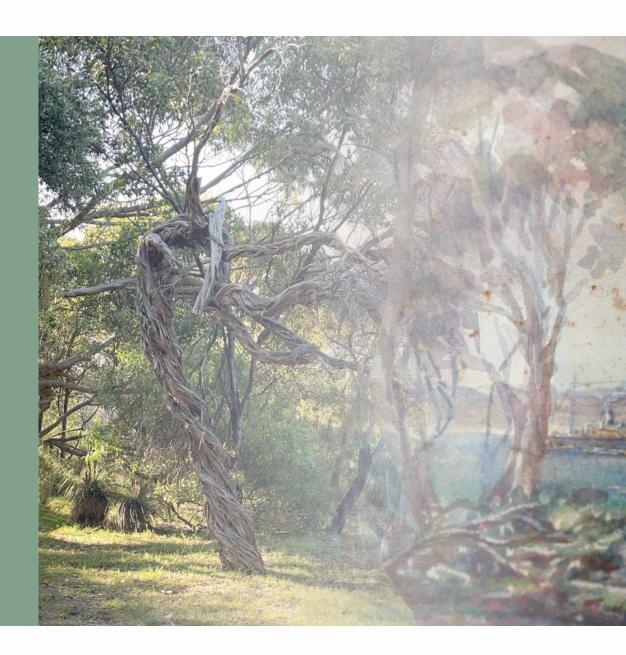


BALLARA'S STORY

Ballara is the most intact house of an early Australian Prime Minister and founder of Federation Alfred Deakin. It was designed and built by the Deakins as a place of rest and relaxation, shaped by its proximity to the native landscape and sea. Its bush garden is remarkable for respecting native flora and remains an exceptional remnant heathland with many old trees and rare plants. The house has been in continual family ownership for 115 years and retains original furnishings, books, papers, artworks, and photographs. As an ensemble the house, garden and collection holds an incomparable capsule of Australian 20th century history. The family also has a substantial archive of letters, documents and memorabilia including milestone documents in Australia's nationhood and personal documents that it would like to tie to Ballara.

THE VISION

Ballara's house and garden provide rich scope for public uses on a sustainable basis. Adaptive reuse will preserve this iconic property's significant heritage values and ensure greater community involvement in its future. The house provides multiple opportunities as a retreat, a place for discussions, debate, and scholarship which could support long-term financial viability. An analogue is the Bundanon Trust. The garden is a rare haven of native bush with beautiful trees and flowers which already has a vital place in the Bellarine Peninsula's urban landscape.



A BRIEF HISTORY

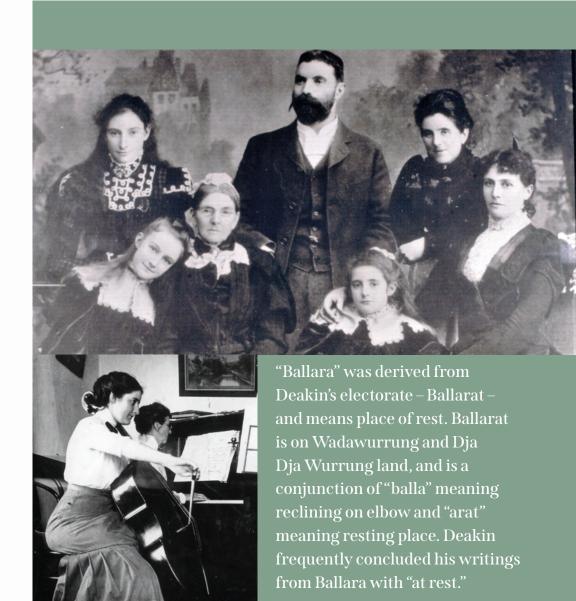
1903 The land is acquired by Alfred and Pattie Deakin.

1904 A temporary house is brought by drays from Ballarat. Pattie designed Ballara and it was completed in 1908 during Alfred's second term as PM. The house and garden became an important intellectual retreat for Alfred where he would read, write, and develop his political ideas. He did a great deal of work at Ballara and wrote with deep fondness of its restorative powers.

1909 Alfred Deakin and Joseph Cook cemented 'The Fusion' merging the Protectionists with the Free Traders at Ballara.

1931 Pattie built the Point Lonsdale war memorial on a corner of the estate and gifted it to the community.

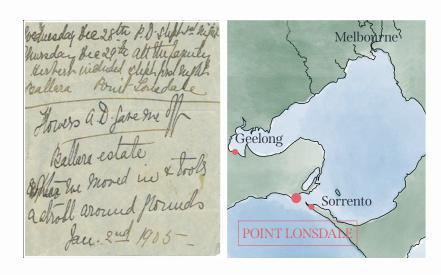
1934 Pattie loved Ballara, where she continued to paint and write. She died at Ballara after which it was inherited by Vera, the youngest of their three daughters. Vera gave Ballara to her four daughters before her death in 1978.



ABOVE: Deakin Family c.1895, Back L to R: Ivy (later Brookes), Alfred, Catherine (Alfred's sister), Front: Stella (later Rivett), Sarah (Alfred's mother) Vera (later White), and Pattie. BELOW: Music at Arilpa, Vera, and Catherine.

LOCATION

Ballara is close to Melbourne and is accessible for day trips through Geelong by car or by ferry via Sorrento and Queenscliff or Portarlington. Ballara and the neighbouring property Arilpa are the heart and lungs of Point Lonsdale and highly valued by the community.





ABOVE LEFT: Pattie's note on moving into Ballara Jan 2nd 1905.

PRECEDENTS FOR PRESERVATION

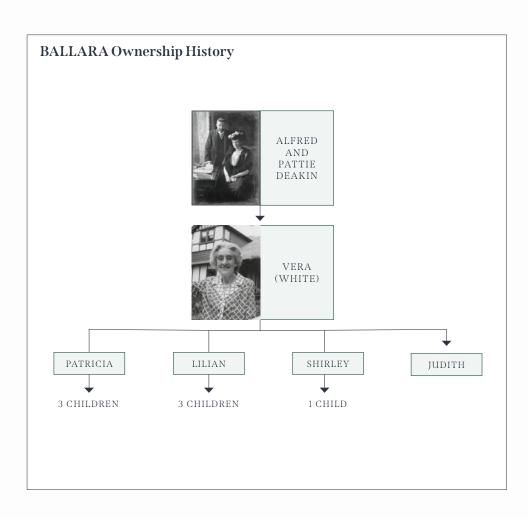
AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENTS HAVE ACTED TO PROTECT AND PRESERVE & PRIME MINISTERIAL HOUSES

- Andrew Fisher ALP Gympie, Qld.
 Owned and managed by Gympie and District Historical Mining Museum.
- 2. Joseph Lyons ALP then UAP Devonport, TAS. Jointly purchased by the Tasmanian National Trust and The Devonport Council.
- 3. John Curtin ALP Cottesloe, WA. Jointly purchased by Commonwealth and WA Governments in 1998, managed by the WA National Trust. Funded by the Howard Government
- **4.** Ben Chifley ALP Bathurst, NSW. Purchased by the Bathurst Council.

- 5. Gough Whitlam ALP Cabramatta, NSW. Purchased by private interests plus a \$1.3 million contribution from the Commonwealth in 2022 for restoration. Owned in Trust by the University of Western Sydney. A Morrison Government commitment delivered by the Albanese Government.
- Bob Hawke ALP Bordertown, SA.
 Purchased by the Commonwealth in 2019 by the Morrison Government.
- 7. Bob Hawke ALP West Leederville, WA.
 Purchased by McGowan Government in 2021 for \$1.4 million with Morrison Government contributing \$0.75 million for restoration.

OWNERSHIP OF BALLARA

- On Alfred's death in 1919, Ballara was inherited by his widow Pattie. On Pattie's death in 1934, Ballara was inherited by their youngest daughter Vera, who had married Tom White.
- Ballara was given to Vera's four daughters: Lilian Bennett,
 Patricia Sharp, Shirley Wadman and Judith Harley.
- Lilian, Patricia, and Shirley have died. Judith retains her ¼ share.
- Ballara is now owned ¼ by Judith Harley (the Deakin's last remaining grandchild), and ¾ by the seven children of Vera and Tom White's deceased daughters Lilian, Patricia and Shirley.
- Owners equal to at least 50% of ownership wish to sell which has precipitated a process that will determine Ballara's future.
- VCAT has been petitioned by one family member to order an auction. This will be heard on 1 March 2024.



THREAT TO BALLARA

1. VCAT HEARING

For Ballara to have a sustainable long-term future it requires an agreed vision by all owners. However, ownership is now dispersed with 5 of 8 owners wishing to sell. A VCAT hearing on 1 March 2024 is likely to order an auction.

2. AUCTION

An auction means the outstanding Deakin collection within the house will be broken up and a high risk of subdivision of the land — despite State Government heritage overlays and planning restrictions.

3. CURRENT HERITAGE STATUS

The National Heritage List obliges the Commonwealth to protect listed places.

Ballara was nominated for listing by Hon Julie Bishop, Hon Steve Bracks AC, Prof Judy Brett AM, Dr Hon Barry Jones AC, and Hon Malcolm Turnbull AC.











The Federal Minister for the Environment Hon Tanya Plibersek MP has referred Ballara to the Australian Heritage Council for assessment for listing – this process will take at least 18 months.

A request for emergency listing was rejected by Ms Plibersek on (inter alia) the grounds that her Department advised Ballara faced no imminent threat as it is adequately protected by State heritage recognition and Local planning overlays.

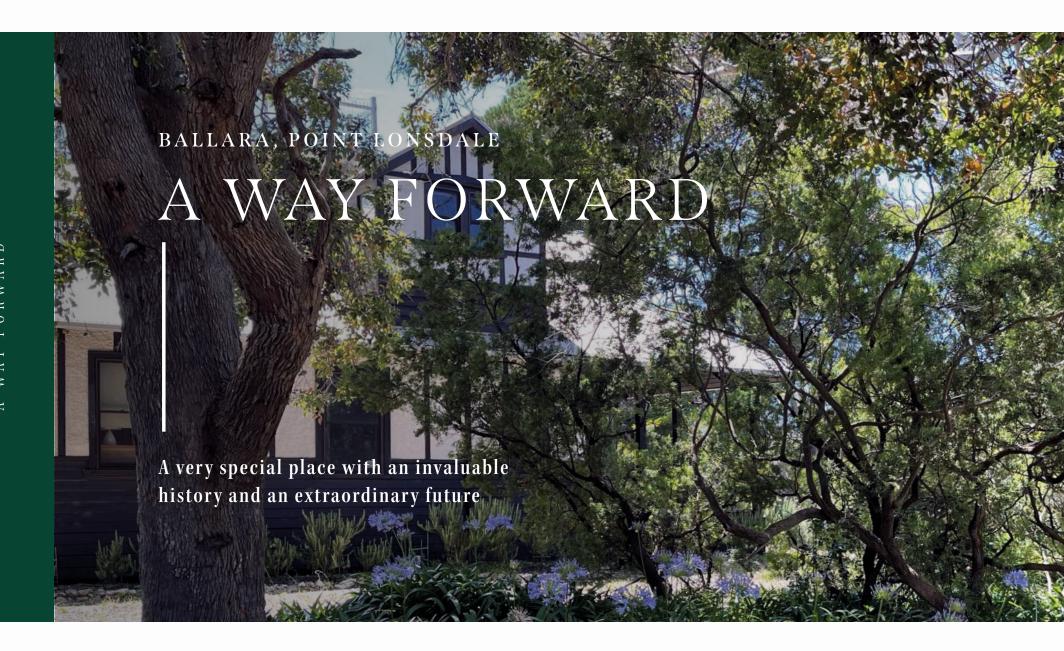
4. RISKS DESPITE HERITAGE STATUS

Hon Simon Molesworth AO KC the eminent heritage lawyer has since provided advice that the laws do not provide the level of protection claimed by the Department.

1 March 2024 date of the VCAT hearing renders the threat imminent.

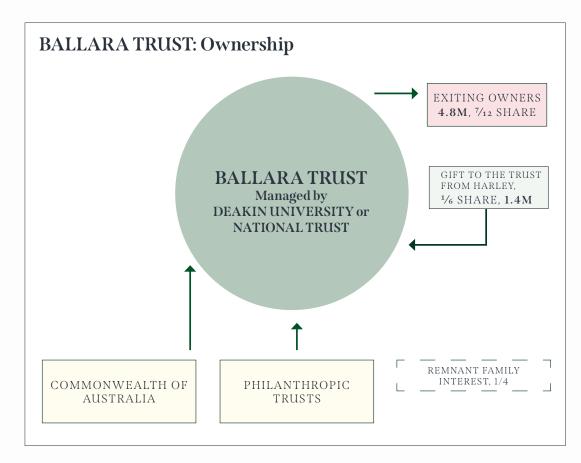
5. THE SOLUTION

While National Heritage listing will be helpful, the only meaningful long-term protection is for Ballara to be held in trust for the Australian Nation.



POTENTIAL OWNERSHIP STRUCTURE

- The working assumption is that the property is valued at \$8.2m.
- It is proposed a Trust is formed and receives funds from the Commonwealth and philanthropic trusts equal to the amount needed to purchase those wishing to sell (\$5m). Additionally, the Trust receives a donation of 1/6 interest from the Harley family.
- As a consequence, the Trust will hold ¾ of Ballara. The continuing owners (¼) agree to a governance structure that furthers the public benefit goals of the trust and commits them to meeting their share of costs.
- The proposition to the Commonwealth is that it leads with 50% of the required funds (\$2.5m) on the basis that the balance is raised from philanthropic sources.



ESTIMATED OUTGOING AND REVENUE

- Ownership of the property will be the Ballara Trust: 75% of the Trustees will be the National Trust of Victoria, Deakin University or both.
- The status of the Trust will alleviate Ballara from Land Tax and Rates.
- Those owners not making over their interests to the Trust will need to pay both taxes and rates. Those owners who place their interests in the Trust will be charged usage fees that will cover their portion of the maintenance and utilities plus a depreciation sinking fund contribution.
- Current maintenance, utility and insurance costs are \$8k; there is much "in-kind" work by owners. Rental revenue for Ballara is \$26k.
- Any remnant owners will be obliged to only sell within the family. For any nonfamily sale the Trust will have first right of refusal.
- Revenue from garden admission and house openings will increase the surplus. There is the potential for re-purposing the garage and outbuildings to provide further accommodation to supplement revenue.
- The financial structure allows for a corpus of \$200k. The administrative costs Deakin Uni and National Trust would incur have not been determined.



A POSITIVE, VIBRANT FUTURE The house and gardens provide a rich canvas for exploring and understanding some key moments in Australia's development – Federation, the foundations of the Commonwealth. It is a place for inspiration, and reflection, research and scholarship

OPPORTUNITY IN ADAPTIVE RE-USE

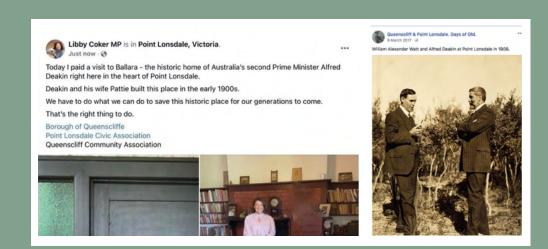
- Adaptive reuse has seen the dual objectives of preservation and the creation of exciting and dynamic uses for heritage places. Good examples in Australia are the Abbotsford Convent and Bundanon

 Arthur Boyd's home.
- Ballara, with its extensive grounds and house with its history, artworks and furnishings, provides ample opportunity – a special venue for meetings and events, an exceptional retreat for artists and writers and a place of learning and research.
- Ballara's gardens can be opened to create an immediate and highly valued community amenity.

- The collection of letters, documents and photos provides a singular key to researching events and people:
 - Alfred's and others role in achieving Federation and the foundations of the Commonwealth — his friends, family and inner life.
 - Pattie's life as a campaigner for women, child protection, her poetry and painting.
 - Vera's work in two World Wars for Red Cross, particularly her role in Egypt and London during World War One.
 - Tom White's role in the birth of the RAAF, his POW life in Turkey, subsequent escape, and later work in politics and in London as High Commissioner.

COMMUNITY INTEREST

- In November 2022, an online petition to the Minister attracted 4250 signatures with 1500 signatures in the first 6 days.
- Converting views of the petition to signatures
 occurred at 2.5 times the average rate of
 signatures on other *change.org* petitions showing
 the deep community support for Ballara.
- Ballara has been promoted across social media sites, with significant traction and attention. The first image shows a visit from local MP Libby Coker to promote the online campaign.
- Ballara offers many opportunities for community involvement in the garden and opening the house.
 The community has a strong affinity with Ballara.



HOW COULD BALLARA BE USED?

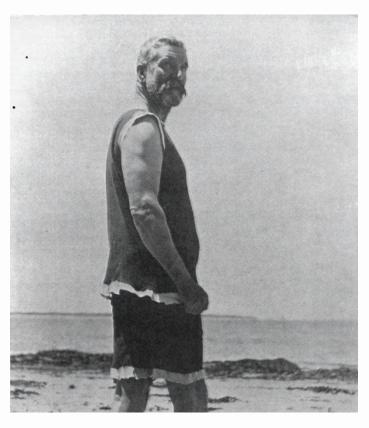
- Ballara, with its original furniture and artworks, provides a window into the lives of the Deakins and their family. They were very private people who led complex intellectual lives the nature of which were little known until after their deaths. For the first 10 years of Federation, Alfred wrote secretly as a journalist for a London paper. Many articles were written at Ballara. Alfred and Pattie both wrote poetry and prayers and corresponded with writers and artists. Their lives had a major influence on the future of Australia.
- As a useful example of what could be achieved with Ballara, Sagamore Hill, the summer house of President Theodore Roosevelt, was built at a similar time but on a grander scale. Alfred and Theodore knew each other. Sagamore Hill has been re-purposed to provide a window into the life and times of Theodore Roosevelt but also has broader community uses.

- Ballara's garden and house can provide for separate but simultaneous uses affording a large level of community amenity.
- Deakin University and the National Trust can support an institutional purpose for Ballara. Both have expressed interest. Both institutions have the infrastructure and knowledge to leverage Ballara's opportunities into the broader community. Other Prime Ministerial homes have used this model.

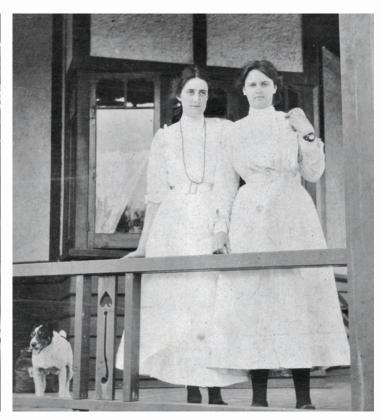
BALLARA'S SIGNIFICANCE: A CLOSER LOOK A very special place with an invaluable past and an extraordinary future

THE DEAKINS AT BALLARA

Alfred at the beach, Pattie with granddaughter Judith Harley (nee White) 1929, Vera and friend on veranda at Ballara.







THE WHITES AT BALLARA

Tom and Vera with their daughters and a friend at Ballara in the 1930s, Judith serving tea to Vera, left, Tom Hollway (Premier), Mr and Mrs Richard Tracey, and Tom.





ALFRED DEAKIN 1856-1919



ABOVE:First Cabinet Barton PM Deakin AG 1901, Alfred (front row second from right). Photograph original in collection at Ballara.

Deakin was a young star in the Victorian parliament who was considered a radical liberal. He was elected aged 23 and pioneered the Mildura irrigation scheme, the Factories and Shops Act to protect workers, Land Tax to break up estates, and Legislative Council reform.

He was one of the most dedicated and effective champions of Federation, attending all the major conventions. The Deakin family all went to London to ensure its safe passage through Westminster.

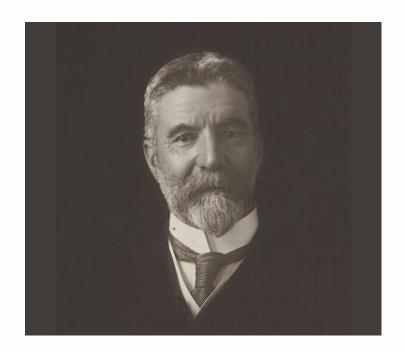
As the first Attorney-General he was responsible for the legislation setting the key components of the Australian settlement – arbitration and conciliation and basic wage protection, white Australia and a key role for government in ensuring social equity and the establishment of women voting and standing for federal parliament, a strong High Court, old age pensions, first national defence scheme and national quarantine system. He took the NT for the Commonwealth from South Australia and established Australian Administration of what was then British New Guinea.

In his three stints as PM he established many of the key elements of modern Australia. His first two governments were in minority supported by Labor against the Free Traders. His last was after the formation of the first federal Liberal Party combining the Free Traders and the Protectionists. The Fusion of the two parties was marked by Deakin and Cook at Ballara.

Other achievements Deakin promoted were: an Australian currency; the census; Bureau of Meteorology; the ACT; the visit of the US Great White Fleet to Australia (against the wishes of Churchill); establishing the foundations of a US Australian alliance; the Royal Australian Navy; UK High Commissioner; and, Federal State Financial relations framework. He also established the Commonwealth Literary Fund.

ALFRED

This photo of Alfred is at Ballara and was Vera's favourite photo of him, a studio photo of Pattie and Alfred in London in 1907, The second Deakin cabinet in 1905 (photographs at Ballara).







PATTIE DEAKIN ARCHITECT AND SECOND OWNER 1863-1934

- Pattie advised on the design of Ballara, inspired by seeing domestic bungalows during her visit to California. She had a distinct flair for art and poetry, producing beautiful paintings of Ballara's flora and the landscape of Point Lonsdale.
- She was an active champion of women's and children's rights. She ran and led the
 association of crèches, helped establish the Bush Nursing Association, the Melbourne
 District Nursing Society, and the Guild of Play that established children's playgrounds in
 inner-city suburbs.
- She declined to meet Lord Kitchener on his visit to Melbourne because of her duties. He sent her a signed photo as a mark of respect.
- During World War One she set up and ran a Soldier's refreshment stall outside the barracks in St Kilda Road for soldiers returning to Australia. She enjoyed friendships with many artists including Tom Roberts, Philips-Fox and Carrick-Fox and Frederick McCubbin – a reproduction of McCubbin's Pioneers has always hung in the dining room of Ballara. Tom Roberts gave her a 9x5 after she sat for him for the "Big Picture" of the opening of the First Federal Parliament.
- She was the first president of the Lyceum Club, Melbourne.
- She met Alfred through their interest in spiritualism. She was a medium. She lost two
 of her brothers to sharks in Port Philip. Their father was directed by a séance to a pier
 where their remains were recovered. Arthur Conan-Doyle corresponded with her on the
 power of spiritualism.



ABOVE: Pattie Deakin by E. Phillips-Fox (private Collection).

PATTIE

CAMPAIGNER, ARTIST, POET AND PIONEER ON BEHALF OF WOMEN

Vera, Wilfred and Pattie on Ballara's front verandah, Pattie with Joseph Cook, Point Lonsdale by Pattie (at Ballara).







VERA (DEAKIN) WHITE 1891-1978 THIRD OWNER

- Vera was a teenager when Ballara was built, she holidayed at Ballara all her life with her parents, husband, children and grandchildren.
- She was the youngest of the three Deakin daughters, she studied music at Melbourne University then in Berlin and Budapest chaperoned by Alfred's sister Catherine – returning on the outbreak of war. Frustrated by the limited role for women in the war, she went to Cairo in her mid 20s and helped establish the Red Cross Wounded and Missing Enquiry Bureau. She later transferred the operation to London. Through her work she met her husband – Tom White.
- She maintained a prodigious workload devoted to community causes throughout her long life - for the Red Cross, the Royal Children's Hospital, and various societies addressing mental health and physical disabilities. In London from 1951 to 1956 as wife of the High Commissioner she promoted young Australian musicians, writers and artists.
- She loved Ballara for its memories and tranquility.



VERA

A FEARLESS PIONEER

Vera in Cairo in 1915, Vera working in the Wounded and Missing Enquiry Bureau in London, Tom Presenting Vera to the Queen London 1953.







TOM WHITE 1888-1957 (WITH VERA) THIRD OWNER

- Tom White was a pioneer aviator among the first to get a pilot's licence in the Australian Army at Point Cook. He was decorated for bravery in flying behind enemy lines to cut communications. He was captured, held by the Turks for two and a half years, and was only one of a few to escape.
- He met Vera Deakin in London. She had handled his POW case and in 1920 they married and commenced running a family business in hardware and metalwork.
- In 1929 he entered Parliament, from 1931 served in Lyons Cabinet as Minister for Trade and Customs. In 1938, distressed by appearement and lack of war preparations, he resigned from cabinet.
- In WWII he took leave from Parliament to command an air training base in Australia before commanding a bomber base in UK.
- He was a delegate to the Albury Conference founding the Liberal Party.
- In 1949 he returned to Cabinet under Menzies as Minister for Air.
- In 1951-56 he became High Commissioner in London, and represented Australia during the death of the King, the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, the "Indian summer" Prime Ministership of Churchill. During his period in the UK, he was instrumental in establishing strong commercial and cultural linkages between the two countries.
- "Tommy White was perhaps the best loved man of his generation" Sir Edward (Weary) Dunlop



TOM

AVIATOR, CABINET MINISTER AND HIGH COMMISSIONER IN LONDON

The birth of the Flying Corps (later RAAF) at Point Cook 1914 (Tom with stick), flying at Point Cook, The Menzies Cabinet 1949 (Tom White 2nd left standing), Tom and Vera at The Hotel Canberra 1951 (now The Hyatt Hotel, Canberra).









INSIDE THE HOUSE TODAY

"At present the main living rooms and the bedrooms are little changed from Deakin's time, retaining some original furniture, photographs, books and ornaments. To walk through the front door is to walk into another time...With the smell of the tea tree wood burned in the open fire place, and Deakin's desk in a bay window looking out on the garden."

From J.A. La Nauze, author of Alfred Deakin

The house consists of a kitchen and laundry, maids room, bathroom, downstairs bedroom opening onto the verandah, piano and entrance room, and dining room. Upstairs there are three dormas, two with sleepouts that have now been enclosed.





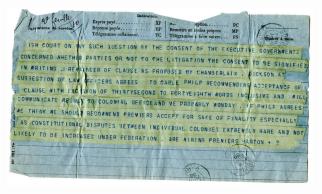


FAMILY DOCUMENTS

THE EXPANSIVE HISTORICAL COLLECTION ILLUMINATES A RICH AND COMPLEX FAMILY STORY.









POETRY, ARTS & LITERATURE

Pattie and Alfred were friends with many noted artists and writers. Tom Roberts, Arthur Woodward, Philips-Fox and writers such as Kipling, George Meredith, Joseph Conrad, Kenneth Graham and Conan-Doyle.

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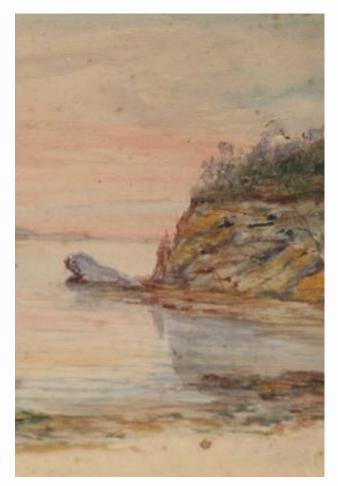
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LEFT TO RIGHT: Letter from Kipling to Alfred, A section of a painting by Pattie, period painting on a gum leaf and painting of the War Memorial.









THE GARDEN

PATTIE'S DOCUMENTATION OF THE NATIVE GARDEN

Ballara and Arilpa have rare Native Orchids growing wild in the heath. Pattie Deakin painted a series on the Orchids in the spring of 1913.

Botanists have identified the varieties and some are still found today in Ballara's garden. To the right is a selection of four of Pattie Deakin's Orchid paintings.









THE GARDEN

A NURTURED REMNANT HEATHLAND WITH POSITIVE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Ballara is noted for its bush garden which has outstanding natural values – it contains high-value She-oaks,
Moonahs and Tea Trees plus some rare species of Heaths and Orchids. The Deakins designed and built the house and garden to be in harmony — one with the other.





ABOVE AND BELOW: View from Veranda 1908 and below today. The garden has glorious stands of grass trees some of them hundreds of years old.



THE GARDEN

BALLARA AND ITS GARDEN SIT ON A 1.68 HECTARE ALLOTMENT





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