



March 2014

**EAST
MELBOURNE
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER**

Contributions and Suggestions

We invite contributions relating to the history of East Melbourne from our members. Articles of up to 1500 words will be considered for publication. Small articles and items of interest are also welcome.

We would be pleased to receive your suggestions and ideas for activities, guest speakers, excursions or anything else you might like us to organize on your behalf.

Please contact any member of our committee.

Aims

A full Statement of Purposes appears in our Documents of Incorporation but briefly the aims of the Society are as follows:

- To foster an interest in the history of East Melbourne.
- To build an archive of material relevant to the history of East Melbourne.
- To promote interchange of information through lectures and tours.
- To promote heritage preservation.

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Membership

Membership of the East Melbourne Historical Society is open to all who are interested in the history of East Melbourne.

Enquiries: Diane Clifford 9486 0793

Annual subscription: \$25.00

Guests are welcome
at individual meetings \$5.00

**Affiliated with
The Royal Historical Society of Victoria**

President's Letter

Yesterday a young Australian soldier who fought in Afghanistan, Corporal Cameron Baird, was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross. He had been a schoolboy footballer and athletics champion who joined the army at age eighteen and, at 32, was a veteran of the East Timor, Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts. He was already a recipient of the Medal for Gallantry for his retrieval of the body of a mortally wounded comrade in 2007. In his final action, he led an assault on a military compound in Oruzgan Province and was killed in drawing fire away from his team.

His father read an extract from the Soldiers' Code, part of which read:

I have the honour to be a soldier in the Australian Army. I am a custodian of traditions forged in battle by the Anzacs ... At all times I act in ways that will bring honour to Australia, credit on the army, my unit and my fellow soldiers.

In researching the personal histories of the 760 men and women with an East Melbourne connection who enlisted to serve in the original ANZAC force, we now have over 150 biographies on our website (emhs.org.au) Our dedicated volunteers have traced their lives in their military records, in the Australian War Museum files, followed the experiences of their units in battle, read transcripts of witness statements about their deaths, the family notices

from bereaved parents and relatives, and in almost every case, found a similar dedication to a cause many knew little about, but which inspired them with imperial and national fervour.

Our World War 1 project seeks to commemorate, not celebrate, the Great War. It was great, not because of anything it was fought for or achieved, but because of the sheer weight of numbers of young lives sacrificed. In reading about these young Australians, it is impossible not to admire and grieve for their courage, endurance, comradeship and service to their country.

More than that, though, it reflects our community in 1914-18. As we trace each soldier, we know the streets in which they lived and their places of work: Anthony Honeybun, a gardener at Bishopscourt, never came home to the girl he left behind, but married a girl he met while hospitalised in England; George Barry, from Victoria Parade, whose name and indeed whole enlistment paper was a falsehood, died at Villers-Bretonneux only a week after he was sent to the front; Kenric and Ronald Bone, identical twins from Berry Street enlisted on their eighteenth birthday and came home without injury; Nurse Katie Fegan enlisted in 1915 and served for the duration of the war, first in Egypt, then England and the Western Front in France and Belgium.

Our soldiers were labourers, clerks, drivers, or factory workers, though there were also school teachers, barristers, and businessmen. Many were young – in the range of eighteen to twenty-three and still living at home with parents. Some had widowed or otherwise single mothers, living in boarding houses.

None of this information would be available without the initial impetus given to us by Major General Mike O'Brien and the dedication of our team of volunteers, Janet Scarfe, Peter Fielding, Judy and Bob Batrouney, Peter Larsen, Elena Caravelas, Jacinta Ryan, Sue Larkin, Murray and Charlie Hohnen, Bronwyn and Tim Holland.

Jill Fenwick

New Committee Member

With Deirdre and Alan Basham making the sea change to Phillip Island, we are losing our very efficient and helpful membership secretary from the Historical Society. We wish Deirdre and Alan every happiness in their new lives and know they will keep in touch with all their East Melbourne friends. We are very grateful to Diane Clifford, who has accepted the position of membership secretary and extend a warm welcome to her on our committee.

Bishopscourt, East Melbourne

The work in connection with the restoration of Bishopscourt, East Melbourne has commenced. The portion of the old building to the north of the porch opposite to the old gumtree has been demolished, and the little chapel, with its quaint ante-room in which candidates for holy orders under three bishops have waited anxiously to know the result of their examinations and the consequent date of their ordination, is now no more. The new building will be in every sense worthy of the position occupied by the Bishop of the Anglican Church in the diocese of Melbourne. The site of the old chapel will be occupied by a spacious diningroom, with windows facing the lawn, and the new chapel will be convenient to the library, with a doorway from the large hall in the old bluestone building. The stables at the rear of the mansion will give place to kitchens and servants' quarters, which will be constructed with all modern conveniences, and with due regard to modern sanitary science. The whole structure, the new portion of which extends northward for about 80ft., forming a noble pile of buildings, will combine all that was worth conserving in the old with all that is necessary for the use of a family in the new. The entire cost will be about £3,000.

[The Australasian, 13 June 1903, p.26] <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/cite/11339976/0>

Trove continues to delight us with new details about our history. Here for the first time we can confirm that the old Bishopscourt had a chapel.

World War 1 – 100 Years On

By Richard de Lautour

In 2014 it is difficult for us to comprehend the patriotic attitudes that prevailed in Australia and New Zealand in 1914. Many historians have recorded that, upon the outbreak of the First World War on 27 July 1914, the vast majority of Australians felt that they had a duty to fulfil as 'British Subjects'. Thus, as a member of the British Empire they believed Australians should come to Britain's aid. Those that thought of enlisting as a "Boys' Own Adventure" soon learned otherwise. There was a veritable rush to enlist in the A.I.F. (Australian Imperial Force) which was created as part of the Australian Military Forces. In various states capitals A.I.F. units were raised. In Adelaide, Lieutenant-Colonel F. M. Rowell (an older cousin of a future (post-WWII) Australian Chief of General Staff – Sir Sydney Rowell), who had served in the Boer War, was asked to form the Third Light Horse Regiment which he did on 19 August 1914. (Light Horsemen were mounted infantry. They rode to a battleground but dismounted to fight; that is, they were not cavalry.)

A New Zealander presented himself for enlistment at Morphettville, South Australia, on 21 August 1914 - three weeks after the declaration of war. Edgar Fredrick de Lautour, a farmer, had migrated to South Australia from New Zealand having served in 1901 with

the Eighth New Zealand Mounted Rifles in South Africa during the Boer War. He declared his age as 29 years (understating it by three years to avoid rejection) and joined the 3rd L.H. Regt. (two days after its formation) with the rank of Corporal, which he held for about a month before he was promoted to Sergeant - A Squadron.



3rd Light Horse Regiment, "A" & "B" Squadrons, Public Parade at Goodwood Show Grounds, September 1914.

[From: Adelaide Observer, 26 September 1914, p. 28.]

Three months later, on 21 October 1914, the Regiment boarded the SS Port Lincoln which arrived in Egypt some six weeks later. After training in camps close to Cairo the 3rd L.H. Regt. disembarked at Gallipoli on 12 May 1915 and made their way up to Pope's Hill.

There, at Pope's Hill, on 23 May 1915 Edgar was killed-in-action and was subsequently buried in Shrapnel Valley Military Burial Ground (now known as Shrapnel Valley Military Cemetery).



Pope's Hill, Gallipoli
[From:AWM G01767]

Looking north up Pope's Reserve Gully (Hill). The lowest point on the skyline was held by Turkish soldiers. The high corner on the right is the extreme left corner of Pope's Hill.

In March 1916 Edgar's father – Harry A de Lautour (my great grandfather), a Wellington, NZ medico - signed a Thos. Cook & Son 'Receipt for Consignment from Egypt' for '1 Brown paper parcel' being his son's personal effects. The parcel contained a Leather wallet, 2 Pocket books, Letters, Photos, Cards, two bookss (sic), Spirit-Flask, Curios, H' chief. Then in May 1916 Dr de Lautour signed another Thos. Cook & Son receipt for a parcel containing his son's identity disc. These were the remnants of a life lost.

About a month before Dr de Lautour died, in June 1917, in responding to a letter from the Officer-in Charge Army Base Records in Melbourne about other matters relating to his son, he wrote:

"It may interest you to know that I had two other sons at Gallipoli, one of whom was wounded at Suvla (Bay on the Gallipoli Peninsular) and is now in the NZ Forces in Egypt.

Alas, I lost another son in the 1st Rhodesian Regt., German East Africa. Another son served in the 1st expedition to Samoa and also I have three sons in France."

A significant contribution and potential for sacrifice by one family (The eldest of Dr. de Lautour's eight sons was rejected for military service as being too old. In 1914 he was 37 years.)

In 1922 the Government provided Memorial Plaques to the next-of-kin of those who died in the War. The plaque is a heavy bronze disk, 12cm in diameter, with the soldier's name, in relief, within the rectangular box (see illustration below). Edgar's Memorial Plaque has been passed down to me from my grandfather and father.



Some families used the Plaque as an insert in a Memorial Stone placed in a cemetery near the family home. Others, as we have, kept them at home as a reminder of one who died defending his beliefs.

The Goat Nuisance. To the Editor of the Argus

Sir, - My neighbours and myself want protection. Our cases are not met by the tariff, and we think we are entitled to be protected by some person or some body – not against the foreign producer but against domestic trespassers. Most of us, you must know, are amateur florists, and take some pride in having trim garden plots in front of our houses; but the labour bestowed in this direction is often rendered abortive by the depredations of goats, which can lay waste in an hour the work of months. The owners of these animals are never to be found when wanted, or a remedy might be obtained through the Police court. As for the goats themselves, they are almost as difficult to catch as their proprietors, and, when caught, still more difficult to deal with. They must not be killed, they dare not be kept, and the pound is distant some three or four miles. Surely it is the duty of someone to look after these pests, and to free the private citizen from the trouble and annoyance they cause. It seems very hard that quiet will-disposed people should be incited by the repeated raids of these animals to breaches of the law of the land and of humanity. The most mild, humane, and even tempered man in existence cannot submit to the incursions of such pertinacious and destructive thieves without irritation, and am I, because Jones round the corner likes goat's milk, or prefers depositing the

amount of his milk score in the Post-office Savings Bank, to have my garden spoiled and my temper soured, to supply his lacteal wants or encourage his provident habits?

Some twelve months ago, it was no uncommon sight to see a flock of thirty or forty goats reposing of a night at the lower end of George-street, East Melbourne. By some mysterious agency, nearly the whole of them suddenly disappeared. The few remaining, however, have been active in repairing the loss, and the increase of births over deaths has been at a rate never exhibited in Mr. Archer's population tables. A few months more and they will be as numerous as ever, and with their numbers will the causes of complaint also grow. I think, Sir, it is no unreasonable request, that the police – or such other functionaries whose duty it may be – should relieve private persons from the necessity of cruelty to the animals – which but follow their instincts – or from engaging in a troublesome, disagreeable, and probably fruitless search to find and punish their owners. In the hope that this may lead to the abatement of the nuisance, I am, yours, &c.,

A VICTIM

George-street, East Melbourne,

From: The Argus, 7 September 1865, p.7

Boer War Research. Can You Help?

Rob Droogleever has written to us seeking help with research for his new book which is a regimental history of the 5th Victorian Mounted Rifles Contingent in the Boer War. The book will include short biographies of the men involved and he is looking for any information, photos, letters, memorabilia etc. He has provided a list of men known to have East Melbourne connections:-

BORN, Percy Harold,
lived Torquay, 15 Simpson Street

CAMPBELL, Garnet Butler,
born East Melbourne 1880

CATTANACH, Harry,
lived Hoddle Street

CHRISP, Hugh,
lived 433 Victoria Parade

CLEVELAND, Lancelot Arthur,
died East Melbourne 1942

DAVIES, Charles,
lived 64 Simpson Street

ROBINSON, Arthur Leslie,
lived 43 Albert Street

STRACHAN, Charles,
died East Melbourne 1947 aged 71

If anyone knows anything about these people or any others in the 5th Victoria Contingent please contact us using the Contact button below and we will pass your details on to Rob.

Coming Events

Wednesday, 16 April at 8.00 p.m. –
East Melbourne's Nurses in the First
World War

Our speaker, Dr. Janet Scarfe is an adjunct research associate at Monash University. She has been a major contributor to our growing database of WW1 service men and women who had connection with East Melbourne and has undertaken to research the lives of all the nurses on our list. Her talk will be about her research and the some of the stories she has uncovered.

At Clarendon Terrace, 210 Clarendon
Street, East Melbourne



Jessie McHardie White. Australian War Memorial.