

MORWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

published monthly, except December

Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm
in St. Andrews Presbyterian Church Hall

Vol. 8 No. 8

AUGUST 1992

Hon. Secretary: E. McMaster Phone (051)341149

WELCOME TO THE AUGUST NEWSLETTER

We have received a reply from Morwell City Council to our request for storage space - (it's reprinted inside) - and hopefully the proposed meeting will produce results!

Sacred Heart Catholic Church will celebrate its centenary next month. As part of the celebrations, Mr. Dennis Quinn has put together a history of the St. Patrick's Day Races which were a feature of Morwell life for many years. The original article appeared in 'Catholic Life' August 1992 and is reproduced here with the kind permission of Mr. Quinn.

The big news in August 1892 in Morwell was the election of the first Shire Council, which was reported at length by the 'Advertiser' in that month's editions. "Pickle" (probably Editor Turnley) wrote a poem describing the contest.

Guest speaker at our August meeting will be Mr. Des Bennett who will speak on the longstanding connection with Morwell of the Bennett and Quigley families. MEETING DATE - TUESDAY AUGUST 18.

*** PLEASE CHECK THIS BOX

If there is a red tick in it, we have no record of having received your subscription and this will be the last newsletter you

4 August 1992

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Mrs. E. McMaster
Hon. Secretary
Morwell Historical Society Inc.
2 Harold Street
MORWELL 3840

Dear Mrs. McMaster,

I refer to your letter of 25 June 1992 addressed to the Mayor concerning the Historical Society's accommodation requirements and advise that the Mayor has asked me to respond to your request.

I have had extensive discussions with members of the Society over recent months and am well aware of the extensive and valuable Historical resources contained within the Society's archives.

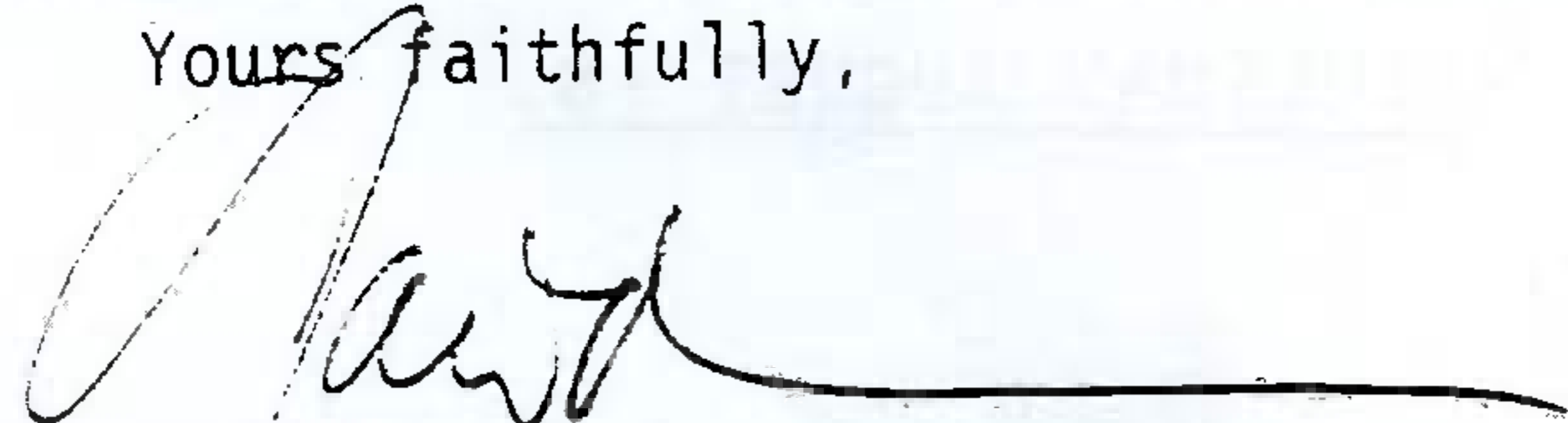
As I understand it, your accommodation requirements include appropriate archive storage for documents and photographs with the possibility of accommodating larger items and artifacts in future. Suitable exhibition space to exhibit historical displays from time to time also appears to be a high priority with the possibility of a suitable meeting facility as well.

On the basis on the information provided to me I have made a number of enquiries which have included the former St. Marys Anglican Church in Chapel Street, the availability of space within the Morwell Library or the former Town Hall building. To assist in defining your needs more precisely I suggest that we meet in the near future to consider your detailed accommodation requirements and to assist in this process I have included a questionnaire and would seek your assistance in providing information requested. I then suggest that we meet together to discuss what options may be available and take the necessary action to secure appropriate storage facilities.

I must commend the Society on the valuable support given to both the Council's Centenary Committee and to Stephen Legg in the production of our history and more particularly for the interesting photographic exhibition mounted for the Centenary Community Day. The enormous wealth of information contained within your records was evident on that occasion and I share your concerns to urgently seek appropriate accommodation for these records, to guarantee their survival.

I look forward to meeting with you in the near future to consider your accommodation needs.

Yours faithfully,



A. R. BANDEN
Manager-Administration & Planning

THE DONALDSON AND IRVING FAMILIES

Guest speaker at our July meeting was Mr. John Irving of Woodside. His topic was the connection of the Irving and Donaldson families with Morwell, which goes back to the 1870s

David and Catherine Donaldson came to Australia in 1853 from Scotland and, after spending some time in Melbourne and Matlock, came with their family to Morwell where they ran a store in Tarwin St. for many years.

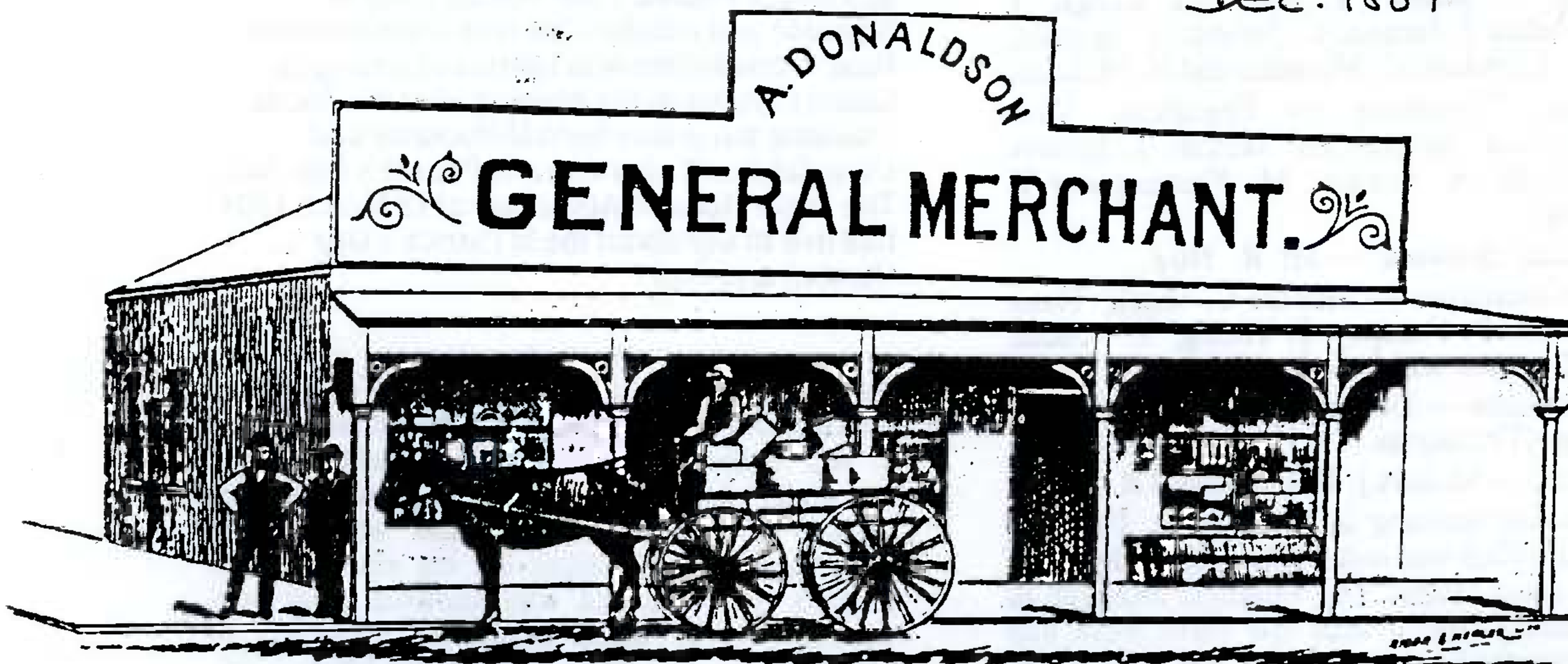
John Irving, namesake of our guest speaker came to Morwell in 1879 as first teacher of the new Morwell State School. two of his sisters were also teachers in the district last century.

Mr. Irving described the visit he and Mrs. Irving paid to Scotland and quoted extensively from letters, newspaper reports, census figures, advertisements etc. to illustrate his talk. It is not possible to do justice to his most interesting account without giving a complete transcript but a cassette recording of Mr.Irving's talk is available for loan to members.

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Supplement to the "Morwell & Mirboo Gazette"

Dec. 1889



A DONALDSON, General Merchant and Wine and Spirit Merchant, Morwell.

St Patrick's Day Races at Morwell

1900-1935

The fact that Morwell, which hasn't a racecourse, once hosted the premier Race Meeting in Gippsland, may come as a surprise to many but certainly not to the elders amongst us like Keane Barry, whose father played a leading role as Secretary of the Morwell St Patrick's Day Race Club back in 1902 soon after it was first formed as a Sacred Heart Parish initiative.

This abbreviated extract from the Advertiser of 18th March 1904 gives real insight into this event and of its importance to the whole Morwell community.

FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 1904.

MORWELL ST. PATRICK'S DAY RACING CLUB.

A SUCCESSFUL MEETING

OFFICE-BEARERS

Patrons — The Hon. A. McLean, M.H.R., Hon. S. Vary, M.L.C., Thos. Livingston, M.L.A., and W.F. O'Grady (President of Morwell Shire Council).

President — Mr John Hall J.P.

Vice Presidents — Messrs John Macmillan and Joe Keogh.

Judge — Mr John Hall.

Starter — Mr John English.

Clerk of Course — Mr J. Daly.

Clerk of Scales — Mr John More.

Handicappers — Principal Events: Mr Jas. Shorten; Trot and Ponies, Messrs Joseph Keogh and W. Applegate.

Measurer of Ponies — Mr Jas. Jensen.

Stewards — Messrs J. Hall, Jos Keogh, J. Macmillan, J. Jensen, C. Smyth, T. Scanlon, W. P. Christian, C. Marsden and N. McLean.

Executive Committee — President, Vice-Presidents, Secretaries, Messrs J. Jensen, C. Smyth, A. Keegan, M. Fleming and T. Molloy.

Saddle-cloth Steward — Mr R. Noy.

Ground Committee — Messrs C. Quirk, Thos. O'Rourke, P. Dempsy, J. Young, T. Arnold, J. O'Gorman and J. Sullivan.

Hon. Surgeons — Dr. Smith (Morwell) and Dr Spring (Traralgon).

Hon. Secs. — Messrs J. B. Hoyle and R. Barry.

The annual meeting of Morwell St. Patrick's Day Racing Club was held yesterday, and passed off most successfully. The weather, although of a threatening aspect, kept fine throughout and there were no accidents to mar the pleasure of the day. The attendance was exceptionally large, among whom was Mr F. C. Mason (who intends to be a candidate at the forthcoming elections), and many other old identities. The ladies were well represented, and a number of pretty and becoming dresses were to be seen. Bookies were galore, and any who fancied they knew the winner before the race, had no difficulty in investing their cash.

The officials carried out their duties in a most praiseworthy manner, more especially the starter (Mr English) who had the happy knack of always effecting a good start, with but little trouble, and also got the fields away at the time stated on the programme. This is an example that other starters would do well to copy. The judge's decisions were never once questioned and although there were at times rumors of protests, none were entered, which speaks for itself.

A special feature on the course was the excellent luncheon provided by the ladies, in large marquee. Not only was the menu excellent, but the attention received from the ladies, was far above ordinary. Among the ladies controlling were the Misses Haiz, Fitzgerald, Conley, Meadames Keegan, Williams, O'Rourke and McDonald. The publicans booth was also well patronised. During the day the Mirboo Brass Band played some selections and a pleasant day was spend by all present.

The history of St Patrick's Day Races at Morwell is a story of great human interest. It is a story of imagination, excitement and fun which brought a quiet country town and its surrounding rural district together. It is the story of an event and an era now gone but remembered with warmth and affection by those who were privileged to be a part of it.

Fr E.J. Coleman, who was Parish Priest at Morwell from 1892 to 1913 and a gifted organiser, was the driving force behind the Race Club and the highly successful St Patrick's Day celebrations at Morwell. His plan, fully supported by his parishioners, was to

social events in which the whole community would become involved and take pride.

The first step was the formation of the Morwell St Patrick's Day Racing Club to organise and conduct the race meeting itself. Next, a committee was formed to arrange a Grand Concert in the evening after the Races featuring top artists from Melbourne and Gippsland and after that a St Patrick's Day Ball. The same Morwell Advertiser of 18 March 1904 had this to say about the St Patrick's Day Concert and Ball.

As a fitting termination to the day's sport, a concert and ball was held in the Mechanic's hall, in the evening, and proved a great success financially and otherwise. Mr Dave Gardner proved a host in himself, and was heartily encored again and again for his comic contributions. Mr Renwick was likewise most successful with his songs "Killarney", "The Village Blacksmith", and "The Dear Little Shamrock", receiving an enthusiastic encore on each occasion. The Ivanoff Bioscope, manipulated by Wr Gibson, was all that could be desired, and the thrilling and life-like pictures produced will not soon be forgotten by the audience.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY RACES (cont)

Some years later a St Patrick's Day Parade was added down Commercial Road to the Racecourse in Driffield Road. "The Time Before" an earlier history of Sacred Heart Parish records that Father McMahon who succeeded Fr Coleman as Parish Priest from 1913 to 1916 is well remembered as a rather inelegant equestrian, who invariably led the St Patrick's Day processions down the main street to the old racecourse in Driffield Road astride his favorite grey."

The whole idea was immediately successful attracting people from near and as far away as Melbourne as its reputation spread. Initially the Race meeting was established at Yinnar. The attached extract from the Morwell Advertiser of 17 March 1893 is evidence enough. It was transferred to Morwell about 1900 fitting in with Fr Coleman's plan to involve the whole Morwell community.

**YINNAR RACE CLUB
ST PATRICK'S DAY,
MARCH 17th, 1893.**

TO BE RUN UNDER V.R.C. RULE.

OFFICERS.

PRESIDENT, F. C. Mason, Esq, VICE PRESIDENTS, W. Murphy, Esq. T. Walsh, Esq. PATRONS, Hon. W. Pearson, M.L.C., Hon. G. Davis M.L.C., J. Quigley, Esq., JUDGE. Geo. Firmin, Esq., STARTER, I. Walsh. CLERK of COURSE, J. Quigley. CLERK of SCALES. D. Donaldson. STEWARDS, Messrs. J. Keogh, W. Francis, W. Edney, J. Quigley, A. Williams, T. Keogh, T. Butler, W. Nicol, J. Cahir, J. Boyle, J. O'Grady, T. Walsh, C. F. B. Geo Earle.

The races

attracted considerable coverage in the press on the day but also in the lead up to St Patrick's Day also discussing each event in detail in the weeks and months which followed.

Earlier on, of course, the Parish of Sacred Heart Morwell included Traralgon, Leongatha and Mirboo North all of whom were therefore an integral part of those celebrations. It is not difficult to imagine the excitement at Morwell as people began to arrive in the town from near and far whilst a special train brought in hundreds of racegoers from Mirboo North, Boolarra and Yinnar plus bookmakers, owners, trainers, strappers, stable hands, jockeys and horses and the Mirboo North Brass Band whose popular music provided a carnival atmosphere to the whole day.

In the 1920's and early 1930's the fame of the St Patrick's Day Race Meeting and celebrations at Morwell had spread to the metropolis. A special train from Melbourne added to the excitement and success of the whole venture.

Lou Bond and George Buckley remember the attraction and the excitement of the occasion around the 1920's when as kids they wagged it from school rather than miss such a great day and the chance to earn some good pocket money if they were lucky enough to help lead the horses in. Lou Bond's dad was Clerk of the Course at that time resplendent in his red coat, black corduroy riding breeches and boots to match.

A little later on Jack O'Callaghan remembers riding horses as a young lad in the various events. The attached historical photograph of the President and Officials of the Race Club was taken at the Racecourse at Morwell on 17 March 1930.

The course itself was located in Jensen's paddock where the Old Driffield Road football ground used to be just over the narrow gauge SEC railway line west of Driffield Road where it meets Langford Street and Polden Crescent.

As a further indication of the fame of this Race Meeting, it was at about this time that it attracted the presence of the notorious Melbourne gangster Squizzy Taylor. The rest of this story is contained in the attached *article*.

HE CLOSED THE GATE TO "SQUIZZY"

A MAN who once stopped Melbourne gangster Squizzy Taylor and his friends from entering a Morwell race meeting died Thursday.

He was well-known Morwell businessman Mr Patrick Percy (Perca) Kelly, 87.

At the time Mr Kelly was secretary of St Patrick's Race Day Committee, a position he held until closure of the Morwell track.

On being forewarned that Squizzy Taylor and his friends were on their way to meeting, Mr Kelly stood ready at the gate to meet them on arrival.

He told them they could not attend the meeting.

Despite threats, he ensured that the criminal and his mates did not enter the course.

For some years later Mr Kelly's friends were apprehensive about his safety as Perca was to outlive Squizzy by 40 years more.

Footballer

Mr Kelly earned another niche to fame in the sporting world — as a young man played with Carlton's first 18. Carlton was his birthplace.

He came to Gippsland 52 years ago to take the Traralgon stock and station agency McLean and Hill.

A short time later he was appointed manager of the firm's branch at Morwell where he resided continuously for 50 years.

He retired as the firm's Morwell manager when well into his 70's.

In his early Gippsland days he was a notable cricketer, being a first class wicketkeeper as also more than handy with the bat.

On one memorable occasion he lifted the ball right over the pavilion at Traralgon Showgrounds.

He was a crack shot with the Morwell Golf Club for many years. He also was no mean boxer, being a sparring partner of Bill Grimes, triple Empire Champion.

He was a foundation member of the Morwell Waterworks Trust, Morwell Sewerage Authority and the Latrobe Valley Water and Sewerage Board.

Mrs Kelly, three sons and a daughter survive him.

The sons are Brian Patrick, Desmond Percy and Frank Donald, all of Morwell, and the daughter is Alison (Mrs K. Kennedy), Canberra. One son Kevin John, is deceased.

The funeral on Saturday followed a requiem mass in the Sacred Heart Church, the cortege moving to Hazelwood cemetery.

Eventually around about 1935 the St Patrick's Day Race Meeting and its attendant events petered out. Col Flower and Frank "Spec" Connolly and Brian and Des Kelly remember using the old racecourse in the late 1930's to hone their motor bike riding skills.

Later there was talk of getting it going again but the War intervened and in the disastrous bush fires of 1944 the old racecourse was burned to the ground and with it went all trace of a popular sporting arena which had served Morwell and its people so well for such a long time.

THE ELECTIONS.

MORWELL "ADVERTISER"

AUGUST 26, 1892

THE MORWELL SHIRE.

According to the provisions of the Local Government Act, the municipal elections throughout the colony took place yesterday. The excitement over the selection of six candidates for the first Morwell council, which has been running high for some time past, reached its culminating point about eight o'clock last night, when the returning officer (Mr. C. W. Howlett) officially declared from the door of the Mechanics' the election of six gentlemen in the order named, to fill the six seats contested, namely—

SHAW, DONALD ...	...	432
ENGLISH, JOHN ...	...	398
MURDOCH, WILLIAM ...	...	384
MURPHY, WILLIAM ...	...	376
KELLEHER, EDMUND ...	...	353
MULCARE, MICHAEL ...	...	311
VARY, SAMUEL ...	...	301
FIRMIN, GEORGE...	...	268
WALSH, THOMAS...	...	259
TULLOCH, WILLIAM ...	...	168
GODRIDGE, HENRY ...	...	112

All day long, the pros. and cons. of the election were discussed, and a good deal of speculation went on as to who would be at the top of the poll, the names of D. Shaw and Kelleher being most frequently used. However, when Mr. Howlett declared the result, the cheers were loud and long, for it was a popular win, although not quite as most people expected. As a matter of course many in the anxious and interested crowd which awaited the official announcement (as soon as it was made), knew all about it, and felt confident from the very first, that the gentlemen whose names were announced by Mr. Howlett, would be returned. Such would-be prognosticators, however, evidently did not, last evening at any rate, "see themselves in the light that others saw them." In Morwell throughout the day, it might as well have been recognised as a close holiday for all the business that was done. Although the various stores and general business places were open, there seemed but little inclination on the part of anyone for work, preference being given to speculation on the chances of the respective candidates, whose merits and demerits were fully and freely discussed by ratepayers congregated in little knots at the street corners, hotel doors, and general rendezvous of the town. In the outlying districts of the shire, within the vicinity of the various polling booths, pretty much the same thing occurred. Betting was pretty freely indulged in on the result, and a fair amount of money changed

hands. As showing how widely, opinion differed, however, it need only be mentioned that no long odds were indulged in. Not the least pleasing feature to record in connection with the election is the friendly feeling which has been manifested by the various candidates towards each other, and while the unsuccessful candidates could not have felt other than disappointed at being placed so low on the poll, they each took their defeat most gracefully, and manifested the same good feeling towards our new councillors which had characterised their candidature from the first.

Although the poll closed at four o'clock it was fully half past seven before the poll was declared by the Returning officer. In the meantime at brief intervals messengers arrived from the outlying districts with the returns from the respective booths and as one another arrived the greatest interest was manifested, the friends of the respective candidates demonstrating the delight when their man headed the list. By the time the Morwell returns were made an considerable over a hundred persons had congregated around the door of the Mechanics' the opening of which, by the returning officer was greeted with loud cheers. Mr. Howlett stepped forward and merely announced the number of votes polled by each candidate at the Morwell booth. The following however are the complete returns from all parts of the shire:—

COUNCILLORS.

	Morwell	Hazelwood	Boolara	Driffeld	Darlimurka	Yinnar	Middle Ck.	Total.
Shaw	290	19	29	19	28	51	6	432
English	229	15	38	19	42	47	8	398
Murdoch	248	9	36	15	40	31	5	384
Murphy	157	12	86	14	25	68	14	376
Kelleher	247	11	33	14	0	31	17	353
Mulcare	206	7	18	16	25	30	9	311
Vary	178	9	23	23	25	37	6	301
Firmin	129	7	47	18	2	59	6	268
Walsh	114	13	35	5	4	69	19	259
Tulloch	117	6	21	3	2	12	7	168
Godridge	83	2	4	4	2	7	0	112

AUDITORS.

	Morwell	Hazelwood	Boolara	Driffeld	Darlimurka	Yinnar	Middle Ck.	Total.
Donaldson	149	1	63	16	16	74	20	339
Harris	130	7	18	3	22	17	2	193
Miller	128	15	15	13	5	9	0	185

The crowd was as Morwell crowds always are, of the most orderly character. Jocular and good natured barracking counteracted the tediousness of the four hours' waiting for the result. As soon as the result was made known, a general move was made for Commercial road, where Kellener's and Murdoch's hotels were immediately crowded, while those who could not find room inside, about equally divided themselves in front of the two houses named. Speedily several candidates appeared on the Club hotel balcony to return thanks to the ratepayers for the honours conferred.

Mr. W. Murphy on coming forward was loudly cheered. He said he desired to thank them for the very liberal support they had accorded him that day, and he promised to use his best endeavours to merit the confidence they had reposed in him, and trusted that in the future they would find he had done such justice to them as to warrant them in continuing to him their support. He desired to thank both those who voted for him and those who voted against him. (Cheers.)

Mr. M. Mulcare received a splendid ovation. He wished to thank them sincerely for the honour they had done him by returning him as their representative in the Morwell council. He looked upon his candidature as an uphill one, inasmuch as he was a stranger to a great many of them and therefore he considered his victory all the greater. He thanked them for the confidence they had reposed in him, and would endeavour to his utmost to discharge the duties faithfully and honestly, and he trusted he would continue to merit that confidence. "If an occasion arises that he should come before them again for election, he would be in a position to give them an account of his stewardship without being afraid of the result."

Mr. J. English met with a great reception. He thanked the ratepayers for the high honour they had conferred on him that night, and felt that he was second to a better man. As far as he was concerned the election had been fought out without any party feeling. He fully appreciated the honour done him, and felt it more under present circumstances. He looked upon himself as no better than those who were placed lower than him on the poll. The ratepayers might in future put in some of those present lower candidates ahead of him. He would ever look after their interest, and not give them an opportunity of placing him lower on the poll. He again thanked them sincerely, and assured them that their confidence would never be misplaced.

Mr. K. Kelleher was loudly cheered. He thanked them very sincerely for the honour they had conferred on him by electing him as a councillor. He never had any ambition to be higher than he was that night. (He was speaking from his own balcony. Heaven is further up, so Mr. Kelleher, according to his own assertion, doesn't want to go there.) He was fourth on the poll. He had

"ADVERTISER" August 26, 1892

to contest the election in a strange district where he was not known, namely, Darlimuria where he polled no votes, and that was the cause of his being so low on the poll. He was perfectly satisfied, and hoped they had returned the six best men. He again wished to thank them. (Loud cheers.)

Mr. G. Farmin desired to thank all who voted for him. He had represented them for twelve years, and although one of the defeated candidates on the present occasion, he was satisfied that the election had been fought out in a friendly spirit. He thanked those who voted for him and those who did not.

Mr. T. Walsh said that as one of the unsuccessful candidates he had very much pleasure in thanking them for the support they had accorded him. Although not one of the chosen ones, he thanked Morwell and surroundings for the unanimous vote they had given him. He did not feel in the least crest-fallen for being one of the five defeated ones. He hoped the ratepayers had done justice in returning the six best men out of the eleven. He only hoped they would merit the confidence reposed in them that day; and possibly he might come before them on some future occasion.

The following returned thanks from the balcony of Davey's hotel:—

Mr. D. Shaw on stepping forward was vociferously cheered. He thanked them for the honour done him in placing him in the proud position in which he stood that night, namely, at the top of the poll. He assured them he would discharge the duties faithfully as he really had the interest of the ratepayers at large at heart, and he would do his utmost to serve them faithfully. He owed special thanks to the ladies (laughter) and he sincerely thanked them and the ratepayers generally for placing him in the position he then held. (Cheers.)

Mr. W. Murdoch had a grand reception. He addressed them as ratepayers of the new shire of Morwell. That he said, sounded high. (Laughter). He had to thank them for placing him in the position he held. He was satisfied with being the third horse. He might have been the first, but he stumbled at the last fence, and that caused him being third. He would do his best for the new shire, and would watch their officers and see their money was properly spent. (Cheers.)

Mr. J. B. Miller briefly thanked those who voted for him, and assured them that while he regretted being beaten, they had placed a better man in the position of auditor.

The proceedings then terminated, and the crowd soon afterwards dispersed.

Miss Newcombe one of the Missionaries of the Victorian Presbyterian Women's Missionary Union from India, will give an address, on Wednesday evening next in the church, with magic lantern views, &c.

A great deal of matter is this week, on account of extensive advertising, crowded out.

The Morwell footballers will journey to Moe next Saturday to play Corvillie.

The ordinary meeting of the Trarigon Shire has been postponed till Wednesday next on account of the audit not being completed.

The Morwell branch of the Australian Natives will be opened on Tuesday evening next in the Mechanics, all those already enrolled and intending to enrol are requested to attend. Mr. Wise, President of the A. N. A. and Mr. Wainwright will be in attendance.

Mr. B. Stanton terminated his office of President to the Narracan Shire Council, by on Friday last giving a sumptuous report at Attwood's Hotel. The fact of its being at this hotel and the generosity of the genial President, expresses more than words.

The fifth anniversary of the Morwell branch of the Railway Employees Association, was celebrated by a banquet given in Kelleher's Club Hotel, on Saturday evening last. It proved a great success, and songs and speeches were the order of the night, and amongst the latter was a remarkable oration by Mr. Martin, Vice president of the council in Melbourne, who walked over the chests of the "Powers that be" in the railway department with no uncertain tread.

By an advertisement in another column it will be seen that the following gentlemen have been duly nominated for the position of councillor:—Messrs. English, Firmin, Godridge, Kelleher, Mulcare, Murdoch, Murphy, Shaw, Tulloch, Vary, Walsh. And for the office of Auditor—Messrs. Donaldson, Harris, and Miller.

A fire occurred about nine o'clock on Tuesday evening at the Great Olppeland Coal mine by which the office, blacksmiths' shop, and other sheds with their contents were destroyed.

We have received the stud advertisement from Mr. C. F. Bates of his famous entire "Bend Or" which is unavoidably held over till our next issue, the pedigree of the horse being so long that it will take nearly a week to put it in type.

A grand ball will be held on the night at the Yinnar Mechanics' Institute, in aid of the piano fund.

Mr. W. Murdoch, who has for some time been seriously indisposed, we are pleased to find, has sensibly recovered to appear before the ratepayers on the dates advertised elsewhere.

We have it on good authority that it is more than probable that the Victorian Zeller Briquelette Manufacturing Company, Limited, will erect their machinery in Morwell.

A Voice from the Street.

(By PICKLE.)

A RECITATION—THE MUNICIPAL STAKKS.

[As told by the lad who groomed Donald.]

At Old Darlimoria they started the race,
Auctioneer led them, sir, at a terrible pace.
Old Brecks was next, while Donald was
third.

And the three of them took the first jump
like a bird.

Spud and Variety rapped at a rail.

And the chestnut came through the gap at
their tail;

Four others got through where they saw a
weak sucker;

Ned jumped at the logs and he came down
a mucker.

On they came to Boolara, where Spud took
the lead,

With George and the Auctioneer making
the speed.

Cornucopia and Ned here both improved
paces,

While Old Brecks and Donald lay back in
their places;

The others got over in wind and limb sound,
Bar Nabob, who suddenly came to the
ground.

They were nuzzing Yinnar, sir, Spud in the
van.

Cornucopia was going as fast as he can,
With George at his quarters, and Donald
hard by.

With Auctioneer doing his best for a try.
The quintette got over, the last jumping
weak,

And they headed away towards Middle
Creek;

The others got over with some little bother,
As Nabob and Coffin fell over each other.

At the Middle Creek logs Cornucopia jumped
well.

With both Ned and Spud, but the others all
full;

Especially Nabob, I thought he was dead.
He stood on the fence, and came down on
his head.

But I'll weary you, sir, if I go through it all
The other two jumps, sir, there wasn't a fall.
Then they came on to Morwell, the going
was fair,

Old Donald was leading as fresh as a hare.
Auctioneer was the next, just close at his
girth.

Old Brecks coming next, racing close to the
earth;

Then the crowd cried—"There's Spud, the
young colt from Boolara.

He fourth boys, three cheers now for old
Cornemara;

But what's this that's fifth, dark brown with
a ship,

Begorra, it's Ned, and he's under the whip.
The chestnut is catching him, no he can't
stay.

That's the big horse they brought from down
Pakenham way."

Then they shouted—"They're finishing, four
all together.

Bill Marshall, on Donald, is down on the
leather.

He's riding in earnest, and there's Auctioneer
Tom Wolfe finds the colt is a trouble to steer.
But look at Old Brecks, by the Powers of old.
He'd have won if it hadn't have been for his
cold."

Then they shouts—"Donald wins by a length
or two clear.

No, Old Brecks is coming; no, there's Auc-
tioneer."

There's a rush and a flash, sir, of orange and
red.

Then Howlett says Donald has won by a
head.

• • • • •

That's the story, sir, Donald's an honest old
nag.

Getting old, sir, but still he's as fleet as a
stag.

The six that got home, sir, were honestly
raced,

But I'm sorry Variety didn't get placed.
The four others finished all covered with
sweat.

And Nabob and Coffin are going it yet.

The Horses -

Auctioneer - John English

Donald - Donald Shaw

Old Brecks - Wm. Murdoch

Spud - Murphy

Variety - Vary

George - George Firmin

Cornucopia - Walsh ?

Nabob - Henry Godridge

Coffin - Tulloch

Ned - Edmund Kelleher

The chestnut from down

Pakenham way - Mulcare

"ADVERTISER"

September 2, 1892

Tribute given at her funeral service in St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Morwell, on Friday, 24th July, 1992.

Today we meet together to pay our last respects to someone who has played a significant part in the life of our town over many years. Mrs McElroy was well known to Morwell, though, of course, in her latter years she has not been able to mix and mingle as freely with us as she once did.

She will be remembered chiefly for her interest in flowers and was known by her friends as "The Flower Lady". After making wreaths for funerals for many years, the time has now come for her own funeral to be held and for others to arrange the flowers for her.

She has been in the Maryvale Hospital ever since April and was not only quite content to die, but was rather wanting it to happen. She was old and tired and ready to go and had put all her affairs in order and had made all the arrangements for her funeral well in advance. It was her wish that we should hold a service here in St Andrew's in Morwell and that her earthly remains should be placed in the same grave in the Portland Cemetery where those of her late husband, Ted, were placed eight and a half years ago. This will be done on Monday at a service to be held in Portland at 2.30 p.m.

Mrs McElroy was born in Portland 88 years ago. Her connections there are interesting. Her father was Thomas Herbertson and her mother was Janet Browning Millar. There were 7 children in the family. Mrs McElroy was the youngest and the last surviving one of the 7, so now there are none of that family left. And Mrs McElroy was the only one of the 7 to have descendants, her daughter Janet, and her two grandchildren, Jenny and Ross. Jenny is at present overseas, we think in Paris. To them, today, we offer our very sincere and loving sympathy in their bereavement.

Going back in the other direction. Mrs McElroy's grandfather, Mr Herbertson senior, came to Portland from Tasmania in 1841. In 1851 he built a very substantial, two-storeyed home in Portland which he called "The Briery". It is one of the pioneer homesteads in Portland. It is still standing, and, perhaps uniquely, is still in the possession of the same family that built it.

However, in spite of that background in Portland, going right back to its very beginning, Mrs McElroy herself did not remain there once she had grown up. She always retained a great interest in Portland, but has not lived there for most of her life.

In 1938 she married Ted McElroy. He came from near Naracoorte, over the border in South Australia, and took her back there to live, and they lived there for about three years. He had a farming up-bringing, but went into business in Naracoorte.

One of the interests that he had was in the Flax mill there. Flax was grown extensively during the war and was a valuable raw material from which linen and paper could both be made. Cotton eventually replaced flax as a raw material for clothing. But in the war years flax was an important source of cloth. A flax mill was established here in Morwell at that time, and Ted was invited to come over from Naracoorte and supervise its operations. We understand that the mill was burnt down about 6 months after it started and was not rebuilt. Ted went to work for the SEC then and stayed with them for the rest of his working life.

That is the story of how the McElroys came to live in Morwell. They have been here since about 1941, or over 50 years. Ted died in February, 1984.

They built their home in Latrobe Road in 1946 and have lived in it ever since. The house was the first brick house to be built in Latrobe Road after the war. It is to be auctioned tomorrow. That has been planned for some time by Mrs McElroy herself, and it is just a coincidence that she should have died just at the time of the sale.

For many years Mrs McElroy worked as a florist from her home. She was also a floral art demonstrator and judge. She and Ted were both keen gardeners and grew their own flowers for the floristry work. They were always very generous in supplying flowers to anyone wanting them for special purposes at any time.

Mrs McElroy's other interests were mostly allied to flowers and plants. She was a foundation member of the Morwell Horticultural Society and she and Ted were honoured by the Society by being made Life Members of it. They were also foundation members of the L.V. Field Naturalist's Club. And she was an early member of the C.W.A.

But now it's all over. Her life and her work are all completed. I visited her recently in hospital and she said she wanted to die and expected to die and she asked me to pray for her, which I did. I was with her in the Moe Hospital when Ted died, and I think she thought that I might have some sort of connections that might make it happen for her in the same way that it did for Ted. But it didn't and she had to wait around for a little bit longer. But she obviously had no fear of dying and I am sure that today we can lay her to rest in full confidence that she was looking forward to good things ahead in the life to come.

Rev. Doug Morey

EXPLORING MELBOURNE'S TASMANIAN ORIGINS (and exploring your interest)

The RHSV is considering a four day tour of Launceston and its environs in February 1993. The format of the tour will be: (i) tour of Launceston (ii) Tamar River from Launceston to Bass Strait (George Town) (iii) Evandale, Patterdale and the John Glover chapel, and John Batman's original estate (Kingston) etc. (iv) Campbell Town region associated with Wedge, Gardiner and the overlanders, and Big Clarke.

It is intended that the group will travel by air, and by coach within Tasmania: accommodation and all meals provided at about three star standard.

When it is considered that Melbourne/Victoria was first settled and colonised from Launceston, there are many rich historical links between this region and our early beginnings.

The RHSV is seeking expressions of interest (and preferences) from members (and others) who would be interested in joining the tour. It is envisaged that some flexibility will be possible — for instance to allow for people to stay on and visit other parts of Tasmania.

Estimated cost around \$500.

Further enquiries to Rex Harcourt 489 8479.

SURVEY OF HISTORIC POLICE BUILDINGS

A survey of police buildings in Victoria is being carried out by the Historic Buildings Branch of the Department of Planning and Housing to establish which buildings are of historic and architectural importance and to recommend those of state-wide significance to the Historic Buildings Register. A police buildings complex may have included a residence, office, kitchen, stables, quarters for unmarried men and lockup. Any information about existing or past police buildings or sites, plans and photographs would be welcome. Contact: Frances O'Neill, Historic Buildings Branch, Department of Planning and Housing, 2 Treasury Place, Melbourne 3000. Tel: (03) 651-1223.

From R.H.S.V. HISTORY NEWS

August 1992

THE NEW COMPUTER - A GRAPHIC CHANGE

The RHSV has recently installed a new computer and printer which was made available through a Ministry for the Arts Special Projects Fund. With the installation of the new equipment, computerised cataloguing is now possible for the first time and the Visual Material catalogue worksheets are now being processed. Eventually the photographic collection will be computer catalogued as will other branches of the collection such as manuscripts, maps and rare books from the library.

Our exhibitions have also been enhanced by the use of computer-generated captions and information sheets. We are grateful to the Ministry for its generous support of this important project.

EXHIBITIONS

MUSEUM OF VICTORIA

An Australian Pilgrimage - From Intolerance to Multi-Culturalism. Muslims in Australia 1960-1990's.

Until 16 August 1992. Examines the many misconceptions about the Muslim community here in Australia and abroad. Objects on display include: Northern Territory Aboriginal bark paintings depicting pioneer Macassan camel drivers, saddlebags and cooking utensils of these Muslims. Puppets, batiks, and costumes can be seen.

A Story of Epic Courage.

MORWELL "ADVERTISER"
December 14, 1942

Much too little information reaches us as to what our local boys are doing individually in this war, mainly due to the fact that they, one and all, shun publicity as though it were a plague. It is refreshing, therefore, to have the opportunity of publishing a first-hand version of the cool courage of Flight-Sergeant (now Pilot-Officer) Des. Kelly as related in the following letter addressed to Mr. and Mrs. P. P. Kelly, by Flight-Lieutenant Garry Nowell, D.F.M. and Bar in connection with the sortie on which Des. was seriously wounded:—

"As I have told you before, I have known and seen hundreds of war casualties, but never one to equal the fortitude and courage of that boy of yours. I'm afraid my cable was a bit brief, and I know you'll be longing to hear a fuller version of Des.'s accident. Well, after he was hit he called up on the R/T and told me. At first I thought he meant his aircraft only had been hit until he said he couldn't see. He then said, "Let's get out of this." (This was rather troublesome). We made for home. I had to fly in front of Des. on his right side and pilot him back over about 80 miles of sea, and had to keep telling him: "Lift your right wing," "Tail up a little," "Nose up, Des." etc., because the poor boy couldn't see a darned thing. I believe he got a blurred outline of my plane just occasionally—that was all, but never a squawk. "How goes it, Des?" "O.K. carry on." Another section called up: "Any joy, Garry?" I said, "No, a load of bad luck." Controller said, "Shut up! I'm trying to get this section home." Des. said, "It's alright John, (controller), I can make it." And make he did, though he must have been early screaming with pain, and he made a perfect three-point landing! On reaching base, through some error, he was kept circling around for nearly 15 minutes ere being given the chance to come in, and by the time I got in he had been rushed off to sick quarters and had his eye covered up. I was worried to death and overwhelmed with remorse, much more than he was. "What's the score, Des?" "Don't know, they are taking me to an eye hospital." His eye gave him pain he couldn't conceal, but he had all that it takes. Never a sign of a break, not a word of complaint, and he's been the same ever since.

"He tried all a man knows how to get back on ops., but they wouldn't give him a break.

Most unfortunately we have been separated since and don't get the chance to see much of each other now. We'll pair off again before long though. After Des.'s mishap I lost a lot of zest for ops.—I missed him a lot and still do."

Flight-Lieutenant Nowell was a Battle for Britain Pilot with 17 known "kills"—14 in one week and 5 in one action, when singlehanded he attacked nine Messerschmitts. He baled out three times in one week, the third time resulting in 21 months in hospital. According to Des., he is the finest pilot of this or any other war, and if the full account of his victories (the majority of which were over France and not recorded) were known the result would be staggering.

WHO was Barbara Mackay? We are indebted to Mrs. E. T. C. Lubeke of 122a Helen St., Morwell, for the following information about this interesting woman and her place in our history.

Barbara Mackay was born in 1801 in Sutherland, the most northerly province of Scotland, the daughter of Donald and Catherine (Duncan) Mackay. In 1819, at Lairg, Sutherland, she married Murdoch Mackay, the son of George and Catherine (Macleod) Mackay, of the same clan, but no blood relation.

Thirty-three years and 12 children later, Murdoch and Barbara Mackay emigrated to Victoria with seven of their children, the oldest two being already married and settled in Sutherland, and three children having died in infancy. They sailed from Liverpool on the "Marco Polo", July 2, 1852, and arrived at Melbourne. 20-9-1852.

Murdoch Mackay was an assisted migrant under bond to Mr. Duncan Hoyle, as a shepherd on a Western District property for 12 months for 175 pounds (\$350) and rations.



AFTER ten years of hard work and careful saving, Murdoch Mackay was able to become a squatter himself, leasing Lal Lal West with his sons John and Kenneth, and leasing a quarter of Mt. Mercer Station with his

Memory Lane



IVAN MADDERN

sons Donald and William.

We, of the Latrobe Valley, are more interested, at this point, in the three daughters—Catherine, who married Robert Irving at Ballarat in 1855; Alexandra, who married John Hopkins in 1858, and Donella, who married James Rutherford Elliot in 1863. All three of these daughters with their husbands and families came to Gippsland in 1879.

The Elliots were early selectors at Mardan, staying there for the rest of their lives. Both are buried in the Mirboo North cemetery.

The Irvings and the Hopkins came to the Morwell area, and later selected land at Boolarra. Four of the Hopkins' children—John, Murdoch, James and Kenneth—are listed among the pioneer pupils of Morwell (Commercial Rd) State School, 1879. And it was their cousin, John Irving, the son of Robert and Catherine (Mackay) Irving, who was the first head-teacher at Morwell State School, 1879-1884.



MORWELL "ADVERTISER"

Date unknown

THE Hopkins family later moved to Western Australia, during the gold rush to that state in the 1890s. One of their sons became a member of the Western Australian parliament.

Robert and Catherine Irving retired to Morwell, where Robert died in 1889, aged 56. One of his daughters, Christina Irving, as well as assisting her brother at the Morwell State School, was the township's first music teacher.

Another daughter, Barbara Irving, was an early teacher at the Hazelwood Ridge State School, 1880-1886. She married Mr. Birnie, 6-4-1887. Three of her sons became doctors, and all three served as medical men in the First World War.

Murdoch Mackay died in 1876 at Mt. Mercer and was buried in the Buninyong cemetery. Barbara Mackay remained at Mt. Mercer until 1887, when she came to Boolarra to live with her daughter, Mrs. Alexandra Hopkins in Tarwin St. Boolarra. She died there 24-7-1896, aged 95, and was buried in the Hazelwood Cemetery.

Registration by the Historic Buildings Council

What it really means

Unfortunately too many myths abound about what Historic Buildings Council registration really means.

We put the most common questions to the Director of the HBC, Ray Tonkin. His responses should make interesting reading for owners of buildings on the Register of Historic Buildings.

My building is on the Register - will the HBC make me restore it?

Building owners have no obligation to restore or maintain their property in pristine condition. You are, however, obliged not to allow the building to fall into disrepair for purposes of achieving its demolition.

Does having a building on the Register cost money?

Not necessarily any more than the maintenance costs associated with an unregistered property. The property remains yours to use and enjoy and like any owner you are obliged to maintain your property in a manner which meets normal community expectations.

What is the difference between the National Trust and the HBC?

HBC registration of a building legally protects it. The building and often the land surrounding it may not be altered, removed, demolished or subdivided without a permit from the HBC. National Trust classification recognises the architectural and historical significance of the building, but does not provide legal protection.

Does the HBC make owners open their buildings to the public?

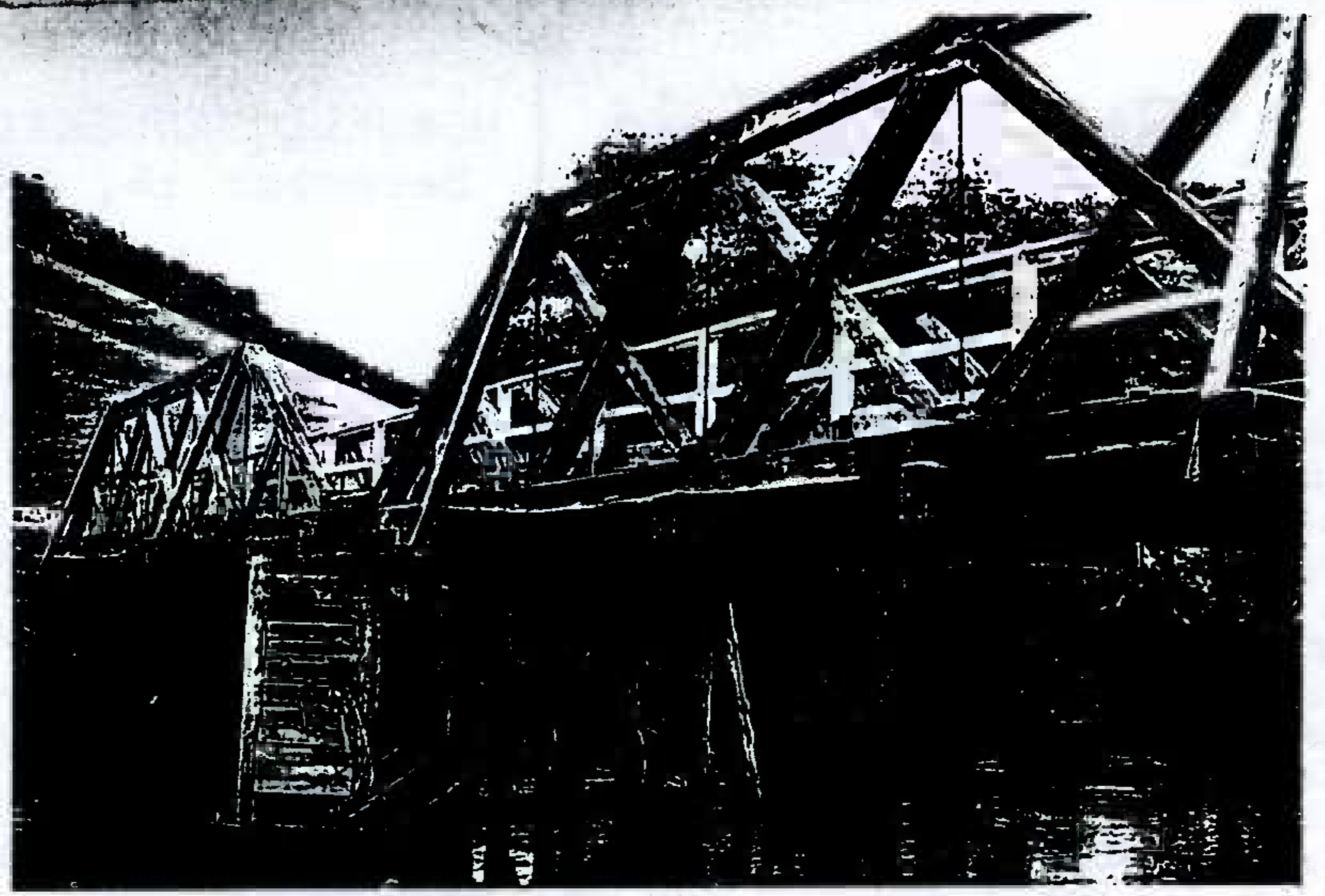
Registration provides no automatic right of public entry to the property. The only obligation is to provide access to authorised representatives of the HBC when requested.

Now that my building is on the Register, will it become a museum piece that I will never be able to change?

No, the HBC is not interested in turning all registered buildings into museums. We appreciate that some changes to historic buildings may be necessary to ensure their continued use. Owners should discuss proposed alterations with HBC staff to see if a permit is required.

Is it possible to change the use of a building once it has been included on the Register?

Yes, if an owner chooses to change the use of a building and it does not alter the physical fabric of the building, the HBC does not need to be involved.



The Hinnomunjie Bridge, saved from demolition when it was added to the Register on 3 June, 1992. Photograph by Megan McDougall.

The Hinnomunjie Bridge

Earmarked to be demolished by the Shire of Omeo, the future of the Hinnomunjie Bridge over the Mitta Mitta River was in jeopardy until the structure was added to the Register of Historic Buildings on 3 June, 1992.

Opened in 1910, the Hinnomunjie Bridge is historically significant as one of only five known timber bridges existing in Victoria and one of only two with multiple trusses. It is the only known bridge to be constructed using hand-hewn timber and demonstrates the typical craftsmanship of early timber bridge construction with broad axe marks clearly visible on the superstructure.

Financial assistance is available to owners

Since 1974 more than \$5 million has been dispensed by the Historic Buildings Council to owners of registered buildings.

Low interest loans and grants are given to a wide range of projects and are just as likely to be awarded to a small, timber, pre-fabricated cottage as to a grand, palatial mansion. Funding is provided for restoration or preservation as distinct from general maintenance. The Council has a limited budget and priority is given to financing urgent or essential works.

Financial assistance from the HBC comes in three forms: low, or no interest loans; direct grants; and remission or deferral of rates or land tax. Direct grants are provided only where it can be shown that it is the only way preservation will be achieved and where there is unlikely to be a consequent direct financial benefit to the owner.

This year the Council has revised the timetable for submissions. Applications must be lodged by 31 August, 1992.

Owners must present a submission to the Council setting out the case for assistance and providing details, cost estimates and photographs of the proposed works. The Council's staff can assist with this. Owners of registered buildings requiring additional information should ring Lyn Petersen on (03) 628 5437.

From Historic Buildings Council Newsletter
Vol1. No.1 August 1992