WINDSOR & DISTRICTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

# Journal

Volume 38
No 4
November 2026



This gentleman's story is on page 8

*Also featuring:*

*Society news*

*Lanham Ave*

*Remembrance Day*

*Cracker Night*

# Journal

**Volume 38 Number 4**

**November 2026**

**Produced and edited by**

**Rob Price B.Pharm UQ**

**Secretary WDHS**

***Much of the historical material was sourced from the Society's record collection, Trove and other online data bases.***

Circulation manager

Gem Cowlishaw

*Delivered by email to members.*

***Recent issues are viewable online at www.windsorhistorical.org.au***

**We are dedicated to preserving the history of the old Windsor Shire / Town areas of :**

**Albion ***
**Alderley ***
**Eagle Junction ***
**Grange**
**Kalinga**
**Lutwyche**
**Newmarket ***
**Wilston**
**Windsor**
**Wooloowin**




**And now extended to cover Gordon Park and Herston.**

*** part of this suburb**

## Contact details

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## View our sites

**Web: www.windsorhistorical.com.au**

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**Our home**

**New opening hours from October 2026**

**Saturday 10am—2pm**

**Also by appointment.**

# Society News

**August 2—Sunday.** The society was invited to create an historical display for the 100th anniversary of the (second) St Andrew's Anglican Church at Lutwyche. Committee members attended the church service at 8.30am and then morning tea in the adjacent hall afterwards. The display in the hall was well received by the attendees.







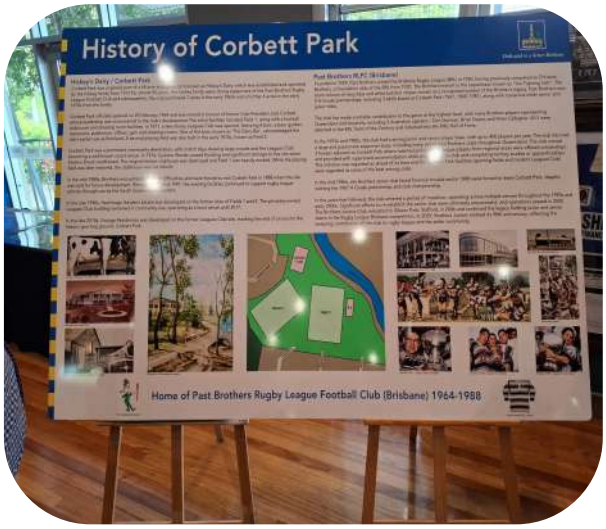






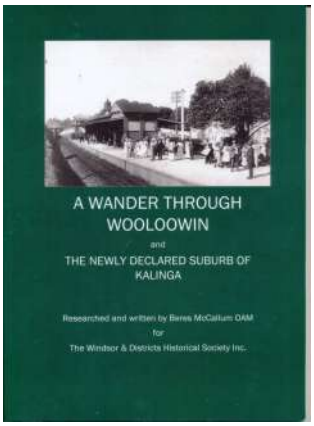


**August 15—Saturday.** Society secretary Rob Price was invited to attend the unveiling of the Corbett Park commemorative sign. This was held at Padua College Kedron. The sign would be erected close to the original site at a later date. The society was involved in the research of the site's history for the sign. - original Hickey's dairy which later became the site of Corbett Park in 1964.—the home of the Brisbane Brothers Rugby League Club.




**August 16—Sunday.** The society conducted a history presentation– the creation of the suburb of Wooloowin. Society president Matthew Crook delivered an informative presentation along with a power point display

With a vast collection of local historical records at its disposal, the society offers a wealth of material for these presentations.








***The large crowd listening to the main speaker Wayne Bennett (with David Wright).***



**August 29—Saturday.** The society hosted a stall at Windsor State School's ***WindsorFest***—a popular event drawing large crowds. Members Gem, Alison, Rob, and Sue managed the stall, engaging with numerous visitors who came to view the display and purchase the society's historical books.





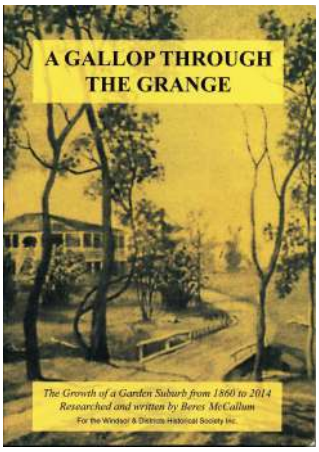

**September 25—Friday.** The newly formed Windsor Probus Club, invited the society to present a talk at its monthly meeting at the Windsor Community Centre. Secretary Rob Price delivered an engaging talk on the evolution of Windsor—tracing its roots from Shire to Town, and ultimately to Suburb—to an audience of around forty members.








**October 18—Sunday.** The society conducted a history presentation– the creation of the suburb of Grange. Society president Matthew Crook delivered an informative presentation along with a power point display.






*Note: Photos of this presentation were not available at this time.*

# AGM

The Society's Annual General Meeting will be held at the chambers

**15 November 2026 commencing at 4pm**

Everyone is invited

An interesting presentation of the history of Windsor will follow the meeting, concluding with refreshments

# The naming of

# Lanham Ave

# & Lanham Park




Lanham Ave and Lanham Park were named after

## Ernest Lanham



Born at Ithaca Creek Brisbane in 1886. His early life was spent at Nambour. Ernest married Elizabeth Cross at Laidley in 1909, and in 1911 relocated to Days Road Newmarket (now Grange).
Two daughters were born.



The area was part of the **Town of Windsor**. Ernest worked as a building contractor and built many homes in the area.

Ernest was elected as an **Alderman in the Windsor Town Council** for the years 1920, 1924 and 1925

In 1925, twenty Shires and Towns were amalgamated into **Greater Brisbane.**

Ernest Lanham was elected as **Alderman for the new ward of Enoggera** in this first Greater Brisbane City Council, and remained as Alderman until his passing in 1949. He had served on most standing committees in the Council, and at the time of his death, was Chairman of the Works Committee and Chairman of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade Board.

The Lanham park of today was originally a swampy area. In the 1920s, Ald Lanham purchased the area to preserve it for a future park. Eventually he convinced the Council to create the park and then sold the land back to Council.




He owned one of the first cars in the area—a small Ford with the registration **Q3.** It was told the he was often called in the middle of the night to transport pregnant women to the local Hospital for the birth of their child.

***An extract from the history of the formation of the Grange Bowls Club* by Reg Steer:**

When it became obvious that World War Two was drawing to a close a number of ARP (Air Raid Precaution) Volunteers, who travelled on the **same tram** each morning, decided that there should be some means of keeping the group together. One of them eventually came up with the idea of forming a bowling club. So, the club really originated on that tram.

**Alderman E. Lanham,** the City Council member for the district and also a bowler of note at Enoggera, was approached and asked how they should go about the idea and called a meeting in the Newmarket Progress Hall on 22 May 1944. It was then decided at this meeting that a Bowling Club be formed, and **Ernie Lanham was elected as the first President.** Ernie Lanham undertook to conduct the necessary legal matters with the City Council regarding the lease of property in the park (which incidentally is now Lanham Park) and the Club was granted sufficient ground for a Club House and Green at a rental of 10 guineas per year.

**Ernie Lanham,** as Chairman of the BCC Works Committee was able to procure all kinds of equipment necessary for the building of a Green.

In 1945 a small shed was erected of fibro, galvanized iron and timber, mostly donated by members. The floor was part concrete and part ashes. Afternoon tea was had a trestle tables while the President's Chair was a beer keg. There was great jubilation one Saturday afternoon when a truck arrived with a second-hand 'Four Holer' and Fred Smith was promptly appointed caretaker. (*Note a fourholer is an old- style back yard toilet with four seats).*

Wives and friends not only supplied afternoon teas (in spite of severe rationing) but also helped in teasing grass when the planting stage was reached. One week-end **Ernie Lanham** lined up the ladies in alphabetical order (Christian names) and invited each of them to plant a section of turf.

The Club was officially opened on 3 November 1945 by Mr Joe Gibson, President of the QBA now RQBA.

The club became the first post World War Two Club in the metropolitan area if not the first in Queensland.




Ernest Lanham passed away on
16 December 1949

Lord Mayor John Chandler stated at the funeral that *"**Alderman Lanham had had more experience in local government than anyone else in Brisbane"*** **and**

***"Alderman Lanham was one of the kindliest men I have ever known. I regard him as my right - hand man".***

**TRIBUTES TO ALD. LANHAM**

**THREE clergymen, aldermen of both parties in the Brisbane City Council, Fire Brigade Board Members, and firemen paid tribute yesterday to Ald. E. Lanham, who died suddenly on Friday.**

Hundreds of people attended the services in the Wilston Methodist Church and at the Brisbane Crematorium.

The clergymen who spoke at the services were the Revs. F. Chowns, of the Wilston Church, the Rev. W. L. Slater, who had been in charge of Wilston church for many years, and the President of the Methodist Conference (the Rev. H. W. Prowse).

The Lord Mayor (Alderman Chandler) led the pall-bearers, who included the Vice-Mayor (Ald. Moon), the Deputy Labour Leader (Ald. Holmes), the Transport Committee chairman (Ald. Roberts), Ald. R. Gray, and the Town Clerk (Mr. J. C. Slaughter).

Outside the church, firemen formed a guard of honour as the coffin was carried to the hearse.

Ald. Lanham was chairman of the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board, as well as Works Committee chairman in the City Council.




***Plaque in Lanham Park***

# A Pioneer cinematographer

## with a connection to Windsor



**Alfred William Burne (1885—1975 ) lived in Main Ave Windsor from 1923 to his passing in 1975.**

His story was documented by his granddaughter Judith Campbell in 2002: *Photos added by the editor*

**The story of my grandfather –**
My grandfather Alfred William Burne was born at Alt Street, Ashfield, SYDNEY, and was the sixth surviving child of eleven children born to Edwin and Eliza Burne. His father Edwin was a house painter and decorator and the family moved about the suburbs of Sydney every couple of years. However Alfred spent most of his early years living with his family in the suburb of Mosman on Sydney's North Shore. When he was 12 years old, he left school and got his first job as a "cabin boy" on a sailing ship and went to Perth.

Back in Sydney a few years later, he started his remarkable career in the film industry working for one of Australia's early film producers – Clem Mason. He got his first job helping film a scene at Bondi Beach – the year was 1905. Following this, Alfred returned to work as a projectionist in Kalgoorlie in Western Australia before coming to Brisbane in 1908 to work as a **projectionist for "King's" pictures at the Lyceum Theatre in George Street, Brisbane.**

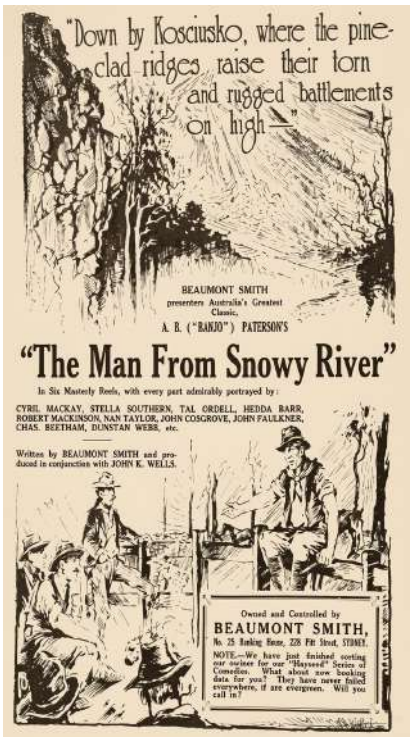



He would travel to country areas showing the films and it was about this time he became involved with the film industry in Brisbane when he bought himself a "Pathe" movie camera and taught himself basic skills. He then began to photograph local football matches to screen at the movies before the feature films commenced – and this pleased the local theatregoers no end, as they had never seen anything like this before.
It was at the theatre he met his wife to be Lucy (my grandmother). She was an accomplished violinist who played in the orchestra in the Pit for the music of the silent movies. They were married at St. Luke's Anglican Church, Brisbane on the 7. 09. 1910. A house in Mary Street Greenslopes was where they were living when George, the first of their children was born. Their children were: -

| Name | Born |
|---|---|
| George Alfred | 19. 06. 1911 |
| Leonard Smith | 03. 10. 1913 |
| Joan Lenora | 24. 08. 1917 |
| Gloria Edna | 03. 05. 1920 |



Alfred and Lucy took their young family to Sydney in 1920 where Alfred was to work for the producer E J Carrol as the second cameraman on the feature movie called "Man from Kangaroo". Following this in the same year he was cameraman for "Jackaroo from Coolabong", "Shadow of Lightning Ridge", "Silks and Saddles "and the first production of **"The Man from Snowy River".** The family lived at 21 Myagah St., Mosman and the house overlooked the cricket oval where the two sons George and Len would help keep the scoreboard each Saturday afternoon. My mother Joan was only about 3 years old at this time.




Returning to Queensland in 1922 the family lived at Coolangatta where Alfred did some work for the Town Council. He also did some work in "still" photography together with a friend and artist John Salvana who would accompany him and paint. Alfred had a skill for making chocolates as well, and would sell them to the bathers on the beach



***Kirra beach***

A move to Brisbane followed in 1923, and the family took up residence at 144 Main Avenue, **Windsor,** where they resided for the rest of the lives.

The Department of Agriculture and Stock appointed him Government Cinematographer in 1923, he and his wife Lucy and daughter Joan, travelled all over the State of Queensland filming documentaries of this industry for the Attorney General's Department in London.




The first Queensland produced film was made in 1925 –26.
A well-known producer called **Charles Cheval** invited Alfred to be his cameraman and the movie was "The Moth of Moonbi".
This was followed by "Greenhide" in 1926. Alfred helped with the production and editing of these films and processed and printed the negatives himself. His eldest son **George** became involved with this film when he filmed a buckjumping scene for him. 1929 was the year he resigned from the Government, and he and his two sons began to do commissioned films and made newsreel stories and theatre advertisements for "Australian Gazette" and "Paramount". These were shown in local theatres and the family worked under the name of "**Al Burne Films".**

That same year 1929, saw the arrival of the "Talkies". Alfred was unable to purchase the necessary equipment so he devised his own system of putting "sound" onto film which worked very satisfactorily for him, and he then registered the Company as "Al Burne **Kinetone** Sound Films".




PHONES:
57 1131-2
57 4908

AFTER HOURS
56 4503

Kinetone Productions Pty. Ltd.
FILM PRODUCERS
STUDIO & LABORATORIES
144-146 MAIN AVE., WINDSOR
BRISBANE

That same year the aviator Bert Hinkler flew across the Pacific Ocean and Alfred filmed the arrival of his historic flight at Eagle Farm to show as a newsreel item at the Brisbane theatres .




***Alfred was invited to the reception for Bert at Bundaberg, and he obtained his signature***



Such newsreel stories as the **crash of the Stinson plane in the Lamington Plateau in** 1937 and the **opening of the Sydney Harbour Bridge** and working as **General MacArthur's Cinematographer** in Brisbane during the Second World War are only a few examples of his work.

When the War ended "Kinetone" continued in do documentaries and general film work for **Movietone News** and producing newsreel items and advertisements for local theatres. The world's longest running "Commercial" was for "Simpson's Sawmill" which was in cartoon form with the drawings by artist Rowland Greenhalgh. It featured two chipmunks gathering logs and floating them down the river to the sawmill. It was shown at the theatres in Brisbane for over 30 years.

Television came to Queensland in 1959 and "**Kinetone"** next progressed to the processing of film for television. They also began working for the Brisbane races and that involved photographing and processing the film on site in a specially equipped caravan which enabled them to print the film before the start of the next race. Highlights of the races were shown on television during the evening news.
The younger brother Len died after a short illness in 1969 and by the early 1970's the company was run by **George** as by this time Alfred was too old to be involved with the running of it.
By 1976 "Kinetone" had wound down and the television stations took over their own film processing.

Alfred passed away peacefully in 1976, having willed his films to the National Film Archives in Canberra, where they are drawn upon from time to time for their historical and news content


KINETONE PRODUCTIONS - BRISBANE FIELD SERVICE 1930



*1931 photo by Alfred Byrne of*
*Sir Charles Kingsford-Smith*

*Alfred Burne films*
*a WW2 Bomber*





*Alfred Burne*
*and his sons*
*on filming day*

*George and his crew film the*
*local horse races*



.



**George Alfred Burne** was born in 1911.

Eldest son of Alfred and Lucy Burne

**Note: George Burne was a foundation member of the Windsor & Districts Historical Society**

As boys George and his brother Len watched their father in the darkroom developing films in their home in Main Avenue in Windsor. When George was 14 he gained his first assignment covering the Queensland versus New South Wales football match at the Exhibition Grounds.

At the age of fifteen George worked as second cameraman on his father's second film, *Greenhide*. He then obtained work on newsreels for the Australian Cinesound while his father worked on the opposition American company Movietone. George's film portraying hardship in Brisbane in the Great Depression is still in demand today. He continued to work on projects in the 1930s including accompanying the Chapman exhibition in 1932 to search for Lassiter's lost gold reef.

World War II saw George working as a correspondent in Brisbane, where he was attached to MacArthur's headquarters. He photographed the Americans in Brisbane and also travelled to Darwin to film the Japanese attacks.



Date 6/7/42
Identity Card No. 92 is issued to
George Alfred BURNE
whose signature, photograph, personal particulars, and thumb print appear hereon as an accredited war correspondent with the Forces in the S.W. Pacific Area, representing
Fox News
(Organisation)
subject to the provisions contained in U.S. War Department Basic Field Manual FM 30-26, and AFR-101: Standing Orders for Accredited War Correspondents and for Field Press Censors, Commonwealth of Australia, 1942.
By Command of
GENERAL MACARTHUR
for R.A. Luker, Col. A.A.G.
Lt. Col. Lloyd Kehrberg
A.A.G.
Press Relations Officer,
G.H.Q., S.W.P. Area.
G.H. Burne
(Signature of Correspondent)
Age 31
Eyes Light Blue
Hair Fair
Weight Medium
Height 5ft 9
Nationality British




The Burne brothers, Len and George, pose with their famous "woodie" Willys in a typical suburban setting in 1950. The "Kinetone" was replaced by "Movietone" or "Cinesound" when they were doing contract work.

***After the War George and his brother enlarged their film making and processing company, Kinetone.***



***The film processing building in the backyard of the Burne home in Windsor***

t heart of history

# Films graphic in portrayal of life

NORTH-WEST NEWS 28-10-1992

By Ann Matson

IF Windsor was the birthplace of the film industry in Brisbane then George Burne and his family were those who tended its nursery.

Almost 70 years after working on his first feature film with pioneering cinematographer father Al, 81-year-old George will casts a critical eye over the work of his present day colleagues.

And with more than 150 tins of film in the National Film Archrres in Canberra, this George resident speaks with a significant doss of know-how.

Newsreels, feature films and herse racing films — their planning, production and development of technology — have filled his life.

The son of a theatre archestra musician and film projectionist turned film maker, it seams George was destined to carve a niche in his country's cinematography history.

As a youngster, he and his brother Len watched their father at work in the darkroom built under their house at Main Ave, Windsor.

It was there that Al Burne processed Queensland's first two commercial feature films, Maths of Moonbi and Greenhide.

"I call that the birthplace of the film industry in Queensland," George said.

He can recall his first assignment as a 14-year-old in 1925 — covering a Queensland versus New South Water foutball match at the Exhibition grounds for Paramount News.

Many significant moments in history were to be captured bytween then and the processing of his last spoal in 1984 after 24 years filming horse reces around various Brisbane tracks.

At the age of 15 George worked as second comeranian on his father's second film, Greenhide.

He then began working on newersels for Australian compaby Clnssound while his father worked for the opposition American company Movietone.

The advent of sound presented the family with its greatest challenge.

"Sound came in and we didn't know anything about it but with the Depression we had to get the work, so we managed to manufecture our own sound system." George said.

His fiim of the Depression graphically portraying the hardship of Brisbane families is still in demand when the film makers of today refer to that are.

The footage commissioned by the Brisbane City Mission cantured men fighting for food and women receiving clothing and bedding handouts.

Accompanying the 1937 Chapman expedition into cantert Australia in march of Lassiter's lost gold reef, covering the 1936 wreck of the Maheno on Fraser Island and five royal tours were among his biggest assignments. (1937)

The 1930s Stinson plane crash near Beaudesert was an example of the demands foced by competitive newsreel makers eager to be first with the film.

George recalled how searchers had taken 10 days to find the wreckage.

"I got a call at two in the morning to say it had been found," he said.

"We went out there and the first thing we had to contend with was climbing a 3000 foot mountain.

"We didn't make it the first day because authorities fold us to turn around and head back out.

"I went to the Tivoli Theatre and the manager said, 'Get the round gear and get back out there quickly'."

His effort was rewarded with interviews with the two servivors and their rescuer.

It was after that Movietone decided to sign up a second Burne, with George joining his father Al working for the American newsreel company.

World War II found George working as a correspondent in Brisbane.

"I was attached to General MacArthur's headquarters on the seventh flour of the AMP building and there was a press conference at noon every day," he said.

"I photographed the Yanks around town and the 32nd Division near Mr Tamborine.

"I photographed General MacArthur a lot."

Wartime work also included stints in Darwin soon after the Japanese bambing and time in Townsville.

After the war George and his brother decided to add to their existing film making and processing companies Kinetone

• To page S3



• Film pinwer George Burne in familiar pore.



• George gets a good view of a Warwick roden in the early 1992s.

*In his later years George resided at Frome St Grange*

*He passed away in 1997*

• Pioneer . . . George Burne receives recognition.

A pioneering cinematographer has been recognised posthumously in the Australia Day Honors list released this week.

George Alfred Burne, a former Grange resident, was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for his service to the Australian film industry

Mr Burne died on August 17, 1997.




Mr Burne's daughter Wendy Gilbert said she was delighted her father had been honored but was disappointed he had not lived to know about it.

"He would have been very proud to receive the OAM," she said.

For 30 years, Mr Burne was the Queensland representative for Cinesound and Movietone newsreels and filmed such events as pioneer aviators Bert Hinkler and Amy Johnson landing at Eagle Farm airport and the rescue of survivors from the Stinson plane crash.

After World War II, he joined his father Alfred William Burne and his brother Len to form their family company, Kinetone Productions, at Main Ave, Windsor.

Mr Burne, grandfather of ironwoman Karla Gilbert, was a founding member of the Windsor Historical Society, a member of the Wilston Grange Progress Association and Rotary.

The Australia Day Honors list was announced by Governor-General Major-General Peter Arnison. Four other north-west residents have been recognised in the list (see page 2).

Public relations spokeswoman Cindy Godden said recipients of posthumous awards were required to be nominated before their deaths.



*1992 George—3rd from right, at a WDHS society meeting*



***The society has a large collection of records relating to Alfred and George Burne including some historical film footage including the history of Kinetone.***

***These can be inspected at the Windsor Council Chambers on Saturdays when open 10am—2pm.***

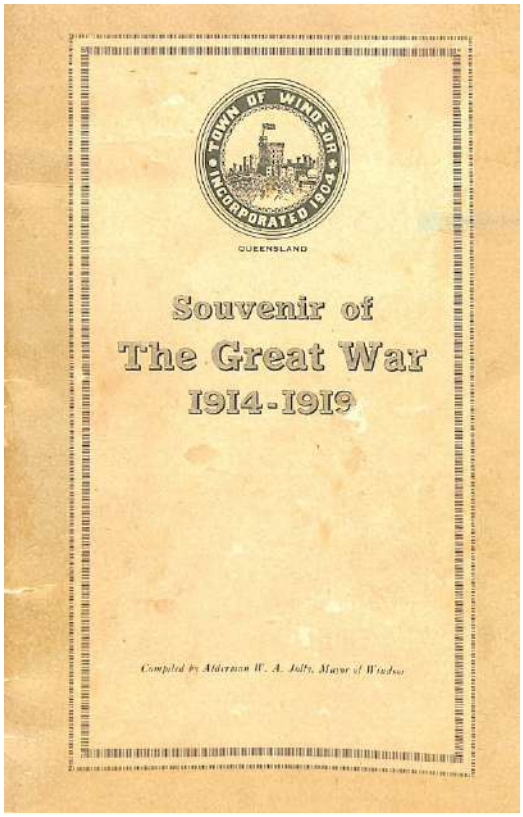
# Armistice Day—Remembrance Day
# November 11

**Armistice Day** marked the historic agreement that ended active fighting on the Western Front in World War I. Held annually on **November 11**, it commemorated the moment the ceasefire went into effect—on the "11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month" in 1918.

After the end of World War II in 1945, the British government proposed renaming the day **Remembrance Day** across the Commonwealth. Because millions more servicemen and women had lost their lives in WWII, the focus moved beyond the 1918 WWI Armistice to encompass all conflicts and casualties.

The Town of Windsor existed during WW1 and around 1100 of the local men enlisted.

A booklet of 46 pages was compiled by the Mayor of the Town of Windsor—William Jolly which included the names of those soldiers and those who paid the supreme sacrifice.




*Daily Standard— 8 October 1919*

## WINDSOR'S WAR SOUVENIR.

As a memento of the great war and a tribute to those who enlisted from the area, the Mayor of Windsor (Alderman W. A. Jolly) has issued a well compiled and neatly printed and illustrated booklet setting forth the various war activities undertaken during the past four years. The names of those who enlisted, number-over 1100 1100, have been compiled in alphabetical order, and special mention is made of 125 who paid the supreme sacrifice. The amounts raised for various purposes included £1800 for Red Cross appeal, exceeding the amount asked by £300, also £800 for repatriation purposes, and £50,000 for the war loan. The Windsor and Wilston-Newmarket branches of the Red Cross Society also did a most admirable work, which is fittingly recognised in the booklet issued, special mention being made of the splendid assistance given to the Rosemount Hospital for sick and wounded soldiers. Reference is also made to the work done by the Girls' Club, Boy Scouts, State schools, and churches, and the booklet contains many fine illustrations of public buildings and photographic reproductions of members of the Town Council, and the various patriotic organisations. The memento is one which conveys an adequate idea of Windsor's war effort, and reflects the greatest credit on the Mayor, who compiled it. On Saturday next at 3 p.m. an official welcome home is being tendered to Windsor soldiers in the Wooloowin State School grounds, at which the Governor (Sir Hamilton Goold-Adams) will be present, and copies of the booklet will be distributed to all Windsor soldiers, and will no doubt be treasured by them as a most interesting memento. At 8 o'clock the same evening a social and dance will be held at the Exhibition Hall.

*A reproduction edition of the book was sponsored by society historian David Teague in 2015*
*Copies can be obtained from the society. Cost $20*



Thanks to David Teague's hundreds of hours of dedicated research, the military and family histories of the soldiers featured in this booklet have been documented. If you have a family member who enlisted from the Town of Windsor in WW1 You can explore this research at the Windsor Council Chambers on Saturdays 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

One of the soldiers that David researched was Jesse Ricketts who lived in Camden St Albion. An interesting story was found regarding his daughter Muriel who became a WW2 **war bride**. **Her story was documented in her obituary** after she passed in the USA in 2021.

***The following is a summary:***

Muriel Rose (Ricketts) Locklear slipped away peacefully on April 16, 2021at the age of 95. Muriel was born on January 15,1926 in Albion, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia.
She was the daughter of Jesse Rose Ricketts and Ivy Myrtle (Keech) Ricketts. Muriel met her husband Ernest "Ernie" B. Locklear, a third generation Sarasota USA native, during World War 11.
Ernie was in the United States Navy and his ship the YP279 was docked in Brisbane. Muriel's girlfriend Gloria Hollywood met Ernie earlier at a dance. Later that evening she introduced Muriel to Ernie, that was in June of 1943.
Ernie's ship left Brisbane on September 1943, but the ship got hit and sunk in the cold Pacific ocean near the Coral Sea. A British ship picked up Ernie and the other survivors after they had floated in the ocean for twelve and a half hours. After picking them up they were taken to Brisbane where Ernie remained until the war was over. Ernie continued dating Muriel. They fell in love and were married 1 April 1944.
On 1 September 1944 in Brisbane their first child was born—Ernest Ronald Locklear.
In 1946, WW2 had come to an end. Ernie, along with all of the other Sailors were being shipped back to the United States.

Ernest Ronald was nearly two and Muriel was seven months pregnant with their 2nd child, when they boarded the ship U.S.S Monterey on July 4, Independence Day. This ship was full of **War Brides** and their children headed to San Francisco to be united with their husbands After arriving in San Francisco 19 July 1946 Muriel and Ron boarded a train headed to Sarasota, Florida. It took five days of continuous traveling on the train before arriving at the trains last stop which was Sarasota. After arriving in Sarasota, their 2nd child was born—a daughter. .Eleven years later they had another son. Sarasota was a very small town in 1946 and it took Muriel a while to get used to it, as Brisbane was a very large city. Ernie sent Muriel and their children back to Australia many times to visit her family and Muriel's family also came to Sarasota and visited her. Ernie and Muriel celebrated their 50th Anniversary with Muriel's family. They were married 55 years before Ernie passed away in 1999.

Her proudest moment was when she was elected as District 10 President of the VFW. Muriel also made many lap robes for veterans. While serving in the 1960's, she was in charge of the Youth Activities. She received many certificates from Bay Pines thanking her for her service and volunteering for so many years. On April 21,1986 Muriel received he Voluntary Service

She was a member of the World War 11 **War Brides** Association and belonged to the Genealogy Association.



***Muriel Rose (Ricketts)Locklear***

***JANUARY 15,1926 -APRIL 16, 2021***

# Do you remember "Cracker Night" on the 5th November

In Australia, **Guy Fawkes Night** (traditionally held on November 5) is no longer widely celebrated, though it holds a prominent place in Australian social history.




Brought over by British settlers in the 19th century, Guy Fawkes Night was traditionally commemorated with neighbourhood bonfires, burning effigies ("guys"), and backyard fireworks displays.



In Australia, the event was commonly known as **Cracker Night**. fireworks celebrations were held on **November 5**.
The widespread public celebration of Guy Fawkes Night faded during the 1970s and 1980s for two main reasons:



Due to growing safety concerns—including severe burns, eye injuries, and bushfire risks—Australian state governments progressively banned the public sale of backyard fireworks and crackers. By the late 1980s, over-the-counter sales to unlicensed individuals were phased out across almost all states and territories.

There are virtually no widespread public celebrations or official events for Guy Fawkes Night in Australia today.




Public fireworks in Australia are largely restricted to licensed professional pyrotechnicians for major events like **New Year's Eve**, **Australia Day**, or community festivals. The only state or territory where members of the public can still legally buy and set off consumer fireworks on a designated day is the **Northern Territory** for *Territory Day* (July 1).



For children growing up in Brisbane during the 1940s,1950s & 1960s there was one night of the year that stood out above all others. It was Cracker Night, a special occasion when the excitement began weeks beforehand and reached its height on the evening of the 5th of November.

As November approached, the talk among school-mates turned to fireworks. Everyone wanted to know who had bought the biggest crackers, who had the best collection, and whose backyard would provide the best spot for the night's celebrations.

In those days, life was much simpler. Television had not yet become part of most Brisbane households, and entertainment often meant making your own fun. For children, Cracker Night was one of the greatest treats of the year.

The preparations usually started several days before the big night. Fireworks were purchased from shops that sold them legally, and the boxes were guarded carefully until the evening arrived.

There were crackers, bungers, Catherine wheels, Roman candles and sky rockets. Some children preferred the noisy varieties, while others were fascinated by the colourful displays that lit up the night sky.

Money was often scarce in the years following the Second World War, so families did not always have much to spend. A few carefully chosen fireworks could provide an evening's entertainment, and children learned to make every penny count.

Some youngsters saved their pocket money for weeks. Others pooled their money with brothers, sisters or neighbours to buy a bigger assortment. There was always a little friendly competition to see who had the best selection.

Of course, the rules were simple. The fireworks belonged to the family until Cracker Night, and nobody was supposed to touch them beforehand.

As the afternoon of the 5th of November wore on, a special feeling spread through the streets of Brisbane.

In the suburbs, families began preparing their back-yards. The lawn was cleared, the garden hose was checked, and a safe space was set aside for lighting the fireworks.

Neighbours came out to see what everyone else had planned. Children ran between houses, comparing their collections and making arrangements to meet up after dark.

In those days, many Brisbane homes had generous backyards, with Hills Hoists, vegetable gardens, fruit trees and old sheds. These provided familiar surroundings for an evening of family fun.

As dusk approached, the smell of the evening meal drifted from open kitchen windows. Mothers called their children inside for tea, reminding them not to spoil their appetites with too many sweets.

But eating was often a hurried affair. Nobody wanted to miss the start of the fireworks.

Once the meal was finished, jumpers were pulled on, shoes were found, and everyone headed out-side.

The waiting was almost unbearable.

At last, darkness settled over Brisbane.

Then, from somewhere down the street, came the first sharp bang.

*Crack!*

From one backyard came a tremendous explosion, followed by cheers. From another came the whistle of a rocket as it climbed into the sky.
Occasionally, a rocket went off course, sending everyone scrambling for a moment before the laughter began again.
The whole neighbourhood seemed to be participating in one enormous celebration.
Looking up, children could see fireworks bursting above rooftops and tall trees.
Sometimes the displays from neighbouring houses were almost as good as their own.
It was a night when fences seemed less important, neighbours were more sociable, and everyone shared in the excitement.
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The children went to bed tired but happy, already talking about what they might buy next year.
The following morning, the evidence of Cracker Night could be seen throughout the neighbourhood. Small pieces of paper littered the ground, spent fireworks lay scattered about, and the smell of smoke lingered in the air.
Children searched the yard for anything that might have been overlooked, although they were warned not to touch unexploded fireworks.
At school, the previous night's adventures became the main topic of conversation. Everyone had a story to tell.
For Brisbane children growing up in the 1940s, 1950s, &1960s, Cracker Night was much more than an evening of fireworks.
It was a tradition that brought families and neighbours together. It was an occasion to look forward to, save for, and remember long after the last cracker had exploded.
Those were years when children spent much of their time outdoors, played in the streets and made their own entertainment.
A bicycle, a cricket bat, a homemade billy-cart or a game of marbles could provide hours of enjoyment.
But when the 5th of November arrived, all those ordinary pleasures took second place.
For one special night, the neighbourhood became a world of noise, colour, smoke and laughter.

As the years passed, changes in laws, attitudes towards safety and the availability of fireworks altered the way such celebrations were held. The familiar Cracker Nights of earlier decades gradually became memories of another time.
Yet for those who were children in Brisbane during the 1940s,1950s & 1960s, the memories remain vivid.
They can still recall the anticipation of waiting for darkness, the first bang from a neighbouring backyard, the hiss of a rocket climbing into the sky, and the brilliant flash that followed.
They remember standing beside their parents, surrounded by brothers, sisters and friends, with the whole evening stretching ahead of them.
And perhaps, more than anything else, they remember the feeling that, for one night of the year, the world was filled with magic.

**That was Cracker Night in Brisbane — a little piece of childhood history that lives on in the memories of those who were there.**

