



Bendigo Regional Archives Centre

WWI Resource Kit

Overview Notes for Researchers

Aims: To help researchers develop a local understanding of WWI, which will dovetail into their broader knowledge of that event.

To inform researchers and the public about WWI related records held at Bendigo Regional Archives Centre (BRAC).

Overview

1. Reading extracts from 7 different local Councils **Minute Books**, researchers will understand the local feelings expressed by civic leaders during Council meetings held at, or soon after, the time key WWI events occurred - the declaration of War, the Gallipoli landing, and the end of the War.

2. Examples from **Bendigo City Council's Inwards 20th Century Correspondence** show researchers local activities spearheaded by local Councils, the variety of local fundraising groups established, appeals made to Councils for various types of assistance, and what occurred locally after WWI ended - the Soldier Closer Settlement scheme, and the erection of the Bendigo Soldiers' Memorial Hall in Pall Mall, for example.

These local records dovetail perfectly into other related references including:

www.trove.nla.gov.au Bendigo Advertiser (1853-1918),

CoGB Anzac website www.anzaccentenarybendigo.com.au

World War I Exhibition at the Bendigo Post Office Gallery from December 2014 - June 2015.

Geographical explanatory Note about the 7 former Councils

City of Bendigo - the actual city eg. Long Gully, Golden Square, Quarry Hill

Borough of Eaglehawk - Eaglehawk township, Sailor's Gully, California Gully, Myers Flat

Shire of Huntly - Huntly, Epsom, Goornong and Elmore townships

Shire of Marong - Kangaroo Flat, Marong, Lockwood, Leichardt townships and districts

Shire of Strathfieldsaye - Spring Gully, Kennington, Mandurang, Axedale, Strathfieldsaye.

Shire of Mclvor - Heathcote, Costerfield, Toolleen, Knowsley, Mia Mia.

Borough of Raywood - Raywood township, Sebastian. (Merged into Shire of Marong in 1915)

Extracts from Minute Books

a. Commencement of WWI

VPRS 16269 Bendigo City Council Minutes, vol. 9, 07/08/1914, p.275.

“That this Council expresses its unswerving loyalty to the British throne, and its full approval of the action of the Commonwealth and State Governments in their endeavors to assist the British Government in the great war now in progress. It expresses its assurance to heartily render every support in its power to the Government in the despatch of the Expeditionary Force.” This motion was carried *“with enthusiasm”*

VPRS 17067 Borough of Raywood Minutes, vol. 5, 20/08/1914, pp. 422-423.

p. 422 *“...that a Minute be placed in the Minute Book showing the Councils appreciation of the loyalty of the members of the 17th light Horse troop of Raywood (423) in offering their services to join the expeditionary forces, and that a letter be forwarded to the parents of the members who had volunteered. Carried.”*

VPRS 16265 Shire of Marong Minutes, vol. 16 - No ref to WWI in 6 August Minutes, but at **3 September 1914 meeting, page 465**, it was resolved *“That the contribution of £50 be divided equally between the Australian Patriotic Fund and the Red Cross Society Fund.”*

VPRS 16264 Shire of Huntly Minutes, vol. 8, 06/08/1914, p. 479, were in the vein of Bendigo. Under the heading *“European War”*, they recorded:- *“It was resolved that the Council deplores the war now raging in Europe, affirms its unswerving loyalty to His Majesty the King and to the Empire and pledges itself by every means in its power to assist our country in its time of need.”*

** There was no reference at all to the commencement of WWI in the **VPRS 16137 Shire of Strathfieldsaye Minutes, vol.6, 20/08/1914, pp. 356-361** Why? Meetings were only held monthly - did they see it as stale news?

But at the following month’s meeting:

vol. 6, 17/09/1914, p. 364 - Lady Stanley (wife of the Governor of Victoria 1914-1919) asked the Council *“to cooperate with the Australian Branch of the British Red Cross Society in assisting the sick & wounded in the present war.*

And **vol. 6, 17/09/1914, p. 365** - letter from the Colonel of the Commonwealth Military Forces *“asking the Council to assist in enrolling suitable men for the War.”*

VPRS 16262 Borough of Eaglehawk Minutes, vol. 12, 07/08/1914, p. 243.

No reference to the commencement of WWI. Why? - meeting was held only three days after War was declared, so you didn't have the stale factor as per Shire of Strathfieldsaye Minutes.

VPRS 7010 Shire of Mclvor Minutes, vol. 12, 13/08/1914, pp. 134-147.

No reference to the start of WWI here either. Why? - these meetings were held monthly but this meeting was only nine days after War was declared.

b. Gallipoli Campaign - Local Responses To It.

Nothing specific in VPRS 16269 Bendigo Minutes about Gallipoli!! But... **vol. 9, 13/05/1915, p. 340**, had 3 motions re: Australian soldiers in Europe- *"That this Council places on record its high appreciation and admiration of the magnificent achievement which has marked the entry of the Australian soldiers into the European War, and desires to express its sympathy with the relatives of the soldiers who have fallen in the defence of the Empire."* This motion was "carried unanimously."

And the next motion (p. 340) was- *"that the military authorities be requested to furnish a list of soldiers from this district wounded, invalided, or killed during the present war, and that the names be registered on the books of the municipality."*

And the final motion (p. 340) said- *"it was resolved that the Honorable the Minister of Defence be requested to strike off a medallion to commemorate the gallant deeds of the Australian soldiers in the great European War now in progress, or to authorise the issue of a suitable medallion."*

VPRS 16265 Shire of Marong, vol. 17, 06/05/1915. That meeting made no reference to Gallipoli, But...

At that meeting (p. 17) it was recorded that a letter was received from E. Whitehead & Co., stationers in Melbourne, advertising their ***"Roll of Honour suitable for hanging in the Council Chamber, placing on record for all time the names etc., of those who having resided in the district, have volunteered for active service in the Great War. The approximate cost of the Roll, framed complete in oak, will be about £5/5-."*** It was decided "That consideration be deferred until a future date."

VPRS 17067 Borough of Raywood, vol. 5, 27/05/1915 p. 458- *"that a minute be placed in the Minute Book to mark the appreciation of the Council in this splendid achievement of the Australian troops in landing at the Darde[nnells.] And to the present success of the Australians at the front."*

And the very next motion read (ditto above, p. 458):- *“That this Council place on record their deepest sympathy to the relatives and friends of the gallant soldiers who had fallen at the front and hoped that the wounded would have a speedy recovery.”*

VPRS 16264 Huntly Minutes, vol. 8, 06/5/1915, p. 534- *“That at this most momentous period of our Country’s history this Council place on record its deep sense of pride & gratification that Australia’s soldiers at the front have lay their gallant deeds at the dardanelles so amply justified their country’s faith & confidence in them; &, while sorrowfully deploring the untimely fall of so many brave men, we trust that the knowledge that they freely & nobly laid down their lives in their country’s cause may to some extent soften the pain of bereavement.”*

At bottom of same page, Whitehead & Co. wrote “soliciting order for “Roll of Honor”.

VPRS 16137 Strathfieldsaye Minutes, vol. 6, 20/05/1915, pp. 412-413. Although it did not specifically refer to Gallipoli, the Council carried the motion that:

“the Council have a ‘Roll of Honor’ suitably prepared & hung in the Hall containing the names of Residents of the (413) Shire who have left Victoria for active service at the front.”

VPRS 16262 Borough of Eaglehawk Minutes, vol. 12, 13/05/1915.

There was no reference to the Gallipoli campaign.

VPRS 7010 Shire of Mclvor Minutes, vol. 12, 13/05/1915, p. 227. There was no reference to the Gallipoli campaign, BUT....at that meeting a letter was received from the *“Organiser of Belgian Button Fund requesting cooperation in distribution of Buttons on May 24th.”*

At the next meeting on **10/06/1915, p. 234**, a letter was noted as coming from “Military head Quarter Staff” saying that *“persons under 21 years of age are not to be enlisted without the written Consent of parents or guardians and that the height standard has been reduced from 5’ 4” to 5’ 3”.”*

c. End of WWI

VPRS 16137 Shire of Strathfieldsaye, vol. 7, 28/11/1918, pp. 80-84.

No reference to end of WWI!!

VPRS 16265 Shire of Marong Minutes, vol. 17, 05/12/1918, pp. 433-437.

No reference to the end of WWI!!

VPRS 16269 Bendigo City Council Minutes, vol. 9, 07/11/1918, p. 605

This meeting was held just 4 days before the War ended. It lists an incoming letter that day from the Secretary AWN League. The reply was:- *“To be informed that the Council does not consider proposed action necessary. Police to be commended for their prompt action, and urged to continue to exercise firm measures. Matter also to be brought under the notice of Colonel Scott.”*

****This note can be cross-referenced to www.trove.nla.gov.au to see details of what happened - perhaps a local public disturbance while a member of the AWNL was making a pro War speech?**

21/11/1918- no reference to the end of the War.

05/12/1918, p. 609 - In the list of incoming correspondence, there was a detailed note regarding a 26 November letter from “Secy Rest Home Com”, which said:- *“writer to be informed that the Council cordially approves of the proposal to erect a Soldiers Memorial with proposed rooms at Rosalind Park, Pall Mall, and invites the Rest Home Committee to meet the Council in Conference with a view to drafting a suitable agreement for occupancy.”*

VPRS 16262 Borough of Eaglehawk Minutes, vol. 13, 21/11/1918. No reference to the end of the War at all.

BUT... (p. 462) A letter from the Secretary, Bendigo Repatriation Committee expressed *“their admiration at the fine spirit of co-operation displayed by the burgesses of Eaglehawk in connection with the Monster Demonstration held on the 9th November 1918.”*

**** What was the “Demonstration” about? This note can be cross-referenced to www.trove.nla.gov.au to see details of what happened.**

VPRS 7010 Shire of Mclvor Minutes, vol. 13, 16/11/1918 - No reference to the end of the War.

VPRS 16264 Shire of Huntly Minutes, vol. 9, 05/12/1918, p. 232.

No reference to the end of the War occurring, But...a letter was received from the Defence dept. “notifying return of Anzac D. Currie 7th Batt.”

Bendigo City Council's 20th Century Correspondence

Following are 18 original letters, memos and reports spanning (1916-1922). These have been transcribed to make them clear; the original handwriting is often difficult to decipher.

DOCUMENT 1

Transcript of 22/08/1918 letter from Robt. A Morrison to Mr. Honeybone, the Town Clerk of Bendigo Council, re: funds raised by Bendigo schools.

(page 1)

290 Boundary Street,
Bendigo,
22.8.18

Dear Mr. Honeybone.

The attached list shows that the sum of £750.12.1 was given by the Bendigo City Schools to the Patriotic Fund from August last year. This does not include monies[?] from Specimen Hill, Long Gully, Bendigo High Sch, Junr. Tech. Sch. and Dom. Arts School.

The cash actually contributed by the City Schools this year for War Savings Certificates amounts to £2071. (Most of this sum was contributed since March).

Yours Sincerely,

Robt. A. Morrison

(page 2)

The one year's contributions only

Money raised from August 1917 to Aug. 1918

by the following Schools in the City of Bendigo

Patriotic Fund

Bendigo Central	£183.12.9
Violet Street	£165.19.9
Golden Square	£75. 4. 8
Gravel Hill	£88.15. 4
Bendigo East	£21.15.10
White Hills	£37.13.11
Bendigo North	£68.13. 0
Quarry Hill	<u>£108.16.10</u>

Total £750.12. 1

+Specimen Hill =

+Long Gully =

Total =

There would be sums also from

Bendigo High School =

“ Junior Tech. Sch =

Domestic Arts Sch =

(page 3)

War Savings' Certificates

Contributions during this year to date from Schools in City of Bendigo:-

Central School £424

Violet Street £346

Dom Arts Sch £ 37

Bendigo East £108

Bendigo High Sch £279

Bendigo Junr Techl £ 37

Golden Square £118

Gravel Hill £187

Quarry Hill £ 91

White Hills £266

£1893

Bendigo North £ 82

Long Gully £ 72

Specimen Hill £ 24

Total £2071

Most of this is since March this year.

RM

DOCUMENT 2

Transcript of 27/08/1918 letter from Robt. A Morrison to Mr. Honeybone, the Town Clerk of Bendigo Council.

*Violet Street School,
27.8.18*

Dear Mr. Honeybone.

I received your Circular re 7th War Loan, and am sorry I was not able to attend- But all the schools will redouble their efforts to get War savings Certificates subscribed for, and it has been arranged that all of the money contributed in this way from now to the end of the 7th War Loan will be credited as part of Bendigo's quota of £100,000.

*Yours sincerely,
Robt A. Morrison*

DOCUMENT 3

Transcript of 26/08/1918 letter from Florence Liddell to Mr. Honeybone, the Town Clerk of Bendigo Council.

233 Don St
26/8/18

Mr Honeybone

Dear Sir

I received your letter wishing to know the amount raised by our society during the past 12 months. I may state that a collection among the members amounted to £7.16.2 that is the only money with the exception of the amounts raised from Red cross Carnival & the comforts fund which will be accounted for with the central fund.

*Yours Sincerly
Florence Liddell*

McKenzie & Webster Red Cross Society

DOCUMENT 4

17/08/1918 typed letter from HA Blake, Hon. Secy. Myers Patriotic Workers Society Bendigo, to the Mayor of Bendigo.

DOCUMENT 5

Transcript of 23/08/1918 memo from Annie B. Miller, No. 2 Branch Australian Comforts Fund AWNL Bendigo branch, to Mr. Honeybone, the Town Clerk of Bendigo Council.

(page 1)

Hon. Secretary

Mrs. W.J. Miller,

172 Forest Street.

Mr. Honeybone.

Bendigo August 23rd 1918

Dear Sir.

Enclosed please find statement of money raised by our branch, in answer to your request for same.

Sincerely Yours

Annie B. Miller

Hon Sec

(page 2)

General Amount raised without expenses £80.0.0

Baby Week receipts £91.9.1

Document 5 cont.

Expenses £ 4.8.6

Net amt as per balance sheet sent in £86.10.7

ACF Carnival Receipts £186.16.3

Expenses £ 47

Net amount £139.16.3

Total amount Raised £358.5.4

Net amount Raised £306.6.10

Annie B. Miller

Hon Sec.

DOCUMENT 6

Table of local “Amounts raised for Patriotic and Charitable purposes” in 1917-1918 Mayoral term.

DOCUMENT 7

Transcript of 23/08/1918 letter from Isa Lawrie, Bendigo Branch Australian Mining Tunnelling Corps, to Mr. Honeybone, the Town Clerk of Bendigo Council.

756 High Street

Golden Square

23.8.18

Mr. Honeybone

Town Hall

Bendigo

Dear Mr. Honeybone

Yours of the 21st inst to hand re money raised by us for the year for Patriotic purposes. We have only raised about £80 but I cannot give you the exact amount as our books are with the Auditor but if you could wait untill Tuesday or Wednesday when we will have the books back again I could forward you the exact amount.

I am sorry I am not able to give you the exact information owing to the books being with the Auditor.

Yours sincerely

Isa Lawrie Hon. Sec

Bendigo Branch Australian Mining Tunnelling Corps

(Source of Documents 1-7:- Patriotic Funds file, Box X, Bendigo City Council 20th Century Incoming Correspondence, BRAC.)

DOCUMENT 8

07/02/1916 Printed Federal Recruiting Appeal table of Bendigo’s “Progress return of answers” of Enlistments and Exemptions.

DOCUMENT 9

12/03/1918 Typed Circular Memo, from Captain GJC Dyett, Organising Secretary, State Recruiting Committee of Victoria, to Mayors and Presidents.

(Source of Documents 8 and 9:- Recruiting file, Box A, Bendigo City Council 20th Century Incoming Correspondence, BRAC.)

DOCUMENT 10

Transcript of 18/03/1918 letter from W.G McRobert, Honorary Secretary Bendigo branch of National Federation, to the Mayor of Bendigo.

National Federation

Bendigo Branch

March 18th 1918

The Mayor

City Council

Bendigo

Dear Sir.

I am directed by my committee to advise you that Majors AL Bolton, Dr. TE Green, JP Christie, W Ewing, W Trevena, J Holdspath, J Allan, ET Morrison, FF Hall, CB McCallum, J Phillips, AM Pool, Geo Ham, D Egan and WG McRobert members of this Branch have been appointed a Repatriation Committee and are prepared to assist your Council in any work in the interests of Repatriation on the lines laid down recently by the Hon Frank Clark Minister for Lands.

I am Sir

Yours faithfully

WG McRobert Hon Sec

DOCUMENT 11

Transcript of 06/06/1917 letter from WA Walsh, Secretary Bendigo RSA, to Mr. Honeybone the Town Clerk of Bendigo Council.

Citizens Club

Bull Street

Bendigo

June 6th 1917

Town Clerk

Town Hall

Bendigo

Dear Sir.

At a meeting of a Sub-committee of the R.S.A held in the above office on the 4th inst. I was instructed to apply to the City Council for the free use of the upper reserve on the 30th inst. for the purpose of holding a Football Match to raise funds to equip new Club rooms for the returned Soldiers.

Thanking you for previous favours

I remain

Yours Obediently

WA Walsh

Secretary R.S.A.

DOCUMENT 12

18/12/1918 typed letter from Secretary, Closer Settlement Office, Melbourne, to the Town Clerk, Bendigo.

DOCUMENT 13

02/05/1919 copy of typed letter from AJ Rogers, Hon. Secy, Elmore Repatriation Sub-committee to the Minister of Lands.

DOCUMENT 14

13/03/1919 typed "Special Repatriation Works Report" from Gordon Moore, City Surveyor, to the Mayor and Councillors of Bendigo.

(Source of Documents 10-14:- Repatriation file, Box A, Bendigo City Council 20th Century Incoming Correspondence, BRAC.)

DOCUMENT 15

Transcript of undated motion (c. 1919-1920) from WA Walsh, Secretary of the Bendigo and Northern District branch of the R.S.S.I.L.A.

That the Bendigo City Council be requested by a board representing the Bendigo sub branch of the Ret. Sold. Ass. to allocate for the establishment of a Ret Sold Institute a site on or in juxta-position to the old mine site having a frontage to Pall Mall.

The board to represent the RSA consists of 6 Citizens and 6 Returned Soldiers as follows

Sir John Quick

Comrades

Mr. j H Lienhop

Ex Major Adams

Dr. TE Green

Lieut. Trouston

Mr J Barber

" Bolton

Mr L Murphy

Com JS Williams

Mr j ?unke

" L Critchley

Capt ? Jackson

& Sec'y

DOCUMENT 16

01/11/1918 typed letter from WH Fozard, Secretary Bendigo R.S.A, to the Town Clerk, Bendigo.

DOCUMENT 17

Transcript of 19/04/1920 letter from NJ Chancellor, Hon. Secy. Bendigo branch of the Sailors and Soldiers Fathers' Association of Victoria, to W. Honeybone, Town Clerk of Bendigo.

Box 24 Bendigo

19th April 1920

W. Honeybone Esq

Town Clerk

Bendigo

Dear Sir.

In reply to your news of 16th april I have to inform you that our association will be pleased to appoint a delegate to interview the prime Minister on the Anzac Tweed Industry and assist your Council in every way. On hearing from you as to date & time of interview our delegate will conform with your wishes.

Yours truly

NJ Chancellor

Hon. Secy.

DOCUMENT 18

05/04/1922 Typed letter from RA Lee, Secretary of the Bendigo branch of the R.S.S.I.L.A, to the Mayor and Councillors of Bendigo.

(Source of Documents 15-18:- RSA etc.. file, Box A, Bendigo City Council 20th Century Incoming Correspondence, BRAC.)