

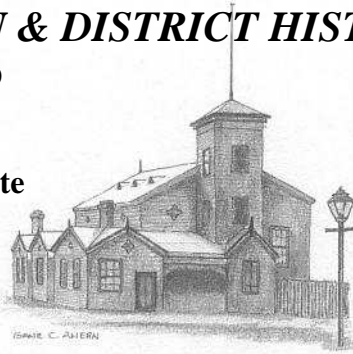
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NEWSLETTER

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FROM THE EDITOR

With Anzac Day approaching this Newsletter takes a look at the war years in Yarra Glen and surrounding districts. In Issue no. 20 (May 2006) we gave a brief account covering the First World War period. In this issue we look at the Second World War. There is enough information to publish a book on this topic, especially as there are people about with first hand experience of this war. Eric and I have built up a database of more than 250 people who had association with the district who enlisted between 1939 and 1945 and it continues to grow. The article below is by necessity brief but it is hoped that it will indicate that the few names on the local Honour Rolls and Memorials are only the tip of the iceberg when one looks at the involvement of this community. There are many many stories that could and should be recorded, not only of those who served in the forces, but also those who experienced the changed circumstances in the community.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome new members

Dawne Tonks (nee Walden)

Janene Pomeroy

Bruce and Berys Nixon

This takes our membership to 35

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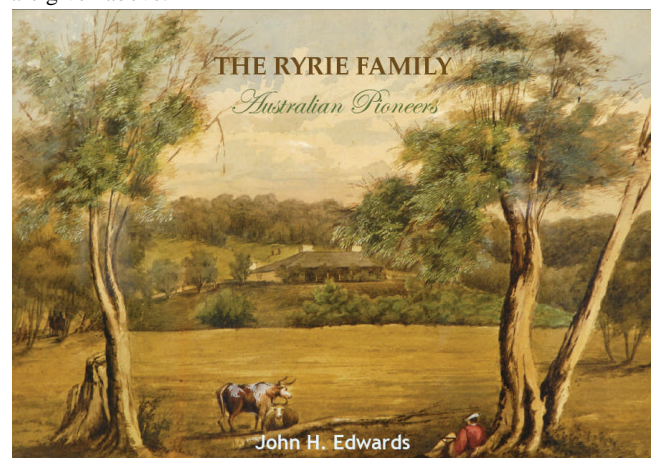
Gulf Station Scottish Descendants and Pioneers Day 24 March 2007

On Saturday 24 March the Historical Society had a stall at Gulf Station which hosted a Scottish Descendants Day as part of the Melba Festival. Eric of course was the main instigator of the displays and he attended the stall all day to answer queries. A significant contribution was made by Anne Watkins who set up a display of information about Annandale, Dumfriesshire in Scotland which is the region from which the Bell family emigrated.

John Edwards from Sydney was also there in the latter part of the morning to promote his new book about the Ryrie family. This is a soft covered A4 (landscape) book of 85 pages. John Edwards has undertaken considerable research in his endeavour to 'set the record more or less straight'. For example, Alexander Ryrie who joined William Ryrie at Yering was William's cousin, not his half-brother who remained in New South Wales. The work commences with the Scottish origins of the Ryrie family and their migration to Australia in 1825. The work places William Ryrie of Yering in a much wider context: his place in the world (his migration from Scotland); in Australia (he spent many years in NSW); and in Victoria where he was prominent in Melbourne society and a pioneer in the Western District as well as the Yarra Valley.

One of the chief merits of the book is the high quality of the illustrations.

Enquiries about purchasing a copy of the book (\$40) should be directed to our Secretary Eric Tetlow whose contact details are given above.



The Ryrie Family: Australian Pioneers
by John H Edwards (Norrong Press, 2007) \$40

THE SECOND WORLD WAR

Yarra Glen district in 1939

The year 1939 started badly when bushfires devastated the district in January. The need for assistance was extensive and the Bushfire Relief effort was not wound up until November.

At the Shire Council meeting in March 1939 the Health Inspector reported that notice had been served on the owner of the Victoria Hall (Mrs Talbot) prohibiting its use as a dwelling. A returned soldier (WWI) was said to be using one of the rooms. Councillor Irvine agreed that the building was in disrepair and the Health Inspector was given authority to deal with the matter. Twelve months later in July 1940 it was reported that the

...old landmark, the district hall has practically vanished, as it has been in the hands of the wreckers. The remains were sold by auction ... (LE 19 Jul)

In August 1939 the Presbyterian Minister for Yarra Glen and Kangaroo Ground Rev. E. W. Crawford died suddenly. He was replaced by Mr **E. B. Robinson** who became known to all as 'Robbie'.

In September good rains fell but caused the Yarra to flood.

War is declared

Aware of the events unfolding in Europe and the actions of Japan in Asia, Australians were not surprised when war was declared in September 1939. **Nat Jenkins**, the son of John and Emily Jenkins of Yarra Glen, had joined the Royal Australian Navy in June 1939. In September he found he was 'at war'. His sister Bertha recalled the first time he sailed and *'the awful feeling of seeing them go and not knowing whether they'd come back again or not.'* In July 1940 when Mr and Mrs Jenkins were celebrating their silver wedding anniversary, they received a cheque from their son who wired it from 'somewhere at sea'.

At first there was uncertainty regarding the extent of overseas service. On 15th September Prime Minister Menzies announced that volunteers would be recruited to form the 2nd AIF for service overseas, while the Citizen Military Forces (CMF) would remain in Australia to form a home defence. Volunteering was restricted to men between the ages of 20 and 35 who were not in reserved or essential occupations. A list was published in the newspapers and included a wide variety of employment: for example, shearers and carpenters over 30, foremen over 25, brewing leading hands over 25 and engineers of all ages. The main emphasis was on home defence and maintaining business and productivity.

In late 1939 preparations for war began within local communities including plans for evacuating children from the cities. District Air Raid wardens were appointed and Red Cross Emergency Committees gave anti-gas lectures. In October the Air Raid Precautions officers for Yarra Glen were announced:

Head Warden – Councillor T. Irvine, Wardens – Councillor Bell, 'Robbie' Robinson, **Jack Scott, Rupert Newman** and **Henry Ault**

A local branch of the Red Cross Society was also formed:

Superintendent — **Rupert Newman**, Hon Secretary — **David Carver**, Executive Council — **Miss J. MacDonald, Mrs Bert Scott** and **Mrs Harry Lawrence**.

The Red Cross was separated into two parts. The Auxiliary undertook sewing and knitting to produce items such as pyjamas, pillow cases, toilet bags, socks, scarves, balaclavas, knee caps and water bag covers. During the war years women would carry their knitting with them and knit at any opportunity. The Red Cross Auxiliary also organised fundraising with Australian afternoon teas, euchre parties, dancing and other social activities. A garden party was held at Chateau Yering in March 1940 and the Auxiliary also sold lunch and light refreshments at the Yarra Glen Show to raise funds. Their first dispatch of goods was three cases of oranges to the 'local boys' in camp at Seymour.

The Red Cross Emergency Service organised training in First Aid, Home Nursing, Cookery, Catering and Transport. The first graduates of the First Aid and Home Nursing courses were proudly listed in the local paper in May 1940. By February 1942 150 people in the district had received their certificate.

Compulsory militia training of one month was imposed and commenced in October 1939. Including Nat Jenkins only half a dozen men with connections to Yarra Glen had enlisted by the end of 1939. **George Dunkley** was born at Yarra Glen in 1918 and still had relatives living in the district. He was a Lance Corporal with the Australian Army Service Corps Petrol Park or Depot when he died of an illness in May 1942 and is commemorated at the Fawcner Memorial Park. **Harold Hunt** (the eldest son of 'Red Bob' who had died in February '39) enlisted on 20 October 1939 at South Melbourne. He was a private in the Service Corp's Ammunition Company when discharged on 16 February 1940. **Fitzherbert Clarkson** had been an engineer living at Yarra Glen in the early 1920s. His four children went to the Steels Creek school and in August 1921 transferred to the Yarra Glen school. His second son **Rhenius Churchill Clarkson** enlisted in October 1939 and became a private in the 2/8th Battalion. His elder brother **Claude** and youngest brother John enlisted in 1940 and their sister **Frances** enlisted in the Australian Womens Army in 1943. **John Clarkson** became a gunner in the 4 Anti-Tank Regiment. He was 25 when he died of illness while a prisoner of war in Borneo. He is commemorated at Labuan. Fitzherbert and his wife Mary were by then living in South Yarra. **Robert Crozier** was the son of a former MMBW employee Tom Crozier who lived at Yarra Glen in 1927. Robert had attended the Yarra Glen State School. He was stationed with the Royal Australian Engineers at Rabaul and listed as missing at sea presumed dead on 1 July 1942.

During the first six months of the war 'enemy aliens' were interned. Bertha Sebire observed that the foreign labourers at Yering Station were among them.

1940

The year started off well for the local community with 'business as usual'. The Adams brothers placed an advertisement in the local papers in January 1940 to say that they had rebuilt their saw mill on a new site in Steels Creek. Their previous one had been burnt in the '39 bushfires. The C and B teams of the Tennis Club were doing well in the district competition. Mr R. (Alan) Bell retired as the President of the Badminton Club and was replaced by the new Presbyterian minister, 'Robbie' Robinson. The Secretary was Les Weller and Treasurer was Charlie Cochrane. There was a heat wave in March 1940 just before the Show with several days of temperatures above 100°C. The Show was held on 16 March and good rain fell on 18th.

In June a Red Cross Emergency Auxiliary was formed in Steels Creek. The President was Mr W. Hunt, the Secretary, Mr. Les Morris and the Treasurer John Siggins. The main activity was to raise funds and to operate a depot for the collection of newspapers, rags and other waste material. Another branch was set up at Dixons Creek in July.

By mid 1940 hostilities in Europe increased and Australia accelerated its recruitment for both the AIF and the militia. At least 45 men with some connection to the district, through birth, schooling, or residency, enlisted during this period. The Yarra Glen Football team withdrew from the district competition because of a lack of players. Badminton continued and was seen as an excellent opportunity for exercise during the cold weather – and the spectators were kept busy knitting for the war effort. In October the Wandin–Lilydale Tennis Association, in which Yarra Glen fielded several teams, decided to cancel its 1940/41 season because of the difficulty of transporting teams to matches.

Those who enlisted during this period included **Ernest Holding**, a cousin of William (Son) Holding who died in the First World War. **Austin Glare Wilson**, the son of James and Eva Wilson of Christmas Hills and later of Footscray, enlisted on 14 June 1940, his twentieth birthday. He later transferred to the 2/21 Infantry Battalion which was part of Gull Force sent to Ambon Island in Indonesia in December 1941 to fortify the garrison against the Japanese. With more than 300 others he became a prisoner of war and was executed at Ambon on 15 February 1942. His older brother Henry who served with 2/29 Battalion was a POW in Malaya. **Arthur Pollard** was born in Yarra Glen in 1914 when his father was an employee of the Railways. The family had moved to Northcote by July 1940 when Arthur enlisted. He was a sapper with the Royal Australian Engineers, became a prisoner of war in Burma and died of illness there on 21 February 1944.

Albert Leslie Bates of Christmas Hills was married with two small daughters when he enlisted on 24 July 1940. His brother **Sidney** had enlisted the previous month. Albert became a Private in the 2/9 Field Ambulance and Sidney a Lance Corporal with the 9 Corps of Signals. Albert was posted to Malaya where he died on 13 February 1942 of wounds received in battle. Sidney was discharged in November 1944.



Albert Bates (1912–1942)

The Volunteer Defence Force was set up in July 1940. It was aimed at ex-servicemen from WWI and based on the British Home Guard. **Jack Smedley** was 34 years old when he enlisted on 15 July 1940. He had been born in Yarra Glen, attended school and farmed at Dixons Creek. He was recruited to the 3 DDD unit in Caulfield and was discharged six months later. **Jack Scott** of Steels Creek, one of the Yarra Glen ARP Wardens, enlisted in the Volunteer Defence Corps at Lilydale on 23 August 1940. **Hector Herbert** and **Jack Bell** enlisted in the VDC at Healesville in 1941

In September a ceremony was held at the Christmas Hills hall to farewell **Robert Gubbins**, **George Shaw** and Sidney Bates who were embarking overseas. They were presented with money belts and certificates from the Shire Council and parcels from the Junior Red Cross. Sid Bates also received a presentation from the Christmas Hills Rifle Club.

George William Walters, the son of Jim and Myrtle Walters of Paul's Creek, voluntarily enlisted in the Militia on 19 October 1937 when he was 18 years old. He was a shipping clerk with Shell Australia living at Kew and working in the city. He was promoted to Lance Corporal in 1939 and transferred to the Reserves in July 1940. Three months later he enlisted in the RAAF and trained to become a flying officer. He was sent to England where he was stationed at the RAF station Northholt to the west of London. He died during a flying battle over the English Channel on 18 July 1943 aged 23. He left a wife, Elinor, who was then living at Coburg.

In November 1940 the Yarra Glen Red Cross began to hold monthly dances at the Memorial Hall and an Emergency Auxiliary was started at Christmas Hills. The Agricultural & Horticultural Society held a smoke night to farewell its members Corporal **William McDonald** of Tarrawarra, **R. W. Lithgow** and **J. Selman**. They were presented with wallets.

At the end of 1940 petrol rationing was introduced which particularly affected country people. Not only for transport but also machinery used on farms. Gas producers were installed as restrictions tightened. These were unwieldy constructions on vehicles that contained

burning charcoal. The charcoal gave off a gas that powered the engine. Drivers had to stop frequently to replenish the coke and to stir the fire. It was hot, dirty and dangerous. The charcoal was produced using kilns built in the bush near the source of a timber supply. **Alf Smith, Gordon Hubbard** and others supplied charcoal to local consumers.



Jack Mann's cattle truck c.1941 with a gas producer on the front

1941

Nathaniel White enlisted with the RAAF in February 1941. Born in Yarra Glen in 1911 he was the son of Nathaniel and Sarah (Doak)White. He was also sent to England where he flew with the RAF 59 Squadron. On 21 April 1942 he was killed during a flying battle over the North Sea.

The Yarra Glen Show was held on 22 March with a record number of entries but the attendance was marred by bleak weather. On 25 April the Railways conducted a fishing excursion to Yarra Glen. About 500 fishermen occupied four miles of riverbank greatly diminishing the odds of making a catch, in fact no one caught more than one fish. A young boy won three prizes with a 17 ½ oz English perch: the heaviest bag, the heaviest fish and the juvenile prize.

In June the young people of the town formed their own organization to support the war effort called the Younger Set. Les Weller was President, Miss Vera Farrer Secretary and Enid Ault Treasurer. Miss Farrer later resigned and was replaced by Margaret Commerford as Secretary. By the end of October the group had presented £17/19/4 to the Comforts Fund, £2/10/- to the Victims of Bombing in Britain Appeal, £6/10/- for the purchase of canteen orders for local boys overseas, and £22/1/- for the Red Cross. Margaret Commerford became noted for her skills in organising these successful community functions.

Australia took a greater part in the war in the Middle East and Europe in 1941. There was a drive to increase recruitment to the armed services to build and replenish the forces overseas. This created a shortage of labour within Australia and women were encouraged to join the WAAF and the AWAS. Over fifty men with links to Yarra Glen enlisted in 1941. Those living in the district at the time included **Bob Riddell, Allan** and **John Morris** and **Louis William Adolph Galletly** who enlisted in March, **Reg Wilson** who enlisted in April and

Fred Sadlier who enlisted in June. **Tom** and **Bill Smedley** had been born in Yarra Glen but were living in NSW when they enlisted on the 12 February and the 18 June respectively. **'Dolph' Galletly** became a corporal in the 2/29 Battalion and was killed in action in Malaya in February 1942. Six **Adams** brothers enlisted: **Alf** the eldest at 35 enlisted in March 1941 with the RAAF. The others joined the Army: **Ron** aged 20, in May and **Bill** (31) in July, **Dick** (26), **Allen** (21) and **Bob** the youngest at 18 enlisted in August 1941.

In July the Red Cross established a Blood Bank in Yarra Glen and received a significant number of donors. It was the first bank set up outside the metropolitan area.

Allen Brown, auctioneer of Croydon, announced in September that the monthly cattle sales at Yarra Glen would be changed to quarterly sales. This was mainly due to petrol rationing and transport problems.

At a Council Meeting in Eltham Cr Irvine and Cr Bell of Yarra Glen presented opposite views regarding the payment of council employees who had enlisted. The former argued that the Council should be paying the difference between their services pay and that of their council position. Cr Bell was against it because he said it was unfair to non-Council employees who had not only lost their regular employment but would be paying taxes to support the payment of Council officers.

A farewell function was held at the Yarra Glen Memorial Hall in December for the Morris family of Steels Creek. The newspaper report of the occasion said that organizers had to comply with the new blackout regulations.

Japan entered the war in December 1941 with the bombing of Pearl Harbour. The 6th and 7th Divisions were called home from Syria to fight in South East Asia and the Pacific. The Militia which had been deployed in Australia for home defence soon found that they were to be sent to New Guinea.

1942

Early in January the Yarra Glen Citizens Farewell Committee conducted a farewell dance at the Memorial Hall for Pte **George Botting** who had enlisted on 12 December and was leaving for overseas service. George was a Member of the Board of Management of the Presbyterian Church which also gave him a farewell evening. The congregation presented him with a fountain pen and 'eversharp' pencil set in an inscribed case together with a £1 note.

Mrs Gilbert Bell replaced Jack Lithgow as the Secretary of the Red Cross. The Lilydale and Healesville Volunteer Defence Corps (Eastern Battallion) conducted a 'realistic defence action' early in the hours of Sunday 18 January. The exercise included taking charge of roads and bridges from Lilydale to Healesville. 'Enemy troops' were landed at Yarra Glen and Healesville. VDC troops were placed at strategic points to observe the enemy troop movements which they had to report back to Headquarters by using signaling lamps. Ambulance officers and other support groups were included in the exercise. The enemy was attacked and captured!

Also in January a meeting was held in Healesville to discuss a government proposal that the passenger trains be stopped or reduced because of the need to conserve coal.

It was during this period the Australians were fighting a bitter campaign in Malaya, Singapore and New Guinea. Albert Bates, Dolph Galletly and Austin Wilson lost their lives and **Henry Wilson** and **Bert McCoomb** were taken prisoner. After the war Bert McCoomb came to reside in Yarra Glen with his family. He was an active member of the RSL and also a trustee of the Memorial Hall for many years.

The bombing of Darwin in February and Japan's conquests in Indonesia raised the fear of major Japanese attacks on the mainland. 'Brownouts' and 'blackouts' restricting use of lights at night were introduced in urban and coastal areas. At night headlights on vehicles had to be masked so that they were not visible from the air. Rationing was extended to include tea, sugar, butter, meat and clothing. The grocers, cafes and other businesses that provided food outlets struggled to survive.

The 1942 Yarra Glen Agricultural and Horticultural Show was cancelled and in its turn, the 1943 one.

On Saturday 21 March a meeting was convened by Cr **Allan Bell** and Mr **Albert Woodroffe** at the Memorial Hall to form a local branch of the Volunteer Defence Corp. The following day about twenty men accompanied Bell and Woodroffe to Lilydale for medical tests and to be sworn in. They included **Norm Allen, Henry Ault, Arthur Bassett, Gilbert Bell, Gordon Bancell** (of Christmas Hills), **William Cumming, Vic Henderson, Ted Parker, Ivor Searle, Gordon Smedley** and **Tom Towner**.

The danger did not always come from the enemy. Many lives were lost on home soil and particularly during training for the Air Force. On the night of 15th April 1942, at approx. 11.15 pm, a Lockheed Hudson bomber while on a night training flight crashed at Christmas Hills. All of the crew of five were killed when a 250 lb bomb exploded. They were Pilot Officer Richard George Banks, Pilot Officer Ronald Loris Nall, Sergeant Alan William Amey, Sergeant Norman Leslie Thomas and Leading Aircraftman Keith William Higgie. It is believed the plane crashed at "Four Winds", Skyline Road.

The Fire Brigade lost its secretary when **Ralph Keets** (age 34) enlisted on 10 July 1942. He was replaced by 'Robbie' Robinson and **Ken White** replaced Jack Lithgow on the Committee. The Fire Brigade was concerned about the normal hazards of bushfires in the summer but now they were also considering the risk of incendiary bomb attacks by enemy planes. The Committee decided they needed to buy at least four stirrup pumps and three first aid kits.

The Younger Set had taken over responsibility for the entertainment functions for Red Cross fundraising and reported a successful year. A total of £223/1/7 had been made. The 1942/43 Younger Set Committee was: Les Weller, President, Mrs Ede Woods, Secretary and Miss Enid Ault, Treasurer.

Mrs Ivor Searle had allowed her fruit shop to be used by the Red Cross as a depot for receiving, sorting and packing the items to be dispatched to the forces. The Red Cross later took over the vacant building of the old peg factory. At the 1942 Red Cross AGM the new Executive Committee consisted of Miss J McDonald, Miss I McDonald and Miss Enid Ault. The Superintendent, Constable O. Fleischer was re-elected. The Hon. Secretary and Treasurer was 'Robbie' Robinson.

The Allied Forces continued to wage war in Europe and North Africa. From July to November the Australian 9th Division fought the battle of El Alamein. **Alan 'Micky' Morris**, son of Les Morris, was serving with the 2/24th Battalion when he died of wounds in Libya on 24 October 1942. He is buried at the El Alamein War Cemetery.



Micky Morris (1918-1942)

1943

The Lilydale Express 29 January 1943 reported that Dick and Alan Adams

have just returned from a most hazardous position off the Australian coast. These members of a famous garrison are, we understand, on the sick list.

They had been serving with the 2/2 Independent Company commandos in Timor. After the Japanese had taken the island the 2/2 unit remained and fought a guerilla war for twelve months until evacuated in December 1942. Alan was in Australia for only a few weeks before being sent to New Guinea and then to Borneo.

Like the Red Cross the Catholic Welfare Organisation also raised funds and provided welfare aid for the troops. The local branch organized its first Catholic Welfare Ball on May 28 1943 at the Memorial Hall. At the suggestion of Constable Fleischer the guests included soldiers from

a camp in the neighbourhood who had assisted in the search for a missing aeroplane.

In June 1943 the Presbyterian Church provided a farewell function for **Jack White**, son of Charles and Margaret White. Jack had attended the Sunday School as a child and later assisted as a teacher. He trained to be a pilot with the RAAF.

The Lilydale Express printed a report from the War Agricultural Committee in July which included the following

The controller of rubber advises that arrangements have been made for special releases of rubber to repair [rubber boots] and farmers are urged to use this service to the fullest extent.

Another community farewell was held on Saturday 7 August 1943 when **Will Orenshaw** left for service in the Navy and **Eric Brudenall** with the AIF. Mr Mills presented them with a wallet each.

In September news would have reached Yarra Glen that **Bill Hellens** was missing presumed dead in New Guinea. He had been living in the Yarra Glen district when he enlisted in July 1942 with the 2/24 Battalion. He is commemorated on the Brunswick Honour Board (his birthplace) and at the Memorial Tower in Kangaroo Ground. On the Yarra Glen Honour Roll he is listed as W. Hilms (probably a transcription error).

In December the Yarra Glen Agricultural & Horticultural Society once again held its annual meeting. The 1942 and '43 shows had been cancelled due to wartime restrictions. The new committee planned to hold a Horticultural Show in the Memorial Hall in March 1944. Proceeds were to go to the Red Cross.

1944

Despite continuing difficulties with transport the Horticultural Show held on March 18 1944 was pronounced a success. There was strong competition in all sections: Flowers, Vegetables, Dairy Produce, Fruit, Cookery, Jams & Preserves, and Needlework.

In April **Ernest Arthur Cary**, the highly respected Secretary of the Yarra Glen Show, received the news that his youngest son **Albert** (aged 19) had died in New Guinea. Albert was a Leading Aircraftman serving in the 15 Aircraft Repair Depot at Port Moresby. He and his elder brother, **Ernest**, had enlisted in the RAAF only twelve months earlier although Albert had also served three years in the Army. Ernest was discharged in 1946.

In May Constable Fleischer, who had been very busy in community activities during the war years, was transferred to the Wimmera. Yarra Glen police matters were then attended to by Healesville police for some time. The delay in appointing another local officer was attributed to the lack of a suitable site for a police station.

Due to shortages of coal rail services were reduced. From November 1944 a bus service took passengers to Lilydale on Sunday evenings instead of the steam train.

1945

The year started with drought conditions creating a serious shortage of fodder for animals. This situation was not relieved until good rains fell in May.

A new ration book issue was made at the Memorial Hall on 2 and 3 June 1945. Applicants had to present their Civilian ID card, an occupation survey card and their old ration books. There were black books for people 9 years and over, red for children between ages of 5 and 9 years, and green for children under 5.

After a four year hiatus the Yarra Glen branch of the RSSILA reformed again to assist in the rehabilitation of district soldiers. The President was **Archie Purdie** and Secretary **Pat Kelly**. The Womens Auxiliary donated £40. The Eltham Shire also sponsored the formation of a Shire repatriation committee.

End of the war

The Japanese surrender on 15 August 1945 brought relief and jubilation. One of the first organised victory celebrations at Yarra Glen was for the school children. On Friday August 17 children from all the district schools gathered at Yarra Glen for a sports day. It was not competitive, no prizes were given, but 120 children had afternoon tea and a gift of lollies and fruit.

A formal welcome home for nineteen returned 'boys' was held at the Memorial Hall on 19 October with a dance and euchre evening. Cr Irvine presented each soldier with a fountain pen. The Lilydale Express listed those attending as **W. [Bill] Adams, W. Smith, F[red] Sadlier, T[ommy] Thompson, C[Albert] McCoomb, S[id] Bates, A[rchie] T. Purdie, W. Marshall, and W[Bill] Ayres**. The men unable to attend were **R[Bob] Adams, E. McLean, J. Smedley, J[ack] W. White, R. Clifford, Roy Lithgow, R[on] Adams, M[ark] Shaw and M[ax] T. Clinton**.

Then followed a series of victory balls. The first was the Red Cross ball on 26 October. The Ladies Guild of St Paul's held one on 16 November and the RSSILA planned one for New Year's Eve.

Not everyone was able to celebrate because so many did not return from the war. Mrs Galletly did not receive formal notification until October 1945 that her missing son Dolph had died in Singapore in February 1942.

The shortage of coal continued and in December train services were again reduced, including the 7.08pm Lilydale-Healesville and the 8.30pm Healesville-Lilydale.

As the men returned the sports teams were re-formed, the first being the Yarra Glen Cricket Team for the 1945-46 summer season.

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