



Balwyn Historical Society Newsletter

April 2015

Meetings

Thursday 9 April 2015 – 8pm

Speaker: Ken James

Topic: From Gold Mining to Market Gardening

Ken will speak about the Chinese of Lyal & Myrtle Creek north of Kyneton c.1880-1930s.

Venue: Balwyn Evergreen Centre, 45 Talbot Avenue, Balwyn

Thursday 14 May 2015 – 8pm

Speaker: Dolores San Miguel

Topic – Lionel San Miguel

Delores San Miguel will speak about her family research, in particular her research on her uncle, the architect Lionel San Miguel who designed the Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, Deepdene and several houses in the Balwyn area.

Thursday 11 June 2015 – 8pm

Speaker: Janis Sheldrick

Topic: Goyder of the Goyder Line

Email: balwynhistory@gmail.com website: www.vicnet.net.au/~balwynhs

Recent Speaker – Chris Long

Once again Chris Long delighted us with a beautifully prepared program of clips from early films. This year he took us back to the period 1894-1906 when film making was in its infancy. He began by showing us some of Edward Mybridge's motion studies and early efforts at building film studios.

This was followed by fascinating footage of Paris in the 1890s, glimpses of the royal wedding of Tsar Nicholas II and celebrations

of the 60th anniversary of Queen Victoria's reign showing Victoria with many of her children and grandchildren in the garden of one of the royal palaces.

Among the Australian film clips we saw was footage of the Melbourne Cup of 1896.

These remarkable film clips were greatly enhanced by Chris' erudite commentary and by the wonderful sound track he had recorded to accompany the program.

Gallipoli and Beyond 2015

Gallipoli and Beyond Inc. in partnership with the City of Boroondara, is presenting a program of community events in April 2015. Among the activities are the following:

GALLIPOLI AND BEYOND Q&A

ANZAC DAY: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

Wednesday 15 April, 7.30pm to 9pm

Parkview Room, Camberwell Civic Centre, Inglesby Road, Camberwell

Join Professors Joe Camilleri, Marilyn Lake and Ted Baillieu as they lead a panel of academics and experts in an ABC-style Q&A discussion on the history and future of Anzac Day.

For your chance to register a question for the panel, visit the website for more information.

Free event, bookings essential.

Book at gallipoli@boroondara.vic.gov.au or call 9278 4770.

FAMILY HISTORY AND WARTIME EXPERIENCE

Friday 17 April, 11am to 12.30pm

Meeting Room, Camberwell Library, Inglesby Road, Camberwell

Myra Dowling, Local and Family History Librarian, will speak about family history and the experience of wartime for service personnel and their families at home.

Free event, no bookings required.

For a complete list of activities see: www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/gallipoli-and-beyond
The Balwyn Library also has a brochure listing all activities.

Balwyn Historical Society - Contact details

Balwyn Historical Society is a program of the Balwyn Evergreen Centre.

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Mathew Murphy



Mathew Murphy
Photo courtesy Helen Smith

They say that every generation stands upon the shoulders of the previous generation. In our case we have partied and ridden bikes around the base of our family.

Beckett Park stands on one of the highest points in Melbourne, in the suburb of Balwyn, over-looking the rolling eastern suburbs. The Soldiers' Memorial at that point of the park is covered with names of local WW1 ANZACS, and the name of Mathew Murphy, brother of my great grandmother, faces north towards our house.

The crowds may come and go and may think these names are long forgotten and long dead. People who mean nothing to no-one. With the centenary of WW1 it is important to remember that every name belongs to a family and that they are real people who are wanted and claimed.

Mathew Murphy was born in Prahran in 1886 to John and Julia Murphy and was the 9th of ten children. He was living in Myrtle Street, Canterbury at the time of his enlistment in January 1915 and gave his occupation as a "tuck pointer". He was described as having a fair complexion, blue eyes and brown hair. He embarked from Melbourne on 17 April 1915 on HMAT *Hororata* with the 14th battalion, 5th reinforcements.

Our understanding of Mathew is that he sailed to Egypt where he contracted dysentery and was consequently shipped to a military hospital in London. He was then sent to Malta but was shipped back to London to the same hospital. His final duty was to be sent to Villers Bretonneux in France where he was fatally wounded in action on 8 April 1917. His body was picked up by a field ambulance and he was buried with other Australians on French soil.

Today the local French schools have a sign that says *N'oublions jamais l'Australie* – (*Let us never forget Australia*). The Australian war memorial in France is located just outside Villers Bretonneux.

So as I drive about in the Balwyn traffic and moan about the congestion on Balwyn roads, I think of Mathew Murphy who never had the chance to moan and groan about Balwyn traffic.

Cheers Mathew Murphy – Never to be forgotten.

Besides being recorded on the Beckett Park Memorial, Mathew's name is also on the Soldiers' Memorial Canterbury and the Australian War Memorial, Canberra.

(Thanks to Helen Smith for this article)

George William Warne

George Warne was Mathew Murphy's nephew. He was born in 1895 at Katamatite to Albert Edward Warne and Dora Murphy, (Mathew Murphy's sister). He enlisted in Melbourne aged 21 and 6 months and embarked with the 21st Battalion from Melbourne on 10 May 1915 on the *Ulysses*. After arriving and spending some time in Egypt he then embarked from Alexandria on the *Southland* on 30th August 1915. This voyage started off quite calmly but the calm was not to last. As the ship neared her destination, Mudros Bay on the 2 September 1915, it was torpedoed off the Island of Stratae. N.C. Smith in *The History of the 31st Battalion* describes the event as follows:

The troops on board were just assembling for 10 o'clock parade and many saw the torpedo coming. It struck just forward of the bridge and the ship listed rapidly. There was some confusion among the crew, but the troops quietly put on their life belts and stood by their boat stations.

By 11 am all the boats, mostly collapsibles were launched and the few troops left on board were taken off by the hospital ship *Neuralia* which together with several other vessels arrived on the scene a little before noon. A volunteer party of eighteen remained on board and under the direction of the ship's officers got up steam before a salvage crew was put on board from the destroyer. The *Southland* then under her own power was beached in Mudros (sic) Harbour about 7 pm. All the small boats were picked up by 3.30 pm and the Battalion was reorganized and refitted on board the *Transylvania* at Mudros.

After serving at Gallipoli George served in France and returned to Australia 5 January 1919 as a corporal with the 12th Field Artillery Brigade. On his return to Australia he married Olive Gardiner in 1920. He died aged 77 and is buried in the Burwood Cemetery.

(Thanks to Bill Pritchard for this article)

New Website to Explore

Have you ever wondered what your street and area looked like in 1945?

Was there a house on your current block or was the area just paddocks criss-crossed by tracks?

The website listed below allows you to superimpose an aerial view of Greater Melbourne in 1945 with a current map and compare the two.

<http://www.1945.melbourne>