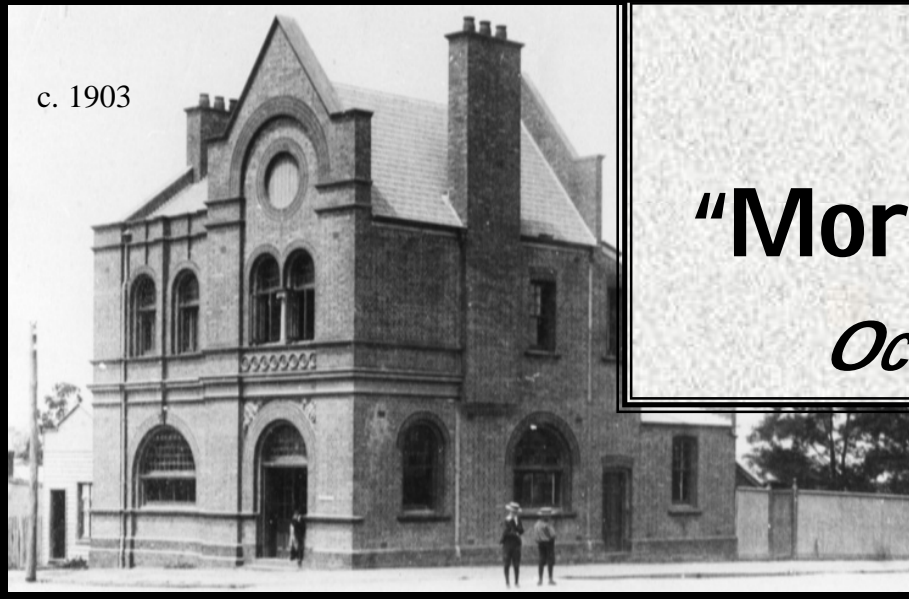


Morwell Historical Society Inc.

www.morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au

c. 1903



The "Morwell Post"

AOO 16986 W

October 2012

Vol. 29 No.5

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: February to December



From Our Photographic Archives:

Historical Society Meeting Old Town Hall 2000

In this issue of "The Post":

Opening of Town Hall (1936) page 2
Fire Commercial Road (1970) page 4
Railway Works (1953) page 5
Memory Lane (1975) page 6

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

Morwell Advertiser and Gazette
29th. October 1936

**TOWN HALL
OPENING BALL**



As a fitting termination to the celebrations in connection with the opening of the new Town Hall a grand ball was held on Tuesday evening and proved an unqualified success.

There were over 500 present among whom were visitors from Melbourne, Leongatha, Tarwin, Warragul, Trafalgar, Traralgon and surrounding districts.

The scene was a very animated one and in addition to those who were tripping the light fantastic, the balcony was filled with onlookers.

The hall with its indirect lighting from ceiling the coloring and drapings, flowers, etc., made a very pretty setting for such a function, whilst further charm was added by the becoming frocks of various shades worn by the fair sex.

Excellent music was supplied by Hunter's full orchestra and things kept going with a happy swing all the evening.

Presentation of Debutants

A special feature of the ball was, however, the presentation of 20 debutants who were Misses **Joyce Watson, Joyce Wilson, Poppy Clarke, Jean Stubbs, Marjory Billingsley, Marion Duncanson, Marjory Mackenzie, Kitty Budge, Ina Vinning, Merle Hickson, Lillian Purvis, Ella Kaye, Mary Bolger, Hazel Lubcke, Merle Brinsmead, Fitty Smidt, Marion McGowan, Jean Kleine, Lorna Vary, Queenie Bolding.**

The girls, who were frocked similarly, looked very charming in white moire taffeta, with haloes of silver leaves on their heads. They also wore long mittens and carried posies of pink and blue flowers.

It might here be mentioned that the posies were all made by Mrs. **R. Sanders** with flowers provided by **Madame Morgan.**

Mrs. **A. W. Blake** was matron of honor. She wore a frock of wine velvet with pearl trimmings and cape to match, and carried a posy of pansies.

The debutantes with flower girls in front gracefully paraded with their partners from the supper room and were presented by Mrs. **Blake** to Mrs. **White** (wife of the President of the Shire) who was attired in a trained gown of burgundy lace and georgette, and carried a beautiful bouquet of matching flowers which was presented to her on entering the hall.

After being duly presented, the debutants and their partners who were Messrs **W. Henderson, J. Brittingham, H. Butler, W. White, K. Billingsley, G. Barry, L. Roberts, C. Budge, A. Welsh, G. McLaverty, D. McArthur, K. Godridge, E. Vinning, W. Davey, C. Amiet, F. Dempsey, R. McGowan, J. Kleine, G. Vary and G. Bolding** danced a minuet in a delightful manner in which beauty and grace predominated. Credit was also reflected upon their instructress (Mrs. **Huddy**, of Yallourn).

Supper, provided by Mr. **W. E. Wilson**, was served in marquees adjacent the hall, which enabled the supper room as well as main hall, to be used for dancing.

The proceedings were continued until the early hours of the morning.

Messrs **F. J. Jenkins** and **A. Rome** were the joint secretaries for the ball and they left nothing to be desired.

Article kindly supplied by Bruce McMaster

DROWLEY'S (Late A.I.F.)
WELLWORTH CASH STORES
MARTYN'S BUILDINGS, MORWELL (near Post Office.)
Once a Customer--Always One.

Mantles. Millinery. Baby's Wear. Drapery.
Stationery. Fancy. Toilet. Gifts. Crockery.
Glassware. Toys. &c. &c. : : :

Specials in All Departments.
'Phone Morwell 134.

Latrobe Valley Express

1st. April 1970

FIRE CAUSES \$1000 DAMAGE

Damage worth \$1000 was caused by a fire on Saturday morning which burnt out a disused shed adjacent to the rear of Paterson's Pty. Ltd. Furniture Emporium at 160 Commercial Road, Morwell, and spread to the main storeroom of the emporium.

Despite heavy rain at the time the fire already had a good hold by the time the Morwell Fire Brigade unit arrived at 9.15 am.

When flames entered the upper windows of the adjoining emporium only prompt action by firemen, in forcing an entrance to the building, prevented a much more serious fire.

Director in charge of the Gippsland area of Paterson's Pty. Ltd., Mr. **L. McCormick** said that in another half hour the main store could have gone.

He estimated damage to the shed, which his firm had taken over only two days before, and to the main store to be approximately \$1000.

He said the fire had apparently smouldered for some time before bursting into flame.

Senior Constable **R. Davidson**, who was at the scene said a large crowd of people gathered in pouring rain to watch the fire.



Morwell Advertiser

18th. June 1953

Railways Construction Works at Morwell

SUBWAY AND OVERHEAD BRIDGE TO BE COMMENCED

A special works railway gang is expected to start work in Morwell some time in July on the reconstruction of the overhead bridge, the construction of the subway from the Princes Highway to Commercial Road in the vicinity of the level crossing and the footbridge opposite the Commercial Road State School.

This was revealed by a spokesman for the department in Morwell.

Preliminary plans for the reception of this special works gang are proceeding and an office and equipment sheds are at present under construction in the Morwell Railway yards.

Previously the special gang had its headquarters at Yallourn, but this has now been transferred to Morwell.

It is understood that the progress on the three projects will depend upon the financial allocation at the start of the financial year, but it is certain that at least one will be commenced next month.

SECOND DIESEL OPERATING DAILY

The second diesel to operate daily between Melbourne and Morwell commenced running on Monday. It draws the 6 p.m. passenger train from Flinders Street to Traralgon and returns with a fast goods train. Local organisations and authorities have for some time been stressing that to be of value to country residents, the diesel service should operate from the country centres. This increase in service, while not duly meeting the wishes of local authorities, is a step in the right direction.

First diesel service to
Gippsland c. 1952



Photograph sourced from
the internet. S.H.

Pedestrian Subway to Commercial Road c. late 1950's



Photograph: Morwell Historical Society Inc. archives

THE world of 80 years ago was a very different one from that of today.

It was the horse age, with no cars or tractors to serve the travel and power needs of the farmer or ordinary citizen. When motors replace horses, the blacksmith's shop disappeared, as well as the saddler's, the chaff and grain merchants, and the livery stables, to make way for garages, petrol stations, motor cars and motor trucks.

Children were invariably attracted to the door of the smithy to see the furnace fanned to white heat by the big bellows, to watch the shower of sparks struck from hot metal, to gaze with awe at the big smith and his men, protected by leather aprons, their faces blackened with the grime from their charcoal fires, or to hear the ring of hammer on anvil, and the hiss of steam as hot iron was plunged into butts of water for tempering.



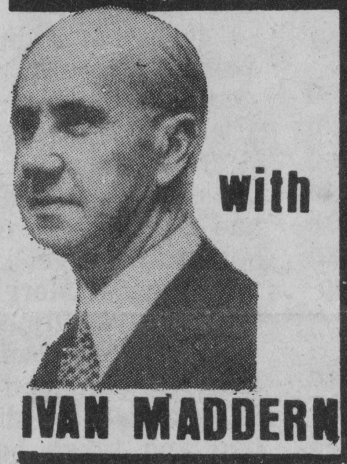
PERHAPS a horse had been brought in to be shod, and the smith would hold the great, bent leg of the horse between his knees, as he hammered the iron shoe on to the upturned hoof.

Perhaps an iron tyre was being fitted to a buggy wheel. The ring of gleaming, hot iron would be dropped over the wooden wheel, and the immediate flame as glowing iron touched wooden wheel, would be

The lost charm of the old village smith

"Express" 23rd May 1975

MEMORY
LANE



doused as both were plunged into a well of water. The contracting tyre hugged the wooden circle in an immovable grip.

The smithy was the workshop of the district. Horses were shod, harrows and ploughs were made or repaired. Special paling splitters made by Rintoull and Son cost 25 shillings each, and were well worth the money. The patent butter-churn made by Rintoull's was so sound in design, that the same principle was adopted, on a larger scale, for the Yarragon Butter Factory.

The Rintoull family

provided Gippsland with blacksmiths for three generations, and probably their home town, Yetholm in Roxburgh, Scotland, just over the border from England, for many generations before that.

George Rintoull, 1815-1896 emigrated to Victoria in 1855, and set up the first blacksmith's shop west of Sale, at Rosedale. His son John Rintoull, 1851-1936, as a young man, travelled the Old Coach Road between Rosedale and Brandy Creek, shoeing horses for Cobb and Co.



He established his smithy at Morwell in 1877, in the first year of that township's existence. In 1874, he had won the world horse-shoe making record, turning out 36½ horse-shoes in an hour.

This Morwell business was then carried on (and closed) by Mr Jack Rintoull, 1893-1966. The place where Rintoull's blacksmith shop stood, in Morwell, was towards the western end of the Commercial Rd shopping centre, somewhere in the vicinity of the present State Savings Bank.

It Happened in September!

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

- Gude's Arcade officially opened on 15th September 1955.
- Hazelwood Railway Station closed to all traffic on 22nd September 1953.
- Latrobe Meat Supply & Deli opened in Church Street in September 1953.
- Latrobe Valley Aero Club was established on 14th September 1949.
- Mid Valley Shopping Centre officially opened on 7th September 1982.
- The Morwell Club was established on 13th September 1956.
- First Morwell Shire council meeting held on 14th September 1892.
- Paramount Theatre opened in Buckley Street on 27th September 1947.
- Construction of "Lifeline" building in Church Street commenced in September 2008.
- Murdoch's Hotel in Commercial Road was demolished in September 1964.
- Passenger services on the 'Mirboo Railway Line' ceased on 7th September 1968.
- Morwell North School (No. 2621) opened on 1st September 1884.
- The R.S.L. Memorial Hall was officially opened on 20th September 1953.



Photograph: Stephen Hellings

Church & Fleming Streets – 26th September 2008

It Happened in October!

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

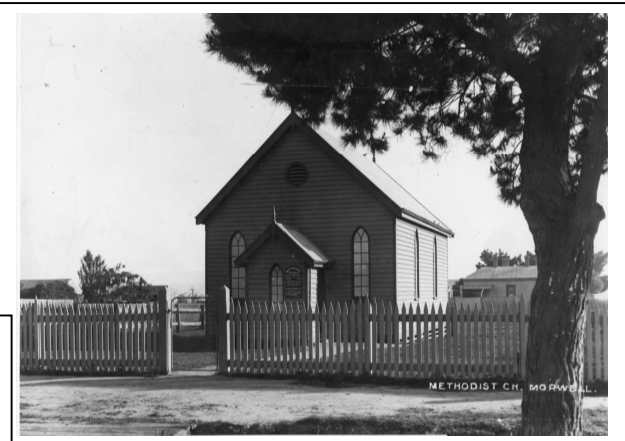
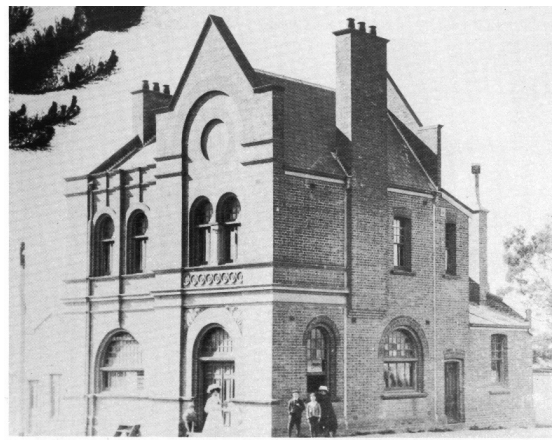
- Great Morwell Coal Company established on 19th October 1888.
- Hazelwood Cattle Station was established in October 1844.
- Justice Precinct officially opened on 20th October 2006.
- Morwell's Titles Office closed in October 1998.
- Del Spana Motel (corner of Church & Buckley Streets) demolished in October 2008.
- Construction of Hazelwood Power Station commenced in October 1959.
- Construction of Latrobe City Corporate H.Q. began in October 2003.
- Morwell & Mirboo Gazette was established on 6th October 1885.
- The Morwell Advocate & Boolarra and Mirboo Chronicle was first printed on 30th October 1886.
- Derham's Hill School was officially closed on 4th October 1954.
- Hazelwood Ridge School (No. 1768) opened in October 1876.
- Morwell Town Hall was officially opened by the Governor of Victoria on 27th October 1936.
- Morwell Ten Pin Bowling Centre opened in Buckley Street (Maya site) on 9th October 1964.
- George Bolding died of enteric fever in South Africa (Boer War Service) on 24th October 1900.



George Bolding
1876-1900

In Time for Christmas!

The Society is producing an historic calendar for 2013 – Contact Leonie Pryde on _____ for your copy. Terrific value at only \$7



Share Morwell's heritage photographs with family and friends. A calendar is the perfect Christmas gift.



2004

The Changing Face of Morwell – Commercial Road



2012

Information Page:

Please note that the next meeting will be on 17th. October 2012 at 2.00 p.m.
At 44 Buckley Street (Next to T.A.B.)



Meeting dates for remainder of 2012:

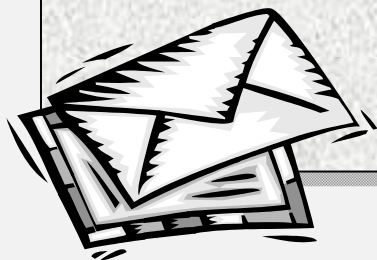
October 17th

November 21st

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

Lyn Ryan's class photo display – an excellent piece of work

Please deliver me to:



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

Did You Know That?

Monday 17th. November 1952 saw the implementation of a "two division" timetable on the Gippsland line. The new diesel- electric locomotives hauled the "first division" from Melbourne to Bairnsdale, while the "second division" from Melbourne to Traralgon was hauled by steam

** Sourced from "Morwell Advertiser"*



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