

# The Morwell Post

Morwell Historical Society

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Parking Meters along Hazelwood Road - Library and Masonic Lodge on the right



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# Morwell Historical Society Directory 2021

President:	Bruce McMaster Phone: 0428 528 464
Vice-President:	John Willis
Secretary:	Florence Butcher
Assistant Secretary:	Laurie Williams
Treasurer:	Carolyn Schopp
Committee Members:	Rosalie Davey Shirley Prosser Peter Gitsham
Research Library:	12 Hazelwood Road, Morwell, Victoria 3840
Research Queries:	<a href="mailto:research@morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au">research@morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au</a>
Public Access:	1st and 3rd Wednesday and last Sunday of each month, 11.00 a.m. – 2.00 p.m. Not open - December & January
General meetings:	3rd Wednesday February to November – 2.00 pm
Annual General Meeting:	3rd Wednesday of March each year
Membership Fees:	Due 1st July each year Single Member - \$25.00 Family Membership -Family living at the same address includes children under 18 years old - \$30.00  Application Forms available on our web site for you to print and send.  For a print copy of “ <b>The Morwell Post</b> ” - \$10.00 per annum
Editor:	<a href="mailto:morwellpost@morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au">email: morwellpost@morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au</a>
Research Fees:	\$10.00 per hour or part thereof, and prices for photo prints on application and postage where applicable.
Facebook:	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/morwellhistoricalsociety">https://www.facebook.com/morwellhistoricalsociety</a>
Postal Address:	12 Hazelwood Road, Morwell 3840 Victoria, Australia

Front page icon is of the old Post Office c1930 which was on the site of the now Commonwealth Bank, corner of Commercial Road and Tarwin Street.

All photos, unless indicated, are from our archives.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### Fundraising

The BBQ at Bunnings on Anzac Day afternoon made \$604 and I thank the following volunteers who gave up their afternoon for the Society – Melinda, Gaye, Susan, Rosalie, Orlando, Laurie, Lin and Shirley. I also thank Chris for turning up to help. Thank you to Brendan at Zio Pizza, George Street for peeling and chopping the onions for us.

### Newspapers

Many thanks to Laurie and Fay who have been sorting the Society's newspapers. The Expresses are now sorted in chronological order and placed in 5 labelled banana boxes. The Morwell Advertisers are in chronological order in 5 large labelled folders. The earliest Advertiser that the Society has a copy of is 5th December 1919 and the last is the final issue 27 April 1972. The *Churchill News* is also in chronological order in labelled boxes. Many other Gippsland newspapers are in large folders including a few copies of the *Yallourn Livewire*.

### Guest Speakers

The guest speaker for April was Gavin Wigginton. Gavin's topic was the history of the Hazelwood Football Club since a team was first raised in 1888 and he has written a book called "*Woods, Roos and Cougars - The History of the Churchill Football Netball Club, Since 1890*" which he launched at the end of April. The month of May our guest speaker was Carol Smith and Carol has also written a book about her two uncles, Charlie Mills and Ron McIntyre and as 20 year olds they enlisted in the 2/32nd Battalion of the 9th Division better known as "The Rats of Tobruk". The book: "*Heading for the Hills*", and I thank Carol for donating a copy to the Society. Carol also wrote "*A Call to Arms*".

### Donations

We have been donated two railway signals from the Morwell to Yallourn railway line. With knowhow and muscles Chris has hung them from the passage wall.

### Repairs

Chris has been busy repairing the outside window sill and replacing a fascia board that had rotted on the outside of the building. As soon as we receive a grant to paint all the wood on the outside north and south walls we will get the work done, thank you Chris.



The window sill before and after

A reminder that fees are due now, \$25 single and \$30 for 2 people at the same address and add \$10 if you would like a hard copy sent of *The Post*.

Stay safe  
Bruce McMaster  
8 June 2021

BSB: 063522  
Account No.: 00900501  
Account Name: Morwell Historical Society  
Add your name to the *Reference*

## THE MAIL BOAT “CLONMEL”

The *Clonmel* was arguably the first luxury steamship to operate in Australian waters.

On December 30th, 1840, the mail boat, a three mast wooden paddle steamer, *Clonmel* set out from Sydney on her second voyage to Melbourne. It is said that her Captain Tollervey thought that Wilson’s Promontory was an island and was looking for a passage between it and the mainland. The ship kept too close to the shore and struck a sandbank and attempts to reverse the ship failed. Her cargo was thrown overboard but this did not help, then the anchors were lowered. The *Clonmel* was wrecked in the shallow waters of Corner Inlet on 2nd January, 1841. No lives were lost and all the 75 passengers on board were safely landed on Snake Island via the ships whale boats. Among the passengers were Mr C Robinson of the Union Bank who had charge of £3,000 of the Bank’s notes which was lost although it is believed that they were stolen. From there 6 men with DC Simpson in charge, sailed a small boat from the *Clonmel* to Melbourne, 200 miles away to seek help. Two relief ships were sent to bring the passengers and the mail to Melbourne.

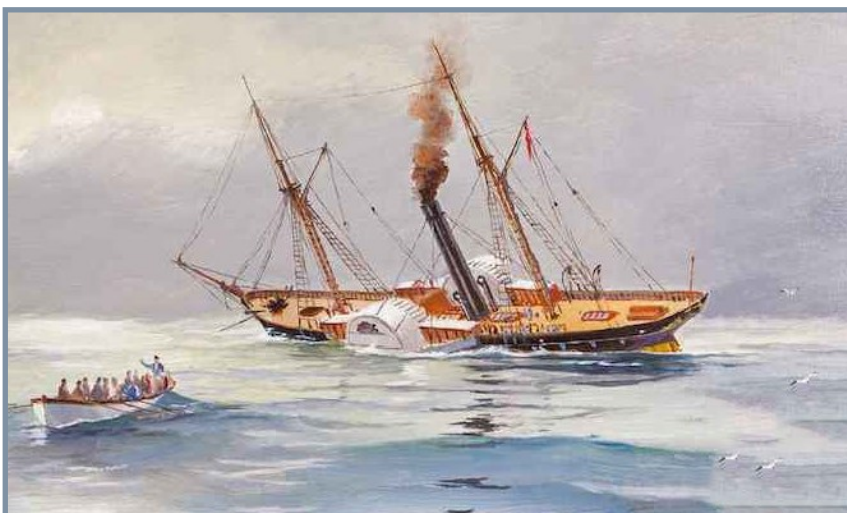
About this time there was much interest in Melbourne in the story that Strzelecki had to tell of his Gippsland journey in 1840 and this interest was heightened by the *Clonmel* incident. A group of squatters -Messrs Hawden, Orr, Rankin, McLeod, Brobridd, Kingborne, Kirsopp and Dr Stewart formed the Gippsland Company with the express purpose of establishing stations there. They chartered the vessel *Singapore* and left for Corner Inlet on 6th February, 1841. For a fortnight they probed the coast without finding a suitable place to land. At last, using their long boat and two smaller boats from the *Clonmel* they discovered a navigable channel leading to two rivers which they named Albert after the Prince Consort and Tarra, after their valued aboriginal companion, Charlie Tarra. They unloaded their horses and stores, built a small cottage and called the settlement Port Albert. They divided their party into three. Stewart, Rankin and Orr returned to Melbourne, an overseer, McFarlane and three men were left at Port Albert and the remaining five squatters with Charlie Tarra explored further to the east and then returned to Melbourne.

Initially the area was known as Seabank or Old Port, but it was changed to New Leith when the town started developing and later changed to Alberton and Port Albert. The Post Office opened in 1842 it was known as Alberton PO but was renamed Port Albert PO in 1856. It became the administrative centre of Gippsland and the transport hub for cargo between Melbourne and Van Diemen’s Land (Tasmania) because of its long jetty. As the Victorian Gold Rush began in the 1850s, traffic through Port Albert increased.

The subsequent publicity helped spread the word that a viable access point existed to the rich grazing land of what is now known as Gippsland.

Source -*The Hobart Courier* Tuesday 19th January 1841 p 2

The Morwell Historical Society News Volume 2 1963 p 17





We have been printing articles in The Post about which business occupied the south west corner of Commercial Road and Tarwin Street. The first occupier was David and Anne Donaldson and the second occupier was John and Catherine Hall. A single man, William Martin is the third occupier.

## **WILLIAM MARTIN**

In 1923 John and Catherine Hall sold the “good will” of their business on the corner of Tarwin St and Commercial Road to William Martin. The property was owned by Edith Irving daughter of David Donaldson. So the corner changed from being called Hall’s Corner to being called Martin’s Corner.

William Martin took a keen interest in public affairs. He was a member of the Morwell Water Works Trust for many years. He was sworn in as Justice of the Peace in September 1922 and he sat regularly on the bench and has also conducted several magisterial inquiries. In 1923, on the retirement of Councillor D Dunbar from the Morwell Shire Council, there were four nominations. Angus McDonald received the most votes but William Martin only lost by a few votes. He was President of St Patricks Day Racing Club in 1924 and Vice President of the Bowling Club and a member of other Morwell organizations. Martin only had the business for a very short time and in June 1924 he sold it to David Mills.

It was reported in the Morwell Advertiser that William Martin was contemplating a trip around the world before again settling down elsewhere in business. In 1949 we know he was living in Brighton but often returned to Morwell for a visit.

Source- *Morwell Advertiser* 6 June 1924 p 4.



## DAVID MILLS

The next person to have the store on the corner of Tarwin Street and Commercial Road, 196-198 Commercial Road, was David Clark Mills. David had married Iris Olive Kitchen in 1913. He took the business over from Martin in June 1924 so now the corner was known as Mills' corner. David's father, Renton Mills, had established a grocers shop in Chapel Street Prahran and this business was now operated by his older brother Renton. This popular corner in the centre of Morwell was where the buses left from, where the street stalls were held and the where the town band played.

Four years later, in 1928, David Mills installed a Lamson Rapid Railway Cash System. These cash carriers were used in shops and department stores to carry customer's payments from the sales assistant to the cashier and to carry the change and the receipt back again. Many people and especially the young children found this system very fascinating. Do you remember any other shops in Morwell that had one installed?

The 1930s were a difficult time and unemployment was very high. Many men who had lost their jobs became "Swaggies" and the local traders were concerned about the problems that men who were looking for work, could cause. The call for extra security was, in fact, one of the prime motives for the formation of the Morwell Traders' Association in 1931. The initial meeting took place in Wilson's Tea Rooms with David Mills was elected as President. Most of the town's leading business men supported the move for commercial reasons and the Association was active in civic affairs for 15 years. On 22 January 1946 the organisation became the Morwell Chamber of Commerce.

In September 1934 extensive alterations were made to the 50 year old premises that were erected by David Donaldson but the property was still owned by his daughter Edith Irving nee Donaldson.

Nov 1933 DC Mills and Co's purchased the Moe Stores from the late T. Treloar. One day in 1934 a herd of cows and a bull were being driven along the street when the bull saw his reflection in the shop window and charged at the window causing much damage.

Both David and his wife Iris were active community members. David was invested into the Masonic Lodge in 1931 and was Masonic Master in 1932. He was a member of the Philatelic Society which started in 1949 and Vice President in 1950. Iris Mills was a very good croquet player and was President of the Croquet Club for many years. She also gave much of her time to St Mary's Anglican Church and the Ladies Guild. She was the Work Secretary of the Red Cross and played bridge. Their home in Maryvale Crescent was called "Glensk".

David Clark Mills died in Yallourn in 1959 and his wife Iris died in Healesville in 1980.

On the 19th September 1959 Roy Faulkner bought both the business from David Mills' family and the shop, 196-198 Commercial Road, from the descendants of Edith Irving nee Donaldson.

Source –*Steam Horse to Power* Prue McGoldrick pp 70,79 and 84



Interior of D. C. Mills' store, corner of Tarwin Street and 198 Commercial Road, Morwell in the 1940s. L-R: Harry Huguenin, Jean McMillan, Charles Sands.





Going up Ann Street to deliver by pushbike c1930  
*Phone 4 DC Mills and Co Pty Ltd "The Slick Deliveries"*



The intricacies of the Lamson Rapid Railway Cash System. Some were quite ornate.

Looking west from  
 Commercial Road corner  
 and Tarwin Street c1930

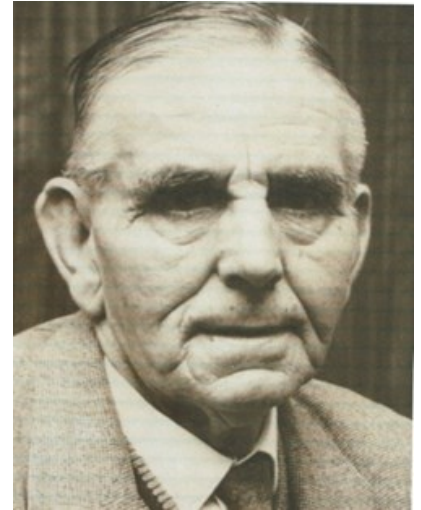


Looking west from  
 Commercial Road  
 corner and Tarwin  
 Street 27 Nov 1947

## JAMES (JIM) HENRY CATTERICK

Jim Catterick was born in Hartlepool, Durham, England on 25th May 1893 and he and his wife Margaret and their children Betty, Jim and Eric came to Australia in 1922 and on to Morwell.

When Jim Catterick first came to Morwell he owned a transport truck and operated a goods transport service to Melbourne and in 1936 he moved into running a bus service from Morwell to Yallourn called the workman's run. This service increased with a bus service to the Maryvale Mill and one to Boolarra via Yinnar. By May 1948 Jim owned 6 buses, including one super model and his business was called the Morwell Bus Service. Jim charged low rates to organisations going on picnics, church functions, scouting activities or sporting events.



Jim Catterick was a member of many Morwell organisations:

1934 -President of the Morwell Soccer Club

1944 Foundation member of the Caledonian Society and the Society's first President

1945 President of Morwell Wartime Football Club

Member of the Morwell sub branch of the RSL and Secretary from 1946 to 1948

1946 Foundation member of the Morwell Rotary Club

Member of the Water Trust

Member of the Morwell Fire Brigade

Member of the Dad's Club

In August 1944 James Catterick was duly elected as Councillor for the Morwell Riding in the Morwell Shire. He had a majority of 190 votes ahead of Vin Hourigan. In September 1947 he was elected Shire President with a fixed allowance of £125.

Jim and Margaret (Maggie) Catterick lived at 40 Hoyle Street with their three children.

Betty

James (Jim) born in 1920 worked at the APM, Maryvale as an assistant motor mechanic.

Eric born in 1927, and died 1941 aged 14 years. He is buried at Hazelwood Cemetery.

In May 1948, after being in the Morwell district for 26 years, Jim sold his Morwell Bus Service business to the Latrobe Valley Bus Lines and resigned as Councillor in July 1948 and Les Hare acted as President until the next election in September. Jim planned to take his wife and daughter Betty on a 12 month cruise and visit England which he had left in 1922. Their new home was in Mornington. Jim died 1971 and his ashes were scattered.

His wife Maggie died in 1976 and she is buried next to Eric, their son, in the Hazelwood Cemetery.

Catterick Crescent, Churchill was named after Councillor Jim Catterick

Source - *Morwell Advertiser* 27 May 1948 p 10 and 5 August 1948 p 12



## 401742 FLIGHT SERGEANT JAMES HENRY CATTERICK

Jim attended Commercial Road State School and Yallourn Technical School and went to work at APM Maryvale as an assistant motor mechanic.

On 28th March 1941 he enlisted in the RAAF.

The Beaufort aircraft A9-166 as leader and A9-304 took off in formation from No 1 Operational Training Unit, East Sale at approximately 18.30 hours on the 28th April, 1943 to carry out training night bombing exercise. The duration of the exercise was 4 ½ hours. There were four in the plane and Sergeant Edward Offer was the pilot.

The exercise was carried out satisfactory and on the return journey bad weather was encountered between Flinders Island and King Island. The aircraft was then at a height of 2,000 to 3,000 feet and the pilot of A9-166 instructed A9-304 to reduce height. At approximately 21.05 hours when the aircraft were about 5 miles from King Island, at the height of 800 feet, the leader decided to turn back on account of bad weather. He advised A9-304 that he was turning to port which he amended almost immediately to turning to starboard. The pilot of A9-304 commenced a turn to port and on the amended order he took evasive action in a diving turn to starboard. At the reduced height and in poor visibility the pilot of A9-304 apparently misjudged the correct moment for the recovery of the turn with the result dived into the water while still banked. Searches by land parties, by aircraft from No 1 Operational Unit and by a naval vessel were unsuccessful. It was presumed that it had dived into the sea and his parents were informed that he was reported missing.

The Memorial Gates at the APM, Maryvale were designed to commemorate the employees who lost their lives during the Second World War. They were dedicated on Saturday 7th February 1953. The memorial consisted of two plaques each with seven names. The gates were wrought iron and supported by granite pillars. The following names appear on the plaques – N Anderson, J Armstrong, J Ashby, E Brown, J Catterick, W Finlayson, A Gillies R Griffiths, W Hicks, F Lawrence, D Pollock, L Stagg, F Watson, R Williams

In October 1951, the Morwell Council was asked by the Housing Commission to select names for the streets in the Estate north of Barry Street. Catterick was one of the names that Council suggested in memory of James Catterick, son of Jim, who died while in the Air Force during WW2.

Source – From the Royal Air Force File in the Morwell Historical Society's file on Jim Catterick and information obtained from Rob de Souza Daw.



## PARKING METERS

Do you remember the parking meters? If you can't, then we have one on display in our rooms. We do not know when they were introduced to Morwell, but we know that they were removed late 1991.

The first in Australia – Hobart City Council installed Australia's first parking meter on 1 April 1955. The going rate was sixpence (about 5 cents) for 30 minutes. The rest of the country soon followed.

Parking Meters outside Michael Guss, Riggall's Drapery, the Bank of New South Wales and Hall's Television in Commercial Road.

The sign in Hall's window says "*The new Pye Cleaning Buggy*". Rotovac—the new vacuum cleaner style of the day in 1964.



Ken 'Scrubby' McLeod was the Bylaws Officer of the Morwell Shire. This photo was taken in Church Street with Jephcott's the Jewellers in the background.





Along Commercial Road in front of McKay's Club Hotel and Sharpe's Emporium.

Along Buckley Street



An innovative use for an old Parking Meter



Corner of George Street and Hazelwood Road





## OPEN DAYS 2021

Please check the current Covid-19 restrictions before attending.

2nd June || 16th June || 27th June

7th July || 21st July || 25th July

4th August || 18th August || 29th August

1st September || 15th September || 26th September

6th October || 20th October || 31st October

3rd November || 17th November || 28th November

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Morwell Neighbourhood House



We sincerely thank Russell Northe, MLA for Morwell and staff for printing our Newsletter