

**Site 6: 395 Barkly Street, West Footscray
The Drill Hall**

Possibly the first drill hall in the Commonwealth, this important meeting place opened in 1914. It was used for training by the men of 'E Company' – the young men of Footscray who went to World War I, some of them never to return. Footscray gave our 'boys' a send-off in September 1914, not knowing they were destined for the first landing at Gallipoli.

Nearly all our company was wiped out after six or seven hours fighting on that memorable Sunday morning, only one officer (Grills) and a few men being left standing. It was said the famous Light Brigade rode to the gates of hell, but we went one better, and sailed into hell itself, and stopped there, refusing to retire ...

Letter from Sergeant D McKechnie
Independent, 3 July 1915

As the devastating news reached the men's families and friends several weeks later, Footscray became a city in mourning.

Source: John Lack *A history of Footscray* p 214



The National Trust
HERITAGE FESTIVAL Conflict & Compassion

FOOTSCRAY'S WAR
3 May, 2015 Noon—4.00

Footscray Historical Society
proudly presents
a self-guided tour of iconic sites
setting out from
Ercildoune
66 Napier Street
Footscray

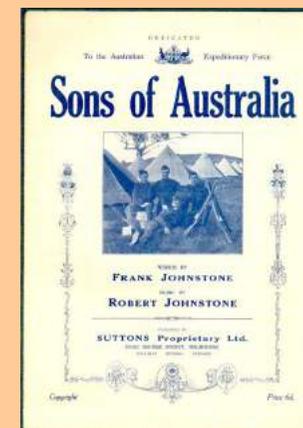
IN FREEDOM'S CAUSE

During World War I, Footscray residents were invited to apply to the City of Footscray for certificates honoring the local servicemen from their families. Their handwritten applications are held in the society's archives and are the subject of a Anzac Centenary Local Grant.
(see image above)

On display at *Ercildoune*

Ground floor

- list of soldiers who died in World War I
- sample certificate from City of Footscray
- Pte. A R Park's "dead man's penny"
- patriotic songs composed by locals
- newspapers of the time



First floor

'Women Wept' exhibition

Karenne Anne and Tamara Watt, photo-media artists, and Heather Horrocks, textile artists are researching objects and memorabilia, relating to war.

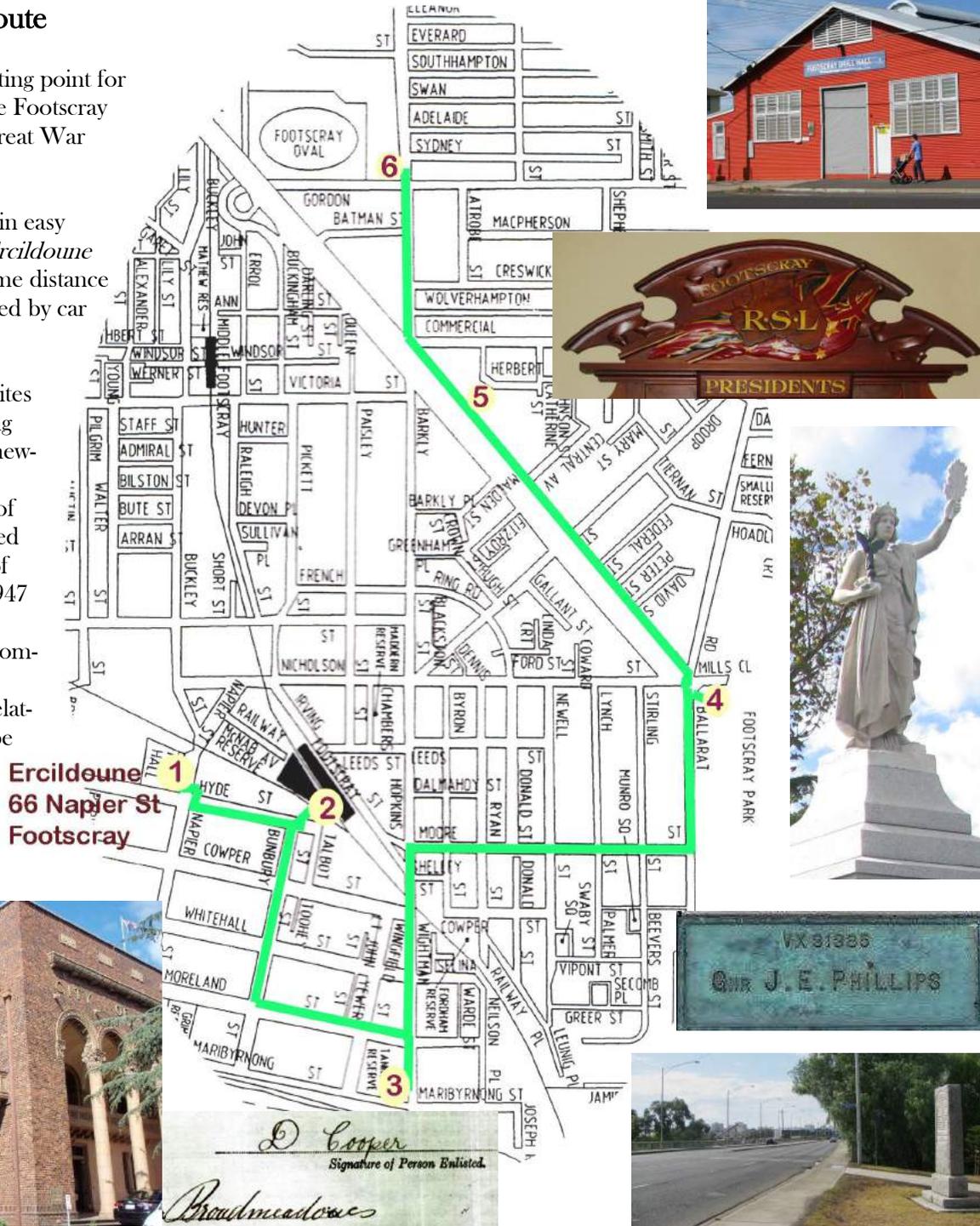
Heather Horrocks invites women to join her in knitting socks from original WW1 patterns as a way to explore family stories.

Suggested tour route

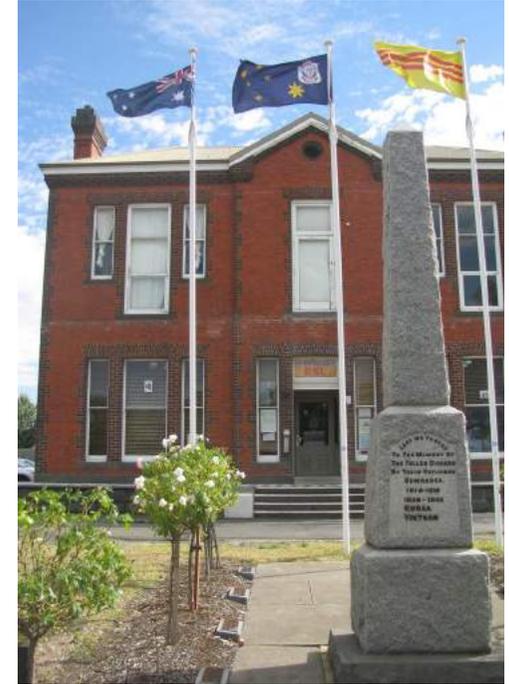
Ercildoune is the starting point for this tour of sites in the Footscray area relating to the Great War (1914-1918).

Sites 1 and 2 are within easy walking distance of *Ercildoune* but other sites are some distance away, and best accessed by car or bicycle.

When passing from sites 4 and 5 along Geelong Road, note the 150 newly planted eucalypts, which take the place of lost trees which formed the original Avenue of Honour created in 1947 and dedicated to the Footscray men and women who served in the World Wars. The related plaques can now be seen in the Memorial Garden at Footscray Park.



Site 5: 48 Geelong Road, Footscray
Footscray RSL Club
 Previously known as *Soldiers' Memorial Hall* (R.S.S.I.L.A.)



In 1891, foundry man John Curry Johnson built *Amaryllis* mansion. Long after his demise in 1903 it remained the family home. In 1918, J C Johnson's son James R Johnson (then Mayor of Footscray) pushed for the Avenue of Honour to be created in Geelong Road—a tribute to all local members of the AIF and Navy. He died in 1945, just two years before the avenue became a reality.

High profile councillor and contractor Frank Shillabeer owned *Amaryllis* until 1921 when the city assisted patriotic citizens to buy it so that Footscray's returned servicemen might have a "Soldiers' Memorial Hall". The cenotaph (above) is the Returned Services League War Memorial (1914-8, 1939-45).



**Site 2. Footscray Station
William Cooper walkway**

After living on an Aboriginal reserve, William Cooper came to live in the Footscray area when he was over 70. Here he continued his work of empowering disenfranchised members of his community. He was the secretary of the Australian Aborigines League which he helped establish in 1934.

William Cooper had experience personal tragedy, having lost his wife and first child. His second wife Agnes Hamilton died leaving him to raise a large family. Their eldest son, Daniel Cooper was killed in World War I in Ypres, Belgium.

Daniel Cooper's war records refer to his race: "soldier was halfcast aboriginal" (sic) which is a poignant reminder that people denied citizenship performed their patriotic duty.

**Site 3. Hopkins Street, Footscray
Michaelis Hallenstein memorial**

Patriotic factory managers in Footscray erected their own memorials to workers who served in the Great War. Michaelis Hallenstein & Co. occupied acres both sides of Hopkins near the Dynon Road bridge.

Three family members who worked for the tannery are named on the plaque.



Lieut. Grant Michaelis was killed at Gallipoli in 1916.

Sgt Frank Moritz Michaelis (left) died of meningitis on 14 May 1917 in England. He was 24 years of age.

His cousin Lieut. Dalbert I Hallenstein, died in Peronne France in 1918.

Deliberately left blank

(Below) In 1918, the family gathered to unveil plaques in honour of cousins Frank Michaelis and Dalbert Hallenstein.



Particulars Required for the Roll of Honour of Australia in the Memorial War Museum.

1. Name (in full) of Fallen Soldier... *Daniel Cooper*

2. Unit and Number (if known)... *24th Battalion No 4303*

3. With what Town or District in Australia was he chiefly connected (under which his name ought to come on the Memorial) —
Town (if any)... *Yarravongga* District... *Yarravongga* State... *Victoria*

4. What was his Birthplace... *Moanmel NSW*

5. Date of Death... *20th September 1917*

6. Place where Killed or Wounded... *Ypres Belgium*

Particulars Required for the Nation's Histories.

1. What was his Calling... *Labourer*

2. Age at time of Death... *22 years*

3. What was his School... *State School Gummerooongga Mission Station N.S.W.*

4. What was his other Training...

5. If born in Britain or Abroad, at what age did he come to Australia...

6. Had he ever served in any Military or Naval Force before Enlisting in the A.I.F. (Please state particulars) *no*

7. Any other biographical details likely to be of interest to the Historian of the A.I.F., or of his Regiment —
Soldier was halfcast aboriginal

8. Was he connected with any other Member of the A.I.F. who died or who distinguished himself. (Please state Relationship) —

9. Name and Address of the Parent or other person giving this information —
Name... *William Cooper*
Relationship to Soldier... *Father*
Address... *Yarravongga Victoria*

10. Names and Addresses of any other persons to whom reference could be made by the Historian for further information —
Name... *J. A. Yarnmo 077*
Address... *High Street Gummerooongga Station N.S.W.*

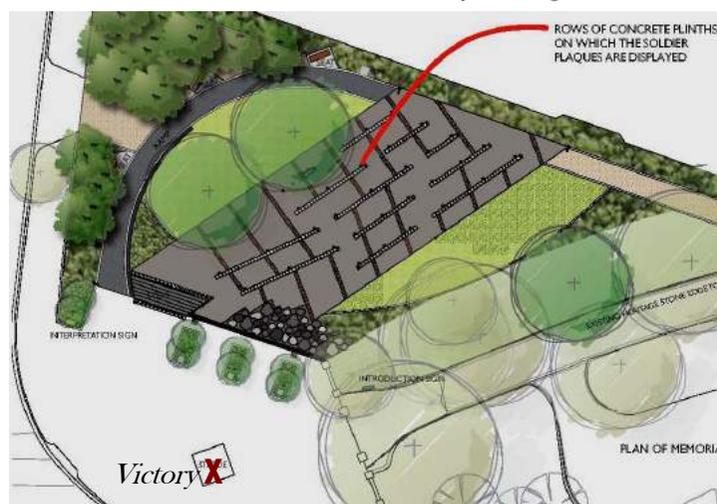
NOTE.—This Form is Addressed to the Secretary, Department of Defence, Melbourne. Please fill in four or six; stick & gummed flap so that the addressed portion is outside. The information is required urgently.

**Site 4. Corner Geelong and Ballarat Roads
Victory and Memorial Garden
Footscray Park**



Victory honours men and women who served in the World Wars. In 1921, Footscray citizens raised funds for to buy a *Soldiers' Memorial Hall* at 48 Geelong Rd and to erect this monument. Carved by James Taylor & Sons, *Victory* was unveiled on Armistice Day in 1922.

225 soldiers' names appear on plaques relocated from the Geelong Road Avenue of Honour to the Memorial Garden in 2012. Enter via 'Footscray Park' gate (above).



**Site 1. Corner Hyde and Napier Streets, Footscray
City of Maribyrnong Town Hall
(enter via west door—railway line side)
World War I Honour Board**

Almost 2000 servicemen are named on the city's honour board. The postcard and poem (below) hint at Sgt P C Stephens' experience –just one of the many war stories yet to be told.

An Anzac grant will enable the society to link names on the board with certificate applications.

*To my loved ones in the land of the free,
I greet you this year on a strip of khaki;
It's no gilt edged card from a sweet perfumed
packet,
But it's torn from the back of my old khaki jack-
et;
It has sheltered me long through the calm and
the storm,
Through danger I've been but have not come to
harm.
The time may be long ere I cross the deep sea,
And home to Australia my loved ones to see.
So here's a reminder my dear ones to thee,
Though far away at Gallipoli,
I still think of thee.*



Sgt P C Stephens *Advertiser* 25 Dec, 2015