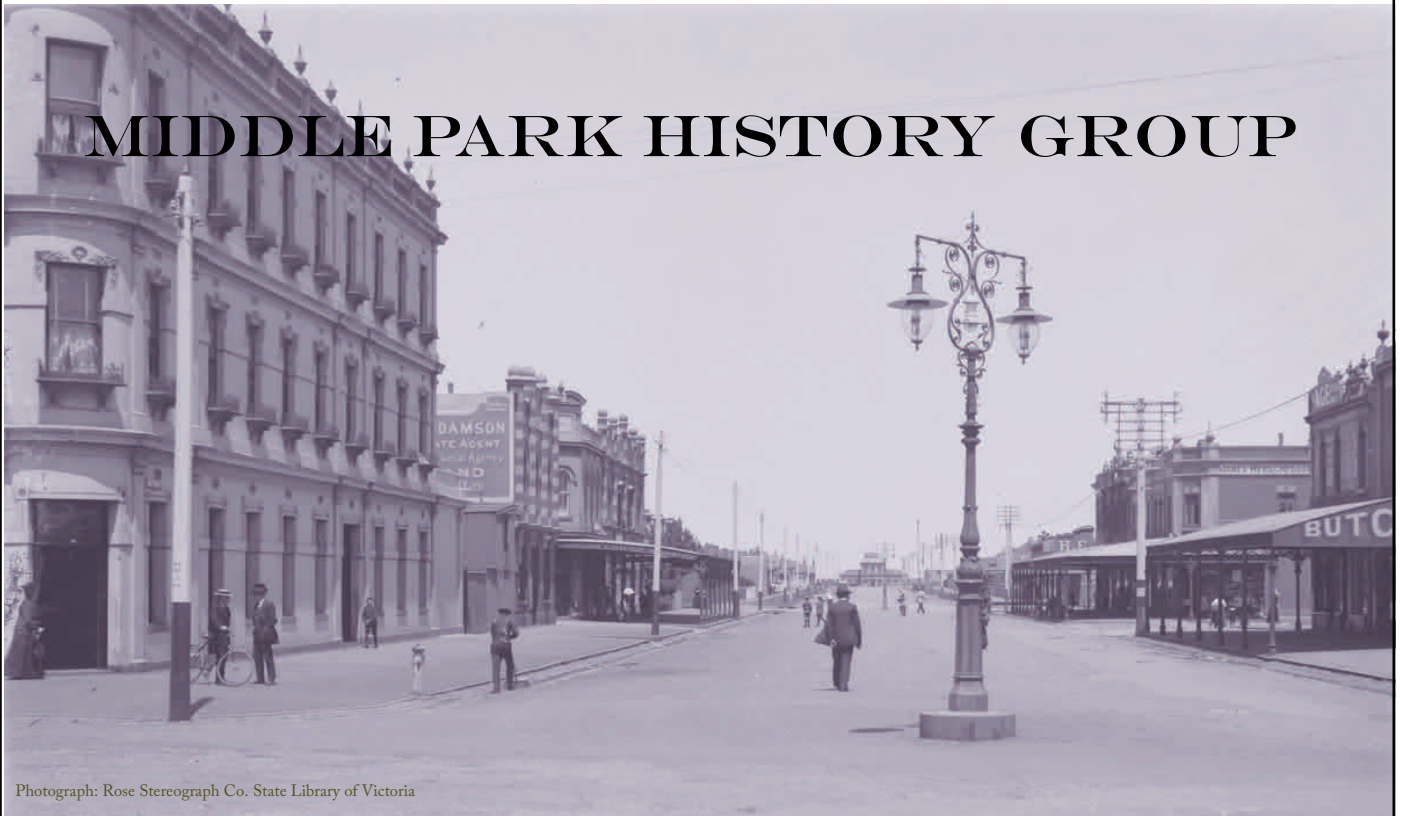


MIDDLE PARK HISTORY GROUP



Photograph: Rose Stereograph Co. State Library of Victoria

Editorial

Three months have passed already? Luckily for me regular contributors keep contributing.

This issue has another article by Sonya Cameron on what was going on in Middle Park 100 years ago., this time about dodgy activities. Lynsey Poore has another piece on trees growing in Middle Park, this time on one of the more colorful examples. The series concentrates on the plants used in public places, mostly along our streets and examines their origin and history.

Bruce Armstrong, who grew up in Middle Park through the 1920s—1940s, has committed his memoirs to paper and offered the MPHG a series of vignettes of his life, thousands of words in total. In this issue the newsletter publishes the second in a series of reminiscences from Bruce.

Ed Boyle has a special interest in the military history of former residents of Middle Park. Here, he contributes the first of two parts on John Scanlan. Those who share this interest may want to refer to a list of WW1 volunteers available on the MPHG website. This is a work in progress listing men either born in Middle Park or whose next of kin were in Middle Park (or in those parts of Albert Park east of Kerferd Rd):

<http://www.middleparkhistory.org/world-war-1>

Our committee is still looking for a Secretary. Please consider putting your hand up for this rewarding position. We are also looking for more people to conduct oral interviews.

Gary Poore

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Newsletter editor : Gary Poore

A Charge Dismissed.

Frank Cusack, butcher, manager for Watkins Bros. Ltd., 34 Armstrong street, Middle Park, was charged with being the occupier of premises used for the purpose of betting.

Sub-Inspector McKenna prosecuted and Mr. Sonenberg appeared for defendant.

Madge Connor stated that on March 14 she went to Watkins' butcher shop, 34 Armstrong street, and, after making a purchase, said to defendant that she would like to have a bet, but did not know where to get the money on. Defendant said he would get it on for her. She gave him 1/ for the hurdle race at Moonee Valley. On March 17 she had two bets on the Caulfield races, and handed over 2/ wrapped in a slip of paper. On March 19 she had three bets on the races run at Kyneton. On March 24 she had a bet on the Moonee Valley Handicap. Her daughter made similar bets. She received from defendant 2/6, the amount of a winning bet on Bukowina at 6 to 4, and also had 1/ returned for a non-starter.

Sub-Inspector McKenna: What did he do with the money you gave him?

Witness: On one occasion he walked towards the window; on the other occasion he put the money in his pocket.

Mr. Sonenberg: Where did he get the money from to pay you?

Witness: From a canvas bag behind the counter.

Kathleen Vera Connor gave corroborative evidence.

Senior Constable Donovan stated he saw defendant on March 5, and when told of the charge against him he said, "I have never had a bet; it is a put-up job." He did not find any race book or betting entries.

Mr. Sonenberg contended there was no case against Cusack, as he was not the occupier of the premises. Watkins was the tenant of the premises, which were used for legitimate business purposes, and not as a blind for betting. To ensure a conviction it must be proved defendant had sole control over the premises.

The case was dismissed, on the ground that there was not sufficient proof of defendant being the occupier.

100 years ago

It is hard to imagine a time when betting on horses was only available at the race track. But people still wanted to place a bet on a horse and the only other way was to deal illegally with an SP (Starting Price) bookie. In Middle Park the local SP bookie operated down the lane off Canterbury Place besides the Middle Park Theatre (usually with a look-out man to watch for police). Other bookies operated in pubs or had arrangements with some of the local shop keepers as is reported in this case against Frank Cusack who worked in Watkins butcher shop in Armstrong Street.

The history behind these betting laws arose from a long-running dispute between well-known racing identity John Wren for the pro-gambling lobby and Rev. W.H. Judkins representing the anti-gambling lobby. Judkins eventually persuaded the Victorian Government to introduce *The Lotteries Gaming and Betting Act* of 1906. This Act imposed restrictions on betting, permitting it only on racecourses with licensed bookmakers, who would lose their licence if they took bets from minors (under 21 years) or from women. This restriction gave rise to the illegal SP bookmakers.

In 1961 off-course totalisator agencies (the TAB) were introduced and since then there has been a proliferation in all manner of legal off-course betting and the SP bookie has long gone.

Sonya Cameron

For more on bookies in Middle Park read Bruce Armstrong's article on page 8

Editor



Vale Alison St John

8 July 1945 – 5 April 2017

It is with sadness that we note the passing of Alison whose warmth and enthusiasm will be remembered.

Alison joined the Middle Park History Group in our early days and then the committee as the first secretary when we became an incorporated body.

Combining with Max Nankervis she demonstrated her love and knowledge of architecture by writing two detailed articles for the Newsletter on Middle Park house styles, illustrated with her own photos.

Our oral history group was fortunate to have her as an active member conducting interviews with older citizens.

Alison was farewelled by family and many friends at a funeral service in St Silas Church on 13 April.

Diana Phoenix

January's mystery object?

Newsletter No. 21 featured this niche. It must have mystified all because no-one owned up to knowing what it is. No, it is not a fireplace but is a fancy boot-scraper next to the side door of the terrace house on the corner of Kerferd Road and Canterbury Road. Not strictly in Middle Park according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics but close enough according to others. See page 9 for new objects.



Middle Park Street Trees No. 10: *Red-flowering Gum*

Lynsey Poore

The Red-flowering Gum, also known as the Albany Red-flowering Gum, or to give it a botanical name, *Corymbia ficifolia*, is on the list of recommended medium-sized street trees for the City of Port Phillip. The species is very hardy native evergreen tree. The example in the photographs was photographed in January 2017 flowering in the Urban Forest between Wright and Harold Streets, Middle Park, next to the light-rail.

This gum is one of the most spectacular of all flowering eucalypts and is one of the most commonly planted ornamental trees in temperate and subtropical regions of the world.

The genus *Corymbia* includes 113 species that were classified with about 800 others in the genus *Eucalyptus* until the 1990s when that genus was subdivided into several genera. Because the genus *Eucalyptus* and the common

name eucalypts were widely accepted by botanists and the general public the proposal for a separate name for bloodwoods, ghost gums and spotted gums met with some resistance. More traditional members of the botanical community were loath to adopt a new nomenclature, some compromising by suggesting that the name should be a subgenus of *Eucalyptus*. But the evidence from the form of the flowers and from genetic data was overwhelming and *Corymbia* is commonly used now.

Bloodwoods can be distinguished from other 'eucalypts', gums, boxes, stringy barks etc., by their distinctive flowers. What appear to be 'flowers' are in fact clusters of dozens of similar small flowers, each with its own male and female filaments, the whole called an inflorescence. The inflorescence, a bunch of a dozen or more flowers, is at the end of the branches in which





some flower stalks are longer than others and the whole form a flat or slightly convex head or 'corymb'. In 'true' *Eucalyptus* the flowers are separate, deriving from the axils of the leaves separately or in threes or groups of seven.

The genus name *Corymbia* comes from the Latin *corymbus*, meaning a cluster, referring to the floral structure. The species name *ficifolia* of our example is also from Latin, *ficus* meaning a fig tree, because the leaves are shaped like a fig leaf. Baron von Mueller, who gave this species its name in 1860, must have been referring to the simple leaves of a Moreton Bay fig rather than the divided leaf of the edible fig!

Corymbia and *Eucalyptus* belong to the family Myrtaceae. The family is represented in Australia by bottle-brushes, paperbarks and numerous other smaller native plants.

The Red-flowering Gum usually grows to 10 m in height but can reach up to 15 m. The leaves are simple, thick, dull green with a prominent midrib. The bark is rough, short-fibred, longitudinally furrowed and coloured white-brown or grey. In summer, the tree bears numerous inflorescences that range in colour from brilliant red to nearly white, pink, orange or deep crimson. When fertilised and mature these turn to very distinctive gum nuts that are large, woody and urn-shaped.

The species in nature has a very restricted

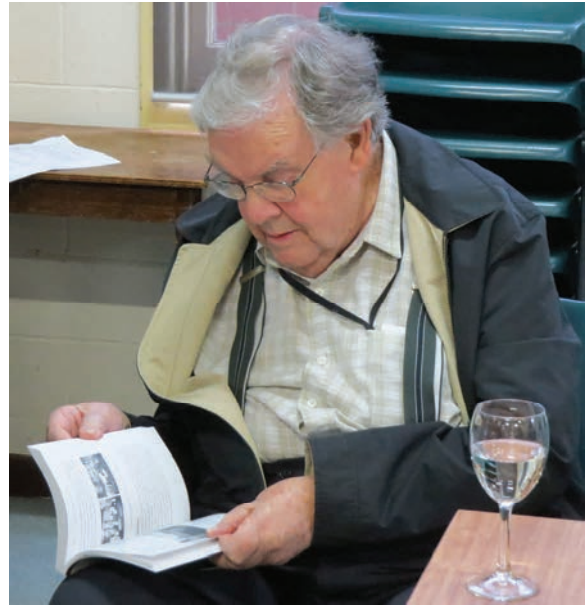
range, growing in small scattered stands in Western Australia near the town of Albany and in the Stirling Ranges. In spite of this it is not considered threatened in the wild. It prefers sandy or loamy soils on the flat or on hillsides which may explain why it does well in Middle Park, far from its native habitat.

In recent years, a number of cultivars of *Corymbia ficifolia* have been developed. These have been selected to feature greater density of brightly coloured flowers produced at the ends of the branches to provide a spectacular display. *Corymbia ficifolia* 'Summertime' is one such cultivar and is a feature in the Children's Garden at the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne. This is a grafted Red Flowering Gum Tree growing 9 m tall and 4 m wide.

The Red-flowering Gum it is not the only popular street tree with red flowers. One variety of the Yellow Gum, *Eucalyptus leucoxylon*, so-called because of its yellow flowers, has brilliant red flowers in autumn. It too is popular with gardeners and is a common street tree in Middle Park. The New Zealand Christmas tree, another member of the Myrtaceae, also has dense bunches of red flowers in summer. All of these are a reliable source of nectar for wattle birds and other honeyeaters.

Photos by the author

This is the second of a series of collected memories from Bruce Armstrong (left, aged 92 years in 2016), a former resident of Middle Park. Bruce remembers an environment very different from what we now experience. Bruce has contributed a series of vignettes recounting his life. These have been assembled into chapters by the editor with Bruce's permission by the editor but the words remain largely his own – Gary Poore



Childhood, growing up and salad days in Middle Park. Chapter Two

Bruce Armstrong

World War Two

After three years at South Melbourne Technical School I left and took a job, first as an office boy. I was aged 14 and couldn't get an apprenticeship until aged 16. The war was in its early stage and a few of my schoolmates had joined the AIF. If physically big enough they were not required to prove their age at the recruiting centres. The names of two Middle Park lads appeared in the 'killed in action' lists – both would have been well under 18. I spent my salad days as an electrical trade apprentice in what was called an essential occupation and when eventually called up at age 18, was sent back to work.

In the 1930s, and since, Middle Park was typical of residential conditions in most upper working-class suburbs. It was fortunate in being virtually free of manufacturing or huge warehousing. There were recreational facilities, diverse entertainment and splendid transport – apart from two tram lines to the city there was a fast and cheap train line, now the 96 light-rail. In later years a bus ran from St Kilda to Port

Melbourne for workers in the burgeoning aircraft and car factories. There are no eye-sores, no 'red-light' traffic. This writer wonders if the area is 'doomed to succeed' in the future as Melbourne's Riviera.

Middle Park had a steady temperate climate, occasional pea-soup fogs were of short duration but heavy white frosts made sitting-still in school a misery. Boys obtained relief from their frozen hands by asking to leave the room. We ran to the toilet and urinated on our hands, that was good for circulation in our legs and enabled us to write properly. The minor cyclone of 1934 did much damage, particularly along the beach where in many places, great chunks of the sea-wall were torn out. At the end of some east-west streets the tide washed as far as the railway line. Roofing defects of some homes meant buckets and saucepans were needed to catch drips from the ceiling. The timber Middle Park Baths building was almost totally destroyed, except for the entrance, only some piles remained. Four people were killed by fallen power lines and a small steamship was blown ashore.

Industry

Middle Park had very little light industry. Apart from an asbestos factory there was Godfrey's Hat Block factory adjoining Honeybone's warehouse in Canterbury Place. The red-brick factory at the corner of Patterson Street and Langridge Street produced manufactured asbestos goods and on days when the wind blew from north or west, plumes of white asbestos dust blew from the ventilation fans across Langridge Street towards St Kilda. We used to stamp in the accumulated deposits to leave our footprints on the footpath. Presumably the whole building was eventually vacuum cleaned.

Virtually all minor goods transport relied on horses. The butchers, bakers and milkmen used horses. Consequently the streets were adorned with small piles and on windy days it swirled around, not nice for breathing. A common sight was people scooping it into buckets for top-dressing their gardens. From time to time a horse, frothing at the mouth, would bolt, dragging a cart with scared driver across other streets, bouncing bread, parcels of meat or vegetables across the road. Mares and geldings were preferred, they were passive and more easily controlled.

Bottleos wended their way through the streets and lanes. Their high-pitched cry brought out housewives wanting to exchange empty jars and bottles for cash – their 'pin money'. Fish-mongers flogging mussels, oysters or doubtful looking fish and sometimes skinned rabbits, also relied on a horse.

Two dairies serviced the Albert Park/Middle Park area – Dobeli's and Farnsworth's. They carried milk and thickened cream in bottles in their horse-drawn carts. At night, residents put out their 'billies' with some money inside and a note explaining their requirements. During the wee hours a 'milko' carrying a small can of milk and ladle ran from house to house dispensing milk and collecting money. All very unhygienic. His bulk supply was two large cans with taps projecting from the rear of the truck. One can was milk, the other was water. To refill his portable can he ran some milk then added water

– all in full view. In those days we never had pasteurised milk and the milkos were handling their horse and money. It was adulteration on a grand scale. As in all of Melbourne, food and milk vendors arranged suburbs to suit themselves, each had a zone of their own choice. Following an outbreak of typhoid, traced to a dairy in the southern suburbs, the State government intervened by imposing pasteurising of all milk, zoning schemes and strict food handling regulations.

Middle Park had two wood yards. Jack Lockett had a property in McGregor Street close to Richardson Street. He had piles of block wood, mallee roots, bags of coal and briquettes. An unusual fuel, coke, was the waste from gas-making at the South Melbourne gasworks. Strange stuff, to get it to burn effectively we first wet it. Mr Lockett had a furniture van and the churches hired it to transport kids and parents to their annual picnic at 'distant' places like Greensborough, Lilydale and Diamond Creek. As the vans groaned their way along, the kids would burst into popular songs. At the destination, each child received a brown-paper bag with sandwiches and surprises prepared by the ladies of the church. If a boy or girl had not attended Sunday School for a reasonable period, they could be denied participation. Bob Addison operated his wood yard on the south side of Harold Street close to Hambleton Street. Like Jack Lockett, he sold a variety of fuel and had a furniture van.

Unlike Addison, Lockett delivered ice in the summer months. He had a very large insulated box with hinged door he put on his flat-top horse-drawn wagon. He toured the streets and chipped large blocks down to a size that fitted into household ice-chests. A block cost one shilling. A householder had to signal to the driver who stopped the horse, got down, opened the box, cut a block and carried it into the house.

Circa 1942, Lockett was called up for military service and his sturdy, muscular sister Margaret took over both fuel and ice deliveries. We watched in awe as she hoisted and carried full bags of fuel on her back. She groomed, stabled,

fed, grazed and handled the horse, including taking it to a farrier to be shod. She was held in high esteem by residents of Middle Park

Government

Our post-code, SC6, combined Albert Park and Middle Park. Our mail was delivered by 'pedestrian posties' from the Albert Park Post Office. We were serviced by a small one-person post office in Canterbury Road, opposite the Middle Park rail-station. Telegrams were delivered from Albert Park by boys on bikes. Our post-office handled minor transactions, sending telegrams, sale of stamps etc., pensioners were paid their pittance in cash. It was an agency for the Commonwealth Savings Bank. Bulky mail recipients received a card telling addressees that they had to collect in person.

As a lesser working-class suburb of mostly rental properties, ours rated as a good place to live. In deciding to escape rural monotony and lack of opportunity, my parents chose Middle Park. It was close to the city, well serviced by fast and cheap public transport, it had a primary and central school (forms one and two), Junior Technical School, beach and parkland galore. Like Albert Park it had a blend of housing, many dwellings had 'class' and there was an absence of slums although Albert Park had a few pockets of hoi polloi (generally called riff raff).

For some years there was a 'one-constable' police station, part of a Patterson Street house near Langridge Street. At night, he prowled the area on his bike with its acetylene lamp. He tested the locks on shops and businesses. Any young people wandering the streets would attract a hard look and perhaps be told 'off home now'. On our way home from Scouts one Friday night, a few of us bought a parcel of steaming hot chips. We stood around under a street-light drooling over our delights when along came the copper. We offered him a chip, he took one saying 'Thanks boys – now you all piss off home'. Nobody ever challenged, disobeyed or gave him cheek. He had status and

the unemployed young ruffians hanging around in the billiard room would have found his appearances at least annoying, perhaps intimidating. From time to time a police motorcycle outfit with two of the constabulary would do a tour of the area, obviously designed to assure the citizenry of the safety of their persons and property. Yes, Middle Park was a good place to live, all felt safe in their beds at night.

Phone boxes stood at some road intersections and at rail stations. Few private homes could afford the luxury and where they did, two single-strand wires reached from the nearest pole to the house. Whenever our gang strolled a street, housewives might tell us 'Go on, you young rascals or I'll call the police'. And we probably replied 'No you won't missus, 'coz you ain't got a phone'.

Entertainment

C J Dennis's famous poem *A sentimental bloke* was made into a film, part of which was shot circa 1930 in Middle Park – outside a house on the corner of Park Road and McGregor Street. The locality thronged with residents wanting to see what all the strange equipment was for and what the strangers were doing. Once it was dark, floodlights and cameras got busy. It lasted about an hour, a man with a large megaphone told the spectators the purpose.

America had a vocal group, the four 'Andrews Sisters'. The three Middle Park songsters 'The Parker Sisters' lived in Harold Street. Modelling themselves on the Americans, their sound was more mellow. We often heard them on local radio and they could be heard at concerts organised by the Red Cross or Australian Comforts Fund. They sang with entertainment parties at concerts for the armed forces.

State laws prohibited all forms of gambling but on Saturdays a SP (starting price) bookmaker operated from a small lane off Armstrong Street. We never sighted him because he conducted his business in the backyard of Comer's confectionary shop. A



Armstrong family group photograph, Drouin, 1916. Left to right: Gough, Reg, Phil, Jack, Jean, Fay, George, Fred, Nat (three more children were to come, in descending order on right, Zoe (1912), Jill (1923), Bruce (1925)

few of his 'cockatoos' were strategically placed nearby – they watched for 'enemy action' (police). Other men on bikes roamed the area collecting bets placed on the 'odds' offered by the bookie who also had an assistant collecting bets from drinkers in the security of the bars of Roly Telford's Middle Park Hotel. To the righteous, Middle Park was a sinful place, people

drank alcohol at the pub and there was a licensed wine saloon where one could buy a 'four-penny dark'. Coupled with the gambling, the area was indeed 'abandoned to sin'.

Keep reading Chapter Three in the next issue of the Middle Park History Group Newsletter ...

This month's mystery object, and spot the differences?

You may know what these are but where are they? And what does it mean?



**John Scanlan—soldier and public
servant (1890–1962): Part 1:
Introduction, background, Gallipoli,
the Western Front, and post-war**

Edward Boyle

The Scanlans and Makins were prominent members of the Middle Park community during the first half of the twentieth century. They were neighbours, fellow parishioners, and related through marriage. Three descendants of these pioneering residents, Kath Scanlan, Joanne Scanlan and Perce Makin, attended the launching of *Middle Park – The Way We Were*. Kath Scanlan, the daughter of Paddy and Ruby Scanlan (nee Makin), still lives in Middle Park. John Scanlan, her uncle by marriage, became the most senior officer of the identified Middle Park volunteers for the Great War. He was also probably the most highly decorated of the local volunteers. He was severely wounded at Gallipoli in May 1915 and later returned to the front in France to lead his battalion in the successful counter-offensive of the second half of 1918. During the 2nd World War he was in command of the ill-fated Lark Force at Rabaul, New Britain. Vastly outnumbered by the Japanese invaders, the Australians surrendered in late January 1942 and he spent the rest of the war as a POW in Japan.

John (Jack) Joseph Scanlan was born on 19 October 1890 in South Melbourne. His father, John Andrew Scanlan, a coach-builder with the railways, was born in Victoria. His mother, Mary Josephine Scanlan (nee McMahon), was born in Ireland, migrating to Australia in her early teens. There were two younger brothers. Patrick (Paddy) Scanlan was nineteen when he embarked for the Western Front in October 1916, and Joe Scanlan was born in 1910, so, like Les and Jim Makin's young brother Perce, he was too young to join the AIF. On enlistment John and Paddy gave their address as 241 Richardson Street, Middle Park. John had attended the Christian Brothers' College in East



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

H06233

Lieutenant Colonel J.J. Scanlan, DSO and Bar,
59th Battalion

St Kilda. He was then employed as a shipping clerk with the Customs Department. From 1910 to mid-1914 he was a member of units of the Citizens Military Force, rising to the rank of 2nd lieutenant. Like Les Makin, Paddy Scanlan had been a member of the part-time 51st Infantry at Albert Park before the war. While his two younger brothers were keen cricketers and footballers, John concentrated on rowing as a member of the South Melbourne Rowing Club. He rushed to enlist in August 1914 and was assigned to the 7th Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 1st Division. In Egypt in February 1915 he was

promoted to full lieutenant. Paddy enlisted in May 1916 and embarked in October. He served with the 2nd Field Artillery Brigade on the Western Front. Les Makin also enlisted in August 1914 and Jim Makin a year later.

The 1st and 2nd Divisions spent several months in Egypt on standby in case the Turks and their allies attempted to cut off the vital supply route of the Suez Canal. Then the two divisions and the 3rd Light Horse Brigade embarked for the assault on Gallipoli. The Allies' plan was to open up the sea route to Russia's Black Sea ports to assist them in their battle against the Germans and their allies on the Eastern Front, thereby easing the pressure on the Western Front. The Dardanelles, the narrow waterway between the Aegean and the Black Sea, had to be cleared and Constantinople captured. Allied warships failed to penetrate the Dardanelles in the face of Turkish mines and artillery. Troops were then allotted the task of neutralising the Turkish defences. On 25 April 1915 Australian and New Zealand troops began landing at Anzac Cove. As four boats carrying Lieutenant Scanlan's unit approached the beach they came under heavy fire. Of the 140 men on board some 100 were killed or seriously wounded. Lieutenant Scanlan suffered a minor wound.

Shortly after the four battalions of the 2nd Brigade, 1st Division, under strength following the landing, were ordered south following a

failed attempt by British and French troops to storm Krithia and capture the heights of Achi Baba overlooking the entrance to the Dardanelles. The newly-arrived Australians were ordered on 8 May to charge across 600 metres of open land towards the heavily defended village of Krithia by Britain's Major-General Hunter-Weston. The Regional Commander-in-Chief, General Sir Ian Hamilton, was on hand pushing for quick results. They were cut down by enfilading machine-gun fire and artillery barrages. They suffered 50% casualties. Lieutenant Scanlan was shot in the shoulder, an inch or two from death. Jack Buxton, Vic Lusic and Les Makin were some of the other Middle Park soldiers in the charge at Krithia. Jack and Les survived, but Vic, like Archie in Peter Weir's film of the suicidal charges at the Nek in early August, was struck by two lethal bullets. The dead were hastily buried in collective graves, which were not carefully recorded, so many of those killed, including Vic Lusic, have no known grave. Albert Park's Lambis Englezos, whose research led to the discovery of a collective grave of diggers at Pheasant Wood, near the village of Fromelles, in 2008, has been conducting research on the 'missing' soldiers of Krithia. Lieutenant Scanlan's wound was classified as serious. He was evacuated to St Andrew's Hospital on Malta. Later he was transferred to England and then, having been declared 'unfit for service for six months', returned to Australia for recuperation.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P10140.004

Troops of the 2nd Brigade landing at Anzac Beach under heavy fire on the morning of 25 April 1915

In August 1916 he embarked again for the war zone.

During mid-1916 the Australian divisions had suffered heavy losses on the Western Front at Fromelles, and then at Pozieres, so there was an urgent need for reinforcements and opportunities for promotion. The 5th Division and a British division had been assigned the task of assaulting the strong German defences around the village of Fromelles. The 15th Brigade, made up of volunteers from Victoria, had the widest section of no-man's-land to cross to the German trenches. In one night (19-20 June), charging into scything machine-gun fire and earth-erupting artillery barrages, the 5th Division suffered a total of 5533 casualties: 1701 killed in action; 216 died of wounds; 470 taken prisoner; and 3146 wounded. The Victorian brigade suffered especially heavy losses. It was another Krithia on a larger scale. Thereafter Britain's General Haking who planned the flawed attack was branded 'Butcher Haking'.

On returning to the front Lieutenant Scanlan was assigned to the 15th Brigade of the 5th Division, which had lost many of its officers at Fromelles. Initially he was assigned to staff work and advanced training courses. He was promoted to the rank of captain in November 1916, to major in February 1917, and to lieutenant colonel in February 1918. At the age of 27 he was appointed commander of the 59th Battalion. It was rare for someone so young to be promoted so rapidly. Australian troops were buoyed when they were placed under the command of their own General Monash instead of being under the command of British generals. In the Spring of 1918 the Germans launched their final major offensive towards Amiens. Australian troops were rushed down from the Armentieres area. Under the meticulous but daring General Monash the battle-hardened diggers of the 3rd and 5th Divisions stopped the Germans at Villers-Bretonneux and Hamel. The four Australian divisions then played a key role in driving the Germans back to the Hindenburg Line and capitulation. Lieutenant Colonel Scanlan led his

battalion with distinction during this phase. He was awarded the DSO ('For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty...') and later a Bar to the DSO. He was also twice Mentioned in Dispatches. As well he was awarded the French Legion of Honour.

He returned to Australia in April 1919, exactly four years after his near-miss at Krithia. Back home he worked for the Victorian Prices Commission. Then he tried farming near Swan Hill. During the Great Depression of the early 1930s he worked for the Sustenance Department as assistant head. In 1936 he was appointed as deputy head of the Hobart Gaol. Earlier, in 1920, he had been placed on the list of reserve officers for the Australian Military Forces.

The Scanlan and the Makin 'boys' were celebrated Middle Park identities in the post-war period as war and football heroes. The community grieved with the family when Lieutenant Les Makin was killed in action in September 1918, nine weeks before the Armistice. The highly decorated Lieutenant Colonel John Scanlan was, of course, a great success story. In happier days after the war, when VFL football was fiercely tribal ('C'mon the Bloods!'), Paddy Scanlan played 100 games with South Melbourne and had stints as captain and later coach. Jim Makin played 30 games with South Melbourne and then sixteen with Melbourne. Kath Scanlan made the telling observation that playing team sports helped the lads to readjust to civilian life after the hell they had been through. Paddy's younger brother, Joe, played 146 games with South Melbourne and was also captain for several years.

Kath Scanlan, a lifelong local resident, provides an overview of the Scanlans and Makins in an interview which can be found on the Middle Park History Group's website under *Personal Stories*. Paddy Scanlan married Ruby Makin at Our Lady of Mount Carmel church in 1923. Kath is their daughter. The Makin brothers feature prominently in Chapter 6, Middle Park and the Great War, of *Middle Park – The Way We Were*.

MPHG activities

Monthly meeting – April 2017

John and Ruth Stirling

April's talk was presented by Ruth and John Stirling, long time residents (and President of MPHG) of Middle Park, who entertained us with memories of their early days in Middle Park, complete with slides and even a movie. They took us back to a time when they drove a VW "beetle", which they could park parallel to the gutter whenever they arrived home. And roads so light on traffic the kids could play on them after school. Ah, those were the days! And they told us of the mouth-watering \$13,000 that they paid for their house, which admittedly wasn't exactly "vogue living" until they got to work on it. Ruth also told us of the "baby-sitting Co-op" where payment was in tokens (and kids were all well-behaved). We also heard about the community politics and action which helped put to rest some bureaucratic ideas of a freeway through St Vincent Place and along Canterbury Road. And all this led the audience to recall some of their own experiences of those heady days. All in all it was a great occasion, and one which could have gone on if it hadn't been for the lure of a cuppa tea and a bikkie and a natter to recall more memories.

MPHG committee

The Executive committee meets every second month at the Mary Kehoe Centre. Our major project this year is to consolidate our picture collection. As well as that, the President and some executive members have attended various meetings and functions where they meet other like-minded history buffs. Middle Park recently hosted the quarterly South Metro History Group meeting where representatives of several local history groups get together to share their ideas and activities. Another recent occasion attended by Max Nankervis, Diana Phoenix and Ed Boyle was the opening of an exhibition of biographies (with photos) researched by Grace Blake, of members of the Albert Park lake rowing clubs who enlisted in the First World War. The exhibits are displayed at the Rowing Clubrooms on the lake (adjacent to the kids playground opposite MSAC) during the next month, and will be displayed at the various Port Phillip libraries until Armistice Day. It is worthwhile catching it. Grace will speak at our meeting in August.

EXHIBITION A MASTER STROKE

FOR keen rower Grace Blake, setting up an exhibition about rowers in the Great War was a stroke of luck.

After looking up at the World War I honour board on the wall of the Albert Park South Melbourne Rowing Club, Blake embarked on a quest to find out more about her club's former rowers who had fought for their country.

Years of curiosity and detective work led to *Accounts from the Front, 1917*, a free exhibition on show at the club until May 4.

Wartime letters and memoirs from club members, including excerpts from the diary of Harry Duncan, father of 1956 Olympic rower and former club president Bob, are included in the exhibition.

A special Anzac Day curator's tour will be held at the club from 12.30pm to 2.30pm.

And Blake is convinced there are more stories to be uncovered, urging descendants of other club members who enlisted to share their stories.

Details: apsmrc.com/

Grace Blake with 1956 Olympic rower and former Albert Park South Melbourne Rowing Club president Bob Duncan.



MPHG meeting schedule 2017

Monday 5 June 2017

Maureen Walker, author and member of the St Kilda Historical Society

St. Kilda – a patriotic suburb in WW1 . St Kilda was one of the very patriotic suburbs during World War One. This talk will focus on that patriotism detailing use of its public buildings for entertainments, to the rise of anti-German feeling, measures taken by local sporting teams, the conscription campaigns and finally post war remembrance.

Monday 7 August 2017

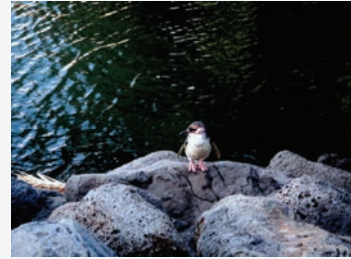
Grace Blake, independent curator and creative director

Accounts from the Front , 1917 – Centenary commemorations of the First World War have created a unique environment where personal records have been made publicly available for a mass market via the internet. This talk will discuss an exhibition at the Albert Park-South Melbourne Rowing Club that has drawn on digital records to fill in gaps in the rowing club's wartime history.

Monday 2 October 2017

Zoe Hogg, Earthcare St Kilda Inc.

30 Years of St Kilda penguins – Earthcare St Kilda penguin team have been looking at the activities of St Kilda penguins for 30 years. We map their partners, numbers of chicks, births, deaths and just about everything a penguin does in Port Phillip Bay. As in this photo they own the St Kilda Breakwater no matter how many people invade their territory every night.



All meetings are at 7:30 pm at the Albert Park Baptist Church Hall, corner Kerferd Road and Richardson Street (entry through OFFICE door in Richardson Street)

Your MPHG committee

President:	Max Nankervis
Vice-President:	Meyer Eidelson
Secretary:	Vacant
Treasurer:	Sonya Cameron
Liaison officer:	Diana Phoenix
Committee members:	Rosemary Goad, Annette Robinson
Oral history:	Annette Robinson

The Middle Park History Group is supported by
The City of Port Phillip



