

The Morwell Post

Morwell Historical Society

URL: www.morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au

Email: secretary@morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au

 <https://www.facebook.com/morwellhistoricalsociety/>



Morwell Soldiers' Memorial unveiled June 6 1921



See article page 6

IN THIS ISSUE

Directory	Page 2	"5000 Poppies Project"	Page 5
President's Report	Page 3	ANZAC Day 25th April 1918 - Morwell State School	Page 6-7
Our Collection - Reg Davey WW1 Memorabilia	Page 3	VALSTAR Traffic School	Page 8-9
Australian Army Nursing Service 1916	Page 3	Bennetts Creek	Page 10-11
Knitted Socks for the War	Page 4-5	Opening Times and Supporters	Page 12

Morwell Historical Society Directory 2025/2026

President:	Alan McFarlane Phone: 0448 430 394
Vice-President:	Shirley Prosser
Secretary:	Florence Butcher
Assistant Secretary:	Elaine Andrijczak
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Committee Members:	David McInnes Rob de Souza-Daw Laurie Williams
Research Library:	12 Hazelwood Road, Morwell, Victoria 3840
Research Queries:	secretary@morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au
Public Access:	1st and 3rd Wednesday and last Sunday of each month, 11.00 a.m. – 2.00 p.m. Open - February to November
Members' Gathering:	Every two months on the 3rd Wednesday - commencing 19th February 2025, then April, June, August, October, at 2pm (informal get-together and afternoon tea)
Annual General Meeting:	3rd Wednesday of March each year
Membership Fees:	Due 1st July each year Single Member - \$25.00 Family Membership -Family living at the same address \$30.00 Application Forms available on our website for you to print and send. For a print copy of " The The Morwell Post " - \$10.00 per annum
Editor:	email: secretary@morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au
Newsletter Team:	Fay Thompson, Elaine Andrijczak, Florence Butcher
Research Fees:	\$10.00 per hour or part thereof, and prices for photo prints on application and postage where applicable.
Facebook:	https://www.facebook.com/morwellhistoricalsociety
Postal Address:	12 Hazelwood Road, Morwell 3840 Victoria, Australia

Front page icon is of the old Post Office c1930 which was on the site of the old Commonwealth Bank, corner of Commercial Road and Tarwin Street.

All photos, unless indicated, are from our archives

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

For those who did not make our Annual General Meeting, this is my report as presented

As we commence our 64th year, we do so knowing that we no longer have any debt on our building. What a wonderful achievement and thanks to our members, Community supporters and Dianne and Don Harle for the support received. Of course the foresight and commitment of Bruce McMaster to see this project through has been outstanding.

We continue to need funding to support the organisation and this is reinforced by our many Corporate and Business sponsors and members' support towards Bunnings BBQs, book sales, recycling, hiring of our rooms etc.

Recent Latrobe City grants have provided us with new brochures and mower/trimmer and blower.

Our continued good relationship with Latrobe City has resulted in the Society being consulted on community proposals. We have recently completed Morwell Parks and Reserves and Street names origins for Council. A mammoth effort went into this document, a copy of which will be available for members and visitors to view.

It is pleasing to see the number of visitors who visit our rooms and exhibitions, participate in our *Step Back in Time Cafe* and provide us with artefacts and information.

The Society exists because of the commitment of a core group of volunteer members. I thank all members for their support

At our Annual meeting, all office bearers were re-elected other than Rosalie Davey who did not renominate and was replaced with David McInnes. Thanks to Rosalie for her significant contribution and wishing her well with her health challenges.

It was also a great pleasure to announce the naming of our front room as the "ELSIE AND BRUCE McMASTER EXHIBITION SPACE". This decision acknowledges the mammoth involvement and contribution of both Elsie (deceased) and Bruce over the past 50 years.

Enjoy Autumn

Alan

ELSIE & BRUCE McMASTER EXHIBITION SPACE

SOME OBJECTS IN OUR COLLECTION



Australian Army Nursing Service 1916 WW1 badge of Staff Nurse Agnes Janette Nadenbousch
Unofficial badge that accompanied food parcels to Australian Nurses in the field.



and initially composed of ex-servicemen who had served in World War 1



Army Unit Colour Patch for the 8th Light Horse Brigade
DVC - Volunteer Defence Corps - modelled on the British Home Guard



Reg Davey 8th Light Horse Regiment WW1 Egypt

KNITTED SOCKS FOR THE WAR

It is estimated that over 1 million pairs of socks were knitted by Australian women and children during WW1. The **Australian Comforts Fund** co-ordinated knitting circles and the delivery of much needed socks for the troops. Predominately run by women, The Comforts Fund provided and distributed free 'comforts' to the Australian troops which included tobacco, chocolates, newspaper, cakes and knitted items. Knitting socks, mittens and other items, such as vests, mufflers, scarves and balaclavas to keep the soldiers warm was one way that Australians could feel that they were contributing to the war effort. Often the knitters would put a note in the toe of a sock and the soldier would write back.

An official pattern was published early in the war by the **Grey Sock Fund** which set out directions for knitting good socks with finer wool and needles. Knitters had to follow this pattern and not improvise their own designs. Socks had to be either grey or khaki and no back seams were allowed. When wool was joined it had to be spliced as no knots or unevenness were allowed.

The socks were knitted "in the round" with 3 needles, continuously knitting in a circle, thus, no seams.

The women knitted whenever they had a spare moment, even when they were walking around the house. Knitting the leg and foot was no problem, but the heel was difficult because of the shaping. Difficult or not, they kept knitting. When steel for knitting needles was no longer available, they used the sharpened spokes of bicycle wheels to knit the socks with. Some also used shaped twigs of trees.

Source

"Go Home and Knit Socks" Australian Women's Role in World War I

<https://collections.museumsvictoria.com.au/articles/1848>

<https://archive.org/details/grey-sock-image-01/GreySockImage04.jpg>

<https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/stories/woollen-comforts-home>

<https://www.sbs.com.au/voices/article/the-beautiful-story-behind-the-knitted-poppies-appeal/nbq0uw0tp>



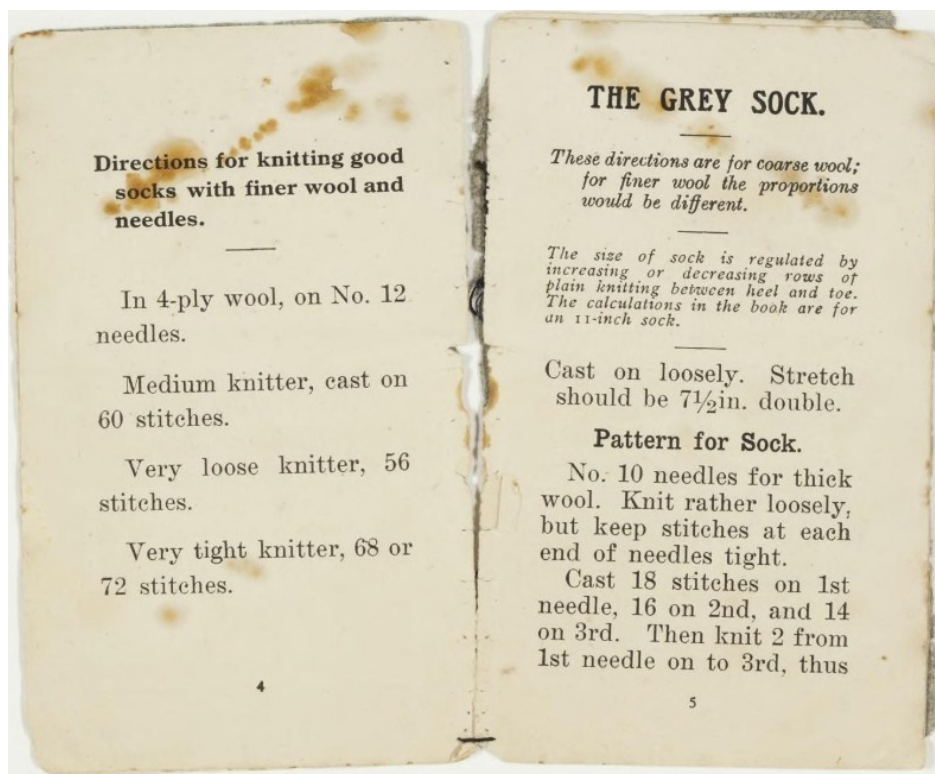
ACF was established in 1916 to provide free 'comfort' items that were not supplied by the services to all Australian servicemen. These items included singlets, socks, pyjamas, cigarettes and tobacco, razor blades, soap, toothbrush, toothpaste and reading material



The Green family are at Billy's Creek for the day

The 3 women at the back are ...?..., Catherine (mother) and her sister Elizabeth Stamp
Children –**Ella knitting socks**, ...?..., Ian, Jean, Kathleen, and Barras, c1914

Photo courtesy of Sue Hateley - daughter of Barras



We were issued with a pair of socks each today & in mine (a very nice pair) there was a note with your name & address on it. So I take this opportunity of dropping you a line to thank you for them, also the good wishes. Socks are at a premium now, believe me. How anyone can have the patience to knit a pair of big socks beats me, I'd rather go to the war a dozen times (more or less), but it's only after one leaves Aussie & puts a few thousand miles between himself that the spirit of the knitter is appreciated.

A soldier writes back to voice his appreciation of the effort that goes into knitting socks.

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THE 5000 POPPIES PROJECT, which involved knitted and crocheted poppies as a tribute to those who served in war, gained popularity in Australia starting in 2013, evolving into a worldwide phenomenon by the time of the ANZAC centenary commemorations.

The poppy initially belonged to Remembrance Day, 11 November, however, wreaths of poppies are traditionally placed at memorials and honour boards on ANZAC Day.

ANZAC Day 25th April 1918 - MORWELL STATE SCHOOL

"There was quite a large gathering of parents and others at the local State School on Thursday afternoon last week (Anzac Day), when a program of patriotic songs etc was carried out by the children, and a number of addresses suitable to the occasion delivered.

Mr J.B. Hoyle (chairman of the School Board Committee) presided, and pointed out that the reason of the gathering was to commemorate the glorious feats achieved by the Anzac heroes, who landed on Gallipoli that day 3 years ago. The boys had made a name for Australia that would never be forgotten. The lads knew they were going to fight a relentless foe, but they also knew that they were fighting for liberty, justice, and all we hold dear, and for this they were prepared to lay down their lives. He hoped the boys and girls in the school that day would be always prepared to do their duty as the Anzac boys had done, and that they would take advantage of the opportunities they now had for learning, and grow up loyal to the Empire. He trusted that the brave boys who had fallen had not given their lives in vain, and hope that victory would soon be ours.

The Rev. Garnon-Owen said that Anzac Day was a great day, greater than St Patrick's Day or any saint's day. The deeds of the Anzacs compared favourably with those of the greatest heroes. He trusted the education of the children would make for good citizenship and patriotism.

The Rev Pryor explained that Anzac stood for Australian and New Zealand Army Corps, and called for 3 cheers for the Anzacs. He went on to speak of the freedom and privileges enjoyed in Australia, and said the reason why Australia is so free was because it was a God-given country. Captain Cook had planted the Union Jack on Botany Bay without the sound of a gun or a drop of blood being shed. If they desired to remain a free people it was their bounden duty to live uprightly and lead a pure and good life. They should be prepared to make sacrifices to maintain their freedom and privileges, and honour the brave men who had gone to the front, many of whom who had given their lives in the cause of liberty, justice, and righteousness.

Private Ernest Rowell, of Morwell, who returned from the front a few months ago, having lost an arm, whilst in action in France, delivered a most interesting address, in which he gave details of much that took place while he was at the front and related some of his own experiences which at times were rather sensational.

On the occasion on which he was wounded he had volunteered to take the place of another man who was ill. In conclusion Private Rowell said he was not sorry he had gone to the front and 'done his bit' and he felt he would like to be there again to give the lads there, who were in so much need of help, a hand. He explained to the children that the men were fighting so that Australia might remain a free country, and that the men, women and children might be free.

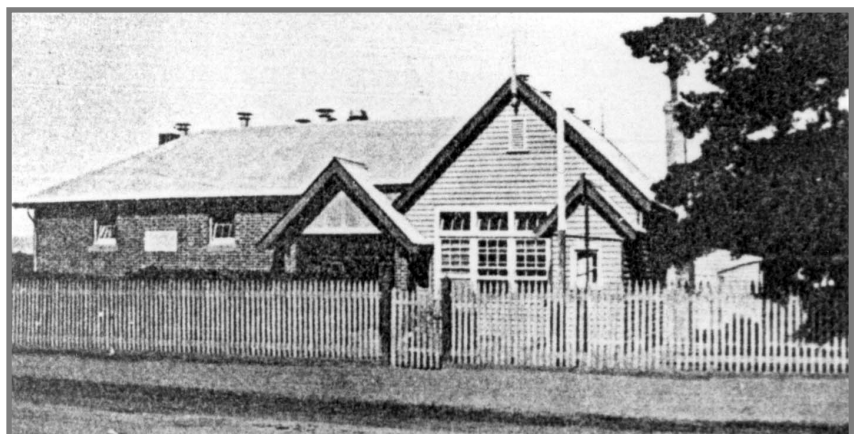
Mr Evans read a list containing 100 names of old school boys who had left for the front.

Mr Hart, Head Teacher, said he was pleased to see so many present, but thought there should have been more men. He referred to the fact that the State school children had contributed £250,000 to patriotic funds, and that a number attending the school were also handing in money to purchase a War Savings Certificate.

The proceedings terminated with the singing of the National Anthem and God Bless our Splendid Men, and the saluting of the Union Jack."

Source - ~~Morwell Advertiser~~ Friday 3rd May 1918 page 2

Morwell State School c1925





Mr J.B. Hoyle

Note that the board was created before the end of the war.



1930-1940s On the front of the school, the sign is "MORWELL SCHOOL 2136"



THE ROSE SERIES P. 14062
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COMMERCIAL ROAD STATE SCHOOL, MORWELL, VIC.

VALSTAR TRAFFIC SCHOOL

HAZELWOOD POWER CHILDRENS TRAFFIC SCHOOL (2006)

LATROBE CITY TRAFFIC SCHOOL

In 1965, when Des Kelly was the President, the Morwell Rotary Club decided to take on an ambitious project to lower the road accidents that children were experiencing. The organisation decided to establish a traffic school in Morwell where children could receive road safety tuition.

The initial ground work was conducted by Alan Holloway, who was the Community Service chairman, but the Victorian Police Force, influenced by lack of man power said that they were unable to provide an instructor for the school. The whole plan looked like it was going to collapse but regular correspondence in the 'right places' swung the Police Force and an instructor was promised on completion of the school.

Construction began in April 1967 and due to donations of money and learner vehicles the estimated cost was lowered from \$14,000 to \$9,500.

Today, the traffic school is managed by Latrobe City and is frequently used not only by school groups but also hired for children's birthday parties and children can gain confidence and skills in a fun setting away from the dangers of our roads.



"Go" at Valstar

**SHIRE OF MORWELL
VALSTAR
TRAFFIC
SCHOOL**

I wish to advise that the Valstar Traffic School is now available for use by:

- schools
- community groups
- clubs

The Valstar Traffic School provides the opportunity for young people to be taught road safety in an interesting and safe environment.

Applications for use of the Valstar Traffic School should be made on the prescribed form to the Principal, Tobruk Street Primary School, P. O. Box 219, Morwell.

Application forms are available from:

- Shire of Morwell, Civic Centre, Princes Highway, Morwell
- Tobruk Street Primary School, Tobruk Street, Morwell.

Inquiries should be addressed to the Principal, Tobruk Street Primary School, telephone 34 2517.

R. H. WATERS
Chief Executive Officer



Joshua Kemp birthday party at the school 1998

In 2007 Maisie Fullerton, wife of the late Constable Fullerton cut the 40th birthday cake watched on by Community Development officer Henk Harberts.



INITIATIVES taken by the Rotary Club of Morwell and the Education Department have resulted in the Valstar Traffic School being re-opened.

The Valstar Traffic School was developed as a regional traffic school in the 1960s by the Rotary Club and RACV and for many years training courses were conducted at the school with instructors provided by the Victoria Police.

In recent times the school lapsed into disuse, equipment was not repaired and both buildings and equipment were vandalised. The school has not been used for several years. But this year the Rotary Club and the Education Department developed a proposal to reactivate the school and, using voluntary labor from members of the Rotary Club, equipment was renovated and vehicles restored. Last month, the Shire of Morwell formed a management committee comprising representatives of the Rotary Club, Education Department, Shire, Police and RACV to manage and operate the school.

The project has received considerable support from the Principal of Tobruk St Primary School, the District Inspector, Department of Education and members of the Rotary Club. The Tobruk St Principal, Mr Perry Wood, is pictured "giving the green light" at the school.

Morwell St Vincent de Paul August 6th 1965 Grade 4 - 69 students



Back row -Jeanette Grinpukel, Lisa Zanin, Denise Cox, Pauline Barlow, Sharon or Pauline Betson, Patricia Muir, Anne McGinn, Beverley Caile, Joan Keighley, Cathy Murphy, Maureen Fogarty, ? , Margaret Delaney, Rosalba Forte

2nd back -John Kelly, Carmello Galea, Patrick Ryan, Kevin Rhodes, Raymond Zammit, Ronald Dawes, Phillip Harrington, Robert Poulson, Stephen Trotter, Luke Adrichem, Damien Morissey, Charlie Gauchi, Ian Malone, Herman Schutte, ?

3rd back -Sharon Caile, Kerrie Bartlett, Joanne Nijboer, Dianne Ireland, Tony Basten, Warren Wicks, Wolfgang Pelz, Alphonse Govers, John Cain, John Poulter, Linda Thompson, Louise Minneboo, Anne Mare Miles, Dianne Wood

4th back -Christine Sleswick, Clare O'Brien, Michelle O'Neill, Rosemary McCluskey, ? , Tony Barr, Kerry Renehan, Anne Trotter, Anna Govers, Karen Fleming

2nd front -Manny de Bono, Freddy Chircop, David Manson, Paul Barr, John Sedunary

Front row-Mary Pirotta, Angela White, Margaret Galea, Helen Carrodus, Loretta Joyce, Kaye Hotton, Anna Horbach, Mary Leslie, Louise Gilmore

Teacher -Sister Gerardine (now Sister Helen Barnes)

Absent -Athlea Teuma and Rosemary Goodall.

Constable Harold Fullerton at a training session with Grade 6 pupils from St Vincent's Primary School, 1967. All lined up on tricycles.



From left to right

Ian Malone, Tony Barr, Clair O'Brien, Pauline Barlow, Rosemary McCluskey, Patricia Muir, Louise Gilmour, Helen Carrodus, Cathy Murphy, Kerrie Bartlett, Freddie Chircup, Athlea Teuma, John Cain, ?, ?, David Manson

Source -*Morwell on the Move* –a special edition of the Morwell Advertiser 1967

-*Latrobe Valley Express* 6 July 2007 Traffic School turns 40

-Traffic School file

BENNETTS CREEK

The Hazelwood Pastoral Run consisting of 17,330 acres was jointly leased and occupied in October 1844 by William Bennett (1814-1878) and his brother-in-law Albert Eugene Brodribb (1813-1860). It is fitting that the name Hazelwood (originally spelt Haslewood) has been preserved as the run was named after Bennett's wife Lavinia Zenobia Ann Hassell Brodribb (1812-1892) (who was known as Hazel) and was the sister of Albert Brodribb. Lavinia Brodribb married William Bennett in Hobart Town in 1833. In 1838 the Bennetts left Tasmania onboard the schooner Abeona for South Australia and in early-1844 they came to Mornington, Victoria.

The Bennetts built their first home at Haslewood on the banks of Middle Creek and later built a home on the banks of the Morwell River.

William and Hazel Bennett had nine children- Kenric Harold (1835-1891), Lavinia Mary (1836-1913), Frances Emma (1839-1909), Frederica Anna (1841-1910), Frederick Charles (1843-1855) and then born at Hazelwood, Eliza Adams (1846-1926), Jane Maria (1848-1922), Flora Blanche (1850-1953) and Edward William Charles (1852-1926). Lavinia Mary Bennett was known as Mary and her name was bestowed on the neighbouring pastoral run by Thomas Gorringe, initially Maryville which became Maryvale.

Bennett and Brodribb ran 1,000 head of cattle on this station and in 1851 Brodribb withdrew from the partnership.

It appears the Bennett family left Hazelwood around 1854 and moved to Brighton, Victoria. Later the Bennetts moved to Yandembah Station near Hillston NSW where they owned and managed a large sheep farm.

In September 1860 William Bennett sold the lease to John Macmillan which was forfeited by Macmillan to the Colony of Victoria in September 1881.

In 1876 William and Hazel Bennett moved to Kyneton, Victoria where William died in 1878. Around 1887 Hazel Bennett moved to Armadale. She died as a wealthy person at her residence Hazelhurst at Armadale in 1892. The Bennetts are both buried in the Kyneton cemetery with a grandchild.

Bennetts Creek begins in the Jeeralangs and flows into Water Hole Creek south east of the Kernot Hall car Park.

A part of Bennetts Creek became the boundary of the Hazelwood Pastoral Run and the Traralgon Pastoral Run and with the establishment of parishes around 1874, roughly the same part became the boundary between the Parish of Morwell and the Parish of Traralgon and in 1892 the same part became the boundary between the Shire of Morwell and the Shire of Traralgon. From 1998, this part of Bennetts Creek is the boundary between the locality of Churchill and the Locality of Hazelwood South.

Bennett's Creek State School was opened in November in 1879 under the name of Hazelwood North State School near the corner of Hazelwood Road and Thomson Road, the name being changed to Bennett's Creek State School in 1889. From 1885 to 1898 the school worked on a half-time basis first with Hazelwood North State School (originally called Maryvale East State School), and later with Jeeralang State School. It regained full-time status in 1898 but closed permanently in 1903. The building was removed in 1906 and the site sold to John Larkin. The first Head Teacher was William Francis who served from 1879 to 1881. The last Head Teacher was Margaret Ryan 1901-1903.

DISTRICT NEWS - BENNETTS CREEK

Whilst riding over a bridge temporary constructed of rails across Bennetts Creek, which was in flood, in a paddock owned by Mr McDonald, the hind legs of Mr Debney's horse slipped through making a large opening in its struggles. Jim was thrown off but one foot hung in the stirrup and he was suspended under the horse and the bridge. Mr McDonald, who happened to be with him rushed to the rescue and held the horse by its tail till Jim Debney loosened his foot and dropped into the current, but being a good swimmer he escaped none the worse for his accident, minus his hat, which they had forgotten till they got home and released the horse.

Morwell Advertiser Friday 8 July 1904

The contract by the Education Department for the removal of the school was awarded to Patrick Dwyer.



Bennett's Creek State School N0. 2202 being shifted to Morwell North by Patrick Dwyer and his team of bullocks where it became the Morwell North State School No.2621

Photo courtesy of the late Pat Richter, Inverloch



Bennetts Creek (plenty of flow) looking south from Glendonald Road, Churchill 11 April 2025



OPEN DAYS 2025

5 February || 19th February || 23rd February
 5th March || 19th March; AGM || 23rd March
 2nd April || 16th April || 27th April
 7th May || 21st May || 25th May
 4th June || 18th June || 29th June
 2nd July || 16th July || 27th July
 6th August || 20th August || 24th August
 3rd September || 17th September || 28th September
 1st October || 16th October || 26th October
 5th November || 19th November || 23rd November

Members' Gathering: Every two months on the 3rd Wednesday - commencing 19th February 2025, then April, June, August, October, at 2pm (informal get-together and afternoon tea)

Please deliver me to:

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CWA Morwell Evening Branch

We sincerely thank Harriet Shing, Member for Eastern Victoria and staff for printing our Newsletter