

Certificates of Honour

From 1915, shires and towns all over Australia began to honour recruits with certificates and scrolls, mostly off-the-shelf designs, but sometimes unique to a municipality, as was the case in Footscray.

In 1916, Mr J Henry, on behalf of 150 members of the Footscray Australian Natives Association (ANA) called upon Council to present 'war certificates' to all soldiers who enlisted in the district.

By 1917, Footscray Council had printed over 3000 certificates. In May 1918, the *Advertiser* reported that 250 returned soldiers assembled at Federal Hall to be welcomed by the town clerk, Mr Gent and councillors led by Mayor Shillabeer.

Quite a large proportion of the guests bore the stripes and crowns of sergeant majors and warrant officers, and those on youths who left office desk and workshop to take up the private's rifle. . . one of the chief objects of the welcome was to present to the boys the certificate of honour the council has had especially designed as an acknowledgement to each soldier of the city's gratitude to him.



CITY OF FOOTSCRAY.

1918

To the Mayor and Councillors
City of Footscray.

Gentlemen,—

I hereby make application for a CERTIFICATE on behalf of myself
in having enlisted for active service
with the Australian Forces

At the time of Enlistment I was residing at Footscray

Footscray (Print Christian Name) (Signature) *Sahel Brassy Alwan*
(Address) *207 Jackson St
Footscray*

I hereby acknowledge that I have this 25th MAY 1918 day of 1918
received the Certificate referred to in the above application.

(Signature) _____
(Address) _____

Soldier's No.	647
Surname	Alwan
Christian Name or Names (in Full)	Sahel Brassy
Married or Single	Single
Occupation	Auto Driver
Rank on enlistment	Sapper
Age on enlistment	18 years
Date of enlistment	25 November 1914
Residence	59 Louisa St Footscray
Company	15 th Australian Light Horse
Corps, Regiment, Battalion, Etc.	
Brigade	4 th
Forces	Imperial Forces
Where on Active Service	Egypt, Gallipoli, France
Period	767 days
Date of Discharge	7 February 1917
Rank on Discharge	Private
Remarks	Good

NOTE—The above particulars are required for entry in Official Register to be kept by the Footscray City Council.

Museum Victoria holds the original artwork for the World War I Certificate Freedom's Cause, The City of Footscray Honour Her Brave', circa 1917

Original artwork designed by Cecil G. Smith for a certificate to be awarded to individuals from Footscray who enlisted in the Great War, 1914-1918.
Made by D.W. Patterson Co. Pty Ltd, circa 1917-1922.

Physical Description

2D format, Size 36 cm (Length), 51.5 cm (Height)

At the top of the certificate, beneath a coat of arms, is a shield upon which is a symbol of Footscray - a robed woman, anvil to the right of her, hammer and cog to the left, is seated in front of a factory. Across the bottom of the shield is the Latin "Et industria".

The illumination around the certificate's purple border includes a eucalyptus twig and a representation of thistles and clover on a blue background.

<http://collections.museumvictoria.com.au/items/254323>