



 **100**  
**YEARS OF**  
**ANZAC**  
THE SPIRIT LIVES  
2014 - 2018



Commemorative booklet proudly presented by  
**Michael McCormack MP**  
Federal Member for Riverina

**25th APRIL 2014**



## AWM MARKS CENTENARY

THE Australian War Memorial in Canberra will commemorate The Great War centenary with a major redevelopment of its First World War galleries and a variety of new public programs and events.

The AWM is one of the nation's greatest tourist attractions, with nearly a million visitors a year.

AWM Director Dr Brendan Nelson said the revamped gallery would remain consistent with the vision of historian Charles Bean, who saw the memorial as holding the spirit of those who fought and died in WW1.

"We commemorate the sacrifices," Dr Nelson said. "From a population of 4.5 million people, one million men could volunteer. Four hundred and thirty thousand did, 330,000 were sent overseas. Sixty-two thousand were dead. Another 60,000 died within a decade of returning from the 155,000 wounded or imprisoned.

"What we will celebrate is a legacy that has been born of these cataclysmic events that shaped and defined largely the way we see ourselves as Australians and relate to one another in the world today almost a century later."

The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier (pictured) is one of the most sombre places in the national capital.



## CENTENARY A SPECIAL TIME

FOR all of us, ANZAC Day holds special meaning as a time when we gather as local communities to pay tribute to those who served and especially those who fell.

ANZAC Day has tremendous significance this year as centenary commemorations begin, marking a hundred years since Great Britain's entry into the First World War on 4 August 1914.

Leading up to the milestone event acknowledging a century since 25 April 1915 when those brave and determined troops of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps rushed ashore at Gallipoli and into the line of Ottoman fire and the annals of history, The Great War centenary will indeed be a memorable period.

Lots of attention will be focused on Gallipoli, however, the battlefields of Amiens, Beersheba, Bullecourt, Messines Ridge, Passchendaele, Pozières, The Somme, Villers-Bretonneux and Ypres and many more are certainly no less important places whenever we remember the remarkable and heroic deeds of those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Every Riverina community is deeply and eternally indebted to those who have served our nation and our region so well in all wars down through the



*AT AWM: With The Hon. Dr Brendan Nelson, Director of the Australian War Memorial, the founder of which, Charles Bean, described in 1948: "Here is their spirit, in the heart of the land they loved; and here we guard the record which they themselves made."*

years and also to those who represent the Australian Defence Force so ably today.

Now more than ever before as we enjoy the democratic right to live free, we ought to give thanks, not just on ANZAC Day but each and every day for what all those before us gave so our Australian society can be a peaceful one.

*Michael McCormack*  
MICHAEL McCORMACK MP  
Federal Member for Riverina

## FROM KAPOOKA TO A VC

LIKE so many of his mates serving in Afghanistan, Corporal Cameron Stewart Baird VC MG (pictured) graduated from the Army Recruit Training Centre at Kapooka. In doing so he inherited the ANZAC spirit, pride, responsibility, role and tradition which come from earning and wearing the khaki uniform. Tasmanian-born Cpl Baird (whose name on the AWM Roll of Honour is shown at right) enlisted on 4 January 2000 and after completing his initial training was posted to the 4th Battalion (Commando), The Royal Australian Regiment, now the 2nd Commando Regiment, in February 2000. He made five tours of duty to Afghanistan and became the nation's 100th recipient of a Victoria Cross when it was announced on 13 February he would be posthumously decorated "For the most conspicuous acts of valour, extreme devotion to duty and ultimate self-sacrifice at Ghawchak village, Uruzgan Province, Afghanistan as a Commando Team Commander in Special Operations Task Group on Operation Slipper" on 22 June 2013.



*COVER: Emily Chilvers of Griffith in the local War Memorial Museum's Australian Women's Land Army uniform. See special feature article in the centre pages.*

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*HAPPIER TIME: Laurie Mountford's 1941 marriage to Australian Red Cross worker Louisa Lyford, with Sadie Slocum as maid of honour, brought the couple great joy. Pte Mountford was taken Prisoner of War in Malaya during World War II.*

## LEETON SOLDIER SURVIVED POW DAYS

**A LEETON newly-wed was amongst the more than 22,000 Australian Prisoners of War in the Pacific in World War II.**

Lawrence Gordon Mountford married Louisa Lyford, a member of the Australian Red Cross Voluntary Aid Detachment, in 1941.

They exchanged vows wearing the uniforms of the organisations they so proudly served.

These were some of Australia's darkest days and whilst the Army and other services did whatever it took to keep the nation safe, the Australian Red Cross, formed in 1914, also more than played its part to help the war effort.

Private Mountford, son of Frederick and Minnie, was born in Longton, England, on 29 July 1902 and was living at Leeton when he enlisted with the Australian Army at Wagga Wagga on 21 June 1940.

Assigned to the 2/30 Australian Infantry Battalion (AIF), Pte Mountford survived the war and his time as a POW ... but many did not.

Of the staggering number of Australians taken prisoner, more than 21,000 were from the AIF (particularly the 8th Division); 354 were from the Royal Australian Navy; 373 were Royal Australian Air Force officers and 71 were women – wonderful, caring angels of mercy – from the Australian Army Nursing Service.

Of the POWs, 14,792 were captured at Singapore, 2736 on Java, 1137 on Timor, 1075 on Ambon and 1049 at Rabaul.

Almost 36 per cent of Australian prisoners – 8031 – died in captivity, nearly as many as died in action in the Pacific War.

In their 3½ years of captivity, most Australians were moved a number of times across the Asian region to fulfil Japanese labour force needs.

Pte Mountford made it home and was discharged out of the Army on 13 December 1945 ... his duty done.

He lived until 1980 and will be remembered this ANZAC Day and on each and every 25 April hereafter as will all of his mates who died as a result of harsh treatment by their captors and all who served Australia to ensure we may now live in peace.

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## RED CROSS TURNS 100

ESTABLISHED just nine days after the outbreak of World War I, Australian Red Cross has played a vital role in society, in peacetime and during times of conflict.

It is especially remembered in the provision of "comforts" for soldiers overseas.

Huge sums of money were raised during WWI and thousands of women volunteers contributed their time by making vast quantities of clothing including socks, pyjamas and a variety of linen. Items were sent to headquarters located in the State capitals, often using government houses as depots, where, after being sorted and packed by yet more volunteers, they were sent to Britain or the front.

From its founding date to the 1918 Armistice, Australian Red Cross dispatched a remarkable 395,695 food parcels and 36,339 clothing parcels.

Today, Red Cross continues to help the most vulnerable people.

To find out more, visit [www.redcross.org.au](http://www.redcross.org.au)

**BADGES OF HONOUR:**  
*Emblems sold as fund-raisers to promote good causes.*



# FROM WAR CAME *Love...*

**THE** sheer delight on Gwen Chilvers' face when she laid eyes on granddaughter Emily wearing an old Australian Women's Land Army uniform was a sight to behold.

It was as though the clock had been turned back 70 years and Gwen, who turned 90 on 12 March, was able to look at herself as a new arrival to Griffith at the height of World War II.

Emily, 24, donned the AWLA outfit to be photographed for this publication but the youthful image of her in the 1940s era garb will one day take on much more permanence in her hometown.

Local sculptor Noel Hicks, a former long-serving Federal Member for Riverina, is presently working on a clay likeness of Emily resplendent in the AWLA woollen coat, shirt, tie and hat.

To be then cast in bronze, the bust will take pride of place within the Griffith War Memorial Museum in Banna Avenue to honour the mighty contribution those determined women made during some of Australia's darkest days.

The idea of engaging Emily as a model followed her being named Griffith Showgirl on 7 October 2013 and subsequent publicity in *The Area News*.

Griffith City Councillor Pat Cox, who is also secretary of the museum, knew the connection between Emily and Gwen and told Theo Bollen, one of the museum's volunteers, that the young lady might make an ideal model for Mr Hicks's AWLA tribute project.

Mr Bollen telephoned Emily who, mindful of her family's AWLA links, eagerly accepted the opportunity to take part in what is sure to be a splendid work of art.

Gwen (née Forbes), by her own admission, was "a city girl" from Newcastle, unaccustomed to rural life, when she enrolled with the AWLA on 2 November 1942.

"The war was a long way away from us ... and then Japan decided to come into the war. One night a midget submarine came into Newcastle Harbour and fired some shells around," Gwen recalled. "That made everyone realise we could be invaded."

Gwen's father Frederick, a First World War hero who earned a Military Medal as a 13th Battalion scout in the trenches near the bloody



*YESTERYEAR (anti-clockwise from top of page): Gwen driving the tractor on Wakley's farm, Yenda. At Dodd's farm, Batlow, with Gwen (front right) beside friend Netta Oakes. Dressed up in Summer uniform for a Women's Land Army parade. Watering vegetables, Gwen on the left, at Wakley's. Gwen in Winter dress uniform. Gwen pruning fruit trees at Yenda with Molly the horse pulling the cart. The girls at Batlow, with Gwen (right) and Netta (centre) both seated.*





# AND A MONUMENT FOR THE AGES

Mouquet Farm in the French Somme in 1916 and then had a Bar added to it for further bravery, became a soldier again in his 50th year.

This was despite the fact he sustained a severe facial gunshot wound in action at Rouen, France, on 4 July 1918, an injury which resulted in him being amongst the first recipients of pioneering plastic surgery in which his palate was rebuilt. Whilst in the newly-opened Queen's Hospital in London, Fred received a bedside visit from none other than King George V who presented him with his bravery award. Fred was then invalided home. "He used to spend most nights patrolling the cliffs around Newcastle in case the Japanese tried to land there," Gwen said.

"Suddenly there were very few men to work on farms so they asked for women to come along and help harvest the crops so that the soldiers could be fed. I had never been on a farm before, but I thought I would give it a try."

Gwen was initially sent to Batlow where she picked the town's famous apples as well as cherries and pears, dug potatoes and weeded carrots too.

"We worked hard, but had a lot of fun too. Then it snowed and that was not fun. We still picked apples with frozen fingers ... so I have never had any desire to go to the snow again," she said.

"Then they wanted girls for Griffith. So my friend and I volunteered and came to Griffith, then to Yenda, where we stayed until the war ended in 1945. We did all the things farmers do now ... picked grapes, peaches, prunes and the lady I worked for grew tomatoes as well.

"I learned to ride a horse and drive a tractor ... not the big monsters we have today. It didn't even have rubber tyres, only iron wheels and an iron seat ... very hard on the bottom and cold on frosty mornings.

"I enjoyed my years in the Land Army ... made lots of fabulous friends amongst the girls and people who lived in Yenda. I like to think we did some good and helped."

Gwen met and in 1948 married Yenda farmer Sidney Chilvers and their extended family is now embedded in the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area community ... soon to become a permanent "bronzed Aussie" reminder to future generations of a wonderfully woven tale of war, farming and subsequent romance.



*PROUD NAN: Gwen Chilvers with granddaughter Emily dressed in an Australian Women's Land Army uniform.*



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# FAREWELL, MY LOVE

*A KISS, a kiss ...*

*My brave soldier's going to war.*

*I miss, I miss ...*

*For his face I adore.*

*I cry, I cry ...*

*For my love is leaving today.*

*I sigh, I sigh ...*

*The battlefield is far away.*

*I hope, I hope ...*

*He'll come home safe again.*

*I'll cope, I'll cope ...*

*As will wives of other men.*

*I pray, I pray ...*

*Only good news from abroad.*

*Each day, each day ...*

*My heart is now outpoured.*

Written by my daughter GEORGINA McCORMACK, a teacher at Griffith High, during her secondary school days.



*REMEMBERED:* Hillary Pike's name on the Australian War Memorial Roll of Honour.  
*ANZAC COVE:* Landing place of the Australians at Gaba Tepe, 1915.

## NARRANDERA MUM'S ANGUISH

**THE** sorrowful words of a distressed mother spell out a tale of torment for a lost son amidst the backdrop of an awful war the scale of which the world had never known.

Alice Pike, living in East Street, Narrandera, wrote a heart-stricken letter requesting information about her cherished son Hillary, missing at Gallipoli for nearly 14 months.

Her correspondence held little hope: "I feel that he is dead and it is very hard that I cannot hear anything of my son who helped to keep his invalid father and sister and two other sisters."

By the time she put pen to paper, on 4 October 1916, the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps had already long deserted the Turkish Cove where our nationhood was forged yet at which so many of our finest fell.

The tragic reality – one that Mrs Pike would eventually learn – was that Hillary, of Tumut, had been killed in action on 7 August 1915, one of the deadliest days of the entire Dardanelles campaign.

That was the time of the Battle of Lone Pine, a diversionary attack to draw Ottoman attention away from the main assaults against Sari Bair, Chunuk Bair and Hill 971, which became known as the ANZACs' August Offensive.

Australia suffered 2277 casualties at Lone Pine and seven Diggers earned Victoria Crosses, two posthumously.

Private Pike's Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing Enquiry Bureau Files indicate that he was killed in action but no burial report was ever received; not an unusual occurrence amidst the carnage and mayhem of Gallipoli or, indeed, the Western Front in the years which followed.

Pte Pike's file was not certified by Australian Imperial Force Headquarters until 29 August 1919 – well and truly after the 11 November 1918 Armistice.

A 22-year-old trapper when he enlisted at Liverpool on 16 January 1915, Pte Pike sailed to war with the 3rd Infantry Battalion 5th Reinforcements on HMAT *Kyarra* A55 and landed at Gallipoli on 20 June.

He gave his all for his country, one of 8709 Australians who died at Gallipoli, to join the pantheon of Riverina heroes whose deeds and sacrifice will always be remembered.



*HERO:* Private Hillary Austin Pike



# 2014 ANZAC DAY SERVICE TIMES AND VENUES

## CARRATHOOL

6am Dawn service at cenotaph, Memorial Hall grounds, Wade Street.

## COLEAMBALLY

5.45am Dawn service at John McInnes Square, Brolga Place.

## DARLINGTON POINT

10.45am March from Darlington Point Post Office, Punt Road, to cenotaph, Carrington Street (Kidman Way).

## GOOLGOWI

3.15pm March from Goolgowi Hall to cenotaph outside Ex-Servicemen's Club, corner Combo and Napier Streets.

3.30pm Service at cenotaph.

## GRIFFITH

5.45am Dawn service, Memorial Park, Banna Avenue.

10.30am March from War Memorial Museum (RSL Sub-Branch Hall), Banna Avenue.

11am Main service, Memorial Park. Address by Stuart McWilliam of McWilliam's Wines, a great supporter of Griffith RSL Sub-Branch.

## HILLSTON (Includes Merriwagga and surrounding districts)

5.45am Dawn service, cenotaph, High Street.

10.30am March from Ex-Servicemen's Club, High Street, to cenotaph. Lunch afterwards at Ex-Servicemen's Club.

## LEETON (Includes Gogeldrie, Murrumbidgee, Wamoon)

6am Dawn service, short march from Church Street corner to cenotaph.

10am March from Leeton Courthouse to cenotaph, Pine Avenue.

11.15am Leeton Soldiers' Club, corner Yanco and Acacia Avenues, RSL Shrine, small service and wreath laying.

## MORUNDAH

9.50am March to Memorial Wall.

10am Main service. Morning tea afterwards.

## NARRANDERA

### (Includes Grong Grong)

6am Dawn Service, Memorial Gardens, corner East Street and Victoria Avenue.

9am Service at war graves at Narrandera Cemetery, Douglas Street.

10.40am March from Narrandera Ex-Servicemen's Club, Bolton Street.

11am Main Service, Memorial Gardens.

## RANKINS SPRINGS

8am Assemble at Allan James Park for start of march. Service to follow at cenotaph.

## WAGGA WAGGA

5.45am Dawn service, Victory Memorial Gardens cenotaph.

6.45am Pilgrimage to Wagga Wagga War Cemetery, Koorringal Road.

10.30am Baylis Street march begins.

11am March concludes at cenotaph.

11.15am Wreath-laying and commemorative service.

## WHITTON

3pm March from Rice Bowl Hotel, Benerambah Street, to Memorial Gates.

## YANCO

Noon Service, Yanco Hall, Trunk Road 80.

## YENDA

6am Dawn service, Yenda Diggers' Club, East Street.

11am Main service, Yenda Memorial Park.

## CAPITAL CITY SERVICES:

### CANBERRA

5.30am Dawn service at the Australian War Memorial.

6.30am Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ceremony, Aboriginal Memorial Plaque, Mt Ainslie.

10.15am National ceremony at the Australian War Memorial and Veterans' march.

### SYDNEY

4.15am Dawn service, Martin Place cenotaph.

8.30am Wreath-laying ceremony at the cenotaph, Martin Place.

9am ANZAC Day march starting at Martin Place/George Street/Bathurst Street/Hyde Park.

12.30pm Commemorative service, ANZAC Memorial Park, Hyde Park South.

1.45pm Aboriginal ANZAC Day march in Redfern.

5pm Sunset service at the cenotaph, Martin Place.



*RIVALRY: A local derby with Griffith Swans hosting Leeton-Whitton Crows with a solemn ANZAC Day remembrance before the seniors will be held on ANZAC Day.*

## ANZAC FOOTBALL

(Ex-Servicemen's Oval, Griffith)

FRIDAY 25 APRIL

*Riverina Football League*

Griffith v Leeton-Whitton

2pm Under 17s.

4.10pm Reserves.

6.15pm ANZAC Day formalities including bugler.

6.30pm First grade.

**PLEASE NOTE:** All times and venues have been supplied in good faith by various RSL Sub-Branch officials and were correct at the time of publication. Every care has been taken to ensure as many services as possible have been included. For verification of other services please contact your local RSL Sub-Branch.

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## IT IS THE SOLDIER

HIS is a cheeky smile... a face of youthful vitality.



He is an unknown Australian soldier of the First World War for whom, as well as all others who have in the past and who will in the future march out from Kapooka's Army Recruit Training Centre, the following poem by American Army Veteran Charles M Province applies:

*It is the soldier, not the minister, who has given us freedom of religion.*

*It is the soldier, not the reporter, who has given us freedom of the press.*

*It is the soldier, not the poet, who has given us freedom of speech.*

*It is the soldier, not the campus organiser, who has given us freedom to protest.*

*It is the soldier, not the lawyer, who has given us the right to a fair trial.*

*It is the soldier, not the politician, who has given us the right to vote.*

*It is the soldier who salutes the flag,*

*Who serves beneath the flag,*

*And whose coffin is draped by the flag,*

*Who allows the protester to burn the flag.*

## ANZAC WRITING SUCCESS

RIVERINA school children have been busy penning, typing and colouring in their entries for the 2014 ANZAC Day writing awards with a record 1200 submissions received in the fourth annual competition.

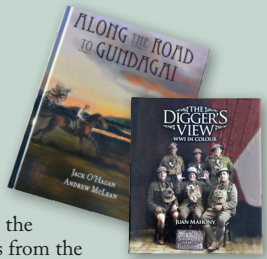
The number easily exceeds that of previous years.

Authors of the best secondary and primary entries from the four regions within the Riverina will receive book prizes from the Australian War Memorial.

Juan Mahony's magnificent hard cover work *The Digger's View – WWI In Colour* – is the reward for the senior students whilst the young winners will enjoy the magnificent and locally significant picture book *Along the Road to Gundagai*, beautifully illustrated by Andrew McLean to the famous 1922 song lyrics by Jack O'Hagan.

Each student who sent in an entry will receive a commemorative signed certificate.

Winning entries from the irrigation areas and western Riverina, including a joint effort in the primary division which was judged the best, feature below.



## 100 YEARS ON ...

ENGLAND made the urgent call,  
For all to join the bloody war.  
Help stop the German invasion,  
From dominating other nations.

We Aussies answered our mother's call,  
To halt that empire bent on war.  
The reason for fighting – an  
Archduke dying,  
Bullies stopping the flag of liberty flying.

The trenches were a horrifying place,  
A dark, squishy, dirty, ratty space.  
Sent over the edge, they felt terrified,  
Their stomachs full of butterflies.

Soldiers' hearts full of desolation,  
As they looked around in devastation.  
Loss of family, loss of friends,  
Loss of innocence could mean the end.

At home a postman causes fear,

A single letter makes a million tears.  
Doctors and nurses saving lives,  
Still our country's spirit slowly dies.

Returning to the Riverina, wanting to forget,  
Hearts and souls full of regret.  
We started a march of commemoration,  
To honour the heroes of this great nation.

One hundred years on we can forgive,  
In a peaceful world we hope to live.  
Bravery and courage will never die,  
As long as the rising Sun fills the sky.



**WRITERS:** Griffith Public School pupils (from left) Chelsea Porter, 12, (Year 6), Lili Henderson-Clark, 11 (Year 5), Sascha Halliburton, 11 (Y5) and Dezree Samuela Kirby, 11 (Y6).

## IN HONOUR OF ANZAC MEN

IT WASN'T all that long ago, those men marched to laughing death  
And the stutter of their guns tickled like time.

A thundering chorus of explosions broke the stagnant air  
And the grim and dirty faces tried a smile.

Soldiers trudged past hills and deep ravines, careful of every step  
And eyes are always seeking hidden snipers' tricks.

The silence whispers when the guns don't wish to speak  
They stood as one, as ANZACs, and soldiered on.

Today in Veterans' memories, we march

our remembrance  
As drums keep time in steady echoed beat.  
The shrilling of the trumpets blast pride into the air  
And badges worn in honour glimpse heavy smiles.

Our feet drag through  
dust that ripples across cracked plains  
Or stand on lookout for washed out sheep.  
And from their eternal silence our freedom still breathes strong  
So we follow them, the ANZACs, who soldiered on.



**Jeremy Westblade, 17, Year 12, Saint Francis de Sales Regional College, Leeton.**