The Morwell Historical Society News.

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Volume 13 1974. (Compiled by I. T. Maddern)

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Contents.

No. 1. February, 1974.

Latrobe Valley Historical SocietiesEarly Programme for 1974 Page Membership List. Obituary - Mrs. Ellen MeadowsPage Morwell in 1905 (Cyclopedia of Victoria, 1905)Page	2. 3.
Men of Morwell, 1905Page	
Arthur Wellesley Pitt; John HallPage	
Thomas Watson; Dr. Julian Smith; George WatsonPage	7
Walter Edney; George Bolding; Robert PorterPage	8.
William Tulloch; A. A. Brown; Thomas KleinePage	9.
J. B. HoylePage	
Boolarra in 1905Page	10.
Citizens of BoolarraPage	
W.P.Christian; S. Hartmann; T. D. Latter; T. ScanlanPage	
were on restan, se naromann, re se satter, re scantan eerage	•
A Street Directory of Morwell in 1905Page	12.

No. 2. May. 1974.

ObituaryMr. O. S. Martin	Page 14	•
The Mirboo North- Morwell Railway Line	Page 14	•
Cemeteries		
The Hazelwood Cemetery, Morwell. Burials 1879 to 1930	-	

No. 3. August, 1974.

DemocracyPa	age	26.
The People of Early MorwellPa		
The Country FolkPa		
The Towns-peoplePa		
The School-Children of 1879Pa		
Police; Station-mastersPa	age	29.
"The Gippsland Times" of 1879; - Morwell ItemsPa	age	30.
	-	

No. 4. September, 1974.

The	Morwell	Post Office	Page	31.
The	Churches	of Morwell	Page	33.
	The	Roman Catholic Church	Page	33.
	The	Methodist Church	Page	34.
	The	Church of England	Page	35.
	The	Presbyterian Church	Page	36.

Price 30 cents.

Page...l.

The Morwell Historical Society News.

Journal of the Morwell Historical Society. Published quarterly - on the 15th. February, May, August, and November.

Editor..... I. T. Maddern, 12 Avondale Crescent, Morwell, Victoria, 3840.

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Membership Fees.

Annual Subscription ... \$ 1-00 Life Membership \$10-00.

Treasurer.....Mrs. G. Taylor, 17 Denise Street, Morwell, Victoria, 3840.

Latrobe Valley Historical Societies.

Early Programme for 1974.

(Organized by the Traralgon Historical Society)

February, 1974.

Sunday. 24/2/74 ... Excursion to Walkerville on Waratah Bay.

(Waratah Bay is that stretch of sea on the western side of the neck of Wilson's Promontory, as opposed to Corner Inlet, on the easterly side.) Cars should assemble at the Traralgon Post Office, at 9.00 a.m. For this excursion, we are being hosted by Leongatha and Foster Historical Societies, who will meet us at 11.00 a.m. at the Cape Liptrap turn-off. The tour proper commences at Walkerville West, at 1.00 pm

Here is the brief account of Walkerville State School, given in the Centenary History of the Education Department, "Vision and Realization", Page 1343 of Volume 111...."Walkerville State School, No. 4963, must be the most southerly school on the Australian mainland. It was opened in February 1968 with an enrolment of eight pupils, which increased to eleven pupils in 1972."

March. 1974.

Sunday. 17/3/74...Excursion to Carrajung and Blackwarry. Meet at the Traralgon Post Office at 1.00 p.m. The excursion proper will begin from the Carrajung (delicenced) Hotel at 1.45, led by an expert on the district, Mr. Daniels.

Tuesday, 19/3/74....Annual Meeting of the Traralgon Historical Society. 8.00 p.m. at the City Council Reception Rooms. Guest Speaker...Mr. Daniels will speak on"Blackwarry".

April, 1974.

<u>Tuesday, 19/4/74</u>....Monthly Meeting of the Traralgon Historical Society, at 8.00 p.m. in the Council Reception Rooms. Guest Speaker...Miss. J. Heesom will speak on "The History of the Correspondence School of Victoria."

Recipients of the "News".

As for the last three years, we are again willing to supply copies of this year's "News" to members of other historical societies, for 20 cents,or three postage stamps, which is a conservative estimate of the costs of this service. Most of our 'outside' readers come from the Traralgon Historical Society, the members of which will probably find it more convenient to pay their 20 cents to Mrs. Jean Court (President), or Mrs. Val Plant (Secretary). More distant readers will find it easier to send three stamps to the Editor. Membership Lists for 1973.

Life Members.

Miss G. Auchterlonie, Narracan. Mr. R.N.Auchterlonie, Narracan Mrs. R. Bates, Crows Nest, N.S.W. Mr. K.G.Crellin, Papua New Guinea. Mrs. E. Derbyshire, Glen Iris. Dr. H.C.Disher, Strathfieldsaye. Miss. C.Dossiter, Kew. Mrs. O. Foster, Boisdale. Most Rev. A.F. Fox, Sale. Mr. J. Gilbert, Yinnar South. Mr. G. Grout, Traralgon. Mr. E.G.Gregory, Alberton West. Cr. Alan Hall, Budgeree Mr. L. Holyoak, Warrandyte.
Miss Peggy Lee, Valencia Creek.
Mrs. J. Liptrot, Eaglemont.
Mr. I.T.Maddern, Morwell.
Mr. V.E.Maddern, Murtoa.
Mr. G.J.Benson, Yinnar.
Sir Thomas Ramsay, Melbourne.
Mr. A. Ringin, Moe.
Mr. A. Ronald, Morwell.
Swan Hill Historical Society.
Cr. Martin Walker, Yinnar South.
Yarram Historical Society.

Members, 1973.

Mrs. A. Ansell, Nhulunbuy, N.T. Ararat Historical Society. Mrs. F. Derham, Morwell North. Miss K. Green, Morwell. Mrs. H. Heyward, Oakleigh. Mrs. D. Howes, Yarram . Mr. P.L.Kealy, Alice Springs. Mrs. W. Lang, Glengarry. Mr. E. Lubecke, Morwell Mrs. E. Lubecke, Morwell. Mrs. A. Morrow, Cranbourne. Miss E.A.E.Payne, Hawthorn. Mrs. V. Plant, Traralgon. Mrs. J. Shaw, Lakes Entrance. Mr. R.V.Stephens,Boronia. Mrs. H. Squires, Morwell. Mr. G. Taylor, Morwell. Mrs. G. Taylor, Morwell. Mrs. S. Walker, Morwell.

Obituary Mrs. Ellen Catherine Meadows,

We regret to report the death of one of our earliest lifemembers, Mrs. Ellem Catherine Meadows (nee Firmin), of Yinnar. She was the wife of Mr. Dick Meadows, the daughter of Mr Walter Firmin, who wrote the first "History of Yinnar" (in 1933), and the grand-daughter of George Firmin, 1832-1912, the early selector who took over the old Scrubby Forest Station homestead in 1874. Our story of Scrubby Forest and the Firmin Family, told in three chapters of our Volume 2 (1963) of the "Morwell Historical Society News", was compiled with the very important help of Mrs. Meadows, and from the newspaper articles, photos, and private records which she had preserved.

Her grandfather, George Firmin married Miss Maria Geale in England, in January 1852, and emigrated to Australia, the same year, arriving at Geelong in December, 1852. The children of George and Maria Firmin were George, Frances (Mrs. C. Morrell), Alfred, Emily (Mrs. G. Bond), William, Walter, Annie, James, Elizabeth, Jessie and Ellen.

Walter Firmin, 1863-1943, married Miss Mary Jane Hopkins of Yinnar, and their two children were Ellen (Mrs.Meadows) and Alice (Mrs. Frank Smith).

A Complete History of Morwell.

At the beginning of last year, we decided to start again at the beginning, and work methodically through the history of Morwell, from its earliest days until the present, a task which will take us at least two or three years more, and the material for which will make up the copy of the "News" for the issues of those years.

Readers will have noted that the four numbers of our 1973 Volume 12 were concerned with the earliest days of Morwell and took the story of the town and district into the 1890's. This is the most difficult period, because it is the most remote, and the least well-recorded, but we did get some important background information from that mammoth production, "Victoria and Its Metropolis" published in 1887. Unashamedly, we drew heavily from certain chapters of that record.

In 1905, there was published a similar though smaller work, "The Cyclopedia of Victoria", carrying on the Victorian story, including that of the country towns, for another twenty years. This present issue of the "News" consists mainly of the description of Morwell, given in the "Cyclopedia".But, by the very nature of the "Cyclopedia", its account of Morwell and its citizens is too brief, and by no means complete. It is an important source of information but it must be supplemented by others, such as the local newspapers.

Extracts from the Cyclopedia of Victoria, Volume 111, published in 1905.

Morwell in 1905.

Page..3.

The township of Morwell, which lies ninety-nine miles south-eastward from Melbourne, on the railway line to Sale and Bairnsdale, and eight miles to the westward of Traralgon, is the centre of a large agricultural and dairying district, in the midst of extensive deposits of brown coal. The township, a few years ago, attained some prominence on account of the Great Morwell Brown Coal Mine, situated near the bank of the Latrobe River, six miles to the north-west.

The best point of vantage from which to obtain a bird's eye view of Morwell and its environs is from the summit of the belfry tower of the handsome Church of the Sacred Heart, situated in the Commercial Road, near the railway station. From this elevation, Morwell presents itself as a long, straggling township, with streets running east and west, parallel to each other and to the railway line.

It is surrounded on all sides, save to the eastward, by ranges densely clothed with timber, principally messmate, stringy bark, and by small patches of blue gum. To the south-west are the Strzelecki Ranges, seeming quite close, but in reality some thirty miles away from the township, covered with a mantle of sombre green.

Away to the north-west, and considerably nearer the township, are the Haunted Hills, which derive their name from a curious legend of the early days, when this particular locality was part of a cattle track used by the drovers at that time to convey large mobs of sheep and cattle from Bairnsdale and the districts further east, to Melbourne.

A drover who was the first to adopt that route, so the legend runs, on approaching a certain spot in the hills, was descending a steep incline, when the mob of cattle he was driving suddenly stampeded, and fled, terror-stricken, into the dense scrub, immediately disappeared from view, as if by magic, and were never seen again. The dismayed and awe-impressed drover strenuously maintained that an unearthly noise, emanating from the bowels of the earth, had bewitched his cattle, nor could he be persuaded to follow that route again.

From that time forward, other drovers, pursuing the same track, always averred that, at this very spot, their cattle always stampeded or became unmanageable, and that here, many of their stock were always lost, those in charge of them declaring that when this locality in the hills was reached, there could be distinctly heard the tramp of another mob of cattle descending the other side of the hill, but it invariably happened that, when any of the stockmen rode to the opposite slope for the purpose of ascertaining whether any such travelling stock could be seen, not a trace of them could be anywhere visible, and so they concluded that the wierd sounds arose from the ghostly tramp of the spectral cattle, which had so mysteriously disappeared years ago, when the track was first opened up.

The mysterious noise has, however, long since been accounted for by the phenomenon of an echo, arising from the peculiar formation of the hills in this locality, and one can readily understand the awful and impressive influence which such a phenomenon would exercise upon the minds of those probably superatitious stockmen in the wild solitude of the hills, and wholly unacquainted with its natural cause.

This echo is not confined, however, to these particular hills, but is peculiar to the township itself, for should a band be playing in the Commercial Road, it will sound as if the music came from some considerable distance up the street, and upon the other side of the railway line.

Away to the north of Morwell, in the distance can be seen the Dividing Range and Mount Baw Baw, the most prominent feature of the landscape, with its summit partially covered with snow, while, as far as the eye can reach, between the township and the purple contour of the hills, lies a stretch of gently undulating country, thickly timbered, so that as the spectator looks down upon the little township, from his position on the top of the church tower, Morwell appears to occupy a small clearing in the centre of an immense forest.

On the north side of the railway line, almost in the centre of the township, can be seen the tall poppet-heads of what was at one time, the shaft of the Maryvale Company's brown coal mine.

About a mile further on, westwards, on the same side of the line, are the Morwell Brick Works, and facing these, on the opposite side of the railway, the eye is arrested by the curious bottle-shaped kilns of the Morwell Brick, Tile, and Pottery Company.

Page..4

The principal street in Morwell is the Commercial Road, the houses in which are built on one side of the thoroughfare only, and front the railway station, alongside of which, facing the houses, are planted a number of tall pine trees, which extend for a considerable distance along the street.

The houses are very irregular, and with two exceptions, the street contains no buildings worthy of special notice, these being the Roman Catholic Church of the Sacred Heart, and the Post Office.

The former is a fine specimen of early English Gothic architecture, built of red brick, with a handsome belfry tower, which rises to a height of 75 feet. It was planned by the well-known Melbourne firm of architects, Messrs. Reed, Smart, and Tappin, who have designed so many ecclesiastical buildings in Victoria. The contractor for the building was Mr. J. Hall, builder, of Morwell, and it was erected at a cost of £2,566, of which sum £1,000 was the munificent donation of Mrs. Fitzpatrick, a resident of the place.

This really handsome church is the most striking architectural feature in the township, and is so finely proportioned as to give a feeling of spaciousness to the whole structure, making the building appear much larger than it really is. The main aisle is 60 feet by 30 feet, and its height from the floor to the apex of the roof, which is constructed of Californian red pine,divided into panels, is 32 feet. The chancel, which has an octagonal apsis, contains a fine, ornamental ceiling of fibrous plaster. In the sanctuary adjoining are two stained glass windows, containing two lights each, executed by Mr. Montgomery of Melbourne, the one representing the Virgin Mary, and the other, St. Joseph and the Immaculate Conception. The ventilation of the church is effected by means of a central octagonal fleche.

The Post Office, situated in Commercial Road, is a large, handsome, and commodious structure of brick, with buff-coloured facings, and immediately arrests the attention of visitors crossing from the railway station to the main street. It divides with the Church of the Sacred Heart the architectural honours of the township.

A great deal of interest in Morwell was excited seventeen years ago (1888) by the discovery of brown coal in the vicinity, when the late Mr.Henry Godridge, who had been prospecting in the neighbourhood for years, struck a deposit of brown coal on the north bank of the Latrobe River, six miles northwest from the township. A number of residents recognized the probable importance of the discovery, and eventually a Melbourne syndicate was formed, and the seam was opened up. A shaft was sunk, some 36 feet by 12 feet, and coal found a few feet from the surface.

About this time, Mr. W. Tulloch, an old resident in Morwell, found, at a distance of ten chains from the shaft sunk by Godridge and party, coal in the hillside, eight chains away from the bank of the river. This proved to be an almost solid mass of brown coal, and as from its natural position it could be worked with less difficulty and expense by quarrying into the hill, instead of sinking, the original claim of Godridge and party was abandoned in favour of Mr. Tulloch's. It was found, on examination, that the hill was covered with a surface stripping of earth 25 feet thick at its deepest part, when a solid seam of coal was disclosed in a "face" 60 feet in thickness from the base to the summit of the hill.

After this discovery the Great Morwell Brown Coal Company was formed for the working of the mine, and arrangements made with the Government to lay down a loop line from the Gippsland main line to the mine, a distance of three and a half miles. The company was to construct the line at its own expense, the Government agreeing to refund £5,000 on condition that the company would erect a briquette plant.

When the line was completed, a large quantity of brown coal in its raw state was despatched to Melbourne, and other markets elsewhere, and for a time the coal met with a ready sale.

The Great Morwell Company then entered into a contract with the Otis Elevator Company for the erection of a briquette plant. It had been previously proposed by Mr. Tulloch that a small plant be imported from Germany, and to engage an expert there, to be sent out in charge of it, but in this proposal he was overruled, and the late Mr. Perry, of the Otis Elevator Company, went to Germany, and returned with plans for the construction of a briquetting machine. In due time the plant was constructed, and when tested was found to be entirely unsuitable.

Before the machinery was paid for, a fire occurred, in which the buildings were destroyed, with the whole of the plant. Fresh machinery was erected, and guaranteed to be efficient, but this also proved to be a failure, and the shareholders became disheartened.

The great majority of the shares were held by the first syndicate, and the holders of them refused further calls. Consequently, the whole of the property, including the lease, fell into the hands of the National Bank as liquidators, who sold both lease and machinery to Holmes Bros. Mr. Tulloch then applied for the forfeiture of the lease in August, 1899, in consequence of the non-compliance with the labour covenants. In this he was unsuccessful, but a year later he made another application, which succeeded. At this time Holmes Bros. had sold the lease to the Gippsland Goldfields Syndicate, who entered an action against Tulloch and Co. for trespass, claiming £500 damages. The case lasted several months, and was finally decided in favour of the defendants. The Goldfields Syndicate entered an appeal which fell through, leaving Tulloch and Co. once more in possession of the mine.

Mr. Tulloch then approached the Government to repair the loop line, but they declined to do this, and then the Company met the demand of the Railway Department for £250 for repairs to the line.

The Government next required a further bank guarantee of £175 per annum from the company for all time. This demand Tulloch and Co. would not accede to, and in 1902 Mr. Tulloch withdrew, and the undertaking went into liquidation.

Mr. Tulloch still holds the lease, and many of the residents of Morwell continue to be very sanguine that, ultimately, the immense areas of brown coal in the neighbourhood will be operated upon, and will revive the prosperity of the township.

A scheme has been recently suggested whereby this almost inexhaustible supply of fuel could be profitably used as a means of generating electricity in sufficient quantity to perform the whole of the domestic work of Melbourne as regards lighting, cooking and heating, etc., with economy and cleanliness. This, it is contended, could be accomplished without difficulty by the construction of large "generators" in the neighbourhood of the mines producing alternating currents of high pressure, which could be conveyed to Melbourne by means of wires three or four inches in diameter, and there received into a "transformer", and changed into low pressure currents available for immediate use.

Near the Great Morwell mine, on the other side of the loop line, two years afterwards, the Great Gippsland Company started operations on land held under lease by Dr. L. L. Smith, which extends over 2,000 acres, but little work has been done, owing to the humidity of the soil.

The Maryvale mine, on private land leased in the township, sank, by means of a diamond drill supplied by the Government, 1,009 feet, proving over 800 feet of brown coal. At 25 feet the drill went through splendid fire-clay, which Morwell possesses in abundance. This company abandoned operations thirteen years ago (1892).

Doubtless it was owing to the machinery having failed in the manufacture of briquettes, coupled with the fact that, shortly after the opening of the Morwell mine, the black coal measures of Korumburra were opened up, and the fuel rapidly placed on the market, that the interest originally excited in the area by the brown coal discoveries rapidly faded out of the public mind, and this branch of industry passed into almost complete oblivion. Thus, Morwell narrowly missed becoming one of the most thriving commercial centres in Gippsland.

That the failure to produce good briquettes did not proceed from any defect in the quality of the coal itself, but was due to the unsuitableness of the machinery imported, is proved by the fact that a sample of coal sent to Germany was manufactured into briquettes which gave every satisfaction, being very hard, and only capable of fracture by a forcible blow, whereas those manufactured locally wanted cohesion and were friable to the touch.

Still, notwithstanding the combination of adverse circumstances by which Morwell has missed its mark as an important mining centre for the present, it is a thriving place. A large trade is done in dairy cattle raising and in general agriculture in the surrounding districts.

There are several first-class hotels in the township, and churches representing all the religious denominations.

A visit to the Great Morwell mine would well repay the tourist, especially if he be a lover of the picturesque. A drive along the road from Morwell for three miles brings the tourist to the Melbourne road. Crossing this and leaving it on the left, the Latrobe River is reached, spanned by a timber bridge about 300 feet in length, erected alongside the old structure, which remains denuded of its decking some 12 feet higher than the present bridge.

Page.. 6.

The Morwell Historical Society News, Vol. 13, No. 1. 15/2/1974.

After crossing the river, you reach the road leading directly to the mine, through partially cleared land, upon which some neat farmhouses have been erected here and there. When the branch railway line is reached, it is seen to curve round right into the mine, which is situated in a very pleasant hollow. At its entrance the visitor may observe, at the bottom of a bridle track, the spring cart of some hardy settler whose homestead is perched upon the summit of the ridge, and who is compelled to pack all his produce up and down the bridle track on horseback to his cart, the rough nature of the country making it impossible to bring the vehicle nearer to his home.

A hundred yards or so beyond this, and following the curve of the line to the left, the traveller finds hinself confronted by a wall of brown coal, which rises in a "face" of 60 feet perpendicular before him from the level ground upon which he stands, and below which it has been traced for 40 feet. How much deeper it may extend can only be matter for conjecture, as it has not been bottomed at that depth.

A tranway runs around the top of the ridge, by which means the earth, when stripped from the surface, is carried away and tipped clear of the "face".

The scene around the mine is one of sylvan beauty. The summit of this cliff of coal is heavily timbered, and here the rank vegetation and undergrowth reach above the waist. The landscape is one mass of variegated colour, of red and white, of green and gold, from the wattle ferns, and red and white heather, which grow in such wild profusion here that the traveller can with difficulty make his way through it. The beauty and the stillness of the scene, only broken at intervals by the beautiful note of the bell-bird or the sound of the rushing waters of the river, are very impressive, and contrast strangely with the desolate and forlorn appearance of the rusty rails and the charred and decaying remnants of the sidings, where the timbers have been scorched and blackened by fire

Men of Morwell.

Pages 555 to 559 inclusive of the Cyclopedia of Victoria, Volume 111 are devoted to the biographies of some of the more important citizens of that time, - 1905. Illustrating the biographies are photos of:-

Mr. Arthur Wellesley Witt; Mr. George Watson; Mr. Robert Porter;	
Captain John Hall; Mr. Walter Edney; Mr. A. A. Brown;	
Mr. Thomas Watson; Mr. George Bolding; Mr. John Barton Ho	yle;
Dr. Julian A.R.Smith; Mr. William Tulloch; Mr. Thomas Klein.	

as well as photos of John Hall's Premises, Morwell Butter Factory, and the Residence of Mr. J. E. Hoyle, showing Mr.and Mrs.Hoyle and Rose Hoyle standing in front of the house. (This house, the oldest house in Morwell, can still be seen, in Jane Street, Morwell).

<u>Mr. Arthur Wellesley Witt</u>, manager of the Colonial Bank of Australasia Ltd., Morwell, was born in the district of Beechworth, Victoria, in 1862, and is a son of Mr. Charles King Witt, one of Victoria's early settlers, who arrived in 1857, and was identified for many years with the Benalla and Beechworth districts, where he carried on business as a merchant. On the completion of his scholastic career in Benalla, the subject of this memoir entered the office of Mr. T. S. Moore, grain buyer and commission agent, of that town, and from there he joined the service of the Colonial Bank in 1884, at the Melbourne office. After remaining there for a period of two years he was transferred to Seymour, and in 1888 was appointed manager at Grantville, which position he filled for a like period. His next move was to Loch, where he acted as manager until 1894, in which year he received his present appointment.

Mr. Witt is treasurer of the Shire of Narracan, as also of Morwell, and takes an active interest in all movements appertaining to the advancement and welfare of the district. He is a licensed gold buyer under the Act.

He married, in 1892, Edith, daughter of the late Mr. Walter Bonwick, of Hawthorn. His wife died in 1896, leaving a family of one son and one daughter. Mrs. Witt is buried in the Hazelwood Cemetery.

<u>Mr. John Hall, J.P., ex-President of the Morwell Shire, was born in the North</u> of Ireland (County Tyrone) in 1866, and educated in his native land. He arrived in Victoria in 1884, and for some months travelled over the colony gaining experience, finally settling down in a storekeeping business in the Goulburn Valley, where he remained for about five years, but, owing to the climate of that place proving uncongenial, went to Traralgon, and, after a few years there, purchased his present business in Morwell, where he carries on as a wine and

Page ... 7.

The Morwell Historical Society News, Vol. 13, No. 1. 15/2/1974.

spirit and general merchant and building contractor. He was elected to a seat in the Morwell Shire Council in 1897, and in the following year was promoted to the dignity of president. Mr. Hall takes a great interest in military affairs, has attained the rank of captain, and is at present a captain of the 10th A.L.H. Regiment. As a private citizen he is held in high esteem, and his business forms no mean adjunct to the industries of the district, finding, as it does, employment for about twenty-five hands. Mr. Hall is married and has a family of two sons and one daughter.

<u>Mr. Thomas Watson</u>, member of the Morwell Shire Council, is a native of Victoria, having been born in Ballarat in the year 1860. He was brought up to farming pursuits, and in 1875 removed to Morwell, of which district his father was one of the earliest pioneers. For the last twenty years Mr. Watson has been engaged in dairy farming on his property at Morwell, and is a large supplier of milk to the Fresh Food and Frozen Storage Company's creamery, which adjoins his farm. He also goes in for horse-breeding. Mr. Watson is highly respected throughout the district with which he has been so long and honorably identified, and in 1900 was elected to a seat in the Morwell Shire Council. He married, in 1884, Emma Louise, daughter of the late Mr. Theodore Hentschell, a well-known storekeeper in the early days of Victoria, and has a family of four daughters and two sons.

Julian Augustus Romaine Smith, M.D., B.S., Melb., and B.Sc., Adel., practising at Morwell, Gippsland, was born in London in 1873, and is a son of Captain Julian Smith of Adelaide, whence he came with his parents in 1876. He was educated at the Prince Alfred College, Adelaide, and at the Adelaide and Melbourne Universities, where he took the degrees B.Sc., Adel., in 1892; M.B., Melb., 1898; B.S., Melb., 1899; and M.D., Melb., 1901. He then filled the position of resident surgeon at the Melbourne Hospital for a period of twelve months, and was subsequently engaged for a like period as junior demonstrator of anatomy at the Melbourne University, and medical tutor at Ormond College. During his studies at the Prince Alfred College, Dr. Smith gained the Government scholarship for the study of science at the Adelaide University, and afterwards was successful in winning all scholarships open to medical students at the Adelaide and Melbourne Universities, having had the distinction of being placed first on the first class honour lists right through the courses. In 1901 Dr. Smith commenced practice in Morwell, Gippsland, where he has remained ever since. He has taken an active interest in rowing, and rowed in the Adelaide University eight in 1895 and 1896, the crew winning the latter race, held in Melbourne. He has also rowed and coached for Ormond College, Melbourne. Dr. Smith married, in 1901, Edith, daughter of Mr. J. H. Reynolds, of Glenrowan.

Mr. George Watson, sole proprietor of "The Morwell Advertiser".

"The Morwell Advertiser" newspaper, published in Morwell, is issued every Friday, and enjoys a large circulation throughout the district. Mr. George Watson, the sole proprietor, took over operations in 1896. Born at Bacchus Marsh, Victoria, in the year 1874, this gentleman is the youngest son of the late Mr. Robert Watson, one of the earliest pioneers of this State, having landed in New South Wales in the early forties, and shortly afterwards removed to Victoria. He was present at the Eureka Stockade, and the great mining rushes of the early fifties, and subsequently settled down at Bacchus Marsh.

Mr. George Watson went with his parents to Gippsland and engaged in farming operations. Afterwards, he became identified with the "Morwell Advertiser", then owned by Mr. R. H. Turnley. A few years later, the journal passed into the hands of Mr. Stephens and Mr. Guest, and Mr. Watson purchased a third interest in the business. In 1896 he became the sole proprietor, as before mentioned. Mr. Watson, who acts as editor of the newspaper, is correspondent for the Melbourne "Argus", and also does a large business in job printing and in bookbinding. He takes great interest in local affairs, and is president of the Morwell branch of the A.N.A., secretary of the M.U.I.O.O.F. Lodge, and of the local Mechanics' Institute. He takes a leading part in all social functions, and is specially interested in sporting movements. Mr. Watson married, in 1898, Mary, daughter of Mr. George Morris, for some time a resident of Morwell.

Page ... 8.

<u>Walter Edney</u>, of "Home Hill", Morwell, was born in Hampshire, England in the year 1833. He comes from a very old yeomanry family, who have been for generations, noted breeders of sheep in that county. His father, the late Mr. William Edney was the winner of many prizes for his sheep.

Educated in his native county, at Abresford Grammar School, Mr. Walter Edney left England for Victoria in the good ship "Diadem", having for fellow passengers Mr. (now Sir) William Zeal, and Mr. Edward Langton. He was for some years engaged in mining at Forest Creek and McIvor, and then took up farming at Heidelberg, on McHanden's Estate, in conjunction with his late brother, Alfred, remaining there for seven years. Mr. Edney's next move was to Ivanhoe, and from thence to Lancefield, where he managed a large farm for Dr. Phipps (who now resides at Paynesville) for four years. Wishing to possess land of his own, he went to Jindivick, Gippsland. He was one of the first selectors there, and cleared many acres of the dense bush and heavy forest, which he now owns and lets. He also built a general store and slaughter-yards, which he and his sons have conducted ever since. In 1891 he bought a large saw-mill business at Yinnar, but this was destroyed by a bush-fire in 1897. Mr. Edney then purchased "Home Hill" on the Morwell River, his present residence. He married, in 1862, a daughter of the late Mr. John Greenaway of Ivanhoe, by whom he had three sons, now all in business for themselves. Mrs. Edney died in 1884, and two years later he married a daughter of the late Mr. Walter Saunders, solicitor, Sydney, by whom he has one daughter, Katie, twelve years old.

Mr. Edney has always taken great interest in cricket. In 1856 he helped to form the first club, and to fence in the cricket ground at Heidelberg, and likewise introduced to the Melbourne Club the fastest bowler they ever had -Jack Boak, who has been known to break the wickets into pieces when bowling. The love of cricket seems to run in the family as, two years ago, Mr. Edney's three sons were captains of three different clubs in Gippsland.

Mr. Edney has always taken an interest in local affairs. He was elected a member of the first Buln Buln Shire Council, and filled the office of president on two occasions. He has been a justice of the peace for over a quarter of a century; a member of the Church Assembly, and one of the committee of the Traralgon Agricultural Society. Mr. Edney is held in high esteem, both in his public capacity and in private circles.

Mr. George Bolding, of "Grasspan", North Hazelwood, about six miles from Morwell, was born in Cambridgeshire, England, in the year 1837. He comes of a good old yeomanry family, and was brought up to farming pursuits in his native county. He arrived in Australia by the ship "James Furney" in 1854, and was for some time in Queensland, where he was engaged in opening up country for squatting purposes. Mr. Bolding removed to Victoria at the time of the great gold rushes to Castlemaine, Ovens, and Bendigo, and on his return to Queensland, participated in the rush at Port Curtis, now the site of Rockhampton. His next move was to Brisbane, where he was engaged in stock-droving, and other pursuits for ten years. About two years later, he purchased his present property in Gippsland. The Grasspan property comprises some 320 acres of rich, agricultural land, of which 40 acres are under cultivation. Mr. Bolding goes in for grazing on a big scale. Some eighty cows are milked. The "Grasspan" butter is well known for its superior quality, the Bolding brand having won innumerable prizes at various shows throughout Gippsland. Mr. Bolding married in 1873, and had a family of five sons and one daughter. His eldest son, the late Mr. George William Bolding, was a member of the Third Victorian Bushmen's Contingent in the Boer War. After the siege at Elands River, he contracted enteric fever, from which he died in the Pretoria Hospital, 24/10/1900. A second son, Mr. John Bolding, was a member of the First Victorian Contingent to volunteer for the front, and saw active service throughout the South African War.

<u>Mr. Robert Porter</u>, of Merryvale Park, near Morwell, was born in Donegal, in the north of Ireland, 1839, and was brought up to farming pursuits in his native land. At the age of 17 he arrived in Victoria by the ship "Chancellor", and for the next 10 years was engaged in farming in the Malmsbury district. In 1874, he moved to Morwell, selected the property on which he now resides, and identified himself closely with district activities. He takes an active interest in the welfare of Morwell, especially in the affairs of the local Presbyterian Church, of which he is an elder. He married, in 1866, a daughter of the late Mr. Wm. Tolmie. Mrs. Porter died in 1886, leaving a family of four daughters and seven sons, two of the latter assisting him now in the working of the property.

The Morwell Historical Society News, Vol. 13, No. 1.

<u>Mr. William Tulloch</u>, Proprietor of "The Mart" and News Agency, Stationer and Undertaker, Morwell, was born in the Orkney Islands, North of Scotland, and came out to Victoria in the year 1851, with his parents. He was educated at St. Mark's School, Fitzroy, and afterwards apprenticed to the carpentering trade with Mr. McKenzie, a well-known builder and contractor of that time. On the completion of his indentures, Mr. Tulloch carried out a number of contracts in and around Melbourne. In 1879, he entered into partnership, and carried out a number of contracts for the Government on the Goulburn Valley and Gippsland lines, and in 1880 moved to the Gippsland district, and finally settled at Morwell, where he established himself as a builder and contractor. In this capacity,he carried out building contracts for the most important residences in and around the district, including the two brick hotels at Morwell, and the first houses erected in Mirboo and other adjacent townships. He gave up the building trade ten years ago.

Page...9.

Mr. Tulloch has taken a great interest in the development of the coal industry, in the furtherance of which he has spent a considerable amount of time and money. He was the promoter of the Maryvale and other coal companies.

Mr. Tulloch married, in 1870, a daughter of the late Mr. David Morrow, a well-known draper of Melbourne, and has a family of one daughter and four sons. He is assisted in his present business by his sons, Messrs. R. M. and Samuel Tulloch, the former having control of the stationery, news agency and hairdressing department, while the latter assists at both businesses.

Mr. A. A. Brown, Manager of the Morwell Butter Factory.

The Morwell Butter Factory, situated about one mile from the Morwell railway station, was originally a local private enterprise, and as such did not prove a very profitable concern. In 1899, it was taken over by Messrs. Wood & Company Pty. Ltd., with Mr. A. A. Brown as manager, and since that date, has made rapid progress, the output being about thirteen tons of butter per week, during the season. The cream is supplied from Sale, Drouin, Mirboo, Thorpdale, and surrounding districts, and about seven hands are employed in the factory.

Mr. Brown, the manager, is a native of Scotland, and was brought up to the engineering trade. He came out to Victoria in 1888, and in the next year entered Dookie Agricultural College, where he pursued a course of study, on the completion of which he was appointed manager of the Swan Pool Butter Factory, a position he occupied for about five years. He resigned in order to take a trip to Europe, and visited all the leading butter-producing counties in England, Denmark and Switzerland. On his return to Victoria in 1898, Mr. Brown was appointed by Messrs. Wood and Company as manager of their factory at Yarrawonga. On the ourchase of the Morwell factory, the Company transferred him there. While resident in Swan Pool, he filled the office of president of the North-Eastern branch of the Australian Butter and Cheese Factories' Managers' Association.

Mr. Thomas Kleine,

Mr. Thomas Kleine is the principal of the firm of Messrs.T. Kleine and Co., Morwell Butchery, Commercial Road, Morwell, Wholesale and Retail Butchers, manufacturers of small goods of every description.

This business, which is the most important of its kind in the district was established in 1893 by the present principal, Mr. Thomas Klein.

The establishment finds constant employment for three hands, and enjoys a large and extensive connection throughout the district. The slaughteryards are situated on the property, and Mr. Kleine, who does all his own buying, is the owner of a first-class steam plant for the manufacture of small goods, for which his name is a household word in Morwell.

Mr. Thomas Kleine was born at Matlock, North Gippsland, and is a son of the late Mr. Charles Kleine, one of the earliest and most highly esteemed identities of Gippsland. He was brought up to the baking business, and later went to Tasmania, where he was engaged in business at Bischoff and other mining centres in that colony. On his return to Victoria, Mr. Kleine speculated largely in mining ventures, and on selling out, moved to Toongabbie, where he established a butchery business. In 1893, he disposed of his business, and transferred operations to Morwell, where he has remained ever since, and is now one of the leading tradesmen in the district. He is interested in considerable properties in Morwell. He is a member of the M.U.I.O.O.F. Lodge, in which he has been through all the chairs. He is held in high esteem throughout the district with which he has been so long and honorably associated.

In 1892, he married a daughter of Mr. Argne, of County Cavan, Ireland, and has a family of five children.

Page ... 10.

Mr. John Barton Hall, Sworn Valuator, Land and General Commission Agent.

Mr. Hoyle was born in Beechworth, Victoria, in the year 1860, and is a son of the late Mr. Thomas Hoyle, who came out to Victoria in the early fifties, and was identified with the mining industry of the Beechworth district for many years. Educated in Beechworth, he was afterwards apprenticed to the coach-building trade, and in 1882 went to Bathurst, New South Wales, under engagement to Cobb and Co.

Returning to Victoria, he settled at Mooroopna, where he was active in local affairs, being for five years a member of the Mooroopna Hospital Committee.

In 1890, Mr. Hoyle moved to Gippsland and settled in Morwell. Six years later, he established his present business. Since taking up his residence in the district, Mr. Hoyle has identified himself with all movements connected with the welfare and the advancement of the township of Morwell and the surrounding district. He holds the commission of captain of the Morwell Rifle Club. He is likewise secretary to the local Racing Club, a member of the A. N. A., and of the M.U.I.O.O.F. Lodge.

He married, in 1889, Mary, daughter of Mr. Jabez Powell, an old and esteemed resident of the Goulburn Valley district.

Boolarra in 1905.

(As described by the Cyclopedia of Victoria, Vol.111, Pages 560-561)

Boolarra is a small township 101 miles from Melbourne to the east, and twelve miles from Morwell to the south, on the Morwell and Mirboo North railway line. The township is situated in the midst of undulating country, rough, broken, and thickly timbered on all sides, the timber being chiefly messmate and stringy bark, all the most valuable of the trees, such as red gum and blue gum having been cut out long since by different saw-mills, which have, from time to time, been erected in the neighbourhood, and furnished large quantities of excellent railway sleepers for the construction of the Gippsland railway line.

The little township consists of a single street, built on one side only of the road, facing the railway station to the north-west. This is known as the Main Street, and it may be said to be the only street, for in it is comprised the whole of Boolarra, containing a population of less than 250, the principal buildings being two places of worship and three hotels.

Boolarra is surrounded on all sides by hills, but the site of the township is comparatively level, the ground rising only as the ranges are approached in the direction of Mirboo North, from whence the tracks and road become more rough and miry in the winter season, especially as the tourist proceeds in the direction of Mirboo North, on what is little better than a corduroy track, which takes the direction of the Strzelecki Ranges.

A large area of exceedingly rich agricultural land surrounds Boolarra, capable of producing heavy root crops, especially of potatoes, onions, and sugar beet. The latter has been tried in the neighbourhood, and found to thrive remarkably well (the percentage of saccharine being very high), and proves to be an excellent food for the cattle, while oats, barley and other cereals yield large crops, but are little cultivated, owing to the greater attention bestowed upon the two industries of dairying and the raising of cattle. The grass in the district is very plentiful, and its properties are such that cattle fatten upon it rapidly, while for dairying purposes it can scarcely be excelled. Thus, the chief industry of the place is naturally the latter, and it is mainly responsible for the existence of Boolarra.

At the same time, the whole of the district is noted for its excellent pasture land, from Morwell to Boolarra, and about Yinnar, Darlimurla, and as far as Mirboo, so that it is not at all surprising that the enterprising farmers of Boolarra and the surrounding country have started, and almost completed, a new butter factory, with all the latest machinery and improvements, at a cost of £2,000. The concern is conducted on the cooperative principle, and the sanguine promoters expect to realize a net profit of £800 for the first half-year.

A seam of black coal of considerable extent has been discovered in the neighbourhood, and there is some plausibility in the conjecture that it is identical with that which has been found at Mirboo North. The mine has not been opened up, however, to any great extent hitherto, but the coal extracted is said to be of very good quality, and should there be discovered large deposits of iron ore, as is so often the case, the day may come when the quiet rural industry of dairying may be overshadowed by manufacturing enterprises.

Page...11.

Citizens of Boolarra

(Including photos of Mr. William Pattison Christian, Mr. T.D. Latter, and Mr. Tomas Scanlon, and of P. W. Heyman's Butter Factory)

William Pattison Christian, General Merchant, Boolarra.

The business was established in 1889 by the Messrs.Hopkins Bros., from whom it was purchased by the present proprietor, in conjunction with his brother. Born in West Melbourne in 1866, Mr. W. P. Christian is a son of Mr. Nicholas H. Christian, the well-known mining expert, carrying on business at 31 Queen Street, Melbourne. He was educated in West Melbourne, and, on the completion of his scholastic career, was identified with cricket and football, having been a member of the champion Essendon team of 1891-92-93, and on leaving for Boolarra, was presented by that club with a testimonial. He still takes a great interest in sporting matters, and fills the office of secretary to the Boolarra Racing Club. He is likewise associated with all public and social functions throughout the district. Mr. Christian married, in 1897, a daughter of Mr. Alex. McDonald, of South Melbourne, and has one daughter.

Mr. Svend Hartmann, Manager of Messrs. P.W.Heyman and Co's Butter Factory.

Mr. Svend Hartmann was born in Denmark in 1875, and is a son of the late Mr. David Hartmann, who was for many years identified with the butter industry in Denmark. He received his education in his native province, and afterwards obtained an extensive and practical experience in butter-making under his father, being afterwards engaged in three of the principal factories in Denmark, of which he was manager of two. Mr. Hartmann arrived in Victoria in 1895, and after filling positions with the Victorian Co-operative Butter Co., and the Melbcurne Chilled Butter Company respectively, he accepted the managership of the Holdenson and Neilson Butter Factory. Cn the introduction of Mr. Heyman's agency into Melbourne, Mr. Hartmann suggested the building of a factory at Boolarra, which was accordingly carried out. It was opened in September, 1902. Although the enterprise is in the first few months of existence, the weekly output averages six tons per week. The whole of the factory, including machinery, boiler, etc., is under Mr. Hartmann's personal supervision, and half a dozen hands find constant employment on the premises. Mr. Hartmann married, in 1897, a daughter of Mr. B. Lucas, for many years associated with the firm of Messrs. Wm. B. Bunch and Co. They have a family of two sons.

Mr. D. T. Latter.Timber Merchant, Boolarra.

Mr. D. T. Latter has been connected with the district for the last sixteen years. Born in Linton, near Ballarat, in 1866, he was educated in South Australia, whither he went with his parents, and was afterwards brought up to the blacksmithing trade. He established himself in Boolarra in 1886 as a blacksmith, but after five years, opened up in the timber trade, with which he has been identified ever since. In his capacity as a timber merchant, Mr. Latter introduced the blackwood log to the Melbourne market with marked success, and so opened up a new industry for Gippsland. He is a large property-holder in the district, and fills the offices of president of the Boolarra Turf Club, and chairman of the Boolarra Cemetery Trust. He is a member of the Hopetoun Masonic Lodge, Morwell, and takes an interest in all matters concerning the district's welfare. Mr. Latter married, in 1885, Alice, daughter of Mr. Charles Mitchell, and has a family of two sons and two daughters.

Mr. Thomas Scanlan, Proprietor of the Club Hotel, Boolarra.

Mr. Scanlan was born in Geelong, Victoria, in 1862, and was educated there. He was afterwards brought up to farming pursuits, and in 1884 moved to Gippsland, selecting land about nine miles from Boolarra. This property is now leased by his brother, who carries on business as a dairy farmer. Mr. T. Scanlan took over the conduct of the Club Hotel, Boolarra in 1895. He has filled the office of president of the Boolarra Bowling Club, of which he is an active member, and takes a lively interest in the advancement of the district.

Mr. Scanlan married, in 1886, a daughter of Mr. Richard Lawless, of Wallace, and has a family of two sons and two daughters.

Page 12.

Morwell Traders, Citizens and Public Men, 1902 and 1907.

The list of leading citizens given in the "Cyclopedia" of 1905 is a long way short of being comprehensive, as shown by the reminiscences of the late Miss Emma Bridle, and the late Mr. Hugh Vary, and also by the local newspaper, "The Advertiser" in its news and advertisements between the years 1902 to 1907. Here is a street directory of Morwell at this period, compiled from these sources.

Commercial Road, from Hazelwood Road to Tarwin Street.

The business centre proper began at the western end, with Samuel's Coffee Palace, where the Town Hall is situated now. Then, from across Hazelwood Road, from west to east were the following:-

1.Cricketers' Arms Hotel (Smythe family);		Pharmacy (Mr. Brown);
2.Colonial Bank (later, the National);		Estate Agent (J.B. Hoyle);
3.Blacksmith (John Rintoull);	9.	Saddler (Mr. Haiz)
4.Saddler (Mr. Blay)(earlier, Mr. Stephenson);		Bank of Australasia;
5.Tinsmith (Jim Bryden)		Club Hotel (Mr. Kelleher)
6.Bakery (Mr. Cooper)	12.	General Store (John Hall)

"(It is obvious that our informants have missed a place or two, as for example, Murdoch's Hotel, built in 1887.

Commercial Road, from Tarwin Street to Chapel Street.

Post Office ((Postmistresses were Miss Eliza Vigar, 1891-1902; Miss Maria King, 1903-1905; and Miss Agnes Mary Kane, 1905-1907)

Then followed a number of small shops - a draper's, a grocer's, a butcher's (Mr. T. Kleine), and the Advertiser Office. At the end of this block, in spacious grounds, was the surgery of the township's only doctor, Dr. Moir. (Later doctors who lived there were Dr. Julian Smith; Dr. McLean; Dr. Sutcliffe, and Dr. Mitchell, who built a new, brick home there).

Commercial Road, from Chapel Street to White Street.

The Commercial Road State School, No. 2136, occupied the whole frontage of this block. Immediately south of it, and on the other side of George Street (then extended) was St. Mary's Church of England. Further south again, and across Elgin Street were the first cattle and sale yards, which have now become the Town Common, a pleasant, little open spot in the town.

Commercial Road, from White Street to Wilson Street.

The business line of Commercial Road ended then, as now, at Chapel Street. From White Street to Wilson Street was purely residential, though one of the houses became a private hospital. Another was occupied by Miss Elizabeth Nichol, 1899-1903, a teacher at the Morwell State School. One of her pupils was Mr. Alf Ronald of Morwell.

The Roman Catholic Church and Presbytery were built in 1902 towards the eastern end of this block. Before this, a wooden building in George Street had served as both Church and school for the Roman Catholic community.

From Wilson Street to the Old Ridge Road (Yinnar to Morwell).

Here was the boarding-house conducted by Mrs. Georgina Irving, widow of John Irving, the first head-teacher of Morwell State School.Neighbours were the Donaldsons (early storekeepers), the Dustings (Mr. Dusting was a saddler), the last house being that of the Rowell family. (Mr. Rowell was a tailor). Further along, Commercial Road met the Old Ridge Road, about a mile from the main shopping centre of the town, about where a road now leads into the S.E.C. administrative buildings of the Morwell Project. There are still some old pine trees there, marking the approximate site of the first Presbyterian Manse.

The Old Ridge Road crossed the railway by means of a wooden bridge, and then swung away to become the road to Traralgon. The wooden bridge was burnt in the disastrous 1944 Morwell bush-fire.

Tarwin Street.

Along the east side of Tarwin Street, south from the Post-Office there were only two business places, - a butcher's shop, and then Green's Drapery Store, taken over some years ago, by Coles'. On the opposite side of Tarwin Street was Bill Holloway's store, and Mr. Holmes' jewellery shop. Across George Street, on the corner, was the Mechanics' Institute, which burned down in 1935. The site is now occupied by Maples Furniture Store.

We will have to leave the continuation of this "Directory" till a later issue.

Price ... 30 cents.

Page 13.

Vol. 13; No. 2. 1974.

The Morwell Historical Society News.

Journal of the Morwell Historical Society. Published quarterly - on the 15th. February, May, August, and November.

Editor..... I. T. Maddern, 12 Avondale Crescent, Morwell, Victoria, 3840.

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

Membership Fees.

Annual Subscription ... \$ 1-00

Life Membership\$10-00

Treasurer.....Mrs. G. Taylor, 17 Denise Street, Morwell, Victoria, 3840

Latrobe Valley Historical Societies.

Remaining Programme for 1974.

May, 1974.

Tuesday. 21/5/74...Monthly meeting of the Traralgon Historical Society at the Civic Reception Rooms, at 8.00 p.m. Mr. Alan Wilson...."Lime Deposits and Early Lime Kilns."

June, 1974.

Tuesday, 18/6/74...Monthly meeting of the Traralgon Historical Society, at the Civic Reception Rooms, at 8.00 p.m. Mr. Tom Standing..."Memories of an Auctioneer".

Saturday,22/6/74...The Last Train Journey, Morwell to Mirboo North. An excursion organized by the Australian Railway Historical Society. The train will leave Morwell at 11.30 a.m; Yinnar at 12-30 pm; Boolarra at 12.45 pm. and arrive at Mirboo North at 1.00 pm. On the return journey, it will leave Mirboo North at 2.30 pm; Boolarra at 2.45 pm; Yinnar at 3.40 pm. and arrive back at Morwell at 4.45 pm. Fares. Adults \$1-00; Under 16 \$0-50.

July, 1974.

Tuesday, 16/7/74...Monthly meeting of the Traralgon Historical Society, at the Civic Reception Rooms, at 8.00 p.m. Mr. I. T. Maddern..."Early Morwell, 1877-1890".

August, 1974.

Tuesday, 20/8/74...Monthly meeting of the Traralgon Historical Society, at the Civic Reception Rooms, at 8.00 p.m. Mrs. Wright....."Flynn".

September, 1974.

Friday, 13/9/74...Annual Dinner of the Latrobe Valley Historical Societies. Guest Speaker... Patsy Adam Smith.

Tuesday, 17/9/74...Monthly meeting of the Traralgon Historical Society, Mr. John Irving...."Warrigal Creek".

October, November and December.

Tuesday, 1/10/74...Mr. Andy Ringin..... "Coal Creek".

Tuesday, 19/11/74...Mr. Michael Howes...."Early Railways".

Tuesday, 10/12/74.. Annual Christmas Party.

Page 14.

The Morwell Hi	storical Society News, Vol. 13, No. 2
an igit shi tilifada ka araa ka daa daa a	lang tang menang men Ter terter set
	Subsidiary Membership List, 1974.
Life Members:	Mrs. E. Lyndon, Box 80, Leongatha, Victoria, 3953. Mrs. D.M.Parkin, 109 Locksley Road, Ivanhoe, Victoria, 3079.
	 Mr. A.R.Allingham, 67 Victoria Crescent, Mont Albert, 3127. Mr. W.W.Fielder, P.O. Box 223, Albury, N.S.W., 2640. Mrs. A. Gurd, 10 Acacia Street, Traralgon, 3844. Mr. S. R. Maddern, 44 Arnott Street, Horsham, Victoria, 3400. Mr. J. A. Moore, 2 Strzelecki Court, Traralgon, 3844. Mr. Bruce Reynolds, P.O. Box 45, Yinnar, Victoria, 3869.

Mrs. L. E. Sutherland, Traralgon, 3844.

Obituary.....Mr. C. S. Martin, 1883 - 6/4/1974.

Mr. Oswald Stanley Martin died at his residence, "Riverlea", Glengarry, on the 6th. April, 1974, aged 90 years.

His father, Thomas Potter Martin, was the fourth head-teacher of Cowwarr State School, 1889 - 1901, and became the Cowwarr correspondent of the "Traralgon Journal" for most of that time.

Oswald Martin was, therefore, six years old when the Martin family arrived at Cowwarr, and he was to spend the rest of his long life in Cowwarr, and the Cowwarr district. He was enrolled at the school in August, 1889, and left school in December, 1897 to learn farming and to become a farmer.

He was an important and articulate member of the community, and through his research work, memory, and writing, added considerably to our knowledge of the history of Cowwarr.

As a prelude to the "Back to Cowwarr" of Easter,1937, Ossie Martin wrote an excellent series of articles on the History of Cowwarr for the "Traralgon Journal, and they were published between 11/1/1937 and 22/3/1937, providing invaluable material for the "History of Cowwarr" which appeared in 1971. He knew more about Cowwarr than anyone else, and we must be grateful to him for recording that information in print.

Cowwarr which began in 1866, eleven years before Morwell, first had the strange name of "The Forty-Second" - because it was established under the provisions of the 42nd. clause of the Amendment to the Land Act of 1865.

In 1907, Oswald Stanley Martin married Miss Elizabeth Mary Mabel Smith, (1887 - 1971).Their children were Edna, Clarice (Mrs. White), Robert, Florence (Mrs. Anderson), Percival, Charles, Margaret (Mrs.Morgan - deceased), and Judith (Mrs. Cook, Yinnar.).

The Morwell - Mirboo North Railway.

The Morwell to Mirboo North railway line was completed in 1885 in three sections:

- 1. Morwell to Boolarra, completed 10/4/1885;
- 2. Boolarra to Darlimurla, completed 8/9/1885;
- 3. Darlimurla to Mirboo North, completed 7/1/1886.

The contractor for the line was Mr. John Robb, who then went on to build the Moe-Narracan line in 1886.

Work had started much earlier. We have a record of a Mr. E.A. Shead, foreman of a gang of railway workmen, writing to the Education Department in June 1883, asking for a school to be established at the "Twelve Mile Peg" the site of Boolarra now.

In April 1884, Inspector Hepburn of the Education Department visited the place and recommended a temporary school in a temporary building, since he did not consider the population there would be permanent. Of the 32 children listed as being of school age, 31 were children of railway workers. He added: "The site where they have built their huts is that of a surveyed township, as yet unnamed", but by the end of the year, it had been called Boolarra.

And now the line is being closed. Passenger services were withdrawn on 7th. September, 1968, and with the discontinuance of goods traffic on Tuesday, 18th. June, the line will be officially closed. The very last train to be run on the line will be our History Excursion Train on Saturday, 22nd. June.

Originally, there were four stations between the two terminus stations - Hazelwood, Yinnar, Boolarra, and Darlimurla, but Hazelwood was closed down in November 1953, and Darlimurla in March, 1966.

15/5/74.

Cemeteries.

Incomplete Records.

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Historians find that the earliest records of most cemeteries have been badly kept - that burials have been not recorded, graves left unmarked, and the names of those buried not entered.

Let us take the Horsham Cemetery as an example. Although the earliest graves marked by tombstones there, show dates as early as 1856, the beautifully kept cemetery book now in use started only in 1878 - twenty-two years later.

One reason for this might be that, to begin with, the cemetery was merely a burial ground agreed upon in a little community by common consent, with no-one appointed to keep records. Even if, later on, the burial ground became an official cemetery, by action of the Public Health Authority, with local trustees appointed, it could have easily happened that there was noone in that community with any clerical experience. Education was not free and compulsory before 1873, and illiteracy was pretty common, particularly in remote country areas.

Recording Methods.

Even today, for historians at any rate, the methods of recording are not entirely satisfactory. For example, a plain chronological order of entry is not good enough, because it makes the search for one particular burial unnecessarily long and difficult. Classifying those interred under their religious denominations is only a slight and doubtful improvement.

A better method still is used for both the Rosedale and the Sale cemeteries. The names are entered chronologically, but under the various letters of the alphabet - which gives us an alphabetical as well as a chronological list. Then, for example, if we are looking for the record of burial of a man named John Landsdown, we need look only in the columns under "L", a list comprising only one-twentieth of the total entries.

Insufficient Information.

Another weakness is that not enough information is given. It does not help very much if we find that Elizabeth Dolittle was buried 22/8/15 in Grave No. A34 (No. 34 of the Roman Catholic section (A),perhaps). We still do not know if she was 8 years old or 80, or whether she was Miss. or Mrs. Dolittle, or whether widowed or not. The age and the marital status should always be given. The Morwell records, even today, show neither.

Complete Records.

It is a pity that the authorities do not insist that a copy of the death certificate should be lodged with the Secretary of the Trustees of the Cemetery, when arrangements for the burial are being made.

In addition, the Secretary should be required to keep a minimum of three books or records. The first should be the alphabetical and chronological list of names, giving also the ages and marital status, as well as the grave numbers, as the date of death or burial.

The second book should be a numerical list of the graves, showing those that are vacant, and those that are occupied by whom.

The third record should be a plan, or plans of the Cemetery, showing the grave numbers, with the names of those buried marked in the appropriate numbers.

The copies of the death certificates would make the fourth volume of records. Then, if any search had to be made, we could find the record of the burial in the relevant alphabetical list, which would also give us the date of death or burial. From that, we could easily turn to the death certificates, which are full of important information. We could find out where the deceased was born, what his occupation had been, who his parents were, who, when and where he had married, and who his children were.

Now, in tracing the history of any particular family, frequently we have to wade through long lists of names in the local cemetery book to find the date of death, and then apply to the Government Statist in Melbourne for a copy of the death certificate. This costs us two or three weeks of time and four dollars in fees for each death certificate.

What we cannot find in the Cemetery book, we can sometimes find on tombstones in the cemeteries (things like age, and family). But cremation is now popular, and this modern trend, makes the tombstone records even less complete. Perhaps each little locality should have its own local archivist, who keeps at least all records of births, marriages and deaths which have taken place there, by the simple expedient of collecting copies of the official certificates of births, marriages and deaths. Page 16.

The Morwell Historical Society News, Vol. 13; No. 2. 15/5/74.

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The Hazelwood Cemetery, Morwell.

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Apparently the Hazelwood Cemetery was first used about 1879, but regular records may not have been started until about 1884. For example, there are at least 20 graves listed as "unknown", and another 20 on which there is some doubt, or about which there is even scantier information than usual.

We suspect that when records were instituted about 1884, the Secretary tried to bring them up to date, entering what information he could gather from headstones that had been erected, or less substantial wooden crosses, and from his own and other people's memories. We have done something similar by copying out the information given on every grave-stone in the cemetery. In this way, we have been able to add the age of the deceased person to the entry in the Cemetery Book, in a few instances.

Neil Murdoch, died 28/7/1871. aged 21 years.

At first, we thought that the Hazelwood Cemetery had started as early as 1871, at least, six years before the establishment of the township of Morwell, in 1877. But then, the next three earliest gravestones that we could find, recorded deaths in 1879, a gap of eight years since the death of little Neil Murdoch. We wrote away for the death certificate of Neil Murdoch, and found that he was buried in the Bacchus Marsh Cemetery. When his older brother William McCrae Murdoch died in 1885, aged 22, and was buried at Hazelwood, the parents erected a tombstone to his memory, and added the record of Neil's death, giving the date and age, but not the place of death and burial.

The death certificate shows that Neil Murdoch, aged 2, the son of William and Jane Murdoch, farmers, died of burns, at Mt. Cotterell, 26/7/1872, and was buried in the Bacchus Marsh Cemetery, 28/7/1872.

This incident shows also the fallibility of human memory. The parents put 1871 on the tombstone, but the death certificate shows that the year was 1872, and not 1871.

Alphabetical and Chronological List from 1879 to 1930.

In the following lists, we give our record of the burials in the Hazelwood Cemetery from 1879 to 1930, in alphabetical and chronological order. We have neither the space nor the time to take the record from 1930 up till the present time, but from an historian's point of view, of course, it is this early period of 51 years that is most important.

The first column after the name gives the age (if we know it). "S" stands for "stillborn"; "I" for "infant"; "w" for "weeks"; and "m" for "months". The second column gives the date of death or burial, and the third column gives the section - "A" being the Roman Catholic, or most easterly section, followed by "B", Church of England; "C", Methodist; and "D", the most westerly section, facing Yinnar Road, the Presbyterian area.

A.

Not structure in the second	
Alexander, John	• • • •
Amiet, Franc	.25/ 2/93.D.
Amiet (Mrs.)2w	
(d.of Francis & Mary) Alexander, D. L	27/ 2/02 2
Applegate, Paul75.	.16/ 2/00 B
Allan, Margaret66. Applegate, (Mrs.) Ellen.59.	
Alliss, Marion M	. 3/ 8/07 B
Alexander, Georgelm. Angus (Mrs.)	
Amiet, William Charles.52. Amiet, (Mrs) Laura83.	
Arnold, Thomas75.	. 5/ 4/16 A
Arnott, Margaret Austin, Sheila Ruth	
Amiet, Gladys Clare35.	.15/ 9/25 D
Alexander, John Stewart .	.20/ 2/21 -

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Page 17.

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B (cont.)

С. Bolger, Thomas......14/ 1/05.D. Bolger, Ann......28/ 3/05.D. Cummins, M. Collier, Mrs. Thomas.. Crozier, Mrs. Mary....26..23/ 7/90.A. Blucher,I...22/10/06.B. Brazel, Mrs. Catherine. 59...27/12/06.A. Casey, Amie..... 6/ 3/91.D. Buckley, Benjamin Wager. 29.29/ 9/08.C. Chandler, Mrs. W.C.19/ 5/93.-Brewster,I...16/11/08.D. Chambers, Mrs....June, 93.C. Collier, Thomas (Sen)....24/11/93.C. Caddaye, James.....15/10/98.B. Church,..... S..14/11/99.B. Blucher, Fred......24/ 4/13.B. Coleman, Alice.....19/ 3/01.B. Campbell, Joseph......27/ 3/01.D. Corbett, Ellen..... 9/ 8/03.B. Collins,.....S..19/ 9/03.B. Cooper, David T. 8/ 8/07.B. Canavan, Michael......26/ 8/08.A. Courteney, John Hoysted...16/ 7/09.B. Cousins, Ethel Mary....2d..14/10/11.A. Cousins, Mrs. Mary E. .. 30.. 20/10/11.A. Corbett, William.....Dec. 12.B. Cahill, Norah.....23/ 7/15.A. Coleman, Mrs.Eliz. L. .80... Aug. 15.B. Courteney, Mary Jane.....22/ 5/16.B. Cummins, Mary Jane...... 2/ 6/16.A. Chamberlain, Bertha Joyce.11/ 7/16.B. Caddaye, Mary Ann....81..28/7/16.B. Church,Florence Verdom....27/8/16.B. Coleman, Mr. S. A. 80..29/6/18.B. Crinigan, Edward......7/3/18.A. Curtis, Frederick C...50..24/12/19.C. Christensen, Lilian May 29/ 4/20.B. Caddaye, Phillip Chas. . 78.. 3/ 7/20.D.

Blucher, Fred
Barnes, Mrs.Barbara17/ 6/13.D.
Brinsmead, Mrs. Fanny27July/ 13.C.
Bolger, Mrs. Mary Ann 26/ 8/13.A.
Blucher, Mrs.Frieda M.S.28.23/ 9/13.B.
Baillie, Emily Christina15/12/13.D.
Brock, William17/ 1/14 -
Brady, Philip
Baillie, Anna Maria24/ 6/14.D.
Bolger, Walter
Blucher, Wilhelmine 3/ 8/15.B.
Bolding, Harold Eddy 3/11/15.C.
Baxter, David
Bolger $7/10/16$ 4
Bolger,
Bolding Mars Made 10.11/16.0
Bolding, Mary Veda19/11/16.C. Beale, John14/ 5/17.B.
Beale, John
Black,
Burt, Miss. Mary Mabel. 17. 15/ 4/19. A. Burrs, William 23/ 6/20 A
Burns, William
Buckley, Mrs. Martha M 70 17/ 7/20.C.
Buckley, Warren Wm 724/ 8/20.C.
Bastin
Berg. Henry
Brooks, Benjamin
Blucher, William Francis3/ 2/23.B.
Billingslev.Stanley J.9m29/11/23.D.
Billingsley, Stanley J.9m29/11/23.D. Byrd, Alice Maud18/12/23.D.
Bolding, Mrs.Elizabeth.8020/ 3/24.C.
Blucher, Charles William10/ 8/24.B.
Baillio True 14/TO/24 D
Baillie, Ivy
Bruton, Allen
Doyle, momas syuney
Blackwood, Martha 3/11/25.D.
Buckley, Mr. Joseph Henry28/ 2/26.C.
Buckley, Wilfred Norman 30/ 9/26.B.
Blucher, Francis 9/ 9/27.A.
Burnside, Archibald6110/11/27.D.
Blucher, John Herman7015/ 1/28.B.
Blomquist, Mavis Astrid27/ 2/28.D.
Bennett, Kevin 119/11/28.A.
Billingsley, George64 3/12/28.D.
Bryce, Alan Douglas18/ 3/29.A.
Bryce, Nina Doreen 1/ 4/29.A.
Bryce. Vera
Bond. James William 15/ 4/29.B.
Butters, Sydney
Bolton
Blucher, William Movsey 28/ 5/30 B
Bruce Mary 60 19/12/30 4
Bolger Bridget $30/12/30^{\circ}$
Buckley, Mr. Joseph Henry. 28/ 2/26.C. Buckley, Wilfred Norman. 30/ 9/26.B. Blucher, Francis. 9/ 9/27.A. Burnside, Archibald. 61. 10/11/27.D. Blucher, John Herman. 70. 15/ 1/28.B. Blomquist, Mavis Astrid. 27/ 2/28.D. Bennett, Kevin. I. 19/11/28.A. Billingsley, George. 64. 3/12/28.D. Bryce, Alan Douglas. 18/ 3/29.A. Bryce, Nina Doreen. 1/ 4/29.A. Bryce, Vera. 10/ 4/29.A. Bond, James William. 15/ 4/29.B. Butters, Sydney. 65. 20/ 6/29.B. Bolton, S. 3/10/29.B. Blucher, William Moysey. 28/ 5/30.B. Bruce, Mary. 60. 19/12/30.A. Bolger, Bridget. 30/12/30.A.

Carleigh,			•.•.•	.S	•	•	10/	8/	29.	D.
Connelly,	Joseph	•		• •	•	•	- 5/	2/	30.	Α.
Connelly, Crabtree,	Joseph	•	• • •	•••	•		13	/7/	30.	Β.

Crabtree, Joseph.....10/ 7/21.B. Chamberlain, John William.17/ 2/22.B. Coulter, Alice Maud.....27/ 2/23.B. Cameron, Freda May 14 ... 24/ 8/24.D. Counihan, Moya Rosemary... 3/11/24.A. Chancellor, Gladys Annie...27/ 3/25.C Currie, William John...60.. 3/11/25.B. Clark, Norman Bibby..... 7/ 1/26 -Cotton, William.....23/10/26.B Collins, Thomas Edwin.... 4/ 7/29.C.

<u>. D.</u>	Sand Serve F.
Daly Mrs. Bridget21/ 6/79.A.	Fitzpatrick, Mary Ann 12 1880.A.
Daly. JA.	Furnell,
Dallon, A.	. Firmin, Ellen Mary 14 2/ 5/88.E
Dwyer, John	. Foster, Alfred42 6/ 2/92.1
Donaldson, Miss Grace 18 1/ 1/81.D.	Foster, Alice $l_2^{\frac{1}{2}}$
	. Fitzpatrick, John45 9/11/92.4
Donaldson, David58 3/ 3/86.D.	Fraser, Annie
Doyle, David (boy) 2/11/89 Derham, Frank Stanley.6m 5/ 2/90.B.	Foster, Mary Jane5015/ 6/97.1 Fraser, James
Dunstan, Roslyn Anna16/10/94.D.	Fitzpatrick, Miss Julia 22. 3/11/00.
Duffan, W	Firmin, Stanley 211/ 1/01.1
Derham, Geo.Thos.(Jun).23. 8/12/98.B.	Farran, Samuel,
De Pazanan, Virgini1/11/99.A.	Fitzpatrick, Gerald2410/ 6/01.4
Doolan, Walter4/ 1/00.B.	French, Annie
Duggan, Michael61 9/10/00.A.	Fraser, Effie Annie 8/ 8/03.1
Derham, Rupert L. 1011/ 2/01.B.	Firmin, I28/ 9/04.H
Deering,14/ 4/05.B.	Firmin, Mary 1/10/04.1
Duggan, Andrew2311/ 6/05.A.	Firmin, I12/ 4/06.1
Donaldson, Mrs. Annie. 76.19/ 5/06.D.	Fraser, Flora (McDonald) 48. 2/11/08.1
Daly, Mrs. Mary B 3913/ 7/06.A.	Francis, I 4/ 2/09.1
Duff, $I20/10/06.A.$	Fitzpatrick, Margaret2612/ 9/09.4
Derham, Marie Alice 5/ 2/07.D. Daly, Thomas 9/09.A.	Firmin, Mrs. Mary Jane29/12/09.1 Fleming, Catherine10/10/09.1
Dunbar, Janet1914/ 9/10 D.	Francis, Ralph
Daly, William	Fleming, Edward
Dodd, William Leonard 9/ 9/11	Firmin, George
Dietrich, Ferdinand62 9/12/13.B.	Flynn, Daniel 2/ 1/14.
Dietrich, Alice Irene. 630/10/15.B.	Fitzpatrick, Mrs. Marg7227/ 6/14.1
Daly, Joseph John 5/10/16.A.	Firmin, George
Dayble, George7124/ 9/17.B.	Francis, William
Dwyer, Patrick68 3/ 2/18.A.	Fraser, David75 1/ 7/16.1
Daly,	Fraser, Mary K73D.
Doherty, Margaret Ann 3/10/19.C.	Fleming, Michael W23 27/2/18.1
Dempsey, Patrick66 3/ 1/23.A. Deppeler, Henry Alexander.27/ 6/24.D.	Frost, Wm.Collings35 11/3/19.1
Doyle, John $29/10/24$.	Firmin, Mrs. Maria8310/ 5/19.1 Findlay, Elizabeth 7/ 1/22.1
Dawson, Catherine 12/11/24.B.	Fraser, Jessie Elizabeth
Dunbar, Duncan7429/12/25.D.	Francis, Mrs. Anne 4/ 8/24.1
Debono, Stanley	Farran, Margaret Ann21 1/ 2/25.
Daly, Bridget 9/ 4/27.A.	Fleming, Ellen Eliz6317/ 4/25.
Dalpra, Antonio	Foster, Sarah
De Gino, Laura	Flewin, John
Duff, Clarence Gerard22/ 4/28.A.	Firmin, Hannah 2/ 5/26.1
Duff, Christina Barbara 1/ 9/28.B.	Field, Margaret Munro17/ 3/27.1
Deering, Mrs. Marie E 14/ 2/29.B.	Fraser, John Stuart 7/ 8/28.1
Davey, Ethel	Fawkner, Julia
De Carli	Feeley, Ernest William 5/ 1/30.
Derham, Mrs. Anne747/ 1/31.B.	
<u> </u>	Gleeson, Mrs. Margaret 79 10/ 3/82.
	Godridge (twins)
English, William James 1/4/94.A.	Goodwin, Mrs
Edney, Walter Ernest 7 1/10/94.B.	Geale.
Ellis, Sarah	Geale,
Edney, Walter7117/ 7/04.B. Ellis, Mrs. Mary Ann3517/ 9/07.A.	Gooding, Miriam
Ellis, Jane Janet 2^{1}_{2} 2^{1}_{2} / 1^{1}_{07} .A.	Gilbert, Chas.Oxtoby5515/ 2/88.1
Edney, Walter Henry1623/ 3/09.B.	G_{rant} , May
Ellis, John F4610/12/12.A.	Godridge, Henry 2/12/94.1
Erling, Charles Trygve13/ 3/25.4.	Gay, Andrew
Elliott, James	Gorman, Mary Josephine,20/ 4/99.
	Gleeson, Timothy,6918/ 7/99.
	Gooding, James
	Gooding, Elizabeth 25/10/99.1 Grant, Allan 228/ 3/00.1
	Grant, Douglas
•	Gooch,

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G.(cont.)

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Conding Coords	23/ 8/02.B.
Gooding, George	
Gadmich,	19/ 7/04.B.
Geddes, Rose	29/11/04.A.
Godridge, Susan Marion	8/ 6/15.B.
Gilbert, Mrs. Fanny83	17/ 8/15.B.
Gilbert, Emily	28/10/17.B.
Gardner, Laura	18/11/18.D.
Gardner, William	22/11/18.D.
Greenwood, Mrs.	27/ 9/20.B.
	14/12/20.D.
Gay, Mary81	20/ 1/22.D.
Guest, Helen Sophia	11/ 2/25.B.
Grace, Thomas Patrick,	
Gapes, James,	5/ 2/27.D.
Gribble, Harold Roy,	21/ 9/27.C.
Grant, John Alexander,	
Grist, Arthur Richard,	10/10/27.B.
Guy, William Henry,68	
Gardner, Reginald,	13/ 8/28.B.
Gardner, S	27/12/29.B.

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	$\underbrace{\underline{\mathbf{H}}}_{\mathbf{A}} = \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \mathbf{H} \\ $	
	Howell,	Ď
	nowell,	•D.
,	Hopkins, Mrs	•D.
	Heesom, Sarah Rebecca, 21.	.26/ 1/83.B.
- `	Healy, Marjorie, 3	.16/ 9/83.A.
	Heesom, Thomas,22.	.12/ 2/85.B.
	Heesom, Sarah	26/ 1/88 B
6	neesom, paran	10/ 2/01 C
	Hutchins, Thomas	.10/ 5/91.0.
	Hodges, I.	. 1894.A.
	Haiz, Mrs. Bridget57.	.12/ 6/95.A.
-	Ham,	.15/10/95.A.
	Holland, Thomas	.20/ 9/96 B.
	Holmes, Jane	28/ 3/98 B
	Hopkins, Catherine67.	7/ 5/00 D
	Hopkins, Catherine	- 1/ 5/ 90.D.
	Harkin, James I.	
	Horne, Mrs. Flora M 30.	9/12/98.D.
	Healy, Francis22.	• 3/ 4/99•A•
	Hulse, Thomas Brassey. 5.	
	Hentschel, I.	.10/11/01.B.
	Howlett, C. W	21/12/02 D
	HOWLEUU, U. W	• • 24/ 12/02 D
	Heesom,	• • 14/ 11/05•B•
	Huey, Margaret	••10/ 2/04.A.
	Henderson, Linda Elelyn	17/ 9/04. B.
	Huey, Annie	19/ 9/05.A.
	Hoban, Martha	24/10/05.A.
		. 6/ 5/08.D.
	Healy, John	10/11/08
	Heary, John	
	Hasthorpe,I	10/ 9/09.B.
	Henry, Bridget	11/12/09.A.
	Hoban,I	27/12/09.A.
	Henry, William John	24/ 2/10.A.
	Henderson, Mary Ann	20/10/10.B.
	Haiz, Charles81	
	Haiz, Miss Ellen	20/10/11 4
	Healy, James	18/ 2/12
	Heary, James	······································
	Henderson, Frederick Wm.	• 24/ 9/12.D.
	Hoban, Mrs.Margaret	18/ 2/13.A.
	Howlett, C.E.M Henry, Martin	10/ 5/13.D.
	Henry, Martin	11/ 1/15.A.
	Thomas Anthony E6	27/ 7/75 0
	Hutchison Janet	A/ 9/16.D.
	Howard Datrick	28/ 9/16 4
	Hare, Arthur	
	nenderson, florence W.	• JU/ 1/1/•D•
	Hogan, Michael65	••11/ 5/19.A.
	Hogan, Michael	9/ 6/19.B.
	Hogan, Kathleen V	16/ 6/19.A.

H.(cont.)

Howlett, Mary. 31/8/19.D. Hogan, John Patrick. 22/2/20.A. Healey, Martha. 72.27/4/20.A. Hopkins, Thomas. 87.20/7/20.D. Hoyle, John Barton. 61.8/6/21.C. Hickson, Muriel. 17/8/21 Howard, Kate. 29/12/21.A. Hardie, Betty Mathers. 1/5/22.D. Hall, Walter Henry. 4/8/22.B. Hailes, Annie. 13/4/23.B. Hall, William Thomas. 3/12/23.C. Hayes, Rev.Fr. Martin. 17/5/25.A. Harvey, Charles Ewart. 29/12/25.B. Hickey, John. 48.18/1/26.A. Harwood, Robert Cromwell 11/8/27.B. Hare, Ellen. 73.15/10/28.B. Hall, John. 6/2/29.D.
Hall, Reginald Clifford23/ 6/30.A.

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	<u> </u>	5 K I I		
Irving,	Robert.	•••••	5630/	6/89.D.
Irving,	John		3819/	3/94.D.
Irving,	Mrs.Ina		4927/	7/08.D.
Irving,	James		18/	12/27.B.

<u>J.</u>

Johnston, Maggie41231/ 7/87
Johnson, NB.
Jope, Arthur John915/ 3/88.0
Junier. A 6/ 5/90
Jensen, Mrs. Bridget6425/11/95.A.
Jensen, John J63 6/ 6/96.A.
Jenkins, Grace Mary 7/ 6/98.D.
Jackson, 2/ 3/01.A.
Jones, I31/ 8/02.C,
Jones, I11/ 9/02.C.
Jensen, John J636/ 6/96.A. Jenkins, Grace Mary7/ 6/98.D. Jackson,
Johnstone, George
Johnstone, Robert
Johnstone, Mary Jane16/ 8/07.D.
Johnstone, Annie May 312/12/09.D.
Jasper, Francis 6/ 5/10.B.
Jeffries, J
Jaegung, Kathleen 5/ 6/12.D.
Johnstone, Eliz. Jane
Johnstone, Eliz. Jane
Jaegung, Lee Hing
Jolly, Mrs.Elizabeth 4/ 3/14.D.
Johnstone, Miss.Ellen1726/ 8/14.D.
Jarvie, Peter4325/ 6/15.D.
Johnstone, Mrs. Eliz.J7520/ 6/16
Jolley, Ruby
Johnson, Benjamin17/ 1/17.B
Jasper, WilliamB.
Johnson, George
Johnstone, James88 6/ 7/19.D. Jarvie, James
Jarvie, James
Johnstone Esther Rose 2/12/20
Jones, David Llewellyn80 1/ 9/22.D.
Jones, David Llewellyn80 1/ 9/22.D. Jackson, Henry6830/ 1/23.A.
Johnstone, Lyla Jean 9/12/25.B.
Jarvie, Mrs. Mary8313/ 6/26.D
Jones, Mrs. Sarah8918/12/26.D.

The Morwell Historical Society News, Vol. 13; No. 2.

... . 15/5/74.

J.(cont.) L. (cont.). Johnstone, Lyla Jean.. 2.. 6/10/27.-. Little, Mrs. Mary Jane .77..26/ 7/17.D. Lyons, Mrs. Rhoda....55..26/ 1/18.D. Lewington, Harriet....79..11/11/18.C. Lazarus, Lester Claude ... 29/ 5/19.-. Lundie, George..... 13/ 8/23.D. Lawless,..... I.. 6/ 3/24.A. Lindsay, Joyce Mary... .. 17/ 5/25.D. nang dipa an an <u>K</u>ala analaka A Minut Keegan, Michael......52.. 4/ 7/79.A. Kelleher,.... - - -.A. Kerwin, Kevin..... ••.---.B. Keegan, Phillipina (child).2/ 2/91.A. Mc. McFarlane, John......61.. 8/ 3/86.D. McGrath, Mrs. Bridget..44.. 2/ 4/86.A. Koenig, Allen.....9w..17/12/98.D. McCoull, Thomas Fergus.72.. 9/11/89.D. Koenig, Mrs.Elizabeth.39..28/ 1/00.D. McNamara, Patrick.....42..11/ 8/92.-Keegan, Philip......69.. 1/10/00.A. McFarlane, (girl)..... .. 6/ 2/93.D. Kencorn,..... I... Mar. 01.A. McDonald, Donald, Fraser. 39. Mar. 195.D. Machillan, Emma Cath. 39.. 8/11/96.D. Kaye, Mary......47...8/ 5/06.B. McArdle,..... I...24/ 5/07.A. McKenzie, Norman..... 4/ 7/09.D. McConnell, John......54..29/ 7/09.B. McFarlane, Mrs. Sarah..69..15/10/09.D. Kelly, Kevin John.... 5..23/ 6/24.A. Kennedy, Susan..... 9/ 7/24.A. Kleine, Thomas......59..30/ 8/25.B. Kennedy, Alexander Jas. ..27/ 3/26.A. Koenig, Margaret I. 31. 1/ 9/26.D. McGauran, Bridget.....81..12/ 8/23.A. McKay, Patrick James... .. 16/10/24.A. Kirwin, Mrs.Eliz.Ann..89..13/11/30.B. L. ..31/ 7/87.-. Leech, Wm. Joshua..... Lawless, Elizabeth •• - -•A• Luscombe.... Lyons, John..... ..21/10/96.A. Law,..... I..13/10/01.D. Lawless, Mrs..... ...22/11/04.A. McDonald, Elizabeth....67..22/10/30.D. List, Mrs..... .b. Melb. Lawless,..... I..24/ 7/09.A. Lee, Mrs, Sarah..... .30/ 5/10.B. McDonald, Annie..... .. 10/11/30.D.

Page 21.

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The Morwell Historical Society News, Wol. 13; No. 2.

1000

the state of the s	N.(COIIC.)
Maloney,	Nuttall, Annie M13/11/05.B.
Maher,	Nuttall, Isaac 1/ 8/08.C.
Maher, D	Northway, William8810/11/12.B.
Matthews, Mary (child) 1884.B.	Neve, Alice Matilda4113/ 5/14.D.
Murdoch, William McCrae 19/12/85.D.	Northway, Mrs. Mary95 9/ 8/17.B.
Matson, James4325/11/86.D.	Noy, Elizabeth
Matson, Uriah2417/ 9/87.D.	Northway, Agnes Dorothy.60 5/11/21.B.
James M1819/10/89.D.	Neil, Maria
Matthews, Robert(child)1891.B.	Nelson, Ellen Eliz 10/ 2/24.B.
	Nadenbousch, Agnes Janet 42 6/ 5/24.D.
Matthews, Jessie (child) 1891.B.	
Maher, Bridget	Nadenbousch, Alphonse81 6/11/25.D.
Maher, Patrick 10/12/95.A.	Northway, William (Jun)7313/10/28.B.
Morrell, Robert66 1/11/96.C.	Nadenbousch, Caroline 28/ 8/29.D.
Morrell, Caroline25 6/ 2/97.C.	Nadenbousch, Bertha77 2/10/29.D.
Morrison, Alexander	Neill, S14/12/29
Morrell, Charles John16/ 2/98.C.	
Maxwell, Anthony H 6/ 3/01.C.	
	0.
McLean, I 9/ 1/02.D.	0.17 Mar (1-1) - 10 00/ 5/00 1
McDonald, Aloysius	Ogilvy, Mrs.Catherine4622/ 7/92.A.
Morrell, Charles 26/ 2/06.B.	0'Hara, I24/11/98.D.
Malloy, Laurence 4/ 2/08.A.	O'Connor, Thomas 5/ 4/99.A.
Murray, James	0'Hara, Jane
Matson, Mrs. Martha6414/11/10.D.	0'Neill, Bernard
Morrell, Mrs.Elizabeth.8114/11/10.C.	0'Toole, Mary 6/ 1/02.A.
Mackley, Thomas	0'Day, William
Maher, Mrs	0'Hara, Mary Jane
Maller, MS	Olementahow T $26/31/00$
Miller,	Olorenshaw, I26/11/09.A.
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Miller, Nellie Irene12/ 3/22.D.	O'Neill, Richard. Thomas. 227/ 7/17.A.
Maher, Ivy Pearl May 8/ 7/22.B.	Oxenbury, Cecil
Medew, Mrs. Catherine60 3/11/22.D.	O'Donnell, Daniel Thos. 28 4/ 3/20.A.
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Morris, Thelma Joyce 3/ 7/29.D.	Purdue, Dinah
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Powell, I22/ 5/10.C.
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Pryke, Mrs.Alice Grace May'13.C.
Pearce, Mrs. Emma60 4/ 1/18.D.
Pettit, John William 410/ 5/19.B.
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Page 22.

Page 22.			
The Morwell Historical Society News, Vol. 13; No. 2 15/5/74.			
(cont.)	$R_{\bullet-}(cont_{\bullet})$		
Parry, Ivor John 10/ 1/24.8.	Rickman, Francis Geo 27/ 2/25.B.		
Porter, Robert	Ronald, John7313/ 4/25.C.		
Pryke, Eliza	Reckie, Arthur James13/ 4/26.D.		
Pennycuick, Wallace J.5w. 22/ 7/25.D.	Randall, Olive Maisie27/ 2/28.B.		
Pratt, Clyde R1722/11/25.B.	Robinson, Arabella		
Pierson, Arthur D 821/ 9/26.C.	Ross, Mary		
Page, Ann Matilda	Rudolph, Margaret		
Power, Alice Eliz7429/5/28.A.	Richardson, S30/ 8/30.B.		
Padfield, Annie Evelyn	and the second		
Phillips, George Wm6910/ 1/30.B.	, i, A ARAA . S		
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Quigley, John7526/ 5/08.A.	Stephenson, Elizabeth.1425/1/87.B.		
Quigley, James407/1/11.A.	Samuel, Lewis5214/ 3/90.C.		
Quigley, Joseph47 9/ 5/24.A.	Shaw, Archibald96 7/ 7/91.D.		
Quigley, Bridget C8627/ 6/30.	Smith, W May, 91.B. Spencer, J 1/ 2/93		
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Rawlins,B.	Scanlon, Mrs. Ellen 6/ 7/99.A.		
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Rintoull,D.	Summerfield, Margaret 7/11/99.B.		
Roff, Henry George (boy). 5/ 5/88.D.	Smith, Phillip Holmes 5/ 5/00.B.		
Rintoull, (child)	Smith, Albert		
Ryan, Mary J6w11/10/93.A. Ryan, M	Silcock, Mrs. Jane25/ 6/02.A.		
Roff, Elizabeth Ann	Silcock, I30/ 6/03.A.		
Roff, Thomas	Stephens,		
Rintoull, Daisy 18/ 3/96.D.	Summerfield, James		
Reidy, Thomas C4815/12/96.A.	Sanders, Thomas 1/ 8/07.D.		
Robinson, Arthur W 9/ 7/97.A.	Sawyer, Frederick10/ 7/09.B.		
Richards, Albert Thos16/11/97.B. Rahill, David15/10/98.B	Smith. James		
Rintoull, I13/12/00.D.	Sawyer, I18/ 1/10.B.		
Rintoull, Mrs. Zenna4112/ 1/01.D.	Stewart, Annie		
Richards, Catherine6823/ 6/08.B.	Silcock, Patrick Chas.59 3/10/10.A. Savage, Christina50 8/10/10.B.		
Radonick, I. 1/ 7/09.B. Ryan, Jeremiah62 7/10/10.A.	Shaw, Donald		
Ryan, Jeremiah	Smith, William Henry 20/ 3/12.B.		
Reidy, James F2510/10/10.A. Richards, Richard71 3/ 6/11.B.	Sergeant, I 1/ 7/12.B.		
Rankin, Isabella 9/11/11.D.	Shepherd, John		
Regan, John	Stone, John		
Radburn, Mrs. Emily21/ 4/13.B.	Summerfield I. 5/ 7/14.C.		
Reeves, Mrs. Caroline.7719/10/13.D.	Shanahan, Mrs. Mary24/ 8/15.A. Samuel, Mrs		
Ritchie, 5/ 9/14.B.	Scanlon, William James 50. 9/ 5/16.A.		
Ritchie, Andrew (Jun.)2223/ 3/15.C.	Smith, Chas.Leonard11/7/16.D.		
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Rickards, Maggie	Smith, Chas.Leonard11/ 7/16.D. Surman, Sgt. T.O20/ 5/18.D. Sawyer, Minnie		
Rowell, J. W 9/10/18.C.	Shellcot, Mrs.Minnie3121/6/19. B.		
Rowell, Edwin Geo. T 3/12/18.D.	Stewart, Robert M4027/ 6/19.B.		
Ronald, Violet I. W3622/ 5/19.C.	Somerville, Vernon H21/10/19.B. Scheibel, Fenwick27/12/19.D.		
Ritchie, Alice Maud 16/ 8/19.B.	Stewart, Alex. John		
Ritchie, Ann	Sergeant, Henry 4/ 5/21.B.		
Roy, John James23 9/ 2/21.D. Rooney, Thos.Patrick27/11/21.A.	Stone, George Herbert24/ 7/22.0.		
Reidy, Miss. Mary A4620/10/22.A.	Sillcock, Mrs. Helena 9/10/22.B.		
Roy, George1620/ 8/23.D.	Smethurst, Kenneth A 6/12/22.C.		
Ronald, Martha72 6/ 3/24.C.	Simpson, David Henry13/12/22.A.		
Read, Amy Harriet	Shaw, Jessie B. H		
Rainey, Chris. Wm 2/ 2/25.D.	outeputeru ; russ		

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Page 23.

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Simpson, Wilfred Thos 6/ 7/26.D.	Vary, Mrs. Elizabeth.79 2/ 4/84.C.
Smith, Ernest	Vary, (child) 6/ 9/94.C.
Schreibel; Edith2228/10/27.D.	Vernon, Mrs. Hannah2420/ 2/01.C.
Smith, C 6/ 5/29.B.	Veitch, Allen Ingram 6/11/03.B.
Scott, William Henry17 3/11/29.B.	Vincent, I21/ 4/08.B.
Savige, Dorothy	Vary, Mrs. Mary Jane.7522/ 6/15.B.
Scanlon, Mary Ann5620/ 5/30.A.	Vickery, Mary6520/ 7/17.A.
Sillcock, John	Vincent, Sydney Alf 19/ 4/25.C.
Sloan, John	Vincent, Ellen Laura 8/ 1/30.C.
Smith, William6519/ 9/30.B.	Vary, Samuel Wesley9010/10/30.B.
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Thompson, Mary	Wittholz, Mr
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Thompson,	Williams, David3710/ 5/88.B.
Toner, Patrick	Williams; David 0 412/ 9/88.B.
Treadwell, Mary 19/ 8/96.B.	Waldon, D 9/ 4/90.D.
Taylor, Amos	Wright, John
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Tradewell, William 30/12/97.B.	Williams, (child)23/ 6/93.B.
Trigg,	Williams; Mr. Arthir
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Taylor, Catherine4521/ 8/02	Williams, Cyril.(son of A.& E)
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	Watson, Robert7319/ 4/94.D
Tulloch, Hannah20/ 8/04.C.	Watson, Margaret W6815/ 3/95.D.
Thompson, John	Wolfe, M. M
Toogood, Elizabeth29/12/05.D.	Witt, Mrs. Edith3115/ 9/96.B.
Tulloch, William69 2/ 2/06.D.	Wuttrick, Meline Marie 2/ 2/97.D.
Townsend, Thomas 2/ 4/06.B.	Williams, John
Toner, Patrick 8/ 6/06.A.	Williams (child)13/ 6/97.B.
Theobald, Jane Anne18/ 6/06.C.	Wilkinson, I 8/ 9/97
Theobald, Thomas	Walsh, Mrs. Ann
Thompson, Ellen Frances25/ 4/07.D.	Watson, Isabella
Turner, E. T 9/ 1/08.B.	Walsh, Patrick
Toogood, Thomas	Willan, P.C
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	Walsh, S. 7/10/04.A.
Thompson, Hugh Henry5230/ 7/16.D.	White, Francis
Thompson,	White, Laura
Tulloch, Mrs.Eliz. 80 13/ 5/18.D.	White, Geraldine Eliz 18/ 3/08.A.
Thompson, Mrs. HD.	Wicks, Raymond Chas1611/ 4/08.B.
Tulloch, Robert L	Williams, Mrs. Jane6319/ 4/08
Tulloch, William	Wicks, Henry
Thomas, Kathleen26/ 4/21.B.	White, Charles Percy 2/11/08.C.
Taylor, Arthur B 61 19/ 4/22.B.	Williams, Joseph H 28/ 1/09.B.
Turner, Frederick Wm 1/ 7/23.B.	Whitelaw, James
Thompson, James W 8/ 8/23.D.	Walker, Eric13 1/ 8/10.B.
Tulloch, James	Whelan, Patrick7610/ 8/10.A.
	Walsh, Mrs
	Waldon, D
	Warren, Thomas
Tierney, Mavis	Walsh, John Joseph 5/ 4/12.A.
Thompson, Mrs.Emma6828/ 9/30.	Wilkins, Alfred
	Walsh, William 9/ 2/13.A.
	Wuttrick, Louis Alphonse28/ 3/13.D.
	Whitelaw, Alfred Chas23/ 9/13.D.
	Wuttrick, Frederick Leon 14/ 9/14.D.
	Walsh, William
	White, Charles 8/12/16.C.

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Page 24.... The Morwell Historical Society News, Vol. 13; No. 2. 15/5/74. W.(cont.) W. (cont.) Wear, William..... 4/ 8/29.C. Woodhouse, William.... 12/ 8/29.A. Wolfe, Mrs. Ellen June .. 1/11/17.A. Watson, Edith 10/11/29.D. ..28/11/29.B. Whitmore, Aubrey..... Willett..... S. - - '30.A. Williams, Mabel Bell. S1/ 7/30.B. Waldon, William..... 6/ 8/30.D. Waddell, John Robert. ... 6/ 8/30.C. Whyte, Isabell Jane... 9/ 9/30.D. X....none. ing a total Y. Young, Henry William.. 9..17/ 6/98.D. Wright, Benjamin..... ..15/12/22.B. er sind Ζ. Walsh, Christopher M..73..16/ 8/27.A. and the second (****) (****) . . in the second Andre Frank i 1 and the location an a second strain and and a second se Second • · . . . ••••••••••• • • • • an an Ara 1.1.1.1.1.1.1. , te transfer y and the analysis is n an ann an an an Arran an Ar Arran an Arr . . ala a constructional a construction a const

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The Morwell Historical Society News.

Journal of the Morwell Historical Society. Published quarterly - on the 15th. February, May, August, and November.

Editor..... I. T. Maddern, 12 Avondale Crescent, Morwell, Victoria, 3840.

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Membership Fees.

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Treasurer.....Mrs. G. Taylor, 17 Denise Street, Morwell, Victoria, 3840.

Latrobe Valley Historical Societies.

Remaining Programme for 1974.

(Organized by the Traralgon Historical Society)

August, 1974.

Tuesday, 20/8/74...Monthly meeting of the Traralgon Historical Society. Civic Reception Rooms.....8.00 p.m. Guest Speaker.Mrs.J.Gilmore.."The Story of Flynn".

September, 1974

Friday, 13/9/74...Annual Dinner of the Latrobe Valley Historical Societies. Guest Speaker...Patsy Adam Smith...."Harold Clapp".

Tuesday, 17/9/74...Annual meeting of the Traralgon Historical Society. Civic Reception Rooms.....8.00 p.m. Guest Speaker...Mr. John Irving....."Warrigal Creek".

Sunday, 22/9/74...Excursion to Flynn. Cars to assemble at Traralgon Post Office...1.00 p.m.

<u>October, 1974.</u>

Tuesday, 15/10/74. Monthly meeting of the Traralgon Historical Society. Civic Reception Rooms.....8.00 p.m. Guest Speaker...Mr. Andy Ringin....."Coalville".

Sunday, 20/10/74..Excursion to Warrigal Creek. Cars assemble at Traralgon Post Office....l.00 p.m.

November, 1974.

Tuesday, 19/11/74..Monthly meeting of the Traralgon Historical Society. Civic Reception Rooms.....8.00 p.m. Guest Speaker...Nr. Michael Howes...."Early Railways".

Saturday,23/11/74..Bus Excursion to Melbourne (Bundoora, Thomastown, etc.) The bus will leave from the Traralgon Post Office at 7.30 a.m. Highlights of the tour will be the visits to the old racing stables at Mill Park, and to the relics of the German Settlement at Thomastown.

December, 1974.

Tuesday, 10/12/74. Annual Christmas Party. Civic Reception Rooms.....8.00 p.m.

Page 26.

Democracy.

Democracy - or government of the people by the people - has been the political ideal of British people for a very long time, and many other nations have copied or tried to copy this system. It seems, however that practice often falls far short of the theory, and that, in some circumstances, democracy is not only difficult, but impossible, or it can be subverted into a bureaucracy or even a dictatorship.

In the first place, government can never be by all the people, but only by a majority of the people, which is, frequently enough, a very small majority - say of one or two per cent. Let us take some examples of this both from home and abroad.

In Cyprus, for example, there are two groups of nationals, the Greeks who make up about 67 per cent of the population, and the Turks, who make up the remaining 33 per cent. Under a democratic system, where every man has one vote, it is obvious that in any Cyprus parliament, the Greeks will always have the majority, and the Turks will always be in the minority. Democracy there could mean, and apparently does mean, that there is a ruling class, and an oppressed class. It is plain from this one example, that the essence of democracy is not the one man, one vote, one value idea, but the guarantee of rights to all minorities. In this instance, obviously it would be better to divide Cyprus into two areas, so that each section could govern itself more democratically.

There are similar difficulties in Britain, where we have minorities in Scotland and Wales discontented because their political rights must always be subject to the English, who can easily outvote them on any issue.

Even worse is the situation in Northern Ireland, where there are Protestants, making up two-thirds of the population as opposed to Roman Catholics, constituting only one-third of the population. The situation is even more complicated since the Roman Catholic State of Eire (South Ireland) wants to be united with its colleagues in Ulster. If the border-line was abolished and North and South Ireland united into one country, we would have the position reversed, with the Ulster Protestants now in the minority, and subject to "alien" rule.

Let us now look at Australia, where we have States of comparatively large population - New South Vales, Victoria, Queensland - and States of comparatively small population - South Australia, Western Australia, and Tasmania. If Victoria and New South Vales chose to work together, they could carry all before them, and reduce the other four States to a condition of complete subjection. It is little wonder then, that every now and then, some people in the smaller States talk of secession.

From these examples, it is clear that democracy, if it is to work at all, cannot work properly with large masses of people of varied sectional interests. Once upon a time Australia was mainly a primary producing nation, a more or less homogeneous people, but since Federation in 1901, we have gradually developed our secondary industries; our towns have grown into cities, and the urban populations now dominate the rural communities. It is quite noticeable that the present Labor Goverment which finds most ofnits support in the cities has little interest in the minority farming communities. Another sort of dictatorship has been developed - the dictatorship of the majority, but we still call it democracy.

From here let us go on to the policy of Centralization, advocated not only by the Labor Party, but by such Liberal leaders as John Gorton. But if we want to preserve democracy, it is not the State Parliaments that should be abolished, but the Commonwealth Parliament. In fact, we should have more States. The greater number of States we have, the more likely we are to have homogeneous States, a common community of interests in each State, a better chance to retain democratic government.

The framers of our Constitution recognized this vital necessity for democracy, and so proposed, not a union of States as in Britain, or America, or Cyprus, or Ireland, but a Federation of States, in which each State remained independent, governed by its own people. They associated together for certain common necessities, such as their common defence, a common foreign policy, etc. etc. but in all other matters, each State was to be a free, and independent, and democratic State. We are in grave danger of losing the democratic right to rule ourselves.

The essential feature of democracy is the dispersal of power; the essential feature of dictatorship is the concentration or centralization of power.

Page 27.

The People of Early Morwell.

The township of Norwell began in 1877 with the building of a railway station, the terminus of the section Sale to Morwell, but three or four or more squatters had occupied huge areas in the district, beginning 33 years earlier, in 1844, and the small farmers or selectors began to arrive in substantial numbers from 1869 and 1870 onwards.

Let us see if we can make a rough census of the population of Morwell and district at the end of 1879, when the township was barely three years old. Let us look at the three main groups making up that population - the people on the land, the business people in the township, and the small group of public servants, who are the nomads of our population, even today, moving from place to place as their departments direct.

The Country Folk.

There were only two squatting families left in the Norwell area in 1879 - the MacMillan family of Hazelwood Station, and the Vary family of Driffield - the preemptory right section of the old Merton Rush Station. John and Isabella MacMillan with their children and employees, and Samuel and Mary Jane Vary with their family and employees would account for at least 20 people, or probably more.

Below we give an alphabetical list of the selectors who had taken up their selections before or during 1879:

John Jensen

John Alliss
F. Amiett
Paul Applegate
George Bolding
Joseph Buckley
John Cahill
T. Casey
Edward Crinigan
William Daly
David Donaldson
Duncan Dunbar
W. Farrell
George Firmin
John Flewin
William Francis
Henry Godridge
John Geale
Thomas Gooding
Roger Gorman
Gleeson
Henry Hopkins
John U. Heesom Robert Henry
Robert Henry

Thomas Jones
Richard Johnson
Philip Keegan
Edmond Kelleher
Maurice Kelleher
Joseph Keogh
F. T. McCoull
James McDonald
John McDonald
McFarlane
P. McGauran
P. NcGrath
J. McLaughlin
Mackey
James Matson
Andrew Hatthews
Laurence Molloy
Robert Morrell
Alphonse Nadenbousch
Roger O'Flaherty
John O'Hara
O'Reilly

George Pettit James Porter Robert Porter Robert Pratt Edward Purdue John Quigley Richard Richards Jeremiah Ryan John Robinson Thomas Samson ---- Shaw John Silcock V. Smith David Sullivan Robert Tolmie Patrick Toner Tynan ern. dass mits best Thomas Walsh Henry Wicks.

This is a list of 75 selectors. A wife and an average family of three added to these 75 selectors would make a total rural population of 375, so that with the groups at the two squatter places, we can say there were at least 400 people on the farms round Morwell in 1879. This is likely to be an under-estimate, since there could have been farmers we have missed, uncounted adults such as workmen on farms, or relatives of the family, or adult children.

There had also been a private school-teacher, Miss Zilda Graham, who, in 1876,was teaching the Porter children, and probably a few others as well. Miss Zenna McCrorey taught at Maryvale Ridge State School from 1877 to 1879, when she married the young blacksmith, John Rintoull; and first Mrs. Mathison, in 1876, and then Mr. Mansfield Nelson in 1877, taught at Hazelwood Ridge School. But John Irving, who opened Commercial Road State School in 1879, must be counted in with the townspeople and not the country folk.

Page 28.

The Townspeople of Morwell, 1878.

We are very fortunate to have an accurate description of Morwell as it was in 1878, given by a person who must have been a resident of Morwell then in reminiscences published in the Morwell paper, fifty years later. Unfortunately, we do not know who the writer was, but here is what he wrote: +

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"The Gippsland railway commenced from Oakleigh, and it was necessary to take the coach from Bourke Street to connect with the train. It was a mixed train - passengers and goods - which meant a long stop at each station, making the journey long and tedious. Fortunately, there were not as many stations then. The country was mostly virgin bush, with very few houses visible.

As the train drew up at the Morwell Station, the first sound usually heard was the ring of the hanmer on the anvil, and the cheery voice of the blacksmith. Of all the people then resident in Morwell, he only, John Rintoull Senior, still resides in the town. The only other former residents still in the district are some members of the Quigley family, and Messrs A. and P. A. Gilbert.

On the west end of the town was a selection held by Mr. R. Henry, a carpenter, who had a house on the corner of Hazelwood Road. The Town Hall now occupies that site.

On the opposite corner was Collyer's Hotel, after which came the premises of J. Rintoull, blacksmith, Mr, Lutted, wheelwright, W. Plummer, butcher, Mr. Martin, shoemaker, and Mr. O'Connor, a railway employee. The Bank of Australasia now occupies the site of the last named man's block. Next was Mr. Fitzpatrick's hotel, and then C. O. Gilbert's store.

On the corner block on which now stands the premises of Mills & Co, Muir & Co., and McKay's Hotel, there used to be a slab building, occupied by Mr. John Quigley, and used as an hotel, store and butcher's shop. Where the Post Office now stands (the Commonwealth Bank today), there

Where the Post Office now stands (the Commonwealth Bank today), there used to be an hotel conducted by Mr. C. Walsh. A house on Jenkins' Corner was occupied by Mr. R. O'Flaherty, the only other building in the town, being Mrs. Linden's house on the corner lately owned by Capads.

In those days, the post office was at the station. The State School, conducted by Miss McCrorey (the late Mrs. Rintoull) was a mile to the east of the town, near the bridge over the railway line. (This bridge was burnt down in the bush-fire of 1944).

The nearest medical man was Dr. Simmons at Rosedale."

The Townspeople of Morwell in 1879.

Surveys of Morwell were made in January 1878, and October 1878, marking out the three blocks between Hazelwood Road and White Streets, facing Commercial Road, and another three blocks directly behind them, stretching between George Street and Elgin Street. New names, in addition to those given in the reminiscences quoted above, and shown as owners of allotments were Roger O'Flaherty, Edmond Kelleher, John Quigley, Edward Crinigan, and John Robinson (all five of whom, we have already listed as selection holders) and T. J. Mattingley, John Green, Lewis Samuel, Robert Beir, H. McIntosh, E.L.Bruce, C.G. Maxwell, Charles Pearce, T. Kleine, Ellen Junier, C. Lindner, P. Dwyer, Charles Turner, M. McKaskill, R. Guthridge, and F. Dowling, and John Southern.

Some of these may not have been residents of Morwell at all, but speculators. T.J.Mattingley was the teacher at Traralgon; John Green was the draper at Rosedale, and R. Guthridge may have been one of the Guthridges of Sale.

Finally, new names appearing in the State School Register for 1879 were Thomas Dunn, bullock-driver, Richard Harding, Inspector of schoolbuildings, John Hopkins farmer, John Jones, railway repairer; Charles Linden, farmer; Bridget McGauran, widow; Donald McKaskill, station-hand; Samuel Minchinton, farmer; William Murdoch, publican; and William Savage, mounted constable.

The census figures for 1881, give the population of the Morwell township as 75 people. We suspect from the information given above that the population in 1879 was about the same - possibly a little less or a little more.

Page 29.

One of the most valuable records we have is the first school register of Morwell State School (now called Commercial Road State School), No. 2136. This was not the first nor the second school in the district, but the third, but no early records exist of those two earlier schools, Hazelwood Ridge State School, No. 1768, which opened in October 1876, and Maryvale Ridge State School No. 1939, which opened in August, 1877 and closed in April, 1879.

Hazelwood Ridge State School was situated on the present Morwell-Yinnar Road, about equidistant from both towns, though neither town existed in 1876. Maryvale Ridge State School was situated to the east of Morwell, on Buckley's Hill, a little over a mile away from the railway station.

The first register of the Commercial Road State School shows us that the gross enrolment for the first year, 1879, was 91 pupils of whom more than half came from the surrounding farms. About 40 pupils transferred from Maryvale Ridge State School, which closed just as Commercial Road State School opened.

Below, we list, in their families, showing the parent and his occupation, each of the pupils enrolled during that first year 1879:

The children of :-

John Alliss, farmer = Ada (12 years); John (10); Edward Crinigan, farmer .. Rosanna (9); Edward (8); Mary (5); David Donaldson, storekeeper..David (10); Edith (6); Thomas Dunn, bullock-driver...John (8); May (5); Charles O.Gilbert, storekeeper.Percy (12); Gerald (8); Harold (6); Roger Gorman, farmer.....Mary (11); Margaret (9); Thomas (7); William (5); Richard Harding, school-buildings inspector..Walter (15); Minnie (13); Robert Henry, carpenter.....Margaret (13); John (11); Annie (8); Jessie (7); and Maud (4); John Hopkins, farmer.... Murdoch (13); James (11); John (8); John Jones, railway repairer..Martha (11); John (8); Annie (7); Elizabeth (4); Philip Keegan, plate-layer...Rosanna (12); Philip (10); Anthony (6); Thomas (4); Charles Linden, farmer.....Isabella (13); Charles (12); Newton (5); James Martin, boot-maker.....Camilla (13); Hannah (11); Sarah (8); Thomas (3); James Matson, farmer.....Sarah (9); James (6); Andrew Matthews, farmer.....Daniel (16); Jacob (14); Finlay (12); Matilda (10); John (8); Sarah (6); Samson Minchinton, farmer....Jane (14); Mary (12); Laurence Molloy, farmer.....John (10); William Murdoch, publican....Ellen (12); George (10); John (5); Bridget McGauran, widow.....Susan (8); John (7); Donald McKaskill, station-hand..Sarah (10); Angus (7); Peter (4); Roger O'Flaherty, cattle-dealer.Michael (8); Julia (6); Edward (4); David Ogilvey, farmer.....John (6); Robert Porter, farmer.....George (12); Margaret (10); Robert (9); Agnes (5); Edward Purdue, gate-keeper...Lily (7); George (5); John Robinson, railway repairer...Villiam (11); Thomas (9); George (7); Lewis Samuel, farmer.....Annie (9); Thomas (4); William Savage, mounted police..Robert (6); Marian (4); Thomas Theobald, butcher.....William (10); Robert Tolmie, farmer.....Joseph (5); Samuel Vary, squatter.....Ellen (15); Arthur (13); Alfred (11); Alice (6); John Collyer, hotel-keeper..., Bridget (14); John (10); Paul (7); Johanna (5); (The Collyer family left Morwell in August, 1879)

Thomas Jones, railway-worker, is shown as the guardian of Cecilia Hanrahan (9), and Annie Farley (8), both of Rosedale.

Public Servants, 1879.

The Police

Morwell's first policeman, Mounted-Constable William Savage, arrived in Morwell about June, 1879. The police-station, or depot, them, consisted of three allotments in the central of the three blocks in George Street.

Stationmasters.

1877...T. Hayes;

1878....J. Hyens; 1879...J. Holland.

Page 30.

The Gippsland Times of 1879.

The first newspaper to be established in Morwell was the Morwell Gazette - in October, 1885, and a second paper, the Morwell Advocate began a year later - in October, 1886. From 1885 onwards, therefore, Morwell has been well documented.

well documented. However, there are scraps of information about Morwell (and other Gippsland towns) to be found in the Gippsland Times, which began in Port Albert in 1855, and later moved to Rosedale and then to Sale. Here are some "clippings" from the Gippsland Times of 1879.

3rd. January, 1879.

"J. F. G. Mooney, Crown Lands and Selectors' Agent, Morwell, has several good building blocks for sale in the rising township of Morwell."

6th. January, 1879.

"Don MacMillan, son of John MacMillan Esq., Hazelwood, via Morwell, and a student at Scotch College, Melbourne, was successful at the recent Matriculation Examination."

"There were 150 people present at the New Year's Day Picnic at Hazelwood, organized by Messrs. Geale and Firmin."

"Mr. Kelleher's new hotel has opended in Morwell. There was dancing in Mr. Donaldson's store, next door, to celebrate the occasion, with 200 people attending, including some from Sale, Rosedale and Traralgon."

24th. January, 1879.

"The people at the new township of Morwell are asking for a sheep pen at the station, and also for a police station to be established at Morwell."

14th. March, 1879.

The writer of a letter, signing himself "Parent" appealed to the authorities to appoint a policeman to Morwell, saying that there was a "fight at the station, last night", that "there are four licensed houses in the township," and that "drinking, card-playing, and dancing goes on even on Sundays."

"The road from Old Morwell (Morwell Bridge) to Morwell Station is very bad."

26th. March, 1879.

In a letter to the paper, Henry Godridge reported that there was coal at the Latrobe River.

4th. April 1879.

The opening of the last section of the railway-line (Oakleigh to Melbourne 2/4/79) from Melbourne to Sale was celebrated.

The Anglican Bishop of Melbourne, on his arrival at Morwell, was entertained at Kelleher's Hotel. There were 90 people present. An Open Air Meeting (or Church Service) was held in front of C. O. Gilbert's store. The verandah was very nicely lighted up. The Chairman of the meeting was Mr. C. O. Gilbert. Also present were Rev. Canon Watson, Rev. Hartmann, and Mr. Thomas Moorhouse.

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2nd. June, 1879.

"Coal has been found at the Prince of Wales Coal Mine, nine miles south of Morwell. A meeting of shareholders was held at Kelleher's Club Hotel on Thursday last. Provisional directors appointed were Messrs. M. Brennan, J. Collyer, G. Firmin, J. Fitzpatrick, E. Kelleher and M. Kelleher. The Head Office is at J. D. Joiner's, Sale. Five thousand shares are to be sold."

18th. June, 1879.

"Work has recommenced at Moe Coal Mine."

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"Mr. C. O. Gilbert, Secretary of the Mechanics' Institute Committee reports that only £17 is in hand, whereas £80 is needed".

Price .. 30 Cen

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14.4

The Morwell Society Historical News.

Editor....I. T. Maddern, 12 Avondale Crescent, Morwell, Victoria, 3840. Treasurer...Mrs. G. Taylor, 17 Denise Street, Morwell, Victoria, 3840.

Important Notice.

Because of a further astronomical rise in postal charges, we have been forced to reduce both the size (number of pages) of our "News", and the number of issues per year.

For 1974 we have telescoped two numbers, Nos. 3 and 4 into the one issue, and from 1975 we will become a half-yearly, instead of a quarterly paper, appearing each year at the end of March and September.

The Morwell Post Office.

Our first post office was at Morwell West (that is, Morwell Bridge) three miles north-west of the present town of Morwell.

C. J. Tyers, the Commissioner of Lands for Gippsland, had the first bridge built there in 1847, as part of his development of a track from Sale to Melbourne.

The first mails in and out of Gippsland were carried by ships to and from Port Albert, and quite often they went via Hobart in Tasmania. When the Melbourne-Sale track was made, the mail was carried on horseback by two mailmen. In his interesting little history, "Olden Rosedale," written in 1911, C. I. Du Ve gives this description of the process:-

"The mails in those days arrived weekly, and were conveyed by two riders. Mat, the mailman, brought Her Majesty's mails from Dandenong to Moe, where he met Jerry, the mailman, who had conveyed them from Port Albert via Sale and Rosedale. At Commissioner Bob's hostelry at Moe, they stayed the night, and next morning, Mat returned to Dandenong with the Gippslanders' correspondence conveniently carried in a valise on the front of the saddle. Jerry had the Melbourne mail for Gippsland in another valise on his saddle en route for Port Albert."

Peter Jeremiah Smith, who had formerly conducted a hostelry at Traralgon was supplanted there in 1858, and immediately established his inn at Morwell Bridge. To begin with, there was no official post-office at Morwell Bridge, but there can be no doubt that Smith's inn became a stopping place for the tired man and beast of the mail, and that any mail for people in the vicinity would be left there. The same thing would have happened when a coach service began in September, 1865, between Sale and Melbourne.

From that point, let us take up the story as told by Mr. Derek Baker, the Post Office Historical Officer. He writes:-

"In 1865, Morwell was a tiny settlement with a population of 26. The PMG's department began its 104 years of association with Morwell (first with Morwell Bridge), back in 1870, when a small, non-official post-office was established. The only regular form of communication was by mail coach that passed through Morwell Bridge six times a week in each direction, as it journeyed to and from Melbourne and Sale. This non-official post-office was located on the premises of the Morwell Hotel, Mr. P. J. Smith being both postmaster and licensee. The office opened on August 13, 1870.

On 1st. June, 1877, the railway line linking Sale and Morwell was completed, and from that date the two places exchanged mail by train. A sub-post-office, known as the Morwell Railway Station Post Office opened at the railway station, 6th. July, 1877. By 1879, when the Sale-Melbourne line was completed, the railway station office was handling considerably more business than the Bridge office, On 1st. January, 1880, the former was re-named Morwell Post Office. and the latter. Morwell Bridge Post Office.

re-named Morwell Post Office, and the latter, Morwell Bridge Post Office. In 1891, the name of Morwell Bridge Post Office was changed to Godridge Post Office (because Henry Godridge conducted it - and the hotel). Godridge Post Office closed, 1st. July, 1895.

A second Morwell Bridge Post Office opened about 1915, and closed again in May, 1959.

Page 32.

The Morwell Historical Society News, Vol. 13; No. 4. September, 1974.

The Morwell Post Office (continued).

From its beginning in 1877, the post-office in Morwell has had five different sites.

From 1877-1879, the railway station was also the village post-office, and presumably, the stationmaster was also the postmaster.

Public telegraph facilities were provided at Morwell in August, 1879, and since, by the end of 1879 the Sale-Melbourne railway had been completed, there was also a big increase in postal traffic.

From 1880 to 1885 there was a post and telegraph office in Commercial Road, in a building adjoining C. O. Gilbert's store, and opposite the railway station, which ceased handling postal affairs.

From 1885 to 1892, premises on the north-west corner of Tarwin and George Streets were rented by the Postal Department as the post-office.

In 1892, a magnificent, new, two-storied post office was built on the east corner of Commercial Road and Tarwin Street (where the Commonwealth Bank is now). However, by 1951, the building was considered unsafe, and the upper story was removed in May, 1951.

On Saturday, 2nd. April, 1955, the old office closed for the last time, and the new office opened on the following Monday, 4th. April, 1955. This present office is on the eastern corner of Princes Highway and Church Street. The telephone exchange had been moved to Margaret Street in March, 1955.

Postmasters and postmistresses have been:-

At the Railway Station.

1877.....T. Hayes. 1878.....J. Hyens. 1879.....J. Holland.

In Commercial Road, 1880-1885.

1880.....Mary Holland. 1881.....M. Feely. 1882-1884....Alice M. Neville.

In Tarwin Street, 1886-1892.

1887-1891.....Miss Murray

1891-1892....Hiss Eliza Vigar.

In Commercial Read, 1892-1955.

1892-1902....Miss Eliza Vigar. 1903-1905....Miss Maria King. 1905-1907....Miss Agnes Mary Kane. In Commercial Road, 1892-1955 (cont.)

1907-1910...Miss Mary Elizabeth Pick. 1910-1912...Miss Martha O. McDonough. 1912-1918...William Pierre Gaw. 1919-1922...A. McLean. 1922-1926...Frank R. Rogerson. 1926-1936...George E. Hill. 1936-1937...William J. Birch. 1937-1944...David T. Charles. 1944-1949...Thomas J. Burley. 1949-1952...Robert L. Larmour. 1952-1955...John A. Hughes.

On Princes Highway, 1955 onwards.

1955-1967...John A. Hughes. 1967-1974...Herbert T. Christie.

Telephone facilities first became available to Morwell residents about the year 1908, by means of a trunk line from the Sale Exchange. At that time, a call to Sale cost eight pence (seven cents) for the first three minutes, and sixpence (five cents) for each additional three minutes. A local exchange

was provided in 1910, and by 1912 there were six subscribers. They were:-

The number of subscribers had increased to 25 by 1918, and to 58 by 1923.

In 1928, a new 100-line switchboard was installed, replacing the earlier equipment, and a new switchboard for trunk calles was added in 1937.

In June,1942 the capacity of the exchange was increased to 500 lines, and a further trunks switchboard added. By June 1943, there were 155 subscribers; in 1946, the capacity of the excannge was increased to 800 lines, and in 1949 to 1200 lines.

In 1955, the old manual exchange was replaced by automatic equipment, the new exchange being located in Margaret Street with an initial capacity of 1200 lines, and with 608 subscribers.

The new PMG exchange building opened officially, 24th. August, 1973.

Page 33.

The Churches of Morwell.

The first church buildings erected in Morwell were the Roman Catholic Church in 1881, in George Street; the Methodist Church in 1883, in Church Street; the Church of England in 1885, in Chapel Street; and the Presbyterian Church in 1886, in Elgin Street.

There is a pattern of similarity in the establishment of all four denominations, in that the first services were conducted before any church was built, in any suitable building, such as a private home, a school building, a hall, cr even a hotel. The first Presbyterian service in Rosedale was held in George Rintoull's blacksmith shop.

Then, the building of a church preceded the appointment of a resident minister, sometimes by a number of years. The adherents of all four denomination in Morwell were first served in their church buildings by visiting ministers mainly from Tranalgon. But let us deal with each denomination in the order of the building of their churches.

The Roman Catholic Church in Morwell.

The story of the Catholic Church in Morwell has been well written by Superintendent of Police Neil Crowe, on the occasion of the consecration of the new church of the Parish of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Morwell, 15/11/1970.

We cannot do better than give a summary of this history, entitled "The Time Before".

During the initial development of Morwell, Mass was offered in the home of Phillip Keegan on the Hazelwood track (now part of the open cut coal mine). This would be in the late 1870's. When hotels were erected in 1879, divine worship was celebrated in the dining-rooms of the hotels of Edmond Kelleher and John Fitzgerald.

By 1880, John Collyer of the Railway Hotel (later called the Cricketers' Arms) built a small public hall next to his hotel, and Mass was offered there by visiting priests including Fathers Hegarty, Matthew Hayes, and O'Donoghue from the Sale Mission in 1880 and 1881.

In January,1879, Edmond Kelleher, hotelkeeper; Timothy O'Connor, labourer; and Edward Crinigan, farmer purchased three adjoining allotments in Section 5 of Robinson's survey, for a total cost of £6. This property had a frontage of 300 feet in George Street, with a depth of 250 feet to Elgin Street, and a weatherboard church with iron roof was built there. This first Church of the Sacred Heart, Morwell, was dedicated in December,1881 by Rev. J. L. Hegarty of Sale.

This building was also used for the first Catholic School which opened at the beginning of 1884.

The Presbytery in Commercial Road was built in 1895, and the second Church of the Sacred Heart was erected next to the Presbytery in 1902-1903, and dedicated by Dr. Corbett, Bishop of Sale, 17/5/1903.

The old Donaldson family home, at the corner of Wilson Street and Commercial Road was acquired in 1906, and converted in 1907 into a Convent for the teaching sisters of the order of St. Joseph, who took over the management of the Catholic School, the old building of which was also shifted to Commercial Road, to the block on the west side of the Church.

Parish Priests of the Church of the Sacred Heart.

1892-1913 Fr.	Edward James Coleman.	1937-1953Fr. John	J. McCormack.
1913-1916Fr.	D. G. McMahon.	1953-1964Monsignor	F.S. Crowe.
1916-1925Fr.		1964-1971Fr. Noel	Daly.
1925-1937Fr.	John Nolan.	1974Fr. W. J.	Caffrey.

The assistant priests have been: -

1892-94T. Hurley	1919-22. P.MacDonald	1937-38J. Walsh	
1894-97D.G.McMahon	1922P.M.O'Donnell	1938-39T.P. Vaughan	
1897-1900M. Roche	1922-25J.0'Donnell	1940-42J.T.Russell	
1900-05. E. Hullihan	1925-31. J.J.McCormack	1942-43E.F.Hynes	
1902I.Carrol	1931-1932. J. Gavan,	1943-44F. P. Ruth	
1903M.Hayes.	1932-35C.Donovan	1944-49M.J.Dwyer	
1905-09P.K.0'Brien	1934-35. J.E.O'Mara.	1949-51F.J.O'Regan	dist.
1909-16W.McLoughlin	1935-36, ,W.Walsh	1951-55J. Ward	
1916-17W. Ryan	1937K.P.Moriaty	1952-55W.J.O'Regan	line -
1917-19W.H.O'Connor	1937J. O'Hea	1955-57W.J.Cafrey	

Page 34.

The Morwell Historical Society News, Vol. 13; No. 4. September, 1974.

The Roman Catholic Church in Morwell (continued).

List of Assistant Priests (continued).

1955J. R. Wilson 1955-59L. L. Cusack 1956-57D. A. Cagney	1958-62J. Shanley 1962-65P.W. Harris 1965-66T. O'Connell	1966E. Spiteri 1970J. Flynn 1971-74B. Mahony.
Polish Chaplains:		
1963-65Rev. L. Lisik.	1965-69Rev. J. Gula.	1969Rev. Pajdak.
- 読書時に 古いたち 特力 パイン・アイン		

The Catholic School.

This school opened at the beginning of 1884, and was conducted in the Catholic Church building in George Street. The site is approximately where the car-park for Coles' supermarket is now.

The first pupils, most of whom had transferred from the State School, were Gerald and Julia Fitzpatrick; James, Thomas and Anthony Keegan; Patrick, John and Bridget Walsh; William and Margaret Gorman; John Lillis; Maud and Armar Bryan; Julia Kealy; and Rosanna and Mary Crinigan.

Until 1907, when the Sisters of St. Joseph arrived, and the building was moved to Commercial Road, the school was conducted by lay teachers, including Misses Susan Rice (from Cowwarr?), Eileen Callaghan, Audrey White, Miss Flynn, Miss Mary Fitzgerald, and Mademoiselle de Pazenan.

During the 23 years of its existence at George Street, the school had an attendance fluctuating between 35 and 40 pupils.

On Thursday, 11th. March, 1907, the first community of the Sisters of St. Joseph arrived by train at Morwell. The Sister-in-charge, Sister M. Claire was accompanied by Sister M. Ethelrida, and Sister M. Leon.

St. Vincent de Paul, Morwell East.

The population of Morwell grew from 3,000 in 1947 to 9,000 in 1954, and 15,000 in 1962. A whole new suburb arose on Buckley's Hill, or Morwell East. To relieve the pressure of accommodation on the two brick class-rooms built in 1932, and the wooden annexe built in 1951, of the Sacred Heart School, Father P. S. Crowe, in 1954, bought a surplus building at East Sale Aerodrome, and had it erected, as a temporary church and school, on parish land at Morwell East.

The present Church of St. Vincent de Paul was opened and blessed by Bishop Ryan, 3rd. February, 1957.

On the lst. September, 1957, the district of Morwell East was separated from Morwell, and made a separate parish under the invocation of St. Vincent de Paul. Father W. J. Caffrey, curate of the parent parish, was appointed as the first pastor.

The Convent of St. Vincent de Paul was opened, 26th. November, 1958; and the Presbytery, in Hunt Street, 12th. May, 1969.

Parish Priests of St. Vincent de Paul, Morwell.

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1957-59Fr.	W.	J. Caffrey	3 - 1 	1965-72Fr. P. W. Harris
1959-62Fr.	F.	0'Regan		1972-74Fr. D. A. Cagney.
1962-65 Fr.	.T:	Wilson		

The Methodist Church, Morwell.

The first Methodist Church in Morwell was a typical, small church building situated on the corner of Princes Highway and Church Street - on the block of land opposite the present Post Office. The Methodists owned the whole of this allotment stretching from the Princes Highway to Buckley Street. Later, a parsonage was built at the Buckley Street end of the allotment, and later again, tennis courts were laid down between the church and the parsonage.

The Morwell congregation was served by travelling home-missionaries for the 21 years between 1883 and 1904, until, in that year, the Morwell Methodist Circuit was created. Some of these home missionaries were:-

1887 Mr. Algie	1890-91I.R.Lynex	1894-95R. W. Dean (again)
1888D.L.Whitchurch	1891-92W. Densley	1899-1900E. J. Amos
1888-89C. Palk	1892-94W.E.Carlton	1900-01. H. W. Ford
1889-90R. W. Dean	1894J. W. Law.	1902-03S. Gill.
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Page 35.

The Morwell Historical Society News, Vol. 13; No. 4.September, 1974.

The Methodist Church of Norwell (continued).

The Circuit underwent some alteration in 1929, when the township of Yallourn began to grow as a result of the S. E. C. operations.

In 1953, the property in Church Street was sold, making possible the development of that area as a shopping centre, and the move was made to the present site further east along the Princes Highway.

The first records of any Methodist services held in Morwell indicate that in 1878, Rev. William Batten of Traralgon visited Maryvale (i.e. Morwell) to conduct services, but in what building we cannot be sure. Perhaps, like the Anglicans, the Methodists first used the Maryvale Ridge School.

On the 29th. June, 1879, the first Methodist service in Morwell proper was held in the Morwell School building - the temporary premises in Tarwin Street. The 55 people who were present must have constituted the whole, or practically the whole of the Protestant population of Morwell, for by 1881, the population of the township was only 75.

Some of the early ministers listed as being Superintendents of the district, and probably stationed at Traralgon were:

 1887.....Thomas Adamson
 1891-94..D. S. Lindsay
 1901-03..H. Bailey.

 1889-91..H. E. Merriman
 1899-1901..T. Roberts

Since 1904, the following ministers have lived at Morwell and have been in charge of the Morwell Circuit:-

1904-07Herbert Williams	1927T. Dickson	1947-51E. A. Hinson
1907-10William Seaman	1928-29. H.L.Hawkins	1951-54Robert H. Hunt
1910-13Joseph Wilkes	1931-33Wm. E. Oliver	1954-58. N.E.Derbyshire
1914-15Mr. Julien	1929-31G. T. Inglis	1958-63J.C.Adamthwaite
1915-16Mr. Morris	1933-36C. Edwards	1964-67R.N. Bowen.
1918-21H. Williams	1937-40H. Sutherland	1967Rev. B. Howe
1924-26A. E. Brownhill	1940-43H. E. Walsh	1968-71K. Mather
1926-27Arthur A.Lyons	1943-47C. Hoxon	1972-74Ron Foulkes.

A section of the Boolarra Circuit was transferred to the Morwell Circuit in 1894, and Mr. Thomas was appointed as the steward for that area.

In 1895, the Circuit was amalgamated with Traralgon for some years and that, perhaps, explains the absence of any minutes for the years 1895 to 1899.

There is a brief mention of church music in 1891, when we read that Mr. Brownsord was appointed as church organist, and special hymn books were ordered for the choir.

The Church of England, Morwell.

The first church service conducted in this area by any denomination took place on Sunday, 4th. June, 1848. On that day, Rev. Francis Hales, on his way back to Melbourne after a three months' touring ministration in Gippsland, held a service in the Bennett homestead at Hazelwood Station.

We have no direct evidence of any other services held at Morwell until thirty years later, though possibly the early incumbents at Port Albert and Sale occasionally visited the remote stations in this area.

By 1878, Church of England services were being held monthly at Morwell in various buildings - the Maryvale Ridge State School, the Hazelwood Ridge State School, or in private or business premises. The first Anglican service to be held in the village of Morwell itself was on the 2nd. November, 1878, in a room attached to the general store of Mr. C. O. Gilbert, in Commercial Road. When the Methodists built their church in 1883, it was used also by the Church of England and Presbyterian congregations for their services, until they built their own churches in 1885 and 1886, respectively.

From 1854 to 1865, the nearest Church of England centre was Sale. Then came the establishment of the Rosedale Parish, 1865, Traralgon Parish, 1878; and at last Morwell Parish in 1887.

In the second plan of Morwell Village,October,1878, the north-west corner of Block 4 is shown as reserved for a Church of England. St. Mary's was built there at a cost of £330, and opened in December 1885. In the 1950's, this site and building, together with the road separating them from the State School,

site and building, together with the road separating them from the State School, were taken over by the Education Department and joined to the School The foundation of the new Church in Latrobe Road was laid in 1959, by

Miss Emma Bridle, one of the oldest parishioners. However, the present vicarage in Latrobe Road took the place of the old vicarage, in Chapel Street, in 1929.

36. Page

The Morwell Historical Society News, Vol. 13; No. 4.September, 1974.

The Caurch of England, Morwell (continued).

The Rev. Thomas Moorehouse (1878-83) followed by the Rev. John R. Walker (1883-92), undoubtedly provided regular services for the Morwell congregations, from their base at Traralgon. From 1887, when the first Church of England minister was appointed to Morwell, the complete list of incumbents is as follows:-

1887A. Edwards	1906,C.A. Crossley	1940P.J.L.Ackland
1888J. Francis	1908A. Maxwell	1945R.W.G.Phillips
1893A. Gamble	1910 E. Walker	1954K. B. E. Raff
1897J. H. Frewin	1913A.E.Adeney	1956P. M. Pickburn
1900H.T. Langley	1938A. J. Smith	1960J. A. Knife
1902W.D. Kennedy	1928L.W.A. Benn	1970F. McL. R. Lowe.
1904W.J.B.Hoysted	1935D. Beyer	 A start of the sta

The rapid growth of Morwell after the Second World War made it necessary to establish a new church in Morwell East (or North-East would be more accurate), - St, Philip's on the Hill.

The Presbyterian Church, Morwell.

The greatest figure in the early history of the Presbyterian Church in Gippsland is that of Rev. W. S. Login, Minister at Sale from 1854 to 1887. In 1859, Rev. Login conducted the marriage service for Peter McColl and Johanna Munro, at the Travellers' Rest Hotel, Traralgon.

In March 1863, the Presbyterian Church began regular church services in Traralgon. By this time, Rev. Login had an assistant, Rev. Souter, who conducted the Traralgon services in the dining-room of Mr. John Campbell's home. Later in that same year, Mr. Souter left the district, and the services could not be continued.

In 1878, a Presbyterian Church was built at Traralgon. This was Traralgon's first church building, and also the first brick building there. No doubt some of the Presbyterians from Morwell found their way to this Church. before their own Church was built in Elgin Street in 1886.

It is said that the first Presbyterian service in the Morwell area was conducted by Rev.W. S. Login of Sale, at the MacMillan homestead, Hazelwood, in 1878. From 1878 onwards, the Rosedale minister, Rev. J. G. Wilson, held monthly services at the Maryvale Ridge State School, in Morwell.

During the 1880's the parish was first a Home Mission Station under Mr. E. Eldridge. When the Methodist Church was built in 1883, Presbyterian services were conducted there until their own Church was built in 1886.

The first Manse was on the Ridge (Buckley's Hill), south of the railway line, and close to the road leading to the Morwell Project Administration Building (S.E.C.). Some old pine trees there may be markers of the site.

The Elgin Street Manse was built in 1913, and the Ridge Manse was sold in 1914.

The new Church in Church Street was built 1960-61, and the new Manse in 1963. The hall and sunday-school buildings were moved from Elgin Street to Church Street, and the old church and manse were sold.

The list of ministers from 1889 to the present day is:

1889-91. Robert Murray	1917-22. J. Garnon-Owen	1942-45. H.W.Hovenden
1892-99 Angus McDonald	1923-25. E.L.Slade-Mallon	1946-50.F. H. Camp
1895-96D. Bruce	1925-28. J. A. Craigen	1950-56 .A. H. Thomson
1900-02Edgar Law	1929-30A. E. Harvey	1957-61L. G. Wood
1903-06. F. Barclay	1931-34. S.A. Vertigan	L963-68P. W. Gillies
1907-12.J.Millar-Smith	1935-37 .W. S. Laity	1968-74W. J. Bramley.
1913-16. H.A.Hutchinson	1939-41. Norman Faichney	

Rev. Norman Faichney was accorded the distinction of being elected to the high office of the Presbyterian Presbyterian Church of Victoria, 1958-59.

In more recent years, the charge of St. Columba's Church, Morwell East. commenced its life as a preaching place of St. Andrew's. Land was granted by the Housing Commission in 1953, and a building was purchased and moved to Vasey Street. The Charge was divided and Morwell East became a separate Charge in 1954.