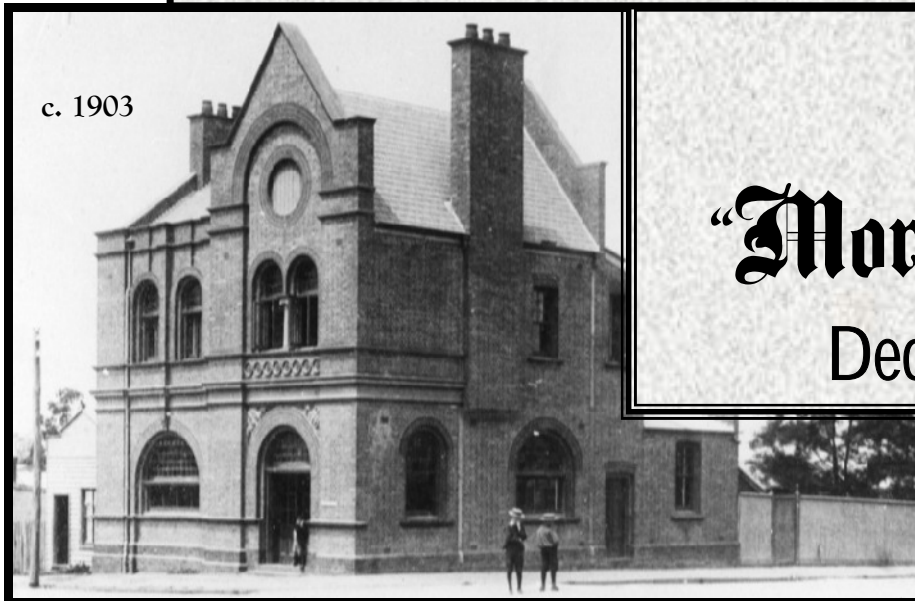


# Morwell Historical Society Inc.

www.morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au

c. 1903



## The

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# “Morwell Post”

## December 2009

Vol. 26 No.6

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Compiled by: Stephen Hellings

Published every two months: February to December

Items for publication in the “Post” are always welcome; please forward your contributions to either Elsie or myself. S. H.  
(P.O. Box 1163 Morwell 3840)

A very Merry Christmas to you all!



Enjoy your holiday break everyone!

### Heritage Activity Weekend:

**Cemetery Walk:** On Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October Claire Wood conducted a very interesting and informative cemetery walk at Hazelwood. Despite the very hot weather on the day Claire went to great lengths to provide information and anecdotes on the many significant pioneer graves and memorials that are located at Hazelwood.

Thank you Claire for your outstanding effort

S.H.

Stephen Hellings



David McInnes, Bruce McMaster, Leonie Pryde, Elsie McMaster

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Report on “Town Walk” will appear in next issue. S.H.



24<sup>th</sup>. March 1970

## ROADS GO IN FLOODS

### Washed away

Roads have been washed away and grazing land inundated in the Morwell district after five days of torrential rain.

Five and a half inches of rain have been recorded at Morwell since Wednesday night. Two inches fell on Friday alone.

Mirboo and Boolarra districts have had between six and seven inches.

Flooding has occurred along the Morwell River which reached its peak level on Sunday afternoon, but began receding yesterday afternoon.

The Latrobe Valley Water and Sewerage Board reported that general rains over the Latrobe catchments were considerable but were heaviest in the Morwell River catchment.

Morwell River was flowing at a rate of 4500 cubic feet per second on Sunday and then later joined with the Latrobe River to flow at a rate of 5500 cubic feet per second at Thom's Bridge.

### At Peak

The Latrobe reached its peak here at 2 a.m. yesterday at a level of 16.37 feet.

It began falling away yesterday and the crest of the flood travelled downstream to Rosedale where it was expected to reach its peak of 13.5 feet early this morning.

The Boolarra-Foster road was closed to traffic at Gunya for some time on Sunday afternoon after a small landslide covered the road.

### \$2000 damage

Stagg's road, Yinnar, was washed away in parts and the Morwell Shire Engineer Mr. G. O. Ritchie, estimates damage at \$2000.

Speargrass road was also washed away in sections by the Middle Creek.

Olsen's road, near Boolarra was closed at the weekend.

Olsen's bridge received the state's highest reading in the 24 hours to 9 a.m. Sunday with 368 points.

The Country Roads Board reported today that all roads in the district were open to the public.

A great deal of debris has to be cleared up along roads and the Board reports it teams will be working furiously for at least four days to fill many pot-holes.

## BRIDGES OUT

Late yesterday Morwell Shire engineer, Mr. G. O. Ritchie, reported that two bridges on the Morwell River had been extensively damaged and both had been closed.

He said that the bridges, known as Fox's and Fanche's and Libington's would each cost \$25,000 if they had to be replaced.

Both, he said, had been closed, but total damage would not be known until the flood waters receded.

Mr. Ritchie said that there had been numerous washaways and scouring on shire roads.



The following article was sourced from donated material

## BUSH SCHOOLS

By Allie Ford 20<sup>th</sup> July 1995

### GUNYAH GUNYAH

Towards the end of 1934, I decided to explore other fields, so I applied for a South Gippsland school, Gunyah. This was in the mountains on the Grand Ridge Road, fifteen miles from the nearest railway station, Boolarra. The population of Gunyah consisted of a few farmers, a couple of Country Roads Board families, and a large number of timber workers at the mill. There were thirty three children at the school ranging from Prep to Form Three or Intermediate as it was called at the time. The children were like wild rabbits, disappearing into the bush if a stranger appeared while they were at play. Some of them had to milk several cows before a long walk to school.

The building was awful, an unlined shed and a fireplace that leaked water across the floor when it rained, which averaged about five days a week. I had to wear gumboots most of the time, even to put wood on the fire! The school was surrounded by large pine trees which made the room so dark on a dull day that the children were unable to see lines on their books. But the most incongruous part about this school was a grand piano which of course was played for the dances attended mostly by the mill boys who came in their black athletic singlets and hobnail boots, but that didn't matter, as the floor was so uneven. A load of metal had been put on the steep driveway up to the school, and this proved to be the main area for the inevitable fights among the young mill bucks. Many a blood nose and cut eye was brought into the supper room for attention and first aid.

There was always the threat of bush fires and a tunnel had been dug in the playground as a refuge in case a fire swept through suddenly. Fortunately it was never needed while I was there, but during the school Christmas holidays the school was destroyed. A new school was built, but this also was burnt in a bush fire the following year, but by this time I had been transferred to Northcote S.S. in Melbourne. On visiting the area many years later, the once cleared hills had grown back to impenetrable forest, and the only inhabitants were the timber workers and the wild animals and birds.

I must tell you about my accommodation. I arranged to board at the hotel which had recently been taken over by a new owner. The previous owner had been intoxicated most of the time and the school inspector told me that on his previous visit before the

change, he had found her asleep on the couch in the parlor with a pig on the floor beside her.

Miss Lawless, the new proprietor, worked very hard to renovate the old building, but before the bathroom could be built, the only means of having a bath was in a very large tub, which I had to carry into my bedroom, then don leather coat and gumboots in order to fill the copper which was out in the open, usually standing in a pool of mud. It took most of Saturday morning to heat the copper in winter time, often snowing and blowing. The next step was to cart the water from the copper to the tub in my room. I had not bathed in a tub of this size since by baby days, and I wasn't sure whether to sit in the water with legs over the side, or sit on the edge with legs in the water. I found the first position more comfortable. Then the water had to be bailed out of the tub and carted outside.

My parents were living in Kerang, and in order to go home for holidays, which consisted of one week (two weekends), I had to hitch a ride on a timber truck to Boolarra in time to catch the train from there to Morwell. Then another train to Melbourne, stay overnight, and the next morning, catch the train to Bendigo and change once more to the Kerang train. By the time this was repeated on the return journey I had very little time at home, so I decided to buy a car and learn to drive. The car was a 1928 second hand Ford A Model single seater. I knew someone in Lilydale who offered to give me driving lessons. He also knew the local policeman, and after a week I got my licence. With Dave for company, I set off on the one hundred and twenty mile drive to Gunyah. On our arrival one of the men at the



hotel remarked, "We have very good drivers on these roads. They all missed you!"

Stephen Hellings



Inverloch Historical Society's Visit to Morwell on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2009

Stephen Hellings



# Morwell Advertiser and Gazette

28<sup>th</sup>. November 1940

A Popular Clergyman is Honored

Farewell to Rev. T. D. and Mrs. Beyer



Despite the inclement weather, and several counter attractions, the Town Hall supper room was taxed to its utmost capacity on Friday evening, to accommodate the audience that gathered to do honor to the Rev. T. D. Beyer, who has been accepted as a chaplain to the Air Force, and Mrs. Beyer.

The President of the Shire (Cr. Williams) presided and explained that the farewell had been arranged by St. Mary's and St. Matthew's churches, but by request, had grown to include all parts of the Shire, even the hills.

He then called upon Mrs. Harding, who sang with good expression "At The Balalaika."

The Rev. H. Walsh, B.A., when introduced said: I don't know why I should be called upon first, for I remember Mr. Beyer speaking of himself as the father of the local clergy, because he had been here longest. If so, then I am the baby. I am glad to be here, and to cheer him on in his noble work. I hear that a presentation is to be made, and hope it is not a pair of boots and a walking stick. (Laughter). While I regret our brother's leaving, I thrill with pride that he is going forth in this time of crisis to help the Empire.

The way Mr. Beyer has won the hearts of Methodists is beyond praise. Recently we had a change of pulpits that emanated from Mr. Beyer. "This is the right kind of union." Also his practical Christianity had endeared him to many. He helped everyone he possibly could. I knew him at Drouin. Some say "Go to Drouin for rack and ruin." The Anglican church there was in need of a man of high ability, and they sent for Mr. Beyer. Here also, he is held in high esteem by the Methodist community. His versatile gifts and breezy manner have made his ministerial work more effective, and I am glad to voice the good wishes of our denomination.

Mr Beyer leaves behind him a radiant memory, and a fine example. (Applause).

Miss Chrissie Stubbs, formerly of Morwell, but now of Melbourne, delighted the audience with her rendering of "The Garden of Happiness" and as a recall gave "Lords of the Air."

The Rev. N. Faichney then said: I am glad to be present, to express on behalf of the Presbyterian people our good wishes, as he goes forth to his very important duty. By the way, when Mr. Beyer looked round for a life partner to help him in his work, he chose a Presbyterian, and I congratulate him on his choice. (Laughter). I hope that the Christian fellowship that exists, will carry on and increase. We need it everywhere. Week by week alternately in the several churches, to pray for the nation, for those who have gone forth to help the Empire but unfortunately there are many who do nothing in a united way to intercede for the soldiers, and for those in training. God bless you and your family while you are away. (Applause).

#### Councillor Has a Say

Cr. Coleman then said: I cannot say how sorry I am that we are losing Mr Beyer, I don't know how his place will be filled. Whatever else he is good at, I know he is excellent at harvesting. I remember how, when one chap got ill, he donned the dungarees and drove the harvester, while, for another sick man, he built a shed. You all know that in the time of the bush fires, he was there to help, and he did help. We all know he will do excellent work over on the other side, and we look forward to the day when we will welcome him back. (Applause).

Speaking as a member of St. Mary's vestry, Mr. Mills said: This is an unexpected pleasure. As a church worker with Mr. Beyer for five years, we have been very intimate, and with his going I am losing a friend and a pal. As he dons the King's uniform, I am proud of him. He has a great capacity for comradeship, and will do good work. I will wish him and Mrs Beyer and Wendy all the best, and will pray for their safe return, and look forward to the day when we welcome them home.

Mr. Maxwell, President of the R.S.S.I. League, said: Mr. Beyer has been a good friend to the diggers, and he is held in high esteem by them. He is always ready to help, whether it means driving a mower or a hay rake, or in any other way. We wish him all the best and a safe return.



Mrs. Harding was heard to advantage in the solo, "Neath the Southern Moon," and as an encore sang "I'm Falling in Love with Someone."

The Rev. C. Chambers, of Yallourn, briefly voiced the goodwill of the Anglican Church, at Yallourn.

#### Speaker from Traf

The Rev. W. McSpeddon, of Trafalgar, said: I want to thank you Mr. Beyer for giving me the biggest congregation I have had for a long while. I heard of a man lately who had caught a rat with two tails, but you are going to look for one with a little black moustache, and be sure you bring it back. (Laughter). I am glad to see you looking so well. All ministers are not so well treated. One I heard of, complained that he got ill after a monotonous menu of rabbit, and when he explained his symptoms to a doctor, the medico said, "There's not much the matter with you, take a dose of castor oil." "Castor oil!" he said, "What I want is a ferret." (Laughter).

I do not wonder you are sorry at parting with Mr. Beyer. He has shared with you trial by flood and by fire, and he has come out on top. I will pray for Mr. and Mrs. Beyer's safe return, and may God bless them. (Applause).

Mr. Charles, speaking for the Cricket Club, said he had enjoyed being associated with Mr Beyer, and was especially sorry to lose him, because this year "he is on our side." We honor you, Mr. Beyer, and your wife for the sacrifice you are making, and when you get over on the other side, I hope you will get in first and bowl them all out.

Miss C. Stubbs was again heard to advantage in the song "May Morning" but the encore number "Loch Lomond" was the gem of the evening, and we agree with one lady, who said on Sunday, "I haven't got over the thrill of it yet."

Cr. L. Hare, speaking on behalf of the Football Club, said: We much appreciate your sporting activities at football and cricket. As captain of the Central Gippsland Football Team, you led the team to victory. I think when you come back we'll get you to join the Bowling Club. We know you will give good service to the Empire, and the fathers and mothers will be glad that their sons are with so popular a padre. I remember when we were playing against Warragul, one of them called out, "Don't let the little parson bloke get away with it every time." I believe you would be in your element dropping a few bombs on Hitler, and when it is all over, we'll give you a hearty welcome back.

## Hands Over a Footie

Mr. P. Kelly, in humorous mood, spoke for the citizens of Morwell. Addressing Mr. Beyer, he said: We know of your exploits out of the town.

In flood and fire you did heroic work, and every movement you were connected with was a great success. When we held a Patriotic football match "Footballers of the Past," Mr. Beyer suggested that the ball should be autographed and sold. This was done and it realised £12 for the fund. Now I have great pleasure in presenting it to Mr. Beyer. Someone mentioned that you would make a good Methodist. I am sure you would make a jolly good Roman Catholic (Laughter). I am sorry you are leaving, for you might have done something for the distressed agents' fund. (Laughter). I wish you all the best.

The Chairman then said: The Air Force is taking the cream of the youth of Australia, in education and physical fitness. A padre must be a man amongst men of outstanding ability, and must live Christianity every day in the week. Mr. Beyer does not put his religion off with his surplice. His motto is "Service," wherever he can, he serves his fellow men. If anyone is in trouble he is on the spot. We are sorry you are going, but I hope that soon we will be welcoming you back, and on behalf of your friends, the citizens of Morwell, I ask you and Mrs. Beyer to accept this wallet of notes. (Applause).

A gift was presented from the "Carry On" Club.

Mr. Gilbert, Jun. presented a purse of money from friends at Yinnar South, and Mrs. Williams (President of the Yinnar Ladies Guild) also presented a purse of money.

## Will Always Remember

The Rev. T. D. Beyer (who on rising received an ovation) said: There are moments when we cannot express the outpourings of our hearts, but I am in earnest when I say that we have been happy in places where we lived before we came here, but we have been happier in Morwell. Remember that in the five happy years that we have spent among you, the most wonderful baby in the Shire was born, (Laughter), and that is an indissoluble tie. Having shared in the community life of your Shire, as leader of Anglican life, I take pride in your progress. It is the most progressive Shire in Gippsland, and I hope its progress will continue.

I do not look on my work for the Empire as sacrifice. It is a privilege to minister to your sons, and I want to pay a tribute to my wife. Through her taking a sensible view of the matter, she made my going possible. Mr. Faichney spoke of my choosing a Presbyterian for my wife. Well, you see, I could not bear the thought of a beautiful woman going astray, so I made her into an Anglican. Now, seriously, I ask my Anglican friends to give the same co-operation to my successor, that they have given to me.

I am grateful to Mr. Ackland for consenting to be my locum tenens, and I thank Mr. Calder Wade for filling in till his arrival. I thank you for your kindly tributes which help to make life worthwhile. I aim to love God and my fellow men. I do appreciate so many being here tonight, and especially those from the Jeeralang Hills. We have been through adversity together, and I look forward to the time when we will come back to you. I am much touched too, to see so many of my Roman Catholic friends here. Thank you all for what you have been to us, and we look forward to the time when we will see you again. (Applause).

During the evening the National Anthem was sung, and prior to a dainty supper being served by the ladies, "Auld Lang Syne" was heard, and the happy function was brought to a close.



Rev. Beyer in Air Force uniform

This portrait is currently hanging in St. Mary's Anglican Church Morwell. I would like to thank the kind folk at St. Mary's for allowing me to take photographs. S.H.

# Next Meeting:

Wednesday

17<sup>th</sup>. February at 2.00 p.m.

Same value  
for money as  
last year

Morwell Historical Society Inc.

Annual Subscription Rates:

Single: \$17.00

Family/Double: \$20.00

Payable March each year

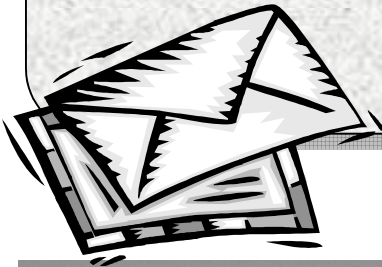
44 Buckley St. (next to T.A.B.)

Visitors are most welcome

We are open to the public on  
Wednesdays from 11am to 2 pm  
February to December



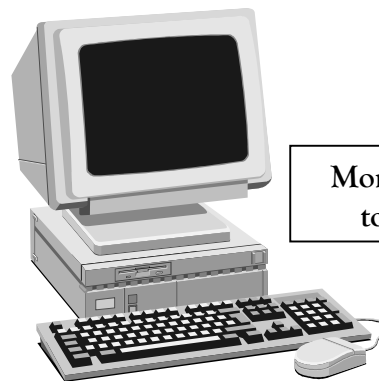
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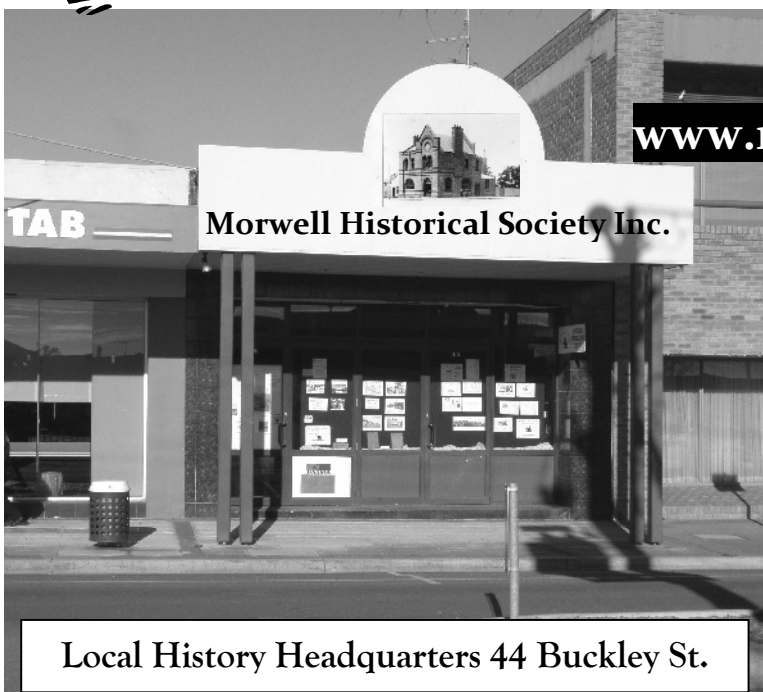
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