

# ORBOST & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

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## NEWSLETTER

MAY, 2010

### JARRAHMOND'S AVENUE OF HONOUR

This information has been transcribed from the Avenue of Honour plaque at Jarrahmond.

#### SNOWY RIVER MAIL

Wednesday, May 21, 1947

#### JARRAHMOND TRIBUTE TO SOLDIERS

#### AVENUE OF TREES TO BE PLANTED

The Jarrahmond Social Club wrote to the Orbost Shire Council requesting permission to plant an avenue of trees in memory of soldiers of 1914-1939 wars.

The proposal is to have a plantation from Mr. A. Trewin's to Mr. K. Lynn's property.

The scheme was favorably commented upon by a number of councillors and it was decided that permission be granted under the supervision of the engineer.

#### Jarrahmond Avenue of Honour

During the early days of World War II the Jarrahmond Red Cross was formed, and after the war ended the members, who had become a very close knit group, decided to continue as the Jarrahmond Social Club.

A decision was made by the Club to plant an avenue of honour for those ex-students of the Jarrahmond Primary School who had joined the armed forces. About 1946 some trees were planted west of Lynn's Gulch. These were destroyed by flood. It was then decided to plant the Avenue from the gate of "Fairleigh" (home of the Lynn's) to the gate of "Greendale", the Russell family home. This position was significant because two of the men had been killed. They were Bill Lynn of "Fairleigh" and Mac Russell of "Greendale".

In 1955 a working bee of Social Club members planted oak and flowering cherry and peach trees, and erected tree guards. Unfortunately the avenue was never completed as interest waned, people aged, and some moved, and the Social Club was disbanded around 1970.

The Jarrahmond Landcare Group have slashed and pruned the trees and generally restored the area. The Orbost R.S.L. Sub-branch have organised the erection of the memorial, partly funded by the Dept. Of Veteran Affairs "Their Service, Our Heritage" programme.

Open Column:

# The Jarrahmond Avenue of Trees

(To the Editor)

Dear Sir, —In a recent issue of the "Snowy River Mail" brief mention was made of an avenue of trees at Jarrahmond. Your readers may be interested in the history of this plantation, especially as we have just observed Anzac Day.

In the early days of the 1939-45 war Jarrahmond Red Cross was formed and members were very active fundraisers. After the cessation of hostilities the members, who had become a very close knit group, decided to continue meeting regularly and thus the Jarrahmond Social Club was born.

A decision was made to plant an avenue of trees in honour of the boys who had attended the Jarrahmond school and later joined the armed forces. About 1946 some trees were planted west of Lynn's Gulch, but these were destroyed by flood waters.

It was then decided to plant the avenue of trees from the gate of "Fairleigh", home of Keith and Rene Lynn, to the gate at "Greendale", home of John and Rosa Russell.

The position was significant as two of the Jarrahmond boys had been killed. They were Bill Lynn of "Fairleigh" and Mac. Russell of "Greendale".

1955 saw a working bee of social club members and their families plant oak, flowering cherry and peach trees and erect tree guards. As a continuing effort each family was responsible for the trees they had planted, and many of these trees are still flourishing.

Unfortunately the avenue was never completed as interest waned and the social club was disbanded about 1970.

Simultaneously with the tree planting, two tennis courts were built at Huxter's waterhole on land given by Keith Lynn.

The Jarrahmond school originally had an enrolment of about 90, which included children from Bete Bolong who rowed across the Snowy River to attend.

In 1926 a new school was built at Jarrahmond on land owned by S.J. Lynn, of "Fairleigh", and a school was also built at Bete Bolong. In 1953 a school bus commenced and transported the Jarrahmond pupils to Ruskin street school. The Jarrahmond school was then moved to Brodribb and later to Ruskin street.

The avenue of trees was planted for the following men who served in World War II: Healey, Leonard Keith (Army); Healey, Stanley John (Army); Lock, Mack Ewan (R.A.N.); Lynn, Clyde Keith (Army); Lynn, James Harold (R.A.N.); Lynn, Keith Charles (Army); Lynn, William Archibald (R.A.A.F.); Matthews, Arthur Lawrence (Army); Matthews, Ernest Mead (R.A.A.F.); Matthews, Henry Francis (Army); Morgan, Jack Cowell (R.A.A.F.); Ross, Lachlan (Army); Russell, John McKenzie (Army); Trewin, Albert John (R.A.A.F.); Trewin, James Chester Kerr (Army). — Yours sincerely, I.M. TREWIN, Conran road, Marlo.



# Jarrahmond

The first survey of the Orbost flats took place in 1870, and many settlers came after the subdivision of Orbost Station in 1898. The country was mainly morass, uncleared bushland with sub-tropical jungle, giant mahogany gum trees, ferns, nettles, creepers and giant bracken. The swamps were drained and the giant pumpkins and maize was grown. The maize was shipped down the Snowy River by barge. A large pig industry began because of the availability of maize. Large mobs of pigs were driven to Bairnsdale and maize was carried in a wagon to feed the pigs.

John Rowe was a pioneer teacher of Croajingalong. He arrived in Orbost in 1885 to take charge of two half-time schools. They were Orbost with 9 pupils and Jarrahmond. Jarrahmond school first opened on 19th March 1886. The original school was built on land on the banks of the Snowy River about 5 miles from Orbost, and was School No. 2745. Pupils from Bete Bolong rowed across the river to attend school and the enrolment was about 90.

A new school was built in 1926 after white ants damaged the building, and a school was also built at Bete Bolong. As a result, the numbers at Jarrahmond dropped to about 40. The school was closed after a bus service commenced about 1953. The building was later moved to Brodribb and then to Ruskin Street, Orbost. Jarrahmond was always a one teacher school.

From the pupils who attended this school during World War I, 33 young men and 2 nursing sisters served in the armed forces. Seven of the men were killed in action. The school Honour Roll now hangs in the clubrooms of the Orbost R.S.L. Sub-branch.

During World War II, 15 former pupils enlisted in the armed forces, of whom 2 were killed.



The following pages provide some biographical details of the personnel listed on the above plaque.  
Any corrections or additional information would be appreciated.

**Leonard Keith HEALEY A.I.F.**

Keith was born at Orbost on 10th November, 1921, the son of Frederick John HEALEY and Eileen SHAW. After transferring from Orbost State School, he attended the Jarrahmond State School from August 1934 until he left school in December 1935. He enlisted at Gherang, Vic., on 10th July, 1942, and saw service in the Army during World War 2, Service No. VX103768. He was a Private with the 20th Australian Motor Regiment at the time of his discharge on 28th June 1946.

Keith worked as a shop assistant and is listed as a grocer on the 1949 electoral roll. He was a cleaner at the Orbost High School from 1973-1980. He died at Orbost on 2nd August, 1980, aged 58.



**Stanley John HEALEY A.I.F.**

Stan, who was Keith's younger brother, was born at Orbost on 30th June, 1925. After transferring from Orbost State School, he also attended the Jarrahmond State School from August 1934 until December 1936, when he began his secondary education at Orbost Higher Elementary School. Likewise, he served in the Army during World War 2, Service No. VX146889. He enlisted at Frenchs Forest, N.S.W., on 13th September, 1944, and served in New Guinea and at Bougainville. He was a Private with the 24th Australian Infantry Battalion at the time of his discharge on 24th January 1947.

Stan is listed as a farmer at Marlo on the 1949 electoral roll. He died at Diamond Creek in 1971, aged 45.

**Ewan Mack LOCK R.A.N.**

Mack was born at Orbost on 11th October, 1920, the son of Frederick Lindsay LOCK and Isabella JAMIESON. He enrolled at the Jarrahmond State School on 29th August, 1927, was in attendance until December 1933. He served with the Royal Australian Navy during World War 2, enlisting on 22nd May, 1941, Service No. PM3676. At the time of his discharge on 24th June, 1944, he was an Able Seaman with *HMAS Lonsdale*.

Mack is listed as a farmer and also as the operator of the Capitol Cafe at Orbost on the 1949 electoral roll. His wife, Clara, the daughter of Mr and Mrs B. Dunn, of Tostaree, is listed as next of kin on Mack's Service record.

**Clyde Keith LYNN A.I.F.**

Clyde was born at Bairnsdale on 29th March, 1922, the son of Keith LYNN and Irene RODWELL. He attended Jarrahmond State School, from his enrolment on 1st February, 1922, until 19th December, 1934, when, in the following year, he went on to Orbost Higher Elementary School. He served in the Army during World War 2, Service No. VX118123. From Orbost, he enlisted at Puckapunyal, Vic., on 24th November, 1942. His discharge took place on 18th June, 1945, when he held the rank of Corporal with the 13th A Armoured Regiment. On his return from the war he farmed at 'Fairleigh', Jarrahmond and later on retired to Raymond Street, Orbost.

"Boots" was a member of the Orbost R.S.L. sub-branch and played football for the Orbost Football Club, being captain of the second eighteen team in 1953 and 1955. He was awarded life membership of the Orbost Football Club. Clyde died on 2nd May 1993.



**James Harold LYNN R.A.N.**

Jimmy was born at Jarrahmond on 3rd July, 1920, the son of James Warren LYNN and Florrie GARDNER. He attended Jarrahmond State School from 12th April, 1926, to 11th May, 1928, when he transferred to Orbost 2744 and then went on to Orbost Higher Elementary School. On leaving school, aged 16, he worked on his parents farm before becoming an apprentice motor mechanic with Len Clifford at Orbost Motor Works. He enlisted with the army on 25th July, 1941, as RAN W2263 and, after preliminary training at Williamstown, was based at Flinders Naval Depot. On completing an engineering course on boilers and steam and diesel engines he transferred to Darwin and *HMAS Melville*. After confronting early Japanese raids he transferred to *HMAS Beryl II* and spent a year in Port Moresby before returning to Melbourne, where he worked sweeping minefields in Port Phillip Bay. To conclude his Navy career he was sent to Sydney to decommission his ship and was discharged with the rank of Stoker on the *HMAS Penguin* on 18<sup>th</sup> April, 1946. On returning to Orbost he worked as a mechanic with McLeod and Fields. He then bought a log truck and carried timber from Cann River to Orbost for 30 years.

Jimmy was a keen sportsman and excelled at a range of sports. He played his first game of football at 15 years of age with the Orbost Football Club and also represented East Gippsland at Country Week cricket the same year. Except for the war years he played football with Orbost until 1956 when he became a committee member. He served as president in 1977 and 1978 and was awarded life membership of the club. He also played cricket for Newmerella for many years and competed in athletics in his younger days. But golf was his favourite sport and he spent 30 years as a committee member and was a past president of the Orbost Golf Club. He was also a great off-shore fisherman, spending many years fishing at Cape Conran.

James died on 20th January, 1998, aged 77, at the Orbost Hospital.

### **Keith Charles LYNN A.I.F.**

Keith was born at Orbost on 21st January, 1919, the son of James Warren LYNN and Florrie GARDNER. He attended Jarrahmond State School from 28th April, 1924, to 16th December, 1932, when he stayed home to assist on the family farm. He enlisted at Orbost on 6th January, 1940, and served in the Army during World War 2 — Service No. VX131849 (V41453). He was a Private with the 37/52nd Battalion at the time of his discharge on 1st May, 1944.

After the war Keith returned to farming and, in September 1950, he purchased Robert William Steed's carrying business. He served as a Central riding councillor on the Shire of Orbost from 1941 to 1955, and received a Life membership of the Orbost Football Club.

### **William Archibald (Bill) LYNN R.A.A.F.**

Bill was born at Bairnsdale on 29th May, 1923, the son of Keith LYNN and Irene RODWELL. He attended Jarrahmond State School and, after obtaining his Intermediate Certificate at Orbost Higher Elementary School in 1928, he went to Caulfield Grammar School for 2 years and gained his Leaving Certificate. He then went to University and had been there for a year doing a veterinary course when he answered his country's call. He firstly enlisted with the Australian Army at Carlton on 16th October, 1941, and was a Private with the Melbourne University Rifles. Service No. V158371. He then enlisted with the Royal Australian Air Force on 26th June, 1942, at Melbourne, Service No. 419050. After training in Tasmania he went to Canada under the Empire Training Scheme and had only been in England about 6 weeks when he was killed in an aircraft accident. On the morning of 17th March, 1944, he was the pilot of a Spitfire aircraft which collided with another Spitfire near Hepburn Moor in Northumberland, England, whilst carrying out a non-operational flight. Bill was 20 years of age and a Flight Sergeant with the 57th Operational Training Unit at R.A.F. Station Eshott. He was buried at Harrogate cemetery in England.



### **Arthur Lawrence MATTHEWS A.I.F.**

Lawrie was one of three Matthews brothers to serve in World War 2. He was born at Orbost on 2nd November, 1920, the son of George MATTHEWS and Margaret Ellen MEAD. He enrolled at the Jarrahmond State School on 1st September, 1927, and on completing his schooling stayed at home to work on the farm. He was from Orbost but enlisted in the Army at Alice Springs, NT, on 18th August, 1942, Service No. VX110833. He was a Driver with 146th Australian General Transport Coy (AIF) at the time of his discharge on 22nd November, 1945.

He is listed as a Driver at Orbost on the 1949 electoral roll.

### **Ernest Mead MATTHEWS R.A.A.F.**

Another brother, Ernie, was born at Orbost on 15th May, 1926. He attended Jarrahmond State School from January 1933 to 1st July, 1936, and was living at Ulladulla, NSW, when he enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force, at Sydney, on 14th November, 1944, Service No. 166338. He was a Leading Aircraftman with the 94th Squadron at the time of his discharge on 18th January, 1946.

He is listed as a Labourer at Orbost on the 1949 electoral roll. Ernie was a timber worker and died at Orbost on 12th August, 1993.

### **Henry Francis MATTHEWS A.I.F.**

The eldest of the three brothers, Harry, was born at Orbost on 28th February, 1910. He was a new enrolment at the Jarrahmond School on 6th October, 1925, gaining his Qualifying certificate on 28th November, 1930, and leaving on 18th December, 1931, to work at home on the farm. He was from Orbost when he enlisted in the Army at Caulfield on 27th June, 1940, Service No. VX42007. At the time of his discharge on 30th January, 1941, he was a Private with the 2nd Reinforcements.

He is listed as a Labourer at Orbost on the 1949 electoral roll, but later on Harry was a stock agent and representative for Australian Mercantile Land & Finance Co. Ltd.

### **John Cowell (Jack) MORGAN R.A.A.F.**

Jack was born at Sister Hoffman's Private Hospital, Orbost on 27th March, 1926, the son of John Alexander MORGAN and Ena COWELL. He attended Jarrahmond State School from April 1932 until December 1936, and then Orbost Higher Elementary School. On leaving school, he joined Gippsland & Northern, at Orbost, in 1941, as a junior clerk. At the time, his uncle, Stan Cowell, was branch manager. From Orbost, Jack enlisted with the Royal Australian Air Force on 19th May, 1944, and trained as a wireless air gunner at Ballarat and West Sale. At his discharge on 3rd June, 1948, he was a Sergeant with the 1st Wireless and Gunnery School at Ballarat. After the war he rejoined Gippsland & Northern at Yarram. Jack, became a legend among the district's cattlemen, farmers, buyers and other agents, and was one of the best known stock agents in Gippsland. His knowledge of properties, stock and conditions, from Orbost to Dandenong was second to none. Illness forced him to retire at the end of 1986, after 46 years of service with the company.



**Lachlan Murdoch ROSS A.I.F.**

Lachlan was born at Melbourne on 15th April, 1921, the son of Lachlan Duncan ROSS and Annie McLEOD. He had previously attended school in Morwell before enrolling at the Jarrahmond State School in August 1934. He attended until 21st March, 1935, and then transferred to Orbost. He was from Orbost when he enlisted "In the Field", Queensland, on 24th July, 1942, and served with the C.M.F., Service No. V1758. He then served in the A.I.F., Service No. VX109282. He was a Lance Corporal with the 37/52nd Battalion at the time of his discharge on 11th June, 1946.

Lachlan is listed a Packer of Carlyle Street, Orbost, on the 1949 Electoral Roll.

**John McKenzie (Mac) RUSSELL A.I.F.**

Mac was born at Orbost on 16th June, 1918, the son of John RUSSELL and Rosa BENNETT. He had previously attended school at Caulfield before enrolling at the Jarrahmond State School on 5th June, 1928. He left in December 1929 and then spent four years at Scotch College, Melbourne, where he gained his Intermediate certificate. He then worked on his father's farm, "Greendale", until he joined the A.I.F. and served during World War 2. He initially enlisted at Orbost on 23rd August, 1940, and served with the C.M.F., Service No. V100348, and then again at Puckapunyal, Vic., on 26th August, 1942, with the A.I.F., Service No. VX89525. He was a Trooper with the 13th Armoured Regiment, and lost his life on 16th November, 1942, aged 24, when a training tank overturned at Seymour. Trooper Jeffrey Francis PRICE, of Waygara, was killed in the same accident.

**Albert John (Jack) TREWIN R.A.A.F.**

Jack was born at Moonee Ponds on 6th June, 1923, the son of Albert Ernest TREWIN and Hazel SOMERVILLE. He attended Jarrahmond State School from January 1929 until December 1934, and then went on to Orbost Higher Elementary School. He served in the Royal Australian Air Force during World War 2. He enlisted at Melbourne on 29th June, 1942, and served in the United Kingdom and Burma. Service No. 419076. At the time of his discharge on 13th December, 1945, he held the rank of Warrant Officer with the 62nd Squadron.

Jack was a farmer at Jarrahmond, then at Marlo Plains, before retiring to live at Marlo.



**James Chester Kerr TREWIN A.I.F.**

Jim was born on 3rd December, 1916, at Orbost, the son of George Herbert TREWIN and Elizabeth KERR. He enlisted with the A.I.F., at Sale, on 23rd October, 1939, and was amongst the first to go overseas. He served as a Lieutenant in the 2/7th and 58/59th Battalions, Service No. VX5640. He saw service in the Middle East, Syria and New Guinea, and was wounded in action at Bardia. Due to his father's ill-health he was discharged on compassionate grounds from further military service.

Apart from his war service he spent his entire lifetime in the Orbost district. He trained Orbost's Marching Girls' team and served as vice president of the East Gippsland Marching Girls' zone. His wife, Doris, acted as chaperone.

Jim died on 24th April, 1965, aged 49, as a result of suffering a heart attack whilst working on his farm.



'Snowy River Mail' Wed Mar 22 1944

**ORBOST SPITFIRE PILOT KILLED IN ENGLAND**  
**PLANES COLLIDE IN MID-AIR**  
 A wave of gloom swept over Orbost yesterday morning when it was learned that Sgt. Pilot William Archibald Lynn had been killed in an aircraft accident. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Keith Lynn, and his sisters and brother, have the sincere sympathy of the whole community in the loss they have sustained.  
 "Bill" who was only 20 years of age was a happy nature and very popular with all. He was a keen sport and a very promising footballer, having played with the first 18 while at Caulfield Grammar school. He was also a lover of horses. After obtaining his Intermediate Certificate at the Orbost Higher Elementary School he went to Caulfield Grammar School for two years and got his Leaving Certificate. He then went to the University and had been there for a year doing a veterinary course when he answered his country's call. After training in Tasmania he went to Canada under the Empire Training Scheme and had only been in England about six weeks before he met his death.  
 The telegram received by his bereaved parents read as follows: "Deeply regret to inform you that your son Sgt. William Archibald Lynn has lost his life during morning 17th March, 1944 as result of aircraft accident. Known details: He was pilot of Spitfire aircraft which collided with another Spitfire near Heppburn Moore in Northumberland, Eng., whilst carrying out non-operational flight. The Minister for Air joins with the Air Board in expressing profound sympathy in your sad bereavement."

'Snowy River Mail' Wed Nov 18 1942

**TANK OVERTURNS**  
**Two Orbost Soldiers Among Five Killed**  
 Orbost people learned with sincere regret on Monday that two soldiers from this district were amongst those who perished in an accident at a training station near Melbourne. They were Dr. John MacKenzie Russell of Orbost and Trooper Jeffrey Francis Price, of Waygara. Three other members of the crew were killed, including Corporal Paul W. Usan (Inchley), Buffalo, South Gippsland, who was well known to members of the 13th Light Horse Regiment. Two other members escaped. The tanks in the town were blown at half past seven when news of the sad event came to hand.  
 Trooper Russell, 24 year old, was the second eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Russell jar., of Orbost. He was quiet and unassuming and held in high esteem in Orbost. He went to the Jarrahmond school for some time and after that spent four years at Scotch College where he gained his Intermediate certificate. He then went to work on his father's farm. He was a member of the A.I.F.  
 Trooper Jeffrey Francis Price was also of a quiet retiring disposition and very popular. He was the only child of Mrs. and Mrs. L. Price of Waygara and was a boarder at Scotch College. He went to school at Waygara where he gained his merit certificate, and at the age of 16 he joined the 13th Light Horse Regiment. He was only 20 years of age, but his father had signed the necessary authority for him to join the A.I.F.  
 The sympathy of the whole district with the two families in their time of sad bereavement.

