Anzac Centenary commemoration in Moonee Valley
2014 – 2018
Anzac Centenary commemoration in Moonee Valley

The Centenary was an important period of national commemoration in honour of the service and sacrifice of our ANZACs.

It was a time to remember the war and celebrate 100 years since its end. Although 100 years have passed, the spirit of Anzac, with its qualities of courage, mateship, and sacrifice, continues to have meaning and relevance for our sense of national identity.

This book was developed by Moonee Valley City Council’s Anzac Centenary Community Coordinating Committee to celebrate the memorials and events that have shaped our Centenary anniversary.

Through these activities, we recognise the sacrifices of all service men and women and pay tribute to Moonee Valley’s significant wartime contribution.
On the Moonee Valley Homefront

The First World War had far-reaching impacts that can still be felt in our community today. Although much has been written about the struggles of our soldiers, the effects were also felt at home.

Australian women took on the financial, physical and emotional load of caring for families, and served in volunteer roles here and overseas. Wartime restrictions impacted everyday life. Tokens were used for food, petrol, and clothing. A six o’clock closing time was introduced to hotels as people at home should not be enjoying themselves while soldiers fought overseas.

Food shortages were common and the city grieved the loss of so many men. However, though life was tough for many, the local community worked hard to support the “Essendon boys” overseas.

The Council

The Essendon (now Moonee Valley) City Council took an active role in supporting the war effort. In September 1914, at the beginning of the war, Council organised a farewell dinner for the troops setting off for Egypt. Many local businesses donated items and the soldiers were presented with tins of tobacco and pipes, or pocketbooks and pouches if they didn’t smoke.

Council coordinated numerous activities for our soldiers, including concerts, flag days and military fetes in Queens Park. The Lady Mayoress’s Patriotic League was set up to raise funds for the troops, and Council employees made regular donations.
Attitudes to war

Two conscription referendums were held in Australia, in 1916 and 1917, resulting in bitter disagreement among the community and across the country. Maurice Blackburn, the Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) for Essendon, was a champion for peace and opposed conscription. He was defeated in 1917 by Thomas Ryan, MLA a strong supporter of the war. This discord continued throughout the war. Adela Pankhurst, daughter of Sylvia Pankhurst and an advocate for the Women’s Peace Army, spoke out across the district against war. In Moonee Ponds she was pelted with rotten tomatoes but in Ascot Vale she received a warm welcome.

Ultimately, the residents of Essendon voted against compulsory overseas service.

Locals support the war effort

The war changed life at home dramatically and many groups formed to support the war effort. The British Red Cross (as it was then) had strong local support. It was set up by the Mayoress, Mrs Goldsworthy, in 1914. The Mayoress helped organise a charity concert in February 1915, which raised £758 for a new Red Cross ambulance.

Many local charities, especially members of the local churches, set up Ladies Guilds, which knitted and sewed articles for the troops. First aid and nursing classes became popular and 80 people enrolled for classes with St. John’s Ambulance Brigade only 10 days after war was declared.
Junior Cadet Corps began in local schools, the Essendon and Flemington Rifle Club volunteered to train new recruits in gun handling at the Williamstown rifle range, and thousands of horses were trained in Flemington for the Light Horse Brigade.

The end
The First World War officially ended on Monday, 11 November 1918, but its impact was long-lasting in our city. Soldiers returned, bringing with them the Spanish flu, and many contracted it. Schools were closed, people wore white masks in public, and some even sterilised money.

In 1919, as a result of the outbreak, Essendon High School became an emergency hospital, accommodating 100 patients and with its own mortuary.

During this period the pupils were sent to Moonee Ponds Central School and returned to Essendon at the end of the outbreak in September 1919.

Council held many functions to celebrate the end of the war, including dinners, memorial services, and the building of a war memorial. Since then, Council and the community have worked together to honour the sacrifices of our service men and women and their families in numerous ways, including books, memorial walls, statues, street signs and more.

Courtesy of Judy Maddigan.
On The Home Front
Essendon Remembers
World War One
history panels

Through the support of the Australian Anzac Centenary Local Grants Program and the Anzac Centenary Community Coordination Committee, including special recognition of Jane Canaway and Judy Maddigan, Council developed a series of World War One history panels.

The panels told the stories of the men and boys from Essendon who volunteered to fight overseas, as well as the impact of the war on the local community.
Anzac Centenary Commemoration in Moonee Valley

Understanding of Australia as a nation germinated through its experience on the battlefields. Newspapers, battle illustrations and consular archives have allowed journalists, politicians, historians, and others to tell this story. This exhibition tells the story of the impact of the war on the landscape and industries that changed our wider society.
The Book of Remembrance containing the names of the men of the 58th Battalion Australian Imperial Force, who died in France during World War One, was restored after being damaged in the Moonee Ponds Courthouse fire.

The book was presented to the City of Moonee Valley by the 58/32 Infantry Battalion Association Inc. for display as part of its civic memorabilia on Tuesday, 14 August 2018.
ANZAC Memorial Wall

The Queens Park War Memorial, dedicated to the local lads from the City of Essendon (now Moonee Valley) that died during World War One, was erected in Queens Park, Moonee Ponds. This was a joint venture between Moonee Valley City Council and the Essendon Historical Society, who applied for a grant through the office of the Honourable Bill Shorten, Member of Parliament for Maribyrnong.

The names were provided by John Hills of the Essendon Historical Society after many years of research. The dedication was held on Sunday, 23 April 2017.
Planting of Lone Pine trees

Two Lone Pine trees were gifted by the 58/32 Infantry Battalion Association Inc., one to the residents of the city and the other to the Penleigh and Essendon Grammar School. The trees, descended from the original Aleppo pine (*Pinus halepensis*) from the battlefields of Lone Pine in Gallipoli, were grown from a seed from the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. They are a living reminder of the sacrifices made by our ANZACs and all service men and women.

On Saturday, 8 August 2015, which marked the 100th anniversary of the Battle for Lone Pine, a ceremony was held for one of the trees, which was planted in Queens Park, Moonee Ponds, near the cannons.

The plaque was unveiled by Major General Kevin Cooke AO RFD ED and Lieutenant colonel Donald Blanksby RFD ED, in memory of the men from Essendon District who served with distinction in the 7th Battalion 1st Division AIF.
A bronze life-size statue of a woman circa 1918, known as Rosemary, was unveiled at Victory Park in Ascot Vale on Saturday, 29 August 2015.

Rosemary was commissioned by Women Caring for Veterans of War Incorporated, a group dedicated to honouring the enduring sacrifices of thousands of women who cared for the veterans of World War One.

The statue’s name, Rosemary, is a symbol for remembrance. She is a lasting reminder of the enormous contributions made by all female carers of war veterans.

The original Rosemary was stolen in January, 2016 and a replica was reinstated by Moonee Valley City Council in March 2017.
Anzac Centenary Commemoration in Moonee Valley
ESSENDON Rifles

In memory of the soldiers of the
58th Battalion 1st A.I.F. who served in WWI.
The Battalion fought in 16 campaigns suffering the loss of
615 killed and 1550 wounded.

Battle Honours

Casualties

58th Battalion A.I.F.
was raised in
Egypt on
17th February 1916
and suffered
casualties equal
to almost a third
of its strength.

Somme
Bullecourt
Ypres
Menin Road
Polygon Wood
Poelcappelle
Passchendaele
Avre
Villers Bretonneux
Amiens
Albert
Mont St Quentin
Hindenburg Line
St Quentin Canal
France and Flanders
Egypt

Decorations

1 VC
8 DSO
1 OBE
20 MC
17 DCM
71 MM
8 MSM
30 MID

Unveiled 8th October 2016
by Maj. Gen. Kevin G. Cooke AO.RFD.ED. (Retd.)
Patron 58/22 Infantry Battalion Association
Chief of Army Reserve 1983-88
58th Battalion monument

The 58th Battalion monument was unveiled and dedicated by Major General Kevin Cooke AO RFD ED on Saturday, 8 October 2016 to celebrate 100 years of ANZAC. It was designed and presented by the 58/32 Battalion Association Inc., with financial assistance from the Federal Government Anzac Centenary Local Grants Program.

The monument, situated in Queens Park, Moonee Ponds is in recognition of those who served in the 58th Battalion Australian Imperial Force in World War One. The Battalion fought in 16 campaigns, in which 615 members were killed and 1,530 members were wounded.
As the only horse to return home from World War One, Sandy holds a special place in the hearts of all Australians. Sandy is remembered at the former defence force site in Randall Street, Maribyrnong, just a short stroll for Moonee Valley residents to pay respects to all Australian horses sent to war. The memorial commemorates the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Beersheba and was dedicated on Monday, 30 October 2017. Brought to fruition through the committed ‘Friends of Sandy and the Australian Light Horses’, the Department of Defence (with a special thank you to Peter Somerville OAM and Elaine Brogan OAM) and the Maribyrnong City Council. Sandy was assigned to the commander of the Australian 1st Division, General Sir William Bridges, who insisted that his horse be returned to Australia at the end of the war. Sandy lived out the rest of his days peacefully at the Remount Depot in Maribyrnong, where he was euthanised in 1923, suffering from various illnesses and blindness. The memory of Sandy also lives on at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra, where his head and hooves are displayed.
Moonee Valley City Council added additional signage to its city streets, named in recognition of Moonee Valley’s wartime heritage. Ten streets were named after noted soldiers who served during both World War One and World War Two, one street is named in honour of Britain’s wartime leader, Winston Churchill, and one is named in honour of the Allied victory in World War One.

These signs were unveiled on Monday, 18 April 2016 following a walk, which was hosted by John Hills of Essendon Historical Society.
Issy Smith VC, a long-time Moonee Valley resident, was a British-Australian recipient of the Victoria Cross, the highest award for gallantry in the face of the enemy that can be awarded to eligible forces of the Commonwealth and United Kingdom.

A memorial plaque commemorating his service was unveiled in Victory Park, Ascot Vale on Saturday, 5 May 2018, with funding assistance by the Victorian State Government, in conjunction with the Victorian Anzac Centenary Committee.

His grandchildren, great grandchildren, and members of the Essendon Returned Services League and the Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen and Women were present.
Writing the War

Writing the War, a touring exhibition of archive material from the State Library of Victoria, focused on personal stories of Victorians abroad and at home during World War One. It was staged in the Avondale Heights Library and Learning Centre, one of only 12 libraries in Victoria that was chosen to host the exhibition. Writing the War toured between August 2015 and June 2017.

One of the soldiers featured in this exhibition was Lieutenant Eric Chinner, 32nd Battalion AIF. He wrote letters home during his time at war and was killed during the Battle of Fromelles.

Lieutenant Chinner was a grand uncle to Andrew Guest of the 58/32 Battalion Association Inc. who gave the public address and presented certificates to local school children who won awards in the Writing the War essay competition.
World War One panels were unveiled at Neil Heinz Reserve on Sunday, 9 September 2018. The panels depict:

- Major General Harold Edward “Pompey” Elliott
- the 58th Infantry (known as the Essendon Rifles)
- the 7th Battalion and Lance Corporal William Charles Scurry
- the 58th Battalion AIF
- Captain Rupert Vance (Mick) Moon
- Lieutenant Colonel Nelson Wellington.

Photo by Bob Chalmers President, Essendon Historical Society.
Commemorative events

- *One Day of the Year*, a dramatic play exploring the meaning of Anzac Day, was held at the Clocktower Centre on Saturday, 25 April 2015.

- A special Anzac commemoration service at St Thomas’ Anglican Church, was held on Sunday, 19 April 2015 with Reverend Alan Colyer as Minister, followed by the annual Anzac commemoration ceremony in Queens Park, Moonee Ponds.

- An Essendon Symphony Orchestra Concert, *Music and Memories from World War One*, was held at the Clocktower Centre on Sunday, 26 April 2015.

- On Tuesday, 19 April 2016 an updated edition of the *58th Infantry Battalion of the City of Essendon Regiment – the Essendon Rifles* (2009), a historical publication by Judy Maddigan, was released.

- A presentation was made to the family of Lieutenant Rupert Vance Moon VC by the 58/32 Infantry Battalion Association on Friday, 12 May 2017. Lieutenant Moon VC was awarded the Victoria Cross for his bravery at Bullecourt on Saturday, 12 May 1917.

- Two commemorative bench seats honouring those that served in all wars were dedicated in Queens Park, Moonee Ponds and Neil Heinze Reserve, Essendon West, on Sunday, 11 November 2018. The Seat of Remembrance project was a gift to the Citizens of Moonee Valley from the 58/32 Battalion Association Inc.

- Mud and Blood, an unforgettable play by Meg McNena, about World War One hero Pompey Elliott, was held at the Clocktower Centre on Friday, 31 August 2018.

We will remember them.
# Acknowledgements

## Anzac Centenary Community Coordinating Committee

### Past and current members:

**Moonee Valley City Council**
- Former Cr Jan Chantry OAM (Chair – resigned in 2016)
- Former Councillor Shirley Cornish (Acting Chair – resigned 2016)
- Cr Andrea Surace (Chair)
- Cr Jim Cusack (Acting Chair)
- Cr Samantha Byrne (Acting Chair)
- Jim Karabinis (Manager Leisure)
- Patricia Keenan (Senior Coordinator Performing and Visual Arts)
- Craig Medcalf (former Manager Operations)
- Maria Tence (former Manager Arts and Culture)
- Angela Walter (former Manager Communications and Corporate Planning)

**Current community members**
- Elaine Brogan OAM (Friends of Sandy)
- Bob Chalmers (President Essendon Historical Society)
- Barry Gough (former Essendon Mayor)
- John Hills (Essendon Historical Society)
- Bill Laker (past President of Keilor East RSL)
- The Hon. Judy Maddigan (local historian)
- Lt. Colonel Everett Reynolds OAM RFD ED (58/32 Infantry Battalion Association) Inc.
Former community members

Jane Canaway (2014 Moonee Valley Citizen of the Year - resigned October 2015)
Rev. Alan Colyer (St Thomas’ Anglican Church - retired July 2015)
Gavin Comport (Keilor East RSL - resigned January 2016)
Robyn Harris (15th Essendon Sea Scouts – resigned August 2015)
Ange Kenos (President Essendon RSL Sub Branch - resigned March 2016)
Yvonne Kernan (2013 Moonee Valley Citizen of the year - resigned December 2015)
The late Trevor Sinclair (former Moonee Valley Mayor)

Funding

Funding and in-kind contribution for all the projects came via:
Moonee Valley City Council
The office of The Hon. Bill Shorten, Federal Opposition Leader and Member for Maryibyrnong
The Department of Veterans Affairs through the ANZAC Centenary Local Grants Program and Armistice Centenary Grants Scheme
Commonwealth Government’s Armistice Centenary Grants Program
58/32 Battalion Association Inc.
Keilor East RSL Sub Branch
Essendon RSL Sub Branch
Essendon Historical Society
Various organisations represented by Anzac Centenary Community Coordinating Committee members.

The Commonwealth has not participated in the research, production or exercised editorial control over the Activity or its contents. The views expressed and conclusions reached herein do not necessarily represent those of the Commonwealth, which expressly disclaims any responsibility for the content or accuracy of the Activity.
Moonee Valley Language Line

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Arabic</th>
<th>9280 0738</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cantonese</td>
<td>9280 0739</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Croatian</td>
<td>9280 0740</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greek</td>
<td>9280 0741</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italian</td>
<td>9280 0742</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somali</td>
<td>9280 0743</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish</td>
<td>9280 0744</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkish</td>
<td>9280 0745</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnamese</td>
<td>9280 0746</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All other languages</td>
<td>9280 0747</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

National Relay Service 13 36 77
or relayservice.com.au
This publication is available in alternative accessible formats on request.

Moonee Valley City Council
9 Kellaway Avenue Moonee Ponds
PO Box 126 Moonee Ponds
Victoria Australia 3039

Phone 03 9243 8888
Fax 03 9377 2100
Email council@mvcc.vic.gov.au

City of Moonee Valley

mvcc.vic.gov.au