

# SHIRE OF ALEXANDRA



# PAST PRESIDENTS



HERITAGE  
PEOPLE  
SERIES

---

# PAST PRESIDENTS SHIRE OF ALEXANDRA

---

SHIRE OF ALEXANDRA PROCLAIMED 3 SEPTEMBER 1869

---

This is a living document produced as a community project in conjunction with the Sesqui-Centenary of the township of Alexandra, around which the old Shire of Alexandra was centred.

Corrections and additions will be gratefully received and will be included in future updates to this electronic eBook.

Navigate by pressing the buttons on the following two pages.

[Resources](#)

[Contributors](#)

# SHIRE PRESIDENT INDEX

John Peterkin

Frederick Coster

John O'Callaghan

John Whitelaw

Dr James Fergusson

Samuel Allardyce

William Knowles Snr

George Whiting

Richard W Wightman

Peter Dunn

David Dobie

William Lade Snr

Thomas S Carison

George A Cookson

Alexander McKinnon

George Lamont

Frederick Wheeler

William H Whiting

James Scale

Joseph B Coombs

William Lade Jnr

John Wylie

William H Knowles Jnr

John W Leckie

John T Murray

John C Wightman

Charles Hamilton

John Findlay

Joseph H Edwards

David Hayes

John A Baker

William Fox

Robert B Forsyth

Robert J Briggs

James E Elliott

Arthur N Walsh

# SHIRE PRESIDENT INDEX

Alan W Jones (Snr)

Allan M Dobson

William A Murray

James W O'Rourke

Ciril N Davy

Robert F Almond

Daisy E R Weeks

Archibald J Girdwood

Henry W Barker

Walter J E Moore

William H Edwards

Reginald E Payne

Herbert C FitzRoy

John W Pollock

Kenneth W Weeding

William H Jones

Leslie W E Coates

Edward E Southam

Roy M Fox

Dr John G Macdonald

Alan W Jones (Jnr)

William E Rollason

Maxwell J McDonald

Kathleen M Cooper

George F Cumming

John A Lamb

Paul B Gilmore

Thomas C Marr

Andrew R Coller

Neil T Guscott

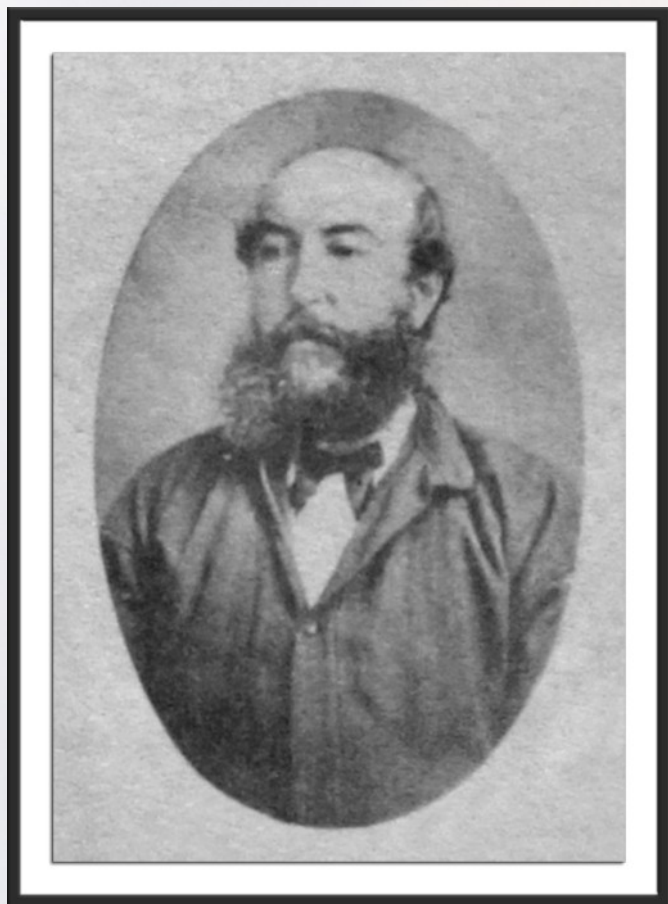
Alex M Younger

John A Leckey

Anne Sanderson

SHIRE  
AMALGAMATION  
1994

# JOHN PETERKIN JP

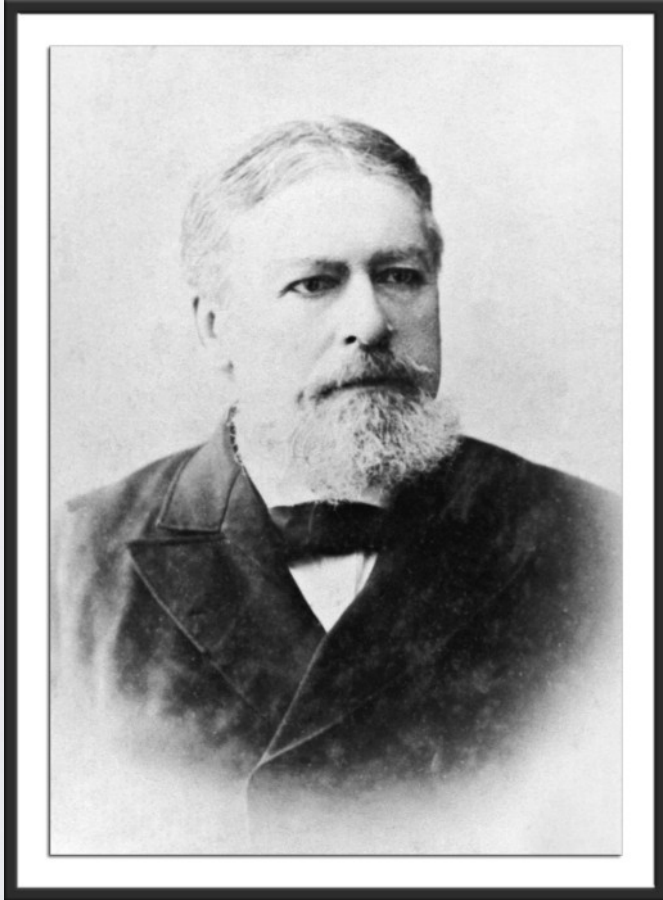


<b>Councillor:</b>	1869-74
<b>President:</b>	1869, 1872
<b>Born:</b>	1835
<b>Died:</b>	1911
<b>Buried:</b>	Surrey Hills Cemetery
<b>Occupation:</b>	Storekeeper
<b>Remembered by:</b>	Peterkin St, Alexandra Peterkin Pl, Alexandra

*Courtesy Alexandra Fire Brigade*

John was born in 1835 at Banffshire, Scotland. He was a 'forty-niner' miner during the California Gold Rush and later lived at Landsborough. He travelled to Australia and moved to Alexandra circa 1868, aged around 33. At Alexandra he operated a wholesale and retail grocery business and used his mining experience to trade in gold. He advertised at one point 'Alluvial and Smelted Gold Purchased at Bank Rates'. He was a Postmaster and Collector of Imposts and operated as a Justice of the Peace shortly after arriving at Alexandra. He was included on the Roll of Magistrates and officiated on the Alexandra Bench. In 1868 he was elected to the Inaugural Roads Board for the Alexandra District and was unanimously elected as its first Chairman. In September 1869 the Roads Board was replaced by the Shire of Alexandra and John was elected as the first Shire President. As a member of the Shire he was instrumental in forming a Fund Raising Committee to erect a Public Hospital at Alexandra, was also elected Treasurer of the early Hospital Committee and in 1874 was Treasurer of Alexandra's first Fire Brigade. He married Flora Cumming (daughter of Mr and Mrs Cumming of the Albion Hotel in Grant Street) at St John's Church, Alexandra in 1869. He was President of the Upper Goulburn Valley Railway League which agitated for the railway branch-line from Tallarook to Mansfield and a sub-branch line to Alexandra. The line to Alexandra was officially opened on 28 October 1909. Around 1875 he came into money, sold his Alexandra business and moved to Queensland. A farewell dinner was held on 7 September 1875. He later moved back to Victoria where he lived at Traralgon, operated a general store and three saw mills and served as a Councillor and Shire President. He then moved to Tallangatta in Northern Victoria and finally retired to Surrey Hills in Melbourne where he died in 1911. In his obituary, John is remembered as being 'in the forefront of every public movement'.

# FREDERICK COSTER

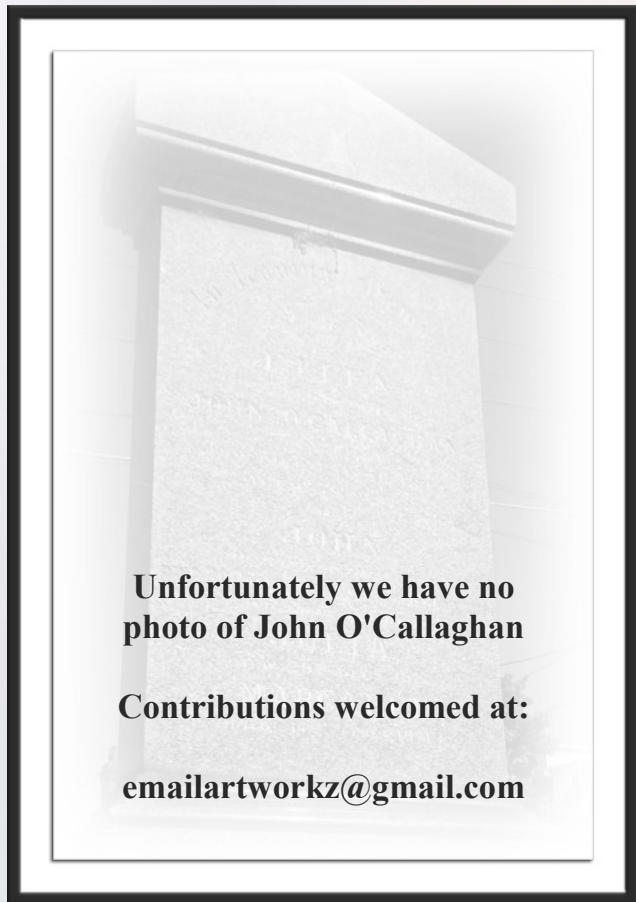


<b>Councillor:</b>	1870-74
<b>President:</b>	1870
<b>Born:</b>	1827
<b>Died:</b>	9 May 1894
<b>Buried:</b>	St Kilda Cemetery
<b>Occupation:</b>	Solicitor
<b>Remembered by:</b>	Coster Street

*Courtesy Peter McNab*

Frederick (Fred) was born in 1827 at New Brunswick, Canada, to parents Frederick Coster and Matilda (née) Wright. Fred became a barrister and migrated to Australia in 1852 aboard *The Revenue* with his cousin Peniston Coster (the 'Coster' in Costerfield in Victoria is named after Peniston and Alan Coster). While applying for a Solicitor's licence, Fred worked as a Clerk of Courts at Kilmore and was one of the first proprietors, as well as Editor of the *Kilmore Examiner*. In 1856 he was Treasurer of the Kilmore Race Meeting Committee. In 1858 he married Emma Smith (b1839 Armadale, d1911 Armadale) at St Peter's, East Melbourne and they had five children. They moved to Woods Point circa 1859 and by early 1868 were living in Alexandra where he was working as a solicitor. In June 1868 he was Chairman of the Separation Committee which successfully advocated removal of Alexandra District from the control of Mansfield Shire. He was elected a member of the inaugural Roads Board and served as Secretary at the first meeting of the new board at the Eldorado Hotel on 2 September 1868. An editorial in the *Alexandra Times* considered Fred to be the most 'useful' member of the new Board due to his previous experience and knowledge of the Local Government Act. Fred was one of the initial Councillors when the Shire was created and was its second President. Whilst practising locally, he also advertised his services in Melbourne. By 1890 he had left Alexandra and was living and practising in Benalla where he later served as a Benalla Shire Councillor. He died at his Mair Street home at Benalla on 9 May 1894 and was buried at St Kilda Cemetery. An obituary in the *North Eastern Ensign* stated how he was 'justly held in high repute', as well as describing him as a sound, capable, courteous and gentlemanly man. It noted how he was 'quick to resent anything approaching indignity' and in matters affecting the welfare of the district he was 'generally active and took a genuine interest in'. This included the 'advancement of any local industry'. He was described as not being successful in a monetary sense as he 'scattered his energies and gave more time to public affairs than he practically did to his own'.

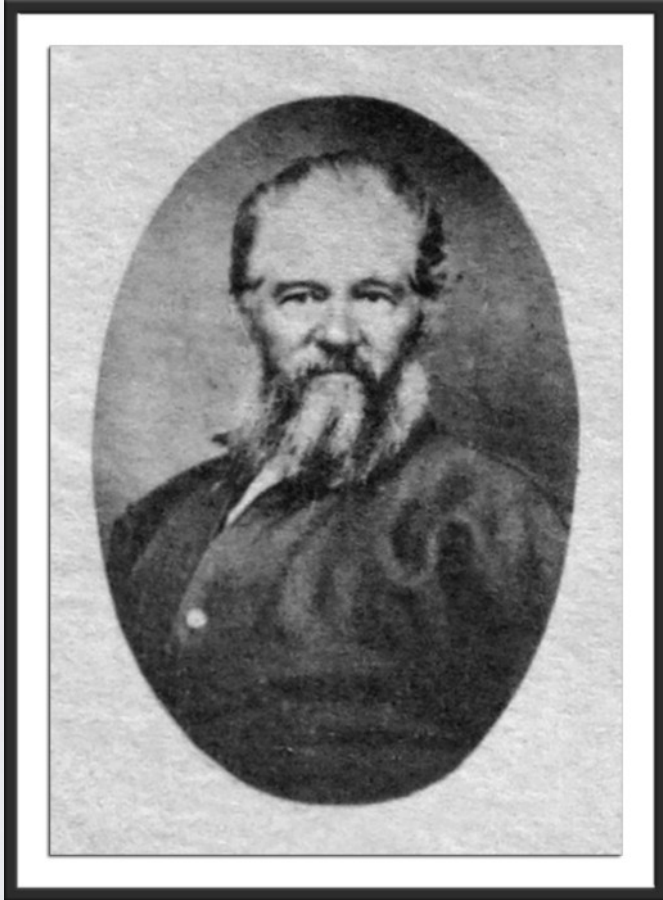
# JOHN O'CALLAGHAN JP



<b>Councillor:</b>	1870-72
<b>President:</b>	1871
<b>Born:</b>	Circa 1841
<b>Died:</b>	20 February 1902
<b>Buried:</b>	St Kilda Cemetery
<b>Occupation:</b>	Storekeeper, farmer, miner

John was born circa 1841 in Cork, Ireland to parents Patrick O'Callaghan and Mary (née) Cronnan. He married Ellen Cronin in 1864 and came to the Alexandra diggings from Woods Point. His brothers Will and Thomas were connected with the Godfrey's Creek diggings (Gobur) and their families operated hotels and farmed at Molesworth (nephew John David O'Callaghan was to become a Yea Shire Councillor and President). Whilst a miner and investor, John's main career was as a storekeeper and businessman, although in 1869 he is mentioned in relation to an alluvial claim at Godfrey's Creek, with 'good returns' being reported. He operated a store in Grant Street with his brother-in-law, trading as Cronin & O'Callaghan. In July 1869 it was reported that they were also erecting a large store at Godfrey's Creek. He was active in local affairs, being elected to the first Council of the newly created Shire in 1869 and was Shire President in 1871. Cronin & O'Callaghan transferred to Wodonga circa 1872. It was not long before John was elected as a Councillor for the Wodonga riding of the Shire of Yackandandah. When Wodonga separated from Yackandandah he became a Councillor of the new Shire. Around 1880 John sold his share to his brother-in-law Michael Cronin and moved to St Kilda where he conducted a very successful grocery and liquor store. He also had interests in some large financial concerns in the city and was Chairman of the Shamrock Brewery Co. His wife died in October 1899 aged 59 and John died on 20 February 1902 aged 61 and was buried in the family vault at the St Kilda Cemetery. He was a Justice of the Peace and regularly *sat on the bench* at St Kilda until he died. The *Prahran Chronicle* reported that he 'was always respected for his uprightness of character and unassuming manner'. An obituary in The *Wodonga Sentinel* noted 'His frankness of speech occasionally brought him into collision with his colleagues, but his honesty of purpose and ability always secured for him the attention even of those who strongly differed from him.'

# JOHN WHITELAW JP

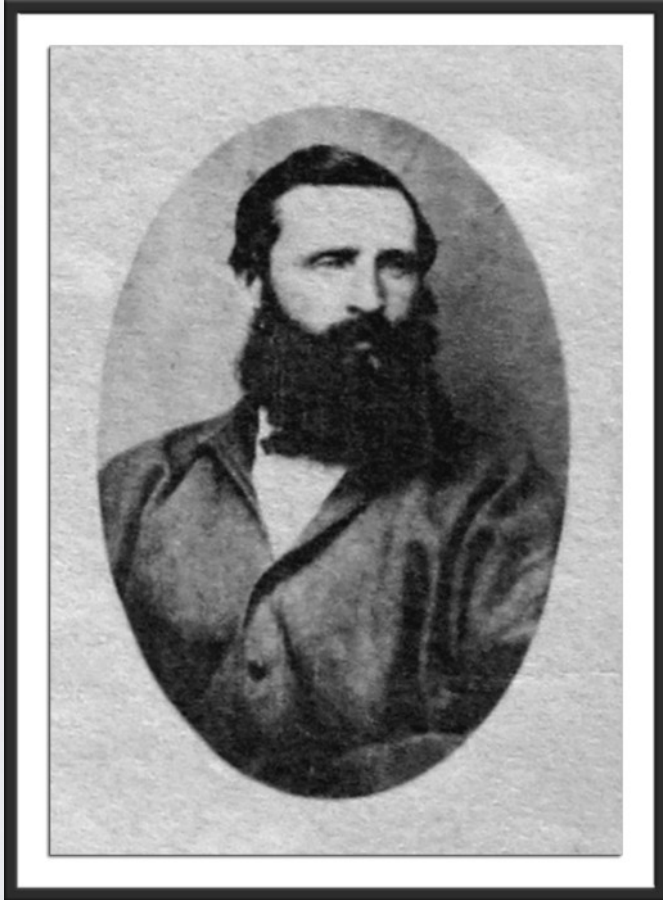


<b>Councillor:</b>	1873-79
<b>President:</b>	1873, 1874
<b>Born:</b>	1819
<b>Died:</b>	19 September 1899
<b>Buried:</b>	Sorell Cemetery, Tasmania
<b>Occupation:</b>	Publisher, teacher, auctioneer

*Courtesy Alexandra Fire Brigade*

John was born in 1819, son of George Whitelaw of Kelvin Grove, Glasgow, United Kingdom. He migrated to Australia around 1840, possibly disembarking in Sydney as records show he was a teacher of over 60 pupils at Dunmore, NSW in 1838 and married Elizabeth (Eliza) Simpson on 16 July 1842 at Hopewell, NSW. By the early 1850s he was operating as a auctioneer in Bourke Street, Melbourne (opposite the General Post Office). He moved to the Woods Point District during the Gold Rush there and established the *Woods Point Times and Mountaineer* newspaper as well as being elected the Mayor of Woods Point in 1867. Around 1868 as the Woods Point Gold Rush subsided, he moved to Alexandra where in June of the same year he established Alexandra's first newspaper, *Alexandra Times*. In 1874 he appeared as one of 21 men displayed on an Alexandra Fire Brigade poster and in June 1877 he sold the *Alexandra Times* to JH McColl who renamed it the *Alexandra Standard*. John then returned to Melbourne where he purchased and ran the *Carlton Cigarette* - a Labor Party political publication - until financial ruin. He then conducted agency work in Melbourne before returning to Alexandra with his wife. He went on to serve in the Shire for many years. In 1897, with declining health, he moved to Tasmania to live with his daughter Mrs McRae. At this time it is believed that he was the oldest serving Justice of the Peace in the Colony. His health subsequently improved in Tasmania and he lived until 19 September 1899. He was described as a large jovial and jolly fellow who was a great story teller and always wore a top hat (stove-pipe bell topper). He carried a walking stick in his later years, which was replaced with a large umbrella when raining. In 1922 local identity Mr AP Downey described John Whitelaw as a Scholar and a Gentleman in an article in the *Alexandra Standard* titled *The Early Days*.

# DR JAMES W FERGUSSON

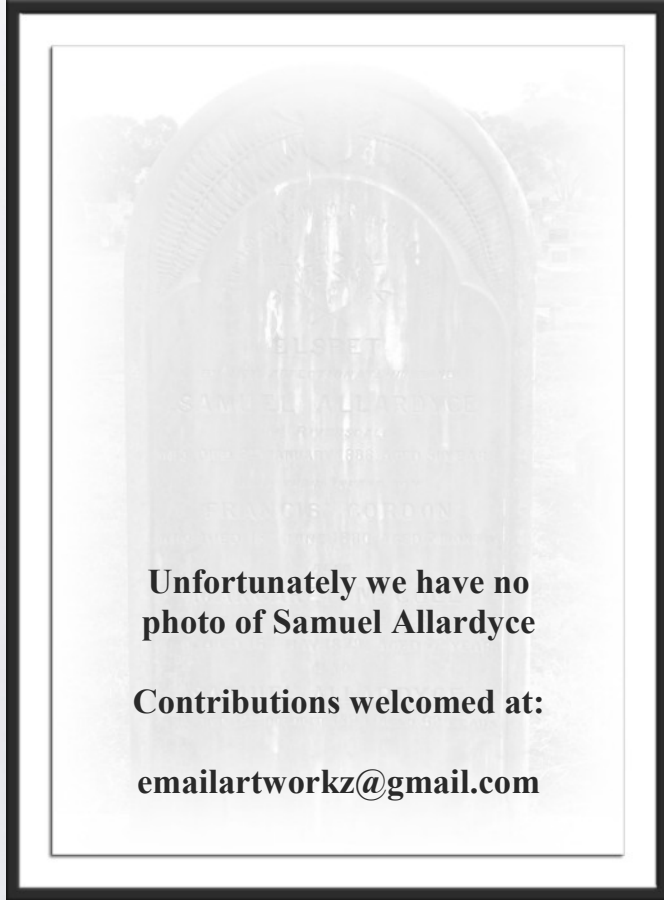


<b>Councillor:</b>	1875-76; 1878-80; 1884-85
<b>President:</b>	1875
<b>Born:</b>	Circa 1830
<b>Died:</b>	25 February 1887
<b>Occupation:</b>	Doctor

*Courtesy Alexandra Fire Brigade*

James was born circa 1830 and married Matilda Jane Taylor (b1835, d1883). He is first mentioned locally in the *Alexandra Times* as being an agent for Bight's Compound Antibilious Pills 1868, then in a Sworn Statement dated 8 September 1868 he stated 'I am a doctor of medicine and legally qualified practitioner'. That year he was being called upon by the Courts to give expert medical advice during legal cases. He was the first (visiting) Medical Officer for the Alexandra Cottage Hospital in December 1871 and already had a private practice by then. In that same year he gave an oration of *The Memory of Burns* at Sloan's Punt Hotel at Molesworth in recognition of novelist Sir Walter Scott. It is said that it 'reflected the highest credit on the speaker, who was loudly applauded'. On 23 February 1872 the *Alexandra Times* gave a report on the Telegraphic Communications Public Meeting, of which he was Chairman. On 5 April 1872 it was reported that he lived in Downey Street opposite the Mining Surveyor and Registrar's Office, which had recently moved to that location. In December 1872 he treated the nine year old son of George Whiting (Brunswick Whiting) of snakebite, administering ammonia and brandy. The boy improved and 12 hours later was considered to be out of danger - when he suddenly died. An inquest cleared Dr Fergusson of any wrongdoing. In May 1877 he was involved in the inquest into the death of former Alexandra Fire Brigade Captain Maurice Raphael (*Alexandra Times*, 12 May 1877). James left the district around March 1885 after a farewell. However his farewell was not attended by any leading members of the community. He moved to Moynu NSW where he started practising medicine. James died at Moynu, NSW on 25 February 1887. His daughter Flora Helen Jessie married Power Le Poer Dickson, the son Sir James Robert Dickson the Premier of Queensland (1898-1899).

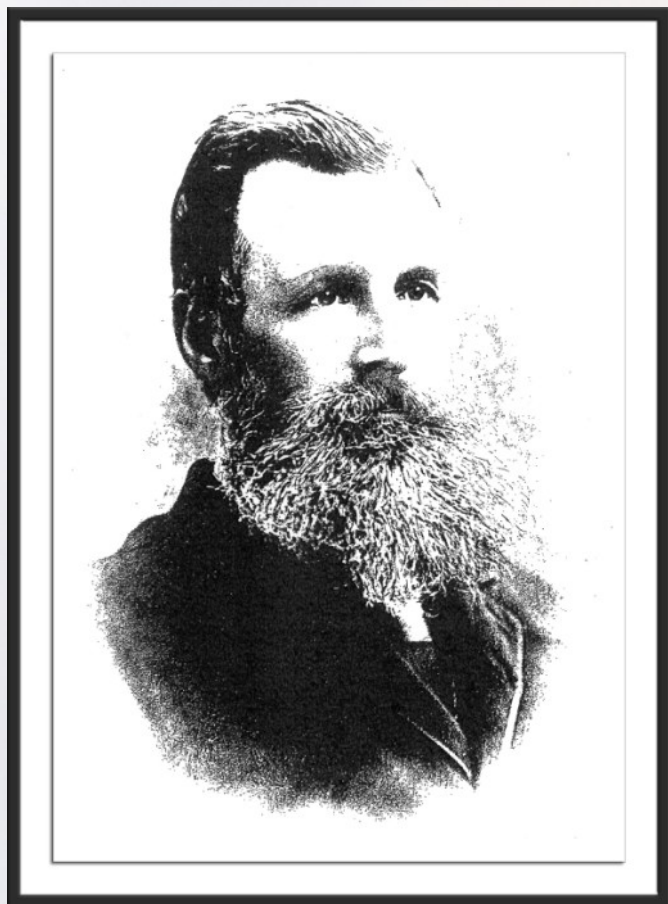
# SAMUEL ALLARDYCE JP



<b>Councillor:</b>	1874-77
<b>President:</b>	1876
<b>Born:</b>	1833
<b>Died:</b>	19 October 1895
<b>Buried:</b>	Alexandra Cemetery
<b>Occupation:</b>	Farmer

Samuel was born in 1833 near Balmoral, Scotland and migrated to Australia circa 1853. The Allardyce family moved to the district in 1868 and Samuel became known as a respected citizen and progressive farmer who loved equine stock. Unfortunately three of his prize stallions died over the years, one a Clydesdale whilst being shipped from England in 1880. He was the owner of the Riversdale Station for around nine years and was recognised as a highly capable farmer. He also had a sawmill at Crystal Creek, Whanregarwen. Not long after moving into the district he became a Councillor, served as Shire President for one term and served as a Justice of the Peace. He was a strong advocate for the township and many of the successful beautification projects of his time were a result of his lobbying. In 1878 the family briefly left the district to concentrate on his farming interests in NSW. At a farewell dinner he was presented with an illuminated address to 'record our appreciation of your services in all matters involving the prosperity and progress of this district...you have secured the approval and respect of all those with whom you have had to deal' Manager of the Union Bank JP Bainbridge said of Samuel 'we can ill afford to lose such men'. Although in later years he suffered Samuel's wrath after a business dispute with the bank, unwisely saying 'what has Mr Bainbridge done to advance the prosperity of this district'? Samuel and his wife suffered severe burns in 1878 when a house caught fire whilst visiting friends in Melbourne. He spent the latter half of 1879 touring Europe. For a brief period he was the owner of the *Alexandra Standard* and later took to the 'Letters to the Editor' to conduct a running battle with a number of prominent townsfolk. He was a Show Steward and President of the Upper Goulburn Valley Pastoral and Agricultural Association. During the months leading up to his death, Samuel was managing the Cathkin Estate, but struggled with depression brought on by failed business arrangements. On the night before his death he was despondent and overly concerned with his monetary issues. It is reported in the *Alexandra Standard* that his suicide startled town residents. He was buried with his wife at Alexandra.

# WILLIAM KNOWLES SNR JP



<b>Councillor:</b>	1872-86; 1888-90
<b>President:</b>	1877, 1879
<b>Born:</b>	1826
<b>Died:</b>	18 June 1903
<b>Buried:</b>	Alexandra Cemetery
<b>Occupation:</b>	Farmer
<b>Remembered by:</b>	Knowles Track Knowles Gap Knowles Creek
<b>Son President:</b>	William Jnr ►

*Courtesy John Pilkington*

William Snr was born in 1826 at Blackburn, Lancashire, England to parents Anthony Knowles and Mary (née) Heaton. In 1850 he sailed to South Africa and stayed for around two years before sailing from the Cape of Good Hope to Australia, arriving at Melbourne in 1852. He settled at Northcote where he opened a Wheelright and Blacksmith business and prospered as a wheelwright (even though he was a millwright by trade). He married Jane McClelland in 1855 and they had four children: Jane, John, William and Alice. William was an adventurous person and in 1858 they left Northcote and followed others in the rush to the Big River Goldfields. At Big River he opened a general store while also actively mining and exploring the area. It was here that he established his reputation as a man of endurance after his incredible bush feats through unexplored country, including cutting in Knowles Track. In 1867 they moved nearer to the area then known as Eildon Bridge, where he worked the Knowles Eildon Punt and gained a reputation for being somewhat selective of clients. He operated the punt until a bridge was built nearby. Around this time he erected his residence called *The Branch*. In 1872 he found payable gold at his *Luck's All Mine*. He selected 187 acres of river frontage near Eildon in 1872, the same year he was first elected a Shire Councillor. Around this time he also built the first Thornton School and opened a public house known as the *Eildon Lodge* which contained around 11 rooms. He closed the *Eildon Lodge* after two years and used it as a residence. He served as a Justice of the Peace for nearly 30 years, was a Shire Councillor and Shire President for two years. He was also one of the earliest members of the Upper Goulburn Pastoral and Agricultural Association. He was involved in the early Agricultural Show at Alexandra, including the very first show in 1867. It is believed that at one time Knowles lived next to the well known local property called *The Oaks* on the Thornton Flats. Mr Knowles died on 18 June 1903 at Melbourne after retiring there. He was survived by one son (Cr W H Knowles) and two daughters (Mrs Mossman and Whipp) who resided locally. His body was removed to Alexandra where he was buried in the Alexandra Cemetery.

# GEORGE WHITING JP



Unfortunately we have no  
photo of George Whiting

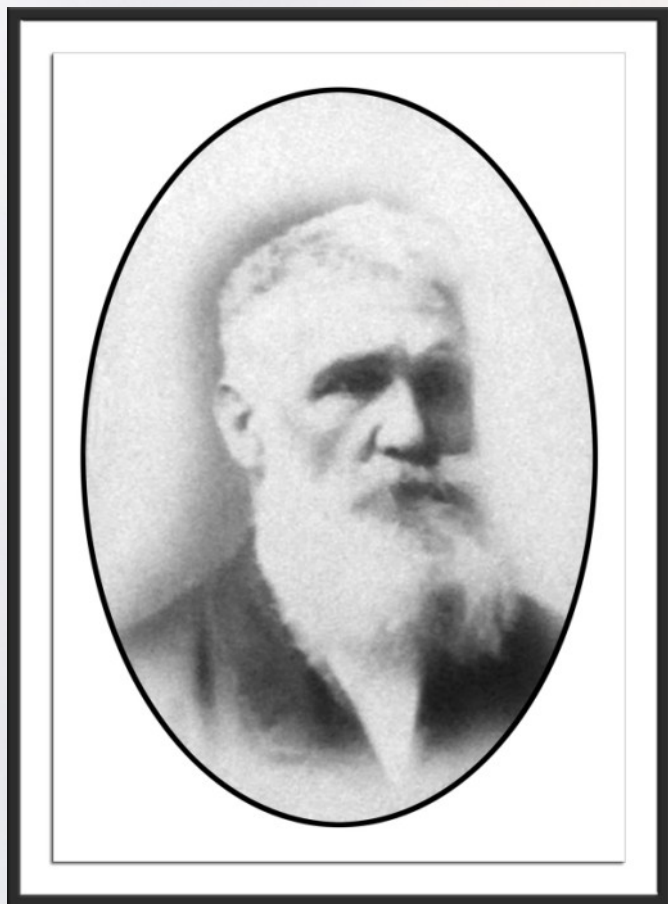
Contributions welcomed at:

[emailartworkz@gmail.com](mailto:emailartworkz@gmail.com)

<b>Councillor:</b>	1870-73; 1877-81
<b>President:</b>	1878
<b>Born:</b>	c1837
<b>Died:</b>	25 January 1912
<b>Buried:</b>	Brighton Cemetery
<b>Occupation:</b>	Stock agent, auctioneer
<b>Son President:</b>	William ►

George was born circa 1837 at Cornwell, England and married Ann Deedy (daughter of district pioneer John Deedy who died on 23 March 1893). George and Ann moved to the Alexandra District in 1854. In 1871 they moved to Woods Point, before returning to Alexandra in 1868 and settling at *Oak Park* (later called *The Oaks*), only disposing of the property to Mr D Hayes a few years before George's death. George operated a successful Stock and Station Agency and was also a local Auctioneer. In Alexandra, George and Ann were both active participants in local affairs and both were considered in high regard by their peers. On Tuesday 24 August 1880 a banquet was held in his honour at the Baker's Freemason's Hotel with 30 other successful local men attending to pay homage to his good works. A statement was read out that laid great praise upon George, mentioning his public service, agreeable nature, kind disposition and generous hospitality. George served as a Justice of the Peace and Magistrate. He was a Shire Councillor for many years and Shire President for one term. When he took office the Shire was 3000 pound in debt, but by the expiration of his term of office, it was 130 pound in credit. He was Chairman of the Alexandra Hospital Committee and once described as being a 'leading actor in any movement affecting the well being of the community'. John and Ann eventually left the Alexandra District, settling at *Colvin*, 88 Riversdale Road, Camberwell. George died on Thursday 25 January 1912 at his property and was privately interred in the Church of England section at the Brighton Cemetery on 26 January 1912. An obituary appeared in the *Kilmore Free Press* on 1 February 1912. Ann died at their Camberwell home on 24 April 1914 and was buried with her late husband. On 27 November 1896 their fourth son, George Jnr died at *The Oaks*, aged 30. On 16 September 1922 their eldest daughter Margaret also died at *The Oaks*.

# RICHARD WISDOM WIGHTMAN JP



**Councillor:** 1876-87; 1889-1900

**President:** 1880, 1898

1899-1900

**Born:** 1832

**Died:** 27 September 1916

**Buried:** Alexandra Cemetery

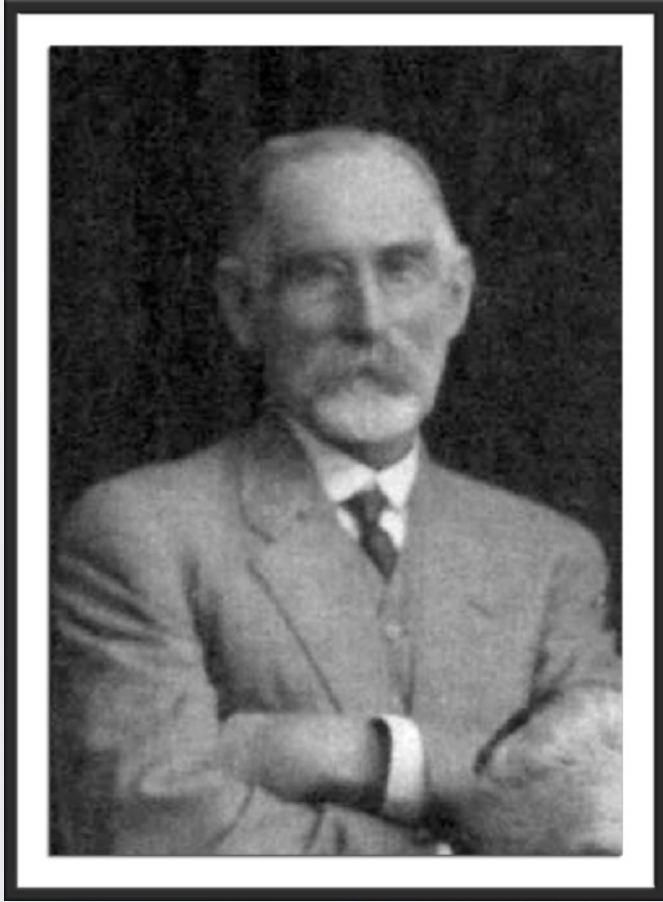
**Occupation:** Farmer, miner

**Son President:** John ►

*Photographer American Photo Company  
Courtesy Murrindindi Shire Council*

Richard was born in 1832 at Lancashire, England, son of William and Rachael Wightman. He migrated to Australia in December 1854 aged 22. He was unsuccessfully involved in gold mining for two years before he turned his attention to farming in 1856. He moved around between farms for two years before buying a property at Belfast with partners. He then returned to Melbourne in the same year and rented land until Grant's *Land Act* came into operation in 1865. He married Helena Mary Heatley on 18 September 1858 in Collingwood. Helena was the daughter of Abraham and Sophia Heatley of Bray County, Dublin, Ireland. Richard and Helena had seven children together: William, Marie, John, Florence, Agnes, Edith and George. In 1868 he selected 235 acres at Thornton increasing his freehold to over 3200 acres. He was a dairy farmer though also farmed pigs. In summer months he would send over a ton of butter to Melbourne. His wife Helena died in 1870 and Richard then married Jane Kingsford (daughter of Flavius Ebeneser Kingsford and Hannah (née) Farmar) in 1871 having six children together: Frederick, Alice, Charles, Harry, Richard and Martha. Richard was active in local affairs and served as a Shire Councillor, was elected Shire President on three occasions and served as a Justice of the Peace for many years. He was extremely well liked amongst his peers and was generally considered to be a hard worker for the Shire, giving 'great attention to public affairs'. He was an ardent advocate of the water supply, the railway, butter factories and most public buildings in Alexandra. Richard suffered a serious horse related accident in January 1899 after inspecting a culvert on the Thornton side of the Eildon Bridge. While remounting, his horse threw him to the ground and trampled him, causing a broken rib and severe bruising. Dr Johnson, the local medical doctor treated him and he was reported to have recovered well. Richard sold his property *Hazel Grove* in 1911. The property, listed as being 1560 acres was sold to Sir John Barnewall for a very satisfactory price. Richard died on 27 September 1916 and was buried at the Alexandra Cemetery.

# PETER DUNN



<b>Councillor:</b>	1882-85; 1895-1900
<b>President:</b>	1881
<b>Born:</b>	14 April 1847
<b>Died:</b>	19 June 1930
<b>Buried:</b>	Albury Cemetery
<b>Occupation:</b>	Farmer

*Courtesy Norm & Marie Stace*

Peter was born on 14 April 1847 in Scotland, one of eight children to parents Andrew Dunn (b1809, d1890) and Maria Sophie (née) McPherson (b1814, d1892). His parents migrated to Australia with their family in 1856 and spent around two years in Melbourne. His father leased land at Whittlesea where Peter first experienced living on the land. The family experimented with their farming practices and had mixed farming which included wheat crops, dairy and cattle. Conditions associated with their lease included that they plant a number of acres of grape vines as well. They left the property early when the owner reportedly wanted to take back possession of the land and found a fault in the lease. The family unsuccessfully searched the Western District (of Victoria) for land to settle on, but eventually looked wider and found quality land on the Upper Goulburn in Central Victoria. They pegged a 320 acre claim and lodged an application for the land. The application was at first hit by opposition, but they were ultimately successful in securing the lease. Peter's father subsequently applied for another 320 acres of land located around a mile upstream from their current lease. This application was also successful. Peter married Janet Stewart (b1846, d1877) of Gobur who died during childbirth. He then married Helen (née) Wilson in 1879 and they were together for 51 years. They lived at *Woodlea* at Cathkin for 31 of those years and raised six girls and three boys. Peter was active in public affairs and spent 21 years as a Shire Councillor. He was Shire President during the construction of the second Shire Hall and was directly involved in laying the Shire Hall foundation stone. He was presented with a Silver Trowel suitably inscribed with his name. In 1905 the family moved to the Lachlan River, near Forbes, New South Wales. He later retired to Albury with his wife. Peter died on 19 June 1930 and was buried at the Albury Cemetery. Peter's brother James Dunn was the donor of the land that the Cathkin Cemetery now occupies and where his parents are buried.

# DAVID DOBIE

Unfortunately we have no  
photo of David Dobie

Contributions welcomed at:

[emailartworkz@gmail.com](mailto:emailartworkz@gmail.com)

<b>Councillor:</b>	1881-83
<b>President:</b>	1882
<b>Born:</b>	1855
<b>Died:</b>	15 July 1895
<b>Buried:</b>	Merri Merrigal private cemetery
<b>Occupation:</b>	Farmer

David was born in 1855 at Fifeshire, Scotland, to parents David Dobie and Agnes (née) Anderson. Locally he was part-owner of the *Acheron* and *Mount Pleasant* stations, being in the partnership of Brown and Dobie. One of the first mentions of him in the media was on Friday 11 May 1878 in relation to a communal sheep watering hole. On 24 May 1879 he promised to donate a revolver for a community auction and on 12 July 1879 he is mentioned in relation to the annual Upper Goulburn Valley Pastoral and Agricultural Association ploughing match held on the paddock of Messrs Brown and Dobie on *Mount Pleasant*. David was first nominated for Shire Council in 1880 and was said to be very popular. On Friday 24 February 1882, the *Alexandra Standard* stated 'It is with regret we learn that Mr David Dobie contemplates shortly taking his departure from the district'. This was after the partnership between himself and Mr Donald Brown was dissolved. His offer to buy *Mount Pleasant* was rejected. However he remained on the Acheron property and on 28 September 1882 he married Susannah Pricilla Boyd (b1859, d1937) in Melbourne. He was also elected Shire President about that time and in 1883 was made a Justice of the Peace. In July 1883 he announced that he was not standing for re-election 'through pressure of private business' and the *Alexandra Standard* reported that he had '...given every satisfaction'. On 6 May 1885 a clearing sale was conducted at the Acheron homestead of David. The sale included household effects and farming equipment. By 1888 he was in New South Wales where he managed the *Merri Merrigal* station near Lake Cargelligo for Messrs Murray and Sanderson. He was a director for the sheep district of Wentworth, under the *Diseases in Sheep Act*, a member of the committee of the Lachlan Pastoral and Agricultural Association and in 1892 was appointed a Magistrate for NSW. On 15 July 1895 David committed suicide by revolver gun shot. Following an inquest, for which a Coroner from Sydney attended, he was buried in a private cemetery on *Merri Merrigal*. He left a wife, Susanna Priscilla and four children: David William, Meldrum Boyd, Alice Anderson and Ethelwyn Monro.

# WILLIAM LADE SNR JP

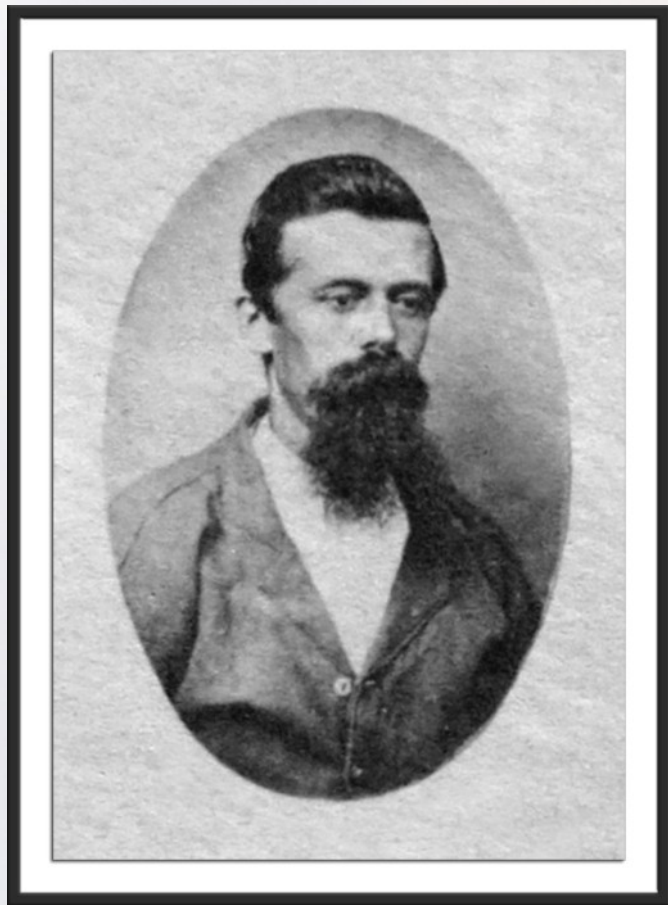


<b>Councillor:</b>	1878-86
<b>President:</b>	1883
<b>Born:</b>	21 October 1833
<b>Died:</b>	10 December 1906
<b>Buried:</b>	Alexandra Cemetery
<b>Occupation:</b>	Farmer
<b>Son President:</b>	William Jnr ►

*Courtesy Lorraine Pyke*

William Snr was born on 23 October 1833 at Chartham, England, to parents Nathan Lade and Susannah (née) Goldfinch and baptised at Hythe, England. He travelled to Alexandra 1867 from the Plenty River District where his family had previously lived. He lived in the Alexandra District for 40 years (up to his death), farming sheep and dairy cattle at *Kenfield Park* (later referred to as just *Kenfield*) at Crystal Creek. He also bred horses and imported 'Royal George', a prize winning stallion from England. When the new Alexandra Hospital was short of funds in 1875, William suggested that they conduct a 'Bruce' auction of donated goods '...which has succeeded wherever tried.' Bruce auctions went on to become a major part of fundraising for many Alexandra institutions. He later became Secretary for a Fundraising Fete at Nicholson's Mill, raising money for the hospital. William was described as being 'one of the most conspicuous figures in public life' (*Alexandra Standard*, Friday 14 December 1906). William was active in community affairs, was a Shire Councillor and served as Shire President for a term. He was President of the Upper Goulburn Valley Pastoral and Agricultural Association and exhibited sheep at the annual shows, as well as Chairman of the Alexandra Butter Factory for many years, being one of its original founders. He was described as being of a 'genial and generous disposition and was respected and held in the warmest regard by all sections of the community'. William Snr died on 10 December 1906 (aged 73) and was buried at the Alexandra Cemetery after a well attended Memorial Service conducted by Rev. JT Pithouse at the Alexandra Methodist Church. Mr Kidd of Alexandra had charge of the burial arrangements. He shares the plot with his wife Augusta who died on 4 July 1917 (aged 82). While still alive, William Snr had passed *Kenfield Park* onto his son William Jnr, who farmed the property until his own death. Like his father, William Jnr was active in public life and served as a Shire Councillor as well as Shire President for a number of terms.

# THOMAS SMEDES (CARISON) JP

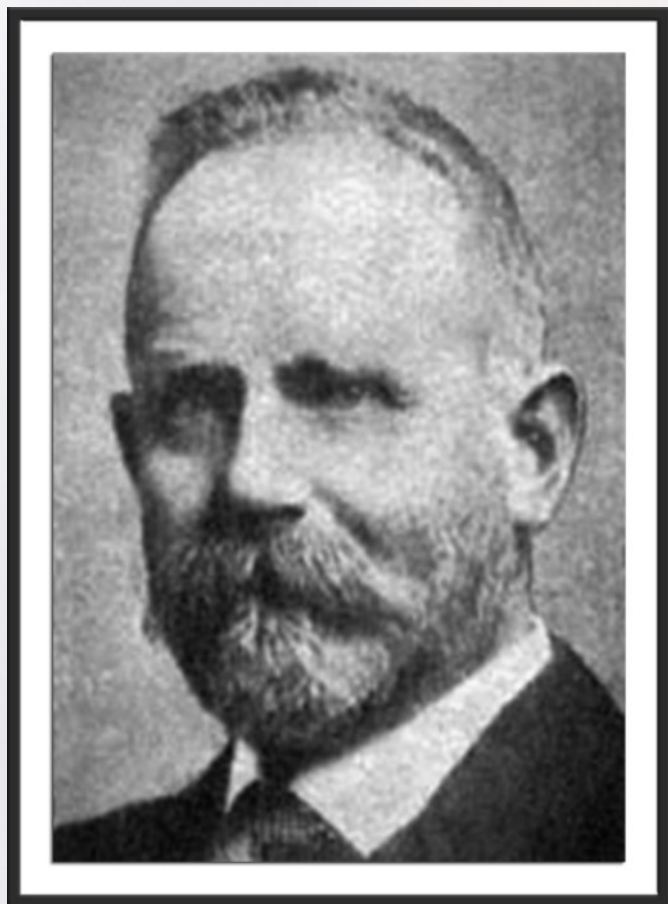


<b>Councillor:</b>	1883-88
<b>President:</b>	1884, 1885
<b>Born:</b>	1840
<b>Died:</b>	19 March 1913
<b>Buried:</b>	Brunswick Cemetery
<b>Occupation:</b>	Builder, brickworks owner

*Courtesy Alexandra Fire Brigade*

Thomas Smedes was born in 1840 at Hudson River, New York City, son of Ebenezer Smedes Carison and Sarah Ann (née) Doughty. For reasons unknown, he changed his surname to Carison early on in his life. In Australia he mined until 1862, moved to New Zealand until 1865, returned and built a hotel at Enochs Point, was a storekeeper back in New Zealand until 1866 and returned to Victoria in 1867. In 1872 he moved to Alexandra and set up a carpentry business. He married Josephine (née) Johns of Victoria, at Alexandra on 30 June 1876, having 10 children: Josephine, Edith, Ira, George, Myra, Ellen, Kate, William, Ruby and Faustine. He was one of the earlier members of the Mt Pleasant Lodge (Oddfellows), had interests in local quarries, purchased the Bayley Street Brickworks from David Plummer and at one time also operated an undertaker's business. He had a business interest in a local mill. He built numerous brick buildings locally, including the Alexandra Post Office, the Alexandra Branch of the National Bank of Australasia Pty Ltd and the Alexandra Shire Hall. The Alexandra Branch of the Union Bank was designed and built by bank contractors using bricks from the Carison brickworks. He built the wooden Eildon School (later removed to the Alexandra Higher Elementary School), the Thornton School and Thornton Community Hall, the wooden Upper Thornton School (later removed to Jerusalem Creek) and the wooden Alexandra Road School. He was President of the Alexandra Cottage Hospital Committee when the Jubilee Wing was erected in 1888 and owned one of our early brickworks (1877-1890). He was a large contributor to the community and a wise businessman. To our knowledge, all of his brick building projects still stand today and are considered an integral part of our local heritage. He retired to Melbourne in 1901. Thomas died on 19 March 1913 at his family residence at 59 Edwards Street, Brunswick and was buried at the Brunswick Cemetery.

# GEORGE ARTHUR COOKSON

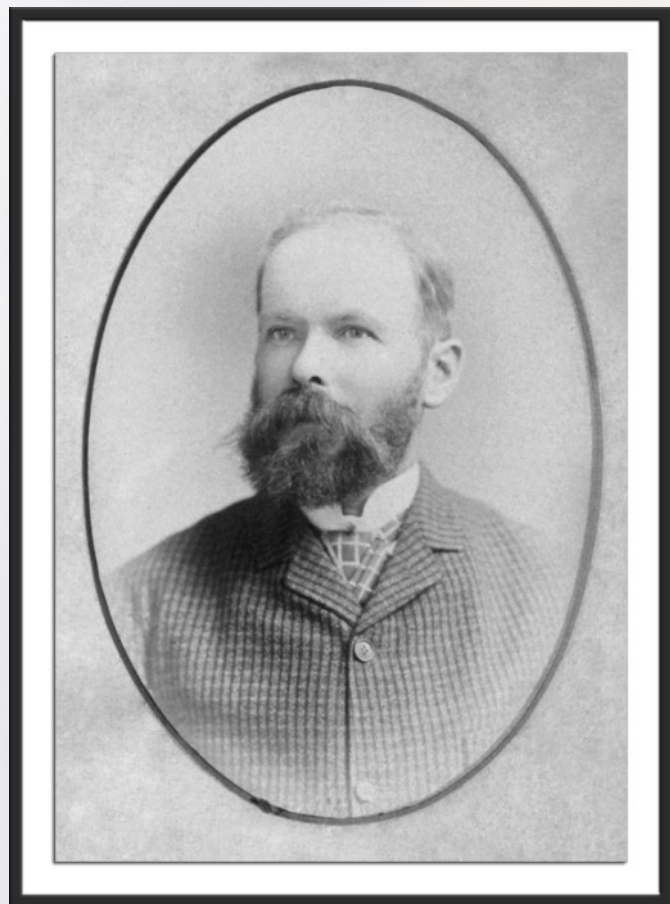


<b>Councillor:</b>	1886-1904
<b>President:</b>	1886, 1896, 1897
<b>Born:</b>	6 October 1859
<b>Died:</b>	20 May 1930
<b>Buried:</b>	Alexandra Cemetery
<b>Occupation:</b>	Grazier, auctioneer

*Courtesy Parliament of Victoria*

George was born on 6 October 1859 at Whittlesea, Victoria, to parents Charles Cookson (an early school educator) and Ellen (née) Smith and married Mary Jane Rice on 21 August 1883. He was educated at his father's school in the Whittlesea District and came to Alexandra when aged 14. He then took over the management of the family farm *Crystal Brook* at Crystal Creek before establishing an Auctioneer's business in 1890 with branches at Alexandra, Merton, Bonnie Doon and Mansfield. He was active in local affairs, including serving as a member of the Agricultural Society from around 1915 and also as Secretary. He was a Justice of the Peace and an active member of the first team of the Victorian Mounted Rifles, which represented Australia during a visit to England in 1891 under Major McLeish. He was a Shire Councillor for over 20 years and served as Shire President for three terms. He was a deeply religious man and was a devoted member of the congregation of St John's Anglican Church. He served on the church's sub-committee for their new Church in Downey Street and was a Church Guardian around the same time as men such as Rev. W Hutchinson, Dr H Lethbridge, William Hill, Josiah Henry Waymouth, Harry West, Mr Munkton and Earnest Maygar (brother of the first Victorian awarded a Victorian Cross (VC) in the Boer War). George was the older brother of Dr Joseph Arthur Cookson, who died of heart failure while visiting Sydney on 16 September 1942. Upon hearing of his brother's death, George immediately left for Sydney, returning with his brother's remains to Alexandra, where he was buried on 20 September. George represented the old Upper Goulburn Electorate in the Legislative Assembly for a term (1908-11). George died on 20 May 1930 at Whittlesea, after suffering a sudden seizure. He was buried at the Alexandra Cemetery. He left three sons and two daughters. His wife had predeceased him. A Masonic Service was also held at the gravesite.

# ALEXANDER MCKINNON JP

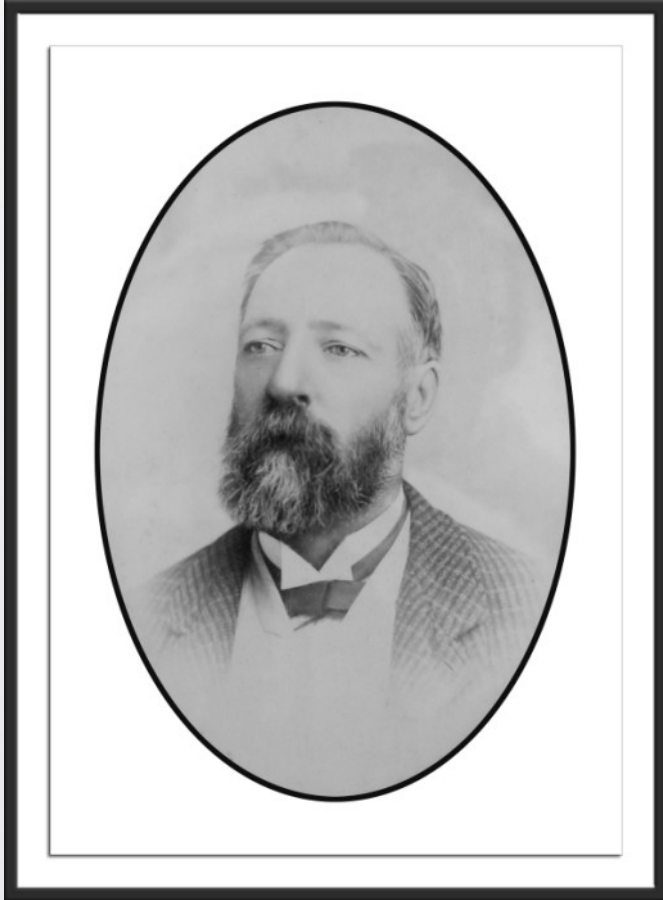


<b>Councillor:</b>	1886-88; 1890-97
<b>President:</b>	1887, 1892, 1893
<b>Born:</b>	1851
<b>Died:</b>	31 December 1926
<b>Buried:</b>	Burwood Cemetery
<b>Occupation:</b>	Surveyor

*Photographer American Photo Company  
Courtesy Murrindindi Shire Council*

Alexander was born circa 1852 at Falkirk, Scotland to parents John McKinnon and Agnes (née) Stevenson. He migrated to Australia in 1874 and worked as a surveyor, settling in Alexandra where he lived at *Gowanbank*. He married Annie Neilson (née) Millar (b1853) near Creswick on 27 December 1876 (Annie was also born in Falkirk). They made Alexandra their home and Alexander took an active interest in local public affairs, serving as a Shire Councillor for a number of years and was a Shire President for three terms. He was a prominent Freemason, being installed at the Albert Edwards Masonic Lodge as Worshipful Master on 29 August 1882. He served as a Justice of the Peace and District Deputy Coroner. On the night of 20 May 1894 and during his final term as Shire President, he presided over a free political lecture given by future Shire President Joseph Butterworth Coombs. The speech was given at the Coombs Butter Factory building at Taggerty which Coombs had opened in 1891. After leaving Council, he was employed by the Shire for a number of years, during which time he surveyed and helped design the waterworks and pumping station, as well as the water supply system for the town, which was opened in 1900. He filled the position of Returning Officer for 30 years - first for the Anglesey Electorate and then for Upper Goulburn Electorate. The family left the district in 1903 for South Yarra, where Alexander continued his judicial work on the Prahran Bench, which included acting as Chairman of the Prahran Bench. He continued to work in Alexandra though, including sitting on the local Bench. One of his sons was killed in action during World War I. He resigned his position as surveyor in 1924 after 50 years and retired. In retirement, he paid regular visits to the district and especially in 1925. However these trips became less frequent as his health declined. Alexander died on 31 December 1926 at his home at 296 High Street, Malvern and was buried in the Burwood Cemetery. His wife Annie died 10 years later in July 1937. Alexander was a nephew of the late James Stevenson - who was appointed first Government Goldfields Surveyor of the Creswick District in 1853 - a position he retained until his death 25 years later.

# GEORGE LAMONT

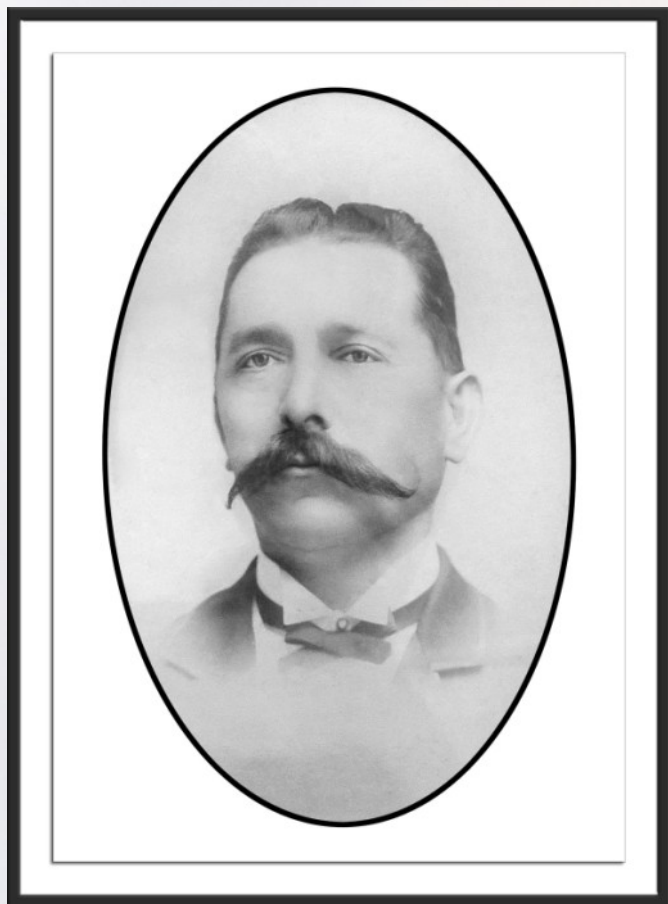


<b>Councillor:</b>	1882-90; 1898-1902
<b>President:</b>	1888
<b>Born:</b>	1847
<b>Died:</b>	8 April 1908
<b>Buried:</b>	Fawkner Cemetery
<b>Occupation:</b>	Farmer
<b>Remembered by:</b>	Lamont Street

*Courtesy Grant Scale*

George was born in 1847 to parents John Lamont and Rachel (née) Brown of Paisley, Scotland. He arrived in Australia c1877 and spent time working at *Cathkin* station with his relative, also named George, who had taken the station with Aitken and Grant 10 years earlier. He later farmed at *Mt Pleasant*, close to Alexandra. During his time in the district he filled many positions which included serving as the Hon. Secretary and later President of the Pastoral and Agricultural Association. He argued strongly for the annual show to be transferred from Autumn to Spring. He was described as 'an able man, a good debater and one who worked hard for the advancement of the town and district'. George married Isabella McRae of Tasmania on 7 October 1880 at Broadford. They had three daughters and one son who died in infancy. When standing for Council in 1881 his catchcry in the *Alexandra Standard* was to 'secure justice to all; leaven the old; independent candidate'. He served as a Shire Councillor and was Shire President for a term, as well as an inaugural Commissioner of the Alexandra Waterworks Trust. He was vocal in support of a railway to Alexandra via Yea, but not from Healesville via the Black Spur. He was a strong supporter of the local Presbyterian Church, rendering valuable assistance to the late Rev. TB Swift in 1883 when he helped bring the scattered members back together. The result was that services were subsequently conducted regularly throughout the Shire afterwards. He was a constant giver when it came to community related activities, such as giving to the Hospital Fund where he was a member of the committee. In 1897 he wrote to the *Alexandra Standard* to complain that the Dairy Co. was churning butter at too high a temperature, thus losing a considerable amount of butter fat. In 1902 he took three months leave of absence from Council prior to the expiry of his term and moved to Melbourne, settling in Moonee Ponds. Isabella predeceased him, passing at age 57 on 10 March 1904. She was buried at the Cathkin Cemetery. George's health had been in decline for some time and he died at his residence on 8 April 1908. He was buried at the Fawkner Cemetery.

# FREDERICK WHEELER

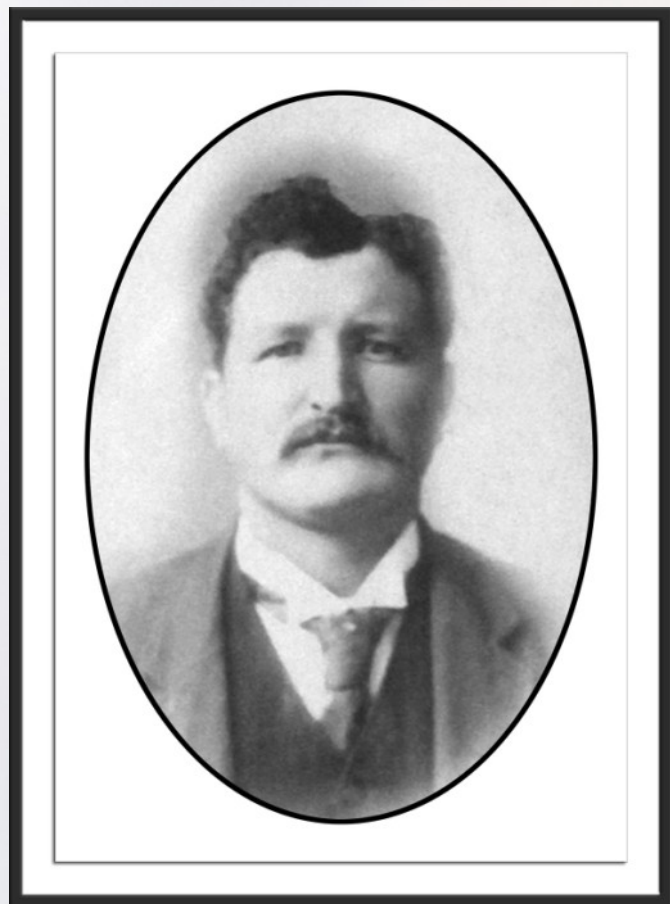


<b>Councillor:</b>	1874; 1882-92
<b>President:</b>	1889, 1890
<b>Born:</b>	1847
<b>Died:</b>	26 June 1917
<b>Buried:</b>	Alexandra Cemetery
<b>Occupation:</b>	Pharmacist
<b>Remembered by:</b>	One of the oldest Chemists in the State at the time of his death

*Courtesy Grant Scale*

Frederick was born in 1847 at Henly-on-Thames, England, to father Charles Wheeler. After leaving school he worked for a chemist in London before migrating to Australia in 1864, where in 1865 he was employed as a Chemist dispenser in Bendigo. He joined his brother in St Kilda later the same year, then returned again to Bendigo in 1866 before travelling to Hobart, Tasmania where he worked for a period of time. He left Tasmania in 1867 and travelled to Ghin Ghin near Yea and established a Chemist business in the Yea township in 1868. He then moved to Gobur in 1869 during the Gold Rush before moving to Alexandra in 1871, where he remained until retiring to Melbourne in 1914. While at Alexandra he established the township's first Chemist and Dentist business. He served as a Shire Councillor and was Shire President for two terms. He was President of the Mechanics Institute and Free Library during the time when it was being built in 1882 and was remembered as a good Samaritan and a strong promoter of Alexandra and fought hard on the town's behalf. He was a Justice of the Peace for 26 years, a Magistrate, Chairman of the Bench and a Deputy Coroner. He was the first Treasurer of the Upper Goulburn Railway League, originally formed to extend the railway from Tallarook toward Alexandra. He was active in the erection of the Alexandra Hospital and also served as a Commissioner of the Water Trust and was the first President of the Tourist and Anglers Society (one of the district's first tourism organisations). He served on the Alexandra School Board from its beginning and was Chairman numerous times. He opened a cordial factory in the 1870s connecting his shop to his factory with a private telephone line, the first in Alexandra. He was widely acclaimed for his tonic compound *Wheeler's Bitters*. He eventually sold his business interests to concentrate on promoting his tonic nationally and left the district for Korumburra in 1914. Frederick died of natural causes on 26 June 1917 while attending to a customer at his Korumburra business. He was buried with his wife Sarah who died on 16 December 1888 (aged 36) and their infant child Ruby who died on 17 January 1889.

# WILLIAM HOSKIN WHITING

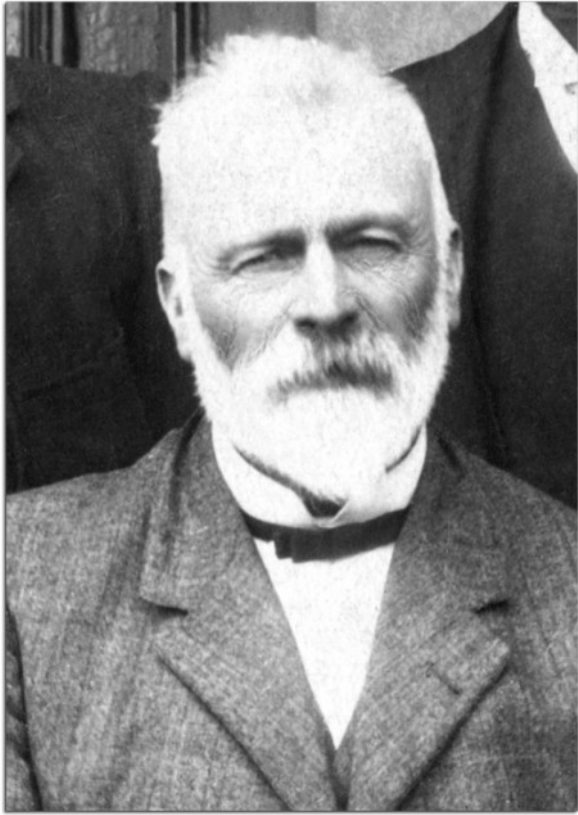


<b>Councillor:</b>	1888-93
<b>President:</b>	1891
<b>Born:</b>	1864
<b>Died:</b>	28 April 1952
<b>Buried:</b>	Alexandra Cemetery
<b>Occupation:</b>	Stock agent, auctioneer
<b>Father President:</b>	George ►
<b>Remembered by:</b>	WH Whiting Cricket Pavilion

*Photographer American Photo Company  
Courtesy Murrindindi Shire Council*

William was born in 1864 at Balmattum, near Violet Town, eldest son of Mr George Whiting JP. He came to the area with his family and resided at *The Oaks* near Alexandra. His father George is remembered as one of the early pioneers of the district. William was educated locally before being engaged in pastoral pursuits in Queensland for three years. He returned to Alexandra in 1886 to take over his father's businesses. An astute businessman, he was an Auctioneer, Stock and Estate Agent operating from his business premises located in Grant Street, Alexandra. Not only did his business perform well locally, but he was also widely known across Victoria. He was regarded as a splendid judge of cattle, horses, sheep and pigs and acted in this capacity at principal shows throughout the State. He was a sworn valuator and his general knowledge of matters relating to pastoral pursuits was reported as being 'perhaps second to none'. As an auctioneer and salesman (stock or land) he was said to be 'wonderfully gifted'. He took a keen interest in local affairs, was a committee member of the Alexandra Cottage Hospital at the time of the opening of the Jubilee Wing (1888) and served as a Shire Councillor as well as Shire President for one term. He was an ardent sportsman and was associated with racing as well as many other clubs. A very enthusiastic cricketer, he was said to have 'played a fair game in any department' and was 'a good horseman'. He was in great request in musical and social circles and was widely known as a mimic and raconteur of amusing stories. He married Elizabeth Jane (née) Edwards on Monday 21 October 1889 at a private ceremony at his residence in Downey Street, with the Rev. TB Swift officiating. William was regarded as a first-class businessman and acted as local agent for several well-known companies, including the Commercial Union Fire Assurance Company, the International Harvester Company of America and Cumming, Smith and Co.'s Fertilizers - amongst others. His wife managed the Miner's Exchange Hotel for a time circa 1907. William died on 28 April 1952 at Alexandra and was buried at the Alexandra Cemetery. The WH Whiting Cricket Pavilion at Alexandra, opened in 1948, was named after William in honour of his long involvement with the sport.

# JAMES SCALE JP

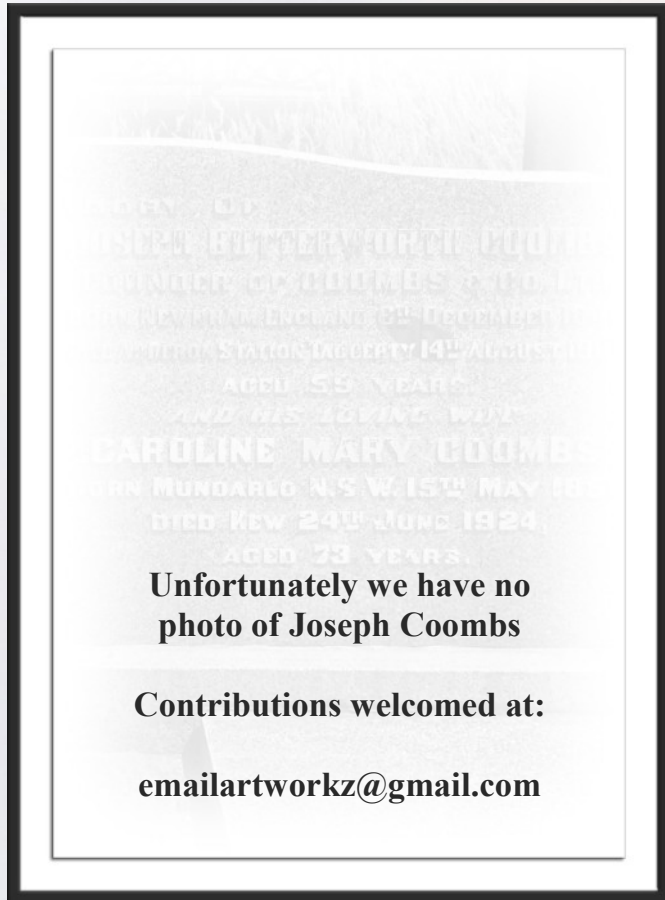


<b>Councillor:</b>	1887-1907; 1909-11
<b>President:</b>	1894, 1905
<b>Born:</b>	1849
<b>Died:</b>	Friday 18 August 1939
<b>Buried:</b>	Alexandra Cemetery
<b>Occupation:</b>	Farmer

*Courtesy Simone Adams*

James was born in 1849 at Epping, Victoria, to parents Richard Scale and Margaret (née) Williams. The family were early district pioneers, moving into the Molesworth/Cathkin area in the early 1870s (James's older brother Thomas was to become a Councillor and Shire President at Yea). In 1879 he married Elizabeth Matilda (née) Smith and acquired the property *Glenbrook*, making it their home. *Glenbrook* was located near where the Alexandra Road Railway Station was later positioned and near the current day township of Koriella. Later they purchased *Woodlea*, which was closer to Cathkin. James took an active interest in local public affairs and was a Shire Councillor as well as serving as a Shire President for two terms. When he left Council in 1907 after 21 years service, it was noted that he was thoroughly honest, hard working and one of the finest gentlemen you could meet. He had an association with the Upper Goulburn Valley Pastoral and Agricultural Association where he was Secretary for a period and worked in numerous other ventures designed for the advancement of the district. He loved singing and was an active member of the Presbyterian Church Choir for many years. He was reported as always being willing to offer his vocal skills with great enthusiasm. In 1900 he ceased dairying and leased out their properties, whilst he and Elizabeth moved into the Alexandra township. James commenced business as a land and estate agent and in 1913; they had a substantial house built at the base of the Josephine Cutting where they enjoyed a magnificent view. The house was described as being picturesque and was built to suit the local climate and the temperament of Australians. Elizabeth died on Sunday 25 July 1926. James moved to Melbourne, working from Collins Street for the last years of his life. In 1928 he was struck by a motor car, breaking a hip and spending nearly six months in a Melbourne hospital. He served with the Waterworks Trust until 1930 (in later times, travelling from Melbourne for monthly meetings) having been an inaugural Commissioner in 1899. He died on Friday 18 August 1939 after suffering ill health for some time. The Alexandra *Standard* tells us that the funeral at Alexandra was well attended and the pall and coffin bearers included family, Councillors and ex-Councillors.

# JOSEPH BUTTERWORTH COOMBS



<b>Councillor:</b>	1894-96
<b>President:</b>	1895
<b>Born:</b>	6 December 1841
<b>Died:</b>	14 August 1901
<b>Buried:</b>	Boroondara Cemetery
<b>Occupation:</b>	Accountant, grazier

*Courtesy Margaret Abbey*

Joseph was born on 6 December 1841 at Newnham, England, to father Benjamin Coombs. He migrated to Australia circa 1856. He became a successful accountant. He founded the Mercantile Trading Company Coombs & Co Ltd which was extremely profitable. At the time he was a household name for businessmen in Victoria. Joseph married Caroline circa 1865 and together they purchased 1200 acres along the Acheron River near Taggerty, known as *Acheron Station*. He used the land primarily for dairy farming and the sale of cattle. As a businessman who was always looking for opportunities to further himself, he built the Taggerty Butter Factory in 1892 at his own expense. It processed his own milk and that of other farmers. The butter factory was extremely well received by the Taggerty District and most locals turned up for the grand opening. While in the district, he served as a Shire Councillor and Shire President for one term. In 1895 they lost their youngest daughter, Constance Lilian aged four, at the Taggerty property. Then on 26 November 1896 the manager at the Taggerty Butter Factory was killed after he was struck during the accidental discharge of a gun. Also in 1896, Joseph partnered with Thomas Henry Carter in obtaining a mining lease to mine a portion of land near Swamp Creek, then owned by Margaret Dobson (Lease No. 4125). Joseph suffered ill health for many years and even moved to Queensland at one point, in the hope that the warmer climate would help his condition. He eventually returned to the district, though was mostly housebound and generally in great pain up to his death at *Acheron Station* on 14 August 1901. During his time in the Alexandra District, he was extremely well liked and took an active interest in the community and the promotion and growth of the area. He was a deeply religious man and his sermons and teachings were powerful and well presented. His wife Caroline died in 1924 at their property *Hope Mansell* located at Kew.

# WILLIAM LADE JNR JP

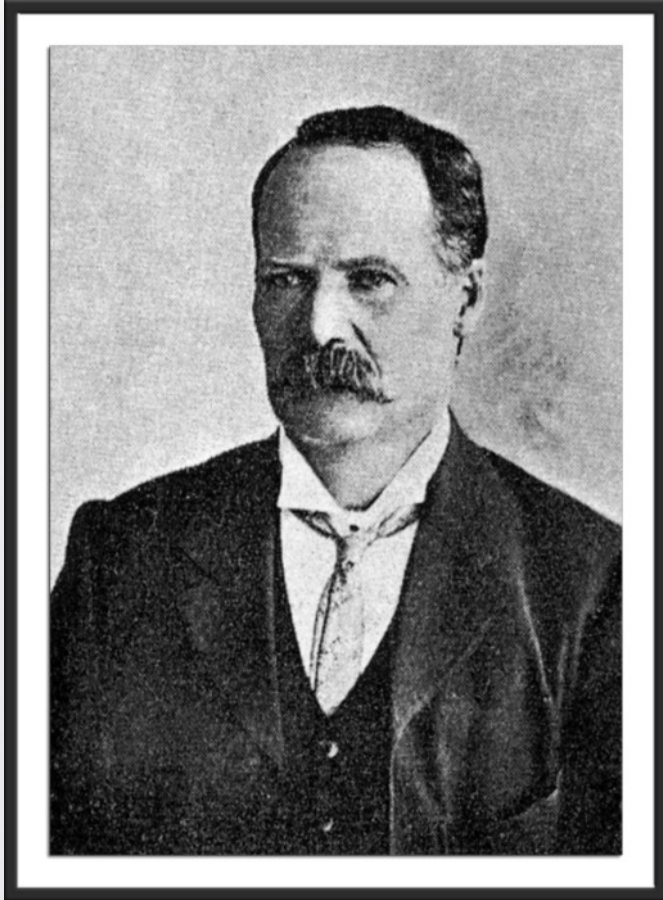


<b>Councillor:</b>	1892-1929; 1933-36
<b>President:</b>	1900, 1901, 1908, 1914 1922, 1936
<b>Born:</b>	30 June 1862
<b>Died:</b>	12 January 1940
<b>Buried:</b>	Alexandra Cemetery
<b>Occupation:</b>	Farmer
<b>Father President:</b>	William Snr ►
<b>Remembered by:</b>	Alexandra Cemetery Gates

*Photographer American Photo Company  
Courtesy Murrindindi Shire Council*

William Jnr was born on 30 June 1862 at Yan Yean, to parents William Ernest Lade and August (née) Kingford. He arrived at Alexandra in 1867 and farmed *Kenfield Park*, at Crystal Creek his entire working life. He was active in the community and had a strong cricket bowling arm. He was member 100 of the Rechabites (elected into the adult tent in 1877) at the time when the Rechabites met in the old schoolhouse. He served as a Shire Councillor and was Shire President for a number of terms. He retired as a Councillor in 1929 due to ill-health, but was re-elected in 1933 and served until 1936 when failing eyesight saw him resign. He was President of the Agricultural Society for many years, was a member of the Alexandra Red Cross Emergency Services and the Alexandra Bush Fire Brigade (until his death). He served as Chairman of the War Memorial Committee and he officiated at the 1924 unveiling of the Soldiers Memorial in Grant Street. He was President of the Agricultural and Pastoral Association for 14 years and Secretary for seven. He served on the Hospital Committee and was President for four years. On the formation of the Alexandra Bush Fire Brigade in 1932, he offered an interest free loan of 50 pound for the purchase of equipment, with the motion being accepted by AN Walsh. His last service was as Chairman of the committee for the 1935 'Back to Alexandra' celebrations. He had a keen interest in politics and was one of the original Councillors of the Kyabram Reform League. As his eyesight failed in later life, good friend Charles R Long noted how this was having a depressing effect upon William's spirits (Charles first noticed this at the unveiling of the Princess Alexandra Statue). William died at his home in Albert Street, Alexandra on 12 January 1940 and was buried at the Alexandra Cemetery. His last public appearance was the annual meeting of the Alexandra Bush Fire Brigade. William was described as being one of the few remaining figures of 'the old brigade'. He was given a Methodist funeral with members of the Rechabites flanking his coffin. Many local institutions were remembered in his will, including the Alexandra Cemetery Trust who received money for new Memorial Gates - erected in late February 1948.

# JOHN WYLIE JP

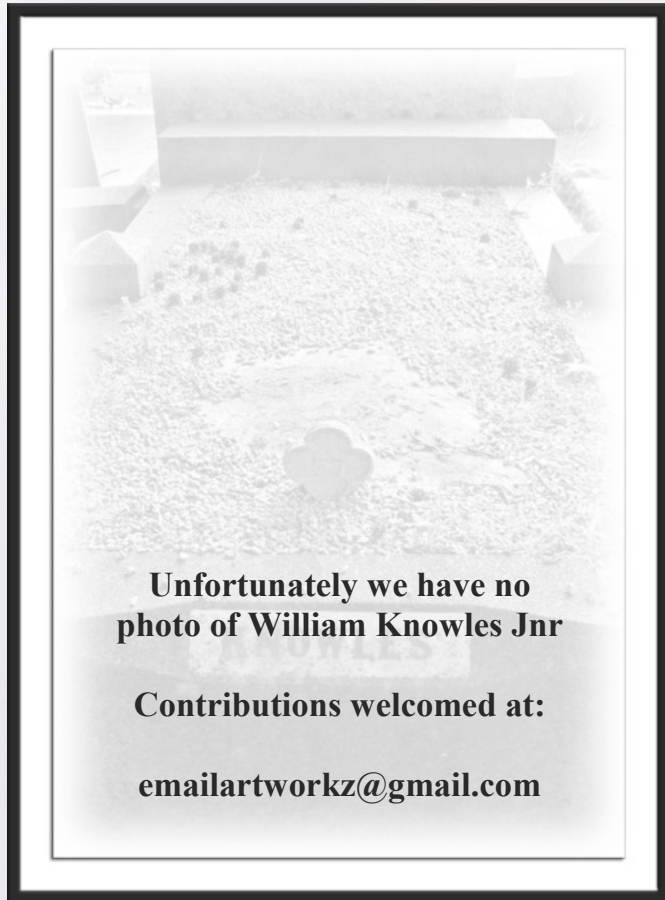


<b>Councillor:</b>	1897-1932
<b>President:</b>	1902, 1909, 1915, 1916 1923, 1924, 1925, 1927
<b>Born:</b>	1856
<b>Died:</b>	25 December 1932
<b>Buried:</b>	Alexandra Cemetery
<b>Occupation:</b>	Farmer
<b>Remembered by:</b>	Wylies Hill

*Courtesy Kath McCracken*

John was born in 1856 at Glenluce near Castlemaine, to parents John Wylie and Janet (née) Frazer. The family first took up residence at Taggerty near Alexandra in 1869 and were early pioneers of the farming and grazing industry in the Taggerty District. On completing his scholastic career, John was engaged in farming pursuits on his father's property *Kelvin Grove*, specialising in the fattening of sheep and cattle. In 1896 when he was aged in his forties, he married Catherine Bain, the daughter of respected local identity John Bain and Mary Grant (b c1858 Taggerty, d1933 Alexandra). Their only child (John Harold) was born at Alexandra in 1899. By 1905 the property (now devoted to grazing) was over 2,000 acres in size. This included Acheron River frontage which provided the farm with a constant supply of quality water. John lived at *Kelvin Grove* for 52 years, during which time he took an active interest in public affairs, especially from 1895 when he was elected a Shire Councillor for the Shire of Alexandra. He also served as Shire President for a great number of terms - making him one of the longest serving of all Shire Presidents. He was Shire President on Thursday 28 October 1909 when the Alexandra Railway Station was officially opened, served as a Returning Officer, was on the Hospital Committee, was a Committee member of the Agricultural Society, President of the Taggerty Athletic Club and a committee member of the Alexandra Water Trust. Mr Wylie was held in high esteem throughout the district, was associated with most local institutions in the developing township and reportedly had a progressive character. John identified with farming and the land, but he relinquished his Taggerty farm at Taggerty circa 1921 and moved to Armadale, before settling back at Alexandra where he remained until his death. John died on 15 December 1932 at Alexandra and was buried at the Alexandra Cemetery. His wife Catherine died on 15 June 1933 and was buried alongside her husband.

# WILLIAM H KNOWLES JNR JP



**Councillor:** 1900-05; 1920-26

**President:** 1903

**Born:** 1862

**Died:** 3 December 1940

**Buried:** Kew Cemetery

**Occupation:** Farmer

**Father President:** William Snr ►

*Courtesy Wendy Blow, Boroondara Cemetery*

William Henry (William Jnr) was born at Enochs Point, Victoria, to parents William Knowles and Jane (née) McClelland. After the death of his mother on 2 May 1903 and his father William Snr on 18 June 1903 (just 47 days later) he took over the family farm *Eildon Park*. Shortly afterwards he sold most of *Eildon Park* to James Clarke, keeping *Ardfallen* (also spelt Ard Falin) where he lived in the homestead. In 1912 he married Jean Mabel Elvins (b1877, d1961) and in 1924 he sold the *Ardfallen* property to local identity Mr Ferdinand FitzRoy. William then retired to Melbourne that same year to live. While in the district, William served as a Justice of the Peace, was a member of the Alexandra Horticultural Society, Commissioner of the Alexandra Waterworks Trust and was described in the *Alexandra Standard* as being 'an active part in all matters pertaining to the wellbeing and progress of the district.' He owned racehorses, ironically taking out the 1900 Shire Plate Handicap at Yarck and was President of the Thornton Racing Club. He also assisted the Alexandra Race Club, acting as a steward on race days. He exhibited at the annual Pastoral and Agricultural Show and in 1900 it was noted that 'as usual, showed some good blood mares and young stock'. In 1902 he exhibited white oats (brown being the much more common variety). He was well regarded in the community and took an active part in the welfare and progress of the district. William was a member of the Thornton Mutual Improvement Association and took part in debating competitions. He was a Shire Councillor and served a term as Shire President. In December 1900 he, along with Councillors Lamont and Sharp, protested to the Minister of Public Works that Council had incorrectly appointed a 'Clerk of Works' instead of employing a 'duly certificated engineer'. The appointment apparently stood, but the Clerk was not permitted to carry out engineering work, nor surveying, as he was not licensed to do so. Although William played cricket for Thornton, he doesn't appear very high in the scoring in either bowling or batting. William died on 3 December 1940 at a private hospital in Richmond and was buried at Kew (Boroondara) Cemetery.

# JOHN WILLIAM LECKIE

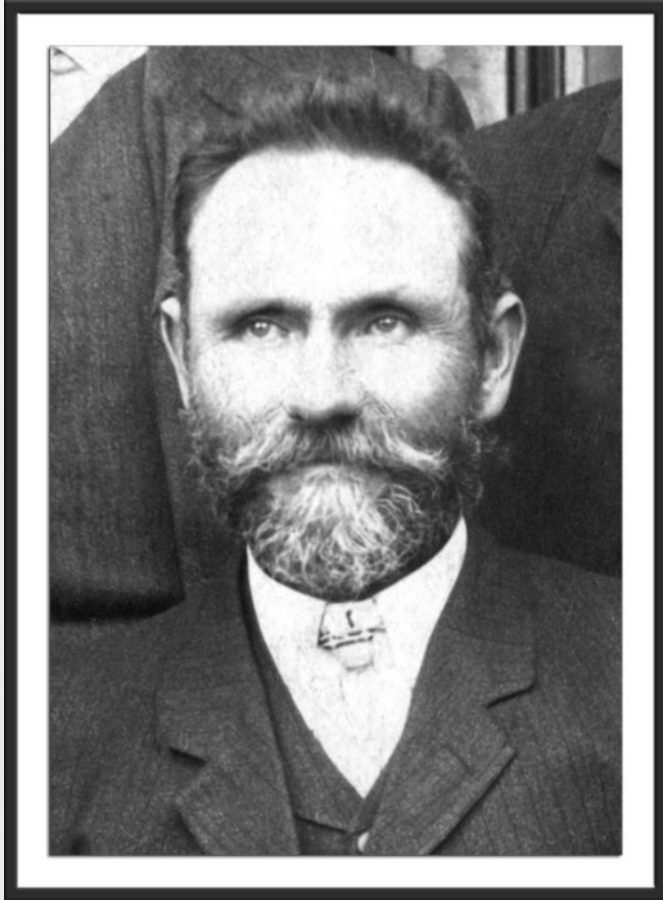


<b>Councillor:</b>	1902-11
<b>President:</b>	1904
<b>Born:</b>	14 October 1872
<b>Died:</b>	25 September 1947
<b>Cremated:</b>	Springvale
<b>Occupation:</b>	Farmer, Storekeeper Politician
<b>Remembered by:</b>	Leckie Park

*Courtesy Kath McCracken*

John was born on 14 October 1872 at Alexandra, to parents James Leckie (b1839, d1898) and Mary (née) Reilly. New immigrants, James and Mary prospected for gold on the upper reaches of the Goulburn River near Woods Point, before settling downstream at the newly opened Redgate Diggings (Alexandra). They purchased the Alexandra Beehive Stores business in 1877 from John Cronin and ran the business profitably. John was educated at Scotch College in Melbourne, before studying medicine at Ormond College (Melbourne University). In his second year he abandoned his studies owing to a dispute with his father and moved to Western Australia where he prospected for gold near Kalgoorlie and playing football for Freemantle. He returned to Alexandra in 1897 and managed the family business, becoming proprietor after his father's death in 1898. In May 1898 he married first wife May Beatrix Johnson, the youngest daughter of Mrs L Johnston. In 1900 they became more engaged in farming the family property *Ayr* (later *Rosemont*) located a mile north of the town. John was active in community affairs and served as a Shire Councillor and Shire President for one term. He took a prominent part in public and social functions and was said to have been identified with all local institutions. He served on the Hospital and Library Committees, was involved in athletic clubs and loved cricket and football (having been a member of the Fitzroy team during their first premiership win in 1895). His wife May died in 1910 and he moved to Melbourne in 1912. He married his second wife (journalist Hattie Martha Knight) in 1917. John served as a Victorian MLA for six years, a Federal MP for two and a Senator for 13 (including 12 months as a Federal Minister). John died of cancer on 25 September 1947 at his Hawthorn home and was cremated after a State Funeral. His eldest daughter (Patty Maie) married Robert Menzies - who later became Prime Minister of Australia (1939 - 1941).

# JOHN THOMAS MURRAY JP

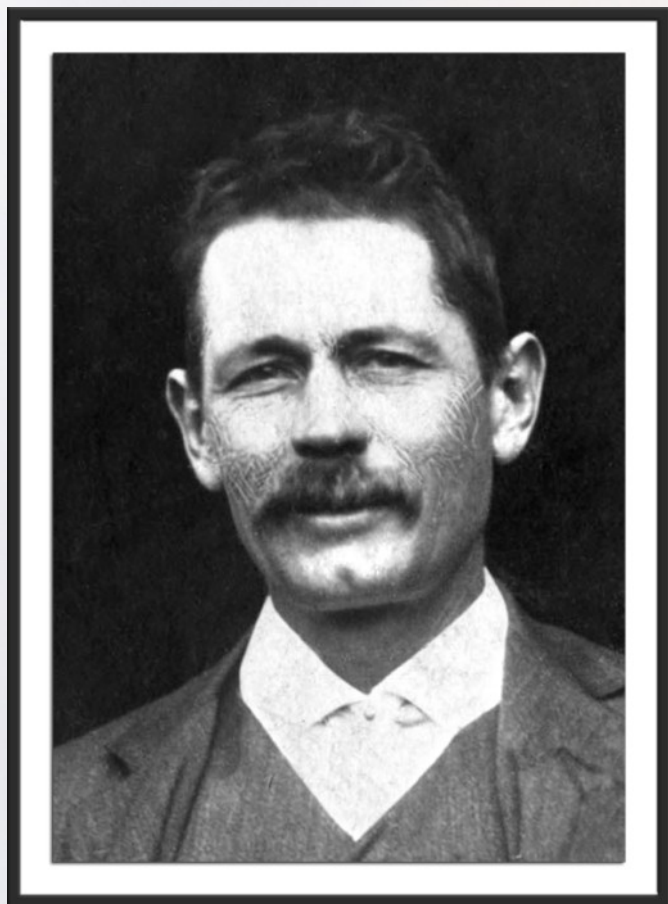


<b>Councillor:</b>	1903-20
<b>President:</b>	1906, 1912 1917-18
<b>Born:</b>	1857
<b>Died:</b>	23 January 1933
<b>Buried:</b>	Yarck Cemetery
<b>Occupation:</b>	Farmer

*Courtesy Simone Adams*

John was born in 1857 at Melbourne, to parents Vere William Murray and Sarah (née) Riley. The family came to the Godfrey's Creek (Gobur) diggings in the mid 1870s. They conducted Wesleyan (Methodist) services at their house on a Thursday evening with up to 40 attending, which John considered a highlight of his life. He selected land in 1878 and married Jessie (née) Shaw in 1881. They settled at *Pleasant Banks* near Middle Creek and raised sheep and dairy cattle. He experimented with ensilage and constructed a silo for above ground storage, giving a glowing report in the *Alexandra Standard*. He joined the Pastoral and Agricultural Association, winning prizes for both sheep and cattle, became Vice-President in 1901 and was appointed a trustee of the new showgrounds. He was an active worker for the Kanumbra Methodist Church for over 50 years and Sunday School Superintendant for over 30. John was a well regarded preacher, receiving an illuminated address in 1928 to celebrate his dedication. In 1900 he joined the Kanumbra Band of Hope Society and preached the 'moral, intellectual, physical and economic benefits of abstinence' from alcohol. He was a trustee of the Yarck Cemetery and the Yarck Recreation Reserve. In 1902 he convened a meeting and moved 'it is advisable that we form ourselves into a Bush Fire Brigade', of which he became Secretary and Treasurer. In 1902 he became Secretary of the Yarck Branch of the National Citizens Reform League, in 1910 the inaugural President of the Kanumbra Mutual Improvement Society and in 1920 Vice-President of the Alexandra Branch of the Protestant Federation. He served as a Shire Councillor, was a Justice of the Peace and was Shire President for three terms. He was a member of the committee that recommended that Council erect an electric power station in Alexandra and in 1918 his wife had the honour of operating the switch to open the system. They sold the farm in 1919 and he retired from Council in August 1920 after 18 years of dedicated service. He died of heart failure on 23 January 1933 and was buried at the Yarck Cemetery. His wife died on 5 February 1935. In his obituary John is referred to as being in the ranks of the pioneers and described as being one of the doughty warriors.

# JOHN CAMPBELL WIGHTMAN

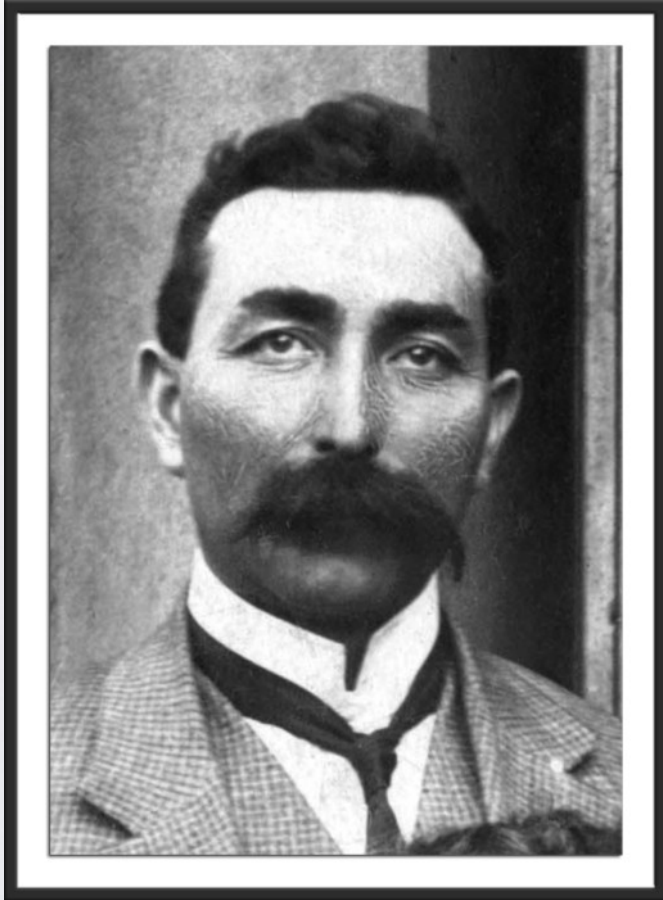


<b>Councillor:</b>	1904-09
<b>President:</b>	1907
<b>Born:</b>	1862
<b>Died:</b>	11 May 1927
<b>Buried:</b>	Alexandra Cemetery
<b>Occupation:</b>	Farmer
<b>Remembered by:</b>	Wightman's Hill
<b>Father President:</b>	Richard ►

*Courtesy Simone Adams*

John was born in 1862 at Linton, Victoria, to parents Richard Wisdom Wightman and Helena Mary (née) Heatley. After moving to the district, he farmed *Hazelgrove* near Thornton with his father and later at *Mt Pleasant* along the Alexandra-Thornton Rd on his own account. He bred dairy cattle and pigs and was the local agent for a bacon-curing operation, consigning trucks of pigs on the train to Lilydale on behalf of local farmers. He was on the committee of the Pastoral and Agricultural Association for over 30 years and was both President (three consecutive terms) and Vice-President. He acted as Steward at the local show and on one occasion was praised 'for the indefatigable and ungrumbling manner in which he stuck, unaided for a long time, to the hard task of yarding upwards of two hundred head of cattle.' He was also a well known exhibitor at the local shows and over the years visited major shows in both Melbourne and Sydney. He served on the committee of the Thornton Football Club, the Thornton Racing Club, the Thornton Athletics committee and the Alexandra Race Club. He was a patron of the Alexandra Football Club. Being burly of stature he was a member of an Alexandra Tug-of-War team. He was a man of few words, however when he spoke he was listened to! He was tactful but persuasive and considered of high character by his peers. He was a Director of the Alexandra Dairy Company for many years and became Vice-President of the Alexandra Herd Testing Association upon its formation. He was a Justice of the Peace, sitting on the local bench as required. He served as a Shire Councillor for nine years and was President for one term. John died a bachelor on 11 May 1927 after receiving blood poisoning from a small pimple on his knee which he knocked and broke open, while retrieving chaff from his barn. He was taken to the Alexandra St Margaret's Private Hospital where he died a short time later. He was buried in the Alexandra Cemetery.

# CHARLES HAMILTON JP

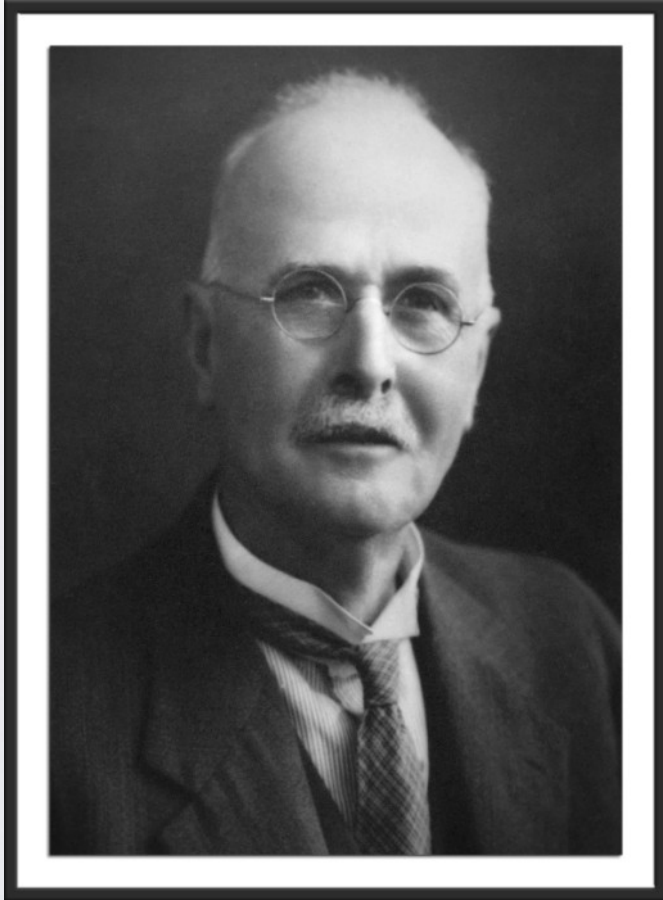


<b>Councillor:</b>	1905-13
<b>President:</b>	1910
<b>Born:</b>	1872
<b>Died:</b>	3 August 1935
<b>Buried:</b>	Alexandra
<b>Occupation:</b>	Auctioneer

*Courtesy Simone Adams*

Charles was born in 1872 at Molesworth, Victoria (registered at Alexandra), to parents James Hamilton and Bridget (née) Ryan. He grew up locally and farmed at Cathkin for a number of years before becoming an auctioneer and establishing a local stock and station business, Dodgshun & Hamilton - Auctioneers of Alexandra and Yea. His first marriage to Hannah Costigan produced three sons, two of whom were born in Alexandra (Charles and John). After his wife Hannah died as a result of childbirth, he married Elizabeth O'Reilly in 1909 and they had four children. Charles was the founder and first President of the Yea Agricultural Society and a Director of the Yea Dairy Company. He was a member of the Alexandra Waterworks Trust in 1908 and Chairman of the same in 1910. In 1910 his partnership Dodgshun & Hamilton was dissolved and he formed the company Chas. Hamilton & Co. of Kilmore. In 1910 he publically refuted a claim that he intended to contest a seat on the neighbouring Yea Shire Council - stating it was entirely untrue and without foundation (*Alexandra Standard*, Friday 22 June 1910). Charles was described as a man of Stirling qualities and one who served the community in many public movements. Referred to as a native of the district, the Shire's flag flew at half mast during his funeral. Of note is an article in the *Alexandra Standard*, Friday, 9 August 1935 which talks of his life, as well as referencing an article written by 'J.D.' and published in the *Kilmore Advertiser* on 3 March 1922 describing how James Hamilton (father of Charles) barely survived the Great Flood of 1870. Charles died on 3 August 1935 at East Melbourne. He left a widow and six children. A Requiem Mass was held mid morning at Kilmore and the funeral took place at Alexandra in the afternoon. Three months later his son Chas. C Hamilton also died (aged 30 years) and was also interred at the Alexandra Cemetery (*Alexandra Standard*, Friday 6 December 1935).

# JOHN FINDLAY



<b>Councillor:</b>	1907-27
<b>President:</b>	1911, 1920
<b>Born:</b>	1869
<b>Died:</b>	1955
<b>Buried:</b>	Alexandra Cemetery
<b>Occupation:</b>	Farmer

*Courtesy Judith Adams*

John was born in 1869 at Upper Thornton, Victoria, to parents John Lee (Gibson) Findlay and Jessy (née) Robertson. John's parents migrated to Australia in 1864 aboard the clipper *Lightning* and soon after arriving in Victoria, they took up a selection along the Rubicon River, in the Rubicon Valley near Rubicon. They named the property *Rosebank* and it was here that John grew up and later farmed. In 1886 John's father started construction work on the *Rosebank* homestead and thanks to John's excellent engineering skills, the homestead included a large shearing shed. This shed included the Rubicon Valley's first butter factory. The shed was powered by water from the Rubicon River which John had diverted through a long earthen and concrete race system. Water drove a large waterwheel at the back of the shed. John also engineered a water filtering system located between the shed and the homestead. The water was first diverted from a concrete section of the water race and allowed to slowly flow through a series of three water collection areas. Each area had a steel filter on the front. House water was drawn from the third point by use of a mechanical pump. In the early 1900s cream from the Findlay property was transported via Koriella Railway Station to Melbourne and exported to London. John even won a London cream competition. Like his father, John was an active member of the community. He served as a Shire Councillor for many years and served as Shire President for two terms. In 1951 John married Annie Nichol (b1871, d1951, Alexandra). They had five children: Jessie Lee (b1898 Alexandra), Annie Euphemia (b1900 Alexandra), John Andrew (b1907 Alexandra, d1908 Alexandra), Violet Mavis (b1910 Alexandra, d1917 Alexandra) and William John (b1913 Alexandra, d1917 Alexandra). John's wife died in 1951 at Alexandra. John died in 1955 at Eildon and was buried at the Alexandra Cemetery.

# JOSEPH HARDWICK EDWARDS

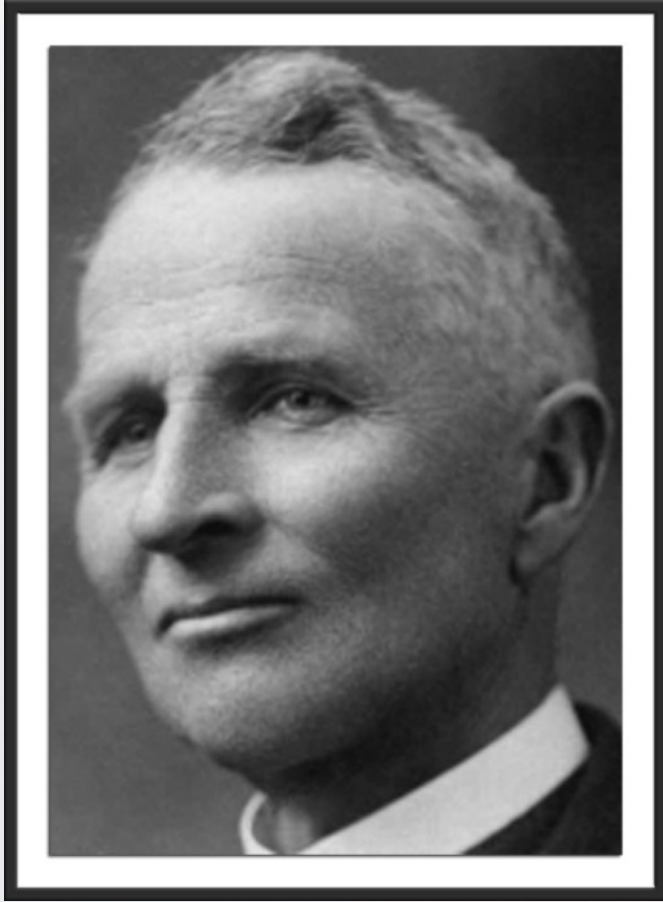


<b>Councillor:</b>	1908-10, 1912-30
<b>President:</b>	1913, 1921, 1928
<b>Born:</b>	22 October 1864
<b>Died:</b>	30 September 1930
<b>Buried:</b>	Alexandra Cemetery
<b>Occupation:</b>	Farmer
<b>Son President:</b>	William H Edwards ►

*Courtesy Thelma Edwards*

Joseph was born on 22 October 1863 at Somersetshire, England, to parents Joseph Edwards and Elizabeth (Eliza) (née) Hardwick. In Australia, he married Blanche Mary Fry (b1866) at Christ Church, Geelong on 25 September 1889. He farmed at *Bushy Park*, Briagolong Gippsland until 1903, during which time he was an unsuccessful aspirant for parliamentary honours and a Shire Councillor at the Maffra Shire. They travelled back to England for two years before moving to Alexandra where they purchased a 640 acre property from the Robertson family in Acheron which they went on to own until 1976. He appeared in court regarding wire stolen from his property in 1910 and during the case he declared that he was a farmer at Acheron. Joseph was a good friend and colleague of Cr Wylie who in 1928 acknowledged their differences over time but mentioned how Cr Edwards was 'up in municipal matters and should not be easily bluffed.' In the same article, Joseph stated how 'he was now in his 21st year as a Councillor' and that 'he had served a period of six years in the Maffra Shire.' He was not considered a tactician, always following a direct course. Joseph was one the first people to promote the idea of the Shire purchasing a light grader and was a strong advocate of a road being established from Eildon to Jamieson to take the place of the road submerged by Eildon Weir. One of his last duties was in accompanying colleagues to Melbourne on 18 December 1929 to urge the Country Road Board (CRB) to make available money from Federal Grants - necessary to construct the Eildon-Jamieson Road. He died before it was built and died on 30 September 1930 at a private hospital in Melbourne and was buried at the Alexandra Cemetery. He left a wife and four children: William, Laura, Edith and Colin. William later served as a Shire President. At the funeral it was stated how Joseph had served 23 years as a Councillor. His funeral was well attended by his family, peers and the broader community.

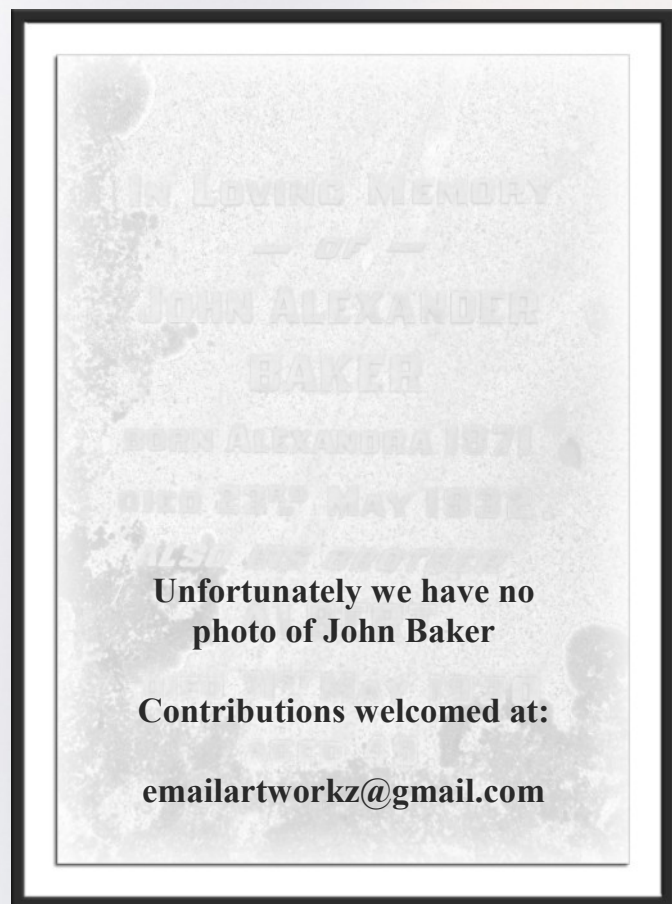
# DAVID HAYES



<b>Councillor:</b>	1894-99; 1901; 1915-19
<b>President:</b>	1918
<b>Born:</b>	12 July 1861
<b>Died:</b>	4 June 1941
<b>Buried:</b>	Fawkner Cemetery
<b>Occupation:</b>	Storekeeper

David was born on 12 July 1861 at Tooborac, Victoria, (birth registered at Heathcote) to parents Mark Hayes and Maria (née) Searcy. It is unknown when he moved to our area, however we know that by the late 1800s he was living in Yarck and in the early 1900s he was living at *The Oaks* located between Alexandra and Thornton. He married Mary (Polly) Stewart Sefton on 29 December 1885 (b1866, Moddewarre, Victoria) and together they had six children. In 1894 he was elected as a manager of the Kanumbra Recreation Reserve and on 3 May 1894 the *Yea Chronicle* stated that he was running cattle on the *Cathkin Estate*. A week later the newspaper reported that David was building a branch store at the old mining township of Gobur. In early 1895 he was advertising that he was a cash buyer of rabbits for export and in August 1896 he called for tenders to sink a shaft for the Kanumbra Gold Mining Company of which he was a Local Director. In early 1898 he raised the rotten condition of the road running through Rash's land, asking for it to be formed and culverts installed before winter set in (*Yea Chronicle*, 7 April 1898). On 4 February 1896 he advertised for a Storeman for his Yarck store and on 20 October 1898 he advertised for a man capable of managing his Yarck General Store. In 1893, 1899, 1900, 1902 and 1913 he announced his intentions to run as a candidate for the Shire Council. In November 1900 a horse he owned was entered into the Alexandra Show and reportedly cleared nearly 6 foot in the high jump - creating great excitement. In 1901 David disposed of 1400 acres of his West Tarwin holdings in Gippsland, believed to be around 1700 acres. In 1909 he was advertising the sale of *Coronation* potatoes with his address being *The Oaks*, Thornton. He was still at *The Oaks* on October 1915 when a worker mysteriously disappeared - believed drowned. Shortly afterwards he moved to Allambee near Warragul. David died at Pascoe Vale in 1941 and was buried at the Fawkner Cemetery.

# JOHN ALEXANDER BAKER JP



<b>Councillor:</b>	1911-25
<b>President:</b>	1919
<b>Born:</b>	c1871
<b>Died:</b>	23 May 1932
<b>Buried:</b>	Alexandra Cemetery
<b>Occupation:</b>	Grazier, miner, businessman
<b>Remembered by:</b>	Bakers Lane

John was born circa 1871, second son to William and Jane Baker (reported as being pioneers of the Upper Goulburn District). They moved to the district circa 1868 and in December 1893 William stated he was a licenced Victualler (person licenced to sell alcohol) while transferring his Freemason's Hotel at Alexandra to his son John Alexander Baker. In 1896 he applied for a mining licence under the lease name of The Eildon Consolidated Cold Mining Company and listed his address as the Freemason's Hotel, Alexandra. In May 1897 he applied for another mining licence for The Queen Jubilee Mining Company. John married Queenie McGregor Dawson on 26 September 1907, only daughter of Brunswick Steel Manufacturer Mr J McGregor Dawson. In August 1908 he successfully nominated for Council, serving as a Shire Councillor and later as Shire President for one term. In 1911 the Freemason's Hotel was delicensed by the Licences Reduction Board, with Baker receiving compensation of 700 pound. For a short time it operated as the Freemason's Café, before being let for business purposes as the 'Baker's Buildings'. In 1912 John described himself as a grazier, owning the property *Hills*. He also acted as local agent for a Melbourne business in consigning pigs to market. In 1931 he again applied for a mining lease for The Strathmore Mining Syndicate. John was described as being 'prominent in public affairs', was a Justice of the Peace, Commissioner of the Waterworks Trust, Secretary of the Pastoral and Agricultural Associations and Secretary of the local branch of the Victorian Country Party. He was also the Secretary of a committee agitating for the introduction of a Higher Elementary School, member of the Oddfellows Lodge and a one-time President of the Alexandra Football Club. John contracted pneumonia while visiting Melbourne and died around 12 months later on 23 May 1932 at Caulfield. At this time he was reported as being a grazier, 'late of Baker's Buildings' (*Alexandra Standard*, Friday 20 January 1933). He bequeathed by will 3420 pound and personal property valued at 1013 pound to his sons, with gifts going to other relatives. John is remembered by Bakers Lane in Alexandra. His father William was a Shire Councillor in the 1870s.

# WILLIAM FOX



<b>Councillor:</b>	1920-29, 1938-40
<b>President:</b>	1926
<b>Born:</b>	1879
<b>Died:</b>	14 November 1940
<b>Buried:</b>	Yarck Cemetery
<b>Occupation:</b>	Farmer

*Courtesy Images of Yarck & District*

William was born circa 1879 at Yan Yean, Victoria (near Janefield and Whittlesea), to parents James Fox and Sarah (née) Creighton. His father was the esteemed district pioneer James Fox of Lorton Vale Kanumbra - an active and effective advocate for the district. Like his father, he was well respected locally and gave considerable time to the wellbeing of the district. William married Isabella Catherine McPherson on 18 April 1906 at her parent's *Hill View* property at Yarck and together they had five daughters. His third daughter, Miss Edna Fox, won the 1925 London College prize (awarded annually to any candidate gaining the highest number of marks for the district). He was a Shire Councillor for many years and an active member of the Agricultural Society. On 13 December 1929 Cr W. Fox intimated that he was resigning his seat on the Shire Council. He then resigned and a call for nominees for the extraordinary vacancy caused by his resignation ended on 9 January 1930. He then moved to Benalla, however by August 1937 he had moved back to the district and was again elected a Shire Councillor. In 1938 he opened the Yarck golf season (*Alexandra Standard*, Friday 20 May 1938) and was a Councillor and Treasurer 1939. In 1940 he helped form and was President of the Bushfire Brigade, which was set up to protect the districts of Yarck, Gobur, Kanumbra and Cathkin during the holiday period. At the Shire meeting held on 4 September 1940, it was moved and seconded that Cr Fox be elected Shire President, however he declined owing to ill-health. His last public appearance was presenting the Yarck & District School Sports Associations shield and cup to the winning Cathkin State School on 4 October 1940. William died on 14 on November 1940 at Lorton Vale, Kanumbra and was buried at Yarck Cemetery. He left a wife Isabella and five daughters: Isabella, Margaret, Edna, Dorothy and Gweneth. His great service was recognised at a Shire meeting held on 11 December 1940.

# ROBERT BRUCE FORSYTH MC



<b>Councillor:</b>	1927-32
<b>President:</b>	1929
<b>Born:</b>	8 September 1892
<b>Died:</b>	2 August 1980
<b>Cremated:</b>	Springvale
<b>Occupation:</b>	Farmer

*Courtesy National Library Australia*

Robert (commonly referred to as Bruce) was born on 8 September 1892 at Koo Wee Rup, Victoria, to parents William Forsyth and Naomi (née) Bull. (William, an early settler at Koo Wee Rup, was a son of Robert Forsyth who settled *Mimamaluke* and *Maintongoon* stations). Bruce enlisted in WWI on 17 August 1914 and served in the 58<sup>th</sup> Battalion, at Egypt, Gallipoli and the Western Front before returning to Australia on 6 November 1918. He rose from the rank of Private to Captain, was wounded, twice mentioned in despatches and was awarded the Military Cross. In 1920 he married Amy Cottingham Williams (b1892, Talbot, Victoria) and they took up a Soldier Settlement block near Swamp Creek in Taggerty on part of the old *Acheron* station, raising sheep and cattle. He was active in the Alexandra RSL, representing the district at both regional and (in 1929) state RSL levels. He was Officer-in-charge of the Alexandra Light Horse Squadron and was promoted to the rank of Major in 1931. He was a respected member of the local community and had aspirations to political life. Whilst serving as a Councillor he took several months leave of absence in 1927 whilst participating in an Advisory Board enquiring into issues with the Soldier Resettlement scheme. On 4 March 1931 at a meeting held at the Alexandra Shire Hall Supper Rooms, a local branch of the *National Federation* was formed and Bruce was elected Secretary. On Monday 11 May 1931 he was elected President of the newly formed *All for Australia League* - formed at a meeting at Alexandra. He unsuccessfully contested the seat of Upper Goulburn for the *United Australia Party* in 1932. Bruce retired from Council on August 1932 along with Councillors Armstrong and Dobson. At a dinner in honour of retiring Councillors, he received high praise from his peers. Robert 'Bruce' Forsyth died on 2 August 1980 at Murrumbeena and was cremated. His ashes were spread at Springvale Cemetery. Bruce was one of the original Shrine of Remembrance guards at Melbourne (serving from 1935 when guards commenced work). The Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance was officially opened on 11 November 1934.

# ROBERT JACKSON BRIGGS



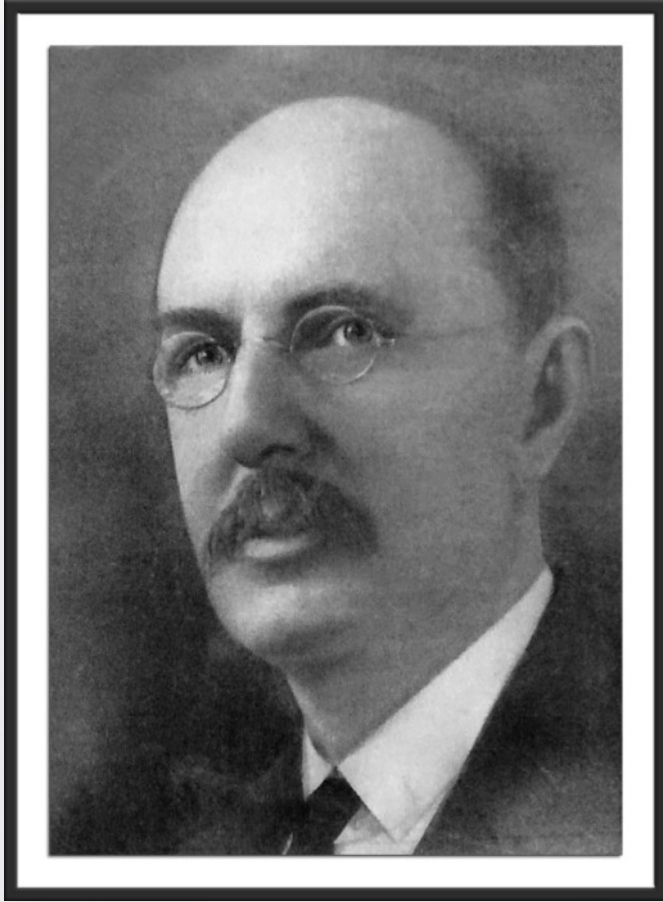
<b>Councillor:</b>	1926-48; 1949-60
<b>President:</b>	1930, 1931, 1940, 1946 1953, 1954, 1957
<b>Born:</b>	28 November 1884
<b>Died:</b>	30 March 1960
<b>Cremated:</b>	Springvale
<b>Occupation:</b>	Businessman, farmer
<b>Remembered by:</b>	Briggs Oval, Briggs Court

*Photographer Allan Weeks*

*Courtesy Images of Yarck & District and Ian Girdwood*

Robert was born 1884 in Seacliff, New Zealand, son of William Briggs and Sarah Ann (née) Ross. The family moved to Canning street, Carlton circa 1888, from where Robert later commenced his working life with a 'leading softgoods store', where he became a departmental manager. He was a member of St Andrews Presbyterian Church, Carlton, serving for two years as Secretary of the Congregation committee, and in 1915 received an Illuminated Address which noted that the congregation was debt free for the first time in 20 years. He played cricket for St Andrews, featuring in both batting and bowling. He visited Alexandra on 6 June 1914 and arranged to buy the Beehive Stores from Mr E White. He swept the footpath outside the store daily, cheerily greeting townsfolk. In 1929, at St Andrews church, Carlton he married Vera Eva (née) Robb, daughter of William Robb and Emily (née) Robinson of Rubicon. Robert was highly successful in business and expanded his interests to include a share in two timber mills, and two properties. He said that working on the farm was a way of keeping his sanity. Shortly after the 1939 bushfires, he called at the Glendale lane sawmill to check for damage, and the tyres on his car melted and he was trapped for four days. He was an active community member and a long-term Councillor, retiring in 1947 after 22 years service. However in 1948 he was re-elected at an extraordinary Shire election, serving for a further 11 years. He served seven terms as Shire President. Robert was a member of the Alexandra Waterworks Trust, Alexandra Hospital Board, Alexandra Library Committee, Alexandra Cricket Club and Alexandra Race Club. He was also the first Chair of the local branch of the *All for Australia League* political party, served on the Alexandra Progress Association, Alexandra Bush Fire Brigade and was a founding member of the Alexandra Citizens Band. Robert was described as having a 'sound understanding of finances' and 'keeping Shire affairs in a very sound state'. He had an extremely strong sense of duty towards Alexandra and was always mindful to promote the town and its people. He was noted for being generous, having a great personality, and a wicked sense of humour. Robert died in 1960 at Alexandra.

# JAMES EDWARD ELLIOTT JP

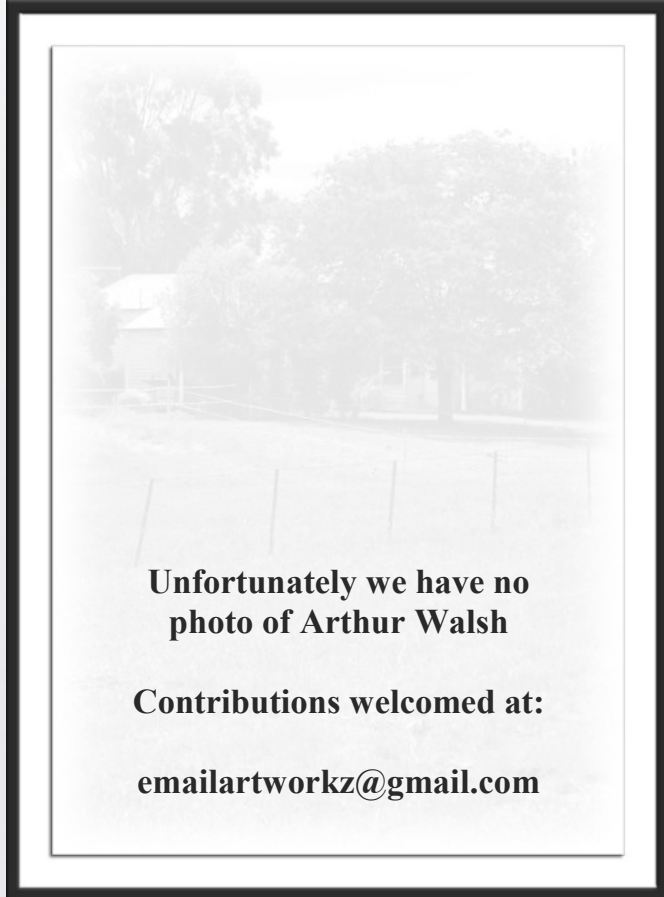


<b>Councillor:</b>	1928-39
<b>President:</b>	1932
<b>Born:</b>	January 1864
<b>Died:</b>	2 July 1956
<b>Buried:</b>	Yarck Cemetery
<b>Occupation:</b>	School teacher

*Courtesy Rob Elliot*

James was born in 1864 at Cavendish, Victoria, to parents James Elliott Snr and Jean (née) Warrack. He married Anna Margaret (Nansie) Sloggatt (eldest daughter of William Sloggatt) on 15 January 1889. James took up the position as teacher at Durham Gully School (Fawcett) in January 1890, living in Spring Creek where he also raised a few cattle. Circa 1901 he was promoted to Headmaster at Yarck Primary School, where he served until his retirement in 1924. James had a keen interest in sports and took up the position of Secretary of the Spring Creek Cricket Club when he first arrived. His organisational skills were much in demand and he was to become Secretary of Yarck Racing Club, Yarck Football Club and the Gobur Race Club for many years. He was Secretary of the Committee which organised building of the Yarck War Memorial. He had a life-long love of horses and was a steward at the Alexandra Pastoral and Agricultural Association Annual Show from 1900, later joining the committee; he was Secretary for an extended time, only standing down as Show duties conflicted with Examination time for his students. Following retirement from the Education Dept. he was petitioned by residents to stand for Council in 1925 but declined. He was however elected a Shire Councillor in 1928 and went on to serve as Shire President. James was President of the Alexandra Race Club, Worshipful Master of the Albert Edward Lodge and was appointed a Justice of the Peace, all in 1929 and was described as being a good golfer. He was a skilled orator and was well known for his recitations at social and fundraising events. His wife Anna died on 30 March 1919 of heart trouble and was buried at the Yarck Cemetery. She was survived by a son Valency who was also later buried at the Yarck Cemetery, and daughter Bud. At his 70th birthday in January 1934, his friends described how he was held in high esteem by his peers. Councillor Jones spoke of his own personal regard for James. He retired from Council and from public office on September 1939 at the age of 75 years. James died of heart failure on 2 July 1956 at the Alexandra Hospital. He was buried at the Yarck Cemetery in an unmarked grave.

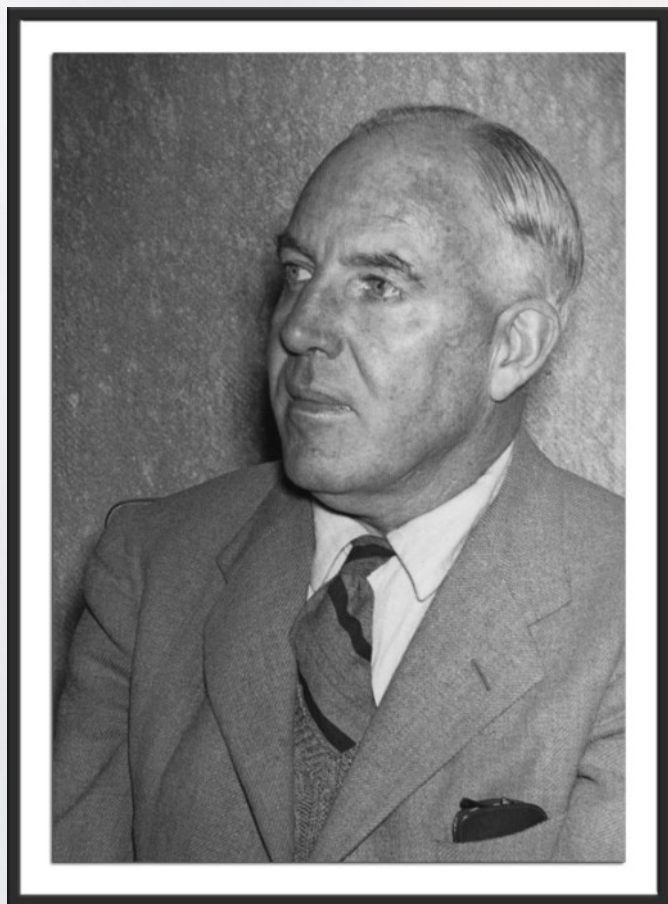
# ARTHUR NEIL WALSH



**Councillor:** 1931-36  
**President:** 1933  
**Born:** 1887  
**Died:** 19 December 1960  
**Cremated:** Springvale  
**Occupation:** Farmer

Arthur was born in 1887 at Tallangatta, Victoria, to parents Louis Chapman Walsh and Jane (née) Waler of *Three Pines*, Tallangatta. Arthur applied for land at Bullioh near Tallangatta between 1909 and 1920. He married Sapho Adeline nee Maniachi on 18 August 1914 at the Presbyterian Church, North Fitzroy, before he enlisted in WWI, embarking on 23 December 1916 from Melbourne. He served as a Gunner in the Australian Imperial Force (15 Field Artillery Brigade) and was admitted to the 1st Southern General Hospital in 1918 with pyrexia. After war service he returned to the Tallangatta District, before moving to Alexandra in 1926 and purchasing Tom McGuigan's Spring Creek property *Graceburn Park*. It was reported that 'He first became attracted to the Alexandra District by passing through in a motor car.' Their children attended the Fawcett School and Arthur became President of the Fawcett Hall Committee. He joined the Pastoral and Agricultural Association in 1926, becoming a Steward at the annual show and later a Committee Member and President for a number of years. In 1927 during a visit by the Commissioner for Railways, he spoke for a deputation of Spring Creek farmers and Koriella Railway Station soon received a 'mechanical wool loader, which is a real boon.' He served as a Shire Councillor and was also Shire President for one term. In 1935 he donated a Cup for the 'Most Efficient Trooper' in Alexandra's 20th Light Horse Regiment. In late 1935 he advertised his 700 acre property for sale and in April 1936 he moved to *Morwell Park* in Gippsland, comprising 900 acres of second class grazing land. Although his term as Councillor was due to expire in August 1936, he resigned in May as he was no longer 'qualified.' His new property was rapidly improved, with the *Morwell Advertiser* reporting they had achieved more in two years than in the previous sixty years; but apart from having a progressive vision they had some help: 'a plow-hoe drawn by an English Fordson tractor.' The plow-hoe was apparently revolutionary, there being only one other in Gippsland at the time. When AN Walsh & Sons sold in 1948 it was reported that it was probably the 'largest financial turnover' in the district for some time. Arthur died on 19 December 1960 in Melbourne and was cremated at the Springvale Cemetery.

# ALAN W JONES MBE



<b>Councillor:</b>	1932-37, 1947-72
<b>President:</b>	1934, 1951, 1952, 1960 1967 (two months only)
<b>Born:</b>	1901
<b>Died:</b>	19 June 1972
<b>Buried:</b>	Vigo Cemetery, Spain
<b>Occupation:</b>	Farmer
<b>Remembered by:</b>	Jones Close
<b>Son President:</b>	A Worrall Jones (Son) ►

*Courtesy A Worrall Jones*

Alan Worrall Snr was born in 1901 at Albert Park, Victoria, to parents John Percy Jones and Mary Ann (née) Worrall. His father was a Victorian politician and Government Minister in the 1920s and 1930s. Alan grew up in Croydon and was educated at Kilsyth State School and Camberwell Grammar School. The family later moved to Kew and Alan studied engineering at Melbourne University. He then lived in the Benalla District before settling on the *Brilliant* estate at Kanumbra in 1929. He was elected as a Shire Councillor and served as Shire President for four terms as well as filling in as President when Kenneth William Weeding passed away unexpectedly in 1967. He had a strong interest in the Rural Fire Brigade and was a member of the Yarck and District Rural Fire Brigade, for many years. He was Deputy Group Officer of the Alexandra Fire Brigades Group and Brigade Delegate to the Number 12 Regional Council of the Victorian Rural Fire Brigades Association. He acted as Regional Delegate to the Association's Central Council 1947-62 and was Honourable Treasurer 1962-71. He represented the Association as a member of the board of the CFA 1956-62 and was elected Life Member in 1966. In 1950 he served on the Advisory Committee for the Soil Conservation Authority (SCA) and was Chairman for most of that time until his death. He was an active member and Chairman of the Alexandra Branch of the Graziers Association - now the Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) - and acted as branch representative from 1952. He was awarded the M.B.E. for his service to the community in 1969 and was remembered as an extremely generous man (especially in regard to the Alexandra Hospital and Legacy). He served on the Yarck Public Hall Committee, the Gobur Race Club and Recreational Reserve Committee and the RACV amongst others. He was a member of the Melbourne Cricket Club and the Melbourne Savage Club. Alan died at Vigo in Spain while on a world tour with his wife and was buried at the Vigo Cemetery.

# ALLAN MURRAY DOBSON



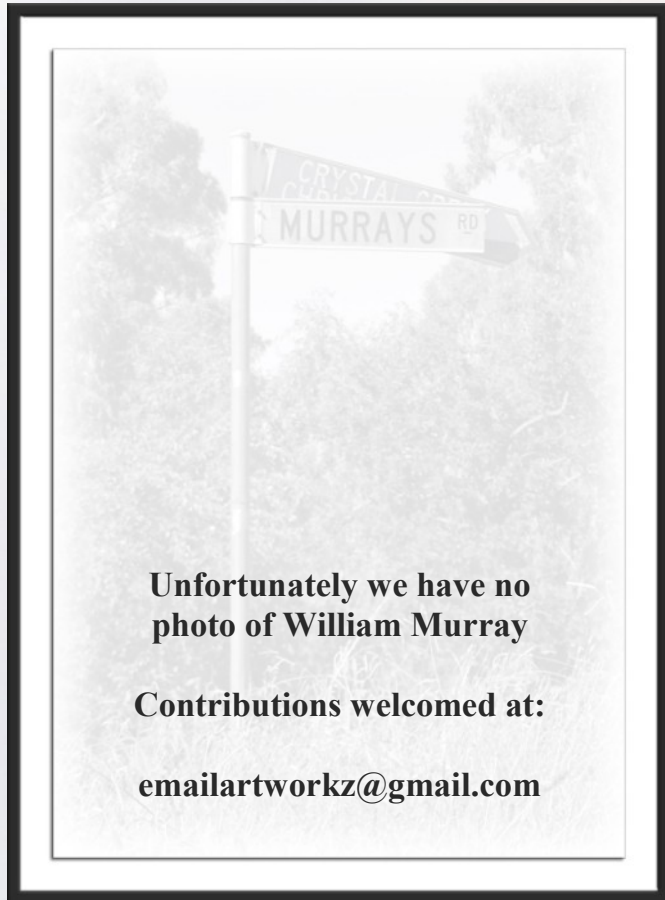
<b>Councillor:</b>	1930-38
<b>President:</b>	1935
<b>Born:</b>	19 June 1902
<b>Died:</b>	1983
<b>Ashes:</b>	Acheron
<b>Occupation:</b>	Farmer

*Courtesy Geoffrey & Anne and Bronwyn Dobson*

---

Allan was born on 19 June 1902 at Acheron, Victoria, to parents Robert Dobson and Margaret Jane (née) Murray. He married Betty Pawsey in 1932 at Alexandra and they had two children: Anne and Geoffrey. At Acheron they farmed beef, dairy cattle and sheep. Allan successfully ran for Council for the first time in 1932, the same year he married. At a dinner in his honour, Cr Briggs, the serving Shire President extended best wishes to him and his wife and noted how he had 'some months ago taken serious steps of entering the Council. Now he had taken a more serious step, and they all wished him well'. Cr Briggs gifted Cr Dobson a handsome crystal jug and set of glasses. Allan enlisted on 22 March 1942 at Alexandra and his rank shown later on his discharge papers stated 'Private 16 Battalion Volunteer Defence Corps'. Prior to enlisting and after his return, he was active in community affairs. He was a member of the Graziers Association, the Dairy Association and served on the Hospital Committee. Allan also exhibited at local shows and on occasion sent Red Poll cattle to the Royal Show in Melbourne. He was on the Alexandra Pastoral and Agricultural Association Committee and was a steward at the annual shows, the Secretary of both the Acheron Hall Committee and the Acheron Tennis Club, the Alexandra High School Committee and was a member of the Returned Soldiers League (RSL). When the nine local fire brigades officially formed a 'Group' in 1963 to provide better co-ordination and to aid in management of larger fires, Allan was elected a Deputy Group Officer. In 1966 he became Group Officer serving for the next six years. He was a founding member of the Alexandra Rotary Club and served as a Shire Councillor and was Shire President for one term. Allan died in 1983 at Alexandra and was cremated with his ashes being scattered over the Dobson farm at Acheron.

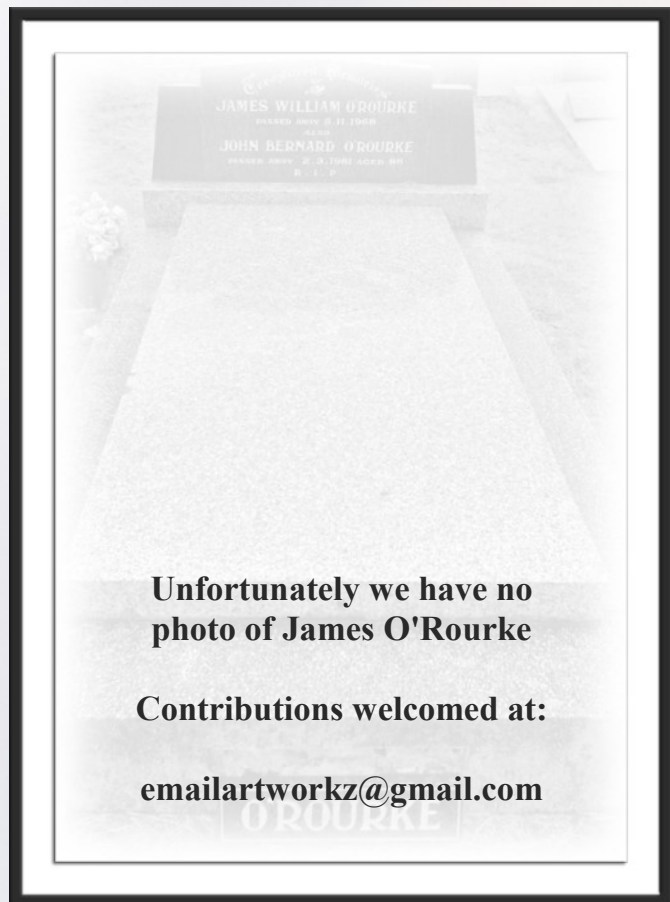
# WILLIAM ALEXANDER MURRAY JP



<b>Councillor:</b>	1935-48
<b>President:</b>	1937, 1938, 1944
<b>Born:</b>	13 June 1877
<b>Died:</b>	29 April 1963
<b>Buried:</b>	Sutherland, NSW
<b>Occupation:</b>	Farmer
<b>Remembered by:</b>	Murrays Rd, Crystal Creek

William (Bill) was born on 13 June 1877 at Sandlewood, South Australia, son of John James Murray and Jane Catherine (née) Shannon. He married Margaret Lydia Harris on 14 November 1910 and had three boys: Keith, Alexander and Fergus. He worked as a station master at Goondooloo in South Australia before moving to Whittlesea where they were graziers. They moved to the district in 1931 - the same year his wife died. His sons Keith and Alexander were later killed during WWII. Locally Bill was a grazier at Crystal Creek and was active in public affairs, serving as President of the Crystal Creek School and on the Alexandra Bush Fire Brigade Committee. He was Vice-President of the Alexandra Pastoral and Agricultural Association and was on the committees for both the Alexandra Cottage Hospital and Alexandra District Hospital. He was a Justice of the Peace (appointed in 1937) and sat on the bench during many local court cases and inquiries. He was a Shire Councillor and served as Shire President for three terms. In September 1937 he was Shire President during the official opening of the Alexandra Higher Elementary School by Minister of Education John Harris. In February 1938 he opened the ceremony to celebrate the arrival of electricity to Acheron. In 1938 he was part of a sensational mass walkout from a United Country Party Conference at Ballarat, of which he was an office bearer. He was Chairman of the Welcome Home Committee and sat on the committee and was President of the Alexandra Pastoral and Agricultural Association, the Alexandra Shire Youth Movement Committee, the Alexandra Free Library and the Alexandra Shire Parks and Gardens Committee, amongst many others. He was a sportsman and did well at bowls, table tennis, tennis and golf where he reached A grade. Bill enjoyed singing - which was illustrated when he sang at an Alexandra Tennis Club dinner in April 1948. The *Alexandra Standard* reported on Friday 30 July 1948 that Mr Murray retired from Council. Bill died in Sydney, NSW in 1963 and his ashes were scattered in the rose garden of Woronora Cemetery in Sutherland, NSW.

# JAMES WILLIAM O'ROURKE JP



**Councillor:** 1925-43 (Resigned)

**President:** 1939-40

**Born:** 1888

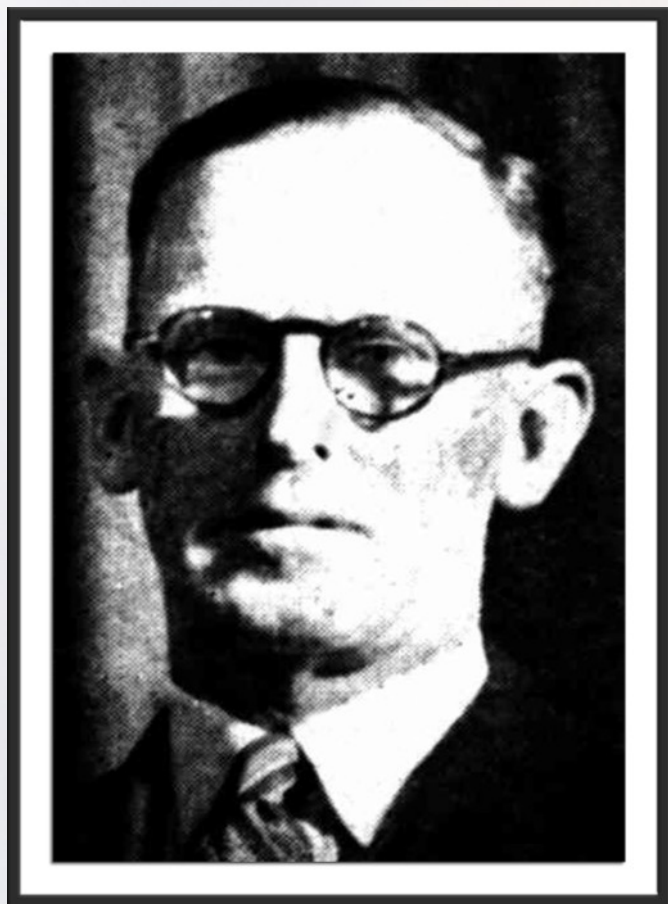
**Died:** 5 November 1968

**Buried:** Eildon Cemetery

**Occupation:** Farmer

James was born in 1888, at Upper Thornton, Victoria, to parents John Aylward O'Rourke (b1845, d1916) and Elizabeth (Eliza) Cecelia (née) Barnewall (b1844, d1945). His parents were well regarded early settlers in the Eildon District. His father John first arrived in Australia from Ireland with his family in 1850, aged two. They first lived at Whittlesea before selecting land in the Goulburn River Valley at Eildon in 1863. It was there that John met his wife Elizabeth Barnewall. She was born at Darlingford and was the daughter of John Aylmer Barnewall. John and Elizabeth were married in 1884 and they had three daughters and two sons: Barbara, James (Jim), Pearl, Eileen, Francesena and Jack. Like his father, James farmed sheep, but still had time to be an active member of the community. He was promoted to Private in the Alexandra Light Horse Camp in 1908. In 1927 a requisition was made by locals to James encouraging him to nominated for a seat at the Council Table. He subsequently agreed and was elected as a Shire Councillor. He retired in 1933 but was again elected a Shire Councillor after this, later serving as Shire President for one term. In 1928 he was part of a defeated motion to stop horses being registered to graze on Shire roads and was on the committee of the Alexandra Dairy Company. He was a Justice of the Peace, was on the committee of the Alexandra Pastoral and Agricultural Association and was behind the establishment of a district branch of the Australian National Wool Growers Association and Publicity League in 1930, of which he was elected the Hon. Secretary. He was a regular exhibitor at local Rural Shows (once entering one dozen goose eggs). In early 1968 James wrote *Memories of James O'Rourke*, recalling his memories of growing up locally. James died on 5 November 1968 and was buried in plot No 345 at the Eildon Cemetery.

# CIRIL NELSON DAVY



<b>Councillor:</b>	1939-53
<b>President:</b>	1941, 1942, 1949, 1950
<b>Born:</b>	6 February 1902
<b>Died:</b>	29 August 1987
<b>Buried:</b>	Berwick Cemetery
<b>Occupation:</b>	Farmer

*Courtesy National Library Australia*

Ciril was born in 1902 at Balranald, NSW, son of Humphrey Davy and Mercy Jane (née) Jacka. He married Marjory Postle (née) Irving in 1923 and they were living at Wangaratta by 1929 when their first child was born. They then moved to the Alexandra District, living at Whanregarwen by 1936 and Cathkin by 1937 (where they ran a Hereford stud). Ciril ran as a candidate for the Alexandra Shire Elections in 1936 and attracted a high number of votes when compared to his next rival - Cr Murray who was re-elected. He was a Director of the Yea and Mansfield Dairy Co. and a member of the War Memorial Committee. He was a Shire Councillor after the 1939 Bushfires and helped set up the Bushfire Relief Fund. He served on the committee of the Yarck Football Club and presented Mr and Mrs Allan Halligan an inscribed coffee pot when they left the district. He was a member of the sub-committee for the Alexandra Hospital in the lead up to the opening of the newly constructed Alexandra District Hospital on 17 August 1940. Also in 1940, he supported having dogs identified by a disc on their collars as a large number of lambs were being killed each year. In 1941 he championed having a lock on the side door of the Shire Hall to stop people gaining free entry to paid events. He was a generous supporter of community events and served as Chairperson on the Shire Finance Committee and the Saleyards Committee. He spoke at the opening of the new bowling green in Leckie Park on 6 December 1941 and served on the committee of the Yarck Red Cross. In December 1943 he moved to have full minutes taken at all council meetings and in March 1946, he defended himself admirably in a open public letter. In May 1947 he was elected first Chairman of the Upper Goulburn Regional Committee which was appointed by the State Government to develop Mt Buller. In 1953 Ciril was endorsed by the Country Party for the seat of Indi during the Federal Election. He was first cousin to WWI VC Winner Albert Jacka. Ciril died on 29 August 1987 at Shepparton and was buried at the Berwick Cemetery.

# ROBERT FRANCIS ALMOND



<b>Councillor:</b>	1939-66
<b>President:</b>	1943, 1955, 1956
<b>Born:</b>	1897
<b>Died:</b>	1969
<b>Buried:</b>	Yarck Cemetery
<b>Occupation:</b>	Farmer, wool classer

*Photographer Allan Weeks  
Courtesy Images of Yarck & District and Ian Girdwood*

Robert (more popularly known as Frank) was born in 1897 at Maindample, Victoria, to parents Hugh James Almond and Elizabeth (née) Friday. Frank's grandfather Robert was an early settler in Brankeet near Bonnie Doon. Frank moved into the Shire circa 1925 and in 1929 he married Elizabeth Isobel (née) Fox (whose father William was also a former Shire President). They farmed sheep on their property *Avondale*, at the base of the Merton Gap on the outskirts of Kanumbra. He was a successful farmer, receiving awards for his wool at local shows and also became a capable wool classer. He was popular with his peers and much appreciated by the community in which he was active. He was an avid freshwater fisherman who spent much of his free time fishing. He served on the Kanumbra Tennis Committee and acted as Secretary for the club in the early 1930s. In 1939 he was elected as a committee member of the Bush Fire Relief Fund. He was once quoted as saying he 'supported every movement in the district'. In September 1943 a headline in the *Alexandra Standard* declared 'Cr. RF Almond, New Shire President, a popular Choice'. He was a supporter of the Snobs Creek Water Scheme for Alexandra (which did not eventuate however), having all roads bituminised and was a big supporter of the effort to have better street lighting installed at Alexandra. He served on the Yarck Hall Committee and was Chairman of the Yarck Red Cross. He was Chairman of the Local Loan Committee, seeking subscriptions for the First Victory Loan Fund for the war effort. Frank was a long-term member of the Yarck Fire Brigade and represented the brigade at municipal co-ordination and bush-fire prevention meetings. In August 1946, he voted in favour of Mr Pearce's request to cart logs by road from Rubicon to Alexandra - which would effectively bypass the timber tramway. By this time the timber tramway was becoming run down and was often associated with fires caused by sparks from the engines. He served on the Alexandra Repatriation Local Committee in 1947 and was President of the Yarck Welcome Home Committee. Frank died in 1969 at Alexandra and his wife Isobel died in 1976. Frank was buried at the Yarck Cemetery where his wife later joined him.

# DAISY WEEKS JP OBE

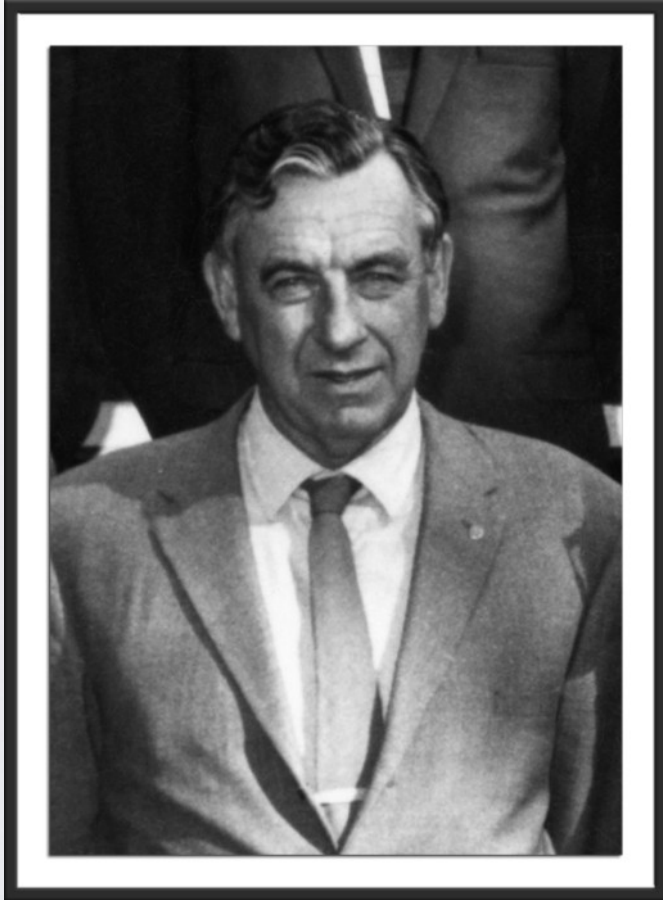


<b>Councillor:</b>	1941-60
<b>President:</b>	1945
<b>Born:</b>	22 March 1885
<b>Died:</b>	22 June 1964
<b>Buried:</b>	Alexandra Cemetery
<b>Occupation:</b>	Farmer

*Courtesy Allan & Patricia Weeks and Marie Dacre*

Daisy Ellen Rebecca was born on 22 March 1885 at Melbourne, to parents Henry Carter Reynolds and Amelia (née) Nelson. She married William Edwin Weeks in 1906 and they farmed potatoes in the Tolmie District before moving to Acheron in 1919 with their four children: Eddie, Mabel, Sydney and Mary. At Acheron they operated a dairy farm before purchasing *Riversdale* near the Riversdale Bridge over the Goulburn River at Alexandra. Daisy was a dedicated member of the Alexandra Church of England and took an active role in the St John's Choir with other members of her family. She was a member of the Ladies Guild and the Country Women's Association and Vice-President of the women's section of the United Country Party (W.S.U.C.P.) in the lead up to World War II. She was extremely dedicated to the Red Cross and was the Superintendant for the Alexandra Region Emergency Service during the 1939 Bushfires and later during World War II. She was a member of the Committee of Management of the Alexandra Ambulance Service for its first two years. She served as an Alexandra Shire Councillor and was later elected as Alexandra's first female Shire President for the 1945-46 term. During the term, she was paid an allowance of 50 pound, with another 25 pound for contingencies. Daisy was sworn in as a Justice of the Peace on 30 April 1941 and served as the only female member of the Shire's Rehabilitation Committee after World War II. She was a supporter of the Snobs Creek Water Scheme for Alexandra and on 21 July 1955 she was officially invited by the Lord Chamberlain (on behalf of Her Majesty) to attend an Afternoon Garden Party at Buckingham Palace in London. She attended and met the Queen. In 1956 she was awarded the Order of the British Empire. Daisy died at her home *Riversdale* on the Goulburn River near Alexandra on 22 June 1964 and was buried at the Alexandra Cemetery. Members of the Alexandra Shire Council acted as pall-bearers during her funeral, which was extremely well attended by locals and dignitaries. It was reported by a local who knew Daisy that one of her favourite sayings was 'The children of today are the citizens of tomorrow'.

# ARCHIBALD J GIRDWOOD JP MBE



<b>Councillor:</b>	1943-75
<b>President:</b>	1947, 1958, 1970
<b>Born:</b>	31 August 1908
<b>Died:</b>	18 January 1974
<b>Buried:</b>	Alexandra Cemetery
<b>Occupation:</b>	Farmer
<b>Remembered by:</b>	Girdwood Court

*Photographer Allan Weeks  
Courtesy Images of Yarck & District and Ian Girdwood*

---

Archibald (Arch) John was born on 31 August 1908 at Ascot Vale, Melbourne, to parents Joseph Girdwood and Agnes (née) Graham. He attended Wesley College in the 1920s where he was a success in scull racing and his team came second in the 1926-27 'Head of the River' race at Barwon Heads. In the early 1930s Arch and his brother Joe farmed *Ardfallen* (also spelt *Ard Falin*) near Thornton. After a few years they sold and purchased *Juverna* on the Eildon back road. *Juverna* was the first brick house built in the Eildon district and was constructed with hand-made bricks produced onsite using a kiln. Joe later left the partnership and Arch ran the farm by himself and later with his family. He played football and cricket for Thornton and enjoyed tennis. He was active in community groups including as President of the former Waranga North-East Football League. He married Susan Margaret Nairn on 8 September 1948 at the Ross Memorial Church in West Perth, having three children: Ian, Margaret and Ross. He was a founding member of the Thornton Fire Brigade in 1940 and was instrumental through Council, in Thornton receiving their first fire truck in 1944. He served on the Committee of the Alexandra Hospital for 10 years from 1944 and was a founding member of the Committee which established the combined library service (later the Upper Goulburn Regional Library Service). He was associated with the Thornton Memorial Hall, Thornton Waterworks Trust and President of the Jerusalem Creek Committee of Management. He was a foundation member of the Goulburn River Improvement Trust and its chairman on several occasions. He was a foundation member of the Alexandra Rotary Club and Director of the Victorian Producers Co-operative Co (VPC). He served on Council for 31 years from 1943 until his death, serving as Shire President for three terms. He was well liked, had a deep gravelly voice and was known for saying what he thought! In 1973 he was awarded a Member of the British Empire (MBE) in the Queen's Birthday Honours List. Archibald died on 18 January 1974 at Cabrini Hospital and was buried at the Alexandra Cemetery.

# HENRY WILLIAM BARKER

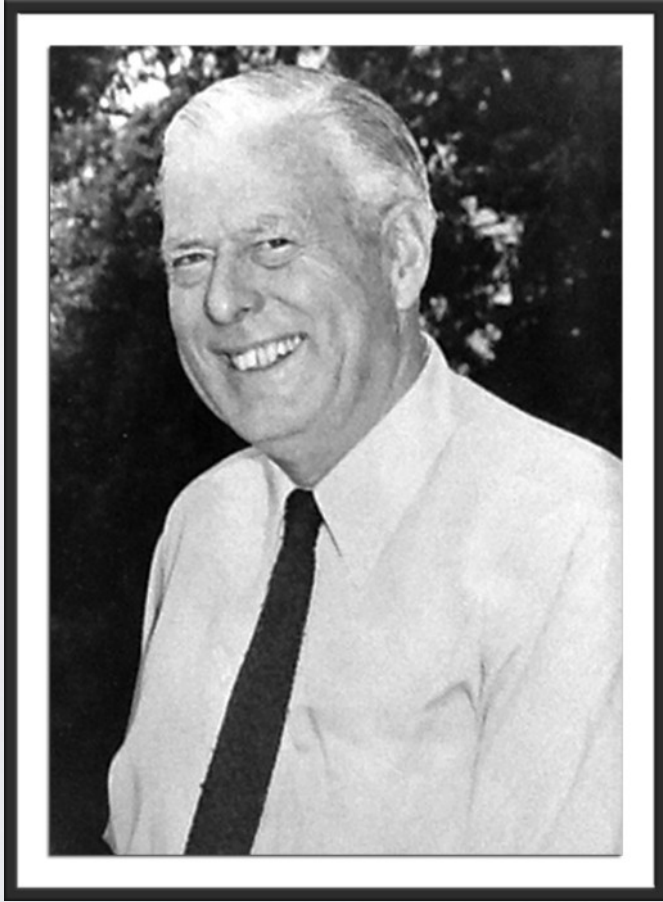


<b>Councillor:</b>	1944-53
<b>President:</b>	1948
<b>Born:</b>	26 August 1881
<b>Died:</b>	8 July 1971
<b>Cremated:</b>	Springvale
<b>Occupation:</b>	Farmer

*Photographer Lin Cumming. Courtesy Sandra Cumming & Courtesy State Library Victoria*

Henry was born on 26 August 1881 at Torrumbarry near Echuca, Victoria, to parents William Barker and Margaret (née) Muller. Henry enlisted in WWI on 2 February 1915 and served in D Coy 22<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Australian Imperial Force (AIF) at France. He was admitted to Kitchener Military Hospital with severe frostbite on his left foot on 29 March 1917. Later his WWII Medical History Sheet dated July 1949 listed that he had suffered Gas Poisoning in 1917. On 15 September 1921 he married Gladys Florence Griffith (b1889 Woods Point, d1966 Mordialloc). Their first child, Valerie Constance was born on 13 May 1923 at Yarrawonga, Victoria. On 2 April 1925 their second child William Thomas was also born at Yarrawonga. They first appeared on the Electoral Roll at Taggerty in 1936 and a number of years later reports tell us that their house was spared during the 1939 Bushfires. Henry later thanked those who came to their aid during the fires in the *Alexandra Standard* in the issue dated 23 January 1939. As a returned serviceman he supported the local 'Diggers' functions such as formal balls and golf days. In 1937 he received permission from Council to erect a telephone line along Cathedral Lane. He was President of the Taggerty Cricket Club and a member of the Taggerty Fundraising Committee for the Alexandra Hospital Building Fund (his daughter was on the nursing staff at the hospital prior to transferring to Melbourne to complete her formal training). He was active with the Taggerty Red Cross Branch raising funds during the war years, was Vice-President of the Acheron Valley Rural Betterment Association, and was referred to as a genial and popular Master of Ceremonies at social events. He enlisted in the Volunteer Defence Force during WWII. He also served as an Alexandra Shire Councillor and Shire President for one term. During a speech he gave at the end of his term as Shire President, the new Shire President (Mr Davey) praised Cr Barker for his fairness and work ethic as well as noting how the current stable financial position of the Shire was in part thanks to the hard work of Cr Barker. Henry died on 8 July 1971 at Kew. He was cremated and his ashes scattered at the Springvale Cemetery, as were those of his wife.

# WALTER JAMES EDWARD MOORE



<b>Councillor:</b>	1957-76
<b>President:</b>	1959, 1973
<b>Born:</b>	18 February 1911
<b>Died:</b>	25 February 1981
<b>Buried:</b>	Springvale Cemetery
<b>Occupation:</b>	Businessman
<b>Remembered by:</b>	Walter JE Moore Reserve, Moore Rd (near Snobs Cr), WJ Moore School Hall

*Courtesy Gary Moore*

Walter (Wally) was born on 18 February 1911 in Port Melbourne, to parents Walter Henry Moore and Flora Maria (née) Secombe. He was an apprentice in the leather trade but struggled to find work during the Great Depression. He lived at Tatong for eight years from 1930, where he was self-employed. He was active in the community, including helping with the setting up of the Benalla District Football League. A member of the Militia prior to WWII, he joined the Army when war broke out in 1939 and rose to the rank of Lieutenant. Health problems prevented him going overseas and he was discharged in 1949. In 1944 he married Ruth Halifax (a trained nurse) from Heathcote and they first lived in Parkville. In July 1949 they moved to Eildon Weir to take over the mixed business run by the Cooper's. Initially they operated in the old township, but moved into the new township where the business grew during the boom years of construction of the Big Eildon Dam. While originally he sold hardware and electrical appliances such as fridges and radios, in the later years he concentrated more on his grocery business and his adjoining newsagency. He played cricket at Eildon, was Secretary of the club and was active in many community activities including the Eildon Progress Association, the Good Neighbour Committee, the Masonic Lodge, Rotary and many other bodies. He also served as a Probation Officer for the district. He served as a Shire Councillor and was Shire President for two terms. He was appointed to the School Council of the Alexandra Secondary College in 1960, became President in 1961 and retired from that post in 1979. Wally and Ruth had a son (Gary) and a daughter (Jennifer) and by 1975 they had retired from the business, allowing Gary to take over. Wally died in a motor vehicle accident on 25 February 1981. He was buried at Springvale Cemetery (Gillard block R52). In an obituary, his good friend Cr Les Coates praised Wally as having 'established a reputation in citizenship that will be an inspiration to all'. Les also reflected on how Wally had 'a life brim full of community service and human compassion, learned in the school of adversity for he knew many of life's tribulations and difficulties and was a citizen who gave himself for his community'.

# WILLIAM HERBERT EDWARDS

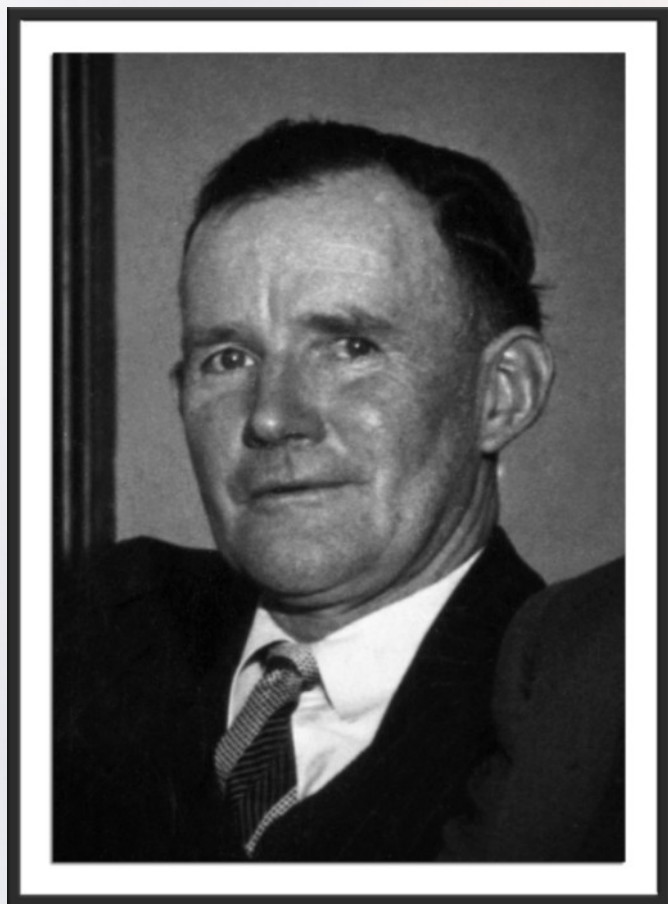


<b>Councillor:</b>	1945-68
<b>President:</b>	1961
<b>Born:</b>	20 July 1890
<b>Died:</b>	16 May 1968
<b>Buried:</b>	Alexandra Cemetery
<b>Occupation:</b>	Farmer
<b>Father President:</b>	Joseph H Edwards ►

*Courtesy Thelma Edwards*

William was born in 1890 at *Bushy Park*, Briagolong, Gippsland, Victoria, to parents Joseph Hardwick Edwards (b1864, d1930) and Blanch Mary (née) Fry (b1866 Springvale, d1935 Alexandra). He moved with his family to Acheron circa 1904 before leaving for England. He returned to Australia circa 1906 and farmed the family property *Moorlands* in Acheron until his death. In 1918 his property was divided when the Goulburn River broke away from its course and cut through his farm. This caused hardship in servicing his property, requiring workers to cross the river on horses, horse and cart (when the river was low), or a small boat when water levels were high, which he left moored permanently at the river. William married Clara Isabel Mason of Whittlesea (b1896, d1995 Alexandra), at Thornbury Presbyterian Church in May 1921. They had met at a property near Eildon which was later owned by the Nicholas family. Clara's parents farmed at Whittlesea and owned one of the early butcher shops there. William later sold land on the other side of the breakaway to the Scott family of Buxton and today is known as *The Walnut Farm*. William was a dedicated member of the Acheron Presbyterian Church - which met monthly. He was well liked in the community, was a Shire Councillor and served as Shire President for one term. He also served on the committee of the Dairy Farmers Association amongst other things. He was a simple man who often resisted new technologies such as television (which he never owned). He retired from Council in 1968 due to ill health. William died in 1968 at his Acheron property and was buried at the Alexandra Cemetery (his wife was later buried with him on 6 October 1995). His daughter Thelma Edwards is the sole remaining relative living locally today, with the family being unrelated to other Edward families located in the district.

# REGINALD ERNEST PAYNE



**Councillor:** 1948-49; 1956-67

**President:** 1962

**Born:** 9 April 1912

**Died:** 3 August 2001

**Cremated:** Toowoomba

**Occupation:** Farmer

**Remembered by:** Payne Playground

*Photographer Allan Weeks*

*Courtesy Images of Yarck & District and Ian Girdwood*

Reginald (Reg) was born on 9 April 1912 at Alexandra, Victoria, only child to parents Ernest Edward Payne and Lillian Hilda (née) Webb. He attended school at Alexandra and studied wool-classing at Gordon Institute of Technology, Geelong in 1933-34, topping his classes. He farmed at the family property *Rhodes* in Spring Creek and later owned land near Devils River. He acted as a Steward (wool section) for the Alexandra Annual Show in 1935 and later joining the Pastoral and Agricultural Society as Secretary for over 10 years as well as serving as Vice-President and President. He had a strong voice and entertained at many socials and fund-raisers. At the age of just 24 he was elected Grand Master of the Alexandra Lodge of the MU Oddfellows. He was Secretary of the Hospital Sports Committee and was made a Life Governor of the hospital for his fundraising. He later joined the Alexandra Hospital Committee of Management becoming both Vice-President and President. He was also Secretary of the Gymkhana Committee, which successfully conducted the Light Horse Show and Sheep Dog Trials. He was a member of the first committee of the Alexandra Ambulance Service and acted as Guarantor so they could purchase their first ambulance. He was a member of the Alexandra Bowling Club, was Club Champion in 1951 and served as President. He served as a Shire Councillor in 1948 following the death of his father Cr E.E. Payne, rejoined Council in 1956 after a break, and served as Shire President for one term. Reg and Irene raised cattle and sheep, topping the market for Super Fine Merino wool at a Melbourne sale in 1950. The family exhibited at local shows and in 1949 won prizes at the Sydney Royal Easter Show. The Upper Goulburn Horse & Pony Club had their HQ on the family farm. A long-time member of the Alexandra Rural Fire Brigade, Reg became inaugural Group Officer upon the formation of the 'Group' of the nine local brigades 1963. They moved to Strathalbyn, Queensland circa 1968 and were living in Nerang, Queensland by 1972 and Toowoomba by 1980 where he was a member of the Westbrook Indoor Bowls Club. Reginald died at Toowoomba on 3 August 2001 and was cremated.

# HERBERT C FITZROY JP OAM

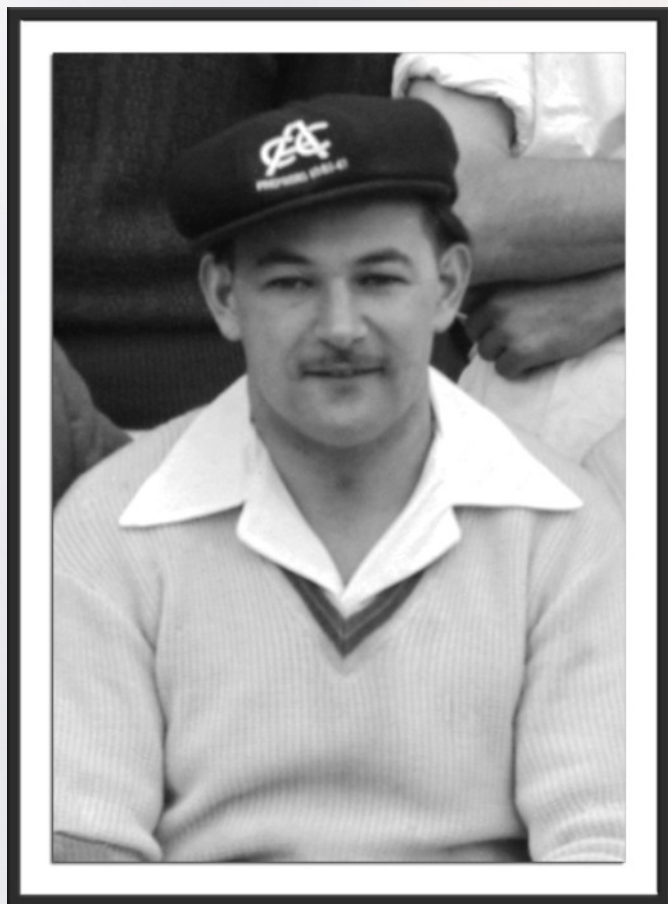


<b>Councillor:</b>	1957-67
<b>President:</b>	1963
<b>Born:</b>	15 December 1907
<b>Died:</b>	1 May 1987
<b>Ashes:</b>	St Johns Memorial Garden
<b>Occupation:</b>	Farmer, forester
<b>Remembered by:</b>	Herb FitzRoy DVA

*Photographer Lin Cumming. Courtesy Sandra Cumming & Courtesy State Library Victoria*

Herbert Crommelin was born on 15 December 1907 at Mildura, Victoria, to parents Ferdinand Trevor FitzRoy and Maud Harvey (née) Hamilton. They moved to Melbourne in 1917 where he attended Camberwell Grammar School. They moved to Thornton on 13 August 1924 and he farmed with his father at *Ardfallen* (also spelt *Ard Falin*). They were burnt out by a fire thought to have been started by a passing Timber Tram. He lived at *Glenelg* in Alexandra before moving to *Glenelg*, Maintongoon Road, Alexandra. In the early 1930s he worked at the Rubicon 'Boys Camp' and married Dorothy Muriel Broad in 1932, fathering local identity David FitzRoy. He joined the Forestry Commission in 1934 as a Forestry Officer where he worked for 18 years. He served in the 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion Volunteer Defence Corps in WWII. He served as a Justice of the Peace and on the bench at Alexandra. He was an original driver for the Alexandra Ambulance Service (1949-69) and served as a Trustee, Vice-President and member of the Committee of Management. He was a member and Chairman of the Alexandra Sewage Authority, Commissioner and Chairman of the Alexandra Water Trust, was a Shire Councillor and served as Shire President for one term. He was a member of the Alexandra District Hospital Committee for 20 years and served as President. He was People's Warden, Rector's Warden and Auditor for the Anglican Parish of Alexandra at various times after 1939. He was Lieutenant, Deputy Group Officer and Member of the Alexandra Rural Fire Brigade from 1949, joined the Alexandra Bowling Club 1942 and was a Past President and played a large part in the construction of the Clubhouse and Thomson Green. He was on the Match Committee and a Vice-Captain of the Alexandra Football Club and Captain and Patron of the Alexandra & District Cricket Association. He was appointed Chairman of the original Fraser National Park Committee of Management, was Chairman of the Eildon Water Reserve Committee of Management and Chairman of the later Fraser National Park Advisory Committee. In the mid 1970s he was Chairman of a new State-wide group advising the Minister. Herbert died on 1 May 1987 and was cremated.

# JOHN WILLIAM POLLOCK

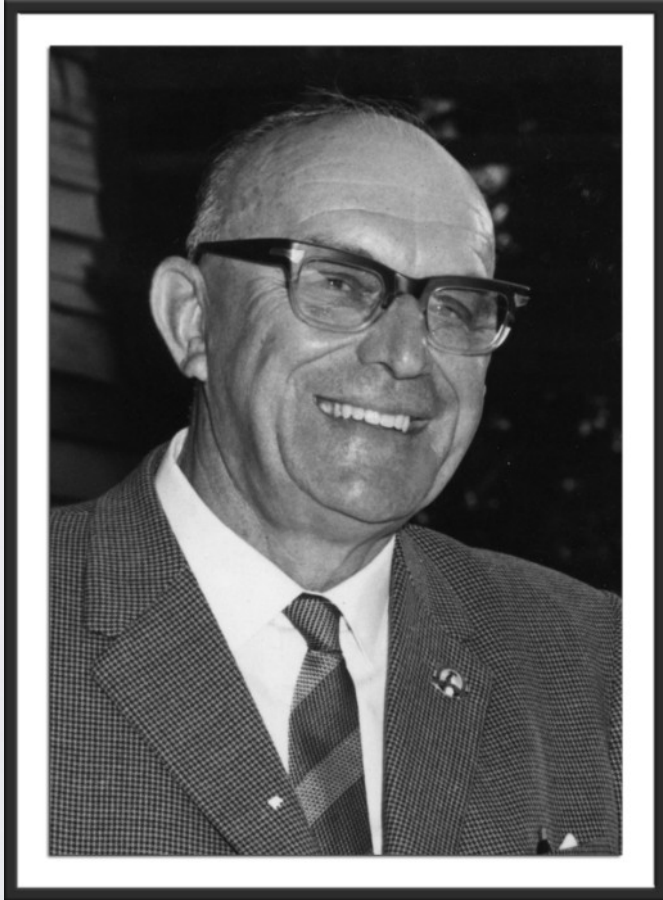


<b>Councillor:</b>	1959-69
<b>President:</b>	1964
<b>Born:</b>	1914
<b>Died:</b>	1968
<b>Buried:</b>	Alexandra
<b>Occupation:</b>	Pharmacist

*Photographer Lin Cumming. Courtesy Sandra Cumming  
& Courtesy State Library Victoria*

John was born in 1914 at Ballarat, Victoria, to parents Alfred William Pollock and Elizabeth Gina (née) White. He married Marie Jean Forrester (b1920 Wonthaggi to parents Percival Roy Forrester and Maria Ann Dawson, d2009 Alexandra). They had two children: Alfred William and Elizabeth Gina. They moved to Alexandra in 1938 where they took over the Alexandra Pharmacy on Grant Street from Mr J A D Williams. The first advertisement for Pollock's Alexandra Pharmacy appeared in the *Alexandra Standard* on 22 July 1938 and advised readers that the business had changed hands on 18 July. John served as Shire Councillor for 10 years and was Shire President for one term. On 11 January 1941 a car that John was driving from Marysville to Alexandra, after the occupants had attended a cricket match, skidded across the Marysville-Buxton Road and overturned, killing passenger Robert Newton Fisher. The official finding was that the 1937 Cheviot Truck driven by John was travelling between 35-40 miles an hour at the time, had lost control and hit a tree knocking it down. The deceased was thrown from the vehicle and had part of the tree across his chest when the first local arrived at the scene of the accident (after hearing the speeding truck and the crash). Locals helped three other injured men out of the vehicle, which was lying on its right side. During the inquest John disposed that he was a 'Chemist residing in Alexandra'. John loved cricket and a photograph of the opening of the pavilion taken in 1948 shows him padded up to bat; he was an avid bowler and was Alexandra Cricket Club Champion in 1949. He served as Chairman of the Racecourse Committee and was a constant donor for local events. On 4 April 1853 John's father Alfred passed. An obituary in the *Alexandra Standard* dated Friday 10 April 1853 stated that he was 'a pharmacist and had a pharmacy business in both Yea and Alexandra'. Around this time he was advertising that he sold photographic supplies, amongst other things. Sadly John took his own life in 1968 at Melbourne and was buried at the Alexandra Cemetery.

# KENNETH WILLIAM WEEDING



<b>Councillor:</b>	1963-67
<b>President:</b>	1965, 1966
<b>Born:</b>	14 June 1903
<b>Died:</b>	25 July 1967
<b>Cremated:</b>	Springvale
<b>Occupation:</b>	Farmer

*Courtesy Michael & Sue Adaway*

Kenneth (Ken) was born on 14 June 1903 at Alphington, one of three children: Harry, Kenneth and Rose, to parents William John Rayment Weeding and Elizabeth Ellen (née) Walker. Shortly after his birth, the family moved to Heyfield, returning to Melbourne in 1917. At age 14 Ken commenced working as an office boy for fruit exporters S. J. Perry & Co. He worked his way up to Manager (at which time the company was the largest fruit exporter in Victoria, exporting to the United Kingdom, Europe and the Middle East). He travelled abroad in 1936, 1937 and 1938 to gather the latest information on packing and refrigeration. During this time he started a packing and cool store located at Shepparton. When his employer Mr Perry died, Ken took on a partner and established H. C. Pannifex & Co. Pty Ltd, manufacturing fertiliser and stock feed. Ken had a close association with the Methodist Church at Camberwell and was Foundation Secretary of the Eastern Suburban Churches Cricket and Football Association. On 23 February 1927 he married Minna Kathleen Harris (b1903) and they had three children: Joan, Margot and Douglas, in Hawthorn. He was an active Freemason, joined the Booroondara Lodge in 1825, was Master in 1938 and served on the Board of Management of the Freemason's Hospital amongst other positions. He purchased the property *Kori-Gong* on Spring Creek Road in December 1949 and became an active community member. He served as Shire Councillor and was Shire President for two terms. He was President of the Alexandra Sheep Dog Club from 1962 and served on the council of the Victorian Working Sheep Dog Association in 1964. He was Secretary of the Koriella Fire Brigade for five years and Charter President of the Rotary Club of Alexandra. Kenneth died on 25 July 1967 at the Freemason's Hospital, East Melbourne. A service was held at the Methodist Church in Camberwell before he was cremated at the Springvale Cemetery. He was part way through his second term as Shire President when he passed.

# WILLIAM HENRY JONES JP



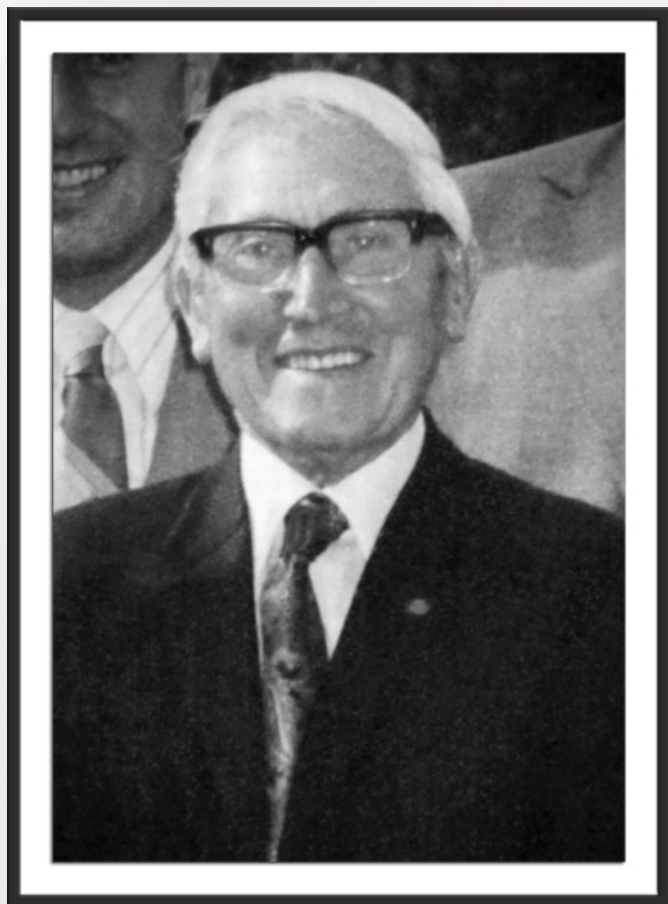
<b>Councillor:</b>	1965-71
<b>President:</b>	1967
<b>Born:</b>	6 May 1906
<b>Died:</b>	7 June 1993
<b>Buried:</b>	Marysville Cemetery
<b>Occupation:</b>	Storekeeper

*Courtesy Wendy Henderson (nee Jones)*

---

William (Tim) was born in 1906 at Alexandra, Victoria, to parents John Owen Jones Jnr and Margaret Downey (née) Cumming of Spring Creek. He attended the Fawcett School before the family moved to Albert Park in Melbourne when he was eleven. He loved sport and was involved in cricket and football as well as the scouting movement. After completing school he married Isabel (Bel) Selina King on 20 February 1926, settling in Preston where they raised their four children: Keith, Jack, Margaret and Loris. During this time he worked for the Equities Trustees Company. In 1944 they purchased the Buxton General Store and Post Office (which included Buxton's original telephone exchange with a party line phone system) and lived in the residence at the rear. He was well liked and was active in community affairs. He was a life member of the Marysville Football Club, member of the Marysville Bowls Club (before transferring to the Alexandra Bowls Club), member of the Thornton Football Club and life member of the Yarra Valley Football League. He was an avid fundraiser and along with his sons Jack and Keith and sons-in-law Kevin Carlton and Bluey Wells, was instrumental in raising funds for the construction of the Buxton Memorial Hall. He served as a Justice of the Peace, Shire Councillor and was Shire President for one term when the Hon. Richard (Dick) Hamer opened the former \$60,000 Shire Council Building in Alexandra 24 April 1968. Tim received the Imperial Service Medal on 27 March 1972 for 26 years service to the PMG. After the death of his wife in November 1972, he married Polly Morton from Scotland in 1973. After travelling to Scotland for a holiday, they retired to Alexandra where he played lawn bowls and was an elder in the Alexandra Uniting Church. After a three year illness Tim died on 7 June 1993 and was buried in the Marysville Public Cemetery. His son Jack drove McKenzie buses for many years and was a Life Member of the Buxton Fire Brigade. Jack died at Alexandra's Kellock Lodge on 16 March 2013.

# LESLIE WILLIAM E COATES

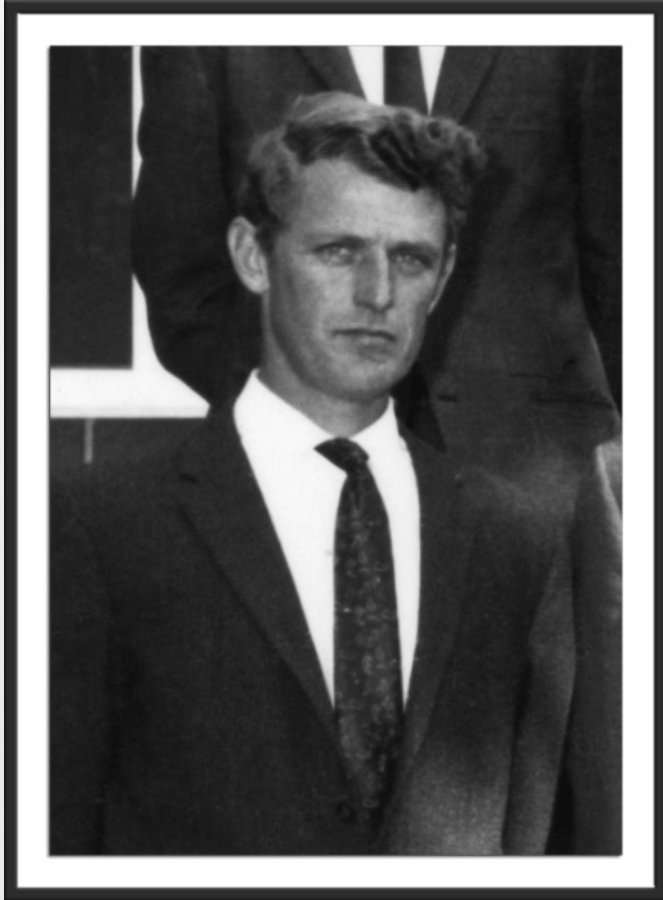


<b>Councillor:</b>	1967-81
<b>President:</b>	1968, 1969
<b>Born:</b>	24 September 1907
<b>Died:</b>	1984
<b>Cremated:</b>	Springvale
<b>Occupation:</b>	Motel proprietor
<b>Remembered by:</b>	Coates Court

*Courtesy Murrindindi Shire Council*

Leslie William Edlington was born on 24 September 1907 in London, England, to parents Arthur John Coates and Alice (née) Dix. In 1932 Leslie married Margaret Jane Williams (bBroken Hill, d1983 Parkville). He came to Alexandra in the mid 1930s as the Company Secretary to the Alexandra Dairy Company. He was a much respected lay preacher and Superintendent of the Sunday School with the Methodist Church, occasionally preaching at Alexandra and Kanumbra. He enlisted for World War II at Alexandra on 15 July 1940 and served in the 2/9 Field Ambulance. He was a prisoner of war and was incarcerated for three and a half years in the notorious Changi prison camp. At a welcome home party, complete with savouries and a bonfire, after the singing of 'For he's a jolly good fellow' Corporal Coates responded that he might not be a 'good fellow', but he was a 'lucky fellow'. After the war he worked for storekeepers Cumming & Culhane, also acting as an undertaker as part of his duties. Having purchased the property *Redgate* from the late A. Kidd in 1946, he later built the Redgate Motel (which was one of the first motels in Australia) initially using surplus bunk-style buildings from the Utah construction of Eildon Dam in the early 1950s, although it was not long before more up-market accommodation became necessary; son John took over the motel operation in the late 1960s. Les was a well liked man who was very community minded and in turn he believed in self-help and the virtue of education. He served on the first Committee of Management for the Fraser National Park, was a Board member of the Alexandra Hospital and the Secondary College, a member of the Chamber of Commerce and a Justice of the Peace. Les was an ambulance driver with the volunteer Alexandra District Ambulance Service. He was a member of the Alexandra Rotary Club from its beginning, serving as the club's second President (1967/68) and was awarded a Paul Harris Fellow in 1982. He joined Council in 1967, serving for 14 years and was President twice. Leslie died in 1984 at Ringwood and like his wife, was cremated at Springvale and his ashes spread at the Springvale Cemetery.

# EDWARD ERIC SOUTHAM

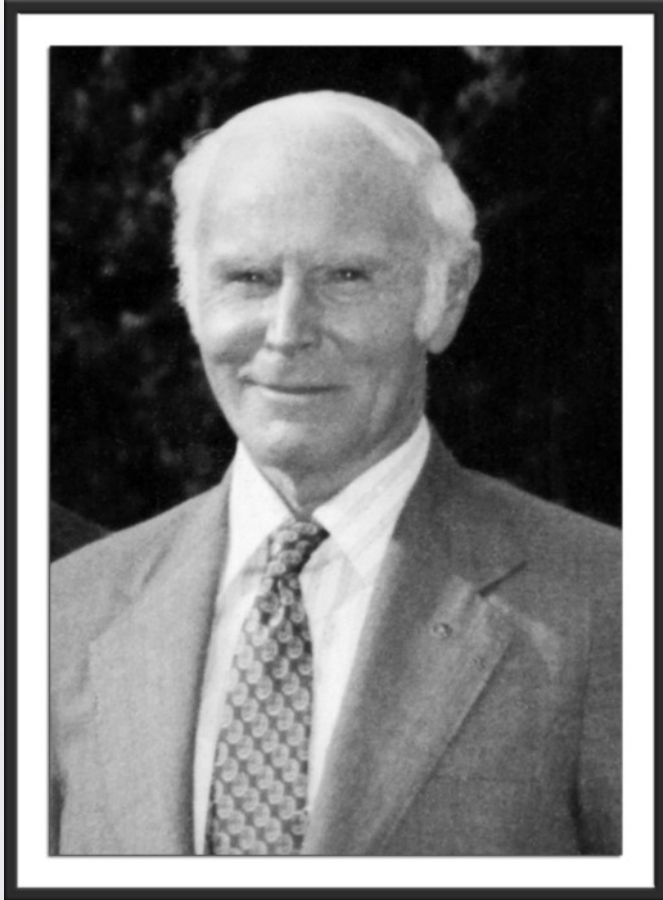


<b>Councillor:</b>	1963-81
<b>President:</b>	1971, 1972
<b>Born:</b>	16 July 1935
<b>Died:</b>	27 July 2009
<b>Cremated:</b>	Noosa
<b>Occupation:</b>	Farmer
<b>Remembered by:</b>	Southam Crt Southam Trk

*Courtesy Ian Girdwood*

Edward (Eric) was born on 16 July 1935 at Melbourne, to parents George Southam and Jeanette (née) Kilpatrick. He attended Xavier College at Kew in Melbourne where he was dux of his Latin class in 1949. He excelled as a member of the debating team, was regarded as being extremely athletic and held the high jump record for some time. He married Margo Hill on 2 May 1959 at a ceremony held at Xavier College, before later attending Longerenong Agricultural College in Horsham. They had four children: Rick, Jennifer, Christopher and Georgina. Eric had a strong interest in politics and had considered running for political office at one time. He also had a great interest in agriculture and took every opportunity to promote Australian agriculture as well as the Australian Wool Board. Following his agricultural instincts, he and Margo purchased the 1600 acre property *Thendara*, which was located in Glendale Lane at Taggerty in Central Victoria. Here they ran cattle and sheep. They later purchased the pine saw mill at Narbethong and established the Alexandra Timber Treatment Company. Here they treated pine timber for fencing etc. and they became a small local employer. Eric served as a Shire Councillor and was Shire President for two terms. When elected, he was the youngest Shire President to have served the Shire of Alexandra. He later moved to Healesville before moving interstate to Queensland where he bought a property at Lake Forest near Noosa. When health problems arose, he sold the property and moved into an independent living unit near Noosa. Eric died on 27 July 2009 and was cremated at Noosa.

# ROY MERVYN FOX OAM



<b>Councillor:</b>	1967-85
<b>President:</b>	1974, 1975
<b>Born:</b>	13 October 1917
<b>Died:</b>	28 June 2016
<b>Cremated:</b>	Lilydale
<b>Occupation:</b>	Farmer

*Photographer Allan Weeks  
Courtesy Murrindindi Shire Council*

Roy was born on 13 October 1917 at Kanumbra, Victoria, son of Timothy Fox and Jane Anne (née) Smith, who were farmers of *St Bees* and *Old Kanumbra*, both of which were located at Kanumbra. Roy's mother Jane passed away when he was just three years of age. In 1941 he married Doris Edna Aldous of Cathkin and they had two daughters: Rhyl and Sharon. Roy was one of the first men in the local district to establish and run a *Dorset* sheep stud. He was a competent and very competitive tennis player, even building a tennis court at the front of his own property in Kanumbra. Roy was active in the community and served as a Shire Councillor and was Shire President for two terms. He was also a Charter Member of the Rotary Club of Alexandra from 1967, Club President in 1968/69, Chairman of the Community Service Committee from 1977-81, Chairman of the Memberships and Classifications Committee, a Club Historian and a Paul Harris Fellow in 1985. He was also awarded a Sapphire Pin to his Paul Harris Fellow award in 1997. He was a member of the Yarck Bush Fire Brigade from 1935-42 and a member of the Yarck Fire Brigade (CFA) from 1942 to his death. He was an inaugural member of the Eildon and District Woodworkers Guild from 1987 and was awarded a Life Membership in 2006. He was President of the Yarck Hall (1963-97) and a member for many more years. He was also a Steward, Judge and President of the Yarck Gymkhana. He was a member of the Alexandra Pastoral and Agricultural Show Society from 1945 to his death, serving as Vice-President in 1949, President 1954-56, Life Councillor in 1982 and President 1989-92. He was also a member of the Victorian Agricultural Societies Association State Council, being a foundation member from 1966 to his death and Honorary Councillor from 1998 to his death. He also served as an inspector for the Upper Goulburn Weights and Measures Union from 1968 to 1985. Roy died on 28 June 2016. A service was held at Yarck on Friday 5 July and Roy was cremated.

# DR JOHN GORDON MACDONALD



<b>Councillor:</b>	1969-79
<b>President:</b>	1976
<b>Born:</b>	1 January 1930
<b>Died:</b>	27 September 2010
<b>Buried:</b>	Alexandra Cemetery
<b>Occupation:</b>	Doctor

*Courtesy Ian Girdwood*

John was born on 1 January 1930 at Harley Street, London, England, to parents George MacDonald and Helen (née) Owen. He had one sister - Sheila. As a young boy he attended boarding school in Scotland and later obtained his medical degree at King's College in London. He married Ann Mercer of Liverpool on 28 October 1960 at the London seaside resort of Brighton, having one daughter - Fiona. They migrated to Australia in 1963 aboard a DC3 along with good friends Dr Raymond and Kari Young. They had intended to buy a medical practice near Geelong, however friend and colleague Larry Elam suggested a practice near Lake Eildon which appealed to their outdoor interests. They commenced in partnership in Alexandra and later Eildon and Marysville. John and Ann loved animals, having horses and dogs, as well as breeding tropical fish, which they would sell to breeders in Northcote who were thankful for the quality of the fish supplied when compared to imported fish from Thailand. They had a special love of waterskiing and part-owned a boat with Geoff Dobson. They skied on Lake Eildon as often as they could, often with Geoff Dobson's and Dr Austin Toohey's families. They were dedicated bushwalkers and loved the Arts, holding a subscription to the Australian Ballet for 17 years. Affectionately known as 'Dr Mac', he served long-term on the Alexandra District Hospital Committee of Management and is remembered for introducing the first Coronary Care Unit in Rural Victoria. He was also a member of the Rotary Club of Alexandra, though often struggled with having the time to throw himself into their activities due to his busy medical practice. His excessive time commitments as a medical practitioner meant he was not able to participate in as many community projects as he would have liked, though he did make time to serve as a Shire Councillor and Shire President. John and Ann retired to their dream property at Whanregarwen after he ceased his medical practice. John died on 27 September 2010 and was buried at the Alexandra Cemetery. He was survived by his wife and daughter.

# A WORRALL JONES

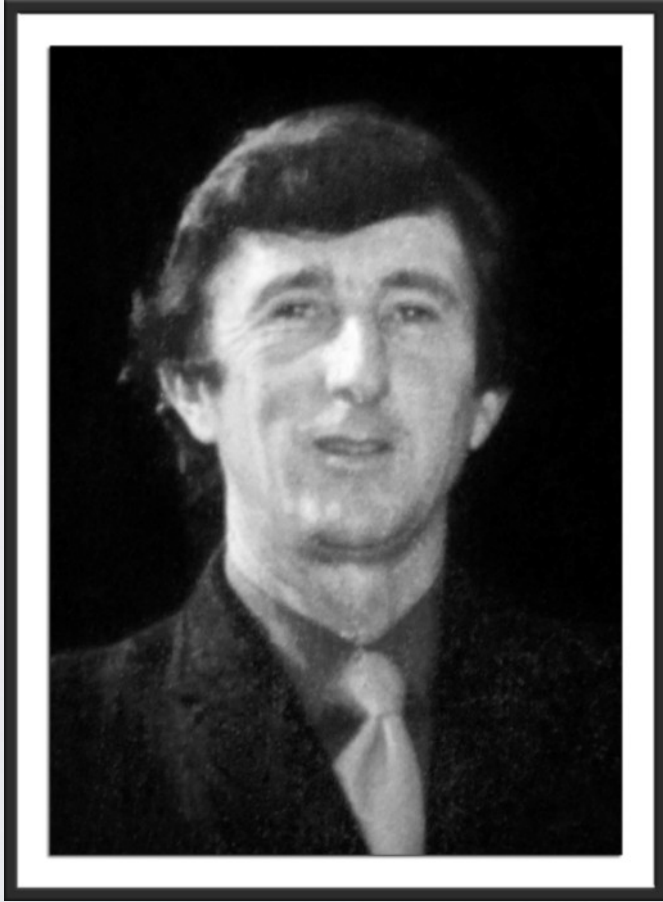


**Councillor:** 1972-92  
**President:** 1977, 1989  
**Born:** 26 September 1933  
**Died:** 21 December 1999  
**Buried:** Yarck Cemetery  
**Occupation:** Farmer  
**Remembered by:** Jones Close  
**Father President:** Alan W Jones ►

*Courtesy A Worrall Jones*

Alan Worrall Jnr was born 26 September 1933 at South Melbourne, to parents Alan Jones Snr and Lola Evelyn (née) Dunkley. To avoid confusion with his father having the exact same name, Alan Junior was always called Worrall. His father had served as Shire President for a number of terms and was President of the Shire of Alexandra for two months in 1967 when Kenneth William Weeding passed away unexpectedly. Worrall was raised on the family farming property *Brilliant* at Kanumbra and attended Geelong College where he served as School Captain in 1952. He then studied commerce at Melbourne University. He married Dinah Hill (a farmer's daughter from Devon) and they had two boys: Robert and Tom. He loved rowing and was actively involved in the Yea Rowing Club (then based at the Killingworth boatsheds on the Goulburn River near Yea). He served as President of the Gobur Race Club in the early 1950s and was a member of the Wool Festival Committee which was behind a successful Wool Festival event in Alexandra in 1963. He was a member of the Apex Club and served as President, Director, International Service Director, District Governor, District Governor and Zone President of the same. He was a member of the Yarck Fire Brigade and held positions which included First Lieutenant, Association delegate and Secretary from 1969 to his death. He was a member of the Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) being the first inaugural President of the VFF (after amalgamation) and was posthumously awarded the Citizen of the Year 2000 Award after the VFF lodged a nomination. He was actively involved in Liberal Party politics and served as President of the Alexandra Branch as well as being Branch Delegate and Electoral Committee Chairman for the Federal Electorate of McEwan (to Fran Bailey during numerous elections). He also had involvement in State Elections. Worrall died on 21 December 1999 in East Melbourne and was buried at Yarck Cemetery. He was grandson to John P Jones, a prominent Victorian politician and Government Minister in the 1920s and 1930s.

# WILLIAM EDGAR ROLLASON



**Councillor:** 1975-85  
**President:** 1978  
**Born:** 24 May 1933  
**Occupation:** Farmer

*Courtesy Murrindindi Shire Council*

William (Bill) was born on 24 May 1933 (Empire Day) at the St Margaret's Private Hospital (later Kia Ora Guest House) at Alexandra. His parents Sydney Thomas Rollason and Katie (née) Olney were sheep and cattle farmers at Thornton. Bill attended Thornton Primary School, Alexandra Higher Elementary School and Dookie Agricultural College, before returning to work the Thornton family farm *Attunga*. He married Anne Goodfellow in 1958 at St Pauls Cathedral, Melbourne and they had three children. Bill served in National Service from 1952-56, was a member of the Country Fire Authority (CFA) and served in various roles including Deputy Group Officer and was awarded a Life Membership. He was on the Thornton Public Hall Committee, was an active member of the Anglican Church, vestry and Secretary Central Council. He played for the Thornton Football Club for 18 years, was a committee member for over 30 years, Treasurer for eight years and was awarded Life Membership in 1969. He played for the Thornton and Alexandra Tennis Clubs, was Club Champion on several occasions, served terms as President and Secretary and was involved in junior coaching classes. During his children's schooling he served on both the Thornton and the Alexandra School Councils. He was a Shire Councillor and served as Shire President for one term. He worked with the Shire Engineer's Department (Work and Tenders) and the River Improvement Trust and was involved in the development of the Dame Pattie Menzies Centre. He was Chairman of the Kellock Lodge Board from 1985-96 and a board member until 2002 and received a Life Membership. He was a member of the Alexandra Rotary Club from 1989-2002, Director in various committees, Sgt-at-Arms as well as receiving a Paul Harris Fellow award in 1992. He was involved in hosting 20 children from the Chernobyl area for four weeks, was a Paul Harris Fellow in 1993 and Chairman of Alexandra Saleyards Committee in 2002. Bill retired from farming in 2002 and moved to Howlong on the Murray River. He returned to the district in 2006 where he ran the hobby farm *Old Eildon*, until retiring to a Kellock Independent Living Unit in 2015.

# MAXWELL JOHN MCDONALD

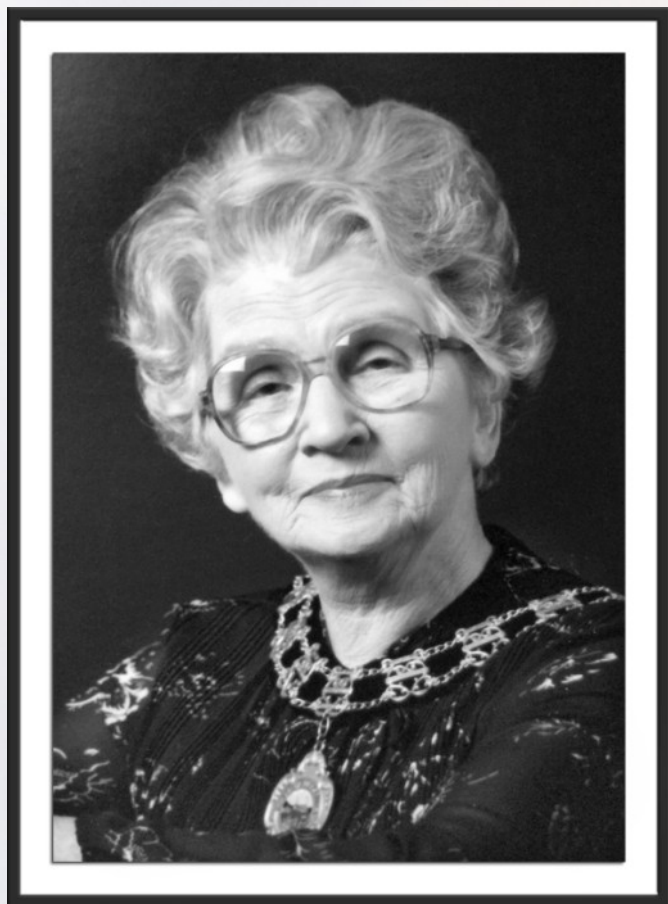


**Councillor:** 1973-82  
**President:** 1979  
**Born:** 18 April 1927  
**Occupation:** SEC Operator  
Member of Parliament

*Courtesy Parliament of Victoria*

Maxwell (Max) was born on 18 April 1927 at Essendon, Victoria, to parents Ewen McColl McDonald (Air Force Officer) and Hilda (née) Ferguson. He was educated at Moonee Ponds Central State School, the Essendon Technical School and later the Melbourne Technical College. He married Jean Claire (née) Amour on 15 October 1947. He worked on the Big Eildon Dam Project under the UTAH Company who were contracted to build the irrigation dam. Max was an A Grade Electrician who rose to the position of Electrical Operator Operations Officer with the State Electricity Commission (SEC). He was a senior officer on shift at the Eildon Power Station with two assistants under his supervision. They would supervise the Eildon Power Station as well as the remotely controlled Rubicon Hydroelectric Scheme. Max joined the Australian Labor Party in 1952 and served as President of the Eildon-Alexandra Branch for three terms. Locally, he served as President of the Eildon Hospital Committee, was on the Alexandra High School Council and an active member of the Eildon Community Centre Steering Committee during the 1970s. He was a member of the Lions Club involved in many community events and served as Shire Councillor from 1973 to 1982 and served as Shire President for one term. He loved politics and unsuccessfully contested the Central Highlands seat (Legislative Council) in 1976 and 1979. Moving to Melbourne, Max was elected a Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) for the Evelyn Electorate from 3 April 1982 to 1 March 1985 and MLA for Whittlesea from 2 March 1985 to 2 October 1992 (when the seat was abolished). He was appointed to Natural Resources and Environment Committee 1982-92 and served as Deputy Chair 1988-92. He was also appointed as the Temporary Chairman of Committees 1988-92. Maxwell can be found on the Parliament of Victoria Website here.

# KATHLEEN MARY COOPER OAM

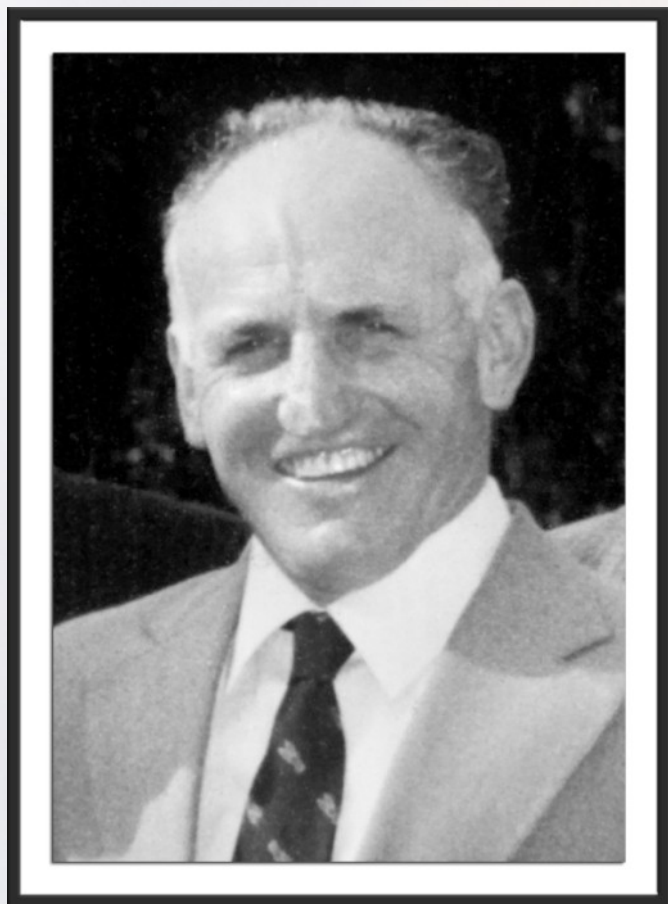


<b>Councillor:</b>	1971-83
<b>President:</b>	1980
<b>Born:</b>	15 June 1913
<b>Died:</b>	2 June 1997
<b>Buried:</b>	Alexandra Cemetery
<b>Occupation:</b>	Nurse, farmer, podiatrist

*Courtesy Lyn Blackbourn and Granddaughters Di & Kathy*

Kathleen (Kath) was born on 15 June 1913 at Swan Hill, Victoria, to parents Cederic McLean and Ellen Kate (née) Carroll. She loved nursing from an early age and completed her training at Wangaratta Base Hospital before working at the Alexandra District Hospital. In 1934 she married local Stock and Station Agent Ronald James Cooper (b1905 Alexandra to parents James Cooper and Zillah Payne, d1974 Fitzroy). They had three daughters: Lynnette, Leone and Eleanor. Eleanor went on to marry local farming identity Bill Season. Kath was active in community affairs, joining the Country Women's Association (CWA), the school Mother's Club, the Girl Guides and the Red Cross. To raise money for these charities she organised debutante balls, fashion parades, street stalls and gymkhanas. Kath and Ron bought *Rosemont* in 1949 where she acquired the skills necessary for successful farming. She entered Council in 1971 with a platform to build a geriatric wing at the hospital. She worked with locals including St John's Anglican Church Rev. George Nunan, Alan Worrall Jones Jnr, Bill Rollason, Les Coates and Shire Secretary Gerald Walshe. They raised significant funds and were successful in securing a dollar for dollar grant from the State Government. The land which Council deemed most suitable was then owned by Mr George Kellock, an Ivanhoe pharmacist. Kath approached him to see if he would sell his block, but he declined as the land held family memories. Being a lateral thinker, Kath re-approached him suggesting this time that he donate the land. He agreed when it was put to him that in recognition of his generous gesture the facility would be named the *Kellock Village* which was opened in 1981. A highlight for Kath was being awarded the Order of Australia Medal during the Australia Day Honors on 26 January 1984 - for services to the community. At that time she was still living at *Rosemont*. Kath retired from Council in 1983 but remaining interested in local affairs which had been her passion. Kath died on 2 June 1997 and was buried at the Alexandra Cemetery.

# GEORGE FORREST CUMMING

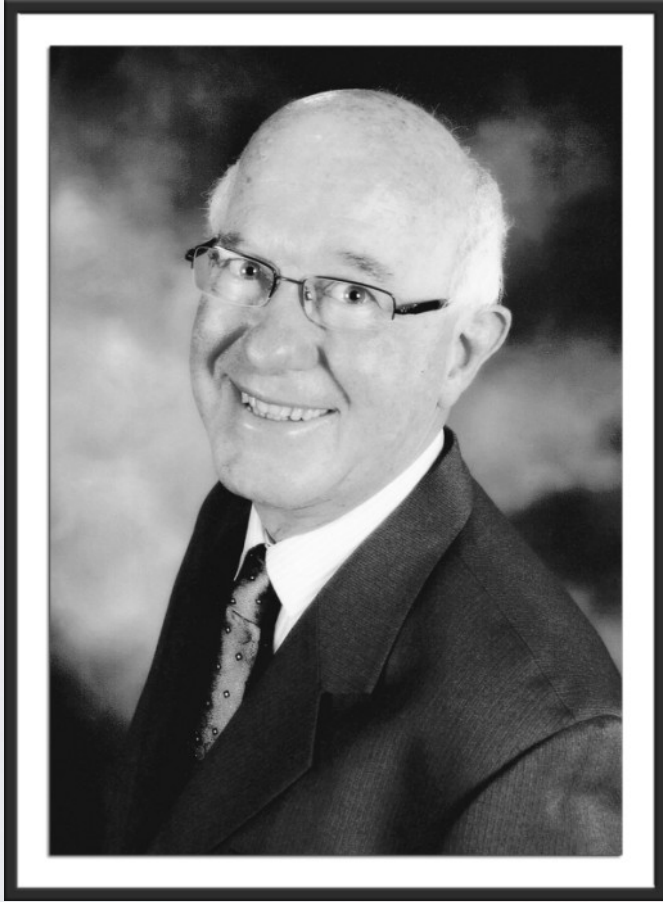


<b>Councillor:</b>	1977-91
<b>President:</b>	1981, 1987
<b>Born:</b>	21 February 1928
<b>Died:</b>	7 August 2015
<b>Ashes:</b>	Alexandra Cemetery
<b>Occupation:</b>	Farmer

*Photographer Allan Weeks  
Courtesy Murrindindi Shire Council*

George was born on 21 February 1928 in Alexandra, Victoria, to parents Eric Cumming and Eleanor (née) McKenzie (a war bride from Scotland). He was the fourth of five children: Allan, Eric, Jean, George and Robert, and the family lived at *Craggan* on Connelly's Creek Road. He attended Acheron State School and walked the three miles to school most days and after obtaining his merit certificate in 1942, worked with his father on the family farm. Growing up he was a keen sportsman, playing football, tennis and even trying out with Footscray in the VFL. He became skilled at hand shearing and later with electric handpieces, being offered the opportunity to be part of a shearing team in the northern part of the country when aged just 18. He excelled at competition shearing, receiving a place in the 1955 Melbourne Agricultural Show, as well as winning the Victorian Championship and being placed second in the Australian Championship the following year. In 1964 he was elevated to an Australian and New Zealand shearing judge (retiring in 1988). He married Lynette Moon from Elphinstone in June 1955, having three children: Rosalie, Carolyn and Bruce. His brother Eric was an athlete and one of the four houses at the Alexandra High School is named after him. He had an interest in a grocery business in the 1960s and a clothing manufacturing business in the 1970s. He was active in the local community, serving as a member of the Acheron Fire Brigade, on the Acheron Hall and the Acheron School Committees. He served as a Shire Councillor for 13 years and Shire President for two terms. He was passionate about the Shire Hall building, fighting to save it when it was considered for demolition. He was instrumental in having two foot bridges established where Grant Street crosses the UT Creek and a carpark established behind Grant Street, to remove shop employees vehicles from the main street. He was involved in the establishment of Kellock Lodge, Darlingford Nursing Home and Marysville Retirement Village. He sold the family farm in 2005 and moving into Alexandra. George died on 7 August 2015 and his ashes were interred at the Alexandra Cemetery.

# JOHN ANDREW LAMB

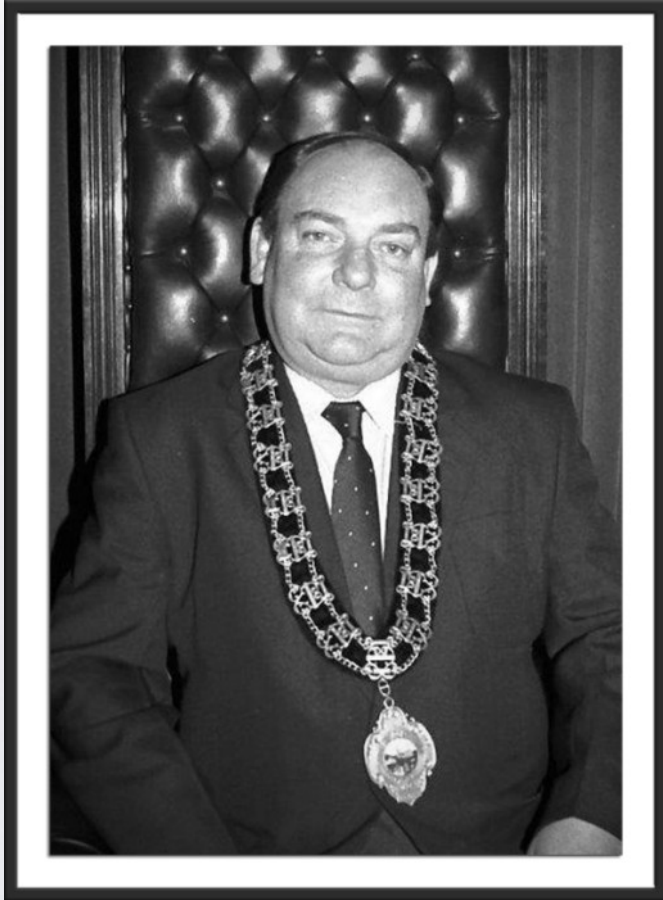


**Councillor:** 1979-85  
**President:** 1982  
**Born:** 24 August 1940  
**Occupation:** Pharmacist

*Courtesy John & Jill Lamb*

John was born on 24 August 1940 at Echuca to parents Maxwell Stewart Lamb and Sheila (née) MacDougall. His father worked as a Bank Officer and Bank Manager, requiring the family to move regularly. As a result John was educated at three State Schools and four High Schools. His final High School was Melbourne High School and then he graduated from the Victorian College of Pharmacy in 1962. He married E Jill (née) Vernon on 25 January 1966 at Christ Church in South Yarra, having three children: Andrea, Erica and Michael. In 1968 John and Jill (who was also a pharmacist) purchased the Alexandra Pharmacy in Grant Street. Within a few years of their arrival, they were the only pharmacy in Alexandra and this continued for around 20 years. They worked 7 days a week, were on call 24 hours a day and were both active in the community. John served as a District Governor for Apex and was a Life Member. He was a Shire of Alexandra Councillor and served as Shire President for one term which was around the time when Councillor numbers were being reduced. He was a member of the Alexandra Rotary Club and Club Secretary in 1978/79. He served on the Alexandra District Hospital Committee of Management and was involved in the establishment of the Kellock Retirement Lodge and on the Kellock Board. He served on the Water and Sewage Board and served on the School Committee. John and Jill pioneered the establishment of the *Sessional Pharmacy* at the Hospital, with Jill providing daily sessions for 10 years. In January 1969 John responded to a town wide call for men to help defend Alexandra from the 1969 Bushfire which was encroaching upon the town on two fronts. Their pharmacy played a central role in supplying eye drops to firefighters. John arrived home at 4 am to find 20 to 30 locals sleeping on the floor, who had worked in the town and were unable to get home. John was a member of the Gobur and Eildon Rifle Clubs, had a yacht on Lake Eildon and started the Sailing Club at Fraser Park (Coller Bay). In 2002 they retired to Geelong and in 2005 they moved to Mornington where they enjoy travelling and entertaining their nine grandchildren. John and Jill also enjoy golf.

# PAUL BARTON GILMORE JP



<b>Councillor:</b>	1977-93
<b>President:</b>	1983, 1984, 1988
<b>Born:</b>	7 April 1944
<b>Died:</b>	2 May 2004
<b>Buried:</b>	Alexandra Cemetery
<b>Occupation:</b>	Farmer, hotel licensee

*Courtesy Julia Foletta*

Paul was born 7 April 1944, only son of Patricia and Barton Gilmore and younger brother of Jennifer. Living on the Gilmore farm in the Rubicon Valley he attended Rubicon Junction Primary School before completing his education at Trinity Grammar School in Kew. Paul's parents operated three hotels over the years: the Beehive in Kew, then the Launceston in Tasmania, before returning to Thornton and purchasing the 'New' Rubicon Hotel/Motel. Paul was active in all three and in later years effectively managed the Rubicon Hotel for his parents. In 1967 he had married Christine and they had two children: Lachlan and Natalie. Paul had a strong interest in community and locally was the youngest Shire Councillor at that time and was the last President to serve for three terms, an unusual feat in that era. He served on numerous committees, for both Council and other bodies and was Group Officer of the Alexandra Fire Brigades Group for three years and a deputy for 13 (he was a 35-year member of the Thornton Brigade and its President for 15 years). He was a committee member of the Thornton Football Club, a Justice of the Peace and an out-of-sessions Bail Justice. After twenty years the Gilmore family sold the Rubicon Hotel. Paul married his second wife Pauline who had two children: Michelle and Peter. The family purchased the Alexandra manchester and haberdashery shop *Peg's Place* renaming it *Purl & Plain*. Paul however wished to return to the Gilmore family origins of farming, so after nine years the shop was sold and the family moved to *Rubicon Mountain Farm* where they initially grew garlic; conditions however proved more favourable for wasabi and green tea. The area had attracted the large Japanese green tea producer Ito En due to its soil, climate and access to the Rubicon River. Working with Ito En, Paul imported 200 plants into Australia to use as mother plants, propagating seedlings for transplanting throughout suitable areas of the North-East. Up to 36 people were employed in the green houses and nursery gardens preparing the seedlings and harvesting the plants. Paul died on 2 May 2004 after a brief illness and is buried at the Alexandra Cemetery. He is remembered as a positive and innovative person, with a good sense of humour and a love of cars and family.

# THOMAS C MARR OAM JP

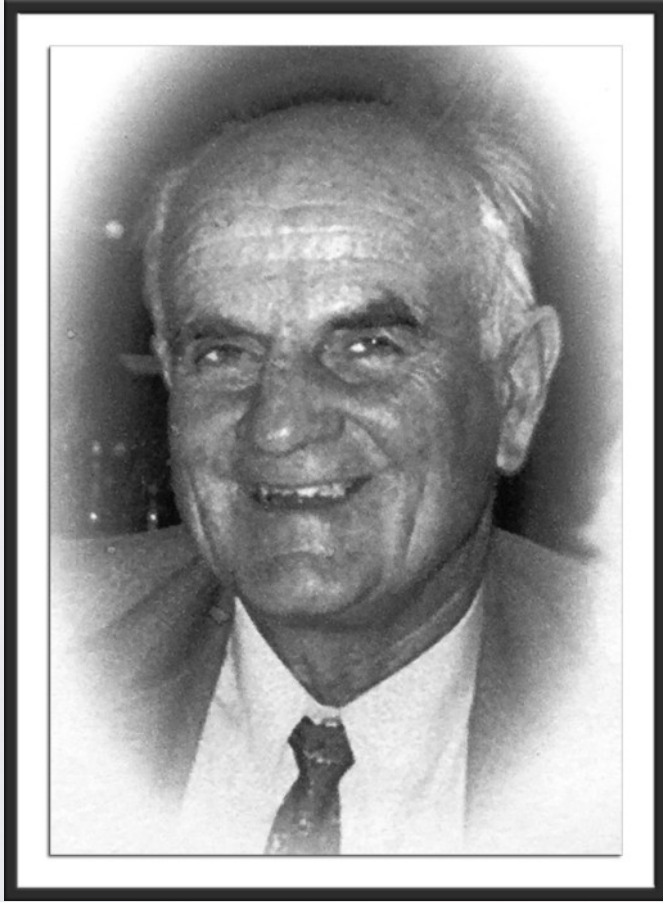


<b>Councillor:</b>	1977-88
<b>President:</b>	1985
<b>Born:</b>	1922
<b>Died:</b>	28 September 2006
<b>Buried:</b>	Eildon Cemetery
<b>Occupation:</b>	SEC Supervisor
<b>Remembered by:</b>	Thomas Marr Reserve Marr Court, Eildon

*Photographer Allan Weeks  
Courtesy Murrindindi Shire Council*

Thomas (Tom) Charles was born 1922 at Carlton to parents Gordon Temple Marr and Myrtle Annie (née) Bond. He trained as a mechanical tradesman and following the completion of the new hydro-electric power station at the Big Eildon Project he joined the State Electricity Commission as a Supervisor overseeing the maintenance activities at both Eildon and in the historic Rubicon Hydro Scheme. In 1942 he married Nancy Rose Lacey, who unfortunately died in 1947. In 1949 he married Moira Beatrice. Tom was an ardent golfer and supporter of the Eildon Golf Club including committee member, President and Life Member. He was a member of the Committee of management of the Eildon Hospital. He was a member of the initial Committee of Management for the Eildon Swimming Pool in 1963. Following the opening of the Eildon Community Centre in 1981, Tom (along with a few select others) was personally named and thanked for his efforts by the Committee of Management. He was a Councillor for 10 years and Shire President at the time of the opening of Kellock Lodge Retirement Village (presiding over the opening of the facility on 15 February 1986) as well as during the State of Victoria's 150th celebrations (a plaque in Rotary Park commemorates this). He was a member of Alexandra Rotary and was awarded a Paul Harris Fellow in 1989. He was heavily involved, with fellow Rotary members, in the design and construction of Silver Bridge in Gum Tree Gully Park at Eildon. He was a Justice of the Peace and was on the committee that established Meals on Wheels at Eildon in 1976, becoming its President in 1977, a position he held until 1998. He was a volunteer ambulance officer with the Alexandra District Ambulance Service, receiving the National Medal for diligent service in early 1990. Later in 1990 he was awarded an OAM for his service to the community. Following his retirement he moved to Paynesville. Tom died on 28 September 2006 and was buried at the Eildon Cemetery.

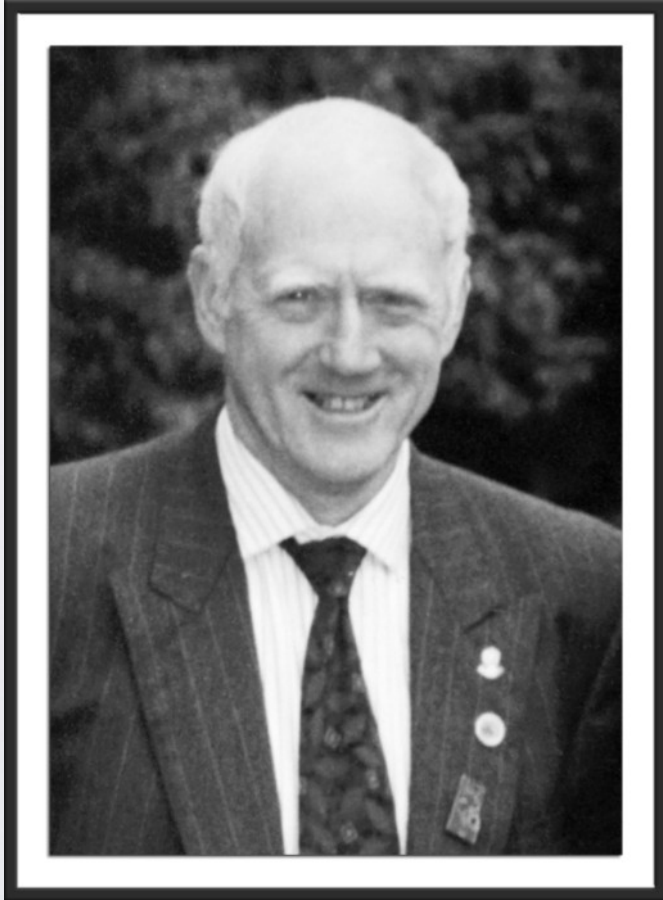
# ANDREW RAYMOND COLLER



<b>Councillor:</b>	1981-86
<b>President:</b>	1986
<b>Born:</b>	21 January 1941
<b>Died:</b>	2 July 2006
<b>Buried:</b>	Alexandra Cemetery
<b>Occupation:</b>	Farmer, hay contractor

Andrew (Drew) was born on 21 January 1941 at Alexandra to parents Leslie Henry Collier and Jean Nichol (née) Findlay. He was brother of Max, Lesley and Bruce. He was educated at the Alexandra State School and the Alexandra High School before attending Caulfield Grammar. He was an active sportsman and played football for Alexandra where he played in the 1960 and 1962 Premierships. He twice won the Best and Fairest award as well as securing the Waranga North East Football League Best and Fairest award. He was the club President in the 1969-70 term and went on to play at Essendon and Footscray Football Clubs for a number of years. He married Marion Joan (née) Matters on 21 June 1969 in England. They continued to farm in the UT Creek area at *The Ranch* for 40 years and was then a local harvesting and hay contractor for 38 years. He was active in community affairs, being involved in many groups and committees. These included the Alexandra Football Club and Rural Fire Brigade with 50 years service, including positions as Lieutenant, Captain and President. He was a member of the Senior Young Farmers Club and the Victorian Farmers Federation. He was a member of the Pastoral and Agricultural Committee and served as President from 1972-75. He was on the Committee of Management of the Alexandra Showgrounds and served as Chairman for 18 years. He was the Chairman of the Shire Landowners Committee, was a Shire Councillor and served as Shire President for one term. He was one of a select few Shire of Alexandra Councillors to also serve as a Councillor for the then newly amalgamated Murrindindi Shire Council. He was Chairman of the Steering Committee for the Murrindindi Historic Register, a Volunteer Ambulance Driver, a member of the Apex Club from 1963-72 and the Secretary of the Alexandra Tennis Club. Andrew died on 2 July 2006 and is buried at the Alexandra Cemetery. Their two sons are involved with farming in the UT Creek area.

# NEIL THOMAS GUSCOTT



<b>Councillor:</b>	1989-94
<b>President:</b>	1990
<b>Born:</b>	7 April 1944
<b>Occupation:</b>	Engineer
<b>Remembered by:</b>	Built the Bill Lucas Bridge and the Skate Park cover at Marysville

*Photographer Allan Weeks  
Courtesy Murrindindi Shire Council*

Neil was born on 7 April 1944 at Moorabbin, Victoria, to parents Gilbert Ronald and Doris Lucy (née) Duke. He was the seventh of nine children. He attended Moorabbin Primary School, Ringwood Primary School, Ferntree Gully Technical College, Swinburne College and Melbourne Institute of Technology. He was an apprentice engineer at Dunlop Aviation before starting his own engineering business at Croydon in 1967. He married Delice Noonan at Croydon and they had three children. As a growing man, Neil was passionate about motor vehicles and started collecting cars by purchasing and restoring two Austin 7's. He served on the Healesville Shire Council for a number of years, ending in 1984 when the East Riding was annexed. He then served as a Councillor for the Shire of Alexandra and later as a Shire President for one term. They moved to Marysville in 1989 where locally, Neil is known as an active worker for the community. He has been an active member of the Marysville & District Lions Club since 1988, including a one-year term as District Governor for a large area of Victoria in 2006/07. In 2000 Neil designed and built the current *Bill Lucas Walk Bridge* over the Steavenson River in Gallipoli Park, Marysville. The bridge was made from steel previously used during the construction of the Burnley Tunnel in Melbourne. Off-cuts left from the Bill Lucas bridge project were then used by Neil to build the beautiful curved shelter located at the Marysville Skate Park. Neil also turned his engineering skills to the restoration of the old Water Wheel in Gallipoli Park, restoring it to excellent working condition. During the aftermath of the Black Saturday Bushfires, Neil was deeply involved in the rebuild efforts in numerous community capacities. Today Neil and his wife Delice are Marysville District retirees and continue to be active contributors in the community they love.

# ALEX MACKIE YOUNGER

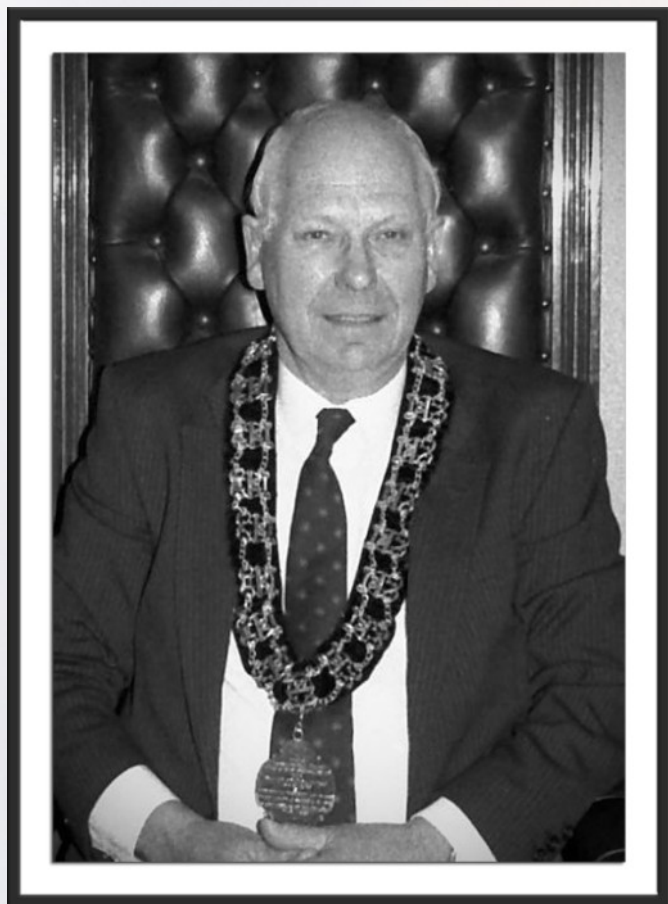


<b>Councillor:</b>	1991-94
<b>President:</b>	1991
<b>Born:</b>	8 August 1932
<b>Died:</b>	3 October 2001
<b>Buried:</b>	Alexandra Cemetery
<b>Occupation:</b>	Solicitor

*Photographer Allan Weeks  
Courtesy Murrindindi Shire Council*

Alex was born on 8 August 1932 in Caulfield, Victoria, eldest son to parents John Thomas Younger and Ena May (née) Wartman. Growing up, he lived in an extended family environment. His Grandfather lived in the *Big House* on North Road in Caulfield and Alex grew up surrounded by cousins, aunts and uncles. During the 1920s the family spent time in Africa where his father enjoyed big game hunting. Their home there was full of heads on walls and skins on floors. He was three when his father was fatally shot in a shooting accident by a well known game hunter, during a hunt for a wounded lion. Back in Australia, he attended Gardenvale State and Central schools, winning a scholarship to Scotch College where he won a further scholarship to University and studied Law. He then established a Law Practice at Dandenong. His family were builders/developers and Alex also enjoyed the building industry. He was very gregarious and was a natural leader. His first love was horse racing and he owned and raced several racehorses throughout his life. He also enjoyed cricket and football and was a Melbourne supporter with an uncle (Ray Wartman) who played for the victorious 1939-41 Melbourne teams. Alex met his wife Margaret in 1948 at the Marysville Mt Kitchener Lodge and they married in 1956. They had five children. Alex was an avid cross-country skier and bush walker, climbing every mountain in Victoria (the last two on crutches). He also walked the 250 km Mt Kosciusko Walk with friend Howard and dog Kim. He selected Taggerty as a location for a holiday house and retired there briefly to breed horses. However, after suffering a serious motor accident in 1979, Alex started practising Law at Alexandra. He was President of the Taggerty Hall Committee from 1981-87 and served as a Shire Councillor and was Shire President for one term. When President, he opened the historic *Silver Bridge* at Eildon. Alex died on 3 October 2001 at Alexandra after suffering from Guillian-Barre Syndrome for a long period of time. He was buried at the Alexandra Cemetery.

# JOHN ANTHONY LECKEY



<b>Councillor:</b>	1989-93
<b>President:</b>	1992
<b>Born:</b>	18 June 1932
<b>Died:</b>	19 March 2011
<b>Ashes:</b>	Acheron
<b>Occupation:</b>	Businessman, farmer

*Courtesy Julia Foletta*

John was born on 18 June 1932 at Hobart, to parents George William John Leckey and Alice Victoria (née) Brammal. John achieved a Bachelor of Commerce, Bachelor of Letters (Hons) and after he retired gained a PhD in History at the University of Melbourne. He was a member of the Professional Historians Association, a Fellow in the Department of History and as a successful sportsman he represented the University in both cricket and baseball. He was Captain of the Malvern Grammar Cricket Team and received a free membership to the Melbourne Cricket Club after scoring more runs in 1948 than any other player. By 1954 he was working as an economist for the English Electric Company in London. He was highly successful, being awarded a serviced apartment in Berkeley Square by Lord Nelson and his son HG Nelson for his next job appointment. On 24 March 1956 in London, John married New Zealand born school teacher Barbara Mary Clemance (b1931) who he had met on the boat to England. John worked for Rocla Concrete Pipes from 1957-72, rising to General Manager of the Concrete Division. He was the first President of the Concrete Pipe Association of Australia and after a short-term as a financial director at Cadbury-Schweppes, he established his own company, Clyde Concrete. After later selling the firm, he managed Hunt Engineering and was a board member for K&H Surface Technologies until selling to 3M in 2008. He served on numerous committees and was President of the South Yarra Branch of the Liberal Party at one time. He was also President of the Dookie Association which supported the Dookie Agricultural College. He loved farming and purchased a cattle property near Alexandra in 1972, which remains with his son today. He was a Shire of Alexandra Councillor and served as Shire President for one term. John died on 19 March 2011 at Cabrini Palliative Care in Prahran. His ashes were spread on his farm at Acheron.

# ANNE SANDERSON



<b>Councillor:</b>	1992-94
<b>President:</b>	1993
<b>Born:</b>	1929
<b>Occupation:</b>	Company Director Personal Assistant Administrative Secretary Office Manager

*Courtesy Murrindindi Shire Council*

Anne was born in 1929 at Echuca, Victoria, to parents Walter and Mabel (née) Redfearn (graziers at Moulamein in New South Wales). She was educated at Melbourne Church of England Girls Grammar School (C.E.G.G.S.) and was later employed as Personal Assistant to the accountant of the printing firm Regal Cartons of Collingwood. In 1955 she married Colin Peter Sanderson and was employed by the family company Sanderson Motor Co. Pty Ltd as a Company Director and Office Manager. She operated in this capacity until the business was sold in 1974. Anne then worked for six years as an Administrative Secretary with World Christian Action (the overseas arm of the Australian Council of Churches). She retired from this in 1980 and she and her husband then moved to Eildon in Central Victoria where they enjoyed their retirement and especially boating and fishing. After her husband passed away in 1986, Anne became more active in the community. In 1991, five years after the death of her husband, Anne was elected an Alexandra Shire Councillor. During her time on Council she served on the Boards of Murrindindi Community Health, Darlingford Nursing Home, Eildon Hospital, Kellock Lodge, Goulburn Valley Road Safety Council and was active on other community committees. Her time on Council was cut short by the amalgamation of councils in Victoria. Anne remained active in her local community until the time that she moved to a Retirement Village in Bendigo. On Saturday 11 March 2017 she was one of just three former Shire Presidents able to attend a Civic Reception held at the Alexandra Shire Hall for the release of the free digital *Shire of Alexandra - Past Presidents* eBook release. The other two attendees were Bill Rollason and Neil Guscott, with an apology from John Lamb.

# SHIRE AMALGAMATION

---

In 1994 the Victorian State Government rationalised the number of Municipalities by forced mergers or amalgamations. The former Shire of Alexandra was absorbed into the newly created Shire of Murrindindi. The seat of local government for the new shire was to be in the town of Alexandra, with branch offices in Yea and Kinglake, however the concept of an Alexandra Shire President (or Mayor) ended with the Shire's 69<sup>th</sup> President - Anne Sanderson.

# RESOURCES

---

Chronological  
Index

Alphabetical  
Index

Contributors

# SHIRE OF ALEXANDRA PRESIDENTS

# CHRONOLOGICAL INDEX

Year	Name	Year	Name	Year	Name	Year	Name
1869	John Peterkin	1901	William Lade Jnr	1933	Arthur Neil Walsh	1965	Kenneth W Weeding
1870	Frederick Coster	1902	John Wylie	1934	Alan W Jones Snr	1966	Kenneth W Weeding
1871	John O'Callaghan	1903	William H Knowles Jnr	1935	Allan Murray Dobson	1967	William Henry Jones
1872	John Peterkin	1904	John W Leckie	1936	William Lade Jnr	1968	Leslie W E Coats
1873	John Whitelaw	1905	James Scale	1937	William Alexander Murray	1969	Leslie W E Coats
1874	John Whitelaw	1906	John Thomas Murray	1938	William Alexander Murray	1970	Archibald J Girdwood
1875	Dr James Fergusson	1907	John Campbell Wightman	1939	J W O'Rourke	1971	Edward Eric Southam
1876	Samuel Allardyce	1908	William Lade Jnr	1940	Robert Jackson Briggs	1972	Edward Eric Southam
1877	William Knowles Snr	1909	John Wylie	1941	Ciril Nelson Davy	1973	Walter James E Moore
1878	George Whiting	1910	Charles Hamilton	1942	Ciril Nelson Davy	1974	Roy Mervyn Fox
1879	William Knowles Snr	1911	John Findlay	1943	Robert Francis Almond	1975	Roy Mervyn Fox
1880	Richard W Wightman	1912	John Thomas Murray	1944	William Alexander Murray	1976	John Gordon Macdonald
1881	Peter Dunn	1913	Joseph Hardwick Edwards	1945	Daisy E R Weeks	1977	W Worrall Jones Snr
1882	David Dobie	1914	William Lade Jnr	1946	Robert Jackson Briggs	1978	William E Rollason
1883	William Lade Snr	1915	John Wylie	1947	Archibald J Girdwood	1979	Maxwell J McDonald
1884	Thomas Carison	1916	John Wylie	1948	Henry William Barker	1980	Kathleen Mary Cooper
1885	Thomas Smedes Carison	1917	John Thomas Murray	1949	Ciril Nelson Davy	1981	George F Cumming
1886	George Arthur Cookson	1918	David Hayes	1950	Ciril Nelson Davy	1982	John A Lamb
1887	Alexander McKinnon	1919	John Alexander Baker	1951	Alan W Jones Snr	1983	Paul G Gilmore
1888	George Lamont	1920	John Findlay	1952	Alan W Jones Snr	1984	Paul G Gilmore
1889	Frederick Wheeler	1921	Joseph Hardwick Edwards	1953	Robert Jackson Briggs	1985	Thomas Charles Marr
1890	Frederick Wheeler	1922	William Lade Jnr	1954	Robert Jackson Briggs	1986	Andrew R. Collier
1891	William H. Whiting	1923	John Wylie	1955	Robert Francis Almond	1987	George Forrest Cumming
1892	Alexander McKinnon	1924	John Wylie	1956	Robert Francis Almond	1988	Paul G Gilmore
1893	Alexander McKinnon	1925	John Wylie	1957	Robert Jackson Briggs	1989	A Worrall Jones Jnr
1894	James Scale	1926	William Fox	1958	Archibald J Girdwood	1990	Neil Thomas Guscott
1895	Joseph B Coombs	1927	John Wylie	1959	Walter James E Moore	1991	Alex Mackie Younger
1896	George Arthur Cookson	1928	Joseph Hardwick Edwards	1960	Alan W. Jones Snr	1992	John Anthony Leckey
1897	George Arthur Cookson	1929	Robert B Forsyth	1961	William Herbert Edwards	1993	Anne Sanderson
1898	Richard W Wightman	1930	Robert Jackson Briggs	1962	Reginald Ernest Payne	1994	Shire of Alexandra and Shire of Yea amalgamate to form Shire of Murrindindi.
1899	Richard W Wightman	1931	Robert Jackson Briggs	1963	Herbert Crommelin FitzRoy		
1900	William Lade Snr	1932	James Edward Elliott	1964	John William Pollock		

This is a living document and your contributions are welcome

# SHIRE OF ALEXANDRA PRESIDENTS

# ALPHABETICAL INDEX

Name	Years
Allardyce, Samuel	1876/1877
Almond, Robert Francis	1943/1944 1955/1956 1956/1957
Baker, John Alexander	1919/1920
Barker, Henry William	1948/1949 1973/1974
Briggs, Robert Jackson	1930/1931 1931/1932 1940/1941 1946/1947 1953/1954 1954/1955 1957/1958
Carison, Thomas Smedes	1884/1885 1885/1886
Coates, Leslie W Edlington	1968/1969 1969/1970
Coller, Andrew Raymond	1986/1987
Cookson, George Arthur	1886/1887 1896/1897 1897/1898
Coombs, Joseph Butterworth	1895/1896
Cooper, Kathleen Mary	1980/1981
Coster, Frederick	1870
Cumming, George Forrest	1981/1982 1987/1988
Davy, Ciril Nelson	1941/1942 1942/1943 1949/1950 1950/1951
Dobie, David	1882/1883
Dobson, Allan Murray	1935/1936
Dunn, Peter	1881/1882
Edwards, Joseph Hardwick	1913/1914 1921/1922 1928/1929
Edwards, William Herbert	1961/1962
Elliott, James Edward	1932/1933
Fergusson, James	1875/1876
Findlay, John	1911/1912 1920/1921

Name	Years
FitzRoy, Herbert Crommelin	1963/1964
Forsyth, Robert Bruce	1929/1930
Fox, Roy Mervyn	1974/1975 1975/1976
Fox, William	1926/1927
Gilmore, Paul Barton	1983/1984 1984/1985 1988/1989
Girdwood, Archibald John	1947/1948 1958/1959 1970/1971
Guscott, Neil Thomas	1990/1991
Hamilton, Charles	1910/1911
Hayes, David	1918/1919
Jones, A Worrall	1977/1978 1989/1990
Jones, Alan W	1934/1935 1951/1952 1952/1953 1960/1961 1967 - 2 months
Jones, William Henry	1967/1968
Knowles, William	1877/1878 1879/1880
Knowles, William Henry Jnr	1903/1904
Lade, William Snr	1883/1884
Lade, William Jnr	1900/1901 1901/1902 1908/1909 1914/1915 1922/1923 1936/1937
Lamb, John Andrew	1982/1983
Lamont, George	1888/1889
Leckey, John Anthony	1992/1993
Leckie, John William	1904/1905
John Gordon Macdonald	1976/1977
McDonald, Maxwell John	1979/1980
Marr, Thomas Charles	1985/1986
McKinnon, Alexander	1887/1888 1892/1893 1893/1894
Moore, Walter James Edward	1959/1960 1973/1974

Name	Years
Murray, John Thomas	1906/1907 1912/1913 1917/1918
Murray, William Alexander	1937/1938 1938/1939 1944/1945
O'Callaghan, John	1871
O'Rourke, James William	1939/1940
Payne, Reginald Ernest	1962/1963
Peterkin, John	1868 1869 1872
Pollock, John William	1964/1965
Rollason, William Edgar	1978
Sanderson, Anne	1993/1994
Scale, James	1894/1895 1905/1906
Southam, Edward Eric	1971/1972 1972/1973
Walsh, Arthur Neil	1933/1934
Weeding, Kenneth William	1965/1966 1966/1967
Weeks, Daisy Ellen Rebecca	1945/1946
Wheeler, Frederick	1889/1890 1890/1891
Wightman, Richard Wisdom	1880/1881 1898/1899 1899/1900
Wightman, John Campbell	1907/1908
Whitelaw, John	1873 1874
Whiting, George	1878/1879
Whiting, William Hoskin	1891/1892
Wylie, John	1902/1903 1909/1910 1915/1916 1916/1917 1923/1924 1924/1925 1925/1926 1927/1928
Younger, Alex Mackie	1991/1992

This is a living document and your contributions are welcome

# CONTRIBUTORS

Margaret Abbey  
Murrindindi Shire Council  
Images of Yarck & District  
State Library Victoria  
National Library Australia  
Public Records Office  
Alexandra Fire Brigade  
Parliament of Victoria

Michael & Sue Adaway  
Judith Adams  
Simone Adams  
Lyn Blackbourn  
Wendy Blow  
Kathy Buttifant  
Marion Collier  
Ross & Nancy Collier  
Sandra Cumming  
Marie Dacre  
Bronwyn Dobson  
Hugh & Julie Duncan  
Geoffrey & Anne Dobson  
Thelma Edwards  
Rob Elliott  
Tammy Fallon  
David & Joyce FitzRoy  
Julia Foletta  
Sharon Fox  
Jennifer Gilmore  
Ian Girdwood  
Ted & Val Hall  
Wendy Henderson  
Debbie Hibbert  
Trevor Hibbert  
Norma & Graham Hodson  
Lawrence Hood

Louise Johnston  
Alan Jones  
Robert Jones  
John & Jill Lamb  
Allan Layton  
Leisa Lees  
Ann McDonald  
Kathie Maynes  
Ken & Yvonne Millar  
Gary Moore  
Kath McCracken  
Peter McNab  
John & Maureen Norbury  
Di Pantela  
Murray & Josie Parsons  
Maurie & Marida Pawsey  
Kelly Petersen  
Pam Petersen  
John Pilkington  
Lorraine Pyke  
Jan Radford  
Peter Raymond  
Annette Reddon  
Peter Rice  
Anne Sanderson  
Grant Scale  
Norm & Marie Stace  
Rex Tate  
Ron & Yvonne Turner  
Margaret Wallis  
Allan & Patricia Weeks  
Loris Wells  
Margaret Younger

---

## RESEARCHERS

---

Margaret Abbey  
Allan Layton  
Leisa Lees  
Kathie Maynes  
David Hibbert



*Artworkz*

*Serving the Community*

