



Glen Eira Historical Society Newsletter

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Editorial

Welcome to Issue 4:

Glen Eira and World War 1.

In this edition, we look at two perspectives of local involvement with World War 1.

The first examines experiences of five Glen Eira men and women who left Australia for distant battlefields in Europe and the Middle East.

We then turn our attention to the war effort in Glen Eira performed by those men, women and children who, for a variety of reasons, did not leave Australia.

First though, it is timely to try to understand local people and society in 1914.

The City of Glen Eira of today did not exist a century ago, and today's city comprised the one-year-old, City of Caulfield, and that part of Moorabbin Shire north of South Road.

Caulfield City in 1914 included the suburbs of Carnegie, Caulfield, Elsternwick, Glen Huntly, Murrumbeena and Ormond, while Moorabbin Shire extended from Ormond to Mordialloc, and Beaumaris to Heatherton. This was to change soon after with the secession of Sandringham, Mentone and Mordialloc.

Caulfield's 1911 population of 14 846 was larger than the 11 155 people in Moorabbin yet Caulfield's 24 square kilometres was one-quarter the size of its southern neighbour¹.

The population was a young one with the 1911 Census recording these figures for the Brighton Electoral District: 5 098 males and 5 183 females were under 21 while 6 637 males and 8 347 females were over 21².

By comparison, Glen Eira's older population under 19, one hundred years later, comprises 23.4 per

cent of the population³.

By 1914, Caulfield had 6 400 dwellings compared to 3 819 in Moorabbin⁴. This reflected suburban expansion particularly in Caulfield's northwest.

Elsternwick's shops, for example, extended along Glen Huntly Road to Orrong Road and housing construction was taking place in many of the neighbouring streets.

Elsternwick shopping centre was clearly the largest with smaller settlements scattered through the more rural remainder of Caulfield and Moorabbin, with the larger being those clustered around stations such as Bentleigh and Carnegie stations.

Much of Caulfield and Moorabbin was, therefore, still largely rural with the built-up area fast encroaching from the northwest.

It was from these young, fast growing outer suburbs of Melbourne, and their rural neighbours, that men and women enlisted and left for war service. Many men, women and children, however, remained at home.

In this issue

We consider on pages 4 to 7 the overseas wartime experiences of five men and women who had links with Glen Eira. We then turn to the efforts of local residents who remained at home.

We also have our regular features including Meeting Reports, *What is it*, *Then and Now*, and a book review.

We welcome any feedback and contributions including articles and letters to the editors.

Geoffrey Paterson
Carol Stals
Editors

¹ Victorian Municipal Directory, pages 263 and 520.

² Census of the Commonwealth of Australia 1911, Part 1 Ages, page 66.

³ Australian Bureau of Statistics at www.abs.gov.au

⁴ Victorian Municipal Directory, 1914, pages 234 and 532.

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GEHS September Meeting

will be held on Wednesday 24 September at 7.30pm in the Boyd Room at Carnegie Library.

The speaker is **Janet Bolitho**. A long-term Port Melbourne resident, Janet, a former Port Phillip councillor and Mayor, is active in Port Melbourne and its Historical Society. She has a keen interest in the intersection between the built and natural environment, a theme she will address in her talk. All welcome.

Women of Glen Eira display is in the Murrumbeena Bendigo Bank until the end of July. In August, a more Bentleigh/Moorabbin area version will be in the Bendigo Bank Ormond. We thank them for their generosity and assistance.

Our September theme *Trade and trading* focuses on shops and trading. Deadline 1 August.

Glen Eira Historical Society Inc thanks the City of Glen Eira and Murrumbeena Bendigo Bank for their generous ongoing support, and thanks David Southwick MP for kindly donating the printing of this issue of the Newsletter.

President's Column



I am sure that most readers will be aware from 2014 to 2018, the world will be commemorating 100 years since the start of the First World War.

For Australians, this provides an opportunity to learn about and reflect on the nature and impact of the war in our nation and in our local communities.

Our Society, with a variety of government and community groups, will be conducting and promoting a variety of events, designed to capture and promote understanding of the sacrifices that were made in the war.

One such initiative is the inclusion of articles on the war in this edition of the newsletter. I commend them to you.

I also encourage all our readers to take advantage of the opportunity to participate in and support these activities. In particular, I appeal to all who have information and/or memorabilia related to the war and on its impact on what is today the Municipality of Glen Eira to share them with us.

John O'Callaghan
President

Carol Stals and Geoffrey Paterson edited *Glen Eira Historical Newsletter*, Issue 4. We thank Australian Scholarly Publishing, Margaret Brown, Carmel Byrne, Peta Darke, Richard Darke, Peter Frawley, Malcolm Gurr, Ailsa Hunt, Anne Kilpatrick, John O'Callaghan, Australian Red Cross Archives Department in North Melbourne, Shrine of Remembrance, Colin Smith, Andrew Ward and Pam Vial.

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The office is open Tuesday and Friday between 9.00 and 12 or by appointment.

The *Newsletter* will be published in March, June and September 2014 with the next deadline being the 1 August 2014. The September issue focuses on trade and trading.

We welcome all contributions.

Reports on GEHS meetings

Murrumbeena and the Boyds

Wednesday 26 March 2014

Talk by Colin Smith, author

Colin Smith's talk focused on the 1988 creation of Boyd Park in Murrumbeena, and outlined his research into the Boyd family. The latter is embodied in his self-published 460 page book entitled *Merric Boyd and Murrumbeena: the life of an artist in a time and place*.

Creating Boyd Park

In 1984, Murrumbeena residents became aware of a proposed rezoning of former Outer Circle Railway land from Main Road Reservation to Residential C.

Responses to this proposal included formation of the Murrumbeena Outer Circle Parkland Retention Group, the development of a proposal for an Outer Circle Linear Park, and discussions with government representatives on the linear park concept. Media involvement included articles and reports in metropolitan and local newspapers, and ABC radio coverage.

In August 1985, the Outer Circle Study Group was established, which recommended a linear park be developed on the crown land along the old line, from Oakleigh to Fairfield.

After discussion, the name Boyd Park was chosen and the Park was launched by Premier John Cain on 28 February 1988.

Colin's presentation of such documents as letters, newspaper articles and reports vividly showed the



Boyd Park, Murrumbeena

involvement of individuals, councils, conservation and heritage organisations, committees, government identities, and the media that led to the development of a linear park along the Outer Circle route.

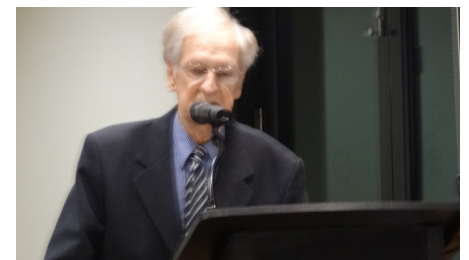
Researching the Boyd Family

Colin next turned his attention to the Boyd family and outlined his methodological approach to gathering of information on that family. He started with interviewing people who knew the Boyds, seeking to understand the interviewees' perceptions of that family. He then interviewed some Boyd family members including Lucy, David and Phyllis Boyd.

In addition to shedding light on the Boyd family, Colin's talk emphasised the meticulous nature of his oral history research, involving recording, transcript preparation, and the often lengthy process of gaining feedback from interviewees on the transcript.

The 40 people present appreciated Colin's presentation which shed light on a significant recent local community action, and a prominent local family.

John Attwood made an Honorary Life Member



At the 28 May 2014 meeting, John Attwood was awarded Glen Eira Historical Society Honorary Life Membership in appreciation of his support for, and involvement in, the history of Murrumbeena and of the Society. John spoke of some of his early experiences of life in Murrumbeena.

Glen Eira men and women go to the war fronts

In August 1914, Prime Minister Andrew Fisher's government declared Australia's full support for Britain in their war. In the following four years to November 1918, 53 884 Australians died and 159 777 were injured⁵.

In Glen Eira, 1 409 Caulfield people enlisted of whom 303 died. Figures for Bentleigh, McKinnon and Moorabbin show 65 servicemen and two nursing sisters returned while 31 servicemen died⁶.

The following four pages explore the experiences of three local men and two women who enlisted and left Australia.

We start by examining extracts from letters sent home to North Caulfield by **Private Frederick William Rowe**. Whilst Private Rowe survived the war, **Lance Corporal Henry Yin Goon** died on the battlefields in Belgium. Finally, we consider the war experiences of **Merric Boyd** who is featured earlier in this Newsletter.

We conclude with wartime service of local nurses **Mrs WE**

Attiwill and **Miss Ida O'Dwyer**.

Private Frederick William Rowe



Editor's Introduction

Mrs Pam Vial, lifelong Caulfield resident, recently asked if I was interested in reading her father's World War 1 letters. I eagerly accepted.

⁵ W Vamplew Ed. *Australian Historical Statistics*. Fairfax, Syme & Weldon, Broadway 1987, page 414.

⁶ Caulfield figures: see G Solomon, *Caulfield heritage: Caulfield's recent municipal heritage*, City of Caulfield 1990, page 133. Bentleigh, McKinnon and Moorabbin figures: see C Johnson and I Donald, *Serving them, serving still: the story of Bentleigh RSL and a record of service of this district in three world wars*, Bentleigh RSL Sub Branch, 2000, pages 72–90.

Private Frederick William Rowe, pictured below, wrote thirty-one letters home from the Middle East and Gallipoli in 1914 and 1915.

Introducing Private Rowe

Frederick Rowe was born on 24 July 1889 and lived with his mother Rosetta, and father William, at 85 Eskdale Road Caulfield.

Before enlisting, Frederick worked at FW Mollard and Co. Pty Ltd mantle (or cloak) manufacturers.

He enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force at St Kilda on 23 August 1914 and embarked with the 4th Battery of the 2nd Artillery Brigade. On 20 October 1914, he sailed on the *Shropshire* via Albany, Colombo and the Suez Canal, arriving in Cairo in early December.

The following extracts of letters, sent from Mena Camp and Tabe Gepe at Gallipoli, portray people and places at or near the war front as well as family and friends back in Melbourne.

Letters from Mena Camp

Four months were spent at Mena Camp in Egypt. This period permitted interspersing of military duties with visiting and observing local people and places. Some of these observations are provided here.

Mena: the place

Mena's arid environment with its vegetation and weather must have seemed very different from temperate Melbourne:

Today is the worst day I have ever experienced. The temperature is about 115° in the shade and there has been a sand storm all day. . . . You cannot see five yards ahead of you and your face feels as if it has been cut to pieces . . . **27 March** or **27.3**

Unexpected visitors were encountered in the form of a mass of large grass hoppers about the size of your middle finger and if anything a bit longer. They settled in the camp in thousands and remained there for

about two hours then departed as quickly as they came. **6.2**



View of the 4th Battery Lines, Mena 1915
Photograph by Private FW Rowe

Mena: the people

Private Rowe was equally observant of local people and provided his relatives back home with such vivid pictures as his portrait of the Soudanese people:

. . . they are a very dark race much like the Negro and are very powerful men. One of them lifted a box of horseshoes off one of our lorries and carried it for about 20 yards. Four of us lifted it and had to drop it after we went about 5 yards. **8.12**

The presence of the Australians had impacts on the locals:

As soon as you put your foot in Cairo about 50 kids (boot blacks) start polishing your boots and you have to dance to stop them, they will clean them for a ½ Piastre. **8.12**

We had done one good thing here for an Australian Product that we have opened a market here for Kiwi Boot Polish. One enterprising firm got some about 4 weeks ago. He sold out in about two days and since then has placed a contract with the Kiwi firm. **13.2**



Taking the guns at a gallop over rough country during final manoeuvres
Photograph by Private FW Rowe

Military activities

Whilst Frederick reports on visits to different landmarks, military preparations continue.

We have had the usual manoeuvres each day and go out to the same place every time which is about three miles south of the Pyramid. We do not mind the drill so much but when you have to walk along side the guns all the way out and back again

to save the horses as much as possible and through sand which is above the top of your boots all the time I can tell you it gets a bit monotonous and makes you pretty tired. **6.2**

Connecting with the family

We are not privy to the letters that Private Rowe received from home. However, we can glean from his letters some issues relevant to his family.

One was Frederick's concern for his mother. Writing to his mother on 21 January he says:

I have just received Ethel's letter saying that you were in the hospital it came as a shock to me. I did not think you would get Pneumonia. You must have had a bad time of it and I hope you are quite well again now. . .

His mother's concern for her son is implied when he writes four months later: ". . . I am in the best of health and am fitter for a rough time than I have ever been before so you have nothing to worry about". **6.4**

Another issue that affected many Australians at home was pressure to join the military effort. Private Rowe offers the following advice to Roy, his 18 year old brother:

Take a tip from me Roy do not be too keen on enlisting, one away from home is enough at present and besides your place is at home. There are plenty of other chaps to come away before it is your turn besides you must remember that Mum and Dad are getting on in years now and they need your help as much as you can. I know it stings seeing the other chaps coming away and you not being able to come but rest assured Roy yours is the biggest self-sacrifice.

Finally, on a lighter note, Private Rowe sends such greetings as ". . . Remember me to all the boys and girls that make enquiries about me also the young lady at Felstead goods and also the hands that I know in the factory" **10.8**.

After five months, Private Rowe wrote on 6 April:

We are leaving Egypt tonight and are going to do our bit for King and Country . . . It is the first time Australia has ever been rep-

resented in any war with Artillery so we have got to make a name and God grant that we do so and one that will not be forgotten for many a day **6.4**

Two weeks later, he wrote in a censored letter:

We are still on the ship [SS *Karoo* A19] doing the usual work that has to be done when the horses are __ Duties and fatigues are very light and we are all in the best of spirits. **22.4**

The next letter is dated 12 May.

Had a bit of bad luck today got right in the way of a piece of shrapnel and of course stopped it, as luck had it it went right through without striking a bone. I got it through the thigh it is not serious and I will be back with the Gun in a few days. **12.5**

This injury required a stay on Lemnos Island.



Gaba Tepe.

Image A00987 Australian War Memorial

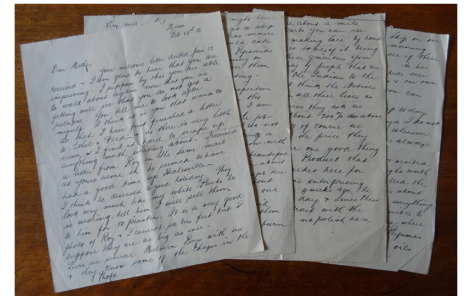
Looking back at the Anzac landing, Private Rowe reflects:

It was a terrible landing they were under shell fire and gun fire from the time they left the ships. Each boat held 40 each and out of two boats I know of only nine reached the shore. The men did not wait for the boats to get right in but jumped into the water above their waists and waded ashore. When they got on the sand off came their packs and with fixed bayonets they charged the hills. It was a great feat and will remain in history for years. The six bob a day tourists have made a name for Australia that will live for ever. I am not in a good writing mood so will closing . . . **6.6**

Private Rowe was again in hospital with *Gastritis* and returned from hospital after ten days. Another incident occurred when a shell hit their gun pit. Private Rowe sustained scratches to the eyebrow and forehead, and a slightly fractured eardrum. Those with more severe eardrum damage were sent further away, possibly to England.

Postscript

Private Rowe returned to Australia by HM Transport *Karoola* on 21 February 1916 and was discharged from the AIF on 26 March. He later reenlisted to be discharged again in 1919 when he returned to work at FW Mollard until around 1945. He suffered ill health as a result of a wartime operation, and was diagnosed with tuberculosis in 1945 and died in 1947.



Private Rowe's letter dated 13 February 1915

Lance Corporal Henry Yin Goon

**Born 1895, Elsternwick
Died 4 October 1917 Belgium**

Introducing Henry Yin Goon

Henry Yin Goon was one of the Chinese residents of the Garden Vale/Elsternwick area who helped produce the wonderful market gardens, for which the suburb is named.

He was the third child and first son born to Frank Yin Goon and Lydia (Young), of Elster Avenue, Garden Vale. They had 13 children. His father is listed in Sands and McDougall Directory as living there until 1920.

In a report from a newspaper of 5 May 1910, Henry was in trouble. He was involved with friends in lighting a fire in the grass on Mr. Lempriere's property. The Fire Brigade was called and his two friends were charged with the offence. This *infringement* is referred to on his Army enrolment form.

Henry was 5'4", a sallow complexion, dark brown eyes, black hair, 10 stone, a gardener aged 19 when he enlisted on 9 September 1914.

Henry's war history

He joined the 6th Battalion and embarked from Melbourne with them on 22 December 1914 in the *Themistocles*.

5 April 1915

He was on the CG Troop ship *Galeka* and embarked to join MEF at Alexandria.

29 April 1915

Admitted to No 1 General Hospital (Heliopolis) Cairo.

30 April 1915

Gun shot wound to the chest in the Dardanelles.

1 May 1915

Admitted to No 17 General Hospital.

6 May 1915

Discharged to Base Camp at Zistoun.

22 May 1915

Embarked on the *Dorflinger*.

26 May 1915

Rejoined unit at Gallipoli.

3 to 17 January 1916

AWOL Tel-El-Kebir.
Fined five days pay.

11 March 1916

Transferred from 6th Battalion to No 2 Machine Gun Company, Serapeum.

25 March 1916

Proceeded to join British Expeditionary Force in Alexandria.

30 March 1916

Disembarked from the *Briton* at Marseilles.

5 September 1917

Appointed Lance Corporal, France, 2nd MC Company B213.

4 October 1917

Killed in Action Belgium, Battle of Broodseinde.

Henry's memorial is at Menin Gate Memorial, Belgium. He is listed as a Chinese Anzac.

After the war

August 1918

Frank Yin Goon planted a tree for Henry in the North Road Avenue of Honour.

14 July 1921

A Memorial Scroll and King's Message was received by his father.

5 October 1922

Henry's father received a Victory Medal on behalf of No 2176 Lance Corporal H. Yin Goon, 2nd Machine Gun Coy.

18 December 1922

Frank authorised his daughter to collect a memorial Plaque for him.

On 3 June 1917, Henry signed his Will, bequeathing his personal effects to his mother.

From April to July 1919 letters went backwards and forwards from his mother Lydia to the Army, searching for any personal effects. None was ever located.

23 July 1920

On 23 July 1920, Mrs Lydia Yin Goon received a letter asking if there was a nearer blood relation than her. And stated "for instance, is his father still alive?"

Lydia replied at her earliest convenience "the father of her late son is still alive" and gave his address, the same as hers. From then on all communication went to the father.

Caulfield-Brighton Avenue of Honour

Unfortunately the municipal *honour* has not lasted as this Avenue of Honour was demolished in the 1960s. The GEHS has some plaques while the Glen Eira/Caulfield Council has since created two memorials. *Caulfield Park* (Hawthorn Road) now holds the Avenue of Honour Memorial Stone that lists the names of 298 people who died during World War 1. *Memorial Park* (Kooyong Road) features a wall

of some of the memorial plaques originally placed in the Avenues of Honour in North Road, McMillan Street and Point Nepean Road.

Both Frank and Lydia are buried in Brighton Cemetery.

Members of the Yin Goon family remained in the Bentleigh and South Oakleigh area for a considerable time and Frank was the last Chinese market gardener in the area. One of the Yin Goon daughters gave her address as Lydia Street, Bentleigh, on the electoral roll many years later. Moorabbin Council had no record of the naming of the street, but it can be assumed to be named for Lydia Yin Goon, who died in East Bentleigh.

We thank the Brighton Cemeterians for their assistance with this research.

Footnote on Gardenvale

The name *Gardenvale*, initially spelled Garden Vale, came into use at about the turn of the century. Its origin is unknown.

Some sources suggest that it is a name derived from a family estate of the Lempriere family. Indeed, when the family subdivided their local land they called it the *Garden Vale Estate*.

But the name was officially in use before the subdivision and had been applied, in preference to Bentville and other suggestions, to the railway station when opened in 1907.

The name Garden Vale may have its roots in the large number of market gardens which had been located in the area.

The Yin Goon family was one such gardener.

PR Murray and JC Wells, *From sand, swamp and heath . . . a history of Caulfield*. City of Caulfield 1980, pages 29–30.

Air Mechanic 2nd class William Merric Boyd

Merric was a pacifist who enlisted and served overseas from 1917 to 1919.

He enlisted as an air mechanic in the Australian Flying Corps and after initial training was sent to England. At the end of the war he stayed in England under an Army Educational Rehabilitation Scheme to study pottery. He gave pottery classes to returning soldiers on his way home.

Mrs WE Attiwill



Mrs WE Attiwill enlisted in the AIF in 1914 and embarked on the first hospital ship *Kyarra*.

She served in Egypt, Heliopolis, No 1 Australian General Hospital (AGH) in 1914. In 1915, she was Matron-in-charge of *Kyarra*, the first hospital ship returning to Australia with wounded soldiers.

August 1915 saw her appointed as Matron-in-charge of Reinforcements to Army Sisters for England, and she served in Harefield Hospital, England.

Recalled to Australia, she was made Matron-in-chief of Commonwealth Military Forces of Australia, a position she held until 1920. Decorated with Royal Red Cross (RRC) 1st Class for services rendered. Her address was *Lliwitta*, Crompton Court, Caulfield.

Miss Ida O'Dwyer



Miss Ida O'Dwyer RRC 1st and 2nd Class was one of the first Sisters to serve with the AIF when war was declared. She embarked on SS *Kyarra* on 5 December 1914.

As Senior Sister, she served in Egypt, Heliopolis No 1 AGH until November 1915.

Sister O'Dwyer then transferred to England with a number of Sisters awaiting transfer to France and served in Bagthorpe Military Hospital in November 1916.

She left for France and was appointed Sister-in-charge of the Third Australian Casualty Clearing Station where she remained until November 1917. Miss O'Dwyer then transferred to England to take charge of Mrs TS Hall's Hospital for Sick Australian Nurses at No 12 Southwell Gardens, Kensington.

In 1918, she returned to Australia to take charge of the No 16 AGH Macleod Military Hospital until its closure. In April 1920, she was appointed Matron of No 11 AGH Caulfield Military Hospital.

On reconstruction of Army Nursing Reserves, she was elected Principal Matron in Victoria until 1931, and First President, St Vincent's Nursing Association, during which time the first bed was presented by nurses for sick members of the profession.

Local World War 1 nurses

"The Australian military authorities have decided to recognize the work that women have done during the war in the capacity of nurses.

The nurses have to face hardships as well as the men in the trenches; they, too, have left the comfort and safety of their homes, and in many cases have displayed bravery only equalled by the best of the men in the fighting ranks.

The authorities have decided that nurses who have been discharged shall be permitted to wear the official discharged soldier's badge, to prove that they were worthy followers of Florence Nightingale".

Mentions of the Unit in British Nursing Journals. Vol. 57, 7 October 1916, page 290.

Glen Eira nurses, who served overseas

Alfred. Ellen, Caulfield;
Brown, Linda Myra Isabella, Caulfield; Cannon, Lilian, Glen Huntly; Clune, Annie, Elsternwick; Cornish, Ella Gwendolin, Caulfield; Curtain, Nancy, Caulfield; Higgs, Ester Myrtle, Caulfield; Howarth, Laura, Caulfield; Hughes, Catherine Josephine, Elsternwick; Kelson, Octavia Iona, Caulfield; Maning, Mary Louisa Beresford, Caulfield; Mason, Dorothy, Caulfield; McArthur, Katherine Powell, Caulfield; Mead, Ethel May, Elsternwick; Monaghan, Evelyn Rose, Caulfield; Newham, Ada, Caulfield; Overend, Elvira, Elsternwick; Richards, Ettie Florence Annie, Caulfield; Simpson, Amy Alice, Caulfield; Warren, Katherine Waldron, Caulfield; and Wyse, Muriel Gwendoline Hutchinson, Caulfield.

Glen Eira men, women and children help at home

The war's immediate impact was the return of the *Wounded Warriors*⁷.

The statistics are staggering – for every five that went away, only four returned; of the five, three (or 170 000) would return sick, wounded or injured. The first hospital ship to arrive at Port Melbourne was the *Karolla* on 5 February 1915⁸. Local residents worked tirelessly to assist both the returned men as well as those in distant battlefields.

One major development in Caulfield was the purchase of the 29-acre property of *Glen Eira* on 14 August 1914 where the Australian Army General Hospital No 11 (AGH) was established from 1916. The first patient was admitted on 17 April 1917.



The former *Glen Eira* mansion formed part of AGH No 11.

In addition to the mansion, there were eight 25-bed single storey wards of galvanised iron and wood erected at a cost of 75 000 pounds⁹. Other features were the Rest House (see later) and a bowling green that was laid out by the Victorian Bowling Association and the Elsternwick Club. The bowling green played an important role in a soldier's rehabilitation.



Bowling green at AGH 11. Photo courtesy of the Alfred and Caulfield Hospital.

The following pages include memories of visiting AGH, and the ways in which men, women and children supported the hospital.

Visiting the Caulfield Military Hospital (AGH 11)

On 10 July 2014, the Editor interviewed the daughter of an occasional patient at AGH. The interview provides interwar impressions of the hospital and Caulfield.

How often did you visit and who accompanied you?

I have very little memory of visiting as a young child but from the age of 10, I remember going with my mother and later I went by myself. My mother visited my father every day while my brother and I went when we could.

What gifts did you take?

Fruit, cake and shaving equipment – anything that was essential and anything needed.

How did you get there??

We walked in the back way through Newstead Street.

What are your memories of the hospital, the patients, and staff?

We visited a long verandah ward with beds in rows. It was open during the day and closed with blinds at night. During visits, we would be told: *see that fellow, he is in and out of hospital all the time*. They all seemed to know each other. Each patient had a normal hospital bed with a table by its side . . . very frugal.

The nurses were in starched uniforms. The men did craft work for occupational therapy. I remember wearing for many years a scarf that my father made in the hospital. Some patients were there all the time and were wheeled around on large stretchers with men flat on their back.

What legacies of the war did you see when you were growing up in Caulfield?

There were a lot of men from World War 1 who were injured. It was normal to see in the street a blind person, a man with a leg or arm missing, or with one eye covered. They really suffered but did not talk about it. *My Brother Jack* is what my childhood was like.

Red Cross and the War

Red Cross at AGH No 11

The Rest House provided temporary accommodation for ambulant ex-servicemen who came from the country for treatment.

The Red Cross erected the building with help from the Caulfield Citizens' Patriotic League (Men's Branch), the Crib Point Branch for furniture, and the proceeds from a fete.

Red Cross ladies cleaned the rooms and served afternoon tea. Facilities included a reading room, well-stocked library, and two billiard tables¹⁰.



Top left: Old Ward 6 interior. Bottom left: Volunteer Aid Detachment nurses at the Rest House. Top right: Rest House at AGH No 11. Bottom right: doctors, nurses and patients in front of the hospital buildings. Sources: Bottom left: Australian Red Cross Victoria Annual Report 1917–1918. Other photos courtesy of the Alfred and Caulfield Hospital.

⁷ This term is used in B Ford, *The wounded warrior and rehabilitation: including the history of No 11 Army General Hospital/Caulfield Rehabilitation Hospital*, Caulfield General Medical Centre, 1996.

⁸ B Ford, page 34.

⁹ B Ford, page 47.

¹⁰ *Caulfield Branch Red Cross Record*, 1 December 1915.

Red Cross helping soldiers

Local Red Cross branches worked tirelessly to provide goods and equipment for the soldiers overseas. Bentleigh Red Cross men, for example, produced stretchers and convalescent aids for the soldiers. Similarly, local groups of Red Cross women made available clothing for the troops. PA Lord, Honorary Secretary reported that Elsternwick group produced these items: 46 pairs bed sox, 9 pairs sox, 15 gauze shirts, 19 scarves, 4 suits of pyjamas, 15 kit bags, one shirt, one pyjama coat, and one pyjama pants¹¹.

The Red Cross also raised funds for the wounded soldiers in the trenches, and the horses on the war front. In 1917, a Grand Carnival was organised by the Red Cross at Caulfield Racecourse. This event included a horse parade for the Purple Cross Society.

State Schools and the war

Schools and AGH No 11

Schools, and school children like their parents, were involved in helping the new Kooyong Road hospital. The Education Department's War Relief Fund, inaugurated on 15 August 1914, set aside £10 000 to build a section of the hospital which

was named *The Victorian State-school Children's Wards*.

Metropolitan and rural schools were also organised into eight groups with each supplying to the hospital, in turn, food comforts during a month. The goods were transported to Montague School (see photo).



School donations at Montague School depot. *The Education Department's Record of war service, 1914–1919, page 210.*

In 1919, for example, schools provided AGH No 11 with the following goods with tons shown in brackets unless indicated otherwise: jam, honeys and preserves (23), 12 433 bottles of sauce, tea and coffee (2.8), invalid foods (12), groceries (14), 52 126 eggs, bacon and ham (12), butter and cheese (2.5), condensed milk (2), tinned fish (2.5), fresh fish (1), potatoes (88), 9 014 cabbages and cauli-

flowers, 7 926 pumpkins, assorted vegetables (34), non-citrus fruit (22), 40 000 oranges and lemons, 99 lbs tobacco, 11 482 packets of cigarettes, 11 082 poultry, 1 758 rabbits, wood (136), cakes and biscuits (18), 34 sheep, 81 lbs pork, 591 lbs mutton, 638 cucumbers, 160 lbs oats, 400 lbs wheat and 4 278 saveloys¹².

Schools helping the soldiers

The Education Department also established a War Relief Fund on 15 August 1914. Each school was to act as a centre for raising funds which were to be forwarded to the Department.

Victorian State schools contributed £422 170 15s 8d to the end of 1920. Glen Eira school contributions were:

- Bentleigh £266 10 8
- Carnegie £535 3 1
- Caulfield £974 1 7
- Caulfield North £693 0 3
- Glen Huntly £294 15 8
- Murrumbeena £91 18 9
- Ormond £273 13 1¹³.

Glen Eira street names with World War 1 connections

These Bentleigh East street names form the Warrigal Road Estate and have a World War 1 connection.

Birdwood Street 69D11

Field Marshal William Riddell Birdwood, GCB GCMG GCVO GBE (1865–1951)

English general commanded Australian troops at Gallipoli and gained great respect by moving round amongst his troops. Again commanded Anzac troops on the Western Front before Monash was promoted to replace him late in the war.

Chauvel Street 68D7

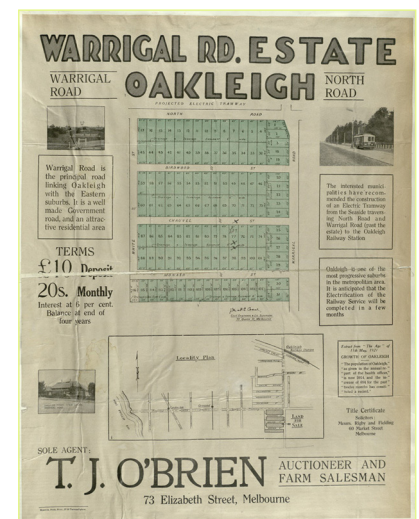
General Sir Henry (Harry) George Chauvel, GCMS KCB (1865–1945)

Chauvel was a professional soldier made commander of the First Light Horse at Gallipoli. Later commanded all Anzac forces in Egypt.

Monash Street 68D11

Sir John Monash, GCMG KCB VD (1865–1931)

A civilian soldier who became one of the most successful First World War generals. Was at Gallipoli then spent the rest of the war on the Western Front where he became the senior Australian field commander. Knighted in the field, he is buried in the Jewish section of the Brighton Cemetery.



White Street 69D11

Sir Cyril Brudenell White, KCB KCMG KCVO DSO (1876–1940)

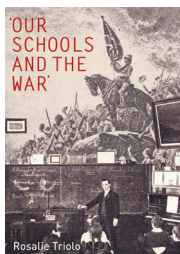
He played an important part in the Gallipoli landing particularly in organising the evacuation. On the Western Front, he played a key role in support of General Birdwood.

Thanks to Malcolm Gurr for collecting some of this information. The above map is on the State Library website www.slv.vic.gov.au

¹¹ *Caulfield Branch Red Cross Record*, 1 September 1919, page 22.

¹² *The Education Department's record of war service 1914–1919*, Education Department 1921, page 239.

¹³ *The Education Department's record of war service*, pages 275, 278.



Book review

Rosalie Trioli

Our Schools and the War.

**Australian Scholarly Publishing,
North Melbourne 2012.**

ISBN 9781921875564 364 pages

Australia's participation in the Great War forced our citizens to ask themselves the question 'Were we loyal members of the British Empire?' and if so 'Were we obliged to send our young men and women to potential slaughter on the opposite side of the world?' In Dr Rosalie Trioli's book *Our Schools and the War*, she traces the roles that the Department of Education, teachers, students and the wider school communities in Victoria played in assisting people to answer those questions in the affirmative and to live with the consequences for the duration of the hostilities and beyond.

Basing her research heavily on the Education Department's publications *The School Paper* and *The Education Gazette*, Dr Trioli asserts that when war was declared in 1914, Victorian families were ready to answer the call to enlist. *The School Paper*, a fortnightly publication that acted as an important part of the curriculum in schools, espoused the traditional values of doing one's duty and fighting to protect one's home, country and the British Empire. Even though the two plebiscites over conscription failed to gain

support for the introduction of it nationally, Victoria voted 'yes' each time. The Education Department encouraged its staff, especially the young male teachers, to join the services and facilitated their time release for training and fighting abroad.

Dr Trioli uses sources such as photos, posters, leaflets, letters, journals, poetry and songs to clearly evoke early 20th Century Victoria. In particular she tells the story of a school teacher at University High School, Norman Heathcote, who made the journey from blackboard to battlefield. Through his letters we can see the significant role that his school played in fund raising, providing care parcels, writing letters of support, and communicating news from his home and his profession by sending regular Education Department publications.

Our Schools and the War is of interest to anyone tracing the history of Australia at war, our pathway towards a possible republic, relations between the Education Department and their employees, and the changing focus of education.

Carmel Byrne

What is it?

What is this?

Where would you find it?



Issue 3 solution

The objects were a darning mushroom and mother of pearl shank buttons

Then and now . . .

On the eve of World War 1, Caulfield was proclaimed a city and the Prahran and Malvern Tramways Trust trams arrived in Elsternwick. These photos are taken at the same location just over a century apart.

30 November 1913



21 July 2014



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