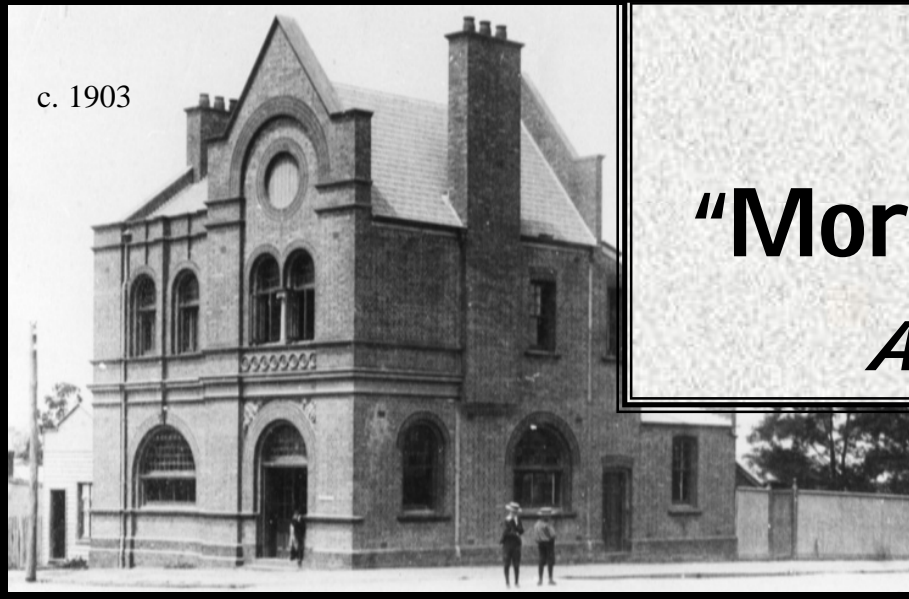


Morwell Historical Society Inc.

www.morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au

c. 1903



The AOO 16986 W "Morwell Post"

April 2012

Vol. 29 No.2

**Secretary: Stephen Hellings
Post Office Box 1163
Morwell 3840 (0411 206 405)**

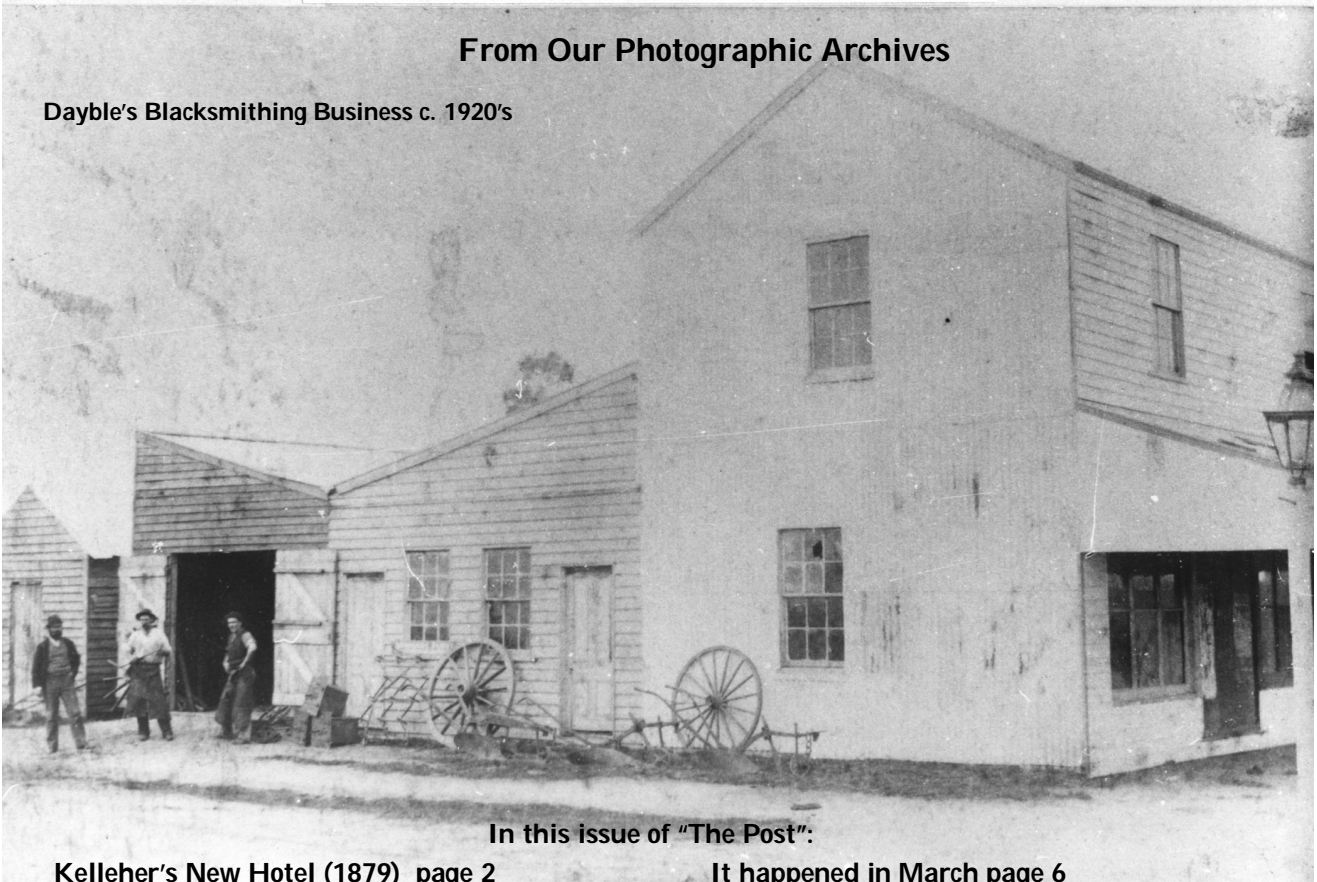
Please address all correspondence to the Secretary

**Items for publication in the
"Post" are always welcome;
please forward your
contributions to the above
address**

**The "official" organ of the Morwell Historical Society Inc.
Published every two months: February to December**

From Our Photographic Archives

Dayble's Blacksmithing Business c. 1920's



In this issue of "The Post":

**Kelleher's New Hotel (1879) page 2
A.G.M - March (2012) page 3
Private Thomas Rose (1900) page 4
Morwell Shire Presidents page 5**

**It happened in March page 6
It happened in April page 7
Morwell Town Hall concert (ad) page 8
"Ollie's Story" page 9**

Gippsland Times

Monday 6th January 1879 (Page 3)

MORWELL

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT)

The opening of Mr Kelleher's new hotel was celebrated here on New Year's night, and proved one of the grandest sprees of the season. The day was rather hot, but the night turned nice and cool, and afforded every opportunity for the young folks of the district to enjoy themselves, which I am very sure they did.

The dancing took place in Mr Donaldson's store adjoining the hotel, the music being supplied by local players, Mr McCrory acting as M.C. Dancing commenced about 8 o'clock and continued till about 12, when supper was partaken. It did credit to the caterer, Miss Kelleher, who spared no pains in procuring everything to make it a thorough success.

After the good things of the table were disposed of, dancing was resumed and kept up till long after daylight. There were about 200 persons present, several coming from Sale, Traralgon, Rosedale, and other places.

This article was kindly supplied by **Mr. Bruce McMaster**

Who's who?

Edmond Kelleher: (1850-1911) Morwell Hotelier, served on Morwell's first council 1892, shire president: 1893-1894, 1894-95, 1895-1896. He left the Council in 1898. Died on 11th February 1911.

David Donaldson: (1828-1886) Came to Morwell in 1878, established a General Store in 1878/9 on the corner of Tarwin St. and Commercial Road. David Donaldson died on 3rd. March 1886 at the age of 58.

The above building should not be confused with Mr Kelleher's later hotel ("The Club Hotel") a two storey brick building which was opened in December 1886.



c. 1911

Annual General Meeting: 21st March 2012

The following Office Bearers and Committee Members were elected at the above meeting:

President: Leonie Pryde
Vice-President: Bruce McMaster
Secretary: Stephen Hellings
Treasurer: Carol Smith
Archivist/Curator: Bruce McMaster
I.T. Manager: Florence Butcher
Newsletter Editor: Stephen Hellings
Committee Members: Barry Osborne, Lyn Ryan
Acquisitions Committee: Graeme Cornell, Eddie Beulke

Annual Membership Fees:

The Society's membership fees were set at: Single membership: \$15.00, Family (2 persons at same address): \$20.00. **Members please note that membership subscriptions are now due. Thank You.**

Meeting Times:

Our Monthly Meetings at **44 Buckley Street** will be held on: **the Third Wednesday of the month** (excepting December & January) at **2.00 pm**. Our A. G. M. will be held each March just prior to the usual monthly meeting.

Public Access:

We will be open to the public on: the **First and Third Wednesdays of the month** between the hours of **11 a.m. and 2 p.m.** Visits may also be made by appointment.

I would like to sincerely thank all those members who attended our A. G. M. Your attendance enabled us to establish our guidelines and procedures for the ensuing twelve months.

BITS & PIECES:

- Don't forget that your contributions to the "Post" are always most welcome. I am always looking out for articles relating to family history or early childhood memories of growing up in the Gippsland region.
- On your next visit to our rooms at 44 Buckley Street please enquire about our rapidly growing library. There are many interesting titles to peruse.
- The Society has a comprehensive collection of local school class photographs for your inspection and research.
- Displays currently on view at our rooms include:

Collins Street Primary School

Morwell Soldiers' Memorial

Morwell Town Hall

The Morwell and Yinnar Gazette

July 20th 1900



NOTICE.

A PUBLIC MEETING will be held in the Mechanics' Institute, Morwell, on Tuesday afternoon, 24th inst, at 4 p.m., to initiate and establish a fund to perpetuate the memory of the late Private T. ROSE, and others who may lose their life whilst fighting for Queen and Empire in South Africa, and also to accord a fitting welcome to those who may return.

J. HALL.

We have much pleasure in drawing attention to the meeting to be held in Morwell on Tuesday afternoon for the purpose of co-operating with the residents of Yinnar in forming a fund to erect a monument in honor of the late Private T. Rose, and other matters in connection with the members of the first Morwell contingent. The matter is one that appeals to our patriotism, and therefore should meet with our heartiest and warmest support.

Yinnar was the first to take the initiative from a public standpoint, and we have to compliment that town and district upon the interest they have shown in dealing with this question, and the splendid spirit of cordiality they have manifested in co-operating with Morwell, in order to get up something that is commensurate with the importance of the occasion. The meeting is called at an hour to suit the convenience of the country people, but the townspeople should also make it their business to attend.



Morwell Shire Presidents



George Firmin
1898-9

It Happened in March!

(A selection of events that took place during the month of March)

- Country Women's Association opened in Morwell on 4th March 1941
- The Rotary Club of Morwell received their Charter on 12th March 1946
- The Commercial Bank of Australia opened in Morwell on 30th March 1950
- The Bank of New South Wales opened their first branch in Morwell on 31st March 1952
- St. Phillip's On the Hill (Anglican) opened on 28th March 1953
- Railway line between Melbourne & Traralgon electrified on 15th March 1956
- Morwell Courthouse opened on 7th March 1957 (demolished in March 2003)
- St. Mary's (Latrobe Road) opened on 29th March 1958
- The Morwell branch of the Titles Office opened on 16th March 1959
- The TAB commenced in Morwell on 10th March 1961
- St. Andrew's Presbyterian (Church Street) opened on 18th March 1961
- Latrobe Valley Drive-in (Princes Highway) opened in March 1965
- Paddle Brothers opened their shoe factory in Morwell on 15th March 1965
- The "Church Street Explosion" occurred on 17th March 1991
- Morwell public library (Hazelwood Road) demolished March 2003
- Latrobe City Corporate H.Q. opened in Commercial Road on 20th March 2005

Morwell Courthouse (January 2003)



It Happened in April!

(A selection of events that took place during the month of April)

- Hazelwood Cemetery established on 7th April 1879
- State Savings Bank of Victoria building completed on 30th April 1917
- Morwell Butter Factory destroyed by fire on 3rd April 1929
- Bond family Memorial Seat unveiled at Hazelwood Cemetery on 24th April 2005
- The first train from Melbourne (Princes Bridge) arrived in Morwell on 2nd April 1879
- The Maya picture theatre opened in Buckley Street on 6th April 1956
- Morwell Open-Cut construction began in April 1949
- Princes Highway (Drive) Police Station was opened on 9th April 1964
- Collins Street Primary School: classes commenced at Collins Street site on 30th April 1951
- Morwell School No. (2136) opened on 3rd April 1879



THE PEOPLE'S NIGHT

MORWELL TOWN HALL

OPENING



CONCERT



WEDNESDAY, NOV. 11

1936

**A Group of Victoria's Most Popular
Artists. All of Radio Fame.**

INCLUDING—

BEATRICE OAKLEY : First Vocalist to Broadcast from 3LO
at Melba Memorial Service.

HAROLD MURPHY : Men's Vocal Champion at South Street.

TOM LOCKHEAD : This Scotch Entertainer's popularity
extends to every corner of Victoria.

HAMILTON BATEMAN : A Brilliant English Violinist. He
appeared at Queen's Hall, London, at the age of 6 years.

W. F. CONNELLY : Well-known Pianist and Accompanist.

**Tickets All One Price : 2/-
Children, Half-Price.**

Booking 1/. Box Plan opens at Evans' on Tuesday and we
advise those wishing to secure a balcony seat or a comfortable
lounge chair in the front stalls, to do their booking early.

—PROCEEDS TO TOWN CLOCK FUND—

H. W. GAY and E. S. HALL, Joint General Secs.

Printed at "Advertiser" Office, Morwell.

Advertisement: Courtesy of Mr. Rod Morrison

OLLIE'S STORY (abridged) **Oliver Keith Barton (1911-1989)**

In September 1924, the family moved to Morwell. For me it was a culture shock. From a town (Sale) of four to five thousand people that had everything a boy could desire, to a thousand plus place like Morwell that had very little to commend it, was a severe let down. Yallourn had started producing electricity and building was booming so Dad naturally followed his trade where work was plentiful. He was his own boss all his life except for a period of about a year when he worked for a firm building houses in Yallourn. Thereafter he built shops and houses in Morwell for clients, until the Great Depression hit in 1929. Unlike Sale which had both a technical and a high school and where state school stopped at Grade VI, the Morwell School went to Grade VIII when formal education ceased for the pupils of that district. Sale, forty miles away had the nearest technical school and Warragul, thirty miles to the west, the closest high school. Our teachers were excellent, led by Mr. Morrison, the head master.

My best mate at Morwell was the Church of England parson's son, Aiden Smith, and over the next three or four years we got in and out of more scrapes than most kids. To cite a few of our escapades, aged about fourteen we got into the church one night and cleaned up the communion wine (Aiden's idea). We were the only ones to see the joke when, on the following Sunday, communion was held. I wasn't present, of course, being a good Presbyterian (?) but Aiden's telling was hilarious.

One of our night time haunts was Wilson's bakery, where our next door neighbour, a bloke called Shaw, was head man. With three or four mates we would often drop in for a yarn and a pie. On one memorable occasion I bet that I could eat a dozen pies. At that time I was about sixteen and working. I had already had tea when the bet was made. The time limit was one hour and Mr. Shaw (I never knew his first name) said the pies were free provided I won the bet. I would have walked it in if I had not knocked off after downing the first six, for a bottle of lemonade. The gassy lemonade was my undoing as I stopped half way through the eleventh pie – an expensive night.

Another time I idly picked up a piece of dough and as we ambled up the street, we proceeded to fill up all the shop keyholes. We did the whole of the main street including half a dozen post office boxes. The dough set like concrete, of course, and business in Morwell the following morning was delayed for some time as owners literally chipped the offending dough out. I believe it was one of the truly comic sights of Morwell's history. Unfortunately one of the post office boxes was damaged beyond repair and had to be replaced. The police, of course, were brought in and arrested another youthful villain named Kingy Collins, whose protests of innocence were ignored. A hasty conference was called and we decided to pay the thirty shillings between the four of us for the post office box damage, the same being left in a letter to the police department absolving Kingy from any blame without revealing our own identities.

The Smith family moved to a parish in Lismore in northern New South Wales, when I was sixteen. Aiden and I wrote to one another for a year or so, but, as is usually the way, lost contact and I have not seen or heard of him since.

I left school at fourteen, after obtaining my merit certificate. In my last year at school I had two part-time jobs. During the lunch break I delivered papers for Mr. Geo. Evans – G. P., as he was affectionately known, was the local news agent. Geo. Jnr. was one of my class mates. My other job, I wouldn't wish on my worst enemy. Dad built two shops next to the old post office, one for a chemist named Robinson, who asked Dad one day if he knew where he could secure the services of a lad to work a couple of hours a day after school. You've guessed it – me!! My main job was cleaning and sterilizing medicine bottles – hundreds of them. In those days, patent medicines were virtually unknown and doctors prescriptions were 99% made up by the chemist, who then bottled them with his label attached. Bottle washing was a soul destroying job which I hated, one reason being that it prevented me from joining in the after school activities, marbles, footy and street cricket etc. As previously mentioned, education in the district stopped at Grade VIII for the majority of kids. Mr first real job was a counter jumper for a grocer business, J.R. & F. Dow, which was one of four similar businesses in the town, the other being D. C. Mills, Ernie Rowell and Jenkin Bros.

During the Christmas break of 1925, I worked with Dad in renovations to the Traralgon South School, along with my older brothers, Jack, Roy and Perc and I immediately decided that working for Dad was not for me – too much like hard work. I was the first one to break away from the family work circle when I got a job with Rod Dow.

In those days and up until World War Two, the housewife did not need to leave her home to receive the necessities of life. Besides the milkman, baker, iceman and butcher, a rep. from the grocer would call at least twice a week and take orders. One of my jobs was to deliver the orders in the afternoon after helping to make them up. A horse-driven lorry was used for this purpose. It was also used for transporting goods from the railway station to the shop. I was a fairly big boy for my age and lugging and humping 180 lb. bags of flour and wheat and 70 lb. bags of sugar etc. was all part of the job, a far cry from the pampered pansies of today who, by law, are not allowed to lift more than 16 kg unassisted.

I enjoyed the outside work associated with the job, but loathed the counter work, which, besides serving customers, mostly farm people who did not enjoy the town service, was spent making up bags of various weights of tea, flour, sugar etc. and storing them on shelves ready for sale.

These reminiscences will be continued in our next issue. S.H.

Wilson's Bakery Commercial Road c. 1924 – the venue for the pie eating incident.



Jenkin Bros. One of the four grocery businesses in Morwell at the time of the author's first job.



The above photograph was taken in 1962 just prior to demolition.
Photographs: Morwell Historical Society Inc. archives

Information Page:

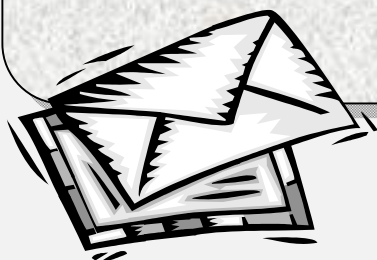
Please note that the next meeting will
be on 18th. April 2012 at 2.00 p.m.
At 44 Buckley Street (Next to T.A.B.)



Meeting dates for 2012:

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

Please deliver me to:



If undelivered please return to P.O. Box 1163 Morwell 3840

Please Note Our New Membership Rates For 2012:

In an endeavour to raise our level of membership the Society has re-introduced a two-tier membership structure. We are offering a 'single' membership at \$15.00 per annum OR a 'family' membership (two persons at the same address) at \$20.00 per annum.

Membership renewal time is upon us once again! Thank you.

If you have any enquiries regarding the new system please feel free to contact your Secretary (details on front page).

Your next "Morwell Post" is due out in June.

Stephen.