



25TH APRIL 2012



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



THE ANZAC LEGEND

ANZAC stands for Australian and New Zealand Army Corps.

The soldiers in those forces became known as ANZACs – all of them heroes as the postcard from The Great War era below depicts.

The ANZACs' pride in their name and what it represented endures to this day.

The 25th of April was officially named ANZAC Day in 1916 when a wide variety of ceremonies and services were held across Australia.

There was a march through London and a sports day in the Australian camp in Egypt.

In London more than 2000 Australian and New Zealand troops marched through the streets with one British newspaper headline calling them "the knights of Gallipoli".



REAL MEANING IN RED POPPIES

*"In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row."*

THESE are the opening lines of the moving poem In Flanders Fields written in 1915 by Allied Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae.

The Flanders poppy symbolises Remembrance Day, the commemoration of the Armistice of 11 November 1918 when the guns finally fell silent on The Great War battlefields.

More and more, the poppy is also being used as part of ANZAC Day observances, its link to the sacrifices by our brave Diggers nearly a century ago as strong now as it has ever been.

During World War I, red poppies were among the first plants to spring up from the battle-scarred ground of northern France and Belgium.

Soldiers' legend decreed that the dramatic burst of colour of the poppies came from the blood of their comrades drenching the ground.

The vivid splash of red from the poppies placed alongside names of fallen soldiers in honour scrolls at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra as shown on the

graphic cover of this publication leaves a lasting impression upon visitors.

Those sombre lists include the names of many locals ... Riverina's best and bravest, gallant men from the South West Slopes.

Their sacrifice is also remembered on monuments across the district and honoured on 25 April each year as communities gather to commemorate the first landing on Gallipoli.

The red poppy signifies remembrance and will be worn with pride as we again solemnly mark the ANZAC spirit, paying respect for the duty done in the past and offering hope for the safe return of our servicemen and women on deployment in Afghanistan and elsewhere.

Michael McCormack

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Federal Member for Riverina



IN REMEMBRANCE: The message on the gates to Tallimba's Memorial Park serves as a solemn reminder.

MEMORY OF SACRIFICE LIVES ON

HIS name has long faded on the monument dedicated to Tallimba's World War II fallen, but Bernard Keith Wilkinson's service to his country will not be forgotten while ever ANZAC Day is commemorated.

Sapper Wilkinson's name is at the foot of the six gallant heroes who gave their lives during those dark years of 1939-45.

The test of time has taken its toll on the black lettering where Spr Wilkinson's name is etched into the marble plaque.

But as the Australian flag flaps proudly in the breeze beyond the marker, the solid shrine itself is a permanent reminder of what those brave souls did to keep our nation safe and free.

Born at Cootamundra the son of Joseph and Maud Wilkinson on 30 April 1920, Bernard was just 20 years of age when he enlisted with the Army at Wagga Wagga as the first year of the war drew to a close.

He was living at Yalgogrin North at the time.

Less than eight months later Spr Wilkinson, a member of 2/4 Field Company, tragically became one of the more than 39,800 Australian military lives lost in World War II.

He died on 10 April 1941 in the Middle East and was buried in the Tobruk War Cemetery.

For a district with only a small population, Tallimba contributed mightily to the war effort.

On the gates which form an archway entrance to the peaceful Memorial Park where the ANZAC Day Service is conducted, the names of 89 locals who served in World War II are listed.

Among them are three women: Privates Audrey Brideoake and Ruth Watt of the Australian Army Medical Women's Service and Lance-Corporal Mary Patten of the Australian Women's Army Service.



MONUMENT: Tallimba's tribute to lives lost in World War II and (above) Sapper Bernard Wilkinson, killed in action aged just 20.



IMPOSING: Barellan's war monument.

BARELLAN'S COMMITMENT

FIVE Barellan-born men saw active service in the Vietnam War.

Of those, Mervyn Lewis, who was a Temporary Sergeant with the Royal Australian Engineers, served the longest period, being engaged from 1965-72.

In all he served 712 days.

Temporary Corporal Stanley Taylor also served in the Army while Sgt Richard Absell (Air Force) and the Navy's Able Seaman Ian McIntyre and Petty Officer Underwater Control Robert Priest also did their duty.

Thankfully all survived the conflict.

Australia's Vietnam deaths totalled 521 while more than 3000 were wounded.

JUNEE DISTRICT DID ITS DUTY

CROSSES alongside 13 of the 36 names chiselled into a marble plaque on a granite obelisk at Junee Reefs (pictured) indicate the heavy war price the district paid.

An older monument at the site, upon which stands a silent sentinel watching over the Junee Reefs-Ivor Hall, records those who died as "The brave boys of this district who answered the Empire's call and fought for us and liberty in the Great European War 1914-19".

Junee Reefs and the nearby town, which has a splendid 1926 vintage clock tower Memorial in Broadway, sacrificed much to help Australia's war efforts.



A plaque at the Junee monument reads: "These died the noblest death a man may die fighting for God and right and liberty and such a death is immortality. Australia carry on."

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TEMORA FARMER COULD NOT WAIT TO DO HIS DUTY

A QUIANT country church, sadly no longer used, has a fascinating history which includes the tragic tale of a brave young Temora farmer who drowned on his way to Gallipoli when his ship was torpedoed in 1915 during World War I.

Saint Stephen's Church of England is a red brick building entirely paid for by William Cartwright and his wife Louisa as a memorial to their only son, Bernard Ray Cartwright, brother of Florence and Lillian.

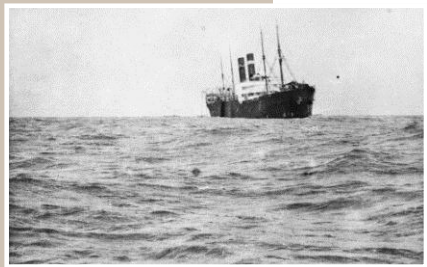
The church, at Bagdad, 14 kilometres south of Temora, was also dedicated to WJ Cartwright's grandfather, the Reverend Robert Cartwright, the first Anglican Minister to conduct a service in the Canberra region.



SACRED PLACE: (Above) St Stephen's at Bagdad and (Top) the plaque memorialising a pioneer minister and a brave soldier.

St Stephen's foundation stone was laid on 12 January 1921 by Mr Cartwright and the new church was consecrated by Bishop of Goulburn, the Right Rev. Dr Lewis Radford, on 8 June the same year.

Bernard Cartwright was aged just 20 years and three months when he enlisted with the Australian Imperial Force in Sydney on 24 August 1914.



IN TROUBLE: HMT Southland battles to stay afloat after being struck by a torpedo in September 1915.

He was among the first to sign up; Britain having declared war on Germany on 4 August 1914 and Australian Prime Minister Joseph Cook stating the very next day that "... when the Empire is at war, so also is Australia."

Cartwright's enthusiasm to get a uniform and get to war was shown by his low service No. - 538 - and he sailed out of Sydney with 1 Brigade Australian Field Artillery on HMAT *Argyllshire* on 18 October.

Like so many others - 61,520 in fact of the AIF's total Great War enlistments of 416,809 - young Cartwright never made it back home.

While en route from Egypt's largest seaport Alexandria to Mudros, a small Greek port on the Mediterranean island of Lemnos and a strategic base used by the Allies in the Dardanelles campaign, the ship Driver Cartwright was aboard as a stowaway, the ill-fated HMT *Southland*, was torpedoed.

Southland ventured into the path of German submarine *UB-14* travelling to Constantinople (present-day Istanbul) to join the Constantinople Flotilla.

Commanded by Heino von Heimburg, *UB-14* had sunk Gallipoli-bound British troopship RMS *Royal Edward* on 13 August, the ship going down by the stern within just six minutes, causing a dreadful death toll of 935.

The encounter with *Southland* occurred in the Aegean Sea on 2 September.

At 9.45am that fateful day *Southland* was struck at right forward, 30 nautical miles (55 kilometres) from Lemnos in the Aegean Sea.

The ship did not sink immediately, being eventually beached on Lemnos with all but 40 of 1400 men able to leave in lifeboats and picked up mainly by the seaplane carrier HMS *Ben-my-Chree* and other transports including HT *Neuralia*.

Many of those saved spent up to four hours in the water.

Southland eventually limped back to Mudros assisted by HMS *Racoon* and was repaired.

The *London Gazette* reported that there was "never a cry or sign of fear" when the torpedo slammed into *Southland*.

"The Australian soldiers merely came briskly on deck singing 'Australia will be there.' The troops all went



PEACEFUL: Callaghan Park, Temora, where Bernard Cartwright's name and many others are immortalised.

to their stations and lowered the boats in an orderly manner. The subalterns searched the interior of the ship for wounded and finally came on deck to find only the general staff on board. They helped to lower the last boats and got into a half swamped one themselves. Fourteen persons were killed by the explosion and 22 were drowned including Brigadier General Linton."

Among those lost was the Temora Digger who had been raring to do his duty.

Indeed, young Cartwright was perhaps too keen to see action as a letter in his personal war file revealed ... and his eagerness cost him his life.

In the correspondence, Aida Whitton of Gulgong wrote how she had received a letter from her brother Tom, a 22-year-old grocer from Boree Creek, and how he and Cartwright had decided they would take the first boat they could to Gallipoli.

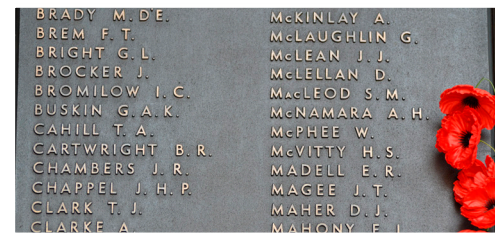
"I understand by my brother's letter the boys were tired of being in camp and thought it their duty to get to the front to help their comrades, they decided to stow away on the first boat that came: but when it came Mr Cartwright was on picket so he could not get away so he told Tom he would follow by the first boat, which the poor boy did."

Aida said it was understandable that news of Dvr Cartwright's loss had not filtered through because military authorities would be unaware he had been on board.

Tom had received the awful news from another friend who had survived the attack on the *Southland*.

She told of her brother's sorrow at losing his best mate. "The two boys chummed up when they first went in to camp, and have kept together all the time. My brother's letter was awfully sad, losing his best pal."

Aida wrote a heartfelt letter to Mr and Mrs Cartwright on 2 November 1915 in which she stated that Tom "feels the parting very much but asked me to say he died for his King and country. I am sure you could not wish for a more glorious death for your dear boy. Be brave in your trouble. One comfort you know he is beyond all troubles now."



REMEMBERED: Bernard Cartwright's name lives on at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra.

"...his eagerness cost him his life."

The Cartwrights were good, gracious people.

Bernard's father did not mind when the authorities misspelled his son's name on the Memorial Scroll - commonly known as a Dead Man's Penny - sent to relatives of all AIF soldiers who died while serving.

Bernard Cartwright never had the opportunity to take up arms for his country but his name lives on ... etched on the Helles Memorial at Gallipoli, the Cenotaph at Temora, the honour scrolls at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra and on a marble plaque at the little church at Bagdad outside Temora where his family mourned for his loss and prayed for his soul.

(Right) FOREVER YOUNG: Fresh-faced Bernard Cartwright.





WEETHALLE'S DEDICATION

WEETHALLE'S grand record of service to the nation in its years of greatest need is proudly displayed on its impressive War Memorial.

The black obelisk (pictured below) contains the names of 142 district men and women who answered their country's call during the Boer War, the two World Wars as well as the Korean, Malayan and Vietnam conflicts.

Sadly, seven of the names bear a cross signifying that they died in active service.

The neat park also includes a sandstone column with a white cross, surmounted by a soldier's "tin hat".

A remembrance garden and flag staff form part of the town's dedication to lives lost and duty done.



TAKE ME HOME TO THE RIVERINA

A SERVICEMAN'S yearning to be riding the Riverina's plains once more was the subject of a poignant war-time poem.

Simply titled "Riverina", it was included in a 1944 book *The ANZACS March Again and Other Verse* by Cecil S Watts.

The poem tells how the Springtime splendour of the Riverina's farming country holds greater attraction than the battle being waged close by in a foreign land far removed from the shrill of Australian birds and the beauty of the wattle.

Popular Great War postcards sent by families to homesick loved ones at the front, as depicted here, often featured kookaburras, magpies and Riverina wattle.

RIVERINA

We are at a battle-station, where the restless tropic sea

Thunders on the reefs of coral a threat of storms to be,

With the jungle close behind us we are resting by our guns,

And I'm thinking it is Springtime on the Riverina runs.

They'll be busy now, lamb-marking, clipping ears and snipping tails

Till the tar-splashed wood is polished along the holding rails,

And I'm wishing I could saddle up, to ride the plains and sing

All my praise of Riverina, Riverina in the Spring.

There's a group of wooden crosses where the shore and jungle meet,

From village to inland village the primitive war-drums beat,

And I'm thinking of a Southland guarded by this aerodrome

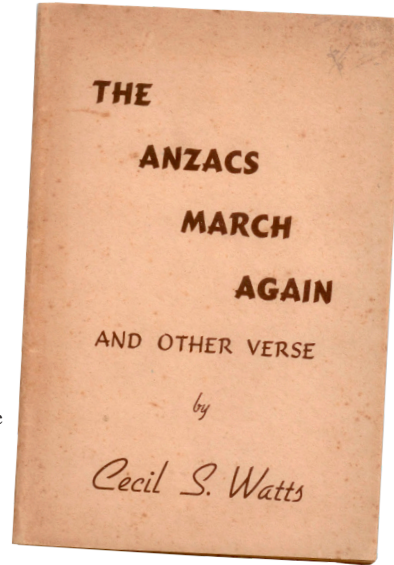
... Of the green and gold of Springtime round my Riverina home.

There'll be blossom on the wattle, the old peppera tree

Will be shading Bluey's kennel – wish that dog was here with me!

And the bush birds in the timber will make the echoes ring

With their songs of Riverina, Riverina in the Spring.



We have heard before the message carried to us by the drums,

And we're ready for the foeman – no matter how he comes:

We have held his southward sally, and those of us who died

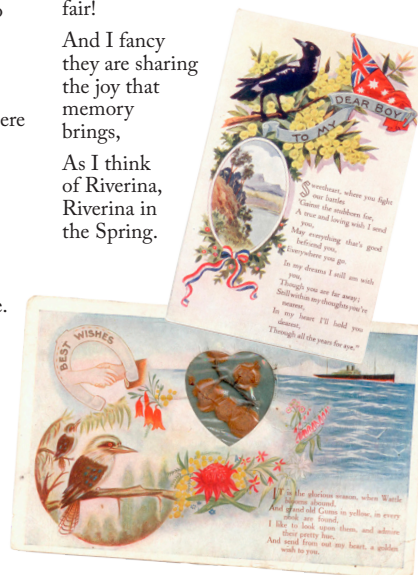
Are buried 'neath those crosses by the restless tropic tide.

It is not for martial glory that those hearts are sleeping there,

They also loved their homeland: Australia, free and fair!

And I fancy they are sharing the joy that memory brings,

As I think of Riverina, Riverina in the Spring.



2012 ANZAC DAY SERVICE TIMES AND VENUES

SOUTH WEST SLOPES:

ARDLETHAN (Includes Beckom)

11am Service at Ardlethan Memorial Hall, Ariaiah St.

ARIAH PARK (Includes Quandary)

11am March along Coolamon St from Ariaiah Park Bowling Club to Cenotaph for the Main Service.

BARELLAN

(Includes Binya, Moomboodool)

3pm Service at Cenotaph on corner of Boree and Mulga St's.

BARMEDMAN

10.45am March commences along Queen St to Memorial Park.

11am Service at Memorial Park.

BETHUNGRA (Includes Frampton and Illabo)

6.15am Dawn Service at Bethungra Memorial Park, In the event of wet weather the Service will move to St Augustine's Church near Bethungra Memorial Park.

JUNEE (Includes Illabo, Wantabadgerly)

5.45am Dawn Service in Broadway.

9.30am March to Railway Square – two-minute ceremony at plaque on Broadway.

10.45am Ceremony at Cenotaph, Broadway.

JUNEE REEFS

3pm Wreath Laying conducted by Junee RSL Sub-Branch at Junee Reefs-Ivor Hall, Junee Reefs Rd.

MIRROOL

9am Service at Cenotaph in Ariaiah St.

SPRINGDALE

9am Service starts with introduction by presiding officer Colonel Pat Thorne AM RL at Cenotaph on Burley Griffin Way.

9.10am Guest speaker: Senior RAAF representative.

9.15am Wirraway Fly-Over

9.20am Lance-Corporal Peter Kahlefeldt Scholarship Speech by Temora High School student.

9.30am Morning tea.

TALLIMBA

3pm March from Tallimba Inn Hotel to Tallimba Memorial Park. Wreath Laying at Memorial Park. Service at Tallimba Hall.

TEMORA (Includes Reefton)

6am Dawn service at Cenotaph in Callaghan Park.

10.30am March from front of Courthouse.

11am Service, Cenotaph, Callaghan Park.

UNGARIE

6am Dawn Service, RSL Park, Ungarie St.

9am Service at Cemetery at graves of Ex-Servicemen and Women.

10.30am Assemble "Pink Shop" Wollongough St, walk to RSL Park, Ungarie St.

11am Service. Flag raising, Last Post to be played.

WAGGA WAGGA

5.45am Dawn Service arranged by Legacy at the Cenotaph, Victory Memorial Gardens, Baylis St.

6.30am Pilgrimage to Wagga Wagga War Cemetery in Koorlingal 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.

WEST WYALONG (Includes North Yalgogrin, Wamboyne, Weethalle, Wyalong)

6am Dawn Service at Services and Citizens Club's Cenotaph.

9am Wreath Laying Ceremony at Cenotaph at Soldiers' Memorial Hall, Neeld St, Wyalong.

10.30am March, Main St, West Wyalong.

11am Wreath Laying at S&C Club.

11.30am Service in S&C Auditorium.

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 at the Cenotaph in Martin Place.

8.30am Wreath-Laying Ceremony at the Cenotaph in Martin Place.

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

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

1pm Aboriginal ANZAC Day March in Redfern.

5pm Sunset Service Cenotaph in Martin Place.



THINKING OF YOU

LETTERS from the front always meant so much to worried family and friends back home.

They gave loved ones hope and, although censors had strict guidelines about what could and could not be written, provided welcome updates about how soldiers were coping.

The Great War was fought in an era when mail was slow to arrive, if at all as the ships which carried the lovingly hand-written correspondence had the ever-present danger of enemy submarines with which to contend.

In this patriotic postcard (above), Herb tells his "darling" and his "fondest sweetheart" how his comrades "are still doing great work" but "I hope it is all over in a couple of months" and "It will be lovely if I come through OK."

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 FAMILY TRADITION

TODAY we remember in the Riverina all Australians who served and died in all wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations. The spirit of ANZAC, with human qualities of courage, mateship and sacrifice, continue to have great meaning to the ANZAC spirit in the Riverina.

ANZAC Day 2012 at the Masons, alarm rings at 5am. We rise, dress and head to the Services and Citizens Club for the Dawn Service, reminding us of the dawn landing on Gallipoli in 1915.

It's inside for mince on toast prepared by the ladies. A good morning and chat to the other folks. It's great to be part of this atmosphere. As we walk home together, the Sun has risen and today is ANZAC Day in the Riverina.

Dad then heads to Toppy (Wyalong) at 9am for the Toppy Service. At 10.30am Dad, Isabella and Oscar line up at Thom, Dick & Harry's Corner to march to the Cenotaph with Ex-Servicemen, some on scooters, cars, lots of schoolchildren and the Town Band keeps us in step. Dad is the Flag Bearer. We proudly wear our Great-Uncle's Medals.

At West Wyalong, the ANZAC Day ceremony commences with The Ode and a period of silence. Our Dad raises and lowers the flag and the laying of wreaths follow. The wreath laying is very special to us, together with our Great Aunty Una, we lay a wreath for her two brothers who fought on Kokoda that we never knew. Our Dad was in the Navy and he lays a wreath for his mates.

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.



*WE REMEMBER:
Isabella Mason
(aged 11, Yr 6)
and her brother
Oscar (9, Yr 4)
of Saint Mary's
War Memorial
School, West
Wyalong.*



WINNER: Georgina Grant, 13, Year 8, of Saint Anne's Central School, Temora.

A SON'S ANZAC PERSPECTIVE

THE school kids sing "Advance Australia Fair",
As I sit here in my reserved chair,
It's ANZAC Day in Temora – a special day.

Even as pride and spirit fill me,
Down inside my soul, the shocking memories lay ...

I loved life on the farm with Dad,
He was a cheery, carefree kind of lad,
It was 1915, and this sun-kissed land was home.
Red earth ran through my veins
Even in drought and heavy rains,
We called this Riverina land our own.

That day at home Mum slumped in her chair,
Tension hung grimly in the air –
I knew terrible news was about to be broken.
Mother trembled and started to speak,
Her voice soft and weak,
As those heart-breaking words were spoken.

My Dad left that night,

He was off to fight,
With thousands of other men, all fine and brave.
Mum sobbed helplessly as tears stained her face,
Dad and I had one last embrace,
He turned down our lane, giving a final wave.

It's been months since we heard from Dad,
Another sheep died – the last we had,
I can still see Mum clutching that letter I dread.
Gruesome war had torn my life apart,
Blackness gripped at my sorrowful heart,
For my brave, dear father was dead.

Now was the Last Post play,
I come back to ANZAC Day,
And around me people of all ages gather.
It is not only me who will never forget,
What the cost of senseless fighting meant,
The sacrifice of my dear Dad of the Riverina did matter.