



# EDMONDSON FAMILY



## Family History

James Slater Edmondson, arrived in Adelaide, South Australia, from England on 19<sup>th</sup> February 1879 and later that year was appointed as a constable in the South Australian Mounted Police.

In 1883, he married Louisa Jolin Carey and their first daughter, Louisa, was born the following year. Their first son, Thomas Slater, was born in 1886 and, in 1888, their second son, Robert, was born in Perth, after they moved to Western Australia where James was appointed Police Constable.

After moving to York, James and Louisa had four more children: Edwin, born in 1889, Harriet Jolin, born 1891, Francis Charles, born in 1895 and Roberta Marie, born 1900.

James was admitted to the York Masonic Lodge on 16<sup>th</sup> July 1891 and, by 1892, he was appointed Senior Police Constable, escorting the mail coaches which also carried passengers and gold from Southern Cross and Kalgoorlie to York.

Around 1897, James was appointed Officer in Charge at Jarrahdale then Beaconsfield in 1901, where he remained until he was posted to Kalgoorlie on 8<sup>th</sup> February 1905. James remained in Kalgoorlie until the end of 1912, after which he transferred to Collie before retiring from the police force in 1918.

James died in Fremantle in 1936. His wife, Louisa, followed in 1949.

## EDMONDSON

### Edwin

Service No: B2455



## BASIC INFORMATION

Name: Edwin Edmondson

Service number: B2455

Date of enlistment: 15/11/1915

Age at Enlistment: 25 years 10 months

Medals, Honours, Awards: British War Medal, Victory Medal

Height: 5ft 10 inches

Weight: 176 lbs.

Chest measurement: 42 inches

Complexion: Fresh

Eye Colour: Grey

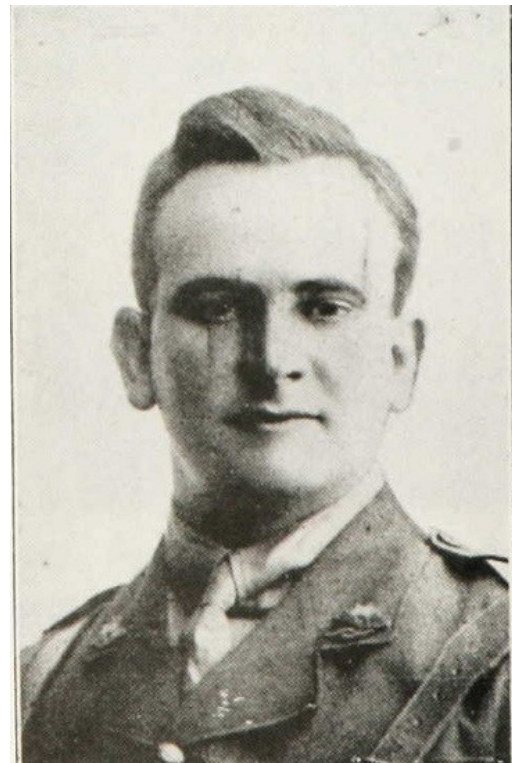
Hair Colour: Light Brown

Father: James Slater Edmondson

Mother: Louisa Jolin (Tolin) Carey

Married: Margery Grace Siggs

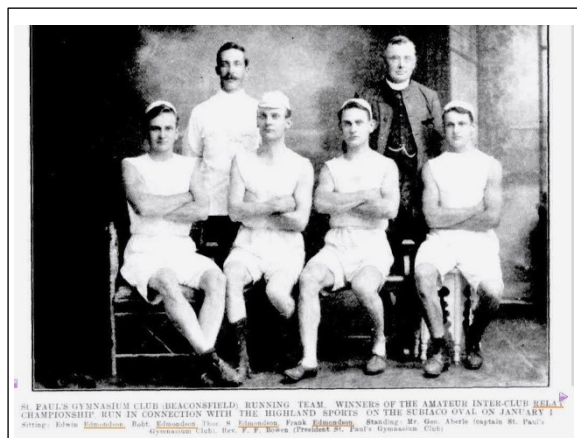
Children: Kenrid Edwin



## Life Story

Edwin was born in 1889 at York, Western Australia, and the earliest mention of him is as one of several children who gave offerings of money to the Bishop of Perth during his visit to York in 1895. It is likely he attended York State School at that time along with his sister Louisa. However, he later enrolled in Jarrahdale Primary School before attending Fremantle Boys' School.

Edwin was a keen sportsman who played in the School's British Football team and, along with his three brothers, competed in several ten-mile Inter-Club Championships, winning several prizes between them.



Photograph of the four Edmondson brothers  
Western Mail 21<sup>st</sup> January, 1912

### Soldiers' Letters.

The president of the Ladies' Patriotic Guild has received a letter from Lieut. E. Edmondson, O.C. of the 16th-28th, in which he gives an account of how our boys face their baptism of fire.—France, 7/4/17. Dear Mrs. Craunston.—Just a wee note to let you know things are going well with us. Each bit, alas, costs lives, but in the end saves them, and each falls for his country's good. We had a hard day something over a week ago, when supporting an attack on a village. I was sent up with ammunition and reinforcements as soon as the village was taken. I had some of the 16th-28th with me (with others) and they all behaved like heroes. One, alas, is no more—a real hero he was, yet a mere lad. He died at his post alongside me, with never a word after he was hit, as he knew we could do nothing for him. Two others were wounded, and after our fight against the strong counter attack was over Lieut. Teigs was sent up. He had not been up ten minutes when a shell killed him. The boys are great, and the part that is hard is the missing faces when we return. I wanted you to know that the boys who received their colors from Mount Hawthorn are 'making good.' Lieut. Edmondson was wounded in the face by shrapnel, but has completely recovered. I have heard he has gone back to England to train a new battalion.

Australian Worker Perth  
1900-1951

While working as a school teacher in Kalgoorlie, Edwin became engaged to Margery Siggs, and they married on the 30<sup>th</sup> October 1915 at St Barnabas Church, in Leederville.

Two weeks later, Edwin enlisted in the A.I.F. He was promoted to Sergeant on the 14<sup>th</sup> January 1916, and to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant of the 28<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 16<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements, in May 1916.

Edwin arrived in Plymouth, England, in December 1916, and was still there on the 29<sup>th</sup> January 1917, when his only son, Kenrid Edwin, was born. Sadly, he was never to see his son.

While serving in France, Edwin suffered several injuries, including a gunshot wound to his face. He was hospitalized after being gassed at Ypres and suffered at least two other gas attacks.

In July 1918, after being promoted to temporary Captain, Edwin re-joined his unit but, two months later, he was Killed in Action, “practically blown to bits by a shell”, whilst commanding his Company during operations at Mont St. Quentin, France. He was buried four days later.

Edwin’s body was exhumed and re-interred in the Hem Farm Military Cemetery northwest of Peronne on the 14<sup>th</sup> December 1920.

He was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.



Photo courtesy Heather Harvey 2017

Lieutenant Edwin Edmondson participated in the capture of this Krupp gun between the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> August 1918, a month before he was killed. The gun is located at the York Anzac Memorial site on Railway Street, York.



# EDMONDSON

## Francis Charles

Service No: 14652



## BASIC INFORMATION

Name: Francis Charles Edmondson

Service number: 14652

Date of enlistment: 10/01/1916

Age at Enlistment: 20 years 9 months

Medals, Honours, Awards: British War

Medal, Victory Medal

Height: 5ft 10 inches

Weight: 148 lbs

Chest measurement: 34 inches

Complexion: Medium

Eye Colour: Brown

Hair Colour: Brown

Father: James Slater Edmondson

Mother: Louisa Jolin Carey

Siblings: Louisa, Thomas Slater, Robert, Edwin, Harriet Jolin, Roberta Marie

Married: Ivy Doris Lily Cook



Courtesy  
The State Library of WA  
B3760647



## Life Story

Francis Charles Edmondson, known as Frank, was born in York, Western Australia, in 1895. He was likely educated at Fremantle Boys' School whilst his father was serving at Beaconsfield Police Station between 1901 and 1905, after which James was posted to Kalgoorlie.

Francis and his brothers were members of St. Paul's Gymnasium Club in Beaconsfield, with Frank receiving a silver medal for the Most Improved Junior Member in 1908. He continued to be involved in the club even after moving to Kalgoorlie.

By 1907, Francis was in Kalgoorlie, where he performed in a children's opera conducted by St. John's Church. He also obtained a First-Class Certificate in Religious Knowledge from the Church of England.

Frank attended Fremantle Boys' School in 1909. He won a Government Bursary while a student there but, by 1910, he was back at Kalgoorlie Central School, where he took his Junior Examination.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> January 1912, Frank returned to the metropolitan area to compete, with his brothers, in a relay team for St. Paul's Gymnasium Club in the Inter-Club Relay Championship at Subiaco Oval. They were the winning team.



ST. PAUL'S GYMNASIUM CLUB (BEACONSFIELD) RUNNING TEAM. WINNERS OF THE AMATEUR INTER-CLUB RELAY CHAMPIONSHIP RUN IN CONNECTION WITH THE HIGHLAND SPORTS ON THE SUBIACO OVAL ON JANUARY 1. Sitting - Edwin Edmondson, Burt Edmondson, Theo. S. Edmondson, Frank Edmondson. Standing - Mr. Gen. Aberle (captain St. Paul's).

Photograph of the four Edmondson brothers  
Western Mail 21<sup>st</sup> January, 1912

From 1911, Frank enrolled at the Kalgoorlie School of Mines before taking on a job at a mine site and studying part-time. In 1912, he won a scholarship, worth twenty pounds, to study Mechanical Engineering at the School of Mines and, in 1914, was awarded another scholarship of fifteen pounds. During this time, Frank played tennis for the School of Mines' team and lacrosse at Kalgoorlie. He was also a Corporal in 'A' Company Senior Cadets, where he placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in a musketry competition.

In July 1915, Frank passed the St. John Ambulance Association First Aid Certificate course and, in August, his engagement to Doris Cook was announced. By the end of the year, he had completed his medical examination in Kalgoorlie and, by early January, was an electrician at the Golden Horseshoe Estates mine

Frank enlisted on the 10<sup>th</sup> January 1916, was provisionally made a Corporal in April and, on the 18<sup>th</sup> July, embarked at Fremantle on board A4B *Seang Bee*, bound for Plymouth, England.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> September, Frank marched in to the Australian Medical Corps Training Depot, No. 2 Camp, at Parkhouse, England, where he reverted to Private. The following month, Frank was Taken on Strength with the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Dermatological Hospital in Bulford, where he remained for several months before returning to Parkhouse in March of the following year.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> June 1917, Frank proceeded overseas to France and marched in to the Australian General Base Depot, from where he was Taken on Strength with the 14<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance.

By the 25<sup>th</sup> September 1917, the 14<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance was at Ypres. During a major offensive, Frank was wounded and suffered from shellshock. He passed through two field hospitals before being admitted to the 4<sup>th</sup> District Hospital. On the 4<sup>th</sup> October, Frank was discharged to the 7<sup>th</sup> Convalescent Depot suffering from neurasthenia but, by the 27<sup>th</sup>, he had returned to the Australian General Base Depot from where he re-joined his unit on the 9<sup>th</sup> November.

In March 1918, Frank took seventeen days' furlough in the U.K. In November, he took ten days' leave in Paris.

After being admitted to hospital again in mid-December, Frank transferred to the 53<sup>rd</sup> Casualty Clearing Station. After a third stay in hospital, suffering from lymphadenitis, he was transferred back to England on HS *Aberdeen* and admitted, first to Southwark Military Hospital, then to the No. 3 Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Dartford on the 16<sup>th</sup> January. By the 28<sup>th</sup> January, Frank was at No. 2 Command Depot, from where he was returned to Australia on the *Karoo* and discharged on the 15<sup>th</sup> June 1919.

Frank married Ivy Doris Lily Cook in October 1919 at Coolgardie. The couple made their home at Bullfinch, on the Goldfields, where Frank was employed as an electrician with a mining company, Bullfinch Proprietary.

A son, also named Francis, was born in 1920.

By 1923, the family was living in Perth, where Frank took up a position as an engineering assistant in the Electricity and Gas Department of the City of Perth. By 1925, he was an electrical engineer with the Department and, by 1929, had been appointed Manager of the Department.

During the 1920s, Frank was elected to the committee of the Institution of Engineers, Perth Division, and was appointed the Perth delegate to the National Conference of the Electricity Supply Association of Australia. He was also nominated by the Institute of Engineers as their representative on the University Faculty of Engineering.

Both Frank and Doris played tennis at State Tournament level. They were members of the Kings Park Lawn Tennis Club and held the State's mixed doubles title in 1927. Frank was ranked 9<sup>th</sup> in the State of Western Australia Lawn Tennis Association in 1926 and, in 1928, won the State's men's doubles title. From 1929 to 1931, he was ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in the State.

Frank was elected to the committee of the Kings Park Tennis Club in 1927 and the newly formed State Board for Tennis Umpires in 1929. He was President of Kings Park Tennis Club in 1930, Vice President in 1932 and served on the Committee on the Western Australian Lawn Tennis Association in 1931. Frank was actively involved in Junior Tennis and was on the State Selection Committee in 1927. He was also involved with the Senior Church Association for cricket and was elected Vice President in 1930.

Community service played a large part in Frank's Post-War life. During the 1920s, he was involved in the Perth Legacy Club and was President in 1931. In 1932 Frank was elected to the board of directors of the Y.M.C.A. in Perth, and he was also a member of the Perth Rotary Club. Through the 1930s and 1940s, Frank was a committee member of the Royal Automobile Club. He served as President in 1937, 1939 and 1940.

Frank also became well-respected in his own field. He was elected Vice Chairman of the Perth Division of the Institution of Engineers in 1932 and 1933, and eventually became Chairman in 1934. In 1938, Frank was elected a member of the Institution of Gas Engineers, England, and appointed to the executive committee of the Western Australian branch of the Standards Association in 1936.

In 1938, he was appointed as one of three commissioners to sit on a Royal Commission into establishing a national power scheme based at Collie. The decision of the Commission was that the scheme was not viable due to the high cost and the low population.

On the outbreak of World War Two, Frank became chairman of the Military Committee of the Perth Y.M.C.A. and chairman of the Transport Sub-Committee of the Citizens' Reception Council, responsible for privately entertaining troops or transporting troops to and from official refreshment centres. He also served as a member of the Essential Service Committee in connection with the Air Raid Precautions Committee, where he helped develop a new form of air raid signal device.

When the Commonwealth Coal Commission formed the Coal Committee for Western Australia, Frank was appointed to the committee. He became a member of the Civil Defence Council and Chairman of the Warnings, Lighting and Essential Services sub-committees.

During the War, Frank was also appointed to the Electricity Advisory Committee collecting evidence for the State Government for power schemes in the South West and Great Southern. He later served on the Advisory Committee for the northern districts.

In 1946, Frank received a three-year appointment to the State Energy Commission. During this time, he was also elected vice president of the Employers' Federation of W.A. and the overseas representative for the Western Australian Council of Electrical Engineers. Francis was re-elected to this position in 1949, 1951 and 1954.

In 1948 Francis was appointed General Manager and Chief Engineer of the State Electricity Commission. He went on to take a three-month overseas tour in 1951 to investigate the generation of electricity and manufacturing of gas in America, England and Europe.

In 1952, the Minister for Energy, David Brand, was forced to defend Francis, when he was labelled a dictator and accused of setting the price of electricity and gas without reference to the other members of the Commission and for failing to table financial statements for the Commission in Parliament as required by legislation.

In 1953, Frank was awarded the Coronation medal by Queen Elizabeth.

By 1958, he and Doris were living in Woollahra East, in Sydney, his occupation listed as "Executive" but, by 1968, the couple had returned to Perth and were living on Kings Park Road.

In 1977, the couple were living at the Home of Peace in Subiaco. Doris died in 1978 and Francis followed in 1980.



# Edmondson

## Thomas Slater



## BASIC INFORMATION

Name: Thomas Slater Edmondson

Date of enlistment: 06/05/1915

Age at Enlistment: 29 years 8 months

Medals, Honours, Awards: 1914-15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal

Height: 5ft 7½ inches

Weight: 11 stone 5 lbs.

Chest measurement: 32 ½ inches

Father: James Slater Edmondson

Mother: Louisa Jolin (Tolin) Carey

Siblings: Louisa, Robert, Edwin, Harriet Jolin, Francis Charles, Roberta Marie

Married: Christina McArthur

Children: Maxine Poppy, Thomas Cecil

## Life Story

Thomas Slater was born on the 27<sup>th</sup> January 1886. He attended York State School and is listed on the York State School Honour Roll. Thomas later attended Jarrahdale State School, where he became a Monitor, or trainee teacher, in 1900, at the age of fourteen. He then moved to Beaconsfield State School in 1901 before entering Teachers Training College in 1902, where he graduated three years later.

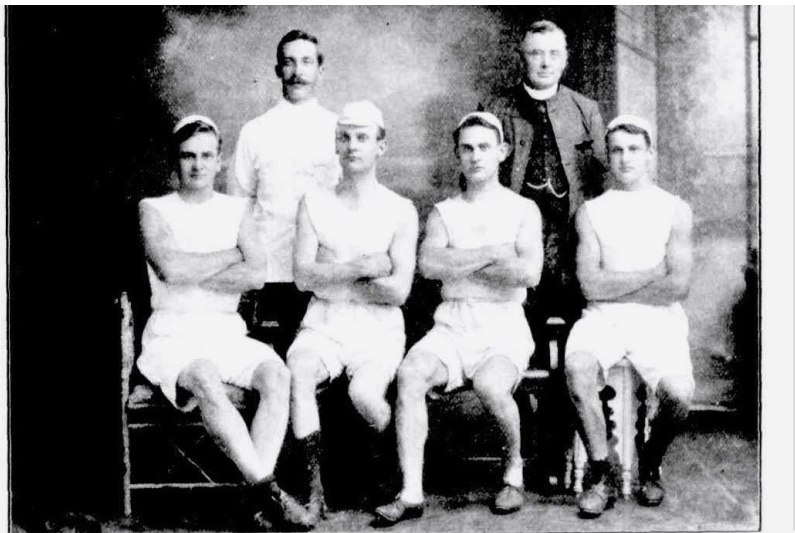
Thomas and his three brothers were all members of St. Paul's Gymnasium Club, in Beaconsfield. They competed regularly in club competitions and inter-club competitions around Perth during 1909 and 1910.

In 1908, Thomas won a tennis racquet for placing 1<sup>st</sup> in the ten-mile race, 1<sup>st</sup> in the 130 yards and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 100-yards race.

He was also a member of the Fremantle Rifle Club, and with his brother, Robert, was elected to the Vestry at St. Paul's Church, at Beaconsfield in 1909.

Thomas was captain of the premier soccer team in the State in 1910.

In January of 1912, Thomas travelled from Bunbury to successfully compete with his brothers, in a relay team for St. Paul's Gymnasium Club at the Inter-Club Championship at Subiaco Oval.



ST. PAUL'S GYMNASIUM CLUB (BEACONSFIELD) RUNNING TEAM. WINNERS OF THE AMATEUR INTER-CLUB RELAY CHAMPIONSHIP RUN IN CONNECTION WITH THE HIGHLAND SPORTS ON THE SUBIACO OVAL ON JANUARY 1. Sitting: Edwin Edmondson, Robt. Edmondson, Thos. S. Edmondson, Frank Edmondson. Standing: Mr. Geo. Aberle (captain St. Paul's Gymnasium Club), Geo. T. Brown (President St. Paul's Gymnasium Club).

Photograph of the four Edmondson brothers  
Western Mail, Sat 21<sup>st</sup> January, 1912



Thomas was appointed to teach in Bunbury in 1911, and he remained there for three years. While in Bunbury, Thomas was involved with the Bunbury Swimming Club, the Tennis Club, and he also played British football (soccer) for the Bunbury team.

During these years, Thomas became engaged to Christina McArthur who was employed as a stenographer and typist at the Bunbury Municipal Council. By the time of their marriage, in 1913, Christina had been promoted to Assistant Town Clerk.

Thomas was appointed Head Teacher at Gwalia Continuation School in 1914 then, in 1915, he was appointed headmaster at Wagin State School.

Thomas enlisted on the 6<sup>th</sup> May 1915 and attended Officers School at Claremont Showgrounds, where he achieved the highest results for the course, before applying for a commission in October. His application listed five years' experience as an officer in Senior Cadets and, on the 14<sup>th</sup> October, he was appointed 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant, of the 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion.

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> November 1915, Thomas embarked from Fremantle, on board HMAT *Mongolia*, bound for Egypt. He spent time in hospital in Abbassia with mumps before being sent to join "C" Company staff at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Training Battalion in Tel-el-Kebir on the 26<sup>th</sup> March. In early May, a mild relapse of mumps saw Thomas admitted to the 4<sup>th</sup> Auxiliary Hospital. He transferred to the 51<sup>st</sup> Battalion on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May and, on the 5<sup>th</sup> June, embarked at Alexandria on his way to join the British Expeditionary Force in France.

Two months after arriving in France, Thomas was Wounded in Action. He suffered a gunshot wound to the left thigh and was admitted to the 24<sup>th</sup> General Hospital at Etaples. The wound was serious, and Thomas was returned to England aboard the Hospital Ship *Dieppe* and admitted to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Surgical General Hospital in Oxford. His thigh was shattered and the King's physician, Sir Frederick Treves, was called in to specialise on his case. A letter, sent by his wife to an Australian friend, stated that Thomas had been equipped, by doctors, with an electrical boot.

Christina left Fremantle on the 10<sup>th</sup> October 1916, on board RMS *Arabia*, to be with her injured husband in England. To add to the family misfortunes, her ship, the *Arabia*, was torpedoed and sunk by a German U-boat on the 6<sup>th</sup> November. Christina was rescued and put ashore at Malta. She appears to have returned home by steamer around the same time as Thomas after having some difficulties obtaining a passport to enable her to return to Australia.



Thomas and Christina on their wedding day in 1913  
Courtesy G. Stewart

On the 15<sup>th</sup> November, Thomas was placed on the Supernumerary List and, on the 4<sup>th</sup> May 1917, he departed England on board *Themistocles*, to return to Australia. While still at sea, Thomas was promoted to Lieutenant and, at the end of the year, he was granted a pension of sixty shillings per fortnight.

After the War, Thomas was appointed headmaster at North Fremantle School before moving to West Guildford School in 1919. Around this time, he began studying at the University of Western Australia, where he passed exams in Political Science, Logic and Ancient Philosophy.

Thomas was a Trustee, and one of the foundation members, of the Returned Servicemen's Association, later known as the Returned Servicemen's League. He was also a foundation Trustee of the Returned Sailors, Soldiers and Nurses' Association of Western Australia which amalgamated with the R.S.L.

In 1921, Thomas was appointed headmaster at Collie State School. He remained there for three years before being appointed to Kalgoorlie Central School in 1924. While there, Thomas became president of the Goldfields branch of the State School Teachers' Union of Western Australia, and he was an elected member of the Kalgoorlie Racing Club.

In 1926, Thomas was appointed an Education Inspector in charge of the Midland - Murchison district and, in 1927, a Bachelor of Arts degree was conferred upon him by the University of W.A. Over the next few years, he oversaw the Great Southern and Northam Education Districts before becoming a Senior Inspector for the Metropolitan District in 1937.

During 1937, Thomas received a Diploma in Education from the University of W.A. and, in 1938, he undertook a six-month trip to England, Scotland and New Zealand to investigate the organization of education in those countries.

During World War Two, Thomas' workload increased. As well as being a Senior Inspector with the Education Department, he was a member of the Youth-Adult Employment Committee, the Army Education Council, the Repatriation Education Board, the Soldier's Children's Scholarship Committee and the Soldiers' Welcome Committee. Through the R.S.L., Thomas became involved with War Loan committees, and he was elected to the State Executive of the R.S.L., where he became the W.A. delegate to the meeting of the Federal Executive in Melbourne. Thomas was elected State President of the R.S.L. in 1942 and 1943.

After the War, Thomas ran courses for to update and refresh the skill of returned soldiers who had been teachers before the conflict. He also served as a delegate of the R.S.L. to Sub-branches in the Bunbury and Forrest Districts in the areas of Management, Membership, War Service Homes and Hospital Advisory Committees.

In 1947, Thomas was appointed Chief Inspector of Schools. He was involved with the National Safety Council and sat on the committee in 1953.

Between July 1948 and April 1949, Thomas served as the acting Director of the Education in W.A. During that time, he returned to York to give an address at the York State School to mark one hundred years of State education in the town.

As part of his role, Thomas also had to contend with discontent within the State School Teachers' Union regarding low pay, lack of proper classrooms (some teachers were teaching in storerooms or on verandahs) and large class sizes. He also had to cancel school events, such as concerts and sports meets, due to an outbreak of poliomyelitis in the State.

Thomas retired from the Education Department in 1950, but he continued to be active in public life. In 1949, he was elected to the State Executive Committee of the R.S.L., a position he held until 1952. Thomas was also elected to join the Lands Committee of the R.S.L. and Farmers Union. In 1951, he was appointed to represent the Director of Education on the Promotions Appeal Board, and he also became a trustee of Perth Library, Museum and Art Gallery.

Thomas had been chairing committees of the Gould League of Bird Lovers of W.A. since its establishment in 1939 and, in 1952, his contributions were recognized when his name was given to a large area in the Bickley Valley that was to be declared a bird sanctuary later that year. In 1966, he was appointed an Honorary Warden of Fauna by the State Government.

Thomas passed away 1980. His wife, Christina, died the following year.

Their son, Thomas Cecil, attended the Royal Military College, Duntroon, from 1946 to 1948 and eventually became a Captain. He served in Korea with the 1<sup>st</sup> Royal Tank Regiment.

## Acknowledgments

The following people and organisations helped with the research to compile this booklet.

Harvey, Heather

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