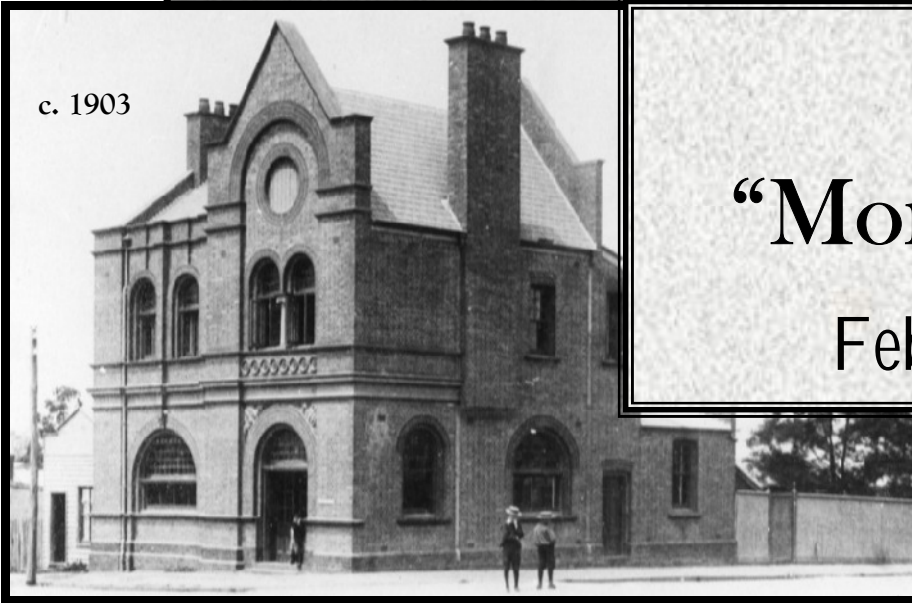


Morwell Historical Society Inc.

www.morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au

c. 1903



The “Morwell Post”

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February 2009

Vol. 26 No.1

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of Morwell Historical Society inc. will be held on Wednesday, March 18th, 2009, at 2.30 pm at 44 Buckley St, Morwell.

All executive positions will be declared vacant and elections will be held at the meeting to fill those positions for the coming year.

Nominations will be accepted until 2.30pm on the day of the meeting. If you wish to nominate someone, please contact Elsie McMaster -

Tel. (03)51341149) - for a nomination form.

Positions to be filled are: *President; Vice-President; Secretary; Treasurer; Archivist; Newsletter Editor; Executive Committee ordinary members (two positions);*

Acquisitions Committee members (three positions).

Also to be decided at the meeting are membership fees and meeting times and dates for the coming year.

“The Post”

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PASSING OF CATH McROBERTS

We learned this week, with great sadness, of the death of fellow Historical Society member Cath McRoberts. A member of the well-known McRoberts family, Cath worked for many years in the family business. She was a foundation member and staunch supporter of our Society and a respected local citizen, actively involved in many local organizations. She will be sadly missed and fondly remembered.

Morwell Advertiser

5th. November 1915

Weddings



SADLER-BUTTERS

Another of our local soldiers has taken unto himself a wife prior to leaving for the front, the contracting parties on this occasion being Private James Sadler and Miss Bonnie Butters, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Butters, of Morwell.

The ceremony took place on Wednesday afternoon in the Morwell Methodist Church, which was tastefully and fittingly decorated for the occasion. A great crowd rolled up to witness the tying of the nuptial knot by the Rev. Williams, assisted by the Rev. G. Morris.

Miss Tessie Fraser and Miss Iris Butters (sister of bride) were bridesmaids, two little nieces of the bride (Edna and Una Hare) acting as train-bearers.

Mr. Percy Powell was best man.

The bride, who was given away by her brother-in-law (Mr. Les Hare) was becomingly gowned in a white silk coatee and fully rucked skirt, and wore the customary wreath and veil.

Miss Fraser's dress was of embroidered voile, Miss Butters and the trainbearers wearing white silk.

The gift of the bridegroom to the bride was a gold watch, to Miss Fraser a wristlet watch, to Miss Butters a gold necklet and pendant, and to the trainbearers a cable bangle each.

The wedding tea was partaken of at the residence of the bride's parents, where the usual toasts were duly honored, after which the happy couple left by the evening train for the metropolis, where a brief honeymoon will be spent, prior to the bridegroom leaving for the front.

Miss Sadie Young, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Young, formerly of Morwell, but now of Yarragon, was recently married to Mr. John Beat.

Miss Milly Hare, daughter of Mrs Hare, of the Ridge, Morwell, was also married, last month, to Mr. A Sheriff.

Bank of Australasia - 1888

The Bank of Australasia established its Morwell branch in Commercial Road circa. 1888, Mr. E.W. Boake was the first Manager.

An impressive new building was constructed in 1903 at 184 Commercial Road. The Bank of Australasia merged with the A.N.Z. Bank at about this time

The 1903 building was demolished and the site re-developed in mid-to late 1958.

The new building was officially opened for business on Monday 8th December 1958.



Photograph dates from 1934

Do You Remember When?



Latrobe Valley Express

Church Street - March 1991

Morwell Advertiser

2nd. February 1961

NEW HEADMASTER IS A MUCH TRAVELLED MAN

MR. I. T. Maddern, new Headmaster at Morwell High School, is probably one of the most travelled schoolteachers in the State.

But this is far from being the only remarkable thing about him.

Mr. Maddern is also a keen historian, and a leading authority on 'Esperanto', the international language.

He began his career as a headmaster at Horsham, from there he transferred to Northcote, and then to Wangaratta.

With the outbreak of World War II Mr. Maddern joined the R.A.A.F. and served for sometime in Singapore. He was amongst the last to leave before the Japanese Forces over-ran the island.

His unit boarded the last ship and left the harbour alone, 10 hours behind the main convoy, and just a day before the Japanese arrived.

The solitary ship subsequently escaped a heavy bombing suffered by the convoy.

After Singapore Mr. Maddern was stationed first at Headquarters in Melbourne, then New Guinea. By the end of the war he had reached the rank of Flight Lieutenant.

Back in civilian life Mr. Maddern began as a headmaster once more at Horsham.

After Horsham came Wodonga, then Moe before his transfer to Morwell.

Mr. Maddern claims history as his favourite hobby, one he takes very seriously.

He has written histories of two schools he has taught in, Horsham and Wodonga, and on a recent six months trip overseas he spent considerable time in London doing research.

Another of his main interests is Esperanto, the famous universal language. While overseas Mr. Maddern attended a world wide Esperanto conference in Brussels. Forty nations speaking 35 different languages, were brought together by a common tongue at the conference.

Mr. Madden said when the language barrier was no longer present it was extremely difficult to pick the different nationalities. He remembered one story illustrating this point very clearly.

Nothing but Esperanto was spoken at the conference, and two men in particular seemed to form quite a friendship. By the end of the week long conference they decided to maintain their relationship by corresponding in Esperanto. When they exchanged addresses they found they were both Englishmen, living within 20 miles of each other.

Mr. Maddern hopes to promote the language in Morwell if enough interest is shown. Esperanto can be learned in 1/10th of the time necessary for other languages.

At the moment he is trying to organise a Victorian conference in Morwell during Easter.

Mr. Maddern's interests are not all academic, however, as he takes an active interest in tennis and bowls.

Mr. Madden gives the impression of being a man with drive and outstanding organising ability: a man with an active, enquiring mind, vitally interested in life.

Morwell High is expanding and developing rapidly- it is fortunate to have a man of Mr. Maddern's experience and obvious ability to guide it through a difficult period.



Morwell Advertiser

14th. April 1958

£³/₄ MILL. TELEPHONE LINK WITH MELBOURNE

THE P.M.G. department plans a capital expenditure of £750,000 over the next two years on a co-axial trunk cable link from Morwell and its surrounds with the metropolis.

This was stated at a civic reception today by the Victorian Director of Posts and Telegraphs, Mr. J. C. Skerrett.

Mr. Skerrett said that it would mean hundreds of trunk channels with Melbourne and revealed that the project was expected to commence during the coming financial year and be completed over a two year period.

He said that it would not only link Morwell but the whole of the Latrobe Valley with the metropolitan area.

Mr. Skerrett also said that the rate of installation of telephones in Morwell over the past decade was unequalled not only in Australia, but in the world.

The rate was four times the ratio, and it reflected the tremendous growth in the area. Because of this development, the Postal department and other government and semi-government departments had many problems.

But, he said, his department would strive to keep pace with that development, and, with Divisional and local officers would endeavour to maintain the service of which the department was proud.

He said that many of the telephone subscribers on the waiting list would be connected within the next two or three months.

Mr. Skerrett was accompanied by Mr. R. Gilson (Superintendent of Building Branch), Mr. H. Cann (Divisional Inspector), Mr. G. Sims (Divisional Engineer) and Mr. Finegan (Divisional Telephone Officer).

Welcoming Mr. Skerrett, Cr. A. L. Hare, Shire President, congratulated the department on the progress that it had made in Morwell. He was supported by Cr. V. Hourigan.

Chairman of the Morwell Chamber of Commerce, Mr. H. S. Lazarus, said that the Chamber's only request would be for telephone services to the

industrial area zoned by the Morwell Shire Council and the Town and Country Planning Board.

Otherwise, the Chamber had no complaints at all and was proud of the work being carried out by Postmaster, Mr. Hughes and his officers. Every aspect of the work of the department in Morwell is superb, he said.

Mr. Skerrett pointed out that on the last occasion he visited Morwell as the department's building officer, the services were housed in the old Post Office, and a new exchange and Post Office had been erected, and automatic telephones installed.



Morwell Post Office c. late 1930's

Photograph: Morwell Historical Society Inc. archives

Morwell Advertiser

25th. June 1915

OBITUARY



DEATH OF MRS S. VARY

One by one the old pioneers are passing away, and another in the person of Mrs S. Vary, of Driffield, crossed the Great Divide, on Sunday last, at the age of 75 years, after a short illness.

The deceased, who was one of the best known and most highly respected residents of district was born in Knaresborough, Yorkshire, England, but came out to Australia about 60 years ago, with a brother (Mr Stewart) and a sister. She subsequently married Mr S. Vary and resided for some years at Queenscliff where her husband was in business, and in Geelong district prior to coming to Gippsland.

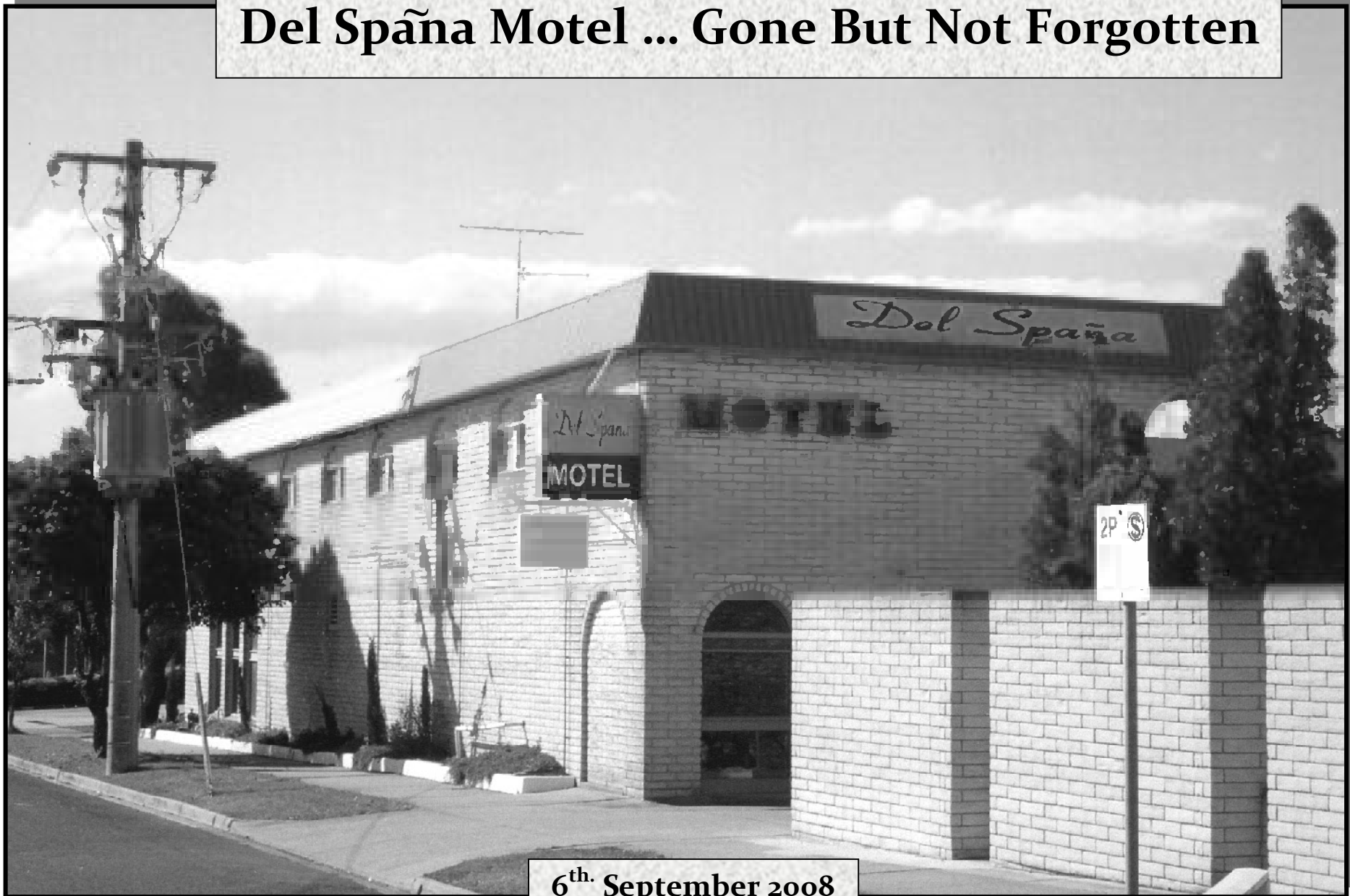
It is now over 45 years since Mrs Vary and her husband settled in Driffield, they being among the very early pioneers to the district. Mrs Vary was a most kind, genial and hospitable lady, who was highly esteemed and revered by a very large circle of friends. She enjoyed good health and although she had passed the allotted span of three score years and ten was, until a short time ago, as active and bright as a young girl.

Among other things she took a keen interest in flowers, and at the local Horticultural shows was always a leading prize taker. She leaves a husband and family of six sons and three daughters to mourn her loss, and much sympathy is expressed for them in their sad bereavement.

One of deceased's sons (Alf.) is an engineer on the "Australia." Three of her sons (Arthur, Charles and Frank) reside at Kyogle, her other two sons are Llewlyn and Hugh of Morwell. Her daughters are Mrs John Grant, Mrs Hobbs and Miss Vary.

The remains of deceased were interred in Hazelwood Cemetery on Tuesday. The Rev. A. E. Adeney officiated at the grave, the mortuary arrangements being carried out by Billingsley & Co.

Del Spaña Motel ... Gone But Not Forgotten



6th. September 2008

Morwell Advertiser and Gazette

2nd. May 1919

Inspection of Fire Brigade



On Monday evening the Deputy Chief (Mr Turner) of Country Fire Brigades visited Morwell for inspection of the local Fire Brigade. He also put the members of the brigade present through a considerable amount of practice.

In addressing the brigade Mr Turner said he was glad to see so many members present and was highly pleased with the manner in which they had acquitted themselves in the practice they had gone through. He also wished the Morwell Brigade every success. He would always be pleased to show them anything they desired to know and trusted that at the next demonstration they went to they would bring back a trophy.

In responding Capt. Noy said they were all pleased to have Mr Turner present with them and were always willing to be shown anything to the brigade's advantage. He also mentioned that most of the old members had gone to the front and their places had been filled by young lads who shaped exceptionally well and promised to make good firemen.

Fireman White also spoke.



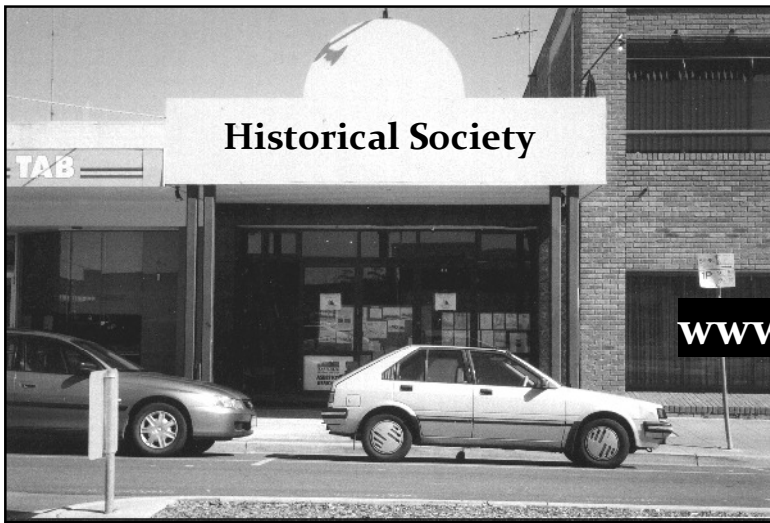
Photograph: Morwell Historical Society Inc.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday

18th February at 2.30 p.m.

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



Morwell Historical Society
Inc.

Annual Subscription Rates:

Single: \$17.00

Family/Double: \$20.00

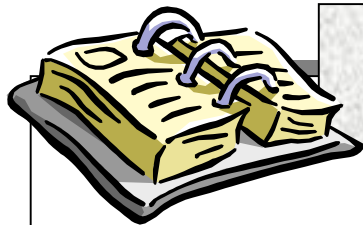


Local History On-Line

Our Internet Address is:

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

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From Our Fact File:



Hazelwood Railway Station opened on 1st February 1888
It closed to all traffic on 22nd September 1953



Masonic Hall foundation stone laid on 28th January 1927



Mechanics' Institute destroyed by fire 10th January 1935



Morwell Park Primary School opened on 3rd February
1969



Morwell Squash Courts opened on 25th September 1964