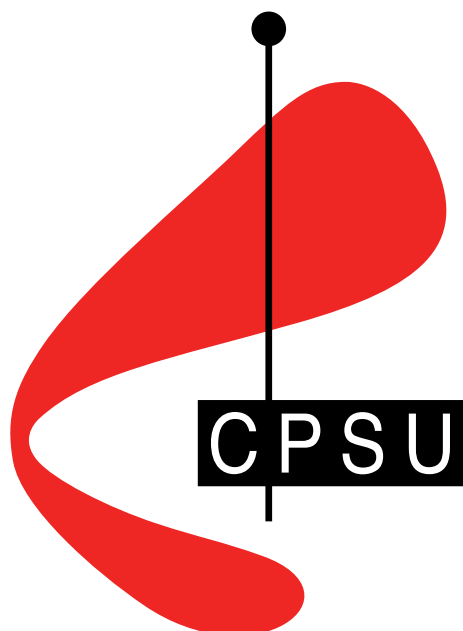


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PUBLIC PERSPECTIVE

A PUBLICATION OF THE COMMUNITY & PUBLIC SECTOR UNION
SPSF GROUP - VICTORIAN BRANCH - WWW.CPSUVIC.ORG

SERVICE NEEDS
SHOULD DICTATE
TAX DISCUSSION

- SEE PAGE 10

The background of the lower half of the cover is a photograph of the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne, Australia. The building is a large, classical-style stone structure with a prominent portico supported by columns. In the foreground, there is a large, dark, circular fire bowl filled with a bright orange and yellow fire. A black metal railing is visible in front of the fire bowl. The sky is a clear, pale blue.

SERVICE & SACRIFICE

VISIT VPSWW1.COM.AU

VICTORIAN PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYEES IN WORLD WAR 1

» TO COMMEMORATE THE PARTICIPATION OF VICTORIAN PUBLIC SECTOR WORKERS IN THE GREAT WAR, THE COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC SECTOR UNION LAUNCHED A RESEARCH PROJECT FOCUSING ON STATE GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES WHO ENLISTED.

Figures from the union's journal during the war identify at least 6,408 employees of the Victorian Government enlisted between 1914 and 1918, 726 of whom lost their lives.

This number includes employees of the Victorian Government Railways, Civil Servants, Prison Warders, employees of what were then still termed "lunatic asylums", Police and Teachers. It does not include the general hospital sector, for which no figures have been found.

The scope of our project is limited to the State Public Service (including Teachers and Police) - the groups covered by the Victorian State Service Federation (our ancestor) at the time.

PREMIERS STATEMENT

100 years ago Australian troops landed at Anzac Cove.

Over the next three and a half years, over 60,000 young Australians gave their lives - more than one percent of Australia's population at the time.

In honour of their sacrifice, and to commemorate their service, it is fitting that we, in this centenary year, recall as much of what occurred in that war as possible.

As Premier, I am particularly pleased by the efforts of the Community and Public Sector Union to recall the contribution of our state public sector workers - in particular, civil servants, teachers and police.

Assisted with a grant from our ANZAC Centenary Fund, their research contained within this website details those public sector employees, over 6,000 individuals from all Departments, who enlisted.

There remain today, located throughout our state, honour boards and war memorials with lists of names and initials, mostly placed shortly after the end of the Great War.

It adds immensely to the act of commemoration to add detail to those names - to use the internet to provide stories and pictures that carry more meaning than a solemn name ever could.

This project has placed on the public record, once again, the names of the men and women who - having already served the state of Victoria in peacetime - served their nation in a time of great trial and suffering.

Their contribution deserves to be remembered.

"...no body of men in any walk of life, who have been more ready to do their duty, than the Victorian State Servants of the Crown" VPSA Journal - 21st December 1918

Hon Daniel Andrews
Premier of Victoria





Fletcher (left) and Mahony (right) pictured with a third officer.

THE LAST BATTLE

» JOHN AUSTIN MAHONY, A CATHOLIC PUBLIC SERVANT FROM THE LANDS DEPARTMENT AND JOHN HARRY FLETCHER, AN ANGLICAN PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHER FROM PRINCES HILL PRIMARY IN CARLTON, WERE THE BEST OF MATES.

We have this on the authority of Australia's official war historian, Charles Bean, who knew them both and mentions them in his account of the battle of Montbrehain.

Bean states that they were friends from "Tech. teaching days", which, if true, means that Fletcher had been a teacher before he became a public servant.

In any case, their war records appear to support Bean's contention that they enlisted together and made sure that they served together as well. Both records reveal a parallel service.

For instance, they both enlisted in Melbourne on 8 March 1915 and both arrived in Gallipoli on 30th March.

Mahony was awarded a Military Cross in 1916 - something Fletcher never achieved, but otherwise their army careers continued to march in lock step.

By 5 October 1918 they were both serving as Captains in the 24th Battalion, each commanding a company and leading it into action in the battle of Montbrehain. This was to be the last battle, at least for the AIF which had been in almost continuous action since it took part in the victory of the Schwarzetag (Battle of Amiens) on 8 August.

For members of the AIF there would be one last battle - one last piece of ground would be secured.

Two Victorian battalions, the 24th and the 21st, were detailed to clear the Germans from the village of Montbrehain.

It took them one day to do so, at a cost of 500 casualties.

Two of those casualties fell in the early stages of the battle as the company led by John Fletcher ran into fierce resistance.

First Lieutenant John Foster Gear, who had been a student teacher before the war, was mown down by machine gun fire.

Then Captain Fletcher himself was killed by a shell from a German field gun.

It was probably in this deadly phase of the battle that two other Victorian public servants, James Dixon Rowlands of the Agriculture Department and Kevin Thomas Knight of Treasury (both of whom were serving with the 24th) were killed, but we can't know for certain as they are not mentioned in Bean's account of the battle.

Fletcher's mate, Mahony was probably not aware of his death as he was leading the other company of the battalion in an attack from a different direction.

This was more successful, albeit hindered by the village's civilian inhabitants, whose enthusiasm at being liberated got in the way of the advance.

Mahony was attempting to direct the final stages of the clearing of the village when he was shot through the temple.

He would die of wounds five days later.

One other Victorian teacher, Private Robert John Neave of the 21st Battalion, was killed that day and three others, Corporal Allen Lancelot Martin of the 24th, Sergeant Thomas Andrew McMaster and Lieutenant George Francis Vernon Grenness (both of the 21st), were wounded.

To have fallen on the last day, in the last battle - and in what was ultimately a pointless battle - somehow compounds the familiar tragedy of death in war.

For Mahony and Fletcher, who had seen the war together step by step from the beaches of Gallipoli, this is especially the case.

VICTORIAN PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYEES IN WORLD WAR 1



John Gurner Burnell

ENGINEERS AND WATER BAILIFFS

» AT LEAST 70 EMPLOYEES OF THE VICTORIAN STATE RIVERS AND WATER SUPPLY COMMISSION SERVED DURING THE GREAT WAR. OF THESE, 10 WERE KILLED AND ANOTHER 20 WOUNDED.

Many of the Commission’s employees were civil engineers and surveyors and as such possessed a set of skills that perfectly suited them to the industrial horrors of the Western Front.

The science of fortification: digging trenches and blowing them up; managing the logistics of men and machines - all this required engineering skills and the employees of the Commission, who in peacetime had dug miles of irrigation canals, were invaluable assets to the AIF.

John Monash, of course, who would serve the State Government after the war, was an engineer and one public service engineer, William McCormack of the Country Roads Board, is described by the Australian Dictionary of Biography as Monash’s “protégé”.

The most celebrated of the recruits from the Water Commission, the Chief Mechanical Engineer, John Gurner Burnell, is also honoured with an Australian Dictionary of Biography entry, as much for his distinguished later career in private industry as for his war service.

Like McCormack of the Roads Board, Burnell was honoured at the end of the war with a Croix de Guerre. He had already won a Military Cross for undertaking a dangerous patrol at Pozieres in 1916.

Captain Burnell was one of four engineers from the Commission to be honoured with medals or mentioned in dispatches. Two draughtsmen and no less than six of the clerical staff were also honoured.

VICTORIAN PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYEES IN WORLD WAR 1

HONOUR BOARD



D'Alton, Charles Edward
Surveyor
State Rivers and Waters Commission



Jacka, Albert
Labourer
Forests



Burnell, John Gurner
Chief Mech. Engineer
State Rivers and Waters Commission



Foster, Valentine Horace
Water Bailiff
State Rivers and Waters Commission



Sides, William Gordon
Civil Engineer / Surveyor
State Rivers and Waters Commission



Rowlands, James Dixon
Clerk
Agriculture



Blair, Thomas Herbert
Clerk
Lands



Clements, Charles Edward
Civil Servant
Chief Secretary



Barber, Samuel Francis
Clerk
Law



Williamson, John Cedric
Civil Servant
Lands



Bailey, Frank
Warder
Chief Secretary

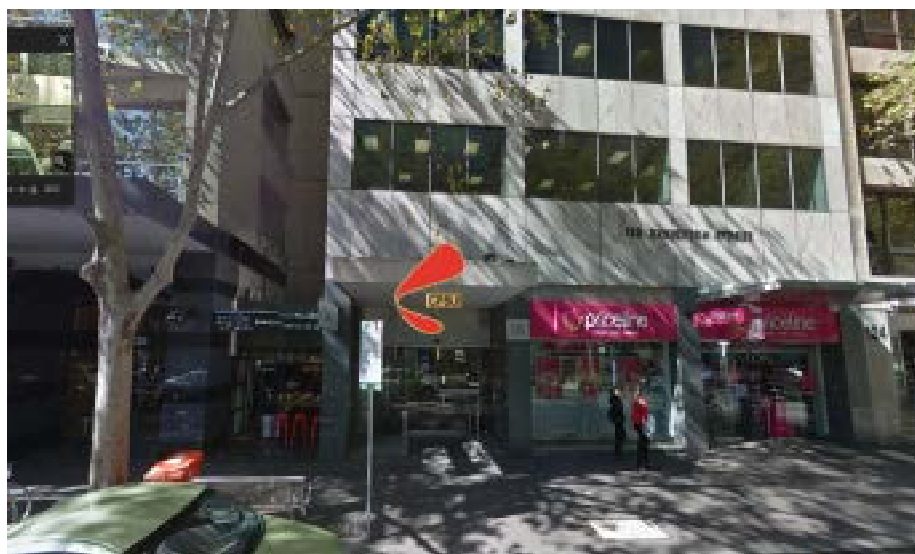


Latimer, George Edward
Hosp. Attendant
Chief Secretary



CBD OFFICE OPENED

» FITTINGLY, CONSIDERING THEIR COMBINED YEARS OF UNION MEMBERSHIP, OUR RETIRED OFFICERS BECAME THE FIRST GROUP OF MEMBERS TO EXPERIENCE OUR BRAND NEW CBD PREMISES NOW CONVENIENTLY LOCATED RIGHT OPPOSITE SX (121 EXHIBITION) AT 128 EXHIBITION STREET MELBOURNE FOR IMPROVED SERVICE FOR OUR CITY MEMBERS.



The new city office is located in the same building as G&C Mutual Bank (formally SGE Credit Union), at 128 Exhibition St. Our reception is located on Level 4.

All phone, fax, and email contact remain the same.

PUBLIC PERSPECTIVE



PUBLIC PERSPECTIVE IS A PUBLICATION OF THE COMMUNITY & PUBLIC SECTOR UNION SPSF GROUP - VICTORIAN BRANCH - WWW.CPSUVIC.ORG

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The Centenary of Australia's Conscription debate is now the major focus for various organisations including CPSU

Front Page: Our Shrine of Remembrance was built between July 1928 and November 1934 in remembrance of the 114,000 men and women of Victoria who served and those who died in WW1.

The design for the Shrine of Remembrance was selected by competition among Australian artists and architects and the inspiration for the external outline came from one of the seven wonders of the ancient world - the mausoleum at Harlicarnassus to Mausolus, King of Caria in South West Asia Minor.



SERVICE NEEDS SHOULD DICTATE TAX DISCUSSION

» **ADEQUATELY FUNDING OUR PUBLIC SERVICES NOW AND INTO THE FUTURE REQUIRES ADDITIONAL TAX REVENUE AND THIS PROPOSITION IS ADVANCED THROUGHOUT OUR SUBMISSION TO THE TAX DISCUSSION PAPER.**

The Government simply does not currently collect enough revenue and our taxation system is in need of urgent reform.

It is a myth that Australia is a high-taxing country and that taxes should be reduced.

Australia's tax-to-GDP ratio is low by international standards – Australia is one of the lowest taxing countries in the OECD, and has been for decades.

The gap between our tax-to-GDP ratio and the OECD average has been roughly constant since the mid-1960s.

In a sophisticated and developed society like Australia where tax revenue funds all our public services, paying your fair share of tax should be promoted positively and not portrayed as a burden or something to minimise or avoid.

When governments do not invest sufficient resources in services such as child protection it not only results in serious harm for the individuals involved, it can also have the flow-on effect of increased demand to other public services, with individuals moving through 'the system': health and mental health services, housing services, and corrective services.

Underfunding of services is compounded by short-sighted government cutbacks such as the so-called 'efficiency dividend' measures, staff cuts, recruitment freezes, and privatisation.

It is evident that governments around Australia need to invest more in public services, but all too often we are told that the well is dry. A national conversation needs to occur about the role of government in our society, and what kind of country we want to live in.

This conversation is long overdue, and we must not shy away from meaningful and progressive reform to our taxation system to ensure we can continue to adequately fund our public services.

PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP.. NO EQUAL PARTNER

By Karen Batt



» THE AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS CURRENTLY NEGOTIATING A HIGHLY SECRETIVE INTERNATIONAL TRADE AGREEMENT CALLED THE TRANS PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP (TPP). THE TPP IS A FREE TRADE AGREEMENT INVOLVING AUSTRALIA, THE U.S., JAPAN, AND NINE OTHER COUNTRIES.

Negotiations are secret, and the agenda is being driven by the USA on behalf of its global corporations. They are pushing for changes to Australian laws to increase their corporate rights at the expense of our rights.

THE TPP COULD MEAN:

- higher medicine prices
- special rights for foreign investors to sue governments for laws they say affect their investment
- a race to the bottom on workers' rights and the environment

The lack of transparency of the TPP negotiations has led to the situation that the only information publicly available is that which has been leaked via public interest media sites.

The most recent leak of the Investment Chapter confirms that corporate influence is being placed ahead of sovereign powers of a government to legislate in the interest of its citizens, by the inclusion of the insidious Investor - State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) provisions.

The ISDS enable foreign investors to sue governments for damages resulting from domestic legislation which they claim may harm their investment.

The extent of this insidious clause confirms that foreign companies could sue the Australian Government for damages over decisions of key institutions in Australia if it believes their investments are placed at risk. The litigation that underpins this clause would not be conducted in accordance with Australian law.

The disputes are heard by international investment tribunals which prioritise investor rights above the public interest.

If the ISDS clause is included in the TPP our local, state and federal governments would be vulnerable to legal challenges from large foreign investors, like tobacco and mining companies.

AN EXAMPLE, PHILLIP MORRIS IS USING ISDS PROVISIONS TO SUE THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT OVER PLAIN PACKAGING LEGISLATION.

Despite a High Court of Australia determination that this company was not eligible for compensation, the U.S. Based company moved some assets to Hong Kong in order to use the ISDS provisions in an obscure 1993 Investment Treaty to sue the Australian Government for damages.

Similarly US corporations have sued other governments for tens of millions of taxpayer dollars over legitimate health and environment legislation under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

Currently the U.S. Lone Pine energy company is using ISDS provisions of the NAFTA to sue the provincial government of Quebec, Canada for \$250 million because it suspended shale gas mining to conduct an environmental study.

Similar moves in Australia to regulate coal seam gas mining could expose state governments to similar litigation.

These are but two examples of the real threat these ISDS clauses are to our sovereign rights to make laws that benefit our citizens and could be applied to pharmaceutical benefits, environmental, health and safety, industrial and copyright laws.

The recent ACTU Congress has called on the Australian negotiators, led by Minister Andrew Robb MP to release the full text of the TPP before it is signed so our democratically elected Parliaments' are able to review the proposals before they are enacted. To date the federal Government has refused.

For members interested in this issue we would encourage you to go to the Australian Fair Trade and Investment Network website.

www.aftinet.org.au or www.australianunions.org.au/tpp and sign onto the campaign.

KAREN BATT

Victorian Branch and Federal Secretary



STATE BUDGET SERVICE BOOST

» TREASURER TIM PALLAS DELIVERED THE FIRST ANDREWS' GOVERNMENT BUDGET AND WHILST MANY ASPECTS HAVE BEEN ANALYSED AND WERE THE CULMINATION OF POLICY COMMITMENTS MADE DURING THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN, THE BUDGET CONTAINS A NUMBER OF INITIATIVES THAT WILL BOOST SERVICE DELIVERY ASSISTING GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES TO DELIVER VITAL PUBLIC SERVICES.

After many years of being starved of funds and bearing the brunt of the previous Government's poorly thought through sentence reforms, Community Corrections was allocated funding to employ 140 new Community Corrections Officers.

This injection of new staff will greatly assist existing staff who have struggled under excessive workloads and unrelenting demands also borne the brunt of criticisms arising from the changes.

An additional 140 Child Protection and support staff will also assist a system that has been at breaking point for a number of years. This injection of funding was the largest by any Government ever and was based around discussions with CPSU.

The money will be available immediately with a recruitment program aimed at sourcing and employing 110 ongoing child protection staff and about 30 fixed term to assist in work load congestion areas.

Four (4) specialists to work with Police for high risk sexually exploited kids are included, as is 19.5 FTE to take on after hours outreach and 34 fixed term staff to deal with the problems in permanent/residential care.

Forensic Science also received an increase in this budget allowing them to recruit much needed scientists as they are integral to dealing with the drugs scourge facing Victoria.

This funding is the first time that unsworn staff have been a priority in a policing budget.

The Premiers ICE Taskforce and the associated recommendations played a large part in informing this budget deliberation.

Four hundred new custody officers will be employed as unsworn staff to manage the custody suites at Police cells with discussions currently underway with Police about their classification levels, training modules, deployment arrangements and implementation timing.

Additional WorkSafe Inspectors will also be employed and Departmental supplementation has been lifted from 2.5% to 3% (against revenue predictions of 3.4%).

The previous Government's attack on its own employees was best underpinned by the wholesale job cuts and the diversion of funds to labour hire agencies rather than the building of VPS capabilities and the creation of career paths for staff.

Often citing budget restraint and kidding themselves that there was no impact on service delivery they starved the VPS of funds and staff for the goal of a large surplus to underwrite infrastructure programs that didn't address the real problems facing Victorians.



Their approach was akin to having a pocketful of money but not feeding your children.

It was a negligent approach to budget management and one the community saw through at the last state election.

The new Government has indicated that they will also approach bargaining for the 24 new EBA's due to be negotiated in the second half of the year with a similar realistic approach with a Central Bargaining Unit to be established in DEDJTR.

This is an approach that looks at the needs of government staff as citizens, and not just as servants.





WORKERS' RIGHTS & LIVING STANDARDS CONGRESS '15

» AUSTRALIAN UNIONS INCLUDING CPSU HAVE CONCLUDED THE ACTU CONGRESS 2015 HERE IN MELBOURNE THIS YEAR INVIGORATED BY A NEW UNION CHARTER AND CAMPAIGN PLAN TO PROTECT WORKERS' RIGHTS AND LIVING STANDARDS.

Over three days in May almost a thousand delegates from around the country have debated and voted on the policies that will shape the union movement's agenda for the next three years.

The overarching premise of the key plenary session was about the need to maintain a campaign footing, not just for elections but beyond, so as not to squander the activism that emerges.

The mobilisation that occurred under the auspices of the VTHC during last year's state election campaign or sectoral campaign issues such as the fight for Medicare, TAFE and jobs currently being run were focussed on as examples.

Policy discussions were held in workshops covering diverse issues such as Occupational Health and Safety laws, collective bargaining rights maintaining a dignified safety net, tax and the social wage and the role of unions and communities working together on issues like the Trade In Services Agreement and the Trans Pacific Partnership.

The Congress also held discussions with the Indigenous Caucus. CPSU SPSF was represented by Mal Cochrane from PSA NSW.

The focus for the Indigenous caucus was the closure of remote communities in WA and NT, campaign activities around the constitutional recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and jobs and educational opportunities.

Sectoral sessions were held on campaign issues in VET, impact investing in social services, organising young workers education, health and retirement policies.

This also looked at issues associated with the concept of workers capital and how best to protect peoples monies via super and credit co-operative movements and the concept of ethical management and ethical investment.

APHEDA the Union overseas aid agency presented on the crises occurring with international aid being wound back by the Abbott Government and the impact that this is having on the work of organisations like APHEDA.

All affiliates were asked to promote the work of APHEDA with their members to encourage new membership growth in an important part of the ACTU's international work.

This was supported by a special session on International union activities lead by Maria Helena Andre the Director of the ILO's Bureau for Workers Activities along with union leaders from Cambodia Bangladesh and PNG.



The Congress closed with a new policy framework and work plan for the next 3 years.

This includes campaigning for domestic violence leave, stopping the exploitation of foreign and local workers, extending the government's paid parental leave scheme to 26 weeks at the minimum wage plus super, strengthening protections around unfair dismissal and establishing a national portable entitlements scheme.

Unions come out of this Congress ready to campaign on the issues that matter to working people.

The unanimous support for a \$13 million plan to transform the ACTU into a permanent campaigning organisation will allow unions to campaign online, on the ground, politically and in the workplace.

The ACTU has already begun rolling out resources in around 30 marginal seats around the country to coordinate campaigns to protect penalty rates, rights at work and the living standards of working people.

UNIONS WILL WORK TOGETHER WITH BUSINESS TO COMBAT ATTEMPTS BY THE ABBOTT GOVERNMENT TO STRIP AWAY PAID PARENTAL LEAVE FROM 80,000 AUSTRALIAN FAMILIES.

Around a thousand union delegates from around the country have voted to work with employers, community and women's groups to lobby MPs to oppose any reduction in employees' access to the government paid parental leave scheme.

The Congress also voted to defend all employees' rights to access the government scheme as well as any entitlements achieved in bargaining, including working with employers to ensure they are able to continue their commitment to supporting women and employees with caring responsibilities.



The current universal paid parental leave scheme introduced by the previous government was designed as a basic scheme for parents that would be complemented by more generous employer schemes taking womens' wages up to their full salary.

To suggest that women are double dipping completely misrepresents the nature and design of the scheme.

Under the Abbott Government's budget proposal almost half of new mothers will be left without access to government-funded paid parental leave.

Access to paid parental leave is beneficial for families, provides support for women with caring responsibilities and will encourage women's participation in the workforce.

A government that genuinely has the interests of Australian families at heart would not hold them to ransom in this way.

All final ACTU Congress 2015 policies, speeches and other highlights are available at www.actu.org.au/actu-congress-2015/about-the-actu-congress

VICTORIAN PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYEES IN WORLD WAR 1

HONOUR BOARD



McEllister, John Thomas
Penal Warder
Chief Secretary



Mahony, James Anthony
Labourer
Labour



Thomson, John
Clerk of Courts
Law



Gillespie, Robert MacGregor
Agricultural Specialist
Agriculture



Kerr, Robert John Leslie
Civil Servant
Forests



Maxfield, Gordon Loris
Accountant, Auditor
State Rivers and Waters Commission



Graham, Leslie Montrose
Draughtsman
Country Roads Board



Waterstrom, Margaret Brodie
Education/Public Instruction
Nurse



Ashmead, Cyril Garfield John
Education / Public Instruction
Primary Teacher



McNamara, F.J.
Education / Public Instruction
School Principal



Clarke, Cecil Austin
Clerk
Labour



Grant, George Muir
Surveyor
Law

WHEN AND HOW DID THEY DIE?

» THE RECORDS OF THOSE VICTORIAN PUBLIC SECTOR WORKERS WHO DIED REVEAL A GRIM SNAPSHOT OF LIFE ON THE WESTERN FRONT (AND IT IS OVERWHELMINGLY ON THE WESTERN FRONT THAT THEY DIED - A NUMBER ALSO DIED AT GALLIPOLI BUT ONLY ONE IN PALESTINE).

Around half of those for whom the cause of death is recorded died of shellfire and most of the rest of gunshot wounds.

This is actually a larger proportion of gunshot wounds than is normal for the war (it is generally understood that more than 80% of deaths in World War One were caused by artillery).

The greater prevalence of gunshot wounds, however, is not so unusual amongst Australian troops as they were used so often as assault troops - they tended to die while attacking rather than defending.

The following graph records the numbers who died in each month of the war (including the handful who died of disease or of their wounds as late as March 1919).

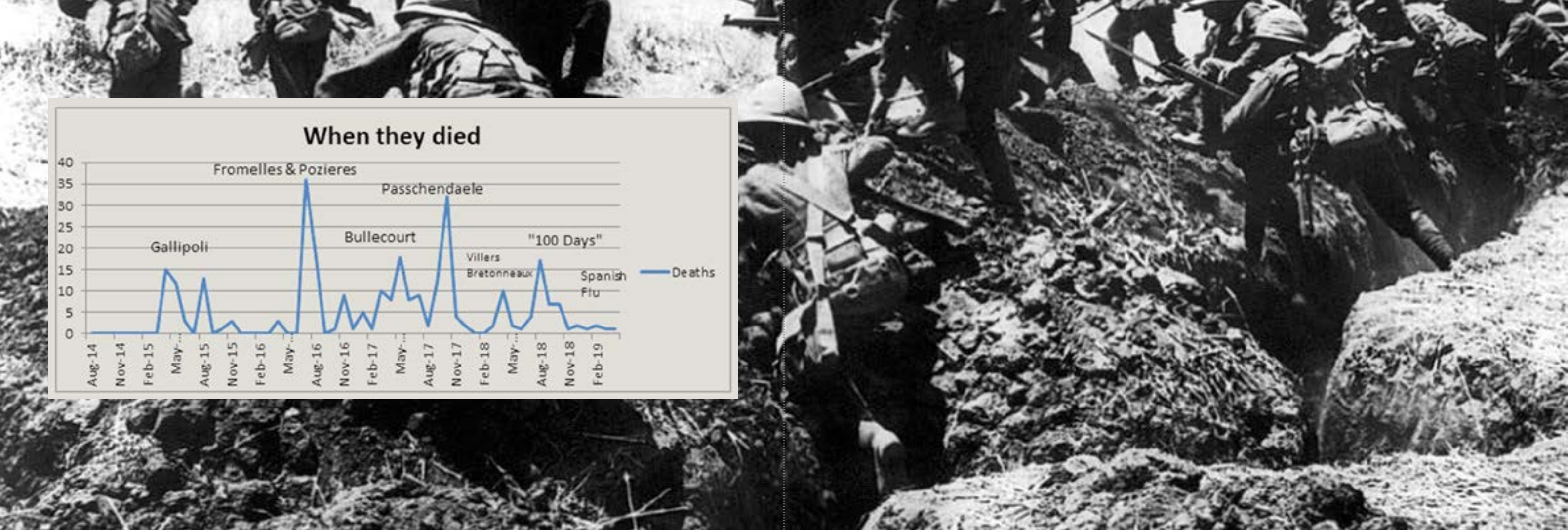
You can see clearly the impact of a handful of major conflicts. The two biggest peaks are in July/August 1916 and from September to November 1917.

The 1916 peak records the disastrous introduction of the AIF to the Western Front in the battles of Fromelles and Pozieres.

Fromelles is recorded simply and bleakly in the records of the 18 Victorian public sector workers who fell there.

The battle took place mostly on 19 July 1916 (one death is recorded on the 20th).

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE »



« CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

All the records initially state that the soldiers, such as John Douglas of the Public Works Department or Clemons Phillips of the Chief Secretary's Department, were missing. A subsequent record amends this to "killed in action". This is because the attack failed and the bodies were buried in a mass grave by the Germans – recently discovered by archaeologists.

Poizieres involved a "successful" attack in which seizure of a piece of ground of doubtful strategic value was followed by weeks of shelling (the Germans retained higher ground covering it).

Albert Jacka won his second medal here almost single-handedly defeating a German counter attack, but for the most part the battle was experienced as a prolonged, nerve-shattering exposure to shell fire such as that which briefly buried John Foster of the Chief Secretary's Department alive.

The 1917 peak records the Third Battle of Ypres (more commonly referred to as "Passchendaele" though this is more correctly used to refer to the final phase of the campaign from October till December).

This contained a number of discreet phases, from the initial attack on the Pilcken Ridge (3/7-2/8/1917), through Langemarck(16-18/8/1917), Menin Road (20-25/9/1917), Polygon Wood (26/9-3/10/1917) and Broodseinde(4-11/10/1917) to the First and Second battles of Passchendaele(12/10-10/12/1917).

It was fought to capture two ridges that overlooked Ypres, in the vain hope of a major breakthrough, but also to distract German attention away from a mutiny in the French Army.

A breathtaking 10,000 Australians died fighting in a lunar landscape where the mud was so deep horses could drown in it. 53 state employees died in this campaign – 39 of them in attacks that military historians record as being "successful".

Indeed the costliest phase of the battle was Broodseinde which is generally regarded as the most successful Allied attack of the Third Ypres.

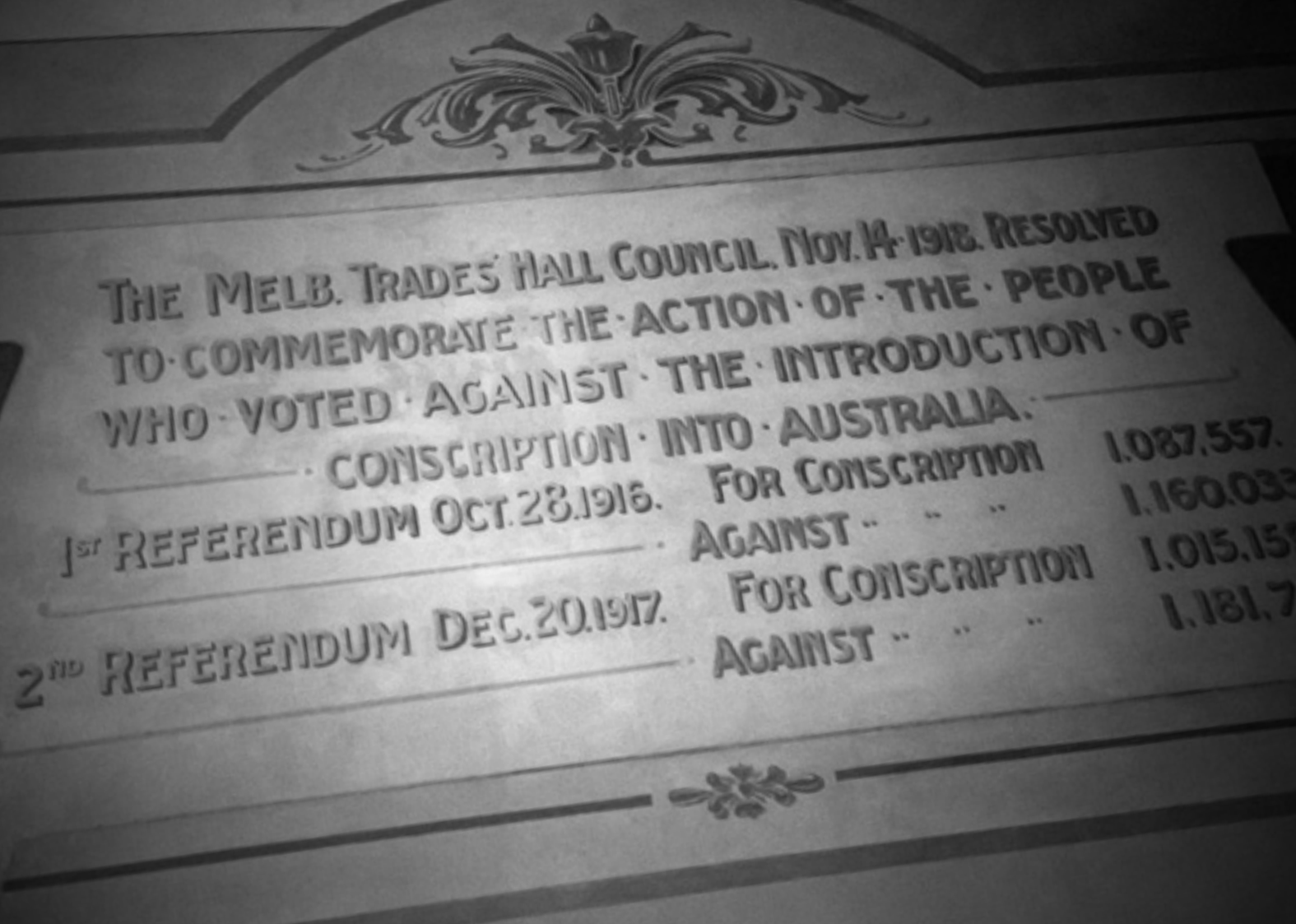
You can see in the last year of the war how "success" in this war often led to deaths in equal measure as did failure.

The famous defence and recapture of Villers Bretonneaux, in which the AIF played a decisive role in ending the great German offensive of 1918, sees another spike in deaths, as does the "100 Days" in which the AIF was continuously in action, from the famous Schwarze Tag, the "Black Day of the German Army" of 8 August 1918, through to the final Anzac battle of Montbrehain on 5 October.

This was the campaign that finally broke the back of the German Army (though it was a revolution in Germany that actually ended the war) yet it took nearly as many Anzac deaths as the failed campaign in Gallipoli.

Unnervingly, five of our public sector workers died at Montbrehain before the Anzacs were withdrawn for a rest that took them to 11 November 1918.

They form a sombre bookend to the 20 public sector workers who died in the Gallipoli landing.



CONSCRIPTION CONUNDRUM

» AS AUSTRALIA COMMEMORATES THE CENTENARY OF THE LANDINGS AT GALLIPOLI AND THE WESTERN FRONT BATTLES THAT FOLLOWED DURING WW1, THE CENTENARY OF AUSTRALIA'S CONSCRIPTION DEBATE IS NOW THE MAJOR FOCUS FOR VARIOUS ORGANISATIONS INCLUDING CPSU.

Maurice Blackburn Lawyers has joined with CPSU to undertake a joint research project on the pivotal role played by Maurice Blackburn MP in conjunction with the union's predecessor the Victorian State Services Union.

The union has sought access to the private papers of Maurice Blackburn and the private papers of Arthur Calwell, both prominent anti-conscription campaigners.

Maurice Blackburn was a member of the Victorian Parliament with the Australian Labor Party and Arthur Calwell was an official of our union.

CPSU acknowledges the support offered by both men's families in making their papers and associated research available to the union's historian Dr Robert Bollard.



"I'LL HAVE YOU!"

The interest for the union in this important part of Victorian and Australian history is the fact that despite the raging debate in the community at this time, the union's journals are completely silent on the issue.

We know through the research for the Citizens who Serve Doctorate written by Dr Dustin Halse, on the history of the union from 1885 to 1946, that there was close connection between Maurice Blackburn and the union, due to his unstinting support for the reestablishment of political rights for public servants.

This coupled with the union's active, and unprecedented, public endorsement of Maurice Blackburn in the state election of 1916 for the seat of Essendon as an ALP candidate and anti-conscription campaigner, suggests that the union took a stand against conscription.

The work Dr Bollard has done for the union on our previous commemorative project can be viewed at vpsww1.com.au and we all look forward to this next stage of the union's commemorative research project.



Maurice Blackburn Lawyers has joined with CPSU to undertake a joint research project on the pivotal role during Australia's Conscription debate played by Maurice Blackburn MP in conjunction with the union's predecessor the Victorian State Services Union.



Edward James Holloway

Trades Hall Council Secretary and Secretary of the No Conscription Committee during World War I.



Maurice Blackburn

State Member for Essendon, Federal MP for Bourke Australian Labor Party was in the forefront of Labor anti-war activities in Melbourne, addressing anti-conscription rallies and working within the party to force Labor politicians to oppose conscription.



Arthur Calwell

Clerk in the Department of Agriculture he defied regulations against open involvement in politics and was an advocate of a 'No' vote in the 1916 conscription referendum which split the Labor Party that year.

