

How has Bassendean experienced change and continuity since WW1?

By Janet Megarrity
Local Studies Librarian
Bassendean Memorial Library

We changed our name:

1901-1922 West Guildford Road Board
1922-1961 Bassendean Road Board
1961-1975 Shire of Bassendean
1975- Town of Bassendean

West Guildford became a distinct municipality in 1901 (from Guildford) with Mr Cyril Jackson (later Sir) the first Chairman of the West Guildford Road Board. Later in 1922 the suburb's name was changed to Bassendean and the West Guildford Road Board became the Bassendean Road Board remaining thus until 1961 when it became the Shire of Bassendean until 1975. The Town of Bassendean was gazetted in 1975. (The Town of Bassendean was technically abolished as a result of proposed local government amalgamations with the City of Bayswater in December 2014 and reinstated in March 2015.)

After the Swan River Colony's foundation in June 1829 the fertile alluvial flats along both sides of the Swan River were chosen as prime agricultural land. Settlers acquired parcels of land and farms were established. By July 1831 Guildford needed to expand elsewhere as its town lots had run out. Across the river and to the west was a Government Reserve which was selected for a new town site called West Guildford.

In 1832 Peter Broun, the 1st Colonial Secretary, took occupation of Stoke Farm in West Guildford and of its existing homestead which he named Bassendean after the name of his family seat in Berwickshire in 1922 West Guildford cut its residual ties with Guildford and Bassendean was the new name chosen. Initially populated by gentleman farmers and Pensioner Guard families, West Guildford grew rapidly during the gold rush years of the 1890's, breaking away from Guildford to become a separate local authority in 1901.

In the 1900's, the establishment of industries, and the demand for labour at the Midland Railway Workshops, gave the suburb its distinct working-class character and further accelerated its development. The small district had many dairies, farms, orchards and large allotments for families to grow their own food and to provide for their stock. Post-World War II emigration saw an influx of European nationalities (including the Maltese, Italians and Dutch), giving Bassendean a more cosmopolitan flavour.

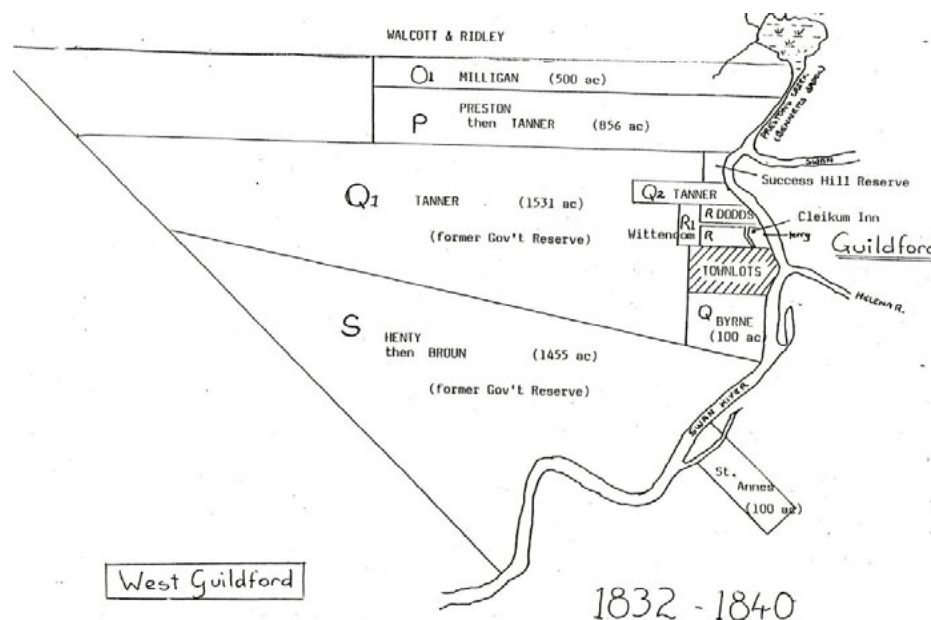
The Town now has a mix of housing including higher density living, parks and recreational areas, as well as light industry and commercial areas. It also has

riverside public open space which has been used by Aboriginal people for thousands of years as ceremonial places. The district has changed from rural to urban.

Bassendean's Subdivision History

(Some background to 1918)

The colonial ribbon grants were long narrow blocks either 100 or 100 acres in size. In the late 1830's the major change was the introduction of the Perth Road and the consequent division of the new lots. Only the Cleikum Inn and three houses were evident at the time.



Source- Bassendean: A Social History 1829-1979 by Jennie Carter.
See also John Arrowsmith's map

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Land_grants_in_the_Swan_River_Colony#/media/File:Swan_River_Colony_land_grants_map.png

The arrival of convicts in the 1850's provided the population and labour force that was instrumental in the future development of Bassendean. Road and transport systems were improved considerably, and consequently early residential subdivisions were centered on the railway line and Perth Road. Both transport routes also provided the town with links to Perth, Guildford and rural communities.

The advent of the railway saw a grid like subdivision pattern develop. This pattern contrasted with the earlier subdivisions that were orientated towards the river, which was then the major form of transport. Subdivisions of the time were characterized by lots often purchased for market gardens and speculative purposes. Consequently, early development was well spread, and infill development took over fifty years to complete.

Around this time location Q1 was subdivided into four lots. The first lot of approximately 70 acres was further divided into quarter acre blocks and designated "West End".

Location Q2, originally W. Tanner's 40-acre lot, was bought in 1887 by James Grave. Only a small portion abutting the river east of West Road was subdivided, the remainder was left intact until 1895. At this time Frank Wilson bought the entire parcel and subdivided the rest of Q2 naming it "The Eden Estate."

The population of Western Australia jumped sharply after the gold rushes of the 1880's and the 1890's. Consequently, by the end of the 1890's demand for housing and land outstripped supply. At this time West Guildford was striving for self-determination; a campaign that succeeded in the formation of the West Guildford Road Board in July 1901. In 1901 there were 34 residences. On the 7th of July 1901, the district was divided into three wards, (vide lands department file 16077/99) and on the 16th of September 1907 boundaries of the wards were decided.

Location Q was the property of James Morrison, Chairperson of the Guildford Municipal Council in 1880. This lot was first advertised as an ideal location of mining companies in an attempt to cash in on the current gold boom. Fortunately, this was not successful, and the area developed into orchards and vineyards. In 1897 Henry Anstey took over the entire parcel of land and Kew Estate was rechristened Bindaring Park.

The subsequent subdivisions of location Q left only the large Bassendean Estate intact in West Guildford by 1899. The Bassendean Estate was sold to Wesley Maley and his partner J. P. Learmouth in 1905. Except for the Ashfield Flats and the number of surrounding blocks the estate was subdivided into quarter acre lots. Wesley Maley then subdivided the Bassendean Estate.

After the war

Between 1901- and 1925 subdivisions extended westward in smaller residential lots. From the 1920's on, motor vehicles were becoming more common and the development which was further from the railway became more suburban in character. Although two adjoining lots were often owned by the same person, lot boundaries were rarely obstructed. Some owners relocated their house onto one of the lots and sold the other. This was only possible because most of the houses were timber frame.

Information about early population and a timeline of events written in 1922
<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article206653276>

Between 1925 and 1945 subdivision extended further west of the existing subdivision in North Bassendean and to the South West towards Ashfield. The subdivision in the north were mainly one-acre blocks, particularly those along Ivanhoe, Ida, Iolanthe and Penzance Streets. Timber framed construction was still

the predominant housing type. Later in the mid 1960's these lots were re-subdivided into smaller lots under the Town of Bassendean Planning Scheme Number One.

Due to the "austere" period following the Second World War, the State Housing Commission (Homeswest) subdivided land and constructed approximately 400 homes in Ashfield. Eden Hill was developed in the late 1960's and an effort was made to give variety to the area by incorporating a number of privately owned lots.

Development in Ashfield continued through the 1950's and 1960's because it was conveniently situated close to employment, the industrial area and the railway line. The lots were approximately 700-800 square metres. The east portion of Eden Hill and the southern portion of Bassendean, around Bradshaw, Schofield, Margaret and Watkins Streets were characterized by this form of development.

The balance of Ashfield, adjacent to the Swan River was subdivided between 1962 and 1974 and was characterized by large lots of 1000 square metres. Development was restricted to a single storey house per lot. Most houses were constructed out of brick and tile.

Between 1974 and 1985, the remaining portion of Eden Hill was subdivided, along with Elsfield Way in Bassendean North, under the Town of Bassendean's Town Planning Scheme Number Two. The development contained predominantly brick and tile dwellings and the remaining portion of land included within the Town Planning Scheme Number Two was subdivided.

Source- Town of Bassendean Heritage Study Vol 1- Department of Planning and Urban Development by Naomi Lawrance and Tanya Suba 1991 pp53-58

More recently under Town Planning Scheme 4A, multiple storey dwellings have been approved and throughout Ashfield and Eden Hill strata developments have occurred. Two low to medium apartment buildings on Old Perth Road changed the local landscape and plans have been put forward to provide additional town houses on the BIC Reserve and Bassendean Oval.

Impact of War on the Bassendean Community

World War I

Many men joined up to serve from the small community of West Guildford and more than 20 served in the Volunteer Defence Corps (VDC). Of the 203 who enlisted from the small town of West Guildford, thirty-three were killed (1 in 6). Two thirds (130) of the total embarked with the infantry and of these 26 were killed (20% or 1 in 5.) Representation was highest in the following battalions: 11th Battalion (32- 9 killed), 16th Bn (24-2 killed), 28th Bn (28- 10 killed) and the 44th Bn (19- 1 killed).

Casualties

Three members of the West Guildford Road Board enlisted in World War I; Mr Wyndham, Mr R. A. McDonald and Mr Wilson. Of the three who enlisted, Mr Wilson paid the ultimate sacrifice.

Mr William Joseph Wilson, (14990) of the 14th Field Ambulance, Australian Army Medical Corps, died on 30th of September 1918 Age 43. He was the third last casualty in the district and he was the son of George Robert and Phoebe Wilson; husband of E. E. Wilson, of Brook St., West Guildford, Western Australia and was born at Calcutta, India.

- Discovering Our Anzacs
<https://discoveringanzacs.naa.gov.au/browse/person/56079>
- Commonwealth War Graves Commission
<https://www.cwgc.org/find-wardead/casualty/256632/WILSON,%20WILLIAM%20JOSEPH>

An early casualty was Private Ben Bailey of the 11th Battalion who was shot at Gallipoli.

<https://discoveringanzacs.naa.gov.au/browse/person/77504>

Two others were killed before the evacuation in December 1915. The battles in France and Belgium bore the heaviest losses with 13 soldiers killed in 1916 and another nine in 1917.

The final casualty was Reginald Price who died on 12th of February 1919.

<https://discoveringanzacs.naa.gov.au/browse/person/283329>

A Memorial Service at St Marks, West Guildford was held for Private Ben Harold Bailey in 1915.

Read more at <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/204769603>

After his death his brother and father enlisted, both returning home safely.

West Guildford (Bassendean) War Memorial

Erected by the Citizens of West Guildford
to commemorate the Great War of 1914-1919
in honour of those who
fought and fell in defence of the Empire.

Date of Death	Name	Age	Service Number
25 April 1915	Ben Bailey	21	272
7 October 1915	Ernest Butt	28	599
29 October 1915	Frederick Bowra	28	Lieutenant
19 July 1916	George Honey	30	1291
20 July 1916	Frank Potter	25	4278
22 July 1916	Alfred Baxter	29	1507
25 July 1916	Ernest Pirani	19	3924
25 July 1916	Frederick Young	31	3517
29 July 1916	Joseph Frobisher	30	3103
14 August 1916	Herbert Cruttenden	20	4766
2 September 1916	George McIntosh	23	5152
3 September 1916	Frank Beck	24	2345
3 September 1916	James Gemmell	26	1542
3 September 1916	Irvine Pryde	22	1620
3 September 1916	Stanley Short	26	3962
3 September 1916	Francis Young	20	4631
4 September 1916	Thomas Hay	30	3345
23 December 1916	Ben Poutney	29	1268
11 April 1917	John Short	33	5790
23 April 1917	Maurice Barry	24	1998
10 June 1917	Arthur Gledhill	29	2915
11 July 1917	Walter Wallace	22	3236
25 July 1917	Frank Heald	26	5831
2 August 1917	George Dobson	41	1640
7 August 1917	Robert McWhirter	30	4678
21 September 1917	John Harman	21	4065
2 November 1917	Joseph Elliott	31	6311
15 November 1917	James Chambers	43	5822
24 April 1918	Thomas Lockhart	34	3873
12 August 1918	Charles Carter	31	7044A
30 September 1918	William Wilson	43	14990
3 October 1918	John Christie	27	402
12 February 1919	Reginald Price	22	8063

Local Soldiers Who Died in Service

West Guildford War Memorial

Erected in 1920 on the corner of Wilson and Old Perth Road the Bassendean, the West Guildford War Memorial was unveiled on 12th December 1920 by Sir Francis Newdegate, KCMG, State Governor. The West Guildford War Memorial predated the erection of the State War Memorial at Kings Park (24th November 1929) and followed the foundation stone laying by Sir William Birdwood at Stirling Square, Guildford on 4 January 1920 for the Guildford War Memorial.

West Australian (Perth, WA: 1879 - 1954), Monday 20 December 1920, page 8
"...His Excellency the Governor, in unveiling the memorial, said that he appreciated the compliment paid to him in being asked to unveil the splendid memorial that afternoon, because he had the honour of representing his Majesty the King in this State, and it was the King's wish that the greatest reverence and appreciation should be shown to the gallant men who went out to do their duty. Part of the appreciation of the monument was due to the fact that it had been erected by two returned soldiers, who had taken part with those whose names were inscribed on the beautiful memorial. In the old country they all felt and appreciated the part taken in the great struggle by men from the young countries of the Empire, who had come forward in a magnificent way to do their duty. It had been his good fortune to go about the State and see a many men and women, and to talk to a great many returned soldiers, and he had been by the great spirit shown by them. It had been difficult for many of them to return to their previous occupation, and some would never be the same men again and some were lost for ever to the world. But in all of them was a great spirit and it was not possible for any person to show enough respect to the men who had done their duty in such a noble way. They had brought back many honours to the State, and they had a record not to be beaten in any part of the world. It was not to be wondered at, for not only had fathers and grandfathers supported them, but they had the support of the splendid women of the country, to whom not only they, but the whole of the Empire, owed such great gratitude. They came that day to take part in a ceremony near to their hearts, in order to show respect to the men whose names were placed there. The beautiful prayer of dedication expressed what all felt from their heart. They all hoped and trusted that those who had lost their beloved ones might have a feeling of hope, help, sympathy, and affection meted out to them. "The Last Post" was sounded, and relatives of the fallen placed floral tributes upon the memorial, included in them being wreaths from the State executive of R.S.L, and the local branch. ..."

West Australian newspaper

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article27952089>

see also

Swan Express newspaper

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article207329547>

There are ten names which are both listed on the Guildford and West Guildford War Memorials.

Bassendean War Memorial was relocated further east on Old Perth Road in 1971. It remained here until late 2014. With the Bassendean War Memorial's relocation from its original site, the Bassendean Memorial Public Library was able to be made and includes the name "Memorial Library" to acknowledge the monument's original location.

In 2015 the Bassendean War Memorial was subsequently relocated to the BIC Reserve from its second location on Old Perth Road. The monument was re-dedicated on 11 April 2015, and the unveiling of the new plaque was made by Graham Edwards A.M., the Honourable Alannah McTiernan M.P. and the Mayor of Bassendean John Gangell.

Awards

Gallantry Award Summaries

- Private, later Sergeant Aubrey Ralph Brown of the 44th Battalion was awarded a Meritorious Service Medal.
- Sergeant James McKinlay, of 4th Division Signals was awarded a Military Medal.
- Lt (T/Capt) Hamersly won a Military Cross.
- Pte John Henry Man, later Corporal of the 41st and 42 Battalions was awarded the Military Medal and a Distinguished Conduct Medal.
- Private Ernest Wicks, of 12th Battalion (later promoted to Lieutenant in 51st Battalion, was awarded the Military Medal and then the Military Cross for bravery in the field.

Recommendations for Awards Summaries

- Lt Ernest Alexander Charlton was recommended for a Military Cross
- S/ Sgt Alexander Charles Ireland was Mentioned in Despatches.
- S/ Sgt John Beveridge Weir was Mentioned in Despatches.

Gallantry Awards Details

Private, later Sergeant **Aubrey Ralph Brown** of the 44th Battalion was awarded a Meritorious Service Medal. Aubrey Brown was born in 1881 to Aubrey Brown and Frances Jane (nee Brockman). Cpl. 22/02/1918. T/Sgt 14/12/1918. Aubrey Brown died in 1973 in Western Australia.

<https://discoveringanzacs.naa.gov.au/browse/person/5514>

"For continuous good service and devotion to duty. Corporal Brown has been confidential clerk to Brigade Headquarters since February 1917 and during this period has had to deal with operation orders calling for the exercise of the greatest amount of care in compiling. His work has been such as to call for the great attention to detail under, at times, very trying circumstances. Corporal Brown has rendered excellent services during the operations of MESSINES, June 1917, PASSCHENDAELE, October 1917 and on the SOMME July, August and September 1918."

Sergeant **James McKinlay**, of 4th Division Signals was awarded a Military Medal. Lt (T/Capt) Hamersly won a Military Cross. Mr James McKinlay was born in 1895. His next of kin listed as Robert B. McKinlay, his father who was a foundation West Guildford Road Board member. James held various ranks including Sapper/Corporal/Sergeant/2nd Lieutenant/Sergeant. He was awarded a Military Medal in 1917. James married Mary S. Lumsden in 1921. James died in 1984 aged 89 years old.

<https://discoveringanzacs.naa.gov.au/browse/person/42172>

“During the night of 25/26th September 1917, at Westhoek Ridge whilst there was a great deal of hostile shelling, Sergt. McKinlay went out on several occasions and repaired telephone lines which had been broken in many places by shells. He also established the Advanced Bde. Headquarters and Runner Relay Posts and assisted greatly in getting the Signal traffic through quickly. By his courage and untiring efforts to maintain communications under very trying circumstances, he set a fine example to the men of his Section.”

“During the 13th, 14th, 15th and 16th August Cpl McKinlay was stationed at Chalk Pit and during that period he showed great devotion to duty in assisting to maintain and lay telephone lines. It is greatly owing to Cpl. McKinley’s efforts that the Brigade was able to keep in touch with the Battalions.”

Lt Harold Alan Hamersley MC

Harold was born in 1896 at Pyrton the son of Hugh Allen Hamersley and Marion Hamersley (nee Pemberton). He married Clarice Lees in 1918. Harold served in the AIF. He was promoted within the Royal Flying Corps (U.K.) and won a Military Cross. Harold Hamersley died in 1967 in the U.K.

<https://discoveringanzacs.naa.gov.au/browse/person/182958>

“For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. On one occasion whilst leading his patrol he attacked a formation of six enemy planes. In the ensuing fight he destroyed two of these machines, one falling in flames and the second crashing to earth and during the same engagement assisted another officer in destroying a third. In addition to these he has destroyed five hostile machines and driven down three out of control. He is a magnificent pilot, displaying at all times an utter disregard of fear.”

Source London Gazette 22 June 1918 p7412



<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article57795253>

Pte **John Henry Man**, later Corporal of the 41st and 42 Battalions was awarded the Military Medal and a Distinguished Conduct Medal. He is associated with the district but not listed on the Bassendean War Memorial.

Private **Ernest Wicks**, of 12th Battalion (later promoted to Lieutenant in 51st Battalion, was awarded the Military Medal and then the Military Cross for bravery in the field. Ernest Wicks was born in 1893. His parents were Charles Rickward Wicks and Emma Wicks (nee Mills). Ernest married Edith Wilson in 1925. He died in 1977.

<https://discoveringanzacs.naa.gov.au/browse/person/360240>

Military Medal

"MOUQUET FARM. On morning of the 3rd September 1916, under Sergeant, did excellent work by bombing German who were supporting their machine gun. Then helped to bomb remainder of German machine gun crew, thus enabling us to work to right and eventually join up with 49th Battalion. They did good work observing during the night of 3rd September 1916."

Source: 'Commonwealth Gazette' No. 103

Date: 29 June 1917

Military Cross

"For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty while acting as battalion signal officer. Under heavy artillery fire, he superintended the repairing of telephone ground lines between headquarters and companies. Whilst so employed he organized a party of men of various units and led them

to support the left flank of a company which was holding up a strong enemy attack.”

Source: 'Commonwealth Gazette' No. 185 Date: 27 November 1918

Recommendations for Awards

Lt **Ernest Alexander Charlton** was recommended for a Military Cross.

<https://discoveringanzacs.naa.gov.au/browse/person/117795>

He was born in 1893 in Newcastle, N.S.W. Occupation- school teacher. He was the son of Hannah Charlton and married Bessie Parker in 1922. Ernest Charlton died in 1968 in Western Australia. Military Cross Recommendation date: 4 October 1917

“Lieut. Charlton showed marked courage and coolness under very trying circumstances. On the morning 1.10.17 near ZONNKEBEKE His platoon occupied a very shallow and muddy trench which was being heavily shelled both by the enemy and our own artillery. This later fact considerably demoralised his men as there were several casualties. He moved around his men at very great personal risk and by his cheerfulness and demeanour rallied his men inspiring them by the coolness he displayed. Through the tour in the line this Officer showed remarkable zeal, coolness and devotion to duty.”

Brigadier-General

Commanding 19th Aust. Infantry Brigade.

S/ Sgt **Alexander Charles Ireland** was Mentioned in Despatches. Alexander was born in 1889. He was the son of Thomas and Emily Ireland. Mr Ireland died in 1984 in Victoria.

<https://discoveringanzacs.naa.gov.au/browse/person/228026>

Recommendations (Medals and Awards) Mention in Despatches

Awarded, and promulgated, 'London Gazette' No 31386 (5 June 1919); 'Commonwealth Gazette' No. 113 (6 October 1919).

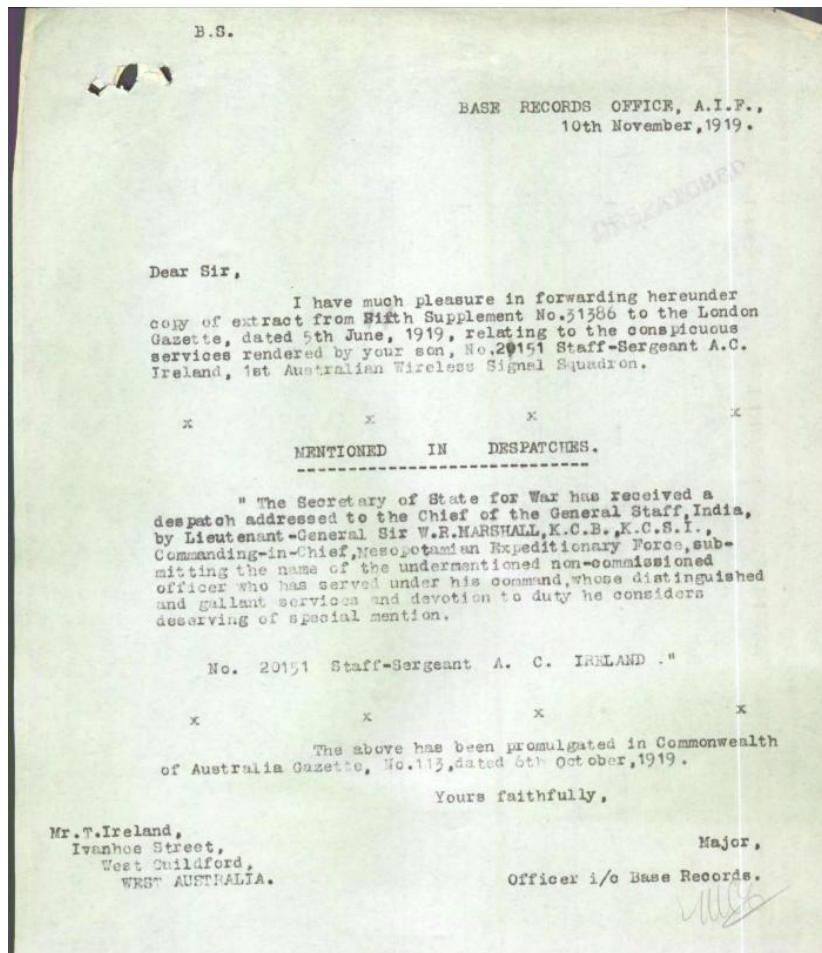
Award: Mention in Despatches

Date of London Gazette: 5 June 1919

Location in London Gazette: Page 7242, position 7

Date of Commonwealth of Australia Gazette: 6 October 1919

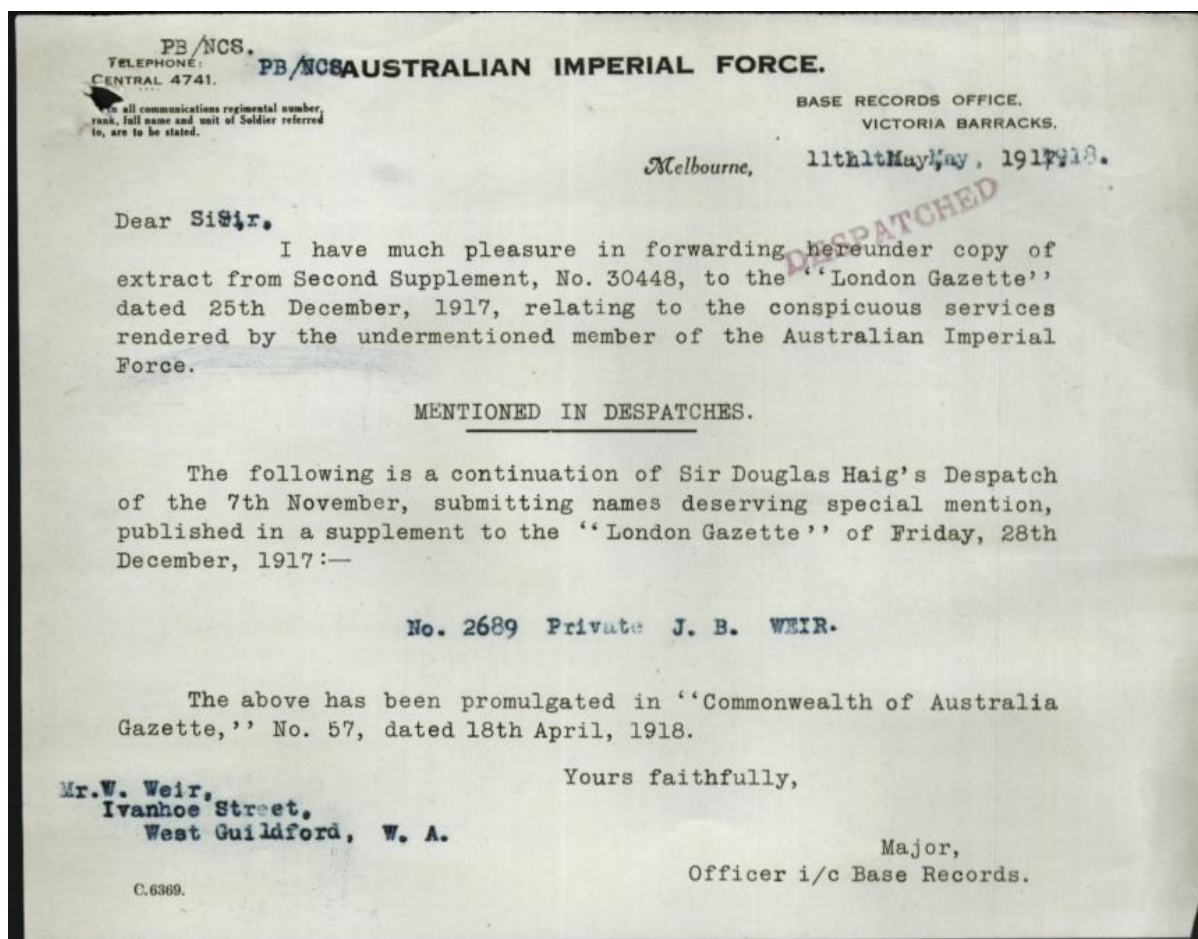
Location in Commonwealth of Australia Gazette: Page 1467, position 37



S/ Sgt **John Beveridge Weir** was Mentioned in Despatches. John Beveridge Weir was one of three brothers (with Edwin and William Weir) to enlist in West Guildford. He was born in 1893 in Scotland. He married Mary E. Moncrieff in 1923. John died in 1985, aged 92 in Western Australia.

<https://discoveringanzacs.naa.gov.au/browse/person/355460>

Recommendations (Medals and Awards) Mention in Despatches Awarded, and gazetted, 'London Gazette', second Supplement, No. 30448 (28 December 1917); 'Commonwealth Gazette' No. 57 (18 April 1918).



Streets Named for Soldiers

In 2015 the Town of Bassendean named 4 streets for soldiers listed on the Bassendean War Memorial to commemorate the centenary of Gallipoli. The following 4 soldiers were honoured.

Ernest Pirani, John Robert Christie, George James Dobson and Irvine Pryde.

Ernest Pirani- Pirani Lane

<http://discoveringanzacs.naa.gov.au/browse/person/280600>

Pirani Lane, Bassendean commemorates Ernest John Pirani (3924) who was born in Armidale Victoria. He was a nineteen-year-old Apprentice Fitter and resided in the district, c/o Mrs Counsil, Eileen Street, West Guildford, Western Australia. Mr Pirani was a Private in the 11th Battalion and his unit embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia, on board RMS Mongolia on 22 November 1915. He was killed in action 25 July 1916 and has no known grave. He is commemorated at the Australian National Memorial, Villers- Bretonneux, France. He is listed on the Bassendean War Memorial. His service record in the Bassendean War Memorial Collection in the Local Studies Collection and available online from the National Archives of Australia. His photograph is in the public domain from the Australian War Memorial.

<https://www.awm.gov.au/people/P10257616/>

John Robert Christie- Christie Way

<http://discoveringanzacs.naa.gov.au/browse/person/119406>

Mr John Robert Christie is listed on the Bassendean War Memorial and paid the ultimate sacrifice in World War I. He was the fifth child of Tom and Mary Christie and was born in 1892. He enlisted in 1915 (402) and died on 3 October 1918 aged 26 years old. The family is commemorated with Christie Park on the corner of Surrey Street in Bassendean.

George James Dobson- Dobson Lane

<http://discoveringanzacs.naa.gov.au/browse/person/148906>

Dobson Lane commemorates George James Dobson (1640) a Striker who lived in Railway Terrace, West Guildford, Western Australia with his wife Mrs Emily Elizabeth Dobson. He was born in Ballarat, Victoria and his parents were William and Priscilla Dobson. He served for 5 years in 3rd Battalion

Infantry. His unit embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia, on board HMAT A29 Suevic on 6 June 1916. Mr Dobson died of wounds 2 August 1916 in France, aged 42. He is buried at Boulogne Eastern Cemetery (Plot IV, Row A, Grave No. 49), France and on panel 137 with the Roll of Honour at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra. He is listed on the Bassendean War Memorial and his service record is held in the Bassendean War Memorial Collection in the Local Studies Collection and online from the National Archives of Australia.

Irvine Pryde - Pryde Link

<http://discoveringanzacs.naa.gov.au/browse/person/284704>

Pryde Link commemorates Irvine Pryde (1620) a Bush worker who was born in Dalkeith, Scotland. His parents were John and Mary Pryde of 34 Bruntsfield Place, Edinburgh, Scotland. Mr Pryde's Unit embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia, on board HMAT A50 Itonus on 22 February 1915. He was killed in action 3 September 1916 aged 22 years old. He is commemorated at the Australian National Memorial, Villers-Bretonneux, France and on panel 153 on the Roll of Honour at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra. He is listed on the Bassendean War Memorial and his service record is held in the Bassendean War Memorial Collection in the Local Studies Collection and available online at the National Archives of Australia.

World War II

Enlistments

According to the nominal roll online, 231 people (both men and women) who were born in Bassendean served in World War II. People served in the Army, RAN and RAAF. Fifteen women served in World War II who were born in Bassendean and many other women served who lived in Bassendean (but were not born in Bassendean). Women who were born and served in Bassendean were:

1. Beryl Moree Aubrey Army
2. Jean Bennetts RAAF
3. Shelia Miriam Clair Army
4. Patricia Lillian Counsel RAAF
5. Olwen Elizabeth Margaret Davies Army
6. Brenda Dorothy Ferrier Army
7. Clarice Amy Foster RAAF
8. Mary Noble Grierson RAAF
9. Daphne May Heald RAAF
10. Doreen Ethne Jenkin RAAF
11. Mildred Bernice Paulett Army
12. Sylvia Joyce Taylor RAAF
13. Bernice Clara Tilling Army
14. Teresa Stella Turner RAAF
15. Eunice Elsie Winch Army

There were 726 people whose locality was Bassendean on enlistment. (Source [online nominal roll](#))

In 1995 The Town of Bassendean hosted an "Australia Remembers" event for community members who served in World War II.

"Australia Remembers Function.

Monday 4 December 1995 saw nearly 300 people join together in the Community Hall in Old Perth Road to receive Certificates of Appreciation for War Service in World War II. The certificates issued by the Federal Government acknowledge either unsung heroes or an unrecognised service on one capacity or another towards the War effort. Mr Stephen Smith the Federal Member for Perth along with Mayor Vicki Philipoff presented Certificates of Appreciation to most of those attending. Councillors and staff served the afternoon tea, further enhancing recognition being given to the contribution of Bassendean Residents during the WAR. "

Source- Bassendean Town News February 1996 p.26

Private Jack Wicks

<http://www.ww2roll.gov.au/Veteran.aspx?serviceId=A&veteranId=748128>

Jack Wicks' picture was used in a poster by the WA Museum for the Debt of Honour: Australia's First Commandos and East Timor from 18 February – 20 May 2012 exhibition.

Awards - World War II

Three people received awards beyond service who were born in Bassendean.

1. Mr Wilfred George Chester received a Distinguished Service Medal. (DSM) LDG SMN (TY) (RADAR) <http://www.ww2roll.gov.au/Veteran.aspx?ServiceId=N&VeteranId=1094487>
2. Mr Wilfred Sperring received a Distinguished Service Medal. (DSM) PO TELEGRAPHIST
<http://www.ww2roll.gov.au/Veteran.aspx?ServiceId=N&VeteranId=1169822>
3. Mr William Robert Utting received a Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) Flying Officer.
<http://www.ww2roll.gov.au/Veteran.aspx?serviceId=R&veteranId=1066336>

Mr Frederick William Holding was not born in Bassendean but enlisted here and received a Distinguished Conduct Medal. Service number: WX7386, Rank: Warrant Officer Class 2, Unit: 2/28th Bn, Service: Army, Conflict: Second World War, 1939-1945. Award: Distinguished Conduct Medal. Date of London Gazette: 28 February 1946

HASS/ History Excursion Ideas

BIC- (Bassendean Improvement Committee) Reserve located on the corner of Wilson Street and Guildford Road, Bassendean. (Site of the Bassendean War Memorial) Formerly Hay's Swamp. The wetland was reclaimed with Sustance Labour in the 1930's to create the reserve in perpetuity for a children's playground. This "village green" hosts many local sporting groups and clubs and it is also used for picnics and by dog walkers.

Success Hill Reserve- Crown land accessed by Success Road, Bassendean, a registered aboriginal site with significant signage documenting the use of the site over time for corroborees, meeting the Duke and Duchess of York 1901 and how the soil was removed to create embankment in the Bassendean Oval.

Success Hill (lesson plan)

<http://det.wa.edu.au/aboriginaleducation/apac/detcms/aboriginal-education/apac/lesson-plans/society-and-the-environment.en?cat-id=9192344>

Three locations of the Bassendean War Memorial.

1st corner Wilson Street and Perth Road

2nd Old Perth Road (formerly Perth Road) in front of Council Administration building

3rd B.I.C. Reserve (adjacent to Guildford Road)



Links you may find useful.

- Trove List- Hays Swamp To BIC
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/list?id=103544>
- Mapping our Anzacs- Bassendean War Memorial online tributes

Access to all Service Records for men listed on the Bassendean War Memorial are available online at [Mapping Our Anzacs](#). Service Records for soldiers who fought and fell and who are listed on the Bassendean War Memorial are available at this [Mapping Our Anzacs tribute](#). The Service Records are made accessible by the National Archives of Australia.

- AIF Project <https://www.aif.adfa.edu.au/search>
- Commonwealth War Graves Commission <https://www.cwgc.org/>
- Trove <https://trove.nla.gov.au/>
- Nominal Roll WW2 <http://www.ww2roll.gov.au/>
- National Archives of Australia <http://www.naa.gov.au/>
- Bassendean Historical Society Inc.
<http://www.bassendean.wa.gov.au/historical-society.aspx>
- Bassendean Memorial Library Local Studies Collection
<http://library.bassendean.wa.gov.au/services/local-studies.aspx>

Bibliography

Two history books about Bassendean have been written; "[A History of Bassendean](#)" (1947) by Alf Thomas and "Bassendean : A Social History 1829-1979" (1986) by Jennie Carter. Both are available to borrow from the Bassendean Memorial Library in printed format.

"Sacred and bright with flowers: The Bassendean war memorial as a symbol of community values." Amanda Curtin in "Early Days: Journal of the Royal Western Australian Historical Society Inc." Vol 11 part 5, 1999, pp. 629-37.

Bring Descent Signallers by James Lumsden McKinlay.

Town of Bassendean Heritage Study Vol 1- Department of Planning and Urban Development by Naomi Lawrance and Tanya Suba 1991 pp53-58