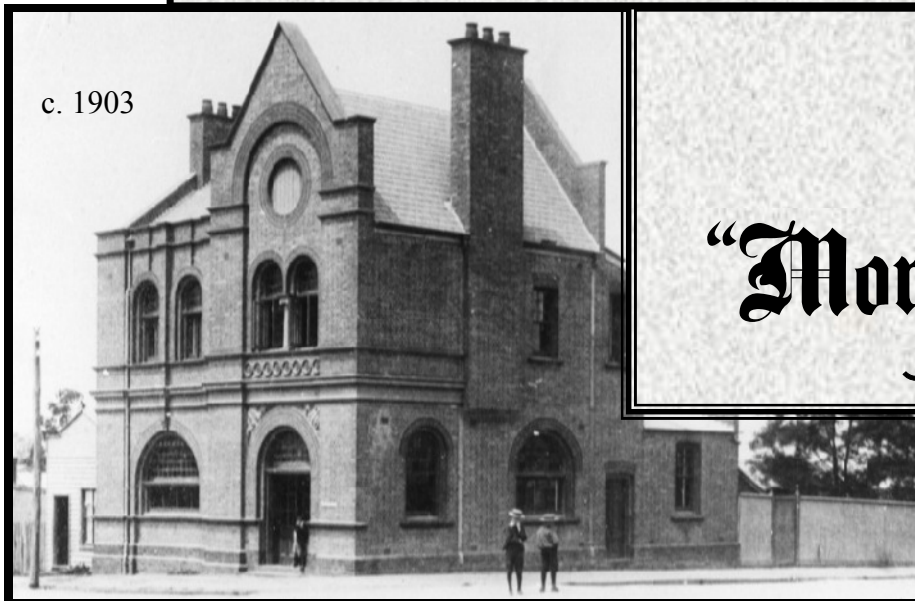


Morwell Historical Society Inc.

www.morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au

c. 1903



The

AOO 16986 W

“Morwell Post”

June 2010

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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)

The Return of the Horse Trough

On 6th June a combined project of Morwell Historical Society, Morwell Rotary Club and Latrobe Council came to fruition with the relocation of Morwell’s **Bills Horse Trough** on the median strip of Hazelwood Road at the intersection with Commercial Road.

In the 1930’s, **Annis and George Bills** donated more than 500 concrete drinking troughs to various municipalities in Australia and overseas, to cater for the many horses and dogs which came into town with their owners from outlying areas. The exact date of Morwell’s trough is not known but a photograph taken in about 1936 shows it in place. Some years later it was moved to the Pony Club’s grounds in Toner’s Lane, but it fell into disuse there, a decision was made to move it back to its original location as a pioneer memorial. The trough has been refurbished under the supervision of Historical Society member and Rotarian **Graeme Cornell**, who co-ordinated the project. It no longer holds water. Instead, a perspex-covered reflection of horses drinking covers the top of the trough and a plaque reads:

“The Post”

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“This horse trough was donated to the people of Morwell and district by animal lovers George and Annis Bills. It is one of more than 500 troughs distributed throughout Australia in the 1930’s to provide drinking facilities for the many horses, then used for transport and farm work, when they came into town. The small trough at the end is for dogs.

This trough has been refurbished as a memorial to the people who built and developed our town and to the animals which served them so faithfully ”

Some photos next issue S.H.

The Morwell & Yinnar Gazette

June 8th 1900

On Active Service



LETTER FROM PRIVATE SHAW

The following are extracts from a letter written by Private Charles M. A. Shaw, of Morwell, 2nd Victorian contingent, to a friend in South Yarra:-

Bloemfontien, 8/4/1900

I will try to give you an account of our life since we left Capetown. I wrote to you from there but time and paper has been so scarce ever since that it was impossible to get a note to you before this.

We left Capetown about 13th February. Had three days in train to De Aar where we passed a train load of refugees, and it made my blood boil to see old women and children and young women too all turned out of their homes and made walk till they were inside British lines, and there they were entrained down to Capetown and Port Elizabeth.

I was speaking to some of them and I can tell you I felt like fighting then.

We stayed at De Aar for a few hours, then went on to Hanover-road where we had a lively time for about a week. Then we started our march across to Colesberg, and we were into the fun next day. We came onto the Royal Artillery, which we supported, while they shelled some farmhouses where there were lots of Boers. We could not see much of them, and they did not come out to see us.

About dark the guns ceased firing. Our company got lost, and had to stop out all night, which we would have had to do in any case. In the morning we got into our right camp, had breakfast, and visited the places where the Boers had been. There was only the farmers left, and they were Dutch. They said several Boers had killed one of the Dragoon Guards, and wounded some more.

We went on some miles, when all at once the men that were riding ahead of us were fired on. We stopped, and they came galloping back, and the bullets were striking the ground all around them, but none of them were hit, then our big guns opened fire on the Boers and things were very exciting for the rest of the day. Then we retired to camp none the worse for our first smell of powder, screech of shell and singing of bullets.

The division I am in (25 men) camped on a kopje all night, and in the morning we had a great gallop across the veldt over stone walls, and took up our position behind the guns, which started barking at the Boers' position, and the sands of time ran out for many a poor Boer ere the sun set, and three of our brave Englishmen gave up their lives, many were wounded. Several shells dropped close to us, and a fragment struck one of our fellows on the helmet, and knocked him senseless for a time.

Towards night it began to rain, and when it rains here it pours.

Our officers lost us again, and I cannot describe that night- water, water, everywhere. Next morning I was ill (enteric fever.) We rested for two days, in which time I got worse.

The column moved on to the place where the Boers had left, then we saw some awful sights - dead men and horses lay everywhere. I was in the ambulance waggon, and I don't want any more fever thanks. The V.R.M's marched on to Colesberg, and we had a great reception there by the people. Next day I was sent back to Rensburg field hospital, and I soon got well. But the doctor told me I had good luck to pull through as I had been laying out some wet nights when my temperature was 103 degrees.

I joined my comrades by train and was very glad to get back to my dear little horse, and I found her greatly reduced for want of care. A day's rest in camp, and then shifting on every second day till we got to Vangil - close to Norvals Pont bridge over Orange river, where we had a weeks' rest - one alarm, and one day's fighting, in which I had several shots at the Boers, and one night I was sent out by myself about six miles to warn a division (25 men) that the Boers were coming their way. When I got there the men had gone, and I can tell you it was not nice to think the enemy was all around me, but I got back all right, and found the 25 men in camp; but I found a pair of field glasses and other things while I was out.

Well, we had a grand concert to wind up that camp. Next day we crossed the Orange River. Another day's rest, then we joined the main column, and started our 14 days' march to Blomfontein. In two days we reached Phillipolis - it rained, and we stayed there two days. I was telegraph orderly there in town all the time. I made several friends - both British and Boers, and they made me a present of a beautiful compass. Then on to Fauresmith, where I had the luck to be left in town again for a day. We

went to Petrusberg a small town, but we only stopped there a few hours. Then four days of misery and we camp within a mile of the capital of the Orange Free State (Bloemfonteen).

I have been in several times and it really is a lovely place.

I had the good luck to have my two brothers (Tom and Sept) camped quite close to me. Dave White came up to our camp to day. It is the first time I have seen him since we left the boat, he looks fine now.

All the first and second contingent are here together, so we are not a bit lonely, and now Dave is with us again we are right. We expect to have a great fight in a week or two-hoping some day soon to be able to tell you all the rest.

CHARLIE SHAW



First Contingent Victorian Mounted Rifles

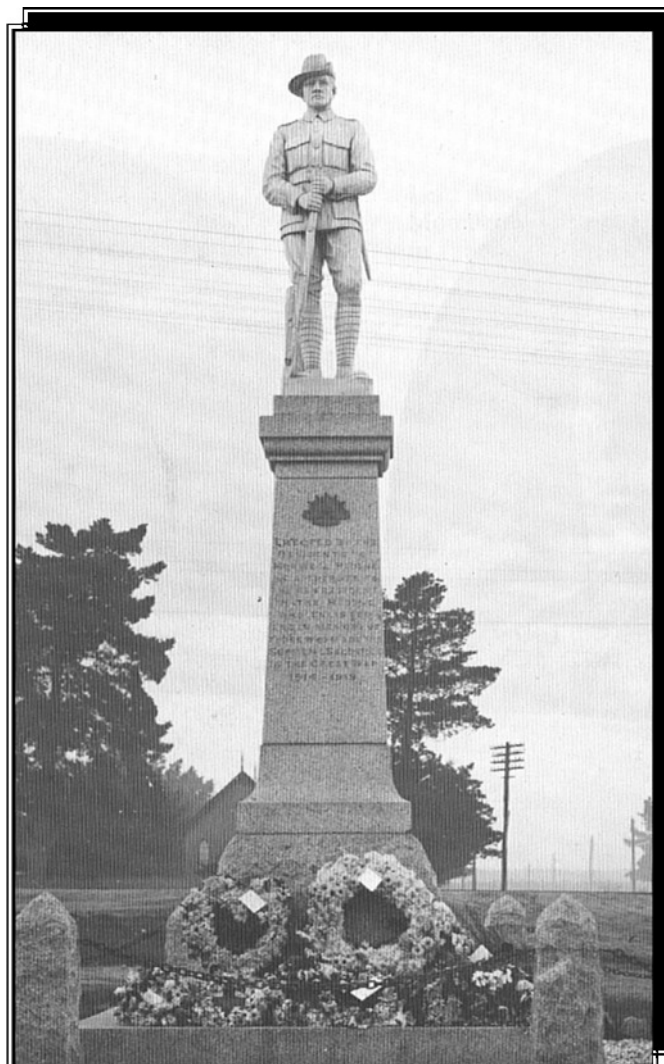
Soldiers' Memorial - 1921

The Morwell Soldiers' Memorial was unveiled on Monday, 6th June 1921. The memorial was originally situated in Commercial Road, near the then Church Street level-crossing. The unveiling ceremony was performed by Senator Brigadier - General Elliott. The memorial stood at over 20 ft. in height and had 64 names inscribed upon it. Further names were added at a later date.

The monies required to erect the monument were raised from the local community. A "Soldiers' Memorial Committee" was formed in November 1919, Mr. C. R. Aherin, manager- Bank of Australasia was elected Chairman, Mr. J. B. Hoyle, a prominent local businessman acted as the Committee's Secretary. A total of over £364 was raised, this figure was increased by a further sum of £117 from "Patriotic Committee" funds.

The inscription reads: Erected by the residents of Morwell Riding as a tribute to the men resident in the riding who enlisted and in memory of those who made the supreme sacrifice in the Great War.

1914-1919



Brigadier-General "Pompey" Elliott

Morwell Advertiser

19th. January 1961

CRIME DETECTION RATE HERE “PHENOMENAL”

THE crime detection rate of 73 per cent. over the past 12 months by the Morwell C.I.B. was phenomenal, and the highest in the world, Inspector G. McCullough said last night.

He was speaking at a public farewell to Senior Detective P. Kelly, who has been in charge of the Morwell C.I.B. for the past 2½ years.

He said that there was no doubt that the C.I.B. staff at Morwell had worked well, but much of the credit must be given to Senior Detective Kelly.

He said that Senior Kelly had bettered the excellent record of 68-69 per cent. of detection attained by the man he succeeded, Senior Detective Kevin Carton.

PACKED

The fact that there are so many at this farewell shows that the people of Morwell and the Valley appreciate your efforts, he told Senior Kelly.

Policemen from all over the C.I.B. district, and private citizens packed the supper room for the function, which was chaired by newly-appointed Superintendent F. Craven.

Mr. R. Davis, S.M. said that the way Senior Kelly had conducted his cases had impressed him by his fairness, and that sense of fairness had not impaired his efficiency.

Speaking on behalf of the bar, Mr. W. J. White of Moe, commented on Senior Kelly's efficiency and fairness, and said that members of the Bar had always found him to be “a real man”.

Mr. Frank Dean, on behalf of the business community, said that he had always been amazed at the job done by the police in the Latrobe Valley.

The public, he said, did not realise the hours worked and the varied tasks carried out.

He said that he had been even more amazed at the capacity for work of the three members of the C.I.B. for the area.

Senior Kelly and his staff apparently never rested and were always on call when required by the business people and the public.

POLICE HELD HIGH REGARD

Cr. A. L. Hare, J.P. assured Superintendent Craven that he was taking over an area in which the Police Force was in high regard by all sections of the community, and that he would not have any troubles.

Senior Kelly, he said, had done a wonderful job for the Valley during his term in the area.

Superintendent Craven in making a presentation to Senior Kelly, said that he had been told that he was coming to the best police district in Victoria.

HIS TRIBUTE TO UNIFORMED MEN

Senior Detective Kelly said that he took the excellent attendance at the function as a tribute not to himself but to the police force.

“If I have done anything to enhance the reputation of the Force, I am very pleased”, he said.

“The uniform men carry the Force not only in Victoria, but everywhere” he continued.

“By the time the C.I.B. arrive, they have 50 per cent of the work done, and with their local knowledge they are the backbone of the Force”.

TRIBUTE TO COLLEAGUES

Senior Detective Kelly paid a tribute to the work of the other members of the Morwell C.I.B., Detectives T.M. (Paddy) Dinsmore and B. Hirst.

He said that he would like to comment particularly on the work of Detective Dinsmore.

“For the first four months after my arrival here Detective Dinsmore with his local knowledge carried me”, Senior Kelly said.

“The people of this town and Valley owe a great deal to Paddy Dinsmore”.



Morwell and Yinnar Gazette

3rd. May 1912

WELCOME

—◆—
TO REV. F. R. WILKS

There was a large attendance at the local Methodist Church on Friday evening, April 26th, when a hearty welcome was accorded to Mr. F. R. Wilks, who has been appointed to the Morwell charge.

The meeting was opened by singing and prayer, after which Mr. Ronald took the chair. He said he was pleased to see so many present to welcome their new minister, but what he was most delighted to see and which afforded him the most pleasure was to see on the platform the Revs. Miller-Smith (Presbyterian), and E. Walker (Church of England). This, he considered, manifested a kindly spirit, and he hoped it would long continue to prevail and be the guiding principle of the churches.

They had assembled to accord a hearty welcome to Mr. Wilks, and to make him feel at home amongst them. As there was a large programme to get through he would not make any lengthy remarks at that stage, but would call upon Miss Ransom to give them the first musical item, which she did by singing a nice sacred solo.

Mr. Berry, of Hazelwood, then gave a recitation with marked effect.

The Chairman next read an apology from the Rev. H. Steele (Presbyterian) of Traralgon, who regretted that he was unable to attend to welcome his old friend. He wished Mr. Wilks every success and happiness while stationed in Morwell.

Miss R. Hoyle then sang "Rock of Ages" very sweetly.

The Rev. E. Walker (Church of England) then extended a hearty welcome to Mr. Wilks. While he regretted that there were divisions among them, and that the Methodists had severed their connection with the Church of England, at the same time he would accord a hearty welcome to Mr. Wilks as a fellow-laborer who would teach men their duty to God and to man.

He might inform them that he had not been given a public welcome. Sometimes a minister was received with a great flourish of trumpets and afterwards kicked out,

but that was by the way. God had sent Mr. Wilkes to labor among them. He hoped they would not start by pulling him to pieces, but would do all they could to help him in his work.

He was sorry to see the Christian Church split up into so many sections. It was painful to see three or four churches where there should be only one. If, for instance, they were all united in one spiritual church what a solid phalanx they would present to the enemy, and what a force of strength they would have.

He stated the reasons that induced him to become a member of the Church of England, which were irrefutable from his point of view. At the same time he could accord the right hand of fellowship to the ministers and people of other denominations. He hoped they would forget all their differences, and in conclusion had much pleasure in wishing Mr. Wilks a happy and prosperous time in Morwell.

Miss Hinson then sang a solo, as did also Mr. Berry, both of which were well received.

The Rev. Miller-Smith then gave an interesting address. He had been told by the Rev. H. Steele, of Traralgon, that a grand old man of God was coming to Morwell in the person of Mr. Wilks. He (the speaker) referred to the men who had preceded Mr. Wilks in Morwell. He urged them to bear up the hands of their minister, and above all to pray for him. That was the best way to render him the help he needed. He (the speaker) had much pleasure in according him a hearty welcome, and in wishing him spiritual prosperity.

Song by Miss Woods and Mr. John Tulloch

The Rev. Mr. Wilson (Methodist) of Traralgon, also welcomed Mr. Wilks to the district, and was sure he was just the man the place wanted.

Mr. R. M. Tulloch sang, "When I survey the Wondrous Cross."

Mr. Wilks then replied.

He was pleased at the reception they had given him, and he thanked them most heartily for it. Though it may seem strange it was none the less true this was the first time he had been received with a flourish of trumpets.

He assured them that he was glad to be here, and he hoped his advent in the district would be attended with good results. It afforded him much pleasure in seeing the two rev. gentlemen on the platform, one of whom (the Rev. Miller-Smith) was the second person to welcome him soon after he arrived in Morwell.

He had a work to do here, and with the blessing of God he was going to do it to the best of his ability. It would always be his aim and his purpose in life first to remind men and women of their duty to God, and then followed in natural sequence the duty they owed to each other.

These two things would be the primary and fundamental elements of his teaching among them.

The carrying out of these duties opened up a large field of labor, and brought into action all the activities of the human mind.

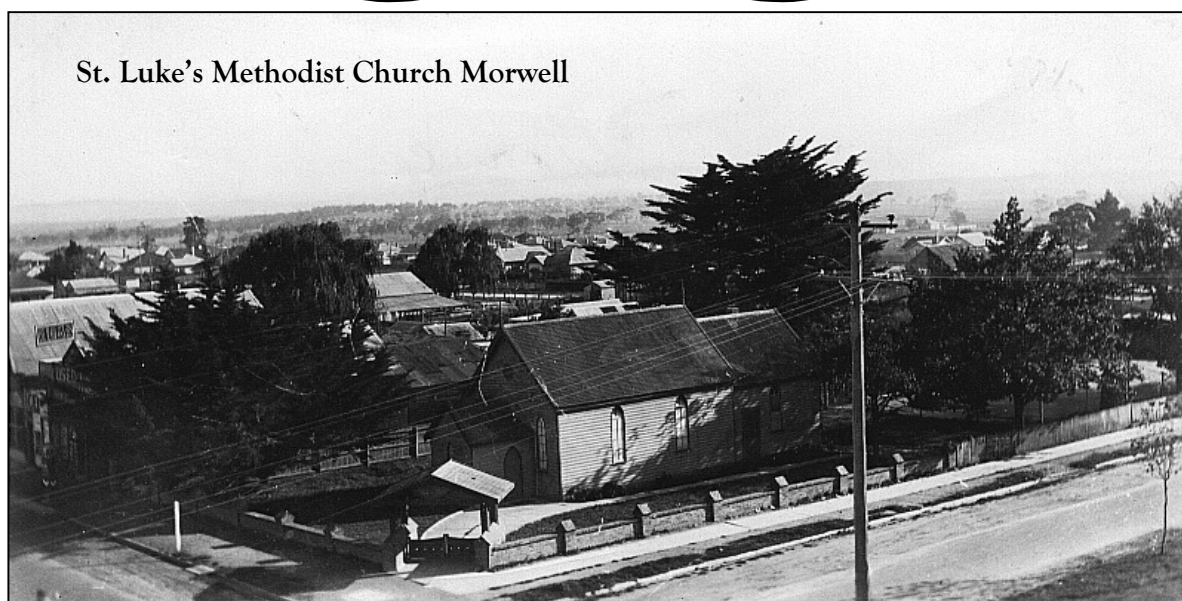
He would devote all the strength both of body and mind upon performing the work of the Christian minister, and in doing all he could to help on the work of God. He thanked God that he was not a bigot, and that he could work in unison and sympathy with the ministers and people of other denominations.

They must be united, and work harmoniously together in every good cause.

In other places where he had labored he had been on the best of terms with all classes and sections of the people, and he numbered among his friends many Roman Catholics, who had expressed their regret at his leaving Yarrawonga.

He would throw all his energy into his work here, and hoped that his coming among them would be attended by the blessing of Him “who maketh rich and addeth no sorrow,” and that minister and people would work together in love and harmony so as to advance the cause which was so dear to all their hearts.

A very nice duet was rendered by Miss R. Hoyle and Mr. J. Tulloch, after which refreshments were served and a pleasant meeting terminated.



FANCY GOODS REPOSITORY.

MISS HAIZ,

BOOKSELLER and STATIONER.

All sorts of requisits kept in stock.

Grand assortment of
Music, Prayer Books, Hymn Books,
combined with Crockery, Silver-
ware, Toys, and presents
of every description.

Madam Demarit's cut paper patterns
kept in stock.

Inspection Invited.

MISS HAIZ,
COMMERCIAL ROAD
MORWELL.

Information Page:

Meetings for 2010

2 p.m. @ 44 Buckley Street Morwell

June 16

July 21

August 18

September 15

October 20

November 17

Please note that there are no meetings held in December or January each year

Membership Fees:

per Annum

Single \$17.00

Double/Family \$20.00

(payable March each year)



Local History On-Line

Our Internet address is

www.morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au

Photograph of the Month:



Photograph: Originally donated by East Gippsland Historical Society