

# Bolinda Primary School: The First 100 Years



Produced for Bolinda Primary  
School's Sesquicentennial

1870 - 2020

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The Second Storey House Histories



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## School No. 88

Bolinda School began life in January 1861 as a denominational school established by the Church of England and Presbyterian Church. At that time, prior to the *Education Act of 1872*, school was neither compulsory nor free. A variety of educational opportunities were available including denominational schools, national schools (what we think of as public schools today), private non-denominational schools and tutors though many children from impoverished families received no education at all.

Victoria adopted a similar two-pronged educational system to New South Wales: a General Education Board overseeing national schools, and a Denominational School Board overseeing church schools. Denominational schools were found to be sorely lacking in rural areas. In general, these schools were often housed in buildings that were inadequate in size and lacking in equipment. Teachers were often incompetent, barely literate and familiar with only the most basic principles of arithmetic. One of the main issues was that no educated man or woman would be willing to relocate to the country for such a paltry salary as was offered at the time. Subjects taught included arithmetic, grammar, reading and writing. In the early days, a small rural school like Bolinda is unlikely to have had classes in history, geography or drawing as were available in the larger city schools.

The school was situated on half an acre of land donated by Robert Gardiner, who was leasing land on the Clarke family's Bolinda Vale estate at the time. The school was locally known as the Havelock School but formally known as Bolinda Vale School No. 88.

The first school house was an American pine structure with a shingle roof. The structure measured approximately 20 ft by 16 ft and had a two-room living quarters measuring 16 ft by 16 ft attached at the rear. The first head teacher, William Steel, previously of Tullamarine School, lived in the residence. In order to entice him to take the position, Steel had been offered a cow, and a horse and trap, as well as a kitchen if he desired one.

When the school was first established, the managers were William Humphries, William Wragge, Alexander Ballock, James Stewart and Henry White. Within a year, there was an average attendance of 25 pupils comprised of 16 boys and 9 girls.



The Board of Education was established in 1862. Schools were gradually vested with the board over the following decade or so<sup>1</sup>. In keeping with this, Bolinda Vale School No. 88 was closed on 31 October 1870 and reopened the next day, 1 November 1870, as Bolinda School No. 1070 vested with the Board of Education. John A. Scott served as its first head teacher.

Although the school was no longer a denominational school, it continued to be used on Sundays for the purpose of public worship. The Education Department demanded that use of the school for Public Worship be discontinued but it appears this was largely ignored. Eventually, the Board of Advice for the School District approved the use of the school room for religious services by the Presbyterian Church every alternate Sunday. This was granted upon the usual condition of indemnification to the Department in the event of damage to the property.

## **School No. 1070**

The original half-acre (roughly 2023 square metres) of land for the school was legally transferred from the Honorable William John Turner Clarke and Robert Gardiner to the Board of Education on 11 September 1872 (Certificates of Title are provided in Appendix A).

By mid-1871, plans were being developed for the construction of a larger school building to replace the original 1860s structure. As the structure would be built of wood, the Education Department was willing to allocate no more than £50 to its construction, the additional monies to be raised locally. Construction of the new school building was completed in April 1872 and the old building was converted into a teacher's residence. The new school house measured 30 ft by 18 ft. A dance was held at the opening ceremony.

In 1873, a new out office (toilet) was constructed at the school at a cost of £9/15/6. The out office was a small brick structure commonly known as a pan closet. Buckets or pans would be used to collect the waste and would need to be regularly disposed of. It is not recorded where the waste from Bolinda School was disposed of.

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<sup>1</sup> In 1872, Victoria was the first state of Australia to introduce new legislation known as the Education Act that allowed for the establishment of a public school system that was free, secular, and compulsory for children aged between 6 and 15 years. At that time, there was no division between primary and secondary school as we have now. Public secondary schools were first established in the early 1900s.

In the early 1880s, approximately 31 perches (roughly 784 square metres) of school land were taken over by the Railways Department for the establishment of the Clarkefield-Lancefield Railroad (see Figure 1). The Lancefield railway line was constructed in early 1881 at a cost of roughly £13,584. It ran for approximately 15 miles from Lancefield Junction (Clarkefield) to Lancefield, stopping at Bolinda (the railway line passed very close to the schoolhouse, see Photo 1), Monegeetta, North Monegeetta and Romsey. The line was officially opened on 6 June 1881 and continued in operation until 1956.

*Photo 1: Mrs Parratt standing in front of the old schoolhouse alongside the train lines, ca. 1910-1914 (Romsey Historical Society).*







- The Board of Education from Clarke & Gardiner, 1872
- The Minister of Education from Gardiner, 1882
- The Mnister of Education from the Board of Land & Works, 1883
- The Board of Land & Works from the Minister of Education, pre-1960
- The Board of Education from the Railways Department, 1965

*Figure 1: Land Transfers*



*Photo 2: Ted and Tobe Heath on the bullocks they rode to school, Bolinda, ca. 1910 (Romsey Historical Society).*

In the 1890s and early 1900s, permission had to be sought from the Education Department for children to travel to school by train, most often between Lancefield Junction and Bolinda. Parents would apply to the Department and request railway tickets at concession school rates. Train conveyance allowance was only available to children between (and including) the ages of 6 and 13. In some cases, permission would be denied if there was a closer school that the child could attend. By 1905, the daily finishing time had to be moved to 3.30pm, earlier than previously due to the long distances the children had to travel. At this time, school hours were 9.15am to 12.15pm, then 1.15pm to 3.30pm.

In cases of financial hardship, families living over three miles from the nearest school were eligible to receive an allowance to help pay for transport costs, such as sustenance for the ponies, or in the case of the Heath children, bullocks, that they rode to school (Photo 2).

In January 1882, the Board of Education petitioned Robert Gardiner to sell them another half-acre of land on the south side of the school as an

extension to the present site. Captain Gardiner agreed to sell the land for £12 on condition that a picket fence be erected (possibly to separate the children from the railroad) (4 December 1882). Six months later, a strip of land to the east was acquired from the Board of Land and Works connecting the school site with Mullalys Road.

Circa late 1904, a boys shelter shed was erected towards the rear of the school, and ten years later, in mid-1914, a shelter shed for use by the girls was erected.

The school building itself would have been, at times, quite uncomfortable. For example, a complaint in 1915 lamented that the school would fill with smoke whenever a westerly wind blew. Other potential hazards included stock wandering into the school grounds when gates and fences were in a state of disrepair, and threat of snakes and fire from adjoining paddocks that were not kept mown.

Getting repairs and maintenance work performed could be frustratingly slow. The time between initial request for works and completion was often over a year and several requests may have been submitted, each one's tone gradually increasing in urgency. In some situations, funds were not available for requested works. In others, works would be authorized by the Education Department but as they were undertaken by the Department of Public Works, which often had a long list of similar works awaiting their attention, it could take several months or even years before it was the school's turn to have work completed.

After 60 years of continual use, the school building was looking the worse for wear and the schoolyard was feeling cramped. In August 1935, a petition was made to the Education Department to purchase a half acre of land on the south side of the Bolinda Hall for £12 to expand the children's play area and provide a place for those who rode or drove to school to put their ponies. The land was owned by Mr. Sheehan who had been allowing the children to play on his land for some time. Regrettably, there were no funds available for the purchase of more land.

By 1935, the school building was termite-ridden. In early 1936, the Public Works Department reported that the school building was beyond repair and ought to be condemned. Unfortunately, during the inspection one of the inspectors ripped several boards off the outside of the building as well as the door frame and lining boards inside. This left the school very draughty and cold once the winter set in.

In 1936/1937, the Education Department decided to replace the old timber school house with a small fibro-cement structure. It was erected on 22 February 1937 at a cost of approximately £252/7/4, and although the new structure was meant to be temporary, it remained in use for another 12 years.

To commemorate the removal of the old building, a school reunion was held on the afternoon and evening of 13 March with around 200 invitations to former students and teachers sent out. On the day, there was a higher turnout than expected including former teachers Thomas Phillips, A. M. Parratt, R. Coles and M. A. Garner. It was lamented that the late Mrs Caldwell, who was viewed so favourably, was not able to attend. After the roll was called and speeches were made, the attendees enjoyed an afternoon tea in the Mechanics Hall (Bolinda Community Hall) next door. An "old-time dance" was held in the evening.

Then arose the question of what to do with the old building. Suggestions were made such as repurposing the building as a workroom, sale of the building (R. Clampit of Emu Flat even offered to buy the building in March 1938), and salvaging the best pieces to use for rebuilding schoolhouses in other schools. In the end, the Education Department requested that the Public Works Department prepare the building to be sold for removal.

There were immediate concerns regarding the size of the new fibro-cement school house. In a letter from the School Committee to the Education Department it was noted that (dated 2 March 1937):

"...while the new building will accommodate the children now attending quite comfortably it is far too small to enable the Head Teacher to carry on the work to the best advantage.

He has a supply of equipment in connection with subjects such as Social Studies, Projects & Handwork. There are also maps & this is at present stored in the old building. When this building is removed there is absolutely no space in which this equipment can be stored unless it is placed in an unsightly pile in the schoolroom.

This would not only encroach unduly upon the limited accommodation provided but would defeat the plans of H.T. [Head Teacher] & committee who are working in conjunction in an attempt to make the room as attractive as possible. The porch provided is barely large enough to hold the hats & lunches of scholars."

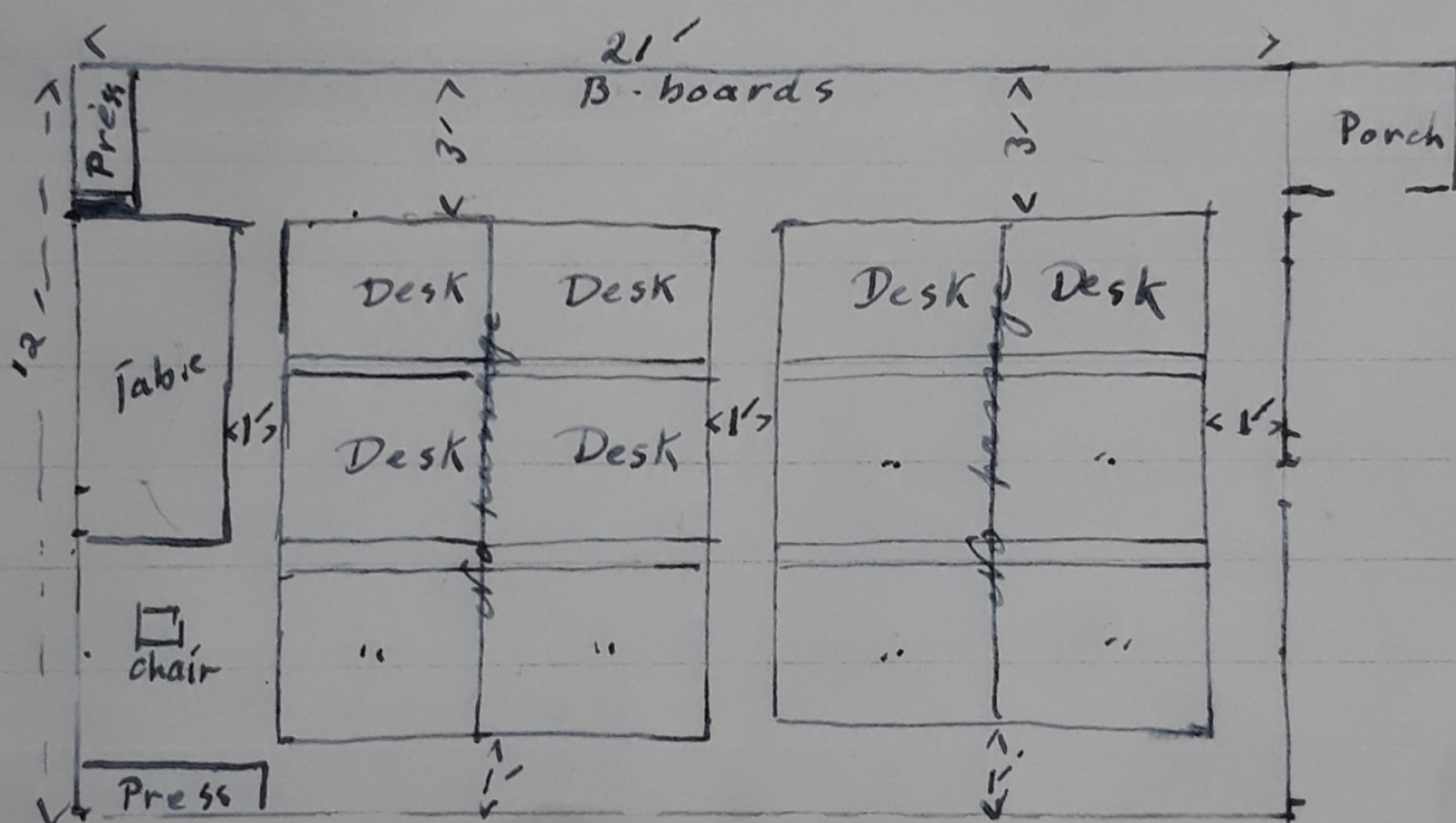


The School Committee correspondent, W. S. Amess, requested that a small structure be built attached to the new building to house supplies and equipment. At that time, the school had an attendance of twelve boys and no girls. Amess' request was denied.

In December 1941, the School Committee again wrote to the Education Department making them aware of the unsuitability of the portable building. The school building's seating capacity was 20 students, while the school now had 25 students enrolled and expected to rise to 27 in 1942. The desks had to be placed so that they were only 1 ft 6 in away from the blackboard making it difficult for the teacher to move around. The committee correspondent also noted that the room was so cramped that when one student needed to move the whole class needed to be moved. The only ventilation was the windows and some holes near the roof. The stifling closeness caused at least one student to feel overwhelmed. In addition, the chimney smoked so badly that it could not be lit even during the coldest winter days. The issue was referred to District Inspector Caldwell to investigate and offer recommendations. The Head Teacher at the time, Robert Pywell, produced a sketch of the school room that clearly shows the problem of overcrowding (Photo 3, note that passageways are a maximum of 1 foot wide). Caldwell agreed that the portable building was too small for the school and recommended replacing it with a larger building taken from the nearby Fentona School that was scheduled to be closed due to low enrolment numbers. Again, nothing happened.

In May 1942, the School Committee again contacted the Department about the dire situation at the school. Head Teacher Pywell anticipated having to refuse any further enrolments due to the overcrowding. There were also concerns about the health of the children now that winter was approaching. The fire still could not be lit due to the smoke and the windows could not be opened as it was too cold. In addition, the children could not dry off by the fire after coming in from inclement weather. On rainy days, the children were forced sit in a cold crowded room in their damp clothes with inadequate ventilation. In July 1942, the Department finally put out a call for tenders for repairing the chimney and providing additional accommodation at the school.

The extension was completed on 3 November 1942. It measured 4 ft 6 in x 12 ft 6 in with new windows installed on the north end. The total cost amounted to £132/12/4.



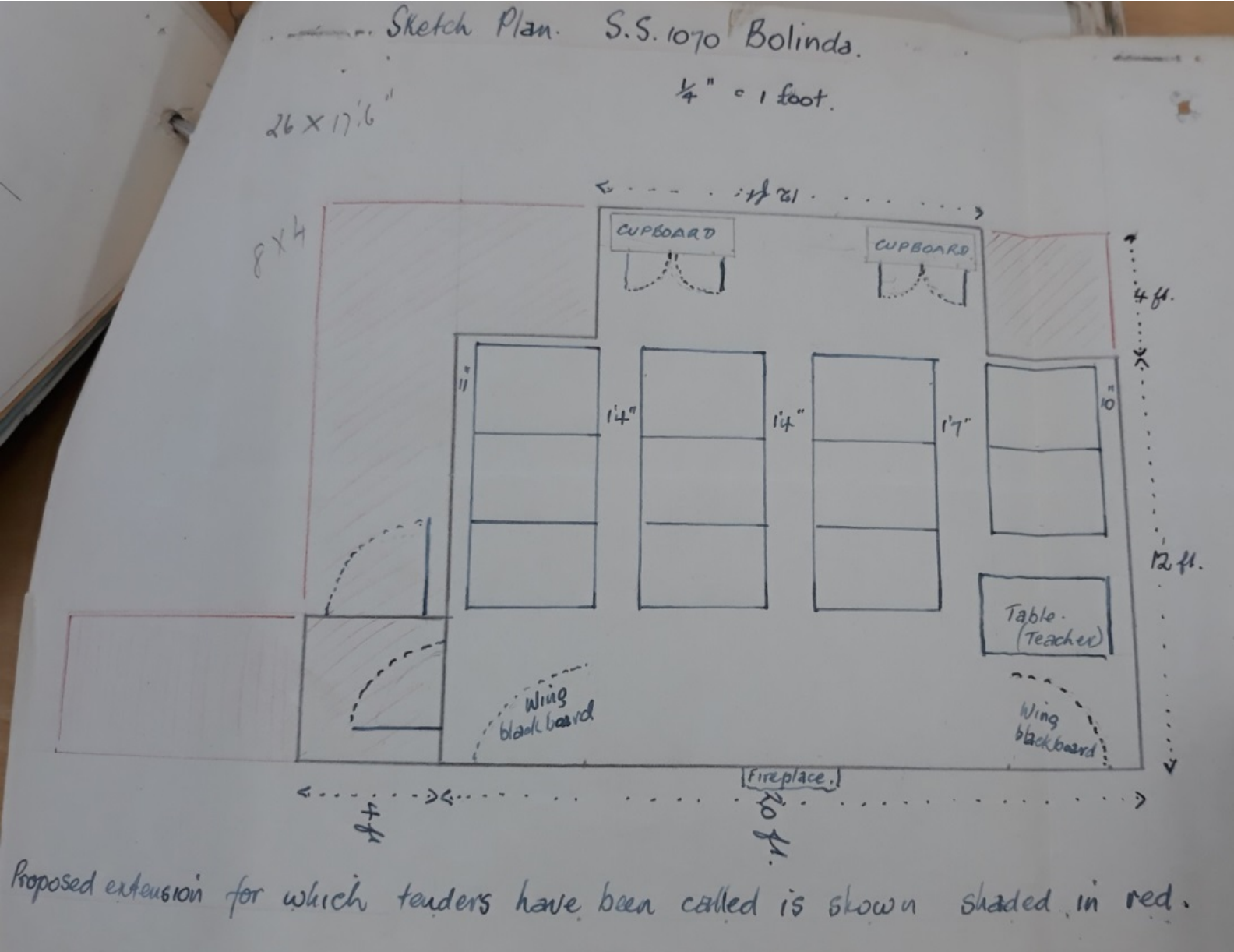
*Photo 3: Pywell's diagram of the classroom in 1942.*

Within three years, the little school room was getting crowded even with the extension. It was designed to house a maximum of 22 students but upwards of 25 students were being crammed in. The stuffy cramped conditions were exacerbated when it rained. During wet windy weather, the roof would leak and as the classroom was already tightly packed with students there was no way to rearrange desks to avoid the leaks.

The School Committee again approached the Education Department regarding the overcrowding situation in February 1946. At that time there were up to 40 students being taught in the little room (Photo 4). By August 1947, the parents and the Committee had had enough with the lack of action on the Department's behalf. Parents began threatening that some "direct action" would need to be taken but exactly what that meant was not recorded. The Secretary of Education responded that calls for tenders to extend the building further had not received responses. This was considered an unsatisfactory response by the School Committee, but the Department was now out of ideas. The Committee suggested erecting a new building entirely. In the end, the Department elected to relocate an unused schoolhouse from Edgecombe, roughly 35km to the northwest of Bolinda.

The Edgecombe School was closed in 1946 when the enrolment fell to two pupils. The former Edgecombe building, measuring roughly 30 ft x 18 ft, was ready for occupation within a few months of arrival (Photo 5). The





*Photo 4: Plan of the tightly packed classroom in 1948.*

students moved across to the new building on 25 July 1949 and the former school building was then unoccupied. Circa September 1951, the fibro-cement building was removed and relocated to Red Rock School No. 4672.

The mid-twentieth century was memorable for Bolinda residents for another reason besides the school's expansion. Electricity was brought to the district in 1950/1951. The head teacher at that time, Mr. McQualter, was quick to request that the school and residence also be furnished with electricity. The Education Department was willing to cover the full cost of installing lights and power in Departmental residences and the cost of installing power points, mains and switchboards for school buildings. However, the Department would not pay for lights to be installed in primary schools unless it was a new build or a complete remodel of the school. The School Committee was required to arrange and fund the installation of lights at the school. Electricity and lights were first installed in the teacher's residence at a cost of £80/0/0. Due to these improvements

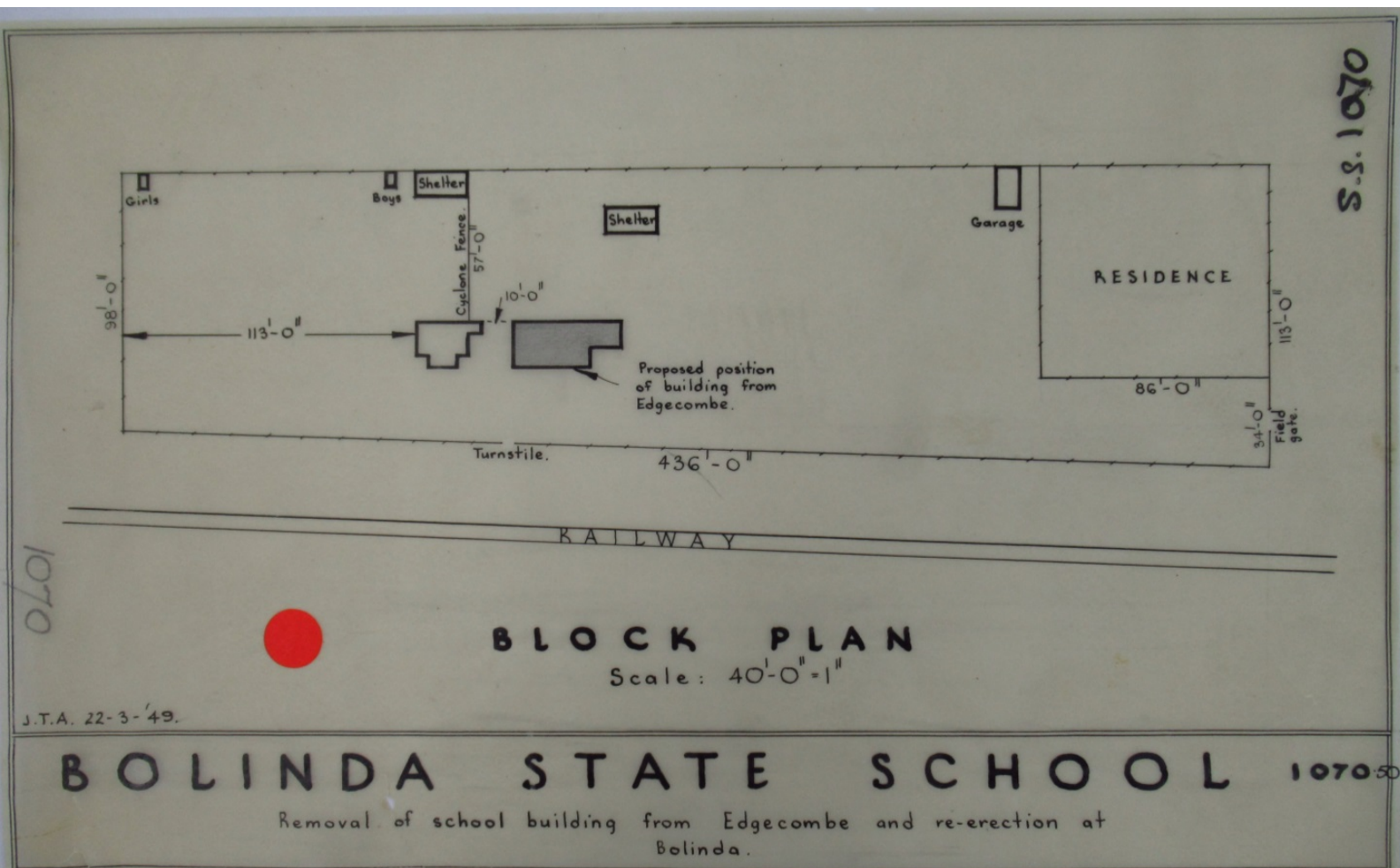
the annual rent was raised from £40/5/0 to £45/0/0. Electricity was then installed in the school at a cost of £20. Two new poles were also erected at a cost of £7. The work was conducted by Bell & Dyring of Northcote.

As well as electricity, the school needed a new incinerator. The old one was made out of a converted petrol drum but by early 1950 was burnt out. Whether they were supplied with a newfangled incinerator or forced to refashion another petrol drum has passed into the mists of time.

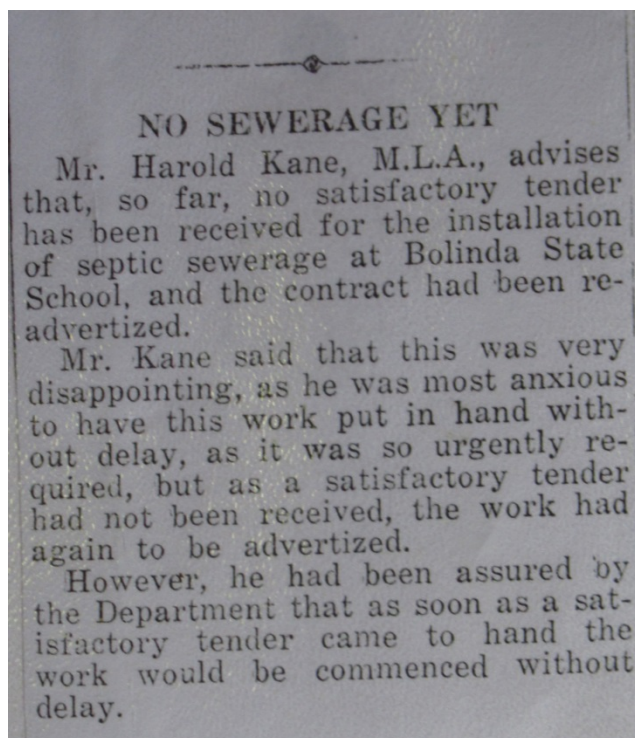
Winter continued to be a time of discomfort in the school. The open fireplace did not efficiently heat the new school room. Of more concern was that the prevailing winds in the district were such that the smoke would not escape and would billow back into the classroom. On many occasions the students and head teacher would rather suffer the winter cold than the discomfort caused by the smoke. In mid-winter 1952, Mr McQualter wrote to the Department requesting they provide supplementary heating for the school. It took another year and a half before a slow combustion oven was provided.

By 1955, the southern section of the school between the school building and the out offices was rocky and overgrown. This provided a natural habitat for snakes during the summer months and it was a like a game of

*Photo 5: Proposed relocation of Edgecombe school building to Bolinda School.*



Russian roulette every time the students had to relieve themselves. Concerned about the students' well-being, the School Committee decided to clear and level the area though it took another two years before the Department supplied gravel to lay across the area.



*Photo 6: There were difficulties obtaining tenders for installation of the new septic system, ca. 1961 (Romsey Historical Society).*

Possibly eliciting at least as much excitement as the coming of electricity was the coming of a septic system sometime in the 1960s. This meant that the teachers and pupils were no longer required to empty the pan closets, a job that I'm sure was not relished by anyone. The septic system was originally earmarked for installation in 1956 but it appears there were difficulties acquiring tenders to undertake the work (Photo 6). It seems to have not been completed until sometime in the 1960s.

By 1959, the Education Department sought to expand the schoolyard further, though first there was the small issue of not being exactly sure of where

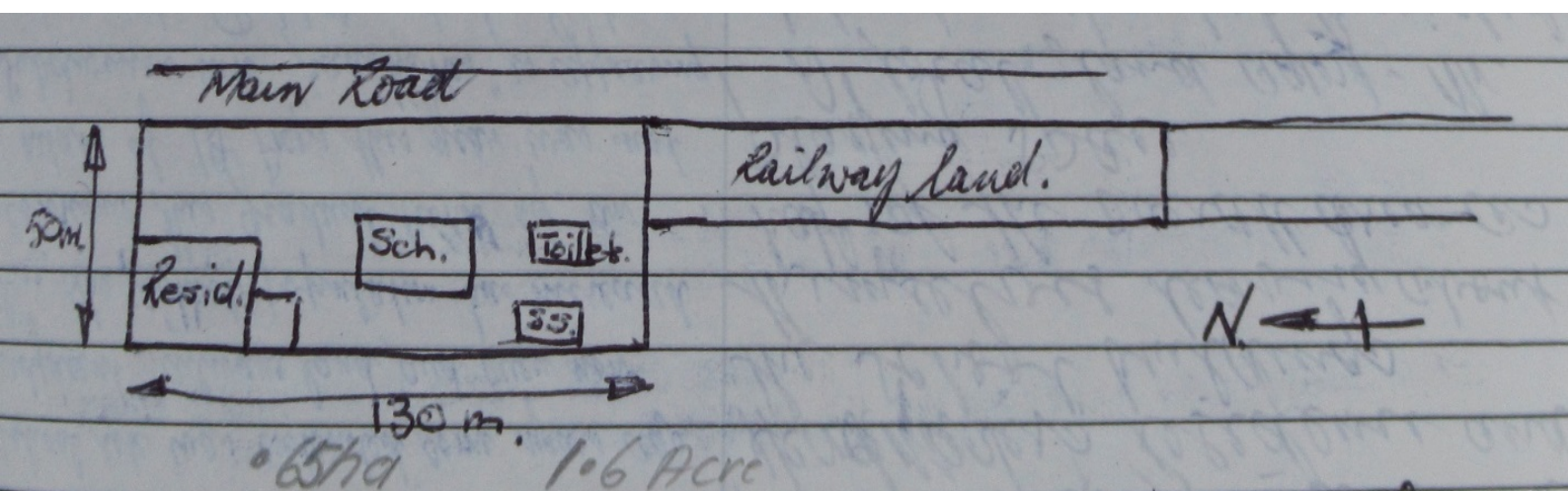
the existing school boundaries were. However, the Department left that to the Crown Solicitor to resolve. The Education Department wished to purchase an additional 0.6 acres of land along the east boundary of the school from the Railways Department as another play area for the children. The land had been part of the now defunct Clarkefield-Lancefield railway line. Although the railway was closed to traffic, the Railways Department did not yet have the authority to dismantle the line and dispose of the land.

In January 1962, Head Teacher Graham Collacott observed that the site had been cleared and was now "used solely as a breeding ground for snakes," but it remained unavailable for purchase for another three years. Finally, on 20 May 1965, the land was purchased from the Railways Department for £50.



In 1962, a new light timber construction (LTC) classroom was erected to accommodate the increasing school population. At that time, the earlier weatherboard building was still in fair condition. Heating was provided by a slow combustion stove installed in 1953 but by the mid-1970s, fluoro lighting and gas heating had been installed.

In late 1974, the school principal, Peter McKendry, applied to purchase more land from the Railways Department to extend the school yard to the south east as the school was nearing the threshold where they were eligible for an additional classroom. At that time the school consisted of the teacher's residence, garage, two classrooms and a small number of outbuildings (Photo 7). If an additional classroom was built, it would reduce the available playing area for the children even further.



*Photo 7: Plan drawn by McKendry showing the railway land he wished to acquire for the school.*

The Public Works Department presented an unfavourable report on the land and the request was declined. Instead, the Public Works Department recommended purchasing the land to the west of the school and south of the community hall which had recently come up for purchase. The land was part of a farm owned by Vanock Pty Ltd. It seems this land was purchased by the council and is now used by the children for sporting events and physical education class.

In 2010, a new school building was erected with two new learning spaces. The old classrooms were converted into a library and performing arts complex.

Appendix B provides a partial list of repairs, maintenance and improvements made to the school during the first 100 years.

## Teacher's Residence

The original 1860s schoolhouse was converted into a teacher's residence in 1872. This was replaced in 1913 by a new construction situated in the northwest corner of the school yard where the parking lot now sits (Photos 8 and 9).

The teacher's residence was not 5-star accommodation by anyone's standards. The water tanks regularly leaked and needed repairs, though these were sometimes so slow coming that the teacher ran out of water completely. Head Teacher Garner waited three years to have a fully functioning kitchen sink, and it took at least two years for the washing troughs to be replaced. Before that, they were leaking so badly the water pooled on the floor of the washhouse and stagnated creating unsanitary conditions. During Hansen's time as Head Teacher, the bottom of the bath had rusted so badly it was unusable.

In late 1939, Head Teacher Pywell made a list of issues with the residence. They included borers and termites in the floor, leaks in the roof, damp stains on the walls and ceiling, damaged fly wire, broken window panes,

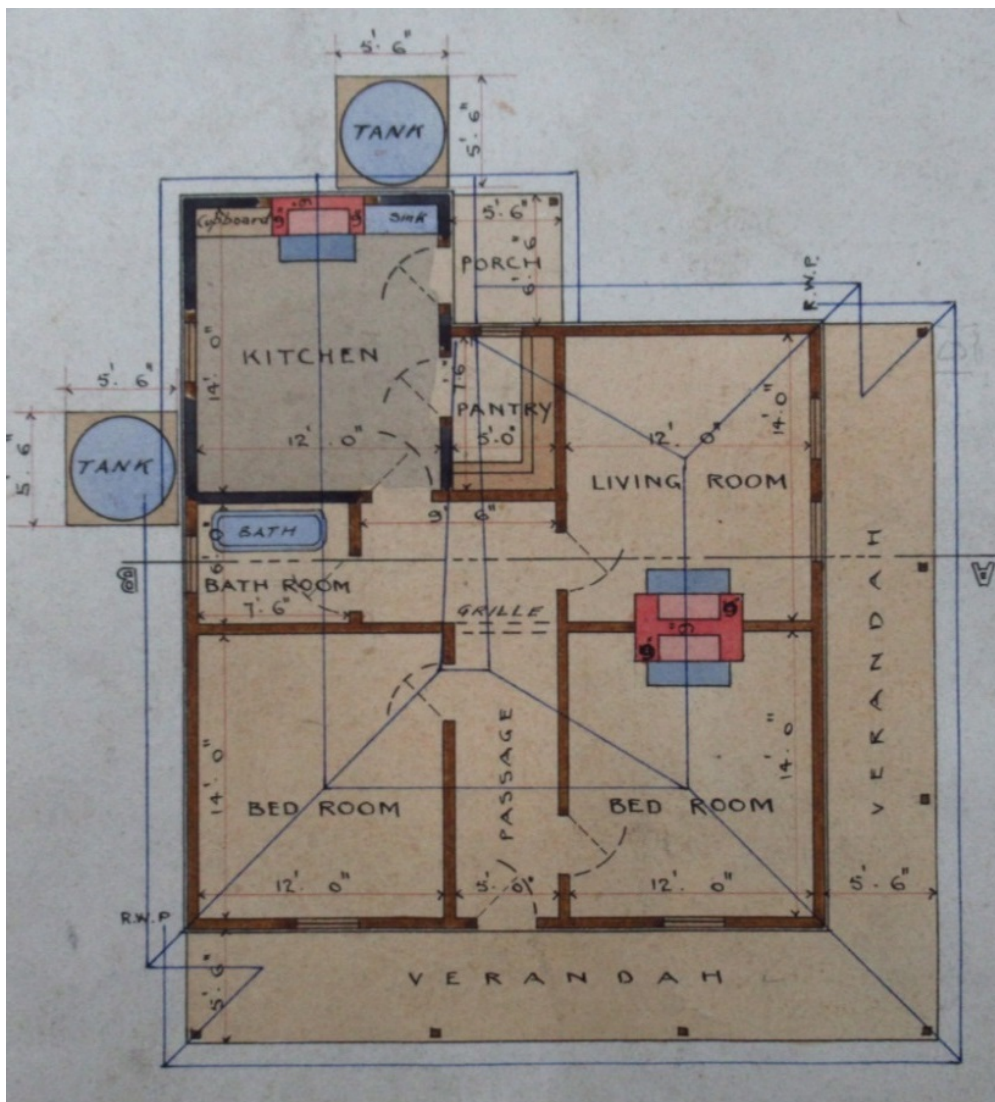
*Photo 8: Façade of teacher's residence, 1913.*



defective stove (oven would not heat), four window blinds were missing or damaged, and the yard and house site needed draining. Repairs were completed in April 1940, though by August a new list of repairs were needed. These included external repainting, a new fire door for the copper stand in the laundry, new washing troughs as the old ones had split along the bottom, more leaks in the roof (these continued to get worse over the next year while waiting for repairs), and several broken boards in the front verandah. Considering this, it is not surprising that head teachers 100 years ago were not breaking down the door to teach at Bolinda.

Although the rental cost of living at the residence was typically less than 10% of the teacher's annual salary, there were additional expenses that had to be incurred by the teacher. For example, the residence was heated by a wood-fired stove. The chimney was described as an "old fashioned build with a large opening" that consumed great quantities of wood. The wood had to be brought by train from Lancefield forest at great expense for the

*Photo 9: Plan of teacher's residence constructed in 1913.*





teacher. Head Teacher Garner requested a grate in order to save on wood though the Inspector of Works felt it was unnecessary. Regardless, the Education Department took pity on Garner and provided a basket grate.

Although the residence was not always well-maintained, a number of improvements had been made to the residence over the years. In mid-1913, during Parratt's watch, a washhouse was erected at the school residence. The wash house was an 8 ft 6 in x 8 ft 3 in structure with a lean-to roof. New fencing for the residence was authorized the following year. The fence was originally intended to be a wire fence which dismayed Head Teacher Parratt who was able to convince the Department to provide a more aesthetically pleasing picket fence.

In December 1927, the flies were particularly troublesome. In consequence, the Education Department had fly wire doors and flyscreens installed on the windows of the teacher's residence in early 1928, at a cost of £9/19/0.

Also in 1927, Norval Hansen, the new Head Teacher, came to the conclusion that he needed a garage in which to house his car while at Bolinda. The garage was estimated to cost £22 towards which the Education Department granted a subsidy of £11, the remainder to be raised locally. The garage measured 14 ft x 10 ft x 8 ft. In January 1939, George Price, Head Teacher for merely four months, drove his private car from Red Bluff to Bolinda. Upon his arrival, he realized that the garage was too short for his car to fit securely. Acting quickly, he requested that the Department fund an extension to the garage but the Department regretted it did not have the available funds. Not one to take this refusal lying down, Price and the School Committee went ahead with purchasing the necessary lumber and steel at a cost of £1/10/0 and held a working bee to extend the garage (ca. May 1939). They then requested the Department pay half of the cost of the lumber and steel. The Department remained firm in their refusal.

The back porch of the residence was enclosed in August 1928. This involved extension of the back porch 4 ft, construction of a new front wall, installation of a ledge door and two sliding sash windows, and three coats of paint. Labour and materials was estimated to come to £9/9/0. Also in mid-1928, Head Teacher Hansen informed the Education Department that the drain at the residence had sunk in the middle. This caused the water to spread out over the ground at the end of the drain causing "unhealthy conditions". To address this matter, the existing 70 ft of drain was taken up and relaid, and a 75 ft extension of the new three brick drain was installed.

In mid-1935, Head Teacher, Arthur Simpson, applied to have a sleep-out added to the residence. In a memo to the Department, he stated that “This application is made owing to the fact that for some years my wife has, by Doctor’s orders, been compelled to sleep out of doors” though he does not go into detail about his wife’s maladies. The Education Department stated that they would approve this request on the provision that Simpson agreed to a rent increase of around £2/10/0 per annum. Simpson agreed to these conditions and looked forward to the work being completed shortly.

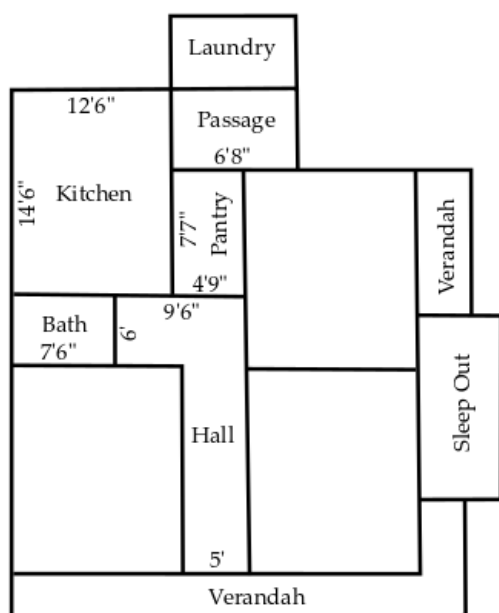
Unfortunately for Simpson and his wife, the work was placed in a queue of other similar jobs to be completed by the Public Works Department. Growing ever more impatient to have the sleep-out built, Simpson contacted the Department repeatedly to urge the work to begin. Nearly two years after its approval, the sleep-out was constructed at a cost of £59/9/0 (Photo 10). Unfortunately, due to Simpson’s apparent incompetence as a head teacher and his consequent removal, Mrs Simpson only had a year and a half to enjoy the benefits of sleeping out of doors in the fresh air of the Macedon Ranges.

Always putting his wife’s comfort first, Simpson also succeeded in getting a bath heater installed in the teacher’s residence. Simpson evidently managed to get the committee correspondent on his side. In a request to the Department, the correspondent stated that “I would like to point out the inconvenience of carrying the hot water from the washhouse through the house to the bathroom. The Master here now is a married man with a family so you can see the necessity for one.” However, apparently carrying heavy buckets of water was good enough for Matilda Garner, a woman in her 60s, for the five years before that. The request was approved and the bath heater was installed three weeks later.

A new entryway into the residence was also added during Simpson’s time as head teacher. The residence was accessed via the driveway where the ponies and horses entered and exited daily. This would turn into a quagmire during wet weather. In late 1935, Simpson requested a new gate and pathway be installed in front of the residence to enable him and his family to access the public road without having to wade through mud and water. Figure 2 shows the layout of the teacher’s residence circa 1940.







*Figure 2: Layout of the teacher's residence ca. 1940.*

Cairns was the Head Teacher at that time and the first to enjoy the new windows at the residence. A new septic toilet was installed in the residence sometime in the 1960s.

In November 1948, R. Corbell submitted an offer of £18 for the purchase of the school residence. The Public Works Department recommended that the offer be accepted. It appears this did not occur. Paul Bain was the last head teacher to live in the teacher's residence which was demolished ca. 1985.

Appendix C provides a partial list of repairs, maintenance and improvements made to the teacher's residence during the first 100 years.

## The Life of a Head Teacher

Historically, the role of a Head Teacher or Principal at Bolinda School was certainly not a glamorous one. Head Teachers were often responsible for single-handedly instructing up to 50 students between the ages of around 5 and 13. Not an easy job, one would imagine. When they weren't frantically trying to teach counting to 10 and algebra at the same time, they could be found in the out offices (outdoor toilets) emptying the toilet pans. Until a septic system was installed sometime in the 1960s, there was no sanitary pan collection service to the school so the job fell to the teachers. Some of the more ingenious head teachers were able to arrange the boys to empty the pans and the senior girls to clean the out offices.

The head teachers were also required to serve as the area's post master or mistress in addition to their usual teaching duties. The Bolinda post office (Photo 11) began operating officially at the school on 12 July 1879 with Grace Caldwell as its first postmistress. Caldwell (on 13 August 1879) requested that a post office receiving box be placed in the school building. The Department approved the request but stated that they would not bear the cost.

In the late 1800s-early 1900s, mail was delivered by rail twice daily. At least one Head Teacher found their role as post master cumbersome. Thomas Philips, Head Teacher from 1898 to 1909, complained that the postal duties interfered with his school duties. The mail was scheduled to arrive by train at 9.25am, 5 minutes before school was due to begin. The station was immediately across Mullalys Road from the school and a short walk, however, the train was sometimes late, arriving closer to 10am. As Philips was the sole teacher at the school, collecting the mail after school had begun interrupted his teaching. Philips therefore requested that the collection of mail from the train station and delivery to the school be transferred to Mrs Nora E. Matthews, the mail contractor. The Education Department had put out a call for tenders in 1896 for conveyance of the mail at a per trip rate from the Bolinda railway station to the post office but it appears from Philips' gripe that there may not have been a suitable tender submitted.

In the 1920s, the role of post master got transferred away from the head teacher and Peter Brady took over for the next 14 years. Eileen Brady, possibly Peter's daughter, succeeded Peter for another eight years. Following that, the wives of the male head teachers took on the role. The post office remained at the school until 30 July 1980. Postmaster and postmistresses are listed in Appendix D.

The head teachers at Bolinda were expected to take on all this for a lower salary than head teachers at town schools received. Interestingly, the annual pay rates for postmasters and mistresses decreased over time. In 1884, the postmistress earned £17 per annum and £18 in 1891. However, the pay dropped to £15 per annum in 1906 and further to £13 per annum in 1910. It also fell to the head teacher to provide exercise books if the parents chose not to. The head teacher was to press the matter with those parents who elected not to purchase an exercise book for their child to use, but if they refused the head teacher was required to provide the book instead. Fortunately, it seems not too many parents either knew about this or took advantage of it. It should be noted, however, that several of the local families were in straitened circumstances and it is quite possible that they simply could not afford them.



*Photo 11: Bolinda Post Office and teacher's residence, taken prior to 1967 (National Archives of Australia).*

The female teachers had it harder than the male teachers. In a frustrating but familiar display of inequality, female teachers received 25% to 30% lower pay than their male counterparts. In addition, in a school where the average attendance was less than 50 students, male head teachers were entitled to have the assistance of a work mistress whereas female teachers were not. What this implies about the expected efficiency of women versus men, I shall make no comment on.

As discussed above, head teachers lived in a residence on-site. The cost of relocating to Bolinda was paid for by the Education Department (Photo 12) but living in the residence was not free. The teachers were required to pay rental rates which were often automatically deducted from their wages. The rent was not exorbitant and came to less than 10% of their total pay. To give an example, in 1935, annual rent for the residence was £15. To compare, the salary of a female head teacher at Bolinda in 1935 was



[illegible]

Bolinda has seen 33 permanent head teachers and principals pass through its doors, as well as several temporary or relieving head teachers.

## Permanent Head Teachers/Principals

### John A. Scott (1870-1873)

There is precious little information available relating to Bolinda's first official Head Teacher, John Scott. We do know that, according to a District Inspector's 1873 report of the school, he may not have been the greatest teacher ever employed (although in fairness, it may actually have been his successor, Thomas Fairley, who was to blame). District Inspectors were expected to conduct regular inspections of schools under their jurisdiction (however this did not always occur, see Thomas Philips below). During one mid-year review, the District Inspector was clearly not impressed with what he saw. A letter from the Education Department dated 16 June 1873 gave the following criticisms:

"I have the honor to inform you<sup>2</sup> that the District Inspector reports concerning the above school that more constant supervision is required over the infants, more vigour in teaching, and the adoption of better methods, and all that punctuality is not observed.

Your attention is drawn to these matters in [illegible] by bestowing special attention on these. You may be able to make an improvement in your teaching and school management."

Other than his possible failings in teaching being recorded for posterity, Scott has disappeared into the mists of history like so many others before him.

### Thomas Brockie Fairley (1873-1874)

*Teacher ID No. 185, approximate year of registration 1863*

Thomas Fairley was also not one of Bolinda's great successes as a teacher. He was born in 1835 in Edinburgh, Scotland to William Fairley and Helen Brockie, and immigrated to Australia sometime prior to the 1860s. He married Margaret Falconer (Faulkner) in 1866 and had one child, William Thomas, born in Bulla in 1867.

Although the exact date of Fairley's appointment to Bolinda has not been found, he was at the school by August 1873 based on correspondence from that time. His wife, Margaret (Teacher ID No. 4010, approximate date of

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<sup>2</sup> letters and memos almost always began with "I have the honour to inform you" regardless of whether the news was good or bad.

registration: 1869), transferred to the school with him acting as the school's work mistress teaching needlework to the students.

The most significant event of his time at Bolinda occurred within a year of his arrival. In May 1874, Fairley expelled a boy for insubordination. This caused an uproar and a complaint was made to the Department. The Board of Advice requested that Fairley be removed. The case was investigated by the Education Department and in a letter dated 4 May 1874, it was stated:

"You were not justified in expelling a boy for insubordination. The enclosed circular 73/8 allowed exclusion in cases of immoral conduct or language and want of personal cleanliness only, while by circular 74/11, [illegible] enclosed, the power of expulsion is distinctly reserved to the minister and where a child's [sic] attendance is suspended a report must be sent forthwith to the Minister and a copy thereof forwarded to the Board of Advice."

As a result of the investigation into Fairley's conduct, it was recommended that he be transferred to a different district at the earliest possible opportunity. The opportunity arose in August 1874 and Fairley was duly shipped off to another school. Within a week, Mrs Fairley's services were also no longer required.

Fairley died in Victoria in 1924, by that time a widower.

## **Grace A. Caldwell (1874-1898)**

*Teacher ID No. 2415, approximate year of registration 1863*

Grace Caldwell holds the record for being the longest-serving head teacher at Bolinda. She was well-loved and respected within the community and was still talked of fondly decades after she had passed.

Grace Agnes Caldwell was born ca. 1846 to James Caldwell and Cath (Kate) Goodridge Lash (married August 1839, Renfrew, Scotland). Grace was likely named after her maternal grandmother, Grace Goodridge.

Caldwell was appointed in August 1874 to replace Fairley after the expulsion controversy. She had previously been employed at Williamstown School and was instructed to begin her duties at Bolinda by the 31<sup>st</sup> of the month.

After serving five years at Bolinda, Caldwell was ready to move on. She had found the workload cumbersome and was frustrated that her requests for

assistance were repeatedly denied on the basis of her gender. She was also perturbed by the reduction in her pay upon being transferred to a rural school. In order to increase her income, Caldwell sought to undertake further studies that would allow her to teach extra classes and thus have a higher salary. However, things were not so simple for a country teacher. In a letter dated 13 January 1879, Caldwell stated that:

“I bring under your notice the disadvantageous position in which all country teachers are placed who wish to attend classes for the purpose of obtaining a certificate of a higher degree, or to pass as an instructor in singing and drawing<sup>3</sup>.

Teachers and Assistants in towns have every facility afforded them for improving their position in the Department at little or no cost to themselves, whilst the country teachers are almost debarred by the great cost of railway and coach fares from attempting to proceed to higher honours.”

In her letter, Caldwell continued that she was desirous of attending lessons in order to obtain a license to teach singing but that the cost of travel prevented her. She requested the Department provide free railway passes or otherwise transfer her to an Assistant Teaching position at a town school at the same pay rate as she was on at Bolinda which would enable her to further her studies.

The Education Department responded that 1) it had no power to grant free railway passes, and 2) her request to transfer to a town school had been noted but that “no hope can be held out that she will be so appointed.” Caldwell had no option but to remain at Bolinda.

At this point, Caldwell seems to have mostly resigned herself to her fate. Having the Holmes and Scheurer boys in her classes was unlikely to have endeared Bolinda to her any further. The Scheurer brothers and their accomplices the Holmes brothers had been a thorn in Caldwell’s side for several years. Unfortunately for Caldwell, all eight Scheurer children<sup>4</sup> had come under her tutelage, as had four of the Holmes boys (Alfred<sup>5</sup>, Albert,

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<sup>3</sup> Teachers in Victoria were paid extra for teaching drawing, singing, gymnastics or military drill (Tynan 1888:224).

<sup>4</sup> Matthew (Mathias) was a Swiss immigrant who arrived in Australia ca. 1864. In 1871, he married Rosina Margaret Gugger, a Swiss servant who emigrated to Australia in 1869. They had eight children: John Frederick R. (b. 1872), Lucy Adel (b. 1873), Hannah Mary (b. 1875), Charles Edward (b. 1877), Hubert John (b. 1879), Edward Ernest (b. 1881), Matthias Samuel (b. 1883) and Alexander Walter (b. 1888).

<sup>5</sup> Alfred was born to a Bolinda farming family, to George Holmes and Mary Ann Clegg (m. 1855) who, like the Scheurers, had many children: Samuel (b. 1857), Robert Henry (b. 1864



Charles and Rupert). The boys, in particular Edward, Matthew, Hubert and Charles Schuerer along with the four Holmes boys had all been disruptive in school. In one report, it was noted that they had “for years been troublesome to [Miss Caldwell], chiefly by interfering with the younger children.” It had gotten so bad that Caldwell had to have some of the children removed from the school. For example Hubert Scheurer was accused of becoming insubordinate. Caldwell had informed his father, Matthew Scheurer, that he could either remove Hubert from the school due to his frequent impertinence towards the Head Teacher, or else she would suspend him. Hubert had also cut another boy’s hair, John Karger, with a pocket knife much to Mrs Karger’s chagrin (Photo 13). Scheurer threatened to remove all his children rather than have any inquiry into the problem, but unfortunately for Caldwell, he went back on his word and his other children returned to the school.

Charles Scheurer also left the school before receiving his certificate. He had been admonished for not paying attention to the sewing mistress, and the District Inspector at the time advised Caldwell to suspend Charles if his behavior did not improve. Charles left the school soon after. There was clearly animosity between the Scheurer parents and the teachers at the school. Mr Scheurer had referred to Miss Caldwell as a “damned liar” and Mrs Scheurer had previously called the work mistress a liar.

Edward and Matthew Scheurer were also recorded as having given trouble in the past.

The straw that broke the camel’s back for the Scheurer family was that in late 1893, Caldwell suspended Edward Scheurer for repeated acts of misconduct during recess. Edward’s father complained to the Department about his son’s suspension, stating that Edward had been unfairly accused adding that Caldwell had threatened to expel the boy, a claim that Caldwell refuted.

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or 1871, depending on sources), Amelia Jane (b. 1866), Alice (b. 1868), Emily Mary (b. 1873), Frances Elizabeth (b. 1874), Edward Rupert (b. 1876), Charles Herbert (b. 1877), and Alfred James Andrew (b. 1879 or 1880). Most of the children were born in the Havelock, Lancefield and Bolinda areas.

well  
Mrs Karger  
Monegetta

Mrs Caldwell  
I now send these  
few lines to inform  
you about Hubert  
Scheurer, cutting John  
hair. They cut it as  
close as they could  
with a pocket knife  
and I hope it will  
not happen again  
  
I remain  
Yours Truly  
Mrs Karger

Photo 13: Letter from Mrs Karger regarding the cutting of her son's hair.

The Department opened an investigation into the issue of Edward's suspension. It was found that the two boys, Edward Scheurer and Alfred Holmes, were repeatedly misbehaving. Edward's and Alfred's crimes included pushing some of the younger children into a water hole, pushing John Karger out of a tree and dragging him along the ground, kicking Emily Tockwell in the leg and thrusting her pen into her lip (Photo 14), pulling up bricks from the out office, and urinating around the inside walls, floor and seat of the out office on several occasions. Peace reigned in the playground when Alfred and Edward were absent during a measles outbreak but mischief ensued upon the boys' return.

Caldwell had ordered Edward to apologise for his poor behaviour and write a letter promising to behave better in future. If he failed to do so, he would be suspended from school. Edward's father felt that Edward was being falsely accused and forbade his son from writing the letter. Caldwell did

not tell the father about "the nuisance repeatedly committed in the out office by the two boys" out of "a natural feeling of delicacy." The investigator described Edward as a "stubborn untruthful boy" and felt sure that Mr Scheurer would have felt differently if he had known the full extent of Edward's misbehavior.

In the end, the Department determined that Caldwell was justified in suspending the boy, and that he could not return to school until he provided "a written promise that he will behave better in future." Whether he provided the required promise has not been recorded in the Education Department's correspondence files.

Caldwell took a different approach to the problem with Alfred Holmes. Caldwell had attempted to avoid suspending Alfred on account of his family's "recent troubles" (i.e. the recent death of George Holmes, his father) and that he would soon be leaving the school anyway. In a letter to Alfred's older sister, Alice, Miss Caldwell reported:

"I kept him in yesterday afternoon for behaving in a rude manner in

*Photo 14: Emily Tockwell's statement regarding her mistreatment by Edward Scheurer.*

I, Emily Tockwell, in 5<sup>th</sup> class, 13 years of age,  
remember Edward Scheurer kicked me on  
the leg because we put the desks in front him.  
He kicked me on & out - on the leg. Have  
not seen him kick any one else - Sure it was  
not an accident. He stuck a pen in my  
lip because I had marked a mistake  
in his exercise. He pushed the pen into me.  
It was no accident. He intended to prick  
me with the pen. Fanny Edwards saw it  
she has left school since.  
Emily Tockwell

the class and left without permission. It now rests entirely with yourselves whether I have to suspend him or not.

If he does not return there is no need to take any action. If he does return I have no choice but to suspend him as it is the second time he has acted in a similar way this year."

Evidently, Mrs Holmes chose to remove Alfred rather than have him suspended and that was the end of his time at Bolinda School. Caldwell told Holmes' sister that "You would be astonished if you knew all the impertinence he has given."

So what became of Alfred and the Scheurer boys after their unceremonious departures?

After leaving school, Edward and Charles Scheurer worked as labourers residing in Riddells Creek. Showing that there is someone for everyone, Charles married Elizabeth Louisa Humphries in 1904 and Edward married Maria McCarten in 1907. Edward and Maria later moved to Richmond area where Edward took up work as a railway employee. Charles and Elizabeth moved to Lancefield Junction (Clarkefield) and Charles also began working for the railways. Edward does not appear to have had any children, though, like their parents before them, Charles and Elizabeth had eight children: Ruby Rosina (b. 1905), Walter John (b. 1907), Albert Charles (b. 1910), Frederick James (b. 1911), Mary Olive (b. 1914), Robert Arthur (b. 1916), Allan Willie (b. 1920) and Norman Humphries (b. 1923). Edward died in 1943 and Charles died 11 years later.

Very little information could be gleaned regarding Hubert Scheurer's movements after leaving school.

Alfred Holmes appears to have gotten a girl pregnant when he left school which would have been scandalous at that time. Evelyn Margaret Holmes was born to Alfred and Mary Ann Murdoch in 1909. Within a few years Alfred was living with Mary Ellen Welsh. Although they did not officially marry until 1924, Alfred and Mary were recorded as living together in Brunswick in the electoral rolls as early as 1915 with Mary Ellen giving her surname as Holmes. At that time Alfred was working as a railway employee and Mary Ellen was involved in taking care of the home. By 1919, Alfred began work as a cable layer, in which he continued until his death in 1958. He lived with Mary Ellen in North Fitzroy for most of his life, as well as for a short time in the mid-1930s with Evelyn, his apparently illegitimate daughter.

In December 1897, Caldwell was ready to try something new. She requested a transfer to Riddells Creek School, and in August of the following year, her request was approved. Mary Rubie was sent to Bolinda to take temporary charge of the school.

On 30 August 1898, a farewell presentation was held at the school. It was attended by almost 100 residents of Bolinda, Riddells Creek and Romsey. Caldwell was presented with a gold watch which had been suitably inscribed, a travelling rug and a purse as a “token of the affection and good-will of the people amongst whom she has lived so long.” The presentation was accompanied by the following address (*Williamstown Chronicle* 1898:3):

“During the many years you have been at Bolinda you have endeared yourself to all those with whom you have come in contact, and your gentle Christian character and womanly virtues will not be readily effaced from the minds of those who have received instruction from you.

We shall miss you very much, but sincerely wish you every happiness and blessing in the years to come.”

She also received a monogrammed gold locket on behalf of her former students, who likely would also miss her “womanly virtues”.

Caldwell remained at Riddells Creek State School until her retirement in 1906. Her last day teaching was on 6 July and a farewell meeting was held in her honour that evening. A collection was arranged for friends and well-wishers from the district to donate money to purchase “suitable momentos” for Caldwell. The Bolinda Hall was decorated for the event and refreshments were provided by local women. The evening had a large attendance and it was clear that Caldwell was well respected by former pupils and neighbours. *The Sunbury News* (7 July 1906) reported that Mr J. T. Connors initial address went as follows:

“[The attendees] were met to testify their appreciation of Miss Caldwell, whose long residence in the Riddell and Bolinda district, and her connection with every agency having for its object the betterment of the public weal, has made her name a household word throughout the district. As a teacher an eloquent testimony to her rich and varied gifts was the presence of so many old pupils (now heads of families), assembled to pay their tributes of respect for the care and interest taken in their tuition, which is the more appreciated when viewed and reflected upon in the light of a grown-

up experience. To the younger scholars she endeared herself by discarding the rigid methods of school discipline, and appealing instead to the better side of her pupil's nature, and never missing an opportunity of enlisting their best exertions by making school work congenial to their many tastes and ambitions. As a citizen, Miss Caldwell was ideal, and her connection with church and social affairs had a very marked influence for good upon those who came within the sphere of its influence."

The money collected was used to purchase a set of furs and muff for Caldwell. In addition, she was presented with a handsomely bound volume of Tennyson's poems from her former students (Photo 15).

Caldwell died on 12 November 1910 in Romsey and is buried in Williamstown Cemetery.

## **Thomas Philips (1898-1909)**

*Teacher ID No. 10899, approximate year of registration 1886*

In August 1898, Thomas Philips was appointed the new Head Teacher following Caldwell's transfer to Riddells Creek School. He had previously been employed teaching part-time at Bolinda South (now Clarkefield) and part-time at Wildwood Schools.

In a news article announcing his arrival at Bolinda School, Philips was described as holding a trained teacher's certificate, a licence to teach singing, and was qualified to teach drill and gymnastics (*Sunbury News* 1900:2). In 1909, he reported his results of the examination for Junior Public wherein he passed English, History, Arithmetic, and Geography. He was also going on to study Latin, Algebra and Geometry.

Thomas Philips was a total contrast to Grace Caldwell. He does not appear to have been quite the upstanding citizen. In the correspondence files relating to Philips, it is clear that he had concerns over money. He was keen to receive a promotion or pay rise, and on several occasions he wrote to the Department on these grounds but was repeatedly denied. In 1899/1900, his want for money caused him to commit fraud through his duties as postmaster. Earlier in the year, he had requested that his postal duties be transferred elsewhere as they were interfering with his school duties. The Education Department denied his request. Whether out of a form of revenge for being denied his request, or whether it was simple greed, Philips committed postal fraud.



## VALEDICTORY TO MISS CALDWELL

Our Riddell correspondent writes:—When it became known that Miss Caldwell, head teacher of the Riddell State School for the last ten years, was severing her connection with the department after 39 years' service, a wish was generally expressed that some public recognition should be made of her varied and elevated services during her connection with the teaching profession, over twenty five years of which had been spent between the Riddell and Bolinda schools. To this end a meeting was held and formal arrangements made to carry into effect the expressed wish of all sections of the community. The unpalatable features of canvassing were discarded, and the matter of donating was left to the voluntary wishes of Miss Caldwell's friends and wellwishers.

Friday last closed Miss Caldwell's teaching career, and the same evening was chosen for the purposes of a farewell social and presentation to her as a befitting finale to a long and honorable connection with district institutions apart from school work.

A representative committee was formed to carry the district wish respecting Miss Caldwell's departure into effect, viz., Lord Chas. Fitzgerald, Messrs. Amess, Fisher, A. Sutherland, Cruddas, Murphy, Cr. Bolitho, Finningan, Cr. Watson, W. Richardson, Overson, Humphrey, and O'Connor. Mr. T. J. Connor and Mr. J. Overson were elected secretary and treasurer respectively.

In order that every penny collected should be devoted to the purchase of suitable mementoes, all expenses excepting postage were defrayed by the committee, and the refreshments by the district ladies. The hall was suitably decorated also by lady friends, and as anticipated its seating accommodation was greatly taxed for the evening's entertainment. Mr. T. J. Connor, secretary to the movement, occupied the chair, and in opening said there was no need to explain the object of such a large attendance. They were met to

large attendance. They were met to testify their appreciation of Miss Caldwell, whose long residence in the Riddell and Bolinda district, and her connection with every agency having for its object the betterment of the public weal, has made her name a household word throughout the district. As a teacher an eloquent testimony to her rich and varied gifts was the presence of so many old pupils (now heads of families), assembled to pay their tributes of respect for the care and interest taken in their tuition, which is the more appreciated when viewed and reflected upon in the light of a grown-up experience. To the younger scholars she endeared herself by discarding the rigid methods of school discipline, and appealing instead to the better side of her pupil's nature, and never missing an opportunity of enlisting their best exertions by making school work congenial to their many tastes and ambitions. As a citizen Miss Caldwell was ideal, and her connection with church and social affairs had a very marked influence for good upon those who came within the sphere of its influence. It would be impossible to assess the value of Miss Caldwell's work as a teacher and citizen, and backed up as it is by an irreproachable Christian character, its influence will be seen and noted in the lives of those who had the good fortune to feel her ministering care. He enjoined to publicly thank her on behalf of district friends present and pupils past for services rendered, and to wish her in the eventide of life good health to enjoy her well earned rest. (Applause).

Apologies accompanied by unstinted praises of Miss Caldwell's personal worth were received from His Honor Judge Chomley, Mr. and Mrs. Leslie, Mr. and Mrs. T. D. Edwards, Mr. and Mrs. Missen, the Rev. and Mrs. Steek, Mr. Gibson, sen., and family, and many other district friends.

Mr. P. T. Murphy desired to join in eulogising Miss Caldwell's many features of public usefulness. He had known her for many years, and to know her was to simply become cognisant of her goodness. Coming here the happy possessor of the goodwill and esteem of the Bolinda residents, where she had

Photo 15: Newspaper article recalling Caldwell's send off (Sunbury News 1906).

the Boliada residents, where she had taught for so many years, was a happy augury for meriting their esteem; and now she retires proud in the consciousness of having served her day and generation well, and deservedly receives to-night their public recognition of a life's duty well and faithfully accomplished. He had pleasure in wishing her a long life and unclouded enjoyment of a well deserved rest.

Mr. Fisher said there were many compliments that could be paid to Miss Caldwell that that lady might view as flattery, as modest minds often do. He could however do one thing that his conscience dictated as a duty, and that was to publicly, on behalf of Mrs. Fisher and himself, thank Miss Caldwell for her unremitting care exercised in the tuition of their children, and for her anxious oversight during the recreation hours. The parents of the other children joined him in this expression of thanks, for Miss Caldwell was too broadminded to make any distinctions amongst the pupils either in or out of school hours. He was proud to enjoy Miss Caldwell's friendship, and amongst her many good qualities in phase of character, which indicated a charming nobility of ideal, was a positive aversion to adverse criticism. Expressions of praise were numerous and voluntary, but hostile criticism never. Miss Caldwell's relations with the Board of Advice were extremely cordial, and during his four years' connection with it not a single reflection on Miss Caldwell's managerial ability was made, which spoke volumes for her intelligent oversight. He was in strict accord with the remarks of previous speakers, and wished him every happiness and

comfort in her new home.

Lord Charles Fitzgerald was pleased that the people of the district had given Miss Caldwell this voluntary expression of goodwill and esteem. He had known Miss Caldwell for many years, and had found her one whom it was a pleasure and honor to know. Socially, and professionally, she was an ornament to society and the department she was connected with. He wished her health and every facility for enjoying her well

and every facility for enjoying her well earned rest.

The Rev. Mr. Rowe said he was present to pay his mark of respect to so estimable a lady. He looked upon Miss Caldwell as a Christian lady and a shining light to all around. Her good work in the church and other spheres of usefulness would remain and be reflected in the lives of those whom she had influenced. To him she had been a tower of assistance in his ministerial duties, and her cheery manner an important incentive to Christian endeavor. He expressed the Rev. Mr. Meek's heartfelt thanks for innumerable acts of kindness spread over a long period of years, and tendered on his behalf a sincere wish that Miss Caldwell would be spared with lengths of days and good health to enjoy respite from a long life of usefulness.

The chairman here explained that the money collected had been expended on the purchase of a set of furs and muff for presentation to Miss Caldwell as a slight memento to remember her many district friends, who hoped she would live long to wear them, and assured her that the purchase money comprised voluntary subscriptions, not one penny being solicited.

Lady Charles Fitzgerald and Mrs. J. H. B. Amess decorated Miss Caldwell with the furs and muff to the accompaniment of tremendous applause.

Mr. A. W. Sutherland, in responding on behalf of Miss Caldwell, thanked her many friends for their expressions of esteem and goodwill. The knowledge that her humble efforts to do her duty had met with their approval engendered a genuine satisfaction. She thanked them for their handsome present, which would be prized as a bond between her and her many friends in years to come. She hoped to visit Riddell at frequent intervals and rehearse the happy memories and reminiscences of the past. (Applause).

Little Eva Donnelly here presented Miss Caldwell on behalf of her late scholars with a handsomely bound volume of Tennyson's poems.

Interspersed between the speeches were the following items:—Pianoforte solo Mr. Scriven; humorous reading Mr. T. J. Connor; song 'My Sweet-



Mr. T. J. Connor; song 'My Sweet-heart When a Boy' Mr. A. Sutherland, song 'The Old Green Isle' Miss Lynda Sutherland; song 'They All Love Jack' Rev. W. Rowe; song 'Ye Banks and Braes' Misses Wyatt and Hart; song 'My Irish Molly' Master Tom Smith; humorous reading Mr. T. J. Connor; song 'Doreen' Rev. W. Rowe; song 'Sisters' Master Tom Smith.

Mr. Scriven, of Gisborne, acted as accompanist in his usually finished style, excepting Master Tom Smith's items, which were accompanied by Miss Mani Smith. After a sumptuous repast prepared by lady friends had been partaken of, three ringing cheers were given for Miss Caldwell. Mr. Connor tendered a vote of thanks to Miss Mani Smith and Mr. Scriven.

The Rev. W. Rowe proposed the chairman in felicitous terms, after which Auld Lang Syne and the National Anthem closed an exceptionally pleasant evening.

Miss Farrell, of Gisborne, has been appointed acting head teacher here, pending the arrival of Mr. C. W. Phillips, from Rosedale, who succeeds Miss Caldwell.

*Photo 15 (continued)*

The details are as follows. In June 1899, Philips, in his position as Post Master, cashed a postal note for 7 shillings 6 pence (7/6). He then contacted the Controller of Money Orders at the General Post Office Melbourne requesting that the Controller remit the 7/6. Although Philips should not have cashed the postal note as his office was not a Money Order Office, the Controller mailed the remittance to Philips via registered post. Philips claimed that he did not receive the money. After much back and forth between Philips and the Controller, the Controller wrote to Philips instructing him to apply for a duplicate note if the original did not turn up within six months. He would then be paid 7/6 for the duplicate note. Philips submitted the duplicate postal note as requested, as well as submitting the original note thereby attempting to obtain the 7/6 twice. The Controller contacted the Deputy Postmaster General about the fraud and an investigation was opened.

Horatio McWilliams, a detective attached to the Postal Department in Melbourne, visited Philips at the school. When confronted about the fraud, Philips reportedly stated “yes, I knew I was doing wrong and I deserve to be punished.” McWilliams also found money was missing from the Post Office. Phillips was suspended from duty (in July 1900) and charged before the Public Service Board with misconduct for:

- (1) “Having endeavoured to obtain the sum of 7s.6d. from the Post Office and Telegraph Department in a fraudulent manner: and
- (2) Being short in his advances (Post Office) to the amount of £3.19.9½”

Evidence was given against Philips by James Ryan, the Controller of Money Orders at the General Post Office Melbourne, Patrick Egan, a Messenger employed at the General Post Office Melbourne, John Haley, a Mail Officer employed in the Registration Branch at the General Post Office Melbourne, John Heaney, a Clerk in the Cashier’s Office, and Horatio McWilliams (see Appendix E).

Incredibly, considering the evidence against him and his own admission of guilt, Philips was acquitted. He was instructed to resume his post as Head Teacher and was cautioned “not to give any cause for a similar complaint in future.” He returned to Bolinda School on 6 August 1900.

Philips desire for money affected other aspects of his life as well. In April 1902, Philips requested three days holiday on account of his impending marriage. He had been informed by a colleague that this was the standard allocation of holidays in these situations. The Department denied his request and stated that he would be permitted the afternoon off for his

wedding but without pay. Rather than lose an afternoon's pay, Philips decided to work on the day of his marriage. This was apparently an unusual approach to take as the Department deducted his pay for that day anyway. The issue was later resolved though there is no record of how his new wife felt about the situation.

In September 1904, Philips attempted to organize an exchange with Miss Skerritt, the Head Teacher of Langwarrin State School No. 2961. The desire for the exchange was mutual. The Education Department declined the application as the schools were not in the same class.

Philips attempted to introduce new subjects to be taught at the school. For example, in 1907 he sought permission to teach the Science of Agriculture as part of the school curriculum. He stated that he had rented a quarter of an acre from the Railway Department suitable for that purpose. It was not recorded whether this request was denied or accepted. In 1908 he submitted a request to teach Gardening in place of Brush Work as a "manual training occupation". This request was denied and instructions were given by the Department that all subsequent requests of that kind were to be denied.

During his early years at Bolinda, Philips had earned several good reports on his performance as Head Teacher, receiving comments such as "An earnest, good teacher, having the interest of the school at heart" (25 April 1899), "Earnest & reliable, is conducting the school very well" (28 June 1901), and "Painstaking & reliable; well satisfied with the condition of his school" (20 September 1901). However, by the end of his time at the school his reviews had gone downhill. In June 1908, Philips received a poor report from the District Inspector. In an attempt to address the deficiencies noted, he reported that he drew up a new timetable "on the lines laid down by the inspector", taught the children a kindergarten song, commenced a kindergarten game, placed a scraper and rough mat at the front door, and removed the flags that had been flying at the school. The Department responded that this was unsatisfactory and that Philips needed to more thoroughly peruse the Inspector's report and report back on how he was addressing each and every fault.

Within a week of receiving this response, Philips had again attempted to remedy his failings. In his own words, he took the following steps:

"Organization:- A new time table has been drawn up based on the lines laid down by the Dist. Inspector. Classes are grouped alternately in Read., Gram., & Geo. to enable the teacher to take one good oral

lesson during every half-hour. Monitors are being trained in simple methods of teaching. Arith. is so arranged that half hour lessons are given one in the morning and one in the afternoon.

M. Arith. is taken at the beginning of each Arith. lesson. Classes I, II, III are combined for Nature Study and two half-hour lessons are given. Figures are taught with writing and number work. B. Boards are now cleaned at the close of each day's work. A column for Results is arranged for in the Work Programme.

Instruction:- The scheme of Reading lesson adopted. Improved organization and grouping of classes allows for more class teaching on the part of H.T. Monitors are being trained in simple methods teaching. Arith. is corrected during the Arith. period. B. Board is used more freely and papers pinned to B.B. are abolished.

Kindergarten games and action songs are adopted to brighten the juniors. I have adopted the phonic method to obtain clear and distinct utterance.

Discipline:- The dull tone is being remedied by preparation of lessons at home, by more class teaching and more questioning. The order "Dress Feet" is used to get the ideal position for sitting at the desk and I take Class Drill and Physical Exercises at changes oftener than Singing.

The notes on P6 of the register with reference to maintenance acct., last year's rolls, drawer, teacher's desk, juniors, conveyance returns, singing, have been noted and are receiving strict attention."

Whether these changes were sufficient or not, we shall never know. Circa March 1909, Philips received notice that he would be transferring to Dennington State School No. 182 during the Easter vacation. Apparently still reeling from his bad review the previous year "when everything was wrong", he requested that the District Inspector examine the school prior to the Easter holidays as "I am very anxious to learn if there is any improvement because if there is none the sooner I get out of the Ed. Dept. the better for myself." The day after he submitted the letter, he again wrote to the Education Department pushing for a visit by the District Inspector and stated "The reason I am so anxious for a visit is that last report was the worst report I ever got since I have been teaching." Regrettably, the District Inspector was not available to visit before Philips' departure so we shall never know if he was able to redeem himself in the teaching world.

The position at Dennington was apparently a hot commodity in 1909. The head teacher at Clemenston State School No. 2872, John Roe, wished to exchange positions with Philip – Roe to take Philip's impending position at Dennington and Philips to take Roe's current position at Clemenston. It seems Roe's wife's health was suffering greatly due to the "severity of the climate and, to some extent, owing to the uncongenial surroundings." Mrs Roe had been diagnosed as "neurotic" and she suffered from "acute hysteria and mental aberration." Roe had family at Dennington and he thought that the change of scenery and proximity of kindly relatives would aid his wife's recovery. Philips, however, was unmoved by Roe's plight and refused the exchange.

Shortly after his arrival at Bolinda in 1898, Philips had sought and was granted permission to have the stables he had erected at his previous school removed and erected at Bolinda. Now that he was leaving, he requested and was granted permission to take his beloved stables with him to his next appointment, provided he left the site clear and level.

Philips left for Dennington State School and was replaced at Bolinda by Jane Davis, Temporary Head Teacher. Jane Davis transferred to Bolinda from Maindample School No. 1514, beginning duties there on 19 April 1909. She remained at the school for six months before leaving Bolinda on 5 October 1909.

### **Arthur McLeish Parratt (1909-1914)**

*Teacher ID No. 13181, approximate year of registration 1893*

Arthur McLeish Parratt was born ca. 1876 to Alfred Parratt and Kate Sarah Welton.

1909 was a big year for Arthur Parratt. He married his love Emily Elizabeth Price and he began his 5-year stint at Bolinda School. Parratt (Photo 16) began work at Bolinda on 4 October having been transferred from Birchip School No. 2692. Although other Head Teachers were recorded as working full days as soon as they arrived, Parratt does not appear to have been keen to begin work immediately. In a letter dated 29 December 1909, Jane Davis, temporary Head Teacher stated "I have the honour to state in reference to your communication stating that Mr. Parratt took charge of the Bolinda School on Monday the 4<sup>th</sup> October, - that he came into this school on that morning for a very short time and afterward proceeded to his lodgings. He returned during the afternoon meeting and remained a while again. I was quite prepared to have given Mr. Parratt charge on his





*Photo 16: Class of 1912, Mr Parratt at back left (Reid 1992:178).*

arrival on the Monday morning had he been willing to take same. I had to finish my packing after being relieved on Tuesday morning so was not able to travel till Wednesday."

During his time at Bolinda, Parratt undertook additional training and received his Certificate of Physical Training from Geelong (January 1911) and Certificate in Swimming and Life Saving (April 1914).

According to oral testimony provided in a history of Bolinda School prepared by former Principal Keith Jenkins, Parratt was a strict disciplinarian who firmly believed in corporal punishment. One former student, Mary Heath, recalled that she was required to push the Parratt's baby, Jean, born in 1910, in the pram until she fell asleep. Mary lamented that a lot of time was taken out of her studies for this task.

Parratt left at the end of 1914 as he had taken a position at a larger school, Maffra State School No. 861 (*The Romsey Examiner* 1914:3) (Photo 17). According to *The Maffra Spectator* (1914:3), Mr Parratt was largely responsible for ensuring the construction of the Bolinda Mechanics Institute (now the Bolinda Hall next to the school, constructed ca. 1912) and library, however articles written about the history of the hall do not mention Parratt as having played a major part in its development. It is quite possible that he was trying to big note himself in his new community.

Parratt was succeeded by Mr Jamieson. Parratt died in 1958.

## **William Fordyce Jamieson (1914-1915)**

*Teacher ID No. 6437, approximate year of registration 1874*

W.F. Jamieson was born in 1855 in Emerald Hill, to Elizabeth and Sholto Gardner Jamieson. He began his teaching career in August 1874.

In 1882, he married Mary Elizabeth Harvey with whom he had six children: Lilian Elizabeth (b. 1883), Elsie Violet (b. 1885), Daisy Alice (b. 1888), Flor Rose (b. 1889, died in infancy), Ruby Myrtle (b. 1891, died in infancy), and Charles William (b. 1896).

In 1914, he was working as an assistant head teacher at Richmond Primary School (No. 2084) when he received notice that he would be transferred to Bolinda School. It was noted that "Mr Jamieson was recorded for transfer in the public interest on account of his weakness as an assistant in a large school. He has been app[ointed] to No. 1070 Bolinda and the position at Richmond filled by the transfer of a teacher with a good record."

In August, Jamieson presented his reasons for wishing to decline the transfer. He put forward that:

"It is my intention to retire in about fourteen months, as I shall then reach the age of 60 years. I have been in the service for 40 years, and all that time, except the past four years and four months, has been in country schools.

Since I have been living in St. Kilda, I have bought a home through the help of a Building Society. My daughter and son are employed in business in Melbourne, and, of course, live with their parents.

I should also feel great regret at having to sever my connection with the St. Kilda Presbyterian Church of which I am an Elder. I also have charge of the Senior Division of the Sunday School, and would be very sorry to give up that duty.

In Richmond, for the past three years, I have had command of a company of Senior Cadets. I hold the rank of Captain.

I should like to remain in charge of my present class until the end of this year, as I shall then prove my teaching has been successful."

## VALEDICTORY.

Mr Parratt, who has recently been appointed head teacher of the Maffra State school, was, with Mrs Parratt, entertained by the residents of Bolinda. A report of this ceremony is as follows:—

On Friday evening, December 4th, a social was held in the Bolinda Mechanics' Institute, when a large gathering of the people of the district assembled for the purpose of bidding farewell to Mr and Mrs Parratt, who have resided there for the past five years.

The chairman, Mr F Clarke, spoke eloquently of the guest of the evening, referring to his successful career as teacher of the Bolinda school. He had gained the approbation of the inspector of schools, and also of the parents of the children. They were very sorry that he was leaving them, but they were also glad that the cause of his leaving was his promotion to a larger school at Maffra. Mr Clarke then stated that Mr Parratt had been an energetic secretary of the hall, which was built principally through his efforts. He concluded by handing to Mr Parratt a gold watch, and to Mrs Parratt a set of carvers.

One of the schoolboys (Master Edward Trethowan) then made a presentation of three silver serviette rings for Mr and Mrs Parratt and their little daughter.

Mr P Brady also made many well deserved complimentary remarks about Mr Parratt's skill as a teacher, his untiring energy in getting the Mechanics' Institute and library established, and the building completed, and his kindly sympathy and friendship as a neighbor. Both speakers referred to Mrs Parratt's courtesy as postmistress, and her many sterling qualities as a resident of the district.

Mr J O'Connor, on behalf of the people of Monegeetta, also praised Mr and Mrs Parratt, and expressed his sorrow at their departure.

The speakers, in bidding farewell to Mr Parratt, added a word of welcome to Mr Jamieson, his successor.

When Mr Parratt rose to reply he had to wait for some time until the applause

ceased. In a very feeling speech he referred to the friendship which existed between his family and the people of Bolinda. This friendship he valued so much, and hoped to retain wherever he went. If he had been asked what he would like as a present from his friends in Bolinda he would have said a gold watch. Well, now he had the gold watch, and he would prize it very greatly; but he valued still more the friendship of the Bolinda people. In Maffra or anywhere else he would always be glad to welcome anyone from Bolinda. He also returned thanks on behalf of Mrs Parratt, who was ill, and not able to come to Bolinda that night. This was a great disappointment to her, as she had anticipated being there that evening.

Mr Jamieson returned thanks for the welcome accorded to him, and said he had been in many schools, but in none in which the children were so well advanced in the work of their classes, or in which the organisation was so good as the Bolinda school. He could therefore state that Mr Parratt was an excellent teacher.

After the presentation a very enjoyable supper was provided by the ladies, after which dancing was indulged in.—Romsey "Examiner."

Photo 17: Newspaper article recounting Mr Parratt's send off (Maffra Spectator 1914:3).

The Department was unmoved by Jamieson's pleas and continued on with the transfer.

By September, Jamieson was trying another approach to avoid being transferred back to a country school. He argued that his wife "has been suffering from Neuritis and Rheumatism for the past two years. At present she is unable to do any domestic work, so we are employing a housekeeper who manages all the household matters. My absence from home would greatly retard my wife's recovery." Instead, he requested that he be transferred to an assistant head teacher position in one of the suburban schools. Again, his request was rejected. The Department's response was that "Mr Jamieson cannot be given another position as asst. The reason for his transfer is his failure to do satisfactory work in such a position." The transfer to Bolinda went ahead and Mr Jamieson began at his new position on 28 September 1914.

In mid-1915, Jamieson received a negative review from the District Inspector. Jamieson was criticized for not following the programme for Rural Schools as required. In response he assured the Department that he "at once began the 8<sup>th</sup> grade History for all the grades from 5<sup>th</sup> grade to 8<sup>th</sup> grade inclusive, and I also adopted the combined course of Geography for 5<sup>th</sup> grade and 6<sup>th</sup> grade."

As anticipated, in late 1915, Jamieson decided to retire as he had reached the age of 60 years, although *The Romsey Examiner* reported his departure as being due to "unfortunate family reasons" (*The Romsey Examiner* 1915:2). His final day at the school was on 17 November 1915, after which Pauline Louisa Newington (ID 15402, year of registration 1906), the relieving teacher, took charge. Newington had been transferred to Bolinda from Ryan's Creek State School (No. 2130). She remained at the school for only one month and departed on 17 December 1915.

By the time of his retirement, Jamieson had been in service with the Education Department for 41 years. His average income was £230 and on his retirement he received a pension of £153/6/8. He passed away on 16 February 1928 at a private hospital in Elsternwick.

## **Reginald Coles (1916-1926)**

*Teacher ID No. 15653, approximate year of registration 1906*

Reginald Coles was born ca. 1885 in Clifton Hill, Victoria to Colin Campbell Coles and Alice Hubberts. There is very little correspondence relating to Cole and his time at Bolinda. However, there is a record that he received a pass in the theory and practical components of Musical Theory from Tonic Sol-Fa College in the summer of 1925.

In early 1927, Coles was transferred to Tarnagulla School No. 1023 to serve as Head Teacher. Alberta V. Johnson took over as Temporary Head Teacher on Coles' departure. Johnson was previously at Tutye South School No. 4022, and began working at Bolinda on 25 January 1927.

## **Norval August Hansen (1927-1929)**

*Teacher ID No. 20874, approximate year of registration 1918*

Norval Hansen was born ca. 1901/1902 in Williamstown, Victoria to Katherine Hay Band and Auguste Hansen. He married Rita Florence Coyte in 1924.

Hansen was transferred from Digby State School to Bolinda State School, beginning duty on 24 June 1927. Hansen remained at Bolinda for over two years. Like Coles before him, very little information remains regarding Hansen's time as Head Teacher, though there are several requests for repairs and maintenance.

Hansen was transferred to Sunshine State School No. 3113 circa 18 September 1929. He was replaced by Temporary Head Teacher Ernest John Bingham who transferred from Hepburn Springs School No. 767. Bingham was expected to begin work on 21 September but instead started duties at Bolinda on 1 October 1929, "delay from 21<sup>st</sup> September to 1<sup>st</sup> October being September Show Vacation."

## **Matilda Ann Garner (1930-1935)**

*Teacher ID No. 11278, approximate year of registration 1888*

Matilda Garner was born ca. 1870 in Cobden, Victoria to William Henry Garner and Margaret Brough.

Garner was transferred from Weatherboard Hill School No. 656 on 10 October 1929. However, she requested permission to stay at her present



school until the end of year as she wanted to “see my year’s work through for 1929”. Her request was granted. Bingham took over from Norval as Temporary Head Teacher and Garner began at Bolinda at the beginning of the next school year (on 28<sup>th</sup> January 1930). She arrived by car on 3 January 1930.

Garner stayed at Bolinda until her retirement in 1935. She reached 65 years of age on 5 April 1935 and was expected to work until that date. However, in light of her nearly 50 years of service to the Education Department, the Cabinet decided to grant leave of absence with full pay from 9 March to 5 April.

The Director prepared a valedictory letter to be sent at Garner’s retirement. A draft copy of the letter reads:

“My dear Miss Garner,

At the conclusion of your long and honorable career as a teacher in this Department, I desire to express my appreciation of the very faithful work you have done in the interests of education in this state.

In the records of this department frequent references are made to your earnestness and reliability and to the careful, conscientious and methodical way in which you have carried out your duties as a teacher.

I trust, my dear Miss Garner, that you will long be spared to enjoy to the fullest the leisure you have so deservedly earned.

With every good wish,

I am,

Yours very sincerely,  
Director.”

Garner enjoyed her retirement for 22 years before passing in 1957 at the age of 87.

Ruth I. Barrett was appointed as Temporary Head Teacher taking over from Garner. Barrett was transferred from Harcourt North School No. 4043 and began duty on 11 March 1935. Barrett remained at the school until Arthur James Simpson took over in June.

## **Arthur James Simpson (1935-1938)**

*Teacher ID No. 17623, approximate year of registration 1911*

Arthur Simpson was transferred from Kialla School to Bolinda in 1935. On 28 May, he drove his horse from Kialla to Nagambie, and the following day from Nagambie to Bolinda. He began work as Head Teacher on 4 June 1935.

Within five months of his arrival, Simpson received a damning report from the District Inspector. It appears however that this was not the first bad report he had received. In a memorandum dated 30 October, the Secretary of the Department stated:

"I have by direction to inform you that your neglect of organization and instruction, as revealed by the recent report of the District Inspector, has raised the serious question of the value of your continued employment.

Your attention is directed to previous action before the Public Service Commissioner, and the definite improvement in your work, which resulted in no further proceedings being taken.

The next report on this school is therefore of vital interest to you, and will be expected to show that you have ability, as well as sufficient energy to rehabilitate yourself."

It seems that whatever improvements Simpson made after his reprimand were short-lived. Within two years of the first damning report, he received another. A memorandum from the Director of the Department dated 16 April 1937 stated:

"Referring to your recent report of the District Inspector, and your subsequent letter of explanation, I have to inform you that the reasons assigned for your neglect of duty are not considered satisfactory. The slackness and indifference shown in the keeping of records, and the failure to take adequate preparation indicate that you are lacking in a proper sense of responsibility, and that you are not doing justice to your pupils.

It is regrettable to think that so little is being done to brighten the pupils' lives, or to foster an interest in school activities.

For your gross neglect you are reprimanded, fined £2.0.0., and warned that if there is any further failure on your part to carry out

your duties properly, you will be charged before the Public Service Commissioner.”

The fine was deducted from his salary during the next pay period. A further inquiry into Simpson’s conduct was held on 11 October 1937. It was attended by Mr W. H. Elwood, Assistant Chief Inspector of Primary Schools, and Mr J. O. Anchen, District Inspector of Schools. Following on from the enquiry, the Public Service Commissioner decided to withhold his decision until 1 April 1938. Around this time, Simpson took a month off work beginning 31 October 1937 though there is no explanation provided as to why. He was replaced by Temporary Head Teacher Jean McLean.

Simpson’s behavior becomes clearer in light of a comment made by a former student, Ted Parks. Parks recalled that “Arthur Simpson... wasn’t so good, mainly because he was rather partial to a drop and wasn’t with it a lot of the time” (Jenkins 2000).

In September 1938, Simpson attended a ceremony to commemorate his time at Bolinda prior to his impending transfer to Wareek State School No. 1419. He was presented with a clock in commemoration of his time at Bolinda (*The Argus* 1938:12).

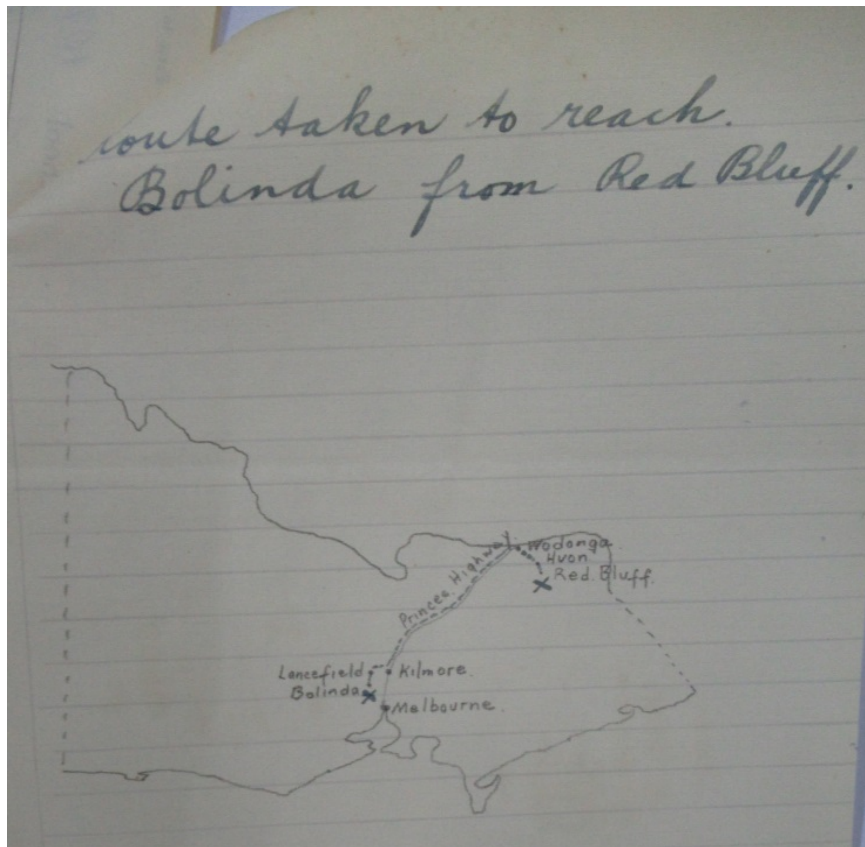
Rosina Esther Rangott was transferred to Bolinda acting as Temporary Head Teacher on Simpson’s departure. Rangott had previously been employed as Temporary Head Teacher at Dewhurst School No. 4522. She took over at Bolinda on 6 September 1938.

## **George Albert Price (1939-1939)**

*Teacher ID No. 20527, approximate year of registration 1918*

George Albert Price was the next appointed permanent Head Teacher, taking over from Rangott. He was transferred from Red Bluff State School No. 3526. On Boxing Day 1938, Price travelled in his private car from Red Bluff to Bolinda. He arrived a month before beginning duty at Bolinda on 31 January 1939 (Photo 18).

Price only lasted four months at Bolinda before being transferred to Hill End School No. 3054. Another Temporary Head Teacher was appointed, Mary Jean Smyth, who was transferred from Chilwell School No. 2061 and began work on 30 May 1939. By July 1939, she was requesting temporary work at Inverleigh or in the Geelong district.



*Photo 18: Sketch prepared by Price showing the route he travelled to the school.*

### **Robert Eldred Pywell (1939-1944)**

*Teacher ID No. 26833, approximate year of registration 1927*

Robert Pywell was born in 1909 to Walter Oliver Pywell and Maud Alice Barrand. He married Marjorie Margaret Philips in 1932. Pywell transferred to Bolinda from Kingower School No. 351. He brought with him his wife and three young children of preschool age. He asked to be transferred prior to the September holidays due to having to evacuate the residence at Kingower as it was to be renovated and painted inside and out during June and July 1939. His request was approved and he began duty on 31 July 1939.

Pywell remained at Bolinda until 1944.

## Harold Reade Griffiths (1945-1949)

*Teacher ID No. 27511 approximate year of registration 1928*

Harold Griffiths was born ca. 1910 in Warnambool, Victoria to Gustavus Gavin Griffiths and Francis Elizabeth Tyers. He married Elizabeth Eileen Wainwright in 1939.

Griffiths had the benefit of a temporary assistant teacher, Miss M. A. Lock.

Griffiths remained at Bolinda until January 1949.

## Jack Hughes Walters (1949-1950)

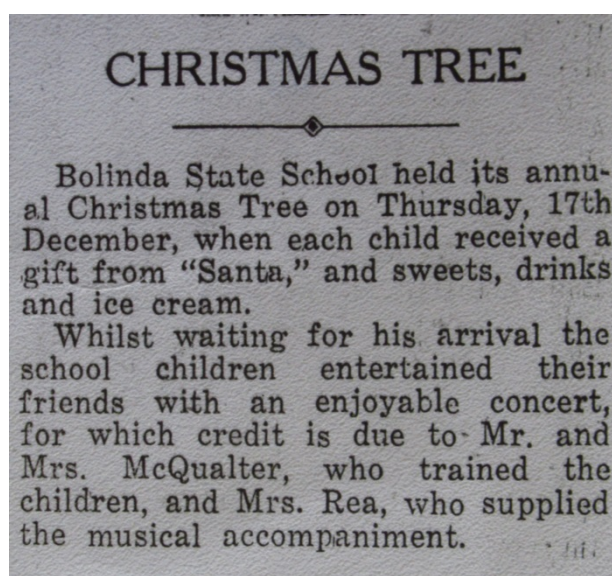
*Teacher ID No. 27714, approximate year of registration 1928*

No relevant information has been found relating to Jack Walters' time at Bolinda.

## Douglas James McQualter (1951-1953)

*Teacher ID No. 37408, approximate year of registration 1945*

One of the first things Mr McQualter did upon taking charge of the school was to request linoleum be installed in the kitchen, pantry, bathroom and passages of the teacher's residence. He very likely accomplished many other things too but unfortunately these have not been recorded for posterity.



*Photo 19: Mr. McQualter kept up the Christmas Tree tradition (Romsey Examiner 1953).*

At a ceremony held to honour Mr and Mrs McQualter following news of his promotion and transfer, it was stated that he had "taken a foremost part in everything for the good of the place, and had always made a success of what he undertook...Mr and Mrs McQualter had been very popular with all in the district and were at all times very hospitable." Mrs McQualter was presented with a beautiful bouquet of flowers in thanks for her help with music and "in other matters", and Mr McQualter was



presented with a wallet with money inside. McQualter vacated the school on 17 December 1954.

## **Head Teachers from 1954 onwards**

School records on file at the Public Records Office, Melbourne, continue until approximately the 1950s. Much of the information contained in this report has come from correspondence files and there is a notable reduction in records starting around the 1940s. As a result, the following is solely a list of Head Teachers dating from 1954 until the present.

- Alan Henry Cairns (1954-1957), Teacher ID No. 34470, approximate year of registration 1941
- Graham William Collacott (1958 - 1962), Teacher ID No. 41337, approximate year of registration 1949
- Arthur William Gleeson (1963 - 1963), Teacher ID No. 40125, approximate year of registration 1948
- Frank L. Ryan (1964 - 1966)
- Francis Burtonclay (1967 - 1969) Teacher ID No. 49886 approximate year of registration 1955
- Roger E. Cobcroft (1970 - 1973)
- P. Grumont (1973-1973)
- Peter McKendry (1974 - 1976)
- V. P. (Wally) Holod (1977 - 1978)
- Rosalind L. Darby (1979 - 1981)
- Lado Kuret (1982-1982)
- Paul Bain (1983 - 1986)
- Maureen Winter (1987 - 1992)
- Pam Lenders (1993-1993)
- Keith D. Jenkins (1994 - 2006)
- John Mackintosh (2007-2016)
- Stuart Telford (2017-2017)
- Greg Clement (2018 – 2019)
- Jayden Andrea (2020 – present)

## **Work Mistresses**

A reoccurring issue in the late 1800s and early 1900s was securing the appointment of a work mistress or sewing mistress.

Under the Education Act 1872, female head teachers at schools that had fewer than 50 students were not permitted to appoint a work mistress or

sewing mistress. However, in a show of sexual inequality common to that period, male head teachers in schools of this size were entitled to a work mistress. The expectation that one teacher could adequately instruct a school of up to 50 pupils of varying ages was felt to be unreasonable by head teachers at Bolinda and many parents, and there were repeated requests for a sewing mistress, work mistress or student teacher. Many of these requests were denied by the Education Department.

Mr Fairley, being male, was permitted to have a work mistress. Mrs Fairley was one of the earliest work mistresses at the school and taught needlework. Within a week of Mr. Fairley being transferred to another school, Mrs Fairley's services were also no longer required. The reason stated was that the average attendance at the school was too low.

In October 1874, Miss Caldwell contacted the Department requesting a new work mistress. Her request was denied due to low average attendance at the school. However, following an increase in pupil numbers, a month later Mrs Kate Caldwell was appointed work mistress on a temporary basis, depending on maintaining or increasing attendance rates. Cath (Kate) Goodridge Caldwell was Grace Caldwell's mother. She was born ca. 1814 in Devon, England to Jonathan Lash and Grace Goodridge. Kate Caldwell's position was removed once attendance rates went down.

A year later, Grace Caldwell's request for a singing instructor was denied as the "Department is not in a position to make provision for instruction in singing in schools of this size."

In an impassioned plea for assistance, Caldwell (21 July 1878) stated:

"... I respectfully desire to bring under your notice the great injustice which will be inflicted on this and all similar schools through a reduction in the teaching power merely because the Head Teacher happens to be a female, and also the extra labour thrown upon the Head Teacher, with an attendance, at times, of over 50 children, she being left all day without any assistance, whereas if the Head Teacher were a male, he would have the assistance of a Workmistress during the afternoon.

This will have the effect, here at least, of making the parents dissatisfied with the school."

In December 1879, Caldwell again asked for teaching assistance, this time in the form of a student teacher. Caldwell argued that "the average

attendance has considerably increased, and the daily attendance frequently amounts to 55, a number which I would respectfully submit is more than can be properly attended to by one person.” Again, her request was denied unless the increase in attendance was permanent.

Within six months, a new round of letters from Caldwell to the Department appeared. In April and May 1880 Caldwell’s requests for another work mistress were again denied due to the regulation stating that no work mistress would be supplied if the head teacher was female and that it is a “matter of experience that a school of the size of No 1070 can be efficiently conducted by a female Teacher without assistance.”

Five years later, Caldwell was finally provided with another sewing mistress. Caldwell attempted to have her mother, Kate, reinstated. However, by that time she was 71 years of age and although she had a medical certificate attesting to her being “hale and strong”, she was not eligible for the position due to her advanced age<sup>6</sup>.

Other applications for the position were sought. Although Caldwell had let it be known at the school that a sewing mistress was required, Elizabeth White was the only applicant. White was described as the daughter of a respectable farmer residing within a mile of the school<sup>7</sup>. She was a former pupil of Caldwell’s, and had served as a monitor “always taking great interest in her class.” In her recommendation of White, Caldwell noted that White had taken first prize for best made gentleman’s shirt at the West Bourke Agricultural Society’s Show in 1882, and that she had passed the sixth grade examination in needlework. She had also been apprenticed to a dressmaker for 14 months. Not surprisingly, White secured the job and began work in August 1885. White remained at the school until July 1889 when she resigned her position following her marriage. Three applicants then applied for the position of sewing mistress, Margaret E. McDonald, Jessie Sutherland and Jessie White (Elizabeth White’s sister). Sutherland and White were both former pupils of the school. All applicants were required to provide a medical certificate showing they were in good health, a character reference, and undertake a competitive exam.

Margaret McDonald came first on the exam, followed by Sutherland, then White. Interestingly, questions on the exam had nothing to do with

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<sup>6</sup> Kate died in 1898 in Romsey and is buried in Williamstown Cemetery.

<sup>7</sup> Elizabeth White was born ca. 1867 to Henry White and Janet McGlashan in Bolinda. She had six siblings – Henry b. 1863, John b. 1865, Janet b. 1869, Jessie b. 1870, Haria Jane b. ca. 1872, and Christina McLaren b. ca. 1874.

sewing. They covered topics including English, mathematics, history, geography and science (Photo 19). All three applicants had good medical and character references and in the end, Margaret McDonald secured the position.

McDonald had teaching experience in both Ireland and Victoria. Most recently, she had been in charge of a private school in Romsey. McDonald remained until December 1899, at which time Jessie Sutherland<sup>8</sup> (Teacher ID 3189, year of registration 1864) was appointed as sewing mistress.

Sutherland was regularly appointed and dismissed over the next few decades, depending on how many pupils attended the school, and likely according to whether the Head Teacher was male or female. At each dismissal Sutherland made it clear that she was keen to return if attendance levels improved.

As the records are incomplete, it is difficult to correctly ascertain her exact start and end dates but the best approximation is:

28 January 1890 – 10 December 1894

16 July 1895 – 31 July 1896

pre-March 1900 – 19 July 1901

18 May 1905 – 16 December 1909

3 April 1911 – [unknown]

27 May 1913 – 17 December 1915

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<sup>8</sup> Jessie Sutherland was born in 1872 in Bolinda to Thomas Sutherland and Betsey Sutherland. Her siblings were Marion b. 1874, Andrew William b. 1876, Christina b. 1878, Thomasina Belinda b. 1880, and Betsey (Bessie) b. 1864. Jessie died in 1925.

# Paper

$$673496 \div 78 \quad 10$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 86 \\ 68 \cdot 14 \cdot 7\frac{1}{2} \\ 95 \cdot 13 \cdot 11\frac{1}{4} \\ 54 \cdot 7 \cdot 9 \\ 83 \cdot 16 \cdot 10\frac{1}{4} \end{array}$$

10

(60)

Write in figures  
Five millions <sup>10</sup> and five

Find the value of a parcel of 7936  
acres if each acre is worth 37£ per  
acre

39 farthings to pence 2 } 154 p. mental.  
7/8 to pence 2 }  
98 sh to £ 2 }  
accurate 10  
heartily 10

(40)

Parse It is then boiled down into oil and  
when the fishing season is over it is taken  
away in casks 20

(1) Name the most easterly point of Victoria  
10

What is an isthmus 10

(2)

What ~~is~~ colony must be passed  
in sailing westward from Melbourne  
to Perth

(1) What is Mass ? 8

(2) What causes the seasons ? 9

(3) What is Langlass ? 8

Photo 19: Exam for the work mistress position in 1889.



## Attendance at the School

Attendance numbers at the school fluctuated from month to month and year to year, and were affected by outbreaks of communicable diseases, unfavourable weather conditions, and the transient nature of families attending the Army Corps at Monegetta.

Outbreaks of communicable diseases, including measles, whooping cough, influenza and diphtheria, caused sometimes significant reductions in attendance rates, and on rare occasions the school had to be closed entirely (see Outbreaks of Communicable Diseases below).

On several occasions, the weather was so bad that only the most determined could make it through. For example, on 5 June 1901, the sewing mistress, Jessie Sutherland, reported that she had been unable to attend school due to the floods. The Department requested a fuller explanation of the reason for her absence to which Sutherland responded “I live three miles from the school, and the roads were covered with water so that I could not venture on them without getting thoroughly wet.” On that day, only one child made it to school.

Average attendance rates are not available for all years. The following table provides the enrollment and/or average attendance rates that have been found in the Education Department’s correspondence files.

**Table 1: Enrollment and/or average attendance rates by year**

Year	Month	Enrollment	Average/net attendance <sup>9</sup>
1873	July		34
	August		37
	September		38
	October		39
	November		36
	December		30
1874	January		27
	February		32
	March		26
	April		14
	May		12
	June		13
	August		8 or 9
1878	July		45
1879	August		43

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<sup>9</sup> rounded to nearest whole number.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Month</b>	<b>Enrollment</b>	<b>Average/net attendance<sup>9</sup></b>
	September		46
	October		42
1893	May		37
	June		38
	July		38
1896	July		35 (in fine weather)
1899	September		36
	October		36
	November		35
	December		37
1900	January		37
	February		39
	March		37
1905	February		35
	March		35
	April		37
1906	October	49	
1909	August		29
	September		26
	October		30
1911	July		47
1929	March		18
	June		19
	September		19
1934	June	21	20
	September	21	19
	December	24	19
1937	June	9	8
1938	March	11	5
	June	12	10
	September	15	11
	December	13	12
1939	March	13	12
1962	January	35	
1972	February	53	
	July	59	
1973	February	50	
	July	51	
1974	February	56	
	July	55	
1975	February	53	
	July	59	

<b>Year</b>	<b>Month</b>	<b>Enrollment</b>	<b>Average/net attendance<sup>9</sup></b>
1876	January	68	

## **Outbreaks of Communicable Diseases**

Over the years, the school has been affected by a number of outbreaks of communicable diseases, many for which we now have vaccinations. This had a marked effect on attendance rates.

In January 1876, Caldwell requested that she be granted permission to close the school due to an outbreak of scarlet fever in the district but her request was denied. Four years later she reported an outbreak of diphtheria in the district. At that time, one family at the school had contracted it and the boy was not expected to recover. In light of this news, several families chose not to send their children to school and attendance dropped from 46 the week before to 24. Caldwell predicted that there would be a further decrease in attendance once it became more generally known that diphtheria was present in the district.

In October 1887, a child returning from a trip to Melbourne had brought measles back with him.

In mid-1893 another measles epidemic broke out within the district. By 10 June, at least eight cases of measles were recorded, and attendance at school was down to 16 students. On 19 June, the school had to be closed due to the outbreak. The school was reopened on 4 July but Sutherland, the sewing mistress, now had three members of her household infected. Caldwell contacted the Education Department asking for advice. She stated that only eleven children were expected to be present when the school reopened and only two of those had not yet suffered with the measles. She asked whether Sutherland would be required to “follow the general rule and reside away from home for a week or two” to help prevent further spread of the disease. Sutherland was not required to move away, instead the Department ordered that:

“Miss Sutherland, the Sewing Mistress, should isolate herself as much as possible from the children affected, fumigate herself and her clothing, and take a walk each morning before entering school; she should further not return home till the school is over.

The observance of these precautions will be sufficient in Miss Sutherland's case."

The following year was another bad one for sickness. Head Teacher Caldwell reported that in 1894 fewer children were able to advance in their studies than in the previous year as there had been several months where bouts of serious illnesses spread through the district, in particular whooping cough and influenza.

In October 1906, whooping cough again swept through the school as well as influenza, dramatically reducing school attendance. By mid-October only 18 children were in attendance out of the 49 children enrolled. It took roughly three months for attendance levels to return to normal.

The winter of 1911 was a bad time for illnesses. In July, most of the school was absent due to colds. Head Teacher Parratt reported that "an epidemic of colds & sore throats is passing through this district. Last week there was an average attendance at this school of 19 when it should be 47. Today's attendance [18 July 1911] is only 11 and some of the children present have colds."

The following month, a family at the school contracted measles and by September there was an outbreak of measles in the district. This resulted in a drop in attendance at the school with all of the younger children absent. The only children in attendance at the school were those who had already had measles at some earlier time.

In August 1937 there was a case at the school of infantile paralysis (polio). One student was reported affected, possibly due to a weekend visit to Williamstown which was the site of an outbreak. The student was instructed to remain away from school for 21 days following his visit to Williamstown.

Another bad outbreak occurred in October 1942. At that time the district experienced a severe outbreak of measles, whooping cough and bad colds, and only three pupils were in attendance. It was expected that attendance would remain low for the next week or two due to these illnesses.

## **Charitable Works**

The children at Bolinda State School have been periodically involved in undertaking charitable works. A small selection of those works is discussed below.

In 1902, the school raised funds to donate to the Argus Fund which was raising money to help drought sufferers. The school had a 'penny appeal' and managed to raise 7 shillings 6 pence (*The Argus* 1902:8).

In 1909, the children decided to contribute money on a weekly basis for one month to any families in the district that were suffering. This idea had previously been suggested by the Mayor. The acting town clerk passed on the name and address of a family that was in immediate need of assistance (*Record* 1909:2).

Also in 1909, the children of Bolinda School raised money for the Free Kindergarten at Collingwood Methodist Mission (Photo 20). Each child contributed one penny per week. The children then made approximately 4 weekly contributions of 3 shillings 4 pence to the Free Kindergarten to provide "poor town children for meals." A senior scholar at the school, H. Johnson, wrote to the Director of Education regarding their decision. Johnson reported that:

"The children attending the Bolinda State School have heard of the great distress in Melbourne. They are sorry for the poor little girls and boys who have to go hungry to school, and to show their sympathy they have agreed among themselves to give a penny every week for the next four weeks towards helping to provide dinners for them."

In mid-1917, the pupils of Bolinda School were scheduled to hold a concert in aid of British Red Cross but due to an epidemic of illness within the school they had to cancel. An American Tea and dance was scheduled to be held instead (*The Romsey Examiner* 1917:2).

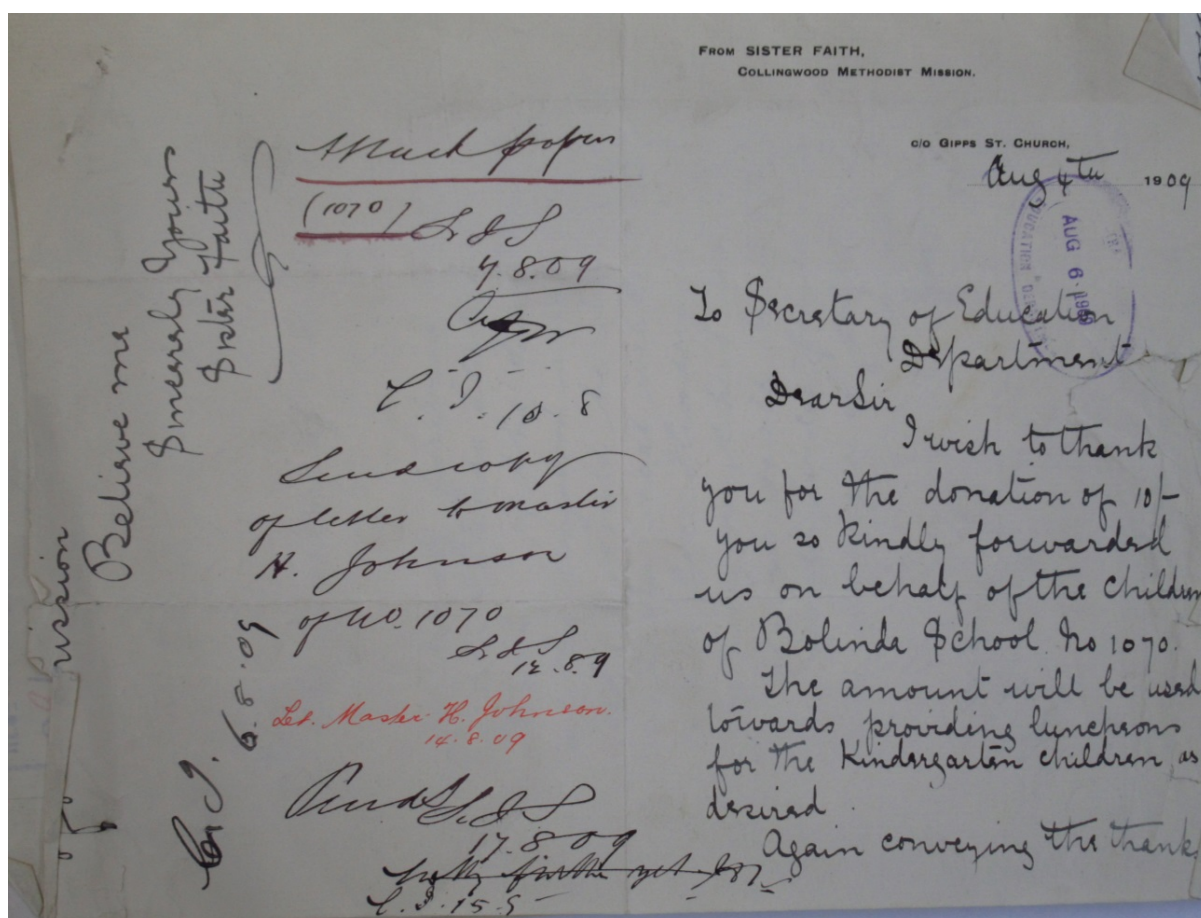
The following year, the school held another American Tea to raise funds for the British Red Cross Society. The event was held at the Bolinda Mechanics Institute and included a concert given by the school children and a number of visiting artists. By all accounts, there was a good turnout and £13/17/6 was raised (*The Romsey Examiner* 1918:2).

In 1947, the school contributed £1/3/5 to the Food for India Fund (*The Argus* 1947:8).

More recently, in 1994, the children collected over 300 books in two weeks as part of the nationwide Books for Africa Appeal.



Photo 20: Letter from Sister Faith regarding the children's donation.



## The Issue of Water

Droughts and the need for water have long been a part of the Australian experience and the issue of an adequate supply of drinking water for the children and teachers comes up repeatedly in the records. For example, in 1884 the rain water tanks were leaking so badly that water had to be purchased. Repairs to the water tanks were authorized by the Education Department though the cost of purchasing the water appears to have been raised locally. In December 1914, the installation of a new 600 gallon tank to replace the existing leaking tank was approved. However, by March the new tank was nowhere to be seen and both tanks at the school were now empty. The children were forced to take water from the tank attached to the teacher's residence. The Head Teacher was concerned that that would also soon run dry and they would need to cart water from the local creek unless they shortly received rain.

In 1928, the school was again entirely without drinking water for the children. One of the tanks was useless due to the spouting being in appalling condition and the other tank was empty. Instead, children were

obtaining water from a local farm house. The Department authorized the committee to purchase a supply of drinking water “at a reasonable cost” and submit a claim for it. Repairs and installation of a new tank did not take place for another seven months.

It was not just the tanks themselves that needed constant repairs and replacements, but the tank stands would also rot out. In a number of situations, the tank stands had rotted to the point that the tanks were leaning precariously. In one case, the tank leant onto the school building so could still be used while waiting for repairs, but in another, the tank had a 45 degree lean outwards and was considered highly dangerous for the children. The first request for repairs for that tank was received by the Department in May 1933. A year later nothing had been done. The water tank had to be left empty to prevent a collapse. By July 1934, Head Teacher Garner was becoming increasingly concerned about the danger posed by the leaning tank to the school children. In addition, a second tank was now leaking badly and was likely to be beyond repair if not seen to shortly. Frustratingly, the Department replied that they were awaiting the necessary funds for the repairs.

In October 1934, the committee's correspondent, W. S. Amess, wrote a personal letter to William Bottoms, Secretary for the Education Department, outlining his concerns over the situation with the tanks. In his letter, he stated that the mothers were up in arms over the danger the leaning tank posed to their children, and some members of the School Committee were threatening to resign in protest if the situation was not remedied quickly. They refused to be held accountable if a tragedy did occur. To make matters worse, Amess was being blamed for the work not being completed. As the tanks were being kept empty there was expected to be a shortage of water through the summertime. Never one to be rushed, repairs were finally completed in March 1935, nearly two years after the Department was first made aware of the danger.

Normally, the historical record does not include details of what happened to all the old disused tanks. However, providing a brief glimpse into rural life in the early 1900s, we find out from department correspondence that in August 1925, one of the old water tanks was purchased for 10 shillings by a local resident, Mrs Stella R. Hurren. Mrs Hurren was a widow who had three girls attending Bolinda School. She purchased the tank to use as a shed for her calf as she had no one available who could help to construct one.

## Roll of Honor

The Bolinda Roll of Honour provides the names of 31 former students of Bolinda School who fought in World War I (Photos 21 and 22). Of those 31 men, 8 were killed in active duty or died before serving.

Identification of the individuals listed on the Roll of Honour and location of their service records is complicated by the lack of more than a first initial, use of nicknames and diminutives, and the commonness of the name. As a result, identification of those individuals with more common names has focused on location of birth and/or the address of next of kin (in or around Bolinda). In some cases, I was not able to identify the soldier with certainty and have been unable to provide information on their histories.



*Photo 21: Bolinda Roll of Honour (Monument Australia).*

Bolinda State School.—On Wednesday last week Mr T. M. Martin presented and unveiled the Roll of Honour in connection with the above school. The ceremony was performed on that day instead of on Empire Day, to permit of Mr Martin, who was the donor of the permanent honourable record, being present. Addresses were delivered by Messrs Coles, P. Brady, and Frank Clarke, and patriotic songs were rendered by the scholars. The ladies provided afternoon tea in best Bolinda style, and it was very much enjoyed, particularly by the children. The Roll of Honour, when completed to date, will contain 19 names. Romsey "Examiner"

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*Photo 22: Announcement of the presentation of the Roll of Honour (Gisborne Gazette 1917:1).*

**Table 2: List of Former Students on the Bolinda Roll of Honour**

<b>Surname</b>	<b>Given Names</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Previous Employment</b>	<b>Date Enlisted</b>	<b>Service No.</b>	<b>Discharged</b>	<b>Medals Awarded</b>
BOREHAM	Alfred James	24 yrs 11 mnths	labourer	February 1917	3350	June 1919	BWM, VM
COATES	Charles Frederick	18 yrs 5 mnths	blacksmith striker	May 1918	61123	March 1920	BWM
COATES	Herbert James	19 yrs 9 mnths	labourer	March 1915	2142	July 1919	SM, BWM, VM
DENNEY	Powley	22 yrs 8 mnths	farmer	December 1915	2273	April 1919	BWM, VM
HEMPHILL	Cecil William	18 yrs 6 months	labourer	January 1915	253	August 1919	SM, BWM, VM
HEMPHILL	Raymond Robert	22 yrs 10 mnths	medical student	December 1915	4133	Killed in action, France, December 1916	BWM, VM
HOCKING	Frederick Roy	18 yrs 1 mnth	clerk	June 1915	1810	April 1920	SM, BWM, VM
JOHNSTON	Henry					killed during active service	
KEENAN	T						
KELLY	Clive	24 yrs 6 mnths	stud groom	November 1915	572	October 1919	MSM, SM, BWM, VM
LOTT	Jack (Johnathan Charles)	25 yrs 8 mnths	skilled labourer	(22) March 1916	2226	ca. November 1919	BWM, VM
LOTT	James (Alfred James)	24 yrs 8 mnths	railway fettler	(25) March 1916	5396	April 1919	BWM, VM

<b>Surname</b>	<b>Given Names</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Previous Employment</b>	<b>Date Enlisted</b>	<b>Service No.</b>	<b>Discharged</b>	<b>Medals Awarded</b>
McALPINE	James Winter	19 yrs 6 mnths	farmer	March 1916	3583	killed in action, ca. September 1917	BWM, VM
McPHERSON	George	25 yrs 4 mnths	farm hand	September 1916	6396	killed in action, France, April 1917	BWM, VM
MOORE	Barry Fitzgerald						
MOORE	Brian Ponsoby Fitzgerald						
MOORE	Desmond Fitzgerald						
MOORE	Charles Frances (Frank)						
MORRISON	John						
MUNNS	Francis Henry (Frank)	33 yrs	farmer	July 1915	1430	Died of influenzal broncho-pneumonia, Egypt, October 1918	SM, BWM, VM
O'HEHIR	John Jospeh (Jack)	21 yrs 10 mnths	driver	July 1915	3113/3161	April 1919	SM, BWM, VM
POLLARD	Daniel (Dan)	26 yrs	labourer	July 1915	2234	Killed in action, France, March 1917	SM, BWM, VM
POLLARD	Francis (Frank) Henry	19 yrs 2 mnths	farmer	June 1916	2764	May 1919	BWM, VM



<b>Surname</b>	<b>Given Names</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Previous Employment</b>	<b>Date Enlisted</b>	<b>Service No.</b>	<b>Discharged</b>	<b>Medals Awarded</b>
POLLARD	George William	23 yrs	labourer	June 1916	6390	November 1918	BWM, VM
POLLARD	James (Jim) Hillard	21 yrs					
SMITH	Francis	23 yrs 10 mnths	railway assistant station master	July 1915	3251	April 1919	BWM, VM
SMITH	William Henry	32 years	attendant, Inebriates home, Lara	July 1915	no no. assigned	Died of pneumonia & heart failure, Base hospital, Melbourne, August 1915	
SUTHERLAND	Andrew William	38 yrs 10 mnths	farmer	July 1915	3680	August 1919	SM, BWM, VM
WALKER	Johnathan Laurence St Clare (Laurence)	20 yrs 8 mnths	storekeeper	July 1915	2858	May 1918	SM, BWM, VM
WEBB	George Francis (Frank)	19 yrs 4 mnths	station hand	July 1916	2408	killed in action June 1917	BWM, VM
WILSON	James Edward John	21 yrs 2 mnths	railway employee	July 1915	1441	April 1919	SM, BWM, VM

Abbreviations: BWM British War Medal; VM Victory Medal; SM 1914/1915 Star Medal; MSM Meritorious Service Medal; MM Military Medal

Medals were awarded to soldiers based on where and when they had served and if they showed particular bravery or valor. Medals awarded to those on the Bolinda Roll of Honour included the 1914/1915 Star Medal, the British War Medal, the Victory Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, and the Military Medal (Photo 23). The 1914/1915 Star Medal was awarded for service in specified theatres of war between 5 August 1914 and 31 December 1915. The British War Medal was awarded to those who entered theatres of war during particular periods or rendered certain approved services overseas. The Victory Medal was designed to commemorate the victory of the Allied Forces over the Central Powers. It was awarded to prescribed classes of people who entered a theatre of war on duty between 5 August 1914 and 11 November 1918. The Meritorious Service Award was awarded to Warrant Officers, non-commissioned officers and those who had afforded valuable and meritorious service, and could be awarded for gallantry in the performance of military duty. The Military Medal was also awarded for gallantry and devotion to duty performed by certain ranks in the military.

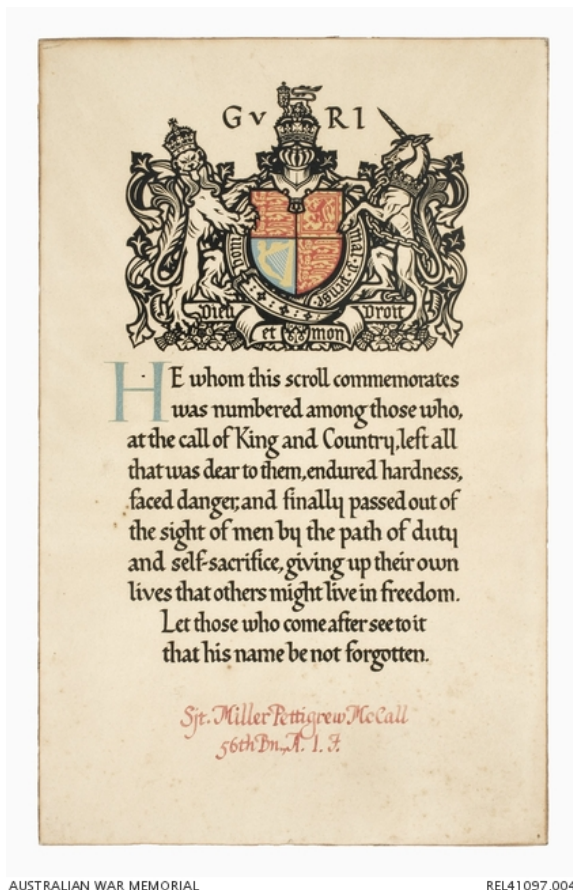
When a soldier was killed during the war, his family was issued a Memorial Scroll and Plaque, and a copy of "Where the Australians Rest" (Photo 24). The Memorial Scroll was adorned with the Royal Coat of Arms and a message that reads:

"He whom this scroll commemorates was numbered among those who, at the call of King and Country, left all that was dear to them, endured hardness, faced danger, and finally passed out of the sight of men by the path of duty and self-sacrifice, giving up their own lives that others might live in freedom. Let those who come after see to it that his name be not forgotten."

The Memorial Plaque is a 12cm diameter disc with Britannia and a lion on the front encircled by the words "He died for freedom and honour". The full name of the soldier was engraved on the right hand side of the plaque. "Where the Australians Rest" was a booklet published in 1920 that described the burial locations of Australian soldiers during the war. A copy of the pamphlet can be viewed at <https://collections.museumvictoria.com.au/items/2055965>.

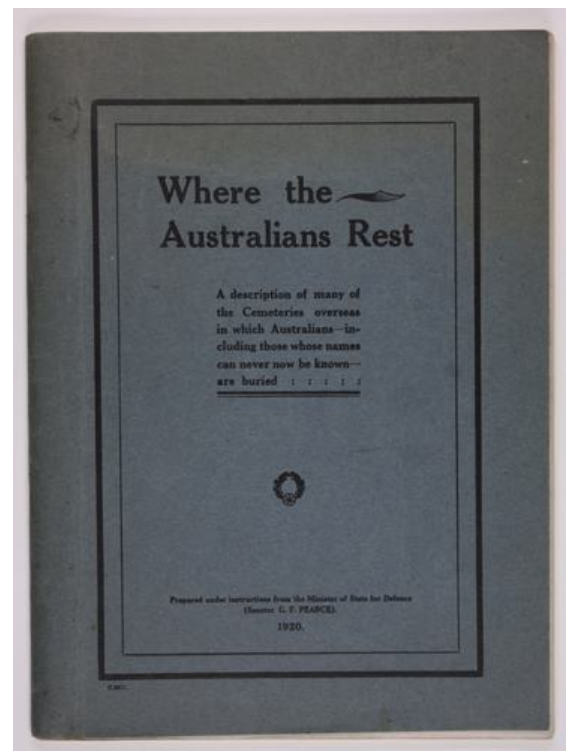


*Photo 23: Top (L to R): 1914/1915 Star Medal, British War Medal, Victory Medal  
Bottom (L to R): Meritorious Service Medal, Military Medal (Australian  
Government, Department of Defence n.d.; Australian War Memorial n.d.)*



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

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*Photo 24: Memorial Plaque, Memorial Scroll and Front Cover of Where the Australians Rest  
(Australian War Memorial 2019; Museums Victoria Collections n.d.).*

## Alfred Boreham



**Photo 25: Alfred Boreham**  
(Ancestry.com).

Alfred James Boreham (Photo 25) was an unmarried labourer when he joined the armed forces in February 1917. He was living in Banguor at the time though his family remained at Lancefield Junction. Alfred was born in 1892 to William James Boreham and Hope David Cox (married 1881). He was the fourth of eleven children<sup>10</sup>: Frederick William (b. 1882), Thomas (b. 1884), Ernest David (b. 1887), Francis Ellen (b. 1894), Mabel Hope (b. 1896), Emily Rose (b. 1898), George (b. 1899), Benjamin (b. 1900), Leslie Charles (b. 1903) and Harold Edgar (b. 1906). He attended Bolinda School in the early 1900s as did his siblings, Ben, Emily, Frances, George, Harold, Leslie and Mabel.

Shortly after enlisting in the army, Alfred was transferred to the Light Horse Infantry. He embarked on the “Port Lincoln” in June 1917 bound for India and Egypt. It was noted on his admission form that he was suffering from deafness, particularly in his left ear, and his deafness was noted several times in his Active Service Forms. In early 1919, Alfred returned to Australia on the “Euripides” and was discharged from duty in June 1919.

Whilst on his tour of duty, Boreham kept a short diary (see Appendix F). Much of the diary reads as if he is on a grand vacation rather than partaking in the Great War. He talks of visiting bazaars and markets, zoos, mosques, pyramids and beautiful countryside.

Alfred appears to have returned to farming in Buangor upon his discharge from the army. He married Dora Elizabeth Rees in 1920 with whom he had two children, Gwendoline Elizabeth (b. 1921) and Dorothy Hope (b. 1924). By the mid-1920s, the family had relocated to Nerring where Alfred worked as a labourer and Dora took care of the home. By 1931, Alfred had taken a position as a caretaker at the Ballarat Showgrounds when it was located on Lake Wendouree, along Wendouree Parade, before it was moved to its

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<sup>10</sup> Large families were common at that time. It was also common for children to die in infancy or early childhood. Please note that all children born are listed regardless of whether or not they survived into adolescence or adulthood.

current location in 1934. Alfred continued as caretaker after the showgrounds were relocated to Howitt Street. By the early 1940s, the family had moved to Wendouree where Alfred worked as a postal employee, a situation that continued into the 1950s. In 1963, Alfred and Dora are listed as living in Ringwood, by which time Alfred appears to have retired. Alfred died in 1968.

## **Herbert and Charles Coates**

Herbert James Coates was born in Riddells Creek in 1895 and Charles Frederick Coates in 1900 in Bolinda to Cyril Herbert Coates and Hannah Mary Scheurer (married 1895), Hannah being one of the infamous Edward Scheurer's sisters. Hannah, a home maker, and Cyril, a laborer, had nine children: Herbert James (b. 1895), Rosina (Rosie) Victoria (b. 1896), Violet Estella (b. 1898), Charles Frederick (b. 1900), Edward Alex (b. 1902), Eline Mary (b. 1904), Hector (b. 1906), Daphne May (b. 1908), and Idalee Mildred (b. 1913).

Charles and Herbert Coates attended Bolinda School in the early 1900s along with their sisters, Rosie and Violet.

Herbert was the first of the brothers to enlist in the armed forces (1915). At that time he was an unmarried labourer. He embarked in June 1915 and saw action in Turkey and France. In May 1916 he was promoted to Driver. He returned to Australia in April 1919 and was discharged in July of that year.

Charles enlisted three years after Herbert. He was working as a blacksmith's striker at the time. He was sent to France to fight in August 1918 on the "Barambah". In February 1920, he returned to Australia on the "Megantic", and was discharged the next month.

After his discharge, Herbert returned to working as a labourer. In 1919 he was listed as living in Brunswick with his sister, Violet (machinist). It was recorded in a local newspaper from this time that Herbert was awarded a silver medal by the Royal Humane Society of Australasia though unfortunately it does not elaborate on the reason for the win. By 1922, their parents had moved in along with Charles (working as a blacksmith's assistant), Violet (home duties) and Rosina (home duties). In the early 1940s, Herbert was living with his mother at a different location in Brunswick and working as a munitions worker. By the late 1940s and into the 1970s, he returned to laboring and was living in Coburg. Herbert mostly lived alone but lived with Ethel May Coates (home duties) in the late 1960s



and early 1970s. There is no record of a marriage between Herbert and Ethel and it is unclear what their connection was. There is, however, a record of a Herbert James Coates marrying a Sarah Robertson in 1954 on the Victoria Births, Deaths and Marriages.

Charles continued living with his parents and sisters for several years after Herbert had left. He appears to have remained at their house in Brunswick until around the time of his marriage to Irene Sarah Burt in 1934. Charles and Irene moved to Preston where Charles formed a partnership with Walter Manuel Coates in a business known as “Dura Steel Scaffolds” where he worked until his retirement in October 1955. Charles and Irene remained in Preston until Charles’ death in 1968.

## **Powley Denney**



*Photo 26: Studio Portrait of Powley Denney ca. February 1916 (Australian War Memorial n.d.).*

Powley Denney (Photo 26) was born in 1893 in Wycheproof to David Edward Denney and Margaret Abbott (married 1890). David and Margaret had seven other children: Alexander (b. 1891), Mary (b. 1895), David (b. 1897, died shortly after birth), Bessie (b. 1899), Margaret (b. 1900), Alexander (b. 1891) and Cealie (b. 1902). Powley Denney attended Bolinda School sometime between 1899 and 1913 along with his siblings Bessie, Margaret, and Mary.

At the time of enlisting, Powley Denney was working as a farmer in Wycheproof. He attended signal school in Broadmeadows where he trained to be a signaller. He embarked for Egypt in May 1916 aboard the “Uganda”. In late 1916, he was appointed a driver. In January 1917, he was transferred to the 1<sup>st</sup> Signal Squadron.

In October 1918, he contracted malaria and was admitted to hospital in Port Said due to a number of relapses. Two months after his initial diagnosis, Powley was still suffering from an enlarged and tender spleen, anemia and debilitating “tremors of the tongue”, and was underweight. At first it was recommended that he go on leave for three months, but one month later, the Medical Board on Finalization recommended he be discharged as permanently unfit for service. He returned to Australia

aboard the “Corsova” in February 1919 and was discharged from the armed forces two months later.

Shortly after returning from war, Powley married Violet Nellie Glover in 1919 with whom he had a son, Powley Samuel Denney. Powley and Violet continued living in Wycheproof after their marriage and Powley returned to farming and grazing. Their son Powley Samuel followed in his father’s footsteps and also took up farming. Powley and Violet lived together in Wycheproof until her death in 1947, and Powley remained in the area until his death in 1964.

## **Cecil and Raymond Hemphill**

Cecil William and Raymond Robert Hemphill were brothers. Raymond (Photo 27) was the oldest of seven children born to William Henry Hemphill and Annie Hain Rogers (married in 1891): Raymond Robert (b. 1893), Vida Dorothy (b. 1895), Cecil William (b. 1896/7), Thelma Etta (b. 1899), Arthur George (b. 1903), Noel St Aubin (b. 1903), and Eveline Ada (b. 1907).



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P04106.002

*Photo 27: Raymond Hemphill (centre), ca. July 1916 (Australian War Memorial 1916).*

Cecil and Raymond were both born in Rochford, Victoria. Rochford was a farming locality, approximately 7km southwest of Lancefield, near the intersection of Woodend and Monegeetta Roads. They attended Bolinda School sometime between 1899 and 1913, along with their sisters Thelma and Vida, and cousins Albert E. and Horace Hemphill.

Cecil enlisted in January 1915 and before leaving for war was presented with a pipe by the Patriotic Committee in Lancefield. He embarked in May aboard the “Persic”. He was initially part of the 13<sup>th</sup> Light Horse Brigade while fighting in Turkey, where he served three months in Gallipoli. He was later transferred to the 2nd Cyclist Corps then the ANZAC Cyclist Battalion while serving in Turkey and France. In September 1917 he was

charged with committing the crime of being absent from the billeting area without a pass and received a penalty of a full day's wages.

He returned to Australia aboard the "Runic" in June 1919 and was discharged in August.

Upon his return from war, Cecil returned to Rochford and briefly worked as a labourer before joining the Navy in January 1920. In 1921/1922, he was listed as a stoker aboard "HMAS Platypus". He requested that his time in the Australian Imperial Force be counted towards the award of Good Conduct Badges in the Royal Australian Navy. The army replied that Cecil's conduct had been nothing but satisfactory. He remained in the Navy for 7 years, after which he returned to Rochford to work as a farm labourer.

Cecil married Gertrude Agnes Mathieson in 1937.

In 1940, Cecil joined the Royal Australian Fleet Reserve for a five year term, which was required for members to receive an end-of-service bounty. He served in World War II for which he received the 1939-1943 Star Medal.

Cecil died ca. 1971.

Raymond joined the armed forces in December 1915. At the time of enlisting, Raymond was studying medicine. He first served in Egypt before being transferred to France.

Like Cecil, Raymond was also accused of a crime: "being in town contrary to orders" while in Tel-el-Kebir, Egypt. His punishment was to be demoted from Acting Corporal to Private.

On 25 December 1916, he joined the 21<sup>st</sup> Battalion fighting in France. On the 30<sup>th</sup>, Raymond was hit in the chest by a 77" shell and died almost instantly. According to Sgt H. S. Clifford, he was buried at the back of a trench called "Blighty Trench" with a rough cross erected to mark the spot.

The family requested that the public announcement of Raymond's death be withheld temporarily as a close relative was in delicate health and was due to undergo an operation shortly. Unfortunately the request was received too late as the announcement had been made the day prior.

Raymond's father received Cecil's medals, as well as the memorial plaque, scroll and pamphlet.

## Fred Hocking

Fred Roy Hocking was born ca. 1897 in Kyneton, Victoria to Henry Hammond Le Croisette Hocking and Ruth Hamblin. Henry and Ruth were married in 1887 and had three children: Daisy (b. 1888), Eva (b. 1892), and Fred Roy (b. 1897). Fred Hocking attended Bolinda School sometime between 1899 and 1913.

He had been in cadets for four years before enlisting in the armed forces in June 1915. His first port of call was to Egypt where they remained for a couple of months before moving on to fight in Gallipoli in 1915 before again moving to France. While off the coast of Gallipoli, their ship, *Southland*, was torpedoed. The *Southland* is well-known as the first Australian troopship to be torpedoed (Photo 28). On 2 September 1915, at around 9.45am, the ship was attacked by German submarine UB14, under the command of Oberleutnant Heino von Heimburg. None of the lookouts saw the submarine and the first anyone knew about the attack is when they

*Photo 28: The troopship Southland after being torpedoed near Agistrati Island, Aegean Sea, 2 September 1915 (Australian War Memorial).*



spotted the torpedo making a bee-line for the ship. Fred was one of those who saw its wake. According to Private Robert Norman of the 21st Battalion, the torpedo “struck us in No. 2 hold, just in front of the bridge. Luckily, the hold was full of coal, and that had a lot to do with saving of the ship. I saw the coal and water fly up into the air about 30ft.” At least nine men died in that attack though Fred suggests it might have been closer to 50 (see Appendix G). In a letter to his father published in the *Heidelberg News and Greensborough and Diamond Creek Chronicle*, Fred describes the harrowing attack in fascinating detail (see Appendix G).

While fighting in Noreuil in France in mid-1916, Fred suffered a severe gunshot wound to the left leg. He was evacuated to England to be treated in the County of London War Hospital in Epsom. Fred remained in England having treatment on his leg for the rest of the war, perhaps working as a clerk. While in England, Fred met and fell in love with Olive Lyla Sherrds from Balham, England. In January 1919 Fred and Olive married and six months later welcomed a son, Donald, into the family. Sometime in 1919 or 1920, Olive relocated to Victoria, Australia while Frank remained in England. Regrettably, young Donald passed away ca. November 1920. Fred and Olive appear to have had more sons after Donald’s passing.

Frank embarked for Australia aboard the “Aeneas”, arriving in January 1920, and was discharged in April of that year.

In 1983, Dr Alistair Thomson conducted an interview with Fred. It’s a fascinating look back at his early life as well as his time in the war. A transcript of the interview is provided in Appendix H, and if you wish to hear the stories from Fred himself, you can listen to the interview at <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C88161>.

Upon Fred’s return to Australia and his discharge from the armed services, Fred and Olive moved to Ivanhoe. Fred was working as a supply officer’s secretary at the Australian General Hospital in Mont Park, while Olive was involved in keeping the home. After working at the hospital for around three years, Fred went into business himself. He described his business as a manufacturing agency with a bakery, broking, selling and machinery.

In 1933, Fred made the local papers. He had been working as a motor car driver and was charged with “having plied for hire within eight miles of Melbourne in a car that was not duly licensed.” He was further charged with “acting as a driver of a motor car which was carrying passengers without being licensed for that purpose.” Fred argued that he was not acting as a for-hire motor car service but was acting under the instruction

of his employer who had arranged for him to transport certain people to a predetermined location. However, Fred was fined £1 on each of the two charges.

Olive remained at Ivanhoe Parade until her death in 1977 and Fred at least into the 1980s, possibly until his death ca. 1990.

## **Henry Johnston**

Henry Johnston attended Bolinda School sometime between 1899 and 1913.

Due to the commonness of his name, it has not been possible to determine which soldier this name refers to. None of the soldiers named Henry Johnston who enlisted to fight in World War I have an obvious connection to Bolinda or the surrounding region.

## **T. Keenan**

T. Keenan may be Terence Keenan, born in Kyneton, however during training he was found to be medically unfit for active service and it was recommended that he be specially enlisted for duty in Australia.

It is also possible that T. Keenan may refer to Thomas Keenan, a miner born in Woodend (Service No. 303) who served in Turkey and France. However, Thomas was killed in action in France in July 1916 and the Honour Roll does not have T. Keenan marked as being killed in action.

The only other T. Keenan identified as a soldier in World War I was born in New South Wales and enlisted in Western Australia (Service No. 3933).

## **Clive Kelly**

Clive Kelly was a local Bolinda boy and attended Bolinda School sometime between 1895 and 1913, along with his siblings Hector, Neta Mary and Olive Agnes. His parents, William Kelly and Mary Baker married in 1886 and had five children, a small family compared to many of the other families featured: Walter (b. 1888), Clive (b. 1891), Hector (b. 1892), Neta Mary (b. 1895), and Olive Agnes (b. 1902).

Clive was working as a stud groom at Mr E. E. Clarke's (brother of Sir Rupert Clarke) stud farm in Melton at the time of his enlistment in late 1915. He embarked in November 1915 aboard the "Botanist" bound for Turkey. The night before his departure, the residents of Melton held a send-off for him



and presented him with a veterinary outfit as a token of admiration from those present.

Clive served in Turkey until being transferred to France. He served at various times with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Mobile Veterinary Section and the Army Veterinary Corps. In June 1918, Clive was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Supplement, No. 30750, to the London Gazette dated 7 June 1918 included the following statement:

“HIS MAJESTY THE KING has been graciously pleased to approve of the award of the Meritorious Service Medal to the undermentioned, in recognition of valuable services rendered with the Forces in France during the present war:-

No. 572 Corporal C. Kelly”

He also received mentions in dispatches – in the Commonwealth of Australia Gazette on 18 April 1918 and the London Gazette on 28 December 1917. He returned to Australia aboard the “Beltana” on July 1919 and was discharged from the armed services in the following October.

Clive died in 1972 and is buried in Altona Memorial Park

## **Jack and James Lott**

Jack Lott was likely Johnathan Charles Lott, Jack being a common diminutive for Johnathan. James Lott was likely his brother, Alfred James Lott. Jack was the older brother, born in 1890 in Grant, Victoria to Johnathan Charles Lott and Annie nee Carton (married 1888). James was born a year later, in 1891 in Williamstown. Johnathan and Annie also had Annie Oliver (b. 1889), Laura Amelia (b. 1896), and Thomas William (b. 1902).

Jack and James attended Bolinda School sometime between 1895 and 1913 along with their siblings Annie, Laura and Thomas.

Prior to enlisting in the armed forces, Jack and James were living together in Footscray, James working as a quarryman and later railway fettler, and Jack as a skilled labourer.

In August 1916, Jack embarked aboard the “Princess Victoria” bound for Europe, fighting in France. While serving in the 57<sup>th</sup> Battalion in May 1918, Jack was awarded the Military Medal in recognition of his bravery. H. E. Elliott, Brigadier General commanding the 5<sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Brigade, recommended Jack and two other privates for the following:

“West of HAMEL on the morning 5<sup>th</sup> April 1918, during an intense enemy bombardment, these men showed great bravery and devotion to duty when acting as stretcher bearers. They assisted in dressing and carrying about 20 stretcher cases to the R.A.P. The whole area in which they worked was in the open and swept by very heavy shell fire. Their bravery and gallant conduct undoubtedly saved many lives. The excellent work done by these men was of the highest order and is deserving of recognition.”

Jack returned to Australia aboard the “Port Lyttleton” in June 1919 and was discharged from the armed forces three months later.

James Lott enlisted three days after Jack. Like his brother, James also fought in France. He departed Melbourne in August 1916 aboard the “Miltiades”. On 20 March 1917, James was reported missing and was later found to have been captured in Lagnicourt and was being held as a prisoner of war in Germany. He was interned at Gefangenenlager, Limburg and was repatriated on 17 December 1918 (Photo 29).

James provided the following account of his capture and time as a prisoner of war:

“At about daylight on the morning of 20.3.17., my Battalion attacked the village of LAGNICOURT, then held by the Germans. To reach the village we had to go about 800 yards. My Company advance along a sunken road running into the Village. We advanced faster than the Battalion, which was up on top, crossing No. Man’s Land in short rushes. But when we had got to within 150 yards of the village an enemy machine opened up on us and our losses were very heavy. There were no Officers within us in the sunken road. When enemy machine gun fire opened on us, about a dozen of us took shelter in an enemy machine gun post in the side of the sunken road. We had one serviceable Lewis Gun with us and one that was not. Lance Corporal MAWSON was with us, he was the only N.C.O., We received no orders to retire and hung on where we were. We got our Lewis gun into action and repelled a couple of attacks that were made upon our post. At about midday when the enemy again attacked us our machine gun jammed, and the enemy rushed us and overpowered us. We had suffered several casualties and there were some dead Australians lying about in the sunken road. We eventually reached CAMBRAI and there there were about 30 of us. We were at CAMBRAI about 2 months and then moved into GERMANY, first to MUNSTER then to MINDEN and then “on

commando" attached to, SENNELAGER. The commando was railway work at SCHALKMUHLE. I was there from July 17<sup>th</sup> till October 17<sup>th</sup>. There were four other Australians there. My next commando was at HERZAGENATH, (attached LIMBURG), the work being as before. I was there till 2.2.18, then I was returned to SCHALKMUHLE and was there until the signing of the Armistice. We were mustered at SENNELAGER, about 1700 British prisoners of war. We crossed into HOLLAND on 7.12.18 and left ROTTERDAM on 14.12.18 arriving 15.12.18. Pte CLEARY of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, while on commando at PEVELSBERG, became insane and was removed."



*Photo 29: Newspaper announcement reporting Lott's release from a German prison camp (The Age 1919:5).*

James returned to Australia in March 1919 aboard the "Nevasa".

James and Jack appear to have moved in with their parents in Coburg when they returned from war. James took a job as a railway employee and Jack worked as a labourer.

In 1922, James married Esme Doris Foster, a Sunbury lass. Esme moved in to the Lott family home and within a year of their marriage, Esme had given birth to a boy whom they named Keith Albert John (b. 1923, d. 1972). Keith followed in his father's footsteps and fought in World War II (Service Number: 410902).

By the early-1930s, James and Esme were living on their own in High Street, Coburg. Jack and Laura continued living with their parents in Victoria Street, Coburg. Both James and Jack were working as railway employees at this time. This arrangement continued into the 1950s. By 1954, Jack, his parents and his sister Laura moved to Mayfield Street, Coburg, while James and Esme continued on in their High Street house.

Following Esme's death in 1962, Keith, at that time a sheet metal worker, moved in with his father in High Street. At another location within Coburg, Jack (also a railway employee) was living with his brother Thomas (railway

employee) and his sister Laura (home duties). By the late 1960s, Jack, Thomas and Laura had moved in with James and Keith.

Jack died in 1973. James and Laura continued to reside at their High Street home at least into the 1980s. James died in May 1990, one year short of his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

## **James McAlpine**

James Winter McAlpine was born ca. 1896 in Riddells Creek to Jemima Winter and Robert McAlpine (married 1888). Jemima and Robert also had Jane Brown (b. 1889), Isabella Morrison (b. 1891), Alice Eva (b. 1893), and Robert Alex (b. 1903). James attended Bolinda School sometime between 1899 and 1913 along with his sister Alice Eva and Jean McAlpine (relation unknown).

Prior to enlisting in the armed forces in March 1916, he had been enrolled in the 20<sup>th</sup> Light Horse Senior Cadets 1896 quota. In November 1916, he embarked on the “SS Onward” for France.

In May 1917, he received a gunshot wound to his right hand. Although the wound was self-inflicted, he was found not guilty of negligence and within a month was released from hospital.

McAlpine was killed in action in France on 26/27 September 1917. According to an eye-witness, he was killed by a machine gun shot to the skull while assisting to carry a machine gun through Polygon Wood and died instantly. He was buried in Polygon Wood near where he fell.

At the time of his death he was in the 29<sup>th</sup> Batallion. James’ father received his medals as well as the Memorial Scroll, Plaque, and pamphlet.

## **George McPherson**

George McPherson was born in 1889 in Sunbury to Hugh McPherson and Elizabeth Millett (married in 1883). He was one of six children: Ethel Florence (b. 1884), Francis Hamilton (b. 1886), Christina (b. 1888), George (b. 1889) and Annie Flor (1891). George attended Bolinda School sometime between 1895 and 1898.

George was working as a farmhand and living in Lancefield Junction when he enlisted in September 1916. He had previously served in the Home Service in 1915 but had been suffering from varicocoele for several years which had been aggravated by military training. He was offered surgery

but declined, and was therefore discharged as being medically unfit after 101 days.

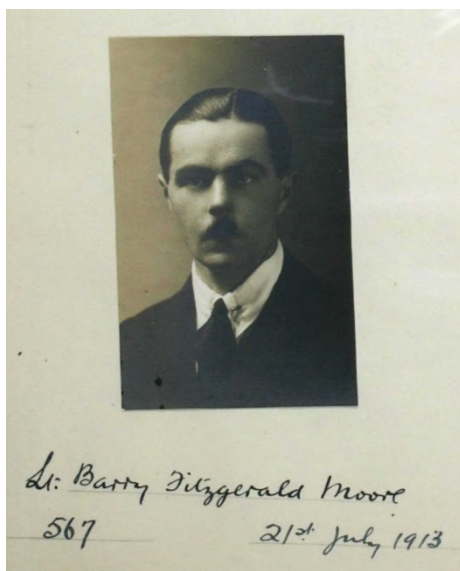
Shortly after reenlisting in 1916, George embarked for England aboard the "Port Sydney" and was later transferred to France to fight. Within six months of arriving overseas he was reported missing and was later found to have been killed in action on 11 April 1917. Regrettably, his last resting place could not be determined. To commemorate George's service, his father received his medals and Memorial scroll, plaque and pamphlet.

## **Barry, Brian, Desmond and Frank Moore**

Barry, Brian, Desmond and Frank Moore were brothers born to Marion Sophie Greenaway and Walter Robert Fitzgerald Moore, an engineer, (married in 1882 in Madras, India). Marion and Walter had five boys: Charles Frances (Frank) Fitzgerald (b. 1886), Brian Ponsonby Fitzgerald (b. 1887), Hugh Crosby Fitzgerald (b. 1889, died in infancy), Barry Fitzgerald (b. ca. 1891, Romsey), and Desmond Garrett Fitzgerald (b. ca. 1891, Romsey).

Brian and Frank attended Bolinda School sometime between 1885 and 1894, and Barry and Desmond sometime between 1899 and 1913. It appears that the Moore boys did not enlist in the Australian armed forces but immigrated to the United Kingdom and enlisted there.

By 1911, Brian and Barry were enrolled in the military in the United Kingdom while Desmond was studying medicine at St. Bart.'s (Bartholomew's) Hospital, London. They were British subjects by parentage.

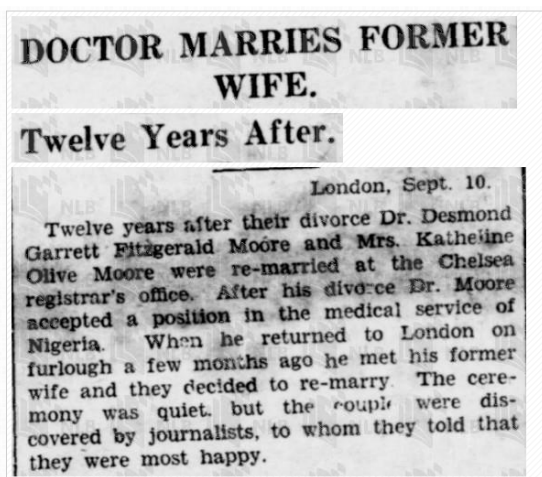


*Photo 30: Barry Fitzgerald Moore (Ancestry.com).*

Barry (Photo 30) enlisted in the British Army ca. 1912, and was a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, Royal Air Force. He was awarded an Aviator's Certificate by the Royal Aero Club in July 1913. By 1915 he had been promoted to Captain and commanded No. 60 Squadron between December 1917 and July 1918. At that point, he was graded a wing commander in the Royal Flying Corps and given command of No. 1 Aeroplane Supply Depot at Marquis. In 1916 he became engaged to Phyllis Evelyn Bulkley. In 1947, he was awarded an Order of the British Empire

“to be Officers of the Military Division of the said Most Excellent Order” and was listed as Wing Commander Barry Fitzgerald Moore, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. He died on 29 November 1961.

Desmond appears to have joined the Scottish Horse, Black Watch (Royal Highlanders). Prior to that, he had been a medical student at the University of London. He appears to have completed his studies and began working as a medical practitioner. He married Katheline Olive Spence on 3 July 1918 with whom he had a son, Peter, born in 1919. The marriage appears to have been very short-lived. The couple divorced and Desmond took work as a doctor in the Nigerian Medical Service. Twelve years later, he reunited with Katheline and they remarried. Desmond died on 11 November 1976 (Photo 31).



*Photo 31: Announcement of Desmond's marriage to Katheline (Malaya Tribune 1930).*

Charles Frances (Frank) Fitzgerald Moore was a Captain in the 123rd Outram's Rifles attached to the 234th Brigade in the British Indian Army. Frank died on 18 February 1919 and is buried in the Kantara War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt. Frank was married to Kathleen Fitzgerald Moore of Hawthorn, Melbourne, with whom he had a son, Edward Barry, born in 1916.

In October 1907, Brian became a Lieutenant in the 1st Brahmans, British Officers of the Indian Army. While serving, Brian married Dorothy Frances Farquhar Bernard in Calcutta, India in

1913. Three years later, Brian died at sea on active service.

Brian had attended Bedford Grammar School in England as a child. Upon his death, the school published a short biography of Brian in The Ousel, Journal of the Bedford Grammar School, Vol. XX. No. 482. March 25, 1916. The biography included the following:

Lieutenant Brian Ponsonby Fitzgerald Moore, of the 62nd Punjabis, who died on February 9th from wounds received in Mesopotamia on January 21st, was the second son of the late Walter Robert Fitzgerald Moore, of Mintaro, Victoria, Australia, and of Mrs. Fitzgerald Moore, Bedford. He was born in Australia on July 29th, 1887, and educated at Melbourne and Bedford Grammar Schools. He entered the Royal



Military College, Sandhurst, in 1907, and in the following year was gazetted to the Royal Irish Fusiliers. After serving two years at home with his regiment, he was posted to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion in India, and later became adjutant. After five years' service he was transferred to the Indian Army, 1st Brahmins, and on the outbreak of war was attached to the sister battalion serving in Egypt, being present at the Suez Canal operations. In April, 1915, he was transferred to the 62nd Punjabis and was made adjutant, and saw service in Aden Hinterland and Mesopotamia. He married, in 1913, Dorothy Frances Farquhar Bernard and leaves a son.

Brian is buried in Kirkee War Cemetery in Maharashtra, India.

## **John Morrison**

Due to the commonness of his name, it has not been possible to accurately identify John Morrison.

## **Frank Munns**

Francis Henry Munns was born in Romsey in 1882 to Henry Daniel Munns and Mary Emily Portingale (married 1881). Mary was a local girl, born in Bolinda Vale ca. 1858. Frank was one of four children: Alfred George Munns (b. 1885 in Riddells Creek), Mary Lilian (b. 1886 in Romsey) and Ernest James (b. 1888 in Romsey). All four children attended Bolinda School in the late 1800s.

Prior to enlisting in the armed forces, Frank was working as a labourer living in Mt. Eccles with his brother Alfred (labourer), and his parents, Henry employed as a farmer and Mary taking care of the home. Upon his enlistment he was assigned to the 11<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements, 8<sup>th</sup> Light Horse Regiment.

An interesting article appeared in the *Gippslander and Mirboo Times* (dated 7 February 1918) regarding Frank Munns and his experiences overseas. The article reads:

A most interesting souvenir, in the form of a Confirmation Card, has been received by Mr and Mrs H. Munns, of Mount Eccles, from their son Frank, who is on active service in Egypt. The card bears the words: "Francis Munns, 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade, A.M.D. In remembrance of my confirmation by the Bishop of Jerusalem on the field, near Shellal, in the Holy Land, on Friday, October 19, 1917, and of my first

Communion on the field in the Holy Land (Signed) Ronnie McInnes, Bishop of Jerusalem." The card is printed in red and gold and will be prized not only by the recipient when he returns, but by the parents and members of the family. Trooper Frank Munns has been attacked with malaria fever on three different occasions and when writing home at the end of November he stated that he was then in an hospital at Cairo suffering from the malady. This soldier has taken part in several sharp engagements against the Turks, and on one occasion had his horse shot from under him. When the Turks poisoned the wells, and no drinking water could be secured, Trooper Munns and his mates were three days in the saddle without a drink, and divided a bottle of pickles amongst them and drank the vinegar. Fighting in the desert has many hardships, and not the variations of the battlefields of Europe."



*Photo 32: Grave of Henry Munns, ca. October 1919 (Australian War Memorial).*

During his time abroad, Frank suffered from various diseases including pyrexia, tonsillitis, appendicitis, gastro enteritis, enteritis, and febricula. In November 1917, he contracted malaria, which returned again in May 1918. At that time he was listed as suffering from debility and anaemia and was reclassified for D (unfit but likely to become fit within 6 months). His condition continued to worsen and by mid-September he reported that he was suffering constant vomiting after eating, weakness and loss of weight. He was described as "thin debilitated and sallow" and had lost around 25 kilograms. His illness was diagnosed as chronic dyspepsia and attributed to the strain of active service. By this time he had been reclassified B3 (only suitable for sedentary work).

Already ill, in mid-October he contracted influenza. Within two days of being admitted to hospital he was dangerously ill. On 20 October, he succumbed to the disease and died of influenzal bronchopneumonia. He was buried at the Port Said Military Hospital in Egypt (Photo 32).

## **Jack O'Hehir**

Jack O'Hehir is most likely John O'Hehir, Jack being a common diminutive for John. John, James, Henry and Albert O'Hehir all attended Bolinda School sometime between 1899 and 1913. There were three soldiers who enlisted in the Great War named John O'Hehir with only John Joseph O'Hehir being associated with the state of Victoria. Jack O'Hehir is most likely John Joseph O'Hehir.

John Joseph (Jack) was a 21 year old driver when he enlisted in the armed forces in July 1915. He departed Australia in September 1915 and was first sent to fight in Alexandria before being shipped to France.

In July 1916, he was severely wounded when he received a gunshot wound to the neck while fighting in Rouen but survived. After a stay in hospital he was again sent out to fight in France.

In January 1917, he was found AWOL from 9am until he was apprehended at 5.30 that afternoon. He was awarded 120 hours detention and lost eight days pay.

He returned to Australia aboard the "Margha", arriving in March 1919.

When he returned to Australia, he moved to Footscray and took a job as a butcher's labourer. Although the records are sketchy, Jack appears to have married Sylvia Mary ca. 1920 or 1921. By 1921 they were living together in Northcote. They continued to live together into the 1940s at which point they may have divorced. There is a record for Sylvia Mary O'Hehir marrying Leslie Charles Pickering in 1948, and another for John Joseph O'Hehir marrying Winifred Joyce Amy that same year. Jack had been working as a labourer during his time with Sylvia, but started working primarily as a civil servant following his marriage to Winifred. They mostly lived in the eastern suburbs of Melbourne including Northcote, Coburg and Preston.

## **Dan, Frank, George and Jim Pollard**

Dan, Frank, George and Jim Pollard were brothers from a farming family in the Carlsruhe and Kyneton area. Their parents, Janet Billings and Squire Pollard married in 1881 and had eleven children: Robert John (b. 1881), Caroline Anne (b. 1883), William Squire (b. 1885), Samuel (b. 1886), Alexander Gordon (b. 1888), Daniel (b. 1890), Ada May (b. 1891), George (b. 1893), James Hillard (b. 1895), Francis Henry (b. 1897), and Charles Pollard (b. 1899) (Photo 33). Unusually for that time period, all eleven children survived into adulthood.

Frank, James, Daniel, George as well as Charles attended Bolinda School sometime between 1899 and 1913.

Dan was the first to enlist in the war, in mid-1915. He first fought in Egypt and later in France. Whilst fighting in France, he received a gunshot wound to the right shoulder but after being seen to he was sent back to fight the same day.

Daniel was killed in action on 20 March 1917 (Photo 34). One informant claimed he was killed at Noreuil by machine gun bullet whilst in the open country. Other informants stated that they saw him wounded in a village called Lougatette or Lagnicourt. He was being attended to by other soldiers but quickly died from his wounds. One informant who claimed to see him fall and tried to help him stated that they were advancing at the time and that they had to leave the dead where they were. He thought that the men were buried where they fell but could not be sure. Daniel's mother accepted his medals as well as the Memorial scroll, plaque and

*Photo 33: The Pollard family in Wycheproof, ca. 1899 (Ancestry.com).*



### **PTE. D. POLLARD KILLED.**

A communication was received on Saturday by Mr Wm. Pollard, of Wycheproof South, announcing that his brother, Pte. Daniel Pollard, had been killed in action in France on March 20th. This young man, 28 years of age, was well known in Wycheproof South and district, where he had lived practically all his life. He was employed by Mr J. Coatsworth. The family went south about 8 years ago, and soon after the war broke out Mr Daniel Pollard enlisted at Kensington. He went through the Gallipoli campaign and spent 18 months in the trenches serving his Empire before the call came. His death causes deep and sincere regret among many friends, but, like his three brothers (Samuel, George and Frank) who are at the front, he was earnest in his desire to fight for freedom's cause to win fame and glory on the battlefield with the A.I.F. He is one of the Anzacs whose achievements and records have won world-wide fame in building up a national sentiment hitherto almost unknown to the war-faring nations.

*Photo 34: Newspaper announcement of Daniel's death (Mount Wycheproof Ensign and East Wimmera Advocate 1917:2).*

pamphlet. His brother, William, named his son after Daniel, a year after his death.

Frank and George both enlisted in mid-1916.

After waving goodbye to Australian shores, Frank proceeded aboard the "Karoo" to France via England. While overseas he attended the 5<sup>th</sup> Army Musketry School. In May 1917, he was evacuated to a contact camp via the 7<sup>th</sup> Australian Field Ambulance. A contact camp was a temporary hospital set up to isolate sick soldiers who had contracted communicable diseases.

Frank was admitted to the camp on the 26<sup>th</sup> of May. On 2 June he was returned to duty. A week later, he was detached for work at the 5<sup>th</sup> Army Musketry School but that same day he was admitted to the hospital with trench fever. After several days, he was shipped to a hospital in England for treatment. Once recovered he returned to France.

In August 1918, he was wounded in action but remained on duty. Within a couple of weeks he was admitted to the hospital ill which eventually turned into a septic right forearm lesion.

In late 1918, he attended the 25<sup>th</sup> Lewis Gun Course at the Australian School of Musketry in England and was awarded 1<sup>st</sup> Class in range practice, 4<sup>th</sup> exam. In January 1919, he went AWOL for two days. In response, he received 3 days field punishment No. 2 and forfeited five days' pay. In field punishment No. 2 the soldier was placed in fetters and handcuffs but could still march with his unit and would also have been subjected to hard labour. He returned to Australia aboard the "Orca" in early 1919.

Upon returning from war, Frank married Elsie Bertha Collins Graham in 1921. They lived together at Newmarket and Frank worked as a labourer. By 1925 they had moved to City Coffee Palace in Hamilton and Frank had taken work as a fencer. The City Coffee Palace, also known as the Hamilton Coffee Palace, was a private hotel associated with the Temperance Movement. Within a year, they had moved to Mooroopna. By 1931, Elsie and Frank appear to have gone their separate ways with Elsie moving back to Melbourne though it is not clear where Frank ended up. In 1942, Frank is listed in the electoral roll as living alone at Hattah working as a trapper while Elsie was working as a textile worker living in Heidelberg. Frank died in 1961 and Elsie in 1981.

Like George McPherson, George Pollard suffered from varicocoele which had rendered him unfit for service in the past. However, this time the medical officer deemed his varicocoele symptoms to not be excessive and he was passed for entry to the armed forces.

He appears to have spent the first part of his time overseas in England and it was not until August 1917 that he was transferred to the front line in France. In October 1917 he was wounded in action when he received a gunshot wound to his hands and buttock and was transferred to England for treatment. In July 1918, he was shipped back to Australia as the gunshot wound to his left hand rendered him incapable of fighting.

After returning from the war, George moved in with his mother and brothers, James and Charles and sister Ada May in Kensington and took



work as a labourer. By the early 1940s, he was living in Northcote with Ethel Mary Pollard (relationship unknown) and working as a bank clerk. In 1947, he married Barbara Branch. It is not clear if they had children or not. George continued to work as a bank clerk living with Barbara until the late 1960s when he became a bank officer and Ethel Mary moved back in. Ca. the 1970s he was promoted to bank manager living at Maclead with Barbara, John David Pollard (teacher) and Roger Anthony William Pollard (trainee). He died in 1982.

James Pollard does not appear to have served overseas. He applied to enlist in the armed forces but was either rejected or served within Australia only.

## **Frank and William Smith**

William Henry Smith and Francis Smith were brothers born to Honorah (Norah) Murphy and Patrick Smith, a carpenter in Bolinda (married in 1880). William Henry was born in Bolinda/Lancefield Junction in 1883 and Francis in Riddells Creek in 1891. Norah and Patrick had at least six other children as well: John Patrick (b. 1881), Catherine Bridge (Katie) (b. 1885), James Edward (b. 1887), Anna (b. 1889), Elizabeth Mary (Bessie) (b. 1893) and Randall Thomas (b. 1896). William attended Bolinda School sometime between 1885 and 1894, and Frank between 1895 and 1898.

William was the first of the brothers to enlist in the armed forces. He was 32 years old when he enlisted in July 1915. He had previously been working as an attendant at an Inebriates Home in Lara. However, one month after his enlistment he was admitted to the No. 5 Australian General Hospital with pneumonia. Three days later, on 15 August 1915, he died of heart failure. Honorah received a Memorial Plaque and Scroll in memory of her son.

Francis enlisted in the armed forces nine days after William. He had been working as an assistant station master for the railways. He embarked for France on 20 November 1915. In August 1916 he was promoted to Lance Corporal and three months later to Corporal. He was promoted to Sergeant on 13 September 1918. He was wounded in action on 9 August 1916 and was able to return to duty on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

He returned to Australia aboard the "Boonah" in June 1919 and was discharged from the armed forces on 31 July 1919.

Upon his discharge from the armed forces, Francis married Eliza May Keating (b. ca. 1897 d. 1986) in 1920, with whom he had five children: Francis William (b. 1921), Anna (May) (b. 1923), Phyllis Mary (b. 1926), Desmond Leslie (b. 1927) and Patrician Jean (b. 1931). In the early years of their marriage, Francis worked as a railway employee and Eliza kept their home in Moonee Ponds. Between the mid-1920s and mid-1930s, Francis and Eliza bounced from one small rural town to another while Francis worked on the railways. At various times they lived in Macorna, Rokewood, Fern Hill, Wal Wal, Rupanyup and Bena. Ca. 1936, they returned to city living, moving to Brunswick West. They eventually settled in Victoria Road, Northcote, where they were joined at various times by their adult children, Desmond Leslie Smith (salesman), Eliza May (home duties), Elizabeth Maude (typist), Francis William (buyer), and Phyllis Mary (coil winder, sales). Frank spent his entire working career with the railways and died on 14 July 1960.

## **Andrew Sutherland**

Andrew William Sutherland was born in 1876 to Thomas and Bessie Sutherland, who also had nine other children: Betsey (Bessie) (b. 1864), Minnie Thompson (b. 1866), Mary Anne (b. 1867), Joan (b. 1869), Ivan (b. 1870), Jessie (b. 1872) (the sewing mistress previously referred to), Marion (b. 1874), Christina (b. 1878), and Thomasina Belinda (Linda) (b. 1880).

Andrew attended Bolinda School sometime between 1885 and 1894 along with his siblings, Christina, Jessie, Linda and Marion.

Andrew was nearing 40 when he enlisted in the armed services and had been a farmer in Riddells Creek.

He embarked from Australia in November 1915. In December 1915, he was listed as working as a carriage smith. In March 1916, he shipped to Tel-el-Kebir in Egypt to fight and was promoted to the rank of Corporal. Three months later he was sent to France to fight. He was a member of the 5th Australian Division Signals Company. He returned to Australia aboard the "Wyreema" in early 1919.

Andrew returned to farming in Riddells Creek when he discharged from the army. He married Agnes Inglis Crow, a local Riddell Creek girl, in 1924 with whom he had Francis Andrew Sutherland (b. ca. 1925) who died in infancy, and Andrew Bruce (Bruce) (birth date unknown). Ca. 1924, he moved with Agnes to "Pennylands" in Hunter, Bendigo to farm, where they appear to have remained until his death in 1948. Agnes returned to Gisborne to live with her son, Bruce, following Andrew's death.

## **Laurence Walker**

L. Walker likely refers to Laurence (Johnathan Laurence St Clare) Walker. Laurence was born in 1895 to John James Walker and Jane Stevens (married 1875), who also had Albert John (b. 1877), Frederick (b. 1879), Louisa May (b. 1882), Florence Lily (b. 1884), Sarah Jane (b. 1886), Isabel (b. 1887), James Clyde (b. 1890) and Leslie Arthur (b. 1897). Laurence attended Bolinda School sometime between 1899 and 1913 along with Isabel, James and Sarah Jane.

Laurence was 20 years old when he enrolled in July 1915. At that time he had been working as a storekeeper. His brother, Leslie, also enlisted and fought in World War I (Service No. 3294) though he does not appear to have attended Bolinda School.

Laurence began his time in the Great War in Egypt and was later transferred to France. While fighting in France he was promoted to Lance Corporal and later Corporal, Sergeant and 2<sup>nd</sup> lieutenant. By October 1917 he was invalided and placed on the regimental seconded list due to nephritis and possible trench fever.

He was returned to Australia early aboard the “Euripides” in January 1918 due to his poor health. His brother, Leslie, had suffered from trench foot during his time in the war. Trench nephritis was an inflammation of the kidneys, trench fever was an infection cause by louse faeces, and trench foot was swelling and infection of the feet caused by extended periods of damp and cold which could sometimes lead to amputation (Australian War Memorial n.d.).

After the war, Laurence returned to Wychitella to work as a labourer. He appears to have continued in this fashion until his death in 1948, excepting for a brief stay with his brother, sister-in-law and their children in Albert Street, Mordiallac in the mid-1930s. Laurence remained unmarried.

## **Frank Webb**

George Francis (Frank) Webb (Photo 35) was born in 1897 in Junee, New South Wales, to George Webb and Kathleen Ann Tobin (married 1896). Frank had at least four siblings: Alexander Edward (b. 1899), John Henry (b. 1900), Robert Joseph (b. 1904), and Mary Alves (b. 1909).



*Photo 35: Studio portrait of Private George Francis Webb, ca. 1916 (Australian War Memorial).*

Frank and his brothers Robert and John attended Bolinda School sometime between 1899 and 1913 and their sister Mary attended between 1914 and 1924. The Webb family lived 4  $\frac{3}{4}$  miles from the school and the children rode their ponies to and from school each day. The family were in "straitened circumstances" and received financial assistance from the Education Department to help defray the cost of chaff for the ponies.

Frank was only 19 years old when he enlisted and had been previously employed as a station hand on Teryawynina Station in New South Wales and another in South Monegetta. He embarked from Melbourne for England aboard the "Plymouth" in October 1916, and after recovering from a bout of flu for which he had to be hospitalized, marched out to France and Belgium. He fought in the Battle of Messines (7 to 14 June 1917) where he was killed in action. One informant stated that he

was shot by a sniper while another recalled that he had been hit in the head by shrapnel sometime between 7 and 9 June 1917. It was agreed by all that he died instantaneously. His burial place was recorded as "a spot  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile due east of Messines Village"

His father received a memorial scroll, memorial plaque, Where the Australians Rest, and Frank's medals.

## **John Wilson**

Due to the large number of soldiers in World War I with the name "John Wilson" it is difficult to determine precisely who he was. None of the soldiers listed called John Wilson have obvious links to Bolinda. However, James Edward John Wilson was born in Bolinda in 1894 and it is likely that this is the person the Roll of Honour is referring to.

James Edward John Wilson was born in 1894 in Sunbury to Alexander Wilson and Selena Matilda Sarah Donnelly (married 1875). Selena also gave birth to another 10 children: Elizabeth Isabel (b. 1876), William Alexander (b. 1877), Mary Louisa (1878), Herbert Frederick (b. 1882), Mary Louise Florence (b. 1885), Ethel Edice Alice (b. 1887), Wittlam James (b. 1889), Walter

Alexander George Donnelly (b. 1892), Osborne Henry Clark (b. 1897), and Alexander Edgar (b. 1899).

John embarked for Egypt aboard the “Ceramic” in November 1915. He trained at the Zeitoun Camp on the outskirts of Cairo before embarking at Alexandria for Marseilles, France.

John, by this time a gunner, arrived in England in early 1917 but was shortly thereafter hospitalized for pneumonia. Due to his illness, he was reclassified B1a1 (fit for light duty only for four weeks). A couple of months later, he was classified A3 (fit for overseas training camp, to which transferred for hardening, prior to rejoining unit overseas). Once recovered he proceeded to France to fight (in October 1917). Whilst in the 5<sup>th</sup> Machine Gun Battalion, in April 1918, he was wounded in action by severe gassing and was returned to England to convalesce. A month later he was discharged.

He returned to Australia aboard the “Orca” in February 1919, apparently on the same ship as Frank Pollard.

Shortly after returning from the front, James married Ruby May Fallon in 1919, with whom he had Sylvia Matilda, a daughter born in 1925. After the war, he worked as a railway employee living in various locations including Newmarket, Sydenham and Melbourne. John died in 1954 in Heidelberg.

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Hocking, Frederick Roy, Service No. 1810  
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Lott, Johnathan Charles, Service No. 2226  
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Mcalpine, James Winter, Service No. 3583  
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No date	Central Correspondence Files. VPRS 16963/ P1 unit 165, item FAC/99/00534 Part 1.
1870 to 1904	Outwards Letter Books. VPRS 796/ PO unit 158, item 1070.
1879 to 1910	Central Inward Primary Schools Correspondence . VPRS 640/ PO unit 632, item School Number 1070.
1904 to 1937	Outwards Letter Books. VPRS 796/ PO unit 158, item 1070.

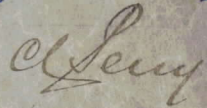
1905	Central Inward Primary Schools Correspondence. VPRS 640/ P1 unit 1269, item 1070.
1911 to 1913	Central Inward Primary Schools Correspondence. VPRS 640/ P1 unit 1358, item 1070.
1912	Bolinda School 1070 Teachers Residence. Pre-Metric Building Plans. VPRS 3686/ P6 unit 839.
1914 to 1916	Central Inward Primary Schools Correspondence. VPRS 640/ P1 unit 1455, item 1070.
1914 to 1956	Building Files. VPRS 795/ P0 unit 2120, item 1070.
1921 to 1923	Central Inward Primary Schools Correspondence. VPRS 640/ P1 unit 1620, item 1070.
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1970 Bolinda Primary School, Proposed Pavement & Drainage Works. Pre-Metric Building Plans. VPRS 3686/ P20 unit 5937.

**Appendix A**  
**Certificates of Title**



813



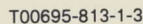
Deputy Registrar of Titles.

# VICTORIA.

# Certificate of Title,

Robert Gardiner of Mount Schomerk near Mount  
Gambier in the Province of South Australia Settler—

ORIGINAL  
NOT TO BE TAKEN FROM THE OFFICE  
OF TITLES



Alamy

*Spicourt* Registrar of Titles.  
ENCUMBRANCES REFERRED

ENCUMBRANCES REFERRED TO.

The measurements are in *teich*.



2



*Application N. 6248*

NATURE OF INSTRUMENT.	TIME OF ITS PRODUCTION FOR REGISTRATION.	NAMES OF THE PARTIES TO IT.	NUMBER OR SYMBOL THEREON.
<i>Lease</i>	<i>The 15<sup>th</sup> day of September 1875 at 1.11 o'clock in the afternoon</i>	<i>Robert Gardiner to Joseph Riddell</i> <i>Tamplin</i> <i>Asst. Reg. of Titles</i>	<i>1174</i>
<i>Transfer as to part</i> <i>Cancelled as to the land in best of title Vol. 1233 fol 246, 50, 113</i> <i>Area 41a. 2r. 32r.</i>	<i>The 9<sup>th</sup> day of February 1881 at 2.32 o'clock in the afternoon</i>	<i>Robert Gardiner to The Board of Land and Works</i> <i>Tamplin</i> <i>Asst. Reg. of Titles</i>	<i>11260</i>
<i>Transfer as to part</i> <i>Cancelled as to the land in best of title Vol. 1416 fol. 283036</i> <i>Area AC. 2 RDS. 0 PER.</i>	<i>The 4 December 1882 2.35 PM</i>	<i>Robert Gardiner to James MacPherson Grant</i> <i>(The Minister of Education)</i> <i>Tamplin</i> <i>Asst. Reg. of Titles</i>	<i>112324</i>
<i>Transfer as to part</i> <i>Cancelled as to the land in best of title Vol. 1435 fol. 290827</i> <i>Area AC. 959 RDS. 0 PER. 22</i>	<i>The 27<sup>th</sup> April 1883 at 11.33 AM</i>	<i>Robert Gardiner to David Syme</i> <i>Tamplin</i> <i>Asst. Reg. of Titles</i>	<i>116826</i>
<i>Transfer as to Balance</i>	<i>The 6 October 1884 at 2.35 PM</i> <i>Vol 1618 fol 323430</i>	<i>Robert Gardiner to Jane Connor and Phosphina Gillespie</i> <i>Tamplin</i> <i>Asst. Reg. of Titles</i>	<i>137503</i>



Entered in the Register Book,  
Vol. 1233. Fol. 246 450.



*Assistant Registrar of Titles.*

VICTORIA.

# Certificate of Title,

## UNDER THE "TRANSFER OF LAND STATUTE."

The Board of Land and Works\_\_\_\_\_

is now the proprietor of an Estate in Fee-simple, subject to the Encumbrances notified hereunder in All those pieces of Land, delineated and colored red on the Map in the margin, containing four acres two roods and thirty two perches or thereabouts being part of Crown Allotment forty one Section A parish of Kerrie County of Bourke—

Dated the ninth—day of February—One thousand eight hundred and eighty one.

Assistant Registrar of Titles.



### ENCUMBRANCES REFERRED TO.

App 6248



T01233-450-1-8

1618-420

1416-030

1234-45



**ORIGINAL CERTIFICATE**  
**NOT TO BE DEALT WITH OUTSIDE THE TITLES OFFICE**



The measurements are in *lines*

Vol 695 fol 138 813

Trans no 91268

NATURE OF INSTRUMENT.	DAY AND HOUR OF ITS PRODUCTION.	NAMES OF THE PARTIES TO IT.	NUMBER OR SYMBOL THEREON.
<p>Transfer Attestant</p> <p>CANCELLED AS TO THE LAND IN CERTIFICATE OF TITLE VOL. 465 FOL. 292843.</p> <p>AREA AC. RDS. 28.8 PER. 10</p> <p><i>Goode</i> ASST REG OF TITLES.</p>	<p>The 1 June 1883 11.27 AM</p>	<p>The Board of Land and Works to <i>James Service.</i> <i>Asst Minister of Education</i> <i>Goode</i> <i>Asst Reg of Titles</i></p>	<p>118023</p>
<p>TRANSFER AS TO PART No. C220969 registered 20<sup>th</sup> May 1965. CANCELLED AS TO PART See Vol. 8574 Fol. 234</p>	<p></p>		
<p>TRANSFER AS TO BALANCE No. F810115 registered 12<sup>th</sup> August 1975 CANCELLED See Vol. 9114 Fol. 485</p>	<p></p>		

CANCELLED

ENCUMBRANCES REFERRED TO

SCALE: *4 chains* to one inch

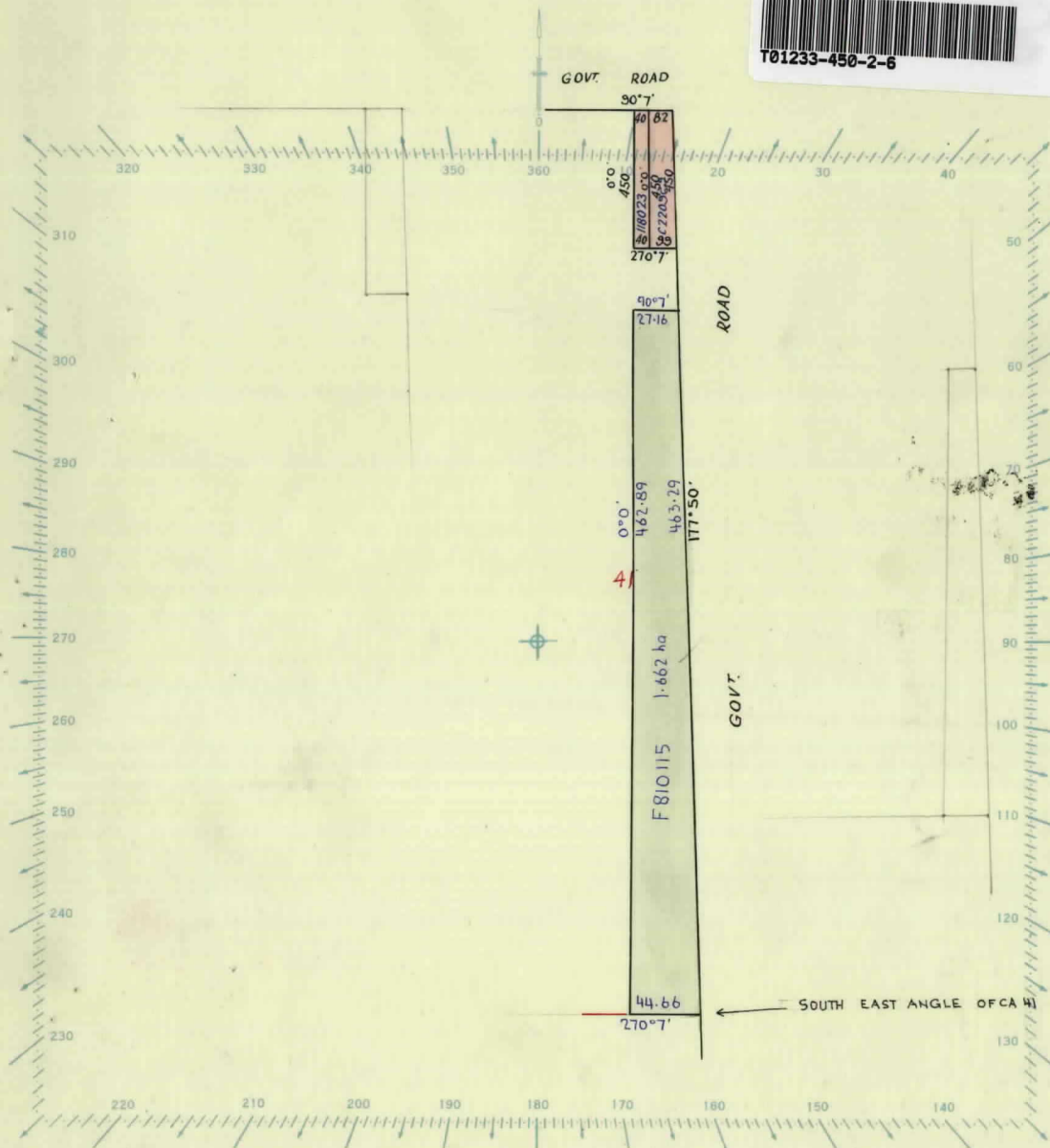
Volume *1233* Folio - *450*

**METRIC MEASUREMENTS**

**SHOWN IN BLUE**



T01233-450-2-6



*Ex OK 9/3/65*

 Natural Resources and Environment  
AGRICULTURE • RESOURCES • CONSERVATION • LAND MANAGEMENT

 **INTENTIONALLY**  
**BLANK** 

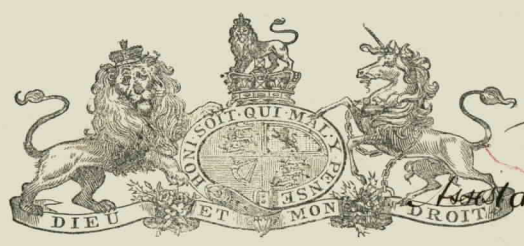


1416

Entered in the Register Book

Vol. 1416 Fol. 283036

1416



*James Macpherson Grant*  
Assistant Registrar of Titles.

VICTORIA.

# Certificate of Title,

UNDER THE "TRANSFER OF LAND STATUTE."

*The Honorable James Macpherson Grant in his capacity as the responsible Minister of the Crown for the time being administering "The Education Act 1872" for the purposes of such act*

*is now the proprietor of an Estate in Fee-simple, subject to the Encumbrances notified hereunder in All that piece of Land, delineated and colored red on the Map in the margin, containing two rods or thereabouts being part of Crown allotment forty one section A parish of Heri County of Burke*

*Dated the fourth — day of December — One thousand eight hundred and eightytwo*

*James Macpherson Grant*

Assistant Registrar of Titles.



ENCUMBRANCES REFERRED TO.



T01416-036-1-0

695 - 813

ORIGINAL CERTIFICATE  
NOT TO BE DEALT WITH OUTSIDE THE TITLES OFFICE.

measurements are in links.





NUMBER OF SHEETS

NAME OF THE PARTIES TO IT

DAY AND HOUR OF ITS PRODUCTION

Entered in the Register Book

Vol. 465 Fol. 292843



*J. G. G. G.*

Assistant Registrar of Titles.

VICTORIA.

# Certificate of Title,

UNDER THE "TRANSFER OF LAND STATUTE."

*The Honorable James Service* in his Capacity as the responsible Minister of the Crown for the time being administering the Education Act 1872 for the purposes of such act

is now the proprietor of an Estate in Fee-simple, subject to the Encumbrances notified hereunder in All that piece of Land, delineated and colored red on the Map in the margin, containing twenty eight perches and eight tenths of a perch or thereabouts being part of Crown Allotment forty one of Section A. Parish of Kere County of Bourke—

ORIGINAL CERTIFICATE  
NOT TO BE DEALT WITH OUTSIDE THE TITLES OFFICE

Dated the first — day of June — One thousand eight hundred and eighty-three.

*J. G. G. G.*



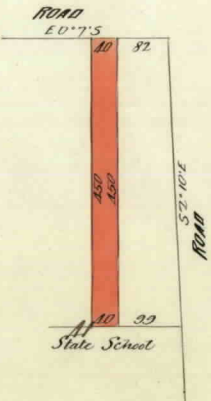
Assistant Registrar of Titles.

ENCUMBRANCES REFERRED TO.



T01465-843-1-1

1233-450.



The measurements are in links.

Vol. 1233.

Fol. 246450.

Transfer 118023

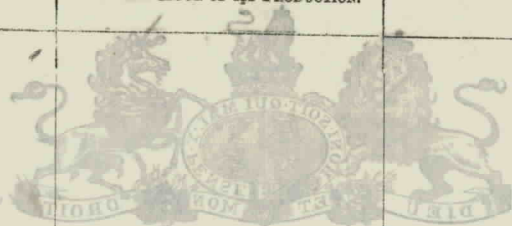
Application

NATURE OF INSTRUMENT.

DAY AND HOUR OF ITS PRODUCTION.

NAMES OF THE PARTIES TO IT.

NUMBER OR SYMBOL THEREON.



VICTORIA.

# Certificate of Title.

UNDER THE "TRANSFER OF LAND STATUTE."

The Registrar of the Land Office in the City of London, do hereby certify that the within and foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original of the title of the said land, as the same appears in the records of the said Office, and that the same is a true and correct copy of the original of the title of the said land, as the same appears in the records of the said Office, and that the same is a true and correct copy of the original of the title of the said land, as the same appears in the records of the said Office.

One thousand

day of June

1883

eight hundred and eighty-three.



ENCUMBRANCES REFERRED TO.

1233-450



ORIGINAL

NOT TO BE TAKEN FROM THE OFFICE  
OF TITLES



REGISTER BOOK

VOL. 8574 FOL. 234

# Certificate of Title

UNDER THE "TRANSFER OF LAND ACT"

THE MINISTER OF THE CROWN ADMINISTERING THE EDUCATION ACT is now the - - - -  
proprietor of an estate in fee simple subject to the encumbrances notified - -  
hereunder in ALL THAT piece of land delineated and coloured red on the map in-  
the margin being part of Crown Allotment 41 Section A Parish of Kerrie County  
of Bourke - - - - -

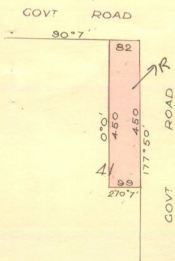
DATED the 20th day of May 1965

*Albonnas*

Assistant Registrar of Titles



ENCUMBRANCES REFERRED TO



MEASUREMENTS ARE IN LINKS

Derived from Vol.1233 Fol.450

C220969

## **Appendix B**

### **Partial List of Repairs, Maintenance and Improvements Made to the School**

## Partial List of Repairs, Maintenance and Improvements Made to the School<sup>1</sup>

Approximate Date	Works Undertaken	Approx. Cost
December 1874	bucket and two basins supplied	
March 1875	unspecified improvements	£15
March 1875	sundry repairs and alterations	£23/13/6
August 1875	additional filling, gravelling, repairs etc.	£5/10/0
October 1876	gates requiring repairs (damage due to gales)	
January 1877	one work mistress's table and one chair provided	
June 1882	several loads of gravel supplied	
September 1882	repairs to water tanks	
July 1883	repairs needed to spouting, windows, etc.	
ca. November 1884	repairs to water tanks	
January 1886	unspecified repairs (school closed for 10 days prior to Christmas holidays for repairs)	
April 1890	repairs needed to boys' out office (damage due to fallen tree branch)	
April 1892	new water tanks supplied	
ca. 1915	new water tank supplied	
ca. mid-1915	cowl for chimney, new stool for teacher's desk (school would fill with smoke when a westerly wind blew)	
February 1925	new WC pan	
June 1925	new tin of paint for restoring the blackboards	
December 1927	new flooring, repairs to school building, shelter pavilions etc, painting externally and internally (school closed for one week for repairs, initial request for repairs submitted in October 1925)	
1928	timber garden rails and staples, gravel	
June 1929	new spouting and repairs, new tank and stand	£21/17/9

<sup>1</sup> The files do not provide a complete record of all repairs, maintenance and improvement works undertaken at the school and teachers residence. In many records requests are made for works to be undertaken but there is no report of them actually being completed.

Approximate Date	Works Undertaken	Approx. Cost
February 1930	spare blackboards from Riddells Creek installed at Bolinda as blackboards were rough, pitted and warped	
October 1931	ten dual desks supplied	
October 1932	two dozen new inkwells supplied (inkwells were old fashioned wide mouth ones and would not fit in new dual desks)	
May 1932	new gatepost erected (stock wandering into school grounds through broken gate)	
May 1935	new concrete, cleaning and relaying old drains	£2/4/0
May 1939	repairs to tank stands	£3
November 1940	repairs to fence, out offices, chimney, etc.	£17/0/6
June 1943	supplied blinds for new classroom extension	£3/0/4
August 1945	tightening iron on roof (to prevent leaks during wet windy weather)	
September 1946	repairs to fences	£1/11/3
October 1946	repair boys shelter shed, external painting of both shelter sheds	
July 1949	200 ft of 6 in x 1 in flooring for the shelter sheds and repairs to the shelter sheds (damaged in storms)	
September 1949	gravel supplied for the school grounds	
August 1951	provision of display boards, replacement of flag pole, repairs and painting	£188/4/0
1952	provision of cement slabs for assembly area outside school door	£12/9/0
June 1952	repairs to shelter shed	£205/4/3
November 1953	slow combustion stove set on the hearth in front of the existing fireplace	£34/19/6
1954	erection of new urinal in boys out office; repairs to leaky roof; supply of school name plate; external painting	
October 1955	heavy duty linoleum installed on the front porch	£13
1955	install a pane of glass; renew post and rail fence on south and west boundaries; provide flywire window screens; provide flywire doors	



<b>Approximate Date</b>	<b>Works Undertaken</b>	<b>Approx. Cost</b>
1957	66 cubic yards of gravel laid down	£80
February 1956	school porch converted into a projection room, removal of cloak racks from porch and installation of hooks on the walls to store students' cloaks	
March 1956	erection of playground equipment, replacement of leaking tank, replacement of two lengths of flue pipe on the school heater	
1960s	installation of septic closets	
1962	new light timber construction (LTC) classroom erected	
Ca. 1974	gas heating	

## **Appendix C**

### **Partial List of Repairs, Maintenance and Improvements Made to the Teacher's Residence**

## Partial List of Repairs, Maintenance and Improvements Made to the Teachers Residence<sup>2</sup>

Approximate Date	Works Undertaken	Approx. Cost
September 1875	teacher's furniture purchased	£5/5/0
September 1882	new oven	
October 1914	new picket fence and repairs to existing fencing	£27
June 1923	new water closet pan	
July 1924	new stove, external painting, painting and papering of rooms internally, painting and repairing front fence (initial request submitted in April 1923)	£66/12/6
December 1924	new water tank	£5/14/6
December 1927	new copper stand and repairs to verandah (works approved in September 1926)	
mid-1928	repairs and extension to drain	£8/5/0
early 1928	installed fly wire doors and flyscreens on windows	£9/19/0
August 1928	extension of back porch	£9/9/0
ca. August 1929	new bath installed	£8/10/0
February 1930	basin removed from Riddells Creek School for use in the teacher's residence	
September 1931	basket grate for fireplace	
ca. December 1934	new grating for firebox of kitchen stove	
March 1935	repairs to tank stand	
June 1935	bath heater installed, stove lids and two blinds	
January 1937	gateway and path at front of residence constructed, repairs to fence etc.	£12/19/0
February 1937	sleep out erected (resulted in rent increase)	£59/9/0
July 1938	new stove	£5/3/6
August 1938	new water tank	£3/11/0
April 1940	renewal of the kitchen floor, painting of kitchen, repapering of dining room, painting of bathroom, overhauling of roof, repairs to fence	£29/15/0

<sup>2</sup> The files do not provide a complete record of all repairs, maintenance and improvement works undertaken at the school and teachers residence. In many records requests are made for works to be undertaken but there is no report of them actually being completed.

<b>Approximate Date</b>	<b>Works Undertaken</b>	<b>Approx. Cost</b>
March 1942	roof repairs, repairs to tank stand (initial requests submitted in August 1940 and December 1941 respectively)	£6
August 1943	new stove top (24" Lux stove)	3/10
August 1945	replace kitchen mantelpiece, repair kitchen cabinets, fix leaking sink, repair smoking chimney, refit kitchen and pantry door, minor repairs to plaster in several rooms, fit lock on washhouse door	
February 1946	new water supply and tank	£28/15/6
October 1946	reconstruction of residence out office, washbasins, bath heater and minor repairs	£77/12/6
October 1946	internal and external painting, repapering walls, supply and fix window screens, new flooring for the verandah (initial request submitted in November 1942)	
March 1947	minor repairs, alteration to fireplace, renovation of bathroom, provision of posts for clothes lines	£37/14/6
October 1948	putty for windows, new fire grate, repairs to bath heater flue	
December 1948	new sink, new copper, additional shelves in pantry, re-set stove, repairs to fences	
June 1949	new grate for stove	
February 1950	fly wire door at rear entrance,	
November 1950	linoleum installed in the kitchen, pantry, bathroom and passages	£51
October 1951	rotary clothes hoist installed	£21/10/6
May 1952	electricity and lights installed (resulted in rent increase, installed by Bell & Dyring of Northcote)	£80/0/0
June 1952	unspecified repairs	
1954	installation of new sink and cupboards, installation of louvre-type windows in the sleepout, repairs to verandah posts	
1955	renew 2 x 800 gallon tanks; renew spouting on south side	
February 1956	installation of louvres and fixed windows in the sleep-out (resulted in rent increase from £45//5/0 to £48/9/4 per annum)	£64/7/0

<b>Approximate Date</b>	<b>Works Undertaken</b>	<b>Approx. Cost</b>
March 1956	repairs to fences, repair of a small gate, replacement of damaged boards in garage door, replacement of flywire in screens and doors	
1960s	installation of a septic closet	

## **Appendix D**

### **List of Postmasters and Postmistresses at Bolinda Post Office**



Grace Caldwell, 1879-1898

Mary Rubie (acting), 1898

Thomas Philips, 1898–1909

Jane Davis, 1909

Arthur Parratt, 1909–1914

William Jamieson, 1914-1915

Pauline Newington (acting), 1915-1916

Reginald Coles, 1916-1926

Norval Hansen, 1927-1929

Peter Brady, 1929-1943 (birth name was Eugene Peter Brady)

Eileen Brady, 1943-1951

Elaine McQualter, 1951-1954 (Elaine Margaret O'Shea married Douglas James McQualter in 1949)

Albina Cairns, 1954-1957 (Albina Francis Hlinka married Alan Henry Cairns in 1945)

Ronald Ayres, 1957-c. 1968 (Ronald James Ayres was a farm worker living in Bolinda in 1950s and 1960s, was born ca. 1926 to John Harold and May Margaret, died in Bolinda in 1980)

1968 onwards unknown

## **Appendix E**

### **Public Service Board Inquiry into R. Thomas Philips, Charged with Misconduct**

## Public Service Board Inquiry

R. Thomas Philips, Post Master Bolinda

Charged before the Public Service Board with misconduct

### Witnesses

1<sup>st</sup> James Ryan

2<sup>nd</sup> Thomas Patrick Egan

3<sup>rd</sup> Joseph John Haley

4<sup>th</sup> Thomas John Heaney

5<sup>th</sup> Horatio McWilliams

James Ryan

states:

I am the Controller of Money Orders at the General Post Office Melbourne.

I remember June last year I received the Postal Note produced No. 439902 for 7/6 signed Edward Shehan, and marked No 1 with memo dated Bolinda 7<sup>th</sup> June 1899, and marked No 3, from the P.M. Bolinda stated that he had cashed the note and requesting me to remit him the 7/6. I replied that as his office was not a Money Order Office he should not have cashed the note nor impressed his office date stamp thereon and I also instructed him to send it with his next remittance for stamps, see letter dated Bolinda 7<sup>th</sup> June 1899 marked No 31. I then handed the Postal Note with memo attached to Messenger & gave with instructions to register it. I also entered it in the registration book and the number of the note book produced, and I received in this book a receipt from the registration Branch. Some time afterwards I received a memo from the P.M. Bolinda stating that he had not received the note nor the money and I replied that I had sent it him on the 9<sup>th</sup> June in a registered letter with instruction what to do with it. Several communications passed between us in which the P.M. still denied having received it. I then wrote him instructing him to apply for a duplicate at the expiration of six months and if the original note had not turned up in the meantime he would be paid 7/6 for the duplicate note.

Mr. Philips at the end of six months did apply for a duplicate note which was issued to him, and he was paid the 7/6 less 2 for poundage which was paid by the P.M. for the issue of the duplicate note, see P.H. [?] No. 2. In the same month, June, this year the original note was sent me to be cashed and when I compared it with the duplicates I found 7/6 had already been paid on this note. I then submitted it to the Deputy Postmaster General.

Patrick Egan

states:

I am a Messenger employed at the General Post Office Melbourne.

I remember the 9<sup>th</sup> June last year, the postal note produced No. 439902 for 7/6 (marked No 1) was handed to me by Mr Ryan the last witness with memo marked No 3 attached. I put them in an envelope and brought it over to the regulation Branch and registered it to the P.M. Bolinda. I addressed the envelope P.M. Bolinda, and I got a receipt for it from the registration Branch in the book produced.

John Haley

states:

I am a Mail Officer employed in the Registration Branch at the General Post Office Melbourne.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> June last year three registered letters were sent to the P.M. Bolinda, one from Mr Ryan and two from the Stamps Branch our receipt for them are in the books produced. I also produced a receipt for them from the P.M. Bolinda.

John Heaney

states:

I am a Clerk in the Cashier's Office.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> June last I received postal note produced No 439902 for 7/6 marked No 1 from the P.M. Bolinda Mr. Philips, as a remittance for stamps. I sent him the stamps and the postal note was paid in to the Bank it was presented at the Money Order Office by the Bank and they were informed it was such an old note they would have to pay poundage, the Bank Official then brought it back to me and I gave him the 7/6 for it. I then sent

it over to the Money Order Office and it was found that a duplicate had been issued. The next time the P.M. at Bolinda sent his remittance I deducted 7/6 from it and informed him why I did so.

Horatio McWilliams

states:

I am a Detective attached to the Postal Department Melbourne.

From instructions received from the Deputy Post-Master General I went to Bolinda on the 4<sup>th</sup> of this month. I there saw Mr Philips who is a State School Teacher and Post-master. I said "I am from the Postal Dept" I wish to see you in reference to that Postal Note you had so much correspondence with the Dept about". He said "Very well but excuse me a five minutes. I want to see to the children". I said very well he then went into the school room and came out again in a few minutes we then went into the office which is attached to the private residence & then said "I am Detective McWilliams. On the 9<sup>th</sup> June last year Mr Ryan of the Money Order Office sent you this postal note and you say you never received it and it was sent by you the other day to the Cashier with your remittance for stamps". Philips replied "I only received it a little while ago" I said "On what date did you receive it" he replied "about the 12<sup>th</sup> of June" I said "well it was sent you by Mr Ryan on the 9<sup>th</sup> June last year and the registration Branch holds your receipt for it" I said "are you sure you did not mislay it" he replied "no" It came in an envelope like this showing me a small blue envelope.

I then said "But that is not the point it does not matter whether you received it twelve months ago or a week ago, you knew when you received it that it was the postal note you had all the correspondence about with the Dept and you knew that you had already received value for it by the issue of a duplicate and it was clearly your duty to have reported the matter to the Dept that the original note had turned up but instead of that you try and get another 7/6 out of the Dept that is you try and get 15/ for a seven and six penny note, you no doubt thought that when you sent it on the same month this year the year would not be noticed. Philips said "yes I knew I was doing wrong and I deserve to be punished"

He then made the statement produced which I took down in writing and which he signed.

I then inspected his office and found him £3.19.9 ½ short on his advance, see inspection sheet signed by him.

## Appendix F

Diary of A. J. Boreham  
(Ancestry.com)



1st World War  
DIARY of - A. J. BOREHAM

A. J. BOREHAM, No. 3350, 8th Light Horse  
Regiment A.I.F. (Australian I. Forces Abroad)  
Enlisted Ballarat Victoria 24.2.1917  
Reported Sturt St Depot  
Melbourne 13.3.1917  
Went to Royal Oak Camp 14.3.1917  
Left Royal Park for Broadmeadows 20.3.1917  
On 2.4.1917 transferred to Light Horse at  
Seymour. Left Seymour for Embarkation 16.6.17.  
Went to Domain Camp St Kilda and embarked on  
Port Lincoln. Monday 18th June. Meningitis on  
ship disembarked and sent to Broad Meadows for  
isolation. Swabs taken and troops that passed  
examination embarked again at Port Melbourne  
on board Port Lincoln and left wharf at 5 o'clock  
June 22nd 1917.  
Arrived at Fremantle W. A. on Thursday night  
June 28th. Had a few hours leave at Fremantle  
and sailed again Saturday June 30th about noon.  
Seas very rough for a week sailing but calm in  
the Indian Ocean.  
Arrived at Harbour Colombo, Ceylon on Friday  
July 13th 1917.  
Took on coal and water and troops landed in  
Colombo on Saturday morning. Pitched camp on  
Rifle Green.  
Throat swabs taken and carriers left behind in  
isolation. Main body of troops sailed away  
again on 22nd July and 45 carriers left.  
We pulled down the camp then went to Hospital  
at Kanata Road - treated for about 4 weeks -  
then went to Barracks at the fort Colombo.  
Had a very good time in Barracks having meals  
in British India Hotel.  
On August 22nd had a free trip to Kandy 70  
miles up in a beautiful mountain country - saw some  
magnificent scenery and all manner of tropical  
products - bananas, tobacco, pine-apple, sugar  
cane, maize and rice plantations. Tea and cotton.  
Saw natives preparing the paddy fields in all  
stages of growth and working up the slush with  
oxen and ploughs.

Saw the town of Kandy - its lake, market and many temples. Went into a Mohammedan Temple and saw a supposed tomb and coffin of Mahomet about 10 ft long and 3 ft high each side is covered with peacock feathers.

The railway to Kandy is a fine example of engineering as the line is built up in the mountains and over precipices hundreds of feet in depth.

On Thursday 23rd August left Colombo by train at 6 p.m. for coast en route to India. Arrived at coast 6 a.m. next day. Crossed the channel by steamer in about 2 hours and landed in Sth India. Boarded a G.I.P. train travelled through an Island of sand and great sand hills like the desert - a few natives and goats on the island. Then across Adams Bridge. A bridge built for miles on rocks in shallow water.

Travelled up peninsula to Madras - six hundred miles - arrived Saturday morning, marched to St. Georges fort. Had breakfast 10 a.m. We were then shown all around Madras in motor lorry by courtesy of YMCA. Shown at the damage the Emden did when bombarding Madras 1914. Also saw where a cyclone swept away a Lighthouse - weighing 300 tons - and its base weighing 400 tons. Went to the Museum and Aquarium. Left Madras in evening by Madras-Bombay Mail - refused to travel in carriage on train and delayed Mail for hour while we got better cars. Had a splendid trip across India and saw some magnificent scenery. Climbed in mountains to a height of 5000 feet. Reversed engine and travelled down through beautiful country - splendid waterfalls all along the line - some 1000 feet high and splashing under the railway and even on the train. The line is cut out of miles of solid rock and we passed through many tunnels in the mountains. The plains are very fertile and are covered with herds of goats and



Buffalo as well as plantations of rice and maize.

Indian Monsoon now on. Very heavy rain 2 or 3 inches every day so the waterfalls are at their best. Arrived in Bombay - Monday 3 p.m. - 7 hours late - and blamed Australians!

Many fine buildings in Bombay - Victoria Railway Terminus a grand building (and considered the best). Been in all the theatres and Vic Gardens Zoo and the native market - a great sight. Went to Christ Church Garrison and St Thomas Cathedral City.

Camped in Barracks at Golabar.

Population of India -  $313\frac{1}{2}$  million.

Religions:

Hindus	217,536,920
Mohammedans	66,623,412
Buddhist	10,721,449
Animistic	10,295,168
Christians	3,376,196
Sikh	3,014,446
Jain	1,248,182
Parsi	100,100
Jews	20,930
Unclassified	37,108

Population of	CALCUTTA	1,200,000
	BOMBAY	980,000
	MADRAS	513,000
	COLOMBO	130,000

Death rate averages, 2,500 per month  
Birth rate the same

Rain fall from June 1st 36 inches  
As much rain in three months as we get in  
Victoria in three years.

The Parsi are the leading natives in Bombay.

They have fine buildings and their women dress well in robes of silk and satins. They carry their dead to a place at Maladar Hill called the Towers of silence. It is a large circular tower with a flat surface on which they place the dead body to be eaten by vultures. When the bones are dried by the sun they are put in a well in the centre of the tower to crumble to dust.

While in Bombay saw at Theatres - The Merry Widow, the Rosary and Dream Waltz. Had a very good holiday from June 16th to Sept 14th. Going to Egypt tomorrow by Steamer. Left Alexandria Docks, Bombay 12.30 pm Sept 15th 1917 on board troopship - P & O Liner Kashmere carrying, 2000 British Pommies. Sea very calm - sighted land /Thursday morning 20th/ Arabian coast - mountains of barren rocks with white sand at the base. Arrived near Aden Thursday night but sent back again to wait till 8 o'clock Friday morning. Sailed into Aden Friday morning. Some English Pommies landed and we waited in Harbour till evening. Aden a Garrison town built on rocks and mountains. Camel carts and donkeys there and a few natives in canoes selling things. A very barren place - no sign of any vegetation anywhere. Nothing but solid rock in red sea but several big mountains of rock both sides of Gulf and many large rocks in the sea - passed a group of 12 at even - called The Twelve Disciples. Saw a sunset on red sea - just like a ball of flame sinking in the water. Weather cool with a good head wind and a beautiful calm sea. Arrived at Suez on Wednesday morning - 20th Sept 1917. Left ship and entrained at Port Suez station about 5 o'clock and passed many date palms - also a few maize plots grown by irrigation.

Arrived at Camp in Desert Ismalia at dark 20th Sept 1917 Moascar. Received first mail since June 16th on 23th Sept. - last letter dated July 11th. Sept. 30th wrote home - May, Mag, Laura, Ivy, Mrs. Stapleton.



Stayed in Details Camp till Oct 16th - went to 8th lines Moscar 16th. Left for Regiment 19th October - arrived in Palestine Shelal at 12 noon 20th Oct. On 21st at 3.30 am went out on a stunt - arrived back in camp 8 p.m. up at 4 am next day. Stood to arms. Stayed in camp next day (23rd) went out on a 36 hour patrol - saw no Turks but plenty of shells. On guard all night - 1 hour on - one hour off. Arrived at the old garden for dinner 25th and rested there. Saw a great underground dwelling cut out of pipe-clay about 23 ft drop with three great openings about 12 ft square. Some old underground wells with a trough made out of stone about 2 ft in diameter - 1 ft in depth with centre cut out perfectly circular (water very good). No wood or trees anywhere. Some crops of Barley that the Bedouin planted but were never harvested.

A few mud houses scattered about the hills but very little grass and ground like flour where once disturbed. Days are extremely hot but towards evening they begin to cool and before morning the cold is very severe and the sand gets as cold as ice every night and as hot as fire every day.

Received 2 letters from Mag on 23rd - both dated Sept 3rd. Arrived back in camp 7 pm on 25th. Received mail - 6 letters: Ben July 22 Jane 25 July Mag July 31st, July 20th; Aug 12th, Aug 5th.

Oct. Friday 26th - having a spell in camp this morning - going on guard 4 pm. Brigade Water Guard 27th remained on guard so relief as all gone out. 26th relieved at 11 am. Saddled up 2.30 pm - Struck camp. Marched till 5 am 29th. Camped all day. 29th marched out to outposts Beer Sheba - on the go for three days and nights. Attacked by Turks 31st - great slaughter and stampede of horses - few men killed.

Thursday 31st Nov - patrolling about two miles off Beer Sheba, which place was taken in the morning. Had a good day. Turks came over in the evening but rifle fire turned them off - Nov 2nd marched out towards Gaza - fighting till dark and in same place. 3rd Marched all night back. Shifted again at 4.30 am 4th camp again near Wadi about 12 noon. Going all day and night. Lost all count of days.

I fell out with diarrhoea on 19th - sent to Gaza on 20th - sent to Belahin the nights. Saw some great shell holes and destruction at Gaza. Staying at Belah 21st Nov In hospital with diarrhoea till 28th. Went to Diptheria ward. Sent to El Arish 30th Nov. Left El Arish for Cairo Dec 4th. Remained in M.I. Hospital Chroubia till Jan 8th 1918. Went to Abbessia Convalescent Depot Cairo on 3th. Went to Helieopolis 14th and Zoo logical Gardens Cairo 15th. Went to Great Pyramids.

Left Abbessia Depot 16th for Moascar 17th.  
Got job on Officers Mess, Moascar 17th.  
Left Moascar Jan 24th for Rest Camp, Port Said  
Left Rest Camp for 14 C. Hospital, Port Said  
Left 3rd Feb 1918 Classed B.1 Medical Board  
14 A.G.H. Port Said 23 March 1918  
Left Port Said for Details 26th March.  
Put on job of Orderly room 27th 1918

Isolated at Moascar May 7th - Typhus.  
Boarded 6 May - Moascar - B.1.  
Boarded 14 May - Moascar - 2 A SH - Bi  
Passed SMO. for Duty 22nd May  
Left Details Moascar 25th May for Depot Stores Gazereh  
CAIRO. 26th on guard at Turks  
28 put in Stores

What I have seen in Cairo - Jly 1st 1918:  
Went to Giza - saw several of the Pyramids and underground Temples also Phyna. Out to the Citadel old Cairo - visited the three largest Mosques in Cairo which are really remarkable buildings being chiefly made of polished marble and in some place gold



and other precious metals. The fort also at the citidal is also worth a visit. The walls in some places being several yards in thickness and cut out of the solid rock on which the fort is built. In the walls of the Sultan Hassie mosque are several cannon ball holes made by Napoleon when he held the fort. One cannon ball is visible being embedded in the wall of the mosque about a hundred feet from the ground.

The Cairo Zoological are no better than our own in Royal Park, Melbourne.

The Cairo Museums at Kasal - nil.

There are several grand bridges over the Nile River. Four of which connect the Island of Ghezerish with Cairo and Giza. All are capable of being opened for traffic on the river. Several carry tram lines as well. The Kas-en-nif and English Bridge being for carriage traffic only.

We are living on the Island as our depot stores and also the compound for Turkish war prisoners is on the island in buildings formerly used as the Sultans Agricultural Society. There are grand gardens around here which are worked by Turkish prisoners of war. There are grand gardens on the island for about a mile on the banks of the Nile - also race-course and two sporting clubs grounds.

Sunday 7th July visited the dead city and the tombs of Mamedukes. They are some grand tombs and coffins of the Sultans and other high caste Egyptians in the temples. The lower class have a city for the dead all the coffins are placed in stone or mud houses. The place is laid out just like any other city with Streets and buildings. It is a strange place to be in the city of the dead - all is quiet and nothing in the houses but the tombs of the dead.

July is the month in which the Mahometans celebrate Christmas after a month of fasting preceding it - called ~~Rarmaden~~ Ramaden...during which time the Moslems are supposed to fast between sun rise and sun set. They are real merry

at Xmas and have four days of feasting and pleasures.

Visited a native bazaar and Arab Mosque of the Musky. Went out to both tram terminus along the Nile to where all the Nile boats unload the produce of the country. All the grain is brought up the river in bulk. The men bring it out of the boats in bags, which are weighed before being put in bulk again in the sheds.

The Nile begins to rise in July for the great annual flood which is in September.

.....

Left Kit stores - Chezereh - August 10th for  
Details Camp--Moascar.

Aug 24 - went to Q.M. Store H.Q. Moascar.

TURKEY capitulates - October 31st 1918

GERMANY " - November 10th 1918

March 15th Saturday 1919 left Moascar, Egypt  
for Kantarah.

Embarked on "uripides - 11 a.m.

11 a.m. Sunday 16th sailed through Suez Canal

Passed Suez 8 p.m.

Red Sea - 17th

Indian Ocean 21st

Arrived Colombo 27th at 7 p.m.

Left Colombo 30th at 1 a.m.

Fremantle - 10th April 8 a.m.

Melbourne - 17th April. 1919

## **Appendix G**

**Letter from Fred Hocking Describing the  
Sinking of the Southland**

## Letters from the Front.

Private Fred Hocking writes to his father, of Brown-street, Heidelberg, on September 3rd, and describes in very interesting fashion the torpedoing of the "Southland," carrying Australian soldiers to Gallipoli. He says:—

"I was glad to get all your letters just before leaving for the front and I felt content after getting them and hearing that you were all well. I am in splendid health, and am feeling none the worse for our first action. By this time you will have heard all about the torpedoing of the Southland. I am glad you knew nothing about my being on the Southland. We left Alexandria on 30/8/15 and everything went smoothly till 2/9/15. A submarine guard had been posted on leaving Alexandria. Our platoon, consisting of about 60 men, was on for first 24 hours; then we went on for the third 24 hours on September 1st at 5.30 p.m. The next morning I was doing my two hours' shift right up with the look-out, when at 8.30 a.m. I sighted a steamer on the starboard bow, before the look-out did. At about 9.30 we were within eight or nine miles of her, and could see what looked like another small vessel under her port side. Everyone was unsuspecting, as she was reported by the man in the crow's nest as flying the Greek flag, but whether this is correct or not I, of course, cannot say. At 9.30 I



I, of course, cannot say. At 9.30 I was relieved and sat down on the forecastle where all our guard were, and cleaned my rifle. This occupied about five minutes, then I got up and admired the color of the sea and an island we were approaching. It was a beautiful day, and everything looked splendid. A rather heavy short swell was running but there was no wind. Suddenly the look-out man of the submarine guard called out to the bridge, "Look out!" At the same time I saw a trail of foam heading for our bows, about 150 yards to port. I knew at once what it was, although I was hoping against hope that it wouldn't explode or that it would miss us. However it came at us all too accurately and got us just in front of the bridge, between the engineroom and the foreward watertight compartments. The place where it struck was about 30 feet from where I stood. A frightful explosion followed, the funnels seeming to jump about 2 feet in their sockets. The submarine guard had been ordered, if anything like this happened, to stand fast. We stood fast. I felt calm and cool as possible. All sensation of fear left me as soon as the torpedo struck. It shook all our nerves to see the devilish thing coming at us through the water. I picked up my rifle off the deck and went to the side and looked over. The boat seemed to be listing over quickly and I expected her to go over all at once. All this was a matter of seconds, then the siren sounded the lifebelt alarm. We, being guard, all had our lifebelts on. Sam, my mate, was not near me at

Sam, my mate, was not near me at the time we were torpedoed, but afterwards came up and said to me, 'My, what a bump!' I laughed outright, it sounded so ridiculously strange. As soon as the boys had managed to get on deck a great shout of 'Are we downhearted? No' went up. The calmness of everyone was marvellous. Our officer who was with us, said, 'Come on boys, strike up a song.' We—the guard—struck up 'Here we are again,' until ordered to stop by the captain. I looked at my watch and found it was 9.45 a.m. It was a miracle that the watertight bulkheads held. If they had given way the boat would have sunk in a couple of minutes. Then the boats started to leave. They all got away remarkably quickly and it seemed only a few minutes before there were a dozen or more in the water, all packed with soldiers and crew. The crew didn't behave as well as they might have done as far as I could see. After the boats began to get away, we released the hatches and everything else that would float, so that they would float off when the boat went down. Two or three boats had capsized and there were a lot of chaps struggling in the water. Except for five or six fellows killed by the explosion, there had been no lives lost up till now, but one of the big boats now capsized owing to a rope breaking, and dropped all the occupants into the water, two or three fellows being caught underneath and drowned. It was impossible to say how many were drowned, but there are over 50 missing up till now. All this time



ed, but there are over 50 missing up till now. All this time we were standing on the forecastle waiting to be told to go aft to where the boats were being launched. All the wooden boats had been launched and they were now launching the canvass and cork collapsable boats. Dozens of fellows were now struggling in the water, and two or three of our fellows took photos of the scene. We took our putties and boots off and cut our trousers and drawers off above the knees. Some kept their tunics on and some took them off. Everyone of the guard was wonderfully calm although we expected the boat to go down any minute. We stood on the forecastle

1.45 a.m. till 11.10 a.m.—  
practically an hour and a half. I never thought it was possible for such a large body of men to keep so quiet and orderly. We released a few more hatches and the captain called out, 'That's the style boys, that's the style.' A couple of hundred men were on the well deck below us waiting at the companion way to file on to the boat deck as there was room in the boats for them. An officer would call out, 'Ten more men up' or 'a dozen more men up,' as the case may have been. I never saw a single case of shoving or pushing among any of them to get in before any one else. If there were eleven and only ten were wanted the odd man dropped back without a murmur. One of the crew a short time before this brought a canary out and let it go. It fluttered away, a speck of yellow against the blue sea. I never saw it again. The island that was in sight

again. The island that was in sight was about 12 to 14 miles away, and Lemnos was 20 miles away. At about 10 past 11 our officer came up to us and said, 'Well boys, there's nothing the matter with No. 5 platoon; not a man has left this deck.' He then gave us the order to go down and fall in on the well deck. We went down and fell in and our Major came up and spoke to us. Our officer said to him, 'Mr. Matthews, I'm proud of all my men.' They left us there for about five minutes. The torpedo had struck where our sleeping deck was and I couldn't resist the temptation to have a look at it. I went half-way down the stairs and had a good look at it. The water was swirling everywhere with bits of wrecked tables, etc., floating around in it. It seemed to be rising fast so I decamped. The whole thing was a strange mixture of humour and grim tragedy. One of the fellows was caught under an upturned boat for about a minute and a half—so one chap said. Three of them had hold of his legs and were trying to pull him out. When he came up they said he had his pipe in his mouth. We were the last company left on the boat now, so they marched us down to the stern. On our way we had to

step over a drowned stoker they had pulled out of the water. None of us took the slightest notice of him. We had to slide down ropes into our boat—about 35 feet—and a lot

our boat—about 35 feet—and a lot of our chaps skinned their hands badly, although I managed to get down all right. There were about 40 people in our boat and when we got a bit away from the ship, we picked up three men; a little further on we picked up two; then we picked up several single lots—in all about ten—making fifty men in our boat. The blooming thing then started to rock from side to side in the fairly big sea that was running. This was owing to nobody knowing how to manage the boat, there being only one steward aboard, and he wasn't any good. The rolls got bigger and bigger until at last she went too far and never recovered, and over we all went into the water. I was on the inner side (the side that went under first) and about ten chaps fell on top of me. The man next to me said that we went down five or six fathoms. Although I think this is an exaggeration, we went down quite far enough, and we struck out like mad to get away from under the boat. After we came up there was a great scramble to get on top of the boat. When we got on it, it was better that way than right side up, except for the waves washing over us. We thought that everyone got on the boat after she capsized but two fellows must have been caught underneath and drowned. They were never seen again, poor chaps. All this time the wireless had been going and now a trail of smoke appeared on the horizon. It turned out to be an empty hospital ship. Soon after this two warships and another troopship came up. They

another troopship came up. They all started to pick the different boats up, but despite the fact that there were four of them it took till 3.30 before all the boats were picked up. What a glad sight the hospital boat was. We tipped out of the boat at 11.40 a.m. by my watch, which stopped for good at that time. I have it in my pocket and intend to send it home if possible. It was about 1.30 p.m. when the hospital boat picked us up; and as we had the waves washing over us all the time, we got quite enough of it by the time we were picked up. One boatload, when picked up in a similar plight to ourselves, was singing 'This is the Life.' We, when the hospital boat passed us were singing 'Sailing Down the Chesapeake Bay.' It was very appropriate in some ways. I joined in it, and I don't know why we sang it. It wasn't bravado. I believe everyone of us was thankful to God that we got out of it safely; at least for the time they all were. It greatly impressed the hospital staff. They were cheering and waving their hands to us and taking photos of us as they passed us, although we weren't picked up for over an hour after that. I pulled an oar of the boat back to the ship, and I think that kept me from becoming stiff. Although it is ten days ago I have not felt any ill-effects yet. They treated us splendidly aboard the hospital boat and brought us into Lemnos where they transhipped us to another transport. I feel very thankful for getting out of it unhurt. And after all the old boat never sank. They managed to beach her on Lemnos Is.



managed to beach her on Lemnos Island. It was absolutely marvellous that she didn't sink. We got most of our stuff back, although the crew took a lot of it. I don't know when I'll be able to send this to you—if you ever get it, although I suppose the full account of it is bound to reach Melbourne sooner or later. I am finishing this in the trenches. We were on road-making from 1.45 till 5 o'clock this morning. You can imagine what it is like. Good-bye for the present.

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Bugler Luther Gates, writes to his parents at Gillies-street, Fairfield, from the Heliopolis Hospital, where he had been for 15 weeks. He was wounded at the historic landing on April 25th, and had not been very long in action before he again received a wound. He describes the occurrence as follows:—

"Our boys at Lonesome Pine had been commanded to be in readiness for a general attack at 12 noon. When the whistle blew we all leaped out of the trench, but I had no sooner got to the parapet when a shell burst right in front of me and several fragments of shell struck me. I was for three days unconscious, and now I have been in hospital for 15 weeks, there still being shell fragments in my face, which four operations have failed to remove. The wound is just under the eye, so pulls the skin down and you can see more of one eye than the other. Never mind, I'm not flash."

The writer was asked to make inquiries about Pte. Alf. Pretty, whose

## **Appendix H**

### **Transcript of Interview with Frederick Roy Hocking**





# **Australian War Memorial**

## **Sound Collection**

### **ORAL HISTORY RECORDING**

**ACCESSION NUMBER: S01316**

**TITLE:**

**INTERVIEWEE: Mr F R Hocking**

**INTERVIEWER: Alistair Thomson**

**RECORDING DATE: 10<sup>th</sup> April 1983**

**RECORDING LOCATION: Ivanhoe**

**SUMMARY: Interview with Mr F R Hocking at Ivanhoe on the 10th April 1983**

**TRANSCRIBER: WRITE*people***

**TRANSCRIPTION DATE: November 2004**

THOMSON: I suppose my first interest is where you were born, and where your parents were living then.

HOCKING: Oh, well, I was born in Kyneton – that's ... I think about fifty miles ... and would probably know Kyneton, do you?

THOMSON: Yes.

HOCKING: Yes. Well, my parents lived there, and my mother was born there, and my father was born in Chilwell in Geelong. He settled there on the farm in Kyneton and that's – well, that was the start.

THOMSON: What were your parents doing in Kyneton?

HOCKING: Farming.

THOMSON: Farming? What sort of farm was that?

HOCKING: Oh – a mixed farm – they had ... cattle, sheep ... various things. I don't think they ever made very much money, my parents – small farming – you never do make much money. Somebody said ... missed farming like that working all day and doing odd jobs all night. That'll be about what it was, too, I think.

THOMSON: Was it hard work?

HOCKING: Very hard work, and no return, much.

THOMSON: Were there many other small farms in that area?

HOCKING: Oh, any amount, yes. Well, they weren't so small, there were some hundreds of acres, but – I think in those days, and even now, to make any money out of farming you want to have a large area where you break even, like big ... a man with two thousand sheep, perhaps, and my father had as many as that ... well, you get nothing out of those. You ... a break-even point, and then over that you probably would be getting all profit – well, you're after fifty thousand sheep over the Western District, and they earned big money. And they did have big money in those days. Of course they were the elite, as it were, of the country, weren't they?

THOMSON: How did your father?

HOCKING: They made it very readily themselves.

THOMSON: How did your father get the farm, and start the farm?

HOCKING: Well, his ... it was a farm that my mother's father had bought. My father's father was a very, err, well known man in the ... pianoforte manufacturing. He was a piano maker.

THOMSON: In Australia?

HOCKING: Oh yes, he came here.

THOMSON: In Melbourne?

HOCKING: Ye-yes ... he came to Western Australia for a start. This is way back in the 1840s. There was a ... one of those ... land settlement schemes something like you get on ... you know, where some of it is under water and all that. And they brought them out from England here more or less under false pretences, that's what they called the Swan River Settlement. And he got there and found that it wasn't any good and he went back to England again. He came from a place ...

THOMSON: This was your grandfather?

HOCKING: Yes, my grandfather. My mother's father – maternal grandfather. He came from a place called, ah Newbury, just near Newbury, in England, where they're having this bomb dispos .. no, you know, the ...

THOMSON: The American base?

HOCKING: Yes, the American base. You know, they've got that special petition against it. Yes. I would certainly join in, too. Ha ha ha! However, he came from there, and he got disgusted with the Western Australian thing – it was utterly impossible to do any good. It was one of those ... you know... frauds. He went back to England again ... I suppose he must have had some money ... he went back to his wife and they came back here again with his mother and his sister and they went to Western Australia again. And they're ... well, his sister, was a woman ... they must be extraordinary. I don't know much about them except there was a woman doing a ... family tree. I never knew who – she was some sort of relative – rang me up and asked was I Ruth Hocking's son – this was my mother, who lived to be one hundred and two ha, ha! Over in the Heidelberg area. However ... he came back again, and this woman, Eliza Hay, she was a over there, heaven only knows, I don't think they'd ever get one from me – ha, ha, ha!

THOMSON: So did your maternal grandfather come to Victoria?

HOCKING: Came from Vict ... he went – came from there to Adelaide. He found things weren't any ... much good. He would have – he was a tremendous craftsman – he made furniture for the Emperor of Prussia at that time – there was no such places Germany. And also for the Queen of Spain. There is ... I've got some literature here about that somewhere err one ... for the Queen Victoria, a table, with about a hundred-off inlays of Australian timber, and that sort of thing. He was a marvelous craftsman. My father was very good with tools – I'm useless. He said that he was the finest craftsman he ever saw, except his own son ... that was my uncle. He was very good. But that's ... and they came to Adelaide and he bought a wagon and ... some oxen. I don't know whether this is a waste of time?

THOMSON: No. This is interesting.

HOCKING: And they set out for Bendigo. That was the time of the ... rush.

THOMSON: Right.

HOCKING: And they got to the Murray River – I don't think there could have been any roads then, of course – and somebody stole the wagon and the ... bullocks. I don't know how on earth that happened, but he went back to Adelaide and came on by ship. And they went to ... they went to Bendigo then. Why they shifted from there to Carlsruhe I don't know ... there his wife died – that was his first wife. And he eventually married another woman there who'd lost her husband in a mining accident. And ... they went to Kyneton and he opened a shop there of ... manufacturing pianos and organs.

THOMSON: How do you know all this? Is this family tradition? Or written down?

HOCKING: Well, it's – it's not. Most of it I got from this ... woman, who was – I didn't know.

THOMSON: Just found out recently?

HOCKING: ... just found it out recently. And there seems to be ... a great ... interest in family trees and that sort of thing. She's some ridiculous woman talking about William the Conqueror being one of our ... forbears. I wouldn't care to ... claim him, incidentally, but ... if you work it back, you find that you've got millions of ancestors, you know, this and that. If you get a family tree in England, you'll always get some sort of royalty somewhere along the line. Of course, sweetens the bill, probably. Ha ha ha!

THOMSON: So did you – (perhaps we should just check this, make sure it's working) – maternal grandfather, then, he had a shop. Did he then buy some land, which your father was settled on?

HOCKING: Yes. ... and ... my ... maternal grandmother ... she was his second wife ... do you want to ...?

THOMSON: No that's fine.

HOCKING: ... she ... she was there, living as a widow, and she had ... four children, I think, and he had eight. So they joined forces and they had another five – ha ha!

THOMSON: Makes seventeen.

HOCKING: They went in for things in a big way the heh, heh! And – oh – they ... let's see, she was living at a place called Boggy Creek which was a ... a house, just opposite the mineral springs in Kyneton – I don't know whether you know the mineral springs, but that's well ... Our farm adjoined the Campaspe there. Magnificent land, some of it ... black soil, very heavy, but very good. However, she – I remember her telling me that she was wakened early one morning – ah ... and there was a commotion outside, a lot of noise, and it was Burke and Wills going through.

THOMSON: Really?

HOCKING: Yes, well don't you know? That's rather interesting, I think, isn't it?

THOMSON: Did they stop and ...?

HOCKING: No. She never ... she didn't get up. She said ha ha ha!

THOMSON: Sense of ...

HOCKING: ... she let history pass her by without looking at it! Ha ha ha ha ha ha!

THOMSON: Tell me, when you were growing up, how many brothers and sister ...

HOCKING: I had only two sisters. Yes.

THOMSON: So you did a lot of work on the farm, I'd imagine?

HOCKING: Well ... well, I didn't ... you se, I actually ... left there ... we left there before I was actually grown up. I ... my father had land in other places – sounds as if he had a lot of it, but he didn't have very much money. He had land down at Little River and also down at Warragul, and they also had an interest in a, ah, place at Mount Dandenong, which was cut up on the north side there, where that Road Board's road runs through, you know. Going up from Montrose up to the top of the hill, Cararama.

THOMSON: Was this land all inherited from ...?

HOCKING: No ... no, it's stuff they'd bought it ... in conjunction with my uncle. They had land dealings.

THOMSON: So where did you move to?

HOCKING: Well we ended up – when I was about seventeen – in Melbourne, at Oakleigh, and my father bought ... had some land at Heidelberg and started to build a house, just as the First World War broke out. That's ... really, that's how it cam ... then I thought I ...

THOMSON: So you joined up in Melbourne?

HOCKING: Well, that's right, yes, joined up.

THOMSON: Can I go back just a little bit?

HOCKING: Yes.

THOMSON: A bit more about.

HOCKING: If you're interested in that ... I mean.

THOMSON: I'll come back to when you joined up, but a bit more about your childhood and youth, about where you went to school, what was school like, and.

HOCKING: Oh well I don't know that it's ... anything worth while talking about, there.

THOMSON: Nothing significant? Were you actively involved in the church? At all?

HOCKING: Well, my people were yes ... I'm afraid that I wasn't. I ... I don't think I really believed anything and ... as the I went on to ... believe less and less as a ... (chuckle) ... like a lot of fellows, I think, who got around the world a bit, you don't seem to, you know, become ... inclined to take things connected with religion – very seriously. You find that there ... I suppose there are ... a lot of different people thinking different things, that in the end that ... it's rather confusing.

THOMSON: And so, when you came to Melbourne, did you have a job?

HOCKING: Well no. My father was in the, he had an office in Collins Street.

THOMSON: What was he doing? In Melbourne?

HOCKING: He was handling, the land, you know, that they had.

THOMSON: Right. Sort of managing all the land?

HOCKING: Yes. Well, I don't know about managing, but he was ... some of these things he's sold, you see. I don't think there's any point in going into a lot of detail about it ... and he was acting really as an agent. He had this ... in ... Heidelberg. Other odds and ends. ... Road, out just near Chadstone, where the Myer, you know, the ah ... there was quite a lot of land going, when he sold that, I think it was thirty shillings a foot. Ha ha! All that sort of thing.

THOMSON: So what did you do when you arrived in Melbourne?

HOCKING: Well, I wasn't doing anything, because I was helping him, more or less, you know, in a sort of ... general way.

THOMSON: And you were doing that when the war broke out?

HOCKING: Yes. Then I ... I joined up.

THOMSON: You joined up straight away?

HOCKING: Yes. Well.

THOMSON: In August?

HOCKING: Yes. A few ... well ... September. Mm. I messed around.

THOMSON: Where – what was the feeling? In the area where you were living, amongst your family? Attitude to the war?

HOCKING: Pardon?



THOMSON: What was the feeling amongst your family and friends?

HOCKING: Oh, they were all ... they were all ... my father was a great empire man. He thought that ... the Lord and ... well I don't know about that, but – ha ha ha ha! Remember the old Kaiser, you wouldn't remember the song "Poof, we could lick them all/Mien Gott, meself and Gott"! Ha ha ha ha ha! No, that was a sort of a thing, which permeated through. It was ... atmosphere which wouldn't would never have know. You'd never know it nowadays.

THOMSON: So why did you decide then to join up?

HOCKING: Well ha ha! You were brought up in the tradition that – it seemed as if it was the only thing to do, just the same as ... why did you... have breakfast this morning? Ha ha ha! That sort of thing. It was a ... it was more or less a foregone thing that we were brought up it wasn't a question of ... being brought up to think that were we going to fight. (That might fall, oh, it's all right.) Oh it was a question merely a question of when?

THOMSON: Where there any ...?

HOCKING: In those days ... Germany, you see, Germany was the ... and we had the yellow hordes, of course, they were ah very, very pressing on the north there and well of course, pretty obvious now, if you go up there you'll find them. Ha!

THOMSON: Were there any pressures, or reasons why you mightn't have gone?

HOCKING: No, only that I was a youngish son perhaps. My mother didn't, you know, I don't think that she liked it very much, in a way, although she was a very ... she was an extremely ... tremendously determined in any bit issue. Small issues, perhaps, no so. .... Remarkable, I've often thought that. She had tremendous courage in big issues but small issues, she ... sidetracked.

THOMSON: So did she make an issue of your going?

HOCKING: Oh no, no she just merely ... acquiesced, as it were. Hm.

THOMSON: Right. Did most of your friends, or many of your friends, also join up?

HOCKING: Oh yes, yes, yes. ... Nearly everybody in our circle joined up.

THOMSON: And where did you actually go? To join up?

HOCKING: Oh in Melbourne. Victoria Barracks.

THOMSON: To Victoria Barracks?

HOCKING: Mm.

THOMSON: And then to Broadmeadows camp?

HOCKING: Broadmeadows and the ... overseas and so on.

THOMSON: How long did you spend at Broadmeadows, and what were you doing there?

HOCKING: Oh, I couldn't ... not such a long while. We went away pretty quickly.

THOMSON: And what unit were you placed in?

HOCKING: Oh well, I was in a couple of units for a start. We were ... rather ... difficult. We were in a sort of stand-by crowd, we were ... you see, youngsters, although oh ... you know, big ... I was pretty big and strong in those days, not all feeble like I am now.

THOMSON: You were seventeen?

HOCKING: Ha, ha yes, well I was eighteen.

THOMSON: Eighteen.

HOCKING: Ah ... I think that ... you know, looking back on it, it's very, very hard to ... remember in any detail, with any accuracy, a lot of these things. We were ... were attached to a battalion called the sixth. We finally got, owing to a certain happening we got shunted away from them, I don't know why ... eventually, we went with a crowd of reinforcements, just after landing.

THOMSON: To a different battalion?

HOCKING: Yes. And err, yes. And we went to Gallipoli and ... stayed there for a while.

THOMSON: Did you know many of the people in the sixth? My grandfather was in the sixth.

HOCKING: I think you mentioned that before. Hm.

THOMSON: Yes. He joined up right at the start.

HOCKING: Yes.

THOMSON: Can you remember the approximate date when you left Melbourne and sailed overseas?

HOCKING: No. Look, I'd have to look that up somewhere now. I haven't got a ... I've got a ... a deed box here which ... solicitor's got it at the moment, I think. It's, er had wills ... my sister died recently ... my remaining sister, and she was ... probating the estate and that sort of thing. The house and some money and that sort of thing, not very much. Err I haven't got it here.

THOMSON: Not to worry. Did you go to Egypt?

HOCKING: Oh yes. I went to Egypt. Yes.

THOMSON: And what were you first, was this the first time you'd been overseas?

HOCKING: Oh yes. Yes.

THOMSON: What were your impressions?

HOCKING: Yes. Well ho ho! Well, that's rather a tall one to ... ha ha ha ha! I don't know, that we ... the impressions we ... the troop ship was a, a miserable sort of affair, you know, very oh uncomfortable, overcrowded and ... there was no ... there were no amenities, much, at all, everything was very primitive. And ... all I can remember very much about it, we were ... we arrived in Egypt. The first, the only sign of life I think we saw was ... a couple of Arab dhows off the coast of Peerim. I think. It's a place you probably don't know of, at the entrance to the Red Sea. They used to be, it used to be a big signal station and they report the ships, of course, the ships are not reported now, it's, you know, past Peerim and all that sort of thing. And sighted off so and so and all that business. However, well Egypt was ... I think a shock to everybody, I think, who thought at all, because, ... you found that you weren't exactly ... we had an idea that we were extremely popular in the world, you know, the British race, but I ... I don't think we were. People had ... well, they had the cheek to criticise us. Ha ha!

THOMSON: Did the...

HOCKING: We were very, very British in those days, of course. Ha ha ha ha ha!

THOMSON: How long were you in Egypt before you went to Gallipoli?

HOCKING: Oh, I dunno. Couple of months or three.

THOMSON: Couple of months? Right, and then you went to Gallipoli after the landing?

HOCKING: Yes, yes.

THOMSON: Were you actually on a ship as they were landing, or were you still in ...

HOCKING: ... no no... We were torpedoed, incidentally.

THOMSON: Where was that?

HOCKING: Oh that was ... off Gallipoli. And off ... Lemnos.

THOMSON: Before you went ashore?

HOCKING: Before we, before ...

THOMSON: Did your ship go down?

HOCKING: Er, no it was beached. Beached at Lemnos. Hm. Yes, all of that's all on the record .. a ship called the *Southland*.

THOMSON: How long after the landing did you go to Gallipoli?

HOCKING: Oh, it was some ... July, July.

THOMSON: Right. Before Lone Pine and the August defences?

HOCKING: Oh yes, yes.

THOMSON: Right. And you were the reinforcements for one or other Battalion?

HOCKING: Yes.

THOMSON: Which Battalion was that?

HOCKING: Yeah. Well ... we went with a machine gun crowd, who's ... and ... the fellow in charge was killed, incidentally, but that's beside the point, and then went to a Battalion who'd just arrived on 23 August. And ..., well, that was that.

THOMSON: Where were you posted to on Gallipoli?

HOCKING: Lone Pine.

THOMSON: Lone Pine?

HOCKING: Yes, yes. It was ...

THOMSON: And which Battalion was that? Sorry.

HOCKING: It was the 23rd. It was the 6th Brigade and they'd just come.

THOMSON: You'd just arrived?

HOCKING: Mm. And I was evacuated before the ... evacuation of the ... force. Yes.

THOMSON: You were wounded?

HOCKING: I wasn't wounded there. I was wounded in France but ... no, I was ill. Like so many.

THOMSON: What are your impressions now of Gallipoli, looking back?

HOCKING: Oh well, ha ha! How long have you got? Ha ha ha ha! No, it's ... it's a thing that ... I don't know that I've every actually tried to summon them up, in a way, it's a hodge-podge.

THOMSON: Did you ever write about it afterwards?

HOCKING: Oh, I've written odds and ends. I've found, thought, that it's an extraordinary thing, I have been, I have written a bit about odds and ends at different times, but writing about something that actually happened, I seem to get bogged. You can't do it. I don't know why. You ... anything you ... fiction ... you could probably manage it. You know. Ah, but I can remember ... I did on one occasion start to write about an actual happening there, which I wouldn't bore you with ... and ... I couldn't write about it. In any coherent way. No. It was just merely something, which seemed to ... give you a mental block. I don't know why. Rather, it was rather an extraordinary sort of feeling. Couldn't seem to do it.

THOMSON: What rank were you when you were in Gallipoli?

HOCKING: I was nothing at all.

THOMSON: You were a private?

HOCKING: I was, oh ... I was only a kid, but I was ... became an NCO in France.

THOMSON: Right.

HOCKING: Ended up as ser ... I was an acting sergeant major for a while.

THOMSON: mm. What was the spirit, what was the spirit on Gallipoli when you first arrived in July and August?

HOCKING: Well, it's very hard to say. You know, you go to a place, the way we went, you only get ... not a bird's eye view, you get a worm's eye view almost. We were only in such a small, circumscribed space that it's very hard ... it's very hard to judge the ... the feelings of even a company, or a battalion, or a division or any army corps, like the ANZAC, Australia and New Zealand Army Corps, and a.

THOMSON: Did...? Sorry.

HOCKING: Go ahead. What was I doing? Ha ha!

THOMSON: Did you see the film *Gallipoli* last year?

HOCKING: Yes, yes. I went ... they took us, you know ... I think I mentioned that.

THOMSON: Yes you were on the front page of "The Age".

HOCKING: There was a ... picture in "The Age" ... and some guff about it. I think they got it upside down and inside out, but that's just true to form. Ha ha ha ha!

THOMSON: What were your impressions of the film as opposed to the real thing?

HOCKING: Where there are a lot of things, which you, ah ... could criticise. There were good points about it. I told them, I think, at the time I told them it was a good attempt at an impossible ... objective. And which is quite true. But what I think one of the big mistakes,

which was made, or which were made rather, there were quite a few! Was they all looked very neat. Did you see it?

THOMSON: Mm.

HOCKING: They all looked pretty neat and trim. They had good uniforms. Well, we looked like a damn bunch of scarecrows after we'd ... been there for about a week or two, couple of weeks. You had ... you couldn't shave, you couldn't wash, you couldn't ... and that sort of thing, and that was where ... that was a big gap between reality and what they presented.

THOMSON: Do you think that depicted life on Gallipoli as cleaner and also less dangerous, or less miserable?

HOCKING: Well they didn't depict anything in the way of any great misery as such, such as ... you know ... the lice and ... things of that description, of course flies, particularly in the hot weather, you know, they were so frightful. In biblical times I think there was a plague of flies in Egypt; well, that was only just merely an overture. Ha ha! It was a very small area, Lone Pine, I didn't really, you wouldn't know the size of it, perhaps.

THOMSON: I've been there. I went there a couple of years ago.

HOCKING: You went there, did you? My son's been there. He's a fellow I just started to tell you something about and then I was sidetracked. Ah, he was very impressed. He did the ... he's a mapper, you know, a cartographer. He was ... quite ... fairly prominent in that area. But ... he had this idea of ... a new approach to the whole campaign. What was one of the great troubles was the inaccuracy of the maps they had. You see, one map, which I had, it's got a feller's blood was killed, incidentally, on it, you know, stained he's got that too, he got most. Ah Krithia down on ... Helles ... it's marked on two placed on the one map. Krithia! You see, it, it's just incredible what people should .... These people who are supposed to make studies of these possible campaigns which you might have, ... study how to ... the best way to invade France, and take Paris, starting from England you know, and that sort of thing. They do that, that sort of thing, and it's ... they never know what's going to come up in this world, but it was never done there. And the only time that it had ever been forced, I think in the States, was about ... somewhere about in the early eighteen hundreds. I'm not really sure about that. You might know the ...

THOMSON: I'm not exactly sure. It was a long time before.

HOCKING: Yes. A long while ago. But what ... were ... we landed there at Lone Pine, of course Lone Pine was ... it was only supposed to be a diversionary action to take and ... to hold it was a disaster, because you were losing men all the time, and it was only held for prestige, and it had cost us a tremendous ... number of casualties ... to take it ... was, you know ... a disaster, I think. But, however, that's ... that's one aspect.

THOMSON: Did you spend all your time at Lone Pine before you were evacuated?

HOCKING: Yes, yes, that's right.



THOMSON: Where did you go when you were evacuated?

HOCKING: We went to ... we went to Lemnos and then, ... we went to ... that was full ... at that time.

THOMSON: The hospital?

HOCKING: The hospital was full ... it was only a very primitive hospital at Lemnos. And we went to Malta and that was also full, and after a few days we went on to Gibraltar. Spent some time there. And ... a very interesting place incidentally. The history of Gibraltar. I don't know if you've ever read it or not.

THOMSON: A little bit.

HOCKING: But it's rather a fascinate... What?

THOMSON: A little bit.

HOCKING: A fascinating place. In a way, yes.

THOMSON: And from there you went to France?

HOCKING: Oh er no, I went to England from there.

THOMSON: What, were you still ill or were you healthy by now?

HOCKING: Well no, no ... well they ... had to do something with us ... We went to England on a troop ship ... and ... they gave us some leave there, and ... we ... then came back to Egypt. On a ship. It was ... you know ... getting around a bit. And we went out to Sinai ... they were expecting the Turks to attack.

THOMSON: Was this after the evacuation of Gallipoli?

HOCKING: Oh yes, this is after the.

THOMSON: So you went to Tel el.

HOCKING: They were expecting the Turks to attack.

THOMSON: This was Tel el Kebir or ...?

HOCKING: Ah no. We went out to a place called ... well, it was out from ... It was out from, at Ismailiya a place called The Hog's Back, which probably wouldn't appear on any maps as far as I know, but ... It was a frightful hole, had trenches dug, and there used to be a sandstorm, and it would fill them up, and you'd go and dig them out again and then the same thing would go on over and over again.

THOMSON: So you were there for quite a while?

HOCKING: And there were Turks ... were supposed to attack, when they didn't. And they ... the next ... I think they did attack eventually, but there was ... just was more or less a skirmish. We'd gone by then.

THOMSON: So when did you leave for France?

HOCKING: Oh ... well, I think the end of February or something. 1916.

THOMSON: 1916. And where did you go to then? What Battalion? Were you still with the 23rd?

HOCKING: Yes, yes. We were in, came back from Marseilles ... we went to Marseilles from Alexandria, and ... up to France and spent some time in Verdun.

THOMSON: What were your impressions of France? Travelling through on the train?

HOCKING: Well it looked ... very ... it looked very attractive after Sinai. Ha ha ha ha! The Rhone Valley was a very, very beautiful place and ... I don't know whether you know it or not?

THOMSON: Yes.

HOCKING: Mm. In fact the Rhone Valley, I think the only other valley which is more beautiful in the spring is the ... the Loire. You know, down to ... through the Basque country there, it's ... along that ... wonderful old houses and chateau and things of that description there. My wife's people lived in France outside Paris. They were – she wasn't French, but she was ...

THOMSON: Oh where did you go? Or where did the train leave you? Ending up north, through France?

HOCKING: Well, we went ... we went to a place, the name of which I can't remember, but it was near a place ... near a town called Aire A-I-R-E. That's about all I can remember of that area there.

THOMSON: And where was that? Was that Picardy or Flanders? Or..

HOCKING: No that would be ... Flanders. No, Picardy was further south and, and from there we went into the line at a place called ... Fleurbaix which was near a place called Fromelles which was very prominent later. A gentleman by the name of Mackay, who came unfortunately from the same place as I did, Kyneton.

THOMSON: General Mackay?

HOCKING: Uh, the butcher. Ha ha ha! He did have, I think it was, ... people there were living in the past altogether, they didn't realise what was happening. Same as this slaughter in France. You know, later on, the Somme.

THOMSON: So you were in the line at Fleurbaix for a while?

HOCKING: Oh yes, and we went down to the Somme. And ... joined in there. But ... oh, I don't know. It's one of those things. You wouldn't ... wouldn't be much point in going into detail. There's all sorts of details.

THOMSON: What was your impression, instead of details for instance, of the AIF itself as a fighting force and of the spirit within ...?

HOCKING: Well I think it had a wonderful spirit. They were ... they had faults, of course, I think shortcomings. I think a lot of the.

THOMSON: What would you say they were?

HOCKING: Well, I think ... a lot of the officers ... some of them were very good ... generalisations, as you know ... they're dangerous things to make. At any time. Well, I was told that. Ha ha ha! Sometimes you might feel like making them. Ha ha! No. Er one of the troubles was, I think, that all those fellows they were ... you know, pre 1914, it was the ... glamour age in the military sense, in a way, and a lot of them were social ... people ... and ... they were more less interested in perhaps military balls, or something like that, and ... somebody said the only bloody face powder they ever, only powder they ever smelt was face powder. And they got out of the way if they could. And they were over there, a lot of them didn't go at all from here. They stopped here in administration posts and ... you know, training and all that sort of thing. I think that was one of the downfalls. Although there were some people who were very, very fine people, you know, who ... had, I think, military genius, I think Monash. He came out of that ... you know, came up through there. He must have been ... extremely able to, to have risen, because he was a colonel, he was over age, and given a brigade, and he ended up with an army corps, and of course Lloyd George said he would have made commander-in-chief if he could have done. So he was a man who had ... brains. He was a, I think, he was a genius. Probably the only genius Australia's ever produced. And there's our friend ... what's his name, that fellow who won that marathon?

THOMSON: De Castella?

HOCKING: Yes! Ha ha ha ha ha!

THOMSON: How did soldiers?

HOCKING: No, Monash was a man of tremendous mental ability who ... meet him you could feel that, you know. And ...

THOMSON: Did you meet him?

HOCKING: Well, I have met him, but only more or less in a cursory way, you know, and I heard him talk; I've been in a group which he talked to. But he was, I think, a most amazing man and he had tremendous disadvantages, he was ... a colonial for a start, and he was a Pole, and he was a Jew. Of course that was very bad in the eyes of, ah ... a lot of prejudice.

THOMSON: How did soldiers from other countries regard the Australian soldiers do you think?

HOCKING: Well, I ... that's another one. I think they had all sorts of ... In Egypt, I think the Egyptians looked on us as er, a pretty good source of getting a few piastres. ... I don't think they cared if we won the boat race, ha ha ha ha! They were ... I suppose ... rather hostile to the British underneath. They didn't show it very much, I suppose they thought it was better to ... keep quiet. The fellow who had the big stick called the tune. Heh! I think with French people, well they're another case really, you've got the north eastern people there, they ... you know, round where they called the cockpit of Europe. ... Flanders which ... those areas, they were, they didn't care who won the boat race, really, none of them. You take the Walloons and the Flems and all those people and mixture it is ... what, write a blasted library about those people. They probably have. Heh! But, ah ... no, they weren't very ... I don't think they were particularly ... hostile, most of them, but on the other hand they thought that they ... well, I think they had the war summed up, for what a futility it was, when it was all boiled down. What did that ever achieve? Of course they asked old Churchill, and he said, when they asked him what the First World War was about, he said, "Oh, it's a power struggle". That's all it was.

THOMSON: Did you start to feel that while you were at the war, or was that only afterwards?

HOCKING: Well, I think ... I think Bean puts it rather well in one of those volumes, you know 1916 and 1917, they're two years I knew in France very well, Didn't know 1918 much, but ah ... he said, ... "By that time the ... troops had lost all faith in the high command. Which was a terrible thing to say, you know, but it's true, because if you're, couldn't have any faith in them, all that they were doing was slaughtering people...

THOMSON: Did that include Australian high command?

HOCKING: Well, the high command wouldn't even include Australians then. Not at that juncture. In 1917. I think ... Keith Murdoch, he summed it up pretty well in the letter he wrote from Gallipoli.

THOMSON: About Gallipoli?

HOCKING: Yeah, I think you might have read that.

THOMSON: Yes.

HOCKING: You probably know a whole of a lot more about the war than I do. The First World War. Ha ha ha ha!

THOMSON: No I'm not sure. Where were you when you were wounded?

HOCKING: I was in a place called Noreuil.

THOMSON: Where's that?

HOCKING: Oh, it's down ... Picardy way.

THOMSON: On the Somme? And were you in any particular action at that stage?

HOCKING: Oh, there'd be a variety of actions, with one thing and another. They were, oh ... named, you know ... Noreuil was really a village area there. Mm, you know, Lagnicourt and so on, and Pozieres and so on.

THOMSON: Were you badly hurt?

HOCKING: Oh, it was pretty severe. Eh, I was ... I had a good deal of trouble with the leg ... and with the ... but I finally got over that.

THOMSON: And you were evacuated from ...?

HOCKING: They went to ... oh, went to England evacuated to England.

THOMSON: So you got a Blighty?

HOCKING: That's what you call a Blighty, that's right. And ...

THOMSON: Were you pleased, or.

HOCKING: ... well ... in one way, yes, but they were ... at one time they were discussing, audibly in front of me, whether they'd take the leg off or not, which didn't please me much.

THOMSON: What did you have a bullet wound or a cut?

HOCKING: I don't know what it was. I don't ... one of those things you wouldn't know. It was a through and through, as they called it, and you wouldn't know what it was.

THOMSON: Right so where did you go? Where were you in England?

HOCKING: I went into a place ... called Epsom. Err ... it was a ... County of London War Hospital, Epsom.

THOMSON: Right, and how long were you there for, very long?

HOCKING: Oh, some time. I forget now the details. I couldn't tell you that. Ah yes that's ... before that, I'd been in the Fishpond hospital at ... at, Bristol, that's when I came from Gallipoli. They put us in there, no ... a couple of us, we ... thought it was a queer dish there. They'd emptied out the lunatics ... that's what we used to call the, you know, the ...psychiatrically ... disabled, or whatever you call them now. And ... the same with the County of London War Hospital at Epsom. This was an enormous place. We were, we often wondered, you know, I never really found out what they did with the ... you know, what they did with the ... people ,, the patients, ah.

THOMSON: The patients?

HOCKING: And, of course, as one genius said, they were in the war office working.

THOMSON: Ha ha! Were you recuperating for long?

HOCKING: Pardon? Oh yes. A good while.

THOMSON: A good while. Till the end of the war?

HOCKING: Yes, yes.

THOMSON: So you were in England till the end of the war. Did you actually get much chance to go out and see much of England? And London? Or were you not well enough?

HOCKING: Oh ... not a great ... well, yes ... I saw a ... bit of it; bit of it.

THOMSON: And what ...?

HOCKING: Oh, I went to Ireland incidentally, at one time. They, they stopped you going to Ireland, because people ... didn't come back. Ha ha! Some of them.

THOMSON: Why?

HOCKING: Well, that's a good question.

THOMSON: They went AWOL or ..?

HOCKING: Ha, ha, ha! That's a good question. Yes, ah no, I went to Ireland ... I went to Scotland.

THOMSON: So you travelled around a bit, where were you then when the Armistice was signed?

HOCKING: Er ... in London.

THOMSON: And what was, can you remember that day?

HOCKING: I remember it very well, yes, very well.

THOMSON: What do you remember of that?

HOCKING: Well, there was a certain sense of, well, I don't know I suppose there was ... with the populace, I suppose you'd say there was mixed feelings of all kinds ... but one of those things, I think. I think we ... got so used to the war in a way, it seemed such a hell of a long while to us, particularly when you're young, a year's a good while. And ... I think we were stunned in a way, a lot of us, we really didn't ... really believe it could have happened. It seemed a thing that was going on into ... you know, indefinitely on and on, like the brook the babbling brook?

THOMSON: Yes.



HOCKING: But I remember going ... oh, a crowd of people had turned out in the streets and they rushed about and cheered and some of them cried and all those sorts of things, you know, a mixed grill. It was very ... of course ... a big relief to many people. I think a lot of people, perhaps ... not altogether displeased with the war. I'd say that maybe ... one of the slogans, I think, that Wilson, American President. He er ... I don't know whether he coined it, you know, "making the world safe for democracy". We thought that it was making the world safe for Fray Bentos.

THOMSON: What was Fray Bentos?

HOCKING: Fray Bentos. They were the people who made the bully beef. You know, Argentine. And it was said at the end of the war there were one hundred and five millionaires. Fray Bentos had in that huge firm. And it was said that they used to boil all the good out of the beef and then sell that as Bonox, you know, sort of extract, OXO, that sort of thing. Bovril. And the rest used to be tinned as bully beef. So they did well out of it.

THOMSON: When you were in England, after you'd been repatriated to there, did you go through any training programmes or education? Nothing like that.

HOCKING: No, no, no.

THOMSON: How long were you there before you came back to Australia?

HOCKING: I came back, I was discharged ... sixty-three years ago on Friday, just day before yesterday!

THOMSON: Really so what was that date?

HOCKING: That was the 8th, and I remember it very well. One of the dates I can 8 April, 1920.

THOMSON: 1920. So you were in England all of 1919?

HOCKING: Yes.

THOMSON: Why so long, why were you in England so long?

HOCKING: Well I was having treatment for my leg and that sort of thing, and.

THOMSON: Your leg was still crook, you weren't well enough to come home?

HOCKING: Oh I probably could have come home, but ...

THOMSON: So you spent, in fact, a couple of years in England?

HOCKING: Yes. About that time. I have spent time there since.

THOMSON: Did you meet a lot of people and make friends in those few years?

HOCKING: Oh I think to some extent yes.

THOMSON: Had you had a lot of contact with family and friends in Australia in those six years that you'd been away?

HOCKING: Oh yes, yes. I used to write and that sort of thing. The mail was very much delayed in those days. Sometimes it wouldn't arrive. Different to now, where you get things, you know, you see them before they happen, almost. Ha ha!

THOMSON: So what were your thoughts of returning to Australia April 1920?

HOCKING: Well, I came back earlier than that almost, I came back in January 1920, and I was discharged in April.

THOMSON: Right.

HOCKING: Oh I think that from what I've seen ... very mixed thoughts ... I think we were all rather confused in some ways, we didn't exactly know where we were, in many ways.

THOMSON: Do you think you were a very different person from what you were in 1914?

HOCKING: I think so. Yes, and I had different ideas I think.

THOMSON: In what way?

HOCKING: Disillusioned, in many ways. Hmm. I don't know how far one should go into that sort of thing.

THOMSON: About what sort of things were you disillusioned?

HOCKING: Well, as you say, Disillusionment in the general set-up, as it were. Just to generalise, ha ha! We thought that there was something, er, rotten in the state of Denmark, and a few other places, perhaps Schleswig Holstein, that's next door, isn't it? Ha ha ha!

THOMSON: Mm. So what were the particular things that you thought were rotten.

HOCKING: Well if you ... do you know England very well at all?

THOMSON: Not very well, no.

HOCKING: No? Well, you may have seen some of the ...

THOMSON: I've been there once.

HOCKING: ... frightful, frightful conditions in which they used to live, it's a bit better now, all that ... cramped ... I think, terrible. That's one thing which ... and the class. I think the class distinctions were, you know, beyond all reason ... not classes almost, they were castes, hah! And they were ...

THOMSON: And that struck you much more than in Australia?

HOCKING: Oh, I think so, although we do have classes here. And some people say we don't today, and I think we have, very much so.

THOMSON: Were you sorry?

HOCKING: Go ahead, go on ask me.

THOMSON: What were your aspirations and hopes for your return and what you'd do when you came back to Australia?

HOCKING: It was one of those things, you really didn't know where you were, in a way. I didn't have ... I was in a position where I wasn't quite so unfortunate as some people. I had, well, I had a family and my people were here and my father, although he had trouble at the end of his days, he had glaucoma and lost ... a lot of his sight.

THOMSON: Was this after you came back?

HOCKING: Oh yes, yes. But oh, I had a family background, which was a help.

THOMSON: You didn't have any particular plans of the sort of employment you'd like to take up?

HOCKING: No, no. Well, I didn't really know what I wanted to be, and I don't know now. Hm! Ha ha ha!

THOMSON: So you'd never had a chance before you left to develop any particular employment skills?

HOCKING: No, no.

THOMSON: Can you remember the day when you first arrived back in Australia, when the ship came into port?

HOCKING: Yes, I remember that ... reasonably well, we'd ... I think we landed at ... ship was landed at Victoria Dock, I think.

THOMSON: Yes.

HOCKING: There was a crowd there, and they had cars, and they drove us to somewhere or other in ... Sturt Street, I think it was at the time.

THOMSON: Sturt Street?

HOCKING: Sturt Street, South Melbourne. There was a drill-hall there, and you went there and got all sorts of papers and things and ... so on. But the details I don't remember the details. I can remember the salient points of some of these things, but the details, they ... more or less escaped me right through that time.

THOMSON: But your family met you on the ship?

HOCKING: Oh yes.

THOMSON: And was there a welcome home celebration for you?

HOCKING: Well ... no, I think they were probably glad to see me, but there was no actual ... ha ha!

THOMSON: You didn't have a big party?

HOCKING: He! What?

THOMSON: You didn't have a big party that day, or ...?

HOCKING: No. I didn't have any big parties, no.

THOMSON: Where were your parents living at that stage?

HOCKING: Heidelberg, and then they ...

THOMSON: Still in the same house?

HOCKING: Well, they ... built the house, you see, during the First World War, and they...

THOMSON: During the war?

HOCKING: I'd never lived there. I never have lived there ... an old house there, you know.

THOMSON: Were your sisters, had they been working by this stage?

HOCKING: Well, one sister had gone away overseas. She ... became a missionary in Korea. She was there for nearly thirty years. And she is now dead, and she was ... very known in her day. My other sister stayed home. Neither married and they were... My other, younger sister died last year.

THOMSON: And so you went to live with your family again?

HOCKING: N-no ... well, yes, I did, for a while. Yes.

THOMSON: And what did you, did you start looking for employment?

HOCKING: pardon?

THOMSON: Did you start looking for employment, or?

HOCKING: Well ... yes, yes I did. And I became, well ... what they called a supply officer's secretary. Of the 16 AGH at Mont Park.

THOMSON: What's the AGH.

HOCKING: Australian General Hospital.

THOMSON: Right.

HOCKING: It was in connection with the AIF and they were here, and ... I was there for a while.

THOMSON: Did you have any problems getting a job when you returned?

HOCKING: N-no, not a great deal, no.

THOMSON: No problem. Was there any antipathy to the soldiers coming back and looking for jobs when jobs were scarce?

HOCKING: I think, I think there was. A good deal of, a good deal of antagonism in certain quarters against, you know, I didn't have any great experience of that, not, not at first hand. No.

THOMSON: Not directly?

HOCKING: I think there was a ... of course, at that time, you may remember, ... there was a tremendous feeling about conscription at ... that time and Dr Mannix was against it, and ... he was a gentleman who ... he was one of the old school, he didn't think England was a very nice country ... and that sort of thing. And ... it was a, there were a lot of them stayed here, stayed home, who might have gone if there'd been conscription, and all that kind of thing. There was a lot of, I think there was a good deal of bitterness in certain quarters.

THOMSON: What was your, you must have been overseas during the conscription referendum. Did you vote when you were overseas?

HOCKING: No. I voted once the second time. First time I was too young.

THOMSON: Right.

HOCKING: The second time they let people who were there, they thought if you, you know, if you were in the army, well you might as well vote, I suppose, and very gracious of them.

THOMSON: Did you favour conscription, or were you opposed to it?

HOCKING: Well ... yes, I thought that it was probably the fairest thing. If you're fighting a war, it was probably the fairest thing ... that's what I thought. That's on the second occasion, I don't think that I was very enthusiastic about it, because, well, you feel as if you'd be reluctant to bring somebody there who might get his head blown off, or what have you ... there was a sort of a mixed feeling, you know, but I think I did, I voted "yes" on that occasion. I think the AIF as a whole, though, they had a small majority against it ...

THOMSON: Yes, that's right.

HOCKING: That's right.

THOMSON: Yes. So you remember that the bitterness which had begun with the conscription referendum. Did that seem to continue?

HOCKING: Pardon?

THOMSON: The bitterness which had begun during conscription referendums. Do you think that continued?

HOCKING: I think it, I think it was continued into the twenties, you know, the ... Dr Mannix went away from here, and he was apprehended by a British destroyer before he could land in Ireland. I suppose ...

THOMSON: That's right.

HOCKING: Do you know ... you seem to be well versed in these things.

THOMSON: Done a little bit on that. Yes. And he had a lot of trouble. They wouldn't let him in.

HOCKING: Not, not into Ireland, no.

THOMSON: He got shipped back. To Australia.

HOCKING: Can you remember any, I mean, did many of your friends who came back with you, other soldiers, any of them have particular problems finding work?

THOMSON: Oh, I think so, yes. A lot of them did. And of course, it was such a tremendous ...

(END SIDE ONE)

THOMSON: I'll just ask that again. You were talking about the wrench from civilian life to becoming a soldier?

HOCKING: Yes. There was, I think a tremendous difficulty in it for a lot of people readjusting. Yes. I knew one man very well, who ... I wouldn't mention his name, because ... As a matter of fact, he was a very fine soldier ... he was recommended for the VC. I knew him very well indeed and he was a sergeant, and he was reduced to the ranks, and (I've got to say) he was a bit of a lad, in a way, outside the line. He was a, they gave him the DSO as temporary Second Lieutenant, they'd made him. He, he never settled. He had bad wounds. Finally shot himself, down on St Kilda beach, one fine Sunday morning ... service revolver. That sort of thing. We that was, it wasn't altogether uncommon, there were quite a lot of suicides. I don't know where was any record of those as such, you know, apart from the general run of things.



THOMSON: What about married men, returning to their families?

HOCKING: Well, there's another thing, of course. I well, I wouldn't know anything about that at first hand, in a way, but a lot of trouble, I think. An awful lot of trouble. I think marital matters are, you haven't had much experience of them, perhaps?

THOMSON: No, not yet.

HOCKING: You know, what Bernard Shaw said about that sort of thing?

THOMSON: No.

HOCKING: He said, when he met the Almighty, you see ... he probably has done by now.

THOMSON: Ha, ha!

HOCKING: Heh, heh! He would talk about different things, and he's say, "well sex", you know, he said "it's been a terrible failure", telling the Lord, you see, he said, "try something else".

THOMSON: Ha, ha, ha!

HOCKING: It creates more hell to the square inch than anything else in the world.

THOMSON: Mm.

HOCKING: Well, ha, he the world, well, it probably might, too.

THOMSON: Did you, how was your leg at this stage were you well enough to move around quite easily?

HOCKING: It never gave me any great trouble. It's always a thing that's been a handicap. I might have, I couldn't play any very active games ... with any great success.

THOMSON: Were there any, did you get a pension for that?

HOCKING: well, I got a pension in 1938, I think it was. Ha, ha!.

THOMSON: Not for quite a while?

HOCKING: ... small pension. I think it was eight and three pence a fortnight. Far too much for one person to have.

THOMSON: Ha, ha! Did you, when you came back, did you start remaking contacts with your returned servicemen friends, and join the RSL or its equivalent?

HOCKING: Well I was we did join the RSL but I was never a very enthusiastic member of the RSL, I think it went right off the rails.

THOMSON: In what way?

HOCKING: Oh, I think that's rather a long story, too. I think they were going to have Monash as President, a lot of people. I don't whether you'd know anything about it.

THOMSON: When was that? A bit later on, or ...

HOCKING: Oh, that was ... early on, I think, round about 1919, before I came back overseas. And he said he wouldn't stand unless, unless he was ...

THOMSON: Unopposed?

HOCKING: Unopposed. And they said they couldn't guarantee that, so he wouldn't, he wouldn't stand. I understand that's so. Well after that, it really ... somebody said, there are these different parties and National Party, which became the Liberal party, and the ... Australia Party or something, it was?

THOMSON: United Australia Party?

HOCKING: UAP. Yes, and that sort of thing. Well, they're all, we used to say that, no matter what your ... opinions were politically, they, the RSL, became a branch of the Liberal party. To a great extent.

THOMSON: Mm.

HOCKING: I don't know what you ever, have you ever heard anybody talk along those lines?

THOMSON: I have, yes.

HOCKING: You have? Yes, probably, well, I think it's quite right.

THOMSON: Were you, had your family been Labor supporters, before you went to the war?

HOCKING: No.

THOMSON: They were Liberal?

HOCKING: No, they were very much ... as you'd say ... you know, there wouldn't be very many farming people, Labor supporters.

THOMSON: Mm.

HOCKING: No, I don't know that I'd be anything, I suppose you'd call me a swinging voter, as far as that goes, but I have certain ideas, which nothing to do, I suppose, with the war.

THOMSON: Mm.

HOCKING: But I think, particularly with the present time, well, I don't suppose this is a publication, but I think the man who's the President of the Victorian RSL is just merely a damned disgrace. Ha, Ha!

THOMSON: Back to 1919.

HOCKING: Ha, ha! You probably know his name, do you?

THOMSON: Yes, I do.

HOCKING: Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha!

THOMSON: Back to 1919, did you, what were the sorts of things, which made you think that the RSL was really just connected with the conservative parties?

HOCKING: Well in 1919 I didn't know very much about the RSL at all. I hadn't ... Subsequently, though, they more or less were on the side of the angels, as it were. The big battalions, I think, always, and, I know Holland, he lived up just near here, I knew him personally, that was Sir George Holland.

THOMSON: Yes.

HOCKING: He was a fellow, I think, who ... was knighted, and that sort of thing. I don't know ... he was a chap with just an ordinary background, not that that's be anything against him at all, necessarily but I think he became ... rather inclined to go along with the big boys, and he went to Japan with a, I think a ship for the Liberal party, I think it was, and they gave him a huge silver tray with all their, you know, signatures on it. That sort of thing, I think it's ...

THOMSON: Can you remember much antagonism amongst returned servicemen to the RSL? In that early period? Because of its ...

HOCKING: A lot of them well, a lot of them never joined the RSL I did. I was a member for quite ...

THOMSON: Did you stay a member all the time did you remain a member?

HOCKING: No, well I, I didn't, as a matter of fact. I just lapsed.

THOMSON: When was that, do you remember when you did that?

HOCKING: Oh early in the 1930s or something.

THOMSON: Why did you do that?

HOCKING: Well, I it was one of those things. I mean, why do we do anything?

THOMSON: Ha, ha!

HOCKING: I just merely, ha, ha! Just merely went by default, as it were. You know, you seemed to lose.

THOMSON: Lose interest? Did you have a family by this stage did you marry?

HOCKING: Yes, oh yes.

THOMSON: Do you think that might have affected the...

HOCKING: Yes, well there are a lot of things like that, probably distract you. But I don't know that they have, I would say that any organisation in that regard is better than none. I wouldn't say that about the Nazis, for instance, but ...

THOMSON: No.

HOCKING: I'd say that about the RSL. I think that it is better than none. No matter, may be off the rails – they have done certain things.

THOMSON: What, things for the soldiers?

HOCKING: Well, yes. They run these carious homes. Well, I had a fair bit to do with that, I could tell you quickly, and that sort of thing.

THOMSON: Might come back to that, a bit later. What about when you returned, were you a regular attendant at Anzac Day marches?

HOCKING: Oh yes, yes. ... usually.

THOMSON: And was that an important occasion for you, getting together with your mates?

HOCKING: Well, to a certain extent. I think it's one of those things where people march, I supposed, for varying reasons, but I marched, I think, as a sort of mark of respect for those who no longer could march. And it wasn't an idea of glorification of war, or anything like that ... The very antithesis.

THOMSON: Did you ever feel that other people made it into a glorification of war?

HOCKING: I think so. I think a lot of them ... I don't know whether they still do to the same extent, but ... I think they did.

THOMSON: Did you, how long did you stay with your job at the hospital?

HOCKING: Pardon?

THOMSON: How long did you stay working at the hospital?

HOCKING: Oh about three years.

THOMSON: And then what did you do?

HOCKING: I went into business.

THOMSON: By yourself?

HOCKING: Mm.

THOMSON: What business was that?

HOCKING: Oh agency, manufacturing agency. And we had a bakery, things of that description, bakery, broking, selling and machinery.

THOMSON: How did you get into that?

HOCKING: Oh, that's another story I suppose!

THOMSON: Mm.

HOCKING: I knew a man who was more or less in it. That's really one of those things, one of those casual things.

THOMSON: And so, for the rest of your life, then, you were ...

HOCKING: One of those things. I think I ran into her in the street, accidentally, one day. I hadn't seen her for years. Tremendous trifles. Ha, ha, ha!

THOMSON: And so you remained, sort of self-employed in business for the rest of your life?

HOCKING: Yes. I only worked for two people ... One was the army in the First World War, and the other was the well, the services in the second. I was the liaison between the war organisation and the ... manpower and the services in the Second World War, associated with a chap called Macarthur, Colonel Macarthur. Nothing to do with General Macarthur.

THOMSON: No that was in Melbourne was it?

HOCKING: Yes.

THOMSON: What was your job then? What particular work what did that involve?

HOCKING: Well that was what I was doing Oh, I was involved in a variety of things. Quite a wide variety. For one thing, we had the ... we had the people from Nauru here. That's all the people you know, they'd ... the Chinese labour force. Had a hell of a job getting the right food for them. They'd couldn't take, they wouldn't eat certain things. Finally, I don't know what happened to them eventually. They were shunted up to Alice Springs to look for minerals of some sort, I think. I think that was one good way of getting rid of them. Ha, ha, ha!

THOMSON: So you were basically involved with ...

HOCKING: Yes there was, I remember, another thing was a hush-hush business in the Flinders Ranges, and we didn't know that ... that was a hell of a long while after and they, they were looking for uranium there. Which they didn't find. Some I think, but only in a small amount. ... far better if it was, had been left in the ground, I think.

THOMSON: During the depression, did you have trouble with your work then?

HOCKING: Well, yes, yes. It was a pretty thin time. Yes, but I ... I was very fortunate.

THOMSON: Mm, where were you living? Were you still living at Ivanhoe?

HOCKING: Yes, living, living here. Just in Ivanhoe.

THOMSON: This house?

HOCKING: Yes, yes, this house.

THOMSON: When did you get this house?

HOCKING: Oh, way back in the early twenties.

THOMSON: Really? So you've been here for a long time?

HOCKING: That's right. A long time. Yes. I'm the old resident now.

THOMSON: Tell me, when you were living at Ivanhoe, were you therefore a member of the Ivanhoe branch of the RSL at that stage?

HOCKING: No. ...Er, yes I was. Yes, the Ivanhoe branch. That's the one.

THOMSON: Was that a strong branch?

HOCKING: Oh, reasonably so. I think it was, what you'd call only moderately strong. And later on I ... I met a fellow, he said "you ought to join the Gallipoli legion". I'd never heard of them, as a matter of fact.

THOMSON: When was this that you met?

HOCKING: O, that's ... about, just after the Second World War. I'd never heard of them. They were formed, you know, in about mid-thirties in Sydney.

THOMSON: Right.

HOCKING: And he said, "yes, come over with me." He's a chap who was a Light Horse fellow, ex-Light Horse. He was in that ... stunt it wasn't exactly a ... charge, it was on Gallipoli.



THOMSON: Beersheba, on Gallipoli?

HOCKING: The eight and the tenth, you know, that famous charge.

THOMSON: At the Nek?

HOCKING: Yes. And they were only to pay two and six, I think, if I remember rightly. And another two-and-six or something for the badge. And that's how I came to be there. Another accident again.

THOMSON: What was the difference the, between the type of things the Gallipoli Legion did, and the RSL?

HOCKING: Wasn't any great difference in a way. I think that the RSL theoretically wouldn't be, wouldn't have been much different. It was a kind of association for social purposes, and also for welfare, and to try to help people who thought they were entitled to pensions, and that kind of thing. Well that's ... come under the heading of generally welfare, or we've done that since.

THOMSON: In the Legion?

HOCKING: Oh yes, I I've done a lot of that. I've been .. Honorary Secretary for 21 years now.

THOMSON: Have you?

HOCKING: Which is a long spell, isn't it?

THOMSON: Yes, it certainly is. How many members have you now?

HOCKING: Well, that's a thing I couldn't tell you, because half the time you don't know whether they're housebound, they're in hospital, some of them are dead, and all that kind of thing. We've got very, very few. At one time we had about ... the most we ever had once, I've been there, oh about six hundred and fifty or seven hundred. Some of them jointed up, you know, at later times.

THOMSON: Can I go back a bit to when you were with the Ivanhoe RSL? In some of my study of other local suburban branches of the RSL during the twenties and thirties, I've been interested to find that the RSL got involved in suburban local politics in various ways, over issues like preference for council employment, and those sorts of things. Can you remember anything like that happening in Ivanhoe?

HOCKING: Well, no I don't think I can.

THOMSON: No?

HOCKING: I wasn't very closely associated with them. I was more or less a nominal member, you know, you pay your sub and you, well, you were doing other things, you were earning a living and that kind of thing, you'd never a great deal of time. Some had more time.

Such people, perhaps, well, in some cases, public servants, or something like that. They might be in a better position. But if you're away from home a good deal, and all that sort of thing, you haven't got the time.

THOMSON: So you'd say then that in the twenties and thirties your memory and association with returned servicemen and so on wasn't a particularly important part of your life?

HOCKING: Oh no.

THOMSON: No?

HOCKING: Not a great deal.

THOMSON: But then, after the Second World War, when you joined the Gallipoli Legion and eventually became secretary, would it have been more important then?

HOCKING: Well, I don't know that it did, actually, in a way the reason, I think was that I became secretary by accident ... a fellow asked me to take it on for six months because he said he was ill, he had been the honorary secretary, he was ... he's now dead. But he said he would take it on till Christmas, well that was in 1962. And it's just gone on and on and on. If you try to get rid of an honorary job, you find it's very hard.

THOMSON: No-one wants to take it on?

HOCKING: No. Ha, ha, ha!

THOMSON: Can I ask you about a couple of particular events in the years between the wars? Just to see what your memory of them is?

HOCKING: Yes.

THOMSON: Do you remember the police strike in 1923?

HOCKING: Oh yes, yes. Quite well.

THOMSON: You were in Ivanhoe then, what are your memories of that?

HOCKING: Well, in point of fact, I've got a fairly vivid memory of it, in a way. I think ... first, I knew a man who participated in it. He was a police sergeant. Happened to know him by accident.

THOMSON: And he was on strike?

HOCKING: Yes, he went on strike. Their conditions were bad, I think, and they had ... of course, the Government of the day said, "well, they've taken an oath, they wouldn't do anything", you know. Which they did eventually.

THOMSON: Yes.

HOCKING: And the night they had the riots in town, and they smashed the shop windows. An uncle of mine, he's now long since dead, he and I went to a concert. We were going to a concert in town. We went in there; I don't know where the concert was, now. I think it was the Town Hall. And I forget now what it was. But he was very musically inclined, and liked that sort of thing. I went with him for some reason or other, and we saw the riots. We didn't get involved, but we saw them and they smashed windows and stole fur coats and things, and all that. It was a very rather a frightening thing. I've often thought, now, when you see that sort of thing, that sometimes that's a repetition of something along those lines might be nearer than you think. There's a huge number of unemployed. People ... now burn trains and that sort of thing. Well vandalism's here for thousands of years. It's always been in the world.

THOMSON: Yes. Did any of your friends, or anyone you know, join up as a special constable during the police strike?

HOCKING: No I don't think, I can't remember anybody.

THOMSON: No-one who got involved?

HOCKING: ... special constables, they were I think they were ... fairly ... fair number of them; I don't know how many. Of course, there wouldn't be so many in proportion to the population.

THOMSON: There were quite a lot.

HOCKING: I don't know how many there would be.

THOMSON: Do you remember some of the other big strikes later on in the twenties, the timber strike and the seamen's strike?

HOCKING: Yes, I have, but I haven't got any particular ...

THOMSON: Just vague memories?

HOCKING: ... close memories of them at all. Not, ah but I wasn't specially, you know, effected by them, I suppose.

THOMSON: What during the depression? Do you remember, or did you ever come in contact with any of the sort of right wing secret armies, like the new guard in New South Wales, or its equivalent in Victoria?

HOCKING: Yes, I knew of them. I don't know how far they would have gone, or how far.

THOMSON: Was that in New South Wales you are talking about, or in Victoria?

HOCKING: Well, New South Wales and, there were I think several different things in Victoria. I don't know how far they were organised, you know, the different ones, you heard them talking about.

THOMSON: Do you know what they were?

HOCKING: No, I don't. No, it's one of those things that I ...

THOMSON: Never really made contact? No-one ever asked you?

HOCKING: Well, anyway, it was never a vital thing for me. I thought, well they were just merely one of those, just a symptom, I suppose, of the times. I don't know how far they'd have gone if anything had happened. You can, of course, out of this sort of thing ... enormous ... you can get civil commotion, perhaps something worse.

THOMSON: No-one ever asked you to join the white army or or any of its equivalents?

HOCKING: No, no, no. The new guard ... in Sydney. I knew a man who was a member of that . ... illegal organisation, of course. It was ...

THOMSON: The new guard?

HOCKING: Yes. He was a quite prominent member of the stock exchange here for a long while. His father had been one of the general managers of one of the big banks. Ha, ha, ha. I knew him quite well. I still know him, as a matter of fact. Ha, ha, ha.

THOMSON: Yes! He's still alive?

HOCKING: Oh yes. Not the father, not the man.

THOMSON: Was he an old soldier?

HOCKING: No, he wasn't. No, he was only a young fellow then, he was a young guy.

THOMSON: Do you think many returned servicemen got involved in those sorts of organisations?

HOCKING: Oh I wouldn't have any way of knowing ...

THOMSON: On a different tack, I was wondering what was your response when the Second World War broke out, having served in the First World War and been disillusioned at the end of that, how did you feel about another war?

HOCKING: Oh, I thought that it was ... one of those things, it was ... a bad matter that had to be ... gone through with again, that was happened.

THOMSON: Was the spirit at the outbreak of the Second World War anything like what you remember at the outbreak of the First World War?

HOCKING: No, I don't think it was. No, I think it was a good deal different. There might have been a certain amount of spirit there, but not to the same extent as the First World War did. The change of attitude, I think, in some ways, of course. I suppose the world changes at it moves along. Sometimes for the better, perhaps, sometimes not for the better.

THOMSON: Were your sons of the age that they could join up?

HOCKING: Oh yes, a couple of them went.

THOMSON: Did you encourage them to, or.

HOCKING: no, no, I don't know that I did. I didn't have any ... you know, they wanted to go, I suppose, and ... that was that.

THOMSON: What about later wars, Korea and Vietnam? What was your response to those? Did you feel that, well, particularly Vietnam, for instance?

HOCKING: Well, I ... I don't there's be any need to ask. I think it's pretty obvious to anybody who thinks.

THOMSON: About Vietnam? You didn't think much of?

HOCKING: Well, what do you think? I'll ask you a question. Okay. I think it was a bit stupid for Australia to be involved.

THOMSON: I'd agree with that.

HOCKING: Yes. We rushed to the aid of the winners. We thought ... "we" being the Government, of course.

THOMSON: So your attitude to conscription would have changed then since 1916?

HOCKING: Yes, well there ... I think that was an outrageous thing, that "dice of death" and all the rest. I think it's an outrageous thing. Oh ... it's ... of course you've got the same sort of thing in America now; you've got these people who are enormously involved and interested in huge armaments. I've spent some time in California, and I know a man there, he was a ... an ace in the Second World War, a yank. He married an Ivanhoe girl. Quite well. Stopped there quite a few times. ... very ill, incidentally. He's about sixty odd. But in that area, that's Silicon Valley, down where they lived, it was further down from San Francisco, San Jose. I know, know the place fairly well. The enormous ... investment there, the enormous vested interests in armaments and that sort of thing. And space ... and so on. You've got, it wasn't brought to the world to some extent, but the mess that they're in now, although I think it's, it's inevitable, and they should have a war every twenty years. It is a fact that you have to have a war, to get things moving. But what has happened, the Americans thought they could clean up Vietnam by spending about five hundred billions there, and they spent about another five hundred billions on the space race. You wouldn't see the structure of those enormous factories in where I'm talking about, down off Silicon Valley, towards San Jose from San Francisco. The enormous numbers of people involved there. They're ... this new missile, or "missal", as the yanks prefer to call it, of course, I always thought it was some kind of prayer book.

THOMSON: Ha, ha, ha!

HOCKING: But, ha! However, they know better heh! They have people behind Nixon, behind Reagan, well, Nixon too, he's still around, ha, ha! People behind Reagan, who put him into the presidency, well, they ... they stand to make, not millions of dollars but billions. They stand to make billions. And well, an old Latin saying, you know "whom the gods would destroy, they first made mad". Hm, hm! Well, they're blinded by money. And that of course is ... it's more than an important thing in America; I think it's the thing.

THOMSON: Can you see parallels between that and the situation during the First World War? With the big munitions factories?

HOCKING: Oh, I'm not – I don't think to any – anything like the extent that this American ... complex. There is ... a military complex.

THOMSON: Yes.

HOCKING: In America at the present time, they admit to twelve million unemployed. I could you say it's nearer twenty millions. Er, you've got ... the army, and the navy, and the air force, and you've got the munitions factories. And of course, you've got ... military orders for trucks, from Detroit, which is God knows in a bad enough way now. You see it's ... it's a desolate city. But you have that sort of thing. If that was all wiped out, suppose you came to a disarmament agreement, which of course, nobody will back away farther and quicker than the yanks, ha, ha ha! From signing such a thing. You'd have ... I think that would breed chaos, in America. You'd have absolute chaos. I don't whether you've thought along those lines at all?

THOMSON: Yes.

HOCKING: Yes. Well it's a very good thing, I think, to think. Although the old Frenchman said, "If you want to be miserable, think."

THOMSON: Ha, ha!

HOCKING: Ha, ha, ha!

THOMSON: Yes, that sounds good advice! Can I ask one..

HOCKING: Ha, ha! Ignorance is bliss, 'tis folly to be wise.

THOMSON: Ha, ha! One last question. I've been very interested in the last few years, there seems to have been an increase in publicisation of the First World War in terms of films and books. Films like *Gallipoli* and that television series *1915*, Patsy Adam-Smith's book, *The ANZACS* and more and more people coming to ANZAC day parades and things like that.

HOCKING: I wondered ... well ... I don't know whether they do come more and more to ANZAC day, do they?

THOMSON: I'm not sure. I went to the Dawn Service last year, and I was surprised at how many actually ... Perhaps not so much just coming to ANZAC day, but also you've got an



increased number of people joining the army, and things like that. I suppose my question is, why do you think there's been this increased interest in the First World War?

HOCKING: Well, I think possibly somebody said some old cynic said some years ago there was no copyright on the Bible or the war. Ha, ha, ha!

THOMSON: I'm not quite sure if I understand how you mean that?

HOCKING: Ha, ha, ha, ha! Well, you can write anything about the damn war, it's very hard to ... for the present generation to know what whether it's of any great, whether it had any great content or not, or whether it was just really a figment of the imagination.

THOMSON: Did you read Patsy Adam-Smith's book *The ANZACS*?

HOCKING: Well, yes, I did look through it.

THOMSON: What was your impression of that can you remember?

HOCKING: Oh, I think it was ... oh, I suppose the fact that I can't remember the impression is ... ha, ha! ... it wasn't tremendously impressive in a way.

THOMSON: Do you think it's important for my generation to know about the First World War?

HOCKING: I think so.

THOMSON: You think so?

HOCKING: I think it's important if you know about the Second World War and I think it's very important for you to know about the Korean war and Vietnam, and all those things. And what's happening now, and ...

THOMSON: What do you think...

HOCKING: And you get ... you get people who are I think ... well, what they are I don't ... you get a woman like Mrs Thatcher. She's bat blind. Bat blind. That's all you can say about her. As you can remember that Falklands thing was coming on for years and years. And she knew it. ... unless she, unless she's ... mentally deficient, which she may be, in some way. But she ... it was a thing coming on, and there you are. Well if you had the knowledge of the populace, well the English people wouldn't know much about it, Falkland Islands, what the hell. And now they're saying that it's costing them half a million per person to keep the place fortified. And armed against ... Argentine aggression, which they may do again, and they'll have the ... atomic bomb by then. Because God knows, you've got enough Nazis there. You know, people who are extremely able ... I don't know whether you ever thought of that, along there?

THOMSON: I've certainly thought about the Falklands. The interesting thing about that was ...

HOCKING: Yes. Well, you see, the Spanish people are an extremely proud people, and they are Spanish, of course ... you know, same as we are English, I suppose. In that sense that we are Anglo-Saxon or whatever you like to call it. But ... what by the way is your nationality.

THOMSON: Going back, there's a bit of Irish, bit of Scot and a bit of English.

HOCKING: Do you have any religious inclinations?

THOMSON: Not personally no.

HOCKING: You don't? No you're not a believer, are you?

THOMSON: No that's all right.

HOCKING: Ha, ha, ha!

THOMSON: Ha, ha, ha! No, I was going to say, that those people and they are, as far as I know, according to what has been published in these American papers from time to time, my son, who ought to be in New York at the moment, he subscribes to a lot of American papers. Business stuff and that sort of thing. If you want to read, get a good line on what's happening in the inner circles of America, I think the best paper of all is the United States New of the World Report. Do you know that at all?

HOCKING: No, I don't.

THOMSON: Well, it's a weekly. It can be subscribed to. It's published in Washington. But, er the people like Kennon, he wrote a series of articles on Mr X, they I think they appeared in the National Review. I have seen quite a lot of copies, but, you remember that? I think it was Kennon, wasn't it? Kennon?

HOCKING: George, George Kennon.

THOMSON: That's right. Ah yes that sort of thing. It's, it is very frightening, you know. There's a marvellous, there's some very wonderful people in America, and I think the American dream still exists you know through Jefferson ... although of course, he was a person who was criticised in his day. I've often thought it rather a wonderful thing, you know, Jefferson was an aristocrat to his boot soles, and Mr. Menzies was you know, British to the boot soles. He went there to give those series of lectures, you know, in that ... university. I thought that was an incongruity. He and Jefferson are so far apart, I think. Ha, ha, ha! I don't know whether you happen to have read?

HOCKING: No, that was before my time, and I've never really studied Menzies much, so.

THOMSON: Oh, I'm not talking; I'm talking about Jefferson.

HOCKING: Oh about Jefferson?

THOMSON: Yes.

HOCKING: I did a little bit. Well, that's much longer before your time. Ha Ha!

THOMSON: Well, yes. I did a little bit of work on the American Revolution and Independence. So in conclusion you'd say that it is important for us then to remember these wars? As a warning?

HOCKING: Oh, I think so. Very much so. Very much so. I think it's vital. In the full sense of the meaning. Because I think there's a meaning a matter of life and death. One of, one of the things I think we've got here, now ... people don't realise that if anything happened between America and the Soviet ... I would imagine that there's a North-West Cape here, Central Australia, Alice Springs, Omega down in Gippsland, and this think at Watsonia, not very far away, I think the Russians ... well, the Soviets (you could call them) the Russians of course, the Russians are in a minority ... If you go to their ... Have you been to the Soviet?

THOMSON: No. I've been to Poland, but not.

HOCKING: Poland? Well they, seem to say, that you come down to say Tashkent, for instance, from ... from India, if you ... I went there once. You ... come down the middle of sixty million Moslems there. It'd give you an idea of why the Russians are interested in Afghanistan. When they were against that border there. And they were talking about the Russians are going to Afghanistan. To think they'd invade Iran, what a lot of tripe, you've got a two hundred mile border already with the, with the, with Iran, you know. It's frightful the rubbish that's fed them. That's the intelligence that a retarded cockroach.

THOMSON: Ha, ha!

HOCKING: Ha, ha, ha! It is! It is. However, those ... places I mentioned, they would be, I should say, taped off to about a quarter of an inch, or perhaps a little less. Ha, ha! In the Soviet. You're going to have the North-West Cape, how long will that last, and this sort of thing, and Central Australia, and, and Omega, and they say it's non military, of course, it couldn't be used for military purposes. It's so ridiculous. The whole thing. We were blind as damn bats, I think.

THOMSON: Another question. How often or I've got sort of two questions which join up really as, I think, by way of conclusion: I was going to ask, how important generally did you think that your war experience has been throughout the rest of your life, and in particular, did you talk about it a lot with your family and friends? Or is it something you kept to yourself?

HOCKING: I don't think we'd talk about it a great deal. Very little. If anything. I think it has been, probably, talked about at odd times over the years, and we'd perhaps know where we stand, more or less, if there was any question of opinions, and that sort of thing. Say, I don't think you'd better publish this. They might call be a subversive, probably.

THOMSON: Do you want me to turn the tape off?

HOCKING: Ha, ha, no.

THOMSON: Leave it on?

HOCKING: No, no. Oh no, well you're not going – you wouldn't use that, would you?

THOMSON: Not this sort of thing, no. This is just interest.

HOCKING: I'd rather not have any war experiences, you know. It's, I don't think there's anything much in it. It's just a scrappy thing at best, you know, you ... you could, you could write books about it, impressions, experiences, occurrences and that sort of thing. To get a correct picture is almost impossible.

THOMSON: Well, I guess that's all I've got in particular to ask. I'll switch this off.

HOCKING: ... well it wouldn't be very perhaps, patriotic in a way, but still ...

THOMSON: Ha, ha, ha!

HOCKING: Hm, hm! There we are. Well what was you were going to..

THOMSON: Yeah, we were talking about the way one felt guilty for having served in the war and actually fired and shot people and things like that, and you told me some lines of poetry that you'd.

HOCKING: Yes, well I think there is ... with a person with any sensitivity, there is a certain felling of guilt if you look into things, er, particularly if you've gone through the wallet of ... of a man ... say a German that was killed, and saw the pictures of his family, perhaps, and his children and that sort of thing...

THOMSON: Did that ever happen to you?

HOCKING: Yes, that would wring your withers. Ah ... I think the poet summed it up pretty well in a way, he said, "if you take sword to battle and run some fellow through never mind what others tell you God will send the bill to you." Ha, ha, ha, ha!