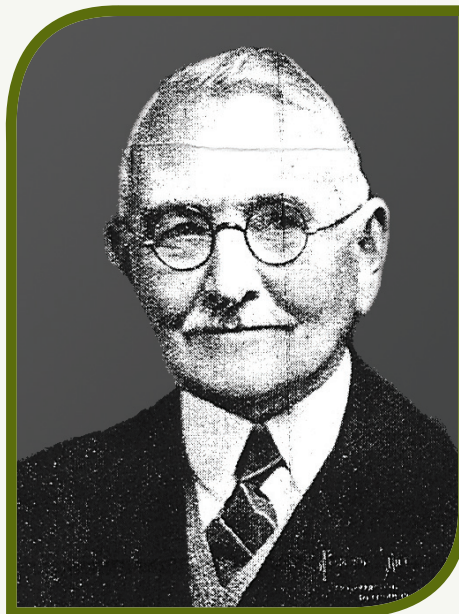


William Charles Frederick Thomas

1863 - 1943



Mr W. C. F. Thomas, C.B.E.

Biography by Dr Kim Torney

10 April 2006

Childhood and Parents

William Charles Frederick Thomas was born on the 13th of March, 1863 at Campbells Creek, just south of Castlemaine in the Colony of Victoria.¹ He was the first-born son of Cornish miner, William Charles Thomas, and Elizabeth Thomas (nee Summers) from Attleborough, Norfolk, England. Although the first son he was not the first child of the Thomas family, the death of a sister (Elizabeth) is recorded on his birth certificate. This also records that William Charles and Elizabeth were married at Campbells Creek in June 1861.

WCF Thomas was born into a family steeped in Methodism. An 'In Memoriam' piece for his father, William Charles Thomas, published in the Methodist journal, *The Spectator*, described him as 'a good gift to our church'.² Born in Cornwall in 1837 he was "cradled in Methodism", his first school was in a house in which John Wesley had preached. He came to Australia with his parents as a young boy in 1844/5, first to Adelaide, and then later to various gold diggings including Forest Creek (later named Castlemaine) in Victoria.³

During his time at Campbells Creek, according to *The Spectator*, WC Thomas was 'largely instrumental in erecting the first, and later on, the second Primitive Methodist Church.'

It remains unclear exactly when the Thomas family moved to Talbot, but the erroneous registration of this as his place of birth on WCF Thomas's death certificate suggests that he was very young at the time. His father's occupation was given as 'miner' on the 1861 birth certificate and the rate records for Talbot indicate that he continued with this occupation for some years. They show a William Thomas working as a miner in 1866, however in 1867 to 1869 his occupation is recorded as miller. So it was at Talbot that WC Thomas made the transition to career which became the family business. The family lived in Talbot township in a rented cottage in Scandanavian Crescent in 1866 and then moved to Oxford Street for 1867-1869. The Thomas family was growing in number, eventually WCF had four brothers and one sister – George, Ernest, Arthur, Frederick and Emma Elizabeth.

The Thomas Family



Standing: Frederick, Arthur, Ernest (dec.), George (dec.)
Sitting: William, late Mrs W.C. Thomas, late Mr W.C. Thomas, Elizabeth

From *Story of Australia: its discoverers and founders* Alfred S Kenyon (?1937), p. 334

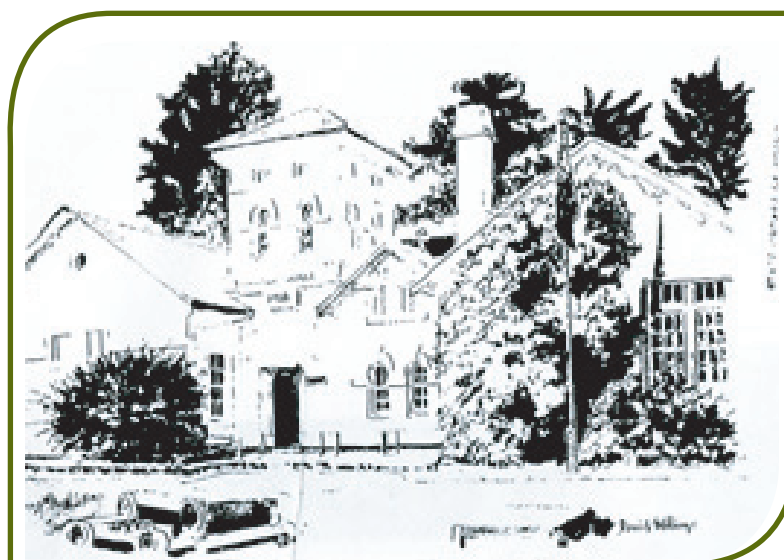
Records at the Talbot Arts & Historical Museum show that there was a National School No.620 on the 'Flat' between Hume and Stanley Streets. This was replaced by a new school located in the Talbot township on the site of the present primary school No.954. It opened in 1869. There is no record of WCF Thomas having attended school No.954, the only school records held by the Historical Museum. This suggests that he attended either National School No.620, or one established in 1857 by the Church of England under the Denominational Board. Known as Back Creek No.64, this school closed in 1869.

As at Campbells Creek, WC Thomas was an active Methodist in Talbot. His obituary in *The Spectator* recorded that 'He later settled for a while at Talbot, and was a pioneer for the Gospel.'

It also described his wife as 'a wonderful helpmeet and ...they went hand in hand into God's work and their earthly blessing.' Clearly the Thomas children grew up with a very powerful example from their parents of practical Methodism.

The Thomas family then moved to Beaufort where William Charles established his own flour mill. Fortunately, some of the records for the Beaufort Common School (No.60) remain, held by the Public Record Office of Victoria.⁴ The school register shows that a William Thomas whose father was a miller was enrolled at the school in January 1871. His age at enrolment was 7 years and 9 months. He was examined for Standard 3 in the second half of 1871 and progressed to Standard 6 plus by 1877. He is recorded as having left the school in October 1878, presumably to enter the family business.

Beaufort State School No. 60



*From Beaufort Revisited, A Sketchbook by David Williams
Compiled and published by Beaufort Historical Society c.1990*

Mr Hodgson and his son, John, were the builders of the Beaufort State School in 1864.

The first part was quite small and of rough stone, later faced. Over the years it has been altered and added to - not always sympathetically, but the tower against its background of pine tree is always a pleasant sight.

The Inspector's report for 1874 offers some insight into his school experience. He noted:

Buildings – in good order.

Instruction – generally good and efficient but I did not see quite sufficient proof that the programme is thoroughly carried out.

Discipline – rather lax. There is a vicious tendency to talk and copy during examinations. This should be repressed.

The upper classes pass a highly creditable examination.

The Third and Second are weak in spelling.

Of the other family members, the Beaufort school register shows that George was enrolled in April 1871, aged 4 years and 10 months, Ernest in May 1873, aged 4 years and 4 months, and Arthur in November 1875, aged 5 years and 3 months. Interestingly, in late 1877, the register records the enrolment of children of the Summers family whose father was a miller. This suggests that members of Mrs Thomas's family had moved into the area to work in the flour mill.

Once again, at Beaufort, WC Thomas was involved in the erection of a church. *The Spectator* obituary described him as 'always on the best of terms with his employees', citing his early introduction of the eight-hour system, and employment of his workers in church renovation during slack times at the mill as evidence. The wages paid to his workers were adopted as the standard by the first Wages Board (1896). The business expanded rapidly, with WC Thomas establishing mills into the Wimmera following its settlement and the consequent extension of rail lines. In 1884 William Charles Frederick was given the job of overseeing the construction and management of the new mill at Warracknabeal, apparently the 'first complete rolling mill in the State'.⁵ This was a big responsibility for a young man and showed his father's confidence both in his son's ability and work ethic.

Marriage to Georgina Harriet Heathershaw

The next evidence of his activities is his marriage to Georgina Harriet Heathershaw on the 8th of December, 1886 at Beaufort. His profession on the marriage certificate is miller, hers music teacher. Both named Beaufort as their place of residence. They were married by Georgina's father, the Reverend Henry Heathershaw, Primitive Methodist Minister at Beaufort. Born on the Isle of Man, Reverend Heathershaw came to Victoria in 1854. The Methodist Church 1907 Conference Minutes recorded Heathershaw's death in July of that year and gave a brief outline of his life.

Called to the Christian Ministry in 1860, he did grand work as one of the pioneers and leaders of the Primitive Methodist Church in this State for more than forty years.

The highest honours the Church could bestow were conferred on him, and he was twice elected President. For more than five years he was Superintendent of Missions, General Secretary and Book Steward.⁶

Obviously WCF Thomas married into a family with very similar, strongly held Methodist attitudes as his own. However there was nothing sombre about the marriage celebration as described at some length in the local paper, *The Riponshire Advocate*.⁷ This was clearly the marriage of two well-liked people, from respected and reasonably affluent families.

The Riponshire Advocate, 11 December 1886: One of those pleasing ceremonies in which it is the proverbial custom of ladies to take an especial interest and delight, was celebrated at the fashionable hour of half-past seven, on the evening of Wednesday last, in the new edifice which has been erected for the Primitive Methodist Church. The building was crowded even beyond comfortable standing-room, chiefly by the fair sex, whose happy faces seemed set towards a general wish that the first marriage service in the church should be conducted with the most felicitous surroundings. The bride-elect, Miss Georgina H. Heathershaw, a daughter of the officiating clergyman, with her pretty bridesmaids: the bridegroom, with his indispensable attendants, were conveyed to the church in several covered vehicles, and immediately the customary charge was given, and in a few minutes Mr William C.F. Thomas, eldest son of our respected miller and councillor, and the daughter of Mr Heathershaw, were joined together in the mystic bonds as man and wife. The bride was very much admired. She was beautifully attired in claret Pekin satin and Eidelweiss lace, with a very long train to the costume, and the usual bridal veil and wreath of orange blossom. From her arm, suspended by white satin ribbons, hung an exquisite bouquet, made in the form of a horseshoe of the choicest white flowers.

This image of rich colour and luxurious fabrics is reinforced by the description of the outfits of the six bridesmaids in various shades of cashmere, silk, lace, and Indian muslin, each carrying 'a handsome bouquet of blue flowers.' After the ceremony,

The party were conveyed to the Societies' hall, where the banquet was held. When the usual congratulatory toasts and speeches were ended, Mr. Dungey, on behalf of the employees of the bridegrooms father at Beaufort, Murtoa and Warracknabeal, presented the newly-married couple with a handsome silver-plated butter-cooler and hand-painted biscuit-barrel, accompanied with a neatly worded address, wishing them every happiness and prosperity, and God's blessing. The bride and bridegroom left Beaufort by train the same night, and as they moved away from the station, they were treated with the usual showers of rice and old slippers.

As this account notes, this was the first marriage in the new church, possibly the first event of any kind. It was not until 1 January 1887 that the church, in Neill Street, was opened for public worship.⁸

Adulthood and working life

It seems that, after his marriage, WCF Thomas managed the mill at Murtoa for some time before moving to Melbourne. An 'In Memoriam' to him published in *The Spectator* states that:

He came to Melbourne from Murtoa in the year 1888. For several years he lived at Hawthorn, and was the organist at the then Primitive Methodist Church, Lygon Street, Carlton.⁹

Although I discovered no evidence or reference to it elsewhere, his musical ability is not really surprising given his Methodist background. Mr Ray Smith, a trustee of the WCF Thomas Charitable Trust, remembers it being said that anyone who went to Murtoa and could sing, was found a job at the flour mill, presumably to strengthen the church choir.

The 'In Memoriam' notice continued:

About the year 1898 he settled in the Moonee Ponds district, and became a member of the Gladstone Street Church, where his parents were already worshipping.³

So by this time both father and son were in Melbourne, running the expanding business. An entry in *Wise's Victoria Post Office Directory, 1889-1900*, reads:

Thomas, William C – flour miller and grain merchant, 375 Flinders Lane, Melb. Murtoa, Warrack., Minyip and Beaufort. See advert. Millers¹¹

By 1902, the Melbourne office had moved to 31 Queen Street and the business was expanding rapidly. An entry on WC Thomas in *The Cyclopedia of Victoria*, describes the growth of the firm.

W. C. Thomas, Flour miller and Grain merchant, 31 Queen Street, Melbourne; also at Beaufort, Ballarat, Murtoa, Minyip, and Warracknabeal. This old and well-known firm was established in the early sixties by Mr. W. C. Thomas, sen., at Talbot where he started his first mill in conjunction with the late Messrs. Cadwallader and Toe. Since then he has established businesses at the abovementioned places, and has just erected and started another complete roller mill at Newport. Lately the firm has purchased the large brick mill in Armstrong Street, Ballarat ... and, on the Farmer's Loan and Agency Company going into liquidation, acquired all their machinery, thus securing the whole of the flour manufacturing trade in the Ballarat district. The firm has a splendid reputation all over Australasia, and unquestionably does the largest trade in Victoria.¹²

The entry ends with an outline of the ways in which the Thomas sons were involved in the family business, with :

the Melbourne branch being managed by Mr. W. C. Thomas jun., Ballarat by Mr. George E. Thomas, Newport by Mr. Ernest J. Thomas, and Mr. Arthur A. Thomas is associated with his father in the general management.

By 1941 the business headquarters was at the 'Beaufort House', 55-57 William Street, Melbourne.¹³

It is difficult to be certain exactly when WCF Thomas moved to Moonee Ponds, particularly because he and his father's shared names. The *Sands & McDougall Melbourne Directory* for 1900 shows a 'Thomas, William C.' living at 30 Dickens St., Moonee Ponds and this continues into the 1906 directory, which also shows for the first time a 'Thomas Wm. C' at 200 Pascoe Vale Road, Moonee Ponds. This was 'Almora', the residence of William Thomas senior and it remained the family home. AS Kenyon's *Story of Australia* (1934) notes that:

*Miss Emma Elizabeth Thomas, the youngest member of the family ... resided with her parents until the time of their deaths at "Almora", 200 Pascoe Vale Road, Moonee Ponds – at which address she is still in residence.*¹⁴

On Sunday, 19 October 1919 WC Thomas died, aged 82 years. Although rather frail he suffered no long illness:

His end came somewhat unexpectedly. A few days' confinement, and then God touched His servant into the fuller life.¹⁵

In noting the strain Thomas felt at the 'sorrows of the great war', his memorialist described his practical reaction.

He made some hundred odd pairs of leather-soled slippers for the sick and wounded, and week by week carried in large bunches of flowers to the sick men at base hospital.

This demonstrates once again the very hands-on style of Methodism that WC Thomas practised and handed on to his family.

It was not very much later that Mrs Elizabeth Thomas died, also aged 82 years. Her death certificate shows that she died at home on 15 May, 1920. Sadly, it also shows that three of her eight children had predeceased her – Elizabeth, George and Ernest. Her death notice placed by the family in *The Spectator* concluded with the quotation, "Her children rise up to call her blessed."¹⁶

The death of his father saw WCF Thomas taking on increased responsibilities not only in business but also in the Methodist Church.

From his 'In Memoriam' notice we learn that he was appointed a director of the Methodist Book Depot in place of his father, having already become a trustee of the Gladstone Street Church in his father's stead, presumably as he became more frail. Also around this time, WCF Thomas became a member of the Board of Management of the Methodist Supernumary Fund. Later, he served as circuit steward in the Flemington-Moonee Ponds Circuit. We also know from a paragraph published in *The Spectator* after his death that he was:

*For many years ... a helpful member of the Laymen's Missionary Movement, and a liberal supporter of special funds raised for overseas work.*¹⁷

This indicates that he shared his father's commitment to overseas missionary work noted by Mr John Kendall. He describes WC Thomas as becoming 'an ardent supporter of the Laymen's Missionary Movement' and his having made a financial contribution to the Morrissey Memorial Church in Dilkusha, Fiji, to the opening of which he travelled in 1910.¹⁸ This would have been quite an arduous trip for a 74-year old man and demonstrated his strong commitment to the project.

A central tenet of Methodism was self-improvement, making the most of every educational opportunity was very important. The centrality of this belief to the Thomas family is made apparent in their donation of the cost of one of the new studies at Queen's College, University of Melbourne, during the Queen's College Extension Appeal in 1922.¹⁹ This was made in memory of their late father.²⁰

At the same time, WCF Thomas was taking on increasingly prominent roles in business - both in Victoria and nationally. Certainly, as I showed earlier, WCF Thomas was running the central Melbourne office by the early 1900's. WC Thomas changed sole ownership to a proprietary company in 1904, forming W.C Thomas and Sons Pty., Ltd.²¹ It seems probable that WCF Thomas had been Chairman for some time before his father's death, he certainly was from then on. He was a member of the council of the Victorian Chamber of Manufactures in 1917, representing the flour milling industry.

WCF Thomas became a member of the executive in 1922, vice-president in 1927, deputy president in 1922 and president in 1935. In 1924 he became a director of the Chamber Insurance Company.²² In 1921 he became a Charter Member of the Rotary Club of Melbourne, the first in Australia.²³ He was president of the Victorian Flour Miller's Association for many years and first president of the Federal Flour Millers of Australia.²⁴ His reputation was such that, upon the establishment of the Australian Dried Fruits Export Control Board in 1925, WCF Thomas was appointed Government representative and Chairman, a position he held for many years.²⁵ It was in recognition of his service on the Dried Fruits Board that he was awarded the Order of the British Empire – Commander (Civil) [C.B.E.] on 3 July 1926.

Prior to this, in 1924, WCF Thomas had been appointed by the Commonwealth Government of Australia, under Prime Minister Stanley Bruce, to represent the employers' interests at the International Labour Conference of the League of Nations at Geneva. Employees were represented by the future prime minister, John Curtin. Thomas again filled this position at the 1930 International Labour Conference.²⁶

There must have been a certain degree of difficulty for Thomas in fulfilling these duties which took him away from Australia for some time given the poor health of his wife, Georgina. When she died on 19 November 1932, her death certificate showed pyelitis as the cause of death, and recorded that she had had the condition for the past twelve years, suffering acutely for the last couple of months before her death.²⁷ The 'In Memoriam' notice in *The Spectator* reflects both a long illness and warm personality.

*In the church at Gladstone Street for many years she had exerted a gracious influence, and while health permitted was an active worker. ... She shrank from publicity, but was an active and generous member of the W.A.F.M. and Ladies' Guild. She was given to hospitality.*²⁸

She was buried in the New Melbourne Cemetery, the name used at the time for what is now known as the Fawkner Cemetery.²⁹

The death certificate gave her address as "St. Ives", Tasma Street, Ascot Vale. There is no longer a house on the site, it is now home to Ascot Vale Special School.

The size of the site suggests that there were extensive grounds around "St Ives", and a newspaper article about WCF Thomas's election as President of the Chamber of Manufactures' confirms his gardening interest, noting that:

*Although he has little spare time he finds sufficient to allow him to indulge in his hobby of gardening, and the flowers around his home at Ascot Vale are an indication of the proficiency he has attained.*³⁰

The Later Years

Around a year after his wife's death, in late 1933, WCF Thomas married Elsie Louise Cook in London.³¹ He was aged 70 years, she was in her early forties. Although apparently very English in demeanour and accent, Elsie was actually born in the inner-Melbourne suburb of Richmond in 1891. Her home address was 266 Simpson's Road, which the *Sands & McDougall Directory* for 1891 notes was another name for the south side of Victoria Street. The directory records the occupant of No. 266 as 'Arch[ibald] McNeill' and it being a 'pro store' [produce store]. This accords with the profession of the father, Charles Steward Cook, recorded on the birth certificate as 'grocer', perhaps he worked for Mr McNeill, or he may have been renting the shop. The birth certificate also shows that Charles Cook was aged 28 years and was born in London, England. His wife, Elizabeth Cook (formerly Langdon), also aged 28, was born in Geelong. They were married in Fitzroy, Victoria on 19 March 1889, and already had a son, Harry.³²

Given that Elsie was believed to have been English, it seems likely that the family moved there when she was quite young. (Interestingly, her death certificate records her birthplace as 'Coleraine, Victoria', which suggests that perhaps the family moved around before going to England).³³ Where and how Elsie met WCF Thomas is another unknown.

Mr Ray Smith suggested that it may have been in London at a bank where Elsie was working. Certainly WCF Thomas was in London mid-1933, in his capacity as chairman of the Australian Dried Fruits Board.³⁴

The death certificate for Mrs Elsie Thomas also records that she lived for 38 years in Australia prior to death, but that is questionable. It would mean that she did not arrive until 1941, eight years after her marriage to WCF Thomas, which seems unlikely.

The accidental death of William Charles Frederick Thomas on 21 May 1943, as a result of being hit by a falling tree limb in his garden at 1 Tasma Street Ascot Vale, was widely noted in the press. His funeral was held at the Gladstone Street Church he had attended for many years. According to *The Spectator*,

*The large and representative gathering which assembled [at the service] ... indicated the very high place Mr. Thomas held in the business circles of Melbourne, and the appreciation his associates in the commercial world had of his business acumen and genuine Christian character.*³⁵

His contribution to the Methodist Church was also recognised by the attendees who included the Reverend C. Irving Benson, President of the Conference. He was buried at Fawkner Cemetery alongside his parents.³⁶

WCF Thomas was survived by three of his siblings – Arthur, Frederick and Emma Elizabeth. They too lived by the family ethos of service to the community. Arthur served on the Essendon Council and was mayor for a term, and he was also a member of the Melbourne City Council. He was also a prominent Freemason as was his brother, Frederick. Both men were directors of W.C. Thomas and Sons, Pty. Ltd., and for several years Frederick served as president of the Victorian Flourmillers' Association.³⁷ Arthur and Frederick both died in 1944, in April and October respectively. Emma Elizabeth never married. AS Kenyon described her as being 'well-known for her efforts on behalf of her less fortunate fellows'. Amongst other roles she served as Honorary Secretary of the Essendon Ladies' Benevolent Society, President of the Essendon Auxiliary of the Women's Hospital and Vice-President of the Victorian Council of Benevolent Societies. She was also acting Mayoress for Essendon in 1925-7, presumably to support her brother, Arthur.

WCF Thomas Charitable Legacy

The will of WCF Thomas, made on 17 June 1936, established 'The W.C.F. Thomas Charitable Trust'. The Trust was established with an initial bequest of approximately £100,000. After substantial bequests to his wife and various funds of the Methodist Church (£2,000 each to the Foreign Mission Fund, the Central Mission Fund and the Home Mission Fund), the remainder of the estate (with the condition of several annual payments to various institutions of the Methodist Church) went to support a Charitable Trust whose aims were:

- (i) The relief of poverty
- (ii) The advancement of religion
- (iii) The advancement of education, and
- (iv) Such other purposes beneficial to the community as may be charitable though not falling under any of the preceding headings.

These aims really encapsulate the ideals of Methodism as lived by the Thomas family in Australia. The influences and ideals which shaped WCF Thomas found expression in the establishment of the Charitable Trust which bears his name.

Mr Ray Smith and ANZ Trustees are the trustees of the W.C.F. Thomas Charitable Trust.

Highlights of Trust Achievements

"Over the past five years the Trust has distributed over \$1 million to charitable organisations across Australia, giving these organisations the leverage to do more or to support positive change in society." Funds were first distributed to charitable causes in 1944 and today the Trust gives approximately \$150,000 per year.

The W.C.F. Thomas Charitable Trust supports charitable projects, predominantly in Victoria, with interest in: people and children with disabilities, education and the needs of young people, particularly those who are disadvantaged. In the tradition of the benefactor, the Trust also supports Rotary International Humanitarian Projects.

The W.C.F. Thomas Charitable Trust accepts grant applications from charitable organisations by invitation only.

The Trust has funded ground breaking projects including:

Young People in Nursing Homes Alliance



In 2002, the Young People In Nursing Homes (YPINH) alliance, brought to the Trust’s attention the fact that more than 6,000 young

Australians with Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) or progressive degenerative conditions, such as Multiple Sclerosis, were living in aged care nursing homes and were not receiving the care or rehabilitation that their conditions required.

The Trust funded Melbourne City Mission and Headway Victoria, members of the YPINH alliance, to research the number of affected Australians, what accommodation and support care alternatives were available and how the energy and passion of the families affected could best be directed. The research funded by the Trust and the work of the Alliance influenced significant changes in the Federal and State Government’s support for suitable accommodation options for young people with ABI. The research was also successful in raising community awareness.



Leadership Plus



The Leadership Program recently won an award for 'Innovative Service Delivery' in the Community Services and Health Industry Training Awards. Photo shows sponsor, Suzanne Teese (Leadership Plus) Tony Graham (RMIT).

The Trust provided funding to the Leadership Plus Program, a Victorian community project that supports and enhances the

development of leadership skills for people with physical, cognitive, sensory and psychiatric disabilities, with a focus on civic participation and inclusion as citizens in Australian society. Leadership Plus’ mission is to drive change that raises the status of people with disabilities in society and their contributions at high levels.



Participant and guest speaker interacting at a seminar. Photo shows Steve Eicke (participant) and Peter Binks (CEO Nanotechnology Victoria)



Two participants at a seminar. Photo shows Richard Stubbs and Felice Vaiani.

Leadership Plus approached the Trust with the proposition that leadership training should not be confined to the able bodied, a

novel concept at the time. Seed funding was provided to help establish the, “Leadership Plus Leadership Program”, a 12-month leadership development experience specifically for people with a disability. This program is now entering into its third year of delivery, and the 25-30 places in the program are highly sort after.

Timor-Leste embassy and cultural centre project

The Trust has contributed funding towards the building of the Timor-Leste (also known as East Timor) embassy in Canberra. Timor-Leste is one of Australia's poorest regional neighbours. It lacks the capacity to finance the building of an embassy. This project aims to improve the country's future and help it establish a proud and physical presence in Australia. An embassy is considered an important symbol of nationhood.

This new building in Canberra will help Timor-Leste establish important and successful international trading relationships and raise awareness and educate people about its culture and history. The building is scheduled for completion in 2007.



References

- ¹ Birth certificate, Reg. no. 13094
- ² *The Spectator*, 14 January 1920, p.27 (Uniting Church Archives)
- ³ *The Cyclopedia of Victoria* (vol 2), James Smith, 1902, p.131; *Story of Australia: its discoverers and founders*, AS Kenyon, 1934, p.334
- ⁴ Public Record Office, Victoria, VPRS 8973/P0001/1
- ⁵ Kenyon, p.334.
- ⁶ 1907 Conference Minutes, Methodist Church (Vic), p.43
- ⁷ *The Riponshire Advocate*, Saturday, 11 December 1886, p.2
- ⁸ *Ibid.*, 1 January 1887, p.2
- ⁹ *The Spectator*, 16 June 1943, p.380
- ¹⁰ *Ibid.*
- ¹¹ *Wise's Victoria Post Office Directory, 1889-1900*, (State Library of Victoria, fiche 120).
- ¹² *The Cyclopedia of Victoria*, p.131
- ¹³ *Sands & McDougall Victorian Directory, 1941.*
- ¹⁴ Kenyon, p.336
- ¹⁵ *The Spectator*, 14 January 1920, p.27
- ¹⁶ *The Spectator*, vol.XLVII 1922, p.404
- ¹⁷ *The Spectator*, 29 March 1944, p.198
- ¹⁸ J. Kendall, 'William Charles Frederick Thomas, Charter Member: Rotary Club of Melbourne', 2005, p.1
- ¹⁹ Queen's College was founded in 1887 on a piece of land granted by the Victorian Government to the Methodist Church.
- ²⁰ *The Spectator*, 1922, p.372.
- ²¹ Kendall, p.1
- ²² *Victorian Chamber of Manufactures' Gazette, 28 May, 1935, p.3*
- ²³ Kendall, p.1
- ²⁴ *Age*, 24 May 1944
- ²⁵ *Victorian Chamber of Manufactures' Gazette, 28 May, 1935, p.3*
- ²⁶ *Ibid.*
- ²⁷ Pyelitis is described by the *Macquarie Dictionary* (1998) as 'Pathology inflammation of the pelvis or outlet of the kidney'. Death certificate no. M 3268.
- ²⁸ *The Spectator*, 7 December 1932, p. 998
- ²⁹ Fawkner Cemetery, Methodist Compartment A Grave 239A
- ³⁰ *Sun*, (date and page illegible, 1935?)
- ³¹ England & Wales Marriage Index, 1837-1983. Marriages registered in Oct-Dec 1933, Westminster, vol 1a, Page 1097
- ³² Birth certificate, Reg. no 15062
- ³³ Death certificate, Reg. no. 21788. Mrs Elsie Thomas died on 16 September 1979. She was cremated at Springvale Crematorium.
- ³⁴ *Age*, 9 June 1933, (page no. unknown)
- ³⁵ *The Spectator*, 16 June 1943, p.380
- ³⁶ Fawkner Cemetery, Methodist Compartment A Grave 239B (Frederick was buried in 237C, Arthur in 239A and Emma [under Elizabeth Emma] in 237A)
- ³⁷ *Argus*, 24 April 1944, and 2 October 1944, (page no. unknown)

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