Ernesto Genoni
Artist, Pacifist, Anthroposophist

Uriel Lecture
Anthroposophical Society in Australia
The Christian Community Church
Hawthorn, Victoria
14 March 2015

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“In the early history of Anthroposophical development in Australia, the name of Ernesto Genoni must be given a prominent place”

Edith Magill, 1975
Mr. Ernesto Genoni
Mrs Anne Macky
Miss Doris Hawkins
Miss Vera Christensen
Mrs. Jean Growcott

Miss Lilian Douglas
Miss Margaret Darcy (Mrs. Moore)
Miss Flora Donald
Miss Edith Hoskins
Miss Gladys Taylor (Mrs. James)
LEADERS OF THE MICHAEL GROUP
SINCE 1932

1932 - 1951*  Mrs. Jean Growcott
1951-1953*  Mrs. Ruby Macpherson
1953-1957*  Mrs. Anne Macky
1952 - 61  Mr. John Etheridge
1962 - ?  Mr. Ernesto Genoni
-1968*

1968*  ? - '81  Mr. Alex de Podolinsky
1982  (Mr. Marcus Cox jointly with
1983 - 86  Mr. Robert Martin
1987 -  Committee of 8

* Dates in Red: tbc
Table 3.1: Australian members of the Agricultural Experimental Circle of Anthroposophical Farmers and Gardeners (sorted in chronological order of sign on).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Member</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Experiment location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>165</td>
<td>Ernesto Genoni</td>
<td>c. Aug 1928</td>
<td>Farm Dalmore, Gippsland, Vic</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E14</td>
<td>Crawford McDowell</td>
<td>23/7/1929</td>
<td>Sydney, NSW</td>
<td>Sydney, NSW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E17</td>
<td>(signed by Ernesto Genoni for) Emilio Genoni</td>
<td>15/10/1930</td>
<td>Broome Hill, WA</td>
<td>Etna’, Broome Hill, WA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E24</td>
<td>Charles Burford</td>
<td>7/5/1931</td>
<td>Sydney, NSW</td>
<td>‘near Sydney, NSW’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E32</td>
<td>Kenneth Milroy Temple</td>
<td>12/11/1931</td>
<td>Willoughby (Sydney), NSW</td>
<td>Sydney, NSW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E50</td>
<td>Ruby A Macpherson</td>
<td>26/3/1935</td>
<td>Mt Tenandra, Gular-gambone, NSW</td>
<td>Mt Tenandra, Gular-gambone, NSW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E55</td>
<td>Ruth Beale</td>
<td>11/1/1936</td>
<td>Annegrove, Mount Colah via Hornsby (Sydney), NSW</td>
<td>Mount Colah, NSW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E52</td>
<td>Ileen Macpherson</td>
<td>26/1/1936</td>
<td>Dandenong, Vic</td>
<td>Dandenong, Vic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E66</td>
<td>Robert Williams</td>
<td>1/7/1937</td>
<td>Willoughby (Sydney), NSW</td>
<td>Willoughby (Sydney), NSW</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
b. Tirano, Italy, 1885

“The departure of Emilio for Australia in my first year of school”
“Milano ... the beginning of my long period of sadness and nostalgia”
“... the fifth year at Brera”
“I was always the favourite brother for Rosa”
“Australia!! The great joy in having my name called from the crowd while waiting to disembark from the Austerlitz”

1912, Broomhill, WA
“Broome Hill.
I find life glorious!”
“We talked all night with the brothers in Rina’s house ... how seriously [we take?] the idea of spiritualism”

E. Y. A. Gordon

“Eina”

Broom Hill

West. Australia

Photo: John Paull
“Some painting but soon I am fully into farming at Etna”
“Philip L’Hardy wants to settle me on the Kowerup farm. I refuse the offer and after a few weeks ... I return to Italy”
“Back to Italy. I am 28 and indeed I am going through the most awful time of my life ... But at last I come to the decision to return to Australia ... 1915 ... I am working at Etna”
“Life was too easy and without any interest. Xmas 1915!
What a poor Xmas! Alone in the bush”
“Every young man was then enlisting so I thought to enlist too ... with the purpose of serving in the medical corps”
“I mentioned to the sergeant how I enlisted to serve in the medical corps and not as a fighter. I was told I was a cold footed and I was left behind.”
"I left with another contingent. During the trip I was mess orderly and I liked it. I remember the burial at sea ... Egypt, Suez"
Tel el Kibir, Egypt

“Two weeks there. The flies! The sand storm ... the adjoining desert” 1916
The Somme
“Poziers ... The Sergeant calls for volunteer stretcher bearers. I came forward”
“... the first vision of dead bodies. My inner trust in Christ as Lord even of the shells!”
“I saw one of the stretcher bearers hit and fall. I gathered my courage and went out”
“The dying wounded in the front line during the barrage ... The nightmare ...”
“The corporal ... tells me that I am to go to London for discharge from the Australian Army. At first I thought it was a joke”
Broomhill, WA, war memorial
“After a few weeks I was an Italian infantry soldier”
“The refusal to repeat the [soldier’s oath of allegiance] ... prison ... another prison”
“Prison ... the Colonel who told me that I must have some saint in Paradise looking after me, ‘Yes’ I said ‘I believe so’ ... sent to Verona in the Medical corps ... and then to go to the front”
“Military Hospital ... Rosa’s letter relating of rumours of peace. I read the letter loudly ... I was sent to prison”
Spanish flu

“The raging influenza... I went to Milan where I found Rosa and other of the family sick with influenza. So I stayed for few days to nurse them. Then went back to Verona to be sent once more to prison for being absent without leave for weeks” Ernesto
“Autumn 1918! ... I believed at the time that a new era was to enter into the World ... once more to prison ...

[1919] at last I was a free civilian”
“Rosa tells me of Anthroposophy” 1919
Ernesto Genoni
“1920 ... What a strange impression I received from the first view of the Goetheanum building”
"... the bewildering impression of the interior of the Goetheanum building. I could not enter in such saturated life of the spirit"
“... the short conversation with Fraulein Vreed ... chilly!”
“... the meeting with the Doctor ...”
“Dornach ... I was trying to paint in the Anthro. way. Again at bottom I was not happy with my painting”
“I was admitted to the Class. My gradual understanding of the German language at the lectures”

The First Class
19 esoteric lessons by Rudolf Steiner
15 Feb - 20 Sept 1924
in the Schreinerei
Koberwitz (Kobierzyce) 1924
“The big Michael painting. In September of that year the Doctor became ill. I returned to Milan” 1924
“... the sad marriage” [Lydia, b. Austria]

Portrait by Ernesto Genoni
1926

AN ITALIAN ARTIST.

RETURN TO AUSTRALIA.

Fremantle, May 31.

Mr. Ernest Genoni, who was farming in Western Australia for three years before the outbreak of the war, and who enlisted with the A.I.F. and went to France with the 16th Battalion, returned to Western Australia in the Italian steamer Citta di Genova, which reached Fremantle to-day. After service on the Western front, Mr. Genoni transferred to the Italian army, with which he served until the Armistice. He then settled in Italy and took up his former profession as an artist. Just before Signor Mussolini was made Prime Minister of Italy Fascists asked Mr. Genoni, whose canvass work was well known, to make a portrait of Mussolini, but the arrangements were not completed. After remaining in this State for about a month Mr. Genoni will go to Melbourne, where he will set up a studio and hold an exhibition of his work. He has made arrangements for a group of Italian artists to forward samples of their work periodically for exhibition purposes in Australian cities.
“I discovered Mrs Macky at the New Conservatorium. We started some Anthro. meetings” 1928

Photo: John Paul
Experimental Circle of Anthroposophical Farmers & Gardeners
“In 1930 I went to Dornach again to become acquainted with the B.D farming”
“Dornach ... Pfeiffer ... Riese .... Stegemann at Marienhohe ... Bartch near Berlin .... Swarz near Bremen ... London Mirbt ... Holland. Pfeiffer farm at Rosendale. Then Dornach ... ”
“Back to Etna with Fred ... Mr Meebold second visit there. The attempt to do BD... We bought cows ... rearing pigs ... made insilage ... sheep ... The bank closed in and the farm got near bankruptcy ”
“Angelo from Melbourne offered me the Dalmore farm to manage. Went to Victoria once more ... Anthro meetings in Collins St. This is where I first met Ileen and Mrs Macpherson” c.1933
Ileen Macpherson
1898-1984
“Ileen comes to live at the farm [1935] ... Mr Meebold comes to stop at the farm ... The unhappy struggling for making a B.D farm ... a poor trip ... London ... Dornach ... Milan ... the dark clouds of war ... Dornach ... London ... San Remo ... left for Australia ... July 1939 ”

Photo: John Paull
“Ileen ... her legs begin to give way ... Mrs Macpherson bought for me the block in Namur St ... During the war I was going to do gardening at Mr Ruby at Sandringham ... [Ileen] could not walk anymore. I return to live at the farm .. Ileen returns at the farm ... In 1952 we decide to build a house in Namur St ”
“From the beginning of 1952 we have the monthly study of the Leading Thoughts at the central Group ... we have been meeting since 1944.”
This book belongs to E. Genoni left to him by Nurse M. Arnold.

1/6/24 E. Genoni

Lecture 3: Aristotle. In for existence for existence
Ernesto & Rosa
c.1963
Ernesto’s **First Class** readings in Melbourne

Ernesto’s **Leading Thoughts** readings in Melbourne

Readings started c.1920s & continued after relinquishing the leadership of the Michael Group in 1968 (tbc)
From 1962-1968
Ernesto is leader of the Michael Group
(age 77-83 yrs)
1975 RIP
(age 89 yrs)
Thank you ...
Questions

Self portrait by Ernesto Genoni
Acknowledgements

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Dr Paul Genoni
Dr Paolo Baracchi
Dr Raffaella Podreider

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