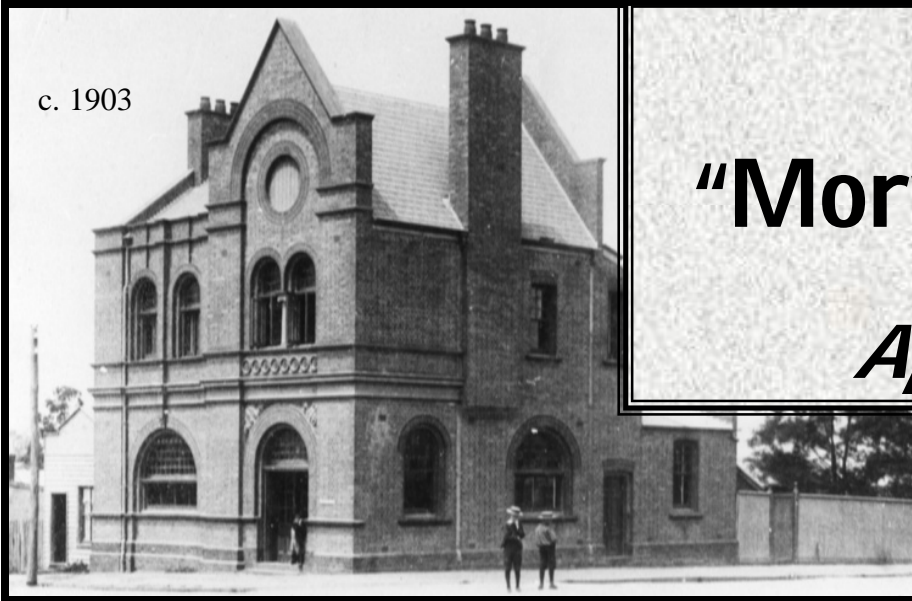


Morwell Historical Society Inc.

www.morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au

c. 1903



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Morwell 3840

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"Post" are always welcome;
please forward your
contributions to the above
address

From The Archives



Collins Street Primary School (undated)

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Collins Street Primary School Fact File:

- Collins Street Primary School No. 4655 began in rooms at Commercial Road School in February 1951
- Classes began at the Collins Street site on April 23rd 1951
- The first Headmaster was Mr. L. Kelly
- Prep grade children were enrolled in July 1951 but were educated in St. Mary's Church Hall in Latrobe Road until the end of the school year
- By the end of 1951 net attendance figures had reached 263
- The School Committee held its first meeting in May 1951

The Office Bearers were:

Mr. Froomes (Chairman)

Mr. Wallis (Secretary)

Mr. Cousins (Treasurer)

Committee Members: R. Guy, E. McElroy, J. Palmer and L. Bond

- The Mothers' Club was formed in March 1951
The Office Bearers were:
Mrs. Cooper (President)
Mrs. Corbett and Mrs. Donchi (Vice Presidents)
Mrs. McLean (Secretary)
Mrs. Harrison (Assistant Secretary)
Mrs. Ferguson (Treasurer)
- The School held its final assembly on 15th December 1992, the last Principal being Mr. G. Lind

Historical Display at 44 Buckley Street

To celebrate the 60th anniversary of the commencement of classes at Collins Street the Morwell Historical Society will be conducting a small display of various items of memorabilia etc. at its rooms in Buckley Street during the next few months.

All Society members, ex students and teachers are most cordially invited to visit our display.



Elsie McMaster
Secretary Morwell Historical Society
1984-2011

Elsie recently retired from her position as the Society's Secretary after a period of service amounting to over 27 years. As the incoming Secretary I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Elsie for her dedication and expertise, and to congratulate her on her wonderful achievement. Elsie will be impossible to replace, her calming influence and efficient manner will be truly missed at the "top table". I look forward to Elsie's continued support and encouragement from the "back benches". S.H.

"Elsie has done a wonderful job for the Society, I cannot thank her enough".

Leonie Pryde- President

“QUARTERMASTER SERGEANT DOBBIN- THE BOER WAR SOLDIER”

The Boer War was from 1899 to 1902 inclusive. The war was between Great Britain and the Boer republics of Transvaal and the Orange Free State.

War was declared by Great Britain on 12 October 1899 and concluded with the Treaty of Vereeniging on 31 May 1902. The British Empire had defeated the two Boer republics.

To assist the British war effort, colonies from around the world sent soldiers. The largest colonial contribution was from the Australian colonies (and later, the Commonwealth of Australia). About 25,000 Australians volunteered and served in the Boer War and in addition, an estimated 5,000 Australians volunteered and enlisted in British units.

One of those soldiers was James Henry Dobbin (1874- 1962) who was a dairy farmer in the Jeeralangs for most of his life. He left Jeeralang in 1954 for Hazelwood South and senior local residents remember him as Jim Dobbin.

In September 1896, James Henry Dobbin embarked on the *Buninyong* for Freemantle. On 6 June 1900 he sailed at his own expense from Albany on the *Warrigal* for South Africa. He arrived at Durban, Natal on 26 June 1900. JH Dobbin travelled to Greylingstad, Eastern Transvaal where he enlisted as a trooper in the Thorneycroft Mounted Infantry. He served in the TMI from 1 July 1900 to 15 October 1902 inclusive and he became a Quartermaster Sergeant.

The Thorneycroft Mounted Infantry was raised on 16 October 1899 by Major, later Lieutenant-Colonel Alexander Whitelaw Thorneycroft at Pietermaritzburg, Natal.

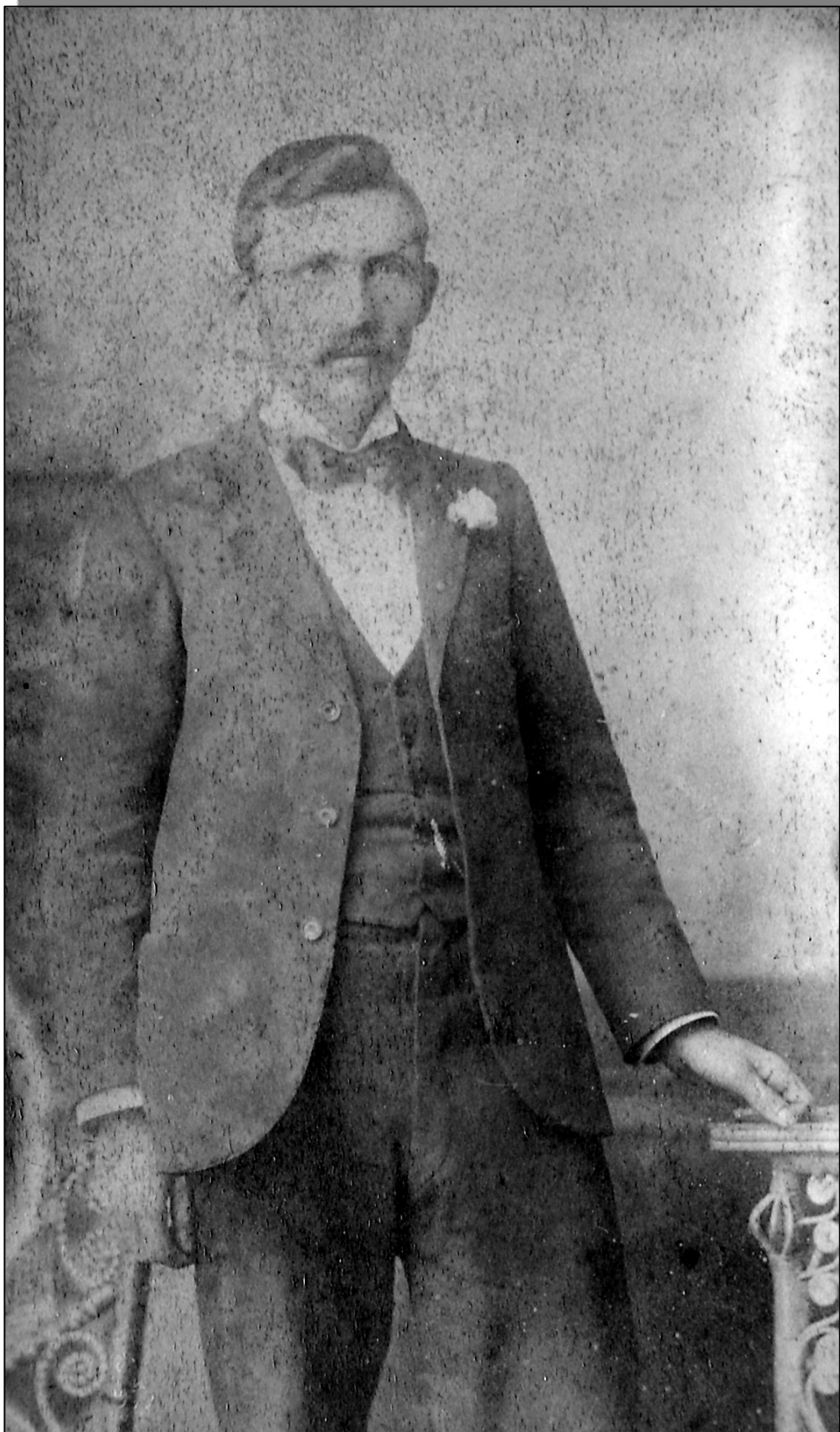
Trooper Dobbin was serving in the Thorneycroft Mounted Infantry from July to November 1900 under General Francis Clery, when the Thorneycroft Mounted Infantry were active in policing the south-eastern Transvaal and protecting the railway line to the Natal border against Boer guerillas. In December 1900, the TMI were used to try and trap Boer General Christaain De Wet in the eastern Orange Free State. In January/February 1901, the Thorneycroft Mounted Infantry was detached for use as a mobile column to chase Boer General James Hertzog when he invaded the Cape Colony. When General De Wet did the same, the TMI were diverted to hunt for De Wet. The Thorneycroft Mounted Infantry followed De Wet into the southern Orange Free State where they operated from March 1901 to April 1902 on drives, patrols, convoy duty and frequent skirmishes against some very competent Boer commandants who were largely supervised by De Wet. In May 1902 the Thorneycroft Mounted Infantry were used in General Ian Hamilton's drive against Boer commandos in Western Transvaal.

Quartermaster Sergeant Dobbin was awarded the Queen's South Africa Medal as he served during the reign of Queen Victoria. This medal has three clasps, one for the Cape Colony, the second for Transvaal and the third for the Orange Free State. These were the three provinces in South Africa where Quartermaster Sergeant Dobbin fought during the Boer War. He was also awarded the King's South Africa Medal with two clasps as he served during the reign of King Edward VII.

In 1902, Quartermaster Sergeant Dobbin represented Thorneycroft's Mounted Infantry at the coronation of King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra at Westminster Abbey, London. His unit consisted of 650 men but Dobbin was selected because of his distinguished war service. On 7 June 1902 he sailed from Cape Town on the *Bavarian* and arrived in Southampton on 24 June 1902. The coronation was scheduled for 26 June 1902 but because the king suffered an attack of appendicitis, the coronation was postponed until 9 August 1902.

James Henry Dobbin passed away in 1962 at San Remo and is buried at the San Remo Cemetery.

**BOER WAR SOLDIER QUARTERMASTER SERGEANT DOBBIN-
LEST WE FORGET.”**



James Henry Dobbin
1874- 1962
Photo about 1911 at Melbourne
Courtesy of Patrick Dobbin, Drouin

Opening of New Church

IN CHURCH STREET

The Session and Congregation invite you to be present at the
Opening of our New Church on

SATURDAY, 18th MARCH, 1961

Ceremony to be conducted by Presbytery
of Latrobe Valley.

Address by Moderator of Victoria
Right Rev. C. W. Auldist, B.A.B.D.

A. COUSLAND HON. SEC.



Official Opening 18th March 1961

Maya Picture Theatre - 1956

The Maya Theatre opened on Friday 6th. April 1956. The proprietor was Mr. Rex Hamilton of Yallourn.

Mr. R. A. Hunt – Chairman of the State Electricity Commission performed the official opening ceremony.

Ticket prices for the evening were: Lounge £1/1, Stalls 5/-. Tickets were obtainable from several local business houses. All proceeds went to the Latrobe Valley Group of Legacy.

For the public who were unable to attend the opening, radio station 3UL personality Mr. Max Taylor recorded interviews with patrons before the show began and described the event as it unfolded. The delayed broadcast went to air at 10.15 p.m. that night.

The theatre, which was situated in Buckley Street, had a frontage of 75 feet and a depth of 160 feet.

The "Maya" provided air conditioned comfort and seating for 860 patrons, 430 in Lounge and Circle plus another 430 in the Stalls.

Carpeting was extensive throughout the theatre. This included the inner and outer lounge foyers. An interesting feature of the inner foyer was a large wall mirror that was 25 feet in length and 9 feet high.

On the technical side of things, the Maya theatre was very well equipped. It had the most up-to-date projection system and an audio system called "Dusonic" sound. Films were projected onto a cinemascope screen that measured 32 feet.

The Maya closed on 31st. May 1962, due in the main to the effects of television.

The Maya was converted into an in-door bowling alley.



Anzac Day 1971



Morwell Advertiser and Gazette

12th April 1945

New Fire Station For Morwell



No.1 PRIORITY FOR AFTER WAR

The newly-constituted Country Fire Brigade Authority has been pressed by Mr. Hyland to state the position as to the replacing of the present fire station at Morwell by a new building. The secretary to the Authority has advised him that the stage has now been reached when it is indicated in a list of replacements submitted to the Country Fire Brigades Board in 1941.

Since that year, however, an embargo has been placed by the Commonwealth on new buildings, and even now the limit of expenditure without special approval is £100.

Nevertheless, when the appropriate time arrives the matter will be again submitted to the newly constituted country fire authority. No site has been selected, and at the time the report to which reference has been made above was prepared the erection of a brick building of a type similar to that at Leongatha was suggested.

As Morwell has increased in importance since then, this suggestion will, no doubt, be reviewed. It is not intended that there be married quarters.

It would appear that the question of a site is interlocked with the production of the contemplated town plan which the ratepayers are awaiting.

Mr. (later Sir) Herbert Hyland



Morwell Advertiser and Gazette

29th. August 1935

Shire Election



MORWELL RIDING

CR. A. W. RONALD RE-ELECTED

Considerable interest was taken by ratepayers and others in the election in the Morwell Riding. The candidates were Cr. A. W. Ronald (retiring) and Mr. J. M. Bolger.

Considerable keenness was added to the contest, in consequence of the proposed Town Hall being made an election "burning question."

Cr. Ronald, who favored the Town Hall, had a number of enthusiastic supporters, whilst Mr. Bolger, who was opposed to the proposal of the Council to float a loan for the purpose of erecting town hall and municipal chambers, also had several keen supporters.

A most friendly feeling, however, prevailed between the candidates and after the election each referred to the fair manner in which his opponent had conducted his election campaign.

The total number of votes on the roll was 810. Of these 686 were recorded, including 168 postal votes.

About an hour after the closing of the booth, at 4 p.m., the Returning Officer (Cr. G. Auchterlonie, President of the Shire) announced the result of the voting as follows: -

J. M. BOLGER	215
A. W. RONALD	<u>471</u>

Majority for RONALD 256
He afterwards declared Mr. Ronald duly elected.

In responding, Cr. Ronald said it was gratifying to him to have had such a satisfactory majority. He felt a humble candidate but at the same time was proud of the confidence that had been reposed in him.

He would do his best to prove worthy of the honor that had been conferred on him.

He wished to thank all those who had voted for him, and especially those who had worked to secure his return.

In conclusion he said that Mr. Bolger had his respect. The election had been conducted in a most fair and friendly manner, and Mr. Bolger had done nothing whatever to which he took the least exception.

Mr. Bolger said he wished to thank those who had voted for him. He was sorry that he had not been at the top of the poll, but at the same time he cheerfully submitted to the decision of the majority of the ratepayers.

Mr. Ronald had conducted his campaign in a fair and honorable way and he congratulated him upon his success.

In conclusion, he moved a hearty vote of thanks to the Returning Officer and those who had assisted him for the capable manner in which the election had been conducted.

Cr. Ronald seconded the vote of thanks, which was carried by acclamation.

Three years ago, when Mr. Ronald opposed Mr. Bolger, the voting was – Bolger 239; Ronald 409.



A. W. Ronald



J. M. Bolger

Information Page:

Please note that the next meeting
will be on 20th. April at 2.00 p.m.
At 44 Buckley Street

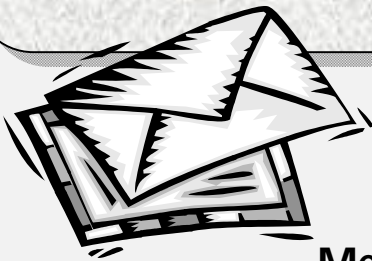
Membership Fees:
Per Annum
\$20.00 per Member
(Payable March each year)

Our Internet address is:
www.morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au

*Where you will find an amazing collection of interesting facts,
figures and photographs*

Thank You Florence

Please deliver me to:



Meeting Dates for Rest of 2011

20th April
18th May
15th June
20th July
17th August
21st September
19th October
16th November

Quick Quiz

In which year did Morwell break away from the Shire of Traralgon?