Remembering them
Honouring the First World War servicemen and women of the Redlands

A Redland Libraries initiative
Acknowledgements

Disclaimer

This book came about as part of the centenary commemoration of the First World War.

It was designed to provide our community with the opportunity to commemorate the role our Redlands citizens played in Australia’s First World War effort.

This project is the result of a collaborative effort from several individuals and organisations.

Our goal is to bring together photographs and biographical information to ensure that our local soldiers and nurses, especially those who lost their lives, are remembered as real people and not merely anonymous names in a list.

We have attempted to include the stories of those who had a connection to the Redlands in some way. This book includes people who were born here, worked here at the time of their enlistment, or had their names added to our cenotaphs at the request of their next of kin who lived in the Redlands.

Despite our best efforts, there are names listed on our cenotaphs for whom we cannot find a clear link to the Redlands. We are aware that this is not an exhaustive representation and we trust more information will become available that will enable us to further understand the impact of the First World War on this community. It was not possible to include all those who may have lived in the Redlands after the war, but we have chosen to include some who settled here and became actively engaged in the community.

This publication contains stories from the First World War era that may offend some readers.

Redland Libraries would like to thank the wide range of community groups and organisations for contributing information and artefacts for this publication, with special thanks to local author Peter Ludlow and the North Stradbroke Island Historical Museum.

Our thanks, too, to the many people who contributed images to this book, especially the families of soldiers who shared their memories, stories and photographs. Where possible, contributors’ names have been included beneath the captions, although they may not be copyright holders. While we have taken care to include every name we can, we were not able to trace sources for every image.
Australia at war
1914–1918

1914
August
Australia supports Britain’s declaration of war against Germany
Troops sent to Egypt when the Ottoman Empire (Turkey) threatens British interests in the Middle East and Suez Canal

September
Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force takes possession of German New Guinea

October
Australian Naval and Expeditionary Force takes possession of the Bismarck Archipelago

November
HMAS Sydney destroys the German Raider SMS Emden

1915
April
Australian Infantry Force lands troops at Anzac Cove, Gallipoli

December
Evacuation of troops from Gallipoli

1916
Troops continue defence of Suez Canal

1916–17
Heavy losses on the Western Front, France
  • Somme
  • Fromelles
  • Bullecourt
  • Messines
  • Ypres (Passchendaele)

1917
Advances into Palestine and capture of Gaza and Jerusalem

1918
Occupation of Lebanon and Syria
April
Battle of Villers-Bretonneux
July
First Battle of the Somme
August
Battles of the Western Front
September
Second Battle of the Somme
November
Hostilities on the Western Front cease

Armistice between allied powers, associated powers, and Germany

The First World War remains the most costly conflict in terms of deaths and casualties. Australia’s population was fewer than five million and there were 416,809 men who enlisted. More than 60,000 Australian men were killed, 156,000 were wounded, gassed or taken prisoner.
Remembering Them is a real story of the impact of the First World War on the Redlands and the spirit which has made it the city it is today.

Each story offers a snapshot of a life—and often of a death—providing a compelling glimpse, one century removed, of an emerging Redlands touched by the First World War.

This book documents the stories of our local Redlanders who answered the call to serve their country. It also honours our Aboriginal Redlanders, many of whom had to lie about their heritage in order to fight for this country.

Finally, it offers a personal glimpse into the devastating impact of the war on the lives of the families at home.

This powerful publication produced by Redland Libraries ensures that not only those who gave their lives but those who survived the horrors of the war will be remembered.

More than this, it affords us the opportunity to look into the faces of these servicemen and women, reminding us that these are not just anonymous names on memorials and honour boards—these were real people with real lives, hopes and dreams. Sadly, many of our Redland soldiers never got to see the world they helped shape.

Some of the names in this book will be familiar—indeed, many of their descendants still call the Redlands home.

On behalf of the city, I sincerely thank all involved for ensuring we can properly recognise and commemorate those to whom we owe such a great debt.

Through this publication, we will remember them.

Karen Williams
Mayor, Redland City
A rare leaflet for soldiers while on leave in England
Life in the Redlands

In 1914, the Redlands was a series of isolated fishing and farming communities connected by the waters of Moreton Bay. Dirt tracks linked settlements from Wellington Point in the north, North Stradbroke Island in the east, Mount Cotton in the west, Redland Bay in the south and the Southern Moreton Bay Islands. The area was divided between the Cleveland and Tingalpa shires until 1949, when parts of Tingalpa Shire were combined with Cleveland Shire to become Redland Shire.

Before the war, people who lived in the Redlands had large families and laboured together on the farm or in the family business. Sundays were the highlight of the week when people would meet at church and then enjoy a hot roast lunch. Community and School of Arts halls made popular venues for travelling entertainers and local dances.

The railway line to Cleveland opened in 1889, allowing people from Brisbane to spend an enjoyable day by the water. It also made it easier for farmers to transport produce to Brisbane, and by the turn of the century, fruit had almost replaced sugar as the main crop in the Redlands.

Significance

The following soldiers’ stories provide a valuable insight into Australian life as it was lived 100 years ago.

Although the battlefields and major historical events of the First World War were occurring on the other side of the world, the effects were felt locally. The impact of the First World War was felt across the whole Redland community and through generations of families. Fathers and sons were lost, and those who returned felt the repercussions of war for decades to come.
1914 Call to arms

The Cleveland train brought the daily news to the Redlands, and the Brisbane Courier and other newspapers began to report on the deteriorating situation in Europe leading up to the war. On 3 August 1914, the Australian Fleet was ready for active service.

Prime Minister Joseph Cook gave a speech stating, ‘if the old country is at war, so are we’. An outburst of patriotic fervour erupted in Brisbane when the Hon William Kelly declared, ‘We are bone of Britain’s bone and blood of Britain’s blood’.

Yesterday proved a busy day at Victoria Barracks, Brisbane when the enrolment of volunteers in connection with the Queensland section of the expeditionary force was proceeded with. In the morning there was a rush of volunteers wishing to enlist and throughout the day the cottage in Blackall Street, Petrie Terrace, where the medical inspection took place, was besieged with applicants. The men enlisted were of a fine stamp, chiefly between about 20 and 40 years of age, the majority of whom had military experience to their credit.

— The Queenslander, 24 August 1914

Healthy applicants for enlistment took the oath of allegiance, had papers handed to them, and were requested to report at Enoggera. Australia entered the war.

Aboriginal participation in the First World War

Until the 1967 Referendum, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were denied the right of Australian citizenship. The Defence Act 1903 also specifically excluded Aboriginal people from enlisting, as they were not substantially of European origin and descent.

In reckoning the numbers of the people of the Commonwealth, or of a State or other part of the Commonwealth, Aboriginal natives shall not be counted.

— Section 127 of the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act 1900

Despite these hurdles, Aboriginal men found ways to join the fighting overseas. Under the Treaty of Waitangi 1840, people of Maori heritage were accepted into the armed forces, so many Aboriginal men made this claim to enlist.

Once they were accepted, there is little evidence to suggest Aboriginal soldiers were treated differently. The Australian War Memorial’s Indigenous liaison officer Gary Oakley refers to the army as ‘Australia’s first equal opportunity employer’.

This new equality was short-lived. Even though they’d fought and died, Aboriginal soldiers returned to being ‘non–citizens’ in their own country. They were forcibly returned to their land, received no pensions and were not welcomed into the RSL. Aboriginal soldiers fought for the rights of Australians—rights they didn’t have themselves.

Rifle ranges

Armed volunteers were essential for Queensland’s early defences, and many rifle ranges were established to give them an opportunity to refine their skills. Hilliards Creek in Cleveland was chosen as the official rifle range and it was opened on 3 July 1915. Additional targets were installed in 1916, and a telephone by 1917.
Bill Bacchus was born in Luton, Queensland. At the time of his enlistment in the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) on 15 February 1916, he was 34 years old and his employment was listed as a licensed hawker. On 16 August 1916, he departed for active service and left his wife, Elizabeth, in Manly.

Bill arrived in Étaples, France, in the middle of winter. It was a notorious base camp for those on their way to the front. Under terrible conditions, both new recruits and battle-weary veterans endured long sessions marching across the dunes, and were trained in gas warfare and bayonet drill. After two weeks, many of the wounded preferred to return to the front unhurt than remain at Étaples.

Bill was discharged as medically unfit after struggling with a condition known as trench foot, and frostbite on both feet. Back in Manly, Bill was suffering from shellshock. He moved to Amity Point on North Stradbroke Island, seeking a quieter life.

When Bill died, a local newspaper noted his death:

Mr William Bacchus, well known bay identity, has died aged 72. The late Tom Welsby dubbed him ‘Mayor of Amity Point’ and thus he was known to hundreds of fishermen and yachtsmen over the years. Suffering from war disabilities in 1918, he settled at Amity and lived there for many years. His residence was popularly named ‘town hall’. Years ago he acted as teacher to children where no school existed, and with his qualifications as a St John’s Ambulance man, he was called upon for first aid work. He had the first telephone at Amity, and at one stage was postmaster, and conducted the first polling booth there. For the past three years he had lived at Manly. His wife and son survive him.
LIEUTENANT 2560
Mark Bensley

26 Infantry Battalion
1 to 8 Reinforcements
(June 1915–January 1916)

1914–15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal

PRIVATE 3766
James Bensley

26 Infantry Battalion
9 to 12 Reinforcements
(January–April 1916)

British War Medal, Victory Medal

Mark Bensley was born in Rosewood, Queensland. He was living in Wellington Point when he enlisted on 27 July 1915, aged 24. He worked as a post and telegraph engineer, and completed a smithing apprenticeship. Mark joined the 26th Battalion 6th reinforcements and embarked on 21 October 1915 on the HMAT Seang Bee A48, alongside Richard Noble (page 52) and Fred Burns (page 13). His brother James, also embarked from Brisbane three months later on 31 January 1916 aboard HMAT Wandilla A62.

Mark quickly rose through the ranks. By 6 August 1916 he was a Corporal, and by 3 July 1917, he had been promoted to Lieutenant.

On 26 February 1917, he received gunshot wounds to the face and elbow and was transferred to hospital in London. He returned to France after being discharged from hospital on 30 April 1917.

Mark was granted three months’ leave from 17 March to 17 June 1919, during which he worked with the Electrical Engineers’ branch at the General Post Office in London. On 21 June 1919, he married Ellen May Preston in London.

James returned to Australia 13 July 1919, while Mark returned soon after on 22 August 1919.
PRIVATE 2833
James Henry Binger

4 Pioneer Battalion
2 to 11 Reinforcements (April 1916–August 1917)

British War Medal, Victory Medal

James Binger was 20 and working as a station hand when he enlisted in the 26th Battalion on 27 April 1916. He embarked for England aboard HMAT Boonah A36 on 21 October 1916. From there he proceeded to France, then Belgium.

He received a severe gunshot wound to the left leg on 2 November 1917. As a result of this injury, he was discharged to Australia on 10 April 1918.

James returned to Wellington Point and married Thirza Adeline Skinner on 13 September 1921. He worked for the Cleveland Shire Council as a ganger from 1921 until his death in 1950. He suffered from Miner’s Phthisis (pulmonary tuberculosis) despite never working in the mines. His death was not attributed to war service and his wife was not entitled to a war pension.

PRIVATE 398
Albert Fraser Bongers

1 Lighthorse Regiment (August 1914–December 1916)

1914–15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal

Albert Bongers was born in Sydney and worked as a railway engineer. He was 20 when he enlisted in August 1915. He lost part of his knee while he served in France and Gallipoli.

In 1928 he married Aunty Rosey Martin and they had one child, Ruth.

When applying for a land selection on North Stradbroke Island, he provided a reference from the Inspector of Police in Toowoomba, which read:

_Bongers is 32 years of age and states that his wife’s people live at Stradbroke Island, and that his wife’s brother Alfred Martin, who looks after the piggery, and Bethal Martin, whose husband recently died leaving her with 7 children, and this man states if he could get sufficient land on the island, say 100–200 acres, he would be able to assist this woman, and also make a home and a good living for himself... Further his wife’s anxious to get back to the island so as to be among her own people._

Albert Bongers was an Aboriginal soldier.
PRIVATE 6962
James Oliver Alan Booth

15 Infantry Battalion
1 to 23 Reinforcements
(December 1914 – November 1916)

British War Medal, Victory Medal

James was born to George Doubleday Booth and Alice Maud Booth. He was unmarried and working as a farmer in Wellington Point when he enlisted on 30 September 1916. He joined the 15th Battalion, 23rd Reinforcement, and embarked from Sydney aboard the HMAT Beltana A72 on 25 November 1916.

James served with the battalion on the Western Front. He was killed instantly on 4 July 1917 when a shell landed directly on his dugout near Ploegsteert Wood, Belgium. He is buried at the Mud Corner British Cemetery (Plot II, Row A, Grave No 13) in Belgium.

James' name is listed on the Cleveland cenotaph.
PRIVATE
Silas Logan Brimblecombe

Field Artillery
14/31 Battalion

Silas was born in 1877 to James and Lucinda Brimblecombe in Brookfield, Brisbane. In 1901 he married Martha Moore from Redland Bay. At the time of enlistment, he was a self-employed fruit farmer in Redland Bay and employed two other soldiers who also enlisted: John Woodside Gibson (page 28) and James Muncaster Lovatt (page 44).

He was 39 when he enlisted on 19 March 1917. However, due to a medical history of seizures, he was declared unfit for active service and remained on home service. Silas was honorary secretary of the Tingalpa Shire Repatriation Committee at that time. He died in 1947.
William Fleming Brown

**11 Light Horse Regiment**
**1 to 7 Reinforcements (June–November 1915)**

1914–15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal

William Fleming Brown was born in Carnustie, Scotland, in 1890. He was 25, unmarried, and living at Greenslopes in Brisbane at the time of his enlistment. He was employed as a carter and groom but also had sales experience in the fruit and fish trade.

He enlisted on 23 August 1915 and embarked from Sydney in October 1915. His father, George P Brown, was listed as his next of kin.

Due to his natural way with horses, William was assigned to various mobile veterinary units. William served in Egypt and the Sinai on various campaigns, one of which was the Battle of Beersheba on 17 October 1917.

William was transferred to the 2nd Lighthorse Regiment, which was sent to Gallipoli without their horses. On 22 February 1916, he rejoined the 11th Lighthorse at Heliopolis.

William contracted malaria in the Jordan Valley and was transferred to Scotland to recuperate. He returned to Australia on 22 September 1919.

William’s connection to the Redlands came after the war when he met Mary Marsden in 1920. Mary, who was part–owner of the Capalaba Hotel, had been deserted by her first husband and had two young children, Jack and Ethel.

William and Mary had three more children: Frank, William Fleming Jnr and George.

They moved away from the Redlands in 1924 and lived in Sydney from 1936 until William passed away on 2 October 1951. Mary passed away seven years later on 26 November 1958.

**Sources**
Australian War Memorial
National Archives of Australia
Toni Govie

Honouring the First World War servicemen and women of the Redlands
LANCE CORPORAL 1711
John Alexander Bruce (Jack Anthony)

Naval and Military Expeditionary Force (Tropical Unit)
1 Battalion (August 1914)

Military Medal, 1914–15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal

Jack was born on 23 August 1896, in Zeehan, Tasmania. Prior to the outbreak of war in 1914, John joined the Australian Navy and was stationed on HMAS Melbourne.

After the death of his father, Jack became a member of the Canadian Grenadier Guards 87th Overseas Expeditionary Force Battalion under the name of Jack Anthony (Anthony being his mother’s maiden name). His Canadian service number was 177466.

After four weeks of intensive training in England, Jack’s unit was sent to France where he fought in the Battle of Vimy Ridge. It was here he was awarded the Military Medal for bravery. The citation reads:

Lance Corporal Anthony displayed keen presence of mind in rescuing from a dugout an enemy machine gun and bringing it into action during a critical moment when the enemy counter-attacked.

On 14 May 1917, Jack was gassed and transferred to England where he was hospitalised until 4 July 1917. He then joined the Canadian Machine Gun Depot, Crowborough. There, he met Gwendolyn Ada Torkington, and they were married on 2 June 1919.

After the war, they came to Australia and bought eight acres of land at Ormiston on which they grew small crops. John died when he was 42 in 1939, but the family stayed at Ormiston until Gwendolyn died in 1994, aged 96.

Sources
Australian War Memorial
Rolf Bruce

Ordinary Seaman First Class John Bruce (second from left) 1914
Bruce family

Corporal Jack Anthony (front right)
Bruce family

Corporal Jack Anthony (right) in front of armoured car
Bruce family
PRIVATE 5303
George William Burns

25 Infantry Battalion
13 to 16 Reinforcements
(May–October 1916)

British War Medal, Victory Medal

PRIVATE 5304
Robert Wallace Burns

25 Infantry Battalion
13 to 16 Reinforcements
(May–October 1916)

British War Medal, Victory Medal

PRIVATE 2563
Frederick Jacob Burns

25 Infantry Battalion
1 to 8 Reinforcements
(June 1915–January 1916)

1914–15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal

Frederick returned to Australia on 9 May 1918 aged 28. Although his war wounds rendered him unable to work, he still maintained a financial interest in the farm. Frederick suffered lifelong back pain and in 1934 he stated that he’d ‘never had a painless day in the last 16 years’. He died in 1970.

Robert returned to Australia on 1 July 1919 after serving in France and Belgium, and settled into life as a farmer. He was forced to give up farming due to a gunshot wound to the shoulder. Robert also worked as a green keeper at the Cleveland Bowls Club in the 1950s.

Robert’s wife Elizabeth appealed to the Repatriation Commission for a war widow’s pension.

I am of the opinion my husband died of war trouble... I nursed my husband for 18 years and I do know how much he suffered.

Frederick Edward Burns (Senior) was born in Stockport, England in 1858 and migrated to Australia when he was 16. He married Elizabeth Caroline Shire and they settled on a farm at Burns Flat, Mount Cotton. They moved to Cleveland and had nine children: two daughters and seven sons. Three of the boys—Frederick, Robert and Sam—were described as having a ‘larrikin’ streak, while the other brothers were very ‘straight-laced’.

Of the Burns brothers, Frederick enlisted for service on 23 July 1915, when he was 22 years old. He departed on the same ship as his friend Richard Noble (page 52). Six months later, George, a carpenter aged 29, and Robert, a farmer aged 21, enlisted on 24 January 1916. All enrolled as privates in the 25th Battalion.

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Remembering them

Photo courtesy of Redland Libraries Local History and Heritage Collection HH: 06696

Burns family farms in Cleveland

Burns brothers with bicycles (L–R): Robert, George and Fred Burns
Photo courtesy of Redland Libraries Local History and Heritage Collection HH: 06698
PRIVATE 3610
James (Jimmy Cooterman) Cairncross (Uncle Jungi)

47th Battalion
10th Reinforcements
25th Battalion

British War Medal, Victory Medal

James Cairncross was aged 40 and working as a labourer when he enlisted in Brisbane on 14 May 1917. His next of kin was Margaret Rollands (nee Brown), also known as Granny Mibu. James was wounded in France and returned to Australia in January 1919.

Although he had fair skin, he was ineligible for military service as a native ward.

James served overseas in the 25th Battalion in France. In 1917, the 25th Battalion was part of the 2nd Division’s first wave at the Battle of Menin Road in Belgium. Victory here was followed by the capture of Broodseinde Ridge on 4 October 1917. James was wounded twice in France.

After the war, James settled at Sandgate and worked as a fisherman, owning his own boat and property. He sold his assets and lived at North Arm near Nambour until he died. He was buried with military honours at Woombye soldiers’ cemetery.

His descendants are closely associated with their traditional lands on North Stradbroke Island and continue to live there.

James was an Aboriginal soldier.

SECOND LIEUTENANT 568
Leonard Cardew

1 Lighthorse Regiment

British War Medal, Victory Medal

Leonard was born in Stanthorpe, Queensland. He was 25 years old when he enlisted on 13 December 1915 in Longreach.

He worked as a motor mechanic. His mother was Mrs Ellen Cardew, the Matron of the Women’s Quarters at the Dunwich Benevolent Asylum.

He served on the Western Front before he suffered gunshot wounds to his buttocks in 1917, and was discharged in January 1919.

Leonard Cardew is commemorated on the Roll of Honour in the Dunwich Public Hall.

Source
Stradbroke 100. North Stradbroke Island’s First World War Soldiers and the Homefront, North Stradbroke Island Historical Museum 2016
SECOND LIEUTENANT 4090, 3225
Elbert (Bert) Reddington Cobb

First enlistment: 4090—Acting Corporal
24 infantry Battalion
9 to 12 Reinforcements (February–April 1916)

Second enlistment: 3225—Air Mechanic 2nd Class
Flying Corps (November 1917–May 1918)
Reinforcements and Special Drafts (February–October 1918)

British War Medal, Victory Medal

Elbert Cobb was born in Montreal, Canada, to Stephen and Caroline Cobb. He came to Australia
when he was nine with his parents and two sisters. During the First World War he became a
flying officer within the Royal Air Force in England.

Bert enlisted twice, first on 31 December 1915 where his name was listed as Albert Reddington
Cobb. Throughout 1916 he struggled with bronchitis and was discharged as medically unfit on
29 November 1917. He re–enlisted on 15 January 1918 as Elbert Reddington Cobb and this caused
some confusion. His mother wrote a letter to the authorities:

I do not know whether he enlisted under the same name. I only know the anguish of a
mother’s heart as I long to write to him...

Bert’s connection to the Redlands came later in life when he developed Hansen’s Disease and
was transferred to Peel Island in Moreton Bay. He was an intelligent, well–educated man who
loved books.

He kept the remnants of his comprehensive library and in a resonant voice (rather like
Richard Burton) would recite faultlessly from the classics.

— Going to the gums: the Lazaret on Peel Island. 2009 The Friends of Peel Island Association Inc,
page 39

Bert guarded his past very closely and did not want to be buried with any ceremony. When he
died on 30 May 1959, an Australian flag was placed over his coffin out of respect for his service
in the First World War.
PRIVATE 6728

Arthur James Collins

9 Infantry Battalion
13 to 23 Reinforcements
(January–November 1916)

British War Medal, Victory Medal

Arthur Collins came from a well-known pioneering family in Redland Bay. His grandfather, Daniel, settled in Redland Bay in 1884. Arthur enlisted on 8 September 1916 when he was 27 and embarked from Brisbane aboard the HMAT Marathon A74 on 27 October 1916.

Arthur’s daughter-in-law, Win Collins, still has his 1918 diary in her possession. In it, Arthur notes the movement of his company, the weather conditions and his duties:

April 5: In the trenches all day. Wet in the afternoon. The 49th hopped-over at Dernancourt. Gained all objectives with heavy loss of life. Hop-over occurred between four and five in the afternoon.

April 6: All day wet. In the trenches near Dernancourt at sundown a heavy barrage from both sides put the wind up us while in the trenches.

April 7: All day showery. In the trenches relieved by the 48th at 11 o’clock. Marched 8km to be stopped at a crossroads on the way out when overcome by some shells and the troops went in all directions.

August 11: Fritz put a barrage on our front line in the morning. I was on listening post at night.

Arthur and fellow serviceman Harry Tucker (page 74) returned to their farms at Redland Bay in 1919. Arthur married Florrie Tribe in 1922 and Harry married her sister. Arthur and Florrie had four children—Selwyn, Morris, Les and May.

Sources
Australian War Memorial
National Archives of Australia
Redland Libraries Local History and Heritage Collection
Win Collins
PRIVATE 3606
Frank Collins

47 Infantry Battalion
2 to 10 Reinforcements
(April 1916–August 1917)

British War Medal, Victory Medal

PRIVATE 3605
Sydney Collins

47 Infantry Battalion
2 to 10 Reinforcements
(April 1916–August 1917)

British War Medal, Victory Medal

Frank and Sydney were cousins to Arthur Collins (page 17). They were born in Redland Bay to William Joseph Collins and Ada Elizabeth Collins. The brothers were working as fruit growers when they enlisted together on 8 May 1917 and embarked aboard HMAT Miltiades A28 on 2 August 1917.

After disembarking at Glasgow, Scotland, they went on to France where Frank was wounded in action on 2 January 1918. Sydney contracted bronchial pneumonia in France in November 1918 and spent six weeks in hospital. The brothers both survived the war and returned to Brisbane, where they were welcomed home at Mapleton.

Sources
Australian War Memorial
Jenny McCullagh
National Archives of Australia
Win Collins
Algernon Cook was born on 20 August 1882 to Fred and Elizabeth Cook in the Mt Maroon district near Boonah.

On 30 October 1915, Algernon married Jane Ramsay of Ormiston. Four days later, on 3 November 1915, he enlisted for service in the AIF. He was 33 years old and working as a carpenter at Ormiston when he joined the 41st Battalion, B Company. The unit embarked from Sydney aboard HMAT Demosthenes A64, on 18 May 1916. Algernon served with the battalion on the Western Front but was killed in action in Belgium on 11 June 1917.

We had a week in the trenches, wet most of the time, working night and day, hardly anything to eat. It is very rough... Things are getting worse at the front I think, although we are steadily gaining. If the war is not over by next Spring it will be something hellish. I hope you are getting some rain out there—half of what we are getting would do you I think—talk about cold and wet. I have had about enough of it. If I ever get out of this I’ll bet I never get wet again!

—A letter from the trenches

He is buried at the Messines Ridge British Cemetery in West-Vlaanderen, Flanders, Belgium.

Algernon left behind a young widow, Jane, and a son, George Lionel, whom he never saw. The shock of Algernon’s death left Jane very sick, but her mother cared for her and baby George. Jane was granted a war pension of £2 per fortnight, and her son George was granted £1 per fortnight.

Algernon’s name is listed on the Cleveland cenotaph.
Horace Thomas Dalton

11th Light Horse Regiment

British War Medal, Victory Medal

Horace Dalton was born in Dunwich in 1899 to Thomas and Elizabeth Dalton.

He was working as a farmer when he enlisted on 16 May 1918 in Brisbane. Horace supplied a Statutory Declaration to confirm his parents were both "half-caste", and that he lived with white people. His parents provided a letter of consent for him to enlist as he was not yet 21 years of age.

He travelled to Egypt and returned to Australia in 1919. Like other Aboriginal soldiers, Horace was not given the same rights as other soldiers when he returned. He was buried in an unmarked grave in the Ipswich Cemetery in 1956. A military service was held for him in 2012.

After the military service, his son, Ken Dalton, said:

Dad fought for the rights of Australians, even though he didn’t have them himself. He signed up, even though his country treated him shamefully.

— The Queensland Times, Oct 1, 2012, ‘Military service finally honoured’ by Rebecca Lynch

Horace was an Aboriginal soldier.
LANCE CORPORAL 1053
Archibald (Archie)
John Francis Duffy

31st Australian Infantry Battalion

1914–15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal

CORPORAL 1669
Roger Bede Duffy

26th Battalion, 2nd Reinforcement

Military Medal, 1914–15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal

Brothers Archibald and Roger were born to Thomas and Elizabeth Duffy and lived in Ormiston. Archie enlisted on 19 July 1915 when he was 26. While in Egypt, he spent time in hospital with influenza. Archibald then embarked to Europe and the Western Front, where he was made Lance Corporal on 2 February 1917. He was killed in action on 26 September 1917 at Polygon Wood in Belgium at the age of 28.

Your son was in charge of the machine gun in my platoon, and was beloved and respected by all the officers and NCOs and men whom he met. The attack was a difficult one, but they fought as true Australians and succeeded in capturing our objective. A sniper saw your son as he was handing the machine gun to a comrade and fired, killing him instantly.

— a letter to Archibald’s mother from Lieutenant R Thompson

Archibald Duffy is buried in Tyne Cot Cemetery in Belgium. His name is listed on the Cleveland cenotaph.

Roger enlisted on 25 May 1915 when he was 28. He was hospitalised twice while fighting on the Western Front.

Roger received the Military Medal for outstanding bravery:

During the attack East of Viliers–Bretonneux near Amiens, on the 8th August 1918, this man was a leader of a Lewis Gun Section. He led his men at all times, and personally located two enemy machine guns, and under cover of his own guns, he rushed them, killed the crews, and captured the guns. Throughout the action he showed utter disregard for all danger, and his untiring energy and cheerfulness had a marked effect on the men.

— Commonwealth Gazette No. 61

Roger returned to Australia on 3 April 1919.

Sources
Australian War Memorial
Brisbane Courier, 28 January 1918
National Archives of Australia
Roger Thomas Duffy
Sue Skinner

Lance Corporal Archibald Duffy (seated) and Private Roger Duffy
Photo courtesy of Redland Libraries Local History and Heritage Collection HP: 6688
Evelyn Ellis

7th Australian Machine Gun Company

British War Medal, Victory Medal

Evelyn Ellis was born on North Stradbroke Island to Mrs Sydney Rollands. At the time the war started, he was a widower and working as a carpenter.

Evelyn enlisted in Brisbane on 7 September 1916 when he was 41 years old. He served in England and France, and was discharged on 27 June 1919.

When Evelyn returned to North Stradbroke Island, he applied for a land lease to farm pigs. His request was denied by the Minister for Lands and the Medical Superintendent of the Dunwich Benevolent Asylum.

“The fate of Uncle Evelyn—as I recall it—was much the same as a lot of returned servicemen who were identified as Aboriginal. They weren’t part of the reconstruction or retraining. They were not eligible for land grants that other servicemen would have been entitled to.”

— Uncle Bob Anderson, a nephew of Evelyn Ellis, recorded by the North Stradbroke Island Historical Museum, February 2015

After many years, and a change of leadership at the Asylum, Evelyn’s lease was finally approved.

Ellis quickly built the fences that were prerequisite for his pigs. [Bert Levinge and Evelyn Ellis] had won their land with a certain amount of luck, applying when the medical superintendent and undersecretary were communicating as little as possible and when the superintendent was too new to be aware of many aspects of the job.

— Whom Nobody Owns: the Dunwich Benevolent Asylum, an institutional biography 1866–1946, Joseph B Goodall, The University of Queensland, 1992

Evelyn Ellis is commemorated on the Roll of Honour in the Dunwich Public Hall. He died in 1952 and is buried in the Dunwich cemetery. He was an Aboriginal soldier.
PRIVATE 280A
Cossar Smith Ewart

2 Machine Gun Company
2 to 9 Reinforcements
(May–December 1916)

British War Medal, Victory Medal

Cossar, a cousin to George and Robert Kidd (page 42), was born to Robert and Jane Ewart at Redland Bay. He enlisted while he was working as a type setter on 23 February 1916 when he was 27.

He embarked on 1 May 1916. He was shipped to Rouen, France, on 14 November. In 1917, he was admitted to hospital in Birmingham, England, with infections from chafed feet. He was granted furlough from 24 March to 9 April 1917 to recover.

On 1 May 1917, Cossar embarked for France. He was killed in action in Belgium on 10 August 1917 and is buried at the Messines Ridge British Cemetery, Belgium.

Sources
Brisbane Courier 29 August 1917, p7
Jenny McCullagh
Kidd family
National Archives of Australia
PRIVATE 5270
Charles Hill Flanders

31 Infantry Battalion
13 to 15 Reinforcements
(February 1917–March 1918)

British War Medal, Victory Medal

Charles was the youngest of 11 children to James and Martha Flanders. On 10 May 1915, Charles married Evelyn May Routledge from Redland Bay. They had two children, Florence and Clement.

He was working as a farmer when he enlisted on 6 October 1917, aged 25. He embarked for the Suez Canal on 2 March 1918. After contracting measles he proceeded to France, reaching the front line in August just after the Battle of Amiens. Charles was wounded in action by a phosgene gas shell on 29 September 1918 and died on 3 October.

When Charles did not return from the war, the community of Redland Bay came together and built his family a home. All materials and labour were donated.

Charles' name is listed on the Cleveland cenotaph.

Sources
Australian War Memorial
Simpson, R Private 5270 Charles Hill Flanders 31st Btn (unpublished manuscript)
**GUNNER 31920**

George Alfred Foggitt

**9 Field Artillery Brigade**  
**2 to 8 Reinforcements (August 1916–February 1917)**

*British War Medal, Victory Medal*

When George was 22, he enlisted as a gunner and embarked on 10 February 1917 from Sydney aboard RMS *Osterley* for France.

On 3 October 1917 George’s left leg was hit by shrapnel, and on 7 October he suffered a severe gunshot wound to his right leg. As a result of his wounds, he transferred to the Army Pay Staff in 1918 and returned to Australia on the *Orca* on 12 February 1919. He was discharged on 12 May 1919.

Jenny McCullagh recalls that George was a great friend of her grandfather, Jack Kidd, and both were very involved in the early days of the Redland Bay Golf Club.

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*Postcard of carving number 19 in Chalk Hill, Fovant Down, Salisbury, UK*  
*Win Collins*

**Sources**  
Australian War Memorial  
Jenny McCullagh  
National Archives of Australia
Charles (Charlie) William Foley

PRIVATE 3753

49th Australian Infantry Battalion
69th Australian Infantry Battalion
13th Australian Machine Gun Company

British War Medal, Victory Medal

Charles Foley was born on North Stradbroke Island and worked as an oysterman. He enlisted in the First World War on 14 September 1915 at the age of 34, and listed his next of kin as his cousin, Elizabeth Iselin from Dunwich. He had gained a reputation for great seamanship skills and bravery before the war.

Some excitement was caused amongst the crew of the sailing boat Cockroach on Sunday night whilst anchored off Mud Island fishing. It appears that one of the crew named Fred Johnson hooked a large shark, the monster eventually pulling him (Johnson) overboard.

The cry of Johnson overboard aroused the skipper, Charley Foley, who was taking ‘forty winks’ in the stern sheets of the boat. Charley jumped overboard and just rescued Johnson as he was drowning.

To mark their appreciation of Foley’s presence of mind in jumping overboard and saving Johnson’s life, the crew intend to present to young Foley a purse of sovereigns.

— Queensland Figaro, Thursday 26 May 1910

Aunty Margaret Iselin recalls Charles Foley as a skilled fisherman and superb swimmer. She remembers one day when they were out boating, the anchor got stuck. She was impressed with him diving effortlessly under the water to free the anchor.

He served overseas, and was discharged in 1918 with rheumatism. He was buried in the Dunwich cemetery in 1944.

Charles Foley is commemorated on the Roll of Honour in the Dunwich Public Hall as ‘Charlie Foley’. He was an Aboriginal soldier.

Source
Stradbroke 100. North Stradbroke Island’s First World War Soldiers and the Homefront, North Stradbroke Island Historical Museum 2016
Frederick Charles Gale had been working as a labourer in Blackall when the First World War was declared. He enlisted on 17 September 1915 when he was 21. He embarked from Sydney aboard HMAT Ceramic A40 on 14 April 1916.

Fred was given the nickname 'Darkie' due to his olive complexion and dark curly hair. After a year in Egypt, he embarked from Alexandria for Marseilles in France on 29 May 1917, where he joined the 1st Australian Divisional Base Depot at Étaples. On 1 August 1916 he was taken on strength in the 103rd Australian (Howitzer) Battery.

On 8 September 1917, Fred was wounded in action in Belgium and was admitted to hospital with shrapnel injuries to his chest and arms. He died of his wounds on 25 September 1917, aged 23, and is buried at Lijssenthoek Cemetery in Poperinge, Belgium.

Frederick’s name is listed on the Cleveland cenotaph.

Sources

Australian War Memorial

John Giaconomatos

National Archives of Australia
John Woodside Gibson

ANZAC 9 Infantry Battalion (September 1914)

1914–15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal

At the time of his enlistment on 29 August 1914, John worked as a fruit farmer on Silas Brimblecombe’s farm (page 10). John embarked in September 1914 for Gallipoli and was part of the first wave of soldiers to land at Anzac Cove. He was killed in action on 25 April 1915.

We shall be grateful for any further news that may come of him—tho’ I have very little hope of it.
—excerpt from a letter from John’s father

John’s name is listed on the Redland Bay cenotaph.

Sources
Australian War Memorial
Linda Minelle, community researcher
National Archives of Australia
PRIVATE 5368
George Edwin Giles

2 Infantry Battalion
13 to 23 Reinforcements
(December 1915–November 1916)

British War Medal, Victory Medal

George Giles was born in Buckingham, England, in 1889 and migrated to Australia aged 21.

George enlisted at Cootamundra on 21 January 1916, when he was 26. He embarked from Sydney and arrived in Marseilles in June 1916, and transferred to the 54th Battalion in August that year. After receiving gunshot wounds to both arms in December 1916, he was sent to hospital in London.

On 18 June 1918, he married Ethel Hodder before returning to France in August. He died of wounds on 13 September 1918.

Harry Giles, a family member, ran a plumbing business at Redland Bay after the war. George’s name was added to the Redland Bay cenotaph at Harry’s request.

Sources
Australian War Memorial
Giles family
Linda Minelle, community researcher
Robert Mansfield Gordon

3 Infantry Battalion Naval and Military Forces
Special Tropical Corps (November 1914)
1 Machine Gun Company 2 to 10 Reinforcements
(April 1916–January 1917)

British War Medal, Victory Medal

Robert had two periods of service in the First World War.

He was unmarried and 33 when he enlisted on 2 November 1914. He joined the 3rd Battalion, Naval and Military Forces—Special Tropical Corps. His brother, CD Gordon from Redland Bay, was named as his next of kin.

His unit embarked from Sydney aboard SS Eastern on 28 December 1914. In June 1915, Robert suffered from appendicitis and malaria while serving on Kawang Island, New Ireland in Papua New Guinea. After several more attacks, he underwent surgery on 20 December 1915. He was discharged on 31 May 1916.

He rejoined the AIF on 22 June 1916 as a driver for the 4th Machine Gun Battalion. The unit embarked for France on 23 November 1916 from Melbourne aboard HMAT Hororata A20. He returned to Australia on 15 June 1919 and was discharged on 10 September 1919.

Gordon Street in Redland Bay is named after his family.

Sources
Australian War Memorial
Jenny McCullagh
National Archives of Australia

Attestation paper of Robert Gordon
National Archives of Australia: 82455, Gordon, Robert Mansfield, page 1 of 43
Arthur Neil Gunn

41 Infantry Battalion (May 1916)

British War Medal, Victory Medal

Arthur was working as a farm hand on a family property in Laidley, Queensland, when he enlisted on 27 March 1916. His ship HMAT Demosthenes A64 left Sydney on 18 May, proceeding to Southampton in England, then France.

Arthur was buried by three shell explosions. At one time his trench caved in under enemy bombardment, leaving Arthur the sole survivor. It was two-and-a-half days before he was rescued. During this time he could hear the field phone ringing but in the darkness he could not locate the mouthpiece to reply.

By good fortune, Arthur was reunited with his brothers, Norman and William, while they were serving on the Western Front. All three brothers survived the war and returned to Manly on Brisbane’s bayside, where Arthur married his childhood sweetheart, Grace Randall from Wynnnum West.

They moved to One Mile on North Stradbroke Island.

Arthur got on well with the Aboriginal community and learned to speak with them in their own language. The Gunn children attended Dunwich State School, and later Arthur built his family a holiday hut at Amity Point.

Arthur suffered from the effects of shell shock throughout his life. His medical records from the 1940s indicate that he experienced hysteria, asthma, nervous attacks, tremors and ‘fits of emotionalism’. He died on 23 July 1973.

Sources
Australian War Memorial
Gunn family
PRIVATE 3581 and 4194

Herbert Montague Hardgrave

4 Pioneer Battalion
2 to 11 Reinforcements
(April 1916–August 1917)

British War Medal, Victory Medal

Herbert was working as a fruit farmer when he enlisted in the 50th Battalion, aged 26. His mother, who lived at Wellington Point, was listed as his next of kin. He embarked for Europe from Sydney on the HMAT Ayrshire A33 on 24 January 1917, and served in France.

His rebellious nature saw him in trouble with officers for failing to obey orders and for being absent without leave. On court martial, he was forced to forfeit some days’ pay.

On 12 September 1917 he was wounded, and for several months during the latter part of 1918, he was hospitalised with influenza. Despite these hardships, Herbert served two tours of duty before being discharged.

He married Winifred Amy Moore on 21 January 1920. Around this time he was being treated for defective hearing and was given a hearing aid by the Repatriation Commission. Herbert was completely deaf when he died on 8 March 1981.

Sources
Australian War Memorial
Jennie McCullagh
National Archives of Australia
**DRIVER** 17209  
Arthur Walter Harward  
7/4 Pioneers  

*British War Medal, Victory Medal*

Arthur Harward was born on North Stradbroke Island to Walter and Lottie Harward (nee Campbell). He was working as a baker when he enlisted on 19 June 1916. His brother Robert Percy Harward had joined up earlier. After serving overseas, Arthur was discharged in August 1919. His granddaughter Cheryl Harward remembers him:

He went to Myora School in 1904, then to the Dunwich State School in 1908. Arthur enlisted in the First World War in 1916 as a driver. He was 22 years of age. His trade was as a baker at the Wacol Asylum. He returned home from the war in 1919 at the age of 25 years. Then he came back to Wacol Asylum and worked there till he was 70 years of age as head baker. His father was the chief attendant of the Asylum, Walter Blake Harward. He started at the Asylum, only as a wardsman. He ended up becoming chief attendant at the Asylum.

He and my great-grandmother Charlotte lived in a government house, the ones near the bait and tackle shop and the fruit shop. Walter helped to establish the new Dunwich School between 1904 and 1908 before it opened. He was part of the creation of it.

He was married three times and when he got older he was on his own. He was living with us when he took a massive stroke. He was 82.

Pop never spoke about the war. He said you don’t need to know.  
—Interview with Cheryl Harward, recorded at the North Stradbroke Island Historical Museum, February 2015

Arthur Harward is commemorated on the Roll of Honour in the Dunwich Public Hall. The Harward family still has deep connections to North Stradbroke Island.

**SE情形** 443  
Robert Percy Harward  
2nd Australian Tunnelling Coy, Australian Army Pay Corps  

*British War Medal, Victory Medal*

Robert Harward was born to Walter and Lottie Harward (nee Campbell). Robert was the second of their eight children: Arthur, Robert, Irene, Reginald, Hilda, Charlotte (Lottie), Alfred and Walter. Robert attended the Myora Mission School and then Dunwich State School.

Robert was almost 20 when he enlisted in November 1915. His brother Arthur Harward joined up the following year.

Robert served in France and was wounded, before being discharged in 1919.

After returning to Australia, he married Elinor Hooton in 1932 and had four children. They lived in Coolangatta but also spent some time in Lismore.

During, and for some time after the Second World War, when there was a period of rationing and price control, Robert worked for the Prices Branch in Brisbane. He did some small bookmaking as a hobby.

One of his daughters, Diana Coghill, remembers him:

Dad was pretty colourful. He was about 5 foot 2 or 5 foot 3, always looked like a bookmaker; always wore polished shoes and a little hat. That’s how I grew up knowing him.

I know Dad was really fond of his Mum but it is said that he had forged his mother’s signature on the Parent’s Consent Form to go to war.

He was gassed in the trenches. He only had one lung that worked and used to get pneumonia. Dad never talked about the war. There was only once that he mentioned to us about the food rationing. He said you would eat anything because you were so hungry even though you were in the trenches, in the mud, with dead bodies.

My brother said that he remembered that although Dad proudly wore his small Returned Services badge on his suit, he never attended any Anzac Day ceremony.

I think that he had a tough time in the war. I think that he became quite a timid man after that. He was also a very nervous man and we always thought that that was from the war.  
— Interview with Robert’s daughter, Diana Coghill, recorded at the North Stradbroke Island Historical Museum, February 2015

Robert Percy Harward died in Brisbane on May 28 1985 when he was 90. He is commemorated on the Roll of Honour in the Dunwich Public Hall.

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Sources  
Dunwich State School Roll 1900  
Queensland State Archives  
Stradbroke 100. North Stradbroke Island’s First World War Soldiers and the Homefront North Stradbroke Island Historical Museum 2016
STAFF NURSE
Florence Herbertson

2 Australian General Hospital
1 to 16 and Special Reinforcements
(December 1914–March 1916) [II]

1914–15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal

Florence Herbertson was born on 21 March 1885 in Clunes, Victoria. She trained as a nurse at Gladstone Hospital and was appointed Head Nurse at Longreach Hospital in 1913.

Florence was living in Ormiston when she enlisted as a staff nurse in July 1915, aged 30.

She embarked from Sydney on RMS Orantes on 31 July 1915. Her next of kin was her mother, Mrs R Herbertson from Ormiston.

Florence served in 1 Australian General Hospital in Heliopolis, Egypt and 4 Auxiliary Hospital, Ismailia. She also worked on HMHS Essequibo. On 25 September 1916 she travelled to England aboard the Karoola and began work at 3 Auxiliary Hospital Dartford in Kent on 8 October 1916. She returned to Australia as nursing staff on 10 September 1917 aboard Ulysses.

After the war, Florence continued nursing Australian soldiers at Kyoomba Sanatorium, Stanthorpe and Rosemount Repatriation Hospital in Windsor, Brisbane.

On 1 June 1921, Florence married Field Flowers. She died on 7 July 1962 at the age of 77.

Florence’s brother Captain Robert Charles Herbertson (page 35) served with the 1st Field Company, Australian Engineers at Gallipoli.
CAPTAIN Robert Charles Herbertson

Field Company Engineers 1 to 12 Reinforcements (December 1914 – December 1915)

Robert was born in Clunes, Victoria. He was the eldest son of Robert Herbertson, a former Member for Port Curtis. Robert became an engineer and gained extensive experience in high explosives from working in mines.

Robert was unmarried at the time of his enlistment.

After serving at Gallipoli, he quickly rose through the ranks and was promoted to sergeant, second lieutenant and lieutenant. After returning to Egypt with complications from bronchitis, he then went to the Western Front, where he was promoted to captain on 12 March 1916. He was killed in action on 23 July 1916. He is buried at Villers-Bretonneux in Somme, France.

The personal notices of the Brisbane Courier carried the following announcement:

Mr R Herbertson, Ormiston, Cleveland line, has received from his Excellency the Governor-General the following message received from their Majesties the King and Queen. The King and Queen deeply regret the loss you and the army have sustained by the death of your son in the service of his country. Their Majesties truly sympathise with you in your sorrow. His Excellency the Governor-General has also expressed his heartfelt sympathy at the loss to Mr and Mrs Herbertson of their son.

— Brisbane Courier of 26 August 1916

Robert left a widow, Bertha. She was sent his widow’s pension and awards. Robert’s connection to the Redlands is through his parents who were living in Ormiston at the time of his enlistment. His name is listed on the Cleveland cenotaph. Robert’s sister Florence (page 34) served as a nurse.
PRIVATE 5029
James Cooper Hope

31 Infantry Battalion
13 to 15 Reinforcements

British War Medal, Victory Medal

James Hope was born in Manchester, England, and enlisted in Brisbane in April 1917 when he was 40 years old. His complexion was noted on his enlistment papers as ‘grey’.

He worked as a warder at the Dunwich Benevolent Asylum when he enlisted. He had made a remarkable transformation from an inmate to a warder, as Aunty Rosie Borey remembers from when she was a child living in Dunwich:

I can remember mostly the family. He married one of the nurses from the Benevolent Asylum. They had two boys...they went to school with us.

He was really unfit, that James Hope, because they said he could hardly walk when he came to Dunwich. Some of our locals used to take him down to the beach and dig in the salt water sand and cover him over. Eventually they got him back to walking on his feet. He was an inmate. They got him to the stage where he finished up getting a job.

— Aunty Rosie Borey, recorded at the North Stradbroke Island Historical Museum, February 2015

His next of kin was listed as his brother in England. James was discharged in 1919 as medically unfit, and returned to Australia. He is commemorated on the Roll of Honour in the Dunwich Public Hall.

Source
Stradbroke 100. North Stradbroke Island’s First World War Soldiers and the Homefront, North Stradbroke Island Historical Museum 2016
PRIVATE 732

Alfonso Juan Stewart Isbel

1 Machine Gun Company
11 to 14 Reinforcements
(May–October 1917)

British War Medal, Victory Medal

Alfonso Isbel enlisted on 1 February 1917. At that time he was living at Coorparoo in Brisbane, and his occupation was listed as waterside worker.

Between March and May 1918, he was hospitalised in England, but returned to France on 12 September 1918. Nine days later he was killed in action. He was 41.

He is buried at the Unicorn Cemetery in Picardie, France. He left a wife, Mary, and five children: Isabella, Mary, William, Alfred and Caroline.

I have had nothing out of his pockets, not even his disc so I don’t know what to think ... a friend of mine got all her husband’s belongings and I have not received anything...

— Excerpt from a letter from Alfonso’s widow Mary to the Secretary of Defence, 1920

Alfonso’s name is listed on the Redland Bay cenotaph.

Sources
Australian War Memorial
Isbel family
Linda Minelle, community researcher
PRIVATE 53037
Horace Andrew James

1 to 8 (Queensland) Reinforcements
(May–November 1918)

British War Medal, Victory Medal

Horace was 18 and working as a draper when he enlisted on 7 December 1917.

The unit embarked from Sydney, aboard RMS Osterley on 8 May 1918, and disembarked at Liverpool on 10 July. After being stationed at the army camp at Fovant, England, the unit proceeded to France on 9 October.

On 6 April 1919 Horace was admitted to the 40th Stationary Hospital in Harfleur, Normandy, suffering from influenza.

Fortunately Horace survived both the flu and the war and returned to Australia on 2 August 1919. Horace became well-known as the policeman at Cleveland. He lived in Passage Street, Cleveland, and died on 11 July 1968.

Sources
Australian War Memorial
Connor, S Flu epidemic traced to Great War transit camp, The Guardian
(UK), Saturday 8 January 2000 [Accessed 2009–05–09]
National Archives of Australia
Redland Museum
PRIVATE 1050A
Albert Andrew (Alfred) Johnston
9th Battalion (41st Battalion)
British War Medal, Victory Medal

BOMBARDIER 659
Alexander Johnston
11th Howitzer Battery (25th Battalion)
British War Medal, Victory Medal

Albert and Alexander were born in Beenleigh to Charles and Amelia Anne Johnston.

Alexander was unmarried and working as a labourer when he enlisted on 22 February 1915. On 25 January 1916, Albert enlisted the day before his 18th birthday. He was unmarried and working as a dairyman.

Albert joined the 41st Battalion and embarked from Sydney aboard HMAT Demosthenes A64 in May 1916, travelling to England, then France. He died of wounds on Christmas Eve 1916 on his first day of battle. He was 18.

Alexander joined the 25th Battalion C Company and embarked from Brisbane on 29 June 1915. He served on the Gallipoli Peninsula before going to France. Alexander was killed in action on 14 January 1917.

Albert is buried at Dartmoor Cemetery in Bécordel-Bécourt, France. Alexander is buried at Bulls Road Cemetery in Picardie, France.

The Johnston brothers are linked to Redland Bay through their older brother Robert, their official next of kin, who was living there at the time of their deaths.

Their names are listed on the Redland Bay cenotaph.

Sources
Australian War Memorial
Linda Minelle
National Archives of Australia
PRIVATE 64364
Albert Jones

6th Reinforcements

British War Medal, Victory Medal

Although he claimed to be born in Gympie on his enlistment papers, Albert had lived at Cherbourg with his mother, Lucy Lane. He enlisted in Gayndah.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines gave him permission to serve overseas as he was only 18 years old.

Albert Jones returned from war in 1919 and went to Maryborough to work for the Levinge family oystering. Albert would bring oysters down to the banks below Big Hill at Myora to fatten them.

He married Louisa Newfong and had nine children. His daughter, Aunty Margaret Iselin, remembers him as a man who never drank. He used to whistle his grandchildren to sleep.

He died at the age of 59 and is buried in the Dunwich cemetery. He never received a war pension because the Repatriation Commission claimed to have lost his files and never accepted he served overseas.

He would never talk about the war. He did share his deep sadness he felt when leaving [the war] because they had to shoot all the wonderful horses, which they had grown attached to.

— Aunty Patsy Miethke, granddaughter

His surviving children are Aunty Margaret Iselin, Aunty Cynthia Flucker and Uncle Kenny Jones. He was an Aboriginal soldier.

PRIVATE 3564
Frederick (Fred) George Kelly

25th Infantry Battalion
1 to 8 Reinforcements

British War Medal, Victory Medal

Fred Kelly was born in Rockhampton and enlisted when he was 18 in 1915 in Brisbane.

His parents were Arthur and Ethel Kelly of Dunwich. Arthur worked at the Dunwich Benevolent Asylum as a carpenter. Because of Frederick’s young age, Arthur had to provide a letter of permission to the Recruiting Officer, allowing his son to enlist.

After he was discharged in April 1919 with a shoulder wound, he returned to work with the Customs Department. He died in Roma at age 50 while working there as an excise officer.

Frederick Kelly is commemorated on the Roll of Honour in the Dunwich Public Hall as Fred Kelly.

Source
Stradbroke 100: North Stradbroke Island’s First World War Soldiers and the Homefront, North Stradbroke Island Historical Museum 2016
PRIVATE 6169
John Martin Kelso
25th Australian Infantry Battalion

British War Medal, Victory Medal

PRIVATE 1547
Carl Albert Kelso
31 Infantry Battalion
1 Reinforcements (November 1915)

1914-15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal

John Martin Kelso was employed as an engine cleaner when he enlisted in the
25th Battalion, 17th Reinforcements. On 27 October 1916, he embarked from Brisbane
aboard HMAT Marathon A74 for Southampton and proceeded to France and then Belgium.
There, he received multiple shrapnel wounds and later died on 27 October 1917. He is buried
in Menin Road South Military Cemetery in Belgium.

John’s name is listed on the Cleveland cenotaph.

John’s brother, Carl, was employed as a carter when he enlisted in the 31st Battalion on
20 July 1915. He spent the next two years in Egypt, including time in hospital with rheumatic
fever. In October 1917, he proceeded to France where he suffered a shrapnel wound to his left
ankle. While on furlough he married Kate Gilpin on 30 March 1918.

In June 1918, Carl contracted influenza. He was discharged on 2 April 1919 and returned to
Australia. In July 1919, he is recorded as living in Wellington Point and working as a greengrocer
and fruiterer. In that month, Carl enlisted again in the Special Service AIF and embarked on
HMAT Ijirina on 13 August 1919. He returned to Australia aboard Zelandic on 16 May 1920.

Carl went on to serve in the Second World War. He died on 29 March 1947 and is buried in
Lutwyche Cemetery.

Kelso Street, Wellington Point, bears the family name.

Sources
Australian War Memorial
Jennie McCullagh
John Giacomomatino
National Archives of Australia
Sue Skinner
Robert (Bob) Kidd

25 Infantry Battalion
1 to 8 Reinforcements
(June 1915–January 1916)

1914–15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal

George Kidd

7 Machine Gun Company
2 to 9 Reinforcements
(May–December 1916)

British War Medal, Victory Medal

Robert and his brother George were born to Alexander and Jemima Kidd at Redland Bay in 1890 and 1892 respectively. Robert was 24 and working as a labourer when he enlisted in the First World War. He embarked from Brisbane aboard HMAT Aeneas A60 with the 25th Infantry Battalion. After his return on 27 April 1919, he married Isabella McDowell Clark, and had a son Alexander.

George was 23 and working as a farmer when he enlisted. He departed from Melbourne on 16 August 1916 aboard RMS Orontes with the 7th Machine Gun Company. He was promoted to sergeant and returned home on 12 June 1919.

George married May ‘Chrissie’ Thompson and settled on a farm on Point O’Halloran Road.

George died in 1957.

Sources
Australian War Memorial
Jenny McCullagh (nee Kidd)
Kidd family
Thomas Graham Kirk was born in Cleveland on 19 July 1895. He was one of six children born to Thomas and Annie Kirk, who lived at 151 Shore Street in Cleveland. The house still stands next to the Courthouse Restaurant. Thomas and his siblings attended Cleveland State School. When the railway line to Cleveland was opened on 1 November 1889, Thomas Kirk Senior was the first engine driver.

Out of a desire to provide better opportunities for their children, the Kirks moved to South Brisbane in 1910. The Cleveland community held the Kirk family in such high esteem, they organised a public farewell at Cleveland School of Arts on 16 June 1910.

Tom served five years as a naval cadet before he enlisted in June 1915 and joined the 10th reinforcements 15th Battalion. He embarked from Brisbane on 5 October 1915 aboard HMAT Warrilda A69. In February 1916, he joined the Battalion at Moascar, an isolation camp set up to screen the health of soldiers arriving in Egypt as reinforcements.

In March, Tom transferred to the 47th Battalion at Tel-el-Kebir, Egypt, where 40,000 Australians were camped in a tent city six miles long. During the Gallipoli landings and the Sinai and Palestine campaigns, Tel-el-Kebir was a training centre for the First AIF reinforcements, 2 Australian Stationary Hospital and the site of a large war prisoner camp.

Tom was later promoted to Bombadiers (corporal) at Serapeum on the Suez Canal. He served in the 11th Field Artillery Brigade on the Western Front, France, where he was severely wounded. He was transferred to the 44th Casualty Clearing Station at Bullecourt, France but died of wounds on 8 April 1917, aged 21. He is buried at the Euston Road Cemetery in Picardie, France.

Sources
Australian War Memorial
Ian Kirk
Peter Ludlow
Ivy Perkins
PRIVATE 242

Thomas Henry Lea

12th Machine Gun Company

British War Medal, Victory Medal

Thomas was born in Dunwich and worked as a fisherman. He had a wife and a child. He enlisted as Thomas Henry Lee in Brisbane in September 1915 when he was 29. His papers describe him as ‘Dark — half-caste Maori’ although he was from the Lifu family of New Caledonia. He was discharged a few weeks later, along with Benjamin Manager (page 45). Both their papers had ‘services no longer required’ written across the front page. He enlisted again in January 1916—this time as Thomas Henry Lea—and embarked for active service abroad. After serving in France, he was discharged as permanently medically unfit due to asthma. On return from the war, he lived with his wife Ethel in Cleveland. He was an Aboriginal soldier.

Sergeant 303

James Muncaster Lovatt

ANZAC 9th Australian Infantry Battalion

1914–15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal

James Muncaster Lovatt was born in Manchester. He was the fourth of nine children to James and Mary Lovatt (née Muncaster). He had previously served in the military as a captain in the Transvaal Cycle Corps at Johannesburg. He arrived in Australia in 1904 when he was 31. At the time of his enlistment on 20 August 1914, he was 33 and working as a farmer for Silas Brimblecombe (page 10) in Redland Bay. He joined the 9th Infantry Battalion and embarked from Brisbane on 24 September 1914 on board Transport SS Omrah A5 bound for Egypt.

James rose quickly in the ranks. On 28 August he was appointed lance corporal, corporal, then sergeant on 15 September. He left Egypt on 2 March 1915 to join the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force for the Gallipoli Campaign. On 25 April 1915, he was reported missing at Gaba Tepe (Anzac Cove).

Sergeant Lovatt was in charge of an escort of Turkish prisoners on April 25th, when all disappeared. There is no knowledge of what became of any of them.

—witness statement from 6 October 1915

James was officially declared to have been killed in action on Gallipoli Peninsula on 25 April 1915. He has no known grave but his commemoration details are recorded on the Lone Pine Memorial (Panel 30), Gallipoli, Turkey. James’ name is listed on the Redland Bay cenotaph.

Sources
Australian War Memorial
AIF Database
National Archives of Australia
**DEPOT**  
**Benjamin James Manager**

Benjamin Manager was born in Dunwich and enlisted when he was 18 on 10 September 1915.

His mother was Elizabeth Burke from Dunwich and his father was Benjamin Manager (Managai), a Maori from New Zealand.

The family worked for the Moreton Bay Oyster Company at Curriege on South Stradbroke Island, and lived at Myora.

His enlistment papers noted his ‘distinguished features’ as ‘Maori extraction’, and he was discharged on 1 November 1915 for being ‘half-caste’ on the same day as Henry Lea (page 44).

Benjamin was an Aboriginal soldier.

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**LANCE CORPORAL 3135**  
**Francis Herbert Mansfield**

**4th Pioneers Battalion**

**British War Medal, Victory Medal**

Francis was born on North Stradbroke Island to Richard and Mary Mansfield. His father was a fisherman.

Francis worked as a carpenter before the war, and had spent four years as a cadet and three years in the Citizen Infantry Forces.

He enlisted in the First World War in Brisbane on 2 May 1916, when he had just turned 21.

He married Daisy Wenlock in England in June 1919, and they returned to Australia together later that year. He died of pulmonary tuberculosis when he was 45.

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**Source**  
Stradbroke 100: North Stradbroke Island’s First World War Soldiers and the Homefront, North Stradbroke Island Historical Museum 2016
15th Battalion, transferred to 47th Battalion

1914–15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal

Richard was almost 23 when he enlisted in Brisbane on 17 December 1914. He claimed on his enlistment papers that he was born in Dunedin, New Zealand, although he was born in Dunwich.

Richard sailed for Gallipoli on 13 February 1915. After Gallipoli the soldiers remaining from the 15th Battalion joined the newly formed 47th Battalion and were shipped to the Western Front in early June 1916.

Richard fought in several campaigns including the Battle of Pozieres and the First and Second Battles of the Somme. He was wounded three times and killed in action on 28 March 1918. His name is listed on the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial in France. His grave is unknown but military records advise that he is buried in the Dernacourt Cemetery.

Thomas Welsby was with Richard’s brother, Alfred, when the telegram arrived with the news of Richard’s death:

His brother was working on the carburettor when the fatal telegram was placed in his hands. We knew. A few minutes, two or three, passed in silence, when he turned his face to me, and with tears in hopeful, and yet with cheering eyes, said, ‘Well, Mr Welsby, Dick died with his boots on’ (and that meant everything), and went on working.

— Thomas Welsby, Memories of Amity, 1922

His mother Rosey Martin battled with the Repatriation Commission for many years, but was not able to receive a war pension.

Richard Martin is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, and also has a heart-shaped marble memorial stone on the wall of the Dunwich Public Hall. He was an Aboriginal soldier.
GUNNER 39227
Edmund James McDonald

Field Artillery Brigade 27 to 35 Reinforcements

British War Medal, Victory Medal

Edmund McDonald was born in Burra, South Australia. He had just turned 29 when he enlisted on 17 March 1917.

He served in France as a gunner and was discharged in early 1920.

Edmund also served in the Second World War, and was a sergeant in the Pay Corp. He died in June 1945, leaving his wife Lucy and daughter Marjorie. He is buried in the AIF Cemetery in Adelaide.

Edmund’s connection with Dunwich, and reason for appearing on the Roll of Honour in the Dunwich Public Hall, is a mystery.

Source
Stradbroke 100. North Stradbroke Island’s First World War Soldiers and the Homefront, North Stradbroke Island Historical Museum 2016
James McGregor was born in Scotland and worked as a hospital attendant at the Dunwich Benevolent Asylum before the war. He was 35 years of age when he first enlisted on 12 November 1915 in Brisbane. James travelled overseas on two separate occasions. First he joined the 3rd Tropical Force, and was sent to Rabaul in Papua New Guinea. After 18 months they were returned to Australia. A year later, James re-enlisted and was sent to France. He was discharged and returned to Australia in 1919. James McGregor died in Brisbane in 1922. He is commemorated on the Roll of Honour in the Dunwich Public Hall.

Albert was 27 years old when he enlisted with his younger brother Frederick, aged 19, in Cleveland on 16 March 1916. They were both unmarried and working as farmhands and timber-getters. They embarked with the third reinforcements of the 41st Battalion from Brisbane on 7 September 1916, arriving in France that November. The battalion entered the front line for the first time on Christmas Eve. The battalion engaged in many battles in Belgium and played a supporting role in the Battle of Messines on 7 June 1917. At 2am on 10 June 1917, Fred and Albert were both hit by the same shell while conducting duties in a ration-carrying party. Fred was killed instantly while Albert died the following night. The tragic news reached their older brother William as he was travelling to England to join the war. Frederick and Albert are listed on the Redland Bay cenotaph.
William (Bill) Richard John Mills

52nd Australian Infantry Battalion

British War Medal, Victory Medal

William, the older brother of Frederick and Albert, was born on 4 November 1876 to William Mills Sr and Elizabeth Mills. William married Ellen Burrel in 1908 and had three children.

He was living in Cleveland and working as a blacksmith when the First World War started.

William was initially rejected when he went to enlist—probably because he was only 4 foot 11 inches tall. Because he had skills as a blacksmith, he finally succeeded on 21 April 1917. He joined the 42nd Battalion and embarked on 14 June 1917. While travelling he received the news that both his younger brothers had been killed.

In late March 1918, the German Army mounted a major offensive on the Western Front. The Australian 4th Division was positioned strategically to defend significant positions south of the River Ancre in France.

William was transferred to the 52nd Battalion in April 1918. His battalion successfully supported the force–back of the largest German assault launched against Australian forces during the First World War. This military action became known as the Battle of Dernancourt.

The German Army continued its unrelenting attack during April and on the 24th, the Germans unleashed tanks for the first time in battle and saturated the area of Villers–Bretonneux with mustard gas. Sadly, William was killed in action during this attack.

The following day (Anzac Day), the 52nd Battalion took part in a renowned attack that extricated the German forces from Villers–Bretonneux. The defeat of the Germans at Villers–Bretonneux is regarded by many military experts as one of the finest exploits of arms on the Western Front and saved Amiens from further German aggression.

William is buried in Adelaide Cemetery, Villers–Bretonneux, France. His name is listed on the Cleveland and Redland Bay cenotaphs.

Sources
John Giacomantino
Mills family
National Archives of Australia
Private Doug Morton

Douglas (Doug) Herbert Harrison Morton

9 Infantry Battalion
1 to 9 Reinforcements (December 1914–September 1915)

Military Medal, 1914–15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal

Doug Morton was born in Brisbane in 1897. He was attending Gatton Agricultural College at the time the war started. He enlisted on 31 March 1915 and embarked from Brisbane aboard HMAT Karoola A63 on 12 June 1915.

Doug was part of the second group that went into Gallipoli. After contracting typhoid he was admitted to hospital in England before returning to fight in France and Passchendaele. In September 1916, Doug received a severe head wound at the battle for Mouquet Farm near Pozières. Following emergency surgery, during which he had a metal plate inserted in the back of his head, Doug was sent to Scotland to recover. Doug was awarded the Military Medal for his ‘exceptional bravery and capability at Pozières’.

Doug was sent home to Australia in March 1917. Surprisingly, he re-enlisted in May 1918 and embarked on 7 November. His ship was in Auckland when the Armistice was signed on 11 November 1918.

On returning home, Doug bought a farm on Coochiemudlo Island. Like everyone who had managed to live through the horrors of battle during the war, his experiences traumatised him. The metal plate at the back of his head also caused him a lot of pain.

In 1921, Doug married Beatrice Mary Colburn (Mary) and together they established their farm. They had two children and farmed on Coochiemudlo island for the next 41 years.

The residents of Coochiemudlo Island honoured the Mortons and their contributions to the island by declaring a reserve in their name on the high western sector of the island.

Sources
Australian War Memorial
No. 62 19 April 1917
Conversation of Peter Ludlow with Paul Island, Doug Morton’s grandson
David Paxton, President, Coochiemudlo Heritage Society
PRIVATE 5297

Henry Myers

31 Infantry Battalion
13 to 15 Reinforcements
(February 1917–March 1918)

British War Medal, Victory Medal

Henry Myers was unmarried and working as a farmer in Redland Bay when he enlisted in the 31st Battalion, 15th Reinforcements on 17 October 1917 at the age of 41. The upper limit of the recruitment age had been raised as the war progressed to reflect the increased difficulty in obtaining volunteers. His unit embarked from Sydney aboard SS Ormonde on 2 March 1918 for Southampton via Egypt, where he was hospitalised with pleurisy and measles. Both conditions were caused by the troops’ close contact while aboard ship. From England he went to the Western Front in France.

When the war ended, Henry was granted leave to further his studies in agriculture. On returning to Australia, he resumed farming at Redland Bay.

Sources
Australian War Memorial
National Archives of Australia
Jennie McCullagh

H Myers, one of the soldiers photographed in The Queenslander Pictorial, supplement to The Queenslander, 1918
PRIVATE 1201
Alfred Noble

9 Infantry Battalion
1 to 9 Reinforcements
(December 1914 – September 1915)

1914–15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal

CORPORAL 2803
Richard Joseph Noble

Infantry Battalion
1 to 8 Reinforcements (June 1915 – January 1916)

1914–15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal

Alfred Noble was the first son of Joseph and Augusta Noble. He was 20 and labouring in Cleveland when he enlisted as a private in the 9th Battalion, 1st Reinforcement on 9 December 1914. His unit embarked from Melbourne aboard HMAT Themistocles A 32 on 22 December 1914.

After disembarking in Egypt, Alfred joined the AIF invasion of Gallipoli and, on 8 July 1915, suffered a severe gunshot wound to his spine. He was admitted, dangerously ill, to the 17th General Hospital Alexandria on 10 July 1915. He died of his wounds on 2 August 1915 and was buried in the Chatby Military Cemetery, Alexandria, Egypt.

Richard Joseph Noble, Alfred’s brother, was 21, unmarried and working as a farmer when he enlisted in the 25th Battalion, 25th Reinforcements on 22 July 1915. His unit embarked from Brisbane on board HMAT Seang Bee A 48 on 21 October 1915 bound for Egypt.

He then proceeded to England and France, where he was promoted to the rank of corporal. He survived the war on the Western Front, as well as bouts of influenza and dysentery, and returned to Australia on 28 March 1919.

Sources
Australian War Memorial
John Giacomanteno
National Archives of Australia
Pauline Topfer

Portrait of Private Alfred Noble
Australian War Memorial: H06050

Portrait of Private Richard Noble in uniform
Photo courtesy of Redland Libraries Local History and Heritage Collection HP: 6329

Remembering them
My Dear Mother & Father, just a few lines hoping you are both keeping in good health, as I am keeping in the very best of health myself. I only wish Dear Mother that you were always [sic] in good health. Dear Mother & Father, Fred [Burns] and I are in our Battalion (9th) Machine guns now. I am getting on all right with the Gun. Dear Mother it has been very hot this last fortnight and I suppose it is very cold with yous [sic]. Dear Mother I am getting a lot of your letters lately but there is a lot missing.

Yet I only got two letters dated by you April 17 & 18 so there is a good few to come, they will come sooner or later. I got another letter from my Girl in Brisbane to day [sic].

Dear Mother I would like to send you some cards of France but they won’t [sic] let any lately. Well Dear Mother & Father I will close now with the very best of respect from your loving Son. I am getting along alright [sic].

— Postcard sent by Richard Noble to his parents, 4 August 1916
Selwyn Joseph Outridge

Infantry Battalion
13 to 18 Reinforcements
(May–December 1916)

British War Medal, Victory Medal

Selwyn came from a prominent Redland Bay family. His father Percival was Chairman of the Tingalpa Divisional Board on three occasions between 1908 and 1920. Selwyn was 20 and working as a farmer in Redland Bay when he enlisted on 16 October 1916 and joined the 26th Battalion. He embarked for France on 22 December 1916, where he was shot in the right shoulder. He was admitted to the Boscombe Military Hospital in Bournemouth, England on 12 August 1918.

When the hostilities ended, Selwyn went AWOL in England for six months from 15 September 1919, for which he was reduced in rank from corporal to private and sentenced to 90 days’ detention at Wandsworth Barracks.

Selwyn married after the war and farmed at Redland Bay from 1925 until 1968. He died in 1970.

Sel Outridge Park is named in his honour.

Sources
Australian War Memorial
Jenny McCullagh
Kild family
Linda Minelle
Ryan, T Passing the Time: Tales of the Redlands, Cleveland, Qld: Redland Shire Council, 1996

Photo courtesy of Redland Libraries History and Heritage Collection HP 2010
Driver 9007

Robert Alfred Pattison

2 Divisional Ammunition Column (Nov 1915)

1914–15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal

Robert Pattison was born to David and Elizabeth Pattison on 21 September 1885. He was 29, unmarried, and employed as a shunter with the railway department when he enlisted.

Robert’s father David is thought to have been the overseer at Ormiston House. Their home, Brink Bonny, was located on Main Road, Wellington Point.

Robert returned from the war on 27 April 1919 and later married Clara Klemm. When his father died in 1941, Brink Bonny was transferred to Robert, who retained ownership until 1961.

Sources
Australian War Memorial
Bruce Pattison
National Archives of Australia
Victor (Vic) Reuben Percival

9 Field Artillery Brigade
1 to 8 Reinforcements
(May 1916–February 1917)

British War Medal, Victory Medal

Victor Percival was 22, unmarried and working as a carpenter when he enlisted as a driver in the 9th Battalion on 7 December 1915. The unit embarked from Sydney aboard HMAT Argyllshire A8 on 11 May 1916 for England and then France, where he was promoted to sergeant. Victor returned to Australia aboard the HMT Borda A30 on 11 May 1919 and was discharged on 13 August.

After the war, Victor returned to his father’s farm in the Redlands.

When my husband came home from the war, he was so bitter on the Germans. But we had to live here, and there was a lot of Germans about the Bay. They were part of our community and they had grown up together and they basically accepted each other.

— Victor’s wife, Pearl Percival

Eventually Vic’s poor health meant he could no longer work on his farm at Redland Bay. His wife Pearl appealed to the Queen on behalf of the 200 men who were gassed at the St Quentin battle. The men did not apply for war pensions when they were discharged, but suffered the effects of being gassed later in life. Victor never received a war pension.

Sources
Australian War Memorial
National Archives of Australia
PRIVATE 4639
John (Griff) Griffith Price

15 Infantry Battalion
1 to 23 Reinforcements
(December 1914 – November 1916)

British War Medal, Victory Medal

PRIVATE 4580
George Henry Price

15 Infantry Battalion
1 to 23 Reinforcements
(December 1914 – November 1916)

British War Medal, Victory Medal

PRIVATE 4581
Edward Price

15 Infantry Battalion
1 to 23 Reinforcements
(December 1914 – November 1916)

British War Medal, Victory Medal

John and his brothers, Edward and George, were born in Redland Bay to William and Mary Price. The brothers lived in Maryborough and were working as fishermen at the time the war started. John, the first of nine children, was the main provider for the family.

The three brothers enlisted together on 13 September 1915, then embarked from Brisbane on 31 January 1916.

John and Edward were runners—a position that required a lot of nerve and initiative.

While John was initially reported missing in early April 1917, a court of inquiry later declared that he had been killed in action on 11 April 1917. His brothers George and Edward returned to Australia after their service.

Military records show that, as much as four years later, John’s mother was still struggling to come to terms with his death. In a letter she wrote to the authorities in 1921, she was still seeking information about him.

I cannot think he is gone.

— National Archives of Australia: B2455, Price, John Griffith page 26 of 36

John is commemorated at the Australian National Memorial in Villers-Bretonneux. His name is listed on the Redland Bay cenotaph.
James Henry Norman (Norm) Price

15 Infantry Battalion (December 1914)

Military Cross, 1914–15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal

Norm Price was 25 and working as a timber-getter in Brisbane when he enlisted on 20 October 1914. He embarked from Melbourne aboard Transport HMAT Ceramic A40 on 22 December 1914 and sailed for Egypt with the 2nd contingent of the AIF (15th Battalion, A Company, in the 4th Infantry Brigade).

He was allocated as part of a New Zealand and Australian contingent. These troops landed at Gallipoli, late at night, on 25 April 1915 as reserves for the first wave of Anzac troops already fighting ashore.

On 26 May 1915, Norm was shot in the left shoulder while sniping, injuring the bone and paralysing his arm.

After recuperating at the 1 Australian General Hospital at Heliopolis, he rejoined his unit at Gallipoli on 3 July.

On 8 August 1915, Norm was wounded for the second time in the back of each leg. He was shipped to the 1 Australian General Hospital in Harefield, Middlesex, England.

On 7 November, Norm sailed home to Brisbane.

Records indicate that he re-embarked for active duty on 5 June 1916 as Private 1150 in the 42nd Battalion. He arrived back in England on 23 July 1916 and proceeded to France on 25 November 1916.

In 1917, Norm was promoted to CSM, warrant officer II, then later to second lieutenant. On 1 June 1917, he was mentioned in despatches by Sir Douglas Haig for his activities against the enemy in the trenches of France.

On 9 June 1917, Norm was wounded in action for the third time. He endured extreme fighting on 5–6 June before taking part in the Battle of Messines. On 12 July 1917, Norm was invalided to England with shell shock.

He was promoted to lieutenant on 28 July 1917 and, on 14 August, was awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty.

Norm Price personally led a raiding party with the greatest vigour and determination, driving the enemy, who were in superior numbers, back to their support line. After inflicting heavy casualties he withdrew his party with great skill through hostile barrage to our trenches. His personal courage inspired his men with the greatest confidence.

— Commonwealth Gazette No. 219, 20 December 1917

The Redland Showground was opened as Norm Price Park in 1961.
Norm returned to Australia on 8 December 1917 to recover from his wounds. By 2 February 1918, he was well enough to return to active service and, on 1 August 1918, rejoined the 42nd Battalion.

Norm then went to England where he married his former nurse, Ada Carpenter, before returning to Brisbane on 17 March 1920.

In the early 1920s the Price family moved to the Redlands where Norm purchased a farm on Princess Street. In 1946, Norm was elected Chairman of the then Cleveland Shire.

At the end of his first term, Cr Price was elected as the first chairman of the newly formed Redland Shire Council, which he continued to steer as chairman until stepping down in 1961. In that year he was awarded an MBE in the Queen’s New Year Honours List for long and meritorious service to the people of the Redland District.

Norm was a founding member of Redlands Ambulance and Cleveland Bowling Club, and a committee member of the Fruit Growers’ Association and the Agricultural, Horticultural and Industrial Show Committee.

He is remembered for his vision as a fine diplomat and farmer. His legacy involves the introduction of crude channel irrigation, the development of the shire’s roads, and the relocation of the Cleveland Showgrounds.

The Redland Showground was officially opened as Norm Price Park on 15 July 1961. Norm died on 20 July 1963.

Sources
AIF project database
Australian War Memorial
Noel Newton
Linda Minelle
National Archives of Australia
Price family
**DRIVER 399**

Harry (Harry) Ramsay

31 Infantry Battalion (November 1915)

1914–15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal

Harry Ramsay was 24 and a bread carter in Ormiston when he enlisted in the 31st Infantry Battalion. He embarked on 9 November from Brisbane on HMAT *Wandilla* A62 on 9 November 1915. He was appointed a driver while serving in France.

Harry survived the war and returned to Ormiston, and resumed his employment for GJ Walter as a bread carter. He was eventually forced to leave that position because the work proved too strenuous for his heart. He married Ruth Lockitt on 10 November 1920 and worked as a labourer at Darra from 1925 until 1949. He died on 25 February 1952.

**PRIVATE 4236**

Ernest Walter Reedman

25th Infantry Battalion

British War Medal, Victory Medal

Ernest Reedman was born in Dunwich in 1891. His father, Arthur, was a tram inspector.

Ernest was working as a labourer when he enlisted in Brisbane on 9 June 1917.

Ernest married Emma Stuart in Ireland while on active service on 9 June 1917. He returned to Australia in September 1919 with his wife and child.

He worked for the Tramways Department when he returned to Australia. Ernest died at the age of 54, leaving his wife Emma and their children.

**Sources**

National Archives of Australia

CORPORAL 1733
Alexander (Alex) Cumberland Reid
3 Field Artillery Brigade (September 1914)

1914–15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal

Alexander was born in Nambour in 1895 to George and Gertrude Reid. Alex was 19 and working as a geological surveyor in Ormiston when he enlisted on 28 August 1914. He embarked from Brisbane aboard HMAT Rangatira A22 in September 1914.

On 4 April 1915 he joined the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force (Gallipoli). In August 1916 he was promoted to corporal while fighting in France. After some time in hospital, he was posted to the Western Front where, on 3 August 1917, he was killed instantly along with three others when a shell landed on directly on their dugout. They had been fighting at Spoi Bank (Hill 60), near Hollebeke in the Ypres sector. Alexander is buried in Bus House Cemetery near Voormezeele. His name is listed on the Cleveland cenotaph.

His younger brother, Walter Hill Reid, also enlisted in May 1916. He died of meningitis on 17 August 1916.

Sources
- adoptadigger.org
- Australian War Memorial
- National Archives of Australia
- Cleveland and Wynnum News

MAJOR
Hugh Quinn
1914–15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal

Before enlisting in the Australian Army at Charters Towers, Hugh Quinn worked as an accountant. He was killed at Gallipoli on 29 May 1915 while leading a bayonet charge against opposing Turkish forces. Quinn’s Post was later re-captured by the ANZACS at the cost of many casualties.

Quinn’s Post was reputedly the most intensively mined area of the Gallipoli Peninsula and was named after its commander Major Hugh Quinn—Commander of C Company, 15th Battalion.

Quinn’s grave is located at 31 Shrapnel Valley Cemetery ANZAC at Gallipoli. His memorial stone reads: Some day, some time, I trust to see the dear face I hold to memory.

An affront to military logic, a fortress built by desperates. The Australian and Turkish lines were only yards apart; the Turks knew Major Quinn’s name and imitated some of his common commands.

— description of Major Hugh Quinn’s post

Cleveland’s historic connection to the famous First World War Gallipoli post can be found in the Cleveland Cemetery.

Standing silently in the Catholic section of the cemetery for the past 111 years is the grave of Frances Alice Quinn—the younger sister of Major Hugh Quinn. Alice died in 1904. John and Mary Quinn, the parents of Alice and Hugh, were living in Cleveland at the time of Alice’s death. John Quinn was the serjeant—in-charge of the old Cleveland Police Station (now the Redlands RSL, Cleveland Headquarters) from 1903 until 1905. Frances Alice Quinn’s gravestone has the following inscription that commemorates the memory of her brother, Hugh Quinn: Also Our Son, Major Hugh Quinn. Killed In Action at Quinn’s Post, Gallipoli. 29th May 1915. Aged 27 Years.

Source
- John Giacomantino
Reginald Rowland was 23 and working as a fruiterer in Cleveland when he enlisted on 3 January 1916. He was married to Eileen Gertrude Rowland and had three children. The unit left Brisbane aboard HMAT Boorara A42 for England and there he was appointed sergeant in the 8th Training Battalion. He proceeded to France and the Western Front on 16 June 1917. He was killed in action on 29 September 1917, suffering a bullet wound during an advance in Polygon Wood. He was buried at Jork House.

Although he has no known grave, his name is recorded in the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial (Panel 23), Belgium. Reginald’s name is listed on the Cleveland cenotaph.

Sources
AIF Project Database
Australian War Memorial
National Archives of Australia
Frank Saunders was born in Beenleigh to Frank and Eliza Saunders. He was living at Redland Bay and working as a grocery carter when he enlisted on 21 March 1917, aged 21. He married Violet Mabel Saunders on 21 April 1917.

Frank joined the 52nd Infantry Battalion and embarked from Sydney on 14 June 1917. He was killed in action on 24 April 1918, three days after his first wedding anniversary.

Frank has no known grave, but is commemorated at the Australian National Memorial in France. His name is listed on the Redland Bay cenotaph.
PRIVATE 4599
Harry Schmidt

31 Infantry Battalion
2 to 12 Reinforcements (January–December 1916)

British War Medal, Victory Medal

PRIVATE 4600
David Schmidt

31 Infantry Battalion
2 to 12 Reinforcements (January–December 1916)

British War Medal, Victory Medal

Before the war, many German immigrants made their homes in the Redlands. A lot of those families felt too close to their German heritage to enlist in the Australian Army.

However the Schmidt brothers—Harry, David and William—volunteered. Their father, Wilhelm Schmidt, owned a horse-drawn cab and took passengers from Cleveland train station to the Redland Bay Hotel. Schmidt Street, Victoria Point, is named after the family.

Harry and David Schmidt both enlisted on 11 October 1916. Harry, a farmer, was 25 and David, a labourer, was 21. The brothers embarked on the same ship from Sydney as Selwyn Outridge (page 54), HMAT Demosthenes A64.

Because of sickness, they proceeded separately to France, where on 28 August 1918 David suffered a shell wound to his chin and face and fractured his lower jaw. The brothers survived the war and were able to return to Australia where they resumed their lives in Redland Bay.

Sources
Australian War Memorial
Jenny McCullagh
Kild family
Moon, D and Krause, J Deutsche Auswanderer: Hope and Reality. Cleveland, Qld: Redland Museum, 1999
Robin Kleinschmidt
Ryan, T Passing the Time: tales of the Redlands. Cleveland, Qld: Redland Shire Council, 1996
**DRIVER 50706**

William Schmidt

1 to 8 (Queensland) Reinforcements (May–November 1918)

*British War Medal, Victory Medal*

William Schmidt, younger brother of Harry and David, was 20 when he enlisted in December 1917—just over a year after his brothers went to war. William joined the 2nd AMT (Australian Mechanical Transport) Company. He embarked for England on RMS *Osterly* on 8 May 1918. From there he was shipped to France, ending up at the 2nd AMT Company as a driver.

William returned to Australia on the *Argyllshire* in September 1919. He married Ethel Sarah Rieck and had three children, Alison (Joan), Gordon and Eunice. Alison and Gordon later enlisted in the Second World War and died while serving.
William Shackleton

6th Field Company Engineers
3 Reinforcements

British War Medal, Victory Medal

William Shackleton was born in Sunderland, England, and was almost 37 when he enlisted in Brisbane on 18 September 1915.

He was employed as a plumber at the Dunwich Benevolent Asylum before he enlisted. He served in France as a driver, and was discharged in 1919. He died in 1945.

Aunty Rosie Borey remembers a family story of the efforts William made to see off his mate, Uncle Richard Martin, as he was leaving North Stradbroke Island and heading to the war.

[William Shackleton] made a point of getting the boats to come together so he could say goodbye. Uncle Dick was going and he was coming from the mainland. He asked if they could go alongside just to say goodbye. There would not have been that many people here. Everyone would have known each other.

William Shackleton is commemorated on the Roll of Honour in the Dunwich Public Hall.

Jerome Sofin

20/15th Battalion

Jerome Sofin was born on Thursday Island. He was 24 and working as a labourer when he enlisted in Darwin in February 1916. His next of kin was listed as his sister, Henrietta Sofin. She lived in the Philippines with her three sisters.

He was discharged in February 1917 as medically unfit and fought a long battle with the authorities for recognition of his service. He moved to North Stradbroke Island when he returned to Australia.

Jerome Sofin is the grandfather of Margaret Kucirek and Fred Campbell.

He was an Aboriginal soldier.

Source
Stradbroke 100: North Stradbroke Island’s First World War Soldiers and the Homefront, North Stradbroke Island Historical Museum 2016
Stuart Norman Spence was born in Glasgow, Scotland, to Stuart and Catherine Spence. He travelled to Australia and became a fruit grower at Birkdale. He enlisted on 23 August 1915 at the age of 32 and joined the 41st Battalion, embarking from Sydney in May 1916.

Evidence from Stuart’s war records indicates he was absent without leave on two occasions before even leaving Australia. The first was in February 1916 and the second in April 1916. He went absent again in August 1916 while still in England. It was common for soldiers to have these AWOL notations on their files.

By November, Stuart’s battalion had arrived at the Western Front. Stuart quickly rose through the ranks, being appointed temporary sergeant in August 1917. Early in October 1917, he received shrapnel wounds to the shoulder and hip at Passchendaele, Ypres, Belgium. He died from these wounds on 7 October 1917 and is buried in the Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Belgium. Stuart’s name is listed on the Cleveland cenotaph.

Sources
Australian War Memorial
National Archives of Australia
Joseph (Joe)
Dandy Street

5th Australian Light Horse Regiment

1914–15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal

Joseph was the eldest of four children born to Abraham and Sarah Ann Street. In 1886, the family moved to a 400-acre farm at Victoria Point.

When the war broke out in 1914, Joe was one of the early volunteers who were honoured with a public farewell at the Cleveland School of Arts on 26 December 1914. Joe embarked with the 2nd Reinforcements from Brisbane on 9 February 1915, bound for Cairo where he became part of the 5th Australian Light Horse Regiment.

He took part in the Gallipoli campaign where he was wounded in action and evacuated to Mudros. On rejoining his unit, he was killed in action on 5 November 1915 and buried in the Shell Green Cemetery at Gallipoli Peninsula, Canakkale Province, Turkey.

A telegram from the defence authorities conveyed condolences from the King and Queen, and the Commonwealth Government:

Profound regret was expressed on all sides when the news became known, for this second of our heroes to give life for country enjoyed the esteem of all who knew ‘Joe’ as he was known by his comrades, deserved the large measure of popularity which was his. He was, in no sense of the term, a slacker; behind all he undertook there was enthusiasm, and a determination to succeed. He was one of the workers among our young men. His association with the local school of arts was advantageous to that institution; and his connections with cricket, and other sports, was marked by a similarly keen desire to stimulate and help.

Joseph’s name is listed on the Cleveland cenotaph.

Sources
Australian War Memorial
Conversation between Mary Howells and Terry Osman, 1996
Conversation between Peter Ludlow and Merle Smith, 2014
National Museum of Australia
Pauline Topfer
Merle Smith
19/8/15

Dear Rochie,

Just a line to let you know that I am still alive & kicking. I have been writing to some of the Cleveland boys lately so I thought that I would include yourself this week. Well, Dick old chap I am glad to say that I came to the war apart from doing my little bit the journey & sightseeing in Egypt was well worth it. I am sure that Alf will share my views. The last time I saw him we were both suffering from bad legs. I had a strained calf & Alf his old ankle trouble. He told me that he expected to be sent back to Australia if he was home now.

Please give him my best wishes and tell him to drink a few pints for me at the old Strand, also that the A. H. T. Beagot have made a name for themselves as well as the 9th Batt. So far our boys are fighting hard & square & playing the same all right. The boys are getting quite humorous. Are you a member of the Cleveland 9th? Yet, I heard about a certain gentleman who missed the target four times in succession. I trust that it was not Dick Noble.

If you can find time to write a few lines with some local news it would be very welcome indeed. Trusting that all your people are well. With kind regards to all also to all the lads from your old

Chum, J.B. Street

Pauline Topfer, Australian War Memorial
LANCE CORPORAL 2006
Robert Stanley Taylor
15th Australian Infantry Battalion
1914–15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal

PRIVATE 6627
Herbert Harold Taylor
26th Australian Infantry Battalion
British War Medal, Victory Medal

Robert was born in Sydney and was working as a builder in Birkdale when he enlisted on 18 January 1915. He joined the 15th Battalion, 5th Reinforcements and his unit embarked from Brisbane aboard HMAT Kyarra A55. He was promoted to lance corporal on 12 March 1915 and entered the Gallipoli Campaign. He was recorded as missing in action on 7 August 1915.

It is likely he lost his life during the August Offensive, where Australia lost 80 officers and 2197 men, while Turkish losses totalled 6930.

Robert’s father and brother wrote numerous letters seeking information about him:

My son wrote home last dated 3 August. Since then we have had no tidings of him which is causing us great anxiety.

Because his name had not appeared on any lists of prisoners of war, a court of inquiry on 18 April 1917 presumed him to be killed in action. His name is recorded in the Lone Pine Memorial (Panel 44), Gallipoli Peninsula, Canakkale Province, Turkey.

Robert’s name is listed on the Cleveland cenotaph.

Twelve months after his younger brother’s death, Herbert also enlisted, embarking from Sydney in February 1917. He was married to Nellie Taylor and working as a clerk at Morningside. The couple had a son and a daughter. Herbert was killed in action in Belgium on 22 December 1917 when he was 34.

Sources
Australian War Memorial
John Giacomantino
National Archives of Australia
Letter from Robert’s brother seeking information

National Archives of Australia: B2455, Taylor, Robert Stanley, pages 41–42 of 62
George Kingsley Thomason

9 Field Artillery Brigade
1 to 8 Reinforcements
(May 1916–February 1917)

British War Medal, Victory Medal

George’s mother was Ellen Burnett—the second wife of Gilbert Burnett of Wellington Point. Gilbert Burnett was a prominent member of the Redlands community and is known for constructing Whepstead Manor.

George Thomason was 21, unmarried and living at Wellington Point when he enlisted in February 1916. He embarked on board the HMAT Mashobra A47 in September 1916. After serving on the Western Front, George returned to Australia on 31 May 1919.

On his return from the war George worked on the Burnett dairy farm until 1941. He died in 1979, aged 84.

Sources
AIF Project Database
Australian War Memorial
National Archives of Australia
Reg Fairman Oral History transcript, Redland Libraries Local History Collection
Merle Smith

Remembering them

Rob Burnett, George Thomason, Ellen Burnett, Len Burnett and Marjorie Burnett
Photo courtesy of Redland Libraries Local History and Heritage Collection HP: 0553

Wellington Point Dairy truck with Rob Burnett, George Thomason and Len Burnett, 1920s
Photo courtesy of Redland Libraries Local History and Heritage Collection HP: 0607
Albert Tripcony

25th Australian Infantry Battalion

British War Medal, Victory Medal

Albert was born on North Stradbroke Island and enlisted on 11 February 1916 in Brisbane when he was 23. He had been working as an oysterman.

Albert was killed in action in France on May 3 1917. He was 25 years old.

In the Red Cross file of eyewitness accounts of his death, one of the testimonies says the soldier understood that Tripcony had ‘Italian parents’, which was perhaps what he told the army to explain his dark complexion.

His sacrifice was recognised with a presentation of a certificate to his family in 1920. In part it reads:

*By the Mayor and the Aldermen of the City of Brisbane, on behalf of the citizens, who desire hereby to express their admiration of the high resolute that impelled him to offer his services with the Australian Imperial Forces, in the Great War, 1914–1919, and to acclaim him one of the gallant heroes who by devotion and sacrifices so nobly have upheld the traditions and glorious heritage of the British Empire.*

Albert Tripcony is commemorated at Villers-Bretonneux.

He is also listed on the Roll of Honour in the Dunwich Public Hall as ‘Bertie Tripcony’ and there is a heart–shaped marble memorial stone on the wall of the Dunwich Public Hall in his honour. Albert was an Aboriginal soldier.

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Vincent Tripcony

3rd Australian Machine Gun Battalion

British War Medal, Victory Medal

Vincent was born in Brisbane and enlisted in June 1916. He was only 18 when he enlisted, a few months after his brother Albert. He had been working as a labourer.

Vincent and Albert’s mother was Mary Rose Tripcony who lived on Sutton Street in Kangaroo Point. She wrote to the Minister for Defence on a number of occasions seeking information about the location and health of her sons.

Vincent was wounded in France in 1917, with injuries sustained to his jaw and right thigh. He was discharged and returned to Australia in August 1919. In 1925 he refused to undergo an operation to treat a war–related injury because he feared that the time in hospital may lead to him losing his employment. ‘I have other obligations to fulfil which I am sure nobody else would fulfil for me were I to go to hospital,’ he said.

He had a house at One Mile on North Stradbroke Island for many years. Vincent and his sister Anastasia built a house on Oxley Parade, Dunwich. His nephew is Quandamooka elder, Uncle Bob Anderson.

Vincent Tripcony is commemorated on the Roll of Honour in the Dunwich Public Hall. He died in 1975. Vincent was an Aboriginal soldier.

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Source
Stradbroke 100. North Stradbroke Island’s First World War Soldiers and the Homefront
North Stradbroke Island Historical Museum 2016
LANCE CORPORAL 6816

John Henry (Harry) Tucker

9 Infantry Battalion
13 to 23 Reinforcements
(January–November 1916)

British War Medal, Victory Medal

Harry Tucker, like his friend Arthur Collins (page 17), was a farmer from Redland Bay. The two friends enlisted together and their unit, the 49th Battalion, embarked from Brisbane on board HMAT Marathon A74 on 27 October 1916. Harry survived the Western Front, although he was wounded in action on 20 October 1917.

Throughout the war both in France and on leave in England, Harry kept in contact with Arthur. The pair had a night out in London with the Tribe sisters, whom they married in Australia after the war had ended.

In 1920 Harry married Dora Alice Tribe and he continued to farm at Redland Bay. Harry had returned from the war ‘peppered with shrapnel’ and Dora nursed him until his death on 16 December 1962.

Sources
Australian War Memorial
National Archives of Australia
Win Collins
Jennie McCullagh
SAPPER 1348  
William (Oliver) George Twist  
2nd Australian Light Horse Signal Troop  

1914–15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal  

William was born in Bromford, Birmingham as the eldest son of George and Elizabeth Twist. The family moved to Wellington Point when he was seven. Before joining the AIF’s 2nd Light Horse Signal Troop, William George Twist had served in Africa for eight years. He then returned to Australia and worked as a bridge builder with Queensland Railways. He enlisted on 21 August 1915, aged 38. He disembarked in Egypt and joined the war in Palestine, where he was killed in action, suffering a head wound from a bomb blast on 17 April 1917. William is buried in the Beersheba Military Cemetery. His name is listed on the Cleveland cenotaph.

Source  
National Archives of Australia
Clive Wellington Were

5th Australian Infantry Battalion (October 1914)

1914–15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal

Clive Wellington Were was born in South Yarra, Victoria. He enlisted on 17 August 1914, aged 25. He joined the 5th Battalion, F Company and embarked from Melbourne on 21 October 1914. This battalion was among the first infantry units raised in Victoria, having been formed within a fortnight of the declaration of war. He arrived in Egypt on 2 December 1914. Clive spent four months at Mena Camp near Cairo, where he received training leading up to the Gallipoli campaign.

He was killed in action on 25 April 1915 and is commemorated at the Lone Pine Memorial, Gallipoli Peninsula, Turkey.

Clive’s name is listed on the Redland Bay cenotaph.

Hugh Arundell Were

ANZAC 5 Infantry Battalion (October 1914)

1914–15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal

Clive Wellington Were was born in South Yarra, Victoria. He enlisted on 17 August 1914, aged 25. He joined the 5th Battalion, F Company and embarked from Melbourne on 21 October 1914. This battalion was among the first infantry units raised in Victoria, having been formed within a fortnight of the declaration of war. He arrived in Egypt on 2 December 1914. Clive spent four months at Mena Camp near Cairo, where he received training leading up to the Gallipoli campaign.

He was killed in action on 25 April 1915 and is commemorated at the Lone Pine Memorial, Gallipoli Peninsula, Turkey.

Clive’s name is listed on the Redland Bay cenotaph.

Hugh Arundell Were was 21 when he enlisted with his older brother, Clive. He joined the Gallipoli campaign where he received gunshot wounds to the chest. He returned home on 29 August 1915. In 1920, he bought a banana plantation in Redland Bay and farmed there for 10 years. Although the Were family was originally from Melbourne, Clive’s name is on the Redland Bay cenotaph at Hugh’s request. Hugh named his first son Clive Wellington in memory of his brother.

During his time at Redland Bay, Hugh was heavily involved in the formation of the Redland Bay Golf Club. He and fellow soldier, Sel Outridge (page 54), arranged for the construction of the Redland Bay Memorial and Roll of Honour.

Sources
Australian War Memorial
Robert Were
William Henry Westaway

5th Australian Light Horse Regiment

British War Medal, Victory Medal

William was born in Brisbane in 1894 to William Henry and Alice Kate Westaway. He was 21 and working as a farmer when he enlisted in October 1915. His unit embarked from Brisbane in January 1916.

William was killed in action in Palestine on 4 December 1917, aged 22. He was buried at the Ramleh War Cemetery, Palestine. It is not known whether William ever lived in Redland Bay, but it is likely his name is listed on the Redland Bay cenotaph at the request of his sister Mary, who married Percy Wheeler.

Sources
Australian War Memorial
Joy Niessen
Linda Minelle
National Archives of Australia
PRIVATE 3712
Sydney (Syd) Victor Wheeler

52 Infantry Battalion
10 Reinforcements (October 1917)

British War Medal, Victory Medal

Syd was 32 and employed as a sawyer at Redland Bay when he enlisted in June 1917. He was part of a large and very loving family.

*My father Stan Schultz was only 4 years old at the time and he remembered his Uncle Syd was dressed in his AIF uniform and looking very smart when he came to their house in Gordon Road, Redland Bay, to say goodbye to his sister Ruby Schultz (my grandmother) and her family. Apparently Uncle Syd stood on the garden gate and was swinging on the little gate in front of the house as he said his farewells, something that stuck in my father’s memory because no-one was allowed to do that, but Uncle Syd did not get in trouble. Then he was gone.*

— Joy Neeson, great-niece of Syd

He arrived in England in December 1917. In early February he was hospitalised for two months with severe bronchial pneumonia. Seven days after joining his unit in France, he was killed in action on 24 April 1918 during the Battle for Villers-Bretonneux.

Tragically, the vessel carrying Syd’s personal effects home was lost at sea as a result of enemy action.

Syd is buried at the Villers-Bretonneux Military Cemetery. His name is listed on the Redland Bay cenotaph.

Sources
Australian War Memorial
Joy Neeson
National Archives of Australia: B2455, Wheeler, Sydney Victor, pages 20, 35
PRIVATE 4785
Albert White

25 Infantry Battalion
9 to 12 Reinforcements
(January–April 1916)

British War Medal, Victory Medal

LANCE SERGEANT 4782
Frederick Alexander White

25th Australian Infantry Battalion

British War Medal, Victory Medal

The White brothers enlisted in September 1915 and embarked together with the 12th Reinforcements from Sydney on board RMS Mooltan on 12 April 1916.

At the time they enlisted, Frederick was a policeman and Albert was a farmer. Both were unmarried. They were from a large family in Pine Rivers. Four White brothers (Frederick, Albert, Walter and William) enlisted in the First World War but only two returned.

Frederick, 37, and Albert, 26, arrived in France at the Western Front on 11 September 1916. In September, Frederick was appointed lance sergeant. The brothers were killed in action at Morlancourt, France, on 10 June 1918.

Fred and Albert had another brother, Francis, who owned the Mount Carmel Orchard in Redland Bay.

Frederick had listed Francis as his next of kin, which explains their inclusion on the Redland Bay cenotaph.

Sources
Australian War Memorial
National Archives of Australia
Redland Libraries Local History and Heritage Library
Roger White
GUNNER 1627
Robert Charles Burry (Bert) Wicks

5 Light Horse Regiment
11 to 14 Reinforcements
(October 1915–January 1916)

1914–15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal

Bert Wicks was born on 22 June 1897 in Brisbane. At the time of his enlistment on 29 July 1915 he was 18, living away from home, and working as a clerk in the ES&A Bank at Woodford.

Fourteen days after enlisting, and without his parents’ knowledge, Bert married Ellen Isabella Jenkinson.

Bert’s unit embarked from Sydney on 30 November 1915 aboard HMAT Suffolk A23. He joined the British Expeditionary Force and proceeded to France, where he was wounded in action on 18 November 1916.

Bert was killed in action on 4 September 1917 while fighting in Belgium. He was in a pillbox dugout with other men near Hell Fire Corner in the Ypres area when an enemy light explosive shell hit the dugout. The roof collapsed with the force of the explosion, burying the occupants. His death was instantaneous as he had severe wounds to his chest, abdomen and head.

He is buried at the Birr Cross Roads Cemetery in Flanders, Belgium. Bert’s name is listed on the Redland Bay cenotaph.

Bert left a young son, Matthew John, who had been born in 1915. Because Bert’s next of kin was deemed to be his wife, all his effects were forwarded to her. Despite a heartfelt request from his mother, a duplicate memorial plaque was denied his parents. They lived in Redland Bay from 1917 until 1925, during which time his father was head teacher at the local primary school. In 1936, they moved to Victoria Point, where they stayed until 1958.

Sources
National Archives of Australia
Jennie McCullagh
Margaret Roberts
Linda Minelle

Gunner Bert Wicks in uniform
Photo courtesy of Redland Libraries Local History and Heritage Collection HP: 6418

Bert’s parents
Linda Minelle, Redland Bay State School
GUNNER 21443
Alfred William Yeo

9 Field Artillery Brigade
1 to 8 Reinforcements (May 1916–February 1917)
British War Medal, Victory Medal

PRIVATE 5939
Walter Henry Yeo

26 Infantry Battalion
13 to 18 Reinforcements (May–December 1916)
British War Medal, Victory Medal

Alfred Yeo was the eldest son of W E Yeo and Louisa Yeo of Redland Bay.

He was 18, unmarried, and employed as a clerk at the time of his enlistment in August 1915.

In November 1917, he was admitted to hospital in London suffering from nephritis, an inflammation of the kidneys. His medical record also listed trench fever and albuminuria, a symptom of kidney disease.

Alfred returned to Australia on 10 March 1918 and worked in the public service until 1929.

A notice in the Brisbane Courier states he died on 12 October 1930 ‘from the results of gas in France’.

Alfred’s younger brother, Walter Henry Yeo, was born in Beenleigh in 1898. He enlisted at the age of 18 in July 1916, embarking on the HMAT Boonah A36 in October that year.

He sustained shrapnel wounds to his back, head and knees from an exploding shell in July 1918.

He returned to Australia in September 1919.

Walter found it hard to settle after the war. In 1923 he travelled, working as a surveyor’s assistant and drover. In the mid-1920s, Walter’s mother obtained some land in Victoria Point and Walter farmed bananas, pineapples, strawberries, potatoes and tomatoes.

In 1938, he married Grace Langdon and they built a home in Langdon Street, Thornlands. They had three children.

Walter loved his family and was proud of his German heritage. He was a good sportsman and a founding member of the Redland Bay Golf Club. He also enjoyed live theatre, dancing and playing bridge.

He retired from farming in 1968 and died in May 1985. W H Yeo Park (established in 1982) at Thompson’s Beach, Victoria Point was named after Walter Yeo.
Some of the men who returned to the Redlands after the war were able to resume their lives. Others were not so fortunate, with many struggling from serious physical, psychological and emotional trauma for the remainder of their lives. Some of our Redland soldiers were cared for at the Dunwich Benevolent Asylum on North Stradbroke Island. This was a charitable institution to house the sick, dying and destitute from all over Queensland. Records from the war years show a growth in the average number of inmates from a weekly average of 882 in 1914, to 948 in 1917.

The idea of a memorial for the district’s local soldiers was raised during the First World War (1914–1918), when local residents canvassed the matter with the Cleveland Shire Council. Other suggestions included planting shade trees along the roads and naming them after fallen soldiers. This was declined as the Council had already resolved to build a permanent memorial to the fallen.

In 1919, public meetings were held throughout the Cleveland Shire to discuss the location of the memorial. It was generally agreed that a stone monument should be erected in a place of prominence near the centre of the shire (at the time, Cleveland Shire only included Thorneside, Birkdale, Wellington Point, Ormiston, Cleveland and Thornlands).

Several possible sites were suggested, but Council resolved to erect the memorial stone in the triangle at the intersection of Shore and North streets, Cleveland. It was to take the form of a broken column, representing a life cut short.

The memorial was built by W E Parsons of Brisbane, whose design was approved by the Cleveland Shire Council in December 1919. The design was described ‘including 8 stone posts 3 feet high and iron chains painted bronze green, brown Helidon freestone to be used’. It also included a list of the names of the fallen.

The memorial was erected in early August 1920 and officially unveiled on 14 August 1920. In 1992, the memorial was moved 50m to the west as part of a project to landscape the area. From that time, it has been the focal point of Anzac Day commemorations in the Redlands.

In 2014, the Returned and Services League of Australia (RSL) Redlands sub-branch and National Servicemen Association of Australia Queensland (NSAAQ) received government funding for a memorial to commemorate the Anzac Centenary.
The new memorial, which incorporates a War Animal Memorial, was constructed in Kinsail Court Park, Raby Bay. It features a granite statue of a First World War digger resting on arms reversed, surrounded by a semi-circular retaining wall bearing the names of every major battle in which Australians have been involved. It was officially unveiled on Friday 17 April 2015. The following week, an estimated 18,000 people attended the dawn service at the new Anzac Centenary Memorial.
Dunwich Benevolent Asylum

From 1915 until the asylum closed in 1946, over 450 men who had returned from fighting overseas spent time at Dunwich on North Stradbroke Island.

The Dunwich Benevolent Asylum was where returned servicemen were offered appropriate treatment for their shattered nerves, shell shock, or from war-caused injuries affecting their employment prospects. The island environment offered fresh air, quiet, companionship, rest and good food.

The Dunwich Inebriate Institution, which operated as part of the asylum, had been established to manage alcoholics. ‘Inebriates’ found drunk on the streets of Brisbane and country towns could be sentenced by a magistrate to serve a period of time in Dunwich, to be ‘treated’ for their condition, or people could refer themselves to the institution voluntarily. Over 220 returned soldiers were admitted to the institution in the post-war period.

The men lived simple lives. They were housed in large dormitory-style rooms, took their meals in the communal mess hall, and amused themselves fishing, in the library or taking advantage of the meagre entertainments available. When beds in the soldiers’ ward were filled, men were accommodated in the top tents—a row of individual semi-permanent shelters where inmates could enjoy a private space. Some grew vegetables and cooked for themselves over an open fire.

Despite recommendations that a dedicated soldiers’ facility be established, it never eventuated. Hundreds of returned servicemen spent years travelling around Queensland looking for work, or moving between hostels set up by organisations such as the Red Cross and the YMCA to provide medical care, housing and support. The asylum re-admitted many inmates, multiple times, over decades.

First World War soldiers continued to be admitted to the asylum until it was moved to Eventide at Sandgate in 1946, leaving behind over 8500 inmates buried in the Dunwich Cemetery, including over 60 returned soldiers in mostly unmarked graves.
Cleveland Memorial Hall

The Redlands RSSILA (Returned Soldiers and Sailors Imperial League of Australia) sub-branch held its first meeting on 11 May 1925. At its July meeting, the sub-branch decided to build a memorial hall. The land was purchased in 1926 and fundraising began for the building. The memorial hall was officially opened by Australian Prime Minister Stanley Bruce on 5 August 1928.

In the mid-1990s, a decision was made to move the hall to make room for a more modern RSL premises. The original memorial hall now stands in Smith Street, Cleveland.

North Stradbroke Island

North Stradbroke Island Roll of Honour, Dunwich Public Hall

North Stradbroke Island soldiers who served in the First World War are listed on a Roll of Honour in the Dunwich Public Hall. The Roll of Honour lists 13 names. The two North Stradbroke Island soldiers who lost their lives are commemorated with wall-mounted marble plaques. These were donated by Thomas Welsby, a prominent businessman, author and politician with close links to North Stradbroke Island.
The Redland Bay War Memorial was completed in July 1923. For the first half of the 20th century, Redland Bay, Mount Cotton, Victoria Point and Capalaba were still part of Tingalpa Shire. For this reason, there are two mainland memorials in the Redlands.

Planning for the Redland Bay War Memorial began in 1922, when the Redland Bay sub-branch of the RSSILA asked Tingalpa Shire Council for a piece of land ‘at the Store corner’ for the erection of a memorial stone. The council refused this location but offered another near the Redland Bay jetty. In November 1922, the sub-branch accepted the offer.

The design of the memorial was approved by Tingalpa Shire Council in March 1923. There is no mention of the builder in the minutes. By July 1923, the memorial stone had been erected and unveiled at Redland Bay by the sub-branch.
We will remember them

Entrance to Euston Road Cemetery, France

Sources
Redland City Council 2011 Redland Bay War Memorial, n.p. Local History and Heritage Collection
Redland City Council website www.redland.qld.gov.au/RecreationFacilities/Parks/Pages/ANZAC-Centenary-Memorial.aspx
Uhlmann, Lyn Final Touches to Anzac Memorial, Redland City Bulletin, 22 April 2015