

Morwell Historical Society Inc.



Morwell Post Office – circa 1915

THE MORWELL POST

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Merry Christmas



Are there any members who know information about this Wallace Street house please?



Morwell Historical Society Directory 2017

President:	Bruce McMaster Phone: 5134 1149 – 0428 528 464
Vice-President:	John Willis
Secretary:	Florence Butcher
Assistant Secretary:	Elaine Andrijczak
Membership Secretary:	Shirley Prosser
Email:	secretary@morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au
Treasurer:	Carolyn Schopp
Publicity Officer:	Kellie Bertrand
Archivist;	Bruce McMaster
Assistant Archivist & Volunteer Co-ordr:	Fay Thompson
Committee Members:	Kellie Bertrand Rosalie Davey Shirley Prosser
URL:	www.morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au
Web Manager:	Florence Butcher
Research Library:	12 Hazelwood Road, Morwell, Victoria 3840
Research Queries:	research@morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au
Postal Address:	12 Hazelwood Road, Morwell, Victoria 3840
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General meetings	Third Wednesday each month – 2.00 pm – except December and January)
Annual General Meeting:	3rd Wednesday of March each year
Membership Fees:	Due 1 st July each year Ordinary Member \$25.00 Family \$30.00 (two persons at same address) For a hard copy of <i>Morwell Post</i> - \$5.00 extra p.a
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The imposing view of the now defunct Hazelwood Power Station from Brodribb Road.

The following three items are from the *Morwell Advertiser*, Thursday, 7 January, 1954

"BAN THE PAN" CAMPAIGN.

MORWELL Shire engineer, Mr. J. W. F. Connan, and shire secretary, Mr. W. K. Mathison, will prepare a report which could have the effect of making it compulsory for all new home-builders to install an approved type of septic closet.

Council at its December meeting, took this action following a recommendation from the Department of Health that these closets should be used as they had been fully tested and were satisfactory.

The Department expressed the hope that Council would do everything in its power to assist the "Ban the Pan Closet" campaign. Mr. Connan fully supported the use of the new closet, which, he said, could be installed for well under £16. He said that it was the pan closet, which he described as the worst sanitary method in existence today.

Councillors pointed out that the cost of installation would be recovered by ratepayers within a few years by the deletion of pan charges.

CARE OF TREES ENCOURAGING

Housewives' response to the care of trees planted in streets as a part of the plan to beautify Morwell was encouraging, said the shire engineer, Mr. J. W. F. Connan, at last month's Shire Council meeting. He reported that work proceeding on cultivation, feeding and general care of the street trees was showing good results.

Keep your Children Off Streets.

DEPUTY CORONER'S PLEA

A plea for parents not to allow children to walk along streets unguarded was made by the deputy coroner Mr. D. J. White, J.P, in the Morwell Court on Friday December 18th, after hearing evidence at inquests into two fatal street accidents. Mr. White was holding inquests into the deaths of Ala Allday, aged six and Ann Marie Muller, aged three, which occurred when they were struck by vehicles in Morwell street on Saturday, November 16th and Monday, November 18th respectively.

The deputy coroner, who returned verdicts of accidental deaths, commented that apparently the children had been allowed to roam unattended in the streets.

He said that it was a tragedy that he had been called upon to sit at two such inquests on the one day.

A. NEAL'S PARADISE CAFE- Commercial Road, Morwell
High Class Confectionery
Choice Fruit
Special Ices and Soft Drinks.
Afternoon Teas and Suppers.
A Trial will Convince You. [Morwell Advertiser 1934]

The former Tobruk Street State School site – photograph by Leo Billington – mid 2017



The following item below was provided by Bruce McMaster. Thanks Bruce.

Old Landmark Destroyed New Motor Pump Again in Action Firemen Render Valuable Service.

One of the first shops erected in the Main Street, Morwell, about 60 years ago, was destroyed by fire early yesterday morning.

The building, known to many as “McDonald’s Old Store” was located between W.Wilson’s tea rooms and bakery, and office occupied by Mr Don McDonald, on east side of local Post Office. It was built for the late Mr Samuels, Morwell’s first baker, who in addition to bakery conducted a small general store before the Gippsland railway line was opened to Sale.

After Mr Samuels’ death the building was bought by Mr Alfred Noah. It subsequently exchanged hands on more than one occasion. Among others to carry on business in the old building were the late Mr Dan McDonald and Mr A. Hone, Messrs Noy and Nash and the late Mr Angus McDonald.

The old place was eventually condemned by Health Inspector for general store purposes, and for some time past the main portion has been used by

Mr W.S. McKenzie as store room for second-hand furniture, whilst the remaining portion was occupied by Mr Bert Clements, saddler.

The property was recently purchased by Mrs. Martyn, who, we understand intended to erect a new building at an early date.

The fire was first noticed about 4am by Madame Morgan and driver of Chapman's motor transport truck that was passing through on its way to Bairnsdale.

Madame Morgan rang the Post Office about the matter and the transport driver at the same time stopped his truck and rang the fire bell, which caused firemen and others to jump from their beds and hasten to the scene of conflagration.

Although the firemen were promptly on the scene and soon had their new and effective motor pump in operation, the whole of the rear portion and other parts of the building were in flames and Wilson's tea rooms which were only separated by a narrow right-of-way about 2 feet wide, were in great danger.

The firemen first concentrated on saving Wilson's shops, the window frames of which were alight. They were just in time for the glass in the windows had given way with the heat and blinds on the inside had caught alight and fallen to the floor. The blinds were, however, thrown out before much damage was done.

Although the old building was roaring like a furnace and flames were shooting skyward and also out into the street, the fire Brigade, with the aid of the motor pump and big pressure of water, were not long in getting the outbreak under control, but not before the whole place had been gutted and the building reduced to a badly charred "skeleton".

We understand that the building was covered by insurance in the Royal Insurance Company to the extent of 300 pounds, and that Mr Clement's stock and tools were insured in the same company for 150 pounds. Mr McKenzie's furniture was partly covered by insurance.

When the firemen had completed their good work they were provided with refreshments by Mr and Mrs Wilson. Needless to say their thoughtful act was much appreciated by the fire fighter, most of whom had their clothes soaked by water and had to battle against heat and smoke.

***Morwell Advertiser* - Thursday, 12 August 1937**

From *The Age*, Saturday, November 8, 2017.

"Ancestry is wasted on the young" – by Anson Cameron.

"You won't be surprised at how little your children know or care about their forebears. The curiosity about one's ancestry grows as you get closer to joining its cold ranks."

The following item was re-typed from an original document given to me by Nancy Gordon when I was researching the Rintoull family's connection to the Morwell CFA. Thanks to Shirley Prosser for re-typing this piece. There are pages missing through no fault of anyone. The history is more interesting.

JOHN RINTOULL

John Rintoull was born 3 October 1851 at Primside Mill, Yetholm and was five years of age when the family arrived in Australia from Scotland. He learned the blacksmithing trade from his father and at 14 he was already working away from home as a smith, while Peter, his elder brother was working for their father.

John travelled the Old Coach Road between Rosedale and Brandy Creek shoeing horses for Cobb & Co at the various staging places. In 1874 he broke a record for the number of horseshoes made in one hour by making thirty-six and one half. The newspaper reported the results, and the family received letters of congratulation from Rintoulls in the USA.

In 1877 John opened his own blacksmith's shop in Morwell, before the railway was built. In that same year, it was decided that the scattered farming community needed a school, so a slab hut for that purpose was erected at Maryvale Ridge. At just seventeen years of age Zenna McCrory became the first teacher.

She was a daughter of Margaret and Thomas McCrory of Ireland, and was born at one of the Victorian goldfields, Napoleon's Lead in 1860. Her name at birth was recorded as Zinah, but she always used the name Zenna. Her family was one of the earliest in the area first known as Waterloo and then later as Yarragon.

They had journeyed in a dray from Melbourne along the track of the Old Sale Road to Moe, where they had to cross a swamp with water so deep that it came up through the floor boards. They were forced to return along higher ground to search for their block of land, which to them, was only a number. They found it to be very difficult of access, of good soil, with a valuable spring, but with troublesome dingoes. They purchased the next block for their eldest son Jack. After clearing the land, they planted many varieties of fruit trees, and kept cows, horses, sheep, pigs and poultry. It was here that Zenna grew up with her sister Catherine and her brothers Jack, Thomas and William.

Teaching in the new school cannot have been pleasant. The hut had a thatched roof and earth floor so that in the winter the rain poured in between the slabs and the torn canvas, leaving the floor awash. Zenna used planks to find her way through the puddles on the floor. Children had to walk half a mile to get a drink of water. The maximum attendance of thirty children decreased and then dropped sharply after a snake was found in the classroom. Once the railway station was established, the town began to cluster around that area and the school up on the Ridge was closed.

John Rintoull's smithy in Commercial Road was an important part of the small town's life. He not only shod horses, but repaired buggies and drays, built ploughs and harrows and fitted iron tyres to wheels. He invented a butter churn which was patented and sold well.

He made special paling splitters which were in demand and cost 25/- each but which were considered to be worth every penny. He was regarded as a "fine townsman, a colourful personality and a mighty blacksmith".

He began courting the pretty young teacher and they were married at the Royal Exchange Hotel in Sale on 16 April 1879 by the Rev. J.G. Wilson in the presence of their parents and guests. The witnesses were Frank H Ingle who was Henry Rintoul's son-in-law, and John's sister Maggie. John was 27 and Zenna was 18.

In January of that year in the first sale of land in Morwell, John purchased allotments in Commercial Road through to George Street at the back. Here he built a fine home and called it 'Roxburgh'. Zenna continued teaching until only a few weeks before the birth of the first of their twelve children, Wilhelmina. During her married life she also tutored Bank tellers and relieved at the Moe School. The first smithy burned down and a larger one was erected on the Commercial Road frontage. It remained there until 1940 when his son Jack replaced it with three other business premises.

One of the highlights of the town's year used to be the annual stallion parade which John organised and conducted for thirty years. He also took a keen interest and a leading part in the Annual Show at the Morwell Showgrounds.

He was a staunch Presbyterian and took an active part in the erection of the first Church. Zenna supported him in all his endeavours. In his younger days he was a popular MC at Balls and other functions. He took a great interest in sport and although not a racing man, took a keen interest in horses, especially trotters. At one time he owned a grey named 'Lady Kirk' which he used in harness and which won many races. Before the advent of cars he made a practice of driving local bridal parties to and from the church.

When Zenna died suddenly of pneumonia at 49 in 1901 it was a tremendous shock for him. Her funeral was one of the "largest that had ever wended its way through Morwell, despite the pouring rain and the intensely wretched state of the weather". He lived on until 1936 when he died after a stroke.

CHILDREN OF JOHN AND ZENNA RINTOULL

1. **WILHELMINA RINTOUL** was born on 19 February 1880. Min was twenty-one when her mother died, and suddenly she had to help in bringing up eight children. Any thoughts she might have had of marriage disappeared, because although we have a photograph of her wearing an engagement ring, she never married but stayed at home as a dutiful daughter.

She lived all her life in Morwell, contributed much to community activities and for many years was organist for St Andrews and for the Church of England. She was particularly active in the Red Cross, holding the bar to the long service medal, representing more than twenty years of service. She died at the age of 84 on 31 May 1964.

2. **ETHELINE MARGARET RINTOUL** known as Ethel, was born on 20 April 1882 at Morwell, but went away to Melbourne to work as a dressmaker. She had belonged to St Andrews Church, was in the choir and was one of the founders of the tennis club.

When she left Morwell she was the "recipient of many presents, not only from personal friends, but also various organisations with which she was associated". She met her future husband Fred (Alfred) Redmond (1883-1972) at the Presbyterian Church in Carlton. He was a Manufacturing Stationer and was in his own business when they married on 26 December 1906. The large and very fashionable wedding was held in Morwell. They lived in Mont Albert where her two children were born. She died on 20 May 1931 after a long illness.

Leonard Rintoull Redmond was the first child, born on 29th October 1910. He became Managing Director of the Manufacturing Stationers Redmond & Inglis. He married Edith Nelson Hore in 1940, and he died in 1973.

Olga Noreen Redmond was born eight years later in 1918. She was educated at the Methodist Ladies College in Melbourne and completed her apprenticeship in dress designing with 'Le Louvre' Collins Street Melbourne. She married Norman Victor Wiley, who after War Service with the RAAF joined P & O Customs. Norm died in 1969.

3. **VIOLET ZENNA RINTOULL** spent her early life in Morwell and enjoyed the tennis club, church life and social affairs. On March 4, 1914 she married John Less Colquhoun at St Andrews. The church had been decorated by her girl friends with hanging bells, arches and flowers. Soon after the wedding he was appointed to an important post in Wellington New Zealand where they then lived for nearly twenty years. After his death in Wellington in 1934 Violet returned to Victoria, where she later died at Elsternwick.

There were two children born to Violet and John. The first was Zenna Ferguson Colquhoun who was born in Wellington in 1916, but who died at two years of age. The second child was Graham Leslie Colquhoun. He was only thirteen when his father died and then his mother died suddenly just four years later. He attended Melbourne High School from late 1934-1937 when he commenced work with a large manufacturing organisation. War interrupted and he spent five years in the 2nd AIF serving in the Middle East, Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) and Papua New Guinea. On his return he married Dorothy (Alice) Cumming in 1946.

Until 1961 he held various positions with the same manufacturing company but resigned to begin four years training for the ministry. He was ordained as a Minister of the Presbyterian Church in the 1965, transferred to the Uniting Church in Australia in 1977 and subsequently returned in 1981 because of ill health. In that year they moved to lakes Entrance where they lived overlooking the seas until they moved to Yarrowonga in 1993.

Missing pages.....

[Within those missing pages, Muriel Rintoul is mentioned. Muriel married Matthew Feehan in 1956. Matt was a well known tennis player in the Bendigo and Morwell areas and later coached youngsters at Morwell. After being discharged from the AIF in 1944 he became a traveller for a tyre firm. In 1946 he established the Gippsland Tyre Service in Morwell. This was eventually sold in 1962. Matt died 7 May 1994.]

AN interesting lecture, illustrated by lantern pictures, was given in the local Presbyterian Church, on Tuesday evening last, by Rev. Houston, in connection with mission work in Central Australia and other isolated places. The mission is one well worthy of support, and Miss Muriel Rintoul has been appointed to receive local subscriptions in aid of the work. *Morwell Advertiser*, Friday, August 13, 1915.

7. FLOSSIE RINTOULL, the seventh successive daughter, was born 1891. Her husband Robert (Bob) Moffat was in the Australian Flying Corp in the First War and left Sydney in 1917 on 'The Shrapnel' for service as a mechanic. He studied photography in England, and became a photographer with the Sydney Morning Herald for many years. Flossie and Bob married in 1922 and lived in Sydney. She died in 1974 and he died the next year.

8. JACK KELSO RINTOULL After seven girls in the family the birth of a boy was a very special event, and the local paper gives a clear picture of the excitement in the town. "On Tuesday last, Morwell was in quite a commotion when it became known that Mr John Rintoull had that morning become the proud father of a son and heir. Flags were erected across the street, and the services of Mr Fred Rollason were engaged to beat the big drum to the tune of "See the Conquering Hero's Come!" Yes, it's a fact. Jack Rintoull's got a son - a fine little fellow, who will soon be toddling about, and bossing Willie Smith and Joe Richards all over the shop. In fact I wouldn't mind betting that within the next few years the farmers will be using nothing else but "Rintoull Junior's Patent Churn". The infant is the image of his dad, so he ought to cut his teeth and be a real good talker in the next few months, and in the course of a few years be his father's right hand supporter in Class C at the Morwell Show."

After his father died in 1936 Jack carried on the blacksmith shop after building two adjoining buildings further down the property, but in 1940 decided to build three shops on the frontage of Commercial Road instead of continuing the smithy. Over the years he owned four acres of land in Wallace Street, several at the Brown Coal Mine, and later showing confidence in Morwell's future, built the first three shops in George Street and then added another three.

His name is remembered in the business district by Rintoull Street and Rintoull Lane, and in Yallourn North by Kelso Street and Roxburgh Avenue.

Jack was indeed a "good talker" as predicted and his cheerful personality was an asset in business and private life. He was an early member of the Morwell Rotary Club, a JP for many years and an enthusiastic supporter of everything Scottish. He was a founding member of the Morwell and District Caledonian Society and was appointed President and later Chief of the Victorian Scottish Union.

He was a keen racing man, especially interested in trotting, but he did not bet heavily. He was a good shot and a member of the Morwell Gun Club and later, a member of the Bowling Club. After retirement his main interest was in gardening and his displays of enormous rhododendrons drew photographers every year. On his death in 1966 at 73, his funeral was attended by a large crowd "wishing to show their respect to one of Morwell's best known sons."

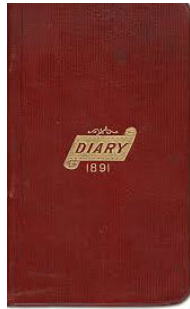
History had repeated itself with the son as with the father. Effie McDonald, a young new school teacher came to Morwell, and Jack married her in 1928. They built a big house at the corner of Hazelwood Road and Elgin Street where Jack had bought three blocks of land. There they brought up two daughters who grew up in Morwell, attended St Anne's CEGGS boarding school at Sale and then led very different lives.

(To be continued in the next newsletter. Space is a premium with so much historical material at present in my library. Leo.)

S.S. Christmas Tree

On Tuesday evening last Santa Claus (represented by Rev. A. E. Brownbill) appeared at the Morwell State School Infant Room and distributed a great variety of gifts, which hung upon a large xmas tree. In addition to receiving a gift each child had further happiness "showered" upon it in the shape of ice cream, lollies, fancy hats, etc., etc. A number of parents were also present and they shared in some of the good things going. A hearty vote of thanks to Miss E. (McDonald (teacher) who had organised the "happy-making" stunt which had delighted so many little ones, as well as others, was moved in fitting terms by Mr G. Evans (chairman of school committee) and carried by vigorous acclamation. Miss McDonald was also presented with a "surprise" packet as a token of esteem. The hope was also expressed that the children and teachers would have a Merry Xmas and a happy New Year. The senior scholars were given a social in the Mechanics' Hall, last night, when they had a real good time. *Morwell Advertiser*, Friday December 18, 1925





Meeting dates for 2018
21 FEBRUARY – at Hazelwood Road

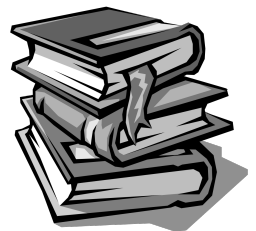


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From Our Morwell Cupboard File: A reminder that the Research Room and Library are open on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays and last Sunday in the month, from 11.00am to 2.00pm.

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