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# NEWSLETTER



## **Congratulations** **Elaine Valerie Brogan OAM**



On the 26th January 2015 Elaine Brogan OAM, was a recipient of the Medal of the Order of Australia,  
‘For service to Historical Preservation Organisations in Victoria’

For almost thirty years she has dedicated herself to serving the community, volunteering with a number of historical preservation groups.

Eileen is a member of the Altona Laverton Historical Society and the Essendon Historical Society,  
A founding member of the “Friends of Sandy” and the Australian Light Horses.

She is also the President of the Friends of Will Will Rook Cemetery.

Congratulations go to Elaine for her service to the community and her deserved recognition by this award.

# General Information

## Friends of Sandy



In World War One, between 136000 and 160000 horses were sent overseas for use by the Australian Infantry Forces and the British and Indian Governments during the conflict.

‘Sandy’ was one of these horses, assigned to Major General Sir William Bridges the Commanding Officer of the Australian 1st Division. Major General Sir William Throsby Bridges KCB, CMG (Pictured) was instrumental in establishing the Royal Military College, Duntroon. Sandy was the only horse to return from World War One. General Bridges died on May 18 1915 from wounds inflicted by a sniper.

It was his dying wish that Sandy be returned to

Melbourne at wars end.

In September 1918 after being returned to England and being cleared of disease, Sandy was sent from Liverpool arriving in Melbourne in November 1918, Sandy was turned out to graze at the Central Remount Depot in Maribyrnong, and eventually turned out to graze at Remount Hill the Home and Training Ground of the Light Horse Brigade. Finally, Sandy was put down for humane reasons in 1923.

Since 2000 a group of Maribyrnong residents have set up a ‘Friends of Sandy Campaign’.



## Australian Light Horse



Established in the late 19th Century, their predecessors took part in the second

Boer War.

During the First World War, they were mounted infantry that usually fought dismounted, using their horses as transport into and out of battle engagements.

They were famously engaged in a mounted Charge into battle at Beersheba on the 31st October 1917.



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## General Information

### **Will Will Rook Cemetery**

The cemetery is located off Camp Road Broadmeadow and is also known as the Campbellfield Cemetery.

Land was donated for use in the early 1850's.

There are surviving stones as far back as 1854, but much of the cemetery was destroyed by vandals.

The site contains many early Pioneers who cleared and farmed the surrounding areas.

The Friends of Will Will Rook Pioneer cemetery was set up to let people know that this is a sacred site.

Elaine Brogan has served as President of the group.

The cemetery closed in 1960 and was designated a Pioneer Cemetery in 1974.

The group aims to find out who is buried there and identify identified graves with markers.

One of the main identities buried on the site is John Murray Peck, one of the four partners of Cobb & Co. Coaches, a Vice president of Essendon Football Club, and a Councillor in Essendon and Flemington

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Member - Joan Kent celebrated a Birthday during March 2015 and Best Wishes were passed on at the Tuesday Homestead Open Day



## 100 YEARS OF ANZAC 1915 - 2015



**The 25th April 2015 will mark the Centenary of the Gallipoli Landings, at around 4.30 a.m. on Sunday 25th April 2015 the first soldiers of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) landed near Ari Burnu on the Gallipoli Peninsula, mostly landing at a place that became known as Anzac Cove, the troops came under fire before they had stepped ashore.**

Below is a pen picture of two relatives of ALHS members who served with the AIF at Gallipoli and later in France, they are Owen Hyde's Uncle, Albert Hyde and Jim Hevey's grandfather James Hevey.

### **Albert Victor Hyde**



Albert Hyde was born in Williamstown, and was a Naval Cadet, between 1908 and 1911, at the age of 22 and living in Laverton he joined the Australian Imperial Force on 2 July 1915, and was part of the 14th and 21st Battalion, 9th reinforcements that served at Gallipoli and later in France.

He served for 950 days before being demobbed.



He was later transferred to the 46th Battalion which was raised in Egypt in 1916 as part of the 'doubling' of the AIF, approximately half of its recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 14th Battalion.

The colour patch of the 46th Battalion appears opposite.



During the Second World War he reenlisted for service in No 1 Battalion VDC for 12 months

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### ***Sergeant James Hevey 2477, 58 Battalion AIF***

Growing up in Spotswood with my Mother and Father and brother Don,I knew that my Grandfather who lived with us and after whom I was named, had emigrated from England in the early 1900's as a married man with his wife and children to work as a labourer at Australian Glass Manufacturers or an associated company.

I was also aware from his uniform tunic and family information that during the First World War he had joined the Australian Army at the age of 34 years and served overseas.

Like many of the returned soldiers of that era he did not discuss his activities,and it was not until long after his death in 1957, and his service records became available was it realised that he had served at Gallipoli and subsequently in the United Kingdom and France, eventually being demobbed in the United Kingdom with the rank of Sergeant.



During the 1960's,the family decided to donate the dress tunic to the Australian War Memorial museum where it is now held.

In researching the matter the records now available over the Internet shine a new light on the symbolism of the uniform,the badges and the history of one man who survived the conflict and lived a peaceful life in Spotswood until 1957.

The uniform is described as an Australian Army Other Ranks pattern khaki wool/ cotton gabardine twill single breasted tunic with stand and fall collar.The privately made tunic appears to be a composite of an officers and other ranks tunic.

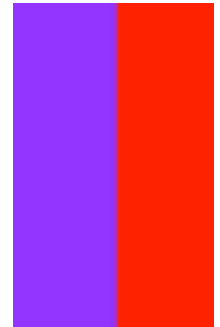
The top of each sleeve carries a vertically aligned rectangular purple and red colour patch for 58 Battalion AIF.

Each patch has a brass ANZAC 'A' fitted to the centre.

The right sleeve bears three khaki wool chevrons for the rank of sergeant.Above them is a khaki embroidered Lewis Gunner's badge in the form of 'LG'

within a wreath.Within the point of the left cuff is a wound stripe of gold Russia braid.

(This is a wonderful description of the means by which Service personnel can identify visually the history of the wearer)





## Summary



James Hevey, born in St Helens, Lancashire in February 1881, he was a labourer when he enlisted in the AIF on 14th June 1915 as a private, number 2477, he had previously served in the UK in the Territorial Army for 6 years.

He joined his Battalion (originally the 8th Battalion), as part of the 7th reinforcements at Shrapnel Valley in October 1915, later returning to Egypt in March 1916.

As part of the AIF's expansion and restructure he was transferred to the 59th Battalion and later to the 58th Battalion for duty with the British Expeditionary Force on the Western Front.

The Battalion fought its first major battle at Fromelles on the 19th July, which was a complete disaster, they were virtually annihilated by German machine gun fire, he survived but was wounded in August while his battalion was still in the Fromelles section.

Transferred to England for treatment and rest he was promoted to corporal and subsequently Sergeant.

He rejoined his battalion in France until October 1917 and was then transferred to England as an Instructor and later attended a Lewis Gun Course.

He rejoined the battalion in France and was gassed in September during the battalion's final action of the war, subsequently transferred to the General Hospital in Oxford, England, he was well enough to be discharged and was discharged from the AIF on the 31st March 1919, was demobilised in England at his request while his eldest daughter finished her schooling.

The family returned to Australia on the 22nd January 1920

In memory of 'Pop' Hevey and all who served

*Jim Hevey*

Below is an image of the 50th Anniversary Anzac Medal



In researching the history of Spotswood as a Suburb, an interesting fact emerged, the land along Melbourne Road to Birmingham Street in the south and The Avenue in the north and west to Stephenson Street was owned by the Government as a Soldier Settlement project and after the First World War returned servicemen were allowed to purchase land and homes commencing along the Melbourne Road frontage, after the Second World War a similar project enabled similar houses and land became available to returned service personnel, and houses from both eras are still in place.

The second world war houses first began to be constructed in Mary Street in the vicinity of the current Spotswood RSL Venue.

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## Notice to members and Friends

The next General Meeting will be held at the Homestead on **Tuesday 14th April** starting at 7 p.m when Marius & Ronel Berger will present

### **“An African Story: The Boer War and the Australian Connection**



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P00220.001

## Committee 2014 - 2015

**President:** Peter Weaver

**Vice President:** Carol Winfield

**Secretary:** Kerin Botha

**Treasurer:** Owen Hyde

### *Committee Members*

Maureen Lane

Judith Kirkman

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