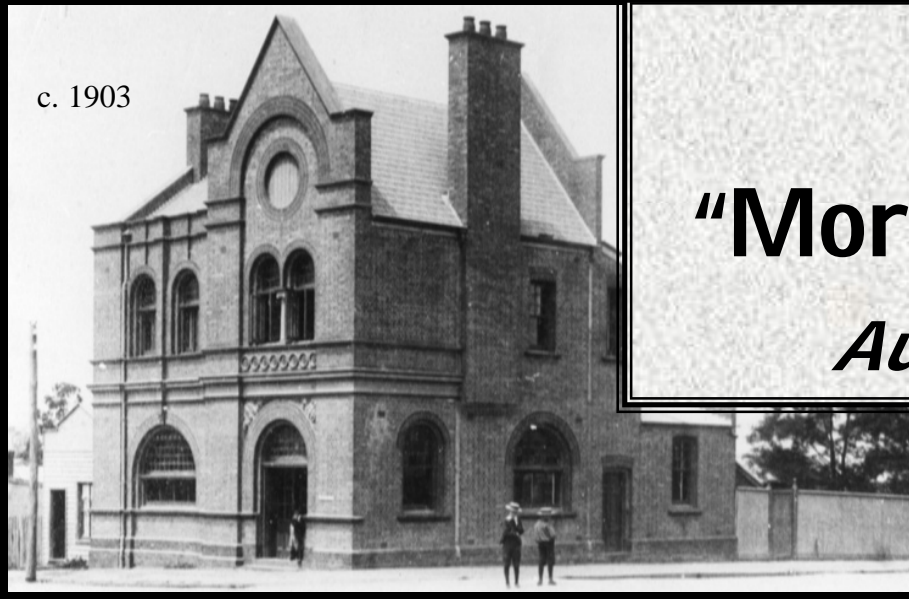


Morwell Historical Society Inc.

www.morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au

c. 1903



The "Morwell Post"

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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



St. Phillip's On the Hill (Morwell East)

In this issue of "The Post":

Gippsland Times (1878) page 2
St. Phillip's Morwell East page 3
Gippsland Times (1885) page 4
It happened in July page 6

It happened in August page 8
Private Pettit (1900) page 9
The Changing Face of Morwell page 11
Information Page page 12

Gippsland Times

Friday 11th October 1878 (Page 3)

MORWELL

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT)

Morwell is to be one of the most prosperous towns on the line of railway between Sale and Melbourne. That is, it would appear so from the confidence people seem to have in it. Not a day but there are some new arrivals, either selectors or intending purchasers. This tends to give the place quite a lively appearance. Several of the land lots have changed hands since the sale; it is to be hoped for the better for all parties. Mr **Green** of Rosedale is erecting a building for drapery business.

The road to the Tarwin is much improved by the dry weather of last week, but I fear this morning's rain will make it bad again. The contract for the clearing of the road from the Ridge to the township is not progressing favourably.

Where are our Severance committee? Or what are they doing? I hope they will not fail to accomplish what they have taken in hand.

I wish someone would agitate for the erection of a new school. The department say they have no funds available for that purpose; really the present school accommodation is something disgraceful. I am surprised that the present teacher has remained so long in it. *Miss M' Coorg, who has been the teacher here for the last twelve months, has, I am sure, experienced great inconvenience for want of proper accommodation, and she deserves great credit for the manner in which she has conducted the school throughout. It is a pity either the department or the inhabitants do not provide her with a better building.

* I am assuming that the correspondent for the Gippsland Times is referring to Miss **McCrorry** at the Maryvale Ridge School which operated from 1877 until 31st May 1879. (S.H.)

Zenna Rintoull (nee McCrorry)
1860-1901



St. Philip's on the Hill (Anglican) Morwell East

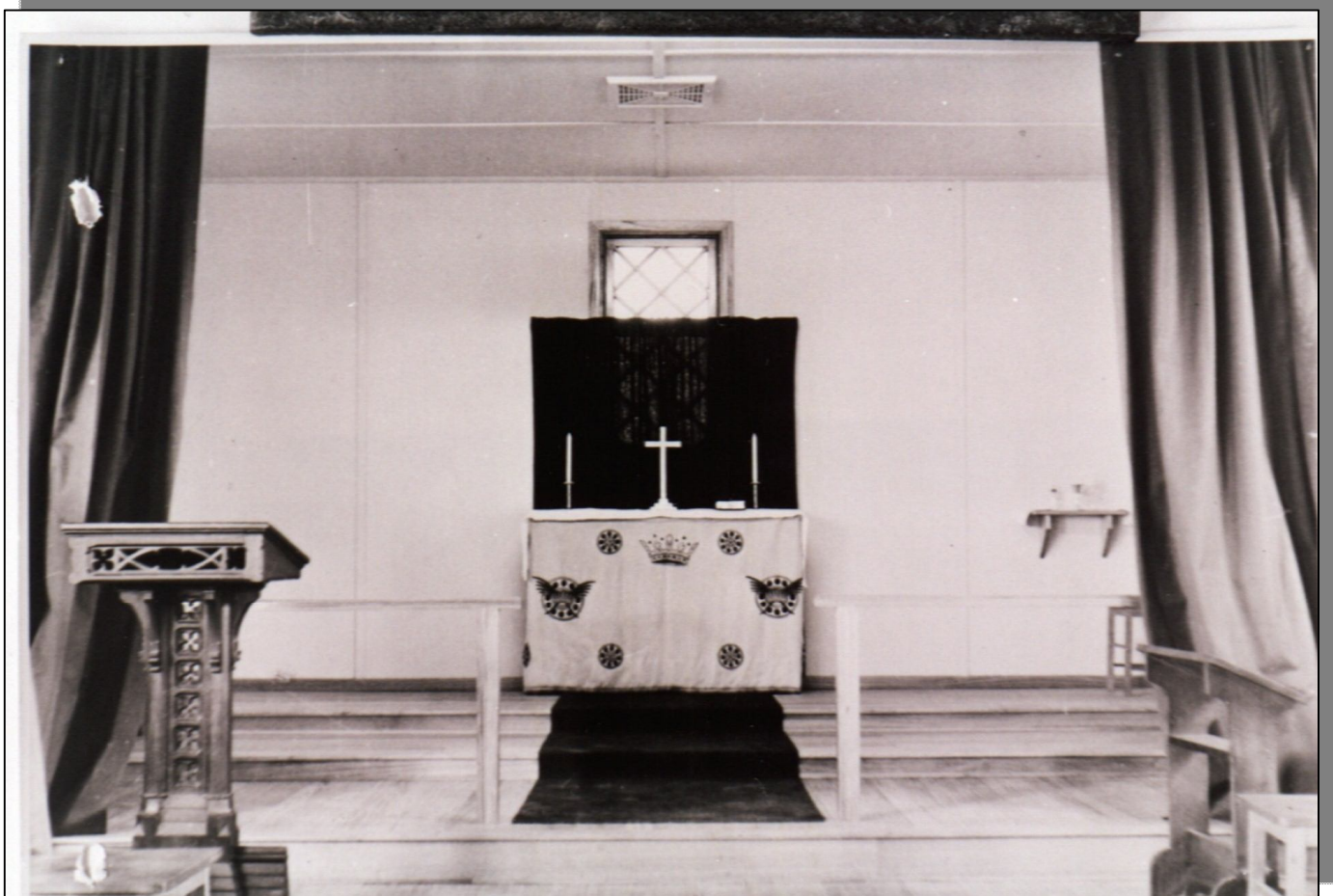
The contract to build St. Philip's was entered into in June 1952, construction beginning in September.

The church building was located in Barry St., near Vincent Road, the opening and dedication took place at 2.30 pm on Saturday, 28th. March 1953. The ceremony was conducted by the Bishop of Gippsland, Rt. Rev. **D. B. Blackwood**.

The building was of weatherboard construction with a tile roof, the designer was Mr. **S.P. Ashton** of Maffra, and the builder: Mr. **S. G. Winchester**, of Morwell.

The church was situated on a parcel of land measuring approximately two acres, the site having been purchased from the Housing Commission at a cost of £2,600. Construction costs were approximately £5,000.

The first services at St. Philip's were conducted on 5th. April 1953 - Easter Sunday. Service times were 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.



All St. Phillip's photographs: Morwell Historical Society archives.

Gippsland Times

Monday 8th June 1885 (Page 3) (abridged)

MORWELL

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT)

Friday

The usual fortnightly meeting of the committee of the Mechanics' Institute was held in the rooms of the Institute last Friday evening. Owing to the inclement weather there was a very small attendance, *their being just enough to form a quorum.

The secretary reported that he had ordered about one hundred and sixty volumes, and that the trustees of the Melbourne Public Library have granted them a loan of one hundred and thirty volumes. Rules for guidance of members were also made. We hope to have the library in working order in a short time.

It is the intention of the committee of the Anglican church to build a brick church forthwith. The bricks have already been ordered and the foundation stone will shortly be laid. This shows that the Rev. Mr. **Walker** has great confidence in the future of Morwell. It is to be hoped he will have every success and that the residents of Morwell will help him by responding liberally.

Speaking of buildings, a local contractor informed me that he has the contracts for erecting four new wooden buildings.

I hear Mr. **Murdoch's** hall has been let to Mr. D. **M'Mullan**, draper of your town. Mr. M'Mullan has secured a fine building and in the best part of the township, and should do very well here. The announcement of his arrival is anxiously looked for.

It is about time the local State school had a fence around it, and the school house and residence painted outside. Owing to the number of cattle passing to and from the township, it is a source of great danger to the children, but I suppose the department will not take any action till an accident occurs, which will be sooner or later.

As for painting the school it is time that was done it being the dirtiest looking place in the town, looking for all the world as if smallpox or measles had passed over the town and settled on the buildings.

The above article was kindly supplied by **Mr. Bruce McMaster**

* The correspondent's choice of word not mine! (S.H.)



An early photograph of St. Mary's Anglican Church Morwell



An early photograph of Morwell School (No.2136) with residence at left

Photographs: Morwell Historical Society archives

It Happened in July!

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

- Hazelwood North Primary School (No. 2382) was opened in July 1881.
- The Morwell Brass Band was established on 9th July 1887.
- "La Mode" opened their Morwell factory in July 1945.
- The Rotary Club of Morwell was established on 31st July 1945.
- Church Street Fire Station was officially opened on 17th July 1953.
- Methodist Church (Morwell East): temporary building officially opened on Sunday 24th July 1955.
- The Morwell Co-Op began trading in July 1955.
- Extensive renovations to the Morwell & District Community Hospital were opened on 1st July 1956.
- Crinigan Road Primary School (No. 4692) was opened in July 1957.
- The Latrobe Valley Hotel was officially opened at 4 pm on Monday 7th July 1958.
- The ANZ Bank announced the demolition and re-development of their Commercial Road building in July 1958.
- The provision of town gas was implemented on 23rd July 1959.
- The State Savings Bank of Victoria opened a branch in Church Street in July 1960.
- Murdoch's Hotel was sold to Woolworth's in July 1964.
- The Morwell Public Library (Hazelwood Road) was opened on 15th July 1966.



Morwell Brass Band: photographed in 1908.

Morwell Public Library - 1966.



Morwell Hospital - 1956.



Photographs: Morwell Historical Society archives.

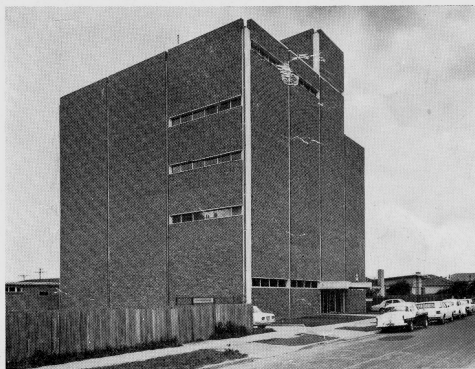
It Happened in August!

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

- Maryvale Ridge School (No. 1939) was opened on 17th August 1877.
- Alexandra Park was officially opened by Cr. O'Grady in August 1904.
- The Cricketer's Arms Hotel was demolished in August 1932.
- St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Hall (Elgin Street) was officially opened in August 1947.
- Coles Variety Store opened in Tarwin Street on Thursday 10th August 1950.
- The Presbyterian Church in Morwell East (St. Columba's) was opened on 1st August 1953.
- The Woolworth's Store in Commercial Road was officially opened on 25th August 1955.
- The Panoramic Drive-In (Latrobe Road) was opened on 30th August 1956.
- The National Bank opened their Princes Highway premises on 29th August 1958.
- Murdoch's Hotel closed its doors for the last time on Saturday 29th August 1964.
- L.M. Ericsson's Morwell plant (Winifred & Church Streets) was established in August 1967.
- The Victor Street telephone exchange building was opened on 24th August 1973.
- The Latrobe Regional Hospital was established in August 1998.
- The Olympic Torch visited Morwell on 7th & 8th August 2000.
- Bronze bust of Sir Stanley Savige was unveiled on 31st August 2006.

Official Opening

of the new
**Automatic
Telephone Exchange
Morwell**



by
Senator A. G. Poyser
at 2.15 p.m.
on Friday, 24th August, 1973

Historical Notes

Morwell residents were provided with their first regular communication facilities in August, 1870, with the establishment of a post office, and a mail coach service that operated between Melbourne and Sale, six times a week.

A public telegraph office was provided at Morwell in August, 1879, greatly speeding communication for residents.

A public telephone was provided at Morwell in 1908. It was linked by trunk line to the Sale Exchange, 40 miles distant. A local exchange was provided at Morwell Post Office about 1910, and by 1912, there were six subscribers.

The manual exchange was replaced by an automatic exchange, on 20th February, 1955. The new exchange was located in Margaret Street, and employed the "Step by Step" system of switching. It had an initial capacity of 1,200 lines.

On the 20th November, 1969, the contract for the construction of a four storey exchange building, to be erected in Victor Street, was awarded to Lewis Construction Co. Pty. Ltd., of North Melbourne. The building is of brick, steel and concrete construction, and provides an overall floor area of approximately 22,620 sq. feet. It was designed and supervised by the Commonwealth Department of Works. The building houses three separate exchanges — a 4,000 line exchange for local calls, that also acts as the parent exchange for a number of smaller exchanges in the district, providing them with access to S.T.D. facilities; a 1,600 line trunk exchange; and a manual exchange to provide manual assistance facilities. The capacity of the exchanges can be increased when the need arises.

Morwell Advertiser

17th. August 1900

Welcome Home

RETURN OF PRIVATE G. PETTIT

Private Geo. **Pettit**, of Morwell, one of the members of the Second Contingent to South Africa, returned (invalided) on Saturday night, and received a most hearty welcome.

There was a tremendous crowd at the railway station-the platform being packed from one end to the other- when the 9 p.m. train steamed in. A number of Rangers were in the first part of the train and there was a general rush there to get a glimpse of the returned soldier. After a deal of crushing pushing, etc., they were disappointed to find that Pettit was not where they expected. Corporal **Bruton**, however, discovered the returned one in a carriage near the van, and on a cheer going up from that quarter there was a general stampede in that direction, with more crushing etc.

On stepping on the platform Private Pettit was lifted shoulder high and the cheering was most enthusiastic and deafening, whilst a number of Rangers fired several volleys.

An adjournment was afterwards made to the Mechanics' hall, which was crowded, there being also present about 50 Rangers including Privates **Colley**- who had a remarkable escape at Rensburg, where he was left 25 hours for dead-**Tackabury** and **Streitberg**, who were invalided home recently. On entering the hall "Home Sweet Home" was sung.

In proposing Pvt. Pettit's health, Lieut. **Hall** said they had met to welcome home a true and noble soldier who had gone to South Africa to fight for the Queen and the Empire. Private Pettit was no doubt sorry that in consequence of sickness he had been obliged to return home before his comrades, but whilst at the front, he had acquitted himself in a manner which is proof that men of to-day are able to perform deeds of valour and heroism equal to the traditions of their forefathers whilst serving under the grand old flag which, although tattered and torn by shot and shell, has thank God, never been disgraced.

It afforded them much pleasure to welcome Private Pettit home, but it was nothing to the reception they intended to give him and his comrades when they all returned.

The toast was drunk with musical honors.

In responding Pvt. Pettit said he never expected such a "welcome home," and he sincerely thanked all for the kindness extended to him.

The health of Privates Colley, Tackabury and Streitberg was proposed by Cr. **Vary** who said that what had been said regarding Private Pettit could also be said of those whose health he had much pleasure in proposing. Much was expected of the men when they left for the front, but they had accomplished far more than was ever expected. A better body of men could not be got together than those who had gone, and they had proved themselves worthy of the highest admiration.

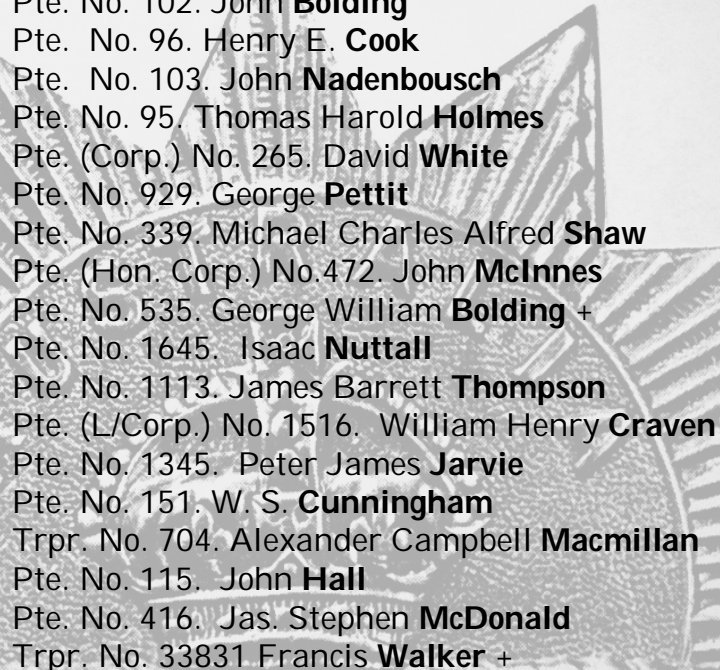
Private Colley, on behalf of his comrades, responded, and in doing so returned thanks for the hearty manner their health had been honored. He said they were all glad to go, and glad to get back again. Whilst at the front they got as much as they wanted, and he got more than he wanted at Rensburg.

Proceedings were brought to a close with the singing of Auld Lang Syne.

Private Pettit looks remarkably well and is now nearly two stone heavier than when he left for the front. He was two months in the hospital and at times his condition was very critical. He states that the Australians have had a very rough time of it at the front.

End of article

Local personnel who served in South Africa at various times between 1899-1902



Sgt. No. 936. Michael Terence **McDonald** +
Cpl. No. 424. William Collier **Francis**
Pte. (Sgt. Farrier) No. 94. Thomas Joel **Rose** +
Pte. No. 102. John **Bolding**
Pte. No. 96. Henry E. **Cook**
Pte. No. 103. John **Nadenbousch**
Pte. No. 95. Thomas Harold **Holmes**
Pte. (Corp.) No. 265. David **White**
Pte. No. 929. George **Pettit**
Pte. No. 339. Michael Charles Alfred **Shaw**
Pte. (Hon. Corp.) No. 472. John **McInnes**
Pte. No. 535. George William **Bolding** +
Pte. No. 1645. Isaac **Nuttall**
Pte. No. 1113. James Barrett **Thompson**
Pte. (L/Corp.) No. 1516. William Henry **Craven**
Pte. No. 1345. Peter James **Jarvie**
Pte. No. 151. W. S. **Cunningham**
Trpr. No. 704. Alexander Campbell **Macmillan**
Pte. No. 115. John **Hall**
Pte. No. 416. Jas. Stephen **McDonald**
Trpr. No. 33831 Francis **Walker** +

+ Died while on Active Service.

Service Badge 1902

Private **Colley** was a labourer from Drouin; Privates **Streitberg & Tackaberry** (note **spelling**) were farmers from Darnum.

The above information was gleaned from Society records ("Our Boys") S.H.



Opening Day 1958

The Changing Face of Morwell – "Buckley Street"



Opening Day 2012

Information Page:

Please note that the next meeting will be on 15th. August 2012 at 2.00 p.m.
At 44 Buckley Street (Next to T.A.B.)

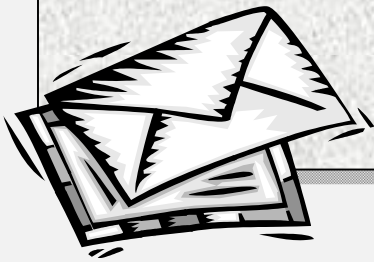


Meeting dates for remainder of 2012:

August 15th
September 19th
October 17th
November 21st

Subscription Rates: Per Annum:
(Single) \$15.00 (Family- 2 persons at
same address) \$20.00

Please deliver me to:



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

Did You Know That?

*An unofficial Post Office was established at the S.E.C.V. "Ridge" workers' hostel on **1st. May 1951**. The name Morwell Heights was chosen in preference to Morwell Ridge as it was considered that reference to the word "Ridge" might cause some historical confusion. The officer- in- charge at the facility was Mr. **R. Jones**, a former Post Master at Boolarra.

** Sourced from "Morwell Advertiser"*

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