



MT PLEASANT

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2018 | ISSUE NUMBER 11

New Acting Principal at Mt Pleasant Primary School

Hello Mount Pleasant!

Sam Irwin here and I am very excited to be your Principal in 2018. I've already enjoyed the time I've spent at the school meeting the staff, students and parents I've already crossed paths with. It's such a beautiful school and I am looking forward to my year here.

Late last year I visited the Carols event; an excellent and well attended community event, at which Mrs Dyer did a great job as MC. It was really nice to come along and meet families in the community whether they currently attend our school or not. Thus far in my career I've been a leader in two very big schools and one very small school. At my last school Cape Clear I was voted 'Ballarat's Favourite Teacher' by Power FM. You might've heard me on the radio!



I'm looking forward to making this year a year of learning for everyone at Mount Pleasant; myself included. Thankyou to everyone who has made me feel so welcome at Mount Pleasant already. My hope is that I can lead our school to make 2018 the best year of education for every child at the school! I strongly believe schools should be fun and engaging for all students where teachers are experts in meeting everyone's needs and providing lots of engaging and hands on opportunities for their students. During 2018 this is what we will strive to achieve at Mount Pleasant Primary!

If you don't currently attend the school and would like some more information, or, would like to visit our beautiful facilities, please feel free to contact me at the school and arrange a time.

Look forward to meeting you. Sam (pictured above with his son James)

Are you interested in Mt Pleasant history?

The Mt Pleasant History group will continue to meet during 2018. The group has established a leadership group that will continue to be supported by the Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre.

The first meeting is at 1:30 pm on Thursday 22nd February at Mt Pleasant Primary School. Please enter via the Office. We will be discussing possible History Walks around Mountie, as well as the group's involvement in the City Council's Making Mt Pleasant program and possible projects.

2018 promises to be an exciting time for the group so come along to learn more and share your knowledge & ideas. Hope to see you there! Max Duthie, Convener.

You can contact me via email: mduthie.au@gmail.com or phone: 0407 664 593

The Mt. Pleasant – Golden Point Contribution to the World War 1 Effort

By Garry Snowden

At the outbreak of war in August 1914 the call went out to men in Australia to fight for 'King and Country'. The men from Mt. Pleasant and Golden Point, both young and old, certainly answered the call. Interestingly, the World War 1 honour boards for the Golden Point and Mt. Pleasant State Schools each record the names of 219 former pupils who volunteered to serve. Of those 438 boys 82 made the supreme sacrifice, some achieved national fame and recognition and most just 'did their bit'.

Seven months before the Gallipoli landings, the first Ballarat serviceman to lose his life in the war was Jack Messenger from Humffray Street South (GPSS). He was lost on September 14th 1914 when the submarine AE1 was lost off Rabaul. A month later, Albert Wates from Cobden Street (Mt.P.S.S.) who was also serving with the Australian Naval & Military Expeditionary Force at Rabaul, became the second Ballarat man to lose his life.

In the years prior to the war, no-one would have realised what lay ahead of two young boys who grew up a stone's throw from each other in Tress Street and neither proved to be afraid of a fight. Both served through WW1 then went on to serve with even greater distinction in WW2, one at Tobruk and one on the Thai-Burma Railway and both were knighted for their service to their country.



Who were they?

Sir Albert Coates (pictured left) grew up at 27 Tress Street and Sir Leslie Morshead (pictured right) came from 32 Tress Street. Both were Mt. Pleasant State School boys.



Ballarat has only ever had one citizen awarded the Victoria Cross, the highest award for bravery in the face of the enemy. William Dunstan (right), a Golden Point boy, grew up in Cameron Street between Bond and Barkly Streets, and while serving with the 7th Battalion at Gallipoli his courage under fire at Lone Pine in August 1915 earned him the VC.

Interestingly another William Dunstan grew up in Bradshaw Street just two blocks away from William Dunstan VC. Sadly the lesser known Dunstan, also a Golden Point boy, was killed in action near Passchendaele in Sept 1917 although it was not until early 1918 his mother Mary had this confirmed.



A study of the honour boards indicates the commitment made by some families from the area. There were five Kerby boys from Barkly Street who served – Norman who was killed at Gallipoli, Macklam who was killed in France and Edwin, Royal and Noble who returned home.

The gold rush drew many Chinese to the area, and among these were the parents of the three Lepp brothers from Humffray Street. The boys all signed up to fight for their parents' adopted country. Albert Lepp was killed at Fromelles, France, in 1916 while his brothers Reginald and Arthur, who were both wounded, returned safely to Australia. Their three cousins from nearby Young Street also served with distinction. Clarence Lepp's bravery earned him a Military Medal, Victor Lepp was killed in action in France in 1916 while James Lepp miraculously came through the war without serious injury or illness.

The story of the Kewleys from Fincham Street Mt. Pleasant provides another dimension to the sacrifice experienced by some families. Brothers Edwin and Frederick Kewley were early enlistees and both served at Gallipoli. Illness caused Edwin to be evacuated but Frederick was killed in action. Edwin rejoined his unit in France in April 1916 then a month later his father Albert (pictured right) enlisted. Whether Albert's motivation was to protect Edwin or to avenge the death of Frederick we do not know, but we do know he substantially understated his age to satisfy the AIF's upper age limit of 45 years. He reached England as a reinforcement for the 8th Battalion but illness caused him to be returned home before he saw any action. In April 1917, less than 12 months after he enlisted, Albert Kewley died at 53 years of age. Emily Kewley had now lost a son and a husband.



Bill Messer from Barkly Street was a tailor when he enlisted in July 1915. While serving with the 15th Trench Mortar Battery in France his gallantry earned for him a Military Medal. His good mate Frank Opie from Corbett Street in Ballarat East, also a draper prior to his army service, served with the 5th Field Ambulance and was also awarded the Military Medal. They returned home and resumed work with different employers until one day they decided to go into business together and the iconic Ballarat business 'Messer & Opie' was born.

Of course not all of our boys had unblemished records and many contributed to the legend of the 'larrikin Anzacs'. Leslie Reiffel from Barkly Street had more than his share of brushes with authority, among other things being found guilty of using insulting language, punching a Military Policeman and escaping from custody. Despite the nobility of his name, the previously mentioned Royal Kerby also had a chequered service record with charges of drunkenness, insolence to a superior officer and riding a motorcycle in a dangerous manner.

There is no doubt that Ballarat was very well represented by the boys from the Golden Point – Mt. Pleasant area. From knighthoods and bravery awards right through to the larrikin element our boys were in the thick of it. They certainly did their bit. Above all, we remember the 82 who gave their lives for their country.



A perfect day contributed to this special Christmas Carols event!



Mt Pleasant Christmas Carols

Families, friends and neighbours came together to celebrate Christmas at the Mt Pleasant Carols held at Pearces Park, Barkly Street, Mt Pleasant on Sunday 10 December last year.

Many contributed to the success of the event including the lively 'The Little Brass Band'; the beautiful singing of the 'Ballarat House of Music Christmas Carolers'; our wonderful MC - Jenny Dyer from Mt Pleasant Primary School; Central Highlands Water who donated water bottles; Bean Me Up Coffee; Santa and his helpers from Ballarat Police and Mayor, Cr Samantha McIntosh who extended season's greeting from the City of Ballarat.

Also special thanks to organisers from the Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre, Department of Health & Human Services and City of Ballarat staff.

This newsletter is proudly produced by the Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre. Call 5329 3273.

Email: admin@ballaratnc.org.au; Meet us at Tuppen Drive, Sebastopol

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And we are happy to include contributions from local community groups and organisations.

