Australia in the First World War, 1914–1918

COMPANY RECORDS
Australian companies contributed to the war effort through manufacturing and shipping for troops and supplies. Many maintained Rolls of Honour to commemorate staff who served in the armed forces. After the war pastoral companies were involved in soldier settlement schemes for providing farms to veterans.

Adelaide Steamship Company Limited
Staff Roll of Honour, 1914-1918 (N46/317)
Members of staff who returned from the First World War, 1919 (Z535/7)
Photograph of SS Grantala as a hospital ship, 1914 (N46/401)

Australian Agricultural Company
Monthly despatches between the Company office in New South Wales and the Court of Directors in London relating to wartime trading, 1914-1919 (78/1/87-89; 78/3/24-25; 126/1-3)
British-Australian Wool Realisation Association (BAWRA), 1921 (N75/400)
Wartime profits tax, 1914-1920 (131/17)
Closer settlement and resumption acts, subdivisions and group settlements (ex-servicemen), 1901-1923 (161/260-1; 161/570)
War Service Land Settlement, Warrah Station, 1919-1926 (1/254-255)
War Service Homes Commission, Aug 1931 (128/10/12)
Posters, 1914-1918 (1/461)

Burns Philp & Company Limited
Staff Honour Roll, 1914-1919 (N115/524, 591, 628)
Photograph of SS Matunga, early 1900s (N115/502)
Signed copies of statutory declarations made by employees of Burns Philp under Regulation 49D of the War Precautions Act, 1916 (N115/78)
Post-WW1 settlement of German colonies in the Pacific, 1918-1919 (N115/3)
Sale of expropriated German plantations in New Guinea, 1919-1927 (N115/144-145)

Cavan Station, Yass, NSW
Correspondence (postcards, letters) received by F W F Castle-Roche from friends on active service, and other miscellaneous correspondence that discusses the course of the war and its effect on Company business, 1914-1918 (7/5, 9)

CSR Limited
CSR employees who enlisted in the AIF, 1914-1918 (142/3498); Hours, Work and Wages Returns, Pyrmont Refinery, 1914-1931, also indicate enlistment in the AIF (74/10-11)
Service records and biographical notes on staff, 1914-1918 (142/3494-3496; Z303/A.5.1.4.8)
Military pay to staff members, 1919 (Z303/N5794)
Photograph of Honour Board to staff who enlisted for service overseas, 1914-1917 (142/3500)
Staff Roll of Honour, 1914-1918 (Z303/A.5.1.4.4)
War Relief Fund, Sydney and Pyrmont staff, 1914-1919 (142/3497)
‘A record of the war service of members of staff, 1914-1918’ (142/3499, 3501)
Newspaper cuttings, 1914-1918 (142/3578)
Business dealings with Government and others, 1915 -1923 (includes notes by E W Knox on his dealings with W M Hughes, Prime Minister, during the Commonwealth Government’s proposal to take over the Australian sugar industry) (Z303/A.4.0.4)

Dalgety Australia Limited
Newspaper cuttings concerning the war, members of staff etc, 1914-1918 (100/1/81)

Elder Smith and Company Ltd
Wartime trading, 1913-1915 (8/10; 8/16-17; 8/20; 8/57/11-16)
Chartering matters, 1916-1917 (8/75)
Elders Metal & Mercantile Pty Ltd, 1914-1915 (N102/282-283; N102/288)
Photographs of staff members serving in the armed forces, 1914-1919 (Z220/1-3)
Letters and cards sent to Walter J Young, General Manager, by former members of staff while on active service, 1914-1917 (8/57/18)
Godfrey Hirst & Company Pty Ltd
Correspondence and papers relating to a contract with the Commonwealth Defence Department and the Company to supply cloth, 1914-1924 (90/64B)

John McIlwraith Industries Ltd
Personal letters to family members on active service, with references to the course of the war and its effect on Company business, 1916-1918 (35/2/22-24)

Peel River Land and Mineral Company
Wartime profits and income tax, 1916-1936 (128/13/8; 128/14/1)

A B Pursell & Sons Pty Ltd
Newspaper cuttings, 1914-1918 (18/22/1)

Tooth & Company Ltd
Staff casualties, 1914-1918 (Z223/14)

Unilever Australia Pty Ltd
Photographs – Lever Brothers Ltd fund raising events, 1914-1918 (N163/15/793-803)

UNION RECORDS
Included in the records of many unions are files about anti-war matters and conscription.

Amalgamated Engineering Union - Qld Branch
Dispute and industrial correspondence files - railway, cane cutters, coal, 1914-1918 (E220/16-21)

Australian Workers’ Union - NSW Branch
Annual Reports and Balance Sheets regarding the ‘anti-conscription’ levy, 1916-1917 (E154/41/1)
‘No Conscription Campaign’ The Australian Worker special edition, 19 Nov – 17 Dec 1917 (S100)

Baking Trade Employees’ Union of NSW
Photograph – Group of soldiers WW1 (T13/32/43)

Ballarat Trades and Labour Council
Minutes of Ballarat District Anti-Conscription League meetings, Nov-Dec 1917 (E97/2/4)

Federated Furnishing Trade Society of Aust
Anti-conscription correspondence and poster, 1916-1917 (T11/18)

Federated Ironworkers’ Association of Aust
Correspondence with Department of Defence, 1918 and Government Small Arms Factory (Lithgow), 1914-1919 (E218/13-14)

Merchant Service Guild of Australia
‘The cost of the war to the navigator’ - Annual Report, 1917 (E85/1/3)
Report of proceedings regarding Captain Manning (Olaf Skold) a German national, 1917 (E85/1/4)

Operative Stonemasons’ Society of Australia
Register of Victoria Branch members’ payments of the ‘anti-conscription’ levy, 1917-1918 (E117/27)

Waterside Workers’ Federation of Australia
Distribution of work to returned soldier volunteers Victoria Dock, Melbourne, 1933 (Z432/4)
Printed material, pamphlets, etc. re Australian trade unionism and conscription, labour and the cost of war, peace after the war, 1914-1918; also movement against war and fascism, 1930s (Z248/Box 75)

PERSONAL PAPERS
Several trade unionists collected records about Australian political anti-war activities. The items listed below are just a sample.

BOSHER, Jock
Anti-conscription pamphlets, 1916-18 (P16/1-3)

BARNES, Les
Conscription, referenda (leaflets), 1916-18 (P8/3)

COUPE, J C
Australian Trade Unionism and Conscription, the report of proceedings of the Australian Trade Union Congress, Melbourne, 1916 (P19/2)

DAVIDSON, Jack
‘War Experiences, 1914-1918’ typescript, (P117/11)
McDONALD, Geoff
Leaflets relating to compulsory military service (conscription), 1914-1918 (P94/54/9)

RAWLING, J Normington
Subject files (containing leaflets, handbills and correspondence) relating to:
Censorship and other matters, 1915, 1917-1918 (N57/578-579)
Holsworthy Concentration Camp, NSW, 1916-1922 (N57/580; N57/2297-2312)
Returned Sailors & Soldiers’ Imperial League of Australia, 1933, 1939 (N57/542)
Returned Soldiers’, Sailors’ and Nurses’ Anti-Imperialist Association, 1932 (N57/445)
Ex-Servicemen’s Defence Corps, 1932 (N57/446)
Peace and anti-conscription organisations, 1916-1921 (N57/439-444)

Anti-conscription movements in Australia, 1912-1920 (N57/1305-1318)

TURNER, Ian
Photograph – ‘Greetings and thanks to all workers who assisted to obtain for us our freedom’- from ten of the ‘Sydney Twelve’, ca. 1918 (P2/10/8)

PRINTED MATERIAL
Australasian (Melbourne) photographic supplements, Aug 1914 - Nov 1918 (S97)

More information
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