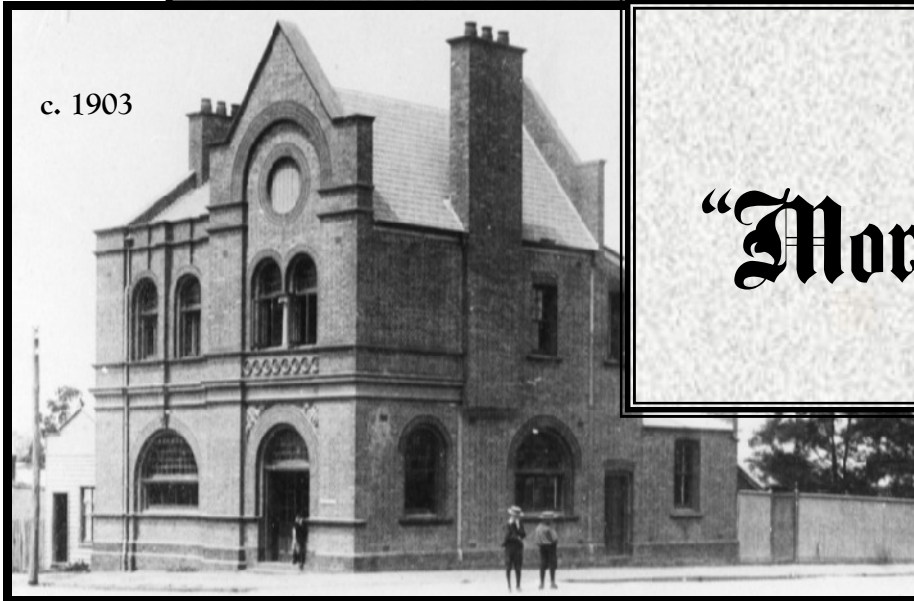


Morwell Historical Society Inc.

www.morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au



c. 1903

The

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“Morwell Post”

June 2007

Vol. 24 No.3

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Proudly supported by Latrobe City Council

Band Turns 120!

This year marks the 120th anniversary of the formation of the Latrobe City Brass Band – formerly the Morwell Citizens’ Band. The Band will present a celebratory concert in the newly refurbished band room at the Town Common on **June 22nd**.

New Web Site

We draw readers’ attention to our new web address:

www.morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to **Ben** and **Mary** of **Claassens Computers** for their unfailing support and assistance over the past five years.

New Furniture

Since moving into our more spacious premises in Buckley Street, we have been better able to store and display our collection. We thank **Lyn** and **Murray French** very much for the donation of two display cases.

Another improvement is the purchase of two large sign boards for display outside our rooms. Hopefully these will attract the attention of the public and encourage more visitors to our Information Centre.

“The Post”

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Morwell Advertiser and Gazette

14th. July 1938

Morwell Bridge



CHURCH HALL

On the afternoon of the 2nd. July, Dr. Cranswick, Bishop of Gippsland opened the new Church Hall at Morwell Bridge, before a good congregation.

The hall, a neat structure, built of weatherboard, is a great credit to the workers. It was built entirely by voluntary labour, under the supervision of Mr. Marriage, of Haunted Hills.

The Ladies' Guild worked enthusiastically, and purchased the material for the building; and they are grateful to the public who were responsive and helped them to achieve their objective.

At the opening service the choir of St. John's Church, Yallourn, led the singing, and their help with Mr. Baillie at the piano, was very much appreciated.

At the close the Ladies' Guild entertained the visitors who attended from the surrounding country, at afternoon tea. Among the visitors were the vicars of Warragul and Trafalgar.

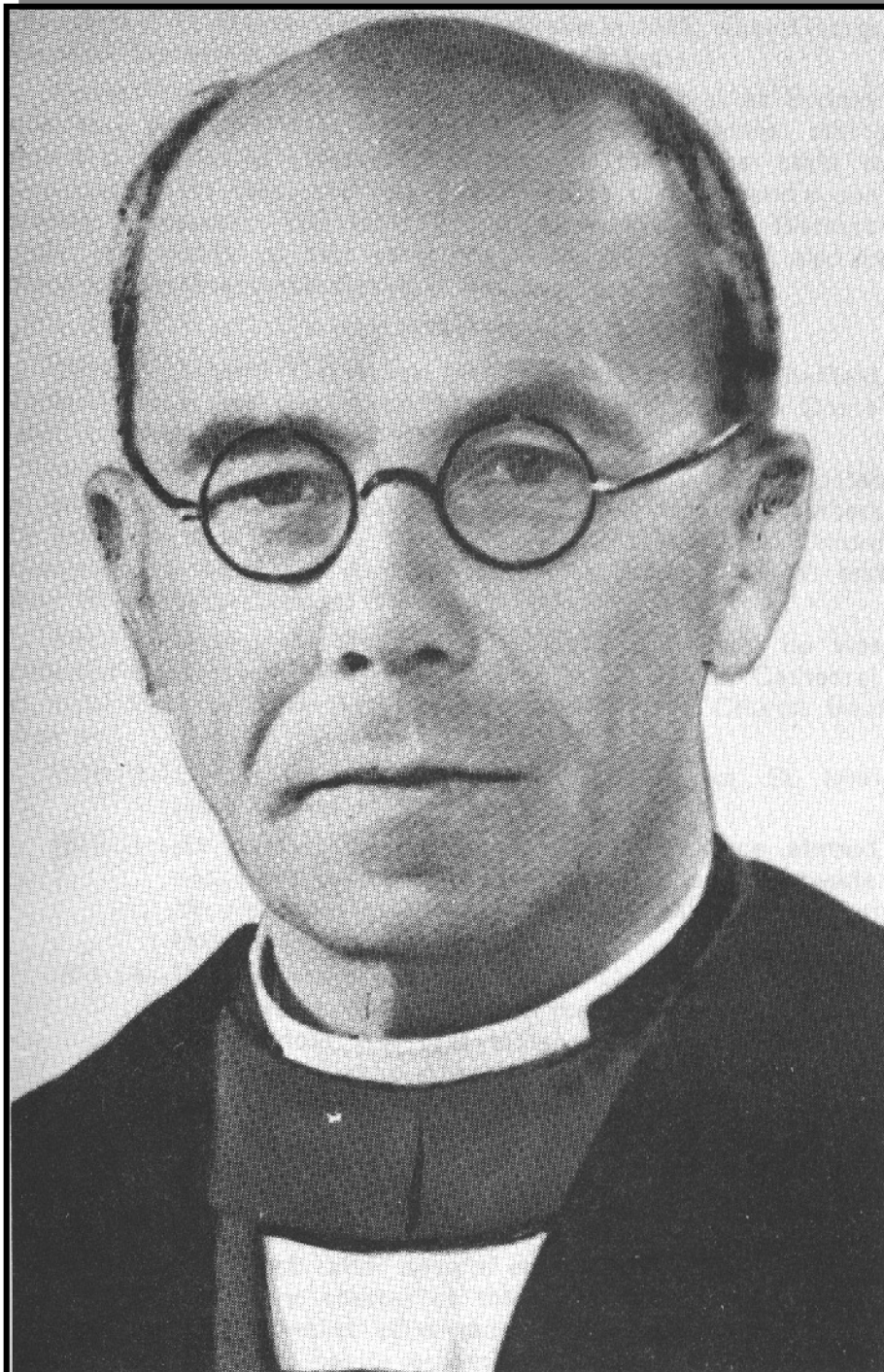
The first Sunday service was held the following afternoon, when Canon Dicker, the first vicar of Yallourn, was the preacher: when he used the beautiful Bible which was presented by Mrs. Perkins and family: also the Stand which was presented by the scholars of the Sunday school, of which Mrs. Mennie is the superintendent.

The school which before was held in the State school, is now held in the new Hall.

Morwell Bridge is in the Yallourn parish, and ministered to by the Rev. F.

Cooper.

It is good to hear of so creditable a work being undertaken by so small a community, and we congratulate all who had a share in it.



**The Right Reverend George Harvard Cranswick, D.D.
The Second Bishop of Gippsland.**

Photograph: "Light & Life" By I. T. Maddern, page 28

The Reminiscences of Murray Thompson:

(Part One)



The Tramway Road, which extends through Hazelwood North and South, began at Jeeralang Junction and ended at the Gippsland Railway line at Maryvale. This road was surveyed at three chains wide, in contrast with most others which were just one chain in width.

A deposit of coal had been found at the foot of the Jeeralang hills and the extra width of the road was to enable a tram line to be laid should this coal ever be mined. When the operations began about 1920 in the Yallourn area it was considered that the coal here would not be used and two chains of the road was offered to landholders along the route for purchase by them, and readily bought.

Now the road extends at its original three chain width only as far as the north side of Churchill.

This road at the Jeeralang end forms the eastern boundary of a farm owned since 1919 by the Fox family. The new Midland Highway, which had to be re-routed owing to the Morwell open cut operations, now passes through Churchill, continuing south for a time then turns west and on to Yinnar and Boolarra, cutting the farm diagonally in two.

This farm was selected by a Thomas Sanders when first opened for settlement in the 1870's. He was an Englishman of medium height, good natured and was, as most men in those days, bearded. He had never married and when I first knew him was aged about 65.

For a number of years Tom Sanders had not worked the land but had let the farm to various tenants.

In 1904 my Father became the tenant on a three year lease. Our house was built near Billy's Creek, which formed part of the western boundary. In those days homes were erected as close to a water supply as possible.

It consisted of three rooms placed in a row, made of weatherboard walls, iron roof and had a verandah back and front. There was also a detached kitchen made of slab walls, shingle roof and slab flooring (probably the original dwelling).

We had a family of six so wanted more rooms and our landlord consented to erect two more rooms.

He wanted to add the two rooms end on to the original three, making five in a row, but he was persuaded to erect them across the end of the three, which made the house T shaped.

Tom Sanders lived in a hut about five hundred yards away from our house, also at the west side, but further away from the creek.

This hut was built of slab walls with shingle roof and earthen floor and measured about 10' by 12'. The chimney and door took the whole end which faced the east. The chimney was of various sized stones cemented together.

The lock on the door was put on upside down – usually you turn the handle to the right to open but this one you turned to the left. An intruder would presume that the door was locked when it failed to respond to the right hand turn of the knob.

Just inside the door was hung a large meat safe, attached to the rafters, the legs about two feet off the floor. I don't know if it was so placed to keep ants out, or to dissuade any one who broke into the hut. You certainly could not avoid contact with it in the dark. Without doubt the lock on the door and the hanging cupboard enabled him to sleep more soundly.

Tom was very adept in the use of the scythe, which he used to mow the rushes that grew on the flat. His neighbours thought this a futile way of controlling the growth of this pest, but he continued. In later years this method was adopted by many farmers, but they of course used mowing machines.

Tom had his own ideas regarding post and rail fencing. The normal method was to cut a hole in the centre of the post and put the ends of rails (narrowed down) into this hole. They were all three rail fences that he made and his way was thus: three niches were cut on each side of the posts to hold the rails, the first three rails on the right side of the post, but the next three on the left side, then back to the right side with the next panel. The ends of both rails were secured to each other by a twitch of No. 8 wire. It must have been his own style, for I never saw this method of making a rail fence anywhere else.

Church was attended once a fortnight. It was held in the South Hazelwood School which stood just off the Tramway Road where the Churchill Shopping Centre is now, almost opposite the Churchillian Cigar Symbol.

TO BE CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE

The Morris Case – July 1929

(Continued from April issue)

For the past fortnight the deceased was very quiet and appeared to have something on his mind. One day recently I said to him “What’s the matter with you Morry?” He replied “ I feel better than you did last week with chilblains.” One of his children, a boy of 4 or 5 years, was taken away to a Kew Cottage, an asylum, about six or eight weeks ago. His wife took the child away and during her absence Morris had his meals with us. He said it was a bad job the boy had to go away.”

Christabel Hewitt, residing with her husband in Station Street, Morwell, deposed: “I have known the three deceased since last December. They lived next door but one to us. I last spoke to Mrs Morris on Wednesday, 26th June. She was in excellent spirits, as she told me she and the baby were going to Boolarra the next day, and were coming back on Friday night. As far as I know the family got on excellently and were fond of the child. One of the children (a boy), was admitted to the Kew Cottage about six or eight weeks ago. Mrs Morris took the child to Melbourne for medical advice, and he was ordered to the Kew Cottage. Mrs Morris wrote telling me of the result, and on her return to Morwell without the boy, she told me he was mentally defective, and she had to leave him at Kew Cottage.

She was very much distressed over the matter and said it was a great shock to her. Nothing was said to lead me to suspect that any tragedy would take place. I last saw deceased man (Morris) on Saturday afternoon when he was speaking to my husband at our place between 2 and 2.30. I said in a joke “What are you botting about here for?” He seemed to be in his usual spirits and smiled when I spoke to him. Mrs Morris on the Saturday morning showed my boy, who is 13 years of age, a box of cartridges and said “Look Vic, here’s the cartridges for Mr Morris, I just bought them as he is going shooting rabbits for the dog, this afternoon. He asked Mr Hewitt for the loan of the gun last Thursday.”

She gave him 1/- to get milk kisses for her little girl, Sissie. Mr Morris was very worried about his boy having to go to Kew Cottage. The child Thelma was a bright, normal child and very affectionate. I took care of her for a fortnight whilst her mother was away with the boy.”

Isaac Frowd, Senior-Constable of Police, stationed at Morwell, deposed: “At about 11.45 a.m. on Sunday, 30th June last, I went to the house occupied by the three deceased in Station Street, Morwell. I found all doors locked and could not open them, I returned to the police station for a key and on returning to the place found that the keys were in the doors, which were

locked from the inside. I found a window in front of house unlocked, I opened the window and found that the room was a bedroom. Looking through into the bedroom I saw through a door which led into another bedroom the body of the deceased – Alexander James Morris – lying on the floor at the foot of a double bed, in a pool of blood. The gun (produced) was lying over his right arm, lengthways with his body. In the gun there were two empty cartridges. Alongside the wall there was another empty cartridge.

In a double bed in the same room, the body of the deceased, Mrs Morris was lying. The right side of the face was practically blown away. In a cot alongside the bed was the body of the infant, Thelma Joyce Morris. The top of the head was gone. Round about the walls and on the floor there was a lot of brains. At the foot of the bed, near deceased Morris's body was a torch, the battery of which I found had been expended. The stick (produced) was also lying at the foot of the bed. A grey blanket had been nailed over the window facing Station Street.

The blind of this window was also drawn, the room being almost in darkness. After my examination I summoned Dr. Mitchell, and during his examination of the bodies I heard something drop and I found a live cartridge underneath the male deceased's body. There did not appear to be any sign of a struggle.

I made an examination of the room and could not find anything to indicate that the male deceased intended to take the lives of his wife and child or his own. In another room I found a box containing 20 cartridges, similar to those produced. The male deceased was clad in sweater, trousers and sox. The female deceased had a nightdress on.

I did not know anything of the deceased family.”

THE VERDICT

The verdict given by Mr Bond, P.M., was to the effect “That Alexander James Morris died on 29th June, 1929, at Morwell, from gunshot wound self-inflicted, and that his wife, Clarice Elesia Phillicent Morris, died from gunshot wounds, inflicted by Alexander James Morris.”

The remains of the deceased were interred in the Hazelwood Cemetery on Wednesday last, the service at the grave being conducted by the Rev. A. E. Harvey (Presbyterian), assisted by the Rev. W. E. Oliver (Methodist). The mortuary arrangements were carried out by Mr J. Bolger.

End

Morwell Advertiser and Gazette

Boot Repairs

FOR RAPID BOOT AND SHOE

REPAIRS SEE

H. HALL

28th. March 1946

18 Papyrus Street, Morwell.

ONE TO THREE DAYS SERVICE.

Workmanship Guaranteed.

Only Best Leather Used.

Repairs can also be left at FINLAY'S
SHOE STORE.

FOOD FOR BRITAIN

STALL

21st. March 1946

TUESDAY, 26th MARCH.

By Com. Infant Welfare Centre

Money or saleable goods will be appreciated. Everything to be sold and cheque sent to Lord Mayor's Fund.

E. RINTOULL, Hon. Sec.

Morwell Advertiser and Gazette

12th. October 1923

Valedictory



“SEND OFF” TO MR AHERIN

A large and representative gathering assembled at smoke night, held in the Mechanics Hall on Monday evening last, to bid farewell to one of our most popular and esteemed townsmen in the person of Mr C. R. Aherin, who for the past 29 years has been manager of local branch of Bank of Australasia, and having reached the retiring age, is about to settle down at Sandringham.

Cr. D. McKay presided, and justice having been done to the good things provided for inner man, the toast of “The King” was duly honored.

“Our Guest” (Mr Aherin) was next proposed by Mr M. McDonald who, in doing so, said he was at a loss to find words to express the regret at having to say farewell to Mr Aherin. He (Mr Aherin) had been a resident of Morwell for 28 or 29 years which was a long time for a Bank manager to be in one place.

He had proved himself a splendid townsman and a worthy citizen in every respect. Every movement for the benefit of town and district had his ungrudging support. He was a good and loyal churchman but at the same time his views were by no means narrow.

Among the many public bodies with which he was associated were the Mechanics’ Institute of which he was a member and good worker for many years. He was the “father” of the Bowling Club and had there been a few more like him the club would no doubt have won the premiership.

He was also a very active member of the Horticultural Society and a prize taker.

In the dark days of the great war Mr Aherin was also a prominent figure in our midst. No man worked harder than he had done. In fact there was

scarcely a movement of a worthy nature that he was not first and foremost in.

In every way he had done his best for the town and set an example worthy of being followed.

In conclusion, Mr McDonald expressed the hope that Mr and Mrs Aherin would enjoy long life, happiness and prosperity in their new home.

The toast was drunk with musical honors.

In supporting the toast, Mr F. Rogerson said he had not known Mr Aherin nearly so long as many others present, but at the same time his acquaintance of him had been sufficiently long to enable him to fully endorse all the mover of the toast had said regarding his sterling qualities. Mr Aherin had undoubtedly set a high standard of citizenship.

He had taken a keen interest in all matters for the good of town and district. He was not afraid to express his views and had the happy knack of differing with people without hurting their feelings or giving any offence to those who held different views on any subject.

As a public servant Mr Aherin could always be depended upon for wise counsel and good advice, and in various ways had rendered Yeoman service.

Whilst regretting Mr Aherin's departure it was pleasing to know that his successor (Mr Dolphin) came amongst them with the highest recommendations. Whether his stay was short or long he hoped his residence amongst them would be pleasant and profitable.

In conclusion, Mr Rogerson wished Mr and Mrs Aherin long life and happiness and expressed the hope that they would not wait for a "Back to Morwell" stunt before they paid a return visit.

Mr L. Vary said he had pleasure in endorsing all that had been said in Mr Aherin's favour. His advice was always good and judgment sound. He did not think they could get a better townsman and they could ill afford to lose him.

Mr G. P. Evans said he was very pleased to support the toast.

To be continued

A Snapshot From Our Past



Commercial Road & Tarwin Street - c. early 1920's

Next Meeting:

Tuesday 19th June 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



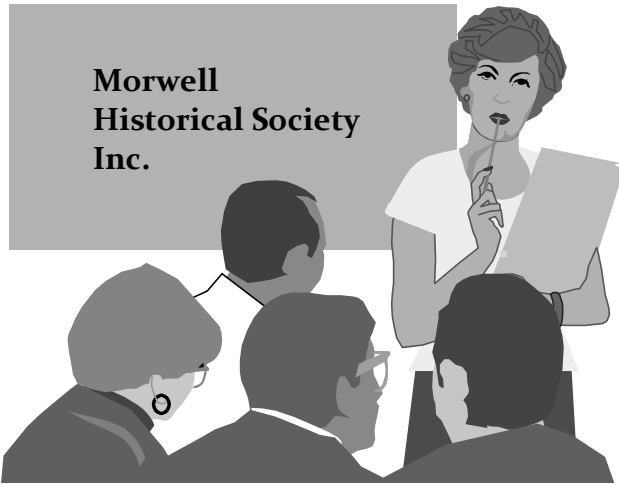
Our Internet Address is:

www.latrobacityonline.com

*Our sincere thanks to Ben and Mary for
their continued support and technical
expertise*

Classens Computers

Morwell
Historical Society
Inc.



Rintoull, Zenna

Who's Who:

Zenna Rintoull (Nee. McCrory):

(1860-1901)

Teacher - Maryvale Ridge School No. (1939) 1877-1879
(The first school in the township area)

Zenna married John Rintoull (Blacksmith) at Sale in
1879

They had a large family of 12 children

Zenna died of pneumonia on 10th January 1901, Zenna and John
lay side by side at Hazelwood Cemetery

