

THE MEN ON THE PIONEERS' BOARD

204 Biographies

For many years it has been an ambition, first of the Warrnambool & District Historical Society Inc and more recently of the Warrnambool Family History Group, to write a biography of each of the 204 men whose images appear on the Warrnambool Pioneers' Board.

Working together in recent years members of the two groups have now completed draft versions of these 204 items and they are being made publicly available in the hope that descendants or others will verify or correct the information discovered.

To reach this stage has been a considerable achievement over a long period involving many members of the groups as well as descendants who are not members.

Possibly the first co-ordinated attempt was made by Marie Boyce who, when she died in 2007, left a file which contained a page for each man on which she had listed places where information about him could be found. This was an enormous compilation – not of information but of places where information could be found.

In the South West Genealogist for July 2008, then WFHG President Ray Welsford wrote about the project and beside a list of the 204, stated

For each person, we would need to record details of overseas origin, immigration, marriage & family, death & burial, along with notable achievements and activities. In some cases, we might find that the research is already done. In other cases, it might prove to be quite difficult. Let's hear from you!

The South West Genealogist of September 2008 reported an enthusiastic response to the request and that the first bios had been received from a Melbourne man who was the GGG Grandson of one man on the Board and the GG Grandson of another. To facilitate the work, a folder was provided where completed bios could be filed and ticked off on a master list. Marie Boyce's file was also made available to researchers giving them a starting point.

To further streamline the process a standardised format for each bio was provided and researchers were requested to report their findings in this form, meaning that the bios are presented in point form, not as stories. The headings used were:

Name	Marriage(s)	Death & Burial
Parents	Immigration	Obituary (published)
Siblings	Children	Life
Birth	Place(s) of Residence	

It was also planned that each man would be allowed two pages so that when the bios eventually became a book both pages (the complete bio) would be visible at once. Many people contributed to the completion of the research and the writing up of the bio. Some just did one, an ancestor, while others worked at it for long periods completing several or even many. Judy Clark and Clive Brownsea were particularly committed to the project.

Extensive proofreading, format correction, and some fact revision was undertaken by Ray Welsford who also inserted copies of the photos of the board images taken in the past, possibly by Art Gallery Manager Jack Welsh.

Towards the end of 2018 all 204 bios were completed in draft form and a folder containing the printed bios was placed on a table at HeritageWorks with an invitation to all and sundry to edit, add, rewrite, correct, etc.

While preparing material for the recently published book, *The Story of the Board*, Glenys Phillpott undertook an extensive and intensive review of the birth and death information in all 204 bios, and where necessary the information has been updated or corrected by Mandy King. Mandy has also replaced all the images of the men in the bios, removing the old photos and replacing them with the high-quality digital scans created by the Grimwade Centre during the 2018 restoration project.

Hardcopy versions of the bios will continue to be available for consultation and correction at HeritageWorks. In addition, copies are now being provided via the HeritageWorks website so that those not in Warrnambool are able to participate in the refinement of the work.

Whether the bios eventually appear in book form is a decision for the future.

For correction or addition to the Bios please email project@warrnamboolheritageworks.org.au