

Know Your 'Hood

This project mines the local history memories of your streets to find stories for walkers. It introduces you to your predecessors, their lives and pre-occupations and the ways your neighbourhood has been shaped

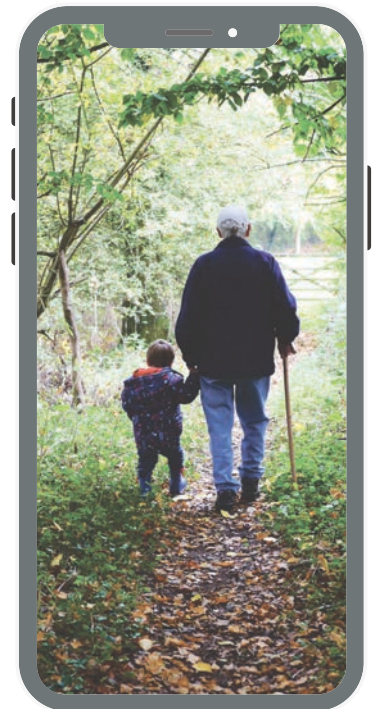
Golden Point, Ballarat:

This walk takes you through the heart of Golden Point in Ballarat starting near the junction with Victoria Street and heading in a straight line down Barkly Street with a couple of short diversions along the way. But in that short 1.5km space you'll see a major transformation has taken place from the 19th century to today and be introduced to former neighbours who were WW1 home front volunteers, much loved 'hood characters, 'everyday' people doing special things and sensational events such as ravaging floods and the disappearance of a kitchen garden to collapsing mine shafts.

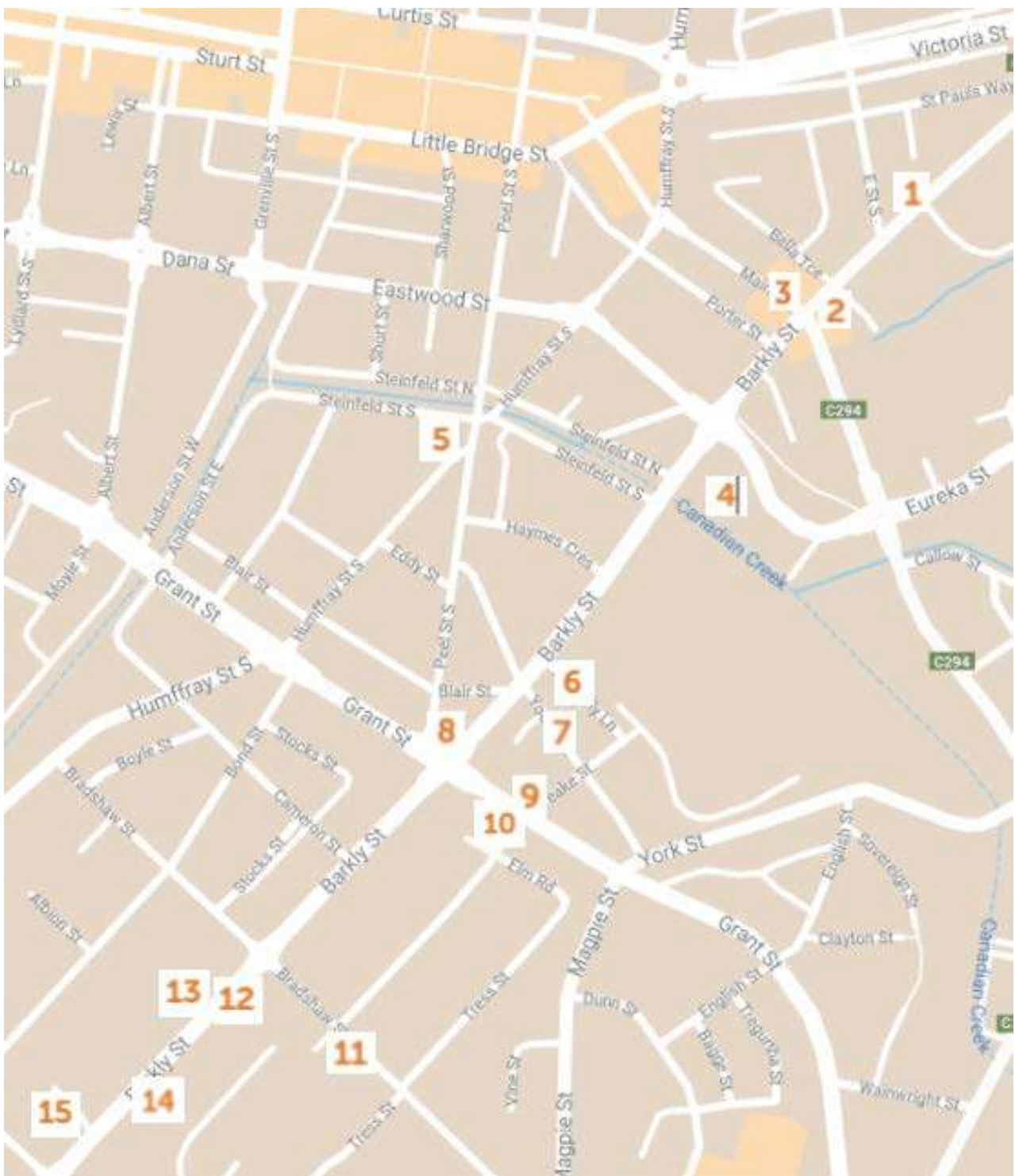


Its stories:

1. Ballarat Fire Brigade, Barkly Street
2. 'The Chinese Camp at Golden Point' - 1929
3. Golden Point Chinese Joss House - 1860
4. The Llanberris mine
5. Flood 'baffles description' - 1870s
6. Billy Butterfly
7. Young Street - residents over the years
8. 'One of the prettiest bachelor homes I have seen' - 1859
9. Peake Street - residents over the years
10. 'Immediate attention needed for the public's health' - 1880s
11. Peake Street powder magazine - 1881
12. The 'sensational' collapse of a kitchen garden - 1920
13. 'A happy day in the bush' - 1925
14. Salvation Army Prison Gate Brigade Home, 1886
15. Barkly Street in World War One



Story Route



Length: 1.5 km
Difficulty: Easy

Ballarat Fire Brigade - 1870s



"We strive to save" - Ballarat Fire Brigade Brake [1894]

Ballarat Fire Brigade was established in 1856 for good reason. By the 1870s Ballarat East 'has in past years suffered much from large fires, some sixty houses and one theatre having been swept away by one conflagration, and the same sites having over and over again been covered with the ashes of igneous ruin.'

By 1870 the Fire Brigade of East Ballarat had 40 members and a 'complete apparatus'. At its 22nd annual meeting in 1877 the secretary reported

“ the same number of appliances, still in excellent order, but requiring painting and overhauling. The need to replace some of the canvas hose, which had been in use for 12 years already. Many of the helmets, used constantly since 1861, were almost worn out. Connection by telegraph between the Ballarat and City fire stations with a watch ow kept from 7pm to 6am every night. A code of signals had been arranged between them, which proved a great saving in time taken to attend fires. The completion of the Gong Gon Reservoir meant the water pressure had improved from 85lbs per square inch in the previous year to 110lb . There were 14 fires and 7 practices. ”



CHINESE CAMP GOLDEN POINT
1886

'The Chinese Camp at Golden Point'

Reflecting on the disappearance of the 'Chinese camp' at the end of the 19th century a Ballarat Star reporter wrote:

“ As each year goes by the Chinese camp at Golden Point grows gradually smaller and smaller... When the camp was at the height of its prosperity fully 2000 Chinamen occupied huts in the locality... now there are comparatively few huts left and the population does not exceed 80 Chinese... The huts for the most part are composed of a few weatherboards, eked out with saplings, butter boxes and kerosene tins, and it says much for the Chinese architecture that, though the residences are so frail

and dilapidated, they re proof against the heavy gales which from times sweep over the camp... the Chinese at present... mainly subsist on the rations supplied by the Benevolent Asylum. The only amusements they appear to have are games od dominoes... indulging in conversation on Chinese politics or on the glories of the camp in bygone days... gambling houses used to flourish at Golden Point, but the ravages of time have swept these away... ”

By 1858 'the Chinese population reached its peak of just under 10,000... of these only two were women... [many living in] six Chinese "villages"... mostly in the Ballarat East area... centred around Young Street with Chinese shops also taking over several blocks of Main Road. Two Chinese temples were established...'

As mining declined in the late 19th century many Chinese turned to market gardening along the Yarrowee Creek, most of them 'single men working cooperatively'. The 1901 Immigration Restriction Act meant fewer and fewer new arrivals and eventually 'the Chinese temple and association Kuomintang Hall fell into disuse and much of the early Chinese camp was removed to make way for a sports reserve.'

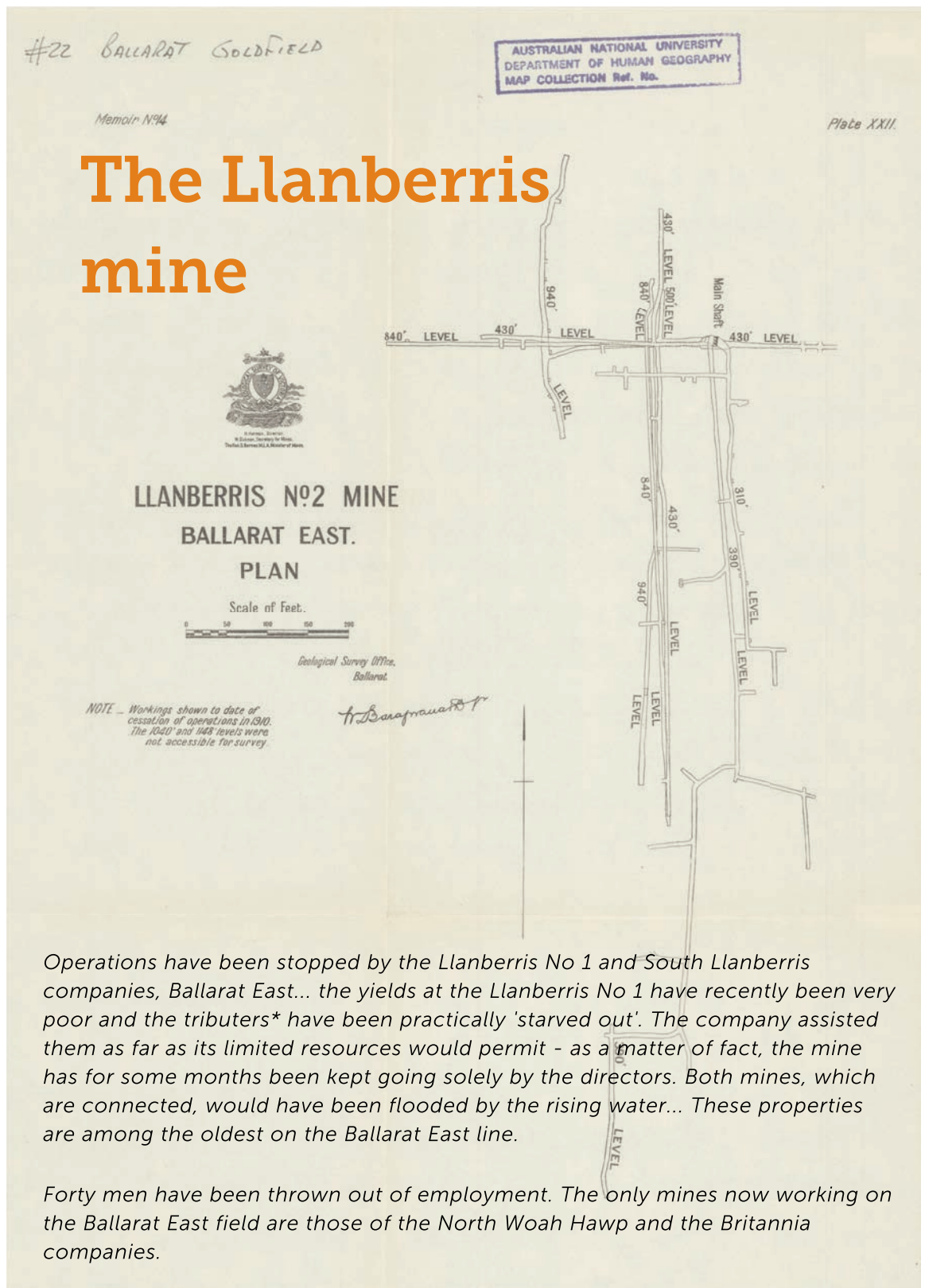


Golden Point Chinese Joss House



“The Chinese joss house on the Golden Point which is not complete, so far as the internal decorations of the temple are concerned, is really deserving of notice, and speaks much for the artistic skill of the Chinese artisans... The facade of the building is artistically decorated with a number of fowls and animals of different varieties... The entrance into the building is by a large door... the interior which is reichly adorned with carved work of nearly every variety and description. The walls are hung all round with mottoes in Chinese characters... in the far end of the building is a sort of dais, on which Quang Kong, the Chinese God, is seated corss-legged. This illustrious individual is the representative of light, and consequently related to the sun, but in what especial degree we are not in a position to say...

At the feet of this Chinese deity are three cups filled with some sort of liquid, but what they symbolise, or what is their exact use or purpose, we cannot learn. Around the head of the god are sundry peacock's feathers, and from his chin descends a full-flowing beard of a very patriarchal description... Seated on a number of forms were several Chinese smoking opium; one was reading a book, another was sipping tea... In one corner of the temple a small room is partitioned off in which the chapel keeper resides. He... can speak English remarkably well... to worship in this temple it is necessary that the devotee pay [1 pound 5 shillings] and for this sum he gets a card, which on production, entitles him to enter at any time during the period he may remain in the colony. The total cost of the building was 500 pounds. ”



NOTE (1917) - 'Workings shown to date of cessation of operations in 1910. The 1040' and 1148' levels were not accessible for survey'.

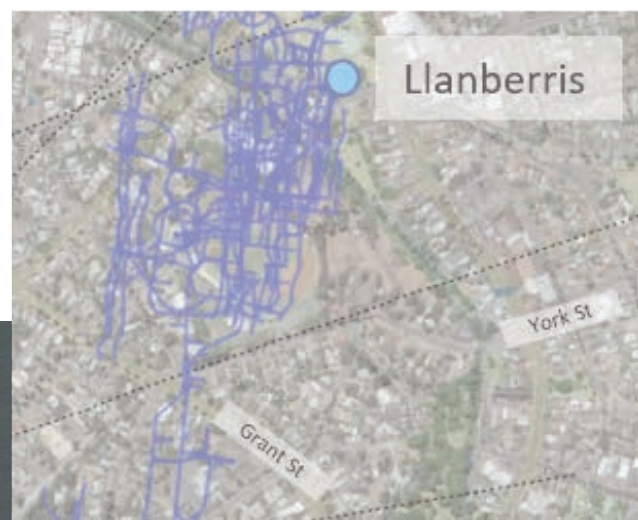
The Age reported:

Operations have been stopped by the Llanberris No 1 and South Llanberris companies, Ballarat East... the yields at the Llanberris No 1 have recently been very poor and the tributers* have been practically 'starved out'. The company assisted them as far as its limited resources would permit - as a matter of fact, the mine has for some months been kept going solely by the directors. Both mines, which are connected, would have been flooded by the rising water... These properties are among the oldest on the Ballarat East line.

Forty men have been thrown out of employment. The only mines now working on the Ballarat East field are those of the North Woah Hawp and the Britannia companies.

Ballarat Gold Mine's website reports:

The Ballarat Gold Mine is a modern underground mine. It operates deep beneath the city's buildings, streets and homes, and although its extensive network of tunnels are busy with daily activity, the entire structure is invisible to all but those who know.



*Tributers work in gangs and are paid a portion of the ore (or of its value) raised in the location they are permitted to work in

Text - 'The Llanberris Mines Close Down', The Age, 20 November 1917, p.9;

<https://ballaratgoldmine.com.au/mining-activities/>

Image - Australia, Victoria, Llanberris No. 2 Mine, Ballarat East Goldfield, Plan, Plate

XXII, 1917; <https://ballaratgoldmine.com.au/mining-activities/>



VIEW OF BALLAARAT FROM GOLDEN POINT.

“ Perched upon the roof of the small stable which adjoins their humble abode in Anderson Street, midway between Humffray and Barkly streets, and fronting the Caledonian channel, sat William Foulk and "his mate" while the waters gradually crept up towards the eave ”

Eventually the 'mate' swam off to find a good escape in another street and did not return, while 'Foulk, who was much afflicted with rheumatism, and who labored under the disadvantage of having a wooden leg... waded to get to higher ground, but was carried away, and his body was found some hours after near Sebastopol.'

In yet another disastrous flood

the state of matters along Bridge street, Main road, Humffray and Barkly streets baffles description, and in point of destruction of property, mud and desolation, has never been equalled at any other time. House are missed, having been carried away, no one know where, by the raging flood. Other houses have been altered in their position, and thrown out of their perpendicular, numberless gardens utterly destroyed, and bridges and fototpaths swept away. The calamity is so serious that years must elapse beyond the evils consequent on this terrible visitation will be overcome. Already a meeting has been called together to devise measures of relief for the unfortunate sufferers...

Text – 'The floods', The Herald, 31 October 1870, p.3

Image – Nicholas Chevalier photographer, 'View of Ballarat from Golden Point', 1858, State Library Victoria IMN30/01/58/56



Billy Butterfly

“

part of the fabric of this city in his time

”

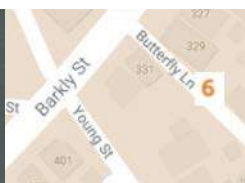
Ballarat residents old enough to remember Billy Butterfly (d.1969) recollect him walking the streets of Ballarat East or watching his Golden Point Football Club's home games at the Eastern Oval.

He lived in a hut in White Flat until it was vandalized and his Ballarat friends built him a new one in what later became Llanberris Reserve. Billy often attended two masses at church in a day, spoke Latin, reciting it to himself when at home, and loved attending weddings at St Patrick's Church in Lyon Street. He served in World War One and is named on the Ballarat Avenue of Honour. Ancestry.com shows him as being the only child of Bridget Heaphy and Joseph Ah Lung, but he had as many as fifteen half-siblings!

The story goes that he was born William Lang but became known as Billy Butterfly because of the Chinese butterfly kites he frequently flew with his father Ah Lung, who was captain of the Chinese Fire Brigade in the Chinese camp at Ballarat.

It seems the 'Billy Butterfly' moniker went back for generations in his family. News reports of 1910 tell of the sudden death from bronchitis of 'William Ah Lung, better known as "Billy Butterfly"' at the age of 72. He was 'a resident of the Chinese Camp at Golden Point... for over fifty years. He was prominent in every Chinese movement for years past, was at one time captain of the Chinese Fire Brigade and was foremost in the periodical "chasing off the Devil".' The Ballarat Star explained he was 'the most popular Chinese in the camp... and to him was allotted the work of deciding when the devil had been successfully chased down the shaft of the Llanberris mine.'

The dates of these stories indicate that the kite flying Capt. Ah Lung is more likely to be the grandfather than the father of the currently remembered Billy Butterfly.



Young Street residents' stories over the years

1. The Edwards family - 7 Young Street

In 1926 a 'Ballarat Sensation' was reported with the 'Erratic behaviour of armed man': 'Detectives Dunn and Jackson were called to Young st last night by a report of a shooting incident and on arrival there they found a crowd of 150 to 200 persons congregated outside the house of a man that had a double barrellled gun from which he was alleged to have twice fired among the crowd. Detectives Dunn and Jackson tackled him and secured the gun which had been reloaded... According to evidence given in the city police court... he had threatened to shoot his father... Dun and Jackson (were commended) for having faced an armed man at the risk of their lives'

Several months later the Edwards were back in the news when 'Mrs Annie Edwards, 65, the second wife of James Edwards... was found burned to death in an outhouse at her home on December 16. She had been wearing night attire and slippers with a coat thrown over her. The clothes were burnt off her body. A box of matches lay on the floor but had not ignited... There was no sign of a fire about the building. Mrs Edwards is said to have been worrying over the case of her stepson who had been before the court some months ago in connection with a shooting episode... Constable Hoath... states that the husband saw his wife at 3.50am when she was in bed. When he awakened at 8 o'clock she had disappeared. She had not been quite normal of late.'

2. William Robertson - 10 Young Street

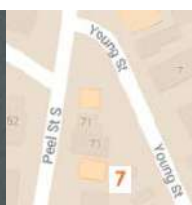
In 1956 Mr Robertson chose 'a novel way of celebrating his 85th birthday tomorrow - he will distribute a total of 42 pounds 10 shilling among local institutions. This represents 10 shillings for every year of his age. Mr Robertson, who personally will present his donations, began his itinerary today at the Base Hospital and Red Cross office. A well-known Ballarat personality, Mr Robertson is a leading figure in the A.N.A. and the Historical Society, of which he is vice-president. He was born at Cambrian Hill, near Ballarat.'

Robertson had moved into Young Street after the war and was still living there in 1965 at the age of 94.



3. The Begler family - 17 Young Street

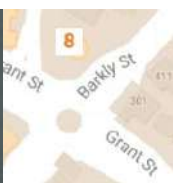
Mr Begler received a letter in 1917 from his son Pte Percy Begler, who wrote from Palestine: 'We have been getting stewed rabbits for the last few days, and it was a nice change from the fresh meat. The boys are living high on bacon and eggs and fried tomatoes. We got some things from the Australian Gift Fund, such as tins of fruit, jam, milk and tomato suace, so you see we don't do too badly.'



'One of the prettiest bachelor homes I have seen - 1859



“ The southern continuation of Barkly Street... has its frontages also taken up for a considerable distance at frequent intervals. Snug substantial dwellings, with fenced and well-cultivated gardens abound about here, and betoken the home instincts of the erewhile nomde miner. The queerly "posited" but neatly little cottages of an old Gravel Pits miner, at the north-western corner of Barkly Street and Golden Point Road, with its garden full of fruit trees, flowers and vegetables... is one of the prettiest bachelor homes I have seen anywhere in my strollings... however... all round this region the inhabitants complain of inadequate police protections. For my own part I never saw a policeman about there in all my life... ”



Peake Street residents' stories over the years

1. The Burridges - 8 & 17 Peake Street

In 1918 Mr and Mrs W. Burrige, of 8 Peake Street, gave notice 'that their son, William Alfred, has been wounded. The nature of the wounds was not stated. His brother George has just landed in England.' In 1920 the extended Burrige family were also living in number 17 Peake Street, and remained in number 8 until at least the 1960s.

2. Miss Mabel Richards - 12 Peake Street

Mabel lived here for most of maybe all of her life (1896-1965) and was one of the many who helped plant the World War One Avenue of Honour after the First World War.

3. Miss E Thomas - 18 Peake Street

Miss Thomas was one of the 'Lucas Girls' - a machinist during the week and an Avenue of Honour tree planter on the weekend.

E.Lucas & Co., a manufacturer of ladies undergarments with a work force of 500 (most of them women) was, by June 1917, already 'weary in well doing' with its involvement in so many patriotic undertakings. They also pressed for funds, advocacy and a volunteer workforce to plant 3,900 trees for the Ballarat Avenue of Honour in recognition of every person from Ballarat who enlisted.

4. William Penhall - 21 Peake Street

1917: 'An old resident of Mount Pleasant, Mr William Penhall, died yesterday afternoon in circumstances of painful suddenness. He had just returned to his home... and, according to his custom, he sat down and began to read a paper. A few minutes later he fell from the chair and by ths time his wife reached him life had departed. Deceased, ... followed the avocation of engine-driver... One of deceased's sons, Mr Ernest Penhall, recently appeared here as a member of the Italian Opera Company.'



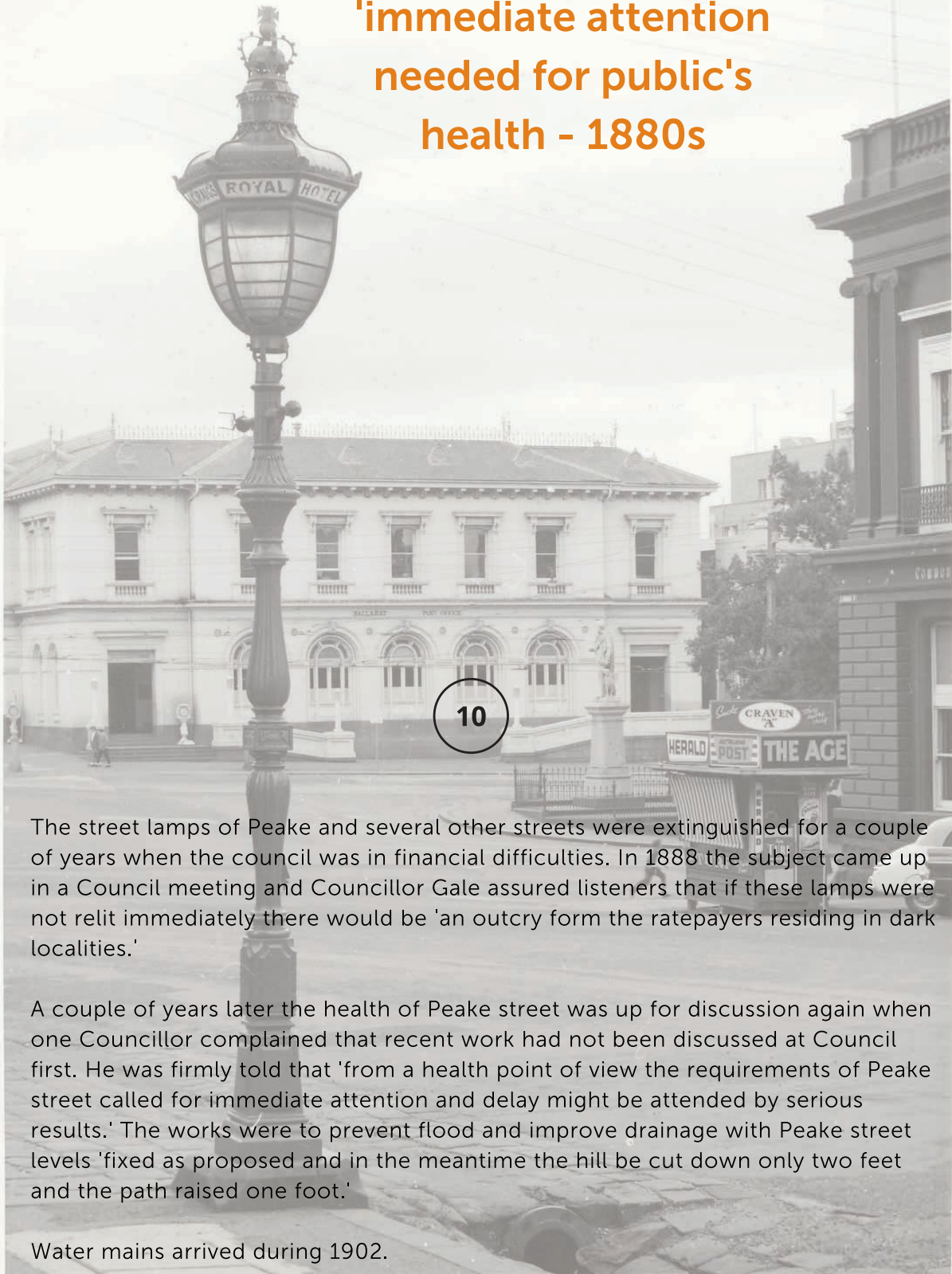
5. Bill Lucas - 28 Peake Street

Bill Lucas 'was well known in that districe as a good bowler with Eureka Tile Works' Eleven. He took 60 wickets in club cricket before joining up - 42 of them in six weeks' in 1944'.

The Lucas family were still at #28 until at least 1960.



Peake Street - 'immediate attention needed for public's health - 1880s

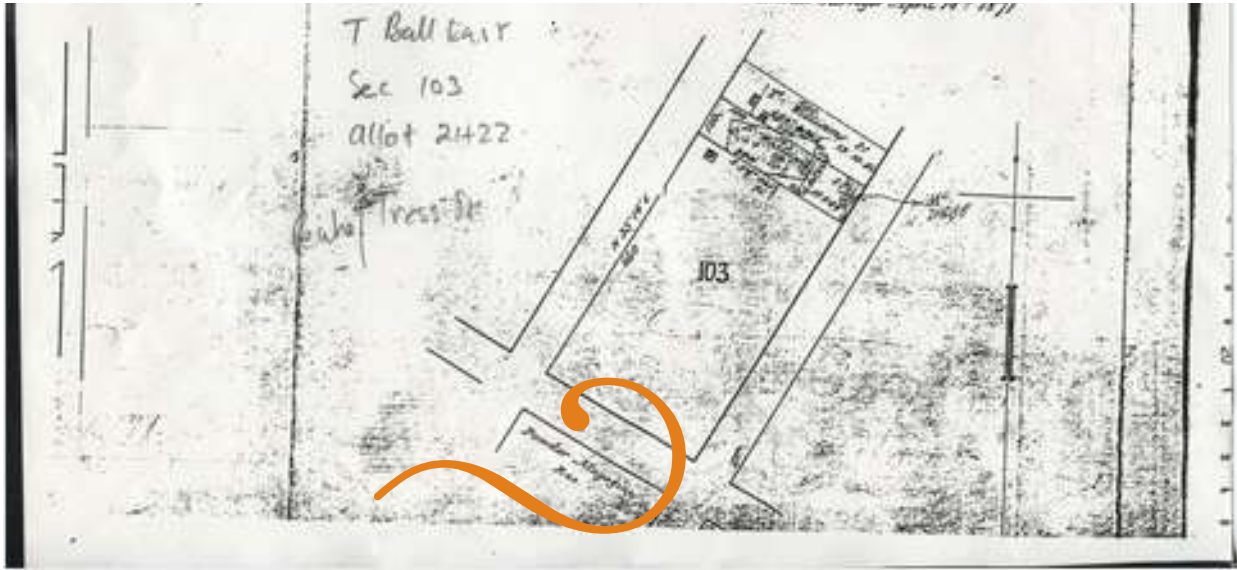


The street lamps of Peake and several other streets were extinguished for a couple of years when the council was in financial difficulties. In 1888 the subject came up in a Council meeting and Councillor Gale assured listeners that if these lamps were not relit immediately there would be 'an outcry from the ratepayers residing in dark localities.'

A couple of years later the health of Peake street was up for discussion again when one Councillor complained that recent work had not been discussed at Council first. He was firmly told that 'from a health point of view the requirements of Peake street called for immediate attention and delay might be attended by serious results.' The works were to prevent flood and improve drainage with Peake street levels 'fixed as proposed and in the meantime the hill be cut down only two feet and the path raised one foot.'

Water mains arrived during 1902.

The Powder Magazine * - 1881



In August 1881 an inquiry into the use and storage of explosives, needed for mining, took place in city Hall. Witnesses spoke of explosives kept 'in a very insecure condition'. Merchants kept 'large quantities in their stores, and even at their private residences'. Councillor Morrison had known one company to keep up to five kegs of explosives and with 'no particular law relating to the carts in which powder was carried. He had seen dynamite lying about...' He believed if the magazine were placed under civic authorities, open for 12 hours a day instead of 2, and storage fees reduced to a minimum, merchants would be far more likely to use the magazine than their own places.

Mr Whiting, who was the foreman at the ironmongers, said that when explosives were brought from the railway station to the store they were always covered with a tarpaulin, and dynamite and powder were never kept together. He agreed that the magazine [opening] hours should be extended and that 'wherever it was possible powder was sent by itself and kept apart from detonating caps and dynamite.'

Mr Stewart, a mining surveyor, provided evidence that 'most mining companies... had magazines... The companies were limited to a fortnightly supply... The complaints as to the effect of the fumes of dynamite were chiefly of excruciating pains in the head, and he had noticed the effect hundreds of feet away from where the shots were fired.' While one or two gave evidence against the health consequences of working alongside dynamite and powder [unless it exploded of course] Dr Owen said many miners complained of 'heart affections and shortness of breath, which they attributed to the fumes of powder or dynamite [however] insufficient ventilation would cause such complaints.'

The Commission members inspected the Mount Pleasant powder magazine 'and the chairman expressed himself well satisfied with the existing arrangements.'

* Magazines are buildings that were used by the military or in civil engineering to safely house explosives in wooden barrels

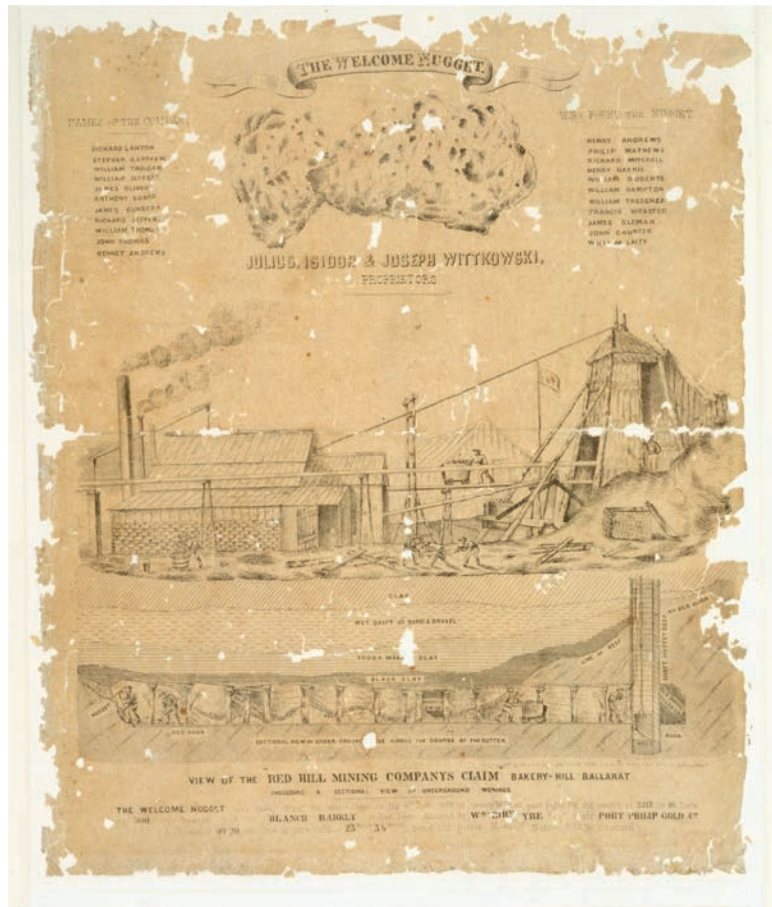
A sensational kitchen garden - 1920

Top: The 'welcome nugget' from the Red Hill Mining Co's claim in June 1858.

Centre: men working above ground at the mine.

Bottom: 'sectional view of the underground workings' with men digging in a shaft, one digging out the nugget with a pick, and soil types and rock.

At Mrs Reiffel's home at 61A Barkly Street * the 'sensational' collapse of her kitchen garden into an old mine shaft revealed some of the effects on the landscape that the extraordinary amount of 19th century mining had led to. Her kitchen garden was over the old Britannia mine's shaft, which had been covered with concrete slabs and thought to be secure until the shaft mouth collapsed and her garden disappeared.



“*The Britannia mine shaft is 1700ft deep but is thought to have been blocked in parts by the carrying of the old timber walls... So honeycombed is the country by mining operations that a request made several years ago by the Britannia Co for permission to drive beneath the Barkly Street Methodist Church... was refused by the Supreme Court... Several days ago a motor bus owned by Mr Reiffel was bogged at the spot where the subsidence took place, the wheel going down 2ft through the surface crust... Old Britannia United Mining Co was one of the main gold mining companies in the 1890s but had been long closed. The mouth of the shaft... was protected by a large concrete slab and a quantity of planking. The collapse occurred at a point about 40ft down the shaft and the subsiding earth caused an opening on the surface fully 30 feet across, with several cottages nearby including the Rieffel's. One side of the garden gave in and a quantity of choice cabbages, cauliflowers and parsnips disappeared under the disturbed ground.*

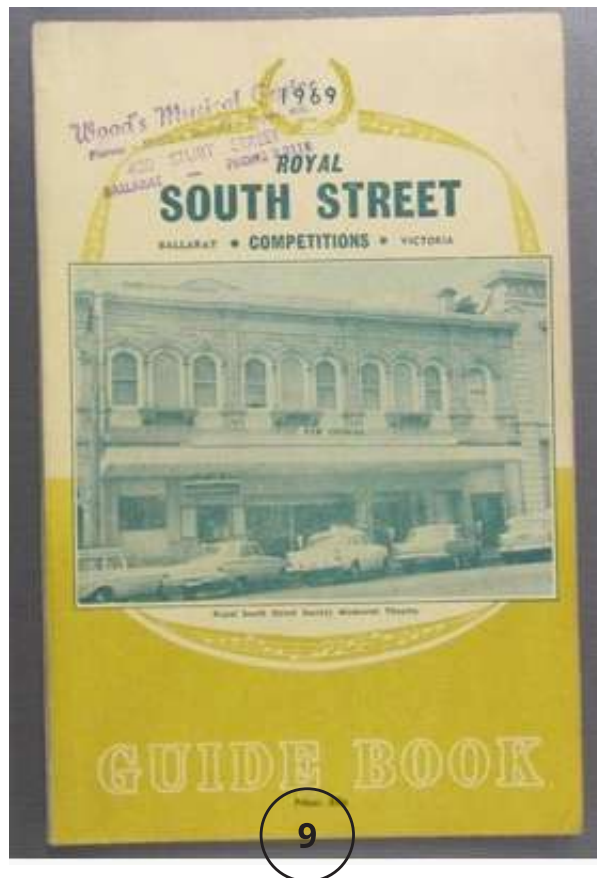
The Jewish synagogue, public library, fire brigade station and other large buildings have in years gone by been affected by subsidence and much expense was incurred in repairs.

[A council meeting shortly after the sensational disappearance discussed the problem of collapsing shafts with differing views] After some further discussion the matter (like the land) was allowed to subside. ”

1 Street directories of the time show this address was between Grant and Bradshaw Street
Text – 'Meteorological', The Ballarat Star, 19 August 1924, p.4; 'Home on shaft subsidence causes danger. Kitchen garden collapsed', The Herald, 15 August 1924, p.6; 'Mind shaft collapses, Woman's sensational experience', The Age, 15 August 1924, p.12

Image – H. Deutsch, lithographer, 'The Welcome Nugget; view of the Red Hill Mining company's claim', Bakery Hill, Ballarat. State Library of Victoria, H31739

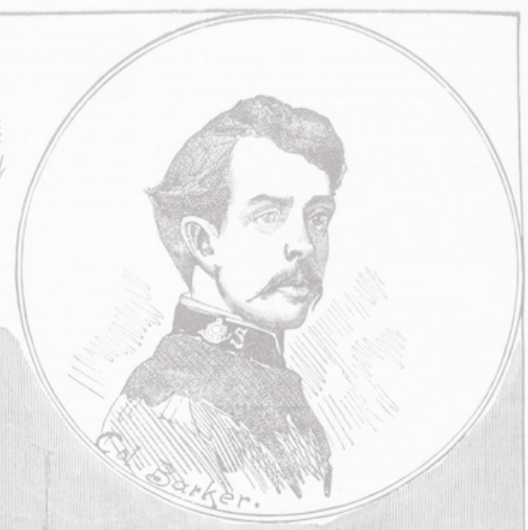
'A happy day in the bush' - 1925



Phyllis Welsh, 13 yrs old and of 79 Barkly Street, which in 1925 was on the east side between Grant and Bradshaw Streets, was excited to write to the populr children's columnist Aunt Patsy 'to try for the letter competition'.

She wrote about her 'happy days in the bush' when the Biship gave her school a half day holiday for three nuns were 'were getting the black veil'. On this day Phyllis and some frineds met at the Caledonian Bridge and walked through paddocs of cows and horses, increasingly scarce houses, large fields of wild flowers and sunk a few inches in the mud of a 'pretty little stream covered with watercress'.

She also told of planning to try her luck in the South Street Competitions (later Royal SSC), which today is today one of Australia's largest performing arts competitions and was first held in 1879.



Salvation Army Prison Gate Brigade Home, - 1886

Prison Gate Brigade homes are for those who have recently come out of gaol. In a newspaper feature in 1886 a correspondent described the 'Work of the Salvation Army at Ballarat':

“Some queer characters are brought together at the dinner table in the quarters of the Salvation Army Prison Gate Brigade Home in Barkly Street... These characters include a real "blood and fire" Christian who was an infidel in the past who did not believe in the hereafter and was always wretched.

A handsome young fellow... the son of a leading doctor in one of the principal cities of England. He came out here for the benefit of his health... but he went in for luxuries in Melbourne and had a jolly time of it until he found that he had spent all his money... a person advised him to seek the Salvation Army Home in Ballarat...

A middle-aged man sitting next to the doctor's son, and his manner and conversation also tells of education and of better days. He was a banker once, and retired from the bank in a good position... He wanted to increase his fortune and speculated with ill success... In a few months he was left with only a hundred or two and then he started to drink... He soon spent all his money in drink... then his suits of clothes... He got into the horrors and was admitted into the home... He does not believe in hell after death, thinking that what he passed through when in the horrors could not be improved upon even with the assistance of fire and brimstone...

There is an old benevolent looking man who stands at the table, and bears an air of *Laob* importance. He is the cook of the establishment. Had the home not existed he would have spent most of his time very likely in the gaol for he was a vagrant and had no means of living...

They are kept constantly employed if employment can be got for them, or if not they sell 'War Cries' in the streets or do work about the house. Strict discipline is enforced in the Home and all the inmates attend the army meetings each evening. ”

Text – Work of the Salvation Army at Ballarat', Mount Alexander Mail, 6 May 1886, p.2

Image – FA. Sleep engraver, 'Salvation Army Work', David Syme and Co, October 1 1889. State Library of Victoria, IAN01/10/89/8. Shows Salvation Army members in Melbourne at prayer and in the streets helping people

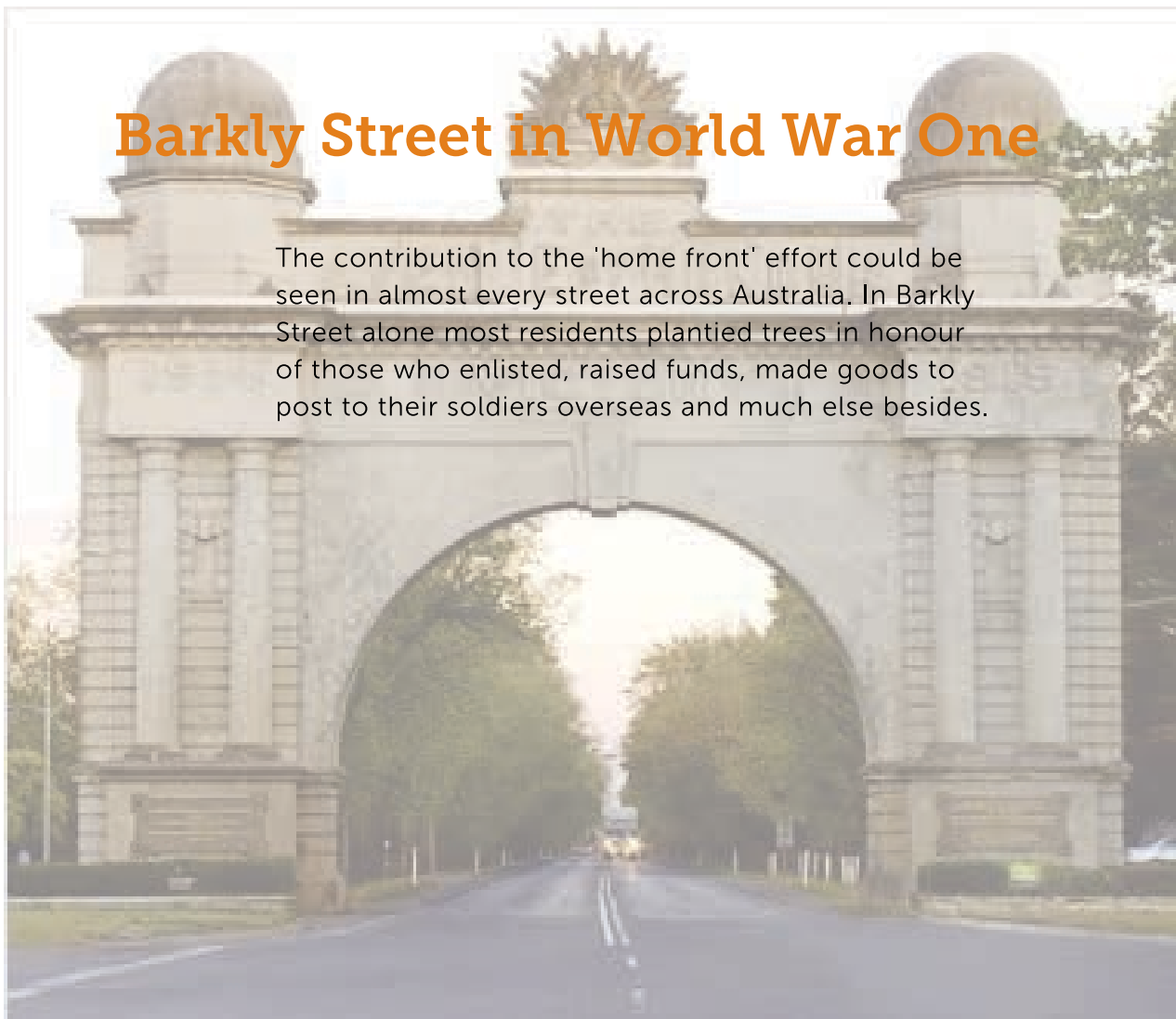
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Barkly St

Barkly Street in World War One

The contribution to the 'home front' effort could be seen in almost every street across Australia. In Barkly Street alone most residents planted trees in honour of those who enlisted, raised funds, made goods to post to their soldiers overseas and much else besides.



Freida Jacob [1895-] - 9 Barkly Street	Avenue of Honour tree planter
Vera Briscoe [1899-1977] - 15 Barkly Street	Avenue of Honour tree planter
Janet Hunt -1911-1961] - 136 Barkly Street	Red Cross Society Waubra
Elizabeth Dunlop [1842-1920] 135 Barkly Street	Ballarat East Red Cross
Robert Young [1861-1924], bootmaker, 14 Barkly Street	Avenue of Honour tree planter
Alice Trotman [1895-1976], clerk, 82 Barkly Street	Avenue of Honour tree planter
William Titheridge [1873-1952], manager, 93 Barkly Street	Avenue of Honour tree planter, Ballarat Red Cross
William Proven [1888-1956], clerk, 58 Barkly Street	Avenue of Honour tree planter
Isaiah Pearce [1844-1919] of 'Clowance', 62 Barkly Street	Avenue of Honour tree planter. His son Capt. Joseph is honoured with tree #615
Emma Pearce [1856-1922] 'Clowance', 62 Barkly Street	Friendly Union of Soldiers Wives Ballarat Council
Florence Knipe, machinist, 171 Barkly Street	Avenue of Honour tree planter
Christine Kinsman [1869-1954] 89 Barkly Street	Lady Mayoress's Patriotic League Ballarat
Julia Jacobi [1894-] 9 Barkly Street	Avenue of Honour tree planter
Beatrice Jacobi [1898-] 9 Barkly Street	Avenue of Honour tree planter
Robert Gribble [1872-1931], Solicitor, 60 Barkly Street	Avenue of Honour tree planter
Ida Gribble [1878-1955], home duties, 60 Barkly Street	Avenue of Honour tree planter
Emily Cowell [1869-1942], 23 Barkly Street	Avenue of Honour tree planter
Marion Corin [1901-1976], 25 Barkly Street	Avenue of Honour tree planter
Blanche Carter [1889-1960], saleswoman, 20 Barkly Street	Avenue of Honour tree planter
John Butterworth [1859-1929], 181 Barkly Street	Avenue of Honour tree planter

