

# MORWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER

published monthly, except December

Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm

in St. Andrews Presbyterian Church Hall

Vol. 8 No. 10

OCTOBER 1992

### WELCOME TO THE OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

Well, the Municipal Centenary is all over bar the shouting. The Centenary Council Meeting held on Monday September 14 was a great success as was the joint Historical Exhibition staged by the City of Morwell, S.E.C. and Morwell Historical Society in a rented shop in Tarwin St.

Historian Stephen Legg gave an overview of the history of the municipality at the Centenary Council Meeting (his address is printed in this newsletter) and former councillors and members of many well-known Morwell pioneer families attended.

A great deal of interest was generated by the display of photographs, maps and memorabilia in the week-long historical display. An excellent video told the story of the S.E.C's undertakings in the district and our thanks go to Mark Vitlin from the S.E.C for his willing and regular assistance with the display.

Thanks also to our Vice-President Eric Lubcke who put in many hours before, during and after the display, and to the members of Morwell Historical Society who gave their time to man (person?) the exhibition.

Sales of books and souvenirs at the exhibition totalled \$2301, of which the Society's share was \$483.

DON'T FORGET OUR NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY OCTOBER 20 - SEE YOU THERE.



FROM



# R.H.S.V. HISTORY NEWS

No. 132 OCTOBER

## AWARDS OF MERIT

Rules governing nominations for the Awards of Merit are set out below. The closing date for nominations is 13 October 1992.

1. To qualify for an award a person should have given meritorious service to a Member Society of the RHSV.

2. The service - which need not necessarily include the preparation of an historical work - should be exceptional and go beyond the routine holding of office.

3. The nominee should have been involved in the work of the Member Society and/or the RHSV for a minimum of ten years unless special circumstances obtain, in which case a minimum of eight years will suffice.

4. Nominations can be made by any member of the Council, a Fellow of the RHSV, or by resolution of the Fellowship Committee or of a Member Society. They shall include the full name and address of the nominee and shall be supported by substantial details of the nominee's qualifications for the award.

5. Awards shall be made by Council which will not be required to give reasons for its decision. The awards will be announced at the Annual General Meeting of the RHSV and recorded in a suitable certificate signed by the President and the Director of the RHSV.

6. Not more than ten awards will be given annually.

7. In any year not more than one award shall be given to members of one Society.

8. In appropriate cases a single award can be given to more than one person, where the persons concerned have worked jointly.

## THE ARRIVAL OF THE *ENTERPRISE* - 30 AUGUST 1835

The Melbourne Foundation Day Committee celebrated the anniversary of the arrival from Launceston of the first permanent settlers in Melbourne in Fawkner's ship *Enterprise* on 30 August. Fawkner himself, held back by his creditors in Van Diemen's Land, had not come over and most of those who did soon returned to Launceston, but two families remained - George Evans, a builder, who had come to settle, soon imported sheep and became a squatter, first on the Maribyrnong River and from 1837 at Emu Bottom, and one of Fawkner's employees, James Gilbert, blacksmith. With him was his wife, Mary, who gave birth to the first baby in the settlement in December.

The celebration was sponsored by the ANZ Bank, descendant of the Bank of Australasia, the first bank to establish a branch in the settlement in 1838.

The Society's former President, Professor Shaw spoke briefly about the decision of Batman, Swanston, Gellibrand and Surveyor Wedge, to settle at Port Phillip as pastoralists and founded the Port Phillip Association to finance their project, and about the voyage of the *Enterprise*. He was followed by the Governor, Mr Richard McGarvie, who commented on the initiative of the pioneers, and Commodore Michael Parker, Chairman of the Melbourne Maritime Trust, who described the progress of the building of a replica of the ship and invited guests to view its 'skeleton'.

The Foundation Day Committee hopes that in co-operation with the Melbourne City Council, the landing may be celebrated regularly in future.

## LOCAL HISTORY FAIR BALLARAT

The Central Highlands Historical Association invites area residents and visitors to browse among displays of the local history societies plus many special features at the Army Barracks Drill Hall, Curtis Street, Ballarat, on Sunday 25 October from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Admission \$1; homemade refreshments available.

## EXHIBITION CONTINUES

Due to popular response to 'A Panorama of Melbourne through 150 Years', the exhibition will continue at the Royal Mint until 6 November. 10am - 4pm Mon - Fri.

## OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO FAMILY HISTORIANS

### EDUCATION RECORDS SEMINAR

The RHSV is holding an Education Records Seminar at the Royal Mint on Sunday, 15 November 1992.

#### PROGRAMME

- 10.00 - 10.30 Registration and morning tea
- 10.30 - 11.00 Keynote address (Dr Marjorie Theobald)
- 11.00 - 11.45 Archival Heritage records (Mark Paterson)
- 11.45 - 12.10 Ministry of Education records (Frances Freeman)
- 12.10 - 12.30 RHSV education records (Susan Priestley)
- 12.30 - 1.15 Lunch
- 1.15 - 1.55 "The Serendipity approach : teacher data base" (Cheryl Griffin)
- 1.55 - 2.30 "Doing research on the cheap : case study of teacher" (Lucille Andel)
- 2.30 - 3.00 Case study of a school (Joan Hunt)
- 3.00 - 3.20 Afternoon tea
- 3.20 - 4.00 Panel discussion, chaired by Professor Weston Bate.

Cost \$15 RHSV members, \$18 non-members. Basket lunch \$5, to be ordered by Tuesday, 10 November. Bookings RHSV, 670-1219.

## TASMANIAN EXCURSION - EXPLORING MELBOURNE'S TASMANIAN ORIGINS

There have been sufficient positive responses to ensure that the Tasmanian tour will proceed. Dates are Tuesday 23 to Friday 26 February 1993. We are now negotiating with airline, motels, etc., for best deal on basis of flexible arrangements to allow earlier arrival and/or remaining afterwards to do some touring in Tasmania, according to individual preferences. At this stage, cost to include airfares, accommodation, breakfasts, lunches, coach costs and admission charges where applicable. Morning and afternoon teas, dinners, and other extras will be at own cost.

Indications are that the overall cost will be something of \$500. Further enquiries to Rex Harcourt 489-8479.

## BUILDINGS AND HERITAGE

This is the theme for the annual History Conference of the Centre for Gippsland Studies, to be held at Strathfieldsaye via Stratford on Saturday 28 November. For details contact the Centre for Gippsland Studies, Monash University College Gippsland, Churchill 3842.

## WOORAYL SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Until 31 January 1993

From the Handknitters' Guild: "Bedjackets, Bootees and Balaclavas", a re-interpretation of the handknitting of the 1930s and 1940s, the golden age of knitting. Also a large room of memorabilia of "Wool in Woorayl". Mechanics Institute, Leongatha.

## PAST WEDDING FASHIONS

The Doncaster-Templestowe Historical Society is presenting a Cavalcade of Wedding gowns and other memorabilia of marriage 1880-1980 at "Schramms's Cottage", Victoria Street, Doncaster. It will be open on the Sundays 1, 8 and 15 November from 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.



ADDRESS TO CENTENARY COUNCIL MEETING - 14/9/1992. STEPHEN LEGG

Mr. Mayor, Councillors, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Tonight the City of Morwell celebrates its centenary of local government, and I have been asked to provide a brief historical sketch commemorating the occasion. Who were those first councillors? Why had the new municipality been formed? And what was life like in the Morwell Shire back in the 1890s?

Exactly one hundred years ago, at 10 a.m. on Wednesday 14 September 1892, the council of the Shire of Morwell held its inaugural meeting - in the little wooden Mechanic's Institute building (which the council rented for £20 per year) on the corner of Tarwin and George Streets. Outside the dusty roads were rutted by the passing wagon traffic, horses were tied to hitching rails beneath gas-lamp posts and young children amused themselves with tops and hoops. Their parents chatted excitedly about the importance of this new era of self-government. The men were bearded and moustachioed, three piece suits were fashionable, with the gold fob-watch as a symbol of social standing. The women wore long flowing dresses with voluminous petticoats, high-neck collars, broad-brimmed hats and buttoned boots. In the distance, the puffing and hissing of a locomotive sounded a stirring note of progress and prosperity on that fresh Spring morning, but the clang of the hammer on the anvil at Rintoull's forge gave reassurance that the ways of the past had not been forgotten.

The six councillors attending that first council meeting had been elected three weeks earlier from a field of eleven. Donald Shaw topped the poll and was later installed as Shire President. John English, William Murdoch, John Murphy, Edmund Kelleher and Michael Mulcare were the other successful candidates. The councillor's backgrounds were representative of the farming and business interests that were to dominate the council for most of the next century. Donald Shaw, Michael Mulcare and John Murphy were farmers; William Murdoch and Edmund Kelleher were publicans; and John English was an auctioneer, money-lender and farmer.

Councillors Murdoch, Kelleher and English had been involved in local government in Traralgon for many years and they brought considerable experience of administration and political affairs to the first Morwell council. In fact, they and their local compatriots (especially the grazier George Firmin and Morwell Advertiser editor Bert Turnley) had led the seven year struggle to gain severance from the Traralgon Shire which had controlled Morwell affairs since 1879. The call was for independence - the seat of municipal power in Traralgon was too far for the efficient management of its west riding, and too often the Traralgonites' interests seemed to conflict with the needs of



the Morwell district. The new Shire of Morwell was duly proclaimed on 27 May 1892.

Typical of the community leaders that followed over the next century, the first councillors all had a strong sense of civic duty, a deep loyalty to their local community, a pride in initiative and independence, and a faith in social and economic progress. Moreover, they actively encouraged local solutions to local problems. Characteristically, they were middle-aged, middle-class men - a situation not seriously challenged for the next eighty years. It would also be many years before the council was entirely Australian-born - for that first council comprised men from Ireland, England and Scotland. They were the leaders of a colonial society that traced its origins back 104 years to the shores of Botany Bay. European settlement in the Morwell district dated back to the mid-1840s, while the ancestors of our Koorie community came many thousands of years before that.

At that first council meeting, the Shire Secretary, John McCoull, recorded the effort to establish the administrative framework. The councillors were sworn in and the Shire President formally elected. The President's allowance was set at £20 per year. Staff positions to be advertised were the Secretary and Rate Collector at £125 per annum, Engineer and Valuer at £150; Health Officer £10, and Inspector of Nuisances and Slaughter Yards at £10. Mr. Rose was to be allowed to continue his gas lamp-lighting contract and the local constabulary was to be appointed dog-tax collectors at a cost of half the fees collected. The Colonial Bank of Morwell became the Shire's first bank; Messrs Bridges and Harvey the new solicitors, and £10 was set aside for advertising in the Morwell newspapers.

A special committee comprising Crs. Murphy, Mulcare and Murdoch was appointed to spend £50 where required on urgent works, and all councillors were granted a monthly sum of £1-0-0 'for any work or works of urgency that he may authorise to be done from time to time'. Possible accommodation for the Shire hall and offices was to be investigated, and the Mechanic's Institute venue for Council meetings was to be secured for the next twelve months. The inward correspondence included Joseph Walker's application to clear 10 chains on Middle Creek, H.A. Butters' request for a slaughtering licence, and a somewhat obscure offer from Frederic Durim to act as an analyst for the Shire at 27/6- per annum for every 100 of the population.

Had it been accepted, Durim would have received a tidy sum, for the Shire of Morwell in 1892 comprised almost 2,000 people. More than half of the Shire's population lived in urban settlements - with 600 in the town of Morwell, Darlimurla and Boolarra each with 220, while



Yinnar had 130. The other 40 per cent of the population lived on farms, especially centred around the hamlets of Hazelwood, Jeeralang and Jumbuk.

A few comparisons with today are instructive. In 1892 the population of Victoria was one quarter its present size, Australia one fifth, Melbourne one seventh, and the Shire of Morwell one fourteenth its 1992 figure. The Shire comprised three broad regions. To the north, the town of Morwell was a growing railhead serving the needs of grazing and dairying communities and with high hopes that the fledgling coal industry might someday achieve prominence. The town of Morwell was the economic, political and cultural centre of the region. In the fertile lower lands in the centre of the Shire, dairying and grazing predominated, especially around Hazelwood and Yinnar. Further south, the hill country around Boolarra, Darlimurla, Jumbuk and Jeeralang had been opened up for dairying, but most of their wealth at that time came from the timber industry. The timber was carried by train back up the Mirboo to Morwell rail line or by bullock wagon and then on to Melbourne via the main Gippsland railway. Only a year before, in 1891, the first butter factory in the district was built at Morwell, heralding the culmination of a dairy revolution that had commenced seven years earlier and that was to secure the future of farming in the Shire for most of the next century.

Ironically, those first councillors might not feel out of place if they had to deal with today's issues. In Morwell during the early 1890s, the Shire councillors urged greater municipal subsidies; they were keen to ensure that competition from the New South Wales and foreign coal industries would not curb local development, and they were hoping to raise additional funds for public works - principally on road formation, bridge building, and improved sanitation.

The early 1890s was a period of considerable political and economic ferment. The metropolitan newspapers of the time reveal the following: in 1892 the Victorian Parliament was being scandalised by insolvency and mismanagement; the collapse of the Mercantile Bank, despite the treasurer's assurances, had shaken public confidence; the foundations of colonial society were being rocked by moves to break away from Britain, even suggestions of a new flag; and the economy had been shattered by a devastating depression that inevitably followed the wild profligacy and greed of the 1880s. Colonial political debate focussed on the merits of free trade or protection of industries, decentralisation and the issue of how best to treat the unemployed. Economic decline and political disenchantment brought a revival in the search for moral improvement, while others found solace in sport. But to borrow an unfortunate modern phrase, perhaps the 1890s depression



was 'the recession they had to have', for after a major industrial restructuring the economy slowly began to recover.

During the century that followed, the Morwell community faced many hardships: the terrible bush fires of 1898, 1939 and 1944; the floods of 1934; the Great Depression of the 1930s and the recessions of the early 1950s, 1980s and 1990s; and the conflicts of the Boer War, the Great War, Second World War, Korea and Vietnam. Up in the hill country many hopeful settlers fought a losing battle against rising costs, falling prices and the spread of vermin and noxious weeds. Down on the flats, the encroachment of coal-winning and power-generation saw the removal of many communities - Yallourn, Hazelwood, Morwell Bridge and Herne's Oak, while more temporary settlements, like Derham's Hill and White City, soon closed despite the growth of strong affections for them. Even the recent action to assist the recovery of victims from the Church Street explosion illustrates the council's decisive role in the community response to natural disasters and Man-made problems.

Few municipalities in Australia have experienced such profound change this century. Rapid industrialisation and urbanisation challenged the very nature of the local economy and community. The growth of the great coal-winning and power-generating schemes at Yallourn, Morwell, Hazelwood and Loy Yang placed enormous strains on planning and the provision of local infrastructure. The paper-making industry at Maryvale and the Coal-to-Oil plant had similar impacts. Thousands of New Australians flocked to the municipality in search of jobs and homes. They found both, and contributed greatly to the community. Huge wealth flowed into the region and the council ensured that the standard of living was extremely high. The council effectively provided for great urban expansion within the confines of tight planning restrictions. The council also addressed the difficulties of farming communities caught between rationalisation and depopulation on the one hand, and more recently the spread of hobby farms controlled by strict Interim Development Orders.

The Shire provided a wide range of social services, including health inspection, immunization, specialist care for mothers, infants and the elderly, meals on wheels, cultural amenities, and sporting and recreation facilities. The supply and maintenance of local water supply and sewerage reticulation were particularly notable. The council formed the essential formal contact with the world beyond the Shire boundaries. It contributed much to the development of community identity and pride. It gave the various local interest groups vital access to the political process and in so doing ensured a more equitable distribution of power.



Clearly, at this time for reflection, it is important not to forget the individuals whose energy and devotion we are celebrating tonight. The task of listing a few names is an invidious one. It must include some of the many Shire officers who so ably assisted the council: such as John McCoull, T.L. Sinclair, F.A. Horsfall, Wally Mathison, Reg Lord, Ron Waters, R.J. Carruthers, Colonel John Connan and G.O. Ritchie.

The President of the Morwell Historical Society, Lou Bond, has kindly provided the names of a few people who have contributed more than most to the development of the Shire. In roughly geographical order, they are as follows: from the northern portion of the Shire - Henry Godridge, George Derham, James Alexander, and George Rae.

From Driffield we include Samuel Vary, George Auchterlonie, and the Amiet family;

From Yinnar - George Firmin, John Quigley, Joseph and Martin Walker, John O'Hara, John Silcock, and the Deppeler and Heesom families.

From up Boolarra and Budgerie way - Alan Hall, and the Roy, Lawless, Gleeson and Penaluna families.

From Hazelwood comes Donald Shaw, Robert Porter, D.J. White, John McInnes, Donald McMillan and George McFarlane.

Finally, the Morwell contingent includes William Tulloch, John Hall, John Rintoull, Bert Turnley, George Watson, Jack Lawless, Lew Vary, Percy Kelly, Norman Sharpe, Les Hare, Percy Evans, Drs. J.S. McLean and Hugh Mitchell, Jim Rutherford, the Green family, Mrs Butters, Mrs Frost-Samuels and Mrs. Vary. To that list I would certainly add the Bond family, and Lou in particular.

I am sure that as the Morwell City council enters its second century of public service, it can go forth with immense pride.

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#### DONATIONS

\*\* Our thanks go to members Nancy and Graham Gordon for their generous donation to cover the cost of framing the four "Rintoull Certificates" (a set of beautifully produced invitations to the opening of the first Federal Parliament received by Nancy's grandfather, John Rintoull.) The invitations were donated to our Society by another of John Rintoull's grand daughters, Mrs. Muriel Feehan. They have been attractively mounted and framed to ensure their preservation.

\*\* Our thanks also go to the Morwell Sacred Heart Centenary Committee for their donation of a copy of "Morwell's Sacred Heart". This is a book full of information, photographs and reminiscences which traces the growth of the church from its beginnings to the present day. It will be of interest not only to members of the Catholic community in Morwell but to anyone interested in the history of the district and we are delighted to add it to our library.



## ANN FERGUSON LINDSAY

Tribute given at the funeral service held in St. Andrew's Church, Traralgon, on Monday 21st September, 1992. (Abridged)

To begin this tribute I would like to welcome you all to the service here today and on behalf of the family to thank you all for coming to remember Mrs. Lindsay.

The brief account of Mrs. Lindsay's life which I am about to give has been prepared for us by Joan as a tribute to her mother.

Mrs. Lindsay was born in St. Arnaud on 19th February 1895. Her parents Findlay and Euphemia Macfarlane, were of sturdy Scottish pioneering stock. She was one of the younger ones of nine children in the family.

The family arrived in Jumbuk in 1901 to commence the arduous task of establishing a productive farm out of the virgin bush. The younger children including Ann were amongst the first children to attend the newly established Jumbuk school which was a strenuous four mile walk from home, up the hills and down the dales, through dense forest and scrub and in all kinds of weather which Gippslanders know so well.

A few years ago Mrs. Lindsay remarked that it was all the walking she had done in her youth which contributed to her well-being in later life. We think that Mrs. Lindsay was the last of those first students at the Jumbuk school to depart from our midst.

During the years of the first world war the girls toiled with their parents to keep the farm viable while their brothers fought overseas. After the war Mrs. Lindsay came to Traralgon West to work as a domestic servant to a lady who eventually became her mother-in-law.

She married her husband, George Lindsay, in 1921 and spent the rest of her life totally involved with her family of seven children, her grandchildren and her great grandchildren as well as caring for her widowed mother-in-law for 30 years or so.

Mr. and Mrs. Lindsay's first home overlooked Scrubby Lane. It is now gone and a pine plantation covers the place where it once stood. Their second home, purchased in 1944 from George Wade, was situated on Scrubby Lane. They lived in it for the rest of their married life. It too is now in the process of being demolished.

During the second world war Mrs. Lindsay was involved with the comforts fund and the Red Cross, always working quietly behind the scene.

She was also a loyal member of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Traralgon and worked in the Guild and took a keen interest in the PWMU which is the name of the Women's Missionary support group in the Presbyterian Church. Two of her sons, Bruce and Ian, were both involved in missionary work in New Guinea, which was something she was very proud of.

One of the highlights of Mrs. Lindsay's life was when, at nearly 80 years old, she travelled alone to Papua New Guinea to spend time with Bruce and Ian and their families. The Papuan people had never seen anyone so old and with such a fair complexion. They treated her like royalty, she was acknowledged as their friend and they were honoured to be accepted by her.

After her 90th birthday her health began to deteriorate and she moved to Omara House where she resided until October 1990, a period of five years, and we would like to say a big thank you to the staff for all the care and attention they gave Mrs. Lindsay over this long period of time.

Rev. D. Morey



## MULTUM IN PARVO.

Mr. McDonald, evangelist, delivered a very interesting lecture in the Wesleyan Church last night, on the wreck of the Fiji, when there was a very fair attendance. The lecturer gave some very interesting details of the terrible disaster, which occurred off Moonlight Head, June, 1891, and exhibited a piece of rope about 18 inches in length, being portion of the surf-line which saved the lives of 15 men.

The often adjourned annual meeting of the Traralgon Shire Council will take place on Wednesday next, Sept. 7th, when the auditors' report will be received, the special audit having been almost completed. The election of president for the ensuing year will also take place, Cr. McLean being the chosen man.

Last Friday was the latest date for receiving nominations of candidates for election as members of the Legislative Council. Nearly all the retiring members have been re-elected without opposition. Hon. Wm. Pearson had a walk-over for the Gippsland Province.

The Morwell Shire Council will hold their first meeting on Wednesday, 14th Sept. The business to be transacted will be election of president, and decision as to what officers will be essential to the working of the shire. As there will practically be no funds during the first twelve months, no important business can be transacted, and unless an overdraft is secured, shire works will have to remain at a standstill until the coming year's rates have been collected.

The Ven. Archdeacon Langley will preach at East Mirboo on Friday evening, at 7 p.m., Budgerec, at 11 o'clock on Sunday morning, and Yinnar at 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

The Boolarra Coal mine was offered for sale on Monday, under a writ of the Supreme Court. There was a good attendance at the mine, and Mr. Jas. Connor, the sheriff's officer, conducted the sale. Mr. J. S. Butters, M.L.C., bought the boilers, pump, ropes and trucks for £95, and other articles were purchased by other buyers for about £22. The right, title and interest were not offered, owing to the claims of the creditors being satisfied.

Several changes have recently taken place in the staff at the local railway station. Mr. J. Strangward, whose removal to Glenorchy we have already chronicled, has been succeeded by Mr. Lilloy, of the relieving staff, this being his first permanent appointment. Mr. J. Hanrahan has been removed to Cranbourne, and his place taken by Mr. Kavanagh, of Loch. Mr. C. Nelson has been promoted to the position of guard, and commences to act in that capacity to-day. His place will be filled by Mr. Voss, from Moe. The newcomers have already created a favorable impression, and bid fair to stand high in the public estimation. While wishing the departing officers every success in their new spheres of duty, we also extend a cordial welcome to the newcomers.

At the Moe Police Court on Thursday, before Mr. Bell, P.M., Constable Chandler proceeded against James Smith, of Trafalgar, for being drunk and disorderly on the 6th inst., and against James Mandron for making use of obscene language at Trafalgar on the 7th inst. Neither of the defendants appeared. Smith was fined 10s. or 24 hours, and Mandron, whose offence was very bad, £5 or one month. Warrants were at once issued for the arrest of the culprits.

FROM MORWELL & MIRBOO GAZETTE

1<sup>st</sup> September 1892

We have been requested to draw attention to the church notices, where it will be seen that the Venerable Archdeacon Langley will conduct service at St. Luke's Church, Morwell Bridge, this evening at 6. 0; and at St. Mary's Church, Morwell, on Sunday evening next, at 7 o'clock.

The marriage of Mr. Thos. Vanston, of Melbourne, with Miss Cooper, eldest daughter of Mr. S. Cooper, manager of the Morwell Pottery, is announced to take place to-day. The Ven. Archdeacon Langley will perform the ceremony.

Owners of valuable dogs who have occasion to visit Morwell had better leave their canine pets at home for the future, if they place any value upon their lives, otherwise they might find themselves minus the quadruped on the return journey. Last Tuesday Mr. Wm. Bryson had a valuable cattle dog poisoned, the dose having evidently been received in the main thoroughfare. Fortunately, however, the quantity of strychnine administered was too large, and after suffering severely the poor brute recovered, much to the delight of its owner.

During the week evangelistic services have been conducted in the local Wesleyan Church, by Mr. Macdonald, an earnest and enthusiastic evangelist. The attendance was not so good as might be desired, but it is nevertheless believed that good results will follow Mr. Macdonald's mission.

In another column will be found the syllabus for the ensuing six months, of the Morwell branch of the Australian Natives' Association. The branch has been inaugurated most auspiciously, and promises exceedingly well for the future, and under the guidance and control of Mr. Robt. Robinson, the able president, we have no doubt but that a profitable half-year's work will result.

A committee meeting of the Morwell Mechanics' Institute was held on Tuesday evening, Mr. Tulloch in the chair. There were present Messrs. Tulloch, Harris, Boake and Turaloy. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed, but owing to the absence of the secretary business could not be gone on with, and the meeting adjourned indefinitely.

Amongst the victories scored by Gippslanders at the Royal Agricultural Show, held in Melbourne last week, is that of Mr. J. H. Matthews, of Hazelwood, who secured first prize for pair of buggy horses with his beautifully matched pair of browns, Dante and Daisy, and afterwards disposed of them for 100 guineas. Dante and Daisy, full sisters, are five and four off respectively, and were bred by Mr. Matthews, the sire being Mr. G. G. Auchterlonie's Andante, and the dam a half-bred mare, Blossom. Dante has already established a reputation throughout this district as a trotting mare, and has annexed three first prizes for her performances. We heartily congratulate Mr. Matthews on the success of his first exhibit at the Royal Show, and hope that he will enjoy a repetition of good fortune when next he enters the lists.

## Temperance Meeting.

On Tuesday evening last a public meeting of the Morwell Total Abstinence Society was held in the Mechanics' Institute. The attendance was large and the programme good. Mr. Hamilton occupied the chair. The programme was opened with an anthem by the choir after which the chairman apologised for the absence of the president (Mr. R. Robinson) who, in consequence of Mrs. Robinson's illness, was unavoidably detained. He then called upon the Rev. Mr. Dowling, of Moe, for an address.

Mr. Dowling said it afforded him pleasure to say something with regard to the drink question. There was an old saying "Every dog has its day" and he supposed "every day had its dog." He thought the drink traffic had had its day. When he started from Moe he was told Morwell was eight miles away; when he had ridden about that distance he asked how far it was from there, he was told it was six miles; some time after, when he expected to see some spires and chimney tops of the town, he again asked how far it was, this time he was told it was two miles, he however found it was about one and a half miles. Now, said Mr. Dowling, the question had been asked "How far is it to the city of prohibition?" Some say it is not far off; the publicans say it is miles away in the future; others thought that the prohibition advocates were making no headway towards the city, but were like the sailor with a wooden leg, who, travelling late one night got stuck in some mud with his wooden leg and he kept turning round with his good leg imagining that he was going home, he eventually found out that he still remained in the same place. However, he (Mr. Dowling) thought they were getting near the "city of prohibition" (Hear! hear!) The drink traffic has had its day and is getting unpopular, and when a thing gets unpopular it will soon go down. In the past it was thought nothing to see a man rolling down the street drunk, and then in high positions. Such is not the case now, they would now be despised or pitied.



## MORWELL SHIRE COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, 14TH SEPTEMBER.

The first meeting of the Morwell Shire Council took place in the Mechanics' Institute on Wednesday last, all the councillors being present.

The returning officer officially announced the result of the election, and was then appointed to the chair to conduct the preliminary business.

Cr. English moved that the allowance to the President be £30.

Cr. Kelleher was of opinion that as they had no money there should be no allowance.

Cr. English did not see how a President could get through on less than the amount stated.

(At this stage Mr. McCoull was appointed Secretary *pro tem*.)

At the suggestion of other councillors however, Cr. English altered his motion to £20, and this being put to the meeting was carried by a majority.

Cr. Kelleher moved and Cr. Mulcare seconded—"That Cr. Shaw be elected President.

Cr. Kelleher in moving the motion spoke in praise of Cr. Shaw, saying he would doubtless make an able President, and with the assistance of councillors carry on the business of the shire with credit.

Cr. English had much pleasure in supporting the motion. The first night he came to Gippsland he had slept under Cr. Shaw's roof. He believed he (Cr. Shaw) was the only candidate for whom in the recent election all the other candidates worked. That gentleman was also one of the committee who drafted the petition for separation from the Rosedale Shire. He had always been to the front in everything that pertained to the welfare of the shire.

Cr. Murdoch supported the motion as one who had known Cr. Shaw for thirty years, and was pleased to know he was about to be their President.

Cr. Murphy also supported the motion, he had known Cr. Shaw sufficiently long to believe that that gentleman would, while in the chair, prove an honor to councillors and the ratepayers generally.

The motion was then carried unanimously.

Cr. Shaw on occupying the chair said they should excuse him for feeling rather upset, as when he commenced the campaign he had no idea he would head the poll or be elected President. He sincerely thanked them for the honor and promised to endeavor to conduct the business lawfully and with credit to the council and himself. He believed that Morwell would yet become the model shire of Gippsland. Although not much of a speaker he would try to fulfil his position lawfully and with credit.

Cr. Mulcare was pleased to be able to congratulate their President on the honorable position in which he had been placed, and trusted that the term of office would be a pleasant one. He, for one, and he believed all the other councillors would endeavor to assist their President in the discharge of his duties.

Cr. English thought there should be a secretary and rate collector and a valuator and engineer.

Cr. Murdoch thought if they got a secretary alone they could give a little more to get an engineer, which they could not do if they did not put some of the offices together. A secretary could be easily got, but not so an engineer, for the money.

Cr. Mulcare thought if they had a secretary and rate-collector it would be better. They could then have a road overseer and valuator..

Cr. Murphy pointed out that the principal part of rate-collecting was office duties, and should be done by the secretary.

It was ultimately resolved, on the motion of Cr. English, seconded by Cr. Murphy, "That a secretary and rate-collector be advertised for the Shire at a salary of £125 per annum; to be advertised in the local papers only."

Mulcare, Murphy—"That Mr. Rose continue to light the lamps at Yinnar up to the end of his contract."

English, Mulcare—"That applications for an engineer and clerk of works authorised by the Act, be invited also to act as valuator, salary £150 per annum, also to collect statistics, to be advertised in the *Argus* and *Age*."

Murdoch, English—"That the funds of the shire be banked in the Colonial bank and that the manager act as treasurer."

Murdoch, English—"That applications be invited for a Health officer for the Shire of Morwell at a salary of £10 per annum."

English, Mulcare—"That a committee consisting of Messrs. Murphy, Mulcare and Murdoch be appointed to spend £50 where required on urgent works."

Murphy, Murdoch—"That Constable Johnson be appointed Inspector of nuisances and slaughter yards, at a salary of £10 per annum."

English, Murdoch—"That persons having suitable premises for the shire hall and offices be invited to offer same, detailing accommodation and amount of rent required for a term of one year, with the option of three years."

Mulcare, Kelleher—"That the secretary *pro tem* procure books and stationery, also a safe and seal for the council."

English, Murphy—"That Constables Johnson and Noonan be appointed dog tax collectors, the remuneration to be half the fees collected."

Murdoch, English—"That an arrangement be made with the Colonial bank of Morwell for an overdraft."

English, Murphy—"That the next meeting of the council be held on the 29th inst. and afterwards on the fourth Thursday of every month."

The council then adjourned.

### PRESIDENTIAL DINNER.

The business of the meeting having been concluded, an adjournment was made to Davey's Hotel, when the Presidential dinner was held. Mrs. Davey had prepared at short notice a most

FROM MORWELL & MURBOO GAZETTE

14<sup>th</sup> September 1892

### DAIRYMEN & FRUIT GROWERS' ASSOCIATION.

At Davey's hotel, on Tuesday afternoon, a meeting of the above association was held, Mr. L. Wuttrick in the chair. Very little business was transacted. Mr. Wolfe was elected a member of the Association. A brief discussion ensued on the subject of the Dairymen's Association of Victoria, several of those present taking exception to the large numbers of dealers who were connected with it, and thought its members should be only producers. Finally Mr. Marshall gave the following notice of motion for next meeting: "That the Morwell Association withdraw from the Dairymen's Association of Victoria on the ground that it admits to membership other than dairymen." Two tins of fruit canned by Mr. Speith were laid on the table to be sampled by the members present. When they had done so a vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Speith, and the opinion expressed that they were splendid samples of preserved fruits. The meeting then adjourned.

### FACTORY AND CREAMERY NOTES.

(FROM VARIOUS SOURCES.)

The Hazelwood Creamery in connection with the F. F. and F. S. Company will start operations shortly, the building being erected and machinery on the ground. It is estimated that a large quantity of milk will be put through.

The Budgerees Creamery intend to start the season in a few weeks. Their last season closed with very satisfactory results. The road leading to the Creamery is in a bad state, but they are in anticipation of a small sum being expended on this road by the new shire.