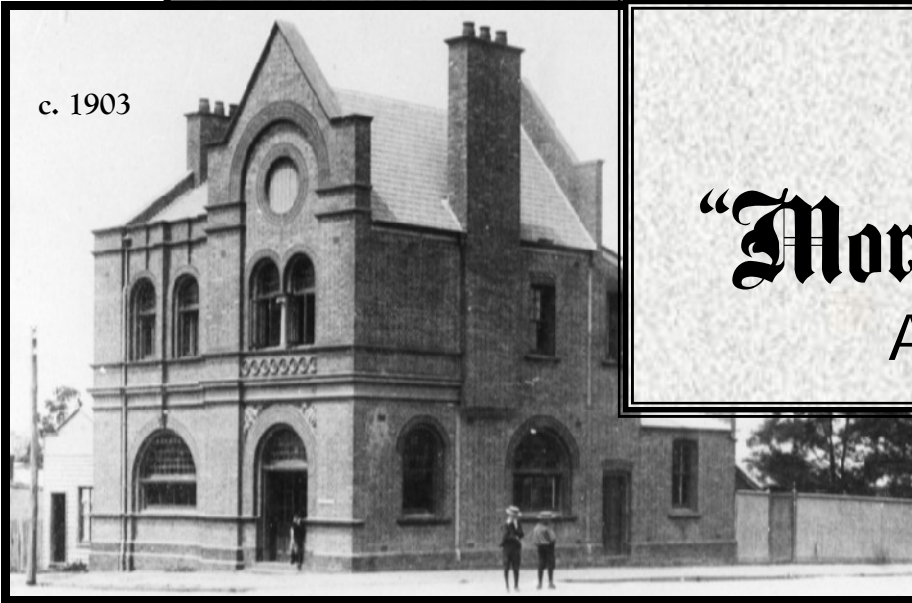


# Morwell Historical Society Inc.

[www.morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au](http://www.morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au)

c. 1903



# The

AOO 16986 W

# “Morwell Post”

August 2007

Vol. 24 No.4

Secretary: Elsie McMaster

2 Harold Street Morwell

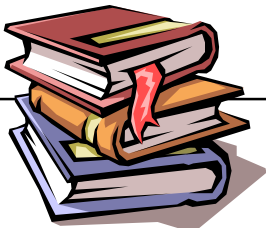
Tel: 5134 1149

Compiled by: Stephen Hellings



Proudly supported by Latrobe City Council

Published every two months: February to



## NEW ACQUISITIONS



Latrobe Council employees, with the assistance of several local historical society members, are at present sorting and rehousing a large collection of items which belonged originally to the former Shires and Cities which combined to form Latrobe.

Our Society has been given custody of five large display boards featuring photographs of former Morwell Shire Presidents and Mayors. These are currently on display in our rooms. We have also received a number of files of Council correspondence dating back to 1892 – the beginning of Morwell Shire – which paint a fascinating picture of the lives and activities of the residents of that time.

**Elsie McMaster**

### “The Post”

Murray Thompson (final)	p. 2
Sir Stanley Savge	p. 4
Mr. Aherin (1923)	p. 5
Princes' Highway (photo)	p. 8
Harry Bridle (obit 1939)	p. 9
Advertisement (McAlpins)	p. 11
Who's Who	p. 12

### A BIG THANK YOU

Morwell Historical Society Inc. would like to extend a very big thank you to Mr. **Danny Goss** for his valuable assistance and guidance in the maintenance of our financial records.

Danny has helped us sort out our many concerns and difficulties with the dreaded G.S.T. **S.H.**

# The Reminiscences of Murray Thompson:

(Final)



A young missionary from the Presbyterian Church would come to Morwell by the 9 o'clock train on Saturday night; next morning he would hire a horse and ride off, arriving at South Hazelwood at 11 o'clock.

After preaching he would have a meal at one of the homes, then ride on to Beales School at Jeeralang where a service was held at two thirty. His next meeting was at Jeeralang North at 7 o'clock, after which he rode back to Morwell to return to Melbourne on Monday morning.

The round trip by this young chap was over forty miles, and for a man unused to horseback was a great feat of endurance. The TIMES were not the only tough things in those days!

I fear I have wandered away from the main subject here.

Tom Sanders had no vehicle or horse so he often went to church with us. We had a double seated buggy!

He always placed a half crown in the collection plate. This was a silver coin, bigger than a twenty cent piece and worth (now) twenty five cents. You can imagine how large it appeared amongst the threepenny and sixpenny bits which comprised the rest of the collection.

Tom was a musician: He played the flute, and spent many an evening at our house where my mother played the organ and we held a general "sing song."

It was one of the simple ways with which we entertained ourselves in those old days.

Although he enjoyed the meals he often shared with us, when on his own he lived very frugally. He always ordered the same cut of beef – about six pounds of topside – which we brought out from Morwell for him each week. At times also he would order a twenty five pound bag of flour. He would either roast or boil the meat, and this was eaten with boiled white turnips – no potatoes, just turnips! He grew this vegetable all the year around.

With the flour he made what was known as damper: a scone like mixture with no rising element. This was baked in a camp oven – a circular pot about eighteen inches in diameter, five inches deep and made of cast iron. The lid, also of cast iron, was raised in the centre but round the edge was a depression in which coals

were placed when in use. The bottom portion was placed on the open fire and thus heat was applied top and bottom. The damper was always well cooked because he used the brown crust to make what resembled weak tea. A few flakes of crust were placed in a cup and water added!

When the three year lease of the farm expired Tom offered to sell it to my Father, and the sale was duly effected in 1907. Tom said he would like to try some other district, or would perhaps go home to England. He continued to live in his hut and, while chopping down a dry tree for firewood, he somehow fell under it and was crushed to death.

People wondered how an experienced bushman could have such an accident but he had a goitre in his throat and became breathless at times. Perhaps with the exertion of chopping he passed out!

He had left a will and a neighbour as executor, and his relatives in England received the benefit of his estate.

When we first came to this farm I was ten years old and was advised by old Tom to poke a stick in the grass ahead as I walked to school to avoid walking on a snake. This never happened, but when we cleared about 20 acres in one corner of the land we killed 100 snakes from six inches long to six feet long. There were tiger, brown and black ones. The big one must have been old because his backbone stood up like the knuckles on the back of your hand.

We lived there for fifteen years and sold out in 1919.

These are just some memories of a fine old man who passed on nearly seventy years ago.

June 1976.

Murray Thompson  
22 Hazelwood Road  
Morwell

---

A copy of the above article was kindly supplied by **Mr. Bruce McMaster**.

31<sup>st</sup>. August 2006



## Mr. Aherin's Send Off (1923) Part Two

He became acquainted with Mr Aherin in 1914 when he (Mr Evans) first came to Morwell.

It was not long before he found him to be a fine man and a most worthy citizen. The longer he knew him the better he liked him. His character was irreproachable and he set an example worthy of being followed.

He had been of great assistance to the Mechanics' Institute both as a member of the committee and in arranging overdraft for Institute etc. He would also be greatly missed from Bowling Green where he was known as "The Boss." He wished him every success in the future.

Mr J. F. Daly said he was pleased to be present to add his testimony of esteem regarding Mr Aherin. He, however, was sorry to have to say good-bye to such an esteemed friend and good citizen. He was a good sport and when out coursing was as free as the dogs. He looked almost as young as when he first came to Morwell. They all hoped he would enjoy good health and continue to look as young as ever.

Cr. Buckley said he was one of the first to meet Mr Aherin on his arrival in Morwell nearly thirty years ago. He had frequently consulted him about various matters and had always found his judgment sound and advice good and he (Cr. Buckley) had profited considerably by acting upon it. Mr Aherin had said to him "some of these good things are better left alone," and he was always right. In business he had always found him very obliging. Whenever he wanted an overdraft he always got it. On one occasion he was overdrawn to the extent of £7000. He was sorry it had not been £2000.

In conclusion, he wished Mr Aherin every success in the future.

Mr P. P. Kelly said the large and representative gathering that evening bore testimony to Mr Aherin's popularity. The Bank officials must also have thought a lot of him when they allowed him remain so long in Morwell. He had proved himself an excellent townsman and would be greatly missed from their midst. He wished him every success in the future.

The Rev. A. J. Smith, who spoke on behalf of Church, mentioned that Lord Rosebery had said "no one ever wanted to make an after dinner speech, and no one ever wished to listen." He, however, thought there were quite a number present who desired to speak, whilst they all wanted to listen. At times there were "send offs" to men who were not worthy of same, and at

times most worthy citizens were allowed to take their departure without a word of recognition.

Mr Aherin had proved himself a most worthy citizen in the highest sense of the term, and certainly deserved a "send off."

Mr Aherin had not only been an exemplary citizen but also an exemplary churchman. There was no doubt that a good citizen was all the better for being a good churchman. He was a most regular attender at church and was not a fine weather worshipper. If occasionally he was absent there was some good reason for it.

He gave liberally, largely and cheerfully in supporting the church. The Lord loved a cheerful giver. He was also a very active worker in the church and as Treasurer had been a host in himself. His list was a model for any church in Gippsland for the number of subscribers. He wished there were fifty members of the church like him. It was little wonder that at his leaving the church had been shaken to the very foundations and was now tumbling down.

He (Mr Smith) was, however, pleased to know that Mr Aherin's successor was also a good churchman and had been treasurer of church where he came from. He trusted that Mr Aherin's mantle would fall upon Mr Dolphin.

In conclusion he wished Mr and Mrs Aherin prosperity and happiness in the new home.

In speaking on behalf of Returned Soldiers Mr E. Rowell said he could heartily endorse all that had been said about Mr Aherin. He had done a great deal for the returned soldiers, and was always there to extend to those who returned a hearty welcome home. Mrs Aherin had also assisted in Red Cross work and in other ways.

Mr G. Watson in speaking on behalf of Bowling Club, Tennis Club and Horticultural Society, referred in eulogistic terms to the important part taken by Mr Aherin in same, and the loss that would be sustained through his departure.

Messrs Nadenbousch and H. Gay spoke on behalf of customers of bank and in doing so paid a high tribute of praise to Mr Aherin.

Speaking on behalf of "The Staff," Mr Pryce spoke in the highest terms of Mr Aherin as a "boss" and wished him long life and prosperity.

Mr Gordon, who spoke on behalf of National Bank, congratulated Mr Aherin upon having reached the retiring age. Mr Aherin had always played

the game in business matters as well as in other things and the best of feeling existed between the Banks. He wished Mr Aherin long life and many happy days.

Mr Stranger (State Savings Bank) endorsed Mr Gordon's remarks.

Mr J. Tatterson and Mr A. Rowell also spoke in eulogistic terms of Mr Aherin.

The Chairman, in calling upon Mr W. West, M.L.A., to make a presentation to Mr Aherin and a gift for Mrs Aherin, endorsed the remarks of previous speakers. He referred to the valuable assistance rendered by Mr Aherin in connection with Bowling Club, Mechanics' Institute and many other organisations of which he was not only a worker but a leader. He was one of the very best citizens and he deeply regretted that he was leaving the district.

In conclusion the chairman recited some verses suitable to the occasion, after, which he called upon Mr West, who, he said, had put himself to a good deal of inconvenience to be present.

Mr West said he was very pleased to have the opportunity of joining in with those present in doing honor to such an esteemed and worthy citizen as Mr Aherin whom he had known for many years.

He could endorse the eulogistic remarks that had been expressed by representatives of town and district with regard to Mr Aherin's sterling character and general popularity among all sections of the community.

All that had been said was fully justified and his departure would be a distinct loss to the district. As an officer of the Bank he had discharged his duties in a most worthy manner, giving entire satisfaction to the institution he served as well as the customers of the Bank.

When his advice was sought it was always found to be sound and had proved beneficial and helpful to quite a large number.

As a citizen he had played an important part in all movements for the advancement of town and district and joined in those things which made for progress and tended to make a place worth living in.

To Be Continued Next Issue

# Looking Back To Yesteryear



Princes' Highway & Church Street c. early 1950's



# Morwell Advertiser and Gazette

1<sup>st</sup>. June 1939

## Sad Fatality



### Death of Mr. Harry Bridle

A sad fatality, resulting in the sudden death of a most highly respected resident of the district, in the person of Mr. Harry Bridle, farmer, of Morwell, occurred on Tuesday evening last, at about 7 o'clock, on the Princes' Highway, about two miles east of Morwell, and a short distance from Mr. Bridle's home.

Mr. Bridle left home with the intention of visiting Mr. Cameron, a neighbour, who resides on the Highway, and was walking along the roadway in the direction of Traralgon, when he was struck by motor car driven by Mr. Alf Berryman of Wron Wron, who was also travelling in the same direction and was well over on his correct side of the road.

Mr. Berryman states that he was travelling at a very moderate pace, and at the spot where the fatality occurred he passed a car with dazzling headlights. For a moment or two he was unable to see anything in front of him, and during that brief period he felt the car collide with some object, and on pulling up to investigate was horrified to find that he had struck a man.

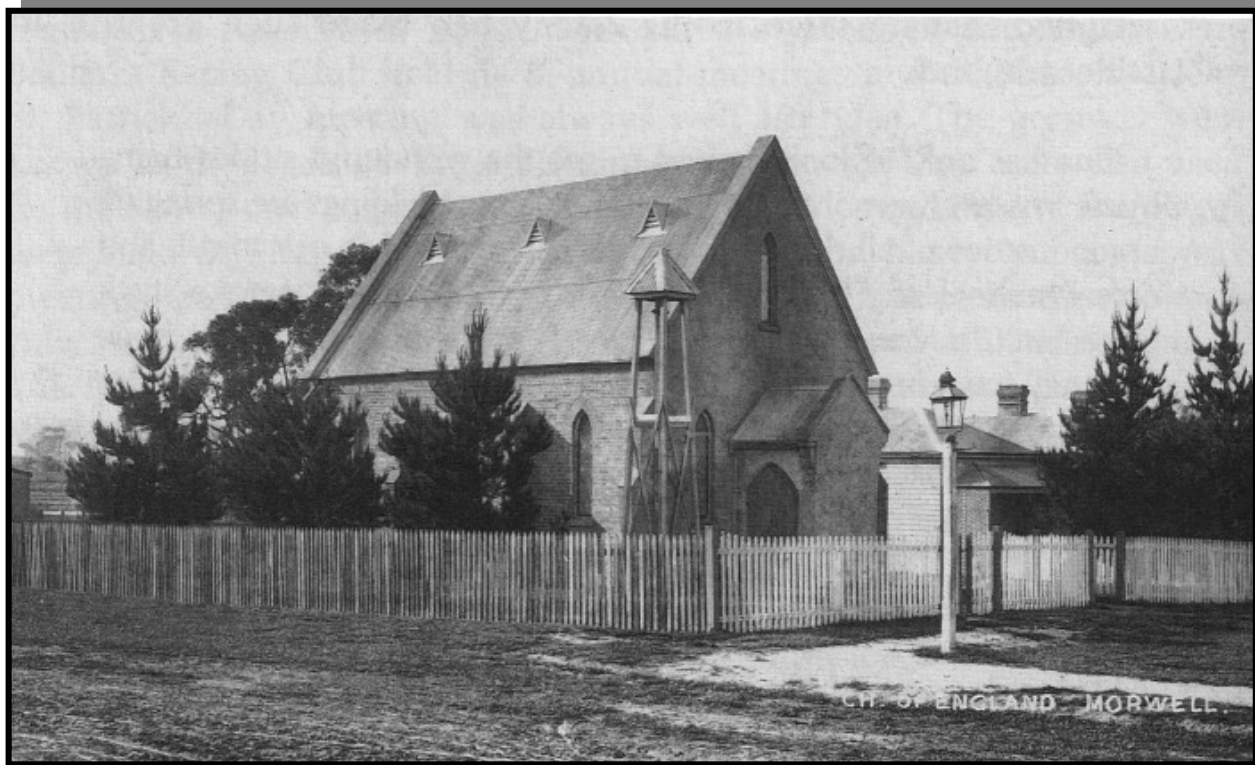
He immediately sent word in to the police and remained at the spot until they arrived. In the meantime he endeavoured to do something for Mr. Bridle but found he was past human aid.

Deceased, who was 62 years of age, and unmarried, came with his parents to Morwell about 40 years ago and has resided on the farm ever since. He was of a quiet disposition and held in very high esteem by a large circle of friends. He was an active member of St. Mary's Church of England, Morwell, and was always ready to assist any deserving cause.

Deceased leaves two brothers and four sisters to mourn their loss and sympathy is expressed for them in their sad and sudden bereavement.

The remains of deceased will be interred in the Hazelwood Cemetery this afternoon (Thursday), the funeral cortege leaving St. Mary's Church at 20'clock.

An inquest touching the fatality is to be held.



**An early photograph of St. Mary's Church of  
England- Chapel Street-Morwell**

**Photograph: Morwell Historical Society Inc.**

ANOTHER  
*Forward*  
MOVE



3

NEW FEATURES

① *Malto-Calcium* ENRICHED  
Malt for energy and food value. Calcium for building stronger bones.

② *Entoleted*  
For purity and fineness — the "Pura Fina" Process.

③ *Modern Packets*  
RED ..... Aerophos  
GREEN ..... Cream of Tartar  
BROWN ..... Procera 100%  
Wholemeal

2 LB. and 6 LB.



## Next Meeting:

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup>. August 2007

7.30 p.m.

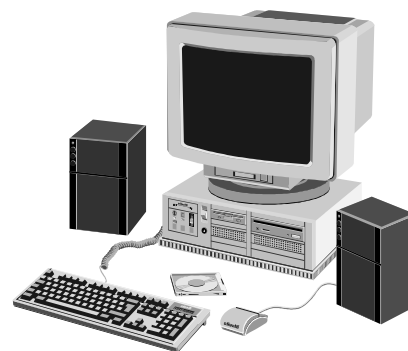
44 Buckley Street  
(Next to TAB)

Morwell Historical Society  
Inc.

Annual Subscription Rates:

Single: \$17.00

Family/Double: \$20.00

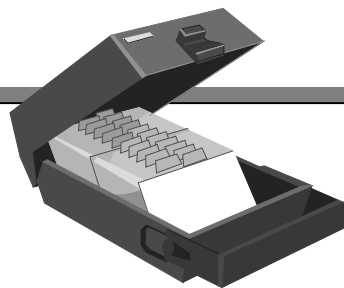


### Local History On-Line

Our Internet Address is:

[www.morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au](http://www.morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au)

Pearson, Bill



## Who's Who: H. P. (Bill) Pearson

Manager Commonwealth Bank Morwell Branch 1955-1959

President Morwell R.S.L. 1958-1959

