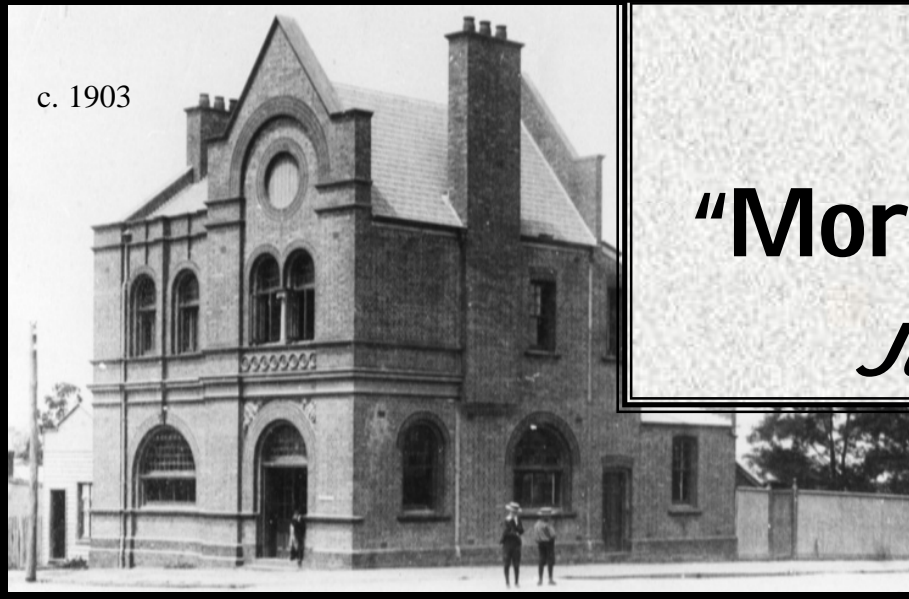


Morwell Historical Society Inc.

www.morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au

c. 1903



The "Morwell Post"

AOO 16986 W

June 2011

Vol. 28 No.3

Secretary: Stephen Hellings
Post Office Box 1163
Morwell 3840

Please address all correspondence to the Secretary

Items for publication in the
"Post" are always welcome;
please forward your
contributions to the above
address

The "official" organ of the Morwell Historical Society Inc.
Published every two months: February to December

Unveiled
6th June

Morwell Soldiers' Memorial Turns 90!



MURRAY VIEWS NO. 10. SOLDIERS' MEMORIAL AND GARDENS, MORWELL, VIC.

1921

In this issue of "The Post":

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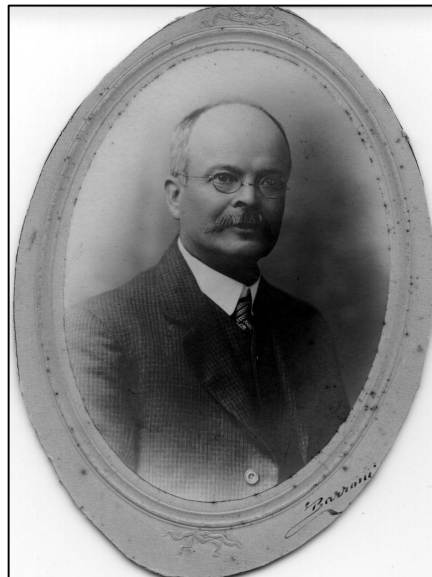
Mr Clarry Smith (1920) page 9
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Morwell Soldiers' Memorial Fact File:

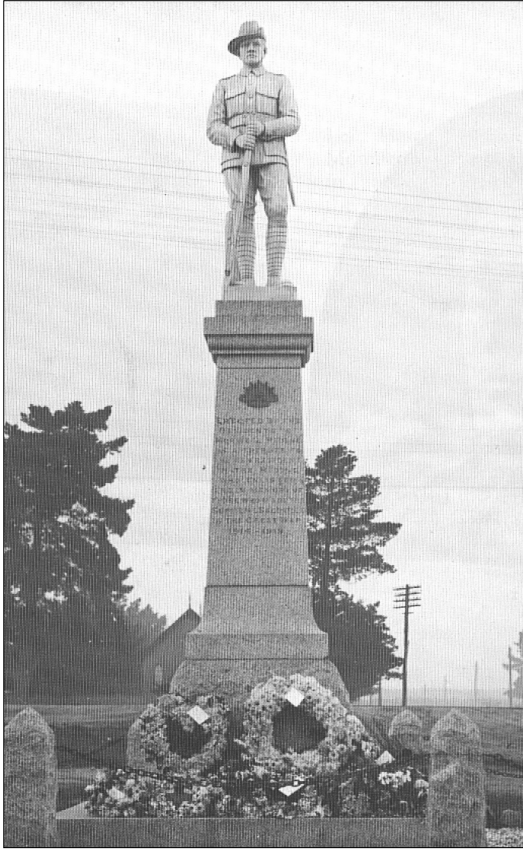
- A "Soldiers' Memorial Committee" was formed in November 1919, Mr. C. R. Aherin, manager- Bank of Australasia was elected Chairman, Mr. J. B. Hoyle, a prominent local businessman acted as the Committee's Secretary
- Unveiled on Monday 6th June 1921
- The ceremony was performed by Senator Brigadier-General Elliott
- Due to illness Mr. Hoyle was unable to attend the proceedings, tragically, he died later that day.
- The memorial was originally situated in Commercial Road, near the then Church Street level-crossing
- 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 Memorial cost £480 to construct
- The monies required to erect the monument were raised from the local community
- A total of over £364 was raised, over eighty individuals and organizations contributed; 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
- The Soldiers' Memorial was moved to a site near Hoyle Street in 1969
- It was moved to its present (2011) location (Tarwin & Elgin Streets) in June 1990



"Pompey" Elliott



J. B. Hoyle



Commercial Road c. 1930



Princes' Highway c. 1980's



Tarwin & Elgin Streets 2002

Morwell Advertiser and Gazette

10th. June 1921

Obituary



DEATH OF MR J. B. HOYLE



It is with deep regret that we have to record the death of a very highly esteemed and much respected resident of the town in the person of Mr J. B. Hoyle, who passed away at his late residence, Morwell, on Monday evening last.

Deceased was born in Beechworth 61 years ago, his father, Mr Thomas Hoyle being identified with the mining industry of the Beechworth district for many years.

In 1882 Mr Hoyle went to Bathurst, N.S.W., under engagement to Cobb & Co. but subsequently returned to Victoria and settled in Mooropna, and for five years was a member of the Mooropna Hospital Committee. In 1890, 31 years ago, Mr Hoyle settled in Morwell, and some time later entered into business here as a land and general commission agent, and a little later became a sworn valuator and in this respect his services were in much demand.

In addition to valuing properties for money lenders, insurance companies and others, he also acted for the Government in connection with land tax valuations on other occasions, and was regarded as one of the best land valuers, in Gippsland. Whilst carrying on his business successfully, Mr Hoyle, notwithstanding the fact that he suffered very much from ill health, gave a great lot of his time to public matters.

He identified himself with all movements for the advancement of the town and district and was associated with various bodies. For some years he was correspondent of local School Board of Advice, and subsequently chairman of School Board; was a member of Mechanics' Institute Committee; passed through chairs of local M.U.I.O.O.F. Lodge, was secretary of the lodge for about eight years, and at one time was Grand Master of the Sale District M.U.I.O.O.F.

He was also for some time a member of the A.N.A. He took a keen interest in freemasonry as well, and was a Past Grand of the Morwell Lodge No. 202.

He was Secretary of Morwell Brown Coal Development Association and various other bodies, having for their object the progress and advancement of the town and district. He also took a keen interest in local sport, and at various periods occupied the positions of Secretary and President of Morwell Football Association.

He was Secretary for years of Morwell Turf Club and Morwell St. Patrick's Day Race Club; was captain of Morwell Rifle Club, and a member of Bowling Club. In fact there was scarcely a club or institution in the town in which "J. B." as he was familiarly known, was not associated, and what was more he always put his heart and soul into everything in which he was connected, and did his part in carrying things to a successful issue.

Owing unfortunately to ill health, Mr Hoyle found it necessary of recent years to rest somewhat from his many labours and relinquished his activities in various directions. He retained a deep interest in political matters and was a staunch supporter of Liberal and National parties. He was local Secretary for years past for the Hon. G. H. Wise, M.H.R. (Postmaster General) and the Hon. Thos. Livingston, M.L.A. (Assistant Minister for Agriculture). Both of these gentlemen were among the last persons to converse with Mr Hoyle on Monday last, before he passed away and were much concerned regarding their old and valued friend's condition.

Mr Hoyle was a very loyal subject and during the recent great war devoted a great deal of time to patriotic affairs. He was Secretary of local Repatriation Committee and also Secretary of Morwell Patriotic Committee and in this respect took a leading part in "send offs" and "welcomes home" to the boys of the district, who went to the Front. During the boys absence he was ever ready to do all he possibly could for them. He played a prominent part in the movement for erection of Soldiers' Memorial in Morwell and as Secretary did practically all the work in connection with the matter.

Ill health on his part delayed the completion of his task for some considerable time, but eventually the memorial was erected and arrangements completed for the unveiling ceremony.

Mr Hoyle, who suffered from bronchial asthma for years past, had a very bad attack about three months ago and although he greatly improved he never seemed to thoroughly recover, and getting a relapse last week, he gradually sank, and passed peacefully away as stated, on Monday evening last, a few hours after the unveiling of Soldiers' Memorial, the arrangements for which he had completed after considerable efforts, but which he had not been permitted to witness although he had been looking forward with keen interest, to the occasion, as the completion of a worthy task that was to him not only a labour of love but which he regarded as a duty as well.

Although associated with so many movements, institutions, associations and bodies, and frequently differing in opinion with others, Mr Hoyle, commanded the highest respect of all with whom he was associated or came in contact with, and whilst he had a host of warm friends, we venture to say that he did not have a single enemy.

His passing away will be a distinct loss to the town and district, and it will be a most difficult thing to fill his place. He leaves a wife and one daughter and the deepest sympathy of all goes out to them in their great loss.

The remains of Mr Hoyle were interred in the Hazelwood Cemetery on Tuesday last, when various flags in the town including one at State School and one at bowling green were flying half mast. The funeral cortege was a very large and

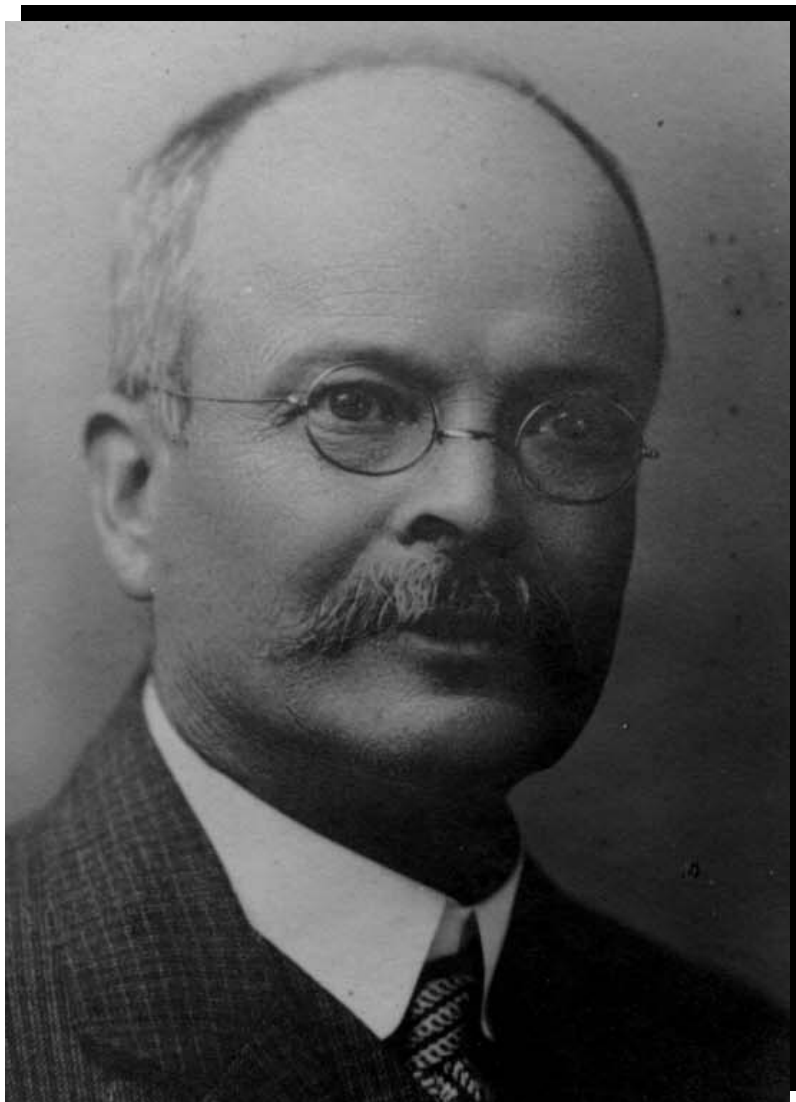
representative one, notwithstanding the fact that it was a wet day. Members of the local Oddfellows lodge, of which Mr Hoyle was a prominent member for many years, acted as coffin bearers, with Bro. Hinson, P.D.G.M., as Marshall, marched in front of hearse for a considerable distance. At the State School the children were lined up on footpath and stood with bowed heads as the funeral cortege passed by, to show their respect for one who had always taken a keen interest in the children and had done a great deal for the school.

An impressive service was conducted at the grave side by the Rev. A. G. Day, who in making feeling reference in Mr Hoyle, at conclusion of service, said he was a loving husband, kind father, a true and faithful friend, a worthy and respected citizen and a great friend of little children. They all deeply regretted his departure from their midst and sympathised with his loved ones in their great loss.

After the service conducted by Rev. Day, a short but very impressive Oddfellows service was conducted by Bro. George Watson, P.D.G.M.

The mortuary arrangements were ably carried out by Mr J. Bolger.

There were many beautiful floral tributes including wreaths from Masonic Lodge, Oddfellows Lodge, and State School children.



John Barton Hoyle (1860-1921)

Photo from M.H.S. archives

Morwell Advertiser and Gazette

22nd June 1933

Fire



Shortly after 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon a fire broke out in the rear portion of butcher's shop, occupied by Mr W. H. Budge, in Tarwin Street, Morwell, between the Post Office on north side and Mr A. A. Green's drapery emporium, on south side.

The building is an old wooden structure and some of the rooms were lined with hessian and paper. It was only the good and efficient work of members of the local Fire Brigade, who were promptly on the scene, that saved the place from destruction.

The fire started in a room in which there was a large cooper being used for "boiling down" purposes, and by some means was the cause of the outbreak.

A large crowd quickly gathered but could do little more than watch the firemen at work. There was a splendid pressure of water, but the Brigade were considerably hampered by the density of the smoke that filled the rooms and they took considerable risk in their work.

Sheets of iron were also removed from the roof and water poured in from above.

Two small rooms were gutted, but the fire was prevented from entering the shop or from spreading to adjacent buildings, and not a great deal of damage done.

It was a great "save," and the firemen are to be commended upon the good work done.



A group of Morwell firemen c. 1930's

Morwell Advertiser and Gazette

22nd June 1944

Morwell's New Factory.

ROADS AND FOOTPATHS

That excellent combination, the local shire council and H. J. Hyland, no doubt believe in the usual auctioneer's sale preamble, "Time shall in all cases be deemed the essence of the contract." When Mr Hyland brought the Directors of La Mode to Morwell to discuss with our Civic Fathers, the proposal to start a large industry here, the Councillors as usual did the right thing and offered every co-operation, particularly in relation to roads and footpaths.

Mr Baldy immediately got to work on plans and estimates and during one of his frequent visits to the town, Mr Hyland conferred with the Shire Engineer and Councillors on the matter of ways and means.

If these materialise, the roads and footpaths in the vicinity of the new industry will be put in excellent order. Every encouragement must be given to this very welcome addition to Morwell, as the Company will spend a considerable sum of money on the erection of the new buildings.

In almost all other country centres, a Melbourne manufacturer hires a local building and installs his machinery. This work may only continue for the duration and the manufacturer then moves his plant back to Melbourne. However, where a well known company like La Modes erects its own buildings in a country town, it certainly intends to continue after the war.

Mr Hyland recently stated that he considered La Modes had shown wonderful judgment in selecting Morwell, as this town is the centre of what, in the near future, must be a thickly populated area, with a large block of labour to draw from.



La Mode – Church Street Morwell – photo from M.H.S. archives

Morwell Advertiser and Gazette

25th. June 1920

Fireman Welcomed Home



On Wednesday evening last, members of local Fire Brigade met in Mr. **S. J. Cooper's** tea rooms, where there was a laid out supper, the occasion being a welcome home to another (the last) Fireman soldier, in the person of Mr. **Clarry Smith**.

Justice having been done to the many good things provided, Capt **Noy** spoke in eulogistic terms of the good work member Smith had done for the Brigade before he went to the Front. He then called on Mr **Evans** to propose the health of the returned member.

Mr **Evans** said he felt honored at being asked to propose the toast. It gave him great pleasure to see Fireman **Smith** back amongst them again. The Brigade had done well in sending so many members to the Front, but he was sorry to say they had lost one fine fireman (**Bert Thomson**) who would never return. He was pleased to see their guest back safe and glad to hear he was remaining in Morwell. He also hoped he would take up his position again in the Brigade.

The toast was drunk with musical honors.

Lieut. **Fleming**, Firemen **A. Rowell** and **J. Hogben** also spoke of the good service member Smith had rendered the Brigade and country.

In responding, member **Smith** said he thoroughly appreciated the welcome accorded him, and for which he returned his sincere thanks. It was his intention to remain in Morwell. He added that he liked the Fire Brigade work. In conclusion he returned thanks for the kind sentiments expressed regarding himself and his parents.

During the evening, other toasts were duly honored, songs rendered and things kept going merrily till about mid-night.

Early Childhood Memories – Growing Up in Morwell during the 1950's

By *Eddie Beulke* (April 2011)

My name is George Edward Beulke, but was always called Eddie so as to not confuse me with my Father and Grandfather who were also called George. I was born on 14th January 1949 in Yallourn.

I grew up in Roger Street, Morwell, which in those early days was an unsealed road, as was Joy and Dendy Streets. There were no footpaths and Roger Street was sometimes used as a route to drive cattle along to Latrobe Road and down to the meat works.

The thundering cattle frightened me but I knew I was safe behind the gate. There was a family story of how Dad was caught in the outside toilet with a rampaging bullock before I was born and before there were any fences.

For the entire time I lived there up until I was twenty two there was the open space on the North side of the fence that was just referred to as 'The Back Paddock'. From our back porch we could watch the Panoramic Drive-in Theatre, and if the wind was right we could pick up the audio as well.

This back paddock was a great place to fly kites and toss boomerangs around, and as bonfire night approached there would be a massive bonfire constructed a safe distance from the fence. All the properties that were on the South side of the street had a little access manhole in the fence to escape from our yards.

If I headed in a North-Westerly direction I would end up on Toner's Lane and the sand-pits via the dam that had a couple of trees that had fallen across it. It was a great place to catch tadpoles and frogs. There were clumps of tea trees scattered across the area, which were wet and damp and smelt of rotting cattle which had become trapped in the mid and the trees and had died. Looking for skulls and jaw bones were always fun and I built up a nice little collection.

My closest neighbours were Malcolm and Adrian Whatmough, who lived next door, Graeme Collins lived across the road and Ian Campbell lived down the street. Wendy and Rod Whitmore lived across the road too, and we all went to Collins Street Primary School in 1955, which had then been opened only three years.

Everyone walked to school. No one was allowed to ride because the headmaster had deemed it that no one lived more than a mile from the school.

I do remember those early Christmas mornings, when the street was filled with kids. No one had bikes that I can recall, but cowboy suits, six shooters, plastic rifles, bows and arrows and head dresses with real feathers were in abundance. So were footballs and new cricket gear.

In 1956 Harry Whatmough, the father of then Ronnie, Bob, Malcolm, Adrian and Roy who came later got the first Television set in the street. I remember some Friday nights we were

allowed to go in for a couple of hours and watch the small screen, along with what seemed half the street.

The picture theatres played a significant part in our lives up to the early 1960s. Firstly the Karma Theatre was used for the regular evening screenings that always included the interval and a Dixie cup of ice cream for me and my sister. I was usually carried home from there on Dad's shoulders, while my sister Mary was wheeled home in the pusher. Of course we walked! The Karma was used for special screenings for school activities.

The Maya picture theatre was almost across the road, and it was here I attended my very first Saturday Matinees. During the interval there was usually some sort of entertainment in the foyer, and one Gail Cleary, daughter of one of our members Joyce did a bit of a ballet demonstration. That would have been about 1959, but I had known Gail since our grade one days at Collins Street PS.

Jerry Lewis movies were always our favourites, but Tarzan, Jungle Jim, and cowboys and Indian movies transported us to another world, always in our imaginations.

But time moves on! The north side of the railway line is not the thriving centre it once was. Festivals and carnivals are no longer held in Buckley Street or in Commercial Road. I was there though when Graham Kennedy came to town, and did a show from the top of the Club Hotel. I was there too when TV personality Sydney Heylen came to town and did a show in a large department store down where Harvey Norman is now.

Sadly progress will overtake us. The landmarks that impacted on our lives are no longer there, and so too the landmarks that our younger people are aware of will be a vague distant memory. Somebody who is now only a little tacker will in the distant future sit in Bruce McMaster's seat and recall the history of the town that hasn't even happened yet. He may even have vague memories of a road that once by-passed Morwell, that was swallowed up by the open-cut mine.

G. E. Beulke.



Information Page:

Please note that the next meeting
will be on 15th. June at 2.00 p.m.
At 44 Buckley Street

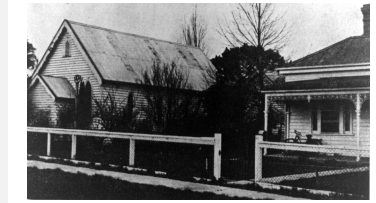
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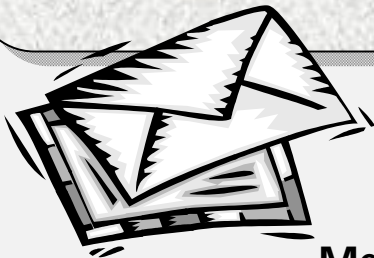
*Where you will find an amazing collection of interesting facts,
figures and photographs*



Thank You Florence



Please deliver me to:



Meeting Dates for Rest of 2011

15th June
20th July
17th August
21st September
19th October
16th November

Quick Quiz (Answer to question from last issue): 1892

The question for this issue is:

In which year did St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church open in Elgin Street?