

Ernesto Genoni

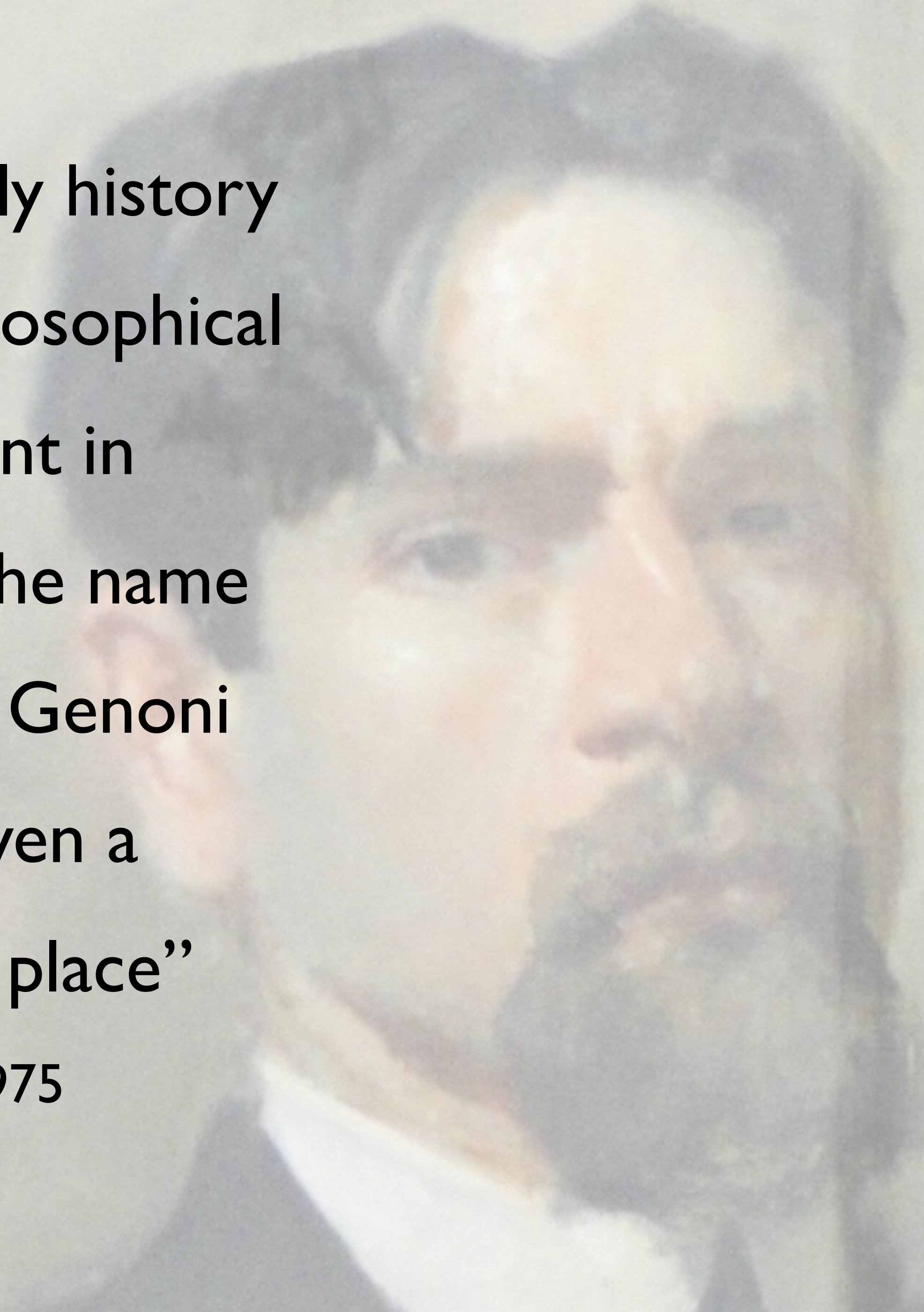
Artist, Pacifist, Anthroposophist

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

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University of Tasmania
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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



Anthroposophical Society Victoria Michael Group ...

FOUNDATION MEMBERS 1932

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)

Anthroposophical Society Victoria Michael Group ...

LEADERS OF THE MICHAEL GROUP SINCE 1932

1932	- 1951*	Mrs. Jean Growcott	? 1968*	- '81	Mr. Alex de Podolinsky
	1951-1953*	Mrs. Ruby Macpherson	1982		(Mr. Marcus Cox jointly with
	1953-1957*	Mrs. Anne Macky			(Mr. Robert Gordon
1957-62*					
1952	- 61	Mr. John Etheridge	1983	- 86	Mr. Robert Martin
1962	- ?	Mr. Ernesto Genoni	1987	-	Committee of 8
	-1968*				

* 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).

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



b. Tirano, Italy, 1885

“The departure of Emilio for Australia
in my first year of school”



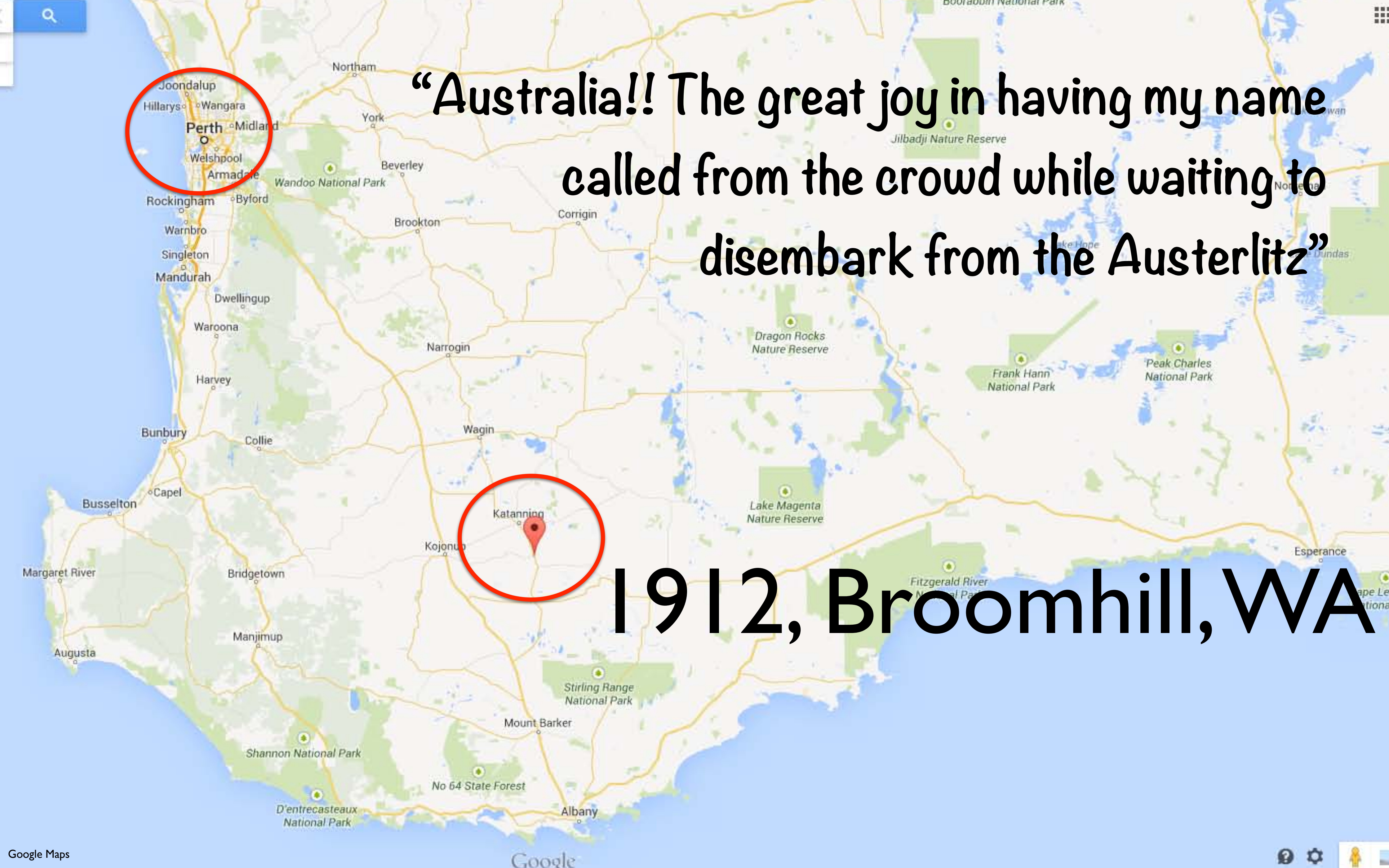
ACCADEMIA DI BELLE ARTI DI
BRERA

“Milano ... the beginning of my long
period of sadness and nostalgia”

“... the fifth year at Brera”

Rosa Genoni

“I was always the favourite brother for Rosa”

A map of Western Australia showing major cities and natural reserves. Perth is circled in red in the top left, and Katanning is circled in red in the center. The text "Australia!! The great joy in having my name called from the crowd while waiting to disembark from the Austerlitz" is overlaid on the right side of the map.

“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. of A. General

“Edna”

Broom Hill

West. Australia



“Some painting but soon I am fully into farming at Etna”

FLAT ROCKS RD
ETNA RD

“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”



“Religion: Theosophy”

(AIF Enlistment form)

REST AND REFLECT

BLACKBOY HILL

FROM THIS CAMPSITE
ANZACS DEPARTED IN 1914 - 15

GALLIPOLI LEGION OF ANZACS W.A.

“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
Training



Tel el Kibir, Egypt



“Two weeks there. The flies! The sand storm ...
the adjoining desert” 1916





The Somme



“Poziars ... 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”





Photo: 1916 ,Private collection

Broomhill, WA, war memorial

1914 – 1918

BATCHELOR J.	LAWES H.J.
BLAKE R.	MOIR M. J.
CLAXTON M.J.	NELSON E.
DARBY R.C.	PARROT E.L.
EDMUNDS V.	RIDLEY H.
FOXWELL H.	RYAN T.J.
GEORGE L.	STEWART C.H.
GREEN W.	THOMAS W. J.
HASSELL G.L.	VAUDRY T.F.
JACKSON P.	WHITT J.A
KINDRED P.H.	WILKINSON A.J.

The Italian Army of World War I

“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**”

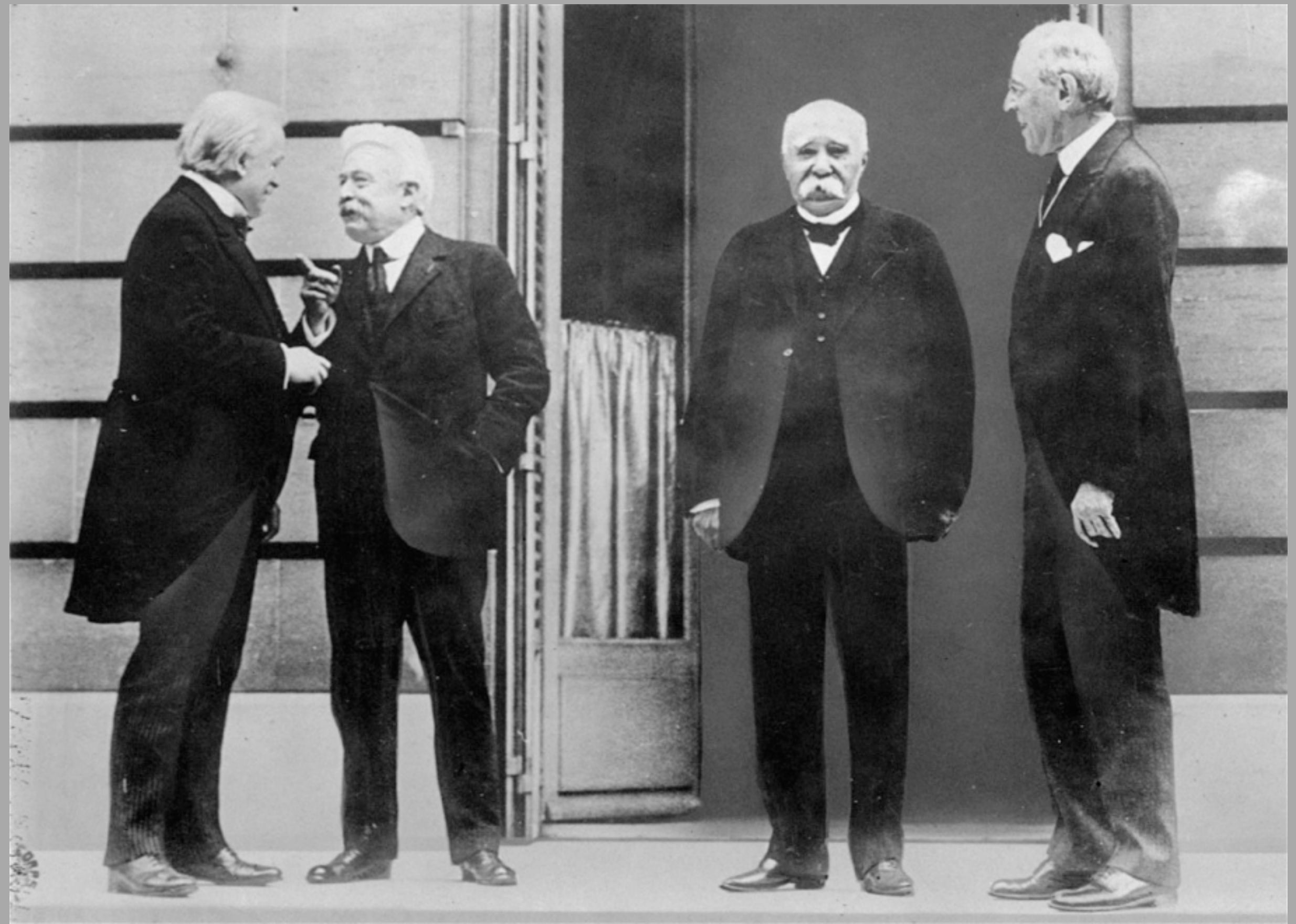


Spanish flu

“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

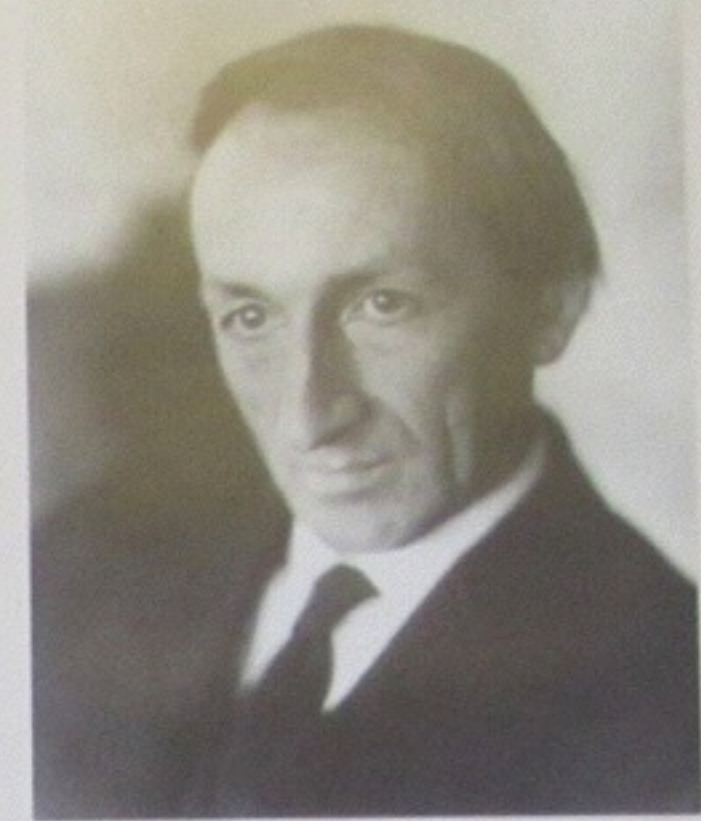
Ernesto Genoni

Dornach



“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



Koberwitz (Kobierzyce) 1924



Lute Drummond





A photograph of a large, flat, grey stone gravestone for Rudolf Steiner, lying on the ground. The name 'RUDOLF STEINER' is engraved on the stone. To the left of the stone, several small potted plants with yellow and red flowers are arranged. In the background, a large, dark, abstract sculpture stands on a grassy area. Behind the sculpture, a white building with a prominent dome is visible through the branches of trees. The scene is set in a park-like environment with trees and a clear sky.

“The big Michael painting. In
September of that year the Doctor
became ill. I returned to Milan” 1924

War on War
Guerra alla Guerra



Ernesto Genoni



“... 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 canvas 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.

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The
Wales)

“I discovered Mrs Macky at the New
Conservatorium. We started some
Anthro. meetings” 1928

ANNE MACKY
Pianist - Educator - Composer
8-2-1887 Melbourne 14.12.1964

1928

Dr. Rudolf Steiner

Landwirtschaftlicher Kursus

gehalten zu Koberwitz 7. bis 16. Juni 1924

Herausgegeben
von der naturwissenschaftlichen Sektion
am Goetheanum

Exemplar Nr. 165

für Herrn Geroni

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#165

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



A portrait painting of a woman with light brown hair, looking slightly upwards and to the right. The painting is on a light blue background and is framed by a gold-colored border. The style is soft and painterly, with visible brushstrokes and a focus on the subject's face and upper body. The woman is wearing a dark, patterned garment.

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



Demeter

Ileen Macpherson

~~Demeter~~

~~Melbourne Rd~~

~~Go Post Office~~

~~Dandery~~

Namur Street
via Noble Park

Vic

“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”

E. Genovese

a persons

lecture 2. John the Baptist.

This book belongs
to E. Genoni left to
him by Nurse M. Arnold.

Dr. Genoni
-ance gets
blood in the thi

-action are

1/6/44
-ant, now le

lecture 3. Aristotle.

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)



Photo: John Paull

A portrait painting of a man with dark, wavy hair and a full, dark beard and mustache. He is wearing a dark suit jacket over a white shirt. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green and blue. The painting is framed by a thin gold border.

From
1962-1968
Ernesto is
leader of the
Michael Group
(age 77-83 yrs)
1975 RIP
(age 89 yrs)

Thank you ...
Questions

Acknowledgements

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Goetheanum Secretariat

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