnar, and was only 20 years of age.

When he enlisted in the last contingent he was hale and hearty, and was blessed with a sound and healthy constitution, which makes his death all the more sad and unexpected, seeing that he died of general debility, which simply means a running down of the system. All who knew him were under the impression that he would have seen long service in South Africa, consequently this untimely event has been a severe shock to his friends and admirers.

He was one of those genial, kind hearted souls, who seem to make friends wherever they go. Besides being a general favorite he was a good sportsman, and has figured conspicuously in the local football and cricket clubs. To his aged parents the blow is a severe one, but it is comforting to know that they have the deep sympathy of all the residents in this district who mourn with them in their sad bereavement.

When any of our brave soldier boys die, we all feel that we have sustained a severe loss, because we look upon them as belonging to us in a general sense. As the news to hand only mentions the bare fact of his death, the exact nature of his complaint, and the circumstances attending his death will not be known for some time yet. Before leaving these shores he was raised from a private to the rank of a sergeant, which is a great honor to be conferred upon one so young.



The following article appeared in the Morwell Advertiser edition dated:

August 5th 1904

(Reproduced exactly as written)

OPENING OF ALEXANDRA PARK

About 1 o'clock a large gathering of children, including those attending the Morwell, Morwell Bridge, Hazelwood, and North Hazelwood state schools, and local R. C. school, parents, teachers and representative men of the district, took place on the newly formed park. Proceedings were commenced with the town band playing "The Brave Englishman," the well-known strains of "England expect that ever man this day will do his duty" which formed part of the selection, being very appropriate.

The president of the shire (Cr. O'Grady) afterwards came forward and during an appropriate address congratulated the residents upon the manner in which the reserved had been improved and prepared for the planting of trees, etc. The Shire Council had for some time past contemplated such an undertaking but the matter, no doubt, would have remained in abeyance for a long time, had not the Patriotic Committee assisted them so materially.

The park would be a credit to the town and they should be proud of it. It had been decided to call the park after one whose name was dear to every British subject, and it afforded him very great pleasure to name the reserve the "Alexandra Park," and declare it duly opened. The honor of planting the first tree had been allotted to him, and as many were to be planted, he would proceed at once.

The President then proceeded to plant, amidst applause, a noble "Wellingtonia Gigantea" - the giant tree of California, which grows to the height of 800 feet. The second tree - and English oak - was planted by Captain Hall to perpetuate the memory of the three soldiers - Sgt. McDonald, and Privates Thos. Rose, and Geo. Bolding - who went from this district, and died at the front in South Africa, during the Boer war.

During his remarks, which had touching reference to the deceased soldiers, Captain Hall said the tree which he had the honor of planting would always remind them of a great event in the history of the empire, and well as very sad matters connected with that event. Brave young men had left their happy and comfortable homes to fight for the grand old flag, in a distant land, where they had died at the front. Their memory would be ever fresh with those who knew them, and the tree he was about to plant would perpetuate it for future generations.

The general planting of trees and shrubs was afterwards proceeded with, most of the residents and many of the children each planting an ornamental tree, whilst the Band contributed several selections, concluding with the National Anthem.

About 4 o'clock, the tree planting having been finished, an adjournment was made to the state school where the children were first regaled with sumptuous refreshments, after which the adults were similarly treated, a large staff of ladies being kept hard at work "dealing things out," etc. for a considerable time.

Evening was fast approaching before all had departed, and it is quite certain that all who took part in the celebrations, will always retain pleasant recollections of the first Arbor Day in Morwell, and the opening of Alexandra Park.

Next Meeting



ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Just a friendly reminder to let you know that our annual subscriptions are due:
Couple or Family
Rate: \$18.00
Single Rate: \$15.00

Don't Forget To Visit Our Website:

www.LVonline.com.au/morwellhistoricalsociety.htm



Thank You
Ben and Mary
Claassens Computers Church Street

SERVICES

Church of England.—Morwell, 9.30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Sunday School, 10.45 a.m.; Derham's Hill, 2 p.m. Rev. Canon R. W. G. Phillips; Boolarra, 11 a.m.; Yinnar, 7.30 p.m. Rev. L. S. Luck.

Presbyterian.—Morwell, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m., Rev. W. McIlroy.

Methodist.—Morwell, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Hazelwood North, 2.45 p.m. Rev. E. A. Hinson.

Church of Christ.—Scout Hall, 11 a.m.

Baptist.—Masonic Hall, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Quiz Time

Can you guess the date?????

Answer next edition.