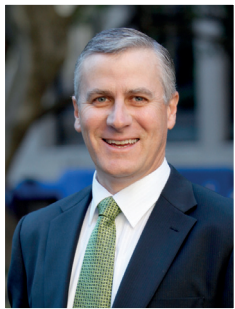




25TH APRIL 2012



Sculptor - G. Bellring, a citizen of Griffith

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



COLEAMBALLY'S BRAVE HERO

WHILE it may not boast the military heritage of other Riverina towns due to the fact it was officially opened only on 27 June 1968, Coleambally nonetheless places great importance on ANZAC and Remembrance Day observances.

The town's war monument (pictured), in John McInnes Square, is aptly inscribed: "Dedicated to those who served in the wars and to those who fell in our defence. Lest we forget."

A twice-decorated Great War hero Coleambally claims is Jimmy Cull whose gallantry at Reincourt on 15 May 1917 earned him a Military Medal and bravery at Péronne on 1-2 September 1918 won him a Distinguished Conduct Medal.

A 22-year-old boundary rider on Tubbo Station when he enlisted in 1915, this dashing Digger has a road named in his honour at Coleambally.

Lance-Corporal Cull returned to Australia on 10 December 1918, his duty done and his name rightly etched in history.

WE WILL NEVER FORGET

"They went with songs to the battle, they were young,

Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.

They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted, They fell with their faces to the foe."

THE third verse of Laurence Binyon's famous *For The Fallen*, from which the *Ode of Remembrance* comes, gives a poignant yet sombre portrayal of what, for so many, is the finality of war.

So many who went to fight for what was right never made it home again.

Hundreds of these brave souls were from the Riverina, including the irrigation areas.

They lie in a corner of a foreign field, far from the beloved land of their birth, far from those who loved them but never, ever forgotten.

Some are buried in silent cities – fields of green punctuated by row upon row of simple white crosses marking the last resting place of these brave, valiant soldiers ... heroes all.

Others remained where they fell while the battle raged all around them or were placed in hastily made unmarked graves – now tombs of unknown soldiers.

Their sacrifice was painfully recalled

every day by those they left behind and their memory will forever be commemorated each ANZAC Day – 25 April – by a grateful nation, by those who never knew them but who stand in silent tribute to honour their selfless duty.



The irrigation areas were largely developed by soldier settlers who, given the struggles they had turning a barren wasteland into fertile, food-producing country, would literally turn in their graves if they knew the battles their descendants were now fighting to retain water rights.

This booklet is dedicated to all who have worn or now wear with courage and pride the military uniforms of this country – our Air Force, Army and Navy personnel – as well as the nurses who have served so diligently in various theatres of war.

This publication includes a list of local 2012 ANZAC services. If able, try to attend a march near you and share in the spirit of ANZAC. Lest we forget.

Michael McCormack
MICHAEL McCORMACK MP
Federal Member for Riverina

GRIFFITH REMEMBERS

THE Griffith Soldier Settlers' Memorial (cover picture), funded by a grateful public, is: "In proud and honoured memory of some 2000 returned soldiers of the Australian Imperial Force who came to this area at the end of The Great War 1914-18." As the plaque says: "They cleared the virgin scrub to establish farms which have since provided the base for which is now the most progressive and productive irrigation area in Australia. The Memorial also signifies the debt we owe to those of their sons, many of whom were raised in poverty and adversity, who gave their lives during the World War of 1939-45." The monument, sculptured by local Charlie Beltrame and situated on the intersection of Banna Avenue and Kooyoo Street, features two soldiers exchanging a gun for a farm plough. Mounted on a large rock plinth and cast in bronze, it contains several brass memorial narrative plaques. It was unveiled on 14 April 1990 by Belinda Kayess, widow of an original soldier settler (Oliver Kayess) and mother of a soldier son (Roderick Oliver Kayess) killed in action in Papua in 1942 at the age of 19.



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GROUNDING, BUT TIGER MOTH STILL SERVING NARRANDERA

NARRANDERA'S Tiger Moth Memorial is undoubtedly one of the best military museums in country New South Wales.

The Royal Australian Air Force established No. 8 Elementary Flying School on the site of the present airport just west of Narrandera in August 1940 as the war in Europe escalated.

The museum, next to the Visitor Information Centre in Cadell Street (on the Newell Highway) honours that school and houses a DH82 Tiger Moth aircraft used in training there.

At the time World War II began on 1 September 1939, the British Empire was in many ways ill-equipped, especially in the air, for the anticipated barrage which duly followed.

Germany was an aggressive, powerful and well-prepared foe.

Britain and its Dominions put in place a scheme to train 50,000 air crews per year in schools formed in Australia, England,

Canada, New Zealand, Rhodesia and South Africa.

The Empire Air Training Scheme was under way and Narrandera would play a significant role in it!

During World War II 3818 trainees passed through the Narrandera school.

As the school's history brochure so aptly puts it: "The Tiger Moth Memorial in Narrandera is a lasting tribute to those young boys who learnt to fly at 8 EFTS, and to the warm-hearted people of the town, who opened their homes and hearts to these young men, so far from home, offering their lives for their Country."

Dedicated to all who served at 8 EFTS, the Memorial is the culmination of the tireless work of the late Jack Driscoll and other members of the local community.

It was officially opened on 2 October 1988 by ex-pupil, Flying Instructor and Commander of the RAAF, Air Chief Marshal Sir Neville McNamara KBE, AO, AFC, AE.

Entry is free and it is open every day except Christmas and New Year's Day. For more information, visit www.8eftsassociation.org.au



MODEL: A mannequin displays the gear worn by trainee pilots.
ON DISPLAY: Long grounded yet still serving, this Tiger Moth is the principal attraction of Narrandera's fantastic military museum.



LEETON'S DEDICATION

LEETON'S record of service to Australia's war efforts has always been exemplary.

A total of 162 Veterans' names are inscribed on four marble plaques on a white painted obelisk which forms into a clock tower in memoriam to those from the district who fell in the two World Wars.

Situated at the prominent intersection of Pine and Kurrajong Avenues, Chelmsford Place and Wade Avenue South and near the famous Roxy Theatre, the monument is a striking reminder to townsfolk and visitors of the enormous sacrifice Leeton and district made.

It was erected by the Leeton Sub-Branch of the Returned Sailors' Soldiers' and Airmen's Imperial League of Australia with public subscription and was unveiled by Sir Iven Mackay, KBE, CMG, DSO and Bar, Croix de Guerre, Greek MC and dedicated on Armistice Day 1965.

Wounded at Gallipoli, Sir Iven fought in both World Wars and passed away aged 84 less than a year after opening the Leeton Memorial.

.....AND IN THE MORNING, WE WILL REMEMBER THEM



AS THE dawn breaks over Griffith, it is almost as if the Fairey Firefly is preparing to land after another successful reconnaissance mission for the Royal Australian Navy.

In truth, this magnificent aircraft is not going anywhere.

It has remained fixed in this position, frozen in time, since 26 April 1969 when it was officially unveiled by Commander A H Gordon MVO, DFC, RAN, having been erected by the town's citizens as "a memorial to our airmen".

Acquired from HMAS *Albatross* at Nowra, this sleek bird has remained a solid, proud protector of its people, many of whom have grown up with this famous fighter as a familiar landmark.

Designed and built in Great Britain during 1941 as a World War II naval aircraft, this particular plane was engaged in active service on HMAS *Sydney* in Korea.

It is fitted with a 2245 horsepower Rolls-Royce Griffon 12-cylinder liquid-cooled engine which had a maximum speed of 621 kilometres an hour (386 miles per hour).

Griffith had a grand record of service to Australia's armed forces in WWII and the Fairey Firefly is a fitting tribute to those magnificent men in their flying machines!

A HERO OF HILLSTON

STATION overseer Lester Douglas Crossley is remembered at Hillston's Memorial Park among 49 brave souls from the district who "gave their all" in The Great War of 1914-18.

He left Sydney aged 26 on HMAT *Euripides* on 2 November 1915 and upon arrival at the training centre for the First Australian Imperial Force reinforcements at Tel-el-Kebir, Egypt, was taken on strength of the 4th Battalion and sent to Marseilles, France.

Sadly, Pte Crossley (inset) was killed in action on 24 July 1916, the second day of the Battle of Pozieres, a two-week struggle for the French village of Pozieres and the ridge on which it stands, during the middle stages of the Battle of the Somme.

The Pozieres ridge, described by Australian official historian Charles Bean, "is more densely sown with Australian sacrifice than any other place on Earth."

Pte Crossley has no known grave and as late as 1938 his grief-stricken sister Jeanie was writing to Army authorities, wanting to know if his name would be included on the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial. Fittingly, it has been.

Certainly he is appropriately honoured at Hillston, the town of his birth.

Hillston's World War I cenotaph (pictured), a magnificent granite obelisk, was moved to its present location in the town's main street from its original position close by on the corner of High and McGee Streets.

The Memorial Park was officially opened in May 1949 by New South Wales Governor, Lieutenant General Sir John Northcott KCMG, KCVO, CB, a Veteran of Gallipoli and the North African Campaign in World War II.



2012 ANZAC DAY SERVICE TIMES AND VENUES

CARRATHOOL

6am Dawn Service, Cenotaph in Memorial Hall grounds, Wade St.

COLEAMBALLY

5.45am Dawn Service, John McInnes Sq.

DARLINGTON POINT

10.45am March from Post office along Carrington St to Monument, outside Murrumbidgee Shire Council.

11am Service at Monument In Carrington St.

GOOLGOWI

3.15pm March from Goolgowi Hall to the Cenotaph outside Ex-Servicemen's Club, cnr Combo and Napier St's for Commemoration Service.

GRIFFITH (Includes Beelbanger, Bilbul, Hanwood, Lake Wyangan, Nericon, Tharbogon, Yoogali)

5.45am Dawn Service, Memorial Gardens.

10.30am March from War Memorial Museum (Ex-RSL Hall), Banna Ave.

11am Main Service, Memorial Gardens.

HILLSTON (Includes Merriwagga and surrounding districts)

10.30am March from Ex-Servicemen's Club, High St.

11am Service, Cenotaph in Hillston Memorial Park.

LEETON (Includes Gogeldrie, Murrumbidgee, Stanbridge, Wamoon)

6am Dawn Service, short march from corner Church St to Cenotaph.

10am March from Leeton Courthouse to Cenotaph.

11.15am Leeton Soldiers' Club, cnr Yanco and Acacia Ave's, RSL Shrine, small Service and Wreath Laying.

NARRANDERA (Includes Grong Grong)

6am Dawn Service, Memorial Gardens, cnr East St and Victoria Ave.

9am Service, Air Force war graves at Cemetery in Douglas St.

10.30am March from Narrandera Ex-Servicemen's Club, Bolton St.

11am Main Service, Memorial Gardens.

RANKINS SPRINGS

8am Start of March after assembling

at Allan James Park. Service to follow at Cenotaph.

WAGGA WAGGA

5.45am Dawn Service, Cenotaph in Victory Memorial Gardens.

6.30am Pilgrimage to Wagga Wagga War Cemetery in Koorringal Rd.

10.30am Baylis St March begins.

11am Wreath Laying, Victory Memorial Gardens Cenotaph. Address by Senior Navy Officer, Lieutenant Commander Linton Lee Senior Naval Officer. Salute taken by Army Recruit Training Centre Kapooka Commandant, Colonel David Hay.

WHITTON

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

YANCO

Noon Service, Yanco Hall, Trunk Rd 80.

YENDA

6am Dawn Service, Yenda Diggers' Club, East St, cnr Mirrool Ave.

10.45am March from Yenda Diggers' Club, East St, cnr Mirrool Ave.

10.45am Main Service, Yenda Memorial Park.

CAPITAL CITY SERVICES: CANBERRA

5.30am Dawn Service, Australian War Memorial (suggested arrival from 4.30am onwards).

6.30am Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commemorative Ceremony, Aboriginal Memorial Plaque, side of Mount Ainslie.

10.15am National Ceremony, Australian War Memorial (suggested arrival 9.45am).

SYDNEY

4.15am Dawn Service, Cenotaph in Martin Place.

8.30am Wreath Laying Ceremony at Cenotaph in Martin Place.

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

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

1pm Aboriginal ANZAC Day March, Redfern.

5pm Sunset Service, Cenotaph in Martin Place.



WHITTON AIR ACE

A "DOGFIGHT", with crack pilots testing their daredevil skill and wits against each other in deadly aerial combat, is one of the most vivid scenes of all the movies made about World War II.

Sadly, it was just this very real action which cost a brave Whitton truck driver his life in a flying battle over France on 26 November 1943.

Attached to the Royal Air Force's medium bomber 180 Squadron, Warrant Officer Allen John Painting, son of John and Annie, had enlisted in Sydney on 20 July 1941.

WO Painting's death was listed as "officially presumed" after he did not return from action that day. He was aged 26.

His name is one of 13 on the 1939-45 plaque on the Whitton Memorial Gates (pictured) which were officially opened on Armistice Day 1951.

Eight from Whitton fell in The Great War and they are remembered on an accompanying brick column.

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.



STUDENTS SHOW ANZAC PRIDE

RIVERINA primary and secondary school students have again responded enthusiastically to the second annual writing competition “ANZAC Day in the Riverina”.

Hundreds of poems and short stories were submitted with the best entrants being awarded book prizes from the Australian War Memorial.

The most outstanding primary entrant received a copy of the wonderful tale *The Red Poppy* whilst the splendid hard cover book *Australian Women and War* went to the high school winner.

Every student who sent in an entry will be presented with a commemorative signed certificate.



A DAY OF REAL MEANING

*Jennifer Maher,
11, Year 6,
Hillston Central
School.*

DAYLIGHT struck on the 25th April 2011. The dawn ceremonies in the capital cities were just beginning to commence. A few hours later, Hillston was waking up for the annual ANZAC March. That’s where I come in. I am the current Primary Captain at Hillston Central School.

Getting up early and getting into my school skirt and shirt on this day is definitely NOT my idea of a celebration.

Okay, I am starting to regret even nominating myself for Captain. The first reason? I have to follow a stinky horse bottom down the main street.

Second, I have to do a reading at the ceremony. Jeez, I hate speaking in public. I start off okay and then my voice just fades away. But the reason my voice fades is because I feel weak in the stomach when I think of all the Australians that went to war for their country. I consider those families that couldn’t have the boys back home.

As I walk into the park I see the real meaning of ANZAC Day. There are old ladies who lost their true love, on the verge of tears, as they lay down a wreath for their once happy lovers.

Their honeys sacrificed their lives for not only the ones they loved, but for all Australian people.

I’ve always wondered why they died for us. I mean they must have been made from stone, and only one thing could stop them – a bullet.

I’m starting to feel proud. One of my ancestors was a soldier in the 1910s, maybe he had a child that he didn’t want to die.

All these names in the park monument are real; real people, real relatives with true stories.

Everyone in this town is proud of how many people sacrificed their life for Australia and its people.

My conclusion? This blood-red poppy on my shirt is certainly not just a decoration.

THE SPIRIT OF OUR TOWNS

IT’S ANZAC DAY throughout the Riverina
People gather in their towns as the Sun begins to rise
To recognise and remember the ANZAC spirit.

The march begins, the streets are lined with people,
The children in their uniforms
The Veterans with their heads held high
One and all begin their journey side by side.

All around there is a strong sense of pride
The towns may be smaller but their sacrifice was no less
Men and woman fought and died
Those that survived hold their heads

up high
Remembering with much pride the courage of those that died.

The anthem is sung and prayers are said
Wreaths are placed and the names are read
All is silent then the bugle sounds
A tribute to the lives lost in war
A tribute to those who heard the call.

The ceremony ends and people wander away from the town centre
But though we leave we will remember
We won’t forget their sacrifice
They did not die in vain
The mistakes we make shall not be the same.

We think to ourselves what a waste
Lives cannot be replaced
Brothers, sisters, mothers and fathers

That was the price we paid
Families broken,
friends that have fallen
That is what we mourn today.

As we mourn and remember
We know those that fell will live on forever
They are in the way we live
In everything we give
They are courage and sacrifice
And they are the spirit of our towns.

(Pictured) BOOK RECIPIENT: Saint Francis De Sales Regional College Year 8 student Teresa Aloisi, 13, captured the essence of the occasion to win the secondary section.

