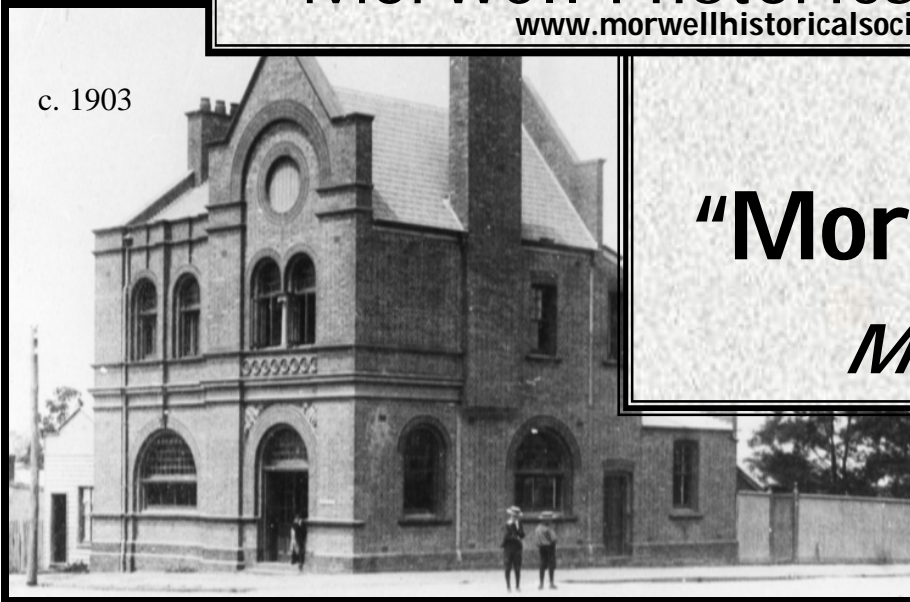


# Morwell Historical Society

www.morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au

c. 1903



# The

AOO 16986 W

# "Morwell Post"

## March 2014

Vol. 31 No.1

Secretary: Stephen Hellings  
Post Office Box 1163  
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: March to December

Murdoch's Hotel c.1900



Photograph: Charles Hammond Collection State Library of Victoria

### In this issue of "The Post":

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| Wedding: Langdon - Sheed (1936) page 2 | Morwell Swimming Pool (1957) page 9         |
| Fire at "Advertiser" (1912) page 3     | Deaths at Morwell Bridge (1940) page 10     |
| Bushfires (1944) page 4                | From the back of the filing cabinet page 11 |
| "The Argus" page 7                     | Information Page page 12                    |
| Morwell Open Cut (1951) page 8         |   |



Monday 21<sup>st</sup>. September 1936 (page 9)

## Charming Retinue at Morwell

A picturesque ceremony took place at Morwell on Saturday, when Miss **Queenie Langdon**, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Langdon, "Quamby," Station-street, Morwell, was married to Mr. **John Sheed**, only son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Sheed, of Daylesford.

Fragile pink and white blossom, massed in profusion under a shining silver horseshoe, made a lovely decoration for St. Andrew's Presbyterian church, where the ceremony took place. The church had been decorated by the bride's friends and her fellow members of the Presbyterian Girls' Fellowship, and the ceremony was performed by Rev. **W. S. Laity**.

Two maids and a charming little train bearer attended the bride, who was an attractive figure in her ivory ring velvet gown as she entered the church with her father.

Moulded on slender sheath-fitting lines, her beautiful gown was fashioned with a softly draped open neck and long, tight-fitting sleeves, that buttoned from the shoulder to wrist. Falling straight to the ground in front, the beautifully cut skirt merged at the back into a long, scalloped train that swept out several yards behind her as she walked.

Her lovely face veil had been lent by her cousin Mrs. **F. Harris**, of Sale.

The two bridesmaids were her sister, Miss **Vera Langdon**, and Miss **Janet Lubcke**, and her small niece, little **Margaret Evans**, was the little train bearer, charming in her dainty little frock of delphinium-blue georgette, with its demure Peter Pan collar. Matching the silver trimmings on her frock she wore silver shoes, and carried a little posy of delphiniums and carnations.

The two older maids were dressed alike in picturesque gowns of soft rapillion, in the same delphinium blue as the little train bearers.

Mr. **W. J. Robinson** attended the bridegroom as best man, and Mr. **A. Crilley** acted as groomsman.





Registered at the General Post Office, Melbourne, for transmission by Post as a Newspaper.

MORWELL, FRIDAY, AUGUST 2, 1912.

Price: Two Pence.

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup>. August 1912 (page 2) (Abridged)

## OURSELVES



There is an old adage that "fire is a good servant but a bad master," and during the past few days we have had that fact clearly demonstrated to us. As a great many of our subscribers are aware, our printing and publishing office was, with others, destroyed by fire in the early hours of Monday last, and it is due to the kindness of our "opposition friends" that we are enabled to publish as usual this week.

Mr **Gill**, proprietor of "Morwell Gazette"; Mr **Guest**, proprietor of "Traralgon Record"; Mr **Luke**, proprietor of "Gippsland Mercury" (Sale); immediately came forward, voluntarily, and offered to assist us in any way we desired. We have taken them at their word and have to sincerely thank them for the valuable help rendered us, especially Mr Gill, who has placed an office and machines at our disposal, and owing to force of circumstances both local papers will for a week or two contain much of the same matter, which is unavoidable.

It is our intention to rebuild as soon as possible and in this issue we invite tenders for erection of new premises. We expect to be able to remove temporarily in Mr **A. McDonald's** machinery depot, adjoining **McKay's** Hotel, about the end of next week, and ask the indulgence of our subscribers and advertisers until such time as we get settled down again.

# The Gippsland Mercury.

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED THE "GIPPSLAND GUARDIAN," ESTABLISHED 1862.

DATE FRIDAY JANUARY 9 1914

# The Traralgon Record

PRINTED BY MIRBOO, GLENGARRY, TOLINGABBIE, COOWAER, HEYFIELD, TYERS, & CALLIGNEE ADVERTISERS

2 62

Registered at the General Post Office, Melbourne, for transmission by Post as a Newspaper.



FRIDAY AUGUST 13, 1912



SINGLE COPY - THREE PENCE

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup>. March 1944 (page 2)

# A NEW SPIRIT FROM THE ASHES

## Communal Efforts In Rehabilitation

By **CAROLINE ISAACSON**

One of the worst bush fires in the history of the State, in which numbers of men, women, and children lost their lives and thousands of sheep and cattle perished, has yet failed to destroy faith, fortitude, and courage. More important still, there has sprung up in the devastated areas a spirit of unity, a spirit of communism – and I use the word in its strictly personal sense- that speaks volumes for the country people.

It is astonishing what has been accomplished in such a short space of time, purely by local effort. In Yallourn, on the fourteenth day after the tragedy, I saw coal operations back to normal and the open cut in working order once more. I watched the second dredge make its first journey. It was an exciting and tense moment, for the men had been working night and day to restore this essential plant.

In Yallourn itself no homes were lost, and so the people felt a special responsibility. Yallourn Women's National Emergency Fund took the lead, and since 4 o'clock of the afternoon the fires broke out members have been working incessantly to provide relief. **Mrs. Ralph Hunt**, president, told me that not only members, but practically every woman in the town, had given practical help. Billets have been found for children, clothing and blankets, even crockery and china. The appeal for things which today cannot be bought with money met with a splendid response.

**AMAZING HELPFULNESS**

The road from Yallourn to Morwell Bridge is lined with great tall trees, black and charred. What were fertile fields are a desolate waste. Indeed, one finds here a forcible reminder that, although we may be far removed from the actual horrors of war, all civilisation is subject to scourges that defy the powers of man. Houses were razed at Morwell Bridge and several lives were lost. A fortnight ago one saw nothing but desolation all around. I was there yesterday, and what has been done is amazing.

Two shacks have already been put up, and I saw a third under construction, all by voluntary labour. The men in the district have got together with remarkable results. A crisis always brings out spirit of helpfulness. One man told me he had got to know people better during the past 2 weeks than he ever had during his 2 years in the district.

**Mrs Daisy Cain**, whose home I saw being put up, and her 2 children, Jean 13, and Ronnie, 10, hope to sleep in their new home at the week-end. The **Davis** and **Bennett** families are already installed in theirs.

### SCHOOL CARRIES ON

Where the school at Morwell Bridge once stood there is little left beyond the 2 charred stumps of wood. Ninety children attended that school and new accommodation had to be found for them. A hall was made available, which should hold 40 at most.

Mr. **Lewis Godfrey**, the head master, is a resourceful person and carried on for a fortnight with his charges sitting on the floor. On the day of my visit there was great jubilation, for desks had arrived. It was a very hot day, and instead of 2 to a desk there were 3 and often 4. The very little ones were accommodated in what was once the kitchen. The only tap where they could get water to drink was 5ft high.

An inspector of the Education Department called to see how things were going and told Mr Godfrey it would be 2 years before another school would be built. Incidentally, this hall is used for all social activities in the district, which means that desks and forms have to be removed every time.

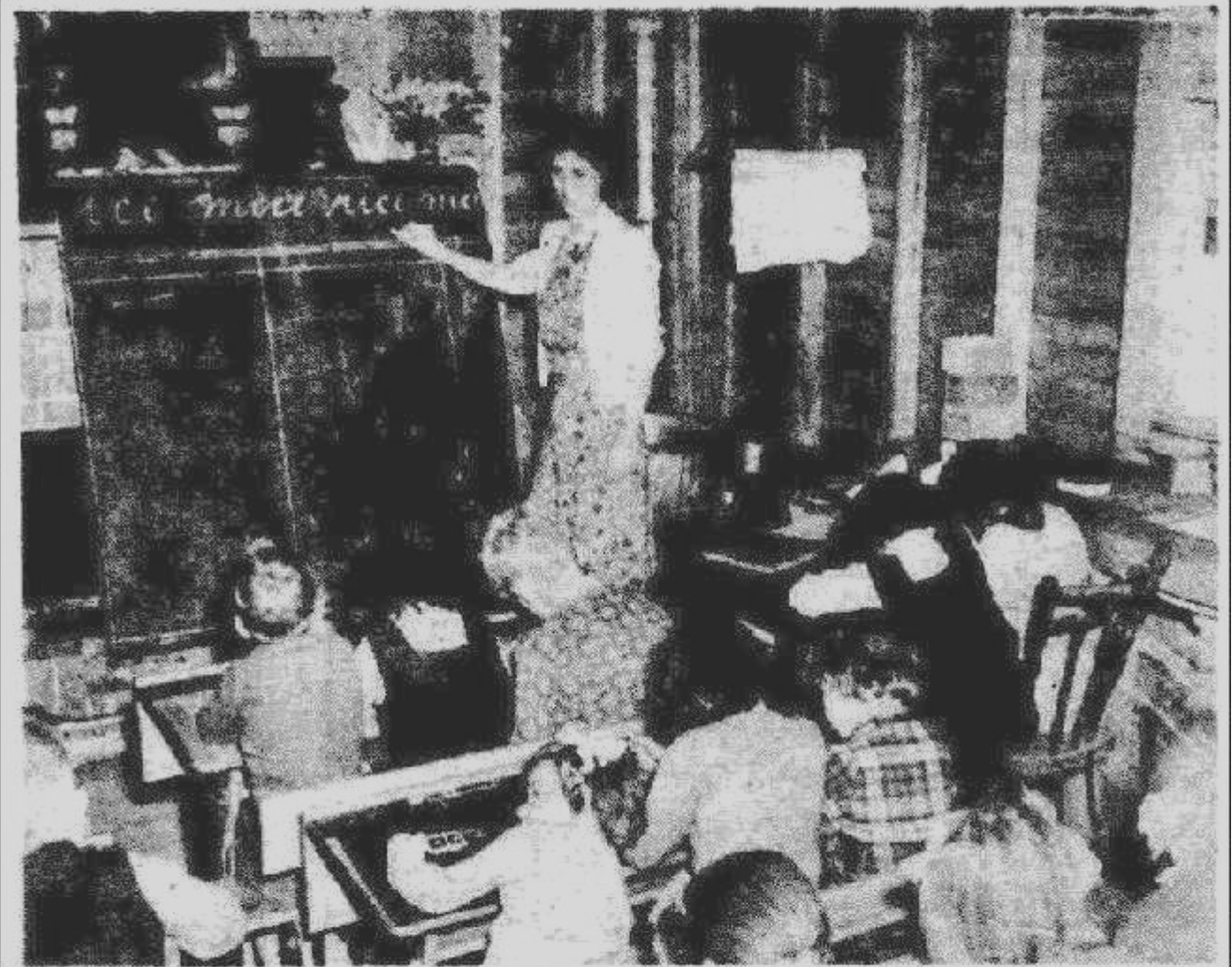
The post-office at the Haunted Hills was always a landmark in that part of Gippsland. I first met the postmistress, **Mrs. O'Reilly**, some 8 years ago. She is well known for efficiency, and I realised yesterday that this reputation is indeed well earned. For, where once the post-office stood, there is just a red post-box- nothing more.

Mrs O'Reilly has established herself in a garage next-door, and has put up a tent for herself and her son. A neighbor has set up some iron sheeting, and here a stove for cooking has been installed.

"It is an ill wind...." may be a trite saying, but I found in Gippsland it still holds a wealth of truth. A new spirit has indeed risen from the ashes – as is proved in these communal efforts in rehabilitation.



**TEACHING UNDER DIFFICULTIES AT MORWELL BRIDGE.**



**Miss Sadie O'Farrell taking a class in temporary premises. The local State School was burnt down in recent devastating bush fires.**



Morwell Bridge Primary School (M.H.S. ref.21961)

# From the Pages of:



**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> July 1945 page 4**

## **UNDERWEAR FACTORY AT MORWELL**

First instalment of a £ 100,000 factory to employ 300 in making ladies' underwear will be opened by Mr Dunstan at Morwell on Friday. This first section has cost £ 15,000, and will immediately employ 160, drawing labour from the surrounding towns of Yallourn, Traralgon, Mirboo North, Moe, and Trafalgar.

La Mode Industries Pty Ltd is the firm constructing the factory. At present temporary premises at Traralgon are being used to train employees for the Morwell factory. The company is considering the erection of a new factory at Traralgon, which will manufacture corsets.

Mr Dunstan will be accompanied by Mr Hollway, Deputy Premier; Mr Lienhop, Minister for Public Works and Acting Minister for Decentralisation, and Mr Hyland, Chief Secretary. While in the district, Mr Dunstan will also inspect 32 Housing Commission homes at Morwell and 27 at Traralgon.

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> April 1944 page 12**

SALE of Fire-damaged Material at Morwell Flax Mill site, 21<sup>st</sup> April, 1944, Vary & Hanson, auctioneers, Morwell, have been instructed by the Flax Production Committee to SELL on the site at Morwell, 1 mile from the railway station, all the Material burnt by the recent bushfires, Scrap Iron, Burnt Iron, Sawn Timber, Bricks, a quantity of Bolts and Nuts, and all Material of which the Incinerator is composed. Sale starts at 2 p.m. sharp.

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November 1942 page 3**

## **MR GEORGE WATSON**

Mr George Watson, senior partner in the firm of G. Watson and Son, proprietors of Morwell Advertiser, died on Saturday, aged 68. He was connected with many local institutions, including Masonic Lodge, ANA, and Manchester Unity Lodge. He was a native of Bacchus Marsh. A wife and grown-up family survive. The funeral took place yesterday at Hazelwood.

Morwell Open Cut – 1951 MHS ref. 21183 B







Morwell, Thursday, April 25, 1957. Price 3d per Copy

# Swimming Pool Finances

## PUBLIC MEETING TO BE CALLED

The last £5000 will be the hardest one to raise, said the Shire President, Cr. W. J. Pettigrew, in regard to the finance needed to complete the work of construction of the new Olympic Swimming Pool. The public should be told the position and given the opportunity to find further finance, he concluded.

It was decided to call a public meeting in the immediate future to place before the public the position regarding finance, and also the amenities required at the Swimming Pool site.

Cr. A. W. Ronald moved to this effect at last week's Council meeting, after it had been disclosed in the report of the Shire engineer, Mr. J. W. F. Connan, that insufficient funds were in hand to enable the project to be completed. There is no provision for fencing, buildings, sewerage, water supply or lighting, the report stated, and all of these will be necessary before the pool is used.

Cr. Ronald stated that it would not be any credit to the Council if the pool were opened for use and the area was not fenced. In addition, we may be up for more

money for maintenance than we anticipated, he said.

The report stated that the position regarding finance for the construction of the pool was:—

### COMMITMENTS TO DATE

Contract 23/56, construction of pools, £15,683; contract 20/56, filtration plant, £8,199; pool fittings, £555; material supplied by the Shire to date, £1,736; basecourse stone, £107; tiles, £960; scum gutters, £860; concrete pipes, £140; cast iron pipes, £200; excavation, £40; filter house, estimate, £1,000. Total, £29,761.

### FUNDS IN HAND OR ARRANGED

Public subscription, £5,000; Public Works grant, £4,500; L.V.D.A.C. grant, £7,500; Shire Council loan, £10,000. Total, £27,000.

# Morwell Advertiser

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup>. June 1940 (page 8)

## Sad Fatality.

### TWO YOUNG MEN KILLED BY FALL OF SAND

A lamentable fatality resulting in the death of two well-known young men, occurred at about 10.30 a.m. on Monday last, at gravel pits, a short distance from Morwell Bridge settlement and about two miles from Morwell.

The victims were:-

**Alexander Charles Metcalf**, 24 years of age, of Morwell Bridge, and formerly of Morwell.

**Frederick Stanley Church**, 17 years of age, son of Mr and Mrs Gabe Church of Morwell.

It appears that the two men were working in the gravel pit at the foot of a high bank, when without warning, portion of the bank above gave way and it is estimated that about 100 tons of sand and boulders suddenly fell on top of them, smothering them completely. Immediately their plight was discovered efforts were made to rescue them. The services of several men engaged on Sewerage work in Morwell, were also obtained, and although all worked most strenuously, it was over an hour before the bodies were extricated.

Dr. **Mitchell**, who was in attendance, on the spot, pronounced life extinct. The deceased young men were well and favourably known and the sudden fatality came as a great shock to their parents and friends. The remains of the deceased were interred in the Hazelwood Cemetery yesterday, the funeral cortege being a large one.

There were two hearses, and the scene was an unusual and touching one as the coffins were carried under palls and the remains laid side by side in separate graves. The Rev. **T. D. Beyer**, assisted by Rev. **M. W. Britten** and Mr **N. W. McDonald**, officiated at the grave, the mortuary arrangements being in the hands of Mr. **J. Bolger**.

There was a large number of beautiful floral tributes.

An inquest touching the sad occurrence was opened before Mr **E. L. Vary**, J.P. (Deputy Coroner), on Tuesday and adjourned until Wednesday next.

**From the Back of the Filing Cabinet!**



**Warragul 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1954**



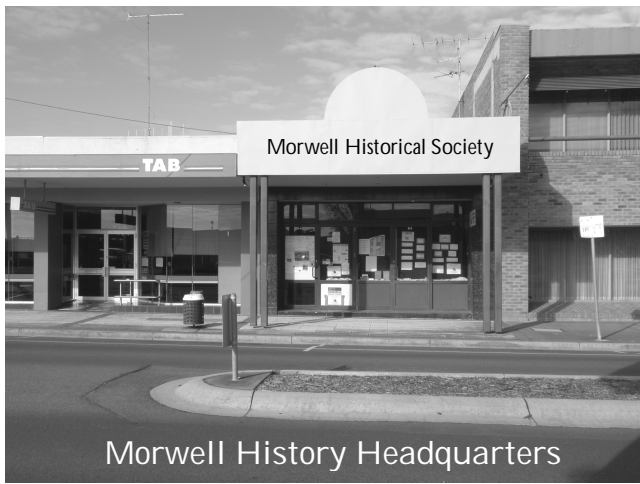
“Thank you very, very much, my dear, it’s very nice,” said the Queen, when little 8-year old Lorraine Jones, of Morwell, presented her with a bouquet at Warragul sports ground yesterday. And in return the Queen gave Lorraine one of her loveliest smiles. Lorraine, who had been rehearsing for three months, said later that she wasn’t the slightest bit nervous. She is the niece of Cr. G. H. Paynter, Warragul shire president.

**Text: “The Argus” Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March 1954**



## Information Page:

Please note that the next meeting will be on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2014 at 2.00 p.m.  
At 44 Buckley Street (Next to T.A.B.)



### Remaining meeting dates for 2014:

(AGM prior) March 19<sup>th</sup>.

April 16<sup>th</sup>.

May 21<sup>st</sup>.

June 18<sup>th</sup>.

July 16<sup>th</sup>.

August 20<sup>th</sup>.

September 17<sup>th</sup>.

October 15<sup>th</sup>.

November 19<sup>th</sup>.

Please deliver me to:



**Don't  
FORGET!**



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

### A Special Reminder to All Members



### **Please Note:**

Our A.G. M. will be held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2014 at 2.00 pm prior to our normal general monthly meeting.

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

Stephen