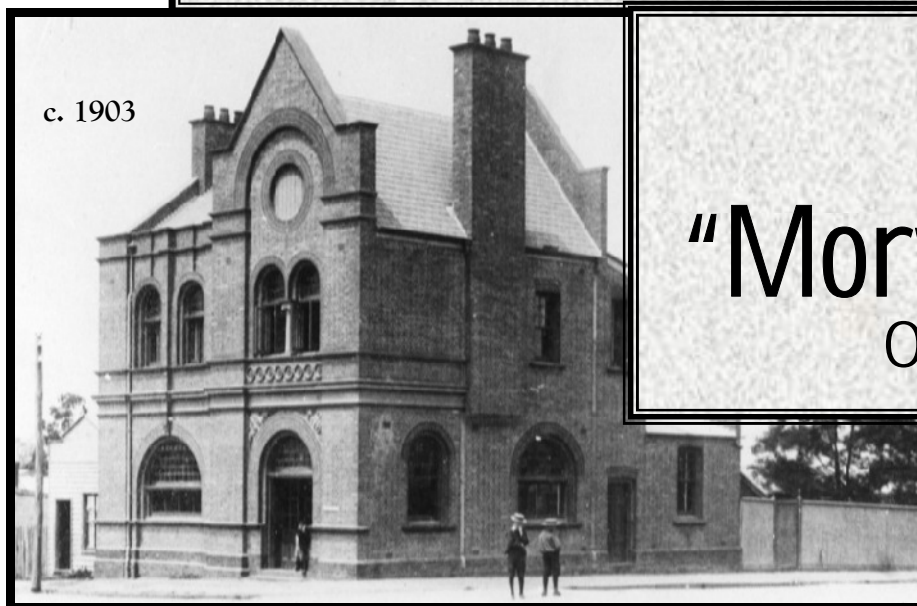


Morwell Historical Society Inc.

www.morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au



c. 1903

The "Morwell Post" October 2008

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Proudly supported by Latrobe City Council

2008... our 25th Birthday!!!

Our last three meetings, held in the afternoon instead of the evening, have been successful, with slightly increased attendance.

We were saddened by the recent passing of two well-known and respected Morwell citizens.

Graham Gordon, a foundation member of Morwell Historical Society, came to Morwell as a young man in the 1940s, married local girl **Nancy Rintoull**, and managed the Rintoull Hardware business for five years. He then entered partnership with accountant Wally Baker and the business - Baker and Gordon - recently celebrated its 50th anniversary.

Graham was a member of Morwell Apex and Rotary Clubs, director of the Gippsland Region of Bendigo Bank, an active member of the Morwell Presbyterian Church and a member of the General Assembly of Presbyterian Churches in Victoria, to name just a few of his areas of community involvement.

"The Post"

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Graham and Nancy have been staunch supporters of our Society since its commencement and we will miss him greatly.

Elsie McMaster

Vale

Another sad loss was that of **Dennis Quinn** who, although not a member of our Society, held a great interest in local history and was often of help in the Society's activities. Dennis came to Morwell in the early 1950s as manager of the local Transport Regulation Board and was responsible for setting up a viable bus service in the Latrobe Valley.

Morwell at this time was growing fast and there was little entertainment for young people, so Dennis, encouraged by priests of the Sacred Heart Parish, set about promoting a junior football league. He was also very involved with senior football and coached the Morwell seniors to premiership wins in 1952 and 1953 and his support of local football, as well as his involvement in a number of other local organizations never wavered. He too will be sadly missed.

Elsie McMaster

Moves are afoot to relocate the Bills horse trough, formerly situated on the median strip of Hazelwood Road, near Commercial Road - (near the former toilet block) - and moved some years ago to the Morwell Pony Club's grounds when the intersection was altered.

As the Pony Club has no further use for it, we are hoping to have it relocated to Morwell's CBD as a memorial to the pioneers and the horses which were so important in their lives. George and Annis Bills were animal lovers, who, in the 1930s made money available to local Councils for concrete horse troughs, to cater for horses ridden or driven into town by the farmers. These Bills troughs are now highly regarded heritage items.

Advance Morwell and Morwell Rotary Club have offered support and we now await Council's permission for the move.

Elsie McMaster



Alexandra Park - 1904

Alexandra Park was located on the narrow strip of land between the railway line and Commercial Road (approximately opposite Commercial Road Primary School).

It was named after a member of the Royal Family.

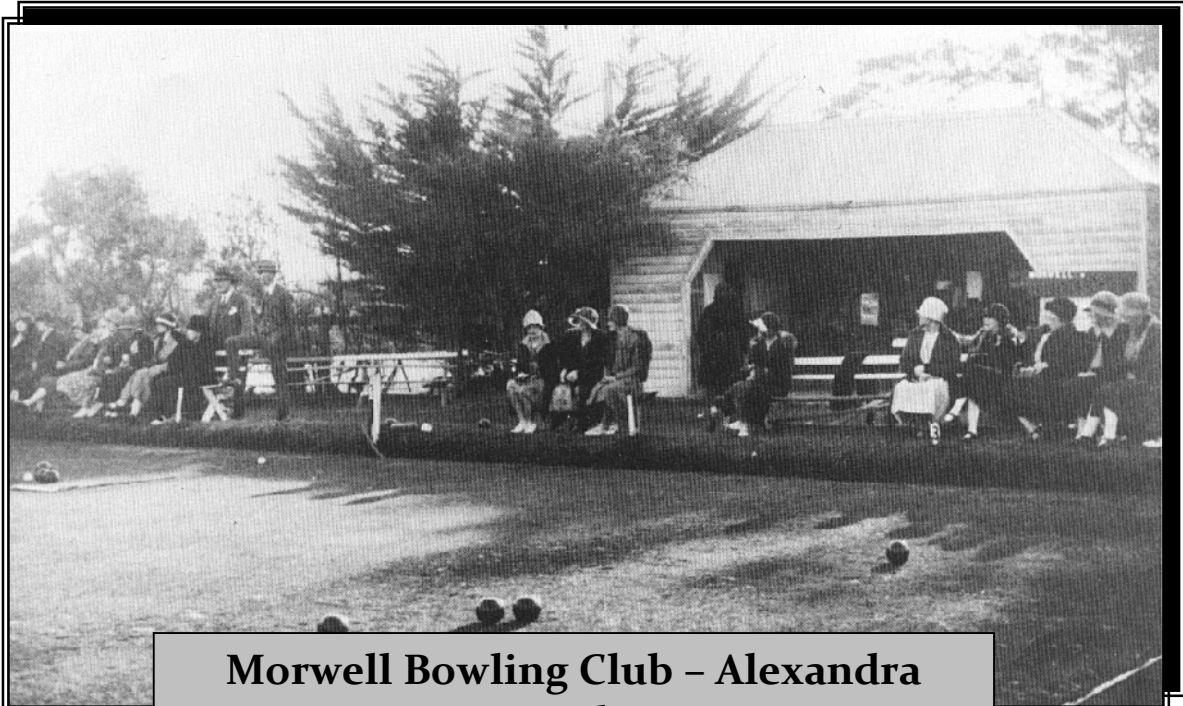
It was officially opened in August 1904 by the Morwell Shire President Cr. O'Grady.

The occasion was marked by the planting of a tree ("Wellingtonia Gigantea" - the giant tree of California).

The second tree - an English oak - was planted by Captain Hall to perpetuate the memory of the three soldiers - Sgt. McDonald, and Privates Thos. Rose, and Geo. Bolding - who went from this district, and died at the front in South Africa, during the Boer war.

The Morwell Bowling Club was established at Alexandra Park in 1913.

Morwell swimming pool opened in Alexandra Park in 1925.



Morwell Bowling Club - Alexandra Park

Morwell Advertiser and Gazette

12th. January 1917

Soldier's Letter



The following interesting abstracts are taken from a letter written on Nov. 10th 1916, by Private **George McFarlane**, who is in camp in England, to his parents, Mr and Mrs **G. McFarlane**, of North Hazelwood:

I am doing well here, getting very fat, too, weigh over 14 stone now. The rain here gets a bit tiresome at times, especially when we are to go and drill, but we generally parade in huts when it is very wet. We got inspected by the General this morning and passed with credit. On Monday we are to have some divisional drill which means some tiresome work for us.

I am sorry to hear that conscription is practically beaten in Australia. Half, or more than half of the people in Australia don't really know the extent of this war. Australia is too far away, or the people in it too dense and conservative to understand what they are up against. Now England is mobilised to her fullest extent that is normally, not to straining point. Here in England they know what every man and practically every woman is doing, and what their trade is.

On the railways, in the mines, in fact in any work that the Government has control of every man has to sign on for the duration of the war; they are under military law to stop strikes and disturbances. No man can get a job at anything unless he can show his reject badge or his discharge sheet. Of course there are a lot of slackers, but the military tribunal is thinning them out.

The women here showed great spirit in coming forward as they have done. The first woman that volunteered to drive a motor bus was the laughing stock of London, but now there are thousands of busses with women drivers or ticket punchers.

I was yarning to one the last time I was in London. She has 4 brothers and a husband at the war and she has 4 children to support. Of course all the women workers get the same wages as the men. In one of the biggest munitions factories in England (Gretna Green) there are 2500 women workers alone.

The effect of the gases in the high explosives causes drunkenness, and also very ill-health. They go as yellow as Chinamen, and get very thin, too. One of the managers told one of our lads that the work was too much for most of the girls; but they are hanging on doing their bit to win the war, while the people in Australia are wrangling about who is to go and fight. If the people of Australia were dumped into England it would open their eyes to some considerable order; they wouldn't want any referenda then to decide what to do.

In the Royal Flying Corps they have women driving the motor cars; they are dressed in khaki and take great pride in their work. Milkman, postman, motor drivers, farm laborers and banking officials are the principal jobs the women take on. I have seen them in all kinds of uniforms, even in blues; heaps of them dressed like men. The women police do great work here keeping the parks clear and so on. I think that if the people in Australia knew to what extent Great Britain is up against, they would be the same as what the people are here, especially the women.

I reckon the young men ought to come along and do their bit, so as to get this war over and let these hundreds of girls off their dangerous work. The longer the war lasts the worse it is for all of us.

They say that Australia has done enough; but no! no country can do enough until we win. Certainly it is a big strain, but we all have to put up with it as it will hurt us more if we get beaten. Home, country and things that are dearest to us will be gone forever then.

Photo. "Duty Nobly Done"



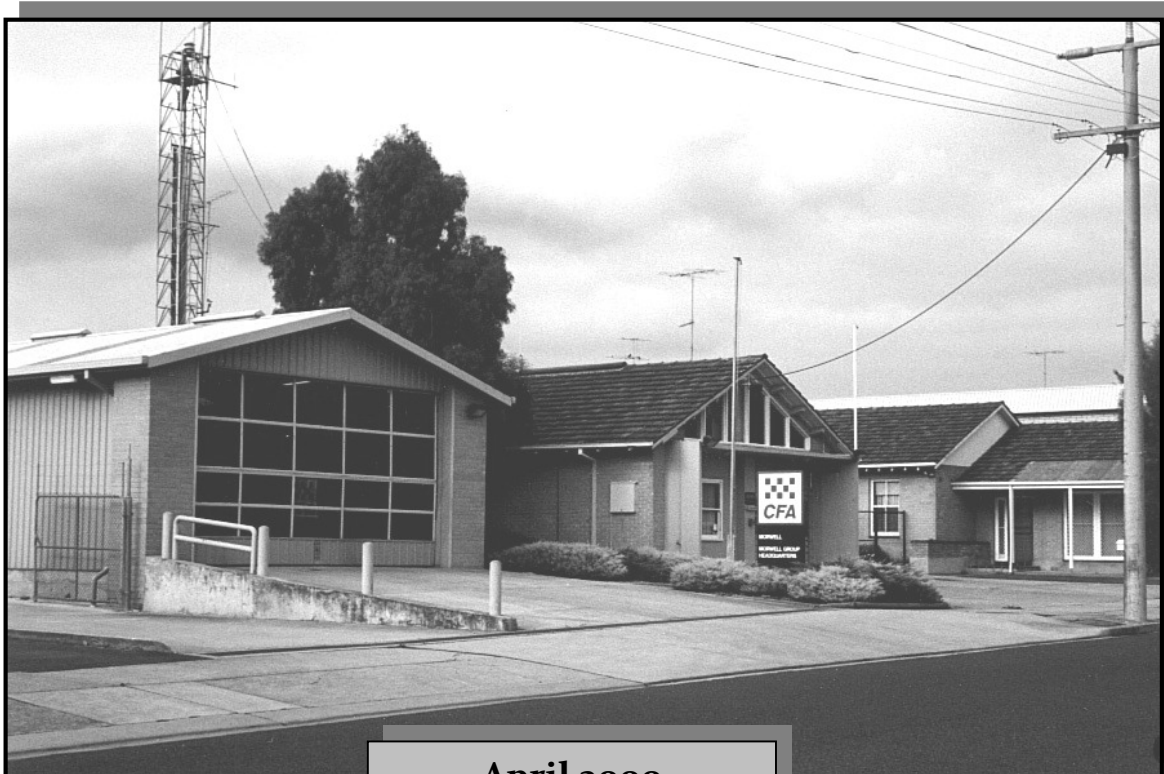
**Private George
McFarlane**

Ex. Fire Station – Church Street

On 2nd October contractors began the demolition of the old fire station buildings in Church Street. The C.F.A. site and the Del Spana Motel complex next door are being cleared to make way for the construction of a new home for 'Latrobe Community Health.'



Mid 1950's



April 2000

Morwell Advertiser

23rd July 1953

C.F.A. Chairman Opens Morwell's New Fire Station

IN his first official action following his appointment as Chairman of the Country Fire Authority the previous week, Cr. **J. R. C. Plante**, of Lilydale, opened Morwell's new £18,000 fire station at an official dinner conducted in the building on Friday night. The station, the first major construction of the Authority since 1940, was described as the most modern in Victoria.

Cr. Plante handed the keys of the building to Morwell shire president, Cr. **A. Hall**, who in turn handed them to the captain of the Morwell Fire Brigade, Mr. **Bert Lester**. The pair of scissors with which Cr. Plante cut the ribbon across the door were presented to him by Captain Lester.

Fireman **H. Huguenin** acted as chairman of the proceedings.

Cr. Plante said that since 1940, financial restrictions and the necessity of concentrating on home construction had prevented the Authority from carrying out its planned programme, but with the growth of the Latrobe Valley and the increase in population, the Authority realised its responsibilities in the area and decided to erect a station in the Latrobe Valley.

Centre of Valley

Morwell, he said, was the obvious centre of the Valley and that town was selected as the site for the new station. When it was realised that there were 196 urban and 99 rural brigades Morwell should appreciate the honor conferred upon it.

He complimented Sir **Herbert Hyland**, M.L.A., on his efforts to assist the Authority, and said that Sir Herbert was the Minister who drew up the Act that combined the rural and urban authorities.

Volunteers

He said that it was realised that a station such as the one at Morwell should be fully manned, but there was no intention to depart from the voluntary aspect with the exception of one or two permanent men. He commented that it was of interest that the bricks in the building were made in the Latrobe Valley.

Appeal to Shire

He pointed out that while shire councils were not more called upon to contribute direct to the Authority, nevertheless, he suggested that the station was an asset to the town of Morwell and he hoped that the Morwell Council would play its part by constructing good roads in the vicinity of the station, by keeping traffic away from fire hydrants and plugs and developing all services.

The Authority, he said, had an extensive plan ahead for rebuilding and the provision of equipment and £300,000 had been approved in this year's estimates.

Pride

Shire president, Cr. A. Hall, said that the Morwell Shire Council had always looked upon the local fire brigade with a great deal of pride and had done its utmost to assist the brigade in its work at all times.

The Council had already taken steps towards the construction of the streets. Fire hydrants and plugs were the subjects of a special investigation at the moment, and the Council would do its utmost.

Proposing the toast of the "Shire Council and the Waterworks Trust", Fireman **G. Evans** said that the members of both these bodies worked in a similar voluntary capacity to the brigade. He had been a member of the brigade for 18 years, and at all times Council and the Trust had been sympathetic and had done all in their power to assist.

Efficient

He felt that the Brigade had a water service as efficient as could be found anywhere in the State.

Responding, Cr. Hall repeated his assurance that Council would assist the Brigade at all times. Chairman of the Trust, Cr. **V. Hourigan**, said that at the present time the Trust had a £15,000 scheme that would ensure a 4 in. fire fighting service to all parts of the Morwell township.

Proposing the toast of the “Country Fire Authority”, Captain B. Lester, of the Morwell Fire Brigade, congratulated the Authority on its progress over the years, and said that this had been even more marked since the amalgamation of the administration of the Rural and Urban Brigades.

Captain **Harley Brown**, of Golden Square, Urban Fire Brigades’ representative on the C.F.A., in response, said that although the Morwell station was the first constructed for ten years, the Authority had plans for the building of ten new stations in Victoria, and it was hoped that the majority of these would be completed within the next twelve months.

Live Body

Proposing the toast of the “Eastern Fire Brigades’ Association” the secretary of the Country Fire Authority, Mr. **G. G. Sinclair**, said that the Association was a live and virile body, and most of the sensible ideas came from it. It was one of the oldest of all associations and one of the first to commence activities after the war years.

One of its brigades, Moe, shared the aggregate at the last Ballarat demonstration. The secretary of the Urban Fire Brigades Association, Captain **H. Barnes**, responded.

Proposing the toast of the “Morwell Fire Brigade”, Deputy Chief Officer **P. Gray**, after outlining its history, stressed the responsibility now upon the shoulders of Captain Lester, whose task it would be to train men to man the station. He said that the fact that Morwell had been selected as the site for the first new station in ten years showed that the Authority had confidence in the Morwell brigade.

In response, Captain Lester said that his idea was that the brigade should at first fulfil its service duties, but promised that the brigade would be seeking championship honors on the track in earnest. One difficulty was that the brigade had to train for competition work on the Traralgon track, but the Council was remedying that at the moment.

Lieutenant **Ed. Rayner**, of the Morwell Brigade, proposed the toast of the “Visitors”, and said that, unfortunately, lack of space in the hall had prevented the Brigade from inviting all whom it had wished.

President of the Urban Fire Brigades’ Association, Captain **T. Edwards** and Moe Brigade Secretary, **J. Tabuteau**, responded.

Moe’s Congratulations

Mr. Tabuteau congratulated Morwell on its new building and said that, while Morwell might be the hub of the Latrobe Valley, Moe was an excellent spoke in the wheel.

He said that Moe hoped soon to have a new station.

Ex - captain **R. Watson** proposed the toast of the "Press and Artists" and pointed out that Cr. **A. L. Hare** was the only member of the original Morwell Brigade at present in the township.

Responses were made by Messrs **J. Bourke**, **John Edwards** and **W. Handley**.

Artists to entertain at the function were **Will Handley**, **Vin. Thomas** and **Jack Atkinson**.

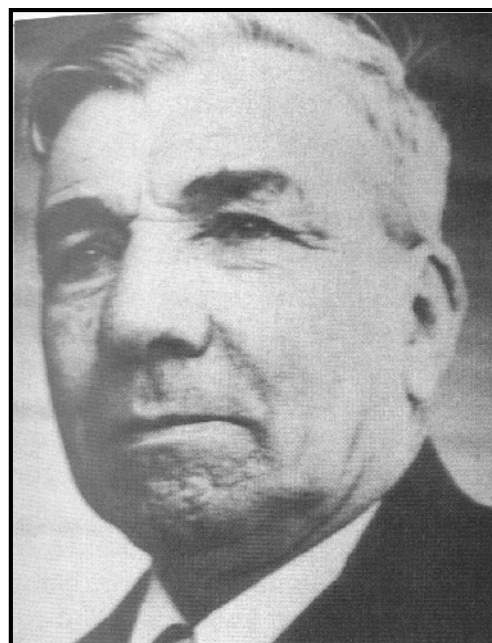
At a following social, Sir Herbert Hyland, M.L.A., again expressed confidence in the future of the Latrobe Valley. He said that the need for new fire stations for towns in the Latrobe Valley had been realised, and Morwell, had been fortunate that it had been selected by the Authority.

He was certain that the needs of Moe and Traralgon would be met in the near future.

On Tuesday afternoon and evening, the New Fire Station siren was tested thoroughly. In future, when the siren is sounded, it will mean the call to a fire.



Cr. Alan Hall



Cr. Les Hare

THE LAWLESS BROTHERS- (Rob de Souza-Daw)

Martin and Thomas

1838-1907 1840-1892

In 1841, six Lawless brothers emigrated from County Kilkenny, Ireland and disembarked at Portland. They were Patrick, Nicholas, William, Martin, Thomas and Richard Lawless. Nicholas and his wife Mary Walsh had four children, namely Mary, Patrick, Martin and Thomas. Mary died at Batesford near Geelong in December 1854 and is buried in the Geelong East Cemetery. An inquest held that *intemperance* was the cause of her death, in July 1855, Nicholas re-married to Elizabeth Brennan and this marriage produced another six children.

Martin Lawless, the son of Nicholas with his sister Mary emigrated to Victoria on 19th January 1849 and were met on disembarkation by their father Nicholas. Around 1858, this Lawless family moved from Batesford to the Gordon district where they farmed.

On 29 January 1868 at Ballarat, Martin Lawless married Julia Brennan (also known as Johanna Brennan). Julia Brennan and Elizabeth Brennan were sisters, so this resulted in the two sisters marrying a father and son. Consequently Elizabeth Brennan was Martin Lawless' step—mother and sister-in-law! Julia Lawless died 19 April 1885 following complications of a stillborn child and both are buried in the Gordon Cemetery.

The map of the Parish of Kerrit Bareet which incorporates Wallace and Gordon shows that the Lawless family was the first to hold freehold title to several crown allotments in the parish. Six of these allotments were granted to *M Lawless* but not necessarily the one Martin Lawless. The Lawless family of the Gordon district probably held other freehold or leasehold allotments at different times.

In 1876 Martin Lawless' brother, Thomas married Catherine Scanlon and they moved to Budgeree where Thomas selected land. The map of the Parish of Budgeree reveals that the sons of Thomas Lawless had or were the first to obtain freehold titles to crown allotments 21A, 21B, 34B and 21 of C. This marriage produced seven children. Their third son, James Richard Lawless married Anne Browne, and Tom Lawless of Hazelwood South and Frank Lawless of Driffield are two of their sons. James Lawless, after returning from World War I became a soldier settler on the Hazelwood Estate. He obtained a conditional purchase lease for Lot 44, effective from 1 June 1922.

On 18 February 1888, Martin Lawless of Wallace auctioned his allotments 41 and 41A, Parish of Kerrit Bareet totalling 23 acres. It is likely his brother Thomas was instrumental in having his brother moved to the Latrobe Valley. On 5 November 1888, Martin Lawless of Morwell applied for a Grazing Licence for allotment J, Parish of Traralgon. This allotment was on the eastern side of Bennetts Creek but he gave his postal address as Morwell.

In 1889 Martin Lawless acquired additional land from the adjoining property and in 1890 was granted an amalgamation lease for 157 acres, crown allotment 20A. In 1893 he gave his address as Darlimurla near Mirboo North and in the same year, the lease was transferred to his son Patrick. In 1911, Patrick sold the lease to George Jones of Hazelwood.

On 29 June 1891, Michael Lawless, farmer of Wallace obtained freehold title to crown allotment 1 of B, Parish of Jeeralang. He transferred this title in 1899. I am unsure of the relationship between Michael and Martin Lawless. Martin Lawless of Morwell died on 12 October 1907 at Sale but was buried at the Gordon Cemetery. Thomas Lawless died in 1892, the year after his wife Catherine Scanlon and both are buried in the Hazelwood Cemetery. Subsequent generations of the Lawless family are also interred at Hazelwood. In 1990 (or 91) when Tom Lawless of Hazelwood South, grandson of Thomas Lawless the pioneer of Budgeree was a councillor for the City of Morwell, he instituted the naming of Lawless Road, Churchill. At the time, he was unaware that Martin Lawless was his, that is, Tom's grandfather's brother.

November Meeting:

Wednesday

19th November at 2.30 p.m.

44 Buckley St. (next to T.A.B.)



Morwell Historical Society
Inc.

Annual Subscription Rates:

Single: \$17.00

Family/Double: \$20.00



Local History On-Line

Our Internet Address is:

www.morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au



Bramley, W. J.

Who's Who:

William J. Bramley:

Minister: St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

Morwell.

1968-1979