

Morwell Historical Society Inc.

www.morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au

c. 1903



A very Merry
Xmas to all our
Readers

The

AOO 16986 W

"Morwell Post"

December 2012

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Morwell 3840 (0411 206 405)

Please address all correspondence to the Secretary

**Items for publication in the
"Post" are always welcome;
please forward your
contributions to the above
address**

**The "official" organ of the Morwell Historical Society Inc.
Published every two months: February to December**

From Our Photographic Archives



Collins Street Primary School c mid 1950's

In this issue of "The Post":

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Morwell Advertiser

Friday 7th. February 1896

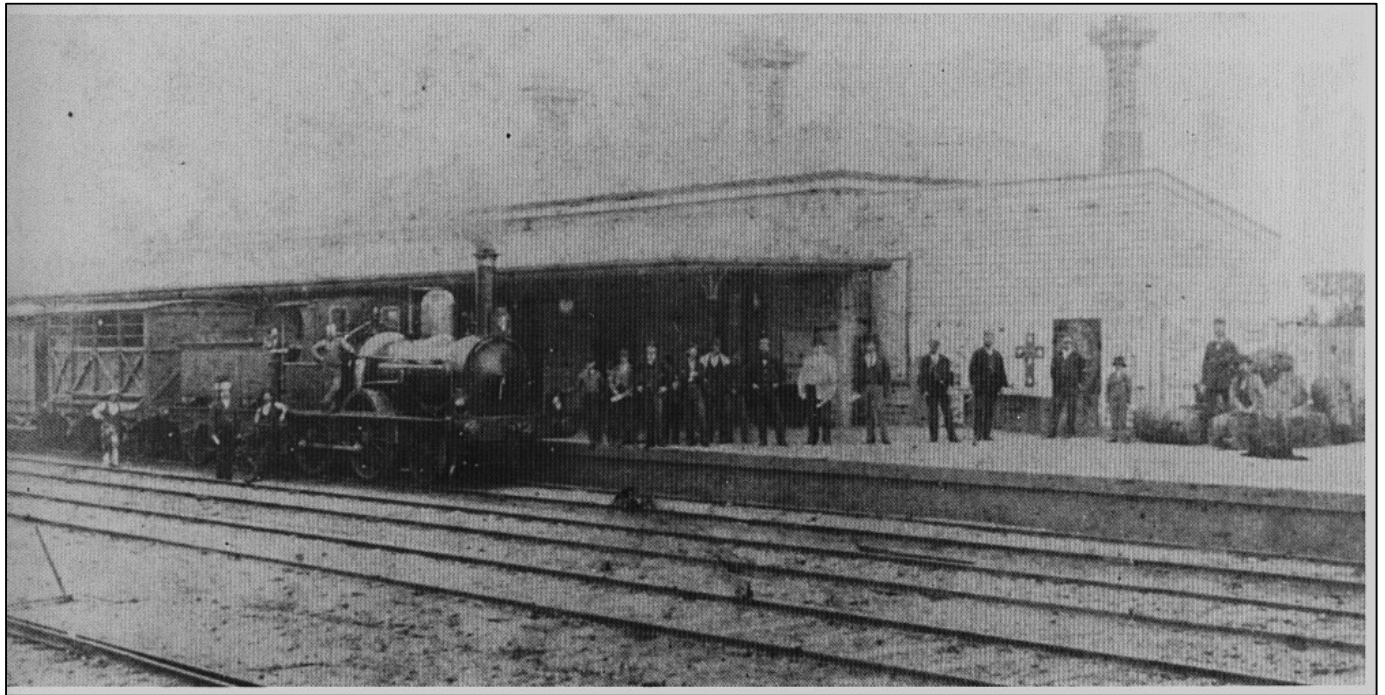
Removal of the Morwell Railway Gates

Much surprise and consternation has been expressed since it became known that it is the intention of the Railway Department to remove the local railway gates kept by Mrs **Bryden**, and substitute cow-pits in their stead. Such an act is considered by the townspeople and others, most absurd and quite impracticable, in consequence of the amount of danger attending it. The traffic on both sides of the line is considerable, to say nothing about the number of school children and other persons who daily cross the line, and as there is a great deal of shunting done opposite the gates, makes the suggestion all the more erroneous, and the idea of such a thing has preyed so much upon the minds of some of our local residents that they have predicted and pictured to us several gruesome spectacles such as pieces of horse flesh, hair, and bones together with bread, meat, vegetables, &c, scattered about, also the mutilated bodies of butchers, bakers, farmers and others; the other scenes anticipated are equally as hideous – the brains and other portions of school children, grown up persons, cattle, sheep, &c., &c., can be strewn along the line and across the street almost from **Date's** shop to the Post Office.

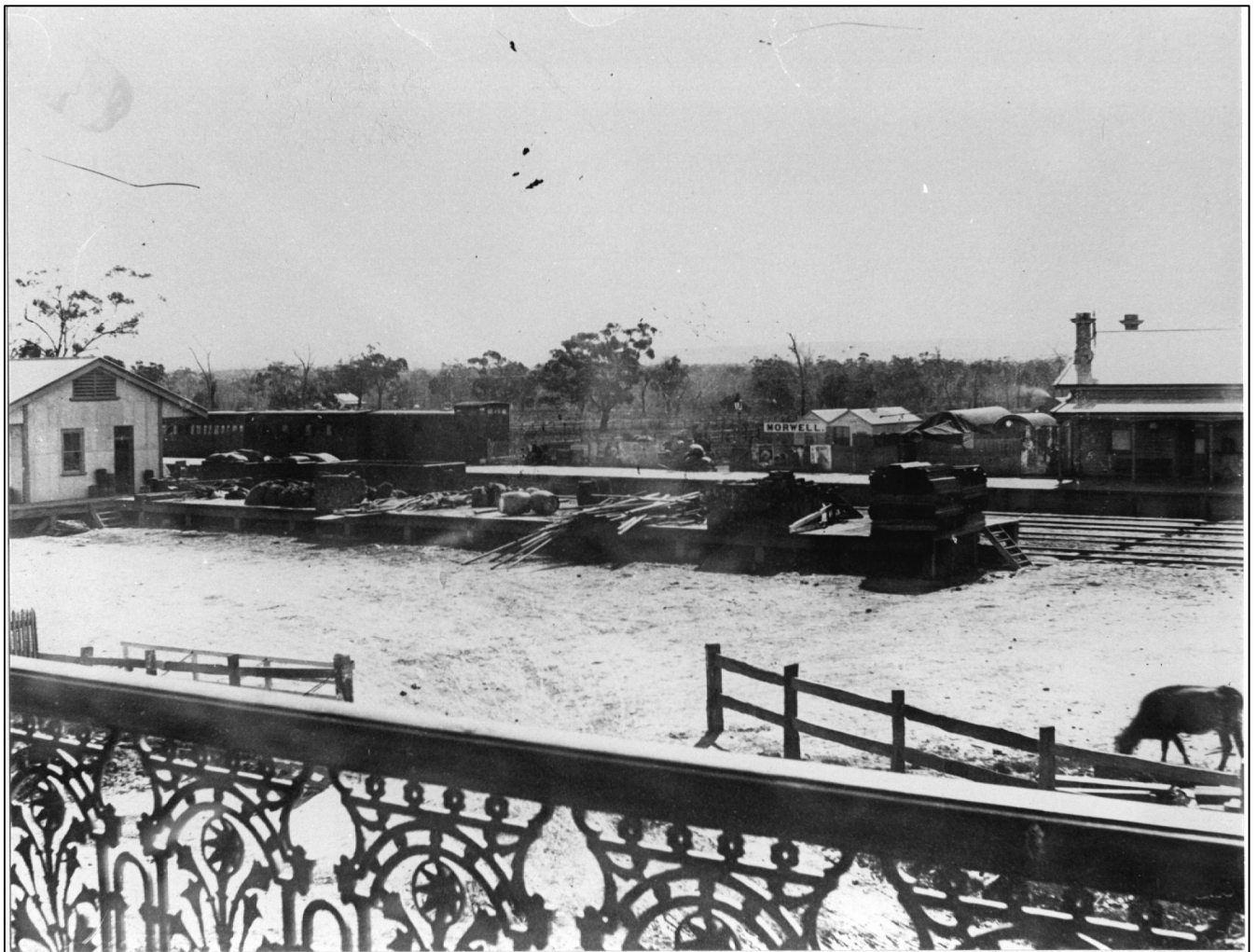
All this some of our foreseeing townspeople aver will undoubtedly take place if the gates are removed, and it is quite possible that many accidents might occur, for people in vehicles and others on foot will get careless and too venturesome, consequently they will be rushing across in front of trains which may no doubt often prove fatal. It is possible if the Department are made fully aware of the amount of danger the people will have to risk, they will not carry out their intentions and not be like the man who "shut the gate after the horses had gone." We understand that a petition is to be presented by our member, Mr. **F. C. Mason**, before the Commissioners and we trust it may have the desired effect.

However, apart from the danger of the gates being removed everyone will regret the removal of Mrs **Bryden** and her family from our midst, and we feel sure that their many kind and courteous actions will not be forgotten. Mrs **Bryden** has had charge of the gates for nearly eight years, and was always most attentive and obliging in carrying out her duties on all days and at all hours.

If the Morwell gates are closed there will only be two gates on the line between Sale and Warragul, viz. at Traralgon and Moe.



Early Views of Morwell Railway Station



Photographs: Morwell Historical Society Inc. archives

Morwell Advertiser

Friday 22nd. March 1912

DEATH OF MRS M.A.KEEGAN

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It is with feelings of very deep regret that we have to chronicle the death of another early colonist, and old pioneer of the district, in the person of Mrs **Mary Ann Keegan**, relic of the late Mr **Phillip Keegan**, of Morwell, which sad event took place at her late residence on Wednesday morning.

Deceased, who had passed the allotted span of three score years and ten, was born in the town of Carmichael, a few miles from Ayr, Scotland, in 1835. At the age of 22, she married the late Mr Phillip Keegan, and six weeks later the young couple resolved to set out for Australia. The undertaking in those days was no small thing and was fraught with considerable danger but that did not deter Mr and Mrs Keegan from making a journey of several thousand miles across the great deep, in the then small and slow going vessels. In place of the trip occupying between five and six weeks, as at present, the boat in which Mrs Keegan and her husband sailed took exactly 90 days to reach Adelaide.

A few months later found them on Kangaroo Island. They, however, did not remain long there, for hearing of good accounts from Victoria, they journeyed to Melbourne, where they remained for about twelve months before moving to Sunbury where Mr Keegan was employed on the newly made railway, their home being on opposite side of creek to the present residence of Sir **Rupert Clark**. Mrs Keegan and her husband also spent some time in the Castlemaine and Guildford districts, where the latter was engaged on railway works.

Thirty five years ago, the late Mrs Keegan followed her brothers (Messrs **John** and **James McDonald**, who pre-deceased her), on a trip to Gippsland in search of land. The railway line was not finished and the last part of the journey was completed in a coach.

There was no township here at that time, but the late Mr John Quigley had a small store in a bark hut, and a few tents were scattered about. Land was being selected on all sides and Mrs Keegan acquired a block of 32 acres, adjacent to the township, the greater part of which she still owned at the time of her death. When the Mirboo line was constructed, Mrs Keegan's husband, who was then permanently employed by the Railway Department, was transferred to Morwell and appointed ganger on the first section of the said line. As the township grew Mrs Keegan's property increased in value and portion of it was cut up and sold in building allotments. Mrs Keegan also had a number of houses built which advanced the township considerably.

The deceased lady was the last member of her family, all her brothers and sisters, as well as husband having pre-deceased her. She was the mother of seven sons and three daughters, five sons (Messrs **John**, **Phillip**, **Anthony**, **Thomas** and **James**) are still living and one daughter (Mrs **Cummins**).

Deceased, by her kindly and generous disposition had a large circle of friends and was most highly esteemed by all with whom she came in contact. In cases of sickness and trouble she was always to the fore and her valuable help and advice was always much sought after, especially in the early days before there was a settled doctor in the district, and her memory will ever be revered by a host of persons to whom she was a blessing.

The remains of deceased were interred in the Hazelwood Cemetery, yesterday, the funeral cortege leaving Sacred Heart Church where requiem mass was celebrated for the repose of her soul. The Rev. **Dean Colman** officiated at the grave, the mortuary arrangements being carried out by Mr **Wm. Turner**.

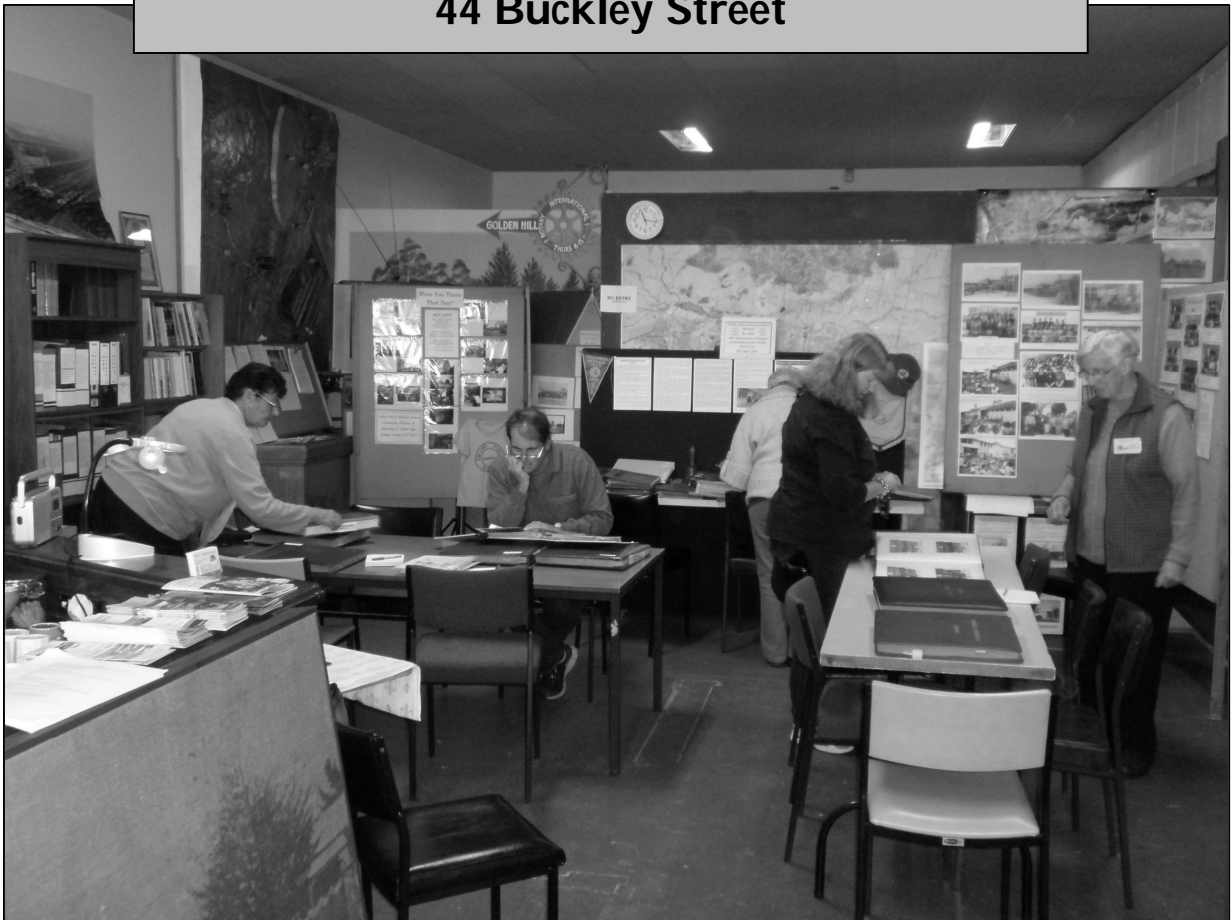


The Keegan Family Memorial at Hazelwood Cemetery

Photograph: Stephen Hellings



**Morwell Historical Society Inc.
"Open Day" Sunday 21st October 2012
44 Buckley Street**







It Happened in November!

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

- The Church of Christ building in Winifred Street was officially dedicated on 8th November 1952.
- St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church (Elgin Street) was dedicated on 21st November 1886.
- The current (2012) Sacred Heart Church building was opened on 15th November 1970.
- Fletcher Jones & Staff closed their Morwell store on 13th November 2000.
- Payne's Bon Marche store opened in Commercial Road on 19th November 1959.
- Watson-Cobb opened in Church Street on 16th November 1953.
- The Morwell Fire Brigade was unofficially formed at a public meeting held in November 1914.
- The "Lurgi" plant ceased gas production in November 1969.
- The first unit at Morwell Power Station was commissioned in November 1958.
- Hazelwood Estate School No.4326 opened on 8th November 1926.
- Davies' Post Office Pharmacy opened in Church Street on 28th November 1955.
- The Morwell branch of the Helping Hand Association was formed in November 1957.
- The Morwell Soldiers' Memorial Fund Committee was established in November 1919.

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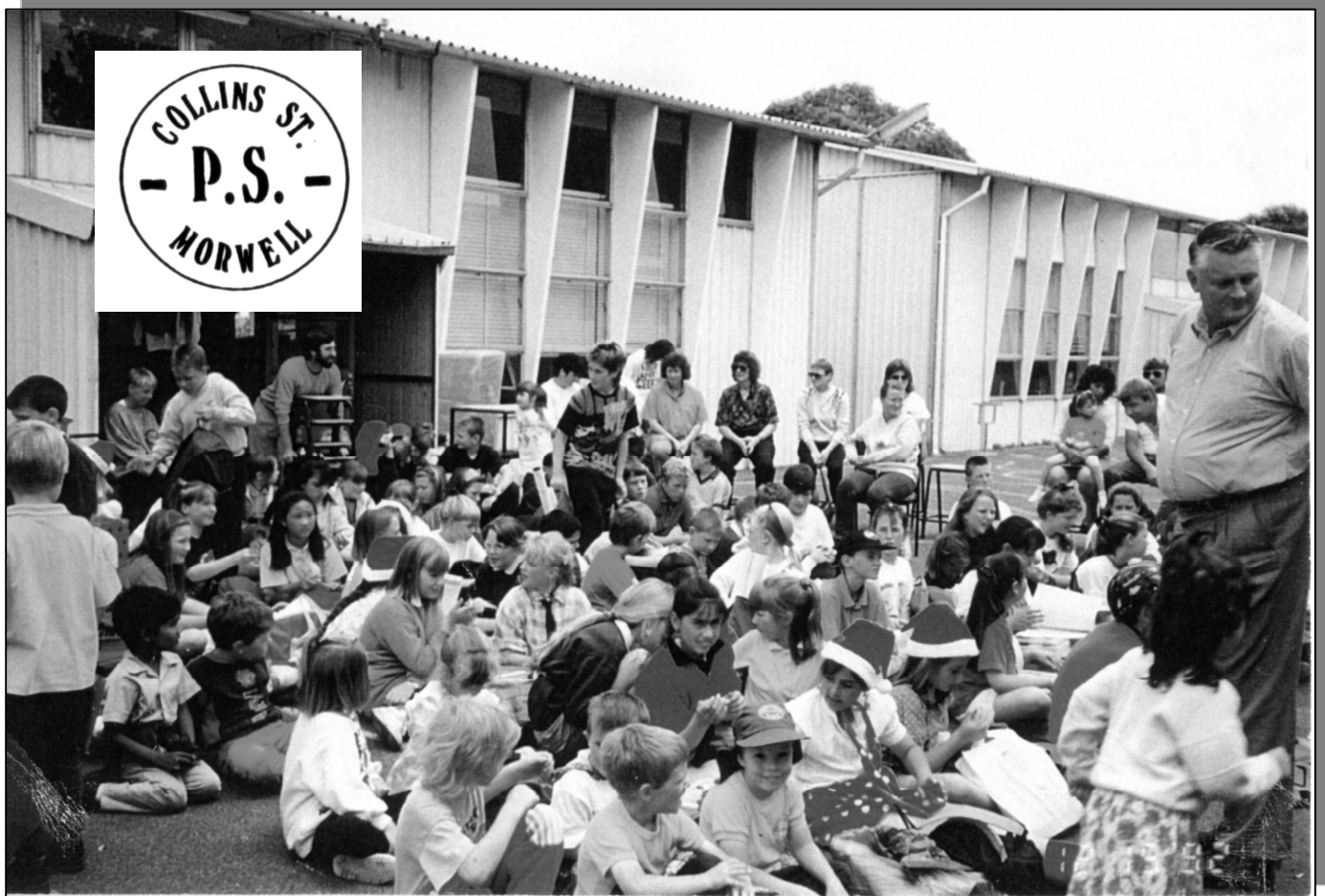
The Friendly Firm
Church St., Morwell

1958

It Happened in December!

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

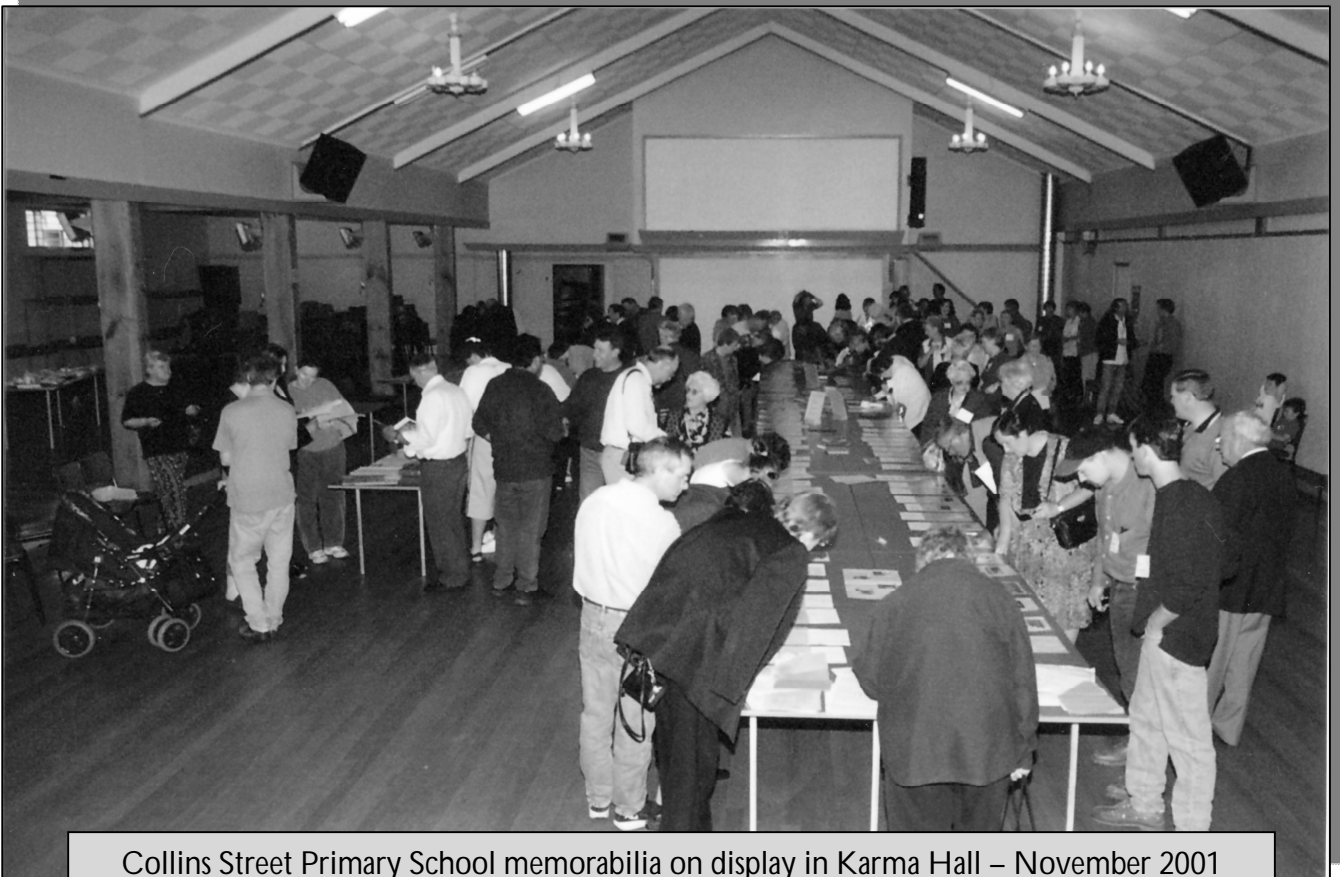
- Present (2012) St. Vincent's Catholic Church was officially opened on 19th December 1971.
- Club Hotel in Commercial Road opened for trading in December 1886.
- Faulkner's Self-Serve grocery store was opened in Church Street on 21st December 1953.
- The final stage at Hazelwood Power Station was commissioned in December 1970.
- Eric Lubcke's memorial seat in Maryvale Crescent was unveiled on Sunday 9th December 2007.
- The "Lurgi" gas plant was officially opened by the Duke of Edinburgh on 5th December 1956.
- The Morwell Briquette Factory commenced production on 8th December 1959.
- The Morwell Public Library (Hazelwood Road) was closed on Saturday 7th December 2002.
The library was closed to enable the re-development of the site (Police Station - Justice Precinct).
- Collins Street Primary School closed on 18th December 1992.
- Derham's Hill School No. 4684 opened on 14th December 1951.
- Hazelwood Ridge School No. 1768 closed in December 1944.
- Mr Don McKay surrendered his licence for the Cricketer's Arms Hotel on 31st December 1930.



The final assembly at Collins Street Primary School – December 1992



The first Prep Grade pupils of 1951 photographed in 2001



Collins Street Primary School memorabilia on display in Karma Hall – November 2001

Information Page:

Please note that our next monthly general meeting will be on 20th February 2013 at 2.00 p.m. At 44 Buckley Street (Next to T.A.B.)

Seeing that this will be the last newsletter for the year I would like to now take this opportunity to thank all those people who have assisted me with the editing and publishing of "The Post".

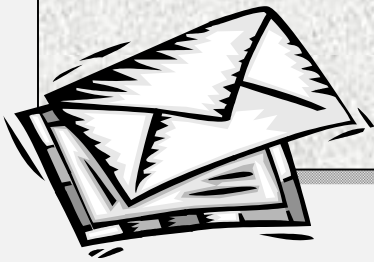
Thanks must go to *Eddie Beulke & Bruce McMaster* for the interesting and informative articles they have contributed. I must also thank *Leonie Pryde, Rob de Souza-Daw* and *Graeme Cornell* for their valued opinions and positive comments. If it was not for *Elsie & Bruce McMaster's* efforts with printing and delivery there would be no "Post".

For archiving back issues of the "Post" I must thank our I.T. Manager *Florence Butcher*.

Merry Christmas and a safe holiday.

Stephen

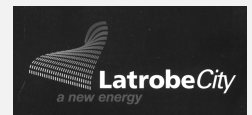
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Historic Calendars for 2013

**Don't forget our 2013 calendars are still available from Leonie
on 5134 6487 and only cost \$8.00 – the perfect gift for
Christmas!**



The next edition of the "Post" is due out in February 2013.

Photograph: Stephen Hellings