
BENALLA HOSPITALS AND NURSES IN THE EARLY 1900's



JUDITH BORTHWICK

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c. Judith Borthwick 2020



Introduction

“My aim was to locate the hospital in Benalla where my uncle was born in 1919”

This project commenced in 2012 with the U3A Local History program when we were asked to choose a topic to research. I decided to continue with it when Stories of Benalla’s Past commenced the following year. It is like a jigsaw puzzle, with some gaps, hopefully not too many discrepancies and certainly more information to be obtained.

My mother told me the hospital where her brother Ross was born was in Barkly Street, where the old Technical School now stands opposite the High School, which is confirmed in one of my references. My original interest was in this hospital, however as I discovered other hospitals of the period and beyond, I decided to include them, which then led to discovering the nurses who owned or operated them. Gradually my focus shifted to become equally interested in the nurses. Because my research interest lay in local hospitals I have only concentrated on the person in charge of each hospital. There were of course many other nurses who would have staffed these hospitals, or nursed independently, including nurses who served overseas during World War I.

I became fascinated with the hospitals and the women who worked in them. I thoroughly enjoyed the research part of the project, frequently getting side-tracked, but eventually found what I was looking for.

The editions of the ‘Benalla Standard’ newspaper for the period I was interested in were very fragile. I did, however, look at the ‘The Benalla Standard’ newspapers in 1919 and one from 1924. Much information was also obtained via “Trove” in *The Argus*, *The North Eastern Ensign* and the *Benalla Ensign*.

Since I began my research, the Benalla Standard and other newspapers have been increasingly digitized on ‘Trove’, enabling more information about the nurses, their hospitals and in some cases their husbands, to be accessed. Information outside the scope of what I originally intended has not been included. (I have always thought that this project would serve as a starting point for anyone who wanted to pursue the subject further.)

I accessed Rate Books at the Benalla Family Research Centre and obtained photos from the Benalla Historical Society. I looked on-line at Electoral Roll records as well as the Benalla Cemetery Index. I knocked on doors, wrote letters and made phone calls to ask for information and permission to photograph homes.

I became aware of the ‘Baptismal Register’ of St Andrews Church, Benalla, held at the Benalla Family Research Group, through Marjorie Campbell. The entries recorded by Reverend McConnan during his long association with the church proved a particularly valuable resource as he included the name of the hospital. His entries in the register - dated from 1884 to 1926, then a final entry in 1929 – provided early evidence of the existence of hospitals which proved a fertile base for my research.

Three books also contributed to my research:

'Benalla Cavalcade', by A J Dunlop, provided useful insights into the lack of hospital services in Benalla's early years and described the private hospitals serving Benalla following the first World War, mentioning 'Winfield' 'Avondale', 'Rossmore' and 'Lemnos'.

'Business and Professional Women Working in Benalla – Late 19th and early 20th Centuries – A Bicentennial Project 1988, written by Norma Grubb, Erna Howell and Betty Hughes and kindly lent to me by Irene Wills, also provided valuable information.

'The Path to the Benalla Hospital', by Morrie Evans, details the efforts of a provisional committee who recognised the need for another hospital in Benalla and how they raised the funds to make this possible. It is well worth reading. A copy is available in the Benalla Library.

Volunteers at both the Family History Research Group, Benalla, and Benalla Historical Society Inc. Museum were also very helpful.

My thanks to my editor Bev Lee for her encouragement and suggestions, without which this project would not have been completed. Bev also came up with additional information, much of which I have included.

Special thanks to my husband John who has been supportive throughout this lengthy process, and especially over the last few months whilst I spent countless hours on the computer.

Judith Borthwick

Benalla, December 2020

Hospitals in Benalla

Benalla historian Alan Dunlop, writing in 'Benalla Cavalcade'(1973), states that 30 years after the beginning of the town of Benalla there were still no hospital services and the sick had no alternative but to knock on the doors of private homes until they found someone willing to take them in and nurse them¹. Indeed, it was not a good place to get sick at the time, but things did improve. He continues that in the years following the First World War the town was better served with private hospitals.

According to Dunlop, by 1916 'Winfield Private Hospital' in Arundel Street was being advertised. Nurse Lindsay was conducting 'Avondale' in Barkly Street, 'Rossmore' was operating in Carrier Street, and 'Lemnos' was conducted by Sister Down.

Reverend McConnan's register refers to births at 'Lemnos', 'Dunrobin', 'Rossmore', 'St Anne's' and 'Winfield' private hospitals in Benalla on page 25.

| Date | Location | Minister |
|------------|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Feb 13/19 | Ararah | R. McConnan |
| Feb 18/19 | Maryborough | R. McConnan |
| Jan 10/21 | Benalla | R. McConnan |
| Nov. 2/17 | Arundel St. Benalla | R. McConnan |
| Sept 30/20 | Arundel St. Benalla | R. McConnan |
| Dec. 25/20 | Kings St North Fitzroy | R. McConnan |
| Apr. 27/21 | Lemnos, Benalla | R. McConnan |
| June 23/21 | Crannond St. Benalla | R. McConnan |
| July 2/20 | Lemnos, Benalla | R. McConnan |
| Jan 9/21 | Winfield Hospital, Shipperton | R. McConnan |
| May 1/19 | Dunrobin, Benalla | R. McConnan |
| June 24/21 | Lemnos, Benalla | R. McConnan |
| June 19/21 | Bethesda, Richmond | R. McConnan |
| Jan 13/21 | Lemnos, Benalla | R. McConnan |
| Sept 13/21 | Lemnos, Benalla | R. McConnan |
| May 29/20 | Manfield | R. McConnan |
| Apr. 23/21 | Stewart St. Brunswick | R. McConnan |
| Aug 4/21 | Templeton St. Shipperton | R. McConnan |
| Sept 17/21 | Edlin St. Auburn | R. McConnan |
| Dec 23/21 | Rossmore, Benalla | R. McConnan |
| Sept 20/11 | St. Anne's, Benalla | R. McConnan |
| Jan 4/16 | Winfield, Benalla | R. McConnan |
| Apr 5/22 | Avonhurst, Melbourne | R. McConnan |
| July 24/20 | Windsor | F. G. Green |
| Dec 1/21 | Benalla | F. G. Green |
| July 2/22 | Rossmore, Benalla | F. G. Green |
| Feb 13/24 | Melbourne | F. G. Green |
| May 13/22 | Benalla | F. G. Green |
| Jan 14/21 | Lemnos, Benalla | R. McConnan |
| Jan 9/19 | Whitton | R. McConnan |
| Jan 9/19 | Rossmore, Benalla | R. McConnan |
| Sept 3/22 | Rossmore, Benalla | R. McConnan |

Page from Baptismal Register of St. Andrew's Church Benalla during part of 1921/22 recorded by Rev McConnan. Now stored at the Family Research Centre.

In addition to the private hospitals mentioned by Dunlop and Grubb et al and found in the Baptism Register, others were discovered operating both before and after the war by scouring the birth notices in local papers. I found mention of Nurse Warren, Nurse Elliott, Nurse Corbett, Nurse Morrissey and Sister Magee conducting private hospitals, of 'Canberra' and

'Laura Ville' Hospitals. Some of these would have been operating during the time of the register, however the page above is only one page of a large register.

In 1915, the local newspapers' Council Business columns revealed that new registration requirements were established by the Public Health Department for private hospitals, providing a 'census' of private hospitals at the time, with applications for their premises to be registered made by Nurses Elliott, Corbett (previously Nurse Warren's), Dick, Heyer, Magee, Bagnall 'Dunrobin', Morrissey (Ishmael) 'Lauraville', Yearwood (Winfield) and Kimber.

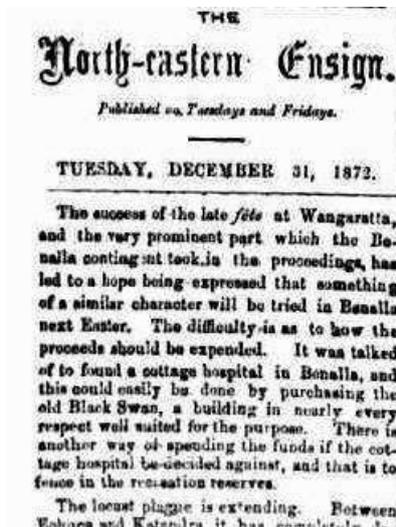
There was, however, no record during this period of a community hospital – a 'cottage' or 'bush nursing' hospital - operating in Benalla until 1935.

'Reverend McConnan would not have imagined that 120 years after his first entry in the Baptismal Register it would prove useful as a research tool.

I did not imagine, in the 1950's when I was in McConnan House, the house named after him at Benalla High School, that I would be using the register for a project like this.'

The quest for a cottage hospital in Benalla

1872



The first reference to a proposed hospital in Benalla was found in The North-eastern Ensign of Tuesday 31st December 1872.

The item refers to a fete conducted in Wangaratta in which Benalla people played a prominent part, and the hope that a similar fete could be held in Benalla the following Easter. The difficulty, the article says, is how the proceeds should be expended. "It was talked of founding a cottage hospital in Benalla, and this could easily be done by purchasing the old Black Swan, a building in nearly every respect well suited for the purpose". If the cottage hospital was decided against, the money could be used to fence the recreation reserves.

"I couldn't discover whether the fete went ahead. However, it does not appear that the hospital did."

Over the next 50 years there was discussion, for and against, about the need for a hospital in Benalla and many letters written to local papers, often after tragic accidents in which a person's life may have been saved if there had been a hospital in Benalla.

1894

North-Eastern Ensign, Tuesday 19 June, 1894 p4

A NEW SCHEME

THERE is some talk going on just now as to the propriety of establishing a hospital in Benalla, and the idea is certainly worthy of consideration. As yet, the subject is only in embryo. It is in fact, so immature that only a small section of the community is discussing it. About twenty years ago it was one of the liveliest questions of the hour; but, through the establishment of a hospital at Wangaratta, twenty-five miles away, and other inexplicable reasons, it eventuated in demise.

In now seeking to resuscitate it we are loath to tender any definite advice to those interesting themselves in the affair, not that we think the

object in view is unattainable, but because, if achieved and practically carried out, it would create a new public responsibility. In a word it would throw upon the shoulders of the community the duty of caring for those of the weak and infirm in our midst who, under existing circumstances, obtain relief at Wangaratta.

It may not be generally known that the hospital at that place is, and always has been, a source of anxiety to those who manage it. It costs about £2000 a-year to conduct it, and even at the present time it is in debt.

It is not of course, desired to establish an institution here on such a gigantic scale as that of the town alluded to — all that is contemplated in that way is the erection of a Cottage Hospital, a place wherein cases of great urgency might be dealt with.

As already urged, however, it behoves the community not to undertake the scheme,

meritorious and charitable though it be, until such time as it has fully made up its mind to support it, and till it has secured for its maintenance that amount of public co-operation required to prosecute it.

1897 – 1899

A tragic accident in 1897 led to renewed calls for a cottage hospital for Benalla. Many letters were written to local papers, providing case studies of the need for a cottage hospital. A public meeting was held on Monday 3rd May 1897 and a committee appointed.

‘At the public meeting, held in the Shire-hall, on Monday the 3rd inst., resolutions were unanimously passed in favor of erecting a Cottage Hospital in Benalla and a committee was appointed to take the necessary steps to carry out the wishes of those present. The members of the committee met for the first time, on Saturday evening last, to inspect some designs of buildings, together with specifications and estimates of cost which had been specifically prepared for them. Also, to consider some valuable financial information supplied in the shape of statements of income and expenditure of similar existing institutions in various country places. And after duly considering matters, the following resolutions were passed unanimously, viz: - 1. That with a view to suitably commemorate the 60th anniversary of Her Majesty Queen Victoria’s reign, the people of Benalla erect a Cottage Hospital sufficient for present requirements, at a cost not to exceed £600. 2. That the members of the committee exert their influence to obtain donations and subscriptions and such information as may be of value in carrying out this resolution to lay before our next meeting on Saturday the 15th inst.’

North Eastern Ensign, Friday 14 May 1897, page 2.

However, there was a strong voice, expressed via North East Ensign editorialsⁱⁱ, which strongly opposed the quest. I have included several, but as you can see some people were vehemently against the proposal

North East Ensign 14 May 1897 p.2

THE COTTAGE HOSPITAL AT BENALLA

The following letter appears in the "Standard": — Now that the people of Benalla and surrounding districts are impressed with the advisability, if not necessity, of erecting a Cottage Hospital it would be a thousand pities if the same was not made worthy of the great occasion. The inhabitants of these colonies are noted for their loyalty and devotion to the Throne of Great Britain. Now or never, therefore, is the time for us to prove ourselves equal to the occasion; now is the time to give proof of our loyalty, in the erection of a decent structure — so laudable in itself and deservedly popular with the people. It is not for today or tomorrow we are under-taking this

work; we are about to build for the future, and who can tell what possibilities in the way of suffering and disease are in the womb of that future?

The day may soon come when a terrible railway, mining, or other accident may occur in our midst, and some dear one of our families be the victim. It is then we see the great necessity of a local hospital a half-hour may mean death. Take, for instance, the case of that poor fellow, Daniel McKay, who was severely injured some few months ago at our local railway station. Had there been a local institution where he could have been taken immediately the accident happened, without having to travel on the train for nearly an hour,

the chances are he would be alive today. Who can tell? Again, look at the patients coming from Yarrawonga and Tungamah districts. If going to the Wangaratta Hospital, they have to wait at Benalla upwards of four hours. The same thing applies to all our surrounding districts. Our people have always been to the fore with outside charities, and it would be strange indeed if that never-failing source hitherto should now dry up.

But even should we not get the sum total just now, what of that? As I have often said, a

North-Eastern Ensign, Friday, June 4. 1897
THE LATEST FAD

The propriety or otherwise of opening a cottage hospital in Benalla continues to be discussed with considerable vigor in our midst. After all there can be only one section of the community vitally interested in the project—namely, those who have any stake in the district and upon whom the duty of permanently supporting the proposed charity must devolve. Nobody, as far as the ENSIGN can see, possessing any real solidity or backbone is enthusiastic about the scheme. Indeed most of the property-holders of the place look upon the agitation which has been started for erecting a hospital here as a step in the wrong direction, especially when there is all that is needed in that respect, at Wangaratta. It is, therefore, believed that the provision of hospital accommodation in this particular part of the North-east is only destined to create a heavy responsibility for the people who are fixtures here. Such a belief has ample warranty to justify its entertainment, considering that nearly every institution of the place is dependent for its existence on nothing but energetic and systematic begging. In fact, as was pointed out by a contributor to the Ensign a little while ago, the colony is over-run just now by beggars. That industrious

bazaar for this purpose, in which all denominations would join, should be a decided success. I am sure at least £300 could be raised from this source alone. Let us then give "a long pull, a strong pull, and a pull all together," for our union is our strength and "Onward" is our motto. We will erect, God willing, a cottage hospital that shall be worthy of our loyalty to our Queen, worthy of her Diamond Jubilee, and worthy of ourselves.

people do not desire to encourage this state of thing any longer there is no doubt; and, it becomes the duty of those who find the wherewithal for the support of charity to sit on the schemes of faddists, the bulk of the community will agree. Never in the history of the colony have people experienced such a trying time as that through which they are now just passing; and yet, in the face of this retarding circumstance, inhabitants of Benalla are being asked to add another burden to their already numerous charitable calls. Were this request made on the part of those who have so long been helping the cause in question it is probable that it would have some effect; but when - as is alleged - it is the work of only a few persons who, to give them credit for entertainment of the most benevolent of purposes, are seeking to prosecute a scheme to which the general community is opposed, and who, as regards the financial aspect of the affair, are making a jump in the dark, since they are but theorising as to their expenditure. On the whole, the establishment of a hospital in Benalla, in view of existing circumstances, constitutes the latest fad.

It seemed that by 1899 efforts to establish a cottage hospital in Benalla had been put into the too hard basket.

1900-1935

The newspapers paint a picture of Benalla residents continuing to support the Wangaratta hospital through regular fund-raising events during this period. Residents were able to catch the train to Wangaratta with a timetable which allowed for scheduled appointments and visits. The concern remained, however, with emergencies, including maternity cases, for which the distance and timetabling constraints could prove life threatening.

The demand for emergency nursing services was picked up, in the first three decades of the new century, by nurses who ran small, largely maternity hospitals. Nurses who often began by establishing rooms and offering home-based services, later offered accommodation, usually advertising their services. A number went on to apply for registration of their premises as private hospitals. Most were maternity hospitals, with some also offering general nursing including surgical. The premises they established often continued to operate as hospitals under the management of other nurses after their departure.

While a reference was found in a birth notice in the 'Family Notices' section of the Argus on 31st January 1907 to Dr Nish's private hospital, Benalla, it may have been described this way by the parents sharing news of the birth. Dr Nish had a medical practice in Benalla. He and his wife lived in Nunn Street, possibly the practice and hospital were there. The notice says:

PATON. -On the 31st January, at Dr. Nish's private hospital, Benalla, the wife of J. A. Paton, Noorongong, Tallangatta, a son.

The Argus (Melbourne, Vic. 1848 – 1956), 4 February, p.1

Two years later on Friday 15 October 1909 an article appeared on page 2 of the North-Eastern Ensign which describes a promising doctor, Dr Dobie, leaving Benalla for Seymour because he could not effect the registration of a hospital for the premises he leased in Benalla.

The local doctors and the nurses' private hospitals appeared to operate in tandem. There are numerous newspaper reports in Trove of Dr Nish and other local doctors working alongside nurses, referring and admitting patients and accident and emergency cases involving surgery, to the nurses' private hospitals. For example:

“On Saturday Mr. Thomas Tanner, of Greta, whilst working on a threshing machine, met with a very painful and serious accident, which, we regret to state, resulted in the loss of his right hand. By some means his hand and arm became entangled in the machinery, with the result that it was very badly torn. He was brought into **Miss Warren's private hospital** and placed under the care of Dr. Ebsworth, who, assisted by Dr. Nish, amputated the right hand just above the wrist, it was also found that the arm had been dislocated at the elbow, and there was a fracture close to the elbow joint.’

Benalla Standard Tuesday 25 January 1910 Page 3

Mr. John McElroy was reported “injured when he fell backwards getting into a cart. Dr Nicholson's services were sought, and he had the patient brought into **Mrs Bagnall's private hospital**. However, an abscess formed, and Dr. Nicholson, assisted by Dr Barrington, performed the surgery”.

Benalla Ensign 13 Sept 1912 p2

A report in the Benalla Ensign dated 10 July 1914 p2 indicates “a serious accident happened to a man named Rawlingson, employed by Mr. Evans, Lima South, yesterday. He was stepping into a gig, when the horse unexpectedly startled and he was thrown down, the wheel

of the vehicle passing over his body. He was brought in with all speed to Dr. Nish in Mr Clarke's motor car. The doctor found that Rawlingson had been badly injured, three of his ribs on the right side being broken and the muscles badly strained. After being attended to, the doctor ordered his patient's removal to **Nurse Yearwood's 'Winfield' Hospital.**

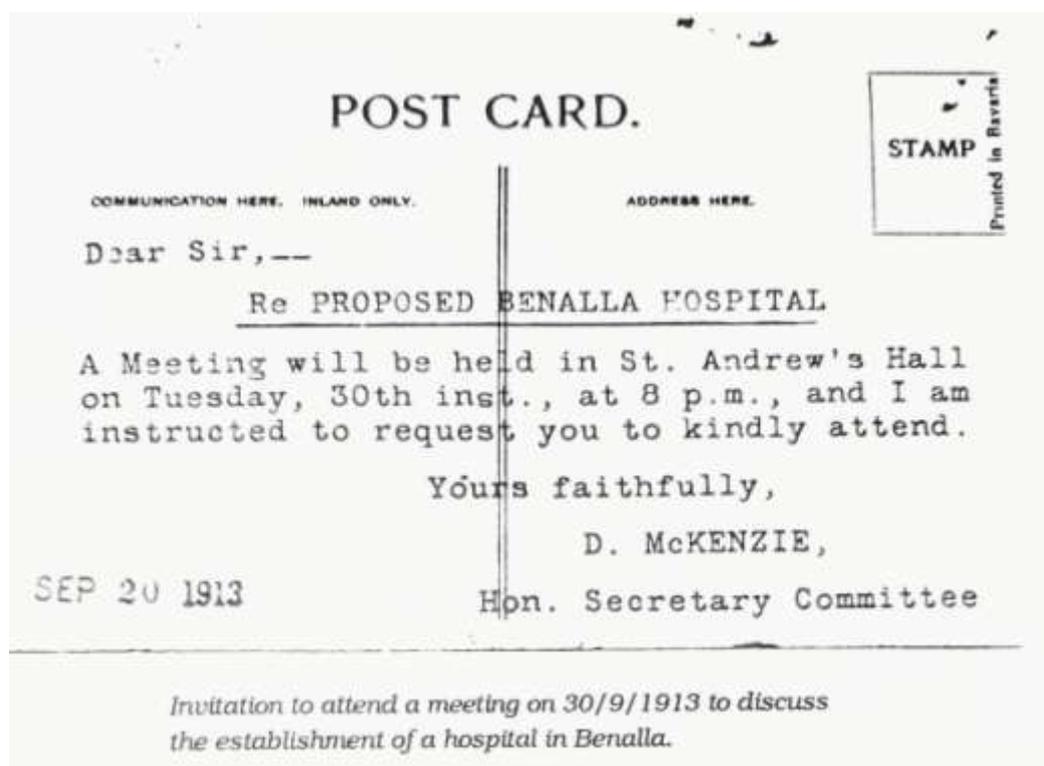
Benalla Ensign 10 July 1914 p2

A report in the North East Ensign dated 18 December 1914 indicates that 80-year old John McMahon of Winton died at **Nurse Elliott's Hospital** after Dr Nish brought the sufferer to Nurse Elliott's Hospital affording all the relief he could. However, the patient could not be saved.

North East Ensign 18 December 1914

“With no bush nursing hospital in Benalla until 1935, these and many other newspaper articles describe the role played by the nurses' private hospitals in filling what would be regarded today as a distinct gap in service delivery.”

There continued to be periodic calls for the establishment of a cottage or bush nursing hospital in Benalla. A document relating to renewed calls in 1913 for a cottage/bush hospital in Benalla is included in Morrie Evans book, *'The Path to the Benalla Hospital'*:



Source: Evans, M C (1989) 'The Path to the Benalla Hospital' page 37

It was reported in the Standard on 3 October 1913 p3, that a meeting of the townspeople was held to discuss the support likely to be received from the country districts and the prospect of a Government grant being obtained towards the establishment of a hospital in Benalla, and also to discuss Mr Miller's generous offer.

Mr Miller had promised 1000 pounds and the Miller Homes, conditional on the townspeople subscribing another 2500 pounds towards the proposed hospital. He had courteously agreed to allow his offer to stand for three months.

While regretting refusing ‘an offer which so few towns get’, after much discussion the following motion was passed:

‘That this meeting of representatives of the citizens of Benalla, while thanking Mr Miller for his generous offer towards establishing a hospital in Benalla, and having given the matter careful consideration, respectfully convey to Mr Miller their inability of accept the offer as they feel it would be impossible for them to carry on and do justice to such an institution as Mr Miller wishes to see established in Benalla, and no subsidy would be available from the Government’.

There was some mention at the meeting as to whether a cottage hospital might be a feasible alternative, using the example of a cottage hospital developed in Creswick. (Refer Attachment 7d for full article – ‘The Proposed Hospital – Mr Miller’s Offer Declined’).

Letters continued to sporadically appear in the newspapers – see for example, Attachment 7(e), letter from ‘Returned Soldier’ in 1919.

It was reported in the Standard on 11 June 1929 p1, that a public meeting, initiated by the Australian Women’s National League, was held to discuss establishing an intermediate hospital in Benalla. ‘A good gathering’ of 20 to 30 women and 12 men attended. Mr E Cleary MLA had made enquiries with the Charities Board regarding the meaning of intermediate hospitals, and was able to tell them in plain words that it meant a paying patients’ hospital. An intermediate hospital would be in competition not only with Wangaratta hospital but with the two private hospitals in the town, which were tendering fine public service; Sister Down’s ‘Lemnos’ private hospital and ‘Rossmore’ private hospital, run at that time by Sisters Ann and Bertha McPherson.

While not being prepared to support an intermediate hospital in Benalla, the meeting was told that the Charities Board “had offered to supply an up-to-date ambulance outfit free of cost... With it they could have a patient at Wangaratta in less than an hour”. The possibility that a bush nursing hospital, such as that established in Euroa, would be a better fit for Benalla than an intermediate hospital, was supported in the report to the meeting.

The Benalla Standard on Friday 24 June 1929 p4 reports that the Benalla Debating Society also considered the matter:

"Should there be an Intermediate Hospital in Benalla?" Mr. Mulgrew opined that, such an institution was not needed, as Wangaratta met the exigencies with a general hospital, whilst Benalla had two private hospitals which were serving the same purpose as intermediate hospitals. It was impossible for the working classes to meet the fees chargeable by intermediate hospitals."

It wasn’t until 1932 that a concerted effort initiated by the United Friendly Societies of Benalla eventually resulted in the unveiling of the foundation stone for Benalla’s bush nursing hospital in 1935; until the 1st July 1953 that the Benalla Memorial Hospital Society took over the Bush Nursing Hospital; until 26th May 1965 that another concerted effort led by community members, including Morrie Evans, led to the unveiling of the foundation stone for the Benalla Hospital.

The Nurses' Private Hospitals

Introduction

My project, which began with the research focus on hospitals in Benalla, came to concentrate on the person in charge of each hospital, usually nurses who began offering nursing services with accommodation and went on to operate and register private hospitals in Benalla. I became fascinated by these remarkable women, a number of whom had large families. Almost all were 'nurses' and played integral part in the provision of health services and hospitals in Benalla.

The focus therefore is on the nurses who ran private hospitals in Benalla in the first three decades of the 20th Century prior to the opening of the Benalla Bush Nursing Hospital in 1935.

The nurses are discussed in time-line order related to when they were first mentioned as establishing nursing services in Benalla, beginning with Nurse Warren, for whom 1899 appears to be the first mention of her offering nursing services in Benalla.

A novice researcher, finding out about Nurse Catherine Warren when I began this project led to my discovering TROVE and the Public Records Office of Victoria (PROV).

The first thing I did was to Google 'Nurse Warren'. I came up with part of an item which said that she had applied for registration under the Infant Protection Act, but that her husband had recently been in jail. At this stage I had not heard of TROVE or the Public Records Office of Victoria (PROV). I was indeed a novice researcher.

I later asked my son, Michael, to go to PROV and he was able to get me two reference numbers, but went no further. References Michael found were microfiche references to Catherine Warren in the Infant Life Protection Act Indexes.

There are two entries for Catherine Warren from Benalla. The two references numbers under her name are X8577 (Year 1905) and W10210 (Year 1905).

It was not until the visit of Mark Grealy, guest speaker at the opening of Family History Week in Benalla, that I got some of the information I required. I provided him with the reference numbers, and he was able to get the information for one of them. Mark said that by coincidence he was sitting next to the woman who had put the original information on the web who said he was very lucky to obtain them as they are not easy to find. They are dated 1905.

“My original interest was in Nurse Warren and her hospital in Barkly Street, but as I discovered other hospitals of the period and beyond, I decided to include them also. It has been a fascinating project”

1899

Nurse Warren's Private Hospital

Nurse Catherine Warren



I became fascinated by Nurse Catherine Warren when I began this project. On deciding on my topic and hearing about my nephew's school project on Nurse Warren, the first thing I did was to Google 'Nurse Warren'. I came up with an item which said that Catherine Warren had applied for registration under the Infant Protection Act.

The Infant Life Protection Act was passed in Victoria in 1890 to protect the lives of new-born children who were given by their mothers to other women to nurse from birth to the age of two years.

WARREN, Catherine, Benalla, applies for registration, nursing midwifery and other cases. Reference from local Dr. BARRINGTON and Rev. W. PARKES on file. Police report she is a respectable woman, but husband has recently been discharged from prison. List 16. (Information compiled by Helen D. Harris OAM, 2004-12. 16.)

Nurse Catherine Warren, in her letter to the Commissioner of Police in 1905 applying for registration under the Infant Protection Act, describes nursing in Barkly Street, Benalla, under the supervision of Drs. Nicholson, Barrington and Nish since 1899.

Catherine writes-

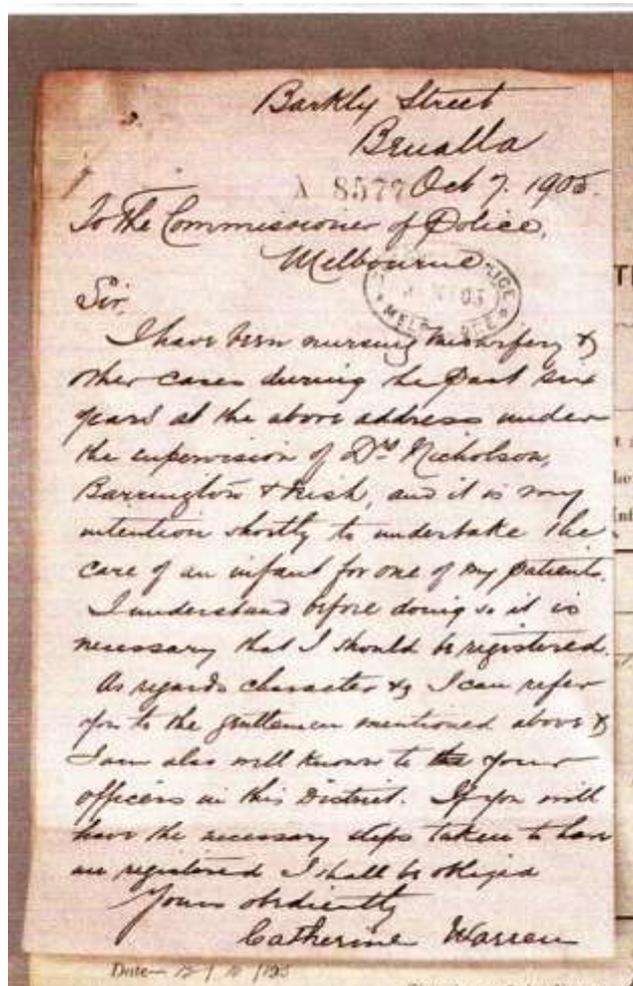
"Sir,

I have been nursing for the past six years at the above address (Barkly Street) under the supervision of Drs Nicholson, Barrington and Nish and it is my intention shortly to undertake the care of an infant for one of my patients. I understand before doing so that I should be registered.

As regards character I can refer to the gentlemen above. I am also well known to your officers in the district. If you will have the necessary steps taken to have me registered, I shall be obliged.

Yours obediently

Catherine Warren"



References from William Parkes, a local Minister of Religion, and Dr Arthur E. Barrington were provided, both testifying to Mrs Warren's good character

I have known Mrs. Warren personally
intimately during my nearly two years
residence here. I am more than satisfied
as to her respectability, and am heartily
pleased with her industry and the
efforts she makes for her family and
herself.

William Parkes
Vicar Holy Trinity, Benalla.

October 1905.

BARRINGTON,
M.B.; B.Ch.; B.A.O.; Univ. Dublin

NUNN STREET, BENALLA.

October 11th, 1905.

I have known Mrs Warren for six or seven years as a capable nurse
and have very much pleasure in testifying to her skill and kindness
with patients. I understand that she is applying to be registered
as a nurse for the purpose of taking charge of a child, and I am of
opinion that she is in every way fully qualified for the position.

Arthur E Barrington M.B.; B.Ch.; B.A.O.; Univ. Dublin.

The address on the application, and family notices in the newspaper, give the address of Nurse Warren's private hospital as Barkly Street, for example:

DOYLE – On the 16th October, at Barkly Street, Benalla, at Nurse Warren's private hospital the wife of J M Doyle – a son.

The Australasian, Melbourne, 17 October 1907

Catherine gives her address as Barkly Street, but reference to her being in Barkly Street could not be found in the Rate Books. Rate notices show it as being on Allot 6. Sec. C. Smythe Street. This would seem to be several houses down from where McDonald's now stands. As Catherine had six children, it is possible that (possibly #50) Smythe Street was the Warren family home, while her private hospital premises were in Barkly Street.

A news article and public notice in the Benalla Standard on 8 December 1908 reported that Catherine's daughter, Katherine Waldron Warren, had returned to Benalla to work with Catherine.

“PRIVATE HOSPITAL.—We are glad to learn that Mrs. Warren is now back in Benalla, and although not sufficiently recovered to take up the full duties at her private hospital in Barkly-street, her daughter, Nurse K. Warren, R.V.T.N.A., having finished a four years' course of training at the Amherst Hospital, is now working with her. Having been head nurse at the hospital for twelve months, and acting-matron for several in months prior to leaving, she is capable and prepared to undertake any kind of nursing. Mrs. Warren wishes to thank all her friends for their kind inquiries during her long illness.” (p2).

Public Notices.

PRIVATE HOSPITAL

MRS. C. WARREN, Matron.
 NURSE, K. WARREN, R.V.T.N.A.
 (Late Acting-Matron at the Amherst Hospital.)
 Comfortable Accommodation. Ordinary
 Association Fees.
 Patients Nursed at Hospital or own Homes

Catherine Proverbs was born in 1858 in Staffordshire, England. In 1879 she married Yorkshire born Thomas William Warren in Birmingham. The couple, who migrated to Australia between 1889 and 1891 had six children, one of whom, Katherine Waldron Warren also became a nurse. Their four older children, Edith Lizzie (1881), Lilian Alice (1882), Katherine Waldron (1884) and Harriette Suie (1888) were born in England, their youngest daughter Eva Etta was born in Hawthorn, Melbourne in 1892 and son Thomas Frederick was born in Bendigo in 1898.

Nurse Warren appears to have been a multi-talented woman. A report in the *Benalla Standard* on 21 Aug 1903 was headed 'Cinderella in Benalla', Cinderella turned into operetta, with very pretty, yet simple music was placed upon the stage of the Shire Hall under the

direction of Mrs T W Warren, and proved to be the most successful performance of any given under the management of that lady.” Amongst the many cast members were Miss Lily Warren as Cinderella and Miss Katie Warren’s performance as the step-sister Marinella was distinctly good. Miss Kitty Warren essaying the part of the even more unpleasant Dolabella and did it well. Miss Simpson and Mr Warren showed past stage experience. Both stood out prominently in their respective parts. Mr Warren’s voice well suited the music of his part and he acted well also, his success was considerable. Miss Warren was a very efficient accompanist during the whole of the performance. There were several other performers.

The encore song was ‘The Tin Gee-Gee’ which was given with a true sense of its comedy. Two other tiny tots appeared in this scene also Master Freddy Warren and Miss Maggie Cox, who gave a baby rendition so well that another encore resulted.

Messrs Stolz and Collins kindly lent drawing room furniture as did Miss Henry. Mr Waller and Mrs LePlastrier assisted by lending articles necessary to the performance and Miss Simpson was thanked for her capable help in making costumes.”

Sadly, this talented woman, and mother of six children, who had so much to offer both her family and the community died at St Vincent’s Hospital, in 1909 at the age of 51. The family notice in Melbourne’s Age newspaper on Friday 2 July 1909 p1 read ‘On the 1st July, at St Vincent’s Hospital, Fitzroy, Catherine, the beloved wife of Thomas W Warren of Benalla and loved mother of Edie, Lillie, Katie, Suie, Eva, Freddie, aged 51 years 6 months.’

In an obituary in The Benalla Standard on Friday 9 July, 1909, Catherine Warren, aged 51, is described as ‘a fine type of English woman who had won the golden opinions of all who knew her, not only as a nurse, but as a citizen. During her residence in Benalla she gave superabundant evidence of her loyalty as a wife, and her industry and zeal as a mother was undoubted. Much regret was felt on it becoming known that she had breathed her last—the result of a surgical operation—and a general feeling of regret is felt for her family in their bereavement. The deceased lady’s remains were interred in the Church of England portion of the Benalla Cemetery.’

Katherine Waldron Warren



Catherine’s daughter, Nurse Katherine Waldron Warren, continued operating ‘Miss Warren’s Private Hospital’ for a number of years after Catherine’s death.

An item in the Benalla Independent Newspaper in 1909 provided by local family historian Marj Campbell refers to a man having his leg amputated at Miss Warren’s hospital:

“Last Saturday, a successful amputation was performed by Dr Nicholson, assisted by Dr Barrington, on Mr Thos Wilcock, at Miss Warren’s private hospital. A few days ago, Mr Wilcock was brought in from his home in Lima South suffering from Senile gangrene in one of his legs. The leg became so bad that it

was decided to have it amputated above the knee and this was performed as already stated. The sufferer, who is 78 years of age, is progressing favourably.”

Although a number of births and accident emergency incidents are recorded for Nurse Warren’s hospital its ‘claim to fame’ seems to be that a famous cricketer, George Eugene ‘Joey’ Palmer died there on Monday 22 August, 1910, having been brought from his home in Baddaginnie the previous Saturday when he had developed pneumonia.

‘Joey’ Palmer played his first Test Match in Melbourne in 1879 in the Australian test team against Lord Harris’ English touring team. He was a well-known cricketer of the period, playing in Test Matches over a number of years. There is an extended article about his career in Benalla Standard (Vic.: 1901 – 1931), Tuesday 23 August 1910, page 2. Joey Palmer is buried in the Benalla Cemeteryⁱⁱⁱ.

On the 23 May 1911, the following notice appeared under ‘Public Notices’ in the Benalla Standard:

“NURSE K. WARREN begs to notify the public of Benalla and district that she is giving up her Private Hospital in Barkly-street on 1st June next. As she is leaving the district on June 30, all outstanding ACCOUNTS should be PAID on or before that date.”

Nurse Warren’s hospital did not appear in Trove Records from 1912, however a notice appeared in 1914 indicating that Nurse Corbett’s private hospital was operating from the former Nurse Warren’s premises in Barkly Street (refer p 39).

Electoral Rolls indicate Katherine’s father Thomas Warren and sisters Lilian and Eva Etta continued to live in Barkly Street until at least 1917. Kitty may have nursed periodically in Benalla before announcing that she was leaving for service with the Australian Forces in 1915.

On Tuesday 10 August 1915 an article appeared in the Benalla Standard ‘Nurse for the Front’ announcing that “Nurse Kate Warren who twelve months ago volunteered for service with the Australian forces as nurse, was notified last week that her offer had been accepted, and she left Benalla yesterday to take up duties at the base hospital, Melbourne.” (p2).

On 1 May 1917 Katherine Waldron Warren signed attestation papers for service abroad and became attached to the British Indian Nursing Services (ref Attachment 7(e)). Her sister Lilian Alice Warren of Lavery Street, Benalla was named as her next of kin.

While overseas Katherine married Reverend Albert Mortimer Jenkins, who was an Army Chaplain from 1916-1919. Her address in 1920 was Newtown, The Rumbles, South Wales and in 1923 The Rectory, Rustenburg, Transvaal, South Africa. She appears to have lived in Africa until 1955. Albert’s positions in the Anglican Church in South Africa included Canon of St Alban’s Cathedral, Pretoria, 1928-46 and Archdeacon of Pretoria and Director of Native Miss., 1933-46 (Cambridge University Alumni Records). Shipping records of Albert and Katharine’s 1955 voyage from Capetown, South Africa to Bristol, England in the ‘City of Hull’ include their daughter, Nancee, b 1924, also a nurse.

Katherine died aged 95 yrs in the United Kingdom. Her address at the time was Flat 2,20 Orchard Road, Bromley, Kent. (Probate Records).

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.
AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.

British Army
Small
 No. *1 Nurse* Name (Surname) **WARREN**
 in full (Christian Name) *Katharine Waldron*
 Unit *A A & C Reinforcements A.I.F.*
 Joined on *24. 1. 17* *Part of Indian Nursing Service*

Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

1. What is your Name? ... *Katharine Waldron Warren*
2. In or near what Parish or Town were you born? ... *Birmingham* in the County of *England*
3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.) ... *yes*
4. What is your Age? ... *32 years*
5. What is your Trade or Calling? ... *Nurse*
6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period? ... *3 years in Central Hospital from 1904 to 1907*
7. Are you married? ... *no*
8. Who is your next of kin? (Address and relationship to be stated) ... *Lillian Alice Warren (sister) LARRY ST BRADDA*
9. What is your permanent address in Australia? ... *PO Box 24*
10. Do you now belong to, or have you ever served in, His Majesty's Army, the Marines, the Militia, the Militia Reserve, the Territorial Force, Royal Navy, or Colonial Forces? If so, state which, and if not now serving, state cause of discharge ... *yes* *Address of Nurse (since married) now by A.M. for King's ...*
11. Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service? ... *yes*
12. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service? If so, on what grounds? ... *no*
13. (For married men, widowers with children, and soldiers who are the sole support of widowed mother) Do you understand that no separation allowance will be issued in respect of your service beyond an amount which together with pay would reach eight shillings per day? ... **RELIGION** *Ch. of Eng*
14. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against small pox and enteric fever? ... *yes*

I, *K. W. Warren*, do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and I am willing and hereby voluntarily agree to serve in the Military Forces of the Commonwealth of Australia within or beyond the limits of the Commonwealth.

And I further agree to allot not less than *two fifths* of the pay payable to me from time to time during my service for the support of my *wife & 4* wife and children.

Date *1-5-17* *K. W. Warren*
 Signature of person enlisted.

D.300/1.12.—C.1207. * This clause should be struck out in the case of unmarried men or widowers without children under 18 years of age. † Two-fifths must be allotted to the wife, and if there are children three-fifths must be allotted.

1904 - 1918

Nurse Bagnell - 'Dunrobin' Hospital

NURSING.—Good accommodation and attention at “Dunrobin,” Lavery-st, Benalla. MRS. BAGNALL, Nurse.

Benalla Standard, Friday 18 November 1904 p2

Nurse Bagnall overcame much adversity in her life before opening her hospital. Born Eliza Victoria Ellens in Broadmeadows Victoria in 1855, she married William Bagnell in 1869 and had seven children. William passed away in Benalla in 1886 leaving Eliza with Mary 16, Anne (born with infantile paralysis and epileptic mania 14), Ada 12, Emily 10, William 5, and Ellen, who died later that year, aged 2. Daughter Elizabeth, born in 1879, had died at 10 months in 1880).

An item appeared in the *North East Ensign* on 10 May 1887 in the Council minutes relating to the need for financial support for Eliza Victoria Bagnell (nee Ellens):

BENALLA SHIRE COUNCIL “From H E Merriman, drawing attention to a case of distress in Lowry Place – that of Mrs Eliza Bagnall, a widow there being in rather poor circumstances, and asked the council to render some pecuniary aid towards the maintenance of the woman. It was unanimously agreed that the sum of 30 shillings be passed for payment for the purpose stated.”

At some stage after the aid was provided Eliza left Benalla with her family to live with or near to her mother and brother Charles in Melbourne. In 1893 the family was recorded as living at Carpenter Street, Brighton when Eliza’s daughter Ada died at the Prince Alfred Hospital aged 19.

The family was living at St Andrew’s Street, Brighton in 1900, when Eliza’s daughter Anne was transferred to the Lunatic Asylum in Ballarat, where she died in June of that year. Presumably Eliza had cared for her daughter at home up until this time.

Eliza is recorded in the coroner’s affidavits by the head nurse and certifying doctor as having visited Anne Alberta at the asylum in Ballarat on the day before she died. The head nurse also notes that two sisters of the deceased had visited Anne during her time in Ballarat.

In 1903 and 1905 electoral rolls Eliza and her 21-year old son William resided at Holyrood Street, Sandringham, with Eliza listed as boarding house manager and William as a confectioner. William later married and lived in New Zealand where he joined the military forces and fought in World War 1.

Eliza appears to have become a ‘certificated nurse’ while in Melbourne. She advertised as a ‘certificated nurse’ and appears to have been highly regarded as a nurse after returning to live and nurse in Benalla in 1904, running a private hospital in Lavery Street to at least 1918.

Nurse Bagnall is listed in the 1917 Victorian Government Gazette as being a registered midwife (Category 14b).



From c 1904 to 1918 Nurse Bagnall ran a private hospital in Lavery Street, Benalla, known as 'Dunrobin'. 'Dunrobin' private hospital occupied two substantial red brick houses connected by a walkway. Both buildings remain intact and appear in excellent condition.

The photo shown is from 1987 when one of the houses was advertised for sale.

While the hospital was referred to as 'Dunrobin' in Reverend McConnan's Baptism Register, it was almost always referred to as Nurse Bagnall's hospital in Family Notices:

BIRTHS HALE. -On the 24th June, at Nurse Bagnell's private hospital, Benalla, the wife of P C Hale, of Goorambat- a son. 'The Argus', 24th June 1910.

Many births and deaths which occurred at Nurse Bagnall's were listed in newspapers. The birth of well-known identity Victor Richards Say, the son of William McCall Say (Chemist, who was also a well-known identity) and Irene Evelyn Richards on 29 December 1910 was recorded by Reverend McConnan. The last birth at Dunrobin recorded by Reverend McConnan was that of Reginald Joseph Boyd on 9 May 1918.

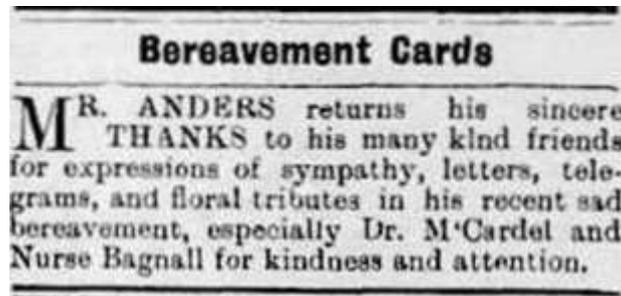
Judging by the 'Family Notices' in the newspapers, Nurse Bagnall's hospital was very popular. It was not just a maternity hospital. There were certainly births, but medical emergencies and deaths were also recorded. One was of a 16-month old girl who died as a result of a scalding accident.

O'SHANASSY.- On the 17th September, at Nurse Bagnell's hospital, Benalla, result of scalding accident, Eileen Frances, fondly loved only daughter of Thomas and Maria O'Shanassy, of Loma Langi, Bungeet, aged 16 months R.I.P. 'Family Notices', The Argus (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1956), 20 September, p. 24.

Another example appeared in *Benalla Standard Tuesday 24 October 1911 p3*:

"Surprise and deep regret were everywhere expressed on Saturday morning, when it became known that Mrs. Holden, wife of Mr. James Holden, of "Somerset," Ryan's Creek, had expired in a most tragic manner at Mrs. Bagnall's private hospital. The event was all the more sad as it was unexpected. A few days ago, Mrs. Holden developed an attack of pneumonia, and on Thursday she was brought into Benalla so that she could receive better medical attention and skilled nursing. All day Friday her condition improved, but about 7 o'clock she was attacked with syncope, and death supervened from heart failure, the whole thing happening inside of four minutes. She made some request to the nurse, who attended to it, and then went over to another part of the room. On going back to the patient in the course of a minute or so she was alarmed by the look in her eye, and being unable to get any answer, she at once telephoned for Dr. Barrington, who arrived without delay, only to find that Mrs. Holden was dead..."

Nurse Bagnall received many expressions of thanks in Family Notices. The following expression of thanks appeared in the Benalla Standard on Tuesday February 16, 2015 for Nurse Bagnall and Dr McCardel for kindness and attention.

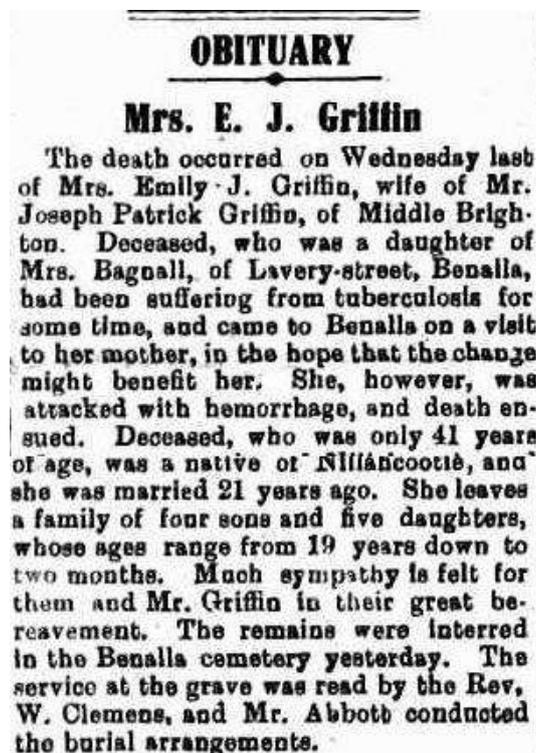


In 1918, Eliza's remaining living daughters, Emily Jane and Mary Elizabeth died. Emily Jane (married name Griffin) died on 2nd January in Benalla.

GRIFFIN – On the 2nd January, at her mother's residence, Lavery Street, Benalla. Emily Jane, dearly loved youngest daughter of Mrs Bagnell, loved sister of Mary and Charlie (AIF on active service), loved niece of C. Ellens (Benalla). Peace, perfect peace.

Source: Argus (Melbourne, Victoria), Saturday 5 January 1918, page 1.

Emily's obituary, published in the Benalla Standard, January 4 1918 p3, is particularly sad.



Eliza's oldest daughter, Mary Elizabeth, remained unmarried and appears to have worked with and been a companion to her mother. She is listed in the electoral rolls as living in the

same residence as Nurse Bagnell in Lavery Street for many years. Mary died on 1 September 1918 in the Homeopathic Hospital (later Prince Henry's Hospital), Melbourne.

DEATHS. BAGNELL- On the 1st September 1918, at the Homeopathic Hospital, Mary, the dearly beloved eldest daughter of Nurse Bagnell (Benalla) sister of the late Emily (Mrs J. Griffen (Brighton), Charles (on active service, New Zealanders), dearly loved niece of C. Ellens (Benalla) and Mrs McGuffie (Richmond) aged 48. Underneath the everlasting arms.

Source: Argus (Melbourne, Victoria) 14 September 1918, page 13.

An article in the Benalla Standard on Friday 13 September 1918 p3, relating to Mary's death, described both Mrs Bagnell and Mary being members of the Australian Women's National League (A.W.N.L), a conservative political group which preceded the Women's Section of the Australian Liberal Party^{iv}.

A.W.N.L. (Benalla Branch.) – At the usual monthly meeting of this organisation, held a few days ago, a vote of sympathy was passed to ... Mrs. Bagnall, one of the oldest members of the league, on the death of her last surviving daughter, Miss Bagnall, who was also a member of the league for many years. Mrs. Bagnall's only son is on active service in France.

Perhaps the loss of her two remaining daughters in 1918 influenced Nurse Bagnell's decision in 1920 to sell her furniture and effects and leave Benalla, as advertised in the Benalla Standard, Benalla Standard on 11 May 1920.

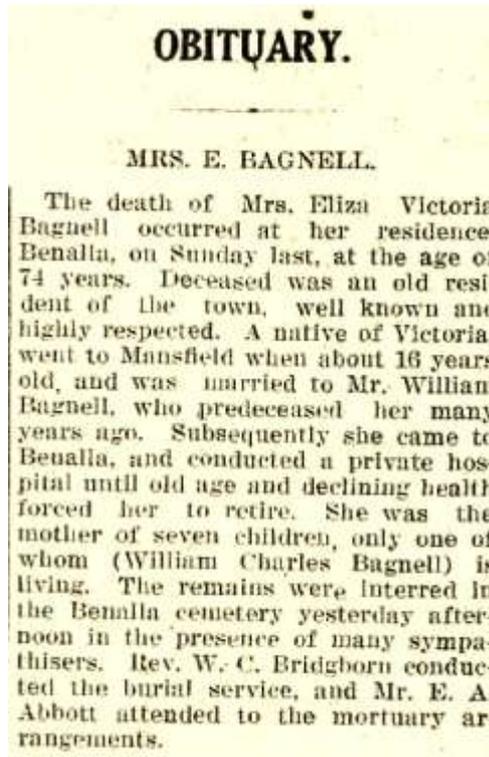
VICTORIAN PRODUCERS CO-OPERATIVE CO. LTD.
 Having been favored with instructions from MRS. BAGNELL, who is leaving Benalla, will sell the whole of her Furniture, and effects, including—
 Beds (single and double), wire mattresses, tables (large and small), washstands, commode, chest of drawers, tenders, sideboard, wardrobes, chairs, safe, sofa, matting, kitchen utensils, bread cask, Primus stove, 2 doz. Mason jars, big stone jar, boiler and steamer, clothes lines and props, separator and Cherry churn (£8 reserve), wire stretcher, mangle, 2 deck chairs, lamps, plates, glass dishes, kettles, saucepans, pans, rip saw, cutlery, verandah blinds, and sundries too numerous to particularize.
 NOTE Time, Date and Place—1 p.m. Wednesday, 12th May, Lavery-st., Benalla.
 VICTORIAN PRODUCERS' Co-OPERATIVE Co. Ltd., Benalla.

Nurse Bagnall left Benalla for a time to live in Melbourne however returned within two years and is recorded in electoral and business directory records as living in Benalla until her death in 1930, aged 74 years. Her occupation was listed as 'nurse' until at least 1928.

Sadly, only one of her seven children was living at the time of her death.

Eliza Victoria Bagnell is listed in the Benalla Cemetery Records as buried in Methodist Section A Plot 68. This is an unmarked grave shared with her daughter Emily Jane Griffin (nee Bagnell), who died in Benalla of tuberculosis in 1918 (refer above).

Nurse Bagnell's obituary was published in the *Benalla Ensign*, 18 March 1930 p3.

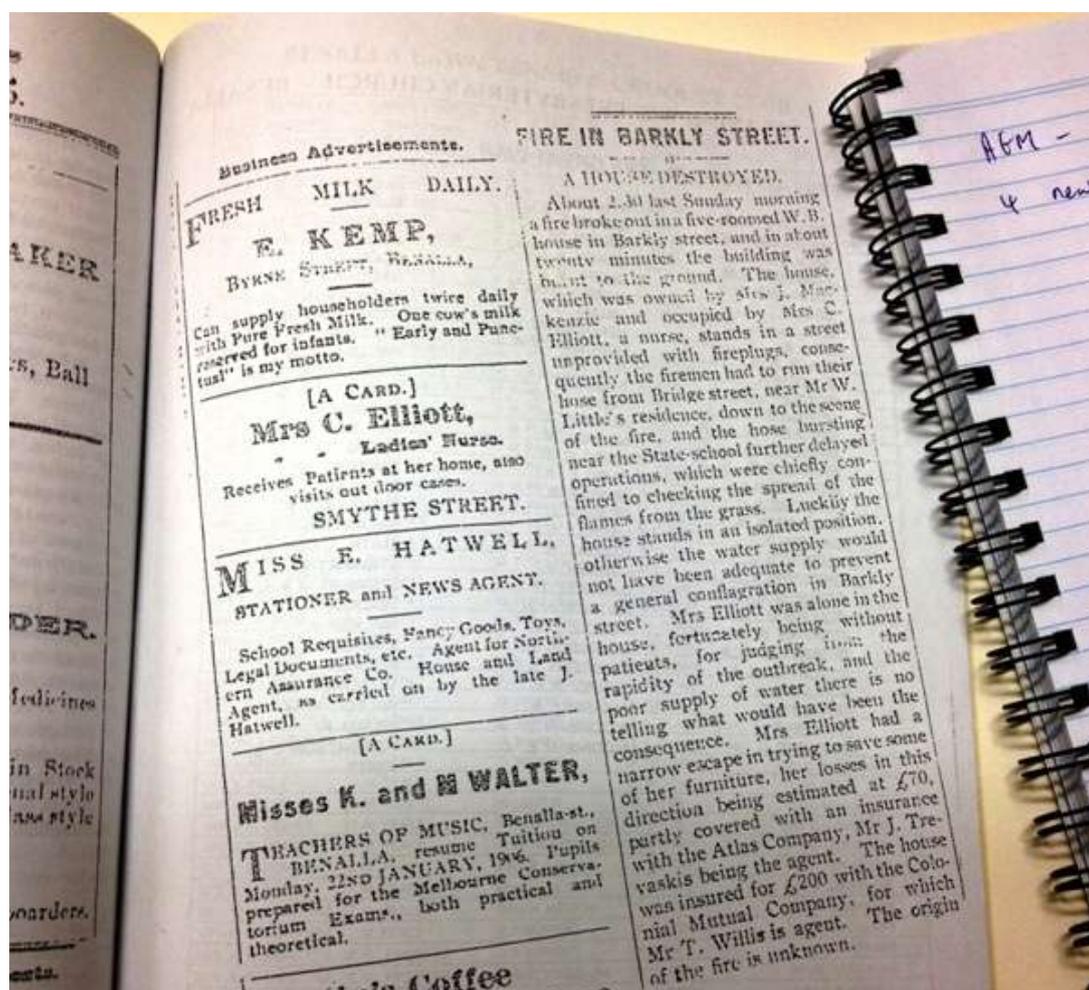


1906

Nurse Elliott's Private Hospital

"I found Nurse Elliott a very interesting person"

A report in the North East Ensign on 3 Aug 1906 p2 of the Benalla Council included a Health Report from Dr Nicholson, health officer, part of which stated "I have inspected all the premises here which were applied to be used as private hospitals and find that they are well suited for the purpose. From personal knowledge of the nurses I am sure that their houses will be well conducted and, as hitherto, kept in a good sanitary condition. Amongst the persons who made application in this connection was Mrs Elliott, of Smythe Street, Benalla".



'The Independent', Friday October 19, 1906 p27

Alongside the article 'A Household Destroyed', reporting on a fire in a house occupied by Mrs C Elliott, a nurse, is an advertisement for Mrs C Elliott, Ladies Nurse, now living in Smythe-street, which says she receives patients at her home.

Nurse Emily Matilda Hogan, nee Withers, married her second husband, Benalla born bricklayer Charles Austin Elliott, in 1903. When her first husband, William Hogan, died in 1897, they had been married for 26 years; their living children were William (24); Frances (21); James (19); Horace (17); Charles (16) and Edith (15). When Emily's father James

Withers, grazier, a pioneer in the Mansfield area, died in 1906, Emily Elliott (Hogan) was bequeathed £50, Crown Allotment 61 Parish of Mansfield, and a share in any residue of her father's estate. Two years later, Emily established a 'state of the art' hospital in Benalla.

An article appeared in the North-Eastern Ensign on Friday 8 May 1908 extolling the virtues of Nurse Elliott's newly opened hospital in Barkly Street. The article is headed "The Welfare of the Sick. Nurse Elliott's Private Hospital." Rate notices show this to have been a brick dwelling, Pt. of Allotment 5, Barkly Street, Benalla. Written 103 years ago in the language and sentiments of the time, the article provides insight into hospitals and the standard of nursing in those days.

THE WELFARE OF THE SICK. Nurse Elliott's Private Hospital

Some years ago, an attempt was made to start a Cottage Hospital in our midst, but the same proved abortive. Since that time not a few nurses have settled in our midst, but their career has generally been of brief duration – a fact due mainly to the circumstances that they did not provide sufficient housing accommodation to make the practice of their calling a success. A few years ago, however, a lady of experience and ability (Nurse Elliott) assayed the task of overcoming this difficulty. Opening in an unpretentious, yet accommodating way, a private hospital in Smythe Street, she continued to attract considerable attention till the middle of last year when she found that the field was sufficiently encouraging for an expansion of her enterprise. As a result, she purchased a handsome block of land, about half-an-acre in extent, directly opposite the State School, Benalla East, and thereafter let a contract to Mr. T. Hanlon, to build a new place. This important edifice composed entirely of brick and designed by Mr Ludlum of Wangaratta – one of the first architects in the Commonwealth - will henceforth be known as Nurse Elliott's Private Hospital. A neater or more attractive structure could not easily be found, even in the most pretentious centres of the State. It is, moreover, commodious and has been designed on the most scientific principles, for, while it is ventilated well throughout, it possesses every immunity from draughts and is fitted up with every conceivable device necessary for the comfort and convenience

of the sick. Nor is it wanting even in any of those appurtenances of which metropolitan hospitals are so well noted, for the whole house is made to answer to the calls of the electric bell, the bedrooms are models of neatness and comfort, and even in the bathroom hot water may be had at any hour of the day or night, while the head nurse, or her assistants, may be rung up at an instant's notice by means of contrivances which hang through the ceiling of the patients bed room and which operate in such a way that when they are employed they cause a ticket to pop out at the far end of them showing the number of the room at which attention is required. With such conveniences as these, with commodious, well-kept rooms, and with all other things to match, there is nothing about Nurse Elliott's Private Hospital which does not attract and enliven all who visit the place. Sick people, in particular, will find it a charming place to go for rest, for nursing and for medical attentions, because any of the three doctors of the place are free to visit patients there. Nurse Elliott is, of course, always on the premises, and than whom there is no more competent nor experienced woman of her kind in the State. Nature alone has fitted her well for her profession, but training, assisted by tact, care and discernment, have made her skilful, efficient and dexterous in the discharge of her duties towards the sick. Moreover, she is a nurse of the intellectual type – a woman who reads all the most scientific literature that is published, and who in this way keeps herself up to date with all the most progressive developments in modern nursing. Such a nurse, indeed, as this, ought to be regarded - as doubtless she

will – as a boon to those of the medical profession who have patients entrusted to her care, whilst those who become indisposed themselves, especially in the country, and who are able to pay for careful attention, ought to be pleased to know that there is in their midst such an asylum of medical and general comfort as that under notice. At the same time Nurse Elliott is to be commended for her enterprise, because her outlay in the way referred to can scarcely be a penny less than at least £1000 – that is

including her furniture and effects. There is one thing above all others which cannot be too widely known, and that is the fact that the charge for attention at Nurse Elliott's Private Hospital is not exorbitant. Therefore, with three skilful and experienced medical men practicing amongst us, there is no occasion whatever for people to go to Melbourne or elsewhere to be treated – for ordinary ailments, at any rate – everything that is required thus being locally at hand for the welfare of the indisposed.”

Running a private hospital in Benalla was not without challenges. An article in the *Benalla Standard* on Tuesday 3 November 1908 reported that geese were reportedly causing filth in the street channels leading to very unsanitary, indeed putrid, conditions in the drains, with a “very bad spot in front of Nurse Elliott's private hospital, where a lot of sick people were attending”. The article recommended the need for a brick drain to get the water away.

Nurse Elliott appears to have been the subject of rumours in 1914 about whether she would continue to nurse in Benalla.

Nurse Elliott wishes to announce that she has no intention of giving up nursing as rumoured. Patients will be received at her private hospital. Barkly Street.
Trained nurses in attendance. *Benalla Standard 14 August 1914*

Trove records regularly included articles and notices of life events impacting on Nurse Elliott and her family.

For example, in the Honour Roll column of the *Benalla Standard* on Friday 27 August 1915, came news that her son had been wounded overseas.

We regret to notice that another Benalla boy, Private Charles Hogan, son of Nurse Elliott, of Barkly-street, has been seriously wounded. The message from the Defence department states that he was wounded in the leg. Private Hogan enlisted from New South Wales, and went down to the Broadmeadows camp.

Nurse Elliott appears to have ceased operating her private hospital in Barkly Street in 1918. In 1919 Margaret Lindsay advertised ‘Avondale’ maternity hospital in the *Benalla Standard* on 30 May 1919 describing it as ‘previously Nurse Elliott's’.

This Family Notice in the *Benalla Standard* on Tuesday 25 November 2019, reporting on the death of her youngest daughter, described Nurse Elliott as being late of Benalla. This must have been a sad time for Nurse Elliott.

DEATH.
WITHERS.—On 23rd November, at Benalla. Edith Annie (Ede), loving wife of Matthew J., and fond mother of Violet; younger daughter of the late W. J. Hogan and Nurse Elliott, late of Benalla, also late of Mansfield and Bourke, N.S.W.; born at Bourke 37 years ago.

Nurse Elliott may have returned to St Anne's private hospital briefly before finally leaving Benalla. 'Mrs E M Elliott, St Anne's Private Hospital' appears in the 1920 Sands Business Directory; while a birth at St Anne's, Benalla in November 1920 is listed in Reverend McConnan's Register.

By 1922, according to the Electoral Rolls, Nurse Elliott was living with her husband Charles Elliott in Richmond where she continued to live until her death in 1934.

1907

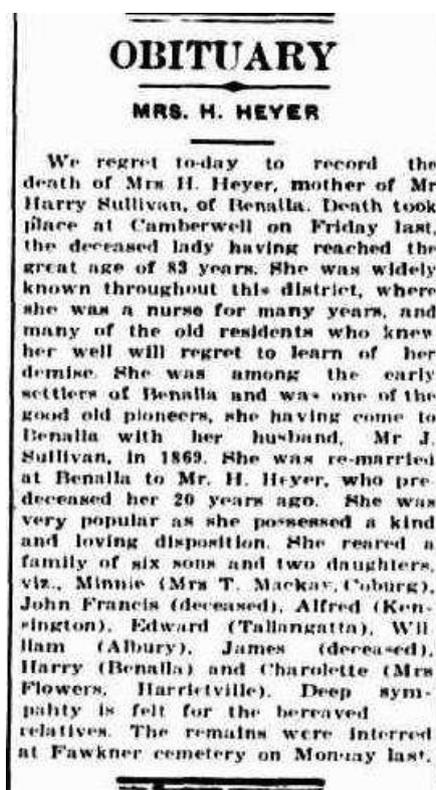
Nurse Heyer's private hospital

Nurse Caroline Heyer (1846 – 1929) is mentioned in the report of an inquest in the Benalla Standard on Friday, 10 March 1907 p2.

INQUEST — On Wednesday last Mr. G. Walker, J.P, held an inquest concerning the death of an infant aged about 4 weeks, and which died at the establishment, in Carrier-street, of Mrs. Caroline Heyer, registered nurse. The evidence showed that the child had been sickly since its birth, and last Friday, it being unwell, took it to Dr. Nicholson. It was treated, but on Tuesday died from an attack of convulsions. The cause of death was stated by Dr. Nicholson to be gastritis, and a verdict returned accordingly.”

Nurse Heyer did not advertise her private hospital in local newspapers, however in 1911 ‘Hehir, Caroline, Benalla’ was listed, along with ‘Bagnall, Eliza, Benalla’ and ‘Elliott, Emily M, Benalla’, in the ‘Nurses’ section of Country and Professional Trades of the Melbourne Directory (Sands) p261.

In 1915, Mrs. Heyer's application for registration as a private hospital was among those not complying with the requirement that all premises to be used for the purpose of private hospital must contain no internal wall or ceiling lining* composed of hessian and paper or canvas. (Refer Appendix 3). A later council report in the North East Ensign on 3 August 1915 (p2) indicated that Mrs Heyer, who would by then have been 69 years of age, had decided not to renew the registration of her private hospital.



North Eastern Ensign, Friday 20 September 1929 p2.

1908

Nurse Morrissey (nee Ishmael) - 'Lauraville' Hospital



Nurse Mary **Grace** Ishmael was born in 1865 at Gaffney's Creek, previously known as Lauraville. It is likely the reason why her hospital is named "Lauraville". Grace's family later moved to Wattville, near Dookie, where they farmed for many years.

Nurse Ishmael first advertised nursing services in the Benalla newspaper in 1908, however had advertised her services in the Dookie and Katamite Recorder in 1905 after having completed Midwifery and General Nursing training,

MISS ISHMAEL,
OF WATTVILLE,
HAVING completed a course of training in MIDWIFERY and GENERAL NURSING, is prepared to attend patients throughout the district.

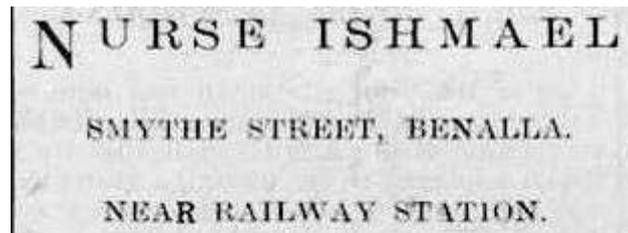
The Dookie and Katamatite Recorder reported on 1 October 1907 that 'Nurses Ishmael and Jones' wish to 'notify the inhabitants of Dookie and district that they are starting a Nursing Home in Dookie, where patients will receive every care and attention. – Midwifery a specialty'. In another notice in the Dookie and Katamatite Recorder 9 January 1908 p2, Nurse Ishmael applied to Shepparton Shire Council to register a private hospital at her residence in Mary Street, Dookie. By Thursday 5 March 1908's Dookie and Katamatite Recorder, the application for registration appears to have been confirmed.

**NURSING HOME FOR
DOOKIE.**

NURSE ISHMAEL & JONES beg to notify that they have opened a NURSING HOME, in Dookie, where patients will receive every care and attention. Midwifery a specialty. Out-door cases also attended.

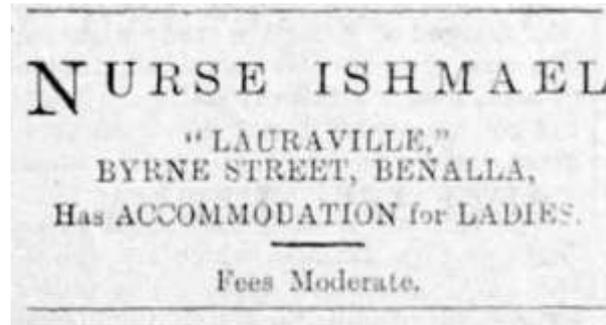
Note Address—
MARY-STREET, DOOKIE.

Nurse Ishmael began to advertise services in Smythe Street Benalla in late 1908.



Benalla Standard, Friday 13 November, 1908, p2

By 1912, Nurse Ishmael had moved to "Lauraville" in Byrne Street, Benalla, with the following advertisement appearing in the Benalla Standard on Friday 13 November 1912, p2.



In 1913 Grace Ishmael married Mr Michael Morrissey after which she registers and advertises her private hospital using her married name. On Tuesday, 6 September 1913, the Benalla Standard's Council Report included an item on page 3 stating that G. Morrissey is applying to have her premises registered as a private hospital. By July 14, 1914, advertisements headed Nurse Morrissey are appearing in the local papers.



Independent (Benalla), 14 July 1914

Nurse Morrissey applied for registration of her private hospital under the changed regulations imposed in 1915 (Refer Appendix 3). Her application appears to have proceeded smoothly, without recommendation of the need for changes.

Family notices relating to Nurse Morrissey and Lauraville can be found on Trove to at least October 1924, for example The Argus, Saturday 31 December 1921, p1:

DUNLOP (nee Elsie Jean Stewart).—On the 19th December, at Nurse Morrissey's, "Lauraville," Benalla, the wife of H. A. Dunlop (late A.I.F.) – a son (Percival George).

And on 18 October 1924 p 13

WILLIAMS (nee Ruby Lakeman).—On the 9th October, at Nurse Morrissey's, Lauraville, Byrne-street, Benalla, to Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Williams—a daughter (Estelle).

'Mrs Grace Morrissey, Benalla', is listed as 'Nurse' in Victorian Sands Directories from 1915 to 1918. Her registration as a Midwife under the Midwives Act of 1915 is listed as Registration #1959 Category 14(b) on 13 May 1918 in the Government Gazette Supplementary List 1919. Grace continued to be registered as a midwife in Government Gazette listings until at least 1927.

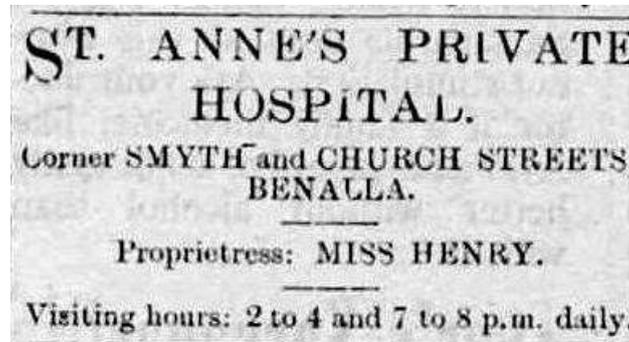
Nurse Morrissey (nee Ishmael) lived in Byrne Street, Benalla until she died in 1950 (electoral rolls). Her obituary was printed in the Benalla Ensign 20 July 1950 p12. She is buried in an unmarked grave in Section B, Plot 226 in the Methodist area of the Benalla cemetery. Her younger sister, Louisa Morris Ishmael, is also interred in this grave.



“The owner of Lauraville in the 1950’s told me it had been a hospital. Believed to have originally been red brick, ‘Lauraville’ is now painted white. When last checked, it was being renovated, with a loft like second floor extension added. The name plate ‘Lauraville’ is still hanging outside.”

1911

Nurse Mabel Henry - 'St Anne's Private Hospital'



Benalla Standard, Friday 22 September 1911 p2

In September 1911 'St Anne's Hospital, corner Smythe and Church Streets, Benalla'. is being advertised in the Benalla Standard. Its proprietor is shown as being Miss Mabel Henry. The Benalla Shire Council notes of the monthly meeting in the Benalla Standard on *Tuesday 26 September 1911 p3* includes correspondence received from Mabel Isabel Henry for registration of a private hospital on the corner of Smyth and Church.

A Family Notice in The Argus on 18 May 1912 shows the birth of a daughter to the wife of B S Budds at St Anne's Private Hospital. There are also several references to births at St Anne's in the St. Andrew's Baptism register.

Mabel Henry was the eldest daughter of Benalla surgeon and pioneer Joseph Henry, M.B. His obituary published in the Benalla Standard dated 4th September 1903 described him as a much-respected identity of the town who passed away from cancer.

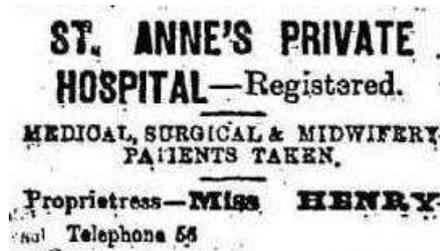
"The late Dr Henry was a native of Kilkeel, County Down Ireland where he was born in 1840. When little more than 20 years of age he graduated at Dublin University, and took his MB degree when he decided to emigrate to this colony and he arrived in Victoria in 1862. It was not long before he made his way to Benalla and spent his first night here in the old Black Swan Hotel. As the place at that period showed every sign of becoming a busy centre, he started practice here, and for a period he was appointed to carry out the duties of coroner, which position he afterwards resigned. In the early days he took an active interest in measures for the improvement and advancement of the town and of Trinity Church where for a long number of years he filled a position on the vestry and as a church warden. On account of declining health and much to the regret of his fellow workers he relinquished these duties. Dr Henry's remains were interred in the Benalla Cemetery, and were followed to their last resting place by large number of friends and sympathisers."

Mabel Isabel Henry, Lowry Place, Benalla was listed 'occupation nurse' on the Electoral Rolls from 1908 – 1913. The names M Henry/Mabel Henry/Mabel A Henry are listed paying rates across most of the period 1906-1913 in BRB Book 2 Central Riding—further research

could help to establish whether and where St Anne's Hospital operated throughout this period in Benalla.

In the 1914 and 1915 Electoral Rolls, Mabel Isabel Henry is recorded as residing at Loch Street, Beechworth, Indi, Victoria, Australia Occupation: Nurse. St Anne's Private Hospital was mentioned and advertised in Beechworth in 1913 and 1914.

Chiltern and Howlong Times and Ovens Register
(Vic: 1914 - 1918), Friday 9 January 1914, page 2



According to will and other documents accessed through ancestry.com, Mabel Henry was an executor of her father's will in 1903, inherited a house and land in Arundel Street, and was appointed guardian of two of her younger sisters – Dorothy and Ella. Ella married early, while Dorothy trained as a nurse at the Melbourne Homeopathic hospital, enlisted in the Australian Army Nursing Service during the war, and served overseas. Mabel appears to have worked and lived at the Army Base Hospital in Melbourne in 1917. She is listed in the 1917 Electoral Roll as residing at the Base Hospital, Clarendon, Melbourne Ports, Occupation: Housekeeper. Her sister Dorothy Zoe Henry is also listed as residing at the Base Hospital, Occupation: Nurse, however she had left Australia for military service overseas that year. The Base Hospital closed at the end of 1918.

According to the electoral rolls, Mabel spent several years after the war in Melbourne, returning to live in the family home, 'The Elms' in Lowry Parade, Benalla. Mabel died aged 75 in 1946 and is buried in the Benalla Cemetery.

MISS MABEL ISABEL HENRY.
Following a lengthy illness, the death occurred at her home, "The Elms," Benalla, on Monday morning last of Miss Mabel Isabel Henry. The late Miss Henry was the eldest daughter of the late Dr. Joseph and Mrs Henry, one of the early families to settle in Benalla. She carried on the profession of a nurse, and for many years conducted her own private hospital in Benalla. She possessed a very quiet disposition, and was well liked by a large circle of friends who will regret her death.
Interment took place privately at the Benalla cemetery on Tuesday last. The service was conducted by Rev. R. V. Davidson. The funeral arrangements were carried out by Mr E. A. Abbott.

St. Anne's did not appear to operate under Miss Mabel Henry's proprietorship in Benalla after 1913. The Sands Business Directory in 1920 lists 'Mrs E M Elliott, St Anne's Private Hospital' under Country/Benalla; while a baptism listed in Reverend McConnan's register on February 25 1921 is attached to a birth at St Anne's, Benalla in November 1920.

This lovely old house still stands on the corner of Church and Smythe Streets. It is now known as Budgerygunyah.



“Perhaps Mabel and Dorothy Henry are pictured in this photograph of St Anne’s Hospital, possibly taken c 1907 – 13.”

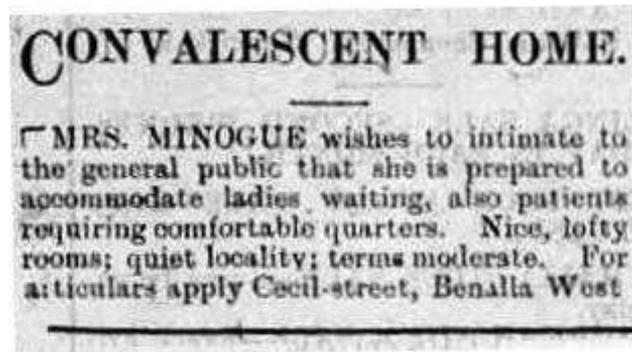
1912

Mrs Minogue's Convalescent Home

In early April, 1912, an obituary appeared in the Euroa advertiser, for Martin John Minogue, aged 44, clerk of courts in Benalla, who had died at his residence in Cecil Street, Benalla, leaving a wife, Ellen aged 41, and three children.

A month later, on Tuesday 7th May, in an article in the Benalla Standard we read – “Convalescent Home. — Mrs. M. J. Minogue announces elsewhere that she has opened a convalescent home at her residence, Cecil-street, Benalla West, and is prepared to accommodate ladies and other patients requiring comfortable quarters.”

On Friday 10 May 1912 an advertisement appeared in the Benalla Standard for a Convalescent Home run by Mrs Minogue in Cecil Street, Benalla West.



Benalla Standard, 10 May 1912

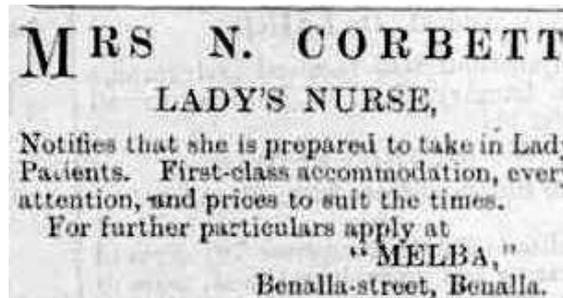
Advertisements for Mrs Minogue's Convalescent Home continued to appear in both the Benalla Standard and North Eastern Ensign until at least 18 July 1913.

Ellen Minogue remarried a John Minogue, some years her senior, in 1914, and according to the electoral rolls, lived in Benalla until 1919, after which she moved with her husband and children to Melbourne, living in the suburbs of Bentleigh and McKinnon until her death in 1941.

1912

Nurse Corbett's Private Hospital – 'His Majesty's Private Hospital'

On Friday 18 December 1912 Nurse Norah Corbett, 'Lady's Nurse' advertised in the Benalla Standard (p2) that she was prepared to take in Lady Patients. The address given is 'Melba', Benalla Street, Benalla.



Before moving to a farm near Benalla with her husband in 1912 and nursing in Benalla, the couple had lived in towns including Yarroweyah and Boosey near Cobram. When Norah nursed in Benalla, her older sons were young adults but her younger son Patrick, born in 1907, was of primary school age (ancestry.com).

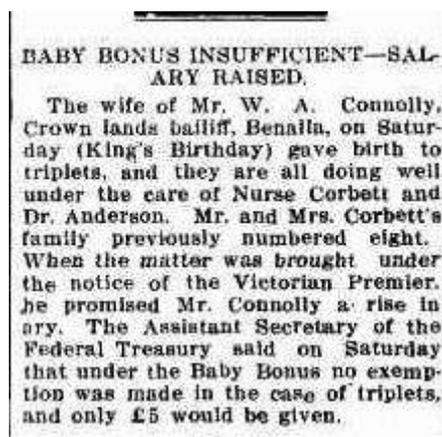
Trove records show Nurse Corbett moved premises to "Tervue" in Nunn Street in May 1914.

In June, 1914 triplets were born at Nurse Corbett's Private Hospital, Benalla.

CONNOLLY.— On June 3, at Nurse Corbett's Hospital, Benalla, the wife of W. A. Connolly (Lands Department) - triplets. All doing well. (George, Victoria, and Melba)

Daily Advertiser, Wagga Wagga, Saturday 13 June 1914 p4.

A later item in a widely syndicated article mentioned the baby bonus and that no exemption was made on the birth of triplets. However, Mr Connolly, Crown Lands Bailiff, Benalla, already the father of eight children, was promised a rise in salary.



Daily Advertiser, Wagga Wagga, Saturday 13 June 1914 p 4

(Note article mistakenly attributes eight children to Mr and Mrs Corbett)

Nurse Corbett began advertising 'His Majesty's Private Hospital' in July 1914.

**HIS MAJESTY'S PRIVATE
HOSPITAL,
Nunn Street.**

NURSE CORBETT

Wishes to Notify that she has REMOVED to more commodious premises, in NUNN-STREET, recently occupied by Mr. C. M. Hall, Dentist, and will be pleased to meet old and new friends.

Address—"Tervue," NUNN-ST.

An incident which could have embarrassed Nurse Corbett is evident in this *Benalla Standard* 31 July 1914 report of James Corbett having been charged with being drunk in a public place.

DRUNK.—At the Benalla Police Court on Wednesday, before Mr. F. G. Rossell, J.P., James Corbett was charged by Constable Gunther with having been found drunk in a public place. Constable Gunther informed the Bench that he arrested the accused about nine o'clock in Nunn-street, as he was very drunk and disorderly at the time, and caused a disturbance at Nurse Corbett's private hospital. Accused stated that he was very sorry, and this was the first time he had ever been in a court; it would not occur again. Sergeant Rohan said the defendant created a great disturbance, and, he understood, caused a lady to faint. Mr. Rossell said accused had made himself a nuisance, and he would be fined 5/., in default 24 hours' imprisonment.

On Tuesday 3 November 1914, Nurse Corbett advertised in 'The Independent' that 'she has removed to the premises in Barkly Street recently occupied by Nurse Warren'.

**HIS MAJESTY'S PRIVATE
HOSPITAL,
Barkly Street.**

NURSE CORBETT

Wishes to Notify that she has REMOVED to the premises in BARKLY STREET, recently occupied by Nurse Warren, and will be pleased to meet old and new friends.

Outdoor cases attended to.

In 1915 the birth of a son to Mr and Mrs Stuart Sergeant of Hill Park, Goorambat was amongst the cases recorded at His Majesty's/Nurse Corbett's hospital, again in the *Argus*, and a son to Mr and Mrs T.O.C. Higgins.

Nurse Corbett is listed amongst the number of nurses to apply for registration of her private hospital in 1915 – eventually successful, she was required to provide a sketch plan showing distance between houses and boundaries of adjoining properties accompanied by information as to how drainage of the premises is disposed of.



On 22 June 1916 Nurse Corbett advertised in the Benalla Standard she had moved to Smythe Street, Benalla.

The Benalla Ensign dated 22 June 1915 p3 reported that Nurse Corbett was requested to put in a fresh application for registration relating to the move Smythe Street. Required repairs having been effected was reported on 21 September 1915. The Benalla Standard on Tuesday 16th October 1915 reported that the Council's recommendation that Nurse Corbett's premises in Smyth-street be registered as a private hospital had been confirmed by the Public Health Board.

Nurse Corbett was shown to be living in Smythe Street in the 1916-17 Benalla Rate Book. (Section 3, Dwg. Pt 17 Smythe Street, West Side) and was living here during the Benalla floods in Benalla in September 1916. The Benalla Standard's [report on the floods](#) Tuesday 26 September 1916, p3 included the following

“...SMYTHE STREET. In Smythe Street, a number of houses were under water ... Mr. Kurtzmann, who lives at the corner of Grey-street, received his first intimation of something unusual having occurred when he turned over in his bed, and throwing his arm out was astonished to feel something cold, which he soon realised was water ... Nurse Corbett's residence further down, near Benalla-street, was flooded to a depth of 18 inches, but in other places the water did not get beyond the gardens.’



Benalla Floods, Carrier Street, September 24, 1916. Howship Collection, University of Melbourne

Nurse Corbett continues to be mentioned as offering nursing services in Benalla until 24 April 1917 when her furniture was advertised for sale in the Benalla Standard, ‘absolutely without reserve’.

UNRESERVED
FURNITURE SALE

THURSDAY, 26th APRIL,
Commencing at 2 o'clock,
At SHIRE HALL, Benalla.

M. Q. M'NAMARA & CO
Benalla, having received instructions from
NURSE CORBETT, Benalla, will sell all
her Furniture at the Shire Hall, Benalla, as
above, absolutely without reserve.

According to Electoral Rolls, James and Norah Corbett relocated to Balaclava/St Kilda area, where Norah's occupation was listed as 'Occupation: nurse' for some years, then as 'Occupation: home duties'. James died in 1938, while Norah died in Elwood, a bayside suburb of Melbourne, in 1963 aged 92 years.

1913

Nurse Anna Yearwood – ‘Winfield’ Private Hospital

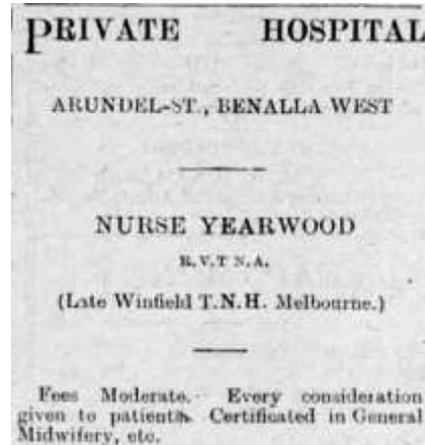
On 10 October, 1913, the Benalla Standard reported that “Nurse Yearwood, RVTNA., announces in our advertising columns that she will open a private hospital about November 1st in the residence lately occupied by Mr. Guthrie Grant, in Arundel Street, Benalla. This house stands in three acres of ground, has been renovated throughout and fitted with all modern appliances, and its position renders it in every respect an ideal site for a private hospital. Miss Yearwood holds certificates in general surgery, children, midwifery, and fever, and is prepared to take cases for any of the local doctors.”

Advertised in *Benalla Standard* on 7th April 1914:

“M. Q. McNamara and Co. Will submit on account of GUTHRIE GRANT Esq
3 acres most valuable Residential Land. The pick of the town. A perfect block, suitable for building six residences. Two frontages Arundel Street and Benson Street, Fine BRICK HOUSE, 10 ROOMS in perfect order, and returning £60 per annum. One third cash, balance easy.”

This could be the house Nurse Yearwood refers to.

Advertisements for a Private Hospital in Arundel Street began to appear in 1913 in the Benalla Standard, introducing Nurse Yearwood, a nurse Certificated in General Midwifery, ‘late of Winfield T. N. H. Melbourne’.

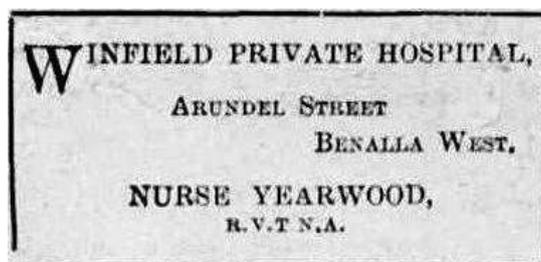


Benalla Standard, Tuesday 21 October 1913

Nurse Anna Beddington Yearwood trained in midwifery at the Royal Women’s Hospital in Melbourne and is recorded as being registered as a midwife. Nurse Yearwood was able to train probational nurses, as evidenced in this advertisement in the Benalla Standard, Friday 31 October 1913.

PROBATIONAL NURSE wanted; also, experienced general SERVANT. Apply Nurse Yearwood, Arundel-st.

By 7th April 1914, advertisements were appearing in the Benalla Standard for ‘Winfield Private Hospital’.



Advertisements linking Nurse Yearwood to Winfield Private Hospital continued to appear in local newspaper the Benalla Standard until 06 March 1917.

Anna Beddington Yearwood, 'Nurse' appeared in the Electoral Rolls as living in Arundel Street Benalla for 1914, 1915 and 1916 and Miss Annie B Yearwood is listed as nurse in Benalla in the Sands Business Directory of 1915 and 1916. Anna's sister, Ella Matilda Yearwood, 'teacher' also lived in Arundel Street in electoral roll entries for 1914 and 1915.

Benalla's online Rates books include an entry for Anna Yearwood – 1915-1916 BRB Book 2 Central Riding.

In 1915, Nurse Yearwood was among the applications to Benalla Council for registration of a private hospital (Refer Appendix 3). It appears that her application was successful without having to meet additional requirements.

Writing in 'Benalla Cavalcade', Dunlop mentions that Winfield Private Hospital in Arundel Street was being advertised in 1916 and gave efficient service.

Three references to 'Winfield' were found in the Argus. The first, in the 8 August 1914 edition, referred to the birth of a daughter (Annie May) to Mr and Mrs O'Dea. On 12 July 2015 a daughter was born to Mr and Mrs N.C. Crozier of Benalla and on 2 December 1916 a son was born to Mr and Mrs F.A. Cook of Baddaginnie.

Records obtained from Benalla Family Research Centre list births at Winfield as shown in St Andrews' Baptism Records. The births occurred from 15 February 1914 to September 1917.

| | | | | | | |
|-----------|------------------------|------------------|---------|------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| WINFIELD | | | | | | |
| HEARNY | GLADYS JESSIE | DORRIS WRIGHT | FRANCIS | LILIAN LOUISE DEERON | 2/2/1916 | 25/2/1916 |
| GRIFFITHS | MARGARET MELBA | THOMAS EDGAR | DEEPA | HULLING JANE ROBERTSON | 2/2/1916 | 5/2/1916 |
| JACKSON | JANE FULTON | FULTON JAMES | BETHEA | ALICE BARKLEY | 14/2/1916 | 16/2/1916 |
| MADDIE | NUGA RONALD | HUGH DOUBLAS | FANNIA | RUTH Hilda POTTER | 15/2/1916 | 17/2/1916 |
| TAYLOR | ADON STAN | SOLYV | FANNIA | EMILY TALSFERD | 2/2/1916 | 7/2/1916 |
| WILSON | FRANCIS THOMAS | DANIEL | " | ANNIE JANE KISSICK | 2/2/1916 | 15/2/1916 |
| JACKSON | PHYLLIS KONA | FULTON | BETHEA | HELEN BARKLEY | 18/2/1916 | 27/2/1916 |
| ROBINSON | GEORGE MATHIAS MCCOMBS | GRACE | FRANCIS | SARAH STONE MANN | 17/2/1916 | 20/2/1916 |
| FLAHERTY | MARY JESSIE | ALEXANDER GORDON | " | BERNARD JANE MANN | 18/2/1916 | 21/2/1916 |
| TAYLOR | CLAIRE ROSALIE HUNTER | CLAUDE MATHIAS | FRANCIS | ALICE MANNINGHAM | 21/2/1916 | 24/2/1916 |
| HARRISON | ANNE JANE DAVEN | ADAM | FRANCIS | ANNIE MAY STUBBS | 22/2/1916 | 27/2/1916 |
| TAYLOR | SOLYV BLOOMBERG | SOLYV | " | EMILY TALSFERD | 3/2/1916 | 11/2/1916 |
| GRAY | ERIE NEALIE | FREDERICK HENRY | " | MARION LAWRENCE | 19/2/1916 | 23/2/1916 |
| MOORE | JOHN | JAMES ROBERTSON | FRANCIS | ALICE BARKLEY | 21/2/1916 | 24/2/1916 |
| MOORE | DAISY ALAN | JAMES ROBERTSON | " | " | 27/2/1916 | 1/2/1916 |
| FERRATT | HENRY FREDERICK | DANIEL | " | ANNIE JANE KISSICK | 2/2/1916 | 5/2/1916 |

After leaving Benalla in 1917, Nurse Anna Yearwood moved to Warrnambool (Govt Gazette 1918), then to Sydney, with New South Wales Public Service Registers noting her appointment to a Baby Health Centre in 12 March 1918 and continuing appointments through to at least 1936. Nurse Anna Yearwood died aged 60 in Brisbane in 1941.

Nurse Sarah Kimber 'Arundel Street Maternity Hospital'

According to Grubb et al in 'Business and Professional Women Working in Benalla in the 19th and 20th Centuries'; the Arundel Street Maternity Hospital was run by Nurse Sarah Kimber and was a private maternity hospital. It was situated in Arundel Street next to the old State School 31 (p18).

Electoral Roll records in 1903 show Sarah Ann Kimber, Home Duties; Thomas, Blacksmith and Agnes, Home Duties. According to rates notices held by the Benalla Family Research Centre, the building was owned by Henry Casey and the rates were £22 per year. 1909 records show the same information:

AN ASSESSMENT to the GENERAL RATE of the SHIRE OF BENALLA by virtue of the "Local Government Act, 1903"

AN ASSESSMENT to an EXTRA RATE in respect of Ratable Property situated within the *Benalla* District of the SHIRE OF BENALLA by virtue of the "Local Government Act, 1903"

NORTH EASTERN PROVINCE. BENALLA DIVISION of *Benalla* Pence in the Pound, by virtue of the "Local Government Act, 1903"

| No. on the Roll | Surname of Person Rated. | Christian Name of Person Rated. | Trade or Occupation | Address | Name of Owner of Ratable Property | Description and Situation of Ratable Property. | Electoral District. | Division of Electoral District. | Rate Annual Value £ |
|-----------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|---------|-----------------------------------|--|---------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| 99 | Chittick | Egmont | laborer | | Casey | Arundel St 385 | | | 15 |
| 1 | Conner | Samuel | artificer | | Casey | Arundel St 385 | | | 15 |
| 2 | Pollock | James | laborer | | Casey | Arundel St 385 | | | 15 |
| 3 | Kimber | Sarah | Home Duties | | Casey | Arundel St 385 | | | 22 |
| 4 | | | | | Casey | Arundel St 385 | | | — |
| 5 | | | | | Casey | Arundel St 385 | | | — |
| 6 | James | William C | Blacksmith | | Casey | Arundel St 385 | | | — |
| 7 | Reaper | Calverne | Blacksmith | | Casey | Arundel St 385 | | | 55 |
| 8 | Wills | Richard J | Blacksmith | | Casey | Arundel St 385 | | | 150 |
| 9 | Kelly | Edward | Blacksmith | | Casey | Arundel St 385 | | | 25 |
| 10 | Williamson | Thomas | laborer | | Casey | Arundel St 385 | | | 20 |
| 1 | Wesman | Lawrence | Blacksmith | | Casey | Arundel St 385 | | | 12 |
| 2 | Wright | James | Blacksmith | | Casey | Arundel St 385 | | | 12 |
| 3 | Wright | James | Blacksmith | | Casey | Arundel St 385 | | | 16 |
| 4 | Wright | James | Blacksmith | | Casey | Arundel St 385 | | | 45 |
| 5 | Wright | James | Blacksmith | | Casey | Arundel St 385 | | | 14 |
| 6 | Cherry | Edwin | Blacksmith | | Casey | Arundel St 385 | | | 4 |
| 7 | Wright | James | Blacksmith | | Casey | Arundel St 385 | | | 25 |
| 8 | Wright | James | Blacksmith | | Casey | Arundel St 385 | | | 37 |
| 9 | Wright | James | Blacksmith | | Casey | Arundel St 385 | | | 9 |
| 10 | Wright | James | Blacksmith | | Casey | Arundel St 385 | | | 15 |
| | | | | | | | | | 526 |

"A building which was at one stage, Knight's Dairy, now stands next to State School 31. I asked Geoff Knight if he had any information about a hospital or a blacksmiths' forge, but he hadn't. He did say that there was an old house behind the dairy which had been pulled down many years ago. Could that have been the site of Nurse Kimber's hospital? I did hear that there was a blacksmith's forge in an old shed which was still standing".

By 1914 Sarah Ann Kimber is listed as a nurse and again in 1919. She is registered as midwife, category 14b from 28 August 1917 suggesting that she had been in bona fide practice as a midwife for at least two years prior to the commencement of the Midwives Act 1915 (refer Attachment 3).

An Obituary for Sarah Kimber appeared in the Albury Banner and Wodonga Express on 29 June 1923:

"BENALLA. (From a Correspondent). After a lengthy illness--the death took place of Mrs. Sarah A. Kimbler (*sic*), relict of the late Mr. Thomas. Kimbler (*sic*), at her

residence, Arundel-street, Benalla West. Mrs. Kimber was a native of Grantham England, where she was born in 1846. She was a colonist of 74 years. It was not long before (*her parents*) Mr. and Mrs. Exton came to the Benalla district, and they subsequently acquired land in the Samaria district. In 1867 Mrs. Kimber was married at Benalla. Her husband predeceased her some years ago. She is survived by one son (Mr. William Charles Kimber, who resides in N.S.W.), and two daughters (Mesdames R. Palmer. Melbourne, and H. Wharton, Benalla).”

According to Benalla Cemetery Online Records, Sarah Ann was buried on 19 June 1923, aged 77, in plot 346 with her husband Thomas, who was buried on 29 October 1912, aged 72.

“Sarah Ann must have been about 68 when she commenced nursing and 73 when she retired. She is listed as a nurse following Thomas’ death. Fairly elderly for the times, but we don’t know the circumstances. She would, I imagine, have employed staff to assist her.

Perhaps just one of those things lost in the mists of time...”

1914

Mrs. Magee's Private Hospital

There is mention of Mrs. Magee having a private hospital in Smythe Street.

In 1914 and 1919 Sarah Elizabeth Magee is shown as a nurse living with her husband John Owen Magee, a labourer, in Smythe Street.

From the 1917 Government Gazette – Magee, Sarah Eliz; Smythe Street, Benalla 11.9.17 14 (b).

While Mrs. Magee did not appear to advertise her hospital in the newspapers, she is mentioned in the newspapers in 1915 and 1921 in relation to applications for registration of her private hospital.

Her application in 1915 was initially rejected as her premises did not comply with the principles laid down by the Board that all premises to be used as hospitals must contain no internal wall or ceiling lining composed of hessian and paper or canvas.

In the North East Ensign on 3 August 1916 p2 the council was informed that “Mrs McGee will try to arrange with the landlord for the alterations required”.

A Trove report from the Benalla Standard on Tuesday 19 July 1921 noted that Correspondence to Council from the Public Health Board was attended to asking if the premises of Mrs Magee were registered by the council prior to 24th March, and if so, why was the Board's confirmation not obtained, stating that they appear to be in illegal use. In the same report it was noted that Sarah Elizabeth Magee had applied for a license to have her present premises in Smvthe Street registered as a maternity hospital – “Recommended to Health Officer”.

According to the electoral rolls Sarah Elizabeth Magee resided in Smythe Street with her husband, carpenter John Owen Magee from 1914 until at least 1942 and throughout this time was listed as “Occupation Nurse”. In 1942 her husband's place of residence was listed as 25 Smythe Street. It is possible that 25 Smythe Street was the address of Mrs. Magee's maternity hospital. It is now the site of a modern brick home.

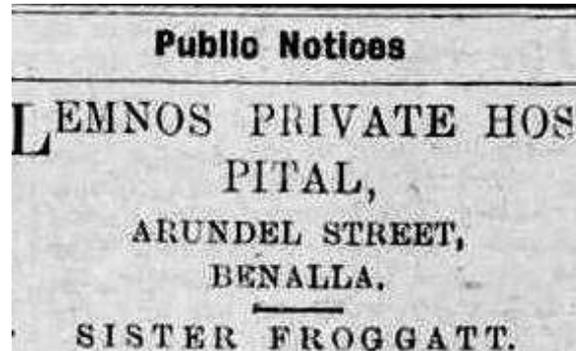
Sarah Elizabeth Magee was buried in Benalla on 25 October 1948 aged 81 years.



1917

Sister Froggatt - 'Lemnos' Private Hospital, Arundel Street

Lemnos Hospital existed in two locations in Benalla. It was commenced by Sister Froggatt in Arundel Street, opposite the Anglican Church.



Benalla Standard Tuesday 1 May 1917

Sister Froggatt was born Gertrude Alice Chandler at Winton, the daughter of Sussex born Winton pioneer George Chandler. A Winton identity with businesses impacted by the railway, George Chandler transferred his business interests to Benalla, where he built the Victoria Hotel, which was passed on to his sons when he died in 1903.

A fully qualified nurse and midwife, the Register of General Nurses in 1926 shows Gertrude Alice Froggatt (nee Chandler) as having trained at the Melbourne Hospital, completing her nursing training in November 1902. Her registration under the Midwives Act of 1915 in the Register of Midwives published in the 1918 Government Gazette is dated 8 June 1917 and falls under category 14 (a) "the nurse holds a certificate in midwifery from the Women's Hospital, Melbourne, or such other certificate as approved by the board".

Gertrude was widowed not long after her marriage to seaman Thomas Froggatt in 1906 when a tragic accident befell him at sea in the vessel Hymettus, which sailed between India and Australia (refer Attachment 8).

Gertrude is described by Grubb et al and in her obituary as having nursed in India for a number of years. There is evidence in the electoral rolls of 1914 and 1915 of her living at 'Springwood Park' in Benalla, occupation, 'nursing sister'.

Will and Probate documents sourced via Ancestry.com indicate that Gertrude shared in the estate of her unmarried brother George Winton Chandler who died in January 1917. This bequest may have assisted her in establishing Lemnos Private Hospital in Arundel Street opposite the Holy Trinity Church (Grubb et al p18) that year. Future research might consider whether this had been the premises of Nurse Yearwood's 'Winfield Hospital' in Arundel Street. Nurse Yearwood appears to have left Benalla in early 1917; Lemnos to have opened in around May 1917. Both Lemnos and Winfield were described as located opposite Trinity Church.

Lemnos catered for both maternity and general patients.

O'DEA—On the 17th June, at “Lemnos” private hospital, Benalla, to Mr. and Mrs. M. O'Dea, Benalla—twin boys. All well.

The Age, Wednesday 27 June, 1917 p1.

COLLINS (nee Amy Wallace) On the 28th August, at Lemnos private hospital, to Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Collins, Rossmore, Nunn street, Benalla--a daughter (Norma Alice).

The Argus, Saturday 3 September 1921 p 11

In February 1919 there was increasing concern in Benalla about the ‘plague’, ‘pneumonic influenza’, that is, the Spanish influenza emanating from the troop ships. An article in the Benalla Standard on Friday 7 February 1919 p 3 titled ‘Protest against the Showground’ included the following

“The previous evening a young fellow from the country was brought in. It was a suspicious case, and Nurse Froggatt took him in and put him in a tent. She was prepared to nurse him and leave the other patients to a nurse she had engaged from Melbourne. He (The Rev. P. Edwards) was glad to say that the patient was better, and that his friends were thinking of taking him home again that day. At the present time they had no place to put patients.”

According to the article conditions in the Benalla Showgrounds were deemed quite unsuitable. The High School, which had a kitchen in the cookery classroom area, was considered more appropriate.

Gertrude Froggatt passed away aged 82 yrs at Rosemore Hospital, Benalla in 1952.

According to her obituary, Sister Froggatt “was married at sea aboard the S.S. "Hymettus" 50 years ago to Mr. Thomas Froggatt, who predeceased her many years ago. There was no family, and her only surviving sister is Mrs. Francis Hall of Central Hotel, Deniliquin. The late Mrs. Froggatt was a nurse by profession and conducted a private hospital in Benalla West, for very many years. For many years she nursed in India. She was particularly kind and was well liked for her many good qualities”.

Benalla Ensign, Thursday, 12 June 1952 p 5

1918

Nurse Watson - 'Canberra' Maternity Hospital

'Canberra' Private Hospital, located on the corner of Byrne and Church Streets, Benalla, was run by Irish born Ellen Watson. Newspaper advertisements describe her as a 'Certificated' Nurse. Nurse Watson of Byrne Street Benalla is listed in the 1918 Government Gazette as a registered mid-wife category 14b, having registered on 21 July 1916.

Sands Business Directory entries indicate Mrs Ellen Watson operated a private hospital – also advertised as the Canberra private hospital - at 68 Bell Street, East Coburg for a number of years.

NURSE WATSON, Certificated. Registered Private Hospital. Superior quiet accommodation. Maternity cases, "Canberra," 68 Bell Street, East Coburg

Brunswick & Coburg Leader, Friday 14 May 1915.

Nurse Watson's Canberra Maternity Hospital was advertised in the Benalla Standard from May 1918 to mid-1919, with family notices appearing in the Argus in 1919 and early 1920.

NURSE WATSON
CERTIFICATED,
 Receives Maternity Cases at
CANBERRA' MATERNITY HOSPITAL
 Byrne Street, Benalla,
 ———
 Every Care and Attention given.

Benalla Standard, Tuesday 21 May 1918 p3

MOODIE. - On the 5th May, at "Canberra" private hospital, Byrne street, Benalla, the wife of A.D. Moodie - a daughter.

The Argus (Melbourne) 12 May 1919

WILLIAMS (nee Elsie Dunstan). —On the 25th January, 1920, at "Canberra" private hospital, Benalla, to Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Williams, of Benalla (formerly of Ballarat) —a son (Willoughby Lloyd).

The Argus (Melbourne) 25 January 1920

The Benalla Family Research Group's online Benalla Rates Records Index show Ellen Watson paying rates in financial years 1917-18; 1918-19; 1919-1920, BRB Book 2 Central Riding. 'Watson, nurse, priv. hospital' is included in the Sands Directory pages for Benalla in 1920.

To be held at the residence of Mrs. Bagnell
Lavery Street

WEDNESDAY, 12th MAY
(Same day as Mrs. Bagnell's sale), at 1 p.m.
sharp.

**VICTORIAN PRODUCERS' CO-
OPERATIVE CO. LTD.**
Having been favored with instructions from
NURSE WATSON (who is leaving Benalla)
will sell her Furniture and effects, includ-
ing:—

Piano (Kilner & Co.), dining room suite (7
pieces), dining room table (6ft x 3ft
6in), sideboard, jardiniere stand,
double bedstead (black and nickel),
sea-grass matting (13 ft), gas stove
(Fletcher), gas iron, two lamps, new
hand saw, two double washstands,
lounge chair, three pairs curtains.

**NOTE Time, Date and Place—1 p.m.,
Wednesday, 12th May, Lavery Street, Be-
nalla.**
**VICTORIAN PRODUCERS Co-Op. Co. LTD.,
Benalla and branches.**

On 11 May 1920, a clearing sale of Nurse Watson's Furniture and Effects prior to her leaving Benalla is advertised in the *Benalla Standard* (p). It was held at the residence of Mrs Bagnell on the same day as Mrs Bagnell's sale.

According to the electoral rolls, after leaving Benalla Nurse Watson lived with her husband, a postal official, with time spent in rural towns including Sea Lake. She died in Geelong in 1943.

The house on the corner of Byrne and Church Streets was purchased by Henry and Harriet Guppy, who lived there until 1938 when it was sold. It was converted into a boarding house which operated until the 1980's.

It has since undergone extensive renovations and has been faithfully restored back to its true Edwardian character, with a new name plate made with the original Guppy name, "Ravenhurst".

This beautiful house is listed in Benalla Council's Heritage Overlay for Benalla 2019 (HO55).



"Ravenhurst" 1916

"The current owner kindly provided me with this information about the house but had little information of the house being used as a hospital, although she heard that it had"

1919

Nurse Lindsay - 'Avondale' Private Hospital

'By 1919 it appears that Nurse Lindsay's Private Hospital was in the Barkly Street premises of Nurse Elliott.'

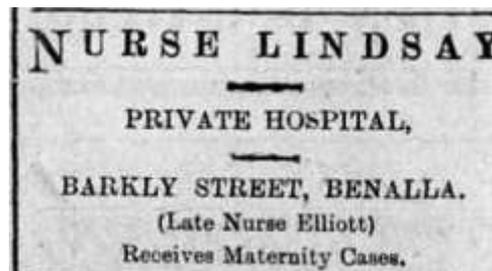
'Avondale Hospital', a private hospital in Barkly Street which 'received maternity cases', was run by Margaret Lindsay. Daughter of Winton pioneer, William Weston, Margaret married Richard Lindsay in 1876 in the first marriage to be celebrated in the Winton Church.

Grubb et al write that while living in Mokoan West, Margaret 'proved an efficient nurse, and many calls on her knowledge were freely responded to (quote from obit).'

Richard died in 1906, leaving Margaret with eleven children, ranging in age from 29 to 6 yrs old. Electoral rolls suggest that Margaret continued living in Winton on the family farm for some years, then moved to Byrne Street, Benalla, where she opened a boarding house.

Nurse Margaret Sophia Lindsay, listed in the 1918 Register of Midwives, opened her private hospital in Barkly Street in 1918, running it with her daughter Mary for seven years.

An advertisement in the Benalla Standard on 30 May 1919 indicates that Nurse Lindsay was receiving maternity cases in the Barkly Street premises previously occupied by Nurse Elliott.



Nurse Lindsay later advertises reopening as the Avondale Private Hospital in Barkly Street.



Benalla Standard, Tuesday 16 August 1921

WALKER (nee Emily Bond).—On the 30th April, at "Avondale" private hospital, Benalla, to Mr. and Mrs. Norman Walker—a son (Geoffrey Norman). 'Family Notices.', *The Argus* 28 May, 1921 p. 13

REID (nee Hilda Goode, Lilydale).—On February 18, at Avondale private hospital. Benalla, to Mr. and Mrs. G. L. Reid, of Goorambat—a son (Noel Coulson) 'Family Notices.', *The Argus* 26 February, 1921, p. 13.

Rate notices show Nurse Lindsay's hospital as being Dwelling 5, Sec. 1A Barkly Street, West Side, which would seem to be the site of Nurse Elliott's hospital. Grubb et al write that it was where the woodwork section of Benalla High School was in 1988.

Margaret Lindsay died in 1946 leaving a family of four sons, seven daughters, 32 grandchildren and 35 great grandchildren.



“I must have seen Avondale every day when I went to school but can't remember it. I remember Sikora's white weatherboard house, which must have been next door, and the beautiful Miller Homes building.”

1920

Sister Down – ‘Lemnos’ Private Hospital’, cnr Nixon & Benalla St

Grubb et al write that Sister Down worked with Sister Froggatt at Lemnos private hospital, ‘then took charge’.

Nurse Hilda Maime Mary Down was born in 1884 in Learmonth, near Ballarat. Nurse Down is listed on the Electoral Rolls as living at Melbourne Hospital, ‘occupation nurse’ from 1909 to 1912 and in later Gazettes is listed as ‘training establishment Melbourne Hospital 1912’.

On Friday 11 June 1920 it was advertised in the Benalla Standard that “NURSE DOWN will shortly remove her Lemnos Hospital to the Commodious Premises lately occupied by Capt. Monteath, M.C., adjoining Mr T Hanlon's property, corner of Nixon and Benalla Streets. For further particulars apply to Messrs. HARGRAVE & LEWERS, Solicitors”

N U R S E D O W N

Will shortly REMOVE her

LEMNOS HOSPITAL

To be Commodious Premises lately occupied by Capt. Monteath, M.C., adjoining Mr. T. Hanlon's property.

Corner of Nixon and Benalla Streets

For further particulars apply to Messrs. HARGRAVE & LEWERS, Solicitors
Benalla.

On Tuesday 27 July 1920 the Benalla Standard writes that Sister H. Down applied to council for permission to nurse cases of diphtheria at her hospital in Nixon Street. By Thursday 28 October 1920, advertisements were appearing in the Benalla Standard stating that Sister Down’s Lemnos Private Hospital had removed to the corner of Nixon and Benalla Streets.

Sister Down’s Lemnos Hospital effectively operated as an ‘intermediate’ hospital during the 1920’s to mid-1930’s, with many entries discovered in Trove of articles in local newspapers of emergency admissions to Lemnos in the 1920’s to mid-1930’s following vehicle and other accidents.

Hilda Mamie Down is listed in the Victorian Government Gazette 1926 Register of Nurses as being at Lemnos Private Hospital in Benalla. She completed her nursing training at the Melbourne Hospital in March 1912.

Benalla seems to have been Sister Down’s longest stay. She was listed as residing at ‘Lemnos Private Hospital’, occupation ‘nurse’ in 1924 to 1934 (5) Electoral Rolls, when the Benalla Bush Nursing Hospital was established. In the Victorian Directories (Sands) for 1935 ‘Sister H. M. Down, Private Hospital, Benalla’ is listed.

Down, Robt. V., 26 Milverton-st, Burwood, E.13
Down, Sister H. M., priv hosp, Benalla
Down, Stanley C., 14 Beresford-st, Caul. N., S.E.7

There is no record of Sister Down marrying. After leaving Benalla, Hilda Mamie Down lived in Melbourne where she worked as a nurse until retiring. Sister Down died in July 1965 in Brighton.

The Lemnos private hospital building on the corner of Nixon and Benalla Street was pulled down some years ago and there are now flats on the site.

Lemnos was to end its days at 23 Nixon Street as a convalescent home run by Mrs Williams.

" L E M N O S "
Convalescent Home
(Mrs. E. A. WILLIAMS).
Proprietress)
Convalescent & Aged Infirm.
Few Vacancies Available.
23 NIXON ST., BENALLA.
'Phone 154U.

Benalla Ensign 9 February 1950

1921

Sisters Lucy and Muriel Jackson – ‘Rossmore’ Private Hospital

“I have a special affection for Rossmore Hospital. I was born there, as were my sister and brothers and our various childhood illnesses were also treated there...”

Rossmore Hospital in Carrier Street, Benalla, was opened by sisters Lucy and Muriel (Lula) Jackson.

The obituary for their father, grazier James Pickmore Jackson, published in the Benalla Ensign, Friday 9 May 1941 p3, writes that he farmed for many years in the Boho district before moving to a farm on Kilfeera Road, Benalla and then retiring to Benalla.

Lucy trained as a nurse for twelve months at Fairfield Hospital and then at the Royal Women’s Hospital.

Muriel trained for twelve months at the Eye and Ear Hospital, twelve months at Fairfield and then spent four years at the Albury Public Hospital.

After some months of private nursing in Benalla, Muriel saw the need for a hospital and opened Rossmore in 1921 in an existing building, originally built to be a hospital.



Muriel’s application for registration and for the right to treat infectious cases at “Rossmore,” Carrier Street, Benalla as a private hospital was included in the Benalla Shire Council Monthly Minutes reported in *Benalla Standard* 13 September 1921.p3:

Health Officer reported as follows:--As requested, I have inspected ‘Rossmore’, Carrier Street Benalla, for which Sister Muriel Jackson has applied for registration as a private hospital. These premises were originally erected a few years ago as a private hospital. The main building contains eleven (11) rooms (exclusive of kitchen and laundry), all lofty, well lighted, well ventilated, and in excellent order. There is a wide, airy verandah, part of which has been wired in as “sleep-outs.” The drainage, locality and surroundings are good. The erection of an additional closet will be necessary. The application for registration is strongly recommended.—A.H.Thwaites, M.B., B.S., N.Sc. Approved of.

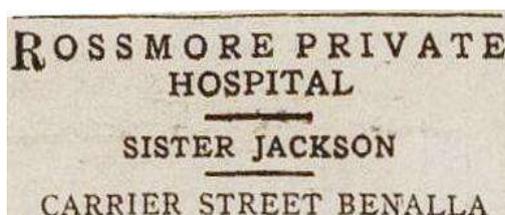
It appears likely that ‘Moondarra’, a private hospital due to open in late 1913, is the hospital referred to by Dr Thwaites. The facility was apparently built as a hospital, but not used as such until the Jackson sisters started their hospital in 1921.

An article headed 'New Private Hospital' in the Benalla Standard on 14 October 1913 p2 referring to Moondarra, states "By reference to our advertising columns it will be seen that the handsome new building erected in Carrier-street to the order of Mrs. M. E. Taylor, will be opened on or about the 24th inst, as a private hospital. The sanitary and other requirements so strictly insisted on by the health authorities have been faithfully complied with. Particular attention has been given to drainage, ventilation, &c. There is an up-to-date operating theatre, with all necessary requisites. The new hospital will be under the joint control and management of the Misses Smart and Miss Smithwick, of Melbourne, ladies who hold in their humane profession the very best credentials. It may be mentioned that this institution can be used by any of our local doctors having patients needing hospital care."

According to the advertisement referred to, also on p2, 'Moondarra' was due to open the following week, but apparently never did. No further references to Moondarra or Sisters Smart and Smithwick were discovered apart from listings of registered midwife Margaret Teresa Smart in Yarrawonga for many years and a record of a Sister Smithwick's military service overseas with the AANS.



Advertisements appeared in Benalla papers. There were many family notices referring to Rossmore in the newspapers over the coming years.



Benalla Standard 24 January 1922

According to Stephens in 'Through Their Eyes' (2013) p 110, Muriel was very proud of the fact that within 12 months she had paid back to her father the £100 he had lent her for the project.

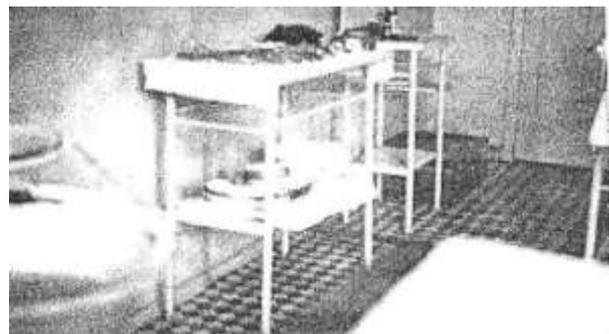
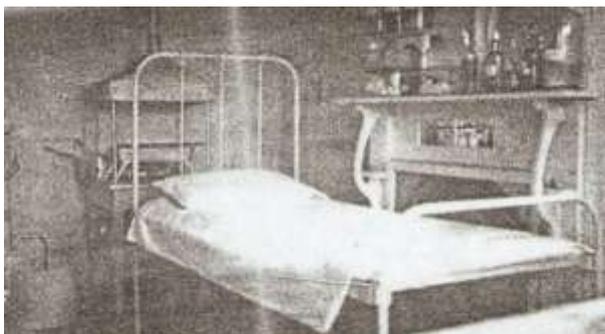
Sadly, Lucy died in 1922 at the age of 29. Her obituary in the North East Ensign on 18th August 1922 writes that

"...after a lengthy illness, the death took place of Nurse Lucy Crosby Jackson, at her sister's hospital in Carrier Street, the cause was from acute generated tuberculosis. It was known for some little time that the condition of the deceased young lady was very critical, a specialist from Melbourne having been called in a week before, and he was unable to hold out very much hope for her recovery. Nevertheless, when the announcement was made that death had taken place, there was a general expression of regret on all sides, and keen sympathy was expressed for the bereaved relatives.

The funeral was the largest that has taken place in Benalla. A short service was held at St Andrew's Church. It was conducted by Rev F McQueen. The coffin was followed by Sisters Jackson, Reeves, Kissick, and Nurse Fenton in white uniform. Immediately following the hearse was a cab containing the near relatives of the deceased and her fiancée Mr T Maxwell of Trafalgar. The burial service was read by the Rev F McQueen. The cortege as it left the church consisted of 69 buggies, 15 motors, but as it crossed the bridge the number has increased to 85 horse vehicles and 21 motors, making a total of 106, which is the longest cortege ever seen in Benalla. The coffin was covered with a number of beautiful wreaths."

Muriel Jackson continued nursing at Rossmore until 1927, marrying bank clerk Claude Henry Eddy in Benalla in 1926. The couple relocated to Melbourne briefly in 1934 and in 1937 were living in Goroke, Wannon, Vic, where Claude is listed as Bank Manager. By 1942 they were recorded as living in the Bank of NSW residence in Creswick, with Claude's occupation "Bank Manager". According to Stephens in 'Through Their Eyes' (p110), Muriel soon became immersed in community work in Creswick, was instrumental in the formation of the Creswick and District Hospital Auxiliary, of which she was a member for over 35 years, and along with her husband, accorded the honour of 'Life Governor' of the Creswick and District Hospital. Muriel, better known in Creswick as 'Margot', died in Creswick in 1988 aged 92.

Rossmore was taken over by Sister Kirley 1927 – 28, by Sisters Ann and Bertha McPherson in February 1928-1948, then by a syndicate of doctors with Sister Harbor in charge.



Sister Edna Burns

Sister Edna Burns worked as a sister for the McPhersons prior to enlisting in the Second World War. A report in the Benalla Ensign dated 5 December 1941, describes a Presentation Night to Sister Burns of Samaria at the Swanpool Hall before she commenced her war service. It was attended by her parents Mr and Mrs W Burns, people from Benalla, Warrenbayne, Tatong, Lima and as far as Goorambat. She was presented with a bouquet and a watch.

Sister Edna Burns, after returning from war service, took charge in 1947 and remained there until 1964 when the hospital closed. The name of the hospital was changed from Rossmore to Rosemore during this time.

Local information suggests that when the hospital had to be registered it was found that there was already a Rossmore Hospital registered (possibly in NSW), and so the name chosen by Sister Burns was Rosemore. However, to those 'locals' who were either born there or were patients there, it will be always be Rossmore.

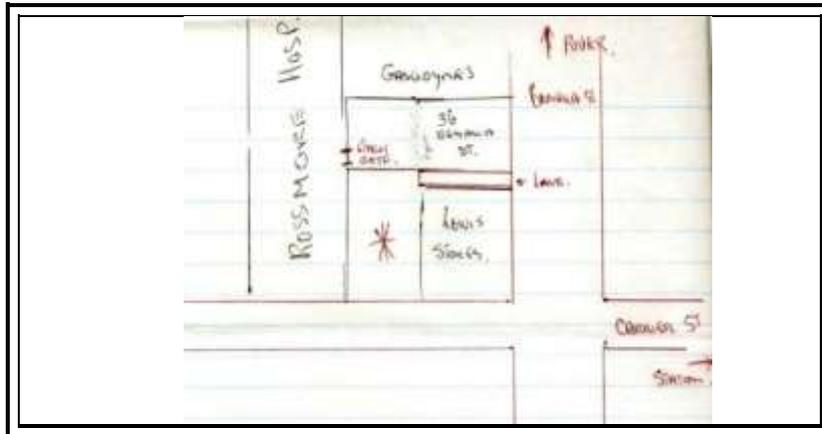
An item in the Benalla Ensign dated 1 March 1951 notes that the Benalla Borough Council has received notice from the Department of Health that the Commission had approved the registration of 'Rosemore' Private Hospital as from January 30, 1951, by transfer from the Hospital Syndicate, Benalla. The council noted the approval, with which they concurred.

When Rosemore closed in 1964 Sister Burns nursed at Benalla and District Memorial Hospital until her retirement. There is a scholarship in her name awarded each year to assist a young woman with further education in the medical/nursing field.



"I remember Sister Burns as a kind and gentle lady who ran her hospital with great efficiency. According to a family member, Rosemore Hospital was sold at auction on 20 June 1958."

'Myrtalma'



Sketch provided by Warren Tucker, grandson of Mrs Vranizan.

To the side of Rossmore, situated in Benalla Street, was a house occupied by Mr and Mrs Vranizan and family. Many country mothers stayed in this house adjacent to Rossmore to await the birth of their babies. It does not appear to have been advertised except probably by word-of-mouth.

“Situated very close to Rossmore Hospital in Carrier Street at 36 Benalla Street was a house owned by Mrs Vranizan. My mother said once that she couldn’t understand how her friend, Mrs Vranizan’s daughter, Alma Tucker, knew so many people in Benalla. Alma said it was because country mothers came to their house to wait to have their babies at Rossmore. I tracked Alma’s son Warren down by letter and phone calls only to find he had lived in Benalla for several years. Warren provided a sketch of the house in relation to Rossmore Hospital and information. He thought there would have been a charge. He wasn’t sure how many rooms would have been available. He said the original house didn’t have the porch on the front as shown in the photo. It apparently now runs as a bed and breakfast, ‘Rushton Cottage’, but the original nameplate ‘Myrtalma’ is still on the house.”



'Myrtalma', now 'Rushton Cottage'

Myrtalma's side fence backed on to Rossmore's side fence where there was a gate. There was a lane between the grocery store 'Lewis Stores' on the corner of Carrier and Benalla Streets, and Mrs Vranizan's house. 'Lewis Stores' kept a horse which was used to collect goods from the station in this lane. I think it was used for deliveries too because I remember groceries being delivered by horse and cart.



1935

Benalla Bush Nursing Hospital

The Argus - 27 May 1935. Country Page

“BUSH NURSING Hospital at Benalla - Foundation-stone Laid.

Benalla, Sunday – The laying of the foundation-stone of the new bush nursing hospital at Benalla was performed today by Sir James Barrett, who was accompanied by the president of the Victorian branch of the British Medical Association (Dr Gerald Weigall) and Mr Frank Tate.

The president of the Benalla Bush Nursing Committee (Council T A Cook), the president of the Benalla Shire Council (Councillor T F Harris) and Mr Cleary MLA welcomed the visitors.”

In 1935, a Bush Nursing Hospital was set up on the outskirts of Benalla East.

For several decades Benalla patients who required either public ward accommodation or specialised services had to be transferred to another hospital, mostly to Wangaratta. Before motor cars were common, the railways provided a very convenient service for patients and their families, with a mid-day train to Wangaratta and a return train in the late afternoon.

In 1932 the United Friendly Societies of Benalla began to investigate the possibility of establishing a public hospital. After many setbacks, on 30th July the first committee was formed. The hospital was to be known as the Benalla Bush Nursing Hospital, affiliated with the Victorian Bush Nursing Association. Public subscription provided a substantial proportion of the cost of land and buildings. Finance was arranged and the building contract was let to Mr. R. Mould. The site for the new hospital is where the Benalla Hospital still stands, and I believe some of the walls on the original building are incorporated into the existing hospital. The original cost of the building was £4,000 and its foundation stone was laid on 26th May 1935.

The Benalla Bush Nursing Hospital was officially opened by the Hon. A. Dunstan, Premier of Victoria on 1st November 1935.

Due to the foresight of the Provisional Committee who bought five acres of land at £500 per acre adjoining the Bush Nursing Hospital in 1951, Benalla now has a large and efficient hospital on this site. A book written by Morrie Evans (1989), ‘A Path to the Benalla Hospital’, gives much information about the establishment of the hospital. A copy is available in the Benalla Library and is well worth reading.

Postscript

When I began this project in 2012, I had no inkling of where it would eventually lead or how much information was available and has since become easily accessible. Having done this research, it would be a shame if it wasn't recorded to be available to anyone who wishes to continue with this, or similar research. It has been a fascinating, time consuming, sometimes frustrating, but enjoyable project.

My mission in starting this project was to locate the hospital where my uncle was born. My mother was born in Wodonga, but the family moved to Benalla before her brother was born in December 1919. Mum said he was born in a hospital in Barkly Street, but we did not go on with the conversation and it was many years later that this project began. Along the way I discovered several other hospitals in the early 1900's, run by remarkable, stoic women.

Nurse Elliott appears to have ceased operating her private hospital in Barkly Street in 1918. Nurse Margaret Lindsay advertised 'Avondale maternity hospital' in the Benalla Standard on 30 May 1919 describing it as 'previously Nurse Elliott's'. My uncle was born on 9 Dec 1919, so it appears that he would have been born at 'Avondale' when it was operated by Nurse Lindsay. However, my quest did not end there as I became fascinated by the many other nurses and their hospitals which operated around this time.

Themes became evident – of a gap which needed to be filled in delivery of emergency hospital services resulting from the lack of a community based cottage hospital and the distance from the hospital in Wangaratta; of dedicated nurses and midwives who often began by offering nursing services, then offered accommodation, later proceeding to registration and re-registration of their premises as private hospitals. All private hospitals appeared to offer midwifery services, however the most well-known offered general nursing across a range including emergency and operating facilities.

The nurses who established private hospitals in Benalla appear to have been entrepreneurial women of spirit, diligence, intelligence, perseverance who took risks and worked in a field which was often a point of trauma –with confinements; with operations requiring amputations, with patients suspected of having 'Spanish Influenza', and more. Their private hospitals became the emergency department for traffic accidents (from gigs to cars), scaldings; the place of births, palliative care, deaths; and more. The nurses often worked in tandem with local doctors. They were not only 'directors of nursing', they were 'owner managers', responsible for buying or leasing buildings and fitting them for purposes, marketing, including listing in Sands Business Directories; responding to and meeting registration and other regulations including building and training regulations; notifying council of infectious diseases in the community; responding to infections in their hospitals; and more.

Some of these remarkable women had large families to support, while others were single women with lifetime careers in nursing. Some were from pioneering families from the area; others arrived in town as trained professionals/certificated nurses, some for a few years, some staying longer. Some appear to have had means to invest in establishing their hospital after receiving bequests or other financial support from family; others to have found it more difficult to meet registration requirements which may have imposed a financial burden. A number were possibly involved in formal or informal transitions of their hospital, including the Warren's to Nurse Corbett; Nurse Elliott to Nurse Lindsay; Sister Froggatt to Sister Down, and more.

Changes in plans and decisions relating to continued running of hospitals seem to have been influenced by World War I, and may have been influenced by the Spanish Flu (for example, Nurse Bagnell and Nurse Watson are both recorded as holding clearing sales related to leaving Benalla in 1920), changes in public health and nurse registration requirements.

Notices of recognition in the newspapers, whether in obituaries, reports of nurses going to war, notices of thanks included in obituaries, family notices, references, describe women who appear to have been well regarded in the community.

Many of these remarkable women knew personal sadness in their lives with the death of husbands, sons and daughters or sons-in-law. At times changes in the fortunes of their husbands impacted upon them, with incidents relating to legal charges appearing in the Benalla newspapers. At other times they were involved in legal proceedings, either as witnesses, or as litigants seeking to have overdue fees paid.

Of the nurses who left Benalla, some of the nurses followed their husband's work to settle then retire in other towns; some retired then moved to be closer to extended family in other towns. Others continued their nursing careers in other hospitals or areas of nursing including as military service and child and maternity health. A number of the nurses are buried in Benalla Cemetery. It was sad to discover that Nurse Eliza Bagnall, Sister Gertrude Froggatt, Nurse Grace Morrissey (Ishmael) and Nurse Mabel Henry remain buried in unmarked graves (Refer Attachment 6).

A number of the private hospital premises are still standing, however in this report they have been listed without reference to street numbers to protect the privacy of the people currently living in the properties.

Occasionally I digressed from the nurses and their hospitals to add human interest items which mentioned other people, the names of who would still be recognised in the community today.

Nurse Catherine Warren quickly became a favourite and so I could not resist mentioning the operetta she put on in Benalla in which her family played a prominent part. Her death at 51 was a sad loss.

Many questions remain unanswered, hopefully to be followed up by someone else interested in this topic –questions including - what was the history of nurse training in Victoria, and how did the Benalla nurses fit in relation to this; how did Health Department regulations alter across the period; was there a reason for closure of some of the nurses' hospitals in the early post war period apart from possible ageing of the nurses, burnout, changes in family circumstances? What, if any, impact did the Spanish Flu pandemic have in terms of the registration, role of the private hospitals in Benalla? Did smaller maternity hospitals such as Mrs Magee's continue to operate quietly in the background as the larger 'intermediate' hospitals with more highly trained nurses gained ground during the 1920's? What is the story of the McPherson sisters, who ran Rossmore from the late 1920's? At the time of publishing this project, pandemic regulations prevent being able to explore, for example, further details in the rates book at Benalla Family Research. It would be excellent if firmer details could be established for the locations of a number of the hospitals through the rate books, or perhaps through titles searches. There is much which could still be done!

Public Notices.

PRIVATE HOSPITAL

MRS. C. WARREN, Matron.
NURSE, K. WARREN, R.V.T.N.A.
(Late Acting-Matron at the Amherst Hospital.)
Comfortable Accommodation. Ordinary Association Fees.
Patients Nursed at Hospital or own Homes

H. JOOR
Roof Hills, Benalla.

MRS C. ELLIOTT
LADIES' NURSE,
prepared to receive PATIENTS at her
NEW PRIVATE HOSPITAL
Address—Barkly-street, Benalla.

ST. ANNE'S PRIVATE HOSPITAL.
Corner SMYTH and CHURCH STREETS
BENALLA.
Proprietress: MISS HENRY.
Visiting hours: 2 to 4 and 7 to 8 p.m. daily.

In Memoriam.

BAMFORD.—In fond and loving remembrance of our dear little son and brother, Frank Herbert, who died on 15th October, 1912; also Ada Ethel, who died on 1st November, 1912, both at Mrs. Bagnall's private hospital.
For many years our family chain
Was closely linked together,
But ah, alas, 'tis broken now—
Two links have gone for ever.
No one knows how much we miss them,
Friends may think the wounds have healed,
But they little know the sorrow
Deep within our hearts concealed.
(Inserted by their sorrowing parents,
brothers, and sisters.)

PRIVATE HOSPITAL
ARUNDEL-ST., BENALLA WEST

NURSE YEARWOOD
R.V.T.N.A.
(Late Winfield T.N.H. Melbourne.)

Fees Moderate. Every consideration given to patients. Certified in General Midwifery, etc.

HIS MAJESTY'S PRIVATE HOSPITAL,
Nunn Street.

NURSE CORBETT

Wishes to Notify that she has REMOVED to more commodious premises, in NUNN-STREET, recently occupied by Mr. C. M. Hall, Dentist, and will be pleased to meet old and new friends.
Address—"Tervue," NUNN-ST.

Bereavement Cards

MR. H. HAMMOND and MR. and MRS. JUSTICE and family return their sincere THANKS to their many friends for expressions of sympathy, letters, telegrams, etc., in their recent bereavement, particularly Nurse Bagnall and Dr. Nicholson, for their kindness and attention.

WINFIELD PRIVATE HOSPITAL,
ARUNDEL STREET
BENALLA WEST.

NURSE YEARWOOD,
R.V.T.N.A.

HIS MAJESTY'S PRIVATE HOSPITAL,
Barkly Street.

NURSE CORBETT

Wishes to Notify that she has REMOVED to the premises in BARKLY-STREET, recently occupied by Nurse Warren, and will be pleased to meet old and new friends.
Outdoor cases attended to.

NURSE MORRISSEY
"LAURAVILLE,"
BYRNE STREET, BENALLA,
Has comfortable accommodation for ladies.
FEES MODERATE.

Public Notices

LEMNOS PRIVATE HOSPITAL,
ARUNDEL STREET,
BENALLA.
SISTER FROGGATT.

NURSE WATSON
CERTIFICATED,
Receives Maternity Cases at
CANBERRA MATERNITY HOSPITAL,
Byrne Street, Benalla,
Every Care and Attention given.

NURSE LINDSAY
PRIVATE HOSPITAL,
BARKLY STREET, BENALLA.
(Late Nurse Elliott)
Receives Maternity Cases.

LEMNOS PRIVATE HOSPITAL,
REMOVED to Corner NIXON and
BENALLA STREETS,
BENALLA.
SISTER DOWN.

ROSSMORE PRIVATE HOSPITAL
SISTER JACKSON
CARRIER STREET BENALLA

Attachment 1: Index of Names and Hospitals

Arundel Street Maternity Hospital (*Nurse Kimber*)

‘Avondale’ (Hospital) *Nurse Lindsay*

Bagnall, Eliza V (1855-1930) (Nurse) *Nurse Bagnall’s Private Hospital / Dunrobin*

Burns, Edna (1907-2003) (Sister) *Rossmore*

‘Canberra’ (Hospital) *Nurse Watson*

Corbett, N (Honorah /Norah) (1871 – 1963) (Nurse) *Nurse Corbett’s Private Hospital / His Majesty’s Private Hospital*

Down, Hilda Maime May (1884 – 1965) (Sister) *Lemnos*

‘Dunrobin’ *Nurse Bagnall*

Elliott, Emily Matilda (1854–1934) (Nurse) *Nurse Elliott’s Private Hospital; (St Anne’s owner, 1920)*

Froggatt, Gertrude Alice (1870-1952) (Sister) *Lemnos*

Henry, Mabel Isabel (1871 – 1946) (Nurse/Miss/Proprietress) – *St Anne’s*

Heyer (Hehir), Caroline (1846-1929) *Mrs Heyer’s Private Hospital*

His Majesty’s Private Hospital – *Nurse Corbett*

Ishmael, Mary Grace (1865 – 1950) (Nurse) *Lauraville*

Jackson, Lucy Crosbie (1993-1922) (Nurse) *Rossmore*

Jackson, Hannah Margaret Muriel “Lula” (1895-1988) (Nurse) *Rossmore*

Kimber, Sarah Ann (1846 – 1923) (Nurse) *Arundel Street Maternity Hospital*

‘Lauraville’ (Hospital) *Ishmael, Morrissey*

‘Lemnos’ (Hospital) *Froggatt, Down*

‘Lemnos’ (Convalescent Home)

Lindsay, Margaret Sophia (1857-1946) (Nurse) *Avondale*

Magee, Sarah Elizabeth (1867-1948) (Nurse/Mrs) *Mrs Magee’s Private Hospital*

Minogue, Ellen Mrs *Convalescent Home*

Morrissey, (Mary) Grace (maiden name Ishmael) (1865-1950) (Nurse) *Lauraville*

‘Rossmore’ (Hospital)

‘St Anne’s’ Private Hospital *Mabel Henry*

Warren, Catherine (1858-1909) (Nurse) *Nurse Warren’s Hospital*

Warren, Katherine Waldron (1884-1979) (Sister) *Nurse Warren’s /Miss Warren’s Hospital*

Watson, Ellen (1872-1943) (Nurse) *Canberra Hospital*

‘Winfield’ (Hospital) *Yearwood*

Yearwood, Anna Beddington (1881-1941) (Sister) *Winfield*

Convalescent Homes *Mrs Minogue’s, Lemnos (Nurse Williams),*

Attachment 2: Miscellaneous Nurses and Hospitals

Mrs. Breen

“BENALLA SHIRE COUNCIL. ...CORRESPONDENCE...From Public Health Department, stating that the Council's recommendation that the premises in Benalla-street be registered as a private hospital to be conducted by Mrs. Emily A. Breen was confirmed on August 23, on condition that the hospital be not used without the consent of the Council for the accommodation of persons suffering from any dangerous, infectious, or contagious disease, and that no case of central nervous disease be admitted. — Received.”

Benalla Standard, Tuesday 26 September 1911 p3

English born Emily Jane Breen nee Humphries, whose parents farmed at Myrhee, is listed under Emily Annie Breen in relation to 1912-1913 BRB Book 2 Central Riding in the Benalla Family Research Rate Books and is recorded as living in Benalla Street in the Electoral Rolls from 1909 to 1914. There is a 1915 directory entry for Mrs. Emily A Breen running a private hospital in Benalla. Emily Annie Breen is listed in the 1914 Electoral Roll as running a boarding house at 178 Nelson Road, South Melbourne.

Nurse Dick (1854 – 1925)

Nurse Julia Ann Dick is mentioned in the 1915 applications for registration of a private hospital. Her application was sanctioned for not complying with the requirement that all premises to be used for the purpose of private hospital must contain no internal wall or ceiling lining composed of hessian and paper or canvas. The Council report in the North East Ensign on 3 August stated that Nurse Dick was endeavouring to get fresh premises.

Nurse Dick did not appear to advertise her private hospital in local newspaper or list herself as a Benalla business in the Sands Directory. Julia Ann Dick and John Dick are parents listed in the early entries of births recorded at ‘Dunrobin’.

MRS J. A. DICK. Mrs Julia Ann, relict of the late John Dick, of Benalla, died at Victoria-street, Newmarket, on Wednesday last, at the age of 71 years. Deceased was formerly known as Mrs Jordan and carried on the profession of a nurse for many years. She was the mother of a large family and was widely known and respected here. Many old friends will regret to hear of her demise.

North Eastern Ensign (Benalla), Friday 9 January 1925, p 3.

‘The Sisters Smart & Miss Smithwick’

A headline appeared in the Benalla Standard on 7 October 1913 introducing readers to a ‘New Private Hospital’. The hospital, Moondarra, ‘erected to the order of’ Mrs. M. E. Taylor, a Bridge Street drapery store owner, was described in the Benalla Standard, October 7 1913 (p3) as being built with faithful attention to sanitary and drainage, ventilation, and other requirements, and as having an up to-date operating theatre, with all necessary requisites...

“The new hospital will be under the joint control and management of the Misses Smart and Miss Smithwick, of Melbourne, ladies who hold in their humane profession

the very best credentials. It may be mentioned that this institution can be used by any of our local doctors having patients needing hospital care”.

An unconfirmed connection to the Misses Smart was found in the Benalla Standard, Tuesday 18 July 1911, which mentioned a Mr. J. Smart putting up a weatherboard residence in Carrier Street, near the railway station. A John Smart is listed as having made rate payments from 1911-12 to 1919-20 for a residence in BRB Book 2 Central Riding. A Margaret Teresa Smart of Yarrowonga is listed in the register of midwives for many years. There is no local mention of Miss Smithwick, however there is a military service record for a Geraldine Smithwick who completed her Trained Nurse Examination at St Vincent's Hospital in 1909, became a member of the Australian Army Nursing Service and embarked from Melbourne for the war in late 1916.

As mentioned elsewhere, this hospital remained unused until the opening of Rossmore in 1921.

Mrs Mason

A Mrs Mason in Hannah Street is mentioned Benalla Standard, Tuesday 19 July 1921, p3 in correspondence to the Benalla Council by the Department of Public Health as possibly operating her private hospital illegally by not having registered it at the time. Grubb et al list 'Mrs Mary Mason – midwifery nurse and midwife. Lived in Hannah Street' (p25).

Many other nurses had valued nursing careers in Benalla, often working at the nurses' private hospitals. A number served as nurses during the First World War, some running military hospitals while overseas.

Grubb et al (1988) included in their list of nurses, for example, Elsie Gascoine, Mrs Catherine Hair, Sister Martha Kissack (Refer Grubb et al for biographical notes written by Margaret Terrett), Sister Hilda Knox (Refer [Obituaries Australia – Knox, Hilda Mary \(1883-1917\)](#)), and Violet Minnie Payne.

They are not, however, incorporated in this project as they did not meet the criteria of operating private hospitals in Benalla.

Attachment 3: Private Hospital Registrations

Trove records indicate that registration procedures for private hospitals were in place throughout, if not before, the early 1900's. Nurse Catherine Warren's application in 1905 described earlier in this document is a telling example.

Registrations were required when Public Health Regulations changed, when new hospitals were established or their ambit expanded, when the location of a hospital changed, when the name of the owner changed because of marriage.

Applications were not always successful, were at times conditional on changes being made, or were restricted to certain functions.

In 1915 there was a clear directive from the Public Health Department requiring private hospitals to apply for registration. Applications for registration of these private hospitals had to be made to Council together with a sketch plan showing the distances between the house and boundaries of adjoining allotments accompanied by information as to how drainage of the premises is disposed of.

Nurses Elliott, Corbett, Dick, Heyer, Magee, Bagnall, Morrissey, Yearwood and Kimber were all required to submit this information before their application for registration of their premises would be further considered. *Benalla Standard 2 March 1915.*

A further requirement was that no internal walls or ceiling linings were to be composed of hessian and paper or canvas. *Benalla Standard 22 June 1915 p3.*

Mrs. Magee, Mrs. Dick and Mrs. Heyer were listed as not complying with this requirement – "their registration cannot be sanctioned while these linings etc. remain". *Benalla Standard 20 Jul 1915 p.3*

Nurses Elliott, Bagnell, Morrissey, Yearwood and Kimber's private hospitals appear to have met the requirements listed above and did not need to satisfy other conditions.

Mrs Heyer decided not to renew her registration, Mrs Dick to look for other premises, and Mrs Magee to try to arrange with the landlord for the alterations required.

Mrs Corbett was required to submit a new application, alterations having been made. According to the *Benalla Standard* 16 November 1915 p 3. Report on Benalla Shire Council Correspondence Mrs Corbett's fresh application as a private hospital was confirmed by the Board on 13th October.

BENALLA SHIRE COUNCIL.

The ordinary monthly meeting of the above body was held in the Council Chambers yesterday, when there were present—Crs. Cleary (in the chair, Bennison, Guppy, Smith, Dallas, Harrison, Dunlop, Burness, Cunningham, Dwan, Sidler and Ferris.

CORRESPONDENCE.

From Public Health Department, forwarding form for the report of the council to be accompanied by copies of the reports of the officer of health and public analyst for 1914, and returned by 8th March.—Secretary to attend to this.

From same, stating that it will be necessary, before the applications of Nurses Elliott, Corbett, Dick, Heyer, Magee, Bagnall, Morrissey, Yearwood and Kimber for the registration of their premises as private hospitals can be given further consideration, to intimate whether the council recommends the registration, and, if favorable, a sketch plan showing the distances between the house and boundaries of adjoining allotments, accompanied by information as to how drainage of the premises is disposed of, must be forwarded.—Referred to health officer and secretary.

From same, stating that the position,

BENALLA SHIRE COUNCIL.

The monthly meeting of the Benalla Shire Council was held yesterday, when there were present Crs. Mathieson (president), Bennison, Harrison, Dallas, Smith, Husband, Ferris, Dunlop, Cunningham, Cleary, Cook, and Burness.

CORRESPONDENCE.

From Public Health Department forwarding copy of a complaint relative to a Chinaman's garden adjoining the writer's (T. L. Willis') residence, Benalla.—Referred to inspector to report to next meeting.

From same, acknowledging receipt of information re private hospitals, and stating that one of the principles laid down by the Board is that all premises to be used for the purpose must contain no internal wall or ceiling linings composed of heesian and paper or canvas, and as the premises of Mrs. M'gee, Mrs. Dick and Mrs. Heyer do not comply with this requirement, their registration cannot be sanctioned while these linings, etc., remain.—Attended to, and the secretary stated that another letter had been received stating that three private hospitals in the town had been registered on the recommendation of the council.

The Independent, 2 March, 1915 p3

Benalla Standard, 22 June 1915 p3

Private Hospitals.—I have notified four nurses of the decision of the Central Board of Health respecting their applications for registration. Mrs. Corbett has put in a fresh application, alterations having been made; Mrs. Heyer will not renew hers; Mrs. Dick is endeavoring to get fresh premises; and Mrs. M'Gee will try to arrange with the landlord for the alterations required.—Received.

North Eastern Ensign, 3 August 1915 p2

Attachment 4: Midwives Registration from 1915

Midwives Board

“In accordance with the provisions of the Midwives Acts (1915) the following copy of the Midwives Register, as at the 31st December 1917, is hereby published.

Section 14 (a) indicates that the nurse holds a certificate in midwifery from the Women’s Hospital, Melbourne, or such other certificate as approved by the board.

Section 14 (b) indicates that the nurse had been in bona fide practice as a midwife in Australia or New Zealand for at least two years prior to the commencement of the Act.

Section 14 (c) indicates that the nurse has passed the Board’s examination”

14 (a) “the nurse holds a certificate in midwifery from the Women’s Hospital, Melbourne, or such other certificate as approved by the board”. Fully trained nurses described as ‘Sister’ with RVTNA accreditation who also have completed a full certificate in midwifery.

| Name | First | Regist.# | Address | First regist. | Category | Source |
|----------|--------------------|----------|---|---------------|----------|----------------|
| Froggatt | Gertrude Alice | 1198 | ‘Springwood’ Benalla | 8-6-17 | 14a | GG Feb 1918 |
| Yearwood | Anna Beddington | 1045 | Warrnambool (Benalla to early 17) | 13/4/17 | 14a | GG Feb 1918 |

14 (b) ‘the nurse had been in bona fide practice as a midwife in Australia or New Zealand for at least two years prior to the commencement of the Act’ . These nurses may have general nursing certification (a number of them advertise as ‘Certificated Nurses’).

| Name | First | Regist.# | Address | First regist. | Categ | Source |
|-----------|--------------------|----------|---------------|---------------|-------|---------------------|
| Bagnall | Eliza Victoria | 1329 | Lavery-street | 24/7/17 | 14b | GG Feb 1918 |
| Elliott | Emily Matilda | 1361 | Barkly-street | 7-8-17 | 14b | GG Feb 1918 |
| Kimber | Sarah | 1405 | Benalla | 28-8-17 | 14b | GG Feb 1918 |
| Lindsay | Margaret Sophia | 2035 | Byrne-Street | 1/7/18 | 14b | GG Supp Jan 1919 |
| Magee | Sarah Elizabeth | 1456 | Smythe Street | 11/9/17 | 14b | GG Feb 1918 |
| Morrissey | Grace | 1959 | Byrne-Street | 13/5/18 | 14b | GG Supp Jan 1919 |
| Watson | Ellen | 59 | Byrne-St | 21-7-16 | 14b | GG Feb 1918 |

14(c) ‘the nurse has passed the Board’s examination.’

| Name | First | Regist.# | Address | Date regist. | Categ | Source |
|---------|-----------------|----------|-------------------------|--------------|-------|--------|
| Jackson | Lucy Crosbie | 2387 | ‘Riverside’, Benalla | 2-6-19 | 14c | GG |

Attachment 5: Nurses' Private Hospitals – Locations

| Name | | Location | Current status |
|---|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| Arundel Street Maternity Hospital - Nurse Kimber | Maternity | Arundel Street – next to old SS | House pulled down – may be shed containing anvil. |
| Avondale (Nurse Lindsay) (previously Nurse Elliott's) | Maternity | Barkly Street – 'Brick Dwelling Pt. of Allotment 5, Barkly St.' | "Where woodwork rooms were at Benalla College" |
| Canberra (Nurse Watson) | Maternity | Cnr Byrne and Church Streets | Standing – faithfully restored 'Ravenshurst' |
| Dunrobin (Nurse Bagnall) | Maternity and General | Lavery Street, Benalla | Standing – Two adjacent homes/restored condition |
| Nurse Elliott – pre new hospital | General | Smythe Street | |
| Nurse Elliott – new hospital | General | Barkly Street 'Brick Dwelling Pt. of Allotment 5, Barkly St.' | "Where woodwork rooms were at Benalla College" |
| Lauraville | Maternity | Byrne Street, Benalla | Standing – Private Home being renovated/extended by owner/builder |
| Lemnos – Hospital – Sister Froggatt ('Old Lemnos Hospital' | Maternity and General | Arundel Street | Unclear - Could it have been Winfield? |
| Lemnos – Hospital – Sister Down | General | Cnr Nixon and Benalla Streets | Replaced by flats – faced Benalla Street |
| Lemnos – Convalescent Home | Convalescent | Nixon Street | Appears to be still there if numbering unchanged. |
| Mrs Magee | Maternity | Smythe Street (high prob) | 80's style yellow brick house now on site. |
| Nurse Warrens' | Residence | Smythe Street | If #50; still standing; fair condition; rented; for sale. |
| Nurse Warrens' - Hospital | General | Barkly Street | |
| Nurse Corbett | Nursing Services/ Accommodation | 'Melba' Benalla Street | |
| Nurse Corbett's His Majesty's Priv Hosp | Maternity/General | 'Tervue', Nunn Street (prev Dentists)' | |
| Nurse Corbett at Nurse Warren's | Maternity/General | Barkly Street | |
| Nurse Corbett/Smythe Street | Maternity/General | 'Smythe St, down from Gray St, nr Benalla St' | Best guess - #50 Smythe Street |
| Mrs Minogue's | Convalescent | Cecil Street | Unclear |
| Rossmore | General / Intermediate | Carrier Street, Benalla | Standing – now 'Ed Space' |
| St Anne's (Miss Henry; Nurse Elliott) | Maternity | Cnr of Church and Smythe Streets | Standing – now named 'Budgerygunyah' |
| Winfield - Nurse Yearwood | General/ 'Intermediate' | Arundel Street –Guthrie Grant's building | Unclear – c Arundel and Benson |
| Accommodation for Expectant Mothers | Accommodation - expectant mothers | Myrtalma, Benalla Street | Standing. 'Rushton Cottage' Restored Residence/B&B. |

Attachment 6: Benalla/ Local Cemetery Records

| Family Name | Christian/ middle names | Description in Cemetery Data Base | Headstone or Unmarked Grave |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|--|--|
| Bagnall (nee Ellens) | Eliza Victoria | Died/Interred Sunday 16 March 1930; Age 74 years: Birth Year c1856; Late Residence – Benalla; Compartment – Methodist; Section A Plot 68 | Unmarked grave. Buried with daughter Emily Griffin nee Bagnall |
| Froggatt (nee Chandler) | Gertrude Alice | Died/Interred Mon 9 June 1952; Age 82 years; Late residence – Benalla; Church of England; Compartment C; Plot 135. Three brothers, James A 335; George Winton A336; Valintine A335; marked by headstone with their three names. | Unmarked grave. (Brothers and Father George Chandler buried elsewhere in cemetery also). |
| Henry | Mabel Isabel | Birth 1870 Benalla, Benalla Rural City Victoria Australia; Death 4 Nov 1946 (aged 75-6) Benalla, Benalla Rural City, Victoria Australia. Burial: Benalla Cemetery Plot: Church of England, Section B, Plot 139. Memorial: 214533333 | Unmarked grave. In same grave as sister Edith Annie. Father Joseph in A 11 —Benalla Pioneer headstone. |
| Jackson | Lucy Crosbie | Died Saturday 12 th August 1922, 29 yrs, Late residence – Benalla. Compartment Presbyterian Section A; Plot 35. | Headstone. ‘Nurse’ incl. on headstone: <i>Nurse Lucy Crosbie Jackson</i> |
| Kimber | Sarah | Tuesday 19 th June 1923; 77 yrs; birth year c 1846; Church of England; Section A 346. | No photo. |
| Lindsay (nee Weston) | Margaret Sophia | Winton Cemetery; Died 1946 Age 88; Late of Mokoan West. Location: R1-3 104 | Headstone - Marker w Plaque |
| Magee | Sarah | Died/Interred Monday 25 October 1948 aged 81; Compartment Church of England; Section C: Plot 64. | Headstone with Plaque |
| Morrissey, (nee Ishmael) | Mary Grace | Grace Morrissey nee Ishmael is buried in Section B, Plot 226 in the Methodist area of the Benalla cemetery. Her sister Louisa Ishmael is also buried in grave. | Unmarked Grave. |
| Warren (nee Proverbs) | Catherine | Died 1909: Church of England – Compartment A Plot 51; | Headstone. Double grave in need of restoration. Died 1909 not 1907 (noted on Benalla Cemetery website) |

Attachment 7 – Additional Reading

a. 'T. W. Warren Sentenced' (1904)

T. W. WARREN SENTENCED.

At the Criminal Court, Melbourne, on Tuesday, before Mr. Justice Hood, Thos. Wm. Warren, clerk, 46 years of age, who had pleaded guilty to a charge of making false entries in his employers' books, was brought up for sentence. Two previous convictions were put in.

Mr. Maxwell (instructed by Mr. Pyne, of Benalla), who appeared for the accused, addressed His Honor as follows:— "I desire to bring under your Honor's notice a few facts which I think should be taken into consideration in determining the punishment to be meted out to accused. First of all the two prior convictions to which the prisoner has pleaded guilty really amount to one, inasmuch as they as they arise out of the same set of circumstances and were the result of the one lapse. For ten years Warren has been striving to live an honest and respectable life, and to provide for his wife and family. For about 18 months Warren has been in the employ of Phillipson, Newman and Co., acting as their Benalla agent, for a salary of £2 a week. Competition in this line of business is particularly keen, and some time ago Phillipson, Newman and Co. spoke of closing the Benalla branch of their business on account of the small number of cattle coming into their yards. This meant, of course, that Warren would lose his billet. He, knowing the difficulty of finding employment and anxious to retain his position, hit upon an expedient for bringing business to the yards which turned out disastrously for all parties, and has landed him in the position in which he stands to-day. His plan was to "make a market" by buying stock, sending them into the yards and selling them in lots to various purchasers. In order to hide the fact that he was dealing in this way these cattle were entered in the books in fictitious names. He of course expected to sell the cattle at an advantage, in which case he would have made a profit himself, and the commission on the sales would have been credited to his employers in the usual way. Unfortunately instead of a profit there was a heavy loss.

players in the usual way. Unfortunately instead of a profit there was a heavy loss, which necessitated further false entries to enable him to meet the payments on his purchases. This in turn necessitated further transactions, in order to make good the loss already sustained. When these transactions were challenged by his employers the accused made a full confession, and did everything in his power to save them trouble and expense in tracing the various dealings. What I desire to impress strongly on your Honor is this: That what first suggested this false course to the accused was the necessity for "making the market" to save his position. He didn't handle the money—it was a desperate effort, in the face of keen competition, to keep himself from being thrown out of employment. That a man has a wife and family depending on him is no excuse for wrong doing, but it sometimes accounts for the strength of the temptation to which he succumbs. I would ask your Honor to keep these considerations in mind in determining this man's sentence. The fact that ten years have elapsed since his last false step is some guarantee that any leniency shown him by your Honor now will not be thrown away, but will help him when he has suffered the penalty of his present crime to regain the place in honest society from which he has fallen.

His Honor, in passing sentence said the prisoner had pleaded guilty to several charges of falsifying the books of his employers and defrauding them of about £200. There seemed to have been a systematic scheme on his part. The only favourable circumstance in the case was that he had made a full confession. As to the prisoner's wife and children, he could not take them into account. As often happened in this world, the innocent had to suffer for the guilty, and in this case the prisoner's wife and children would have to suffer for his wrong doing. Prisoner had been placed in a position of trust, and he had abused that trust. He would be sentenced to eighteen months' imprisonment, with hard labour.

The Crown filed no presentment in the cattle stealing case.

Source: Benalla Standard, Friday 20 May 1904 p3

b. The Death on SS Hymettus of Thomas Froggatt (1906)

SHIP'S OFFICER BURNT TO DEATH.

A shocking occurrence, resulting in the death of Mr. Thomas Froggatt, late chief officer of the steamer Hymettus, happened on board that vessel before she left Calcutta on her present voyage to Melbourne. The Hymettus was at the time undergoing a process of fumigation by sulphur fumes in pursuance of the health regulations of the port, and Mr. Froggatt was superintending the operation. He had occasion to go down into one of the holds, where a quantity of sulphur was burning, and took with him a bottle of methylated spirits to pour upon smouldering sulphur, for the purpose of making it burn freely. Evidently when in the act of so using the spirits he became enveloped in flames. His cries soon brought assistance, but it was only with great difficulty that the flames were smothered, and the officer removed to a place of safety. An examination showed that he had been badly burned all over the body, and, after lingering for nearly a week, Mr. Froggatt succumbed to his injuries. The deceased, who was a young man, was married in Melbourne less than 12 months ago. The Hymettus returned to this port yesterday.

The Argus, 21 December 1906 p21

- c. 'The Welfare of the Sick – Nurse Elliott's hospital' (1908) (Print version)

The Welfare of the Sick

NURSE ELLIOTT'S PRIVATE HOSPITAL.

Some years ago an attempt was made to start a Cottage Hospital in our midst, but the same proved abortive. Since that time not a few nurses have settled in our midst, but their career has generally been of brief duration—a fact due mainly to the circumstance that they did not provide sufficient housing accommodation to make the practice of their calling a success. A few years ago, however, a lady of experience and ability (Nurse Elliott) essayed the task of overcoming this difficulty. Opening in an unpretentious, yet accommodating way, a private hospital in Smyth-street, she continued to attract considerable attention till the middle of last year when she found that the field was sufficiently encouraging for an expansion of her enterprise. As a result, she purchased a handsome block of land, about half-an-acre in extent, directly opposite the State school, Benalla East, and thereafter let a contract to Mr T. Hanlon, to build a new place. This important edifice, composed entirely of brick and designed by Mr Ludholm, of Wangaratta—one of the first architects in the Commonwealth—will henceforth be known as Nurse Elliott's Private Hospital. A neater or more attractive structure could not easily be found, even in the most pretentious centres of the State. It is, moreover, commodious and has been designed on the most scientific principles, for, while it is ventilated well throughout, it possesses every immunity from draughts and is fitted up with every conceivable device necessary for the comfort and convenience of the sick. Nor is it wanting even in any of those appurtenances of which metropolitan hospitals are so well noted, for the whole house is made to answer to the calls of the electric bell, the bedrooms are models of neatness and comfort, and even in the bathroom hot water may be had at any hour of the day or night, while the head nurse, or her assistants, may be rung up at an instant's notice by means of contrivances which hang through the ceiling of the patient's bedroom and which operate in such a way that when they are employed they cause a ticket to pop out at the far end of them showing the number of the room at which attention is required.

With such conveniences as these, with commodious, well-kept rooms, and with all other things to match, there is nothing about Nurse Elliott's Private Hospital which does not attract and enliven all who visit the place. Sick people, in particular, will find it a charming place to go for rest, for nursing, and for medical attention, because any of the three doctors of the place are free to visit patients there. Nurse Elliott is, of course, always on the premises, and than whom there is no more competent nor experienced woman of her kind in the State. Nature alone has fitted her well for her profession, but training, assisted by tact, care and discernment, has made her skilful, efficient and dexterous in the discharge of her duties towards the sick. Moreover, she is a nurse of the intellectual type—a woman who reads all the most scientific literature that is published, and who in this way keeps herself up to date with all the most progressive developments in modern nursing. Such a nurse, indeed, as this, ought to be regarded—as doubtless she will—as a boon to those of the medical profession who have patients entrusted to her care, whilst those who become indisposed themselves, especially in the country, and who are able to pay for careful attention, ought to be pleased to know that there is in their midst such an asylum of medical and general comfort as that under notice. At the same time Nurse Elliott is to be commended for her enterprise, because her outlay in the way referred to can scarcely be a penny less than at least £1000—that is, including her furniture and effects. There is one thing above all others which cannot be too widely known, and that is the fact that the charge for attention at Nurse Elliott's Private Hospital is not exorbitant. Therefore, with three skilful and experienced medical men practising amongst us, there is no occasion whatever for people to go to Melbourne or elsewhere to be treated—for ordinary ailments, at any rate—everything that is required thus being locally at hand for the welfare of the indisposed.

d. The Proposed Hospital – Mr Miller's Offer declined (1913)

THE PROPOSED HOSPITAL

MR. MILLER'S OFFER DECLINED

A meeting of townspeople was held at St. Andrew's Hall on Tuesday night to receive the report of the committee appointed at a previous meeting as to the support likely to be received from the country districts and the prospect of a Government grant being obtained towards the establishment of a hospital in Benalla. It will be remembered that Mr. Miller promised £1000 and the Miller Homes, conditional on the townspeople subscribing another £2500, towards the above object.

The Rev. A. C. McConnan occupied the chair, and there was a fair attendance.

Mr. D. McKenzie read a letter from Mr. Carlisle, M.L.A., suggesting that a deputation should wait upon the Treasurer in reference to the Government grant, and letters of a later date from the Treasurer, stating that, as a Charities Bill was before Parliament to decide which institutions are necessary, the matter of the establishment of a hospital at Benalla was bound to be dealt with by Parliament.

An unofficial letter, which was received, stated that a hospital could be established without the Government's consent, but it was usual to obtain the consent of the Treasurer, who, however, said that he would refuse the request to establish a hospital at Benalla.

Apologies were received from Messrs. Harrison, W. B. Smith, J. I. Martin, and Husband.

The Chairman said they would be able to see how they stood. The committee when it saw there was no hope of receiving any Government assistance, did not consider it worth while to go any further. They therefore decided to call the general meeting to ascertain what were the views of the townspeople. Mr. Miller had very courteously agreed to allow his offer to stand for three months. The committee had not therefore taken steps to ascertain the feelings of the country districts.

Mr. McKenzie said Major Martin had given his views to him very emphatically about the proposal, after the letters which had been received, and he thought it would be better to courteously decline the offer.

Mr. W. H. Carter said that the committee were discouraged if the report from the Government, and there seemed to be nothing else for it but to reluctantly turn the kind offer down. It was a great pity, because these generous offers did not come every day. He would move that the report of the committee which had been placed before the meeting by the chairman and secretary be accepted.

Mr. Elshaug enquired if it were possible to consider any alternative. The motion seemed to him to be rather a bald one, and tied the town down. A forecast of the Charities Bill which he had seen indicated that the Government intended to sweep away some of the smaller hospitals, and, where necessary, to put up cottage hospitals. At Creswick, where the population had shrunk so largely, the hospital had been turned into a Forestry college,

and had shrunk so largely, the hospital had been turned into a Forestry college, but, to meet the exigencies of the population, a cottage hospital was established as a subsidiary one to the Ballarat Hospital. He believed it was a pronounced success in dealing with infectious diseases. If they got Mr. Miller to establish something of the sort here, it would, he thought, be a good thing. They should not, if they could help it, fold their cases, such as diphtheria, &c., on to Wangaratta. Rather than turn the thing down absolutely, would it not be better to get the particulars as to the cottage hospital; but, of course, it would first be necessary to get Mr. Miller's consent to an alteration of the conditions which had been laid down.

Mr. McKenzie said it was to be understood that Mr. Miller would give £1000 irrespective of anything concerning the Benalla Homes.

The Chairman said that was understood at the last meeting; but, of course, the £2500 would have to be raised.

Mr. Guppy said Wangaratta got a grant of £1200 a year; and, as Benalla would not have any grant, and would have only a small district to collect from, it would be impossible to keep a hospital up. He supposed that Mr. Miller had not considered the matter of the cottage hospital.

Mr. Laird moved, "That this meeting of representatives of the citizens of Benalla, while thanking Mr. Miller for his generous offer towards establishing a hospital in Benalla, and having given the matter careful consideration, respectfully convey to Mr. Miller their inability to accept the offer, as they feel it would be impossible for them to carry on and do justice to such an institution as Mr. Miller wishes to see established in Benalla, as no subsidy would be available from the Government."

Mr. Moodie seconded Mr. Carter's motion. Many Wangaratta people would, if it were possible, let their hospital be removed to Benalla.

Sergeant Drummond said he had come prepared to do all he could to help the movement, but he agreed with Mr. Carter's motion under the circumstances. If at any future time he could help he would be glad to do so.

Mr. Carter's motion was then carried, and Mr. Laird then moved the motion as stated above, and it was also carried.

The chairman said he was sorry they had had to come to the conclusion they did that evening. He was sorry so far as Mr. Miller was concerned. At the same time, after the discussion at the previous meeting, it was a wise conclusion, and, as Mr. Carter had said, it was also to be regretted to have to refuse an offer which so few towns get.

The meeting then adjourned.

e. Public Hospital for Benalla – Letter from ‘Returned Soldier’
(1919)

PUBLIC HOSPITAL FOR BENALLA

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir,—I would be pleased if you could grant a little space on this subject. During the late war the people of Benalla and district were most liberal in their donations to the different patriotic funds. This district will ever have cause to be proud of the noble effort it has made. The subscribers seldom saw any direct results for their generosity; but now there is a chance. Cannot we make one grand final effort, and try to raise enough money to start the building of a public hospital in Benalla. By doing this, people would see something, and perhaps one day be able to avail themselves of the attention afforded by such an institution. Giving towards this need not be altogether in money, as there are any amount of good people in Benalla who would be only too pleased to assist such a laudable object in other ways, and I feel sure their assistance would never be forgotten during this generation at least. There are people in this town, for instance, who would never miss a piece of land suitable for the site, and I think our carriers would delight to assist in allaying to an extent the cost of carting, while perhaps the builders would promise not to go on strike until after the completion of the building. We can also furnish the place by public subscription. I, for one, would give a cot, and promise also to pay £1 a year, and more (if I can afford it) towards the upkeep of that cot. There are many others as poor as myself who could do likewise. There are also many institutions always willing and ready to help. The returned soldiers in Benalla have already spoken of building a Memorial Hall. Have we not white elephants enough here? There would be practically no good derived from such a building. I would suggest that instead of building a Soldiers' Memorial Hall let it be a Soldiers' Memorial Hospital. It would not only be a memorial that would stand out for all time, but it would be blessed by many of those in our midst who, when sick, have not the chance of proper attention. The charges at the present

time, with the charges at the present time of doctors and private nursing homes are high, though I shall grant that some of our "Doc's" in cases of distress have made no charges. Of course there are some of our go-ahead townspeople who will say, "A hospital is not needed in Benalla; there is one in Wangaratta." Yes, my friends, more shame to us. We are behind our rival town in many things. In the event of a serious accident outside or in this town, I think it would be much better to have attention on the spot instead of putting people to more pain and discomfort by labelling them "Wang." A few years ago I saw a man coming down from Yarrawonga, en route for "Wang." His wrist had been badly cut and the arteries severed. Ligatures had been placed on his arm, and were most painful, yet this poor sufferer had to put up with the pain caused by travelling to hospital, and also from the time of the accident, until admission to hospital, a matter of 12 hours. This in a civilised country, and no war on. Such an object would also give some of the young women and girls a chance of qualifying as nurses near their own homes—not only at the present time, but also in the future. Surely everyone in and around Benalla will support this humane object. This is the ball, and it only wants a few go-ahead workers to set it rolling. Returned soldiers will, I feel sure, support the undertaking. What better memorial could we have—Benalla Memorial Public Hospital! As we grow older, and start drifting north, south, east, west, so would our Memorial Hall become a thing of the past, and have to be stabled with other white elephants; but by building an edifice that would be a boon to mankind the name we have helped to make on the battle fields of the world would go down through many generations to come. Relieved sufferers would have cause to remember those men, who were once so willing to offer their lives as a sacrifice for the freedom of home and dear ones.—Yours, etc.,

RETURNED SOLDIER.

f. Intermediate Hospital for Benalla discussed at Public Meeting – offer of up-to-date ambulance accepted (1929)

Benalla Standard (Vic. : 1901 - 1931), Tuesday
11 June 1929, page 1

INTERMEDIATE HOSPITAL FOR BENALLA OPPOSED

OFFER OF AMBULANCE ACCEPTED

“Some time ago a meeting of the Australian Woman's National League, by resolution, wrote the Benalla Shire Council, asking that body to convene a public meeting to consider the question of establishing an intermediate hospital in Benalla. The council agreed to accede to the request, but before fixing a date for the meeting, requested Cr. E. F. Cleary, M.L.A., to make inquiries of the Charities Board as to the position in which Benalla stood regarding such a project, and the conditions attached thereto. This request having been complied with, Cr. Cowan (President of the shire) called the meeting for Friday afternoon last, at the Shire Hall, when there were present between 20 and 30 ladies and a dozen gentlemen, including Mr. Cleary, M.L.A., Revs. G. Nelson, W. C. Gridgborn, Dr. Kirsner and Mr. R. P. Lewers.

Cr. Cowan presided, and in a few introductory remarks stated that the meeting was called at the request of the A.W.N.L. with a view to the establishment of an intermediate hospital. As most people were not fully cognisant of the law, Mr. Cleary was asked to make enquiries, and having done so, he was now in full possession of all the necessary information. A letter was to hand from the chairman of the Charities Board regarding inter mediate hospitals, setting out the regulations regarding their establishment and maintenance, the facts of which would be covered by Mr. Cleary.

Mr. Cleary said that it was most refreshing to see such a good gathering to discuss such an important question as an intermediate hospital. However, he was not sure himself at the beginning just what an intermediate hospital stood for, but having gone into the question with those in authority, he was able to tell them that it meant, in plain words, a paying patients hospital. It could be built by voluntary subscriptions, but thereafter the institution must be wholly maintained by the patients paying fees. It would not be possible for any (...) to solicit donations or run any function to aid the funds, so that it

would be similar in all respects to the private hospitals now conducted in the town. Mr. R. J. Love, chairman of the Charities Board, was most emphatic and definite on this point, and to conflict with existing hospitals within the scope of the Charities Act carried a penalty. To establish any hospital they must have the consent of the Charities Board. It was considered by the board that the Wangaratta Hospital was serving the purposes of the North-East. Mr. Love gave him the deep impression that they would have considerable difficulty in getting the necessary permission to conduct any hospital. In his own personal opinion, apart from his public position, he did not think there was a necessity in Benalla for an intermediate hospital. They were only 25 miles away from Wangaratta, where they had one of the finest hospitals in the State, and serving the needs of the North-East. If Benalla was in competition, they would take away a part of the source of Wangaratta's revenue. That institution had difficulty enough at the present time in getting funds to maintain the hospital, and it certainly was not in the financial position he would like to see it. They must not view the establishment of a hospital from a parochial standpoint, and he therefore did not think it would be wise to start an opposition institution. Wangaratta was certainly serving the needs of all classes of people, right down to the poorest of the district. An intermediate hospital would be of a totally different nature to that of a general hospital like they now had at Wangaratta. It certainly would be in competition with the private hospitals of the town, which were rendering fine public service. To establish such a hospital was full of difficulties, and it certainly would not be serving the interests of the poorer classes, because of the fact that all would have to pay for treatment. The responsibility of the officials to a hospital was a big work, and it carried a responsibility on every individual of a community throughout the district to be served. With an intermediate hospital, the Government would not give any financial assistance whatever, like they did with a general hospital. It had been said that a cottage hospital was under the same conditions as an intermediate, which was wrong. Cottage hospitals were run under the Bush Nursing system, and had no connection with the Government regulations. Mr. Love had stated that if Benalla was in need of an ambulance, the Charities Board would supply an

up-to-date ambulance outfit free of cost— (Applause), and he thought that they should take immediate advantage of that offer. With it they could have a patient at Wangaratta in less than an hour, and he believed it would meet the needs of Benalla for a great many years.

Mr. Lewers read numerous extracts from a letter received from the secretary of the Wangaratta Hospital, pointing out that for the year ending June, 1928. Benalla Shire sent 67 patients to that institution, the cost being £260, and that, apart from bequests to the revenue was £64 19/10, or with bequests, etc., £335. For the following year there were 120 patients, who averaged 21 days, costing £1 12/ per week, and the total revenue, including be-quests, etc. was £475. A hospital in Benalla would cost them £1500 a year to maintain. Hospitals in a town were the worst advertisements a town and district could have, as they centralised disease, and property values were lowered. They were well served in Benalla with two private hospitals, and better did not exist in any part of the State.

Cr. Cowan said he had been informed that intermediate hospitals were not wanted anywhere in Victoria, and they were only a private hospital in the end. One medical man had said that he could get any poor patient into a private hospital for £2 2/ per week.

Mrs. Robertson: "The expense in private hospitals is very heavy in Benalla. It is £5 5/ every week."

Mr. J. Vallender stated that from experience there were many cases that did not necessitate going to Wangaratta, and where circumstances did not permit of the patient paying big fees treatment. A hospital may not be necessary for Benalla, but it was for the country surroundings, and it was from these people they should get a reflex of opinion. He felt sure that these would support a hospital in Benalla. It was a long way to Wangaratta from Tatong or Swanpool.

Cr. Cowan: They are nearer Mansfield Hospital.

Mr. Vallender: Not much.

A voice: Fifteen miles.

Miss Rodgers said that Mr. Cleary had been most clear, and evidently the Charities Board had

been just as decisive. Under the circumstances, she did not see how they could pursue the question, especially as Wangaratta starting an intermediate hospital as an adjunct to the general. The offer of an up-to-date ambulance was a great thing and would bridge a big gap. She was sure all the members of the A.W.N.L. would support her in these remarks.

Rev. W. C. Bridgborn remarked that it was a splendid thing to see such a fine gathering to take an interest in hospital work. Mr. Cleary had put the position very clearly and definitely, and he was sure no one would feel disappointed at the result of their effort.

Dr. Kirsner said that he did not consider the charges at the private hospitals excessive, £4 4/ being the flat rate for accommodation, nursing and sustenance. These hospitals were really intermediate.

Rev. Gordon Nelson endorsed the remarks of previous speakers. The facts as put forward by Mr. Cleary were against them. They had two excellent private hospitals in the town, doing good work. The only thing left was the bush Nursing Hospital. This they had established at Euroa on a membership of £2 10/ per annum. Their buildings were costing £4000 to £5000. It was organised and maintained solely by local people. It was a better scheme than that of intermediate hospitals. To make it successful they would want big public support. Still they would not be worried by the Charities Board.

Mr. Lewers moved "That in the opinion of this meeting the time is not opportune for the establishment of an intermediate hospital but that it is to a recommendation to the Shire Council to accept the offer of the Charities Board for a free gift of an up-to-date ambulance outfit."

Miss Rodgers seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

A vote of thanks at the instance of Mesdames Vicary and Stevenson was accorded the Red Cross Auxiliary for proffered assistance, and the Shire President and Cr. Cleary. M.L.A., for their services, the latter being carried by acclamation, and the meeting then adjourned."

g. Wider Reading

Benalla Nurses in India

Sister Gertrude Alice Froggatt is described as nursing in India. While further research is required to discover when she worked there, we know that she completed her nursing training at the Melbourne Hospital in 1902; married in 1906; was widowed that year. There is evidence of her living in Benalla in 1915, two years before opening Lemnos private hospital.

Nurses Katherine ‘Kitty’ Warren, Dorothy ‘Dot’ Henry and Martha Kissick were all attached to military service in India. According to a speech made in October 2015 by Victorian Governor Linda Dessau to open an exhibition at Monash Medical Centre titled [“Our Anzac Nurses – Service and Sacrifice”](#)

“characteristic Australian resilience was summed up by the writing of one nurse who noted:

‘I believe it to be awful in India. English nurses could not stand the heat and cholera...that is why they have sent [the] Australians’

In addition to all other hardships, these young nurses were faced with an overwhelming volume of work”

The following articles provide some light on possible experiences:

- Nursing for the British Raj - <https://www.awm.gov.au/articles/blog/nursing-british-raj>
- ‘They deserve to be remembered: the forgotten Australian nurses who served in India during WWI’ -- <https://www.sbs.com.au/language/english/they-deserve-to-be-remembered-the-forgotten-australian-nurses-who-served-in-india-during-wwi>

‘Lemnos’

The question, ‘Why did Nurse Froggatt name her hospital ‘Lemnos’ when she established it in 1917’, is also intriguing one. It was clearly a significant place in the history of Australian nursing overseas during World War I.

- Lemnos Article - <https://www.news.com.au/travel/destinations/europe/few-aussies-know-what-happened-here-but-we-should/news-story/b9ac0dbe0f63a9532d3732a1e74eacc9>

The ‘Base Hospital’ in St Kilda Road

During World War I, a Base Hospital was established in St Kilda Road, Melbourne. Benalla nurses Kitty Warren and Dot Henry spent time working at the Base Hospital before being sent overseas. Mabel Henry, versed in hospital management and organization, took the role of ‘housekeeper’ at the Base Hospital, residing at the hospital for up to two years. It closed in late 1918, by which time Kitty Warren and Dot Henry had taken up military service overseas.

Links:

- ‘General Hospital – St Kilda road: Visitors’ day. Contented Soldiers – What is done for them’ The Argus, Tuesday 30 November, 1915 p5
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/1582586>
- ‘Closing Base Hospital – patients to be transferred’ The Argus, Wednesday 19 September 1918. <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/1447030>

‘The Melbourne Homeopathic Hospital’

The Melbourne Homeopathic Hospital is mentioned a number of times in this project. Nurse Bagnell’s eldest daughter Mary died at the Melbourne Homeopathic Hospital on the 1st September 1918; Benalla nurses Hilda Knox and Dorothy Henry trained there; other nurses were found listed as working or training there. An outpatient dispensary of homeopathic medicines in Spring Street Melbourne which expanded in 1877 to become an in-patient homeopathic hospital, the Homeopathic Hospital relocated to St Kilda Road in 1890, to be re-named Prince Henry’s hospital in 1934 in honour of the royal visit of the Duke of Gloucester.

Melbourne Homeopathic Hospital <http://www.historyofhomeopathy.com.au/hospitals/item/367-melbourne-homopathic-hospital.html>

Nurses in the Benalla Community

Names of the nurses who owned private hospitals appeared in many other settings during Trove searches, in family notices, in letters of thanks, in donating prizes for afternoon tea fund raisers, as winning prizes for produce in the Benalla show, and more. A noteworthy instance involves Sister Froggatt, whose exhibit in the Industrial Buildings at the Benalla Show of “a Cypher incubator containing a hundred chickens aroused a great deal of interest”. (Benalla Standard, Friday 8 October 1915).

The Nurses were members of church communities and charitable organisations such as Red Cross. They were also women with opinions. Nurse Yearwood’s membership of the temperance oriented International Order of Rechabites was evident in a Death Notice following her death in Brisbane. Nurse Bagnall and her daughter Mary’s membership of the Benalla Branch of the Australian Women’s National League, a conservative political group which preceded the Women’s Section of the Australian Liberal Party, was mentioned in the Benalla Standard on Friday 13 September 1918.

<https://www.womenaustralia.info/biogs/AWE0269b.htm>

Other articles which may be of interest:

From Creswick Historical Society’s Honour Roll – Re Nurse Muriel Jackson

“EDDY Mrs Margaret Muriel (Margo) 1895 – 1988

<https://www.creswick.net/creswick/history/honour-roll/honour/1--eddy--mrs-margaret-muriel---margo->

From ‘Roses and Thorns’, the newsletter of the Benalla Family Research Group

‘REV. ALEXANDER MCCONNAN 1856 – 1930’ Roses and Thorns, March 2015, p 4.

http://www.benallafamilyresearchgroup.org/downloads/Roses_and_Thorns_March_2015.pdf

Attachment 8: What's in a name?

Searching for names in Trove resulted in important finds and 'ah hah' moments. For example, a family notice of a sister's death found when searching for Morrissey introduced Grace Ishmael, the Ishmael family and the early history of Lauraville. A search for Nurse Watson in relation to the Canberra Hospital introduced Nurse Ellen Watson, who advertised a Canberra Hospital in East Coburg before coming to Benalla. A search for 'Winfield Hospital' introduced Nurse Anna Yearwood, who had previously nursed at 'Winfield Hospital' in Melbourne and went on to name her hospital in Benalla 'Winfield'. The search for Froggatt led to a tragic notice describing the accidental death at sea of newly married Sister Gertrude Froggatt's husband Thomas Froggatt in 1906.

Searching for names also posed dilemmas. Sometimes names misspelt in Trove's digitization process were found by chance. Nurse Bagnall offered a particular challenge, as Bagnell and Bagnall were used interchangeably, with Bignell and Baglin thrown in for good measure. Heyer/Hehir and Magee/McGee were also used interchangeably. On occasions, a family notice referred to a birth to a family while the home was in private ownership.

Nurses were described as 'Mrs.' or 'Miss'; 'Nurse' or 'Sister'. Grubb et al described all nurses they listed as 'Sister'; whereas the newspaper reports used 'Nurse', and only occasionally 'Sister'. Some nurses used their second names, as their first names were the same as their mother's name – eg. Mary **Grace** Morrissey (nee Ishmael); Hannah **Muriel** Marguerite Eddy (nee Jackson), who also had familiar names 'Lula' and 'Margot'. Catherine Warren's daughter, baptised Catherine, was variously called Katherine, Katy, Kate and Kitty.

Nurse Bagnall's private hospital's name, 'Dunrobin', was rarely used in the newspaper articles and family notices. Note the interchangeable spelling of Bagnell; use of both Mrs. and Nurse, and no mention of 'Dunrobin' in this selection of articles from *The Argus* (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1956) from 1910 to 1918.

O'SHANASSY (nee Headland). - On the 12th October, at Nurse Bagnell's private hospital, Benalla, to Mrs. and Mr. T. J. O'Shanassy, of Bungeet, twin boys (premature). All doing well. *The Argus*, 22 October 1910, p. 13

WALKER. -On the 14th December, at Mrs Bagnell's private hospital, Benalla, to Mr. and Mrs. Bert Walker, of Greenvale, Goorambat-a daughter (Patricia Lilian). *The Argus*, 20 December 1913, p. 13.

MARTIN--On the 23rd April, at Mrs. Bagnall's private hospital, Benalla, to Major and Mrs. J. Martin — a son. Both well. *The Argus* 1 May 1915, p. 11

FARRELL.—On the 29th May, at Nurse Bagnell's private hospital, Benalla, to Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Farrell—a son. *The Argus* 3 June 1916, p. 11.

HILL.- On the 9th March, at Mrs. Bagnell's private hospital, Benalla, to Mr. and Mrs. Henry Hill, of Stewarton (late of Thornton) - a son (Lloyd Charles James). *The Argus* 12 March 1917, p. 1.

ASHBURN (nee Lizzie Cox). —On the 13th January, at Nurse Bagnall's private hospital, Benalla, to Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Ashburn, of Swanpool —a daughter (Joyce Thelma). Both Well. *The Argus* 20 January 1917, p. 13.

WALKER. - On the 6th June, at Mrs Bagnell's private hospital, Benalla, to Mr and Mrs Bert Walker - a daughter (Lorna Rose). *The Argus* 15 June 1918, p. 13.

“While the hospital was referred to as ‘Dunrobin’ in Reverend McConnan’s Baptism Register, it was almost always referred to as Nurse Bagnall’s hospital in Family Notices.”

Attachment 9: References, resources and endnotes

Books, Registers, Papers

Baptismal Register of St Andrews Church, Benalla

Dunlop, Alan J. (Alan James) & Tylee Memorial Collection (1973), *Benalla cavalcade: a history of Benalla and district*, Mullaya Publications, Canterbury, Vic

Evans, Morrie C (1989) *'The Path to the Benalla Hospital'* M. C. Evans, Mt Waverley, Vic

Grubb, N; Howell, E and Hughes, E (1988) *'Business and Professional Women Working in Benalla – Late 19th and early 20th Centuries – A Bicentennial Project 1988'*

Hanlon, M and Herbert P (2013) *'Through their Eyes'* Homegrown Design

Registers of Midwives – various

Internet Research

Benalla Cemetery Online Index

Benalla Family Research Rates Index

Public Records Office of Victoria (PROV)

Military Service Records – War Memorial; DVA

Ryerson Index (An Index of Deaths advertised in Newspapers)

Trove – National Library of Australia

Including newspapers:

- The Benalla Standard (Vic.) 1901 - 1931
- The North-Eastern Ensign (Benalla) Vic. 1872 - 1938)
- The Independent (Benalla) Vic: 1914-1918.
- The Australasian (Melbourne:Vic. 1864-1946)

Ancestry.com.au –Birth/Marriage/Death details; Victorian Business (Sands) Directories; Electoral Rolls; War Service records; BMD and more.

University of Melbourne – Howship Collection of Photographs

Interviews/conversations with:

Benalla Family Research Group members

Others – including - Mark Grealy, Geoff Knight, Warren Tucker

Visits

Benalla Family Research Group (Rate Books; St Andrews Baptism Records; and other documents)

Benalla Historical Society (Benalla Standard and other documents)

Endnotes

This project was never intended to result in a formal, academic paper. It is however, written in a way which provides sufficient information to enable future researchers to follow up the sources mentioned.

Providing newspaper references within the body rather than footnoting them seemed to better reflect the nature of a research process which involved extensive use of Trove newspaper items. This also reflects the conversational, story-telling approach which continues in Benalla to this day.... *'Did you see the article in the Ensign about....?'*

A limited number of endnotes follow. There has also been some use of the APS method of referencing texts by author and publication year in the text.

ⁱ Dunlop, Alan J. (Alan James) & Tylee Memorial Collection (1973), *Benalla cavalcade: a history of Benalla and district*, Mullaya Publications, Canterbury, Vic

ⁱⁱ Dunlop (1973 p132) describes the North Eastern Ensign as having been a “strongly conservative” newspaper.

ⁱⁱⁱ The Benalla Family History group, together with other sporting, service, community organizations and interested individuals were actively involved in the restoration of the Palmer Family Grave and its site is now included in the Benalla Cemetery Walk.

^{iv} A conservative political group which preceded the Women’s Section of the Australian Liberal Party. The Australian National Women’s League (ANWL) is included in the Australian Women’s Archives Project of The Australian Women’s Register <https://www.womenaustralia.info/biogs/AWE0269b.htm>



The Black Swan Hotel, Benalla (Howship Photographic Collection, University of Melbourne)

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