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Equity Trustees continues honouring Stanley Heath from Victoria's Western District 100 years on, thanks to his Dad

When 29 year old Corporal Stanley Vincent Heath was killed in Passchendaele, Belgium 100 years ago on 12 October 1917, his father William made arrangements to ensure his memory lived on, engaging Equity Trustees as co-trustee of his estate to make sure his wishes were carried out.

Stanley was born in the same year that Equity Trustees was established – 1888 in Victoria.

The Stanley Heath Fund continues to this day making a modest annual contribution of about \$900 to Hamilton Hospital (now Western District Health Service), and distributing another \$3000 each year to other Victorian charitable institutions, with the assistance of co-trustee John Blanch.

"Equity Trustees manages hundreds of modest trusts like this one and we are proud that we play a role in keeping alive the memory of people like Stanley, just as his father William, wanted us to," said Mick O'Brien, Managing Director, Equity Trustees.

"There may not always be vast sums of money involved, but the Heath family have contributed in their own way, to Victorian communities for 100 years, in memory of someone they clearly were very proud of and loved dearly. In setting up a perpetual charitable trust, Stanley's memory will go on forever – it's our job to make sure it does," he said.

The Trust was created after William died in July 1921. He made provision for his sister and Stanley's mother Annie, but ultimately the assets of his estate, including the farming property ('Tarrayoukyan') near Harrow in Victoria's Western District were split between his three sons – with Stanley's third going into a perpetual charitable trust in his son's name.

Stanley served in the 39th Infantry Battalion Australian Imperial Force and died while volunteering as a stretcher bearer on the battlefield. One report described how he had 'begged' his superior to allow him to help carry wounded back to safety. Records with witness accounts from the front describe how he was carrying a wounded man back under heavy shelling, but did not make it.

Those stationed with him described him as 'tall, inclined to be slight, dark complexion, dark hair and moustache' while another said in his statement: 'He was one of the best and a chap I thought a lot of.'

Stanley had left Australia in 1916 after enlisting in Hamilton in Victoria – his occupation at the time listed as sheep farmer. The Australian War Memorial Honour Roll lists his service number as 1322 and he is named on Panel 131 in the Commemorative Area of the Memorial. He is buried in Tyne Cot Cemetery in Belgium.

The trust would list annually how it distributed its income annually in Melbourne's Argus newspaper. An example from [1934 reported the 12th annual distribution](#), totalling £200, which included the set allocation of £50 to Hamilton Hospital as well as: Melbourne Hospital, Alfred Hospital, Mission of St James and St John, Victorian Bush Nursing Association (each £20), Free Kindergarten Union of Victoria, Church of England free kindergarten schools, Andrew Kerr Memorial Home, Melbourne Orphanage, Society to Assist Persons of Education, Legacy Club (Junior branch), Melbourne City Mission, St Martin's and St John Evangelists Home for Boys, Travellers' Aid Society of Victoria, Charity Organisation Society, Kilmany Park Farm Home for Boys, Victorian Baby Health Centres Association, Swan Hill Hospital (each £10).

Media Release



Equity Trustees was established in 1888 for the purpose of providing independent and impartial Trustee and Executor services to help families throughout Australia protect their wealth. As Australia's leading specialist trustee company, we offer a diverse range of services to individuals, families and corporate clients including asset management, estate planning, philanthropic services and Responsible Entity (RE) services for external Fund Managers.

Equity Trustees Limited is the brand name of EQT Holdings Limited and its subsidiary companies, publicly listed company on the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX: EQT) with offices in Melbourne, Bendigo, Sydney, Brisbane and Perth.

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