
Stained Glass Window at Balwyn Church of Christ



Balwyn Church of Christ, Last Supper, Alan Sumner / EL Yencken & Co. c1945

Location

Corner Whitehorse and Cherry Roads, Balwyn, BOROONDARA CITY

Municipality

BOROONDARA CITY

Level of significance

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Heritage Listing

Vic. War Heritage Inventory

Heritage Study/Consultant

Vic War Heritage Inventory - Stained Glass Memorial Windows Study, Bronwyn Hughes, 2013;

Architect/Designer

Sumner, Alan, E. L. Yencken & Co, Frater, William,

Hermes Number

196618

Property Number

Memorial Window References & Acknowledgements

AWM World War II Nominal Roll; NAA: A705, 166/4/176; *Argus*, 15 May 1945, p.13.

With thanks to Frank Evans, Church of Christ, Balwyn

Memorial Window Subject

Last Supper

Memorial Window Text

This Do in Remembrance of Me

Memorial Window Inscription

To the Glory of God and in thanksgiving for the safe return of W/O C.E. Austin R.A.A.F. 2nd World War.

Memorial Window Description & History

The delightful timber chapel of the Church of Christ in Balwyn was erected in the 1920s. A fire destroyed the chancel section of the building and it was rebuilt in 1944-45, when it is believed that the east window (in the geographical south) was installed. After years of uncertainty about the health and well being of their son who was shot down in Germany during the war, Mr. and Mrs. John E Austin of Chatfield Avenue, Balwyn commissioned the window from EL Yencken & Co. William Frater had retired as designer and head of the stained glass department at Yencken in 1940, when the department was forced to close as a 'non-essential industry'. However, in the early post-War period, Frater's former assistant Alan Sumner, completed many windows for the firm, drawing heavily on designs previously prepared by Frater. The design shows elements of both Frater's mature and Sumner's emerging style.

Clifton Edward Austin enlisted in the RAAF on 22 May 1941, only a few days short of his 23rd birthday. Posted to 460 Squadron, he was one of the crew of Lancaster V4273 detailed to attack Stuttgart on 22 November 1942 when it was hit by flak and brought down in France near Ruchy with no loss of life. After two days of freedom, Austin and another crew member, Sergeant GR Berry, were captured and taken to Frankfurt. W/O Austin spent the remainder of the war in Stalag Luft III Lager K (the name changed over the years) before being liberated by Allied troops, two and a half years later.

This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.

For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>