



**Altona Laverton
Historical Society Inc.**
PO Box 236 Altona 3018

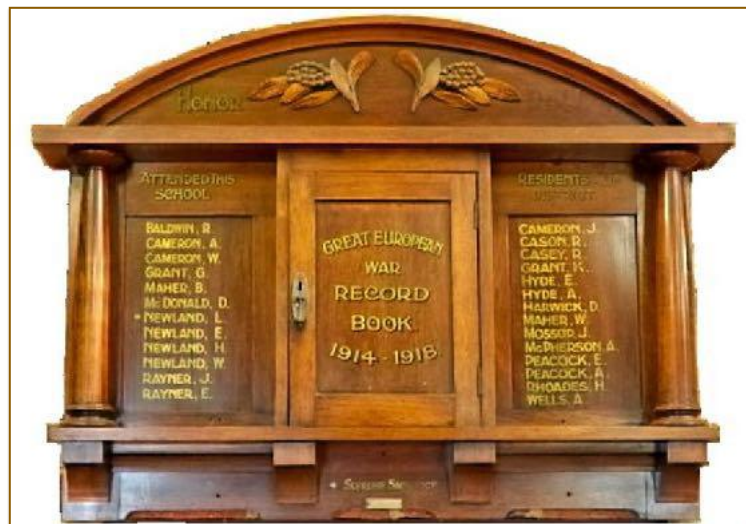
NEWSLETTER

2022 IS THE CENTENARY YEAR OF THE LAVERTON WW1 HONOUR BOARD

As Victorians begin to deal with the two year anniversary of the arrival of Covid, it seems that some normality of activities is beginning to reappear as public events and other activities resume with regularity.

April 25.2022-ANZAC Day, will see the rekindling of the past memories of military activities here and overseas that Australian service members have participated in, and in this edition of our Newsletter we will focus on the **Centenary of the Laverton WW1 Honour Board**, and also on some of the Special military units that receive little publicity, including the Commando Corps based at Fort Gellibrand in Williamstown.

World War 1 honour boards were erected in many local schools, halls, churches, workplaces, and public places as an instrument of acknowledging the commitment made by the local men and women to the great European War effort.



THE LAVERTON WW1 HONOUR BOARD

The criteria used for the inclusion of names, on an honour board, were determined by those creating the board and varied from town to town. In many communities, honour rolls were the first type of memorial to honour people who had enlisted to serve in World War I. Most honour boards were manufactured and installed during the early part of the 1920s from a mix of materials, such as wood, stone and/or metal and some included photographs.



Wooden honour boards tended to be most common, and many are still on display in local communities. The type of wood used related to the budget of the community at that time

Laverton was a small farming community, when war was declared in 1914 and the local men were eager to enlist. For its population, as noted in the Werribee Shire Banner (20 December 1917), 'the whole Shire had responded splendidly to the call of the mother country' and a greater percentage of men claimed Laverton as their home or enlistment than any other place the same size. According to the honour roll, that appeared within the Werribee Shire Banner, there were 26 men from Laverton who enlisted to serve. Within Laverton, the primary school became a central locality for the local war effort. It served as a recruitment centre, operations for local Red Cross fundraisers and work efforts and a venue for welcoming home returning service personnel both during and at the conclusion of the war.

Given its pivotal role, that the primary school played during these war years, it was only fitting that the school committee instigated the purchase and design of the town's honour board during 1922 which was installed and unveiled, within the school building on the 24 October of that year.

The board was constructed of walnut timber and was divided into three sections with two peace doves and olive branches adorning the top of the board. The left-hand side listed the names of past attendees of the school and the right-hand side listed the names of residents of the Laverton/Altona area. In the centre of the board is a cabinet which stored a book that contained a full record or history of the war that had been provided by the Education Department (Werribee Shire Banner, 5 October and 21 December 1922). It is not certain what has happened to this publication, but it is no longer within the cabinet.

The honour board was unveiled, with much ceremony and celebration, on 24 October 1922 at a function at the school. Given that the board was to be displayed within the school building and that the board had been paid for by the school committee, it was unveiled by the then Director of Education Frank Tate CMG. Also attending the event was the local member for the electorate of Bulla, the Honourable Andrew Robert Robertson MLA, Bernard Maher the local councillor for the East Riding of Werribee Shire, the school committee chairperson William Henry Lohse and many residents from the local community including those veterans who had returned to live in the area.

The honour board was designed and made by F K Cox & Company who were a leading Melbourne furniture maker and manufacturer of house fittings. The company had been in operations, across Melbourne, since the 1890's and by 1907 were employing as many as 150 trades people. The company operated out of Kensington but also operated premises within Prahran and in Lonsdale Street Melbourne.



THE LAVERTON WW1 HONOUR BOARD



In the early 1920s they were being contracted to design, manufacture and install several World War 1 honour boards across Melbourne and rural Victoria. We are aware that this company also manufactured honour boards for the Lara, Lorne, Elmhurst and Torrumbarry communities all of varying designs.

As mentioned earlier, the Laverton honour board contains two listings of names. Those of past attendees of the school and the second listing those who were or had resided in the area. In total the honour board contained 26 names and reflected names that had been recorded within the honour roll published, throughout the war, within the Werribee Shire Banner. This was the criteria for the two lists, and it must be remembered that these were times where communication was completed by either word of mouth or by post.

During our research, of those listed on the board, we discovered one typo being that of D Harwick who was in fact David Warwick. This error may have either happened during the manufacture period or in the recording of the names from the Werribee Shire Banner. Additional our research revealed that there were a further four enlistees who were born in the Laverton area. These were Gilbert Eaton, Arthur White, Henry White and Arthur McPherson. Arthur was the brother of Alexander McPherson who had been included on the honour board. This was not seen as an error by the school committee or the listing in the Werribee Shire Banner publication. People only recorded what they were advised and what was known. They certainly didn't have the communication systems that we have today. We also identified three enlistees whose families had moved into the Altona area during the war period and who had returned to live in Altona when their war service was completed. These included George Duke, Charles Thomas and Frederick Thomas. Again, we don't see this as an omission but simply that because their families arrived after the start of the war those in Laverton may not have been aware of their arrival and the newcomers didn't see the need to report the names of their sons to the Werribee Shire Banner. You can only record and note what you know at the time, but our research has made note of their contribution to the war effort. The honour board remained within the school building until the building was closed, as a school in 1951, and the honour board was transferred across to the new primary school in Epsom Street. It remained there until the original school building had been purchased back by the Werribee council, in the late 1980s, and was renovated by the local Rotary club.

At the completion of this work, the honour board was restored to its original position where it has remained ever since. In October of 2022 it will celebrate 100 years since its original installation and unveiling. It remains as a reminder of the sacrifices made by these men and stands as a perpetual dedication of the town's gratitude for their service to King and country.

COMMANDO REGIMENTS



The first Australian units were formed during World War 2 between 1941-42, mainly for reconnaissance and long range duties in New Guinea and Borneo-other M-Z special units performed more clandestine roles.

The formation of the First and Second Commando Companies in 1955.



The 1st Commando Regiment is described as an Australian Army Reserve special forces unit, comprising of regular(full time) soldiers and reserve (part time) soldiers, the Unit Headquarters is in Randwick NSW.

It includes **1 Commando Company** (HMAS Penguin,Balmoral NSW, **2 Commando Company** located in the historic site at **Fort Gellibrand, Williamstown, Victoria** and **301 Signal Squadron**, Randwick, NSW., **2 Commando Company** was raised in Victoria on February 24,1955.

They are stationed at Fort Gellibrand, which is located on Battery Road, near Point Gellibrand in Williamstown, Victoria.

Fort Gellibrand is considered to be of historic importance to Victoria as it was developed for the colony in the nineteenth century as part of the defence strategy of the time, the Fort retains a range of batteries, guns, magazines and military buildings from that period..

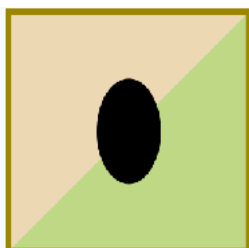


(Gellibrand Point is named after Joseph Gellibrand a lawyer and principal of the Port Phillip Association of the time).

The 2nd Commando Regiment was formed in June 2009, when the 4th Battalion ,Royal Australian Regiment (Commando) was renamed. and is a special forces unit, part of the Special Operations Command Based at Holsworthy ,New South Wales the Regiment often trains and deploys with the SAS, it has been involved in operations in East Timor,Iraq and Afghanistan and domestic security operations within Australia.

The Regiment retains a strong link with its past History with its predecessors, the 2/4 Royal Australian Regiment.

Australian Commandos wear a Sherwood Green Beret.



2 CDO REGT



AUSTRALIAN ARMY AVIATION CORPS

The Australian Army Aviation Corps, provides aviation reconnaissance, troop firepower support ,battlefield support and surveillance capabilities.

The Corps has past traditional links with the Australian Flying Corps,Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery and the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF).

During the1950s and 1960s aircrew were drawn from the combat arms of the Army, supplemented by the Air Force in some key positions.

Commandos are pictured leaving an Army Helicopter above right.

As the 1960s proceeded Army personnel gradually replaced the Air Force members until all operational positions were filled by the Army.In 1968 the Australian Army Aviation Corps was formed.

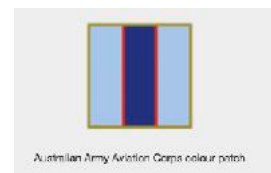
The Aviation Corps (AAAvn) operates aircraft of various types including Helicopters including the Eurocopter armed reconnaissance helicopter and the ARH Tiger Helicopter.



Australian Army ARH Tiger at Avalon Airport, Australia



The Corps motto is “Vigilance” and similar to their British Army equivalents they wear a sky blue beret.



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN CORPS OF MILITARY POLICE

The RACMP was previously known as the Australian Army Provost Corps, originally formed on April 3, 1916 as The ANZAC Provost Corps.

It is responsible for battlefield traffic control, security duty, prisoner of war handling, the investigation of service offences, maintaining discipline and the running of military prisons.

The Royal Australian Corps of Military Police played a role in World War 1, World War 2 and have assisted in other conflicts including Afghanistan and the Timor crisis.

Their purpose is to maintain military effectiveness and maintain the reputation of the Army, duties include investigations.



Special employment opportunities are offered for enlistment by civilian police in the reserves.

They wear a scarlet beret.



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE SERVICE POLICE

The Provost Service within the RAAF Began in a small way in 1930, but it was not until 1942 that the RAAF Service Police Unit was properly established and organised.

Duties include the Special Investigations Branch, Field Security, Port Detachment, crowd and traffic control, security guards and dog handling and other general law enforcement duties.



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY SERVICE POLICE

The formation of the Naval Police occurred on July 1, 1913, the branch at that time was known as the Naval Dockyard Police and was established to relieve the Royal Marine Light Infantry members who had carried out policing duties since 1867.

During WW1 they provided service as police around dockyards and some counter espionage services.

In 1940 the Naval Dockyard Police were established with Dockyard police at Williamstown Naval Dockyard for many years.

Naval Police now are employed in areas of physical security, fire protection, and investigation functions on vessels and at various naval establishments around Australia (Information from an Article by Commander Peter Mangan RAN)



AUSTRALIAN ARMY INTELLIGENCE CORPS

The Australian Army Intelligence Corps was formed in 1907, and currently provides Intelligence personnel in every formation headquarters in Australia.

The Australian Intelligence Corps was formed on 6 December 1907 and is one of the oldest Commonwealth Intelligence Corps.

Australian Intelligence Corps has strong links to the Intelligence Corps (United Kingdom), the New Zealand Intelligence Corps, Canadian Army Intelligence, the Military Intelligence Branch of the United States Army, and the Intelligence Department of the U.S. Marine Corps.

Australian Intelligence Corps personnel have a proud heritage, serving in all ADF operations around the globe to the present in support of commanders providing vital insights on adversaries, the battle-space and protecting Australian service personnel.

The corps-moto is "Forewarned Forearmed"

Australian Intelligence Corps personnel are employed in a range of specialist roles including:

Combat intelligence, Counterintelligence, Geospatial Intelligence-Geospatial Intelligence functions include geospatial data management;

Geospatial Information Services (GIS); Imagery Intelligence collection and analysis specifically relating to Australian Army helicopters and Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS).

Multi-Media design and production All Source Analysis - involving the fusion of all available sources of information regarding a problem or operational area into

Signals Intelligence Cyber Threat Intelligence, Human Intelligence Psychological Operations.



Australian Intelligence Corps badge



Australian Intelligence Corps colour patch

AUSTRALIAN ARMY TRAINING TEAM VIETNAM (AATTV)

The Vietnam War, was also known as the Second Indochina War because conflict had existed since 1955, and officially ended on April 30, 1975, but the Australian Government had provided assistance to the Republic of Vietnam since 1962 when the Government of Australia announced the dispatch of military advisers to assist in the training of South Vietnamese forces.

On 31st July 1962 the first members of the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam (AATTV) arrived in Saigon.



The initial response was to send 30 military advisors, led by Colonel (later Brigadier) Francis Philip (Ted) Serong.

The Commander of the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam (AATTV), Colonel Ted Serong, arrived in Saigon, South Vietnam, on 31 July 1962. The 15 officers and 15 senior NCOs (warrant officers/sergeants) that made up "The Team" arrived in Saigon on 3 August 1962. The AATTV was sent to Vietnam in a training and advisory capacity, as part of the US Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV). Members served 12 to 18-month tours of duty. They were sent to Vietnam singly or in drafts, as the unit did not exist outside Vietnam.

AATTV members operated with the South Vietnamese Army (ARVN), Montagnards, Territorial Forces (Regional Force and Popular Force), Mobile Strike (Mike) Forces, and other local

units. Attached to units or battalions as trainers, advisers, and occasionally leaders, team members usually worked in the field, accompanying units on operations. They worked with various groups from the United States, such as the US Special Forces and the Central Intelligence Agency, and under the auspices of the already well-established US Army Advisory system, throughout South Vietnam.

AATTV was increased to 73 personnel in September 1964, and then to 112 in June 1965. The Team reached a peak strength of 217 members in November 1970. As part of an overall reduction of the Australian commitment, the size of the Team was decreased gradually from April 1971, before its complete withdrawal in December 1972. (Wikipedia)

A LOCAL ALTONA SERVING MEMBER ATTAINED WARRANT OFFICER 1 RANK



WO1 Don Hodgart with Dr. Forbes, Minister for the Army-outside Australia House Vietnam

Altona resident ,**Warrant Officer One, Donald Hodgart**, Regimental Sergeant Major of the Training Team was one of the earliest army members to be sent to Vietnam and he is pictured above.

It is understood that Don Hodgart was a Sergeant when chosen for ‘The Team’ as they became known, and that he undertook training at Canungra with a broken rib such was his determination to succeed.

To be promoted to Warrant Officer 1 and RSM rank indicates his recognition by Army Command of the day of his exceptional skills.

The Photo above, an Australian War memorial image shows Don Hodgart with The Minister for the Army and is believed to have been taken circa 1965, in Vietnam, outside “Australia House” (pictured) and this may have been at the time of his in field promotion.

Don Hodgart passed away in 1974 , age 43.

Warrant Officer Class One

The senior soldier rank in the Australian Army, typically reached after about 18 years of outstanding service. WO1s are the senior advisors of their unit's Commanding Officer, with leadership, discipline and welfare responsibilities of up to 650 officers and soldiers and their equipment. The Sergeant Major of a unit is a Warrant Officer Class One and holds a special position within the unit as the commander's right hand man and his senior soldier.

He or she is known as the Regimental Sergeant Major regardless of whether the unit is a Regiment or Battalion. WO1s also fill very senior and important supervisory roles .



Warrant Officer Class One Insignia



The Mysterious Mr. Merrett Can you solve the Mystery?

<p>W. Davey A.B.C. Cafe, Altona General Store Dance every Saturday Night Bungalows to let 'Phone 98</p>	<p>C. Ford Caterer 19 Thomas St., Windsor 'Phone 5324</p>	<p>H. W. Spear & Co. (Late A.F.F.) Pioneer Store and Wood Yard Orders called for and delivered daily. Pier St., Altona Best, therefore cheapest</p>	<p>R. A. Blomberg Local Newsagent Can supply all your needs at city prices Books, Magazines School Requisites</p>																									
<p>A. Findlay Queen St., Altona Wood Yard Coal, Coke and Mallee Roots City Prices Civility and attention</p>	<p align="center">Grand Athletic Benefit Concert & Dance In aid of MR. W. MERRETT Altona Progress Hall Thursday, April 28th</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>1. Overture (selected)</td> <td>Messrs Holley and Findlay</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. Exhibition of Boxing</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>3. Recitation</td> <td>Miss Vaughan</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4. Club Swinging</td> <td>Miss Kearney</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5. Exhibition of Boxing</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>6. Song (selected)</td> <td>Mr. J. Mohan</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7. Recitation</td> <td>Miss I. Mitchell</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8. Exhibition of Boxing</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>9. Step Dance</td> <td>Miss Iris Noonan</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10. Boxing Exhibition</td> <td>Squires & Jackson</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11. Comic Song</td> <td>Mr. Conroy (late Tivoli)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12. Exhibition of Boxing</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>13. Clog Dance</td> <td>Miss Eva Noonan</td> </tr> </table> <p align="center">Finale. DANCING till 2 a.m.—6d. extra at door Webb Printing Co., Hyde St., Footscray. Tel. 432.</p>	1. Overture (selected)	Messrs Holley and Findlay	2. Exhibition of Boxing		3. Recitation	Miss Vaughan	4. Club Swinging	Miss Kearney	5. Exhibition of Boxing		6. Song (selected)	Mr. J. Mohan	7. Recitation	Miss I. Mitchell	8. Exhibition of Boxing		9. Step Dance	Miss Iris Noonan	10. Boxing Exhibition	Squires & Jackson	11. Comic Song	Mr. Conroy (late Tivoli)	12. Exhibition of Boxing		13. Clog Dance	Miss Eva Noonan	<p>T. Keeshan Queen st. Fresh Fish and Rabbits Bait daily</p>
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<p>G. Carr Butcher Queen St., Altona Orders called for and delivered daily</p>	<p>A. Chikanceff Secondhand Timber Wood and Coal Merchant Altona, & North Melb. Railway Siding</p>																											
<p>Vaughan's Altona Timber Yards Cr. Railway and McBain sts. Builder and Contractor Firewood Merchant Lime, Cement, etc.</p>	<p>J. S. Neale Esplanade Boats for hire for Fishing Parties</p>																											
<p>W. Davidson Sargood st., Altona Licensed Explosive and General Carrier City and suburbs daily 'Phone 326 Wmn.</p>	<p>J. Thomas Altona Fruit Palace Choice Fruits in season</p>	<p>R. Palmer Lanestone Dairy Fresh Milk twice daily Cream a speciality Seves st., Altona</p>	<p>Mr Bailey Altona Fresh Fish Always on hand</p>																									

WHO WAS MR W MERRETT?

This is a brochure we have in our collection produced over 100 years ago, we believe in 1921. It is actually a program for a concert to be presented in the Altona Progress Hall, the first public building established in Altona, and now forms the main part of Altona Baptist Church in Sargood Street.

Some of the names of the artists will be recognised as local identities and it is always interesting to see which businesses were active in the community way back then, but who was Mr W Merrett whom the concert and dance were in aid of? Where did he

enough to raise funds for him? May be he was a successful cyclist heading off to the Olympic Games in Paris in 1924?

We have made a preliminary search of our records but nothing has come to light. If you can help us solve this mystery we would greatly appreciate hearing from you. There is generally some one at the Altona Homestead on Saturdays and Tuesdays from 10am, or you can email us through our website at alhs.com.au.

Cat. No. 2421

We seek information about Mr.W.Merrett in Altona circa 1921

SOCIETY NEWS





**As the Society's operations begin to get back to normal we are pleased to announce that Devonshire Teas will recommence on Sunday, May 1,2022
Online Reservation Bookings are required**

A promotional banner for Devonshire Tea. The left side features a close-up of scones, jam, and cream with a text overlay. The right side contains text about upcoming events and dates.

DEVONSHIRE TEA
JOIN US AT OUR BEAUTIFUL BIVESTONE ALTONA HOMESTEAD AND ENJOY OUR FAMOUS DEVONSHIRE TEA.
[BOOK ONLINE NOW](#)

We are next open on -
There are no upcoming events at this time.

Upcoming Devonshire Tea dates -

MAY 1		Devonshire Tea 10:00 am
JUN 5		Devonshire Tea 10:00 am

SOCIETY NEWS



The Western Region group's first meeting in two years was held at the Altona Homestead, home of the Altona Laverton Historical Society (ALHS), on Saturday the 5th March 2022.

Membership of the Western Region group include; The ALHS, Craigieburn Historical Society, Sydenham Park Friends, Keilor Historical Society, Living Museum of the West, Melton Historical Society, Melbourne Museum of Printing, St Albans Historical society, Sunshine Historical Society, T.A.A. Museum, Werribee Historical Society, Williamstown Historical Society, Will Will Rock Cemetery Friends.

Those in attendance welcomed the opportunity to discuss issues facing their societies.

Key issues included; matters confronting the Broadmeadows Historical Society, the apparent lost in action' of the Trans Australia Airlines (T. A. A. Museum), and the Printing Museum's current location. Discussions were followed by member's show and tell of recent and past publications.

The meeting concluded with general agreement that societies would upgrade their newsletter email lists so as to alert everyone as soon as possible of any issues requiring immediate attention.

The ALH's president invited, and ensured all members of a warm welcome at any time they visited the Altona Homestead to continue discussions or to share news.

Owen Hyde

President

Altona Homestead

Home of the Altona Laverton Historical Society.

Homestead Opening Hours:

Saturdays: 10.00am-12.00noon.

Tuesday: 10.00am-2.00pm.

<https://alhs.com.au/>