Elected Committee for 2017-2018

Committee members can be contacted via our email address: milduragenealogy@gmail.com

This Newsletter is dedicated to the Men and Women who fought and fight for our freedom.
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Soldiers disembarking from a troopship at Port Melbourne after returning from overseas, 1919. Photo courtesy of National Archives of Australia.
Hello Everyone,

Last Saturday, I had the pleasure of attending the annual GSV Country Groups Meeting held at the new rooms in Queen Street, Melbourne. It was a well worth-while exercise considering I drove there and back! Most groups are very similar to ours but a few have thought of some rather ingenious ways of making money. One group types up family trees for people and has them printed out on good quality paper. They are then framed and sold. Another area has formed a heritage group where all the groups in the region with an historical background come together for official meetings and unofficial gatherings. It sounds similar to the Heritage group we are trying to get off the ground in Mildura. One thing that did come out of the meeting was that Ancestry are using a different base for their DNA tests and sending out the results to participants. Be sure to recheck your results if you are one of these people. It was great for my family results, but I’m saving that for the Env Award.

Our June meeting (to be held at the Mildura Library) will actually be our 40th Anniversary meeting. Forty years ago Elders from the Church of the Latter Day Saints thought there should be a genealogical group in Mildura. They advertised a meeting and the rest is history. We will not be having a huge celebration at this meeting – just a few special reminders of our past. Our main event will be held at the end of November. We will be having a combined Christmas and 40th Anniversary dinner. This will be finalised soon.

Being on the 40th Anniversary Committee, I am in the unique position of being able to read through all the Minutes from our society. One particular one made that light-bulb go off in my head! It was at the November meeting in 1984 (33 years ago) and it was an Heirloom Night such as one of our recent meetings. Bronwyn Zrna gave a talk about her method of keeping family objects – ancient and modern. I was very impressed and went home and organised mine in the same way. She purchased those zip-up plastic bags and filing cards. She placed the object in the bag with information about it on the card. The bag was zipped up and everything was safe and named for future generations. (September 14th, 1984 – Bernadette Wells asked if anyone had their family tree on computer – responding negative!!)

Thanks to our Editor, Sue, once again. She has put together another great newsletter. Thanks also to everyone who donated articles from the ‘Returned Soldiers Histories’ night we held last month. Every bit helps and you never know, someone, somewhere may read your article and get in touch with you. This has happened to me and no doubt to others.

Fay Mannes.

Committee Positions

It is nearly that time of the year again when nominations for all Committee positions will being taken.

We welcome any financial member to nominate themselves or another for a committee position.

Remember new committee members bring fresh ideas and give those few loyal and devoted long-term committee members a helping hand.

If you are interested or have any questions, please feel free to contact Fay or Judy via email - milduragenealogy@gmail.com, marked Committee Interest.

We all need to get out of the practice of thinking “Someone else will do it”........
Moss, Arch & Tom Smith, 3 brothers from Warrakoo Station, all enlisted in the Great War, all returned. Moss & Tom served in WW2 also, but Arch was denied because of the steel plate in his skull from WW1.

Moss, (No.5211) enlisted 15th November 1915 in Adelaide, embarked to France, joined “A” Coy. 2nd Depot Battalion AIF, transferred to 16th Reinforcement 10th Infantry Battalion AIF 26th March 1917. Discharged Lance Corp. as “medically unfit” 3rd January 1918.


Leslie Washington Miller, son of Robert Miller and Rebecca Jane Hocking, was born on 9th February 1896 in Tariff Street, Eaglehawk, Victoria, Australia. He attended the Eaglehawk State School 210. After leaving school Les worked in the Mining industry as a Miner. Les was my grandmother Henrietta Irene Gellon’s cousin. Her brother Percival James Garfield Gellon was killed at Gallipoli on 5th July 1915.

Leslie enlisted for WW1 on 28th September 1914 at Eaglehawk, Victoria. He was only 18 years and 7 months. 5ft, 6 ins tall, Complexion – fair, blue eyes, light auburn hair. Occupation – Miner. Enlistment number was 1226 with the 14th Battalion A.I.F. as a Private. On his enlistment papers it stated that he had been rejected from the Australian Navy as unfit. (Leslie enlisted in the C.G. 67th Division (Bendigo).

He embarked at Port Melbourne on 22nd December 1914. On the 12th April 1915 – Proceeded to join M.E.F. D’nelles. He spent 230 days at Gallipoli before he was killed in action at Hill 971, Sulra Bay, and Gallipoli Peninsula on 8th August 1915. He had been missing for 1 day. There was a Court of enquiry held at Serapeum on 6th, 8th and 24th April 1916. By the 4th Infantry Brigade A.I.F. Headquarters. 6th April 1916 previously reported missing. Now reported killed in action at D’nelles 8th August 1915. Died of wounds.

On 11th May 1916 Les’s mother Rebecca Miller wrote to Senator Pearce – ‘I have been for some time trying to find my darling boy who has been missing since the 8th August 1915 but could get no news. I wrote to the Chaplin and I received this letter last week, which I am sending on to you. I want to know if you will see into it for me and make it official, as it makes it very trying when you have to settle little things concerning my son. I hope and trust that it is not true. But if so, my boy died for King and Country. Hoping you will not keep me waiting as I have had a cruel time this last nine months.

I remain yours truly, Mrs R. Miller.’

Leslie had died on 8th August 1915. His mother had waited eight months worrying and wondering what had happened to her son.

Buried at Lone Pine Memorial, Gallipoli, Turkey. Official no. 1236. He was 19 years old. The same graveyard as his cousin Percival James Garfield Gellon is buried. Awarded the 1914-15 Star, British War medal, Victory Medal.

In the statement for War Pension claims on 10th June 1916 – Raymond George Wellington Miller, Tariff Street, Eaglehawk – brother, granted £1 p.f. as from 21st April 1916. Name of trustee – Rebecca J Miller. Rebecca Jane Miller, Tariff Street, Eaglehawk, mother, granted £2 p.f. as from 21st April 1916.

My great grandparents Elisha & Ann Hocking lost two grandsons at Gallipoli.

Leslie in front of his grandparents Elisha &Ann Hocking’s home – Farnsworth Road, Eaglehawk, c1900.
Albert George Greenaway
By Faye Mannes April 2018

Albert was my maternal Grandmother’s brother. He was the elder child of George and Eleanor (nee Batten) Greenaway. He was born in 1891 at the Royal Mail Hotel at Bundalong South, Victoria. My grandmother, Florence was born the following year. George was the licensee of the hotel and they must have lived there for a few years. They later purchased a farm on the opposite side of the road and lived there for many years. George died of diabetes in 1911 and Albert inherited the farm.

When WW1 started Albert obviously felt the need to do his part. As a farmer he would not have needed to go – being an essential service, but on 12th August 1915 at the age of 23 he enlisted making his Aunt Harriet his next of kin. He stated that both his parents were deceased, which was untrue. We can only guess Eleanor was against him going.

Albert completed Light Horse training at Seymour and on the 7th April 1916, he sailed to Egypt as a reinforcement for the Australian 8th Light Horse. Soon after arrival he volunteered to transfer to the Imperial Camel Corps and joined at Abassia, outside Cairo, on 1st July 1916, as a member of the 11th Company, within the 3rd Battalion. Albert would have had to complete a six week course to learn to master a camel! Unlike horses, camels could not be galloped up to dismount near the enemy or kept close at hand for a quick escape if needed. Once dismounted, the camel troops were committed as ordinary infantry.

From Albert’s service record we can glean that he spent time in hospital for a bronchial condition, then later was admitted to a hospital in Rafa, near Palestine, suffering from tonsillitis. He remained with the Camel Corps until transferring to the Australian 15th Light Horse Regiment on 15th July 1918. He returned to Australia from Egypt on the transport ship ‘Dongola’.

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A warm welcome is extended to new members:
- Mary-Joan Bradley
- Terry Dean
- Graeme Hyland

Lest we forget
Four Harrison Brothers
By Lucy Hamilton April 2018

All my Mothers brothers enlisted in WW2. These boys had been bought up on a farm in the Warrenbayne District, near Benalla so were familiar with guns, horses, tractors and all were fit and good swimmers. Two were wounded during the war but all survived, as with most returned service men little was spoken of their time during the war, apart from snippets here and there.

Frank Gerald Harrison the eldest son, was born on 6th March 1908 at Thorpdale Vic. And sent to be educated at boarding school. After leaving school he came back to the farm for a while then moved to Queensland and little is known about him apart from where he enlisted in the Army at Bartle Frere, Qld on the 26th February 1941, aged about 33yrs. His father being listed as next of kin. He was a private in the 2/9 Battalion and was wounded during the war and discharged from the army on 23rd October 1943. He never married (that we know of,) or returned to Warrenbayne or saw his parents again after the war and passed away in 1978 and is buried in the Mareeba Cemetery in Qld.

The next brother Sydney Harrison born on 17th November 1915 enlisted in the Army at Warrenbayne on 10th September 1941, at age 26, and was a Sergeant in the 22 Battalion Volunteer Defence Corps. As his father needed him on the farm he had him ‘man-powered’, so presume Syd never saw active service. He was discharged on 10th October 1945. He married and took over the Warrenbayne Farm, which his son now owns. Syd passed away in 2007 in Benalla Vic.

The third son William Norman Harrison born 5th May 1917, and was a mechanic, he joined the RAAF on 10th December 1941 at Benalla and was a corporal, he served in New Guinea and on his discharge on 18th December 1945 was with the 12 Aircraft Repair Depot. Bill returned to Benalla where he married and worked as a mechanic. He passed away on 1985 at Benalla.

The youngest Edward Harrison born on 14th March 1922. Enlisted at Warrenbayne on 30th November 1939, (Showing on his army records as DOB 24th October 1919) he was a corporal in the infantry 2/8BN. He was actually 17 and had put his age up to enlist, the 2/8th Infantry was based at Crete and Tel Aviv. The dry sandy desert had a big influence on Ted, as he experienced the cold nights, hot days and treeless vista, he saw similarities to Australia and vowed that if he returned to Australia he would do his best to save the country’s trees.

After a bullet injury in his right arm at Tobruk he returned to Australia. By the age of 21 he was back in Perth and would later go North where he saw his wounded elder brother Frank. Ted also served in New Guinea where his ability in the bush was a great asset. The Benalla Ensign reported that on a training exercise ‘On a 35 mile trek over stony ridges and broken and dried up swamps, without sleep for 24 hours Eddie Harrison covered the 35 miles on seven hard army biscuits and half a tin of tomato sauce.’ Some years ago while we were visiting, Uncle Ted told my husband that while on a another trek he was carrying as Bren Gun, another soldier the ammunition, when they had to cross a creek, as he was crossing he stepped into a hole where the water came over his head, he knew he couldn’t drop the gun, so just kept walking hoping he would come into shallow water before he ran out of breath.

Eddie was Discharged on 1st June 1945 he later returned to Warrenbayne where he married and bought a farmlet. His health was never good though and he passed away on 1992.
Oswald Leonard Briggs was born on 5th September 1887 in Inkerman, South Australia, to Thomas Briggs, farmer, and Emma Briggs, nee Videon. Prior to Oswald’s enlistment he was a share farmer in Bowman. He was known to be a “crack” shot, once shooting 84 rabbits in an afternoon’s shooting with nineteen other men on his father’s property.

Oswald was single when he enlisted in Adelaide, South Australia on the 8th March 1916 at the age of 27. He was just under 6-foot-tall, weighed 174 pounds, of fresh complexion with light brown hair. He arrived for training at the Mitcham Camp in South Australia on the 5th April 1916. At this time Mitcham Camp was comparable to a large mining town. It contained a Post Office, a barber, bank agency and rows of accommodation which were huts made from galvanised iron. Here Oswald along with other recruits would have been instructed in trench digging, bayonet fighting, field patrols and more. Training usually lasted for twelve weeks.

On the 7th November 1916 Private Oswald (SN 6856) boarded the HMAT Afric as part of the 22nd Reinforcements for the 10th Infantry Battalion. They arrived in Plymouth on the 9th January 1917 and proceeded to march into the 3rd Training Battalion, Camp 3, at Durrington, via Folkestone.

In February 1917 Oswald was charged with being AWOL for five days. A Military Policeman found him at in London and as a consequence of his actions he lost fourteen days’ pay and was awarded 168 hours of detention for punishment.

In May 1917 they left the training camp for France to join the 10th Infantry Battalion. On the 20th September 1917 Oswald was listed as Missing in Action. Emma Briggs, Oswald’s mother, received correspondence from Major Pendlebury and made enquires via the Red Cross to see if she could obtain further information. In late October it was found that he was in fact injured at Hill 60 in Ypres. At this stage he was attached to the Y Raiding Company as a stretcher bearer and was wounded in the ankle and was taken away to hospital. He had returned to duty and his Battalion on the 28th September 1917.

For the months of October and November 1917 the 10th Battalion fought at Anzac Ridge, then proceeded to march to and fight in the Celtic Woods area. Casualties were high in this battle. They gradually moved south and ended up in the Boulogne area where Oswald and the 10th Infantry Battalion where able to rest and revive. An Order was issued on the 16th December 1917, which instructed the 10th Infantry Battalion to relieve the 31st Infantry Battalion. Oswald and his Battalion headed towards the right front-line trenches between Messines and Warneton. Guides from the outgoing 31st Infantry Battalion met them as they made their way towards their destination and escorted them into the area. Oswald was one of the C XI Company’s machine gunners and was positioned in an outpost.

After a relatively quiet day, in the evening of the 17th December 1917 Oswald was on sentry duty with Private James McMillan. They were looking over the barricade watching a German mortar (minenwerfer) coming towards them. It landed in front of the barricade, exploded and a shell fragment flew out from the mortar, striking the magazine of Oswald’s machine gun and rebounding into Oswald’s head. The C Company’s stretcher bearers managed to bandage his head, but he died in the trench on the stretcher. They were not able to remove him from the trench immediately due to the conditions. The next morning, he was carried out by his mates and was buried on the 19th December 1917 about a mile and a half behind the front line at Bethlehem Farm Military Cemetery.

Oswald was one of 1,512 killed at Messines Front between 1st November 1917 and 26th March 1918. He now lies forever young in Plot 1, Row F, Grave number 12. His headstone reads:

IN MEMORY OF THE DEARLY LOVED SON OF MRS T BRIGGS, STH. AUST.
James Alonzo Cook
By Christine Cook from information from Jack (H.J.) Cook and records from the National Archives of Australia. (2009)

Recently widowed, Jim Cook, as his mates knew him, enlisted on 4th January 1915 in Oaklands, South Australia, aged 28. He was leaving the care of his 2 young sons, Jack & Os, to his mother (Ellen L.E. Cook) and brother (Frederick John Cook). They were establishing a farm at Chillingollah near Swan Hill, Vic. Which had been opened up for development a few years before.

After training, he departed from Melbourne on 10th August 1915 on the HMAT RMS “Persia” for the camp at Alexandria. He was assigned to the First Division 3rd Field Co. Engineers as he had had some experience working as a linesman and in the mines in Broken Hill. By 25th October, he was at Gallipoli where they were involved in tunnelling and laying mines and making dugouts for the winter. The troops were on water restrictions and on half rations at that time. At the beginning of November, the 3rd Field Engineers were sent to rest camp on Mudros, and while there, James became ill and was sent to hospital Later he was transferred to Lemnos for treatment. With the successful evacuation of all troops stationed on the Gallipoli Peninsular just before Christmas, he didn’t return. Unlike many others, he had survived 6 weeks at Gallipoli!

But the war continued and the troops from Gallipoli were rested in Egypt in January. Various entrenchment works were being constructed, so in February the Engineers and other troops were set to work nearby the Suez Canal. In March 1916 the “Ginger Beers” (Engineers) were assigned to the Western Front in France, arriving in Marseille on the troopship “Ballarat” to begin an over 1000km train journey. After 4 months in France, Jim was involved in the Somme Offensive to capture Pozieres. He was wounded in action and transferred to England with shell shock. After three weeks recovery he was back with his division in France. He served in France and Belgium in 1917 and was on the Menin Road, Ypres for the battles there later in the year.

In January 1918 the troops had 2 weeks leave in England, but by March they were at the battlefront again in France. Unfortunately, it was during this time that Jim was gassed with Mustard gas, and it had a serious effect on his lungs for the rest of his life. He was hospitalised in England and did not return to action in France till end of September. About 6 weeks later the Armistice was signed (11/11/1918) but he spent another cold Christmas on duty in Europe.

In January 1919 they were transported to the UK in preparation for their return to Australia. He departed London, England per H.T. “Cluny Castle” on 23/3/1919 and arrived in Adelaide on 21/5/1919. He was accommodated at the Keswick Barracks until he was discharged, in July 1919 as “hostilities had ceased”. He was 32 years old.

Soon after his discharge, he married Doris Myrtle Loller (they had been corresponding while he was overseas) and they travelled to the farm at Chillingollah to be with his sons, brother and mother. What a reunion that would have been after about 4 years! The photo image that they had during this time would have been very different to the man who returned to them that day.

James Alonzo Cook applied for a soldier settlement block at Red Cliffs, Vic which was granted in Dec 1920. He moved his family to nearby Mildura until they were able to move onto the property. He became a successful “blockie” growing grapes, until his health deteriorated in the 1930’s. Jim died aged 55 (21/9/1942) and is buried in the Main North Rd. Cemetery in Adelaide, South Australia. His son, grandsons & great grandsons have all called “home” the house he built on the soldier settlement block, and although it has been replanted and seen many changes, the land has continued to produce grapes and support his descendants.

Lest we forget
Frank Edwin Dorman
By Raylee Schultz

Frank Edwin Dorman was born 22nd January 1914 in Broken Hill the seventh child of John and Maud Rose Dorman. As a young child, Frank moved with his family to Merbein where the family settled, living in modest conditions on the river flats near the old Merbein Race Course. His dad John and older brothers were wood cutters. During his early years, Frank attended Merbein West School and Merbein State School. After leaving school he also helped his father & brothers wood cutting, before marrying in 1934.

Six years later, aged 26 yrs with the event of WW2, Frank enlisted in the Australian Military Forces. He was living in Broken Hill at the time and worked as a miner. The place of enlistment was Wayville SA on the 10th July 1940. Frank went on to serve in the 2/48th Infantry Battalion, 9th Division and completed 1852 days’ active service. He was discharged on 4th August 1945, five years after enlisting. His discharge papers mention that Frank had dark brown eyes, dark hair, dark complexion, was 5’6” and by then a Corporal.

On 18th November 1940, after the initial training, Frank’s Battalion embarked on the HMT Troopship Stratheden, and sailed from Outer Harbour for overseas. They had marched out from Woodside SA sweating under full dress, great coats, steel helmets, respirators and packs. They slogged 4 miles to Oakbank station, and along the sides of the road were crowds of cheering people, waving flags, shouting goodbyes and wishing them good luck. The 2/48th Battalion was to serve in the Middle East Tobruk for a period of 2 years and 3 months.

During the siege of Tobruk, the allied troops were described by German radio as being “rats in a trap”. The Australian soldiers then began calling themselves “the Rats of Tobruk”. The fighting around Tobruk is a lasting memorial to the 2/48th, and it brought well deserved praise from the Prime Minister of Australia, the Army Commander and the General Officer Commanding the A.I.F. This unit went through the hell of Tobruk, blasted their way to El Alamein and then went on to stalk their way through the rotten jungles of New Guinea and Tarakan where a Japanese with a machine gun seemed to lurk behind every tree. In New Guinea, the 2/48th fought the Japanese out of the jungles at Lae and Sattelberg. Its final campaign was at Tarakan, where it made its second amphibious assault landing.

High regard was held for the 2/48th Battalion which fought with great distinction in the two great historical battles of the Western Desert Campaign, the siege of Tobruk and the Battle of El Alamein. El Alamein was a great success for the Allies and by the 6th November 1942, Axis forces were retreating, but the 9th Division was needed elsewhere and with the battle over, it was time for them to return to Australia and fight a new enemy, the Japanese. The 2/48th left Alamein 3rd December and headed back to Gaza in Palestine, where it participated in the 9th Divisional Parade on 22nd December 1942.

The 2/48th Battalion returned to Australia 25th February 1943 aboard the Troopship Nieuw Amsterdam. Their next stop was the Atherton Tablelands in Northern Queensland where they trained for the jungle warfare of New Guinea. It was while they were in the Atherton Tablelands that Frank was promoted to Corporal.

August 1943, they embarked on the U.S.S. Henry T Allen for Milne Bay anchoring on the 6th August. Little of note happened during the voyage, there had been the usual discomforts the soldiers had come to expect on a troopship, and the conditions were as crowded as ever. While in New Guinea, they fought in battles around Lae, Finschhafen and Sattelberg.
They played a big part in the costly fighting which destroyed the Japanese forces which had built their defences in the jungle of that island. They were in New Guinea until February 1944 when they embarked on the “Edward N. Westcott” and returned to Brisbane.

The 2/48th Infantry Battalion was Australia’s highest decorated unit of the Second World War, awarded four Victoria Crosses (3 of them posthumously) and more than 80 other decorations.

Frank often spoke of the bonds of leadership and mateship which welded the 2/48th Battalion into the formidable fighting team which repeatedly defeated the enemy. As with other men who served in Tobruk, Frank carried the title of Rat of Tobruk in a very humble but proud manner.

On the 4th August 1945, after the completion of 1852 days of service, Frank was discharged at Wayville SA. Frank spent his last years living in his little cottage on the Murray River here in Sunraysia enjoying his favourite pastime, fishing. It was a beautiful spot on the Murray river and over the years his family and friends enjoyed his hospitality around his BBQ. The property is still in the Dorman Family today.

Frank Edwin Dorman passed away suddenly at Mildura Base Hospital 20th May 1991, and is buried Merbein Lawn Cemetery, Grave 365.

The Rats of Tobruk: There are associations all over Australia and people are welcome to join them. I chose to join the Victorian Rats of Tobruk Association and have a badge. There is small group of people here in the district who are descendants of a Rat of Tobruk Soldiers and they have their own banner and march each year at the Anzac Day service in Mildura. The Rats of Tobruk family members are carrying their banner. It is the yellow banner in the photo.
Find the Missing Word

🎵 My face is a well written page “______", and time all time all along was the pen. 🎵

The missing word is of course “Maggie”. The song was written by George Johnson in 1864 and is sometimes called “When you and I were young”. The song is dedicated to Maggie Clark from Glanford, Ontario, Canada. She married George, but only after one year of marriage Maggie died. The song was originally written as a poem, but after the death of his wife, George got Austin Butterfield to set the poem to music.

Submitted by Paul Nicolas

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Mildura Telegraph and Darling and Lower Murray Advocate (Vic.: 1914 - 1918), Fri 23 Jul 1915, Page 3.
Anzac Day in Mildura 2018
Photos by Raylee Schultz
Did you know.....

The youngest Australian known to have died in WW1 was James Charles Martin. He was 14 years and 9 months old when he died in the Gallipoli campaign.

James was born on the 3rd January 1901 at Tocumwal, New South Wales. In 1915 under threat of running away to enlist, his mother reluctantly gave written permission for him to enlist, almost four years under the minimum age. He left with the 21st Infantry Battalion on the 28th June 1915.

James contracted typhoid fever late October 1915 and passed away three months short of his 15th birthday.

- 416,809 Australians enlisted in World War I, of whom 331,781 served overseas.
- 61,720 of these died during the war, and 137,013 were wounded.
- 2139 women served with the Australian Army Nursing Service, and 130 worked with the Queen Alexandra Imperial Military Nursing Service.
- Australia had the highest casualty rate of war – almost 65 per cent (proportionate to total embarkations).
- Around 112,000 Victorians enlisted for service in the AIF.
- Of these just on 19,000 were killed in action or died of wounds.
- About 1500 men from the Sunraysia district served in WWI, while eight women were deployed as nurses.
- WWI was the first filmed war and saw the emergence of film as a tool for propaganda.
- Cost of building the Shrine of Remembrance in 1934: £250,000.
- In 1915, the French military post was processing 4 million letters a day.
- The Australian Red Cross Wounded and Missing Files has approximately 32,000 individual case files of Australian personnel reported as wounded or missing during the First World War.
- Russia was the only European state to use women in significant numbers in combat roles.
- Women and children knitted about 3 million pairs of sock to help soldiers cope with trench foot.

The last surviving ANZAC and participant of the Gallipoli campaign, Alec Campbell, died of pneumonia, aged 103 years old, on 16 May 2002. Alexander William Campbell (the kid) enlisted 2nd July 1915, Claremont, Tasmania, aged 16 years and 4 months. His service with the A.I.F. officially ended on 22nd August 1916.
John and Anne Fisher of Victoria had 8 sons who enlisted for WW1: (ninth son Robert tried but was barred from joining the AIF due to poor eye sight!!)

- Walter - enlisted at age 34 (1914)
- Edward - enlisted at age 37 (1917)
- James - enlisted at age 31 (1915), served 22 months, medically discharged
  - enlisted again at age 35 (1918), medically discharged after 5 month, died 28/6/1919
- Terence - enlisted at age 31 (1916)
- John - enlisted at age 23 (1914) – died in action 9/8/1915
- George - enlisted at age 21 (1916)
- Eli - enlisted at age 19 (1916)
- Cecil - enlisted at age 18 (1916)

Difference in Wages

By Sue Andrews

Sisters Nellie Veir Scott and Jean Scott were my 2nd great aunts. Both served as nurses in WW1. Nellie enlisted in April 1915 at the age of 25. Jean enlisted in May 1917 at the age of 31.

Nellie was posted to the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service. She served time at the General Hospital in Alexandria, Egypt, then on hospital ships Valdivia and Dunluce Castle, finishing in a surgical ward at Reading, England for 18 months as Acting Sister.

Jean was posted to the Australian Army Nursing Service. She served time in India at the 34th Welsh General Hospital at Deolali, almost 260 kilometres from Bombay.

After the war Nellie applied for a block of land through the Red Cliffs Soldier Settlement Scheme. She was successful in her application, but once the scheme found out that Nellie had since married a returned solider who also had been allocated land – they asked her to surrender her land!

She challenged the Board of the Settlement scheme and was able to retain her allocation. Jean was incensed that she had to go thru the whole process, especially since she had lost her war allowance once she got married. As they were talking more about the war, they suddenly realised that Jean, because she was posted to the Australian Army Nursing Service, actually earnt more money than Nellie did serving for the British! Jean encouraged Nellie to write away to request the difference in pay. There were no objections to her request and she received a tidy sum of money which helped her over the years to keep her block.

Nellie Veir Scott
## Honor Roll - Mildura -1914 to 1918

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<th>F.J. ADAMS</th>
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Lest we forget

Stanley Herbert Smith

Rank: Private
Regimental Number: 777
Age: 21 years and 1 month on enlistment
Place of Birth: Grenville, Ballarat, Victoria
Occupation: Labourer
Marital Status: Single

Service Outline:

Enlisted in the Australian Forces in Mildura 21st September 1914 and to camp Broadmeadows.
To F Company, 14th Infantry Battalion, 4th Brigade, 1st Division 1st October 1914.
Embarked Melbourne for the Middle East via Albany and Colombo per transport ‘Ulysses’ 22nd December 1914.
Disembarked Alexandria and to camp Heliopolis, Egypt 5th February 1915.
Embarked Alexandria for Mudros 12th April 1915 with B Company, 14th Infantry Battalion.
Operations Gallipoli against the Turks from 26th April 1915 near Monash Valley then to Quinn’s Post where enemy counter attacks were repelled and where the 14th Infantry Battalion made a bayonet charge at the enemy attempting to edge forward and dig-in.
Killed in Action 27th April 1915 near Quinn’s Post.

Remarks:

Noted brother Matthias Keveen Smith.
Soldier bequeathed effects to Miss Phyliss Campbell, Munro Street, Middle Brighton, Victoria and brother Mr Cecil Smith C/- J McCallum, Esq, 113 Humffray Street, Ballarat, Victoria.
Described as 66 inches tall, 10 stone and 10 pounds in weight, chest 35 to 37 inches, dark complexion, brown eyes, brown hair and tattoos left forearm.
Buried Quinn’s Post 27th April 1915. Re-buried Courtney’s and Steel’s Post Cemetery, Gallipoli, Turkey.

Note from Editor: Thankyou to the mystery person who submitted this piece.
Paul’s National Service Days

By Paul Nicolias June 2013

“The greatest reward for serving others is the satisfaction found in your own heart”

Late in 1970 I had to register for national service, I got a registration form from the Irymple Post Office, I filled it in and sent it to the appropriate Government Office. I was sent a registration certificate and my service number 3802210. Australia needed more soldiers, and this was the only way the Army could conscript young 20 year olds in the Army. The reason for this conscript was of course the Vietnam War.

National Service was reintroduced in the mid 60’s, and the conscript was organised as lottery with birthdates being drawn a random. One Friday in May 1970 was the one and only time I ever won the lottery, my birth date (April 6th) was been pulled out of the barrel. I was at Uncle Harry’s house in Nichols Point. We were watching the National news on the television when the birth dates were announced. I didn’t say anything that night, but I bought the newspaper the next morning to confirm that my birth date had been of the days for the September intake.

I had a medical check-up by the Government doctor in Mildura. My sister Maria and Loula organised a going away part, it was a great send off. I was employed as a welder and maintenance fitter at the Aurora Packing shed workshop in Red Cliffs at the time. I received many going away gifts on I remember and still have was a writing set in a green case which Aunty Lily and Uncle Harry gave me.

The first time I had flown was a cold September day when I flew from Mildura to Melbourne in an Ansett Focker Friendship aeroplane. I flew to Melbourne with 5 other lads from Sunraysia. At Tullamarine we were taken by bus to the Swan Street Army Barracks, given a quick medial check to confirm that we were males then a trip to Puckapunyal Recruit Training Base in buses. We had lunch in a huge mess hall that seated 600.

I was put into the 2nd recruit training battalion, A company, 4th intake 1971. In the afternoon we were issued with clothing, toiletries, bedding, a rifle (7.62 SLR) and other necessities to make a good soldier. We were shown our room which I shared with 3 other recruits. We were shown how to put the items of clothing in place in the cupboard, how to make beds army style, shown how to spit polish boots. We had to be in bed by 10pm, woken up at 5:30am, had to be ready in shorts and singlet before 6am for daily run and exercise around the parade ground that lasted 45 minutes every day, rain, hail or sunshine. We were dismissed for breakfast.

For 10 weeks we trained in drill marching, how to use and clean a SLR rifle and other weapons in the army, bush living and observation, survival skills and more marching the hot parade grounds reflecting the sun’s glare. N.C.O’s shouting abuse at recruits who did not know the difference between right and left, including myself, we also threw live grenades. While on mess duty one day I had the job of putting the chairs on the tables, so the floors could be mopped. Under one chair was the name of Noel Morris he married a former school teacher of mine at the Irymple Primary School Miss Marilyn Bottoms. I also had a ride in a helicopter with the doors open.

After 10 weeks recruit training finished we had a marching out parade, I was chosen to go into the Engineer corps. I was sent home for Christmas and in January I left Mildura with Philip Muir from Red Cliffs, in Philip EH Holden station wagon. We left Mildura via Canberra. In Canberra we drive around in Circles until we realised we had passed the spot 3 times. We motored into Sydney at 2am, slept in the car at Mainly beach Saturday night.
The Grapeline Volume 19 no. 2, June 2018

In the morning we drove to the School of Military Engineering in Liverpool. My home for the next 15 weeks to begin Corp training. I was placed in 1Troop depot squadron. We learnt how to build bridges (Bailey, pontoon bridges) and bridges built from natural resources, trees, stones, etc, and then tunnel and gas warfare explosives, water purification, laying mines and clearing minefields, road and airfield construction.

On weekends I went swimming on Wollongong Beaches, travelled on Sydney trains all day, I had friends in Auburn and also Campbelltown.

The camp was in the Gorge River, we had to sleep under mosquito nets, if not the mosquitoes would pick you up and eat you alive. Twice the size of Mildura mosquitoes. We also had 28 inches of rain between January to March 1972. It would team down every day and in the evenings.

After Easter I was posted to 21 Construction Squadron transport troop, Puckapunyal near Seymour, about 100 kilometres from Melbourne. On the way home from Sydney for Easter, at 3am on the Hay Plains between Hay and Balranald, I was driving Philips car and I hit a kangaroo, it spun the car around 180 degrees facing the way we were coming from, never leaving the bitumen. The kangaroo was killed. We had to straighten the left-hand fender before continuing the journey to Mildura, with little damage to the car (I got Lucky). We arrived in Mildura around 7am. I stayed home for a week and caught up with old friends.

I went back to Puckapunyal after a couple of weeks, I did a driver course then became a driver. We built roads, bridges, airfields, mound of dirt for rifle range fought bushfires around Lancefield, floods in Seymour, killed snakes at the Williamstown rifle range, it was a wonderful time I spent with 21 Construction Squadron (Red Rooster).

The Purpose of this story is that the Australian Government issued a national Service Medal in 2001 to celebrate the 50 years of National Service. I applied for my medal in March 2002 and received my medal in September 2002. In conjunction with the Salvation Army, a Church Service was held on 10th November 2002. I together 15 other former National Servicemen received their medal from John Forrest M.P. Federal Member for Mallee.

This was in a way for me a great ending for my National Service story. My life has gone on from then, but the memories of friendships and the sadness of lives lost at war, will stay with me for a lifetime.

“Whatever the circumstance, whatever the call, whatever the duty, whatever the price, whatever the sacrifice his strength will be your strength in your hour of need” – Doctor Billy Graham.
My Life Story – Reginald Newberry
Submitted by Anne Newberry

Mother and Father were born in Leicester, in England in 1893. My grandfather Coekin was a member of the Royal Guards. My mother, Elsie, used to tell us that she had to clean his boots and buttons on his uniform until they simply sparkled and that you could see your face in them. Mum had one brother, Arthur, (who I was probably named after) and he was killed in the first world war. Mum left school at 12yrs of age to look after her mother, father and brother as her mother had lost her sight. After her mother passed away, mum went and worked in a factory making shoes and boots. Leicester was a manufacturing city and there were a lot of shoe factories there.

Dad also went to school in Leicester, he went to a boys Grammar school. Dad was an altar boy in the Church of England churches, he also used to pump up the bellows of the church organ so that the organist could play the organ. He graduated to organist in the Cathedral. When he left school, he started an apprenticeship in a jeweller’s business. His first job was to go to all the stately homes in Leicester and hand wind all the clocks in the home. This of course, had to be done while the Master and Mistress of the house were not there. He had to enter the home at the back by the tradesman’s entrance and was taken to each of these clocks by a servant where he would set all the clocks, from the big grandfather clocks, to the smaller ones to the right time and then wind them up. There could be up to 30 or 40 clocks in some of the mansions. The thought of him doing this always fascinated us as children and would get Dad to repeat the story of all these clocks having to wound by hand.

Then the war came, and Dad enlisted in the army, he was a corporal in the 4th Battalion Royal Leicester Regiment. After a period of training they were sent to the front line on March 2nd, 1915 taking up position in the trenches of the Le Bizet. They were then moved to Kemmel Hill and then on the 22nd June what was left of the regiment went to fight in the conflict of Ypres. On 26th October 1915 the 4th Battalion suffered its worst defeat at Vermmelie where it was decimated by machine gun fire during an advance on enemy lines that was inadequately supported by artillery fire. The Battalion suffered 473 casualties and was reduced to 188 soldiers of which only 2 were officers. Dad told about how everywhere he looked there were dead bodies, they had to step over them and move on.

After the war was won and the soldiers returned back home to England, there were no jobs, a recession followed. By this time Mum and Dad had met skating on the frozen lake. Mum could dance on skates. They were married on the 27th July 1919. Dad was working by this time at the shoe and boot factory, he couldn’t see any lasting future in this, so they decided to immigrate to Australia.

They left England in February 1922 on the steam ship TSS Euripies ad arrived in Melbourne in May. What a long time to spend at sea, Mum just loved it, but Dad was a bad sailor and he was glad to stand on land again.

After getting their luggage, they boarded a train to Red Cliffs, travelling all night into the unknown. There was no station as such, the men jumped down and their luggage just thrown to the ground. They had travelled to Red Cliffs with a number of British Soldier Assisted Passage Personnel. They were issued with a tent and 4 blankets after registering, then pointed to the married quarters section west of the railway station, single men went north. They walked down Woodbine Avenue with rows of tents and went to the end to set up camp. The temp was 100 degrees. They had to carry water to their camp and use candles, but that didn’t worry them, this was to be a brand-new life. They were later issued with 5 sheets of corrugated iron. The answers to Dad’s question of “what to do with iron?” was to build a lean to, to protect the tent from the sun.

Dad was instructed to report for work next morning, where the men from the ship and train, who had arrived at Red Cliffs at the same time, were also present.

The soldier settlement was just opening up, the men were put to work digging pipe lines to bring water to the fruit blocks. Mum was left to do “her bit” to set up home with what she had. She remembered the comradeship of the other women who lived close by (very close by). Mum started doing washing for the local policeman. As time went by they built a galvanised iron houses, married couples had 3 rooms, a living area and 2 bedrooms.

Lest we forget
Dad was one of the many general labourers, he worked picking up sticks and the building of the channels. The bit he didn’t like was behind the horse operating the scoop which helped build the channels. Each man in the gangs took turns at this job. He took on jobs on the side as well, fixing watches etc. and later on added to this side line by making his living by being a “one man” business “townee”.

In a few years Dad had earned enough money to send an order to England for a baby grand piano. He and 3 friends wanted to form a dance band, so we 3 kids were brought up with music all around us. Mum always went with Dad and we played and slept on a rug as the dancing went on around us. We had a very happy childhood.

Later, when Dad opened a shop, there wasn’t much call for watchmakers, so he turned to radios, making them and selling them. He had the first radio in the Sunraysia area and he also built the first radio station. Mum was the first radio announcer. Dad was a very clever man. Dad later started to sell bicycles as they had come onto the market. He bought them in a box and assembled them. His 1st shop was in the Diggerland building on the LHS at the front of the building. As he got busier he employed an offside.

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Note from the (reluctant) Newsletter Editor

Hi Everyone,

Thankyou to everybody who contributed to this newsletter.

I really enjoy being a volunteer here. You get to meet weird and wonderful people. Hear all different stories about what people have discovered about their ancestors — funny, inspiring, tragic, crazy. Witness the elation when someone break’s thru a brick wall. Getting a warm and fuzzy feeling when you help a visitor or member find information. It’s also a learning experience. I am continually learning how to think outside the square when researching my own family. And I am learning more about the place I call home. Tom Heard and Paul Nicolias have such a wealth of local information and often help me out. (We also have lunch and a cuppa together, and try to solve world issues 😊).

Being a volunteer can be rewarding. It can give you a sense of achievement and purpose and help you feel part of a community. You only need to volunteer the amount of time that feels comfortable to you. So please consider joining the team in what ever capacity you can.

Sue Andrews

There is no king who has not had a slave among his ancestors, and no slave who has not had a king among his.

– Helen Keller

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Grapeline is published in March, June, September and December.

Deadlines for submissions:

- 15th February 1st Quarter March Issue
- 15th May 2nd Quarter June Issue
- 15th August 3rd Quarter September Issue
- 15th November 4th Quarter December Issue.

Material needs to be received by the deadline as above to be included in the next available issue.

We welcome all contributions from you, our readers, so please send your genealogical stories, suggestions for successful searches which may help other members or reviews of reference materials from our Society Library or elsewhere. Photos with a brief story are also welcome. We look forward to hearing from you. Send contributions marked ”Attention Grapeline Editor” to milduragenealogy@gmail.com.
Can you help?

You may not actually think about it but every task in our great organisation is undertaken by volunteers. As changes occur with people in their daily lives, we are constantly in need of people to volunteer their time. If you could spare a few hours per month, or even on an occasional basis, it would be sincerely appreciated. **We would especially like to welcome new members to the volunteer group.** The following is a list of the major areas in which we already have volunteers working, or for which we need more volunteers.

Please contact Fay or Judy if you would like to help out or if you have any queries via email - milduragenealogy@gmail.com, marked **Volunteer Offer.**

*Sadly, if we don’t have enough volunteers, services that we currently provide may have to be adjusted accordingly.*

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<td>Computers</td>
<td>Assist in networking system, PC hardware &amp; software. (Professional Experience required)</td>
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<td>Projects Team</td>
<td>As part of a team, assist on a Thursday indexing various records or tasks as required.</td>
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<td>Speakers or Tutors</td>
<td>Conduct sessions on aspects of genealogy. Speak at other group meetings etc.</td>
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<td>Library Assistant</td>
<td>Assist the Librarian when required with shelving, covering books etc.</td>
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<td>Duty Person</td>
<td>Assist by being on a roster to help visitors or members during opening hours at our library.</td>
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<td>Publicity</td>
<td>Publicise the M&amp;DGS and its various events.</td>
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<td>Research</td>
<td>Assist the Research Officer with the many inquiries that come from outside people for genealogical help.</td>
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<td>Property Maintenance</td>
<td>Assist when needed on various handyman-type tasks at our Library rooms.</td>
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<td>Magazine Committee</td>
<td>Assist in a range of tasks associated with the production and distribution of the Grapeline.</td>
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<td>Housekeeping</td>
<td>General housekeeping in the Library rooms</td>
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<td>Catering</td>
<td>Assist the Catering Officers at meetings, functions and the Christmas Dinner</td>
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<td>Proofreading</td>
<td>Various indexing, magazine and website media have to be proofread.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
<td>Assist in processing annual membership fees and/or maintaining membership database</td>
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“Don’t ever question the value of volunteers. Noah’s Ark was built by volunteers; the Titanic was built by professionals.” **unknown**
The M&DGS Inc. gratefully acknowledges the contribution of

Mr Peter Crisp

Member for Mildura

whose office has printed this newsletter, free of all cost, as a community service.

MILDURA & DISTRICT

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INC AOO2391P

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