

Brief History of Warrnambool's Honour Board

Initially, the Honour Board was located in the old Warrnambool Museum, in Liebig Street. In its wooden frame the Honour Board measures two metres by three metres and contains 204 portraits of pioneer men from Warrnambool and district.

According to an article in *The Warrnambool Standard* on Thursday 12 September 1907 titled, "Our Early Settlers – An Artistic Souvenir", these photographs were collected from descendants of the early pioneers who had settled in the district before 1860. *The Warrnambool Standard 12 September 1907*

The idea of a commemorative montage of early pioneer men of the district to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the foundation of the town of Warrnambool was instigated by Edward Alexander Vidler and a charge of £1 per photograph was agreed. In 1907 Vidler was instrumental in reviving interest in the Warrnambool and District Progress League and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry and invited descendants to send in photographs of their pioneer ancestors to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Warrnambool's foundation. Not all pioneers could be included in the Honour Board. In 1924 Charles Foyle explained that "...the frame was the largest that could be made and that there was not sufficient space for all the portraits to be included in the available space". *The Warrnambool Standard Friday 11 July 1924*

At the time, photographer Charles Foyle ran a photographic studio in Warrnambool with his sister Lilian. It was she who produced the final portraits and undertook art work associated with the history of the area. The *Warrnambool Standard* dated 24 July 1922. While at Foyle Photographic studio the Honour Board was placed on public on display for visitors to the Studio to enjoy; "...the large picture of the Warrnambool pioneers is on view at Mr C Foyle's studio, where visitors will be welcomed..." *The Warrnambool Standard dated 23 May 1918*

It is not certain that the Honour Board was exhibited at the Women's Work Exhibition in Melbourne in 1907 where Lilian had a photograph "Old Age" exhibited. *The Warrnambool Standard dated 25 October 1907*. According to Bruce Morris' paper *The Warrnambool Standard* of 17 December 1907, noted that the Honour Board was on exhibition in Bernard's Gallery, Melbourne. *Bruce Morris Paper 17 May 1976* Over the years the Honour Board has been housed in a number of Warrnambool locations: the Art Gallery the Library, and the Council Offices before it was relocated to HeritageWorks in 2014.