



Raves from the Graves

President's Report

Welcome to the 2019 autumn edition of our Newsletter, *Raves from the Graves*, and greetings to all. The Committee of The Friends extends a warm welcome to all our new members, and thanks to our valued current members for their continued support of the group, and our aims.

The Friends have had a good solid start to the year with a successful tour in March – *Women of the Cemetery*. This tour focused on strong, capable and determined women who lived alongside their menfolk – women who have until recent times gone unrecognised and unnoticed in history. Women like Susannah Brown Moysey nee Treeby who was the first European woman to settle in the Beaumaris area, a true pioneer; or Adeline Keating who went on to become one of Australia's first international retail buyers. A great achievement for a woman of her era. And Catherine Rout/Meredith nee Ford who gave birth to 17 children – and assisted hundreds of other women to deliver their babies. These women, and many more have largely been forgotten in the history telling of our nation, so we hope to address that, in some small way, with our tours.

Our next tour: All Sorts of Grave Tales, will be on **26th May, Sunday, 2pm** at Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery. It will feature people with interesting, but largely untold stories. Such as a musician who founded the Society of Musicians of Australia, a military artist whose work is now being sold by the Australian War Memorial, the first known doctor of Cheltenham, and the first Headmaster of Cheltenham Primary School. It is an interesting mix, which seems to cover all demographics of the area, not just the more notable citizens.

The Committee had planned that our first tour for 2019 would be ***The Streets Where We Live*** – however the research and time required to provide a well-documented talk has meant that we will now present this tour later in the year, in October. It will be based on streets named

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Current Committee:

<i>President:</i>	Rosemary Reddick
<i>Vice President:</i>	Margaret Osborne
<i>Secretary:</i>	Sue Beazley
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Sue Beazley

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FoCRC



after some of the families and individuals buried at Pioneer Cemetery. Streets that may be included are Comport and Woff Streets Beaumaris, Cullinane Street Black Rock, Tootal Road Dingley, Bloxsidge Lane Mordialloc, Kingston Road Heatherton, Watkins Street Aspendale, Ferdinando Lane Sandringham, Crawford Street Cheltenham and Charles Edward Booker who had three streets named after him in Cheltenham. **If you are able to contribute to our research on these families and streets or would like to suggest another interesting street, please contact us.**

We look forward to seeing you on one of your future tours.

One of our hard working Committee members, Sue Beazley, who you may have already met on one of our many tours, has been asked to join the Community Reference Group for Cheltenham & Mentone Stations Crossing removal. Sue will eloquently represent her community, as well as The Friends group, and we wish her well in deliberations.

The Friends will also continue with restoration plans of gravesites, and placing plaques on otherwise unmarked graves – particularly for WW1 Veterans, and unsung heroes of the local area.

We hope you enjoy our main article in this edition, which honours one of our WW1 Veterans, Rev. Frederick Wray who served as a chaplain in the Boer War and also at Gallipoli. Wray was mentioned in dispatches, was appointed CB for his Gallipoli service and awarded the CBE in 1919.

In keeping with the theme of honouring our WW1 Veterans, our next edition of *Raves from the Graves* will feature an interesting piece on Pte Michael (Mick) Ward who served throughout WW1 and has recently become significant due to a small suitcase he kept which contained memorabilia from those turbulent years. The suitcase, and artefacts contained within, were part of an exhibition at the Melbourne Museum in 2018.

As always, I would like to thank The Committee of The Friends for all their continued hard work and tireless efforts to keep the group relevant. All have their own strengths in various fields, which makes for a very cohesive and unified group.

We look forward to hearing from you, if you have feedback, concerns or stories you would like to share

**Rosemary Reddick
President**

HELPERS WANTED

Are you interested in helping The Friends of Cheltenham Regional Cemeteries group? We would love to hear from you. Maybe you would like to help us on tour days, greeting people, or helping out with our afternoon teas?

Maybe you have administration skills that you are happy to use. Or do you love the thrill of the chase, when it comes to researching many of the interesting people who are buried at both cemeteries? Or are you interested in military research, as there are many service personnel buried at Cheltenham cemeteries and the committee is currently attempting to put together a catalogue of all these gallant men and women?

If you are interested in helping the group, please come along and have a chat with any of us on the committee, we would be delighted to meet you. There is no pressure to be a committee member, we would just like to meet our members to encourage your involvement in your group – not to mention that we could use an extra pair of hands occasionally!

Contact: info@focrc.org

Women of the Cemetery Tour

In March, The Friends Committee conducted our first tour of the year, which drew a large crowd of interested people. The weather played its part by providing a lovely sunny day – but decided to spice things up with a very windy afternoon.

Our illustrious tour leader, Sue Beazley, put together research on a fascinating and strong-minded group of women, who were as diverse as they were interesting. Until recent times, women have only been viewed as an addendum to all of the achievements of men pioneers. However, we are now aware of the significant and crucial role women did play in the establishment of our communities.

The Friends Committee hope that our tours, which highlight the essential contributions of these women, help redress that in some small way.

A delicious afternoon tea provided all with the opportunity to share their thoughts about the tour.



A cup of tea is an
excuse to share
great thoughts with
great minds.



RESEARCH ARTICLE

Reverend Canon Frederick William Wray (Fred) C.M.G., C.B.E., V.D.

Researched and written by Rosemary Reddick



Frederick William Wray was born in country Victoria, on 29 September 1864, at a place called Taradale, near Castlemaine. He was the sixth son of Robert Mackie Wray and Anne Rebecca (nee Bury). His father was originally from Leeds. Fred's primary education was in the Castlemaine area at Kyneton Grammar. He then went on to study at Trinity College at the University of Melbourne. He also joined the Victoria Volunteer Militia Force when he was 14, serving for seven years.

At Trinity College, Wray earned a reputation as a great sportsman, as he was a gifted marksman, rower and Aussie Rules footballer. When he began his studies for the Anglican ministry he was nicknamed the 'sporting parson'. He was a tall lad, standing 5ft 11½ inches, and had an athletic build. He was captain of the premier Foundry football team in the Castlemaine district for some years, rowed in Trinity and University boat crews, and captained the Clergy team in a match against the Army. He was also a crack shot with a rifle and gun.

Fred began his ministry as a Lay Reader in various parishes throughout Victoria. In 1894 he was made a Deacon, and ordained by Bishop Goe in 1895. His first parish role was in country Victoria, at Dookie, before being sent to

Euroa in central Victoria. In Euroa, Wray joined the Victorian Mounted Rifles, serving in E Troop. And in 1897, he was appointed as Chaplain in the Victorian Military Forces. That same year, he, and 11 others from the Euroa district, were farewelled with speeches and patriotic songs as they set off for the South African campaign – the Boer War.

Nominal Roll		
No. and Name.	Rank.	Remarks.
Price, Thomas ..	Colonel	
Jenkins, Donald Hall ..	Captain	
Simpson, Theophilus Hengist Umphleby, Thomas Frederick ..	Lieutenant	
Bruce, George Owen ..	" ..	Invalided to England, 19.7.00
Hodgson, John Ernest Maytagte ..	" ..	Invalided, Australia, 30.9.01
Kirby, Mark Thomas ..	" ..	
Anderson, Edgar Oswald ..	" ..	
Umphleby, John Martin ..	" ..	Invalided, Australia, arr. 13.8.00
Norton, Edward Stuart ..	" ..	
Bres, Bogdan Stephen Robert ..	" ..	Died of enteric at Bloemfontein, 26.5.00
Stevens, John ..	Lieutenant and Adjutant	Awarded pension (temporary)
Lilley, James Lindsay ..	Medical Officer (Medical Staff)	Invalided, Australia, arr. 17.11.00
Hornam, Andrew ..	Major ..	
Wray, Rev. Frederick William ..	Chaplain	
Reddick, Harold Sugden ..	Secretary - Captain ..	
N.C.O.'S AND MEN.		
370. Macdonald, Hugh ..	Coy. Sergeant-Major ..	Reverted to Sergeant, 8.2.00
127. Jeffery, John ..	" ..	Coy. Sergeant-Major, 8.2.00
268. Fawcett, James Robertson ..	Quartermaster-Sergeant ..	Reg. Quartermaster - Sergeant, 8.4.00, vide "Promotions" and War Office Circular, 19.1.00
371. Mathews, John Robert ..	" ..	Invalided, Australia, arr. 17.10.00
294. Masters, Charles John ..	Sergeant ..	Coy. Sergeant-Major, 20.12.00
130. Baldry, Robert John ..	" ..	Reduced Corporal by C.M., 31.8.00
242. Smith, Alfred ..	" ..	Quartermaster-Sergeant, 23.10.00
237. Challenger, William Samuel ..	" ..	
187. Cahill, Thomas Stewart ..	" ..	
340. Watts, Arthur John ..	" ..	Reduced Private, by resignation, 20.2.00. Died of enteric at Bloemfontein, 19.6.00
214. Hiscook, Henry James ..	" ..	
344. Wardle, Andrew Duncan ..	Corporal ..	Sergeant, 25.2.00. Invalided, Australia, arr. 28.8.00. Awarded pension
132. Miller, William Grant ..	" ..	Sergeant, 1.6.00. Killed in action May 1900. Died 3.12.00
305. Francis, George William ..	" ..	Saddler-Sergeant, 20.12.00
349. Wilson, Andrew ..	" ..	Invalided, Australia, arr. 24.6.00
240. Dowd, Albert Henry ..	" ..	Taken prisoner, 22.12.00. Discharged, Lockhart, 7.7.00; released, 2.9.00; returned, Victoria, 1.10.00
324. Wiesoch, Urban ..	" ..	Sergeant, 4.12.00
138. Mountjoy, Ernest Lindsay ..	" ..	Sergeant, 16.1.00
234. Sutherland, Alexander Robert ..	" ..	Sergeant, 16.1.00
238. McLean, John Hector ..	" ..	Sergeant, 16.1.00
292. Carr, William Matilda ..	" ..	Invalided, Australia, arr. 24.5.00
328. Favoret, John Lowe ..	" ..	Awarded pension
364. McGowan, John ..	" ..	Reduced to Private, C.M., 5.9.00
326. Fox, James Peter ..	" ..	Died of enteric at Rustenburg, 1.12.00

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

RCDIG1069340

Boer War Nominal Roll

Chaplain Wray was initially appointed only to accompany the 2nd Victorian Mounted Rifles contingent to Cape Town. However, this changed at his own request to an on-going position in the field. Under the command of Colonel Tom Price, they embarked on the *Euryalus* on 13 January 1900, a complement of 15 officers, 250 other ranks, over 300 horses and a number of wagons. They saw intense fighting in the Cape and Orange River Colonies and the Transvaal. Their battle prowess earned them the nickname of 'the plucky, lucky

lot'. Wray accompanied the troops on a gruelling march to Komatipoort and held a church parade on the Portuguese border before returning to Pretoria in October 1900. However, while on leave in Johannesburg, Wray was afflicted with a bout of enteric fever, and was subsequently hospitalised. By now most of the Victorian contingent had left for home, and when Colonel Price and his men arrived in Melbourne in December, their chaplain was out of danger and convalescing in Natal. He received the Queen's Medal African with six clasps.

In 1901, Wray was now chaplain of the 4th Contingent Victorian Mounted Rifles, who were known as the Imperial Bushmen. Wray writes '*Our squadron are losing men. Each day they are sent to hospital with fever. The last lieutenant of my squadron left yesterday, and a number of captains are there also. I have only thirty-nine men in my squadron, and the others all have less. The season is very severe and accounts for the enteric fever.*' Wray, himself, was to contract the fever for a second time, however with less severity than the first bout. He returned to Australia on the *Orient*, in July 1901, and resumed his duties as Minister in Euroa later that year. However, sadly in 1902 his mother, Anne, died at the vicarage.

Happier times were ahead when Fred married Henrietta Olive Elizabeth Catford, of Koondah (near Violet Town), in April 1902. Henrietta, born in 1875, was the only daughter of the Rev. Henry Catford, Methodist Minister, and Mary Elizabeth Corr. Fred and Henrietta were married at Christ Church, Hawthorn, by the Right Reverend Archbishop Goe of Melbourne. They honeymooned at Ocean Grove and then returned to Euroa. However their time at Euroa was short lived as Wray was appointed to the parish of Yarrawonga that same year.

He remained in Yarrawonga until 1913, and was incumbent at Rushworth when World War 1 broke out. Fred had retained his military appointment after the Boer War and in 1914 he enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force, sailing for Egypt with the 13th Battalion. Allotted to the 4th Brigade, with particular responsibility for the 13th Battalion, he 'slipped ashore' at Gallipoli early on 26 April 1915, despite orders forbidding non-combatants from doing so. The tall figure of the padre became a familiar sight at the front line and earned the gratitude of the soldiers. A fellow chaplain described him as 'moving about in full view of the enemy', taking calculated risks with notebook and pencil, busy keeping a check on the names of the

dead and a list of their personal effects. Wray describes some of his duties; 'During the day I did field dressing, stretcher bearing, grave digging and filling and putting the bodies in'. Lieutenant Thomas Chataway describes in his book '*History of the 15th Battalion*' a typical day for Chaplain Frederick Wray, and what they all had to endure on a daily basis. The following entry was at Quinn's Corner. Captain Hugh Quinn, (after whom the post was named), took over command of the position that quickly became known as the most dangerous place. A cemetery was established on the afternoon of 25 April.

'At 2.30am on that day Chaplain Frederick Wray made the first of almost daily trips to bury dead at Quinn's.'

Wray's diary also reveals his trips:

'April 28 at 12.30 reached 14th lines on Quinn's Corner...at 2.30am buried 29, including two NZ Officers.'

'April 30 Went up to Quinn's Corner and buried 5 men.'

'May 1 buried 1 man at Gully cemetery and 9 at Quinn's Corner.'

'May 2 buried 7 at Gully cemetery and 9 at Quinn's Corner.'

'May 3 An awful day, the 16th were enfiladed by machine guns and did not hold their trenches...the 16th lost 400 out of 600, the 13th 200...saw a sniper get seven out of eight at Quinn's Corner and he got Lt Binnie....I buried eight, including Lt. Binnie and Freeman at Quinn's Corner.' PR00247 AWM.

In August 1915, Fred was with the 4th Australian Brigade who were part of the offensive at Chunuk Bair and he recorded these details of the action:

'Our forces and Ghurkhas and others had gained a small footing on top of Chunuk Bair yesterday morning and had strong supports well up the sides...Our troops advanced up the hill, but not in regular line – a kind of go as you please charge. A few got up to the Turkish trenches, but the supporting ranks were behind, the first ones wilted away. This was in front of the position held by our men, the attack was repulsed'

And as the fighting escalated he attended to the burials of the increasing numbers of dead.

'Three burials in the early morning, three in

the afternoon in saps [small trenches], six at night...Three men had been buried there and I said a service for these and several other bodies lying about behind the trenches which could not be recovered...three more burials in afternoon at same place, including Lt. McLeod who died last night 4th FA (Field Ambulance), shot in stomach.'

And like many men at Gallipoli, Wray fell ill and was evacuated to Imbros two days after the August offensive. But even amongst his most pressing and unrelenting duties Fred found time to write home to family and friends. The following excerpt is to a friend in Yarrawonga, dated 7 June 1915.

'This rest camp is quite a change from the trenches though there are many fatigue parties to be found and a great deal of digging to be done in different places. Still it is a more restful time, in that the constant strain is absent. Our brigade the 4th, has been awarded two Distinguished Service Orders, and two Military Crosses for officer, and 7 Distinguished Service Medals for men. Major Mansbridge of the 16th and Major Rankin of the 4th have secured the D.S.O., and Captain Simpson, our adjutant, and Lieut. Legge, machine-gun section, both of the 13th, the military crosses. Two of the 13th men have got D.S.O.'s, so the 13th won four out of eleven decorations. These awards cover operations up to May 5th only. Col. Burnage was mentioned in despatches and we all hope he will get the D.S.O. The officers and men think a good deal of him and cheered him when he was carried away wounded. We were able to have services on Sunday, the first since our landing. Major Durrant, our acting C.O., cheerfully gave his quarters for celebrations, and we had eight at 7am and thirty at 10am. Our church (the dugout) is about 10ft wide by 12ft long, covered tent fashion, with waterproof sheets, under which I had just room to stand in the centre. We had water proof sheets on the floor, no seats, and there was a flat space outside the front. Our Holy Table was comprised of two biscuit boxes covered with a waterproof sheet, another sheet hanging at the back against the earthen background to form a dorsal curtain. For the vessel we had an aluminium plate for the paten, and an

enamelled mug for the chalice, the vessels being covered by a clean white handkerchief (the only linen available). You will see all the usual reverential surroundings were wanting, but we had a beautiful reverent little celebration with the communicants kneeling the whole service through. We also had a parade service, which was a fine one. There is a natural amphitheatre in one side of the gully, and the men were packed in among the bushes....I gave the address. We sang good hymns....The A.L.H., 8th and 9th are camped near us...They were all anxious for news of home as they had not had a letter for some weeks.'



Field Communion Set, dated 1916, belonging to Rev Frederick William Wray, AIF Chaplain.

Suffering from two bouts of enteritis, Wray was repatriated back to Australia for rest and recovery in late 1915. He was mentioned in despatches for his service at Gallipoli, and received this glorious welcome home, as reported in the *Euroa Advertiser*, 14 January 1916.

Chaplain F. Wray, invalided home from the front, was on his return to Rushworth. Though the people had short notice they welcomed his coming. The shops were closed and a procession headed by the town band met him at the station. He preached on the Sunday evening in the Parish Church, Rushworth, and spoke at the unveiling of the memorial to Major Gregory of Murchison. His parishioners tendered him a welcome home social where in a lecturette he gave a most interesting account of experiences and work at the front. The chaplain said he has the firm opinion that had there had been 4000 more Australians to support them when they attacked Hill 60 nothing could have prevented their taking the karrows.

Naturally he regretted the evacuation of Anzac from a sentimental stand point, but acknowledged that there was nothing else to be done from a military one. When he met the first of the Light Horse from Egypt in Shrapnel Gully he was so overjoyed to know that reinforcements had come at last that he could not speak for some minutes but could only grip them by hand. Imagine what the men in the trenches felt and how badly they were needed.

When he was in England he met his brother, and the home people made quite a hero of him...The Chaplain felt he wouldn't face a man he had known at Gallipoli if he had played the shirkers part and remained in safety, and is eager to get back to his battalion. He has reported for duty and expects to start again for the front on 15th inst. He is quite grey and there is no mistaking the fact that he has seen and endured many things which he admits he wants if possible to forget.'

Re-joining the 4th Brigade in Egypt, March 1916, Wray accompanied the 13th Battalion on operations in the desert and was again mentioned in despatches. In June, the Brigade transferred to the Western Front, taking part in the battles for Pozieres and Mouquet Farm in August. As at Gallipoli, his Chaplain duties of providing spiritual and practical support continued, as well as non-clerical duties, such as assisting at dressing stations, along with the never ending, demanding and emotionally draining task of writing to the bereaved. In 1917, he was appointed Senior Chaplain based in London, responsible for dozens of chaplains in France, whom he visited periodically. He writes to a friend back home in June 1918 and the letter was published in the *Tungamah and Lake Rowan Express and St. James Gazette*, 6 June 1918.

'I've just come back from three weeks in France among our men visiting my chaplains, and spent ten days amongst them a few miles behind the lines. It was very quiet and I was able to move about freely, and it was almost as good as a holiday...For hours together sometimes we could not hear a gun fired, and I did not see a Bosche aeroplane all the time...Do you know it is

really homey to read your letter, and takes me right back to the happy years I passed amongst all you kind people...one wonders if ever the old lines of life can be taken up again, and then a letter like yours come, and brings the old times close...Your sincere friend F. W. Wray.'

When in London, Fred conducted an ANZAC service at Westminster Abbey where he was reported as speaking eloquently, with an audience upwards of 2,000 who listened with manifest interest. He was highly regarded, striking a deep note of patriotism and Imperialism, peculiarly suited to the times.

Fred served with distinction at Gallipoli and the Western Front, and for his remarkable service throughout his four years of war Chaplain Lieutenant Colonel Frederick William Wray was mentioned twice in despatches, was awarded Companion of the Order of St. George and St. Michael (C.M.G) in 1916, Commander of the Order of the British Empire (C.B.E) in 1917, Valour Decoration (V.D.) in 1919 and invested with the Commander of the Order of British Empire (C.B.E) in 1920 by Edward, the Prince of Wales.

Returning to civilian life, Wray was appointed canon of Holy Trinity Cathedral, Wangaratta in 1920 and rector of the parish in 1928. Erect and square shouldered, he kept his soldierly bearing and traversed the Wangaratta area on foot or by bicycle, as he never learned to drive a car. Throughout all his years he maintained an interest in sport, Freemasonry and the affairs of ex-servicemen. He retired in 1935 to Sandringham.

Olive and Fred had five children, with the first four born in Yarrawonga – Frieda Olive 1903, Harold Bury 1904, Frederick Lewis 1908, Dora Isabel 1911, and Marjorie Stewart 1913, who was born in Rushworth. Fred died on 18 November 1943 aged 73, his wife Henrietta Olive having predeceased him in 1941, aged only 66. Their eldest daughter Frieda is buried with them at the Cheltenham Memorial Park Cemetery (2*89*N). Fred Wray, as he was more commonly known, was a fascinating and inspiring man. His simple grave gives no indication of the amazing accomplishments of his life.

**Record of Service in the Field, also Reference to Decorations, etc., granted,
and dates showing the period in each case.**

PARTICULARS	Reference to Orders or other Authority
Chaplain 2nd Class to Victorian Contingents in South African War from January 1900 to August 1901	
Chaplain 2nd Class to A.I.F. from Nov 1915	
Embarked Melbourne 22-12-14	
Disembarked Alexandria 1-2-15	
26-4-15 Landed Anzac	
13-8-15 Invalided from Anzac	
Decorated with South African Queens Medal with 6 clasps	
Awarded C.M.G.	A.I.F. List 62
3-8-15 To Hospital	ARB. 158
20-8-15 Imferfa Hospital Dysentry Malta	C 3771 Ex H.S. Valdura
10-9-15 Sailed for England H.S. "SCOTIAN" Malta	B 232 (20-8-15 Cable
18-9-15 Adm. 3rd London General Hospital Dysentry	A12340 (W B 1070
7-11-15 H.T. "RUNC" Returning to Australia	B688
Mentioned in Despatches	A.I.F. List 73
28-1-16 Embarked per "THEMISTOCLES" from Melbourne arrived Suez 26-2-16	C.R. 195/3/40
Appointed Companion to the most Distinguished Order of St Michael and St George for services rendered in connection with Military Operations in the Field	Pt. 2. 46/5454 28-6-1624-2-16
24-2-16 Posted for duty from date of arrival from Australia	A.I.F. List 284/75
1-3-16 Resumes duty with 4th Inf. Bde "Ismalia"	A.I.F. 36 4/76/16
27-3-16 Alloted to 4th Bde	A.I.F. List 45 7/118/16
1-3-16 Trans to 4th Div Hdqrs attd to 13th Btn	A.L. 2762
1-6-16 Proceeded to join E.E.F. ex Alexandria per T' Vania	ALL. 5755 24-1-17 Pt 2 date 16-11-16
8-6-16 Disembarked at Marseilles	Pt 2 28/942 16-11-16
22-12-16 Posted to A.I.F. Hdqrs London A.I.F. List 134	A.I.F. List 142 Pt 6/110E 27-9-17
8-10-16 Attached to 4th F. Amb from 4th Aust Bde Hdqrs for duty	Pt 2 28/244 A.I.F. List 237 Pt 2 28/467 15-9-17
1-2-17 Apptd S/Chaplain C of E A.I.F. Hdqrs London	C.R. 4306/1/25
1-9-17 From S/Chaplain C of E to be Senior Chaplain C of E vice Dexter	C.R. 4309/2/9 C.R. 430/1/25
1-9-17 Appt Senior Chaplain C of E vice Dexter	C.R. 4313/30/9 D.A.A.G.
4-12-17 Proceeded overseas France for one months duty 1st A Headquarters	
4-12-17 Proceeded overseas to France Folkstone	
20-2-18 Proceeded overseas to France for duty for two weeks	
8-3-18 Returned Disembarked Folkstone	
Proceeded Overseas to France	
21-5-18 Proceeded to France on duty for 1 week	

22/11/19
H.M.C.
RETURN TO AUSTRALIA
"Andries"
Struck off Strength of C. Div 12/250
21-2-18 Staff S (Chaplain) Q.A.A.G

11/11/19
H.M.C.
A.I.F. List 284/75
L.R. 4067 Do 346 6/11/19



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

H17219

Seated front centre: Rev. Frederick William Wray

Belgium, Wallonie, Namur 14 January 1919

A conference of available chaplains of the British forces was called to meet the Archbishop of Canterbury for discussions connected with the return of soldiers to civilian life and the influence of the church in these matters. Of the 83 chaplains in attendance, 19 were Australian, four were Canadian and the rest British.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

C04384

Middle row, sixth from left: Rev. Frederick William Wray

Heliopolis, Egypt 1 April 1915

A group portrait of the original officers of the 13th Battalion.



Lieut.-Colonel (Chaplain) Wray, C.M.G.,

Who superintends the work of 85 chaplains (in Egypt, France, and England), and has the welfare of 130,000 soldiers in his care.

Brigadier was immensely pleased, and the — has won Harry Murray and four others have been recommended for the V.C. Captain Fraser, Brigade Staff Captain, told me that it was a glorious achievement for the —, and that Captain Murray is a regular dare-devil. He is certainly absolutely fearless, and is simply worshipped by his men. Our only fear is that he will be laid out one of these days, he is so careless of himself. Any difficult or dangerous task he always takes on, and does not relegate it to a subordinate. Two chaplains in writing to me speak highly of what the battalion did. Good old — ! Is it not great? And the brigade also. It always gets the fighting in when anywhere near. I wish I was with it still, and hope to see the boys next week. Our casualties were 18 officers and 700 rank and file."

WRITING to a friend in Victoria, Lieut.-Col. Wray describes a dashing attack against the Germans by the — Brigade, in which the — Battalion especially distinguished itself. He says.—"My old brigade (the —) has just put up a fine piece of work, taking and holding an important strong post, from which direct observation of a considerable section of the enemy's lines can be had, and their fatigue parties could be seen with the naked eye digging in the frozen ground. The — Batt. took it first, and when counter-attacked ran out of bombs and had to retire, suffering heavily going back through the German barrage, which had prevented supplies coming up. Two nights later the — attacked with 700 men (the — had only 200) took the position, and at once consolidated it. Within an hour hot stew and tea, Tommy cookers, and rations were conveyed to them. The ground was frozen hard, the trenches were 9 feet deep, and it took hours to dig out a fire step. They were heavily counter-attacked three times after severe artillery bombardment with close barrages put behind them. But each man had taken over a supply of bombs in addition to a reserve supply for the bombers, and they beat off each attack after most desperate fighting. The further credit and honour, Capt. for the V.C. Captain Fraser,

Membership Subscription

Membership is open to anyone from around the world with an interest in the Cheltenham Cemeteries, Melbourne Australia. For just \$A15.00 per annum*, members receive a range of benefits. We also welcome organisations. Please download a membership application form, complete & return to PO Box 2958, Cheltenham Vic 3192 or email to info@focrc.org. Payment details are available from the website.

www.focrc.org. * Plus \$A10.00 joining fee for new members.

15TH BATTALION (QUEENSLAND AND TASMANIA).
CANNAN, Lieutenant-Colonel J. H.
SLACK, No. 854, Private J.

16TH BATTALION (SOUTH AND WEST AUSTRALIA).
TILNEY, Major (temporary Lieutenant-Colonel) L. E.
CARR, No. 613, Sergeant T. J.
DAVIES, No. 1150, Lance-Corporal H. D.

AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL TRAIN.
MARSH, Lieutenant-Colonel J. T. (Major, Army Service Corps).
McHATTIE, Lieutenant D. G.

AUSTRALIAN ARMY MEDICAL CORPS.
BEESTON, Colonel J. L.
BRYANT, Lieutenant-Colonel H. W.
CHAMBERS, Captain R. W.
FRY, Captain H. J.
BRYCE, No. 1386, Sergeant R.
GUNN, No. 9, Sergeant W.
HOOKWAY, No. 167, Sergeant O. R.
FAULKNER, No. 406, Corporal H. W.
GOODE, No. 62, Lance-Corporal R. S.
HILL, No. 108, Lance-Corporal G. T.
COLLIS, No. 1761, Private H. H.
MCRAE, No. 1775, Private F. O.
PEEL, No. 913, Private G. L.
SAWYER, No. 200, Private H.
SIMPSON, No. 202, Private J.
VINES, No. 902, Private A. J.
WATTS, No. 2250, Private H. T.

CHAPLAINS' DEPARTMENT.
WRAY, Reverend F. W.

[Extracts from the *London Gazette*.]

Fourth Supplement, No. 29357, dated Monday, 8th November, 1915, to "London Gazette" of Friday, 5th November, 1915.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHEHOOD.

Lord Chamberlain's Office,
St. James's Palace, S.W.,
8th November, 1915.

Sources:

National Archives of Australia

Australian War Memorial

Article: *The Reverend Fred Wray and the Charlton Memorial Window*, Posted by Dr. B Hughes. 2016

Trove: *Euroa Advertiser, Stanhope Border Post, The Australasian, The Sydney Mail, Castlemaine Mail, and Tungamah and Lake Rowan Express & St. James Gazette*.

Chaplains at War website

Have you received your copy of our Newsletter?

If you have not received any previous Newsletters and you are a financial member,
please notify Rosemary Reddick.
info@focrc.org

Memories of Cheltenham & Beaumaris

Continuing our series of excerpts from the manuscript of memories by Fairlie (Addie) Taylor.

Source: RHSV Box 41-2 MS 023683 1958
(continued on Page 14)

Boer War

The men were trained at Langwarrin, and everyone turned out to see them ride through Cheltenham to Melbourne to board their ships.

One local soldier, called Ockenden, had a black-smith's shop here, and he took his own horse to camp. When the contingent reached Cheltenham, Ockenden's horse refused to go past the blacksmith's shop - when urged on, he reared and threw the young black-smith right at his own forge door! It didn't help much when his mates burst into song with the popular number "Goodbye Dolly I must leave you".

These mounted men were known as "The Bushmen's Contingent". The Infantry had already sailed on the "Medic".

Weatherall Road

This well known road was named after a Botanist called Weatherall. His garden was the show place of the district. Mrs. Weatherall was formerly a Mrs. French, and her son became the best known horticulturist after Baron von Mueller.

RESEARCH ARTICLE

The History of St Patrick's School Mentone, Kilbreda College and the Brigidine Nuns who established both schools

Researched and written by Sue Beazley

In June last year we were delighted to have the Grade 6 children from St Patrick's School Mentone join us for a history tour of the Pioneer Cemetery. Needless to say the history of their school was included in the tour.

The first church services at St Patrick's Church in Mentone began in 1886 in a little wooden building located in Como Parade West behind the building then known as the Mentone Coffee Palace. At the time, the nearest Catholic Church was St Finbar's in Brighton and when the new church opened, its parish extended from Moorabbin to Carrum, and included Highett, Cheltenham, Black Rock, Beaumaris, Heatherton, Dingley, Mordialloc, Edithvale and Chelsea. A very large parish with the newly built St Patrick's its centre. Priests were sent from the 'Brighton Mission' located at St James Church in North Road (then Elsternwick) to conduct Sunday services at the little church in Mentone.

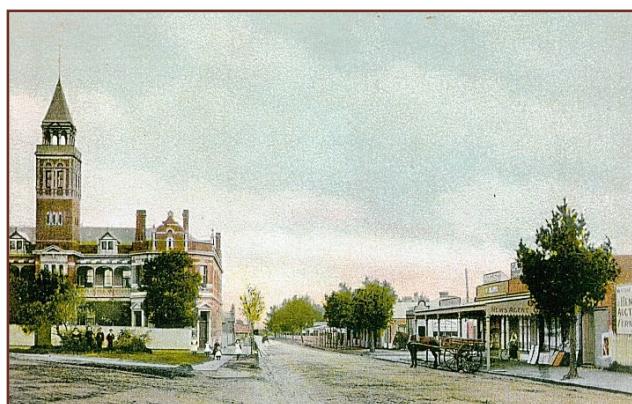
A group of Brigidine sisters from the Brigidine Convent at Echuca were staying locally at Black Rock and attended Mass at St Patrick's Mentone. The Parish Priest at that time, Father McGuire, asked whether it might be possible for them to send a group of sisters to Mentone to start a Catholic school there as most of the local Catholic children in their big parish attended the State schools; the closest Catholic school being at Brighton.

The Brigidine order in Ireland agreed to the request and in 1904 St Patrick's Primary School commenced in that three-room wooden building that had been the original St Patrick's Church. In its first year St Patrick's had 25 students. The nuns also purchased the now unused Mentone Coffee Palace that same year for the bargain price of £2,500.



The original St Patrick's Primary School

The Mentone Coffee Palace was built by the notorious land boomer Sir Matthew Henry Davies in 1887 who is recognised as the founder of Mentone. The Coffee Palace was originally a guest house for people from the city who wanted to bathe in, to quote the advertising of the time, 'the salubrious waters of Mentone'. Other advertisements referred to 'Mentone the Riviera of the south'. This once popular seaside holiday retreat fell on hard times in the depression of the 1890s and it was bought for the nuns to establish a school.



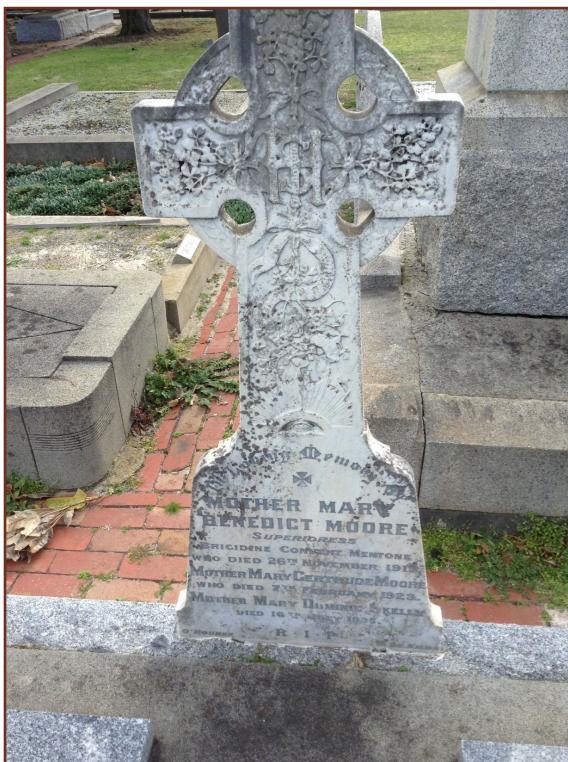
Mentone Coffee Palace circa 1905

St Brigid's High School for Girls opened its doors 7 August 1904. St Brigid's only had three students that first year - Eileen Dempsey, Marian Nunan and Vera Ryan. In the months following, four more girls were enrolled - Juliet Hogan, Mary McGuffie and Annette

Kellermann, who found fame as a professional swimmer and later a film star, quite the darling of the Australian people. The fourth new girl was Teresa (Dolly) Sheedy who joined the order in 1915, taking the name Sister Genevieve, 2*90RC*O, the first Kilbreda girl to enrol in the Brigidine order.

Brigidine Nuns

The Brigidine Order was established in Ireland in 1807. The order, established by Bishop Daniel Delany, was named after Saint Brigid who founded her first monastery in Kildare in the 5th Century. She was a champion of the impoverished and she inspired others to value culture, education and faith. In 1883, the first Brigidine nuns were sent from Ireland to Australia after a request for help setting up schools in the colony.



Grave of Mother Mary Benedict Moore

Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery has been the Melbourne burial site for the Brigidine order since the burial of Reverend Mother Benedict (Margaret Mary Moore) who passed away 26 November 1913. There are 22 graves with multiple burials in the *CARC*O section of Pioneer Cemetery. When the order ran out of room, they acquired another section towards the back of the cemetery, *90RC*O, and that holds more recent burials. In all there are around 133 Brigidine nuns buried at Pioneer,

including the first Mother Superior of St Patrick's and St Brigid's, Mother Margaret Mary Murphy, 15*CARC*O, who ran the schools from 1904 to 1915. Mother Margaret Mary was appointed Provincial of the Brigidine Nuns in Victoria in 1938 and held that position until she passed away 23 June 1948, aged 72 years. The most recent burial was Sister Eilis (Marie Rosalie Simm) who was buried late last month.

Kilbreda College Mentone - Principals

- Mother Margaret Mary Murphy (1904–1915) first Principal
- Mother Berchmans Foley (1916–1926) (Cousin of Archbishop Daniel Mannix)
- Mother Margaret Mary Bourke (1927–1965) who changed the name to Kilbreda around 1933
- Sister Barbara Mathews (1966–1971)
- Sister Pius Kennedy (1972–1973)
- Sister Marietta Rea (1974–1978)
- Sister Rosemarie Joyce (1979–1980)
- Sister Catherine Kelly (1984)
- Sister Mary Dalton (1985–1995)
- Mrs Carmel Smart (1995)
- Sister Angela Ryan (1981-1983 / 1996-1999)
- Sister Helen Toohey (1999 – 2006)
- Mrs Mary Stack (2007 – 2015)

Sources:

- Jane Fagan death certificate 2575/1902.
Police Burial Certificate accessed via Melbourne Cemetery.
Jane Hinton born 1858 Connewarre, Geelong to William Giles Hinton and his wife Susannah Ward Reg. 12263/1858.
Frederick John Finch death certificate 4395/1952.
Private Frederick Finch Army Record, SERN45.
Fred Finch – footballer - Hawthorn football Club records and Wikipedia.
George Fagan Prisoner no. 29796 prison record Victoria.
Kate Emily Hickson née Hawkins – account of attack
Beazley family notes: Sue Beazley.
Murder at Cheltenham by Graham Whitehead, Kingston Historical Website.
Details of Inquest conducted by Mr. Candler, City Coroner, *The Argus* 7 Feb 1902, p.6.
The Cheltenham Tragedy - in depth report *Weekly Times* 1 March 1902, p.21.
The Bendigo Independent 17 Jan 1902, p.3 (reprint of *Herald* article) and various newspaper reports Jan to Feb 1902.

Memories of Cheltenham & Beaumaris

Continuing our series of excerpts from the manuscript of memories by Fairlie (Addie) Taylor.

Source: RHSV Box 41-2 MS 023683 1958 (continued from Page 11)

Sister Esther

Cheltenham children of the early days remember the "Naughty Girls' Home", better known as the "House of Mercy". This was run by Sister Esther, a prominent Anglican woman, as a home for wayward girls from Melbourne. It was a common sight to see the Sister in the street with a girl on either side, each dressed in a plain galatea frock almost to the ankles. The girls were taught laundry work. The work was carried on for many years, then the "House of Mercy" closed, and in its place we now have "The Retreat House" as a monument to Sister Esther, the Mother Foundress of the Community of the Holy Name.

Football

Football fans will be interested to know that the Cheltenham Football Club dates back to 1893. Dr. Scantlebury was the president. In those days the football ground was on land known as "The Green". This was immediately behind the shops in Charman Road.

The next ground was in Wedd's paddock at the corner of Nepean Highway and Centre Dandenong Road - Membership was 2/6 a year. Players provided their own togs. The umpire got 7/6. Fred and Clarrie Judd, George Rose and Joe Chandler were amongst those in the first team.

Cemeteries

The original Cemetery was in Balcombe Road, Beaumaris, beside the Wesleyan Chapel, which has long since gone. Mr. Ruse secured land for a cemetery in Charman Road, and the first burial there was in 1865, long before the railway came through.

In those days it was thought the railway would be beside Point Nepean Road near the coach route, instead of which it came

through part of the cemetery property. This cemetery is now closed except to those who have already bought their land, and a new cemetery has been made nearer to Sandringham.

Three generations of the Rose family have conducted the district funerals. Before the Rose family took over, home made coffins were put into the back of a spring cart, to which "old Nobby" was harnessed, and away they went, followed by a long procession of spring carts, buggies and even drays.

One of the largest funerals ever seen in Cheltenham was that of the Rev. Mother Superior of Kilbreda Convent at Mentone. The Roman Catholic community, and all Protestants who knew her, remember Mother Berchmans as a loved nun, a cultured, holy lady with a rare sense of humour. The Rev. Dr. Mannix, several Bishops, Heads of all Catholic schools, and fifty clergy attended the funeral. Almost every Roman Catholic, and many Protestants, attended the graveside, bearing eloquent testimony that Mother Berchmans was a great educationist and a great "religious".

Sir Thomas Bent

A frequent visitor to the pioneering homes in Cheltenham was Tommy Bent, who gained success the hard way, after having travelled from N.S.W. by dray.

At one stage he was a struggling dairy farmer, and he often said later "I never see a cow without wanting to take my hat off to her".

Later, of course, he became Premier of Victoria, but he never forgot his friends in Cheltenham.

Future Tours at Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery

Sunday, 26 May 2019 at 2pm

All Sorts of Grave Tales

A tour which will be filled with interesting, but largely untold stories.

From the musician who founded the Society of Musicians of Australia, to a military artist whose work is now being sold by the Australian War Memorial, the first known doctor of Cheltenham and more.

An interesting collection of stories, covering not only known identities, but unknown as well.

October 2019

The Streets Where We Live

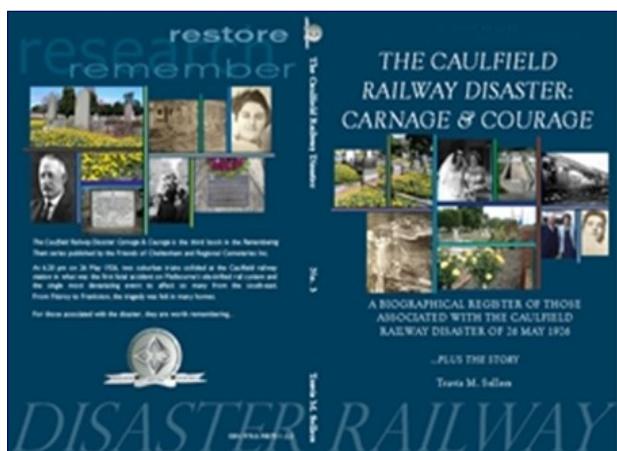
This tour will be based on streets named after some of the families and individuals buried at Pioneer Cemetery. Streets chosen so far – *Comport* and *Woff Streets Beaumaris*, *Cullinane Street Black Rock*, *Tootal Road Dingley*, *Gouldthorp Avenue Mentone*, *Bloxsidge Lane Mordialloc*, *Kingston Road Heatherton*, *Watkins Street Aspendale*, *Ferdinando Lane Sandringham* and *Crawford Street Cheltenham*.

If you are able to contribute to our research on these families and streets or would like to suggest another interesting street, please contact us.

The Caulfield Railway Disaster: Carnage & Courage

\$25.00

Please see Page 16 for payment details



At 6.20 pm on 26 May 1926, two suburban trains collided at the Caulfield railway station in what was the first fatal accident on Melbourne's electrified rail system and the single most devastating event to affect so many from the south-east. From Fitzroy to Frankston, the tragedy was felt in many homes. For those associated with the disaster, they are worth remembering...

[Download the index and see if your ancestor is included!](#) [PDF-251KB]

Written by Travis M. Sellers, *The Caulfield Railway Disaster: Carnage & Courage* is the third book in the *Remembering Them* series published by the Friends of Cheltenham and Regional Cemeteries Inc. The A5-sized book comprises 172 pages and 71,600 words with colour illustrations and an index of over 1,040 names. It is a rich source of genealogical information on those associated with the disaster including birth, death and marriage details as well as newspaper articles. The publication also includes the story of the tragedy. The book foreword is written by Andrew Lezala, CEO of Metro Trains Melbourne.

Our latest book

The Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery: Where History Rests

After 150 years serving the community, Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery is worth remembering ...

Written by Travis M. Sellers, *The Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery: Where History Rests* is the fifth book in the *Remembering Them* series published by the Friends of Cheltenham and Regional Cemeteries Inc. With an index of over 800 names, it is a rich source covering not only the history of the Pioneer Cemetery, but snippets of local history featuring persons buried at the cemetery. The publication contains a number of appendices including a summary of the trustee minutes (1863-1932).

Download the index and see if your ancestor is included! [PDF-177KB]

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Pay Pal details at <http://www.focrc.org/shop.htm>

**** UPDATE ****

We are pleased to announce that a limited second print run of

***Where History Rests* is now available.**

All books individually numbered.

