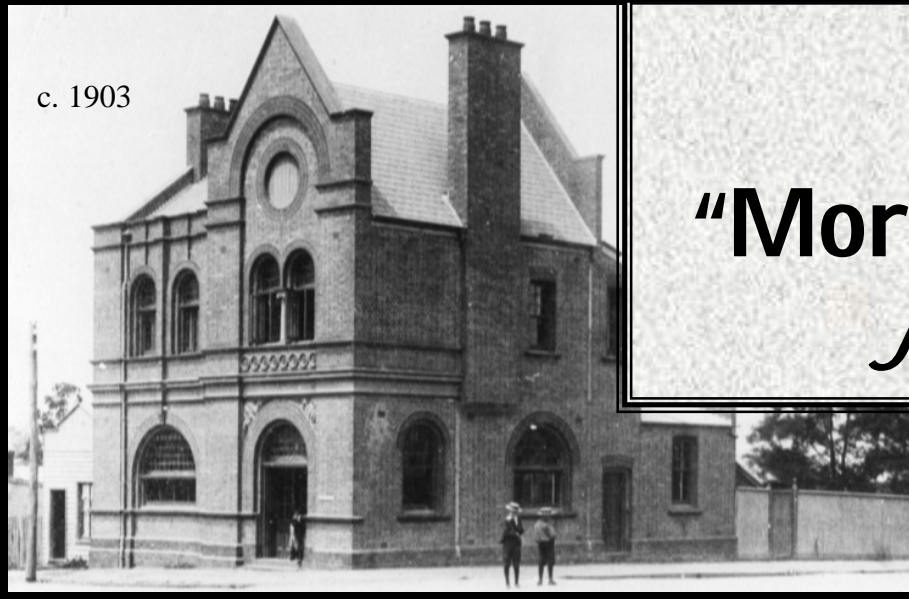


Morwell Historical Society Inc.

www.morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au

c. 1903



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June 2012

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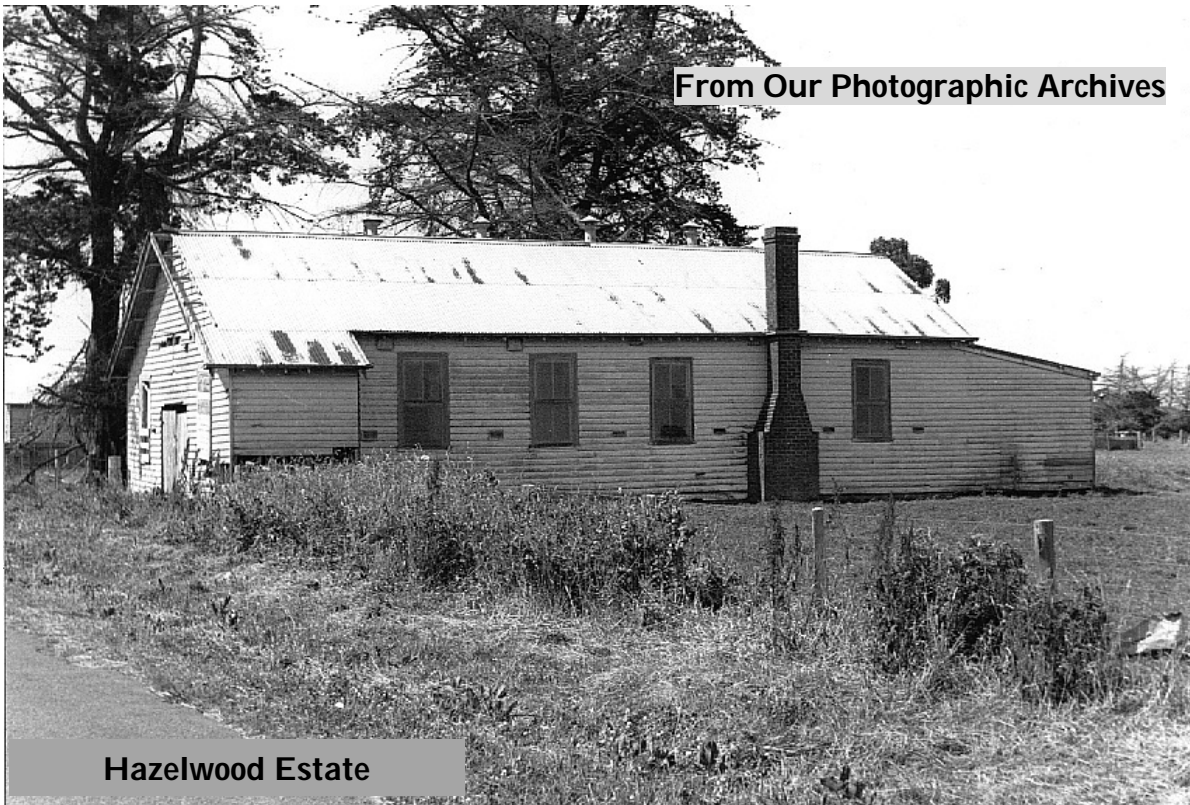
**Secretary: Stephen Hellings
Post Office Box 1163
Morwell 3840 (0411 206 405)**

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**

From Our Photographic Archives



Hazelwood Estate

In this issue of "The Post":

"Ollie's Story" page 2

Gippsland Times (1878) page 5

Follow up info page 6

Wilfred (Bill) Rintoull (DCM) page 7

It happened in May page 9

It happened in June page 10

Fire in Railway Yards (1940) page 11

Information Page page 12

OLLIES' STORY (CONCLUSION.)

Yallourn was starting to boom. The building of the township was well under way and the workers were leaving the camps and bringing their families into the town. Morwell was the nearest shopping centre and for that reason, shopping remained open all day Saturday to catch the trade from the new settlement. The three pubs in the town Murdoch's, Barrys and McKays did a roaring trade as they also supplied most of the liquor that was sold by the sly grog shops of East, West, and South Camps, as well as the Brown Coal Mine, which was situated a couple of miles north of the Yallourn township. To compensate for the full Saturday trading hours, Thursday afternoon was our half day off. Usually on my half day off, I hopped on my bike and pedalled to the S.E.C. works at Yallourn, firstly purely for sightseeing, but later on looking for another job. I remember on my first visit the Briquette Chimney (which eventually reached 365 ft.) was half built, so that on successive weekly visits, I would check progress and report back home. On completion it was the highest man-made structure in the southern hemisphere, and was a landmark for miles around. It was knocked down in the late 70's when the Briquette factory was demolished. In those days, there was free access to any working site. Nobody asked who you were and what you were doing. On one such visit I stood not more than ten feet away from Sir John Monash whilst he explained some facet of the work program to some authorised visitors. A solidly built bloke of middle stature, he had an aura of greatness about him which allied with his piercing dark eyes, impressed me somewhat. In those early days there is no doubt he was the driving force and inspiration for the whole vast undertaking.

My Uncle Ted had a contract to supply wood for the boiler at the Morwell Butter factory situated about a mile on the eastern side of the town. It is long since gone, but in those days was managed by the other next door neighbour, a Mr. Tom Duff. The trees were felled, split and cut to six feet lengths. I liked Uncle Ted and we got on well together and I think he was sorry to lose me. He paid me well -£ 2 a week, a fabulous wage for a fifteen year old. However, Mum got most of it as usual. He lived into his nineties, passing away in the sixties. In his latter years he lived with his nephew, Jim Macklin at Erica.

Morwell in the twenties was transformed from a sleepy village into a thriving township with the advent of the large S.E.C. undertaking six miles away at Yallourn (supposedly an aboriginal word for brown coal). Sergeant Willett headed a small police force and they had their hands full on Friday nights (late shopping) and Saturdays when the town was invaded by workers from the new undertaking. Drunkenness was the chief "crime". The sergeant, who was a kindly and well liked man, realised that his lock up was somewhat inadequate, so he and his men collected the drunks, and provided they didn't resist, carted them off to the tree-lined railway yards where they laid them out to sleep it off - free service with no charges laid provided they behaved themselves. It was nothing to see, on a late Saturday afternoon, thirty or forty bodies sleeping it off in this fashion. Sergeant Willett retired in Morwell and lived out his days in the district. Morwell expanded rapidly outgrowing the services provided by the local council. Some of the shortcomings were overcome by the local community. For instance, lead by one Constable Suckling a committee was formed which saw the first swimming pool constructed in the park opposite the state school. The whole project was paid for by finance raised by this committee. Percy Kelly is the only name I can remember of that committee.

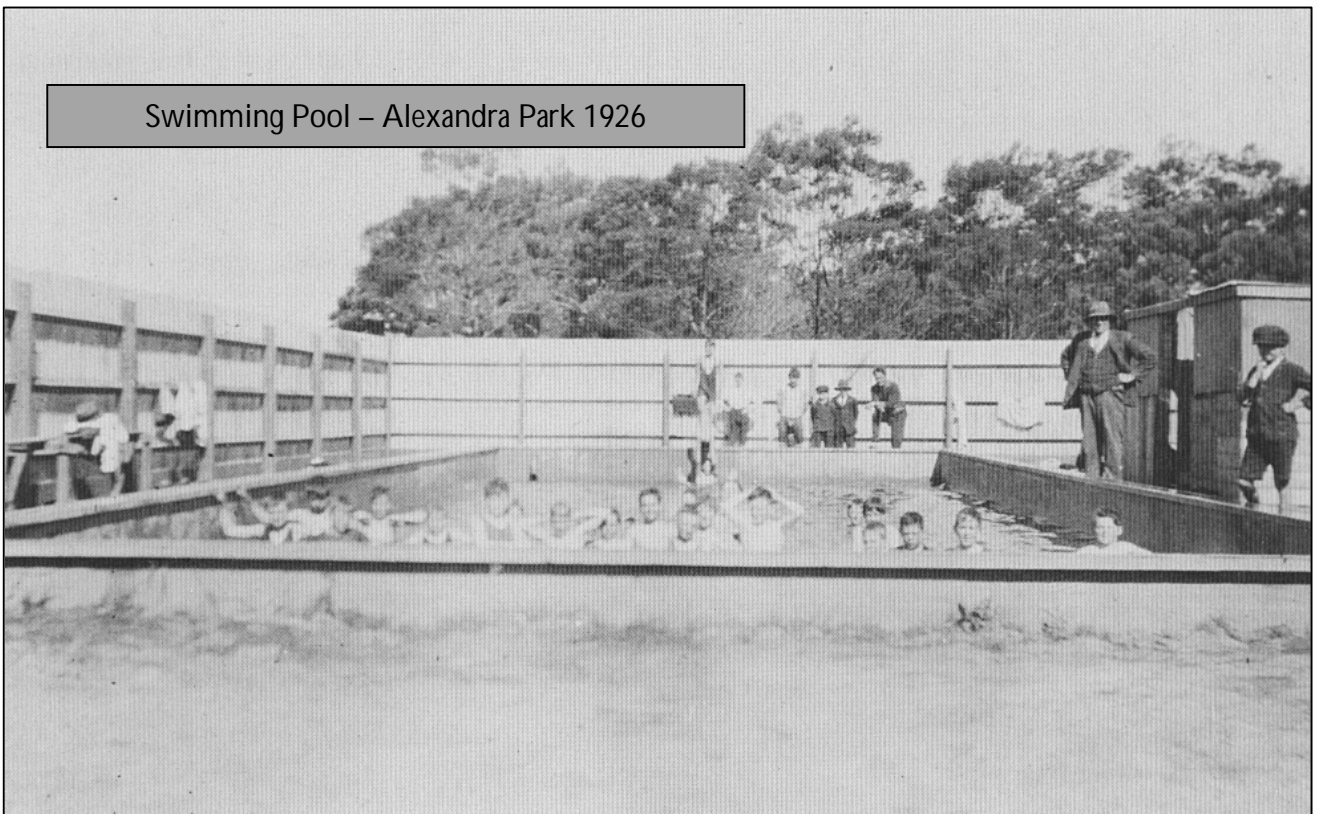
Dr. Mitchell was the only medical man servicing both communities until 1926 when the Yallourn Medical Society was established. No wonder he didn't make old bones. A veteran medico of World War One, he surely was one of the most over-worked people I ever knew.

At this time radio, or wireless as it was commonly known, was in its infancy. The 1924 Test Match scores were received by one radio enthusiast Barras Green and the results were posted on his father's drapery shop window, a free service enjoyed by all cricket fans who ranged from Doc. Mitchell to yours truly. My brother Percy built a cat's whisker receiving set a couple of years later and would all take turns listening through the headphones. In the late twenties, travelling by train to Melbourne was enlivened by noting the number of radio aerials between Dandenong and Flinders Street.

In 1927 I joined the local fire brigade and remained a member until I moved to Yallourn. Besides attending quite a few house fires, the highlight of the year was the State Fire Brigade (Country) demonstration held in turn at the three largest cities outside of Melbourne. Ballarat, Bendigo and Geelong took it in turns to host the event. As a sixteen year old, I went to the Ballarat Demo. in 1927. I got a weeks unpaid leave from the S.E.C. and with all expenses paid and £ 5 in my pocket, I had a marvellous time. The money for our expenses was raised throughout the previous twelve months by chook raffles etc. in the town. The pre-demo parade through the main streets of Ballarat by hundreds of brigades, including a couple from Western Australia, was a highlight. We were preceded by various bands, but the only one I remember best was the Hamilton Pipe Band. The hauntingly beautiful music that they played I remember to this day.

END

Swimming Pool – Alexandra Park 1926



Morwell Butter Factory



Yallourn Open-Cut & Briquette Factory



All photographs: Morwell Historical Society Inc. archives

Gippsland Times

Wednesday 16th October 1878 (Page 4)

MORWELL

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT)

A largely attended meeting of the inhabitants of Morwell and Hazelwood was held at Fitz's Hotel on Saturday evening last, for the purpose of considering the advisability of erecting a Mechanics' Institute in the township, and other matters connected with the general progress of the district. Mr. C. O. **Gilbert** was voted to the chair.

Mr **Varey** proposed, and Mr **Rintoul** seconded – That it is expedient to have a Mechanics' Institute erected in the township. Mr **Rintoul** stated in support of the resolution that any information he could afford the meeting on the subject would be quite at their service, and that the erection of a building 30 x 18 feet would, he estimated, cost about £70, so they would know what they had to make up.

It was proposed and carried that Mr **Gilbert** act as secretary to the committee, for which the following gentlemen were nominated: - Messrs **Nelson, Kelly, Kelleher, Pratt, Fitzpatrick, Waldon, Forsyth, Harding, Hunt, McMillan, Toner, and Tonkyn.**

It was further proposed and seconded that the secretary be instructed to write to the District Surveyor for information concerning the land required, and also to draw up subscription lists, and furnish each committeeman with one for the collection of the necessary funds; and to call a meeting for Saturday the 26th inst. to further consider the matter.

Mr **Gilbert** brought under the notice of the meeting the excessive charges the railway department were imposing on them for the carriage of produce to and from Oakleigh, more especially dairy produce, and proposed that a petition be sent to the Minister of Railways to have the goods tariff on the Gippsland line revised; which was carried unanimously.

There was a petition also signed at the meeting for the removal of the Post-office from the railway station into the township with the view of getting a telegraph office in connection with it. A vote of thanks to the chairman brought the meeting to a close.

I might call the attention of the public to the extensive buildings we have now in the township, Mr **Tonkyn** having opened an extensive baking and confectionary business, and Mr Chas. **Welsh's** hostelry just newly opened is worthy of notice, the style of the building, together with the furnishing of the same, is something we do not often find in a country town.

(Please note the different spelling of the names **Vary** and **Rintoull** S.H.)

This article was kindly supplied by **Mr. Bruce McMaster**



As can be seen from the above photograph the petition was successful and the Post Office was indeed removed from the railway station. It was transferred to Mr Oxtoby's retail premises in Commercial Road (the site was near today's Spotlight store) in 1880. The post and telegraph office can be seen at right. The photograph dates from c. 1890.

MORWELL AND THE RAILWAY:

The construction of the Melbourne to Sale railway which commenced in 1876 was completed in five separate stages:

- Sale to Morwell – Completed on 1st June 1877**
- Oakleigh to Bunyip- Completed on 8th October 1877**
- Morwell to Moe – Completed on 1st December 1877**
- Bunyip to Moe – Completed on 1st March 1878**
- Oakleigh to South Yarra – Completed on 2nd April 1879**

DID YOU KNOW THAT?

In **August 1952** the train fares to Melbourne were:

- First Class Single 22/3, Return 29/6**
- Second Class Single 17/9, Return 23/8**

Wilfred (Bill) Rintoull DCM

Mrs. **Mary Ireland** (nee Rintoull) niece of the above has kindly forwarded the following additional information regarding Bill Rintoull's Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM).

Mary states in her letter that: "He enlisted in the AIF 24th Battalion on 9 March 1915, and was engaged in the Gallipoli campaign. In 1918 he was sent to France where he was severely wounded, but after a long period of hospital treatment rejoined his battalion only to receive another serious wound in the chest in October, the month before the war ended in November 1918. He was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal as follows:"

"Early in the attack on Montrebrehain, east of Peronne, on 5 October 1918, Sgt. Rintoull's platoon officer was killed. Sgt. Rintoull at once took charge of his platoon and continued the advance. Later on his Coy. Commander was killed, and taking charge of the Company he exhibited in an undoubted manner, admirable qualities of leadership. Finding the advance held up, he went forward alone under heavy machine gun fire, and reconnoitred with a view to pushing on, but found this impossible for heavy machine gun fire was being directed at his command from both flanks. He therefore made a further reconnaissance and selected the positions for posts to be established. He next personally supervised the establishments of these posts and consolidation of the line. He was subjected throughout to the fiercest machine gun fire and heavy shelling, but did not relax his efforts until he was severely wounded had had to be evacuated."

The DCM was recommended by A.R. Wiltshire, Lieut. Colonel Commanding (tempy) 6th Australian Infantry Brigade, and signed by J. C. Robertson, Brigadier General Commanding Second Australian Division."

The following was extracted from Society records:

BILL RINTOULL:

Embarked for overseas: **10th May 1915** (Sailed on EURIPIDES)

Embarked for return to Australia: 1st April 1919 (Sailed on SHROPSHIRE)

Arrived in Australia: 16th May 1919

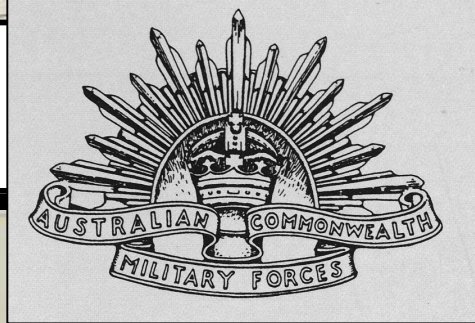
Bill Rintoull passed away at Yallourn on 27th. November 1948 aged 54 years



Photograph: "Duty Nobly Done"
By John Pearson (1992)



H.M.A.T. "EURIPIDES" (COPYRIGHT)
4-4-16



H.M.A.T. "SHROPSHIRE" (COPYRIGHT)
25-9-16

Photographs sourced from internet sites of various State Libraries S.H.

It Happened in May!

(A selection of events that took place during the month of May)

- Maryvale Ridge School (No.1939) closed on 31st May 1879.
- Dr. W. Moir (Morwell's first resident Doctor) arrived in May 1889.
- Morwell Shire was proclaimed on 27th May 1892.
- John Irving passed away in May 1894.
- Sacred Heart Catholic Church (original Commercial Road church building) officially opened in Commercial Road on 17th May 1903.
- A telephone service connecting Morwell with Warragul, Moe and Traralgon commenced on 6th May 1907.
- State Savings Bank established in Morwell on 10th May 1917.
- Baptist Church services began in Morwell on 7th May 1950.
- Coles Variety Store opened at No. 3 Tarwin Street on 25th May 1950
- National Safety Council opened their Morwell branch on 18th May 1953.
- The Morwell Co-Op was established in May 1955
- Construction of the Latrobe Valley Hotel began in May 1957.
- The Purvis supermarket in Buckley Street was officially opened on 29th May 1958.
- The MAYA picture theatre closed on 31st May 1962.
- Elizabeth Wilmot kindergarten opened in Morwell on 31st May 1965.
- Construction of Morwell Char Plant commenced in May 1970.
- The pedestrian lights near Post Office commenced operation on 2nd May 2003.
- The new subway under railway line was opened on 8th May 2006.



Sacred Heart Catholic Church-Commercial Road

It Happened in June!

(A selection of events that took place during the month of June)

- Latrobe Valley District Ambulance Service commenced on 8th June 1949.
- Morwell Apex Club received its Charter on 23rd June 1950.
- Morwell branch of Good Neighbour Council opened on 30th June 1952.
- J. B. Hoyle died on 6th June 1921.
- Morwell's first police officer (mounted constable William Savage) commenced duties in June 1879.
- The Sale to Morwell section of railway line was officially opened on 1st June 1877.
- All traffic ceased on Mirboo North railway line in June 1974.
- Morwell Soldiers' Memorial was unveiled on 6th June 1921.
- Foundation Stone for Morwell Town Hall was laid on 13th June 1936.
- Thomas Joel Rose died of enteric fever in Pretoria on 29th June 1900.
- Senior Citizen flats situated in Maryvale Crescent were opened on 19th June 1964.
- Inaugural meeting of Morwell Jay-Cees was held on 29th June 1961.
- Morwell Soldiers' Memorial moved to corner of Tarwin & Elgin Streets in June 1990.



Maryvale Crescent

Morwell Advertiser and Gazette

1st. August 1940

Fire Alarm



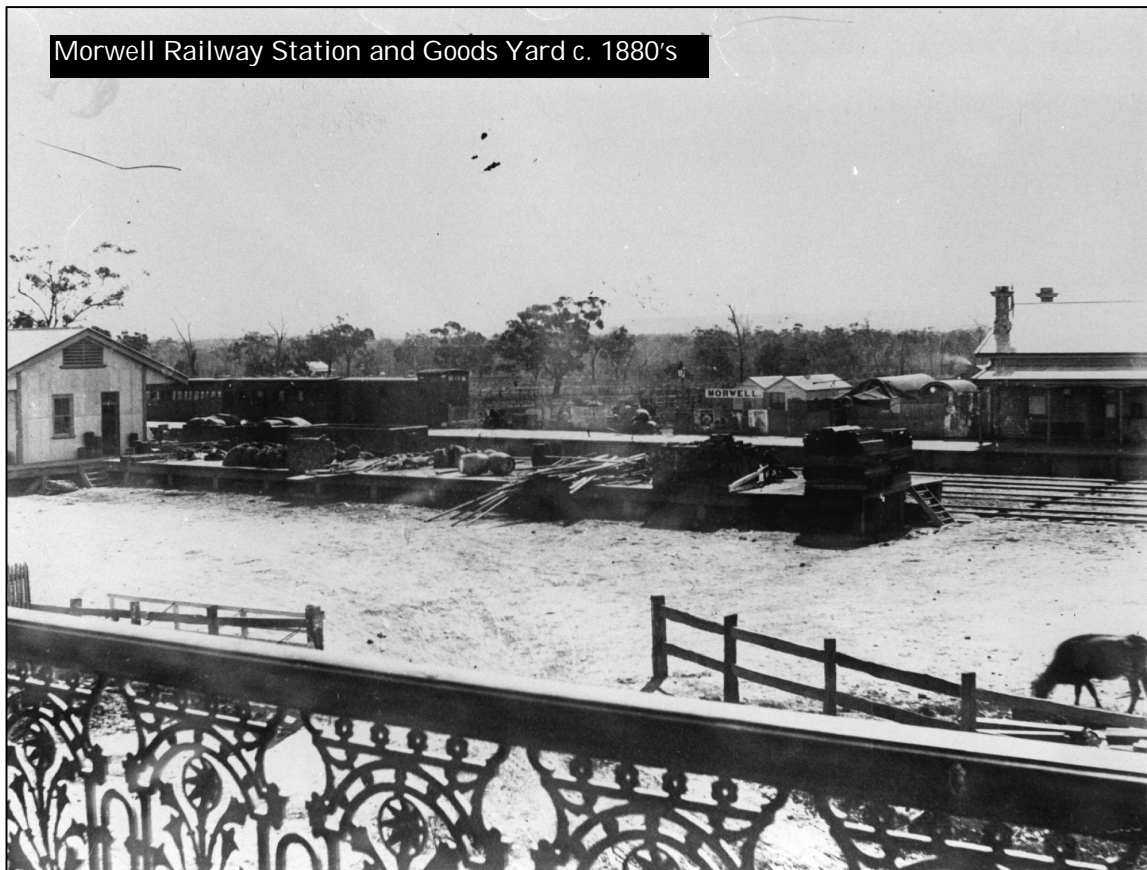
The vigorous ringing of the local fire bell at about 3.15 a.m. on Monday last, disturbed townspeople from their peaceful slumbers to sudden activity.

Smoke was seen rising from the vicinity of the railway station and there was a good deal of speculation as to where the fire actually was. It was not long, however, before it was discovered that the contents of a railway truck, coupled to a number of other trucks adjacent the railway goods shed was ablaze and threatened to do considerable damage.

The outbreak was first noticed by Mr. **Kean Barry** who promptly rang the fire bell, which brought the captain and some other members of the fire brigade to the scene in quick time, and also several residents of the town.

It was found that the railway truck contained bags of lime that were covered by tarpaulin. Owing to rain the lime had got wet and the heat created thereby had set fire to tarpaulin and caused the outbreak.

Very little damage was sustained beyond the loss of a good deal of sleep by firemen and others. Quite a number, however, did not hear the alarm and slept the sleep of the just, without being disturbed.



Morwell Railway Station and Goods Yard c. 1880's

Information Page:

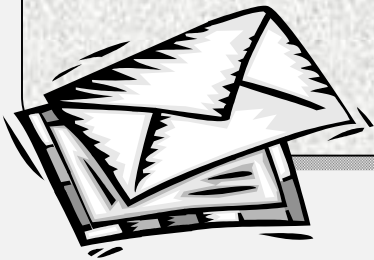
Please note that the next meeting will be on 20th. June 2012 at 2.00 p.m.
At 44 Buckley Street (Next to T.A.B.)



Meeting dates for remainder of 2012:

June 20th
July 18th
August 15th
September 19th
October 17th
November 21st

Please deliver me to:

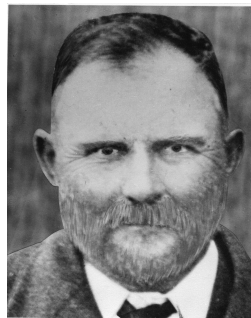


If undelivered please return to P.O. Box 1163 Morwell 3840

Multiple Choice Quick Quiz:

Q: Who Am I?

- A. John Hall
 - B. John English
 - C. John Bolger
- (Answer hidden in this issue)



The next edition of the "Post" is due out in August.
Stephen