

Who contributed signatures?

News of the quilt must have spread through the family, church, business and social networks of the Busy Bees.

We assume that each supporter was asked to pay four shillings per square and to supply details for inclusion by the embroiderers. Most people provided their names or initials. Some added decorative elements. Some paid for more than one square.

Many squares include a place name in the Heidelberg district or elsewhere. *Newlands* [M10], for example, was the Chambers family home in Banksia Street, Heidelberg, so we assume that Mrs Emma Chambers, who lived there at the time, was the contributor, *EC*.

Locations such as Kangaroo Ground, Prahran and Williamstown feature strongly on the quilt. Also named are *Eltham* [L10], *Geelong* [C15], *Point Henry* [D16], *Nathalia* [K15], *Werribee* [J14] and *Yarra Glen* [L14].

Workers and residents in the Heidelberg area showed support for their community by contributing. Look for:

- A8 *Ferrar Phillips*, butcher of Alphington.
- E6 *Fritz* (Ferdinand) Heine, Ivanhoe Hotel licensee.
- M17 *WJG Turner*, Secretary of the Austin Hospital for Incurables from 1889 to 1928. He and his wife *Esther L Turner* [M4] lived in Cape Street.
- N17 *Mrs Dawson*, wife of the publican of the Sir Henry Barkly Hotel, Heidelberg.

Some people bought squares on behalf of children. [H16] *Alexander Morton Caldwell*, living at Briagolong in Gippsland, was the son (b.1892) of the widowed *John Caldwell* [G14]. We have also identified the three Cumming boys from Williamstown: [E11] *Don* (b.1892), [J4] *Andrew* (b.1893) and [D2] *Max* (b.1895).

Each square has a story to tell. We now know some of those stories.

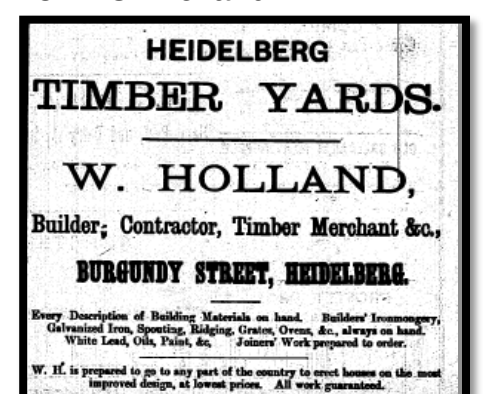


These businessmen have squares on the quilt because of their role as Councillors with the Shire of Heidelberg. Advertisements in local papers at the time show their diverse interests.

G6 *Cr Davey*



H5 *Cr Holland*





The cost of living

Just how much was four shillings worth? Comparisons of household incomes and expenditure in the 1890s with today's wages and prices are somewhat difficult.

Typically a blacksmith could expect to earn 10-12 shillings per eight-hour day.

Per week, a butcher could expect to earn up to 40 shillings. However a baker could earn 40-60 shillings.

Farm labourers were paid 12-15 shillings per week, with board and lodgings provided. By contrast, female domestic servants were paid 8-12 shillings per week, with board and lodgings supplied.

If you were shopping at Melbourne's Queen Victoria Market in May 1895, your four shillings could buy, for example: one quart (1.1 litres) of milk, a pound (450g) of butter, a half pound (230g) of cheese, a dozen eggs, a pair of rabbits, a pumpkin, a cabbage, a lettuce, one orange, plus some tomatoes, potatoes, apples and plums. A loaf of bread would cost an extra three or four pennies.



Fifteen squares from the Shire of Heidelberg

Following discussion at the Council meeting on 14 August 1895, Shire President ET Peers decided to support the cost of 15 squares out of his annual allowance of £50.

His contribution of £3 enabled inclusion on the quilt of the names of all 12 Councillors and the three senior officers of the Shire.



Left to right: Henry J Price, Thomas W Davey and J Barnett outside the Shire Office in Heidelberg Park, c.1895.

Fairfield Riding Councillors:

F11 Robert J Donnolly
H6 Alexander J Lugton
H12 William H Waddell

Greensborough Riding Councillors:

G7 Edward T Peers, Shire President
G11 Henry Mitchell
H11 Patrick ER Ryan

Heidelberg Riding Councillors:

F6 Joseph Bond
G6 Thomas W Davey
H5 William Holland

Ivanhoe Riding Councillors:

F5 James W Ward
F7 John S Adams
H7 Alfred Ford

Shire Officers:

F12 Henry J Price, Shire Secretary
G12 Charles WR Lawson, Shire Engineer
L9 Morduant B Finney, Shire Treasurer

Portraits of Bond, Davey, Adams, Ford and Price are on display in this room.



Finding the Frasers

Rev Duncan Fraser, minister at the Scots Church, is the central name on the quilt.

Two of the Busy Bees in the central square are his wife Anna Elizabeth (also at [E17] *AEF*) and daughter Charlotte, later Mrs Dobbin of Perth WA, (also at [E15] *Lottie Fraser / August 1895*).

Four other members of the family appear to have supported the quilt.

Elizabeth Anne (Bessie), the eldest daughter and a dedicated member of Melbourne’s Shakespeare society possibly contributed three squares:

- D1 *Shakespeare*
- J1 *EAF 1895*
- K4 *EF*

D11 *JHF*
James Hamilton Fraser, the eldest son, was a civil engineer.

L1 *Duncan Fraser*
This son was also an engineer.

J11 *Frances Fraser*, the second daughter, was enrolled by her father at the Presbyterian Ladies College (PLC) in East Melbourne in its inaugural year, 1875. After matriculating, Frances taught at Methodist Ladies College in Kew, then at PLC in Sydney. She visited Europe and England in 1896 and saw the elderly Queen Victoria out driving at Windsor. Frances later wrote in PLC’s *Patchwork* magazine: ‘I was in the presence of the Queen!’

From 1897 to 1918 she taught in Melbourne at PLC, serving in a variety of roles including Lady Superintendent from 1897 to 1910. She helped found the PLC Old Collegians Association in 1902.

Frances was active in professional associations for teachers and also with the National Council of Women of Victoria. She and ‘Nettie’ Palmer, a leading literary critic, co-edited the *Centenary Gift Book* (1934), celebrating the role of Victoria’s women.



Frances Fraser c. 1897, as shown in the Presbyterian Ladies College *Handbook*, 1906-1908.
Source: PLC Melbourne Archive



The widespread Smith family

A young David Smith (1832-1893) was the first member of this large Scottish family to settle in Victoria. Arriving in 1853, he was soon joined by three of his brothers, Thomas, John and George. In 1857 his parents and eight other siblings, including Joseph and James, also migrated. Most settled along the Bulleen-Templestowe river flats. Prospering as farmers, dairymen and butchers, the brothers married and raised families.

From the outset, the Smiths were active members of the Scots Presbyterian Church. In 1863 George Smith (1835-1914) married the 'girl next door', Isabella Ramsay Duncan (1842-1921); the couple subsequently had nine children. The first Presbyterian Church service in the district had been held in the Duncan family barn 20 years earlier. Mrs George Smith and her daughters were present at the first meeting of the Busy Bees.

Also in 1863, David Smith purchased 255 acres (103 ha) at Templestowe and built up a highly successful dairy farm, *Holyrood Park*. The area is now managed by Parks Victoria as *Westerfolds Park*.

David married Ann Ferguson (1842-1935) that same year. The couple went on to have nine children. The Scots Church Seat Rolls show that following David's death, Mrs D Smith held four seats from 1893 to 1896. These were possibly for herself and her unmarried daughters, Christine, Alice and Edith.



Believed to be George and Isabella Smith, with three of their adult children on the front lawn of their house, *Ben Nevis*, Bulleen, c.1900.

Source: Doncaster Templestowe Historical Society



Smith family networks

The divisions within the Scots Presbyterian Church split the Smith family. In 1895 John and James and their families left to start a new Presbyterian congregation in Templestowe. Mrs John Smith actually donated the land on which the new timber church was built while her husband and brother-in-law took charge of its construction. It is unlikely that they supported the Busy Bees.

The David, George and Joseph Smith families remained at Heidelberg. They seem to have called upon their immediate family members as well as friends and family further afield to support the quilt.

Ann and David's fourth son, Gilbert, was engaged to Mary Ann Margaret Crichton from Kangaroo Ground. The Presbyterian congregations at Heidelberg and Kangaroo Ground had always been close. *M Crichton* [H14] is highly likely to be Gilbert's fiancée, or her mother, also Mary Ann Crichton. GS [N12] could well be Gilbert Smith. After his father died, Gilbert took over the management of *Holyrood Park* and married Mary in 1896.



Family gathering c.1920, possibly at *Holyrood Park*.
Back (left to right): Gilbert Smith, his mother Ann Smith,
Mr J Carnovan, orchardist.
Front: His mother-in-law Mary Crichton, his wife Mary,
and Mrs J Carnovan.

Source: Shared on Ancestry.com by dianneross129, 14 June 2010,
on the *Smith Parker Family Tree*. Viewed 6 February 2019



Discovering the Smiths

Central *I Smith*

Isabella Ramsay Smith (Mrs George Smith),
OR her eldest daughter,
Isabella Ramsay Duncan Smith.

Central *J Smith*

Jessie Duncan Smith, second daughter of
George and Isabella, OR Jessie Smith,
daughter of Joseph and Ellen.

Central, E8 *C Smith*

Christine Smith, daughter of David and Ann.

J9 *E Smith*

Possibly Edith Smith, sister of Christine.

J13, L11 *A. Smith*

Ann Smith (Mrs David Smith), widow,
sister-in-law of Isabella (Mrs George Smith)
OR her daughter Alice, sister of Christine.

Alternatively *A Smith* could represent
Alexander Smith, eldest son of George and
Isabella, OR Archie their fourth son, OR
Agnes their youngest daughter.



Margaret McCracken of *Banyule House*

Margaret McCracken [Central], her husband Adam and their three children moved to the Heidelberg district in the early 1890s, leasing *Banyule* estate with some 60 acres (24 ha) of farmland.

Originally from Glasgow, the newly married couple migrated first to New Zealand before moving to Melbourne. Adam was variously described as a gentleman of private means, former sharebroker and farmer.

From their arrival, the McCrackens were active members of the Scots Presbyterian Church. In 1894 they hosted a successful garden party and fete at *Banyule House* to raise funds for the church. Margaret McCracken joined the Busy Bees the following year.

Adam McCracken was heavily involved in local politics during the late 1890s, writing frequent letters to the local newspapers about rates, drainage, minimum labourers' wages (opposing the very notion) and considered standing for the local Heidelberg Council.

The McCrackens seemed to be a prosperous, well-connected and civic-minded family.

However, the public persona of 'Adam McCracken Esq, *Banyule House*' was later revealed to be quite different from that of the private man. In 1901 Margaret successfully sued her husband for divorce on grounds of continuous cruelty: he had knocked down, beaten and kicked her on average three times a week since they were first married.



Banyule House, 1982. Built for Joseph Hawdon, pioneer and overlander, in 1846.



Kangaroo Ground settlers

The fertile pastures of Kangaroo Ground were settled in the 1840s by Isabella (1792-1872) and James Bruce Donaldson (1787-1856) with their children, Isabella, Alexander, Margaret, John and James Thomas. They initially purchased a block of 640 acres (260 ha) known as 'the Square Mile', around which the Kangaroo Ground settlement, including a school and a Presbyterian church, developed. The Donaldsons were soon joined by other Scots families, including the Bells who had arrived on the *David Clarke* in 1839.

The Donaldsons also purchased land in Ivanhoe. Following his father's death, that land passed to James Thomas who established a farm there. In 1858 his brother John commenced farming on the adjoining property.

Other settlers continued to be attracted by the rich soils of Kangaroo Ground. These included the Scarces, Crichtons and Camerons. The Presbyterian church remained the spiritual and social centre of the community. Early on it was part of the parish of the Heidelberg Scots Church.

By 1869 it had formed a new parish with Yarra Glen and Christmas Hills. However the Presbyterian churches at Heidelberg and Kangaroo Ground remained close through the ties of family and friends. At least ten quilt squares were purchased by Kangaroo Ground residents.



Henry and Phebe Scarce, soon after their marriage, 1880.

Source:
Andrew Ross Museum,
Kangaroo Ground



Kangaroo Ground supporters

F2 *E Bell*

F13 *John Bell*

John Bell (1844-1924) belonged to the early pioneering Bell family. He married Elizabeth Charlton (1859-1952) in 1886. They farmed at *Violet Bank* and were strong supporters of the Kangaroo Ground Presbyterian Church.

C4 *H.S. K.Gd*

H2 *Phebe Scarce Kangaroo Ground*

The Scarce family was another pioneering family. Henry (1856-1934) married Phebe Jardine (1855-1933) in 1880. They built *Kiata* and became one of the most successful farming families in the district.

H14 *Mary Crichton*

Most likely the wife of another early settler, Alexander Crichton, or their daughter Mary Ann Margaret Crichton who married Gilbert Smith of Templestowe in 1896.

H1 *Flora A Crichton*

Possibly a niece of Alexander Crichton.



The Hon. Ewen Hugh Cameron, MLA

EH Cameron [E12] (1831-1915), *Pigeon Bank*, Kangaroo Ground, was a popular and long serving politician for the electorate of Evelyn, Victorian Legislative Assembly. In 1867 he married Agnes (1844-1924), eldest daughter of John Bell, an early pioneer at Kangaroo Ground. They had eight sons and three daughters.



EH Cameron,
c.1900.

Source: Eltham District
Historical Society
in partnership with
Yarra Plenty Regional
Library

The Australian Dictionary of Biography
Volume 3, 1969, provides an account of his life.

...He migrated to Melbourne in the *Hurricane* in 1853, and engaged in the building industry before going to the newly opened Anderson Creek goldfield in 1855. He was appointed first postmaster at Warrandyte in January 1857 and ran a store; in 1860 he took up a 100 acre (40 ha) farm at Kangaroo Ground.

In 1874 Cameron was returned for Evelyn to the Victorian Legislative Assembly; he held the seat continuously until 1914 when, as 'Father of the House', he retired.

...In 1877 he served in a royal commission on the Aborigines and in 1881 as chairman of a board of inquiry into the Coranderrk station he did much to rectify conditions there. More notably he was chairman of the Railways Standing Committee. Much of the development in Victorian railways at that time was due to his untiring work...

...his sincerity enabled him to keep out of factional squabbles and won him unusually high respect in the Assembly.



Locating the Camerons

- E12 *EH Cameron*
- C11 *Hugh Cameron*, son of EH and Agnes Cameron
- G13 *Allan Cameron*, another son
- F16 *Evelyn Cameron*, daughter of EH and Agnes Cameron
- J10 *Evelyn*, possibly refers to Evelyn Cameron or to the seat of Evelyn held by EH Cameron for 40 years



Haystack building, *Pigeon Bank*, Kangaroo Ground, c.1900. Evelyn Cameron is leaning against the sheaf. Her mother Agnes, in black, is behind her.

Source: Eltham District Historical Society in partnership with Yarra Plenty Regional Library



Sergeant & Mrs John Burton Heidelberg Police Station

Sgt Burton [M14] was stationed at the Heidelberg Police Station, 1887-1900. He competently dealt with cases of suicide, theft, common assault, public drunkenness, delinquent behaviour and disasters, including the flooding of an antimony mine in Templestowe where two men drowned.



John Burton (1847-1902) migrated from County Tyrone, Ireland, to Victoria in 1873. He joined the Police Force the next year and had various country and Melbourne postings before being sent to Heidelberg.

As the Inspector of Nuisances, Burton was also concerned with public health issues, such as the illegal dumping of night soil.



In 1880 John Burton married (Mary) Emma Goold, daughter of a Burwood pioneering family.

Sgt & Mrs J Burton [M12, L2] and their six children lived in the police house at 7 Jika Street, opposite the Presbyterian Church. However the Burtons were active members of St John's Anglican Church, Heidelberg.

Presumably they purchased their three quilt squares in a show of community spirit. When Sgt Burton transferred to Footscray, the people of Heidelberg presented him with an illuminated testimonial. Mrs Burton received a 'beautiful solid silver cake dish'.

Left: John Burton, possibly his wedding photograph.
Above: Mrs Burton (1860-1939) in later years.
Source: Robert Baker



Williamstown characters

Most of the squares contributed by Williamstown people use distinctive graphic imagery to convey individual characteristics, interests or employment.

D3 *William Dick* lived at 17 Stevedore Street. His thistle suggests Scottish ancestry. The hand wearing a gauntlet and holding a dagger reveals an interest in heraldry.

D10 *Miss Paterson* must have been a stylish lady with her parasol and lily. She was perhaps the daughter of Francis Paterson, Assistant Pier Master, living in Morris Street.

D14 *WJ Clark* lived at 93 Pasco Street. His horseshoes and the 'Good Luck' message might be associated with the race track.

G2 *Andrew Honman* (1858-1926) was born in Scotland and arrived in Melbourne in 1884. He lived at 231 Nelson Place where he ran his medical practice, no doubt with a lantern carrying his name over the front door. He was a consulting surgeon at the local hospital and Williamstown Council's Health Officer. Honman served overseas

as a medical officer in the Boer War and World War 1, attaining the rank of Colonel. In 1921 he was appointed Principal Medical Officer for Australia's territories in New Guinea. At the age of 65 he retired to Montmorency, Victoria. He died aged 68 and was buried at Heidelberg Cemetery.

J8 and K16 *Mrs G Douglas* and *George Douglas* lived at 31 Gifford Street. He managed the Railway Signal Works, Melbourne Road.

K3 *John Cameron* of 109 Melbourne Road was a Presbyterian. The plant cutting and flowerpot on his square confirm his occupation as a nurseryman.

K6 *JE Hall* appears to have had an interest in poultry.

K13 *Mrs GR Cumming* of 2 Forster Street perhaps chose her Latin motto 'Nil Arduum' as a message of resilience for the Scots Church community. It means 'Nothing is difficult'. Her father was David Smith of Templestowe.

L8 *R Taylor* of 241 Nelson Place was a butcher, as indicated by his meat cleaver.



The champion equestrian

A keen horsewoman, *Miss Blanshard* [N16] was the daughter of John Blanshard (aka Blanchard), of *Ivanhoe and Heidelberg Farm Dairy*, near *Banyule House*.

During 1894-96 Blanshard's farm was one of several Heidelberg properties frequently crossed by the Melbourne and Burwood hounds in various hunts through the district.

Miss Blanshard regularly participated in the local hunts. The Melbourne *Sportsman*, 21 August 1894, proclaimed the 'young lady resident of Heidelberg rode fearlessly in the front, and deserved great credit for the very able manner in which she handled her horse over the stiff timber.'

She rode her father's brown mare, Countess, in the hunts of mid-1896 and also at the Royal Agricultural Society's Spring Show (jumping and equestrienne events) in September 1896. In December 1896 she won the Second Best Lady Rider prize in the Kilmore Agricultural and Pastoral Society's Annual Show.



The dedicated railway station master

JH Lavery [J12] was Station Master Heidelberg, 1893-1895. He joined the Victorian Railways in about 1882 and was Station Master Burrumbeet (near Ballarat) in 1891-93. Station masters were responsible for the staff, safety and efficient running of the railway station and had significant social standing in local communities.

At a well-attended banquet, members of the Burrumbeet community farewelled Lavery on his transfer to Station Master Heidelberg. The Ballarat press noted that he was 'held in high esteem by all' and the community 'regretted losing such an affable, courteous and obliging officer' who participated in local activities.

The local Australian Natives' Association (ANA) branch knew Lavery as 'the ablest debater and one of its most energetic members.' It seems likely he would have joined the Heidelberg ANA branch, which formed in 1891. He was also a committee member of the Heidelberg Football Club and participated in local Sparrow Matches (shooting).

In late 1895 Lavery transferred from Heidelberg to Station Master Kilmore.

John Henry Lavery's obituary in September 1925 stated that the 63 year old former Station Master, who had retired only two years previously after 41 years service, had died suddenly. He was 'well known throughout Victoria, his former position of relieving station master ... necessitating his having charge at various times of practically every station in the State.'



Heidelberg Railway Station, c.1900.



A model dairy farmer

An early settler of Heidelberg, *W Barnett* [N9] (believed to be William) was a dairy farmer for most of his life. He was esteemed for his 'industrious habits and thorough straight-forward business integrity.'

Barnett owned *Mont Eagle Farm*. In 1871 when letting the property, he offered his whole well-bred dairy herd at a farm clearing-out sale, including:

60 head quiet cows in full milk,
20 heifers one to three years old, 3 bulls,
3 saddle and light harness horses,
2 draught horses, 1 dogcart and harness,
1 four-horse cultivator, dairy utensils
comprising churns & milk dishes, 1 set of
breaking tackle, several lots of sundries.

In 1886 he retired from farming, auctioned the farm and continued to reside at Hawdon Street, Heidelberg, where he died in 1899, aged 83, leaving Harriett, his wife of 40 years.



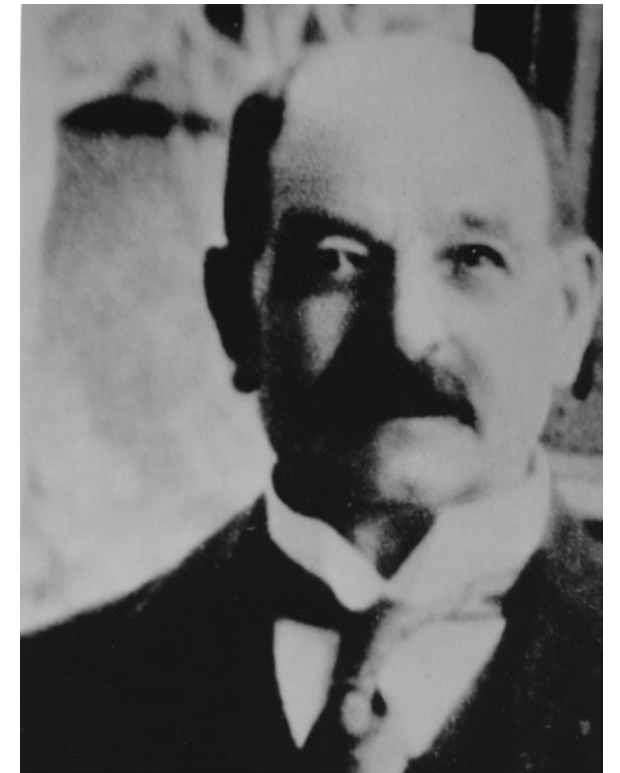
The congenial host

R.W.K. [M2] is Robert William Kennedy (b.1852), a wealthy wine and spirit merchant with several grocery stores. In 1891 he commissioned *Ravenswood*, a Renaissance Revival style mansion at Lower Road, Heidelberg (now 40 Beauview Parade, Ivanhoe East).

It was one of the last boom period grand houses built in Melbourne and the 16 acre (6.4ha) property had an extensive garden surrounded by open farmland. Kennedy held many parties, concerts and dances at the mansion, which was also the venue for fundraisers for charities and church organisations.

Kennedy died in 1928, leaving a widow and three daughters. The property passed into various hands over the next 60 years. *Ravenswood* was in a dilapidated state when it was purchased by the current owners who have since extensively restored it as a family home. In the 1990s the home was once again the venue for concerts and fundraising events.

Right:
Robert W Kennedy, c.1920.

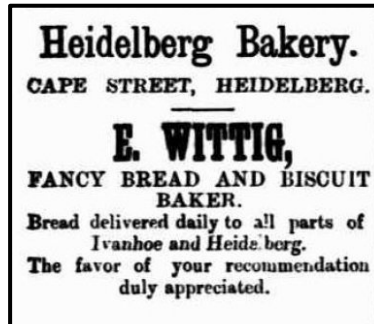


Below:
Stately *Ravenswood*, c.1900.





The Heidelberg baker



E. Wittig, Heidelberg Bakery
[K12, M5]

In another 1896 advertisement, Wittig sought a man 'able to mould and dough, German preferred.'

Ernst Wittig belonged to several local groups such as the Football Club and the Oddfellows Lodge. He catered for many of their functions. *M. Wittig* [A7], mentioned in newspaper reports as helping with social occasions, is thought to be his sister.

In 1900 Wittig was one of many subscribers to farewell presentations for Police Sergeant John Burton [M14] and his wife [M12, L2]. After a serious riding accident in early 1902, Wittig sold the bakery and toured Europe. He later turned to fruit growing at Doncaster. In 1947 Wittig's body was found in his backyard well, drowned, aged 83 years. He left a substantial estate valued at £39,109 bequeathing £500 to the Austin Hospital, £100 each to three former employees and the remainder to his nieces.



The brand new baby

This is obviously not Neville's signature as *Neville Alan Rollason* [B3] was only born in February 1895.

He was the first child of Dr Abel Rollason and wife Edith (nee Sill), of Burgundy Street, Heidelberg. It seems that the local doctor, known for his involvement in community activities, supported the fundraiser by including his firstborn's name on this quilt.

A bank clerk, Neville Rollason enlisted in the Army at 19½ years old, serving during World War 1 at Gallipoli (wounded 1915) and on the Western Front (wounded 1916 in France), and rising to the rank of Captain. He was recommended for (but not awarded) a Military Cross.

He returned to Australia and arrived home just before Christmas 1918. Neville married in 1921 and his firstborn was a son.



The sensational butchers

The *Tyrrell Brothers* [G5] (John, James, Peter) were butchers whose shop was in Cape Street, near Burgundy Street, Heidelberg.

Supporting other community activities also in 1895, they donated five shillings as a public subscription to the Heidelberg Brass Band.

In April 1895, on the orders of Thomas McFarlane of Heidelberg, Tyrrell Bros prepared twenty young suckling pigs for export in a 'careful and painstaking manner', thus ensuring the success of the venture.

The butchers created a sensation in June 1895 by displaying a 'monster pig' weighing 445 lbs (202 kg) in their Heidelberg shop. According to the local newspaper report, 'the animal was fattened at Templestowe and met its death (by a well-directed blow at the hands of Mr Tyrrell) at the early age of eighteen months.'



South of the Yarra: the Read family

A16, B8 *Read & Dougall, Prahran*
B16 *A Wayman Read, Fenstanton*
G16 *Read & Co, Prahran*

The Reads were related to the Donaldsons, of Kangaroo Ground, through Margaret, second daughter of James Bruce and Isabella Donaldson. Margaret married Alexander Cameron in 1848. Their daughter Isabella Cameron married Jacob Wayman Read in 1874. Following Isabella Cameron's death in 1876, Jacob married her younger sister Jessie Cameron. Their son Alexander Wayman Read was born in 1878.

The Read family home was *Fenstanton*, Cromwell Road, Hawksburn, not far from their drapery business in Chapel Street, Prahran.



Prahran Telegraph,
Saturday 8 February 1896,
p.4, announcing the
transition from Read & Co
to Read & Dougall.

The business may have
donated fabric and thread
for the Heidelberg quilt.