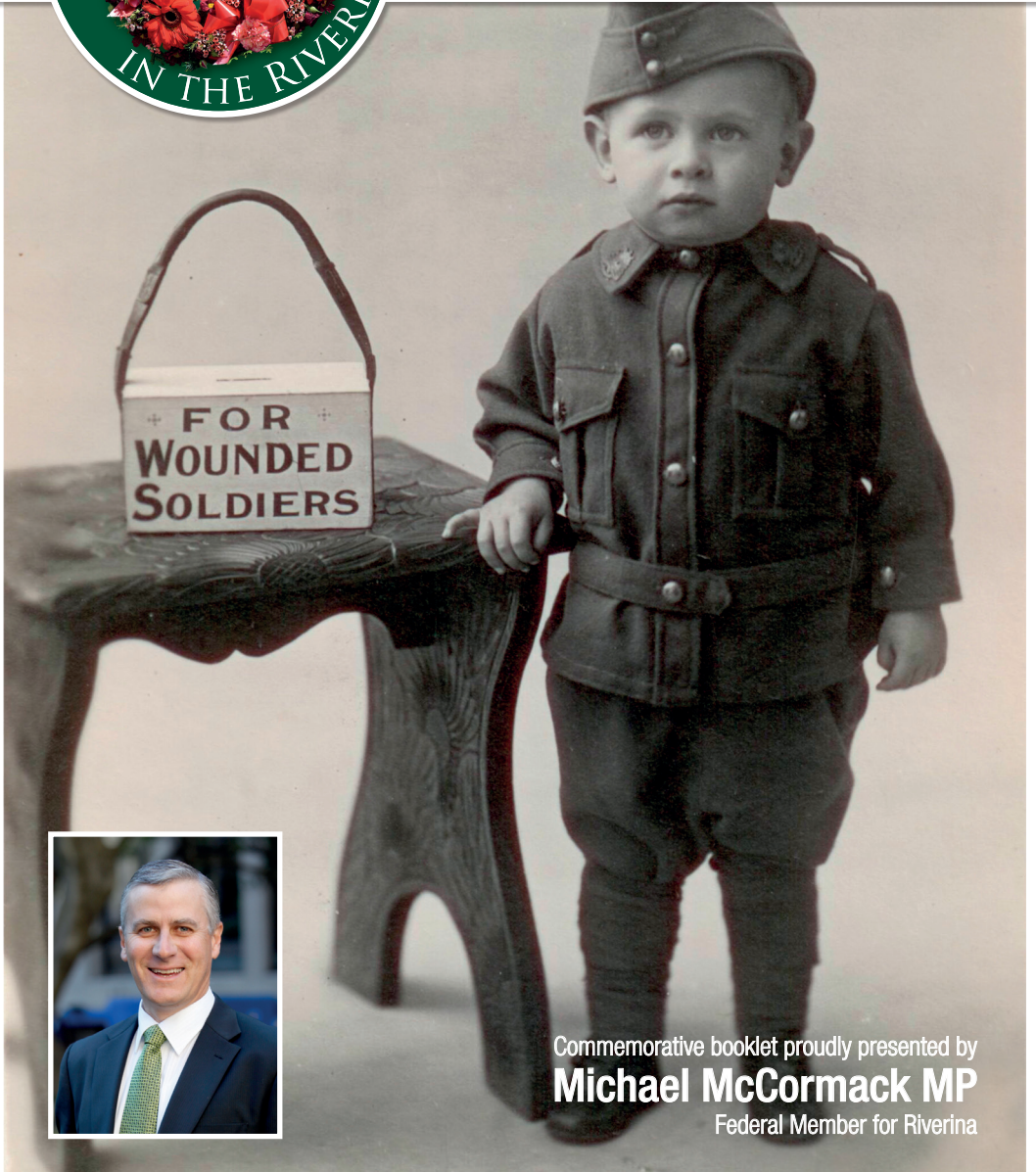




25TH APRIL 2013



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



## KIDS ALSO PAY HEAVY WAR PRICE

THE number of children left without a father after the World Wars left a huge void in Australian society.

Whilst the number of soldiers' deaths in Afghanistan since October 2001 has not been anywhere near the horrendous scale of the World Wars, any loss of life is deeply upsetting for all concerned, from the military chiefs through to the individual's family and friends.

Training together, fighting alongside one another, protecting each other's back and living in close quarters all make for extremely close bonds between these "brothers-in-arms".

There have been 39 Australian Defence Force personnel killed in action during Operation Slipper in Afghanistan.

There have also been 249 wounded in action (247 soldiers and two sailors).

Of those who died on duty, 28 children (including the unborn baby of a partner who was pregnant at the time of death) have lost their father.

The heavy price kids pay for having a father fighting for our freedom and safety cannot be understated.

This ANZAC Day, we should keep those young ones in our thoughts as we also remember those who fell.

## CHILDREN CONTINUE ANZAC LEGACY

ONE of the outstanding features of recent ANZAC Day services in Wagga Wagga and district has been the increasing presence of children.

The sight of so many young ones standing respectfully and silently with their parents on the kerb watching the procession file by must be satisfying to both past and present servicemen and women.

Of course, most of these youngsters do not understand the true significance of 25 April – our most important national day.

They cannot possibly be expected to know that more than 105,000 Australians have died in the service of our country – lives lost keeping our nation safe and in the pursuit of peace.

They will, in time, come to understand just why it was necessary for Australia to step up when the call came to fight for what was right.

They will, in time, become the custodians of the famous ANZAC story and ensure it is passed on so future generations know and appreciate what was done on their behalf.

Children fared terribly during wars past and even from modern-day conflicts.

So many young ones waved goodbye to fathers headed for the front and never saw them again.

This year's commemorative ANZAC

booklet acknowledges the enormous sacrifice children have made during and after times of war.

Like the little boy on the cover – a graphic Great War image used to appeal for funds for our wounded soldiers when there was little or no Commonwealth financial assistance available – kids have had to live through, suffer the hardships of and recover as best as they could from war.

Every Australian family was affected by the two World Wars.

Other conflicts also took their toll.

War changed Australia and had a lasting effect on the nation's children.

Understandably, today's kids largely take the freedoms we enjoy for granted.

Thank goodness they have not had to live on rations and most have not wept for a father who would not be returning from active service.

Hopefully their main role will be to pass on to their own children the real meaning of ANZAC Day so the importance of always remembering carries on through the ages.

Lest we forget.

*Michael McCormack*

MICHAEL McCORMACK MP  
Federal Member for Riverina



## GALLIPOLI: READ ALL ABOUT IT!

MANY decades before the Internet and social media, children whiled away the hours not spent doing daily chores for their parents by making their own fun outdoors or reading books.

Copies of books which have lasted the test of time, handed down through the generations, are usually well thumbed ... their pages read and re-read by young eyes, eager to learn more.

Certainly during war years, adolescents' thirst for knowledge very much increased.

They wanted to know more about the interestingly named places where battles were being fought, the generals and their tactics, the great armies waging war and how things were unfolding so far from home, particularly as for so many their fathers were at the frontline.

News from the front took days to make it to Australian newspapers which were always in high demand when something big happened or the latest casualty lists were published.

There were no radio or television broadcasts during The Great War years so the papers of the day, letters and telegrams were the only forms of contact.

The war was being fought on the other side of the world, which made the lines of communication even more difficult and slow.

So children read ... and read a lot.

*The ANZAC Book* (pictured above) was a favourite with adults and children alike.

The illustrations and stories were done under enormous pressure and this 170-page publication was an instant bestseller when first released in 1916.

As the Editor says in a foreword to the book: "Practically every word in it was written and every line drawn beneath the shelter of a waterproof sheet or of a roof of sandbags – either in the trenches or, at most, well within the range of the oldest Turkish rifle, and under daily visitations from the smallest Turkish field-piece."

Books about war – especially Gallipoli – have always proven popular, with some examples of those enjoyed by children down through the years shown on this page.



## LOOK UP ... AND LIVE

CHILDREN were given an important responsibility in Australia's defence during World War II (1939-45).

They were taught to identify aircraft, as they were usually playing outside and to sound the warning if they spotted anything.

A comprehensive, illustrated 1943 publication *Whose plane is that?* (pictured below) offered plenty of assistance, with special sections about enemy aircraft.

Children thought up rhymes and songs to help them remember the shape and names of aircraft.

The threat of an air attack was always imminent on the home front and air defence, observation and air-raid drills were taken seriously.

There were public air-raid shelters but many families and most schools also had their own.



PARADE: One of the most pleasing aspects about recent ANZAC Day marches in Wagga Wagga is the increasing number of children in attendance.

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## FORGOTTEN FACES OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR

**WAR has never been child's play but for the youngsters who lived through the awful conflict of 1914-18, dressing up and playing nurses, sailors, soldiers and war brides was a welcome distraction from the terrible reality of the era.**

Australian families paid a dreadful price for our involvement in The Great War.

Our national population was fewer than five million, yet 416,809 men enlisted and of these 59,341 were killed and more than 166,000 wounded, gassed, or taken prisoner.

The horrible swathe this cut through communities, particularly close-knit regional towns across the country including the Riverina, was enormous.

So many homes were left fatherless as a result of the war.

The human cost was devastating as countless children grew up without the love of a Dad who was buried in a foreign field, many in graves marked by headstones simply inscribed: Known Unto God.

Many fathers had kissed their kids goodbye at wharves before boarding troopships bound for the battlefields of Europe without realising they would never again see their cherubic faces, or clasp their little hands, or again play in the sunshine with those who were so near and dear to their hearts.

The war was half a world away and communications were laboriously slow.

Boys and girls wanted to be near their fathers and because they obviously could not, they did the next best thing ... they did what all little ones do: they dressed up and pretended.

They play acted the roles their fathers were carrying out overseas at previously unheard of places which had become household names such as Beersheba, Flanders, Lone Pine, Passchendaele, Pozières, Villers-Bretonneux and others.

They made the pop-pop sounds of toy guns, wore costumes for effect if they had them and dreamt of being on the winning side and having "the Huns on the run"!

It was all fun and games. Not so in the trenches and barbed wire covered no man's land at Gallipoli and on the Western Front where the real war was unfolding with appalling consequences.

It was being waged with murderous weaponry ... far deadlier than anything used before and casualties on both sides were horrendous.

Each Digger who died was a father, brother, husband, fiancé, son, grandson, nephew, cousin, uncle or friend to someone - killed in action and never coming home.

The portraits on these pages and the little boy on the cover are the forgotten faces of the First World War.

We think of World War I and ghostly black and white images of Light Horsemen, troops scrambling onto ANZAC Cove, the mud and slush of the Somme or perhaps those big, cumbersome tanks spring readily to mind.

But the children left behind who grew up without knowing their Dad, maybe who were even orphaned, are in many ways the saddest reminders of those heart-rending years.

These pictures tell a thousand tales.

Poignant images of youngsters posing as still and as unsmiling as could be, perhaps because that is what the photographers requested, perhaps because there was little to be too cheerful about.

Moments of time captured as a lasting memory of kids who lived through this tragic period and whose generation would go through it all again, as adults, a little more than two decades later during the dark days of World War II.





# WHEN TIMES WERE TOUGHEST

## LEGACY STILL SUPPORTS

LEGACY formed in Wagga Wagga on Armistice Day 1932 and is still going strong, still serving the needs of 1153 local war widows, many children and dependants.

Wagga Wagga was the 16th Legacy club in Australia, with G M Cox the inaugural president.

Norm Alexander (pictured below outside Legacy House) is the current president and the club has 182 Legatees, dedicated to caring for the families of deceased and incapacitated Veterans.

The office at 64 Tompson Street is the administrative centre for the club and incorporates seven groups comprising Cootamundra, Deniliquin (Berrigan, Finley, Jerilderie), Junee, Narrandera, Southern Highlands (Batlow, Gundagai, Tumut), Temora and Young. Other centres, not within these groups, but served by Wagga Wagga include Harden, Lockhart and Tumbarumba.



RATIONING of clothing and food became a necessity during World War II.

Regulations to manage shortages and limit civilian consumption were gazetted on 14 May 1942.

These were the most trying and worrying of times. Later that month three midget Japanese submarines entered Sydney Harbour.

The aim of rationing was to keep inflation under control, reduce total consumer spending and restrict impending shortages of essential goods.

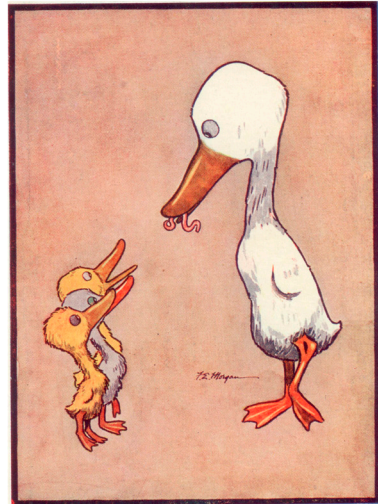
Many of the children who grew up during this testing era knew how to scrimp and save far better than later generations who were raised when things were more plentiful.

The Commonwealth Government recognised the need for a fair distribution of food and clothing during the 1940s and it also hoped a cut on consumer spending would result in an increase in savings, which in turn could be invested in war loans.

Australians were never as short of food nor rationed as extremely as civilians in the United Kingdom. Rationing here was enforced by the use of coupons and was confined to clothing, butter, meat, sugar and tea. Now and again, eggs and milk were also rationed under a system of priority for vulnerable groups during periods of shortage.

A Rationing Commission was put in place and a process followed which saw the surrender of coupons in exchange for items.

This occurred between traders as well as consumers. Coupons were passed back from consumers to retailers, from



Now then children, you must make this worm go a long way because it's "War-Time"

POSTCARD: This comical way of explaining the need for rationing during World War I was sent as a birthday card to a girl in Stratford-on-Avon, England, in 1916.

retailers to wholesalers, and in many cases from wholesalers to producers, who were requested to return them to the commission.

Fines of up to £100 or six months in gaol were in place for breaches.

Rationing conditions were lifted in mid-1950.



## 2013 ANZAC DAY SERVICE TIMES AND VENUES

### WAGGA WAGGA AND DISTRICT:

8am Service at Memorial Hall, Sturt Highway.

### COLLINGULLIE

6am Dawn service at cenotaph, Cowabbie Street.

10.30am Ex-servicemen and women and all groups marching to line up outside RSL Memorial Museum, Loughnan Street, for main service.

### FOREST HILL

6am Dawn service at Royal Australian Air Force main gate. Members of the public need to be in place by 5.30am.

### GANMAIN (Includes Matong)

6am Dawn service at Memorial Gate, Waterview Street.

10.30am March starts at corner of Ford and Waterview Streets and proceeds to Memorial Gate.

11am Main service.

### KAPOOKA

5.40am Dawn service at Army Recruit Training Centre. All members of the public need to be in the Base no later than 5.20am.

### TARCUTTA (Includes Humula)

11am Service at Memorial Hall, Sydney Street.

### URANQUINTY

9am Service at cenotaph, Morgan Street.

### WAGGA WAGGA

5.45am Dawn service arranged by Legacy at the cenotaph, Victory Memorial Gardens, Baylis Street.

6.30am Pilgrimage to Wagga Wagga War Cemetery, Koorling Road.

10.30am Baylis Street march begins.

11am Wreath-laying at Victory Memorial Gardens cenotaph. Address by 93-year-old World War II Veteran Jack Calder, a Rat of Tobruk, Mentioned In Despatches, Wounded in Action, taken prisoner at El Alamein and escaped from a Prisoner of War camp in Austria.

### ANZAC TRIBUTE FOOTBALL

1pm Robertson Oval gates open (gold coin donation, proceeds to Wagga Wagga RSL Sub-Branch).

1.30pm Riverina Football League: Wagga Tigers v Collingullie-Ashmont-Kapooka. Auskick at half-time.

4pm ANZAC Day formalities including bugler.

4.05pm Group Nine Rugby League: Kangaroos v Brothers. Junior League at half-time.

### CAPITAL CITY SERVICES: CANBERRA

5.30am Dawn service at the Australian War Museum (suggested arrival from 4.30am onwards).

6.30am The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander commemorative ceremony at the Aboriginal Memorial Plaque on the side of Mount Ainslie.

10.15am National ceremony at the Australian War Memorial and Veterans' march (suggested arrival 9.45am).

### SYDNEY

4.15am Dawn service at the cenotaph, Martin Place.

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.

1pm Aboriginal ANZAC Day march in Redfern.

5pm Sunset service at the cenotaph, Martin Place.

**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.



## A DEADLY REALITY

CHILDREN the world over are affected when wars are waged and certainly during The Great War of 1914-18 tens of thousands of kids from the forces the Allies were fighting also endured loss and misery as a result of the conflict.

Little ones from the nations of the Central Powers (Germany, Austria-Hungary, Ottoman Empire and Bulgaria) also liked to dress up and play act as soldiers, just like those from the Allies and contemporary postcards (such as the one pictured) depicted just that.

But war is deadly serious.

One touching tale came from Digger Jack Bourke, a country schoolteacher fighting on the Western Front, who came upon a heap of cake boxes in a captured enemy dugout near the northern French town of Pozières in 1916.

The German occupant who died there had letters on him in a child's handwriting.

"I couldn't help thinking sadly of the little boy or girl who sent the cakes," Private Bourke later wrote.

Soldiers had a soft side too and the thought that children grieved greatly, perhaps most of all, due to the war was difficult to bear.



## WELCOME HOME

HOW exciting it must have been for youngsters when Dad finally made it back from war!

Homecoming was a memorable occasion, as depicted in this Great War postcard (pictured).

Parades were held to honour those lucky enough to survive.

Similar outpourings of celebration, joy and relief were, unfortunately, not as public for later conflicts such as Korea, Malaya and Vietnam and it is good that those sent by our nation to those conflicts are being duly and

properly recognised on ANZAC, Armistice and anniversary days now and certainly so in Wagga Wagga and district.



## RECORD WRITING ENTRIES

BY FAR the most entries for the Riverina school students' ANZAC Day writing competition were received this year.

Hundreds of poems and short stories were submitted from right across the region in the third annual competition.

Authors of the best secondary and primary entries received book prizes from the Australian War Memorial with Ross Coulthart's superb *The Lost Diggers* on offer for the senior students and the splendid picture book *A Day to Remember* by Jackie French with illustrations by Mark Wilson presented to the younger winners.

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

Wagga Wagga and district winning entries feature below.



## THE PARADE

EARLY in the morning we gather,  
For the parade we have come to see,  
Of those who gave their life for us,  
To make our country free.

The early morning fog,  
Keeps us very cold,  
As we remember,  
Those who will never grow old.

We hear the sounds of trumpets,  
And see those laying wreaths,  
We think of those soldiers,  
Who had wonderful beliefs.

ANZAC Day, is a day of memories,  
Memories, we will always keep,  
Once the parade has started,  
We will see them in old Jeeps.

The men we see have medals,  
Medals they have earned with pride.  
They are now coming down the street,  
With their friends and comrades by their side.

As we see them walking,  
We start to wave our flags,  
As we see those we know,  
It makes us all want to brag.

ANZAC Day reminds me of many lovely things,  
like the beautiful red poppies,  
that blossom in the Spring.

We then take time,  
And bow our heads,  
For a minute silence,  
For those who are dead.

ANZAC Day is a wonderful day,  
But it makes us very sad.  
Not going to the parade I would regret,  
For our ANZAC soldiers "Lest we forget."



*Asha Heffernan, 11,  
Year 6, Mater Dei  
Primary School,  
Wagga Wagga*

## A SPECIAL DAY

THEIR medals glistened in the sunlight  
as I watched them march,  
In honour of their time in the war which  
was so harsh.

I'm so proud of the soldiers who fought  
for us;  
They fought in terrible weather and  
terrain without a fuss.

They were made to leave their families  
behind,  
And journeyed to countries so far where  
they'd find,  
Things that they never would want to  
see again,  
And that is why we hold this day for the  
women and men.

Whoever they are, either marching  
today,  
And also to those who sadly passed away.

They march proudly down Baylis Street,  
With their shoes creating a rhythmic  
beat.

A service and wreath laying will be next.  
And this is a time to show much respect.

Listen to the bugles, playing their tune,  
As they hold this service at around about  
noon.

And on this day when you enjoy an  
ANZAC biscuit,  
It's also a time to think about the  
soldiers' lives, how they risked it.



*Caitlin Begg, 15, Year 10,  
Koorringal High School*