

Peach Trees Gazette

Peachester History Committee Inc. Newsletter
Number 191 ~ December 2023

NEWS AND COMING EVENTS

SUNDAY 3rd DECEMBER: PHC Christmas meeting and lunch, from 11.00am at Peachester Hall. Bring and Buy stall (feel free to bring items for sale, and you may find some Christmas gifts.) We are putting together a Christmas Hamper for the raffle – Slim has donated a ham, and members can contribute other items. Please bring something for our festive Christmas lunch as usual, and any suggestions for activities in 2024.

SUNDAY 10th DECEMBER: Peachester Community Carols and Nativity drama, 6.00pm, Peachester Community Hall. Children and adults invited to come dressed in biblical or Christmas outfits. Phone: 54949557 or 54949380.

SUNDAY 17th DECEMBER: Peachester Community Christmas Party, from 6.00pm at the Hall. Entry free, food and drinks to purchase. Bring a neighbour, and meet the community. Phone 54949639 or 54949557 for more info.

MONDAY 22nd JANUARY: Volunteers start work back at Heritage Centre.

SUNDAY 28th JANUARY: First open day at the Heritage Centre for 2024, 10.00am to 2.00pm.

SUNDAY 4th FEBRUARY: PHC first meeting for 2024, from 11.00am at the hall. (Remember, no general meeting in January)

Looking forward to catching up with those who can join us for the Christmas meeting on Sunday. Season's greetings to all *Gazette* readers.

Helen (54949557), Trudy (0421760810)

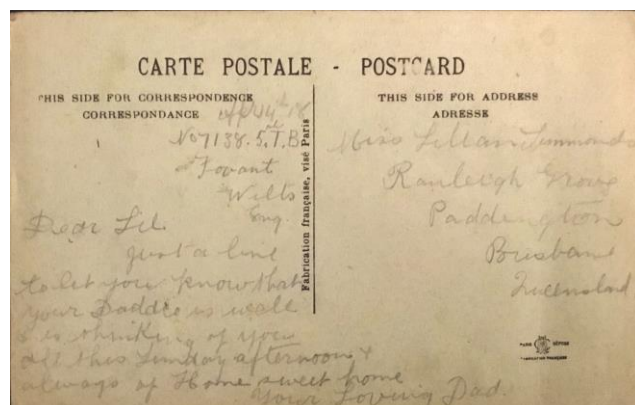
CAN YOU RELATE? Something to ponder...

COWBOY WISDOM



**IF YOU CAN'T LOOK BACK
AT YOUR YOUNGER SELF
AND REALIZE THAT YOU
WERE AN IDIOT, YOU ARE
PROBABLY STILL AN IDIOT.**

A FAMILY TREASURE



At the Heritage Centre we occasionally receive small items of memorabilia which people have found in their family archives, and bring them along thinking they may be of interest for the PHC collection.

It is amazing what stories these treasures can reveal.

PHC member Joe Holland is currently packing up his house at Caloundra, the home he shared for so many years with his late wife Annette (née Simpson), and has offered a few items, including the card shown above. Joe could see it was dated April 1918, sent from overseas during World War 1, and he realised it was sent by Annette's grandfather, Henry Simmonds.

I only received the card on Wednesday, so barely time to do it justice, but with a quick look at easily available resources, I could fill this whole *Gazette* with information about the card, the sender and his family. (I won't include it all, but sharing the outline here.)

As you can see, the postcard itself is an example of the beautiful embroidered cards often sent by WW1 diggers to family at home in Australia. On the correspondence side it says it is a "carte postale" and that it was made in France.


The text – written in pencil and a little hard to read – is as follows:

Apr 14th '18
No 7138 5th T.B. [Training Battalion]
Fovant Wilts Eng

Dear Lil, just a line to let you know that your Daddie is well, and is thinking of you all this Sunday afternoon, and always of home sweet home.
Your loving Dad.

Miss Lilian Simmonds, Ranleigh Grove, Paddington, Brisbane Queensland.

In our PHC publication *Dearly Beloved*, I could verify the full name of Annette's maternal grandfather (and father of Kath Simpson) as Henry Mortimer Simmonds. With that information I easily found him in the WWI records on the NAA website, and also in the AIF Nominal Roll database. www.aif.adfa.edu.au

 Henry Mortimer SIMMONDS	
Regimental number	7138
Place of birth	Brighton Victoria
Religion	Congregational
Occupation	Joiner
Address	Paddington, Queensland
Marital status	Married
Age at embarkation	44
Next of kin	Wife, Mrs M Simmonds, Ranleigh Grove, Paddington, Brisbane, Queensland
Enlistment date	14 August 1917
Rank on enlistment	Private
Unit name	25th Battalion, 21st Reinforcement
AWM Embarkation Roll number	23/42/6
Embarkation details	Unit embarked from Sydney, New South Wales, on board SS Canberra on 16 November 1917
Rank from Nominal Roll	Private
Unit from Nominal Roll	25th Battalion
Fate	Returned to Australia 14 January 1919

Henry's NAA service record tells us more of the story, including the fact that when he enlisted in August 1917, he was 44 years old and married with six children: Elsie Lilian, Henry Ranald (later well-known photographer), Frederick Charles, Ethel Kathleen (later married Maurice Simpson), Mabel (married Bob Breton), Alice.

Here we see a strong connection with Peachester: Henry was the father of Kath Simpson and Mabel Breton, hence grandfather of PHC members Joan Bruce, Wally Breton, Doris Guldbransen and Barbara Price, and of course many others.

The photo below shows the 1933 wedding of Maurice Simpson and Kath Simmonds, with Kath's sister Elsie Lilian (the recipient of the postcard) as bridesmaid, and brother Ranald best man.



Henry's service record also reveals that in October 1918 he was wounded in action at Bearevoir in France, with a gunshot wound to the left eye. He returned to Australia in January 1919. I also searched for Fovant, the address Henry gives on the card ... and what a treasure trove of information that revealed.

Excerpt from BertwistleWiki – Fovant:

Fovant is a village in south west Wiltshire, England about 14 km west of Salisbury. The village existed prior to the drawing up of the Domesday Book in 1086.

During WW1 temporary camps were built to handle training and medical treatment of soldiers. Fovant housed 20,000 men in prefab wooden huts with corrugated iron cladding and roofs, wood burning stove in the centre and about 30 men per hut. The main part of the camp was on East Farm stretching from the downs north to Fovant Woods, a mile in distance and half a mile wide. This comprised five groups of accommodation and recreational huts (cinema, YMCA, Post Office) Officers' accommodation and HQ Offices as well as parade ground and training facilities. ...

It is also the site of the "Fovant badges" cut into the chalk of a nearby hill, including the Australian hat badge.

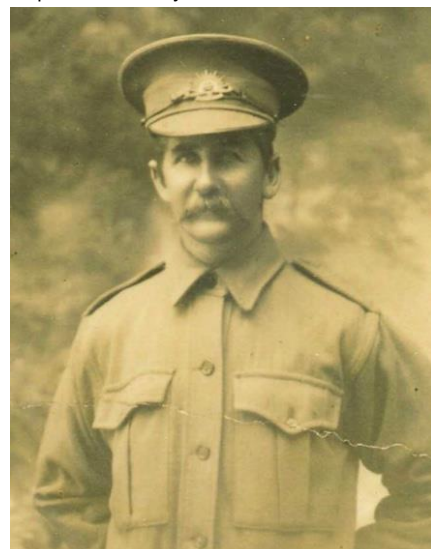
AIF battalions were housed at Fovant while engaged in training activities on the Salisbury Plain. There was a 600 bed hutted military hospital at Fovant during the First World War, and the concentration of Australian depots and training camps in the area is reflected in that there are 63 First World War burials in the local church's graveyard. In March 1917 the Australian Command Depot No.3 moved here from Hurdcott along with a Convalescent camp. From October 1917 the 2nd Division's Training Battalions, i.e. the 5th, 6th, and 7th Training Battalions were based here.

When the fighting finished Fovant was one of three camps in England's South West designated as demobilisation centres for returning soldiers.

<https://birtwistlewiki.com.au/wiki/Fovant>



And finally, a photo of Henry himself, sourced from Ancestry.



FAREWELL TO ROBYN GILLINDER

NOTE FROM HELEN: What sad news when we heard that Robyn had passed away. Ron and Robyn have been PHC members and involved in all our activities for many years, and we have missed Robyn's smiling face and enthusiasm over the past few years. Our deepest sympathy to Ron and the Gillinder family at this difficult time.

There are many photos in our files of Robyn at meetings and events, but this one brings back some special memories. In 2012, Ron and Robyn, Elaine, Ethel and I joined a tour to the Western Front in France and Belgium. We visited the school at Villers-Bretonneux, and the plaque in this photo details the connection which the village and the school have with Australia.



Thanks to Ron for sharing the eulogy which he presented at Robyn's funeral (edited slightly for the *Gazette*).



ROBYN GILLINDER (NEE WHITE) 1949 – 2023



Many thanks to all for your attendance, kind thoughts and support for our family. Individually, you will have some indication of the various stages of Rob's life. Collectively, we should know most of it. The difficulty is trying to condense it to a few pages today. As the family historian I'll give it a crack...

Robyn White was born at the Brisbane Women's Hospital on 17 October 1949, a younger sister to Carol Erica White. Parents, Norman Martin White and Gwynne (nee Evans) were married in Kingaroy on 8 December 1945, following Norm's release as a POW from Changi Prison and discharge from the 2/26th Australian Infantry Battalion after WWII.

Robyn attended the Nundah State School and later the Aspley State School. Her High School years were at St Margaret's Church of England Grammar School – she hated it! She passed her Junior Examination in 1964.

Robyn worked as a Sales Assistant (in the Confectionery section) at the Myer Chermside Shopping Centre from 28 February 1966 until 15 March 1968. After her lolly fix, she attended a business college at night then worked as a Clerk/Typist at the Mercantile Mutual Insurance Company in Eagle Street Brisbane for two years.



Following her marriage to Ron on 18 April 1970 the couple moved into their house at 13 Fagan Rd Herston which Ron had purchased 12 months earlier.

Robyn took a job as an office 'Girl Friday' with Jack Rutherford's transport business in Butterfield St Herston.

Robyn was a keen softballer and played for the Rebels

Softball Club in 1966/67. She was a member of the winning B1 Grade team that year. She later joined the Devils Softball Club both as a player, administrator and scorer. She was awarded Life Membership.

Daughter Tracey Leigh was born in April 1973 and son Thomas Michael in April 1975. Both shared the same birthday which did cause early disagreements.

Although primarily a stay-at-home Mum, Robyn always found time to be a volunteer. She was particularly proud of her work as a Beauty Therapist at the Prince Charles Hospital's Geriatric Unit. Other roles included Playgroup Co-ordinator, Red Cross volunteer, secretary of her softball club, volunteer at the children's school and carer for her Mum.

Once the children had grown, Robyn was talked into applying to be a Ward Receptionist / Administration Officer at Royal Brisbane Hospital. She undertook this role from 1989 until 2014 but her commitment to Hospital patients and relatives went far beyond any paid role.

Robyn would always do what she thought was 'right' regardless of what administrators told her to do. If patients left behind belongings or prescriptions on discharge Robyn would home deliver them after work. If a patient's clinical record was missing a report, Robyn would follow-up with the treating doctor – if necessary, hound them in the nicest possible way. Many relatives of patients in Intensive Care wrote to hospital management commending her.

To say Robyn was an animal lover is a gross understatement. She particularly loved her Kelpie-cross dog 'Tootie' (named by Tom as 'Bishop Desmond Tutu'). At some stage she had a Corgi named 'Sandy', a miniature Dachshund named 'Jasmine' and a cat named 'Tabitha'. We also had guinea pigs, goldfish, budgies and dead animals in the freezer she had found on the road.



Ron and Robyn with Tracey and Tom, 2006

Prior to 2016 when Rob was formally diagnosed with early Dementia there had been incidents where her mind had caused problems. She'd had two car accidents in quick succession and it was clear she should not be driving. Robyn's older sister and mother both suffered with dementia but Robyn maintained that she took after her father and was therefore 'safe'. Sadly, this was not the case. With some support from Glasshouse Country Care, Robyn was able to be cared for at home until late in 2021 when she moved into St Paul's Lutheran Aged Care dementia facility.

Staff and carers at St Paul's 'Cassia' residence were fantastic and always very caring and supportive. The family are very appreciative of the care given by all at St Paul's.

REMEMBERING WW1 DIGGERS

NOTE: This account was compiled from the PHC collection and records as a Remembrance Day story for *Glasshouse Country & Maleny News*.

The Beerwah-Peachester Honour Board, launched by the RSL in 1950, is an important source of information about the local diggers who served in WW1 and WW2.

It also poses a lot of questions. Some of the names were not familiar to local residents, even in 1950, and are less so now. Peachester History Committee members have studied the board over the years, and endeavoured to find the stories associated with those names.

Many WW1 servicemen died without descendants, and there may be few extended family members who even recall their names. In 2015, with an Anzac Centenary grant, PHC embarked on a project to ensure these diggers are remembered with memorial plaques at Peachester Cemetery, and where possible we researched their military and family histories.

One of the stories we unearthed is especially poignant – the very short story of **Private William Minors**.



William was born in 1893 in England. Like many other young men looking for opportunity and adventure, he migrated to Australia, arriving in Brisbane on 29 May 1913.

He found employment at Beerwah Sawmill; and several items in the *Nambour Chronicle* of that period indicate that he was quickly involved in the local community. We see that he

applied for some land in August 1913; then on 21 November he is mentioned as a star performer at a musical evening in Beerwah. "Mr Minors was encored time after time, and the rendering of some of the difficult pieces which he attempted spoke volumes for the tone and quality of his voice." In March 1914 William was a member of Beerwah's cricket team in a match against Woombye, which Beerwah won by four runs in the first innings!

He enlisted in the AIF on 20 October 1914, aged 21, and sailed from Melbourne on 22 December, for service in the Dardanelles

and Gallipoli Peninsula. William was killed in action at Gallipoli on 4 May 1915, and has no known grave.

It is recorded in his service file that he is commemorated at Lone Pine Memorial, Gallipoli, Turkey . . . and we are proud to say that Private William Minors, No. 320 15th Btn AIF, at one time a member of this community, is also commemorated at Peachester Cemetery.

(Photo from *Queenslander Pictorial*, Roll of Honour, 3 July 1915)

PEACHESTER CEMETERY VANDALISM

Most *Gazette* readers will know that the Peachester Cemetery memorial plaque project was started by PHC in 2005, our late members Nev Anning and Graham Leach leading this project.

Annual Remembrance Day services have been hosted by PHC at Peachester Cemetery since 2007.

What a shock to find ten plaques missing on Remembrance Day this year. They were there earlier in the week, so it was a serious blow to discover the vandalism that morning.

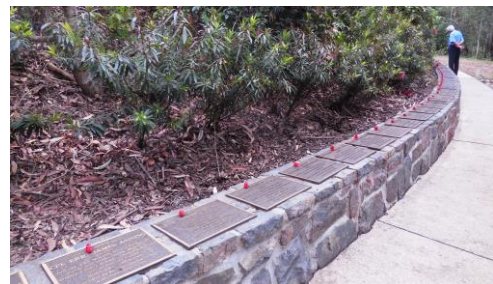
It now seems that the plaques were stolen to sell for scrap metal, and this is related to the theft of plaques at Beerwah Cemetery.

Peachester History Committee has avoided public comment so far as SC Council and Police asked us to respect their ongoing investigation

However, PHC members and other local residents are shocked and disgusted – what sort of person vandalises a cemetery, and destroys memorial plaques so important to the families of former servicemen?

Servicemen commemorated by the ten plaques stolen: William Henry Hampton Hume, Charles Richard Buchanan, Neville Gordon Anning, Clifford Walden Barr, John Waddell (Jack) Barry, William Daniel (Bill) Neill, Alfred Pratten, Colin Roy Shuttlewood, Keith Edward Simpson, Alan (Dick) Strong

We wish to assure the families involved that PHC will be working to replace the plaques as soon as possible, with SC Council support to help cover the cost.

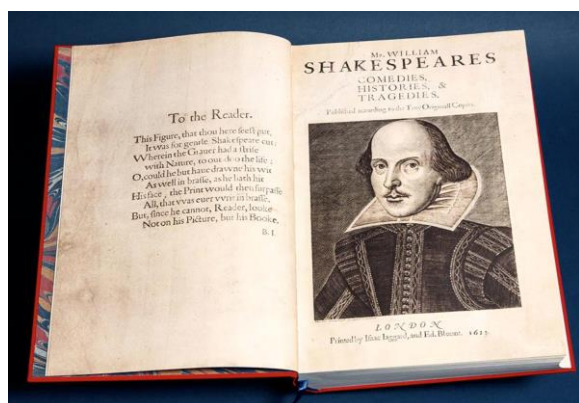


The Memorial Wall (above) on a previous Remembrance Day, and (below) after the recent vandalism.



SHAKESPEARE FIRST FOLIO 400th ANNIVERSARY

Photo of facsimile edition from the British Library bookshop website www.shop.bl.uk



We have just passed a significant milestone in English literature – the 400th anniversary of the publication of Shakespeare's First Folio.

The First Folio is one of the great wonders of the literary world. Published in 1624, seven years after the death of its author, it was the first printed edition of Shakespeare's collected plays. Without this achievement, we would have lost half of his dramatic work. (From www.folio400.com)

We remember William Shakespeare for his famous poetry and plays; and our current everyday English language is peppered with his words and phrases. However, he was also the master of the creative insult, so here is a resource which you may find useful next time you need to express some negative feelings ... perhaps when dealing with the bureaucracy? (Thanks to Australian Ancestors Facebook page for this offering). There was a time when insults were an art!

SHAKESPEARE INSULT KIT		
Combine one word from each of the three columns below, prefaced with "Thou":		
Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
artless	base-court	apple-john
bawdy	bat-forsling	baggage
beslubbering	beef-witted	barnacle
bootless	beetle-headed	bladder
churlish	boil-brained	boar-pig
cockered	clapper-clawed	bugbear
cloouted	clay-brained	bum-bailey
craven	common-kissing	canket-blossom
currish	crook-pated	clack-dish
dankish	dismal-dreaming	clotpole
dissembling	dizzy-eyed	coxcomb
droning	doghearted	codpieve
errant	dread-bolted	death-token
fawning	earth-vexing	dewberry
fobbing	elf-skinned	flap-dragon
froward	fat-kidneyed	flax-wench
frothy	fen-sucked	flirt-gill
gleeking	flap-mothed	foot-licker
goatish	fly-bitten	futilarian
gorbellied	folly-fallen	giglet
impertinent	fool-born	gudgeon
infectious	fil-gorged	haggard
jarring	guts-gripping	harpy
joggerheaded	half-faced	hedge-pig
lumpish	hasty-witted	horn-beast
mammering	hedge-born	hugger-mugger
mangled	hell-hated	jothead
mewling	idle-headed	lewduster
paunchy	ill-breeding	lout
pribbling	ill-nurtured	maggot-pie
puking	knotty-pated	malt-worm
puny	milk-livered	mammet
qualling	motley-minded	measle
rank	onion-eyed	minnow
reeky	plume-plucked	miscreant
roguish	pottle-deep	moldwarp
rutish	pox-marked	mumble-news
saucy	reeling-ripe	nut-hook
spleeny	rough-hewn	pigeon-egg
spongy	rude-growing	pignut
surlly	rump-fed	puttock
tottering	shard-borne	pumpion
unmuzzled	sheep-biting	ratsbane

CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES AT THE HALL

Please pass on the invitation to these community events coming up at Peachester Community Hall.



OUT AND ABOUT

Some recent awards: Bill Morgan received a Glass House Volunteer Award from Andrew Powell MP, and Helen Page with a SC Council Museum and Heritage Award.



Below: Outing to Brisbane, visiting the Masonic Memorial Centre (Grand Lodge) and Miegunyah House Museum; November birthdays; more photos from Remembrance Day at the Cemetery.

