

THE MORWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Published every month except December.

The Society meets every 3rd Tuesday of the Month 7:30pm Collins St. State School Library

This month's Newsletter continues with the 1944 Voter's Roll. Readers have enjoyed the listing of names, occupations and the yearly value of rateable property. The final figure represents the number of votes. The previous Newsletter (March) contained a page from a 1967 Advertiser. Did you reminisce over these prices? Imagine paying 39 cents for a 16 oz. (500 gm) packet of cheddar cheese in 1986.

At the March meeting the following persons were elected for the forthcoming year;

Mr Lou Bond	President
Mr Bruce McMaster	Vice President
Mrs Elsie McMaster	Secretary
Mrs Dorothy Taylor	Treasurer

This Newsletter contains a report from the recent excursion to Shady Creek. The excursion was organized by Traralgon Historical Society. Their invitation to Morwell Historical Society to join this excursion was much appreciated. The report was written by Mrs J. Cafiso.

THE NAMES OF THE STREETS OF MORWELL.

Produced by I. T. Maddern. 10/3/65.

Aherin Street	The name C. R. Aherin occurs in a record of 1882.
Airlie Band Rd.	Airlie Bank was the name of the Bridle family's farm, given to it by the previous owners, the Ogilvie family.
Alamein Street	A battle in World War 2 (North Africa).
Alexander's Rd.	The road that led to the Alexander property.
Angus Street	? Unknown

Ann Street	Ann Keegan. The Keegan family came to Morwell in 1879 or earlier.
Ash Street	One of the group named after trees.
Avondale Rd.	May have received its name from that of an old home in the area, occupied by an early Morwell teacher. There is still a house called "Avondale" in this street.
Auchterlonie St	An old Narracan family, selecting there in 1873.
Bardia Street	A battle in World War Two (North Africa).
Bardon Street	Named by the property owner there, Mr. William Polden, after his wife's birth-place, Bardon Mill, Cumberland, England.

100 years of postal service

LOOKING
BACK
TO 1992

MORWELL HISTORY OF POSTAL CONFUSION

It will be 100 years tomorrow since Morwell's first post office was opened.

Admittedly it lasted only 2½ years — perhaps because the postmaster's salary was £10 per year — but after a lapse of two years the service was restored through postmistress Mary A. Smith, whose salary was £15 per year.

Postal services really got under way on June 1, 1877, when mails between Morwell and Sale were conveyed by rail. At the same time a second post office was set up at the railway station, which also had telegraphic facilities. It was called Morwell R/S.

However, R/S postmaster T. Hayes was on a salary of £6 per annum. This became £27 the following year when J.

Hyens was given the job. The Post Office and Railway Post Office carried on in opposition, the R/S far outstripping the PO. In 1880 the Morwell PO became Morwell Bridge, with Mary Smith on £6 per year. At the R/S Mary Holland was on £60 per annum.

It is generally accepted that the old photograph on this page shows the R/S office on the right and Gilbert's Railway Store



on the left in Commercial Rd. about 1882. Gilbert was never a postmaster. R/S postmistress Alice Neville was then on £93 per year and Mary Smith on £6. In 1885 premises at the north-west corner of Tarwin and George Sts.

were rented as the Post Office and Miss Murray took charge at £108 per year.

To further confuse an already involved situation, a public telegraph office was opened again at the railway station in 1887 under the name "Morwell R/S".

Morwell Bridge Post Office became Godridge in 1891, but was closed in 1895. However, records show that Morwell Bridge was finally closed in August, 1959.

The first official post office at Morwell was erected at the corner of Tarwin St. and Commercial Rd. in 1892. Additions were made in 1912.

Since that time the present postmaster, Mr H. T. Christie, who has been at Morwell since 1967, is only the ninth officer to hold the position.

The new post office building at the corner of Princes Highway and Church St. was opened on April 4, 1955.

The telephone exchange had been moved the previous month when an

automatic service was introduced.

PMG's Department historical officer Mr D. N. Baker has had a hard task unravelling the confusion of Morwell's early postal service history. We have not quoted his full story, but enough to point to the problems of the day.

Morwell Post Office today has a staff of 140 covering the postal, telephone and engineering sections.

It services 1000 private boxes, and more than 3,000 telephone subscribers are connected to the exchange. In addition, more than 5,000 subscribers in the area receive their trunk line calls from the Morwell exchange.

On July 1 this year, Morwell Post Office became the only one in Gippsland functioning as a philatelic centre, selling stamps from such places as Cocoa and Keeling Islands, Christmas Is., Norfolk Is., Papua and New Guinea, Nauru and Western Samoa.

Barry Street	Dick Barry conducted Murdoch's Hotel for many years.
Beatrice Court	Mrs. Beatrice Watts, wife of the subdividing owner.
Berg Street	Named after an early Morwell family.
Billingsley Court	Named after the Billingsley family, estate agents.
Birch Street	One of the tree group.
Blackwood Street	One of the tree group.
Bond Court	Named by the Morwell Council after Cr. L. W. Bond.
Booth Street	Named after a managing-director of the A.P.M. Company.
Botany Street	Named by the A.P.M. after "one of its towns" in N.S.W.
The Boulevard	? Unknown
Breton Street	This could be a mis-spelling of the name Bruton, early Morwell people. Fred Bruton was a tobacconist, hair-dresser and a prominent sportsman.
Bridle Rd.	Robert Bridle (Bridle Estate) came to Morwell in 1897.
Brisbane Street	Probably named after the Buckley family.
Buna Street	A second World War name; a place in New Guinea.
Burnside Drive	Cr. Archibald Burnside, a councillor 1909-1911.
Butters Street	A well-known early Morwell family.
Catherine Street	? Unknown
Catterick Street	James Catterick, councillor of Morwell Shire, 1944-1947.

.... Street names will be continued...

Amusements.

MORWELL ANNUAL RACES.

BOXING-DAY I

MONDAY, DECEMBER 27TH, 1886.

A GOOD DAY'S OUTING.

For All Comers!

Patrons: A. C. Groom, Esq., M.L.A., E. Kelleher, W. Murloch, and R. O'Flaherty, Esqrs.

Starter: Mr T. Walsh.

Judge: Mr G. G. Auchterlonie.

Clerk of Course: Mr J. Keogh. Clerk of Scales: Mr J. English.

Hon. Treasurer: Mr H. McIntosh.

Committee: Messrs Dr. Summers, J. Cavanagh, F. Howlett, D. Shaw, J. Fitzpatrick, H. Syccombe, J. Quigley, A. Donaldson and G. Firmin.

Stewards: C. W. Howlett, E. Crinnigan, T. Wolfe, W. R. Stephenson, J. Harris, C. P. Nind, H. J. Hearn, and J. Matthews.

First race to start at 1 o'clock.

Maiden Plate.—About $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, £5 5s. 3 yrs, 7st, 4 yrs, 8st, 5 yrs and aged, 11st. Entrance, 7s 6d.

Farmers' Trot.—£1 4s; 2nd horse £1 1s. About 2 miles. Entrance, 5s. Weights 11st. Winner to pull 1 ton, when and where directed by the steward. For horses used by farmers.

Morwell Handicap.—£10. About $\frac{1}{2}$ mile. Entrance, 15s. Handicapped by the stewards.

Trot.—£4 10s. Entrance 5s. Twice round. Weights, 11st, 3 yrs, scratch, 4 yrs, 100yds behind, 5 yrs, 200yds behind, 6 yrs and age 1, 300yds behind. Previous winners to be handicapped separately.

Hack Race.— $\frac{1}{2}$ mile. £4 4s. Entrance, 5s.

Hurry Scurry.—£3 3s. Best 2 out of 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ -mile heats without dismounting. Catch weights. Entrance, 2s 6d.

Steeplechase.—£7. Twice round over such jumps as the stewards may determine. To be handicapped by stewards. Entrance, 12s 6d.

Pony Race.— $\frac{1}{2}$ mile. £3 3s. Entrance, 2s 6d. Catch weights.

Consolation.— $\frac{1}{2}$ mile. £3 3s. Entrance, 2s 6d. Handicapped by stewards.

The stewards may refuse to allow any horse winning one race to start again the same day.

Entries close for Handicap and Steeplechase at half-past nine p.m. on the 24th December, at Murloch's Hotel.

Membership 10s.

RACE BALL IN THE EVENING.

W. MURDOCH,
Hon. Sec.

× MORWELL RACES.

There was a fair attendance at the well races on Boxing Day, which passed off very satisfactorily. The following are the results:—

Maiden Plate.—Truelove, 1; King Peter, 3.

Farmers' Trot.—Flossie, 1; Prince Gipsy, 3.

Morwell Handicap.—Beeswing, 1; 2; Amusement, 3. Nine started.

All Comers' Trot.—Darby Kelly, 1; Jessie, 2; Trident, 3.

Hack Race.—Brown, 1; King, 2.

Hurry Scurry Race.—Josephine I.

Steeplechase.—Shamrock, 1; Beeswing, 2.

Pony Race.—Flying Jack, 1.

Consolation Stake.—Woodman, 1; Snip, 2.

From THE TRARALGON RECORD Friday Dec. 31ST.

- THE TRARALGON RECORD from which these extracts are taken is held by the Traralgon Public Library.

FROM THE TRARALGON RECORD DEC. 24 1886.

Excursion to Shady Creek

Sunday, April 6th 1986

A number of our members accepted the invitation of the Traralgon Historical Society to join them on their excursion to Shady Creek on Sunday 6th April, 1986 which was led by Mr. Andy Ringin, Hon. Secretary-Treasurer of the Moe Historical Society.

On our arrival at the Regional Education Centre Kirk Street, Moe, we were astonished to see the crowd this excursion had attracted. Somewhere around thirty cars containing at least 100 people headed for the hills along the Old Sale Road north of Moe. This cavalcade of cars winding its way along this quiet old bush road would be quite an unusual sight, so it was no wonder that a young girl riding her horse beside the road, pulled up in astonishment. Even the horse looked astounded and some-one in our car suggested we should have had stickers on our cars indicating what we were about. A suggestion for the wording on such stickers was "Don't get hysterical, instead - go historical".

Finally the cars were parked at a pre-arranged area and we all set out on quite a long hike up hill and down dale through the bush land until we came to a spot marked by a solitary headstone. This was the original site of the first small settlement known as Shady Creek. This part of the creek from which the settlement got its name was drained in the early 1900's and converted into a deep drainage channel known as the "Main Drain" which empties into the Latrobe River a mile or so north of Moe. Shady Creek settlement occupied two other sites after this one, the last of which is on the map north of Yarragon.

Now the only remains of the first Shady Creek settlement are faint traces of the road, a partly filled hole (once the cellars of the "Drovers Rest Hotel") and this single headstone. The headstone has the following inscription - To the memory of, Henry W. Hadden M.D.

Died 25th of July, 1869. Aged 47 years.

We all gathered around Mr. Andy Ringin to hear something of the history of Dr. Hadden and other colourful early residents of this area.

Dr. Hadden actually died in the Cobb & Co. coach on his way back to Walhalla from Melbourne. When the coach pulled up at Crossover, the passengers, including two friends of Dr. Hadden's alighted for refreshments. Once inside, they noticed that he was not with them - someone returned to the coach to look for him and found him lying in the straw on the floor of the coach, dead.

The hotel keeper at Crossover (Sutcliffe) was unwilling to be left with the body but was prevailed on to keep it at the rear of the building under some sheets of bark, as the coach driver obviously could not take it on in the coach. The next day Dr. Hadden's remains were removed to Shady Creek for an inquest to be held. Subsequently the coroner, Henry Luke of Rosedale, held an inquest there. Later because of the difficulty of getting the body over the track from Shady Creek to Walhalla, the decision was made to bury the Doctor at this spot.

Dr. Hadden was an Irishman who had been resident in Australia for 16 years at the time of his death. On arrival in Australia he had practised as a doctor at Daisy Hill, Back Creek, Amherst, Victoria, -near Maryborough, Vic.

In October 1855 a coroner's jury at Amherst found Dr. Hadden did "by criminal neglect cause the death of Ellen Kirkham". It was claimed that he was not in a responsible condition when called to attend Mrs. Kirkham and he told her husband "If she's dying, let her die and be damned". He was sentenced to 3 years hard labour for this neglect.

However by 1866 he was practicing in Walhalla and in 1868 he redeemed himself by his services to the community when members of the Hanks family were stricken with small-pox. His efforts helped to prevent an epidemic and this headstone was erected as a

gesture of appreciation by his friends at Walhalla.

Perhaps the most colourful characters of early Shady Creek days was NICOL BROWN (1819-1916).

Briefly some exploits were -

1. Partner with Billy Hillier Scrubby Forrest Station known as Billy's Creek south of Morwell.
 2. In 1859 he (Nicol Brown) set up an inn on the cattle route from Gippsland to Morwell and named it DROVERS REST HOTEL. It was at this first site of Shady Creek.
 3. In 1860 his first wife and little daughter died and were buried at Shady Creek cemetery near the hotel.
 4. In 1865 he chartered a route from Shady Creek to Tangil, Coopers Creek and Walhalla.
 5. Circa 1866-67 he remarried - a barmaid from Melbourne.
 6. In 1868 he murdered William Laughton known as Billy the Mailman for suspected dalliance with his wife. For this he was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment. He was released in 1887 (Queen Victoria's Amnesty).
 7. In 1894 at the age of 75, he went to W.A. (having many adventures on the way) struck it rich, and returned to Rosedale.
 8. In 1895 he had his first wife and little daughter exhumed from Shady Creek and re-buried at Rosedale.
 9. Later Nicol and his son lived near Trafalgar and he was a well known identity in this district.
 10. In 1903 at the age of 83 he married for the 3rd time, in Melbourne and died in that city in 1916 at the age of 96.
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After Mr. Ringin's interesting talk we make our way back to the cars to have our afternoon tea. Mr. John Power, the president of the Traralgon Society thanked Mr. Ringin and the Moe folk for making such an interesting excursion possible. We all agreed it was very enjoyable and successful afternoon.