The Western Port Times

GRANTVILLE & DISTRICTS

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FREE

October 2018

WELCOME

Welcome to edition 6 of The Western Port Times.

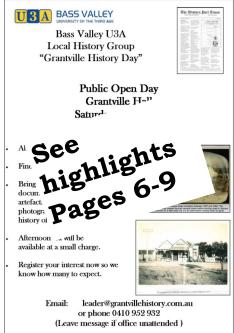
This magazine has been introduced as a rebirth of the original Western Port Times, which was published in Grantville from 1898 until 1910.

Produced by The Waterline News, for the U3A Local History Group, based in Grantville.

The Western Port Times is a creative

Exercise to showcase Grantville's history, via the group's website.

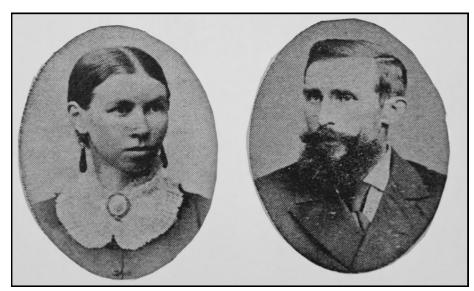
FEATURES THIS MONTH



Report on the Bass Valley U3A History Day held on 6 October. Pages 6 to 9.

MEET HENRY BERGMEIER

Henry H Bergmeier, Pioneer selector of Bass and The Gurdies, 1849 - 1926



Henry Bergmeir's grandson, Jeffrey E Bergmeier, who was born in 1940 has written an abridged version of Henry Bergmeier for us taken from his extensive family history.

He has also supplied us with some great photos of the family.

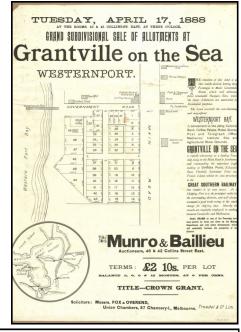
Jeff was in Grantville for the local history day and also attended the Friends of the RSL function in Bass the following day.

Read Jeff's fascinating family history starting on page 4.

Then and now

Bass Valley U3A Local History Group member, Geoff Guilfoyle, who has a special interest in railways, prepared a "Then and Now" series of photos for the history day, which generated enormous interest.

We have reproduced Geoff's series for you starting on page 6.



Check out the website and subscribe FREE - www.grantvillehistory.com.au

Links to other sites

Group member, Grantville local, Clive Budd, Who is now also the webmaster for the new Bass Valley Historical Society website:

www.bassvalleyhistoricalsociety.com.au

has started a list of links you might be interested in, to other historical Associations.

If you know of any we should add to the list, please do not hesitate to let us know:

Email: leader@grantvillehistory.com.au

Historical Group links

South Eastern Historical Association seha.org.au

Koo-Wee-Rup Swamp Historical Society kooweerupswamphistory.blogspot.com.au/

Lang Lang and District Historical Society langlang.net/historical.html

Leongatha and district Historical society leongathahistory.org.au

Wonthagi Historical Society wonthaggihistorical society.org.au/

Western Port Historical Society Inc. hwphs.org.au/

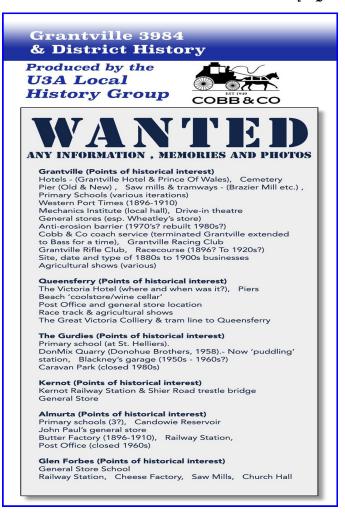
National Library of Australia Trove trove.nla.gov.au/

State Library of Victoria slv.vic.gov.au/

Grantville History grantvillehistory.com.au

Inverloch Historical Society cv.vic.gov.au/organisations/inverloch-historical-society/





The Bass Valley U3A Local History Group are still looking for photos and information on places of significance to our local history.

If you have anything you would like to share with us, we have the facilities to scan or photograph your items so they do not have to leave your possession.

If you have something you would like to share:

Email - leader@grantvillehistory.com.au

THE WESTERN PORT TIMES

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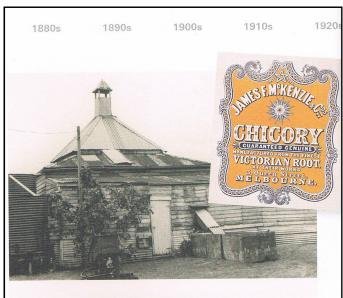
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Books A Timeline of Australian Food By Jan O'Connell



One of the first articles I came to on my first look through this fascinating book was on page 32. 1873 - The Essence of Coffee, so relevant to the local area and Phillip Island's chicory kilns.



THE ESSENCE OF COFFEE

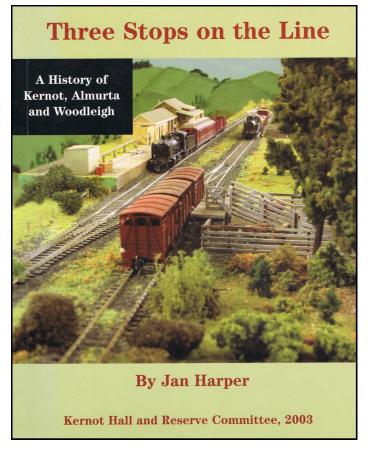
Coffee-making in the 1870s involved roasting the beans in a pan over a fire, grinding them by hand and using a 'percolator' which at that time was simply a jug fitted with a filter and plunger. Unless, of course, you used the new-fangled coffee essence.

In the UK and Australia coffee essence was widely advertised from the mid-1870s as the earliest form of instant coffee. Chicory was commonly added to the essence (as it had been to brewed coffee) either to reduce the cost or to add its own distinctive flavour.

Chicory was being grown in Victoria by the 1860s and in 1873 the first chicory kiln on Phillip Island was built. The industry expanded and by 1920 the island had at least 25 kilns. Initially, chicory was a very labour-intensive crop, as the roots were dug by hand. The chicory was sold to manufacturers who roasted it, broke it into small pieces and blended it with coffee beans or into essences.

Coffee essence remained in common use until the 1950s. One of the most popular Australian brands through the 1930s and '40s was the Turban brand. Advertisements described it as having 'that delightful Oriental flavour'. After instant coffee was introduced in 1947 the chicory industry declined. But you can still buy coffee essence with chicory – these days it's likely to be described as iced coffee syrup.

Books



Written by Jan Harper for the Kernot Hall and Reserve Committee in 2003 the book is still relevant, perhaps even more so given the recent surge in interest in local history.

Kernot, Woodleigh and Almurta came into their own during the railway era, from 1910 to 1978.

Settled from 1986 onwards, life changed as milk from the dairy farms and stock raised on properties were linked with markets through the silver thread of the new railway line.

Communities expanded as railway personnel, and the infrastructure they attracted, boosted the settlements. While this history reflects that of Gippsland as a whole, it is unique to the area in drawing our personal lives and juxtaposing them with larger social and economic trends.

Copies are available from The Western Port Times.

\$30.00 plus postage, or free local delivery.

Email:

leader@grantvillehistory.com.au

An abridged rversion of Henry H Bergmeier, Pioneer selector of Bass & The Gurdies, Victoria. 1849-1926 Jeff Bergmeier

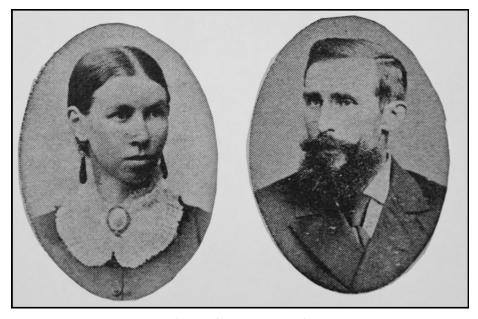
In autumn of 1877 Henry arrived at Grantville looking to settle down. He had heard that land was being opened up for selection in South Gippsland. He had with him all his worldly possessions loaded on his heavy wagon pulled by a strong team of bullocks, his hack tied to the side rail & his cattle dog walking behind,. He had worked his way down from the Pastoral cattle Station "Humeburn" near Charleville in South Western Oueensland.

Upon arrival he applied to the local Lands Board at Cranbourne for a selection of 320 acres of virgin bush flat country later to be identified as CA 200 Parish of Corinella located midway between Bass & Grantville. Henry signed up & took possession of his purchase/ lease on 23/4/1877.

He had much to do His first job was to build a 16 by 14 foot hut with logs snigged up to the building site by the bullocks then cut to size with a cross-cut saw. He also constructed a 26 by 20 foot log shed for his equipment. The roof on both buildings were split shingles. Between times he started to clear large acreages of land covered with tea-tree & under story of thick scrub. He flattened it with heavy chains pulled by the bullocks & later when semi-dry, set it on fire where it laid. Heavier unwanted trees were heaped & burnt also. Long tea-tree poles were trimmed then put aside & used for short term fences woven around heavy stakes driven into the softer ground. The joints were staggered to avoid weakness. Later, fences would be topped up with more poles if they lost tension

After 4 years of constant hard work, records show Henry had erected 150 chain of woven fencing, a further 10 chain of post & 3 rail mortised, 100 chain of 2 rail mortised, 130 chain of post & wire & 55 chain of heavy log fencing. His Public Records held in Melbourne reveal the entire 320 acres was securely fenced being mostly cleared & sown down with English grasses & clovers .

With the majority of the property cleared he was now able to see the layout of where water failed to drain away causing boggy areas He set about digging a key drainage system that would take water off The Bergmeier family supported the



Ann and Henry Bergmeier

his property via a main drain of 160 chain Church of England at Bass, & also initially made with a single furrow mouldboard plough pulled by the bullocks. When finished it became locally known as the big drain. Big not only due to its length but also because of its width.

A new house was built of sawn timber & added onto Henry's settlers hut to become home for the future Bergmeier Family. Miss Ann Chinn a local born Bass girl (1857) & Henry Bergmeier were married in the Church of England at The Strand, Williamstown in November of 1881. They returned to Bass to settle down & raise their children at "Humeburn". Henry was by then almost 33 & Ann 25. Henry had named his property after Humeburn Station in Queensland. Before her marriage Ann had been a governess teaching Mr & Mrs Michael Minters children at the residence of James Winters Goulburn Valley mansion known as "Dhurringuile". The Winter's family of Father & 2 sons had accumulated between them, 250,000 acres of freehold land paid for by profit made from gold -mining at Ballarat.

Henry & Ann were community minded people. Henry accepted a position with the Corinella Cemetery Trust along with his good friend & neighbour George Chinn. Henry was also a Committee member on the Grantville Agricultural Show Society. Ann was a willing member of the Queensferry Branch of Ministering Childrens League who supported under privileged children at "The Cottage by the Sea in Queenscliff". Her sister Miss Amelia Chinn was Matron in charge from 1906 to 1928.

attended afternoon services of worship when held in the old Grantville Hall. Their children were born at the family home at Humeburn. They were safely delivered by midwife, Mrs King of Kings Rd Bass, from late 1882 through to 1897. One child, a daughter Ethel Jane Bergmeier, died at the age of 20 months & was buried in the Corinella Cemetery with a lovely memorial made by her father in the shape of a childs cot & positioned over her grave. Mrs King also delivered a grandson of Henry & Ann Bergmeier at the same house in 1920, almost 40 years after their own first child was born there.

Henry & Ann leased adjoining crown land next to their block on the north. It was listed as 500 acres in the rate book but in reality there was about 250 acres on the close side of Glen Forbes rd & less than 200 on the Grantville side. Those 2 unimproved paddocks were used for dry stock spelling for cattle & short term browsing for sheep, Humeburn, on the other hand, was used for breeding cattle & fattening sheep, dairying, grazing also growing meadow & cereal hay followed by root crops. The good land was kept in full production.

In 1902 a further 312 acres of hill & creek flats was purchased on the Hurdy Gurdy creek at The Gurdies (CA108) sometimes referred to by family as St. Helier. This block took a lot of hard work to clear & get into production. Henry built a new house on the hill about 1912 not far from the old road & went to live there from 1914.

..../5

Henry H Bergmeier, continued

A well was dug on the hill beside the house & fed by a underground stream. While Henry had spent some 16 years in the far south western states, he discovered that he could divine water by using a forked freshly cut branch. This skill was not required at the Bass property but certainly came in handy for the Gurdies block. His sons were able to verify their father's talent by trying to stop his wrists or the branch from dipping down but were unable to prevent it from doing so.

As the years went by, Henry & Ann had enjoyed their lives & the satisfaction of what they had achieved, watched their children grow into adults & now age was starting to catch up with them . By 1920 Henry was in poor health. The family moved to Melbourne in 1925 so daughter, Daisy could nurse her father at home. In January of 1926 Henry Bergmeier, the man responsible for so much including the growth of the family name in Australia, passed away & was buried in the Brighton Cemetery.

Just 2 weeks after his death severe bush fires swept through the Nyora St Helier districts after weeks of hot weather. Everything at the Gurdies property was totally wiped out & destroyed. The house, sheds, equipment fencing & stock, The wheel rims on the carts & wagon, all the metal fittings just laid where they had fallen. The fire was so fierce, seventy seven years of documented family history went up in flames when that house was lost.. a sad day indeed.

In her six years of being a widow Ann remained unchanged. She met with her family frequently, attended Church & invited friends into her home. She outlived her younger Sister, Amelia & also her younger brother John. In September of 1932 the wife of Henry Herman Bergmeier & mother of 9 children, the former Miss Ann Chinn passed away aged 76 years. She was reunited with her husband of 46 years in Brighton Cemetery.

Researched by a grandson Jeffrey E Bergmeier born 1940

(parents were Charlie & Violet) Dairy farmers at CA 108, The Gurdies 1930-1945



The surviving Bergmeier children in the 1950's - Alec, Charlie, Daisy, Ernest, Annie and George. (Fred was absent in New South Wales).



Eldest Child, Annie



Sisters, Daisy and Annie



Daisy and her mother, Ann.

An interesting collection of then and now photos, from a display at the recent U3A local history day.



An undated photo of Woodleigh Railway Station but likely taken in the 1930s. Part of the main building was later removed and today can be seen at Coal Creek.



A 1970s photo by G. Cargeeg (now part of the Geelong & South-Western Rail Heritage Society collection) showing less a station than a stop-by-request only platform. At least the few travellers didn't have a long walk from the carpark to the platform.



This somewhat blurry photo by John Wayman of the platform and disused sidings and goods shed at Kernot Station. Kernot, like Woodleigh, was by the 1970s a stop-by-request-only platform.



Kernot Railway Station taken by Geoff Guilfoyle from exactly the same position as the 1976 Wayman photo. The remnant of the platform is beneath the vegetation and around the trees growing through it.



Another 1965 photo by Weston Langford (https://www.westonlangford.com/media/photos/106279.jpg). This one shows goods train J500, having left Glen Forbes station, crossing the trestle bridge over the Bass River on its way to Almurta.



The same trestle bridge, 2014. Both the renmant of the station and the trestle bridge are visible from the Dalyston-Glen Forbes Road which runs between the two.

Then and now continued.....



A fascinating 1965 photo by Weston Langford (https://www.westonlangford.com/media/photos/106286.jpg) showing goods train J500 leaving the Almurta Station (to the right, not visible) and crossing the Grantville-Glen Alvie road with the Almurta-Glen Forbes Road in the background.



A 2017 photo by Geoff Guilfoyle taken from the same spot as the 1965 Weston Langford picture. No railway and better roads - one of the reasons why there is no railway.

The Glen Forbes store in three stages



The last iteration of the Glen Forbes General Store, still operating and approaching its centenary in 2003. Unfortunately, the continuing decline of the township saw it close forever in 2006.



The store in 2013, still recognisable but forlorn and empty.



It was eventually sold and in 2017 was done up and became a private residence, the only remnant of its past being the beam across the room which used to anchor the Glen Forbes General Store sign.

The Bass Valley U3A Local History Group held its first Grantville History day on 6 October at the Grantville Hall.

Almost 70 people attended which slightly exceeded the group's expectations for the new venture.

The group is planning to make the day an Annual event in the lead up to Grantville's 150th Birthday celebrations in September 2022.

The impressive display, set up throughout the hall used many display boards featuring an already substantial collection of historical photos from the area.

There was also a video presentation running featuring the Nyora to Wonthaggi Railway before it closed in 1976 and a slide show of local historical photos from the Bass Valley Historical Society website.

The group is still actively looking for old photos and maps. (see page 2)



Bass Valley U3A Local History Group "Grantville History Day"



Public Open Day Grantville Hall

Review

- All Welcome.
- Find out about the Group's activities.
- Bring along your old photos, documents, newspaper clippings, artefacts, etc. for us to copy, scan, or photograph to form part of the rich history of our great area.

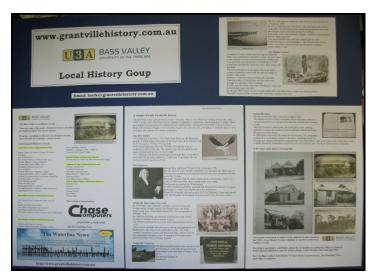


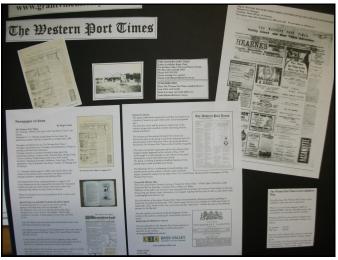
- Afternoon tea will be available at a small charge.
- Register your interest now so we know how many to expect.



Email: leader@grantvillehistory.com.au or phone 0410 952 932 (Leave message if office unattended)

Just a few of the History Boards on display at the local history day. Historical photos









Some of the almost 70 people who attended the first Grantville History Day



A Collection of Box Brownie Cameras were on display from The Waterline News

A collection of old school books, once owned by J.T Paul and rescued by historian Libby Skidmore.



There was a display of old clothing, dating back almost 100 years, put together by Vicki Clark, Libby Skidmore and Margaret Boyer



Part of the Grantville School Register, dating back to 1898, supplied by the Bass Valley Historical Society





Bass Valley Anzacs

Two days after leading a crazily brave attack on enemy lines in April 1918, Ernest Berryman of Glen Forbes, was killed in action. He is buried in a French cemetery.

The young private is one of 103 service men and women with connections to the Bass Valley district who were honoured at the unveiling of a plaque in Bass last month.



The plaque was unveiled on Sunday, 7 October opposite the Cenotaph in Hade Avenue, Bass, followed by a presentation at the local cricket club, where many of the soldiers played cricket before enlisting.

BASS Valley Friends of the RSL secretary Trish Thick says descendants of the Anzacs are warmly welcome to attend both events but they need help in locating them. (The Anzacs' names are listed below.)

The plaque lists their rank, service number, medals and whether they survived the war. Of the 103 who left, 33 did not return.

Among the stories uncovered by the Friends group are those of two local soldiers, Ernest Berryman and Charles Hyatt, who were both decorated for gallantry.

Private Ernest John Henry Berryman, M.M. 2288A 48th Battalion, Australian Infantry, was the son of Son of Alfred Caleb and Matilda Berryman of "Pine Grove", Glen Forbes.

He was awarded the Military Medal for coolness and courage during an enemy attack on Australian lines on April 3, 1918.

The dispatches relate: "When the enemy barrage ceased and the first wave of the attackers appeared, he seized a bag of bombs, rushed across the rails exposed to machine gun and sniper fire, walked behind a hedge until the enemy were in range and with his bombs greatly assisted to disorganize the attack. He then used his rifle and later returned to our lines with a wounded comrade."

Private Berryman was killed two days later, on April 5, 1918, aged 26, and is buried at Millencourt Communal Cemetery in France.

Lance Corporal Charles Edgar Hyatt, DCM, 669 29th Battalion, B Company, was the son of Mrs Ursula Hyatt of Grantville.

According to dispatches, when intense machine gun fire by the enemy held up an attack on Nauroy on September 29, 2018, he was placed in charge of seven men with instructions to make a reconnaissance forward, and if possible, clear the village.

"This task was successfully accomplished with the greatest dash and gallantry, charging and capturing two machine guns in succession and killing the crews."

Lance Corporal Hyatt returned to Australia on April 13, 1919. **Trish Thick**

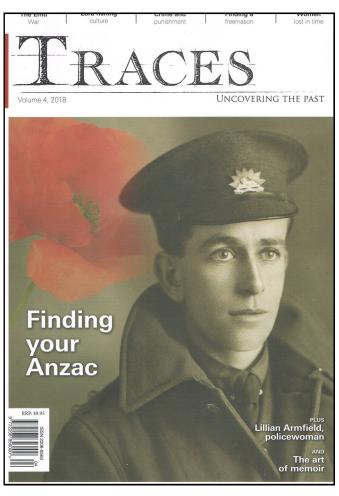
THE ANZACS OF BASS VALLEY & DISTRICT

S/No	Pte	SURNAME Alford	F.W.	DEAD	MEDALS
2109	Pte Sgt	Alford	R.F.	i	-
6274	Pte	Argent	A		
31392	Dyr	Bates	A.G.		
1796	Pte	Beck	J.	. * 2	la series
1843 823	L/Cpl Pte	Bergmeier	A.S.		DSO
2288	Pte	Berry Berryman	I. E.J.H.		-1
30580	Gnr	Berryman	A.S.		0
1316	Tpr	Bothwell	J.A.		
378	Pte	Brennan	J.J		
		Brennan	R.	3	10
4755	Pte	Brown	A.T.		
36 37	Dvr	Cade	C.F.	-	-
1084	Cpl	Cadee	E E		i i
31396	Gnr	Clarke	J.G.	1900	
31397	Gnr	Clarke	J.L.	3	
5323	Pte	Cole	W.V.	Ĭ	
2270	Dvr	Cunningham	J.A.		7
2850	Pte	Dixon	F.L.		-
6200	Dyr	Dowel Edwards	F.E.		
10518	Sgt	Edwards	R.J.		_
1501	Tpr	Emery	C.W.	*	
378	Tpr	Emmerson	S.J.		1
57135	Pte	Finlay	G.H.		
2616	Pte	Fitzgerald	J	8	
5340	Pte	Garnham	J.J.		
700 1860	Gnr Gnr	Garry	T.E.	-	-
18	Dvr	Garry	J.P.		-
2279	Pte	George	H.H.	1	
6322	Pte	Goodman	F.H.		
1561	Pte	Gray	E.E.		
695	Pte	Gunn	D.J.		
1189	Pte	Hade	E.T.	1:	
5620 Depot	Pte Pte	Hamilton Hamilton	F.C.	1	-
3331	Pte	Hamilton	G G		-
5118	Pte	Harding	S.H.	-	+
5933	Pte	Harding	W.B.H.		-
5866	Pte	Hardingham	T.L		
6520	Pte	Hitchins	A.R.		
428	Sap	Hitchins	V.T.		
25	Sap	Hoddinott	R.U.	2	-
2029 258	Pte	Hodgskiss	J. S.G.	-	-
250	L/Cpl	Hollins	W.F.		+
357	Pte	Hunter	G.W.	1	
669	Pte	Hyatt	I C.E.	- j	DCM
2894	Pte	Kent	E.F.		
27877	DXC	Lang	W.		
Depot		Lang	D.B.	1	1
1566 6119	Pte Sap	Lawrence	J R.E.		+
19111	Cpl	Lee	R.I.	_	_
6118	Sap	Lee	R.W.	-1	-
00.20		Lewis	8.H.		
586	Pte	Luke	J.J.N.:		
1522	Pte	Luke	T.M.		- 5
6619 3091	Dvr	Mapleson Marsh	F.G.		
1447	Pte	McDermott	H.	_	-
1675	L/Cpl	McGrady	J		
1178	L/Cpl	McGrath	F.E.		
14519	Sat	McKenzie	P.S.		
27650	Dyr	McNabb	A.M.		
101	Pte	McRae	F.F.		DCM
618 1123	Pte Pte	Middlebrook Milnes	W. J.T.T.		-
497	Pte	Misson	H.		
V45573		Misson	H.H.		
864	Gnr	Moss	A.J.		
3319	Pte	Noone	J		
2340	Pte	Nowell	J.W.		i i
4770 4180	Pte	O'Meara	B.R.		-
4180	L/Cpl	O'Meara O'Meara	F.T.		
5170	Sgt	Palmer	C.H.	-	
10759	Cpl	Paul	T.S.	- 11	- 2
489	L/Cpl	Potter	A.E.		
2383	Pte	Potter	HL		
3896	Pte	Read	P.H.		
113	Cpl Nurse	Rogers	W.M.		
2622	Pte	Sanne	J.F.M.		1
6902	Pte	Sharp	D.		19
6582	Pte	Sloss	T.W.		
7915	Dyr	Stewart	T		
2238	Pte	Stratford	H.C.		
613	Pte	Toebelmann	A		
134 2410	Sap	Tranter	G. W.M.		
1624	Pte	Trewin	A.		
7848	Pte	Tulloch	R.A.		
5121	Pte	Watson	A.R.		
5235	Pte	White	F.E.		12
5443	Pte	Williams	A.G.W.		
22386	Sgt	Williams	G J.J.	6	
7065	Pte	Williams			

Traces Magazine

The launch of Traces Magazine earlier this year has created great interest from people interested in local history, wherever they live.

Edition 4 is now on sale and features some great stories, including one on photographic storage and restoration



We have received a number of inquiries regarding where to buy the magazine and have obtained the following information from the publishers.

The list covers our target area, and subscribers, plus areas they might be likely to be passing through

Traces Magazine Stockists in our areas

Lonsdale News Dandenong Leongatha Newsagency Leongatha Yarram Yarram Newsagency Stows Newsagency Bairnsdale Mornington Newsagency Mornington Hampton Park Newsagent Hampton Park Berwick Newsagency Berwick Ringwood East Newsagency Ringwood East **Emerald Village News** Emerald Warragul News Warragul Tooradin Newsagency Tooradin

San Remo San Remo Newsagency Inverloch Newsxpress Wonthaggi Newsagency Wonthaggi Fountain Gate Newsagency Narre Warren Beach St Newsagency Frankston East Bayside News & Tatts Frankston Strezelecki News & Tatts Mirboo North Wantirna South Studfield Studfield Traralgon News & Lotto Traralgon Pakenham Newsxpress Pakenham Grantville Newsagency Grantville

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www.tracesmagazine.com.au



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